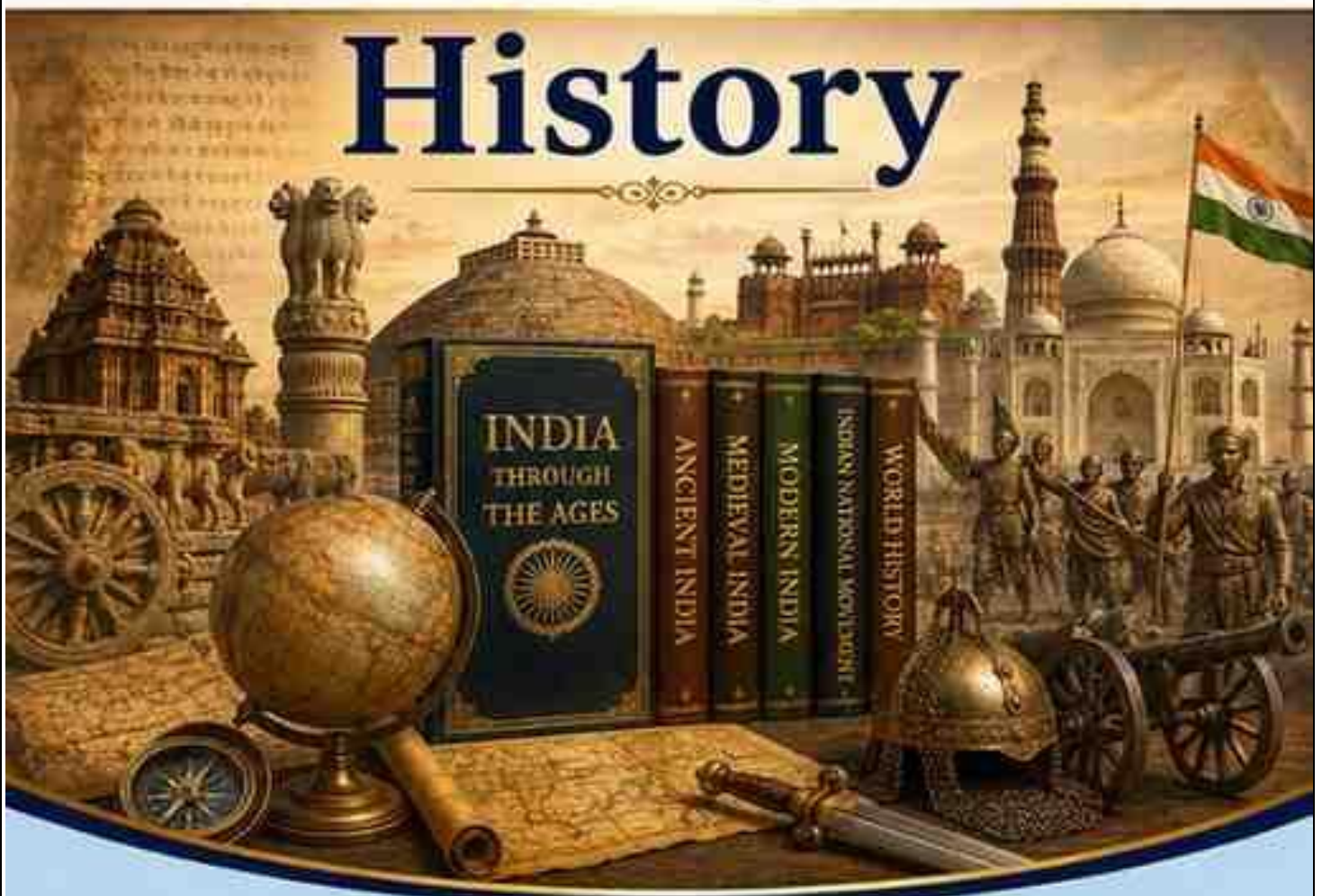




P.L. RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY

Civil Services Study Material

History



UPSC Prelims Current Affairs

(July 2026)

MONTHLY COMPILATION



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1. Syama Prasad Mookerjee

Prelims:

Modern Indian History, Polity, Culture

Mains:

GS Paper I-Modern Indian History, GS Paper II-Governance, GS Paper IV-Ethics

Current relevance:

The **Ministry of Culture**, in association with the Government of West Bengal, is organising a **special commemorative programme in Kolkata** on **6 July 2026** to mark the **125th Birth Anniversary of Bharat Kesari Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee** as part of a two-year nationwide commemoration.

Ministry of Culture
Government of India

125th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

OF DR. SYAMA PRASAD MOOKERJEE

Honouring the Visionary Statesman, Educationist, Parliamentarian and Nation Builder

TWO-YEAR NATIONWIDE COMMEMORATION (2025-2026)

FLORAL TRIBUTES AT BHAWANIPORE, KOLKATA	BHOOMI POOJAN & FOUNDATION STONE FOR 125-FOOT STATUE AT ECO PARK, KOLKATA	SPECIAL EXHIBITION ON LIFE AND LEGACY AT MILAN MELA PRANGAN	MUSICAL TRIBUTE "SUR, SANSKRITI" EVAM RASHTRA" BY CCRT	SCREENING OF DOCUMENTARY & RELEASE OF SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE VIDEO

BHARAT KESARI
DR. SYAMA PRASAD MOOKERJEE
(6 July 1901 – 23 June 1953)

“One individual may die for an idea, but that idea will, after his death, incarnate itself in a thousand lives.”
– Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee

REMEMBERING HIS ENDURING CONTRIBUTIONS TO
NATION BUILDING, EDUCATION, INDUSTRY AND NATIONAL INTEGRATION

INSPIRING GENERATIONS. STRENGTHENING THE NATION.

Highlights:

About Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:

1. He was born on **6 July 1901** in Kolkata (then Calcutta), **Bengal Presidency**.
2. He was popularly known as "**Bharat Kesari**", for his contributions to nation-building and public service.
3. Eminent **educationist, lawyer, parliamentarian, statesman, and nationalist leader**.
4. **Key contributions:**
 - i. Served as the **youngest Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta**.
 - ii. He became **India's first Minister for Industry and Supply** in the first Union Cabinet after Independence.
 - iii. Strong advocate of **national unity and territorial integrity**.
 - iv. Championed the principle of "**One Nation, One Constitution, One Flag**."
 - v. He founded the **Bharatiya Jana Sangh in 1951**, laying the ideological foundation for a nationalist political movement in independent India.

Commemoration:

- i. The Government of India launched a **two-year nationwide commemoration in 2025** to celebrate the **125th birth anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee**.
- ii. **Aim:** To preserve and promote his contributions to India's political, educational, cultural, and industrial development.
- iii. Floral tributes at **Dr. Mookerjee's residence** in **Bhawanipore, Kolkata**.
- iv. **Foundation stone** laying (Bhoomi Poojan) for a **125-foot statue** at **Eco Park, Kolkata**.
- v. Mass rendition of **Vande Mataram**.
- vi. Musical tribute titled "**Sur, Sanskriti evam Rashtra**".

Source: PIB-

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=2281355®=48&lang=1>

2. Abathsahayeswarar Temple, Thukkachi

Prelims:

Indian History, Art and Culture

Mains:

GS Paper I-Indian Culture, Temple Architecture

Current relevance:

The **Abathsahayeswarar Temple** at Thukkachi, Tamil Nadu, has received **UNESCO's Award of Distinction** under the 2025 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.



Highlights:

About the Abathsahayeswarar Temple:

1. The **Abathsahayeswarar Temple** is a **12th-century Shiva temple** located at **Thukkachi**, near Kumbakonam in Thanjavur district, **Tamil Nadu**.
2. It was built during the reign of the **Later Chola dynasty** and is dedicated to Lord Shiva, worshipped as **Abathsahayeswarar**.

3. The temple is built in the **Dravidian style of architecture**, representing the Later Chola architectural tradition.
4. It reflects the **architectural excellence and engineering skills** of the **Later Chola dynasty**, blending artistic beauty with structural precision.
5. The temple recently received the **UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award of Distinction (2025)** for its exemplary restoration, which successfully combined traditional conservation techniques with modern technology.

UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award of Distinction:

1. It recognises outstanding efforts to conserve and restore cultural heritage sites in the **Asia-Pacific region**.
2. The **Award of Distinction** is one of the **highest honours** under this programme, presented to projects that demonstrate **exceptional conservation standards**.
3. Winning projects are evaluated for their **technical excellence, use of traditional conservation methods**, community participation, sustainability, and **long-term heritage management**.

Source: THE HINDU - <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/unesco-award-winning-restoration-of-thukkachi-temple-in-tamil-nadu-a-blend-of-traditional-wisdom-and-modern-technology/article71221191.ece>