

Special Exhibition by SPMRF

On

Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee

A selfless Patriot inaugurated

By

Shri Amit Shah, National Presiden

डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी : एक निःस्वार्थ देशभक्त Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: A Selfless Patriot

डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी का व्यक्तित्व ऐसे दुर्लभ व्यक्तियों में से था, जिन्होंने अपने साहस और विश्वास से समय की रेत पर अपने अमिट चिह्न छोड़े। उन्होंने एक नाजुक दौर में देश के राजनीतिक एवं सांस्कृतिक जीवन में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दिया और आधुनिक भारत के इतिहास पर गहरी छाप छोड़ी। वे विस्तृत ज्ञान, अलग उद्देश्य तथा दृढ़ इच्छाशक्ति वाले व्यक्ति थे। वे भारत की सांस्कृतिक विरासत एवं चरमपराओं के प्रति समर्पित एवं अत्यंत थे और उन्होंने इन मूल्यों को अपने जीवन में आत्मसात करते हुए एक अनुकरणीय उदाहरण प्रस्तुत किया। एक विख्यात शिक्षाविद्, उत्कृष्ट राजनेता और सशक्त एवं मुखर सांसद, डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी के बहुमुखी व्यक्तित्व ने अपने संपर्क में आने वाले सभी व्यक्तियों पर स्थायी प्रभाव छोड़ा। वे मूलभूत राष्ट्रवादी व देशभक्त थे तथा उन्होंने देश की एकता एवं अखण्डता के लिए न सिर्फ निरंतर प्रयास किया बल्कि देश की एकता हेतु अपना जीवन भी समर्पित कर दिया।

श्यामा प्रसाद का जन्म 6 जुलाई 1901 को हुआ था। उनका लालन-पालन व शिक्षा-दीक्षा उनके पिता सर आशुतोष मुखर्जी, जो अपने समय के प्रसिद्ध शिक्षाविद् तथा कानूनविद् थे, के सानिध्य में हुआ। श्यामा प्रसाद एक मेधावी छात्र थे। उन्होंने विद्यालय तथा विश्वविद्यालय की परीक्षाओं में सर्वोच्च स्थान प्राप्त किया एवं युवावस्था से ही उन्हें अपने प्रतिष्ठित पिता के साथ शैक्षिक गतिविधियों में नज़दीक से जुड़ने का सौभाग्य प्राप्त हुआ। औपचारिक रूप से स्नातकोत्तर की उपाधि ग्रहण करने से पहले ही 1924 में वे कलकत्ता विश्वविद्यालय की सीनेट और सिंडिकेट के लिए निर्वाचित हुए। 1934 में 33 वर्ष की आयु में उन्हें कलकत्ता विश्वविद्यालय का सबसे युवा कुलपति बनने का सम्मान प्राप्त हुआ। कुलपति के रूप में उनका कार्यकाल (1934-38) कलकत्ता विश्वविद्यालय के इतिहास में विशेष रूप से उल्लेखनीय है।

उदार हृदय एवं कुशाग्र बुद्धि वाले डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी के लिए देश की राजनीतिक घाटा में महत्त्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाना निर्धारित था। वे 1939 में हिन्दू महासभा में शामिल हुए तथा 1940-44 तक इसके कार्यकारी अध्यक्ष एवं 1944-47 तक अध्यक्ष रहे। वे युवावस्था में ही बंगाल विधान परिषद एवं बंगाल विधान सभा के सदस्य बने। उन्होंने वैधानिक चर्चाओं में विशिष्ट रूप से भाग लिया तथा ब्रिटिश सरकार की दमनकारी नीतियों के विरुद्ध आवाज़ उठाई। 1941 में वे बंगाल में ए. के. फज़लूल हक के तत्त्व वाली प्रगतिशील लोकतांत्रिक गठबंधन सरकार में वित्त मंत्री बने। बाद में, लोकसभा में विपक्ष के नेता के रूप में उनकी वाक्पटुता एवं संसदीय कौशल के कारण उन्हें 'संसद का शेर' की उपाधि मिली।

डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी ने राष्ट्र के प्रति अपनी प्रतिबद्धता का प्रमाण, बंगाल के मिदनापुर में चक्रवात से प्रभावित लोगों की दुर्दशा के लिए ब्रिटिश सरकार की उदासीनता के विरोध में 1942 में बंगाल के वित्त मंत्री पद से त्यागपत्र देकर दिया। बंगाल में 1943 के अकाल के दौरान श्यामा प्रसाद के व्यक्तित्व का मानवीय पहलू सामने आया। उन्होंने अकाल पीड़ितों के लिए बढ़े पैमाने पर राहत कार्यों के आयोजन में कोई कसर नहीं छोड़ी। विभाजन के बाद उन्होंने पुनः स्वयं को पूर्वी बंगाल से आने वाले शरणार्थियों के हितों के लिए समर्पित कर दिया।

डॉ. मुखर्जी अखण्ड भारत के प्रबल समर्थक थे तथा उन्होंने विभाजन के विरुद्ध एक देशव्यापी अभियान चलाया। अपनी राजनीतिक दक्षता से उन्होंने पूरे पंजाब एवं बंगाल को पाकिस्तान का हिस्सा बनने से बचाया। स्वतंत्रता आंदोलन में डॉ. मुखर्जी के योगदान को स्वीकार करते हुए महात्मा गांधी ने जवाहरलाल नेहरू को उन्हें अगस्त 1947 के प्रथम केन्द्रीय मंत्रिमंडल में शामिल करने की सलाह दी। उद्योग एवं आपूर्ति मंत्री के रूप में डॉ. मुखर्जी ने भारत की औद्योगिक नीति की नींव रखी जिसने भारत को मजबूती से औद्योगिक विकास के रास्ते पर अग्रसर किया। उन्होंने अप्रैल 1950 में प्रधानमंत्री नेहरू द्वारा पूर्वी बंगाल के अल्पसंख्यक हिन्दुओं के कल्याण के संबंध में पाकिस्तान के साथ दिल्ली-समझौते अथवा नेहरू-लियाकत समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर करने से उत्पन्न मतभेद के कारण मंत्रिमंडल से त्यागपत्र दे दिया। डॉ. मुखर्जी का मानना था कि यह समझौता पूर्वी पाकिस्तान के हिन्दुओं की सुरक्षा के लिए पर्याप्त नहीं है। मंत्रिमंडल से दिया गया त्यागपत्र डॉ. मुखर्जी के जीवन के निर्णायक व महत्त्वपूर्ण चरण की शुरुआत थी।

मंत्रिमंडल छोड़ने के पश्चात् डॉ. मुखर्जी ने अपनी शक्ति एक ऐसे वैकल्पिक राजनीतिक मंच को स्थापित करने में लगा दी जिसने राष्ट्रीय पुनरुत्थान का वैकल्पिक मार्ग प्रशस्त किया। उनके विचारों एवं कार्यों का उल्लेखनीय पहलू उनका राजनीतिक मुद्दों के प्रति व्यापक दृष्टिकोण था जो उनकी सभी राजनीतिक गतिविधियों की विशेषता को दर्शाता है। डॉ. मुखर्जी ने 1947 में हिन्दू महासभा को राजनीति की बजाय सामाजिक एवं सांस्कृतिक कार्यों के प्रति समर्पित होने की सलाह दी। 1949 में जब उनके विचार को स्वीकार नहीं किया गया तो उन्होंने हिन्दू महासभा के सभी पदों से त्यागपत्र दे दिया। बाद में 1951 में उन्होंने भारतीय जनसंघ की स्थापना की, यह नया राजनीतिक दल उन सभी लोगों के लिए खुला मंच था जिनका उद्देश्य 'भारतीय संस्कृति एवं मर्यादा' पर आधारित भारत का पुनर्निर्माण करना था। 1951-52 के प्रथम आम चुनाव में दक्षिणी कलकत्ता से लोकसभा में वापसी कर डॉ. मुखर्जी ने बहुत से छोटे-छोटे दलों को इकट्ठा कर संसद में 'राष्ट्रीय जनतांत्रिक दल' बनाकर एक मजबूत विपक्ष की स्थापना की।

देश की एकता एवं अखण्डता के लिए एक निःस्वार्थ कार्यकर्ता व नेता के रूप में डॉ. मुखर्जी ने 1952 में जम्मू-कश्मीर प्रजा परिषद के उस मुद्दे का समर्थन किया जिसके अंतर्गत भारत में जम्मू-कश्मीर राज्य के पूर्ण एकीकरण तथा भारतीय संविधान के पूर्ण रूप से लागू करने की मांग हो रही थी। प्रदेश पर प्रतिबंध के बावजूद उन्होंने राज्य की स्थिति का आकलन करने के लिए जम्मू-कश्मीर का दौरा किया। 11 मई 1953 को उन्हें गिरफ्तार कर लिया गया। 23 जून 1953 को श्रीनगर में हिरासत में उनकी दुःखद एवं अकाल मृत्यु ने पूरे देश को स्तब्ध कर दिया। वे भारत की एकता एवं अखण्डता के लिए शहीद हुए। अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी के शब्दों में :

"वे भारत की एकता एवं अखण्डता के लिए शहीद होने वाले पहले व्यक्ति थे। उनका विशाल व्यक्तित्व, उनकी वाक्पटुता, राजनैतिक दूरदर्शिता और इन सबसे ऊपर उनका मानवतावाद, आने वाली पीढ़ियों का मार्गदर्शन करेगा और प्रेरणा देता रहेगा।"



डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी

Rare individuals, by sheer dint of their courage and conviction leave an indelible mark on the sands of time. Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee was one such towering personality. He made significant contributions to the political and cultural life of the country at a critical juncture leaving an enduring imprint on the history of modern India. He was a man of wide knowledge, unshakable purpose and possessed an indomitable will. Greatly devoted and attuned to civilizational India and her rich heritage and traditions, Dr. Mookerjee imbued its values in his own life and rose to become an example worthy of emulation. An eminent educationist, an outstanding statesman and a forceful and articulate parliamentarian, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee's multifaceted personality made a lasting impression on all those who came in touch with him. A patriot and a nationalist to the core, he strove relentlessly for the unity and integrity of India and laid down his life in the cause of her unity.

Born on 6 July 1901, Syama Prasad was brought up and educated under the personal care of his illustrious father, Sir Asutosh Mookerjee, a renowned academic and a jurist of his time. A brilliant student, Syama Prasad secured top positions in school and university examinations and was fortunate to be closely associated with the educational activities of his distinguished father at a very young age. Even before he formally received his M.A. degree, he was elected to the Senate and Syndicate of Calcutta University in 1924 and had the honour of becoming its youngest Vice-Chancellor at the age of 33 in 1934. The period of his Vice-Chancellorship (1934-38) was hailed as an exceptionally eventful period in the history of Calcutta University.

Endowed with a sharp intellect and a golden heart, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee was destined to play a stellar role in the political life of the country. He joined the Hindu Mahasabha in 1939 and was its Working President from 1940-44 and President, 1944-47. At an early age, he became a member of the Bengal Legislative Council and the Bengal Legislative Assembly. He took a prominent part in the debates and raised his voice against the repressive measures of the British Government. In 1941, he became Finance Minister in the Progressive Democratic Coalition Government of Bengal headed by A.K. Fazlul Haq. Later, his eloquence and parliamentary skills as the leader of opposition in the first Lok Sabha earned him the title 'The Lion of Parliament'.

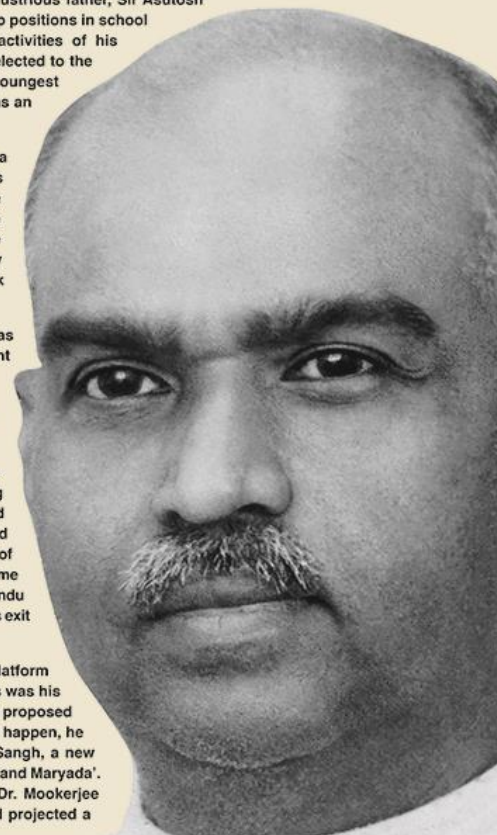
Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee demonstrated his commitment to national cause when he resigned as Finance Minister of Bengal in 1942 in protest against the British Government's indifference to the plight of those affected by the devastating cyclone in Midnapore, Bengal. The Bengal famine of 1943 brought the humanitarian aspect of Syama Prasad's personality to the forefront. He left no stone unturned for organising large-scale relief for the famine-stricken people. Later, after partition, he again devoted himself wholeheartedly to the cause of refugees who began pouring in from East Bengal.

Dr. Mookerjee was a strong advocate of a united India and organised a country-wide campaign against the partition of the country. His astute statesmanship prevented the whole of Punjab and Bengal from becoming a part of Pakistan. Recognising his contribution in the struggle for freedom, Mahatma Gandhi advised Jawaharlal Nehru to include him in the first Union Cabinet of August 1947. As Minister of Industry and Supply, Dr. Mookerjee laid the foundation of India's industrial policy which put India firmly on the path of industrial development. He, however, resigned from the Cabinet in April 1950 owing to differences with Prime Minister Nehru over the Delhi Pact or Nehru-Liaquat Pact signed with Pakistan pertaining to the safety of Hindu minorities. Dr. Mookerjee felt that the Pact would be incapable of protecting the Hindus of East Pakistan. His exit from the Cabinet 'marked the beginning of the final and most momentous phase' of Dr. Mookerjee's life.

After quitting the Cabinet, Dr. Mookerjee concentrated his energies in creating an alternative political platform to crystallize an alternate path for national regeneration. The striking aspect of his thought and actions was his broadminded approach to issues which characterised all his political moves. In 1947, Dr. Mookerjee proposed that Hindu Mahasabha eschew politics and devote itself to social and cultural work. When that did not happen, he resigned from all positions of the Mahasabha in 1949. Later in 1951, he launched Bharatiya Jana Sangh, a new political party open to all citizens with the aim of 'rebuilding Bharat' on the basis of 'Bharatiya Sanskriti and Maryada'. Returning to the Lok Sabha from south Calcutta in the First General Elections held in 1951-1952, Dr. Mookerjee brought together a number of small parties to form the National Democratic Party in Parliament and projected a strong opposition in the Lok Sabha.

A selfless worker and leader for the unity and integrity of the country, Dr. Mookerjee took up the cause of Jammu-Kashmir Praja Parishad in 1952 which had been demanding full integration of Jammu-Kashmir State with India and the full application of the Constitution of India there. Defying the ban on entry, he visited Jammu-Kashmir to assess the situation in the state. He was arrested on 11 May 1953. His tragic and untimely death while in detention at Srinagar on 23 June 1953 shocked the entire nation. He died a martyr's death to the cause of Indian unity. In the words of Atal Bihari Vajpayee:

"He was the first martyr to the cause of India's unity and integrity. His towering personality, his debating skills, his political sagacity and above all his humanism will continue to inspire and guide generations to come."



शहादत Martyrdom

डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी के 23 जून 1953 को हिरासत में हुए असामयिक दुःखद निधन ने सबको स्तब्ध कर दिया। पूरा देश शोक और रोष में डूब गया। नजरबंदी गृह का अस्वस्थ वातावरण, चिकित्सीय उपेक्षा एवं ऐसी औषधियों का दिया जाना जिनसे उन्हें एलर्जी थी आदि पहलू भी उजागर हुए। पूरे देश में उनकी मृत्यु की आधिकारिक जांच की मांग उठने लगी। उनकी वृद्ध मां, उनके परिवार के सुप्रसिद्ध सदस्यों, उनके राजनीतिक समर्थकों तथा सभी राजनीतिक दलों के नेताओं की अपील के बावजूद उस समय के सबसे लोकप्रिय और करिश्माई नेता की कैद में रहस्यात्मक मृत्यु की जांच की मांग को नेहरू सरकार ने अस्वीकार कर दिया।

डॉ. मुखर्जी स्वतंत्रता के पश्चात् देश की एकता के लिए अपने प्राणों की आहुति देने वाले पहले शहीद थे। उनका भारत की एकता व अखण्डता से समझौता न करने का निश्चय, उनकी देशभक्ति के उत्साह एवं दृढ़ विश्वास को दर्शाता है। भारत के एकीकरण के लिए उनका विशिष्ट सहयोग एवं बलिदान स्वतंत्र भारत की मानस पटल पर आज भी अंकित है। एक निःस्वार्थ देशभक्त जिसने अपना जीवन न्यायावरण कर दिया ताकि भारत संगठित रह सके एवं उसकी एकता व अखण्डता अटूट और स्थिर बनी रहे।



'My fervent desire is to die in harness, struggling and striving for the truth when the end finally comes'

The tragic and untimely death of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee in detention on 23 June 1953 caused shock, dismay and indignation throughout the country. The physically cramped and unhealthy atmosphere of his detention quarters, the issue of medical neglect and of his being administered medicines to which he was acutely allergic also surfaced. It led to a national outcry for an official inquiry. However, despite appeals from his aged mother, from members of his family who were well known personalities, his political supporters and from leaders across the political spectrum, the Nehru Government refused sanction to conduct an inquiry into the mysterious demise in detention of one of the most popular and charismatic leaders of the age.

Dr. Mookerjee was the first martyr in the cause of national unity after independence. His uncompromising stand for India's integrity and unity symbolised his deep patriotic zeal and conviction. His valiant support and ultimate sacrifice for India's unification remains etched in the national psyche of post-independent India. A selfless patriot who laid down his life so that India could remain united, so that her unity and integrity remained unbreakable and unshakable.

In his public life he was never afraid of expressing his honest convictions. In silence the cruelest lies are told. When great wrongs are committed it is criminal to be silent in the hope that truth will one day find its voice.

Dr. S. Radhakrishnan

As a true fighter for his motherland, Dr. Mookerjee died in the forefront of the battle for integration of Kashmir, which is and which ought to be immediately declared an undivided and indivisible part of Bharat.

M.S. Golwalkar

The news of the passing of Dr. Mookerjee was so shocking and sudden that I could not believe it till thrice confirmed. In him Bharat has lost one of the foremost patriots, politicians and a born parliamentarian. May his martyrdom shield the cause of inseparable and total integration of the whole of Kashmir with the Hindustan Republic. 'Ek Vidhan, Ek Pradhan and Ek Nishan' was the motto for which he fought and laid down his life.

Let us take up the cry and carry the fight to the success. To me it is not only a national loss but a personal one of a respected comrade.

V.D. Savarkar

I was shocked to hear the sudden death of my old friend and erstwhile colleague Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee. I am sure that his death has created a void in public life in India which could hardly be filled.

B.R. Ambedkar

The nation mourns the passing away of my beloved son. He has died a martyr's death. To me, his mother, the sorrow is too deep and sacred to be expressed. I am not writing to you to seek any consolation. But what I do demand of you is Justice. My son died in detention - a detention without trial. In your letter you have tried to impress that Kashmir Government had done all that should have been done. You base your impression on the assurances and information you have received....

I do not bemoan here the death of my beloved son. A fearless son of Free India has met his death.... I, the mother of the great departed, demand that an absolutely impartial and open enquiry by independent and competent persons be held without delay. I know nothing can bring back to us the life that is no more. But what I do want is that the people of India must judge for themselves the real causes of this great tragedy enacted in a free country....

If a wrong has been done anywhere, by any person - however high he may be - let justice take its course and let the people be cautious so that no mother in free India has again to shed tears with the same agony and grief that has befallen me.

You are good enough to tell me not to hesitate to inform you about any service that you may render to me. Here is the demand on my own behalf and on behalf of the mothers of India. May God give you courage to allow Truth to see the Light.

Letter from Jogmaya Debi to Jawaharlal Nehru, 4 July 1953

Dr. Mookerjee had the great quality of courage. Since the parliamentary opposition is the life-blood of democracy, his death is a blow to the country, removing as it does a towering personality and the leader of one of the major trends of public opinion in the country.

Minoo Masani

HOME THEY BRING THE WARRIOR DEAD

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee's Body Brought To Calcutta: Funeral At 8 A.M.

वे संसद के लिए शक्ति का सम्मेलन थे। उनके माघन व महस निरसिंद बड़े प्रभावकारी थे।

लाल बहादुर शास्त्री

It had been my privilege to work with Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee in Government for a number of years and then, later when he left Government, in opposition. When he was in opposition I naturally came in contact with him a good many times. We differed sometimes very deeply on many issues and we agreed too on many issues and it is a matter of peculiar regret and grief to me that in the last days of his life an occasion arose on which there was very considerable difference between him and me. However, this is not the time to think of differences, but rather of the many agreements and of the fact that we are deprived of the personality who had played such a notable and great part in the country, and who was after all fairly young and who had a large and good stretch of years before him. But that was not to be.

Jawaharlal Nehru

By character, ability, patriotism and service, he was one of the top man of India. Member of the first cabinet of free India, he played a distinguished part in consolidating freedom. His death is a national loss.

K. Santhanam

He was representing a point of view which I am afraid has lost its ablest advocate. I hope this sudden death of Dr. Mookerjee will bring it home to the Government of India as well as Kashmir Government the urgent necessity of solving the Kashmir problem.

Jayaprakash Narayan

अपनी स्वतंत्रता से दूर रहित परिस्थितियों में मृत्यु हुई है, उनसे वह घटना और भी दुःखाना हो जाती है। भरे लिए वह राष्ट्रीय ही नहीं, व्यक्तिगत बलि भी है। वे एक महान् देशभक्त थे। जिस ध्येय को उन्होंने सही समझा उसके लिए वह चर्च किया। इस महान् दुःख के समय तारे विचारों का जंतु हो जाना चाहिए। उनकी दुःखपूर्ण मृत्यु से हमें अपने स्वतंत्रता के जीवन में संविधान और सत्त्वानता को किता सेना चाहिए।

आचार्य जे.बी. कृपलानी

Dr. Mookerjee was one of the ablest parliamentarians in the country. In his death Hindu opinion has lost its ablest and most effective champion and the country one of her best sons and the most outstanding personality of the present time.

N.M. Joshi

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N.M. Joshi

However much we may differ with his political views we will be missing in Parliament and in the public life a great parliamentarian and a sharp critic of many a Government policy.

P. Sundarayya

I am most stunned by the cruel blow which constituted the most tragic loss to Bengal and India in this crisis. I lost my dearest colleague and closest co-worker in the national cause. When the truth will be told by future historians, the country will appreciate that Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee was all along actuated by the highest national interest. The only solace in this terrible calamity is that so long as life was in him Dr. Mookerjee was inspired by true patriotism, which transcended all sectional and party interests.

N.C. Chatterjee

Dr. Mookerjee was one of the ablest parliamentarians in the country. In his death Hindu opinion has lost its ablest and most effective champion and the country one of her best sons and the most outstanding personality of the present time.

N.M. Joshi

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N.M. Joshi

The loss of the only brother I had in this world has driven me mad with sorrow.

Fazlul Haq

Dr. Mookerjee's martyrdom has been a great loss to the country. It is a great tragedy in every respect. He gave such great friendliness to me always whether as a colleague or in opposition; above all else it is a great personal grief for me. Bengal owes much to the family not much less to Syama Prasad than to great Ashutosh. I respectfully share Bengal's grief and convey my tribute of appreciation.

C. Rajagopalachari

Dr. Mookerjee was one of the ablest parliamentarians in the country. In his death Hindu opinion has lost its ablest and most effective champion and the country one of her best sons and the most outstanding personality of the present time.

N.M. Joshi

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N.M. Joshi



डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी
६ जून १९०१-२३ जून १९५३

Dr. Mookerjee was one of the ablest parliamentarians in the country. In his death Hindu opinion has lost its ablest and most effective champion and the country one of her best sons and the most outstanding personality of the present time.

N.M. Joshi

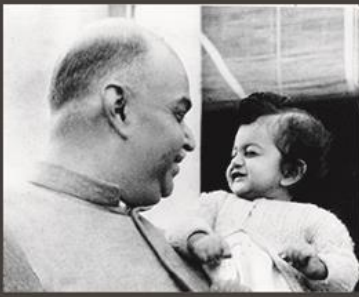
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N.M. Joshi

एक बहुआयामी व्यक्तित्व A Multifaceted Personality



परिवार के साथ
With Family

राष्ट्रनायक
National Leader



गुरुदेव की शोक सभा
Gurudev's condolence meeting



शरणार्थियों के सहायक
In support of refugees



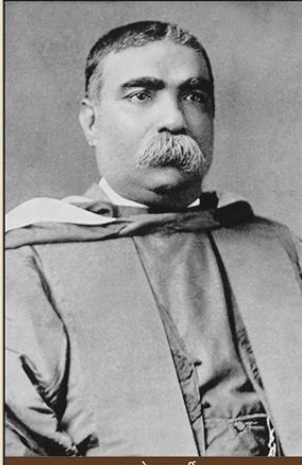
सुचेता कृपलानी (खड़े हुए) के साथ, अप्रैल 1950
With Sucheta Kripalani (standing), April 1950

श्री अरविंद आश्रम में
At Sri Aurobindo Ashram

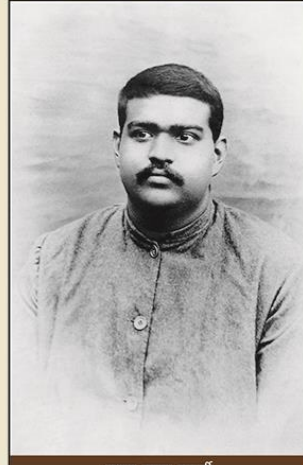


एक प्रतिष्ठित पिता के पुत्र Son of an Illustrious Father

श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी के पिता, सर आशुतोष मुखर्जी (1864-1924), जो 'बंगलार बाघ' (बंगाल बाघ) के नाम से जाने जाते थे, एक अदम्य इच्छाशक्ति, दृढ़ विश्वास तथा अनुकरणीय साहस वाले व्यक्ति थे। 20वीं सदी की शुरुआत में सर आशुतोष ने विज्ञान और गणित के साथ-साथ शिक्षा एवं कानून में भी उत्कृष्टता प्राप्त की। एक विद्यार्थी के रूप में प्रेसीडेन्सी कॉलेज में अपनी प्रतिभा की छाप छोड़ने के बाद कम उम्र में ही वे इंडियन एसोसिएशन फॉर दि कल्टीवेशन ऑफ साइंस में गणित के प्रोफेसर बन गए। वे कलकत्ता मेटेमेटिकल सोसाइटी के संस्थापक अध्यक्ष थे तथा ऐशियाटिक सोसाइटी ऑफ बंगाल के अध्यक्ष भी रहे। उन्होंने गणित पर कई पुस्तकें भी लिखीं। वे भारत की महाबोधि सोसाइटी के अध्यक्ष (1911-24) रहे। कलकत्ता उच्च न्यायालय के लगभग दो दशक तक वे न्यायाधीश भी रहे। सर आशुतोष ने कलकत्ता विश्वविद्यालय में महत्त्वपूर्ण पदों पर अपने दायित्वों का निर्वहन किया। वे सीनेट की अधिकांश समितियों के अध्यक्ष रहे तथा बारह वर्षों (1906-14, 1921-23) तक कुलपति का पदभार संभाला। इस अवधि में भारतीय भाषाओं, सांस्कृतिक अध्ययन और ऐतिहासिक अनुसंधान के प्रोत्साहन के माध्यम से कलकत्ता विश्वविद्यालय का भारतीयकरण हुआ। शिक्षण एवं शोध कार्य को बढ़ावा देने के लिए उन्होंने सी. वी. रमन एवं डॉ. एस. राधाकृष्णन को विश्वविद्यालय में आमंत्रित किया। उन्होंने विश्वविद्यालय का बंगाल विधायिका में प्रतिनिधित्व किया तथा सेडलर कमीशन, जो कलकत्ता विश्वविद्यालय कमीशन (1917-19) के नाम से भी जाना जाता है, में विशिष्टता के साथ कार्य किया। उनके पुत्र श्यामा प्रसाद को उनका अदम्य साहस, बौद्धिक तथा प्रशासनिक कौशल विरासत में प्राप्त हुआ और वे बहुत कम उम्र में ही एक अत्यंत समर्पित शिक्षाविद् बन गए।



आशुतोष मुखर्जी
Asutosh Mookerjee

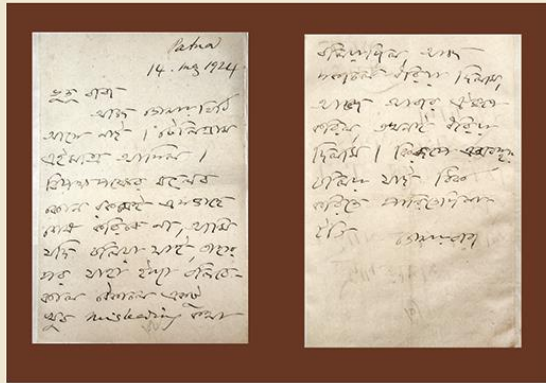


श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी
Syama Prasad Mookerjee

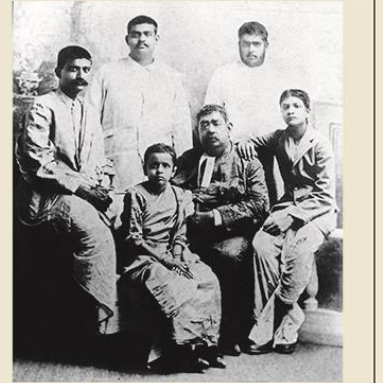
Syama Prasad Mookerjee's father, Sir Asutosh Mookerjee (1864-1924), known as 'Benglar Bagh' (Bengal Tiger), was a man of indomitable will and exemplary courage of conviction. At the beginning of the twentieth century, besides science and mathematics Sir Asutosh also excelled in the field of law and education. After making his mark as a student at the Presidency College, he became a Professor of Mathematics at the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science at a very early age. He was the Founder-President of the Calcutta Mathematical Society and also President of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. He also wrote several books on mathematics. He was President of the Maha Bodhi Society of India (1911-24) and served as a judge in the Calcutta High Court for nearly two decades. Sir Asutosh also held important positions in the University of Calcutta as Chairman of most of the Committees of the Senate, and as its Vice-Chancellor for twelve years (1906-14, 1921-23). This period saw greater Indianisation of the University through an encouragement of Indian languages, cultural study and historical research. He invited the likes of C.V. Raman and Dr. S. Radhakrishnan to the university to undertake teaching and research. He represented the University in the Bengal Legislature and served with distinction on the Sadler Commission, also known as Calcutta University Commission (1917-19). His son, Syama Prasad, inherited his indomitable courage, intellectual and administrative acumen and became a highly devoted educationist at a very young age.



आशुतोष मुखर्जी और श्यामा प्रसाद
Asutosh Mookerjee and Syama Prasad



Asutosh Mookerjee's letter to Syama Prasad, 14 May 1924, S.P. Mookerjee Papers, NMML Archives



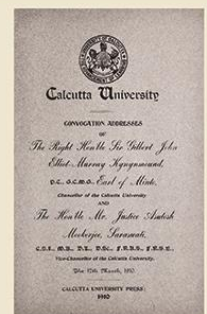
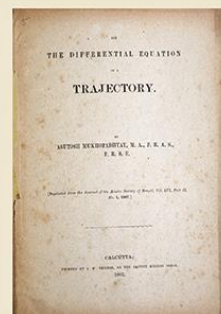
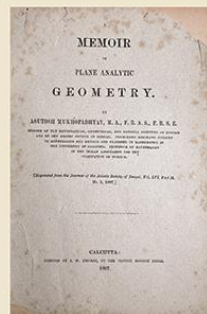
आशुतोष मुखर्जी और उनका परिवार
Asutosh Mookerjee with his family

"श्यामा प्रसाद ने निकटता से अपने पिता की विशेषताओं को देखा और उनका अनुसरण किया। उन्होंने पूर्ण तमयता से पिता की विरासत और उनके गुणों को ग्रहण किया, ताकि आवश्यकतानुसार वह एक सैनिक, एक निर्माता और एक नेता की भूमिका निभा सकें।"

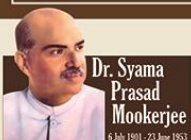
श्यामा प्रसाद के समकालीन डॉ. धीरेन्द्र नाथ सेन की टिप्पणी, तथ्यात्मक सच, अप्रतिम नायक डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी, 2013



M. E. Sadler's letter to Asutosh Mookerjee, 23 March 1919
Asutosh Mookerjee Papers, NMML Archives



Asutosh Mookerjee Papers, NMML Archives



Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee
6 July 1901 - 23 June 1953

एक प्रतिभाशाली छात्र A Brilliant Student

श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी एक असाधारण प्रतिभा वाले कुशाग्र बुद्धि छात्र थे। उनका शैक्षिक जीवन निरंतर प्रतिभाशाली था। उन्होंने लगभग सभी परीक्षाओं में सर्वोच्च स्थान प्राप्त किया। 1921 में कलकत्ता के प्रेसीडेंसी कॉलेज से अंग्रेजी (ऑनर्स) में स्नातक की परीक्षा प्रथम श्रेणी में पास की। 1923 में उन्होंने कलकत्ता विश्वविद्यालय से बंगाली भाषा एवं साहित्य में स्नातकोत्तर और फिर बी. एल. की परीक्षा में भी सर्वोच्च स्थान प्राप्त किया। वे उच्च शिक्षा के लिए 1926 में इंग्लैंड गए और 1927 में लिंकनस इन्स से बैरिस्टर की उपाधि प्राप्त की।

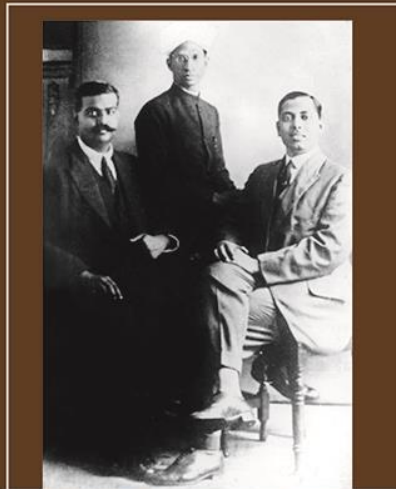
एक छात्र के रूप में श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी ने लेखन की अद्भुत योग्यता का प्रदर्शन किया। उन्होंने 1921-22 में प्रेसीडेंसी कॉलेज पत्रिका का संपादन किया और 1922 में *बंग वाणी* (बंगाल की आवाज़), बंगाली पत्रिका शुरू की। 1923-24 के दौरान उन्होंने *कैपिटल* में 'डिच' नाम से नियमित रूप से लेख लिखे। उन्होंने *कलकत्ता रिव्यू* के लिए भी लेख लिखे। इन पत्रिकाओं में लिखने के कारण उनकी भाषा शैली बंगाली और अंग्रेजी दोनों ही भाषाओं में आकर्षक रूप से विकसित हुई। 1940 के दशक में उन्होंने भारत के स्वतंत्रता आंदोलन के प्रचार के लिए *नेशनलिस्ट* (अंग्रेजी) तथा *हिंदुस्थान* (बंगाली) दैनिक का प्रकाशन प्रारम्भ करके पुनः पत्रकारिता शुरू की। औपनिवेशिक सरकार द्वारा *नेशनलिस्ट* को 'निरंतर ब्रिटिश-विरोधी' माना गया।



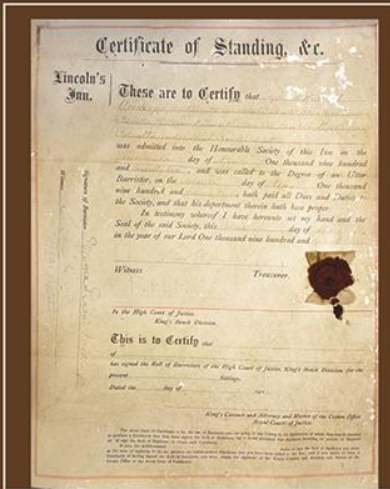
श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी
Syama Prasad Mookerjee

Syama Prasad Mookerjee was an exceptionally bright student. His academic career was consistently brilliant. He distinguished himself with top positions in almost all the examinations and graduated from the Presidency College, Calcutta with Honours in English in 1921, standing first in class. He topped in the M.A. examination in Bengali language and literature from Calcutta University in 1923 and again topped the B.L. examination from the same University. He proceeded to England in 1926 for higher studies and was called to the Bar from Lincoln's Inn in 1927.

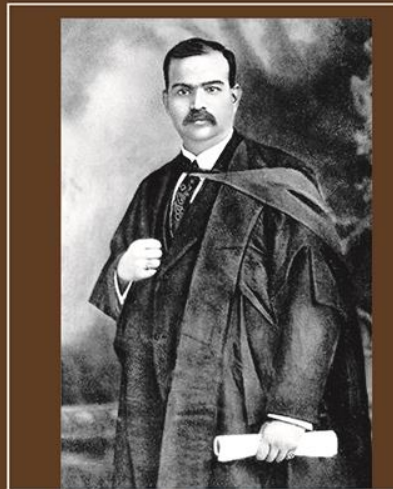
Syama Prasad Mookerjee exhibited an amazing flair for writing as a student. He edited the Presidency College magazine in 1921-1922 and also started *Banga Wani* (Voice of Bengal), a Bengali journal in 1922. Under the pen name 'Ditch', he wrote a regular feature for *Capital*, 1923-24. He also wrote for the *Calcutta Review*. By writing for these journals, he developed a fascinating style both in Bengali and English. He again took to journalism in the forties when he started his own dailies *Nationalist* (English) and *Hindusthan* (Bengali) in order to further the cause of India's freedom. The *Nationalist* was considered by the colonial government to be "consistently anti-British."



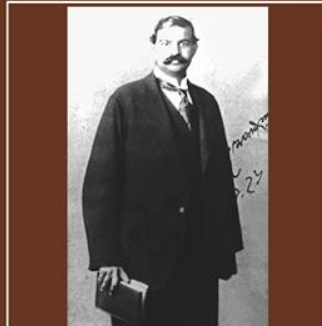
श्यामा प्रसाद लंदन में एस. राधाकृष्णन एवं जे.एम. मजूमदार के साथ
Syama Prasad with S. Radhakrishnan and J.M. Majumdar in London



Lincoln's Inn Certificate, 1927
S.P. Mookerjee Papers, NMML Archives



श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी
Syama Prasad Mookerjee



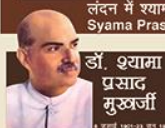
लंदन में श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी
Syama Prasad Mookerjee in London

"It is necessary to explain here that the main object of Syama Prasad's visit to England was not legal distinction. He wanted to acquire first-hand knowledge of British and French Universities. He was, therefore, anxious to do the Bar Examinations as quickly as possible and to devote the rest of his time to the study of western educational systems...."

As recalled by Surendra Nath Sen, noted historian, who shared accommodation with Syama Prasad Mookerjee in London. Tathagata Roy, *The Life and Times of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, A Complete Biography*, 2012



मित्रों के साथ लंदन में श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी
Syama Prasad Mookerjee with friends in London



डॉ. श्यामा
प्रसाद
मुखर्जी

एक दूरदर्शी शिक्षाविद् A Visionary Educationist

श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी को एक छात्र के रूप में अपने पिता की शैक्षिक गतिविधियों के साथ जुड़े रहने का सौभाग्य प्राप्त हुआ जिससे उन्हें कलकत्ता विश्वविद्यालय के कार्य के लिए बहुमूल्य प्रशिक्षण मिला। उनकी प्रतिभा को शीघ्र ही सराहना मिली और श्यामा प्रसाद 23 वर्ष की उम्र में ही कलकत्ता विश्वविद्यालय की सीनेट के सदस्य नियुक्त हुए एवं 1924 में विश्वविद्यालय में अध्यक्षता चुने गए। उसी वर्ष वे सिंडिकेट के सदस्य भी चुने गए तथा इस पद पर 1947 के अंत तक बने रहे। 1929 में वे कलकत्ता विश्वविद्यालय निर्वाचन क्षेत्र से बंगाल विधान परिषद् के लिए निर्वाचित हुए। उनके व्यापक शैक्षिक अनुभव एवं कौशल के लिए 1934 में उन्हें 33 वर्ष की युवावस्था में ही कलकत्ता विश्वविद्यालय का कुलपति नियुक्त किया गया। सबसे युवा कुलपति के रूप में उन्होंने 1938 तक दो सफल कार्यकाल पूरे किए। कुलपति के कार्यकाल में उन्होंने माध्यमिक शिक्षा व्यवस्था को पुनर्गठित किया, बंगाली भाषा को शिक्षा एवं परीक्षा का माध्यम बनाया, शिक्षक प्रशिक्षण विभाग की स्थापना की, ललित कला दीर्घा एवं भारतीय कला संग्रहालय की नींव रखी, एक विशाल केन्द्रीय पुस्तकालय का निर्माण किया तथा सैन्य प्रशिक्षण पाठ्यक्रम का शुभारंभ किया। कलकत्ता विश्वविद्यालय के इतिहास में ऐसा पहली बार हुआ जब श्यामा प्रसाद के आमंत्रण पर रवीन्द्रनाथ टैगोर ने 1937 में दीक्षांत भाषण बंगाली भाषा में दिया। तथापि, वे केवल शैक्षिक कार्य तक सीमित नहीं रहे, अपनी मातृभूमि की सेवा हेतु राजनीतिक क्षेत्र में अहम भूमिका निभाना उनके लिए पूर्वनिर्धारित था।



कलकत्ता विश्वविद्यालय के कुलपति श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी कुलाधिपति लॉर्ड ब्रैबोर्न के साथ
Syama Prasad Mookerjee as Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University with Chancellor Lord Brabourne

Syama Prasad Mookerjee had the privilege of being associated with the educational activities of his father as a student which gave him valuable training in the work of Calcutta University. His talents received early appreciation and Syama Prasad was appointed a Member of the Senate of Calcutta University at the young age of 23 and was elected Fellow of the University in 1924. The very same year he was elected a member of the Syndicate, a position he held up to the end of 1947. In 1929, he was elected to the Bengal Legislative Council from the Calcutta University constituency. His vast educational experience and acumen led him to be appointed Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University in 1934, at the young age of 33. The youngest person ever to hold office, he served for two successive terms until 1938. In his tenure as Vice-Chancellor, the system of secondary education was reorganised, Bengali became the medium of instruction and examination, a Teachers' Training Department was established, a Fine Arts Gallery and Museum of Indian Arts were founded, a spacious central library was constructed and a military training course (University Cadet Corps) was initiated. It was for the first time in the history of Calcutta University that at the invitation of Dr. Mookerjee, the Convocation Address was delivered in Bengali by Rabindranath Tagore in 1937. He however, didn't remain confined to academics as he was destined to play a larger role in the political arena in the service of his motherland.

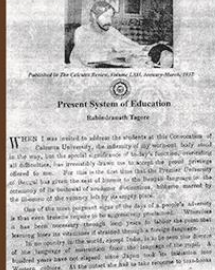


श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी कलकत्ता विश्वविद्यालय सीनेट को संबोधित करते हुए
Syama Prasad Mookerjee addressing the Senate of Calcutta University

"Education is one sphere of activity on which the State can never be accused of over-spending. If our planning is sound and administration correct, the larger we spend the more solid will be the results leading to national prosperity and solidarity."

Convocation Address, Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan, 24 December 1950

Authorised English version of the Convocation Address of Rabindranath Tagore delivered in Bengali on February 17, 1937.



Convocation Address of Rabindranath Tagore, Calcutta University, 17 February 1937



Amrita Bazar Patrika, 18 February 1937

VALUE OF UNIVERSITIES
To Spread Wholesome Ideas
Among People

NEED FOR EDUCATION THROUGH LOCAL LANGUAGES
Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee's Illustrating Address
At Agartala, Assam, 24 November 1940

Amrita Bazar Patrika, 24 November 1940

"कुलपति के रूप में अपने चार साल के कार्यकाल के दौरान श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी ने समय, ऊर्जा, स्वास्थ्य या किसी भी व्यक्तिगत इच्छा को कभी भी अपने कर्तव्य की राह में आड़े नहीं आने दिया।"

डॉ. एच.सी. मुखर्जी, पूर्व राज्यपाल (संघिय बंगाल) के संस्मरण से

"It is through education that the ultimate battle of Indian freedom will be won. The gigantic task of reconstruction, cultural, social, economic and political can be rendered possible through the co-ordinated efforts of bands of trained and disciplined Indians. Armed with the knowledge of India's past glory and greatness, her strength and weakness, it is they who can place before their country a programme of work, which while loyal to the fundamental traditions of Indian civilization will be adapted to the changing conditions of the modern world."

Convocation Address, Gurukul Kangri Vishwavidyalaya, 25 April 1943



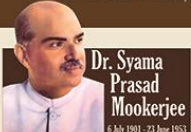
Amrita Bazar Patrika, 28 November 1937

"The Indian universities, if they are to play their role in the rebuilding of a new India, must not regard themselves as exclusive institutions which exist apart from the currents of the country's life. Let them train their alumni in a worthy manner, saturate them with the lessons of Indian history and civilization, instill into them unity and reason, strength and dauntlessness, inspire them with skill and knowledge and teach them to apply themselves devotedly and unselfishly to the service of their fellowmen. Let the teachers of the universities consider it their sacred duty to be the interpreters of India's heritage, the seekers of truth and knowledge, and prove to the world that Indian scholars are second to none in their efforts to serve the cause of the humanities and the sciences in relation to the unfettered progress of India and of human civilization itself."

Convocation Address, Patna University, 27 November 1937



Statesman, 14 December 1952



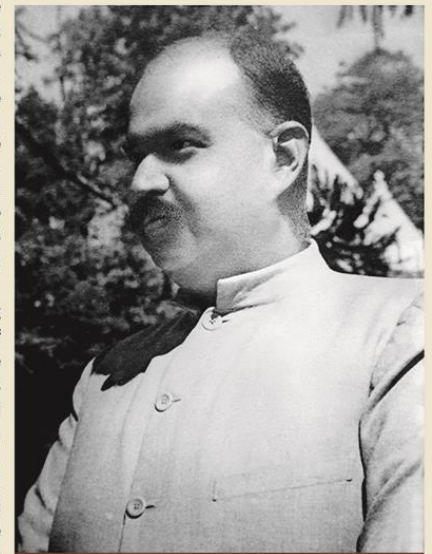
बंगाल के वित्त मंत्री Finance Minister of Bengal

डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी 1937 में कलकत्ता विश्वविद्यालय निर्वाचन क्षेत्र से बंगाल विधान सभा के लिए निर्वाचित हुए। 1940 में वे हिन्दू महासभा के कार्यकारी अध्यक्ष चुने गए। उनके चतुर राजनीतिक नेतृत्व में 1941 में प्रगतिशील गठबंधन मंत्रिमंडल का गठन हुआ जिसमें कृषक प्रजा पार्टी के नेता ए. के. फजलूल हक प्रधानमंत्री बने। मुस्लिम लीग को पूर्णरूप से दरकिनार कर गठबंधन सरकार में डॉ. मुखर्जी वित्त मंत्री के रूप में समाज के सभी वर्गों के लिए निष्पक्ष कार्य करके योग्य प्रशासक सिद्ध हुए। यह गठबंधन श्यामा-हक मंत्रिमंडल के नाम से लोकप्रिय हुआ।

अक्टूबर 1942 में मिदनापुर जिला चक्रवात एवं सुनामी के घेरे में आया जिससे हजारों लोग बेघर हो गए। श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी ने चक्रवात प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में राहत कार्य की व्यवस्था करने के लिए दौरा किया लेकिन सरकार द्वारा उनके प्रयासों में बाधा उत्पन्न की गई। ब्रिटिश सरकार ने राहत उपलब्ध कराने की बजाय असहाय लोगों का दमन शुरू कर दिया। प्रांतीय स्वायत्तता को 'एक बहुत बड़ा मजाक' बताते हुए डॉ. मुखर्जी ने ब्रिटिश नौकरशाही एवं सरकार को 'मंत्रिमंडल के कार्य' में 'अनुचित' हस्तक्षेप का दोषी उहाराते हुए नवम्बर 1942 में वित्त मंत्री पद से त्यागपत्र दे दिया। उन्होंने बंगाल विधान सभा में अपने त्यागपत्र पर प्रभावशाली वक्तव्य दिया। उन्होंने सरकार से हर प्रकार का दमन रोकने को कहा और बंगाल के उन कांग्रेस नेताओं को रिहा करने की अपील की जिन्हें बंगाल सरकार, जिसमें वे मंत्री थे, ने बिना बातचीत किए अगस्त आंदोलन के लिए गिरफ्तार किया था। उन्होंने एक 'भारतीय राष्ट्रीय सरकार का गठन... जो स्वतंत्रता से आच्छादित हो जिस पर भारत का जन्मसिद्ध अधिकार है' के समर्थन का आग्रह किया।

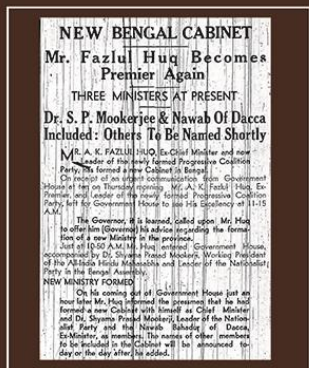
Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee was elected to the Bengal Legislative Assembly from the Calcutta University constituency in 1937. In 1940, he was elected Working President of the Hindu Mahasabha. His astute statesmanship led to the formation of the Progressive Coalition Ministry in 1941 with A.K. Fazlul Haq, leader of the Krishak Praja Party, as Premier. The Muslim League was completely sidelined and Dr. Mookerjee, as Finance Minister, in the coalition ministry proved to be an exemplary administrator who worked impartially for all sections of society. This coalition was popularly known as the Syama-Haq Ministry.

In October 1942, the district of Midnapore was struck by cyclone and tsunami rendering thousands of people homeless. Syama Prasad toured the cyclone affected areas to organise relief work but his efforts were hampered by the colonial bureaucracy. Instead of providing relief the British administration unleashed repression on the hapless people. Describing provincial autonomy as a 'colossal mockery' he accused the British bureaucracy and government of 'unwarranted' interference 'with the work of the Ministry'. Syama Prasad resigned as Finance Minister in November 1942. He made a powerful statement on his resignation in the Bengal Legislative Assembly. He appealed to the government to stop all repression and release all the Congress leaders of Bengal who were arrested for the August movement and support the formation of an 'Indian National Government...clothed with that freedom which is the birthright of India.'



डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी
Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee

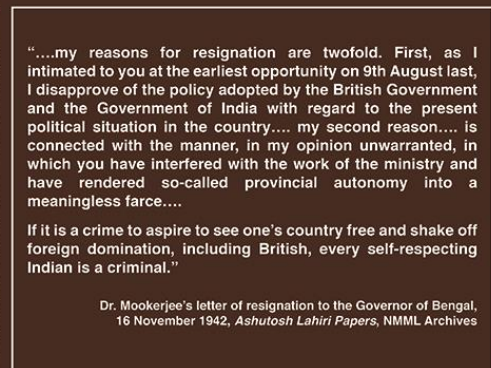
...my reasons for resignation are twofold. First, as I intimated to you at the earliest opportunity on 9th August last, I disapprove of the policy adopted by the British Government and the Government of India with regard to the present political situation in the country.... my second reason.... is connected with the manner, in my opinion unwarranted, in which you have interfered with the work of the ministry and have rendered so-called provincial autonomy into a meaningless farce....



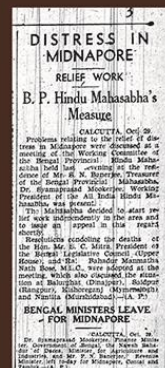
Amrita Bazar Patrika, 12 December 1941



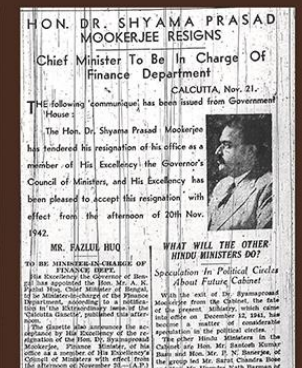
Amrita Bazar Patrika, 21 October 1942



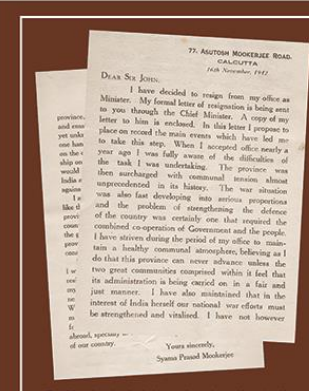
Amrita Bazar Patrika, 30 October 1942



Amrita Bazar Patrika, 30 October 1942



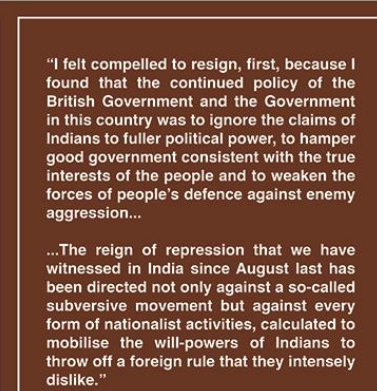
Amrita Bazar Patrika, 22 November 1942



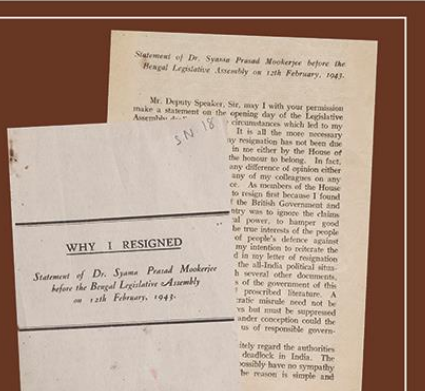
Dr. Mookerjee's letter of resignation to the Governor of Bengal, 16 November 1942
Ashutosh Lahiri Papers, NMML Archives



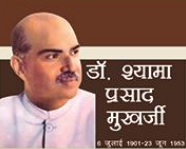
Amrita Bazar Patrika, 24 November 1942



Dr. Mookerjee's statement on resignation, Bengal Legislative Assembly, 12 February 1943
Ashutosh Lahiri Papers, NMML Archives



Dr. Mookerjee's statement on resignation, Bengal Legislative Assembly, 12 February 1943
Ashutosh Lahiri Papers, NMML Archives



डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी
१६ नवंबर १९३७-२२ नवंबर १९४२

बंगाल में अकाल, 1943 Bengal Famine, 1943

1943 में बंगाल में भीषण अकाल एवं महामारी का त्रासद भरा एक ऐसा दौर आया जो मानव निर्मित था और भारत में ब्रिटिश सरकार द्वारा किया गया एक नरसंहार था। सरकार द्वारा बंगाल में पैदा हुए खाद्य संकट से संबंधित समाचारों एवं प्रतिक्रियाओं को दबाने की हर संभव कोशिश की गयी। श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी पीड़ितों का दुःख बांटने एवं उन्हें राहत देने के लिए स्वयं विभिन्न प्रकार की मानवीय, प्रशासनिक तथा राजनीतिक गतिविधियों में सक्रिय रहे। उन्होंने बंगाल राहत समिति, हिन्दू महासभा राहत समिति जैसी अनेक गैर-सरकारी संस्थाओं का गठन किया एवं इन विभिन्न राहत संगठनों के बीच परस्पर समन्वय के लिए एक राहत समन्वय समिति बनाई। डॉ. मुखर्जी द्वारा की गयी सहायता की अपील को भारत के सभी हिस्सों से अभूतपूर्व समर्थन मिला। डॉ. मुखर्जी ने अकाल पीड़ितों के प्रति ब्रिटिश अधिकारियों तथा मुस्लिम लीग की सरकार की 'उदासीनता' एवं 'द्वेषपूर्ण' रवये को उजागर किया। उन्होंने कहा, 'इसमें केवल प्रकृति का हाथ नहीं है... इस तबाही की जड़ें वर्तमान राजनीतिक कुशासन से जुड़ी हैं'। डॉ. मुखर्जी की राहत कार्य के लिए प्रतिबद्धता, उनकी अपने देशवासियों के प्रति उस गहरी संवेदना पर प्रकाश डालती है जो धर्म, जाति और संप्रदाय के बंधन से मुक्त थी। केवल उनके प्रयासों के कारण ही अकाल की सूचना सार्वजनिक हो सकी।

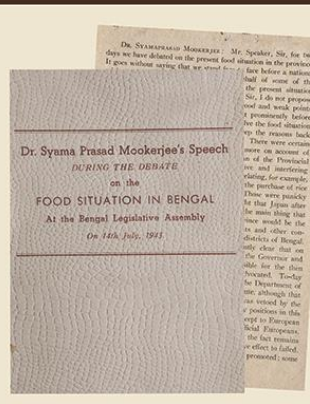


डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी
Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee

In 1943, Bengal found itself in the grip of the worst man-made famine and epidemic recorded in human history. It was a criminal and genocidal act of the British Government in India. All attempts were made by the government to suppress news and comments on the critical food situation in Bengal. Dr. Mookerjee plunged headlong into manifold humanitarian, administrative and political activities for giving solace to the victims. He raised the non-official relief organisations such as the Bengal Relief Committee, Hindu Mahasabha Relief Committee, and also set up a Relief Coordination Committee to coordinate relief work between various organisations. Dr. Mookerjee's appeal for support received a huge response from all parts of India. Dr. Mookerjee also exposed the attitude of the British authorities and the Muslim League Government, its 'indifference', 'undisguised hostility' towards the victims of the famine. He said, 'It is not nature's hand alone... Political maladministration lies at the root of the present catastrophe.' Dr. Mookerjee's deep commitment for relief work throws light on his deep compassion for his countrymen unshackled by any consideration of religion, caste and creed. It was solely due to his efforts that the famine was brought to public notice all over the country.



Amrita Bazar Patrika, 11, 17 & 18 April 1943



Ashtutosh Lahiri Papers, NMML Archives

"...Sir, the question which I would like to put to the House is: what is the solution of this great calamity? Where will our parties be, where shall we be, if life in Bengal comes to an abrupt end, not on account of any ravages of nature as had happened on previous occasions but on account of a wrong policy pursued by the authorities responsible for the administration of this province and country. For nearly two centuries the people have been bled to death, exploitation has gone on unchecked. During the last four years for the so-called purposes of the War the interests of the common people have been ruthlessly sacrificed and they have to-day almost reached Death's door..."

Speech on Food Situation in Bengal, Bengal Legislative Assembly, 14 July 1943
Ashtutosh Lahiri Papers, NMML Archives



Bombay Chronicle, 14 August 1943

More Deaths From Starvation In Bengal

Calcutta City Fathers' S. O. S. To Churchill And Roosevelt

Calcutta, August 20. The Calcutta Corporation at a special meeting to-day decided in view of the distress prevailing in Calcutta and elsewhere in Bengal to send a cable to Mr. Churchill and President Roosevelt, who are meeting at Quebec appealing to them to extend to Bengal "their hands of mercy" by arranging shipment of foodstuffs, from North or South America or Australia or Africa to relieve the distress here.

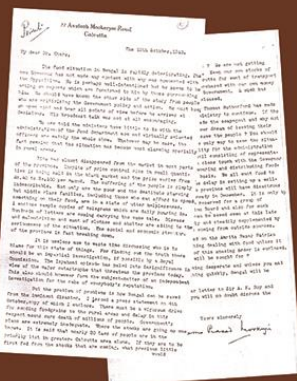
The resolution was passed without any opposition.

Eleven Die From Starvation

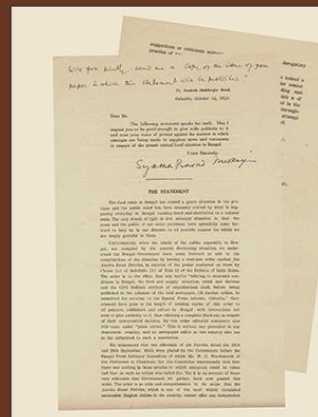
150 persons suffering from the effects of starvation of the sickle on the streets of Calcutta were admitted to hospital to-day. Eleven of them have died.—A. P.

Unclaimed Dead Bodies

Bombay Chronicle, 21 August 1943

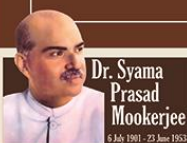


Dr. Mookerjee's letter to Dr. N.B. Khare, 13 October 1943, N.B. Khare Papers, N.A.I.



S.P. Mookerjee Papers, NMML Archives

"The food crisis in Bengal has caused a grave situation in the province and the public mind has been intensively stirred by what is happening everyday in Bengal causing death and destitution on a colossal scale. The only streak of light in this unhappy situation is that the press and the public of our sister provinces have splendidly come forward to help us in our distress in all possible manner for which we are deeply grateful to them."



Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee
6 July 1901 - 23 Jan 1953

हिन्दू महासभा के नेता Leader of Hindu Mahasabha

वर्ष 1939 में डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी के जीवन का एक नया अध्याय प्रारंभ हुआ। उन्होंने हिन्दू महासभा में मुख्य भूमिका निभाई। प्रांतीय स्वायत्तता की कार्यप्रणाली तथा कांग्रेस एवं मुस्लिम लीग की बंगाल के हिन्दुओं के प्रति नीतियों से निराश होकर डॉ. मुखर्जी, वीर सावरकर एवं कलकत्ता हाई कोर्ट के वरिष्ठ वकील, निर्मल चन्द्र चटर्जी की सलाह पर हिन्दू महासभा में शामिल हो गए। डॉ. मुखर्जी के व्यापक तथा राष्ट्रवादी दृष्टिकोण से गांधीजी बहुत प्रभावित थे और जब उन्हें श्यामा प्रसाद के हिन्दू महासभा में शामिल होने के बारे में बताया गया तो उन्होंने कहा, 'मालवीयजी के बाद हिन्दुओं का नेतृत्व करने के लिए किसी की आवश्यकता थी'। डॉ. मुखर्जी के राजनीतिक साहस, उनके द्वारा चलाए गए आंदोलनों के प्रति उत्साह, संगठनात्मक कौशल एवं वाक्पटुता के कारण वे तेजी से एक राष्ट्रीय नेता के रूप में उभरे। उनके नेतृत्व में पहली बार बंगाल तथा समस्त भारत के हिन्दुओं को एक ऐसा नेता मिला जिसने राजनीतिक स्वार्थों या निजी हितों की कमी परवाह नहीं की। वे 1940 से 1944 तक हिन्दू महासभा के कार्यकारी अध्यक्ष रहे। 1944 में हिन्दू महासभा के बिलासपुर अधिवेशन में उन्हें अध्यक्ष चुना गया तथा वे इस पद पर 1947 तक बने रहे। अपने अध्यक्षीय भाषण में उन्होंने कहा कि स्वराज सभी राष्ट्रीय समस्याओं का एक मात्र समाधान है। उनके अडिग एवं दूरदर्शी नेतृत्व में हिन्दू महासभा एक अखिल भारतीय शक्ति के रूप में उभरी और देश के मामलों में मुख्य भूमिका निभाई।

The year 1939 ushered in a new chapter in the life of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee for it saw him playing a leading role in the Hindu Mahasabha. Totally disillusioned by the working of the provincial autonomy and the policies of the Congress and the Muslim League towards the Hindus of Bengal, Dr. Mookerjee joined the Hindu Mahasabha at the behest of Veer Savarkar and Nirmal Chandra Chatterjee, a leading barrister of Calcutta High Court. Mahatma Gandhi was greatly impressed by the broad and nationalistic outlook of Dr. Mookerjee and when told about his entry into Hindu Mahasabha, he said, 'somebody was needed to lead the Hindus after Malaviyaji'. Dr. Mookerjee's speedy rise as a national leader was due to his political courage, enthusiasm for the cause which he had taken up, and organisational skill and oratory. Under him, for the first time the Hindus of Bengal and of India as a whole, found a spokesman who did not care at all for political expediency or personal interest. He was Working President of the Hindu Mahasabha from 1940 to 1944 and in 1944 was elected its President at the Bilaspur session and continued in that position till 1947. In his presidential address he observed that Swaraj was the essential remedy for all national ills. Under his uncompromising and farsighted leadership, Hindu Mahasabha emerged as an all-India force and took a leading part in the affairs of the country.



डॉ. मुखर्जी और वीर सावरकर
Dr. Mookerjee and Veer Savarkar



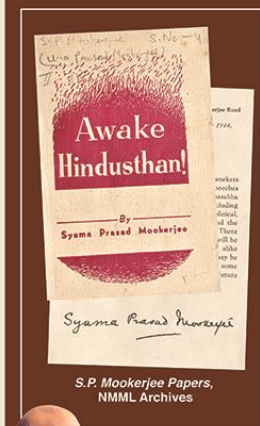
डॉ. मुखर्जी, वीर सावरकर व अन्य हिन्दू महासभा कार्यकारी समिति के सदस्य
Dr. Mookerjee, Veer Savarkar and other members of the Hindu Mahasabha Working Committee



हिन्दू महासभा के अध्यक्ष डॉ. मुखर्जी
Dr. Mookerjee, President of Hindu Mahasabha



डॉ. मुखर्जी, एन.सी. चटर्जी, डॉ. बी.एस. मूंजे व अन्य हिन्दू महासभा सदस्य
Dr. Mookerjee, N. C. Chatterjee, Dr. B.S. Moonje and other members of the Hindu Mahasabha



S.P. Mookerjee Papers, NMML Archives

"We want to see a Free Hindustan marching forward as one of the great progressive countries of the world, resplendent with all the glorious traditions of her past, the home of diverse faiths and cultures, all treated as equals, all owing their undying loyalty and allegiance to the eternal spirit of Bharatmata, whose sons and daughters, though not swayed by the western doctrine of power and possession, will yet acquire sufficient strength and valour not only to maintain internal peace and defend her frontiers but also to function as a willing protector of human rights and liberty throughout the civilized world."

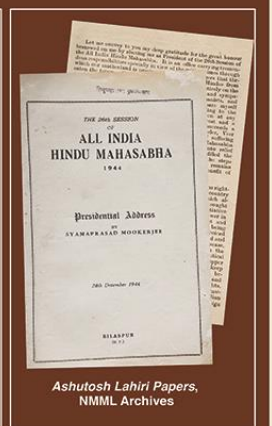
Address at Hindu Mahasabha Session, Gorakhpur, 27 December 1946



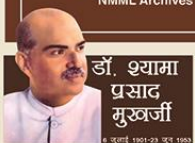
Hindu Mahasabha Papers, NMML Archives

"...To be called upon to occupy such an office [is] a sacred trust and a privilege, which [is] all the more enhanced when one succeeds a president so patriotic, devoted and fearless as Veer Savarkar, whose dynamic personality and career of suffering and sacrifice gave a new life and vigour to the Hindu Mahasabha."

Dr. Mookerjee's speech accepting
presidentship of Hindu Mahasabha,
Bilaspur Session, December 1944



Ashutosh Lahiri Papers, NMML Archives



डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी

१८ जनवरी १९०१-२३ दिसंबर १९६३

अखण्ड भारत के सशक्त अधिवक्ता Forceful Advocate of United India

डॉ. मुखर्जी ने विभाजन के सुझाव का लगातार कड़ा विरोध किया और दृढ़तापूर्वक अखण्ड भारत का समर्थन किया। वे महात्मा गांधी से मिले तथा उनके साथ देश की परिस्थिति पर चर्चा की। डॉ. मुखर्जी, एल. बी. भोपतकर के साथ केबिनेट मिशन से हिन्दू महासभा के प्रतिनिधि के रूप में मिले। डॉ. मुखर्जी ने केबिनेट मिशन से विभाजन के विरोध में दृढ़तापूर्वक बहस की। उन्होंने आग्रह किया कि अंग्रेजों को तत्काल ही भारत को मुक्त एवं स्वतंत्र घोषित कर देना चाहिए और किसी भी कीमत पर भारत की अखण्डता और अभाज्यता को बनाए रखना चाहिए। विभाजन आर्थिक रूप से अनुचित और विनाशकारी एवं राजनीतिक रूप से अविवेकपूर्ण तथा आत्मघाती होगा।

केबिनेट मिशन ने तथापि, हिन्दुओं और मुसलमानों के अल्पसंख्यक और बहुसंख्यक क्षेत्रों के आधार पर देश को विभाजित करने की योजना का सुझाव रखा। परिणामस्वरूप बंगाल और पंजाब में बड़े पैमाने पर सांप्रदायिक दंगे हुए। जुलाई 1946 में मुस्लिम लीग द्वारा 'डायरेक्ट एक्शन' के आह्वान के कारण अगस्त में कलकत्ता सहित समस्त बंगाल में सांप्रदायिक दंगों ने गंभीर रूप ले लिया। डॉ. मुखर्जी ने सर्वाधिक प्रभावित क्षेत्रों, नोआखली और तिप्पराह का दौरा किया और पीड़ितों के पुनर्वास की व्यवस्था की। इस कार्य को करने के लिए उन्होंने एक स्वयंसेवी समूह, हिन्दुस्तान नेशनल गार्ड्स का गठन किया। उन्होंने लोगों का विश्वास तथा मनोबल पुनः स्थापित करने में प्रमुख भूमिका निभाई और अपने राजनीतिक नेतृत्व एवं साहसपूर्ण सक्रियता के बल पर मुस्लिम लीग का सामना किया।

Dr. Mookerjee put up a stiff opposition to the idea of partition and forcefully advocated a united India. He met Mahatma Gandhi and discussed the situation with him. Dr. Mookerjee met the Cabinet Mission accompanied by L.B. Bhopatkar as representatives of the Hindu Mahasabha. Dr. Mookerjee argued forcefully against partition before the Cabinet Mission and said that the British should immediately declare India free and independent, that the integrity and indivisibility of the country should be maintained at any cost and that partition would be economically unsound, disastrous, politically unwise and suicidal.

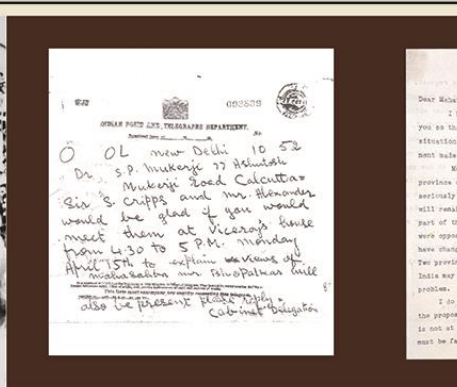
The Cabinet Mission, however, recommended a plan that divided the country on the basis of minority and majority areas of Hindus and Muslims. As a result, there were widespread communal disturbances in Bengal and Punjab. The call for 'Direct Action' given by the Muslim League in July 1946 led to grave communal riots in August in Calcutta and all over Bengal. Dr. Mookerjee toured the worst affected areas, Noakhali and Tipperah, and arranged for the rehabilitation of the victims. He formed a volunteer group, the Hindustan National Guards for this purpose. He also played a leading role in restoring the confidence and morale of the people and took on the Muslim League through the dint of his political leadership and fearless activism.



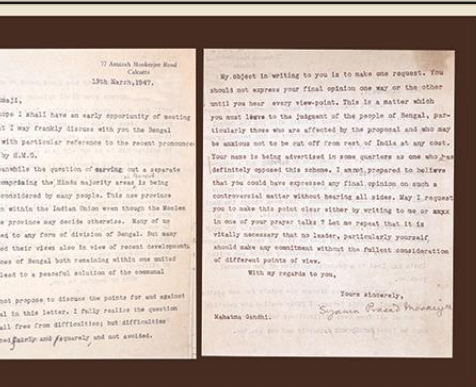
डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी
Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee



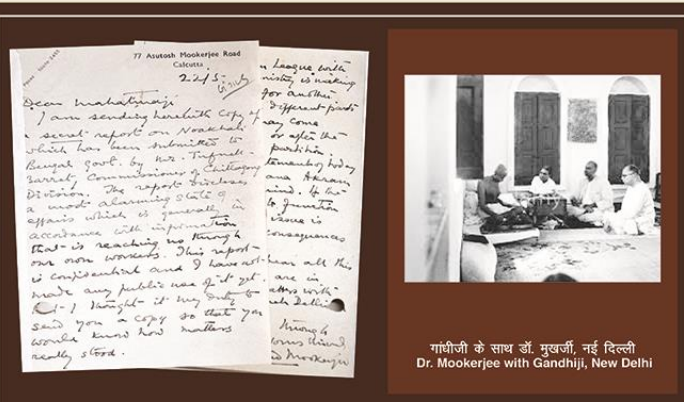
डॉ. मुखर्जी पंजाब में एक सार्वजनिक सभा को संबोधित करते हुए
Dr. Mookerjee addressing a public meeting in Punjab



Cabinet Mission's telegram to Dr. Mookerjee, 11 April 1946
S.P. Mookerjee Papers, NMML Archives



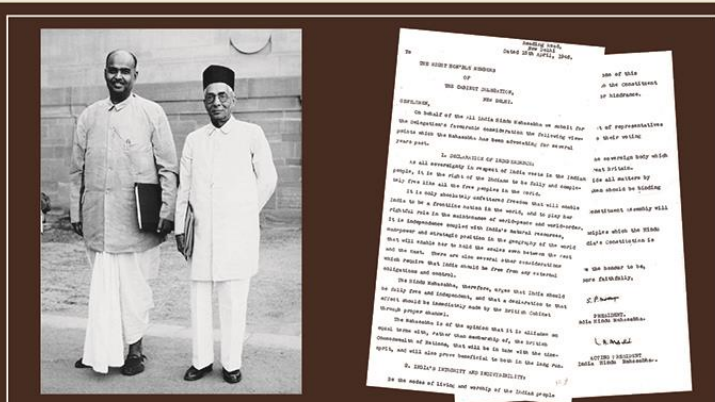
Dr. Mookerjee's letter to Gandhiji, 13 March 1947
Gandhi Papers, NMML Archives



Dr. Mookerjee's letter to Gandhiji, 22 May 1947
Gandhi Papers, NMML Archives

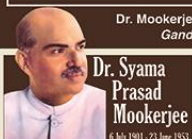


गांधीजी के साथ डॉ. मुखर्जी, नई दिल्ली
Dr. Mookerjee with Gandhiji, New Delhi



डॉ. मुखर्जी के साथ एल. बी. भोपतकर, नई दिल्ली, 1946
Dr. Mookerjee with L.B. Bhopatkar, New Delhi, 1946

Hindu Mahasabha's Memorandum to Cabinet Mission,
15 April 1946, Transfer of Powers Papers, N.A.I.



बंगाल विभाजन योजना के निर्माता

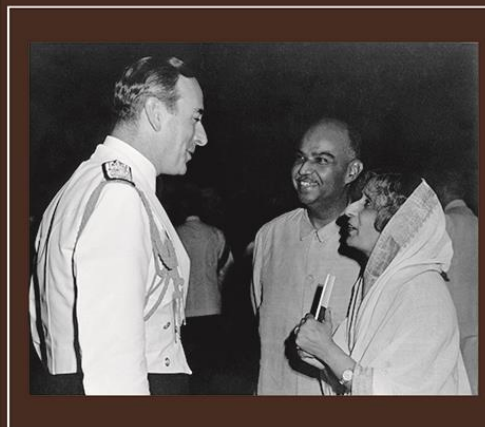
Architect of Bengal Partition Scheme

विभाजन योजना की स्वीकृति का घटनाक्रम जब तेजी से आगे बढ़ रहा था, उस समय डॉ. मुखर्जी ने मुस्लिम बहुसंख्यक बंगाल के विभाजन का पक्ष लिया। उन्होंने बंगाल के हिन्दू क्षेत्रों को भारत में सम्मिलित करके बंगाली हिन्दुओं के लिए एक मातृभूमि के पक्ष में जनमत को संगठित किया। उनकी बंगाल विभाजन की समयोचित, ठोस एवं प्रभावशाली योजना ने बड़ी संख्या में बंगाल के हिन्दू नेताओं व कांग्रेस के कई नेताओं को प्रभावित करने में सफलता प्राप्त की। मार्च 1947 में भारतीय विधान सभा के बंगाली हिन्दू नेताओं ने एक बैठक में विभाजन के समर्थन में एक प्रस्ताव पारित किया। इस संबंध में डॉ. मुखर्जी वाइसराय मारुटबेटन से भी मिले। डॉ. मुखर्जी द्वारा संयोजित हिन्दुओं के दो-दिवसीय सम्मेलन में आर. सी. मजूमदार, डॉ. सुनीति कुमार चटर्जी एवं राधा कुमुद मुखर्जी सहित प्रमुख बुद्धिजीवियों एवं विद्वानों ने भाग लिया। इस सम्मेलन में सर्वसम्मति से एक प्रस्ताव पारित किया गया कि 'बंगाल में हिन्दू बहुसंख्यक क्षेत्रों को सम्मिलित करके एक पृथक प्रांत का निर्माण अवश्य किया जाए'। यह डॉ. मुखर्जी का प्रभावकारी हस्तक्षेप और नेतृत्व ही था जिसने बंगाल के एक भू-भाग, विशेषकर कलकत्ता जैसे ऐतिहासिक और सामरिक दृष्टि से महत्वपूर्ण नगर को पाकिस्तान का हिस्सा बनने से बचाया। निःसंदेह, पश्चिम बंगाल का निर्माण डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी की एक बहुत बड़ी उपलब्धि थी। इसने जिन्ना के विशाल पाकिस्तान के स्वप्न को साकार नहीं होने दिया तथा पूर्वी पाकिस्तान से निष्कासित हिन्दुओं के लिए सुरक्षित स्थान भी सुनिश्चित किया।

As events moved swiftly towards the acceptance of the partition plan, Dr. Mookerjee advocated the partition of Muslim-majority Bengal. He mobilised public opinion in favour of a homeland for Bengali Hindus by attaching the Hindu areas of Bengal to India. His forceful, cogent and timely advocacy of the scheme for the partition of Bengal succeeded in winning over a large number of Hindu leaders in the province including Congressmen to his side. In March 1947, Bengali Hindu members of the Indian Legislative Assembly at a meeting adopted a resolution favouring the scheme. Dr. Mookerjee also met Viceroy Mountbatten in this regard. A two-day conference of Hindus convened by Dr. Mookerjee and attended by leading intellectuals, scholars such as R.C. Majumdar, Dr. Suniti Kumar Chatterji and Dr. Radha Kumud Mookerjee unanimously passed a resolution that a 'separate province must be created comprising the Hindu majority areas in Bengal'. It was Dr. Mookerjee's convincing intervention and leadership that saved a portion of Bengal, especially the historic and strategically important city of Calcutta from becoming part of Pakistan. The creation of West Bengal was undoubtedly one of the greatest achievements of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee. It crippled and gave a death blow to Jinnah's dream of a greater Pakistan and also ensured a safe homeland for Bengali Hindus who were being pushed out of East Pakistan.



डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी
Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee



डॉ. मुखर्जी, लुई मारुटबेटन और राजकुमारी अमृत कौर
Dr. Mookerjee, Louis Mountbatten and Rajkumari Amrit Kaur

BENGAL MAHASABHA TO SET UP COUNCIL OF ACTION

CALCUTTA, April 7.—Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee has been authorized to set up a council of action to take steps for attaining the objective of an autonomous state for the Hindus in Bengal by a resolution adopted on Saturday by the All-Bengal Hindu Mahasabha Conference at Tarakeswar. The resolution envisages an autonomous state in West Bengal.

By another resolution, the Conference demanded two Ministries in Bengal pending the creation of the proposed autonomous West Bengal. It also demanded the withdrawal of non-Bengalee Muslims, recently recruited in Calcutta, Armed Police force.—U.P.

Hindustan Times, 8 April 1947

My dear Dr. Mookerjee,

I have your letter of the 11th May. All the considerations that you have mentioned have been before me. I sincerely I cannot say with any definiteness what is going to happen. I do not personally appreciate all the idea of a separate Bengal unconnected with the Union.

Any national division of the Province for the purpose of dodging about the future must necessarily be based on some single rule which presumably is related to the Census figures of population. Final decisions can only be settled by a Statutory Commission.

As you must know, the date of the so called Conference has been postponed to the 2nd June. The Congress Working Committee is meeting on the 10th May in Delhi. I think it will be advantageous if you could be in Delhi round about that time. In any event you will probably have to come up for the meeting of the Constituent Assembly Union Principles Committee.

Yours sincerely,
Jawaharlal Nehru

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee,
77, Anusoon Mookerjee Road,
Calcutta.

Jawaharlal Nehru's letter to Dr. Mookerjee, 14 May 1947
S.P. Mookerjee Papers, NMML Archives

PARTITION PRINCIPLE MUST BE ACCEPTED NOW

DR MOOKERJEE'S PLEA FOR HINDU PROVINCE IN BENGAL

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, the Mahasabha leader, addressing a meeting at New Delhi on Friday, emphasized that the principle of partition must be accepted with the least possible delay though its actual execution might take time.

He urged that the Hindu areas in Bengal should be separated from the Muslim areas and that a separate province should be created for the Hindus in Bengal. He said that the Hindu areas in Bengal were being pushed out of the province and that the Hindu population was being reduced to a minority. He said that the Hindu areas in Bengal were being pushed out of the province and that the Hindu population was being reduced to a minority.

Hindustan Times, 23 April 1947

"Gallup Poll" On Partition Question

CALCUTTA, April 22, (A.P.I.): The results of the "Gallup poll" on the question of partition of Bengal, held by the "Amrita Bazar Patrika," show that out of 5,34,249 answers received, 98.3 per cent voted for and 0.6 per cent against partition, about 1.1 per cent of the replies were rejected owing to faulty entry.

The answers were in reply to the question "do you want a separate homeland for Bengal Hindus?"

Bombay Chronicle, 23 April 1947

New Delhi, the 17th May 1947.

Dear Syama Prasad Mookerjee,

Many thanks for your letter of 11th May 1947.

I do not think you need have any worry at all. You can depend on us to deal with the situation effectively and helpfully. The future of Hindus in Bengal is quite safe so long as they stand firm and continue to give us such support as only they can.

Yours sincerely,
Sardar Patel

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee,
77, Anusoon Mookerjee Road,
Calcutta.

Sardar Patel's letter to Dr. Mookerjee, 17 May 1947
S.P. Mookerjee Papers, NMML Archives

Bengal Must Be Divided into Two Provinces

Dr. S.P. Mookerjee's Demand

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, the Mahasabha leader, has demanded that Bengal should be divided into two provinces, one for the Hindus and one for the Muslims. He said that the Hindu areas in Bengal were being pushed out of the province and that the Hindu population was being reduced to a minority. He said that the Hindu areas in Bengal were being pushed out of the province and that the Hindu population was being reduced to a minority.

Tribune, 24 April 1947

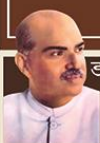
BENGAL'S PARTITION NECESSARY TO END MUTUAL DISTRUST

Ministry Must Be Dissolved Soon, Says Mookerjee

The demand for the partition of Bengal was not made in any sense of frustration but with a full sense of responsibility, said Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee in a speech to the Bengal Praesidium, Dr. K. S. Subramanyam on Wednesday.

He said that the Hindu areas in Bengal were being pushed out of the province and that the Hindu population was being reduced to a minority. He said that the Hindu areas in Bengal were being pushed out of the province and that the Hindu population was being reduced to a minority.

Hindustan Times, 2 May 1947



डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी

6. एप्रिल 1961-93 एच. 1089

केन्द्रीय उद्योग एवं आपूर्ति मंत्री Union Minister of Industry and Supply

डॉ. मुखर्जी संविधान सभा के लिए चुने गए तथा उन्होंने भारतीय संविधान का मसौदा तैयार करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई। 1947 में महात्मा गांधी एवं सरदार पटेल के आग्रह पर डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी को जवाहरलाल नेहरू द्वारा प्रथम केन्द्रीय मंत्रिमंडल में शामिल होने के लिए आमंत्रित किया गया। महात्मा गांधी का तर्क था कि आजादी सभी 'राष्ट्रवादी शक्तियों' के संयुक्त प्रयासों के परिणामस्वरूप प्राप्त हुई है। डॉ. मुखर्जी को उद्योग एवं आपूर्ति मंत्री का पदभार दिया गया जिसने उन्हें भारत की औद्योगिक नीति की नींव रखने और आने वाले वर्षों में भारत के औद्योगिक विकास की पृष्ठभूमि तैयार करने का अवसर प्रदान किया।



'स्वतंत्र भारत का प्रथम मंत्रिमंडल'
'First Cabinet of Free India'

Dr. Mookerjee was elected to the Constituent Assembly and took an active part in the drafting of the Indian Constitution. At the behest of Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Dr. Mookerjee was invited by Jawaharlal Nehru to join the first Union Cabinet in 1947. Mahatma Gandhi argued that independence had come as a result of the joint efforts of all the 'nationalist forces.' Dr. Mookerjee was given the portfolio of Industry and Supply. This gave him an opportunity to lay the foundation of India's industrial policy and prepare the ground for the nation's industrial

development in the years to come.

डॉ. मुखर्जी द्वारा स्वतंत्र भारत के राष्ट्रीय महत्व के तीन विशालकाय औद्योगिक उपक्रम और एक नदी घाटी परियोजना परिकल्पित और संगठित की गई - चितरंजन लोकोमोटिव वर्क्स, सिंधु फर्टिलाइजर फैक्ट्री, हिन्दुस्तान एयरक्राफ्ट फैक्ट्री और दामोदर वैली कॉरपोरेशन। उन्होंने भिलाई में इस्पात कारखाना स्थापित करने की योजना पर भी विचार किया। भारी उद्योगों के अलावा, डॉ. मुखर्जी ने भारत के हथकरघा एवं लघु उद्योगों के बढ़ते महत्व को भी समझा। उनके कार्यकाल में ऑल-इंडिया हैंडिक्राफ्ट बोर्ड, ऑल-इंडिया हैडलूम बोर्ड तथा खादी एवं विलेज इंडस्ट्रीज बोर्ड की स्थापना हुई। वस्त्र अनुसंधान संस्थान एवं औद्योगिक वित्त निगम की भी इसी समय स्थापना हुई। युगो-पुराने भारतीय रेशम उद्योग में सुधार के लिए उन्होंने 1949 में सेंट्रल सिल्क बोर्ड की स्थापना की तथा 'प्रांतों में बनने वाले उत्पादों के विपणन एवं विज्ञापन' के लिए दिल्ली में सेंट्रल कॉटेज एम्पोरियम की योजना बनाई।

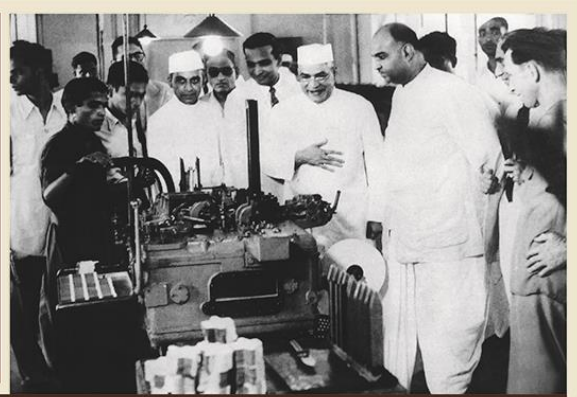
Three gigantic industrial undertakings and a river valley project of free India of great national importance, were conceived and organised by Dr. Mookerjee—Chittaranjan Locomotive Works Factory, Sindhri Fertiliser Factory, Hindustan Aircraft Factory and the Damodar Valley Corporation. He had also conceived the plan of establishing the steel plant of Bhilai. Besides heavy industries, Dr. Mookerjee also understood the importance of developing India's small-scale and handloom industries. During his tenure, the All-India Handicrafts Board, the All-India Handloom Board and the Khadi and Village Industries Board were set up. The Textile Research Institute and the Industrial Finance Corporation were also set up at this time. For the improvement of the age-old Indian silk industry, he established the Central Silk Board in 1949 and also promoted the idea of the Central Cottage Emporium in Delhi 'to market and advertise the goods made in the provinces'.



बी.सी. रॉय, डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी, मनीबेन पटेल, के. एन. काटजू और सरदार वल्लभभाई पटेल
B.C. Roy, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Maniben Patel, K.N. Katju and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

"Of all the remedies suggested for India, the most practical and effective is her increased industrial and agricultural production. This, coupled with the adoption of reasonable price structures and a better and more rational system of distribution, can alone raise the standard of living of millions of India's underfed and undernourished population."

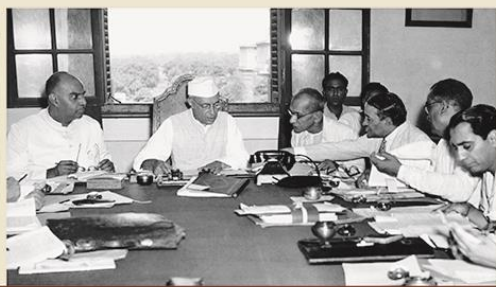
Presidential speech of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee at the First Session of the Central Advisory Council of Industries, New Delhi, 24-25 January 1949



डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी एक फैक्ट्री का निरीक्षण करते हुए
Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee inspecting a factory



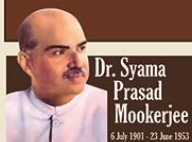
डॉ. मुखर्जी एक प्रदर्शनी का उद्घाटन करते हुए
Dr. Mookerjee inaugurating an exhibition



वैज्ञानिक एवं औद्योगिक अनुसंधान बोर्ड की बैठक में डॉ. मुखर्जी, जवाहरलाल नेहरू, एस. एस. भटनागर, बी. सी. रॉय व होमी भाभा, 16 अगस्त 1948
Dr. Mookerjee, Jawaharlal Nehru, S.S. Bhatnagar, B.C. Roy and Homi Bhabha in a meeting of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research, 16 August 1948



जे. आर. डी. टाटा के साथ डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी
Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee with J.R.D. Tata

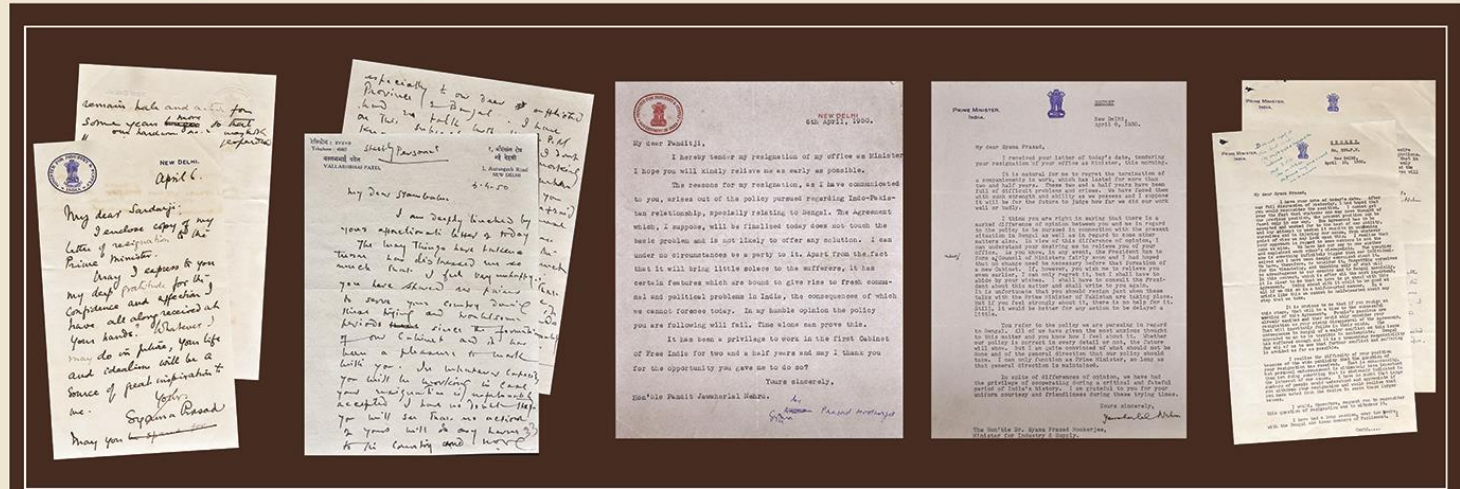


Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee
6 July 1901 - 23 June 1953

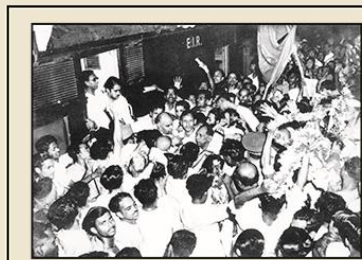
केन्द्रीय मंत्रिमंडल से त्यागपत्र Resignation from the Union Cabinet

वर्ष 1950 डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी के जीवनकाल में एक ऐतिहासिक घटना के रूप में उल्लेखनीय है। देश के विभाजन के समय उन्होंने पूर्वी बंगाल के हिन्दुओं को आशवासन दिया था कि 'यदि उनके जीवन और सम्मान को खतरे में डाला गया या आघात किया गया तो स्वतंत्र भारत मूक दर्शक नहीं रहेगा और उनके मुद्दों को भारत सरकार और उसके लोग निडरतापूर्वक उठाएंगे'। फरवरी 1950 में पूर्वी पाकिस्तान के हिन्दुओं पर बड़े पैमाने पर हुए राज्य प्रायोजित आक्रमण के कारण हिन्दुओं का पश्चिम बंगाल, त्रिपुरा और असम में निर्गमन हुआ। पूर्वी पाकिस्तान में हिन्दुओं के बचाव के लिए जवाहरलाल नेहरू ने पाकिस्तान के प्रधानमंत्री लियाकत अली खान से वार्ता का प्रस्ताव रखा। डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी ने इसका विरोध किया क्योंकि वे इस दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण स्थिति के लिए लियाकत अली खान को ही उत्तरदायी मानते थे। परंतु नेहरू ने समझौते के लिए लियाकत अली खान को दिल्ली आने का निमंत्रण दिया। डॉ. मुखर्जी ने यह महसूस किया कि पूर्व में हुए समझौतों का भी पाकिस्तान ने सम्मान नहीं किया और दिल्ली समझौता भी 'पैबंदकारी' होगा। यह कोई स्थाई समाधान या सुझा का भरोसा प्रदान नहीं करेगा, और न ही शांति स्थापित करेगा। डॉ. मुखर्जी के पास मंत्रिमंडल से त्यागपत्र देने के अलावा कोई और विकल्प नहीं था क्योंकि उन्हें लगा कि वे पूर्वी बंगाल के हिन्दुओं को दिया वादा पूरा नहीं कर पाए। इस पर पूरे बंगाल ने उनका समर्थन किया।

The year 1950 marked a watershed in the life of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee. At the time of Partition he had given assurance to the Hindus of east Bengal that 'if their lives and honour were jeopardised and attacked, free India would not remain an idle spectator and their just cause would be boldly taken up by the Government and people of India'. In February 1950, a massive state-sponsored attack was launched on the Hindus of East Pakistan leading to a huge exodus of Hindus into West Bengal, Tripura and Assam. Jawaharlal Nehru proposed talks with Liaquat Ali Khan, the Prime Minister of Pakistan for the protection of Hindus in East Pakistan. Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee opposed the proposal as he considered Liaquat Ali Khan himself to be responsible for the unfortunate situation. But Nehru proceeded with the talks and invited Liaquat Ali Khan to Delhi for signing an agreement. Dr. Mookerjee felt that in the recent past agreements had been dishonoured by Pakistan and the Delhi Pact would only be a 'patchwork' leading to no permanent solution or promise of safeguard, nor would it lead to peace. Dr. Mookerjee had no alternative but to resign from the Cabinet as he felt that he had not been able to redeem his pledge to the Hindus of east Bengal. The whole of Bengal rallied around him in support.



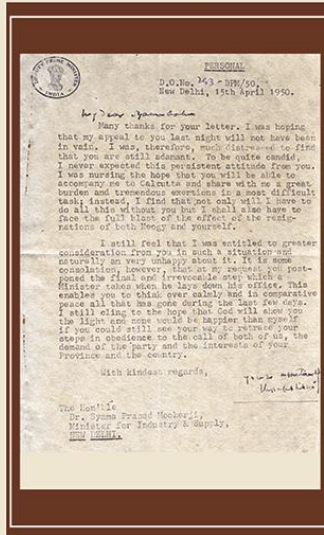
Correspondence between Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Jawaharlal Nehru regarding his resignation, S.P. Mookerjee Papers, NMML Archives



डॉ. मुखर्जी का हावड़ा स्टेशन पर स्वागत
Dr. Mookerjee's reception at Howrah Station



डॉ. मुखर्जी कलकत्ता आगमन पर
Dr. Mookerjee on his arrival at Calcutta



Sardar Patel's letter to Dr. Mookerjee, 15 April 1950
S.P. Mookerjee Papers, NMML Archives

"When the partition of India became inevitable, I played a very large part in creating public opinion in favour of the partition of Bengal, for I felt that if that was not done, the whole of Bengal and also perhaps Assam would fall into Pakistan. At that time little knowing that I would join the first Central Cabinet, I along with others, gave assurances to the Hindus of East Bengal, stating that if they suffered at the hands of the future Pakistan Government, if they were denied elementary rights of citizenship, if their lives and honour were jeopardised or attacked, Free India would not remain an idle spectator and their just cause would be boldly taken up by the Government and people of India. During the last 2 1/2 years their sufferings have been of a sufficiently tragic character. Today I have no hesitation in acknowledging that in spite of all efforts on my part, I have not been able to redeem my pledge and on this ground alone - if on no other - I have no moral right to be associated with Government any longer. Recent happenings in East Bengal have however overshadowed all their past woes and humiliation. Let us not forget that the Hindus of East Bengal are entitled to the protection of India, not on humanitarian considerations alone, but by virtue of their sufferings and sacrifices, made cheerfully for generations, not for advancing their own parochial interests, but for laying the foundations of India's political freedom and intellectual progress. It is the united voice of the leaders that are dead and of the youth that smilingly walked into the gallows for India's cause that calls for justice and fair play at the hands of Free India of today."

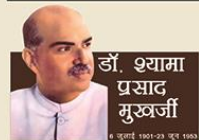
Statement of Dr. Mookerjee on his resignation, Lok Sabha, 19 April 1950, Parliamentary Debates, Vol. IV, Part II, 1950



डॉ. मुखर्जी के स्वागत में हावड़ा स्टेशन पर जन समूह
Crowd welcoming Dr. Mookerjee at Howrah Station



डॉ. मुखर्जी अपने समर्थकों के बीच, कलकत्ता
Dr. Mookerjee amidst his supporters, Calcutta



डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी
6 अक्टूबर 1901-23 अक्टूबर 1983

भारतीय जनसंघ के संस्थापक Founder of Bharatiya Jana Sangh

डॉ. मुखर्जी का मंत्रिमंडल से त्यागपत्र और भारत की राजनीति में विपक्ष का प्रादुर्भाव न केवल उनके जीवन अपितु समूचे राष्ट्र के लिए एक निर्णायक मोड़ सिद्ध हुआ। नेहरू-लियाकत समझौते के विरुद्ध उनके दृष्टिकोण को जनता का भारी समर्थन मिला। अब वे बिना पार्टी के नेता थे। उन्होंने व्यापक स्तर पर कांग्रेस का राष्ट्रीय विकल्प देने के लिए एक नई पार्टी बनाने की ओर प्रयास शुरू किया। उन्होंने विभिन्न व्यक्तियों से विस्तृत विचार-विमर्श किया, जिसमें राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक संघ के दूसरे सर संघचालक एम. एस. गोलवलकर प्रमुख थे। उनके प्रयास अक्टूबर 1951 में सफल हुए। 21 अक्टूबर 1951 को दिल्ली के राघोमल आर्य कन्या उच्च माध्यमिक विद्यालय में अखिल भारतीय सम्मेलन में शामिल होने के लिए देश के विभिन्न भागों से प्रतिनिधि आए। भारतीय जनसंघ की स्थापना औपचारिक रूप से इस सम्मेलन में हुई। डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी का नाम अध्यक्ष के लिए प्रस्तावित किया गया जिसे सर्वसम्मति से मान लिया गया।

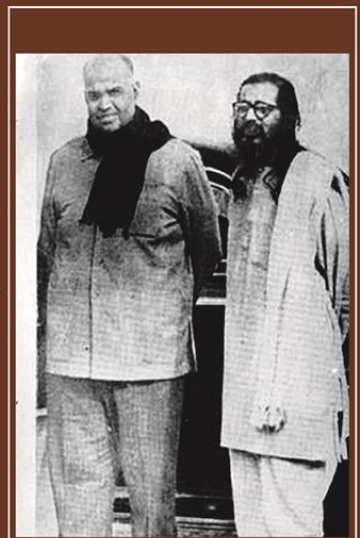
नए दल के अध्यक्ष के तौर पर डॉ. मुखर्जी ने देश में राष्ट्रीय शक्तियों के बीच मुख्य शक्ति के रूप में जनसंघ की परिकल्पना की। इसके द्वार उन सब के लिए खुले थे जो भारत और भारतीय 'संस्कृति' तथा 'मर्यादा' के प्रति समर्पित थे।

कानपुर में 29-31 दिसम्बर 1952 को अखिल भारतीय जनसंघ सम्मेलन के पहले अधिवेशन में पंडित दीनदयाल उपाध्याय महासचिव निर्वाचित हुए। डॉ. मुखर्जी ने एक नौजवान स्वयंसेवक अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी को अपना निजी सचिव नियुक्त किया जो आगे चलकर भारत के प्रधानमंत्री बने।

Dr. Mookerjee's resignation from the Cabinet and his launching himself into all-India mainstream opposition politics proved to be a turning point not only in his own life but also for the nation. He received massive support from the people for his stand against the Nehru-Liaquat Pact. He was now a leader without a party. He started working towards forming a new party as a broad-based nationalist alternative to the Congress. He held wide-ranging discussions over the formation of this alternative with various personalities, the most prominent being M.S. Golwalkar, the second Head of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. His efforts bore fruit in October 1951. An All-India Convention attended by delegates from all parts of the country took place on 21 October 1951 in Raghomal Arya Kanya Higher Secondary School, New Delhi. The Bharatiya Jana Sangh was formally launched at the Convention. The name of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee was proposed as its President and was unanimously accepted.

Dr. Mookerjee as President of the new party visualised Jana Sangh as the spearhead of the nationalist forces in the country and open to all citizens who owed allegiance to Bharat and Bharatiya 'Sanskriti' and 'Maryada'.

At its first All-India Jana Sangh Conference in Kanpur on 29-31 December 1952, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya was elected its General Secretary. Dr. Mookerjee also recruited a very young Swayamsevak called Atal Bihari Vajpayee as his Private Secretary, who later became the Prime Minister of India.



एम. एस. गोलवलकर के साथ डॉ. मुखर्जी
Dr. Mookerjee with M.S. Golwalkar



डॉ. मुखर्जी, अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी तथा अन्य के साथ
Dr. Mookerjee with Deendayal Upadhyaya and other Jana Sangh workers

"...I am glad to know that our work in U.P. is proceeding fairly well. I wish we had some more Provincial Organisers like you..."
Dr. Mookerjee's letter to Deendayal Upadhyaya, 19 September 1952



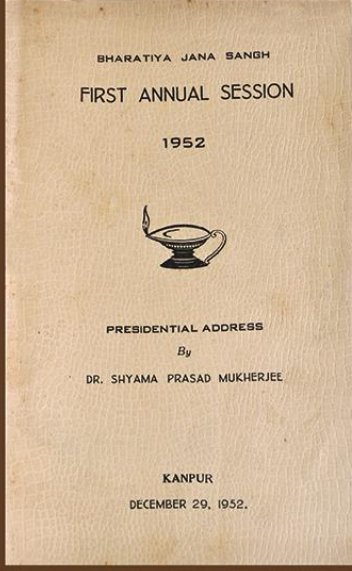
Organiser, 29 October 1951

"भारतीय जन संघ आज एक अखिल भारतीय राजनीतिक दल के रूप में उभरा है, जो प्रमुख विपक्षी दल के रूप में काम करेगा... हमने भारत के सभी नागरिकों के लिए अपनी पार्टी को खुला रखा है, बेशक वे किसी भी जाति, पंथ, संप्रदाय अथवा समुदाय के हों, जबकि हमारी मान्यता है कि रीति-रिवाज, रुचि, आदर्शों, धर्म एवं भाषा के मामलों में भारत एक अद्वितीय विविधता प्रस्तुत करता है और लोगों को मैत्री व समझदारी के बंधन के जरिए एकजुट होना चाहिए, जो एक साझा मातृभूमि के प्रति गहरे समर्पण और निष्ठा से प्रेरित हों... जाति और धर्म के आधार पर राजनीतिक अल्पसंख्यकों के विकास को बढ़ावा देना खतरनाक होगा। भारत की आबादी के व्यापक बहुमत को ही यह आवश्यक करना है कि सभी वर्गों के लोग, जो अपनी मातृभूमि के प्रति सच्चे निष्ठावान हैं, कानून के प्रति पूरी सुरक्षा और सामाजिक, आर्थिक तथा राजनीतिक मामलों में समानता के अधिकारी होंगे। हमारी पार्टी यह आश्वासन निःसंकोच देती है... हमारी पार्टी का विश्वास है कि भारत का भविष्य भारतीय संस्कृति व मर्यादा का सम्मान करने और उन्हें क्रियान्वित करने में ही निहित है।"

भारतीय जनसंघ की स्थापना पर डॉ. मुखर्जी का अख्येय भाषण, नई दिल्ली, 21 अक्टूबर 1951



Organiser, 22 October 1951



S.P. Mookerjee Papers, NMML Archives

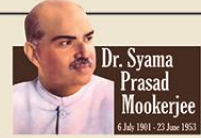


"May our party whose symbol in the forthcoming elections is a humble earthen 'pradip', try to carry this light of hope and unity, faith and courage to dispel the darkness that surrounds the country."

Presidential Address on the formation of Bharatiya Jana Sangh, New Delhi, 21 October 1951

"The objective of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh is the rebuilding of Bharat on the basis of Bharatiya Sanskriti and Maryada and as a political, social and economic democracy, guaranteeing equality of opportunity and liberty of person to all its citizens so as to build up a prosperous, powerful and united nation—progressive, modern and enlightened, able to withstand the aggressive designs of others and to exert herself in the comity of nations for the establishment of world peace."

Principles and Policies, BJS-Party Documents

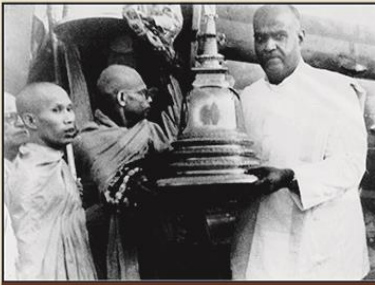


Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee
6 July 1901 - 23 June 1953

महाबोधि सोसाइटी के अध्यक्ष President of Maha Bodhi Society

डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी ने अपने युवाकाल में ही भारतीय कला, साहित्य और संस्कृति के प्रति गहरी निष्ठा विकसित कर ली थी। उन्होंने अपने पिता सर आशुतोष मुखर्जी के साथ मिलकर कलकत्ता विश्वविद्यालय और भारत की महाबोधि सोसाइटी की सांस्कृतिक गतिविधियों में भाग लिया। जनवरी 1943 में डॉ. मुखर्जी महाबोधि सोसाइटी के अध्यक्ष बने। वे इस पद पर अपने असामयिक निधन (1953) तक बने रहे। उन्होंने देश में बौद्ध धर्म के केन्द्रों को पुनर्जीवित करने तथा महात्मा बुद्ध की शिक्षाओं के प्रचार के लिए सक्रिय प्रयास किए।

महात्मा बुद्ध के दो प्रमुख शिष्यों, सारिपुत्त और मोग्गलान अरहंस, के धार्मिक स्मृति चिन्हों को लंदन के ब्रिटिश संग्रहालय से भारत में एक शताब्दी के बाद 13 जनवरी 1949 को वापिस लाया गया (कन्निघम इन्हें 1851 में ले गए थे)। ये स्मृति चिन्ह डॉ. मुखर्जी ने 14 जनवरी 1949 को कलकत्ता मैदान में एक समारोह के दौरान प्रधानमंत्री नेहरू से प्राप्त किए और नवम्बर 1952 में डॉ. एस. राधाकृष्णन (भारत के उपराष्ट्रपति) की उपस्थिति में नवनिर्मित 'विहार', जो इसी के लिए सांची में निर्मित किया गया था, में प्रतिष्ठापित किए गए।



डॉ. मुखर्जी महाबोधि सोसाइटी कलकत्ता में अवशेषों के साथ
Dr. Mookerjee with relics at Maha Bodhi Society, Calcutta

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee developed deep devotion from his early youth towards Indian art, literature and culture. He had worked closely with his father Sir Asutosh Mookerjee in various cultural activities of Calcutta University and the Maha Bodhi Society of India. Dr. Mookerjee became President of the Maha Bodhi Society in January 1943 and held the position till his untimely death in 1953. He took a keen and active interest in reviving centres of Buddhism in the country and in propagating the teachings of Lord Buddha.

The holy relics of Sariputta and Moggallana Arahans, the two principal disciples of Lord Buddha, were brought back from the British Museum in London to India after nearly a century (these were taken away by Cunningham in 1851) on 13 January 1949. Dr. Mookerjee received these relics from Prime Minister Nehru at a ceremony in Calcutta on 14 January 1949. The relics were re-enshrined in the new 'Vihar' specially built for this purpose at Sanchi in November 1952 in the presence of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, the Vice-President of India.



डॉ. मुखर्जी को अवशेष प्रदान करते हुए जवाहरलाल नेहरू, कलकत्ता मैदान, 14 जनवरी 1949
Jawaharlal Nehru handing over the relics to Dr. Mookerjee, Calcutta Maidan, 14 January 1949



Amrita Bazar Patrika, 14 January 1949



डॉ. मुखर्जी, डॉ. राधाकृष्णन, जवाहरलाल नेहरू एवं थाकिन नू, कलकत्ता
Dr. Mookerjee, Dr. Radhakrishnan, Jawaharlal Nehru and Thakin Nu, Calcutta



Amrita Bazar Patrika, 14 January 1949



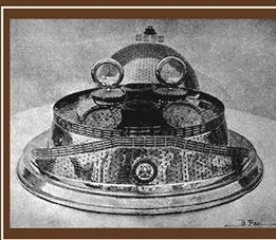
डॉ. मुखर्जी एवं डॉ. राधाकृष्णन, सांची, 1952
Dr. Mookerjee and Dr. Radhakrishnan, Sanchi, 1952



अवशेषों को रखने के लिए सांची में नवनिर्मित चैत्य गिरि विहार, 1952
The New Chetiya Giri Vihara at Sanchi built for housing the relics, 1952



Amrita Bazar Patrika, 1 December 1952



Casket containing sacred relics of Sariputta and Moggallana Arahans

"Many of these countries in Southeast Asia after attaining independence are striving hard to receive the highest elements of Buddhist cultural and religious thought. In this respect India occupies the role of their spiritual mother.... With a true sense of humility and responsibility India can re-establish the bonds of friendship and understanding with them so that this fraternity will not only be welcomed by the peoples of the countries concerned but will also create a mighty source of strength and solidarity which can worthily contribute to the maintenance of world peace and freedom."

Dr. Mookerjee's Welcome Address at International Cultural Conference, Sanchi, 29 November 1952

बुद्ध के शिष्यों की अस्थियां नये विहार में पुनः प्रतिष्ठित
मिन्नश्रीं द्वारा सारिपुत्तयामहा-मोग्गलान को श्रद्धांजलि
सांची में मध्य समारोह : पौषिष्ठ
श्री श्री गुरुदेव की आशीर्वाद
सांची, 1 दिसम्बर 1952

हिन्दुस्तान, 1 दिसम्बर 1952



डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी

6 फरवरी 1901-23 दिसंबर 1953

भारत के सांस्कृतिक राजदूत India's Cultural Ambassador

डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी ने दक्षिणपूर्व एशिया के बौद्ध धर्म को मानने वाले देशों जैसे बर्मा, कम्बोडिया, सिलोन और तिब्बत के साथ भारतीय सभ्यता का समन्वय विकसित करने में महत्त्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई। 1952 में इन देशों द्वारा अनुरोध किए जाने पर कि उन्हें सारिपुत्त और मोग्गलान के कुछ पवित्र अवशेष पूजा के लिए भेजे जाएं, डॉ. मुखर्जी ने इन देशों की यात्रा करने का निर्णय लिया। वे इन पवित्र अवशेषों के साथ बर्मा एवं कम्बोडिया गए। इन देशों के लोगों ने बड़ी संख्या में पवित्र अवशेषों को श्रद्धांजलि दी एवं बुद्ध के संदेशों और भारत तथा दक्षिण पूर्व एशिया के देश किस प्रकार एकजुट होकर नये एशिया के युग की शुरुआत कर सकते हैं, पर आधारित डॉ. मुखर्जी के भाषणों को सुनने के लिए शामिल हुए। डॉ. मुखर्जी ने भारत की ओर से बर्मा के लोगों को भेंट के रूप में इन अवशेषों का हिस्सा प्रदान किया। बर्मा के प्रधानमंत्री, थाकिन नू ने डॉ. मुखर्जी को इस 'उत्कृष्ट और अनुपम भेंट के लिए आभार और कृतज्ञता' प्रकट करते हुए कहा कि 'हमारे दो भगिनी देशों के बीच पहले से स्थापित अत्यन्त घनिष्ट एवं विशिष्ट संबंध आगे और दृढ़ होंगे तथा बौद्ध धर्म के पुनरुत्थान और प्रसार के हमारे समान उद्देश्य में सहायता करेंगे... मुझे विश्वास है कि आपके एवं महाबोधि सोसायटी ऑफ इंडिया के महान एवं प्रशंसनीय कार्यों के लिए सारा बौद्ध जगत मेरे साथ मिलकर "साधु!साधु!साधु!" कहेगा।

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee played a leading role in forging a link with the Buddhist countries of Southeast Asia namely, Burma, Cambodia, Ceylon and Tibet. In 1952, on receiving a request from these countries to send some portions of the holy relics of Sariputta and Moggallana to them for worship, he decided to visit these countries. He went to Burma and Cambodia and presented them with some portion of the sacred relics. The people of these countries came out in large numbers to listen to Dr. Mookerjee's speech on the message of Buddha and how India and the countries of Southeast Asia could work together to bring in a new Asian age. The Burmese Prime Minister, Thakin Nu, wrote to Dr. Mookerjee expressing his 'gratitude and appreciation for the noble and generous gift' which 'would further cement the already very close and unique relationship between our two sister countries, and help in our common cause for the propagation and revival of Buddha Dhamma... The whole of the Buddhist world, I am sure, would join me in saying "sadhul! sadhul! sadhul!" for the noble gesture and meritorious deed of your good self and the Maha Bodhi Society of India.'



कम्बोडिया में डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी
Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee in Cambodia



डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी बर्मा के प्रधानमंत्री थाकिन नू को अवशेष प्रदान करते हुए
Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee handing over the relics to Thakin Nu, Prime Minister of Burma

<p>9th November, 1950.</p> <p>My Dear Prime Minister,</p> <p>I have just received a communication from you, dated 9th November, 1950, regarding the gift of the sacred relics of the Buddha to the Government of India. I am glad to hear that the Government of India has agreed to give as requested some portions of the Holy Relics to the Government of Burma. I am sure that the Government of India will be happy to do so. I am sure that the Government of India will be happy to do so. I am sure that the Government of India will be happy to do so.</p> <p>Yours sincerely, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee</p>	<p>9th November, 1950.</p> <p>My Dear Mr. Mookerjee,</p> <p>I am glad to hear that the Government of India has agreed to give as requested some portions of the Holy Relics to the Government of Burma. I am sure that the Government of India will be happy to do so. I am sure that the Government of India will be happy to do so. I am sure that the Government of India will be happy to do so.</p> <p>Yours sincerely, Thakin Nu</p>	<p>30th November, 1950.</p> <p>My Dear Mr. Mookerjee,</p> <p>I am glad to hear that the Government of India has agreed to give as requested some portions of the Holy Relics to the Government of Burma. I am sure that the Government of India will be happy to do so. I am sure that the Government of India will be happy to do so. I am sure that the Government of India will be happy to do so.</p> <p>Yours sincerely, Thakin Nu</p>
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Dr. Mookerjee's letter to Thakin Nu, 9 November 1950
Thakin Nu's letter to Dr. Mookerjee, 27 November 1950
Dr. Mookerjee's letter to Thakin Nu, 30 November 1950
S.P. Mookerjee Papers, NMML Archives

Dr. Mookerjee in Rangoon

Invited At Opening Of "World Peace Pagoda"

...The teachings of the Buddha based on simplicity and good behaviour, on truth and justice, knew no petty barriers of race, colour or community. They are capable of creating a solid foundation of peace and good-will on which true human brotherhood can be built... Buddha is one of India's Avatars. And there are several countries in Asia where Buddhism still survives as a living religion. It is but natural that the people of these countries should look up to India as the land of the Buddha and the holy cities associated with His birth, enlightenment and Nirvana continue to attract thousands of visitors from far and near...

Introduction to Maha Bodhi Society of India Diamond Jubilee Souvenir, 1891-1951, Calcutta, 1952

Amrita Bazar Patrika, 6 March 1952

Unique Event In Cambodia's History

Arrival Of Relics Of Buddha & His Disciples

...The teachings of the Buddha based on simplicity and good behaviour, on truth and justice, knew no petty barriers of race, colour or community. They are capable of creating a solid foundation of peace and good-will on which true human brotherhood can be built... Buddha is one of India's Avatars. And there are several countries in Asia where Buddhism still survives as a living religion. It is but natural that the people of these countries should look up to India as the land of the Buddha and the holy cities associated with His birth, enlightenment and Nirvana continue to attract thousands of visitors from far and near...

Amrita Bazar Patrika, 13 October 1952

Sacred Relics of Two Disciples Of Buddha Presented To People Of Burma: Govt. House Ceremony

...The teachings of the Buddha based on simplicity and good behaviour, on truth and justice, knew no petty barriers of race, colour or community. They are capable of creating a solid foundation of peace and good-will on which true human brotherhood can be built... Buddha is one of India's Avatars. And there are several countries in Asia where Buddhism still survives as a living religion. It is but natural that the people of these countries should look up to India as the land of the Buddha and the holy cities associated with His birth, enlightenment and Nirvana continue to attract thousands of visitors from far and near...

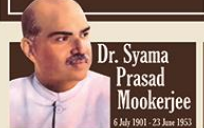
Amrita Bazar Patrika, 21 January 1951

Dr. Mookerjee's letter to Norodom Sihanouk, King of Cambodia, 12 October 1952

S.P. Mookerjee Papers, NMML Archives

Dr. Mookerjee's letter to Norodom Sihanouk, King of Cambodia, 12 October 1952

S.P. Mookerjee Papers, NMML Archives



Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee
6 July 1901 - 23 June 1953

(NMML Microfilm Collection)

संसद का शेर

The Lion of Parliament

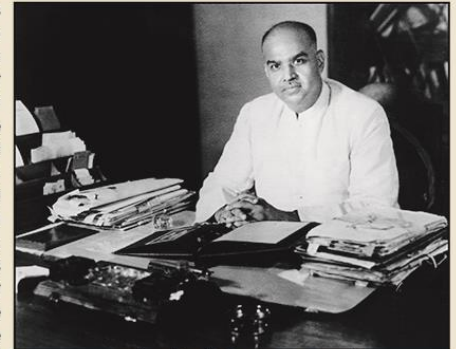


डॉ. मुखर्जी एवं डॉ. बी. आर. अम्बेडकर
Dr. Mookerjee and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी का पहली लोकसभा में पुनरागमन 1951-52 के प्रथम आम चुनाव में हुआ। जनसंघ, जिस दल के वे प्रणेता थे, से मात्र दो अन्य सदस्य चुनकर आ सके। उस समय लोक सभा में कोई संयुक्त विपक्ष नहीं था, अतएव कोई विपक्ष का नेता नहीं था। तथापि, जिस एक मात्र व्यक्ति ने विपक्ष के अन्य सदस्यों से ऊपर उठकर नेतृत्व का बीड़ा उठाया वे डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी थे। उनका उत्कर्ष, मित्रों और विरोधियों सभी द्वारा स्वीकृत किया गया। उन्होंने संसद में विपक्ष को संगठित करने की दिशा में अगुवाई की और संसद में नेशनल डेमोक्रेटिक पार्टी बनाने के लिए छोटी संख्या वाले कई दलों को जैसे उड़ीसा का गणतंत्र परिषद, पंजाब का अकाली दल, हिन्दू महासभा, राम राज्य परिषद और कुछ निर्दलीयों को एकजुट किया। इस विपक्ष में एन. सी. चटर्जी और सरदार हुकुम सिंह जैसे कुछ श्रेष्ठ सांसद सम्मिलित थे। डॉ. मुखर्जी इस दल के नेता चुने गए। वे विपक्ष के प्रमुख वक्ता बने और उन्हें विपक्ष के अनौपचारिक नेता के रूप में मान्यता प्राप्त हुई।

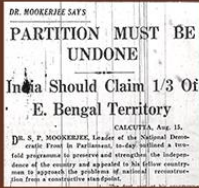
उनकी संसदीय निपुणता और वाक्पटुता, देश में व्याप्त समस्याओं के प्रति उनकी राष्ट्रवादी और रचनात्मक शैली ने उनका कद राजनेता के रूप में नई ऊंचाईयों पर पहुँचाया। वे देश में स्वतंत्रता और लोकतंत्र के मुख्य प्रवक्ता एवं रक्षक बन गये। उन्होंने देश के मार्मिक मुद्दों पर सर्वाधिक प्रभावशाली और उल्लेखनीय भाषण दिए और सबकी प्रशंसा के पात्र बने। संसद में विपक्ष के नेता के रूप में उनकी भूमिका ने उन्हें 'संसद का शेर' की उपाधि अर्जित कराई।

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee was returned to the first Lok Sabha in the first general elections in 1951-52. Jana Sangh, the party that he launched, could return only two more members. There was no combined opposition and hence no Leader of Opposition. However, the one man who stood head and shoulders above all others in the opposition was Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee. His pre-eminence was recognised by all, friends and opponents. He took the lead in organising the opposition in Parliament and brought together a number of small parties including the Ganatantra Parishad of Orissa, the Akali Dal of Punjab, the Hindu Mahasabha, the Ram Rajya Parishad and a number of independents to form the Nationalist Democratic Party in Parliament. It included some of the finest parliamentarians in the opposition like N.C. Chatterjee and Sardar Hukum Singh. Dr. Mookerjee was elected its leader. He became the chief spokesman of the opposition and was accepted as the unofficial leader of opposition.



अपने कार्यालय में डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी
Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee in his Office

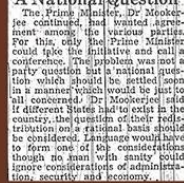
His parliamentary skills and eloquence, his nationalistic and constructive approach to the problems facing the country raised his stature as a statesman to new heights and made him the bulwark and one of the chief spokespersons of freedom and democracy in the country. He made some of the most forceful and remarkable speeches on poignant issues facing the country and won the admiration of one and all. His role in Parliament as the leader of opposition earned him the title 'The Lion of Parliament'.



Tribune, 17 August 1952



Tribune, 26 August 1952



Hindustan Times, 8 July 1952

"I would earnestly urge upon the Prime Minister to examine this question in the context of today, not merely in the context of what may have happened years ago. Although we may draw upon the lessons of history, we have to consider the grave situation that has arisen in different parts of the country and settle once for all whether India is going to be divided mainly on a linguistic basis. Speaking for myself, I have always maintained that linguistic consideration cannot be the only consideration on which India can be divided. You must take into consideration other factors also, like administrative efficiency, security, economic prosperity, and the unity of the country. These are vital factors which no one in his senses can possibly ignore."

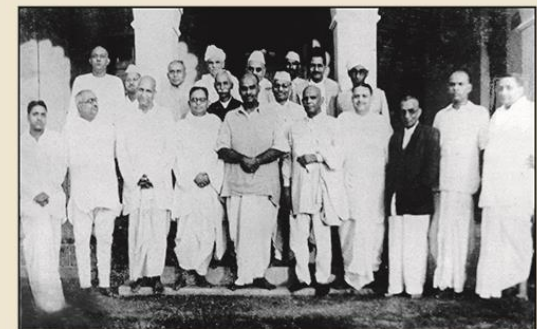
Dr. Mookerjee's speech on Linguistic States in Lok Sabha, 7 July 1952, *Parliamentary Debates*, Vol. III, No. 1, 1952.

"I am not for violent resistance, we do not want chaos and disorder in this country but the same non-violent resistance which was taught to the gentlemen occupying the Treasury benches today is not forgotten on the soil of India and that resistance may come if Government persists in passing legislation or doing administrative acts which are really disliked by the majority of the people of this country. But I am hoping that we will be able to discharge our duties that while we express ourselves freely and strongly and without fear we will be able to resolve by mutual discussion divergent viewpoints and take only such decisions which will be to the benefit of the people at large and be openly justified before the bar of world opinion."

Dr. Mookerjee's speech in Lok Sabha, 21 May 1952, *Parliamentary Debates*, Vol. 1, No. 4, 1952



Tribune, 5 March 1953



डॉ. मुखर्जी अन्य पार्टी नेताओं के साथ
Dr. Mookerjee with leaders of other parties

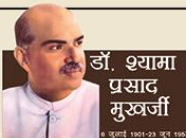
"We are today to discuss a matter of very vital importance not only to millions of individuals but to the entire country. It is not the first time that this matter is coming up before the House. It has been given to me to place the viewpoint of a large number of citizens of this country on this grave issue during the last 2 1/2 years.

Today I feel overwhelmed by a sense of pang and sorrow as also a sense of responsibility and duty as I start to speak on this motion. I feel along with the many that the policy hitherto pursued by the Government of India has not been at all satisfactory and it has failed to achieve the objective in view. Many of us have expressed opinions which have not been found acceptable to the Government. The issue before us is so momentous that none of us would like to proceed in an atmosphere of anger or passion but would like to place our respective viewpoints with the utmost frankness in the hope that before it is too late a solution of this gigantic problem can be found."

Dr. Mookerjee's speech on the motion regarding migrations between India and Pakistan, Lok Sabha, 15 November 1952, *Parliamentary Debates*, Vol. V, No. 1, 1952



एन. सी. चटर्जी, डॉ. मुखर्जी एवं नन्द लाल शर्मा
N.C. Chatterjee, Dr. Mookerjee and Nand Lal Sharma

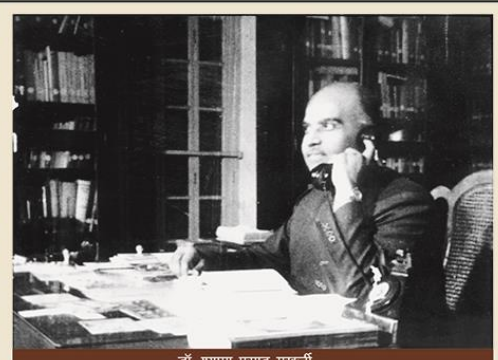


डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी
डॉ. मुखर्जी एवं डॉ. बी. आर. अम्बेडकर

राष्ट्रीय एकता और अखण्डता के समर्थक Champion for National Unity and Integrity

डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी के जीवन के अंतिम पंद्रह महीने जम्मू-कश्मीर मुद्दे के राष्ट्रीय और तर्कसंगत समाधान की दिशा में प्रयास, राष्ट्रीय एकता एवं अखण्डता के प्रति उनकी प्रतिबद्धता और मातृभूमि के प्रति गहरे प्रेम का प्रमाण थे। डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद ने स्वयं को प्रेमनाथ डोगरा के नेतृत्व में जम्मू-कश्मीर प्रजा परिषद के उद्देश्यों से जोड़ा, जो जम्मू-कश्मीर राज्य के भारतीय संघ में विलय करने की अपनी मांग के समर्थन में शांतिपूर्वक सत्याग्रह कर रहे थे। डॉ. मुखर्जी ने 'एक देश में दो विधान, दो प्रधान और दो निशान नहीं चलेंगे' का नारा दिया। जम्मू-कश्मीर सरकार ने सत्याग्रहियों का अभूतपूर्व दमन शुरू किया और उनके अधिकांश नेताओं को जेल भेज दिया। एक सच्ची लोकतांत्रिक भावना से डॉ. मुखर्जी ने बातचीत के माध्यम से इस समस्या को सौहार्दपूर्ण ढंग से सुलझाने का प्रयत्न किया। वे अगस्त 1952 में शेख अब्दुल्ला और युवराज कर्ण सिंह से मिले। उन्होंने इस संबंध में शेख अब्दुल्ला और जवाहरलाल नेहरू को अनेक पत्र भी लिखे। 16 मार्च 1953 को डॉ. मुखर्जी ने अपने संसदीय भाषण में जवाहरलाल नेहरू से इस समस्या को सुलझाने के लिए पहल करने की अपील की परन्तु उनकी अपील पर नेहरू ने कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया। तब मई 1953 में उन्होंने जम्मू-कश्मीर जाने और वास्तविक स्थिति का स्वयं सर्वेक्षण करने का निश्चय किया। 8 मई 1953 को वे दिल्ली से जम्मू के लिए रवाना हुए, यह उनकी

अंतिम यात्रा साबित हुई। उन्हें कश्मीर में बिना परमिट प्रवेश करने दिया गया लेकिन कश्मीर पुलिस उन्हें गिरफ्तार कर श्रीनगर ले गई। डॉ. मुखर्जी को एक छोटी सी जगह में नजरबंद करके रखा गया। यहाँ वे गंभीर रूप से बीमार हो गये। उचित चिकित्सा न मिलने के कारण उनकी स्थिति लगातार बिगड़ती चली गई।



डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी
Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee



डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी एवं शेख अब्दुल्ला
Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee and Sheikh Abdullah

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee's efforts during the last fifteen months of his life for a national and rational solution of the Jammu-Kashmir issue stand testimony to his commitment to the unity and integrity of the country and his deep love for his motherland. Dr. Mookerjee identified himself with the Jammu-Kashmir Praja Parishad led by Prem Nath Dogra which had launched a peaceful Satyagraha in support of its demand for the full integration of the State of Jammu-Kashmir with the Indian Union. Dr. Mookerjee gave the rallying cry of 'Ek Desh Mein Do Vidhan, Do Pradhan Aur Do Nishaan Nahin Chalenge.' The Jammu-Kashmir Government unleashed unprecedented oppression on the Satyagrahis, jailing most of its leaders. In a true democratic spirit, Dr. Mookerjee called for talks and met Sheikh Abdullah in August 1952 and Yuvraj Karan Singh to find an amicable solution to the problem. He also wrote several letters to Sheikh Abdullah and Jawaharlal Nehru in this regard. In a statement in Parliament on 16 March 1953, Dr. Mookerjee appealed in vain to Nehru to take initiative to settle the question. Dr. Mookerjee then decided to visit Jammu-Kashmir in May 1953 to personally survey the situation. It was to prove his last journey; he left Delhi for Jammu on 8 May 1953. He was allowed to enter Kashmir without permit but was arrested by the Kashmir police and taken to Srinagar. Dr. Mookerjee was kept in detention in a small cottage in Srinagar. It was here that he fell seriously ill and received indifferent medical attention till his condition rapidly deteriorated.

MOOKERJEE ASKS JAMMU PEOPLE TO CAMPAIGN PEACEFULLY

(From Our Own Correspondent)
JAMMU, TAWIL, Aug. 9.—Dr. S. P. MOOKERJEE, President of the Bharatiya Jan Sangh, addressing a large public meeting at Kathua, about 50 miles from here said, "The whole of India of which Kashmir is also a part—should have one flag, one constitution and one president." Dr. Mookerjee, accompanied by Babu Ramnarayan Singh, K. M. P. P. leader, and some other prominent Jan Sangh leaders, arrived here yesterday. Throughout the 50-mile route he was accorded a warm reception by numerous groups of people standing at wayside villages.

He addressed large gatherings at Kathua, Hiranagar and Samba. He emphasised that it was not communalism to ask for the unification of the country, in no country one would find two flags, he said, and added that efforts should be made to unify and strengthen all parts of India.

Tribune, 10 August 1952

ISSUE OF KASHMIR'S ACCESSION

Mookerjee Pleads For National Approach

Dr. S. P. MOOKERJEE, the Jan Sangh leader, appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir today to stand up for the solution of the State's accession to India "in a peaceful and non-violent manner."

Addressing a meeting here, he said that the people of the State should not be misled by the propaganda of the Government of India which is trying to force the issue of the State's accession to India "in a peaceful and non-violent manner."

He said that the people of the State should not be misled by the propaganda of the Government of India which is trying to force the issue of the State's accession to India "in a peaceful and non-violent manner."

Full Integration With India Demanded

JAMMU, Aug. 10.—The Bharatiya Jan Sangh leader, Dr. S. P. Mookerjee, today demanded full integration of the State of Jammu and Kashmir with India.

He said that the people of the State should not be misled by the propaganda of the Government of India which is trying to force the issue of the State's accession to India "in a peaceful and non-violent manner."

Tribune, 11 August 1952

प्रेमनाथ डोगरा
Prem Nath Dogra

युवराज कर्ण सिंह के साथ डॉ. मुखर्जी
Dr. Mookerjee with Yuvraj Karan Singh

Mookerjee To Enter Jammu Without Permit

From Our Special Representative
Srinagar, August 10.—Dr. S. P. Mookerjee, President of the Bharatiya Jan Sangh, is expected to enter Jammu without a permit on May 11.

He was addressing a meeting of the Jan Sangh workers and officers here today. Dr. Mookerjee said that he was not going to attend the State's accession to India "in a peaceful and non-violent manner."

He said that the people of the State should not be misled by the propaganda of the Government of India which is trying to force the issue of the State's accession to India "in a peaceful and non-violent manner."

Tribune, 9 May 1953

DR. MOOKERJEE ARRESTED AT JAMMU BORDER

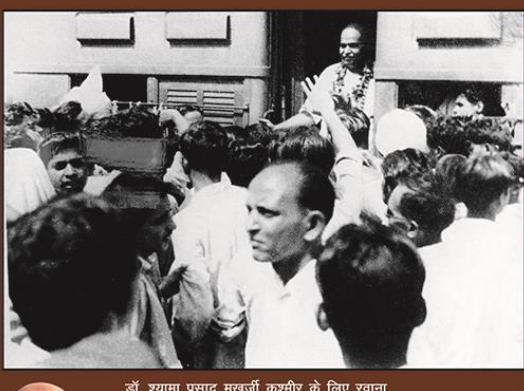
POLICE BARRER JAMMU CITY

Dr. Mookerjee was arrested at the Jammu border today. He was taken to Srinagar and kept in detention.

Mookerjee Taken To Srinagar; No Early Release

Dr. Mookerjee was taken to Srinagar today. He was kept in detention and no early release was expected.

Tribune, 12 May 1953
Tribune, 13 May 1953



डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी कश्मीर के लिए रवाना
Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee on his way to Kashmir

"...the crux of the problem on the basis of which the movement is going on is the finality of the accession of the Jammu and Kashmir State to India. And that question has got to be settled in a manner which is fair and just not only to the people of Jammu and Kashmir but also to the people of India.

Let us consider the issues which have been raised with regard to Jammu and Kashmir the issues are political; the issues are economic; the issues are administrative. Let us discuss these issues with a cool and dispassionate mind, and let us see whether it is possible for us to come to some agreement, so that we can prevent any serious international difficulty arising and so that we can avoid difficulties and commotion for the whole of this country.

What is needed is firmness. What is needed is a decisive policy. What is needed is a clear enunciation of the interest of our own Motherland. And bearing all these in mind, if we proceed to act, I am sure it will be possible for us to do much more than what we have hitherto achieved."

Dr. Mookerjee's speech in Lok Sabha, 16 March 1953, Parliamentary Debates, Volume II, No. 6



यू. एम. त्रिवेदी, डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी तथा अन्य
U.M. Trivedi, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee and others

