

# LAUDABLE ACTION Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee-a leader of masses

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Looking at the recent incident which occurred in a village of Reasi, where few unarmed villagers, showing a rare example of bravery and courage, captured two hardcore terrorists, it seems that the days of terrorism, which during past three decades had caused huge damages in every sector of J&K besides taking away several precious lives, is now numbered. This incident, which is being applauded by everyone in the Union Territory right from officers to the LG himself, shows that the common man of J&K has now made up its mind to make the Union Territory terrorism-free at any cost. Pertinent to mention here that when some terrorists, equipped with deadly weapons approached a house in Dhok in Mahore Tehsil of Reasi for food, the family head, acting cautiously, made them sit inside, and informed his brother and some neighbours regarding the same. Presenting a rare example of bravery, the villagers very tactfully overpowered the terrorists and snatched their weapons. They also tied them with a rope and informed the police, which rushed to the spot and nabbed both the dreaded terrorists, who were responsible for several terror incidents. Lauding the valour and courage of the villagers, LG Manoj Sinha announced a Cash reward of Rs 5 Lakh while Rs 2 lakh was announced by the DGP on behalf of JKP for nabbing the dreaded terrorists. Giving further details a senior Police officer informed that due to tightened security and intensified anti-insurgency operations, the terrorists are now finding it hard carry out their nefarious designs in Valley and trying to move to other locations like twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri and few areas of Reasi. But, it is really a matter of great satisfaction that the people have now understood that the terrorism is acting as a major roadblock in the path of prosperity and progress and for achieving the same end of this menace is must. There is no doubt that the security forces, under the directives of the Government are already carrying out a decisive battle against the menace and have achieved significant success as well but now it seems that people too have decided to help the administration in elimination of terrorism, which is really a welcome step.

Shyama Prasad Mukherjee was born in a Bengali Hindu family on July 6, 1901 in Calcutta (Kolkata). His family originally hailed from Jirat, Hooghly District, West Bengal. His grandfather Ganga Prasad Mukherjee was born in Jirat and he came to Calcutta and settled there afterwards. Shyama Prasad's father was Ashutosh Mukherjee, a judge of the High Court of Calcutta, Bengal, who was also Vice-Chancellor of University of Calcutta. His mother was Jogamaya Devi Mukherjee. He enrolled in Bhawanipur's Mitra Institution in 1906 and his behavior in school was appreciated by all his teachers. In 1914, he passed matriculation examination and was admitted into Presidency College. He stood seventeenth in the Inter-Arts Examination in 1916 and graduated in English, securing first position in 1921. Mukherjee also completed MA in Bengali, being graded as first class in 1923 and also became a fellow of the Senate in 1923. He completed his Bachelor in Law in 1924. He got enrolled as an advocate in Calcutta High Court in 1924, the same year when his father died. Subsequently, he left for England in 1926 to study at Lincoln's Inn and was called to the English Bar in the same year. In 1934, at the age of 33, he became youngest Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta and held the office until 1938. During his term as Vice-Chancellor, Rabindranath Tagore delivered the University Convocation Address in Bengali for the first time.

He started his political career in 1929, when he entered the Bengal Legislative Council as an Indian National Congress (INC) candidate representing Calcutta University. However, he resigned next year when the INC decided to boycott the legislature. Subsequently, he contested the election as an independent candidate and was elected. In 1937, he was elected as an independent candidate in the elections which brought Krishak Praja Party to power. He served as the Finance Minister of Bengal Province in 1941-42 under A.K. Fazlul Haq's Progressive Coalition Government which was formed on 12 December 1941 after the resignations of the Congress government. Kaji Najrul Islam wrote a letter on 17 July 1942, "I respect and love only you from my heart in this coalition ministry. I know we'll make India free. Then, Bengalis will remember you and Subhas Babu before everyone else-you'll be the hero of our flag." During his tenure, his statements against the government were censored and his movements were restricted. He was also prevented from visiting the Midnapore district in 1942 when severe floods caused a heavy loss of life and property. He resigned on November 20, 1942 accusing the British government of trying to hold on to India under any cost and criticized its repressive policies against the Quit India Movement. After resigning, he mobilized support and organized relief with the help of Mahabodhi Society, Ramakrishna Mission and Marwari Relief Society. In 1946, he was again elected as an independent candidate from the Calcutta University. He was elected as a member of the Constituent Assembly of India in the same year. Mukherjee joined Hindu Mahasabha in Bengal in 1939 and became its acting president. He was appointed as the working president of the organization in 1940. In February 1941, Mukherjee told a Hindu rally that if Muslims wanted to live in Pakistan they should 'pack their bags and baggage and leave India to wherever they like'. Yet, the Hindu Mahasabha also formed provincial coalition governments with the All-India Muslim League in Sindh and the North-West Frontier Province while Mukherjee was its leader. He was elected as the President of Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha in 1943. He remained in this position till 1946, with Laxman Bhopatkar becoming the new president in the same year. Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru inducted Mukherjee into the Interim Central Government as a Minister for Industry and Supply on 15 August 1947. Mukherjee began to have differences with Mahasabha after the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, in which the organization was blamed by Sardar Patel for creating the atmosphere that led to the killing. Mukherjee was firmly against their joint pact to establish minority commissions and



guarantee minority rights in both countries as he thought it left Hindus in East Bengal to the mercy of Pakistan. While addressing a rally in Calcutta on 21 May, he stated that an exchange of population and property at governmental level on regional basis between East Bengal and the states of Tripura, Assam, West Bengal and Bihar was the only option in the current situation.

Mukherjee founded Bharatiya Jana Sangh on 21 October 1951 in Delhi, becoming its first president. In 1952 elections, the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS) won three seats in the Parliament of India, including Mukherjee's. He had formed the National Democratic Party within the Parliament. It consisted of 32 members of the Lok Sabha and 10 members of the Rajya Sabha; however, it was not recognized by the speaker as an opposition party. The BJS was created with the objective of nation-building and nationalizing all non-Hindus by 'inculcating Bharatiya culture' in them. Mukherjee was strongly opposed to Article 370, seeing it as a threat to national unity. He fought against it inside and outside the parliament with one of the goals of Bharatiya Jana Sangh being its abrogation. He raised his voice strongly against the provision in his Lok Sabha speech on June 16, 1952. He termed the arrangements under the article as Balkanization of India and the three-nation theory of Sheikh Abdullah. The state was granted its own flag along with a prime minister whose permission was required for anyone to enter the state. In opposition to this, Mukherjee had once said 'Ek Desh Mein Do Vilhan, Do Pradhan Aur Do Nishan Nahii Chalenge' (A single country can't have two constitutions, two prime ministers, and two national emblems). Bharatiya Jana Sangh along with Hindu Mahasabha and Jammu Praja Parishad launched a massive Satyagraha to get the provisions removed. In his letter to Nehru dated February 3, 1953, he wrote that the issue of accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India should not be allowed to hang fire. Mukherjee went to visit Kashmir in 1953 and observed a hunger strike to protest the law that prohibited Indian citizens from settling within the state and mandating that they carry ID cards. Mukherjee wanted to go to Jammu and Kashmir but, because of the prevailing permit system, he was not given permission. Mukherjee was arrested on entering Kashmir on May 11, 1953. He and two of his arrested companions were first taken to Central Jail of Srinagar. Later they were transferred to a cottage outside the city. Mukherjee's condition started deteriorating

and he started feeling pain in back and high temperature on the intervening night of June 19 and 20. He was diagnosed with dry pleurisy from which he had also suffered in 1937 and 1944. The doctor prescribed him a streptomycin injection and powders, however, Mukherjee informed him that his family physician had told him that streptomycin did not suit his system. The doctor, however, told him that new information about drug had come to light and assured him that he would be fine. On 22 June, he felt pain near his heart, started perspiring and feeling as if he was fainting. He was later shifted to a hospital and provisionally diagnosed with a heart attack. He died a day later. The state government declared that he had died on 23 June at 3:40 AM due to a heart attack.

His death in custody raised wide suspicion across the country and demands for an independent inquiry were raised, including earnest requests from his mother Jogamaya Devi, to Prime Minister Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru. The Prime Minister declared that he had asked a number of persons who were privy to the facts and, according to him, there was no mystery behind Mukherjee's death. Devi did not accept Nehru's reply and requested an impartial inquiry. Nehru, however, ignored the letter and no inquiry commission was set-up. Mukherjee's death, therefore, remains a matter of some controversy. S C Das claims that Mukherjee was murdered. Atal Bihari Vajpayee claimed in 2004 that arrest of Mukherjee in Jammu and Kashmir was a 'Nehru conspiracy'. BJP in 2011 called for an inquiry to probe Mukherjee's death. One of main thoroughfare in Calcutta was renamed as Shyama Prasad Mukherjee road on 3 July 1953 a few days after his death. Shyama Prasad College founded by him in 1945 in Kolkata is named after him. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee College of University of Delhi was established in 1969 in his memory. On 7 August 1998, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation named a bridge after Mukherjee. Delhi has a major road named after Mukherjee called Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Marg. Kolkata, too, has a major road called Shyama Prasad Mukherjee road. In 2001, the main research funding institute of Government of India, CSIR, instituted a new fellowship named after him. On 22 April 2010, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi's (MCD) newly constructed Rs 650-crore building, the tallest building in Delhi, was named as Doctor Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Civic Centre. It was inaugurated by the then Home Minister P Chidambaram. The building, which is estimated to cater to 20,000 visitors per day, will also house different wings and offices of MCD. The MCD also built the Shyama Prasad Swimming Pool Complex which hosted aquatic events during the 2010 Commonwealth Games held at New Delhi. In 2012, a flyover at Mathikere in Bangalore City Limits was inaugurated and named the Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Flyover. The International Institute of Information Technology, Naya Raipur is named after him. In 2014, a multipurpose indoor stadium built on the Goa University campus in Goa was named after Mukherjee.

The government of India approved the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission (SPMRM) with an outlay of Rs 51.42 billion (US\$8670 million) on 16 September 2015. The Mission was launched by the Prime Minister on 21 February 2016 at Kurubhata, Murmunda Rurban Cluster, Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh. In April 2017, Ranchi College was upgraded to Shyama Prasad Mukherjee University. In September 2017, Kolar, a town in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, was renamed as Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Nagar by the then Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan. On 12 January 2020, Kolkata Port Trust was renamed as Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Port by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Chenani-Nashri Tunnel on NH44 in Jammu & Kashmir was renamed after Mukherjee by Indian government in 2020. A 17.5 meter high statue of Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee was unveiled by Union Minister Dr Jitender Singh along with senior leaders of BJP at Mukherjee Chowk in Kathua (J&K) on his 118th birth anniversary.

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## HUGE POWER OUTSTANDING

Where on one hand the centre Government is working hard for developing all necessary facilities and infrastructure for ensuring provision of all basic amenities of life to every citizen in J&K even residing in rural or far-flung belts and adequate funding is being ensured in this regard, on the other hand the UT administration is also leaving no stone unturned in implementation of all the directives without any laxity. But it is really a matter of concern that despite various out of the box initiatives taken by the Government and revolutionary changes made in every sector, people in J&K are still facing challenges like power and water shortage. Time and again, it has been repeatedly assured that the Union Territory will be made self-reliant in respect of the power sector so that the citizens can enjoy 24x7 power supply without any problem or disruption. There is no doubt that the UT administration is working hard for transforming its words to reality as work on numerous power infrastructure projects are going on in full pace and several hydroelectric projects are also near completion. The administration has also adopted a stern approach towards all those indulged in power thefts and trying to regularize all illegal connections, which are the major reason for the increased T&C losses being faced by the UT. Despite all these significant developments, it seems that the problems of the administration are not going to end soon and it has to take some more proactive efforts for tackling the situation properly and in a more effective manner. As per the reports, the outstanding dues of Power Distributions Companies (Discoms) of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir towards Power Generations Companies (Gencos) have increased to an amount of Rs 9642.15 crore ending June 2020. Whereon on one hand the overall outstanding dues of Discoms of the country have enhanced to Rs 1,32,432 crore, a significant amount is due on J&K. For meeting the situation, the administration needs to boost up its revenue drive as there are several wilful defaulters who have huge outstanding amount in respect of power tariff otherwise this huge outstanding will cause huge financial implications in the coming days.

## Devotional Songs are the Music of Life

Indian culture is the culture of dignity, virtue, character, good behavior and divinity. Devotional Songs Life here is filled with religious and cultural aspirations. Even in moments of disappointment, dejection and pain people call upon the divine for fresh hope, confidence, happiness, and pleasure.

The meaning of life is joy and live it like a festival each day. Living life happily, is the ideal of life. When we feel happy, we begin to hum some notes of music and sing songs. We sing while bathing, while travelling alone and even out of fear when alone in a dark place.

It does not help people to rise

The most memorable moments of life are those when we are happy and free of worries and are immersed in the music and beats of drums. Devotional Songs, chants and music help consolidate our mind and bring rhythm in our life. They uplift our soul, purify our heart, mind and soul and help us in connecting with the Divine. On the contrary, if music is used for achieving sensual pleasures and in a tasmatic manner then it becomes a good reason for the downfall of mankind. It does not help people to rise. We should, therefore, move ahead on the path of welfare by associating with devotional songs and music.

Shri Sudhanshuji Maharaj

This is when the seven colors of nature spread on the earth, every bit of the earth has begun to bloom, the sounds of music have begun to fill the atmosphere and a fresh music has begun. The entire life is drenched with colour and

## PROGRESSING J&K

# Woolen industry witnessing massive revamp across J&K

J&K Government is devising a viable framework to give a massive revamp to Woolen industry across Jammu and Kashmir. The reformative policies of the UT Government are providing economic growth opportunities to around 50,000 families associated with woolen industry in J&K. To give boost to this sector, a Showroom cum Interpretation Centre at Government Woolen Mill, Bemina was established under the World Bank funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTRFP) which

was recently inaugurated by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha. The showroom will provide a direct Market for 80,000 Kg of locally produced wool annually, benefiting around 1,600 sheep rearing families.

The new Showroom cum Interpretation Centre will greatly improve the livelihood opportunities of people working in the mill, besides providing market opportunities for the thousands of wool-producing farmers of J&K. Notably, J&K is 2nd largest producer of wool in the country, producing

approximately 70 lakh Kg of wool per annum. "J&K Industry has tie-up with e-commerce platform 'Amazon' through Silk Mark Organisation of India (SMOI) as e-marketing channel. Registration on GeM portal was completed and Professional catalogues and brochures were also developed," an official said. "Reputed designers are being roped in to develop new product range in line with present market trends and fashions", he added. Notably, wool is the only natural fibre in which the nation is deficient. A proper process-

ing, grading, marketing, and value addition will turn around fortunes for farmers dealing with it. Domestic production of wool in the country is not adequate and the industry is dependent on imports. The wool import to the nation stands at 77 million Kg per year. In a recent meeting chaired on revival of wool industry in J&K, Additional Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo said that the considerable wool production amalgamated with the installation of processing units would result in bolstering the economy of UT.

# Delink PM employment package from rehabilitation policy

OMKAR DATTATRAY

At the outset it can be said with certainty that the prime ministers return and rehabilitation package of 2008 is faulty from its very conception as it failed to rehabilitate the uprooted and exiled Kashmiri Pandits at the place of their birth. Erroneously the PM employment package for Kashmiri Pandits was unnecessarily linked with the rehabilitation policy and thus the combination of these two separate things created chaos and confusion in the minds of the Kashmiri Pandits and the policy makers. The result is that the rehabilitation plan for the Kashmiri Pandits could not be implemented on the ground and it remained merely a pious declaration of the successive governments. The PM employment package for Kashmiri Migrants is an economic package as its objective is to provide some succor to the unemployed youth of the migrant Community. Since the PM employment also includes Muslim migrants as well and some of the Muslims have fled Kashmir for some time but they continue to live in their homes in Kashmir. There cannot be any rehabilitation for the Muslim migrants because they continue to live and flourish in Kashmir. Thus there is great and urgent need and requirement for delinking the PM employment package from return and rehabilitation plan and policy because chubbing these together has created enormous problems for the Kashmiri Pandits in general and package employees in particular. Therefore, it is unnatural and erroneous to link these two things. Thus, clubbing employment package with the return and rehabilitation plan and policy has created more problems for the migrant community and the package employees and so it is better to delink the two things for the good of the uprooted community. The rehabilitation policy is a comprehensive and has got wider scope and connotation while the scope and meaning of the employment package is limited and the objective of the employment package is to provide some means of livelihood and it has nothing to do with the return and rehabilitation policy of the government. These two subjects are two separate things and they cannot and should not be bracketed and linked together except to the detriment of the unemployed youth of the displaced community. So it is in the fitness of things that these two separate things should be urgently delinked for the benefit of the unemployed youth of the uprooted Kashmiri Pandits. Agitating PM package employees are demanding delinking of the employment package from return and rehabilitation policy. There is merit and substance in this demand of the protesting package employees and their demand of delinking PM employment package from return and rehabilitation policy is genuine and the powers sitting in cozy chairs and air-conditioned bungalows should consider the demand of delinking the employment package from the return and rehabilitation policy. So the govern-

ment should come to the rescue of the agitating package employees and accept their demand of delinking of employment package of migrant youth from the return and rehabilitation policy of the government. The linking together of these separate things has neither been able to provide adequate number of jobs to the unemployed youth of the displaced Kashmiri Pandits nor could it ensure the return and rehabilitation of the displaced Pandit community. The pertinent question is how many uprooted Kashmiri Pandit families has the government rehabilitated from 2009? The answer to this question is that none of the uprooted Kashmiri Pandits have been rehabilitated and settled in Kashmir. The successive centre and erstwhile state governments have miserably failed to rehabilitate even one displaced family of the Kashmiri Pandits in Kashmir. On the front of providing employment to the migrant Kashmiri Pandits, the government has not been able to provide enough jobs to them. Whatever has been provided to the displaced Pandit youth is the gift of UPA government of Manmohan Singh and BJP has not provided any job to the displaced Pandit Youth. It seems that the BJP government is only busy in making propaganda about the plight of the Pandits but it has done nothing on the ground for the displaced Kashmiri Pandits and the unemployed youth of the community. The anger is brewing among the PM package employees and they are within their right to express resentment and anger against the centre government because the BJP government of Modi is insensitive and reluctant to accept the demand of delinking the employment package from the return and rehabilitation policy. The NDA government is not considering the genuine demand of the package employees of their relocation outside the valley to Jammu division and other nearby places outside Jammu and Kashmir and thus is remaining in deep slumber so far as the relocation of the PM package employees is concerned. The NDA government should shun its ego and rigidity and accept the only and genuine demand of the relocation of the package employees. The Kashmiri Pandits and the package employees are feeling insecure and panic and there is an atmosphere of fear psychosis and in such environment the package employees cannot live and perform their duties across Kashmir valley. Therefore they should be relocated in Jammu division till there is improvement in the situation at the ground level in Kashmir. So these unfortunate and hapless employees should be adjusted temporarily in Jammu division till situation shows a marked improvement in Kashmir and then these employees can be asked to work in Kashmir. The PM employment package has unnaturally linked and clubbed with the return and rehabilitation policy and so the two things should be separated so that the hapless package employees may not suffer. Therefore there is urgent need to delink employment package of Pandit employees

from the return and rehabilitation policy. There is also great requirement to relocate the PM package employees in Jammu division till the time normalcy is restored in Kashmir. The relocation of the package employees will not affect the job market and employment prospects of the Jammu based employees because the posts of the Package employees are super numeracy posts, thus they will not affect the job prospects of the Jammu employees. So there should be no confusion about the fact that PM package employees' adjustment in Jammu division will not affect the service matters of Jammu employees. The LG government is ordering the promotion of the package employees that too after a gap of some 12 years and it seems that the government is hell bent to divide the displaced package employees and so is it ordering promotions to the package employees while the fact is that the package employees are not protesting for the promotions and other service related issues but their only and apt demand is relocation outside Kashmir so that the package employees and their families are saved. They are asking and appealing for the safety of their life, limb and dignity and so they should be temporarily adjusted in Jammu division. The package employees are begging for their survival and safety of their life and so insensitive and reluctant government which has made this genuine matter an issue of their prestige and ego should show magnanimity and order relocation without wasting time. It is very sad that the Package employees are protesting in scorching heat and in very humid temperature, but NDA government of the centre and the LG administration do not pay any heed towards the protesting package employees whose protest has entered 54th day and the government is unconcerned and seem to be in no mood to accept the only and genuine demand of the package employees. There is also need for ensuring that the package employees should be paid their salaries at the dates at which it is paid to all other employees. It is gross injustice and total discrimination with the package employees that they are paid salaries after other employees are given salaries. The government of LG should look after this issue of the package employees. Besides, SRO 43 should also be applied to the package employees as they too are the employees of the UT and so there should be no discrimination with these employees on this account. All said and done the PM employment package should be delinked from the return and rehabilitation package of Kashmiri Pandits so that it remains a purely economic package which actually it is. So without wasting further time the government should consider the delinking of PM employment package from return and rehabilitation policy of the Kashmiri Pandits.

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