

# Mookerjee was versatile intellectual, academician; not just political activist: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
NEW DELHI: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh on Wednesday paid a tribute to Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee on the occasion of his 125th birth anniversary, describing him as a versatile intellectual, youth icon, and a visionary whose political sacrifices changed the course of Indian history.

Addressing a commemorative gathering, Dr. Jitendra said that while Dr. Mookerjee is most remembered for his historic role in the movement for the complete integration of Jammu & Kashmir, this often overshadows his remarkable academic and intellectual achievements.

"He was not just a political activist but one of the most brilliant scholars of the 20th century," the Minister noted.



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra speaking during a commemorative event on the occasion of the 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee at Sri Fort Auditorium, New Delhi on Wednesday.

A first-rank graduate in English Honours, Dr. Mookerjee pursued post-graduation in Bengali literature, earned a PhD in Statistics, and became the youngest Vice Chancellor of Calcutta University at the age of 33-at a time when the institution was dominated by British academics, he

said. Dr. Jitendra, who represents the parliamentary constituency that includes Kathua-the site where Dr. Mookerjee was arrested in 1953 for entering J&K without a permit-linked the leader's sacrifice to the eventual abrogation of Article 370.

"It took three generations to fulfill his dream, and it was under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that this mission was finally realized," he said.

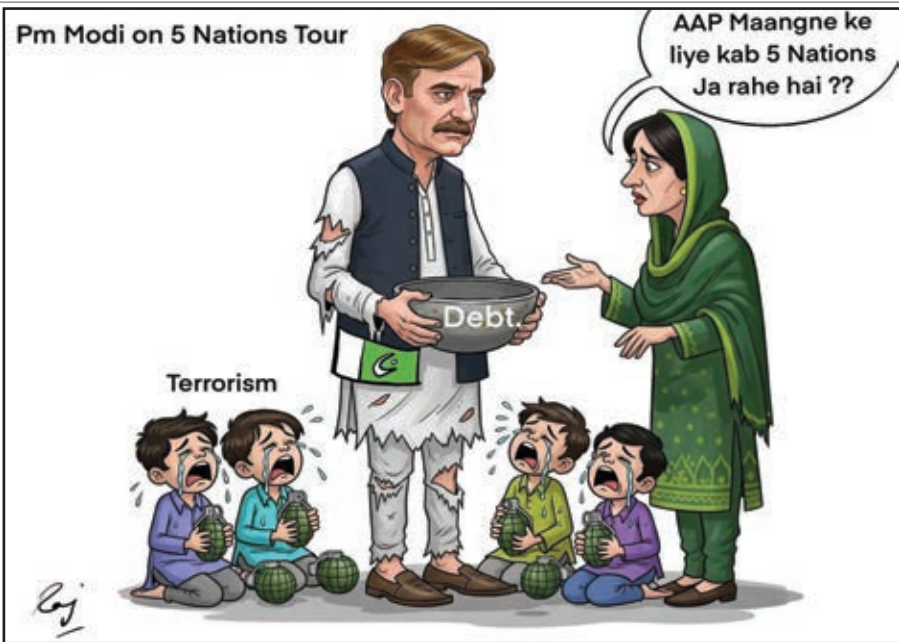
Recalling the circumstances of Dr. Mookerjee's arrest and subsequent death in custody, Dr. Singh called it "discriminatory and unfortunate," lamenting that he was denied legal recourse as the Supreme Court's jurisdiction did not extend to J&K at that time.

The Minister also highlighted Dr. Mookerjee's personal integrity, recalling how he resigned from both the Vice-Chancellorship and the Nehru Cabinet on matters of principle. "He believed that if his ideology didn't align with the Cabinet's, he had no right to continue as a minister," Dr. Jitendra

Singh said, contrasting that era's political ethics with today's.

In a personal reflection, Dr. Jitendra Singh shared that Dr. Mookerjee was the first Vice President of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-a position Dr. Jitendra Singh now holds. "One of my first decisions as Vice President was to acknowledge Dr. Mookerjee's foundational role by placing his name at the top of the CSIR succession board," he added.

Concluding his address, Dr. Jitendra Singh quoted Dr. Mookerjee's words: "No one can be a leader unless he is first a good worker," and "Never leave any responsibility half-done." The Minister said he has tried to imbibe these values in his own public life.



## Newly elected CCI Jammu office bearers assume charge

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The newly elected Office Bearers of Chamber of Commerce & Industry formally assumed the responsibilities of their respective offices at a function held at Chamber House. Prithvi Raj Gupta conducted the proceedings of the felicitation ceremony of the newly elected office bearers. Around 500 members participated in the function.

Addressing the members, Arun Gupta assured that he and his office bearers shall always be available round the clock to address grievances of the worthy members and that they will leave no stone unturned in furthering the interests of trade and industry. Senior leader, Dr. Rohit Gupta congratulated CCI president Arun Gupta and his team on taking over office. Notable amongst those present were Romesh Chander Gupta, former President CCI, Y.V. Sharma Former President CCI, Prithvi Raj Gupta, Former Secretary General CCI, Rajendra Motial, former Secretary General CCI, Gaurav



CCI President Arun Gupta with office bearers assuming charge in the office.

Gupta, former Secretary General, Shiv Partap Gupta, Election President, Vijay Gupta, Member Election Committee, Kulbhushan Gupta(Mam), Member Election Committee, Parshotam Dadachi, President Sanatan Dharam Sabha, Murari Lal Balgotra, President Kashap Rajput Sabha, Padma Shri Prof. Vishwamurti Shastri, Dogri Singer Padma Shri Romali Ram, Suresh Sharma, former Judge, Deepak Gupta, President Traders Federation Warehouse, Neeraj Anand, Office Bearers of J&K High Court Bar Association, Office Bearers of

Welfare Association, Parveen Sharma, Chairman Citizen Cooperative Bank, Pawan Shastri, Raj Kumar Gupta, Sat Sharma, President BJP J&K, Chander Parkash Ganga, MLA, Yudhvir Sethi, MLA, Vikram Randhwa, MLA, Ashok Kaul, General Secretary(org) BJP, Kavinder Gupta, former Dy. Chief Minister, Rahul Sahai, Jagdish Langer, Ravinder Sawhney, Krishan Lal Gupta, Ravinder Goel, Sudershan Gupta, Dr. Rohit Gupta, Rattan Lal Gupta, Surinder Mohan Gupta, Subash Gupta, Ashok Honda, Raghubir Gupta and others.

## Rana inaugurates Officer's Block at Deers HQ Bemina

Reviews GIS leveraging for forests conservation and management

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana, on Wednesday inaugurated the newly constructed Officer's Block at Deers Headquarters in Bemina, marking a significant step towards enhancing the department's infrastructure and operational efficiency.

The ceremony was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment, Sheetal Nanda, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Suresh Kumar Gupta and other senior officers.

The building has been constructed by PWD/R&B Division Srinagar with an



Forest Minister Javed Ahmed Rana inaugurating newly constructed Officer's Block at Deers Hdqrs in Bemina.

expenditure amounting Rs 128.019 lakh.

During the inauguration, the Minister emphasized that the new facility would streamline administrative operations and provide a modern and efficient work environment for officers.

He highlighted Omar Abdullah- led Government's commitment towards improving the infrastructure, leading to better conservation and management of forests.

The Minister appreciated the Deers HQ for setting up

graphical data to help departments and organizations make long-term plans regarding biodiversity richness, flood-prone areas, climate change issues and forest fire-prone areas.

Later, the Minister reviewed the functioning of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing and inspected the Geographical Information System (GIS) lab.

Rana underscored the importance of GIS in leveraging technology for efficient and precise tracking and management of forest resources. He noted that GIS plays a crucial role in safeguarding J&K's rich biodiversity and fostering sustainable development.

The GIS system captures and analyzes a range of geo-

graphical data to help departments and organizations make long-term plans regarding biodiversity richness, flood-prone areas, climate change issues and forest fire-prone areas.

The Minister was briefed about the department's working including the completed and ongoing projects besides the future expansion plans. He appreciated the department's performance on some of the pressing issues related to ecology and environment.

The officers also highlighted their issues and concerns hampering department's functioning and sought Minister's intervention in redress of the same.

## IGP Jammu chairs review meeting on implementation of New Criminal Laws



IGP Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti chairing a review meeting on Wednesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti, chaired a review meeting at Zonal Police Headquarters Jammu to review the implementation of the newly enacted criminal laws, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA).

Present at the meeting,

both in person and virtually were all Range DISG; District SSSP; and CPO and Sr PO, ZPHQ Jammu. The IGP stressed the importance of a smooth and uniform rollout of the new legal framework and directed all districts to step up capacity building of SHOs, IOs, and court staff.

Officers were instructed to conduct awareness drives for legal and field units, ensure procedural compliance, and

maintain performance dashboards for regular monitoring.

Highlighting key provisions, IGP noted that the reforms focus on victim-centric justice, speedy investigations, and digital transparency.

He emphasized on the liberal use of provisions and tools such as e-FIR, e-Summons and e-Sakshya. Officers were briefed on the correct application of BNSS provisions,

including 60/90-day charge sheet deadlines, property restoration under Section 107, and Trial in Absentia provisions under Section 356.

District-wise performance metrics were also reviewed. Ramban, Kishtwar, and Udhampur showed commendable adherence to charge sheet timelines, while Kishtwar recorded 100% compliance in FSL visit mandated for cases punishable over 7 years.

The meeting also reviewed adoption of digital tools like e-Summons, e-Sakshya, and MedLeaPR, with Jammu, Udhampur, and Rajouri emerging as strong performers. The effective use of Section 107 BNSS in Jammu and Udhampur was acknowledged. Officers were advised to prioritize community service orders and maximize use of Trial in Absentia where applicable.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a joint meeting of executive and advisory committees of the Bharatiya Dalit Sahitya Akademy (BDSA), Jammu and Kashmir was held at its headquarters at Roop Nagar, the Working President of the Akademy, B.R. Kundal, IAS (Retd.), former Chief Secretary of J&K, former Minister and MLC, officially launched "Forty Days After"-a new book authored by Er. Rajesh Kumar Angural.

Addressing the gathering, Kundal lauded the author's effort to candidly explore the emotional and existential dimensions of retirement life, an inevitable milestone and a transition from government service to a more contemplative life phase. In addition to the formal launch of the book, the members also deliberated upon key organizational mat-



Working President BDSA, B.R. Kundal launching "Forty Days After"-a new book authored by Er. Rajesh Kumar Angural.

ters concerning the effective functioning of the Bharatiya Dalit Sahitya Akademy (BDSA).

Various issues were thoroughly discussed, including strategic measures to enhance and expand the membership base of the Akademy; thereby increasing its outreach and influence. Members emphasized the importance of expanding the membership

base by reaching out to a broader spectrum of scholars, writers, and community members, thereby enhancing the Akademy's presence, inclusivity, and impact.

Furthermore, the financial sustainability and overall economic health of the Akademy were brought into focus, with members proposing ideas and avenues to strengthen its funding and resources.

The members also emphasized the need to initiate new projects aimed at promoting education and skill development, particularly for underprivileged and needy students. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chair.

Several members of the literary community and civil society shared their reflections in the meeting, including H.R. Phonsa, Seva Ram, Mohan Lal Hans, Nagarmal, Vijay Kumar; P.L. Bhushan, S.D. Thappa, Laj Ram, Ramesh Chander Uttama, Lokinder Singh Ravi, Mohan Lal Thappa, Pritam Lal Loachan, Soba Ram, R. L. Bhagat, Amit Kumar Chalotra, Dr. Rakesh Kumar Atri. Speakers praised the philosophical depth and relatable tone of the book, recognizing its potential to guide and inspire.

# Time to review rules for appointment of those retired from civil service or judiciary in statutory bodies or their Joining political parties

■ DAYA SAGAR

Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavaai has been sworn in as the 52nd Chief Justice of India on 14th May. Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavaai has been part of several benches delivering landmark judgements including the one upholding the Centre's decision to amend provisions of Article 370 of constitution of India. Born on November 24, 1960, in Amravati, Justice Gavaai will have a tenure of over six months and would demit office on 23rd November 2025. While bidding farewell on 23rd May to Justice Abhay Shreenivas Oka who was to retire on 24th May Chief Justice of India (CJI) BR Gavaai remarked in open court that both he and retiring Justice AS Oka have decided not to accept any post-retirement assignments "Both of us have already decided that we will not accept any post-retirement assignments and therefore, we can think of working together (after retirement).". The decision of Judges not to accept any post-retirement assignments has been applauded all over the country; some may still be asking why?

No doubt using the experience and knowledge of persons, who have been in the public services, after their retirement / superannuation by re-employing them has been a common practice in India after independence.

Although some of such employments

did affect promotion avenues for some serving as also the recruitment of those aspiring for jobs but surely still there could be cases where the mature thinking and experience of work would be a great advantage keeping in view the level of the post & extent of maturity needed. But these days reemployment of persons from state services / judiciary after retirement has also been questioned at occasions .

As regards re employment at lower / middle levels of general services objection has been mostly as regards others in waiting denied due promotion for some more time as also denying recruitment opportunity to some.

But more serious questions are raised when some of those retiring from the apex levels of civil services / judicial services are re employed after retirement in statutory bodies / commissions or are taken in political parties for promoting them to enter legislatures, such instances have been found in past 3 to 4 decades receiving more objection from those outside the political government. No doubt in the present times it has also been found that some times some public servants are appointed on statutory bodies/ institutions even before few months of their retirement and they in some cases get benefit for serving a few years more, say upto 65 yrs age.

Not only that some serving as highest placed civil servant where they are

responsible for high level palanning / sanctions/ decision making or at the Apex level of judicial services have also been at occasions accused of working more to the choice of the political bosses who immediately after retirement are favoured with appointment as head of some statutory institution/ body and or made to join a political party for getting through to legislature by election or nomination. No doubt such accusations remain untested.

There are some positions on which the economy, security, development and inputs for nation building are directly or indirectly dependent and no chance could be taken with such institutions where even removal of a person after appointment is also protected by nearly impermeable legal shield.

So times now demand that some policy is reworked / designed for re employment / placement at the 'Apex' position of some institutions / statutory bodies after retirement of those at the Apex positions of civil services / Judicial services.

No doubt once a person reaches top position in civil services (as high as the level of a Union Secretary) or in judiciary ( as high as Judge / Chief Justice ) there should not be any need for still obtaining any clearances for his truth-



A Look through the Mist

fulness, honesty and sincerity to consider him / her for appointment on some constitutional post like National Human Rights Commission, Central

Vigilance Commission, State Vigilance Commission, Election Commission and the like or nomination to legislature . But it is so unfortunate that in view of the extent to which the basic commitments / unbiased working have been allegedly doubted in some cases over nearly last 3 to 4 decades need has arisen for doing a rethinking on blanket trust worth reemployment on immediate retirement on high positions/ entry to legislature.

So with the socio-political culture that prevails this day it cannot be ruled out that there may not be any serving government servant working at prime position who for the sake of getting appointments / re employment on some commission / constitutional institution may not do justice to the regular job and instead care more to unfairly please during active service the political bosses/ superiors for their rehabilitation after retirement. Imagine the material benefit in money and perks that flows to one in service or retired government servant if she/ he is appointed on a statutory position, where even retirement age is 65 years.

It is unfortunate that even fingers

have been raised at some persons retiring from Apex positions of judiciary for having taken care of the interests of political masters and the political masters having rehabilitated them immediately after retirement. Such stories even if that are really fake do hurt the confidence of the common citizen in the administrative system and the judicial system that a country like India has. No doubt some rules / conditions are there for the government employees who desire to seek employment in private bodies after retirement like (Commercial Employment After Retirement) "A retired officer of a Central Service Group 'A' cannot accept any commercial employment before the expiry of two years from the date of his retirement without prior sanction of the President. If he does so, no pension shall be payable to him in respect of any period for which he is employed or such longer period as the President may direct" and like.

As on date there is a need for even the social institutions / organisations to impress upon the political leadership of India to incorporate through legislature some more conditions/ qualifications for appointment of the persons to head the institutions created through the Acts of Parliament / Acts of legislature or even high stake commissions / bodies outside the statutory provisions.

The conditions could be like (1) The

persons to be appointed there if selected out of the Retired Judges, IAS / IPS /IRS / IPS officers should not be appointed immediately on their retirement (2) The persons to be appointed if are to be selected out of the Retired Judges, IAS / IPS /IRS / IPS officers it should be ensured that the person should have retired not less than 2 years before the date the process of selection is initiated (3) Where the appoint has to be made out of the retired government employees any reference if made in the rules for selection only from IAS/ IRS/IPS/IFS/LAAS should be removed (4) Any person who has once served on such positions / posts should not be given another extension or appointed on any other regular commission where he is to be paid salary / pay/ perks/ out of the public exchequer , after his tenure is completed or he seizes to hold the earlier posting (5) Not only that any person retiring from civil services or taking premature retirement from civil services or Judge retiring from services should not join any political party so as to enter the direct or indirect election process to elections to legislature before one year of retirement .

Such like checks and balances need be thought of and can be deliberated publicly, but India cannot afford to lose any more of time.

(The writer is a Sr Journalist & and a social activist)