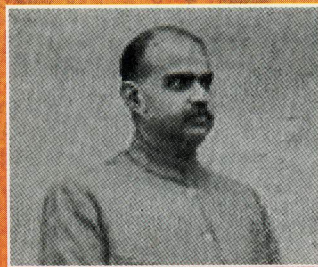
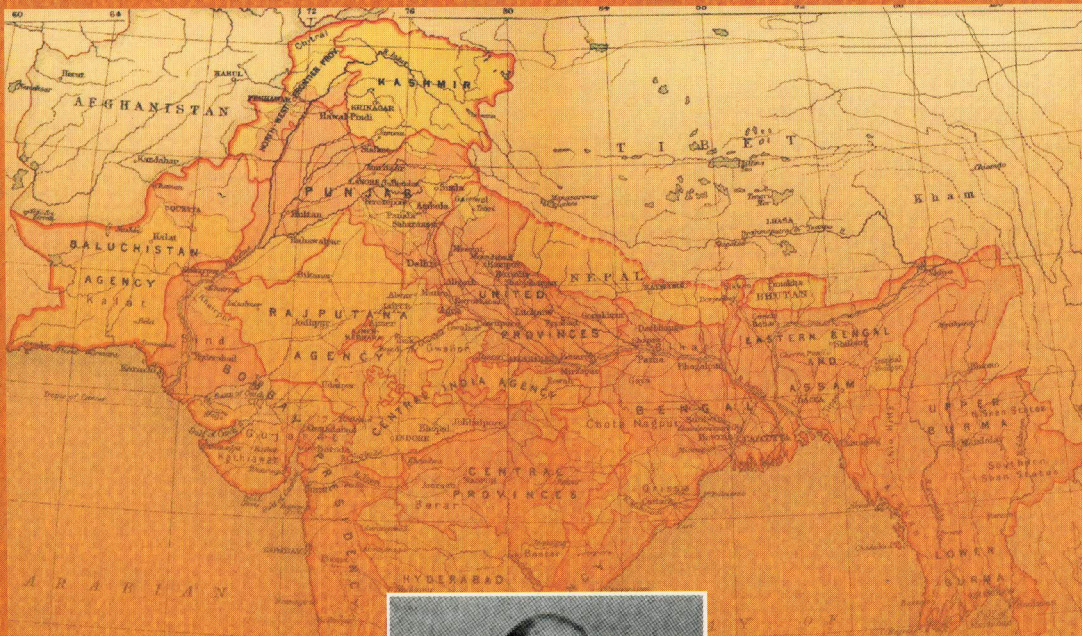


# AWAKE

# Hindusthan!



**SYAMA PRASAD MOOKERJEE**

Foreword by Mohan Bhagwat *Sarsangchalak, RSS*



# **Awake Hindusthan**

By

**Syama Prasad Mookerjee**



Foreword by

**Mohan Bhagwat**

*Sarsanghchalak, RSS*

**Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation**

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71, Ashutosh Mookerjee Road  
Calcutta  
*19th December 1944.*

### PREFACE

At the request of numerous friends and co-workers from all parts of India a collection of my speeches delivered in connection with the Hindu Mahasabha movement is being published. A larger volume including all my speeches and writings, educational and political, is also under preparation. I have not edited the speeches which are contained in this volume. There may be some overlapping. I feel however, they will be read with interest not only by those who think alike with the Hindu Mahasabha but also others who may be genuinely anxious to know our view point on some of the burning problems affecting the country's future reconstruction.

Syama Prasad Mookerjee



## Foreword

India is passing through a turbulent transition, preparing to welcome the ultimate dawn that destiny has prescribed for her. Sri Aurobindo had predicted this in an enlightening speech delivered on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947. Sri Guruji (M.S.Golwalkar), the second Sarsanghchalak of the RSS, also firmly believed in *Param Vaibhavam*, the supreme glory of our nation, stating that ultimately India's rise to her destined place in the comity of nations is unstoppable because Dharma is with us.

Today the world is again at a crossroad where there is a crying need to revisit the Hindu values of family, nationalism and sustainable development. India stands for pluralism, respect for nature and democratic institutions – the set of values that Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee spearheaded during his lifetime. He lived and sacrificed his life to end discrimination against people and prevent further division of the motherland. He was a young, firebrand leader who appealed to the revolutionary spirit of the youth and exhorted them to excel in their pursuit of knowledge and dedicate their lives for the service to the motherland.

And most importantly, he lived by the example of his own life.

There is as serious need, today, to reiterate the message of his noble mission to rejuvenate Bharat, that is India, and power the new generation to take her to glorious heights of strength and fulfilment.

It gives me immense satisfaction that his thoughts are being published by a think tank named after him- Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation. The collection of his speeches delivered in the early forties bear amazing relevance to the contemporary social dynamics and polity. It's praiseworthy that such a collection is seeing the light of the day. I am sure that this will help to rekindle the spirit of justice and fairness strengthening the fire of patriotism amongst all Indians.

During this journey of decades, we seem to have forgotten the price that we paid to get here and the value of free air that we breathe in a country that is our own. After centuries of intense resistance to the brutalities of the invaders and their devastating assaults, India re-emerged with a brilliance and power that reflects her inner core of Sanatan Dharma, the eternal values of people with vision. No society on this planet has faced such fierce attacks from the savage assaulters as we have, and none has been able to survive and keep the inner core of civilised values intact, as have we Indians. It's all because of the nobility of the thought - *sarve bhavantu sukhinah, sarve santu niramaya*. (Let all on this earth be happy, healthy and without any pains). That has been the message of Hindu civilisation since the humanity saw its first dawn. We have survived many an assaults but have not allowed anyone to strike at our core.

But the battle is far from over - the battle to keep these values intact against all odds of man's insatiable desire to devour natural resources and subjugate other people using military might and religious intolerance. We live in a world with conflicting viewpoint resulting in terror attacks, unholy Jihad, vested interests and abuse of natural resources. Deceptive appeals for violent 'revolutions' of communist and Jihadi varieties, nuclear race, overstressed national security and throttling freedom of the peoples has put the human race on the brink of an unprecedented danger of damage and maybe even extinction. Several movies have depicted this development brilliantly in recent times.

We believe in the inherent unity of all creation, nature, and all living beings. Hindu seers have provided model of a lifestyle that sustains the nature as well as all other forms of life. Hence our battle is not just for maintaining our morals and sanity but also to preserve diversity and pluralism on this earth.

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee symbolises the struggle for preserving this civilisational ethos.

His high values, in fact, helped him to rise to legendary heights during his life time. At the age of 33, Syama Prasad Mookerjee became the youngest Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta (1934) and held the office till 1938. He introduced Bengali medium in the university, encouraged science education and invited Dr. S. Radhakrishnan from Bangalore to join Calcutta University as a



professor. He was a close friend of famous poet Kazi Nazrul Islam and helped him immensely during his prolonged illness. A letter of gratitude from Kazi Nazrul Islam to him is considered a piece of literature in Bengal. He gave convocation addresses in several central universities including Madras, Beneras, Agra and Delhi and a collection of his convocation addresses was published under the title Educational Speeches in 1959. Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, who was then Vice President of India, wrote its preface. He was also the founder President of Mahabodhi Society of India and brought Buddha's relics from Sri Lanka. He was a great devotee of Sri Aurobindo. The Mother had high hopes from him as the rejuvenator of the Indian nationalism and a builder of new India.

I congratulate Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation and its office bearers, specially its dynamic director Shri Tarun Vijay for painstakingly taking up the onerous task of compiling and presenting the thoughts of Dr. Mookerjee for the greater benefit of readers. I am sure the book will go a long way to help spread the ideology of nationalism.

Mohan Bhagwat

*Sarsanghchalak, RSS*

*Nagpur*

## Editor's Note

Seldom does one find a chance to be in the company of words that have shaped a nation's destiny, arousing emotions of unity that is beyond boundaries of caste, creed or colour. Working on the life and works of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee has been one such assignment for me and I shall be ever grateful to my elders, especially Shri Mohan Rao Bhagwat and Shri Suresh ji Soni, who entrusted me with this envious job. This pursuit involved exploring and presenting the works of a legend who remains our source of inspiration.

As I give the finishing touches to this assignment, I cannot miss the coincidence that I humbly accept as the will of the Mother and Sri Aurobindo, who I have been trying to follow since my childhood. A few years ago, I was asked by the publications division, govt. of India (during the tenure of Smt. Sushma Swaraj as I&B Minister) to write a biography of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee for their 'Builders of Modern India' series. I accepted the offer and worked on it but my engagement with a newspaper had its own compulsions and the work lingered on. It was only after I got the assignment as the director of this think tank that bears the name of my idol that I came to know about his strong connection with the spiritual world of Sri Aurobindo. Strange are the ways of destiny. I bowed to Mother's will and started digging into the amazing legacy of Dr. Mookerjee, a major part of which awaits the readers and their well deserved attention.

During life's journey, there are moments that shape us, mould us and push us to newer boundaries of consciousness. The first glimpse of the house where Dr. Mookerjee was born, lived and worked was like an awakening call. His library, pictures, book shelves and the



area he worked in, mesmerised me. It was a different world, the world that shaped our viewpoint and created a new path in politics that we all know as Bharatiya Jana Sangh and in its later avatar, Bharatiya Janata Party. I could visualize his mentoring by his illustrious father Sir Asutosh Mookerjee, his mother with a steel resolve, Smt. Jogmaya Devi, his growing up years in an atmosphere reverberating with the visits of Kaviguru Ravindranath Thakur, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Fazlul Haq Chaudhry, Vijaya Laxmi Pandit, Bidhan Chandra Ray and many other stalwarts. Those were the years that shaped India resonating with the cries of Vande Mataram and a revolutionary zeal that shook the British empire. Syama Prasad grew up in that age and time. Youngest vice chancellor, finance minister in West Bengal's Fazalalu Haq government, leader of Hindu Mahasabha, a lieutenant to Veer Savarkar, protector of Bengal's identity and culture and geographical integrity, a fighter for India's soul and national moorings, member of the constituent assembly, independent India's first Minister for Industry and Supplies and above all a humanitarian par excellence, who mingled with the persecuted masses sharing their post partition trauma. All rolled in one – that was Syama Prasad.

He was unapologetic about his commitments and uncompromising on his principles – a path difficult to follow and emulate in times when the spineless yielding to the political expediencies are rules rather than exceptions. Little doubt then that his end was too sudden and raised many questions. It was widely believed that he was 'murdered'. But nobody enquired into the reasons of his death at the age of 52. The Mother had believed that he was unnaturally eliminated. In one of her dialogues with devotees, she expressed this feeling very clearly. My friend Shri Anirban Ganguly was kind enough to send me some details which I am reproducing here.

**Dated –June 7, 1967**

**The Mother:** ...There is a group in the new Indian parliament, a group of people dissatisfied with the position taken by India, who have declared their wish to act according to Sri Aurobindo's ideal and instructions. And they've asked if we could send someone from here to hold conferences in Delhi...It's a "group" – naturally not the whole parliament.

*It's something to be envisaged.*

*But the difficulty is to find "someone" because it should be a man who knows Sri Aurobindo thoroughly to begin with, who is capable of receiving his inspirations directly (a very difficult condition), and has at the same time a very strong character with a power – a contagious power – and a force that can arouse the inert masses. For years I have been looking for that man, without finding him.*

*There was a man who would have done...very straight and strong – he was assassinated in Kashmir.*

**A devotee - Assassinated?**

**The Mother** - He is the one who came here when we wanted to have a conference for the opening of the University; he presided over it [The Mother had selected Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee to preside over the conference which was held in Pondicherry on 24th April 1951, to initiate steps towards the creation of an University Centre at Pondicherry in memory of Sri Aurobindo. The Mother had appointed Dr. Mookerjee as Chairman of the Sri Aurobindo Memorial Committee for setting up of the University-ed] A rather tall man, and strong...it was in Kashmir that he was assassinated (not officially, of course: he "fell ill.") [Michel Danino, Sujata Nahar, India The Mother, pp: 162,163, Mira Aditi Centre, 1998]



***And Manoj Dasgupta wrote-***

*I may add here a personal note in this context [death of Dr.Mookerjee while in detention in Kashmir] It was during the 'de facto' transfer of Pondicherry [1954] – the Ashram was invited to participate in a cultural programme. One evening when The Mother came out of the 'Interview Room' in the Play Ground [of the Ashram] , She began to talk to Debu and me about the preparations for the programme. In course of the conversation, the question of the present political situation in India came up. I told*

*Mother that in earlier times we had such great leaders, today we have none. She said that politics was always steeped in falsehood and that was one of the reasons why Sri Aurobindo left politics. Among the present leaders, she said that she had reposed great hope on Syama Prasad, but: "Ils l'ont tue – They have killed him. (The entire conversation was in French). When I looked at Her with surprise, she said, "My child, you don't know, that there are many ways of killing with slow poison." [Manoj Dasgupta, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee "a pure and manly life", pp:52,53, Kolkata, 2006]*

The reason why we chose to re-publish his works originally published in 1945 when he was the president of Hindu Mahasabha is our belief that Syama Prasad must be presented in his totality and not in selective and tailored parts. We have taken care not to edit or change anything that he wrote in those times, hence it is up to the discerning reader to see the wisdom of his words in a context in which they were spoken or written. Still, I feel most of what he said is relevant for our contemporary concerns. Many of his speeches would seem as if spoken just the other day!!

His autobiographical diaries, speeches, notes, economic essays, correspondence and incisively brilliant articles on him written by many of his admirers and critical opponents need to be collected and presented in a way that throw light on the past era's nationalist struggle as well as pave the way for the future generation's guidance. The help and support that we received from Justice Chittatosh Mookerjee, Dr. Reena Bhaduri and Shri Amitabh Chatterjee has been immense and invaluable to have this work re-published. We are extremely grateful to them and to the icon of our faith that they represent so meticulously-Asutosh Memorial Trust, Kolkata. Dr. Sujit Dhar, who was an icon of the Sangh spirit must be remembered at this moment with gratitude who with his dedicated wife Mrs. Mohua Dhar, another shining example of the Sangh work amongst women,(Rashtra Sewika Samiti) turned the hurdles into opportunities and possibilities,

Grateful thanks to Shri Jaswant Singh who pushed for this idea decisively and supported it too.

I am personally grateful for the inspirational guidance received from luminaries like Shri K.N.Sahni and Shri Bal Apte. Shri Ram Lal and Shri Shyam Jaju helped, encouraged and stood like a rock to help the completion of the book. Dr. Harsh Vardhan has been an old time friend and a great support indeed. Shri Madhav Bhan worked to design the book with an exemplary dedication and similarly valuable was the contribution of Smt. Madhu Joshi. I am indebted to all of them.

**Tarun Vijay**  
Director,  
Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation