

Shyama Prasad Mukherjee

July 6, 2020

S.P.Mukherjee was the independent India's first Minister of Industry and Supply and **founder of Bharatiya Jana Sangh**. Today is his 118th birth anniversary. He was a qualified barrister and was passionate about education.

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Shyama Prasad Mukherjee was born in a **Bengali family on this day in 1901**. His father Ashutosh Mukherjee was a judge of the Calcutta High Court. At the age of 33, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee became the **youngest vice-chancellor of Calcutta University** in 1934.

During Mukherjee's term as Vice-Chancellor, Rabindranath Tagore delivered the university convocation address in **Bengali for the first time**, and the Indian vernacular was **introduced as a subject for the highest examination**.

Mukherjee **demanded the partition of Bengal in 1946 to prevent the inclusion of its Hindu-majority areas in a Muslim-dominated East Pakistan**. A meeting held by the Mahasabha on April 15, 1947, in Tarakeswar, authorised him to take steps for ensuring partition of Bengal.

In May 1947, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee wrote a letter to Lord Mountbatten telling him that Bengal must be partitioned even if India was not. He also opposed a failed bid for a united but independent Bengal made in 1947 by Sarat Bose, the brother of Subhas Chandra Bose, and Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, a Bengali Muslim politician.

After he left the Indian National Congress due to difference of opinion with the then-Prime Minister Dr Jawaharlal Nehru on **Jammu and Kashmir issues**, he co-founded Janata Party in the year 1977-1979, which later on became the Bharatiya Janata

Party.

Shyama Prasad Mukherjee died after 40 days of being arrested by the Jammu and Kashmir State police for entering the state without permit. He passed away in jail under mysterious circumstances.