Modern History · GS - I

Examine the role of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee in shaping the political landscape of independent India. Discuss the significance of his opposition to the special constitutional arrangements of Jammu and Kashmir.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 03/11/2026	GS - I	Modern History

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

First Union Cabinet; resignation from Nehru's government; Bharatiya Jana Sangh; political opposition; Jammu and Kashmir; constitutional integration; national unity; democratic debate; historical legacy

Model Answer

Introduction

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee was an important political figure in the early years of independent India. He served as the first Minister of Industry and Supply before resigning from Jawaharlal Nehru's Cabinet following political differences.

Contribution to Indian Politics

In 1951, Mookerjee founded the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, which later became a precursor to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Its establishment contributed to the development of organised opposition politics in the early years of the Indian republic.

Jammu and Kashmir Issue

Mookerjee opposed the special constitutional and administrative arrangements applicable to Jammu and Kashmir, expressing his position through the slogan, “Ek desh mein do vidhan, do pradhan, do nishan.” In 1953, he entered Jammu and Kashmir without a permit and was detained. He died in detention on 23 June 1953. His death became a significant episode in debates over the constitutional integration of Jammu and Kashmir.

Conclusion

Mookerjee's political career reflects the emergence of alternative political perspectives on national unity, constitutional integration and the organisation of opposition parties in independent India.

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