

## Journey of Makarand to Mahamana

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Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya was born in the year 1861 and died in the 1946. He was a freedom fighter and great Indian educationist , distinguished from others for his significant role in the Indian independence and his support of Hindu nationalism. In his later life he was addressed as a Mahamana for his great workings.

He became the Indian National Congress President four times. He is remembered in the world as the founder of Asia's largest residential university at Varanasi, the Banaras Hindu University in 1916. The University has around 12,000 students all across the field such as the arts, sciences, engineering and technology. He was the Vice Chancellor of BHU from 1919 to 1938. He was also the founders of Scouting in India as well as a highly influential English newspaper, "The Leader" which was published from Allahabad in 1909. Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya remained the Hindustan Times's Chairman from 1924 to 1946.

### *Life & Education*

He was born at Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh on 25<sup>th</sup> December in the year 1861 in a Brahmin family. His father's name was Pt. Brijnath and mother's name was Moona Devi. He was the 5<sup>th</sup> child (five brothers and two sisters) of his parent. Malviyaji, as he was popularly Known breathed last on November 12, 1946, he was 90 years old.

His great ancestors were well known for the Sanskrit scholarship called as the Malwa that's why he is also known as the Malviya.

Pandit Malviya's education began at age five in Sanskrit, when he was sent to Pandit Hardeva's Dharma Gyanopadesh Pathshala, where he completed his primary education and later another school runs by Vidha Vardini Sabha. He then joined Allahabad District School, where he started writing poems under the pen name Makarand which were published in journals and magazines. Pandit Malviya matriculated in 1879 from the Muir Central College, now known as Allahabad University. Harrison College's Principal provided a monthly scholarship to Pandit Malviya, whose family had been facing financial hardships, and he was able to complete his B.A. at the University of Calcutta. Although he wanted to pursue an M.A. in Sanskrit, his family conditions did not allow it and his father wanted him to take his family profession of Bhagavat recital.

### *Career*

After his M.A. degree in Sanskrit, his father required him to handle the family profession of Bhagavat recital. He started his career as a teacher in Allahabad District School in 1884. In July 1887, he joined as an editor of the nationalist weekly and left his teaching job. Later, Malviya wished to devote himself entirely to the service of the nation. Though he studied law and passed the LL.B. examination in 1891 yet he was not interested in legal professional but after his law degree he began his law practice at the Allahabad District Court in the year of 1891 and then High Court in Dec 1893.

He became the Indian National Congress president four times in 1909, 1918, 1930 and 1932. He had started the Scouting inspired organization known as the Seva Samithi. He appeared in the court for saving 177 freedom fighters in the Chouri-choura case. He met with the Annie Besant in 1911 and determined to work on a common Hindu University at Benares.

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Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya remained Imperial Legislative Council's member from 1912 to 1926 (in 1919 it was transformed into the Central Legislative Assembly).

He was selected as the Congress President when Sarojini Naidu got arrested. He joined the group Lala Lajpat Rai, Jawaharlal Nehru and many others in order to protest against the Simon Commission in 1928. He has popularized the Satyameva Jayate (Truth alone will triumph) slogan. He became the Chairman of Hindustan Times from 1924 to 1946.

#### *Personal Life*

He was married in 1878, when he was about sixteen years of age to Kundan Devi of Mirzapur. The couple had five sons and five daughters, out of which four sons, Ramakant, Radhakant, Mukund, Govind and two daughters Rama and Malati survived.

Mahamana's youngest son Pt. Govind Malaviya (1902–1961) (Freedom Fighter), was a Member of India's Parliament till his death in 1961. He was the only one from Mahamana's family who became Vice-Chancellor of the Banaras Hindu University. At the stroke of the midnight hour when India was granted freedom on 15 August 1947, it was Pandit Govind Malaviya who blew the conch three times to herald the coming of the new age and freedom for India. One of Madan Mohan Malaviya's grand daughter in-law Smt Saraswati Malviya (Freedom Fighter), wife of Late Shri Shridhar Malviya (Freedom Fighter, and eldest son of Mahamana's eldest son Shri Ramakant Malviya) lives in Allahabad with her daughters. The house in which she currently resides has hosted numerous political luminaries including Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Feroz Gandhi, Sarojini Naidu, Shri Rajiv Gandhi to name a few.

#### *Social work*

He worked for the eradication of caste barrier in temples and other social barriers. He is believed to have undergone a rejuvenation. Because of his Social works in Dalit areas, Sri Gaud Brahmins had expelled him initially but after understanding their mistakes the elite people has taken back Malviyaji's in Shi Gaud Brahmin samaj. Also, he organised a mass of 200 Dalit peoples, including the Hindu Dalit (Harijan) leader P. N. Rajbhoj to demand entry at the Kalaram Temple on a Rath Yatra day. All those who participated in this event took a dip in the Godavari River and chanted Hindu mantras. Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya made massive efforts for the entry into any Hindu temple.

He worked in society on many important fields and he tried to eradicate the caste barrier in temples and other social barriers. Because of his Social works for Dalit areas, he get expelled by the ShriGaud Brahmin. He had organized the entry of Hindu Dalit in the Kalaram Temple on the Rath Yatra day and took a dip in the Godavari River by chanting the Hindu mantras.

In December 1886, Malaviya attended the 2nd Indian National Congress session in Calcutta under chairmanship of Dadabhai Naoroji, where he spoke on the issue of representation in Councils. His address not only impressed Dadabhai but also Raja Rampal Singh, ruler of Kalakankar estate near Allahabad, who started a Hindi weekly Hindustan but was looking for a suitable editor to turn it into a daily. Thus in July 1887, he left his school job and joined as the editor of the nationalist weekly, he remained here for two and a half years, and left for Allahabad to join L.L.B., it was here that he was offered co-editorship of The Indian Union, an English daily. After finishing his law degree, he started practising law at Allahabad District Court in 1891, and moved to Allahabad High Court by December 1893.

Malviya became the President of the Indian National Congress in 1909, 1918, 1930 and 1932. Like many of the contemporary leaders of Indian National Congress he was a Moderate and opposed the separate electorates for Muslims under the Lucknow Pact of 1916.

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To redeem his resolve to serve the cause of education and social-service he renounced his well established practice of law in 1911, for ever. In order to follow the tradition of Sannyasa throughout his life, he pursued the avowed commitment to live on the society's support. But when 177 freedom fighters were convicted to be hanged in the Chouri-choura case he appeared before the court, despite his vow and got acquitted 156 freedom fighters.

He remained a member of the Imperial Legislative Council from 1912 and when in 1919 it was converted to the Central Legislative Assembly he remained its member as well, till 1926.

Malaviya was an important figure in the Non-cooperation movement. However, he was opposed to the politics of appeasement and the participation of Congress in the Khilafat movement.

In 1928 he joined Lala Lajpat Rai, Jawaharlal Nehru and many others in protesting against the Simon Commission, which had been set up by the British to consider India's future. Just as the "Buy British" campaign was sweeping England, he issued, on 30 May 1932, a manifesto urging concentration on the "Buy Indian" movement in India.

Malaviya was a delegate at the First Round Table Conference in 1930. However, during the Civil Disobedience Movement, he was arrested on 25 April 1932, along with 450 other Congress volunteers in Delhi, only a few days after he was appointed the President of Congress after the arrest of Sarojini Naidu.

In protest against the Communal Award which sought to provide separate electorates for minorities, Malaviya along with Madhav Shrihari Aney left the Congress and started the Congress Nationalist Party. The party contested the 1934 elections to the central legislature and won 12 seats.

Malaviya was also the Chairman of Hindustan Times from 1924 to 1946. His efforts resulted in the launch of its Hindi edition in 1936. The paper was saved from an untimely demise when he stepped in to realise his vision of a newspaper in Delhi. Malaviya raised Rs.50,000 rupees to acquire the Hindustan Times along with the help of nationalist leaders Lala Lajpat Rai and M. R. Jayakar and industrilist Ghanshyam Das Birla, who paid most of the cash. The paper is now owned by the Birla family.

### *Banaras Hindu University*

In April 1911, Annie Besant met Malaviya and they decided to work for a common Hindu University at Varanasi. Besant and fellow trustees of the Central Hindu College, which she has founded in 1898 also agreed to Government of India's precondition that the college should become a part of the new University. Thus Banaras Hindu University (BHU) was established in 1916, through under the Parliamentary legislation, 'B.H.U. Act 1915', today it remains a prominent institution of learning in India.

In 1939, he left the Vice chancellorship of BHU and was succeeded by S. Radhakrishnan, who later became the President of India.

**“Great as are Malviyaji’s services to the Country, I have no doubt that the Hindu University constitutes his greatest service and achievement and he has worn himself out for the work that is dear to him as life itself. ... Everyone knows that there is no greater beggar than Malviyaji On the face of the earth. He has never begged for himself by the grace of God he was never been in want but he became a voluntary beggar for causes he has made his own and God has always filled his bowl in an overflowing measure” - Mahatma Gandhi.**

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