

**Minutes of the first meeting of the National Committee for Commemoration
of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya
26 July 2011 at 6.00 pm - 7, Race Course Road, New Delhi.**

The list of Members of the National Committee present in the meeting is at Annexure.

2. In his opening remarks, the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Chairman, National Committee, Dr. Manmohan Singh, recalled Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya as a multi-faceted personality, a great patriot, a visionary educationist, a tireless social reformer, an ardent journalist, a successful parliamentarian and an outstanding statesman besides being a reluctant but effective lawyer. Pt. Malaviya left indelible impressions on history through his role as a freedom fighter in the Indian Independence movement.

3. The Chairman said that Pandit Malaviya was an educationist with a vision and was the moving force behind the establishment of Banaras Hindu University (Kashi Hindu Vishva Vidyalaya) in 1916. The University was established under a Parliamentary Legislation viz: Banaras Hindu University Act, 1915 and remains a prominent institution of learning in India almost a century after its establishment. Annie Besant was one of the close associates and collaborators of Mahamana for almost four to five years in the run up to the establishment of this University.

4. The Chairman further recalled that Mahamana was elected President of the Indian National Congress on four occasions between 1909 and 1933. He remained Member of the Imperial Legislative Council from 1912 to 1919, and upon its conversion to the Central Legislative Assembly, continued as its Member until 1926. During this period and after, he was one of the important figures of the Non-Cooperation movement spearheaded by Mahatma Gandhi, and worked closely with Sarojni Naidu, Lala Lajpat Rai, Jawaharlal Nehru and other leaders of the freedom movement.

5. Pandit Malaviya represented India at the first Round Table Conference held in 1931 [along with Mahatma Gandhi]. In 1939, he relinquished the Vice-Chairmanship of BHU and was succeeded by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, who later went on to become the President of India.

6. The Chairman stated that as an ardent journalist, Pandit Malaviya began his career as a journalist in 1887 when he left his job as a teacher to join as the Editor of Hindustan, a nationalist weekly in Hindi. He was also offered the co-editorship of the Indian Union, an English daily while he was a law student. He was Chairman of Hindustan Times from 1924 to 1946, and during this period, his efforts resulted in the launch of its Hindi edition in 1936.

7. The Chairman recalled that Mahamana was a tireless social reformer who worked for the eradication of caste barrier in temples and other social evils despite the fact that he was born in an orthodox Brahmin family. His participation along with Dalit leader Shri P.N. Rajbhog in demanding entry for Dalits to the Kalaram Temple on a Rath Yatra day is but one example of his tireless efforts to obliterate caste barriers. He stood for transparency in public life and popularized the slogan 'Satyamev Jayate'.

8. Referring to the multi-faceted legacy of Mahamana, the Chairman noted that there are several well-known and some not so well-known aspects of Mahamana's genius. We should focus on these aspects in the programmes and events to be planned as part of the 150th birth anniversary commemoration. Our tribute should reflect his multi-layered personality and different strands of his genius.

9. The Chairman suggested the setting up of a National Implementation Committee (NIC) that could take on the task of examining, approving and better monitoring their implementation and report back from time to time to the National

Committee. He urged the Members of the Committee to identify appropriate events, programmes and organizations at various levels so that the Government could support various initiatives to spread the message of Mahamana far and wide. He sought views of the Members on how best to organize the commemoration events so that the National Committee could draw on the immense intellectual resources of its Members to guide the celebrations.

10. On Chairman's permission, Shri Rakesh Garg, Additional Secretary, Culture and Member-Secretary, National Committee briefed the Committee about the agenda items No. 2 and 3, mentioning that the Banaras Hindu University and the Mahamana Malaviya Mission had submitted a list of proposed programmes and activities to be carried out during the commemoration year from 25 December 2011 to 25 December 2012. Details of these proposals were available in the agenda.

11. PM and Chairman thereafter opened discussion on various suggestions and proposals mentioned in agenda items 2 and 3 and requested the Members to contribute their views. He also stated that the NIC may be headed by Dr. Karan Singh and that it should consider these programmes and work out necessary budgetary requirements. He further stated that the Ministry of Culture may be the nodal Ministry for this important initiative.

12. Dr. Karan Singh, Vice-Chairman, National Committee stated that a number of useful suggestions had been received from Banaras Hindu University and Mahamana Malaviya Mission regarding the programmes and events that could be considered by the National Committee, and under its guidance by the NIC for implementation during the commemoration year.

13. Kumari Selja, Minister of Culture suggested that the NIC may consider various programmes and events to be carried out during the commemoration year and the financial implications worked out by the NIC may be considered

separately by the Prime Minister. She also requested the Members to give suggestions for discussion and finalization by the NIC which could then be brought for concurrence of National Committee.

14. Shri S.C. Mishra, MP stated that the Government of Uttar Pradesh was considering four programmes over and above what had already been suggested in the agenda notes and enumerated these as (a) documentary film on Mahamana which could be telecast on the national electronic media; (b) holding of competitions for events involving public participation such as Nukad Nataks and street plays; (c) a light and sound show on the life and works of Mahamana; and (d) a series of lectures in various institutions which may be held not only during the commemoration year, but may continue later as well. As regards the topics of 12 lectures listed in the agenda points, he suggested that the word 'Dalit' may be used in the topic at Serial No. 9 in place of the existing word. At this juncture, another suggestion made by Members was to amend the topic at Serial No. 11 as 'A Magnanimous National Leader' in place of the existing topic.

15. Smt Rita Bahuguna Joshi, Chairperson, Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee suggested that Allahabad should also be included as an important venue for conducting of programmes in the commemoration year and that the building of the Society may be utilized as a research centre or for some other big purpose. She also suggested that a special centenary celebration function may be organized on Basant Panchami in Allahabad during the commemoration year, taking into account the sanctity and importance of the occasion. She also suggested that the NIC may hold one of its meeting in Allahabad and a National Memorial be made on him in the city.

16. Prof. D.P. Singh, V.C., BHU, stated that the Banaras Hindu University is indeed a living memorial of Mahamana and stands as a testimony of the human values and professional ethics espoused by the great leader. He suggested that BHU may be considered for the inaugural function or the completion function of

the commemoration year, if not both. Referring to the limited amount of research that had been carried out on the life and works of Mahamana (only six Ph.D.s had been awarded on this subject in various Universities) he suggested the establishment of Malaviya Chairs in selected Universities. He further suggested that the various heritage buildings of BHU should be restored during the commemoration year and that a world class convention centre be established in the University.

17. In support of the above suggestion, two further suggestions were made. It was recalled that Pandit Malaviya was a member of the Royal Industrial Commission, 1918 and his contribution to the industrial policy and development was reflected in the multi-disciplinary approaches that are encouraged in the hundred plus departments of BHU. It was suggested that research and publication on the contemporary as well as futuristic relevance of Mahamana's work on this aspect should be taken up. Secondly, it was suggested that the revival of Sanskrit institutes in Varanasi, as an important initiative could be taken up during the commemoration year.

18. It was suggested that his biggest contribution was on ethics and it will be befitting to open an institute on Human Values and Ethics in his name.

19. Shri P.L. Jaiswal recalled that a 13-episode serial on Mahamana had been conceptualized and approved for production by Doordarshan some twenty years ago. For a variety of reasons this production could not be undertaken so far, and suggested that this be done during the commemoration year. He also supported the idea of a light and sound show on Mahamana's life and works.

20. Shri Gopalkrishna Gandhi recalled the contributions made by Mahamana as a Parliamentarian particularly in relation to the Sharda Bill, and his statesmanship during participation in second Round Table Conference. He suggested the establishment of an archival section where all his writings and correspondence

could be made available for analysis and research by scholars. Secondly, Shri Gandhi suggested that a project on new Sanskrit dictionary with contemporary textualization may be taken up during the commemoration year, in collaboration with Departments of Sanskrit and Indology in various Universities including those in Europe, particularly the UK. He also suggested projects relating to new dictionaries, one from Sanskrit to Persian and the other from Sanskrit to Arabic, and noted that this would be a great step towards national integration and would be a befitting tribute to Mahamana. He recognized that these projects would take fairly long time to complete and suggested the commencement of the projects during the commemoration year.

21. Shri S.C. Mishra suggested that repairs to the Hindu Hostel in Allahabad may be undertaken during the commemoration year as the building was really in a bad shape. He stated that the Hindu Hostel is run by a trust which is quite conservative in accepting funds. Taking into account the current situation of the building, its repair work should be given importance during the commemoration year.

22. It was also suggested that Haridwar should also be included in the list of centres where centenary celebrations will be held.

23. Dr. Karan Singh, Vice Chairman emphasized the need for a new publication as a readable biography, with students as the primary target. He stressed that the new publication would be different from collected works of Mahamana. He also suggested the publication of special monographs of specific aspects of the work of Mahamana.

24. Prof. Ved Prakash, Chairman, University Grants Commission suggested that the commemoration programmes may be held at four different levels viz: at the level of BHU; at regional level; at national level and at international level. He stated that the UGC can support the establishment of Chairs in selected

Universities taking into account the contributions of Mahamana as a nationalist, a social reformer and a Parliamentarian. He suggested that the writings of Mahamana (letters/ speeches/ messages etc.) may be dug out and collected from various sources and published in the forms of monographs/ books. Suggesting that Mahamana be considered under the category of 'epoch making social leaders', and that BHU may develop an exhibition on Mahamana which could also be taken to other locations for display with UGC support. Other suggestions made by him included digitalization of works of Mahamana at BHU; institution of an award in the name of Mahamana; and research projects which can be supported by UGC both under the departmental research support scheme and enhanced support scheme for centres of excellence.

25. Secretary, Ministry of HRD suggested that a proposal may be taken up with UNESCO for organizing a suitable programme during the commemoration year that would be supported and funded by the Indian Government. This suggestion could be pursued during the next meeting of the Executive Board, of which Dr. Karan Singh is a Member representing India.

26. Dr. Bhishma Narain Singh stated that a number of excellent suggestions and proposals had been made during the meeting and suggested that a train from Varanasi to Delhi may be named after Mahamana.

27. Referring to the earlier suggestion of a traveling exhibition, it was recalled that Mahamana had sought and pursued collaboration with Aligarh Muslim University on two occasions and suggested that Aligarh and Jamia Milia Universities should be included as important places for spreading his word. A suggestion was also made to change the name of the 'Cantonment Station', near Varanasi, to be named after Pandit Malaviya.

28. PM and Chairman thanked the Members for the suggestions and comments made by them and stated that these ideas may be considered by the National Implementation Committee to decide what is possible and what is do-able. He announced that Dr. Karan Singh be the Chairman of the National Implementation Committee. As regards the other Members of the NIC, Kumari Selja, Minister of Culture stated that her Ministry will move the proposal and obtain the approval of the PM.

29. The National Committee discussed the proposals contained in agenda item No. 4 relating to administrative support for the National Committee and the NIC. It was decided that action may be taken as per rules.

30. As regards the opening and closing ceremonies of the commemoration year it was decided that the inauguration will be held at the hands of PM in Vigyan Bhavan on 25 December 2011 and that the closing ceremony would be held on 25 December 2012 in BHU.

31. The meeting ended with a note of thanks to the Chair.

First meeting of the National Committee for Commemoration of 150th Birth
Anniversary of Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya
6pm; July 26, 2011 at 7, Race Course Road

List of Participants

1. Prime Minister in Chair
2. Shri Salman Khursheed, Minister of Law & Justice
3. Dr. Karan Singh, MP & Vice Chairman
4. Kum Selja, Minister of Culture
5. Shri S. C. Mishra, MP
6. Shri T.K.A. Nair, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister
7. Dr. Bhishma Narain Singh (ex-Governor)
8. Shri Gopalkrishna Gandhi (ex- Governor)
9. Shri Satyadev Tripathi (former MoS, UP)
10. Dr. Mahesh Sharma (ex-chairman, KVIC)
11. Smt. Rita Bahuguna Joshi, President (UPCC)
12. Prof. D.P. Singh (VC, Banaras Hindu University)
13. Prof. Ved Prakash (Chairman, UGC)
14. Ms. Vibha Puri Das, Secretary (HRD)
15. Shri Jawhar Sircar, Secretary, M/o Culture
16. Shri P.L. Jaiswal (ex-Editor, ICAR)
17. Shri Rakesh Garg, AS, M/o Culture
18. Smt. Dipali Khanna, AS&FA, M/o Culture
19. Shri Vijay Madan, Joint Secretary, M/o Culture

From PMO

20. Shri L.K. Atheeq, Joint Secretary
21. Smt. Pallavi Jain Govil, Director