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The bulk of the research has been done at the National Archives of India, Lucknow State Archives, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Central Secretariat Library, NCERT Library, all in New Delhi, the Banaras Hindu University Library, Libraries of the Theosophical Society and Bharat Dharma Mahamandal Organization in Banaras and the National Library in Calcutta. I am grateful to their Librarians and staffs for promptly helping me with the necessary materials needed for my research.

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Sikha Chattopadhyay

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(Mukherjee)
ABSTRACT

The present thesis deals with the emergence of the Banaras Hindu University: The First Denominational University in India. While it takes into account the various factors leading to its birth, it focusses attention on the part played by the three key persons in it - Besant, Malaviya and the Maharaja of Darbhanga.

The thesis starts with an analysis of the background that has led to the emergence of the Banaras Hindu University. It has proved that the Muslim demand for a separate University was anterior to the Hindu demand for it. Syed Ahmed Khan's petition for a separate University or a separate department in the existing University of Calcutta through the medium of Urdu and British Government's trick to know which vernacular - 'Hindi or Urdu' was the vernacular of the north western provinces divided the Hindu and Muslim intelligentsia. The rift was promptly utilized by the British Government in India who were following the policy of 'Divide and Rule' to further their own interests.

Among the three persons who played an important part in the emergence of the Banaras Hindu University, Besant was the pioneer who felt the necessity of founding a denominational university in India. She conveyed the nation her dream to develop a Hindu University out of her Central Hindu College at Banaras and a Muslim University out of the Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College at Aligarh. However, in view of the then socio-political tension she switched over from denominational to undenominational university and projected a new scheme of 'University of India' - a confluence of different religious studies, in order to unite the diverging forces through the highest academic institution.
Unfortunately the contaminated socio-political atmosphere, different personality involved in her scheme and the British conspiracy against it frustrated her and she was compelled to join hands with Malaviya to found a Hindu University at Banaras.

Malaviya popularly known as the father of the Banaras Hindu University, was inspired by both personal and other factors to take the lead in the movement for founding the University at Banaras. His indomitable energy combined with sharp intelligence and tactfulness together with unsatiable ambition could keep aside the other two schemes of Besant and the Maharaja of Darbhanga and make his own scheme a predominant over others. Circumstances beyond the control of the British Raj forced them to accept the Hindu demand despite their prior objection to the denominational academic institutions in India and Malaviya’s participation in the said movement.

Finally, the present study has also attempted to assess the role of the Maharaja of Darbhanga in the Hindu University movement. The under-current rivalry between the Maharaja of Darbhanga, a representative of the landed aristocracy vs Malaviya a representative of the Middle class intelligentsia for supremacy in the society played a tremendous role in influencing the Maharaja to participate in the movement backed by the British Raj and was fully able to control and direct the movement leading to the emergence of the Hindu University at Banaras. There is no doubt that ultimately his glory faded away before that of Malaviya as the founders of the University but through him the British Raj was successfully able to thwart the Indian aspiration to liberate the academic world from the defects of the higher education under the British Raj.
## List of Abbreviations

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<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N.A.I.</td>
<td>National Archives of India</td>
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<tr>
<td>NMML</td>
<td>Nehru Memorial Museum and Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>NNWR (NWP &amp; Oudh)</td>
<td>Native Newspapers Report (North Western Provinces and Oudh)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MCFR</td>
<td>Micro Film Roll</td>
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