

Activites of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak In London

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ABSTRACT: Lokmanya Tilak was referred to as "Lion of Maharashtra.". Tilak's life was full of dynamic activities. During his London visit, Tilak represented his extreme love of nationalism, dedication, dynamism. Through this study, we understood that Lokmanya Tilak was a restless nationalist and a political realist. He was a person who had developed a keen perception to attain swaraj. Tilak's London visit helped him to realize the fact that taking foreign education is necessary to develop the industrial fortunes of our country. Further, he accepted and upheld English as a second language.

KEYWORDS: London, India, labour party, British government, Lokmanya Tilak, freedom

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I. INTRODUCTION:

Lokmanya Tilak contributed his sincere efforts to bring people together and create the feeling of unity, nationalism, and awareness in their minds. He tried to make aware British citizens about the situation of Indians and to serve this purpose; he decided to visit London. Also, we observed that Lokmanya Tilak visited England to fight a defamation case against Vincent Chirol. During his visit, Tilak contacted various leaders, programmes to gain support for the Indian freedom movement. Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary," Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 19.

While performing this research, we came to know that Lokmanya Tilak wanted to tell Britain citizens about the freedom and birth-rights of Indians. During his London visit, he attended the various gathering. To know more about Tilak's journey to London, we found that, during those days, labour representatives were allowed in the Home rule Committee. Hence, Tilak went to London as a representative member of the Home rule League.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

The statement of the problem is "ACTIVITES OF LOKMANYA BAL GANGADHAR TILAK IN LONDON".

OBJECTIVES:

- i. To find out the purpose of Tilak's London Visit
- ii. To understand the various activities performed by Lokmanya Tilak in London
- iii. To find the various rules on to Lokmanya Tilak
- iv. To find out achievements of Tilak during London visit
- v. To understand support and opposition faced by Lokmanya Tilak's during London visit

II. BACKGROUND OF ACTIVITES PERFORMED BY LOKMANYA BAL GANGADHAR TILAK IN LONDON

Lokmanya Tilak received rare qualities and learning abilities from his father. We observed that Tilak learned things or completed his education not for obtaining good marks in the exam. During his college days, specific incidences helped him to become a selfless and patriotic endeavour. https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/110948/7/07_chapter%202.pdf 28. Lokmanya Tilak understood that the future of India resides in the hands of people, and education was the only source to arouse the feeling of independence in minds. There he joined the education sector and decided to work for the rebirth of the nation. While performing this study, the researcher has observed that Lokmanya Tilak's stay in London caused the association of the India-British association. He made a lot of labour leaders for the cause of the nation. In London, his activities were confined to public meetings and cultivating contacts with eminent Britishers. During his stay, he extended the Home Rule campaign to America and established more than seventy organizations of the Home Rule League in the U.S. https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/110948/7/07_chapter%202.pdf 50. Here the researcher has observed that Tilak's visit to London convinced him to realize the foreign propaganda of placing India's just case for self-rule before the people of the world. Dr. Naik C., (2001), "Educational Thoughts of Tilak", 12. He developed new visionary thoughts for freedom and prepared people for the same.

METHOD USED IN THE PRESENT RESEARCH:

The researcher has performed this study to obtain a clear understanding of Lokmanya Tilak's visit to London. To accomplish the purpose of the study, the researcher has referred literature available on Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak. Also, we obtained detailed knowledge of every incidence during his London visit. For data collection, the researcher used various books, research papers, and Tilak's writing and speeches. Also, we took the support of online sources. Apart from this, to confirm the authenticity of the data, we held several interactive sessions with selective members. We chose the members of Tilak's family or closed ones. The entire study was based on the available secondary data.

NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH:

To obtain clarification on Tilak's London visit, the researcher has performed this study. The present research was descriptive and historical. The complete study was based solely on the propagated knowledge through various resources like writings, internet, websites, and some other forms. All the obtained data was verified by using pre-test methods and techniques.

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IMPLEMENTATION OF RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

Here, for the research purpose, the researcher has used primary and secondary data available in the published or unpublished form. Also, the researcher has taken the support of the research guide. To make the clear understanding of Tilak's life in London, the researcher has preferred various methods. Here, the researcher has preferred secondary data. Besides this, the researcher has accumulated some of the essential information from the primary data sources. By using the survey method of data collection, he has completed the study. Through the present study, the researcher has tried to provide insights on various activities performed by Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak. Here, the researcher has maintained a minimal scope of research, and it was based on the survey method.

OUR FINDINGS:

After obtaining the complete data on the Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak and his London visit, the researcher has processed the information further. Here, the researcher has edited, organized, and interpreted obtained data for the research purpose. Also, we had made pre-testing and confirmation of the data by utilizing various procedures and interviews. For the data validation, we used the survey method and fundamental data collection procedures. Through the entire study, we received the unknown facts about Tilak, and it was mentioned as follow:

Aim of Lokmanya Tilak's London Visit

While performing this research, the researcher has referred literature available on Lokmanya Tilak's life. After thorough observations and analysis, the researcher understood the purpose of the London visit. Based on the data, we found that Tilak went to London with the aim of the libel suit he had filed against Chirol. But he stayed in London for around 13 months. Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune

Activities Performed in London

After studying various life incidences about Lokmanya Tilak, we observed that Tilak was a single-minded person. Being a person with such characteristics, he worked hard to earn as maximum as a possible advantage from London. Even after he lost the case, he tried various activities for the benefits of his country. Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune

During his London stay, he attempted to influence the decisions of government, i.e., lobbying for the Indian cause. We obtained information that he visited many museums where we can observe his love for arts, culture, and heritage. Besides this, Tilak was a great thinker, writer, and philosopher who visited libraries and engaged in performing his favorite activity of Vedic research.

Along with all these, we got references, where we found that several people came to Tilak to obtain some guidance. Lokmanya Tilak used to teach them knowledge about the Hindu religion and culture. Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 135.

Applied Conditions for Tilak's London Visit

While performing this study of Tilak's London visit, the researcher has observed that Tilak had got permission for his London visit was conditional. He was agreed onto several conditions, and based on them; he would not be the part or address of any public meeting and gathering. Based on these conditions, he owned the right to speak to his lieutenants and do research himself. Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 135.

All the conditions applied to Tilak till the WW I, at the end of World War 1, affirmed a feeling of liberalism. Based on this example, another Indian had the ban uplifted. Due to this, Tilak's solicitors too petitioned for and received a cancellation of the ban. After that, Tilak got permission to speak freely at public gatherings and meetings. Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 135.

Achievements of Tilak During London Visit

Lokmanya Tilak reached the English people, who were the source of the power of the British government. He addressed every possible meeting that he could. Also, he established a good connection with the Labour party and tried to communicate about the difficulty and aspirations of the Indian people who were under their rule. Lokmanya Tilak did not find it simple to work in England. At every deviation, he faced challenges. Also, he met with resistance and prejudice. Lokmanya Tilak was present in London it was the time of the post-war general election, and he grasped full advantage of the opportunities at that time.

Here the researcher has obtained one reference about Lokmanya Tilak had addressed various labour gatherings. We received one of the statements made by Lokmanya Tilak on 25 September 1918 in London. It was the International Brotherhood Welfare meeting, where Tilak made the statement, "The labour movement in India is still in its infancy, and even when it comes to the forefront, we will not be able to merely initiate the programme of the labour movement. We will first have to take into consideration the peculiar social structure of the Indian community and then take steps to meet the new situation." Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 19.

Besides this, the researcher has observed that there were only a few people who realized the changing conditions in London. Tilak was one of the first few who understood the changing terms in England. Also, he recognized that the Labour Party was sympathetic to the cause of India. Hence, he subscribed to raise funds and gave a cheque of 2000 Pounds. This act of Tilak was acknowledged gratefully with a promise that it would do everything in its capability to empower India to obtain Swaraj. To address mass meetings of workers from Glasgow, Edinburgh, Plymouth, and Southampton, Tilak used the platform of the Labour Party.

Role of Newspapers

Further, the researcher observed the beneficiary act done by Tilak when he was in London. Tilak took advantage of being in England and used the Labour Party's own newspapers to inform the people about the situation in India. Also, he talked about the ambitions of people and the suggestions of the Home Rule League. Further Tilak received huge response and support. The Herald published several articles to support Tilak and his various demands for the Indian Home Rule.

Opposition faced by Lokmanya Tilak

While performing this study, the researcher has gone through available literature. Then, it observed that several English officials who were returned from India had pain caused by the lashes received from Tilak's 'Kesari'. These officials made every attempt to stop Tilak. They got the sense that if they allow him to attend social events, then it was likely to meet English politicians and nobility. So, they tried to exclude Tilak from social events and gatherings.

Tilak's return journey to India

After completion of the Joint Parliamentary Committee work, on November 29, 1919, Tilak returned to India. Dr. Tilak D.J., Dr. Tilak G., (2019), "Lokmanya B. G. Tilak The Visionary", Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, 19. For every Indian, the day when Tilak returned was an occasion for quite a celebration. In his honour a whole nation arrived together. Thousands of people gathered in Bombay. People garlanded Tilak and greeted him.

Also, he was very close to the people. So, people were aware of his financial circumstances, and they know what the Chirol case had done to Lokmanya. Hence, they decided to raise money to mitigate the critical situation to some extent. Finally, people presented around 3 lakh funds, and we can say that such was the love and appreciation of the people towards Tilak.

III. CONCLUSION:

After performing thorough research, we came to some of the interesting and less known facts about Lokmanya Tilak and his London visit. We came to know that he was a great thinker, and his visionary thoughts played a crucial role in attaining freedom. Also, we found that his energy, enthusiasm, and capability to communicate with the people strengthened the spirit of nationalism among every Indian.

1. During London visit Tilak worked hard for the cause of the Swaraj.
2. During London visit Tilak developed new insights of foreign education.
3. London visit helped Tilak in strengthening new contacts with the British people.
4. London visit helped Tilak to inform the Britisher about the situation of Indians.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Further the researcher can perform the study to understand the Chirol's activities against the nation.
2. Tilak's reaction for World war 1 might be the next topic of research.
3. Obtaining information about political background of World War 1 might has the scope of further study.

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