

Babu Murli Manohar ji

The Founder of Shri Murli Manohar Town Post Graduate College, Ballia

District Ballia is glorified by the name of the late **Sri Murli Manohar Ji**, affectionately called **Murli Babu**. Born on December 17, 1895, in village Sagarwali of District Ballia, Uttar Pradesh, Babu Murli Manohar was a political activist and an eminent lawyer. Apart from this, he was a dedicated social worker and a great educationist. His political interest peaked in 1921 when he was influenced by Mahatma Gandhi, joined Congress and participated in the Non-Cooperation Movement. Murli Babu was a firm supporter of khadi and charkha and advocated its usage to other people. He left his studies midway and sold his books to buy raw materials and the required equipment for the construction of charkha and distributed them across different parts of the district. He was against the usage of foreign goods and persuaded his companions to boycott foreign goods and engage themselves in spinning their own khadi and promoting their own goods. He influenced the masses and received immense support from the people that the merchants were forced to discontinue the selling of imported items and started propagating khadi wear. Khadi had gained such popularity that people started demanding charkhas instead of taking dowry during marriages. He was also appointed as the secretary of the District Congress Committee. He established Congress committees in eighteen divisions with each tehsil having six divisions. He paid homage to Bal Gangadhar Tilak by building a school in his name, paying tribute to his remarkable legacy towards the freedom of the nation.

His heart craved to start a “College with a difference” to educate the rural population of Ballia. With this high mission and vision, Murali Babu joined the Town Educational Society of Ballia as a member in 1946 and became its president in the year 1947. This led to a turning point in the history of Ballia and Eastern Uttar Pradesh with the foundation of **Shri Murli Manohar Town Degree College** (now known as **Shri Murli Manohar Town Post Graduate College, Ballia**) on the 9th day of July 1955, with commerce (B. Com.) as the first course, affiliated to Agra University. Apart from this, the Town Educational Society has founded and runs four more premier institutions in the city- Murli Manohar Town Intermediate College, Gulab Devi Mahila Inter College, Gulab Devi Mahila Degree College and Town Polytechnic Institute, Ballia.