

1. Brief History of Shri Murli Manohar Town Post Graduate College

Ballia district, located at the east end of Uttar Pradesh, is indebted to, and glorified by the shining name of Sri Murli Manohar Ji, affectionately called as Murli babu, the founder of this institution. Murli babu was a renowned freedom fighter, nationalist, eminent lawyer, accredited parliamentarian, dedicated social worker, and, above all, an educationist paramount. He knew that though the students of this then highly backward area had the potential and the zeal to scale challenging heights, as testified by the legends like Dr Ganeshi Prasad, the renowned mathematician, born and grown in the soil of Ballia, they lacked the required ambience to achieve the heights of success they deserved. 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. The Town Educational Society was itself formed with the mission to transform the then socially, economically

and educationally under-developed district of Ballia into an 'education hub' which could, in turn, transform the social, economical and educational status of the people of this area. 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, which is now known as Shri Murli Manohar Town Post Graduate College, Ballia, on the 7th 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. As a unique example of a co-operative endeavor, the college was endowed with the blessings, seed money and the required land contributed by eminent personalities of the agricultural and business communities and advocates. The origin and history of the College is therefore inextricably linked with the "perspiration and aspiration" of the local rural community, and of the nation as well.

This college has produced a number of great personalities who have done marvels in the fields of their eminence- For example Prof. Vishwanath Sharma, Vice Chancellor, Arunoday Vishwvidyalay, Arunachal Pradesh; Prof K. N. Singh, Vice Chancellor, Central University, Gaya and Ex Vice Chanellor, Rajarshi Tandon Open University, Prayagraj; Prof Akhilesh Kumar Singh, Vice Chancellor, Rajju Bhaiya State University, Prayagraj and Late Bhaiya Gauri Singh, Cabinet Minister, Government of Uttar Pradesh etc.

The college witnessed the phases of metamorphosis with the new faculties- Agriculture, Science, Arts and Education being introduced in its campus in the coming years.

The second significant phase of growth, development and expansion was started in 1999 when an array of job oriented courses like Biotechnology, PG in Commerce, Ag. Chemistry and Political Science and many more courses were started. The ideal of “man-making education” enshrined in the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi and Swami Vivekananda was the guiding spirit in the

minds of the founding fathers both in starting the College and developing it to its present stature over the past 67 years.

As the college has got its roots in the people of this area who toiled and tilled the land to let it germinate, flower and flourish, it took upon itself the task of providing access to higher education and empowering the largely unlettered but industrious students of Ballia who were denied the benefits of higher education. Using higher education as a tool to transfer skill and need based solutions by adopting a “lab to land” approach in all its courses, activities and research, the institution marched ahead to introduce many other courses in its portfolio so that the community of this area really benefits from the activities of the college in different ways.