

A Dream Realised

H.H. Maharaja Gaj Singh II

I recall reading in an article by the late Shri Mathura Dasji Mathur that my revered grand father, Maharaja Umaid Singhji, had emphasized the importance of the development of technical education as early as 1943 when the Jodhpur Benevolent Fund was set up at the time of my parents' wedding celebration for the benefit of the people of Marwar, particularly in technical education and health. Later in 1947 when a popular government was headed by Shri Jai Narainji Vyas as Pradhan Mantri and Shri Mathura Das Mathurji was a member of his cabinet looking after education and health, following upon the Ruler's vision, Mathura Dasji Mathur had initiated plans to establish an Engineering College at Jodhpur. Though some hurdles had come up once the political dispensation changed with the merger of Jodhpur State into the State of Rajasthan, he showed determination in pursuing the project & when finally Jodhpur's Shri Jai Narain Vyas became Chief Minister of Rajasthan State in 1951 with Mathura Dasji Mathur the Minister of Education and Health, he was able to push the project through successfully and to mobilize the necessary financial resources. I understand that Seth Ram Coowar Bangur contributed the lion's share of the Rs. 7 lacs required and that Rs. 2 lacs was drawn from the Hanwant Benevolent Fund, the corpus of which was lying with the State Government.

The consequent establishment of the MBM Engineering College at Jodhpur in 1951 is a fine example of productive collaboration between an enlightened Ruler, a dedicated public representative in Shri Mathura Dasji Mathur, a generous philanthropist like Seth Ram Coowar Bangur of Deedwana and the support of the people and beneficiaries. The college thus came up in record time to be inaugurated on 15th August, 1951 and has ever since been amongst the elite institutions of Rajasthan State training promising engineers from Marwar and other parts of the State with dedication and diligence.

From its first rather humble premises at Ugam Rajji's bungalow. the MBM College is now in its present handsome surroundings, where subsequently huge investments were made and from where generations of young Engineers have graduated year after year to distinguish themselves in different fields. We must also acknowledge and remember here the Bangur family, who donated so generously to the education of the people of Marwar, your first principle Shri V. G. Garde, who with his missionary, zeal & dedication created an institution of excellence in the shortest possible time, Prof. A. D. Bohra, who drew up the project for MBM College in its earlier stages and last but not the least the dynamic Shri Mathura Dasji Mathur, whose devotion to the project and his persistence at all levels ensured a successful conclusion to what had been the dream of many, particularly, His Highness Maharaja Umaid Singhji & my father His Highness Maharaja Hanwant Singhji, the former unfortunately did not live to see the creation of his vision.

These are just some of the names, which came to mind but I am sure there are many others, who also contributed significantly in the evolution of the MBM College to its premier status amongst the technical institutions of India.

On the occasions of the Golden Jubilee of the college and the Silver Jubilee of the Alumni Association, I convey my heartiest congratulations to the family of MBM the Governing council,

the faculty, the students and the employees of the college. My greetings also to the old boys of MBM who have brought distinction to their Alma mater.

My best wishes for your continued success in training generations of youth in the service of the nation.

I conclude by paying tribute to the founding fathers of this great institution.