



Merchants' Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Saturday,
9th March 2019
The Citi Residenci
Durgapur

MCCI



**Durgapur
Asansol
Raniganj
Forum 2019**

"Facilitating Sustainable & Inclusive Growth"

A Report



The Chamber organized the 1st Forum in Durgapur, on its mission to reach out to Tier II & Tier III towns in the districts of the state. The objective of the Forum was to bring all important and relevant stakeholders together, including the regional & local Chambers of Commerce, and deliberate on the prospects and challenges of the Durgapur–Asansol–Raniganj belt as a major industrial and trading hub. Discussions mainly revolved around how significant industrial investments can be ushered into the region, and employment opportunities can thus be generated.



Merchants' Chamber of Commerce & Industry

MCCI Durgapur–Asansol–Raniganj Forum 2019

"Facilitating Sustainable & Inclusive Growth"

Saturday, 9 March 2019 at 11:00 AM at The Citi Residenci, Durgapur

■ A Report

The Chamber organized MCCI Durgapur–Asansol–Raniganj Forum 2019 on "**Facilitating Sustainable & Inclusive Growth**", the first ever reach out programme in the industrial belt, on 9th March 2019 at The Citi Residenci Hotel, Durgapur.

The Forum was addressed by **Shri Swapan Debnath**, Hon'ble MoS for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises & Textiles and Animal Resources Development (Ind. Charge), Govt. of West Bengal as the **Chief Guest**.

Shri Tapas Banerjee, Hon'ble Member of West Bengal Legislative Assembly & Chairman, Asansol–Durgapur Development Authority addressed the Forum as the **Guest of Honour**.



From L to R : Chief Guest – **Shri Swapan Debnath**, Hon'ble MoS for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises & Textiles and Animal Resources Development (Ind. Charge), Govt. of West Bengal; Shri Vishal Jhajharia, President, MCCI and Guest of Honour - **Shri Tapas Banerjee**, Hon'ble Member of West Bengal Legislative Assembly & Chairman, Asansol–Durgapur Development Authority.

■ **The Forum was also addressed by the following distinguished Speakers :**

- ▶ Shri Subhas C Agarwalla, President, Federation of South Bengal Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FOSBECCI);
- ▶ Shri Sandeep Bhalotia, President, Raniganj Chamber of Commerce;
- ▶ Shri Naresh Agarwal, President, Asansol Chamber of Commerce;
- ▶ Shri Bimal Patwari, CEO, Pinnacle Infotech Solutions;
- ▶ Shri Sujit Kumar Dutta, CMD, Vivekananda Hospital;
- ▶ Shri Ram Shankar Sharma, Executive Director, BDG Metal & Power Ltd. and

▶ Prof. Alok Satsangi, Principal, N S H M School of Business & Management.

The Forum generated a huge response amongst the local business community, corporate sector and the local Chambers of Commerce including FOSBECCI, Durgapur Chamber of Commerce, Raniganj Chamber of Commerce, Asansol Chamber of Commerce, Asansol Merchants Chamber of Commerce, Bankura Chamber of Commerce, Barakar Chamber of Commerce and other organizations, who attended the Forum in huge numbers.

The Forum was also attended by Shri A R Sonthalia, Trustee and Past President of the Chamber.



Shri Swapan Debnath, Hon'ble MoS for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises & Textiles and Animal Resources Development (Ind. Charge), Govt. of West Bengal [6th from left] addressing the Forum. From R to L – Shri Chandan Dutta, Vice President, Durgapur Chamber of Commerce; Shri Sujit Kumar Dutta, CMD, Vivekananda Hospital; Shri Ram Shankar Sharma, Executive Director, BDG Metal & Power Ltd.; Shri Surendra Keyal, Committee Member & Immediate Past Hony. Secretary, MCCI; Shri Vishal Jhajharia, President MCCI; Shri Swapan Debnath, Hon'ble MoS; Shri Subhas C Agarwalla, President, FOSBECCI; Shri Bimal Patwari, CEO, Pinnacle Infotech Solutions; Shri Naresh Agarwal, President, Asansol Chamber of Commerce; Prof. Alok Satsangi, Principal, N S H M School of Business & Management and Shri Souvik Banerjee, DG MCCI

■ Forum Focus :

▶ On its mission to reach out to Tier II & Tier III towns in the districts of the state, the Chamber has organized Investment Summits in Haldia and Siliguri, each of which was a huge success with participation of important stakeholders. The Chamber feels that instead of having a Kolkata centric model of development, policies and programmes should be percolated at the ground level in Tier-II and Tier-III towns, which would act as catalytic agents for development of the State.

▶ Durgapur–Asansol–Raniganj belt is undoubtedly, one of the biggest industrial and manufacturing hubs in eastern India. This belt has a whole array of manufacturing industries, ranging from steel plants, alloy plant, locomotive, thermal power, cement, organic & inorganic heavy chemicals, electrodes, engineering industries and many small scale factories.

▶ Durgapur has been declared as a Smart City by the Department of Urban Development, Government of India. This would drive economic growth and improve the quality of life of people by enabling local development and harnessing technology as a means to create smart outcomes for citizens.

▶ Health and Education sectors have a huge presence in Durgapur belt. State-of-the-art hospitals & medical care units have come up along with good educational institutes covering the fields of medicine, engineering, law and others, to cater to myriad needs.

▶ The objective of the Forum was to deliberate with all important and relevant stakeholders together, on the prospects and challenges of Durgapur–Asansol–Raniganj belt as a major industrial and trading hub, with significant investments in the industries, generating huge employment opportunities in the state.



Shri Vishal Jhajharia, President, MCCI delivering his Welcome Address

Shri Vishal Jhajharia

■ In his Welcome Address, **Shri Vishal Jhajharia**, President of the Chamber said that the Chamber strongly feels that the development activities should be percolated to the ground-level in Tier-II and Tier-III towns, which would act as catalytic agents for holistic growth in the State. Striving towards a sustainable and inclusive growth, the Chamber had spread its wings towards interactions at the ground-level in the districts with local Chambers of Commerce, local administration, local business community and entrepreneurs. The traditional industrial base of Durgapur–Asansol–Raniganj region chiefly supported by coal, iron and steel has undergone a rapid diversification with emergence of new industrial ventures which include mainly heavy engineering, fertilizers, coal-based chemicals & cement. A number of small industries also grew up to service these bigger industries. Water resources of the Damodar and a sustained & modernized thermal power generation have provided the required infrastructure for the region’s growth, he said.

The roadmap should include unleashing the full potential for the region, with focus on identification of the key business issues and challenges and highlighting the success stories. This would be beneficial particularly for the MSME sector, which contributes about 45 p.c. of the industrial output and 40 p.c. in exports, the President added.

Shri Swapan Debnath



■ Addressing the Forum as the Chief Guest, **Shri Swapan Debnath** said that under the able leadership of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of West Bengal, the state has witnessed an industrial resurgence and a phenomenal growth, particularly in the MSME sector. The Hon’ble Chief Minister has been instrumental in attracting adequate investments by framing MSME & Textile policies.

He pointed out that West Bengal has the highest number of MSME units in the country with around 52.7 lakhs units generating employment for about 1.10 cr of people. This huge growth is reflected through credit delivery of Rs. 1.74 lakh cr. to the MSME sector in 2017–18, which increased from Rs. 40,000 in 2010–11.

Giving a detailed account of the initiatives of the State Government to create infrastructure, he mentioned that the State

Government had been constructing industrial parks, clusters, mega food parks and others across the state. 430 different clusters and 5 mega clusters have been set up. 14 industrial parks have been started and another 23 will start with Howrah having the largest foundry park and Bantala having the largest leather park. He also referred to commissioning of Tajpur port, Kulpi river port and greenfield Kazi Nazrul Islam airport towards strengthening of industrial infrastructure.

He dwelt upon the resurgence of textile and handloom sectors in West Bengal. 1 lakh looms have been given free of cost to the loomless labourers, which created 53 lakhs of additional man days. He also referred to the revival of Tantuja and Manjusha from the brink of ruin. He said that the number of handloom cooperatives have increased 6 times and also spoke about revival of ‘Muslin’, which engaged almost 7000 artisans.

5 Bengal Global Business Summits have been held, which received huge investment proposals. In addition, the State Government has received Rs 1,500 cr. business proposals for the Hills at the Hill Business Summit in Darjeeling last year.

This large scale involvement of the State Government with the entrepreneurs and business community has been ideal for income and employment generation, he observed.

The Hon’ble MoS mentioned that there is a huge potential in Durgapur–Asansol–Raniganj region, which the business community should utilize and explore for the benefit of the state. He also referred to the huge shale gas reserves in the Coal Bed Methane (CBM) blocks in this industrial belt, which could attract thousands of crores worth of investments in production, supplies and infrastructure. Healthcare and Education have seen a big resurgence in this region, he felt.

He assured that while framing the next Incentive Policy, adequate attention would be given to all the important issues raised by different Chambers of Commerce.

Shri Tapas Banerjee



■ **Shri Tapas Banerjee** said that the employment generation in the private sector is much higher than that in the public sector. Chambers of Commerce form the backbone of the private sector. It is therefore the duty of the public servants to look after the well being of the business community.

Stressing on problem-solving through discussion, he said that the Government is taking proactive measures, which is reflected in the interactions and statements of the Hon’ble Chief Minister. The District Magistrate and other district level functionaries are also interacting with the general public to assess their needs and the support the Government can offer to them, the Chairman of ADDA noted.

Shri Subhas Chandra Agarwalla



■ **Shri Subhas Chandra Agarwalla** said that tremendous opportunities exist in this industrial belt and complimented MCCI for bringing in industry and Government on a common forum and for providing a platform with all stakeholders. He said that the State Government is also playing a proactive role in the development of the state, including this region.

On India's contribution to global economy, he said that skilled labour would provide India the competitive advantage. He stressed on enhancement of productive employment to jumpstart the growth, with strong focus on education and skill development.

Dwelling on prosperity and disparities, he felt that involvement of private sector is crucial to boost inclusive growth. He mentioned the challenging features like lack

of education and skill sets, lack of social and physical infrastructure, lack of adequate bank penetration and others are holding the country back. The manufacturing sector has a huge role to play in ensuring inclusive growth.

He pointed out that adequate importance should be given to the agri sector, which constitutes 53% of working force. He stressed upon better seeds, better facilities for cold storage, better price for the farmers, which would ensure equitable distribution of income and wealth.

The President of Federation of South Bengal Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FOSBECCI) strongly felt that the State Government should come up with a new Incentive Scheme for the MSME sector.

Shri Sandeep Bhalotia



■ **Shri Sandeep Bhalotia** mentioned that, Durgapur–Asansol–Raniganj belt, known as the ‘Ruhr’ of India, is famous not only for industries but also for mining. Entrepreneurship, including start-ups and women entrepreneurship is also the highest in this belt.

He complimented MCCI for organizing this initiative and requested the Chamber to guide Raniganj Chamber on international tie-ups.

Shri Bhalotia said that Raniganj Chamber of Commerce is totally committed towards development of this region and assured full cooperation to MCCI in its initiative towards inclusive growth.

Shri Naresh Agarwal



■ **Shri Naresh Agarwal** expressed satisfaction that MCCI has reached out to the industrialists and business community of this region. He felt

that the systems and the mindsets are Kolkata centric, which should change. Paschim Bardhaman has all the resources for huge development of this region. MCCI should play a catalytic role in bringing this change.

He pointed out that the Hon'ble Chief Minister is very proactive to facilitate inclusive growth. He mentioned that there have been video conferences on the 1st Monday of every month with all the District Magistrates and Chambers of Commerce.

Shri Bimal Patwari



■ **Shri Bimal Patwari** said that in spite of having all the ingredients of growth like availability of land, skilled labour, cheap raw materials, access to best education and others, Durgapur–Asansol–Raniganj belt is still stuck at the same growth level. He felt that an introspection is necessary to find out as to

what is stopping the huge surge in growth.

He mentioned that there has been too much of dependence on the Government, State or Central. Government, undoubtedly, is an enabler, providing infrastructure and ensuring law & order. However, it is unfair to expect too much from the Government. There is a limitation as to what the Government can do.

He felt that the ecosystem of this region should be developed. These days, the world is a global village, and there are huge opportunities for the youth to take up entrepreneurship as a career option. He urged that the start-ups should believe in themselves and go ahead with setting up their dream projects.

Trade exhibitions should be organized for all industry verticals, for promoting all-round development, he observed.

The CEO of Pinnacle Infotech congratulated MCCI for organizing this programme and assured all-out support to this initiative.

Shri Sujit Kumar Dutta

■ **Shri Sujit Kumar Dutta** was of the opinion that the smart city of Durgapur has good doctors, nurses and professionals in medical sector. However, there is a huge demand for trained nurses and the demand-supply gap is found to be as high as 5 lakh trained personnel. This can be filled by nurses from Bankura and Purulia, he noted.

He felt that there is a huge potential for Medical Tourism in this region. This region can reach out to foreign tourists through Andal airport. He said that there are lots of medical tourism units in South India, it is time Durgapur should also have a few.



Vivekananda Hospital would set up a medical tourism unit in Durgapur very shortly to get tourists from the adjoining countries, the Chairman announced. A Medical Tourism & Health Hub should be set up in Durgapur, he added.

He observed that school education has become mechanical with too much of focus on marks. Emphasis should be given to sports and all round development of children. He also felt that the youth migrating from the state should be motivated to come back to West Bengal to contribute towards development of the state.

Shri Dutta spoke about the huge opportunities of this industrial belt and urged the business community to come forward with more investments. He requested MCCI to take a lead to organize more such seminars on various topics in this region.

Shri Ram Shankar Sharma



■ **Shri Ram Shankar Sharma** said that prominent Steel and Cement companies are present in this industrial belt.

He spoke about the problems regarding bad road conditions to Barjora, which should be improved.

Problems would be there, but the wheel of growth should not be allowed to halt, he urged.



for jobs outside the state after completion of higher studies. He felt there is an urgent requirement for the educational institutions to conduct good courses so that the students do not leave the state.

He observed that the trend is changing and Non-Resident Indians are coming back to their homeland to set up their own units in the country.

Prof. Alok Satsangi

■ **Prof. Alok Satsangi** stressed on the crucial role played by education towards development of a particular region. He expressed concern over the exodus of professionals from West Bengal and said that either students move out of the state for higher studies or move out

The Principal of NSHM School of Business and Management pointed out that there are several core areas for development, in which start-ups have a huge role to play in ensuring inclusive growth. In addition to creation of wealth, start-ups also generate employment, which would stop the outflow to a great extent.



Shri Prabir Sarkar, Hony. Secretary, Bankura Chamber of Commerce discussing an issue.

The Chambers of Commerce in this region assured full support and cooperation to MCCI for initiatives aimed at inclusive growth in this region.

The Session ended with a hearty Vote of Thanks by **Shri Surendra Keyal**, Committee Member and Immediate Past Hony. Secretary, MCCI.

■ Key Take Aways

▶ The Durgapur–Asansol–Raniganj belt, known as the ‘Ruhr’ of India, is famous not only for industries but also for mining. Prominent Steel and Cement companies are present in this industrial belt. Healthcare and Education have also seen a big resurgence in this region.

▶ In spite of having all the ingredients of growth like availability of land, skilled labour, cheap raw materials, access to best education and others, Durgapur–Asansol–Raniganj belt is still stuck at the same growth level. An introspection is necessary to find out as to what is stopping the huge surge in growth.

▶ This region has huge untapped potential and provides opportunities for manufacturing

& service sector, and for employment generation, which the business community should utilize and explore for the benefit of the state. The systems and the mindsets are Kolkata centric, which should change.

▶ The huge shale gas reserves in the Coal Bed Methane (CBM) blocks in this industrial belt could attract thousands of crores worth of investments in production and supplies.

▶ The Government of West Bengal has played a proactive role to facilitate growth. The District Magistrate and other district level functionaries are interacting with the people regularly to assess their needs as also to find out what support the Government can offer to them.

▶ However, there has been too much of dependence on the Government, state or central. Government, undoubtedly, is an enabler, providing infrastructure and ensuring law & order, it is unfair to expect too much from the Government.

▶ The smart city of Durgapur has good doctors, nurses and professionals in medical sector. However, there is a huge demand for trained nurses and the demand–supply gap is found to be as high as 5 lakh trained personnel. This can be filled by nurses from Bankura and Purulia.

▶ There is a huge potential for Medical Tourism in this region. This region can reach out to foreign tourists through Andal airport. There are lots of medical tourism units in South India, it is time Durgapur should also have a few.

▶ School education has become mechanical with too much of focus on marks. Emphasis should be given to sports and all round development of children. There is

an urgent requirement for the educational institutions to conduct good courses so that the students do not leave the state. The youth migrating from the state should be motivated to come back to West Bengal to contribute towards development of the state. The trend is changing and Non-Resident Indians are coming back to their homeland to set up their own units in the country.

▶ A proper business ecosystem of this region should be developed. The world is now a global village, and there are huge opportunities for the youth to take up entrepreneurship as a career option. The start-ups should believe in themselves and go ahead with setting up their

dream projects. There are several core areas for development, in which start-ups have a huge role to play in ensuring inclusive growth. In addition to creation of wealth, start-ups also generate employment, which would stop the outflow of people to a great extent.

▶ More Trade exhibitions should be organized for all industry verticals, for promoting all-round development.

▶ There should be a clear roadmap, which should include unleashing the full potential of the region, with focus on identification of the key business issues & challenges and highlighting the success stories.



From L to R – Shri Sandeep Bhalotia, President, Raniganj Chamber of Commerce, Shri A R Sonthalia, Trustee & Past President, MCCI; Shri Subhas C Agarwalla, President, FOSBECCI; Shri Bimal Patwari, CEO, Pinnacle Infotech Solutions and Shri Naresh Agarwal, President, Asansol Chamber of Commerce

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এক নম্বনে



বলেন, “এখানে চাকরিতে
ভারতের তুলনায় অনেক
ভারতে বিদেশ থেকে বহু
সার জন্য আসেন। সেই
নিতে পারি।”

না। সিতে চাইছে না। এতে ব্যবসার কাজে
রচ সন্মত। হচ্ছে। মন্ত্রী বিষয়টি নিয়ে
কম জেলা পরিষদের সঙ্গে কথা বলবেন
রাণী বলে জানান। আসনসোল পুর্ণাপুর
যোগ উন্নয়ন পর্যদের চেয়ারম্যান তপস
বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায় বলেন, “সরকারি

को नई पहचान
एतमित्र
शुक्र, 10 मार्च 2019

कॉमर्स का

संमेलन संपन्न

पुर में मर्चेट चेंबर ऑफ
चेंबर ऑफ अर्थ्स कोमर्स
का प्रथम सम्मेलन

का जलम भूमिका रही है। अभी
व्यवसायी संगठनों को लेकर हर माह
प्रत्येक जिले में जिला प्रशासन
वैठक कर उनकी सुविधा-असुविधा
को सुनते हुए समस्या का समाधान

रानीगंज दुर्गपुर
मैदान को लेकर शनिवार
सेक्टर स्थित एक मित्रो
अलोजन किया गया।
यं मुख्य अतिथि राज्य के

पु व कुटीर उद्योग मंत्री स्व
मध्यक्ष विशाल झाड़िया व ३

कर रहा है। व्यवसायी मजदूर देश और राज्य के विकास में अग्रणी भूमिका निभाते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि राज्य की मुख्यमंत्री ममता बनर्जी हर प्रकार की सुविधा व्यवसायियों को

संविधान में राज्य के
देवनाथ, एमरिसीआई के
के चेयरमैन तापस बनर्जी।

दुर्गापुर इलाक़ में अनेक वि
कार्य हुए हैं। दोनों स्थान य
का मुख्य केंद्र बन गये हैं। दुर्गा
मोड़काल कॉलेज, दुर्गा

देश के लिए हमारा निष्ठा है। आज के
देश में हम सब मिलकर काम करेंगे कि
राज्य का विकास में अग्रणी भूमिका
अभिलेखों का होता है। राज्य में
उद्योगों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए हम

महोदय चैब और
के अध्यक्ष सदीप
असमशेन चैब और
अध्यक्ष मोरा अडवाल,
इकोटेक सम्मेलन के

कलिंग, अष्टाष्ट हज एव तस्य
जलोत्तरा नाना नो रक्षितवन्ति नो न
डाहृत सर्वाधिक प्रचरित इ एव

वैश्व धार्मिक

कानून

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যায়া দে

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व्यवसाय

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মলেন মর্



প্রজ্ঞা

হওয়ার প্রয়োজন
তিনি বলেন, "এ
মঙ্গল ভারতের

গতাতর কথা বলেন।
নে চিকিৎসার খরচ
লনায় অনেক কম।
দিতে চাইছে না। এতে
সমস্যা হচ্ছে। মন্ত্রী
জেলা পরিষদের সঙ্গে

নিজস্ব সংবাদদাতা

কমার্শ
পিপুর-
হাটের
দক্ষিণ ভারতে বি
চিকিৎসার জন্য
আমরা নিতে পারি
নিজে বস্ত্রব্য

বসে জানান। আসা
উন্নয়ন পর্বতের চেয়ে
বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায় বলেন
সংস্থার তুলনায় বেশ

খানে শিহে

বিভিন্ন বণিকসভা থেকে সমস্যার ক সমাধান করা যায় মতামত জানান

প্রতিনিধিত্বের কাছ
শুনেন তা কী ভাবে
সে বিষয়ে নিজের
মতী। মন্ত্রীকে বণিক
কে 'ইনসানিটি'

সভার আয়োজন করা হল। দুপুরে দুর্গাপুরের সিটি সেন্টারের হোটেলের আয়োজিত ওই সভায় দিয়েছিলেন রাজ্যের ক্ষুদ্র ও কুটির

বিশাল চালুর প্রস্তাব দে-
বিভিন্ন "আমার দফতরে
ময়ের দেওয়া হয়। যে
শাসক দেওয়া হয়।

না এমন নয়। রাজ্যে সমর্থন করে না।" এ দিন অনুষ্ঠান ঘণ্টাবানেক পরে সভা

সংগঠনের সভাপতি
বাবাজিয়া জানান, এই অঞ্চলের
বহির্গত সংগঠনের মধ্যে মত বি

ই এই অর্থনৈতিক জ
নসোল অফ সাউথ বেঙ্গ
নক্শে অ্যান্ড ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ
মহাসভা আগবঢ়ায়।

না।" ফেডারেশন
চেয়ার্স অফ কমার্স
সভাপতি সুভাষচন্দ্র
ইনসেনটিভ চালুর

ন, 'কয়েক
হচ্ছে।
সঙ্গে



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