

**State Government signs MoU with FICCI and IL&FS Skills to develop a Centre of Excellence for Skill Development in Burdwan - February 14, Panagarh ( Burdwan)**

Skill development is one of the major challenges that our nation is confronting. The visible mismatch between India's population and its unemployment figures verifies that a large chunk of potential workforce needs to be trained and engaged for the purpose of accomplishing government's continuous economic inclusion drive. A suitable solution to curb unemployment is building manpower capacity and making our workforce more self-reliant.

With a population of 91.3 million West Bengal is the fourth largest state in India. Nearly 30% of the state's population is between 15-29 years of age and 0.7-0.8 million youth joins the labour market every year. Thus a huge chunk of potential workforce needs to be trained and suitably placed for accomplishing the goal of inclusive growth. A large pool of skilled workers is also critical for attracting investment into the state. The State Government is making a concerted effort to build a more robust vocational education framework through creation and upgradation of ITI s, Polytechnics and VTCs. The Government is pro-actively seeking industry participation to create various forms of public-private partnerships (PPPs).

**In the august presence of Ms Mamata Banerjee, Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal, Department of Technical Education & Training, Government of West Bengal signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) to develop a Centre of Excellence - Skill Development Centre in Burdwan. A tri-partite agreement was also signed between Department, FICCI and IL&FS Skills on this occasion.**

The Centre of Excellence will offer skills training in multiple sectors including courses like Electrician, Welding, Sewing Machine Operator, Hospitality, Computer Hardware and Networking, Domestic BPO s and Retail Sales Associates.