

Brief Write on Maheshtala Municipality:

Maheshtala area of south 24 parganas district is a very old settlement. The name 'Maheshtala' has been named after the name of Mahesh Suri who was collecting tax from this area in favour of Sri Ramkanta Banerjee who was originally in charge of collecting tax as appointed by Lord Clive, the then British Ruler. Being transformed from the Panchayat (containing 21 nos. of Gram Panchayats & 40 nos. of partial and total Mouzas) in 1993, vide Govt. Notification No.- 368/C-4/MM-353/92 dated 30.06.93, Maheshtala Municipality has emerged as one of the largest municipalities in West Bengal. At present the municipality is divided into 35 wards & it is thickly populated with 95579 nos. of house holdings & 463 nos. of manufacturing units. The institution is delivering urban services to the citizens intensively with limited resource.

Geographically the municipality has some unique scopes, side-by-side several cumulative problems. The river Hooghly, the railway tracks, the major arterial road (Budge Budge Trunk Road) are present in this area from long back of the British ruled era and since then has been functioning as the main instruments of urbanization process of this region. Mainly for the port facility and road infrastructure this area gradually became a growth centre of manufacturing units among which small & cottage industries specially tailoring industry hold an important position. As the importance of this area is felt for both manufacturing and trading purposes during last two centuries, it has the obvious tendency to generate agglomeration of urban settlements around the core area of Maheshtala and of course the adjacent area of Budge Budge. This process ultimately yields a new urban centre, which is not moving around the only pole 'Kolkata'. As a result Maheshtala area has been transformed into the status of municipality and presently is recognized as one of the most important urban local bodies (ULB) in Kolkata Metropolitan Area (KMA).

From the very beginning the economy of this area is based on secondary services which includes construction and manufacturing & repairing activities. It is worthy to mention here that role of small & cottage industries are as important as that of large & medium scale industries. Though cloth dyeing industry and firework industry are facing some threats from pollution control authority and hence the livelihood of concerned people are endangered. Here agricultural activity did not show any remarkable economic impact in the past & the trend is still following. Fishing activity in inland ponds & water bodies is being blocked due to filling of that type of lands for household & other commercial purposes. Massive fishing throughout the year accompanied with water pollution in river Hooghly reduces quantity of fish to be sold & thus the earning from fishing faces regular crisis. On the other hand tertiary activities like banking, transportation, trading, information technology, health care activities, educational activities, informal services, recreation & social awareness activities are flourishing throughout the municipal area.