



About half a century ago, nobody could imagine or rather nobody had the foresight to foretell the importance and activity hosting-capabilities (it presently displays) of Birganj on the national scenario. It was only a small, undeveloped town with a hard-to-bring-together population of about 10,000. But even at such a stage of its existence, Birganj could not be ignored, as it was the major point for connecting Kathmandu to India - our neighbour in the South. Due to religious similarities between the major populations of both the nations, Indian tourists flocked to Kathmandu via Birganj to pay their homage to Lord Pashupatinath.

The importance of Birganj and the role it played on the economic front of the country increased by the day as major part of the Business supplies of the capital (and regions in its vicinity) were being fulfilled by this town. In the meantime the geographical permissibility gave rise to industries such as -Birganj Cotton Mill, Birganj Glass Factory, Cigarette Factory, Match Factory and various Rice Mills. And Birganj had become the centre for meeting the cloth & garments requirements of the country. This speedy growth of business in the region called for unity to protect and promote the same. Hence, in the year 1944 A.D., the cloth merchants assembled at 'Jeetpur Gaushala' under the chairmanship of Late Shri Dwarka Pd. Maskara. The end of the meeting was the beginning of a new episode and the birth of 'Birganj Cloth Merchants Association'. To provide sustainability to this new organisation, a donation-spree began on the basis of individual sale of the cloth from its members.

These members were sincere and loyal towards their association and so it did not take long for the fund to become sustainable. With this fund many social services were carried out. In 1948 A.D. the first Executive Committee of the association was formed at a meeting held in the 'Old Dharmasala'. It comprised of the following members:

1	Surajmal Tulsiyan	-	President
2	Brijlal Kedia	-	Vice President
3	Roop Singh Solanki	-	Minister
4	Banarsilal Jee	-	Asst. Minister
5	Jaganath Agrawal	-	Treasurer
6	Ramjivan Kavra	-	Member
7	Nathmal Sharma	-	Member
8	Bansidhar Jatiya	-	Member
9	Maliram Chachan	-	Member
10	Surajmal Jee	-	Member
11	Bilas Rai	-	Member

In 1957, with the intention of attracting businessmen from other areas, the name of the Association was changed to 'Birganj Merchant Association'. This opened the gates for all the Businessmen who were looking for a common platform to sort out their problems. Mr. Brij Mohan Saraf became the First President of this 'Birganj Merchant Association'. At the Annual General Meeting of the body in 1958, Mr. Jhutharam Khetan and Mr. Babu Lal Agrawal were elected to the posts of President and General Secretary respectively. Under this new leadership the meetings became regular and the relational-ties between the Government and the Business Community became stronger. The Government acknowledged the existence of the Association and called for its representation at the Annual Pre-Budget Tariff Board. It was the result of this acknowledgement that Mr. Babu Lal Agrawal and Mr. Satya Narayan Agrawal represented the Association at the Tariff Board in the years 1958 and 1959 respectively. The people who shall never be forgotten for their priceless contributions towards the proper functioning and upliftment of the organisation are:

1. Mr. Pasupati Ghosh
2. Mr. Dolendra Bahadur Amatya
3. Mr. Rameshwar Upadhyay
4. Mr. Bhupendra Lal Nepali
5. Mr. Raghubir Ramji

With the passage of time, the uprising of diverse business called for a non-discriminatory name of the Association so as to enhance participation of a larger group of the Business Community. And so in 1967, in the presence of Shri Judha Bahadur Shrestha, the President of Nepal Chamber of Commerce and Industries, and under the Chairmanship of Shri Bhakti Das Shrestha, the Association restructured as 'Birganj Chamber of Commerce & Industries'. This name gave room for the attainment of membership by industrialists who till the time were being left aside. The first Executive Committee of the Chamber comprised of the following members:

1	Mr. Bhakti Das Shrestha	-	President
2	Mr. Damodar Pd. Kayal	-	Vice President
3	Mr. Shanker Lal Kedia	-	Joint Secretary

4	Mr. Chiranjeevi Lal Sarawagi -	Joint Secretary
5	Mr. Purna Pd. Lamsal -	Member
6	Mr. Hari Prasad Giri -	Member
7	Mr. Narayan Bahadur Chipalu-	Member
8	Mr.Brij Mohan Sarraf -	Member
9	Mr.Sunder Bahadur Gorkhali -	Member
10	Mr.Ganesh Pd. Sarraf -	Member
11	Mr. Atma Ram Kavra -	Member
12	Mr. Subhan Ali -	Member
13	Mr. Nand Kishor Agrawal -	Member

Ex. BiCCI Presidents



Mr. Bhakti Das Shrestha
2016, 2024, 2033



Mr. Hari Pd. Giri
2028, 2031, 2033



Mr. Padma Jyoti
2043



Mr. Chiranjivi Lal Sarawagi
2045, 2048



Mr. Babu Lal Agrawal
2053, 2055



Mr. Satya Narayan Agrawal
2058



Mr. Om Prakash Rungta
2060



Mr. Vijay Kumar Sarawagi
2062



Mr. Ganesh Pd. Lath
2064



Mr. Om Prakash Sikariya
2066



Mr. Ashok Kumar Temani
2068



Mr. Ashok Kumar Baid
2070

Ex. BiCCI General Secretary



Mr. Chiranjivi Lal Sarawagi
2043



Mr. Tara Samsher Rana
2045, 2048



Mr. Birendra Kr. Sanghai
2051, 2055



Mr. Sushil Kr. Dhurka
2058, 2060



Mr. Om Prakash Sikaria
2062



Mr. Gopal Kedia
2064, 2066



Mr. Subodh Kumar Gupta
2068



Mr. Gopal Kedia
2064, 2070