



Government of West Bengal

Budget Statement

by

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Minister of State (Independent Charge)  
Finance Department

2025-2026

12th February, 2025

**Hon'ble Speaker Sir,**

At the outset, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the citizens of the State and rise to present the Annual Financial Statement for the financial year 2025-26.

On the occasion of the completion of 50 years of World Women's Day on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2025, I would like to congratulate our mothers and sisters and convey my heartiest love and admiration.

On this august occasion, we remember the most appropriate messages of Kaviguru in the following lines—

“বিশ্বসাথে যোগে যেথায় বিহারো  
সেইখানে যোগ তোমার সাথে আমারও”।

We are proud to say that our State is pioneer in empowerment of women. You will be delighted to know that in the Budget I am presenting now before the august House, almost half of its allocation is for women and girl children of our State. We are also frontrunner in providing representation of women in all level of elected bodies—from Panchayat to Municipality to State Assembly to the Parliament. In this spirit, I reiterate our commitment to take these efforts to newer heights.

**Hon'ble Speaker Sir,**

With your permission, I rise to present the Annual Financial Statement for the Financial Year 2025-26 to this August House.

Our Government's policies programs and schemes are driven fundamentally by an ethos of inclusion of all, while we bring rapid economic growth with equity – a motto of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee.

Keeping this vision as a guiding light, you will be happy to know that the West Bengal economy measured in terms of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) has exceeded Rs.18 lakh crore.

**Our economic growth rate has also exceeded that of India.**

You will be happy to know that the GSDP of State at Constant Prices has increased by 6.80 percent in 2024-25 (1<sup>st</sup>AE) which is higher than the growth rate of India (6.37 percent).

All the three sectors (namely agriculture, industry and service sectors) in West Bengal's economy have contributed significantly and exhibited higher annual growth than national figures. The industry sector has registered a growth of 7.3 per cent, substantially higher than the national figure of 6.2 per cent.

In 2024-25, the agriculture and allied sector has grown at a rate of 4.2 per cent, much higher than the India's growth of 3.8 percent.

The services sector has been the fastest-growing, with a growth rate of 7.8 per cent, also higher than India's growth of 7.2 per cent. This reflects the resilience of West Bengal's economy.

Even in the case of exports, West Bengal's exports have more than doubled since 2010-11 levels.

West Bengal is home to 90 lakh MSMEs, which is second largest among all the states. Through relentless effort of the state government, bank lending to MSMEs has increased by 17 times between 2011-12 and 2023-24.

Capital expenditure which creates the right infrastructure such as roads, bridges, flyovers etc for the economic growth has reached Rs. 28,963.09 crore in 2023-24 which is more than thirteen times that in 2010-11.

I am proud to state that our Government has succeeded in constantly lowering the unemployment rate. For example, in January 2025 while India's unemployment rate was about 8 per cent (7.93 per cent)<sup>1</sup> West Bengal unemployment rate was almost half of that at 4.14 percent. Even if you take the third quarter of 2024-25 the same pattern is evident. While India's unemployment rate was around 8.1 per cent the West Bengal unemployment rate was 3 percent lower than that. This data demonstrates our Chief Minister's vision of job centric growth for our economy. **Job creation lies at the core of our developmental model.**

You will also be happy to know that while 92 lakh people were moved out of poverty line upto 2021, with sustained economic growth and socio-economic progress, You will be happy to know that now 1.72 crore people have been moved out of poverty.

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<sup>1</sup>Source : Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)

**Hon'ble Speaker Sir,**

**The State Government has taken a number of steps to put the State firmly in the industrial map of the country.**

The Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS), the flagship investment summit of the Government of West Bengal, has been held on February 5-6, 2025 in Kolkata. Investment proposals worth Rs. 4,40,595 crore has been received in the BGBS 2025 and 212 no. of MoUs and Letters of Intents (LoIs) have been signed in the summit.

In order to further expedite the clearance process for investments and projects in the State, a State Level **Investment Synergy Committee** (SLISC) has been formed, under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, as Single Window for Clearance of Investment proposals as per the mandated time frame, notification for which has been published immediately.

Asian Development Bank (ADB), along with Korea Exim Bank (KEXIM), is providing technical & financial assistance to the Government of West Bengal for the development of 6 Industrial & Economic corridors across the state, at Raghunathpur-Tajpur, Dankuni-Jhargram, Dankuni-Kalyani, Dankuni-Coochbehar, Kharagpur-Morgram and Gurudi, Purulia-Joka, Kolkata. The industrial & economic corridors will leverage the geographic location of the State and enable West Bengal

to emerge as a key manufacturing and logistics hub. Initial project cost will be around Rs. 4,400 crores for 4 corridors.

For Eastern Freight Corridor from Amritsar to Dankuni, we have allocated 2,483 acres of industrial land in Raghunathpur, Purulia for an industrial township named '**Jangal Sundari Karmnagari**' with an investment of Rs. 72 thousand crore.

The State Government has approved the proposal of ONGC Ltd for Petroleum Mining Lease (PML) for Ashoknagar field over an area measuring 99.06 sq. kms in block WB-ONN-2005/4 at Ashoknagar, Habra, North 24 Parganas in connection with the exploration of Oil & Gas which will provide energy security for the State.

DeochaPachami is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest coal blocks in the world with a reserve of 1,240 million tons of coal & 2,600 million tons of basalt. Basalt mining has already begun.

To meet up the demand-supply gap beyond 2030, State Cabinet has approved to set up 2x800 MW Greenfield Power Plants under Tariff-based Competitive Bidding mode. Selection of Bidder has been completed. It will entail an investment of Rs. 16,000 crore.

**Hon'ble Speaker Sir,**

You will be shocked to know that the budget which was presented by the Union Finance Minister on 1<sup>st</sup> February has punished the common people by cutting allocation for everything that deals with their welfare.

Allocation for social services has been reduced by 16 percent, housing by 4.38 per cent, welfare of scheduled castes/scheduled tribes and backward classes and minorities by 3.12 per cent, social security and welfare by 4.96 percent and even food subsidy by 1 per cent.

**Hon'ble Speaker Sir,**

We are number one in Skill Development. We are now running 500 Industrial Training Institutes (ITI) and Polytechnics for providing skill education. Moreover, 47 lakh youth have also received industry-oriented skill training under Utkarsha Bangla. Out of which more than 10 lakh have already been absorbed by the industry.

With nearly 2 crore jobs being created in Industry & other sectors, the unemployment rate in the state has come down by 40% whereas unemployment is highest in the country in 45 years.

It gives me much pain to see that at many times when the State Government has tried to increase employment, some people with ill intention have tried all out to derail this by various ways.

**Hon'ble Speaker Sir,**

Our government believes in building human capital which is the key driver for growth while stimulating employment. Accordingly, a large number of social protection and developmental schemes have been put in

place. Our social services model covers the entire life cycle of a human being – from birth to the passing away of a person.

We have significantly enhanced expenditures for social protection for the vulnerable segment of the society, providing security of lives and livelihood to the most distressed segment of the population.

When a child is born we plant a tree under the Sabujshree scheme. Till date more than 64 lakh saplings have been planted – a true gift to mother nature in this age of climate change. As the child grows up the state provides all support – starting from the schools to college through multiple schemes like Sikshashree, Medhashree, Sabuj Sathi and of course Kanyashree etc.

For empowering women the State Government has taken a number of gender sensitive public policy measures such as Lakshmir Bhandar, Kanyashree Scheme, Rupashree Scheme etc.

These schemes have indeed touched lives of women in West Bengal. Pratichi Trust, chaired by Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen in its evaluation report of the Lakshmir Bhandar scheme has concluded and I quote “....the regular monthly flow has reduced their sense of insecurity and allows them to plan ahead. This enhanced rate of financial security acts as a stepping-stone toward financial freedom. In some cases it has added to their sense of self-worth and confidence.”



Lakshmir Bhandar has benefitted 2.21 crore women in the state. Kanyashree Prakalpa is a scheme to target both dropout rates at the secondary level and early marriage together. Till now, more than 1 crore girl students have been given financial assistance under the scheme which you know has received the highest honour in the world by United Nations in public service.

Under Sabooj Sathi till date 1 crore 26 lakh students have been benefited with an expenditure of Rs.4,600 crore.

The State Government has launched several scholarship schemes to benefit poor and meritorious students. Under Aikyashree nearly 4 crore students have been benefitted with an expenditure of Rs. 4,100 crore. During 2024-25, till 31st December, 2024 out of the 45 applications, 16 lakh scholarships have been provided and nearly 33 lakh have now been provided with the scholarships and the rest will be covered by 31st March, 2025. Under Shikshashree 1 crore 4 lakh students have been benefited with an expenditure of nearly Rs. 810 crore. Under Medhashree 6 lakh 65 thousand students have been benefitted with an expenditure of Rs. 53 crore 24 lakh. Under Swami Vivekanand Merit cum Means scholarship 32 lakh 60 thousand students have been benefited at an expenditure of Rs. 5 thousand 129 crore.

Under students credit card nearly 80 thousand students have been benefitted where almost Rs.2,800 crore bank loan has been sanctioned.

**Hon'ble Speaker Sir,**

As we all know old age is the most vulnerable period in our lives. Our government has done commendable work and has announced a large number of schemes such as old age pension, widow pension, manvik, vaitarini and so on.

All the social protection schemes are operated through the digital Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) - something which is fast, transparent and efficient.

**Hon'ble Speaker Sir,**

The number of Universities in the State has been increased from 12 to 42 in last thirteen years, out of which 31 are State-aided Universities and 11 are Private Universities under direct administrative control of this Department.

24 new Government MBBS Medical Colleges have been established with an increase in number of seats from 1,355 to 5,700. Since 2011, 42 new Super Speciality Hospitals have been constructed with 14,000 beds. As a result of the State's initiatives, number of beds in Government hospitals have increased from 57,000 to 98,000.

In Swasthya Sathi, 2.45 crore families are covered. More than 85 lakh patients have been treated at a cost of Rs. 11,098 crore.

**Hon'ble Speaker Sir,**

While we are engaged in such massive projects and programs for common people the Central Government has refused to give us our legitimate dues for centrally sponsored schemes. For example, MGNREGS, so crucial for the lives of the rural poor and farmers is still facing massive unpaid dues. Therefore our Hon'ble Chief Minister has introduced our own scheme namely Karmashree which is providing guaranteed employment to the rural poor. So far more than 61 crore person days have been generated under Karmashree with a total expenditure of Rs. 12,355 crore.

Even in case of crop insurance our Hon'ble Chief Minister has introduced our own scheme namely, Shasya Bima Yojana. Under this scheme 1.12 crore farmers have been provided insurance coverage with a cumulative disbursement of Rs. 3,564 crore till date.

The state government has similarly implemented Krishak Bandhu Scheme under which 1.08 crore farmers are provided support in two equal installments before Kharif and Rabi every year. So far more than Rs. 24,000 crore has been disbursed under the scheme.

The MAA Canteen was launched on 21st February, 2021 in urban areas to provide a meal for the needy people. Presently 330 MAA Canteen are functional in the State. Till date we have served 8.53 crore meals.

**Hon'ble Speaker Sir,**

For the tea garden workers the State Government has introduced Chaa Sundari Extension Scheme, which provides housing assistance. Till date 21,338 families of Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri, & Uttar Dinajpur districts have been given benefit under the scheme.

**Hon'ble Speaker Sir,**

Our government has steadfastly worked on raising our own resources through prudent fiscal measures. You will be happy to note that the State's own tax revenue has more than quadrupled - to a massive Rs.90,000 crore in 2023-24.

The major increase in own tax collections of the State Government has been possible due to better enforcement and strengthening of tax administration - introduction of Electronic Waybill (e-waybill) system which replaced the manual process of tracking goods movement, integration of Tax Deducted at Source (TDS), Tax Collected at Source (TCS) etc.

In 2024, in a pioneering move, the State Government established GST Suvidha Kendras (GSKs) to help small businesses navigate the complications of the GST system to facilitate biometric-based Aadhaar authentication. These centers have significantly improved the integrity and efficiency of the GST ecosystem, making tax administration more robust and reliable in this state.

You may have noticed that our government has constantly brought Settlement of Dispute (SoD) scheme

to bring relief to the business as well as raise revenue. I am happy to share that till date 87,244 cases have been settled under SoD schemes and more than 2,300 crore revenue has been realized.

The unique initiative of Duare Sarkar has reached its 9<sup>th</sup> round today. So far, more than 12.48 crore citizens have attended 7.75 lakh outreach camps of Duare Sarkar to access various entitlements and benefits under different government welfare schemes under Duare Sarkar and nearly 9.4 crore services have already been delivered. Other facilities will be provided in phases through scrutiny, verification and processing.

We have developed different devotional places of our State. Temple for Jagannath Deity has been constructed in Digha, Sky-walk has been constructed in the temple of Mother at Dakshineswar and the Sky-walk in the temple of Mother Kali is being constructed in Kalighat. Our government of Ma – Mati – Manush is working uniformly for all religious including Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Christian and for all colors, castes and races and do not discriminate among human being. We are respectful to all States including Punjab, Sindhu, Gujrat, Maratha, Drabirh, Utkal and Banga.

**Hon'ble Speaker Sir,**

I would now like to place the proposed allocation of the major departments and Part 2 and 3 of the Speech may kindly be considered as read. With your permission I will now directly go to Part-4 of my speech (page no.161).

**Budget Allocation (Net) in the Financial year 2025-26.**

**1. Agriculture Marketing**

I propose to allocate Rs. 426.01 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

**2. Agriculture**

I propose to allocate Rs. 10,000.79 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

**3. Animal Resources Development**

I propose to allocate Rs. 1,272.93 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

**4. Backward Classes Welfare**

I propose to allocate Rs. 2,423.80 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

**5. Consumer Affairs**

I propose to allocate Rs. 139.70 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

**6. Co-operation**

I propose to allocate Rs. 668.61 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

## **7. Correctional Administration**

I propose to allocate Rs. 428.57 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

## **8. Disaster Management & Civil Defence**

I propose to allocate Rs. 3,278.60 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

## **9. Environment**

I propose to allocate Rs. 107.22 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

## **10. Fire and Emergency Services**

I propose to allocate Rs. 523.84 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

## **11. Fisheries**

I propose to allocate Rs. 530.11 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

## **12. Food and Supplies**

I propose to allocate Rs. 9,944.37 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

## **13. Food Processing Industries and Horticulture**

I propose to allocate Rs. 253.03 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

## **14. Forests**

I propose to allocate Rs. 1,091.11 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

## **15. Health & Family Welfare**

I propose to allocate Rs. 21,355.25 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

## **16. Higher Education**

I propose to allocate Rs. 6,593.58 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

## **17. Home & Hill Affairs**

I propose to allocate Rs. 14,817.67 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

## **18. Housing**

I propose to allocate Rs. 286.60 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

## **19. Industry, Commerce & Enterprises**

I propose to allocate Rs. 1,477.91 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

## **20. Information & Cultural Affairs**

I propose to allocate Rs. 990.27 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

## **21. Information Technology & Electronics**

I propose to allocate Rs. 211.57 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

## **22. Irrigation and Waterways**

I propose to allocate Rs. 4,153.84 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.



### **23. Judicial**

I propose to allocate Rs. 1,697.44 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

### **24. Labour**

I propose to allocate Rs. 1,229.11 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

### **25. Land & Land Reforms and Refuge Relief & Rehabilitation**

I propose to allocate Rs. 1,509.72 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

### **26. Law**

I propose to allocate Rs. 21.98 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

### **27. Mass Education Extension and Library Services**

I propose to allocate Rs. 366.46 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

### **28. Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises and Textiles**

I propose to allocate Rs. 1,228.78 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

### **29. Minority Affairs and Madrasah Education**

I propose to allocate Rs. 5,602.29 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

### **30. Non-conventional & Renewable Energy Sources**

I propose to allocate Rs. 82.65 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

### **31. North Bengal Development**

I propose to allocate Rs. 866.26 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

### **32. Panchayats & Rural Development**

I propose to allocate Rs. 44,139.65 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

### **33. Paschimanchal Unnayan Affairs**

I propose to allocate Rs. 756.80 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

### **34. Personnel & Administrative Reforms**

I propose to allocate Rs. 425.94 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

### **35. Planning and Statistics**

I propose to allocate Rs. 616.58 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

### **36. Power**

I propose to allocate Rs. 4,141.82 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

### **37. Public Enterprises & Industrial Reconstruction**

I propose to allocate Rs. 71.56 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

### **38. Public Health Engineering (PHE)**

I propose to allocate Rs. 11,636.92 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

### **39. Public Works (PWD)**

I propose to allocate Rs. 6,796.92 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

### **40. School Education**

I propose to allocate Rs. 41,153.79 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

### **41. Science and Technology and Biotechnology**

I propose to allocate Rs. 80.59 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

### **42. Self Help Group & Self Employment**

I propose to allocate Rs. 798.57 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

### **43. Sunderban Affairs**

I propose to allocate Rs. 631.55 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

### **44. Technical Education, Training and Skill Development**

I propose to allocate Rs. 1,423.86 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

#### **45. Tourism**

I propose to allocate Rs. 523.98 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

#### **46. Transport**

I propose to allocate Rs. 2,273.29 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

#### **47. Tribal Development**

I propose to allocate Rs. 1,210.13 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

#### **48. Urban Development and Municipal Affairs**

I propose to allocate Rs. 13,381.68 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

#### **49. Water Resources Investigation & Development**

I propose to allocate Rs. 1,669.74 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

#### **50. Women and Child Development & Social Welfare**

I propose to allocate Rs. 38,762.03 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

#### **51. Youth Services and Sports**

I propose to allocate Rs. 840.03 crore to this department in the year 2025-26.

## **Achievements of Major Departments**

### **Agriculture and Rural Economy**

#### **3.1 Agriculture**

‘Krishak Bandhu’ was revamped and launched as ‘Krishak Bandhu (Naton)’. In 2024-25, 108 lakh beneficiary farmers received Rs. 5,835 crore. Since inception more than Rs. 24,000 crore has been disbursed under the Scheme. Under ‘Krishak Bandhu (Death Benefit)’ scheme, Rs. 356.46 crore has been disbursed to the family members of 17,823 deceased farmers in 2024-25. Since inception, Rs. 2,581.28 crore has been disbursed to 1,29,064 bereaved families till date.

Under ‘Jay Bangla’ Scheme, 67,630 farmers are being benefited with old age pension.

Bangla Shasya Bima (BSB) Scheme, a fully State Government funded scheme for implementation of crop insurance in West Bengal is running since Kharif 2019. Since 2020, Technology is being leveraged within BSB scheme through Remote Sensing, Satellite Imagery, Weather Data and Ground Truthing to monitor crop health and claim assessment. State Government is bearing the entire farmers’ share of premium which is unique in the country. 66 lakh farmers have been enrolled under the Scheme during Rabi 2023-24 and 73.25 lakh farmers under Kharif 2024. 17.55 lakh farmers’ claims during 2023-24 got settlement of worth Rs. 678.90 crore.

In 2024-25, 6,309 hectares of agricultural land benefitting 14,025 farmers has been covered so far under Micro Irrigation by installation of both Sprinkler Irrigation System and Drip Irrigation System through Bangla Krishi Sech Yojana in association with 'Per Drop More Crop'. Since inception, 2,02,985 farmers have benefitted by installation of Micro Irrigation System with a coverage of 82,221 hectares.

Seed Production of Hi-tech Potato through ARC (Apical Rooted Cutting) Technology has been started aiming for self-sufficiency in potato seed production. For development of infrastructure, subsidy for Net House, Greenhouse, Tissue Culture Laboratory and Poly House construction are provided to the implementing agencies. 2 Tissue Culture Laboratories, 12 Poly Houses in hill districts, and 17 Poly Houses with Fan Pad Cooling facility in plains, 96 Net Houses in Govt. Farms, 20 Permanent Net Houses and 440 Temporary Net Houses in farmers' fields have been constructed. 100 Demonstration Centres are also being conducted in the ongoing Rabi season with new varieties of potato. So far, 6.8 lakh tissue culture mother plants, 59 lakh potato mini-tubers and 2,406 MT of advanced generation potato seed tubers have been produced and distributed under the 'Bangashree' Brand, which is gaining popularity among farmers.

Due to special emphasis of the Department, it has been possible to raise the area of maize from 2.64 lakh hectares to 4.01 lakh hectares, pulses from 4.43 lakh hectares

to 4.81 lakh hectares and oilseeds from 9.26 lakh hectares to 10.02 lakh hectares during last five years; production of maize has increased by eight times from 3.52 lakh MT to 28.54 lakh MT, production of pulses by three times from 1.42 lakh MT to 4.30 lakh MT and production of oilseeds by two times from 7.03 Lakh MT to 13.33 lakh MT.

Area expansion of Finger Millet (Ragi) has been taken up through demonstrations of 1,756 hectares in hill regions of Kalimpong, Darjeeling and in Western undulating red-lateritic tracts of Paschimanchal Districts during Kharif Season, 2024.

The fallow land after harvesting of Kharif paddy has been utilized to increase area of pulses and oilseeds involving a fund of Rs. 72.34 crore under the scheme 'Targeting Rice Fallow Areas (TRFA)' during 2024-25.

So far 25,363 beneficiaries have already received farm machinery/implements, 120 CHC applications approved and 168 FMBs/FMHs established.

To boost up production of organic agricultural products, 21,000 hectares area in 24 clusters spread over 10 Districts have been adopted under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY). All Components-Sensitization, Cluster Formation, Capacity Building, Incentive to Beneficiary Farmers for Traditional Organic Inputs & Bio-botanicals Production Units, Value Addition Infrastructure, Processing Machineries, Organic Goods Transport Vehicles, Hiring of Stalls for exhibition and sale of Organic Produce, Publicity,

Market Link up, Organic Certification-are in the process of implementation. Around 52,000 farmers would be benefitted directly through this Scheme in 2024-25.

The total production of cocoons in all the four varieties of silk, i.e. Mulberry, Tasar, Eri and Muga is expected to reach 21,447 MT in 2024-25, witnessing an increase of 164% from 8,114 MT in 2020-21. Similarly, silk production is expected to reach 2,333 MT, an increase of 168% in the same period.

### **3.2 Agricultural Marketing**

The Department of Agricultural Marketing strives to ensure remunerative prices for agricultural commodities by building a robust marketing infrastructure and implementing effective post-harvest management strategies. It promotes value addition, minimizes losses, and enhances farmers' incomes through initiatives such as the 'Sufal Bangla' project and market intervention schemes.

In 2024-25, 154 new 'Sufal Bangla' stores have been opened. It aims to ensure fair prices for farmers and reasonable prices for consumers by directly procuring vegetables from farmers at remunerative prices. The initiative operates 640 outlets and 9 bulk purchase hubs across the State, serving 3.50 lakh consumers daily and integrating 80,000 farmers. It involves about 5,00,000 different Farmers organisations, including Farmers Producer Companies and Farmer Producer Organizations, which receive various support and facilities for agribusiness



development. State level organic market at Rajarhat started functioning this year for marketing of organic agricultural produces.

85 Vegetable Purchase and Distribution Centres have been established across the State by various Regulated Market Committees. These centres are located at both farm and market levels across key production areas to purchase essential vegetables like onion, ginger, garlic, pineapple and orange directly from farmers at remunerative prices. The procured produce is transported to Sufal Bangla outlets and other significant markets in Kolkata and other Districts, where it is sold directly to consumers at reasonable prices. By establishing a sustainable supply chain through these Centres, the government aims to combat abnormal price situations during emergencies.

186 Krishak Bazars, Sub-Market Yards are being run providing excellent marketing infrastructure for aggregation and ease marketing access to the rural farmers becoming an example of 'Market goes to the Farmers'.

The West Bengal State Agricultural Marketing Board has completed development of 51 Marketing Infrastructures in the different markets in the State with a cost of Rs. 77.23 crore in different Districts and taken up development of 48 Market Complexes at a cost of Rs. 164.64 crore.

As a part of 'Ease of Doing Business' for Agricultural Business Sector, Online Integrated Electronic Single Platform Permit (e-Permit) and Unified License System has been introduced. 14,48,300 e-permits and 48,738 licenses

have been generated and Market Fee of Rs.363.08 crore collected since inception of the online system.

Till date 18 Agricultural Markets in 15 districts have been integrated into e-NAM and till now 90,336 registered farmers have traded approx. 85,327 MT of Agri commodities by way of e-trading worth Rs.174.69 crore.

As part of the 'Amar Fasal Amar Gola' scheme, 917 smaller units and 570 units of 20-ton capacity onion storage structures are being allocated this year, aimed at small and marginal farmers to reduce post-harvest losses, which will increase the current storage capacity by 23,000 MT.

In cold storage and cool chain maintenance, 13 new cold storages have come up this year with additional storage capacity of about 92,000 MT. The State hosts one of the largest cold storage capacity of about 88 lakh MT with 629 cold storages. For 'Ease of Doing Business', online portal for the licensing and management of cold storage has been developed.

### **3.3 Food Security: Food & Supplies**

The Department of Food & Supplies is entrusted with ensuring food security for all citizens of West Bengal. It implements robust distribution mechanisms to provide high-quality foodgrains free of cost, ensuring no one is left behind in the fight against hunger.

Under Khadyasathi, foodgrains are being provided, free of cost, to about 9 crore beneficiaries [National Food Security Act (AAY & PHH or SPHH) and Rajya Khadya Suraksha

Yojana (RKSJ-1 & RKSJ-II)] through the PDS network of about 20,600 Fair Price Shops and about 540 distributors.

About 53 lakh beneficiaries, living in difficult and remote areas of Aila affected blocks, Jungle Mahal area, Hill areas of Darjeeling district, farmers of Singur, Primitive Tribal Group of Totopara and all workers and non-workers residing in tea garden areas are provided Special Packages over and above the normal entitlements free of cost.

Duare Ration Scheme was launched in November, 2021, with an objective to provide foodgrains to the Khadyasathi beneficiaries at their doorstep has been well accepted by the people. About 7.5 crore beneficiaries (about 86%) of 1.75 crore families are lifting ration at their doorstep.

Inmates of Government owned/sponsored Welfare Institutions and Hostels are being provided subsidized foodgrains @ 15 Kg fortified rice per head per month. During 2024-25, about 13,667 MT foodgrains have been allocated for inmates of 1,443 institutions under WI&H scheme.

The severely acute malnourished (SAM) children are also being provided with 5 Kg fortified rice, 2.5 Kg wheat, 1 Kg Bengal-gram and 1 Kg of Masur dal per head per month free of cost. 5,675 SAM children have been provided foodgrains in 2024-25.

Sugar, flour and Bengal gram have been provided to 78.69 lakh AAY & SPHH families under festive package two times in a year during festive season (i.e. Eid/Ramzan, Durgotsav, Kali Puja, Dewali and Chhat Puja).

During 2023-24 Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 51.43 lakh MT paddy has been procured from 13 lakh farmers who were benefitted with MSP.

In the KMS, MSP 2024-25 for paddy has been enhanced from Rs. 2,183 to Rs. 2,300 per quintal. All the procurement are done through e-PoP machines integrated with iris scanner and weighing devices. The incentive of Rs. 20 per quintal to the farmers selling paddy at CPC and mobile CPC is being provided like earlier years.

The paddy procurement activities have been made more transparent, convenient and farmer-friendly leveraging the IT solution so that farmers are able to apply for new registration or updation, check the status of their registration, payment of MSP and can self-schedule the date & time slot for selling their paddy as per their choice and convenience either by themselves through the paddy procurement portal (<https://epaddy.wb.gov.in>) or by visiting any purchase centre, Bangla Sahayata Kendra (BSK), Food Inspector's Office, WhatsApp Chatbot (9903055505), Khadyasahi Annadatri mobile App etc. The farmer can sell paddy maximum of 90 quintal at one go or multiple times depending on land size during the entire Kharif Marketing Season 2024-25.

At present 8.62 crore (98.40%) ration cards (Total Ration card 8.76 crore) are seeded with Aadhaar which is one of the highest in the country. Foodgrains is being distributed through e-PoS after Aadhaar based authentication through either Fingerprint scan or IRIS scan or OTP in Aadhaar linked mobile only, except in few cases of infirm beneficiaries

having problem in obtaining Aadhaar. For better transparency, distribution is made through e-PoS integrated weighing scale so that the beneficiary is assured of delivery of full quantity of foodgrains as per their entitlement.

Going further in its drive for bringing in hassle free services to the beneficiaries, the Department launched online 'Self-services facility related with Ration Cards' using advanced IT solutions. This facilitates beneficiaries to avail services like linking Aadhaar with ration card, incorporate changes with respect to name, address, age, guardian name, fair price shop, etc., surrender ration card, download e-Ration card, link or delink mobile no. etc. through system-based logic.

For safe and hygienic storage of foodgrains, godowns are set up in almost all districts. At present, storage capacity of foodgrains has been raised to 11.75 LMT as compared to a meager 63,000 MT prior to May, 2011. During 2024-25, storage capacity of 19,000 MT has increased in Hooghly (Goghat), Purulia (Bengura), Purba Bardhaman (Memari-I, Memari-II & Jamalpur) and Paschim Medinipur (Keshpur).

### **3.4 Food Processing Industries and Horticulture**

The Department of Food Processing Industries and Horticulture promotes the reduction of post-harvest losses and value addition to agricultural produce. As a major producer of vegetables, fruits, spices, and flowers, the department fosters sustainable economic growth in the agri-business sector.

The State has been the leading producer of vegetables like Brinjal, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Pointed Gourd, Radish, Elephant Foot Yam, Capsicum and Cucumber for more than five years. West Bengal is also the largest producer in Pineapple, as well as it is the second largest producer for Litchi over last five years. West Bengal is the highest producing state for 'Cut Flowers' during last five years. This Department plays a crucial role in increasing the income of farmers and reduction of wastage of farm products.

In the Horticulture Sector, during the crop year 2023-24, as per final estimate, Area coverage and production of horticultural crops recorded as 15,91,605 hectares and 2,07,07,396 MT respectively under fruits, flowers, vegetables, spices and plantation crops.

For area expansion of major and minor fruits, a total of 95.24 lakh number of high quality saplings is being supplied to the farmers. In the same crop year, Rs. 22.26 lakh have been spent to expand the area of off-season onion cultivation especially during the Kharif and late Kharif Season. At the same time, farmers have been given assistance for the storage of 425 MT of onion at field level by incentivizing cost of construction of onion storage. For area expansion of off-season onion cultivation a total quantity of 22.58 quintal of onion seeds of the variety of Agri-found Dark Red have been distributed among the farmers.

During this crop year, so far, a total of 2,32,418 square-meter of protected cultivation structure have been constructed for protected cultivation of high value flowers, vegetables to cope up with climate change. Rs. 15.12 lakh and Rs. 10.01 lakh have been given to the farmers as assistance for the cultivation of gerbera, orchids, rose etc. and high value vegetables respectively under protected structures. Development of 'Centre of Excellence for Vegetables' at Chinsurah is currently flourishing quickly, to serve as demonstration and training centre as well as source of good quality planting material and vegetable seedlings under protected cultivation.

The department ensures quality supply of planting materials through WBSFP & HDCL under Area Expansion Programme of Directorate of Horticulture. In 2024-25, WBSFP & HDCL proposes to supply 95.03 lakh of planting materials all over West Bengal, out of which 71.39 lakh is already supplied till date. In this year, 91% of total supplied quantity of planting materials is produced in Corporation's farms.

In Cinchona and other Medicinal Plants Sector, expansion and maintenance of medicinal plants viz. Cinchona, Ipecac, Taxusbaccata, Chirata, Dioscorea have been done. Expansion of Aromatic Plants viz. Lemon Grass-45 acres and Citronella-9 acres has also been made. 210 ltr. of Lemon Grass oil, 90 ltr. of Citronella oil have been produced. Production Mushroom Spawn which is envisaged for distribution amongst the SHG is presently

being cultivated. Maintenance of existing 6,526 acres of Cinchona Plantation, 306 acres of Rubber Plantation, 194 acres of Coffee Plantation, 268 acres of Mandarin Orange, 76.93 acres of Kiwi, 97 acres of Cardamom, 37 acres of Chirata and 57 acres of Ipecac cultivation is being made.

Medicinal Plant Garden (Rhododendron park) at Mungpoo has also been developed. Hi-Tech Nurseries for disease-free planting of large Cardamom and Ginger in the Directorate of Cinchona and other medicinal plants at Rangpo Division, Govt. Cinchona Plantation, Munsong has been developed.

In Food Processing Industries Sector, 18 Food Processing Projects have been approved for grant of subsidy of Rs.1.45 crore under West Bengal Food Processing Incentive Scheme. In these units nearly 963 numbers employment has been generated for an accumulated investment of Rs. 11.74 crore.

Under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme, 68 number Food Processing Projects have been approved for grant of subsidy for Rs. 4.26 crore and under the PMFME seed capital scheme, 562 beneficiaries have been approved fund as seed capital for Rs. 2.12 crore. 15 numbers district level awareness camp and 1 food processing conference covering all the districts of North Bengal have been organized on prospects and possibilities of Food Processing Industries in the State.



### **3.5 Animal Resources Development**

The Department of Animal Resources Development is committed to augmenting the production of milk, meat, and eggs while ensuring sustainable livelihoods for animal rearers. Through breed improvement, healthcare services, and promotion of milk cooperatives, it fosters employment generation and rural empowerment.

As per the Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics, 2024, West Bengal has achieved the distinction of being India's highest meat producing State in the country, producing 12.94 lakh tonnes of meat during 2023-24, contributing 12.62% of the national output.

In the Poultry Sector, West Bengal has become India's fourth largest producer of eggs, with a production of 16.23 billion eggs during 2023-24. West Bengal now accounts for 11.37% of the country's total egg production. West Bengal's annual growth of egg production in 2023-24 is 18.07% as against the national average of 3.18%.

West Bengal has recorded the highest Annual Growth Rate of milk production in the country, i.e. 9.76% compared to national average of 3.78% during 2023-24. Milk production in West Bengal during 2023-24 is estimated at 76.50 lakh MT.

In the backyard poultry sector, which employs mostly women and Self Help Groups, 1.94 crore chicks and ducklings have been distributed during January 2024 to December, 2024. In the private sector, 158 projects have

been set up under West Bengal Incentive Scheme, 2017. Out of these, 114 units have started production, adding 179 crore eggs per year to the State's output. Rs. 23.40 crore has been disbursed as subsidy and incentive to the private poultry units. Disbursement of Rs.9.54 crore is under process.

To encourage production of broiler chicks for meat production and to generate rural self-employment, the West Bengal Incentive Scheme, 2023 for Broiler Breeding Farms has been notified.

The Broiler Integration Programme has been extended to 16 Districts of the State, opening up a major source of self-employment in rural areas. Under this innovative scheme, which links the farmer directly to the market, a farmer can expect an assured net income of approx. Rs.1.22 lakh annually.

To augment egg production in the State, The West Bengal Livestock Development Corporation Ltd. has established two new Poultry Layer Farms at English Bazar, Malda and Haringhata, Nadia, with a capacity of 3 lakh layer birds each. The two farm together produce 1,60,000 table eggs per day.

For door step delivery of veterinary services to farmers, Mobile Veterinary Units (MVU) and Mobile Veterinary Clinics (MVC) comprising of a Veterinary Doctor, a Para-Vet staff and a Driver cum Assistant are being operated in all 344 Blocks of the State as a part of *Duare Pashu Chikitsa*. More than 1 lakh Animal Health Camps have

been organized during January, 2024 to December, 2024 by the MVUs/MVCs and treatment has been provided to 2.76 crore animals.

46,670 goats have been distributed during January to December 2024 among Self Help Groups. The target of providing 34,400 goats as livelihood inputs to Self Help Groups in 2024-25, is set to be achieved.

A Pilot Scheme has been launched for the distribution of 1160 sheep in 116 Blocks of 15 Districts of the State during 2024-25.

To inject an element of professionalism and to handhold farmers in the Goatery Sector, 20 Farmer Producer Companies (FPC) and 400 Goatery Clusters have been set up in the last three years, directly benefitting 26,000 marginal rural families. This change in approach has resulted in augmentation of chevon production besides generating self-employment opportunities in rural areas.

A new cluster approach has been adopted for providing live piglets along with insurance and initial feed to families belonging to Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes for whom piggery is an economically important source of livelihood.

Initiatives have been taken to provide green fodder to the Cattle Owners, Members of Milk Unions, Goatery FPO/ FPCs, Goat Clusters, Matir Srishti sites through implementation of Fodder Minikit distribution and Fodder

Demonstration Plots. 38,310 beneficiaries have received benefits under this scheme during January to December, 2024.

A Statewide network of self-employed Artificial Insemination (AI) Workers, *Pranisebi* and *Pranimitras* provide Artificial Insemination and Vaccination Services at the doorstep of livestock farmers. Based on their performance, they receive a monthly performance incentive of Rs. 5,000/- from the Department. Since inception, a sum of Rs. 324.79 crore has been disbursed to them through DBT.

During 2021-22 to 2024-25, 74,403 Kisan Credit Cards-Animal Husbandry (KCC-AH) have been issued to animal husbandry farmers in the State. Rs. 678.10 crore has been sanctioned as Working Capital to the small and marginal animal husbandry farmers during this period.

For rapid genetic up-gradation of milch cattle, the use of sex-sorted semen, which assures the birth of a female calf with an accuracy of more than 90%, has been taken up as a Pilot Project in 11 Districts. A modern laboratory for In-Vitro Fertilization and Embryo Transfer has been also been set up at the Haringhata Farm for genetic upgradation of cattle. For breed upgradation, over 5.76 crore bovine artificial inseminations have been performed resulting in 1.88 crore calves being born since 2010-11.

7.61 crore doses of vaccination for a variety of diseases have been administered to animals during January to December 2024, benefitting 2.29 crore farmers.

5,154 high milk yielding varieties of heifers are expected to be distributed among individuals and members of Dairy Cooperative Societies/Milk Unions to augment milk production in 2024-25.

Sundarban Cooperative Milk & Livestock Producers Union Limited (Sundarini), India's first all-women Organic Dairy Cooperative in collaboration with NDDDB has been honoured with the prestigious International Dairy Federation (IDF) Innovation in Sustainable Farming Practices-Socio-Economic Award 2024 at IDF World Dairy Summit 2024 held in Paris, France on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2024 among the 153 entries from across the globe.

97 new Dairy Cooperative Societies have been registered during 2023-24 and 2024-25. The average monthly milk procurement by West Bengal Co-operative Milk Producers Federation Ltd. was 224.10 TKgPD during January to December 2024.

To promote the Dairy Sector as a viable livelihood option and to boost income in the rural areas, the State Government has set up Banglar Dairy. The Govt. owned Company is providing financial incentive (subsidy) @ Rs. 11.50 per Kg of standard raw milk, directly into Bank Accounts of primary dairy farmers through Milk Unions. Banglar Dairy has procured 3,49,19,140 Kg raw milk from January to December, 2024 for which Rs.132.71crore has been paid to dairy farmers through DBT. Banglar Dairy distributes its milk and milk products through 581 outlets.

West Bengal Livestock Development Corporation Ltd. (WBLDCL) has produced 87,374.78 MT livestock feed during January to December, 2024. During 2024, it established the first Poultry Layer Breeding Farm at Saltora, Bankura. It has produced 36.77 lakh Broiler Chicks and 6.90 lakh Poultry Layer Chicks, and 17,94,58,597 Table Eggs during January to December, 2024 out of which 1,06,74,720 eggs have been supplied to Maa Kitchen. It has commenced the export of chevon (goat meat) to Bahrain in 2024. The Bio-Methanation Plant at Kalyani Layer Farm-I, Kalyani, Nadia presently produces 12 MT of Bio-fertilizer per day. The number of retail sale points of Haringhata Meat and Epic Feed Dealers under WBLDCL have increased to 747 and 297 respectively.

A MoU has been signed by the West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences with the Leipzig University of Germany for exchange of students, teachers and research activities.

### **3.6 Fisheries**

During 2024-25, 17.08 lakh MT of fish and 26.02 billion fish seeds have been produced in West Bengal so far, marking an increase over 2023-24. West Bengal has become the largest fish seed producer and second largest fish producing State in the country.

Brackish Water species account for more than 70% of export of Fish from West Bengal. For boosting production in this Sector, 'Monoculture of Tiger Shrimp' in 301 Units,

‘Monoculture of Vennamei Shrimp’ in 205 units, and Polyculture of Shrimp with Mullet in 442 units for FPG and individual farmers have been taken up.

For augmenting fish production in Inland Freshwater Sector, all ponds excavated under Jal Dharo Jal Bharo Scheme have been brought under scientific pisciculture and inputs in 4,373 nos. of such ponds (583.07 hectares) have been liberated till date. Pisciculture in 40,810 small water bodies (5,441.33 hectares) has been taken up. As part of Air-breathing Fish Culture, scheme for nurturing of ‘Deshi Magur/Singhi’ in 812 nos. of ponds is being implemented. For development of Tribal Fishermen, ‘Deshi Magur/Singhi Culture’ and ‘IMC Culture’ Schemes have been undertaken.

Banga Matsya Yojona is being implemented for augmentation of production and development of infrastructure with a view to raising standard of living of the fisher folk. 2,611 units of beneficiary oriented activities have been completed with fund utilization of Rs.32.62 crore. Additionally, Rs. 30.46 crore has been utilized for implementing the non-beneficiary oriented activities.

A flagship programme, Fish Culture in cages at Kansabati Reservoir is being implemented on pilot basis with the technical help of ICAR-CIFRI. Till date the quantum of Fish Production is about 50 MT.

The Scheme ‘Sewage-fed Fishery’ has been implemented in 3(three) Districts viz. North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas and Hooghly.

436 units of Net and Hundies, and 253 units of hundies along with 68 units of Behundi Nets have been distributed to individual fishermen, FPGs in inland sector and fishermen (marine) respectively.

Initiatives have been taken under 'Matir Shristi' for implementation of different fisheries schemes, viz. Big Fish Culture, Deshi Magur Culture, IMC culture in small water bodies, etc.

Matsya Jeebi Credit Card (MJCC) is provided to the poor and marginal fishermen with short term loan facilities upto Rs. 2.0 lakh (with 5% interest subvention). Till date, 22,078 cases have been sanctioned under MJCC.

### **3.7 Panchayat & Rural Development**

The Panchayats and Rural Development Department implements various rural development schemes and strengthens Panchayati Raj institutions. It remains committed to inclusive growth and community empowerment through strategic budgetary investments and grassroots initiatives.

Government of West Bengal has introduced Banglar Bari (Gramin) scheme, on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024 aiming to construct pucca houses for 12 lakh eligible families in this financial year, for which Rs. 7,200 crore has been provided by the State Govt. and released to the beneficiaries as the first instalment. It has been decided that another 16 lakh families will be given benefit in next financial year.



Under Chaa Sundari Extension Scheme till date 21,338 families of Tea Garden workers of Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri & Uttar Dinajpur districts have been given housing assistance with an expenditure of Rs. 215.53 crore.

In the context of pending Labour Budget approvals for 2024-25 from the Government of India, Rs.144.80 crore was released by State Government under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) to meet out expenses such as salaries etc.

Under Pathashree I, II and III, total 38,644 km road has been constructed and more than 5 crore mandays have been created in rural road works.

Karmashree Scheme has been launched in 2024-25 to mitigate the distress of MGNREGS wage-seekers by providing 50 days of wage employment through departmental works. In 2024-25, till date, 27.12 crore person-days have been generated in the year with 55 days of average employment per household and Rs. 5,099.20 crore has been provided as wages. Till date 61 crore person-days have been generated under this initiative and Rs. 12,355 crore has been provided as wages.

Pension @ Rs. 1,000/- per month has been provided to the 20.11 lakh beneficiaries under the Jai Bangla Scheme of National Social Assistance Program (NSAP) Cell.

12.31 lakh elderly beneficiaries of the age group 60 years and above have been covered under IGNOAPS.

7.26 lakh widows of age group 40-79 have been supported under IGNWPS.

54,610 individuals with disabilities of age group 18-79 have been assisted under IGNDPS.

One-time assistance of Rs. 40,000 was given to 8,026 families who lost breadwinning persons under NFBS. About 2,777 more cases are under process of release.

The West Bengal State Rural Livelihood Mission, known as Anandadhara, is a flagship poverty alleviation program aimed at empowering rural households, particularly women, through the formation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs). In 2024-25, West Bengal has surpassed other States by forming 12 lakh SHGs, involving 1.22 crore women. Additionally, 42,703 Upasanghas, 3,339 Sanghas, and 325 block-level Maha-Sanghas have been established. Notably, all Sanghas are registered as Multipurpose Primary Co-operative Societies, engaging in independent business activities.

Inclusion efforts have been initiated to prioritize marginalized groups, including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, persons with disabilities, elderly women, and victims of trafficking. Specific initiatives have been taken to form 1,500 Elderly Groups and integrate 17,000 households with persons with disabilities into SHGs. Moreover, the Vulnerability Reduction Fund (VRF) has been disbursed with an amount of Rs. 1 lakh to each of 3,339 Sanghas to support vulnerable members.

Since inception, Rs.1,289.59 crore in Revolving Fund has been distributed to 8.55 lakh SHGs, and Rs. 3,801.37 crore in Community Investment Fund has reached

5.67 lakh SHGs. The Revolving Fund amount has increased to Rs. 30,000 crore from 2024-25. SHGs received Rs. 25,086 crore in bank credit, bringing the total to Rs. 1.17 lakh crore, with 96% of SHGs already accessing credit. By 2025, full credit coverage is expected.

In convergence activities, SHG members provide school uniforms for 1.12 crore students and manage food supplies for 312 ICDS projects. Other initiatives include operating SHG-run canteens and producing sanitary napkins, with 19 production units established. Marketing opportunities through fairs like Kolkata SARAS generated Rs. 23 crore last year. 18 Srishtishree outlets have been developed. 25,408 enterprises have been provided support under SVEP (Start up Village Entrepreneurship Programme) and One Stop Facilitation Centre (OSF).

Under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), Mission Nirmal Bangla began in 2013, achieving Open Defecation Free (ODF) status for all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in West Bengal. Since then, 1 crore household latrines have been constructed. All Gram Panchayats have been declared ODF. 9,178 public toilets, and 2,245 GPs with solid waste management initiatives have been implemented. In 2024-25 (till December), 1.24 lakh household latrines and 1,145 communities sanitary complexes were built. The sanitation program has significantly improved village cleanliness and reduced waterborne diseases.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) all-weather roads have been created to

unconnected rural areas in West Bengal since 2000-01. Since 2011, 26,405 km of roads and 54 bridges have been completed.

In 2024-25, Rs. 139.15 crore has been spent so far, for construction of 305 km of new roads. Under PMGSY-III, 619 km of roads have been built, with additional projects covering 3,380 km and six bridges recently approved.

Capacity Building & Training of Elected Representatives & Functionaries of the three-tier Panchayats are taken up under Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGS A).

In 2024-25, out of targeted 2,78,519 participants, 1,93,034 Elected Representatives & Functionaries of PRIs have been trained and expenditure is Rs.38.93 crore.

1 (one) Economic Development & Income Enhancement (ED&IE) Project, 9 Panchayat Learning Centres (PLC) and construction of 112 Gram Panchayat Building and arrangement of Computers in 112 have also been undertaken in 2024-25.

### **3.8 Irrigation & Waterways**

During 2024-25, an additional area of 60,908 acres of cultivable land was brought under irrigation through the completion of renovation work on canal systems and structures across major, medium, and minor irrigation schemes in South Bengal and North Bengal. This included partial completion of renovation work on four major irrigation projects: the Kangsabati Reservoir Project, Mayurakshi Reservoir Project, Teesta Barrage Project, and

DVC Canal system. In the Teesta Barrage Project in Jalpaiguri district, 9,795 acres were brought under irrigation after resolving long-pending land disputes, bringing the total command area developed since inception to 3,16,295 acres. Following rehabilitation of the DVC canal system, irrigation capability was extended to an additional 38,747 acres, particularly in tail-end areas of Paschim Bardhaman, Purba Bardhaman, and Bankura districts, with the total command area developed since inception reaching 8,39,800 acres.

Through effective management of storage in major irrigation schemes, supplementary Kharif irrigation was provided to 21.20 lakh acres of cultivable area. Sufficient water has been stored in reservoirs to provide irrigation to 5.74 lakh acres in the upcoming Rabi-Boro season, achieved through effective synchronization of reservoir operations in consultation with DVC and CWC. This represents a 22% increase compared to the area irrigated in 2023-24.

State Government's disaster preparedness, coordinated with the State Disaster Management Department and district administration, helped avert major damage during occasional high tides in Sundarban areas. This has also helped emergent repairs and breach closers carried out at most locations where significant damages have occurred due to cyclone 'Remal' in May 2024 and heavy rainfall in the Ganga catchment in Bihar and West Bengal during September and October 2024.

In 2024-25, improvements were made to 121 km of flood and river eroding embankments, while 149 km of drainage channels were excavated, including protection work along the Ganga bank in Murshidabad. Maintenance work continued with upkeep of around 1,167 Km of drainage channels through annual maintenance contracts and one-time clearance of 643 km of drainage channels during the 2024 monsoon, helping to control vector-borne diseases. Anti-erosion work along the Ganga-Padma river continues for 5.73 km in Shamsrganj and Dhuliyān areas of Murshidabad districts, with increased intensity of drainage channel cleaning in urban areas to curb Dengue spread.

Scientific dredging of the Muriganga River between Kakdwip and Sagar Island, planned with expert assistance, enabled uninterrupted 24-hour water transshipment during Ganga Sagar Mela-2025.

Under the World Bank-assisted 'West Bengal Major Irrigation and Flood Management Project' 174 hydraulic structures and 366 canal regulator gates were completed, improving water delivery to tail-end areas. Despite experiencing the most severe flooding in 15 years during September 2024, improved flood infrastructure helped minimize spillage and inundation. Compared to the 2017 flood, which was 10% higher in magnitude, the 2024 flood showed improved outcomes with 14% reduction in inundation, fewer breaches, and faster drainage of flood water.

The State Govt. implemented various reforms to enhance functionality, transparency, and accountability, including optimizing the online 'Plan Works Monitoring System' and revising guidelines for DPR preparation and bank protection. Special initiatives include developing comprehensive flood management schemes for the Torsa river in Alipurduar and Coochbehar districts, infrastructure improvements including construction or renovation of 46 permanent bridges over drainage channels and irrigation canals, along with renovation of 37 wooden bridges in 2024-25.

### **3.9 Water Resources Investigation & Development**

The Department of Water Resources Investigation & Development ensures irrigation support for small and marginal farmers through micro and minor irrigation schemes. It also assesses and manages ground water resources to meet agricultural demands effectively.

The Department has been playing a significant role in enhancing irrigation potential and increasing agricultural production during 2024-25. Through various Minor Irrigation Projects under different programmes, as of December 31, 2024, a total of 2,320 Minor Irrigation schemes have been completed, creating an irrigation potential of 43,730 hectares.

During 2024-25 under the 'Jal Dharo-Jal Bharo' initiative, 4,742 water bodies and water detention structures have been created or renovated as of December 31, 2024. This includes 4,732 equivalent standard tanks

by the WRI&D Department and 10 water bodies created or renovated in convergence with the P&RD Department.

Till date 4,10,569 water bodies and water detention structures have been created or renovated. Of these, 1,27,155 are equivalent standard tanks completed by the WRI&D Department, while 2,83,414 water bodies have been created or renovated in convergence with the P&RD Department.

Matir Srishti launched in 2020 in six Paschimanchal Districts and interventions on wasteland, barren/ mono crop lands were targeted bringing these to multiple cropping and livelihood activities to enhance family income. Since inception, under this scheme, 5,455 nos. of sites have been covered involving an area of 42,000 acres. This includes 655 sites covering an area of 23,000 Acres on Raiyati lands since 2022. More than 49,000 no. of farmers have been actively involved in the initiative.

Under the scheme 689 nos. of Minor Irrigation Structure have been successfully installed and 256 nos. of Sprinkler set & 25 nos. of drip have been installed successfully in the Matir Sristi area. As a result, agricultural crop coverage including vegetable increased to 22,000 acres multi crop area due to creation of irrigation sources. Horticulture plantation done in 12,000 acres, mainly fruit trees. Cropping intensity increased to more than 180 as against less than 100 before commencement of interventions.

Under the scheme, 1,59,082 no. of small ruminants & birds have been distributed by the Animal Resource



Department (ARD) and various Pisciculture Activities have been taken up in 224 sites.

Currently, 149 no. of CBOs and 79 no. of FPOs are functioning in Matir Sristi Areas.

The 'Jalathirtha' Programme aims to increase irrigation coverage and rainwater conservation in seven arid Districts of Paschimanchal, including the saline riverine areas of North and South 24 Parganas District and the hilly regions of Darjeeling and Kalimpong Districts. As of December 31, 2024, 22 schemes have been completed this year, creating an irrigation potential of 373 hectares.

Since its inception until December 31, of 2024-25 financial year, 2,262 Minor Irrigation Schemes based on surface water have been constructed, creating an irrigation potential of about 70,948 hectares. Under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), 409 Minor Irrigation Schemes have been completed this year up to December 31, 2024, creating an irrigation potential of 15,152 hectares.

Under the West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation Project (WBADMIP), 1,150 schemes have been completed up to December 31, 2024, creating an additional irrigation potential of 7,186 hectares. The Department has formed 87 Water User Associations (WUAs), comprising 1,600 beneficiary families, to ensure better management, operation, and maintenance of minor irrigation schemes.

The Department has conducted extensive capacity building initiatives, training 27,753 farmers through 2,088 programs. Additionally, 791 demonstration programs have been conducted involving 7,871 beneficiary families, focusing on agriculture, horticulture, and fisheries to introduce modern practices for improving productivity, production, and farmer income.

Since inception, the Department has implemented 7,931 Minor Irrigation Schemes with an irrigation potential of about 85,939 hectares and formed 3,085 WUAs. In pursuing renewable energy adoption, 1,200 Minor Irrigation Schemes with an irrigation potential of 13,918 hectares have been completed using solar power as the motive force. Water use efficiency is being enhanced through micro-irrigation schemes. During 2024-25, up to December 31, 2024, the Department has completed 79 Sprinkler Irrigation and 26 Drip Irrigation Schemes, creating irrigation potential of 490 hectares and 155 hectares respectively.

To conserve sweet surface water, old silted creeks in saline riverine areas have been re-excavated under WBADMIP, Jalatirtha, and other programs. This has created opportunities for winter crop cultivation and pisciculture, contributing to the socio-economic development of beneficiaries.

In 2024-25, about 54.69 km of old silted creek has been re-excavated, creating an irrigation potential of about 1,350 hectares. This initiative has yielded multiple climate-

resilient benefits: facilitating groundwater recharge, reducing saline water ingress and stream bank erosion through plantation activities, and mitigating storm surge inundation problems.

The Department has maintained continuous emphasis on efficient groundwater use, increased surface water utilization, and conjunctive use of surface and groundwater in minor irrigation. As a result, the Stage of Development/Extraction (SOD) of groundwater for the State has declined from 50.29% in the 2017 Dynamic Ground Water Resources Assessment to 44.81% in the 2023 assessment.

### **3.10 Co-operation**

The Department of Cooperation plays a vital role in socio-economic development by strengthening cooperative societies across the State. It focuses on equitable income distribution, women empowerment, and financial inclusion, particularly in rural and unbanked areas, through an extensive cooperative network.

The Cooperative Movement in West Bengal has a membership exceeding 89 lakh individuals across over 30,000 Cooperative Societies. The sector plays a commendable role in Agriculture, Marketing, Consumers, Housing and Service Sector, has significantly contributed to employment generation and has effectively addressed the needs of both producers and consumers.

The Government's flagship schemes viz. Student Credit Card, Matsyajibi Credit Card, Bhabisyat Credit Card,

Krishak Bandhu Benefit Schemes, etc. are currently being implemented through the Cooperative Sector. In recent years, Cooperation Department has prioritized activities such as expanding membership coverage, facilitating rural infrastructure development, providing financial services in unbanked areas, employment generation and promoting women's empowerment through Self Help Groups.

In 2024-25, crop loan of Rs. 3,249.26 crore has already been issued to 10.15 lakh farmer members till Nov' 2024. Animal Husbandry loan of Rs.10.22 crore has also been disbursed to 1,522 members for Goatery, Piggery, Dairy and Poultry under the Kisan Credit Card Scheme in the same period. Under the 'Krishak Bandhu' Scheme, Rs. 2,907.40 crore has been disbursed to 1.076 crore farmers.

During KMS 2023-24, 9.31 lakh MT paddy was procured from 3.01 lakh farmers through 1,065 Cooperative Societies, of which BENFED procured 4.54 lakh MT from 1.51 lakh farmers through 539 Cooperative Societies and CONFED procured 47,234.70 MT paddy from 15,351 farmers through 39 Cooperative Societies.

This year 3,295 new SHGs have been formed raising the cumulative number of SHGs to 2,11,590. 92,675 SHG members have been credit linked and loan of Rs. 1540.50 crore issued to the SHG Member still Nov. 2024.

Rs.11.67 crore has been sanctioned to 1,261 fishermen under the Matsyajibi Credit Card Scheme, Rs. 24.75 crore

has been sanctioned to 1,276 cases under the Bhabisyat Credit Card Scheme and 12,310 students have been sanctioned loan under Student Credit Card Scheme so far in 2024-25.

West Bengal State Cooperative Bank has been onboarded with NPCI to provide Unified Payment Interface (UPI) to its clients. Additionally, the process of upgrading the CBS in State Cooperative Bank has been initiated to facilitate the adoption of the latest technology-enabled services. Crop loan is now being issued through Micro-ATMs in many Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperative Societies (PACS).

Under RKVY, construction of 29 rural storage godowns with a total capacity of 2900 MT and 9 SHG workshed-cum-sales counters has been completed during 2024-25. Construction of another 35 rural storage godowns each having capacity of 100 MT, 2 seed processing units and 14 SHG workshed-cum-sales counters are under progress and is expected to be completed soon. Construction of one Cold Storage having a storage capacity of 13,020 MT has been completed during 2024-25.

### **3.11 Forest**

The Forest Department is committed to maintaining ecological stability by enhancing forest and tree cover, conserving wildlife, and sustainably utilizing forest resources. Its efforts contribute to the preservation of the state's natural heritage and environmental balance.

3,584.40 hectares of land have been afforested in the State under State Development Scheme. 113.34 lakh saplings have been distributed to public.

Under-Sabujshree, since inception a total of 64 lakh seedlings have been distributed to the mothers of newly born children till November, 2024.

The Sundarban Tiger Reserve is a critical habitat for the Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris*). In 2018 All India Tiger Estimation, 88 number of Tigers were recorded in the Sundarban Landscape.

Due to increasing rhino population in Jaldapara and the limited availability of suitable habitat, it is proposed to translocate rhinos to new locations such as Nimati in Buxa Tiger Reserve and Patlakawa to alleviate habitat pressure.

Gharial Conservation Programme has been initiated and 37 captive born Gharials was translocated from Rasikbeel Mini Zoo, Cooch Behar and released at Jalangi river of Murshidabad district.

Under the Vulture Conservation Breeding Programme, the Forest Department has successfully bred all 3 endangered species of Gyps Vulture since 2006. So far, 57 Captive bred Gyps vultures have been released from Buxa Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre and Aviary, Rajabhatkhawa.

Under Red Panda Conservation Breeding and Augmentation Programme of Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling between 2022 and 2024, nine

captive-bred red pandas (seven females and two males) were released into Singalila National Park (SNP) in West Bengal.

Bhutia Basti and Gangutia Forest Village has already been relocated to a new village named as 'Bonochaya' There is an ongoing process of relocation of Jayanti village from the Buxa Tiger Reserve to create inviolate space for tiger and wildlife.

Rejuvenation of Amlachati ex situ conservation site under Silviculture South Division has been taken up.

131.48 hectares of plantations under Compensatory Afforestation are being raised. Maintenance of 2nd year old seedling for creation of strip/avenue plantations is being taken up.

Under the 2nd phase of the JICA assisted project 'Forest and Biodiversity Conservation for Climate Change Response in West Bengal' over 17.41 lakh tall seedlings were raised at 37 central nurseries. Infrastructure upgradation of Bethuadahari, Ballavpur, Chintamani Kar and Bibhutibhushan Wildlife Sanctuaries has been done, along with other works like Training on Dolphin Conservation Programme and measures to curb elephant depredation in North Bengal and South Bengal.

Forest produce, like timber, poles and firewood is sold through e-auction portal of West Bengal Forest Development Corporation Limited (WBFDC). In 2024-2025 up to 30th November, 2024 a total of 1,149 of e-auctions have been conducted with sale value of Rs. 210 crore.

The West Bengal Zoo Authority (WBZA) has undertaken various infrastructural development works including renovation of visitor pathway with paver block, construction of new animal enclosure and renovation of reptile house.

## **Social Infrastructure**

### **3.12 Health & Family Welfare**

The Department of Health & Family Welfare ensures accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare for all citizens. With strengthened infrastructure and skilled manpower, it remains dedicated to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and fostering public health excellence.

The 'Su-Swasthya Kendras' (Health & Wellness Centres) have been established to provide comprehensive Primary Health Care Services in both rural and urban regions, with a particular emphasis on non-communicable diseases like diabetes and hypertension, as well as Eye, ENT, Oral health care, elderly care, and mental health. Out of the approved 4,461 sub-centres, 2,525 are already operational. To strengthen this system, 13,393 Su-Swasthya Kendras are currently operational. Additionally, 137 Block Public Health Units (BPHUs) will be operational by the end of 2024-25. Since their launch, these centres have served 19.16 crore people and provided free medication to 15.94 crore patients.

The State Government has launched the 'RATTIRER SAATHI- HELPERS OF THE NIGHT' initiative to ensure safety and security of health professionals, particularly



women, working at night in various Medical Colleges, Hospitals, and Hostels. This programme entails infrastructural developments such as building rest rooms and washrooms, installing CCTVs, providing potable drinking water, and enhancing lighting arrangements. So far, Rs. 157.34 crore has been approved for this initiative.

The flagship 'Swasthya Sathi Scheme' covers 8.51 crore people from 2.45 crore families across West Bengal. Under this scheme, 2,879 hospitals and nursing homes are enlisted. Since its inception, over 85 lakh beneficiaries have availed services worth more than Rs. 11,098.46 crore. In 2023-24 alone, scheme expenditure exceeded Rs. 2,091 crore, with around 6,000 patients utilizing the facility daily.

The 'Chokher Alo' initiative aims to ensure universal 'Eye Health for All' in West Bengal. Since its inception, 1.35 crore people have been screened, 12.45 lakh cataract surgeries performed, and 14.48 lakh free spectacles distributed. Additionally, 21 Satellite Eye OTs and 2 dedicated eye wards have been established in Rural Hospitals and Sub-Divisional/District Hospitals. Currently, 10 districts have achieved 'Cataract Blindness Backlog Free' status. This scheme has been awarded the FICCI Healthcare Excellence Award and a Gold award for Excellence in Service-Public Hospitals.

Under the 'Shishu Saathi' scheme, 32,000 congenital heart disease cases and 10,000 cleft lip/palate and club foot cases have been treated in West Bengal, providing free super specialized tertiary level care for children.

Institutional Delivery has increased to more than 99% in 2024-25 from 68.1% in 2011. Maternal Mortality Rate has come down to 103 from 113 per 1 lakh live births in 2011. Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has also come down to 19 per 1,000 live births from 34 in 2011. Nearly 100% of the children have been fully immunized in 2023 against 65% in 2011. To assist the pregnant woman, 13 waiting huts are functional now. Additionally, to provide quality health care, 14 MCH hubs are currently operational and 2 more MCH hubs are going to become operational soon.

The innovative tele-medicine service, 'Swasthya Ingit' is now operational at 8,926 Su-Swasthya Kendras, 780 PHCs, 465 UPHCs and 4.73 crore consultations have been done on the system. Around 70,000 people are getting benefited from this scheme daily.

In 2024-25, more than 580 projects have been taken up for infrastructure upgradation of all types of Government Healthcare Institutions across the State which include construction of additional facilities, renovation of old infrastructure, enhancement of bed strength in hospitals from the PHCs to the tertiary level hospitals.

'Fair Price Medicine Shops' (FPMS) have been set up in PPP mode, since December, 2012. Presently 117 FPMS are functional giving discount of 48%-80% on MRP of medicines. Since inception, discount of around Rs. 3,000 crore has been availed under 9.60 crore prescriptions.

Fair Price Diagnostic Centers (FPDC) and Dialysis Centres have been established from medical colleges to

secondary-tier hospitals in the State. There are 170 functional units, including 20 MRI, 48 CT scans, 33 digital x-rays, 13 audio vestibular clinics, 01 PET scan, and 55 dialysis units. Since their inception, these units have serviced 2.68 crore patients, amounting to around Rs. 1,785.25 crore.

To ensure affordable, accessible, and quality healthcare services, the Department of Health & Family Welfare currently employs 18,771 doctors (including specialists), 66,983 nurses (including 2nd Auxiliary Nurse & Midwife - ANM), 8,303 paramedical staff, and 62,472 Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) in 2023.

The AYUSH system (Ayurveda, Homoeopathy, Unani, and Yoga) has become significant in delivering healthcare. Initiatives for promoting different branches of AYUSH include the 'YOGASHRI' Medical College & Hospital at Belur, Howrah, which started its academic and OPD sessions. OPD and IPD services are provided in Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic Medical Colleges & Hospitals, with integrated AYUSH Hospital services now available in Paschim Medinipur. Over one crore patients have benefited from AYUSH OPDs this year.

The State Government ensures free supply of 977 essential and other need-based drugs and consumables in all Government Facilities. Continuous procurement of medical equipment and high-end machines has strengthened the healthcare system across different tiers. In 2024-25, expenditure for general drugs, equipment, and consumables has exceeded Rs. 1,184.80 crore.

Blood Centre (Blood Bank) Facilities have increased to 89 units in 2024-25 from 58 in 2011. Additionally, 40 Blood Component Separation Units (BCSUs) are now operational round the clock, with another 3 units expected to follow soon, marking a significant rise from only 9 units in 2011. Moreover, 69 Blood Storage Units (BSUs) have been linked with the nearest Blood Bank Facilities.

The State Government has taken proactive measures for dengue prevention, resulting in an increase in dengue testing facilities to 267 in 2024-25.

A special initiative for triple elimination of mother-to-child transmission of Hepatitis B, HIV, and Syphilis has been launched, making West Bengal the first state to undertake such a program. The state currently operates 36 Viral Hepatitis Treatment Centers.

Tele Mental Health Services have been made available, offering 24×7 psychological tele-consultation. To date, nearly 83,659 patients and their relatives have received successful counselling. Treatment and care have been provided to nearly 5 lakh patients through 5 state-run mental hospitals, district, and sub-division hospitals, and DMHP outreach camps.

Three Tertiary Cancer Care Centres are being established at College of Medicine Sagar Dutta Hospital, Burdwan Medical College & Hospital, and Murshidabad Medical College & Hospital. The State Government has also signed a MoU with Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai,

to develop two State-of-the-Art Cancer Care Centres at IPGMER, Kolkata, and North Bengal Medical College & Hospital, Siliguri.

The Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases, and Stroke (NPCDCS & NPC) has been rolled out in urban areas under NUHM. This program involves population-based and opportunistic screening of common non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as Diabetes, Hypertension, Cardiovascular Diseases, and the three most common cancers (Oral, Breast, and Cervical) across all health facility centres from Su-Swasthya Kendras to District Hospitals.

### **3.13 School Education**

The School Education Department enhances educational quality and infrastructure, with a focus on inclusivity and mid-day meal programmes. It ensures holistic development by catering to diverse educational needs through its 24 specialized entities.

There has been sustained and consistent improvement of infrastructure and human resources in the school education sector from 2011 with the objective of providing quality education and retention of students. 823 schools from Jr. High to High School level and 2,195 schools from High to Higher Secondary level have been upgraded. 7,259 new schools and 2.22 lakh additional classrooms have been made to accommodate the growing number of students. 9,310 schools have been brought under the programme so far.

In addition, 44,739 girls' toilets, 26,675 boys' toilets and 10,227 for Children With Special Needs (CWSN) have been constructed. The State Government has provided free school uniforms to more than 13.12 crore school children and Text Books to students from pre-primary to class 12. For academic year 2025, more than 41,000 Braille Books (for Blind students) and large print text books (for low vision students) will be distributed among the CWSN students.

A one-time grant of Rs. 10,000 is given to each student of class 11 & 12 of the Government/Government Aided/Sponsored schools and Madrasahs for purchasing Tablet PC/Smart Phones to access the e-learning mode under 'Taruner Swapna' scheme. Till date more than 53 lakh students have received benefit under the scheme, including about 16 lakh students for the year 2024-25. Benefit under the Student Credit Card scheme has been sanctioned in favour of 79,520 students with loan amount of Rs. 2,819.67 crore so far.

Marksheets & Certificates of Madhyamik and Uchcha-Madhyamik examinations for the period between 2012 and 2023 have been uploaded and integrated with the Digilocker platform to provide easy access to the students/stakeholders. Presently, among the 1.37 crore students from Primary to Higher Secondary level, 1.23 crore students (90%) under School Education Department are having their Aadhaar number captured in the Banglar Shiksha Portal. Besides, an online portal to provide NOC to the private schools seeking affiliation to the CBSE &

CISCE Board/Council is operational since last year, which has so far benefitted 137 schools.

Under the Mid-day-Meal programme, 100% Government/Government Aided/Government Sponsored schools in the State have been covered. Currently, nearly 1.13 crore students are under its coverage. 100% schools are having LPG connection for cooking Mid-day-Meal.

West Bengal has moved upward from Grade-VI to Grade-I on Performance Grading Index (PGI). The State has ranked no. 1 at national level among major States on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Index, 2022 published by the Government of India.

### **3.14 Higher Education**

The Department of Higher Education has significantly transformed the education sector by focusing on expansion, equity, excellence, and employability. Through enhanced funding, infrastructure development, and inclusive policies, it continues to empower students and promote academic growth.

State government has been consistently striving towards improvement in higher education with active participation of private sector. The number of Universities in the State has been increased from 12 to 42 in last thirteen years, out of which 31 are State Aided Universities and 11 are Private Universities under direct administrative control of this department. There are 518 Govt. and Govt. aided colleges, out of which 52 new Government General Degree Colleges

have been established in last 13 years resulting in increase of enrolment in Higher Education from 13.24 lakh during 2010-11 to 27.22 lakh during 2024-25 academic session.

During 2023-24, around Rs.1,223 crore have been allocated for around 6,53,771 student beneficiaries under 'Swami Vivekananda Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Scheme'. The portal of Swami Vivekananda Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Scheme is operational for the students of Class XI & XII and UG & PG courses and also Research Scholars. During this academic session up to 31/12/2024, more than 3.05 lakh students have already applied online under the Scheme.

The State Government has extended scholarship benefits to the girl students for pursuing post-graduation in regular courses under Kanyashree-3. During 2023-24, 40,920 students got Kanyashree-3 scholarship involving Rs. 102.38 crore. In this academic session more than 17,000 girl students have applied for this scholarship.

Under the West Bengal Student Credit Card Scheme, an education loan up to Rs.10 lakh for students of West Bengal, at simple interest @ 4% p.a. for boys and @ 3.5% p.a. for girls is also provided for pursuing higher education in any recognized institution in India or abroad. More than 80,000 students have so far been sanctioned loan, with aggregate loan amount more than Rs. 2,800 crore.



### **3.15 Technical Education, Training and Skill Development**

The Technical Education, Training & Skill Development (TET & SD) Department has adopted a 3-tier model of skilling with Skill Development and Vocational Training Centres at the school/Gram Panchayat level, ITI at the Block level and Polytechnic at the Sub-divisional level. The Department through its 3 Directorates & 2 Councils supervises 311 ITIs, 357 Polytechnics and 4,147 Vocational Training Centres across the State.

Under 'Utkarsh Bangla' over 1,700 Training Providers are providing short term/non-institutional training in 297 job-roles in all 23 Districts in the State.

Rojgar Seva Portal has been created for placements in collaboration with industry. TETSD department has also started a common Admission Portal for students after class 10 Board Examination to courses and institutions under the Department. From April to December, 2024 around 1,43,000 students applied through this portal for admission. This portal has been integrated with the Bhabishyat Credit Card portal (BCC). Six modular courses have also been created for supporting the entrepreneurship development programme, BCC and other credit schemes.

A policy for creation of Centre of Excellence was notified in 2024. Centres of Excellence which have already been formed or in the process of being formed are Center of Excellence on Creative Technology in collaboration with

ADOBE Creative Cloud Technology, Ireland; Centre of Excellence on Heritage Preservation in collaboration with Commonwealth Heritage Forum and West Bengal Heritage Commission; Centre of Excellence on Renewable Energy in collaboration with Industry Partners, IIT Bombay and IEST, Kolkata; Centre of Excellence on E-Vehicle in collaboration with the Government of the United Kingdom.

This Department through PBSSD (Paschim Banga Society for Skill Development) has also conducted training-programme on Home-stay & Hospitality Management in collaboration with Tourism Department, WBSRLM (West Bengal State Rural Livelihood Mission) and many other department for self-employment.

Till December 2024, around 3.28 lakh candidates had been registered through 'Amar Karmadisha App' for psychometry-based career counselling. Out of whom about 60 per cent of those registered in 2023-24 were female.

In the year 2024-25, 22 job fairs were held in 21 districts till December, 2024 for PBSSD and VTC Trainees. More than 50% of the appeared candidates were selected.

All Government/Private ITIs, Government ITIs running under PTP and Polytechnics (including Govt. sponsored Polytechnics) and Private and Govt. Universities have been allowed to conduct short term training courses under PBSSD. Training centers for short-term training are currently operational in 14 parks and 34 clusters across the state.

Making Utkarsh Bangla short term training fully employment linked is reaping rich dividends. It has already seen more than 50% of the certified trainees getting gainfully employed. The employment linkage has resulted in many ancillary advantages such as higher enthusiasm amongst the trainees, better engagement during the training, higher absorption of the skills being imparted and better quality of training. The higher engagement of the trainees is also putting pressure on the trainers to be updated, making them take advantage of the trainers' training programmes put in place by the council under the department to upgrade their skill levels.

The decentralization of financial powers to the districts is also seeing happy trainers and the training providers as they are getting regularly paid on achieving different milestones including the arranging the employment of the trained candidates. These facts are being witnessed during the monitoring system put in place which makes the officials of the PBSSD at all levels. District administration and the department also visit these training centers on a regular basis.

Several courses in the emerging technology areas have been started in Mechatronics, Renewable Energy, Cyber Forensics Information Security and Interior Decoration etc.

As part of the Comprehensive Institutional Development Plan for long & short term needs of the institutes, dedicated websites and integrated e-Governance portal is being

continued. All Govt. Polytechnics are covered under CCTV surveillance to enhance safety, security. 29,051 numbers of vocational students have been given financial assistance from state budget in 2023-24 for procurement of Tab/ Smart Phone under 'Taruner Swapna'. In 2024-25, over 70,000 students will be benefitted. Vocationalisation of School Education (CSS-VSE) scheme now covered 1,483 schools while 2,522 state funded VTCS are running. West Bengal State Council of Technical and Vocational Education and Skill Development affiliated 60 Health-care institutes till date with cumulative approved intake of 1,950 in 15 different courses. In these courses, total number of admitted students till December, 2024 are 512.

### **3.16 Youth Services and Sports**

The main focus of the Department is development of sports and for this, Academies in various disciplines of sports such as Archery, Football, Tennis, Table Tennis, Badminton, Swimming, Rifle Shooting etc. have been set up along with Stadium, Swimming Pool, Multigym, Mini Indoor Games/Recreation Complex, Playground, etc. Various grants have been provided to individuals and organizations for improvement of sports.

Construction of an International Standard Hockey Stadium, another feather to the glory of West Bengal, is on the verge of completion at Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan Campus.

Durand Cup 2024 was organised successfully in collaboration with Indian Armed Forces. 11th ISL is going on successfully at Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan and Kishore Bharati Krirangan.

A scheme for providing monthly honorarium (@ Rs. 1,000/-) to 1,555 nos. of retired sports persons who represented the State in National & International level tournaments has been launched.

Seven trainees of Bengal Football Academy have represented the Bengal Team in National Khelo India U-19 Football Tournament 2024. 3 trainees represented Bengal Team in Swami Vivekananda U-20 Football Tournament, 2024 conducted by AIFF. This Academy has become Zonal Champion in Youth I-League (U-15) by defeating Mohunbagan, East Bengal and Mohammedan Club. The Bengal Team has won U-17 B. C. Roy Trophy where 7 trainees from the Academy represented the team.

9 trainees have been selected in the Bengal School team for National School Games 2024-25. 2 trainees (U-19) have been selected in Santosh Trophy Bengal Team.

23 trainees of Bengal Archery Academy, Jhargram got selected to represent the State for National School Games in which one archer won Gold. Juyel Sarkar, trainee of the Academy has been selected in the team for Asian Youth Archery Championship. Besides, archers have won 11 Gold, 11 Silver and 11 Bronze medals in the State Archery Championship.

Around 1,71,132 students have completed the training successfully in 2024 from 883 Youth Computer Training Centre (YCTC).

Rakhi Bandhan Utsav, Vivek Chetana Utsav, Khela Hobe Diwas, Birthday celebration of legendary footballer Goshtho Pal, Student Youth Science Fair and Mountaineering activities were conducted during 2024.

### **3.17 Information & Cultural Affairs**

Durga Puja Carnival, the annual road show with display and procession of iconic and award-winning Durga idols, which has been under limelight since the UNESCO's recognition of Durga Puja as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, was organized on 15th October, 2024 with participation of around 90 idols of different Puja Committees and more than 9,000 artists performed live on Red Road, Kolkata before thousands of spectators, including foreign guests.

Under Lok Prasar Prakalpa (LPP), more than 1.4 lakh folk artists between the age of 18-60 are receiving Rs.1,000/- per month as retainer fee. 35,772 senior folk artists, who are above 60 years are also receiving Rs.1,000/- per month as pension. Apart from this, for folk performances, the registered artists receive Rs.1,000/- as Performance fee. Retainer fee, performance fee and pension are credited to the bank accounts of the folk artists directly under Direct Benefit Transfer Mode.

Literature Festival and Little Magazine Mela, Biswabangla Lok Sanskriti Utsav, Jatra Utsav, Uday

Shankar Dance Festival, Shishu Kishore Boimela O Shishu Sahitya Utsab, Classical Music Conference, Poush Utsab, Bangla Moder Garbo were among the programmes successfully organized in districts and in Kolkata by the Department. The Academies, including those catering to marginalized or indigenous communities and languages, undertook a plethora of activities.

The '30th Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF)' was held from 4th December to 11th December, 2024 with a colourful inauguration in star studded Dhono Dhanyo Auditorium. Exhibitions in the memory of Tapan Sinha and Centenary Tribute to Arundhuti Devi, Harisadhan Dasgupta, Marlon Brando, Marcelo Mastroianni have been organized during the Festival and the entire event was conducted successfully with pomp and grandeur. A total of 175 films from 22 countries were screened at 19 venues. Award has been given 7 categories.

The Mahanayak Uttam Kumar Award Ceremony was held on 24th July, 2024 in a grand manner. Actors/ Technicians of films were felicitated in this award ceremony.

In 2024-25, this Department organized observance of Birth and Death anniversaries of great personalities such as Kabiguru Rabindranath Tagore, Gandhiji, Netaji Subhash Ch. Bose, Kazi Nazrul Islam etc. Also International Mother Language day was observed.

Monthly Financial Assistance to 29,247 financially weak Purohits and Priests at the rate of Rs.1,500/- per month

are being provided by the State Government under Social Welfare Scheme for Purohits (SWSP) directly in their bank account.

Special initiative has been taken under Directorate of Archaeology and Museums for conservation and restoration work of Pathan Palace (Hamam) at Malda, Site Museum and adjacent administrative building complex beside Buddhist Monastery at Jagjivanpur, Malda. The modelling section of the State Archaeological Museum creates fiberglass replicas of various antiquities.

Under 'Financial Assistance to Jatra Artists and Theatre Groups Scheme', one-time financial assistance is provided to distressed and aged Jatra performers and Theatre Groups. Under Literary and Cultural Pension Scheme financial assistance is provided to aged and financially weak artists.

Government of West Bengal has introduced 'West Bengal Pension Scheme for the Journalists, 2018', through which 161 retired Journalists are being provided monthly pension @ Rs. 2,500/- through Direct Benefit Transfer Mode.

Till now 140 films have been sent for digitization & restoration out of which 85 films were digitized so far. Simultaneously, the State Govt. has taken initiative to digitize and restore all Government produced films being preserved in the State Film Archive at Cinema Centenary Building.



The Group Health Insurance and Personal Accident Insurance Scheme for Cine and Television Artists, Technicians & Workers provides insurance coverage to 4,800 nos. Primary Members along with maximum five dependent family members.

‘West Bengal Tele Academy, Baruipur’ was handed over by KMDA on 6th September 2024 and shooting of films etc. are going on each of the four floors and around Rs. 38 lakh have already been earned as rent.

### **3.18 Mass Education Extension & Library Services**

More than Rs. 6.70 crore has been released in favour of 4,140 students with disabilities (studying in class IX and onwards) for SAHANUBHUTI Scholarship scheme who have scored at least 40% marks in the Annual Examination in the year 2023.

110 students of Sponsored Special Schools & 321 inmates of Educational Welfare Homes have passed the Madhyamik Examination, 2024. Also 53 students of Sponsored Special Schools and 63 inmates of Educational Welfare Homes have passed the Higher Secondary Examination, 2024.

Fund (@ Rs. 10,000/-) has been allotted to 100 specially abled students of class XI & XII for purchase of Tablet Computer/Smart phone.

Fund has been released for construction, repair, renovation of Government and Government Sponsored Public Libraries.

Recruitment process of 686 Librarians in Rural Libraries out of 738 posts has been completed. As on 31.12.2024, 380 candidates have joined their new assignment as Librarians in Rural Libraries.

District Book Fairs 2024, organized by this Department, have been successfully completed in 13 districts and in 1 SMPA area. Book Fairs in remaining districts will be completed by January 2025.

9th State Level Annual Sports Meet, for inmates of Welfare Homes under this Department, was held on 23rd and 24th December, 2024 at Kalimpong.

## **Physical Infrastructure**

### **3.19 Public Health Engineering**

The Rural Drinking Water Supply under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), implemented with a 50:50 funding pattern between the Centre and State, aims to ensure that every rural household has access to an assured supply of drinking water in adequate quantity and prescribed quality on a regular and long-term basis, by providing Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs). As of 31st December 2024, more than 9,000 schemes have been grounded under JJM which is expected to provide tap connections to more than 1.75 crore rural households, with a total sanctioned cost of nearly Rs. 57,000 crore.

During 2024-25, about 13 lakh rural households have been provided with tap connections, bringing the total to 95 lakh rural households across the State with access to

potable water through tap connections at their doorsteps. Additionally, 1,200 villages were fully covered with piped water supply this year, bringing the total number of villages declared as 'Swajal Grams' to 8,224.

To address ground water contamination in alluvial zones and water scarcity in arid regions, surface water-based piped water supply schemes worth Rs.14,410 crore are under implementation, benefiting an estimated 3.64 crore rural population. Among these, Rs. 1,296 crore worth water supply project in Purulia, assisted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), aims to benefit 8.17 lakh rural residents. Similarly, surface water-based projects costing Rs.3,870 crore, funded by the 'Asian Development Bank (ADB)', are being implemented in North and South 24 Parganas, Bankura, and Purba Medinipur, targeting a rural population of 24.11 lakh.

Successful implementation of Jal Jeevan mission has also ensured access to running water supply in more than 55,000 schools and 41,000 Anganwadis. In addition, 8,339 health centres, 2,914 gram panchayat buildings, 1,900 ashramshalas, 3,739 community centres, 133 community toilets and 372 other government offices have been provided with functional tap connections under JJM.

To maintain water quality and ensure the supply of potable drinking water, 217 water testing laboratories are operational in the State, which is the highest in the country. During this financial year, 4.73 lakh drinking water samples have been tested. Additionally, seven Mobile

Laboratory Vans (MLVs) have been introduced to test water quality in remote areas.

In 2024-25, 42,876 youths have been trained under the Utkarsha Bangla skill development programme as plumbers, pipe fitters, pump/valve operators, electricians, and mechanics. These skilled workers are engaged in both the implementation of JJM and the operation and maintenance of created assets. During the current year, 8,923 ASHA workers were trained to test water quality using Field Test Kits (FTKs), bringing the total number of trained ASHA workers to 56,812. During the year, ASHA workers tested about 2.60 lakh water samples from FHTCs, schools, Anganwadi centres and other public institutions.

The Karmashree initiative under JJM has engaged 8,81,702 job card holders during 2024-25, generating 5.55 crore man-days and disbursing total wages of Rs.1,597.13 crore.

The Department has also been actively involved in disaster relief efforts, ensuring access to drinking water for those affected by natural calamities. In 2024-25, a total of 33.10 lakh drinking water bottles, 3.03 crore drinking water pouches and 4.43 crore litres of potable water were distributed through water tankers in the aftermath of droughts, floods, and other emergencies. These measures also extended support during festivals, melas, and government meetings.

During the Ganga Sagar Mela 2024, comprehensive infrastructural arrangements were made for pilgrims and tourists, including temporary accommodations, safe drinking water supply, sanitation facilities, wastewater and solid waste management and fire-fighting arrangements.

### **3.20 Transport**

Revenue collection from motor vehicles in 2024-25 (upto December) is Rs.3,138.52 crore (including Suvidha Portal).

Vehicle Location Tracking System with Command & Control has been introduced for providing real-time vehicle location tracking, geo-fencing, safety features and few other safety provisions for sending emergency alerts, especially for women and children at risk.

Integrated Checkposts with Truck Parking Places/ Terminals at International Border Checkposts like Petrapole in North 24 Pgs, Hilli in Dakshin Dinajpur, Changrabandha in Coochbehar, Fulbari in Jalpaiguri districts etc. have already been started and Motor Vehicle Inspectors have been deployed for smooth transportation of goods vehicles. 'Suvidha' and 'Uttar Suvidha' portals have been made operational to minimize waiting time of goods vehicles at ICP/LCS.

Once registered with the SUVIDHA portal, all facilities for smooth movement and clearances with concerned agencies shall be ensured in a time bound manner. Total Revenue earned since inception stands at Rs.647.37 crore

for 'SUVIDHA' portal and Rs. 2.76 crore for 'Uttar SUVIDHA' Portal.

In order to build a pollution-free public transport system, the State Government has taken several initiatives to reduce pollution in public transport system.

'Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities (RVSF)' Policy aims to reduce air pollution and improve road safety by phasing out old vehicles and promoting cleaner technologies. The policy mandates scrapping of end-of-life vehicles, reduce vehicular air pollution, improve fuel efficiency, align the Indian automotive sector with global sustainability standards, stimulate automotive sales and last but not the least hazardous materials are removed for proper disposal or recycling and the remaining vehicle is destroyed.

1,25,531 Electric vehicles including battery operated vehicles and 3,411 CNG vehicles have been registered in West Bengal as on December, 2024. At present there are 120 electric buses plying under West Bengal Transport Corporation (WBTC) from different WBTC depots in Kolkata.

84 electric vehicle chargers have been installed in different STU depots.

131 CNG buses have been procured by different State Transport Undertakings for operation.

Transport Dept. provides a reduced tax rate to incentivise EV in the State.

Remote Sensing Devices (RSD) have been deployed at various places in the city to measure the pollution level of moving vehicles.

To upgrade the road transport infrastructure, Transport Department constructs/ modernizes bus terminus throughout the State, such as at Umarpur in Murshidabad, Ranibandh in Bankura, Tarapith in Birbhum, Nandigram in Purba Medinipur, Goaltore & Chandrakona in Paschim Medinipur. Parking yard & allied works at Balurghat depot, boundary wall and rigid pavement works at Mallaguri Depot, Siliguri of NBSTC etc. have been completed.

Thirteen construction projects of gangway-cum-pontoon jetties under 'Gatishakti' have been completed. 4 (four) RO-RO jetties, 8 (eight) concrete jetties, 83 (eighty three) diesel buses for the STUs and procurement of 10 (ten) interceptor vehicles for road safety enforcement have been completed.

The State has emphasised development of Inland Water Transport through a World Bank assisted Inland Water Transport project. In the first phase of the Project, 28 jetties have been completed. 20 cross-ferry and 2 longitudinal route vessels have been completed. Smart gates have been installed at 44 locations.

Recently, the second phase of works under World Bank assisted Inland Water Transport Project have been initiated. 16 jetties have been taken up for construction, Contract for construction of 13 electric vessels has also

been signed. Further, Smart Gate Area Development are to be taken up in 38 locations.

Joint implementation and co-ordinated approach by Transport Department, Police Authorities, Departments of Public Works, UD & MA, P & RD, H & FW and School Education and Safe Drive Save Life campaign played an instrumental role to reduce the road accident figures from 17,684 (in 2016) to 13,795 (in 2023) and death figures from 6,951 (in 2016) to 6,027 (in 2023).

‘Sanjog portal’ is a platform to realize fines against MV cases lodged by Transport Department, WB Police and Kolkata Police. A vehicle owner can clear his dues more conveniently and transparently.

78 out of 141 online motor vehicle related services like registration of motor vehicles, certificate of fitness, payment of tax, permit for commercial vehicles, driving licenses etc. offered by Transport Department have been made faceless and citizens can also access some of these services from BSK portal. ‘TMS’ including online ticketing system has been introduced partially in all the STUs.

Initiative has been taken to bring Bike Taxi under legal framework by reducing the permit fees and helping them to convert their registration from Non-Transport to Transport category by holding special camps. 599 bike taxis have been registered upto 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2024.



Government supported App Cab services named 'Yatri Sathi' has been introduced where both the riders and the driver partners would be financially benefitted compared to the existing ODTTAs. Total 6,007 nos of Vehicles are plying under Yatrisathi as on 31.12.2024 and 68.46 lakh passengers were served under Yatrisathi as on 31.12.2024.

### **3.21 Public Works**

The Public Works Department is the backbone of infrastructure development in West Bengal. It constructs and maintains vital assets, including roads, hospitals, educational buildings, and heritage structures, contributing significantly to the state's socio-economic growth.

The State Government has placed utmost importance on improving and expanding road connectivity, which forms the lifeline of the Economy. During 2024-25, the Public Works Department has completed 219 road projects, 11 bridges, and 2 Roadway Over Bridges (ROB), covering 2,059 km at a total project cost of Rs. 2,364.18 crore. Additionally, 12 old dilapidated bridges have been rejuvenated/reconstructed at a cost of Rs. 12.49 crore.

Among the major completed projects, the Department has constructed an ROB at Khejuria near Adisaptagram on G.T. Road in Hooghly District at a cost of Rs. 105.77 crores. The Department has also completed the widening and strengthening to 2-Lane with Paved Shoulder from

0.00 km to 18.00 km of Khirpai Ramjibanpur Road (SH-7) and from 0.00 km to 2.60 km of Ramjibanpur Bye Pass Road (SH-7) in Paschim Medinipur District at a project cost of Rs. 85.77 crore.

The widening and strengthening to 2-lane with paved shoulder from 100.00 km to 125.07 km of Ramjibanpur-Palita-Palitpur-Natunhat Road in Purba Bardhaman District has been completed at a cost of Rs. 67.28 crore. The Department has also completed the widening and strengthening of Tarakeswar-Chawkdighi Road from 0.00 km to 13 km in Hooghly District at a project cost of Rs. 66.56 crore.

Widening and strengthening to 2-Lane from 0.00 km to 22 km of Manbazar-Bandwan-Kuilapal Road in Purulia District was completed at a cost of Rs. 62.87 crore. The widening and re-construction of Taldangra-Panchmura-Chowbeta Road from 10 km to 33.90 km in Bankura District was finished at a project cost of Rs. 49.84 crore. Additionally, construction of an ROB on the Bankura-Chatna Road at Panchbaga in Bankura District has been completed at a cost of Rs. 48.44 crore.

In North 24 Parganas District, two major projects have been completed: the strengthening of Hingalganj-Dulduli-Hemnagar Road from 12.60 km to 33.40 km at a project cost of Rs. 40.58 crore, and the strengthening of Basirhat-

Hasnabad Road from 0 km to 15 km at a cost of Rs. 33.50 crore.

### **3.22 Land & Land Reforms and Refugee Relief & Rehabilitation**

Till 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024, 61,32,211 mutation cases have been disposed and 1,64,012 conversion cases have been cleared.

A large number of labourers attached to the tea gardens of North Bengal reside on land without any rights over such land. To resolve the age-old problem of the tea garden labourers, the Govt. has been distributing Homestead Pattas after resumption of unutilized / surplus land of tea garden.

A new policy has been framed for regularization of land records of 998.37 acres of land in Dum Dum Cantonment which was vested to the State under West Bengal Estates Acquisition Act, 1953.

A new processing fee has been introduced by the Govt. for granting permission for creation of charge / mortgage of the lease hold interest by the LESSEE in part or full of the land from bank / financial institution. Also, on transfer / assignment of leasehold right in part or full of leasehold land by the LESSEE processing fee is being realized. This will help citizens and business and also increase Govt. revenue.

Rate of compensation for tea bushes and shade trees in active tea gardens in connection with resumption of land comprised in tea garden for various public purposes like water supply projects, electrification, gas pipeline, out post, airport etc. has been revised to compensate the Tea Garden Management adequately.

Through the e-Khajna module, launched in 2022, citizens can avail the facility of depositing land revenue online from their homes. This citizen-centric service has generated a very good response. More than 36,54,261 raiyats of non-agricultural lands have availed of the online services and voluntarily paid more than Rs. 159.64 crore till December, 2024 without any need to visit any office.

In recent times, rapid urbanization and socio-economic development have led to a consistent increase in land prices across the State. Consequently, for lands leased on a long-term basis (30 or 99 years), the renewal fees—calculated based on current market valuations—have become significantly high. This has created a disincentive for lessees to pursue timely lease renewals, adversely impacting both their interests and the State's revenue. Recognizing this issue, the State Government has deemed it necessary to streamline the renewal process for long-term leases. This initiative aims to ensure timely renewals, safeguard the State's revenue interests and alleviate the financial burden on existing lessees.

Amendments in the WBLR Manual 1991 have been done to specify the rate of annual rent for renewal of LTS of vested land.

The State Govt. has been considering various measures for re-starting the closed tea gardens and has introduced an SOP for operating the abandoned/closed tea gardens through grant of Short-Term Settlement. This initiative aims to rejuvenate the tea industry and provide essential support to affected workers and communities. The SOP mandates regular payment of wages and other dues to workers. It also emphasizes initiatives for the improvement of the gardens.

Labour Department has been assigned to act as the nodal department for selection of Tea Garden operators/ companies and execution of lease through STS or LTS to be done by the L&LR and RR&R Department as the owner of land. This SOP reflects the West Bengal government's commitment to revitalizing the tea industry, ensuring the welfare of tea garden workers and maintaining the economic stability of the region.

Till December, 2024, 18,013 Agri-Patta, 23,586 Tea Garden Patta and 263 FHTD in refugee colonies have been distributed.

During the current year, total revenue collection has been Rs. 2391.28 crore upto 31st December 2024.

### **3.23 Power**

During the current year 2024-25, 7,93,885 new service connections were provided in the State. Twelve 33/11KV Sub-Stations with capacity of around 191.5 MVA have been commissioned. Further, Capacity addition for sixty-six existing 33/11KV Sub-Stations with additional capacity of 283.6 MVA to cater to the additional load demand has been completed.

The Project for System Strengthening and Grid Modernization of Distribution network of WBSEDCL (WBEDGMP) under External Aided Project (EAP) funded by World Bank (IBRD) and AIIB loan & 30% State Share, having total project cost of Rs. 2,800.54 crore, have been taken up since 2021-22 with cumulative out go of Rs.1,600.00 crore.

The 'Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS)', a joint endeavor of the State and the Central Government was finalized for various improvements in electrical infrastructure throughout the State of the West Bengal with the estimated contribution of Government of West Bengal for Rs. 1,394.46 crore in phases. So far, under Loss Reduction, WBSEDCL has finalized tender of value of Rs. 7,000 crore (approx.) The State Govt. has already released Rs. 194.00 crore under State Share of RDSS.

As a part of relief to our consumers, government allowed partial waiver of Rs. 526.00 crore against outstanding

dues prior to 31.12.2018 and collected 96.77 crore of old energy dues from over 2 lakh consumers.

In order to increase the billing efficiency and deduction of losses, a program for installation of Smart Meter of 44.37 lakh (under RDSS programme and under World Bank funded grid modernization project) of consumer premises in phases has been undertaken for various categories of consumers including all Govt. offices. So far 1,20,000 smart meters have been installed for commercial, industrial, and government consumers during the CY.

For development of e-Vehicle charging infrastructure, vehicle charging stations have been planned in the vacant land of sub-stations on revenue sharing mode with private players. The process of setting up of 188 e-Vehicle charging stations have been taken up.

Installation of 112.5 MW Ground Mounted Solar Power Project at Goaltore, Paschim-Medinipur have been completed. The project started evacuating power to the nearest sub-station. Work for another 10 MW Solar Power Project at PPSP Upper Dam, Purulia has been undertaken at a cost of Rs.76.00 crore.

To mitigate the price hike in tariff, the State Govt. up-to 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the current year released Rs.1,414.11 crore as upfront subsidy benefitting 1.74 crore of domestic consumers including Agricultural consumers. In addition, Rs. 91.73 crore has been provided to WBSEDCL for free-

electricity under Hasir-Alo benefitting nearly 34 lakh consumers in aggregate. Moreover, State Govt. has released Rs. 6.47 crore up-to 3rd quarter of the CY to CESC for providing free-electricity under Hasir-Alo benefitting nearly 1.50 lakh consumers monthly.

During the current year, under the CSR scheme construction work of 3 Km Road under remote area of Purulia District with an involvement of Rs. 1.10 crore and another project of 3.5 Km road construction under Darjeeling District has been undertaken having financial involvement of Rs 1.54 crore (Approx).

During the current year 2024-25, West Bengal State Electricity Transmission Company Limited (WBSETCL) has already commissioned Gaighata 132/33KV (with 100 MVA transformation capacity) and Nilganj 132/33KV (with 100 MVA transformation capacity), both of District North 24 Parganas. Upgradation work of Food Park 132/33 KV to 220/132/33 KV GI Sub-Station at Howrah (with 320 MVA transformation capacity addition), Chapra 132/33 KV GIS at District Nadia (with 100 MVA transformation capacity), Goaltore 132/33 KV AIS at District Paschim Medinipur (with 150 MVA transformation capacity), Manikchak 132/33 KV GIS at District Malda (with 100 MVA transformation capacity) and Durgapur AB Zone 132/33 KV Sub-Station to 220/132/33 KV GI Sub-Station, District Paschim-Barddhaman (with 320 MVA transformation capacity addition) have been completed.



WBSETCL is maintaining its Transmission System availability consistently around 99.94% and transmission system loss around 2.15 % compared to 2.18% of the previous year which is one of the best in the country.

During the current year 2024-25, WBPDCCL achieved a record-breaking gross generation of 22,286 MU (upto December, 2024), marking its highest performance during this period. According to the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) merit order ranking of power plants based on plant load factor, Santaldih Thermal Power plant ranked first, Sagardighi Thermal Power Plant ranked second, and WBPDCCL as an organization secured the top position in the country till December, 2024.

During the current year 2024-25, all coal supplied to WBPDCCL's power stations was sourced from its captive mines, eliminating the need to procure coal from Coal India subsidiaries.

During the current year, WBPDCCL has paid dividend of Rs. 104 crore to State Government.

During the current year, WBPDCCL have commissioned 5 MW Floating Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant on Raw Water Pond No. 4 at Sagardighi Thermal Power Project with a project outlay of Rs. 40.96 crore.

On obtaining the Deocha-Pachami-Dewanganj-Harinsingh Coal Block from Ministry of Coal (MoC), GoI, WBPDCCL, Drone & DGPS survey has been completed,

Land survey, preparation of cadastral map has been done, Consent based R&R Package has been developed and declared and Extensive and continuous community mobilization and stakeholder consultations have been done, resulting in obtaining written consent from around 90% of land owners.

To date, a total of 1,395 employment opportunities have been generated, and land acquisition has covered an area of 370.72 acres.

Global Expression of Interest (EOI) for selection of Mine Developer cum Operator (MDO) for Deocha-Pachami-Dewanganj-Harinsingha Coal Block has been done in December, 2024.

During the current year (upto 30th Sep, 2024) The Durgapur Projects Limited (DPL) successfully extracted 26,226 MT of coal from Trans Damodar coalmine. To facilitate extraction of more coal from Trans Damodar coalmine, State Cabinet has approved procurement of 334 acres of land with 30% equity participation of the State Government involving an amount of Rs.30.00 crore (approx.).

### **3.24 Urban Development & Municipal Affairs**

The Department of Urban Development & Municipal Affairs addresses the challenges of urbanization by ensuring critical civic amenities and employment opportunities. It leverages IT initiatives to provide better living conditions and sustainable urban growth.

During 2024-25 under Development of Municipality Area (DMA), Rs. 290.72 crore have been allotted so far for construction and repair of road. Basic Minimum Services (BMS), mainly drainage schemes, amounting Rs. 64.41 crore are at different stages of completion. The Department is encouraging mechanized cleaning of the drains, especially for the sake of maintaining dignity of the scavengers.

Under Green City Mission, in 2024-25, 73 schemes of energy-efficient LED street lights with total allocation of Rs. 54.33 crore have been initiated. Rooftop and ground mounted Solar PV power plants are being established at different municipalities to reduce carbon footprint.

Some of the notable initiatives of KMC are – disposal of 18.25 lakh MT waste at Dhapa, construction of two Hot Bituminous Asphalt modified with Waste Plastic Road on experimental basis, construction of Capsule Booster Pumping Stations at Jayashree Park, Subhas Pally and Sarada Pally, C&D processing plant at Patharghata, Kalighat sky walk and e-learning initiatives in Corporation Schools.

Emphasis has been given on general cleanliness through collection of segregated waste from the doorsteps by 75,000 Nirmal-Bandhus (Conservancy Workers). There are functional fresh waste processing facilities at 17 ULBs and another 50 are expected to be in place by December,

2025. 76.55 lakh MT legacy waste has been bio-mined and bio-remediated.

Under AMRUT scheme, 47 Water Supply Schemes, 6 Storm Water Drainage Schemes, 2 Sewerage & Septage Schemes, 2 Non-Motorized Urban Transport Schemes, 409 Green Space Development Schemes and 1 Water Body Rejuvenation Scheme have been completed with an expenditure of Rs. 3,154.64 crore. 52 Water Supply schemes worth Rs. 5,316.36 crore have been commissioned from State Fund.

‘Swayamsiddha’ is being implemented to reduce urban poverty. Presently there are 91,724 Self Help Groups (SHG) with the coverage of 10.93 lakh poor urban households.

2,268 vulnerable homeless persons have been rescued through Night Surveys and provided accommodation in 72 functional Shelters for Urban Homeless (SUH). Micro-finance of Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 50,000 each has been provided to 2,12,620 urban street vendors across the State. Government initiated MAA programme in the urban areas to provide a meal for the needy people is being run effectively and successfully since inception. MAA Canteen is functional in 330 centres with 6.97 crore beneficiaries.

Under Jai Bangla Scheme, Old Age Pension is being provided to 2,79,511 persons, Widow Pension to 2,08,908 persons and Disability Pension to 13,823 persons amounting to Rs.1,000 each. In 2024-25, 2006 BPL

families have been provided Rs.40,000 each under Family Benefit Scheme for death of main bread-earner. Under Samabyathi Scheme, Rs.2,000 have been provided to 4,47,213 poor beneficiaries for cremation/ burial of their deceased family members.

6.91 lakh Dwelling Units have been constructed and handed over to the urban poor people. 2.17 lakh Dwelling Units are under construction. 762 U-H&WCs have been sanctioned out of which 482 are completed.

Kolkata Municipal Development Authority(KMDA) concentrates on urban transport infrastructure, water supply system, liquid and Solid Waste Management. One upcoming important project is 'Construction of elevated corridor from Metropolitan to Newtown'. In 2024-25, KMDA has taken up 81 projects worth Rs. 2,046.19 crore including Sewerage Treatment Plant at a cost of Rs.130 crore.

New Town Kolkata Development Authority (NKDA) has showcased exemplary commitment towards e-governance services like property tax collection, mutation, trade-license etc. New Town Kolkata is one of the 100 Smart Cities in India.

Nabadiganta Industrial Township Authority (NDITA) has taken up a number of innovative initiatives for infrastructural upgradation, beautification, better traffic management and citizen centric services in this township.

UD & MA Department has also given importance in the development of peri-urban areas to bridge the critical gaps in different infrastructural facilities and has already taken up schemes which involve Rs. 415 crore.

### **3.25 Housing**

The Department of Housing implements various social housing schemes and oversees real estate regulations to provide affordable housing solutions. It also manages infrastructure development through dedicated directorates like the Housing Directorate and West Bengal Housing Board.

Under the 'Chaa Sundari Housing Scheme', which aims to provide housing to permanent tea garden workers, 4,022 single-storied dwelling units have been approved for construction across 17 sites covering 7 tea gardens in Alipurduar and Jalpaiguri. While 1,171 units were completed and inaugurated in early 2023, construction is currently underway for 2,851 units across 11 sites in these districts.

A significant expansion has been introduced through the 'Chaa Sundari Extension Scheme', launched on January 3, 2024. This initiative provides financial assistance of Rs. 1.20 lakh per dwelling unit for constructing pucca houses with a minimum area of 25 square meters. The scheme's implementation is managed by the Panchayat & Rural Development Department, with

funding from the Housing Department. The first installment of Rs. 60,000 has been released to 24,500 beneficiaries across three districts in January 2024. The second installment of Rs. 40,000 has been disbursed to 17,633 eligible beneficiaries in this financial year of 2024-25.

The 'Nijashree Housing Scheme', targeting Lower and Middle Income Group families, has ongoing construction work at five sites in Durgapur-Fuljhore, Kalyani-Nadia, Coochbehar Town, Bishnupur-Bankura, and English Bazar-Malda.

In 2024, significant progress has been made in constructing night shelters for patient parties, with completed facilities at Tamluk District Hospital for 100 beds, Sagar Dutta Hospital having 50 beds and Kandi Sub-Divisional Hospital with 60 seats and a 30 beds-dormitory. Construction is going on at the Krishnanagar District Sadar Hospital and Murshidabad Medical College & Hospital with 120 seats and 100 beds respectively.

Under the Working Women's Hostel 'Karmanjali Scheme', a four-storied hostel with 48 single occupancy units has been completed in Haldia, with construction of 70 single occupancy units (Phase-I) ongoing in Contai, Purba Medinipur.

The Rental Housing Estates program has been completed for 40 flats across two sites in 2024 in Nimtouri and Tufanganj in Coochbehar. Construction of RHE flats

is in progress at five additional sites at Nimtouri, Contai, Arambagh, Alipurduar Town and Kalimpong.

The 'West Bengal Real Estate Regulatory Authority (WBREERA)' and Real Estate Administrative Tribunal have successfully digitized their operations, with all functions now available online. To date, they have received 2,715 new project registration applications, approving 2,245 of them, and 659 agent registration applications, with 585 approvals. Of the 1,018 complaint cases received, 351 have been disposed of, 661 are under hearing process.

### **3.26 Non-conventional & Renewable Energy Sources**

The Department of New and Renewable Energy Sources advances the development of clean and sustainable energy solutions. Through agencies like WBREDA and WBGEDCL, it maximizes the utilization of renewable resources for a greener and more energy-efficient future.

Bhajanghat 10 MW Ground Mounted Solar PV Power Plant has been made operational since March 2021 and is feeding power to the grid of WBSEDCL. Till date, 49.29 MU (Million Unit) of solar energy have been generated from this plant and supplied to the WBSEDCL.

2 MW Grid Connected Ground Mounted Solar PV Power Plant at Jamuria, Paschim Burdwan has also been made operational. Till date, power generation is 10.56 MU, out of which in 2024-25 only, it is 0.11 MU.



Schemes for Rooftop Grid Connected Solar Photovoltaic Power Plants in 990 Government/Government aided/Government sponsored Secondary/H.S. schools and Madrasas, has also been undertaken during 2022-23 and 2023-24 and is in progress.

Grid Connected Rooftop Solar PV System of cumulative capacity of 570 kWp at the roof of Offices of District Magistrates of 19 districts in West Bengal is in progress.

Installation of GRTSPV at PWD Office building in Jhargram, Installation of Rooftop Grid Connected Solar PV Power Plant at the Jhargram Collectorate building, Installation of Rooftop Grid Connected Solar PV Power Plant at the Coochbehar Collectorate building, and some other government buildings (Coochbehar core heritage area around Sagar Dighi and Bairagi Dighi ) and execution of 30kWp Building Integrated Photo Voltaic (BIPV) Power Plant at Bikalpa Shakti Bhavan by WBGEDCL are some of the important projects being implemented by the Department.

Installation of 30kWp Grid Connected Rooftop Solar PV at Forest and Building at Baikunthapur, Siliguri, Jalpaiguri District has been completed.

Administrative approval of Rs. 89.46 lakh has been accorded in favour of WBGEDCL for installation of 120 kWp Solar Ground Mounted Grid Connected Power Plant at Bengal Safari, Salugara, Siliguri.

Installation and Commissioning of Solar PV High Mast at Park Circus Maidan, Kolkata has been completed. Installation of waste to energy project at NRS Medical College & Hospital, Kolkata has been initiated.

Approval of Rs. 20.00 lakh has been accorded in favour of WBGEDCL for installation of Waste to Energy project at Adyapith Ananda Polytechnic College, Dakshineswar. WBGEDCL is implementing projects from funds available from different Departments/Organizations for deposit works.

NRES Deptt. is exploring possibilities for use of renewable energy sources replacing the conventional energy sources required for generation of livelihood projects of SHGs, MSME, fishery Value Chain and agriculture sectors. Rs. 1.08 crore has been utilized through West Bengal Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation Ltd. for installation of solar irrigation pumps for 45 nos. of tribal SHGs of Alipurduar, Dakshin Dinajpur, Malda and Purulia districts.

## **Social Empowerment**

### **3.27 Women and Child Development and Social Welfare**

The Government of West Bengal's innovative initiative 'Lakshmir Bhandar' aimed at providing a monthly income for women, has expanded its beneficiary base from 1.98 crore in 2023-24 to 2.21 crore in 2024-25. In 2024-

25 the Government has spent Rs. 19,385.39 crore and increased the monthly financial assistance to SC and ST beneficiaries from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,200, while for women from other categories from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000.

'Kanyashree Prakalpa' is now in its 11th year of implementation. Till date it has brought almost 1 crore beneficiaries under its protective umbrella. In 2024-25, 15.75 lakh girls enrolled in the Scheme's Annual Scholarship component of Rs. 1,000/-, and 2.01 lakh girls for its one-time grant of Rs. 25,000/-, Rs. 593.51 crore has been released in this year.

In the year 2024-25, the benefits of 'Rupashree Prakalpa' reached 2.08 lakh beneficiaries, with a total disbursement of Rs. 504.25 crore.

During 2024-25, Rs. 2,622.17 crore were disbursed to 31.27 lakh senior citizens and Rs. 1,795.77 crore were disbursed to 20.72 lakh widows as monthly pension. Under the Manabik Pension scheme for persons with disability of 40% or more, Rs. 668.48 crore were disbursed to 7.66 lakh beneficiaries.

Under the Anganwadi Services Scheme, about 68.58 lakh children below 6 years of age and 11.26 lakh pregnant and lactating mothers received hot cooked meals for 25 days each month regularly. Sustained nutritional inputs have reduced malnutrition in the State, and only 3.34% of children below 5 years are now reported as underweight.

Approximately 36.45 lakh children in the Age Group of 3-6 years are attending Pre-school Education regularly at the 1.19 lakh Anganwadi Centres in the State.

Under Mission 'Vatsalya', the Department has provided care and shelter to more than 6,200 children through Government and NGO-run Homes, Specialized Adoption Agencies, and Open Shelters. Additionally, the Department has facilitated 189 adoptions, provided 1,391 sponsorships, and ensured the restoration and repatriation of 9,553 children.

The Department runs 37 Shakti Sadan Shelter Homes for women in difficult circumstances, and 23 One Stop Centres for women affected by violence. There are 10 Homes for Vagrants, and 31 Shelter Homes specifically for the Urban Homeless in Kolkata, Howrah and Asansol Municipal Corporation. Further, the Department runs 2 Half-Way Homes called 'Pratyay' which shelter persons who have recovered from mental illnesses until they are able to transition to independent living. The Department has made all efforts to re-unite Shelter Home residents with their families.

### **3.28 Minority Affairs & Madrasah Education**

The Department of Minority Affairs & Madrasah Education fosters inclusive growth by implementing initiatives in education, skill development, and sustainable livelihoods for minority communities. Its emphasis on

e-governance ensures efficient and transparent service delivery.

The Aikyashree scholarship scheme, launched in 2019-20, received around 45 lakh applications in 2024-25, with over 16 lakh scholarships disbursed till 31st December, 2024. Till date 33 lakh scholarships have been disbursed. Additionally, 898 education loans to meritorious students belonging to Minority Communities for pursuing Professional/Technical/Vocational courses in India and abroad amounting to Rs. 21.83 crore have been sanctioned this year for meritorious minority students pursuing various courses.

To promote entrepreneurship, Term Loans and Micro Finance were extended to 9,201 beneficiaries and 52,707 SHG women members, respectively, totaling Rs. 245.34 crore in loans this year. Since 2011, Term Loans and Micro Finance have benefitted 1,29,679 and 13,57,874 beneficiaries, respectively, with financial expenditures of Rs. 1,133 crore and Rs. 2,264 crore.

This year, significant steps have been taken to modernize Madrasah education through the creation and upgrading of infrastructure like smart classrooms, e-Books, and computer labs. Approval has been granted for 600 smart classrooms, 100 digital laboratories, and the upgrading of science laboratories in 76 Madrasahs, to be completed within this year.

The department has implemented several online initiatives, including registration for board exams, data verification, and applications for Post Publication Review (PPR) and Post Publication Scrutiny (PPS). The West Bengal Board of Madrasah Education has adopted the semester system for the Fazil course, aligning it with the WBCHSE system.

The government focuses on bridging infrastructure gaps in minority areas through schemes like MsDP, IMDP, and MDW. This year, Rs. 92.42 crore was released under MsDP, Rs. 65.12 crore under IMDP, and over Rs. 120.30 crore under MDW, benefiting multiple districts. Since 2011, more than 5.05 lakh projects have been completed under these schemes, with a total expenditure exceeding Rs. 10,337 crore.

Aliah University has grown to include 23 departments and 50 programmes, earning a B+ accreditation from NAAC. During 2024-25 year, 1,939 new students enrolled in various programs, with 109 new PhD students and 35 PhD degrees awarded. The university's Training and Placement Cell organized campus drives resulting in job offers for 177 graduates.

To improve educational access for minority students, 605 hostels are being established, with 463 already operational. Each student receives an annual maintenance grant of Rs. 10,000.

In minority-concentrated areas, 305 Karmatirth as (Marketing Hubs) are being constructed to support artisans, cultivators, and self-employment opportunities for minority youth and SHG members. This year, 13 Karmatirthas became operational, totaling 266, with 23 more expected by the end of the fiscal year and the remaining 16 in various construction stages.

WBMDFC, WBSHC, and Urdu Academy have organized coaching for competitive government job exams. The Jogyashree Civil Services Coaching for Minorities was launched to assist 100 aspirants of IAS and other UPSC Exams. WBMDFC provided coaching for 1,800 candidates for Kolkata Police and West Bengal Police recruitment.

The department prioritized skill development training for minority youth through institutions like NIFT, MSME Tool Rooms, and WEBEL. Currently, 135 candidates are enrolled in NIFT courses and 140 in MSME Tool Rooms courses. The Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) program provided certification to over 4,000 masons in Murshidabad and Malda after a three-day course and evaluation. Training in mushroom cultivation was offered to over 900 youths in various districts. RPL training for traditional crafts like Jori work, gems and jewellery, and the leather industry is set to complete within the financial year.

WBMDFC launched a short-term Entrepreneur Development Programme (EDP) to enhance business skills

for loan beneficiaries, training over 2,300 individuals this year. The department also focused on minority development projects, including construction at Aliah University, boundary walls of grave yards, rural infrastructure, English Medium Madrasahs, and vocational training. Since 2011, Rs. 1,278 crore has been used for 9,371 boundary walls, and Rs. 2,451 crore for housing rehabilitation for destitute minority women, benefiting over 2.5 lakh women.

### **3.29 Backward Classes Welfare**

The Backward Classes Welfare Department is dedicated to the holistic development of Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes. With a focus on education, skill development, and socio-economic upliftment, the department ensures inclusive growth for marginalized communities across the State.

All Sub-divisions are now using online facility for issuing Caste Certificates. During 2024-25, 2,39,702 Caste Certificates have been issued till date. Since, May, 2011, 1,64,42,042 Castes Certificates have been issued.

‘Taposili Bandhu’– a social pension scheme provides all the senior citizens of SC community a monthly pension @ Rs. 1,000/-. Till date under this scheme, around 11,05,333 beneficiaries are getting monthly pension with a financial involvement of Rs.781.42 crore in 2024-25. Since inception, total expenditure incurred under the said scheme amounts to Rs.5,225.59 crore.



In 2024-25, an amount of Rs.69.57 crore has been spent for giving 'Sikshashree' scholarship to 8,69,557 SC beneficiaries till date. In 2024-25, the total amount of beneficiaries of Post-Matric Scholarship for SCs and Pre-Matric Scholarship for SCs are 1,22,877 and 1,61,390 respectively and funds amounting to Rs.56.38 crore and Rs. 28.60 crore were allotted respectively. Similarly, Post-Matric & Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBCs, EBCs & DNTs are 45,382 and 52,653 beneficiaries respectively with fund involvement of Rs.35 crore and Rs.9.46 crore respectively. Merit Scholarship to 478 & 145 SC students studying in classes V-X & IX-XII respectively has been given in 2024-25 so far. Further, Rs.8.31 crore has been utilized for 'Hostel Grants' to 7,324 SC students and Rs.2.61 crore for 'Maintenance Grant' to 1,685 SC Ashramites in 2024-25 till date.

In 2024-25, under 'Medhasree' 2,55,942 students belonging to OBCs studying in Classes V-VIII, have been granted scholarship with a total expenditure of Rs.20.48 crore till date.

Total 46 (Girls:34, Boys:12) Central Hostels for SC students, 35 Central Hostels [SC:28 & Combined (SC&ST):7], 12 Central Hostels for OBC Boys & Girls and 97 Ashram Hostels for SCs are functional in the State.

Since 2015-16, around 1.26 crore students have been provided bicycles under 'Sabooj Sathi' at a cost of around

Rs. 4,600 crore in nine phases. During 2024-25, around 12 lakh students of class-IX (AY 2024) are being covered at an estimated cost of Rs. 492 crore.

Since 2011, more than 2.44 lakh SC & OBC beneficiaries (SC-2,22,331 and OBC - 21,669) have been assisted under various schemes towards self-employment. During 2024-25 around 15,000 SC and OBC candidates are being covered at a cost of around Rs. 30 crore.

Around 1,17,500 SC youths, were provided short term skill training in different occupations. Out of them, more than 71,000 were either self-employed or job-employed.

Education Loan is extended to SC/ OBC/ Safai Karmachari category students for pursuing full time technical / professional education from Govt. recognized institutes. The loan amount ranges from Rs. 10 lakh (for study within the country) to Rs. 20 lakh (for study abroad). Since 2011, total 1739 SC & OBC students (SC-1320, OBC-419) received benefit under the Scheme.

The Department launched Pre-Examination Training Programme for SC & ST students to prepare them for JEE/NEET/WBJEE, initially through 36 Centres across the State in 2022-23. 8 students qualified for admission in IITs, 14 qualified for NITs, 34 qualified for MBBS / BDS and around 1,400 qualified for Engineering (B. Tech.) in reputed institutions.

In the revamped Scheme, 'JOGYASHREE' 2,000 SC ST Students shall get benefit every year. In addition, 3,000 OBC, Minorities and General category students are also being included in the 'JOGYASHREE' Scheme.

For focused and intensive development of the targeted communities, 18 (Eighteen) Development/Cultural/Welfare Boards have so far been constituted. Necessary funds have been sanctioned for different Development/Cultural/Welfare Boards during 2024-25.

This Department promotes cultural activities through various schemes and initiatives under which financial assistance is provided for promotion and preservation of arts and culture across the State of West Bengal. During 2024-25, an amount of Rs. 40.00 lakh has been sanctioned for the purpose of awarding prizes named after 'Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Medha Puraskar, 2024' where in 750 SC meritorious students are awarded with cash prize @ Rs.5,000/- each as on date.

During 2024-25, an amount of Rs.1.62 crore has so far been allotted for payment of wages to 'Dhakis' (Drummers of Bengal) predominantly belonging to an ethnic group who have been engaged in 400 Blocks and Municipalities to popularize and disseminate the efforts and initiatives taken by this Department by beating their traditional drums at rural haats & various melas.

During 2024-25, Rs. 5.05 crore has been released for payment of Inter Caste Marriage Incentives to 1,184 couples under The Protection of Civil Rights Act (P.C.R. Act,) 1955 and monetary relief to 175 victims of atrocities under P.o.A. Act, 1989 till date.

Works under RIDF-XXIX for construction of Model Community Centres (34 Nos.) and installation of Smart Class Rooms (630 Nos.) for Schools in SC dominated areas of 22 Districts of West Bengal are ongoing.

During 2024-25, under the 'Duare Sarkar' initiative, 70,811 (SC:49,567, ST:15,578 & OBC:5,666) Caste Certificates have been issued; 337 SC students have been awarded with 'Sikshashree' Scholarship; 143 OBC students have been awarded with 'Medhasree' Scholarship and under 'Taposili Bandhu' pension scheme, 2,577 SC persons have received old-age pension till now.

### **3.30 Tribal Development**

The Department of Tribal Development drives the socio-economic and cultural upliftment of Scheduled Tribes. It emphasizes sustainable growth, education, and empowerment, ensuring holistic development for tribal communities.

In 2024-25, the Department has provided 'Sikshashree' Scholarship to 1,89,765 Scheduled Tribes students studying from Classes V to VIII in Government Aided/ Sponsored Schools for which Rs. 15.18 crore has been spent.

Initiative has been taken to set up three Santali Medium Schools in the name of Sidhu Kanu Memorial (Santali Medium) Abasik Schools, for giving the option of pursuing education in the mother tongue to the children of the Santal community at Keshpur and Debra in Paschim Medinipur District and Gazole in Malda District. Academic activities have started in Debra from the 2024 Academic Year and is anticipated to start in Keshpur from the 2025 Academic Year. Land has been identified for the said School in Gazole and construction work has already been started. It is expected that work will be completed by September, 2025 and academic activities will be started in 2026.

Under Jai Johar, the flagship social security scheme for members of the Scheduled Tribes community who are 60 years and above, 2,93,268 beneficiaries receive Rs. 1,000/- as monthly pension. So far, in 2024-25, Rs. 286.04 crore has been utilized.

Around 35,394 persons belonging to the ST Community living in Jangal Mahal Districts viz. Jhargram, Bankura, Purulia, Paschim Medinipur are covered under the Scheme 'West Bengal Kendu Leaves Collectors' Social Security Scheme 2015'. One-time assistance on attaining 60 years of age, financial support on accidental death, injury, maternity benefit, medical purpose are provided to the registered collectors. So far, in 2024-25, 207

beneficiaries have received financial support to the tune of Rs. 1.53 crore under this Scheme.

To extend livelihood support to women Self-Help Group (SHG) members of the LAMPs, assistance of Rs. 25,000/- to 10,000 nos.of such SHGs has been provided in 2024-25. These SHGs will be given technical training and handholding training for financial inclusion and income enhancement from livelihoods.

Different Development and Cultural Boards have been formed in the State for preservation and promotion of traditional culture for Hill Tribes and other STs of the State requiring special intervention. In 2024-25, Rs. 17.41 crore have been earmarked for the purpose for various schemes like construction of Houses, Community Halls, youth hostels, drinking water sources, cultural festivals, etc.

For development of Last Mile Connectivity, Drinking Water and Sanitation, Education, Health and Nutrition as well as for preservation of Cultural Heritage of Tribal Communities through activities like construction of roads, culverts and bridges, boring of hand pumps/solar based pump/rigbore tubewells, repair and renovation of ST Hostels, construction of Community Halls, construction of AWCs, construction of Jaher Thans and Majhi Thans, installation of Solar Street Lights, Rs. 62.25 crore has been provided to the Districts till date.

### **3.31 Labour**

The Department of Labour focuses on ensuring the welfare and social security of workers in both organized and unorganized sectors. It strives for a conflict-free work environment, elimination of child labour, and employment generation while promoting investment-friendly reforms.

The Bina Mulya Samajik Suraksha Yojana (BMSSY), serving workers in 61 unorganized sectors, has disbursed Rs. 2,569.41 crore to approximately 34.79 lakh beneficiaries from a registered worker base of 1.75 crore workers, with an additional Rs. 211 crore provided to 45,000 pensioners.

Under the 'Financial Assistance to the Workers of Locked Out Industries (FAWLOI)' Scheme, the 62nd Screening Committee meeting in 2024-25 has expanded coverage to include 641 workers from five industrial establishments across Hooghly, Howrah, Darjeeling, Paschim Bardhaman, and Cooch Behar. Up to the third quarter of 2024-25, Rs. 36.43 crore has been disbursed to 27,796 workers from 154 industrial units.

The Yuvashree programme, providing Rs. 1,500 monthly unemployment assistance to job seekers registered in the Employment Bank, has benefited 1.95 lakh individuals as of December, 2024. The West Bengal Migrant Workers' Welfare Board has been particularly active, responding to natural calamities affecting 242 migrant

workers in Kerala's Wayanad District in July 2024 and assisting 20 families in repatriation of the deceased.

Number of employments under Schedule of Minimum Wages have been increased, from 61 in the year 2011 to 93 in 2024. The rate of monthly minimum wages has been increased from Rs. 2,448 to Rs. 8,312 for unskilled workers from the year 2011 to 2024, and same for skilled workers, it increased to Rs. 13,252 from Rs. 4,753.

In the Tea Industry sector, which comprises 285 registered gardens across North Bengal, approximately 2.71 lakh workers received bonus payments amounting to Rs. 231.86 crore at a 16% rate. The Tea Directorate, under the Labour Department, has operationalized 18 of 20 newly constructed creches across Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri, and Darjeeling Districts, creating employment through Self Help Groups with 10 members per creche. Construction of twenty Health Centres has been completed.

The Jute Industry, employing about 2.5 lakh workers across 113 mills in West Bengal, has seen 6,690 job seekers placed through Employment Exchanges since July, 2018. In 2024-25, till December, 2024, the Department conducted 558 career talks reaching 41,907 students, while 495 job drives involving 475 employers and 19,167 job seekers resulted in 1,512 placements since 2023.

The Factories and Boilers Directorate registered 385 new factories in 2024, bringing the total to 21,662 up



to December, 2024. Number of workers increased by 26,634. Revenue collection reached Rs. 9.14 crore in license fees. Through this Directorate Rs. 18 lakh was disbursed under the Silicosis Relief Scheme. The Boiler Sector registered 97 new units and renewed 1,621 existing ones, generating revenue of Rs. 3.20 crore.

The ESI Scheme now serves about 23 lakh insured persons across all 23 Districts through 13 Hospitals (3,154 beds), 86 Service Dispensaries, and 106 specialty tie-up hospitals. Recent developments include the operationalization of two 100-bedded hospitals in Siliguri and Haldia, a 50-bedded facility in Asansol, and the establishment of ICU and HDU units across multiple State ESI hospitals.

### **3.32 Self Help Group & Self Employment**

West Bengal Swarojgar Sahayak Prakalpa (WBSSP), provides interest subvention to the loans received by the SHGs with the primary objective of keeping the interest burden of the SHG to a meagre 2 per cent. Rs. 44.85 crore have been provided to 1,27,128 SHGs as interest subvention under WBSSP.

During 2024-25, under Swami Vivekananda Swanirbhar Karmasansthan Prakalpa (SVSKP), Rs. 1.11 crore has been released as an incentive to the Prakalpa Sahayaks. Moreover, an amount of Rs. 8,69,100/- has been released as Govt. subsidy to 12 entrepreneurs.

With a view to creating self employment opportunity, upgrading the skill, developing qualitative standard of the products, various training programmes are organized by the West Bengal Swarojgar Corporation Limited.

With a view to providing a platform for exhibition and sale of the produce of the Self Help Groups and SVSKP entrepreneurs, this Department organizes 'State Sabala Mela' in Kolkata and 'District Sabala Mela' in the Districts of the State. To provide market linkage to the SHGs and Entrepreneurs, this Department had participated in India International Trade Fair 2024 at New Delhi, Mango Mela and Pre-Puja Handicraft Mela at New Delhi. Total 37 artisans participated in the said Melas and total sale proceeds amounted to Rs. 82.53 lakh.

This Department provides fund for construction of canteens at various Government office campuses which are run by women SHGs. Grant is also provided for utensils and gadgets. In 2024-25, so far 30 canteens have been set up.

Under Micro Projects scheme SHGs are assisted financially for taking up economic activities in convergence with other Department funds. Four schemes have been started in convergence with the ARD Department. The annual target is to provide assistance to Women SHGs for 200 Goat rearing and 1,500 Chick rearing units with an outlay of Rs. 12.11 crore under which Rs. 1.58 crore for Goatery and Rs. 10.53 crore for Poultry have been funded.

### **3.33 North Bengal Development**

The North Bengal Development Department formulates and implements Schemes for the comprehensive and holistic development of the 8 (eight) districts of North Bengal. Since the Department was created, it has completed 3,020 Schemes in all Districts of North Bengal region.

Some notable Projects in Cooch Behar District include constructing Ullarkhawa Bridge, Truck Terminus at Khagrabari, Marriage Hall Building in Dinhata, New Boy's Hostel (No. 2) at Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University, Solar Street Lighting arrangement in various Blocks, Administrative Building at Panchanan Barma University, Academic Building for the Faculty of Technology at Uttarbanga Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Auditorium at ABN Seal College etc. Efforts also extend to constructing several Rural Haat Sheds, Paver Block Roads, Pavilion Buildings, and Bridges in various locations.

In Alipurduar District, noteworthy projects include multiple Community Halls, Paver Block Roads, Solar Street Lighting arrangements in multiple blocks, several Rural Haat Sheds, and Joist Bridges across various locations in the District.

Key projects in Darjeeling District include construction of Roads in different Blocks, Solar LED Street Lighting arrangements, Jaihind Community Hall, upgrading Old

Haat Shed at Naxalbari Haat, constructing educational buildings at Sevoke Road, and building high drains in Siliguri.

In Jalpaiguri District, significant projects include constructing a new building for a Boy's Hostel at Baradighi High School, renovating the ticket counter at Jalpeshwar Shiv Temple, Paver Block Roads, Solar Lighting arrangements, Haat Sheds, and Roads and Joist Bridges in various locations to improve connectivity within the District.

In Kalimpong District, the Department has taken up projects such as constructing Multipurpose Community Hall under Kalimpong-I Block and the Jai Hind Community Hall. These efforts are part of the ongoing commitment to enhance infrastructure and development in the District.

The Department has executed several noteworthy projects in Uttar Dinajpur district, such as PCC Roads, Box Culverts, Box Bridges, Paver Block Roads, Interlocking Concrete Block Pavement Roads, Drains, Black Top Roads, and SITC of High Masts system and Street Lights energized by solar energy in multiple Blocks.

In Dakshin Dinajpur District, the Department has implemented various projects, including constructing Cement Concrete Roads, Concrete (Paver) Block Roads, Box Bridges, and installing Solar High Mast Lighting in different Blocks.

The Department has undertaken several projects in Malda District, such as constructing Community Halls, Boundary walls, Beautification, and Renovation works, CC Roads, Drains, Protection works, and Box Culverts, Solar All-in-One Light systems, RCC Box Culverts, RSJ Bridges, and Classrooms at various places in different Blocks to improve infrastructure and public amenities.

### **3.34 Sundarban Affairs**

The Sundarban Affairs Department implements development initiatives in the Sundarbans, focusing on improving connectivity, livelihoods, and environmental conservation. It ensures the welfare of underprivileged communities in this ecologically sensitive region. Sundarban Affairs Department accords highest priority towards development of infrastructure in remote and inaccessible regions of Sundarban.

In 2024-25, a number of R.C.C. Bridges and R.C.C. Jetties have been constructed. Some important constructions are R.C.C. Bridges constructed over Moni River in Nalgora Gram Panchayat connecting Joynagar-II and Mathurapur-II Blocks, Dist.-South 24 Parganas, over River Sundarika-Dwarika in Namkhana Block, South 24 Parganas and over River Piyali at Dhosahat connecting Joynagar-I & Canning-I Blocks, Dist.-South 24 Parganas at Bankim Maity Ghat over River Gobadiya G.P.- Gopalnagar, P.S. & Block- Patharpratima at Dubo Jahaj Ghat, G.P.-Banashyamnagar, P.S. & Block- Patharpratima.

During 2024-25, construction works of 118.24 km road [21.15 km Brick paved road, 75.37 km Concrete road, 21.72 k.m. Bituminous road] have been completed (upto December, 2024) and works of another 7 Bridges are in progress.

Agricultural implements of battery operated knapsack Sprayers have been distributed to 8,900 beneficiaries in Sundarban region. IMC fingerlings with floating fish feed has been distributed to 30,000 beneficiaries in Sundarban region. Creation of Mangrove and Jhau Plantation over 595 hectares has been completed in Sundarban region.

Sunderban Divas was observed on 11th December, 2024 in all the 19 Blocks under Sundarban region for creation of awareness among the people of the region regarding conservation of the bio-diversity and environment of the region.

A scheme of capacity development and income generation of small and marginal farmers through training on sustainable Jal-Krishi, Livestock Development and Agricultural activities in Sundarban region during the current year 2024-25 has been taken up through Ramakrishna Mission Lokasiksha Parishad (RKMLSP), Narendrapur at a total estimated cost of Rs. 55.68 lakh.

With a view to empowering the women cooperative farmers (Sundarini) in Sundarban area of

South 24 Parganas towards sustainable milk productivity enhancement, backward linkage output and livelihood generation, a scheme of organic crop-livestock farming integration has been undertaken at an estimated cost of Rs. 2.96 crore.

### **3.35 Paschimanchal Unnayan Affairs**

The Department has been bridging critical gaps for the upliftment of the downtrodden people living in the western 7 (seven) Districts of the State predominantly inhabited by SC & ST population by way of implementing infrastructure development projects, livelihood projects as well as organizing cultural events like Jungle Mahal Utsav for presenting the cultural heritage of the tribals.

This Department has completed 231 Projects and Schemes under State Plan and Capital projects on rural connectivity, excavation and re-excavation of ponds & bandhs, market complex, installation of Solar Power Driven Reverse Osmosis, enabled Drinking Water Plants, etc.

Construction of market complex at Barabani, Paschim Bardhaman has been started which will help the local sellers to sell their products and boost the local economy. Installation of Solar Power Driven Reverse Osmosis enabled 130 drinking water plants has been taken up in various locations in the 07 Districts. Each plant has a capacity of supplying 1,000 litres of purified water per hour.

15 Waterbodies in 2 Blocks of Paschim Medinipur District have been re-excavated. Approximately 90 hectares of land will get irrigation benefit and about 8,000 farmers and fishermen will be benefitted.

The Department has established 2 Commercial Poultry Layer Farms involving Rs. 75 crore with the help of ARD Department at Salbani, Paschim Medinipur with 3 lakh layer birds for production of 945 lakh egg per annum and at Gobindapur, Purulia with 2.4 lakh layers birds for production of 756 lakh eggs per annum respectively. 39 RIDF-XXIX projects having a Financial Outlay of Rs. 60.83 crore have been started in 2024-25 and are at different stages of execution.

## **Governance**

### **3.36 Home & Hill Affairs**

This State has experienced a vibrant transition in maintaining Law and Order situation. Since 2011, entire workflow has gained a momentum in order to ensure the spirit of peace, harmony and brotherhood due to relentless endeavour of Police Force and other requisite administrative arrangements.

The reflection of sustainable law and order scenario has appeared in last Parliamentary General Election and bye-election to eleven (11) assembly constituencies. No such major disturbances have come to notice due to efficacy of State Government machinery. During last twelve (12)



years, no insurgent activities of Left-Wing Extremists occurred in the State. State Police are carrying out specific intelligence-based operations, by bringing the LWE activists into mainstream.

The State Government has maintained an optimistic outlook towards development of Police Administration by adopting various measures like procurement of modern arms and ammunitions, advanced communication network, vehicles for better mobility. Security arrangement provided by the State Government has protected the entire State from any external disturbances.

The State Government is consistently strengthening Police Administration. One (1) Police Station namely Tarakeswar GRPS under Howrah GRP and two (2) Police Stations namely Atghara and Kheyadaha have been created during 2024-25.

Multifarious measures like installation of CCTV cameras, RLVD, ANPR cameras and other allied machineries have been adopted by Police Administration with a view to reduce road accidents. Numerous campaigns regarding 'Safe Drive Save Life' in different forms have been observed in order to amplify social awareness among the common people to bring down such accidents.

Physical Infrastructural Development is an integral part of proper functioning of Policing system. With a vision to capacity build up, construction of Office of the

Commissioner of Police at Asansol and Siliguri have been completed. Construction of three (G+2) storied Administrative Block at SAP 12th Battalion, Dabgram, Jalpaiguri District, Model Urban Police Stations at Rajdanga in Kolkata and Purulia (Town) in Purulia District, Model Semi-Urban Police Station at Naihati in Barrackpore P.C., Model Rural Police Station at Pingla in Paschim Medinipur District, construction of Dog Squad near Nabanna etc. have also been completed.

Forensic Science Laboratory, Kolkata has been undergoing technological advancement in order to facilitate expeditious disposal of cases. Procurement of GCMS for Narcotics Section of FSL, West Bengal at a cost of Rs. 1.10 crore has been made for strengthening the system. Records from the year 2000 have been digitized. Serology section has been opened at RFSL, Jalpaiguri.

Multifaceted development activities have glorified the elegance of hill areas and touched every sector of society. 19 Rural Infrastructural projects with financial outlay of Rs. 73.94 crore have been completed. 5 nos. of Schools with financial outlay of Rs. 11.17 crore have been completed. Development work of a few tourist spots like Mulkharka, Nok Dara, Rikkusum have already been accomplished.

### **3.37 Personnel and Administrative Reforms**

Bangla Sahayata Kendras (BSKs) have made accessible the payment of utility bills through e-wallet such as

Electricity Bills, Land Mutation, Khajna, Registration Fees, Stamp Duty, Driving Licenses and such other services. Since its roll-out, Rs. 500 crore has been mobilized through BSK e-Wallet. Total 304 Government services are available through BSK. Since inception 7.62 crore citizens availed nearly 14 crore services delivered through Bangla Sahayata Kendras (BSKs).

e-District is a Mission Mode Project with the objective of making the State provided services available to the citizens through a computerized system. Government has launched 56 online services and more services are in different stages. 23 Districts and 16 Departments are in online mode and online transactions reached to about 2 crore.

e-Office has been implemented as a Mission Mode Project (MMP) under the National e-Governance Programme which aims to improve productivity, quality, resource management, turn around time and increased transparency in the age old manual process in government offices with an electronic file system and also to use more efficient, effective and transparent inter-government and intra-government transactions and processes.

Satyendranath Tagore Civil Services Study Centre (SNTCSSC) under Centre for Excellence in Public Management (CEPM) is a noble initiative of the Government of West Bengal to provide quality coaching-cum-guidance

to the young aspirants of West Bengal appearing in Civil Services Examination conducted by the UPSC. It has started offline training in collaboration with (i) Khan Study Group (KSG) and (ii) Shankar IAS Academy(SIA). 15 (Fifteen) among the 54 successful students in Preliminary Examination who appeared for the 2024 Mains Examination and got qualified for the 2024 Personality Test.

Netaji Subhas Administrative Training Institute (NSATI) conducted Institutional Training of 13 IAS officers of 2023 Batch including Banga Darshan, Professional Phase-I Training of 37 WBCS (Exe) officers of 2024 Batch including Banga Darshan, Professional Phase-II Training for 28 WBCS (Exe) officers of 2023 Batch and also conducted training courses for 15 (Fifteen) officers of Nagaland Civil Service and GST Training of 20 (Twenty) officials of Government of Sikkim during 2024-25.

Office of the Resident Commissioner, West Bengal at New Delhi organized (i) Mango Mela with support from the Food Processing Industries & Horticulture Department, Government of West Bengal during June, 2024 by sending delectable GI tag mangoes i.e. Himsagar, Langra and Lakshmanbhog of the State to different parts of Delhi, (ii) Pre-Puja Expo for promoting handloom and handicrafts of West Bengal and (iii) Participated in the IITF by setting up a dedicated State Pavilion for West Bengal, IITF 2024

at ITPO, Pragati Maidan from 14-27 November, 2024 and received an award of 'Special Appreciation Medal'.

During this year construction of Collectorate Complex at Asansol, Paschim Bardhaman [Project Cost: Rs. 29.25 crore (approx)], construction of New SDO Office Building & SDO Bungalow at Manbazar, Purulia [Project Cost: Rs.16.20 crore (approx)], construction of New SDO Office Building at Jhalda, Purulia [Project Cost: Rs. 16.16 crore (approx.)] and construction of Administrative Building for Mal SDO at Mal, Jalpaiguri [Project Cost: Rs.16.00 crore (approx)] have been completed.

### **3.38 Disaster Management & Civil Defence**

During Severe Cyclone 'Remal' which occurred on 26th & 27th May 2024 approx. 2.22 lakh people were evacuated, Total 6.4 lakh tarpaulin and Rs. 5.4 crore relief contingency have been allotted by this Department, approx. 1,659 no. of relief camps were opened, and approx. 370 gruel kitchens were opened.

During cyclone 'DANA' which occurred on 24th-25th of October, 2024, approx. 3.13 lakh people were evacuated, total 68 thousand tarpaulin and Rs. 50 lakh relief contingency have been allotted by this department and approx 1,374 no. of relief camps and approx. 1,039 gruel kitchens were opened.

Tornado in North Bengal Districts occurred on 31.03.2024 in the North Bengal Districts which mainly

affected Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar, Cooch Behar Districts and total House Building Grant has been disbursed to the tune of Rs. 19.73 crore for 4,925 no. of damaged houses. Total 16,000 no. tarpaulins, 61,000 no. of clothing & garments, Rs. 90 lakh relief contingency and 6,000 no. of Disaster Management Kit have been allotted among affected families. Rs. 35.72 lakh has been allotted to Agriculture Department to cope up the losses in Alipurduar & Jalpaiguri Districts.

During Flood /River Erosion/Landslide (during Sep-Oct 2024), 4.33 lakh people were evacuated, total 6.41 lakh tarpaulin and Rs. 5.55 crore relief contingency have been allotted by this Department. 1,098 no of relief camps were opened and 767 gruel kitchens were opened.

Out of total approved 24 number of Multipurpose Rescue Shelter (MPRS) (North 24 Parganas-4, South 24 Parganas-15, Purba Medinipur-5), six (6) no. of MPRS have been completed, including 5 no. in Purba Medinipur & 1 no. in South 24 Parganas. Out of the rest 18 MPRS, 11 are in construction stage and remaining shall be started soon.

Induction Training of 111 no. of SOIs have been successfully completed at CCDTI, West Bengal and Induction Training of Agragamis [WBCEF (55 no. personnel) & WWCD (106 no. personnel), WBNVF (566 no. personnel)] have been successfully completed at Kalyani, WBNVF Training Centre.

The Civil Defence Instructors Course (CDI) for 98 no of Staff Officer cum Instructors (SOIs), at NDRF Academy, Nagpur, Maharashtra have been completed on 07.06.2024.

State level Mock Exercise on Tsunami Mock Drill held on South 24 Parganas & Purba Medinipur Districts of West Bengal.

New State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) renovation process has been completed. Rs. 65 lakh was spent to Modernize the State Emergency Operation Centre.

State EOC has been functioning 24×7 for 365 days, and all District EOCs are also operational round the clock. Department is using 66 number of satellite phones for better communication during disaster situation.

Rs. 1.61 crore has been allotted to Irrigation and Waterways Department for emergent installation of temporary pumps in Howrah & North 24 Parganas District. Rs. 15 crore was allotted to Police (SDRF & DMG) for deep diving training, procurement of disaster management equipment & for setting up first register/response team.

Disaster Management setup in Uttar Kanya, North Bengal has started in a full-fledged manner and new DDO has been allotted.

### **3.39 Fire & Emergency Services**

During 2024-25, the Department initiated several measures to upgrade fire-fighting arrangements across the

state. This included setting up new fire stations in vulnerable areas and procuring various advanced fire tenders and equipment. Such improvements are aimed at building the capacity of firefighters and raising public awareness about fire safety. The Department completed seven new fire stations during 2023-24 and continues at the same pace to enhance public safety by reducing response times to fire emergencies.

Two new fire stations in Birpara, Alipurduar District and Dubrajpur, Birbhum District have started functioning. Work of another new fire station at Jangipur, Murshidabad District has also been completed and Dainhat Fire Station, Purba Bardhaman District is also slated to start functioning soon within 2024-25. The Department has also undertaken projects to construct new buildings for the Tollygunge and Kalighat Fire Stations, which will begin operations in the first quarter of 2025-26.

Since 2011-12, the number of Fire Stations has increased from 109 to 164, and more proposals for establishing new fire stations are being considered.

In 2024-25, Rs.12.17 crore has been spent on procuring firefighting equipment and vehicles so far. The Department has also focused on raising fire safety awareness, conducting 2,368 programmes across various institutions like Schools, Colleges, Hospitals, Shopping Malls, Office



Buildings, Clubs, Puja Pandels, etc. throughout the State by several units of West Bengal Fire & Emergency Services.

Three Fire Officers were awarded the President's Fire Service Medal for Meritorious Service on Independence Day 2024.

The Department has implemented an online system for issuing Fire Safety Recommendations, Certificates, and Licenses. For Ease of Doing Business, the Department introduced multiple reforms to facilitate ease of doing business, including e-services, fee rationalization, and integration of online services of the Department with Silpasathi Portal.

### **3.40 Correctional Administration**

The Department of Correctional Administration is devoted to reforming correctional homes through modern infrastructure, technological upgrades like the e-Prison Suite, and enhanced security systems. It emphasizes the rehabilitation and humane treatment of inmates while addressing issues such as overcrowding.

The Department has undertaken various schemes for upgradation of infrastructure of existing capacity of the Correctional Homes and construction of new Correctional Homes.

The construction of a new Central Correctional Home at Baruipur, South 24 Parganas involving Rs. 203.57 crore

is at an advanced stage and is expected to be completed in 2025-26. The inmates of the Presidency Correctional Home will be shifted thereafter to this location. The construction of quarters for officers and staff at Baruipur at a cost of Rs. 41.20 crore is under progress and expected to be completed within 2024-25. Other infrastructure development activities such as the construction of Sweeper's Barrack, vertical extension of the Staff Barrack, additional 24 Interview Counters, Public Address System, Modular Furniture and CCTV Surveillance System at Baruipur Central Correctional Home involving Rs.4.13 crore are under progress and expected to be completed in 2025-26. Construction of the 3-storied (G+2) Office Building of DIG of Correctional Services, Baruipur Range at the Presidency Correctional Home Complex of Baruipur is expected to be completed in 2025-26.

A new Special Correctional Home has been constructed at Chanchal at Malda expending Rs. 31.10 crore. The balance work for the construction of the District Correctional Home at Nimtouri in Purba Medinipur District involving Rs.14.36 crore is in progress and is expected to be completed by June, 2025.

Construction of a Safe Home for the accommodation of all released Foreign National inmates and other allied works at a cost of Rs.3.32 crore have been started at Bongaon, North 24 Parganas. Construction of a new double-storied

building inside Ranaghat Sub Correctional Home has been approved at a cost of Rs.2.03 crore and its work is in progress.

CCTV surveillance system has been installed in various Correctional Homes of West Bengal at a total expenditure of Rs. 12.15 crore. Purchase and Installation of X-Ray baggage scanners in 16 Correctional Homes of the State for Rs. 2.07 crore has been taken up.

As part of e-Governance initiatives, so far 3,63,169 people have been registered in 2024 in Visitor Management System (VMS) Module to avail the facility of interviewing with their family members lodged in the Correctional Homes. Facility of virtual communication between the inmates and their family members has been provided through e-Mulakat module and 6,945 inmates availed this facility in 2024. In 2024, a total of 16,803 inmates have been virtually produced before the Court and provided hearing by utilizing the facility of e-Court.

### **3.41 Planning and Statistics**

Under Bidhayak Elaka Unnayan Prakashpa (BEUP), during the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly (2021-26), more than 11,961 schemes have been sanctioned so far (up to 31.12.2024) and total Rs. 577.40 crore was released to Districts and Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC).

Under Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), during the period of 17th Lok Sabha

(2019-24), Rs. 440.67 crore has been utilized till 31.12.2024. During the period of 18th Lok Sabha (2024 onwards), Rs. 2.52 crore has been utilized till 31.12.2024. For the sitting Rajya Sabha MPs, Rs. 67.09 crore has been utilized till 31.12.2024.

During 2024-25, the State Public Policy and Planning Board (SPPPB) has been entrusted to take up the preparation of the State Human Development Report (SHDR), issues of NITI Aayog matters, preparation of State & District Indicator Framework (SIF & DIF) linked with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) etc. The SPPPB conducted a Post Matric Scholarship Survey at the request of the Backward Classes Welfare (BCW) Department and subsequently prepared an analytical report based on the findings. SPPPB has also prepared a report namely 'A Decade of Development in West Bengal: A Paradigm Shift' which highlights the State's achievements across various sectors.

The State Spatial Data Centre (SSDC) caters the Geographical Information System (GIS) related needs of Districts and various Departments of the State by utilising the manpower and maps/data/layers available with the District Spatial Data Centres (DSDCs, formerly NRDMS). During 2024-25, as requested by the Industry, Commerce & Enterprises (IC&E) Department, the Department has prepared and maintaining a Web-GIS Portal for 'Industrial

and Economic Corridors of the State' as per guidelines received from IC&E Department.

The regular works of the Bureau of Applied Economics & Statistics (BAE&S) are estimation of yield rates and production at the Block and District levels for 21 major crops, preparation of Gross and Net State Domestic Product (GSDP& NSDP), District Domestic Product (DDP), Index of Industrial Production (IIP), Consumer Price Index (CPI), Annual Survey of Industries (ASI), etc. Publication of State and District Statistical Handbook, Statistical Abstract, etc. will continue to remain in prime focus. The annual publication, the Economic Review (2024-25), featuring an overview of the State Economy and its developments, was presented at the time of State Budget 2025-26.

### **3.42 Science and Technology and Biotechnology**

The Department is presently supporting 416 ongoing Research & Development (R&D) projects during the year 2024-25 in various Government aided institutions across the State to promote scientific research.

In Biotechnology Sector, different initiatives for promoting industrial biotechnology ventures, supporting start-ups for incubation etc. are being taken up through establishment of Kolkata Biotech Park, which has been

made functional. For strengthening the laboratory infrastructure, the BOOST program (Biotechnology based Opportunities Offered to Science & Technology Development) has been re-introduced. The RISE program (Research Internship in Biotechnology based-Sciences and Engineering) to encourage students to consider Biotechnology based research/innovation as a career option is being further strengthened.

The Department, through its Remote Sensing and GIS setup, is providing spatial data support to various Government Departments including Agriculture, Environment, Forest, Directorate of Registration and Stamp Revenue and Water Resources Investigation and Development through multiple projects. Department also supports a capacity building program on 'Geoinformatics'.

The Technology Development and Adaptation Centre (TDAC) is supporting grassroot innovators/faculties/scientists and academicians from Universities and Colleges. As the nodal Department for Patenting and GI Registration, the Patent Information Centre has facilitated filing of 270 patents, 40 copyrights and 30 trademarks and facilitated granting of 120 patents and 25 copyrights till date. Additionally, 42 items have been applied for GI registration out of which 24 GI certificates have been granted through the Patent Information Centre and 18 GI items are in process of final registration. A professional course on Intellectual Property Rights and Technology

Business Management is also being run by the Department. Under the Jagadish Bose National Science Talent Search (JBNSTS) programme, the Department provides scholarship support to 50 students in each category for 'Senior Talent Search Test' and 'Senior Bigyani Kanya Medha Britti Program'. Additionally, under the 'Junior Talent Search Test' & 'Junior Bigyani Kanya Medha Britti' program, 250 science students (+2 level) of different Districts are also provided with scholarships for pursuing studies in Science at under-graduate level. A modern biotechnology laboratory has also been provided to JBNSTS for use of and training both teachers and students.

The 7th Regional Congress in six different educational institutions of the State was held in the month of January, 2025 followed by the 32nd State Congress in February, 2025. The Department also recognizes outstanding contributions in popularising science within the masses by awarding individuals and voluntary organizations through State Awards in three categories.

### **3.43 Environment**

The Department of Environment is at the forefront of promoting ecological balance, pollution control, and climate resilience. Through regulatory measures, research, and awareness programs, the Department ensures the preservation of biodiversity and sustainable environmental management.

Major functions of the Environment Department are promulgation of Regulatory Orders and Circulars, control of pollution, generation of environmental awareness, knowledge & research-cum-studies on various aspects of environment and climate change, etc. These works are executed by the Department itself and through its parastatals namely the West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB), West Bengal Biodiversity Board (WBBB), East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority (EKWMA), State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), State Wetlands Authority (SWA), Institute of Environmental Studies & Wetland Management (IESWM) and West Bengal State Coastal Zone Management Authority (WBSCZMA).

WBPCB has installed 7 Automatic Air Quality Monitoring Stations this year taking the total number in the State to 83. It has also installed 260 Real Time Noise Monitoring Stations with LED displays across the State, 75 nos. of which were done in 2024. More than 5000 smokeless Chulhas were distributed to rural households to reduce the domestic air pollution arising from use of burning of fossil fuels and wood. 1500 Electric Cycles with 30 Electric Vehicles having Water Sprinkling Systems were given to the 6 cities under the National Clean Air Programme.

WBPCB is making a Bio Shield along the State Border with Jharkhand to prevent downstream air pollution coming from the neighbouring States in the Gangetic Basin.



Under this programme about 20,000 trees are to be planted along the border to mitigate the air pollutants getting inside the territory of West Bengal.

This Department has given Environmental Clearances to 5485 industries, has inspected 4012 industries and has taken regulatory action against the polluting industries leading to a revenue collection of Rs. 63.5 lakh in 2023-24.

The WBBB has initiated some new projects such as fish sanctuary named Avoy Pukur in several districts for conservation of indigenous fish species, seed banks for traditional crop varieties, 3 Biodiversity Parks, Conservation of Butterfly, Bio-Tour for school students, etc.

As an alternative source of plastic use in the Ganga Sagar Mela, this Department has introduced Saal leaves plate and bowl. This year 3 lakh plates, 6 lakh bowls have been distributed. Three Saal leaves plate and bowl manufacturing units have been established in Bankura with financial support of Environment Department to LAMPS through the WBTDC. This has created livelihood for 1000 tribal people.

EKWMA undertook major activities this year like Canal de-siltation, excavation of bheries, road renovation, afforestation, establishment of interpretation centre within East Kolkata Wetland areas, preparation of data bank for State Water Bodies.

## **Industry : Small, Medium and Large**

### **3.44 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Textiles**

The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector plays a crucial role in the economy of our State, contributing significantly to employment, industrial output, and exports. Our State has one of the largest bases for MSMEs in India, and the Sector provides employment to millions, especially in rural and semi-urban areas.

A focused approach has been undertaken to bring MSMEs under the registration fold on the Udyam Portal (UP), and as a result, 4.24 lakh MSMEs have registered themselves on the Udyam Portal during the April-December 2024 period which is 19.32% higher compared to the corresponding period of the previous financial year. The total number of MSMEs on Udyam Portal is around 14.26 lakh from the date of the introduction of the new registration system.

Since 2011, the total credit disbursement to the MSME has touched Rs. 8.77 lakh crore. In the current financial year the disbursement upto the second quarter has touched Rs. 1.14 lakh crore, which is nearly 74% of the annual target, registering a 27.77% growth on Y-O-Y basis.

As a part of hard intervention under the cluster development programme five Common Facility Centres (CFC) have been established and one CFC has been upgraded. Besides, eight more CFCs are likely to be

completed by the end of this financial year. The state government has released Rs. 101.08 crore for providing incentives under Banglashree scheme to 389 MSME units.

Under the 'West Bengal Green Firecracker Manufacturing, Storage and Selling Scheme', a selling hub with 41 stalls has been set up at Baruipur, South 24 Parganas for Rs. 2.47 crore to benefit 2,500 people engaged in firecracker manufacturing.

To make the 'Bhabishyat Credit Card Scheme' more attractive and affordable to entrepreneurs, the scheme was modified last year with the introduction of a new scheme allowing interest subsidy on bank loans, in addition to the existing benefits, so that entrepreneurs can set up micro-enterprises by availing bank loans at only 4% interest per annum. Till December 2024, a total of 32,389 cases with a total project cost of Rs. 747 crore have been sanctioned involving state government subsidy of Rs. 60 crore under the Bhabishyat Credit Card Scheme.

A good number of applications have already been received under the 'West Bengal Artisans Financial Benefit Scheme' through camps mode. A dedicated portal <https://financialbenefitartisan.wb.gov.in/> has also been developed for online submission of applications. So far, Rs. 62.31 lakh has been disbursed to artisans/groups of artisans for working shed and/or purchase of improved tool kits.

Under the 'West Bengal Handloom and Khadi Weavers benefit Scheme', around 50,000 applications have been received through camps which are under scrutiny for disbursement. The 'Scheme of Death Benefit Scheme for Artisans and Weavers of West Bengal' has also started rolling and a dedicated portal <https://deathbenefitartisan.wb.gov.in/> has been developed and made live for submission of online applications besides collections of forms from the eligible applicant(s).

In the handloom section of the Textile sector, 426 work sheds have been constructed and 2,576 looms & accessories including 158 lighting units have been distributed in seven handloom clusters. Five Yarn Depots have been established at Coochbehar, Santipur, Purbasthali, New Digha, and Sukhchar for Rs. 11.53 crore to supply yarn to the handloom industry at a reasonable price. The West Bengal State Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Society Ltd. (Tantuja) has supplied 6.21 lakh pieces of Sarees, 4.84 lakh pieces of Bedsheet worth Rs. 37.19 crore were to the Disaster Management Department which ensured sustained employment of 10,000 weavers and allied workers. Tantuja has set up a Readymade Garment Manufacturing and Procurement Center on land of the Spinning Mill in Uttar Dinajpur District at a project cost of Rs 5.85 crore. The Centre will commence commercial production shortly. About 35,000 people involved in garment manufacturing and

procurement will be benefitted once this center is fully operational. A newly introduced innovative scheme called West Bengal Handloom and Khadi Weavers' Financial Benefit Scheme 2024 aims to revive the Primary Weavers' Cooperative Societies (PWCS) by making them debt-free through 'One Time Settlement' (OTS) of their outstanding bank loans and also to extend financial assistance to individual weavers for purchase of looms and raw material (yarn).

The State Government's School Uniform Project has brought a paradigm shift in fabric production in the State. It has led to a significant investment in the power loom sector. Now 100% of the fabric required for school uniforms under the school uniform project is manufactured and supplied by state-based powerloom units. So far, these units have produced more than 13 crore meters of fabrics.

In addition to the existing four Banglar Saree showrooms, two more showrooms and one franchisee outlet have been opened at Durgachak, Haldia; Biswa Bangla Silpi Haat, New Town and Fulia, Nadia respectively. About 3100 weavers, artisans, and associated people have been covered for sustainable employment and, created about 1.6 lakh additional man-days.

From 2-28 December 2024, a month-long programme under the campaign 'Shilper Samadhane-MSME Camp' has been organized in each Block/Municipality/Municipal

Corporation area of each district so that the schematic benefits of MSMET and other departments can be delivered at the doorsteps of existing and potential entrepreneurs living in the nook and corner of the rural and urban areas of the state. Around 6 lakh entrepreneurs participated in 4,000 camps (approx) across the state and more than 4 lakh applications of different schemes including Babishyat Credit Card, Artisan Financial Benefit, Handloom & Khadi Weavers Benefit etc. have been received which are under process.

In 2024-25, seven MSME Synergy events have been organized up to December 2024 covering 16 districts including eight North Bengal Districts. In all these events, around 4,000 entrepreneurs participated.

Under the infrastructure development initiative, WBSIDC Ltd. has completed the infrastructure development of four parks during 2024-25 viz. Industrial Park at Ethelbari I.P, Alipurduar, of Industrial Park at Dabgram I.P-III, Jalpaiguri. Industrial Park at Ambari-Falakata IP-II, Jalpaiguri, and Integrated Textile Park at Ashoknagar, North 24 Parganas. The development of four other parks is expected to be completed soon. WBSIDC also completed a thorough renovation of Bauria Industrial Park, Howrah, Suri Commercial Park, Birbhum and Baruipur Industrial Park involving a total amount of Rs.11.50 crore. In 2024-25, WBSIDC issued 30 Allotment Offer letters to entrepreneurs for setting up industries in

the Industrial Parks administered by WBSIDC Ltd. In addition to this, 40 transfer cases along with conversion cases have been approved by WBSIDC and 19 NOCs have been issued to MSME units.

Under the mega leather project at Calcutta Leather Complex (CLC), Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) for Leather Goods Manufacturing Units in the Indian Leather Products Association (ILPA) Zone and Skill Development Centre have been completed. Civil construction of CFC for Leather Goods Manufacturing Units has also been completed; the process of machinery procurement is ongoing. Upgradation of existing infrastructure is also going on.

As a part of marketing support to artisans and weavers, 28 fairs have been organized in the State/National level. In those fairs, 3,166 artisans participated and total sales by the participating artisans was Rs. 26.65 crore, and Rs. 79.95 crore business generated. Up to December 2024 during 2024-25, the combined business turnover of Tantuja and Manjusha has been around Rs. 243.77 crore.

Six more products (*Tangail Saree, Korial Saree, Garod Saree, Kalonunia Rice, Sundarban Honey and Bengal Muslin*) have obtained GI tag taking the total number of GI certified products to 28.

Ease of Doing Business initiatives has been broad-based by bringing more services under the Silpasathi Portal. Presently, more than 120 services are covered under

Silpasathi for a single sign-on application processing. With the decriminalization of 26 Criminal provisions under Municipal & Labour Laws and repeal of 24 Archaic/ Obsolete laws, the compliance burden has been further reduced. We have also introduced self-certification-based Fire Safety Certificate (FSC)/Fire Safety Recommendation (FSR)/Renewal of Fire Safety Certificate (RFSC) for certain categories of low-risk buildings.

### **3.45 Industry, Commerce & Enterprises**

Under Sand Mining Policy in 2021, the West Bengal Mineral Development & Trading Corporation Limited (WBMDTCL) has already floated auctions in 8 different phases covering an area of approx. 1500 hectares. An additional area of 1700 hectares will be taken up for auction shortly. To bring about transparency in the system the entire mine life cycle of sand and in-situ minor minerals has been brought under central online system resulting in significant increase in annual revenue nearly fourfold from Rs. 150 crore to Rs. 600 crore in 2023-24. It is expected that this will increase further in this year.

The Gourangdih ABC Coal Mine in Paschim Bardhaman district having an extractable coal deposit of about 62 million tonne, allotted by the Ministry of Coal, Government of India is expected to become operational by March, 2025 after the necessary Forest and Environmental clearance. The State Government has



sanctioned Rs. 55 crore for land purchase and Relief & Rehabilitation (R&R) package. Once it becomes operational it is to be mined over next 27 years with a peak capacity of 2.5 million tonne per year.

Under the Raiyati Policy, 2022, WBMDTCL, acting as a State Nodal Agency, has already organized good number of awareness camps in various Districts across the State. Till date, 215 applications have been received through the online portal and around 150 Letters of Interest (LOI) have already been issued. 8 Mines have been made operational after getting necessary clearances from statutory authorities.

On the recommendation of Department of Irrigation & Waterways, WBMDTCL is dredging canals under the unique Zero Cost model. The dredged materials (e.g. silver sand/earth/silt) are being used in brick field manufacturing/filling up purpose in road construction. One project has been successfully completed at Gangakhali Canal, Purba Medinipur and similar projects have been taken up at Soadighi Canal (Purba Medinipur), Palaspai Khal (Paschim Medinipur) and Mathura Beel in North 24 Parganas.

Some of the operational non-coal mines being the Mokdamnagar & Tentulberia China Clay & Fire Clay Mine in Birbhum, one Blackstone mine at Hatgacha Jethia in Birbhum, two Blackstone mines at Palsara Black Stone

Project I & III in Purulia, two Granite projects at Baro Panjania and at Paschim Beroin Purulia. Some more blackstone, quartz, etc. mines will become operational soon in Birbhum and Purulia.

Under Tea Tourism & Allied Business Policy, 2019, 32 project proposals from 27 companies have received till date. 11 project proposals have already been approved – 7 (seven) projects in 5 (five) Tea Gardens of Darjeeling District, 2 projects at two Tea Gardens in Jalpaiguri District and 2 projects at one Tea Garden in Kalimpong District. It is expected to lead to an estimated investment of Rs. 2,205.43 crore. The estimated employment generation of the approved projects only is expected to cross 7,000 people.

Under the West Bengal Industrial and Economic Corridor Policy, 2023, Preliminary Project Report (PPR) with details of infrastructure works needed for the proposed Asian Development Bank assisted Economic Corridor project, including roads, power, water supply etc. has been submitted to the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, GoI. Total financial involvement is Rs. 4,400 crore out of which Rs. 3,485 crore will be ADB loan and Rs. 877.40 crore will be State Government's contribution.

Detailed proposal for the World Bank assisted report for 'West Bengal Boosting Logistics Efficiency and Trade

Facilitation' Project under West Bengal Logistics Policy, 2023 has also been submitted to the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, GoI. Total financial involvement is Rs. 2,072.67 crore out of which Rs. 1,243.61 crore will be loan from World Bank and Rs. 829.07 crore will be State Government's contribution. For both these projects necessary approval of the said Ministry, GOI is awaited.

To augment the infrastructure in various Industrial Parks owned by WBIDC various development works have been taken up. For example ground water based piped water supply scheme at Rishi Bankim Shilpaudyān in Naihati, multilane access road, drainage system, water supply and truck parking facility at Plasto Steel Park, Barjora, Bankura, upgradation of internal road, construction of truck terminal, surface water supply scheme and storm water drainage system at Panagarh Industrial Park (now complete), construction of peripheral boundary wall at Haringhata Industrial Park, construction of boundary wall and main entrance gate, internal road network system, storm water drainage system, waste water drainage system at Haldia Industrial Park.

The Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS), the flagship summit of the Government of West Bengal, has been held on February 5-6, 2025 in Kolkata. The summit serves as a platform for the state to highlight its economic

strengths, strategic advantages, and investor-friendly policies. Since its inception in 2015, 7 (seven) editions of BGBS has been successfully completed. So far it has attracted business leaders, investors, and policy makers from across the globe, facilitating investment in various sectors including manufacturing, IT, agriculture, and tourism. We are hopeful that like previous years, this year's summit (the 8<sup>th</sup> edition) will also have good national and international delegates and we will be able to attract good investment in different sectors.

Last year, the West Bengal Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (WBIIDC) has allotted 11.63 acres of land to 4 industrial units in different industrial Parks with projected investment of Rs. 54.51 crores and proposed employment of 274. Allotment of additional 42.62 acres to 17 industrial units is under process. Revival of 09 sick units was made possible during this time.

City Gas Distribution (CGD) network is an interconnected system of underground Natural Gas pipelines for supplying Piped Natural Gas (PNG) and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for domestic, commercial and industrial use. Bengal Gas Company Ltd. (BGCL) is operating 15 CNG stations in and around Kolkata and has already laid 118 km steel pipeline and about 330 km MDPE pipelines within KMDA and HIDCO area. The gas

pipeline project in West Bengal involves laying of total 795 km gas pipeline. Total projected investment for the work is around Rs. 5,322 crore which may result into direct and indirect employment generation of 17 lakh man-days during construction. The project will provide gas service to the households and also to the industrial and transport sectors.

### **3.46 Public Enterprises and Industrial Reconstruction**

The Department of Public Enterprise & Industrial Reconstruction oversees state public sector undertakings and joint ventures. It works towards industrial growth, strategic disinvestment, and sustainable business operations for economic resurgence.

Saraswaty Press Limited (SPL) along with its subsidiary company West Bengal Text Book Corporation Ltd. (WBTBCL) is one of the largest printing companies in India. This is an ISO 9001:2015 Company and empanelled with Indian Bank Association as security printer. SPL is also the leader in Eastern India for security & confidential printing, school text book, printing of hologram etc.

During 2024-25 the Company printed approximately 12.65 crore School Text Books and Khata and distributed it to nearly 2,595 locations in West Bengal. Apart from this it also printed some highly sensitive items like High Court Cause list, Assembly Papers, Budget Documents, Ballot Papers, Audit Reports, Voter ID Cards, Ration Cards,

Student Credit Cards, Registers & Forms, Forms for Jharkhand Police, and Hospital Stationeries like OPD tickets, Bed Head tickets, Excise Holograms, Security Forms, Cheques, Forms & Reports for various Government Department and Statutory bodies, etc.

Saraswaty Press Ltd. has undertaken an expansion plan for opening the 5<sup>th</sup> unit at Raiganj, North Bengal. The issue of allotment of 75,416 square feet of earmarked shed in Raiganj Industrial Park has been taken up with the MS & MET Department. Once it comes into operation it will provide gainful employment to the locals and boost industry and business in the area.

The Industrial Reconstruction (IR) Cell of the Department has recovered, till December 2024, the principal amount of the loan with interest from nine companies amounting to Rs. 46 crore approx. It has also come with loan management software (IRLMS) integrating the A.G., office, the Finance Department, and the loanee companies ([www.lmspeir.wb.gov.in](http://www.lmspeir.wb.gov.in)), wherein the status of loans extended to 64 (sixty-four) companies by the erstwhile IR Department is available on login, to provide seamless service for repayment and reconciliation.

## **Services**

### **3.47 Tourism**

Tourism Department has framed policies and principles which have been instrumental in skill development and

enhanced livelihood generation of the people attached to tourism destinations.

West Bengal Homestay Tourism Policy, 2017 (amended in 2019 & 2022) is in operation with the objective to standardize homestay service. This helps in employment generation and sustainable tourism.

Total 5,322 nos. of homestays have been registered by Tourism, Forest and Tribal Development Departments. These homestays are generating 41,320 employments (Direct employment – 25,825 and Indirect employment – 15,495). The Homestay Tourism Sector is growing at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 20%, one of the highest in the country. West Bengal ranks first in India in respect of Homestays.

West Bengal Tourist Guides Certification Scheme has been introduced for certification, recognition and training of the New as well as Veteran (existing) Tourist Guides. Total number of applications received till 31.12.2024 was 3,755. Training was completed for 1,843. The total Number of Female Tourist Guides is 315.

Renewal process for tour operators has been simplified and the period of renewal is extended to five years. Number of recognised Tourism Service Providers till 31.12.2024 was 196.

Certain tourism units in the Tourism Sector have been given Industry Status by the Government of West Bengal

for the benefit of the Tourism Sector and enhancement of employment opportunities leading to the overall development of the State. This will increase the Ease of Doing Business for the units during operation.

Since 2018, total 205 students have passed out from the State Institute of Hotel Management Durgapur (AAHORAN) and are engaged in Hospitality Sector throughout India and Overseas. Students have received 100% placements in different hospitality units.

Every year Tourism Department organises Kolkata Christmas Festival in Allen Park, Park Street. The entire stretch of Park Street, Allen Park and St. Paul's Cathedral and other Churches in West Bengal along with Bow Barracks are illuminated with Christmas decor. This year the festival was held from 19th December, 2024 to 30th December, 2024.

Bishnupur Classical Music Festival, 2025 is one of the unique initiatives of the Tourism Department, in collaboration with I&CA Department, since 2011. This festival keeps the rich cultural tradition of the Bishnupur Gharana alive and pays homage to the pioneers of the Art. This year the festival will be held at Jor Shrenir Mandir, Pora Matir Hat, Bishnupur from 21st to 23rd March 2025.

West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation Limited (WBTDCL) is responsible for developing, operating, and managing hotels, lodges, guest houses, restaurants, etc.



in the tourist destinations in the State. Some new properties like Muruguma Tourism Property in Purulia, Alo Tourism Property in Chandannagar, Baroghutu in Bankura, BaulBitan in Birbhum, Baul Academy in Birbhum, Tarabitan Tourist Complex at Rampurhat, in Birbhum have been made operational in 2024. New projects of development of the Birth place of Kazi Nazrul in Churulia, Paschim Bardhaman, renovation and beautification of memorable places of Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay, Devanandapur, Hooghly, development of Tourism site at Hansulibank, Labpur, Birbhum, construction of Bibhutibhusan Sanskriti Mancha at Jangipara, Hooghly are planned.

Tourism Department has specially curated 65 itinerary packages across 16 Districts. WBTDCL has operated around 200 tourist packages across the State in 2024-25 to market and promote West Bengal as a tourist destination.

3 Special Packages under 'Pujo Parikrama 2024' were created which consisted of Udbodhani: To explore the pandals across Kolkata; Sanatani: For exploring the age-old family Durga Pujas of North Kolkata and Hooghly Safar: To explore the traditional Durga Pujas in and around Hooghly.

Tourism Department has received the award for Best Tourism Villages in Agri-Tourism category, 2024 of the

Ministry of Tourism Govt. of India for Baranagar Village in West Bengal's Murshidabad District.

Kolkata has received global recognition ranking 19<sup>th</sup> for Travel and Leisure by a New York based travel magazine, with 4.8 million readers across the globe, through a survey based on feedback from readers.

The Domestic Tourist Footfall increased from 14.57 crore in 2023 to 16.55 crore (upto November) in 2024, while the International Tourist Footfall increased from 27 lakh in 2023 to 28 lakh (upto November) in 2024.

### **3.48 Information Technology and Electronics**

One of the major initiatives that the IT&E Department has successfully implemented in 2024-25 is the Bengal Silicon Valley IT Hub, the premier, state-of-the-art IT Hub in Action Area II, New Town, Kolkata. Letters of Intent have been issued to 38 companies out of which 9 companies, including Reliance, Airtel Nxtra, ST Telemedia and NTT, have commenced construction.

Infosys has been allotted 50 acres of land for their campus adjacent to Bengal Silicon Valley. The project has been completed and operation has started in 2024. During the interim period Infosys launched a 400-seater office in rented premises at Mani Cassadona, Sector-1, New Town, offering new opportunities for IT professionals.

100% completion has been achieved for Kalyani IT Park (Ph-II), BN-9 IT Park (Sector V), BN-4 IT Park (Sector V) and Rajarhat IT Park (Ph-II). Over 85% of civil and allied work has been completed in EMC Falta and Infrastructural development activities have been fully completed in EMC Naihati. In total there are 22 IT Parks, 01 Hardware Park, and 02 Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs). 18 established IT Parks are operational across West Bengal, including Tier-II and Tier-III cities such as Durgapur (Ph-I & II), Siliguri (Ph-I, II & III), Kharagpur, Asansol, Bolpur, Haldia, Taratala, Howrah, Kalyani (Ph-I), Rajarhat (Ph-I), Barjora, Purulia, Malda, Krishnanagar, Kalimpong (rented space) and Sonarpur Hardware Park. 4 additional IT Parks have been newly developed. These are Sector V: Webel Tower-I (BN-4), Webel Tower-II (BN-9), Rajarhat Ph-II and Kalyani Ph-II. The Occupancy Rate is 91.78% as of 31.12.2024 across all IT Parks.

In the Sonarpur Hardware Park continuation of construction activities for the basic infrastructure against the proposed e-waste processing plant is underway. Exide Industries Ltd. has received allotment for Plots 3, 4, & 5 and construction is underway.

The work for development of interior infrastructure for setting up of Big Data Analytics CoE at 4th floor of Monibhandar Building is completed and the Facility is operational since 2024. The work for augmentation of the

Cyber Security Centre of Excellence at Webel Bhavan ground floor and upgradation of Cyber Forensic Lab at Monibhandar 7th floor is completed. The former is operational and the latter shall commence soon.

Upgradation works of 5 nos. ICPs (Mahadipur, Hili, Phulbari, Changrabanda, Ghoadanga) at India-Bangladesh Border reached completion under Suvidha project.

Similar infrastructural works have reached completion under Uttar Suvidha project for 4 nos. inter State check posts (Baxirhat, Barovisha, Naxalbari & Dalkhola). Interior infrastructure is completed against proposed augmentation of the Cyber Security Centre of Excellence and Upgradation of Cyber Forensic Lab. Infrastructure set up is completed for setting up of CERT-in-Lab, DSCI and extension of the CS-CoE at Webel Bhavan. The facility is operational.

Under the West Bengal State Wide Area Network (WB-SWAN) High-speed broadband network-Fibre to the Home (FTTH) across the State is under progress. Around 29,622 links (as per BSNL Report), have been commissioned by WBEIDC Ltd. (Webel). Both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Public WiFi Implementation in the Diamond Harbour Municipal area are operational and running successfully. The existing mail server hardware and software platform used for Government mail (wb.gov.in domain) are very old and require complete revamping. Therefore, the entire email messaging set-up migration from the on-premise to a cloud

environment with archival backup in the WBSDC is completed.

The augmented West Bengal State Data Centre (WB-SDC) has increased its capacity to around 8 Petabyte, 104 TB RAM, 25 GBPS Bandwidth and around 2000+ VM Compute capacity which is around 5 times compared to its earlier capacity. Creation of the Disaster Recovery (DR) Site of West Bengal State Data Centre (WB-SDC) has been successfully completed with 2 Petabyte storage capacity, 24 TB RAM, 25 GBPS Bandwidth and 24 Nodes.

First Responder Training (FRT) on Cyber crime Response for Police Personnel of West Bengal was successfully completed for 3,838 police officials. 683 direct recruited Police personnel were trained under Cyber Security Orientation Training (CSOT) and Police officials from various Cyber Crime PS participated in the online training of police personnel on CDR/IPDR forensic tools. Also, Police officials participated in the Cyber Forensic preparatory training for CID Officials of WB Police. 200 Advocates participated in the training of Advocates on Recent trends on Cyber Crime & Cyber Law and students took part in the Interactive session on 'Cyber Security & Digital Forensic'. Till date a total of 27,807 participants attended various Cyber Awareness Programmes organised by the CS-CoE.

Approx. 2.8 crore citizens benefited from the Anumati Portal – the single window clearance system for providing NOC for the establishment of mobile towers and optical fibre in an efficient, transparent and accountable manner.

The Suvidha Vehicles Facilitation System is operational at six Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) on the Indo-Bangladesh border for quick clearance and smooth movement of vehicles. Average cost at all ICPs for one transaction has been reduced from Rs. 70,000-1,00,000 (approx.) to Rs. 30,000-1,00,000. Till now, exports have been facilitated for 4.5 lakh (approx.) vehicles through Suvidha.

3,77,650 Unique Document Identification Number (UDIN) has been generated.

A single window portal Nirasanis has been developed for handling cyber cases registered to the Adjudicating Officer.

1,34,000 nos. of Letter of Authority have been generated through UDIN-based Single Window Driver Authorization Generation Portal 'Anumodan'.

The Yatri Sathi App is a cab service initiative by the Government of West Bengal to offer affordable taxi options across the State, which aims to provide a reliable and cost-effective alternative to private app-based taxi services. With over 66,000 cabs registered, Yatri Sathi serves a variety of users, including local commuters and tourists. It has gained popularity due to fair pricing, transparent

bookings, and dedicated pickup points at key transit hubs, such as railway stations and airports. 68.4 lakh Trips have been completed. There are 29.9 lakh Registered Users and 78,800 Enabled Drivers. The earnings of these Drivers amount to Rs.185.49 crore.

The Uttar Suvidha Vehicles Facilitation System portal has been created as an initiative of Government of West Bengal for smooth movement of Vehicles originating from Assam and other North-Eastern States, transiting through West Bengal enroute to other parts of India. Approx. 2,160 number of vehicles movement has been enabled.

Some other notable achievements of IT&E Dept. are single window application processing dashboard for West Bengal State Data Centre, Self Scan version (Version III) Designing and Development, Launching & maintenance of Karmo Bhumi (Version III) i.e. State Skill Registry of the Government of West Bengal in the IT/ITeS sector, Linguistic Diversity Dashboard of West Bengal (Version III), WEBEL Services Portal and Digital Archiving (Various cultural documents).

### **3.49 Consumer Affairs**

The Department of Consumer Affairs safeguards consumer rights through awareness campaigns, promotion of consumer movements, and grievance redressal mechanisms. It also implements the Legal Metrology Act,

2009 and ensures transparency in delivering public services under the West Bengal Right to Public Services Act.

During 2024-25, Directorate of Consumer Affairs & Fair Business Practices made special awareness campaign among Tribal people through participation in observation of 'International day of the World Indigenous People' (Biswa Adibasi Dibas) in 22 districts with the West Bengal Tribal Development Department.

Different awareness generation programmes were undertaken through 8 F.M. Channels, Public Display System at 26 Metro Stations, Television Commercial through 5 TV Channels and 1 Cable Channel and Darjeeling Himalayan Railways. 8 New Audio Jingles on Consumer Protection Act, 2019 have been developed. Awareness programme 'Kena Katar Age Pore' is telecast at All India Radio. Wall writings, Newspaper advertisements, Leaflets in Bengali, Urdu, Nepali and English have largely been used to propagate messages. Special booklet is published for elected members at all the 3 tiers covering all aspects of consumer awareness.

30 Regional Offices have organized 10,185 awareness programmes and counselled 5,130 consumers. New consumer clubs at 3 schools, 30 colleges and 19 madrasahs have been set up in addition to existing 1,235 consumer clubs. 3 fairs have been organized at Purba Bardhaman, Kolkata and Maldah.



Integrated office buildings for accommodating all wings of the department under one roof are almost complete at Jalpaiguri, Coochbehar, Purulia, Birbhum and Paschim Bardhaman. Integrated office will soon be functional at Kalimpong. DPR and estimate for building at Maldah is prepared.

Directorate of Legal Metrology has realized Rs. 19.66 crore Non-Tax revenue up to December, 2024 covering 5,41,958 traders and 4,099 markets. The directorate arranged verification of weighing instruments at M.R. Shops and Anganwadi Centres and Paddy Procurement Centres.

West Bengal State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (SCDRC) functions with 5 benches (3 in Kolkata and 2 Circuit benches at Siliguri and Asansol) and 26 District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions (DCDRCs) are there in 23 Districts. Virtual Hearing in Hybrid Mode has been started at 2nd Bench of WBSCDRC from July, 2024. Out of 2,20,984 cases filed at SCDRC and DCDRCs, 1,97,480 cases have been disposed up to 31st December, 2024. 230 cases have been settled through Lok Adalat.

29 Departments have notified 419 services under West Bengal Right to Public Services Act, 2013. All the grievances received by West Bengal Right to Public Services Commission have been disposed.

**Hon'ble Speaker Sir,**

I shall now place a few proposals for the coming financial year –

Honourable members of this House, Budgets are not just Finance Accounts – they have a long term vision of regeneration and development of a state. I would like to announce three such deep visions of the Hon'ble Chief Minister that are transformational and are game changers.

**One,** West Bengal is a land of rivers. There are 39 river sub-basins and 3 major river basins in the state. There are a large number of wetlands which are also connected to the rivers.

It is widely acknowledged that rivers can be rejuvenated only through a holistic approach.

I am therefore happy to announce the introduction of a new scheme under the nomenclature '**Nodi Bandhan**' – a term coined by Hon'ble Chief Minister. It will entail interconnecting of rivers and wetlands which will stimulate multiple livelihood options for the people. I allocate an amount of **Rs. 200 crore** for preparation of sub-basin wise plans involving international experts and commencement of its implementation.

**Two,** Ganga-Padma river system has been changing its course for the last two hundred years causing devastating bank erosion. This together with the construction of Farakka Barrage has further accentuated this menace causing serious damage to lives, livelihoods and property.

Therefore there is an urgent need to build a **Master Plan** to stop *Nodi Bhangon* through a nature based solution. I therefore **allocate Rs. 200 crore** to start this magnum effort. The plan would be based on hydrological models and pilot interventions as proof of concept, which will be scaled up.

**Three,** Ghatal area in Paschim Medinipur faces perpetual flooding problem due to its peculiar geography and complex network of rivers. The flood problem is further accentuated due to uncontrolled release of huge quantity of water from D.V.C. without prior notice.

The State Government had prepared a **Ghatal Master Plan** which was submitted to Government of India under the Flood Management and Border Area Program (FMBAP).

Since there has been no response from the Central Government, the State Government has done several river dredging works in the area, from its own budget, as part of the flood mitigation plan and has already spent Rs. 341 crore for 115 km of river dredging.

It is quite unfortunate that, even after years, the Ghatal Master Plan has **NOT** been approved by Government of India and therefore the State Government under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister is taking the challenge upon itself for its implementation to address the aspirations of the people living in this area. This project will be completed within **two years** at a total cost of **Rs. 1,500 crore**. Accordingly I am allocating a budget of **Rs. 500 crore** for this purpose in the coming financial year and the rest amount will be allocated in the subsequent budget.

**Hon'ble Speaker Sir,**

Now I turn to some significant and urgent projects and proposals:

1. Sagar island hosts the world famous *Ganga Sagar* Mela in which crores of pilgrims from all parts of the world participate. We take pride in organizing it every year successfully. At present there is no connectivity of Sagar island with the main land. This causes immense hardship to the pilgrims. Since the Central Government has shown no interest in the project, I had accordingly announced construction of *Ganga Sagar Setu* in the last budget to provide the much needed connectivity to facilitate the movement of pilgrims. You will be glad to know that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) has

already been completed and tender process has already been initiated.

We now propose **four laning** of the bridge of total length of 4.75 km. I allocate an **additional budget of Rs. 500 crore** for this project in the coming financial year.

2. Sufal Bangla brand retail chain has been successful in providing good quality fresh agricultural produce and fish to common consumers at reasonable prices through 646 Sufal Bangla sale outlets. In this period of high inflation, Sufal Bangla has hugely helped the common people. To extend the benefit to more consumers I propose to open **350 additional outlets**.

In order to further strengthen the market connect and facilitate better price to farmers and consumers it is now proposed to set up **200 procurement centres** in Regulated Market Committee markets and *Haats* for purchase of vegetable and other agriculture produce. I allocate **Rs. 200 crore** for this purpose.

3. Post harvest management facilities for Agriculture produce for value addition, packaging and storage are very important to ensure better prices of farm produce. In order to promote post harvest infrastructure and support farmers it is proposed to extend Financial assistance under scheme of Farm mechanization for primary processing, sorting & grading, packaging &

storage units for perishable Agriculture produce. Financial assistance at 50 per cent of project cost with upper limit of Rs. 5 lakh can be availed. I propose to allocate **Rs. 200 crore** for this purpose.

4. Rural connectivity has always been a priority for the State Government to bring in multiplier effect on rural economy. We had launched the flagship scheme '**Pathasree**' for this purpose. You will be glad to know that more than **37,000 km of rural road** has been constructed under the scheme so far utilizing State's own resource.

The State Government will continue to provide support to this vital sector and I now propose to **allocate Rs. 1,500 crore** for this scheme.

5. Self Help Group movement has taken deep roots in our State. So far more than 9 lakh Self Help Groups involving women have been credit linked. State Government always gives priority to the Self Help Groups and artisans in the *Melas* and *Haats* organized by the Government to provide them business opportunities. I am happy to inform that to provide marketing linkage to the Self Help Groups and artisans a shopping mall-cum-commercial complex will be made in each district headquarters in public private partnership mode in which **two floors will be dedicated**

**for providing marketing stalls to the Self Help Groups/artisans of the district.**

The contribution from Government is going to be in the form of land. I am happy to **allocate Rs. 150 crore** to bridge any critical infrastructure gaps/viability gap for making this project successful.

6. ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activists) workers and *Anganwari* workers are important field level functionaries who are acting as a bridge between public health care delivery and local community. They provide essential services related to Mother and Child health as well as promote important public health programme such as Dengue control, controlling of non-communicable diseases like hypertension, diabetes, tuberculosis, cancer etc.

State Government now intends to enhance their capacity by providing Smart Phones to these 70,000 ASHA workers and more than one lakh *Anganwari* workers so as to enable them to play their role more effectively and efficiently.

For this purpose, I propose a budget allocation of **Rs. 200 crore.**

7. West Bengal is well known across the globe for its renowned tea industry. The Government took up the

scheme of waiver (zero rate) of Agricultural Income-tax to provide relief to the Tea Industry. You will be happy to note that our government has decided to extend the benefit for another year, i.e. **till 31.03.2026**.

8. Our Government of *Ma-Mati-Manush* is deeply committed to provide shelter to each poor family in this State. The scheme of providing affordable housing for the poor was started in this State under Bangla Awas Yojana since 2015-16. By 2021-22 34,18,959 houses were constructed. Later, Government of India discontinued providing support for this scheme. Therefore, to mitigate hardship of the poor people Government of West Bengal has introduced **Banglar Bari (Gramin)** scheme, on 17th December 2024 on its own. In the first phase of the scheme the objective is to construct pucca houses for 12 lakh eligible families. The State Government has earmarked **Rs. 14,000 crore** for this purpose. The first installment @ Rs. 60,000/- amounting **Rs. 7,200 crore** has already been released and the second and final installment will be released by June, 2025.

I am happy to announce that, in the **second phase**, we are going to cover **additional 16 lakh** eligible families. They will be provided the first installment (@ Rs. 60,000/- per family) by December, this year. I



have accordingly **allocated Rs. 9,600 crore** for this purpose. We are fully committed to provide the second installment for these 16 lakh houses based on the progress of the construction of the houses.

If there are more eligible persons, their applications will be considered after processing them in the same manner in the third phase of the project.

9. We acknowledge the contribution of Government employees in the development of the State. We are always empathetic to them. You know that the Left Front Government released only 35 per cent of the DA recommended by the 5th pay Commission. Our Government gradually raised the rate of DA upto 125 per cent from time to time.

This 125 per cent DA was merged to the basic pay as per recommendation of the 6th pay Commission. We have so far released DA upto 14 per cent on this revised basic pay. You will be glad to know that to reduce the burden of inflation on the government and semi-government employees, teaching and non-teaching staffs and pensioners, our government has decided to release another installment of DA of 4 per cent with effect from 1st April, 2025 raising the total rate of DA to 18 per cent.

## **Conclusion**

### **Hon'ble Speaker Sir,**

Hon'ble Members are kindly aware that overall improvements in infrastructure, implementation of far-reaching employment generation schemes integrating agriculture and industry and the untiring and sincere efforts of the State Government to ensure life and livelihoods to its citizens – have resulted in significant results in recent years.

Due to the sustained, sincere and strong leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister for the last one and a half decade, the State has been acknowledged as a leading State in the country as a result of its massive improvements in fiscal performance, significant overall improvements in efficiency in administration and implementation of various social protection schemes in a transparent manner. This has been attained inspite of the continuous unjust policies and increasing discriminatory behaviour of the Central Government.

Our Government has launched various schemes for the benefits of different segments of our citizens. Under 94 schemes the State is providing social protection to different groups starting from farmers to students, youths, labourers, scheduled castes and tribes, minorities, folk artists, economically weak and aged technicians and artists, migrant workers, self-help groups and vulnerable sections of the population including aged persons, widows and persons with disabilities.

Sir, the State Government is committed to ensure a better standard of living to its citizens in future also.

**Sir,**

I propose to provide Rs. 3,89,194.09 crore (Net) in the Budget of Financial Year 2025-26.

**Sir,**

The State Government's commitment to ensure aspirations of people on the basis of a transparent, continuous and sustained social architecture has been reflected in one

poem written by Hon'ble Chief Minister.

সকল বাধা ছিন্ন করে  
জাগবে যৌবন নতুন সুরে  
বুকের ভাঙা পঁজর সরিয়ে  
বাংলা জাগবে বিশ্বের ভোরে।  
বৈশাখের দুরন্ত অশান্ত ঝড়ে  
মুছে যাক দুঃখ বক্ষ পঁজরে।  
ভেঙে যাওয়া পঁজরকে শক্ত করে  
বিশ্ববাংলা আসবে বাংলার দ্বারে  
ছুড়ে ফেলে দিয়ে ব্যর্থতার গ্লানি  
দৈনিক স্পন্দনে আসবে স্বপ্নের হাতছানি।

Jai Hind – Jai Bangla



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**FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 2025-2026**

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## WEST BENGAL ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 2025–2026

(Rupees in Crore)

	Actuals, 2023–2024	Budget, 2024–2025	Revised, 2024–2025	Budget, 2025–2026
<b>Receipts</b>				
1. Opening Balance	(–)13.77	(–)5.00	2.63	2.88
2. Revenue Receipts	2,00,267.60	2,36,251.09	2,27,590.78	2,66,060.42
3. Raising of Public Debt	80,171.44	1,21,689.00	1,27,780.00	1,10,771.73
4. Repayment of loans by PSUs and Government employees	1,455.98	187.36	222.54	2,223.63
5. Receipts from Contingency Fund and Public Account	11,62,768.77	11,99,175.09	12,36,860.58	12,94,222.54
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,44,650.02</b>	<b>15,57,297.54</b>	<b>15,92,456.53</b>	<b>16,73,281.20</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
6. Revenue Expenditure	2,25,959.47	2,68,202.76	2,70,852.45	3,01,375.37
7. Capital Expenditure	28,963.09	35,865.55	29,147.27	39,337.75
8. Repayment of Public Debt	30,351.41	61,427.41	61,013.45	47,732.08
9. Disbursement of loans to PSUs and Government employees	794.13	620.30	831.39	748.89
10. Transfer to Contingency Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11. Expenditure on Contingency Fund and Public Account	11,58,579.29	11,91,188.52	12,30,609.09	12,84,087.23
12. Closing Balance	2.63	(–)7.00	2.88	(–)0.12
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,44,650.02</b>	<b>15,57,297.54</b>	<b>15,92,456.53</b>	<b>16,73,281.20</b>

(Rupees in Crore)

	Actuals, 2023–2024	Budget, 2024–2025	Revised, 2024–2025	Budget, 2025–2026
<b>Net Results—</b>				
Surplus (+) / Deficit (–)				
(a) On Revenue Account	(–)25,691.87	(–)31,951.67	(–)43,261.67	(–)35,314.95
(b) Outside Revenue Account	25,708.27	31,949.67	43,261.92	35,311.95
(c) Net, excluding Opening Balance	16.40	(–)2.00	0.25	(–)3.00
(d) Net, including Opening Balance	2.63	(–)7.00	2.88	(–)0.12
(e) Expenditure for New Programmes/Additional Outlays				
(i) On Revenue Account	..	..	..	..
(ii) Outside Revenue Account	..	..	..	..
(f) Additional Resource Mobilisation under Tax Revenue	..	..	..	..
(g) Net Revenue Deficit	(–)25,691.87	(–)31,951.67	(–)43,261.67	(–)35,314.95
(h) Net Surplus/Deficit	<b>2.63</b>	<b>(–)7.00</b>	<b>2.88</b>	<b>(–)0.12</b>



