



# ECONOMIC REVIEW 2021-22







# Economic Review 2021-22



চন্দ্রিমা ভট্টাচার্য

রাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রী

পরিকল্পনা ও পরিসংখ্যান দপ্তর  
পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকার



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## Message

The Economic Review 2021-22 throws light on the major activities in the state and indicates the development perspectives in brief. The contents of this publication are based on the official statistics received from different departments, corporations, autonomous bodies etc.

Despite critical challenges, the state has attained a new pinnacle under the guidance and stellar leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister. This government of "Ma-Mati-Manush" has introduced special ambitious schemes for strengthening the economy, handling poverty and promoting equitable growth keeping almost no one left behind. In spite of economic constraints, government has broadened the ambit of facilities in the state. Initiatives like Duare Sarkar, Paray Samadhan and schemes such as Laxmir Bhandar, Kanyashree, Krishakbandhu (Natun), Students Credit Card, Jal Swapna, Khadyasathi, Swasthyasathi, Taposili Bandhu, Jai Johar, Rupasree etc. to name a few have been accoladed in the national and international level. Indeed, "Bengal Development Model" has become a matter of discussions for its responsiveness and accountability.

Further, the growth trajectory of the state economy has witnessed a positive dimension by overcoming the unprecedented pandemic-triggered situation arising out of COVID 19. Undeniably, Bengal has become the new destination of industries, education, culture, sports etc. Ideally, transparency in governance, people centric policy, creation of conducive atmosphere to build the inclusive governance, providing benefits to all within the existing development discourse have made the state a safe place for purpose living.

I would like to put on record my sincere appreciation to all the departments for their cooperation in preparing the document. I also thank the officers and staff of my department and directorate for their passionate efforts in bringing out the publication in time.

  
Chandrima Bhattacharya



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Economic Review 2021-22

# Highlights



## Highlights

The Economic Review 2021-2022 is a compiled document portraying the key socio-economic activities and achievements of the State. Official statistics received from different departments are central to this exercise. The Government has undertaken various initiatives and innovative schemes to ascertain the wellbeing of the people of the State. Focused and disciplined economic management including transparent administrative mechanisms have redefined the development paradigm of the state through its responsiveness and accountability. Despite several challenges the state has registered a positive GSDP growth by overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic driven situation. The State in the last 10 years has seen a significant turnaround on all the facets of governance. Starting from financial management, there has been a remarkable progress in all spheres.

### **Economy and Finance:**

- Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of West Bengal has maintained a growth of 12.82% during 2021-22 for its demand stimulating economic policy, wherein for the same period 2021-22 India has registered a growth of 9.18%.
- GSDP of the State at current price has increased from Rs. 460959 crore (2004-05 base) in 2010-11 to Rs. 1536681 crore (2011-12 base) in 2021-22 (1<sup>st</sup> AE), indicates an increase of about three and half times over the period.
- State's Own Tax Revenue collection grew up to Rs. 60287.24 crore in 2020-21 from Rs. 21128.74 crore in 2010-11, indicates that State's Own Tax Revenue has increased by about three times over the ten years span.
- Capital Expenditure has increased to Rs. 15310.49 crore in 2020-21 from Rs. 2633.48 crore in 2010-11 thereby Capital Expenditure has increased by about six times over the last ten years.
- Expenditure on Social Services Sector was Rs. 6845.61 crore in 2010-11 which grew to Rs. 40297.06 crore in 2020-21. The Social Services Sector expenditure has increased by about six times during last ten years.
- Debt as a per cent of GSDP has decreased from 40.65 in 2010-11 to 37.05 in 2020-21.
- Revenue Deficit as a per cent of GSDP has decreased from 3.75 in 2010-11 to 2.27 in 2020-21.
- Revenue Deficit as a per cent of Total Revenue Receipt has decreased from 36.55 in 2010-11 to 19.90 in 2020-21.
- Fiscal Deficit as a per cent of GSDP has declined from 4.24 in 2010-11 to 3.43 in 2020-21.

### **Duare Sarkar:**

Two of Government flagship programmes- Duare Sarkar (DS) & Paray Samadhan (PS) were launched to ensure service delivery of government schemes at the doorstep of its people. The response was unparallel and unprecedented.

The Duare Sarkar initiative, a massive outreach programme was launched on 1st December, 2020 by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal in bringing government services to the people at their doorsteps. The 1<sup>st</sup> DS and PS during 2021-22 were held from 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2021 to 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2021. About 1,04,435 camps were conducted having footfall over 3.69 crore citizens. The 2<sup>nd</sup> DS and PS during 2021-22 has been organized (Round 1 of DS from 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 to 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2022; Round 2 of DS from 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2022 to 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2022; PS from 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2022 to 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2022) to make the commitment a reality through its responsiveness and accountability. Till 03/03/2022 about 60752 camps have been organised having footfall over 76.87 lakh people. Special emphasis has been given to some schemes as follows:

- *Lakshmir Bhandar*: An innovative scheme named 'Lakshmir Bhandar' was launched by the State Government in August, 2021 for providing financial support to all the women in the state. All women aged 25-60 years in West Bengal are entitled to receive the scheme's benefits except for women who are drawing a salary or a pension from the government. While women from SC/ ST households are entitled to receive Rs. 1000/- every month, other women are entitled to receive Rs. 500/- per month.
- *Khadyasathi*: Khadyasathi is providing ration to about 10 crore beneficiaries which is more than 95% population of the State. During pandemic, Government has been providing food grains completely free of cost to all beneficiaries.
- *Swasthya Sathi*: Swasthya Sathi Scheme was widened further to cover all the residents of the State through Duare Sarkar (Universal Health Coverage) except those who are already covered by any Health Insurance/ Assurance scheme/ coverage by any Government/ Government Organizations, Parastatals/ Public Sector Undertakings. Since inception around 24.85 lakh beneficiaries have availed the treatment services under this flagship scheme amounting to Rs. 3212.72 crore up to December, 2021.
- Caste Certificates to SC, ST & OBC: All Sub-divisions are now using online facilities for issuing caste certificates. During 2021-22, more than 35,24,049 Caste Certificates have been issued up to December, 2021.
- *Shikshashree*: To achieve the aim of providing opportunities for education to all SC and ST students right from Class V, totally state funded "Sikshashree" Scholarship is being disbursed to the students of Class-V-VIII. In the current fiscal (up to December, 2021), this scholarship was disbursed to more than 9,65,710 SC and about 1,81,000 ST students of Class V-VIII. Presently the annual rate of scholarship is Rs 800/-.
- *Toposili Bandhu*: A novel social pension scheme targeting all the 60 years and above persons of SC community, has been initiated, where the beneficiaries receive a monthly pension @ Rs 1000/-. About, 10.23 lakh persons are getting monthly pension under this scheme, up to December, 2021.

- *Jai Johar* (ST Old Age Pension): Rs. 1,000/- per month is provided to the poor ST persons with age of 60 years or above through 'Jai Johar' Old Age Pension Scheme rolled out from 01.04.2020. It is a universal scheme having no quota. In 2021-22, more than 2,78,817 beneficiaries got registered till December, 2021.
- *Kanyashree Prakalpa*: Kanyashree Prakalpa, one of the flagship schemes for the empowerment of adolescent girls is now in its ninth year of implementation and has covered more than 75 lakh adolescent girls between the ages of 13-19 years up to December, 2021.
- *Rupashree Prakalpa*: Under the Scheme a financial support of Rs. 25,000/- is given to indigent women to cover the expenses of their first marriage. The scheme has covered over 2.11 lakh beneficiaries during 2021-22, up to December, 2021.
- *Manabik*: This is a Pension Scheme which provides Rs. 1000/- per month to persons having disability of 40% or more. Funds disbursed to over 4.85 lakh beneficiaries during 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021).
- *Krishak Bandhu (Naton)*: For procurement of agricultural inputs & other cultivation cost, Krishak Bandhu (Assured Income) scheme is running since January 2019 which was revamped and launched as Krishak Bandhu (Naton) on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 to support the farmers financially during pre-production stage thereby doubling the financial assistance to the farmers. Under the new scheme, every enrolled farmer will get financial assistance of Rs. 10000/- per annum for one acre or more of cultivable land. Farmers having less than one acre of land will be eligible for assistance on pro rata basis subject to a minimum of Rs. 4000/- per annum per farmer.
- *Kishan Credit Card (KCC) - Agriculture & Kishan Credit Card (KCC) - ARD*: There has been a significant increase in number of KCCs issued during 2021-22 compared to the previous years.
- *100 Days' Work (MGNREGA)*: West Bengal stands first position in the whole country in 100 days' work.
- *West Bengal Student Credit Card Scheme*: The scheme has been introduced since 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 for the students for enabling higher studies in the State and Outside State or even abroad. The students can avail the maximum of up to Rs. 10 lakh loan on nominal interest. The State Government provides guarantee for the loan and also provides 4% interest subvention.
- *Aikyashree*: This scheme was launched in the year 2019-20 for providing scholarships to minority students. During 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021), more than 53 lakh applications are under consideration.
- *Disposal of Mutation Petitions*: The Government has put special emphasis on disposal of mutation and conversion cases with an intent to harmonize and consolidate citizen services. Till 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021, 68,81,490 number of mutation cases have been disposed and 1,10,509 number of conversion cases have been cleared.

- *Bina Mulya Samajik Suraksha Yojana (BMSSY)*: The objective of the scheme is to integrate different schemes and to offer uniform social security benefits to all unorganised workers under the single umbrella. The State Government decided to waive off the beneficiary contribution of Rs. 25 per month as their subscription payment towards their provident fund to assist the enrolled beneficiaries. It has now been decided to contribute Rs. 55 per month as a whole for the beneficiaries from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. Thus, the scheme was renamed Bina Mulya Samajik Suraksha Yojana (BMSSY) where any enrolled unorganised worker can avail all the available benefits without spending a single rupee.
- *Matsya Jeebi Credit Card (MJCC)*: Matsya Jeebi Credit Cards (MJCC) are being provided to the poor and marginal fishermen with short term, collateral-free loan facilities up to Rs. 2.0 lakh (with 5% interest subvention).
- *Artisans' Credit Card (ACC) and Weavers' Credit Card (WCC)*: Availability of timely and adequate working capital is a key challenge for handicraft artisans and handloom weavers. To mitigate this issue, the Government has decided to issue Artisans' Credit Card (ACC) and Weavers' Credit Card (WCC) to artisans and weavers in a camp mode under Duare Sarkar campaign. Under ACC, need based term loan and/or working capital loan in the range of Rs. 25,000 – Rs. 2,00,000 will be available to eligible artisans. On the other, eligible weavers will get term loan and /or working capital loan up to maximum Rs. 5 lakh only. The Loan under ACC and WCC are repayable within 3-5 years.
- *SHG Credit linkage*: Sanction of loans and credit disbursement has been undertaken for SHGs.
- Facilities are providing through Duare Sarkar camps for opening of bank accounts and all AADHAAR related works for obtaining different Government benefits through bank.

### **Paray Samadhan:**

Paray Samadhan initiative was launched with the objective of resolving the local issues need immediate intervention by providing instant solutions. During 2<sup>nd</sup> January – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021, more than 10,180 schemes like minor repair of roads & bridges, drainage issues, drinking water connectivity, street light changes, minor health issues, irrigation problems, sanitization issues etc. were undertaken and more than 2 crore people were benefited. During 16<sup>th</sup> August – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021, almost 23,000 schemes were undertaken. During 2021-22 (1<sup>st</sup> February, 2022 to 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2022) more than 12000 camps were organized which were attended by more than 6 lakh people.

### **Social:**

- *MAA Canteen*: State Government has launched a Scheme namely 'MAA Canteen' on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 for providing cooked meal to the poor and needy citizen of the State to be served by Urban Local Bodies in common kitchens with the contribution of Rs. 5/-.
- *Social Security Pension Scheme (Old Age & Widows)*: The social security pensions have been provided at the rate of Rs. 1000/- per month during 2021-22.

- *Jai Bangla* (Pension Scheme): Jai Bangla Pension Scheme was introduced in the year 2020-21 under which monthly pension for each beneficiary had been raised to Rs. 1000 per month. This remains the same for the current financial Year 2021-22.
- *Samaj Sathi*: The scheme 'Samaj Sathi' provides accidental benefit to support the members of SHGs and their families.
- West Bengal *Swarojgar Sahayak Prokolpo (WBSSP)*: West Bengal Swarojgar Sahayak Prokolpo (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 meager 2 per cent only.
- *Issuance of Free Hold Title Deed (RR Patta)*: The Government has taken an important decision to regularize all refugee establishments & colonies and has initiated to provide Free Hold Title Deeds to the legitimate persons. It has also been decided to ensure the sustainable development of infrastructural facilities at the RR colonies.
- *Bangla Sahayata Kendra (BSK)*: 3561 Bangla Sahayata Kendras (BSKs) have been made operational for providing help at grassroot level for obtaining different Government services.
- *Lok Prasar Prakalpa*: More than 1.90 lakh folk artists are enrolled under the flagship scheme of Lok Prasar Prakalpa (LPP) and the Department released funds as Retainer Fee, Pension and Performance to those registered Folk Artists through Direct Benefit Transfer Mode during this year.
- *Jungle Mahal Utsav*: In order to develop and preserve the traditional culture of the backward communities of the Paschimanchal region, Jungle Mahal Utsav is organised every year with great enthusiasm and mass participation.

### **Agriculture & Allied:**

- *Krishak Bandhu (Death Benefit)*: Under the Krishak Bandhu (Death Benefit) Scheme, in the event of the death of farmer including recorded Bhagchasi (Share Cropper) in the age group of 18-60 years, the eligible claimant of the family of the deceased will be provided one-time grant of Rs. 2 lakh only.
- *Bangla Shasya Bima*: State Government is implementing its own crop insurance scheme, namely Bangla Shasya Bima (BSB) with an aim to extend hassle free crop insurance to all willing & eligible farmers and to ensure timely claim settlement in the event of crop loss due to natural calamities.
- *Amar Fasal Amar Chatal*: To prevent post-harvest loss and to enhance farm level value addition, One Time Assistance is provided through "Amar Fasal Amar Chatal" @ 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 21,714/-, for constructing a Farm Family level paddy processing yard (Chatal) for sun drying of par boiled paddy and/ or Rs. 6336/- for constructing an improved low-cost paddy and grain storage structures.

- *Amar Fasal Amar Gola:* One Time Assistance is provided through “Amar Fasal Amar Gola” for construction of Community Storage Structure and Onion Storage Structure @ 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 39,133/- and Rs. 71838/- respectively to minimize post-harvest loss.
- *Matir Shristi:* This programme was launched to make productive use of fallow land in 6 western districts viz. Birbhum, Bankura, Purulia, Paschim Medinipur, Jhargram & Paschim Bardhaman.
- *Jal Dhara Jal Bhara:* Large scale harvesting of rain water are being done for conservation of precious water resources in all kinds of water bodies under Jal Dhara Jal Bhara programme.
- *Fish Production:* Even during pandemic, during 2021-22, about 13.16 lakh MT of fish and 26,925 million fish seeds have been produced in West Bengal up to 31.12.2021.
- *Egg Production:* Annual Egg production increased from 400.1 crore in 2010-11 to 1050 crore in 2020-21, i.e. 162% increase in ten years. The annual egg production is expected to increase to about 1203 crore in 2021-22, 14% increase over the last year, primarily attributable to enhanced distribution of chicks and ducklings.
- *Annual Meat production:* Annual Meat production has been increased from 5.77 lakh MT in 2010-11 to 9.94 lakh MT in 2020-21, i.e. 72% increase in ten years.
- *Annual Milk production:* Annual Milk production has been increased from 44.72 lakh MT in 2010-11 to 61.63 lakh MT in 2020-21, i.e. 38% increase in ten years.
- *Organic Haat:* One big market with all modern marketing facilities titled as Organic Haat is being constructed at New Town, Rajarhat, Kolkata with a view to promote marketing of agricultural produce produced organically.
- *Swarna Matsya Yojana:* During 2021-22, a new scheme has been taken up for pisciculture under brackish water.
- *Sufal Bangla:* The scheme was launched in 2014 to ensure remunerative price to farmers and reasonable price to consumers by way of eliminating middlemen from agricultural marketing system. Daily about 75-80 MT of agricultural produces amounting to Rs. 18-20 lakh are sold through Sufal Bangla outlets to serve about 2.40-2.60 lakh consumers daily.
- *Sabujshree:* Since inception, more than 46.34 Lakh saplings have been distributed to the mothers of newly born children till December, 2021.
- *Bangla Krishi Sech Yojana (BKSY)* in association with Per Drop More Crop was awarded the prestigious SKOCH Silver Award for its contribution to the economic development in the State on 13.11.2021.
- *Khadyasathi-Annadatri Mobile APP:* “Khadyasathi-Annadatri Mobile APP” has been introduced by the Food & Supplies Department for the convenience of farmers willing to sell paddy and facilitate them for registration.



- *e-Permit System:* West Bengal State Agricultural Marketing Board has introduced online integrated electronic single platform permit (e-Permit) System for fast and hassle-free transactions of agricultural produce in West Bengal. Market fees are being collected through online system now.

### **Education:**

In the education sector, the number of Universities has increased. There has been reduction in dropout rate and enrolment in higher education has increased.

- *Swami Vivekananda Merit-cum-Means Scholarship (SVMCM):* Total number of beneficiaries of the scholarship increased from 7423 in 2010-11 to 211891 in 2020-21.
- During 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021), around 4,87,759 SC and 3,29,468 OBC students have been awarded Pre (IX-X) and Post Matric (XI-Ph.D level) scholarships. In addition, 'Post & Pre Matric Scholarship' has been provided to more than 1,27,792 nos. of ST students through DBT mode to their own bank account.
- *Mid-Day Meal during pandemic:* 100% Government/ Aided/ Sponsored Schools in the State have been covered under the Mid-Day Meal programme. During pandemic the students have been provided with Dry Ration for Mid-Day Meal. Along with Mid-Day Meal, mask and sanitizer/ soap have been distributed free of cost for all students.
- *Taruner Swapna:* Rs. 10,000/- each for purchasing tabs/ smartphones has been given to each student of class XII under the scheme Taruner Swapna for accessing online studies. Even during pandemic situation, though the schools remained closed for most part of the year, studies continued in the e-learning modes.
- *Banglar Shiksha Durabhase:* For doubt-clearing of the students, toll-free telephone number has been introduced. Students from class VI to X can ring on this number and get guidance from subject teachers. Class-wise & subject-wise slots have been provided in the system.
- *Bangalar Uchchashiksha Portal:* Bangalar Uchchashiksha Portal is a comprehensive Portal developed by Higher Education Department catering the Higher Education Department, Universities and Colleges for collecting, compilation and sharing of data, received SKOCH Gold award in 2021.
- *Sabooj Sathi:* Eligible students of Government, Government aided schools and Madrasahs are getting bicycles under "Sabooj Sathi" scheme for increased access to high school education from 2015-16. Since inception, around 1.02 crore students so far have received benefit under "Sabooj Sathi" scheme till December, 2021.
- *West Bengal Freeship Scheme (WBFS):* This Tuition fees waiver scheme is for the economically backward students of self-financed & Private Engineering/ Technical colleges of the State.
- *Banglar Shiksha Portal:* This vibrant portal of the School Education Department, received the SKOCH Gold award in 2021.

- West Bengal topped the ranking at national level among major states on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Index, as per the study conducted by Niti Aayog.

### **Health:**

The State has made significant progress in the health sector. There has been a major infrastructural upgradation at both rural and urban levels.

- *Infant Mortality Rate (IMR):* IMR stands at 22 per 1000 live births in 2021 from 34 in 2011. In 2021, IMR for West Bengal is much below the national average of 32.
- *Zero Payment Drug Dispensing Slip:* This scheme has been introduced in 2019-20, wherein patients get a slip mentioning the name of the medicines and the corresponding value of the medicines with 100% discount during the dispensing of the drug from the pharmacy counter at the Government Hospitals.
- *Fair Price Diagnostic and Dialysis Centres:* 153 High-end Fair Price Diagnostic and Dialysis Centres have been established from level of Medical Colleges to secondary tier.
- *Fair Price Medicine Shops:* 117 Fair Price Medicine Shops (FPMS) have been set up since December 2012. Discount of 48-80% is offered on MRP for medicines and consumables.
- *Su Swasthya Kendra:* During 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021), 5241 Subcentres, 783 PHC and 436 UPHC are functional in the State.
- *Chokher Alo:* Choker Alo is a 5-year long flagship project of the State Government which was launched on 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 aiming to ensure the 'Eye Health for All' and to strengthen the efforts to prevent the avoidable blindness in the State through cataract surgeries, refractive errors and other preventable blinding conditions starting from the newborn to the elderly.
- *Mission Nirmal Bangla:* After achieving ODF status the Government has been working relentlessly in a sustained manner for maintaining ODF status and achieving a clean environment in rural Bengal.
- *Night Shelters:* Government has constructed 'Night Shelters' for the benefit of patient parties within the campus of different Government Hospitals in Kolkata, Districts and Sub-divisions.
- *Patho Bandhu:* This project has been launched for immediate response with medical attention to Road Traffic Accident (RTA) victims in collaboration with West Bengal Traffic Police. The objective of this scheme is to ensure that the RTA victims receive medical attention within the shortest time.

### **Infrastructure:**

- *Jal Swapna:* Government of West Bengal has taken up a flagship mission 'Jal Swapna' aimed at providing every rural household with assured drinking water in adequate quantity of prescribed quality on regular and long-term basis by 2024 through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs).

- *Banglar Awas Yojana:* West Bengal has completed the highest number of houses in India. Since 2016-17, more than 34,57,163 houses have been constructed in the Rural Housing Scheme up to December, 2021.
- *Karmatirthas:* Construction work of Karmatirthas (Marketing Hub) for providing marketing facilities for artisans & cultivators and improving self-employment opportunity for Minority youths and SHG members have been taken up in minority concentrated areas.
- *Chaa Sundari Housing Scheme:* Under this scheme, pucca houses are being provided to the permanent tea garden workers who do not possess a pucca house.
- *Pathasathi:* For the benefit of passengers, specially for the women travelling by roads, the Housing Department is constructing 'Pathasathi' (Roadside motel having Toilet, Bathroom, Dormitory, Restaurant and Car parking facilities) in each 50 km of National Highways, State Highway and other important roads. 70 'Pathasathi's are operational at present.
- *Nijashree:* The Government has already introduced new Housing Scheme namely 'Nijashree' to provide housing among the families belonging to LIG and MIG categories through construction of multistoried LIG/ MIG flats on the public lands belonging to State Government, Local Bodies and Parastatals.
- *Baitarani:* As a flagship project, Government has completed construction of another 100 and 26 Cremation grounds for rural areas under Baitarani Project during the financial year 2020-21 and this year up to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021 respectively taking the total to 667.

### **Industry & MSME**

The various Ease of Doing Business (EODB) steps and other focused interventions by the State Government has made Bengal the new destination for industry, commerce, manufacturing & communication sector.

- *Deocha-Pachmi-Dewanganj-Harinsingha Project:* The Deocha-Pachmi-Dewanganj-Harinsingha, a green field coal block mining project with 1.2 billion metric tonnes of coal has been initiated. The R&R package for this coal block has been started. The Coal Block will transform the economy of not just the region but the entire State and beyond.
- *Ease of Doing Business & Single Window:* The Government regularly efforts in providing an industry-friendly environment by prioritizing the 'Ease of Doing Business' and 'Single Window' Facilitation Services.
- *Sand Mining Policy, 2021:* The Sand Mining Policy, 2021 has been successfully implemented with a view to ensure that sand mining is done in a scientific, environmentally sustainable and socially responsible manner.

- *Ethanol Production & Promotion Policy*: An Ethanol Production & Promotion Policy was notified on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and guidelines issued on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021. An online system of processing applications has been developed and made operational by the Government. Timely intervention by the State has facilitated the Bengal based companies to obtain award of contract from the Oil Manufacturing Companies.
- *Cycle Manufacturing Facility*: An EoI for Cycle Manufacturing Facility in Bengal was floated by WBIDC in October 2021, soliciting interest from cycle manufacturing companies. Four big companies in the sector have expressed their interest. Further modalities are being developed to encourage setting up of a cycle manufacturing facility in Bengal.
- *West Bengal State Data Centre (WB-SDC)*: In the calendar year 2021, the capacity of new cloud computing infrastructure has been augmented by additional 264 CPU cores, 6TB Memory and 50 TB SAN storage space. This year several mission critical new applications (e.g. Student Credit Card, Lakshmir Bhandar, Duare Sarkar, Online Ration card management, Samajik Suraksha Yojana, Single Window portal of UDMA) have been successfully hosted from WBSDC. With the State Government's "Cloud First" hosting approach, WBSDC is currently processing large number of web hosting requests from various Departments and Directorates.
- *Banglashree*: To make the State self sufficient in producing fabric required for production of readymade garment especially school uniform for school students and to boost powerloom sector in the State, a Powerloom Incentive Scheme has been notified which aims at providing uniform rate of 20% capital subsidy besides other facilities available under Banglashree scheme.
- *Karmo Bhumi*: Karmo Bhumi is a Government of West Bengal initiative to bridge the gaps between Job Seekers and the Employers in IT/ ITeS sectors and to increase employability in the said sectors driving in the State.
- *Paryatan Sahayata Prakalpa*: "Paryatan Sahayata Prakalpa", a pioneering scheme, provides financial support to the stakeholders in tourism and hospitality industry by providing Working Capital Loan from Banks by according loan interest subvention to the extent of 50% of the interest for first year subject to maximum 4% of total loan amount.
- *Silpasathi Single Window Services*: Silpasathi Single Window Services, a holistic and comprehensive portal received the prestigious SKOCH Award for public delivery of services in 2021.

Due to unprecedented developmental activities undertaken by the State Government, cutting across diverse spheres, Bengal today is the leader in many areas and receiving accolades for such activities in the country.



Economic Review 2021-22

Chapter

1

# State Economy

State Finance  
Planning and Statistics



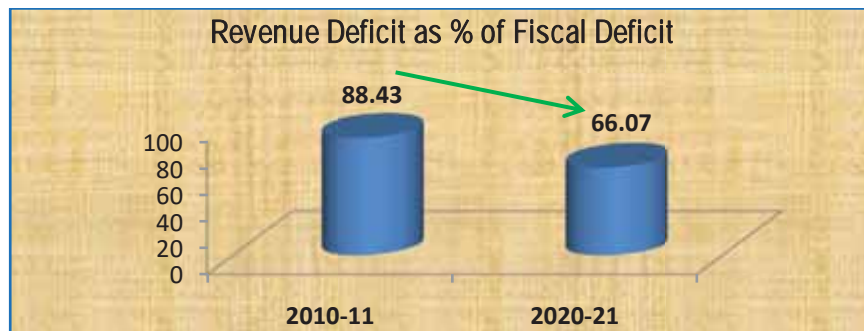
## State Finance

### 1.1 Introduction

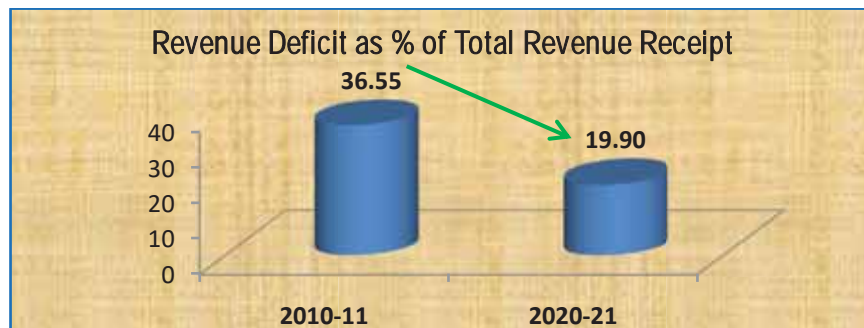
During the last ten years, the state achieved significant improvements in fiscal parameters through effective fiscal consolidation by implementing effective public financial management reforms. The achievement has been duly reflected in all major fiscal indicators over the period, more specifically in the consistently decreasing revenue deficit, fiscal deficit and debt to GSDP ratios. Continued and sustained increase in development expenditure as well as capital expenditure has been a highlighting feature of state finance for sustainable development and asset creation in the State.

### 1.2 Revenue Deficit Statistics

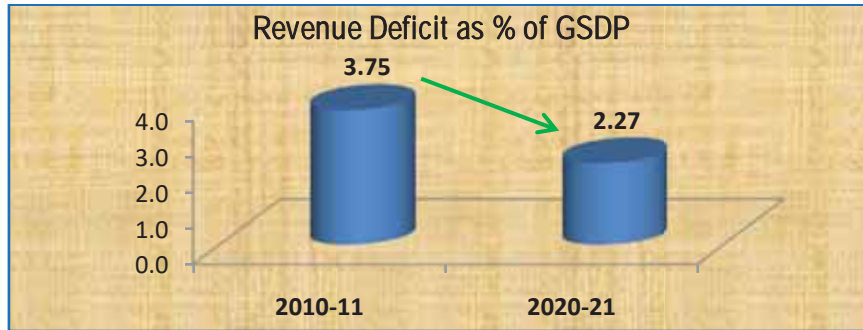
Revenue Deficit of the State has shown consistently decreasing trends over the last few years. State's Revenue Deficit as percentage of total Fiscal Deficit is constantly recording a decreasing trend since 2010-11, where it has decreased from a high level of 88.43% in 2010-11 to 66.07% in 2020-21, i.e. within a span of 10 years.



Revenue Deficit as percentage of Total Revenue Receipt has also been recording a consistent reduction over the same period and has reduced from 36.55% in 2010-11 to 19.90% in 2020-21.

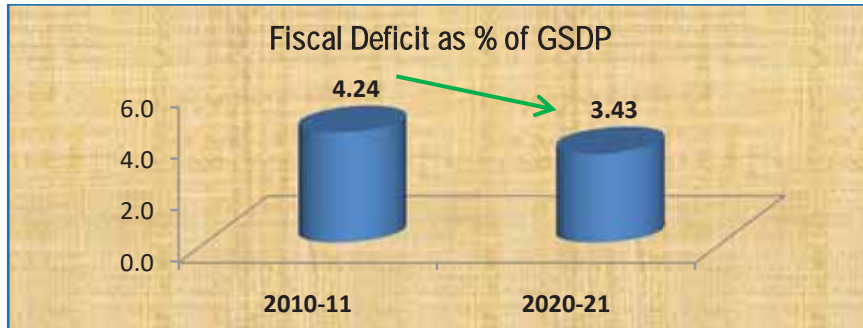


Significant reduction has also been observed on Revenue Deficit as percentage of GSDP during the period. The ratio has reduced from 3.75% in 2010-11 to 2.27% in 2020-21.



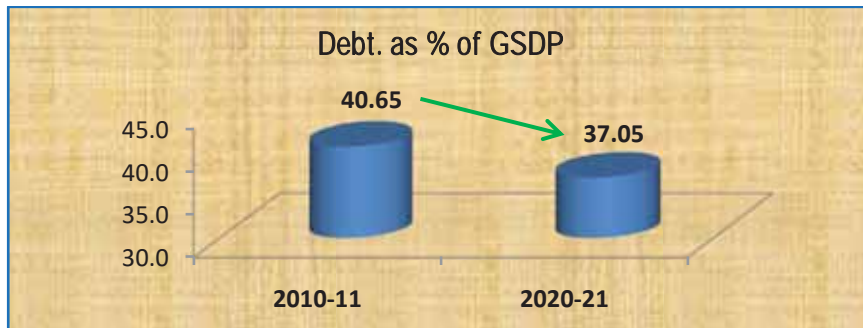
### 1.3 Fiscal Deficit Statistics

Fiscal Deficit of the State has shown a consistently decreasing trend over the last few years. State's Fiscal Deficit as percentage of GSDP has been steadily decreasing from 4.24% in 2010-11 to 3.43% in 2020-21.



### 1.4 Debt Situation

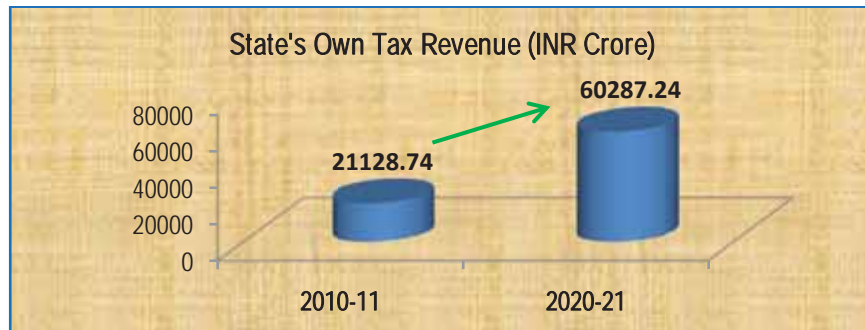
Due to effective fiscal consolidation measures, Debt of the State as percentage of GSDP has shown a consistent reduction from 40.65% in 2010-11 to 37.05% in 2020-21.



### 1.5 State's Own Tax Revenue

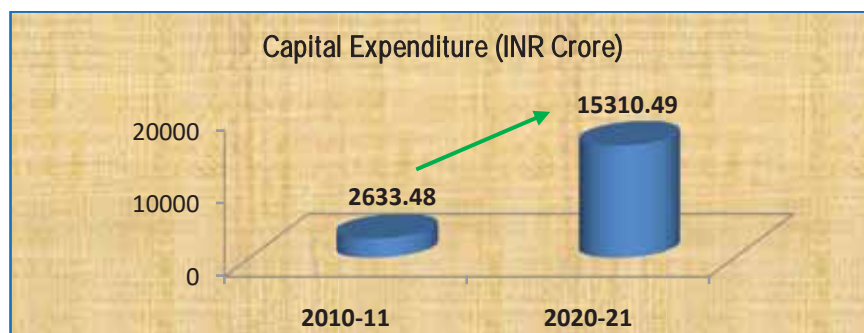
State's Own Tax Revenue collection has increased substantially over the last ten years due to significant reform measures and it has increased by almost three times over the 10-year span.



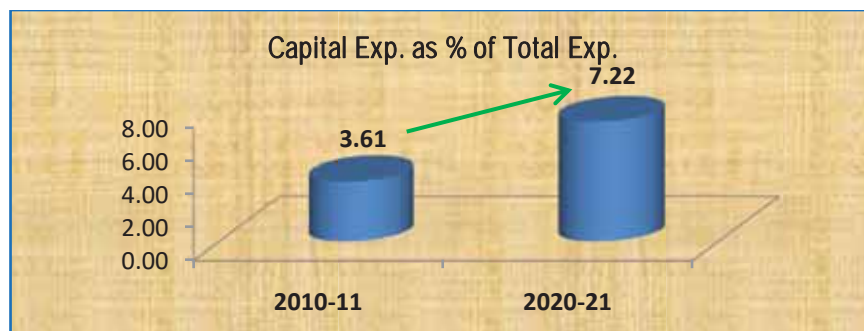


### 1.6 State position in Capital Expenditure

The expenditure on accounts of Capital has been consistently increasing since 2011-12. There has been a significant increase in Capital Expenditure by about six times over the period 2010-11 to 2020-21. In 2010-11, Capital Expenditure was Rs. 2633.48 crore which has increased to Rs. 15310.49 crore in 2020-21.

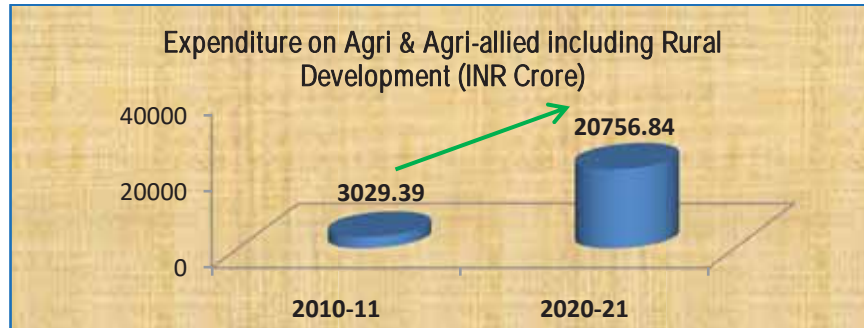


Significant growth has also been achieved in respect of the ratio of Capital Expenditure to Total Expenditure over the same period. As percentage of Total Expenditure, Capital Expenditure increased to 7.22% in 2020-21 as against 3.61% in 2010-11.

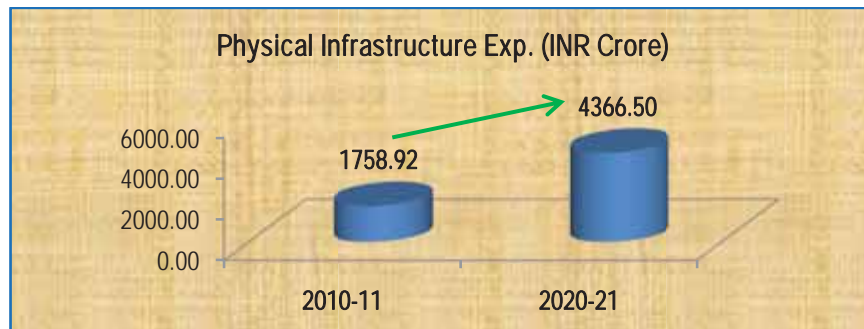


### 1.7 Sector-wise Expenditure of the State

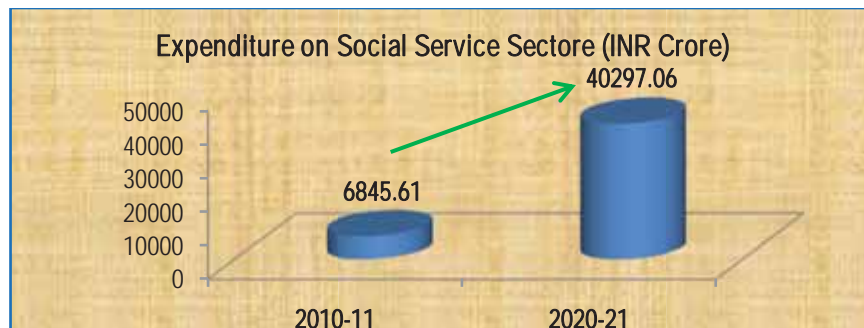
State Plan Expenditure in Agriculture & Allied Services has shown a healthy growth of almost seven times within a span of ten years. It grew from Rs. 3029.39 crore in 2010-11 to Rs. 20756.84 crore in 2020-21.



Expenditure in Physical Infrastructure sector grew from Rs. 1758.92 crore in 2010-11 to Rs. 4366.50 crore in 2020-21, achieving a growth of more than 2.5 times.



Expenditure in Social Services sector achieved an impressive growth from Rs. 6845.61 crore in 2010-11 to Rs. 40297.06 crore in 2020-21, which is about six times over the ten-year period.



In addition to significant achievements in fiscal consolidation measures, the State has also implemented radical Public Financial Management (PFM) measures in resource mobilization, expenditure rationalization and initiation of a Medium Term Debt Management Strategy (MTDS). With assistance from international multilateral donor agencies such as World Bank and Asian Development Bank, the State has initiated Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) in certain departments and has put on significant efforts in strengthening and upgradation of the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) and strengthening the Inclusive Social Protection System, with special focus on woman's empowerment.

## *Planning and Statistics*

### *1.8 Introduction*

This Department is the nodal Department at the State level for 'Duare Sarkar(DS)' and 'Paray Samadhan (PS)' programme. The Department also administers the Schemes like Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) and Bidhayak Elaka Unnayan Prakalpa (BEUP). This Department is also shouldering the responsibility of coordinating all statistical activities in the State along with State & District Level Spatial Data System (erstwhile Natural Resource Data Management System).

The Department of Planning and Statistics coordinates with the Districts for the formulation of the District Plans by the respective District Planning Committees, implementation of which is reviewed periodically with the District Authorities. The Department also handles all matters relating to the constitution and functioning of the State Public Policy and Planning Board (erstwhile State Planning Board) and District Planning Committees.

The Department also monitors the regular activities of the directorate of Bureau of Applied Economics & Statistics (BAE&S), which publishes regular and up-to-date information regarding key statistical parameters in the State. In order to generate adequate, timely, credible and coherent statistics, BAE&S plays an important role in the state.

### *1.9 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22*

**Duare Sarkar:** Duare Sarkar is a massive outreach programme with the objective of bringing all government services to the people at their doorsteps. The 1<sup>st</sup> DS and PS during 2021-22 was held from 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2021 to 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2021. About 1,04,435 camps were conducted having footfall over 3.69 crore citizens. The 2<sup>nd</sup> DS and PS during 2021-22 has been organized (Round 1 of DS from 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 to 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2022; Round 2 of DS from 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2022 to 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2022; PS from 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2022 to 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2022) to make the commitment a reality through its responsiveness and accountability. Till 03/03/2022 about 60752 camps have been organised having footfall over 76.87 lakh people.

**Paray Samadhan:** In Paray Samadhan, during 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan - 15<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2021, more than 10,180 schemes like minor repair of Roads & Bridges, drainage issues, drinking water connectivity, street light changes, minor health issues, irrigation problems, sanitization issues etc. were undertaken and more than 2 crores people were benefited. During 16<sup>th</sup> Aug - 31<sup>st</sup> Aug, 2021, almost 23,000 schemes were undertaken. During 2021-22(1<sup>st</sup> February, 2022 to 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2022) more than 12000 camps were organized which were attended by more than 6 lakh people.

**Bidhayak Elaka Unnayan Prakalpa (BEUP):** During the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly (2016-21) total budget allocation under BEUP scheme was Rs. 891.00 crore out of which Rs. 855.00 crore (95.96%) was released to districts and KMC.

**Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS):** During the period of 16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha (2014-19), total expenditure under MPLADS was Rs. 936.15 crore against a release of Rs. 905.00 crore. Percentage of Utilization was 101.47% well above the national average of 100.01%.

**State Spatial Data Centre (SSDC):** The Department has initiated to establish SSDC to integrate the maps/ data available with the line departments/districts. Design, development, implementation & maintenance of an integrated application for the State and District Spatial Data Centres are in progress.

**Bureau of Applied Economics & Statistics (BAE&S):** The regular works of the Bureau of Applied Economics & Statistics viz. Estimation of production and yield rate of 19 major crops, Estimation of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) and related macroeconomic aggregate, District Domestic Product (DDP), Index of Industrial Production (IIP), publication of State and District Statistical Handbook, Statistical Abstract etc. remained the prime focus in this year too. The yearly publication of Economic Review with a snapshot of the state economy and its progress and achievements, was brought out and presented at the time of State Budget.

### ***1.10 New Initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken***

- Preparation of State Human Development Report (SHDR) for the year 2021-22.
- Preparation of State Indicator Framework (Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)) may be initiated.
- District Planning Set up will be strengthened by introducing IT and IT enabled infrastructure.
- More use of integrated GIS platform for plan formulation.

### ***1.11 State Income***

The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) is considered to be a comprehensive measure of the economic activities in the State. Bureau of Applied Economics and Statistics compiles the GSDP and related macroeconomic aggregates such as Gross State Value Added (GSVA), Net State Value Added (NSVA), Net State Domestic Product (NSDP), and Per Capita Income of the State as per the methodology prescribed by the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India. The estimates of Gross State Value Added (GSVA) at basic prices and Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of West Bengal for the years 2011-12 to 2021-22 (Advance Estimate) at current and constant (2011-12) prices are prepared.

#### ***Preparation of Advance Estimates***

Almost two years since the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the Covid-19 a pandemic and after a year of economic slowdown in 2020-21 on account of pandemic-induced restrictions on economic activities, the State economy is poised to stage a robust post-recession recovery in 2021-22. The results of government action to stimulate the economic recovery along with containing the spread of the virus and combating the health crisis are clearly seen from the performance of different short-term economic indicators as well as the growth rate of the Advance Estimate of GSDP.

The Advance Estimates of GSDP of West Bengal for the year 2021-22 at current and constant prices have been prepared using suitable indicators. The indicators include Index of Industrial Production (IIP), Revenue of Goods and Services Tax (GST), Revenue Expenditure of the State Government, Deposits and Credits of Scheduled Commercial Banks, Passenger and Freight earnings of Railways, Passengers and Cargo handled by Civil Aviation, Cargo handled at major Sea Ports, Registration of Motor Vehicles, etc. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and Consumer Price Index (CPI) have been used as price deflators.

#### ***Estimates at Current Prices for Base 2011-12***

The nominal GSDP (at base year 2011-12) of West Bengal, prepared by the Bureau of Applied Economics & Statistics, has increased overtime as can be seen from below.

#### **GSDP Estimates at Current Prices in West Bengal (Base: 2011-12)**

<b>Year→ Indicator↓</b>	<b>2019-20 (RE)</b>	<b>2020-21 (PE)</b>	<b>2021-22 (1<sup>st</sup> AE)</b>
GSDP (Rs. Crore)	1207823	1301017	1536681
Growth (%)	9.57	7.72	18.11

*Source: Bureau of Applied Economic & Statistics, Department of Planning & Statistics, Government of West Bengal*

*Note: RE→Revised Estimate; PE→Provisional Estimate; AE→Advance Estimate; Estimates are as on January 07, 2022*

#### ***Estimates at Constant Prices for Base 2011-12***

The growth rates of real GSDP (at base year 2011-12) of West Bengal for the last three years are shown below.

#### **GSDP Estimates at Constant Prices in West Bengal (Base: 2011-12)**

<b>Year→ Indicator↓</b>	<b>2019-20 (RE)</b>	<b>2020-21(PE)</b>	<b>2021-22(1<sup>st</sup> AE)</b>
GSDP (Rs. Crore)	784424	792720	894319
Growth (%)	6.13	1.06	12.82

*Source: Bureau of Applied Economic & Statistics, Department of Planning & Statistics, Government of West Bengal*

*Note: RE→Revised Estimate; PE→Provisional Estimate; AE→Advance Estimate; Estimates are as on January 07, 2022*

#### ***Index of Industrial Production (IIP)***

The Bureau of Applied Economics & Statistics compiles Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for West Bengal on monthly basis. Although, the IIP experienced a contraction in 2020-21 on account of the accelerated spread of the Covid-19 and lockdown imposed thereupon, the growth in industrial production entered positive territory soon after the resumption of economic activities. The growth rates of IIP for the last three years are shown below.

### Growth Rate of Index of Industrial Production (Base: 2011-12)

Year→ Sector↓	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22(Apr-Oct)
Manufacturing	5.8	-7.6	29.8
General	2.4	-3.4	24.8

*Source: Bureau of Applied Economic & Statistics, Department of Planning & Statistics, Government of West Bengal*



Economic Review 2021-22

Chapter

2

# Agriculture & Allied Activities

Agriculture  
Animal Resources Development  
Fisheries  
Forest  
Environment  
Food Processing Industries and Horticulture  
Land & Land Reforms and Refugee Relief & Rehabilitation  
Irrigation and Waterways  
Water Resources Investigation and Development  
Agricultural Marketing





## *Agriculture*

### *2.1 Introduction*

The main objectives are to raise overall standard of living of population, to achieve nutritional security for majority of population through emphasis on improvement of land use pattern, soil, potential of irrigation, drainage situation and technological inputs for agricultural planning based on increase in per unit productivity and to encourage cluster formation of farmers adapting them to skilled, organised, commercially viable production module that will lead to adequate nutritional resources and ensure economic security to the farming community.

### *2.2 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)*

#### *Area, Yield rate and Production of Principal Crops*

The farmers of West Bengal have been able to sustain the positive rate of growth in both Yield rate and Production of all major crops which are depicted below:

**Area, Yield rate and Production of Principal Crops in West Bengal**

Crops	2019-20			2020-21		
	Area	Yield rate	Production	Area	Yield rate	Production
Khariif (Aus+Aman) Rice	4,219.20	2,817	11,886.19	4,300.08	2,846	12,237.33
Boro Rice	1,271.77	3,630	4,616.84	1,285.55	3,632	4,669.14
Total Rice	5,490.98	3,005	16,503.02	5,585.63	3,027	16,906.48
Wheat	188.31	2,708	509.97	193.27	3,077	594.70
Total Maize	362.38	6,754	2,447.55	360.81	7,144	2,577.64
Total Cereals	6,051.15	3,218	19,470.97	6,147.73	3,267	20,087.47
Total Pulses	481.03	818	393.72	465.58	950	442.16
Total Food grains	6,532.18	3,041	19,864.69	6,613.31	3,104	20,529.63
Total Oilseeds	957.70	1,060	1,015.51	935.24	1,189	1,111.80
Total Potato	434.68	28,893	12,559.24	456.75	33,100	15,118.24

Area in '000 hectare; Yield rate in Kg/hectare & Production in '000 MT

*Source: Dept. of Agriculture, Govt. of West Bengal*

#### *Agricultural Research*

16 improved varieties of 11 crops viz. Brinjal, Okra/ Bhindi, Lentil, Hybrid Sunflower, Khesari (2 varieties), Field Pea, Green gram, Rice (4 varieties), Tuberose (2 varieties), Mustard and Jute, were released by State Variety Release Committee (WB) on 27.08.2021 and considered by State Seed Sub-Committee (WB) on 08.10.2021 for this state and proposals of those varieties have been sent for further recommendation and notification. A wheat variety, namely HD 3293, showing resistance reaction against Wheat Blast Disease has been identified in 2021. Application of Zero Tillage Technology, which is a low cost technology, in wheat cultivation has shown about 14.17% increase in grain yield, up to 2020-21, over

the conventional system and saved the cost of wheat cultivation to the tune of about Rs. 6832 per hectare as compared to conventional system; whereas Zero Tillage Technology applied in Direct Seeded Rice cultivation showed about 11.17% increase in grain yield over the conventional system of rice cultivation and it saved the cost of cultivation to the tune of about Rs. 8991 per hectare.

### ***Capacity Building & Skill Development***

An extensive and pro people training programme has been undertaken by the Department for farmers, farm women and extension personnel, to impart sustainable scientific knowledge, enhance capacity building and bring about a behavioural change amongst them. Efforts are taken to enable the farming community of the state to adopt modern agricultural technologies through residential and on farm training programmes. The training of extension personnel are also carried out to improve their capacity building and skill.

### ***Application of Information and Communication Technology (ICT)***

ICT through direct information gateway has been introduced to common people in terms of online licence application for fertilizer, pesticide, seed, and at the same time providing basic information about plant protection. Since 2017-18, online application for getting benefits of Farm mechanizations has been made through 'Matir Katha portal', which has been further strengthened during last few years. Soil health card generation was also made possible through this portal. Online application for benefits of ***Krishak Bandhu*** and ***Bangla Sashya Bima***, and subsequent steps for approval are now active in this portal. Need based android applications like 'Bengal Folk Rice' etc. have also been developed under the platform.

### ***Soil & Water Conservation***

The State has accorded highest priority for conservation of natural resources through different scheme/ programme by application of various soil and water conservation techniques, like rain water harvesting structure, stream bank erosion control, in situ moisture conservation, field channel, clearance of drainage congestion, check dam, dug well, plantation, periphery cultivation, micro irrigation, integrated farming system etc. along with land use survey.

### ***Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojana (RKVY)***

Under leadership of this Department, the scheme is being implemented through active involvement and coordination of various other stakeholder departments. Under the scheme, various projects are stressed up and undertaken for implementation by this department during 2021-22.

### ***Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI)***

BGREI is a sub-scheme under RKVY for increasing per hectare yield of major cereals like rice & wheat, aiming to add more food grains to country's food basket and being implemented by this department. Also, different farm implements have been distributed on subsidy among farmers and Site Specific Activities have been implemented, during 2020-21. During 2021-22, BGREI Scheme has been sub-summed to ***National Food Security Mission*** Scheme.

### ***National Food Security Mission (NFSM)***

The objective of NFSM is to ensure food security through enhancement of production of rice, wheat and pulses in the areas having lower than average productivity. The mission met with an overwhelming success and achieved the targeted additional production of rice, wheat & pulses.

### ***National Food Security Mission (Oil seeds & Oil palm) [NFSM (OS & OP)]***

During 2020-21, under NFSM (OS&OP), funds have been utilized towards implementation of different components viz. crop demonstration centres training meetings, distribution of inputs, Oil Expeller Machines, Water harvest structures, Exposure visits of farmers etc.

### ***Farm Mechanization***

During XII<sup>th</sup> Plan period, Farm Mechanisation programme witnessed a steady growth and as a result, Farm Power has reached to 2.21 KW/ hectare during 2020-21. The State has achieved steady growth of Farm Power due to introduction of Hi-tech Machinery & implements like Combine Harvester (60-75 Hp), Rice Transplanter, Power Reaper, Power tiller, Tractor, Power Thresher, Power Sprayer, Power Weeder, Baler, Rotavator etc. The schemes, through which said machineries are being popularised, are:

**Financial Support Scheme for Farm Mechanization (F.S.S.M):** This scheme has been undertaken for distribution of various Agricultural Machineries and Equipments, such as Power Tiller, Power Reaper (Self-propelled), Rice Transplanter (S.P), Zero Tillage Seed Drill etc. Besides promoting conventional implements, solar pump sets, conservation agricultural machinery and crop residue management machinery are also being subsidized in order to make agriculture sustainable and profitable. Subsidy amount is released to the beneficiary in DBT mode.

**One-Time Assistance for Small Farm implements (OTA-SFI):** This scheme has been undertaken for distribution of small implements like Manual Sprayer/ Thresher/ Drum Seeder/ Weeder/ Water carrying Pipe/ Seed-Bin etc. to the Small & Marginal Farmers at 50% subsidy, subject to maximum of Rs. 10,000 being credited to the beneficiary bank account in DBT mode.

**Credit Linked Subsidy for Establishment of Custom Hiring Centre of Farm Machinery:** This scheme has been originated to set-up Farm Machinery Bank/ Custom Hiring Centre (CHC). Subsidy is credited to bank-loan account of beneficiary directly. Scaling up facility is also provided for up-gradation of existing CHCs which are in successful operation for last four years.

### ***Watershed Development***

In West Bengal, total arable land is 56.7 lakh hectare, of which 21.2 lakh hectare is under rain-fed condition. So, to promote gainful use of this area, 5.065 lakh hectare has been considered as treatable area under 119 watershed development projects. Some major achievements under this programme are 11,894 new water harvesting structures, assistance to 10,229 SHGs with promotion of production system and micro enterprise, etc.

### ***Bangla Krishi Sech Yojana (BKSY)***

Department has introduced ***Bangla Krishi Sech Yojana*** in association with ***Per Drop More Crop*** scheme in 2018-19, as an incentive scheme to provide 'Additional Top up Subsidy' to small and marginal farmers of the State at time of purchase of Micro Irrigation equipment, with a view to promote Micro Irrigation for water conservation and judicious use of water for agriculture. Funds have been given to the small and marginal farmers as additional top up subsidy against purchase of such equipments.

### ***Micro Irrigation with Per Drop More Crop***

The introduction of Micro Irrigation, in integration with creation of irrigation potential, and supplementary water management activities has been done through ***Per Drop More Crop***. In this scheme, subsidy of 55% of indicative cost has been provided to small and marginal farmers and 45% subsidy has been provided to other farmers. 24,127 hectares of agricultural land were covered under Micro Irrigation, benefitting 67,084 farmers, by installation of both Sprinkler Irrigation System and Drip Irrigation System.

### ***Diversified Cropping Programme***

This is an ongoing scheme for giving support to dry or rain-fed land of 69 blocks lying in the western tract of this State, with the objective of getting assured economic return by growing alternative crops like pulses, maize, ground nut etc., which have lower water requirement and better tolerance to water stress. The total of 11,000 hectare demonstration programme has been executed during kharif season with Hybrid Maize, Groundnut, Arhar; whereas during rabi season, 14,600 hectare demonstration programme on Hybrid Mustard, Lentil and Sesamum is being implemented.

### ***Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)***

PKVY promotes organic agriculture and production of agricultural products free from chemical and pesticide residues by adopting eco-friendly low cost technologies and encouraging involvement of small and marginal farmers of the state through cluster approach.

### ***ATMA***

Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms (ATMA) is now being implemented in 23 ATMA districts. Empowerment of farming community is the unique feature of this scheme. During 2020-21 the amount allotted for this scheme has been utilized fully.

### ***Bangla Shasya Bima (BSB)***

State Government launched its own crop insurance scheme, namely ***Bangla Shasya Bima***, during kharif, 2019 season with an aim to extend hassle free crop insurance to all willing and eligible farmers, and to ensure timely claim settlement in the event of crop loss due to natural calamities. It is a fully Government of West Bengal funded scheme. The entire premium for crop insurance is borne by the State Government for all crops, except Potato and Sugarcane, in which case, farmers have to pay a nominal premium.

### ***Achievements of Directorate of Sericulture***

- A comprehensive Programme with target of 2000 MT Raw Silk including 38 MT of Bivoltine Silk under Mulberry sector and about 40.25 MT silk in Non-Mulberry sector is under implementation.

- Despite the pandemic situation, the Directorate works on developing a vibrant and sustainable farmer base by overall improvement in Production, Productivity and Product Quality through expansion of area under host plantation, with special emphasis on Bivoltine Silk sector.
- Multi-locational trial of season specific & region specific, disease resistant, robust Silk worm breeds, in consultation with Central Silk Board (CSB).
- Thrust on Quality Silkworm Seed Production in both Government and Private sector, aiming at attainment of self-sufficiency in seed requirement in Mulberry, Tasar and Eri sector.
- Intensive support to Sericulturists for Expansion of Host Plantation and Procurement of Rearing inputs/ appliances and disinfectants.
- Promotion of cluster based seri.-entrepreneurship opportunities in Mulberry & Tasar sector by means of engaging *Resham Bandhu* and *Tasar Bandhu*.

### ***2.3 Special Achievements/ Best Practice***

#### ***Augmenting production of crops***

- Food grains production has increased to 205.3 lakh MT in 2020-21 from 148.1 lakh MT in 2010-11.
- West Bengal sustains its leadership on rice production in India. Total rice production has increased to 169.06 lakh MT in 2020-21 from 133.9 lakh MT in 2010-11.
- Productivity of maize remarkably increased to 7.14 ton/hectare (For Rabi maize, 7.9 ton/ hectare) in 2020-21, whereas production of maize has increased to 25.78 lakh MT. Such remarkable increase in area (307%), productivity (80%) and production (632%) of maize from 2010-11 to 2020-21 is mainly due to introduction of newer varieties like single cross hybrid maize and improved package of practice.
- Production of pulses has increased to 4.42 lakh MT in 2020-21 from 1.77 lakh MT in 2010-11.
- Production of oilseeds has reached 11.12 lakh MT in 2020-21, compared to 7.0 lakh MT in 2010-11

#### ***Modernization of agriculture through mechanization***

- To facilitate mechanization in agriculture, farm implements like tractor, power tiller, reaper, pump sets etc., as well as small implements were distributed among 4.26 lakh farmers. To facilitate access to modern and large farm machineries by small and marginal farmers, 1845 no. of Custom Hiring Centers (CHC) have been set up from 2014-15 to 2020-21, providing subsidy to rural entrepreneurs.
- This department has been awarded prestigious SKOCH Silver Award-2021 for playing pivotal role in agricultural development of state through successful implementation of different Farm Mechanization Schemes, specially CHCs, in the state.

#### ***Promotion of Precision Irrigation***

- 5,455 hectare of Irrigation Potential has been created through Other Intervention activities (a component of *Per Drop More Crop*); 1,904 nos. of Water harvesting structures, i.e. Farm Pond, Dug Well, STW etc. and 1,563 nos. of Water lifting devices have been provided to the farmers.

- **Bangla Krishi Sech Yojana** in association with **Per Drop More Crop** was awarded the prestigious SKOCH Silver Award, for its contribution to the economic development in the State, on 13/11/2021.

#### **Farmers' social security**

- **Farmers Old Age Pension (FOAP):** FOAP has been included under **Jai Bangla** Scheme. The amount of monthly pension has been increased to Rs. 1000 from erstwhile Rs. 750.
- **Krishak Bandhu (Death Benefit):** This scheme has been introduced to support the bereaved family members at event of untimely death, due to any cause including natural death, of a farmer or Bhagchashi (share cropper). Under the scheme, in the event of death of farmer, including recorded Bhagchasi, in the age group of 18 - 60 years, the eligible claimant of the family of deceased will get a one-time grant of Rs. 2 lakh only. During 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021), financial assistance was distributed to 17,855 nos. of beneficiaries under the scheme.
- **Krishak Bandhu (Natun):** To support the farmers financially during pre-production stage for procurement of agricultural inputs and for other cultivation costs which lead to increase the crop production vis-a-vis farmer's income, **Krishak Bandhu (Assured Income)** scheme, running since January 2019, has been revamped and launched as **Krishak Bandhu (Natun)** on 17th June, 2021, doubling the financial assistance to the farmers. Under the new scheme, every enrolled farmer will get financial assistance of Rs. 10000/- per annum for one acre or more of cultivable land. Farmers having less than one acre of land will be eligible for assistance on pro rata basis subject to a minimum of Rs.4000/- per annum per farmer. The financial assistance will be given in two equal instalments, one in Kharif and the other in Rabi season.

#### **2.4 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken**

- A severe cyclonic storm 'YAAS' passed through the Southern part of State at May, 2021 causing huge damage of crop land and property in affected areas. The Govt. sanctioned funds for immediate relief, draining out stagnant water from cultivable land, community nursery for paddy and distribution of salt tolerant varieties (Nona Swarna) of paddy seeds along with other inputs.  
In addition to above fund, input subsidy assistance under '**Duare Tran**' Programme, to provide assistance to the affected farmers in eight districts viz. South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas, Purba Medinipur, Paschim Medinipur, Howrah, Hooghly, Purba Bardhaman and Malda was provided, through which, 18.05 lakh farmers have been benefitted. The assistance has been provided to the bank account of affected farmers.
- 'Anti-Crop Residue Burning Day' has been observed in 347 places covering all blocks and districts (except Kolkata) on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2021. Initiatives for awareness generation through hoarding, miking, tableau rotation, demonstrations etc. have been taken up to mitigate stubble burning and to shift mind-set of farmers from burning to earning from straw.

- To attain self sufficiency in potato seed production, the Department is implementing project on 'Hi-Tech Potato Seed production in farmers participatory mode' with objective to attain 30% to 40% self sufficiency in Potato seed requirement of West Bengal, in a span of 5 years.
- Government has given thrust on farm mechanization since 2012-13. During 2021-22, provision of higher rate of subsidy for individual machinery and more emphasis on CHC scheme has been made.
- From 2020, technology based ***Bangla Shasya Bima*** scheme has been implemented to overcome the restrictions due to pandemic, as well as to attempt to cover all farmers cultivating notified crops. Now, the scheme takes the help of remote sensing, rainfall data and field level data generated through Ground Truthing(GT) exercises. This technology based crop insurance scheme will facilitate faster and more accurate claim assessment and settlement.
- 'Mati Gantha', the centre of excellence at 'Mati Tirtha Krishi Katha' ground of Purba Burdwan district, has been established for imparting training on modern Farm machineries/ implements. During September 2021, a 15 days' residential training programme on 'Repairing and maintenance of Combine Harvester' has been organized at this centre.
- A new State Development Scheme has been launched to increase the area under Maize by 40000 hectare by the end of 2024-25.

## ***Animal Resources Development***

### ***2.5 Introduction***

The role of livestock is well-recognized for its contribution to rural livelihood, particularly for the rural poor. Livestock also plays an important part in agricultural diversification, employment generation and income enhancement. The overall physical target of this Department is to augment production of milk, meat and egg in the State so that the gap between demand and supply of the same be minimized at the earliest.

### ***2.6 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

- Annual egg production is expected to increase to about 1203 crore in 2021-22, more than 14% expected growth over last year, which is primarily attributable to enhanced distribution of chicks and ducklings.
- Broiler Integration Programme involving farmers in and around Haringhata, as well as Phansidewa, has been successfully executed. 422 nos. of farmers have been benefitted from the programme.
- Vaccination has been done to over 2.69 crore livestock and poultry populations during this period.
- **Kishan Credit Card (KCC)-ARD:** There has been a significant increase in number of KCCs sponsored by different departments during 2021-22 compared to the previous year.
- 116 Mobile Veterinary Clinics (MVCs) have provided Animal Health Care Services to 8.59 lakh livestock owners in remote areas of the state during this period.
- Artificial insemination has been completed for 32.72 lakh Cattle & Buffalo, and 10.68 lakh calves were born through artificial insemination. Free Artificial Insemination services at Farmer's doorstep have commenced since September, 2021; total 1.51 lakh of animals have been covered under the scheme.
- A total of 37.01 lakh Frozen Semen Straw were produced from High Genetic Merit Bulls in the three Grade "A" Semen Stations of the State.
- In 2021-22, funds were released towards Special Incentive at rate of Rs. 6/- per Kg of milk (over and above the procurement price of milk).
- **Banglar Dairy** has become operational; and milk & processed milk products like yogurt, ghee, paneer etc. are now available under this brand. West Bengal University of Animal & Fishery Sciences has taken up different projects for improvement of Dairy Technology.
- During this period, funds were allotted in favour of four districts viz. Howrah, Purba Medinipur, North 24 Parganas & South 24 Parganas, to provide relief to total 3842 nos. of beneficiaries, who were affected due to Super cyclone YAAS, under ***Duare Tran***.

### ***2.7 Achievements***

- **Annual Egg production** increased from 400.1 crore in 2010-11 to 1050 crore in 2020-21, i.e. about 162% increase.



- **Annual Meat production** increased from 5.77 lakh MT in 2010-11 to 9.94 lakh MT in 2020-21, i.e. about 72% increase.
- **Annual Milk production** increased from 44.72 lakh MT in 2010-11 to 61.63 lakh MT in 2020-21, i.e. about 38% increase.
- To encourage egg production, the State Incentive Scheme for Commercial Layer Poultry and Poultry Breeding Farm, 2017 has been extended for another one year w.e.f. 01.09.21. 68 Projects involving 31.16 lakh layer birds have already been completed leading to production of an additional 79 crore eggs annually. Another 43 projects for 15.86 lakh layer birds are under process. After completion of all the projects, total 128.96 crore additional eggs are expected to be produced annually, which will hugely reduce the dependency on import of eggs from other states.

### ***2.8 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken***

- In order to reduce state's dependence on import of Poultry eggs, this Department has announced a time bound programme involving Private Poultry farmers, Government organisations as well as Backyard Poultry farmers (covering individual beneficiaries and SHGs), which aims to make the state being self sufficient in egg production by the end of 2023-24. All such efforts, put together, are expected to enhance State's capacity of egg production by an additional 400 crore eggs per annum, by March, 2024. This will ensure better availability of Poultry eggs at reasonable prices, increase in self-employment opportunities in rural areas and higher socio economic prosperity of state.
- To develop rural economy and augment production of eggs, a scheme will be implemented by this Department in next financial year namely "Augmentation of egg production by special Backyard Poultry Farming by distribution of Chicks/ ducklings to individual beneficiaries", which targets to distribute 1 crore chicks/ ducklings among 10 lakh individual beneficiaries.
- In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF) technique will be adopted for production of High Genetic Merit bulls. Accelerated breed improvement programme through Artificial Insemination using Sex Sorted Semen is going to be launched in selective districts.

## *Fisheries*

### **2.9 Introduction**

The Department has been focusing on bridging the gap between demand and supply, sustainable development, management and conservation of fisheries resources along with protecting the interests of its stakeholders. The Department has implemented various schemes that has aided in augmentation of fish production, employment generation, welfare of fisher folks, and infrastructure development.

### **2.10 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)**

During 2021-22, about 13.16 lakh MT of fish and 26,925 million fish seeds have been produced in West Bengal up to 31.12.2021.

#### ***Piscicultural schemes***

- For increasing fish production, several piscicultural schemes are being implemented by the Department during the current financial year. All ponds excavated under ***Jal Dharo Jal Bharo*** scheme have been planned to be brought under scientific pisciculture and piscicultural works.
- Pisciculture in 41000 small water bodies (5466.66 hectare) has been taken up. The scheme "***Production of Big Sized Fish in Big Water bodies***" (with a view to producing big sized fishes > 2 kg. per fish) in 40 water bodies (40 hectare) is being implemented.
- With a view to increasing productivity of fish, an intensive mode of pisciculture involving high stocking density of advanced fingerlings and good quality feed is in vogue in Moina Block of Purba Medinipur district. This model has been replicated in other areas of West Bengal by the Fisheries Department during last few years and yield of more than 12 MT/ hectare/ year has been achieved in this model.
- As part of air-breathing fish culture, scheme for nurturing of 'Desi Magur/ Singhi' in 1175 nos. of ponds (156.66 hectare) is being implemented. Under Brackish water pisciculture, "Monoculture of Shrimp" in 1020 ponds (136 hectare), "Polyculture of Shrimp" in 810 ponds (108 hectare) and "Monoculture of Vennamei Shrimp" in 780 ponds (104 hectare) are being undertaken. During 2021-22, another scheme named **Swarna Matsya Yojana** under brackish water pisciculture is being taken up.
- For development of tribal fishermen, "Desi Magur Culture" (746 units: 99.46 hectare) and "IMC Culture" (932 units: 124.26 hectare) have been undertaken.
- Initiatives have been taken by the Department for introducing Bio-floc in the State and 29 nos. of Bio-floc units are being constructed.

***Relief to fishermen affected by 'YASS':*** Funds have been disbursed through DBT to fishermen affected by super cyclone "YAAS" for 386 nos. of damaged boats, 3502 nos. of hundies, 3283 nos. of nets and inputs for 59276 bighas of affected water bodies respectively. Funds have also been spent for

procurement and distribution of Lime and Potassium Permanganate for restoration of water bodies and construction of 280 nos. of Hogla Houses in Purba Medinipur.

***Social initiatives:***

- 7836 nos. of bicycles with insulated boxes are being distributed to fishermen as livelihood support measures. Funds have been provided to 490 nos. of tribal fishermen for construction of dwelling houses @ Rs. 1 lakh per unit. Quota of 'Old Age Pension' in fisheries sector has been enhanced to 20000 and pension @ Rs. 1,000 per month has been disbursed to the pensioners up to the month of December, 2021.
- Fisheries activity is an integral part of the scheme "*Matir Shristi*". Initiatives have been taken for implementation of fisheries schemes in the districts of Jangal Mahal (Purulia, Paschim Medinipur, Paschim Bardhaman, Bankura, Jhargram and Birbhum) for overall development of the area.

***Important steps taken for implementation of schemes during 2021:*** Thrust has been given on implementing projects in collaboration with SHGs for increased fish production as well as for incremental income generation of the group-members. To increase access to institutional credit of cash starved poor fishermen during Covid pandemic, emphasis was given on issuing more credit cards to the fishermen. Considerable progress was achieved in this field. Stress was on decentralizing the processing of procuring inputs for expeditious implementation of schemes.

***2.11 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken***

- It has been decided that in big water bodies (with adjacent land mass), joint effort will be taken with Tourism Department for developing eco & fish tourism.
- **Matsya Jeebi Credit Cards (MJCCs)** are being provided to the poor and marginal fishermen with short term, collateral-free loan facilities up to Rs. 2.0 lakh (with 5% interest subvention).
- With a view to utilising vast water bodies (Beel, Baors etc.), pen culture will be undertaken for fingerling production in parts of the water bodies. Nurtured fingerlings will then be released in the rest of the water bodies for production of table fish.
- For successful implementation of all ongoing fisheries schemes and with a view to doubling fish production, initiatives have been taken for preparation of "District Fisheries Plan".
- A novel module of decentralized 'Orientation-cum-Exposure Meet' for the fish farmers will be organised by the district officials of the Fisheries Department and Directorate in districts having good export potential.
- Emphasis will be given for setting up of mini feed mill plants with the help of SHGs for bridging the gap between demand and supply of fish feed in the State.

## *Forest*

### *2.12 Introduction*

The objectives of this department are to maintain environmental stability through preservation and restoration of ecological balance, enhancement of forest/ tree cover in state, conservation of wildlife and natural heritage of state, fulfilling the requirements of various forest produce etc. In West Bengal, the green cover (forest and scrub) is 19.21% of the total area as per State of Forests Report 2019, and an upward trend for the last decade has been demonstrated for the state.

### *2.13 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)*

#### *Afforestation and Distribution of seedlings:*

- Plantation of 15 crore mangroves and coastal shelterbelt species, in various forest and non-forest areas of South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas and Purba Medinipur.
- Distribution of 80.64 lakh saplings to public, through Decentralized People's Nurseries.
- 5982 hectare of plantation has been raised.

***Sabujshree:*** Since inception, more than 46.34 lakh saplings have been distributed to the mothers of newly born children till December, 2021.

#### *Wildlife Conservation:*

- To control human wildlife conflicts related to elephants, leopards, tiger, gaurs and other animals, steps were taken through formation of anti-depredation teams and well-equipped wildlife squads, establishment of watch-towers at strategic locations, installing power fencing in the forest fringes for protection of elephant corridors and also to prevent straying of wild animals into human habitations.
- Deployment of Rapid Response Force and Specially equipped vehicles 'Airawat' in high human-wildlife conflict zones of state to combat the conflict.
- Current All India Tiger Estimation is in progress and more than 1496 camera traps have been set up in 748 locations in Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve, to identify individual tigers through their stripe patterns.
- Continuous Public Awareness Campaign in the conflict areas of Bankura and Paschim Medinipur districts regarding elephant depredation, is helping for mitigation of human-wildlife conflict.
- The population of captive bred *Batagur Baska* and Salt-water Crocodile have both increased in 2021-22. There is plan to release these two key species in the landscape of Sundarbans, for further wildlife conservation.

***Jalairtha*** scheme has been launched in 2015-16 in water deficient districts of the state, where check-dams are constructed on major river catchment areas, to check runoff velocity, erosion of top soil and stabilization of downstream areas.

**Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)** is meant to promote afforestation and regeneration activities as a way of compensating for forest land diverted to non-forest uses. During 2021-22, 317.81 hectare of compensatory afforestation has been done yet. Older compensatory plantations and degraded older plantations in South West Bengal have been rejuvenated through gap plantations. CAMPA has funded various measures for mitigating Human-Animal conflict, for Catchment Area Treatment in hills and plains and has also aided in forestry research activities.

**JICA assisted West Bengal Forest and Biodiversity Conservation Project (WBFBCP):** 3105.50 hectare of plantation is being maintained, and 79.00 lakh Quality Planting Materials (seedlings) are being produced from 40 nos. of central nurseries created under the project. 6 Biodiversity action based research projects have been completed. Digitization of Forest Mouza boundaries have been completed for 2643 mouza sheets in Purulia district during 2021-22 yet.

**West Bengal Forest Development Corporation Ltd. (WBFDC):**

- Expected out-turn from CFC (Carriage of Forest Produce) operations targeted in 2021-22 is: 27.32 lakh poles, 11,574 m<sup>3</sup> timber and 67,451 m<sup>3</sup> firewood.
- 804 numbers of e-auctions have been conducted leading to disposal of 21,517 lots of harvested timber.
- 26 Eco-Tourism Resorts are being run at present.
- An online portal for booking of vehicle and elephant safari in Jaldapara and Garumara National Parks has been developed and put into operation for ease of visitors.

**West Bengal Zoo Authority (WBZA):** Construction of Veterinary Unit, Herbivore Enclosure and Snow Leopard Enclosure, under Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park in Darjeeling.

### **2.14 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken**

- Targets have been fixed for afforestation of more than 7000 hectare, as well as distribution of more than 90 lakh seedlings/ saplings, in 2022-23.
- More use of modern technology in various operations for forest and wildlife protection and also for management of human animal conflict.
- Creation of various modern facilities in eco-tourism centres.

## *Environment*

### *2.15 Introduction*

The Department is actively engaged for improvement of environment, prevention and control of pollution, conservation and development of biodiversity and ecosystems, implementation of policies regarding environment in the State. The Department operates through a number of autonomous organizations such as the West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB), West Bengal Biodiversity Board (WBBB), East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority (EKWMA), Institute of Environmental Studies and Wetland Management (IESWM), West Bengal Coastal Zone Management Authority (WBCZMA), State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA).

### *2.16 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)*

- The Environment Department/ West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) have undertaken a commendable initiative of 'Re-greening of Kolkata' to compensate for the unprecedented loss of green cover in the Kolkata Metropolitan Area in the wake of super cyclone 'Amphan'. The plantation of more than 17,000 saplings at different places in Kolkata, Bidhannagar and New Town has been completed in record time.
- The Department has undertaken a special afforestation drive in collaboration with Forest Department to improve air quality in the seven Non-Attainment Cities (NACs)' (viz. Kolkata, Howrah, Asansol, Barrackpore, Durgapur, Haldia and Raniganj) of West Bengal under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). Plantation of more than 1,12,000 nos. of 2 year old seedlings has been undertaken.
- The Department is working on the implementation of seven Comprehensive Action Plans (CAPs) for better air quality management in 7 NACs of West Bengal and City level monitoring already set up.
- The Department has completed creation of district level emission baseline for West Bengal with 2017 as base year. This report will help to set the effective emission reduction targets. Work has been started for waste segregation and legacy waste remediation. The State has taken a huge step by introducing the source segregation of waste in approximately 60 urban local bodies from September, 2021.
- To ensure better environment management in the State, the Department has coordinated with all districts to prepare District Environment Plans (DEPs). All 23 districts prepared the plans.
- The Department is preparing State Action Plan for Climate Change 2021-2030, West Bengal involving eighteen stakeholder departments to minimize loss, damages and improving energy efficiency.
- The Department has taken initiative with South 24 Parganas District Administration and Gangasagar Bakkhali Development Authority to ensure an eco-friendly and plastic free Gangasagar Mela.
- The Department has undertaken to set up an Open Air Butterfly Conservatory at Bengal Safari Park, Siliguri in collaboration with West Bengal Zoo Authority.

- WBPCB has undertaken to set up of an Electrical and Electronic Waste Treatment facility in collaboration with Department of IT & EE, Government of West Bengal. Also WBPCB and WBEIDCL have initiated a project to estimate annual e-waste generation in the State.
- WBPCB has already launched a road watering project in urban areas in and around Kolkata including Salt Lake and Rajarhat, to suppress dust that has become the major source of pollution in winter.
- Surface ground water including river water quality are being monitored from 138 different locations of West Bengal.
- WBPCB has taken steps for Creation of Environmental Data Integration Centre and taken steps to install Sound Detection & Ranging (SODAR) for R&D support for better Mitigation of Pollutants at 4 places e.g. Kolkata, Panpur, Maldah and Silliguri.
- Scientific closure and containment of old Dhapa Municipal Waste Dumpsite along with construction of Leachate Treatment Plant was undertaken by WBPCB under a World Bank project titled Capacity Building for Industrial Pollution Management Project (CBIPMP). The work has been successfully completed and operation & maintenance work is going on.
- In compliance with the orders of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), WBPCB is monitoring work relating to Ganga Rejuvenation, Treatment of Sewage, Polluted River Stretches, Remediation of Legacy waste, Restoration of Water Bodies and Solid Waste Management Case.
- The WBBB has completed task for constitution of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) in all the local bodies of the state and preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers in constituted BMCs.
- An Integrated Management Plan (2021-2026) of the East Kolkata Wetland (EKW) area aligned with the objectives of the National Plan of Aquatic Ecosystems has been prepared for conservation and sustainable development ensuring livelihood opportunities for the wetlands communities.
- IESWM has completed Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) maps for (i) proposed P-Xylene Pipeline from the running 18 inch over-ground pipeline to proposed Outer Terminal-II of Haldia Dock Complex, Purba Medinipur, West Bengal, (ii) Hotel Sonar Bangla-Sundarban at Village Dulki, PS & PO Gosaba, Dist: South 24 Parganas, West Bengal, (iii) setting up of Radar Station under CSN Project (Phase-II) at Junput, Mouza Biramput, Block Contai- I, District Purba Medinipur, West Bengal, iv) "Determination of heavy metals in the vegetables, soil and irrigation water" in different blocks of the Bankura, Jhargram, Purba Medinipur and Purulia districts etc.
- SEIAA is state level authority which grants Environmental Clearance (EC) to the B category projects proposed in West Bengal. From April 2021 to December 2021, SEIAA has given EC to 14 different project proposals.

### ***2.17 Special Achievements in the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

- The WBPCB has been ranked 4th among all PCBs of India based on the yardstick of transparency and public disclosure according to the transparency ranking 2020.

- Launched '*Paribesh App*', Integrated Grievance Management System (IGMS) to monitor public grievances and Court Case Monitoring System (CCMS) to monitor the status of court cases and implemented the On-line Consent Management and Monitoring System (WBOCMMS)
- Patashpur-1 CD Block Biodiversity Management Committee received India Biodiversity Award 2021.

### ***2.18 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken***

- The State Government has set up an '**Expert Committee on Protection of Coastal Areas and Earthen Embankments through Vegetative Solutions**' to suggest various environment-friendly solutions for protecting the State's coastal areas from the devastation wrought by successive cyclones.
- Development of interpretation complex in the EKWs for implementation of Communication and Education Facilities (CEF), creating public awareness on the conservation needs of the EKWs.
- The Department, in collaboration with WBPCB, WBBB and District Administration, will develop a model Biodiversity Park at Pandua, Hooghly.
- WBBB has undertaken project to develop Biodiversity Information System for the bio-resources of the state.



## ***Food Processing Industries & Horticulture***

### ***2.19 Introduction***

West Bengal is one of the major producers of vegetables, fruits, spices and flowers in the country. It works towards reducing farm wastages and in value addition to farm products.

### ***2.20 Directorate of Horticulture***

The objective of this Directorate is to achieve technology led, demand driven and need based activities regarding sustainable development of farming community in horticulture, for attaining food & nutritional security, better livelihood options including employment generation and ultimately economic development for the people of West Bengal.

#### ***2.20.1 Achievements during financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

- More than 8444 hectare of land have been planted with major fruits, whereas more than 1004 hectare of land have been planted with minor fruits, along with more than 1756 hectare of cashew nut, more than 3123 hectare of coconut and more than 335 hectare of exotic fruits.
- Funds have been spent to increase Hybrid and exotic vegetables to popularise different new and high cost vegetables and costly and exotic flowers to popularise entrepreneurship in Floriculture.
- Recognizing the importance of pack houses as an effective post harvest management infrastructure to increase the effectiveness of storage and shelf life of fruits and vegetables, 14 farm level Pack Houses were constructed.
- Development of “Centre of Excellence for Vegetables” at Chinsurah is currently ongoing, which is expected to serve as demonstration and training centre as well as source of good quality planting material and vegetable seedlings under protected cultivation.
- To enhance livelihood in rural areas, activities have been done to converge different schemes of this Department along with Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Generation Act (***MGNREGA***). These involve plantation of various perennial and non-perennial fruits, area expansion of various spices, construction of protected structures for cultivation of high value horticultural crops etc.

#### ***2.20.2 Special achievements during financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

- Under ***Duare Tran*** Prkalpo, funds were allotted to five districts viz. South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas, Purba Medinipur, Howrah, Paschim Medinipur as grant of assistance to betel vine farmers of said districts, whose Paan-Borj were damaged due to the cyclone ‘Yaas’.
- Funds have been spent to expand the area of off-season onion cultivation, specially during the kharif and late kharif season and construction of Green houses/ Shade Net houses in the state for protected cultivation of high value flowers, vegetables.
- Different innovative projects like Mushroom production, integrated soil moisture management through mulching, Nutritional garden in schools etc. have been sponsored in different districts.

- West Bengal has recorded substantial increase in both area and production of horticultural crops during crop-year 2020-21, achieving coverage of 15,09,623 hectare in total, under fruits, flowers, vegetables, spices and plantation crops.
- Special emphasis has been taken to expand the area of fruit crops in fallow or barren land in different districts of western part of state, as well as in different districts of Northern Bengal. In former case, under *Matir Shristi* Prokolpo, 4353 hectare of land has been brought under cultivation for major and minor fruits; whereas in latter case, 2681 hectare of land has been brought.

### ***2.20.3 New Initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken***

- To maximise the quality and quantity of planting materials of Horticultural crops, a new initiative has been taken to explore the Public-Private-Partnership model in the Horticulture Research & Development Farms situated at Barjora and at Mohitnagar. In this programme, saplings of different fruits are to be propagated and supplied to the area extension programme under different schemes of this Directorate. For 2021-22 and 2022-23, expected numbers of fruit saplings to be produced are 11.4 lakh and 26.23 lakh respectively.
- Through amalgamation of Farmers' Interest Groups, Farmer Producer Organisation or Farmer Producer Company will be formed for building linkages with markets, with the objective to reduce the role of intermediaries and to ensure better price realization by the farmers.

## ***2.21 Directorate of Cinchona & Other Medicinal Plants***

### ***2.21.1 Achievements***

- Feasibility study to strengthen value chain based on Cinchona and Other Medicinal Plants: Interim study has been completed and first implementation plan meeting has been held
- Cultivation of Patchouli in 4 acres completed and installation of mobile distillation unit under progress
- Selection of beneficiaries for Cultivation of Large Cardamom in farmer's field is under progress
- Repair work of 80 model house completed.

### ***2.21.2 Special achievements***

- Distribution of 31,500 saplings of Cymbidium Orchids to 63 farmers.
- Small Coffee processing Unit was set up at Mungpoo.
- Infrastructure for Rubber processing with annual production capacity of 25 M.T. of Rubber Sheet was developed at Rongo.
- Imparted training to farmers of Darjeeling District on cultivation of commercially viable medicinal plants and in the cultivation of cymbidium and tropical orchids. Cultivated Cymbidium Orchids through development of facilities like construction of poly houses, providing plantlets of cymbidium, fertilizer etc. in grower's land, involving 163 farmers across Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts.
- Construction of 100 units of vermi composting unit in 100 farmers' fields and another 45 units in other places.

- Irrigation facilities at Cymbidium Park in the Rungbee Division, Govt. Cinchona Plantation, Mungpoo, which is serving as a centre of hub for cultivation of Cymbidium Orchids.
- Improvement of Tropical Nursery for cultivation of tropical orchids and other high value horticulture crops. Research activity was actively reoriented for betterment of agri.-horticultural scenario of the hilly area
- Expansion of plants under diversification activities: Cinchona- 59.5 acres, Ipecac- 12 acres, Rubber- 34.5 acres, Cardamom- 15 acres, Kiwi- 7 acres, Coffee- 18 acres, Chirata- 16 acres, Aromatic plants- 44.75 acres have been undertaken.

### ***2.21.3 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken***

- Expansion of high alkaloids yielding Cinchona plants in 8000 acres, and pilot scale cultivation of *Artemisia Annu* as an alternative for its viable proposition
- Development of Infrastructure for storage, Rubber processing, essential oil extraction, post-harvest processing of fruits and medicinal and aromatic plants
- Strengthening the Laboratory facilities of Research wings of the Directorate
- Development of Cymbidium and Tropical Orchids Industry in the hilly region
- Value addition activities through cultivation of various medicinal and aromatic plants and further expansion of various other horticulture crops, as well as conservation of medicinal herbs
- Development of composting unit for proper maintenance and manuring of various crops
- Renovation of Government Cinchona Plantation Hospitals at Mungpoo, Munsong, Rongo and Latpanchor
- Initiation of the scheme of cultivation of aromatic plants and exotic vegetables in the farmers' fields
- Creation of a marketing strategy for sale of various produces of the Directorate and to generate revenue through sale of dry Cinchona bark, dry Ipecac root, cardamom etc.
- Repair and renovation of Govt. Quinine Factory, Govt. Diosgenin and Downstream Factory, Govt. Emetine Factory
- Production of disease free planting materials of Mandarin Orange, various medicinal plants etc.

### ***2.22 Directorate of Food Processing Industries***

- Training on Ready to eat food preparation to Self Help Group members under ***Anandadhara***
- Entrepreneurs guided for setting up of new, expansion and modernization of food processing units

### ***2.23 West Bengal State Food Processing & Horticulture Development Corporation Limited***

#### ***2.23.1 Achievements***

- About 95 lakh nos. of different fruit plants and saplings has been sold, during 2021.
- Supply of different saplings and agri.-inputs is going on under MGNREGA.

- At Ayeshpur Farm under this Corporation, improved and high yielding varieties of fruit plants viz: mango, guava, lime, areca nut, bay leaf, black pepper and different types of forestry plants are being raised for plantation. The Corporation has also taken up the up-gradation programme of this farm.
- Detailed Project Report to utilize the Bamunghata Food Processing Hub has been prepared.

### ***2.23.2 Special Achievements***

- During the year 2021, 88 nos. of Confectioners from different Districts of West Bengal have received the Certificates of Authorized User of G.I. of ***"Banglar Rasogolla"***.
- Different Nursery Schemes for production of saplings of different fruits are successfully running at Ayeshpur Farm.

### ***2.23.3 New Initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken***

- For 2022-23, the Corporation has set up a target of sale of about 1 crore fruit plants to Blocks/ G.P.s
- Progeny orchards of different fruit Crops such as exotic Mango, Jack fruit, Ber, Jamun, Water Apple, Star Apple, Dragon fruits etc. will be developed on 3-4 hectare land at Ayeshpur Farm. It has been also decided to cultivate vegetables, including off season and exotic high value vegetables, there.
- Corporation has taken initiative for beautification and landscape gardening work in govt. as well as private sectors. Proceeding for the beautification work at Nowdapara Police Housing Estate, Alipore Body Guard Line and Belghoria Police Housing Estate have been started.

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

### ***2.24 Introduction***

The origin of the Department is to be traced back to the setting of Board of Revenue by British Rulers for consolidating and stabilizing revenue collection establishment and machinery in accordance with 'permanent settlement' in order to maximize revenue collection from land for fulfilling British Colonial interest. With the independence of India, stress was quite logically shifted from the concept of revenue administration to welfare administration.

### ***2.25 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

With intent to harmonize and consolidate citizen services, the Government has put a special emphasis on disposal of mutation and conversion cases. Till 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021, 68,81,490 nos. of mutation cases have been disposed and 1,10,509 nos. of conversion cases have been cleared.

The Government has taken an important decision to regularize all refugee establishments & colonies and provide *Free Hold Title Deeds* to the legitimate persons and to ensure the sustainable development of infrastructural facilities at the RR colonies. The Government has taken initiative to regularize their occupancy by issuing *LR patta*, *NGNB patta* and LTS on as is where is basis.

The Government has been consistently following the principle of "***No forceful acquisition of land and no forceful eviction of people from their land***". Land is being made available for Government projects by following the *Land Purchase Policy* which is based on consent of the land owner and mutually agreed compensation and a transparent process.

As a measure to give financial relief to the people for non payment of land revenue due to COVID pandemic, interest payable on the arrear land revenue @ 6.25% has been waived for the 1426 BS, if paid by 30.06.2021.

The website of the Department has been restructured and made friendlier. A vibrant mobile application "***Jomir Tothya***" has also been launched to enable easy access of basic land related details and information. The ***e- bhuchitra*** application has found immense utility amongst the user groups and is one of the most popular and accessed application which is evident from document published by MeitY, Government of India, where number of e-Transactions under land revenue of West Bengal is 80,76,21,255 (Source: <http://etaal.gov.in>) out of total 125,22,64,950 documents searched during FY 2021-22.

### ***2.26 Special achievements/ best practices during FY 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

To give relief to the eligible beneficiaries for *Patta* within the jurisdiction of GTA area in the district of Darjeeling and Kalimpong, a Committee named as "***Land Reforms Advisory Committee***" in the same manner of ***Bon-O-Bhumi Sanskar Sthayee Samittee*** has been formed in terms of Rule 195(ii) of WBL&LR Manual – 1991, vide Notification No. 3632-LP/5M-33/21 dated 27/12/2021.

As a part of our pro-industrialization process, disposal of industrial conversion has been further simplified whereby total investigation/ hearing will be made paperless.

### ***2.27 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken for the FY 2022-23***

***Disposal of Mutation Petitions:*** 75 lakh of Mutation petitions have been planned to dispose during the FY 2022-23.

***Distribution of Agri-Patta:*** It has been anticipated to distribute 330 acre of *Agri-Patta* during the FY 2022-23.

***Issuance of Free Hold Title Deeds:*** It has been expected to issue 5,200 nos. of *Free Hold Title Deeds*.

## *Irrigation & Waterways*

### *2.28 Introduction*

The Department is responsible for ensuring development and improvement for irrigation and flood management in the State. The Irrigation & Waterways Department has so far commissioned several irrigation projects and a robust flood management infrastructure for almost 42% of the geographical area of the State which is flood prone. Proper maintenance, upgradation and modernization of this huge infrastructure, considering that many of them are almost 50-60 years old, has been the major focus of the Department.

### *2.29 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)*

- A substantial additional area of cultivable land has been brought under irrigation during 2021-22 by completing renovation of medium and minor irrigation schemes in South Bengal and partially completing the renovation of Canal system of three major irrigation projects, namely ***Kangsabati Reservoir Project, Mayurakshi Reservoir Project*** and ***Midnapore Main Canal***.
- Supplementary Kharif Irrigation was provided at 21.20 lakh acre of cultivable area and sufficient water has been stored at the reservoirs to provide irrigation at 6.40 lakh acre of area in the ensuing Rabi-Boro season, through effective synchronization of reservoir operation in consultation with DVC (Damodar Valley Corporation) and CWC (Central Water Commission). The projected area under ensuing Rabi-Boro season is the highest in last five years.
- The severe cyclone "Yaas" caused heavy damage in May 2021 to flood infrastructure of 40 blocks in 6 districts. Moreover, due to unprecedented rainfall and release of heavy discharge from DVC dams in four phases, embankments, structures were severely damaged in different districts during the monsoon of 2021. Emergent restorations of such 724 km of embankments, 302 appurtenant structures, 300 km inspection road, and 17 km closures of breaches were completed in time.
- During 2021-22, 58 km of flood and river eroding embankments have been improved and 273 km of drainage channels have been excavated. Like previous year, up-keep and maintenance of around 1050 km of drainage channels through annual maintenance contracts were carried out during the monsoon of 2021 which also helps in controlling vector borne diseases.

### *2.30 Special achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)*

- To maximize the irrigation coverage in the five districts of South Bengal and to address the need of revamping the flood management infrastructure in the Lower Damodar areas in Howrah and Hooghly district, that suffer from perpetual floods, the Department has grounded a major project titled ***West Bengal Major Irrigation and Flood Management Project*** under World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.
- A number of reforms measures have been taken to streamline the functioning of the department as well as to maintain transparency and accountability. These include carrying out regular Technical

Examinations of ongoing and completed schemes, optimum utilization of online evidence based **Plan Works Monitoring System**, online auction of scrape materials, increased use of e-offices and introduction of Biometric Attendance System at district level offices besides the head quarter at Kolkata etc. The Design & Research wing has been equipped with latest software to carry out the design, drawing and planning works.

### **2.31 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken**

Apart from ensuring the completion of around 356 ongoing works in flood management and irrigation development sectors, a number of new projects have been formulated to comprehensively address the following issues in next 3 years:

- Anti-erosion and channel dredging schemes in different districts in compliance with the order of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.
- Taking up dredging of around 250 km of drainage channels in and around Kolkata and in Howrah Municipal Corporation. Renovation of old and dilapidated sluices at the outfall drainage channels and along embankments in different districts.
- Flood Management schemes to abate Ganga, Padma and Bhagirathi erosion in the districts of Malda, Murshidabad, Nadia, Purba Bardhaman, Hooghly and Howrah.
- Flood Management and drainage improvement of schemes **Ghatal Master Plan** in Purba and Paschim Medinipur districts.
- Rehabilitation of old, dilapidated, damaged important structures, like Mahananda Barrage, Tilpara Barrage, Kangsabati Dam, Mayurakshi Dam etc, as emerged from the recently completed safety audit to ensure safety of those structures.
- Automation of dams, barrages, major sluices/ regulators by using latest state-of-the-art **SCADA-PLC** technology and also improvement of electro mechanical components of those structures.
- Construction of more than 360 replacement bridges over irrigation canals, drainage channels in 7 southern districts of the State.
- Improvement of irrigation infrastructure of Major irrigation projects like, Kangsabati Reservoir Project, Mayurakshi Reservoir Project etc.
- Completion of all ongoing major irrigation and flood management packages under World Bank and AIIB assisted WBMIFMP with a view to improve irrigation, at 3.76 lakh hector of land in 42 blocks in four districts and improvement of flood infrastructure at 1078 square kilometer flood prone areas in 17 blocks of 3 districts in Lower Damodar Basin.
- Permanent restoration of flood affected and severely damaged embankments, sea-dykes, structures, breaches and bridges.



## ***Water Resources Investigation and Development***

### ***2.32 Introduction***

This Department provides minor irrigation to small and marginal farmers of West Bengal through various types of Minor & Micro irrigation schemes implemented under different programmes, utilizing surface as well as ground water resources. This Department is also tasked with investigation and assessment of water resources in the State.

### ***2.33 Achievements during financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

The Department of WRI&D has been playing a significant role by enhancing the irrigation potential of Minor & Micro irrigation and consequently increases in agricultural as well as horticultural production during the financial year 2021-22 for agrarian rural economic development. Irrigation Potential of about 60,000 hectare was planned to be created through various Minor & Micro Irrigation Projects under different Programmes. A total of 1,915 nos. of Minor & Micro irrigation schemes have already been completed up to 31.12.2021.

Programme/ Project-wise major achievements are given below;

- Large scale harvesting of rain water are being done for conservation of precious water resources in all kinds of water bodies under '**Jal Dharo Jal Bharo programme**'.
- "**Matir Shristi**" was launched in May-2020 to make productive use of fallow land in 6 western Districts viz. Birbhum, Bankura, Purulia, Paschim Medinipur, Jhargram & Paschim Bardhaman. Since inception i.e. from May-2020 till 31.12.2021 achievements of "**Matir Shristi**" are as follows:
  - Micro planning for 4,123 sites has been completed covering more than 19,000 acre.
  - Farmers involved- Approx. 32,000
  - More than 36.91 lakh saplings of different species have been planted in about 3,210 sites covering 10,625 acre.
  - Nearly 1100 micro irrigation structures have been completed viz. Hapa/ pit/ tube well etc.
  - 646 sites have been covered under inter-cropping which has already generated substantial income to Self Help Groups.
  - Fisheries have been taken up in 483 sites.
- Under '**Jalatirtha**' Programmes for increasing irrigation coverage and rainwater conservation in the arid districts of Paschim Bardhaman, Birbhum, Bankura, Purulia, Jhargram & Paschim Medinipur, as well as in hilly area in Darjeeling, Kalimpong Districts and saline riverine area of North & South 24 Parganas, Minor Irrigation schemes are being implemented. In 'Jalatirtha' programme, total emphasis is being given to surface water utilization through implementation of Surface water minor irrigation schemes, Check Dams & other Water harvesting structures.
- Under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), Minor Irrigation Schemes have been completed creating irrigation potential of 15,285 hectare in this year up to 31.12.21.

- Under the World Bank assisted **West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation Project (WBADMIP)**, 395 schemes have been completed in this year up to 31.12.2021. 230 Water User Associations (WUAs), comprising 8407 beneficiary families, have been formed for Management, Operation and Maintenance of Minor irrigation schemes. Capacity building has been done involving 30,689 trainees through 2470 training of farmer programmes.

### ***2.34 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken:***

- During 2022-23, irrigation potential of about 54,000 hectare has been planned to be created/ revived through new installations/ revival of Minor Irrigation Installations in different districts under different programmes.
- Special emphasis will be laid for creation of 5,324 equivalent tanks to conserve rain water under '**Jal Dharo- Jal Bharo**' programme. This programme will be continued on multiple platforms by State Water Investigation Directorate aiming towards building citizen's awareness towards rain conservation and efficient water-use in irrigation through organizing mass awareness camps and setting pilot schemes for rain water harvesting and ground water recharge.
- Beside creation of irrigation potential by construction of Minor Irrigation Structures, West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation Project (WBADMIP) will continue to work for formation of Water User's Association (WUAs), extending agriculture support services including agriculture, horticulture & fishery activities to the beneficiary farmers and especially to tribal & women to maximize the returns from agriculture fields & overall sustainable development of community.
- More Permanent Hydrograph Stations will be equipped with 'Digital Water Level Recorder (DWLR) with Telemetry System' by State Water Investigation Directorate for better and continuous observation of ground water level fluctuations.

## *Agricultural Marketing*

### *2.35 Introduction*

Agricultural Marketing Department started its functioning with the objective to ensure remunerative prices of the agricultural commodities for higher agricultural production to boost other sectors of the economy as a whole. Apart from this, effective post-harvest management and market intervention through various schemes of this department have been intensified with an aim to minimise post-harvest loss and to flourish agri-commodity trade. This will help reduce losses, allow value-addition and augment the income of farm-families.

### *2.36 Achievements/ Special Achievements during the FY 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)*

- Creation of marketing infrastructures, such as Auction Platform, Shop-cum-godown, Administrative building, Stalls, Godown for procurement, Drinking water, Sanitation etc. is a part and parcel of agri.-marketing activities.
- This department introduced ***Sufal Bangla*** project in 2014 to ensure remunerative price to farmers and reasonable price to consumers. It presently operates with 63 mobile vans, 3 Hubs and 351 retail outlets across the state. Daily about 75-80 MT of agricultural produces amounting to Rs. 18-20 lakh are sold through ***Sufal Bangla*** outlets to serve about 2.40-2.60 lakh consumers daily. During COVID-19, ***Sufal Bangla*** served people with supply of vegetables at doorsteps of consumers through its existing and newly opened stores in Kolkata and suburban areas.
- To safe guard the interest of the potato farmers of the state, Government of West Bengal declared transport subsidy on interstate trade and export of potato, in FY 2021-22, at the rate of Rs. 50 per Quintal (for transportation by road) and Rs. 100 per Quintal (for transportation by rail or ship).
- To prevent postharvest loss and to enhance farm level value addition, One Time Assistance is also provided through ***Amar Fasal Amar Chatal*** at the rate of 50% of the cost, limited to Rs. 21,714/-, for constructing a paddy processing yard (Chatal) for sun drying of par boiled paddy; and/ or Rs. 6336/- for constructing improved low cost paddy and grain storage structures.
- To minimize Post harvest loss, one Time Assistance is provided through ***Amar Fasal Amar Gola*** for construction of Community Storage Structures and Onion Storage Structures at rate of 50% of the cost, limited to Rs. 39,133/- and Rs. 71,838/- respectively.
- Draft Agricultural Export Policy (AEP) has been formulated with a vision to double the export quantity by 2030, by way of promoting the exports of fresh as well as processed agricultural, horticultural and animal based produces originating in this state.
- West Bengal State Agricultural Marketing Board has introduced online ***integrated electronic single platform permit (e-Permit)*** system for fast and hassle-free transactions of agricultural produces in West Bengal. Market fees are also being collected through online system.
- ***Electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)*** is a pan-India electronic trading portal which creates a unified online market for agricultural commodities, both at state and national level. In West

Bengal, 18 markets from 15 districts have already been integrated with *e-NAM*. Volume of e-trading in West Bengal stands at 26048 Metric Ton as on 31.12.2021.

- This department imparts extensive training to farmers and rural youth on processing and preservation of vegetables.
- There are substantial numbers of licensed functional cold storages for storing potato and multipurpose items, which ensure remunerative price to the farmers as well as price stabilization throughout year.

### ***2.37 New Initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken***

- This department has been declared as the nodal for Scheme: ***Formation of 10,000 FPOs*** (Farmer Producer Organizations). This scheme will provide opportunity to work with FPOs directly and promote cluster based farm level post harvest infrastructures like onion storage structures, drying platforms etc. State level and district level monitoring committees for implementation of the scheme have been notified and work on identification of the crop clusters has been started in all districts.
- ***Organic Haat***, a big market with modern facilities, is being constructed at New Town, with a view to promote marketing of organically produced agricultural products.
- Construction of another modern market at Paniparul, Egra is also going in full swing. This commodity-based market is being developed to encourage proper marketing of huge quantity of chilli grown locally and help chilli farmers to get a remunerative price.
- This department will make special focus on development of various export oriented marketing infrastructures, like pack house, sorting and grading units; multipurpose cold storages etc., which will be required to keep up with the increasing demand for export in near future.
- More of specific commodity-based markets, like Organic Haat at New Town or Chilli Market at Egra, would be developed in future to help marketing of locale-specific agricultural produces.
- Market development and creation of new market as well as other marketing infrastructures are among the most important activities of this department.
- This department has taken up a project at Ghagarburi, Asansol to shift the old terminal market in the city.



Economic Review 2021-22

Chapter

3

# Health Facilities

Health and Family Welfare



## *Health & Family Welfare*

### **3.1 Introduction**

Department of Health & Family Welfare is committed to ensure affordable, accessible and quality health care services for all. Since 2011, the Department has implemented a host of policies and programmes aiming at extending the network of public health facilities. At the same time attempts have been made for strengthening of the infrastructure, enhancing the man-power and improving their skills. Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) stands at 22 per 1000 live births from 34 in 2011, which is much below the national average of 32 in 2021.

### **3.2 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)**

**Super Speciality Hospital (SSH):** At present, 41 units are fully functional. Additionally, at Belda, construction work is near completion.

**Su Swasthya Kendra:** 5241 Subcentres, 783 PHC and 436 UPHC are functional at the State.

**Mother & Child Hub:** Out of 14 Hubs, 11 hubs are currently operational. Constructions of remaining 3 hubs are under progress.

**Trauma Care Facilities (TCF):** out of 47 Critical Care Centres, 14 are dedicated Trauma Care Units.

**Blood Banks:** 87 State Government Blood Banks are functioning round the clock. One new blood bank is expected to be operationalized within March, 2022 at Purulia GMC&H. Second one is ready at Salboni SSH, and the third one at Belda SSH is under construction.

**Blood Components Separation Units (BCSU):** 33 BCSUs are functioning round the clock. 7 upcoming BCSUs are expected to be functional within April, 2022.

**Ayush Activities:** The Integrated AYUSH Hospital in Medinipur has now been completed. New Yoga & Naturopathy College & Hospital at Belur, Howrah has been established.

**All India Institute of Medical Sciences at Kalyani:** State government has provided land measuring 179.82 acre. At present teaching and academic activities are going on, OPD has already started, and the Covid IPD services are also functioning.

**Patho Bandhu:** The Patho Bandhu project was launched for immediate response with medical attention to Road Traffic Accident (RTA) victims in collaboration with West Bengal Traffic Police. The objective of this scheme is to ensure that the RTA victims receive medical attention within the shortest time.

**Dengue Prevention:** At present, there are 89 Dengue testing centres under the Health Department and 15 Dengue testing centres under KMC. There are 10 new/ planned dengue testing centres. Breeding source reduction activity is going on in both urban & rural areas. Larvicides are being used as a supplemental measure.

**Covid Infrastructure:** The number of Covid beds in Government hospitals has gone up from 3280 as on 01.04.2020 to 32081 as on 31.12.2021. During the same period, the number of Covid CCU and HDU

beds has increased to 4200 from 387. Covid testing facility has been set up at 26 Government hospitals. State Government has set up hundreds of "Safe Homes" across the State.

### ***3.3 Special Achievements/ Best Practices during FY 2021-22 (up to Dec, 21)***

**Swasthya Sathi:** The Department has taken up universalization of 'Swasthya Sathi' scheme successfully and more than 2.2 crore families have been enrolled up to December, 2021. Since inception, around 24.85 lakh beneficiaries have availed the treatment services under this flagship scheme amounting to Rs. 3212.72 crore up to December, 2021.

**Fair Price Diagnostic and Dialysis Centre:** 153 High-end Fair Price Diagnostic and Dialysis Centres have been established in PPP mode. Free diagnostic and dialysis services are provided in the state.

**Fair Price Medicine Shops:** 117 Fair Price Medicine Shops (FPMS), has been set up in PPP mode since December 2012. Discount of 48-80% are offered on MRP for medicines and consumables.

**Zero Payment Drug Dispensing Slip** has been introduced in 2019-20, wherein patients get a slip mentioning the name of the medicines and the corresponding value of the medicines with 100% discount during the dispensing of the drug from the pharmacy counter at the Government Hospitals.

**Online e-ticketing for OPD:** The online e-ticketing system for OPD is functioning in all DH and MCH

**Civil Registration:** Bangla Sahayata Kendra (BSK): Number of Birth Certificates issued during January to December, 2021 is 14,99,957.

**Online reporting of pathological tests in the Central Laboratory:** The online reporting of pathological tests in the Central Laboratory is functioning in all five Kolkata based Medical Colleges. So far, 95,52,848 tests have been reported.

**Cancer Registry application:** The Cancer Registry application is running in 5 MCHs, namely, NRS MCH, Bankura MCH, Sagore Dutta MCH, Murshidabad MCH & North Bengal MCH. Till date a total 4205 number of cancer cases were registered in the portal.

### ***3.4 New initiatives***

**Chokher Alo:** 'Choker Alo', a 5-year long flagship project of the State government, was launched on 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2021, aiming to ensure the 'Eye Health for All', and to strengthen the efforts to prevent the avoidable blindness in the State. This project will essentially cater to the cataract surgeries, refractive errors and the other preventable blinding conditions starting from the newborn to the elderly with a 'life-cycle approach'. Vision Screening camps were taken at the decentralised door-step venues (all the GPs/UPHCs) to start with to redress the service backlogs created by the pandemic. More than 3000 vision screening sessions were organized during Jan & Feb, 2021 in campaign mode. In those camps approximately, 12.5 lakh persons were screened.

**Swasthya Ingit:** An innovative telemedicine service has already been started from more than 2300 centres as pilot basis and is going to be extended to other centres.



**Critical Care Management Information System (CCMIS):** 78 units made regular data entry in CCMIS in December'21. Between, January, 2021 and December, 2021, total 33911 patients are managed through CCMIS.

**Hybrid CCU:** 81 units of 24 bedded Hybrid CCU (8 bedded critical care bed and 16 HDU beds with some new assistance of Emergency COVID Relief Package) is on the process of establishment.

**PSA Plants:** In order to augment the oxygen supply (which is very important in management of critical patients especially, the Covid 19 patients) the Department have installed and commissioned PSA Oxygen plants.





Economic Review 2021-22

Chapter

4

## Education

School Education

Higher Education

Madrasah Education

Mass Education Extension and Library Services

Technical Education, Training and Skill Development

Science & Technology and Biotechnology



## *School Education*

### *4.1 Introduction*

Education being one of the most important criteria for leading a meaningful and better life, efforts by the School Education Department for alternate means of education are continuing even in pandemic. In spite of the pandemic situation, in which the schools had to be kept closed for major part of the year, the School Education sector of the State of West Bengal has acquired some remarkable achievements in 2021-22. Besides, initiatives were undertaken to continue the work to improve infrastructure of all schools.

### *4.2 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)*

***Free text books:*** These have been provided from pre primary to class XII students.

***Free uniforms:*** School uniform was provided free of cost to the students at Primary and Upper-Primary level.

***Taruner Swapno:*** As a result of the pandemic situation, though the schools remained closed for most part of the year, studies continued in the e-learning modes. Rs. 10,000/- each for purchasing tabs/smartphones has been given to each student of class XII under the scheme of Taruner Swapno for accessing online studies.

***Banglar Shiksha Durabhase:*** For doubt-clearing by the students, toll-free telephone number has been introduced. Students from class VI to X can ring this number and get guidance from subject teachers. Class-wise, subject-wise slots have been provided in the system.

***Student's Credit Card:*** Keeping in mind that many students having strong potential are unable to do higher studies due to paucity of fund, the scheme of students credit card has been introduced from 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 for enabling higher studies and beyond including at international levels.

***Career guidance portal:*** West Bengal Career Portal, a lively website was launched to enable the students of 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> standard to get access to information on prospective career, higher studies, entrance examinations and scholarships.

***Mid Day Meal during pandemic:*** 100% Govt./Aided/ Sponsored Schools in the State have been covered under the Mid-Day Meal programme during pandemic and the students have been provided with Dry Ration for Mid-Day Meal. Along with Mid-Day Meal, mask and sanitizer/soap has been distributed free of cost for all students.

***Aadhaar card for students:*** Programme for Aadhaar enrolment for the students has been taken up, initially for IX to XII students.

***Vaccination programme:*** In tune with the countrywide programme of vaccination of 15 to 18 year age group of children (who are mostly school students), the School Education Department has come up for supporting the vaccination programme launched by the Health & Family Welfare Department.

***Support for CWSN (Children with Special Need) students:*** More than 16,000 Braille Books (for blind students) and large font books (for low vision students) have been distributed. Stipend has been provided for 53,698 CWSN girl students. 29,149 CWSN students at the Secondary and Higher Secondary level were provided with Books and Stationery allowances. Aids and appliances like wheel chairs, Tri-cycles, low-vision devices, crutches, walking sticks, caliper shoes, hearing aids, etc. have been distributed to 19,161 CWSN students.

***Digilocker for Madhyamik and Uchcha-Madhyamik marksheets and certificates:*** This initiative was undertaken for safekeeping and online access to the vital school-level documents.

***Reduction of drop-out rates:*** The drop-out rates of students have reduced substantially across all levels (Primary, Upper-Primary, Secondary and Higher Secondary) as per the latest U-DISE Report.

***Accreditation at the national level:*** West Bengal topped the ranking at the national level among major states on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Index, as per the study done by Niti Aayog.

***Award: Banglar Shiksha portal,*** the vibrant portal of the School Education Department, has received the Skoch golden award this year.

***Training of teachers:*** A total of 2,86,073 teachers (including HMs) from all levels have been trained through online mode on different subjects during 2021. A leadership development programme for Headmasters and Teacher-in-Charges of 1,313 selected schools was taken up at IIM Joka in order to provide focused intervention for their infrastructural as well as pedagogical improvement.

***Utsashree portal for transfer of teachers:*** An online portal named Utsashree was launched on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2021 for smooth, efficient and time bound processing of transfer applications of teachers and non-teaching staff based on objective and rational criteria.

***Infrastructure:*** 85 no. of new set up school buildings have been constructed. For accommodating more students and providing more learning space to them, 1,439 no. of additional class rooms were constructed. Laboratory Grant has been given to 423 no. of schools during 2021-22 up to Dec, 2021.

***ICT @ School:*** With the aim to bring all Secondary and Higher Secondary schools under the ICT@School programme, 7,591 schools are presently under the operation of the programme. Another 1,719 schools are being provided ICT support under this programme.

Toppers of Madhyamik and Higher Secondary and Madrasah have been felicitated by Honourable Chief Minister in online mode. On Teachers' Day, the 5<sup>th</sup> September 2021, distinguished teachers were felicitated by Hon'ble Education Minister with Shiksha Ratna awards in online mode.

## ***Higher Education***

### ***4.3 Introduction***

Over the last few years, the State of West Bengal has witnessed a sustainable socio-economic development, which is intricately linked to the higher education system of the State. The Government of West Bengal has been emphasizing on developing higher education in the State in terms of quality and its outreach in order to create a high quality, enjoyable and inclusive education system.

### ***4.4 Achievements***

- The number of Universities in the State has been increased from 12 to 42 in last 10 years.
- 51 new colleges have been set up (31 Government General Degree, 2 Government Engineering and 18 Government aided colleges) during the last ten years. Out of 51 new colleges, 4 new Government colleges are for girl students, namely i. Government General Degree College for girls, Ekbalpur, Kolkata; ii. Sister Nivedita Government General Degree College for girl, Hastings House, Kolkata; iii. Jhargram Raj College (Girls wing), Jhargram; iv. Kanyashree College for girls, Behala, South 24 Parganas. 1 more Government Engineering college is being set up at Alipurduar.

***4.4.1 SVMCM (Swami Vivekananda Merit-cum-Means Scholarship):*** Total number of beneficiaries of the scholarship increased from 7,423 in 2010-11 to 2,11,891 in 2020-2021. Due to bringing down of the minimum qualifying marks from 75% to 60% at Madhyamik and HS Level for the poor, but meritorious students, whose income limit is Rs. 2.50 lakh per annum, about 10 lakh students may get the benefit of the Scholarship.

***4.4.2 West Bengal Student Credit Card Scheme:*** West Bengal Student Credit card Scheme has been introduced since 30th June, 2021 for the students, who are studying in the State and outside State, even in abroad. Students may get up to Rs. 10 lakh loan on nominal interest.

***4.4.3 West Bengal Freeship Scheme (WBFS):*** It is a tuition fees waiver scheme for the economically backward students of self-financed & Private Engineering/ Technical colleges of the State.

#### ***4.4.4 IT Initiatives:***

- Admission for various teacher education programmes in the State was made online. Provisions for e-selling of books under the West Bengal State Book Board are made.
- GIS Mapping for the HEIs in the State have been completed.
- Digital Tools for Teaching/ Learning: 732 virtual classrooms are set up in Government and Government aided colleges & universities and e-learning space is created in the State funded HEIs, where free Wi-Fi/Internet facility is provided to the students.
- *E-governance initiatives:* Admission process to all UG & PG level courses made online from the academic session 2015-16 onwards. E-Pension is implemented by the Department since 02.4.2018.

- *Introduction of Online application & verification:* Online application and verification of applications and payment to the beneficiaries' accounts under the Swami Vivekananda Merit-cum-Means Scholarship & Kanyashree-3 have been introduced. The portal of SVMCM has received CSI-Nihilent e-governance award in the year 2018.
- ***Banglar Uchchhasiksha portal at HED:*** A comprehensive Portal is being developed, which will cater to the HED, universities and colleges for collecting, compilation and sharing of data. This year Banglar Uchchhasiksha Portal received **SKOCH Gold Award**.

#### ***4.5 Other significant initiatives:***

- **Research and Innovation:** The Government has committed Rs. 100 crore each to Calcutta University and Jadavpur University. The State government provided 5 acres of land to Calcutta University and Jadavpur University in New Town for expanding their campus infrastructure.
- **Sadhu Ramchand Murmu University** is being set up at Jhargram in the tribal pocket to improve access to Higher Education at the doorstep of tribal communities.
- **Promotion of languages other than Bengali:** Hindi-medium General Degree Colleges are set up at Banarhat (Jalpaiguri), Asansol & Hatighisha (Naxalbari Block in Darjeeling district). Santhali and Urdu have been introduced as a subject in the State Eligibility Test (SET) in 2015. Nepali (in 10 Colleges) & Santali (in 18 Colleges) languages have been introduced.
- Arabic is taught in 42 colleges at UG level and 10 universities at PG level. Tibetan language is taught in Darjeeling Government College under North Bengal University and Calcutta University (for diploma and certificate level). Tamil is taught at PG, diploma and certificate level at Calcutta University.
- **"Sikhsha Ratna Samman"** is conferred to the teachers of HEIs on Teacher's Day in recognition of their outstanding contribution.



## ***Madrasah Education***

### ***4.6 Introduction***

The present Madrasah Education System has been upgraded to the standard at par with the main stream education system in West Bengal. The present education management policy of West Bengal allows free mobility of the students between these two segments in conformity with their circumstantial abilities. There are two apex bodies of Madrasah Education System, namely, Directorate of Madrasah Education (DME) and West Bengal Board of Madrasah Education (WBBME) currently acting as policy implementing authorities in West Bengal. Their functional entities namely, Senior Madrasah Education System and High Madrasah Education System are engaged in uplifting the overall standard of Madrasah Education System in West Bengal. They have also established their credibility in rural West Bengal and achieved accreditation by the state government.

### ***4.7 Achievement during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

#### ***4.7.1 Institutional Facilities***

The West Bengal Board of Madrasah Education is entrusted with the overall responsibility of exerting control over these Madrasahs' policy making decisions. The board conducts three main examinations, viz. High Madrasah Examination (at the end of Class-X for the students of recognised High Madrasah), Alim Examination (at the end of Class-X for the students of recognised Sr. Madrasahs), Fazil Examination (at the end of Class-XII for the students of recognised Fazil Madrasahs).

#### ***4.7.2 Pattern of Augmentation***

Considerable increase in the number of Muslim children enrolled, appeared and passed over the years under the Madrasah Education System has only corroborated the fact of a noteworthy improvement which in coming years will leave an indelible impression in constituting a secular and superior mindset of future nation. In the year 2021, no physical examination was conducted due to covid-19 pandemic. However, a total number of 74267 students were enrolled and evaluated under West Bengal Board of Madrasah Education (WBBME).

***4.7.3 Maintenance Allowance (MA) for Minority Students:*** All minority students staying in madrasah/ school attached hostels of the department get Rs. 1,000 per month for 10 months in a year as maintenance allowance.

## *Mass Education Extension & Library Services*

### *4.8 Introduction*

The Department of Mass Education Extension and Library Services looks after the matters relating to adult education, non formal education, education for children with special needs and social education. The department comprises of two Directorates viz. 'Directorate of Mass Education Extension' and 'Directorate of Library Services'.

### *4.9 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021):*

**Education and Training of the Physically Handicapped Students:** There are 74 sponsored Special schools and 80 academically recognised institutions all over West Bengal.

**Running of Social Welfare Homes:** In keeping with the policy framework of the Government for coverage of larger number of children under the social safety net, the State Government's efforts are on to strengthen the infrastructure facilities of the existing 50 units of Social Welfare Homes (39 Aided Welfare Homes & 10 State Welfare Homes and 1 Sponsored Welfare Home) of the State. Presently, 894 inmates are retained in 43 Welfare Homes and 272 students are retained in 9 Special Schools as guardians of most of the inmates/ students have taken back their wards to their respective places due to the prevailing pandemic situation.

West Bengal has a network of 2480 public libraries. State Central Library is at the apex of the public library system of West Bengal. The aim of the Government is to achieve sustainable and lifelong educational development of the people at large and to meet the needs of research workers as well.

### *4.10 Special Achievements during financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021):*

- During 2021-22, funds have been released towards repair, renovation works for the special schools and welfare homes due to damages caused by the devastating cyclone YAAS.
- Scholarship was awarded to the specially abled students of class IX and onwards, who have scored atleast 40% marks in the last annual examination in the year 2021.
- In order to strengthen infrastructure facilities of the Welfare Homes and Special Schools, Funds granted towards construction of toilet, repair renovation of school building, hostel building, dormitories etc. Emphasis was laid upon on improvement of infrastructure facilities of libraries especially in the SC, ST, OBC, Minority Community based parts of West Bengal and hill areas.
- In order to increase the library membership under "**Boi Dhoro Boi Poro Prakalpa**" for all public libraries of all the districts and State Central Library, Kolkata, the total target for free library membership was fixed at 5 lakh.
- **Bangla Sahayata Kendra (BSK)** was opened in 748 Government sponsored public libraries in the State. From these Kendras various types of online services are provided.

#### ***4.11 New initiatives undertaken:***

*Directorate of Mass Education Extension :* a) Implementation of the scheme for eradication of illiteracy in new format if approved by the Government, b) Implementation of new policy to affiliate more aided welfare homes under this Directorate, c) Enhancement of present rate of maintenance grant of Rs. 1600/- per inmate per month of the welfare homes regarding food, contingency, etc. for providing better facilities to the inmates by Rs. 600/- from next financial year, d) Enhancement of the total sanctioned strength of the inmates of the welfare homes in order to take more wards, e) Upgradation of more sponsored special schools from Primary to Class VIII standard for qualitative improvement of the students with special need, f) Construction work for school & hostel buildings for sponsored institutions will be taken up for providing better facilities to the children with special need (CWSN) according to revised model formulating with the consultation with PWD Department, g) Initiatives taken to set up a degree college for higher education for the disabled students (visually impaired and deaf & dumb).

*Directorate of Library Services:* Initiative was undertaken to introduce the scope of computerization and e-Library across all tiers of libraries in the State. The scope is extended to State Central library, District Libraries and Town & Rural libraries of West Bengal. Old Library Management Software was replaced by using Modern Library Management Software – KOHA.

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

### ***4.12 Introduction***

The Department of Technical Education, Training and Skill Development carries out major activities like- Imparting Technical Education at the diploma and post diploma level through polytechnics and other institutions, craftsman training through Industrial Training Institutes and Industrial Training centres, vocational education and training and skill development through Paschim Banga Society for Skill Development (PBSSD).

### ***4.13 Achievements***

***Industry Resource Cell*** was constituted in the department to take initiatives for expanding involvement of industry for jointly offering training and also to co-ordinate with industry for all verticals.

***Infrastructure Development Cell*** was created in order to plan the infrastructure and resource development for creating model institutions (for NBA (National Board for Accreditation) or any other such benchmark) and to get the institute development plans prepared for all the institutions.

***Expert Committees*** have been constituted for speedy designing of syllabus/ curriculum for a range of short term training courses for which demand for skilling has been received.

***Polytechnics:*** Number of Polytechnics in the state is 185. 2 new Government Polytechnics one at Mirik and the other at Uluberia have started academic activities during the year 2021 with approval of AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education).

***West Bengal State Council of Technical, Vocational Education and Skill Development (WBSCTVESD)*** has taken several initiatives during the current financial year: Assessment of 39216 CSS-VSE students and of 13000 trainees trained by PBSSD were done through a completely web based online module.

***Industrial Training Institutes (I.T.I.):*** Number of Industrial Training Institutes in the state is 278 with intake capacity of 87,460 for the financial year 2021-22.

### ***4.14 Special achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

- Intake capacity of 2160 no. of trainees have increased during the current session compared to that in 2019-20 after opening a new ITI (Daspur Government ITI under PPP) and granting of affiliation for new trades in the various Government & Private ITIs.
- A new unit of Electronic Mechanics trade course from the 2022 academic session started at Women ITI Kolkata under Industry Institute Partnership (IIP)
- Remarkable performance was shown by the ITI students in All India Trade Test (AITT), 2020 (held in February, 2021): 7 ITI trainees from West Bengal topped at the National level, 4 among them are girls; 2 apprenticeship trainees from West Bengal have also topped at the National level; All the toppers have been felicitated by the Department with Cash award of Rs. 50,000/- each with

certificate of merit. 478 e-learning materials (in Bengali Language) under 9 trade courses of CTS have been developed.

***Vocational Education & Training:*** 1,37,705 beneficiaries availed Vocational Education & Training programme through WBSCT&VE&SD in the year 2020-21. In Higher Secondary (Vocational) Education Programme, 27,586 students have passed in the year 2021. In the year 2022, an expected 31,506 no. of students will appear in the Higher Secondary (Vocational) Final Examination.

"**Taruner Swapna**" was added to the IOSMS portal to ensure the financial assistance from the Government to the class XII students of Higher Secondary (Vocational) Education for procurement of Tab Computer/ Smart Phone. The achievement in this Pandemic situation is completely on the e-learning deliveries and methodologies. 1069 ELMs have been uploaded in the dedicated YouTube Channel "WBDVET". All these ELMs are linked with the "Banglar Shiksha Portal" of the School Education Department. About 2 lakh students across the State are being benefited by this initiative. Up to 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 e-learning platform has been provided applying G-suit Technology.

#### ***Paschim Banga Society for Skill Development***

***Utkarsh Bangla:*** Since inception, more than 23 lakh candidates have been trained under the Utkarsh Bangla scheme. 2,10,588 candidates were imparted training for the financial year 2021-22.

Other major programmes launched are:

- Assured Placement Program (as on date, demand of training of 5000 no. has been raised),
- Industry-led training model (as-on date around 52000 training requirement has been received),
- A new career counselling app - ***Karma Disha*** (An aspirant can avail of career guidance scientifically based on proven psychological theory mapping of the career interest).

***Employers' Portal:*** The Employers' Portal, a platform for employers for hiring trained candidates under Utkarsh Bangla Scheme, Polytechnic, ITI and Vocational Training Centers has been developed.

***World Skills Competition 2022:*** PBSSD organized the State Skill Competition in 10 trades for shortlisting candidates for World Skills 2022 to be held at Shanghai at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre for the first time.

## *Science & Technology and Biotechnology*

### *4.15 Introduction*

This department is playing an active role in popularisation of science, facilitating Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), geoinformatics and remote sensing technology based activities, biotechnology and human resources development programmes with a view to spread the utility of science and technology for the benefit of common people.

### *4.16 Special achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)*

**Activities on Promotion of Scientific Research:** 487 ongoing Research & Development (R&D) projects have been funded by the department for implementation in various Government aided institutions across the State with an aim to promote scientific research. In addition, 29 new projects have also been recommended for funding. Focus areas of research include biotechnology, agriculture, chemical sciences, animal & fishery sciences, physical sciences, medical sciences, environment, engineering & technology, etc. R&D guidelines have also been revised to attract projects, which support the research needs of line departments.

**Establishment of Technology Development and Adaptation Centre (TDAC):** With an objective of building and nurturing an ecosystem to support S&T led entrepreneurship, promoting scientific research and innovation, commercialization of research output and supporting job creation and employment, the department have signed a MOU with the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta run Entrepreneur & Innovation Park to set up a 'Technology Development and Adaptation Centre (TDAC)'. It would be executed through the West Bengal State Council of Science and Technology.

**Development of Digital Platform:** For enhancing ease of access, procedural transparency and better management/ monitoring of scientific schemes, the department has launched the portal named 'Vigyansathi' for all schemes being currently funded by the department and WB State Council of Science and Technology. The entire procedure of receiving applications, screening, evaluation, selection, sanction of funds to final report submission are being dealt through this platform in online mode.

**Setting up of Kolkata Biotech Park (KBP):** The programme comes under the National Biotechnology Park Scheme. It aims at setting up of industrial biotechnology ventures, supporting start-up for incubation and development of innovation, attracting investment and creation of employment.

**Setting up of Bio-NEST (Bio-incubation facility) through BIRAC:** Initiative has been undertaken to set up bio-incubators jointly with the universities and/or research institutes in West Bengal, having potential for technical and entrepreneurial support, through the Bio-NEST (Bio-incubators Nurturing Entrepreneurship for Scaling Technologies) programme of BIRAC (Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council).

**Spatial Data Support through Geo-informatics and Remote Sensing:** The department is providing spatial data support to important Government of West Bengal projects, namely (a) "Targeting Rice Fallow

Areas (TRFA) using high resolution satellite data of the State of West Bengal" of the Agriculture Department, (b) "GIS Mapping of police station and other police jurisdiction, West Bengal" of the Home and Hill Affairs Department, (c) a project on "Area Estimation of Groundnut in Rabi Season for West Bengal" (d) "Mangrove Community Zonation and biophysical characterization for coast of West Bengal" (e) "National Mission for Sustaining Himalayan ecosystem" (f) Generation of cadastral database of West Bengal (g) Space Based Information Support for Decentralized Planning – Update (SISDP – Update) and (h) GIS Mapping of all Private and Government COVID Vaccination Centres (CVC).

***Student Scholarship under JBNSTS:*** Under the Jagadis Bose National Science Talent Search (JBNSTS) programme, fellowships have been provided to 50 students for the Senior Bigyani Kanya Medha Britti scholarship, 50 scholarships have been provided under Senior Talent Search and funds spent for providing scholarships to 200 students under the Junior Talent Search & 50 students under Junior Bigyani Kanya Medha Britti for 2021-2022.

***Patent Information Centre (PIC):*** Activities of the centre during the current financial year include patentability assessment of 40 documents; facilitating filing up of 29 Patents, which include 9 patents on COVID-19 issues and filing up of 7 copyright and 5 trademarks. The centre also participated as faculty in 10 IPR awareness generation programmes. 2 G.I. applications were filed and 256 authorized GI stakeholders were facilitated, 32 GI authorized users were registered.

#### ***4.17 Initiatives to be undertaken by the department:***

- Financial support would be continued for ongoing as well as new advanced scientific R&D projects to promote scientific research in the State.
- On normalization of COVID situation, financial support would be again provided for organizing science camps, seminars/ conferences/ workshops, celebration of State-level Children Science Congress, etc. Similarly, financial support would be provided for organizing State Science & Technology (S&T) Congress and Bengal Science Lecture Series. Initiatives have also been taken for popularization of science & technology through publication of regular periodicals by the publication unit and also through TV/ Radio programmes.
- Technologies amenable for commercialization and transfer from lab to land will be encouraged to get the benefits of the Technology Development and Adaptation Centre. State Technology Hunt would be organised in 2022-23.
- The Cell of geoinformatics and remote sensing will continue to support the State Government departments with spatial data for their developmental planning purposes.
- Financial support would be continued for Research Fellowship & Research Grant award; fellowships & book grants to JBNSTS for Junior & Senior Talent Search Scholars as well as scholarships for talent enrichment programme. Fellowships & book grants will also be provided to girl scholars under the Junior and Senior Bigyani Kanya Medha Britti Programme.

- Patent Information Centre (PIC) will continue its existing IP, GI, patent activities, etc. A State Intellectual Property (IP) policy will be finalized.
- Major emphasis will be given to make the Park operational through encouragement to start-ups for establishment of biotechnology ventures. The State Biotechnology Policy has also been drafted.
- The '**Vigyansathi**' platform will be further strengthened for all activities including research & development, seminars, science camps, geo-informatics, technology transfer, intellectual property rights, biotechnology, trainings, human resources development courses, scholarships, awards etc. The existing '**Vigyanchetana**' portal will continue to render services for State Science & Technology Congress with the normalisation of COVID situation.
- The Department will continue to recognize contributions in popularising science within the masses by awarding individuals and voluntary organizations.





Economic Review 2021-22

Chapter

5

# Industrial Development and Entrepreneurship

Industry, Commerce & Enterprises  
Public Enterprises & Industrial Reconstruction  
Labour  
Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises and Textiles  
Tourism



## *Industry, Commerce & Enterprises*

### *5.1 Introduction*

The Industry, Commerce & Enterprises Department, Government of West Bengal facilitates industry, investment and infrastructure development in the State. The reformatory measures taken up by the Government of West Bengal in land and labour policies directly linked to restructuring of the economic sector has gained accolades. The department has prepared policy framework incorporating pertinent concerns like environmental and climate protection, shared efforts like Maritime, Logistics and Clean Technology Interventions. Besides, the Department of Industry, Commerce & Enterprises administers a broad variety of sectors like maritime, minerals, mining, infrastructure, and export promotion. The Department is in the forefront of all the governmental efforts in providing an industry-friendly environment by prioritizing the "Ease of Doing Business", "Single Window" Facilitation Services. The Department also successfully implemented 'Sand Mining Policy - 2021' through West Bengal Mineral Development Corporation Limited (WBMDTCL).

### *5.2 Achievements during the Financial Year 2021-22 (up to December, 2021)*

#### *5.2.1 West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Limited (WBIDCL)*

- WBIDC allotted 886.13 acre of its industrial land to 16 units, and 27845.37 sq. ft. of Space in its modular based industrial parks has been allotted
- Development of infrastructure for new industrial parks: Gems & jewellery park at Ankurhati, Food Park, Phase-III at Sankhrail, Rishi Banking Silpaudyan at Naihati and Budge Budge Garment Park
- 2483 acre of existing industrial lands of WBIDC at Raghuanthpur in Purulia district has been approved for development under Amritsar-Kolkata- Industrial Corridor (AKIC) Project under the name of '**Jungal Sundari Karmanagari**'.
- An information booklet on few industries in Bengal titled, 'Industries in Bengal - A Glimpse' was published by WBIDC with inputs from industrial units in Bengal. The Booklet was released by Honorable CM in the industry interaction programme held at Panagarh industrial park of WBIDC.
- Focused facilitation cells/initiatives: i) Exports facilitation Cell; ii) Logistics promotion Cell; iii) Environment cell in WBIDC: (initiative under the technical collaboration of State Environment Deptt. with GIZ) iv) Innovation & Business Acceleration Center (IBAC) was initiated with collaborative support from FICCI.
- **Publicity & Promotion:** The Department organizes the Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS). 20 countries, 26 countries, 29 countries, 32 countries, and 35 countries participated in BGBS 2015, BGBS 2016, BGBS 2017, BGBS 2018, and BGBS 2019 respectively.
- **Silpasathi Single Window Services:** Silpasathi, a holistic and comprehensive portal for single window services received the prestigious SKOCH Award for public delivery of services in 2021.

### ***New Initiatives undertaken***

- ***Budge Budge Garment park:*** Budge Budge Garment Park is being developed by WBIDC over a super build up area of 7.6 lakh sq. ft. by establishing 4 number of SDF (G+7, 1.8 lakh sqft each) and one CFB (G+3, 0.4 lakh sq.ft) over 9.85 acre of land. Super structure of all 5 buildings has been completed.
- Instakart (a Flipkart Group company) has set up its fulfillment center over 109.12 acre of land at Haringhata. This green logistics project is becoming Eastern Regions largest Distribution Centre.
- Emami Agro tech has taken 20 acre for expansion of their existing facility at Haldia and has commenced commercial production.
- ***Barjora Plasto Steel Park Phase-III:*** M/s Rahee infratech Ltd has taken 11 acre of land for their iron casting and steel fabricated unit.
- Allotment to be issued to M/s Maharaja Udyog Pvt. Ltd. for 13 acre of land.
- ***Milan Mela Rejuvenation:*** The construction of super structure at Milan Mela ground is near completion.
- Allotment of land is in the process for the upcoming units that have applied for another 95.54 acre of industrial land to WBIDC such as M/s. Essar Oil and Gas Exploration & Production Limited, M/s Modern AAC Block Industries Pvt. Ltd, M/s R K Wire Products Ltd, M/s Parashmani Medical Centre Pvt. Ltd., M/s Comcon International, M/s GKR Metaliks, M/s Bankey Bihari Udyog Pvt Ltd, M/s Airways Logistics Pvt Ltd, M/s Eastern Polycraft India Ltd. etc.
- ***Development of proposed Tajpur Port:*** 950 acre of land earmarked for Goaltore IP has been handed over to Power Department for their Solar Power project in return for a suitable 1000+ acre of land in Dadanpatrabhar, Purba Medinipore District for augmenting the requirements of Tajpur Port Project.

### ***5.2.2 West Bengal Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (WBIIDC)***

- Out of total area of 2110 acres of land with requisite industrial and social infrastructural facilities at various locations across the State with an objective of development of Industries on well planned basis, land has been allotted by WBIIDC to 494 nos of Industrial Units of different parks up to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021.
- WBIIDC is processing for allotment of land of around 21.239 acre in different Industrial parks for setting up different types of industries.
- WBIIDC is also developing infrastructure for Pharmaceutical Park at Falta Industrial Park in the district of South 24 Parganas, over 33 acre of land for allotment to various industrial units for Pharmaceutical and allied products, and around 100 acre of land at Falta Sector-V at Falta Industrial Park for allotment to various industrial units.
- Efforts have been made for leasing out for industrial space created at Kharagpur, Raninagar Industrial Parks of WBIIDC.

- In addition to setting up of Industrial Parks WBIDC is also implementing development schemes on behalf of various government departments viz. Health and family welfare, Agriculture, Backward Classes Welfare Department etc. on agency charge basis.

### ***5.2.3 West Bengal Mineral Development & Trading Corporation Limited (WBMDTCL)***

- Successful implementation of the **Sand Mining Policy, 2021** as the Designated Agency of the Government of West Bengal with a view, inter alia, to ensure that sand mining is done in a scientific, environmentally sustainable and socially responsible manner.
- Engagement of Mine Developer and Operator (MDO) for the Gourangdih ABC Coal Project in Paschim Bardhaman District which has a capex of 1011 crore and rated capacity of 2.50 Million Tons of coal per year through West Bengal Mineral Development & Trading Corporation Limited (WBMDTCL).
- Operationalisation of the Jethia Hatgacha Black Stone Mine in Birbhum District through WBMDTCL.

***5.2.4 Ethanol Production & Promotion Policy:*** An Ethanol Production & Promotion Policy was notified on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and guidelines issued on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021. An online system of processing applications has been developed and made operational through Directorate of Industries. Timely intervention by the State has facilitated the Bengal based companies to obtain award of contract from the Oil Manufacturing Companies.

***5.2.5 Cycle Manufacturing Facility:*** An EoI for Cycle Manufacturing Facility in Bengal was floated by WBIDC in October 2021, soliciting interest from cycle manufacturing companies. Four big companies in the sector have expressed their interest. Further modalities are being developed to encourage setting up of a cycle manufacturing facility in Bengal.

## ***Public Enterprises & Industrial Reconstruction***

### ***5.3 Introduction***

On 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2019, the Government of West Bengal notified an amendment in the Rules of Business inserting the Department of Public Enterprises and Industrial Reconstruction. The business allocated to it includes, inter alia, Revival & Regulation of, i) closed industrial units and trading corporations in the State; and ii) sick industrial units and trading corporations in the State; To govern and administer the West Bengal Relief Undertakings (Special Provision) Act, 1972 and Matters connected with Government Companies, Boards, Cooperative Societies and Public Undertakings with which the Department is concerned;

### ***5.4 Achievements***

#### ***Administering of certain State Public Sector Undertakings (SPSEs):***

The Department controls 9 SPSEs namely- Saraswaty Press Ltd (SPL) and its subsidiary The West Bengal Text Book Corporation Ltd. (WBTBCL), Durgapur Chemicals Limited (DCL), Neo Pipes & Tubes Co. Ltd. (NPT), National Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. (NISCO), Lily Products Ltd. (LPL), Krishna Silicate & Glass Ltd. (KSGL), Carter Pooler Engineering CO. Ltd. (CPEL) and West Bengal Plywood & Allied Products Ltd. (WBPAPL).

Additionally, the following four Joint Venture companies are under the administrative control of PE & IR Department: EMT Megatherm Pvt. Ltd., W. B. Agro - Textiles Corporation Ltd., W.B. Chemical Industries Ltd. And Apollo Zipper India Limited, which runs the Lalit Great Eastern Hotels.

#### ***A snapshot of the main SPSEs is as follows:***

- WBTBCL, an SPL subsidiary set up by the Government for production and distribution of school text books, prints more than 10.5 crore Text Books, under 400 different titles in six languages and 4 crore Khata each year. These are delivered to more than 2000 locations throughout West Bengal.
- SPL has recently gained order for printing of Digital Ration Cards for the Government of West Bengal.
- DCL was upgraded technologically and capacity of the caustic soda plant was enhanced to 100 TPD.
- DCL continues with its production of Caustic soda lye, Chlorine, HCL, stable bleaching powder and Sodium hypo chlorite.
- The State Government has also made interventions in the case of closed units of M/s Jessop & Co. Limited (JCL) and M/s Dunlop India Ltd. Government of West Bengal gives a special ex-gratia (@ Rs.10,000/- per month per employee) and finances ESI contribution (@ Rs.325/- per month per employee) from February, 2016 onwards.

## *Labour*

### *5.5 Introduction*

Labour Department has significantly contributed to the realization of responsibility of the State Government for creating a system that will efficiently and effectively protect the workers. Based on the cardinal principles of “protection of rights” and “best interest of the workers”, Labour Department is achieving its objective to contribute to the improvements in the well-being of this work force when faced with the contingencies of old age survivorship, incapacity, disability etc., as well as to the reduction of other vulnerabilities to situations and actions.

### *5.6 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)*

***Bina Mulya Samajik Suraksha Yojana:*** A project named ***Samajik Suraksha Yojana (SSY)*** was undertaken in 2017 with the objective of integrating different schemes and to offer uniform benefits to every eligible unorganised worker along with construction and transport workers under a single umbrella. This was one of the first of its kinds in the country. To assist the enrolled beneficiaries further, the state government decided to waive off the beneficiary contribution of Rs. 25/- a month as their subscription payment towards their provident fund. It has now been decided to contribute Rs. 55/- per month as a whole for the beneficiaries from 1st April 2020. Thus the scheme was renamed ***Bina Mulya Samajik Suraksha Yojana (BMSSY)*** where any enrolled unorganised worker can avail all the available benefits without spending a single rupee.

***Employment Bank:*** Directorate of Employment, West Bengal is the implementing and monitoring agency for the Employment Bank, a job portal wherein both the jobseekers and employers enroll themselves. Presently more than 769 employers have been enrolled through this portal.

***Yuvasree:*** The Government of West Bengal is providing unemployment assistance to the jobseekers registered in Employment Bank since October 2013 to enable the jobseekers to increase their employability or become suitable to set up self-employment ventures by upgrading their skills. Each of the selected jobseekers is paid a stipend of Rs.1500/- per month under this scheme.

#### ***Other Achievements***

***FAWLOI Scheme under Labour Commissionrate:*** To provide financial relief to the industrial workmen who are rendered out of employment due to prolonged lock out/ suspension of work & closure of industrial units, the State Government had introduced a scheme called Financial Assistance to Workers in Locked out Industries (FAWLOI). Under this scheme Rs 1500/- per month as financial assistance along with an annual amount of Rs 1500/- as Puja/ Eid ex-gratia payment is provided. For the Year 2021-22 (up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021) funds has been disbursed to more than 27,426 workers from 175 industrial units.

***Employees’ State Insurance (Medical Benefit) Scheme:*** ESI (MB) Scheme Directorate provides medical benefit to the Insured persons under ESI ACT, 1948. Such medical benefit is provided to more than 19.52 lakh insured persons along with their family members up to 31.03.21. This ultimately covers

about one crore beneficiaries.

***Achievement under State Labour Institute:*** State Labour Institute under the Department of Labour is an eminent state level institute for capacity building of all stakeholders for better performance of the individual and organization through training.

### ***5.7 Best Practices/ Special Achievements***

***Business facilitated through Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) in 2020:*** Like previous years, this year also the department has undertaken Business Process Re-engineering and digitization of re-engineered processes. The reforms undertaken by various directorates and board have further led to ease of submitting applications, less paper-work, faster processing of applications and quick issue of licenses / approvals. The timelines prescribed for the services under WBRTPS Act, 2013, have been modified to incorporate the changed scenario after new reforms.

***E-Enablement of Employment Exchanges: Akarshan:*** This initiative is to provide a single platform for all the required facilities to the enrolled job seekers of the state who aspire for quality employment or want to be self-employed. It is a first of its kind. This initiative strives to cover the entire gamut of career guidance from psychometric assessment to last mile employability enhancement. All the facilities are free of costs.

***Labour Commissionerate: Shramik Mela:*** To reach out more and more unorganized sector workers, Shramik Mela has been organized at various locations in the state since 2014.

***ESI (MB) Scheme:*** 20 bedded HDU (High Dependence unit) have been constructed in 10 State ESIS Hospitals. Adequate steps were taken in all 13 State ESI Hospitals and all the Service Dispensaries for care and containment of Covid-19 pandemic.

***Directorate of Boilers:*** Online Approval of Manufacturing Certificate has been introduced in the Financial Year 2021-2022 (on 27.07.2021) and online process for testing of material has been introduced during 2021-2022.

#### ***Directorate of Factories***

Detail guidelines to various industries all over the state for their safe operation of the factory and construction site (free from accident and dangerous occurrences and other hazards), are being sent periodically time to time; Conducted safety and tool box training programme into various industries periodically; Suggestions and supervisory safety guidelines have been sent to various factories (both Major Accident Hazard and hazardous factories including other factories, which have hazards potential); Mock-drill on emergency preparedness plan has been conducted periodically. Necessary corrective actions on the drawbacks are being communicated; Special preventive measure taken regarding- a) Safe working procedure, b) Machine guarding, c) Fire safety and d) Maintenance of plant and machinery etc. were suggested to prevent accidents and dangerous occurrences in factories and construction sites including the factories/ construction sites where general inspection was carried out; Periodic scrutiny done



on the compliance of the inspection reports/ enforcement notices and were sent to the factories and construction sites; Online plan approval, registration and renewal of licence of factories have been done within the stipulated time after scrutiny as per the terms and conditions under WBRTPS Acts 2013.

***State Labour Institute***

Workshops for Employers on their role in Conciliation, Practicing Safety at Workplace & Social Security Legislations; Induction training program for Assistant Labour Commissioners; Orientation program on Labour Codes.

***Capacity Building and Training:***

***Skill development through Training in Spinning and Weaving of Jute:*** The aim of the scheme is to generate employment and to produce skilled workers for the jute industry. Jobseekers enrolled in Employment Bank are sponsored to different jute mills of the state.

***Motor Driving Training:*** The scheme launched in November 2019 will aim at capacity building and training of the enrolled jobseekers in the Employment Bank in the transport sector. Motor driving training is given to the trainees with the subsequent issue of commercial driving licence to the successfully completed trainees. The jobseekers after getting their licence may try for employment as drivers both in public and private sectors.

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

### ***5.8 Introduction***

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) sector is one of the key drivers for economic development of the State of West Bengal. It plays a crucial role in determining the volume of state domestic product, manufacturing output, and exports and also constitutes a part of the critical supply chain for goods and services. MSMEs are instrumental for inclusive growth which touches upon the lives of the most vulnerable and marginalized. West Bengal holds a glorious place on the MSME map of India with 14% share of total MSMEs of the country.

### ***5.9 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

MSME Facilitation Centre - applications facilitated for statutory clearances: 8589

Finance Clinic: 60

Production of subsidized cotton sari: 5,00,000

Materials supplied to Disaster Management Deptt by Tantuja- Supply of saree: 7,20,000; Supply of bed sheet: 6,20,000; Supply of dhuti and lungi: 10,67,000

Production of village industries under KVIB (Khadi & Village Industries Board): 601 nos

Pension to handicraft artisans: more than 2937nos, Pension to handloom weavers: more than 6000 nos

Supply of covid safety items by BBMC: more than 42,00,000

Supply of covid safety items by Tantuja: more than 60,00,000

### ***5.10 Best Practices***

***Banglashree:*** To make the State self sufficient in producing fabric required for production of readymade garment especially school uniform for school students and to boost powerloom sector in the State, a Powerloom Incentive Scheme has been notified which aims at providing uniform rate of 20% capital subsidy besides other facilities available under Banglashree scheme.

***Modification in 'Scheme of Approved Industrial park (SAIP) 2020:*** Scheme of Approved Industrial Park (SAIP) was renewed in 2020 for encouraging private entities to set up industrial parks. The Department has introduced some important amendments and additions to make the scheme more practicable so that it becomes easier for private developers to set up more industrial parks.

***Handloom Sector:*** The apex cooperative society for handloom weavers, i.e. Tantuja continued providing sustained employment to handloom weavers of the state. Recently, the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, has conferred Tantuja the *National Award on Design Development*.

***Mega Leather Cluster at Bantala:*** Road network of added area of Calcutta Leather Complex has been completed under Mega Leather Cluster program and 4 Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) have been commissioned. The multifarious activities/ different sub-projects of this mega initiative are being undertaken parallelly.

***Synergy & Business Facilitation Conclave:*** Organizing Synergy events is one of the best practices of the department under which different departments assemble together under one umbrella, set up help desks and provides customized solutions to different issues brought forward by the entrepreneurs. In 2021-22, the event has been slightly improvised where there are separate sessions for potential sectors in which entrepreneurs are made aware of various scheme/ initiatives of the state government for promotion of MSMEs. Up to December 2021 in the year 2021-22, more than 2200 entrepreneurs actively participated and their queries were duly addressed and many were resolved.

### ***5.11 New Initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken***

***Development of clusters/ parks/ village industries:*** The department has taken initiative for implementing different infrastructure development projects for MSME clusters and MSME Industrial Parks/ Estates and accepted the proposed cluster development fund in association with SIDBI.

***Financial linkage for artisans and weavers:*** Availability of timely and adequate working capital is a key challenge for handicraft artisans and handloom weavers. To mitigate this issue, the department, in association with banks, has decided to issue Artisans' Credit Card (ACC) and Weavers' Credit Card (WCC) to artisans and weavers in a camp mode under Duare Sarkar campaign. Under ACC, need based term loan and/or working capital loan in the range of Rs. 25,000 – Rs. 2,00,000 will be available to eligible artisans. On the other, eligible weavers will get term loan and /or working capital loan up to maximum Rs. 5 lakh. The Loan under ACC and WCC are repayable within 3-5 years.

***Integrated Textile Parks (ITP):*** The Government is keen to strengthen the powerloom sector of the state to ensure production of sufficient fabric within the state for making readymade garments and school uniform. With this objective, the state government has taken the move to set up Integrated Textile Parks in North 24 Parganas, Nadia and Uttar Dinajpur exclusively for production and processing units of fabrics.

***School Uniform Project:*** In an attempt to revitalize the powerloom sector of the state, this department has been entrusted to procure required quantity of polyester-viscose(PV) fabric for stitching school uniform for students of pre-primary to class VIII. The Department, in turn, has mandated Tantuja for distribution of PV Yarn to the powerloom (Rapier) units of West Bengal for manufacturing of various PV fabrics.

***Employment linked skill development of industrial workers in MSME sector:*** Skill development is considered one of the critical aspects for employment generation. Skill development is very much essential for industrial workers to cope with technological advancement for improved productivity & cost management. Recognizing the importance of skill development in MSME sector, the department has taken initiative to impart skill development training to workers as per the requirement of MSME units under '*Utkarsh Bangla*'. Further, young people are also being trained in a manner so that they can get employment in the respective fields after successful completion of the training.

***Focus on Export:*** Micro, small and medium enterprises share a significant contribution to the export of West Bengal. To facilitate interaction between international buyers of different countries and existing & potential exporters of the state through international expo, buyer-seller meet etc. round the year, the department has initiated to develop a virtual platform (Export Facilitation Portal). Besides this, setting up an Export Facilitation Centre for Gems & Jewellery has also been planned.

***Exploring possibility for utilization of Kans Grass (Kashphool):*** As desired by the state government, the department has taken initiative to undertake intensive research on natural fibre like Nettle, Flax & Kans Grass for exploring the possibilities for making good quality yarn & bye products for commercial use.

There are several other initiatives that are either being taken or to be taken for accelerated growth of MSMEs- Construction of infrastructure (CFC/ Yarn Bank/ Design Centre/ Work shed/ Link road etc) for creating a better MSME Eco system that would facilitate creation of more employment opportunity in the state; Cluster development with emphasis on agro based clusters for promoting rural entrepreneurship; Development of industrial parks in districts; Facilitation and support for setting up parks under SAIP scheme; Utilisation of vacant stalls/ space of Karmatirtha/ Krishak Bazaar focusing by garmenting clusters/ SHGs/ cooperatives besides artisans and weavers; Infrastructure development for handloom weavers- work shed, link road etc; Mega handloom Cluster development in Nadia and Purba Bardhaman; Development of Tasar Silk Industry at Tantipra, Birbhum; GI tagging for potential products/ crafts of different regions.

## *Tourism*

### **5.12 Introduction**

West Bengal is a State rich in resources that can be leveraged for tourism. As per the State Tourism Policy, this department focuses on these assets to proactively develop different tourism destinations/products which accorded priority to Nature-based Tourism, Cultural Tourism, Religious Tourism and Contemporary Tourism.

### **5.13 Achievement during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)**

**Projects Completed/ Almost Completed-** Circuit tourism for development of Kachua and Chakla Loknath Ashram, North 24 Parganas; Development of Malbazar Tourist Lodge, Jalpaiguri; Construction of 15 no. of wooden cottages/ chalets etc. at 'Bhorer Alo', Gajoldoba, Jalpaiguri; Construction of pre-fabricated cottages at Gajoldoba, Jalpaiguri; Improvement of the water storage, tagging bundh, storm water pump house etc. at Gajoldoba; Renovation of Larika Holiday Inn, Digha, Purba Medinipur; Development of Jagannath Temple, Radhaballav Temple etc. at Serampore, Hooghly; Renovation of Mainak Tourist Lodges, Darjeeling; Renovation of Murti Tourist Lodge, Jalpaiguri; Renovation of Jhargram Tourist Lodge, Jhargram; Renovation of Gangasagar Tourist Lodge, South 24 Parganas; Renovation of Berhampore Tourist Lodge, Murshidabad; Renovation of Tarakeswar Tourist Lodge, Hooghly; Development & beautification of birth place of Sahid Khudiram Bose, Paschim Medinipur; Construction of necessary protective works, widening & strengthening of campus road etc. at Ramkrishna Math, Naora, Ghatakpukur, South 24 Parganas; Renovation of Pathik Motel, Durgapur, Paschim Bardhaman; Modernization of kitchen for different Tourist Lodge, WBTDCL; Construction of Baul Academy, Birbhum; Development of Kankalitala Temple (Phase – II), Birbhum; Beautification of Kankalitala Satipith at Birbhum; Construction of Banga Bhukti (Bhasa Soudha), Purulia etc.

**Other ongoing Projects:** Different projects in Ramkrishna Math, Antpur, Hooghly; Repair and restoration works for the damages of Rupmanajari Tourism Property caused by super cyclone AMPHAN; Renovation of Maithon Tourist lodges, Paschim Bardhaman; Development of Sri Sri Matri Mandir, Joyrambati, Bankura; Construction of Tourist Lodge at Chandannagar, Hooghly; Proposed tourist complex at Rangabitan-2, Bolpur, Birbhum; Construction of memorial & museum at Pichhabani, Contai-I Block, Purba Medinipur; Development of Gangani Tourism Project, Paschim Medinipur; Annatasari Omkarnath Smiti Soudha, Mahamilan Math, Kolkata; Orchid Park at 'Bhorer Alo', Gajoldoba, Jalpaguri; Construction of road at proposed market complex, Gajoldoba; Construction of supply of poontoon works at Shankarpur at sluich & Neerakali, Purba Medinipur; Construction of Baul Bitan, Birbhum; Construction of Tara Bitan, Birbhum; Development of Nandakeshwari Satipith, Birbhum; Development of Tourist Complex, Sabuj Dweep, Hooghly; Renovation of Pirtala Mazar compound, South 24 Parganas etc.

### ***5.14 Best practices of the Department***

***Paryatan Sahayata Prakalpa:*** It is a pioneering scheme of financial support to the stakeholders in tourism and hospitality industry by providing working capital loan from banks and by according loan interest subvention to the extent of 50% of the interest for first year subject to maximum 4% of total loan amount.

***Home Stay Development:*** Tourism Department has introduced West Bengal Home Stay Policy 2017, amended in 2019 by delegating authority to the district administration thereby decentralizing the procedure. An amount up to Rs. 1.5 lakh is provided as incentive to the registered home stay owners in three equal instalments. Since introduction of the policy up to 31.12.2021, a total of 588 numbers of homestays have been registered.

***West Bengal Incentive Scheme 2021:*** A revised incentive scheme for promotion of tourism in the state was introduced on February 2021 called "The West Bengal Incentive Scheme 2021" wherein necessary amendments were made to simplify the definitions of Tourism Units and remove certain bottlenecks.

***Recognition of Tourism Service Providers of West Bengal:*** To increase the credibility of the stakeholders the department revised the guidelines under Rules for Voluntary Recognition of Tour and Travel Operators, wherein stakeholders under various categories have been duly classified as per the prevailing international/ national standards. Renewal process has also been simplified and the period extended to 5 years.

***Grant for Tourism Infrastructure Development:*** There are several NGOs in West Bengal which directly influence tourism sector of the state. In 2020-21 department has decided to provide grant for infrastructural support to such NGOs in order to develop overall tourism infrastructure of the state.

***SOP for Tourism and Hospitality Sector in post covid situation:*** In order to cope with the situation arising in the wake of pandemic this department has designed detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for use in the tourism/ hospitality Industry.

***West Bengal Tourist Guide (WBTG) Certification Scheme:*** In view of the state's tourism potential, a Tourist Guide Certification Scheme has been initiated for the first time where certification, recognition and training for the new tourist guides and veteran tourist guides will be provided. There will be three type of courses, West Bengal Tourist Guide Basic course, Recognition of prior Learning Course & West Bengal Tourist Guide Advance course.

***Certification of Trekking routes by Himalayan Mountaineering Institute:*** The Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling has certified 88 trekking routes in the districts of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Alipurduar and Jalpaiguri in 2021. This has opened a chance of exploring well known/ rare trek routes. It is expected to lead to significant employment generation and boost the credibility of trekking destination in Himalayan Region. The department had also published a guidebook on these trek routes of North Bengal named "Trails of Discovery" to boost the bright prospect of adventure tourism in the state.

**Aahoran, State Institute of Hospitality Management, Durgapur:** 'Aahoran' is first ever state owned hospitality management institute. Its student intake capacity is enhanced from 60 to 180.

**Upgradation of Tourism Properties:** The project of comprehensive infrastructure development of almost all WBTDCL properties is at its final stage. In 2020-21 Tourism Department has upgraded 478 rooms.

**Purulia Tourism Development Council:** Purulia Tourism Development Council (PTDC) is formed in order to promote Purulia as one of the major tourism destinations in West Bengal and to develop overall tourism infrastructure and facilities in the district. It will also address the major gaps, if any, and related issues and encourage new tourism circuits/ initiatives in the district.

**Promotion of rich Folk Genres:** Tourism Department introduced display of the rich folk genres of Bengal through cultural cum folk programmes by **Lok Prasara Prakalpa** artistes in the year 2020 in collaboration with Information & Cultural Affairs Department in fourteen (14) of its tourism properties. Upon receiving appreciation it is now expanding to rest of the properties. The department has already identified places of craft demonstrations in its properties, designed possible visit to nearby art & craft villages setting up a corner with local products including handicrafts.

**Bengal Himalayan Carnival:** First of its kind, a three-day 'Bengal Himalayan Carnival' was held in Darjeeling, Kalimpong, and Gajoldoba in Jalpaiguri from 5th-7th February, 2021, with an effort to boost the state's tourism industry in the wake of the covid pandemic.

**North Bengal Bird Festival, 2021:** The North Bengal Bird Festival is organized every year in the mid of February at Gajoldoba Bird Sanctuary or 'Pakhibitan' and Dinabandhu Mancha, Siliguri. The idea behind this festival is to create awareness about the potential of Bird Tourism in North Bengal. **Pakhibitan** at Gajoldoba in Jalpaiguri is a declared wildlife sanctuary in this region.

**Kolkata Christmas Festival – 2021:** Tourism Department has organised 'Kolkata Christmas Festival', 2021 in and around Park Street Kolkata in 11<sup>th</sup> year in a row following all covid protocols.

**Development of Religious Tourism:** Tourism Department has undertaken several steps to identify religious circuits for promoting religious tourism across the state. Several important religious spots like Mahesh, Hoogly, Karabala Math, Eid Gahaa, Bura Pirbaba Mazar Sharif in Paschim Medinipur, Bakresswar, Jaydev Kenduli, Kankalital, Fullara temple, Nalhateswari in Birbhum, Jayrambati in Bankura, Devi Chowdhurani temple, Bhramri devi temple in Jalpaiguri have been developed.

**Online Services under Ease of Doing Business:** The department introduced two online services notified under West Bengal Right to Public Service Act, 2013 under the Ease of Doing Business.

- i. Grant of Incentives to hotels under West Bengal Incentive Scheme, 2015
- ii. Voluntary Recognition of Tour Operators and its renewal.

**Social Media Reach:** In the last one year, over 150 contents have been uploaded on social media platform which has reached over 3 crore people. The total number of user engagements and views achieved by the Tourism Department is one of the highest among all the states.

***Skoch Gold Award, 2021:*** In 2021, Tourism Department, Government of West Bengal has been conferred with the prestigious SKOCH GOLD award under the 'Tourism and Culture' category for transformational performance during covid pandemic

### ***5.15 New Initiatives Undertaken/ to be Undertaken***

Restoration of associated work of Devi Chowdhurani Temple, Jalpaiguri; Development and beautification of Fullara Mandir Campus, Lavpur, Birbhum; Development and beautification of Nalateswari Temple, Nalhati, Birbhum; Repair of Guest House at Samudragarh, Purba Bardhaman; Construction of bathing ghat and allied work at MAYAPUR, Nadia; New construction & renovation of Gangasagar Tourist Lodge, South 24 Parganas; Balance work of Dighali Tourism Property II (Phase-II), Purba Medinipur; Renovation of Dinantey Tourism Property at Raigunj, Uttar Dinajpur (Phase I); Renovation of Bakreswar Tourist Lodge (Cottage-10 in number), Birbhum; Renovation and upgradation of existing Piyali Tourist Resort at Kella, Piyali; Dismantling and reconstruction of Kitchen and other repair work at Meghbalika Tourism Property (Earlier Darjeeling TL); Retrofitting, strengthening, renovation and repair of Morgan House, Kalimpong; Proposed 5 twin cottages at Motijheel Eco Park, Murshidabad; Retrofitting and other allied works at Hill Top Tourism Property, Kalimpong; Lake view Resort at Mirik, Darjeeling; Supply & installation of furniture at Chandannagore Tourism Property, Hoogly; Improvement of Tilottama Tourism Property, Lataguri, Jalpaiguri; Supply & installation of furniture at Baul Academy, Birbhum; Supply & installation of furniture at Bohor Tourism Property, Murshidabad; Supply & installation of furniture at Tara Bitan Tourism Property, Birbhum.





Economic Review 2021-22

Chapter

6

## Development & Social Welfare

Panchayats & Rural Development

North Bengal Development

Paschimanchal Unnayan Affairs

Sundarban Affairs

Urban Development and Municipal Affairs

Cooperation

Self Help Group and Self Employment

Backward Classes Welfare

Tribal Development

Women & Child Development and Social Welfare

Minority Affairs



## *Panchayats & Rural Development*

### *6.1 Introduction*

Panchayats & Rural Development Department is entrusted with the implementation of various Rural Development Schemes of the State Government along with strengthening the three tiers of panchayats. The Department undertakes various development works.

### *6.2 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)*

**100 Days' Work (MGNREGA):** West Bengal stands first position in the whole country in 100 days' work. More focus is on Individual Beneficiaries Scheme, involvement of Self-Help Groups, Convergence with other line departments, nursery works etc. to create effective assets. For completion of incomplete works, construction of anganwadi centers, rural hats etc. will be given priority.

**Banglar Awas Yojana:** West Bengal has completed the highest number of houses in India. Since 2016-17, more than 34,57,163 houses have been constructed in the Rural Housing Scheme.

**Jai Bangla:** Jai Bangla Scheme was introduced in FY 2020-21 under which monthly pension for each beneficiary had been raised to Rs. 1000 per month which remains the same for the current FY 2021-22. One time assistance of Rs. 40,000/- is given to the eligible family member of a deceased bread earner within age group of 18-60 years belonging to BPL family.

**Economic Development & Income Enhancement Projects:** Three Economic Development & Income Enhancement Projects were approved last year. All these projects are ongoing. These projects are - Establishment of "Ananda"- an Eco-Tourism Hub at Gourikone under Baropatia Notunbos Gram Panchayat, Sadar Block of Jalpaiguri District; Augmentation in the cropping pattern with the help of the River Lifting Irrigation (RLI) facility in Bahutali Gram Panchayat of Murshidabad district and Establishment of production and marketing unit in Patharpara Gram Panchayat of Paschim Medinipur District.

In the currency FY 2021-22, Economic Development & Income Enhancement Projects have been approved. These projects are - Tourism at Nirala Hot Spring at Paniphala village under Panchara GP in Paschim Bardhaman; Integrated approach for economic development of the rural people of Sundarban Delta Region under Digambarpur GP in South 24-Parganas; Construction of Eco-Friendly Hub under Petla GP in Cooch Behar; Enhancement of livelihood and cottage industry of Bonpatna Village under Khelar GP in Paschim Medinipur. In FY 2021-22, repair of gram panchayat building has been approved for twenty Gram Panchayats under RGSA.

**Innovative Project:** A portal viz 'Banglar Para Baithak Portal' and an Android Mobile Application on it for digitization of primary data collected from different para baithaks (neighbourhood level meeting) has been developed to reflect the Local Human Development Indices in the process of GPDP.

**National Panchayat Awards (NPA):** National Panchayat Awards are conferred to the best performing Panchayats by MoPR. Entire process of assessment and nomination is done online. Last year Birbhum

Zilla Parishad, Salbani Panchayat Samiti, Magrahat-I Panchayat Samiti, Lakhra Gram Panchayat, Bidhannagar-II Gram Panchayat, Karanjali Gram Panchayat, Goura Gram Panchayat, Purba Kanthalbari Gram Panchayat, Amsole Gram Panchayat, Sitahati Gram Panchayat & Birpara-I Gram Panchayat were awarded with different categories of awards under NPA-2021.

***Anandadhara: West Bengal State Rural Livelihood Mission (WBSRLM):*** Anandadhara was launched by Hon'ble Chief Minister on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 with its focus on poverty eradication through formation and strengthening of women Self Help Groups (SHGs) and their Federations in improvement in their livelihoods on a sustainable basis. In Anadadhara, fund is being disbursed as Community Investment Fund (CIF) for lending to SHGs. Under convergence initiatives for various livelihood initiatives, SHG federations are engaged in supply of school uniforms, Mid-Day Meal cooked diet to the government hospitals. In the current financial year, Saras Mela was organized at Kolkata. Anandadhara also facilitates the participation of the artisan SHG members in Melas across the country to showcase, promote and sell their products. An initiative for creating awareness on land related matters e.g. land rights, importance of land documents, property inheritance by women, etc. was initiated by Anandadhara. In order to ensure a regular sales avenue for the SHG producers, Anandadhara has opened Srishtishree, *the Urban Haat for Rural Bengal* with sales counters for all districts at Dhakuria. In addition to creating awareness on various issues related to Food, Nutrition, Health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Child Marriage and Human Trafficking, Control and management of Vector Borne Diseases, SHGs took up COVID 19 Prevention Care and Management.

***Mission Nirmal Bangla:*** After achieving ODF status, the State Government and district authorities have been working relentlessly in a sustained manner for maintaining ODF status and achieving a clean environment in rural West Bengal. In the FY 2020-21 and 2021-22 (as on Nov, 2021), 331 Gram Panchayats has prepared DPR on Solid Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) Project.

## ***North Bengal Development***

### ***6.3 Introduction***

North Bengal Development Department formulates and implements schemes for comprehensive development of the eight districts of North Bengal region which covers sectors like rural as well as urban infrastructure, health, education, renewable energy, agriculture, minor irrigation, flood protection, women and child development, sports, tourism etc.

### ***6.4 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

#### ***Alipurduar***

- Marketing Complex at Durgabari Hathkhola in Ward No. 11 of Alipurduar Municipality.
- Bailey bridge over Barabak River at Khagenhat under Dhanirampur-II G.P. in Falakata Block.
- Community Hall at three places - Bharnobari Tea Estate in Malangi G.P. of Kalchini Block and Mechpara Tea Estate. in Chuapara G.P. of Kalchini Block and Kartika Tea Estate. in Raidak G.P. of Kumargram Block.
- Three hostels in the campus of Alipurduar Govt. Engineering & Management College.

#### ***Cooch Behar***

- Concrete road with drain from main road to Cooch Behar Govt. Engineering College at Harinchawra.
- Maruganj Hat (G+1) in the premises of Maruganj Market including construction of drain under Tufanganj-I Block.
- Bridge over river Dara at Chaodanga at Modak Para under Khapaidanga G.P.
- Hostel Building (G+2) at Ramkrishna Mission within the Cooch Behar Municipality.
- Vocational Training Centre (G+2) at Ramkrishna Math.
- School Building (G+1) of Nishiganj Nishimayee High School at Nishiganj under Mathabhanga-II PS.
- Bus stand at Kalibari Chowpathi in Tufanganj.
- Classroom for Natabari Girl's High School (G+2) at Natabari G.P.
- Road starting from Doldhipi Pucca road to MLA culvert via Meghnarayanir Kuthi Primary School under Dinjata Block.

#### ***Darjeeling***

- Construction of Community Hall along with boundary wall and Public Toilet Block including sanitary & plumbing works at Patharghata G.P. under Matigara Block.
- Construction of proposed out house at Bangdubi forest bungalow campus, repair and renovation of existing forest bungalow at Bangdubi including sanitary and plumbing and construction of proposed boundary wall at Bangdubi forest guest house campus.
- Construction of Community Hall near temple premises, Roopsing Jote, Mamata Nagar, Lower Bagdogra G.P.

- Construction of Foot Bridge over river Hulia from Airport More to Loknath Nagar (60 m road and Rolled Steel Joist (RSJ) Bridge and protection work for few meter stretch).

### ***Jalpaiguri***

- Construction of Composite Bridge over river Karala near Sunitibala Girl's School at Jalpaiguri.
- Construction of Paver Block road from NH-31 at Chell line near Oodlabari Rail Gate to Paschim Damdim PWD road under Mal police station.

### ***Malda***

- Bridge at Imamnagar of Salaidanga G.P. at Gazole block.
- Bridge over Baromasia Khal between Sonapur and Paranpur under Harischandrapur-II and Chanchal-II Block.
- Road from Kakribandha Primary School to Mathurapur Swashanghat via Swastika Cinema Hall in Mathurapur G.P. under Manikchak Block.

### ***Uttar Dinajpur***

- Bridge at Tukrabari over Ratua River, Islampur Block.
- Bridge over Gamari River at Durlavpur under Itahar Block.
- Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) Bored Pile Bridge over river Dolancha at Darivit under Islampur Block.
- RCC Bored Pile Bridge with both side approach road over Nagor River at NimitolaGhat P.S. Raiganj.
- Bridge at Norihat over river Srimati under Itahar P.S.
- RCC Bored Pile Bridge at Panikhuagach Ghat over river Dolancha under Matikunda G.P. in P.S. Islampur.
- RSJ Bridge over river Srimati at Parameshwarbati under Joyhat G.P. of Itahar Block.
- Construction of Bituminous road from Dhamdhol to Shyamganj PMGSY Road via Hematpur Junior High School under Patirajpur G.P. of Itahar Block.
- Paver Block road from Hatipaw L.K.Shil house to Simalia via Basatpur connecting Kanki Goagaon road under Goalpokhar-II Block.
- Bituminous and Paver Block road from Kachakali bazar to Nayabari via Congress Colony under Majhiali G.P. of Chopra Block.
- Paver Block road from NH-31 Ramganj More to Dohra and Dohra More to Panchagachia Village More under Ramganj - II G.P. of Islampur Block.
- Approach road including underpass on both sides of bridge near Kachua High Madrasah over river Gamari under Itahar Block.
- Paver Block road from Baggaon Madrasa to Bochagiri via Gamari, Goti G.P. of Goalpokhar-I Block.

### ***Dakshin Dinajpur***

- Black Top & Cement Concrete road from Nazirpur Giren Mahato house to near Taraganj metal road under Balurghat Block.
- Pucca road from Masjid More to Balihara, Saidpur GP under Harirampur Block.
- Internal road with Concrete Paver Block including Culvert & Car Parking area within the Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya at Majhian Campus.
- R.C.C Box Bridge (5.00m X 5.00m) X 8 numbers at Kuranikum near Mandapara (Connecting of Kardaha Bridge over Punarbhaba River).
- RSJ Bridge over Kashi khari at Pulinda under Gangarampur P.S. and over Paschim Nimpur Khari with approach road in Tapan Block and RSJ Composite Bridge over Kashi khari on the route of Sree Rampur to Krishnabati under Tapan Block.

Apart from these, 85 numbers of various major schemes are running in various districts of North Bengal.

### ***Important steps taken for implementation of policies***

Decision in principle was taken to construct new rural connectivity by means of constructing all weather roads in rural areas, bridges, improvement of existing roads for better rural connectivity, construction for improvement of rural hat, passenger shed, better infrastructure for higher and technical education, and bus and truck terminuses in different districts of North Bengal.

### ***6.5 New Initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken***

Top most priority would be given to the construction of bridges in the rural areas under jurisdiction of North Bengal Development Department to fill up critical gaps for the larger interest of people in that region. Infrastructure Development, if deemed fit by the public representatives would be taken up on the basis of public needs in all districts of North Bengal.

## ***Paschimanchal Unnayan Affairs***

### ***6.6 Introduction***

The primary aim of this Department is to identify and fill up critical gaps creating hindrance to integrated development of the red laterite zone on the western part of the State. The jurisdiction of this Department comprises 74 number of selected blocks, of which 34 Jungle Mahal Action Plan (JAP) Blocks, considered as economically backward blocks, covering 7 districts of Bankura, Birbhum, Purulia, Purba Bardhaman, Paschim Bardhaman, Paschim Medinipur and Jhargram.

### ***6.7 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

Up to the month of December, 2021 this department has cleared a large number of major legacy works on different sectors like - Construction of Road, Bridges & Culverts; Construction of School Buildings; ICDS Centre & Library Buildings; Supply of Drinking Water; Installation of Solar light; Construction of Community Hall Buildings etc.; Digging of Ponds for water storage; Construction of Drain etc.

In order to develop and preserve the traditional culture of the backward communities of the Paschimanchal region, Jungle Mahal Utsav is organised every year with great enthusiasm and mass participation.

### ***6.8 New Initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken***

This Department has received several schemes on Poultry Development programme work. West Bengal Live Stock Development Corporation Limited under the ARD Department will act as implementing agency of the projects. Two projects will be set up, one at Gobindapur in Purulia district and another at Salboni in Paschim Medinipur district.



## ***Sundarban Affairs***

### ***6.9 Introduction***

The Government aims to serve the people residing in the Sundarban areas and simultaneously trying to protect this unique yet fragile environmental wonder of the world and focus on improving connectivity by constructing roads, bridges/culverts, jetties, social infrastructure, the forest/green cover and livelihood by providing inputs to select group of small and marginal farmers and fishermen of the area.

### ***6.10 Major Activities***

The plan proposals and the work programme of the Department of Sundarban Affairs are prepared in such a way that maximum benefit reaches out to the poorest of the poor of the society. The priority areas under the plan programme are:

- Infrastructure development for the improvement of transport and communication network including landing facility in island areas;
- Enhancement of production and increasing cropping intensity in agriculture sector;
- Increase in production of fish initiating modern scientific process for pisciculture and by the way of capacity building of marginal fish farmers through training;
- Protecting soil erosion and to check wave action through regeneration of mangroves in the 'charlands' and other social forestry plantation;
- Enhancement of social support service programmes by giving assistance for improvement of infrastructure for educational institution, drinking water supply etc.;
- Awareness programmes for conservation and development of the sensitive ecology of Sundarbans.

### ***6.11 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

#### ***Connectivity***

- 131.91 km road, out of which 63.97 km. is Brick Paved Road; 56.65 km. is Concrete Road and 11.29 km. is Bituminous Road, has been completed during the financial year (up to December, 2021).
- 2 Bridges has been completed and works of another 15 Bridges are in progress.
- 1 Jetty has been completed.

Apart from this, the department has also accorded approval for 306 schemes of different types of roads along with other civil works. In addition, repair and restoration works of damages caused by 'Yaas' cyclone has also been sanctioned by the Department.

#### ***Fishery & Social Forestry Programme***

- Distribution work of IMC Fingerlings and Fish Feed to 30,000 beneficiaries of Sundarban region is going on. As on 31.12.2021, 10,694 beneficiaries have been benefitted under this programme.
- Creation of Mangrove and Jhaw Plantation in 560 hectare (Mangrove - 440 hectare, Jhaw – 120 hectare) has been completed in Sundarban region.

**Grants-in-aid to Educational Institutions:** Financial assistance has been provided to 35 different institutions including community centres in Sundarban region.

### ***6.12 Special Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

The Sundarban Affairs Department in its endeavor towards development of infrastructure in the remote and inaccessible region of Sundarban has completed construction of RCC Bridge over Ghiyabati Khal connecting Ukiler Hat of Mouza Budhakhali and Rajnagar at GP Budhakhali, Block Namkhana and construction of another RCC Bridge at Baidyapara over Kalnagini Branch tidal Canal at GP Srinagar and Bapuji, Block Kakdwip.

### ***6.13 New Initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken***

Initiatives will be taken up for completion of construction work of 85.85 km (approx.) Brick Paved Road, 84.56 km (approx.) Concrete Road and 11.70 km (approx.) Bituminous Road in this area.

***Construction work of the following RCC bridges are going on:***

#### ***South-24 Parganas District***

Bridge at Nalgora Bazar over river Moni at Nalgora GP connecting Joynagar-II and Mathurapur-II Block; Bridge over river Sundarika-Dwarika in Namkhana Block; Bridge over wing Kalnagini river canal at Ghatihara connecting Pratapadityanagar and Bapuji GP of Kakdwip Block; Bridge over Kalnagini Branch Canal near Nrisingha Ashram of Swami Vivekananda and Sri Sri Ramkrishna GP of Kakdwip Block; Bridge over Sonatikari Khal at Dhakirmukh connecting Block Joynagar-II and Mathurapur-II; Bridge over river Kalnagini connecting west side of Taktipur Mouza of Bapuji GP and east side of Manmathapur Mouza of Rabindra GP of Kakdwip Block; Bridge near Moukhali Kheyaghat over Matla river connecting Matla-I GP of Canning-I Block and Tambuldaha-I GP of Canning-II Block; Bridge over river Bidya connecting Godkhali of Basanti Block to Gosaba Bazar of Gosaba Block; Bridge over Kurulia Khal connecting Kamarhat of Mouza Shibkalinagar, GP Madhusudhanpur, Block Kakdwip; Bridge at Simabandh of Mouza Fatikpur and Ganeshpur, GP Budhakhali, Block Namkhana; Bridge (Ganga Setu) over Gobadia Branch canal at GP Digambarpur, Block Patharpratima; Bridge over river Piyali at Dhoshat connecting Joynagar-I and Canning-I Block.

#### ***North-24 Parganas District***

Bridge over river Bidyadhari at Boalghata in Haroa Block; Bridge over Bali -Boalia River in Sandeshkhali-II Block; Bridge over river Gomoti near Hemnagar Coastal Police Station at Jogeshganj GP of Hingalgunj Block.

## ***Urban Development and Municipal Affairs***

### ***6.14 Introduction***

The Urban Development Department has been merged with the Municipal Affairs Department to form Urban Development and Municipal Affairs (UD&MA) Department.

### ***6.15 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

- The main focus of this Department during 2021-22 is to address environment related issues. Installation of Sewerage Treatment Plants (STPs), air quality monitoring stations and solid waste management plants are being set up across the state.
- Development of urban green space, conservation of water bodies, installation of energy efficient street luminaries are some of the environment friendly initiatives of this department.
- The Department has developed huge water supply network across the urban areas of the state.

### ***6.16 Special achievements during Financial Year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

- Development and renovation of Kalighat Temple Complex has already been taken up and work is in progress.
- Water supply project at Coochbehar.
- Environment friendly Nature Park at Lataguri for SJDA.
- Construction of 25 MGD Water Treatment plant at Garden Reach Water Works.
- Construction of additional 20 MGD Water Treatment Plant at Jai Hind Jal Prakalpa at Dhapa.
- Execution of all possible schemes received during campaigns of 'Paray Samadhan'.
- Survey work for Howrah Comprehensive drainage project has been started with the help of most modern technology.
- **MAA Canteen:** State Government has launched a Scheme namely 'MAA Canteen' for providing cooked quality meal to the poor and needy citizen of the State to be served by Urban Local Bodies in common kitchens with the contribution of Rs. 5/- by the beneficiaries since 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2021. To provide subsidized, nutritious meals to the needy section of the society 'Maa' canteen is running in all the ULBs at 231 centres and on an average 48000 persons are getting meals per day.
- Mohabani Development Authority has been constituted to promote tourism, agri-based industries within the planning area.
- **e-Governance initiatives**
  - Integrated State-wide Geographical Information System and Citizens' Portal
  - Online Single Window System for issuance of Building Plan Approval by the ULBs(e-Grihanaksha)
  - Issuance of Signage License for Advertisement including Renewal of Signage License for Advertisement in Municipal Areas (<http://signage.silpasathi.in/asp/signin.aspx>)
  - Permission for Shooting of Movies in Municipal Corporation Areas (<https://wurbanservices.org>)

- ***Sustainable Industrial Development Projects***

***Sector VI Industrial Township:*** As a part of the sustainable development in the state of West Bengal, all leather industries in Kolkata are being relocated to a new leather complex. The major motivation behind the relocation is the prevention of environmental pollution caused by more than 500 tanners operating in 3 tanner clusters in Kolkata. The new area assigned to the leather industries, the so called Calcutta Leather complex within Sector VI Industrial Township is being developed exclusively for setting of all types leather manufacturing activities.

Apart from infrastructural development which is being done for last couple of years, during this year, highest importance has been given on environmental improvement plan by planning to set up ***Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CEPT), secured land fill (SLF)***, environmental monitoring system and fire and emergency management system.

***Environment Improvement Programme***

***Construction, Rejuvenation, Augmentation of Sewerage treatment plant (STP) for liquid waste management***

- ***Fully Operational STPs:*** Bhatpara (60 MLD), Kalyani (20 MLD), Gayeshpur, Bugde Budge (60 MLD), Barrackpore STP(24 MLD), Halisahar STP(16 MLD)
- ***STPs under Rejuvenation:*** Rejuvenation of existing 15 STPs with 257 MLD capacity within North 24 Parganas, Hooghly, Howrah districts
- ***Under Construction STPs:*** Nabadwip (10 MLD), Kanchrapara (18 MLD), Beharampur (3.5 MLD ), Jangipur STP(13 MLD)
- ***Upcoming Projects:*** Ranaghat (12 MLD), Maheshtala (35 MLD), Hooghly, Chinsurah (26 MLD), New Barrackpore (35 MLD)

***Solid Waste Management – Major Steps taken so far***

- Scientific management of Municipal Solid Waste across all Wards under all Urban Local Bodies including the Ganga Towns.
- Lakhs of two-coloured Bins have been delivered to the households for segregation of bio-degradable and non-bio-degradable waste.
- Engaging members of the women Self Help Groups (SHGs) as '**Nirmal Sathis**' for community mobilization reaching out to every household to sensitise citizens. Nirmal Sathis as foot soldiers are on the ground. 97% of the total house to house collection of municipal solid waste has been ensured across all ULBs. Nirmal Bandhus (Conservancy Workers) are engaged to reach the door steps of almost 58 lakh households.
- Bio-mining and bio-remediation of the legacy waste at 78 dump sites are in progress for land reclamation.

### ***6.17 New initiative undertaken/ to be undertaken***

- 75% coverage of premises with piped water supply,
- 100% coverage of ULBs with scientific disposal plan of fresh waste,
- 40 % coverage of ULBs with scientific disposal plan of liquid waste ,
- Finalization of DPR for comprehensive drainage master plan for Howrah Municipal Corporation,
- Periodical cleaning of non-irrigation canals for storm water drainage,
- Initiative for ULB based DPR preparation for comprehensive drainage project,
- Further development of industrial infrastructure within planning area,
- Infrastructural development in newly constituted planning areas like, Mohabani, Gajaldoba and Birsingha,
- Preparation of water balance plan for all the ULBs and accordingly planning for further augmentation of water supply projects,
- Revamping of existing water bodies within ULBs to facilitate rain water harvesting,
- Initiative for emergency arrangement for storm water drainage in case of excessive rain fall,
- Continuation of 'Maa' canteen for providing meals to the poorer section of society,
- Execution of allowable schemes received during different phases of 'Paray Samadhan'
- Further strengthening of health infrastructure for preventive, curative and community health services at ULB level,
- Highest effort for prevention of vector borne diseases,
- Execution of heritage development plan in Coochbehar and Nabadwip Municipality,
- Water supply projects for uncovered ULBs

### ***Upcoming Township***

- This Department has taken up the works to develop a smart township- Samriddhi Theme Township over an area of 54 acre (Approximate) beside Barrackpore - Kalyani Expressway, Kalyani, Nadia.
- Further expansion of citizen-centric e-services,
- Development of road network, water supply network and modern street lighting arrangement within Sector-VI Industrial Township Authority.

## *Cooperation*

### ***6.18 Introduction***

Cooperatives are recognized worldwide as most powerful socially equitable business organization founded upon strong principle of democracy and equality. Through a clientele of more than 81 lakh members in more than 29,000 cooperative societies, this sector is playing a commendable role in the area of agriculture, marketing, consumers, housing, service sector, etc.

### ***6.19 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

- Providing assistance for offsetting Imbalances in Primary Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (PCARDB).
- Providing assistance for Revival of Urban Cooperative Banks (UCB).
- Providing assistance for Universal Membership.
- Providing assistance to Agricultural Marketing Societies (Primary) and Apex Marketing Societies.
- Conducting of audit of Cooperative Societies.
- Construction of Samabay Bhavan.
- Development of Apex Consumer Cooperative, Housing Cooperatives, Labour Cooperatives, Processing Cooperatives, Unemployed Engineers' Cooperatives, Urban Consumers' Cooperatives, Urban Credit Cooperatives and Women Credit Cooperatives.
- Direction & Administration of State Plan Schemes and conducting Cooperative Education & Training.
- Investment in Shares - National Rural Credit (Long Term Operations) [NRC (LTO)].
- Maintenance of Special Bad Debt Reserve for Central Cooperative Banks (CCB) (Risk Fund) and Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS) (Risk Fund) and Supply of Long Term Credit (Risk Fund).
- Initiatives have been taken for strengthening of CCBs and PACS.
- Training imparted to Self Help Group (SHG) for smooth performance.

### ***6.20 Special Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

- With aim to increase coverage, 42,092 new farmer members have been enrolled into different PACS.
- Crop Loan has been issued to more than 10.54 lakh farmer members.
- Total 12,54,682 number of RuPay Kisan Cards have been issued till 30-12-2021.
- 2983 new SHGs have been formed raising the cumulative number of SHGs to 2,29,363.
- 3,86,769 number of SHG Members of 48,003 SHGs have been Credit Linked during the period raising the cumulative number to 16,54,465 Credit-linked members of 1,99,793 Credit-linked SHGs.
- Loan has been issued to SHG members and beneficiaries under ***Karma Sathi Prakalpa***.
- Students have been sanctioned loan under Student Credit Card scheme.

- Initiative has been taken to establish Customer Service Points (CSP) in 2631 PACS with an aim to provide financial services to the rural people particularly in the unbanked areas of the State. So far, 2342 numbers of PACS have been assisted for the purpose.
- Farm Machinery Hubs (Custom Hiring Centre) are being set up in different cooperative societies to increase agricultural yield by farm mechanisation. For the purpose, 379 cooperative societies have been assisted.
- Under RKVY –
  - Construction of 45 Rural Storage Godown having capacity of 4500 MT has been completed during current financial year.
  - Construction of another 20 Rural Storage Godown having capacity of 2000 MT is expected to be completed during current financial year.
  - Fund has been sanctioned during current financial year for setting up of Farm Machinery Hub in 73 cooperative societies.
- Under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) / Warehouse Infrastructure Fund (WIF) –
  - Out of 23 Storage Godowns, each having capacity of 10,000 MT, construction of 11 Godowns has been completed during current financial year.
  - Construction of 25 Godowns having total capacity of 51,000 MT is to be completed during next financial year.
  - Construction of 18 Godowns, each having capacity of 1000 MT and 19 Seed Processing Units is to be completed during next financial year.

### ***6.21 Best Practices***

- Optimal use of online platforms for Service Delivery, Review Meeting, Training, etc. during Covid-19.
- Implementation of both 24x7 Customer Care Centre and Positive Pay system.
- Upgradation of Structured Financial Messaging System (SFMS) Platform to v6.3.
- Introduction of Fixed Asset Module in Core Banking Solution (CBS), Goods and Services Tax (GST) Module and Extended Cheque Truncation System at all branches of the Bank.
- Service delivery in untouched / unbanked areas.
- Awareness generation of women about their financial independency.
- Promotion of the inner skills of the rural artisans.

### ***6.22 New Initiatives Undertaken/ To Be Undertaken.***

#### ***Short Term Cooperative Credit Structure (STCCS):***

- Installation of a new SFMS Data Recovery site at Siliguri (Upcoming).
- Introduced Direct Beneficiary Transfer (DBT) facility for ***Krishak Bandhu*** Scheme through National Automated Clearing House (NACH) for bulk transactions.

- Installation process of Aadhaar Data Vault under Aadhaar Act and Regulations, 2016 for providing Aadhaar Authentication Services as Authentication User Agency (AUA) / KYC User Agency (KUA) is at the final stage.

***Long Term Cooperative Credit Structure (LTCCS):***

- Various training programmes (awareness programmes & skill development programmes) conducted.
- Maintaining continuous liaison across all tiers of LTCCS and with other sectors.
- Motivating the members to work together and emphasising on financial literacy through wide publicity.
- Making aware the women about various schemes of the Govt. for their development.
- Helping the SHGs in marketing of their products.

***Cooperative Marketing Structure:***

- Introduction of cloud based Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Application Software for business augmentation and hassle-free Management Information Systems (MIS) at BENFED.



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

### ***6.23 Introduction***

The Department is mandated to coordinate activities of different stakeholder Departments forming Self Help Groups, especially by the women. The department also implements specific programmes for providing livelihood generation to the SHG members and unemployed youths, provide credit linkages, provide interest subvention and provide coverage on accidents.

### ***6.24 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

- ***West Bengal Swarajgar Sahayak Prokolpo (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 meager 2 per cent.
- SHGs and unemployed youths could be provided with livelihood generation by taking up Micro Projects in convergence with MGNREGS and Fishery/ Animal Resources Development/ Horticulture/ Agriculture. During FY 2021-22, more than 1871 SHGs, 1742 entrepreneurs have been provided benefit through 327 projects. This includes supply of utensils and equipment to more than 35 Canteens operated by SHGs, where further expenditure for construction of kitchen sheds have already been approved.
- To provide market linkage to the SHGs and Entrepreneurs, 22 District/ Sub District level Sabala Melas and a ***State Sabala Mela*** are being taken up.
- ***Samaj Sathi***: The scheme 'Samaj Sathi' provides accidental benefit support to the members of SHGs and their families.

### ***6.25 New initiatives to be undertaken***

- Skill Development Training.
- Construction of smaller infrastructures like Common Facility Centre, Marketing Outlets, Canteens to promote economic activities of Self Help Groups.
- SVSKP with an outlay and Micro Projects.

## ***Backward Classes Welfare***

### ***6.26 Introduction***

Department is mandated to work for a holistic development of the people of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the State. Despite a very hard and trying time, arising out of pandemic situation, the Department has been able to serve a sizable number of beneficiaries.

### ***6.27 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

***Sikshashree:*** To achieve the aim of providing opportunities for education to all SC and ST students right from Class V, totally state funded “Sikshashree” Scholarship is being disbursed to the students of Class-V-VIII. In the current fiscal (up to December, 2021), this scholarship was disbursed to more than 9,65,710 SC students of Class V-VIII. Presently the annual rate of scholarship is Rs 800/-.

In addition, around 4,87,759 SC and 3,29,468 OBC students have been awarded Pre (IX-X) and Post Matric (XI-Ph.D level) scholarships. To ensure transparency, scholarships are disbursed through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode straight to the Bank Account of individual beneficiary.

***Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Residential School:*** Completed constructions of 2 numbers of “Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Residential School” in Jalpaiguri & North 24 Parganas are being handed over to the Department for their operation. Ambedkar Centre for Excellence (ACE) at Bongaon in North 24 Parganas is also almost complete.

***Setting up of Hostels:*** To provide quality education, the Department has been constructing Hostels in different Districts to accommodate outstation students.

### ***6.28 Special Achievements/ Best Practices during FY 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

- All Sub-divisions are now using online facility for **issuing caste certificates**. During 2021-22 fiscal (up to Dec, 21), more than 35,24,049 (SC-24,01,343, ST-5,17,100 and OBC-6,05,606) SC, ST & OBC Certificates have been issued of which about 13,31,892 certificates have been issued under the ‘**Duare Sarkar**’ initiative during 16.08.21 to 30.09.21.
- ***Toposili Bandhu***, a novel social pension scheme targeting all the 60 years and above persons of SC community, has been initiated, where the beneficiaries receive a monthly pension @ Rs 1000/-. The pension is paid in advance. Around 10.23 lakh persons are getting monthly pension under this scheme up to December, 2021.
- Since 2015-16, eligible students of Government, Government Aided schools and Madrasahs are getting bicycles under “**Sabooj Sathi**” scheme for increased access to high school education. WBSCST & OBC Development & Finance Corporation implements the programme, operating under the BCW Department, who incidentally is the Nodal department for distribution of bi-cycles. Since inception, till December, 2021 around 1.02 crore students so far have received benefit under “**Sabooj Sathi**” scheme.

- This Department focuses in generating self-employment for youths belonging to targeted communities and also imparting skill training and employment linkage.
- During 2021-22, 1440 nos. (SC-1151, ST-289) of aspirants are being provided pre-examination training through 36 centers across the State for JEE/ NEET/ WBJEE-2022.
- For focused development of specific communities a new Development Board, namely ***Nashya Sekh Development Board*** has been constituted.

### ***6.29 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken***

- The Department has introduced user-friendly e-services resulting in quicker delivery of caste certificates, payment of Scholarships & other grants to the students of target groups.
- Cultural Research Institute, the scientific and technical wing of this Department is actively engaged in designing and conducting pro-active Research & Evaluation studies aimed at framing programs & policies for development of the SCs, STs & OBCs as well as for demarcating & effectively bridging the gaps of providing suitable redressal mechanism for grievances, if any, regarding the process of implementation/execution of the said projects.
- Services of the Dhakis (Traditional Drummers) are being taken for popularizing and dissemination of the efforts and initiatives of the Department. This is a major step in extending the cognitive map of the rural populace.

## *Tribal Development*

### *6.30 Introduction*

Tribal Development (TD) Department was created in Nov, 2013 bifurcating from Backward Classes Welfare (BCW) Department vide Notification No. 866-Home dated 28<sup>th</sup> November 2013, for focused attention towards sustainable and holistic development of the 40 ST communities of the State.

### *6.31 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)*

- '*Shikshashree*' scholarship provided to more than 1,81,000 nos. of students of class V-VIII through DBT mode to their own bank account.
- '*Post & Pre Matric Scholarship*' provided to more than 1,27,792 nos. of students through DBT mode to their own bank account.
- Bi-cycle was provided to 39,139 ST beneficiaries under the '*Sabooj Saathi*'.
- Hostel Charges provided to the poor ST students.
- Beneficiaries registered under the *West Bengal Kendu Leaves Collectors Social Security Scheme, 2015*, received one-time assistance on attaining 60 years of age, accidental death, injury, maternity benefit, medical assistance etc.
- Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD) have been granted individual titles of forest land held by them under *Distribution of Patta under Forest Rights Act, 2006*.
- Funds have been allotted for six *Development and Cultural Boards* towards construction of houses, community halls, youth hostels, drinking water sources, holding of cultural festival, etc.
- The Tribal Development Department had been shifted to *Adivasi Bhawan*, at Rajarhat, New Town in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of July, 2021 for accommodating office of TD Department along with community centre, guest house, Tribal Museum and auditorium.
- Tribal Development Department has also constructed *Lepcha Bhawan* at Rajarhat, New Town.
- Total 621.16 qtl Minor Forest Produce (MFP) have been collected under *MFP & MSP Scheme* by the Tribal Forest Produce Gatherers through LAMPS.
- 200 *Jaher Thans* (Place of Worship) have been fenced.

### *6.32 Special achievements/best practices during the FY 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)*

- *Shikshashree*: A new scholarship scheme, '*Shikshashree*' fully funded by the State Government, has been introduced for students from class V to VIII in 2014-15 to arrest drop out of the students at the Secondary Stage.
- *Academic Works*
  - *Translation of School book in Ol Chiki scripts*: Translated books in Santali language (Olchiki scripts) of class XII (Pol. Science, Physical Education, History, Philosophy, and Education) through Santali Academy for the School Education Department.

- **Publication of Compendium of Government Orders and Circulars:** Tribal Development Department has published a Multi-lingual information brochure in English, Bengali, Kurukh and Santhali for maximum outreach of different development schemes of the Department.
- **Protection, Preservation, Promotion and Development of Tribal Language:** Kurukh language has been recognized by the State Government as one of the official languages of the State. A book titled "Kurukh Katha Siksha" in Kurukh Language and another book named "Tolong Siki Parichay" has been published by Cultural Research Institute (CRI) for the Oraon Community. Forest Rights Act-2006 has also been translated in Kurukh language.
- **Jai Johar (ST Old Age Pension):** Rs. 1,000/- per month is provided to the poor ST persons with age of 60 years or above through 'Jai Johar' Old Age Pension Scheme rolled out from 01.04.2020. It is a universal scheme having no quota. In 2021-22, more than 2,78,817 beneficiaries got registered till December, 2021.
- **West Bengal Kendu Leaves Collectors Social Security Scheme, 2015:** Tribal Development Department has introduced Kendu Leave Collectors Social Security Scheme with effect from 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2015 to provide financial assistance for Accidental, Medical and funeral benefits to the poor Kendu Leave Collectors of Paschim Medinipur, Bankura, Purulia and Jhargram. Around 35,000 ST candidates have been registered under the scheme. One-time assistance on attaining 60 years of age, accidental death, injury, maternity benefit, medical assistance are provided to the registered collectors.
- **Creation of Employment Opportunities through Skill Development:** Creating employment opportunities through skill development in various sectors has been accorded special emphasis.
- **Setting up of six Development and Cultural Board:** Six Cultural and Development boards namely, the WB Tamang Development & Cultural Board, WB Sherpa Cultural Board, WB Bhutia Development Board, WB Limbu Development Board, WB Adibasi Development & Cultural Board and WB Mayel Lyang Lepcha Development & Cultural Board have been set up for providing specific needs of the welfare of the Hill Tribes of the State like Lepcha, Sherpa, Tamang, Bhutia, Limbu etc.
- **MFP & MSP Scheme for Tribal Forest Produce Gatherers:** With a view to provide fare deal to the tribal collectors of forest produce, a scheme for Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) has been started. The scheme covers 12 forest produce like Sal Leaves, Sal Seeds, Neem Seeds, Mahua Seeds, Kusumi Lac, Bahera, Amla, Haritaki etc for which tribal collectors are given Minimum support prices through LAMPS or SHG. The scheme also includes up-gradation of local haats and godown.

### **6.33 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken:**

- Payment of *Jai Johar Old Age Pension*.
- Payment of '*Sikhshashree*' Scholarship for ST Day scholars studying in classes V to VIII have been targeted for 2 lakh ST students.
- The scheme providing financial benefits like Maternity Benefit, Accidental Death Benefit, Medical

Benefit, Funeral activities to the poor Kendu Leaves Collectors will continue during 2022-23. Department provides Minimum Support Price (MSP) for ensuring fair prices to the poor ST Forest produce collectors.

- Tribal Development Department have introduced a scheme for JEE & NEET (36 centers), WBCS and IAS Coaching to the ST students of the State.
- 75 '*Jaher Thans*' (Place of Worship for STs) and '*Manjhi Than*' (Auspicious Place for Tribal priests) have been targeted to be protected and developed.
- Traditional Cultural activities like Hul Divas, Tribal One Act Drama Competition, Tea and Tribal Festival, Traditional Tribal Dance Programme, Chhau Festival, Adibasi Gunijan Sambardhana will continue to be held in 2022-23.
- Six development & cultural Boards constituted under this Department for the welfare and development of the Hill Tribes will continue.
- Two new *Eklavya Model Residential Schools* (EMRS), one each at Kalimpong and Bandwan (Purulia) are coming up. DPR for EMRS at Kalimpong is being prepared by PWD and the process of identification of land for EMRS at Bandwan is going on.
- Three Santali Medium Schools are going to be set up at Keshpur, Debra & Ghatal in Paschim Medinipur District. Administrative approval has already been accorded for construction of 4 storied Integrated Tribal School & Hostel Buildings for the Santali Medium School at Keshpur. Setting up of schools in Debra and Ghatal is in the pipeline.
- Tribal Development Department will also continue to establish Capital Assets like Construction of Roads (Critical gap), Culverts, Check dams, Bridges, Additional Class Rooms, Hostels, Toilet Blocks, Community Halls, Drinking Water Sources, Solar Lights, High-Mast Lights etc. in promoting welfare of the ST community of the State in 2022-23.

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

### ***6.34 Introduction***

The Department of Women and Child Development and Social Welfare is responsible for the formulation of policies, schemes and interventions that reduce the vulnerability of marginalized populations in society. Its beneficiaries are women, children and adolescents, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, transgender persons, homeless persons and persons with drug/ alcohol addiction.

### ***6.35 Survival and Development of Children (up to 6 years)***

- Although Anganwadi Centres, run under the ***Anganwadi Services Scheme***, have been closed since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020, supplementary nutrition services to children under 6 years and pregnant and lactating women continued in the form of take-home-rations delivered monthly to their door-steps. In 2021-22, 73.91 lakh children and 15.37 lakh pregnant women and lactating mothers have received this benefit regularly.
- The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) curriculum, normally delivered to children aged 3-6 years at Anganwadi Centres, was also transformed into an innovative home-based ECCE curriculum in 2020. This initiative has revolutionized the manner in which families and young children engage with learning at home. In 2021-22, approximately 27.89 lakh children have been reached through this programme. Additionally all children have been given monthly worksheets and stationery.
- The Home-based ECCE curriculum was also translated into Santhali. Community outreach programmes for behavioural change through jingles and voice-over stories have been introduced.
- Going forward, the Department plans to utilize the ***Duare Sarkar*** camps for demonstrating low-cost nutritious recipes, measuring the height and weight of adolescent girls and nutrition counselling.

### ***6.36 Protection of Minor Children (up to 18 years)***

- Under ***Child Protection Services***, the Department has housed 3,858 children in 19 government-run and 52 NGO-run Child Care Institutions (CCIs) in 2021-22. Of these, 21 homes are for Children with Special Needs.
- Apart from ensuring regular education and health check-ups, 2021-22 has seen an increased focus on the addressing the mental health of CCI residents. A pool of mental health professionals has been created, and all stakeholders in the Child Protection Services system have been given training in dealing with issues of children.
- Skills development for older adolescents residing in CCIs has been addressed in collaboration with other agencies. These include reservation of seats in ITIs and polytechnics run by the Department of Technical Education, Training and Skill Development and in nursing courses in government medical colleges.
- 24 Specialized Adoption Agencies (SAAs) including 3 government run SAAs are operational in the State. Training have resulted in a more streamlined adoption programme, and a structured procedure

designed to ensure that all abandoned, orphaned and surrendered children deserted at delivery points at hospitals reach SAAs safely, reducing the risk of illegal adoption.

- In 2021-22, 207 adoptions have been facilitated, of which 184 were in-country adoptions, and 23 inter-country adoptions. 864 children were placed in sponsorships, of which 678 were preventive and 186 were rehabilitative.
- Destitute children are provided day care at 38 open shelters under the open shelter programme, and residential care and education at 83 homes under the state government's cottage scheme.
- Covid protocols have been strictly implemented at all institutions throughout the year.

### **6.37 Empowerment of Adolescent Girls**

- **Kanyashree Prakalpa:** The state's flagship scheme for the empowerment of adolescent girls (with annual scholarship (K1) of Rs. 1,000/- and one-time grant (K2) of Rs. 25,000/- each) is now in its 9<sup>th</sup> year of implementation, and has covered more than 75 lakh adolescent girls between the ages of 13-19 years up to December, 2021. While Kanyashree's Cash Plus activities were restricted with educational institutions largely being closed, Kanyashree Club members played an active role in awareness generation in communities on health issues, including taking precautions against COVID-19, and against social evils such as child marriage, child abuse and human trafficking.
- Under the **Scheme for Adolescent Girls**, 26,700 out-of-school adolescent girls between the age of 11 and 18 years of age received supplementary nutrition.

### **6.38 Women-centric schemes**

- **Lakshmir Bhandar:** An innovative scheme named 'Lakshmir Bhandar' was launched by the State Government in August, 2021 for providing financial support to all the women in the state. All women aged 25-60 years in West Bengal are entitled to receive the scheme's benefits except for women who are drawing a salary or a pension from the government. While women from SC/ST households are entitled to receive Rs. 1000/- every month, other women are entitled to receive Rs. 500/- per month. The scheme was opened to the public during the *Duare Sarkar* outreach campaign in August-September 2021.
- **Rupashree Prakalpa:** Financial support of Rs. 25,000/- is given to indigent women to cover the expenses of their first marriage, was provided to over 2.11 lakh beneficiaries in 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021).
- For women in difficult circumstances, the Department runs 33 homes under the **Swadhar Greh** scheme with the current resident strength at 828. Under the **Ujjawala** scheme, the Department runs protective homes for trafficking survivors.

**Social Security Pensions (Old Age & Widows):** The social security pensions have been provided at the rate of Rs. 1000/- per month during 2021-22.



**Manabik:** This is a Pension Scheme which provides Rs. 1000/- per month to persons with disability of 40% or more. Funds were disbursed to over 4.85 lakh beneficiaries during 2021-22 (up to December, 2021).

### ***6.39 Schemes for other marginalized sections of society***

- Under the West Bengal Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Rules, 2008, the Department runs tribunals that hear cases of senior citizens who face harassment and eviction by their families.
- The Commissioner of Disabilities works to ensure the rights of disabled persons of West Bengal, and monitors infringements and denial of their rights. In 2021-22, 95 petitions under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 were dealt with virtual hearings.
- For homeless and destitute persons, the Directorate of Vagrancy runs 10 Vagrancy homes in various districts in 2021-22. 38 shelters under the Shelter for Urban Homeless Scheme, a state sponsored scheme, are operational in Kolkata, Howrah and Asansol Municipal areas. Apart from shelter and health services, inmates are provided vocational training so that they may return to living in society. Support and rehabilitation for drug addiction is provided through homes.

## ***Minority Affairs***

### ***6.40 Introduction***

The Department of Minority Affairs & Madrasah Education has been playing a pivotal role in the overall policy making, planning, coordination, evaluation and review of the development programmes for the benefit of minority communities. Almost all the significant shortcomings cited by the Sachar Committee have been addressed during the past few years.

### ***6.41 Achievements***

#### ***6.41.1 Initiatives for Academic Development***

***Aikyashree:*** This scholarship scheme was launched in the year 2019-20. This year (2021-22), the number of applications received is more than 53 lakh up to December, 2021.

***Education Loan:*** Education Loans up to Rs. 30 lakh are provided to students belonging to minority communities for pursuing technical and professional courses in India and abroad. In the year 2021-22, 2022 no. of students have been provided with this loan.

***Modernisation of Madrasah Education & Digital Literacy:*** With a view to impart Madrasah education through a modern and updated mode of teaching, 600 smart class rooms have been set up and e-books has been made available in 300 Madrasahs in two phases. Computer laboratories are being set up in 115 madrasahs to improve the students' computer skill. Free books are provided to all the students of government aided Madrasahs, MSKs and SSKs. Besides, school dress, bag and shoes are provided to all students of class I to VIII of all government aided Madrasahs, MSKs and SSKs.

***English Medium Madrasah:*** English-medium Madrasahs are being set up in 14 districts to fulfil the minority students' aspirations for modern education. Out of these, 12 have become functional.

***Aliah University:*** A state-of-the-art campus of Aliah University has been established in New Town, Kolkata with an additional campus at Park Circus. The work of separate hostels for girls and boys at New Town Campus of Aliah University has also been completed. More than 1250 students are residing in these hostels.

The University offers a vast range of courses like 4 year B-Tech Programme in major Engineering disciplines, Masters courses in Computer Applications, Management & Law, B.Ed and Bachelor courses in various subjects of social & natural science and Nursing etc.

#### ***6.41.2 Activities of Udru Academy***

- The West Bengal Official Language (Amendment) Act, 2012 has come into force from December, 2012. Urdu has been given the status of official language in areas having more than 10% Urdu speaking population.
- People who are residents of West Bengal and whose mother tongue is Urdu have been notified as linguistic minority in the state.

- West Bengal Urdu Academy has organised coaching centres for Madhyamik Pariksha for Urdu medium students. Besides, Computer training and coaching for competitive examination including W.B.C.S. (Exe.) are being imparted to Urdu medium students.
- Book grants and scholarship was also provided to meritorious students of Urdu medium school.
- Keeping in conformity with the enhancement of budgetary allocation of the department that of Urdu Academy has been enhanced by more than 7 times compared to 2010-11.
- Regional offices of Urdu Academy at Asansol and Islampur have been constructed.

#### ***6.41.3 Development Programme***

***Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP):*** This scheme aims at improving socio economic condition of minorities and providing basic amenities for improving quality of life and bridging critical gaps in infrastructure.

***Integrated Minority Development Programme (IMDP):*** With a view to extend developmental works in non-MsDP districts having substantial minority population (20%-25%), this scheme has been introduced in 32 blocks of 14 districts.

***Infrastructure development under Minority Development and Welfare Programme (MDW):*** This scheme has been started to bridge the critical gaps in infrastructure, especially in areas having sizeable population of minorities but not covered under MSDP/ IMDP. The focus area is improvement of infrastructure for schools having sizeable percentage of minority students.

#### ***6.41.4 Social Commitment***

***Reservation in Government Sector & Higher Education:*** A 17% reservation in the State Government jobs for O.B.Cs has been introduced. As more than 97% of Muslim population in the state has been brought under the purview of O.B.Cs, this will benefit the entire community. Similarly in higher education, 17% reservation has been granted to OBCs-mostly from minority communities- by the West Bengal State Higher Educational Institutional (Reservation in Education) Act, 2013 without curtailing the general category seats.

***Self Employment Loan:*** With a view to provide opportunities for self employment, term loan and DLS (micro finance) are being provided to individual entrepreneurs and SHGs. Minority youths & members of SHGs have been provided loans and micro credit to create sustainable employment during 2011-21. Soft loans were sanctioned to around 67,500 beneficiaries during current year.

***Assistance of Imam and Moazzins:*** 61,989 Imam and Moazzins are assisting the government for social services like eradication of Polio, maintaining communal harmony etc.

***Karmatirtha:*** Construction work of Karmatirthas (marketing hubs) for providing marketing facilities for artisans & cultivators and improving self-employment opportunity for minority youths and SHG members have been taken up in minority concentrated areas.

### ***6.41.5 Infrastructural Development***

***Setting up Hostels:*** For the educational upliftment of minority communities, 546 hostels for minority students are being set up. Of this, 424 have already been operational. A maintenance grant of Rs. 10,000/- per annum per student is also being provided.

***Hostel for Working Women:*** A ladies hostel (for students as well as working women belonging to minority communities) "Aikyatan" has been constructed at Kaikhali to address the problems faced by minority students and working women with regard to accommodation in Kolkata.

***Haj House:*** A new state-of-the-art Haj House (Madinatul Hujjaj) has been built in New Town. Since 2017-18, the entire Haj Operations, including city check-in of pilgrims are being carried out from Madinatul Hujjaj with great success.

***Boundary wall for Graveyards:*** To protect public graveyards, construction of boundary walls around 6,700 graveyards of minority communities have been taken up. So far, construction work of around 5,695 graveyard boundary walls has been completed.

***Minority Bhawan:*** With an intention to provide people easy access to the information, schemes, benefits and services meant for the development & welfare of minorities & to ensure redressal of their grievances by concerned officials, offices named as 'Minority Bhawan', are being set up by the department in 23 districts, out of which 21 have been completed so far.

***E-governance & IT intervention:*** Providing the benefits of the government schemes quickly in a transparent manner to the people has been a priority area. In the last few years, a majority of the schemes have been made online. These include; i) Aikyashree. ii) Scheme for boundary wall around public graveyard. iii) Scheme for infrastructural support to reputed NGOs.

***Linguistic Minorities:*** Earlier, people speaking six languages viz. Hindi, Urdu, Nepali, Oriya, Santhali and Gurumukhi were declared as linguistic minorities in the state. Recently, people whose mother tongue is Telugu are also declared as linguistic minority.



Economic Review 2021-22

Chapter

7

## Governance

Home and Hill Affairs  
Correctional Administration  
Judicial  
Law  
Personnel & Administrative Reforms



## *Home and Hill Affairs*

### *7.1 Introduction*

The vision of the department are to uphold the Constitution of India; conduct of elections to the Legislature; matters pertaining to the Election Commission of India as well as the State Election Commission; determination and maintenance of the structure, organization and procedure of the machinery of Government; maintenance of the public security, peace, order and tranquility etc. The department is also entrusted with the promotion of social, economic, educational and cultural advancement of the people residing in the hill areas of the districts of Darjeeling and Kalimpong financing for regulation and inspection of the bodies established for this purpose.

### *7.2 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to December, 2021)*

- For better responsiveness to the needs of the People, the institutional mechanism has been further strengthened through creation of 4 Police Sub-Divisions in 2021, namely, Bharatpur, Beldanga, Bhagwangola & Kaliachak and creation of 1 Reginagar Police Circle in Murshidabad Police District.
- Penro Police Station (P.S.) has been created by way of rationalization of jurisdiction of Amta Police Station and Udaynarayanpur Police Station in Howrah Rural District.
- Patiram Police Station has been created by way of rationalization of jurisdiction of Balurghat Police Station and Kumarganj Police Station in Dakshin Dinajpur District.
- Kirnahar Police Station has been created by way of rationalization of jurisdiction of Labhpur Police Station and Nanoor Police Station in Birbhum District.
- A Model Rural Police Station has been constructed at Bagnan Police Station.
- Intensive measures have been taken by way of Fresh acquisition of modern weaponry, vehicles including the special purpose ones, modern gadgets and other equipments to enhance the mobility and professional efficiency of the police.
- 8 nos. of drones have been procured by Kolkata Police for aerial surveillance and for tracking any suspected vehicles.
- 23 nos. of Moveable Variable Message Signage (VMS) have been procured by Kolkata Police to provide smoother traffic movement, improve road safety and to reduce road traffic accident.
- 8 LS Quarters, 104 US Quarters, 8 Police Stations, 16 Barracks, 8 Canteens, 1 Women Police Stations, 2 Women Change/ Rest Rooms and 18 other buildings has been constructed by West Bengal Housing Board during the period from 2020-21 to 2021-22.
- Work is underway for 614 numbers of construction projects including 296 LS Quarters, 56 US Quarters 31 police buildings.
- A total of 4221 BADP projects, taken up in the State since 2014-15, have been uploaded and verified on the new BADP OMS Portal, developed by MHA, Government of India.

- Situation of law and order in the jungle mahal area is satisfactory and normal. State Government has taken due care to rehabilitate surrendered naxalites.
- Digitization of manuscript including Repository & Retrieval system has been completed for Acharya Jogesh Chandra Purakriti Bhaban (Dist. Museum) Bishnupur, Bankura.
- Work is under process for digitization of rare books of West Bengal Secretariat Library including Repository & Retrieval system & Portal for West Bengal Secretariat Library.

### ***7.3 Special achievements/ best practices during FY 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

- 2 Model Police Stations at Nadanghat in Purba Bardhaman and Pulbazar in Darjeeling District as well as Malipanchghora Traffic Guard at Bamungachi TOP and 1 Police Station at Shibpur under Howrah Police Commissionerate have been constructed.
- To enhance mobility, special attention has been given to condemn old vehicles and their replacement.
- Coastal Security has been strengthened by man power and 2 wheelers for operating 18 nos. of FIBs to combat crime, anti-national activities and maintains awareness programme among fishermen and coastal villagers
- Funds have been utilized by CID for logistics and technical supports in dealing with the changing dynamics of crime.
- To avert road accidents and consequential loss of life/injury the state government has been running the campaign of '***Safe Drive Save Life***'
- All Police Stations under West Bengal Police have been covered under CCTNS Project through redistribution of Computers. CCTNS software has been installed in all PSs of West Bengal.
- For safety and security of women, Kolkata Police has introduced SHAKTI Patrolling vehicles for patrolling of women police personnel.
- Kolkata has emerged as the safest of Metro cities in the year 2020 as per data released by the National Crime Records Bureau.
- Kolkata Police has taken initiatives for restoration of different heritage buildings.
- Under BADP programme new OPD building, Model Village, Air Auditorium, School building, Stadium had been constructed in the border areas.
- For setting up Agro Industrial Park at Singur a piece of land was transferred to other Department in 2021-22.
- Traffic Police Units are now better equipped with Laser Based Speed Radar Gun, Helmet, Officer Helmet, Luminous Jacket, Anti Pollution Mask, Sunglass, Dragon Light, Delineator, Portable Emergency Light, Portable Barrier Guard Rails, Traffic Barricade, Traffic Barricade Plunk, Electric Blinker, Speed Bump, AFP, Perforated Aluminum Wall, Road Marking Paint, Road Marking Machine, Body Camera, Hand Held Swipe Machine, RLVD, CCTV, ANPR, VMS Board, LCD Monitor, Digital



Camera, GPS for vehicle, Traffic Cone, Hand Held Signal Light, Wheel Clamp, Small Vehicle Conspicuity Kit, Portable Barrier Type 2, RPM and Body Camera.

- Special care has been taken due to rehabilitate surrendered naxalites and equips them with necessary skills to earn livelihoods in the long run.
- West Bengal Police Sahayak Welfare Society has a total members of 1,17,239 heads under Medical Insurance Policy and has 1,39,090 members which are covered through Personal Accident Policy for the year 2021-22.
- A special drive has been undertaken for free, extensive and thorough medical check-up of police personnel of 40 years and above with the assistance of various medical colleges and hospitals. Follow up corrective actions like diet control, physical exercise; yoga, meditation etc. are being taken up.
- Various sports activities have been undertaken like Soccer match, Cricket Match, Badminton Tournament, Marathon Run etc throughout the year under "Community Policing".
- To bridge the gap between police and public, several community programmes have been organized such as Safe Drive Save Life, Utsargo (Blood Donation camp), Clean and Green Programme, Pratyasha, Kiran, Kosish, Safallya, Uttaran, Sammilan, Jagaran, Sampark, Swanirbharota, Sparsha, Aragyo, Pragati, Awareness against Vector Bourne Diseases, Sukanya, Community kitchen, Plantation of mangrove saplings at Sundarban.
- During the pandemic situation Kolkata Police provided ambulance service with police drivers to people in need, particularly COVID patients.
- A new CBD (Central Business District) Out-Post has been created at action area-IID/41/1, New Town under Eco Park Police Station in Bidhannagar Police Commissionerate.

#### ***7.4 New initiatives undertaken/ to be taken***

- Development of a web application for processing NORI (No Obligation to Return to India) Certificate for which applications are received from Indian Research Scholars pursuing higher studies in USA.
- Initiative has been taken for development of a web application for processing applications for authentication of documents prior to apostille by Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, to make the process more and more citizen-centric.
- Bibliographic Data Entry of one lakh books is in progress through Koha Library Management Software by WEBEL
- Construction of Subsidiary Training Centre at 4th Bn. Campus under Kolkata Police.
- Extension of Kolkata Police Training Academy at Dumurjala, Howrah.
- Construction of Rajdanga PS & Barrack along with residential quarters for police personnel.
- Construction of proposed Dog Squad near Nabanna under Kolkata Police.
- 226 E-Vehicles will be introduced to Kolkata Police against the same number of 15-20 years old vehicles.

- Procurement of 2 Rescue Speed Boats, 10 water Scooter (Jet Ski) for Coastal PSs will be done by West Bengal Police.
- Renovation of Government Cinchona Plantation Hospitals at Mungpoo, Munsong, Rongo and Latpanchor for provision of better health facilities to the people residing in these places as there are no other hospitals in these areas.
- With the active support of Tourism Department some tourist parks in GTA areas are being run by SHG activity clusters thereby generating good income. SHG women are actively involved in Community Managed Sustainable Agriculture, producing organic vegetables and selling them in haats.
- NIC has developed software for Police Clearance Certificate and implemented it for Bidhannagar Police Commissionerate. It will be rolled out to the whole State with necessary customization.
- Local administration has ventured many Skill Development programmes like Mobile repairing, Automobile repairing, beautician course, Tailoring, animal Husbandry for the people of the bordering districts of the State with a view to ameliorating their financial condition in regular basis.

## ***Correctional Administration***

### ***7.5 Introduction***

The Department of Correctional Administration aims to contribute to public safety through the safe, secure and humane management of inmates and make available opportunities for their rehabilitation and reintegration with the main-stream society. The main objective of the Department is to undertake correctional measures for the inmates who are taken into the correctional homes by order of the Hon'ble Court(s) either as under-trials or convicts.

### ***7.6 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

- Construction of new Central Correctional Home at Baruipur, South 24 Parganas is under process.
- Construction of a new Correctional Home at Baruipur for shifting inmates of Presidency Correctional Home is under progress.
- The construction of a new District Correctional Home at Nimtouri, Tamluk, Purba Medinipur has been initiated.
- The construction work for new Sub Correctional Home at Chanchal, Malda has been started.
- Construction of Quarters for Officers and Staff of Presidency Correctional Home at Baruipur is under progress.
- Construction is under process for (a) 20 headed Sweeper's Barrack, (b) Vertical Extension of Staff Barrack, (c) Additional 24 Interview Counters, (d) Public Address System, (e) Modular Furniture & (f) CCTV Surveillance System at Baruipur Central Correctional Home.
- Construction work has been started for 03 storied (G+2) Office Building and Executive Guest House along with allied works at Presidency Jail Complex of Baruipur, South 24-Parganas.
- Construction work has been completed for the Manufacturing Department Building at Balurghat Central Correctional Home
- Total 55,940 numbers of inmates have been virtually produced before the courts through e-Court module from April, 2021 to November, 2021.
- Facilities of virtual communication between the inmates and their family members have been provided through e-Mulakat module. Total 2,818 nos. of inmates have already been benefited from April, 2021 to November, 2021.
- 5,244 numbers of inmates have been screened for detection of Hepatitis 'B' & 'C' by setting up camps.
- Vaccination camps have been organized for both the inmates and staff of the Correctional Homes in collaboration with the Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of West Bengal and Kolkata Municipal Corporation.
- To prevent the spread of Covid-19 inside the Correctional Homes necessary items such as PPE kits, hand sanitizers, etc. was procured to meet up the requirements. Face masks were manufactured within the Central Correctional Homes and distributed among all other Correctional Homes throughout West

Bengal.

- Necessary infrastructural repairing works for the badly affected Correctional Homes from super cyclone 'Yaas' have been undertaken with the Department of Disaster Management & Civil Defense, Govt. of West Bengal.

### ***Special Achievements***

- e-Prisons Suite, an Upgraded web-based version of Prison Management System (PMS) has been commissioned as a part of e-Governance Project with facilities of (a) Visitors Management System (b) e-production of inmates before Ld. Courts and (c) Biometric Identification System to integrate and store data about the inmates.

### ***7.7 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken***

- Renovation work of Go-down Room for C3, C4 building, Utensils Go-down beside the Video Conference Room and Recreation Hall of male and another of Female Ward to be undertaken for enhancement of inmate-lodging capacity at Asansol District Correctional Home with facility of Isolation Centre for decongestion of population in view of COVID-19.
- New double storied building to be constructed inside Ranaghat Sub Correctional Home to accommodate 200 nos. of inmates.
- Project for construction of proposed 3 storied building with the capacity to accommodate 200 nos. of inmates at Raiganj DCH is under process.
- Proposal for construction of a 2 storied building to accommodate 100 (One hundred) male prisoners at Diamond Harbour Sub Correctional Home is under consideration.
- Proposal for construction of a 2 storied building in place of the existing building to accommodate 120 (One hundred twenty) prisoners at Jangipur Sub Correctional Home is under consideration.
- Installation of Telephonic system at Balurghat Central Correctional Home to provide the facility to the inmates for communicating with their family members.
- Introduction of new "Cloud Telephony Solution System" is to be implemented at Howrah District Correctional Home as a pilot project to upgrade the existing telephone system.
- Twenty-three major developmental schemes to be undertaken at Dum Dum Central Correctional Home with respect to supply & distribution of drinking water, electrical maintenance, sanitation, security, canteen and e-court.
- Process of taking over the possession of 5.00 acre of land at Santragachi and Jagacha for proposed shifting of Howrah District Correctional Home, is under progress.
- 3.3714 acre of land at Mouza Balticuri under P.S. Jagacha has been taken over by the Department of Correctional Administration for proposed shifting of Alipore Women's Correctional Home.

## *Judicial*

### ***7.8 Introduction***

The Judicial Department of the Government of West Bengal deals with the constitution and organization of all Courts in West Bengal excluding the Supreme Court, High Court, Rent and Revenue Courts. The Department also deals with matters relating to IPC, CrPC, Evidence and Oaths, Trusts and Trustees, Contract and Arbitration, Legal Profession and such other matters. The Directorates working under this Department are Legal Remembrancer (works towards appointment of Government Advocates, fees payable to Government Advocates, Legal opinion as to interpretation of Law, maintainability of Appeal against order passed by any Court etc.) and Director of Prosecution (works towards acting as Controlling Officer of the APPs).

### ***7.9 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

- Fund has been released for (i) the computerization of High Court and for making payment to BSNL and Calcutta Telephones, (ii) up gradation of the existing 2 Mbps. leased line connection installed in the premises in the Hon'ble High Court, Calcutta, (iii) computerization in the Court Buildings under the Scheme relating to Development of Infrastructural Facilities for the Judiciary, (iv) implementation of I.T. Infrastructure of 2 nos. Commercial Court in Calcutta, (v) in connection with various minor repair and maintenance works of the existing Court Buildings and residential quarters at the Sub-division and District levels as well as establishment of Child Friendly Court (POCSO) at Mathabhanga, Tufanganj, and purpose of establishment of two nos. Commercial Court at 6, Church Lane, Kolkata.

Funds have also been released for-

### ***7.10 Special achievements during the financial year 2021-22***

- Development of infrastructure facilities for subordinate Judiciary like Construction of Court Rooms including POCSO Courts, Residential accommodation for Judges of Districts and Subordinate Courts under Centrally Sponsored Schemes etc.
- Undertaken major maintenance works of High Court, West Bengal Judicial Academy, Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri and various minor repair and maintenance works of the existing Court Buildings and Residential Quarters at the Sub-division and District levels throughout the State.
- Construction of Court Rooms at Coochbehar, Malda, Howrah, Bolpur, Diamond Harbour, Dantan, Buniadpur; Construction of Child Friendly Court at Alipurduar, Serampore and Construction of Family Court at PaschimMedinipur, Tamluk.
- Court Buildings at Tamluk has been inaugurated.
- Construction of Residential Quarters at Domkal, Bishnupur, Jangipur and Alipurduar.
- Setting up of two numbers of Commercial Courts for Kolkata Jurisdiction.
- Works for construction of permanent circuit bench of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri has started.

- Revamping of safety and security system inside the Calcutta High Court premises including moving walkway.
- Upgradation of audio system in the Main and Centenary building of the Calcutta High Court for virtual hearing of cases through video conferencing.
- The 'Combined Website of Law and Judicial Department' is at its advanced stage.

### ***7.11 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken***

- Administrative approval is under process for Child Friendly Court at District Judge Complex, Jalpaiguri.
- Similarly, administrative approval is under process for Child Friendly Court at Raiganj, Uttar Dinajpur.
- Administrative approval is under process for Phase-II construction of a 10 Storied Court Building at Howrah.
- Construction has been proposed for G+5 Storied Residential Munsef Quarter I at Barasat.

## *Law*

### **7.12 Introduction**

The Law Department is actively engaged in the task of publication, printing and translation when necessary, of Central or State Acts, Bills or Ordinances and the compilation, printing and distribution of certain periodical publications.

### **7.13 Special Achievements/ best practices during FY 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)**

- Bengali translation of twelve Central Acts has been prepared by the Official Languages Branch of this Department.
- Two Gazette Notifications have also been translated into Bengali.
- Bengali translations of Fourteen Central Acts have been authenticated by the Hon'ble President of India.
- Up-to-date Bengali translation of the Constitution of India and the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973, has been prepared.
- Law Department is the nodal Department for control and management of the West Bengal Legal Service.
- On the basis of Home and Hill Affairs Department Notification No. 695-Home(Cons)/ R2R(Cons)-03/2018, dated 06.12.2018, amendments have been made in the West Bengal Rules of Business and on the basis of such amendments, Registration of Marriages and Appointment of Notaries have come under the purview of the Law Department.
- All matters connected with the West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences have been allocated to Law Department from the Judicial Department.

### **7.14 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken**

- From January, 2021 to July, 2021, the State Law Commission has recommended for repeal of five (05) Acts and around six (06) Acts are pending for hearing before it.
- For the effective management of High court cases a cell namely, "High Court Cases Monitoring Cell" had been formed by way of liaison with the various Departments of the Government of West Bengal under **SARTHAC (Systemised Administration and Regulation of Tendering and Handling of All Court Cases)** Project with the technical assistance from NIC, Government of India.
- **SARTHAC** software has been up-dated with modified form along with by e-mail, SMS, physical letter through franking and appointment of Advocates to represent the State respondents.
- Third modified version 3.0 of the **SARTHAC** software has been successfully installed.
- West Bengal Acts published in the Official Gazettes and Annual Volumes for the year 1949 to 2020 have been uploaded and are now available in [www.sarthac.gov.in](http://www.sarthac.gov.in).

## ***Personnel & Administrative Reforms***

### ***7.15 Introduction***

The major functions of the Personnel & Administrative Reforms Department are:

- Cadre management of IAS, WBCS (Executive), West Bengal Secretariat Service (WBSS), Assistants & Typists in the West Bengal Secretariat.
- To deal with various establishment and financial matters relating to its attached offices viz. (i) Administrative Training Institute, W.B. (ii) Office of the Resident Commissioner, Govt. of W.B at New Delhi (iii) The State Vigilance Commission, West Bengal (iv) Anti-Corruption Branch (v) West Bengal Information Commission (vi) West Bengal Group-'D' Recruitment Board and (vii) Lokayukta, W.B.
- To act as the nodal department of the State Government in respect of Bangla Sahayata Kendras (BSKs) and issues related to RTI Act, 2005 and application of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 as well as Public Grievances.
- To deal with the matters relating to e-Governance and Administrative Reforms in Government works.
- To make allotment of funds for the infrastructural development of the administrative units in the districts and sub-divisions to ensure good governance as well as to provide better working facilities and environment to the Government personnel in these administrative units.

### ***7.16 Achievements during the Financial Year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

- 3561 Bangla Sahayata Kendras (BSKs) have been made operational for providing help at grassroot level for providing 268 Government services.
- More than 3.72 crore visitors have attended BSKs so far and more than 5.16 crore services have been delivered.
- Most popular service requests received by BSKs are – registration for COVID vaccination, e-KYC seeding of Aadhar with Digital Ration Card, Application for Swasthya Sathi enrolment certificate, Application for Caste Certificate, Covid Patient Information etc.
- During India's e-Governance Awards 2021, the State of West Bengal has been conferred with the 'Award of Appreciation' under the State Category by Computer Society of India (CSI).
- For Integrated Covid Management System this Department has been awarded with Digital Technology Sabha Excellence Award under Enterprise Mobility.
- For Response to COVID and Annadatri Mobile App the Department has been nominated as SKOCH group semi finalist.
- Initiation of recruitment process for Lateral Recruitment of specialists and experts as Consultants in the rank of Joint Secretary and Special Secretary under various Departments.
- Separate Pay Rules have been implemented for the WBCS (Exe) Officers and thus career prospects of the WBCS (Exe) Officers has increased manifold.



- Total strength of WBCS (Exe) Officers in the rank of Joint Secretary in pay level 19 has also been raised from 235 to 250.
- Introduction of new posts of Additional Secretary has reduced the waiting period in the rank of Joint Secretary in Pay Level 22.
- 40 new posts of Special Secretary in Pay Level 24 have been created in the current financial year.
- Annual maintenance of 3561 nos. of Bangla Sahayata Kendras (BSKs) located at various districts of West Bengal and Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) @ Rs. 15,000/- per BSK for the financial year 2021-2022 have been completed.
- Construction is under process for six storied New Administrative Building at Burdwan under Burdwan Division, PWD.
- Construction of Integrated Administrative Complex, Jhargram in the district of Jhargram is under process.
- Construction of Administrative Building is under process for Mal Sub-Divisional Officer at Mal in the District of Jalpaiguri.
- Proposed construction is under process of (G+2) Office building (with G+3 Foundation) within Sub-Divisional Office at Contai in the district of Purba Medinipur.
- Land Development work is under process in public utility space (road portion) with concrete road and Internal & External Drainage System etc. in the New Administrative Building Campus of Purba Medinipur District at Nimtouri.

### ***7.17 Special achievements/best practices during 2021-22***

Construction works have been completed for Integrated Office cum Residential Complex for the District Magistrate, Purba Medinipur at Nimtouri; new office Building and Residence of Divisional Commissioner, Medinipur Division; Integrated Administrative Complex, Jhargram in the district of Jhargram and 6 storied new Administrative Building at Burdwan.

### ***7.18 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken***

- 3561 Bangla Sahayata Kendras (BSKs) have been made operational at the offices of the SDO, BDO, Sub-Inspector of Schools, Health Centres, Public Libraries and Urban and Local Bodies.
- Construction of New SDO Office Building (G+2) & SDO Bungalow (G+1) including allied works at Manbazar in the district of Purulia; New SDO Office Building (G+2) at Jhalda in the district of Purulia; New SDO Office Building (G+1) with foundation of (G+4) including single story Electrical Sub-station building at Haldia and proposed Collectorate Complex at Kalyanpur, Asansol for the office of the District Magistrate, Paschim Bardhaman.





Economic Review 2021-22

Chapter

8

# Information, Technology and Promotion

Information Technology and Electronics  
Information and Cultural Affairs



## ***Information Technology & Electronics***

### ***8.1 Introduction***

The Department of Information Technology & Electronics mainly focuses on some key areas during the year, 2021-22 like promotion of emerging technologies and employment generation, developing and creating a strong start-up ecosystem and digitization in Government including application of e-Governance for delivery of various citizen services.

### ***8.2 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

#### **Achievements of West Bengal Electronics Industry Development Corporation Limited (Webel):**

**Infrastructure development:** Construction of Webel Tower-I Project (BN-4), Sector V; Webel Tower-I Project (BN-9), Sector V; Webel IT Park (Phase-II) Project at New Town, Rajarhat, and Webel IT Park (Phase-II) Project at Kalyani have been completed and inaugurated by the Honbl'e Chief Minister, Government of West Bengal. The online space booking portal of Webel has been launched. Cyber security training center set up at Asansol, Barjora, Purulia & Siliguri (Phase-II) IT Parks, and co-working office interior set up at Kharagpur IT Park have been completed. Possession handed over to M/s. Liveline for their allotted plot of land at Sonarpur Hardware Park, and provisional allotment of three plots has been issued to M/S FISICO at EMC Naihati.

**Infrastructure Development & Maintenance:** Water proofing at Taratala Industrial Estate Building has been completed.

**Webel Education (WEBEL Animation Academy):** Enlisting of Animation Academy under Student Credit Card scheme (SCC) of the Government of West Bengal.

#### **Achievements of Webel Technology Limited (WTL):**

**West Bengal State Wide Area Network (WB-SWAN):** The WBSWAN provided extensive services for the government departments to hold regular video conferences (VCs) particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic situation, natural disaster like Yaas, and the recently concluded assembly elections over WBSWAN backbone as well as over internet. Apart from the State level VCs, intra district VCs are done regularly by the district authorities for holding administrative/ review meetings with the blocks. WBSWAN provides seamless internet services to the users from multiple service providers. Public Wi-Fi implementation at the Diamond Harbour Municipal area, with the objective of creating localised Public Wi-Fi zones in urban, semi urban and rural habitats enabling common citizens to freely access knowledge, entertainment and information over internet, is in progress.

**West Bengal State Data Centre (WB-SDC):** In the calendar year 2021, WB-SDC has advanced significantly in terms of IT infrastructure services, performance and reliability. The capacity of new cloud computing infrastructure has been augmented by additional 264 CPU cores, 6TB Memory and 50 TB SAN storage space. This year several mission critical new applications (e.g. Student Credit Card, Lakshmir Bhandar, Duare Sarkar, Online Ration card management, Samajik Suraksha Yojana, Single

Window portal of UDMA) have been successfully hosted from WBSDC. With the State Government's "Cloud First" hosting approach, WBSDC is currently processing large number of web hosting requests from various Departments and Directorates.

### **Achievements of Cyber Security Centre of Excellence (CS-CoE)**

- The CS-CoE launched 'Cyber Assurance Programme' with a vision to create a Cyber Safe Bengal within a Cyber Safe India. The Programme intends to create and maintain a robust 'Public ICT Security Framework' across the State through awareness generation and skill building, simultaneously.
- The CS-CoE trained more than 6500 teachers thorough Cyber Shikshak- Cyber Security Awareness Training programme. Total 2000 government officials trained through the On the Job Training (OJT). Total 1500 police officials trained on Cyber Crime Response through programme like First Responder Training (FRT), Cyber Security Orientation Training (CSOT), Training on Secured Coding Practice Framework and CDR/ IPDR forensic tools. **Secure Bengal 2021**, a month-long and State-wide online training programme for college students which witnessed over 17000 participations. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology has vested the CS-CoE with the vetting responsibility for all their courses on cyber-security.
- The CS-CoE launched online-pledge on cyber-security. More than 25000 people have undertaken this pledge to maintain cyber-hygiene practices in their daily-life.
- The CS-CoE launched Cyber Sammohan, a Comic Book on Cyber Crime awareness and Cyber Hygiene Handbook in Bengali, English and Hindi language. Also launched 'CYBER SECURITY – A knowledge for safer tomorrow', an english book on cyber security and book on advisories on cyber security.
- The CS-CoE received DSCI Excellence Award under the category Cyber Security Awareness - Government/ NGOs in the year 2021. The CS-CoE also received DSCI Excellence Award for Raising Security Awareness, and also a finalist for Best Security Practices in Government Sector in the year 2020. The CS-CoE is a finalist of the first-ever Cyber OSPAs for various categories. The CS-CoE received 2<sup>nd</sup> Elets India Transformation Award for the project Cyber Safe Bengal, Cyber Safe India under the category Cyber Security Initiative. The CS-CoE received the Indian Express Digital Technology Sabha Award 2021 under Enterprise Security category. The CS-CoE received Governance Now 4<sup>th</sup> Digital Transformation Awards 2021 for the project Cyber Assurance Programme under the category Cyber Security Initiatives. The CS-CoE received SKOCH Order-of-Merit for the project Cyber Assurance Programme.

### **Achievements of Society for Natural Language Technology Research (SNLTR):**

- **Computer Society of India (CSI) SIG e-Governance Award:** '*Karmo Bhum*' portal, a Government of West Bengal initiative, developed and maintained by SNLTR under the Department received the CSI-SIG e-Governance Award of Recognition from the Computer Society of India (CSI) in the category of

State. SNLTR has also received SKOCH Order-of-Merit for the project COVID-19 Emergency Helpline for IT/ ITeS and Self Scan application.

- ***Karmo Bhumi***: Karmo Bhumi is a Government of West Bengal initiative to bridge the gaps between job seekers and the employers in IT/ ITeS sectors and to increase employability in the said sectors driving in the State.
- ***Self Scan-Safest App for document Scanning, Saving, Sharing***: Self Scan makes it easier to digitize, convert, retrieve, edit, protect, share and collaborate on all kinds of documents in the digital workplace. Till date, this application has been downloaded 1,50,000 times from various sources like the Google Play store and others.

### ***8.3 Special achievements/ best practices***

- Work in connection with Kalyani IT Park (Phase-II), BN-9 IT Park (Sector V), BN-4 IT Park (Sector-V), Rajarhat IT Park (Phase-II) are completed.
- Several projects of Society for Natural Language & Technology Research (SNLTR), a society under aegis of IT&E Department, namely, Linguistic Diversity Dashboard of West Bengal Version II; Extension of Digital Archive; Bi-directional Bangla-English Electronic Dictionary System: Translation Tools & MRD; Audio, e-Braille: Convert 2500 book pages of WBBSE in Braille, 500 Tactile, Karmo Bhumi (Version-II); State Skill Registry of the Government of West Bengal in IT/ ITeS sector, Online Single Window Clearance System Guidelines for Right of Way clearance and permission to set up BTS and laying of OFC, Online Event Management Portal-Version 2 organizing various events/ workshops/ webinars, Self Scan version 2 Designing and Development, Launching, maintenance, have been successfully completed.

### ***8.4 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken***

- Major activities to be undertaken by Webel in the next financial year are i) Belur IT Park, ii) Durgapur PH-III IT Park, iii) BN6 IT Park, iv) DP6/1 Innovation IT Park, v) Darjeeling IT Park, vi) Kalimpong IT Park.
- ***West Bengal State Wide Area Network (WB-SWAN)***: WBSWAN proposes to implement free Wi-Fi zone in other Semi urban/ urban/ rural locality across the State. In the next financial year, the Department proposes to roll out the project in 20 locations post successful implementation of the project in Diamond Harbour. As the existing mail server hardware and software platform used for Government mails (@wb.gov.in domain) are very old (more than 12 years) and requires complete revamping, the entire email messaging set up is being proposed to be migrated at the WBSDC cloud platform for better performance and support for accommodating more concurrent users. As the frequency of video conferencing has increased substantially over heterogeneous platforms in the current pandemic situation, WB-SWAN proposes to set up a central help desk for providing support services to the end users.

- **West Bengal State Data Centre (WB-SDC):** For accommodating such huge demands for web hosting at WB-SDC and for safety and security of hosted data, the Department has taken up a new project for WB-SDC capacity augmentation along with implementation of a Disaster Recovery (DR) centre at Webel IT Park in Purulia.
- **Cyber Security Centre of Excellence (CS-CoE):** The CS-CoE targeted to provide First Responder Training (FRT) to 500 in-service police officials, Detailed Responder Training (DRT) to 400 in-service police officials, Cyber Security Orientation Training (CSOT) to 500 Direct Recruit police officers, Domain specific training on Cyber Security for police personnel to 200 in-service police officials, On the Job Training (OJT) to 5000 in-service government employees from all departments, directorates and district administrative units, Cyber Shikshak - a Cyber Security Awareness Training for the teachers of West Bengal - to 1000 teachers, Cyber Swadhinata Programme (CSP) to 1000 government officials, students, teachers, etc. Also, it is planned to provide trainings to State's CII managers, bank managers, etc. The CS-CoE also targeted to undertake Web Application Security Assessment (WASA) of 50 web portals and ICT Infrastructure Security Assessment (ISA) of 50 government departments. The CS-CoE also planned to provide Data Privacy Counselling Service and SOC as a Service.
- **Society for Natural Language Technology Research (SNLTR):** Major initiatives likely to be taken up by Society for Natural Language Technology Research (SNLTR) for the next financial year are i) IT-support (to Department of IT&E and to the other departments), ii) Digitization, digital archiving, and digital annotation of Bengali cultural texts, iii) IT support, revitalization, documentation, documentaries to and on natural languages, iv) Technical/ Technological research, v) Assistive technology, vi) Education-based technologies.



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

### ***8.5 Introduction***

The Information & Cultural Affairs Department disseminates information about the activities & achievements of the State Government through different media. This Department promotes and patronizes traditional as well as contemporary culture and film with special emphasis to folk culture. The Department also thrives for exploration and conservation of the heritage of the State.

### ***8.6 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

***Lok Prasar Prakalpa (LPP)***: More than 1.90 lakh folk artists are enrolled under the flagship scheme of Lok Prasar Prakalpa (LPP) and the Department released funds as Retainer Fee, Pension and Performance to those registered folk artists through Direct Benefit Transfer Mode during this year.

#### ***Social Security Benefits***

- ***Social Welfare Scheme for Purohits (SWSP)***: The State Government has introduced Social Welfare Scheme for Purohits (SWSP) to provide monthly financial assistance @ Rs. 1,000/- for lesser privileged Purohits and Priests of other communities like Christian, Jain, Buddhist and Parsi, including the Tribal Purohits. About 28,118 beneficiaries have been benefitted with financial assistance up to December, 2021.
- ***West Bengal Pension Scheme for the Journalists***: 121 retired Journalists above 60 years of age and facing acute financial distress are being provided monthly pension @ Rs. 2500/- under 'West Bengal Pension Scheme for the Journalists, 2018' scheme through Direct Benefit Transfer Mode.
- ***The construction of Tele Academy Complex at Baruipur, South 24 Parganas***: The Complex being constructed on 10.00 acres of leasehold KMDA land. The Commercial Unit of the Complex comprising four modern shooting floors with supporting areas along with administrative block is near completion and would be brought under operation, shortly.
- ***Bangla Sangeet Mela and Biswa Bangla Lok Sanskriti Utsav***: 'Bangla Sangeet Mela' has become a platform to spread the message of unity through the rich cultural language and melody of Bengal. 'Bangla Sangeet Mela' was held between 25<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 to 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2022 simultaneously at 11 venues located in various places of Kolkata and witnessed participation of about 6,000 artistes, musicians and anchors of West Bengal.
- ***Literary and Cultural Pension Scheme***: In order to provide financial assistance to aged and financially weaker artists, the State Government provides the same under the financial assistance to distinguished persons of arts and letters. So far 126 aged artists have been provided monthly financial assistance under the scheme.
- ***Financial Assistance to Jatra Artists and Theatre groups***: To infuse vitality into these cultural genres, the State Government provides one-time financial assistance of Rs. 25,000/- each to 881 distressed and aged Jatra artistes and Rs. 50,000/- each to 400 theatre groups.

- **Conservation and restoration of Archaeological and Heritage sites:** The Department has consistently been thriving with utmost passion to discover and conserve the heritage sites of West Bengal. A few deserving special mentions are Buddhist Monastery at Jagjibanpur, Malda; Durga Temple, Bali Dewanganj; Goghat; Hooghly, Ruined Mosque, Bajua Santoshpur; Goghat, Hooghly; Gouripur House at Kalimpong.
- **Medical Benefit Scheme for the Cine and Television Artistes/ Technicians/ Workers:** The State Government pays full premium for extending Group Health Insurance, coverage for 7355 Primary Members along with maximum five dependent family members of each Primary Member.
- **Awards and Sammans:** The State Government has conferred 'Biswa Bangla Sharad Samman' to different Puja organizers throughout the State. Other important awards which are conferred to distinguished persons who have contributed significantly in the fields of literature, culture, fine arts, folk-arts include, 'Sangeet Mahasamman & Sangeet Samman', 'Shilpi Mahasamman & Shilpi Samman', 'Shanti Gopal & Tapan Kumar Puraskar' 'Bina Dasgupta Puraskar'.

### ***8.7 Special Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

- **COVID- 19 Vaccination Drive for vulnerable categories of the Society:** In order to prevent COVID pandemic, almost all the Journalists from different types of media have been provided with double vaccination in Kolkata and 22 other districts under the Special Vaccination drive. Considering the newspaper vendors and hawkers as vulnerable categories, special drive was taken for their vaccination throughout the State on a mission mode approach. COVID vaccination was also administered to about 562 singers, actors, performers.
- During the bleak and regressive phase of COVID pandemic, the Department has relentlessly been in the process of awareness generation to lead a safer way of life and dissemination of messages regarding various Government initiatives of Duare Sarkar, Paray Samadhan etc. To achieve this, the Department deploys the contingent of the artists enrolled under the Lok Prasar Prakaalpa and has developed a niche and unconventional channel of communication aimed for grass root level beneficiaries.

### ***8.8 Major initiatives to be under taken***

- The Department is planning to extend the reaches of its two Flagship programmes of Lok Prasar Prakaalpa and Social Welfare Scheme for Purohites to the very depth of the society, to enable the Government to percolate the messages of the pro-people initiatives till the grass root level.
- To preserve and nurture the diverse and rich heritage of Bengal, the Department has specific plans for excavation, restoration and conservation of unknown or lesser known heritage and archaeological sites.
- The Department is prepared to accelerate the initiatives regarding identification and recognition of the eminent personalities in various fields of culture, literary and creative works.



Economic Review 2021-22

Chapter

9

## Basic Facilities

Housing  
Power  
Non-Conventional and Renewable Energy Sources  
Public Health Engineering  
Public Works  
Transport  
Consumer Affairs  
Food and Supplies  
Youth Services and Sports



## *Housing*

### ***9.1 Introduction***

The Department of Housing undertakes various activities mainly relating to the framing and implementation of various Social Housing Schemes through the Housing Directorate and West Bengal Housing Board. Besides, there are two other Directorates under the administrative control of the Housing Department viz. the Estate Directorate and the Brick Production Directorate.

### ***9.2 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

***Chaa Sundari Housing Scheme:*** Under this scheme, pucca houses are being provided to the permanent tea garden workers who do not possess a pucca house.

***Nijashree:*** The Government has already introduced new Housing Scheme namely 'Nijashree' to provide housing among the families belonging to LIG and MIG categories through construction of multistoried LIG/ MIG flats on the public lands belonging to State Government, Local Bodies and Parastatals.

***Rental Housing Estates (RHE) For State Government Employees:*** Presently, 3977 flats in Kolkata and 9794 flats in district are running. 3 RHEs have been completed during the year 2021. Construction work is going on at 10 sites.

***Night Shelter for Patient Parties:*** Government is constructing 'Night Shelters' for the benefit of patient parties within the campus of different Government Hospitals in Kolkata, Districts and Sub-divisions.

***Karmanjali (Working Women's Hostel):*** Department provides accommodations on rental basis to the working women in 'Working Women Hostel' (WWH) who are less paid and single.

***Pathasathi:*** For the benefit of passengers, especially for the women travelling by roads, the Department is constructing '*Pathasathi*' (Roadside motel having Toilet, Bathroom, Dormitory, Restaurant and Car parking facilities) in each 50 KM of National Highways, State Highway and other important roads. 70 "*Pathasathi*"s are operational at present.

***RCFA Development Scheme:*** Housing Department was entrusted to construct flats for Rehabilitation programme for Fire & Subsidence affected People of Raniganj Coalfield Area by providing residential flats.

2 ongoing housing projects (*Diya* and *Sunray*) and 9 new housing projects at New Town of West Bengal Housing Board are in progress.

### ***9.3 Special achievement/ best practices during the FY 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

***West Bengal Real Estate Regulatory Authority*** and ***West Bengal Real Estate Administrative Tribunal*** has been established on July, 2021.

***Akanksha Housing Scheme*** has been considered by the State Government to provide housing to the serving State Government employees.

#### ***9.4 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken***

***Arunika Housing Scheme:*** has notified a new ownership Housing Scheme for the WBCS (Executive) officers at New Town, Siliguri and Durgapur.

***West Bengal Housing Industry Development Corporation Limited:*** All the matters connected with the West Bengal Housing Industry Development Corporation (WBHIDCO) Limited are being dealt by the Department of Housing.

## *Power*

### ***9.5 Introduction***

The major thrust areas of the department are to improve plant availability, reliability, efficiency, safety, use of green technology approaches to thermal power generation, smooth grid operation, network stability and availability, reduction of Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) losses, advanced metering etc. The achievements of the department by different sector are described below.

### ***9.6 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

#### ***Distribution Sector***

***West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Corporation Limited (WBSEDCL):*** With a view to provide reliable quality power to the consumers the following initiatives has been taken up:

- 3.74 lakh new service connections effected taking the total consumer base to around 211 lakh.
- Energized 5842 nos of Agricultural Pump Sets have been completed.
- Total 130 nos. new 33/11 KV substations have been commissioned under **Sech Bandhu**; 7 nos. of 33/11 KV Sub-Station(s) have been commissioned with capacity of around 67.8 MVA during F.Y. 2021-22; Capacity addition of 5 nos. of existing 33/11 KV Sub-Stations have been done with additional capacity of 18.9 MVA to cater additional load demand.
- Drawal of the additional 150 CKM of the LT AB Cable to arrest accident as well as commercial loss in FY 2021-22 have been made.
- 31 no. of more ATP (Any Time Payment) Collection Kiosks at CCCs have been installed to enable consumers to pay bills in odd hours & during holidays.
- Successful evacuation of power done at KMRCL (Metro Rail) with drawal of 8.5 KM 33 KV Double Circuit (micro-tunnelling) to cater power to prestigious East-West metro Project including meeting the power demand at under-ground metro tunnel through the river bed of Ganges.
- To cover all 33/11 KV Sub-Station under checking, "Condition based Monitoring" twice in year for ensuring uninterrupted power supply have been done. This will improve voltage profile as well as quality power supply uninterruptedly.

#### ***Transmission Sector: West Bengal State Electricity Transmission Company Limited (WBSETCL)***

- Burdwan 132/33 KV GIS with 150 MVA transformation capacity have been commissioned. Consumers of entire District and its adjoining areas will be benefited from this Substation.
- Total 594.88 MVA Transformation Capacity including augmentation and 33.056 CKM Transmission Line has been added during this period.

#### ***Generation Sector: Thermal Power Sector: West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (WBPDCCL) / Durgapur Projects limited (DPL)***

- WBPDCCL is expecting to achieve a generation of 32,724 MU in 2021-22 which will be 37% higher than the generation of 23,874 MU in 2020-21.

- Net profit of the WBPDC is expected to grow by more than 50% to approximately.
- Average Plant Load Factor of the Thermal Power stations of WBPDC is 69.36% which is higher than other generating companies from April, 2021 to November, 2021.
- **Santalidih TPS** ranked **no-1** on all India Plant load factor (**92.79%**) basis out of all thermal power plants in India for the period from April, 2021 to August, 2021.
- Santalidih is in 2<sup>nd</sup> position and Bakreswar is in 9<sup>th</sup> position among all thermal power stations in India in this Financial Year, 2021-22 up to October 2021.
- **Sagardighi** achieved highest monthly plant load factor 96.65% and monthly DC 96.05% in April, 2021.
- **Santalidih** is the winner of 22<sup>nd</sup> National Award for Excellence in Energy Management 2021 from Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- After operationalization of all the coal blocks, the dependence of the WBPDC on Coal India Supplies has reduced considerably and the contribution of captive mines of WBPDC is now almost 62% of its total consumption.
- Trans Damodar Coal Mine of DPL started its mining activities and 3,14,120 MT coal has been produced.

**Licensing Sector:** Workmen's permit issued: 3000 (April, 2021 to Dec, 2021)

### ***9.7 Special Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

The **Deocha-Pachami-Dewanganj-Harinsingha**, a green field coal block mining project about 1.2 billion metric tonnes of coal has been initiated. The R&R package for this coal block has been approved. A Project Monitoring Unit has been set up at Abdarpur Guest House of Bakreswar Thermal Power Station to monitor the progress of the project. Once operationalized, the Coal Block will transform the economy of not just the region but the entire State and beyond.

### ***9.8 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken***

- WBSEDCL has taken up- implementation of 4X 250 MW Turga Pumped Storage Project in the district of Purulia; construction of 200 MW Solar Power Project, at Goaltore Industrial Park, Paschim Medinipur District in West Bengal; 80 MW SPV power plants both ground mounting and Floating will be commissioned.
- To reduce environment hazards as well as to comply with the directives of different statute organization, **Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD) and Dry Sorbent Injection (DSI)** projects will be taken up at 5 Thermal plants of WBPDC and 1 plant of DPL.
- One 500 MW Floating Solar Project at Bakreswar Dam.
- WBSETCL is expecting to commission 13 new green field Substations including up-gradation and Transmission lines.
- **Electric Vehicle Policy 2021** has been framed and published to promote usage of EVs to enable transition to environmentally friendly cities.



## ***Non-Conventional and Renewable Energy Sources***

### ***9.9 Introduction***

The Department of ***Non-Conventional and Renewable Energy Sources (NRES)*** was created for fulfilling the vision of the State government to realize optimum share of potential renewable energy sources available, development and utilization of such energy and to explore new areas of renewable energy sources. **WBREDA (West Bengal Renewable Energy Development Agency) and WBGEDCL (West Bengal Green Energy Development Corporation Limited)** are the two main implementing agencies working under the administrative control of the Department.

### ***9.10 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

Schemes under ***Paray Samadhan***, were taken up by the department for Installation of Solar Lights in different Blocks in Dakshin Dinajpur, installation of Solar Street lights, Solar High Mast in different areas of Alipurduar district.

**WBREDA's** proposal for utilizing schematic fund for installation of Grid Connected Solar PV Power Plant on rooftops of 990 schools was accorded.

***Bhajanghat 10MW ground mounted Solar PV Power Plant*** has been made operational since March' 2021 and is feeding power to grid of WBSEDCL. Up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021, **10.15 MU** (Million Unit) of power have been generated and supplied to the WBSEDCL.

***Rooftop grid connected Solar PV Power Plant*** has been installed in 169 Schools. Works is currently under progress in an additional 100 schools.

***PV Power Plant for Govt. Buildings:*** Under ***Aloshree Phase - II*** programme, work for installation of Rooftop Solar plants in 9 Institutions with cumulative capacity of 1340 KWp has been taken up. Installation of GRTSPV Power Plant at 07 buildings at Akhanka Housing Complex, New Town- Installation work is continuing.

***Community Livelihoods interventions:*** The NRES Department is keen to support community livelihood interventions, especially rural women's collectives, for enhancing their incomes as well as infusing technology interventions in remote rural areas. NRES department has extended its support for a total of 22 Solar Powered Irrigation Pumps for tube wells of SHG families in Manbazar – I Development Block, Purulia on the request of the Project Director, District Rural Development Cell. The cost of boring of tube wells was borne by the beneficiaries themselves.

***Special Achievements:*** Due to the immediate onset of the pandemic thereafter, the department also had a huge challenge in settling down to work, suffering from crisis of critical manpower but despite the challenges, the NRES Department has been able to commission the Bhajanghat 10MW solar power plant which is already performing very well. This Department has also set up the District Level Committees in the meantime which will be critical to this department's project implementation work and this Department has put the systems in place now.

### ***9.11 New Initiatives undertaken:***

- **Workshops for *the fisheries and health sectors*:** Two meetings-cum-workshops were organised in mid-December for "***Assessment of Potential of Renewable Energy Applications across the Fishery Value Chain***" and "***Assessment of Potential of Renewable Energy Applications in Health Sector***" with the technical support of GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit- a provider of international cooperation services for sustainable development and international education work). Need for preparation a comprehensive plan for deployment of renewable energy in general and solar rooftop in particular for the available roof spaces in the Medical Colleges, State General Hospitals, District Hospitals, Sub-Divisional Hospitals, Super Speciality Hospitals, Rural Hospitals, Primary Health Centres. Health Sub-Centres in the State was stressed upon.
- The department is now preparing the Renewable Energy Policy 2022 for the state.

## ***Public Health Engineering***

### ***9.12 Introduction***

The department has taken up several initiatives to provide Safe, Sustainable, and Adequate water supply to all Humans and Livestock in the State. The primary objective is to ensure drinking water security through an emphasis on piped water supply schemes with a purpose to complete shift from hand pump tube wells to piped water supply schemes in a phased manner, provision for house-to-house connection, conjunctive use of groundwater, surface water and rainwater harvesting.

### ***9.13 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

Public Health Engineering Department, Government of West Bengal, has taken up a flagship mission 'Jal Swapna' with a vision that every rural household shall have assured drinking water supply in adequate quantity of prescribed quality on regular and long-term basis at affordable service delivery charges leading to improvement in living standards of rural communities by 2024 through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC).

- In the current FY 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021), 15.72 lakh connections have been provided. The State has been able to maintain the leading position in the country by providing maximum number of connections during August to December, 2021.
- 53,430 schools, 35,785 anganwadis and 2,028 health centres have also been covered with running water supply under Jal Swapna. 100% coverage is expected very soon.

### ***9.14 Special Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

- Under externally aided project funded by Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA), Japan Water Supply Project for Purulia is being implemented in 5 blocks of Purulia namely Arsha, Barabazar, Pancha, Purulia-I & Manabazar-I and Purulia Municipality.
- Under externally aided project, funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB), 3 projects have been taken up,
  - Piped Water Supply Scheme for Bankura (Phase-II) covering 4 blocks- Mejia, Gangajalghati, Indpur and Taldangrato.
  - Surface water based Piped Water Supply Scheme for arsenic affected areas of Haroa & Rajarhat and Bhangar II, in North and South 24 Parganas.
  - Surface water based Piped Water Supply Scheme for saline affected areas of Nandakumar, Chandipur, Nandigram-I & II, in Purba Medinipur.
- Surface water based Water Supply scheme for arsenic affected areas of Habra-Gaighata & adjoining mouzas is under implementation in North 24 Parganas.
- Integrated surface water based Piped Water Supply scheme for arsenic affected blocks of Baduria, Basirhat-I, Basirhat-II, Deganga & Swarupnagar is under implementation in North 24 Parganas.

- Surface water based Piped Water Supply scheme for arsenic affected areas of Bagda and Bongaon blocks, Ranaghat I & II blocks and Bongaon Municipality, is under implementation.
- Surface water based Piped Water Supply Scheme for Hasnabad block, North 24 Parganas has been taken up. The scheme will receive purified treated water from the Water Treatment Plant of the Integrated surface water based Piped Water Supply scheme for arsenic affected blocks of Baduria, Basirhat-I, Basirhat-II, Deganga & Swarupnagar.
- Surface water based Piped Water Supply Scheme for Sankrail Block (including Sankrail Food Park) and part of Domjur, Panchla & Uluberia-II blocks has been taken up.
- Surface water based Water Supply Scheme for Shyampur-I & Shyampur-II and part of Bagnan-I, Bagnan-II and Uluberia-I blocks (Phase-I) has been taken up.
- Surface water based PWSS for arsenic affected Balagarh & Pandua blocks of Hooghly District has been taken up.
- Surface water based Water Supply Scheme for arsenic affected areas of Balia, Sagardighi blocks has been taken up.
- It is also pertinent to mention that two mega projects for fluoride affected Tapan and Gangarampur blocks of Dakshin Dinajpur have been taken up.
- Surface water based Water Supply Scheme for Falta, Mathurapur & adjoining mouzas is under implementation in South 24 Parganas covering 10 saline blocks, viz. Kulpi, Diamond Harbour-I/II, Falta, Jaynagar-II, Kultali, Magrahat-I, Mandirbazar, Mathurapur-I/II.
- Safe drinking water supply have been ensured in emergency like situations such as drought, flood cyclones etc. by supplying packaged drinking water bottles, "Prandhara", produced through 15 Drinking Water Bottling Plants spread over the State.
- 28 Mobile Treatment Units with provision of instant packaging of treated water in polythene packets under the possession of the department bolstered supply of safe drinking water to the distressed people during natural calamities.
- During 2021-22, 50 lakh drinking water bottles, 3.84 crore drinking water pouches and 55 million litres of potable water through water tankers were distributed to the affected people in the aftermath of the super cyclone Amphan, Yaas, floods etc.
- In order to extend better facilities to the pilgrims of Ganga Sagar Mela, provision of temporary accommodation, safe drinking water supply facilities, fire fighting arrangements, sanitation, waste water and solid waste disposal have been made.

### ***9.15 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken***

- 10,729 villages have been identified having less than 100 households in the entire State to be covered through small Single Village Schemes by March, 2022.

- Water Testing Laboratories play a major role in ensuring safe water supply to the people. At present, 220 water testing laboratories are functioning in the State.
- 2 Mobile Laboratory Vans (MLVs) have been introduced to test the water quality of drinking water sources located in remote habitations. The MLV also serve as an effective medium for awareness generation in rural areas through Information Education Communication (IEC). In 2021-22 more than 1,396 drinking water samples have been tested through MLV.
- Under '**Jal Swapna**' there would be a huge demand of skilled workforce at grass root level. In view of this, PHE Department has collaborated with Department of Technical Education, Training & Skill Development (TETSD) to offer a certificate course on vocational training for plumbers, pipe fitters and pump/ valve operators for skill development of the existing workforce and training unemployed youths of additional manpower. It has been planned that more than 20,000 local youths will be trained in phases, all over West Bengal, through block wise training programme.
- To expand the Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance Program under Jal Swapna, 11,450 Asha workers are being trained in batches for testing of water quality using field test kits. They will examine the water quality of functional household tap connections extended to the households as well as water samples from schools and anganwadis within that GP.

## *Public Works*

### *9.16 Introduction*

The Public Works Department is a key organisation of State Government which creates social assets and communication infrastructure by constructing Roads & Bridges, Hospitals, Govt. Offices, Fire stations, School buildings etc. The Department is responsible for maintenance and up-gradation of various State Highways, District Roads and Rural Roads.

### *9.17 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)*

- 134 km of roads have been widened & strengthened to 2 lane carriageway width with paved shoulder (i.e.10 m carriageway width).
- 77 km of roads have been widened & strengthened to 2 lane carriageway width (i.e.7 m carriageway width).
- 123 km of roads have been widened & strengthened to Intermediate Lane carriageway width (i.e. 5.50 m carriageway width).
- 757 km of roads have been strengthened or improved.
- 17 bridges and 1 Road over Bridge (ROB) have been constructed.
- Rehabilitation works have been completed over 106 bridges.
- As a flagship project, the Department has completed construction of 100 and 26 Cremation grounds for rural areas under ***Baitarani Project*** during the financial year 2020-21 and this year up to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021 respectively taking the total to 667.

### *9.18 Special achievements*

- During the current financial year, PWD has completed the construction of bridge over river Cheriganga in the district of Nadia. Bridge over Panchanoi in the district of Darjeeling has been completed. Kamarkundu ROB in Hooghly to replace the existing Railway Gate at Kamarkundu has been completed for smooth, safe and uninterrupted movement of traffic.
- PWD has constructed a pedestrian underpass by Box Jack Push technique at Lake Town crossing of K.N.I. Avenue (VIP road) to facilitate the pedestrian for crossing the VIP road smoothly and it has improved the safety of the road users.
- Saptagram-Tribeni-Kalna-Katwa road has been widened and improved for a length of 102 km to give smooth connectivity to the three districts Hooghly, Purba Bardhaman and Murshidabad.
- Construction of Bridge over River Ajoy on Panagarh-Illambazar Road is in the completion stage.
- Other important road projects which have been completed are: Jamtala-Kishorimohanpur Road via Petkulchand, Taratala-Ramnagar Road, Amtala-Baruipur Road and Kakdwip-Patharpratima Road in the district of South 24 Parganas, Lower Bagjola Canal Road in North 24 Parganas, Krishnaganj-Gobindopur Road and Balia-Rasullapur Road in Nadia district, Kalaberia-Pirakata-Dhansole-Lalgarh

Road and Keshpur-Chandrakona Town Road in Paschim Medinipur, Berhampore-Hariharpara-Amtala Road in Murshidabad, Gangajalghati to Enayetpur Road, Kotulpur-Lowgram-Panna Road and Bishnupur-Patrasayer Road in Bankura, Gopiballavpur-Nayagram Road, Lodhasuli-Rogra Road and Dahijuri-Binpur-Silda-Hatiary Road in Jhargram, Kenda-Sindri Road and Damda-Chakoltore-Daradi-Kenda-Manbazar Road in Purulia, Tarapith-Birchandrapur-Hazipur-Mayureswar-Kotasur Road, Suri-Rajnaragar Road and Dubrajpur-Khairasole via Kukutia Road in Birbhum, Fulbari to Dhainagar Road and Aminpur Battala More to Dehaband Road in Dakshin Dinajpur, Bagnan-Srikol-Kamalpur Road and Bagnan-Mankur Road in Howrah district, Mirzapur-Banshihari Road in Malda, Gobardhanpur-Itaberia Road in Purba Medinipur, Eastern Bypass Road and Gurung Basti-Gulma Station Road in the district of Darjeeling.

- Consulting firms were engaged for Health Monitoring of all existing major bridges under PWD. Such investigations have been completed. 250 such bridges have already been repaired & rehabilitated by the Department.

#### ***Best practices***

- Making durable roads by adopting latest Indian Standard Codal provisions considering environmental requirements
- Rebuilding of roads which have exceeded their service life and Rehabilitation & replacement of old dilapidated / weak bridges
- Improvement of road connectivity between (a) all adjacent district head quarters, (b) district head quarter to the Administrative sub division head quarters and (c) Administrative sub division head quarter to other sub division head quarters within the district by at least 2 lane roads.
- Construction of Road Over Bridge (ROB) at the Railway Level Crossings on State Highways and Major District Road
- Ensuring road safety by correcting the existing road geometry and by providing adequate road signage

#### ***9.19 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken***

- During the current financial year (2021-22) up to 31<sup>st</sup> Dec, 2021, 218 road projects have been taken up under State Development Scheme (SDS) for improvement of 1874 km of roads out of which 12 no. of bridges have also been taken up for new construction. 28 distressed bridges have been taken up for rehabilitation and 10 no. of building works have been taken up.
- 40 road projects have been taken up under *RIDF XXVII* Scheme for improvement of 379 kms of roads. Also a target has been set to take up 6 road projects under *Central Road Infrastructure Funds (CRIF)* for improvement of 155 km of roads.

#### ***Important Projects taken up***

- Important road projects taken up by PWD in different districts are: Kallitala-Dhuribazar Road, Burul-Bowali Road and Canning-Herobhanga Road in South 24 Parganas, Amdanga-Rautara-Badarhat

Road, Gopalnagar-Chowberia-Ukhra Road, Hingalganj-Dulduli-Hemnagar Road, Bongaon-Bagdah-Boyra Road, Barasat-Basirhat Road and Ghosh Para Road in North 24 Parganas, Domohoni-Gourandi-Runakuraghat Road, Asansol Bypass to Domohoni Road and Muchipara-Shibpur Road in Paschim Bardhaman, Chora-Bhatkunda-Mankar Road and Burdwan-Katwa Road in Purba Bardhaman, Krishnanagar-Karimpur-Jalangi Road and Chapra-Gongra Road in Nadia, Ramgarh-Pingboni Road in Jhargram, TMLC Road from Paramunda More to Gajoldoba Barrage in Jalpaiguri, Raiganj-Kaliyaganj-Buniyadpur Road, Kishanganj-Dinajpur Road and Rudel to Goagaon Road in Uttar Dinajpur, Falakata-Sildanga Road in Coochbehar district etc. for widening and strengthening during the financial year 2021-22. Construction work for the bridge over river Bhagirathi, to connect Kalna in Purba Bardhaman and Shantipur in Nadia, will start shortly.

- Re-construction of Tallah ROB in the district of Kolkata to replace old dilapidated existing ROB, 6 lane Extra-dosed Cable-stayed Bridge over river Hooghly beside Iswar Gupta Setu at Kalyani including 4-Laning of existing road corridor connecting Mogra on SH-13 in Hooghly District with Barajaguli on NH-34 in Nadia District, Construction of 6-Lane Elevated Connector between Belghoria Expressway and Kalyani Expressway including widening of Kalyani Expressway to 4/6 lane, 4-Laning of Champadanga-Pursura-Arambagh road section of SH-2 in the district of Hooghly, Construction of bridge over river Ajoy to connect Kenduli in Birbhum with Shibpur in Paschim Bardhaman, Construction of bridge over river Darakeswar on Chatna-Dalpur-Bispuria road in Bankura, Construction of Gajoldoba Hub Bridge of Gajoldoba Tourism Hub Project in the district of Jalpaiguri, Widening & Strengthening of Panskura-Ghatal Road in the district of Paschim and Purba Medinipur, 4-Laning of Bongaon - Chakdaha Road in North 24 Parganas and Nadia, Construction of 2400 seated Indoor Auditorium at Alipore, Kolkata. (Dhana Dhanya Project) are going on in full swing.



## *Transport*

### *9.20 Introduction*

Transport Department looks after provision of transport facilities and infrastructure on road, inland water and air within the domain of State Government. It also provides administrative and legal framework for the same.

### *9.21 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)*

#### *9.21.1 Road Transport Services*

- ***Development of Bus Stand:*** In 2021-22 up to Dec, 2021 new bus terminus at Ruinan within Sabang Panchayat Samity and infrastructure development work at Jhargram bus terminus have been started by SBSTC. Setting up depot cum workshop of NBSTC at Golai Bazar, Lebong Cart Road, Darjeeling and developmental works of Mathabhanga Depot in Cooch Behar have been started by NBSTC. Re-development and integration works of depot at Salt Lake Sector-V have been started by WBTC. Infrastructure development at Sarsuna, Khidderpur, Belghoria, Maniktala, Belgachhia, Nilgunge, Habra depots have been completed by WBTC. Further, initiatives have been taken for construction/modernization of other bus stands in West Bengal. Some of such notable bus stands are at Karunamoyee, Ward-46 & 53 in Kolkata, Dhupguri in Jalpaiguri etc. Funds have been sanctioned for ***Transportation Operation Improvement Programme (TOIP)*** and other infrastructural works.
- ***Gatidhara:*** In 2020-21 (up to December, 2021, 5090 applications have been received out of which 3241 applications have been sanctioned.
- ***Road Safety*** has become an important aspect in the transport sector. Number of Road accidents, Deaths and Injuries has been diminished by way of introducing '***Safe Drive Save Life***' campaign.

#### *9.21.2 Water Transport Services*

- ***Construction/ Modernization of Jetty & Ferry Ghat:*** In 2021-22, up to Dec, 2021 construction/developmental works of gangway cum pontoon jetty at Itinda at Ghojadanga & Basirhat side, Taragunia, Fatullapur, Dakhwineswar in North 24 Parganas, Diamond Harbour in South 24 Parganas, Hulorghat, Prachin Mayapur in Nadia, Nandigram in Purba Medinipur have been completed by WBTIDCL. Also, funds have been sanctioned for construction/modernization works of inland water transport including World Bank assisted projects. Some of such notable ferry ghats/jetties are Kendamari in Purba Medinipur, Metiaburuz in Kolkata, Monirampur, Halisahar in North 24-Parganas, Narayanpur, Falta, Burul, Raipur in South 24 Parganas etc. Moreover, Jalasathis have already been engaged in 481 ferryghats for compliance of SOP by ghat operators and the ferry passengers.
- In the ***Inland Water Transport sector***, work order for 29 new constructions of jetty and 22 new constructions of vessel, 40 smart ticketing gates to be installed at ferry points etc. amounting to Rs. 315 crore has been issued.

**9.21.3 Civil Aviation:** Low cost-passenger-friendly helicopter connectivity between Kolkata and other destination like Malda, Balurghat, Digha and Gangasagar are operational.

**9.21.4 Collection of Motor Vehicle Revenue:** In spite of pandemic situation due to Covid-19, in order to enhance the collection of Motor Vehicle Revenue major emphasis has been laid during this year.

### **9.22 Special achievements/ best practices of the department during 2021-22:**

This financial year 2021-22 also started with worldwide pandemic situation due to Covid-19 virus. Transport arrangement was made during the Covid situation and period of lock-down for movement of migrant workers/ laborers and common people. **State Transport Undertaking (STU)** buses was deployed for running essential services, for movement of health workers, police and others during the lock-down period. Masks, gloves, sanitizer, hand-wash were also distributed for them **CNG Conversion project:** With the objective to ensure clean environment and balanced eco-system to the citizens, project for conversion of existing State Transport undertaking owned diesel buses to **CNG** fueling system has been introduced and 100 SBSTC owned buses & 300 WBTC owned buses are being converted to **CNG**. State Government also desires to introduce a bank loan scheme to finance private bus owners to convert their buses into **CNG**.

- **Changes in Procedures for Ease of Doing Business:** i) from 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2021, no manual applications from the transporters/ applicants are being entertained in motor vehicle offices all over the State. ii) Use of **Aadhaar** as identity document may simplify service delivery processes and likely to improve transparency and efficiency and enable applicants to get their work done directly in a convenient seamless manner.
- **Policy Changes for Electric Vehicles:** To reduce carbon emissions from transport sector, State Government has published a policy that battery operated vehicles will require no permit for both contract carriage and stage carriage. To promote the private investment in electric vehicles, such transport vehicles were given special facilities regarding selection of routes and fixing the fares. State Government endeavors to accept the grand challenge launched by CESL to adopt 2000 electric buses under the aegis of West Bengal Transport Corporation. The WBTC is also providing its depots to install charging infrastructure in a big way.
- **Construction of Inland Electric Passenger Ferry:** Proposal & Project Report for construction of 7 Inland Electric Passenger Ferry has been received from Garden Reach Ship Builders & Engineers Ltd. and it is under active consideration for primarily procurement of one or two such ferries by WBTC in view of positive impact on urban water transport and use of clean energy.

#### **Other transport modernization issues**

- **Vehicle Location Tracking Device:** All transport vehicles shall have device installed to track its location while on road to avoid any untoward incident happened while carrying passenger and to response quickly by the Police and Motor Vehicles Inspectors.

- **Regional Driving Training Centre and Automated Inspection and Certification Centre:** The purpose of the project is to install automated 4 lane track with software application for conducting driving test without manual intervention. The Driving training Centre will be with high technique machines.
- **Weigh in Motion for checking overloading:** The purpose of this project is to check and identify the overloaded vehicles in motion without stopping them. Department is considering to upgrade all motor vehicle checkpoints for smart enforcement by introducing **ANPAR camera, computerisation and upgrading weighbridges**. Introduction of four more check posts are under active consideration.
- **E- Challan:** The purpose of this project is to issue digital challan through POS machines at random while MVIs are checking vehicles on road. HDFC bank and SBI have agreed to provide 500 POS machines for this purpose.
- **Smart Card:** It has been considered to start smart card relating to driving license and motor vehicle registration without electronic chip throughout the State. These cards will carry QTR code.
- **Remote Sensing Device:** Purpose of the project is automated checking of pollution emitted by the vehicles. One vehicle of RSD is presently working in the State. Proposal for two more vehicles with RSD devices are under consideration of the department.

### **9.23 New Initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken**

i) Construction/ Renovation works of Tufanganj NBSTC-Depot, Nonapukur WBTC-workshop, Barasat WBTC-depot etc. and bus terminus at Nandigram in Purba Medinipur, Garia(5no.) in Kolkata, Ranibandh in Bankura etc. ii) Commencement of repairing of bus bodies and introduction of E-Buses under FAME-II scheme, iii) Commencement of construction of new AC tram bodies, iv) Construction/ renovation works of jetties at Lot-8 & Kachuberia for Gangasagarmela, v) Construction/ renovation works of jetties at Panihati, Dhobighat, Naihati, Halisahar, Khardaha, Debitala, Rashmonighat, Kutthighat Monirampur in North 24 Paraganas, Gosaba BDO ghat, Rangabelia, Dayapur in South 24 Parganas, Armenianghat, Chandpal, Shovabazar, Ahiritola, Cossipore Jetty, Outramghat, Ratanbabu ferry ghat in Kolkata, Gadiara, Fuleswar in Howrah, Gourhati, Chunchura, Sheorafully, Sreerampur, Bansberia, Konnagar in Hoogly, vi) Construction of 20 no. of 100 PAX Steel Hull passenger ferry Vessels & 2 no. of Longitudinal 100 PAX Steel Hull passenger ferry Vessels vii) Construction of Steel Bridge over Circular Canal from Nirod Bihari Mullick Road to Canal East Road viii) Construction of 2 no. of Right turn Flyovers across Kona Expressway at Ingress and Egress Point of Santragachi Bus Terminus with Approach Roads", ix) Construction of the Inspection & Certification center and regional driving training center at Behala by Tr. Dte. x) Repairing and rehabilitation of 2<sup>nd</sup> Hooghly Bridge (Vidyasagar Setu) including replacement of stay & holding down cables and bearings etc.

## ***Consumer Affairs***

### ***9.24 Introduction***

The Consumer Affairs Department has taken an important role by performing various activities for ensuring protection of the rights of Consumers. Visions of this Department are i) To protect the rights of consumers, ii) To spread awareness among the consumers, iii) To promote consumer movements, iv) To empower the eligible citizen to obtain public services in stipulated time. Thus the main functions of this Department are being carried out through following four Executing Agencies: i) Directorate of Consumer Affairs & Fair Business Practices, ii) State Commission & District Forum, iii) Directorate of Legal Metrology, iv) West Bengal Rights to Public Service Commission.

### ***9.25 Directorate of Consumer Affairs & Fair Business Practices***

**Promotion of awareness & protection for consumer:** The Directorate of Consumer Affairs & Fair Business Practices performs multifarious activities for ensuring protection of the rights of consumers and awarding relief in case a consumer is deceived by unfair trade practices/ restrictive trade practices adopted by unscrupulous trades and service providers.

#### ***Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)***

- Complaint boxes have been installed at the 79 Police Stations in and around Kolkata and 16 Borough offices under the KMC to facilitate the aggrieved consumer to drop their complaints including a special box at Kolkata Municipal Corporation headquarters.
- 1,647 awareness campaigns through Mela/ Exhibitions have been organised.
- 578 Tableau, demonstrating rights and entitlements of consumers, have been taken out.
- 2,695 awareness programmes through **IEC** activities like in electronic media, hoarding, flex, banners, etc. have been organised.
- Hoarding, wall writing, banners, etc. have been installed at different conspicuous places throughout the State including Hospitals, Schools, Colleges, Office of the B.D.Os/ S.D.Os & D.Ms and other offices like G.P, Municipalities, important markets and police Stations.
- Advertisements have been published throughout the year in the daily reading newspapers in Bengali, English, Hindi, and Urdu for sensitizing general public on consumer Protection-related issues.
- Awareness campaign have been organised through LED Board of HIDCO.
- Awareness campaigns have also been made through Tableau on National Consumers Day on 24.12.2021 in different Districts and LED Van in Kolkata.
- ***Counselling consumers:*** Consumers have been counselled by 30 Regional Offices and Central Grievance Redressal Cell. Toll Free State Consumer Helpline (SCH) being No. 1800-345-2808, is dedicated for counselling of Consumers telephonically:

- **Mediation or pre-litigation settlement of consumer disputes:** During the year 2021, total 5224 consumer complaints have been received out of which 2069 complaints have been redressed so far in favour of consumers and total numbers of disposed complaints are 4685.
- **Awareness generation of WBRTPS Act, 2013**
  - The Consumer Affairs Department has participated in 16 (sixteen) district level Book Fairs till date and other reputed melas to generate awareness on WBRTPS Act, 2013 and Consumer Protection Act, 2019.
  - Consumer Affairs Department has taken initiatives to help poor and aggrieved consumers by way of granting **Legal Aid** so that they can defend their cases in **Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission**. 22 Consumer Assistant Bureaus have been established for the said purpose.

### **9.26 State Commission & District Commissions**

- At present 5 Benches of West Bengal **State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission** are functioning -3 (Bench-I, II & III) in Kolkata and other 2 Benches-one at and another at Asansol.
- At present 26 District Commissions are functioning including new District Commission, Kolkata Unit-IV at Sealdah started w.e.f. 01.07.2021
- The **CONFONET Scheme** is going on in full swing through all District Commission and the 5 Benches of West Bengal State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission. Court function of **WBSCDRC** and all the District Commissions have been brought under automation through **Online Case Monitoring System (OCMS)** under **Confonet scheme**, Phase-III. People are now empowered to access daily proceedings of their cases through [www.confonet.nic.in](http://www.confonet.nic.in).
- Virtual hearing has been introduced in three (3) benches of the State Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission.
- To enable consumers to file complaints electronically integration with **e-Dakhil Portal** has been launched on 24.12.2021.
- Regular **Lok Adalats** are being organized at West Bengal State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission and all the District Commissions every year.
- The State Commission, West Bengal and all the District Commissions in the State are providing **Legal Aid** to protect the interest of the Consumer belonging to the weaker and vulnerable section of the society within the ambit of Consumer Protection Act, 1986 by engaging Advocates from the panel of Advocates.
- In all the Consumer Commissions in West Bengal, the total number of cases filed up to 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2021 is 1,89,945 and the number of cases disposed is 1,67,284.

### **9.27 Directorate of Legal Metrology**

During 2021-22 (up to December, 2021), the Directorate has conducted 1202 enforcement drives in 3372 markets. Total no. of Traders covered is 392175 and no. of Seizures have been made is 1787. Moreover,

1699 no. of Seizures have been made from the user of weights and measures for violation of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 and 88 numbers of seizures have been made due to violation of the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 during this Pandemic Situation.

New Initiatives undertaken: Phase-I of 'e-Parimap' project has already been implemented successfully and phase- II of 'e-Parimap' project has gone live on 25.11.2021 introducing on-line application issuance of verification certificate.

## ***9.28 The West Bengal Right to Public Service Commission (WBRTPS)***

### ***Achievements of WBRTPS Commission***

- As on 30.11.2021, the Commission has carried out 32 Suo motu Inspection/ Out-come Survey in different district of West Bengal. Because of the COVID situation, Inspection visits were badly affected during the year 2021.
- **Capacity Building:** Commission also conducted awareness and capacity building workshop during such visits where the participants were the Designated Officers of the Sub-Division and their Assistants. Commission also participated in **Kreta Suraksha Mela** to build awareness about the Act, Rules and Notifications of various Departments. Special Awareness programme organized on "*Municipal Administration towards Transparency and Accountability towards public in general*" in Kreta Suraksha Mela.
- **Data Management:** In order to ensure issue of Form-I and maintenance of Form-IV correspondence were made with different departments.
- **Special Achievements:** Due to Commission's relentless effort Bidhannagar Municipality has come out with their notification with reference to **WBRTPS Act, 2013** and Howrah Municipal Corporation has started initiation to bring about their notification. Commission has come up with one Compendium of **WBRTPS** wherein the Acts, Rules and Notifications of different Departments have been compiled & distributed. Commission has ensured display of Notified Services at the DO's office through the Directorate of **CA & FBP**.

## *Food & Supplies*

### *9.30 Introduction*

Food for all and eradication of hunger is the primary objective of Food and Supplies Department.

### *9.31 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)*

- At present, *Khadyasathi* is providing ration to about 10 crore beneficiaries which is more than 95% population of the State. During pandemic, Government has been providing food grains completely free of cost to all beneficiaries.
- Apart from normal entitlements, 54 lakh beneficiaries who are living in the remote area like Jungle Mahal, Hill & Tea garden and Aila affected area and unwilling farmers of Singur are being provided additional foodgrains over and above normal entitlement.
- *Khadyasathi Special Food Coupons* were also issued to 17,445 deprived women and transgender for subsidized ration who do not have Aadhaar card.
- Inmates of Government owned/ sponsored Hostels and Welfare Institutions are also being provided subsidized foodgrains. 6,653 M.T. foodgrains have been allocated to them during 2021-22.
- The severely malnourished children along with their mothers are also being provided 5 kg rice, 2.5 kg wheat, 1 kg Bengal gram and 1 kg mosur dal per month free of cost. During 2021-22, 2379 Severe Acute Malnourished (SAM) children have been provided foodgrains.
- Sugar, flour, mustard oil and Bengal gram (during Ramzan) have been provided to 82.38 lakh AAY & SPHH beneficiary families under festive package during the festive season (Ramzan, Durgotsav, Kalipuja, Diwali and Chhat Puja).

### *9.32 Major Achievements & Initiatives*

- The Department has taken several initiatives to eradicate starvation death during this Covid-19 pandemic situation.
- The Department has ensured timely availability of foodgrains in proper quality and in right quantity in FPSs by strengthening vigilance and monitoring system.
- 45.36 lakh MT of paddy was procured in the Kharif Marketing Season (K.M.S.) 2020-2021 by the State Govt. benefiting 15.57 lakh farmers.
- In K.M.S. 2021-2022 from 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2021, the Department has started purchasing Paddy at Minimum Support Price of Rs. 1940/- per quintal. At *Centralised Procurement Centres (CPCs)* an incentive of Rs. 20/- per quintal is being provided to the small and marginal farmers. About 470 CPCs have been set up in all major rice producing blocks throughout the State and administered directly by the Department.
- The Department has introduced *Khadyasathi-Annadatri Mobile APP* for the convenience of farmers

willing to sell paddy and facilitate them for registration.

- For efficient real time monitoring of the distribution mechanism, e-PoS machines have been installed in more than 20000 Fair Price Shops till date. To streamline the process of getting Digital Ration Card and others related services, Department has launched online facility for all types of applications.

### ***Procurement of Paddy***

- During KMS 2020-21 the registration of farmers was started from 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2020, and procurement from 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 onwards in the 354 CPCs, notified in 21 districts along with 46 DPCs. There were 1214 Cooperative Societies and 498 women Self Help Groups and 81 FPOs/ FPCs engaged in paddy procurement process during KMS 2020-2021. The milling of paddy involved 610 Rice Mills across the State.
- Payments were made directly to the bank accounts of the farmers who sold their paddy at the purchase centres, through NEFT within three working days.

### ***Physical Infrastructure augmented at Block, Sub-division and District***

After introduction of NFSA and RKSY, the Department has taken initiative to strengthen the infrastructure up to the grass root level and, therefore, has taken several initiatives to upgrade on infrastructure at all levels. In the last 10 years, 75 Khadya Bhawans have been completed, out of which 7 completed during 2021-22 for accommodation of offices of DCF&S and SCF&S. Further, additional works of four projects of Khadya Bhawans are ongoing (including vertical extension). Maintenance and creation of storage capacity is one of the core functions of the Department. The Department has completed augmentation of storage capacity and has raised the available capacity to current level of 10 LMT in the State for storage of food grains till date.

***Special achievements:*** Paddy Procurement by this Department at ***Minimum Support Price (MSP)*** with a remunerative price of their produce protects farmers against distress sale. Total paddy procurement in K.M.S. 2020-21 is 45.36 LMT.

### ***9.33 New Initiatives undertaken***

To provide convenient and hassle free services and information related with Ration Card, entitlement against different categories of Ration Cards, sale of paddy, delivery of food grains through the Fair Price Shops, the Department have introduced a slew of process re-engineering and reforms and e-Governance Modules. The public can have access to portals and use Mobile App and automated chat response system for information and apply for all the services related with Ration Card and procurement through online mode also in addition to normal access mode. Services are being delivered through digital mode like ***e-Khadyasathi Food Coupon*** and ***e-Ration Card*** for which beneficiaries are not required to visit offices physically to receive the coupon or card.



## *Youth Services and Sports*

### **9.34 Introduction**

The objective of the department is to enhance the overall mental & physical development of the Student-Youth of the State through organizing various cultural & sports events and to promote and inculcate sports culture among the youths of the State.

### **9.35 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)**

- The Department has focused on upgradation and renovation of Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan, Netaji Indoor Stadium, Kishore Bharati Stadium, Balurghat Stadium, Tehatta Stadium, Shantipur Stadium and other sports infrastructures throughout the State.
- Various grants have been provided to individuals and organizations for improvement of sports and holistic development of the youth of the State.
- Construction of Bandwan Archery Academy at Purulia is in progress.
- Apart from above, Special Award is also given to eminent sports persons for their excellent achievement in the field of sports. Total 50 numbers of eminent sports personalities have been awarded with Khel Samman, Banglar Gourab, Krira Guru, Jiban Kriti Samman and special award from Netaji Indoor Stadium this year.
- From 2011, financial assistance has been provided to clubs for development of sports infrastructure, talent hunt and imparting training to local talents throughout the State.
- From the financial year 2018-19, this department has introduced the new scheme "**Strengthening of Sports Coaching Camp**" to improve the infrastructures of grass root level coaching camps throughout the State.

#### **Physical achievements:**

- **Rakhi Bandhan Utsab:** Successfully held on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2021 in all Blocks/Municipalities/ Municipal Corporations/ Wards of KMC. State level programme was held on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2021 at NIS, Kolkata.
- **Vivek Chetana Utsab:** Successfully held in all 342 Blocks/ 117 Municipalities/ 6 Municipal Corporations/ 144 Wards under KMC and 24 District Head quarters on and from 10–12<sup>th</sup> January, 2021.
- **Subhas Utsab:** Successfully held in all 342 Blocks/ 117 Municipalities/ 6 Municipal Corporations/ 144 Wards under KMC and at 24 District Head quarters on and from 22–23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2021.
- **Youth Hostel:** Construction works of 4 nos. of new Youth Hostels are in progress.

### **9.36 Special Achievements during FY 2021-22 up to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021**

- Work of Harichand Guruchand stadium has been completed & inaugurated.
- Construction work of Kishore Bharati stadium has been completed.
- Online booking started for 2 new Youth Hostels namely Karnajora and Gajoldoba Youth Hostel.

- Rakhi Bandhan Utsab at Block and State level celebrated on 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2021.

### ***9.37 Major initiatives undertaken***

- Inauguration of Asansol Youth Hostel, Balurghat Youth Hostel, Bhutanghat Youth Hostel and Haldia Youth Hostel.
- Sports climbing competition and Mountaineering expedition of West Bengal Mountaineering and Adventure Sports Foundation (WBMASF) and Orientation camp of Rock climbing for instructors at Susunia, Bankura.
- Organized Block/ Municipality/ Municipal Corporation/ Borough level Student Youth Science Fair.
- Radhanath Sikdar – Tenzing Norges adventure Award giving ceremony.
- Organizing District and State level Student Youth Festival, Vivek Chetana Utsab and Subhas Utsab.



Economic Review 2021-22

Chapter

10

# Emergency Services

Disaster Management and Civil Defence  
Fire and Emergency Services



## *Disaster Management & Civil Defence*

### *10.1 Introduction*

The Department of Disaster Management & Civil Defence is the nodal Department of the State Government for coordinating all activities related to the cycle of Disaster Management – preparedness, mitigation, prevention, response, relief and rehabilitation.

### *10.2 Achievements during the financial year 2021-22 (up to Dec, 2021)*

- Providing Normal Gratuitous Relief (GR), Special GR, Leprosy GR and Cash GR to the indigent families. During 2021-22, till December 2021, 25,526.73 MT Normal GR, 9,876.66 MT Special GR, 834.77 MT Leprosy GR and Cash GR have been released.
- Providing Ex-Gratia grant to the next of kin of any person who dies in any natural calamity, accidental fire, snake bite and sun stroke. Ex-Gratia grant was released towards natural calamity and snake bite respectively.
- Providing House Building Grant (HBG) to the families whose houses are fully or partially damaged due to any natural calamity or accidental fire. During 2021-22, till December 2021, number of cases of house damage due to natural calamity and accidental fire are 87,114 and 629 respectively. HBG released towards house damage due to natural calamity and accidental fire respectively.
- Providing Economic Rehabilitation Grant (ERG) to economically poor section of people for commencement of business (the upper limit being Rs. 10,000) and sewing machine to persons having certificate in sewing.
- Distribution of relief materials like Tarpauline, Dhuti, Saree, Lungi, Kurti-Leggings, Pajama-Panjabi, Children Garments, Blanket and Bed-sheet among people affected by natural calamities and accidental fire.
- Providing Disaster Management Kit to disaster affected people. During 2021-22, till December 2021, 1,18,000 such Kits were distributed.
- Construction of Flood Shelter and Relief Godown in the district, sub-division and block level: During 2021-22, till December 2021, 5 Flood Shelters and 2 Relief Godowns have been constructed.
- Protecting and facilitating the migrant labourers, a scheme named ***Sneher Paras*** has been taken up to bring migrant labourers to this State from different parts of the country.
- Providing financial support from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to the Health and Family Welfare Department to set up the Covid-19 Quarantine Centres, Safe Homes, Covid Hospitals.
- Providing financial support from SDRF to the Transport Department to give the transport facilities to all frontline Health Workers and Police Personnel during utter lock down period, to Agriculture, Fishery, Animal Husbandry, Horticulture for compensation of damage to beneficiaries affected by any natural calamity and to Irrigation, PWD, etc. departments from SDRF for repairing of damaged infrastructure caused by natural calamity.

- Providing financial support for Gangasagar Mela to set up control room, CCTV based monitoring, supervision of crowd management utilizing drone.
- Developing and implementing the programme of Ex-Gratia assistance to the next kin of the deceased due to Covid-19 at the rate of Rs. 50,000.00 for each case and preparing a website through which the claimants may submit their applications through online system.

### ***10.3 Other Schemes, Programmes and their implementations***

- Strengthening of State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) and District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) to supervise the functioning of the disaster management services in the state and district respectively.
- Implementation of Hospital disaster preparedness and response training in M.R.Bangur Hospital, Kolkata. Disaster Management Plans are prepared at state, district, sub-division and block level and are updated every year.
- An Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) has been established at the Department which is operated 24X7, 365 days and responds to any natural disaster anywhere in the state and outside also in quick time. A toll free number 1070 has been kept at the EOC. Set up of control room for Durga Puja, Kali Puja, Gangasagar Mela, Covid Helpline, Duare Sarkar and any other kind of calamity has been done by this Department.
- This Department developed capacities of society by creating social assets for combating disaster Infrastructural development viz. Construction of Flood Shelter and Relief Godown, Multi Purpose Cyclone Shelter, Integrated Coastal Zone Management Programme (ICZMP) and National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project-II increases the mitigating capacity of community and reduces vulnerability to disasters.
- The Department is implementing a Web based Incident Response Software (Previstar CPS) at the EOC through WEBEL Technology Ltd. For better management of disasters by real time analysis of data. All 23 districts have been covered in this project.
- An Enterprise GIS solution with a Mobile Data Collection System has been developed where data collection from field level will be done through hand held smart devices. This Department is using Whatsapp application to share information of disaster for better coordination among the different stake holders in the state.
- Early Warning Dissemination System by SMS has been developed through IT Department to alert all the mobile users in the state regarding advent of natural calamities. Alert messages can be sent to common people also depending on the urgency.
- For crowd management in Gangasagar Mela, the department has utilized four Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) and 600 CCTV cameras to manage the crowd.

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

### ***10.4 Introduction***

The department of Fire and Emergency Services has taken several steps for development of Fire Fighting arrangements throughout the state of West Bengal by means of setting up of new fire stations at different vulnerable places, procuring many appropriate fire tenders and fire equipment. The prime objective of the department is to save lives and properties from fire or any type of emergency in quickest possible time with the help of ultra modern equipment by developing necessary mindset of the fire fighters and generating awareness among the citizens.

### ***10.5 Achievements during the financial year 2021-2022 (up to Dec, 2021)***

- ***Opening of new Fire Stations and construction of new buildings for old Fire Stations:*** Construction of 6 new Fire Stations namely Nishiganj, Gangasagar, Beldanga, New Town, New Barrackpore, and Galsi have been completed and inaugurated and commissioned too. Construction of a new building for existing Cossipore Fire Station has also been completed in this year. Moreover, construction work of 2 new Fire Stations, Purbasthali and Panskura, and 1 new building for existing Maniktala Fire Station is near to completion. The number of Fire Stations has increased from 109 in 2011-12 to 154 as on date.
- ***Purchase of Fire Tenders and special equipment:*** During the financial year 2021-22, the following FireTenders/ sophisticated appliances have been procured: 250 BA Set carbon composite Cylinder, 250 Rechargeable LED search light, 4 Water and Foam Mist System Trolley Mounted, 20 Rotary Hammer Drill, 20 Demolition Hammer, and 10 Petrol Operated Bullet Chain Saw.
- ***President's Medal:*** Four Fire Officers/ Personnel have been awarded President's Fire Service Medal for meritorious service on the occasion of Independence Day, 2021.

### ***10.6 New Initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken:***

- 5 new proposed Fire Stations in Sonamukhi, Birpara, Birati, Sabang, and Dubrajpur are under different stages of construction and 1 new building for existing Fire Station in Howrah is being upgraded.
- New Fire Stations are planned to be established in the following places: Lake Town, Deganga, Nonadanga, Garbeta, Dainhat and Dhaniakhali.







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