



ECONOMIC REVIEW 2020-21



Department of Planning & Statistics
Government of West Bengal



Economic Review 2020-21



MESSAGE

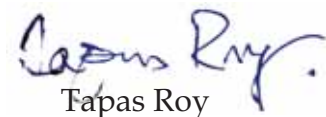
The Economic Review 2020-21 presents a profile of key economic activities and achievements of the State. The contents of this publication have been compiled based on the official statistics received from various departments, corporations, autonomous bodies and other concerned agencies of the State Government.

This government of “Ma-Mati-Manush” under the undaunted leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Smt. Mamata Banerjee has initiated and implemented several schemes and programmes to promote equitable growth ensuring that no one is left behind. These endeavours have not only redefined the development paradigms but also achieved a new height nationally and internationally.

This government has been working continuously with great commitment, dedication, transparency and accountability to ascertain improvement in the quality of life of its people. As a result, the state has handled the unprecedented COVID 19 crisis with great care and witnessed commendable management skills in dealing with severe destructions created by the super cyclone AMPHAN. Indeed, innovative policies and delivery mechanisms have enabled the State to scale new peaks, challenged only by its own aspirations to excel.

The able leadership and the vision of Hon'ble Chief Minister have greatly accelerated the pace of development through implementation of various schemes and programmes like Duare-Sarkar, Paray Samadhan, Swasthya Sathi, Khadyasathi (Sokoler Janno Khadya), Chokher Alo, Matir Shristi, Sneher Paras, Kanyashree, Rupashree, Sabujisathi, Sabujisree, Krishak Bandhu, Banglar Fasal Bima Yojana, Banglar Gramin Sadak Yojana, Banglar Awas Yojana, Chaa Sundari, Prachesta, Jai Jahar, Taposili Bandhu, Manabik, Jaago, Bina Mulya Samajik Suraksha Prakalpa, Shikshashree, Aikyashree, Lok Prasar Prakalpa, Pension for general Purohit & Adivasi Purohit, distribution of Rs 10,000 to 9 lakh class XII students for purchase of tabs etc. to name a few. Economic prosperity and significant positive changes are evident in the State. Also, it is a matter of pride that by overcoming all challenges the State has maintained a positive GSDP growth during 2020-21. The State is always committed to work untiringly for the welfare of its people in the upcoming years.

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


Tapas Roy

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Economic Review 2020 -21

Highlights

Highlights

During the financial year 2020-21, the pandemic due to Covid-19 virus drastically affected the life and livelihood of the populace throughout the globe. On the other hand, the super cyclone "Amphan" made landfall near Sagar islands on 20th May, 2020 and devastated many districts of Bengal. Despite many constraints, the Government has launched several ambitious schemes with the goal to further strengthen the economy, promote inclusive growth and to ensure development leaving no one behind

∞ **Duare Sarkar:** The Duare Sarkar programme was launched on 1st December, 2020 by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal, to take government services to the doorsteps of the people. Till 31st January, 2021 about 29,170 camps were held to cover all Gram Panchayats and municipal wards.

The programme has witnessed an unprecedented response from the people of the state. So far, more than 2.63 crore citizens have visited the camps. Services have been delivered to more than 1.39 crore people.

- More than 76.56 lakh additional families were provided health insurance under Swasthya Sathi
- More than 17.57 lakh Caste Certificates have been issued to members of the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Classes communities.
- More than 11.58 lakh people were given work under MGNREGA, popularly known as 100 days' work.
- More than 9.34 lakh additional farmers were brought under the coverage of the state's assured income scheme Krishak Bandhu.
- More than 16.14 lakh people have been provided food security under Khadya Sathi

Apart from above, many other services related to schemes like Kanyashree, Rupashree, Shikhashree, Aikyashree, Manobik, Taposili Bandhu etc. have been provided to a large number of people. Due to the overwhelming response to Duare Sarkar, the Government has extended the programme up to 8th February 2021.

∞ **Paray Samadhan:** Paray Samadhan scheme was launched by Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal with the objective of solving the citizen's local problems by giving instant solutions. The issues can be like adding a school room, construction of culverts, repairing pipelines/drain etc.

∞ **Chokher Alo:** The scheme will ensure free cataract operations for senior citizens and eye treatment for all, over the next five years. Distribution of free spectacles and eye treatment has been initiated across the State.

∞ **Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP):** West Bengal has retained positive GSDP growth during 2020-21 (at base 2011-12) at both current prices (8.03%) and constant prices (1.20%), over the previous year.

- ⌘ **Revenue Deficit as percentage of Total Revenue Receipt** has been recorded an excellent decrease from 36.55% in 2010-11 to 13.76% in 2019-20.
- ⌘ **Fiscal Deficit as percentage of GSDP** has been declined sharply from 4.24% in 2010-11 to 2.94% in 2019-20.
- ⌘ **Capital Expenditure:** There has been a whopping increase in Capital Expenditure amounting to about seven times over the period 2010-11 to 2019-20. In 2010-11, Capital Expenditure was Rs. 2633.48 crore and in 2019-20, it was Rs. 17236.83 crore.
- ⌘ **Swasthya Sathi:** Swasthya Sathi scheme has been made universal covering entire population of the State with more than 1585 empanelled hospitals. The entire cost is borne by the State Government and there is no contribution required from the beneficiary who can avail coverage up to Rs 5 lakh. The Swasthya Sathi Smart Card is issued in the name of woman member of the family.
- ⌘ **Sneher Paras:** The Government proactively implemented "*Sneher Paras*", a Special financial assistance of one-time ex-gratia payment to migrant workers of West Bengal stranded at different part of the country due to COVID-19 restriction. More than Rs. 44 crore has been released for stranded migrant workers.
- ⌘ **Transport arrangement for migrant workers:** During 2020-21, in Covid-19 pandemic situation, massive transport arrangement was made during the period of lock-down for movement of lakhs of migrant workers/ laborers. Huge numbers of STU buses were deployed for running essential services, for movement of health workers, police and others during the lock-down period.
- ⌘ **Kanyashree Prakalpa:** 'Kanyashree Prakalpa' is the State Government's flagship scheme for the empowerment of adolescent girls. The Scheme's Annual Scholarship for girls between the ages of 13-18 was raised from Rs. 500 to Rs. 750 in 2015-16 and was increased again in 2018-19 to Rs. 1,000. For girls who attain age 18 while still in education and unmarried, the Scheme also gives one-time grant of Rs. 25000. Since 2018-19, all girls, regardless of family income, can enroll in the scheme.
- ⌘ **Shikshashree:** To achieve the aims at providing opportunities for education to all SC and ST students right from Class V, totally state funded "Shikshashree" Scholarship is being disbursed.
- ⌘ **Aikyashree:** This scheme was launched in the year 2019-20 for providing scholarships to minority students. In the inaugural year scholarships amounting to more than Rs. 600 crore were disbursed to about 37 lakh students. More than 46 lakh scholarships to minority students are expected to be released during 2020-21.
- ⌘ **Rupashree Prakalpa:** Under the Scheme, any adult woman from a family whose income does not exceed Rs.1.20 lakhs annually is provided a one-time cash transfer of Rs. 25,000/- for her first marriage.
- ⌘ **Caste Certificates to SC:** All Sub-divisions are now using online facility for issuing caste certificates.

- ☞ **Issuance of Caste Certificate (ST):** Time of processing and issuance of certificate has been reduced from 8 weeks to 4.
- ☞ **Joy Johar (ST Old Age Pension):** Old Age Pension is being provided to the ST beneficiaries on their attainment of 60 years of age @ Rs 1,000 per month.
- ☞ **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.
- ☞ **Old age and Widow Pension Scheme:** With effect from 1st April 2020, the pension benefit for Old Age and Widow Pensions was raised from Rs. 750/- to Rs. 1,000/- per month.
- ☞ **Khadya Sathi:** Due to Corona pandemic, Government has provided and will continue to provide foodgrains completely free of cost to all 9.91 crore beneficiaries as per their entitlement. Further food coupons have been distributed to migrant labourers as one time relief. Special packages over and above the existing entitlements are provided to more than 50 lakh beneficiaries belonging to vulnerable section of society.
- ☞ **Krishak Bandhu (Assured Income):** Since January, 2019 to support the farmers financially during pre-production stage for procurement of agricultural inputs & other cultivation cost which leads to increase the crop production vis-a-vis assured income. In the Assured Income part of the scheme every farmer will be provided a financial support of maximum Rs. 5000 or part thereof up to 1 acre of land subject to a minimum of Rs. 2000 per farmer per year.
- ☞ **Krishak Bandhu (Death Benefit):** This scheme is to support the bereaved family members due to untimely death of a farmers or Bhagchashi (share cropper) in the event of his death due to any cause including natural death as a means of social security. Under this 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 get a one-time grant of Rs. 2 lakh only.
- ☞ **Manabik:** The 'Manabik' Pension Scheme which provides Rs. 1,000/- per month to persons with disabilities. From 1st April 2020, the scheme's eligibility criteria were relaxed to make the benefits more accessible. The percentage of disability required was reduced from 50% to 40%, and the scheme's income ceiling removed.
- ☞ **100 Days Work (MGNREGA):** Under 100 Days' Work, West Bengal could establish itself as a major contributor in the country. In FY 2020-21 (by 31st December 2020), the State could generate as high as 32.65 crore person-days, including 45% woman person-days. 73.18 lakh households and 1.06 crore workers were provided works which is all time high.
- ☞ **Jai Bangla (Pension Scheme):** The amount of monthly pension increased to Rs. 1,000 from erstwhile Rs. 750 in the scheme.
- ☞ **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. To assist the enrolled beneficiaries, the state government decided to waive off the beneficiary contribution of Rs. 25 per 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.

- ☞ **Karma Sathi Prakalpa:** The scheme was notified in September 2020 for generation of employment throughout the state. This is a subsidy linked self-employment scheme for the people aged between 18-50 years having educational qualification of minimum class VIII passed. Any activity in manufacturing, service & trading sector up to Rs. 2 lakh (project cost) can be taken up under this scheme. The scheme provides 15% project subsidy with a ceiling of Rs. 25000 and 50% interest subsidy up to 3 years for timely repayment of loan.
- ☞ **Prachesta:** Any labourer/ daily wage earner/ worker in the unorganised sector who was a permanent resident of West Bengal and was in extreme duress due to loss of employment/ livelihood opportunities due to outbreak of Covid Pandemic (COVID-19) and did not have alternative source of income, would be eligible for the assistance of one-time ex-gratia of Rs. 1,000. The scheme was launched on 10th April 2020.
- ☞ **Banglashree:** For promotion and development of *MSMEs* as well as creation of employment opportunities across the state, the state government has launched this scheme in July 2020 to extend fiscal incentives to new and existing manufacturing *MSMEs*.
- ☞ **Nije Dhan Din Nije Cheque Nin:** Payments were made to the farmers under the '*Nije Dhan Din Nije Cheque Nin*' programme on the same day of receipt paddy from the farmers. And due to pandemic, since 29.04.2020, Government implemented that the payment of the farmers could be made through online/NEFT/DBT.
- ☞ **Bangla Sasya Bima:** State launched its own scheme namely, Bangla Shasya Bima (BSB) Scheme during Kharif 2019 season with an aim to extend hassle free crop insurance to all willing and eligible farmers and ensure timely claim. The coverage of farmers increased from 44.67 lakh in Kharif 2019 season to more than 64 lakh in Kharif 2020 season.
- ☞ **Matir Katha:** Government enabled direct information gateway to common people in terms of online licence application for fertilizer, pesticide and seed and at the same time providing basic information about plant protection. 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 has also been developed under the platform to provide service to farmers of specific interest.
- ☞ **Jal Dharo Jal Bharo:** 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:** This programme was launched to make productive use of fallow land in 6 western Districts viz. Birbhum, Bankura, Purulia, Paschim Medinipur, Jhargram & Paschim Bardhaman.

- ☞ **Kisan Credit Card (KCC):** Significant increase in number of KCCs has been witnessed during 2020-21 compared to the previous year.
- ☞ **Sufal Bangla:** The scheme was launched in 2014 to ensure remunerative price to farmers and reasonable price to consumers. Daily about 75-80 MT of agricultural produces amounting to Rs. 18-20 lakh are sold through *Sufal Bangla* outlets to serve about 2-2.5 lakh consumers daily.
- ☞ Under **Onion and Potato Market intervention** up to February, 2020, Onion was sold from 148 counters with a variable subsidy ranging from Rs. 5 per Kg- Rs. 55 per Kg covering about 3, 92,395 beneficiaries and potato was sold at a subsidized rate at Rs. 17 per kg to about 11,84,245 consumers to stabilize the price in the market.
- ☞ **Amar Fasal Amar Chatal:** To prevent post-harvest loss and to enhance farm level value addition, One Time Assistance is also provided through “Amar Fasal Amar Chatal” @Rs. 17,975 for constructing a Farm Family level paddy processing yard (Chatal) for sun drying of par boiled paddy and/or Rs. 5,000 for constructing an improved low cost paddy and grain storage structures.
- ☞ **Sabujshree:** This scheme will not only economically benefit the new-born when they attain adulthood but will also help create Green Cover in the State. Under this scheme seedlings have been distributed to the mothers of newly born children.
- ☞ **Disposal of mutation and conversion cases:** Automatic mutation has been launched during the year 2020 resulting significant increase of mutation cases to the tune of 30,89,259. Also, 65,848 Conversion Cases have been disposed (up to 31st December, 2020).
- ☞ **MSME Sector:** About 89 lakh *MSMEs* of the state contribute nearly 14% of the total *MSMEs* of the country. With 23.42% share, the state leads in the country in respect of total female owned proprietary enterprises in India. West Bengal accounts for about 21.25% of the total manufacturing enterprises in India which is the highest among the States in India.
- ☞ **Bengal Silicon Valley:** 100+ acres of land plots have been allotted to 20+ organizations including organizations like Reliance Corporate IT Park, Tata Consultancy Services, First-source Solutions Ltd, Indo-Japan Horological Pvt. Ltd., Vikram Solar, Airtel, etc.
- ☞ **Karmobhumi:** Government launched Karmobhumi portal for capturing the skills of the retrenched and/or repatriated professionals of IT/ ITeS sectors from the State to provide opportunities for upskilling through certification courses at no cost and facilitate in connecting them with potential employers. Till now, the portal has 42,950+ registrations boasting top-rated skills such as AI-ML, Block-chain, Cyber-Security etc. and 370 registered Employers.
- ☞ **Hasir Alo:** A new scheme was launched in the Financial Year 2020-21 titled as “Hasir Alo” to provide free electricity including meter rent to the consumers of CESC & WBSEDCL having monthly consumption of 25 units/ quarterly consumption of 75 units with a connected load of 0.3 KWh.

- ☞ **Ease of Doing Business & Single Window:** The Government regularly efforts in providing an industry-friendly environment by prioritizing the '*Ease of Doing Business*', '*Single Window*' Facilitation Services.
- ☞ **Yuvasree:** Under this scheme, each of the selected jobseekers is paid financial assistance @Rs. 1500 per month.
- ☞ **Akarshan (Attraction), e-Enablement of Employment Exchanges:** It is a 'first of its kind' initiative to provide on a single platform all the required facilities to the enrolled job seekers of the state who aspire for quality employment through various competitive examinations/ selection tests or want to be self-employed. 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.
- ☞ **Banglar Awas Yojona:** In rural areas, in the FY 2020-21, till 31st December, 2020, Government of West Bengal has given sanction to more than 8,24,719 houses. Total amount spent during the financial year 2020-21 (up to December, 2020) is Rs. 7,661.51 crore. Government of West Bengal has sanctioned and completed the highest number of houses in India since its inception. In urban areas also, more than 4,32,385 dwelling units have been sanctioned.
- ☞ **Shishu Aloy:** The Government adopted an activity based, thematic and age-appropriate Early Childhood Care & Education curriculum, named as 'Shishu Aloy' (Children's Abode). 53894 'Shishu Aloy' centres are operational across the state. During the COVID lockdown, Home-based Early Childhood Care & Education outreach programme ensured continuity of pre-school education services to approximately 22.28 lakh home-bound children aged 3-6 years every month through their parents/care givers. The outreach initiative received the "*Gold*" *Skoch Smart Governance Award 2020*.
- ☞ **Chaa Sundari Housing Scheme:** Under this scheme, workers have been identified from 7 tea gardens to provide pucca house 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.
- ☞ **Mission Nirmal Bangla:** All Gram Panchayats have turned Open Defecation Free (ODF). Under this scheme, Individual Household Latrines, Community Toilets and Public Toilets have been constructed. In Solid Waste Management, Door to Door Collection system of Solid Waste have been established in 95% wards whereas segregated waste is being collected from 25% wards.
- ☞ **Sabooj Sathi:** This is a flagship scheme for distribution of bicycles to increase access in high school education. In 2020-21, Government has already released a sum of Rs. 22.56 crore as a part of procurement & distribution of Bi-cycles. During 2020, "Sabooj Sathi Online 3.0" has been selected

'Winner' in category ICT applications benefits in all aspects of life-E-Government by "World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2020" (WSIS).

- ⌘ **Samaj Sathi:** The scheme '*Samaj Sathi*' provides accidental benefit support to the members of SHGs and their families and now synchronised with Swasthya Sathi.
- ⌘ **Jaago:** Under 'Jaago', more than 8,82,827 Women SHGs have been provided with an appreciation grant @Rs 5000 per SHG, with a total outlay of Rs. 441.41 crore as a commendation for the vibrant women SHG members who have rendered remarkable services during awareness generation on covid-19 pandemic, managing isolation camps and post Amphan devastation management.
- ⌘ **Social Welfare Scheme for Purohits (SWSP):** Recently State Government has introduced Monthly Financial Assistance of Rs. 1,000 for poor Purohits and poor Priests of other communities like Christians, Jains, Buddhists and Parsis, including Tribals, under *Jai Bangla* Scheme, on 24.08.2020. This Scheme also has provision for Housing Scheme for the poor Purohits/ Priests with financial assistance of Rs. 1.20 lakh for construction of a dwelling unit.
- ⌘ **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.
- ⌘ **Fair Price Diagnostic and Dialysis Centres:** 152 High-end Fair Price Diagnostic and Dialysis Centres have been established from level of Medical Colleges to secondary tier hospitals and 110 such units and 42 Dialysis Units are functional in the State. So far, more than 96.44 lakh patients have availed the free services.
- ⌘ **Night Shelters:** Government is constructing '*Night Shelters*' for the benefit of patient parties within the campus of different Government Hospitals in Kolkata, Districts and Sub-divisions.
- ⌘ **Su-Swasthya Kendra:** 2,637 'Su-Swasthya Kendra' at health sub-centres have been set up in the state from 2019 to 2020. Another 1700 primary healthcare facilities (Sub-Centre) will be upgraded into 'Su-Swasthya Kendra' by March 2021. Rs 329 crore has been sanctioned in budget for this purpose in the financial year 2020-21.
- ⌘ **West Bengal Freeship Scheme (WBFS):** Tuition fees waiver scheme for the economically backward students of self-financed & Private Engineering/ Technical colleges of the State.
- ⌘ **Gross Enrolment in Higher Education** increased from 13.2 Lakh in 2011 to 21.6 lakh in 2019-20.
- ⌘ **New Universities set up:** In 2010-11, there were 12 State aided Universities. 30 new Universities have been set up in the State in the last 9 years.
- ⌘ A one-time grant of Rs. 10,000/- is given to each student of class XII of the Govt./Aided/Sponsored schools and Madrasahs for **purchasing tabs/ smartphones** for accessing the e-learning mode.
- ⌘ **Pathashree:** It is a road repair scheme, where roads will be repaired in a mission mode and in a time bound manner.

- ⌘ **Safe Drive Save Life:** Numbers of Road accidents, Deaths and Injuries have been diminished by way of introducing '*Safe Drive Save Life*' campaign which is one of the flagship programmes of the Government.
- ⌘ **Patha Bandhu** project has been launched for immediate response with medical attention to Road Traffic Accident (RTA) victims in collaboration with West Bengal Traffic Police.
- ⌘ **Gatidhara:** The self-employment scheme '*Gatidhara*' is continuing with full momentum as flagship program. Even in pandemic situation in 2020-21(up to 22.12.2020), 4509 applications have been received out of which 2473 applications have been sanctioned.
- ⌘ **Integrated Traffic management System** & On-line monitoring of buses through *GPRS* has been started by *SBSTC*.
- ⌘ **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 throughout the State.
- ⌘ **Banglar Gramin Sadak Yojana:** In 2019-20, a total new road length of 2,180 km was constructed in the State under the programme which is highest in achievement against allocation in the country. Also 1,900 km roads are under execution in full swing.
- ⌘ **Green City Mission** for beautification and development of city infrastructure for smart & green environment has been undertaken by the Government. In the current financial year 2020-21, Rs. 86.66 crore has been released so far (24.12.2020).
- ⌘ **Baitarani:** As a flagship project Government has completed construction of 4 more Electric Crematoria for urban areas and 77 Cremation grounds for rural areas under Baitarani Project up to 31st December during the current financial year taking the total to 20 and 532 respectively.
- ⌘ **Lokprasara Prakalpa:** This is a State funded Flagship Programme for dissemination of government messages as well as awareness generation of the common people by using the skills of the thousands of folk artists throughout the State and at the same time towards their livelihood development.
- ⌘ **Bangla Sahayata Kendra (BSK):** This programme is introduced in the current financial year in the State to provide most of the services online to the public through extensive use of information technology. 3438 BSKs have been established. Till December, 2020, 230 categories of government services are being provided through these BSKs.
- ⌘ **Maavoi** is a health insurance and personal accident coverage scheme for accredited journalists and their dependent family members.

- ☞ **Boi Dhoro Boi Poro Prakalpa:** 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 total target has been fixed as 5 lakhs.
- ☞ **Villages Electrified:** Out of 37,960 numbers inhabited villages in the State, all 37,960 numbers of villages have already been electrified
- ☞ **Consumer Courts:** Due to an intensive campaign during last 9 years the consumers of our State are coming forward for redressal of their grievances. They are feeling much more protected. They are also getting speedy justice in the Consumer Courts.
- ☞ **Bangla Moder Gorbo,** a unique 3 days programme has been decided to organise in each district mainly to create economic opportunities for members of self help groups, artisans, folk artists who have been adversely affected due to Covid 19 pandemic.
- ☞ **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.
- ☞ **Kolkata Connect 2020** is an attractive arrangement promoting cultural tourism by way of inducting 2 modern double-decker buses to visit famous heritage places in Kolkata.
- ☞ Two new Development Boards, namely **Bauri Development Board & Bagdi Development Board** have been constituted for focused development of specific communities.
- ☞ **Kalimpong Coffee:** Socio-economic upliftment of farmers assured through cultivation of Coffee in 63 villages in 346 acres of farmer's land under Kalimpong District covering 1193 farmers to make the brand "*Kalimpong Coffee*".
- ☞ **Birsingha Development Authority (BSDA)** has been constituted in the district of Paschim Medinipur.



Economic Review 2020 -21

Chapter 1

State Economy

State Finance
Planning & Statistics

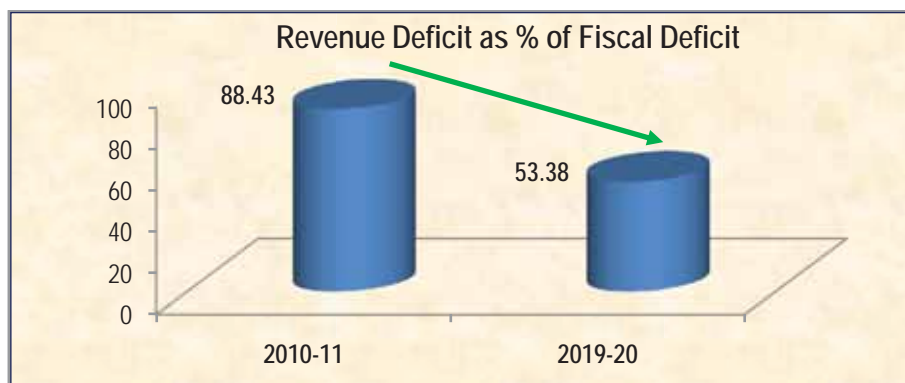
State Finance

1.1 Introduction

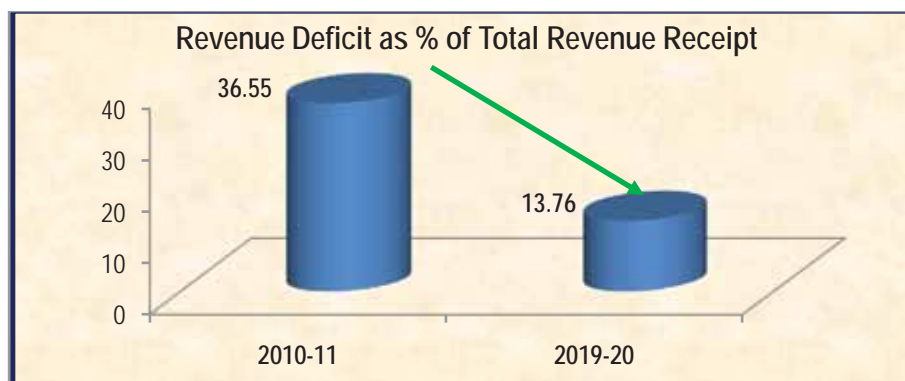
In the last nine years, the state has managed significant achievements in State Finances through astute and stringent fiscal recovery measures in spite of continued debt-stress on the state. The achievement has been duly suggested in the fiscal indicators over the period, more specifically in the consistently 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.

1.2 Revenue Deficit Statistics

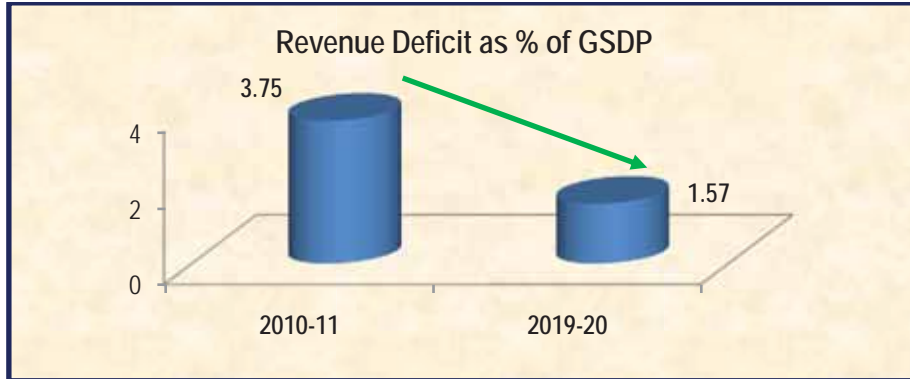
Revenue Deficit of the State is observing decreasing trends over the last few years. State's Revenue Deficit as percentage of total Fiscal Deficit is constantly recording a decreasing trend since 2010-11, where it has slid from 88.43% in 2010-11 to a remarkably appreciable 53.38% in 2019-20, i.e. within a span of 9 years.



Revenue Deficit as percentage of Total Revenue Receipt has also been recording an excellent decrease over the same period. In 2010-11, the figure was 36.55% and in 2019-20, it was 13.76%.

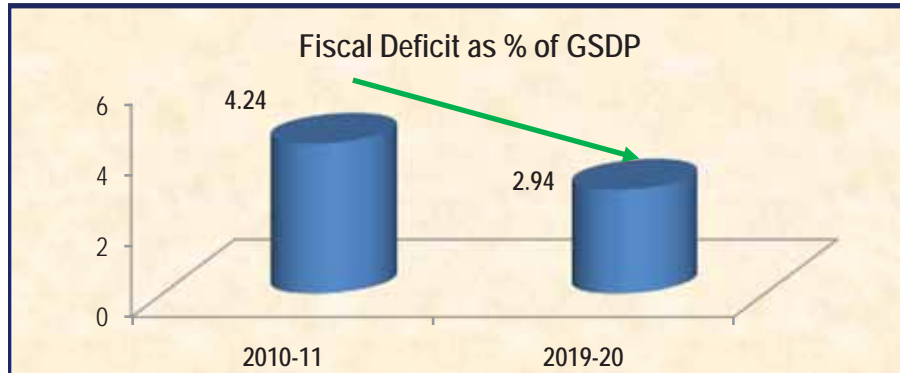


Consistent decrease over the same period has been found on Revenue Deficit as percentage of GSDP. The ratio has glided down from 3.75 in 2010-11 to 1.57 in 2019-20.



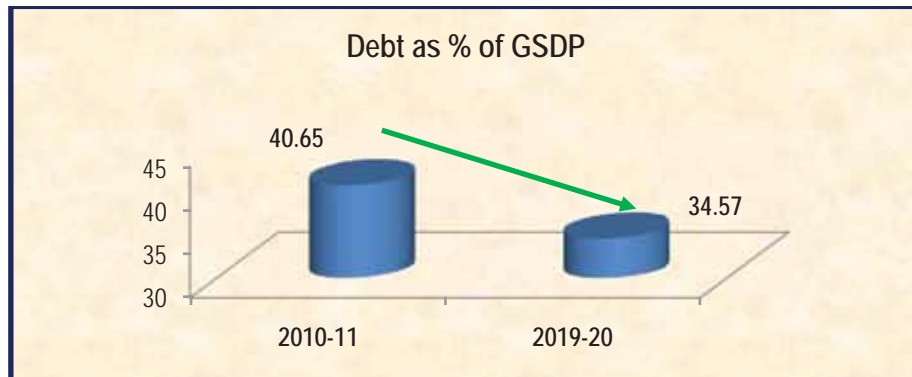
1.3 Fiscal Deficit Statistics

Fiscal Deficit of the State is further observing decreasing trends over the last few years. State's Fiscal Deficit as percentage of GSDP has been steadily decreasing from 4.24 in 2010-11 to 2.94 in 2019-20.



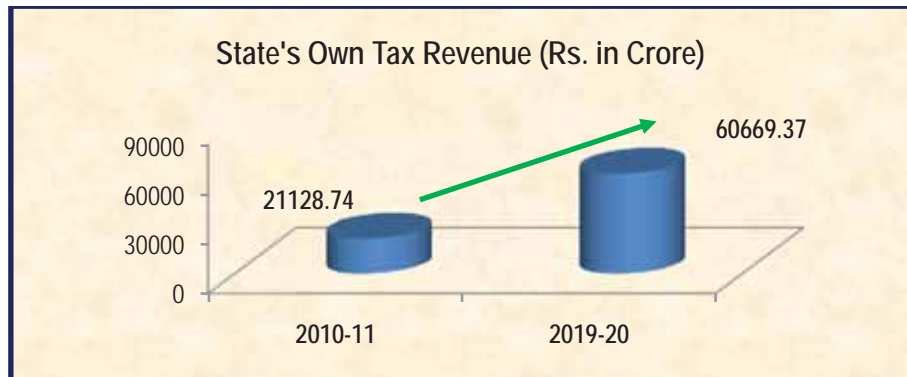
1.4 Debt Situation

Debt of the State as percentage of GSDP has shown a consistent fall since 2010-11, e.g. recording 40.65% in 2010-11 till dropping to 34.57% in 2019-20. This reflects positively on the fiscal health of the State.



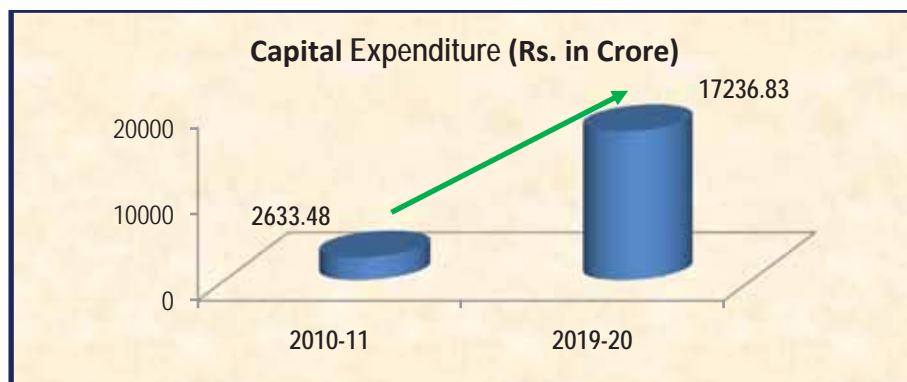
1.5 State's Own Tax Revenue

State's Own Tax Revenue collection has increased more-or-less healthily over the last nine years. It has increased by about three times over the 9-year span.

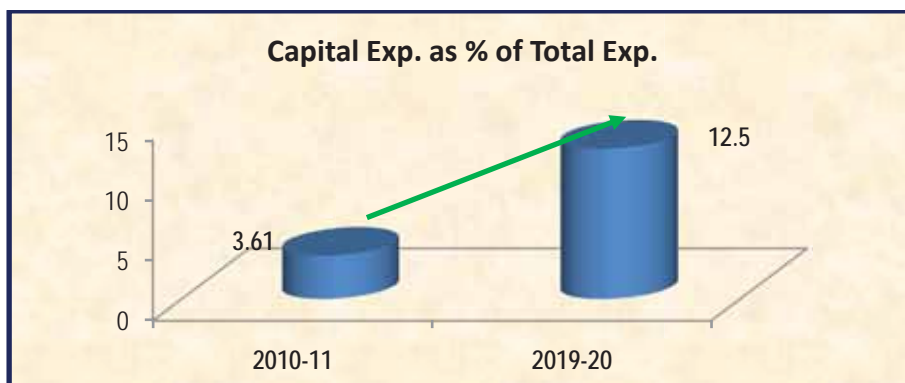


1.6 State's position in Capital Expenditure

The expenditure on accounts of Capital has been regularly increasing in quantum since 2011-12. There has been a whopping increase in Capital Expenditure amounting to about seven times over the period 2010-11 to 2019-20. In 2010-11, Capital Expenditure was Rs. 2633.48 crore and in 2019-20, it was Rs. 17236.83 crore.

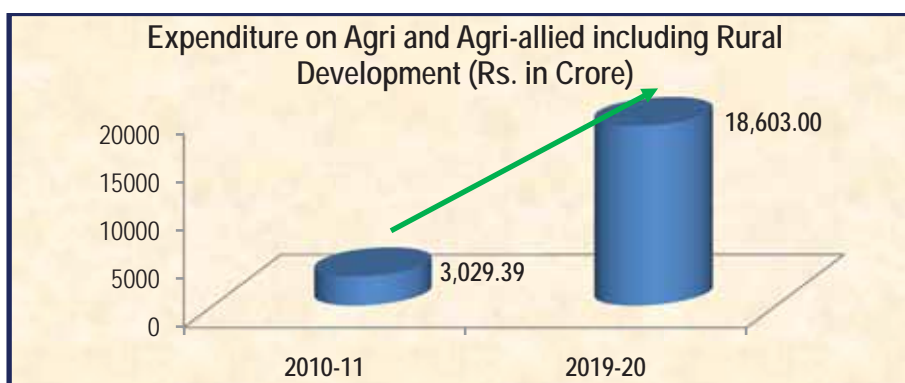


The same has been reflected in the respective ratios of Capital Expenditure and Total Expenditure over the same period. As percentage of Total Expenditure, Capital Expenditure was 12.50% in 2019-20 as against 3.61% in 2010-11.

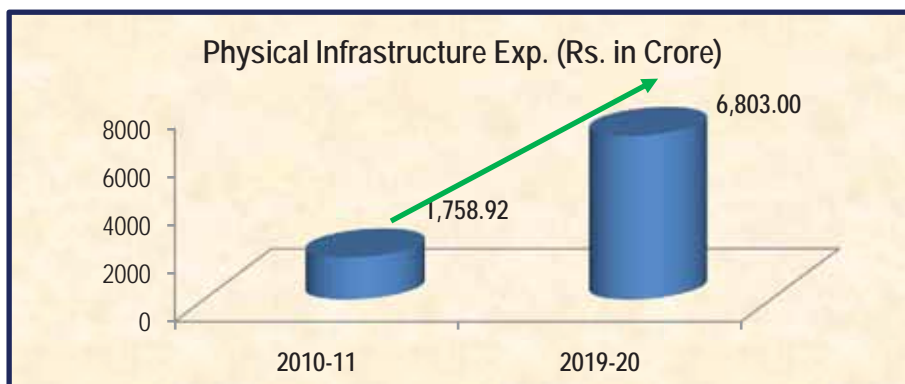


1.7 Sector-wise Expenditure of the State

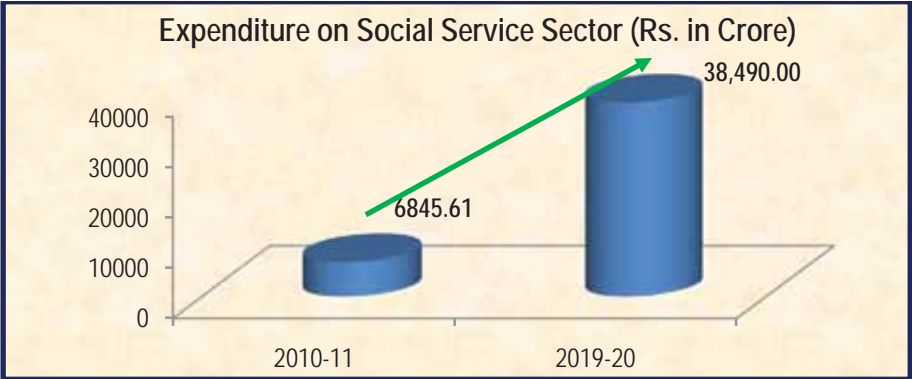
State Plan Expenditure in Agriculture & Allied Services observed a growth of about six times within a span of nine years. It grew from Rs. 3029.39 crore in 2010-11 to Rs.18603.00 crore in 2019-20.



Expenditure in Physical Infrastructure sector grew from Rs. 1758.92 crore in 2010-11 to Rs. 6803.00 crore in 2019-20, about four times.



Expenditure in Social Services sector observed a growth from Rs. 6845.61 crore in 2010-11 to Rs. 38490.00 crore in 2019-20, which is about six times over the nine-year period.



Planning and Statistics

1.8 Introduction

The Department is the nodal Department at the State level for Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS). It also looks after the State Schemes like Bidhayak Elaka Unnayan Prakalpa (BEUP), State and District Special Data Centres (erstwhile Natural Resources Data Management System Centres), which are functional in almost all the Districts of West Bengal.

The Department is also responsible for the formulation of the district Plans by respective District Planning Committees, implementation of which is reviewed periodically with the Departments and 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.

Bureau of Applied Economics & Statistics (BAE&S) is the only Directorate under the Department of Planning & Statistics. BAE&S has been declared as the nodal agency of all statistical activities in the State.

1.9 Achievements during the financial year 2020-21

1.9.1 Planning

Bidhayak Elaka Unnayan Prakalpa (BEUP): During the current financial year of 2020-21, Rs. 126.90 crore against an allotment of Rs. 132.75 crore (75% of the total budget allocation) has so far been released. Percentage of utilization is 95.59. The Bidhayak Elaka Unnayan Prakalpa Updated Guideline, 2019 has been published and already distributed among the major stakeholders.

Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS): During the period of 16th Lok Sabha total expenditure of Lok Sabha is Rs. 878.95 crore till date against a release of Rs. 882.50 crore. Percentage of Utilization is 98.95.

Total expenditure by Sitting Rajya Sabha members till date is Rs. 58.26 crore against a release of Rs. 74.00 crore. Percentage of Utilization is 75.75.

State Indicator Framework based on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) at different sectors has been prepared and submitted for approval from the authority.

Presently, DSDCs (District Spatial Data Centre) have been running in 17 districts in the state except Darjeeling, Alipurduar, Kalimpong, Bardhaman (Paschim) and Jhargram, and are attached to the offices of the respective District Magistrates.

The Department has initiated to create a State Spatial Data Centre (SSDC), which will lend uniformity and structure to the till now disparate efforts of the District Spatial Data Centres (District NRDMS Centres). Design, Development, Implementation & Maintenance of an Integrated Application for the State and District Spatial Data Centres is in progress.

1.9.2 Statistics

- Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) and District Domestic Product (DDP) are being estimated on timely basis.
- Estimation of Production and yield rate of 19 major crops is being done on timely basis.
- Under primary survey, crop cutting experiments is being conducted at all blocks and notified GPs for estimation of production and yield rate of 19 major crops. Other surveys like Socio-economic survey in line of National Sample Survey (NSS), Annual Survey of Industries (ASI), daily market price collection etc. are conducted by BAE&S.
- Preparation of Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is estimated in timely basis after collecting data from sample markets and industries.
- Under secondary data publication, State and District Statistical Handbook, Statistical Abstract, Database on Forest and Environment Statistics, Education and Literacy Statistics and Labour & Employment Statistics are being prepared.
- Application Software for Agriculture Statistics and IIP has been developed. Application software for other statistical activities, viz. CPI, ASI, Socio-Economic Survey, SDP etc. have been undertaken.

1.10 New Initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken

- Framework for State Human Development Index & District Human Development Index will be monitored.
- State Indicator Framework based on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) at different sectors will be monitored.
- District Planning Set up will be strengthened.
- State and District Spatial Data Centers will be strengthened.
- Preparation of Uniform District level Human Development Report (DHDR) as per UNDP guidelines will be undertaken. For this, a survey will be conducted throughout the State.

1.11 State Income

The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) is considered to be the most important indicator to measure the economic growth and map the pattern of economic development of a State. 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 2020-21(Advance Estimate) at current and constant (2011-12) prices are prepared following the methodology documented by National Statistical Office (NSO), Government of India.

1.11.1 Preparation of Advance Estimates

Since beginning of the year, 2020, World-wide economic crisis is being observed under the Pandemic situation due to Covid-19 virus. But, now, the economy has come out of this crisis and recovery has been started. Remarkable increase has been occurred in GST collection. Besides this, the labour participation rate (LPR) has been increased. The economy is now bouncing back to pre-pandemic stage.

Under this scenario, the Advance Estimates of GSDP of West Bengal for the year 2020-21 at current and constant prices have been prepared using suitable indicators. The indicators include Index of Industrial Production (IIP), Goods and Services Tax (GST), Stamp duty, Revenue Expenditure of the State Government, Deposits & Credits, Passenger and Freight earnings of Railways, Passengers and Cargo handled by Civil Aviation, Cargo handled at major Sea Ports, Sales of Commercial Vehicles, etc. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and Consumer Price Index (CPI) have been used as deflators.

1.11.2 GSDP Estimates at Current Prices for Base 2011-12

The nominal GSDP of West Bengal at base, 2011-12, prepared by Bureau of Applied Economics & Statistics, has increased over time up to the fiscal, 2020-21. Further, this Pandemic situation inevitably lowers the growth of the Advance estimates for the year, 2020-21 which is also observed in all over India.

Table 1.1 GSDP Estimates at Current Prices in West Bengal for Base: 2011-12

Year→ Indicator↓	2019-20 (PE)	2020-21(AE)
GSDP (Rs.Crore)	1253832	1354518
Growth (%)	15.04	8.03

Source: BAE&S, Deptt. of Planning and Statistics, Govt. of West Bengal
Note: Estimates are as on 31st January, 2021

1.11.3 GSDP Estimates at Constant Prices for Base 2011-12

The real GSDP of West Bengal at base year 2011-12, shows growth up to the fiscal, 2020-21. Effect of Pandemic is observed in the Advance estimates for the year, 2020-21.

Table 1.2: GSDP Estimates at Constant Prices in West Bengal for Base: 2011-12

Year → Indicator ↓	2019-20 (PE)	2020-21 (AE)
GSDP (Rs.Crore)	793223	802726
Growth (%)	7.26	1.20

Source: BAE&S, Deptt. of Planning and Statistics, Govt. of West Bengal

Note: Estimates are as on 31st January, 2021

Comparative Study on Annual Growth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)/ Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of India and West Bengal at Current and Constant Prices for the Base 2020-21 is as follows:

Year	Growth of ` GDP/ GSDP (Per cent)			
	Current Price		Constant Price	
	India	West Bengal	India	West Bengal
2019-20(PE)	7.2	15.04	4.2	7.26
2020-21(AE)	-4.2	8.03	-7.7	1.20

Source: Press note on 7th Jan, 2021, CSO, MoSPI, Govt. of India, PE: Provisional Estimate; AE: Advance Estimate

1.11.4 Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

The Bureau of Applied Economics & Statistics compiles Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for West Bengal on monthly basis based on the methodology prepared by National Statistics Office, MoSPI, GOI. A comparison of growth rates between All India and West Bengal for the Manufacturing sector and General is shown in the Table below.

Table 1.3 Growth Rate of Index of Industrial Production at Base: 2011-12

Sector → Year ↓	Manufacturing		General	
	India	West Bengal	India	West Bengal
2018-19	3.6	6.5	3.6	7.2
2019-20	-1.4	5.8	-0.8	2.4

Source: NSO, MoSPI, Govt. of India and BAE&S, Govt. of West Bengal



Chapter 2

Agriculture and 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

2.2.1 Agriculture Directorate

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.

Crops	2018-19			2019-20		
	Area	Yield rate	Production	Area	Yield rate	Production
Kharif (Aus+Aman) Rice	4233.072	2809	11891.908	4219.203	2817	11886.186
Boro Rice	1279.500	3607	4615.344	1271.772	3630	4616.835
Total Rice	5512.572	2994	16507.252	5490.975	3005	16503.021
Wheat	112.147	3012	337.751	188.308	2708	509.97
Total Maize	264.302	6556	1732.881	362.384	6754	2447.545
Total Cereals	5898.516	3151	18589.080	6051.148	3218	19470.965
Total Pulses	463.221	796	368.678	481.033	818	393.724
Total Food grains	6361.737	2980	18957.759	6532.181	3041	19864.689
Total Oilseeds	926.797	1255	1163.459	957.704	1060	1015.508
Total Potato	437.677	25296	11071.693	434.681	28893	12559.240
Jute*	518.259	14.85	7697.481	505.226	15.64	7901.396

Area in '000 hectare; Yield rate in Kg/hectare & Production in '000 MT [yield rate in bales/hectare; Production in '000 Bales, 1Bale =180kg]*

Food security

The production of pulses soared by 132.60%, oilseeds by 67.49% and food grains by 25.03% from 2010-11 to 2017-18. During 2019-20, estimated production of food grains and of rice is 198.65 lakh MT and 165.03 lakh MT respectively. There has been a remarkable increase in area (309%), yield rate (70%) and production (595%) of total maize since 2010-11 till 2019-20 due to introduction of newer varieties of hybrid maize and improved package of practice. In order to sustain food security, by all these painstaking efforts, the farmers of West Bengal could not only sustain their economic growth but also could raise their household income significantly in a sustainable manner.

Rainfall and Land use pattern

Though severe cyclone 'Amphan' made its landfall in 20th May, 2020 and destroyed standing crops and horticulture crops, the pre-monsoon rainfall was very good hence the production of pre-kharif crops like Boro paddy, till, mustard, potato etc were normal to excess. The State as a whole got normal rainfall during the monsoon season with 15% excess rain so the state produced bumper Aman paddy where no major incidences of pest disease occur. It is also presumed that the State would be able to produce good production of Rabi crops, 2020-21. Persistent efforts are to bring more and more land under cultivation so that the farmers make effort to increase production with increase in their house hold income in a sustainable way.

Agricultural Research

One rice variety namely *Sukumar* (IET-21261) and two Yellow Sarson Varieties viz., *Anushka* (YSWB-2011-10-1) and *Sanchita* (YSWB 2014/2) released by SVRC in 2016. Two Wheat varieties namely HD 3249 (*Pusa Wheat 3249*) and DBW 252 (*Karan Shriya*) as Wheat Blast Like Disease tolerant varieties released by CVRC for North Eastern Plain Zone have been notified in 2020 and found suitable for its cultivation in different Agro-climatic Zones of West Bengal. Zero Tillage Technology being a low cost technology in wheat cultivation demonstrated in the farmers' fields in last 16 years up to 2019-20 revealed that it recorded higher grain yield of 29.24 q/hectare accounting to about 14.09% increase in grain yield over the conventional system of wheat cultivation (25.63 q/hectare) and it saved the cost of cultivation to the tune of about Rs. 6230 per hectare as compared to conventional system while Zero Tillage Technology being a low cost technology in Direct Seeded Rice cultivation demonstrated in the farmers' fields in last 15 years up to 2019 revealed that it recorded higher grain yield of 4.48 t/hectare accounting to about 11.17% increase in grain yield over the conventional system of rice cultivation (4.03 q/hectare) and it saved the cost of cultivation to the tune of about Rs. 8991 per hectare as compared to conventional system.

Capacity Building & Skill Development

An extensive and pro people training programme has been undertaken by the Department for farmers, farm women and extension personnel of the Department 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.

The Department has been envisaged proactive plan for effectively empowering women in modern agriculture along with male farmers. A State Plan scheme **Agricultural Training on Farm Women** has been implemented from XIth Plan.

Besides, women farmers are benefitted through different schemes like "*Farmers' Study Tour/ Training*", and through other agricultural training under *RKVY (Rastriya Krishi Vikash Yajona)*, BGREI, NFSM

(National Food Security Mission), ATMA, Group meeting, awareness programme in Krishi Mela, Farm mechanisation, OTA (One Time Assistance)- SFI (Small Farm Implement) etc.

In the State Plan Schemes 5 days' residential trainings are imparted on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) of economically important crops, quality seed production (women are usually engaged in quality seed production process), post harvest technology and value addition, Organic/Bio-farming, scientific nursery management, use of farm machineries and equipments, IPM (Integrated Pest Management), hybrid crop etc.

Implementation of e-Governance in Agriculture: Introduction of computers in offices, office automation has now reached up to block level e-Governance scheme provides financial support for procurement of hardware and computer consumables for all offices of the Agriculture Department.

ICT (Information and Communication Technology)

Introduction of ICT through AGRISNET enabled direct information gateway to common people in terms of online licence application for fertilizer, pesticide and seed and at the same time providing basic information about plant protection. From 2013-14, the State has started an ICT enabled Agri-Extension "**Matir Katha**" Project using hand held Tablet PCs and a dedicated portal viz. www.matirkatha.net for addressing farm problems and monitoring agri-extension activities viz. 24/7 crop protection and decision making solution, video tutorials, weather information and market information. There are provisions of host of other advanced features like project monitoring, MIS entry etc. for future use. This venture is one of the most advanced applications developed in the country.

In 2017, a farmer's friendly android based Mobile app namely "Matir Katha-Krishaker Katha" has been initiated which can be downloaded by farmers using smart phones for uploading of farm related queries directly into "Matir Katha portal".

Since 2017-18, online application for getting benefits of Farm mechanizations could be made by farmers through Matirkatha portal, which has been further strengthened during last few years. Soil health card generation was made possible through this portal which is a great achievement towards process automation.

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 has also been developed under the platform to provide service to farmers of specific interest.

Soil & Water Conservation

Soil Conservation Wing of the Agriculture plays a very important role in boosting and sustaining agriculture production in the predominately rainfed areas and among resource poor farmers. The State has accorded the highest priority for conservation of natural resources through different scheme/ programme by application of various soil & 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. Fund for the work is pooled from the State Development Scheme (core), *National mission for Sustainable Agriculture- Rainfed area Development (RAD) component, BGREI* (Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India), *NFSM (OS) and NFSM* (National Food Security Mission), *NFSM-TRFA* under *NFSM Pulses*.

The soil survey section of the Soil Conservation Wing undertook different activities related to Soil & Land Use Survey (SLUS). Besides this, soil conservation measures like plantation of horticultural crops, Water Harvesting Structure and farmers training etc. have been implemented by the Soil Survey section.

Various types of soil and water conservation measures have been executed under different schemes/ programmes which benefitted the area differently. Year wise financial achievement under different schemes implemented by the Soil Conservation Wing during last 2 years and up to December, 2020 of the current financial year and year wise benefitted areas are stated below.

Financial Year	Financial Achievement (Rs. in crore)	Total Benefitted Area (in Hectare.)
2018-19	44.46	9823
2019-20	41.26	9771
2020-21 (up to Dec.2020)	29.50	5108

Physical & Financial progress of different schemes

RKVY is being implemented in our State for comprehensive development of agriculture & allied sector. Under the leadership of Department this scheme is implemented through active involvement and co-ordination of various stakeholder departments. During 2019-20 total allocation under RKVY (Normal) for the state was Rs. 136.75 crore. There was an allocation of Rs. 90.00 crore during 2019-20 for execution of two sub schemes viz., BGREI and CDP which were successfully executed by Agriculture Directorate. During 2020-21, total financial outlay under RKVY (Normal) for the state is Rs. 257.65 crore. Projects namely, Hi-tech seed production of potato in farmers participatory mode for improving profitability of potato cultivation in West Bengal, Scheme for management of paddy straw and crop residue to restrict open field burning of paddy straw/ crop residue, production of quality seeds, Aromatic Rice- a Precious Indigenous Wealth: Its' Area Expansion & Seed Multiplication, farm mechanization Seed production in Government Agricultural Farms, infrastructure development of small-scale seed producers, Crop Diversification in Purulia District within Undulated Red Lateritic Zone for assured Kharif cultivation, Management Strategies for Fall Army Worm in Maize crop during 2020-21 in the State of West Bengal & support to extension functionaries for facilitating agricultural extension and mass campaign in the State etc. are stressed up on and undertaken for implementation by Agriculture Department under the scheme.

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 is being implemented by Agriculture Directorate. About 10.3% yield increase in HYV kharif paddy and about 10.6% yield increase in HYV boro

paddy had been obtained against control during 2019-20. During the year, 2019-20, Cluster Demonstrations of 54900 hectare paddy and 3000 hectare wheat were conducted across the State aiming dissemination of good agricultural practices to the farmers. Different farm implements had been distributed on subsidy among farmers under the intervention of Asset Building, subsidy portion credited directly into Bank accounts/ KCC accounts of farmers.

During 2020-21, Cluster Demonstrations on paddy have been conducted in 27000 hectare. Under cropping system based demonstration approach 12700 hectare under hybrid maize, 7400 hectare under lentil and 24200 hectare under hybrid mustard are being demonstrated after kharif paddy. Certified paddy Seed Production & certified paddy Seed Distribution programme, distribution of Micro-nutrients, Bio-fertilizers, PP Chemicals, Herbicides and different Farm Machineries and Site Specific Activities are also being continued during 2020-21. There is also fund provision for the intervention 'Post Harvest and Marketing Support' being implemented by Agricultural Marketing Department.

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 lower than average productivity. The mission met with an overwhelming success and achieved the targeted additional production of rice, wheat & pulses. The mission has also been continued during 12th Five Year Plan and still being continued. Presently five components of NFSM viz., (i) NFSM-Rice, (ii) NFSM-Pulses, (iii) NFSM-Coarse Cereals, (iv) NFSM-Nutri Cereals and (v) NFSM-Commercial Crops (Jute & Cotton) are being implemented in West Bengal. NMOOP scheme has been renamed as NFSM- Oil seeds & Oil palm and included under NFSM during 2018-19.

During 2019-20, a total of 62013 hectare demonstration of rice, pulses, coarse cereals & nutri cereals with quality agricultural inputs was conducted in cluster approach across the state under NFSM, out of which 4600 hectare conducted in cropping system based approach i.e. Paddy-Hybrid Maize & Paddy-Pulses.

The target of demonstration during 2020-21 has been fixed at 50000 hectare for dissemination of good agricultural practices. NFSM (Commercial Crop-Jute) was introduced during 2014-15 for development of Jute based cropping system. During 2020-21, it is targeted to cover an area of 4357 hectare by Front Line Demonstrations on Production technology of Jute, 20 no. Front Line Demonstration on Alternate Retting Technologies, production of foundation/certified Jute Seed and Officers training with a financial outlay of Rs. 4.09 crore.

Another component of NFSM (Commercial Crops-Cotton) is being implemented since 2014-15 for popularization of cotton with a view to establish suitable cotton production technologies like Integrated Crop Management (ICM), High Density Planting System (HDPS), intercropping with cotton at coastal areas of Sundarbans.

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

During 2019-20, under NFSM (OS & OP), Rs. 37.03 crore has 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, During 2020-21, NFSM (OS & OP)

has an approved outlay of Rs. 63.25 crore for implementation of same interventions. All the interventions are being implemented successfully.

Farm Mechanization

During XIIth Plan period (2012-17), Farm Mechanisation programme witnessed a steady growth with gradual progress of Farm Power (KW) per hectare from 1.38 to 1.74. This has reached to 2.09 KW/hectare during 2019-20. The State have achieved steady growth of Farm Power due to introduction of Hi-tech Machinery & implements like Combine Harvester (60-75Hp), Rice Transplanter, Power Reaper, Power tiller, Tractor, Power Thresher, Power Sprayer, Power Weeder, Baler, Rotavator, Potato Digger, Potato Planter, Ground nut Digger, etc.

The Schemes through which those above machineries are being popularised are:

Financial Support Scheme for Farm Mechanization (F.S.S.M): This scheme has been undertaken for distribution of Agricultural Machinery & Equipment which include Power Tiller, Power Reaper (Self-propelled), Rice Transplanter (S.P), Zero Tillage Seed Drill, Multi-Crop Thresher, Pump Sets, Potato Planter/ Digger, Rotavator, Baler, Power Weeder, Mini Dal/ Oil Mill, etc. Besides promoting conventional agricultural implements; solar pump sets, conservation agricultural machinery and crop residue management machinery are also being subsidized in order to make agriculture sustainable and profitable too. Subsidy amount ranges from Rs. 6000 to Rs. 5.0 lakh depending upon type of machinery, back end subsidy 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/ Spade/ Water carrying Pipe/ Seed-Bin/ SRI-Marker etc to the Small & Marginal Farmers at 50% subsidy subject to maximum Rs.10,000 being credited back ended 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 of Farm Machinery Bank/ Custom Hiring Centre (CHC) with minimum financial outlay (TFO) of Rs. 20 lakh to maximum Rs. 250 lakh, with pattern of assistance @ 40% subject to maximum Rs. 100 lakh per beneficiary. Back ended subsidy is credited to bank-loan account of beneficiary directly. Scaling up facility is also provided for the existing CHC for up-gradation of existing CHC's which are in successful operation for last two years.

Watershed Development

In West Bengal, total arable land is 56.7 lakh hectare of which 21.20 lakh hectare is under rainfed condition. So, to promote gainful use of this area, 5.065 lakh hectare has been considered as treatable area under 119 watershed development projects, (77 projects under Batch-III and 42 projects under Batch-IV), which include land development, soil and moisture conservation, vegetative and engineering structures, water harvesting structures, promotion of livelihood and production system and micro enterprise and also capacity building. In order to implement the activities of this Programme till December, 2020, a fund of Rs. 409.36 crore has been released so far. With the available fund, 31,285 hectare of additional area has been brought under irrigation providing benefit to 2,21,127 farmers, 5,059 hectare of

land development with plantation; 9,703 new water harvesting structures; re-excavation of 6,797 old water harvesting structures, assistance to 10,229 SHGs with promotion of production system and micro enterprise, etc. have been achieved and 5,35,084 trainings for capacity building have been organized.

Bangla Krishi Sech Yojana (BKSY)

Department has introduced ***Bangla Krishi Sech Yojana*** (BKSY) 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 the time of purchase of Micro Irrigation equipment for promotion of Micro Irrigation for water conservation and judicious use of water for agriculture. In this scheme, the small and marginal farmers have been provided an additional top up subsidy up to 45% of indicative cost at the time of purchase of Micro Irrigation equipment under existing scheme, i.e., Per Drop More Crop, where normal subsidy of 55% (45% for other farmers) of indicative cost is already available. The State has released Rs. 19.61 crore for this purpose. Till December 2020, Rs. 13.76 crore has been given to the small and marginal farmers as additional top up subsidy against purchase of MI equipment.

For popularising the Micro Irrigation in the State, the following initiatives have been taken.

- Training programme to create master trainers – 115 officers from the Department have been provided with two residential training at IIT, Kharagpur.
- Demonstration at Government Farms - 88 Government Farms has been selected for installation of Sprinkler Irrigation facilities. 72 installations already been completed and demonstration in farms have been held to propagate the new technology amongst the farmers.
- Publicity and campaigning - Publicity and campaigning along with live demonstrations have been held in Krishi Mela. 325 workshops and demonstrations have been held throughout the State. A permanent Demonstration Centre on Micro Irrigation set up at site for holding Mati Utsab.
- Web based Portal has been developed to facilitate transparent and speedy implementation of Scheme.

Micro Irrigation under BKSY in association with Per Drop More Crop

The introduction of Micro Irrigation in integration with creation of irrigation potential through other interventions 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. In order to implement the scheme till December 2020, a fund of Rs. 218.15 crore has been released so far. Till December 2020, Rs. 117.97 crore has been incurred towards promotion of Micro Irrigation System in the farmers field of the State as well as creating water sources, conveyance system and providing extracting units for irrigation purpose. 14,472 hectares of agricultural land benefitting 30,845 farmers were covered under Micro Irrigation by installation of both Sprinkler Irrigation System and Drip Irrigation System with the creation of 5,787 hectare of irrigation potential till December, 2020.

Diversified Cropping Programme

This is an ongoing scheme for giving support to dry land/ rainfed agriculture of 69 blocks lying in the western tract of this State [Purulia- 19 blocks, Bankura- 10 blocks, Jhargram- 8 blocks, Paschim Medinipur- 8 blocks, Paschim Bardhaman- 12 blocks, Birbhum- 12 blocks], with the objective of getting assured economic return by growing alternative crops like pulses, maize, ground nut etc. having lower water requirement and better tolerance to water stress than that of rice. A total of 3350 hectare demonstration programme was carried out during 2019-20 with Hybrid Maize, Groundnut, Mustard and Lentil. Besides, 36 block level training and 10 district level training programmes were also organized during the same year for awareness and transfer of modern technology. A total of Rs. 2.99 crore was utilised for the scheme during the year. During the year 2020-21 a total of Rs. 10.40 crore has been targeted to be utilized under this programme. The total of 8800 hectare demonstration programme has been executed during kharif season with Hybrid Maize, Groundnut, Arhar.

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 encouraging involvement of small and marginal farmers of the state through cluster approach each having 50 acres of land. A total of 120 such clusters aggregating 6000 acre have been formed covering 13 districts for implementation of organic farming activities for 3 years project period.

During 2020-21, Rs. 512.48 lakh has been released on 23.08.2020 as revalidated fund for implementation of the pending activities like residual toxicity analysis of organic produces, Organic certification through Participatory Guarantee System (PGS), packaging with PGS Logo & Hologram, assistance for transportation of organic produces etc and for making payments against committed expenses.

ATMA

Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms (ATMA) is now being implemented in 23 ATMA districts. Presently 60-70 crore funds are allotted per year in this Scheme. ATMA is an autonomous institution set up at district level which is registered under Society Registration Act and to ensure delivery of extension services to farmers in a holistic manner i.e. involving all line departments like Agriculture, ARD, Fishery, Horticulture etc.

The Strategic Research & Extension Plan (SREP) is prepared at the district level as per agro-ecological situation by all concerned as per participatory rural appraisal as provided by MANAGE. The major components of the scheme are i) Demonstration, ii) Training, iii) Farm School & iv) Exposure visit of the farmers.

Crop Insurance

The Government of West Bengal has been a fore-runner in implementation of crop insurance scheme for the benefit of the farmers.

The coverage under crop insurance has picked up since 2011-12 as the Government decided to pay the farmers' share of premium from State Budget. The details of crop insurance coverage for the last 3 years are given below:

Year	Season	Farmers covered (lakh)	Area Insured (lakh hectare.)	Total premium (Rs. crore)	Total Claim (Rs. crore)	Number of beneficiaries
2017-18	Kharif 2017	23.29	9.80	221.35	219.09	435243
	Rabi 2017-18	15.58	6.54	414.58	41.69	105910
	Total	38.87	16.34	635.93	260.78	541153
2018-19	Kharif 2018	24.72	9.89	234.32	97.43	191495
	Rabi 2018-19	29.69	10.73	507.18	449.87	532626
	Total	54.41	20.62	741.50	547.30	724121
2019-20	Kharif 2019	44.67	17.01	546.87	425.00	1318618
	Rabi 2019-20	43.25	12.55	589.31	Under process	Under process
	Total	87.92	29.56	1136.18		

The State launched its own scheme namely, *Bangla Shasya Bima* (BSB) Scheme during Kharif 2019 season with an aim to extend hassle free crop insurance to all willing and eligible farmers and ensure timely claim settlement in the event of crop loss due to natural calamities. BSB scheme is a fully State funded scheme. The entire premium for the crop insurance is borne by the State for all crops except potato and sugarcane, in which case, the farmers have to pay maximum 4.85% of the sum insured as premium share and the rest of the actuarial premium is borne by the State. With the implementation of BSB scheme the coverage of farmers increased from 25 lakh during Kharif 2018 season to 45 lakh in Kharif 2019 season i.e. an increase of at least 80% over the previous scheme. Again, the coverage during Rabi 2019-20 was 43 lakh as against 30 lakh during Rabi 2018-19 season.

2.2.2 Sericulture Directorate

- Despite severe COVID situation, the Directorate works on developing a vibrant and sustainable farmer base by overall improvement in Production, Productivity & 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).
- Inclusive development of rural populace, focusing employment generation especially for women, tribal and minorities.

- 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 construction of Ideal Rearing House & Procurement of Plantation and rearing inputs/ appliances & disinfectants.
- Emphasizing on HRD factor for knowledge and skill upgradation among the stake holders in cluster mode
- Encouraging SHGs/ Other Government Organizations for participation in various activities of sericulture through implementation of various schemes.
- Encouraging & supporting convergence with multi departmental projects as, ATMA, MGNREGA under P&RD and PUP under PUA.

2.3 Special Achievements

Augmenting production of crops

- Food grains production has increased to 198.65 LMT in 2019-20 compared to 148.10 LMT in 2010-11.
- West Bengal sustains its leadership on rice production in India. Total rice production has increased to 165.03 LMT in 2019-20 from 133.9 LMT in 2010-11.
- Productivity of Maize remarkably increases to 6.80 ton/hectare (Rabi Maize – 7.5 ton/hectare) which was 4.6 ton/hectare in 2016-17, due to introduction of single cross hybrid maize. Production of maize, to meet growing demand for feed in poultry and fishery has increased to 24.47 LMT in 2019-20 compared to 3.5 LMT in 2010-11.
- Production of pulses has increased to 3.93 LMT in 2019-20 from 1.77 LMT in 2010-11.
- Production of oilseeds has reached 10.15 LMT in 2019-20 compared to 7.0 LMT in 2010-11.

Seed testing infrastructure

Five State Seed Testing Laboratories, viz., SSTL, Tollygunge; SSTL, Burdwan; SSTL, Malda; SSTL, Nadia; and SSTL, Bankura are in operation up to 2020-21 where seed testing works are going on successfully.

Modernization of agriculture through mechanization

To facilitate mechanization in agriculture farm implements like tractor, power tiller, reaper, pumpsets etc. as well as small implements were distributed among 4.08 lakh farmers at the cost of Rs. 513.79 crore from 2012-13 to 2019-20. To facilitate access to modern & large farm machineries by small & marginal farmers 1611 CHC have been set up from 2014-15 to 2019-20 providing subsidy @ 40% worth Rs. 160.17 crore to rural entrepreneurs.

Promotion of Precision Irrigation: 2566 hectare of farm land spread over all the districts has been covered under micro irrigation (sprinkler) through formation of SHGs of the farmers to increase water use efficiency.

Farmers social Security

- **Farmers Old Age Pension**

Farmers Old Age Pension has been recently included under ***Jai Bangla Scheme***. The amount of monthly pension has been increased to Rs. 1000 from erstwhile Rs. 750.

- ***Krishak Bandhu (Death Benefit)***

The Department of Agriculture has introduced the '***Krishak Bandhu (Death benefit) Scheme***' to support the bereaved family members due to untimely death of a farmers or Bhagchashi (share cropper) in the event of his death due to any cause including natural death as a means of social security since 1st January 2019. Under this 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 get a one-time grant of Rs. 2 lakh only.

- ***Krishak Bandhu (Assured Income)***

The Department of Agriculture has started implementation of the "***Krishak Bandhu (Assured Income) Scheme***" since January, 2019 to support the farmers financially during pre-production stage for procurement of agricultural inputs & other cultivation cost which leads to increase the crop production vis-a-vis assured income. In the Assured Income part of the scheme every farmer will be provided a financial support of maximum Rs. 5000 or part thereof up to 1 acre of land subject to a minimum of Rs. 2000 per farmer per year.

2.4 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken

- During 2020-21 an amount of Rs. 360.08 crore has been sanctioned to provide financial assistance to the affected farmers due to severe cyclonic Storm 'Amphan' in the districts of South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas, Purba Medinipur, Paschim Medinipur, Jhargram, Howrah, Hooghly, Purba Bardhaman and Nadia. Number of farmers benefitted is estimated as 23,31,283.
- The Department has launched "***Krishak Bandhu***" scheme in January, 2019 with two components namely "***Krishak Bandhu (Assured Income)***" and "***Krishak Bandhu (Death Benefit)***".
- "***Anti-Crop Residue Burning Day***" was observed in 300 blocks across all districts (except Kolkata) and State head quarter on 4th November 2020. Initiatives for awareness generation through hoarding, miking, tableau rotation, demonstrations etc were taken up on war footing despite Covid-19 situation 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.
- State Government has given thrust on farm mechanization since 2012-13. During 2019-20 Rs. 92.93 crore was utilized towards subsidized distribution of power driven machineries among 14068 beneficiaries and establishment of 293 custom hiring centres of farm machinery across the State. During 2020-21, a budgetary allocation of farm mechanization umbrella schemes of Rs. 121.34 crore has been made with provision of higher rate of subsidy for individual machinery (max. Rs. 5 lakh) and more emphasis on CHC scheme.
- During 2020 a technology based "*Bangla Shasya Bima Scheme*" is being implemented to overcome the restrictions due to COVID-19 pandemic as well as to attempt to cover all farmers cultivating notified crops. The Scheme is based on technology and takes the help of remote sensing, rainfall data and field level data generated through ground truthing exercises. This technology based crop insurance scheme will facilitate faster and more accurate claim assessment and settlement. During Kharif 2020, more than 64 lakh farmers have been insured under this scheme covering 22.5 lakhs hectare as compared to 44.67 lakh farmers covering 17.01 lakhs hectare during Kharif, 2019.
- A modern Mechanisation Workshop has been established with a cost of more than Rs. 6 crore at Mati Tirtha Krishi Katha Burdwan for demonstration, training on operation, maintenance, and awareness on different modern farm machinery.

Animal Resources Development

2.5 Introduction

The important roles of livestock are well-recognized in contributing to rural livelihoods, particularly those of the poor. Livestock is also important as a part of agriculture diversification, employment generation and income enhancement. The overall physical target of Animal Resources Development Department is to augment production of milk, meat and egg in the State so that the gap between demand and supply of milk, meat and egg be minimized as soon as possible.

2.6 Major activities

- Up-gradation of different livestock and poultry products.
- Extension of animal health coverage in rural area.
- Production of quality feed and fodder.
- Milk procurement and processing through milk cooperatives and dairies.
- Reduction of income inequality through transfer of resources to poorer people.
- Additional income generation to the poorest people through animal husbandry practice.
- Conversion of State Animal Health Centres into Veterinary Polyclinics for providing better diagnosis and treatment
- Eradication of Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) and carrying out vaccination programme for other economically important diseases, viz., Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD), Haemorrhagic Septicemia (HS), Black Quarter (BQ), Anthrax, Ranikhet Disease (RD), Fowl Pox, Duck Plague (DP), Swine Fever etc.
- Up-gradation of Central and Regional Laboratories to Bio Safety Level- II/III standard and introduction of Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP), Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) therein.
- Introduction of e-Management system to monitor different programmes, projects & schemes.

2.7 Special Achievements for the financial year 2020-21 (up to December, 2020)

- The egg production increased by 8% in 2020-21 over the same period of last year primarily attributed to a huge distribution of chicks and ducklings and introduction of West Bengal Incentive Scheme for Commercial Layer Poultry and Poultry Breeding Farm (WBIS-2017).
- The State Incentive Scheme for Commercial Layer Poultry and Poultry Breeding Farm-2017 which was expired on 31.08.2020 but considering the current situation of COVID, this scheme has been extended for another one year w.e.f. 01.09.2020. 47 Projects for 20.86 lakh layers have already been completed leading to production of additional 61.00 crore egg annually. Another 45 projects for 18.67 lakh layers is under process. After completion of all the projects, additional 115.43 crore eggs will be produced annually. This will hugely reduce our dependence on import of eggs from other States.
- ***Relief, Restoration and Rehabilitation measures in connection with loss due to super cyclone Amphan, 2020:*** 3739 Special Animal Health Camps organized at Amphan affected areas where

14.53 lakh livestock and poultry birds treated and 5.13 lakh livestock and poultry birds vaccinated. Rs.1491.84 lakh paid as compensation for loss of animals to 16,780 beneficiaries. About 11.19 lakh chicks and ducklings has been distributed to about 0.97 lakh of beneficiaries in 7 Amphan affected districts and another about 0.62 lakh beneficiaries will be benefited with 6.07 lakh chicks and ducklings during this year.

- During this year, 9,765 Goats has already been distributed.
- The vaccination has been done to over 1.39 crore livestock and poultry population. The artificial insemination for 30.02 lakh for cattle & Buffalo has already been done and 10.61 lakh calves born through artificial insemination.
- During 2020-21, a target has been taken to provide KCC to 1.25 lakh livestock and poultry farmers. Out of that 1,11,191 applications have already been submitted to Bank. 3865 Livestock Farmers have already given loan amounting to Rs. 22.13 crore.
- 106 numbers Mobile Veterinary Clinics (MVC) have provided doorstep Animal Health Care Services to 8.07 lakh livestock owner of remote areas in the State.
- Maintained steady supply of Meat & Meat Products during the Lockdown due to outbreak of COVID-19 without enhancing the sale price. The sale of Meat & Meat Products increased by 182.61% over the same period of last year.
- Successfully executed Broiler Integration Programme involving Farmers in and around Haringhata and Phansidewa Meat Plant. 362 farmers are being benefitted. Started functioning of Broiler Breeding Farm, Jatiakali, Jalpaiguri with production capacity of 30 lakh Broiler chicks per year.
- Started operation of Modernized Pig Breeding Farm at Haringhata, Nadia with 400 adult and 250 Grower.
- Started Production of eggs at Kalyani Layer Farm at Kalyani, Nadia having layer bird capacity of 1.00 lakh from where 85 thousand eggs are being produced per day. Started operation of Goat Meat Plant at Haringhata, Nadia with daily meat production of 1.2 MT. Started operation of Duck Breeding Farm at Kalyani, Nadia having layer duck capacity of 5,000 from where 5.00 lakh ducklings will be produced annually.

2.8 Major Achievements from April, 2011 to December, 2020

- Annual Egg production increased from 400.1 crore in 2010-11 to 973.5 crore in 2019-20, i.e. 143.31% increase in nine years.
- Annual Meat production increased from 5.77 lakh MT in 2010-11 to 9.03 lakh MT in 2019-20, i.e. 56.5% increases in nine years.
- Annual Milk production increased from 44.72 lakh MT in 2010-11 to 59.68 lakh MT in 2019-20, i.e. 33.45% increase in nine years.

- Distributed approx. 542.45 lakh chicks and ducklings and 3.82 lakh goats amongst BPL families to promote backyard livestock & poultry farming.
- Conducted 380.36 lakh Artificial Insemination that yielded 127.18 lakh up-graded/ cross bred high yielding calves during this period.
- Produced 377.72 lakh high quality Frozen Semen Straws for up-gradation/ Crossbreeding of local low producing cattle through artificial Insemination.
- Approx. 19.33 crore livestock and poultry birds were treated and approx. 30.45 crore livestock and poultry birds were vaccinated in Veterinary Hospitals and through organization of over 3.16 lakh animal health camps.
- Constructed 95 BLDO-cum-BAHC with Training Centre, 11 Additional Block Animal Health Centres, 197 Vet. Hospitals /Dispensaries, 03 Veterinary Poly Clinics at Siliguri, Burdwan & Coochbehar and 02 Multi-specialty Veterinary Hospitals at Nabadwip & Katwa to provide modern treatment to livestock & poultry. One Modern Training Institute namely "Academy of Animal Resource Management" established at Haringhata, Nadia. 21 BLDO-cum-BAHC/ABAHC with Training Centre and 12 Block Animal Health Centres/Additional Block Animal Health Centres are under construction.
- Established 3 Modern Poultry Farms at Medinipur, Suri & Haringhata at a project cost of Rs. 26 crore with a production capacity of 4 lakh chicks per year from each farm to meet up the growing demand of Low Input Birds for backyard poultry farming.
- Established a new Embryo Transfer Laboratory for Cattle & Buffalo at Salboni, Paschim Medinipur and one Bull Mother Farm at State Livestock Farm, Kalyani to meet up the growing demand of Bulls for Frozen Semen production.
- New District Milk Union established in the District of Purba Medinipur named as "Tamralipta Milk Union"
- To augment egg production in the State, an Environmentally Controlled Commercial Layer Farm has set up at Kalyani, Nadia at a project cost of Rs. 31.00 crore having layer capacity of 3.00 lakh from where 9.10 crore eggs will be produced annually and already started egg production of 85 thousand eggs will be produced per day from 1.00 lakh layer bird.

2.9 New initiative undertaken/ to be undertaken

- Introduction of Goat Farming by SHG in convergence with MGNREGS. Target has been fixed to distribute 84,000 goats among 4,000 SHGs from ARD Department.
- To eradicate Foot & Mouth Disease, flagship programme of 100% Vaccination of cloven-footed animals with FMD vaccine is to be taken up.
- Start of In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF) technique at Haringhata Bull Mother Farm for production of High Genetic Merit bulls and cows at quick succession having a project cost of Rs. 951.90 crore. Standardization of Ovum Pick Up (OPU) has been made in the Farm.

- Promotion & Marketing of Unconventional Meat & Value-Added Meat Products of WBLDC Ltd. under the brand name of 'Haringhata Meat'.
- Establishment of 3 nos. 100 TPD (Ton per Day) Modern Poultry Feed Plant- at Salboni, Paschim Medinipur; Durgapur, Paschim Burdwan and Kalyani, Nadia.
- Establishment of Environment Controlled Commercial Broiler Farm at Haringhata Farm, Nadia having layer bird capacity of 1.00 lakh from where 85 thousand eggs will be produced per day.
- Establishment of 50 Hygienic Chicken Dressing Unit in different Municipality areas of West Bengal.
- Marketing of Haringhata Meat through e-Rickshaw having Deep freezer for vending frozen meat & meat products in different places of Kolkata.
- Establishment of 20 MT Capacity Cold Storage at Central Store Belgachia & 40 MT Chiller cum Freezer in Haringhata Meat Plant, Haringhata, Nadia.
- Installation of Auto drinking facility at Rabbit Unit of State Centre for Laboratory Animals Breeding, Kalyani, Nadia.
- Modernization & Capacity Extension of Goat Breeding Farm at Haringhata Farm campus, Nadia under the control of WBLDC Ltd.

Fisheries

2.10 Introduction

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

2.11 Achievements during the financial year 2020-21

Production: During 2020-21, 12.90 lakh MT of fish and 24875 million fish seed have been produced in West Bengal up to 30.12.2020.

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 31517 nos. of such ponds (4202.87 hectare) are being covered, with fund involvement of Rs. 17.01 crore during 2020-21.

Pisciculture is being undertaken in 41000 small water bodies (5466.66 hectare) with fund involvement of Rs. 20.91 crore. The scheme **“Production of Big Sized Fish in Big Waterbodies”** is being implemented (with a view to producing big sized fishes > 2kg. per fish) in 40 waterbodies (40 hectare) with fund involvement of Rs. 1.54 crore.

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 for last few years and yield of more than 12.0 MT/ hectre/ year has been achieved in this model. During 2020-21, Moina Model is being replicated in 17 Government farms (34 hectare) with a project cost of Rs. 2.71 crore.

As part of air-breathing fish culture, ‘Desi Magur/ Singhi’ is being nurtured in 1175 nos. of ponds (156.66 hectare) with fund involvement of Rs. 4.1 crore. Under Brackishwater pisciculture, “Monoculture of Shrimp”, “Polyculture of Shrimp with Mullet” and “Monoculture of Vennamei Shrimp” are being undertaken in 1020 ponds (136 hectare- Rs. 2.02 crore), 810 ponds (108 hectare- Rs. 2.69 crore) and 780 ponds (104 hectare- Rs. 2.76 crore.) respectively.

For development of tribal fishermen, 746 units (99.46 hectare) of **“Deshi Magur Culture”** and 932 units (124.26 hectare) of **“IMC Culture”** are being cultivated with fund involvement of Rs. 1.49 crore and Rs. 2.36 crore respectively. Initiatives have been taken by the Department for introducing Bio-floc and RAS (two recent aquacultural methods) in the State.

Relief to fishermen affected by ‘Amphan’: Rs. 2.10 crore, Rs. 3.80 crore, Rs. 1.51 crore and Rs. 9.8 crore have been disbursed through DBT to fishermen affected by super cyclone “Amphan” for 4203

partially damaged boats, 3804 fully damaged boats, 50436 hundies and 37711 nets respectively. Besides, Rs. 12.79 crore has been spent for procurement and distribution of 5816.33 MT of Lime and 116.32 MT of Potassium Permanganate through concerned District Magistrates for restoration of waterbodies affected due to "Amphan".

Social Initiatives: 7836 bicycles with insulated boxes are being provided to fishermen as livelihood support measure with fund involvement of Rs. 1.70 crore. Rs. 4.9 crore has been provided to 490 tribal fishermen for construction of dwelling houses @ Rs. 1.0 lakh per unit. Quota of 'Old Age Pension' in fisheries sector has been increased from Rs. 8500 to Rs. 20000 during 2020-21 and pension up to the month of December, 2020 have been disbursed to the pensioners.

Infrastructural schemes: Infrastructural development includes schemes for a) Pre-harvest Management like Excavation & Renovation of Beels/ Canals, setting up of Dry Docks etc. b) Cold Chain Management like construction of Cold Storages and Ice Plants, c) Post Harvest Management like construction of Fish Landing Centres, Khuties, Link Roads etc. and d) Marketing Infrastructure like up-gradation/ construction of Wholesale & Retail markets etc.

Kisan Credit Card (KCC): There has been a significant increase in number of KCCs sponsored during 2020-21 compared to the previous year. As on 31.12.2020, 39709 cases have been sponsored during 2020-21 for issuance of KCC in fisheries sector in West Bengal.

Foreign collaborative Projects: a) With a view to increasing availability of Hilsa in the market, a three-year collaborative project has been undertaken for developing techniques of Captive Breeding of Hilsa in collaboration with Norwegian Institute of Food, Fisheries and Aquaculture Research (NOFIMA) at a project cost of 5.5 million Norwegian Kroner. It is expected that this project will bring about a paradigm shift in Hilsa culture in the State; b) A Disease Diagnostic Centre for crustacean diseases is being set up at Junput, Purba Medinipur in collaboration with University of Arizona, USA for detection of white spot disease in Shrimps and related species at a project cost of 283027.5 USD.

2.12 Special Achievements

District Fisheries Plan containing detailed resource mapping, gap analysis between existing capacity of available resources vis-a-vis actual requirements and various aquacultural models, to be used in different districts for achieving the target of doubling fish production in the State by 31.03.2023. State Fisheries Calendar is being developed containing the month wise details of various activities to be taken up by fish farmers in Inland, Marine and Brackish water sectors.

Disease Surveillance and Monitoring Handbook containing i) a district, species and month wise database of all fish-diseases, ii) vulnerability mapping of all species in all districts, iii) better aquatic management practices for early detection and containment/ prevention of diseases and iv) standard protocol for prophylactic treatment of the fish diseases is being prepared which may be used by the officials of the Fisheries Department as well as by the fish farmers as a standard reference.

Steps are being taken to upgrade the existing Disease Diagnostic Centre at Pailan, South 24 Parganas to a 'Centre of Excellence' which will be used as a tertiary referral lab for research and development works

related to detection and treatment of fish diseases in the State. Efforts are also being taken to get this centre accredited by National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratory.

Empowerment of women: Steps are being taken by the Department to involve women (fisherwoman or any other woman from a fisherman's family) in productive enterprises with a view to empowering women as well as to providing an alternate source for generating incremental income for families of the fishermen. Many Self Help Groups (SHGs) have been formed who are successfully running business in ornamental fisheries. Many such women cooperatives are also engaged in fish drying and related activities in various Khuties (Fish Landing Centres). Women SHGs are also being involved in nurturing innovative projects like nurturing fingerlings to fries, cultivating Fresh Giant Prawns, setting up of mini feed mills and hatcheries.

Accreditation of hatcheries: West Bengal is the highest fish seed producing State in India and stress is given on accreditation of fish seed hatcheries with a view to ensuring production of good quality, standardised seeds. Accreditation of more than 350 hatcheries has already been completed.

Hilsa Conservation and Research Centre (HCRC): Declining trend of Hilsa catch over the past one decade has been a major concern both at the National and State level. To address this issue, a HCRC has been set up at Sultanpur, Diamond Harbour for creating mass awareness through organising camps, distribution of leaflets, display of flexes, banners, hoardings etc.

2.13 New Initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken during 2021-22

It has been decided that during the next financial year, a new scheme for nurturing "***Fish Fry to Fingerling***" will be taken up with the help of SHGs. Two such units will be taken up per Block and the fingerlings nurtured by the SHGs will be bought back and distributed to other SHGs for rearing by the Department in the first year for providing assured incremental income to the SHGs. 439 willing SHGs have been identified for this activity till 31.12.2020.

With a view to utilizing vast stretches of canals excavated under ADMI project in South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas and Purba Medinipur, it has been decided to opt for cultivating Fresh Water Giant Prawn, preparatory works for which have already been initiated. 23 SHGs willing to undertake culture of this giant prawn have been identified till 31.12.2020.

Mini hatcheries for indigenous fish species will be set up in each district (@ 2/3 hatcheries per district) with the help of SHGs during 2021-22 and the entire process including identification of SHGs, imparting training to them, initiation of tender etc. has been targeted to be completed by 31st January, 2021. Similarly, Mini Feed Mills with the help of SHGs will also be set up in the districts, wherever feasible. Till 31.12.2020, 54 SHGs have been identified for setting up of such mini hatcheries.

Steps are being taken for making the Disease Diagnostic Centre at Junput (taken up in) fully operational. Second phase of online training (to be imparted by the faculty of UoA, USA) of three months' duration will commence on 02.02.2021 and selected officials of the Directorate of Fisheries will receive this training on Microbiology, Histopathology, and PCR techniques etc.

Forest

2.14 Introduction

The vision of the department is to ensure environmental stability, restoration of the ecological balance, checking soil erosion and denudation in the catchment areas of rivers, lakes, reservoirs & along the coastal tracts of Sunderbans, enhancement of forest/ tree cover, conservation of wildlife & non-timber forest produce (NTFP) resources including medicinal plants etc.

2.15 Achievements

The forest and tree cover rate of the state has demonstrated upward trends for the last decade and is currently at 17.4% (15.68% forest cover and 1.72% tree cover respectively). Some of the remarkable achievements along with the probable trends up to 2020 are as follows

Afforestation and distribution of seedlings

- Between 2011-19, Forest Directorate has afforested 90497 hectare of forest area, besides extensive soil & moisture conservation works. During 2020 also approximately more than 8,000 hectare of plantation works has been taken up.
- All non-conventional nurseries have been replaced with 100 modern nurseries with the capacity to raise 2 crores quality planting materials. During 2019-20, a new initiative to supply 2 year old planting material to the public was undertaken. As part of this initiative, 20 Tall Seedlings Nurseries, with capacity to raise 50,000 plants each has been commissioned in 2019.
- In 2020, 5 crores mangrove propagules plantation have been done in the Sundarbans over 2,500 Hectares (500 Hectare in forest, 2,000 Hectare in non-forest areas) in South 24 Parganas.
- Seedlings are being raised through Nurseries under Decentralized People's Nurseries (DPN) with the objective of promoting planting of trees outside forest areas. During 2020-21 (up to December, 2020) achievement of afforestation under state plan (all types of plantation) is 7299.5 hectare and through DPN is 4088 hectare.

Wildlife Conservation

- Two new wild life Sanctuaries were notified :i) The '**West Sundarban Wild Life Sanctuary**' in 2013 covering 556 sq. kms in 24 Parganas (South) for keystone species of Sundarban and ii) the '**Pakhibitan Wild Life Sanctuary**' over 14.09 sq. km. of water body for aquatic and migratory birds at Gajaldoba, Jalpaiguri in North Bengal.
- Declaration of 5 conservation reserves in Burdwan, Paschim Medinipur, Purulia, Bankura and Coochbehar Districts.
- All India Tiger estimation, 2018 has been completed both in Buxa Tiger Reserve & in the Sundarban Tiger Reserve.

- The biggest success story is the conservation of Rhino and Elephant habitat and as a result the population of Rhino has reached 287 (2019) and the population of elephants is 682 as per Elephant Census, 2017.
- Successful management strategies for elephants in South West Bengal have reduced human deaths. Human casualties in 2015-16 were 116, which has been reduced to 64 during 2019-20 (till 20.02.2020).

JICA assisted West Bengal forest and Biodiversity conservation Project (WBFBCP): The project is being implemented in 600 Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMC). The objective of the project is to improve forest ecosystem, conserve biodiversity and improve livelihood means by undertaking afforestation, regeneration, wildlife management and income generation activities through Joint Forest Management approach, including institutional capacity development, thereby contributing to environmental conservation and harmonized socio-economic development of the state. In last two years benefit has been extended in the form of microcredit to 11180 families.

WB Forest Development Corporation Ltd. (WBFDCCL)

- WBFDCCL operates 18 Eco tourism Centres.
- Nature Interpretation Centre (NIC) has been established at Ilambazar, Birbhum for display of fossils excavated near Bolpur, and has been handed over to Birbhum Forest Division.

West Bengal Zoo Authority (WBZA): The WBZA was institutionalized in April 2012 with transfer of management of 11 zoos of the State. The achievements of WBZA are as follows:

- Modernization of animal enclosures in Alipore and transformed Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling, now considered to be one of the best Zoological-Parks in the country.
- New Veterinary Hospital with modern equipments has been constructed at Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park.
- New enclosures at Junglemahal Zoological Park, Jhargram in 2019-20 - Wolf Enclosure, Reptile House, Pheasantry and Flying Bird Aviary enclosure.
- Introduction of Mobile App at Zoological Garden, Alipore, Kolkata on 24th April, 2020.
- Introduction of Virtual Tour of Zoological Garden, Alipore, Kolkata, Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling and North Bengal Wild Animals Park (Bengal Safari), Siliguri during lockdown period of Corona Pandemic.
- Construction of Treatment Room for Animals at Rasikbeel Mini Zoo, Coochbehar.
- Quarantine Enclosure for Deer at Adina Deer Park, Malda.
- Construction of Enclosure for Hyena at Surulia Mini Zoo, Purulia.

2.16 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken

Sabujshree: This landmark new scheme, inspired by the vision of Hon'ble Chief Minister, was launched by the Forest Department in collaboration with Health Department and District administration. This scheme will not only economically benefit the new-born when they attain adulthood but will also help create Green Cover in the State. Under this scheme, seedlings have been distributed to the mothers of newly born children.

Bonobandhab Utsav: This utsav was started from 2015-16 in all districts, involving the Joint Forest Management Communities (JFMC) to boost up the 'Joint Forest Movement' in the State and the same has been expanded in 2020. In a major decision, the Government has increased the share of usufructs to JFMC members from 25% to 40 %.

Banyapransathi Prokolpo: This prokolpo has been introduced in 2017, where in, general public is allowed to work with forest staff by staying in forest areas and learn about the nuances of various activities of the forest department. Under this scheme, in 2018, 25 civilians are being allowed to work with forest staff in protected area of Buxa Tiger Reserve & Sundarban Tiger Reserve.

Dog Squads: Dog Squads have been introduced and deployed during December 2018 in Sukna, Jaldapara, Buxa Tiger Reserve West and Sundarban tiger Reserve in the State. At present each squad has one dog with two handlers. Two more squads have been introduced in Gorumara and Buxa tiger Reserve East.

Jalatiirtha: 'Jalatiirtha-Scheme' is being implemented by Forest Department in districts viz., Purulia, Bankura, Birbhum, Jhargram and Paschim Midnapur. Under this scheme, in Phase-III, 41 projects have already been completed out of 45 projects and work of 4 is in progress in the districts of Purulia, Birbhum & Jhargram.

West Bengal Forest and Biodiversity Conservation Project: The West Bengal Forest and Biodiversity Conservation Society is the implementing agency of the project. The total project cost is Rs. 40600 lakh. The achievements under this scheme in some of the major activities are as mentioned below.

Afforestation: 21,781.93 hectare.

Biodiversity Conservation: Habitat Improvement: 335 hectare, 6 Watch Towers and 70 kms of Electric Fence for Mitigation of man-animal conflict.

Community Mobilisation: Micro-plan preparation for 600 JFMCs.

Institutional Capacity Development: Capacity Building (Training to JFMC/ EDC members & Frontline Staff) for 41984 persons, Overseas Training for 31 persons and exposure visit within India JICA Project for 187 persons.

Environment

2.17 Introduction

The Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal was established as a regulatory agency for framing of policy and its implementation aimed at protection of the environment, conservation of natural resources and supporting sustainable livelihood.

2.18 Achievements during financial year 2020-21

- West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) has taken a commendable initiative of Re-greening of Kolkata after devastating effect of cyclone Amphan that has resulted in a rampant and large destruction of trees in the city. The work of plantation of 10,000 seedlings at different places has been completed. Further project of plantation of 4,000 saplings has been undertaken at the Newtown-Rajarhat Satellite Township which is on-going.
- WBPCB kicked off a move for replacing wood and coal based chullah with LPG ovens. LPG cylinders and stoves/ ovens are being distributed to the owners of road side eateries situated within Kolkata and Howrah.
- Under the World Bank funded "*Capacity Building for Industrial Pollution Management*" project, the WBPCB undertakes remediation project of the Dhapa municipal waste dumpsite which was completed by March 2020.
- To mitigate air pollution caused by vehicular movement, the WBPCB has engaged around 40 dedicated water sprinkling vehicles for water sprinkling on busy roads of Kolkata, Howrah, Bidhannagar, South Dum Dum, Barrackpore Commissionerate and Siliguri Municipal areas for road dust suppression.
- To prevent air pollution caused due to indiscriminate burning of waste during winter season in existing Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) dumpsites, WBPCB, with the help of fire department has engaged dedicated fire tenders and water sprinkling arrangements at Dhapa and Promodnagar Municipal Solid Waste dumpsite to douse landfill fire.
- Ambient Air Quality is regularly monitored in 79 locations in West Bengal. Kolkata, Howrah, Haldia, Siliguri, Asansol & Durgapur have fourteen Continuous Automatic Air Qualities Monitoring Stations for measuring air pollutants in real time round the clock.
- Surface water quality is being monitored in 137 different locations of West Bengal.
- Under implementation of the "*Jal Dharo, Jal Bharo*" initiative of the Government of West Bengal, 25 rain water harvesting structures have been constructed in different schools in Bankura, Purulia, West Medinipur, Birbhum and Jhargram.
- As a part of promotion of non-conventional energy, 211 grid connected rooftop solar photo voltaic power plants have been installed in different schools/ institutions all across the state.
- West Bengal Biodiversity Board (WBBB) facilitated constitution of Biodiversity Management

Committees (BMCs) in all the local bodies (Gram Panchayats/ Panchayat Samities/ Zilla Parishad and Urban bodies) of West Bengal.

- WBBB provided expertise support in preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) of all the BMCs of the state. More than 90% of BMCs have prepared their PBRs (total 3566 PBRs) upto November, 2020. [2985 PBRs were prepared during 2020-21]
- Baneswar Shiva Dighi in Cooch Behar, which is a habitat of Black Softshell Turtle, is being declared as a Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS).
- New Management Plan of East Kolkata Wetlands for 2021-2026 has been prepared.
- Under the aegis of the state Coastal Zone management Authority, Institute of Environmental Studies and Wetland Management (IESWM) has prepared the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) and Land Use Land Covers maps for the Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) of the state. After the Coastal Zone Management Plan has been approved by MOEF & CC, Govt. of India in July 2020, IESWM had initiated the updation of CZMP based on CRZ Notification 2019.
- The Department has taken an initiative to develop biodiversity parks throughout the state. In Financial Year 2020-21 the Department has developed 12 (twelve) Biodiversity parks in the state.
- The Department financially assists various municipalities and gram panchayats for their solid waste management project. The Department allotted 45 lakhs to Konnagar & Rishra Municipalities for procurement of big septic tank sludge tanker.

2.19 New initiatives to be undertaken in the financial year 2021-22

Celebration of World Environment Day, Biodiversity Day, Awareness Programme on environmental issues and biodiversity by participating fairs and exhibition, organizing seminars, symposiums, conference, advertising in different media viz. radio/ tv /newspapers, awareness generation on biodiversity through nature study camp, field training, bio club, bio tour and wall painting for school students.

- Use of water sprinkling vehicles in winter to reduce air pollution in Kolkata and Howrah.
- Subsidy for switching over of 100 Diesel/ Petrol driven car to electric driven car.
- Conversion of 20 electric Crematoriums at different locations in West Bengal.
- Creation of Environmental Data Integration Centre.
- Procurement & Installation of Sonic Detection & Ranging (SODAR) for Research & Development support for better Mitigation Pollutants.
- Monitoring and operation & maintenance of Dhapa MSW closures & Contamination Projects.
- Programme for afforestation at different locations and proposal of Plantation and distribution of Sapling.
- Installation of 200 Ambient Noise Stations.

- Annual Maintenance Contracts (AMCs) & Comprehensive Maintenance Contracts (CMCs) for sophisticated Analytical Instruments of the laboratories of WBPCB.
- Monitoring of water pollution in major Rivers, Lakes and Ponds.
- Procurement of Laboratory Instruments at Central Laboratory of WBPCB and procurement of Air Quality Monitoring Van for onsite surveillance and monitoring of air quality.
- Comprehensive operation and maintenance of 14 Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS).
- Installation of 50, 10 KWP each rooftop SPV Plants in different schools/ institutions of west Bengal.
- Proposal on Monitoring & Source Identification of Arsenic Concentration in Rivers of Nadia District.
- Construction of office-cum-laboratories of WBPCB in different districts, development & up-gradation of Environmental Management & Information System, procurement & installation of computer, peripherals & net working, procurement and installation of video conference at all regional offices.
- Consolidation of BMC and preparation of PBR, Post PBR and other conservation activities.
- Research activities on biodiversity and development of Biodiversity Parks in West Bengal.
- Giving assistance to waste management projects of different municipalities.
- Establishment of Medicinal Plants Complex and initiation of state level biodiversity information system.

Food Processing Industries & Horticulture

2.20 Introduction

West Bengal is one of the major producers of vegetables, fruits, spices and flowers. It ranks either first or second in the country in the output of these commodities. It works towards reducing farm wastage and in value addition to farm products.

2.21 Directorate of Horticulture

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

2.21.1 Achievements during 2020-21

- Financial assistance of Rs. 82.25 lakh was extended to the onion growers for construction of 128 Low Cost Onion Storage Structure with storage capacity of 25 MT each.
- 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, Rs. 30 lakh was extended for construction of 15 farm level Pack Houses.
- Financial assistance was provided for purchase of 99 Power Tiller and 104 Powered Knapsack Sprayer/ Power Operated Taiwan Sprayer (capacity of above 16 litres).
- 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.
- Rs. 210.10 lakh was allocated towards advance centre for establishment of value chain and food processing of Agri-Horticulture crops to empower rural youths, Self Help Groups and prospective entrepreneurs at ICAR-Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture, Regional Research Station, Malda and Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Sargachi.

2.21.2 Special achievements during 2020-21

- West Bengal has recorded substantial increase in both area and production of horticultural crops, achieving coverage of 14,82,696 hectares since 2011 under fruits, flowers, vegetables, spices and plantation crops.
- Green houses/ Shade Net houses on more than 85,000 square meters were constructed in the State for protected cultivation of high value flowers, vegetables and betelvine.
- Rs. 81.29 crore was allotted to 9 districts viz. South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas, Purba Medinipur, Howrah, Hooghly, Paschim Medinipur, Nadia, Bankura and Malda as grant of assistance to betelvine farmers of the said districts, whose Paan-Boroj was damaged due to the super cyclone 'Amphan'.

- All farmers of the State, who have suffered crop loss during super cyclone 'Amphan' have been given 125 grams of Amaranthus Seeds as interim relief. A total of 9,31,842 the seed mini-kits have been distributed in the districts.
- To enhance livelihood in rural areas, activities have been done to amalgamate different central and state sector schemes of this Department along with Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Generation Act (MGNREGA).

2.21.3 Initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken during 2021-22

- Improved cultural practices for horticultural crops and popularization of Hi-tech horticulture under protected structures (poly houses and shade net houses), organic farming and area expansion will be the focus areas for overall growth of horticulture sector to enhance horticulture production, augment farmers' income and strengthen nutritional security.
- Support skill development and creation of employment generation opportunities for rural youth in horticulture and post-harvest management, especially in the cold chain sector with capacity generation in post-harvest management sector.
- Farmers will be mobilized towards formation of Farmers' Interest Groups (FIGs) and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) for building linkages with markets, with the objective to reduce the role of intermediaries and to ensure better price realization by the farmers.

2.22 Directorate of Cinchona & Other Medicinal Plants

2.22.1 Achievements of the Directorate

- Cultivation of Dioscorea and Saffron
- Utilization of Raw materials from Wild Plant resources: Work under progress for development of poly house for conservation of wild species.
- Work on expansion of Kiwi Plantation in 10 acres under progress.
- Afforestation of Plantation area in 13.50 acres completed.
- Maintenance of Rubber Plantation in 150 acres carried out.
- Development of T-Bar or overhead Trellis/ Telephone System in existing Kiwi plantation.

2.22.2 Special achievements of the Directorate

- Socio-economic upliftment of farmers through cultivation of Coffee in 63 villages in 346 acres of farmer's land under Kalimpong District covering 1193 farmers to make the brand "*Kalimpong Coffee*".
- "Cymbidium Orchid Industry in Darjeeling Hills" and "Cymbidium Orchids cultivation for employment generation among rural educated youths of Darjeeling Himalayan Hill Region".
- Cultivation of Medicinal Plants for employment generation and livelihood security of the farmers of the hill area.

- Cultivation of non-traditional fruits.
- Development of T-Bar in existing 22 acres of Kiwi Plantation.
- Construction of Hi-Tech Polyhouse (Fan and Pad) system for propagation of planting materials of medicinal plants.
- Development of Infrastructure for Rubber processing, essential oil extraction unit at Mungpoo and Rongo.
- Development of Disease free planting material production unit of Mandarin Orange.
- Construction of Vermi composting Pit in farmer's field.

2.22.3 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken

- Development of Cymbidium and Tropical Orchids Industry in the hilly region.
- Development of composting unit in the farmer's field.
- Initiate the scheme cultivation of aromatic plants and exotic vegetables in farmers' fields for their socio-economic upliftment.
- Development of Horticulture activities through introduction of non-traditional fruits like apple, hazelnut, walnut, blueberries, raspberries, peach, pear, plum, kiwi, pomegranate, strawberry, avocado etc.
- Value addition activities through cultivation of medicinal plant in farmers land for socio-economic upliftment as well as conservation of medicinal herbs.
- Renovation of Government Cinchona Plantation Hospitals at Mungpoo, Munsong, Rongo and Latpanchor for provision better health facilities as there are no other hospitals in these areas.
- Development of Infrastructure for production of Mushroom, Rubber processing, essential oil extraction, post-harvest processing of fruits and medicinal plants.
- Production of disease free planting materials of Mandarin Orange under Poly house.

2.23 Directorate of Food Processing Industries

2.23.1 Achievements in 2020-21: An initiative for setting up of State level Honey Processing Hub at Deganga Kisan Mandi, North 24 Parganas has been undertaken to speed up the growth of beekeeping industry in the State. The inter-departmental transfer of land has been completed. Steps are now being taken to release 1st installment of fund for implementation of the project.

2.23.2 Special Achievement: During COVID lockdown period Food Processing Industries faced lot of problems in terms of supply of raw materials, labour, movements of goods etc. Prompt action initiated by contacting relevant line Departments within shortest possible time.

2.23.3 New Initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken: Steps initiated to impart training to Food Processing Development Officers for developing customized Detailed Project Report for enabling prospective entrepreneurs to set up food processing industries.

2.24 West Bengal State Food Processing & Horticulture Development Corporation Limited

2.24.1 Achievements

- To boost economic activities of horticultural farmers, improved varieties of fruit plants have been delivered under State Development Scheme of an amount of Rs. 11.18 crore.
- To provide immediate relief to the Amphan affected farmers 118 MT quick grown seeds of an amount of Rs. 4.34 crore were distributed among the farmers through the respective District Authorities.
- 72 Sweet-meat Confectioners have been registered as an Authorised user of GI of Banglar Rasogolla with the intervention of WBSFP&HDCL as an authorized owner of the same.

2.24.2 Special Achievements

- Corporation has targeted for annual production of 68 lakhs of planting materials of different varieties of Ayeshpur Farm, Nadia under MGNREGA
- To cater the need of the planting materials under different development schemes a resourceful Agency has been deployed for advance production of the planting materials at HDRF, Barjora.
- Revival of Tissue Culture (T.C.) Laboratory at Ayeshpur in Nadia district with an initial target of production of Rs. 5 lakh T.C. banana during 2020-21.

2.24.3 New Initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken

- Setting up of a model nursery at Corporation's land at Mohitnagar, District Jalpaiguri with a targeted production of Rs. 10 lakh quality fruit plants per year.
- Construction of G+4 building on Corporation's own land at Sector-V, Salt Lake for setting up of flower boutique and cold room including retail outlet of potted plants for selling of exotic/ organic vegetable, fruits, processed food products, indoor plants etc. with help of FPDOs and Corporation Office.
- Setting up of comprehensive projects of processed food, spice, beverage etc with the help of FPDOs and Corporate sector under PPP model.

Land & Land Reforms and Refugee Relief & Rehabilitation

2.25 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.

2.26 Achievements during the financial year 2020-21

- ***Disposal of mutation and conversion cases:*** Automatic mutation has been launched during the year 2020 resulting significant increase of mutation cases to the tune of 30,89,259. Also, 65,848 Conversion Cases have been disposed (up to 31st December, 2020).
- ***Digitization of cadastral maps:*** In total, 3,370 maps have been scanned.
- ***Agri Patta:*** Pattas have been distributed among beneficiaries involving an area of 1,350 acre.
- ***Free Hold Title Deed (RR Patta):*** 9500 FHTD (RR Patta) have been distributed in FY 2020-21.
- ***Collection of Land Revenue:*** An amount of Rs. 1976.25 crore has been collected during the period from 1st April, 2020 to 31st December, 2020.
- ***Post-facto Conversion of land:*** 179 cases of Post-facto conversion of land have been dealt during the period from 1st April, 2020 to 31st December, 2020.
- ***Long-term Settlement:*** This Department has sanctioned Long-term Settlement of vested land in respect of 38 cases involving an area of 303.19 acres for which the revenue amounts to Rs. 72.24 crore (April-December, 2020) has been received.
- ***Inter Departmental Transfer:*** A total of 137 cases of IDT have been sanctioned involving an area of 679.425 acres (April-December, 2020).
- ***14Y cases:*** Permission under section 14Y has been granted for 2 cases involving an area of 71.90 acres (April-December, 2020).
- ***STS for Fisheries etc.:*** 5 cases have been executed involving an area of 649.20 acres for which the revenue amounts to Rs. 40.77 lakh (April-December, 2020) has been received.

2.27 Special achievements during the financial year 2020-21

- ***Land Policy***
 - Regularisation of post facto conversion of land other than water body of any character and size: Date for receiving application has been extended up to 07.02.2021.
 - WBEA Rules, 1954 was amended in conformity with Tea Tourism and Allied Business Policy 2019.

- WBLR Rules, 1965 was amended to promote industrial and allied business activity on land of closed/ abandoned industry [6(3) retained land]
- Conversion of forest village to revenue village: 64
- Tea Garden Renewal: 23 Tea Gardens.
- Transfer of Government. land to Airport Authority of India free of cost for expansion of Bagdogra Air Port.
- ***Fabrication of Modern Record Rooms:*** It has been proposed to fabricate 3 Modern Record Rooms under the **Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)** Scheme in the State during the period from 1st April, 2020 to 30th November, 2020.

2.28 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken for the financial year 2021-22

- ***Collection of Revenue:*** An amount of Rs. 570.00 crore has been estimated to be collected.
- ***Disposal of Mutation Petitions:*** 22,00,000 Mutation petitions have been planned to be disposed.
- ***Distribution of Agri-Patta:*** It has been anticipated to distribute 330 acre of Agri-Patta.
- ***Issuance of Free Hold Title Deeds:*** It has been expected to issue 11,518 Free Hold Title Deeds.

Irrigation & Waterways

2.29 Introduction

Irrigation & Waterways Department has completed its 100 years of glorious journey in 2020. Established in the year 1920, it is one of the oldest functioning Departments in the State. This department is the nodal entity responsible for ensuring the development and improvement for irrigation and flood management in the State.

2.30 Achievements during 2020-21

The Irrigation & Waterways Department has so far commissioned more than 93 irrigation projects and a robust flood management infrastructure for almost 42% of the geographical area of the State which is flood prone. Proper maintenance, up-gradation 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. The Safety Audit of important dams, barrages and bridges, started in 2017 has been completed in this year. Rehabilitation works, emerged from the safety audit are already being carried out in some areas and the other works will be taken up gradually. As a result of relentless and sustained effort of the Department in taking forward the vision of the State Government to bring maximum area under irrigation and to give relief to the people of critically flood prone areas, 113 projects have been completed in 2020-21 (till December, 2020) and the physical programs of ongoing 619 schemes are at par with the target in most of the cases. The major achievements made during 2020-21 as follows

- An additional area of 1,32,745 acre of cultivable land has been brought under irrigation during 2020-21 by completing renovation of 24 medium and minor irrigation schemes 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 21.24 lakh acre of cultivable area and sufficient water has been stored at the reservoirs to provide irrigation at 6.12 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 Super Cyclone Storm "Amphan" caused havoc damage to around 156 K.M. of embankments, 36 structures, spreading across 37 blocks of the districts of North 24-Parganas, South 24-Parganas and Purba Medinipur, when it hit the coastal belt of West Bengal on 20th May-2020. Irrigation & Waterways Department completed renovation of damaged structures including closure of 92 breaches to the embankments on war footing.
- During 2020-21, 260 K.M of flood and river eroding embankments have been improved and 291 K.M of drainage channels have been excavated. The drainage congestion in Kolkata and it adjoining agglomeration has been significantly improved as a result of up-keep and maintenance of around 1050 Kilometer of drainage channels through annual maintenance contracts which also helps in controlling vector borne diseases. The resuscitation of 19 K.M. of river has already been completed

and that of 84 K.M. has been started out of envisaged 147 K.M. of total river resuscitation in Purba Medinipur and Paschim Medinipur districts.

2.31 Special Achievements

- As a result of dredging of Muriganga River in between Kakdwip and Sagar Island, planned through scientific model study with the help of renowned experts, uninterrupted water transshipment could be achieved for almost 19 hours during the Ganga Sagar Mela, 2020.
- With a view to modernize the decades old DVC Canal network, so as to maximize the irrigation coverage in the five districts of South Bengal and to address the long pending need of revamping the flood management infrastructure in the Lower Damodar areas in Howrah and Hooghly districts, that suffer from perpetual floods, the Irrigation & Waterways Department has grounded a major project titled ***“West Bengal Major Irrigation and Flood Management Project” (WBMIFMP)*** under World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) funding in February- 2020, at an estimated cost of Rs. 3015 crore. At present, flood management works of 9 packages (comprising of total 17 contracts at a cost of Rs. 942.55 crore) are ongoing. The project will be completed by December, 2025.
- 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 Department has also finalized the Annual Maintenance Manual which has been used in finalizing the Annual Maintenance Plan for 2020-21 for proper and systematic utilization of maintenance funds. The Design & Research wing has been equipped with latest software to carry out the design, drawing and planning works.

2.32 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken

Apart from ensuring the completion of around 619 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, plantation schemes in different districts in compliance with the order of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.
- 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 schemes of 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 Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition and Programmable Logic Controller (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.
- Commencement of 6 major irrigation packages under World Bank and AIIB assisted *WBMIFMP*, envisaging irrigation at 4,65,000 acres of Damodar Valley Command Area in Purba Bardhaman, Paschim Bardhaman and Hooghly.

Water Resources Investigation and Development

2.33 Introduction

Department of Water Resources Investigation and Development (WRI&D) provides minor irrigation to small and marginal farmers of West Bengal through various types of minor and micro irrigation schemes implemented under different programmes, utilizing surface, sub-surface and ground water resources. This Department is also tasked with investigation and assessment of water resources in the State.

2.34 Achievements during the financial Year 2020-21 (up to 31.12.20)

The Department has been playing a significant role in enhancing the irrigation potential for minor irrigation, and consequent increase in agriculture as well as horticulture production during the financial year 2020-21. Irrigation Potential of about 60000 hectare has been planned to be created through various Minor Irrigation Projects under different Programmes. A total of 1741 minor and micro irrigation schemes with the irrigation potential 31952 hectare have already been completed up to 31.12.20.

Jal Dharo Jal Bharo: 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. Different types of structures like Check Dams, Water Harvesting Tanks etc. are being constructed for arresting surface run-off vis-à-vis utilization of stored water for supplementary irrigation or other purposes during the dry spell. It also aims to build citizen's awareness towards rain conservation and efficient water-use in irrigation, by organizing mass awareness camps and setting pilot schemes for rain water harvesting and ground water recharge. Under this programme, 20070 units of equivalent tanks have been created or renovated during the year 2020-21 up to 31.12.20.

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. Micro planning for 1942 sites has been completed covering more than 13000 acre; More than 10.8 lakh saplings of different species have been planted in about 1500 sites covering 6773 acre; Nearly 600 micro irrigation structures have been completed; 193 sites have been covered under inter-cropping which has generated income of Rs. 27.36 lakh towards Self Help Groups; Fishery related activities have been taken up in 371 sites.

Jalatirtha: Under **Jalatirtha** and other Programmes for increasing irrigation coverage and conserving rain water in the arid districts of Birbhum, Bankura, Purulia, Jhargram & Paschim Medinipur, minor irrigation schemes are being implemented. In this programme, total emphasis is being given to surface water utilization through implementation of surface water minor irrigation schemes, check dams & other water harvesting structures.

Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF): Under the RIDF, 937 Minor Irrigation Schemes have been completed in this year up to 31.12.20 creating irrigation potential of 16916 hectare.

West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation Project (WBADMIP)

Under this project, 345 schemes have been completed in this year up to 31.12.20 creating an additional irrigation potential of 3155 hectare. This includes re-excavation of 78.4 km of creeks in coastal saline Districts. Also, the following achievements have been made during 2020-21, up to 31.12.20:

- 221 Water User Associations (WUAs), comprising 5005 beneficiary families, have been formed for Management, Operation and Maintenance of Minor irrigation schemes.
- Capacity building has been done involving 20081 trainees through 1386 training of farmer programmes. Further 30333 demonstration programmes involving 33275 beneficiary families on Agriculture, Horticulture and Fisheries have also been conducted to introduce modern practices for improving productivity, production and income of the farmers.

2.35 Special achievements during the financial year 2020-21

- In view of the Government's commitment towards improving environment through use of renewable resources, 498 schemes having irrigation potential of 6331 hectares have been completed with solar power as the motive force, which includes 26 solar operated sprinkler irrigation schemes having irrigation potential of 227 hectare, up to 31.12.2020.
- The Department is in the process of implementing various applications of e-Governance, such as e-tendering, e-office, e-services for the permission of extraction of ground water for industrial purpose in connection with 'Ease of Doing Business' etc.
- Providing irrigation water to the agricultural field on demand of farmers, through operation and maintenance of 7818 departmentally owned & operated minor irrigation installations covering 6.31 lakh hectares.
- Procurement and supply of Agricultural inputs, machineries etc. for Minor Irrigation installations to different govt. departments & others by West Bengal Agro Industries Corporation Ltd.

2.36 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken

- For 2021-22, irrigation potential of about 60000 hectare has been planned to be created or revived in different Districts under different programmes.
- Special emphasis will be laid for creation of 5324 equivalent tanks to conserve rainwater under **Jal Dharo Jal Bharo** programme.
- Minor Irrigation Schemes will be executed with special emphasis under **Matir Shristi** Programme in six Districts viz. Birbhum, Bankura, Purulia, PaschimMedinipur, Jhargram & Paschim Bardhaman to convert fallow land into productive land.
- 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

2.37 Introduction

Agricultural Marketing Department started its functioning independently 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, as Indian economy is mostly based on agriculture. 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.

2.38 Achievements/ Special Achievements during the financial year 2020-21 (up to December, 2020)

Creation of marketing infrastructures such as Auction Platform, Stalls, Shop-cum-godown, Administrative building, Godown for procurement, Drinking water and Sanitation etc is a part and parcel of agricultural marketing activities. Paramount importance has been given in this sector and total cost involvement has gone up from Rs. 91.52 crore in 2011 to 1998.89 crore in 2020. During prolonged lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic all construction activities etc. were stopped.

Agricultural Marketing 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 331 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 2.00-2.50 lakh consumers daily. Budget allocation for this project in FY 2020-21 till date is Rs. 8.50 crore. During COVID 19, *Sufal Bangla* served people with the supply of vegetables at the doorsteps of consumers through its existing and newly opened stores in Kolkata and suburban areas.

Under *Onion and Potato Market intervention* up to February, 2020, Onion was sold from 148 counters with a variable subsidy ranging from Rs. 5.00/Kg - Rs. 55.00/Kg covering about 3,92,395 beneficiaries. Potato was sold at a subsidized rate at Rs. 17/kg to about 11,84,245 consumers to stabilize the price in the market up to 15.2.2020 in 2019-20 Potato Marketing Year under potato market intervention scheme 2019-20.

Under *Potato Procurement and Distribution Scheme 2020 (PP&DS 2020)*, potato had been sold to common people throughout the state at subsidized rate @ Rs. 25/ kg from 523 temporary counters and 331 permanent counters of *Sufal Bangla*. Total number of consumers served so far is 77,21,048 up to 11th December 2020 in 2020-21 Potato Marketing Year.

To prevent post-harvest loss and to enhance farm level value addition, One Time Assistance is also provided through "*Amar Fasal Amar Chatal*" @ Rs. 17,975 for constructing a Farm Family level paddy processing yard (Chatal) for sun drying of par boiled paddy and/or Rs. 5,000 for constructing an improved low cost paddy and grain storage structures.

Agricultural marketing reforms such as Direct Marketing, single point licensing and levy collection, establishment of private markets, waiver of market levy from fruits and vegetables etc. have been brought about by way of suitable amendments in 2014 and in 2017 to promote and facilitate business friendly environment in our state.

West Bengal State Agricultural Marketing Board has already introduced ***online integrated electronic single platform permit (e-Permit) System*** for fast and hassle-free transactions of agricultural produce in West Bengal. Total 20,798 e-permits have been generated in different districts in the financial year 2020-21. All existing valid licenses have been updated to electronic form and total 1880 new licenses have been generated on the platform in FY 2020-21. Market fees are being collected through online system now. Online procedure for application as well as issuance of Unified License is to be made operational.

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 and proposal for integration of another 14 markets has been submitted. Necessary man power and peripherals like computer, digital weighing scales, high speed dedicated internet lease line, assaying lab equipment etc. have already been provided in those 18 integrated markets and infrastructures like sorting and grading units, bio-waste management units etc. are being built. E-Trading in West Bengal e-NAM markets was highest during lock down period in comparison to other 515 e-NAM markets in India. Volume of e-trading in West Bengal was 2219 Metric Ton with value of Rs. 3.87 crore from April 2020 to November 2020.

Farmers' Groups and organisations engaged in organic farming are being enrolled to ***Sufal Bangla***, In order to promote state level aggregation and marketing of organic produces. West Bengal State Agricultural Marketing Board has started construction of a ***State Of The Art*** organic market at Rajarhat to be completed by 2021.

Director of Agricultural Marketing issues license for carrying business on stored potato as well as multipurpose items in cold storages for its smooth functioning. There are 583 licensed cold storages with the collective storage capacity of 75.48 lakh Metric Ton for storing potato and multipurpose items.

Prices and arrivals of major agricultural commodities are recorded by the Directorate officials on daily basis as part of Market Intelligence and uploaded to 76 AGMARK nodes.

2.39 New Initiatives Undertaken/ to be undertaken

2.39.1 Undertaken

- Construction of Organic Hat at New Town, Rajarhat, Kolkata has been undertaken at a project cost of Rs. 11.96 crore in 1st Phase. A substantial portion has been completed.
- Construction of a Green-Chilli Market at Paniparul, Egra in the district of Purba Medinipur comprising sorting, grading unit, packaging area, loading unloading area, truck parking etc. have been started and is in full progress. Such type of commodity based market is being set up in the concept of creation of the modern market and helps the farmers and stakeholders for proper marketing of chilli.

- Commissioning of Solid Waste Management System by generating Bio Gas in 10 Krishak Bazars / Markets of West Bengal.
- Construction of 1 (One) market complex has been undertaken at Raiganj, Dist. Uttar Dinajpur for rehabilitation of market users of Raiganj Municipality area.
- Construction for commodity specific market for tomato and chilli at Haldibari, Dist. Coochbehar is in progress.
- Infrastructure Development of fish market at Diamond Harbour in the District of South 24 Parganas has been undertaken for starting a sweet water fish market there.
- 1 (One) Wholesale market of Agricultural Produce has been undertaken at Kalipahari, Asansol at a project cost of Rs. 8.26 crore (Approx.) for rehabilitation of unorganised market users within Asansol Municipal Corporation area.
- One scheme titled as 'Survey and assessment for optimizing efficiency and maximizing utilisation of Agri-Infrastructure at Krishak Bazars in West Bengal' has been taken up at an approved cost of Rs. 27,55,000 through the implementing agency CII (FACE).
- Action has been initiated for preparation of IN-SITU map for each market yard managed by RMCs/ ZRMCs.

2.39.2 To be undertaken

- Establishment of more number of *Sufal Bangla* stores (Mobile & Static).
- Market Intervention programme as and when required for stabilization of price.
- Opening of Pulse Mill, Rice Mill, Oil Mill, honey procuring centres, spices and cereals procuring centres in association with Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya.
- Completion of all important ongoing market infrastructure development projects such as Organic Haat at Rajarhat, Green Chilli Market at Paniparul, Wholesale Market Complex at Asansol, Commissioning of Solid Waste Management System at 10 Krishak Bazars / Markets of West Bengal etc.
- Projects worth Rs. 271.93 crore under AMIF for Development of Rural Primary Markets and Regulated Markets for upgradation into Gramin Agricultural Markets will be undertaken subject to approval of NABARD and Finance Department.
- Assaying Laboratories and grading / sorting /packaging units will be set up in each of 18 e-NAM markets in West Bengal.
- E-trading to be facilitated and augmented through e-Permit system and e-NAM portal.



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Chapter 3

Health Facilities

Health and Family Welfare

Health & Family Welfare

3.1 Introduction

Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal is committed to ensure affordable, accessible and quality health care services for all. Since 2011, the Department has implemented a number of programmes aimed at extending the network of public health facilities. At the same time attempts have been made for strengthening of the infrastructure and Human Resources and improving skills towards achieving excellence in the services.

3.2 Achievements

New Medical Colleges under Phase-I: 5 new medical colleges (each with 100 MBBS students annual intake capacity) were approved at Diamond Harbour, Rampurhat, Purulia, Raiganj and Coochbehar. Approved project cost as per the Scheme was Rs. 945 crore (@ Rs.189 crore per college). MBBS Students admission had commenced in academic session 2019-20 at Diamond Harbour Government Medical College Hospital (GMCH), Rampurhat GMCH, Raiganj GMCH, Coochbehar GMCH. Academic session for Purulia GMCH started in 2020-21.

Super Speciality Hospital: 41 units are fully functional.

Critical Care Unit (CCU): 72 critical care facilities are functioning in the State including 46 Critical Care Units (CCU) and 26 High Dependency Units (HDU). In addition, 9 more units at Birpara, Karimpur, Frazergunj, Debra, Sagardighi, Metiaburz, Domkal, Belda, and Jalpaiguri SSHs will be functional by 2021. More than 1,90,000 people have received quality critical care treatment in the existing units.

Mother & Child Hub: Out of 14 Hubs, 10 hubs at Nadia DH, Howrah DH, Murshidabad MCH, Calcutta MCH, Bankura MCH, Malda MCH, Coochbehar MCH, Jalpaiguri DH, Medinipur MCH and One Mini Mother & Child Hub at Sujapur are in operation. Construction of the remaining 4 hubs are under progress.

Diagnostic Services: 152 High-end Fair Price Diagnostic and Dialysis Centres have been established from level of Medical Colleges to secondary tier hospitals and 110 such units (18 MRI, 40 CT Scan, 38 Digital X-rays, 13 Audio Vestibular Clinic and 1 PET Scan) and 42 Dialysis Units are functional in the State. So far, more than 96.44 lakh patients have availed the free services.

Blood Banks: 86 units are currently operational in the State.

Blood Components Separation Units (BCSU): Total 20 units are operational in the State.

Integrated AYUSH Hospital in Medinipur: Construction of the building has been completed.

Patho Bandhu: Patho Bandhu project has been launched for immediate response with medical attention to Road Traffic Accident (RTA) victims, in collaboration with WB Traffic Police. The objective of this scheme is to ensure that the RTA victims receive medical attention within the shortest time. 1,385 volunteers have been trained and inducted in 271 black spots across districts. 136 RTA cases were

reported on the Patho Bandhu helpline out of which 129 cases were from black spots. 273 victims were attended on the spot out of which 149 victims were taken to nearest hospitals while 120 victims received first-aid on spot without requiring hospitalization.

Dengue Prevention: Total 1.09 lakh persons deployed for house survey and vector control works in rural and urban area. 43 ULBs have been identified as vulnerable for VBD in 2020. Intensive monitoring was done in those ULBs. Identification of 140 peri-urban GPs has been done which are vulnerable as per data of previous years. Total 4 crores larvivorous fishes released in the State for control of larvae. 968 Kms of canal-length under the Annual maintenance of the Irrigation & WW Department have been cleaned by the department before onset of monsoon. Development of mobile app has been done for citizen centric information and reporting of fever cases, garbage reporting, municipal action and follow up.

3.3 Special achievements

Swasthya Sathi: Swasthya Sathi scheme has been made universal covering entire population of the State with more than 1585 empanelled hospitals. The entire cost is borne by the State Government and there is no contribution required from the beneficiary who can avail coverage up to Rs 5 lakh. The Swasthya Sathi Smart Card is issued in the name of woman member of the family.

Sishusathi: Sishusathi was formally launched on August 2013 with the aim of providing free super specialized tertiary level of care for selected health conditions screened by Mobile Health Teams under RBSK. In 2019-20 financial year, 2503 Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) patients, 393 Cleft Lip & Cleft Palate patients, 242 Club Foot Cases and 66 Neural Tube Defect cases have been treated. In 2020-21 (up to November, 2020) 248 Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) patients, 41 Cleft Lip & Cleft Palate patients, 39 Club Foot Cases and 9 Neural Tube Defect cases have been treated. Since inception, total 19274 Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) patients, 2729 Cleft Lip & Cleft Palate patients, 863 Club Foot Cases and 149 Neural Tube Defect cases have been treated.

Online e-ticketing for OPD: It is functional in all Medical Colleges since March 2019. About 51,23,300 online appointments have been made so far.

Online reporting of pathological tests in the Central Laboratory: Facility available for the patients of 6 hospitals viz SSKM, Kolkata Medical College, National Medical College, R G Kar MCH, NRS MCH and Salt Lake SDH. Total 46,94,723 reports have been generated since March 2019.

Birth registration certificate (Online registration figures only): Number of Birth Certificates issued during January to November, 2020 is 11,68,582 . Birth Certificate issued in December, 2020 is 1,85,163.

3.4 New initiatives undertaken

Trauma Care Facility: 47 Critical Care Centres have been notified as Trauma Care Units among which 1 is Level-I (SSKM Hospital), 6 are level II, and the other 40 are Level III. Out of these, 14 are dedicated Trauma Care Units having Trauma Care Facilities.

Su-Swasthya Kendra: 2,637 'Su-Swasthya Kendra' at health sub-centres have been set up in the state from 2019 to 2020. Another 1700 primary healthcare facilities (Sub-Centre) will be upgraded into 'Su-Swasthya Kendra' by March 2021. Rs 329 crore has been sanctioned in budget for this purpose in the financial year 2020-21.

New Medical Colleges under Phase-II: In the 2nd Phase, 5 new medical colleges (each with 100 MBBS annual intake) were approved namely at Uluberia, Barasat, Jhargram, Arambagh and Tamluk. Approved cost as per the Scheme was Rs. 1250 crore (@ Rs. 250 crore per college). It is contemplated that MBBS students admission may be commenced in academic session 2022-23 at Arambagh, Tamluk and Barasat and in academic session 2023-24 at Jhargram and Uluberia.

New Medical College under Phase III: Under Phase-III one medical college at Jalpaiguri has been approved and the cost as per the scheme is Rs. 325 crore. Tender has been floated.

Super Speciality Hospital: Construction work of super speciality hospital is in progress at Belda and expected to be completed by September, 2021.

Mother & Child Hub: Mother & Child Hub at Canning SDH is under construction stage and expected to be in operation by April, 2021. Construction works at Chittaranjan Seva Sadan is in final stage. Construction of Mini Mother & Child Hub Silampur & Anupnagar are under different stages of progress.

Blood Banks: 3 more units (Hatuara SSH-March, 2021, Salboni SSH-Now functioning as CoV-19 Hospital and Belda SSH-Under construction) are being set up and expected to be operational within August, 2021.

Blood Components Separation Units (BCSU): 20 more BCSUs are under implementation stage at Suri, Tamluk, Nandigram, Barasat, Raiganj, Jalpaiguri, Diamond Harbour, Jhargram, Canning, Basirhat, Alipurduar, Rampurhat, Purulia, Dr.B.C.Roy college, Siliguri, Bishnupur, Howrah, Mal, Kalimpong and Darjeeling which will be operationalised soon.

Ease of Doing Business (EoDB): West Bengal is presently among the top 10 States in the All-India EoDB Ranking. It is expected to be among the top 5 in implementation of State Business Reforms Action Plan 2020-21. Currently, 3 services are being taken up for business process reforms - Drugs license, Clinical Establishment license and PCPNDT licenses.

Yoga and Naturopathy College & Hospital at Belur: Construction work is going on for the College for Bachelor of Yoga & Naturopathy Sciences (BNYS) course (initially with 60 intake capacity) and 100-bedded hospital for Yoga & Naturopathy.

Nursing Colleges under PPP: 27 new GNM training schools are being set up in PPP mode.

All India Institute of Medical Sciences at Kalyani: State government has provided land measuring 179.82 acres, Water Supply and Electricity supply and land connectivity.

Bangla Sahayata Kendra (BSK): Bangla Sahayata Kendra has been set up to implement CRS Birth-Death Registration Application across all registration centers in the country for Automation of Civil

Registration System and to ensure 100% registration in the State of West Bengal through Department of Health and Family Welfare.

Paray Samadhan: The demands of the people at the local levels related to health infrastructure and various categories of services through Paray Samadhan is being addressed presently.

Critical Care Management Information System (CCMIS): 70 units out of functional 72 units made regular data entry in CCMIS in December, 2020 with an average compliance rate of 69.28%. Cumulatively, from January '20 to December, 2020, total 36, 077 patients are managed through CCMIS.

Public Private Partnership: Fair Price Medicine Shops, set up in PPP mode, have benefitted the patients to a great extent. 117 such units are functional in the State at present. Since inception till December, 2020 discount of Rs 1930.15 crore has been provided for 664.81 lakhs prescriptions.

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.



Economic Review 2020 -21

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

The School Education Department as the nodal body has 11 distinct entities/ parastatals, which look after various aspects of school education in the State. These bodies, viz. Directorate of School Education, State Council of Educational Research & Training, West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education, West Bengal Board of Secondary Education, West Bengal Board of Primary Education, West Bengal School Service Commission, West Bengal Council of Rabindra Open Schooling, Expert Committee, Directorate of Accounts, Directorate of Mid-Day Meal and Paschim Banga Samagra Shiksha Mission have specific tasks like looking after quality of education, conducting examinations, development of text book/curriculum, procurement and distribution of Teaching-Learning and associated materials (books, exercise books, bags, shoes etc.), inspection of schools, recruitment of teachers/ staff, execution of projects and schemes, preparation of teaching/ training/ research material, providing mid-day meal etc.

The year 2020 had posed a unique challenge to the education system across the world due to the spread of the pandemic, COVID-19. Owing to pandemic situation the schools had to be kept closed; in spite of that, the School Education Sector of the State of West Bengal has acquired some remarkable achievements in 2020-21. Steps were taken to continue the work for improvement of infrastructure of the schools. Given the fact that schools could not be run after March, 2020 owing to the pandemic situation, other modes of learning have been adopted. These are: i) Learning through activity task, ii) e-learning, iii) Banglar Shiksha classroom (through television), iv) Programme video, v) Model question papers, and vi) Banglar Shiksha durabhase (through toll-free telephones).

4.2 Major Achievements during the financial year 2020-21

- Free text books have been provided from pre primary to class XII students in 2020.
- 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.
- School uniform is provided free of cost to students of Primary and Upper-Primary level.
- Under the Mid-day-Meal program, 100% Government and Government Aided/ Sponsored schools in the State have been covered. Currently about 113 lakh students are under its coverage. Owing to the pandemic situation all the schools remain closed. Dry ration of rice, potato, pulses and Bengal grams along with masks, sanitizers/ soaps have been provided to all the students.
- 24.71 lakh textbooks and 20.87 lakh exercise books have been distributed among the students of the 'Amphan' affected districts.
- For accommodating more students and providing more learning space, several additional classrooms have been constructed.
- 121 English Medium schools have been sanctioned under the Government sector.

- A new upper-Primary School for Girls in the Matua concentrated area of Nadia district is being set up in Purnanagar village under Ranaghat-II Block.
- A new upper-Primary School in the Bauri concentrated area of Bankura district is being set up in Kotaldighi village under Kotulpur Block.
- Grant for recognition and aid to 15 Primary schools of Rajbangshi medium, is being given in the Rajbangshi concentrated areas of the districts of Coochbehar, Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar, Uttar Dinajpur and Dakshin Dinajpur.
- One Primary School of Kamtapuri medium is being set up in Kamtapuri concentrated area of Jalpaiguri district in village Panbari under Moynaguri Block.
- Library grant has been given to 382 schools and laboratory grant has been sanctioned to 151 schools.
- Composite school grant to 82,253 schools is under process of disbursement.
- With the aim to bring all Secondary and Higher Secondary schools under the ICT@school programme, 3,719 schools are being taken up in addition to the existing 5,591 schools. Out of these, 2,000 schools are waiting to go live with the re-opening of schools, and for the rest 1,719, tender process has been completed with delivery and installation to follow.
- More than 1,100 Braille Books (for blind students) and large font books (for low vision students) have been distributed.
- 23,225 CWSN students have been provided with books and stationery allowances.
- A completely new e-Portal of the School Education Department named “**Banglar Siksha**” has been launched and is functioning successfully.
- A one-time grant of Rs. 10,000 is given to each student of class XII of the Government/ Aided/ Sponsored schools and Madrasahs for purchasing tabs/smart phones for accessing the e-learning mode.
- 61,414 Teachers have been trained through online mode during 2020-21.
- Two activity books on Mathematics, one manual for science activity, Santhali medium books for D. El. Ed have been developed. Mathematics laboratory at State level and District Institute for Education and Trainings (DIETs) have been established.
- ***Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV)***: All the 92 KGBV hostels are in place with accommodation of 8,632 students. All these hostels, attached to existing upper primary schools, provide residential facility for deprived girl children (SC, ST, OBC, Minority and BPL categories) to enable them to complete their elementary education.
- The successful conduct of Madhyamik Pariksha, 2020 was achieved by West Bengal Board of Secondary Education. Result of Higher Secondary Examination was published in due course. Toppers of Madhyamik, Higher Secondary and Madrasah have been felicitated by Honourable Chief

Minister in online mode. On Teachers' Day (5th September 2020), a good number of teachers were felicitated by Hon'ble Education Minister with Shiksha Ratna awards in online mode.

- State level Yogasan and Chess competition have been held in October 2020 through online mode.

4.3 Financial Achievement

The State Government spent around Rs. 91042.15 crore in School Education sector over the last three years and the current financial year 2020-21 (up to December, 2020).

Higher Education

4.4 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.

4.5 Achievements

4.5.1 Achievements in Higher Education

- In 2010-11, there were 12 State aided Universities. 30 new Universities have been set up in the State in the last 9 years. Of these new universities, 19 are State-aided and 11 are Private Universities.
- Out of total 42 Universities, 20 are old functional State Aided Universities, 11 are functional Private Universities, 5 are newly started universities, functioning from 2020-21 academic session and remaining 6 State aided Universities are coming up.
- 50 new colleges have been set up during last 9 years. Out of 50 new colleges, 4 new Government colleges are for girl students, namely 1. Government General Degree College for girls, Ekbalpur, Kolkata; 2. Sister Nivedita Government General Degree College for girls, Hastings House, Kolkata; 3. Jhargram Raj College (Girls wing), Jhargram; 4. Kanyashree College for girls, Behala, South 24 Parganas. 1 more Government Engineering college is being set up at Alipurduar.

Significant Achievements of Higher Education Department since May, 2011

Parameter	Status as on 2011	Status as on 2020
Total State Aided Universities	12	31
Private University	0	11
Government and Govt. Aided Colleges	At present- 508 Colleges [58 Government colleges and 450 State-aided Colleges].	
Engineering Colleges	Government: 8; Self-Financing Engineering Colleges:66	
Gross Enrolment	13.24 lakh	21.6 lakh (2019-20)
Gross Enrolment Ratio	12.4	19.3 (2018-19)
Institutional Density (Number of Colleges per 1000 sq Km)	11.9	21.37
CPI (College Population Index)	11	13
Female enrolment	5.62 lakh	10.41 lakh
Female Gender Ratio	42%	49.64 % as on 2018-19

4.5.2 Structural Reforms

- Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) was introduced in all State aided Universities and Colleges of the State.
- West Bengal State Council for Higher Education (WBSCHE) has been reconstituted afresh in 2015.
- WBSCHE completed an exercise to revise and update the syllabus for 12 science subjects at the UG level

4.5.3 Qualitative Improvement

- Presently, 11 Universities and 263 Colleges obtained NAAC accreditation.
- Under Rashtriya Uchchatar Siksha Abhijan (RUSA 1.0) for 85 Higher Education Institutions total fund received is Rs. 324.00 crore and Rs. 278.00 crore (86%) is already utilised.
- Under RUSA 2.0 a sum of Rs. 264 crore has been approved for 120 Higher Education Institutions.

4.5.4 SVMCM (Swami Vivekananda Merit-cum-Means Scholarship): Total beneficiaries of the scholarship increased from 544 in 2006-07, 7423 in 2010-11 to 1,25,116 in 2018-19 and to 1,35,589 in 2019-20. Budget under the scheme increased from Rs. 9.45 crore in 2010-11 to Rs. 205 crore in 2020-2021.

4.5.5 IT Initiatives

- E-billing & e-salary through HRMS are introduced in all Government and Government aided colleges. Fund allocation from the Government is done through “e-bantan” and “e-pradaan” software under IFMS.
- E-tender & e-procurement made mandatory for any procurement above Rs. 5 lakh.
- Admission for various teacher education programmes in the State 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 has 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 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. E-Office is implemented in this department w.e.f. 1st January, 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 Uchchashiksha portal at HED:** A comprehensive Portal is being developed, which will cater Universities and Colleges for collecting, compilation and sharing of data.

- **West Bengal Freeship Scheme (WBFS):** Tuition fees waiver scheme for the economically backward students of self-financed & Private Engineering/ Technical colleges of the State.
- **Court Cases Monitoring System (CCMS):** Court Cases Monitoring System (CCMS) was implemented on 1st January, 2019 to facilitate the Department/ Officers to manage and monitor court cases. It helps the Department to track the Court Cases and to maintain complete history of the Case including follow up action.

4.6 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.
- Jhargram University is being set up 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). Santali 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.
- In addition to Masters in Santhali language, Bankura University has introduced 5 UG Honours subjects in Philosophy, Geography, Physics, Mathematics and Chemistry during the academic session 2020-21.
- Honours subjects namely Santhali language, History, Political Science and Philosophy in Olchiki script have been introduced at General Degree College, Lalgahar under Jhargram University during the academic session 2020-21.
- 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.

4.7 Some special initiatives undertaken

- Retirement age of teachers of universities and colleges was enhanced from 62 years to 65 years, with effect from 01/01/2019. Grant of Leave Travel Concession (LTC) facility is introduced for University and college teachers.
- The University and College teachers are brought under the West Bengal Health Scheme (WBHS). Child Care Leave/ Paternity Leave is conferred on teachers of Universities and colleges;

- Grant of advance increments for Ph.D./ M.Phil and other higher degrees is ensured for University and College teachers.
- Time spent by a teacher under the "Faculty Improvement Programme is treated " as "on duty";
- Encashment of accumulated Earned leave (up to 300 days) at the time of superannuation is ensured.
- Conferment of teaching status on Librarians, Deputy Librarians and Assistant Librarians of Government – aided colleges, and Graduate Laboratory Instructors (GLIs), along with all attendants financial and service benefits including Career Advancement Scheme and Leave encashment of 300 days. Librarian of Government Colleges are now included in WBES cadre.
- Allowing college teachers to act as Guide for M.Phil and Ph.D. students in terms of UGC's Regulations, 2016.
- Conferment of the benefits of 'Study Leave with pay 'on Government- approved Part Time Teachers (PTTs), Contractual Whole Time Teachers (CWTTs) for acquiring higher degrees such as Ph.D.
- The pay structure for different categories of teachers and equivalent post of Government/ Government aided Colleges and State aided Universities as prescribed by UGC has been implemented by the State Government with effect from 01/01/2020. The benefits have also been extended to the Pensioners.
- The ROPA 2019 has been implemented for the Non-teaching employees of Government/ Government aided Colleges and State aided Universities and Employees of WB College Service Commission. The benefits have also been extended to the Pensioners.
- Provision for transfer of teachers of State-aided Colleges including mutual transfer through the West Bengal Colleges (Transfer of employees) Rule, 2017.
- Conferment of Group D/ non-teaching employee status upon hostel and mess employees of State-aided Universities and Government-aided colleges, along with the attendant benefits of Pension, GPF, encashment of Leave salary, etc.
- The upper age limit was enhanced for Government approved Part Time Teachers (PTTs), Contractual Whole Time Teachers (CWTTs) for applying to the post of Assistant Professor through the West Bengal College Service Commission from 37 years to 47 years, while giving weightage for 'Teaching experience' in the interview.
- The Government-approved Part Time Teachers (PTTs) Contractual Whole Time Teachers (CWTTs) and casual non- teaching staff are brought under the 'Swasthya Sathi' Scheme.
- Part Time Teachers (PTTs) and Government approved Whole time teachers (CWTTs) and Guest Teachers having qualifications as prescribed by UGC has been renamed as State Aided College Teacher, Category-I and Guest Teachers not having qualifications as prescribed by UGC has been renamed as State Aided College Teacher, Category-II.

Madrasah Education

4.8 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 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.

4.9 Achievements

4.9.1 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 periodically conducts three main examinations, namely, 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).

Numbers of Recognised Madrasahs in West Bengal in the year 2020 are: Junior High Madrasahs: 91; High Madrasahs: 164; HS Madrasahs: 258; Senior (Fazil) Madrasahs: 77; Senior (without Fazil) Madrasahs: 25; Total Madrasahs: 615

4.9.2 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 2012, the numbers of students enrolled, appeared and passed were 50124, 49064, and 38147 respectively. This has increased to 66444, 64450 and 50690 respectively in 2020.

Maintenance Allowance for Minority Students: All Minority Students staying in Madrasah/ School attached hostels of MA&ME Department get Rs. 1000 per month for 10 months in a financial year as maintenance allowance.

Mass Education Extension & Library Services

4.10 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'

4.11 Achievements

The Department contributes towards the education and vocational training of specially abled children having Visual Impairment, Hearing Impairment and Mental Retardation through 74 Sponsored Special Schools and 79 Academically Recognised Institutions all over the West Bengal. Presently, there are 10,126 specially abled students.

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 effort are on to strengthen the infrastructural facilities of the existing 50 units of Social Welfare Homes (39 Aided Welfare Homes & 10 State Welfare Homes and 01 Sponsored Welfare Home) of the State. In 50 units of Social Welfare Homes, around 5700 inmates are taken care of. Presently, there are 189 inmates retained in 11 Welfare Homes and 126 students 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.

In the financial year 2019-20 the achievements in respect of implementation of the schemes undertaken by the Mass Education Extension Directorate are given below:

Development of Institutions for Education of the Handicapped for 10126 Students.

Scholarship to the specially abled Students: 2,826.

Development and expansion of Educational Welfare Homes for 5700 Inmates.

Literacy Programme: 14000.

Strengthening of Administrative Structure: 480.

A total amount of Rs. 483 lakh has been released for execution of schemes/ programmes under the sectors- Development of Institutions for the education of students with special need, development and expansion of educational welfare homes and maintenance of inmates, strengthening of administrative structure in the year 2020-21.

West Bengal has a network of public libraries comprising of 13 Government Libraries and 2460 Government Sponsored Public Libraries. State Central Library is at the Apex of the Public Library system of West Bengal. There are 6 Government District Libraries and 19 Government Sponsored District Libraries. There are 4 other Government Libraries and one Government Library of special status namely Uttarpara Joykrishna Public Library. Also there are 232 Town/ Sub-divisional libraries, 2209 Primary Unit/ Rural Library spread over all the districts of West Bengal. Apart from these, there are 7 Government

Aided Libraries run by Voluntary Organisations. Library plays the role of Public University. Our aim is to achieve sustainable and lifelong educational development of the people at large and to meet the needs of research workers as well. In short, activities performed by the Directorate are: reading room service, lending of books for home reading, text book service, special service to readers pertaining to career guidance, service to children readers, service to neo-literate readers, service to the Braille users, inter library loan service, bibliographical service, reprography service, information service on life and livelihood of the masses.

The financial and physical achievements in current financial year in respect of implementation of the schemes undertaken by the Library Services Directorate are given below:

Name of the Scheme	Financial Progress up to 30 th November 2020 (in Rs. lakh)	Physical Progress up to 30 th November 2020
Purchase of books, furniture, water purifier, etc. development grant to Government Sponsored Public Libraries under Special component plan for SC	12.21	8
Purchase of books, furniture, water purifier, etc. development grant to Government Sponsored Public Libraries in General Area	390.00	176
Infrastructure development grant to Government Sponsored Public Libraries in General Area	347.16	115
Maintenance of Government establishment in general area	36.72	7
Total	786.09	306

4.12 Special Achievements during 2020-21

- During the FY 2020-21, an amount of Rs. 306 lakh has been released towards repair, renovation works for the Special Schools and Welfare Homes under the administrative control of this Directorate due to damages caused by the devastating cyclone Amphan.
- Scholarship in class IX and onwards has been awarded to the specially abled students, who have scored 40% marks in the last annual examination in the year 2020. Total Rs. 410 lakh was disbursed towards scholarship of the 2,826 specially abled students.
- State Level Sports and Cultural Meet, 2020, for the inmates of 50 units of Educational Welfare Homes under this Directorate were organised in the year, 2020. Total 712 (Boys-524, Girls-188) inmates across the State participated in this event.

- Total 372 students passed Madhyamik Examination. Among them, 128 are specially abled students and 244 are inmates of Educational Welfare Homes. Total 112 students passed Higher Secondary examination. Among them, total 47 are specially abled students and 65 are inmates of Educational Welfare Homes.
- International Literacy Day was observed on 8th September, 2020, at the State level maintaining all social distancing Government norms.
- This Department is implementing a convergence scheme with School Education Department regarding keeping of reference books for school children in libraries and to cater services to the school children.
- Improvement of infrastructure were given emphasis 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 total target has been fixed as 5 lakhs. Membership application form and Membership Cards have been modified in respect of religion, caste, caution money and late fine.
- More than 770 libraries were given computers and efforts are on for providing internet connectivity to all the libraries for benefit of the readers.
- Materials regarding competitive examination are being made available more and more among the readers as well as examinees of various competitive examinations in Career Guidance section of the libraries.
- Setting up of Information Centre at the District, Town/ Sub-divisional and some other libraries, for providing information regarding development and welfare activities undertaken by other departments of Government.

4.13 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken: Initiative for opening up of newly constructed two-storied hostel building with 100 beds of State Welfare Home for Boys at Suri, Birbhum has been undertaken; New admission of 750 inmates in different Welfare Homes has been undertaken; Construction work of new building for the State Welfare Home (for girl inmates), presently at Dhanyakuria has been initiated at the allotted land at Barrackpore, North 24 Parganas; the process for setting up of new State Welfare Home at Gopalpur, Purulia– II Block, District– Purulia has been initiated; The process for according approval towards recognition of 7 Special Schools for the students with Special Needs has been initiated; the scheme for eradication of illiteracy in new format would be implemented, if approved by the government; Bangla Sahayata Kendra (BSK) has been opened in 748 Government Sponsored Public Libraries in the State. Various types of online services are to be provided to the people from these Kendras.

Technical Education, Training & Skill Development

4.14 Introduction

The Department of Technical Education, Training & Skill Development administers schemes on Technical Education at Diploma Level through Polytechnics, Craftsmen Training through Industrial Training Institute and Industrial Training Centres, formal vocational training through Vocational Training Centres, non-formal vocational training through Community Polytechnics and Short Term Vocational Training, improvement and expansion of technical education in the State.

4.15 Polytechnic

In 2020-21, there are 182 Polytechnics with intake capacity of 39835; 7 new self-financed polytechnic/diploma pharmacy institution has been set-up in the State. 34 Diploma courses and 2 Post-diploma courses are now running in the different Polytechnics in the State. Part-time Diploma in the morning session is also continuing in the I.C.V. Polytechnic, Jhargram for tribal students.

A project named "Improving teaching and learning of English and communication skills in West Bengal Polytechnics" has been undertaken in collaboration with the British Council. Assurances are given to the passed out/final year students in placement through departmental/ directorate initiative. Initiatives have been taken for grooming of students and making them job ready. Several initiatives were taken up through various e-platforms such as development of study materials and Audio Visual contents, implementation of Learning Management System and e-Learning portal. Around 4000+ study materials has been uploaded in the Council's website with 90000+ responses received for the uploaded study materials. Also different Audio Visual contents have been uploaded in the YouTube channel.

Future plan/ targets to achieve: Introduction of online examination system in Polytechnics and digital language laboratories in Polytechnics, Installation of CCTV are some of the future plans. Application for AICTE approval of 4 new government Polytechnics under construction, would be submitted.

4.16 Industrial Training Institute

Craftsmen Training Scheme and Apprenticeship Training Scheme are being implemented under the Directorate of Industrial Training, West Bengal. 60 NCVT trade courses under Craftsmen Training Scheme and 291 optional trade courses & 259 designated trade courses under Apprenticeship Training Scheme are being conducted in different ITIs in the State. A few achievements are:

- In 2020-21, there exist 278 ITIs in the State with intake capacity of 86300.
- Construction work of 19 ITIs at different blocks is in different stages.
- At present, Wi-Fi facility has been provided to 46 Government ITIs / ITCs.
- Necessary steps are being taken to start the training courses at 21 new Government ITIs.
- Sanitary Vending Napkin machines with incinerators have been installed at 44 Government ITIs, where girl trainees are enrolled.
- Also, smart class rooms are introduced in 42 Government ITIs.

- The Department has decided to set-up a 3-storied Light-Hub building at Chandannagar, Hooghly. For this, 0.58 acres of land has been acquired at KMDA Park, Chandannagar and construction work of the building is in progress under the supervision of PWD.
- 28 ITIs (26 Government & 2 Private) have been selected for centrally sponsored scheme "Strive project" on the basis of grading.

A few new initiatives undertaken

- Surrender Cum Rehabilitation scheme for the Left Wing Extremists (LWE) has been implemented in three Government ITIs of Paschim Medinipur and Jhargram districts. 78 surrendered LWEs are undergoing training under this scheme.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with M/s Siemens and Tata Strive to implement German dual vocational and education training (VET) system at different Government ITIs.
- Mahindra Pride Class-room project has been successfully implemented at different Government & Private ITIs to implement Soft Skill & Life Skill training. Primarily M/s Hero India Ltd. & Ashok Leyland have approached the Directorate of Industrial Training, WB for imparting training in the automobile sector at different Government ITIs.
- Scholarship has been awarded to 178 female trainees by M/s Samsung from their CSR fund for this year.
- 62 instructors of various Government ITIs have already undergone through 03 days online COVID Response training in collaboration with GIZ India, Indo German programme of Vocational Education and Training.
- The total admission, counselling and verification process in the Government ITIs are done through online mode.
- Short term courses have been started at various Government ITIs under their IMC to cater the local skill gap and employment generation for youth.
- Initiatives are being taken to translate the books published by NIMI on different CTS trades into Bengali language for easy understanding of the trainees of West Bengal.
- Two instructors of ITI Tollygunge and Women ITI Kolkata received the prestigious "*Kaushalacharya Award*" from Directorate General of Training, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India for their contribution in training.
- Initiatives are being taken to start different courses on New Age Technologies like Solar Technician in different Government ITIs of the State.

4.17 Vocational Education & Training Programme

Key Achievements during Year 2020 till 31.12.2020 are as follows.

- In Higher Secondary Vocational Education Programme, 26444 students have passed in the year 2020; in the year 2021, it is expected that 31000 students will appear in the Final Exam.
- In Financial Year 2020-21, 2655 Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) are imparting Vocational Education & Training.
- Recurring Grant Module has been implemented in i-OSMS Portal, which has been inaugurated on 17.07.2020. This is a great achievement for this Administrative Department as manual system of collection of UCs from Grantee VTCs has been withdrawn. Now, the entire process of submission of UC and subsequent requisition of Recurring Grant is being done through "Online".
- Due to pandemic situation from March, 2020 onwards, the Administrative Department is providing "e-Learning" facility in Vocational Training Centre and CSS-VSE successfully.
- 361 ELMs have been uploaded in the dedicated YouTube Channel "WBDVET" have been inaugurated. All these ELMs are linked with the Banglar Shiksha Portal of School Education Department. About 2 lakh students across the State are being benefited by this initiative.

Future plans targeted to be achieved are: i) Up-gradation of laboratories for H.S Vocational courses for good performing VTCs will be continued; ii) In similar line with Vocational Education under CSS-VSE, it is being conceptualized that existing 483 Vocational Training Centres may be considered with introduction of one vocational papers from next academic session in Class IX with 2 years pattern job roles as pilot basis.

4.18 Utkarsh Bangla

Achievements under "Utkarsh Bangla" scheme are:

- 1,63,591 trainings have been commenced under the Utkarsh Bangla Project Mode in 2019-20.
- 42835 candidates have been trained under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Special Projects in 2019-20.

Special Achievements:

- 11499 candidates under *Kanyashree* scheme have undergone training under the *Swapno Bhor Programme*.
- Paschim Banga Society for Skill Development (PBSSD) has set up District, Sub-Divisional and Block level teams to decentralize the programs for better management and ensuring quality
- Recognition of Prior Learnings (RPL) trainings have been initiated in various districts under convergence with School Education Department for Mid-day Meal Workers
- PBSSD has set up an Industry Resource Cell (IRC) and is in the process of establishing district level committees to support IRC for increment in placements.
- First level of preparation for District Skill Development Plans (DSDP) has been conducted for all the 23 districts and the DSDPs are under evaluation for further modification for meaningful outcome of

the trainings conducted. The DSDPs would enable PBSSD to impart trainings which would be placement linked and demand driven.

- Utkarsh Bangla has been awarded with the prestigious World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) prizes under the aegis of the United Nations Employment Generation.

New Initiatives to be undertaken are

- PBSSD has a plan for training around 1,00,000 candidates under the RPL mode in 2021- 22.
- For better training, placement and post placement retention activities like new mobilization & counselling process including psychometric assessment, call centre having inbound and outbound facility, Industry led training models under Utkarsh Bangla scheme, monitoring and evaluation with integrated mobile application, inclusion of IT enabled processes and steps for all the activities in skills value chain, focus on converging different skills intervention under Utkarsh Bangla, district Skill Development Plan for all 23 districts, creation and inclusion of more indigenous qualification packs in National Qualification Register under National Council for Vocational Education & Training are planned to be revamped.
- Training of Trainers' (ToT) for the training providers has been planned, as it has been mandated to appoint only qualified trainers for trainings under Project Mode to enhance the quality of the training imparted.

Science & Technology and Biotechnology

4.19 Introduction

The primary objectives of Science and Technology and Biotechnology are to support scientific or technological needs of the State & other Departments of the Government of West Bengal and to accelerate socio-economic development of the people. The major programmes of Science and Technology and Biotechnology are: Science Promotion & Propagation; Popularization of Science & Technology; Biotechnology Promotion & Propagation; Geo-informatics and Remote Sensing and Intellectual Property Rights Promotion & Protection.

4.20 Achievements during the financial year 2020-21

Activities on Promotion of Scientific Research: Over 500 Research & Development (R&D) projects are currently being supported by the Department in addition to 48 projects funded during the year 2020 to various Government aided institutions across the State to promote scientific research.

Establishment of Technology Development and adaptation Centre (TDAC): With the objective of building and nurturing an ecosystem to support Science and Technology (S&T) led entrepreneurship, promoting scientific research and innovation, commercialization of research output and supporting job creation and employment, the Department in collaboration with Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta run Entrepreneur & Innovation Park has set up a '***Technology Development and Adaptation Centre (TDAC)***' through the West Bengal Science and Technology Council in the month of October, 2020.

Development of Digital Platform: To enhance ease of access, procedural transparency and better management/ monitoring of scientific schemes, the Department has revamped the portal named '***Vigyansathi***' and launched the Departmental Digital Platform in the month of October, 2020 for all schemes being currently funded by the Department.

Setting up of Kolkata Biotech Park: The Department has endeavoured to promote setting up of industrial biotechnology ventures, support start-up for incubation and development of innovation, attract investment and create employment.

Spatial Data Support by Geo-informatics and Remote Sensing: The Department is providing spatial data support to important Government of WB 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, and (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" and (e) "National Mission for sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem." The Department is also conducting certificate and short term training courses on RS & GIS for various Government employees and University/ College faculty and one PG Diploma in Geo-informatics for postgraduate students. Rs. 30 lakh is being provided as financial assistance for these courses.

Activities of Patent Information Centre (PIC): This year, the centre facilitated patentability assessment of 40 innovative research; facilitating filing of 29 Patents which include 9 patents on COVID-19 issues and facilitating filing of 5 copyright and 3 Trademarks have been done; also organized 10 workshops, 3 G.I applications were filed and 95 authorized GI stakeholders were facilitated; last year PIC initiated three new courses on Intellectual Property Rights and Technology Business Management namely Certificate, Advanced Certificate and PG Diploma in IPR, affiliated to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology (MAKAUT) for capacity building in respective domains.

Talent Identification and Nurturing Programme for School Students: An amount of approx. Rs. 4.44 crore have been provided to Jagadis Bose National Science Talent Search (JBNSTS) towards Fellowships and Book Grants for 200 Junior Talent Search Scholarships, 50 Senior Scholarships, 50 Scholarships for talent enrichment programme, 50 JBNSTS girl scholars under the Bigyani Kanya Medha Britti Programme and teacher's training programme.

Hosting of 27th West Bengal State Science & Technology Congress: The 27th State Congress was held to provide a forum for interaction and deliberation among experienced & young researchers, review of the present status of R&D efforts in addition to serve as a platform for encouraging talented young scientists of West Bengal to present their papers. The event was preceded by three Regional Congresses at Burdwan University, Alipurduar College and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology.

Bengal Science Lecture Series: This programme has been re-launched to popularise science, technology and its applications among common people especially the future generations. It is a platform for the school, college and research students to interact with renowned scientists of India and abroad.

4.21 Special Achievements

Scientific R&D Projects: About 500 R&D projects have been sponsored in the fields of Agriculture, Public Health, Animal & Fishery Sciences, Engineering & Technology, Energy, Physical & Chemical Sciences, Environment & Climate Change, Biotechnology, Geo-informatics, IPR etc.

Science Popularization and other Programmes: More than 300 sensitization programmes have been organized through Universities, Colleges, Schools and NGOs in disciplines like Drinking Water, Energy, Medicinal plants, Global warming, Bio-fertilizer, Bio-pesticide, Rainwater harvesting etc.

State Science & Technology Congress: 19th–27th State Science & Technology Congress were held during the years 2012 - 2020 at SINP, IEST, Burdwan University, North Bengal University, Presidency University and Science City (four times) respectively with the Regional Congresses being held across various educational institutions across the State.

West Bengal DST Fund for Improvement of Science and Technology infrastructure (WBDST-FIST) Programme: Improved S&T infrastructure and laboratory facility have been provided for Science, Engineering & Medical Institutions for three years.

Geo-informatics & Remote Sensing: Project on Space Based Information Support for Decentralized Planning- land use/ land cover, drainage and infrastructure database has been generated for the entire State on 1:10,000 scales using high resolution satellite data for the first time.

Construction of Vigyan Chetana Bhavan: The own office building of the Department named 'Vigyan Chetana Bhavan' has been constructed at DD Block, Sector-I, Salt Lake. The office building is functional since January, 2016.

Intellectual Property Rights: Since 2011, Patent Information centre (PIC) has achieved marvelous success through patents (filing of 150 Patents and granting of more than 30 patents), Geographical Indication (G.I) (filing of 24 G.Is and granting of 17 G.Is), 24 Plant variety protection, facilitate filing of 200 G.I authorized user protection and registering 92 G.I authorized users of the registered G.I to develop their brand and commercialization. PIC also facilitated 30 trademark filing and registering 10 Trademark of the individual innovators. This centre also supported patentability assessment of 770 innovative researches of the state and IPR filing facilities for Technology Development and Adaptation Centre to cater to the need of Technology Start-ups and Translational research of the state. 30 grass-root innovators have been promoted for technology development and transfer in the State Science Congress

4.22 New Initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken

Advanced Scientific Research and Development Projects: Financial support would be continued for ongoing as well as new R&D projects to promote scientific research in the State.

Technology Development and Adaptation: Technologies amenable for commercialization and transfer from lab to land will be encouraged to get the benefits of the Technology Development and Adaptation Centre.

Geo-informatics and Remote Sensing: The Cell will continue to support State Government Departments with spatial data for their developmental planning purposes.

Publication of Scientific Books in Vernacular: Eminent Scientists in the State have been requested to write scientific literature in vernacular which will be published by the Department.

Fellowships & Scholarships: Financial support would be continued for Research Fellowship & Research Grant; 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 Bigyani Kanya Medha Britti Programme.

Development of Kolkata Biotech Park: Major emphasis will be given to make the Park operational through encouragement to start-ups for establishment of biotechnology ventures.

Activities through Digital Database: 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.

State Awards: The Department will continue to recognize contributions in popularising science within the masses including writing of scientific literature in vernacular by awarding individuals and voluntary organizations.



Economic Review 2020 -21

Chapter 5

Industrial Development and Entrepreneurship

Industry, Commerce & Enterprises

Labour

Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises and Textiles

Tourism

Industry, Commerce & Enterprises

5.1 Introduction

The Industry, Commerce & Enterprises Department intends to depict the challenges faced by the industrial sector in wake of the global pandemic of COVID-19 and the consolidated efforts of the State machinery to fight back for keeping up the pace of economic activity. In spite of the initial hardships, the economic activities related to industrial sector have traversed through the path of growth. The resilient macro-economic policies adopted by the State of West Bengal have been the elemental sources behind Industrial growth & development even during these difficult times.

The department facilitates industry, investment and infrastructure development in the State. The department is actively engaged through the Directorates/ Corporations/ Parastatals under its administrative control in effectuating investment and developing business, trade & industrial links with domestic as well as foreign institutions and countries. Several domestic and global business houses and foreign nations have realized the potential of the State as an attractive investment destination. 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 a capacity for innovation, the Department of Industry, Commerce & Enterprises administers a broad variety of sectors like maritime, minerals, mining, infrastructure and export promotion. The momentum for growth is vital in enabling the State to uphold the stronger position as an advanced industrialized State. 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.

Industries with investments over Rs. 10 crore in 'Plant & Machinery' are considered as large industries and come within the purview of the Industries, Commerce & Enterprises Department. The department therefore secures and assists in expeditious and orderly establishment, growth and development of industries in the State through its executing agencies. Conceptualization of new projects, assistance to entrepreneurs towards implementation, promoting development and management of industrial infrastructure are some of the main functions of the department. Industrial infrastructure development, exploration of mines and minerals, promotion of trade & commerce, support for special projects are the key activities of the department. In addition, providing institutional support for encouraging establishment of industries in industrially backward areas of the State is another key activity of this department. The Department functions with an overall objective to promote sustainable industrial growth in the State.

5.2 Achievements during 2020-21

5.2.1 West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. (WBIDCL)

- Based on investment proposals received, number of units to whom module (sq. ft.)/ land (acres) of WBIDC have been allotted since 2011 till Dec. 2020 are as follows:

- 65 Modules, 4,18,098.02 sq. ft space.
- 94 land based units, 1855.53 acres.
- Few Significant investments in WBIDC Industrial Parks that have commenced Operations in 2020-21:

Uluberia Logistics Project of Amazon: Announced in Howrah MSME Synergy on 12th March 2020 and became operational from Oct 2020. Flipkart is already operational and now Amazon has become operational. The largest logistics project of Flipkart in Eastern Region of the country is gaining pace for becoming operational over 104 acres of land at Haringhata Industrial Park of WBIDC. A 5MW rooftop solar facility is planned by the company for a completely green project. The construction is 95% complete and the operations would commence in first quarter of 2021.

- Projects that have been issued allotments of land/ module in WBIDC IP in 2020-21 (till Dec 2020):
 - M/s Rattan Ispat Pvt. Ltd has been allotted 4.90 acres of land at Barjora Plasto Steel Park-II, Bankura for setting up a manufacturing of wire nail unit.
 - M/s. Ooms Polymer Modified Bitumenn Pvt. Ltd. has been allotted 2.25 acres of land at Panagarh Industrial Park for setting up bituminous product manufacturing unit.
 - M/s Admixture Technologies Pvt Ltd has been allotted one module admeasuring 1.42 acres of land at Panagarh Industrial Park, Panagarh. The company has proposed manufacturing unit for production of construction chemicals.
 - M/s Alcograin Distilleries Pvt. Ltd. has been allotted 22.96 acres of land at Panagarh Industrial Park, Panagarh. The company has proposed for distillery manufacturing unit.
 - M/s Norton Chemicals & Specialities Pvt. Ltd. has been allotted 10 acres of land at Vidyasagar Industrial Park, Kharagpur in Paschim Medinipur.
 - M/s. Razban Seafood Private Limited has been allotted 1.73 acres of land at Food Park-III, Sankrail Howrah.
 - M/s Globus Spirits Ltd has been allotted 5 acres of land at Panagarh Industrial Park.
 - M/s. Indian Oil Adani Gas Pvt. Ltd has been allotted 2 acres of land at Panagarh Industrial Park, Panagarh.
 - M/s. Tastytango Foods Pvt. Ltd has been allotted 4 acres of land at Panagarh Industrial Park.
 - M/s. Bhagya Laxmi Jewellers has been allotted 2534.09 sq. ft. of module space at Gems & Jewellery Park, Ankurhati, Howrah.
 - M/s. Bombay Assay Company has been allotted 2534.09 sq. ft. of module space at Gems & Jewellery Park, Ankurhati, Howrah
 - M/s Pritam Jewellers Pvt. Ltd. has been allotted 2534.09 sq. ft. of module space at Gems & Jewellery Park, Ankurhati, Howrah.

- M/s Baby World Fashion Pvt. Ltd has been allotted 2907.00 sq ft. of module space at Paridhan Garment Park, Ph-II, Beliaghata, Kolkata.
- Few Significant Projects that are in the process of allotments in WBIDC industrial Parks:
 - Dhunseri Polyfilms has applied for 38 acres of land at Panagarh IP of WBIDC for manufacturing BOPET (Biaxially oriented Polyethylene Terephthalate) films. These are used primarily in Food packaging, cosmetics, personal care, pharmaceutical, electrical & electronics industries. The plant at full capacity is 5,61,000 TPA .
 - Berger Paints India Limited has applied to WBIDC for allotment of 22 acres of land at Panagarh Industrial Park, Burdwan, for setting up of a Construction Chemicals and Putty Manufacturing Unit. Berger Paints India Limited is one of the largest Paints and Construction chemicals in India. Its brands are well known and recognized all over the country. At full capacity the unit under the proposed project would manufacture 1,20,000 tonnes per annum of Construction Chemicals and Putty.
- New Parks Developed by WBIDC:
 - **Gems & Jewellery at Ankurhati:** Two Standard Design Factory (SDF) buildings of about 1.2 lakh sq. ft. each and one Common Facility Building (CFB) of 21000 sq. ft. have been developed. About 1.61 lakh sq. ft. of space has been allotted to 33 companies. M/s Titan & Co with 20,272 sq ft. space is the anchor unit. A total of about 51,813 sqft of space is now allotted to M/s Titan and its vendor partners.
 - **Rishi Bankim Shilpaudyar:** Out of 97.38 acres at Naihati, North 24 Parganas District 19.05 acres allotted to 8 units. Out of total 8 units, 6 units have started commercial production. 70 acres of land was allotted to WBEIDC for EMC (Electronics Manufacturing Cluster). Road repair and renovation works have been executed in FY 2020-21 through PWD.
 - **Haringhata:** Regarding Instakart Logistics project over 107.35 acres is coming up at Haringhata Industrial Park. The Flipkart Group of companies is coming up with the biggest state of the art green logistic park in the Eastern region of India.
- Rejuvenation of Old Industrial Parks by improvement of infrastructure: Industrial Parks viz., Vidyasagar Industrial Park, Panagarh Industrial Park, Plasto Steel Park at Barjora, Haldia Industrial Park, Uluberia Industrial Park, Shilpangan-The light Engineering Park, Salt Lake have been strengthened by installation of water supply facilities, storm water & waste water drainage system, reinforcement of security/ surveillance works, construction of internal roads/ boundary walls, completion of electrical works and creation of social infrastructure related activities.

5.2.2 The West Bengal Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (WBIIDC)

WBIIDC has developed 18 Industrial Parks/ Parks namely Kalyani Industrial Park (Phase-I), Kalyani Industrial Park (Phase-II), Kalyani Industrial Park (Phase-III), Malda Industrial Park Phase I, Malda Industrial Park Phase II, Coochbehar Industrial Park Phase I, Coochbehar Industrial Park Phase II, Dabgram Industrial Park, Raninagar Industrial Park over an 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. Remaining industrial parks are Uluberia Industrial Park, Falta Industrial Park, Falta Industrial Park Sector III, Falta Industrial Park Sector IV, Falta Industrial Park Sector V, Kharagpur Industrial Park, Haldia Industrial Park, Bishnupur Industrial Park, Bolpur Shilpa Niketan.

The availability of the land lying vacant in different Parks along with the land premium has been placed in public domain and the land is being allotted following the land allotment policy of the Government issued in the year 2012. Up to 2020-21 (till 31st December, 2020), out of total area of 2110 acres of land, 1623 acres have been allotted/ assigned to 489 Industrial units in different Parks. WBIIDC has almost completed the physical infrastructure development work at Sector V of Falta Industrial Park in the district of South 24 Parganas, over 100 acre of land which previously remained undeveloped for allotment to various industrial units. For this, allottable area will be 81 acres.

5.2.3 The West Bengal Mineral Development & Trading Corporation Ltd. (WBMDTCL)

WBMDTCL is working with the objective to explore and extract Coal and other Non-Coal Minerals i.e. Rock- phosphate, Stone aggregates, Fire clay, Granite, Quartz, Feldspars etc. in West Bengal and to examine its commercial possibilities and to convert mineral resources to marketable commodities for generating incomes/revenues from sales proceeds.

- The Ministry of Coal, Government of India has allotted Gourangdih ABC Coal Mine in Paschim Bardhaman district to WBMDTCL. The mine has an extractable coal deposit of about 62 Million Tonnes which will be mined over 27 years with a peak capacity of 2.5 Million Tonne per year. Procurement of land through District Level Land Purchase Committee is under process. Land required for Compensatory afforestation has been identified. E-Tender cum Auction process for selection of MDO has been initiated.
- Mining Lease Deed was executed on 03.12.2019 and Registration was done on 13.02.2020 for Mokdamnagar & Tentulberia China Clay & Fire Clay Project: The Agreement for transfer of assets & liabilities from West Bengal Projects Limited to WBMDTCL Ltd has been executed on 06.02.2020. Consent to operate has been issued by Pollution Control Board (PCB), West Bengal on 24.02.2020. After completion of pre mining activities including statutory clearances, mining activities have been commenced. Over-burden has been removed and Fire Clay deposit has been exposed. Weighbridge has been installed. Production of Fire Clay will commence once weighbridge is made functional shortly.
- The Environmental Clearance has been received from MoEF&CC on 12.05.2020 for Jethia Hatgacha Black Stone Project (178.93 Acre). WBMDTCL has received Consent to operate from WBPCB. The Mining Lease Deed has been executed on 25.09.2020. Registration of Mining Lease Deed will be completed shortly. Process of procurement of land has been started.
- The Environmental Clearance has been received from MoEF&CC on 27.08.2020 for Hatgacha Black Stone Project (108.53 Acre), Birbhum.

- Vide Gazette of India Notification Dated 24-10-2017 of Ministry of Mines, Government of India, the West Bengal Mineral Development & Trading Corporation Ltd has been declared as Exploration Agency under sub-section (1) of Section 4 of MMDR Act, 1957 (67 of 1957) for prospecting of minerals. WBMDTC has undertaken exploration activities such as Exploratory drilling work at Mokdurnagar China clay and Fire Clay mine, Birbhum and at Mirmi in Purulia district for Quartz and Feldspar Geological Report has been prepared and will be sent to the Administrative Department for necessary vetting.
- Department of IC&E has entrusted WBMDTCL with the job for preparation of District Survey Report of 17 Districts except Birbhum, Purulia, Paschim Bardhaman, Jhargram and Bankura. Till date, WBMDTCL has forwarded the draft DSRs of 13 districts (Howrah, Hoogly, Nadia, Kalimpong, Alipurduar, Dakshin Dinajpur, Purba Bardhaman, Murshidabad, Coochbehar, Purba Medinipur, Darjeeling, Uttar Dinajpur & Paschim Medinipur) to the Department as submitted by the NABET accredited consultants selected through tendering process.
- Distribution of Coal as State Nominated Agency (SNA) to the MSME consumers of West Bengal is a significant achievement. For the year 2019-20, 149 MSME consumers have been supported by WBMDTCL (as SNA of West Bengal) by distributing 80,102 MT of Coal as allotted by ECL. This support is expected to be continued in the next financial year as well. WBMDTCL has already started receiving recommended quantity of the MSME consumers from different district authorities of West Bengal.

5.2.4 Directorate of Mines & Minerals, West Bengal

- 36 Mining Plans have been approved for minerals like Sand, Quartz and Brick Earth. Besides, 01 Mining Scheme and 01 Modified Mining Scheme on Clay were also approved. Mine Plan is a pre-requisite for issuance of Environmental Clearance.
- District Survey Report (DSR) for Birbhum District has been approved by the Scrutiny Committee constituted of expert Geologists of DMM, W.B. headed by the Director himself and also has been finalized. DSR for Bankura district has been provisionally accepted. DSRs for Purulia, Jhargram and Paschim Bardhaman districts are undergoing second phase of scrutiny. Draft DSRs for 12 more districts (Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Coochbehar, Kalimpong, Alipurduar, N. Dinajpur, S. Dinajpur, Murshidabad, Purba Bardhaman, Nadia, Howrah and Hooghly) have been received for scrutiny. First phase of scrutiny has been completed on DSR for Alipurduar District.

5.3 Special Achievements

- ***West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation:*** All Land allotments and building plan sanctions are processed online and integrated through 'www.silpasathi.in'. Relationship Managers have been notified by IC&E Dept. to facilitate investors in applying for land in the industrial parks of the State. The work related to ease of doing business for improvements towards business reforms action plan under Silpasathi single window services act were taken up on priority basis.

- ***West Bengal Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation:*** Development of web based applications for accounting, invoicing & financial management, Document Management System has been targeted towards digital office development. Development of other modules of web based application on Human Resource Management, Engineering & Construction Management, Assets Management, Land Management, Industrial Performance Monitoring Management and Industrial Park Promotion are in the process of development. All these applications will add value to the performance of WBIDC to great extent in terms of data preservation, updating, ease of availability of data, monitoring and decision making.
- ***West Bengal Mineral Development & Trading Corporation LTD:*** Adoption of a transparent e-tendering process (including e-auction/ e-reverse auction) for selection of mining contractor and developer, operator cum purchaser (MDOP) or Transporter of coal, etc are mention-worthy best practices.
- ***Directorate of Mines & Minerals, West Bengal:*** The Schedule of Cost of Geological Exploration Work in the State of West Bengal has been approved by the Government in Finance Dept. Henceforth, this Schedule will be followed by all agencies (Government, semi-Government, private) for working in the state. The Web-Portal for online mineral administration (www.imasmines.wb.gov.in) under Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) system has been registered successfully in NIC sub-domain. All functions of minor mineral starting from auction of potential blocks for mining lease, issuance of LOI, execution of lease deed, issuance of transit pass, assessment and collection of mineral royalty etc. will be maintained through this online portal system in a fair and transparent way in near future.

5.4 New Initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken

5.4.1 West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. (WBIDC)

- ***New infrastructure development works in WBIDC Industrial Parks in FY 2020-21***
 - WBIDC had developed Food Park in Howrah in two phases so far, at Sudharas in Phase-I and Kandua in Phase-II. Now WBIDC is developing Phase-III at Sankhrail. Carriage widths of road of 1 km varying from 3 meter to 12 meter have been completed. Cable trench, storm water and sewerage water drainage system lying at both side of the road along with footpath is completed.
 - WBIDC is developing 7.6 lakh sq.ft of space over an area of 9.85 acres of land at Budge Budge for upcoming Garment Park. The Park is being developed by WBIDC over a super build up area of 7.6 lakh sq. ft. by establishing 4 SDF (G+7, 1.8 lakh sq. ft each) and one CFB (G+3, 0.4 lakh sq.ft). Super structure of 3 SDFs, one no of CFB and slab casting up to 7th floor of one SDF has been completed.
 - PWD has developed an approach road of 10 meter carriage way to an extent of 12 kilometer of SH-4 connecting Goaltore Industrial Park developed on 950.16 acres of land to Goaltore Town. A further 20 kilometer stretch of SH-4 connecting Goaltore Town to NH-14 (Chandrakona Road) is

being developed by PWD. At instance of WBIDC, PWD is constructing a Boundary wall around the Industrial Park to a running length of about 15 kilometer and almost 95% work is complete

- ***Projects in the Pipeline: Amritsar Kolkata Industrial Corridor Project (AKIC):***
 - 2483 acres of land has been delineated from existing industrial land of WBIDC for development of Industrial Manufacturing cluster (IMC) under the AKIC project.
 - Master plan has been prepared by the consultant engaged by DMICDC.
 - An SPV between WBIDC and NICDIT (National Industrial Corridor Development & Implementation Trust) is to be formed for development of the project area. The project is under active consideration of the State.
- ***Export & Trade Promotion:***
 - The total quantum of merchandise exports of West Bengal to world was 9.49 USD Billion for 2019-20 (Source: DGCIS). Rising demand for various export items e.g. petroleum products, metals, leather goods, agricultural produce, marine products, jewellery, plastics, chemicals, etc. from the state spurs the demand for more logistic facilities in the State. West Bengal has the largest warehousing capacity in the eastern part of the country as well as the second largest cold-storage capacity in the country.
 - A state of the art trade and industrial exhibition center with over 2,00,000 sq ft. of built up space is under construction at Milan Mela Exhibition Grounds. The project is expected to be ready for commissioning in FY 2021-22.
- ***Maritime & Ports:*** The State Cabinet approved development of the proposed Port at Tajpur independently through West Bengal Maritime Board on a Design Build Finance Operate & Transfer Model (DBFOT) on a Public Private Partnership (PPP) framework. WBIDC offers secretarial support to WBMB. An Expression of Interest (EoI) has been called for soliciting suggestions from prospective bidders to identify suitable development model for next steps.

5.4.2 West Bengal Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (WBIIDC)

- Development of a GIS system for displaying availability of land and infrastructure in which the following features are present:
 - Display of details about all the Parks along with the prevailing land rates.
 - Providing details about available connectivity infrastructure (including road, rail, airports), utility infrastructure (including electrical substations) and other infrastructure (including police station, fire station) for all Parks.
- Implementation of an online application system with the following features:
 - Mandating online application submission (including supporting documents) and online tracking, Provision of online payment thereof, ensuring that the system allows the user to download legally valid approval certificate.

- Eliminating the need of physical touch-point for document submission and verification
- Allowing third parties to verify the final approval certificates in public domain.
- Defining objective criteria applicable for all Parks for evaluating land allotment applications and publish it in public domain.
- Designing and developing an online single window system for granting construction permits with following functionaries,
 - A common integrated application provided on the online single window system, for all internal and external agencies required to provide applicable NOCs/ approvals (fire services, water and Sewerage Department, etc.
 - Provision for making an online application with integrated payment without the need for a physical touch point for document submission and verification.
 - The system should allow auto scrutiny of building plans from compliance perspective according to the uniform Building Codes/ Building By-law using Auto DCR (or similar) software.
 - Provision for e-intimation of commencement of construction, e-intimation of plinth level completion and online form for Completion/ Occupancy Certificate application with online payment of fee.
 - Provision for online issuance of certificate of inspections.
 - Provision for online issuance of digitally signed Completion/ Occupancy certificate to the applicant.

5.4.3 West Bengal Mineral Development & Trading Corporation Ltd. (WBMDTCL)

- To complete the pre-mining activities for the Gourangdih ABC Coal Mines so that the commercial production may be started by the end of FY 2021-22.
- New exploration initiatives to be undertaken by this Corporation:

Detail exploration for Apatite at Chirugura area, Purulia District; Detail exploration for China clay and Fire clay at selected locations within the mining lease area of 48 acres at Malti area, Purulia District; Exploratory core drilling for Blackstone (Basalt) at Mouza Jethia and Hatgacha, Birbhum district; Exploration of Silica sand at Barjora & Sonamukhi Mouza, Bankura District; Exploratory drilling for Blackstone/Dolerite at Sutabai Mouza, P.S. Kasipur, Purulia District.

Labour

5.5 Introduction

The Labour Department is one of the major Departments of the Government, mainly involved in ensuring social security and well-being of the workers of organized and unorganized sector, promoting safe and conflict-free work environment, without child labour, evolving progressive reforms towards creating a hassle-free environment for investments & business and creation of employment in Bengal.

5.6 Achievements

Bina Mulya Samajik Suraksha Yojana (BMSSY): This project was undertaken with the objective of integrating the different schemes and to offer uniform social security benefits to all unorganised workers under the single umbrella.

To assist the enrolled beneficiaries, the state government decided to waive off the beneficiary contribution of Rs. 25 per 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, W.B. is the implementing and monitoring agency for the Employment Bank, a web based Job Portal wherein both the jobseekers and employers enroll themselves.

Yuvasree: Government of West Bengal arranged unemployment assistance to one lakh jobseekers through the Employment Bank since 2013 so that they can increase their employability or become suitable to set up self employment ventures by upgrading their skills. Each of the one lakh selected jobseekers is paid financial assistance @ Rs. 1500 per month.

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 2020-21 (up to 31st December 2020) Rs. 31.72 crore has been disbursed to 28,556 workers from 184 industrial units.

Employees' State Insurance (Medical Benefit) Scheme

Improvement of Primary Care: Out of 23 districts 17 districts in the state have Primary Care facilities. For remaining 6 districts, competent authority has approved the implementation and ESI Corporation, Government of India is yet to notify those districts as fully implemented under *ES/Act*.

- Service Dispensary(SD): Total 59, out of which 41 Government run SD and 18 Tie-up SD.
- Store indent and Store Management is being done digitally in fully computerized Service Dispensary. Prescription and various certificates are being issued online now
- Computerization and Digitalization of Government run SDs.

Improvement of Secondary Care: There are 13 State ESI Hospitals with 3154 indoor beds, having 24 X 7 emergency service & Tie-up care facility.

- New Cath-Lab at Manicktala ESI Hospital was inaugurated in March 2020 and is functioning now.
- Upgraded Dialysis & Kidney Care Unit in Manicktala ESIH, Asansol ESIH. At Uluberia ESIH the same is ready to be functional.
- Upgraded Oncology Unit and Specialist Pain Management Clinic at Sealdah ESIH.
- A Molecular Biology Lab has been set up at Manicktala ESIH for TB-PCR, Hepatitis- B & C and Human papilloma Virus.
- In total, 200 beds increased at Asansol and Durgapur ESI hospital.

Achievements of State Labour Institute: State Labour Institute conducts courses under the accreditation of West Bengal State Council for Technical & Vocation Education and Skill Development and National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF), Government of India. It also conducts research on labour related issues and publishes journals/ periodicals on such issues, like 'Shramik Barta'. A new branch of State labour Institute was opened at Asansol.

5.7 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 Boards have further led to ease of submitting applications, less paper-works, 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. The major reforms which have been implemented in 2020 are as follows:

- Allowing system to process the submission of auto-Renewal of registration under The Factories Act, 1948, The Contracts Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, The Inter State Migrant Workmen (RE&CS) Act, 1979.
- Ensuring provision of maintaining online/ digital registers and records under all labour acts (applicable to all industries).
- Registration under Shops & Establishment and/or Trade License to be given through a single form.
- The contributions under Labour welfare act made through online system.
- Defining the criteria for recognition of third-party agencies/ individuals and publishing a list on the Department/ board portal.
- Introduction of a system of publication of draft business regulation online, mentioning its legality, necessity and business friendliness and invitation of public comments/ feedbacks on the same prior to enactment.

- Arrangements were also made to publish the comments/ feedback received on the draft business regulation and provisions were made to address those in the final regulation.
- Updated online dashboard made available in public domain for registrations/ renewals granted for different services of Labour Department.

Central Inspection system (CIS) has been implemented under applicable Labour Laws, Legal Metrology Act and Environmental Act. All inspection reports are uploaded within 48 hours of inspection and such report are now viewable by the concerned enterprise.

Prachesta: Any labourer/ daily wage earner/ worker in the unorganised sector who was a permanent resident of West Bengal and was in extreme duress due to loss of employment/ livelihood opportunities due to outbreak of Covid Pandemic (COVID-19) and did not have alternative source of income, would be eligible for the assistance of one-time ex-gratia of Rs. 1,000 on fulfilment of certain conditions. The scheme was launched on 10th April 2020.

Akarshan (Attraction), e-Enablement of Employment Exchanges: It is a 'first of its kind' initiative to provide on a single platform all the required facilities to the enrolled job seekers of the state who aspire for quality employment through various competitive examinations/ selection tests or want to be self-employed. 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.

Special Achievement of ESI (MB) Scheme: COVID-19 testing Laboratory is now functional at Manicktala ESIH. New building of Baltikuri ESIH with 300 bed capacity has been made operational. Now, it is being used as dedicated Covid-19 hospital in the district of Howrah. In addition Uluberia and Bandel ESI Hospital functioned successfully as dedicated Covid-19 Hospitals. 2240 Covid patients have been treated so far.

Special Achievement of Directorate of Boilers: Online Transfer of Ownership of Boilers and Economisers has been introduced on September 2020. In this system the applicant can submit the application along with requisite fees online. They can view the status of their application and can also download all reports & certificates from the web portal.

Special Achievement of Directorate of Factories: Now, applicants can apply for renewal of Licences for a period up to 15 years. Inspections are being conducted as per BRAP (Business Reforms Action Plan) Guidelines and based on Risk Based Randomized Inspection Module. Prompt actions are taken in case of accidents and complaints investigation.

Special Achievement of State Labour Institute: Online mode of admission for the PGDHRD & LW Course and Publication of Special Labour Gazette has been done.

Skill Training in spinning and weaving of Jute: Jobseekers enrolled in Employment Bank are sent to different jute mills after one-month theoretical training in different Employment Exchanges. The aim of the scheme is to generate employment and to produce skilled workers for the jute industry. Since inception, 8203 jobseekers have completed theoretical training and the trainees are paid Rs. 100/ day. After

completion of theoretical training they are sponsored to the different jute mills of West Bengal for two months practical training. The trainees are paid Rs.180 per day for 1st 45 days & Rs. 250 per day for last 15 days.

Motor Driving Training: Enrolled jobseekers are given motor driving training under this scheme. The trainees get driving licence after one month theoretical and practical training. The scheme was launched in November 2019. Since inception, 1061 jobseekers have taken this training.

5.8 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken

- Through Technical and functional revamp of Employment Bank, Directorate of Employment will cater more jobseekers of the State effectively. *Yuvasree* assistance may be reconsidered after certain period (2/3/4/5 years) for handshaking with a lump-sum seed money for starting up self-employment ventures by which two folds benefit may be achieved– 1. Increase of employment (Wage employment & Self-Employment) and 2. Old recipients can be replaced with the new enrolled jobseekers.
- **For Udiyaman Swanirbhar Karmasansthan Prakalpa**, the loan amount is planned to be increased from Rs. 50000 to Rs. 2 lakh and the subsidy amount is planned to be credited via direct beneficiary transfer system.
- **'Live streaming of Special Coaching Classes'** programme is planned to be launched in every Employment Exchanges in West Bengal.
- Skill Development Training in respect of the trades for jobseekers like Data Entry Operator, Tea plantation and rearing, Eco-Tourism and Hospitality in tea garden area will start soon.
- **Introduction of new 21 training courses**, after getting approval from concerned authority.
- New building at Asansol ESIH with extra bed capacity ready to be functional in next year; 3 CT Scan machines will be set up at Gourhati ESIH, Asansol ESIH & Uluberia ESI Hospital and 1 MRI machines at Sealdah ESI Hospital; 10 Intensive Care Units will be set up in each of the 10 state ESI Hospitals; 100 bedded capacity ESI Hospital is coming up at Siliguri and Haldia.
- Services related to *Directorate of Boilers* such as 'Approval of Manufacturing Certificate' and 'Testing of Materials' will be made on line soon in the next financial year:
- Renovation/ up gradation of the web portal of Directorate of Factories is being undertaken. Steps are being taken to provide most of the services through this portal.

State Labour Institute

- Orientation programs for placement of students of *PGDHRD & LW*.
- Collaboration with business organizations / associations for campus placement.
- Starting of the upgraded advanced diploma course on Construction-Safety.
- Training Programs for officials based on TNA reports.

- Workshops/ Seminars on Labour Codes.
- Collaborative Training Programs with NLI, ATI and other organizations.
- Publication of Special gazette on Labour Codes.

Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises and Textiles

5.9 Introduction

The Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (*MSMEs*) have been accepted as an important pillar for overall socio-economic development of the country. The *MSME* sector is the second largest job provider, next to agriculture and accounts for a significant share of industrial output and exports. This sector acts as an instrument for inclusive growth and also supports for strengthening business ecosystem. For its inherent capacity to run at low capital and technology requirement, use of local resources and traditional skill, *MSME* sector ensures environmentally sustainable balanced regional development. Over the last nine & half years, West Bengal has always been a front runner in the country in development of micro, small and medium enterprises. About 89 lakh *MSMEs* of the state contribute nearly 14% of the total *MSMEs* of the country. With 23.42% share, the state leads in the country in respect of total female owned proprietary enterprises in India. West Bengal accounts for about 21.25% of the total manufacturing enterprises in India which is the highest among the States in India (Source: MSME Annual Report 2019-20, and NSS 73rd Round Report, Govt. of India). *MSME* & Textiles Department, Government of West Bengal is the nodal agency for promotion and development of *MSMEs* of the state including Textiles, Handicraft, Handloom, Khadi and other traditional village industries.

Bengal MSME at a Glance

As per MSME Annual Report 2019-20, Govt. of India and NSS 73rd Round,

- Total MSME establishments: 88.67 lakh (Rural- 56.66 lakh, Urban-32.01 lakh)
- Number of proprietary enterprises owned by female entrepreneurs: 29.01 lakh (highest in India)
- Number of manufacturing enterprises: 41.78 lakh (highest in the country), as per 4th Handloom Census and Textiles Directorate (Handloom),
- Number of Handlooms: 2,83,404
- Number of Active PWCs in Handloom sector: 546
- Annual Production in handloom sector: 769 million sq.mt.

Achievements in 2020-21 (up to December 2020)

Sl. No	Schemes/ Programmes	Achievement		Remarks
		Physical (No.)	Financial (Rs. in lakh)	
1	Cluster Development	7	3043.96	Including last year's claim Rs. 480 lakh handloom clusters and Rs. 1674.22 lakh for ongoing khadi clusters

Sl. No	Schemes/ Programmes	Achievement		Remarks
		Physical (No.)	Financial (Rs. in lakh)	
2	MSME Facilitation Centre (MFC)- applications facilitated for statutory clearances	7268	--	--
3	Finance Clinic held to facilitate business proposals for getting fund from banks.	23	--	250 entrepreneurs benefitted and Rs. 600 crore proposals facilitated.
4	Karmatirtha constructed	8	60	---
5	Setting up CFC/ CPC	9	545.3	A portion of expenditure is included in cluster expenditure
6	Production of subsidized cotton sari	495000	393	---
7	Civil construction of Black Top link road for better access to handloom clusters	19.1 km	610	---
8	Construction of individual work sheds for handloom weavers.	1502	1074.14	A portion of expenditure is included in cluster expenditure
9	Amount of Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate (ISEC) issued to the Khadi Institutions	362	21196.35	---
10	Coverage under State Level Khadi Polybastra Artisan Welfare Trust scheme	35600	332	---
11	Value of Khadi production of Khadi Societies	362	17461.69	---
12	Production of village industries under KVIB fold	439	9973.08	---
13	Coverage under Jansree Bima Yojana	30240	0.92	---
14	Retail sales through Own Production Centers Sales of the WBKVIB	16	1000	---
15	Business generated from Fair/ Mela/ Expo-organized/ participated	22	390.76	Financial achievement means sales generated in fairs.
16	Pension to handicraft artisans	2920	266.4	---
17	Pension to handloom weavers	6000	478.47	---

Sl. No	Schemes/ Programmes	Achievement		Remarks
		Physical (No.)	Financial (Rs. in lakh)	
18	Turnover of Tantuja	--	25100	---
19	Turnover of Manjusha	--	10332	---
20	Turnover of Paschim Banga Resam Shilpi Samabaya Mahasangha Limited (<i>PBRSSM</i>)	--	134	---
21	Turnover of Bangasree	--	4431	---
22	Supply of materials/ equipment to Disaster Management Deptt. by <i>WBSIDC</i> for Amphan affected people	430000	--	Tarpauline- 2 lakh Disaster Management kits- 2.3 lakh

5.10 Special Achievements

Fight against COVID: In the year 2020, the world has probably faced the most appalling crisis after great depression, the outbreak of *COVID-19* leading to complete lockdown. The impact was all-pervasive. To combat against the pandemic, use of safety items viz. *PPE* kits, face mask, hand sanitizer etc was an immediate and acute need for all particularly for doctors, nurses and other frontline warriors. Realizing the urgency and apprehending the imminent demand of these items, the state government entrusted *MSME* & Textiles department for coordinating the entire process ensuring production and supply of covid safety items in the state. With active support and instruction from the state government, the department, despite of all odds during lockdown, mobilized material & human resources and obtained permissions from the administration required for production of those items. *MSMEs* and *SHGs* were engaged optimally and transparently maintaining the protocols of the pandemic. The department also provided special training and technical support to *MSMEs* and *SHGs* in this regard and also ensured standard quality compliance of the products. The concerted effort of the department has resulted in a remarkable achievement in procuring and supplying the covid safety items to different government departments during the lockdown. These include - 3-layer Disposable Mask (330 lakh), *PPE* kits (25 lakh), N-95 Mask (3 lakh), Face Shield (:3.5 lakh), Goggles (3 lakh), Disposable Bed Sheet (4 lakh), Wrappers (0.8 lakh for *ASHA* workers).

Tantuja's service towards combating *COVID-19* was recognized by the *SKOCH* Group and Tantuja was conferred with the highest independent honour "*SKOCH Platium Award 2020*" for its transformational performance during lockdown. Tantuja also supplied 17.6 lakh relief materials (saree, bed sheet, dhuti, lungi) of approximately Rs. 42 crore to Disaster Management department by arranging production and procurement from handloom weavers.

WBSIDC played an important role in providing hand sanitizer during lockdown and supplied 3.5 lakh litre hand sanitizer to different departments and supplied more than 3.8 lakh litre of hand sanitizer in the market. It also extended support by rendering services with regard to floor sanitization, supply of

disinfectant kit, bleaching powder, cot & bedding items (3500 pcs) and supplied 88.72 lakh pieces of soap under Mid Day Meal project.

Common Facilities under Cluster Development: Development of clusters and providing need based common facilities to cluster stakeholders is a focus area of the department. So far, 9 Common Facility Centres have been set up in *MSME*, handloom and village industries clusters. This apart, civil construction of *CFC* has been completed in four *MSME* clusters, viz. Brass & Bell Metal Cluster Tikarbeta, Birbhum; Shellac Cluster, Jhalda, Purulia; Shantiniketan Leather Goods Cluster, Birbhum and Shellac Cluster, Balarampur, Purulia. At stakeholders level, tool Kits were distributed among cluster stakeholders at Purba Bardhaman, Paschim Bardhaman, Jhargram and Howrah districts.

Infrastructure Development for Handloom Weavers: Under this programme, individual work sheds and concrete link road are constructed for better working place and improved connectivity respectively for handloom weavers. Till December 2020, total 9,361 individual worksheds and 121.07 kms link road were constructed and total 64 *CFCs* have also been set up.

Rural Craft & Cultural Hub (RCCH): Under a special initiative, the State Government, in collaboration with *UNESCO* has come up with this project to promote & preserve the Bengal's traditional & heritage products through a slew of interventions. This is an extension of earlier Rural Craft Hub project and likely to cover 50,000 artists.

Mega Leather Cluster: This initiative at Calcutta Leather Complex includes a number of interventions for environmentally sustainable development of leather sector. This year, construction of four new Common Effluent Treatment Plants (*CETPs*) and Effluent Transportation System (*ETS*) have been completed and ready for commissioning. Land has been allotted to 187 new tanners and ready for assignment. Furthermore, construction of road network in tannery zone is in the verge of completion and *STP* in Zone 9 is ready for commissioning.

5.11 New initiative Undertaken/ to be Undertaken

Banglashree- Incentive Scheme for MSMEs: For promotion and development of *MSMEs* as well as creation of employment opportunities across the state, the state government has launched this scheme in July 2020 to extend fiscal incentives to new and existing manufacturing *MSMEs*. This is one of the most lucrative incentive schemes announced by a state in the country.

- **Eligibility:** Manufacturing *MSMEs* started production or expansion after 1st April 2019.
- **Incentives:** *Onetime subsidy:* Plant & machinery, stamp duty & registration fees, quality compliance, water conservation, patent registration etc., *Continuing Subsidy:* Term loan interest, electricity duty & charges, *SGST* and employment generation.
- **Quantum of incentives:** Based on zoning criteria, higher incentives for some North Bengal districts, Jangal Mahal and Sundarban areas are available for balanced regional growth.

West Bengal Incentive Scheme 2020 for Approved Industrial Park (SAIP 2020): Initially the scheme was launched in 2014 to facilitate setting up large Greenfield Industrial Park by private entities with active

government support. Presently, 13 parks are in the pipeline and process of development involving 1350 acre land. Encouraged by the success of 2014 scheme, the state government has introduced modified version of this flagship scheme in September 2020 to strengthen the industrial infrastructure of the State.

- **Objective:** To encourage private sector to set up quality industrial parks on own land with back end support from State government.
- **Government Support:** i) Fiscal support include onetime incentives (varies from Rs. 2 crore to Rs. 10 crore for infrastructure development), incentive for *CETP* (Rs. 5 lakh per acre) and reimbursement of Stamp Duty for purchase of land for the park, ii) Non-fiscal supports include setting up a power sub-station within the park if land is given free of cost and construction of approach road is up to 1.5 km.

Karma Sathi Prakalpa: The scheme was notified in September 2020 for generation of employment throughout the state. This is a subsidy linked self-employment scheme for the people aged between 18-50 years having educational qualification of minimum class VIII passed. Any activity in manufacturing, service & trading sector up to Rs. 2 lakh (project cost) can be taken up under this scheme. The scheme provides 15% project subsidy with a ceiling of Rs. 25000 and 50% interest subsidy up to 3 years for timely repayment of loan. Loan component of the scheme is provided by State owned Cooperative Banks.

Interest Subvention Scheme for Handloom Weavers: A special initiative has been taken for facilitating working capital support to non-defaulter handloom weavers. Handloom weavers of the state who are paying /have to pay bank loan interest @ 6% or above p.a. (under existing scheme) are eligible under the scheme. The scheme aims at effectively reducing the actual burden of loan to the weaver to only 2%.

Agro Industrial Park, Singur: To promote agro based industries, this park is being developed on 11 acre area at Mallickpur, PS Singur in Hooghly district. *WBSIDC* has been entrusted to develop this park. *WBSIDCL* has already invited applications from the entrepreneurs willing to set up agriculture/ horticulture/ food processing related industries in this Park.

Support for clusters: Besides support for ongoing clusters work for establishment of *CFCs* in four *MSME* clusters machinery procurement of another three *CFCs* is ongoing. Soft intervention in new 3 clusters has also been taken up in North 24 Parganas district.

Mega Cluster:

Mega Leather Cluster: The initiatives in this mega projects include reduction in Total Dissolve Solid (*TDS*) in tannery effluent, project for micro tanners & scrap burners, infrastructure for footwear park, up-gradation of existing *CETPs*, *CFC* for leather goods manufacturers, design centre, skill development centre etc.

Mega Carpet Cluster: Setting up of *CFC* in three locations, viz Malgaon in Uttar Dinajpur, Moyna in Purba Medinipur and Sattari in Malda.

Industrial Infrastructure: Apart from Agro Industrial Park at Singur, *WBSIDC* has taken up 4 new projects for development of industrial estates at Gangajalghati, Ethelbari, Jaigaon and Balurghat. 3 more new industrial estates are also in the pipeline for development- Shaktigarh-II, Bolpur-II, and Asansol-Dharma. *WBSIDC* has taken up thorough up-gradation work of Ashokenagar IE, Durgapur *EPIP*, Bolpur

IE-I, Shaktigarh IE-I, Dabgram IE-I, Santoshpur IE (balance work), Baruipur IE, Bauria IE and Berhampore IE (balance work). *WBSIDC* bagged *SKOCH Silver Award 2020* for its efforts towards online services with respect of land allotment, estate service and build plan sanction.

Other initiatives: Other initiatives of the Department for development of *MSME & T* sector include,

- Construction of 1500 worksheds and 25 km link road for handloom weavers.
- Setting up Regional Design centre and 4 Regional Yarn Bank.
- Setting up of modern dye house and a surgical/ linen manufacturing unit at Plant III at Keranichati, Paschim Medinipur.
- GI registrations of Tangail Saree of West Bengal, Korial & Garad Saree.
- Formation of *REH* Cooperative Societies focusing on agro based activities.

Tourism

5.12 Introduction

The primary objective of Tourism is to make the State of West Bengal the cynosure of every domestic and foreign tourist in sync with the dream and vision of the Government to etch an enviable niche for the State in the domestic as well as international scenario.

5.13 Achievements during the financial year 2020-21 (up to December, 2020)

Some major schemes/ flagship schemes are:

- Complete renovation of Mainak Tourist Lodges; Larica Holiday Inn, Digha; Jhargram Tourist Lodges; Tilabari Tourist Lodge; Gangasagar Tourist Lodge; Rupnarayan Tourist Lodge (Phase - I); Maithon Tourist Lodges, WBTDCL and Upgradation and renovation of Bishnupur Tourist Lodge.
- Development of Bhamri Devi Temple; Malbazar Tourist Lodge and Khoirabera Eco Tourism Project, Purulia.
- Landscaping & Beautification works of Digha Tourist Lodges for Digha business conclave, 2019.
- ACP Cladding with vinyl pasting at Hoarding near Airport.
- Construction of Bituminous Road over Tagging Bundh of Tista Barrage and right bank of Teesta Mahananda Link Canel from head regular of TMLC up to the open trench drain of Tourist Hub in connection with the proposed Mega Tourism Park at Bhorer Alo, Gazoldoba, Jalpaiguri; Construction of 12.40 Km. Gravel Road for Jungle Safari from Bhorer Alo to Salugara; New construction of Internal Road of Gajoldoba Tourism Hub from 0.00 km to 1.22 km; Construction of bamboo Gazibo & Bollard installation of pathway at Bhorer Alo, Gajoldoba, WBTDCL; Construction of Marriage Hall at Pathik Motel, Durgapur.
- Improvement of the Central Pond and Strengthening of the adjacent part of the Tagging bundh by sheety piling etc. at country side and construction of storm water pump House.
- Restoration of damages of Bakkhali Tourist Lodge due to super cyclone Bulbul.
- Complete renovation of Landscaping and beautification works of 19 different tourist lodges, WBTDCL.

5.14 Special Achievements

Tourist footfall achievements

- West Bengal jumped one rank up and is now ranked 5th in terms of foreign tourist arrival and is ahead of states like Kerala and Goa in the year 2019-20 (Indian Tourism Statistics – Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India, 2020).
- West Bengal jumped one rank up and is now ranked 6th in domestic tourist arrival in the year 2019.

- There has been an increase of 65% in international aircraft movement and 72% increase in domestic aircraft movement since 2011. There has been an increase of 95% for international passenger and 132% increase in domestic passenger since 2011.

Introduction of online services: The Department of Tourism has introduced following two online services under the Ease of Doing Business

- Grant of Incentives to Hotels under West Bengal Incentive Scheme, 2015.
- Voluntary Recognition as well as its Renewal of Tour Operator.

Social Media Achievements: In 2020-21 Tourism Department has greatly emphasised in promoting West Bengal Tourism through different social media and web based platforms and reached to more than 15 million people with highest engagement ration among all other states with average 4000+ per post per month and more than 10 lakh video views.

Introduction of cultural performance by Lok Prasar Prakalpa (LPP) artists in WBTDCL lodge: In order to expose the tourists to folk genres of West Bengal and to provide some financial support to the folk artists, Tourism Department has recently introduced cultural performance in 14 WBTDCL tourist lodges by **Lok Prasar Prakalpa (LPP)** artists. This initiative would help the tourists to have a first-hand experience of local folk and other cultural forms. Different local songs (like Baul, Jhumur, Monosha, Madhubon, Bhawaia etc.) and dance forms (like tribal, Chou, Oraon, Mech) are being performed under this initiative.

Durga Puja: In recognition of the targetted promotional campaigns, India Today group has awarded Durga Puja as the winner under the " Festival Destination" of India Today Tourism Survey and Awards, 2020.

Bangla Moder Gorbo: With the primary aim of creating economic opportunities for members of self help groups, artisans, folk artists and many others financially dependent on the different fairs and festival – who have been adversely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, Government of West Bengal has decided to organise a three day programme namely 'Bangla Moder Gorbo' in each district with requisite and stringent Covid safety protocols.

Christmas Festival-2020: The department has organized 10th edition of Kolkata Christmas Festival, 2020 in Kolkata and different prominent churches at Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Kurseong, Siliguri, Jalpaiguri, Chandernagar, Bandel, Krishnanagar and Baruipur etc.

Bishnupur Classical Music Festival: Tourism Department organised Bishnupur Classical Music Festival in 'Poramatir haat' at Bishnupur to commemorate Bishnupur Gharana of Classical Music.

State Institute of Hotel Management, Durgapur (Aahoran): Aahoran is first ever state owned hospitality management centre and already started its 3rd academic sessions.

Kolkata Connect 2020: In a unique initiative named 'Kolkata Connect 2020", Hon'ble Chief Minister flagged off two modern double-decker buses from the State Secretariat on 13th October, 2020. These buses cover Victoria Memorial, Fort William, St. John's Church, Old Currency Building, Dalhousie Square, GPO, Great Eastern Hotel, Eden Gardens and Princep Ghat among others and promote heritage and cultural tourism.

5.15 New Initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken

Some major upcoming Tourism Projects are:

- Maintenance of Landscaping and beautification work adjacent to Buxa fort; Construction of Joggers' Track, Community Hall along with beautification and landscaping at the Parade Ground; Construction of Garochira Eco Resort, Jaigaon Gate and Renovation of Alipurduar Circuit House, and tourism project at Hatipota and Bhutanghat at Alipurduar district.
- Rasikbeel Mini Zoo and Anandamayee guest house at Coochbehar district.
- Repair & Renovation work of Kulik Eco Park, Uttar Dinajpur district.
- Tourism project at Danga, Dogachi and Ayera Forest and Mahipal Dighi and tourism facilitation cum exhibition centre at Balurghat, Dakshin Dinajpur district.
- Creation and beautification of Traffic Islands at different districts of North Bengal.
- Construction & Renovation of Trekkers Hut/ Tourist Lodge in Falut, Sandakphu & Tonglu under Darjeeling Improvement (D.I) fund and conservation of St. Andrews Church, Darjeeling district.
- Setting up of a Tourism hub at Chalsa under Matelli Block; Renovation and maintenance of Dhumabati Temple and Jalpesh Eco Park under Maynaguri Block; Proposal for promotion of Lataguri and adjacent area of Dooars; Development of infrastructural work along the jungle safari road, Gajoledoba; Proposal for developing eco tourism activities and camping site at Chamakdangi village under Mahananda Wildlife sanctuary at Jalpaiguri District.
- Development of Tourism at Rishap and Nakdara, Kalimpong district.
- Lighting arrangement of Bishnupur temple, Bankura district, Chupi Pakhiralaya, Purba Bardhaman district and Tourist complex at Rampurhat, Birbhum district, Area illumination in Kamarpukur chati; Bhadreswar Town Hall; Development of Heritage building at Strand road, Chandannagar; Development of Antpur R.K. Math and Upgradation and landscaping of Serampore town square at Hooghly district
- Tourism at Gangani, Karnagarh and Ruper Ghagra and Birth place of Iswarchandra Vidyasagar Paschim Medinipur district and Tourism at Irinchi and Repair & renovation of Kalyan Kuthir at Digha, Purba Medinipur district.
- Thakurnagar Thakurbari and Kampa Baba Thakurbari, Development of Swapnabithi park and Beautification & protection of Heritage buildings and temples (Kuleswari), Taki, at North 24 Parganas district
- Integrated sea beach development at Gobardhanpur; Renovation, landscaping & beautification of Pirtala Mazar Compound; Construction of 2 twin Bamboo Cottages at Gangasagar and additional amount for Baba Barakachari gate at South 24 Parganas district.



Chapter 6

Development & Social Welfare

Panchayat and Rural Development

North Bengal Development

Paschimanchal Unnayan Affairs

Sundarban Affairs

Urban Development and Municipal Affairs

Co-operation

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 takes the most important role in implementation of various Rural Development Scheme of the State Government along with strengthening the three tiers of panchayats.

6.2 100 Days' Work (MGNREGA)

6.2.1 Achievements

- Under 100 Days' Work, West Bengal could establish itself as a major contributor in the country. In FY 2020-21, the State could generate as high as 32.65 crore person-days, including 45% woman person-days, by 31st December 2020. In current financial year, 73.18 lakh households and 1.06 crore workers were provided works which is all time high.
- In FY 2020-21, till 31st December 2020, 15,597 water conservation and water harvesting structures and 1,587 Anganwadi centres have been completed. In the sector of individual beneficiary scheme, 9,97,113 livelihood enhancing assets were provided.
- In transparency, 100% electronic fund management system has already been introduced. All assets are now geo-tagged. Almost 98% wage payments are now generated within 15 days. The strategy is to provide Individual Benefit Scheme (IBS) to all the households under auto inclusion category, subject to the possibility of implementing IBS for the household concerned.

6.2.2 New Initiatives Undertaken/ to be Undertaken

- In the next FY 2021-22, the entire exercise for preparation of Labour Budget will be based upon the planning exercise under Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP). State's priority for FY 2021-22 is on Natural Resource Management (NRM) works and works on Agriculture and Allied activities.
- For the next FY 2021-22, the labour budget envisages participation of 72 lakh households and generation of 42 crore person-days for which the likely expenditure on the basis of currently prevailing unskilled wage rate amounting to Rs. 151.37 crore.

6.3 Banglar Awas Yojona

6.3.1 Achievements: In the FY 2020-21, till 31st December, 2020, West Bengal has given sanction to more than 8,24,719 houses. For the financial year 2019-20, West Bengal has completed the highest number of houses and in the financial year 2020-21, it has sanctioned the highest number of houses in India. Total amount spent during the financial year 2020-21 (up to December, 2020) is Rs. 7,661.51 crore. West Bengal has sanctioned and completed the highest number of houses in India since its inception. A total of 31,30,824 houses have been sanctioned in the Rural Housing Scheme.

6.3.2 New Initiatives Undertaken/ to be undertaken: For the next FY 2021-22, the department expects to sanction around 9 lakh houses. This will require State funding of Rs. 4,320 crore.

6.4 Banglar Gramin Sadak Yojana (BGSY)

6.4.1 Achievements: In 2019-20, a total new road length of 2,180 km was constructed in the State under the programme which is highest in achievement against allocation in the country. Also 1,900 km roads are under execution in full swing.

6.4.2 New Initiatives Undertaken/ to be Undertaken: During the next FY 2021-22, the target is to complete the balance work of the first phase of Gramin Sadak Yojana (Phase-II) and get sanction of Phase-III allocation and complete at least 10% of Phase-III i.e. 1,000 km of new improved road length with width up to 5.5 mtr. For the construction of these roads and for payment of residual works, it is proposed to spend a sum of Rs. 1,400 crore in total.

6.5 Mission Nirmal Bangla

6.5.1 Achievements: All Gram Panchayats have turned Open Defecation Free (ODF) within this time.

6.5.2 New Initiatives Undertaken/ to be Undertaken

- In the next FY 2021-22, the target is to complete 3,20,000 individual household latrines along with 1,000 Sanitary Complex, 500 Solid & Liquid Waste Management.
- In the next FY 2021-22, a fund amounting to Rs. 558 crore is proposed for implementation of Mission Nirmal Bangla.

6.6 Jai Bangla (Pension Scheme)

6.6.1 Achievements

- Jai Bangla provides social security in various forms to individuals belonging to BPL/ Poor category. The State Government has decided to bring all the existing pension schemes under one umbrella scheme for pensioners namely Jai Bangla Scheme, 2020 and the monthly pension has been increased to an uniform rate of Rs. 1,000 per month w.e.f. 01/04/2020.

6.6.2 New Initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken: A fund amounting to Rs. 2,398 crore is going to be proposed for implementation of Jai Bangla Scheme.

6.7 15th Finance Commission

- As per recommendation of the 15th Finance Commission, grants are released by the State Government to the 3229 Gram Panchayats, 334 Panchayat Samities, 20 Zilla Parishads and SMP of the State to meet their critical need for development.
- During 2020-21, till 31st December 2020, a fund of Rs. 2,222.37 crore has been released to the Panchayat bodies for various developmental works in the rural areas of the State.

6.8 West Bengal State Rural Livelihood Mission (WBSRLM)

6.8.1 Achievements

- Under WBSRLM, 90.31 lakh members mobilized into 8.67 lakh all-women Self Help Groups with 37,353 Upa Sanghas and 3341 Sanghas. 3,298 Sanghas are registered under the West Bengal

Cooperative Societies Act. WBSRLM extended financial supports as Revolving Fund of Rs. 491.36 crore to 3,27,571 SHGs till December, 2020. Under Community Investment Fund, 3,267 Sanghas provided Rs. 1125.68 crore loans to 2,16,336 SHGs till December, 2020.

- During 2019-20, 5,23,235 SHGs credit link were amounted to Rs. 11,368.90 crore loan. Till December, 2020, despite the pandemic situation, credit disbursed to the tune of Rs. 5,167.95 crore to 4,68,129 SHGs, making West Bengal fourth largest, among other States, in the country.
- Anandadhara is constantly advocating with the various line departments of the government. In convergence with School Education Department, 32,444 SHGs have done business to the tune of Rs. 383.64 crore in 2019-20, under Health & Family Welfare Department, 482 SHGs supplied cooked diet to the Government hospitals. Under Women & Child Development and Social Welfare Department, 98 SHG institutions are involved in supplying of ready-to-eat food to all ICDS centres of the State.
- During Covid-19 pandemic, many Sanghas/ SHGs produced 1,09,43,330 masks and 1,05,812.5 litres sanitizers till December, 2020. They facilitated quarantine facilities at Sangha Buildings, supplied food to the quarantined people.

6.8.2 New Initiatives Undertaken: In the next FY 2021-22, WBSRLM will focus a) on strengthening of SHGs and their Federations with capacity building and capitalisation supports, b) easy and adequate credit availability from Banks and also coverage with general insurance and Swasthya Sathi as health insurance, c) Farm and Non-Farm activities to support SHG members on livelihood activities including formation of producer groups and Farmers' Producers Organisations, development of organic clusters, with support in marketing information and access, d) addressing the social issues to reduce vulnerabilities of different kinds, social evils and to enhance women's role in society, and e) enhancing livelihood opportunities by facilitating convergence with various other departments and other agencies. An amount of Rs. 367 crore is proposed for WBSRLM for the next FY 2021-22.

6.9 Bangla Sahayata Kendra (BSK)

6.9.1 Achievements: This programme is introduced in the current financial year in the State to provide most of the services online to the public through extensive use of information technology. 3438 BSKs have been established and expenditure incurred under this scheme is Rs. 38.64 crore. Till December, 2020, 230 categories of government services are being provided through these BSKs.

6.9.2 New Initiatives Undertaken/ to be Undertaken: It is proposed that for the next financial year 2021-22, Rs. 112 crore is required for smooth functioning and maintenance of such BSKs.

North Bengal Development

6.10 Introduction

North Bengal Development Department formulates and implements schemes for comprehensive development of the 8 Districts of North Bengal. The schemes undertaken by the Department covers sectors like rural and urban infrastructure, health, education, power, minor irrigation, flood protection, women and child development, sports, tourism etc.

6.11 Achievements during the financial year 2020-21 (up to December, 2020)

Alipurduar: i) Stadium at Falakata (Phase-I), ii) Community Hall at Lanka para T.G. iii) Alipurduar Mahila Mahavidyalaya, iv) Rabindra Mancha (A Multipurpose Auditorium) v) RSJ/ Composite Bridge on Kultijhora at kodalbusty,vi) Paver block road from Chilapata Bamboo village via Panchu Barik's house, Kalchini, vii) Paver Block road from Chilapata to Deodanga Mendabari within Kalchini Block, viii) Paver Block road from Kodalbasty Checkpost to NH-31 Shivmandir (Adivashi Village) with in Kalchini block, ix) Paver Block road from Uttar Chakoakheti Forest village to nathuatari with in Kalchini block, x) 2 Community Bhavans named "Gorkhasamaj Ghar", xi) Dwelling Houses named 'Adiwasi Niwas'.

Coochbehar: i) Gymnasium at Coochbehar Government Engineering College, ii) Bridge over River Khoraboi (Mora Torsa), iii) Bridge over river Bura Dharla at Rajener Ghat, iv) Road from Kaljani Bazar to Gadadhar Joist Bridge, v) Bridge over Begunbari Chara at Petvata, vi) Bridge over River Maneya at Dhaldabri, vii) Vertical extension Boxirhat Mahavidyalaya, viii) Bridge over River Khutamara, ix) New Boy's Hostel (G+3) in CoochBehar Government College, x) Face lifting, Renovation, Modernisation and electrical work of Sitai Auditorium, xi) Face lifting, Renovation, Modernization of Maharaja Nripendra Narayan Smriti Sadan Auditorium at Dinhata, xii) R.C.C. Bridge over river Kaljani, xiii) Face lifting, renovation, modernization and electrical work for the auditorium at Sitalkuchi.

Dakshin Dinajpur: i) Building- Balance work for Nattya Academy at Balurghat, Dakshin Dinajpur 2nd Phase including main Building, Service Block, Guard Ghumti, walk way. ii) Extension of Tapan Nathaneal Murmu Memorial College at Tapan Block. iii) Bridge over River Punorbhaba at Balipukurghat route, iv) R.C.C Box Culvert at Balipukurghat route.

Darjeeling: i) Building of Siliguri Journalist's Club at Kawakhali, ii) Bridge over River Kurondo, iii) Community Hall at Dagapur in Matigara Block, iv) Joist Bridge over River Jorapani at Connecting Ward No.- 39 and Ward No.- 37 along with approach road (both side)under Siliguri Municipal Corpotaion.

Jalpaiguri: i) 16 Market Sheds at Maynaguri Road Hat, ii) Bridge over Kamini Jhora, iii) Bridge over river Talma, iv) School building at Malbazar Adarsha Boys High school, v) Eco-Tourism Resort at Lataguri, vi) Market Complex at Battala Market at Belacoba, vii) Market Complex at Dhupguri principal market yard, viii) Abutment for the installation of Bailey Bridge over Juranti river at Meteli, viii) 2 Police Barrack near Uttarkanya, ix) Approach road (Paver Block) of both side of Fuleswari River at Fulbari in Fulbari-II G.P. on Rajganj Block, x) Balance work for Bored Pile Foundation Composite Bridge at Hatiadanga in the junction

of Two G.P. Dabgram-II and Binnabari near Kankata more beside Eastern Bypass, xi) Electric Crematorium on the right bank of river Kumlai, Land of Dhupguri Burning Ghat at Dhupguri.

Malda: i) Second floor of Gazole Mahavidyalaya, at Gazole, ii) Sujapur Polytechnic Institute at Kaliachak – I, iii) Fulahar Bridge at Bhutni Char.

Uttar Dinajpur: i) Crematorium and waiting shed at Darivit Samsan (Panditpota- II G.P.) under Islampur Block, ii) Kichaktala Bridge over river Srini at Goalpokhar-I Block, iii) Residential Training Centre of the Kulik Co-operative Milk producer union Ltd. at Karnojora, Raiganj.

Apart from these, 60 various major schemes are running in various districts of North Bengal under the Department.

Paschimanchal Unnayan Affairs

6.12 Introduction

The jurisdiction of this Department comprises of 74 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. This Department implements schemes mainly through Paschimanchal Unnayan Parshad (PUP) situated at Bankura. PUP has 5 (five) sub offices at Bolpur, Medinipur, Jhargram, Purulia and Durgapur. A good number of projects have been completed such as construction of Roads, Bridges, Anganwadi Centres, School Buildings and Hostels, creation of Bio parks and Eco Parks along with some projects with RIDF budget provisions, some livelihood projects have also been implemented by this Department.

6.13 Achievements during financial year 2020-21

Up to the month of December, 2020 this Department has cleared 292 number of major legacy cases with in a very short span of time and has so far released Rs. 75.74 crore.

Sector wise Information of schemes during 2020-21:

Name of the Sector	No. of schemes
Construction of Road, Bridges & Culverts	106
Education	56
Health, Drinking Water & ICDS Centre	31
Irrigation, Re-excavation of Bundhs and land conservation & agriculture	15
Construction of Boundary walls, community halls, buildings	55
Others	29

6.14 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken

Special attention has been given on sustainable water management and livelihood projects such as:

- Construction of Check Dams, Dug Wells and digging farm ponds to enhance irrigation potential.
- Providing Micro Irrigation on farmers' fields and increasing cropping intensity from mono cropped area to double cropped area.
- For existing and to be created water sources, providing water lifting and conveyance equipments and linking in to Micro Irrigation and providing reliable source of drinking water to the household.
- Providing infrastructure for Value Addition/ Market linkage and livelihood generating activities.

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.

Sundarban Affairs

6.15 Introduction

Sundarban Affairs Department has been trying to strike a right balance in respect of developmental activities in Sundarban region by providing better infrastructure and livelihood to the people living in this area, and simultaneous effort to protect this unique yet fragile environmental wonder of the world.

6.16 Major Activities

The plan proposals and the work programme of the department are prepared in such a way that maximum benefit reaches out to the poorest of the poor of the society in Sundarban region. 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 by initiating modern scientific process for pisciculture and by 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, anganwadi centres etc.;
- Awareness programmes for conservation and development of the sensitive ecology of Sundarbans.

6.17 Achievements of the Department during the financial year 2020-21 (up to December, 2020)

Connectivity

- Road: 324.82 km. roads, out of which 131.76 km. is Brick Paved Road; 179.95 km. is Concrete Road and 13.11 km. is Bituminous Road, have been completed.
- Bridge: 1 Bridge has been completed and works of another 16 Bridges are in progress.
- Jetty: 1 Jetty has been completed and work of another 1 Jetty is in progress.

Apart from these, the department has also accorded approval for 263 schemes (which include 185.59 km. Roads, along with other schemes) as restoration & renovation works consequent to the damage caused by Amphan, out of which 224 works (including 144.45 km. road) have been completed.

Agriculture and Fishery programme: Fish Fingerlings of Indian Major Carp and floating fish feed have been distributed to 27,060 marginal farmers. Agricultural inputs and small implements are expected to be provided to 95,500 small and marginal farmers within this financial year.

Grants-in-aid to Educational Institutions: Financial assistance has been provided to 41 different institutions including community centres in Sundarban region.

6.18 Special Achievements during the financial year 2020-21 (up to Dec, 2020)

The department in its endeavour towards development of infrastructure in the remote and inaccessible region of Sundarban, has completed construction of RCC bridge over river Chunkuri near Durganagar Flood Centre Rail Foot Bridge in Narayanpur G.P. of Namkhana Block, and RCC Jetty over Karjan Creek at Kayalerbazar Keyaghat in Sridharnagar G.P. of Patharpratima Block.

6.19 New Initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken

Construction of following new RCC Jetties in South 24 Parganas district has been undertaken:

- Jetty on river Dutta at Hamiltan Abad mouza in Lahiripur G.P. of Gosaba Block. Jetty on river Chenailat, along with approach road and solar street lighting, in Shibrapur G.P. of Namkhana block

Construction work of the following RCC bridges are going on:

South-24 Parganas District

- Bridge at Nalgora Bazar over river Moni in Nalgora G.P. connecting Joynagar-II and Mathurapur-II Blocks; Bridge over river Sundarika – Dwarika in Namkhana Block; Bridge over wing of Kalnagini river canal at Ghatihara connecting Pratapadityanagar and Bapuji G.P. of Kakdwip Block; Bridge over Kalnagini Branch Canal near Nrsingha Ashram of Swami Vivekananda and Sri Sri Ramkrishna G.P. of Kakdwip Block; Bridge over Sonatikari Khal at Dhakirmukh of Joynagar – II Block; Bridge over river Kalnagini connecting west side of Taktipur Mouza in Bapuji G.P. and east side of Manmathapur Mouza in Rabindra G.P. of Kakdwip Block; Bridge near Moukhali Kheyaghat over Matla river connecting Matla-I G.P. of Canning-I Block and Tambuldaha-I G.P. of Canning-II Block; Bridge over river Gundakata at Milan Setu connecting Mrinalnagar in Rabindra G.P. of Kakdwip block and Srinarayanpur in Srinarayanpur-Purnachandrapur G.P. of Patharpratima block; Bridge over river Bidya connecting Godkhali and Gosaba Bazar; Bridge over Kurulia Khal connecting Kamarhat in Madhusudhan G.P. of Kakdwip block; Bridge at Simabandh in Budhakhali G.P. of Namkhana Block; Bridge over river Kalnagini branch tidal canal near Baidyapara connecting Srinagar & Bapuji G.P. of Kakdwip block; Bridge over Ghiyabati Khal connecting Ukiler Hat and Rajnagar in Buddhakhali G.P. of Namkhana block; Bridge (Ganga Setu) over Gobadia Branch canal in Digambarpur G.P. of Patharpratima block

North-24 Parganas District

- Bridge over Bali – Boalia River in Sandeshkhali-II Block; Bridge over river Gomoti near Hemnagar Coastal Police Station in Jogeshganj G.P. of Hingalgunj Block.

Urban Development and Municipal Affairs

6.20 Introduction

In 1961 the Kolkata Metropolitan Planning Organization, the first of its kind in India, was set up to develop a comprehensive development plan for the Metropolis of Calcutta. At present the Urban Development Department has been merged with the Municipal Affairs Department to form Urban Development and Municipal Affairs (UD&MA) Department.

6.21 Achievements

- Birsingha Development Authority (BSDA) has been constituted in the district of Paschim Medinipur.
- Allotment of 20 Plots for knowledge based Enterprises like IT & ITeS activities relating to Telecom Projects etc. within the '*Bengal Silicon Valley IT Hub*', New Town, Kolkata.
- Construction of Health Clinic (Mayor's Health Clinic) at Chetla Central Road, Maternity Hospital at Ekbalpore Road and Barun Sengupta Memorial Museum in Borough VII has been undertaken.
- During the financial year, 2020-21, the Department has already taken up for 400 works for repair, renovation and development of different parks. The parks which were damaged due to 'Amphan' has also been taken up for necessary repairing and renovation.
- To provide easy access for the pilgrims and visitors of Kalighat Temple, construction of 1 skywalk of about 500 meter. Lane and development and renovation of Temple Complex have already been taken up.
- Land Use Map and Register (LUMR) has been prepared and adopted for Durgapur Subdivision of Asansol Durgapur Development Authority (ADDA), Tarapith Rampurhat Development Authority (TRDA) and extended area of Haldia Development Authority (HDA).
- In the Financial Year, 2020-21, total Budget Allocation of this Department was Rs. 11,808.08 crore, whereas for Financial Year 2010-11, the same was Rs. 5,157.68 crore.

6.22 Special achievements

- **Waste Management:** The Department has taken up huge initiative for solid and liquid waste management in urban areas. Till date 7 major projects of Solid Waste Management (SWM) and 5 projects of liquid management with a project cost of Rs. 737.00 crore have been approved.
- **Green City Mission:** Green City Mission Cell has come into force in 2016-17 to build environment friendly, sustainable, livable, energy positive, IT friendly and safe city. Till date 3,977 schemes have been sanctioned. In the current financial year 2020-21, Rs. 86.66 crore has been released so far (24.12.2020).
- **Pathashree Abhijan:** It is a road repair scheme, where roads will be repaired in a mission mode and in a time bound manner. Under this project 244 schemes have been approved. This involves 59 ULBs with total project cost of Rs. 155 crore.

- **Rapid Scrutiny Protocol and web based software for DPR appraisal, Administrative approval, Fund release etc.:** A web based system has been made available to the Development authorities and ULBs. *Optics* has been launched for online Property Tax Information and Collection by ULBs. Special emphasis has been given to provide smart services (Ease of Doing Business) to citizens regarding mutation, trade license etc.
- **Introduction of Entitlement Index:** For balanced development, Entitlement Index system has been introduced. Such index is formed on the basis of backwardness, area and population for each development area. Fund is disbursed on the basis of such index.
- **Green Smart City Mission:** One city namely Newtown, Kolkata, has been considered under Green Smart City Mission. Till 24.12.2020, Rs. 252 crore has been released.
- **Development Authorities:** In this current Financial Year 2020-21, Rs. 410.47 Crore has been released so far (24.12.2020) for different developmental works for betterment of the urban as well as peri-urban areas.
- **National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM):** 3,50,600 women are linked with formal bank loan for meeting working capital requirement for their micro enterprise either through SHGs or as individual. 1,16,865 urban youths have received Skill development training and they are successfully engaged either as wage employment or as self-employment. 36 Shelter for Urban Homeless (SUH) are functional. 1,50,000 beneficiaries have received benefit @ Rs. 2,000 under 'Hawker Support Scheme – 2020' which is a State Sponsored Scheme.
- **Nirmal Bangla Mission:** Under this scheme, Individual Household Latrines, Community Toilets and Public Toilets have been constructed. In Solid Waste Management, Door to Door Collection system of Solid Waste have been established in 95% wards whereas segregated waste is being collected from 25% wards.
- **Bangla Awas Yojna:** more than 4,32,385 dwelling units have been sanctioned.
- **Urban Primary Health Care Services:** Under 'Prevention & Control of Vector Borne Disease' activities, an intensive cleaning programme ("Dengue Bijoy Abhiyan"), in all wards of the ULBs, has been organized on regular basis.
- **Jai Bangla:** The responsibility to disburse pension amount has been initiated from the Month of June, 2020 and Pension amount is being released towards eligible beneficiaries within 1st week of every month through DBT mode. Altogether 5,63,262 beneficiaries are getting benefits.

6.23 New initiative taken/ to be undertaken: This department is planning to develop Sector VI Industrial Township as a hub of leather industry of international standard along with IT hub as an extension of such hub within Nabadiganta Industrial Township.

Cooperation

6.24 Introduction

Cooperatives are recognized worldwide as most powerful socially equitable business organization founded upon strong principle of democracy and equality. Government of West Bengal in its development endeavour has identified cooperatives as a powerful vehicle to reach its economic development initiatives right up to the grass root levels, both in rural and urban areas. During last few years, this Department has laid emphasis on membership coverage, agricultural development, creation of rural infrastructure, financial services in the unbanked area and women empowerment through Self Help Groups.

6.25 Achievements during the financial year 2020-21 (up to 31-12-2020)

- Assistance has been provided to Large Area Multipurpose Societies (LAMPS), Agricultural Marketing Societies (Primary) and Apex Marketing Societies; for offsetting imbalances in Central Cooperative Banks (CCB) and Primary Co-operative Agriculture & Rural Development Banks (PCARDB); for revival of Urban Cooperative Banks (UCB); for Special Bad Debt Reserve to CCBs (Risk Fund) and Primary Agricultural Co-operative Sector (PACS) (Risk Fund); Assistance to CCBs for writing of bad debt.
- Development of Apex Consumer Cooperatives, Housing Cooperatives, Labour Cooperatives, Processing Cooperatives, Unemployed Engineers' Cooperatives, Urban Consumers' Cooperatives, Urban Credit Cooperatives and Women Credit Cooperatives has been undertaken.
- Construction of Samabay Bhavan, Co-operative Education and Training, Training for SHG has been undertaken. Information & publicity on Computerization and Publication have also been performed.
- Audit of Cooperative Societies has also been performed.
- Activities like establishment of Cold Storage, Rural Godown, Storage Godown, subsidy arrangement for delay in Machinery Equipment, distribution of Consumers Article in rural areas, organization of Bailing Plants and Seed Development Project have been undertaken.
- Strengthening of CCBs and PACS, supply of Long Term Credit (Risk Fund) and revival of unlicensed SCB/ CCB have also been undertaken.
- Investment in shares and purchase of debenture has been done and achievements have been observed under funding such as WB Agricultural Credit Relief & Guarantee Fund, Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), Agricultural credit stabilisation Fund, Common Cadre Fund, Deposit Guarantee Fund, Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Emergency Fund for Agricultural Credit Cooperatives– Indebtedness and Integrated Cooperative Development Project (ICDP).

6.26 Special Achievements during 2020-21 (up to 31-12-2020)

Cooperation Department

- 1,37,717 new farmer members have been enrolled into different PACS.

- Crop Loan of Rs.3103.50 crore has been issued to 11.41 lakh farmer members.
- Total 11,06,332 RuPay Kisan Cards have been issued till 30-11-2020.
- 9254 new SHGs have been formed, raising the cumulative number of SHGs to 2,13,626.
- 2,94,231 SHG members of 34094 SHGs have been Credit Linked during the period, raising the cumulative number to 14,25,519 Credit-linked members of 1,70,507 Credit-linked SHGs.
- Loan of Rs. 577.47 crore has been issued to 2,94,026 SHG Members.
- Loan of Rs. 9.82 crore has been issued to 656 beneficiaries under *KarmaSathi Prakalpa*.
- 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. 2230 PACS have been assisted with Rs. 201.70 crore for the purpose.
- Farm Machinery Hubs (Custom Hiring Centre) are being set up in different cooperative societies to increase agricultural yield by farm mechanisation. 379 cooperative societies have been assisted with Rs. 108.70 crore for the purpose.
- During Khariff Marketing Season (KMS) 2019-20, 11.46 lakh MT paddy was procured through cooperative societies, of which West Bengal State Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd. (BENFED) and West Bengal State Consumers Co-operative Federation Ltd. (CONFED) procured 5.58 lakh MT through 646 cooperative societies from 2.07 lakh farmers.
- Construction of 20 Storage Godowns, each having capacity of 10,000 MT, involving Rs. 208.87 crore was taken up during last financial year under RIDF/ Warehouse Infrastructure Fund (WIF), which are under progress and about to be completed by June, 2021. Construction of another 3 Storage Godowns, each having capacity of 10,000 MT has been taken up during current financial year.
- Construction of 1 Storage Godown having total capacity of 1000 MT involving Rs.0.54 crore has been completed during current year under RIDF/ WIF.
- Construction of 100 Rural Godowns with a capacity of 9650 MT in different cooperatives involving Rs.13.69 crore has been completed during current year under RKVY.
- CONFED has installed 60 MT weighbridge along with service room, and construction of guard-wall around the 3500 MT Godown at Gangarampur, Dakshin Dinajpur.

Short Term Cooperative Credit Structure (STCCS)

- As Nodal Bank for Government of West Bengal, the West Bengal State Cooperative Bank Ltd. is successfully implementing 'Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)' Schemes of Government of West Bengal, viz. Krishak Bandhu (Assured Income) Scheme, Krishak Bandhu (Death Benefit) Scheme, Assistance to Bulbul and Amphan affected people, Kanyashree, Rupashree, Jai Bangla Pension Scheme etc.

- Integration with Schematic Bank Management System (SBMS) of Government of West Bengal; implementation of CBS 24X7; introduction of 24 X 7 NEFT/ RTGS; introduction of DBT facility through National Automated Clearing House (NACH) for bulk transactions.
- Automated marking of Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC) status in the system.
- Undertaken various training programmes through Academy for Co-operative Management, Research & Training (ACMART) via online platforms to address training requirement under Covid-19 pandemic situation.
- Issuing loans to honey collectors and milk producers through Famer Producers' Organisations in remote areas of Sundarban and thereby contributing to their struggle for a better livelihood.

Long Term Cooperative Credit Structure (LTCCS)

- Loan of Rs. 186.36 crore has been issued to 11258 beneficiaries under different schemes.
- Introduction of Scheme Bank and Centralised Financial Solution of Business Processing of the West Bengal State Co-operative Agriculture & Rural Development (WBSCARD) Bank Ltd.

6.27 New Initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken

Cooperation Department: 26 services of the Cooperation Department have been made live under e-District. Initiative has been taken by BENFED to digitize the entire purchase, sales and payment procedure of fertilizer business with a view to make the business modern, transparent and hassle-free. Some of the Cooperative Ranges have been engaged as Project Implementing Agency for MGNREGS and different projects under MGNREGS are being implemented through cooperative societies and SHGs affiliated to them.

Short Term Cooperative Credit Structure: Introduction of Internet Banking in view mode has been done. Introduction of Mobile Banking and IMPS- immediate payment service are upcoming. Data of 1,59,665 SHGs have been uploaded in portal of Department of SHG and SE for availing financial assistance under ***Jaago*** Scheme. Initiatives have been taken to form member wise database of Self-Help Groups assisted under this scheme. Anti-Money Laundering Software has been introduced. Central KYCR has been made live. Positive Pay system is to be introduced. Back up connectivity has been installed in all Branches of the West Bengal State Co-operative Bank (WBSCB) Ltd.

Long Term Cooperative Credit Structure: Initiative has been taken to implement Centralised Financial Solution in 24 PCARDBs across State. New Loan Manual of the WBSCARD Bank Ltd. has been implemented and Uniform Loan Application Format for the LTCCS in different sectors has been implemented. Centre for Professional Excellence in Cooperatives (C-PEC) - Accreditation of The Institute of Co-operative Management for Agriculture and Rural Development (ICMARD) by Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD), Lucknow has been categorised at "B" category.

Self Help Group & Self Employment

6.28 Introduction

The Department of Self Help Group & Self Employment (SHG&SE) is mandated to formulate policies and coordinate the SHG and Self Employment Schemes of different Departments and also look after the institutional finance related to these schemes. The department also implements common schemes and some specific programmes to widen the horizon of livelihood activities/ employment potential of the SHG members and individual entrepreneurs.

6.29 Achievements during the financial year 2020-21

For the financial year 2020-21, the department has as many as 10,08,628 beneficiaries under different schemes and it has a total budget allocation of Rs. 963.02 crore for its flagship schemes.

In 2020-21, under *Swami Vivekananda Swanirbhar Karmasanasthan Prakalpa (SVSKP)*, support has been extended to 4861 unemployed young persons and Rs. 340 crore was allocated for the scheme in the current financial year. Under *West Bengal Swarojgar Sahayak Prokolpo (WBSSP)*, in 2020-21, about Rs. 20 crore has been provided to 118175 beneficiaries.

Under '*Jaago*', more than 8,82,827 Women SHGs have been provided with an appreciation grant @Rs 5000 per SHG, with a total outlay of Rs. 441.41 crore as a commendation for the vibrant women SHG members who have rendered remarkable services during awareness generation on covid-19 pandemic, managing isolation camps and post Amphan devastation management.

The scheme *Samajsathi* provides accidental benefit support to the members of SHGs and their families. The scheme, synchronised with Swasthya Sathi, an umbrella scheme of the department of Health & Family Welfare, covers all hospitalization expenses of the target group. In the current financial year Rs. 1 crore is allocated for the scheme and the facility has been extended to 72 members till date.

In the current financial year the department has a budget allocation of Rs. 7 crore for **Training-cum-Marketing Centres** to promote marketing of the products, groups and individual entrepreneurs for the SHGs, and Swarojgarees, and the number of beneficiaries under this scheme is 509.

This department organises special marketing events called *Sabala Mela* at the State, district and sub-district level. In 2020-21, an amount of Rs. 6.02 crore has as yet been allocated for conducting Sabala Mela.

The department has undertaken a programme for setting up of projects of construction of Training-cum-Marketing Complexes (**Karmatirtha**) and Common Facility Centres (CFC) at the District and Sub-Divisional level under State Plan to facilitate training of Self Help Groups for the skill development and for marketing of their products. In 2020-21, an amount of Rs. 25 crore has been allocated for this scheme. The department has a budget allocation of Rs. 4 crore for its other micro projects which are in convergence.

6.30 Special Achievements

During the lockdown, the SHGs having acumen in sewing and stitching were pressed into service for preparation of masks for supplying to frontline COVID warriors. The SHGs produced 4,76,494 masks within two months, March and April, 2020. Household based sanitizer making have been facilitated for ready consumption. SHGs were mobilized for production of low cost sanitary napkins.

With a view to provide scope of economic activities to the SHGs and unemployed youths, Micro projects in convergence have been contemplated. MGNREGS provided for excavation of tanks, construction of animal shed, mushroom shed, and ground preparation for agri-horticultural activities. Fishery, Animal Resources Development, Horticulture, Agriculture, and Forest provided livestock, seeds, and saplings. The SHG&SE Department bridged the critical gap for Training, feed, manure, insurance, air pump and equipment and coordination. The initiative commenced with baby steps in two districts. Then, the vetted DPRs have been shared with all for replication and more and more innovative DPRs have been developed. As on date, total 186 micro-projects, involving total 497 SHGs and benefitting 249 unemployed youths, implemented with a fiscal outlay of Rs. 12.41 crore.

The all women SHGs pertaining to all the State Government departments have been provided with appreciation grant of Rs. 5000 per SHG for their commendable efforts in generating public awareness during lockdown, managing isolation camps, managing returned migrant workers. So far Rs. 404.73 crore has been disbursed in favour of 8,09,463 SHGs.

Women SHGs have been attached within the ongoing Duare Sarkar camps, where they are selling their produces like mask, sanitizers, fast foods, handicrafts and woolen items. They are also supplying working lunch and tea to the working team, rendering assistance to the citizens in filling up Swastha Sathi applications. Active involvement with the governance has given them impetus and confidence for social service.

6.31 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken

Apart from the routine initiatives, the following innovative projects are in the offing:

- Production of Shitake Mushroom in Kalimpong, which is having high market price in hotel and hospitality industry. Production of Motorized paddle husked brown rice in Kalimpong, which is having a good market price. Production of orchids in Hooghly which are marketed in Kolkata.
- Multipurpose Training Centre, Production Centre and Marketing Outlet at Ramakrishna Math, Baghbazar, Kolkata, to cater 1000 entrepreneurs.
- Common facility Centre, Training, Marketing Outlet for at Gobordanga and Dakshin Chatra, North 24 Parganas to cater 400 entrepreneurs at each centre.
- Marketing outlet within Multipurpose building Rajarhat would provide stalls for 47 SHGs/ Entrepreneurs, which would showcase excellences of rural Bengal like, Goyna Bori, Sitalpati, Madurkathi, Tasar, Nakshikantha, Patachitra, Chhau mask, Baluchari, Swarnachari and Bishnupuri Katan Silk Sarees, Handloom Sarees, Bamboo crafts, Babui crafts, Woodcrafts, Stone curving, Clay dolls, terracotta.

Backward Classes Welfare

6.33 Introduction

The Backward Classes Welfare (BCW) Department is mandated to work for a holistic development of the people of Scheduled Castes (SC) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the State. Despite a very hard and trying year arising out of Covid pandemic situation, the Department has been able to serve sizable number of beneficiaries' up to December 2020.

6.34 Achievements (up to December, 2020)

Sikshashree: To achieve the aims at providing opportunities for education to all SC students right from Class V, totally state funded "Sikshashree" Scholarship is being disbursed. In the current fiscal this scholarship was disbursed to more than 8,90,841 SC students of Class V-VIII with an expenditure of around Rs. 71.44 crore. In addition, 4,25,178 SC students have applied for pre (IX-X) and post matric (XI-Ph.D level) scholarships having an involvement of Rs. 157.47 crore. Alongside state government is also disbursing merit scholarship to 658 students with an involvement of Rs. 17.34 lakh.

Pre & Post Matric Scholarships: The Department has received 3,59,323 applications for Pre-Matric OBC Scholarship in this fiscal having an involvement of Rs. 54.20 crore. For Post-Matric Scholarship 51,542 OBC students have applied and the expenditure on this count is around Rs. 12.98 crore in the current financial year. To ensure speedy and seamless disbursement of scholarship to the students of the Minority Communities included in the OBC from single window, it is being disbursed through the Minority Affairs and Madrasah Education Department.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Residential School: Construction of 2 Nos. of "Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Residential School" in Jalpaiguri & North 24 Parganas districts with an estimated cost of Rs. 23 crore has been completed. An amount of Rs. 1.50 crore has been released on this count during the current financial year to defray the cost of construction.

Setting up of Hostels: To provide quality education, the Department has been constructing Hostels in different districts to accommodate outstation students. In the last fiscal, one hostel to accommodate SC students has been completed in Jalpaiguri while two other hostels, one for OBC Boys and another for OBC Girls have been completed in Malda. An amount of Rs. 7.78 crore has been released for construction of these three hostels so far.

Sabooj Sathi: This is a flagship scheme for distribution of bicycles to increase access in high school education since 2015-16. In 2020-21 fiscal, the Backward Classes Welfare Department has already released a sum of Rs. 22.56 crore as a part of procurement & distribution of Bi-cycles.

6.35 Special Achievements

All Sub-divisions are now using online facility for issuing caste certificates.

'**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.

A Scholarship of Rs 800 under **Sikhashree** is disbursed in the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode to SC students of Class V-VIII since 2014-15 fiscal. To ensure speedy and seamless disbursement of scholarship to the students of the Minority Communities included in the OBC from single window, it is being disbursed through the Minority Affairs and Madrasah Education Department.

To ensure quality education to SC students 2 (two) Nos. of "**Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Residential School**" in Jalpaiguri & North 24 Parganas districts with an estimated cost of Rs. 23 crore have been completed. To accommodate outstation students one Hostel for SC Girls and two hostels, one each for OBC girls and boys have also been completed in Malda with an involvement of Rs. 8 crore approx. Out of which an amount of Rs. 7,78 crore has been released so far for construction of these 3 (three) hostels.

Since 2015-16 eligible students of Government, aided schools and Madrasahs are getting bicycles under "**Sabooj Sathi**" scheme for increased access to high school education. West Bengal SC, ST & OBC Development & Finance Corporation (WBSCST&OBCD&FC) implements the programme, operating under the BCW Department being the Nodal Department for distribution of bi-cycles. During the current fiscal, around 12 lakhs students of class IX will be getting the benefit for 2020 academic year. Efforts are afoot to distribute bi-cycles to approximately 10 lakhs eligible students of 2021 academic year also. During 2020 "**Sabooj Sathi Online 3.0**" has been selected '**Winner**' in category **ICT applications benefits in all aspects of life-E-Government** by "World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2020" (WSIS).

Wages of 400 Dhakis (Drummers of Bengal), pre-dominantly belonging to an ethnic group, engaged under this Department, has been enhanced from Rs. 315/- per day to Rs. 353/- per day for 22 working days in a month in place of 15 days per month w.e.f January 2021.

For focused development of specific communities two new Development Boards, namely '**Bauri Development Board**' & '**Bagdi Development Board**' have been constituted.

6.36 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.

To ensure transparency, scholarships are disbursed through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode straight to the bank account of individual beneficiary.

During the current fiscal, the Department has embarked upon a new social pension scheme namely, "**Taposili Bandhu**", where all the 60 years and above persons of SC community are being included in a monthly pension scheme @ Rs 1000/-. The pension is paid in advance.

The Department has constituted 2(two) new Development Boards, namely- '**Bauri Development Board**' & '**Bagdi Development Board**' during the current financial year.

The Backward Classes Welfare (BCW) Department has been implementing "**Sabooj Sathi**" scheme for distribution of bi-cycles to increase access to high school education since 2015-16. Students of Government schools and Madrasahs are getting bi-cycles as soon as they are admitted in class IX. During the current fiscal in Phase-VI & VII around 22 lakh students of class IX will be getting the benefit pertaining to 2020 & 2021 academic year. Although Backward Classes Welfare (BCW) Department is the nodal Department for procurement & distribution of Bi-cycles under '**Sabooj Sathi Scheme**', yet the cost of procurement & distribution of Bi-cycles will be shared by the School Education Department, Tribal Development Department, Minority Affairs & Madrasah Education Department and BCW Department itself.

'Cultural Research Institute', the scientific and technical wing of this Department is actively engaged in designing and conducting Research and Evaluation-based studies on the SCs, ST's & OBC's. It also deals with complex Caste Identification cases. Training Programmes, Seminars and Workshops for creating awareness on the development efforts of this Department are organised by this Institute.

Tribal Development

6.37 Introduction

Tribal Development department has been constituted through Notification No. 866-Home dated 28th November 2013, with a view to address specific issues related to welfare of Tribal communities of the State in a more concerted and holistic manner.

6.38 Major achievements during the financial year 2020-21(up to December, 2020)

Issuance of Caste Certificate: Time of processing and issuance of certificate has been reduced from 8 weeks to 4. The old certificates are scanned and uploaded in the Department's portal for reference and for cross-checking by different stake holders like employers and Certificate issuing authorities..

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 encourage students. During 2020-21, till date more than 1,38,232 students have received their scholarship in their own bank account. Total sanctioned amount is Rs. 16.31 crore, as on 31st Dec' 2020.

Academic Works

- ***Translation of School book in Ol Chiki scripts:*** Translated five books in Santali language (Olchiki scripts) of class XII (Pol. Science, Physical Education, History, Philosophy, and Education) through Santali academy.
- ***Publication of Compendium of Government Orders and Circulars:*** Tribal Development Department has published a Multi-lingual information brochure in English, Bengali, Kurukh and Santhali.
- ***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.

Joy Johar (ST Old Age Pension): Old Age Pension is being provided to the ST beneficiaries on their attainment of 60 years of age @ Rs 1,000 p.m. Through DBT the scheme has now been made universal.

West Bengal Kendu Leaves Collectors Social Security Scheme, 2015: Tribal Development Department has introduced Kendu Leave Collectors Social Security Scheme with effect from 10th 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. Total 561 family received benefits.

Joint Entrance Coaching: The Department has introduced special coaching to ST aspirants for Jt. Entrance Examination through 36 centers located in different districts. Annual intake is 1,440 students. ST students are getting education loans up to Rs. 45.95 lakh.

Coaching for IAS And WBCS Aspirants: State Government has sponsored ST aspirants for IAS/WBCS examinations to attend training courses at reputed institutions.

Creation of Employment Opportunities through Skill Development: Creating employment opportunities through skill development in various sectors has been accorded special emphasis. During last nine years, 24,500 ST candidates, both male & female were provided skill training in different occupations.

Distribution of Patta under Forest Rights Act, 2006: Pattas are distributed to recognize the forest right to individuals and communities. As on 31.12.2020, 48,964 tribals and 190 other traditional Forest Dwellers have been granted with individual titles of forest land held by them. Till 31.12.2020, 31,344 claims have been verified at the grass root level.

Construction of ICDS Centres in convergence with MGNREGA: In convergence with WCD&SW Department, this department has constructed ICDS Centres in the ST dominated areas having no structured premises as per protocol fixed by the WCD&SW Department during 2020-21, 409 centers have been constructed utilising Rs. 22.31 crore.

Setting up of six Development and Cultural Board: Six Cultural and Development boards namely, the West Bengal Tamang Development & Cultural Board, West Bengal Sherpa Cultural Board, West Bengal Bhutia Development Board, West Bengal Limbu Development Board, West Bengal Adibasi Development & Cultural Board and West Bengal Mayel Lyang Lepcha Development & Cultural Board have been set up. These Boards were provided Rs. 22.50 crore under State Development Scheme and Rs. 11.42 crore under Administrative Expenditure in 2020-21 to meet their specific development needs. These Boards have constructed 13,137 houses, set up 179 Night Schools and improved 38 Jhoras to ensure better supply of drinking water. They have also taken up construction of 2 Youth hostels in Mirik and Kalimpong.

Construction of Adibasi Bhawan: This Department is constructing a Tribal Bhawan at a cost of Rs. 19.60 crore for accommodating office of TDD along with community centre, guest house, Tribal Museum and auditorium at Rajarhat, New Town.

Construction of Lepcha Bhawan: A Lepcha Bhawan at a cost of Rs. 9.50 crore is being constructed for Lepcha community with community centre, guest house and auditorium at Rajarhat, New Town. U.D. & M.A. Department is constructing the project. The project is ongoing and likely to be completed in this financial year.

MFP & MSP Scheme for Tribal Forest Produce Gatherers: With a view to give 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 will be given Minimum support

prices through LAMPS or SHG Sangha. The scheme also includes up gradation of local haats and godown.

Biswa Adivasi Divas: The International Day for Indigenous Peoples, 2020 was observed as 'Biswa Adivasi Divas' and it was celebrated along with commemoration of 75th Year of Quit India Movement on 9th and 10th August, 2020 in the State.

Special Intervention Plan for Stressed Tea Garden Areas: Several steps have been taken in the stressed tea garden area to reduce distress of the tribal communities dwelling in the stressed tea garden areas in Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri and plains of Darjeeling. 2,828 ST persons have been granted Old Age Pension. 8,177 Sikshashree scholarships, 1,982 other scholarships sanctioned for 22 stressed Tea Gardens of Alipurduar.

Jaher Than, Manji Than: This is the Place of Worship of ST People. 232 Jaher Thans have been fenced at a cost of Rs. 1.16 crore and grants have also been provided to 103 Manji Thans.

Women & Child Development and Social Welfare

6.39 Introduction

The Department of Women & Child Development & Social Welfare is responsible for the formulation of policies, schemes and programmes that reduce the vulnerability of disadvantaged sections of society. These sections are women, children and adolescents, senior citizens and other marginalized populations such as persons with disabilities, transgender persons, homeless persons and persons with drug / alcohol addiction. The department also works as a nodal body that coordinates with other departments to ensure that the basic rights and development needs of these groups are accelerated.

6.40 Achievements

6.40.1 Survival, Development and Protection of Children

State Plan of Action for Children Phase I & II: In 2014, the Department designed the State Plan of Action for Children (*SPAC*), a multi-sectoral plan that comprehensively maps the responsibilities and initiatives of key government departments tasked with affirmative action for children.

SPAC Phase I (2014-2018) had 54 monitoring indicators, aligned with India's national agenda for children. *SPAC* Phase II (2019-2025) was launched in August 2019. It comprises 82 indicators covering 5 sectors, namely, Health, Nutrition, Education, Water-Sanitation & Hygiene (*WASH*) and Child Protection. These include input, process, output and outcome indicators. The action plan is aligned with the *UN-SDG* Goals to the maximum extent possible.

Anganwadi Services Scheme (under Umbrella ICDS): The Anganwadi Services Scheme is a component of the Integrated Child Development Scheme (*ICDS*), a flagship scheme for the survival, development and protection of children. In West Bengal, the Scheme is administered through a dedicated Directorate, with service delivery effected through 116776 Anganwadi Centres currently operational (December, 2020). Till October, 2020, 59543 *AWCs* have been constructed in the Building-As-Learning-Aid (*BALA*) model. Such buildings are termed "child-friendly" *AWCs* and are being provided with water and sanitation facilities.

At the *AWCs*, supplementary nutrition is provided to children in the age group of 6 months to 6 years and to pregnant and lactating women. Due to the COVID pandemic, Anganwadi centres have remained closed since mid-March 2020. However, supplementary nutrition services continued to be delivered to beneficiaries in the form of dry rations at their homes. Around 73.18 lakhs children under 6 years and 15.76 lakhs pregnant and lactating mothers are receiving such services every month regularly. The total prevalence of under-weight children below the age of 5 years reduced from 34.43%, in March, 2011 to 8.65% in February, 2020.

Pre-School Education/ Early Childhood Care & Education is provided to children aged 3–6 years at *AWCs*. In 2012, the department adopted an activity based, thematic and age-appropriate Early Childhood Care & Education curriculum, named as '*Shishu Aloy*' (Children's Abode). *AWCs* are being converted to *Shishu Aloys* in a phased manner. 53894 '*Shishu Aloy*' centres are operational across the state. During

the COVID lockdown, the Department's innovative Home – based Early Childhood Care & Education outreach programme ensured continuity of pre-school education services to approximately 22.28 lakhs home-bound children aged 3-6 years every month through their parents/ care givers on their mobile phones (in offline mode) with necessary instructions. The modules are available in Bengali and Hindi, and all instructions are voice-based. The outreach initiative received the "Gold" Skoch Smart Governance Award 2020.

Child Protection Scheme: The Directorate of Child Rights and Trafficking was established in 2015, and implements the Child Protection Services Scheme. The scheme's beneficiaries are children under the age of 18, especially children in need of care and protection and juveniles in conflict or contact with the law. In West Bengal, the following statutory bodies and institutions have been established -

- District Child Protection Units have been formed in every district. Block Level Child Protection Committees have been formed in 341 blocks out of 342 Blocks. Ward level Child Protection Committees have been constituted in 2603 wards out of 2928 wards, and Village level Child Protection committees are in place in 41786 of 49787 samsads in the state.
- 24 Specialized Adoption Agencies (SAAs) including 3 Government run SAAs are operational in the State. 122 In-country adoption and 11 inter-country adoptions have taken place this financial year (up to December 2020).
- Sponsorship support has been provided to 893 children during 2020-21, of which 700 are Preventive Sponsorships and 193 are Rehabilitative Sponsorships.
- 19 Govt. Run Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and 52 NGO run CCIs approved by the Govt. of India are functional including 21 Homes for Children with special needs. Several measures have been introduced to improve the functioning of CCIs.

The department has undertaken several measures to ensure a cross-departmental interstate and inter-country response to combating trafficking in women and children.

- A State Level Advisory Committee headed by the Minister of the Department monitors the prevention, protection, rehabilitation and repatriation/restoration of survivors of trafficking.
- The State Task Force on Prevention of Trafficking & Rescue, Return, Repatriation & Integration (RRRI) of Children and Women coordinates action between all state and interstate agencies.
- A State Plan of Action against Trafficking is in place, with a handbook developed to enable all government departments to work together against human trafficking.

The Directorate conducts regular capacity building of state and district stakeholders on child rights, missing children and human trafficking. In the current year 3890 children have been restored inter-state and 51 children have been repatriated. The Track Child portal provides a central interface for all stakeholders dealing with the cases of missing and recovered children.

6.40.2 Empowerment of Adolescent Girls

Kanyashree Prakalpa: Launched in October 2013, Kanyashree Prakalpa is the state government's flagship scheme for the empowerment of adolescent girls. The scheme's conditional cash transfers are designed to incentivize girls to stay in education and stay unmarried till at least age 18, the legal age of marriage. The Scheme's Annual Scholarship for girls between the ages of 13-18 was raised from Rs. 500 to Rs. 750 in 2015-16, and was increased again in 2018-19 to Rs. 1,000. For girls who attain age 18 while still in education and unmarried, the Scheme also gives one-time grant of Rs. 25000. Initially, only girls from families with an annual income of up to Rs. 1.20 lakh were enrolled in the scheme. However, since 2018-19, all girls, regardless of family income, can enroll in the scheme, provided they meet all the other eligibility criteria.

Kanyashree's cash transfers are complemented with a series of non-cash interventions designed to facilitate positive changes in perceptions, attitudes and aspirations of girls and their families. Kanyashree girls are preferentially linked to other government schemes, including scholarships for higher education, skill development trainings and health schemes. Through '*Swopno Bhor*', collaboration with the Government's *Utkarsh Bangla* Scheme, Kanyashree girls over the age of 18 years can opt for skill development courses of their choice. Kanyashree beneficiaries applying for post-graduate studies are given concessional scholarships (K3) in the state's Merit – cum – Means Scholarship Scheme.

Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG under Umbrella ICDS): Under this scheme, out-of-school girls between the age of 11-14 years are provided supplementary nutrition in the form of Ready-To-Eat rations. As part of the non-nutrition services, they participate in activities all year-round, along with school going girls. School drop-outs are supported in returning to education.

SAG-Kanyashree Convergence Programme: Through the SAG-Kanyashree Convergence Programme, approximately 78.38 lakhs adolescent girls across the state are formed into girls' groups at the Anganwadi centres, and through facilitated activities and peer support, increase their resilience, knowledge and skills. These activities include Health check-up and Referral Services, Nutrition and Health Education (*NHE*), Guidance on Family Welfare, *ARSH* (Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health), Child Care Practices and Home Management, Life Skills Education and Accessing Public Services, and Vocational Training.

Formation of Adolescent Cell: With effect from September 15, 2020, the DWCD &SW has set up an Adolescent Cell within the department. The Cell has an oversight of all the programmes and initiatives for adolescents. The specific objectives of the Adolescent Cell are to:

- Address the differential vulnerabilities of adolescent girls through government flagship schemes in convergent manner.
- Expedite the achievement of outcomes for empowerment of adolescent girls, with focus areas being completion of school education, vocational training & skill development and prevention of child marriage, trafficking and other protection issues.

- Nutrition & Adolescent Reproductive & Sexual Health with focus on Menstrual Hygiene Management and preventing teenage pregnancy.

6.40.3 Women's Development

Rupashree Prakalpa: Cognizant of the heavy financial burden that economically stressed families bear at the time of their adult daughters' marriages; in 2018-19 the state government launched "*Rupashree Prakalpa*". Under the Scheme, any adult woman from a family whose income is not greater than Rs. 1.20 lakh annually is provided a one-time cash transfer of Rs. 25000 for her first marriage. Rupashree Prakalpa came into effect on 01 April, 2018 and is implemented in all districts of West Bengal.

Other Women-centric Initiatives: In accordance with the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, 28 Protection Officers have been assigned in the state. 37 services providers have been registered to provide services to aggrieved women. Local Complaints Committees under the Sexual Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2013 have been formed in every district. Internal Complaints Committees have been formed in the departments of the state government. Widows Cells have been constituted in all districts including Kolkata to address the vulnerability of widows and facilitate their access to legal aid, health services and government schemes.

West Bengal has 36 shelter homes for women in distress in three categories. These are,

- Number of 'Swadhar Greh' Homes – 33
- Number of 'Ujjwala' Protective and Rehabilitative Homes – 2
- Number of Pankaj Acharya Home under the West Bengal Social Welfare Board – 1

6.40.4 Social Security Pensions (Old Age, Widow, Disability)

Social security is extended through Old Age Pensions, Widow Pensions and "*Manabik*" Pension Scheme for disabled persons. The 'Manabik' Pension Scheme which provides Rs. 1,000 per month to persons with disability. From 1st April 2020, the scheme's eligibility criteria were relaxed to make the benefits more accessible. The percentage of disability required was reduced from 50 to 40, and the scheme's income ceiling removed.

With effect from 1st April 2020, the pension benefit for Old Age and Widow Pensions was raised from Rs. 750 to Rs. 1000 per month.

6.40.5 Schemes for Other Marginalized Sections of Society

- **Protection of Seniors:** 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.
- **Ensuring Rights of Disabled Persons:** The Commissioner of Disabilities works to ensure the rights of disabled persons of West Bengal, and monitors infringements and denial of their rights. The office of the Commissioner of Disabilities also implements several schemes and grants supporting rehabilitation, prosthetic aids and scholarships and presides over awareness and advocacy events for disabled persons.

- ***Shelter for Homeless and Destitute Persons:*** The Directorate of Vagrancy runs 10 Vagrancy homes under the Bengal Vagrancy Act, and 38 shelters under the Shelter for Urban Homeless Scheme, a state sponsored scheme, 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 run by NGOs.
- ***The West Bengal Transgender Development Board:*** The Board was constituted in July 2015 with the objective of improving the status of the transgender population which is lagging behind on human development indices, especially education and employment. A State Coordination Committee has been constituted so that the challenges faced by the community – education, security, medical access, rehabilitation and welfare, can be expedited.

6.41 National and International Recognition for Best Practices

Kanyashree Prakalpa has received national and international recognition for its design and features of good governance. Awards received:

- Manthan Award for Digital Inclusion for Development (South Asia and Asia Pacific) 2014 under the category e-Women and Empowerment.
- National e-Governance Award 2014 – 2015 awarded by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Government of India.
- Skoch Winner Award and Order of Merit 2015 for Smart Governance.
- CSI-Nihilent Award for e-governance, 2014-15.
- United Nations WSIS Prize 2016 Champion in e-Government Category (WSIS Action Line C7)
- Finalist in GEMTech Awards 2016 hosted by *UNWOMEN& ITU*
- Winner, United Nations Public Service Award 2017 (Category 1: Reaching the poorest and most vulnerable through inclusive services and participation)
- West Bengal Chief Minister's Award for Empowerment of Girls, 2014

The Department is also a recipient of the ***Skoch Awards*** for its innovations and good governance in Early Childhood Care and Education (Sishu Aloy); work with sexual minorities (Transgender Development Board) and Anti Human Trafficking Initiatives.

The Department's Home –based Early Childhood Care & Education outreach programme received the ***"Gold" Skoch Smart Governance Award 2020.***

Minority Affairs

6.42 Introduction

The Government 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.

6.43 Achievements

6.43.1 Initiatives for Academic Development

Aikyashree: This scholarship scheme was launched in the year 2019-20. In the inaugural year scholarships amounting to more than Rs. 600 crore were disbursed to 37 lakhs students. It was an all time record. More than 46 lakh scholarships to minority students are expected to be released during 2020-21.

Education Loan: Education Loans up to Rs. 30 lakhs are provided to students belonging to minority communities for pursuing technical and professional courses in India and abroad. So far, 3234 minority students have been provided with education loan to pursue higher studies.

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 have been made available in 300 Madrasahs in two phases. Computer Laboratories are being set up in 115 Madrasahs to improve the students' computer skills and to render them more employable. 169 Madrasahs are also covered under ICT @ Madrasah Scheme. 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, at a total cost of Rs. 551 crore. The work of separate Hostels for Girls and Boys at New Town Campus of Aliah University involving an amount of Rs. 115 crore has also been completed. More than 1250 students are residing in these hostels. Employees' Housing Complex of the Aliah University is being constructed in the campus at New Town involving an amount of Rs. 70 crore.

6.43.2 Activities of Urdu 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. The legislation has in effect redressed the long pending demand of Urdu speaking people to interact in their mother tongue with the Government offices.

- People who are residents of West Bengal and whose mother tongue is Urdu have been notified as Linguistic Minorities in West Bengal.
- West Bengal Urdu Academy has organised coaching centres for Madhyamik Pariksha for Urdu Medium students. Besides Computer Training and Coaching 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 about 5 times compared to 2010-11.
- Urdu Academy has published more than 30 books this year. This includes re-print of rare books like Diwan-e-Ghalib, Kamni, Salas-e-Ghassala etc. This is the first time that Urdu Academy has published so many titles in a year.

6.43.3 Development Programme

Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP): This schemes aims at improving socio economic condition of minorities and providing basic amenities for improving quality of life and bridging critical gaps in infrastructure. During 2011-20, Rs. 3469.22 crore has been released under MsDP to bridge critical infrastructural gaps in 158 minority concentrated blocks, 15 minority concentrated towns and 10 district head-quarters.

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 by the State Government. During the last six years, works similar to MsDP has been taken up involving Rs. 459.70 crore in these districts for bridging critical infrastructural gaps.

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 not covered under MSDP/ IMDP. The focus area is improvement of school infrastructure having sizeable percentage of minority students. A total of Rs. 330.93 crore has been released for various schemes in different blocks across 23 Districts of West Bengal under this scheme.

6.43.4 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 providing opportunities for self employment, Term Loan and DLS (Micro Finance) are being provided to individual entrepreneurs and Self Help Groups. Minority youths & members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) have been provided with 9.43 lakh Term Loans and Micro Credit to

create sustainable employment during 2011-20. In terms of loans disbursement to minorities, West Bengal stands first in the country. Soft Loans (under Term Loan and Micro Finance) were sanctioned to around 32,000 beneficiaries during the current year.

Assistance from Imam & Moazzins: 59,085 Imam & Moazzins are assisting the Government for Social Services like eradication of Polio, Communal Harmony etc.

Karmatirthas: Construction work of 315 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. Till now, 191 Karmatirthas have been made operational and another 64 will be operational by January, 2021. Rest 60 are in different stages of construction.

6.43.5 Infrastructural Development

Housing: To improve the quality of life of minority communities in West Bengal and to fulfil the commitment of the State Government for providing "Shelter to All"- 2,19,802 units of housing have been constructed at a cost of Rs. 2,021 crore under various housing schemes. In 2020-21, the MA & ME Department has released Rs. 113.46 crore for construction of 18,911 dwelling units.

Hostels for Minority Students: For the educational upliftment of minority communities, 527 hostels for Minority Students are being set up. Of this, 424 have already been made 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) "Aikyatar" 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 Hujja*) has been built with a project cost of Rs. 107 crore 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 6,684 graveyards of minority communities have been taken up. Rs. 707 crore has been released for this purpose. So far, construction works of around 5,453 graveyard boundary walls have been completed.

Minority Bhawan: For better monitoring and implementation of minority welfare activities, Minority Bhawans have been set up in each District Head Quarter. So far 20 such Bhawans have started functioning and work is in progress in the remaining three new districts.

6.44 Financial Allocation: Plan Budget for the Minority Affairs & Madrasah Education Department has risen by more than 8 times to a record Rs. 3,600 crore in 2020-21, from Rs. 472 crore in 2010-11.



Economic Review 2020 -21

Chapter 7

Governance

Correctional Administration

Judicial

Law

Correctional Administration

7.1 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.

7.2 Achievements during the financial year 2020-21

- Construction of new Central Correctional Home at Baruipur, South 24 Prqs. Phase-II of new Baruipur Central Correctional Home has been initiated for shifting inmates of Presidency Correctional Home.
- The 1st phase of construction of a new District Correctional Home at Nimtouri, Tamluk, Purba Medinipur has been initiated
- The construction work for new Subsidiary Correctional Home at Chanchal, Malda has been started.
- Video Surveillance System has been installed in the following 10 (ten) Correctional Homes - Burdwan CCH, Jalpaiguri CCH, Midnapore CCL, Berhampore CCH, Balurghat CCH, Malda DCH, Hooghly DCN, Krishnanagar DCH, Suri DCH and Serampore SCH.
- Video Surveillance System has been enhanced in the following 06 (six) Correctional Homes - Darjeeling DCH, Coochbehar DCN, Raiganj DCH, Howrah DCH, Purulia DCH and Bankura DCH.
- Constructional work of 02 (two) storied building for the accommodation of 150 nos. of inmates in Krishnanagar District Correctional Home is in full swing.
- Construction of a separate (G+1) Female Warders' Barrack within the campus of Midnapore Central Correctional Home has been initiated.
- Possession of 3.27 acre of land at Arupara, Mouza- Baltikuri, PS- Jagacha, Dist.- Howrah has been taken over in favour of the Department of Correctional Administration for shifting of Alipore Women's Correctional Home.
- The e-Prisons Suite which has been successfully implemented at all Correctional Homes of West Bengal had helped considerably during the present Pandemic situation of Covid-19.
- Video Conferencing System under e-Prisons Suite has been implemented through which it was possible to produce the inmates before the Ld. Courts vide 'e-Court Module'. Besides, 'E-Mulaqaat' (an online interviewing system) has also been started in all Correctional Homes.

7.3 Special Achievements

- During the current financial year, till December 2020, more than 25 (twenty-five) new projects in the works category have been taken up by the Department for augmentation and maintenance of existing facilities including up-gradation of Correctional Homes.

- 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.

7.4 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken

- Installation of Video Surveillance System in the Correctional Homes. It has been estimated that a fund of around Rs. 10 crore will be required in F.Y. 2021-22 for installation of Video Surveillance System in 29 (twenty-nine) Subsidiary Correctional Homes.
- Installation of Cable for Electricity at Baruipur Central Correctional Home. A fund of Rs.18.76 lakh has been sanctioned in favour of WBSEDCL for laying cable for electricity through Micro Tunneling at Baruipur Central Correctional Home.
- Renovation at Asansol Special Correctional Home is going on.
- Construction of Manufactory Department Building at Balurghat Central Correctional Home with a cubical for sitting facility and a Store room inside the premises of the Correctional Home is going on. Administrative approval of Rs.1.57 crore has been received for the purpose.
- Vertical Extension at Jangipur Subsidiary Correctional Home is under progress. Administrative approval of a fund of Rs. 17.55 lakh has been received for the purpose.
- Construction of horizontal and vertical extension along with common stair well at Siliguri Special Correctional Home is under progress. Administrative approval of a fund of Rs. 91.24 lakh has been received.

Judicial

7.5 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).

7.6 Achievements during the financial year 2020-21 (up to December, 2020)

- Computerization of High Court and maintenance of Bijan Bhaban have been undertaken. 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 Krishnagar and Suri have been undertaken. Renovation of structure situated in the Central Court yard, safety and security arrangement inside and adjoining High Court premises, Roof Treatment works at Main, Centenary, Sesqui-Centenary and Protocol Buildings of Calcutta High Court and ground improvement works of North West side gate of Calcutta High Court have been undertaken.
- I.T., Telecom, C.C.TV and allied infrastructure works for West Bengal Judicial Academy, New Town; Infrastructure development at Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri, construction of Court Building at Purulia, construction of Court Buildings in different places at Barrackpur, Buniadpur, Tehatta, Malda, Kakdwip, Domkal, Murshidabad, Jalpaiguri, Bolpur, Khatra and Howrah, including POCSO Court (Child Friendly Court) at Paschim Medinipur and Purulia have been undertaken. Court Buildings at Barrackpur, Jhargram and Khatra have already been inaugurated.
- 70 information kiosks, 92 projectors with screen and other Hardware items have been procured under e-court project. Compensation provided to victim girls under the Victim Compensation Scheme, 2017 and Awareness Programme on "Human Trafficking and Drug Menaces" organized by the D.L.S.A., Darjeeling.

7.7 Special achievements during the financial year 2020-21

- Two Commercial Courts in Calcutta with the objective to introduce simpler regulations to perform business in Bengal have been established under this Department. These two Courts have been set up for exclusive Calcutta Jurisdiction, with filing limit exceeding Rs. 3,00,000 only for such cases.
- For expeditious trial of pending cases of sexual crimes against children across the State, the Judicial Department is setting up POCSO Courts throughout West Bengal. 123 Special Fast Track Courts to try offence against women out of which 20 Courts will be exclusively for trial under POCSO Act have

been notified. Seven dedicated POCSO Courts with Child Friendly features are functioning in the State, where only such crimes are tried.

- This Department is working in tandem with the West Bengal State Legal Services Authority constituted under Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. WBSLSA is working under the supervision of Hon'ble Calcutta High Court. With the help of Para-Legal volunteers, SLSA is trying to reach out to the poorest of the poor, so that no one is denied the right to have access to justice. Judicial Department is bearing the financial responsibility to a great extent and this Department has allotted Rs. 9.81 crore towards arrangement of mediation, training of legal volunteers, infrastructural support etc. to the WBSLSA and various DLSAs.
- Public Prosecutors and Government Pleaders are being sensitized through trainings to ensure speedy disposal of pending cases. For matters connected with welfare of Advocates practicing in West Bengal and for connected matters, this Department provides grants.
- Already 62 Court Rooms have been constructed by this Department. Along with this, Seventy six Residential units have also been constructed.

7.8 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken

Construction projects of Integrated District Court Complex at Jhargram within Jhargram Court; Judicial Officers' Quarters, Alipurduar; Malda Court Building Phase II; Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri; Bidhannagar Integrated Court Building; Lalbagh Court Building, Murshidabad; Alipurduar Court Building; Amta Court cum Residential Quarter; Court of Additional District Judge, Bidhannagar; Integrated Court and Residential Complex, Bongaon; Integrated Court and Residential Complex, Basirhat.

Law

7.9 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.

7.10 Achievements during the financial year 2020-21

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.

This Department is also entrusted with the accurate translations into Bengali as well as to publish authoritative text of Central Laws in Nepali. Bengali translations of 12 Central Acts have been prepared by the Official Languages Branch of this Department. 2 *Gazette* Notifications have also been translated into Bengali. Bengali translations of 14 Central Acts have been authenticated by the Hon'ble President of India. Up-to-date Bengali translations of the Constitution of India and Criminal Procedure Code, 1973, have been prepared.

It may further be mentioned that the Law Department is the nodal Department for control and management of the West Bengal Legal Service, a State Service, constituted *vide* No.310-L, dated 16.03.2006 under the Law Department, Government of West Bengal.

It may also be mentioned that the State Law Commission, West Bengal, is under administrative control of the Law Department. For this period, the State Law Commission has recommended 18 Acts for repeal and around 20 Acts are pending for hearing before it.

Vide 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, Government of West Bengal.

Vide Notification No. 139-Home (Cons)/ R2R/ (Cons)-01/2019, dated 13.02.2020 of Home and Hill Affairs Department, Government of West Bengal, all matters connected with the West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences has been allocated to Law Department from the Judicial Department.

- Number of Non-confidential References was 161 and number of confidential references was 26.
- Number of bills drafted was 24; 7 Bills and 4 Acts were published.
- Number of draft ordinance was 3.

7.11 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken

This Department has started a Cell namely, "High Court Cases Monitoring Cell" at the premises of High Court at Calcutta for the effective management of High Court Cases 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. 8593 Court Cases has been filed and processed during the period through **SARTHAC**.

Third modified version 3.0 of the **SARTHAC** software has been successfully installed and launched during this year.

West Bengal Acts published in the Official Gazettes and Annual Volumes for the year 1949 to 2020 have been uploaded and list of State Acts from the year 1947 to 2018, are now available in www.sarthac.gov.in.

Correction and updation of volume No. I to XII is in progress and preparation of the West Bengal Codes XIII to XV is in the process, Annual Volumes from the year 2002 to 2018 are in the process of printing by Saraswati Press.

Registration of all marriages under the Special Marriage Act, 1954 and under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 read with rules thereunder is now being registered by online mode with effect from 01.07.2019.



Economic Review 2020 -21

Chapter 8

Information, Technology and Promotion

Information Technology and Electronics
Information and Cultural Affairs

Information Technology and Electronics

8.1 Introduction

The Department of Information Technology & Electronics mainly focuses on some key areas during the year, 2020-21 like promotion of emerging technologies & employment generation, developing & 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 2020-21 (up to December, 2020)

Major initiatives that the Department has successfully launched in 2020 are as follows:

COVID-19 Helpline: Right after the nationwide lockdown was announced on 24th March 2020, DoIT&E launched a 24x7 dedicated helpline on 25th March 2020 and assisted 80+ IT/ ITeS companies operating in the state in their Business Continuity by providing advisory support and liaising with law enforcing Departments of the State Government.

Karmobhumi: DoIT&E launched Karmobhumi for capturing the skills of the retrenched and/or repatriated professionals of IT/ ITeS sectors from the State to provide opportunities for upskilling through certification courses at no cost and facilitate in connecting them with potential employers.

Till now, the portal has 42,950+ registrations boasting top-rated skills such as AI-ML, Block-chain, Cyber-Security etc. and 370 registered Employers.

Online Event Management Portal: Through Online Event management portal, 9 workshops, more than 5 webinars and number of training programmes was conducted till date where 14000+ registrations and 8000+ attendees have been recorded.

Self-Scan App: "Self-Scan", a scanning app was launched which stores data within the device and does not capture any personal data of the user and neither performs any background data collection nor stores any cookies. Till now, 1.2 lakh+ downloads have taken place from various app stores viz. Google Play, iOS and Amazon Play.

Cyber Security Centre of Excellence (CS-CoE)

Best Security Practices in Government Sector (DSCI Excellence Award, 2020): The department bagged DSCI Excellence Award 2020 under **Raising Security Awareness** category by competing with other two finalists namely C-DAC and End Now (NGO), a goal worth achieved as a result of efforts taken by Cyber Security Centre of Excellence (CS-CoE). CS-CoE was also a finalist of the DSCI Excellence Award 2020 in the category of **"Best Security Practices in Government Sector"**.

ICT Infrastructure has been completed for 5 Government Departments, in process for 14 Departments and has been initiated for 73 Departments/ Directorates.

First Responder Training' (FRT): 520 police officials have been trained in cyber-crime identification and response.

On the Job Training' (OJT): 1446 Government Employees have been trained on cyber-awareness and cyber-hygiene.

Cyber Security Orientation Training (CSoT) has been provided to 521 direct recruit Police officers

Regular review and application security audit of all Government web-portals is done under guidance of NCIIPC and CERT-In to identify and plug vulnerabilities. 73 web-applications of various departments have been audited till date.

More than 3000 teachers have been trained on Cyber Security awareness in CSCoE in association with ISEA, C-DAC. The department has published more than 50 Executable Advisories to generate awareness among citizens during this pandemic situation.

Growth in export/ IT business: The total export from the IT Software & IT Services Industries of the State is Rs. 26,800 crore in 2019-20 as compared to Rs. 8,335 crore of 2010-11 showing a growth of about 221% in nine years.

Bengal Silicon Valley: 100+ acres of land plots have been allotted to 20+ organizations including organizations like Reliance Corporate IT Park, Tata Consultancy Services, First-source Solutions Ltd, Indo-Japan Horological Pvt. Ltd., Vikram Solar, Airtel, etc.

Other initiatives like Webel fujisoft Vara Centre of Excellence, Nasscom 10K Startup, Webel-BCC&I Tech Incubation Centre continues to promote emerging technologies and startups through dedicated training programmes and incubation support.

Financial achievements of the Department is given below

(in Rs. crore)

Item	2010-11 (in crore)	2019-20	2020-21 (up to Dec,20)
Total Budget Allocation	80.86	247.85	262.61
Capital Expenditure	0.00	132.40	144.00
Development Expenditure	80.86	115.45	118.61

Information & Cultural Affairs

8.3 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.

8.4 Major activities and achievements

Official Language: In recognition of the cultural and linguistic diversity of the State, various languages, such as Urdu, Oriya, Santhali, Gurmukhi (Punjabi), Kurukh, Rajbangshi, Kamtapuri, Kurmali etc. have been conferred the 'Official Language' status by amending the West Bengal Official Languages Act, 1961.

Lok Prasar Prakalpa (LPP): This is a state funded flagship programme for dissemination of government messages as well as awareness generation of the common people by using the skills of the thousands of folk artists throughout the State and at the same time towards their livelihood development. The State Government has enhanced the budgetary provision to the tune of more than Rs. 250 crore for livelihood maintenance of the folk artists enrolled under this scheme. For its uniqueness, LPP has bagged 2 Skoch Awards, namely (i) National Significance on Tourism and Culture, and (ii) Order of Merit in 2018.

Social Security Benefits

- **Social Welfare Scheme for Purohits (SWSP):** Recently State Government has introduced Monthly Financial Assistance of Rs. 1,000 for poor Purohits and poor Priests of other communities like Christians, Jains, Buddhists and Parsis, including Tribals, under **Jai Bangla** Scheme, on 24.08.2020. This Scheme also has provision for Housing Scheme for the poor Purohits/ Priests with financial assistance of Rs. 1.20 lakh for construction of a dwelling unit.
- The benefit of state funded **Swastha Sathi** Scheme was extended to Cable TV Operators, Sub-operators, their workers and families. So far, around 10832 cards have been prepared and distributed throughout the State.
- **West Bengal Pension Scheme for the Journalists, 2018** has been introduced to provide monthly pension of Rs. 2,500 for the journalists aged above 60 years and facing acute financial distress. Presently 94 retired journalists are receiving the monthly pension under the scheme regularly.
- **Maavoi** is a health insurance and personal accident coverage scheme for accredited journalists and their dependent family members, and was started in 2016.
- **Medical Benefit Scheme for the Cine and Television Artistes/ Technicians/ Workers:** State Government pays full premium for extending Group Health Insurance coverage, covering more than 6 thousand primary members. The total beneficiaries are around 43 thousands. The State Government has enhanced the limit under this scheme from Rs. 1.5 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh during 2018-

19 to cover critical illnesses also. The scheme also provides Personal Accident coverage of Rs. 1 lakh for the primary members.

- **Literary and cultural pension** has been extended to around 220 eminent personalities from the field of art and culture.
- Financial Assistance to theatre groups has been extended to more than 1200 groups and 800 individual theatre personalities.

8.5 Major Infrastructure Projects

- ***Chalachitra Satabarsha Bhaban (Cinema Centenary Building) at Tollygunge:*** Construction of a Film Vault as well as a Film Preservation & Digitization Laboratory is envisaged to be set up, apart from other facilities. The existing Preview Theatre (Radha Studio) has also been renovated.
- ***West Bengal Tele Akademi Complex at Baruipur:*** Construction of the said complex has been taken up at a cost of Rs. 137 crore. This is a state-of-the-art infrastructure which will aid in the all-round development of the State's television industry. The Akademi will offer not only modern studio floors for shooting and producing television serials, it will also conduct Diploma/ Certificate and other academic courses related to different aspects of the television industry.
- **Major Repair & Renovation** have been initiated or completed in respect of the following prestigious or heritage buildings of the state: (i) Technician Studio with six new floors, (ii) Mongpoo Villa laden with memories of Tagore, (iii) Roy Villa at Darjeeling with memories of Sister Nivedita, (iv) Ancestral Home of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at Kotalia, (v) Rathindra Mancha at Jorasanko, (vi) Durga Temple at Antpur, (vii) Rabindra-Okakura Bhavan, (viii) Sangeet Academy Bhavan, (ix) State Archaeological Museum refurbished with a new floor and 4 new galleries, (x) Governor House at Srirampur etc.
- The District Information and Culture office has been completed at Barasat, North 24 Parganas, at Purulia and at South 24 Parganas.
- ***Archaeological Exploration:*** Successful excavation at Moghalmari (Paschim Medinipur) has yielded historical treasures of the Gupta era. This department has also undertaken, during 2019-20, various Conservation and Restoration projects throughout the state.

8.6 Cultural events and activities

Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF): Till November, 2019, total 25 Film Festivals have been organized with State Assistance including 8 International Film Festivals accredited by FIAPF. From the year 2014, KIFF is being held under full State support. Besides NETPACK award, from the 20th KIFF the festival has become internationally competitive festival for films made by women directors. It has also an international competitive section. Short and documentary films are also a part of the festival now. The 26th version of KIFF has been held in January, 2021, maintaining COVID-19 protocols.

Sangeet Mela: Bangla Sangeet Mela has become a platform to spread the message of unity through the rich cultural language and melody of Bengal. This year, Bangla Sangeet Mela was inaugurated by the

Hon'ble Chief Minister and was held simultaneously in 10 venues located in various places of Kolkata and witnessed participation of about 4500 Artistes, Musicians and Anchors of Bengal from 23rd December to 31st December, 2020. Altogether, 22 eminent Artistes were awarded 'Bishesh Sangeet Mahasamman', 'Sangeet Mahasamman' and 'Sangeet Samman'.

Formation of Akademies: The following academies are formed to nurture and preserve the rich cultural heritage of Bengal, such as Paschimbanga Kazi Nazrul Islam Akademi, Paschimbanga Tele Akademi, Rajbangshi Bhasa Akademi, Birsa-Munda Akademi, Paschimbanga Kabita Akademi, Paschimbanga Baul Akademi, Manbhum Cultural Akademi, Kamtapuri Bhasha Akademi, Paschimbanga Nriitya Akademi, Dalit Sahitya Academy etc. Besides, the Hindi Akademi has been reconstituted recently.

Commemoration and Felicitation of eminent personalities

- Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was celebrated at Gandhi Bhavan, Beliaghata. Restoration of the said 'Bhavan' has been completed and a museum has been set up there.
- Around 200 state ceremonies are held every year through which eminent personalities of Bengal are commemorated. Personalities of different streams of the cultural world are felicitated through various awards like Sangeet Samman, Mahanayak Award Samman, Tele Samman, Sharod Samman, Tapan Kumar and Santigopal Jatra Award, Silpi Maha Samman, Girish Puraskar, Thakur Ponchanan Burma, Uday Shankar Puraskar etc.

8.7 Other activities and achievements

Implementation of e-Governance: The Official Portal of the Government of West Bengal, 'egiyebangla.gov.in', has been re-designed and hosted by the Department. It has become very popular in recent times, particularly after COVID-19. Digitization of manuscripts of eminent authors of Bengal has been taken up. Digitization of Films, Music and Paintings are under process. E-Edition of 'Paschimbanga' (both English and Bengali edition) is being published.

Advertisement/ Publicity: System of uniform PA Card for Journalists throughout the State and validity from January to December of every year has been introduced. Dissemination of Government information and messages in digital media is being done regularly through website, Twitter, Facebook etc.

One window system has been introduced to facilitate organisation of Jatras.

Basumati has made regular publication of Masik Basumati and done digital re-prints of its archive of classic publications and restoration of its heritage building.

West Bengal has participated at National level as a partner state in the India International Trade Fair.



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. Also **Housing Industry Regulatory Authority** has been established under section 20 of West Bengal Housing Industry Regulatory Act, 2017.

9.2 Achievements during the financial year 2020-21

Chaa Sundari Housing Scheme: Under this scheme, total 4022 eligible permanent workers have been identified from 7 tea gardens namely Mujnai, Dheklapara, Toorsa, Lankapara in Alipurduar District and Redbank, Dharanipur, Manabari in Jalpaiguri District to provide pucca house to the permanent tea garden workers who do not possess a pucca house.

“Snehalaya” Housing Scheme: The scheme is aimed for providing pucca dwelling housing units to the poor people not owning pucca house in his or her name or in the name of any family member in West Bengal and who are not covered under existing Housing Schemes of Government. Unit cost for plain areas is Rs. 1.2 lakh and for hilly and sundarban areas is Rs. 1.3 lakh. During 2020-21, total 1616 beneficiaries of 3 districts i.e. North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas and Uttar Dinajpur have already been approved for getting benefit under this scheme.

Nijashree Housing Scheme: Selection of beneficiaries for 11 sites have been done through lottery among the applicants in response to the open advertisements and nearly 612 beneficiaries have been selected and work started at 8 sites.

Rental Housing Estates (RHE): One of the main functions of the Department is to provide accommodation to the State Government Employees. Presently 35 R.H.E.s in Kolkata & 88 RHEs in different districts comprising of 3957 flats in Kolkata and 9750 flats in district are running. 3 RHEs comprising 34 flats have been completed during the year 2020. Construction work of 8 more RHEs is going on.

Night Shelter for patient parties: Construction of 8 Night Shelters for patient parties have been completed in North Bengal Medical College & Hospital (100 Seats), Suri District Hospital, Birbhum (100 Seats), Midnapur Medical College, Paschim Medinipur (100 seats), Jalpaiguri District Hospital, Jalpaiguri (100 seats), Malda District Hospital, Malda (100 seats), Jhargram District Hospital, Jhargram (100 seats), Deben Mahato Sadar Hospital, Purulia (100 seats) and R.G. Kar Medical College & Hospital, Kolkata (54 seats) and handed over to the Health Department. Construction of 3 Night Shelters for patient parties have been completed in Barasat District Hospital, North 24 Parganas (100 seats), Uluberia Sub Divisional Hospital, Howrah (50 seats), J.N.M. Hospital Kalyani Nadia and yet to be handed over to the Health Department. Construction of 7 Night Shelters for patient parties are ongoing. Approval has been given for construction of 6 new Night Shelters.

Working Women's Hostel (Karmanjali) : The Department provides accommodations on rental basis to the working women in 'Working Women Hostel' who are less paid and single. 14 Karmanjali (WWH) are operational at present out of which 2 Karmanjali (WWH) have been completed in this financial year. Construction of 03 Working Women Hostels at (1) Sagar, South 24 Pgs (60 bedded), (2) Contai (70 bedded), & (3) Medinipur (48 bedded) are going on.

Pathasathi: For the benefit of passengers, specially 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. Accordingly 70 "**Pathasathi**"s have been completed and handed over to concerned District Magistrates. All these "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 (RCFA) by providing residential flats.

9.3 Special achievements during the financial year 2020-21

Housing Industry Regulatory Authority (HIRA): In pursuance of the West Bengal Housing Industry Regulation Act, 2017, the Housing Industry Regulatory Authority has been functioning for regulation and promotion of the housing sector and to ensure sale of plot, apartment or building, as the case may be, or sale of real estate projects, in an efficient and transparent manner and to protect the interest of consumers in the real estate sector. So far approval has been accorded for 1135 Real Estate Projects and 470 Real Estate Agents. The HIRA maintains its own website and the entire procedure starting from submission of application up to granting approval is maintained online. There is also a grievance redressal mechanism. Virtual hearing is being conducted instead of physical hearing during pandemic COVID 19 to ensure that the grievances of complainants are being met.

Akanksha Housing Scheme: It has been considered by the State Government to provide housing to the serving State Government employees. The present project is situated in premises No. 07/300, Block-DB, Action Area-ID at New Town, Kolkata-700107 on pilot basis. First Project of "**Akanksha**" Housing Scheme (to provide shelter to the State Government Employees with free of cost land and construction cost at no profit no loss basis is being implemented at New Town, Rajarhat. 576 flats of different categories are being constructed. The project has been completed.

9.4 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken

Housing Industry Regulatory Authority: Help Desks are proposed to be set up at Uttarkanya, Siliguri, DM Office at Asansol, DM Office at Howrah, DM Office at Alipur and DM Office at Barasat to assist the Stake Holders in remote districts.

Estate Directorate: Online rent payment system has already been started to facilitate tenants in Rent payment.

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 2020-21 (up to 31.12.2020)

9.6.1 Distribution Sector

West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Corporation Limited (WBSEDCL): With a view to provide reliable quality power to around 204 lakh consumers the following initiatives has been taken up:

- 2,38,677 new connections have been provided service connectivity.
- To meet the rapid growth of demand in West Bengal and to provide uninterrupted 24X7 quality power supply to all consumers, 8 number of new 33/11 KV Sub Stations under different schemes have been completed. Capacity addition to 165 existing 33/11 KV Sub-Station has been done from O&M & RE wing to cater to the additional load demand.
- To arrest accidents as well as reduce commercial loss by replacement of the existing bare conductor line by LT AB Cable line, an additional 36,167 circuit kilo meters (CKM) has been added.
- For betterment of consumer services creation of 3 new Customer Care Centres (CCC) during has been made. Creation of new Division Office and Region Office: One Division Office at Joynagar and one Regional Office at Paschim Barddhaman shall be functional within 2020-21.
- WBSEDCL is able to provide steady & uninterrupted electricity for more than 23 hours 40 minutes per day on an average covering its entire licensed area including rural and far flung areas.
- 30 additional Collection Kiosks at CCC/ outside CCCs have been added in 2020-21 to enable consumers to deposit bills in odd hours.
- To ensure better reliability of power, 13.5 KM underground (UG) cabling (11 KV) from Rudranagar 33/11 KV Sub-Station to Ganga-Sagar Mela ground has been completed in 2020-21.
- E-payment solution has been further strengthened with inclusion of Mobile Wallets/ BBPS/ UPI/ Bharat-QR etc., which will enable consumers to pay bills/ quotations from their respective places, especially considering during unprecedented lock-down owing to the COVID-19 pandemic situation.
- Implementation of Android based Spot Billing System for energy billing of 2.02 crores Consumers across its licensed area including Industrial Consumers, STW (Non-TOD) etc for hassle free billing.
- 2,791 Rural Households have been connected so far after commissioning of 1,600 KW off grid solar generation for Electrification of Char villages in seven Districts considered under this scheme.

- Electrifications of 14 un-electrified and 59 partially-electrified villages in Sundarban area of South 24 Parganas District have been completed including service connections to 7,264 households. Electrification of 75 villages where habitations are less than 100 HH in Coochbehar district has been completed with service connections to 7,700 households.
- WBSEDCL has generated 175.83 MU from its Solar Power Plants.

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

- 3 number of 132/33 KV GIS sub-station have been commissioned, one at Harischandrapur, Malda, one at Debra, Paschim Midnapore and other at Salar, Murshidabad. Consumers of entire State especially in Malda, Paschim Midnapore and Murshidabad districts and adjoining areas will be benefited from these sub-stations.
- ***Transmission Line & Transmission Capacity:*** Length of Transmission line added is 452.3 CKM and Present Length of Transmission line is 14925.2 CKM. Transmission Capacity added is 338.1 MVA and Present Transmission Capacity is 35458.1 MVA.
- ***Reactive Power Management:*** For proper Reactive Power Management in the State Transmission System, WBSETCL has already commissioned 40 MVAR Reactor of 33 KV Capacitor Bank.

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

- Work for Sagardighi Unit no. 5 [Super-critical/660 MW] has been started under capacity addition programme.
- 7 coal Blocks viz Pachhwara [N], Barjore [N], Barjore, Gangaramchak & Gangaramchak-Bhadulia, Tara [East & West], Kasta & Deocha-Pachami have been allotted to WBPDCCL. Coal production has already started from Pachhwara [N], Barjore [N], Barjore and Gangaramchak - Bhadulia. Coal Mining in Tara [East & West] will commence from the month of April 2021.
- In respect of Trans Damodar Coal Mine at Barjora, Bankura of DPL, Rehabilitation and Resettlement package along with rate of land for purchase has been approved by the District Purchase Committee. Initial work of coal production from the mine has been started with effect from 27-11-2020
- 5 MW Floating Solar Project at Sagardighi has been commissioned with full capacity.

9.6.4 Licensing Sector: Directorate of Electricity

- Workmen's permit issued: 2554, Supervisor Certificate of Competency (SCC) license issued: 1384
- All 28 number of service provided by the Directorate have been put online through WB e-district & 1 in EODB portals. Safety approvals for charging of Electrical Installation above Notified Voltage of 650 Volt [mostly industrial & commercial installation] are being issued within 3 working days after

submission of online applications under WBRTPS Act, 2013 which was 7 days for South Bengal & 15 days for North Bengal prior to this Act.

9.6.5 Hasir Alo: A new scheme was launched in the Financial Year 2020-21 titled as “Hasir Alo” to provide free electricity including meter rent to the consumers of CESC & WBSEDCL having monthly consumption of 25 units/ quarterly consumption of 75 units with a connected load of 0.3 KWh as detailed below -

- Subsidy provided to CESC under Hasir Alo – Rs. 6.55 crore. for an average 1.5 lakhs consumers (monthly) till 31/12/2020.
- Subsidy provided to WBSEDCL under Hasir Alo – Rs. 108.18 crore. for an average 15 lakhs consumers (monthly) till 31/12/2020.

9.7 Special Achievements

- The colossal damage to electrical distribution infrastructure due to the very severe cyclone “Amphan” on 20.05.2020 was salvaged by WBSEDCL despite the pandemic Covid-19 which reduced available manpower with the combined effort and co-operation from all the stake-holders within a month from its occurrence.
- Out of 37,960 inhabited villages in the State, all 37,960 villages have already been electrified.
- Under REAPS-III (funded by NABARD) for energizing total 6138 Pump Set/ STW connection, 3683 more Private STW connection shall be given .
- Introduced indigenous Mobile Application based *GIS (Geographic Information System)* named “*Vidyut Manchitra*” for Electrical Network Survey & thereafter plotting of the assets & other related information in Google Map & other Digital Maps. It has been implemented all over West Bengal for network survey and consumer survey. Network survey in Howrah district has already been completed.

9.8 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken during the financial year 2021-22

The following new initiatives have been undertaken: i) Equity participation for super-critical 660 MW Sagardighi Thermal Power Station unit-5 – Rs. 100 crore; ii) Mines Infrastructures [2nd phase] - Rs. 400 crore ; iii) *SEEDN PH-III*- Rs. 100 crore; iv) *HVDS* in Purba & Paschim Barddhaman & Birbhum – Rs. 100 crore; v) *HVDS* in N-24 PGS, S-24 PGs, Hooghly & Paschim Medinipur – Rs. 800 crore; vi) UG cabling works in Krishnagar & Chinsurah – Rs. 50 crore; vii) *RIDF*- Rs. 300 crore; viii) Turga Pumped Storage Project 4X250 MW [Project ID – P-274]- EAP Loan Rs. 25 crore & EAP State Share Rs. 57.11 crore; ix) *DDUGJY* [State Share] – Rs. 20 crore; x) *IPDS* [State Share] – Rs. 250 crore; xi) *IPDS (10 GIS)* State Share – Rs. 12 crore; xii) *R & M/CAPEX* for Thermal Power Plant (DPL) – Rs. 20 crore

The following new initiatives will be undertaken: i) 125 MW Solar Park in Dadanpatra, Purba Medinipur – ii) System strengthening & Grid modernisation of Distribution Network iii) Proposed Hydel Project 2X5 MW

Non-Conventional and Renewable Energy Sources

9.9 Introduction

The Department was created to fulfill 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 Authority) 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

- A project proposal amounting to Rs. 46.44 crore for installation of Grid Connected Solar Photo Voltaic (PV) Power Plant at 990 schools has been sent to Finance Department for administrative approval and financial sanction.
- Another project for installation of Grid connected Solar PV Power Plant on Government Buildings amounting to Rs. 1.00 crore has been prepared and ready for sending the same to FD for according sanction.
- WBREDA, the main implementing agency, earlier working under the administrative control of the *Power & NES Department* has taken up a number of Projects out of the budgetary allocation of *Power and NES Department*.
- Major achievement of WBREDA lies in providing grid connected Solar (PV) systems at government aided/ sponsored schools. This project of setting up grid connected Solar PV systems on the roof of the school buildings generate solar electricity in presence of sun light which supplements grid electricity through net-metering arrangement with the Distribution Companies [DISCOMs] like CESC, WBSEDCL etc. The grid connected Solar PV systems not only help to save the expenditure for electricity of the concerned schools, but it makes a permanent working demonstration of solar power generating unit for the schools to create awareness among the students. So far, 1700 schools in the State have been provided with grid connected Solar PV systems.
- The West Bengal Green Energy Development Corporation Limited (WBGEDCL), jointly with the West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) has done installation of 140 number of 5kWp Roof Top Grid Connected Solar Power Plant at Schools.

Out of the fund received from Power and NES Department, WBREDA is continuing to implement the following projects in 2020-21:

- ***Rooftop Grid Connected Solar PV Power Plants at Schools in West Bengal:*** WBREDA is continuing the programme for installation of Rooftop Grid Connected Solar PV Power Plants at Schools in West Bengal in 2020-21 and also where Grid Connected Rooftop Solar PV Power Plants @ 10kWp each. The programme has been installed in 169 schools up to 31.12.2020.
- ***Rooftop Grid Connected Solar PV Power Plants at Governments Buildings in West***

Bengal: WBREDA is continuing the programme for installation of Rooftop Grid Connected PV Power of cumulative capacity 2 MW under the **Aloshree Phase II**. The work is under progress.

- **Utility Scale Ground Mounted Solar PV Project:** 90% works in respect of 10 MW Solar PV Power Plant at Bhajanghat in Nadia District is complete. We are expecting the project to be commissioned within this financial year.

9.11 Special Achievement: About 90% work of installation of one major project of 10 MWp ground mounted SPV Power Plant at Bhajanghat, Nadia funded under RIDF have been completed.

9.12 New initiatives undertaken

- **Rooftop projects under WBGEDCL:** WBGEDCL is in the process of installing 75 number of 10 kWp Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Power Plant (GRTSPV) in Jhargram and Purulia Districts under Paschimanchal Unnayan Department and they are also in the process of installing 70 kWp GRTSPV Power Plant at Akankhya Project (G+10 towers), New Town, Kolkata with Housing Department.
- **Rooftop projects under WBREDA:** Based on achievements of GRTSPV Programme in schools, WBREDA is in the process of continuing similar programme for the academic institutions like Schools, Colleges and Universities in coming days. Around 1000 more schools are likely to be covered in the next year.
- **Ground Mounted projects under WBREDA:**
 - WBREDA has an approved project to set up a 01 MW ground mounted Solar PV Power Plant at Sagar Island in South 24 Parganas District.
 - WBREDA is exploring to utilize the available land in the Freserganj Wind Farm Project Compound to set up a ground mounted Solar PV Power Plant there.
 - WBREDA also aims at completion of 7 MW SPV Power Plant at Durgapur.

Apart from the above, the Department is also contemplating to implement the following projects during the financial year 2021-2022:

- Installation of Ground Mounted Solar PV Power Plants of capacity 20 MWp in different locations.
- Extending **Aloshree programme** of installation of Rooftop SPV Power Plant in different Government Buildings of capacity 2 MWp.
- Installation of two additional wind power generation plants of capacity 1 MW each and Installation of solar charging station for electric vehicles as a pilot project.
- To design, develop and implement Livelihood Models Using Non-Conventional and Renewable Energy sources.

Public Health Engineering

9.13 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.

9.14 Achievements during the financial year 2020-21 (up to 31st December, 2020)

- During the financial year, 92 piped water supply schemes (PWSS), at an estimated cost of Rs. 537.76 crore, have been commissioned benefiting 8.84 lakh people.
- Moreover, presently 324 piped water supply schemes are on-going throughout the state, with a sanctioned cost of nearly Rs. 13,222.41 crore, which would benefit 1.71 crore people in the next 2–3 years.
- Up to 31st December, 2020 through the implementation of 2,347 piped water supply schemes, 60.30% of the rural population of West Bengal have been covered. After the implementation of the 324 on-going piped water supply schemes in different districts of West Bengal, the coverage of piped water supply schemes in rural West Bengal will rise to more than 72.0%.
- In the financial year 2020-21, 736 Source-less Schools & Anganwadis have been covered by drinking water facilities.
- 4,392 tube wells have been sunk throughout the state to extend immediate relief to the people in non-PWSS areas.
- To cover the arid western part of West Bengal, especially Purulia and Bankura districts, the department has been implementing large piped water supply projects. In Bankura district, to cover water scares as well as fluoride affected 14 blocks, projects have been taken up with an estimated cost of Rs. 1,011.22 crore under Phase-I. As of now, 13 full blocks and 1 block in part with a population of 21.73 lakh have already been covered through the piped water supply. The project is on the verge of commissioning in one part of the block 'Raipur', after which additional 1.24 lakh people will be benefitted.
- The state government has taken up a comprehensive action plan to cover the habitations of all the arsenic and fluoride affected areas by providing safe drinking water supply. Apart from the implementation of mega surface/sub-surface water based piped water supply schemes worth Rs. 4,674.51 crore, about 2,719 Community Water based Purification Plants are being installed to provide immediate relief to the affected people.

9.15 Special Achievements during the financial year 2020-21 (up to 31st December, 2020)

- In order to extend Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) to more than 1.63 crore rural households by 2024, the department has taken up the '*Jal Swapna*' programme.
- The '*Jal Swapna*' programme, demands a huge workforce of skilled technicians at the grass root level. In view of this, the department has collaborated with the Department of Technical Education, Training & Skill Development (TETSD) to offer a certificate course on vocational training for plumbers, pipefitters and pump/valve operators for skill development of the existing workforce. It has been planned that more than 20,000 local youths will be trained in phases, all over the state, through block-wise training programme.
- As, under '*Jal Swapna*', the Gram Panchayats (GPs) have a major role to play in safeguarding and assuring water supply services to rural households, and also to ensure the long-term sustainability of the in-village infrastructure, the department will act as the service provider to the GPs by providing technical guidance in facilitating household tap connections and other related works. For the said purpose, the department has also collaborated with B.R. Ambedkar Institute of Panchayats and Rural Development, and Panchayats & Rural Development Department, to facilitate and organize GP level virtual orientation programme on '*Jal Swapna*'. More than 35,000 GP members, Officials and Village Water & Sanitation Committee (VWSC) members will be orientated in phases throughout West Bengal.
- Water Testing Laboratories play a major role in ensuring a safe water supply to the people. At present, 217 water-testing laboratories are functioning in the State, to monitor the status of drinking water quality parameters like Arsenic, Fluoride, Salinity, Iron and Bacteriological contamination, throughout the year in the quality-affected areas. In 2020-21 up to 31st December 2020, more than 3.15 lakh samples from 1.73 lakh water sources have been tested. The department has already introduced On-site Mobile Water Analysis System to analyse water samples at the source points and upload the results in the website dashboard for effective monitoring and management.
- Presently, 3 water-testing laboratories, namely the State referral laboratory at Dakshin Raipur, South 24 Parganas; the Central Laboratory, New Town and the Mangal Pandey Laboratory at Barrackpore, have been accredited by National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) as per ISO/IEC 17025:2017. Furthermore, the department selected 15 more district water-testing laboratories for NABL accreditation. Recently, the laboratory personnel, concerned Assistant and Junior Engineers have also been trained on NABL standard.
- The department has already introduced a unique and effective method to reach the drinking water sources located in the untouched remote habitations. Two Mobile Laboratory Vans (MLVs), which also serve as an effective medium for spreading awareness in rural areas through Information Education Communication (IEC), have been contemplating to roll out. So far, in 2020-21, more than 800 drinking water samples have been tested through MLVs.

- As, apart from the water supply through Mobile Treatment Units (MTUs) during a disaster, water supply through the establishment of Drinking Water Bottling Plants has emerged as a new area, the department has implemented 15 Drinking Water Bottling Plants, named as '*Prandhara*' to cater to the emergency situations like drought, flood, and also to ensure safe drinking water at the gathering of people in different occasions like melas etc.
- In all the 28 MTUs that have been utilized for the supply of safe drinking water during disaster or emergency situation, there is a provision of instant packaging of treated water in polythene packets. This is beneficial especially in providing and distributing safe drinking water to the suffering people during a flood and other natural calamities. In 2020-21, till December, 2020, more than 1.52 crore pouches and more than 90 lakh bottled drinking water were disbursed in emergency purposes like super cyclone, drought, flood, and at various public gatherings, melas etc.
- During super cyclone "Amphan", about 1.51 crore drinking water pouches were distributed and 4.80 crore litres of purified drinking water were supplied through more than 41,000 water tankers. Moreover, 3,800 new tube wells were installed in the affected areas of South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas and Purba Medinipur districts to provide immediate relief to the people.
- In order to extend better facilities to the pilgrims of Ganga Sagar Mela, the State Government has taken up several measures like provision of temporary accommodation, safe drinking water supply facilities, fire fighting arrangements, sanitation, wastewater and solid waste disposal etc. Similar to the last year, special emphasis has again been given to promote Eco-Friendly Green Gangasagar Mela 2021.

9.16 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken

- Provision of safe drinking water through implementation of PWSS is one of the major components under "Special Infrastructure Project". The department is implementing 9 water supply projects at an estimated cost of Rs. 5,011.90 crores, to benefit a rural population of 49.60 lakhs in the districts of Howrah, North 24 Parganas, Hooghly, Nadia, Birbhum, Murshidabad, and Paschim Medinipur districts. The projects are namely, surface/sub-surface water based Piped Water Supply for i) Sankrail Block including Sankrail Food Park; ii) Hasnabad Block; iii) Balagarh and Pandua Block; iv) Bagda, Bongaon, Ranaghat I & II Blocks including Ranaghat Municipality; v) Baduria, Basirhat I & II, Deganga and Swarupnagar Blocks; vi) Sagardighi Block; vii) Shyampur I & II, Uluberia-II, part of Bagnan I & II Blocks; viii) Suri I & II, Saithia Blocks; ix) Drought prone areas of Paschim Medinipur.
- The department has taken up 4 nos. of Externally Aided Project (EAP). Water Supply Project for Purulia (Phase-I) is being implemented with the external funding of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) at a sanctioned cost of Rs. 1,296.25 crores to benefit 6.32 lakh people in 5 blocks of Purulia district namely Arsha, Barabazar, Puncha, Purulia – I and Manabazar – I, as well as 1.85 lakh people in Purulia Municipality. The project is expected to be commissioned by March 2022. Another 3 projects, namely, i) Piped Water Supply Schemes for Bankura district (Phase-II) covering 4 blocks, namely Mejia, Gangajalghati, Indpur and Taldangra, to benefit 11.03 lakh people,

ii) surface water based Piped Water Supply Scheme for Arsenic affected areas of Haroa and Rajarhat blocks of North 24 Parganas district, and Bhangar II block of South 24 Parganas district to benefit 5.26 lakh people, and iii) surface water based Piped Water Supply Scheme for saline affected areas of Nandakumar, Chandipur, Nandigram - I & II blocks of Purba Medinipur district to benefit 7.82 lakh people, have been taken up under the Asian Development Bank (ADB) funding at a sanctioned cost of Rs. 2,268.50 crores, and are expected to be commissioned by March 2022.

Public Works

9.17 Introduction

The Public Works Department is a key organisation of State Government which creates social assets and communication infrastructure by constructing Roads & Bridges, Hospitals, Government Offices, Fire stations, School buildings etc. The Department is responsible for maintenance and up-gradation of 19689 km of roads, out of which 3612 km are State Highways, 9500 km are Major District Roads, 949 km are Other District Roads and 5628 km are Rural Roads.

9.18 Achievements during the financial year 2020-21 (up to 31.12.2020)

141 km of roads have been widened & strengthened to 2 lane carriageway width with paved shoulder (i.e.10 m carriageway width). 183 km of roads have been widened & strengthened to 2 lane carriageway width (i.e.7 m carriageway width). 140 km of roads have been widened & strengthened to intermediate lane carriageway width (i.e. 5.50 m carriageway width). 674 km of roads have been strengthened or improved. 4 bridges and 1 ROB have been constructed. Rehabilitation works have been completed over 150 bridges. As a flagship project PWD has completed construction of 4 more Electric Crematoria for urban areas and 77 Cremation grounds for rural areas under Baitarani Project up to 31st December during the current financial year taking the total to 20 and 532 respectively.

The department has released Rs. 2020.96 crore so far and has already spent Rs. 1612.88 crore, which is 79.80%.

9.19 Special achievements

During the current financial year, PWD completed the construction of 4-Lane Jai Hind (Majerhat) Bridge (ROB) adjacent to Majerhat Railway Station at 5.80 km on Diamond Harbour Road at a cost of Rs. 311.76 crore within a remarkable period of 1 year 11 months applying new technology. New bridge length is 636 Meter and load carrying capacity is 385 MT compared with the earlier length and load carrying capacity of 628 Meter and 155 MT respectively.

Construction of Long Span High Level Joyee Bridge over river Teesta with approaches near Haldibari connecting Sub-divisional Head Quarter at Mekhliganj with Per-Mekhliganj/ Haldibari in the district of Coochbehar is going to be completed soon.

Gajoldoba ROB on Fulbari-Gazoldoba Canal Road in the district of Jalpaiguri and Kamarkundu ROB in the district of Hooghly is nearing completion. Bridge over river Cheriganga at 5th km of Bethuadahari-Agradwip Ferryghat Road is also on the verge of completion.

Important completed road projects are: Amtala-Baruipur Road in the district of South 24 Parganas, Lauhati-Bhangar Bazar Road in the district of North 24 Parganas, Dalgaon-Lankapara Road in the district of Alipurduar, Coochbehar-Dinhata Road and Dinhata-Gitaldah Road in the district of Coochbehar, Berhampore-Kandi-Sultanpur Road and Khargram-Parulia Road in the district of Murshidabad, Krishnanagar Road Railway Station to Bhaluka Road along with Gouranga Setu approach in the district of

Nadia, Panagrah-Silampur Road in the district of Paschim Bardhaman, Pausi-Khejurgachia Road in the district of Purba Medinipur.

Best practices

- Making of 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 all adjacent district head quarters, district head quarter to the Administrative sub division head quarters and 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 Roads.
- Ensure road safety by correcting the existing road geometry and by providing adequate road signage.

9.20 New initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken

During the current financial year (2020-21), 45 Road projects have been taken up for improvement of 514 kms of road at a cost of Rs. 1261.59 crore. 369 distressed bridges have been taken up for rehabilitation at a cost of Rs. 568 crore. 48 road projects have been taken up under **Pathashree Programme** at a cost of Rs. 84.26 crore for improvement of 247 km of roads.

Construction work of 4-lane Tallah ROB adjacent to Tallah Railway Station on Barrackpore Trunk Road has been taken up in replacement of old dilapidated bridge after demolition using new technologies.

In view of the prevailing Covid situation regular Video conferences with all Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers and Executive Engineers has been started to monitor the Post monsoon work, Road Safety work, Bridge rehabilitation work and Other issues in implementation of projects including land related issues.

Transport

9.21 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.

9.22 Achievements during the financial year 2020-21(up to 15.12.2020)

9.22.1 Road Transport Services

- ***Development of Bus Stand:*** Infrastructure development work of Kudghat, Ariadaha, Baruipur & Tikiapara terminus (phase-II) have been completed by WBTC. Training Centre at Digha, Workshop of Haldia depot and crew rest room at Bankura & Suri depot have been completed by SBSTC. Further, Itahar bus terminus in Uttar Dinajpur, Ariadaha bus terminus in North 24 Parganas, Gadiara and Tikiapara bus terminus in Howrah, Khirpai bus terminus in Paschim Medinipur, Rampurhat bus terminus in Birbhum, Katwa bus stand in Purba Burdwan have been completed and inaugurated. Also, initiatives have been taken for construction/ modernization of 20 bus stands/ depots & one truck terminus in West Bengal. Some of such notable bus stands are Bandwan & Manbazar in Purulia, Rampurhat in Birbhum etc.
- ***Gatidhara:*** The self-employment scheme "*Gatidhara*" is continuing successfully. In 2020-21, up to 22.12.2020, 4509 applications have been received out of which 2473 applications have been sanctioned.
- ***Road Safety:*** Rs. 20.30 crore(up to December, 2020) has been released for road safety purpose to Police and other authorities for procurement of road safety equipment like wrecker van, high mast light, CCTV camera, commissioning of traffic signals and for general awareness of the commuters etc. Numbers of Road accidents, Deaths and Injuries have been diminished by way of introducing "*Safe Drive Save Life*" campaign which is one of the flagship programs of this Department.

9.22.2 Water Transport Services: In water transport sector in West Bengal, ample importance has been given for up-gradation and modernisation of ferryghats, implementation of ***Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)*** and other projects.

- ***Construction/ Modernization of Jetty & Ferry Ghat:*** Gangway cum pontoon jetty at Dhamakhali, Sandeshkhali, Tushkhali, Dulduli in North 24 Parganas have been completed by WBTIDCL & One LCT vessel has been constructed by WBTC. Further, Nungi jetty at Budge Budge and Sarenga Jetty in Howrah have been completed and inaugurated. Also, funds have been sanctioned for construction / modernization of more than 12 ferryghats/ jetties. Some of such notable ferry ghats/ jetties are Khardaha, Dulduli in North 24 Parganas, Dayapur in South 24 Paraganas etc.
- In the ***Inland Water Transport*** sector, work order for 29 new construction of jetties and 22 new construction of vessels, 40 smart ticketing gates to be installed at ferry points etc. amounting to Rs. 315 crore has been issued.

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

9.22.4 Financial achievement

- **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. In 2020-21, Rs. 1350.30 crore was collected up to November as motor vehicle revenue.

9.23 Special achievements during the financial year 2020-21

- This financial year 2020-21 started in worldwide pandemic situation due to Covid-19 virus. The nationwide lock-down situation over a long period caused untold human suffering. In this pandemic situation, Massive transport arrangement was made during the period of lock-down for movement of lakhs of migrant workers/ laborers. Huge numbers of State Transport Undertaking (STU) buses were 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 to them.
- Integrated Traffic management System & On-line monitoring of buses through GPRS has been started by SBSTC.
- Two new single bogie AC Trams have been built by WBTC.
- One 300 PAX steel vessel, One LCT vessel & One gangway at Kachuberia jetty have been constructed by WBTC.

9.24 New Initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken

- Completion of construction of jetty at Prachin Mayapur, Hulorghat, Fatullapur, Taragonia, Itinda (both Ghojadanda & Basirhat side) and reconstruction/ renovation of jetties in Diamond Harbour in South 24 Paraganas, Dakhwineswar in North 24 Paraganas and Nandigram in Purba Medinipur by WBTIDCL.
- Completion of Kalipahari, Ranibandh, Berhampur Bus Terminus by SBSTC.
- Completion of infrastructure development at Basirhat, Sarsuna, Khidderpore, Habra, Belgatchia, Maniktala (phase-1) bus depots by WBTC.
- Completion of the repairing and renovation works of bus depot cum office at Darjeeling by NBSTC.
- CNG station inauguration by SBSTC.
- Flying Training Institute has taken initiative for introducing training on use of Drone Flying.

Consumer Affairs

9.25 Introduction

The main activities of this Department are to promote and protect the rights of consumers, to spread awareness about consumer rights, duties and responsibilities, to promote consumer movements in the State through involvement of various stakeholders, to empower the eligible citizen to obtain public services within stipulated time.

Executing Agencies

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.

9.26 Achievements during the financial year 2020-21 (up to December, 2020)

- Due to an intensive campaign during last nine years the consumers of our State are coming forward for redressal of their grievances. They are feeling much more protected. They are also getting speedy justice in the Consumer Courts.
- 840 Consumer Clubs have been set up all over the State with a view of strengthening the movement on Consumer Rights in West Bengal. 22 Forum specific Consumer Assistance Bureaus have started functioning to provide assistance to aggrieved consumers. 2 Circuit Benches at Asansol and Siliguri and 3 in Kolkata are functioning.
- 2 Secondary Standard Laboratory at Siliguri and Chinsura alongwith Central Laboratory at Kankurgachi have started functioning.
- Additional District Forum of North 24 Parganas has started functioning at Rajarhat and three wings of the Department have started in the newly constructed Kreta Suraksha Bhawan (Integrated Building) at Jharagram, Paschim Medinipur.
- To generate consumer awareness among the general people of West Bengal, Kreta Suraksha Mela is scheduled to be organized at Park Circus Maidan during 20 -24 January, 2021.
- The Department is planning to participate in district level Sabala Mela for generation of awareness on WBRTPS Act, 2013 and consumer awareness.
- The Department has also taken initiatives for resolving major issues of concern for consumers by means of holding meeting with different large service providers.

Other activities: Setting up of Six Sub-divisional level Regional Offices at Chanchal, Jangipur, Uluberia, Basirhat, Diamond Harbour and Haldia have been created and those have started functioning from the existing premises of Regional Offices at respective districts Head Quarters.

9.26.1 Directorate of Consumer Affairs & Fair Business Practices

- Generating consumer awareness up to the grassroots level of the society by organising awareness programmes through camps, seminar-cum-group discussion, workshop, tableau, street dramas, magic shows, talking doll shows and regular awareness programmes with Self Help Groups, Clubs/Associations etc. Total no. of awareness programmes held during 2020-21 (up to 31.10.2020) is 3,692.
- During the year 2020-21 (up to 31.10.2020) total 2516 consumers have so far been counselled by 30 Regional Offices and Central Grievance Redressal Cell.
- During the year 2020-21 (up to 31.10.2020) through Mediation or pre-litigation settlement of consumer disputes 2069 no. of complaints have been redressed so far in favour of consumers out of total 3912 received complaints. 2956 consumers have so far been counselled through dedicated Toll Free State Consumer Helpline (SCH) being No. 1800-345-2808.

9.26.2 State Commission & District Forum

- 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 Siliguri (Siliguri Circuit Bench with jurisdiction of North Bengal Districts) and another at Asansol (Asansol Circuit Bench with the jurisdiction of Purba Bardhaman, Paschim Bardhaman, Birbhum, Bankura and Purulia).
- At present 25 District Forums are functioning including new District Forum one at Jhargram District and another Additional District Forum at Rajarhat (New Town) of North 24 Parganas district.
- The **Confonet Scheme** is going on in full swing through all District Fora and the 5 Benches of West Bengal State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (WBSCDRC). Court function of WBSCDRC and all the District Fora 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.
- Regular Lok Adalats are being organized at West Bengal State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission and all the District Fora every year and the same could not be organised this year due to pandemic of COVID-19.
- The State Commission, West Bengal and all the District Fora 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. Many Legal Aid seekers who were provided with Legal Aid from the State Commission, has expressed their satisfaction by sending letter to this Commission.
- In all the Consumer Fora in West Bengal, the total number of cases filed up to 31st October, 2020 since inception is 1,82,553 and the number of cases disposed is 1,63,584. During 2020-21 (up to 31st October) 1242 cases have been filed and 1041 cases have been disposed under Consumer Protection Act, 1986 before WBSCDRC.

9.26.3 Directorate of Legal Metrology: During 2020-21 (up to October 2020) the Directorate has conducted 84 enforcement drives and Rs. 7.82 crore non-tax revenue has been realized. Special enforcement drive was conducted during the lock down period due to the threat arising out of Covid-19 against the unscrupulous traders who were selling sanitizer and mask above the M.R.P. Phase-I of 'e-Parimap' project has already been implemented successfully and Phase-II is almost ready for roll out.

9.26.4 The West Bengal Right to Public Service Commission (WBRTPS)

Activities of the Commission: The emphasis is more on orientation towards time bound delivery of services and to treat the Commission as an enabler. It mandates each Department to notify the services that they are providing to the citizen with timeline. It makes compulsory for the service to be delivered to be acknowledge the citizens request with a date of delivery in Form-I. It also makes the Government staff answerable to the public and thus works as an assurance to the citizen. Commission can also make suggestions to the State Government for any addition/deletion/alteration, as the case may be.

Capacity Building: Commission also conducted awareness and capacity building workshop during such visits where the participants were the Divisional officers (DO) of the Sub-Division and their Assistants.

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.

9.27 New Initiatives undertaken/ to be undertaken

WBRTPS has proposed interactive website to felicitate the citizen of the State regarding availing "Notified Services" from concerned Department and to generate digital awareness among the "Eligible Person" about the WBRTPS Act, Rules and the service in general.

Seamless Grievances Redressal: The Department aims to take up the existing Grievance Redressal System happening through State Consumer Helpline to one level above by converging the software for redressal of RTPS related grievances as well as consumer related grievances.

Initiative on Automation

- To avail services on-line, Citizen needs to register on-line with Mobile No., Name, Address, Pin Code and e-mail ID. Registered citizen can avail services through app or through web browsing public services portal by choosing the desired service from the available lists after inputting necessary data.
- Grant or denial of service requests will be intimated through mail or SMS.
- Notification/ alert/ information will also be provided to Departmental Officials dispensing the services through SMS and/ or e-mail.

Food and Supplies

9.28 Introduction

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

9.29 Achievements during financial year 2020-21

The primary objective of **Khadya Sathi** is to ensure food security to the marginalised and economically weaker sections of society by providing them earmarked quantity of highly subsidized food grains through the vast network of 500 distributors and 20000 plus fair price shops. Procurement of paddy at 349 Government operated Centralised Procurement Centres (CPCs) and 1098 Co-Operative Societies at Minimum Support Price (MSP) to prevent distress sale by small and marginal farmers is another major objective of this Department. Custom milling of paddy, creation of adequate storage facility for resultant rice, scientific preservation of rice in godowns, conversion of wheat into fortified atta/ flour for NFSA beneficiaries and distribution of foodgrains to the targeted beneficiaries are the activities of this Department to achieve its objectives.

Due to Corona pandemic, Government has provided and will continue to provide foodgrains completely free of cost to all 9.91 crore beneficiaries as per their entitlement from April 2020 to June 2021. Further food coupons have been distributed to migrant labourers as one time relief. Special packages over and above the existing entitlements are provided to more than 50 lakh beneficiaries belonging to vulnerable section of society and those living in remote / interior areas i.e. Aila affected blocks, Jungle Mahal area, Hill areas of Darjeeling district, unwilling farmers of Singur and all workers and non-workers residing in tea garden areas.

9.29.1 Major Achievements & Initiatives

- No starvation death has been reported even during the Corona pandemic. 9.91 crore beneficiaries are getting their entitled monthly quota of food grains at free of cost.
- 48.58 lakh MT of paddy was procured in the Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2019-20 by the State Government from 12.43 lakh farmers, whereby no case of distress sale of paddy by small and marginal farmers has been reported from anywhere in the State.
- In 2020-2021 K.M.S, the Department has started purchasing Paddy at minimum support price of Rs. 1868/- per quintal from 2nd November, 2020. An incentive of Rs. 20/- per quintal is being provided to the small and marginal farmers who sell their Paddy at "Centralised Procurement Centres (CPCs)" set up throughout the State and administered directly by the Department.
- Department has introduced **Khadyasathi-Annadatri** mobile application for the convenience of farmers willing to sell paddy and facilitate them for registration.
- Storage capacity has been increased from 63000 MT in 2011 to 10 lakh MT(LMT) as on date.
- For efficient real time monitoring of the distribution mechanism, e-PoS machines have been installed in all 20000 plus 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 application.
- Department has ensured the quality of food grains along with quantity in FPSs by increasing vigilance and monitoring system many fold.

9.29.2 Procurement of Paddy

- During KMS 2019-20 the registration of farmers was started from 16th October 2019 and procurement from 1st November 2019 onwards in the 349 Centralized Procurement Centres (CPCs), notified in 23 districts along with 61 DPCs. There were 1098 Cooperative Societies and 545 women Self Help Groups engaged in paddy procurement process during KMS 2019-2020. The milling of paddy involved 649 Rice Mills across the State.
- Payments were made to the farmers under the *Nije Dhan Din Nije Cheque Nin* programme on the same day of receipt paddy from the farmers. But during the outbreak of covid-19 pandemic, to maintain social distancing, reduce gathering in banks and reduce hardship faced by the farmers in visiting banks, the Department, since 29.04.2020, declare that the payment of the farmers could be made through online/NEFT/DBT. That mode of payment prevailed in the remaining part of KMS 2019-20.
- The target for procurement under KMS 2019-20, i.e. from 1st October 2019 till 30th September 2020, was 52 LMT of Paddy including 6 LMT by FCI out of which 48.58 LMT was procured. The percentage of achievement is 93.42%.
- The overall target for procurement under KMS 2020-21 from 1st October 2020 till 30th September 2021 is 52 LMT of Paddy, out of which the target for FCI is 6 LMT.

9.29.3 Registration of Farmers

- The Krishak Bandhu farmers who had earlier registered may continue with their previous registration and they will receive system generated SMS indicating the date, time and centre for bringing their produce to the purchase centres from 1st November, 2020 onwards.
- The remaining Krishak Bandhu farmers may register at any purchase centre and need not produce any land documents. They need to produce their EPIC, photograph and the bank passbook.
- The farmers who are yet to get themselves registered in the Krishak Bandhu Database may produce their land documents/self-declaration with details of ownership along with EPIC, photograph and bank passbook.
- The sharecroppers may produce self-declaration with details and ownership of land being tilled by them along with EPIC, photograph and bank passbook.
- The payment to the farmers would be made directly to their individual accounts through NEFT.
- The registration was started from 1st October, 2020 and the purchase of paddy from 2nd November 2020 onwards.

9.29.4 Physical Infrastructure

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 as given hereunder. In the last 9 years, 75 numbers of Khadya Bhawans are completed for accommodation of offices of DCF&S and SCF&S including vertical extension and additional works.

In 2020-21, 7 numbers of projects are completed and another 7 numbers of projects are ongoing, including 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 currently available capacity to 10 Lakh MT (including Kishan Mandi capacity of 1.63 LMT) in the State for storage of food grains till date, which was only 63000 MT in 2011.

9.29.5 Financial Achievement

During the period from 2010-11 to 2020-21 departmental budget provision has been raised to Rs. 9985.09 crore from Rs. 2199.36 crore which means more than 350% growth in 10 years .

9.30 Special achievements during 2020-21

Paddy Procurement: Price of paddy plays a very important role in determining the income of the farmers and consequently their overall socio-economic conditions. 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 FY 2019-20 is 48.58 LMT.

9.31 New Initiatives undertaken: To provide convenient and hassle free services and information related with Ration Card, entitlement against the Ration Card, sale of paddy, delivery of food grains through the Fair Price Shops, the Food & Supplies Department has 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, not requiring physical visits to offices to receive the coupon or card.

Youth Services and Sports

9.32 Introduction

The objective of the department is to create scope and opportunities for the overall benefit of the youth and to promote and inculcate sports culture among the youth of the State through competitive spirit, camaraderie and sportsmanship and to build strong moral character and make them employable through various cultural and physical and to provide the facilities in terms of sports infrastructures and sports academies and scouting of talents: their early identification, nurturing within the ambit of international sports standard and incentivizing sports persons for promoting sports as a stand-alone profession.

9.33 Activities undertaken during the financial year 2020-21 (up to December, 2020):

- The Department has focused on up gradation of various sports infrastructures like Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK), Netaji Indoor Stadium, Kishore Bharati Stadium, Barrackpore Sports Complex, Diamond Harbour Sports Complex, Canning Sports Complex etc. 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.
- Bengal Table Tennis Academy has been made operational in this financial year at VYBK, Saltlake with 94 numbers of trainees.
- Construction of Bandwan Archery Training Centre at Purulia has also started.
- Student Youth Festival, Vivek Chetana Utsab, Subhas Utsab was held in all 342 Block/ 117 Municipalities/ 6 Municipal Corporations/ 16 Boroughs under KMC, in 24 districts and in State level.
- ***Rakhi Bandhan Utsab***: Successfully held on 3rd August, 2020 in all 342 Blocks/ 117 Municipalities/ 6 Municipal Corporations/ 144 Wards. State level programme was held on the same day at Esplanade, Kolkata.
- Financial Assistance was given for setting up 497 multi gyms.
- ***Youth Hostel***: Construction work of 10 Youth Hostels is in progress.
- Various programmes on Mountaineering and Adventure Sports have been organised successfully.

Other activities

- The Department of Youth Services & Sports has been felicitating different existing & yesteryears eminent sports persons every year since 2013-14 to 2020-21 in different categories which are as follows: Khel Samman for current eminent players, Banglar Gourav for eminent players of yesteryears; Krira Guru for eminent coaches and Life Time Achievement for eminent sportspersons for their outstanding contribution in different field of sports.
- Apart from above, special award is also given to eminent sportspersons for their excellent achievement in the field of sports. Total 56 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.

- 12460 clubs were given grant from the department in this current financial year for encouragement of sports activity.
- 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. In the current financial year, 475 Coaching Camps were sanctioned Rs. 1 lakh each for talent hunt and infrastructure development at grass root level.

9.34 Major Achievements up to 31st December, 2020

- Work of Harichand Guruchand stadium has been completed & inaugurated.
- Construction work of Kishore Bharati stadium has been completed.
- 5 new Youth Hostels and one renovated Youth Hostel near Durgapur, Mayapur, Nabadwip, Mython, Malda Multifacility centre inaugurated and online booking started.
- Student Youth festival is successfully conducted with more than 5 lakh participants from across the State.
- Celebration of Rakhi Bandhan Utsab at Block and State level.

9.35 Major initiatives to be undertaken

- Inauguration of Gajoldoba Youth Hostel, Bolpur Youth Hostel, Asansol Youth Hostel, Balurghat Youth Hostel, Karnajora Youth Hostel, Bhutanghat Youth Hostel.
- Construction work of a Youth Hostel at Chennai to be started.
- Sports climbing competition and Mountaineering expedition of West Bengal Mountaineering and Adventure Sports Foundation (WBMAAF) 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 Norgay Adventure Award giving ceremony.
- Organizing District and State level Student Youth Festival, Vivek Chetana Utsab and Subhas Utsab.
- West Bengal Football Academy at Khardah Vivekananda Stadium, Khardah; Archery Academy at Jhargram; Bengal Table Tennis Academy and Bengal Tennis Academy is running successfully.



Economic Review 2020 -21

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 and thus the main responsibility of the Department is to actively combating natural calamities in the State.

10.2 Achievements during the financial year 2020-21

Sneher Paras: In March 2020, as the lockdown was announced due to COVID-19 pandemic the department strengthened its control room at State Emergency Operation Centren (SEOC), Nabanna and added more phone lines as it attended to more than 1000 calls per day from public about the COVID-19 situation. 3,851 Civil Defence Volunteers have been deployed across the state for enforcing social distancing norms. The Department proactively implemented "***Sneher Paras***", a Special financial assistance of one-time ex-gratia payment to migrant workers of West Bengal stranded at different part of the country due to COVID-19 restriction. More than Rs. 44 crore has been released to the Bank Account of 4,40,029 stranded migrant workers. The department has conducted extensive awareness programme on COVID-19 and other natural disasters in all districts and also run safe shelters during migrant workers movement from different state to their home districts. The departmental officials worked round the clock even during the lockdown period to provide relief and assistance to public.

Handling Super Cyclone Amphan: The super cyclone "Amphan" made landfall near Sagar islands on 20th May, 2020. The department took a pro active role and supervised massive evacuation as more than 10.7 lakh people were evacuated before the Cyclone made landfall. Lakhs of live were saved, as more than 60% of the State's population was affected. Post Amphan restoration work was done quickly and the department provided Rs. 2.47 crore as ex-gratia to family of 99 persons who died in Super Cyclone Amphan. Rs. 1954.73 crore as House Building Grant was provided to more than 21.36 lakh families. More than 19.40 lakh Tarpaulins, 4.48 lakh Sarees, 3.32 lakh Dhuti, 1.73 lakh Blankets and 2.18 lakh Children Garments were distributed for Cyclone Amphan. The Department's timely intervention like early warning dissemination, awareness Generation, rescue, relief, response and rehabilitation effectively reduced loss of life and property during the Super Cyclone "Amphan". It deployed 56 motorised boats with operators, 30 Civil Defence Rescue Vehicles with modern rescue equipment, 11 officers, 78 Agramamis and 1,580 trained Civil Defence Volunteers. 78 teams worked round-the-clock for clearing Kolkata and its surrounding districts post Amphan. Total amount of Rs. 11.8 crore provided as ex-gratia to 831 cases during this financial year.

The State Emergency Operation Centre at the Department and all 23 district EOCs played a crucial role in COVID Pandemic and Super Cyclone "Amphan" for exchanging information and for taking appropriate remedial measures to mitigate the effect of the natural calamity and biological disaster. These control rooms worked even during lockdown. An amount of Rs. 2883.11 crore (as on 31/12/2020) has been

released as disaster assistance during the current financial year 2020-21 for both the COVID-19 pandemic situation and super cyclone "Amphan".

Crowd Management at the Ganga Sagar Mela: In January 2020 the Smooth conduct of Ganga Sagar Mela was a priority and was successfully achieved. From Civil Defence 49 motorised boats, 2 Ambulances, 18 Senior Officers, 187 Subordinate personnel and 1438 Civil Defence Volunteers were deployed at Sagar Island, Kachuberia, Lot No. 8 and Babughat. A mini Hospital was also established and run with qualified doctors and paramedics at Babughat Camp.

Other Achievements

During the Monsoon season, there was constant alert for rescue and relief and not much damage was reported due to floods. During the Festive season the Department set up State control room for Durga Puja and Kali Puja holidays with senior Officers. During Monsoon period from June to October 2020, 61 motorised boats, 126 Agrabamis and 305 Civil Defence Volunteers trained in boat operation were deployed in 20 districts. Additionally, 10 motorised boats with manpower were kept on standby at Kolkata. During Durga Puja immersion, 84 boats, 127 Agrabamis, 3 Doctors and 259 Civil Defence Volunteers were deployed. During Chhat Puja at Kolkata, boats, Agrabamis, divers with Scuba Sets were deployed at 9 points at Kolkata and also at some of the districts.

Civil Defence Wing has been equipped with 44 Quick Response Team (QRT) with rescue vehicles, 96 speed boats and having 66534 trained Civil Defence Volunteers. 50 Inflatable boats and 25 Bullet Chain Saws have been procured during the year 2020-21.

At present, the state has 446 flood shelters and 268 Relief Godowns. Besides, construction of 221 multi-purpose Cyclone Shelters (MPCS) under the ICZIMP, NCRMP-II and PMNRF Schemes, in the coastal districts of Purba Medinipur, North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas has been completed.

Fire and Emergency Services

10.3 Introduction

Fire and Emergency Services department 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 equipments etc. The vision 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 equipments by developing necessary mindset of the fire fighters and generating awareness among the citizens.

10.4 Achievements during the year 2020

Opening of new Fire Stations and construction of new buildings for old Fire Stations: Construction of 6 new Fire Stations namely Pujali (Budge Budge), Sainthia, Goalpokher, Boxirhat, Jaigaon and Fulbari have been completed. The said Fire stations have also been inaugurated and commissioned. Moreover, construction work of 2 proposed new Fire Stations (Gangasagar and Beldanga) and 1 new building for existing Cossipore Fire Station is completed and the said Fire Station building will be inaugurated shortly. Besides the above Fire Stations, 7 proposed new Fire Stations (New Barrackpore, Rajarhat, Panskura, Galsi, Purbasthali, Nishiganj and Birpara) are under different stages of construction and 2 new buildings for existing Fire Stations (Manicktala and Howrah) are being upgraded.

Purchase of Fire Tenders and special equipments: The following Fire Tenders of different kinds and numerous sophisticated appliances have been procured : 23 Water Mist CAF Fire Extinguisher HP, 5 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus with Thermal Imaging Mask, 2000 Fire Extinguisher Balls, 10 completely Fabricated Breakdown Van, 2 Mobile Control Room Van, 1,000 NBC Canister Mask, 10 Completely Fabricated Mini Water Tender, 5 Portable High Capacity Emergency Lighting System 50,000 Lumen, 20 Hammer Drill, 10 Loud hailer, 100 Motor Cycle (Royal Enfield) and 100 Water Mist CAF Fire Extinguisher HP Motor Cycle Mounted.

Robotic Fire Fighters: 4 new Robotic Fire Fighters have been procured as a big leap towards modernisation. These Robotic Fire Fighters have been successfully demonstrated on 06th August, 2020. These unmanned vehicles are operated remotely and capable of diffusing fire in inaccessible locations efficiently with Water Jets/ Foam spraying.

10.5 Actions taken during Amphan

- As soon as the cyclone Amphan passed through West Bengal before the midnight of 20/05/2020, all the Fire Officers and personnel of West Bengal Fire & Emergency Services started rescue work on war-footing at grass-root level. A total number of 39 teams from different Districts were deployed for the rescue operations.
- All the fire-personnel started all-out operations on and from midnight of 20/05/2020 on 24X7 basis in the Amphan hit area of West Bengal even in the far-flung area, to ease the effects of

devastation in minimum time by removing uprooted trees, debris of partially or fully damaged houses in the arterial roads of Kolkata (Chittaranjan Avenue, A.J.C. Bose Road etc.) as well as the remote roads in the Districts so that the transportation of relief-measures could reach in all parts of the State of West Bengal in least possible time.

- The fire-personnel acted hand-in-hand along with the West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Corporation (WBSEDCL) and CESC to restore electric-supply in Kolkata and other parts of the State. This process of rescue operations continued for at least 15 days on 24X7 emergency basis.

10.6 Actions taken during COVID – 19

This year the COVID-19 virus drastically affected the life and livelihood of the populace throughout the globe. The West Bengal Fire & Emergency Services along with the Health Department and Police Department played a vital role in fighting against pandemic COVID-19 apart from their stipulated duties. In this regard, the West Bengal Fire & Emergency Services made all out efforts in the following areas.

- Firstly, all the available fire-personnel made announcements of conveying the message of necessary precautions to prevent the spread of the disease by proper maintenance of social-distance, sanitisation and use of masks. Several campaigns and propagation of messages regarding the social awareness for prevention of propagation of the fatal Covid-19 virus were conducted through street-corner-announcements in vital public-points in Kolkata, District Headquarters as well as in remote parts all over the West Bengal.
- Secondly, the department deployed all its fire-personnel to implement the precautions to prevent the spread of the fatal virus by taking active part in sanitization of public places including Hospitals, Quarantine Centres, Containment buildings and areas, Market places, important Government buildings etc. on regular basis. This process of sanitization is still continuing as safety measure. More than 5000 sanitizations have been done throughout West Bengal covering Government Offices, Medical Colleges & Hospitals, Rural Hospitals, District Hospitals, Banks, Schools, Colleges, Community Halls, Cinemas, Markets, ATM Counters, Quarantine Centres, Containment Buildings, Containment Areas, Club Premises, Puja Pandals etc. In this connection, it is note-worthy that at least 12813 vehicles were sanitised passing through Bhutan Gate, Jaigaon, Alipurduar near Indo-Bhutan Border.
- As a precautionary measure, the Officers and personnel of the department were kept under scanner to monitor their health condition to provide uninterrupted service to the people of West Bengal. Hence rapid Corona test for the Officers and personnel of West Bengal Fire & Emergency Services in the Fire Station level is done regularly throughout the state.
- 71 medals distributed to felicitate to honour Covid Warrior Fire Personnel. The department has given compensation to the family of deceased Covid Warriors.

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