Resurgent Bengal: The Growth Narrative (2011-2024)

Since 2011, our government has established a great tradition of continuous development of Bengal by involving people from all walks of life. Today, West Bengal is playing a pioneering role in the country in the field of overall development.

Economic Development –

• Since 2011, significant improvements can be seen in all the parameters of the economy -

Sl.	Indicators	2010-2011	2023-24
1.	GSDP	Rs. 4, 60, 959 crore	Rs.17, 00, 939 crore
2.	Own Tax Revenue	Rs. 21, 129 crore	Rs. 92, 742 crore
3.	Expenditure for State Development Schemes	Rs. 18, 793 crore	Rs. 1, 24, 022 crore
4.	Capital Expenditure	Rs. 2, 226 crore	Rs. 30, 536 crore
5.	Social Sector Expenditure	Rs. 6, 845 crore	Rs. 67, 785 crore
6.	Agriculture and allied sectors	Rs. 3, 029 crore	Rs. 36, 852 crore
7.	Physical Sector Expenditure	Rs. 1,758 crore	Rs. 9, 702 crore

• Increase in the allocation of various departments – The allocation of various departments of the state has also increased significantly in the last 13 years. For example, compared to 2010-11, allocation in Agriculture has increased more than 35 times, School Education 20 times, Health nearly 22 times, Women & Child Development 24.2 times, Minority Affairs 11.7 times. In this way, the allocation of other departments has also increased.

Poverty alleviation –

• A few years before this government came to power, 57.60% people of Bengal were below the poverty line. Now it has come down to 8.60%; As a result, 1.72 million people have been lifted out of the poverty line.

Achievements in Health Sector:

- Free Treatment Policy- Free medical treatment, test, medicines for all the citizens in all government hospitals.
- Swasthya Sathi Covers almost entire population of state with free medical insurance upto Rs. 5 lakh. Free treatment worth Rs. 10 thousand crore provided under this scheme.
- Health Infrastructure 14 new Government Medical Colleges, 42 Super-Specialty Hospitals, 286 SNSU, 71 SNCUs, 63 Hybrid CCU, 13 CCUs, 3 HDUs, 21 PICUs, 49 Trauma Care Units, 117 Fair Price Medicine Shops, 156 Fair Price Diagnostic Centres, 13 Mother and Child Hubs and 13 Waiting Huts for Pregnant Mothers.

- Over 40,000 **beds** increased in government hospitals.
- Number of government doctors has increased by nearly 3.5 times.
- Medical seats increased to 5325 in 2024 from 1,355 in 2011.
- Swasthya Ingit Telemedicine Service –.4 crore people have received free consultations from specialist doctors. 85 thousand villagers receiving the service everyday.
- Sishu Sathi 30,000 children have been provided free heart surgeries till date.
- Chokher Aalo 24.5 lakh spectacles distributed among the students and elderly people. 17.24 lakh people underwent cataract surgery.
- Suswasthya Kendra 11,051 new Health Centers, established in remote areas, providing medical treatment for various ailments.

Achievements in the field of Education and Skill Training:

- Education Infrastructure In last 13 years, West Bengal government has set up 30 new Universities, 53 new Colleges, 298 ITIs, 202 Polytechnics, more than 7250 new Schools, more than 2 Lakh 21 thousand additional Class-rooms, upgradation of about 2990 schools to Secondary and Higher Secondary level, setting up of 447 Santhali medium Schools and more than 4100 of other mediums.
- Appointment of 1.5 lakh teachers, about 12,017 Asst Professor and 438 Principals made.
- **Dropout rates** decreased significantly and enrolment increased by more than 3 lahks.
- Sabuj Sathi Around 1.25 crore students have received bi-cycle under this scheme. We have already spent Rs. 4,600 crore for this.
- Student Credit Card 72 thousand students received loans under this scheme. This card allows education loans upto Rs. 10 lakhs at 4% simple interest.
- Taruner Sapno More than 36 lakh Higher Secondary students received @ Rs. 10, 000 each for mobile phones/ tabs helping them in Digital Learning. We have spent Rs. 3,700 for this till date.
- Swami Vivekananda Merit and Means scholarship 31 lakh students received scholarships.
- Students up to class VIII receiving free of cost Text Books, School Dress, School Bags and School Shoes,
 etc. Nearly Rs. 10, 000 crore already spent for this purpose.
- Mid-day Meal, drinking water and toilet facilities have been arranged in all schools.

Achievements in Women Development and Social Sector:

- Lakshmir Bhandar It is one of largest social protection scheme empowering women. Under it, state government has already provided Rs. 40,000 crore to more than 2.15 crore women.
- Kanyashree More than 87 lakh girl students are Kanyashree. State government spent more than 15,000 crore on this scheme. United Nations has honoured Kanyashree with the highest public service award.
- Rupashree It gives one-time grant to stressed families for the marriage of their daughter. Already 18.64 lakh benefitted.

- Pension More than 20.3 lakh widows, 30.5 lakh aged people, 8 lakh specially abled people are receiving Pension of Rs. 1000 per month under Jai Bangla Pension scheme. In last 3 years alone, we have spent nearly Rs. 12,000 crore for this.
- Sabujshree Nearly 61 lakh mothers have been gifted with seedlings of commercially valuable trees under the scheme.
- Anandadhara 1.20 crore women were inspired to form 12 lakh Self-Help Groups (SHG) rural areas under Anandadhara scheme. In 2022-23 itself, Rs.20,000 Cr was availed as Credit money.
- Swayamsiddha With the funding from the State Government, about 80 thousand SHGs are running in urban areas of the State.
- Kolkata is the safest city in the country for women. Where there was no women-run police station in 2011,
 49 woman Police Stations have been established.

Achievements in the field of Food Security:

- **Khadyasathi** 8.9 crore beneficiaries are being provided **free of cost** food grains every month. State government already spent Rs. 82,300 crore for this.
- Duare Ration Ration is being delivered at the doorsteps of consumers under this scheme. 7.40 crore people benefitted.
- Maa Poor people are being provided cooked meal at subsidized cost of Rs. 5 only under Maa scheme.
- Paddy Procurement About 51 lakh Metric Ton Paddy is procured every year from more than 15 lakh small and marginal farmers at Minimum Support Price for preventing distress sale and to provide rice for Public Distribution System and other Government Sponsored Welfare Schemes.

Achievements in Agriculture, Agri-Marketing, ARD and Fisheries:

- 'Krishakbandhu (New)' 1.5 crore farmers are getting assistance under 'Krishakbandhu (New)' scheme.
 A total of Rs. 21,134 crore has been given to farmers since inception.
- Death Assistance Rs 2 lakh assistance is provided on death of farmers aged 18 to 60 years. 1.15 lakh farmer families have already received assistance of Rs 2,300 crore.
- 'Bangla Shasya Bima' The State Government pays the full amount of the premium under the 'Bangla Shasya Bima'. Since 2019, more than 1 crore farmers have received compensation of Rs. 3,426 crore.
- In last 13 years, the total increase in **food grains production** comes to 57 lakh Metric Ton. West Bengal stands first in Paddy, Jute and Mesta production and second in potato production.
- State Government has evolved a **policy** wherein land of any farmer cannot be forcibly taken away against his will. This has set up an example for the rest of the country.
- **Farmer's income** has increased by more than 3 times.
- Rent and mutation fee have been **waived** for agricultural lands.
- Sufal Bangla Selling Agri commodities to people at prices lower than open market through its 600 Retail Outlets.

- Matsyajeevi Bandhu (Death Benefit) Introduced for providing one-time financial assistance of Rs. 2
 lakh to the family members/legal heirs of any fisherman/woman in case of his/her death within the age
 range of 18-60 years.
- West Bengal is now the second largest **fish** producing State in India. West Bengal is also the largest fish seed producing State in the country.
- Bengal has recorded the highest annual growth rate in egg production among all the States, annual egg production in the state has increased from 4 billion in 2010-11 to 13.75 billion in 2022-23.
- Bengal is the second highest **meat** producer in India, accounting for nearly 12% of the meat produced in the country. The state is the highest producer of goat meat in the country.
- Bengal has achieved the second highest annual growth rate in milk production in the country with a growth rate of 8.65% as compared to the national average of 3.83%.

Achievements in Industry, MSME and Employment:

- The unemployment rate in Bengal is 3% lower than the national average. More than 2 crore people have been given employment. Thousands of big projects are also going on all over the state. As a result, lakks of more workers will be needed.
- Deocha-Pachami in Birbhum has the country's largest coal mine (world's second largest coal deposit).
 About 1 lakh people will get employment there.
- Gas Huge investment are coming in Asansol-Durgapur area in shale gas exploration. An investment of 22 thousand crore rupees already arrived. Thousands of people will get employment. By 2023, Bengal will join the National Gas Grid and bring a revolution in city-gas.
- Oil Work on the oil project at Ashoknagar in North 24 Parganas already started.
- Eastern Freight Corridor It is coming up from Amritsar to Dankuni. This corridor will go through Jharkhand through Raghunathpur to Barajora in Bankura and come to Dankuni via Panagarh. This will result in huge investment in the area & create lakhs of employment.
- 'Jangal Sundari Karmnagari' We have allocated 2483 acres of industrial land in Raghunathpur, Purulia for an industrial township named 'Jangal Sundari Karmnagari' with an investment of nearly Rs. 72 thousand crore. Many people will get employment here.
- Economic Corridors Very important Industrial and Economic Corridors along the National Highways across the state are being developed to accelerate industrialization and financial activities. This includes –
 - 1. Raghunathpur-Dankuni-Haldia (398 km)
 - 2. Dankuni-Kalyani (43 km)
 - 3. Dankuni-Kharagpur (160 km)
 - 4. Darjeeling Junction-Coochbehar (639 km)
 - 5. Kharagpur to Morgram (230 km) (will be in second phase)
 - 6. Gurdi in Purulia to Joka in South 24 Parganas (234 km) (will be in second phase)

- 'Karmadiganta' Asia's largest leather park 'Karmadiganta' has been set up in Bantala where 7 lakh people will get employment. Already, 5 lakh working.
- **'Bengal Silicon Valley'** It is coming up over 200-acre land and is expected to garner Rs. 5000 crore investment generating 50,000 IT/ITeS jobs powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- Deep sea port is coming up at Tajpur.
- Manufacturing Bengal is witnessing a manufacturing boom, with companies producing railway wagons, metro coaches, and machinery for mining and constructions. Also, today Bengal is the hub of the steel and cement industries.
- Real Estate Bengal is witnessing a Real Estate boom. More than Rs. 40 thousand crore have been invested in real estate in the state in the last 2 years.
- IT sector Bengal is the leading state of the country. 2800 IT companies are working here. More than 2 lakh professionals are working in these companies.
- MSME Bengal leading state in MSME in India. Over 90 lakh MSME units here are now employing more than 1 crore 30 lakh people. 602 MSME Clusters have been formed.
- **Bhobissot Credit Card** It will create more employment opportunities in the MSME sector, It is offering subsidized loans up to Rs 5 lakh at only 4% interest. 26 thousand beneficiaries have already received loan of Rs. 600 crore.
- Banglashree Incentive Scheme and Textile Intensive Scheme have been introduced to give boost to the MSME sector.
- Policy Initiatives Several new policies have been introduced/implemented
 - ➤ Tea Tourism & Allied Business Policy, 2019
 - West Bengal Ethanol Production and Promotion Policy, 2021
 - ➤ Sand Mining Policy, 2021
 - ➤ West Bengal Sand-Mining, Transportation, Storage and Sale Rules, 2021
 - ➤ The Policy of Mining of Minor Minerals in Private/Raiyati Land, 2022
 - ➤ West Bengal Logistics Policy, 2023
 - ➤ West Bengal Export Promotion Policy 2023
 - > West Bengal New & Renewable Energy Manufacturing Promotion Policy, 2023
 - Industrial and Economic Corridor Policy of the State of West Bengal, 2023
- New Industrial Parks and Areas Over 200 readily available industrial parks and sector-specific Parks have been created.
- Hubs & Parks 4 Textile Parks, 1 Wholesale Apparel Hub, Zari Hub at Sankrail, Madur Hub at Sabang,
 Ankurhati Gem & Jewellery Park in Howrah, Modernized Garment Haat at Jaygachi in North 24
 Parganas, Biswa Kshudra Bazar at Bolepur, Silk Park in Malda and so many have been established
 to give boom to small scale sector.

- Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) Bengal one of the leading state in country. Received the highest award in the country for public delivery of services. On Ease of Governance also, Bengal has received the highest award for e-taxation, Integrated Financial Management System, among others.
- Utkarsha Bangla 35 lakh candidates received industry-oriented skill training. Absorption rate in the industries very high. Trainees are also getting stipends during the training.

Achievements in Infrastructure Development:

- **Drinking Water** Piped drinking water has already reached 74% people in rural areas and 70% people in urban areas. For this, we have spent more than 42 thousand crore rupees. The work of providing water connection to about 1 crore 93 lakh houses in villages and cities is going on. Another 67 thousand crore rupees are being spent.
- Roads 1 lakh 82 thousand km of state highways, rural and other roads have been constructed/reconstructed across the state. 354 large, medium and RoB bridges have been built. In total, more than 76 thousand crore rupees have been spent for these purposes.
- Electricity Since 2011, 76 thousand crore rupees have been spent on the development of power infrastructure. More than 450 new substations and 2 lakh kilometres of electric lines have been installed. Subsidy of Rs. 8000 crore have been provided for the benefit of people in various projects including Hasir Alo.

Distribution of Patta & FHTD:

• Since 2011, about 2 lakh 26 thousand Homestead Patta, about 1 lakh 58 thousand Agricultural Patts, more than 50 thousand Forest Patta. Besides, we have legally recognized 286 refugee colonies in the state. Free Hold Title Deed (FHTD) has been given to 58 thousand families here.

Achievements in development of people belonging to SC-ST-OBC:

- Caste Certificate More than 2 crore SC/ST/OBC certificates have been issued in 13 years.
- Shikshasree 1.18 crore scholarships given to SC/ST students under 'Shikshasree' scheme. and
- Medhashree 4.63 lakh scholarships given to OBC students under 'Medhashree' scheme.
- Jai Johar/ Tapashili Bandhu About 12.5 lakh SC/ST people are being given Jai Johar/ Tapashili Bandhu pension. Rs 6500 crore already spent.
- A special law has been enacted to ensure that land belonging to the tribal people in the state can't be transferred.
- Kurukh, Kurmali, Rajbanshi and Santhali languages have been recognized as official language.
- Santhali Academy has been set up to promote Santhali Language.
- Santhali language has been included as an optional language in State Civil Service examination.
- 305 primary schools have been set up across the State for the sole purpose of pursuing study in Santhali language.

- Jhargram University has been renamed as Kabi Sadhu Ramchand Murmu University.
- 27 Development Boards have been constituted for overall development of SC/ST/OBC people.
- Support price for procurement of Kendu leaf has been increased.

Matua Development -

- Matua Vikas Parshad and Namashudra Vikas Parshad have been formed.
- In honor of Purna Brahma Sri Sri Harichand Tagore, a public holiday has been declared on his birthday.
- Harichand-Gurchand University was established in Thakurnagar, near Thakurbari. Extension campus of Harichand Gurchand University in Krishnanagar.
- PR Tagore Government College was established at Gaighata.
- Habra-Gaighata 'Jaltrupti' water project undertaken at a cost of Rs. 851 crore for drinking water.
- Murighata Bridge over Ichamati River and Kuthipara Nagbari Bridge over Baldeghata Canal have been constructed.
- New ITI and Polytechnic College at Gaighata has been built.
- Kishan Mandi made in Gaighata.
- Keeping in mind the famous flower market and flower growers of Thakurnagar, a flower market is being built there.
- New 33/11 KV power substation constructed at Thakurnagar.

Rajvanshi and Kamtapuri Development -

- Rajvanshi and Kamtapuri recognized as official languages.
- Rajvanshi Development Board has been formed.
- Rajvanshi Language Academy and Kamtapuri Language Academy created.
- Rajbanshi Cultural Academy established at Alipurduar at a cost of 70 lakh rupees for the promotion of Rajbanshi culture.
- Thakur Panchanan Varma's birthday (13th February) has been declared a public holiday.
- The ancestral home of Thakur Panchanan Varma has been renovated and opened as a museum named Panchanan Varma Museum and Research Centre. A full-length statue of Tagore Panchanan Varma has been erected in this campus.
- Panchanan Burma University was built on 27 acres of land in Cooch Behar. The campus of Panchanan Burma University has been named as 'Panchanan Nagar'. The second campus of the university is at Khalisamari in Cooch Behar district. 17 acres of land has been given.
- There are 200 Rajvanshi medium schools, teaching in Rajvanshi language.
- 'Narayani' battalion has been formed in the state police.

Development of Workers in Unorganised Sector:

- Karmasree This scheme has been launched for those who used to do jobs under 100 Days Work. As centre has stopped 100 Days Work in Bengal, this scheme ensures at least 50 days of work for our job card holders. State government has also given Rs. 2700 crore as wages to 59 lakh poor workers for their work under 100 Days Work as central government failed to pay them.
- Bina Mulya Samajik Suraksha Yojana Around 1.56 crore labourers from the unorganized sector are receiving benefit of Social Security Schemes free of cost under Bina Mulya Samajik Suraksha Yojana.
- Karmasathi Parijayee Shramik Scheme Migrant workers are registered to enable them to avail benefits
 in case of death or disability.
- Sasthya Sathi Migrant labourers have been included under Sathya Sathi and are able to use the Sasthya
 Sathi card in the hospitals outside Bengal. More than 28 lakh migrant workers benefitted.

Development of Tea Workers –

- Wages of tea workers increased from Rs. 67 per day in 2011 to Rs. 202 per day.
- Grant of patta to tea plantation workers about 23 thousand tea workers received.
- Financial assistance of Rs. 1 lakh 20 thousand for building houses on leased land under **Cha-Sundari** Extension Project.
- Decision to set up 100 Sadri language schools and hire 300 Sadri language para-teachers to provide an opportunity to study in Sadri language in tea gardens.
- Free food, free medical treatment, free electricity, drinking water to tea workers.
- Rural Employment Cess, Education Cess and Agricultural Income Tax have been completely waived on tea plantations in the financial year 2023-24 and 2024-25.
- Huge employment opportunities have been created for the local people due to tea tourism at Makaibari Tea Tourism and Mayfair Tea Resort.

Achievements in Minority Development:

- Aikyasree Around 4 Crore Scholarships to minority students given under Aikyasree. 4 thousand 100 crores have been spent. The entire fund is given by the state government.
- About 277 Crores of education loans have been given to about 38 thousand minority children.
- For admission to academic institutions for pursuing higher education, 17 per cent of total seats have been reserved for OBC students without reducing seats for the students of unreserved category.
- A total of Rs 3,500 crore loans have been given to the minority youth and members of self-help groups to become self-reliant.
- English medium madrasahs, smart classrooms, computer laboratories have been set up to provide modern and advanced quality education in madrasahs.
- 605 hostels are being constructed for the students belonging to the minority communities.

 305 Karmatirthas have already been set up to make the youth belonging to the minority community selfreliant and to market their products.

Achievements in Tourism Sector:

- Tourism and Hotel Industry have witnessed a surge in Bengal. 8.9 crore tourist have visited Bengal in 2022 (last published data).
- To give boost to tourism sector in the state, it has been given the status of industry to the tourism & hospitality sector. UN has awarded Bengal as the 'Best Destination for Culture'.
- Special initiatives have been taken to develop 400 pilgrimage sites in 100 circuits across Bengal and 700 crore rupees have been spent so far for their development.
- Creative economy is also being promoted as a sector. In 2023, Durga Puja, recognized as 'Intangible Cultural Heritage' by UN, has brought business more than Rs. 70-80 thousand crore in the state.
- We put emphasis on Homestay Tourism and introduced Home Stay Tourism Policy, 2017. Now, in terms of registered Home Stay facilities West Bengal tops the country.
- "Aahoran", the State Institute of Hotel Management, Durgapur has been established to attract young, boys and girls to become competent in the Hospitality industry and provide them employment opportunities.
- Kiriteshwari, a village in Murshidabad, has received Best Tourism Village of India Award.
- West Bengal received the Hotels, Restaurants & Travel IHC London & IIHM International Hospitality Day Award 2023.

Achievement in Sports & Youth Development –

- 44 new youth hostels, 74 stadiums, 793 mini-indoor stadiums and more than 4 thousand multi-gyms, 419 playgrounds, 6 swimming pools have been developed in the state.
- Vivekananda Yuva Bharti Stadium, East Bengal-Mohun Bagan-Mohammedan Ground, Netaji Indoor Stadium, Kanchenjunga Stadium in Siliguri, Kishore Bharti Stadium in Jadavpur, 'Amal Dutt' Stadium in Dumdum have been newly built. In Jalpaiguri, 'Biswa Bangla Stadium' has been established. A world class hockey stadium is also being built at Salt Lake Stadium.
- A total of 28 crore rupees has been given to East Bengal, Mohun Bagan, Mahamedan for infrastructure development.
- More than 38 thousand clubs have been given financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh under the 'Khelashree' scheme.
- 5 sports academies started Bengal Football Academy at Khardah, 'Bengal Archery Academy' at Jhargram, 'Bengal Tennis Academy' and 'Bengal Table Tennis Academy' at Salt Lake, Women's Football Academy at Kashipur in Purulia. 'Swimming Academy' at Subhash Sarovar, Rifle Shooting and Badminton Academy at Dum Dum, Archery Academy at Bandwan in Purulia are also being established.
- Under Yuvashree scheme, one lakh job seekers eligible on first come first served basis are being provided monthly assistance of Rs. 1500/- per month.

Achievements in Cultural field:

- UNESCO has recognized Kolkata's Durga Puja as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
- Durga puja carnival at Red road has been a tremendous success and attracted international people globally.
 The same immersion festival has been extended to districts also.
- The Kolkata International Film Festival or KIFF is a flagship event of the State and one of the biggest Film Festivals in the world.
- Lok Prasar Prakalpa 2 lakh folk artist of Bengal have been benefited under Lok Prasar Prakalpa.
- State Welfare Scheme for Purohit: 28,118 purohits are getting monthly financial assistance.
- 136 journalists are receiving pension under West Bengal Pension Scheme for Journalists.
- State Government pays entire premium of the Group Health Insurance Scheme to more than 7500 cinema and television artistes, technicians, workers and their family members.
- Awards like Bangabibhusan (the highest civilian award), Bangabhusan, Golden Royal Bengal Trophy at Kolkata International Film Festival, Hiralal Sen Trophy, Mahanayak Samman, Tele Samman Award etc. are being regularly awarded. Sports personalities are conferred with awards like Khel Samman, Banglar Gaurab, Krira Guru, Jeebankriti etc

Development of Police Infrastructure –

- 1 Directorate, 6 new Police Commissionerates (Bidhanagar, Barrackpore, Howrah, Chandannagar, Asansol-Durgapur and Siliguri), 14 new Police Districts (Barasat, Basirhat, Bangaon, Sundarbans, Diamond Harbour, Baruipur, Raiganj, Islampur, Jangipur, Murshidabad, Ranaghat, Krishnanagar, Howrah (Rural) and Hooghly (Rural)), 10 police battalions, 49 women police stations, 8 coastal police stations, 193 new police stations including 30 cyber police stations, 10 new battalions have been established.
- Recruitment of about 2 Lakhs of Police/Civic Volunteers/Village Police have been made.

Achievements in providing Public Services:

- Nearly 600 administrative meetings and service delivery programmes have been organized across the State.
- Duare Sarkar has been organized in 8 phases so far. Already around 8.8 crore services have been provided to the citizens through 6.8 lakh outreach camps held across the State. Duare Sarkar has been honored with the Platinum Award in the Public Digital Platform under the Digital India Awards 2022 by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India.
- More than 69,000 schemes have been taken up in 'Paray Samadhan'. More than 5 crore people have benefited.

Conclusion:
Despite the central government's non-cooperation (<i>GoI has blocked nearly 1.71 lakh crore in 100 days work, rural housing, rural roads and other schemes</i>), financial difficulties, we have achieved this metamorphosis in every field of life - from agriculture to industry, education to health, village to city, farmer to worker, tribal to common class, minority to minority, student to student, youth to youth, hill to jungle, birth to death. This government is working for all people, regardless of caste, creed and religion and will continue to do so in the future.