



Mamata Banerjee's Governance Model: Development, Welfare, and Economic Growth in West Bengal

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Abstract: This research paper explores the political journey, governance, and development strategies of Mamata Banerjee as the Chief Minister of West Bengal, with a particular focus on her policies aimed at economic growth, social welfare, and infrastructure development. The study critically examines the transformative impact of key government initiatives, including Kanyashree, Rupashree, Krishak Bandhu, Lakhir Bhandar, and Swasthya Sathi, which have significantly contributed to women empowerment, rural upliftment, and financial inclusion. The research further analyzes the economic growth trajectory of West Bengal, highlighting industrialization, MSME sector expansion, and investment-friendly policies. The role of port development, inland waterways, metro rail expansion, and smart city projects in enhancing the state's urban infrastructure and connectivity is also discussed in detail. The study incorporates statistical data, policy evaluations, and comparative analyses to assess the effectiveness of these developmental strategies. Despite the notable progress, challenges such as bureaucratic inefficiencies, employment generation constraints, and land acquisition hurdles persist. This paper provides an in-depth evaluation of these challenges and offers recommendations for policy refinement, sustainable economic growth, and enhanced governance efficiency. The findings of this research suggest that Mamata Banerjee's governance model has successfully balanced economic growth with social welfare, positioning West Bengal as a progressive state in India's development landscape. The study concludes that continued investment in infrastructure, industrial diversification, and digital governance will be crucial for the state's long-term prosperity.

IndexTerms – Mamata Banerjee, West Bengal, Economic Growth, Social Welfare, Infrastructure Development

I. INTRODUCTION

Mamata Banerjee, often referred to as "Didi," is one of the most prominent political figures in India. She is known for her relentless struggle, grassroots politics, and significant influence on West Bengal's political landscape. Born on January 5, 1955, in Kolkata (then Calcutta), Mamata Banerjee emerged from a modest background, with a keen interest in student activism and politics from a young age. She pursued her education at the University of Calcutta, earning a Master's degree in Islamic History, followed by a degree in Law from Jogesh Chandra Chaudhuri Law College. Banerjee's political journey began in the 1970s when she joined the Indian National Congress (INC). During this period, she actively participated in movements against the ruling Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI-M) in West Bengal. Her determination and grassroots connections helped her rise through the ranks of the Congress Party, eventually leading her to establish the All India Trinamool Congress (AITC or TMC) in 1998. This was a defining moment in her career as she sought to challenge the CPI-M's long-standing rule in West Bengal. Mamata Banerjee's political career formally began in 1975 when she joined the Youth Congress, a wing of the Indian National Congress. She quickly gained prominence due to her fiery speeches and active participation in movements against the Left Front government. Her first significant political achievement came in 1984 when she was elected as a Member of Parliament (MP) from Jadavpur, defeating veteran CPI-M leader Somnath Chatterjee. This victory marked her entry into mainstream Indian politics. However, in the 1989 elections, she lost her seat amidst the resurgence of the CPI-M. Despite this setback, Banerjee remained committed to her cause and continued her political journey. She regained her seat in the 1991 Lok Sabha elections and continued to serve as an MP from South Kolkata in subsequent years. Mamata Banerjee's relationship with the Congress Party grew strained in the 1990s as she disagreed with the party's alliances and policies, particularly its approach towards the CPI-M in West Bengal. In 1998, she broke away from the Congress and founded the All India Trinamool Congress (AITC). The formation of TMC was a significant political development, as it created a strong opposition to the CPI-M's hegemony in West Bengal. The initial years of TMC were challenging, with limited resources and political influence. However, Banerjee's relentless activism, particularly her protests against CPI-M's land acquisition policies, helped her gain public support. The Nandigram and Singur agitations in the mid-2000s became the turning points in her political career. One of Mamata Banerjee's defining traits is her ability to mobilize grassroots movements. The Singur movement was one of the most significant protests led by Mamata Banerjee against the Tata Group's proposed Nano car factory in West Bengal. The Left Front government had acquired around 1,000 acres of land in Singur for the project, displacing several farmers. Banerjee, positioning herself as a champion of the poor and marginalized, led a massive protest against the forced land acquisition.

The movement gained national attention and eventually led to Tata withdrawing its project from Singur in 2008. This victory cemented Mamata Banerjee's position as a formidable leader in West Bengal politics.

Another major turning point was the Nandigram agitation, where the West Bengal government attempted to acquire land for a Special Economic Zone (SEZ). The movement turned violent, with police firing on protesters, resulting in several deaths. Banerjee leveraged this incident to galvanize support against the Left Front, portraying it as an anti-people government. The Nandigram protests significantly weakened the CPI-M's political hold and paved the way for TMC's rise to power. Mamata Banerjee's efforts culminated in the 2011 West Bengal Legislative Assembly elections, where she led TMC to a historic victory, ending the 34-year rule of the Left Front. The election results were as follows:

- **Total Seats in West Bengal Assembly:** 294
- **TMC-led Alliance Seats:** 227
- **CPI-M-led Left Front Seats:** 62
- **Others:** 5

This landslide victory was attributed to Banerjee's unwavering focus on grassroots issues, corruption allegations against the Left Front, and promises of economic and social reforms. She was sworn in as the Chief Minister of West Bengal on May 20, 2011, becoming the first woman to hold this position.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH

This research aims to analyze Mamata Banerjee's journey from grassroots politics to the Chief Minister of West Bengal, highlighting her struggles, leadership style, and development strategies. The specific objectives are:

1. To analyze the political journey and leadership of Mamata Banerjee and her impact on West Bengal's governance.
2. To evaluate the key policies and welfare schemes implemented under her government, including Kanyashree, Rupashree, Krishak Bandhu, Lakhir Bhandar, and Swasthya Sathi.
3. To assess the economic growth and industrialization strategies undertaken during her tenure, focusing on MSME development, employment generation, and investment policies.
4. To examine infrastructure development initiatives, including metro rail expansion, road connectivity, smart city projects, and urban transformation.
5. To study the role of energy and power sector development in ensuring sustainable growth and meeting the state's electricity demand.
6. To investigate the progress in port and inland waterway development and its contribution to trade and connectivity.

III. WELFARE SCHEMES UNDER MAMTA BANERJEE'S GOVERNANCE

Mamata Banerjee's government has introduced several welfare schemes aimed at empowering marginalized communities, improving social security, and enhancing the quality of life for citizens in West Bengal. These schemes cover various sectors, including education, healthcare, women's empowerment, agriculture, employment, and financial assistance for the underprivileged. Flagship initiatives such as Kanyashree, Rupashree, Swasthya Sathi, Krishak Bandhu, and Jai Johar have directly impacted millions of beneficiaries, ensuring inclusive growth and social justice. By focusing on direct benefit transfers, financial aid, and infrastructure development, these programs have strengthened the socio-economic framework of the state, making West Bengal a model for people-centric governance.

➤ Kanyashree Prakalpa

Kanyashree Prakalpa is one of the most significant welfare schemes launched by Mamata Banerjee's government, aiming to promote education among adolescent girls and prevent child marriage. The scheme operates through a conditional cash transfer system, ensuring that girls continue their education at least until the age of 18. It has three components: K1, where girls aged 13-18 years enrolled in school receive an annual scholarship of ₹1,000; K2, a one-time grant of ₹25,000 for girls turning 18 and still studying; and K3, which offers financial aid for postgraduate students. The scheme has been instrumental in reducing child marriage rates, bringing them down from 21% in 2011 to 14.1% in 2023, and increasing female literacy rates from 68.5% to 75.4% in rural areas. The initiative has gained international recognition, with UNICEF acknowledging it as a global model for girl child empowerment. However, challenges such as bank account linkage issues and social pressures in rural areas persist. Moving forward, the government aims to expand the scheme by introducing support for STEM education and improving digital literacy among girls in remote regions.

➤ Swasthya Sathi

The Swasthya Sathi scheme, launched in 2016, is a universal health insurance program providing cashless medical treatment up to ₹5 lakh per family per year in private and government hospitals. The scheme covers the entire family, including parents and dependent siblings, without any premium payment by the beneficiaries. Over 2 crore families have been enrolled in the scheme, making it one of the most extensive state-run health insurance programs in India. It has significantly reduced out-of-pocket healthcare expenditures, with 74% of beneficiaries availing free treatment in private hospitals. Despite its widespread success,

hospital empanelment delays and infrastructure gaps in rural hospitals pose challenges. The government plans to further improve the scheme by integrating digital health records and expanding coverage for advanced treatments.

➤ **Rupashree Prakalpa**

Launched in 2018, Rupashree Prakalpa is a scheme designed to provide financial support to economically weaker families for the marriage of their daughters while discouraging child marriage. Under this scheme, families with an annual income below ₹1.5 lakh can receive a one-time grant of ₹25,000 for their daughter's marriage, provided she is at least 18 years old. The program aims to ease the financial burden on parents, ensuring that daughters are not forced into early marriages due to poverty. Since its inception, over 12 lakh girls have benefited from the scheme, reducing financial distress among poor families and promoting delayed marriages. Despite its success, certain challenges persist, such as delayed fund disbursement and lack of awareness in remote areas. Future improvements may include digital tracking of applications and collaborations with NGOs to spread awareness.

➤ **Sabuj Sathi**

Sabuj Sathi is an educational mobility scheme aimed at reducing dropout rates among students from economically weaker backgrounds by providing free bicycles to students from classes 9 to 12 in government and aided schools. Since its launch in 2015, over 1 crore bicycles have been distributed, increasing school attendance and improving transport accessibility in rural areas. The scheme has been particularly beneficial in tribal and remote regions, where students often have to walk several kilometers to reach schools. While the initiative has been widely successful, issues such as maintenance of bicycles and irregular supply chains have been reported. Future improvements could involve setting up local repair centers and introducing e-bikes for students in hilly regions.

➤ **Gatidhara**

Gatidhara is a scheme designed to generate self-employment opportunities for unemployed youth by providing subsidized loans for commercial vehicle purchases. The government offers a 30% subsidy (up to ₹1 lakh) on vehicle loans to help individuals start businesses in the transport sector. Over 25,000 people have benefited from the scheme, contributing to the rise in self-employment and small-scale transportation services in the state. However, loan repayment issues and interest rate burdens remain concerns. Future modifications may include interest-free loan options and skill training programs to enhance employment sustainability.

➤ **Lokprasar Prakalpa**

The Lokprasar Prakalpa scheme was introduced to support traditional folk artists and preserve Bengal's rich cultural heritage. The government provides monthly stipends ranging from ₹1,000 to ₹3,000 to registered folk artists, ensuring financial stability for performers of Baul, Jatra, and Chau dance, among others. Over 2 lakh artists have been covered under this initiative, leading to a revival of traditional art forms. The scheme has also created employment opportunities by integrating folk performances into tourism and state-sponsored events. However, issues like lack of marketing platforms and inconsistent funding affect its reach. Expanding digital promotions and linking folk art with national and international cultural events could help enhance its impact.

➤ **Krishak Bandhu**

Introduced in 2019, the Krishak Bandhu Scheme is a farmer welfare program that provides financial security and insurance to small and marginal farmers. Under this scheme, all farmers receive an annual financial assistance of ₹10,000 per acre in two installments to support agricultural activities. Additionally, the scheme includes a life insurance cover of ₹2 lakh for farmers between 18-60 years in case of accidental death. The initiative has significantly reduced farmer distress and debt burdens, covering over 75 lakh farmers in the state. It has played a crucial role in stabilizing agricultural incomes, increasing crop yields by 12% in the last five years. However, land ownership disputes and delays in insurance claims remain challenges. Future enhancements could involve direct benefit transfer (DBT) integration and crop diversification programs to ensure long-term agricultural sustainability.

➤ **Jal Dharo Jal Bharo**

The Jal Dharo Jal Bharo scheme, launched by Mamata Banerjee's government in 2011, is a flagship initiative aimed at water conservation, groundwater recharge, and sustainable irrigation practices in West Bengal. The scheme has played a crucial role in addressing water scarcity, improving agricultural productivity, and ensuring drinking water security across rural and semi-urban areas of the state. Given the frequent droughts, depleting groundwater levels, and erratic monsoons, this initiative has provided long-term solutions for water resource management while promoting rainwater harvesting and sustainable irrigation techniques.

Key Objectives of Jal Dharo Jal Bharo

1. Promote the construction, rejuvenation, and maintenance of ponds, reservoirs, and water bodies across the state to enhance water availability.
2. Improve groundwater levels through sustainable recharge mechanisms and prevent excessive depletion due to agricultural and industrial activities.
3. Ensure adequate irrigation facilities for farmers, particularly in drought-prone regions, thereby enhancing crop yield and minimizing dependence on monsoons.

- Strengthen rural drinking water supply by using stored rainwater for domestic consumption, reducing the dependency on tube wells.
- Prevent waterlogging and soil erosion through better storage and management of excess rainwater.

Since its launch, the Jal Dharo Jal Bharo scheme has led to the creation and renovation of over 3 lakh water bodies in the state. The government has actively constructed artificial lakes, ponds, reservoirs, and check dams in districts facing acute water shortages, ensuring enhanced water storage capacity and better irrigation infrastructure. The initiative is being implemented by multiple departments, including the Department of Water Resources Investigation and Development (WRIDD), Panchayati Raj & Rural Development, and Agriculture Department.

- Districts like Bankura, Purulia, West Midnapore, and Birbhum, which were historically affected by droughts, have seen significant improvement in water retention capacity.
- The government has constructed check dams and percolation tanks along riverbanks to prevent runoff loss and encourage groundwater recharge.
- The agricultural productivity of small and marginal farmers has improved, reducing their dependence on monsoons and securing better incomes.
- Several urban local bodies have adopted rainwater harvesting techniques under the scheme, promoting sustainable water use in residential and commercial buildings.

➤ Lakhir Bhandar

The Lakhir Bhandar (Lakshmi Bhandar) Scheme is one of the most significant welfare initiatives launched by the Government of West Bengal under the leadership of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. Introduced in August 2021, this scheme aims to provide direct financial assistance to women from economically weaker sections to ensure financial security and improve their standard of living. With a vision to promote women's empowerment and socio-economic inclusion, the initiative has benefitted millions of households across the state. The main objectives of the Lakhir Bhandar scheme are to provide direct financial relief, promote gender equality, and support women in managing their daily expenses. By offering a monthly allowance, the government ensures that women, especially from underprivileged sections, have a steady financial inflow. The scheme has been effectively implemented through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), minimizing corruption and ensuring transparency. The West Bengal government has allocated ₹12,900 crore for this initiative in the 2023-24 state budget, signifying its importance in the social welfare landscape. The Lakhir Bhandar scheme is open to women belonging to economically weaker sections, with specific eligibility conditions based on income level, social category, and employment status. Women from SC/ST communities receive higher financial assistance compared to those from the general category. The details of financial aid are as follows:

Table 1: Lakhir Bhandar Scheme

Category	Monthly Assistance (₹)	Annual Assistance (₹)
General Category Women	₹1000	₹12,000
SC/ST Category Women	₹1,200	₹15,600

Women aged 25 to 60 years who are permanent residents of West Bengal are eligible, provided they are not employed in government jobs or receiving government pensions. The funds are transferred directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts, ensuring a smooth and corruption-free disbursement process. The Lakhir Bhandar scheme has benefitted over 1.85 crore women in West Bengal as of January 2024, making it one of the largest direct cash assistance programs in India. This financial aid has significantly improved economic stability in low-income households, increased financial independence for women, and enhanced their role in household decision-making. Reports suggest that over 70% of the beneficiaries belong to rural areas, where economic hardships are more pronounced. Additionally, the scheme has helped boost local markets and rural economic activities, as the cash assistance directly contributes to household expenditures.

Table 2: Key Social Welfare Schemes in West Bengal

Scheme Name	Year Launched	Target Beneficiaries	Key Benefits	Funds Allocated (₹ Cr.)	Beneficiaries (in Lakhs)	Impact	Source
Kanyashree Prakalpa	2013	Girls (13-18 years) from economically weaker sections	₹750 annual scholarship + ₹25,000 one-time grant for higher studies	12,000	78	Increased female enrollment in schools by 22% (2013-23)	WB Women & Child Development Dept. (2023)
Rupashree Prakalpa	2018	Economically weaker women (above 18) for marriage support	One-time ₹25,000 financial assistance for marriage	2,500	12.5	Reduced child marriage rate by 10% (2018-23)	WB Social Welfare Dept. (2023)

Matribandana Scheme	2020	Pregnant & lactating women (rural & urban)	₹5,000 financial aid + health support	1,200	9.2	Improved maternal health & reduced infant mortality	WB Health & Family Welfare Dept. (2023)
Krishak Bandhu	2018	Farmers & agricultural workers	₹10,000 per annum financial support + ₹2 lakh life insurance	10,000	60	Reduced farm distress & improved financial security	WB Agriculture Dept. (2023)
Jai Johar Scheme	2020	Scheduled Tribe (ST) senior citizens	₹1,000 monthly pension for ST elders	1,800	6.8	Enhanced social security for ST communities	WB Tribal Development Dept. (2023)
Taposili Bandhu	2020	Scheduled Caste (SC) senior citizens	₹1,000 monthly pension for SC elders	1,700	7.5	Social welfare for SC communities	WB Social Justice Dept. (2023)
Swami Vivekananda Merit-cum-Means Scholarship	2016	Meritorious students from low-income families	Scholarship of ₹12,000–₹60,000 per year	1,500	15.6	Increased higher education enrollment by 18%	WB Higher Education Dept. (2023)
Sabuj Sathi	2015	Students (Class 9–12) in government schools	Free bicycles for school students	3,200	95	Increased rural school attendance by 28%	WB School Education Dept. (2023)
Jal Dharo Jal Bharo	2011	Rural farmers & water conservation projects	Construction of ponds & rainwater harvesting	4,500	45	Increased irrigation efficiency in 3 lakh hectares	WB Irrigation & Waterways Dept. (2023)
Khadyasathi Scheme	2016	Low-income households	Subsidized food grains at ₹2/kg	8,000	600	Food security ensured for 90% of state population	WB Food & Supplies Dept. (2023)

Key Insights from the Table:

- Massive Welfare Impact:** Over 600 lakh beneficiaries have been supported through food security, financial aid, education, and health schemes.
- Focused Support for Women & Farmers:** Schemes like Kanyashree, Rupashree, Matribandana, and Krishak Bandhu target women empowerment and agricultural resilience.
- Education & Social Upliftment:** Sabuj Sathi and Swami Vivekananda Scholarships have boosted school retention and higher education enrollment.
- Pension & Security Schemes:** Jai Johar & Taposili Bandhu provide direct financial aid to elderly SC/ST citizens, ensuring social dignity.
- Water & Food Security:** Jal Dharo Jal Bharo & Khadyasathi have improved irrigation efficiency and food affordability for millions.

IV. MSME Development in West Bengal under Mamata Banerjee's Government

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) have played a pivotal role in West Bengal's economic growth, contributing significantly to employment generation, industrial development, and rural entrepreneurship. Under Mamata Banerjee's leadership, the state has witnessed a robust expansion of MSMEs through policy interventions, financial support schemes, and infrastructure development. West Bengal ranks among the top MSME contributors in India, accounting for approximately 14% of the country's total MSME units. The government has launched various schemes to support new enterprises, facilitate credit availability, provide skill development training, and encourage technology adoption in MSMEs.

➤ Banglashree Scheme (Financial Assistance for MSMEs)

The Banglashree Scheme is a flagship initiative to promote new and existing MSMEs in the state by providing capital investment subsidies, interest subsidies, and tax exemptions. Under this scheme, micro and small enterprises can avail financial incentives based on their investment in plant, machinery, and infrastructure. The scheme covers multiple sectors, including textiles, food processing, leather, handicrafts, and IT-based services. Since its introduction, over 20,000 MSMEs have benefited, generating

employment for more than 5 lakh people. However, delays in subsidy disbursement and limited awareness among rural entrepreneurs remain challenges. Future improvements could focus on streamlining subsidy processing through digital platforms and strengthening MSME clusters in semi-urban and rural areas.

➤ West Bengal MSME Credit Card Scheme

The MSME Credit Card Scheme was launched to ease access to credit for small entrepreneurs and self-employed individuals. This initiative, in collaboration with public and private sector banks, provides collateral-free loans up to ₹5 lakh with subsidized interest rates. It aims to reduce the financial constraints faced by MSMEs due to stringent loan approval processes and high-interest rates. More than 1.5 lakh entrepreneurs have benefited from this scheme, allowing them to expand their businesses, adopt new technology, and improve production efficiency. However, challenges such as loan repayment defaults and limited reach in rural areas need to be addressed through financial literacy programs and credit risk mitigation mechanisms.

➤ Karma Sathi Prakalpa (Employment-Oriented MSME Growth Program)

Karma Sathi Prakalpa is designed to promote self-employment among the youth by encouraging them to establish their own MSME units. Under this scheme, unemployed youth can avail soft loans up to ₹2 lakh along with a subsidy component to set up small businesses. The initiative has been instrumental in job creation, reducing youth unemployment, and promoting entrepreneurship. Over 2 lakh young entrepreneurs have started their own ventures in handicrafts, agro-based industries, and small-scale manufacturing through this scheme. The government plans to expand training programs in collaboration with technical institutes and business incubators to make this initiative more effective.

➤ Bhabishyat Credit Card Scheme for MSMEs

The Bhabishyat Credit Card Scheme is aimed at first-time entrepreneurs looking to set up MSMEs in sectors such as textiles, handicrafts, food processing, and IT services. This scheme provides loans up to ₹10 lakh at lower interest rates, ensuring easier access to credit for small and micro enterprises. Since its inception, the scheme has disbursed over ₹3,000 crore in loans, benefiting more than 50,000 MSME units. The scheme's success is evident in the rise of startups and local businesses in Tier-II and Tier-III cities of West Bengal. However, a major challenge includes inadequate business mentorship and training, which can be addressed by establishing state-sponsored business incubation centers.

➤ MSME Cluster Development Program

The West Bengal government has actively promoted MSME clusters to enhance collaborative growth, skill development, and shared infrastructure. Major MSME clusters in the state include:

- Textile Clusters in Howrah and Murshidabad
- Handloom and Handicraft Clusters in Bolpur and Bankura
- Leather and Tannery Clusters in Kolkata
- Food Processing Units in North Bengal

Under this program, the government provides financial assistance for infrastructure development, common facility centers, and market linkages. Over 30 clusters have been developed, boosting production efficiency and global competitiveness. However, technological upgradation and digital marketing awareness remain key areas for improvement. The future roadmap includes promoting e-commerce integration and digital trade facilitation for MSMEs in these clusters.

➤ West Bengal Start-up Policy (Encouraging Innovation in MSMEs)

The West Bengal Start-up Policy focuses on encouraging innovation, research, and entrepreneurship in MSMEs by offering seed funding, incubation support, and technology transfer facilities. Under this policy, the government provides:

- Seed capital of ₹10 lakh for innovative start-ups
- Co-working spaces and mentorship programs
- Support for patent filing and intellectual property rights (IPR)

With over 3,000 start-ups registered in the state, the policy has led to the rise of new businesses in fintech, agritech, healthcare, and education technology. However, the challenge of scaling up start-ups and accessing global markets still exists. Future strategies involve creating state-funded venture capital support and collaborating with international investors to provide better opportunities for MSMEs.

➤ Digital MSME Program (Promoting E-Commerce and Digital Marketing)

To enhance the competitiveness of MSMEs, the government has introduced the Digital MSME Program, which provides:

- Training on e-commerce platforms like Amazon, Flipkart, and MSME marketplaces

- Subsidized digital marketing campaigns for small businesses
- Support for website development and digital payments integration

With the increasing shift towards online commerce, this initiative has enabled small businesses to access global markets and improve their sales. Over 50,000 MSMEs have been digitally transformed, with significant improvements in revenue. The government plans to expand this program by providing AI-based analytics tools for MSMEs to enhance their marketing strategies.

➤ Export Promotion for MSMEs (Global Market Access)

West Bengal has taken significant steps to boost MSME exports by providing:

- Export subsidies and duty exemptions
- International trade fair participation for MSMEs
- Export promotion councils and advisory services

Sectors like handicrafts, textiles, tea, leather, and processed food have seen a 30% rise in exports due to government support. The "Biswa Bangla" brand, created to promote traditional Bengali products globally, has gained international recognition. However, logistics inefficiencies and high transportation costs hinder full potential utilization. Future plans include improving port connectivity and promoting direct international trade agreements for MSMEs.

Table 3: MSME Sector Growth in West Bengal under Mamata Banerjee's Government

Parameter	2011-12	2015-16	2019-20	2022-23	Source
Number of MSMEs (in lakhs)	36.28	52.77	89.04	98.89	MSME Department, WB (2023)
Employment Generated (in lakhs)	70.01	107.08	135.54	152.63	West Bengal Economic Review (2023)
Bank Credit to MSME Sector (₹ Cr)	24,000	41,387	65,875	78,926	RBI & WB MSME Report (2023)
Annual Growth Rate (%)	5.6%	8.9%	12.1%	14.3%	MSME & Industries Dept, WB
Share of WB in India's MSME (%)	9.8%	11.3%	14.4%	15.6%	Ministry of MSME, GoI

Key Observations from the Table:

1. **Massive Growth in MSMEs:** The number of registered MSMEs in West Bengal increased from 36.28 lakh in 2011-12 to 98.89 lakh in 2022-23, reflecting a 172% growth.
2. **Job Creation:** Employment in the MSME sector rose from 70 lakh in 2011-12 to over 152 lakh in 2022-23, contributing significantly to the state's economic development.
3. **Financial Boost:** Credit flow to MSMEs more than tripled, from ₹24,000 crore in 2011-12 to ₹78,926 crore in 2022-23, due to government initiatives promoting financial inclusion and ease of credit access.
4. **Higher National Share:** West Bengal's share in India's MSME sector grew from 9.8% to 15.6%, positioning it among the top-performing states in the country.
5. **Consistently Rising Growth Rate:** The annual MSME growth rate rose from 5.6% in 2011 to 14.3% in 2023, driven by policies like Banglashree, MSME Facilitation Centre, and the 'Ease of Doing Business' reforms.

V. ECONOMIC GROWTH AND INDUSTRIALIZATION

Mamata Banerjee's tenure as the Chief Minister of West Bengal since 2011 has been marked by a mixed approach toward economic growth and industrialization. While she has focused on social welfare and grassroots development, her industrial policies have faced challenges, particularly regarding land acquisition and large-scale investments. However, despite these challenges, West Bengal has witnessed steady economic growth, expansion in micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), infrastructure improvements, and efforts toward industrial revitalization.

➤ Economic Growth and GDP Trends

Since Mamata Banerjee took office, West Bengal has shown consistent growth in Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). The state's economy has grown at an average annual rate of 6.5%–7.5%, which is higher than the national average in certain years. According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Economic Survey of West Bengal (2022-23), the state's GSDP in recent years is as follows:

Table 4: West Bengal Growth (Source: Economic Survey of West Bengal 2022-23, RBI Reports)

Year	GSDP (₹ lakh crore)	Growth Rate (%)
2015-16	9.2	6.7
2016-17	10.1	7.2
2017-18	11.2	7.5
2018-19	12.5	7.1
2019-20	13.8	6.8
2020-21	14.1	2.2 (COVID-19 Impact)
2021-22	15.6	8.1

West Bengal's economy has diversified with contributions from agriculture, MSMEs, services, and emerging industrial projects.

➤ Industrialization and Investment Climate

Under Mamata Banerjee's leadership, industrialization in West Bengal has focused on small and medium-scale industries rather than large-scale corporate investments, primarily due to political opposition to land acquisition for private industries. The state government has promoted business-friendly policies and organized annual summits to attract investors.

➤ Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS)

To boost investments, the Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS) was introduced in 2015. The summit has attracted investments in key sectors like IT, textiles, manufacturing, and food processing.

Table 5: Investment Commitments from BGBS (2015-2023)

Year	Investment Commitments (₹ crore)	Key Sectors
2015	2,43,000	MSME, IT, Agro-processing
2016	2,50,000	Infrastructure, Manufacturing
2017	2,35,200	MSME, Textiles, Energy
2018	2,40,000	Industry, Healthcare
2019	3,05,000	IT, Transport, Tourism
2022	3,42,375	MSME, Electric Vehicles

Despite these commitments, actual implementation of projects has been moderate, with concerns about bureaucratic delays and land policies affecting execution.

➤ MSME Growth and Employment Generation

One of Mamata Banerjee's most successful industrial strategies has been the growth of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). West Bengal has emerged as a leader in MSME development in India.

MSME Growth in West Bengal (2011-2023) (Source: Ministry of MSME, West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation)

- West Bengal has over 90 lakh MSMEs, making it the second-largest state for MSMEs in India after Uttar Pradesh.
- The sector contributes nearly 45% of the state's GDP and provides employment to more than 1.5 crore people.
- Key initiatives: The Banglashree Scheme, Karma Sathi Prakalpa, and the Tantuja and Manjusha revival programs have supported small entrepreneurs, especially in textiles and handicrafts.
- In 2021-22, West Bengal recorded 12% growth in MSME loans, higher than the national average of 9%.

➤ Infrastructure Development for Industrial Growth

Mamata Banerjee's government has focused on infrastructure development, particularly in roads, ports, and industrial corridors, to facilitate economic growth.

➤ Key Infrastructure Projects:

- **Deocha Pachami Coal Block:** India's largest coal block with an investment of ₹35,000 crore, expected to create 1 lakh jobs.
- **Silk Route Industrial Corridor:** Strengthening trade with Northeast India and Bangladesh.
- **Eastern Freight Corridor:** Facilitating logistics and transportation for businesses.

Additionally, urban infrastructure development, including Kolkata Metro expansion, rural electrification, and road network improvements, has enhanced connectivity for businesses.

➤ IT and Technology Sector Growth

The Information Technology (IT) sector has seen steady expansion in West Bengal. Kolkata has become a rising IT hub, with new IT parks and increased investment from companies like TCS, Wipro, Cognizant, and Infosys.

IT Sector Highlights (2011-2023):

- **IT Exports from West Bengal:** Grew from ₹8,000 crore in 2011 to ₹22,897 crore in 2022.
- **New IT Parks:** Development of Bengal Silicon Valley Hub, Salt Lake Sector V expansion.
- **Employment:** Over 3 lakh people employed in the IT industry.

(Source: NASSCOM, West Bengal IT Department)

VI. INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Infrastructure development has been a key focus of Mamata Banerjee's administration since she took office as the Chief Minister of West Bengal in 2011. Her government has made significant strides in transportation, urban development, rural infrastructure, industrial corridors, energy, and social infrastructure. The state has witnessed substantial improvements in roadways, metro rail expansion, ports, smart city initiatives, and public services. This section provides a comprehensive analysis of infrastructure development in West Bengal under Mamata Banerjee, highlighting key projects, investments, and their impact on the state's economy and quality of life.

➤ Road and Highway Infrastructure

West Bengal has seen extensive road development and connectivity enhancements under the Trinamool Congress (TMC) government. The state government, along with central schemes like Bharatmala and PMGSY, has focused on building new roads and upgrading existing networks.

Key Highlights:

- Over 40,000 km of roads constructed/upgraded under various state and central schemes.
- Introduction of the 'Pathashree' Scheme (2020) to renovate 12,000 km of rural roads.
- Expansion of the State Highway network from 2,500 km in 2011 to over 4,200 km in 2023.
- Elevated corridors and flyovers in Kolkata to reduce congestion
- Maa Flyover (2015) to improved access between Eastern Metropolitan Bypass and Park Circus.
- Parama Island Flyover Expansion to ease traffic in Kolkata.
- New Alipore and Ultadanga Flyovers to decongest major intersections.

Table 6: Investments in Road Infrastructure: (Source: West Bengal PWD, Economic Survey of WB 2023)

Project	Length (km)	Investment (₹ crore)	Status
Pathashree Scheme	12,000	6,000	Ongoing
Bengal Rural Roads Scheme	6,500	4,500	Completed
NH Upgradation Projects	1,800	10,500	Ongoing
Kolkata Flyovers	Various	3,200	Completed/Ongoing

➤ Metro Rail and Public Transport Expansion

Under Mamata Banerjee's leadership, West Bengal has witnessed a significant expansion in metro rail and public transport infrastructure, particularly in Kolkata, to enhance urban mobility and reduce traffic congestion. The Kolkata Metro, India's first metro system, has undergone multiple expansion projects, including the East-West Metro (Line 2), Joka-Esplanade Metro (Purple Line), and New Garia-Airport Metro (Orange Line), aiming to improve connectivity between key commercial, residential, and industrial hubs. The East-West Metro, partially operational from Howrah Maidan to Salt Lake Sector V, is expected to revolutionize trans-river connectivity through India's first underwater metro tunnel beneath the Hooghly River. The Joka-Esplanade Metro, partially opened in 2023, will extend metro access to southern Kolkata, while the Orange Line will directly connect the airport with the city's transport network by 2026. In addition to metro expansion, the government has actively promoted eco-friendly public transport by introducing electric buses (e-buses) under the West Bengal Transport Corporation (WBTC), reducing carbon emissions and improving last-mile connectivity. The state has also taken steps to revive tram services, integrating them into a modern urban transport framework. Initiatives such as the introduction of new AC and non-AC buses, integrated ticketing systems, and the development of smart bus terminals have improved commuter convenience. These infrastructure advancements align with Mamata Banerjee's broader vision of sustainable urban development and have positioned Kolkata as a leading city in public transportation innovation in India. (Source: Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation, Ministry of Urban Development)

➤ Port and Inland Waterway Development in West Bengal

West Bengal, with its strategic location and access to the Bay of Bengal, has witnessed significant developments in port and inland waterway infrastructure under Mamata Banerjee's leadership. The government has focused on modernizing existing ports, developing new deep-sea ports, and enhancing inland waterway connectivity to boost trade and transportation efficiency. One of the key projects is the Tajpur Deep Sea Port, which has been approved to enhance maritime trade and decongest existing ports. This port, with an estimated investment of ₹15,000 crore, is expected to handle over 60 million metric tonnes of cargo annually and create employment for nearly 25,000 people. Additionally, the Kolkata Port Trust (Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port) has undergone modernization, with improved cargo-handling capacity and digital tracking systems to facilitate smoother trade operations. Inland waterways have also seen considerable growth, with the development of the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route, which has strengthened cross-border trade. The National Waterway-1 (NW-1), running along the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system, has been revitalized with new jetties, cargo terminals, and navigational aids to facilitate cost-effective freight movement. The government's push towards multimodal transport integration ensures that inland waterway systems are well connected to railways and highways, reducing logistics costs by 30% and promoting eco-friendly cargo transport.

Table 7: Key Port and Inland Waterway Development Projects in West Bengal

Project Name	Sector	Key Features	Status	Impact	References
Tajpur Deep Sea Port	Maritime Trade	₹15,000 crore investment; 60 MMT cargo capacity; To be developed on a PPP model	Approved	Boosts international trade and employment in coastal regions	(Government of West Bengal, 2022; Business Standard, 2023)
Kolkata Port Modernization	Port Infrastructure	Upgraded cargo-handling capacity, smart logistics integration, digital tracking system	Ongoing	Increases efficiency in port operations and reduces turnaround time	(Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Trust, 2023; Indian Ports Association, 2023)
Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route	Inland Waterways	Strengthened cross-border trade route; 10% increase in Indo-Bangladesh cargo transport annually	Operational	Enhances India-Bangladesh trade relations and boosts bilateral exports	(Ministry of Shipping, India, 2023; PIB, 2022)
National Waterway-1 (NW-1)	Inland Transport	New jetties, cargo terminals, navigation aids; Integrated with rail and road transport	Under Development	Reduces logistics costs by 30% and promotes eco-friendly transport	(IWAI Report, 2023; World Bank, 2023)
Haldia Dock Complex Expansion	Port & Logistics	Additional berths for cargo handling, mechanization of cargo systems	Ongoing	Supports industrial freight movement and reduces congestion at Kolkata Port	(Kolkata Port Trust, 2023; Economic Times, 2023)

VII. SMART CITIES AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN WEST BENGAL UNDER MAMATA BANERJEE

Urban development and modernization have been a focal point of Mamata Banerjee's governance in West Bengal. With rapid urbanization, the state government has launched several smart city projects, urban renewal programs, and infrastructural developments to enhance the quality of life for citizens. The Smart Cities Mission, a flagship initiative of the Government of India, has been actively implemented in West Bengal, with key cities like Kolkata, New Town, Siliguri, Asansol, and Durgapur undergoing major transformations. The goal has been to integrate technology, sustainability, and infrastructure development to create efficient urban centers. Under Mamata Banerjee's leadership, initiatives such as Green City Mission, e-Governance services, modern traffic management systems, and integrated solid waste management have been implemented in urban areas. Kolkata has particularly seen significant advancements in smart traffic control, surveillance systems, and eco-friendly urban projects, making it one of the leading smart cities in India. Additionally, New Town Kolkata has emerged as a model smart city with initiatives like Wi-Fi zones, smart LED streetlights, solar rooftops, and intelligent transportation systems.

The following table outlines the major smart city and urban development projects initiated under Mamata Banerjee's tenure:

Table 8: Key Smart City and Urban Development Initiatives in West Bengal

Project Name	City/Region	Key Features	Status	Impact	References
Smart City Kolkata	Kolkata	Intelligent traffic management, smart surveillance, e-Governance, and water quality monitoring	Ongoing	Improves security, traffic efficiency, and urban planning	(Kolkata Municipal Corporation, 2023; Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, 2023)
New Town Smart City	New Town, Kolkata	Smart LED lighting, green buildings, Wi-Fi zones, intelligent transport systems	Operational	Reduces energy consumption and enhances urban living standards	(West Bengal Housing Infrastructure Development Corp., 2023)
Green City Mission	Statewide	Plantation drives, sustainable energy initiatives, urban green spaces	Ongoing	Enhances environmental sustainability and air quality	(Govt. of West Bengal, 2023; Times of India, 2023)
Siliguri Smart City	Siliguri	Smart roads, integrated waste management, city surveillance	Under Implementation	Improves waste management and urban safety	(Siliguri Municipal Corporation, 2023)
Asansol and Durgapur Smart City Projects	Asansol, Durgapur	Solar-powered streetlights, smart water supply system, urban mobility solutions	Under Development	Enhances energy efficiency and urban infrastructure	(Smart City Mission Report, 2023; Press Information Bureau, 2023)
E-Governance and Digital Services	Statewide	Online tax payments, smart governance portals, digital service delivery	Implemented	Improves government efficiency and citizen services	(West Bengal Digital Governance Report, 2023)

Key Impacts of Smart City and Urban Development Initiatives:

1. Smart city initiatives have enhanced road networks, public utilities, and waste management systems across urban centers.
2. The Green City Mission has led to large-scale afforestation, eco-friendly energy projects, and sustainable urban planning.
3. Intelligent traffic systems in Kolkata, Siliguri, and Asansol have significantly reduced congestion and improved road safety.
4. Adoption of e-Governance, digital payments, and online services has streamlined government-citizen interactions.
5. Smart LED lighting and solar panel installations in cities like New Town Kolkata and Asansol have reduced carbon footprints and energy consumption.

VIII. ECONOMIC GROWTH AND GDP TRENDS

Since Mamata Banerjee took office, West Bengal has shown consistent growth in Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). The state's economy has grown at an average annual rate of 6.5%–7.5%, which is higher than the national average in certain years. According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Economic Survey of West Bengal (2022-23), the state's GSDP in recent years is as follows:

Table 9: Economic growth (Source: Economic Survey of West Bengal 2022-23, RBI Reports)

Year	GSDP (₹ lakh crore)	Growth Rate (%)
2015-16	9.2	6.7
2016-17	10.1	7.2
2017-18	11.2	7.5
2018-19	12.5	7.1
2019-20	13.8	6.8
2020-21	14.1	2.2 (COVID-19 Impact)
2021-22	15.6	8.1

West Bengal's economy has diversified with contributions from agriculture, MSMEs, services, and emerging industrial projects.

IX. INDUSTRIALIZATION AND INVESTMENT CLIMATE

Under Mamata Banerjee's leadership, industrialization in West Bengal has focused on small and medium-scale industries rather than large-scale corporate investments, primarily due to political opposition to land acquisition for private industries. The state government has promoted business-friendly policies and organized annual summits to attract investors.

➤ Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS)

To boost investments, the Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS) was introduced in 2015. The summit has attracted investments in key sectors like IT, textiles, manufacturing, and food processing.

Table 10: Investment Commitments from BGBS (2015-2023): (Source: BGBS Reports, West Bengal Government Data)

Year	Investment Commitments (₹ crore)	Key Sectors
2015	2,43,000	MSME, IT, Agro-processing
2016	2,50,000	Infrastructure, Manufacturing
2017	2,35,200	MSME, Textiles, Energy
2018	2,40,000	Industry, Healthcare
2019	3,05,000	IT, Transport, Tourism
2022	3,42,375	MSME, Electric Vehicles

➤ Infrastructure Development for Industrial Growth

Mamata Banerjee's government has focused on infrastructure development, particularly in roads, ports, and industrial corridors, to facilitate economic growth.

- **Deocha Pachami Coal Block:** India's largest coal block with an investment of ₹35,000 crore, expected to create 1 lakh jobs.
- **Silk Route Industrial Corridor:** Strengthening trade with Northeast India and Bangladesh.
- **Eastern Freight Corridor:** Facilitating logistics and transportation for businesses.

Additionally, urban infrastructure development, including Kolkata Metro expansion, rural electrification, and road network improvements, has enhanced connectivity for businesses.

➤ IT and Technology Sector Growth

The Information Technology (IT) sector has seen steady expansion in West Bengal. Kolkata has become a rising IT hub, with new IT parks and increased investment from companies like TCS, Wipro, Cognizant, and Infosys.

IT Sector Highlights (2011-2023): (Source: NASSCOM, West Bengal IT Department)

- **IT Exports from West Bengal:** Grew from ₹8,000 crore in 2011 to ₹22,897 crore in 2022.
- **New IT Parks:** Development of Bengal Silicon Valley Hub, Salt Lake Sector V expansion.
- **Employment:** Over 3 lakh people employed in the IT industry.

X. ENERGY AND POWER SECTOR DEVELOPMENT IN WEST BENGAL UNDER MAMATA BANERJEE

Energy security and power sector reforms have been pivotal in West Bengal's economic development under Mamata Banerjee's leadership. The government has focused on renewable energy expansion, rural electrification, power distribution efficiency, and sustainable energy policies to ensure an uninterrupted supply of electricity across the state. West Bengal's power sector strategy has included investments in solar energy, hydropower, and modernization of thermal power plants, making the state a leader in sustainable energy solutions.

1. Renewable Energy Development

West Bengal has emerged as a strong proponent of solar, wind, and biomass energy. The state has undertaken initiatives like floating solar plants, rooftop solar installations, and large-scale solar parks to boost non-conventional energy sources. The West Bengal Renewable Energy Development Agency (WBREDA) has played a significant role in implementing solar and wind energy projects.

Key Renewable Energy Projects:

- **Floating Solar Power Plant at Sagardighi:** One of India's largest floating solar projects.
- **Rooftop Solar Program in Kolkata & Asansol:** Solar panels installed in government buildings and households.

- **Wind Energy Expansion in Coastal Areas:** Harnessing wind energy in the Sundarbans and Digha region.

2. Rural Electrification and Grid Expansion

West Bengal has made remarkable progress in providing electricity access to rural households. Under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) and Saubhagya Scheme, the government has achieved near 100% rural electrification, ensuring that every household in remote areas receives a reliable electricity supply. The West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (WBSEDCL) has been instrumental in strengthening the transmission and distribution network across the state.

Achievements in Rural Electrification:

- 100% electrification of all villages under the Saubhagya scheme.
- Reduction of transmission losses from 30% to below 15% through infrastructure upgrades.
- Smart Metering and Digital Billing introduced to improve transparency and efficiency.

3. Modernization of Thermal and Hydropower Plants

Despite the transition to renewable energy, West Bengal continues to rely on thermal power plants as a primary energy source. The revamping of thermal power stations with supercritical technology has helped reduce carbon emissions and improve efficiency. Additionally, the Teesta Hydropower Project has been expanded to meet peak energy demands.

Key Power Plant Upgrades:

- Bakreswar Thermal Power Plant Expansion (1,050 MW)
- Santaldih Thermal Power Plant Modernization (500 MW)
- Teesta Hydropower Project Phase II (300 MW capacity addition)

4. Industrial Power Supply and Smart Grid Implementation

To support industrial growth, West Bengal has developed a smart grid system to improve power reliability. The introduction of industrial power corridors in regions like Durgapur, Haldia, and Kharagpur has ensured uninterrupted power supply for businesses. Additionally, initiatives like time-of-use tariffs, smart metering, and demand response management have optimized energy consumption.

Key Features:

- Dedicated Power Supply for MSMEs and Heavy Industries in Asansol and Haldia.
- Implementation of Smart Grid Technologies in Kolkata and Howrah.
- 24x7 Industrial Power Corridors to enhance manufacturing productivity.

5. Energy Conservation and Sustainability Measures

The government has launched several initiatives to promote energy efficiency and sustainability. Programs like LED distribution under UJALA, energy-efficient building codes, and electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure development have been introduced to reduce carbon footprints. Sustainability Initiatives:

- Energy Efficiency Upgrades for Government Buildings
- Expansion of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
- LED Streetlight Implementation in Urban and Rural Areas

Table 11: Major Energy and Power Sector Developments in West Bengal

Project Name	Sector	Capacity/Investment	Key Features	Status	References
Floating Solar Plant at Sagardighi	Solar Energy	100 MW	Floating solar panels on water reservoirs	Ongoing	(WBREDA, 2023; Energy Dept. WB, 2023)
Teesta Hydropower Project Phase II	Hydropower	300 MW	Additional capacity for renewable energy	Completed	(West Bengal Power Development Corp., 2023)
Bakreswar Thermal Power Expansion	Thermal Power	1,050 MW	Upgraded with supercritical technology	Ongoing	(WBSEDCL, 2023)
West Bengal Smart Grid Implementation	Power Distribution	₹1,500 crore	Advanced metering, digital billing,	Under Development	(Ministry of Power, 2023)

			demand management		
LED Streetlight Program	Energy Conservation	Statewide	Replacement of conventional lights with LED	Implemented	(Government of West Bengal, 2023)
Rooftop Solar Initiative	Solar Energy	500 MW	Installations across public and private buildings	Ongoing	(West Bengal Renewable Energy Report, 2023)
24x7 Industrial Power Corridors	Industrial Energy	₹2,000 crore	Dedicated uninterrupted power supply	Operational	(DVC Report, 2023)

Key Impacts of Energy Sector Development

1. West Bengal has achieved 100% electrification of all villages and rural areas.
2. Solar and wind energy now contribute over 15% of the state's total power generation.
3. Adoption of supercritical thermal technology and renewable energy has significantly reduced emissions.
4. The development of industrial corridors and smart grids has improved power supply for businesses.
5. Initiatives like LED implementation, EV infrastructure, and smart metering have enhanced energy efficiency.

VI. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE SCOPE

West Bengal, under the leadership of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, has witnessed significant socio-economic transformation through a comprehensive policy framework that prioritizes inclusive growth, infrastructure development, and social welfare. The government's strategic focus on industrial expansion, MSME promotion, rural upliftment, and urban modernization has contributed to the state's steady economic progress. With major infrastructure projects such as metro rail expansion, port and inland waterway development, smart city initiatives, and energy sector modernization, West Bengal has emerged as a key player in India's economic landscape. Social welfare schemes such as Kanyashree, Rupashree, Krishak Bandhu, Lakhir Bhandar, and Swasthya Sathi have played a transformative role in empowering women, supporting farmers, ensuring healthcare access, and reducing economic disparities. These programs, backed by direct benefit transfers (DBT) and digital governance, have improved the lives of millions, particularly in rural and marginalized communities. The Lakhir Bhandar scheme, in particular, has been instrumental in financially empowering women, ensuring their participation in household decision-making and economic activities. West Bengal's commitment to industrialization, MSME growth, and sustainable urban development has been reinforced through policies that encourage foreign investment, technological advancement, and employment generation. The state's MSME sector, recognized as one of the largest in India, has been a driving force in employment creation and economic resilience. Meanwhile, port development, inland waterways expansion, and metro connectivity projects have strengthened West Bengal's position as a major commercial hub in Eastern India. Despite these advancements, challenges remain. Issues such as bureaucratic inefficiencies, funding constraints, land acquisition hurdles, and the need for greater employment-linked welfare programs require continuous policy innovation. Addressing these concerns through sustainable economic policies, efficient governance, and increased private sector participation will be crucial for West Bengal's long-term development. Overall, Mamata Banerjee's tenure has redefined governance in West Bengal through a balanced approach to economic growth and social equity. The state's future trajectory will depend on sustained infrastructural investment, industrial diversification, and social policy refinement. By leveraging its strategic geographic position, human capital, and policy-driven development agenda, West Bengal is poised to emerge as a model of sustainable and inclusive progress in India.

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