

Infrastructure in West Bengal

INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

With a view to increase speed of growth and rapid industrialization the State has now focused on building industrial infrastructure.

INDUSTRIAL ESTATES

The West Bengal Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (WBIIDC) has come with or developed 12 Growth Centres that is the industrial estate, which is located at Kalyani (Phase-I, II & III), Falta, Uluberia, Bishnupur, Raninagar, Cooch Bihar, Malda, Dabgram, Haldia and Kharagpur.

Four more Growth Centres are coming up at Jalpaiguri, Malda (Phase-II), Bolpur and Falta (Phase-II). Infrastructure at these centres would be the best available in the country with a view to attract investment which in turn shall positively lead to the overall economic development.

SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY PARKS

The Government of West Bengal has adopted required measures to spread Information Technology Infrastructure in partnership with Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) under the Department of Information Technology, Government of India (GOI).

The State has four STPI units – at Bidhannagar in Durgapur, Nimpura in Kharagpur and two in Kolkata. The development of these parks in question, is in according to the government's policies to make West Bengal an information technology hub and to capture 15 per cent of the country's software exports market in the coming years..

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PARKS

Technopolis, Kolkata, has been built at a cost of \$28 million and offers 775,000 sq ft of built- up office space.

Delhi-based DLF group will develop an IT Park in Kolkata with a built-up space of about 10 million sq ft. Godrej Properties is schedule to launch Godrej Waterside, a 1.7 million sq ft IT Park in Sector V of Salt Lake City in Kolkata.

Rolta India Ltd has announced the setting up of an IT Park at Kolkata with facilities for delivery of IT-based geo spatial services, engineering design services, software development and ERP implementation services worldwide. This facility will be setup in phases with a total investment of about \$556 million.

SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE (SEZ):

Special economic zone (SEZ) is a particular area inside a state, which acts as special territory for tariff and trade operations. Govt. provides tax exemption (IT, Excise, customs, sales etc.), subsidized water and electricity etc.

SEZ can be sector specific or multi product SEZ. It helps in the development of infrastructure of the area around the SEZ, provides employment to people & makes the exports more viable. All this will help the country's products to become more competitive in comparison with providing all round development of region.

There are three SEZs operational in the State that is Manikanchan at Salt Lake (for gems and jewellery), IT SEZ of Wipro at Salt Lake and Falta SEZ.

- The SEZ at Manikanchan is the first green field sector-specific SEZ in the country, spread over 5 acres and developed at an investment of \$6 million. Phase-I of the SEZ was completed in November 2003. Till date Twenty-five companies and more have moved in & WBIDC has taken measures to expand Manikanchan.
- Falta SEZ has 84 operational units and 44 units under implementation in the area of textiles, engineering, plastic, rubber, synthetic materials, food and agro products, gems and Jewellery, chemicals and petrochemical, leather and sports. Exports from Falta SEZ were \$249 million in 2004-05.
- The 16-acre Salt Lake Electronic City-SEZ developed by Wipro Ltd for software development and IT enabled services at Kolkata with an investment of \$27.78 million commenced operation in 2005.

AGRI-ECONOMIC ZONES (AEZ)

The primary objective of an Agri-Export Zone (AEZ) is to provide remunerative returns to farmers on a sustained basis by improved access to exports. The emphasis of the scheme is on market orientation. It starts with identification of products, which have a good export potential, devising strategies for market penetration and niche marketing, and then taking necessary steps to exploit the market potential. The implementation of projects under the Agri-Export Zone is expected to result in bringing down cost of production, enhance product acceptability and competitiveness in the international market and better price realization for agro products.

The government has set up five AEZs for specific crops - pineapple, mango, litchi, vegetables and potatoes. A sixth AEZ for tea located in Darjeeling district is expected to come up soon. There are 22 multi purpose cold storages coming up in the five AEZs, with investments from the private sector.

The state government has funded the construction of cold rooms in 13 municipal markets within the AEZs, of which 10 are ready for operation.

A packinghouse is being set up at Malda. Funds have also been sanctioned for the construction of a perishable goods cargo-handling centre at Kolkata airport.

AEZ-PINEAPPLES

This is spread over Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, Cooch Bihar and North Dinajpur. The State is the largest producer of pineapples in the country and the fruit is available eight months in a year. Several companies are investing in this AEZ.

Calypso Bengal Foods is setting up a state-of-art pineapple-processing unit at Bidhan Nagar, Siliguri, with an estimated project cost of \$2 million in the first phase.

Dabur India Ltd has completed its multi-fruit (mainly pineapple) processing unit at Jalpaiguri to process 160 metric tonnes of pineapples daily with an investment of around \$4.1 million. The unit is likely to produce 2,300 MT of fruit-pulp and concentrate with a revenue generation of \$3.33 million annually.

Poddar Fruits and Vegetables Products have set up a canned fruits processing unit at Cooch Bihar with an investment of \$0.48 million.

AEZ-LITCHI

This is spread over Malda, Murshidabad, North and South 24-Paraganas. West Bengal is the second largest producer as of litchi in the country, with an average annual production of 65,000 tonnes.

Pataka Food Products is setting up a mango and litchi-processing unit at Jangipur, Murshidabad with a projected investment of \$11 million.

AEZ-POTATOES

This is spread over Howrah, Hooghly, Bardhaman and Midnapore. West Bengal is the highest producer of potatoes in the country. Potatoes are available throughout the year, with annual production of roughly 8 million tonnes.

Frito Lay India is setting up a unit at Howrah for chips.

Potato King Pvt. Ltd located in Howrah, is producing potato powder and is presently working on establishing a new unit for production of potato cubes.

Agrani International Pvt Ltd a 100 per cent export oriented unit is setting up a unit at Garbeta, Midnapore, for producing potato starch with a projected investment of \$9 million.

Amazon Agro is setting up a potato flakes unit at Bardhaman with an investment of \$3 million.

AEZ-MANGOES

Mango is the most important fruit of West Bengal, with the Malda region being the largest producer. West Bengal ranks fourth in terms of area and seventh in terms of production of mangoes, producing more than two dozen varieties of the fruit. The AEZ covers the districts of Malda and Murshidabad and entails an investment of around \$6.93 million, out of which \$1.17 million will come from Central Government agencies, \$1.71 million from State government agencies and the remaining from the private sector.

In the next five years, it is expected that exports of \$20.7 million would be made from this zone. Around 10,000 farmers are also likely to benefit from the setting up of this zone.

AEZ-VEGETABLES

This is spread over North Parganas, Nadia and Murshidabad. West Bengal is the leading producer of vegetables contributing to 19 per cent of the country's production with annual production in excess of 10 million tonnes.

Some of the major investors in this AEZ include Keventor Biotech Pvt. Ltd., which has set up a unit near Barasat, North 24-Parganas, with an estimated investment of \$0.17 million.

Elque & Co. has set up its unit at North 24-Parganas with an investment of \$1.56 million.

Srisidh Agro Farm Pvt. Ltd. is setting up a unit for vegetable processing near Siliguri, with an investment of \$2.72 million.

Besides the above infrastructure, the state is also in the process of building sector specific infrastructure which are discuss as below:

TOY PARK-LIGHT ENGINEERING PARK

West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC) has set up Shilpangan (Toy Park-Light Engineering Park) with a total investment of \$2 million for units manufacturing toys and light engineering products on 2.28 acres at Salt Lake, Kolkata.

Shilpangan is equipped with common facilities like design centres, nodal marketing agencies and shops for supply of raw materials.

Twenty-four companies producing toys, sports goods and other light engineering products have occupied modules at Shilpangan.

CALCUTTA LEATHER COMPLEX

The State government has set up the Calcutta Leather Complex on an area of 1,100 acres on the eastern side of the Metropolitan Bye-Pass, Kolkata, jointly with a private company. It became operational in 2005 and provides all modern infrastructure facilities for relocating tanneries scattered in the eastern part of Kolkata. The complex also accommodates many new leather units.

BIOTECHNOLOGY PARK

WBIDC and Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, are jointly planning to set up a Biotechnology Park at Dewanmara in West Midnapore district. 60 acres of land at Dewanmara have been identified.

The Park will have modern facilities to set up biotech projects. IIT Kharagpur, will be responsible for providing technologies to support investors for setting up and operating projects.

A high-tech green city to provide social infrastructure for the Biotechnology Park has also been envisaged. A project advisory committee has been formed with the Minister of Commerce and Industry as its chairman.

FOOD PARK AND POLY PARK

WBIDC has set up a Food Park at Sankrail, Howrah - 98 acres have been allotted to 16 units. Four units have commenced project work and two have started commercial operation. About \$27.5 million has been invested in the first phase. About 32 acres has been allocated for Food Park and the balance land for Poly Park. Expected investment in second phase of Food Park is \$25 million and that for Poly Park (polymer production) \$50 million.

PLASTO STEEL PARK

Situated at Borjora in Bankura District, 12 km from Durgapur railway station, the park is being developed to set up steel (Ferro alloys and induction furnace) and plastic manufacturing units. In the first phase, 190.07 acres of land was acquired and distributed to 19 industrial units; the second phase covers 205 acres.

A total of 42 units have taken possession and 14 units have already commenced project work. One of the major investments is that of Damodar Valley Corporation for installation of a power substation at an investment of \$11 million.

APPAREL EXPORT PARK

WBIDC is in the process of setting up a 150-acre Apparel Export Park at an estimated project cost of \$12.5 million at Uluberia in Howrah district.

It will feature industrial and commercial plots, common facilities centre and warehouse and would focus on garment manufacturing units, ancillary units for manufacturing buttons and specialized units like processing or washing units. About 40 units are likely to come up.

IRON & STEEL PARK

WBIDC has initiated steps to set up Iron & Steel Parks at Kharagpur and Guptamoni in West Midnapore district. WBIDC has identified 300 acres of land at Kharagpur and is in the process of acquiring it. It has also identified 2,500 acres of land at Guptamoni to set up a Mega Iron and Steel Park. The site is adjacent to NH-6.

EXPORT PROMOTION INDUSTRIAL PARK

This is being set up at Durgapur over an area of 147 acres under a Central Government Sponsored Scheme, with a Central Grant of \$2.22 million and a State grant of \$0.89 million.

The park aims to develop high quality infrastructure to attract export related industries. The industries intending to set up units in this complex will have to export a minimum of 33.33 per cent of their production. The total project cost as per the current estimate is \$5.56 million.

The Asansol Durgapur Development Authority (ADDA) is the implementing agency and will lease out the developed plots and built up facilities like flatted factory floors, industrial sheds and warehousing spaces.

FOUNDRY PARK

WBIDC in association with Indian Foundry Association is setting up a modern Foundry Park at Hawli Bagan in Howrah district. Out of 924 acres of land identified, 300 acres have been purchased.

A Special Purpose Vehicle, called Foundry Cluster Development Association, has been incorporated. The project cost has been estimated at \$32.5 million. About 200 units are expected to come up in the Park with investment of about \$400 million.

GARMENT PARK

WBIDC is setting up a nine-acre Garment Park at the closed National Tannery on Canal-South Road. It will have a Common Facility Building, three Standard Design Factory Buildings, working women's hostel, and truckers' amenity centre.

CHEMICAL PARK

Indian Chemical Merchants' and Manufacturing Association (ICMMA) are setting up a Chemical Park at Islampur, Shyamchak and Majukhetra in Howrah district. ICMMA has identified 150 acres of land to set up the Park. WBIDC is assisting ICMMA in the acquisition of land as well as in obtaining no objection certificate (NOC) for the site from West Bengal Pollution Control Board.

RUBBER PARK

The All India Rubber Association (AIRA) is in the process of setting up a modern Rubber Park at Sankrail in Howrah District. About 35 acres of land is under process of direct purchase by a committee formed by the State Government.

A special purpose vehicle (SPV) called South Asia Rubber & Polymers Park Ltd. has been incorporated. The Government of India has sanctioned \$3.8 million as grant for infrastructure facilities, while WBIDC has sanctioned a term loan of \$0.75 million. Member units of AIRA will contribute \$2.78 million. About 250 units are expected to come up in the Rubber Park for manufacturing rubber footwear, rubber hoses, tubes, micro cellular sheets, Hawaii chappals (slipper made of rubber) and automotive rubber products.

EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING INFRASTRUCTURE

West Bengal ranks sixth in India in terms of literacy rate, which is at 69.22 per cent as against the national average of 65 per cent. West Bengal's educational network comprises over 66,925 Primary schools, 3,159 Secondary schools and 9,659 Higher Secondary schools.

The State is home to some of the country's premier institutions like the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur, Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, Indian Statistical Institute and Presidency College. Three ITIs in West Bengal are being developed into Centres of Excellence under the Government of India scheme and six more ITIs are expected to be taken up in the future.

The state also has eminent research institutes such as the Saha Institute, the Bose Institute, the Indian Association for Cultivation of Science and the Indian Institute of Chemical Biology.

Status of Educational Institute.

18 Universities

53 Engineering colleges, including Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur
450 Degree College
43 Polytechnics
50 ITIs
23 Management Institutes
9 Medical College

Source: India Stats and Economic survey

The state government is setting up an elaborate structure for imparting vocational training. Short Term Vocational Training (STVT) Programme is being undertaken through 109 STVT centres providing training on 150 approved courses.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

The state government has taken various measures for strengthening health infrastructure and for improving the efficiency of the health delivery system.

A medium-term Health Sector Reform Programme has been initiated to provide well-organized, affordable and impartial health system to all, especially, the poor. The reforms cover a wide extent of involvement ranging from improvement of physical infrastructure in the primary, secondary and tertiary sector to manpower planning and rationalization of the district and block health and family welfare groups and allowance of functional autonomy to hospitals through formation of Rogi Kalyan Samiti (patient welfare committees).

The reform process under the World Bank assisted State Health System Development Project (1997-2004) is now being extended to the primary sector. Apart from the support from the state budget and national programmes, the Government of West Bengal received financial and technical support from external sources.

Department for International Development – UK (DFID), funded Health Systems Development Initiative (HSDI) programme was launched by the government in 2005. It also launched the National Rural Health Mission in the same year.

The state's network of health care facilities comprises 12,057 health units, including 433 government and non-government hospitals. The total number of health centres remained stagnant. However, the number of sub-centres has increased substantially.

HEALTH INDICATORS

Details	West Bengal	All India
Population Covered per Medical Institution	12,057	26,536

Birth Rate*	20.6	24.8
Death Rate*	6.6	8.1
Infant Mortality Rate**	49	63
Life Expectancy at birth (years)		
Male	67.4	64.1
Female	71.1	65.4

* Per thousand persons

** Per thousand live births

HEALTH FACILITIES IN WEST BENGAL

Year	Hospitals	Health Centres (Rural Hospitals, Block Primary Health Centre, Primary Health Centre)	Sub Centre	Total Health Units
	(Govt &			
	Non -			
	Govt)			
	No.	Beds	Beds	Beds
2001-02	429	58721	12353	71074
2002-03	434	59110	12218	71328
2003-04	434	59110	12218	71328
2004-05	433	58312	12207	70519

Source: Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal

Health facilities are delivered in inaccessible areas through Mobile Health Care Services (MHCS) and mobile clinics, operated by NGOs. As a result of these events, total patients attending the mobile clinics rose substantially to reach 1.47 million in 2005-06.

INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SAVINGS AND BORROWING

Outstanding deposits in the State reached \$32.1 billion by the end of financial year 2006-07, from \$26.08 billion in the previous year 2005-2006. Outstanding loans and advances as on March 31, 2007 were \$21.07 billion as against \$15.77 billion in the previous year. The credit-deposit ratio of commercial banks was 61 per cent, of regional rural banks 45 per cent and co-operatives 59 per cent as on March 31, 2006. The average population covered per bank branch is 19,000 in West Bengal, higher than the average population of 16,150 per bank branch at the all-India level.

PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

TRANSPORT

Roads

The total length of roads in West Bengal is over 92,023 km, of which national highways represent 2,377 km and state highways 2,393 km. The road density of 1.04 km per sq km in West Bengal is much higher than the all-India average of 0.75 km. The work of improvement of 3,080 km of roads will be taken up during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

Under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, the state government has taken the initiative to come up with a \$597 million Action Plan, which includes extension and widening of major roads, widening and strengthening of secondary roads, construction of pedestrian underpasses, bridges, flyovers, elevated roads, traffic and transportation systems, including modern passenger dispersal systems. Several foreign companies are already in the competition to partner the Government of West Bengal in its efforts for improvement of roads. They include the Indonesia based Salim Group which would be constructing the Eastern Link Highway from Barasat to Raichak, and two four lane road bridges across the Hooghly and Haldi rivers, facilitating connectivity between Kolkata and the port city of Haldia as well as better connectivity to new industrial areas such as Nandigram.

Bridges and Flyovers

Construction of 116 bridges and flyovers had been taken up during the Tenth Plan period through the Public Works (Roads) Department. Out of this, 100 bridges and flyovers have already been completed and the remaining ones will be completed in 2009. In addition, construction of more bridges and flyovers will be taken up during the Eleventh Plan.

Railways

West Bengal has a strong railway infrastructure and is ranked number four in the country in terms of rail route density. The total railway route length in the state is 3,931 km of broad gauge, 280 km of meter gauge and 220 km of narrow gauge. Howrah, Asansol, Sealdah, Bandel, Bardhaman, Kharagpur and New Jalpaiguri are the main junctions in West Bengal. The Kolkata metro is the country's first underground railway.

Civil Aviation

The State has an international airport, the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport at DumDum, Kolkata, connecting it to all major countries. Bagdogra airport near Siliguri is an important domestic airport.

The importance of Bagdogra airport has increased with Siliguri becoming the gateway to northeastern states and a vital trade and logistics hub for the entire region. The Government of India recently sanctioned \$0.68 million to set up a perishable cargo complex at Bagdogra airport.

The State government has been actively pursuing for an effective set up of an air traffic base in North Bengal and for this purpose the existing default airport at Cooch Bihar was made operational in 2006 with the help of the Government of India and Airport Authority of India. Efforts are also on for revitalization of the Behala Flying Training Institute in Kolkata with appropriate private participation.

UPCOMING AVIATION PROJECTS

Name	Cost (USD Million)	Status	Location
Kolkata Airport Up gradation Project	44	Proposed	Kolkata
Kolkata Terminal Building, Phase-2	20	Under Implementation	Kolkata
Air Taxi Project	9	Announcement	West Bengal
Total Investment	73		

Source: Monthly Review of State of India, Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy

Ports

West Bengal has two modern ports located at Kolkata and Haldia. Between 2002 and 2006, Kolkata port increased its cargo volume by 22.74 million tonnes, which was the highest amongst all major ports. Its share in total traffic handled by all major ports increased to 12.55 per cent in 2005-06, from 10.6 per cent in 2001-02.

Kolkata Port is India's only riverine port with two dock systems - Kolkata Dock System at Kolkata with the oil wharves at Budge-Budge and a deep-water dock system at Haldia Dock Complex, Haldia, for sea borne trade.

Haldia Dock Complex was the first modern port project taken up in India having the facilities to handle all types of traffic and bulk cargo. It is also the first dock system in India to provide full-fledged container handling facilities.

The West Bengal government will construct a \$265 million container port at Kulpi. The new port will handle 1 million tonnes of cargo per annum initially, which will be expanded to 4.5 million tonnes per annum in due course. Port facilities will be spread over 1,500 hectares.

A SEZ spread over 4,400 acre is likely to be set up around the port. BPL is also one of the promoters of the SEZ project.

The Ruia Group has submitted a proposal to the West Bengal Government for setting up an integrated shipbuilding, repairing and recycling facility with an estimated investment of \$667 million. This project would come up at Jellingham on the river Hooghly in East Medinipur. The company has already approached Kolkata Port Trust for 1,500 acres at Jellingham.

Power

West Bengal is amongst the key states in India that have a surplus power situation. NASSCOM–Gartner ranks West Bengal’s power infrastructure amongst the best in the country. Power in West Bengal is currently generated by state agencies like West Bengal Power Development Corporation Ltd (WBPDCL), West Bengal State Electricity Board (WBSEB), Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC), Durgapur Project Ltd (DPL) and Disergarh Power Supply Corporation (DPSC) as well as central agencies like National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC). The total installed capacity in the State was 7,616 MW (as on November 2005), an addition of 517 MW since 2000-01.

Electricity generation has gone up from 29,445 MU in 2000-2001 to 40,821 MU in 2004-05 and 29,255 for the period April 2005 to November 2005. Of the 40,821 MU power generations in 2004-05, 24,902 MU was generated by state agencies. As on November 2005, 86 per cent of West Bengal’s villages were electrified.

Installed power capacity and generation in West Bengal

Year	Installed Capacity (MW)	Generation (MU)
2000-01	7099	29455
2001-02	7309	27808
2002-03	7316	34615
2003-04	7330	37406
2004-05	7616	40821
2005-06 (up to November 2005)	7616	29255

Source: Department of Power, Government of West Bengal

The State government has constituted an independent power Regulatory Commission. Among the State owned power utilities, thermal generation has been disaggregated from the West Bengal State Electricity Board (WSEB) and entrusted to the West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (WBPDCL).

Several initiatives have been taken for improving plant load factor (PLF) and reducing auxiliary and specific oil consumption in the generation sector by WBSEB and DPL. A wide range of involvement has

been made to increase revenue collections to a significant extent and to reduce the losses by the WBSEB and DPL. These include 100 per cent metering of all feeders up to 11 KV, strengthening of transmission and distribution networks and almost 100 per cent consumer metering. Stringent actions for implementing anti-power theft measures have been initiated. As a result, cash surplus has been recorded by all three state owned power utilities with DPL and WBPDCCL earning net profits.

Major Upcoming Power Projects in West Bengal

Name	Capacity	Unit	Cost (USD Million)	Status	Location
Greenfield Nuclear Power Project	2000	Mw	2222	Announcement	Haripur
Thermal Power Project	1215	Mw	1333	Announcement	Baraboni
Raghunathpur Power Project	1000	Mw	1000	Announcement	Raghunathpur
Durgapur Power Project	1000	Mw	932	Proposed	Durgapur
Haldia Power Project	1500	Mw	889	Proposed	Haldia
Sarardighi Power Project Stage 2	1000	Mw	889	Under Implementation	Sagardighi
Katwa Gas -Based Power Project	1000	Mw	778	Announcement	Katwa
Puruliya Hydel Power Project	900	Mw	709	Under Implementation	Ayodhya Hills
Turga Hydel Power Project	600	Mw	569	Announcement	Ayodhya Hills
Sarardighi Power Project Stage	1600	Mw	527	Under Implementation	Sagardighi
Mejia Unit 5 & 6 Thermal Power Project	500	Mw	492	Under Implementation	Mejia
Murshidabad Power Project	500	Mw	444	Announcement	Murshidabad
Ballavpur (Ranigunj) Power Project	500	Mw	444	Under Implementation	Raniganj
Bakreswar Power Project Stage 4 & 5	420	Mw	394	Announcement	Bakreswar
Bakreswar Power Project Stage	420	Mw	338	Under Implementation	Bakreswar
Santaldih Thermal Power Project	250	Mw	304	Under Implementation	Santaldih
Dishergarh Power Project	240	Mw	244	Announcement	Dishergarh
Thermal Power Project (Unit 7)	300	Mw	240	Under Implementation	Durgapur
Teesta Low Dam Stage 4 Power Project	160	Mw	236	Under Implementation	Teesta River
Budge Budge 3 Power Project	250	Mw	222	Under Implementation	Budge Budge
Total Investment			13206		

Source: Monthly Review of States of India, CMIE

Telecommunication

West Bengal was the first Indian state to adopt mobile telephony and would soon boast of a 1,600 km optical fiber based information super highway. Kolkata offers more than 580 Mbps of international satellite connectivity through Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) and Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) and 2 satellite Earth Stations at Kharagpur and Durgapur. Cable connectivity is provided

through leased Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) lines to Mumbai and onward connectivity through submarine cables. Besides BSNL, private players like Reliance Infocomm, Hutchison and Bharti Telesonic also connect Kolkata to the rest of the world. A submarine cable landing station at Haldia is also under active consideration of the government.

Additional satellite earth stations are being set up in Haldia and Siliguri. The Reliance Group has set up a well spread out Optical Fiber Cable network in the state, which is a part of their National Broadband Access Project. The BSNL optical fiber network extends over 15,000-route km and has ensured connectivity on demand even at the block level. This has facilitated e-governance, telemedicine, and wide connectivity throughout the state.

Upcoming Telecommunication Projects in West Bengal

Name	Cost (USD Million)	Status
West Bengal Cellular Services Project	211	Announcement
Cellular Network Expansion Project	84	Announcement
Telecommunication Expansion Project	31	Announcement
Telecommunication Expansion Project (Kolkata Circle)	24	Announcement
Forth Cellular Services Project		Under Implementation
Total Investment	350	

Source: Monthly Review of States of India, Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy