



Transport Sector: Present and Prospects BGBS 2023

From road safety to adaptation of e-mobility and improving air quality, from upholding transport infrastructure and facilitating scrapping to support spreading of metro railways network, from attracting investment in Greenfield airports to emphasizing on IT and online services in the Transport sector, the State is always committed to invite investment and Public-Private-Partnership. Welcome to West Bengal.

1. Road Safety

i. Safe Drive Save Life

With the initiatives taken under “Safe Drive Save Life” by the Transport Department (as Nodal Department) with the active support of other Stakeholder Authorities like the, Police Authorities, PWD, UD&MA, H&FW and the Department of School Education, the Road Traffic accident, injury and fatality cases have come down from 2016 to 2022:

2016			2022			Change over the period		
Accident	Injury	Fatality	Accident	Injury	Fatality	Accident	Injury	Fatality
17684	14419	6951	13686	12843	6002	-22.60%	-10.93%	-13.65%

ii. Initiative to Reduce Vehicular Pollution

- Encouraging and mandating Auto rickshaws that are being run by LPG & CNG to reduce vehicular pollution.
- Exemption of Permit: To boost the use of electric vehicles in WB, the State has exempted electric vehicles from necessity of permit vide Transport Deptt. Order no.2890-WT dated 5.10.21.
- EV Tax Incentive: Transport Department provides a reduced tax rate to incentivise EV in the State since 03.09.2012. 4-Wheel EVs in the State gets an indirect benefit through tax exemption as they have to pay a flat EV tax of INR 21,400 only altogether for 5 years thereby paying 25-40% less tax than fossil fuel run vehicles.
- Exemption of Motor Vehicle Tax, Addl. Tax along with registration fees: In addition to above, Motor Vehicle Tax, Addl. Tax along with registration fees for two-wheeled & and four-wheeled battery-operated electric vehicles and to all categories of CNG-operated vehicles have been exempted for the period from 1st April 2022 to 31st March, 2024 vide 1787-WT dated 25th May, 2022.
- Remote Sensing Device (RSD) is being used in Kolkata & surrounding area for automated checking of pollution emission by motor vehicles. Five more such machines are being introduced soon.
- Two Weigh In Motion (WIM) devices have been introduced to detect overloading vehicles.
- All Auto Emission Testing Centres (AETC) have been incorporated under single central database (VAHAN) vide notification 2731-WT dated 10.07.2019 to curb vehicular pollution.
- Notification for scrapping of State-owned vehicles older than 15 years has been issued.

2. Infrastructure Development for adaptation of e-mobility and improvement of air quality

- 71,194 electric vehicles (17,544 two-wheelers, 47,345 three-wheelers, 122 buses, 2,611 goods carriages, and rest others) have been registered so far (13,644 in 2023, up to 30th September) in West Bengal.
- Presently 96 electric buses are plying in Kolkata under the West Bengal Transport Corporation (WBTC) and 5 electric buses are plying in Digha under the South Bengal State Transport Corporation (SBSTC).
- For e-vehicle Charging, 56 slow chargers and 21 fast chargers have been installed at different places including Kolkata for captive charging;
- 240 public charging stations have been integrated with BEE (Bureau of Energy efficiency) by Power Department.
- Snap-E Cabs has operationalised 521 AC Charging and 130 DC Charging Stations across the State.
- Progress of work CNG pipelines is improving CNG vehicle scenario. STUs are opening CNG stations at their sites for supply to Government and Private vehicles in addition to those being set up by Petroleum companies.
- 1,582 CNG vehicles (1,074 three-wheelers, 109 buses, 276 goods carriages, and rest others) have been registered so far (441 registered in 2023, up to 30th September) in West Bengal
- 54,920 LPG vehicles (54,633 three-wheelers, 21 goods carriages, and rest others) have been registered so far (2525 in 2023, up to 30th September) in West Bengal.
- Further, hybrid vehicles have also been registered – 77,124 Petrol/LPG, 10,101 Petrol/CNG and 24,156 Petrol/ethanol.
- Presently, 30 CNG buses in Asansol-Durgapur area are plying under SBSTC; and 180 such buses are under different stages of supply to the State Transport Authorities within current financial year. Private operators are also showing interest in this domain.



3. Infrastructure Development

- Vehicle Location Tracking Device (VLTD): This System will provide real-time vehicle location tracking, geo-fencing, safety features, panic button for sending emergency alerts, especially for women and children at risk. Already almost one-third of target vehicles have been fitted with the device in less than a year.
- Driving License & Registration Certificate (DL & RC): Chip and QR Code-based Smart card type of Driving License and vehicle Registration Certificate have been introduced.
- Construction/renovation of Bus Terminus at important locations throughout the State at different District headquarters and important localities including major municipal towns like Jadavpur, Karunamoyee Bus Terminus at Saltlake, Santragachi Bus Terminus, Hetia Bus Terminus in Bankura district, Jhargram in Jangalmahal area, etc. and AC & Non AC bus passenger shelter at various locations of different districts has been completed in this period. The bus terminus at Goaltor & Chandrakona in Paschim Medinipur, Tarapith in Birbhum, Jhilimili & Ranibandh in Bankura, and Kurseong in Darjeeling are in the developing stage.
- Integrated Check posts with Truck Parking Places/Terminals supported by Suvidha Portal: Integrated Check posts with Truck Parking Places/Terminals at International Border Check posts like Petrapole in North 24 Pgs, Hili in Dakshin Dinajpur district, Changrabandha in Coochbehar district, Fulbari in Jalpaiguri district etc. supported by Suvidha Portal services have been started for hassle-free and smooth transportation of goods vehicles across the international borders. This has made operations at these checkpoints efficient.

4. Airport Development

- India's first private sector greenfield airport in Andal, Paschim Bardhaman - A JV with Bengal Aerotropolis Projects Limited (BAPL) and the State Government. Regular is in operation and services to different cities are available.
- Coochbehar airport has started regular Coochbehar-Kolkata service under UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagarik) with VGF (Viability Gap Funding)
- State Government has provided land for extension of Bagdogra Airport at Darjeeling district for improved services
- Malda and Balurghat Airports are under development for fixed-wing aircraft services; process for obtaining license under DGCA is under progress
- The State Government has set up 31 helipads across the State.



5. Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility

- Notification has been issued and online facility has been available for setting up of RVSF.
- All the approvals related to the Application for the Grant of Registration Certificate for the Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility are being done through this portal. Any application, as per Rule, pending more than 60 days would be deemed approved.
- One unit has already been registered and is under construction at Uluberia, Howrah District
- For another facility, land has been allotted in Kalyani Industrial Park in Nadia District and other processes are being taken in full swing to set up the unit.

6. Metro Railway

- The State Government is providing continuous all-round support for fast implementation of Metrorail projects.
- Three new lines, viz. Bidhannagar-Howrah Maidan, Joka-BBD Bag and New Garia-Airport are at the final stages of construction. Services have already been started in first two lines and testing is going on in the third line.

7. Intelligent Transport System

- On-bus Passenger Information System (PIS) includes destination & route alignment display through outside and inside LED display board, Security Camera for passenger safety (CCTV)
- Automated Fare Collection System (AFCS) including Electronic Ticketing Machine (ETM), Pre-paid West Bengal Transport Smart Card with RFID, Online ticket / seat reservation, Mobile ticket and Vehicle Tracking System (GPS) etc. have been introduced in STU owned buses for the benefit of the passengers
- VLTD is being fitted with all buses for better security and safety.

8. Online Service in the Transport Sector

The Transport Department, Government of West Bengal is providing 153 Online services including 102 faceless services without any physical touchpoint. These services may be availed by logging in to <http://www.parivahan.gov.in>. The services are provided in the broad categories: -

- Vehicle-related services (VAHAN) like Registration of Vehicle, Payment of Road Tax, Certificate of Fitness, Transfer of Ownership, Termination of Hypothecation, Change of Address, Vehicle Particulars etc.
- Permit related services (VAHAN) like issue of Offer letter, New Permit, Special Permit, National Permit, Duplicate Permit, Renewal of Permit, cancellation of Permit etc. and
- Driving License related services (SARATHI) like issue of Learner License, Driving License, Renewal of Driving License, Change of Address, Duplicate Driving License etc.



9. Public & Private Investments

- Transport Department catalysed private investments amounting to INR 2,80,000 crore (approx), leading to job creation for a substantial 20 lakh (approx) individuals in last decade. Simultaneous public investments in the tune of INR 4,400 crore improved mass mobility services.
- The Transport Department is set to draw even more substantial private investments, amounting to more than INR 1,16,800 crore over the next five years. There is also a proposed public investment of around INR 7,400 crore in the same period.

i. Upcoming & Ongoing Projects in the Transport Sector

- SnapE (Private Investment - INR 2,825 crore): SnapE is going to make a substantial private investment focused on providing eco-friendly e-Mobility options.
- Ride-Sharing Services (Private Investment - INR 85 crore): The investment in ride-sharing services, such as Uber, further augments connectivity options for the public, making transportation more accessible and convenient.
- The State has launched online Yatri-Sathi app, an Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) service, aggregating the existing metered Taxis.
- Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities (RVSF) (Private Investment - INR 10 crore per unit): The commitment to RVSF promotes environmentally friendly disposal of old vehicles, contributing to reduced pollution and improved air quality.
- West Bengal Inland Water Transport, Logistics, and Spatial Development Project (Public Investment - Funded by the World Bank - INR 1,242 crore approx.): This project aims to enhance inland water transportation, logistics, and spatial development and is being implemented in a fast mode.
- State Budget Projects (Public Investment - INR 7,400 crore): These projects encompass a diverse range of initiatives, including NG-E-Ferry, jetty construction, electronic traffic surveillance, and various transport infrastructure schemes.
- National Clean Air Program (Public Investment - INR 400 crore): This initiative focuses on combatting air pollution through investments in electric (EV) and compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles and charging infrastructure, promoting cleaner and more sustainable transportation alternatives.
- Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (Public Investment - INR 600 crore): This funding supports critical projects such as bridges, RO-RO services, jetties, interceptor vehicles, buses and other transport services.



ii. Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Projects:

- **Weigh-Bridge Complexes:** The department has successfully implemented weigh-bridge complexes at various check posts. These facilities provide essential infrastructure for monitoring and regulating transportation activities effectively, ensuring compliance with regulations.
- **Franchise of 35 uses:** Through the West Bengal Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (WBTIDCL), the department has undertaken the franchise of 35 buses, demonstrating the state's commitment to improving public transportation services and expanding its reach to serve the public more efficiently.
- **Electronic Surveillance:** The State Government encompassing substantial investment for electronic monitoring and enforcement to improve road safety under PPP mode.

10. Employment opportunities

Mode of Investment	Projects	Estimated Employment
Employment through Private Investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SnapE cabs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3000 direct employments in addition to already employed 2500
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities (RVSF) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimated 50 approx. per unit.
Public Investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicles like goods vehicles, buses, tractor/trailer, three-wheelers and contract carriages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimated 10 lakh employment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Bengal Inland Water Transport, Logistics and Spatial Development project (World Bank Project) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimated direct and indirect employment is 4000 approx. in 80+ jetties.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project under Gatishakti 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimated employment of 200 approx. in truck terminus
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 12 jetties employment of 600 approx. directly or indirectly In 80 buses employment of 200 approx.
PPP Mode	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic Surveillance for Road Safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500 direct and indirect employment



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Knowledge Partner



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