

# State Session

## **WEST BENGAL: BENGAL MEANS BUSINESS**

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**16 May, 1330 Hrs; Hall No: A5; Bombay Exhibition Center (BEC), Mumbai**

Government of West Bengal has associated with GES 2018 as the Principal Partner State. Government of West Bengal has sent a delegation of Senior Officials to showcase the achievements of the state.

**Dr. Srikanth, IAS**, Officer on Special Duty, Department of Industries, Commerce & Enterprises, Government of West Bengal and Mr. Soubhagya Parida, Deputy General Manager & Company Secretary, West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC) has mentioned that at present West Bengal is India's fourth largest economy, and recorded a gross state domestic product (GSDP) of US\$ 140.56 billion in 2016-17. As of 2018 April, West Bengal has ranked at no. 1 in Ease of Doing Business (EODB).

The state's GSDP expanded at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 10.57 per cent from 2004-05 to 2016-17. Agriculture is the chief occupation in the state and contributed 18.8 per cent to the GSDP in 2014-15. West Bengal is the largest producer of rice in India. Rice production for the state totalled 15.1 million tonnes in FY17. West Bengal is also the largest fish producing state in India. During 2016-17, the state produced a total of 1.702 million tonnes of fish in comparison with a produce of 1.632 million tonnes during 2015-16. As of January 2018, West Bengal had a total installed power generation capacity of 10,490.23 megawatt (MW).

They highlighted the growth of the Manufacturing, MSME, Power, Food Processing, Tourism sectors under the regime of the New Government. Dr Srikanth highlighted the proposed allocation of US\$ 146.71 million for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises & Textiles Department, under state budget 2018-19 by The State Government. Bengal accounted for 11.62 per cent of micro, small and medium enterprises, the most among the top 10 states of the country. Government is taking some really significant initiatives towards the revamp of the Tea Production.

Addressing to the audience, Mr Anup Agarwal, Co – Founder, TruckHall Pvt Ltd has shared the current scenario of business in Bengal and the kind of positive vibes has been created by the Government. Mr Rathi, Director, Sumedha Fiscal has also explained the benefits they are getting over the years as their head office is in Kolkata.

Kolkata has become the IT hub for the East and North East over the years. Mr Gautam Banerjee, Managing Director, Business Brio has explained the role IT business play for the resurgence of Bengal and also mentioned the positive business outlook combined with encouragements from the Policy makers.

Mr Satyam Roychowdhury, Co- Founder and Managing Director, Techno India Group has shared his experience in running the business for last 25+ years and the support he is receiving from the Government. He also mentioned about the State's achievement of not losing a single man days.

Mr Supratim Basu, Managing Director, Help Tourism was ecstatic about the state's new face in promoting the tourism which is seeing a big boost off late after the huge promotional drive that the current Government is doing.

The session ended with some queries from the probable investors and the Government is more than willing to extend a support to them