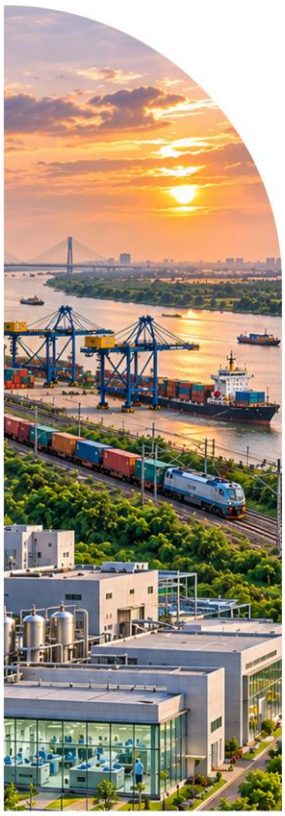
BCC&I
AIDING BUSINESS
SINCE 1833









WEST BENGAL
INVESTMENT PROMOTION POLICY 2026

A Special Discussion on
Decoding the new Policy

Questions and Observations of Industry and Businesses and their corresponding explanations have been recorded in the document

WORK IN PROGRESS AS ON
18TH NOVEMBER

INTRODUCTION: BCC&I approached all its Corporate Members and Stakeholders to share their queries as soon as the new West Bengal Investment Promotion Policy 2026 was unveiled. On receiving the questions, the Research and Project Vertical of BCC&I, under the guidance of Mr. Vivek Jalan, Chairperson, National Fiscal Affairs & Taxation Committee, BCC&I, drafted the replies based on their understanding of the Policy. Hence, the Disclaimer is provided below.

Being the Oldest Chamber of Commerce in India, our mandate is to sensitize industry stakeholders about the State's policy for large-scale industrialization and, in turn, facilitate employment creation. This is a continuous process, and BCC&I, under the guidance of its Leadership and Expert Committees, will be continuously working as the bridge between the Government and Industry Stakeholders.

DISCLAIMER: While the West Bengal Investment Promotion Policy, 2026 establishes the overarching incentive framework, specific clause-level provisions, annexures, sectoral classifications, and procedural guidelines referred to in the policy booklet are yet to be available in the public domain. These details remain subject to notifications under the forthcoming **"West Bengal Investment Promotion Scheme, 2026."**

Nature of Incentives: Please note that the policy does not offer upfront capital subsidies or lump-sum cash grants toward Fixed Capital Investment (FCI) in plant and machinery. All fiscal incentives are structured strictly as post-commencement reimbursements (including Net SGST, electricity duty, and EPF contributions), disbursed in phased annual installments over the approved eligibility period.

FOLLOWING TABLE PROVIDES THE QUESTIONS THAT BCC&I RECEIVED FROM ITS STAKEHOLDERS WITH REPLIES

(Ref page numbers in the following document is in reference to the PDF document of the Policy)

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
1. Panagarh Industrial Park project Investment ~₹500 crore; 30 acres leased from WBIDC; possession December 2025. We understand the project qualifies as a Large Unit. **Clarifications sought:** (a) Do "Petrochemicals" in the Thrust Sector list include chemicals and paints? (b) Does Panagarh Industrial Park fall in a Priority Area? (c) Are the following included in Eligible FCI: 1. Specialized technical, civil and structural works (multilayered PEB structures carrying heavy dynamic loads from equipment). 2. Integrated plant facilities, including RM and FG warehouses. 3. Supporting systems: (a) Internal & external process piping and pipe structures; (b) Electrical installations (HT/LT, transformers, DG sets, motors, cables); (c) Automation & instrumentation cables/racks; (d) Fire detection & protection (foam/water sprinklers, fire water storage tanks); (e) ETP/ZLD; (f) Pollution control equipment; (g) Utilities (compressors, cooling towers, cooling/softening plants, boilers, etc.); (h) Renewable energy setup.	**Large Unit Status & Crucial Cutoff Date (9 May 2026):** ● **Project Category:** As per MSME Act (w.e.f. Aug'26 also) any enterprise with INV>125 cr or TO>500 cr is not an MSME. Hence, with investment> 125 cr, it should qualify as a Large Unit and not an MSME. However, if FCI is >₹1,000 crore, land is sourced from the State, the sector is non-strategic (non-petrochemical), and there are≥50 direct jobs per acre, then Strategic & Mega Project status may be considered as meeting at least 2 of 3 criteria (Pages 15, 20). ● **Effective Date Rule:** Although land possession was taken in December 2025, only eligible capital expenditure incurred on or after 9 May 2026 (paid through banking channels and recorded in books) qualifies for incentives under the 2026 Policy (Pages 15–16). **(a) Do "Petrochemicals" Include Chemicals & Paints? No** ● **Thrust Sector Scope:** Annexure III lists 'Petrochemicals' specifically rather than general chemicals or paints (Page 17). Downstream paint and coating manufacturing is not automatically covered unless explicitly included in the detailed sub-sector definitions in Annexure III or notified under the West Bengal Investment Promotion Scheme, 2026 (Pages 9, 17). ● **Applicable Ceiling:** As a regular manufacturing Large Unit, the project receives an overall assistance ceiling of 100% of Eligible FCI (as possibly not located in a Priority Area) over up to 10 years subject to 15% per year, alongside 100% Net SGST reimbursement for 10 years, 5-year electricity duty reimbursement, 100% stamp duty reimbursement on first land lease/purchase, and EPF support in case of 50% of employer's contribution incase direct employees > 400 (consider only those employees who earn <1L per month) (Pages 17–18). **(b) Does Panagarh Industrial Park Fall in a Priority Area? Possibly No**

	• **Sub-Division Classification:** Priority Areas are notified at the sub-division level (covering less-industrialized sub-divisions scoring below the State median on the Industrial Development Index) in Annexure I of the Policy (Pages 10, 16). Panagarh falls within the Durgapur sub-division (Paschim Bardhaman), an established industrial belt; exact Priority Area status depends on whether that sub-division is listed in Annexure I (Page 16). **(c) Items Included in Eligible Fixed Capital Investment (Eligible FCI):** • **General Rule:** For manufacturing units, Eligible FCI is anchored to new plant and machinery, paid through banks, shown in the books, installed on or after 9 May 2026, including Pollution Control Equipment, and certified by an auditor (Pages 15–16, 18). **3(f) Explicitly Covered (Item 3f):** Pollution control equipment is explicitly counted within Eligible FCI (Page 18). A plant refers to an entire facility, building, or large-scale installation used for manufacturing or processing; machinery refers to the mechanical devices and heavy engines that perform specific operational tasks inside that facility, and equipment is a broader, more general term for any tools, devices, or mobile assets used to support work or service delivery • **Process-Integrated Systems (Items 3a–3e, 3g):** Internal process piping, dedicated electrical installations (HT/LT, transformers, DG sets, motors, cables), automation/instrumentation cables and racks, statutory fire detection/protection systems, ETP/ZLD, and core plant utilities (compressors, cooling towers/plants, softening plants, boilers) qualify to the extent they are directly integral to plant and machinery and certified by a Chartered Engineer/auditor under the Operational Scheme. • **Civil Works, Warehouses & Renewable Setup (Items 1, 2, 3h):** Standard civil buildings, standalone RM/FG warehouses, and external off-site infrastructure are generally excluded from plant-and-machinery FCI unless specialised load-bearing foundations/structures are certified as **strictly integral to machinery installation under the Operational Scheme. Hence, the focus should be on the "integration to P&M".**

	Captive renewable energy setups qualify for 100% Green Power Open Access surcharge waivers (until 31 March 2030) and net metering benefits, while capital inclusion depends on the detailed Operational Scheme guidelines (Pages 9, 18, 21).
2. How does the West Bengal Investment Promotion Policy, 2026 support IT/ITeS organisations and industrial enterprises in adopting AI, automation, and emerging digital technologies to redesign operating models and boost productivity?	**1. Thrust Sector Status for Emerging Digital Technologies:** • 'Emerging digital technologies' is officially designated as a Thrust Sector, granting eligible IT and digital service units an enhanced total incentive ceiling of 110% of Eligible Capital Investment over 5 years, and tech/electronics manufacturing units a 110%–120% ceiling over 10 years. A unit must choose either the manufacturing/non-service track or the services track, not both (Pages 11, 17, 19, 20). Eligible CI covers Building, Fit-Outs, IT Hardware, Equipment & Utilities, Eligible CI does not include: Land, Working Capital, or Pre-Operative Costs (Page 20). **2. Dedicated 5-Year Package for IT/ITeS & Consulting Units:** • IT, ITeS, engineering/design, and management consulting units receive 100% Net SGST (paid in cash) reimbursement up to ₹10 crore/year, employer EPF reimbursement of 50% (75% for women) for units with over 200 employees up to ₹10 crore/year, electricity duty reimbursement for 3 years (5 years in Priority Areas), and a lease rental subsidy of the lower of up to ₹20/sq ft/month (₹25 in Priority Areas) or 50% of actual rent. Central and State schemes for the services sector remain available on top, as long as no cost is paid twice. (Pages 11, 19–20). **3. AI, Robotics & Automation Grants for Industrial Transformation:** • To help manufacturing MSMEs redesign operations and boost productivity, the policy provides Technology Upgradation grants covering up to 50% of the cost (capped at ₹50 lakh) for adopting AI-based quality control, robotics, IoT, and digital automation (Page 18). **4. Additionally, in case of setup of an R&D Facility,** this policy provides 50% of the setup cost of the R&D facility (75% for 100% EOUs), up to 5 cr, paid in 10 installments against milestones (Page 18)
3. What incentives, expansion rules, green	**1. Thrust & Strategic Sector Status for BESS & Renewable Energy:**

power concessions, and FDI facilitation mechanisms apply to Renewable Energy and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) projects in West Bengal under the 2026 Policy?	• Electric vehicles and batteries (covering Battery Energy Storage Systems / BESS) and 'Green hydrogen and waste-to-energy' are designated Thrust Sectors as well as Strategic Sectors for Mega Projects (Pages 11, 17, 20). **2. Financial Ceilings, Expansion Rules & Mega Project Tailoring:** • New BESS or renewable manufacturing projects in the above sectors receive a 110% Eligible FCI ceiling (120% in Priority Areas) with a 20% annual claim cap over 10 years (Pages 17–18). (BESS may not be covered , need to clarify as it says only EV batteries, ie Li-Ion Batteries for EVs.) If expanding an existing facility, you must add at least 25% to FCI, create new productive space, and generate at least 20 direct jobs per acre (5 in capital-intensive sectors) (Page 21). • **Strategic & Mega Projects (meeting 2 of 3 tests:** scale >₹500/₹1,000 crore, strategic sector (EVs, Green Hydrogen, Advanced Batteries), or ≥50 jobs/acre) can seek customized incentive packages via the Empowered Committee (Page 20). **3. Green Power Concessions & FDI Facilitation:** • Within-state green power open access enjoys a 100% waiver on cross-subsidy and additional surcharges until March 2030 (Page 21). Projects ≥₹100 crore receive a Dedicated Business Manager (up to Secretary-level for >₹2,500 crore), fortnightly Nodal Agency review, monthly Chief Secretary review, and active State facilitation for Central clearances via ipp.wb.gov.in (Page 23). Consumers with contract demand of 100 kW or more can buy green power through open access (captive green power at any size), for applications received up to 31 March 2030. Within West Bengal: transmission and wheeling charges are 25% of the charge that would otherwise apply, with nil cross-subsidy surcharge and nil additional surcharge. From outside the State: captive power pays nil cross-subsidy surcharge and 50% additional surcharge; non-captive power pays 50% of each. [Page 21]
4. Have subsidy timelines for rooftop and industrial solar power consumers been extended, and what new incentives or open-access concessions are announced for the renewable energy sector under the 2026 Policy?	**1. Green Power Open Access & Surcharge Waiver Timeline (Valid till 31 March 2030):** • Consumers with a contract demand of at least 100 kW (and captive green power users of any capacity) applying up to 31 March 2030 receive a 100% waiver on Cross-Subsidy Surcharge and Additional Surcharge for green power sourced within West Bengal (both captive and non-captive), plus a 75% discount on Transmission and Wheeling charges (Pages 11, 14, 21).

	• For green power sourced from outside West Bengal, only 25% of the Transmission and Wheeling charges are to be paid by the consumer. The consumer needs to pay 50% of the additional surcharge, and no cross-subsidy surcharge is payable for non-captive users; captive users must pay 50% of the cross-subsidy surcharge. (Page 21) **2. Renewable Energy Thrust Sector Benefits:** • Green Hydrogen and Waste-to-Energy are defined as Thrust Sectors, granting eligible manufacturing or generating units an enhanced total incentive ceiling of 110% of Eligible Fixed Capital Investment (120% in Priority Areas) with a 20% annual claim cap over 10 years (Pages 11, 17). **3. Net Metering & Rooftop Solar Scope:** • Net metering benefits are explicitly extended to Not-for-Profit institutions and revived sick/closed units (Pages 11, 22). Specific capital subsidy deadlines for standalone rooftop solar installations outside open-access surcharge waivers are governed by the detailed Operational Scheme and State renewable energy notifications (Pages 9, 21–22).
5. How does the West Bengal Investment Promotion Policy, 2026 incorporate sustainability, green power, and environmental infrastructure into industrial development?	**Sustainability, Green Power & Environmental Infrastructure:** • **Pollution Control in FCI:** Capital spending on pollution control equipment is explicitly counted within Eligible Fixed Capital Investment (auditor-certified) (Page 18). • **Effluent Treatment & Testing Labs:** Projects with Eligible FCI above ₹1,000 crore receive up to 10% FCI funding for internal effluent treatment plants (ETPs), drainage, water systems, and testing labs (Page 21). • **Renewable Open Access & Technical Services:** 100% waiver on cross-subsidy and additional surcharges for within-state green power open access until 31 March 2030 (Page 21), while engineering, design, and technical/testing services qualify for the 5-year Service Unit track (Page 19). Mandatory carbon reporting or third-party ESG certification protocols are governed by the detailed Operational Scheme and WBPCB norms.
6. What state incentives exist for EVs, renewable energy, energy efficiency, and circular economy projects, and what	**EV, Renewable Energy & Circular Economy Incentives + Audit Rules:** • 'Electric vehicles and batteries' and 'Green hydrogen and waste-to-energy' (circular economy) are Thrust Sectors receiving 110%–120% FCI ceilings over 10 years, and

verification or audit requirements apply?	also qualify as Strategic Sectors for bespoke Mega Project packages (Pages 17–18, 20). • Technology upgradation grants and capital investment claims require auditor/technical certification and remain subject to statutory inspection and audit (Pages 18, 23). • Audit norms will be notified in the procedures. Investors are advised to **keep separate records and allow inspection and audit** as and when applicable. Hence, one needs to be ready at all times with records. Further- • Keep your assets, location, activity, and jobs through the benefit and lock-in periods. • Seek approval at least 60 days before a transfer, closure or relocation. Comply with the law, and notify authorities promptly of any change that affects eligibility. (Page 23)
7. What subsidies apply to leasing storage-cum-office space in a logistics park for statewide pharmaceutical distribution, and what incentives will support setting up a pharmaceutical manufacturing unit in an industrial zone in the future?	**Your company will not receive any incentive for the storage & office space in a logistics park; however, it will receive incentives for its pharma manufacturing activities. Reference provided below** **1. Leased Storage/Office Space & Logistics Park Rules:** • Standalone trading or purely wholesale stock distribution is excluded from incentives under the policy (Page 16). However, 'Multi-modal logistics parks' qualify as an eligible Strategic Sector for large-scale investments (Page 20), and leased premises used for eligible IT/technical/back-office service operations qualify for a Lease Rental Subsidy of ₹20/sq ft/month (₹25 in Priority Areas) or 50% of rent for 5 years (Page 20). Hence, if a back-office facility is set up to service the manufacturing facility, the case may be dealt with. **2. Future Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Unit in an Industrial Zone:** • 'Biotech, pharma and medical devices' is an official Thrust Sector (Pages 11, 17). When you establish your manufacturing plant (with investments made on or after 9 May 2026), you can apply for land from the State's GIS-mapped industrial park inventory (Page 22). • Your pharma manufacturing unit will receive an enhanced total assistance ceiling of 110% of Eligible Fixed Capital Investment (120% in Priority Areas) with a 20% annual claim cap over 10 years, covering 100% Net SGST, 5-year electricity duty reimbursement, 100% stamp duty

	reimbursement on initial lease/purchase, R&D grants, EPF reimbursement, and MSME interest/tech grants (Pages 17–18).
8. What are the growth prospects, sectoral incentives, and financial support mechanisms available for agro-based and food processing industries under the West Bengal Investment Promotion Policy, 2026?	**1. Thrust Sector Recognition:** • 'Food and marine processing, including animal feed and fish feed' is officially recognized as a priority Thrust Sector under the 2026 Policy (Pages 11, 17). **2. Higher Financial Ceilings & Annual Caps:** • Agro and food processing units receive an enhanced overall assistance ceiling of 110% of Eligible Fixed Capital Investment in general areas and 120% in less-industrialized Priority Areas, with an accelerated annual disbursement cap of 20% over up to 10 years from production start (Pages 10, 17–18). **3. Core Fiscal & Employment Support:** • Units receive 100% Net SGST reimbursement for 10 years, 100% electricity duty reimbursement for 5 years, 100% stamp duty and registration fee reimbursement on first land purchase or lease, and R&D facility grants of 50% (75% for 100% Export-Oriented Units) up to ₹5 crore (Pages 18–19). • MSME units also receive employer EPF reimbursement of 100% for women and transgender employees and 50% for men for 10 years, up to ₹5 crore/year (Page 18). **4. MSME & Industrial Cluster Support:** • MSME agro-enterprises qualify for up to 50% term-loan interest subvention for 5 years (up to ₹4 crore), up to 50% technology upgradation assistance (up to ₹50 lakh) for automation/AI/IoT, and State support for common facilities in recognised clusters (Pages 18, 22).
9. What incentives, processing benefits, and export-oriented support are available for agriculture and horticulture products under the West Bengal Investment Promotion Policy, 2026?	**1. Processing Units Eligible vs. Pure Trading Excluded:** • Standalone trading of raw agricultural produce is excluded from incentives under the policy. However, value-added 'Food and marine processing, including animal feed and fish feed' is an official Thrust Sector eligible for full industrial incentives (Pages 11, 16–17). **2. Enhanced Assistance Ceilings:** • Qualifying agro and horticulture processing units receive an overall financial assistance ceiling of 110% of Eligible Fixed Capital Investment (120% in less-industrialized Priority Areas) with a 20% annual claim limit over up to 10 years (Pages 10, 17–18).

	3. Export-Oriented R&D Bonus & Fiscal Incentives: • 100% Export-Oriented Units (EOUs) receive an enhanced 75% reimbursement (compared to 50% standard) on the cost of setting up R&D facilities, capped at ₹5 crore in 10 milestone-linked instalments (Page 18). • Units also receive 100% Net SGST reimbursement for 10 years, 5-year electricity duty reimbursement, 100% stamp duty reimbursement on initial project land, and EPF reimbursement (Pages 18–19). Standalone trade export rules outside processing are governed by the detailed Operational Scheme and State Export Policy (Page 9).
10. How does the West Bengal Investment Promotion Policy, 2026 facilitate export development, multi-modal logistics, and foreign investment tie-ups in the State?	**1. Export Development & Trade Gateway Positioning:** • The policy positions West Bengal as the strategic trade gateway to Eastern and North-Eastern India, neighbouring countries, and Bay of Bengal shipping routes, focusing on 15 export-ready Thrust Sectors and granting 100% Export-Oriented Units (EOUs) 75% R&D setup assistance up to ₹5 crore (Pages 9, 14, 17–18). **2. Multi-Modal Logistics & Strategic Projects:** • **Multi-modal logistics parks and large industrial ventures qualify as Strategic & Mega Projects (if meeting 2 of 3 criteria:** investment scale >₹500/₹1,000 crore, strategic sector, or ≥50 direct jobs per acre), unlocking customized incentive packages approved by the Empowered Committee (Pages 11, 20). **3. Dedicated Facilitation for Foreign & Large Tie-Ups:** • Projects investing ₹100 crore or more are assigned a Dedicated Business Manager (scaling up to Secretary-level officers for investments above ₹2,500 crore), backed by fortnightly reviews by the State Nodal Agency, monthly reviews by the Chief Secretary, and active State facilitation for Central Government clearances (Pages 11, 23).
11. When will the detailed operational guidelines (fine print) of the West Bengal Investment Promotion Policy, 2026 be notified, and what timeline or provisions apply to startups?	**1. Policy Effective Date & Detailed Operational Fine Print:** • The West Bengal Investment Promotion Policy, 2026 comes into force on 9 May 2026 (Pages 9, 15). Its detailed operational fine print—including specific forms, procedural guidelines, and disbursement rules—will be notified under the 'West Bengal Investment Promotion Scheme, 2026' on the Single Window Portal (ipp.wb.gov.in) (Pages 9, 23).

	2. Startup Coverage & Immediate Mobility Benefits: • While the booklet does not specify a release date for a separate Startup Policy, startups with valid Udyam registration qualify directly as MSMEs (Page 15). • Eligible startups in 'Electric vehicles and batteries' or 'Emerging digital technologies' immediately qualify for Thrust Sector status (110%–120% FCI ceiling over 10 years for manufacturing, or 110% capital investment ceiling over 5 years for digital services), alongside 50% Technology Upgradation grants up to ₹50 lakh (Pages 11, 17–18, 20).
12. Under the 2026 Policy, is electricity duty reimbursed or exempted for green power consumers, is a separate Green Energy Open Access or energy banking policy expected in West Bengal, and what quantum of energy banking is permitted?	**1. Electricity Duty Reimbursement:** • Electricity duty is reimbursed at 100% for up to 5 years for eligible manufacturing units, and for 3 years (5 years in Priority Areas) for eligible service units, provided duty is actually paid and metered separately (Pages 18, 20). **2. Built-in Green Energy Open Access Concessions (Till 31 March 2030):** • Rather than waiting for a separate policy, the 2026 Policy directly grants major concessions for applications received up to 31 March 2030 for consumers with at least 100 kW contract demand (and captive green power users of any size) (Pages 11, 14, 21). • For green power sourced within West Bengal (captive and non-captive), users get a 100% waiver (Nil) on Cross-Subsidy Surcharge and Additional Surcharge, and a 75% discount (paying only 25%) on Transmission and Wheeling charges. For out-of-state green power, Transmission & Wheeling charges are 25%, Additional Surcharge is 50%, and Cross-Subsidy Surcharge is Nil (captive) or 50% (non-captive) (Page 21). **3. Energy Banking Policy & Quantum:** • Specific energy banking rules and allowable banking percentages are not fixed in the Policy booklet and will be governed by WBERC Green Energy Open Access regulations and the detailed Operational Scheme, 2026 (Pages 9, 21).
13. What are the eligibility criteria, assistance ceilings, and step-by-step application procedures for making a new investment in West	**1. Eligibility & Investment Categories:** • Any new investment made on or after 9 May 2026 (paid through banking channels, recorded in books, and holding a separate GSTIN per unit) qualifies under MSMEs, Large Units, Strategic & Mega Projects, Service Units, Expansion/Diversification, Not-for-Profit Institutions, or Sick Unit Revival (Pages 15–16).

Bengal under the 2026 Policy?	**2. Assistance Ceilings & Tracks:** • Manufacturing units receive a total financial assistance ceiling of 100%–120% of Eligible Fixed Capital Investment over up to 10 years, while Service Units receive 100%–110% of Eligible Capital Investment over 5 years (Pages 10, 17–20). **3. Step-by-Step Single-Window Application Process:** • Apply online at ipp.wb.gov.in with GRIPS fee payment → Receive Certificate of Intent (CoI) within 30 days **locking in your policy terms** → Submit quarterly progress updates → Apply for Certificate of Eligibility (CoE) within 6 months of starting production → Obtain Certificate of Eligibility (CoE) within 45 days of starting production → File quarterly incentive claims (SGST & Payroll is taken from Govt Data) sanctioned within 30 days from the dedicated Assured Incentive Fund (Pages 11, 23).
14. How can a leather export enterprise secure factory land in the Bantala Leather Complex, and what industrial cluster and export-oriented incentives apply under the 2026 Policy?	**1. Securing Factory Land in Bantala Leather Complex:** • The State provides a GIS-mapped inventory of industrial land with transparent online applications, published allotment criteria, and time-stamped scrutiny, giving priority to brownfield sites and parks within notified industrial corridors and clusters—such as the Calcutta Leather Complex at Bantala—alongside assistance for common facilities in recognised clusters (Page 22). **2. Incentives for Leather Manufacturing & Exports:** • Leather is highlighted as one of West Bengal's core industrial strengths (Page 14). A new or expanding factory in Bantala (with Eligible FCI incurred on or after 9 May 2026) receives an overall financial assistance ceiling of 100% of Eligible FCI (110% in Priority Areas) over 10 years (Pages 15, 17–18). • Benefits include 100% Net SGST reimbursement for 10 years, 5-year electricity duty reimbursement, 100% stamp duty and registration fee reimbursement on your first land lease or purchase, 75% R&D setup assistance if a 100% Export-Oriented Unit (50% otherwise) up to ₹5 crore, and 100% EPF reimbursement for women/transgender workers in MSMEs (Page 18).
15.1 How will the State source and allot large, contiguous land parcels	**1. Sourcing Large, Contiguous Industrial Land:** • The State maintains a GIS-mapped inventory of industrial land with transparent online allotment based on published criteria and time-stamped scrutiny, prioritizing

for major industrial projects? **15.2 How reliable and cost-effective will power and industrial infrastructure be for heavy and high-tech manufacturing?** **15.3 What institutional mechanisms guarantee that single-window clearances and incentive disbursements meet their strict deadlines on the ground?**	brownfield sites and parks along notified industrial corridors (Page 22). Strategic & Mega Project thresholds also accommodate both self-sourced land (>₹500 crore) and State-allotted land (>₹1,000 crore) (Page 20). **2. Cost-Effective Power & Heavy Infrastructure Grants:** • **Power Savings:** 100% electricity duty reimbursement for 5 years (Page 18), plus 100% waiver of cross-subsidy and additional surcharges and 75% discount on transmission/wheeling charges for within-state green power open access until March 2030 (Page 21). • **Infrastructure Grants:** Mega projects with Eligible FCI above ₹1,000 crore can receive up to 10% of FCI for internal infrastructure (drainage, water, ETP, testing labs) and up to 10% for external connectivity (approach roads, power, water, drainage links) (Page 21). **3. Strict Deadline Enforcement & Disbursement Guarantees:** • Statutory timelines mandate 7 days for any single-instance deficiency notice, 30 days for CoI, 45 days for CoE, and 30 days for claim sanction (Page 23). Terms lock in permanently on the CoI date against adverse policy changes, payouts come from a ring-fenced Assured Incentive Fund, and projects ≥₹100 crore receive dedicated officers with fortnightly Nodal Agency and monthly Chief Secretary reviews (Pages 11, 23).
16. Does the West Bengal Investment Promotion Policy, 2026 provide incentives for coastal/seabeach real estate township projects, or under what structure (such as tourism and hospitality) can such projects qualify?	**1. Standalone Real Estate Townships vs. Eligible Tracks:** • Standalone residential or commercial real estate township development is not covered as an eligible manufacturing or service track under the West Bengal Investment Promotion Policy, 2026 (Pages 15–16, 19, 22). **2. Qualifying via the Tourism & Hospitality Track:** • If the coastal/seabeach project is structured as a 'Tourism and hospitality' enterprise, it qualifies for the 5-year Service Unit package (Pages 19–20). • This includes an overall assistance ceiling of 100% of Eligible Capital Investment (covering resort/hotel buildings, fit-outs, equipment, and utilities, excluding land), 100% Net SGST reimbursement up to ₹10 crore/year, EPF reimbursement for units employing over 200 staff, 3–5 years of electricity duty reimbursement, and lease rental subsidy (Pages 19–20). Standalone

	township zoning and CRZ clearances are governed by State Urban Development and Tourism policies.
17.1 What core incentives and policy reforms are introduced to attract domestic and global manufacturing investments? **17.2 How does the Policy address land availability, infrastructure, logistics, and ease of doing business?** **17.3 What targeted opportunities and financial protections are created for entrepreneurs, startups, and MSMEs?** **17.4 What is the State's multi-year roadmap for global investor facilitation and large-scale employment generation?**	**1. Core Reforms for Domestic & Global Manufacturing:** • Reimburses 100%–120% of Eligible Fixed Capital Investment over 10 years (15%–20% annual cap) across 15 Thrust Sectors (Semiconductors, EVs, Green Hydrogen, Defence, Biotech/Pharma, Digital Tech, Textiles, Food Processing, etc.) and less-industrialised Priority Areas (Pages 10–11, 16–18). Includes 100% Net SGST, 5-year electricity duty reimbursement, 100% stamp duty reimbursement, R&D grants, and a 5-year Service Unit track (Pages 18–20). **2. Land, Infrastructure, Logistics & Ease of Doing Business:** • GIS-mapped land bank with time-stamped online allotment in industrial corridors (Page 22); up to 20% FCI infrastructure grants for >₹1,000 crore projects (Page 21); Multi-Modal Logistics Parks under Strategic & Mega Projects (Page 20); green power surcharge waivers until March 2030 (Page 21); faceless Single Window Portal (ipp.wb.gov.in) with 30/45/30-day statutory timelines; and a ring-fenced Assured Incentive Fund with locked-in CoI (certificate of intent) terms (Pages 11, 23). **3. Protections & Grants for Entrepreneurs, Startups & MSMEs:** • MSMEs (including Udyam-registered startups) get 100% EPF reimbursement for women/transgender workers (50% for men) for 10 years up to ₹5 crore/year, 50% term-loan interest subvention up to ₹4 crore, 50% tech upgradation grants (AI/IoT/robotics) up to ₹50 lakh, 3-year benefit retention after graduating out of MSME status, mandatory 45-day payment of MSME dues by State bodies, and working women's hostel grants (Pages 15, 18, 22). **4. Global Investor Facilitation & Employment Roadmap:** • Strategic & Mega Projects receive tailored packages from the Empowered Committee (Page 20); 100% EOUs get 75% R&D grants (Page 18); projects ≥₹100 crore get dedicated officers up to Secretary rank with monthly Chief Secretary reviews (Page 23). Employment is driven by EPF subsidies tied to job thresholds, with proportional reduction rather than total forfeiture if targets fall short (Pages 18, 20, 23).

18.1 Which segments of the iron and steel industry are eligible or excluded under the West Bengal Investment Promotion Policy, 2026, and what incentives apply to specialty steel versus general steel units?	**1. Eligible vs. Excluded Iron & Steel Segments:** • 'Specialty steel' is officially designated as a priority Thrust Sector and also qualifies as a Strategic Sector for Mega Projects (Pages 11, 17, 20). • Conversely, 'sponge iron' is explicitly listed as a Non-Eligible Activity and receives zero financial assistance under the policy (Page 16). **2. Specialty Steel vs. General Steel Assistance Ceilings:** • Specialty steel units receive an enhanced total assistance ceiling of 110% of Eligible Fixed Capital Investment (120% in less-industrialised Priority Areas) with a 20% annual claim cap over up to 10 years (Pages 10, 17–18). • Other eligible downstream steel/foundry units outside sponge iron qualify as regular manufacturing units with a 100% ceiling (110% in Priority Areas) and a 15%–20% annual limit over 10 years (Pages 17–18). **3. Applicable Fiscal & Infrastructure Support:** • Qualifying units receive 100% Net SGST reimbursement for 10 years, 100% electricity duty reimbursement for 5 years, 100% stamp duty reimbursement on initial land lease/purchase, EPF reimbursement, and up to 20% FCI internal/external infrastructure funding if Eligible FCI exceeds ₹1,000 crore (Pages 18, 21).
19. What incentives, assistance ceilings, and MSME/large-unit benefits are available for establishing an electronics manufacturing plant in West Bengal under the 2026 Policy?	**1. Priority Thrust & Strategic Sector Status:** • 'Semiconductors and electronics' is designated as a priority Thrust Sector as well as a Strategic Sector for Mega Projects (Pages 11, 17, 20). **2. Enhanced Assistance Ceiling:** • Your electronics manufacturing plant qualifies for a total financial assistance ceiling of 110% of Eligible Fixed Capital Investment in regular areas or 120% in less-industrialised Priority Areas, disbursed at up to 20% per year over 10 years from production start (Pages 10, 17–18). **3. Core Fiscal & Employment Package:** • Includes 100% Net SGST reimbursement for 10 years, 100% electricity duty reimbursement for 5 years, 100% stamp duty and registration fee reimbursement on your first land purchase or lease, 50% R&D setup support (75% for 100% EOUs) up to ₹5 crore, and EPF reimbursement (100% for women/transgender and 50%

	for men in MSMEs for 10 years up to ₹5 crore/year; or up to 50% for Large Units for 5 years) (Page 18). **4. Extra MSME & Automation Grants:** • If registered as an MSME, you also receive 50% term-loan interest subvention for 5 years (up to ₹4 crore or 5% of the loan) and up to 50% support (up to ₹50 lakh) for adopting robotics, IoT, and AI-based quality control (Page 18).
20.1 What key policy initiatives and infrastructure provisions are established to support emerging technology enterprises? **20.2 What are the core strategic objectives of the West Bengal Investment Promotion Policy, 2026 for promoting innovation, easing regulatory compliance, and attracting private capital?**	**1. Key Initiatives & Infrastructure for Emerging Tech Enterprises:** • **Thrust Sector Status:** 'Emerging digital technologies' and 'Semiconductors and electronics' are designated Thrust Sectors, receiving 110%–120% FCI ceilings over 10 years for manufacturing and a 110% Eligible Capital Investment ceiling over 5 years for IT/digital services (Pages 11, 17, 20). • **Service & Tech Grants:** Lease rental subsidy up to ₹20–₹25/sq ft/month for 5 years, Net SGST reimbursement up to ₹10 crore/year, EPF reimbursement up to 75% for women, and 50% MSME Technology Upgradation grants (up to ₹50 lakh) for AI, IoT, and robotics (Pages 18, 20). • **Infrastructure & Green Power:** GIS-mapped industrial parks/corridors, up to 20% FCI infrastructure grants for >₹1,000 crore projects, and green power open-access surcharge waivers until March 2030 (Pages 21–22). **2. Core Strategic Objectives (Innovation, Ease of Compliance & Private Capital):** • **Innovation:** 50% R&D setup reimbursement (75% for 100% EOUs) up to ₹5 crore (Page 18). • **Regulatory Ease:** 100% online, faceless Single Window Portal (ipp.wb.gov.in) with strict timelines (7-day single deficiency notice, 30-day CoI, 45-day CoE, 30-day claim sanction) and dedicated officers for projects ≥₹100 crore (Pages 11, 23). • **Private Capital Certainty:** Policy terms lock in permanently on the CoI date against adverse changes, backed by a ring-fenced Assured Incentive Fund (Pages 11, 23).
21. What benefits and opportunities are available for Engineers' Cooperatives and	**1. Legal Eligibility for Registered Cooperatives:** • Any duly registered enterprise (including registered Engineers' or Workers' Cooperatives) holding a valid GSTIN and statutory approvals qualifies for benefits on

Workers' Cooperatives in West Bengal, particularly in the renewable energy and IT/engineering service sectors?	new investments made on or after 9 May 2026. If registered on Udyam, it accesses MSME benefits; otherwise, it applies as a Large Unit or Service Unit (Pages 15–16, 18–19). **2. Opportunities in Renewable Energy:** • Green Hydrogen and Waste-to-Energy are Thrust Sectors (110%–120% FCI ceiling over 10 years). Additionally, cooperatives consuming or generating captive/non-captive green power within West Bengal (≥100 kW contract demand, or any size for captive) receive a 100% waiver on Cross-Subsidy and Additional Surcharges and a 75% discount on Transmission/Wheeling charges until 31 March 2030 (Pages 17, 21). **3. Opportunities in IT & Engineering Services:** • 'Information technology and IT-enabled services' and 'Engineering, design and technical services' are explicitly eligible under the 5-year Service Unit track (with Emerging Digital Technologies as a Thrust Sector). Benefits include a 100%–110% Eligible Capital Investment ceiling, 100% Net SGST up to ₹10 crore/year, 50%–75% EPF reimbursement for >200 employees, 3–5 years electricity duty reimbursement, ₹20–₹25/sq ft/month lease rental subsidy, and cluster common-facility support (Pages 17, 19–20, 22).
22.1 What is the State's roadmap for developing small-scale industries in less-industrialised/rural areas to create local employment and curb youth out-migration? **22.2 What simplified financial assistance, liquidity protections, and subsidy mechanisms are available for first-generation and small entrepreneurs with limited financial resources?**	**1. Rural/Regional Industrial Roadmap & Local Job Creation:** • **Priority Areas:** Less-industrialised sub-divisions scoring below the State median on the Industrial Development Index receive elevated assistance ceilings (110%, or 120% in Thrust Sectors) and higher annual claim caps (20% of FCI) (Pages 10, 16–18). • **Employment Support:** MSMEs receive 100% reimbursement of employer EPF contributions for women and transgender workers and 50% for men for 10 years (up to ₹5 crore/year for staff earning under ₹1 lakh/month), alongside State grants for working women's hostels in clusters employing over 100 women and cluster common facilities (Pages 18, 22). **2. Simplified Assistance & Cash-Flow Protection for First-Generation Entrepreneurs:** • **Interest & Tech Subsidies:** Up to 50% interest subvention on term loans for 5 years (up to ₹4 crore or 5% of the loan) and up to 50% technology upgradation aid up to ₹50 lakh (Page 18).

	• **Liquidity Protection:** State departments and PSUs must pay undisputed MSME dues within 45 days (with interest on delays), and graduating MSMEs retain MSME benefits for 3 extra years (Pages 18, 22). • **Simple Faceless Process:** Single online application on ipp.wb.gov.in with 30-day CoI, 45-day CoE, and 30-day quarterly claim disbursement (Page 23). Collateral-free loans operate alongside via central/banking schemes like CGTMSE.
23. How does the West Bengal Investment Promotion Policy, 2026 support community-owned enterprises, CSR-backed social infrastructure, and scheme convergence for blended/impact-oriented platforms (such as the proposed COCRED model) in underdeveloped regions?	**1. CSR-Backed & Not-for-Profit Social Infrastructure Track:** • The policy introduces a dedicated framework for Not-for-Profit institutions (trusts, societies, Section 8 companies)—**explicitly including those funded through CSR**—investing at least ₹100 crore in social infrastructure (hospitals, medical colleges, universities, etc.) and offering at least 25% free capacity to disadvantaged sections for 10 years. Benefits include 50%–100% stamp duty exemption, land-use conversion fee waivers, and net metering outside all ceilings (Pages 11, 15, 22). **2. Support for Underdeveloped Regions & Community Enterprises:** • Community-owned enterprises registered as MSMEs operating in Priority Areas (less-industrialised sub-divisions) access higher ceilings (110%–120% FCI), 100% EPF reimbursement for women/transgender workers, 50% interest subvention, and dedicated State assistance for common facilities in recognised clusters (Pages 15–16, 18, 22). **3. Scheme Convergence & Facilitation for Proposed COCRED Platform:** • Convergence with other Central or State schemes is permitted provided the same cost item is not reimbursed twice (Pages 19–20). While the policy provides post-investment fiscal reimbursements rather than direct equity co-investment, a large-scale institutional or cluster proposal like COCRED can be submitted to the Empowered Committee for customised support and facilitated through the State Nodal Agency (Pages 20, 23).
24. What incentives, assistance ceilings, and fiscal benefits are available for a metal engineering manufacturing unit under	**1. If Your Unit Falls Under Regular Manufacturing (General Metal Engineering):** • **Eligibility:** Depending on your investment scale and Udyam registration, your unit qualifies as an MSME or a Large Unit. Any new investment made in plant and

the West Bengal Investment Promotion Policy, 2026?	machinery on or after 9 May 2026 is eligible (Pages 15–16). • **Subsidy Ceiling:** You receive a total financial assistance ceiling of 100% of your eligible plant and machinery investment (or 110% if located in a less-industrialised Priority Area), disbursed over up to 10 years at an annual cap of 15% (20% in Priority Areas) (Pages 10, 17–18). • **Major Fiscal & Tax Reimbursements:** 100% Net SGST reimbursement for up to 10 years; 100% electricity duty reimbursement for up to 5 years; 100% stamp duty and registration fee reimbursement on your first land purchase or lease; and 50% R&D setup support (75% for 100% Export-Oriented Units) up to ₹5 crore (Pages 18–19). • **Employment Support (EPF):** For MSMEs, the State reimburses 100% of the employer's EPF contribution for women and transgender employees and 50% for men for 10 years (up to ₹5 crore/year). For Large Units employing at least 200 workers in Priority Areas (or 400 elsewhere), it reimburses up to 50% for 5 years (up to ₹10 crore/year) (Page 18). • **Extra MSME Benefits:** Up to 50% interest subvention on term loans for 5 years (capped at ₹4 crore or 5% of the loan) and up to 50% financial support (capped at ₹50 lakh) for adopting robotics, IoT, or AI-based quality control (Page 18). **2. If Your Unit Qualifies as a Thrust Sector (Specialty Steel):** • **Enhanced Subsidy Ceiling & Faster Payouts:** Specialty steel is officially designated as a Thrust Sector, granting a higher total financial assistance ceiling of 110% of your machinery investment (or 120% in a Priority Area) with a faster annual claim limit of 20% over up to 10 years, alongside all the fiscal, R&D, and employment benefits listed above (Pages 10–11, 17–19).
25. Are media houses, press networks, and digital media platforms eligible for incentives under the Service Unit track of the West Bengal Investment Promotion Policy, 2026?	**1. Service Sector Eligibility Scope:** • Traditional print media, press, and content operations are not listed among the manufacturing Thrust Sectors, and the Service Unit track specifically covers IT/ITeS, Healthcare, Tourism & Hospitality, BFSI, Engineering/Design/Technical services, Professional services, Higher Education, Technical Education & Skilling, plus 'Other services the State notifies' (Page 19).

	2. Benefits if Structured as an IT-Enabled Digital Platform or Notified Service: • If your operations qualify as an IT/IT-enabled digital media platform or are notified by the State under the Service track, you receive a 5-year incentive package with a 100% Eligible Capital Investment ceiling (covering buildings, fit-outs, IT hardware, equipment, and utilities) (Pages 19–20). • This package includes 100% Net SGST reimbursement up to ₹10 crore/year, employer EPF reimbursement for units employing over 200 people, 3–5 years of electricity duty reimbursement, and a lease rental subsidy of ₹20–₹25/sq ft/month or 50% of rent (Pages 19–20).
26.1 Whether pending and eligible incentive claims under the erstwhile schemes will be reviewed and considered for settlement. **26.2** Whether a definite roadmap, with indicative timelines, is proposed for disbursement of the outstanding incentives **26.3** Whether a phased payment mechanism and a dedicated nodal committee will be established to ensure transparent and timely resolution of eligible claims.	**1. Review of Old/Pending Claims**: The 2026 Policy covers only new investments made on or after 9 May 2026. Pending claims from older schemes are not covered in this policy booklet and are handled separately through departmental transition orders. **2. Timelines for Disbursement:** · **For New 2026 Policy Claims:** Approvals take **30 to 45 days**, and approved quarterly subsidy claims are paid within **30 days** from a dedicated fund. · **For Old/Outstanding Arrears:** The 2026 Policy does not set a specific payment schedule or timeline for older pending dues. **3. Phased Payments:** Phased Payments: New subsidies are paid in annual installments over 10 years (for manufacturing) or 5 years (for services).
OBSERVATIONS	
An Open Access consumer in West Bengal – including an IT Park, mall, or other large commercial consumer wanting green power – presently has to pay, apart from the cost of power itself: * Wheeling charges: For CESC's area, the Commission's order dated 25th March 2025 fixed the average wheeling charge for 2025-26 at Rs. 1.646 per unit; WBSEDCL's charges are broadly similar.	**1. Strategic Priority for Green Power:** We request that a more liberal Open Access and green power framework be prioritized with the same urgency as land, tax, and single-window reforms, as it directly impacts the State's competitiveness in attracting IT, Global Capability Centers (GCCs), and data-centre investments. **2. Reduction in Wheeling and Transmission Charges:** Transmission and wheeling charges for green power procured via Open Access should be substantially lowered—beyond the current ~25% discount—to ensure that total green power costs remain genuinely competitive with standard retail tariffs.

* Cross-Subsidy Surcharge (CSS): Worked out under the WBERC Open Access Regulations, 2022, and capped at 20% of the average tariff for that consumer category – but not waived for solar power bought from a third party (rather than a captive plant), or for wind power. * Additional Surcharge, in some cases, to help the utility recover its fixed costs. * Banking charges for stored renewable energy, presently around 6% of the energy banked	**3. Revision of Energy Banking Charges:** We recommend reviewing the current energy banking charge (approximately 6% of banked energy) for renewable Open Access consumers to align it with the more competitive rates offered by other States. This will make solar and wind power viable for consumers with fluctuating daily demand profiles, such as IT Parks and commercial malls. **4. Time-Bound Single-Window Clearances:** Open Access applications—particularly for green power—should be processed through a time-bound, single-window online system with a strict turnaround time (e.g., 15 days, in line with the Central Green Energy Open Access Rules, 2022) to provide developers and occupiers with supply certainty. **5. Dedicated Green Power Cell:** We request the Department to consider establishing a dedicated helpdesk or cell (either within the Department or WBERC) to manage Open Access and green power applications for IT Parks, GCC campuses, data centres, malls, and other large commercial consumers, supporting both the State's ease-of-doing-business ranking and its renewable energy targets.