A Tale of Four Years
Enterprise and Success
A. Library Services Directorate

- A special thrust was made for the development of public libraries in Jangal Mahal, SC/ST areas, Sundarban Area, Hill areas and Minority areas. Rs. 94.10 crore was spent for the development of Public Library Services. Rs. 76.39 crore was released as special ad-hoc grant to Govt.-sponsored Public Libraries and special grants to Govt. Libraries.

- An endeavour to modernize public libraries in the State was initiated by networking through a Wide Area Network (WAN) linking the apex State Central Library and the 25 District Libraries through creation of a Web Portal. 170 Town Libraries & 200 Rural/Primary Unit/Area Libraries have been taken up under the purview of computerization programme. Training is being imparted to the Librarians in these libraries. Nearly 40,000 rare and old books have been converted into the digital format. Out of this, nearly 13,000 books are now available in the digital archives of the portal. Retro-conversion work for almost 3,25,000 documents has also been made during this period.

- State Govt. organized Career Counseling / Guidance Centers in different Govt. and Govt. Sponsored District and Town / Sub divisional Libraries with financial assistance of Rs. 26.05 lakh per year to help the unemployed youths by providing various information, books, journals, newspapers, periodicals etc. for appearing in competitive examinations.

- Around 40 Womens’ Corners in different Govt. & Govt. sponsored libraries in the State have been opened to increase access to women readers, including neo-literates in identified areas, particularly in areas of minority population concentration in the State.

- Supply of books to public libraries in Nepali, Santhali, Urdu and Hindi languages has been undertaken by the Book Selection Committee for selection of books under the matching scheme of State Govt. Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation.

- A unique experiment in convergence has been initiated whereby the Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU) which was facing a shortage of study centres in the State was allowed to utilize the existing infrastructure of the public libraries under this Department. NSOU’s study centres were opened in 7 Govt. Public Libraries benefitting thousands of students through open distance learning mode.

- To emphasise the importance of public libraries in the State, the Government notified 31st August as the “Public Library Day” in West Bengal. The same has observed in a befitting manner at the State, district and sub-district levels for the last two years. During this last four years, Book Fairs were successfully held in all districts of the State including Darjeeling, where this event was hosted after a long gap.

B. Mass Education Extention Directorate

- During the last four years, 8 evaluation exercises were conducted, covering 10,19,033 neo-literates/learners under the Saakshar Bharat Programme in 10 districts ( Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar, Coochbehar, Malda, Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, Birbhum, Murshidabad, Bankura & Purulia)
- **20 Model Adult Education Centres under SBP have been set up** sponsored by CONCOR, under CSR assistance in Saakash Bharat districts. Each Model Adult Education Centres has been supplied with computers, furniture, pedestal fans, TV, etc.

- **A new State Welfare Home for 100 inmates at Dudhkundi in the LWE affected Jhargram Sub-Division of Paschim Medinipur district has been set up.** Possession of 1.5 acres land has been taken up for construction of building for Contai State Welfare Home for Girls in the district of Purba Medinipur.

- **Construction of 100-bed dormitory building for Girls’ at Bankura State Welfare Home was completed.** Possession of 10 acres land for establishment of a State Welfare Home at Purulia-II Developmen Block in the Jangal Mahal area was received. Possession of 1.52 acres land for setting up of a State Welfare Home at Islampur in the district of Uttar Dinajpur.

- A new scheme for conducting educational tours in Govt. Sponsored Schools for the students with disabilities was introduced.

- A structured syllabus was introduced for the pre-primary students of all categories of disabilities including mental retardation.

- During last 4 years, **scholarships were awarded to 5837 disabled students studying in Class IX and onwards.**

- **The first State-level Felicitation Function for the disabled students and students of State Welfare Home was organized in 2014.** Altogether, 1470 students, who excelled in the Madhyamik & Uchcha Madhyamik examination in last four years, were felicitated through cash prizes and certificates.

- The management structure of the Special Schools sponsored by the State Govt. has been revamped with a view to bringing about qualitative change and transparency in management.

- A new scheme was introduced for holding a State-level Sports and Cultural Meet for the inmates of Social Welfare Homes.

- A new scheme was introduced to provide reference Books to the students of Social Welfare Homes.

- The Directorate of Mass Education Extension organized the International Literacy Day on 8th September throughout the State in a befitting manner. The central programme was organized in Rabindra Sadan, Kolkata.

- Sports and cultural teams of the learners and neo-literate under Government Sponsored Literacy scheme from different parts of the State participated in the State level Sports and Cultural Meet. During the last 4 years, around 3150 learners from different districts attended the sports meet with full enthusiasm.