Introduction
The state of West Bengal with its capital, Kolkata, is the highest performing economy in Eastern India. The former capital of British India, West Bengal leads in steel, mining, railways, leather, jute and tea. West Bengal is the 6th largest economy in India and the gateway to eastern and north-eastern India as well as a gateway from India for Southeast Asian countries.

Quick facts
- Area: 88,752 sq.km
- Population: 91.35 million
- State GDP: US$ 89.30 billion

Major cities
- Kolkata - Capital of the State of West Bengal
- Asansol Durgapur agglomeration: Major steel, mining and engineering hub of India
- Haldia: Port city with chemical, engineering and logistics units
- Siliguri - The gateway to the north east India

West Bengal – Key industry facts
- Headquarters to several major mineral processing equipment manufacturers
- Hub for engineering design and consultancy pertaining to mining, mineral processing and metals
- Major steel producing state with two integrated steel plants
- Home to three major railway wagon and coach manufacturing units
- Hosts the single largest Japanese FDI in India, for global supply of PTA
- Well-developed manufacturing sector, focussed on engineering
- West Bengal is known as the “cultural capital of India”
- Large tea growing, processing and packaging centre hosting the major tea auction houses of the world
- Large jute processing centre

Australia – West Bengal business relationships
- West Bengal is the traditional entry point for Australian coking coal and pulses
West Bengal is the most significant mining equipment, technology & services [METS] market for Australian companies in India.

UGL Rail Australia has a joint venture with Kolkata based Texmaco for a joint facility in Kolkata for the manufacture of rail bogies, wagons and so on.

Kolkata based Tega Industries acquired Australian manufacturer of mining products, Losugen Pty Ltd.

Cooee Asia has a joint venture with Kolkata based Sumeru India to manufacture and distribute dust suppression products in India.

Australian companies based in West Bengal:
- Orica / IEL - Mining explosives
- India Resources Ltd - Contract mining
- Mineral Technologies – mineral beneficiation components
- Enthalpy Geovale alliance - Geo-mining consultancy
- SIMTARS - Safety in mines
- Mine Site – Underground mine communications and mine management systems
- Thiess India - Contract mining
- Dassault Geovia - Mine planning software
- Pollinate Energy – Solar powered equipment
- Cooee Asia Pty Ltd – Dust suppression systems

Key investments from West Bengal in Australia:
- TEGA India - Mining technologies

Australian education & research activities:
- SIMTARS Australia provides mine safety training to Coal India and SAIL

Major industry opportunities for Australia:
- Mining equipment, technology and services
- Contract mining
- Skills development in areas like mining and project management
- Railway management technologies
- Pulses and agricultural commodities

Further information:
- West Bengal Industry Development Corporation Ltd - www.wbidc.com
- West Bengal Government - www.westbengal.gov.in
- The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry - www.bengalchamber.com

The Australian Trade Commission:
The Australian Trade Commission – Austrade – is the Australian Government’s trade, investment and education promotion agency.

Through a global network of offices, Austrade assists Australian companies to grow their international business, attracts productive foreign direct investment into Australia, and promotes Australia’s education sector internationally.

The Austrade office in Kolkata services the State of West Bengal. For more information call 132878 or email to info@austrade.gov.au

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