

SESQUICENTENARY CELEBRATIONS OF KOLKATA PORT

Kolkata Port is currently celebrating 150 years since its inception in 1870. The only riverine port in India, Kolkata Port lies 127 NM North of Sandheads in the Bay of Bengal. The port, known as India's Gateway to the East, along with its sister port Haldia Dock Complex, handles over 64 million metric tonnes of a variety of cargo, recording the 2nd highest growth in traffic amongst major Indian ports in 2018-19. Set up by the British East India Company in 1870, it served as their principal port for furthering their economic activities. Freedom fighters and revolutionaries, e.g., Guru Rabindra Nath Tagore, Swami Vivekananda, Sister Nivedita, Raja Ram Mohan Roy and others had used the port for their travels overseas. The port was also used by the British East India Company to transport over half a million Indians to work as indentured labourers, ancestors of the rich Indian diaspora, across the world.

“From Satyagraha to Swachhagraha, Kolkata port has seen the country changing”

The Sesquicentenary celebrations on 11th January 2019 were held in the presence of Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal and Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Shipping and Chemicals and Fertilizers. Participating in the, the Honourable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi launched several developmental projects on 14th January 2020 as part of the Sesquicentenary celebrations.



Glimpses of Sesquicentenary Celebrations of Kolkata Port



The highlight was the felicitation of a 106-year-old pensioner of the port and presentation of a cheque of Rs 501 crores to the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), the final instalment to meet the deficit of the pension fund set up for the past and existing employees of KoPT. The Prime Minister also released a corporate customised stamp to mark 150 years of the Kolkata Port. An iconic moment during the celebrations was the felicitation by the Prime

Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, the son of Bengal, laid the foundation for industrialization in the country

Minister of 105-year-old Shri Nagina Bhagat and centenarian Naresh Chandra Chakraborty, the oldest serving pensioners of the port. A slew of projects were inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister as part of the modernisation and development of Kolkata Port. These included a Ship Repair facility at Netaji Subash Dock, Full Rake Handling facility at KDS, Kaushal Vikas Kendra and Pritilata Chhatri Avas for 200 tribal girls, Riverfront development Scheme to boost tourism, and the foundation laying of a 2.5 MMT Liquid Cargo Handling terminal at Haldia Dock Complex. The Hon'ble Prime Minister also inaugurated and witnessed a spell bounding interactive Light and Sound Show of Rabindra Setu. Honouring the late freedom fighter and visionary Shri Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, the Hon'ble Prime Minister announced the renaming of Kolkata Port Trust as Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Port Trust.

Kolkata Port comprises of the Kolkata Dock System (KDS) located 232 Km up the Hooghly river and the Haldia Dock Complex 125 Km from the mouth of the river. Handling a variety of cargo, the two complexes also serve the North Eastern hinterland through NW 1 and NW 2 through the Sundarbans and Bangladesh. Having an overall capacity of 82.57 MTPA, the port achieved it's highest cargo handling in 2018-19 achieving 63.8 MMT of a variety of cargo including 8,29,482 TEUs of container cargo.

The long coastline of India from Gujarat's Lothal Port to Kolkata Port was not only engaged in trade and business but also in spread of civilization and culture across the world

Inauguration of projects and felicitations of centenarian pensioners of Kolkata Port by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at the Sesquicentenary celebrations on 11th January 2020



- Rs. 501 crores to LIC as final instalment for pension fund
- Felicitations of oldest surviving 106 years old pensioner of KoPT
- CSR contribution of Rs. 1Cr to Ramakrishna Math
- Inauguration of Ship Repair Facility at Netaji Subhas Dock
- Inauguration of Full Rake Handling Facility
- Inauguration of Kaushal Vikas Kendra and Pritilata Chhatri Avas
- Launch of Hooghly Riverfront Development Scheme
- Foundation Stone of 2.5 MMT Liquid Cargo Handling Terminal
- Release of Corporate Customised Stamp