



Beautification of Surinam and Mayer Ghat

What is News?

In a significant move towards enhancing Kolkata's riverfront, **Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (SMP, Kolkata)** has partnered with **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd. (GRSE)** for the beautification of **Surinam Ghat** and the **development of Mayer Ghat**.

- This initiative forms part of the **port's broader Swachhata initiatives**, with the aim to revive these iconic ghats, strengthening their cultural and historical significance.

Key Points

- **GRSE will undertake the beautification of Surinam Ghat** and development work at **Mayer Ghat** under their **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives**.
 - Both ghats hold immense cultural value for the city and will undergo transformations aimed at enhancing public infrastructure while preserving their rich history.
- **Surinam Ghat** is historically poignant, as it was the **departure point for over 34,000 indentured laborers** (mainly from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh) who sailed to **Suriname** between **1873 and 1916**.
 - The first ship, **Lalla Rookh**, departed in **1873**, carrying 410 passengers.
- **Mayer Ghat**, located near Bagbazar, has spiritual significance, being **frequented by Ma Sarada during her visits to Udbodhan Patrika**.
 - Both ghats have been integral to Kolkata's maritime legacy, dating back to the 1500s when European traders frequented the Hooghly River.

Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (SMP Kolkata)

- **SMP Kolkata is one of India's 13 government-designated major ports**, administered under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- **It is India's only riverine major port**, located on the **Hooghly River** in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- It is the oldest operational port in India (established in 1870 as the Kolkata Port)).

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

- **CSR refers to a company's responsibility towards society and the environment**.
 - It is a **self-regulating model** that ensures businesses remain accountable for their impact on economic, social, and environmental well-being.
 - By adopting CSR, companies become more aware of their broader role in sustainable development.
- **India is the first country to make CSR spending mandatory under Section 135 of the [Companies Act, 2013](#)**.
- CSR rules apply to companies that, in the preceding financial year, have a **net worth exceeding Rs 500 crore, or a turnover over Rs 1,000 crore, or a net profit above Rs 5 crore**.
- Such companies must spend at least 2% of their average net profit of the last 3 financial years (or available years if newly incorporated) on CSR activities.

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