

Apeejay widens Kulpi scope

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Paul: Growth mode

Haldia, Oct. 9: Bengal Shipyard, the joint venture between Apeejay Surrendra Group and Bharati Shipyard, is looking to restructure its Rs 2,000-crore port project at Kulpi from a shipbuilding facility to a marine cluster.

"We are looking to set up a marine cluster at Kulpi. We have 550 acres in our possession. The cluster will include shipbuilding, repair, steel fabrication, unloading and loading facilities, logistics and ancillary," Apeejay Surrendra group chief Karan Paul today said on the sidelines of the joint inauguration of a logistics park by the Apeejay group and the commencement of the second plant of Dhunseri Petrochem and Tea.

He said the decision to expand the project was taken to achieve a quicker financial closure.

However, the project is yet to receive clearance from the shipping ministry and the Calcutta Port Trust. "The state gov-

ernment is happy with the project, but we have to work with the other agencies to get the approval. Once the clearance comes, we will start work," Paul said.

The project is likely to require about a year to achieve financial closure. Kulpi will have a better draught than Haldia and will be able to handle large vessels.

Apeejay Infralogistics, a joint venture between Apeejay Surrendra and the UK-based Eredene Capital, today also inaugurated the first phase of its logistics park

in Haldia. Involving an investment of Rs 100 crore, the first phase is spread over 45 acres, with 24 acres earmarked for container freight station that will handle 4,000 containers.

Dhunseri target

C.K. Dhanuka, executive chairman of Dhunseri Petrochem and Tea, today said the company was looking to garner Rs 2,000 crore through the export of PET resin used to manufacture plastic bottles.

The company today increased its total capacity at Haldia to 4,10,000 tonnes per annum by commencing operations from its second plant with a capacity of 2,10,000 tonnes per annum. The company exports to Asia and parts of Europe and the US.

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee, who inaugurated both the logistics park and the PET resin plant, also flagged off the 1,200-tonnes-per-day refined oil plant of JVL Agro. Chairman D.N. Jhunjhunjwala said the firm was eyeing a turnover of around Rs 4,500 crore in this fiscal.