

# 113-yr-old Tala tank that supplies 3.6cr litres of water daily done with ₹100cr overhaul

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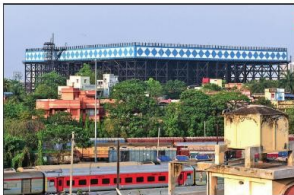
Photo: Biplab Bhattacharjee

**Kolkata:** The landmark overhead Tala water tank in north Kolkata, built by the British 113 years ago to provide treated water to Kolkata's population and which still supplies 3.6 crore litres of water every day to a large swathe of the city, has undergone its first major repair since construction.

Work on the tank, which

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occupies an area similar to one-and-a-half football fields, has taken seven years, including delays caused by the Covid disruption, and cost Rs 100 crore. Around 3,600 tonnes of steel has been added to reinforce the structure and food-grade paint used on the interior walls and floors of the fo-



ur chambers. The exterior painting is being done with 1.3 lakh litres of UV-repellent, corrosion-resistant paint.

"Tala tank is lifeline of the city's water supply system and restoration has given this mammoth mild steel structure a fresh lease of life. We expect the tank to now serve the

city for at least half a century more," said a KMC official.

The repair was carried out by Bridge & Roof Co, also a century-old public sector company that was set up in 1920, nine years after the Tala tank was built.

The steel used to strengthen the tank has been impor-

## REPAIR TOOK 7 YRS

- **Constructed** | 1911
- **Construction cost** | ₹11 lakh
- **Restoration cost** | ₹100 cr
- **Stores and supplies** | 3.6 cr litres of potable water every day
- **Restoration** | 3,600 tonnes of steel added to reinforce structure; food-grade paint used on interior walls and floors of 4 chambers; UV-repellent, corrosion-resistant paint used on the exterior

ted from the United Kingdom and is of similar quality to that used to build the RMS Titanic. It has survived multiple calamities, including the 1934 earthquake, WW War II aerial bombings and more recently Cyclone Amphan.

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