

Early trading between India and the US began in Kolkata

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Lindsay Amini, exhibitions coordinator for the Art for Cultural Diplomacy Department, Meridian International Center, Washington DC, is in town. She's here to attend the inauguration of Kindred Nations: The United States and India: 1783-1947, an art exhibition to be displayed at the Indian Museum from Friday. CT caught up with her for a chat. Excerpts:

Is this your first time in Kolkata?

Yes, this is my first time in this city. It's been a great trip so far. I went to Victoria Memorial and I'm also looking forward to visit Rabindranath Tagore's house. I went to Darjeeling too. West Bengal has so much to offer that I'd like to visit many times over.

Tell us about the exhibition.

Kindred Nations chronicles the history of US-India relations before India's independence — starting from America's independence. It throws light on the relationship between the two nations, despite the British rule. Through this exhibition, we've tried to touch upon themes like trade in the late 18th century, education exchange and lots more.

Why did you focus on Kolkata?

We decided on Kolkata because some of the early trading began in this city. US representative from Massachusetts Jacob Crowninshield did business here, Federic Tudor established ice-trading, where he would ship ice from Boston to India.

How has the response been so far?

It's been overwhelming. We have pictures from all over the country and there's something every city can connect to. We worked with archives, libraries, historical societies and private collections all over the US to gather 1,000 images and narrowed it down to 80. We are really looking forward to the exhibition. I am sure people of Kolkata will enjoy it.

Where else do you plan to travel with the exhibition?

We have been to New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Hyderabad. Talks are on about sourcing more such rare pictures so we can do more exhibitions.

Lindsay Amini
in Kolkata on
Tuesday

RARE PHOTOGRAPHS ON DISPLAY



US Consul General Dr Craig Hall will inaugurate a photographic exhibit entitled Kindred Nations: The United States and India: 1783-1947 curated by Meridian International Center in Washington, DC, at the Indian Museum on Friday in the presence of Lindsay Amini, Director of Cultural Programs, Meridian International Center. Featuring photographs, documents, and ephemera that dates back to more than 150 years, the exhibition celebrates the long-standing cooperation between the two countries. The exhibit will be on display at the Indian Museum from December 4-31. Entry to the exhibition is free.