Preface

A port is a location on a coast or shore containing one or more harbors where ships can dock and transfer people or cargo to or from land. Ports mainly derive their revenue from cargo handled charges on the ships visiting them, and other vessel related charges. Performance of port and port economics are closely related with macroeconomic development of any country. Therefore any changes in port traffic or operation and port / port organization has an impact on national economy. A port becomes a wheel of any economy if it runs efficiently. In the present time, the function of a port has expanded to a logistical platform. Therefore the efficiency of a port is important for international trade since a seaport is the nerve of foreign trade of a country. With globalization gaining momentum the international trade across the border has also expanded like anything. With increasing world trade the cost of shipping has also increased due to the introduction of economy of scale and the development of technology in shipping. Development of ports is essential for maintaining the pace of global trade and economic development of the world.

India has a coastline of 7517 km with 12 Major Ports and 200 notified Non-major Ports along the coastline and Islands. Major Ports are the ports which are administered by the Union Government, while Non-major Ports are administered by the State Governments.

Kandla port is located on the Gulf of Kutch on the northwestern coast of India some 256 nautical miles southeast of the Port of Karachi in Pakistan and over 430 nautical miles north-northwest of the Port of Mumbai. Located some 90 kilometers from the mouth of the Gulf of Kachchh on the Kandla Creek, the Port of Kandla was opened as a natural deep-water harbor in the 1930s to serve the hinterland of and beyond the state of Gujarat. Today, the Port of Kandla is India's hub for
exporting grains and importing oil. This self-sufficient port is one of the highest-earning ports in the country. Major imports entering the Port of Kandla are petroleum, chemicals, and iron and steel machinery, but it also handles salt, textiles, and grain.

Considering the importance of port development for the economy, the development of Kandla post plays an important role. Kanda Port plays a significant role in the development of trade and commerce. The development of Kandla port also resulted in to development of surrounding areas in terms of creating employment opportunities, business opportunities, and infrastructure development. At the same time it also resulted into many negative impacts in the form of pollution and competition. Over a period of time the importance of Kandla port in terms of contribution to export and import cargo handled is decreasing due to increasing importance of other minor ports.

In such a situation it is necessary to undertake study about role of Kandla port in economic development. Present study is an attempt to understand the role Kandla port in economic activities. Study also covers the changes in the role of Kandla port over a period of time. Primary study has been undertaken to access the perception of stakeholders about impact of Kandla port on their socio-economic status. Study of this nature will be great help to all stakeholders in understanding the situation of Kandla port. It will also help the government to designing suitable policies for development of Kandla port. Kandla Port Trust will also benefit from the study in terms of taking stock of present situation and long term trend.