Victoria Memorial Hall and
Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore
in association with the
Confederation of Indian Industry
present a lecture on

A Tale of Two Cities: Singapore and Calcutta
Past and Present

by
Tan Tai Yong
President and Professor of Humanities (History), Yale-NUS College; and
Deputy Chairman, Management Board
Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore

Sekhar Bandyopadhyay
Professor of History and Director, New Zealand-India Research Institute
Victoria University of Wellington
will preside.

Tuesday, 26 February 2019, 6.00 pm
Victoria Memorial Hall, Eastern Quadrangle

As former colonial port cities, Calcutta and Singapore share similar histories. They were intimately linked as part of the British Empire and constituted important nodes in the imperial trade network. As part of the Straits Settlements, Singapore was under the charge of Bengal till 1851 and subsequently the Governor-General of India till 1867. Their trajectories diverged following the end of colonial rule in their respective regions and one eventually became a city (and nation) state while the other remained a city in a state. The lecture will compare the trajectories of these two cities and show how each has continued to adjust and leverage on the port functions to evolving circumstances and opportunities.

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The Fort of Singapore (image courtesy: The British Library)

Charles D’Oyly, The Custom House of Calcutta
(early 19th-century coloured lithograph, Victoria Memorial Hall collection)

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