Victoria Memorial Hall
cordially invites you to an illustrated talk on

The Armenians of Calcutta

Speaker

Anthony Khatchaturian
Writer and amateur historian of Armenian origin based in Kolkata and London

Wednesday, 24 April 2019, 5.30 pm
Victoria Memorial Hall
Conference Hall (Administration Wing)
1 Queen's Way, Kolkata – 700 071

Entry through East Gate (opp. St. Paul's Cathedral) only; cars are not allowed inside the VMH campus; seating on a first-come-first-served basis till the capacity is full
A community which today numbers less than a hundred once played a key role in the story of Kolkata. From the court of Akbar to La Martiniere, from the hot plains of Iran to a tropical swamp that is now Ballygunge, to simultaneously allying with Robert Clive and Mir Jafar at Plassey, Armenians have displayed an ability to positively thrive in adverse conditions, climates and continents.

This talk will trace the origin of the Kolkata Armenians – their homeland exodus a millennium ago, settlement in Persia and finally their entry into India over 700 years ago. They brought along the ability to trade peacefully with all, an orthodox religion which did not accept converts so as to maintain religious peace, and a shrewd sense of finance which allowed them to seed-fund one of the world's largest banks, develop most of Kolkata and rescue a city icon.