



**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 Port of Singapore (image courtesy: The British Library)*



**Charles D'Oyly, *The Customs Wharf of Calcutta*  
(early 19th-century coloured lithograph,  
Victoria Memorial Hall collection)**

*Entry through East Gate (opp. St. Paul's Cathedral) only  
Cars are not allowed inside the Victoria Memorial Hall campus*