

PRESS CLIP

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BCC&I organises 'Calcutta Talks'

Kolkata, May 4 (UNI) The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry in association with Halo Heritage presented the Third Edition of its prestigious lecture series, The "Calcutta Talks" recently at their premises.

"The 'Calcutta Talks' is a prestigious lecture series that is against the backdrop of 'The Calcutta Gallery'. This gallery is dedicated to the eternal city of Kolkata and takes one through a pictorial journey through the hallowed pathways of the industrial and commercial history of Calcutta." stated Indrajit Sen, President Designate, the Bengal Chamber.

"The transformation of three innocuous villages by the Hooghly into a colossal metropolis is fascinating, awe inspiring and magical. The Calcutta Gallery portrays 325 years of the city's glorious history through an expansive and rare collection of photographs," he said. This year also observes the completion of 125 years of the famous Chicago convention when Swami Vivekananda gave his enthralling speech at the Chicago convention in the Parliament of religions.

To honour the occasion, the programme started off by well known writer Amit Ray and elocutionist and T.V presenter Ratna Mitra who conceptualized and presented an evocative and enthralling audio drama on the life of Vivekananda called "Bile, Naren, Vivekananda". They were supported by singer Biswarup Rudra.

This year is an important year for the Howrah Bridge, an iconic landmark that instantly makes the world think of Calcutta. The Bridge is in its 75th year of operations. This one of a kind cantilever bridge is the City's pride that has found mention in historical texts, in poetry as important photographic subject and as a city's supreme architectural marvel that has withstood the test of time and is almost incorruptible.

To throw light on this illustrious steel marvel, two eminent and renowned conservation architects Manish Chakraborty and Amitabha Ghoshal spoke to the assembled audience. Mr Chakraborty has been actively involved in restoration of churches and most projects involving heritage buildings. He spoke about the need for The Chamber and citizenry of Kolkata to get actively involved and nominate the Dalhousie Square as a World Heritage site by UNESCO.

"Dalhousie Square at one time was the Administrative and Business headquarter of India and it is a heritage site not just for Bengal but for the entire country having being the place of many firsts in this country", he stated.

He also emphasized that Bengal is full of skilled craftsmen who can be made to be more involved in restorative projects.

Mr Ghosal spoke about the marvel of engineering of our illustrious structure that made the city proud-The Howrah Bridge.

"I am grateful to the Bengal Chamber for honoring this 75 year old steel structure. It's a rare honor. A city is after all known by its structures and icons and Howrah Bridge is the undisputed icon of our city", he stated.

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