



The
Bengal
Chamber





The Voice of Business in Eastern India
The Partner of First Choice for Information and Guidance
The Natural Choice for Business Support



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Chamber**



THE BENGAL CHAMBER of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

THE BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY IS A NON-POLITICAL, NON-PROFIT-MAKING ORGANISATION, OWNED AND DIRECTED BY ITS MEMBERS. IT WAS SET UP IN 1853 AS A UNIQUE PLATFORM TO INFLUENCE DECISION-MAKERS AND SHAPE POLICY AND TO ENSURE THE BEST POSSIBLE ENVIRONMENT FOR BUSINESS. THE CHAMBER CONTINUES TO ACT AS A POWERFUL NETWORK AT THE HEART OF THE ECONOMY IN EASTERN INDIA. IT IS DEMOCRATICALLY ACCOUNTABLE TO THOUSANDS OF VENTURES THROUGHOUT THE REGION. IT IS THE OLDEST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN INDIA.

The greatest good of the greatest number ...

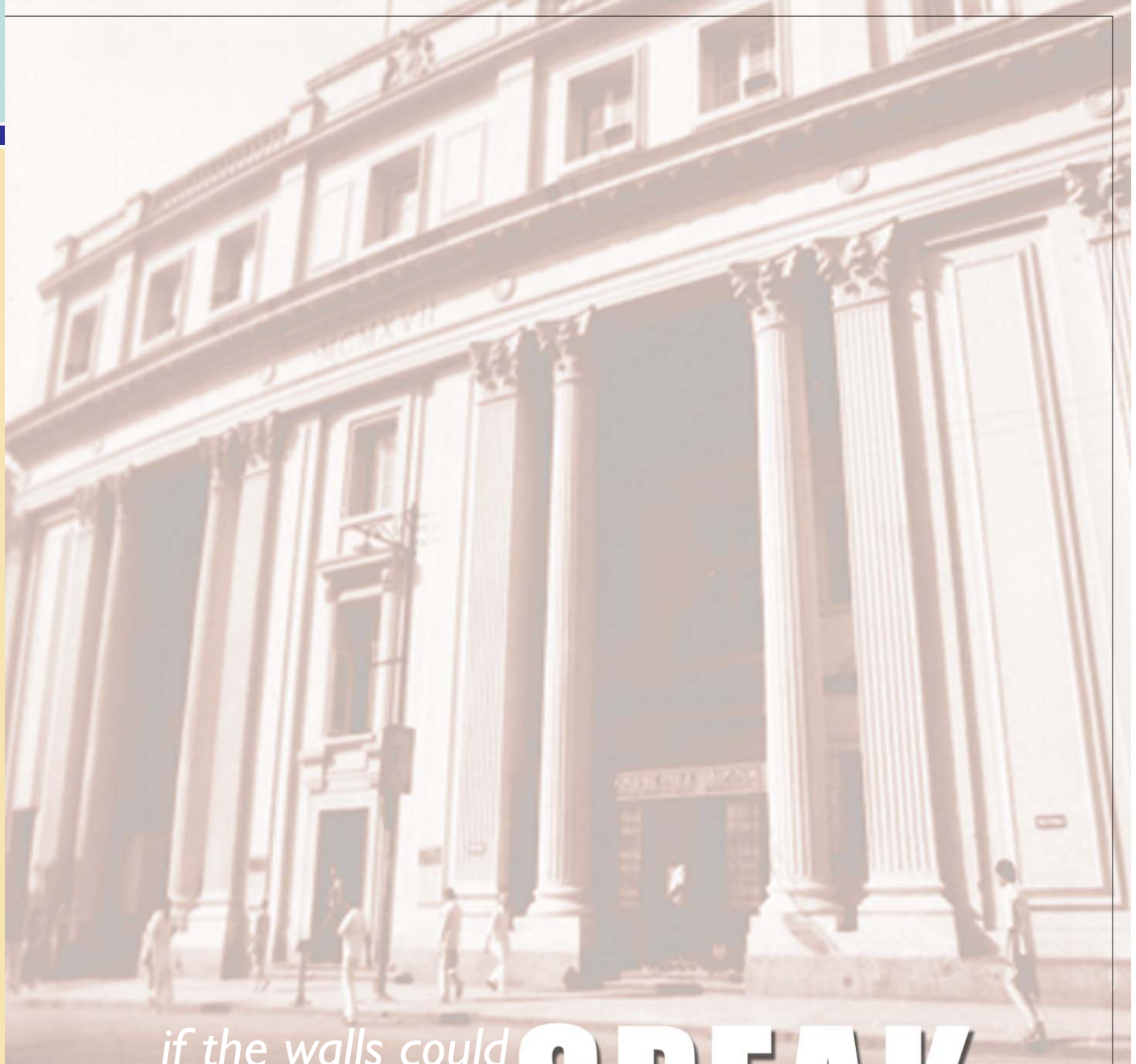
- ▶ To build on the image and saliency of the Chamber
- ▶ To add value to members through information and networking
- ▶ To enhance a sense of belonging amongst all stakeholders
- ▶ To undertake activities relevant to industry and the public
- ▶ To partner the State in its endeavours for socio-economic progress
- ▶ To maximize corporate contribution to society through Corporate Social Responsibility

A toast to prosperity....

- ▶ We act as a catalyst for the growth and development of the region
- ▶ We work as an interface between the State Government and member industries
- ▶ We bring to the fore the issues of concern and developmental goals
- ▶ We provide members with researched information regularly
- ▶ We initiate sector and area specific projects in Bengal
- ▶ We act as a facilitator for promoting business both in India and abroad
- ▶ We help the State Government to reach out to industry-specific target audiences

The buzz behind the scenes...

- ▶ The priorities of the Chamber are manufacturing, mining and metallurgical activities, information technology and related businesses, healthcare, energy, environment, education, tourism, shipping and financial sectors like insurance and banking.
- ▶ The Chamber regularly organizes theme workshops and seminars and follows up on each of these events by sending recommendations to appropriate authorities.
- ▶ The focus of the Chamber's Committees range from the traditional brick and mortar (Manufacturing) to Finance and Banking services, Insurance and Information Technology, which are all part of the new-age services sector and 'click' Industries. These apart, there are key Committees dedicated to matters in Company Affairs, Education, Health, HR / IR, International Relations, Shipping, Sports & Leisure, Taxation, Tourism and many more. In keeping with national priorities, Healthcare, Education, Biotechnology, Entertainment, Corporate Social Responsibility, etc. are emerging as major areas of engagement.
- ▶ The Chamber holds several signature events — energy and environment, metals, health, the Economic Summit, tourism, insurance, shipping and IT. Each of these events has contributed to the Chamber's growing equity. The Metals Seminars, Energy Conclaves, Finance Conclaves focusing on financial inclusion, Health and Wellbeing Shows, Tourism Festivals, Insurance Convocations and IT events like 'IT as a Career Choice', workshops on IT trends, ERP aspects and supply chain issues, can be cited as examples.



if the walls could

SPEAK...

“Not merely as a forum for networking, but as a powerful enabler lobbying for the development of infrastructure in the region.”

With its Ionic pillars and sprawling gothic visage, the Royal Exchange Building has always been a place where Mammon ruled. The culture of the place — with business and professional classes coming together to worry about bears and guard their bulls — emerged over 150 years. It's a place where leaders of business, irrespective of race, language and religion, joined hands. While the Birlas and Benthalls hunted together for quick profits, the tea-planters, jute

mill-owners, heads of mercantile banks and managing agencies came together to discuss the investment of the moment. The Chamber turned into the financial universe of the East from the 1880s. Not merely as a forum for networking, but as a powerful enabler lobbying for the development of infrastructure in the region. No wonder, from the late nineteenth century it became the first port of call on matters of federal and state governance policies.

in Corporate Social Responsibility



The Chamber has always recognized the fact that in the new environment of society, industry and business, the need for Corporates to internalize and demonstrate their responsibilities to the society in which they operate is no longer a matter of debate. From being the chief relief distributor during the Great Bengal Famine of 1943 and taking a leading part in the Bihar Drought Relief programme in the late 1960s to adopting a Rural Development Programme in a cluster of twenty villages near Kolkata from 1977 to 1985 to initiating a movement on Corporate Citizenship and Social Responsibility, the Chamber has taken CSR as one of the guiding principles for business operations.

In mid 2009, when large parts of West Bengal were ravaged by a cyclone of monstrous proportions, a team from the Bengal Chamber visited the cyclone battered villages in remote and inaccessible places and distributed relief material. The Chamber also donated funds to Sri Ramkrishna Ashram, Nimpith, towards sinking of deep tube-wells in remote areas of Sundarbans. More significant than the amount of monetary contribution was the spirit and the organization of the Chamber to be the first to reach the inaccessible villages and provide on-the-ground relief to the affected families.

Leading with purpose...

National Sphere :

- ▶ Customs Act, 1863
- ▶ Calcutta Port Trust, 1870
- ▶ Indian Electricity Bill, 1902
- ▶ Indian Life Assurance Act, 1910
- ▶ Indian Factories Act, 1934
- ▶ The Bengal Chamber Formula on Dearness Allowance
- ▶ First arbitral body, 1853
- ▶ Currency Reforms, 1855-1926 and creation of Reserve Bank of India
- ▶ First to introduce published trade statistics
- ▶ Royal Commission on Labour, 1931
- ▶ Employers' Federation of India, 1938
- ▶ Changes to the Criminal Procedure Code, the Racial Distinction Bill
- ▶ Creation of Indian Bar
- ▶ Modifications in Indian Companies Act and Indian Insurance Act
- ▶ Indirect Tax Reform leading towards VAT

The State Frontier

Members in first Legislative Council of Bengal (1863) ◀

The City Compass

- Only industry association to be represented on the General Council of Calcutta Municipal Corporation, 1888
- Drafting of Mckenzie Bill, 1899 ◀
- Seat on Calcutta Improvement Trust, 1911 ◀
- Enabling Dum Dum Airport ◀
- Airship service to and from Calcutta ◀



ACTION ZONES

TRANSCENDING THE CONVENTIONAL IMAGE OF A CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE BENGAL CHAMBER HAS BECOME AN EFFECTIVE VOICE FOR THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY TODAY

Taratolla Initiative

In 2003 the Chamber took up a survey on the new industrial hub of Taratolla in Calcutta. Armed with a report, the Chamber managed to induce the State Government and other bodies to take up the much-needed tasks: widening and strengthening of the arterial New Taratolla Road, improvement of 22 roads in the area, drainage and illumination, opportunities for new industries (e.g. IT) to operate from this area, etc. Infrastructure facilities like truck terminals, taxi stands, overbridges at railway crossings, food parks etc. are in the pipeline.

The Chamber is working closely with the Kolkata Port Trust, the State Government and related bodies and has been a part of the high-level Government Committee on the development of the Taratolla area. The long-term goal is to develop the Taratolla area as a manufacturing hub.

Haldia Initiative

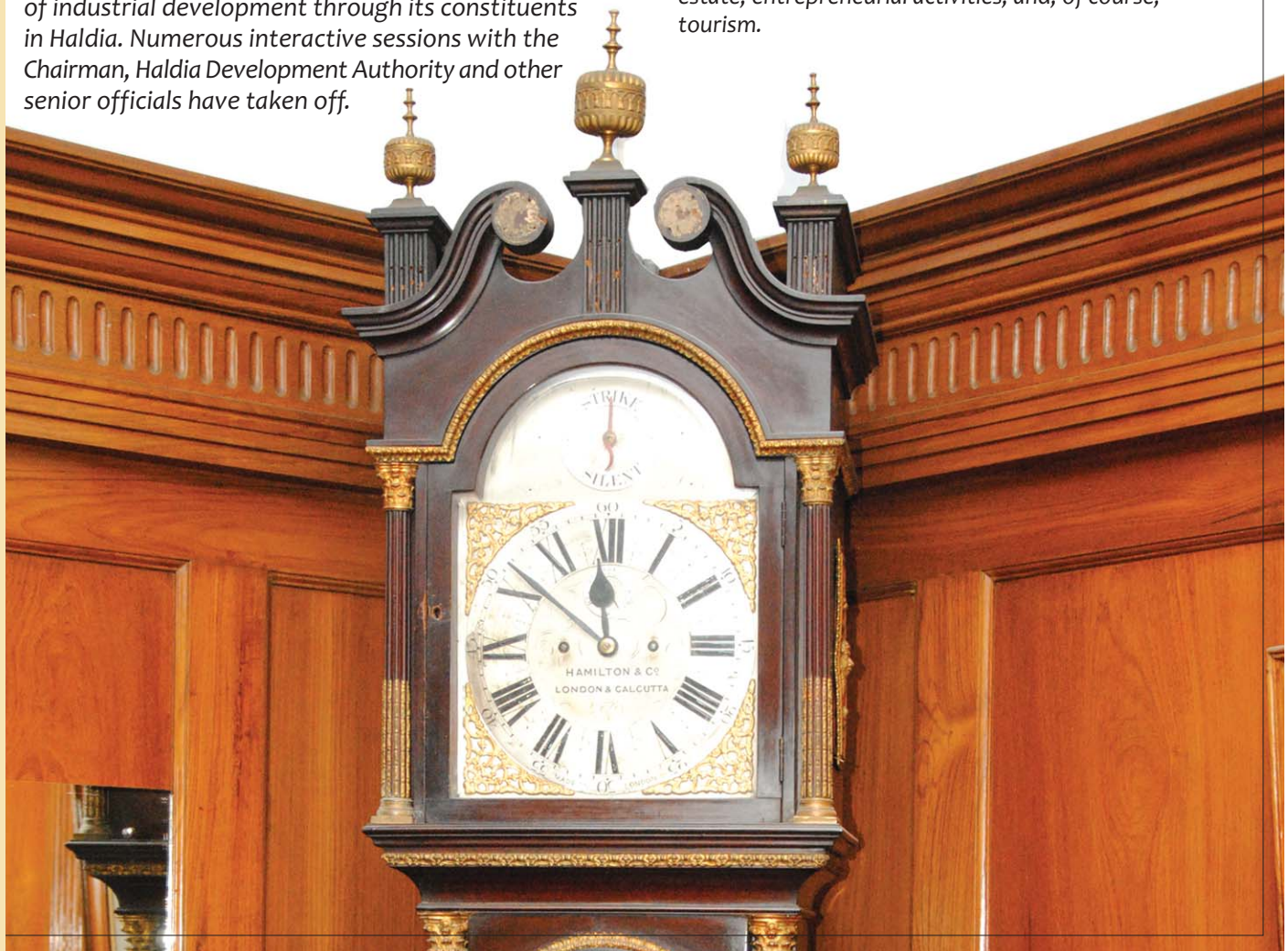
The Chamber has been proactive in furthering the cause of industrial development through its constituents in Haldia. Numerous interactive sessions with the Chairman, Haldia Development Authority and other senior officials have taken off.

Durgapur Initiative

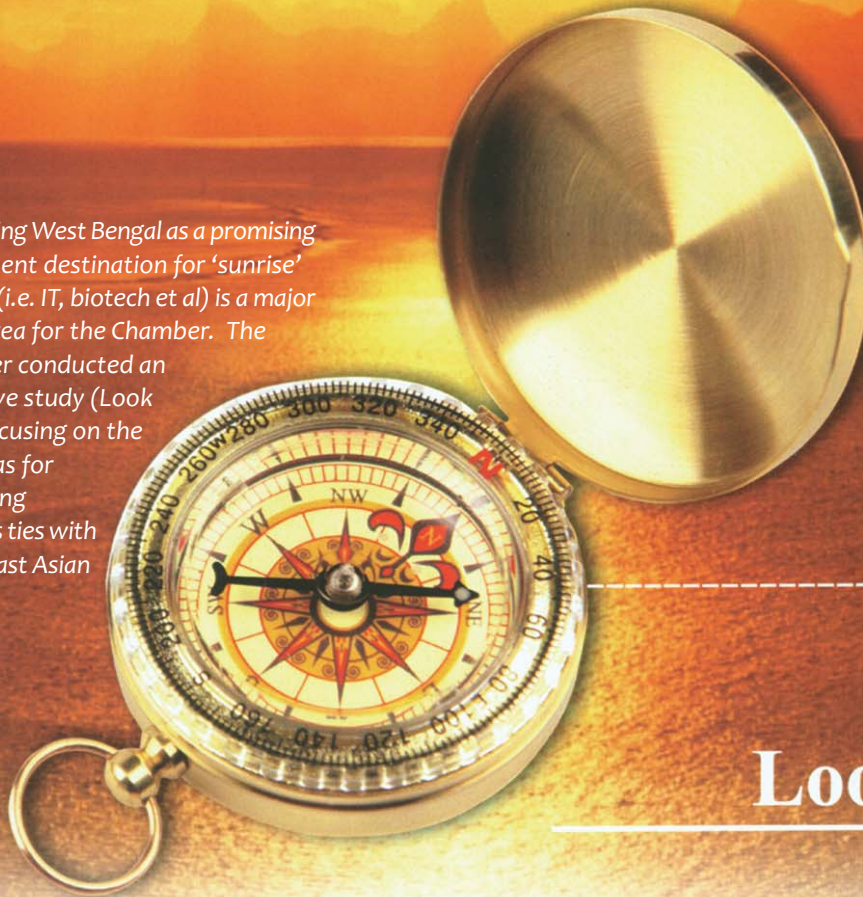
The focus of the Chamber has been on the development of social infrastructure — education, healthcare, retail and hospitality. The Chamber has also organized workshops on environmental and HR issues in Durgapur.

North Bengal Initiative

To bring about speedier development in North Bengal, the Chamber persuaded the State Government to take up new initiatives in food processing industry in the region. The Chamber also tied up with three top Universities of the State to promote alternative farming through training workshops and worked on introducing new technology to the region. The Chamber has also entered into a round of talks with the government to catapult the region into an attractive tourist destination. The focus has widened into energy, real estate, entrepreneurial activities, and, of course, tourism.



Promoting West Bengal as a promising investment destination for 'sunrise' sectors (i.e. IT, biotech et al) is a major focus area for the Chamber. The Chamber conducted an extensive study (Look East) focusing on the key areas for furthering business ties with South East Asian nations.



Look

East INITIATIVE

Today

Today, the Chamber has over 270 members from industry, trade and commerce. The Chamber's interest and operations range from organizing mega seminars and relevant events on the 'brick' industries to the new-age 'click' organizations. From financial services, insurance, banking and taxation to focusing on the environment and energy sectors, the Chamber's range of operations is diverse and evolving over time.

The Chamber's Vision is to be the most valued Partner of Commerce,

Industry, Academia, Professionals and Governments for achieving responsible economic growth as well as accomplishing their societal and environmental needs. We have catalyzed the investment for and development of the 10 million tonne steel plant coming up in the State. This is one of the largest investments in the Eastern Region, or for that matter in the country in recent times. The Chamber created the forum for discussions paving way to this investment and it was at a Chamber conference

that the announcement of this investment was made.

Much is happening in the East today, but much still remains to be done. The doors to the world are now open. In this new environment, West Bengal can find its destiny and become the gateway to the East. The Bengal Chamber shares this truth with the people of West Bengal and the region.



emerging PARTNERS

Act local, think global. That is the credo of the Chamber. No wonder, the Chamber went above and beyond its everyday activities and set up an overseas wing across the seven seas.

The Overseas Wing of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry is a unique venture that happened on the sidelines of the conference of diasporic Bengalis in the United States in 2005. It is probably the first time ever that an industry association has tied up with Non Resident Indians. That, too, outside the country. The idea was to create a permanent forum to assess West Bengal's needs and enable the diaspora to play a larger role in the industrial development of the State.

Other MOUs overseas...

- ▶ London Chamber of Commerce, UK
- ▶ Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, UK
- ▶ Paris Chamber of Commerce, France
- ▶ Lyons Chamber of Commerce, France
- ▶ Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, Bangladesh
- ▶ The Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce & Industry, UK
- ▶ Indo-Belgian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- ▶ Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- ▶ Indo-American Chamber of Commerce, Houston
- ▶ Council of EEC Chamber of Commerce in India, Bombay and Bengal.

It pays to be a MEMBER

- ▶ Being the oldest and one of the most respectable Chambers in India, membership of the Chamber is regarded as highly prestigious.
- ▶ Redressal of common problems of Members at State/Central Government level.
- ▶ Issue-based industry representation to the Government or appropriate authority.
- ▶ A forum for industry to meet, network and share best practices through high-profile seminars/workshops on industry issues.
- ▶ Interaction with overseas delegations.
- ▶ Interaction with Government functionaries and thought leaders.
- ▶ Access to the Chamber's Expert Committees where topical issues are discussed to highlight concerns of industry.
- ▶ Access to varied information disseminated by the Chamber.
- ▶ Access to expertise from the Chamber's Consultancy as well as Arbitration /Mediation / Conciliation Cells which are under formation.
- ▶ Opportunities to gain additional recognition by becoming sponsors/co-sponsors of the Chamber events.
- ▶ Access to Conference rooms/halls in the Chamber premises at discounted rates.
- ▶ Access to the Chamber's very classy 'The Palladian Lounge'.
- ▶ Monthly newsletter, website and members' directory are circulated amongst the membership. Members may also advertise in the newsletter, an added mode of publicity for Member Organisations.
- ▶ Certification of Export documents including Certificate of Origin and Visa Recommendation Letters for business promotion visits abroad on the same day at discounted rates for members.

THE BENGAL CHAMBER of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

The **Palladian Lounge** : *Luxury in Business hub*

A new incarnation of the erstwhile Chamber's Club, The Bengal Chamber's Palladian Lounge is operated by the Asian Hotels (North) and carries the Hyatt pedigree. It is a veritable oasis in the Central business district, just a minute away from almost every office in the square.

This exclusive lounge is set amidst rich wooden panelling of a Heritage building on which site once stood Lord Clive's residence – indeed a truly authentic slice of Old Calcutta. The plush club lounge offers fine dining with traditional Indian and Continental cuisine. The well appointed Bar provides a wide collection of spirits, exciting cocktails and mocktails to match every taste and occasion.

The conference, meeting and party clientele can choose from varied non-vegetarian and vegetarian menus, whilst the ala carte menu promises patrons a delectable variety from starters to signature dishes and delicious desserts.

The Palladian is a lounge with a difference – it hosts a slew of art exhibitions, classical music, jazz and dance recitals by renowned artists, supper theatre, book launches, et al. This truly happening hub has 'Theme Evenings' from various regions across the world, with cuisine, dance and music representative of a particular country.

The lounge caters for the members of the Bengal Chamber and its associated bodies, but if you just walk in for a sip and a bite, a temporary membership can be organized without much ado.





THE BENGAL CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

GLIMPSES OF OUR MEETING ROOMS



▲ The Williamson Magor Hall (1st level) ▶



▲ The ITC room (1st level)



▶ The Telegraph room (2nd level) ▲



◀ The Tata Steel room (3rd level)



THE BENGAL CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

GLIMPSES OF OUR PALLADIAN LOUNGE





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