

Calcutta Research Group (CRG) invites you to the fourth public lecture of *City Lights*, titled "**Tales from Kolkata: New Labour in a Post-industrial City**" in collaboration with Post-Graduate Dept. of Sociology at St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata.

Speaker: Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury, Rabindra Bharati University and CRG

Date: 31 January 2025, Friday

Time: 2:30 PM

Venue: Room 15, Father D'Souza Hall, 30 Mother Teresa Sarani (Park Street), Kolkata: 16.

Lecture note:

Calcutta, once a thriving industrial hub in the 19th and 20th centuries, has transformed into a city of precarious labor and digital entrepreneurship in the 21st century. The city's history of textile mills, jute factories, and colonial trade has given way to a gig economy, driven by IT, finance, and e-commerce. Today, Kolkata's workers navigate a landscape shaped by colonial legacies, which have led to industrial decline and urban decay. Additionally, post-liberalization reforms have fueled service sector growth and informalization, while digital disruption has introduced new occupations, skills gaps, and precarious labor. Yesterday's mill workers and industrial laborers have become today's ride-hailing drivers, food delivery agents, freelance software developers, salespersons in shopping malls, care workers--to name but just a few.

In the fourth lecture of the series "City Lights", "Tales from Kolkata: New Labour and the City" Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury locates this new labour in the post-industrial city of Kolkata. He asks, and attempts to answer, how is this new labour being generated by the changing times of the city, and at the same time, how does this labour redesign the space in Kolkata?