VICTORIA MEMORIAL HALL, KOLKATA

150 YEARS OF CELEBRATING THE MAHATMA

Victoria Memorial Hall

cordially invites you to

Ganga: The Many Pasts of a River

Sudipta Sen

Professor of History, University of California Davis

in conversation with

Faisal Devji

Professor of Indian History, St Antony's College, University of Oxford

Friday, 12 July 2019, 6.30 PM

Conference Hall,Victoria Memorial Hall
1 Queen's Way, Kolkata – 700 071

Entry only through East Gate (opp. St. Paul's Cathedral). Cars are not allowed inside the Victoria Memorial Hall premises.
Seating on first-come-first-served basis till capacity is full.

Devji and Sen will introduce and discuss Sen's recently published book *Ganga: The Many Pasts of a River* (Penguin Viking 2019), which is an exploration of the idea of a cosmic, universal river at the interstices of myth, historical geography and ecology. The discussion, like the book, will dwell on the story of the Ganga, from the communities that arose on its banks to the merchants that navigated its waters, and the way it came to occupy centrestage in the history and culture of the subcontinent. Along the way, it will take in the river's first settlers, its myths of origin in the Hindu tradition, and its significance during the ascendancy of popular Buddhism. In the following centuries, Indian empires, Central Asian regimes, European merchants, the British Empire, and the Indian nation-state all shaped the identity and ecology of the river. Weaving together geography, environmental politics, and religious history, the discussion will unravel how the book paints a remarkable portrait of one of the world's largest and most densely populated river basins.