Victoria Memorial Hall cordially invites you to

विदेशीर चোখে দুর্গাগুজো

(Durga Puja through Foreign Eyes)

A talk in Bengali by

Martin Hribek

Professor of Bengali and Indian Studies,
Institute of South and Central Asia,
Charles University, Prague

Thursday, 7 September 2017, 5:30 pm
Victoria Memorial Hall (Portrait Gallery)

From 2000 to 2004, Martin Hribek spent most of his time in Kolkata and its environs doing research on the greatest festival of Eastern India as well as other annual Pujas that mark the Bengali calendar. He soon became fascinated by the coexistence of multiple historic and contemporary layers within a single festival. Ancient ritual forms shared across India are overlaid by expressions of Bengaliness virtually from all domains of life, and at the same time the festival has been a powerful instrument in political struggles as well as a mirror of contemporary affairs. The lecture will focus on the continuities and changes in Durga Puja and show how art can mediate social agency in this festival.

Please note that cars are not allowed inside the Victoria Memorial Hall premises
Golf-cart shuttle services available for elderly persons from the North Gate
Mahishasur Badh [Slaying of the buffalo demon], Watercolour by Bhutnath Pal, from the Victoria Memorial Hall collection