Victoria Memorial Hall cordially invites you to an illustrated lecture on

**Where is Kolkata?**

Speaker

**Sukanta Chaudhuri**
Professor Emeritus, Department of English, Jadavpur University

**Friday, 23 August 2019, 5.30 pm**
Victoria Memorial Hall
Conference Hall (Administrative Wing)
1 Queen’s Way, Kolkata – 700 071

Entry only through East Gate (opp. St. Paul’s Cathedral) from 5.00 pm; no entry after 6.00 pm; cars are not allowed inside the VMH campus; seating on a first-come-first-served basis till the capacity is full.
This lecture borrows its title from a nonsense poem by Sukumar Ray, to bring out the unusual and bizarre nature of the city’s identity. There is not one Kolkata but many: many spheres of both history and contemporary existence, interacting in greatly varying degrees. This can be said of all major cities, but is true of Kolkata in a very special way. From its inception, the mental life of most inhabitants of Kolkata has been singularly divorced from its economic life and erstwhile political importance. There is an endemic mismatch between the city as articulated in concrete terms of urban development and economic activity, and the city as realized in art and the popular imagination. We are left wondering where and how Kolkata has its being.

The lecture will attempt to bring out this elusive urban reality with a reference to history, literature and cinema.