Victoria Memorial Hall cordially invites you to an illustrated lecture on

Artfully Walking with Gandhi by
Sumathi Ramaswamy
James B. Duke Professor of History
Duke University

Tapati Guha-Thakurta
Professor of History
Centre for Studies in Social Sciences will preside

Tuesday, 7 January 2020, 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 till seating capacity is full; visitors' cars are not allowed inside the campus.
Artfully Walking with Gandhi considers marching feet as a form of earth-writing, and walking as a genre of terrestrial inscription. In doing so, the presentation builds on the work of artists and curators as well as scholars who have persuaded us to explore walking as an autonomous form of art, a primary act in the symbolic transformation of territory, a political-aesthetic instrument of knowledge and a physical transformation of space. It is also an extended reflection on a statement by Martin Luther King Jr.: 'The power of the nonviolent march is a mystery. It is always surprising that a few hundred Negroes marching can produce such a reaction across the nation. When marches are carefully organized around well-defined issues, they represent the power which Victor Hugo phrased as the most powerful force in the world, 'an idea whose time has come.' Marching feet announce that time has come for a given idea.' The presentation explores these arguments by focusing on Gandhi’s marching feet, and on artworks that reveal how Gandhi's 'pedestrian politics' had an aesthetic dimension that is revelatory of the mysterious power of the nonviolent march.