

**In honour of World Heritage Day 2021 we launch an exciting new series celebrating India's Cultural Capitals at the next live session of AVID Online**

**For Immediate Release**

To some, the historic moniker for Hyderabad- the City of the Nizams or City of Pearls- may seem just that- historic- and but one of the many facets of a city that today is known for a burgeoning contemporary art scene, Tollywood, the home of innovative start-ups and much much more.

So, how has Hyderabad retained its historic legacy but also grown to be known for much more than Biryani, breath-taking architecture like Golkonda Fort, Charminar and Falaknuma Palace, impactful jewellery and gemstones, Urdu calligraphy and rich literary traditions and much more?

To celebrate **World Heritage Day 2021**, **Live History India** and **Avid Learning** present **Cultural Capitals: Hyderabad**, the debut session of **Cultural Capitals: Future Legacies of India's Cities**, an exciting new series of discussions celebrating the historical and current legacy of culturally rich, diverse and important cities across India. This series aims to celebrate a wider swathe of India's great cities, their legacy and how they continue to be vibrant centres of culture.

*Please read on for more details:*

*Gallerist, Shrishti Art Gallery **Lakshmi Nambiar**, Journalist and Heritage Expert **Yunus Lasania** and Co- Founder Lamakaan **Ashhar Farhan** in conversation with Author and Co-Founder & Editor of Live History India **Mini Menon**.*

These speakers and experts will look at Hyderabad through the lens of the contemporary art scene, how younger Hyderabadis are engaging with their heritage through initiatives like The Hyderabad History Project, the restaurant scene and how Hyderabad cuisine is being celebrated and updated and much, much more.

The realm of the Last Nizam is India's new city on the rise. In contemporary times, Hyderabad has grown into a diverse centre for innovation with arguably the best infrastructure of any major city in India. Its fabric has been shaped as much by its cuisine and architectural & trade history as it has by business, technology and major international presences making the city their preferred hub in India.

Dubbed the HiTech city, out of all the metros in India, the world's biggest enterprises chose to set up shop in Hyderabad. Microsoft was one of the first tech companies to come to Hyderabad and the city is home to Amazon's largest office in the world. It is also the site of the very first Ikea store in India.

*Read more about the series below:*

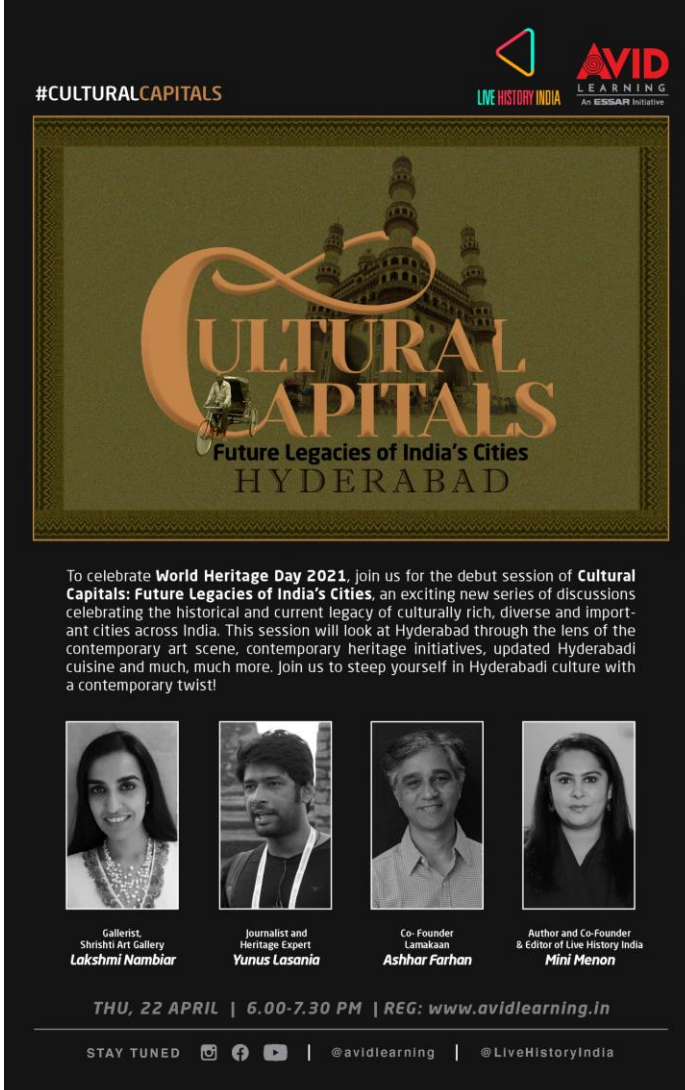
This series aims to spotlight India's cities and their legacy and contributions that have shaped the nation's heritage and continue to have tremendous contemporary influence and impact. Cities under the cultural microscope include Hyderabad, Pune, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Chandigarh and Lucknow. The highlight is on the particularities of each city's unique culture and heritage and how these aspects have changed and evolved over time, influencing their perceptions in the wider world. Varied perspectives on the cultural identity of these urbanscapes will be presented – as informed by history, hidden stories and local insights through diverse lenses. The conversations are focused on restoring, reinventing and reiterating the legacy of these great cities.

Join us to steep yourself in Hyderabadi culture with a contemporary twist!

**When:** Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021 | 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

**RSVP:** [www.avidlearning.in](http://www.avidlearning.in)

**Press Email:** Ayeshah Dadachanji on [ayeshah.avid@gmail.com](mailto:ayeshah.avid@gmail.com)




#CULTURALCAPITALS


LIVE HISTORY INDIA


AVID LEARNING  
An ESSAARI Initiative


**CULTURAL CAPITALS**  
Future Legacies of India's Cities  
HYDERABAD

To celebrate **World Heritage Day 2021**, join us for the debut session of **Cultural Capitals: Future Legacies of India's Cities**, an exciting new series of discussions celebrating the historical and current legacy of culturally rich, diverse and important cities across India. This session will look at Hyderabad through the lens of the contemporary art scene, contemporary heritage initiatives, updated Hyderabadi cuisine and much, much more. Join us to steep yourself in Hyderabadi culture with a contemporary twist!




  
Gallerist  
Shrishti Art Gallery  
**Lakshmi Nambiar**

  
Journalist and  
Heritage Expert  
**Yunus Lasania**

  
Co-Founder  
Lamakaan  
**Ashhar Farhan**

  
Author and Co-Founder  
& Editor of Live History India  
**Mini Menon**

THU, 22 APRIL | 6.00-7.30 PM | REG: [www.avidlearning.in](http://www.avidlearning.in)

STAY TUNED    | @avidlearning | @LiveHistoryIndia

## About the Speakers

**Lakshmi Nambiar** is a Gallerist and co-creator of a children's book. Lakshmi runs Shrishti Art gallery, one of the oldest and leading contemporary art galleries in Hyderabad. Since its inception in 2002, Shrishti has mounted more than 200 exhibitions in India and abroad. Shrishti aims to engage with the local community and make art accessible to the public by doing large-scale exhibitions using public spaces. Once such exhibition was Inbox, one of the largest exhibitions of three-dimensional artworks in India, mounted at Hill fort palace in Hyderabad, a 100-year-old abandoned heritage building. Lakshmi is also a co-creator of a children's book titled "The Dot that went for a walk", with illustrated short stories of 51 inspirational Indian women. The stories are complemented with beautiful artworks by 51 women artists curated by Shrishti Art Gallery. Lakshmi has over 15+ years of experience in private equity syndication and mergers and acquisitions for technology companies in India and abroad. Lakshmi has worked on over 40 deals worth \$1 billion across India, Europe and US. Lakshmi is part of the Executive council of Jawaharlal Nehru Architecture and Fine Arts University (JNAFAU). Lakshmi graduated with high honours from Boston University School of Management where she completed her MBA. She also has a master's degree in economics from Gokhale Institute of Economics and Politics, Pune. Lakshmi currently lives and works in Hyderabad.

**Ashhar Farhan** has 30 years' experience as an entrepreneur and 14 years' experience as an angel investor and investor in ESDM / Nano-Electronics. At the age of 14, he became the youngest person to get an amateur radio license in India in 1980. He started his first venture at the age of 16, making digital token displays for Indian Railways. In 1986, he joined Integrated Data Systems as a part-time design engineer while still a student and built a paged memory system for the BBC micro and then a Point of Sales terminal based on it. In 1987, he wrote the first antivirus for the Brain Virus that was infecting floppy boot discs. In 1989, he started Computer Corporation and wrote an Urdu Composing System to address the problems of Urdu Publishing. Until then, all the Urdu newspapers, magazines and books were calligraphed by hand in the absence of any typesetting or publishing system. In 1998, he launched the world's first commercial VOIP service, hotfoon.com, as a network of peer to peer PC-based software gateways and VOIP clients that rapidly expanded to half a million customers and terminations in 14 countries. In 2001, he co-founded the Hyderabad chapter of TiE. In 2003, he started Phonestack technologies to productize the emerging VoIP technologies and provide call metering, switching, routing and business services to VoIP operators. In 2004, he designed the popular open source two-way radio BITX20 that is now a standard for all radio experimenters. In 2010, he established Lamakaan the open cultural center that has been the central place for startups, arts and cultural activities in Hyderabad. It is listed among the top 10 places to visit in Hyderabad by Conde Nast, NatGeo, etc. Lamakaan has also hosted the Startup Saturdays for the last five years. In 2015, he co-founded the Daana Network to bring the produce of the small organic farmers directly to the end consumers, helping to reduce their financial distress. In 2015, he started working on high performance tactical and commercial two-way radio systems with the launch of [www.hfsigs.com](http://www.hfsigs.com). In 2018, he cofounded Exseed Space (also known as Satellize), India's first private space company that has launched two satellites through Space-X and ISRO. He is a partner in Exseed Electron Fund, India's only venture fund that concentrates on investing in sectors that are of strategic interest to India.

With 8 years of experience in reporting, **Yunus Y. Lasania** is a journalist with over eight years of experience as a reporter. He last worked as the state correspondent for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana with Mint (HT Media). During his 3 years with Mint, he primarily covered politics of both the Telugu states. apart from business. His work also involved travelling to rural areas of Telangana and Andhra, especially to cover farmer/rural issues. Prior to that, he had two stints with The Hindu (2013-2017) and The New Indian Express (2012-2013). wherein he covered, history, heritage, civic bodies, consumer courts, crime, etc, among other beats. Yunus was also sent to cover the immediate

aftermath of the 2013 twin Dilsukhnagar blasts in Hyderabad. Apart from that, he most recently covered the 2018 Telangana assembly elections, and the 2019 general (and state elections) in AP, and Telangana. He is also the host of Beyond Charminar, a podcast series (run on [www.sunindia.in](http://www.sunindia.in)) on the history of Hyderabad, which focuses on the lesser known aspects on the city, like the city's feminist history, to provide an offbeat and different take on Hyderabad. Currently, he is writing a book on oral history accounts of people who lived in the erstwhile princely state of Hyderabad (1724-1948), until it was annexed to India through Operation Polo, a military offensive, in 1948. Yunus also works part-time for [www.saisat.com](http://www.saisat.com), the English news website of The Siasat Daily, one of Hyderabad's oldest Urdu newspapers.

**Mini Menon** is the Co-Founder and Editor of Live History India, a first of its kind digital platform focussed on creating and putting out multi-media content on Indian history and cultural legacy. Since launch, Live History India has reached over 100 million people across India and the world. It has also brought together over 150 historians and experts on its platform. An award winning journalist and author, Mini has also reported on the changing face of politics and business in India for the last 20 years Her last assignment was as Executive Editor of Bloomberg TV India. In 2013 Mini's first book, 'Riding the Wave' was published by HarperCollins. Mini has been awarded the Rajiv Gandhi Award for Excellence, as a young achiever and in 2009 she was adjudged the Best Business News Anchor by the Indian Broadcasting Federation.

---

## Partner Information

### Live History India

Website: <https://www.livehistoryindia.com>  
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LiveHIndia>  
Instagram: @livehistoryindia  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LiveHistoryIndia/>

### Avid Learning

Website: <http://www.avidlearning.in>  
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AvidLearning>  
Instagram: @avidlearning  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/avidlearning/>  
#LearningNeverStops!

Watch all past AVID Online episodes on our dedicated YouTube Playlist:  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYt7Q44R5xkd4dRefvV3nFloOHEePgLAZ>