

Mumbai launch and discussion of Media Icon Shobhaa De's book "**Seventy.... and to hell with it!**"

### **For Immediate Release**

**Penguin Random House, Avid Learning and The Royal Opera House, Mumbai** invite you to the launch of prolific author, columnist and opinion shaper Shobhaa De's new book "Seventy.... and to hell with it!" The book, Shobhaa's twentieth, seeks to chronicle seven decades of a life lived as a writer, wife, mother, daughter, sister and grandmother. Shobhaa reflects on her love and flair for writing and moments and memories that have shaped the powerhouse she has become. The book is as much about being a strong female voice and unapologetic example to follow.

The description of the panel is below:

The writer celebrates her upcoming 70th year in January 2018 with an irreverent and bold take on what it means to be a woman 'of a certain vintage'...and reflects on her life and pertinent issues like growing older, juggling a variety of public and private roles, feminism, the new global Indian woman and shaping political, cultural and social opinions. She will be in conversation with national award winning actor, the feisty and talented Kangana Ranaut. The event will be moderated by senior TV Journalist Barkha Dutt. Come join us as we commemorate seventy years of being Shobhaa!

**Where:** The Royal Opera House, Mumbai, Mama Parmanand Marg, Mumbai - 400 004

**When:** Wednesday, 13th December 2017; 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM - Registration and Refreshments | 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM - Discussion

**RSVP:** [www.avidlearning.com/](http://www.avidlearning.com/) [avidlearning@essarservices.co.in](mailto:avidlearning@essarservices.co.in) / +919769937710; prior registration required

**Press Email / Call:** Ayesha Dadachanji on [ayeshah.avid@gmail.com](mailto:ayeshah.avid@gmail.com) / +91 9820155297

### **About the Author:**

**Shobhaa Dé** has monitored and written extensively on India's socio-cultural-political contours for over four decades. As a prominent opinion shaper across social media, she is seen as a fearless commentator and an independent media voice. Her 20 books include the bestsellers Socialite Evenings, Starry Nights, Spouse and Superstar India.

### **About Partners:**

**Penguin Random House India** is the subcontinent's largest English language trade publisher. The company publishes over 250 new titles every year and has an active backlist of 3000 titles. With a strong fiction and nonfiction list, we publish across every segment including biography, travel, business, politics, history, religion and philosophy, lifestyle, cookery, health and fitness, sports and leisure, visual books and children's books. The children's titles are published under the Puffin and Ladybird imprints. Penguin Random House India has a co-publishing partnership with Manjul Publishing House for local language translations across adult and children's fiction and nonfiction titles that are available in Hindi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telugu and Marathi. Further, we are also the exclusive distribution partners for some of the leading publishing houses – Faber, Granta, Short Books, Atlantic Books UK, Canongate, Ingram Publishing

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Avid Learning, a public programming platform and cultural arm of the Essar Group, has conducted over 750 programs and connected with more than 85,000 individuals since its inception in 2009. Driven by the belief that Learning Never Stops, AVID's multiple formats like Workshops, Panel Discussions, Gallery Walkthroughs, and Festival Platforms create a dynamic and interactive atmosphere that stimulates intellectual and creative growth across the fields of Culture & Heritage, Literature, Art and Innovation.

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**The Royal Opera House, Mumbai** is widely touted as Mumbai's Cultural Crown Jewel and India's only surviving Opera House. The original idea for the space was conceived of in 1908, inaugurated in 1911 by King George V, and eventually completed in 1916. The design incorporated a blend of European and Indian detailing. The space became a cinema in later years before falling into disrepair and shutting by the 1990s. Fittingly, the space has been owned by the Royal Family of Gondal since 1952 and was eventually restored by conservation architect, Abha Narain Lambah under the leadership of the current Maharaja of Gondal, Shri Jyotendrasinhji. The Royal Opera House Mumbai, now one of the last remaining Baroque structures in the city, reopened after 23 years in October 2016. The building was included on the 2012 World Monuments Watch to raise awareness about its history and significance, and support preservation efforts. The building has since been recognized with an Award of Merit in the 2017 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. The restored facilities feature a 574-seater 3-level auditorium with an orchestra pit and state of the art technological upgradations, including acoustics, stagecraft, lighting and air-conditioning, alongside retaining the old world charm of the proscenium stage, the royal boxes and the magnificent regal chandeliers. Some more enhancements to the venue include a motorized screen, co-axial ceiling speaker system, Four-zone volume control and all round wifi access. Today, it stands as a key performance and creative hub in the city's cultural landscape, while being a premier heritage landmark. Facebook: [www.facebook.com/royaloperahousemumbai/](http://www.facebook.com/royaloperahousemumbai/) Twitter: @MumbaiOpera Instagram: @mumbaiopera