

A panel discussion celebrating the Mumbai launch of celebrated conservation architect **Abha Narain Lambah's** new book, *Punjab: Building the Land of the Five Rivers*

For Immediate Release

Avid Learning, in association with The **Marg Foundation**, presents the Mumbai launch of **Punjab: Building the Land of the Five Rivers** to coincide with the Punjabi festival of Baisakhi on 13th April 2017 at the Visitors' **Center, CSMVS, Kala Ghoda.**

The description of the panel is as below:

Join us for a unique panel discussion to celebrate the book and, indeed, a gamut of all things Punjabi! Drawing from this sumptuous new Marg publication, that meticulously showcases the Land of the Five Rivers in all its glory, this panel continues the conversation on topics ranging from Punjab's breathtaking architecture to its traditions of princely cuisine, from its Mughal heritage to its Sufi and Sikh cultural influences. Author, **Arjun Gaïnd** will be in conversation with Editor of the book and Conservation Architect, **Abha Narain Lambah**, Journalist and Founding Editor of The Wire, **Sidharth Bhatia** and Contributing Author and Journalist, **Neha Prasada.**

Read on for a special sneak peek into the book:

Punjab, the land of the five rivers, has been through the centuries a historic rite of passage for invaders seeking control of the throne of Hindustan.

In Mughal times, Punjab remained the vital highway linking the capitals of Agra and Delhi to Kashmir, Kabul and lands to the north. This region has also been traversed by people of different religions; Sufi saints and Sikh gurus have profoundly influenced its cultural heritage. As the Mughal empire declined, the centre of power shifted and a new Sikh kingdom was founded by Maharaja Ranjit Singh in Lahore. The 19th century saw a parallel line of control by the British in the Cis- Sutlej states (Patiala, Faridkot, Malerkotla, Nabha and Jind) and princely domains like Kapurthala, where dynasties had already been established by local chieftains.

With its architecture enriched by the ideas and influences that each new wave brought, Punjab's built inheritance encompasses a vast spectrum, from ancient Buddhist sites to medieval forts, Mughal monuments and Sufi shrines, to historic gurdwaras and an array of palaces and civic structures. This book examines these sites and the religious and cultural traditions that shaped them, its ambit also extending to the princely spaces of kitchens and dining halls. Through its focus on small towns along with major cities such as Lahore and Amritsar, it commemorates the 70th year of Independence and Partition, providing insights on the multicultural legacies that survive from both sides of the border.

Come celebrate the best of Punjab and its diverse heritage with us!

Where: Visitors' Center, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS), Kala Ghoda.

When: Thursday, 13th April 2017; 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM - Registration and Refreshment | 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM - Discussion

RSVP: avidlearning@essar.com / +919769937710; prior registration required

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Bios of the Panelists:

Abha Narain Lambah's architectural practice covers a range of monuments across India from 15th century temples in Hampi and Ladakh, to colonial buildings in Mumbai, Kolkata and New Delhi, historic palaces and forts in Punjab, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, to ancient archaeological sites in Odisha, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Gujarat. She has been advisor to museums such as Victoria Memorial and Indian Museum Kolkata, Prince of Wales Museum Mumbai, Chowmahalla Palace Hyderabad, Lal Bagh Palace Indore and Jaivilas Museum Gwalior. She has also been involved with many urban and streetscaping projects and is active with various citizen's groups. She has edited a range of books including "Architecture of the Indian Sultanates", "Custodians of India's Heritage: 150 years of the Archaeological Survey of India" and "Shekhawati: Land of the Merchant Princes."

Arjun Raj Gaiind is the author of *A Very Pukka Murder*, published by Harper Collins India and Poisoned Pen Press USA. It is the first in a trilogy chronicling the adventures of Sikander Singh, a Maharaja with a penchant for mysteries, set against the backdrop of princely India during the heyday of the British Raj. The second installment, titled *Death at the Durbar*, is due for release early this November. He is also the creator and author of several critically acclaimed, best-selling comic books, including *Empire of Blood*, *Project: Kalki*, *Reincarnation Man*, *The Mighty Yeti*, *Blade of the Warrior: Kshatriya*, and *A Brief History of Death*.

Sidharth Bhatia is a Mumbai-based journalist and author. He is the Founder Editor of *The Wire* and has written several books on cinema and popular culture. His Twitter handle is @bombaywallah.

Neha Prasada is an author and journalist based in New Delhi. She has written extensively on health, politics, governance, environment, and social issues. She is a contributing editor to the *Architectural Digest* magazine. She contributes to *Conde Nast Traveller*, *Vogue* and *Mint Lounge*. With a keen interest in food history and world cuisine, she recently curated a food festival celebrating the regional food of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. Her debut coffee-table book *Dining with the Maharajas* has been very well received. She is a contributing author to *Punjab: Building the Land of the Five Rivers*.

About Partners:

Avid Learning, a public programming platform and cultural arm of the Essar Group, has conducted over 600 programs and connected with more than 55,000 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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CSMVS (Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya), formerly known as the Prince of Wales Museum of Western India, is one of the premier art and history museum in India. Founded in the early 1900s, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya is one of the premier cultural institutions in the country. Today this building is listed as a Grade I Heritage Building and has been awarded the '2010 UNESCO Asia – Pacific Heritage Award' for Cultural Heritage Conservation. It has been awarded first place for Heritage Building Maintenance by the Indian Heritage Society. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS) aims to create awareness and sensitivity towards our rich heritage through a visitor-friendly museum for the purposes of education, study and enjoyment of the public. The Museum offers a perfect leisure day out for all its visitors where you can engage with a world-class art collection and participate in fun-n-learn activities.

Marg was founded by Mulk Raj Anand in 1946, with the agenda of developing a forward-looking and socially active language of art, while engaging with India's rich cultural heritage. Marg's publications are internationally acclaimed for their high standards of production, excellent editorial content, striking and informative illustrations. Over the years, Marg has pioneered many regional studies and Marg believes that a cross-regional understanding of the subcontinent's collective inheritance is vital as our nation continues its growth in the global arena. Today Marg continues this legacy under the editorship of Jyotindra Jain and Naman P. Ahuja.

YES Global Institute has been established by YES BANK as a practicing think-tank, to channel private sector capital towards India's development. The Institute believes that India's equitable economic growth will be derived from adopting and promoting a robust partnership amongst the public sector governance along with the private sector innovation and entrepreneurship. Through the YES Culture division, the institute is dedicated to the promotion, development and conservation of India's cultural heritage.