

A panel discussion celebrating the Mumbai launch of Democracy's XI: The Great Indian Cricket Story by journalist Rajdeep Sardesai

### **For Immediate Release**

**Juggernaut Books, Royal Opera House, Mumbai and Avid Learning** invite you to celebrate the release of journalist **Rajdeep Sardesai's** new book, **Democracy's XI: The Great Indian Cricket Story**, in the presence of cricketing legends **Sunil Gavaskar** and **Sachin Tendulkar**.

The duo will then be in conversation with cricket commentator and journalist Harsha Bhogle and the author to discuss themes and anecdotes from the book as well as the history of Cricket- and through it- the history of a Nation.

Read on for an exclusive synopsis of the book:

Nothing unites India like cricket. The Indian team is a glorious mix of people from big cities and small, from different religions, classes, castes, regions and languages; where the son of a pump manager from Ranchi can dare to dream; where a child prodigy from Mumbai can play beside a Muslim from the back alleys of Hyderabad. And while dynasts can rule the roost in politics and Bollywood, cricket presents a level playing field that mirrors the spirit of our constitution. The sport, then, reflects the best of India. In this remarkable book, bestselling author and journalist Rajdeep Sardesai narrates the story of post-Independence cricket through the lives of eleven extraordinary Indian cricketers – from Dilip Sardesai and Tiger Pataudi in the 1960s to Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Virat Kohli today. This is not a book about an all-time best Indian cricket eleven but one that shows us glimpses of a changing India through personal and anecdotal portraits. From the days that Indian cricketers travelled by train and earned a few hundred rupees for Test matches to the bright lights of the multimillion-dollar IPL, this book puts the spotlight on the evolution of both Indian cricket and society.

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

**When:** Monday, 23rd October 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:**

**Rajdeep Sardesai** is a senior journalist, author, and TV news presenter. His book 2014: The Election that Changed India is a national best seller that has been translated into half a dozen languages. Currently the consulting editor and lead news anchor of the India Today group, he has 28 years of journalistic experience in print and television. He was the founder editor of the IBN 18 network which included CNN IBN, IBN 7 and IBN Lokmat. Prior to that, he was Managing Editor of both NDTV 24X7 and NDTV India and was responsible for overseeing the news policy for both the channels. He has also worked with The Times of India for 6 years and was city editor of its Mumbai edition at the age of 26. During the last 28 years, he has covered major national and international stories, specialising in national politics. He has won more than 50 awards for journalistic excellence, including the prestigious Padma Shri for Journalism in 2008, the International Broadcasters award for coverage of the 2002 Gujarat riots and the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism award for 2007. The only Indian to win the Asian Television award for talk show

and news presentation, he has been News Anchor of the year at the Indian Television Academy eight times. He has been the President of the Editors Guild of India and was also chosen as a Global Leader for Tomorrow by the World Economic Forum. Sardesai writes a fortnightly column across several newspapers, including The Hindustan Times and Dainik Bhaskar. He has his own blogsite and is the third most followed journalist in the world on social media site, Twitter. A graduate of St Xaviers College, he has completed his Masters and LLB from Oxford University and played first class cricket at Oxford and captained Mumbai schools.

#### **Bios of the Panelists as written by the Author:**

**Sunil Gavaskar** is India's greatest ever opening batsman, who set the gold standard for Indian batting by breaking Sir Don Bradman's record of 29 centuries and the first to reach 10,000 test runs. Gavaskar conquered the fastest bowlers in the world to become the 'Little Master'. For millions, he is still the face of Indian cricket's rise to a new professional era.

**Sachin Tendulkar:** the Bharat Ratna of Indian cricket, became the first sportsperson to be awarded India's highest civilian honour. Has broken every record in the book, the first cricketer to score 100 international centuries, Tendulkar who played his first test aged 16, is a folk hero. For almost a quarter century, he carried the weight of Indian cricket on his shoulders and took it to new heights.

**Harsha Bhogle** is Indian cricket's most familiar face for television, he has given his voice to hundreds of matches across India and the world. Commentator and chronicler of the life and times of Indian cricket.

#### **About Partners:**

**Avid Learning**, a public programming platform and cultural arm of the Essar Group, has conducted over 750 programs and connected with more than 65,000 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. Facebook : [www.facebook.com/Avidlearning](http://www.facebook.com/Avidlearning); Twitter : [www.twitter.com/Avidlearning](http://www.twitter.com/Avidlearning); Instagram: @avidlearning

Focused on the growing mobile usage in India, **Juggernaut Books** aims to give authors both a digital and a physical platform. Its mobile technology and list obsessively engage both a serious reading audience and the new mobile audience. Juggernaut's authors include Arundhati Roy, William Dalrymple, Prashant Kishor, Twinkle Khanna, Sunny Leone, Rujuta Diwekar, Husain Haqqani, Svetlana Alexievich, Rajdeep Sardesai, Rajat Gupta, Kanhaiya Kumar and Sourav Ganguly. Juggernaut launched its physical list in June 2016. The Juggernaut App has been live on Android and iOS since April 2016 and the website since November 2016. It has recently launched a writing platform as well as Hindi content. More information on [www.juggernaut.in](http://www.juggernaut.in)

**The Royal Opera House Mumbai (ROHM)** 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 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/](https://www.facebook.com/royaloperahousemumbai/) Twitter: @MumbaiOpera Instagram: @mumbaiopera