

A panel discussion celebrating the Mumbai launch of *In Hot Blood* by beloved satirical columnist and curator of the Times of India Litfest **Bachi Karkaria**

### **For Immediate Release**

**Juggernaut, Royal Opera House, Mumbai and Avid Learning** present *In Hot Blood*, a panel discussion around Author, Journalist and Columnist Bachi Karkaria's upcoming book - *In Hot Blood: The Nanavati Case that Shook India*.

In 1959, a handsome naval commander, Kawas Nanavati, shot dead his wife Sylvia's lover and set in motion an extraordinary set of events. Touted as a hero by the public, Nanavati swept the jury off their feet and managed to secure a 'Not Guilty' verdict -- and his freedom. This trial was the death knell of the jury system in India. In her laboriously researched book, Bachi Karkaria gives the most comprehensive account of the Nanavati case and the Constitutional crises to which it gave birth.

The description of the panel is as below:

To examine the themes and repercussions of this landmark case and the changing face of jurisprudence in India, join the author of the book and Lawyer and Politician Ram Jethmalani in conversation with Journalist and Editor of Scroll.in Naresh Fernandes.

Vice Admiral Girish Luthra, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command and Mr. Ram Jethmalani will formally launch the book.

Read on for an exclusive synopsis of the book:

At lunchtime on 27 April 1959, the handsome naval commander Kawas Nanavati was told by his English wife Sylvia that she was having an affair with their flamboyant businessman-playboy friend, Prem Ahuja. Later that evening, armed with a revolver, Nanavati stormed Ahuja's bedroom and shut the door behind him. Three gunshots were heard going off inside. Ahuja was dead.

Ahuja's murder set in motion an extraordinary public frenzy – thousands descended on the streets of Bombay chanting in favour of the hero Nanavati, and the jury, swept off their feet by the dazzling naval officer in the dock, returned a 'Not Guilty' verdict. This trial was the death knell of the jury system in India. In this laboriously researched book Bachi Karkaria gives a most comprehensive account of the Nanavati case and the Constitutional crisis to which it gave birth.

The cast of characters reads like a who's who of the times – Jawaharlal Nehru, V.K. Krishna Menon, Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, Lord Mountbatten, J.R.D. Tata all make appearances, as do some of India's best legal minds, from Nani Palkhivala and H.M. Seervai to Ram Jethmalani and Y.V. Chandrachud. This book clears the fog of conspiracy theories and tells the true story of l'affaire Nanavati.

This book is not just about the case, but also the characters involved and the rich milieu of Bombay- its Parsi privilege, old-world glamour, tabloid culture, naval traditions, political and high-society mores. It is an ambitious new investigative endeavor sure to give readers much to rethink and reminisce over. It is "a racy and unputdownable true story of the thrilling murder trial that put an end to the India's jury system" according to Senior Advocate and Jurist Fali S. Nariman while also being "a sparkling and piercing portrait of Bombay society of the '50s and '60s", according to Director Karan Johar.

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

**When:** Sunday, 21st May 2017; 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM - Registration and Refreshment | 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM - Discussion

**RSVP:** [avidlearning@essar.com](mailto:avidlearning@essar.com) / +919769937710; prior registration required

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

### **Bios of the Panelists:**

**Bachi Karkaria** is a veteran journalist and columnist with the Times of India. She also curates the Times of India Litfest.

**Ram Jethmalani** is a Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Senior Advocate (Supreme Court of India) and an eminent professor of law. He has served as India's Union Law Minister and as Chairman of Bar Council of India. He was a Member of Parliament in the 6th and 7th Lok Sabha and has served as Law Minister of India in addition to being the Minister of Urban Development during the Prime Ministership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee against whom he later contested in General Elections of 2004 from Lucknow constituency. Even though he is primarily known as only a criminal lawyer, he has appeared in many important cases concerning constitutional matters. He has also published many books, namely 'Justice Soviet Style', 'Big Egos Small Men', and has also written books on law subjects such as Private International Law, Media Law and Conflict of Laws. On 7 May 2010 he was elected to be the President of Supreme Court Bar Association.

Naresh Fernandes is a journalist who lives in Bombay. He is the editor of Scroll.in, a digital daily. He is the author of City Adrift: A Short Biography of Bombay and Taj Mahal Foxtrot: The Story of Bombay's Jazz Age.

### **About Partners:**

**Avid Learning**, a public programming platform and cultural arm of the Essar Group, has conducted over 700 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.

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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