

**Explore the paradise city of Indian and its living traditions of craft, wonderful cuisine, houseboats or shikaras on the next episode of Cultural Capital: Future Legacies of Indian Cities**

The capital city of Jammu and Kashmir, **Srinagar** has lived a diverse and vibrant history ranging from the Mauryan Empire to Kushanas, to Mughals, Sikhs and Dogra rule and has also survived decades-long political conflict which overshadowed the region. Hemmed by mountains, **Srinagar** is a montage of heritage interweaved with cosmopolitan culture. The Garden city is associated with the best living traditions of craft, wonderful cuisine, houseboats or *shikaras*, mountain streams and snow-clad mountains. In 2021, UN body designated Srinagar as a part of its Creative Cities Network (UCCN) because of its crafts and folk art, which is an intrinsic part of its tradition and culture besides the breath-taking natural beauty of the city itself.

**Live History India** and **Avid Learning** present the 12th episode of **Cultural Capital: Future Legacies of Indian Cities**, A panel discussion that will delve into rich and eclectic culture within this city in Kashmir Valley and its influence on locals as well as tourists from around the world.

*Author & Photographer* **Qamoos Bukhari**, *Author and Anthropologist* **Onaiza Drabu**, *Art Historian & Heritage Architect* **Hakim Sameer Hamdani**, *Former Chef and Co-Founder of Masque Restaurant* **Prateek Sadhu** will be in conversation with *Deputy editor and Curator, Live History India* **Aparna Andhare**.

Together they will also look at rich tangible and intangible cultural heritage of the Kashmir valley and how they are impacted due to decades long conflict but still stands to be one of unique urban centres in India. They will also debate on the need of policies to meet the future challenges.

In 2021 Avid Learning started a journey, a virtual but kaleidoscopic journey showcasing the rich cultural heritage of our country through its Cultural Capital Series. 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. We went to the pink city - Jaipur, to the City of Pearls - Hyderabad, to the untraced peaks of India, to newly developed cities like Chandigarh and to some old cities like Lucknow and to the heart of our country to the City of Lights, Varanasi.

Join us now as we voyage through the paradise city of India.

**Date:** Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**Time:** 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM (IST)

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

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#CULTURALCAPITALS

◀ Live History India



*Nagma, Nakaish, Mehman-Nawazi* flows through this city of India like the rivers in its geography. The capital city of Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar is known as a paradise city and is associated with the best living traditions of craft, wonderful cuisine, houseboats or shikaras, mountain streams, snow-clad mountains and a montage of heritage interweaved with cosmopolitan culture.

Join us for the next episode of Cultural Capitals: Future Legacies of Indian Cities – Srinagar, a fascinating panel discussion that will delve into the rich and eclectic culture of the Kashmir Valley and its influence on locals as well as tourists from around the world. This panel discussion will also look at how rich tangible and intangible cultural heritage which are impacted due to decades long conflict and yet still stands to be one of unique urban centres with a rich living heritage. Join us as we voyage through the city of lakes and valleys.



Author & Photographer  
**Qamoos Bukhari**



Author & Anthropologist  
**Onaiza Drabu**



Art Historian & Heritage Architect  
**Hakim Sameer Hamdani**



Former Chef & Co-Founder of Masque  
**Prateek Sadhu**



Deputy Editor, Live History India & Curator  
**Aparna Andhare**

WED, 18 MAY | 6.00-7.30 PM (IST) | REG: [www.avidlearning.in](http://www.avidlearning.in)

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## About speakers

**Qamoos Bukhari** was born and partly raised in Srinagar - Kashmir. He studied English Literature at Hindu College, University of Delhi. He is the author of *Borderless: The Artisans of Kashmir* (2016). Qamoos's work has appeared in museum catalogues internationally and in journals including *Financial Times*, *Elle Décor*, *Marg*, *Architectural Digest*, and *HuffPost*, and exhibited at Bikaner House, New Delhi, Dar Al Funoon, Kuwait, among others. Recently, he conceptualized, photographed, and edited the book *Architectural Ornamentation in Shrines & Mosques of Kashmir* published by Roli Books in collaboration with the INTACH Kashmir Chapter. Exploring the rich cultural and artistic traditions of Kashmir, Qamoos works at the intersection between research and documentary practices.

**Onaiza Drabu** is a Kashmiri anthropologist. She writes about identity, nationalism, and Islamophobia, and co-curates a newsletter called *Daak* on South Asian literature and art.

**Hakim Sameer Hamdani** is Design Director at INTACH Kashmir, whose primary area of research remains the medieval and early modern period of Kashmir's history, focusing on cultural linkages that connect Kashmir to and through the Silk route to South Asia as well as to Central Asia. He has studied the influence of the larger Indic civilization as well as the Persian-Islamic tradition on the formation of Kashmiri culture and the transnational links in the early-modern period, and inter-community linkages within the Kashmiri Muslim society. Since 2004, he has completed different projects and studies related to the mapping, preservation, and revitalization of historic and cultural sites in Kashmir. Some of the major conservation projects he has overseen include the Reconstruction of 18<sup>th</sup> century wooden Shrine of Pīr Dastgīr Şahib (2020–12) and Conservation of 15<sup>th</sup> century, 'Aāli Masjid at Eidgah, Srinagar (2007)— both of which were longlisted for the Aga Khan Award for Architecture, as well as the Mughal Gardens of Kashmir. He has worked with different academic, national and international organizations including UNESCO, WMF (World Monument fund) and World Bank. He recently oversaw the preparation of the dossier for successful inclusion of Srinagar on the UNESCO's Creative Cities Network (UCCN-2021). His book based on his doctoral research, *The Syncretic Traditions of Islamic Religious Architecture of Kashmir (Early 14th - 18th Century)* was published by Routledge in March 2021. He is forthcoming book *Shi'ism in Kashmir: A history of Sunni-Shia rivalry and reconciliation*, is being published by I B Tauris. He is also co-editing a book on Mughal Gardens of Kashmir. His interests have expanded to include mercantile networks and architectural patronage in nineteenth century Kashmir, highlights the so far undocumented role of Kashmiri merchant families and their patronage of major religious monuments of Kashmir. Building upon his investigation, he intends to develop further the role of these merchant families and to investigate the significance and relation of Kashmir with the cities of Silk route, particularly Yarkand, Khotan and Kashgar as the fulcrum around which moved the caravans that linked South Asia across the daunting barrier of the world's highest mountains, to the expanse of central and west Asia. He is currently a Aga Khan Fellow in Islamic Architecture, Conservation and Urbanism at MIT.

**Prateek Sadhu** Born and raised in Kashmir, Prateek Sadhu graduated from the Culinary Institute of America before stints at some of the world's finest kitchens including Alinea, The French Laundry, and Le Bernardin. A tenure at Noma drove home lessons of how to cook from the region and harness the soil; this food philosophy changed his life. He then moved to The Pierre Hotel in New York, followed by a return to India as sous chef at Le Cirque. \*In 2016, Prateek co-founded Masque in Mumbai, where he was also the head chef; the restaurant advocates holistic, indigenous cooking, inspired by the produce of India and has garnered numerous accolades since opening.

**Aparna Andhare** is the Deputy Editor, Live History India, looking after programming for LHI Circle. She was, until recently, a curator at the Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum, the City Palace, Jaipur. Joining the Museum in 2017, she worked on developing a new gallery on transport, contributed to publications, had collection responsibilities, and handled outreach activities including social media. Specialising in art and architecture of early modern India, she has two master's degrees: Art in the Global Middle Ages (University of Edinburgh, 2017), and Arts and Aesthetics (Master's, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 2012). In Bombay, she has worked on

independent archiving projects, and taught and co-ordinated the Art Design History and Theory programme for the undergraduates at ISDI-Parson's Mumbai (2013-16). Aparna contributes to various publications on art and culture.

### **Cultural Capitals Series**

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. We have so far presented Cities like Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Chandigarh, Lucknow, Kohima, Indore, Mysuru, Varanasi and Puducherry. 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 urban landscapes 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. This episode will be part of the new iteration of the series which will look at some of the up-and-coming cities of India that are intricately weaved into our country's rich cultural fabric.

The sessions under this series are archived for later viewing on demand on our dedicated YouTube Playlist.

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYt7Q44R5xkdrydGerZTXsA3Zdqc7Z5wG>

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