



THE TRUSTEES OF THE VASANT J. SHETH MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO HEAR

DIANA L. ECK

PROFESSOR OF COMPARATIVE RELIGION AND INDIAN STUDIES
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

DELIVER THE 18TH VASANT J. SHETH MEMORIAL LECTURE

SACRED RIVERS, THE LIFELINES OF INDIA

ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2016 AT 7:00 PM

COOMARASWAMY HALL
CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI MAHARAJ VASTU SANGRAHALAYA
THE FORMER PRINCE OF WALES MUSEUM

159-161 MAHATMA GANDHI ROAD | FORT | MUMBAI 400023

RSVP: 022-67498532 or 022-67498534 | vjsmf@greatship.com

PROGRAMME

- 7:00 PM WELCOME ADDRESS
- 7:15 PM INTRODUCTION: CYRUS GUZDER
- 7:30 PM MEMORIAL LECTURE: DIANA L. ECK
- 8:30 PM VOTE OF THANKS

PLEASE NOTE SEATING IS ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS

Diana L. Eck is Professor of Comparative Religion and Indian Studies at Harvard University. She received her B.A. from Smith College, her M.A. from the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, and her Ph.D. from Harvard University. Her books on India include *Banaras, City of Light*; *Darsan: Seeing the Divine Image in India*; and *India: A Sacred Geography*. As founder and director of The Pluralism Project, she turned her attention closer to home to produce *On Common Ground: World Religions in America*, an extensive web-based resource on Buddhist, Hindu, Jain, Muslim, Sikh and Zoroastrian communities in America. She is also the author of *A New Religious America: How A 'Christian' Country Has Become the World's Most Religiously Diverse Nation*. In 1998, she received the National Humanities Medal from President Clinton for her work on religious pluralism in America.

The Ganga and the seven sacred rivers have long been invoked as the "mother rivers" bringing nourishment to the land and to the people of India. Why are the great rivers so important to the cultures and traditions of India? How are they faring today? What challenges do the sacred rivers face in a world driven by the demands of urbanization and industry? These are some of the issues she will address in her lecture.