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Humanities West & Mechanics' Institute Present
The Enigma of Arrival:
Modern India & Anglophone Literature
Lecture by Stanford University Professor
Saikat Majumdar
and
A Conversation with Award-Winning Indian Novelist
Vikram Chandra
5:30pm Reception, 6 pm Lecture, Tuesday, February 17, 2009
Mechanics' Institute
57 Post Street, San Francisco, Ca

Modern India and its people are increasingly associated with a narrative of achievement and prosperity in the realms of the economic and the cultural. State-of-the-art technology and award-winning literature are two of India's most dazzling ambassadors. This lecture will briefly overview the field of modern Indian-English literature and raise some questions in the process: Is it possible today to see the phenomenon of Anglophone Indian literature as separate from the new image of rise and growth that currently engulfs this nation? What is gained, and what is lost when an art form gets so closely wedded to tropes of progress and achievement in the national and global public spheres? **Professor Majumdar** will end his lecture in conversation with **Vikram Chandra**, author of *Sacred Games* and one of India's foremost novelists.

This program complements **India Rising: Tradition Meets Modernity*, Humanities West's two-day program of lectures, discussions, and musical presentations exploring the dynamic fusion of modern Indian culture, where ancient tradition meets current innovation and is revealed in contemporary art, literature, film, and music. The program takes place on Friday, February 27, from 8 pm to 10:15 pm and Saturday, February 28, from 10 am to 4 pm, at Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco. (*see additional news release)

What: *The Enigma of Arrival: Modern India & Anglophone Literature*
Lecture by Stanford University Professor Saikat Majumdar and a
Conversation with Award-winning Indian Novelist Vikram Chandra

When: **5:30pm Reception, 6 pm Lecture, Tuesday, February 17, 2009**

Where: **Mechanics' Institute**
57 Post Street, San Francisco, CA

Cost: **\$10 general public;**
FREE to Members of Mechanics' Institute and Friends of Humanities West

Info: **www.humanitieswest.org OR www.milibrary.org**

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