



**GOETHE
INSTITUT**
MAX MUELLER
BHAVAN

FIVE MILLION INCIDENTS

2nd CALL FOR PROPOSALS

**To CONTRIBUTE TO A YEAR LONG OBSERVATORY
For AN OCCUPATION OF TIME**

TO CELEBRATE 60 YEARS OF GOETHE-INSTITUT /
MAX MUELLER BHAVAN in INDIA

Hosts And Producers:

Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller
Bhavan, New Delhi & Kolkata

Catalysts:

Raqs Media Collective

Mentors:

Rupali Gupte, Sabih Ahmed,
Sanchayan Ghosh, Vidya Shivadas

Custodians:

Farah Batool, Friso Maecker,
Kanika Kuthiala, Leonhard
Emmerling, Sharmistha Sarker,
Shweta Wahni

PERIOD: 1st January – 14th April 2020

VENUES: GOETHE-INSTITUT / MAX MUELLER BHAVAN,
NEW DELHI and KOLKATA

End Date for Submission of Proposals: 15th October 2019
Announcement of Selected Proposals Round Two: 30th November 2019

Five Million Incidents are underway. Artists and practitioners of the imagination are ready to stage 'occupations of time' in the Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan buildings in New Delhi and Kolkata. Some of them have already begun. A gossamer web of mycelium is stretching itself around walls and pillars as if it were a new form of life, letterboxes are proliferating, lunch dates are enfolding the intimacy of bodies and minds in order to bare themselves to each other, a queer potluck is being planned, the apparatus of surveillance is being taken apart, new and invented languages are being spoken, two cities are talking in code and poetry, and a myriad other possibilities are open.

The time has now come for more incidents to enter the fray. We are delighted to announce the **second call for proposals** for the second and final (January 2020-April 2020) unfolding of **Five Million Incidents.**

Five Million Incidents is a year-long project by Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan, New Delhi and Kolkata. **It marks the centenary of the Declaration of the Independence of the Mind**, signed by an international consortium of artists, intellectuals and philosophers that included Albert Einstein, Rabindranath Tagore and Romain Rolland.

Unfolding at the premises of both the Goethe-Instituts (2019-2020), *Five Million Incidents* is conceptualized in collaboration with Raqs Media Collective and facilitated by the teams of the Goethe-Instituts and external jury members.

Five Million Incidents **aims at expanding our notion of art as an extension of the everyday experiences of life**. Actors, dancers, visual artists, film makers, photographers, writers, social and cultural activists as well as educationists will explore the “process of making” as a moment of sharing and interaction with their audience.

Five Million Incidents is **a process of generating temporal and sometimes ephemeral collective moments of working, learning, listening, sharing, and engaging and of becoming**. It is a process of bridging the gap between disciplinary processes and our everyday activities.

It is an invitation to experiment with the possibilities of public space, time, artistic media, communication and interaction, to recognize and insist on new forms of artistic and intellectual work, and to invigorate existing forms with fresh thought and content.

Incidents will emerge and dissolve around the Instituts. They will transcend and transform our everyday relationship with the Goethe-Institut premises and its daily activities through **intrusion, intervention, disruption and participation by artists** from all over India.

The nature of each incident will reveal itself only in your presence, sometimes in the span of an hour, sometimes in the course of several weeks or even months.

What is an Incident?

An incident is a fold in time - an occurrence, an encounter, a sighting, an event in time and in memory; a quickened heartbeat, an epiphany, a flash of insight, an outbreak of goose-bumps, a moment of excitement, an encounter with a person or an object that transforms the way you live or think, a conversation that carries a wake with it, an event that makes you rethink everything.

An hour can be crowded with incidents, and years may pass without incident. Incidents depend on recognition, experience, sensory quickening, and alertness. They may also rely on slowing down, reflection, thoughtfulness, and ripeness. Thinking and interacting with incidents is a mode of conscious engagement with time.

What is/are Five Million Incidents?

Five Million Incidents is a call for action, and is also a metaphor for temporal abundance; a sign of plenitude in ways of occupying and inhabiting time. It is an invitation to take more than a few months, almost a year, and turn them into a celebration of imagination, thought and creative action. It is a reason and a provocation to build structures that can last hours, days, years; to found processes, to create networks of peerage and inspire reasons for conviviality, collaboration and celebration.

Five Million Incidents is a ruse to recognize and insist on new forms of artistic and intellectual work, and to invigorate extant forms with fresh thought and content. It is to invite and demand new forms of solidarity and to make room for radical forms of companionship and solitude in and with the arts.

Why is Five Million Incidents happening?

Five Million Incidents is a charter of thought-in-action and a curated calendar of incidents involving contemporary art, experiments in music, performances, happenings, conversations, screenings and encounters that will unfold in New Delhi and in Kolkata at the Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan.

It is envisaged as a program and an agenda of events, pop-up interventions, processes, gatherings, and conversations that are an invitation to sensory, intellectual and aesthetic plenitude. It marks a call for the expansion of the horizons of artistic processes, anticipates as well as desires the laying of foundations for new art forms, experimental practices and publics and produces a reconfiguration of creative possibilities. *Five Million Incidents* is a process that prepares us for the global intellectual and imaginative challenges of the second decade of the twenty first century.

What is the occasion?

2019 marks two anniversaries: the sixtieth year of the Goethe-Institut's presence in India and the centenary of a visionary statement issued in 1919 by an international consortium of artists, intellectuals and philosophers, that included Rabindranath Tagore, Hermann Hesse, Stefan Zweig, Jane Addams, Romain Rolland and Albert Einstein – 'The Declaration of the Independence of the Mind' – in the aftermath of the destruction of the First World War. To mark both these events and to use their memory as a means to forge new beginnings, the Goethe-Instituts in New Delhi and Kolkata are initiating a yearlong celebration of creativity, thoughtfulness, sensory exploration, and the imagination.

Who can apply?

Applicants can be artists, writers, curators, filmmakers, performers, musicians, architects, animators of public processes, and any person interested in furthering creative forms. Applicants can be an individual or a collective or a temporary formation and must be living and working in India.

What can you do?

You can create a club of people who listen to short wave radio stations together, amateur mathematicians having fun with equations and addressing the fear of mathematics or be a reader of obscure and compelling poets. You can curate listening environments, instigate a happening or invite people to a meal as a masquerade or to a symposium for the discussion of ideas. You can become a philosophical DJ - spinning concepts, questions and ideas. You can be the medium of a hitherto unprecedented conversation.

The above pointers are only to indicate possibilities. You can propose things that no one has any idea of apart from you.

The project you propose should be new - not something that has been done before - but developed specifically for *Five Million Incidents*.

You are more than welcome to visit the premises of the Goethe-Institut's before the submission of your proposal.

What is being done?

Fifty projects have been selected for realization from the responses to the first call of proposals that went out in January 2019. The artists ('Actants') who have proposed these projects are already at work, and their projects will be produced in a staged manner from August 2019 to January 2020 in both New Delhi and Kolkata. The next unfolding will begin in January 2020 and end in April 2020.

For information about the artists and projects selected in the first round, see - www.goethe.de/indien/fivemillionincidents

They should give you a good sense of the range of practices and ideas that *Five Million Incidents* is already engaging.

What kind of time frame can each project have?

Time frames are flexible. You could propose something that has the duration of a day or a week or two days or a fortnight. You could also suggest a process that requires two days each month for a given period during *Five Million Incidents*.

The proposal should also outline the time period required to prepare for the project. You could suggest a process that takes three months to produce and then is rendered in three days. The way you envision to occupy time is crucial to the conceptualization of the project and should also be reflected in your production plan of resources.

What do you need to put in a proposal?

- A description of a day in the life of the project.
A text, which outlines your imagination of the project and the ways you envisage the playing out of your ideas. You are free to work with the aid of sound, video, image, drawings, and graphics if you so desire. You could provide links for online repositories or a memory stick with files containing images, videos, and sound recordings.
- A brief résumé.
- A short description of a day in the afterlife of the project.
- A letter of reference from your peer. It matters what people who are your peers think of you.
- A budget - with heads for expenditure, fees, and honorarium.
(See below)
- A time line and the preferred time of occupancy.

Budget

Don't forget to submit a budget – between Rupees 30,000 to 3 lakhs. With an estimate of cost and number of days of occupation with heads for expenditure and fees. Expenditure could include additional costs like archival resources, travel, accommodation, materials, publications, and special equipments. Artist fees should not exceed 15% of the costs. The maximum amount proposed should not exceed 3 lakhs INR.

Send your submissions to:

Email: 5millionincidents-SAS@goethe.de

Snail Mail:

Five Million Incidents
Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan
3, Kasturba Gandhi Marg
New Delhi – 110001
Ph: +91-11-23471100

Who are the hosts, catalysts and custodians?

Goethe-Institut, New Delhi has invited the **Raqs Media Collective** to conceptualize and act as catalysts of this process, and they in turn have invited **Rupali Gupte** (School of Environment and Architecture, Mumbai) **Sabih Ahmed** (Art Researcher and Curator, formerly with the Asia Art Archive, Hong Kong/ Delhi), **Sanchayan Ghosh** (Artist, Pedagogue, Santiniketan/ Kolkata) and **Vidya Shivadas** (Foundation for Indian Contemporary Art, Delhi), to work with them in taking responsibility for the design of the process. They will be working with the Programme Departments of New Delhi and Kolkata's Goethe-Instituts (**Farah Batool, Friso Maecker, Kanika Kuthiala, Leonhard Emmerling, Sharmishta Sarker and Shweta Wahi**) who will also act as the custodians of the process. Together, they will select the projects to be produced from the two calls for proposals and will also act as interlocutors to the project. The IP of each project will be with its authors and their collaborators. The Goethe-Instituts New Delhi and Kolkata will act as producers for the entire process.

The Fine Print

The 'Excellency Project Fund' of the Goethe-Institut's International Network supports Five Million Incidents. All project details, including budget allocations, shortlists, selection dates, expenditures, and timelines will be available for public view.

Five Million Incidents reserves the right to refuse any project on aesthetic, ethical, and pragmatic grounds. All projects must abide by relevant legal regulations in India. Conduct of all personnel, project members, and staff will be governed by a code of conduct that will uphold gender parity, non-discrimination on grounds of class, caste, religion, ethnicity, language, sex, sexual orientation, and a policy affirming active refusal of sexual harassment by word or deed. The code of conduct will be published on the project website.