



Press Release

Between the Lines

What role does the media still have as the fourth power in the state? The Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan New Delhi deals with this question in the journalism dossier 'Between the Lines', set to be launched on November 5, 2020.

The joy of opinion and communication seems to be an Indian trait that the Indian Nobel Prize winner and economist Amartya Sen explored in his book 'The Argumentative Indian'. However, this is also an expression of intensive media consumption in a country that regards itself as 'the world's largest democracy' and is home to one of the world's largest and most diverse media markets. Under the sway of digitization, a long economic boom, and the needs of a new, urban-oriented middle class, this media market has, in fact, changed and developed dramatically over the past 25 years - largely unnoticed by the rest of the world. Perhaps it is time to cast a closer eye over this market.

A changing media landscape

Our authors, well-known journalists from various branches of media in the country, go in search of clues as they examine a gigantic market in transition and analyze the effects of a digital revolution. They describe the precarious everyday life of their colleagues and provide insights into how the next generation of journalists is being trained within and outside of the classroom. The dossier also illustrates the success of grassroots journalism as in the example of *Khabar Lahariya*, which we present in great detail. We also take a look at the image of India in the German media, which is but interesting. Further in our journey through the media landscape of India, our podcast throws light on the role of stereotypes in reporting. Last but not the least, a journalist exchange program run by the Robert Bosch Foundation has been of immense importance in enabling dialogue and encouraging exchange in the industry despite several shortfalls and notwithstanding the polar reception it got.

Fake Fake Fake

As relevant as it is today, further articles in the dossier deal with the current phenomenon of 'fake news' and perceived truth in global journalism. Some say fake news is poison for democracy, while others think fake news is, but a symptom and not the real problem. We ask: what is fake news anyway? And why is it controversial? News, pictures, videos - fake news can appear in different formats while posing a challenge to bust it. Few of our articles are dedicated to the verification of dubious information and media. Additionally, there are ten practical tips on how to 'read without being cheated' especially in times like these.

Explore more: <http://goethe.de/india/betweenthelines>

Further information:

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