

PRESS RELEASE

EXPLORING URBAN SPACES WITH THE GOETHE- INSTITUT

- On 20th September 2021, the Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan New Delhi together with its institutes in Chennai, Mumbai, and Dhaka will launch 'Urban Spaces'
- The project aims at interactively exploring the cosmos of architecture and urban design with industry experts, university lecturers and students

'Urban Spaces' deals with topics such as designing climate-friendly, sustainable and attractive cities, establishing safe public spaces in times of a pandemic, and asks what our vision of a livable city is. Conceived to be held online and without spatial barriers, the project illuminates the relevance of the topic and its practicality in today's world through online panel discussions, lectures, workshops, and talks with prominent voices tuning in from around the world. Prior to the launch, students are invited to participate in hands-on projects where architects and urban planners share their knowledge and experiences.

Dr. Berthold Franke, Director Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan New Delhi and Regional Director South Asia shares his vision for the project, "Our cities are not just thriving clusters of brick and mortar. They are a celebration of life, work, diversity, art, culture, chaos and even dreams of thousands of people. Let's get together to think about how to make our cities better, greener, and more inspirational and at the same time, unfold great potential for creative freedom through "Urban Spaces".

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

The project kicks-off with an Impulse Week from 20th – 24th September with inputs from industry experts and renowned leaders in the field of architecture and urban design.

On day 1 of the Impulse Week, **Arunava Dasgupta, Head of Department of Urban Design at the School of Planning and Architecture** in Delhi will host a discussion on *Public Spaces and their role in an ever-changing world*. Guest speakers include **Prof. Dr. Astrid Ley** from **University of Stuttgart**, **Prof. Durganand Balsavar, founder of Artes-Human settlements Research Collaborative and the ROOTS Fellowship**, **Brinda Somaya, founder of Somaya and Kalappa Consultants**, Mumbai and **Saif Ul Haque** from the **Bengal Institute of Architecture** in Bangladesh.

Day 2 of the programme will see **Ruhul Abdin** giving a lecture on his architecture and design studio *Paraa* and the power of architecture in community-building.

On day 3, **Prof. Dr. Frank Eckardt from Bauhaus University, Weimar** will focus on the need for a shared city in his lecture.

The impulse week will be topped off with **Reuben Abraham, CEO of IDFC Institute, Mumbai**, exploring the vast field of urban spaces in India, in conversation with **Puneet Kaur**.

Following the impulse week, a series of workshops and interesting activities will get students acquainted with the challenges and opportunities of urban design and encourage them to think about better ways of living together. Green Architecture, Shared Spaces, Futuristic Cities and Urban Photography will be some of the focal themes.

Join us in this exciting exploration of urban spaces in our cities: [Urban Spaces - Goethe-Institut India](#)



**GOETHE
INSTITUT**

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New Delhi
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IMPULSE WEEK PROGRAMME PREVIEW

20.09 | 04:00 pm IST - OUR CITIES IN TRANSITION - THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC SPACE

A discussion panel with Brinda Somaya, Prof. Dr. Astrid Ley, Saif Ul Haque, Prof. Durganand Balsavar, hosted by Arunava Dasgupta.

21.09 | 04:00 pm IST - ARCHITECTURE and COMMUNITY BUILDING

A Lecture by Ruhul Abdin from Dhaka

22.09 | 04:00 pm IST - PUBLIC SPACE FOR ALL - THE NEED OF A SHARED CITY

A Lecture by Prof. Dr. Frank Eckardt

24.09 | 04:00 pm IST - URBAN LIFE IN INDIA

A talk with Reuben Abraham

Registration Link



Further information: Urban Spaces - Goethe-Institut India



ABOUT THE GOETHE-INSTITUT

The Goethe-Institut is the cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany with a worldwide presence. With 157 institutes in 98 countries, it promotes the German language abroad, fosters international cultural cooperation and conveys a comprehensive image of Germany. Through cooperation with partner institutions in numerous other locations, the Goethe-Institut has a total of around 1,000 contact points worldwide.

www.goethe.de/en



PRESS MATERIAL

For further information about the project, speakers' biographies, visual assets and interview requests, please write to Richi Malhotra (richi.malhotra@goethe.de).