

Workshop/Studientag im Rahmen der Europäisch-Indischen Alumniwoche

**Governance: Universal Challenges, Local Solutions**

Saturday, 2. July 2011

10:30-12:30

Seminar Room 407, University of Würzburg Graduate Schools

Paradeplatz 4, 97070 Würzburg

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**“Civic Activism and Urban Governance in India”**

**Abstract**

One of the major developments in recent years has been the recent announcement of Anna Hazare to go on an indefinite fast unto death demanding a Jan Lokpal bill to investigate rampant corruption in India's public life. He wanted equal participation for civic society groups in the drafting of the proposed bill alongside officials. He began his fast unto death on 5<sup>th</sup> April and evoked an instant response from across India. However, the furore seems to be directed against the politicians and the parliamentary system. The fast has been held in Jantar Mantar near the parliament and has been supported by an assorted groups of organisations from the Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha and Sive Sena, Art of Living, parivartan (Arvind Kejriwal), to several NGOs and self-help groups( Yamuna Sayagraha, Desh bachao Andolan) on one hand to film actors on the other (See Indian Express, April, 7, 2011, pp. 1, 2, ) Hazare himself termed the satagraha as the 'second war of independence' and invoked the powerful imagery of the JP movement.(ibid)