

## British Council GREAT Talks begin with Kolkata

*Science writer and acclaimed speaker Lewis Dartnell is author of 'Origins'; rated Top History Book of 2019 by The Times*

**30 July 2019, Kolkata:** British Council, the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities is organising the GREAT Talks series across India. The first talks in India were presented at two locations in Kolkata - at the British Council and Birla Industrial & Technological Museum (BITM) – today by renowned research scientist, speaker and author, Professor Lewis Dartnell. Dr Dartnell is a prolific author with two bestsellers 'Origins' and 'The Knowledge' and is famous for his media presence and public lectures on astrobiology.

In Kolkata, Prof. Dartnell spoke about astrobiology and the hunt for alien life. An authority on the subject, his various books deal with the origins of the earth and where it is headed. After Kolkata, he will speak in Bhubaneswar, Bangalore and Pune.

The GREAT Talks bring celebrated UK professionals and experts in diverse areas such as science, art, design, environment and space to address and interact with young Indian students. They are aimed at motivating students to plan their careers effectively by interacting with eminent UK speakers.

In India, the British Council works to provide greater access to knowledge and opportunities to young people. These talks will be held across India, in metro and non-metro cities with more experts from the UK to connect students to subject matter experts.

Throughout the year, the British Council will organise and host a variety of lectures on diverse topics to create opportunities for Indian students to engage with distinguished UK personalities who bring insightful, real world experiences and outlook to these talks.

**Dr. Debanjan Chakrabarti, Director East and Northeast India, British Council said:** "We are delighted to kick-off this series of GREAT Talks from Kolkata. At British Council, we aim to inspire young minds through access to renowned thought leaders in the UK. Young people in Kolkata have a great curiosity about science and technology, evident from the interest generated at our library through the collection of books or the events we host. Judging by the questions and discussions, Professor Dartnell's talks were extremely stimulating, to everyone in the packed audience. I am confident these lectures will ignite conversations and inspire young people to pursue careers in science research in the UK."

To register and for more information visit [www.britishcouncil.in/events/great-talks](http://www.britishcouncil.in/events/great-talks)

## **ABOUT PROFESSOR LEWIS DARTNELL:**

Lewis Dartnell is an author, presenter and Professor of Science Communication at the University of Westminster. He is a well-known TEDx speaker. He graduated from Oxford University where he was awarded a first-class Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. He completed his Doctor of Philosophy in Astrobiology at University College London. Dartnell has written four books and has contributed science articles for popular magazines including *New Scientist*. One of his books, *The Knowledge* was Sunday Times Book of the Year and international bestseller, and his latest *ORIGINS: How the Earth Made Us* is also a *Sunday Times* bestseller. He was runner up for The *Daily Telegraph* Science Writer's Award in 2004. He has appeared in several science programmes for BBC Radio and television.

**Website:** <http://lewisdartnell.com/en-gb/>

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CdTzsbqQyhY&t=663s>

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## **ABOUT THE BRITISH COUNCIL**

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We work with over 100 countries in the fields of arts and culture, English language, education and civil society. Last year we reached over 75 million people directly and 758 million people overall including online, broadcasts and publications. We make a positive contribution to the countries we work with – changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust. Founded in 1934 we are a UK charity governed by Royal Charter and a UK public body. We receive 15 per cent core funding grant from the UK government. [www.britishcouncil.in](http://www.britishcouncil.in)