

Report

Marcus Jakesch, Double Degree Master student of Print and Media Technology at Chemnitz University and exchange student at Manipal University, Manipal, India from 05.01.2012 till 01.07.2012

I and 3 of my classmates, on the 5th of January set out for Munich airport early in the day to start a new and exciting chapter in our lives. Our new project "Study Abroad" had quite the start; as on this day the storm "Andrea" struck causing bad weather which resulted in a delay and a restless flight to London. As we arrived in London we hurried up to board our connecting flight to Mumbai which was very comfortable. On setting foot in India, while waiting 10 hours for our domestic flight to Mangalore, we couldn't help but notice the temperature difference with Germany at -10°C and India at 30°C. At Mangalore there was someone waiting to escort us to Manipal. This ride was our first encounter with the hot, dusty environment of India along with really loud traffic with a lot of honking.

After reaching MIT we were allotted our Hostel rooms and met our Indian classmate Suma who was like a guide to us and really helped us settle in. She took us through all the procedures from registrations to understanding the local environment, including the delicious Indian cuisine.

Monday, the 9th of January was our first day at the new college. Beginning from this day we had a busy schedule every week starting from Monday to Saturday afternoon (Monday to Thursday - 8 am to 12:30 pm, Friday and Saturday - 8 am to 5 pm). Our areas of study included different fields of the printing sector: Print Production and Business Management, Advanced Printed Packaging Technology, Environment Management for the Printing Industry, Color Management Systems, Knowledge Management, Research Seminar and Electronic Publishing Technology.

What makes this whole experience so powerful is not only what we gained academically but also what we learned personally and culturally. Another reason what made this semester memorable were the really warm people that we met. All our new friends always wanted the best for us and showed us the unbelievably nice culture and landscape of India. They arranged multiple trips for us around manipal like Kapu Beach, Malpe Beach, the water falls at Hanumana Gundi, to name a few. I sincerely hope that these friendships would last me a lifetime.

Together we tried many a different restaurants in and around Manipal with amazing food ranging from food from all over India, Chinese food and fast food.

Another striking feature of our trip were the Indian festivals with first one being Revels which is the annual cultural and sports fest of Manipal Institute of Technology. We all celebrated in traditional clothes, listened to live concerts by Indian musicians and saw sports and talent events.



One more nice festival was "Holi", which was celebrated on 8th March 2012. It is the "Festival of Colors" and it seems to be the happiest and the most vibrant with a myriad of colors. Indians celebrate this day as it marks the end of winter and the start of spring. This is a day to liven up and enjoy to the fullest whether it's dancing to the loud music or bombarding your friends with colorful powders/water. In the festive mood friendly strangers approached us, wished us a "Happy Holi", put a bit of color on our cheeks and went their way. All of us



enjoyed this day a lot, being so colored all over our bodies and clothes from head to toe. Even after a few days and several showers the color still stained our skin and hair. It is hard to imagine what fun it was to celebrate the festival of colors with us Germans amongst our Indian friends. This festival has now even come to Germany, in the biggest cities of the country, but not yet comparable with

the real festival in India. The difference being that here in Germany the people are not so open as to go to unknown people and put some color on their face. For this the so called "Big Toss" is planned in Germany and takes place every full hour. Such as one guy comes onto the stage, count backwards from "ten" to "zero" in which moment everybody throws the colored powder in the air. These colour particles then disperse and settle down on everybody, so at the end of the day everyone is coloured. All in all i would say that the Holi festival is much better in India but it is also nice to see it being celebrated here.

After we finished our Sessionals and final exams we went for a very nice trip around India. In this regard, i would like to convey my heartfelt thanks to our entire friend circle who were kind enough to invite us to their houses and showed us the best of the country. Some memorable moments I would always cherish were: the wedding of one of our classmate in Bangalore, experiencing the Indian lifestyle in big cities like Chennai/New Delhi and being witness to some of the oldest buildings and temples standing, all around the country.

In summary, it was an awesome and memorable time in India. To conclude I would say, I learned a lot about the Indian life and culture and improved my English considerably. I would recommend the Double Master programm to every bachelor student, because it is an incredible experience for everybody. I also want to thank the Manipal University, Chemnitz University and the DAAD organization for giving me this opportunity to do the Double Master degree.