

Indo-German student round table already a success! Next meeting: 16.12.09, 6 p.m.

As part of the preparation programme for the pmTUC students travelling to India next year for the double degree programme or an internship, the pmTUC in cooperation with the Department of Intercultural Communication organises an Indo-German student round table. At the first meeting in the Club der Kulturen students in several numbers participated at a lively round table discussion. The keenness to learn more about India was prevalent. The day's burden from the lectures vanished within the first few minutes and the atmosphere was stabilised with excitement and fun. At the same time, presentations by Mr. Hammerschmidt and Mr. Prayagi inculcated the seriousness of the discussions and the opportunity to study in India. The evening was followed by a question-answer session to dissolve the curiosity of the students.



At the 2nd round table the movie "Outsourced" was watched in the Filmclub mittendrin, followed by a short discussion on the film. Outsourced is a movie about an American professional who is sent to India to train and help the Indians working at a call centre to develop their American accent. The movie depicts his funny experiences, cultural differences and difficulties. Being a typical Hollywood film, the movie doesn't describe the real India in a big way, but it definitely gives a few glimpses of the country and its people!

On 16th December at 6 p.m. the 3rd round table will take place at the Filmclub mittendrin. This time features an intercultural training with reports on the experiences of Germans in India and discussions on the reasons for problems and misunder-

standings. The purpose of this meeting is to find culturally adequate interpretations of different standards. Working in a country like India does not only entail discovering new landscapes, cities and a different climate, it also includes meeting new people with different traditions and manners. Everything known to be appropriate might now be considered unsuitable. If cultural differences are not reflected, they might lead to misunderstandings, or, in the worst case, to conflicts. Intercultural trainings before the trip can raise awareness for the reasons of potential misunderstandings and help to prevent them. The intercultural training is carried out by Claudia Kirbach, student at the Department of Intercultural Communication. *PP*

"Diwali", the festival of lights at Chemnitz University of Technology

"Diwali", one of the biggest nation-wide festivals of India was celebrated at Chemnitz University this year with a big bang! Diwali is celebrated in India since hundred's of years and is significantly known as the festival of lights. The festival lasts for six days, each day having its own importance. In Hinduism the festival means the "awareness of the inner light". Historically, there are several events attached to the festival such as killing of the evil demon "Narkasura" which denotes the victory of good over evil, "Dhanatrayodashi" or the day of wealth, "Laxmi Puja" or the worship of the goddesses of wealth, "Bali Pratipada" which signifies the reincarnation of lord Krishna as Vishnu and "Bhaiduj" or the day of the brothers and sisters. Diwali is also significant in "Jainism". The festival is celebrated in different ways in the various regions of India. It is a feast which brings people together for celebrations which is one of the rea-



sons why Diwali is a big festival in India apart from its traditional and religious importance.

The event in Chemnitz was organised by the Indian students of the university in cooperation with students

of other nationalities at the Club der Kulturen. It started with presentations on the festival and its nation-wide celebration and uniqueness by Paritosh Prayagi from the pmTUC, followed by Chaitanya Bapat (also from the pmTUC), Milind Shende, a PhD student at the professorship of system and circuit simulation and Joydeep Ghosh, student of micro nano systems. The event was attended by about 50 people. The presentations were followed up by delicious Indian food over which the attendees enjoyed lively discussions. As the fact remains that Diwali is incomplete without fireworks, the students from the international community enjoyed the sparks and glows of the colourful fireworks at the end of the evening. *PP*

Public holidays in December

India	Germany
25 December 2009 Christmas	25 December 2009 1st Christmas Day
28 December 2009 Muharram	26 December 2009 2nd Christmas Day

New head at the Department of Printing and Media Engineering in Manipal



Prof. Dr. Girish Kumar Sharma has recently resigned from the position Head of the Department of Printing and Media Engineering at Manipal University and Prof. Dr. Prakash Shetty has taken over the charge from him. Prof. Sharma had joined the department in January 2007 and has played a very imperative role in numerous developmental activities. His knowledge was instrumental in the revision of the course structure and content of the Bachelor's programme. He was the pioneer in the inception of the new Master's programme in printing and media technology. He was also very influential in initiating the cooperation between Chemnitz University, Germany, and Manipal University, India. In 2008, Prof. Sharma, along with the then Director of MIT, Manipal, Brig. Dr. Surinder Singh Pabla,

visited Chemnitz University for signing the Memorandum of Understanding between the two universities for the joint double degree Master's programme, student and faculty exchange and joint R&D projects. Prof. Sharma has left the department to serve the Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar.

Prof. Dr. Prakash Shetty, basically a chemist with a rich experience of 23 years in the academic field, has taken the charge of the department. Prof. Shetty assisted Mr. Sharma throughout the process of signing the MoU and will be carrying forward the work initiated by Prof. Sharma. Under his able guidance the cooperation with Chemnitz shall be further strengthened with more research projects and joint ventures between the two universities. *VK*



News

» WAN-IFRA and pmTUC jointly organise workshop in Delhi

On 18th and 19th January 2010, WAN-IFRA South Asia and the Institute for Print and Media Technology host a two-day workshop on "Cost control, revenue opportunities in newspaper production" in Delhi, India. The seminar is held at "The Park Hotel", Connaught Place. More information:

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