

TWELTH STUDY TOUR TO EUROPE- MAY 2016

A CONCEPT BY ASSOCIATION OF THE FRIENDS OF GERMANY

Association of the friends of Germany - AFG (Vereinigung der Freunde Deutschlands) founded in 1972 (and registered under various acts of India) is recognised as Returnees' Association by the Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft, Germany - CDG (Now InWEnt) since 1979.

* AFG is a self-supporting, non profit making and non governmental organisation, and doesn't receive any financial help from CDG / InWEnt for routine programmes.

* Pune -Bremen City Solidarity Forum (An Association of Friends of Bremen) merged into AFG in 1992.

*Pune German Association (formerly Pune University German Association- an association of teachers and students of German language and literature, of nearly 40 years standing) merged into AFG in 1993.

* Since 1993, Bremen City State Government has been supporting various activities in Pune, in the fields of slum improvement, empowerment, of poor women, help to slow learners, physically & mentally challenged children, family planning, environment conservation, etc. Till today AFG has received and disbursed grants of about 25 million Rupees to various NGOs. AFG has been sending to Bremen Government, audited reports of accounts of the recipient organisations all these years. Recently, in November 2016, the chairman of AFG Mr. A.N.Godbole and Jt. Secretary Mr. S.G.Purohit were invited to attend the international conference on the development co-operation, at Bremen.

As the initiator of the Pune- Bremen Co-operation and the then Head of the State office for Development co-operation, Bremen, Mr. Gunther Helliges was the architect of the 'City to city partnership' between Pune & Bremen. A unique monument of 'Pune-Bremen friendship square' was officially inaugurated in Pune by the then Hon.Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Mr. Manohar Joshi and Mayor of Bremen Dr. H. Scherf on November 11,1997.

The Centenary of Teaching of German in Pune and in India (1914 - 2014) was celebrated in Pune in February 2014. A sixty member Orchestra Group "Camerata Instrumentale" from Bremen (Director Mr. Joerg Assmann) was invited and hosted here in Pune by AFG. The group presented two concerts.

As one of the objectives, AFG has so far organised several study tours, students & parents exchange programmes with initiative of members especially Prof. Dr. Savita Kelkar and treasurer of AFG Mr. Shrinivas Pendse. The Indian students visiting Germany stay in German families and vice versa. The study tour programmes have evolved over a decade now. After selecting the students, they are given a series of orientation lectures. They also have to write about their experiences and visits to school, family stay etc. and the book is also published every year. Brief summaries of the Study Tour Programme and are attached.

Prof. Dr. Savita Kelkar has also written a book based on her experiences with interactions with several students and parents associated with these programmes.

Executive Committee : Mr. A.N.Godbole (Chairman), Dr. J.V.Damle (Vice Chairman), Mr. Shrinivas Pendse (Treasurer), Dr. V.G.Neurgaonkar (Secretary), Mr. S.G.Purohit (Joint Secretary), Mrs. Rohini Damle

Sächsisches Landesgymnasium Sankt Afra zu Meißen is a boarding school for highly gifted students in the German city of Meissen, Saxony. Founded in 1543 as Fürstliche Landesschule and re-established in 2001,[1] the stated aim of the school is to promote the intellectual and social development of highly gifted students. The costs for attending the school comply with the maxim of social balance; the boarding and schooling fees are considerably low in contrast to similar institutions. It is the first publicly funded school for highly gifted students in Germany and is a role model for similar schools.

The school has no official English name. Its German name translates to "Saxon State Gymnasium Saint Afra in Meissen", and is derived from the former Augustinian monastery of the Canons Regular that had been built around the local Saint Afra church.



Messeges

Messege from Karl Pechatscheck, Director Goethe-Institut Pune

Dear Savita,

it would have been a lovely occasions for us, but we are out of station from 26 October to 8 November.

I am sure it will be great event and I would like to express my best wishes together with heartfelt thanks for your restless efforts concerning cultural exchange between India and Germany.

Best regards

Karl Pechatscheck Director Goethe-Institut Pune

Max Mueller Bhavan 14/3-B, Boat Club Road

Pune 411001 T: 00912026164533

Messege from Christoph Senft , Director, DAAD Pune

Dear Savita,

I'm happy to come for the publication of the booklet on the 31st of October.

Here is my small message: "Dear Savita, thanks to your long-standing commitment and efforts. So many students have had the chance to experience Germany, deepen their knowledge of other languages and cultures and get friends in another country. I hope you continue your great work for many more years, so that the student generations to come also have this wonderful opportunity. All the best to you!"

Best regards, **Christoph Senft , Director, DAAD Pune**

Messege from Gabriele Boner from the German Consulate

Dear Ms Kelkar,

Due to previous engagement the Consul General Dr. Siebert is unfortunately not able to come to Pune to attend the publication of the 11th Study Tour booklet.

He sends his best wishes for the event and also for the fourth exchange programme with the Andreas Schneider Schule, Heilbronn, you are organizing this year.

Kind regards **Gabriele Boner from the German Consulate**

TWELTH STUDY TOUR TO EUROPE, 2016

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Looking Back, looking forward- Dr. Savita Kelkar

This year, we organized the 12th study tour to Europe. Since 1996, I have been organizing Exchange Programs and in 2004, I started with the study tours to Europe in which family stay in Germany along with a school visit was included. The need arose to start a new programme, because I could not accommodate all the students in the exchange and there were also queries from the other schools and Colleges. I will never forget the support and guidance given by the then chairman of DES Shri. Vasandrao Kanitkar, Secretary Dr. Yashwant Toro and Dr. Vasant Wagh, the then Principal of Fergusson College. They guided me and supported me wholeheartedly. They even taught me how to compare quotations. Now, it gives me immense pleasure to say that I have completed 20 years of the exchange programme since we exchanged our first letters. Each programme, comes with a new learning experience. Pendse Sir is a person, who gives us constant support, but does not speak about it. You can find all the qualities of a true leader in him. Mr. Arvind Godbole, Mr. Jayant Damle, Mr. Sadanand Purohit, Dr. Vijay Neurgaokar, Mr. Shrinivas Pendse, late Mr. Vijay Mahajani and Dr. Vineeta Mahajani, and Mrs. Rohini Damle. All these members of the Association of the Friends of Germany, since 1973, are there to guide and help us. I am always grateful to them.



Dr. (Mrs.) Savita Kelkar

We started our journey on the 13th of May 2016 at 4.45 a.m. from home and went to Shradha's house in front of BMCC college. Her parents dropped us at the airport. Piyusha got delayed due to some reason. There was some confusion with Yash and Vaishnavi's check-in. He had Vaishnavi's boarding pass, so he had to come out and get another boarding pass. There were three people doing our check-in. One of them was complaining, that the other was using his log-in password. There was some confusion regarding Muskaan's check-in luggage from their side.

The flight was a bit bumpy & when we got down at the Delhi airport, my lower back started paining tremendously. Piyusha was with me. Her mother is a doctor, she called her and gave me some medicine which she had with her. Afterwards I felt better. In the flight, Jana from Laufen was sitting next to me. She has done Abitur and wants to continue with her studies. Last year she was living with her boyfriend from U.K. in Brisbane. He has done his BBA and is planning to study / work in Germany. He was going to meet Jana's family for the first time and was feeling a bit nervous. I told them, how it is in India when a bride leaves her parent's house and goes and stays with the groom's parents. We had a very interesting discussion on this topic.

After we got down at the airport, Samkeet and Muskaan did not get their luggage. So we filed a complaint. It took a long time & the person at the desk assured us that he will do the needful. After we came out, Mayuresh was waiting for us. The train was delayed by 25 min. due to construction work. After getting down at Mannheim we pulled our luggage up to the hotel. The hotel was good. Next morning we went to visit Heidelberg. Cathleen Otto from the Heilbronn exchange was waiting for us. We visited the castle and Mayuresh took the students to visit the Heidelberg Uni. I went with Cathleen by her car to Heilbronn. She showed me the school and then Mrs. Kerstin Horn, Mr. Peter Kasper, Cathleen and myself had a wonderful lunch together. At 4 O'clock our group came to Heilbronn. Peter took us all for a walking tour of Heilbronn. Our students listened to everything very attentively, asked him questions, enjoyed sitting on the bank of the stream and visiting the bridge, which is full of locks. The locks are put up after writing two names of lovers or two friends on it. This can also be seen at Cologne, Salzburg and many other places in Europe. Whenever I see these locks I remember Goethe's small poem "Ich bin dein, Du bist mein, Das sollst du gewiss sein, Du bist geschlossen in meinem Herzen, Verloren ist das Schloesslein."

After the city tour we went to Arcadia for shopping and eating. We went to the hotel very tired but very satisfied. Next day on the 15th, we went to visit Triberg waterfall. Dr. Constantine came to meet us with his son David. We played football with him. Dr. Constantine did five trips by his car to bring all the students at the waterfall. Due to some festival, the bus was cancelled that day, but thanks to our friend Dr. Constantine and his son, we could see the waterfall. He had bought a bag full of chocolates and Gummibaerchen, which the students enjoyed eating.

We visited Pfaender Mountain on the 16th of May. The weather was cold and as we reached the top by a cable car, it started snowing. All of us enjoyed it a lot. We visited the zoo on the top. Then we took a

boat-ride for two hours in the lake Contance (Bodensee) . As most of the students were learning German, they knew a lot about Bodensee. This lake is surrounded by three countries, i.e. Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Then we took a walk on the bank of Bodensee. It was very crowded and tourists from all over the world were enjoying the heavenly atmosphere. On 17th, we first visited Dachau and then went to Bierbach (youth- hostel) by bus. Yash ,Samkeet, Aditi and I played table-tennis. Other students played basket-ball. At this youth hostel, we relaxed completely.

Dr. Constantine and his colleagues with 25 students from the HTWG University had visited us earlier in Pune and we had organized different presentations, Fergusson college visit and family visit and cultural exchange with Indian families. They had also sent an invitation letter for us. At that time, Muskaan had invited all the girls for Mehendi and dinner programme. Verena had visited Muskaan at that time. So Verena came to meet Muskaan all the way driving for two hours from Switzerland.

Hotel Hausenberg was really lovely. The family owned restaurant prepared a lovely vegetarian menu for us. I spoke with the owner couple, Manuella and Hans. They have two sons, namely Maximillian, 14, and Janaas 4 years old. Hans' sister Heike also works in the hotel. She has two daughters Luisa and Sisilia. I also spoke with Erika Knoedelseder .They also have a bakery and a café and a lot of land around the hotel.

We went for a walk on the street after the dinner. The students were asked by the police about their whereabouts. Even in Prague the police had checked our bus, our bus driver, Mr. Abdellaziz Ahzaogi's licence, who has been living in Frankfurt for the last 30 years. The police took the disc and checked whether he was stopping after every two hours and following the other rules also. They checked our passports. said they have to be more careful because of the refugees. I have been visiting Europe since 1992, but my passport was never checked up till now.

After we came back, I had a chat with Hans and Manuella. They said their 14 year old son is not interested in looking after the business, (i.e. hotel, café, bakery and farming). He would prefer to become an engineer may be in the IT. The hotel, bakery and cafe were managed so well, but Hausenbergs were worried about the future of their business. I thought of the many small villages, where the next generation is refusing to go back or those who are staying there are finding it difficult to get a bride. In the night they made special "Indian curry" with rice & noodles for us. I am giving the recipe for everyone.

I read in "Passauer neue Presse" an article about how low the milkmen are getting paid for milk i.e. 18 to 19 cent per Lt. and how difficult it is becoming for them to survive. The title of the article was "Milch Preis im freien Fall".

From there we went to Dresden to hotel "Achat" on 19th May. It was a wonderful hotel. The students could ride bicycles here. We had promised them so, but up till now it was not possible to get a safe place for cycling. They all enjoyed the cycle-rides. In the night the group practiced the song "If you miss the train I am on" and "Manache Shlok" in Marathi as well as in German and called me and Sai for the final rehearsal. We all were a team and so they helped each other and respected Mr. Mayuresh Kulkarni. All were very loving and caring. Each one was different in his or her background, studies, interests etc. but helped each other a lot.

On the 20th morning we got up at 4 a.m. We wore special Indian traditional clothes. I wore a silk saree. Hotel "Achat" gave us packed breakfast of two buns with cheese, one boiled egg, a chocolate, an apple juice and an apple. It was quite sumptuous. We reached Meissen at 7 a.m. Mohini was already waiting for us at the railway station. Mohini is Dr. Gupte's daughter, whose mother is from Dresden. Mohini was in India for 10 years and was studying in "Aksharnandan School". After she had gone back to Germany with her mother, she comes to Pune to meet her father and grandmother. During her visit to Fergusson College she developed friendship with many of my students. As she can speak Marathi as well as German very fluently my class felt very comfortable with her. I asked her whether we could visit her school. After going back, her school authorities gave us permission to visit them and also sent an invitation letter. Afterwards we sent many letters to each other to finalize our visit. Mohini, her mother Anke and school authorities did a lot for the successful realisation of our dream.

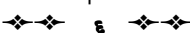
A Few students came and made announcement about that day's events like any match, project work etc. for which interested students could enroll themselves or go and watch. I and Mohini also made announcement regarding the Indian Cultural Programme and presentations, which we were going to present

at 2 pm. We got good response. Our class was full. All the students gave presentations on different topics. Rajashri gave lecture, demonstration on Kathak and was really well appreciated. I also played mouth organ. Shraddha had bought anklets, earrings, bracelets for the German students. She distributed it after our programme. This small gift as token was appreciated. Muskaan had painted three lovely pictures, so we presented them to the Director, who showed us the campus. Mohini took a lot of efforts to organize our visit. We attended two lectures. First was English. The teacher divided our group into two. Our teacher discussed their project work. In the other class KI and K II was taught. In the discussions our students also participated actively. So the interaction was very fruitful. After the lectures we went for breakfast. It was healthy and sumptuous. After the breakfast we visited the whole school. They have a very big campus. The school is situated on a hill and it is really lovely. The normal lectures commence from 7 a.m. till 12noon. It is a residential school for very highly talented students. For their all round development only 300 students are admitted. A student did a presentation. She had prepared it well. It is compulsory for every student to do some research, prepare a presentation and present it. Other students ask questions about it. There is a mentor programme in the school e.g. the 7 standard students are looked after by 10th standard students. If they have any difficulty in studies or otherwise, the elder ones help the younger ones. They act like "Tai and Dada." Each residential block has supervisor. Mostly two students share a room. The facilities are wonderful. They have basketball, music room, computer room, art room, library and a big auditorium, in which all the students can fit in. After the presentation we discussed with students many current topics related to youth. After that we had very nice vegetarian meals with ice cream. For breakfast and lunch, we paid 6 Euro per person as this canteen is subsidized. In the hotel Achyat we had paid 13 Euro per person for the breakfast. After our programme we got a big round of applause and appreciation by the German students and teachers. Mohini and her friend came to drop us at the railway station. Again we had to rush, hurry and catch the train. We got down at Dresden. I, Mayuresh, Yash & Aditi went to collect the luggage of all of us. We were looking for a taxi for one hour, but we didn't get it and then we went walking, called a big taxi from the hotel and carried the luggage and started our journey to Berlin. We had to change the train at Cottbus. As I had planned the journey consisted of public transport, metro, bus, boat, ropeway, private bus and plane.

We had very good accommodation at most of the places but also in an ordinary youth hostel at Berlin. The youth hostel at Bierbach was liked by everyone a lot. At Berlin we were six of us in a room and we had clean bed sheets, bed covers, pillow covers etc. but a common bathroom and toilet. All the students enjoyed even this. Makrand came and joined us, but he also stayed with others. We always show our own children but also to our extended family children that we should learn and adjust and enjoy in any given situation. Samkeet and Muskaan got their luggage next day in the trip. There were train delays, change of trains and buses, and the weather was sometimes very cold, but all my students took everything in their stride, learnt a lot during the orientation and during the trip. I am really proud of them and grateful to their parents that they understood that this was not an ordinary tour, but with proper orientation and ultimately a personality development programme including a few life skills and to learn how to adjust with any situation, without complaining or cribbing about it. All the students passed the test with flying colours, and thanks to Mayuresh and Yogesh, who took painstaking efforts to organize this tour.

Next day in Berlin, we went to visit Bundestag and a conducted tour also of the city. Then we went and visited Check point Charlie Museum and also Unter den Linden street and all the important places.

As we were coming back by metro and going to hotel "Rasas" a few drunk football fans boarded our train. On that day there was a match between Dortmund and Muenchen Bayer. Therefore hundred thousand fans of both the teams were present in Berlin and were shouting slogans and cheering their teams. Their behavior was very rowdy which scared our students. Few of our students even experienced bad looks and dirty touches. The train was so full that we could not do anything about it. Lesson learnt: "Try to avoid such situations". We were lucky that nothing serious happened. After we got down, we were very much upset about the whole incident. We also discussed that sometimes at work places or even in families there can be horrible things. So one should take care of oneself and if anybody is behaving badly, he/she should be exposed immediately. The students took it in the correct spirit. In "Hotel Rasas" Jeanette and Hans Kessel, who had picked Makarand from the airport, had taken him to the hotel, again picked him up after his nap and showed him important monuments and parts of Berlin and came to have dinner with us and to have interaction with my students. Dr. Anja and Christoph Hallacker had come to meet us and the group. Dr. Anja Hallacker had been working as a director of DAAD in Pune for five years and during that time our families had developed a warm bond of friendship. So it was wonderful catching up the latest develop-



ments and reviving the old memories. We had a lovely time with them and though I had told my students to come & talk to them, they were a bit hesitant. After dinner, we went to Happy Hostel hotel and next early morning my students flew to Amsterdam with Mayuresh. After spending a lovely time in Amsterdam and Paris, they flew back to India with Yogesh as Mayuresh had to attend the next group of Uma Tadwalkar.

Next morning we had breakfast at 6.30 at the metro station and went to Flix bus station as Anja Schutz had booked our tickets and had sent them by mail. We were going to visit her parents Angelika and Roland. I got to know Anja through Sophie Engel, the Pasch founder coordinator of Pune. Anja came 3-4 times to take Film workshops for Pasch students and teachers. I had also participated in one such workshop. Through Abhinav (fine arts school in Pune) my son Aneesh also got a chance to prepare a short film. During her visit she said that she feels that her parents should come to India, but she is a bit scared as they will be travelling out of Europe for the first time. I said, why don't you visit us and stay with us for a few days and then take them around. As planned, Anja, and Anja's parents- Angelika & Roland and brother Momas (Thomas) came to visit us. Angelika was chief guest for my Abhivyakti programme. We had a wonderful time with them. The whole family is so cheerful, that we loved having them at our home. Roland sings a lot and we sang and danced! Neha, Aneesh, Makarand and I became fans of Roland and Angelika. After one year Momas and his girlfriend Laura came and stayed for 6 months in Pune and attended a course at FTII. So our friendship with the family grew stronger. We had promised Roland and Angelika to visit them but up till now it could not materialize, so at last our dream of visiting them was coming true.

At Dresden, Angelika and Roland picked us up and took us for a lovely meal of Asparagus, salad and desert. The place was scenic, the weather was lovely and the company was excellent. After lunch they took us home, we had a little nap and they took us to show the town Rabenau. (Rabe= crow, Nau is name of river. The crow flew across the river). We walked in the woods, by the stream, along

the old railway track. It was a two and half hours lovely walk with a lot of laughter, joy and catching up. Roland is 70 and Angelika is 63, but their stamina is fantastic.

After we returned, Angelika prepared a tasty dinner and we ate it outside in the garden. Then we had Krauter Tee and we sang a lot of songs. Roland and I love singing and Angelika and Makarand gave us good company and encouraged us. In fact Makarand recorded 3 of our songs and put them on YouTube. If you want to listen to it put " Roland Schuetze and Savita." We also sang Clemens Bittlinger's song. Next day Angelika and I went to visit her school. She had a class of 5th standard. I requested and took her class. The students asked me questions about India, my saree, bindi etc. I taught them a song in 3 languages, i.e. Hindi, English and German. "If you miss the train I am on....." Most of the students wrote it down and sang with me. They also told me that they are enjoying it and thanked me, but one student said that he does not feel like participating and does not like it at all. Angelika told me that he lives in an orphanage and has problems adjusting there. His parents are divorced and on the weekends when he visits one of them he finds it very difficult to come and stay in the orphanage again. I felt very sorry for him. Afterwards I met her other colleagues and attended a music class. Then she drove me to show the town where she had lived with her parents. It was a primary school and 1st to 4th standard students sat together and her father taught to read, write, arithmetic etc. He was a wonderful teacher and taught many life skills to his students as well. The school was on the ground floor and they lived on the first floor. As a grandfather also he was very loving and caring. Angelika's children: Mathias, Anja and Thomas used to look forward to go and stay with them. Then we went home, had a big breakfast with a variety of jam, cheese and bread. Then we went to visit the famous "Frauen Kirche" in Dresden. We attended a prayer and could sing also with the help of the book. We had dinner outside in a garden. The evening was full of laughter, music and happiness. Next day took a two hours boat journey to Pilnitz and visited the big garden around the palace. There were many types of flowers and plants, including a rare plant from Japan, for which they had prepared a special glass dome which covers the plant in winter so that it could survive. Angelika and Roland informed us a lot about the flora and fauna, and Makarand was enthralled. We travelled by a type of boat which was started built 1892. After we returned to Dresden we went to an Italian restaurant, where we met Roland and Angelika's daughter-in law, Beatrix, who is Spanish. She is a very warm person and their son Mathias is very happy with her. What I appreciated is Roland and Angelika have started taking lessons in Spanish from Bea, as her parents neither speak English nor German. After spending a wonderful time with Bea we drove home, tired but contented.

25th May was our marriage anniversary. So they wished us and sang a song, where there were blessings for us, before breakfast. It was so touchy. Afterwards Angelika went to school. On the previous

day she had taken leave. She had earned this one day leave after working for 40 years. They do not have CL & EL. Only if one is not well, one can stay home, not otherwise. Each country and each state has got different rules. But after they complete their teaching, they can go home, they do not have to wait for 6 hrs., as we do here in India.

I, Makarand and Roland went on a train ride (steam engine) which was started in 1882, to transport workers to coal mines or iron mines. Now it is just an attraction for tourists like us. We took a ride for 3 hrs. We went one way, got down, had a walk in the woods, came back, travelled to other side. We just became kids again. This wedding anniversary was really special.

On 26th early morning Angelika and Roland dropped us at the Dresden Flix bus stop. It was very difficult to say goodbye. Our friends Janette and Hans picked us up from the Flix Bus station. Both of them are Psychiatrists. We had met them in Kerala and afterwards wrote mails to each other. They took us to their home, Janette had prepared nice brunch for us. We sat at the dining table and spoke about our children, grand children. We felt that we are really blessed. Afterwards they dropped us at our hotel. We went to the hotel and dropped our bags. Anja Schuetze came to meet us and we three remembered our time spent in Pune at our place. In the evening Karl Peschatchek the former Director and his lovely wife Dr. Sandra Mueller came on their bicycles. When Karl was the Director in Max Mueller Bhavan, he did a great job. Though he was there for a short time, he tried his best to promote German language, Culture, respecting other Cultures as well and the atmosphere in the institute was very open and friendly. He even organised an exhibition in Sambhaji Park, named "Being Women". It was again a very nice feeling to meet our good, old friends. We strolled on the streets of Berlin. The weather was beautiful, true friends to share your joys and sorrows, what else does one need in life? They treated us with a very tasty dinner and we came back walking to our hotel room.

The next day we took a train and went to the Berlin airport. We had booked our flights earlier. They charged us for one bag saying that this much luggage was not included in our fare. All the airlines try to make the offers attractive and afterwards try to earn money like this. We paid without arguing and went for check in. The flight was comfortable. In Copenhagen our close friends Erik and Jomma had come to pick us up. Fergusson College has started an Exchange programme with Rysteen Gymnasium. Erik, Jonna Sand, our friends Arvind and Bhushana Karandikar from Pune and Makarand and I were instrumental in starting this Exchange. Almost for more than one year we were discussing the nitty gritty. From the first exchange the Danish school wanted me to visit them, but it was not materialised. So now it was high time to visit the school and enjoy the hospitality of our Danish friends. Our friend Ibene, offered her flat for our stay, it was located very centrally and we could go everywhere on our own. Though she had to go somewhere, she wrote to us and offered her flat for our staying. We felt really overwhelmed. We had written to them that "please book a hotel for us and we will pay". But during our entire trip, they took care of our needs. We dropped our bags at Ibenes residence. I wore a sari and then we went to the School. We met Ibene, Andrews, Mads and the Principal of the school. We had carried Indian artifacts for them and for the school. They showed us the school. It is a very big school with motivated students. They thanked us for our constant support. Then Jonna and Erik took us to their home. We had a lunch and also many long discussions on different topics. Erik had stayed in India, had done doctorate on Wari, knows Marathi pretty well, so when I refused to eat something, he said do you want me to do "Agrah" (And we were clean bowled).

In the evening we came back by a train. They had given us Credit card to pay everywhere and did not allow us pay anywhere. Next day they picked us up and drove to the palace Hamlet. I and Erik went in the castle and Makarand and Jonna went around to take many pictures. We could see Sweden on the opposite bank. Vow, it was great!

We had lunch leisurely. As in Europe there are many streets only for pedestrians, you do not feel scared that some vehicle will come from the blue and hit you. After we came back, Friedrich came to pick us up. He was our Danish Son and Aneesh (our son) hosted him three years ago. We met his mother, who is a biuse, three sisters, one is becoming doctor, and others are still studying. Friedrich had baked a cake for us. Again we sat on the dining table and spoke on many topics. The sisters were very curious about Indian Culture and the Mother thanked us because we hosted Friedrich. They were asking me about Chapati(Poli) so I showed them how to prepare a dough and make chapatis. Indian Cuisine is becoming my USP in Europe it seems. I love demonstrating our simple and healthy dishes.

Then we went on for a stroll in Friedrich's garden. The streets were named Friedrik, School Friedrik



and even our host Friedrik. It is because of the famous Danish King Frederick. We visited the park, weather was beautiful, but a bit cold for us. The park was really big. Many families were relaxing there. It was very serene. Frederick dropped us at Ibene's apartment.

The next day Mads (another teacher) from the school, who had visited us in Pune came with us and showed the little Mermaid and other important sightseeing places, took us for lunch, and for boating.

In the evening we came back, tired, but very happy. Our trip to Denmark was very successful, we could meet all our friends in Copenhagen.

We flew back to Sophie to Munich. Bought week's ticket for both of us, as advised by Sophie. When we had asked Sophie, where we should book a room, she had discussed this with her mother Evelyn and she offered us to stay with Sophie in her Bungalow. We were very grateful to her, because we got a chance to stay with Sophie, to talk a lot with her, to prepare Indian food like Khichdi, butter chicken, poli, Gulabjamun etc. We also invited Evelyn Regenfuss.

Sophie is a warm hearted friend. She started the PaSch (Partner school Programme) in Pune. She did not know any of us but even today she is in our hearts because of her genuine and hard work.

We visited Sophie in her office at Goethe Institute, in Sonnen Strasse. Took hop in, hop out for two days, visited Frauenkirche and many famous places.

In the evening Sabdra and Michael our young friends, who had come and stayed with us, had invited us for dinner. They both are also vegetarians so I had a tasty meal there as well. They presented us candles, which they had made themselves. They have a bee hive and they go and watch it regularly and when the bees are not around, they collect the honey and wax.

What all one can do as a hobby!!!

After four days' hospitality, we had to fly back to India. We went for check in, our flight was to Mumbai via Amsterdam but they had booked tickets only up to Amsterdam, we had to check out, we had to again check in, it was very hectic, because of the mistake done by someone at the counter. After I heard we had to again collect the luggage, I was very much upset. When they were screening me, they said let us check you, you might explode! So they checked me again to find, whether I was carrying anything. Then they said, sorry and let me go.

I was lucky that Makarand was with me for the support!

Moral of the story, though you might have travelled a hundred times, each travel teaches you something.

Do not take good weather, good people for granted. Keep your eyes and ears open. AND TRY TO BUILD BRIDGES OF FRIENDSHIP AROUND YOU IN INLAND AND ALSO IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY.

Dr. (Mrs.) Savita Kelkar

Excursia Tours

Excursia Tours Private Limited is a Private company, incorporated on 01 January 2016. It is classified as Non-govt company and is registered at Registrar of Companies, Pune. It is involved in Supporting and auxiliary transport activities; activities of travel agencies

Directors of Excursia Tours Private Limited are **Yogesh Anil Patil** and **Mayuresh Shrikant Kulkarni**.

Excursia Tours Private Limited's Corporate Identification Number is (CIN) U63000PN2016PTC157794 and its registration number is 157794. Its e mail address is yogeshgic@gmail.com and its registered address is 1187/17, GHOLE ROAD, SHIVAJI NAGAR OPP MAHATMA FULE MUSEUM PUNE Pune MH 411005 INDIA

About the Organiser

Dr. Savita Vinayak Kelkar

Educational Qualifications : M. A. (German), M. Ed, Ph.D.

Takes deep interest in the welfare of students and their all round development.

- 1 Profile of the personal activities and achievements
Many Awards including Best Teacher Award by Pune Municipality Corporation on 5th Sept. 2012
State Level Best Teacher Award (राज्य शिक्षक पुरस्कार) by Maharashtra State Govt. on 5th Sept. 2013
- 2 Scholarships : 1. Received a scholarship of the Goethe-Institute, Munich for a refresher's course for teachers in Munich-Germany (1992)
- 3 Visited Dubai to explore the new avenues in the field of education. (2005)
4. Visited Gakugeikan High school, Okayama, Japan on invitation by the Gakugeikan high school (2007)
5. Received a scholarship of the Goethe-Institute, for a refresher's course for teachers in Bremen and Rostock (Germany) (2008)
6. Presented a paper in the international conference in Jena -Germany (August 2009) on 'the Cultural Exchange Programme'.
- 2 Visits abroad: As Organiser and initiator of different cultural exchanges;
Visited Germany 20 times, France, Holland, Belgium, Denmark and Austria many times.
Has also visited Japan, Thailand (Bangkok), U.K., U.A.E. (Dubai)
- 3 Music :
 - * Can play mouth organ, harmonium and synthesizer.
 - * Performed using above musical instruments at prestigious "Firodiya Karandak" & on 'German day' at Fergusson College and S. P. College,
 - * Plays instruments and sings in cultural programmes during the Exchange programmes and study tours in Europe.
 - * Organized and participated in the Youth festival in Ammalner, during the year 1983-84.
- 4 Games :
 - * Represented her school in volleyball.
 - * Has participated as captain in table tennis tournaments at the college and the university level.
 - * Won the table tennis tournament at Tilak College of Education in the year 1986.
 - * Can also swim and play tennis.
- 5 Organising experience :
 - * Teaches German in Fergusson College
 - * Chief Organiser of the Student's Cultural Exchange Programme and Study Tours.
 - * Working as Honorary Director for the Fergusson Center for Languages.
 - * First lady life member of the Deccan Education Society.
 - * West Zone representative of Indo-German Teachers' Association. (InDaF)



गगनाला पंख नवे : - डॉ. सविता केळकर * शब्दांकन - स्नेहा रानडे

“ही कादंबरी नाही, हे स्वप्नरंजन नाही तर साहित्य, कला, शास्त्र आणि संस्कृती यांचा सुरेख संगम आहे. परदेश प्रवासाचं स्वप्न बघायचं एकेकट्यानं, पण प्रत्यक्षात आणायचं मात्र अनेकांना सोबत घेऊन! असा ध्यास घेऊन गेली १५ वर्षं विद्यार्थ्यांच्या व्यक्तिमत्त्व विकासात महत्त्वाची भूमिका बजावणाऱ्या एका विद्यार्थीप्रिय प्राध्यापिकेचं हे प्रांजल निवेदन आहे.”

गगनात भरारी घेणाऱ्या या पाखराच्या पंखाचे पहिले पीस 'माझे जीवन गाणे.' सविता केळकरांच्या व्यक्तिमत्त्वाची आजवरची जडणघडण कशी होत गेली त्याची ही ओघवती ओळख. 'आमची युरोपची भटकंती' या दुसऱ्या प्रकरणात अनेक विद्यार्थ्यांना, त्यांच्या लेखन-नावासह समाविष्ट करण्यात केळकरांच्या मनाचा मोकळेपणा आणि मोठेपणा दिसून येतो. 'पालकांचा अभिप्राय' हे प्रकरण म्हणजे त्यांना दिलेली पालकांची प्रशस्तिपत्रेच आहेत. अभ्यास सहलीची 'पूर्वतयारी' म्हणजे पर्यटन सहलीचे आयोजन आणि नियोजन यांचे अनुभवसिद्ध वस्तुपाठ आहेत. या पुढचे लेखन म्हणजे सर्व परिश्रमांचे फलित. परदेश सहल म्हणजे केवळ 'बघत बघत' फिरणे नव्हे तर जीवन, संस्कृती, कला, प्रगती आणि मनुष्यस्वभाव यांचा प्रत्यक्षदर्शी अनुभव. हे सर्व ज्याचे त्याने स्वतःच वाचून भान हरवावे अशा निवेदन आणि शब्दांकनाचा हा अल्प परिचय! या पुस्तकाची आवृत्ती ब्रेल व हिंदीतही निघाली आहे.

(गगनाला पंख नवे : लाटकर प्रकाशन, प्रथमावृत्ती : रामनवमी, १ एप्रिल २०१२)

श्रीनिवास पेंडसे

Turning Point

Dear Young Friends,

You had come for interview ! You were selected ! There was an orientation Programme ! You went on the study tour! And you had a dream come true. A series of increasing excitements. You are now back here. Do you think, you are the same person ? Certainly not. Right from the day one of the Orientation, began your transformation.



The Study tour to Europe was the turning point of your life. It was an exciting passage of dreaming, visualising, planning and finally the exciting experience - experience of sight seeing through Europe, the thrill of Fantasia Land and much more. Perhaps the greatest & the unique excitement was being received by your partner in Nümbrecht and a really short stay in the family. You have tasted variety of food. You were on the top of the world. The study Tour was really very encouraging, for every one. I call it a turning point.

I am particularly delighted by the lovely & lively narrations you have worded. All this was possible because of meticulous planning, leadership, the love of a guardian & much more beyond words. I believe, Dr. Savita Kelkar herself is a school of event management.

Well-prepared in the orientation lectures, encouraged and supported by parents, with your enthusiasm and interest, you have enjoyed the study tour and gathered unique experience. While many of you have written a very good detailed account of your tour and stay in Germany, others have taken really excellent photographs. You know, you have discovered some of your rare qualities. You have woven new strands and strengthened the earlier ones. This is what we intend to do through these study tour programmes.

You are passing through a very important transition period within yourself and around. There is the renewed interest in discipline, cleanliness, environment protection and energy conservation –in personal life as well as in social life.

You had all this in your mind, perhaps before your visit to Europe and now more so because you now strongly desire to make our surroundings cleaner, healthier, pollution free with greater respect and concern for life and living here, in our country.

I wish, with this background, you will not only cherish the memories, but also take active part in transforming yourself and society around.

All the best..

Shriniwas Pendse

Hon. Treasurer
Association of Friends of Germany

Summary of the Students' Exchange Programme between
Fergusson College, Pune and Albert Einstein Gymnasium, Kaarst

No. of Exchange	Year	German Students	German Teachers	Stay in India	Indian Students	Indian Teachers	Stay in Germany
1st tour	1997-98	16	2	30-35 days	16	2	30-35 days
2nd tour	1998-99	18	2	21 days	18	2	21 days
3rd tour	2000-01	15	3	30-35 days	18	2	30-35 days
4th tour	2002-03	17	3	30-35 days	17	2	30-35 days
5th Tour	2004-05	19	3	30-35 days	19	2	30-35 days
6th Tour	2006-07	12	2	30-35days	12	2	30-35 days

Summary of the Parents' and Professionals' Exchange Programme
between Fergusson College, Pune and Volkshochschule, Kaarst

No. of Exchange	Year	German Parents & Professionals	German Teachers	Stay in India	Indian Students	Indian Parents & Professionals	Stay in Germany
7th Tour	2005-06	9	1	21 days	9	1	21 days

Summary of the Students' Exchange Programme between
Fergusson College, Pune and Andreas Schneider Schule, Heilbronn

No. of Exchange	Year	German Students	German Teachers	Stay in India	Indian Students	Indian Teachers	Stay in Germany
1st tour	2012-13	12	2	15 days	12	2	15 days
2nd tour	2013-14	12	2	15 days	12	2	15 days
3rd tour	2014-15	11	2	15 days	11	2	15 days
4th tour	2015-16	9	2	15 days	9	2	15 days
5th Tour	2016-17	12	2	15 days	12	1	15 days

Summary of the Students' Exchange Programme between
AFG Pune and Homburgisches Gymnasium Numbrecht in process

No. of Exchange	Year	German Students	German Teachers	Stay in India	Indian Students	Indian Teachers	Stay in Germany
1st tour	2016-17	21	4				

Summary of the Study Tour Programmes to Europe between
Fergusson College, Pune and Albert Einstein Gymnasium, Kaarst And Association
of Friends of Germany& Städtische Realschule, Bergneustadt, Homburgisches
Gymnasium, Nümbrecht

Sr.No.	Year	Indian Students	Indian Teachers	Stay in Europe Days	Stay with German Families days	Name of German Partner School	Countries visited
1	2004	21	2	17	2	Albert Einstein Gymnasium, Kaarst	Germany, Holland, Belgium, France
2	2005	11	1	15	6	Albert Einstein Gymnasium, Kaarst	Germany, Holland, Belgium, France
3	2006	16	1	15	2	Städtische Realschule, Bergneustadt	France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Austria
4	2007	25	2	14	2	Städtische Realschule, Bergneustadt	France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Austria
5	2009	21	1	14	2	Städtische Realschule, Bergneustadt	France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Austria
6	2010	21	1	13	2	Städtische Realschule, Bergneustadt	France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Austria
7	2011	25	2	13	2	Städtische Realschule, Bergneustadt	France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Austria & Switzerland
8	2012	25	4	13	2	Homburgisches Gymnasium, Nümbrecht	France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Austria & Switzerland
9	2013	20	1	13	4	Homburgisches Gymnasium, Nümbrecht	France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Austria, Czech Republic & Switzerland
10	2014	5	1	10	6	Michael & Sandra Ilg, Durrlungen Schule	Germany, Austria & Switzerland
11	2015	25	4	14	5	Homburgisches Gymnasium, Nümbrecht	France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Austria, & Switzerland
12	2016	12	2	13	—	Sankt Afra Schule Meissen	Franc, Germany Austria, Switzerland

Dr. Savita Kelkar accompanied all six exchanges with Albert Einstein,
one Parents Exchange and Ten study tours

Date : 2 April 2016

To,

The Visa Officer

Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany
Mumbai – India

Sub: To grant Visa for the group, participating in the Twelfth Study Tour.

Dear Sir,

You might be aware, that since 1998 Fergusson College has been implementing a **Students' Cultural Exchange** programme with the Albert Einstein Gymnasium, Kaarst. In 2006, they completed 10 years of partnership and the sixth batch of exchange students visited Kaarst in May-June 2007. On 15th April the fourth exchange group of 9 students and 1 teacher from Fergusson College will be going to Heilbronn through EVS Cultural Exchange Programme. Dr. Savita Kelkar is coordinating this Exchange.

Simultaneously in the year 2000, a 'Study Tour' a concept by "**Association of friends of Germany**" was started. The purpose of this study tour was to give a chance to deserving students, who were also from other reputed Schools or Colleges. **The Städtische Realschule, Bergneustadt** had invited and also hosted the **third to seventh study tour groups**. The Highlight of their trip has always been their visit to a **German School and the 'Family Stay'**. I strongly feel, that if we want to bring two countries closer '**Cultural Exchange**' is the answer for it. **During the eighth, ninth and eleventh study tour Homburgisches Gymnasium Nuembrecht hosted our group.**

This year the tour will commence on 13th May and will end on 25th May 2016. The group will visit Goethe Institute in Muenchen on 18th May and St. Afra Schule in Meissen on 20th May. They will attend lectures, give presentations on different topics, present a cultural programme, will interact with German students and to get to know more about German culture as well. They will further visit the Reichstag on 21st May. The group will go to Amsterdam and Paris and from there, it will return home.

Dr. Savita Kelkar will stay back. Mr Vinayak Kelkar will join her on 21st May in Berlin. They will visit family Schuetze from 22nd to 26th May in Rabenau, meet their friends in Copenhagen, then fly to Muenchen on 31st May to meet their friends Ms. Sophie Engel, Sandra Ilg and Evelyn Regenfuss and return on 3rd June.

I request you to grant visa to the group and oblige

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely

Mr. Shriniwas Pendse

Treasurer

The Association of Friends of Germany

Mayuresh Kulkarni: + 91 98 90004007

Yogesh Patil : + 91 9890157300



623 Shaniwar Peeth, A-Wing,
3rd Floor, Pune-411030, India.
E-mail : info@excursiatours.com
Web : www.excursiatours.com

GERMANY, AUSTRIA, SWISS, CZECH, HOLLAND & FRANCE

TOUR

Date	Sr.	Programme	Halt	Transport
13.05	1	Air India Flight:Pune to Delhi and Frankfurt Flight. Start and Meet at Pune Airport on 5.30am. Will Reach Frankfurt at 6.30 pm and will depart to Mannheim by Bullet Train. <i>Stay in Radisson Blue 4 Star Hotel</i>	Mannheim	Flight
14.05	2	Visit to Heidelberg Train from Mannheim to Heidelberg and early Morning Heidelberg City seight seeing. Visit to castle and Apothek Museum in Heidelberg. After Lunch Heidelberg University visit at 1.00 pm.	Mannheim	Flight
15.05	3	Visit to Triberg Waterfall in Black forest Early After morning Breakfast, depart from Stuttgart Hbf. From Stuttgart we will catch black forest train to Triberg. Visit Germanys Highest Waterfall. Visit Waterfall (2.50 hrs) Afternoon <i>Lunch</i> at around in <i>Triberg</i> and Visit Cokoo-Clock and Cake Shops. We will have Dinner in Stuttgart. Stay in 3 Star Hotel- Mack near Hbf Stuttgart. Evening Schaffhausen Waterfall.	Stuttgart	Train /SBB
16.05	4	Bodensee/Constance Lake sightseeing After Morning Breakfast, visit to Constance city on Lake Constance. Will have ride by <i>Katamaran</i> in Constance lake and have beautiful view of Lake and Alps around lake. Late Afternoon visit Friedrichshafen city and Museum in MTU company or will have visit to Konstanz delegates. Stay at Biberach Jugendherberg. Have experience of German Dinner	Biberach	Boat/train
17.05	5	Pfaender Mountain visit with Cable car After Breakfast check-out. Leave to Pfaender mountain by private bus. We will reach top by cable car and will visit Zoo on top and have pictures view of Alps from Top. (3 hrs)Will have *lunch in Munich. Bus transfer to Hauzenberg, via Munich. Dachau Concentration camp.	Hauzenberg	Bus
18.05	7	Morning Transfer to Prague & Prague stay After Breakfast free time for 1 hour. After *Lunch, afternoon departure to Prague. (4 hours by bus). Evening city walk in Prague and Dinner.	Munich	Bus

Bridging the cultures

Mayuresh Kulkarni: + 91 98 90004007

Yogesh Patil : + 91 9890157300



623 Shaniwar Peth, A-Wing,
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GERMANY, AUSTRIA, SWISS, CZECH, HOLLAND & FRANCE

TOUR

19.05	8 Prague mornings/s& departure to Meisen Early Morning City sightseeing in Prague and after *lunch bus transfers to Meisen. (3.00Hours Bus travel). Stay in Orange herberg	Meisen	Bus/Train
20.05	9 Morning Meissen school visit School Visit in Sankt Afra, Meissen & eve. transfer to Berlin	Berlin	Tram/Bus
21.05	10 Full day Berlin sightseeing After Breakfast will visit Parliament House and *lunch in Hbf Berlin, visit to Museum <i>Insel</i> , Check-point Charlie After *lunch Evening walk in Berlin. Alexander Platz- TV Tower.	Berlin	Train
22.05	11 Early Morning flight to Amsterdam Amsterdam arrival and check-in in Hotel. Afternoon Madam-Tasaud Museum visit. Dam Square and Amsterdam city visit	Amsterdam	-
23.05	12 Amsterdam to Paris Bus Afternoon Arrival in Paris and check-in in Hotel. Evening walk in Paris.	Paris	Flight
24.05	13 Full day Paris sightseeing Visit Eifel Tower 2 nd Floor and after *Lunch Paris s/s. <i>Louvre Museum</i> Visit. And return flight on evening	Paris	Metro
25.05	14 Via Mumbai return to Pune		Flight

Bridging the cultures



Important information for visits to the German Bundestag

Your invitation to visit the German Bundestag is based on the Bundestag's calendar of sittings, which is planned well in advance. It may therefore be necessary for us to reschedule or cancel your visit at short notice. If it is necessary to make changes to the programme on the day of your visit, you will be informed about this by the staff of the Visitors' Service at the west portal of the Reichstag Building or the west visitors' entrance of the Paul Löbe Building. They will also be happy to answer any other questions you may have.

Visitors' programmes are always held for several groups together. It is therefore absolutely essential that you arrive punctually out of consideration for other visitors, as places reserved on the gallery or in the discussion rooms cannot be kept indefinitely. If you arrive late, you must expect to wait for a considerable time and in certain circumstances your programme may be changed.

As X-ray equipment is used for the security checks, we request that you avoid bringing metal items into the Bundestag's buildings wherever possible. All participants must bring a valid identity card or equivalent form of photo identification.

Leaders of visiting groups have an obligation to inform their groups about these regulations and to ensure compliance with them as necessary. Upon request, they must be able to present a valid identity card or passport as well as their letter of confirmation, and be able to identify the individual members of their group during the security checks on entry.

Coats, umbrellas, bags, tape recorders, binoculars and similar devices must be handed in at the cloakroom before you go onto the visitors' gallery for a lecture or to watch a plenary sitting. No facilities are available for the storage of suitcases or other luggage. Mobile phones must be switched off.

Under Rules 4 and 5 of the Internal Regulations of the German Bundestag, peace and order must be maintained in the Bundestag's buildings. Visitors must show consideration for the work of the Bundestag. Applause and expressions of disapproval are forbidden on the galleries.

The sale of goods (with the exception of goods sold by the tenant businesses) and collections are not permitted. With the exception of guide dogs, animals may not be taken into the buildings of the German Bundestag.

If tour guides give their permission, photographs may be taken during guided tours provided by the Visitors' Service in the Reichstag Building and other premises of the German Bundestag and during lectures on the visitors' gallery; photographs may be taken only for personal and not commercial use. Visitors attending plenary sittings must hand in film and photographic equipment beforehand.



Deutscher Bundestag

Ms.
Savita Kelkar
302, Kanchangauri Society,
Kanchangalli

411004 Pune

By email: drsavitakelkar@gmail.com

Berlin, 01. April 2016
Our reference:
IO 1 - 2020-Z
SYS-20160327-124814 - HFA RTG
Enclosures:
Information for Visitors
List of participants form filled

**Division IO 1
Visitors' Service**

Katrin Wanzlick

Platz der Republik 1
11011 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 227 - 32548
Fax: +49 30 227 - 30042
faehrungen@bundestag.de

Office:
Paul Löbe Building
Konrad-Adenauer-Str. 1
10557 Berlin

Your visit to the German Bundestag

Dear Ms. Kelkar,

Thank you very much for your letter.

I am pleased to be able to grant you your request and offer you a gratis guided tour (in English) of the German Bundestag

**on Saturday, 21st May 2016
from 09:00 hrs (approximately 90 minutes),
for 15 people.**

The German Bundestag provides several services for foreign visitors. Please visit our website at "www.bundestag.de", "Service", "Information Material".

Please note: the timing of parliamentary sittings, the weather conditions and the security situation all affect whether visits to the dome can go ahead. As a result, we are unable to guarantee that you will be able to visit the dome after your guided tour.

The meeting point is the welcome centre for visitors to the Reichstag Building, which is located on Scheidemannstraße next to the West Portal of the Reichstag Building. Guests are requested to come to the welcome centre 30 minutes before the start of the tour.

We have already received the list of participants for your group. This information is used for security checks upon entry and will be deleted after your visit. Please take note of the enclosed information sheet for visitors – in particular the security requirements!

I wish you an enjoyable and informative visit to the German Bundestag.

Kind regards,

Katrin Wanzlick

This letter has been produced electronically and is valid without a signature.

Names of the Indian students for the visit of German Parliament House

Visit to the German Bundestag

List of Participants

Date **and** time of visit: 21st May 2016 at 09:00 hrs

Group leader: Ms. Savita Kelkar

Our reference: SYS-20160327-124814

Name of group: Fergusson College, Kelkar, Savita

No	Surname, first name	Date of birth
1	Abhyankar, Miss Sae	13.06.1990
2.	Diwan, Miss. Peeyusha	03.12.1999
3	Dhongade, Miss Rajashree	29.08.1998
4	Ghatge Amruta Satish	22.09.1977
5	Gokhe, Miss Vidya	14.11.1999
6	Joshi, Miss Devshri	24.04.1999
7	Kanherkar, Miss Vaishnavi	15.09.2000
8	Kanherkar, Master Yashvardhan	21.02.1997
9	Kankaria, Master Samkit	08.04.2000
10	Kelkar, Dr. Mrs. Savita	13.04.1962
11	Kulkarni, Master Mayuresh	29.04.1980
12	Latpate, Miss Shraddha	06.10.1999
13	Mehta, Miss Malvika	12.04.1995
14	Muthekar, Miss Sayali	18.04.1999
15	Narayan, Master Aditya	20.04.1999

Visit to the German Bundestag

List of Participants

INVITATION



Deutsches Generalkonsulat Mumbai

Munich 31.3.2016

Einladung einer Studiengruppe

Es ist mir eine große Freude, Frau Dr. Savita Kelkar zu Ihrer zwölften Studienreise für Studenten nach Deutschland einzuladen. Frau Kelkar ist mir aus meiner Zeit als PASCH-Expertin für Unterricht (2008-2011) am Max Müller Bhavan in Pune sehr gut bekannt und über unsere intensiven Arbeitskontakte hat sich eine feste Freundschaft entwickelt. Während meiner Zeit in Pune konnten wir gemeinsam zahlreiche Projekte initiieren und ich habe die Studenten regelmäßig auf den Aufenthalt in Deutschland/ Europa vorbereitet.

Da mir kulturelle Zusammenarbeit für junge Leute in der heutigen Zeit sehr wichtig erscheint, freue ich mich ganz besonders Frau Dr. Kelkar und Ihre Studenten am 18. Mai in München Willkommen heißen zu können. Während meiner Dienstzeit in Prag hatte ich dieses Vergnügen bereits, sowie in München selbst 2015. Bitte finden Sie die Namensliste der Studenten im Anhang.

Über die Studienreise hinaus möchte ich Frau Dr. Savita Kelkar und ihren Ehemann, Herrn Vinayak Kelkar vom 31. Mai bis 3. Juni zu mir nach Hause einladen.

Ich hoffe, dieses hervorragende Projekt, das von sehr großem persönlichen Engagement Frau Dr. Kelkars zeugt, findet Ihre Unterstützung und bitte um die Bewilligung der Visa für die Studierendengruppe.

Für Rückfragen stehe ich Ihnen selbstverständlich jederzeit zur Verfügung.
Mit freundlichen Grüßen


Sophie Engel

**INTENSIVKURSE
DEUTSCH
INDIVIDUAL UND
SPEZIALKURSE
JUGENDKURSE
SEMINARE**

Goethe-Institut München
Sonnenstraße 25
80331 München

www.goethe.de/muenchen

Sophie Engel
Leitung Sprache
T +49 89 55 19 03 29
F +49 89 55 19 03 35
sophie.engel@goethe.de

Commerzbank
Konto 03 814 099 00
BLZ 700 800 00
IBAN DE 04 7008 0000 0381
4099 00
BIC DRES DE FF 700

USt-ID-Nr.
DE 129516430
Steuer-Nr.
143/216/40576

www.goethe.de/de

Interactive sessions arranged for the 12th Study Tour
By Mr. Shrinivas Pendse & Dr. Savita Kelkar
A concept by Association of the Friends of Germany

Date & Time 26.2.2016 5-9 pm	Guest speaker Interactive session with study tour group from HTWG Hochschule Konstanz University of Applied Sciences) Dinner	Introduction Dr. Savita Kelkar	Vote of Thanks Students
26.2.2016 5.30- 6.30	Mr. Vinayak Kelkar C.S.R. activities of Praj industries ltd	Dr. Savita Kelkar	Dr.Konstantin Hassmer
6.30-7.30	Dr. Konstantin Hassmer Presentation on Konstanz region and information about higher studies in Germany	Dr. Savita Kelkar	Muskan
2.5.2016 At 9.30	Mr. Shrinivas Pendse Briefing about the tour	Sayli	Vaishnavi
2.5.2016 At 10.00	Mrs. Rekha Palshikar (ppt) Political system in Germany	Shraddha	Samkit
11.11.30	Tea break		
2.5.2016 At 11.30	Mrs. Jaya Gadgil (ppt) European Union and Pune	Vidya	Yash
1-2 pm	Lunch break		
2-4 pm	Practice for the programme Manache shlok, dance Interaction with the past students Tanvi Kotkar and her friends T shirt designing	Peeyusha	Sayli
3.5.2016	Dr. S.M. Chitale Lecture on Team building- At his residence		
at 9.45 am	Prakash Lodge, J.M. Road, Pune	Yash	Vidya
4.5.2016 At 9.30	Dr. Chrostoph Senft St. Afra - School visit	Aditya	Shraddha
4.5.2016 At 11 am	Mrs. Parimal Choudhary (ppt) On first looking at a new country	Muskaan	Aditya
7.5.2016 At 10 am	Mrs. Mary Fernandes (ppt) Religions in India	devshri	Rajshree
7.5.2016	Dr. Sanjeev Nalavade (ppt) Flora and Fauna in Germany	Vaishnavi	Peeyusha

Details of Guest speakers

Mr. Shrinivas Pendse	- shriniwaspendse@gmail.com	mobile: 98 81 154031
Mrs. Rekha Palshikar	palshikar.rekha@gmail.com	mobile: 98 22 511509
Mrs. Jaya Gadgil	gadgiljaya@gmail.com	mobile : 94 22 330063
Dr. S.M. Chitale	smchitale123@yahoo.com	mobile: 98 81 401275
Dr. Chrostoph Senft	pune@daadindia.org	
Mrs. Parimal Chaudhari	chaudhari.parimal@gmail.com	
Mrs. Mary Fernandes	mary_fernandes54@hotmail.com	mobile: 9822661652
Dr. Sanjeev Nalawade	mypoonah@yahoo.co.in	mobile: 9665515125
Mrs. Rohini Damle	damlrohini51@gmail.com	mobile: 99 60 967763
Dr. Savita Kelkar	drsavitakelkar@gmail.com	mobile: 94 22 529335
Tanvi Kotkar (past student) and her friends		mobile: 83 79 862862

Appreciation by participants

Interactive sessions arranged for the 12th Study Tour

By Mr. Shrinivas Pendse & Dr. Savita Kelkar

A concept by Association of the Friends of Germany

Date & Time	Guest speaker	E*	G*	S*	Ab*
26.2.2016 5-9 pm	Interactive session with study tour group from HTWG Hochschule Konstanz University of Applied Sciences)	8	2		2
26.2.2016 5.30- 6.30	Mr. Vinayak Kelkar ppt C.S.R. activities of Praj industries	7	3		2
6.30-7.30	Dr. Konstantin Hassmer ppt on Konstanz region and information about higher studies in Germany	7	2	1	2
	Dinner	6	2	2	2
2.5.2016 9.30	Mr. Shrinivas Pendse Briefing about the tour	7	5		
2.5.2016 10.00	Mrs. Rekha Palshikar (ppt) Political system in Germany	4	7		1
	Tea & Snacks	5	1	5	1
2.5.2016 11.11.30	Mrs. Jaya Gadgil (ppt) European Union and Pune	9	1	2	
1-2 pm	Lunch	5	1	4	2
2-4 pm	Practice for the programme Manache shlok, dance Interaction with the past students Tanvi Kotkar & Radha Marathe:				
	T shirt designing	5	3	2	2
3.5.2016 9.45	Dr. S.M. Chitale Lecture on Team building- At his residence Prakash Lodge, J.M. Road, at Mc donald	6	3		3
		5	1	3	3
4.5.2016 At 9.30	Dr. Chrostoph Senft School and university education	7	3		2
4.5.2016 At 11 am	Mrs.Parimal Choudhary (ppt)On first looking at a new country	8	2		2
	Lunch	5	1	4	2
7.5.2016At 10 am	Mrs. Mary Fernandes (ppt) Religions in India	10	1		1
7.5.2016At 11.30	Dr. Sanjeev Nalavade (ppt)Flora and Fauna in Germany	7	3		2
	Lunch	8	1		3
	Dr. Savita Kelkar's role as coordinator (from interview till date)	11		1	
	Arrangements for interactive sessions	10	2		
	T shirt designing	10		2	

*E= Excellent, *G= Good, *S= Satisfactory, *Ab = Absent

Appreciation / suggestions of the Participants

1. Muskan Mehta: When I had booked my ticket I was very well explained about what the trip and pre trip orientations will be like. First I thought, it will be a regular orientation program but after I attended the first session I was well convinced of the quality and superiority of lectures. The lecturers chosen were the experts in their fields. Justice to students were given by these experts as compared to the other lecturers from other institutes.

2. Rajashree Dhongade: Interactive sessions with study tour group were really excellent. I really enjoyed these sessions. Dr. Savita madam is an excellent coordinator. All the arrangements were good. I am very comfortable with these teachers; they are very nice and friendly. I received a lot of knowledge from them.

3. Devshri Joshi: Interactive session with study tour group was fun filled and educating, participants were very friendly with each other. We got a lot of information about both German and Indian lifestyle, along with casual interactions. The entire orientation team was very friendly and passionate about whatever they talked about and the sessions were different and fun. We got a brief idea of what the tour will be like, what to watch out for, specialties, how to pack etc. everyone in the group got to know each other very well.

4. Vaishnavi Kanherkar: The orientation program was actually I think the base for the tour. If the base is perfect you don't have any difficulty. As Savita mam is highly experienced she arranged the program perfectly well.

5. Aditya Narayan: The best about the orientation program was the fact that it lived up to its role. From history to culture, to wildlife to food, we now have a truly holistic perspective on Europe as well as India, thanks a lot.

One thing I found just little unsatisfactory was the fact the program overlooked Germany and its typicalities in favor of a broader understanding of Europe as a whole. Even if we are visiting different countries in Europe , I feel that Germany, as our prime focus in the tour, should have been given a little more attention. But I guess we are better off without any predetermined norms in our minds.

6. Samkit Kankariya: Interactive session conducted proved really helpful. The ppt on Contanz region was excellent. By seeing it , the enthusiasm about seeing Germany and mainly lake Contanz has increased. Due to the lecture on 'Political system in Germany' the political parties and the whole system was made clearer which would be helpful for visiting parliament in Germany. Lectures "on first looking at new country" and "European union and Pune" were mind blogging. I really enjoyed this interactive session. I thank Mrs. Savita Kelkar for arranging this interactive session.

7. Shraddha Latpate: All interactive sessions were really very good. I was expecting that all sessions will be like only for general guidance, but it was not like that. All the sessions were very entertaining, joyful, interactive as well as informative. Dr. Chrostoph's lecture on universities and schools was very interesting. All the guest speakers were really very good and intelligent as well. I loved all the programmes.

8. Sayali Muthekar: Interactive session was very good, I really enjoyed it. In this session I got much information. I liked Dr. Chrostoph and Mary mam' lecture. I liked this session the most.

9. Peeyusha Diwan: All sessions were very good. Our group got transformed as a team due to these sessions.

Undertaking

To,

January 13, 2016

Excursia tours & Dr. Mrs. Savita Kelkar

We are aware that the main objective of the '*Twelfth Study Tour to Europe*' is to spread the message of brotherhood, to develop international understanding and to make our wards global citizens.

We hereby give the following undertaking:

- We trust the tour organizers and accompanying person/s completely.
- We have paid / or will be paying Rs 1,85, 000/ towards the cost of '*Twelfth Study Tour to Europe*'. We give our consent to use our money towards the following expense heads

§ Selection Procedure: Visits to different places Pre tour and / or post tour get-togethers, orientation programme, meetings, honorarium, hospitality, felicitations, conveyance, developing photos, photocopying, printing, scanning, sweatshirts / T-shirts, Publicity expenses, communication: phone, fax, internet etc.

§ Hospitality for German / European guests during their visit to India, gifts, mementoes, books etc. bought in India/Germany / Europe for Indian and European guests

§ Visits to Mumbai for visas and other formalities, visa fees, return economy class airfare, accommodation in 2/3 star hotels/ youth hostels, or holidayhome etc daily buffet breakfast and Indian dinners etc. as mentioned in itinerary, all sightseeing with guides wherever mentioned in the itinerary, all entry fees, entrances, tips, as mentioned in the itinerary & all taxes Pune - Mumbai - Pune transfers, insurance for the tour

§ Any Incidental expenses in India and in Europe not mentioned above.

· We have read all the terms and conditions of **Excursia tours** , the tour organizer and we agree to all of them. We agree that the organizers are free to make any changes in the programs in India as well as in Europe. **We are aware that no Educational Society / Institution or any Trust is involved in organizing this tour. We are also aware that Dr. Mrs. Savita Kelkar is going to accompany the group in her individual capacity.**

· We shall not hold the organizer, accompanying person/s individually or collectively responsible or liable in any way for any loss, sickness, injury, mishap, accident, flight delays etc. that may happen during the preparation, during the period of stay in Europe as well as during the programs in India.

· We also undertake that we will by no way insult the organizer and accompanying person/s by showing any kind of mistrust before, during or after the tour. Due to swine flu or any such epidemic or due to unavoidable circumstances, if the organizer has to make any changes in the tour / postpone the tour or even cancel the tour, we agree to it and also to the financial consequences, whatever they might be. I/ My son/daughter is not suffering from any illness and is fit to travel. We agree that our ward will not consume any alcoholic drinks/drugs or get involved in sexual act either with fellow participants or anyone else during the study tour. However in case he/she consumes any such alcohol/drugs or gets involved in sexual act, it will be entirely at his/her own risk and we will not hold the organizers/ accompanying person/s responsible for the same. We agree that our ward will not lend or borrow things (camera, phone, sun-glasses, jewellery, money etc.) from other participants and in case he borrows or lends and if there are any financial implications arising out of borrowing or lending, the responsibility lies solely with us, and we will not hold the organizers or accompanying person/s responsible for any financial implications .

· Our Son / Daughter also shall behave properly during the tour and shall adhere to the instructions given by the accompanying person/s and tour leader from time to time. In case he/she fails to do so, the tour leader and the accompanying teacher/ person are free to take suitable disciplinary action. We agree to the same. We are aware that Dr. Savita Kelkar is going to accompany the students till Berlin and the authorities of Excursia Tours will be with them till Paris. We are also aware that the students will fly from Paris to Mumbai without any accompaniment, but we are quite confident that after the orientation and the travelling experience in Europe, our wards will manage the return flight on their own.

We have read and understood all the terms and conditions mentioned above and we accept all these terms and conditions.

Signature & Name of the participant

Signature & name of parents/ guardian

Mobile of the participant

Mobile numbers (Parents)

Views of participants of the Twelfth study tour to Europe 2016

The language, thoughts and expressions of the participants are entirely their own.

Dachau - BMW E LT-Devashree Joshi

After an early morning breakfast at the Youth Hostel, all of us gathered our packed luggage at the reception and headed either out to click some photos or downstairs to play a final round of table tennis. The stay at the hostel was absolutely wonderful – plain and satisfying, and leaving the place was definitely hard.

Once the bus arrived, we reluctantly made our way to the vehicle and got ourselves acquainted with the more closed mode of transport. After days of trains, trams and local buses, the prospect of travelling by a private bus wasn't very inviting, and frankly, quite congesting, especially since we couldn't move around or stand as freely as in a train.

But once we got used to the feeling of being in the bus, spirits lifted considerably. Almost immediately we started an exciting round of Antakshari, where we discovered several of the group members' hidden talents! While the game was in play, we also took some time to observe the roads and highways. LED boards were used to show distances, roads were smooth, unending lawns rolled out till the horizon, coloured yellow with wild flowers and the cars were as sleek and shiny as ever.

On the way, we encountered a traffic jam too. The most astonishing – or different – part was that there wasn't a single horn. Not a single one. The cars were waiting at equal distances from each other, in perfect lines, doing their own work while waiting for the traffic to clear out. While it was definitely a relief to avoid the horn-wars we would have faced back in Pune, it was also pretty creepy, in a way.

Our plan for the day was pretty simple. First we go to the Dachau Concentration Camp and then proceed to the BMW museum. But the day was mentally exhausting, especially the first half.

On this day, we were going to travel through two very different time periods. One from half a century ago, where there was injustice, torture and raw inhumanity, and another from today's modern world, where technology in cars has reached great heights, bringing out the beauty of colours and unadulterated style.

Dachau Concentration Camp -

The first problem was that we hadn't been prepared for what we were about to see. The concentration camp was a place of dark memories, traces showing the worst of humanity. The entire place was

in black and grey, a somber air surrounding the place. The signs put up on the path leading to the main camp were equally horrific. To be standing at the place where the prisoners were brought in through trucks and trains was absolutely horrifying. The black and white pictures accompanying the sign boards added to the shock.

The entire layout of the camp was simple, buildings laid out in a line, in a cruel discipline. The colours were bleak and gloomy, or may be it was just the concept of the camp weighing on us.

The concentration camp was huge. We saw the trenches, the watch towers, the crematoriums, the gas rooms, all from nearly a century ago. We saw the church built after liberation, we saw what it symbolized, what it meant to the victims and their family members, how beautifully thought out every single thing was. Walking through the disinfection rooms, gas rooms, crematoriums was horrifying. To be walking through the halls through which the prisoners walked, walking across the rooms where thousands were murdered, the entire experience was terrifying.

At the same time, there were beautiful gardens and statues, memorials and structures built to battle the evil of the camp. There was something beautifully symbolic about everything built after the liberation. The thoughts of survivors, their experiences and the way they looked at their imprisonment was truly an eye-opener. The stories of those who helped the prisoners get their freedom were truly inspiring.

However, though the visit was emotional, I still felt that we hadn't been able to capture the entire essence of the place. Due to extreme lack of time, we were unable to take an audio tour or hire a tour guide to show us around. We were also unable to see the museum which exhibited the experiences of prisoners – both, victims and survivors. But either way, the visit had been emotionally exhausting.

B M W e LT-

After getting back to our bus, we settled down and waited for our next destination to arrive – the BMW museum. The rest of the trip was uneventful as most of us took a quick nap to freshen up for Munich.

The museum was set up against a lush green lawn (as were most places in Germany), the tall, glass buildings with curving structures. The entire set up

was very modern, more modern than most places I've seen before, and needless to say, we were all very excited to go inside.

Inside, the halls and floors were even more impressive. The tall ceilings, glass walls and white interior gave it an airy and light feel. The shiny cars, accented more so with well-placed lights added to the flair of the museum. We were given an hour to look around the entire museum – three floors, including a test drive area for international license holders.

So we immediately started our tour, clicking pictures with each of the cars, sitting in and experiencing the posh interiors of the BMW designs, all in all, having a great time. I'm not much of a car enthusiast but the sheer colour of the cars was enough for me to fall in love with them. Some cars were placed in a specially enclosed area, probably the more special, expensive ones. Others were arranged spaci-ously, giving each car it's deserved area. Helpers roamed around the place, happy to answer any questions about a particular car.

On the second floor were motorcycles of varying shapes and sizes – so varied that I actually wondered how a person could possibly ride a bike of that size and weight. Nevertheless, we took time to sit on each one, taking each other's photos wherever possible.

On the ground floor, there was another section for playing golf, a free one, more importantly. A few of us took turns playing the motion sensing game, succeeding and failing at it.

Once our time was up, we gathered at the restaurant in the museum for lunch. Though there weren't many vegetarian options, and were urged not to have the fried rice, I picked a delicious plate of Gnocchi in Tomato Sauce and Mozzarella. There were also Tomato sandwiches, Pommes Frites and a large range of drinks and soda. So after a hearty lunch, at least for me, we went back to our bus, picking up free fliers along the way (preferably the English ones), still excited after the fabulous exhibits we'd seen.

Hotel Zum Stemplinger-

After 2 hours in the bus, we reached Hauzenberg, a picturesque town on the hills, filled with pastel houses and buildings. The ride down the cobblestoned road was a fun one as we looked at the pretty houses through the window. Bright flowers, lush gardens filled the entire town, adding to its scenic setting.

The hotel we were going to stay in – Zum Stemplinger – had a lovely, home-y feel to it, it's off-white walls and elegantly curving gates greeting us warmly. The inside of the hotel was warm and toasty,

compared to the cool weather continuing outside. The architecture looked traditional, probably owing to the fact that the hotel had been running for three generations. Even the rooms were well furnished, the bed comfortable, the view spectacular.

With another 2 hours in our hands before dinner, we decided to explore the surroundings, going out to the garden outside, walking a block around the hotel. We found a special outdoor area in the hotel where we had lots of fun with a certain kiddie cycle and a deflated football. There also happened to be a big furry dog in the hotel, one we all loved and took photos with.

After freshening up, we made our way to the restaurant where a candle lit dinner awaited us. A hot bowl of pasta and rice, accompanied by a white curry with some extra special spices added to it made for a wonderful and tasty dinner. Afterwards we had a huge surprise awaiting us – A pitcher of beer! Excited to have a taste of the usually forbidden drink, we all kept our glasses forward, hoping for a sip. Then few of us who actually dared to drink the beverage enjoyed the bitter taste while taking pictures and videos, laughing about the implications back home, teasing those who didn't have a taste. All in all, it was a great meal and we were energized more than ever.

To take advantage of our pent up excitement, we decided to take a small stroll through the town. We passed a hospital, something we had yet to see during our entire trip, and were lucky enough to watch the sunset. While our teachers and a few of us who were more tired than the others returned, the rest of us decided to take an extended walk.

A funny incident occurred when a police car passed us and stopped. Knowing that there was a refugee crisis in the country, we had expected a few police interferences. However, all of us had our passports back in our hotel rooms and we were just a couple of students alone. But despite our worries, the officers turned out to be nice folks, asking us where we were from, where we were staying, how long we were travelling. Once they were sure that we were tourists and not immigrants, they left with a hearty chuckle and a wave, leaving us behind laughing at ourselves.

We proceeded with our walk, returning by the time it started to get darker. Still eager to make the most of the day, we decided to pay a visit to the game room. An assortment of stuffed animals, wooden toys, children's books awaited us there. The big prize, however, was definitely the play area with the plastic balls. An innocent activity of sitting in the plastic pool turned into a full-fledged fight with flinging and smacking and laughing and shoving. After nearly half an hour of the fun, we decided to make the mature decision and head back to our rooms, but not after a quick game of cards.

Going to sleep in those heavenly beds after a refreshing shower felt like a dream. We couldn't wait for the next day to start.

Religions of India

India and Germany are, according to me, nearly complete opposites in almost every aspect, religion included. While the major religion followed in India is Hinduism, Germany is more of a Christian country. Considering this, there were obviously going to be differences in worship, prayer, mythology, places of worship and the lifestyle of the people.

To become more acquainted with Christianity, as well as India's own complex religion of Hinduism, Savita Ma'am arranged a session on 'Religion' as both an introduction and comparison of the two vast religions.

Mrs. Mary Fernandes, a devout Christian herself, as well as a religious expert, if I might say so myself, was invited to give us the lecture. She taught Geography at Fergusson Junior and Senior College for 36 years and is now pursuing a Ph.D in Economics at Pune University after retiring. She has been taking similar lectures for students who went to Europe before us and had travelled to Europe herself three years ago.

After quick introductions, Mrs. Fernandes began her presentation on religion and it was no less than a passionate journey through the religious eras itself!

Starting from the very beginning, Mrs. Fernandes took us back to the times of Adam and Eve. She told us about the creation of Evil, the way it challenged the Good, creating strife between Angels and Demons. Once the base of the religion had been established, she went on to the prophets, the rise of the Dark Ages, the widening gap between the Bible and the Truth.

After providing a background about the situation in Christian societies, she went on to tell us the story of Jesus' birth, how he was the son of God, how he went on to preach the true meaning of the Bible to the common folk. In a passionate stance, Mrs. Fernandes talked about how he was betrayed by one of his own, how he was crucified and how he later appeared to several people after his death.

With that, she went on to talk about the significance of the religion, its divisions and characteristics – the Protestants and the Catholics, the Pope and the Vatican. All of this information was new to us, and frankly, a lot to take in. But the base of this religion is, as she kept emphasizing, love and forgiveness.

After our introduction to Christianity, Mrs. Fernandes turned to Hinduism. As we are all well aware of, Hinduism consists of millions of Gods. So to start off with, she focused on the various forms of Hinduism – Polytheism, Monoism and Monotheism, which are basically systems of worship.

Hinduism, being a very complex and vast religion, is very difficult to study in a short while. However, the religion also supports the diverse conditions of the people. The basic streams of the religion are *Karma*, *Jnan* and *Bhakti* and the final aim is *Moksha*. As Mrs. Fernandes kept repeating, 'All the Paramatma is saying is *Come to me!*'

Thus, we were introduced to the basics of the two religions through animated stories, passionate words and faith.

Later, in the churches in Europe, we saw similar stories of Jesus Christ painted onto windows, carved into wood with a statue of a crucified Christ at the centre of the church. Thus the session was definitely helpful while we explored the religious side of Europe.

Deveshree Joshi

1. Louvre Rivoli.

The unsettlingly polite radio on the right side is crooning at Frenchies, Indians and dinosaurs alike as our plush underground bogie pulls up beside a station that looks like it's been picked right out of a historic horror flick.

"Louvre Rivoli."

I scramble for my earphones; I do not want to hear that woman again. I break the wall of heads with my arm and look for a green cap. The owner shakes his head at me, mouthing the word "Next stop", doing cartwheel with his wrist. Relieved and comfortable, I collapse back on the plush chair and start lip-syncing to Mockingbird.

Now I'm no Guru when it comes to travelling, heck I'm still getting cold feet at the thought of living in a hostel next year on, but I'm being honest when I say that it really was worth throwing my sleep to the croissant-dense winds, if the reward was a city as charming and homelike as Paris. Moving out of the metro station and into the cloudy, damp domesticity of the *Place Charles de Gaulle*, we're immediately overwhelmed by a profound sense of patriotism as an India-Gate replica looms in front of us on the street opposite. It looks exactly like the one back home, yay!

I'm just beginning to ask Savita Ma'am about the confusion, when I notice stuff that makes me go "Oh, no no no." For inscribed on the elaborate arch of said monument are intricate Christian sculptures

that depict the French portrayal of “Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.” I’m not saying India doesn’t accommodate Christians; India’s the most secular, democratic, happy model in the world (read: I don’t wanna die) but it’ll be a long shot, to say the least, before one of us makes as much as an attempt to put a penciled Cross on the monument in Delhi. Psst. No disrespect. I love you guys.

That monument, as we learn after a couple of horde photos and screwing around with the pedestrian signal button, is actually the *Arc de Triomphe* that’s been erected to celebrate the success of the French revolution. There’s the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier below the towering arch and a bunch of exquisite French artwork on its sides (no graffiti, *weak laugh*) that’s basically a jubilant nod to all the heroes that made a free Paris possible. The visit is rewarding, albeit fleeting, so I leave the arch with a lingering mist of wonder but not nearly enough to hold on to, and join my squad across the street. After playing how-long-can-I-punch-you-in-a-minute with the signal button. Indians.

2. Notre-Damn!

We walk a little, take a dozen-or-so selfies, and just when we’re beginning to scramble around in each other’s bags for leftovers, the silhouette of Hogwarts peekaboos us from round the corner.

I made that up. The best thing about this hugely religious, astoundingly famous structure is not its religious importance as much as its sheer aesthetic appeal. Right from the captivating arches to the all-embracing atrium, the Church is “give and forgive” personified. Or monumentified. I don’t know.

Notre Dame, or *Notre Dame de Paris*, is one of the most ancient cathedrals in Paris. Hugged by enchanting depictions of major biblical episodes from right, left and above, the paintings and statues are beautiful enough to garner the attention of tourists from impossible corners of the planet. I stroll around with the fascinated languor of a lost traveler, amazed but truly at sea with the enormous pantheon of godly figures that’s Christianity. I regret not knowing many of the stories, and the trip provides a sure catalyst for me to get that pocket Bible from the souvenir shop outside. Something to carry in my heart and my jeans forever.

3. Yes Macha, it is the Eiffel!

“Where is the Eiffel?” Yogesh Sir laughs a little and runs up the flight. He sure can put my teeth on edge. In a good way. Bolting up the metro stairs for the fifth time, we’re a little eager to see the fabled tower to say the least. He’s walking ahead along

with Mayuresh Sir and we’re following them, me fiddling with my phone camera. Getting the Night Mode on and sliding the left side of my bag up my shoulder, I sigh-smirk as they turn and disappear round the corner. Why do the best surprises always have to be round the corner? I’m waiting for the Eiffel to slide into view, not quite sure what to expect. We’re gonna, as Mayuresh said, “view it from afar”, and I’m not enlightened as to just how far. None of us is. We turn, walk a few steps and look straight.

Standing in front of us, a towering sentinel that withstood the terrible attacks on its motherland not half a year ago, crying, smiling, knowing a thousand people are watching it from the ledge opposite, stands the imposing yet disarming monument that spurred us to get up at five in the morning. The *Eiffel Tower* is literally breathtaking. We’re watching it from what, a hundred feet and it looks majestic as hell from here. Those tiny people by the foot of the tower must be dying.

The visit is amazing. We sit there, we talk, we whip out our cameras whenever a weird bird shoots past us in the swiftly dimming Paris eve, and basically have a ton of lazy fun for an hour. I actually hear a couple Gujaratis behind us fighting over a last piece of Chakli. Can you believe that? Gujaratis in Paris! We’re literally overflowing! At ten o’ clock, the whole tower lights up like a million buzzing fireflies, putting on a jig for its glassy-eyed tourists, doing its version of a showoff pirouette against the backdrop of twisting lanes and hilariously dwarfed telephone towers. My battery is literally down to one, and I thankfully get a ten-second video of the glimmering wonder before my Kamera goes kaputt. Here it is, the Eiffel in action:

The three-hour visit to the second floor of the Eiffel is worth mentioning everytime someone asks me about my fondest memories from Europe. I cosily recollect my initial sense of utter disbelief as I take in the width of the monument, embracing a neat playground for shops and oldies and toddlers while they wait for the tedious security process to get done with. I recall me rapping Mockingbird with Vidhya as we wait for the queue to thin, masking our frustration under that of the *Insane* rapper. I remember me going up that classic *Baby’s Day Out* elevator, and out into a jutting ledge that overlooked every crooked bylane of the romantic paradise. The two-euro telescopes placed at regular intervals actually work awesome, so you can have a zoom-in on your crush who’s studying at the International School of Paris while you wink at her from the clouds. Aww. No. That’s really creepy. The pics tho! Everything a photographer would love. I’m a terrible photographer, but

here you are:

The descent from the Eiffel tower is also a descent from joy to bleakness, from rain-clouds to drought-prone Earth, from experience to nostalgia. For that glorious stairway marks our final tourist spot in the thirteen-day Europe visit we were privy to. It means the end of all we've laughed through, all that we've enjoyed, all that we've suffered. I can almost taste the salt in the air as we bid goodbye to a monument we've touched the skies in and a city that's snuggled somewhere in our minds for eternity.

Aditya Narayan

Orientation programme-

When i heard about the germany study tour,immediatly i decided to go for this tour.then for giving detailed information about the tour,savita ma'am arranged our meetings.our group was of 11 students..after all these meetings,savita ma'am told us about orientation programmes.

These Programmes Were From 2-7th Of May. Many Guest Lecturers Were Called To Guide Us For This Tour. On 2nd May, Shriniwas Pendse Sir Gave Us Information About Tour Planning. Mrs. Rekha Palshikar Ma'am Told Us About Political System In Germany, Mrs. Jaya Gadgil Talked About European Union And Pune, which Was Nice. Then Tanvi Kotkar And Radha Marathe Interacted With Us. As They Had Gone For This Tour In 2008,they Shared Their Own Experiences With Us. We Enjoyed A Lot With Them. On 3rd May Dr. S.M. Chitale Gave Us Lecture On Team Building. He Told Us How A Team Should Work. This Lecture Was Beneficial For Us. Then On 4th May, Dr. Chrostoph Senft Told Us About Educational System In Germany. This Lecture Was Very Interesting. After That Mrs. Parimal Choudhary Told Us About First Looking At A New Country,travelling,etc. On The Last Day, Mary Fernandes Taiked About Relegions In India, Specifically Hinduism And Chirstianity- The Main Religion In Germany. Then Mr. Sanjeev Nalavde gave information about Flora And Fauna In Germany.

All the lectures were nice. All lecturers guided us very well and their guidance helped us a lot in tour. Due to these programmes, our group transformed into a team. All "team" members could know more about each others. So we enjoyed each others' company in actual tour. So orientation programmes stood beneficiary.

Amsterdam visit-cheese factory

On 22nd of may at 4am we left berlin and started our journey towards amsterdam. It was raining when we landed in amsterdam. But the over-

all weather was nice. Then we went to our hotel, got freshened and started towards our destination-cheese factory.

When we entered cheese factory, smell of cheese tempted us. One lady welcomed us. We setteled down and she started giving information about cheese. She told us about ingradients that is vegetables, milk, wein, etc; method of preparation, types of cheeses, etc. Then she gave some cheese for tasting. The cheese was very tasty. We all liked it.

Then we proceeded for next department in cheese factory that was shoes making. The worker in that factory showed us how to make wooden shoes. We enjoyed it's process. Those wooden shoes were specially made for the farmers; but now those shoes had a great demand from other people [non-farmers].

After all this, we turned to the most interesting part that is shopping. We saw the various types of cheeses like goat cheese. Then we bought some cheese. We did photography and clicked photos with the workers in the factory too.

So the cheese factory visit was amazing. We all enjoyed a lot with our tour heads- mayuresh kulkarni and yogesh patil sir. We all liked it very much.

Meisen school visit-

On 20th may, we travelled from berlin to meisen for the school visit. We were going to visit school at meisen. On the meisen railway station we met savita ma'am's friend-mohini gupte, the student of meisen school. She showed us the way of her school.

The school is very large and huge and surrounded by too many trees. First we went in one hall where all the students were gathered. Everyone was looking at us curiously. There were students from other countries too. Mohini introduced us. Then all the students went for their lectures. We also attended one lecture. There we could experience the educational system, teaching method. The class was having very few students and it was very interactive. I personally liked the teaching method.

Then we went in the school's canteen. There we had a tasty breakfast. After that mohini's friend showed us the whole school. We were watching each and every part of school and he was giving very detailed information about everything. We visited library, basketball court, music room, drawing room, etc. School was well planned and was very clean. After visitng all the school, we went in a classroom. There we saw a presentation made by one student and interacted with those students. The interaction talk was very nice. We could know more about germany;

we told them more about india. Then we had a fantastic lunch with mohini.

Now it was our turn to tell german students about india. So according to our planning we were going to give ppts on indian music, dance forms, festivals, states, stereotypes, cuisine and handwriting analysis. So we gave presentations. We also performed songs. Rajashri dhongde performed kattrak dance. At the end of the programme savita ma'am played nice song on mouth organ. After completing the programme we offered them gifts like earrings, keychains of warli paintings. so we all enjoyed this school visit.

Peeyusha diwan.

AND THE JOURNEY BEGAN....

One of the best experiences of my life until now. I never knew how it would feel stepping on to country so beautiful. Frankfurt our first place in Europe. The journey began when all 14 of us geared up for the most upcoming tour to the best country- GERMANY. We reached at the Pune airport early in the morning at 5:30 am, too early isn't it?

But the excitement within us kept us on our toes all night long, I am sure none of us slept that night.

The Air India flight was very comfortable- all our meals were managed well.

D Day had finally arrived!

To our surprise my luggage did not arrive at Frankfurt. Due to some negligence of the Air India Employee it was marked only till Delhi, so yes a big mess was already created!

Another country, No clothes, Hardly any money! But this gave me another experience of managing on my own!

Of course I did feel miserable to repeat my clothes, so first 2 days I have photos in the same top.

Upon requesting one of the german attendant at the airport, after giving them details of our lost luggage, he assured us we would receive it at our hotel within 2 days. I took it positively!

And to my surprise within 24 hours my luggage had made it! All thanks to the attendant. We were prepared to keep calm because panic wouldn't make it reach us earlier!

We reached Mannheim from Frankfurt and enjoyed the scenic beauty we viewed from our hotel- Park inn by Radisson.

MANNHEIM- HEIDELBERG- APOTHEKE MUSEUM

On 13TH from Frankfurt we left for Mannheim via

Metro which was present right below the Frankfurt Airport.

I felt lucky! Why? Because my luggage was lost and I didn't have to carry anything! yayy!

Park inn by Radisson- was the name of our hotel in Mannheim. Our room had such an amazing view. The cold, misty weather, tiny rain drops all night long; we stood at our window looking out at something really beautiful. No horn, very few vehicles, of course the best vehicles we saw, few people and so silent and so warm!

That moment I knew this is the place! This is the place where I want to live, the most pleasant one. I was scared to be EUROPE SICK once I would be home, I started counting days remaining to enjoy its beauty, didn't wanna come back certainly. But that's normally what you feel once you're in there.

Next day early in the morning we left for Heidelberg, via the S- Bahn.

First experience of travelling on our own in an S-Bahn. Travelling was never so comfortable. I enjoyed the scenic beauty while we reached Heidelberg.

Heidelberg Schloss- Schloss is a castle in German. I felt castles are only visualized in fairy tales, but evidencing an actual castle was interesting. We went up to the castle via a rope way. Fantastic? Isn't it?

The castle was huge, the architecture was commendable.

Heidelberg University Visit

Heidelberg, die Universitätsstadt am Neckar

One of the oldest universities in the World founded in 1386. Many of the great minds have come to Heidelberg for academic pursuits, arts, sciences etc...

Located in the heart of the city Heidelberg, such a beauty!

Upon visiting we couldn't believe that a university can be sooooo beautiful! I yet feel that I am dreaming.

Student to faculty ratio is 16:1

We were led by a very interesting lady who was our guide. She made even history sound interesting to us. We started with the section of Arts, went up to the student prison. A very rare concept heard by us.

Yes a student prison!

The University of Heidelberg has a long tradition as a center of learning, but students at the 500-year-old uni have often taken the view that "All work and no play makes Hans a dull boy." As long ago as the 16th Century, citizen complaints about carous-

ing students led the university to open a Studentenkärzer, or Student Prison, where academic miscreants were kept off the streets for three days to four weeks at a time.

Over the centuries, the University of Heidelberg's Student Prison was moved several times, and it finally closed down in 1914. Today, that prison—with its original fixtures and graffiti—offers a glimpse into student life at the University of Heidelberg before World War I.

You enter the Studentenkärzer on Augustinergasse, around the corner from the Alte Universität, which was begun in 1712 and houses the University Museum. As you head the rickety stairs, you'll see student prisoners' graffiti everywhere: on walls, above the doors, and even on the ceiling.

APOTHEKE MUSEUM.

It is a pharmacy, being from a medical background this visit was helpful for me. The German Pharmacy Museum's collection of over 20,000 objects representing the rich history of medical sciences, especially the history of pharmacy. We saw the equipment in which the drug ASPIRIN was made.

The Apotheke Museum gave us information on how medicines were made in earlier centuries (16th or 17th century).

The raw materials like plant herbs, minerals, chemicals etc... were mostly brought from distant places. One thing that I observed there was- the evolution of Ayurvedic raw material like to Homeopathic tinctures, and finally to chemicals like calcium carbonate etc... This image on the left shows the involvement of ayurvedic drugs- namely tamarind, pomegranate and many more.

Connected to this section came another section where twigs, roots, and barks were displayed which shows the systematic evolution of medicine.

The equipment which was used at that time, quite similar to what we use in Ayurveda in India. Ayurveda is a science originated in India almost 5000 years ago. This shows its peculiarity and credibility. A proud moment for me at that time.

Loved the visit a lot, very helpful too.

VISIT TO HEILBRONN- A VILLAGE IN GERMANY

From Heidelberg we headed towards Heilbronn via a Metro. Mr Peter came especially to guide us

and help us take an amazing tour in his village. He was a warm and a friendly gentleman who took out his precious time to make our visit worth.

The town of Heilbronn is situated between the conurbations of Stuttgart and Heidelberg/Mannheim/Ludwigshafen in the beautiful scenery of the Neckar valley.

We were briefed about the village, its people, the railway connections and its development. We all were stunned to see a village like Heilbronn, It was even better than a city in Germany, with all possible facilities, warm environment, loved the scenic beauty there.

We saw the statue to Robert Mayer, 1814 – 1878 (Law of the Conservation of Energy).

Then we went to the Kilian's Church with the famous high altar by Hans Seyfer (1498) and the tower, completed by Hans Schweiner in 1529. The church was different than the regular churches we see. The top most section of the church didn't have a Cross.

An important, predominantly Gothic church building with a remarkable west tower completed by Hans Schweiner in 1529. **The west tower** is of importance from an art-historical point of view, since it is believed to be one of the first buildings north of the Alps featuring Renaissance elements. The range of sculptures of this tower dates back to the Reformation period and is considered to be both extraordinary and significant. The figure at the top of the church's spire, affectionately called "Männle" or "little man" by locals, is regarded as unique.

The 2.32m (7ft) tall sculpture shows an armed citizen holding a broad sword and a standard bearing the city's coat of arms.

The original used to sit at the very top of the steeple until the end of the 19th century. The sculpture, created in 1529 by master builder **Hans Schweiner**, is today on display inside the city hall.

At the heart of the late Gothic hall choir, which is considered a Gesamtkunstwerk (total work of art) and was finished in 1487 by renowned artist-craftsmen, you may find the **famous carved altar by Hans Seyfer**, completed in 1498.

Its sculptures, skillfully crafted out of lime wood, survived World War II safely stored away in the Bad Friedrichshall salt mines. (source- internet).

We heard an amazing jazz band playing at the church the moment we entered.

On our way to the love locks in Heilbronn we saw Mallards and a wedding party like a female bachelor's party at the river going on. Quite fascinating it was.

Love locks is an interesting concept in Europe,

we saw a mini version of it in Heilbronn, here lovers carve their names on locks and put it across the borders of these rivers. It is a mark of love.

By Malvika Mehta

Meine Erfahrung nach Deutschland

Deutschland ist mein Traumland. Schließlich reiste ich nach Deutschland für eine Studienreise mit Frau Savita Kelkar. Sie ist ein ausgezeichnete Mentor. Sie gab uns die Möglichkeit zu reisen.

Unsere Orientierungsveranstaltungen vor der Reise haben uns geholfen, Deutschland in einer besseren Kultur und Art zu verstehen.

Ich hatte die Gelegenheit, in Deutsch zu sprechen und meine Sprache zu verbessern.

Wir fuhren nach vielen Orten wie- Frankfurt, Mannheim, Heidelberg, Heilbronn- das Dorf, vielen Kirchen, Berlin- dem Brandenburger Tor, dem Berliner Platz, Friedrichshafen, Oesterreich, Bodensee-Konstanz, Amsterdam, Prague und Frankreich. Am besten war Berlin. Sie ist eine schöne Stadt. Die Leute da sind sympathisch und hilfsbereit. Das Wetter war sehr kalt aber sehr bequem. Ich wünsche mir in Deutschland weiter zu studieren.

Diese Tagen waren die besten Tage meines Lebens.

Danke!

Meissen School Visit

Our tour started on 13th May from Pune. We had flight from Pune to Delhi and from Delhi to Frankfurt. We reached Frankfurt around 6.00 pm. On 13th night we stayed in Mannheim. Next day we visited Heidelberg and Heilbronn. Further we went to Triberg Waterfall in Blackforest, Lake Constance, Pfaender Mountain, Prague in Czech Republic.

From Prague we went to Dresden and had a halt in Hotel Achat. We transferred early morning to Meissen for a school visit by train. Before going for school visit our schedule was planned like to attend morning assembly, lectures and present power point presentations on various subjects on India. As we had to perform ppt everyone was stressed and preparing for presentation. It was half an hour journey from Meissen to Dresden. A girl named Mohini was to guide us for whole day. We reached Meissen at 7.00 o' clock. Meissen was not a proper village and also not a proper city, it was the mixture of both of them. It had a feel like village but the development like city.

We were in the school named Sankt Afra at sharp 7.25 am for assembly. The assembly hall was

huge with the stage in front, projector for presentations and many more. The morning assembly involved presentation of latest news by students, presentation on any topic by students or the teachers selected by their own. One thing was weird that there was no prayer conducted in assembly. The whole assembly was conducted in German language hence I was blank. It was good part of assembly that students get the chance to perform on stage which increases their stage daring. After assembly we attended English lectures with the students of grade 7th. The classroom was full of lights. The benches in the classroom were arranged in rectangular shape around teacher. In the English lecture we learnt how to use sentences with different tenses. What I noticed is that the teacher and the students were really free. As we had not eaten since the morning we were very hungry. We had breakfast at around 9.30 am in school mess. The breakfast had the same food items as that in other parts of Germany but it was good and healthy.

In the school mess, Mohini introduced us to a boy from 11th standard who was going to guide us for the next 2 hours about information about school. Although he was in 11th grade he was looking much bigger than us. We started listening to him right from he started explaining about main school building then music class, arts department, library, basketball court, school boarding, etc. The library was huge. The boarding was amazing with all the facilities. Then we had a theology class to attend. The power point was presented on the topic 'Who was George?'. The lecture was really boring. All were feeling sleepy at that time.

After the ppt we had lunch in school mess. It was good. Then we performed the ppts on the various themes on India like Indian stereotypes, Indian culture, etc. Kelkar ma'am presented a song on a musical instrument. After that we had boarded a train to Dresden. The school visit was amazing I enjoyed it. It was very helpful to understand the education system in Germany.

Thank you.

Samkit Kakaria

SCHOOL VISIT AT MEISSEN

Dt. 20th May, 2016.

We were currently staying at Hotel 'Achat', which was really 'Achat' i.e. was awesome. At that time, we were in Dresden. We were going to visit a German school, which was in Meissen. The school was going to start at 9.20 a.m., so we were in a hurry. Without taking our breakfast, we left for Meissen at 7 a.m.

We were excited for visiting the school, as we were going to know something new, which was going to be our best time. At HauptBahnhof of Meissen, we met with an Indian friend 'Mohini', who was herself a student of that school. She headed us to the school. The school was on top of a hill. At first, we thought that we were climbing a small fort, as it was a footway to the school. As soon as we reached at the top, we all were amazed by looking at the huge, beautiful and old school buildings. The school surroundings were very clean and mind refreshing. We went to the assembly hall, for the assembly. There, some of the students had to give new information and incidents happening all over the world, etc. and then, a sir came up and gave his presentation. The assembly was about 20-25 minutes. Then, we went to attend an English lecture. The classrooms were very nice. They had a 'U' shaped sitting arrangement and the teacher used to stand in middle and conduct the lecture. The blackboard was sliding up and down, and had a separate section for Mathematics. It was really cool. We were sitting beside students of age 12-15 years. They all were in level 7. My partner's name was Danny. The lecture was very interactive and all were very frank to each other. After that, we had our breakfast in the canteen, which was very healthy and tasty. Then we met a guy, named Benedict. He showed us the whole school, their hostel and rooms, sports place, library. Then, he took us to the computer lab, which had all 'Apple' computers. The school was full of trees and greenery. By 11 am, we had to attend another lecture, which was of Theology. It was slightly boring for us, might be because we had woken up early in morning and were tired. We had an interactive session with the students of level 11. Their professor showed us the video of 'Haka' dance, which was played every time by one of the Rugby team before their match. Then we all went to canteen for lunch. All were very punctual and disciplined. We all went to room for our presentations for all the German students. We were very nervous. But, it went all good. Rajashri, our friend, she performed a Kathak dance in front of all. The students were amazed. Then, we sung 'Manache Shlok' and a song in Hindi, English and German. We had also brought some gifts for them such as ear rings, key chains, etc. We had a great time with them. Then, we left for HauptBahnhof at 4.30 p.m. as we had to catch a train for Berlin. We took some photos with Benedict and all other professors.

We enjoyed a lot and had a great experience.

-By Yashvardhan & Vaishanvi Kanherkar

VISIT TO THE PFAENDER MOUNTAIN AND COSTANCE LAKE !!!!!!!!!

Dt: 16th M AY2016

It was around 6:00 am early in the morning when I woke up. We all had a sound sleep the last night because our tummy was full with the tasty chole and roti. As I peeped outside the window I was shocked to see that it was drizzling outside with a cloudy weather. The roads were wet and lots of cars rushing with their wipers going up and down. And one by one all the umbrellas and the raincoats came out .

We checked out of the hotel at 8:00 am and left for '*Pfaender*' Mountain. We reached at the top by a cable car and the scene while heading towards the top was totally breath – taking. The view of the CONSTANCE LAKE and the ALPS left each one with a big OOOHHHH.....!!! At the top there were two shops and a restaurant .We were given one hour to see the zoo. The zoo was quite big to see but we took a semicircular round and came up. And the most ... memorable thing is that we had a great 5 minutes experience of snowfall. While leaving the zoo a chocolate shop came under our eye sight and then all of us rushed towards it and bought some chocolates. I with my two friends Rajashree and Devashree had a strawberry ice-cream in that 2-3 degree snowy and extremely cold weather with our nose continuous running which was extremely chilling. Around 3-4 pm we came down the mountain by the same cable car.

Now we were supposed to leave for *Friedrichshafen*. We all were excited when we came to know that we are going to travel by *Katamaran* [ship] in the Constance Lake. As we got in there were four men to check our tickets and welcome us. It had two floors in which the first one was for the people to sit and the second had a restaurant. But we all rushed to the top floor which was open to the sky and this view of ALPS MOUNTAIN around the Constance lake left me and my friends speechless. Then we all got busy in clicking selfies and group photos. The chairs kept up were wet because it was still drizzling and so we went down to the restaurant thinking of hot coffee or tea. The cappuccino over there was amazing and it just blew away our cold and we all got refreshed . Then we just had a talk about the zoo and the lake ,some of our friends cracked jokes and we had a jolly time. Almost after two hours we reached Friedrichshafen and slowly the clouds dispersed turning the weather little bit sunny. It was a journey of about two hours but when these two hours flew away nobody came to know. We caught a bus and then reached the railway sta-

tion. We took our luggage, kept it in the locker at the station and then caught a train for Bierbach. After reaching Bierbach we took taxi and reached 'Youth Hostel'. There we had an experience of German dinner and also enjoyed playing basketball in rain. There was a room for games like Table-tennis and football. We even tried playing those games and before sleeping we all played cards. At 10:30 pm we rushed to our rooms and went off to sleep. That day we were too tired due to basketball and many other things, but the whole day was really pretty cool, full of masti and we all had a great time !!!!!!!!

-Vaishnavi Kanherkar

Stuttgart, Black Forest and Triberg

Waterfall

On 15th May, we woke up at 6am. Outside weather was cloudy and was drizzling slightly. We were ready by 7am. Then we took our breakfast and left for Stuttgart Hauptbahnhof.

We caught our train to Black Forest. In train we played cards and UNO and enjoyed a lot. We also had 'Poha' in train. In between, Shraddha dropped some of her 'Poha' from her plate. But she somehow managed to pick it up and was trying to hide from Savita Mam. Our journey was for about 2 hours. When we got down at Black forest, all was full of greenery and beautiful flowers. There, we saw 'Butterfly' shaped flowers. The place was slightly crowded. All around, there were Coffee shops and hotels. Then, we took a taxi and directly went to the Black forest Cake shop. The roads were very nice and clean. The surrounding area was full of mountains and valleys covered with 'Coniferous' trees. Near the cake shop, there was a big clock which gives alarm after every 6 hours. Fortunately, we were there at 12 pm and had a lot of fun in watching all those characters revolving around. Then, we went inside the Black forest cake shop and we saw how to make the famous Black forest cake. It was awesome. We had a piece of that cake and got into our taxi again.

By 2 pm, we came back to the station and took a train to Triberg. The tourist attraction in Triberg, is the Triberg Waterfall, which is the Germany's highest waterfall. There, we met Konstanz and his son Ben. We played Football with Ben for some time. That day, they were going to be our guide. It was Sunday and all the transportation facilities were not available. So, he took us in his car to the foot of the waterfall. As we were heading towards the waterfall, the temperature was falling. It was about 7-8 degree Celsius, too cold. Then we went inside and had a look at the highest waterfall in Germany. We

just kept looking at it, as it was awesome. Tiny water droplets were falling on our face and hands, which was really cool. We took lots of Selfies and had a group photo with Konstanz and Ben. While returning, we took a mini train which was just like a train in Fun Fair.

By 5 p.m., we were back to the station. We returned to Stuttgart by a train from Triberg. We had a halt at Hotel Mack, a 3 star hotel. For dinner, we had 'Chole and Chapati', an Indian dish. That day, we had a nice sleep. We were too tired, but the whole day was just like pretty time in 'Heaven'.

-Yashvardhan Kanherkar

Pfaender Mountain

After leaving our hotel, we left for the train station to get to Pfaender mountain in Austria. Train rides had become sort of routine even though we'd just travelled for 2 days. Like always, we played a few rounds of cards, made small talks and watched the scenery passing by.

On the way, we met a young woman named Monica who was travelling in our train. We had a short conversation with her while we waited for our stop to arrive. She seemed genuinely curious about our life and we about hers. We talked about the weather, about the greenery in the country, about the people, about our own tour. The funny part was that when we were talking about occupations, it turns out that German women aren't very inclined towards the field of engineering. A great surprise to Indians, where thousands of women engineers roll out of the country every year. When we told her how the Humanities and Arts fields weren't appreciated much in India, she was equally surprised.

Once we neared our destination, we were immediately greeted with a huge water body – Bodensee Lake, the second largest lake in Europe. The lake was amazing – sparkling under the barely present sunlight, bright blue, making small ripples across the surface with the winds. The fact that we'd entered a different country was also very exciting, though we could barely see the difference.

Once we got out of the train, we started towards Pfaender mountain. The walk till the lobby of Pfaender was a pleasant one. The weather was cool, the winds quiet and the streets shady – a post-rain effect. All in all, it was a great day for a late morning walk. The streets we were walking on were almost empty, bringing out the quiet rustle of wet leaves, the chirping of birds and the low whistle of the winds in perfect clarity.

Soon the building came into view and we got a glimpse of where we were heading. Behind the building, Pfaender mountain extended in its green glory,

dense with a coniferous forest, dotted with the occasional bungalow. While we waited for Mayuresh sir to get the tickets, we wandered around, taking photos and selfies, laughing around.

I saw several people making their way towards a smaller block where they seemed to be washing their shoes. On closer inspection, it seemed as if they had just come back from a muddy trek. Eager to know more, I asked a man waiting there about the trek. Unfortunately, he didn't seem to understand much English, so after he pointed to the mountain and mimed walking, I just nodded and thanked him. Apparently, Pfaender mountain was a great trekking destination, judging from the sheer number of people with rucksacks and hiking sticks in their hands.

Once Mayuresh sir had brought the tickets, we made our way inside to the waiting area where the cable car would come to receive us. Luckily for us, we were pretty much the only ones there so we immediately stood in front of the glass doors in order to get a good view on the way up. The car came, the passengers got out and exited from a separate path and we stood there excitedly, waiting for the doors to open for us. We waited and waited. In those 15 minutes of waiting the only thing I could discover was that Pfaender mountain was 1064 m. high and that it was 'The Mountain of Bodensee'.

Finally, as the glass doors slid open, we rushed in and secured our places near the back of the car, from where we could get an explicit view of the lake and the country, or as clear as it could get with the rain drops settling on the glass. Going up was a great experience, with the growing height and the extending landscapes. Photos were blurry due to the unclear glass but the view was breathtaking.

When we reached the top, we entered another room before heading out.

It was cold.

Immediately, the mufflers and gloves came out, jackets were zipped up and hands rammed into our pockets. Just as we'd begun to appreciate the view, it started snowing and everything became a hundred times better. It wasn't much - tiny, miniscule flakes floated across the sky, melting before they could reach the ground. Nevertheless, just the sight of the unexpected snow was amazing. We stood there for a few minutes, taking pictures, standing at the ledge while taking in the view of the city below us.

After several minutes of our photo sessions, Savita ma'am and Mayuresh sir pointed towards the zoo and told us to come back in an hour or so. And so began our venture into the wildlife at an el-

evated zoo in Austria.

The zoo, considering that we were supposed to see animals was a bit disappointing, though that wasn't anyone's fault. After the sudden change in temperatures, the animals had taken up shelter in their sheds, leaving almost empty fields to look at. The few animals we were able to see, from the deer species, were majestic and beautiful. Their fur was thick and coarse, immediately making them look plumper and healthier than the sleeker species we find in the forests of India.

While we couldn't see much of the animals and their names were left to guessing due to the only-German signs, the rest of the tour was definitely memorable. After a small scare of Vaishnavi losing her phone (it was in her pocket the whole time), we started walking around, taking group photos wherever we saw a nice background, which was almost everywhere. The entire zoo was situated on a slope, so while there was a steep slope while coming down, we had an equally difficult time while climbing back up. At one point, once we were back at the top, Yash informed us that the landform in front of us was Austria. The one to the right of the lake was Germany and behind us was Switzerland. The fact that we were currently standing between three countries felt somehow empowering.

After meeting up with Mayuresh sir, we discovered that temperature had dropped down to 3°C. Funnily enough, we barely felt the cold. We then went to a small shop where we had a nice, hot cup of coffee. In a sudden sense of adventurism, we decided to have a cone of ice cream too. A cold treat on an even colder day. Perfect.

After another half an hour of loitering, we made our way back to the building, and waited for the cable car to come in. In heightened spirits, from both the ice cream and the beauty of the place, we descended back down Pfaender mountain.

Rajashree Dhongde

A Mini-Munich Adventure

On a cold and cloudy May morning in Biberach I stood outside a youth hostel waiting for the Taxi. I absently tried to crunch a non-crunchy leaf as a few stray drops of the morning's rain made their way down a pine leaf on to my head. The taxi arrived and I spoke to the driver in the broken German I had picked up or remembered. As he drove me to the train station I looked out of the window without seeing anything as I nervously planned my day. And thus began my mini-adventure in a foreign country.

I am almost 26 now and it's sad that I hadn't really experienced this before. I mean I've lived in

Mumbai so I am hardly a stranger to public transport. I've also travelled on my own within India too, in Hyderabad and Pondicherry. In fact I feel the most at ease when I am travelling by myself. I hate groups as a rule and there is a certain amount of serenity that travelling alone brings that I was enjoying even on that lovely day. I could do my own thing at my own pace without worrying about the world.

But when it comes to life experiences I felt like I was really lacking. First of all, 12th Grade German gets forgotten very easily if you fail to keep practicing so the instructions everywhere might as well have been Greek or Latin to me. Secondly, this was my first time travelling alone in another continent. Whatever they say about global villages, travelling alone in Germany can be daunting.

I fumbled through the ticket buying process at an automated machine. Biberach is a very small town so I would have to take a train to Ulm which is a larger station. From Ulm I would go to Munich to meet my friend, Bharat. The person waiting to buy his own tickets next to me let out a sigh as I kept pressing on the wrong part of the screen and starting over. After what seemed like a small eternity I heard the whirr of the printing of the machine with a flooding sense of relief. It's always nice to not feel completely incompetent and by the time my change slowly trickled down into the slot I was feeling positively Euphoric with a sense of accomplishment. So far. So good.

As the man behind me began his own struggle for his tickets to Eden or wherever I took the subway to reach the other side of the station where my train would be arriving in 12 minutes. There was already a train waiting there that was going to Ulm but it wasn't the same number as the one I had seen on the Deutsch Bahn website so I let that one go and I stood on the cold windy platform. I could feel a few stares on me, which isn't uncommon these days in Germany if you are an Indian. Thinking of the complex politics of it all and using my broken German to confirm the correct train, I was finally on my way to Ulm in the IRE 4222 to Stuttgart.

Luckily, my next train or "connection" was 5 minutes late and I knew I would have a good 20 minutes to make the transfer to EC 217 heading to Graz that would take me to Munchen. It was only after I was on the second train to Munich that I finally relaxed a little bit and began to enjoy the scenery. I sat on a lone chair in the bicycle hold compartment and looked out at the surprisingly green countryside as the train sped across cities. When the TC arrived I handed my ticket to him almost a bit too enthusiastically as if he were validating my exist-

ence itself as he punched a hole through a ticket. 42 Euros, that's how much money I had spent till then on this experience. Worth every bit. I thanked the spirit of Douglas Adams for having made the trip without any major glitches.

I got off at Munich Hauptbahnhof, that reminded me vaguely of CST if CST were to be 80% less crowded which it never is. My friend's train was late so I decided to have my first cup of the bitter German Coffee. "Einen Kaffee, bitte" I had this spiel down pat having observed people do it in the past few days. Sipping the hot brown liquid I waited for my friend's train from Ingolstadt to reach Platform 22. I almost didn't see him approaching in my nervousness as I watched the people go about their commutes.

It's such a lovely feeling to see a familiar face in a strange land. The relief and the comfort of meeting an old friend in the alien place in not explainable in words. Besides it also helps that my friend knew the place and its etiquettes well. As we left the station I left my anxieties with it chatting happily about my trip so far. Since we hadn't met in quite a while we had a lot to catch up on.

I noticed the high rises of Munich as we walked past the busy streets. All the high rises in the world seem to look the same. They have very little character really. The steely grey mirrors of the windows and the ghastly palor of concrete is so uniform it hurts. But once in a while in Munich, as in many places you see a random old building. This building could be from any decade the 40s, the 50s the 70s and they are not all pretty but they have a history and it is these buildings that told me the story of a town that has resisted the onslaught of the standard and the boring. They creep up on you and they delight you with their charm.

I read only later that resistance is Munich's essence as it was the base of a Student's Resistance movement called the White Rose right before the end of the World War too. How one wishes one knows these things about a place while actually standing in it! It adds so much to its experience. It also suffered heavily in the war itself being a major state capital. To add to it, its American occupation has definitely contributed to its very standard looks but the pre-war city outline remains. It resists modernity in the best ways.

Perhaps the best example of the resistance of banality is its lovely old city where no vehicles are allowed. This is where we went to next. Rebuilt from the ruins the city center has its town hall and square like all German towns where we saw the small farmers market since it was a Wednesday. You'd think

that a big busy city would not lend charm to an insignificant place like this but Munich does. The town hall which is incidentally new townhall (the old town hall is in not far from it, as I learned later) already has an eerie feel to it, that coupled with the gloomy weather gave it a rather formidable look.

The grey skies yielded just a bit as we walked the alternating stone and tar pathways to visit the Frauenkirche, a lovely brick structure. I am not a religious person but places of worship do sometimes give me a sense of calmness especially when there are no pressures to pray or feel a certain way. This was even more intense in Munich. Both the churches I visited Peterskirche and this one had that effect of familiarity on me. My theory is that these places are spaces where people come to with so much hope and faith that they leave a little bit of spirituality behind with them. I learned only later that Munich is named after the monks that settled in the place first and this spirituality is associated with it anyway.

The next brief stop was the Hunting and Fishing museum where we couldn't spend any time but it is a study in what people value and keep in a museum! The Bayerish have this aura of masculinity and power around them that reflects in these spaces. Mind you, not all our experiences with the Bayerish were good but on that day I couldn't help but smile at strangers as if for the first time I could understand their thought process.

Finally, I was time to eat, drink and make merry and we chose the Hofbrauhaus because going to Germany and not sampling the famous Munich beer would have been a real shame! The atmosphere in this place was absolutely electric! A live band played upbeat folk music and women in their typical costumes walked around selling giant pretzels which we bought to go with our cheesy plate of Obazda which is just soft cheese spiced with cumin onion and some other spices and two massive glasses of Hofbrau Original. The jovial atmosphere was in stark contrast with the cold and almost unwelcoming everyday interactions I'd had in the country before. It's true, being in a country and not visiting its eateries is a complete waste of time. It is in these places where the real cross-cultural experiences are to be had. One need not change one's entire diet for it. You can always find a little something you like. But you'll never learn till you try.

After a lovely meal we rushed back to the town square for a walking tour of the city center. This was one of the many highlights of the short day. Almost every city in Europe, I am told, has these free walking tours in a host of languages. Even though it says "free" one is always expected to tip and people tip

anywhere between 2 and 50 euros depending upon their social standing and perhaps drunkenness. We had already decided we'd tip 10 Euros and this tour was worth every penny.

The tour guide was a very funny American who had a German wife. He gave us the history of each place without boring us out of our wits, joking about the lederhosen and stereotypes as well as the political differences in each state. This was a real learning experience. We not only got to see the place but got to know it. This gentleman seemingly had an anecdote whether real or contrived about every stone in the city.

As the tour guide was leading us through a crowded shopping area with everyone buying and sampling the meats and various German delicacies, I got the call saying I had to return back to the base camp. With a heavy heart we thanked and payed the tour guide and left. I do regret never completing that tour but oh well, what can one do to a tight schedule!

We took the metro to Olympia Zentrum which is right opposite BMW Welt where the group was waiting. Even the metro ride was an experience. The train truly whizzes past everything with lightning speed so I had to hold on to the steel bars in the middle of the train lit by dim blue lights.

All in all, my lovely adventure filled me with both joy and confidence. If you are ever in a foreign land, I would really recommend talking time out for yourself. Every experiences is heightened and even right now I seem to remember every detail! Why not take a pause from a busy schedule and do something you like? Why not smell the proverbial roses, so to speak? Safety first, but the joys of making these little trips are manifold! Perhaps there is safety in numbers but solitude breeds character. I have become convinced of this through this experience. No matter where I go, I will go out of my way to take a breath and experience a place from solely my own perspective from time to time and I would highly recommend it!

Sai Abhyankar

EUROPE TOUR

Start up:

For studying and experiencing the different cultures of Europe, Savita ma'am had arranged a trip for students. According to tour plan we had to visit Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Netherlands, Belgium and France from 13th May 2016 to 25th May 2016. The formalities regarding passport, visa, ticket, etc. have been completed in April. We have been instructed that there might be rain and snowfall in some countries, so we also shopped for warm

clothes.

Mayuresh Kulkarni sir accompanied us from Germany to Paris. Yogesh Patil sir joined us in Amsterdam and travelled with us upto India. Savita Kelkar madam (our German teacher) was with us from Pune to Berlin. All were friendly with us and mixed up well in our group.

Our tour starts on 13th May from Pune airport and reached Frankfurt, Germany at night. On successive days, we travelled in Mannheim, Heidelberg, Heilbronn, Black forest, Stuttgart, Austria, Biberach, Hauzenburg, Prague, Dresden, Meissen, Berlin, Amsterdam and reached Paris on 23rd May night. We were very excited to explore Paris.

Paris tour:

After reaching at Paris, we went to our hotel, Campanile, in a metro. There was no elevator on the railway station so it was hard for all of us to carry luggage. In comparison to Germany railway station, Paris railway station was crowded and small. We shared our room with two partners. We took some rest in the hotel and then went to see the Eiffel Tower at night. We enjoyed lighting on the Eiffel Tower and clicked loads of photos. There we did some shopping and returned our hotel. As we travelled whole day, we felt so tired that we slept very early. Still some of us played card and eat Chikki and Chakali at night.

We got very interesting information about the Eiffel Tower. The Gustave Eiffel's company built the Eiffel Tower in 1889. the construction started in 28th January and completed in 15th March 1889. The tower is 324 meters (1,063 ft) tall, its base is square, measuring 125 meters (410 ft) on each side. The puddle iron (wrought iron) of the Eifel Tower weight 7,300 tons and the addition of lights, shops and antennae have brought the total weight to approximately 10,000 tons. It was initially criticized by some of France leading artists and intellectuals for its design, but it has become a global cultural icon of France and one of the most recognizable structures in the world also the Eiffel Tower is the most visited monuments in the world.

On 24th May, we woke up early in the morning and went to see the Arc de Triomphe (Paris gate). It is one of the most famous monuments in Paris, built in 1938. It stands in the centre of the place Charles de Gaulle. Its height is 50 meters (164 ft), width is 45 meter (148 ft) and depth is 22 meters. (75 ft) This honors those who fought and died for France in the French revolution and the Napoleonic wars, with the names of all French viceroys and generals inscribed on its inner and outer surface.

Then we visited Notre Dame, also known as

Notre dame Cathedral. There we saw church and the statues of Jesus Christ also read the information of Notre Dame. Over 800 years old Gothic a masterpiece of architecture, it is among the largest and most well known church in the world. It lies at the eastern end of the 'Ile de la' city and was built on the ruins of two earlier churches, which were themselves predated by a Gallo Roman temple Dedicate to Jupiter. The cathedral was initiated by Maurice de sully. Bishop of Paris, who about 1160 conceived the idea of converting into a single building, on a larger scale, the foundation stone was laid by Pope Alexander three, in 1163. the choir the western façade and the nave were completed by 1250, and porches were added over the next 100 years. This construction completed in 1345.

Then again, we went to the Eiffel Tower. This time we went upto 2nd floor of the Eiffel Tower through lift. There we clicked lot of photos and enjoyed the spectacle view of Paris. We came down through the steps. While enjoying city ride in Paris we saw their lifestyle, fashion, transport, culture and climate. In the Afternoon we had South Indian Dishes. After seeing the Eiffel tower we went to our hotel for taking luggage and reached at Paris airport by bus. In the comparison of Pune, Delhi, Frankfurt, Berlin and Amsterdam airports, Paris airport is enormous. There we bought some chocolates and travelled by a plane from Paris to Delhi.

-Sayali Muthekar

AMSTERDAM VISIT

22 May, 2016

Ahh finally we were going to visit Amsterdam and the most important cheese factory. That night we stayed in Berlin in a youth hostel. Next day we have to go to Amsterdam. We have to go by flight from Berlin to Amsterdam. We were so tired so we slept immediately. Because we have to be ready by 4 am in morning. So I woke up early in the morning and we were ready to take our flight. We took our entire luggage and rushed to the train station i.e.HauptBahnhof. Then we caught our train to the airport. As soon as we reached the airport we checked in and left for boarding. The airport was so huge and clean. It was well maintained and disciplined. I liked that airport very much.

As soon as we reached the Amsterdam airport it was really very cool. It was raining there and the atmosphere was so pleasant and cool. Then we collected our luggage and went for hotel check in. We checked in in the hotel, kept our luggage in luggage room and left to visit cheese factory. We caught a bus to go to cheese factory. After reaching

there, we were able to experience the awesome smell of cheese. I was so excited to see the cheese factory.

Outside the factory there was some funny stuff. We enjoyed a lot there. We put our faces in the posters which were outside the factory. We clicked so many funny photos and enjoyed a lot. Then finally we entered the cheese factory and the smell I felt was awesome. I can remember that smell even right now. We met a lady there; she was owner of that factory. She was really very funny and enthusiastic. She welcomed us and took us to show some demonstrations.

The lady showed us the process of making cheese. She told different types of cheese and also made us taste the cheese. She told us all the procedure, and the taste of cheese was awesome. After we were done with cheese, the lady handed our group to a guy. He was also very funny and nice. He showed us the wooden shoes store. He told us the procedure of making wooden shoes and demonstrated in front of us also. That was pretty cool. He was really very interactive.

Then we entered the shop which was there only. There were kept some wooden shoes of bigger size. They were creative as well as huge. We just put our legs in it and clicked some cool photos. There were too many shoes of every size. They were present in huge size as well as minute size. There were also different key chains of shoes of very small size. Everything present there was so creative and fantastic.

After that there was some wine kept for tasting. That was red wine. We tasted that wine and it was an awesome experience. The wine was tasty. After wine tasting we went for cheese shopping. There were kept too many types of cheese. Those cheese types were really very nice and tasty of course. I tasted some types and decided to take some cheese home. I took to cheese blocks of different types which I liked the most. Then everyone shopped cheese for themselves. After we were done with shopping, we came out of factory. We clicked some group photos there. We enjoyed a lot there, clicked some funny and interesting photos and then rushed to catch the bus.

Then we took a bus to go to our hotel. We were so hungry so we took our food with us and left for the hotel. It was raining but we enjoyed the environment. After reaching hotel we collected our luggage and went to our respective rooms. Then we rested for some time and again we got ready to go outside. It was still raining and we went to visit the famous 'Dam square' in Amsterdam. That was fan-

tastic. The constructions and building around that square were beautiful. The environment was full of freshness, greenery and some cold. It was too pleasant. Then we just walked around some places and the feeling was quite nice.

Then again we came to our hotel for dinner. The dinner was made by our mentors i.e. Yogesh sir and Mayuresh sir. They have made an Indian dish 'Pav Bhaji' for us. It was very tasty. We took our dinner with the co-ordinators. They were really very nice by nature during whole tour. After taking dinner we went for a night walk. The rain was stopped but we were able feel the freshness. We just walked around our hotel for some time and came back. After coming back some of us tasted some ice-cream there which was awesome. It was a fascinating experience of eating ice-cream in such a cool weather. But it was too tasty.

After taking dinner and dessert we went to our respective rooms. Then we got freshen up and packed our bags. After completing all our packing we all gathered in a room. We played cards for some time there. We enjoyed with the whole group. After playing cards and done with all the enjoyment we went to bed. That was a really very fascinating, interesting and awesome. That day gave me a new exposure to my personality. It was worth remembering. It has gave a lifetime experience and memories with too much of awesomeness!!!

Shraddha Latpate

MEISEN SCHOOL VISIT

20th May, 2016

We woke up early in morning. We all were ready by 6 am in early morning. We all were wearing Indian costumes that day, that is girls were wearing Kurti n boys were wearing Kurta n pajamas. I was really very excited to visit the school. It was going to be a new and fascinating experience for me. I was actually feeling like a school student. That was an awesome feeling. Then we rushed towards the HauptBahnhof of Dresden. We were so excited that we left without taking breakfast. We took train to go to Meissen. I was preparing myself to present myself in front of them. As soon as we reached there we met an Indian friend of ours. Her name was 'Monika'. She was our guide for that day. She is a student of that school itself. The school was on top of a small hill. So we to went school by walking. It was a little bit tiring but as soon as we entered the school I forgot about everything. The school was very huge, attractive, beautiful and quiet also. I was excited but on the other hand I was feeling nervous also because we have to give presentations in front of all. Then we continued walking with our Indian

friend. Then we reached the assembly room to attend the assembly. The room was huge and well arranged. The assembly was of 15-20 minutes. It was interactive. It was conducted by some of the students. They were supposed to come in front of all and give some information about their respective topics. After the assembly we got divided into 2 groups to attend the lectures. I went with some of my friends to attend a English lecture. We sat with student of age 12-14 years. They are really very brave. The lecture has started and I was feeling like I am in my school. The classrooms were not so huge. The sitting arrangement was of 'U' shaped. The benches were arranged in 'U' shape so that teacher can interact with each and every student. The atmosphere was so pleasant. The school was full of greenery. We took some lessons in English lecture. After that we performed some activities in pairs. My partner's name was Sebastian and he was really very cool and brave. After that we gave a test also. All the teachers were so interactive. The atmosphere in classroom was so friendly. Everyone was frank with the professor and the professor was also very frank. The board system in the classroom was the best. I liked it the most. I enjoyed that lecture a lot. It was really very interesting. After the lecture we went for breakfast. We took breakfast in school canteen. All the procedure was nice and self-dependent. All students were supposed to take food by their own and after eating they have to clean their tables and arrange the chairs in disciplined manner also. After taking breakfast we went outside and met a guy whose name was Benedict. He was going to show us the whole school. He took us to the main building of the school and also told the historical background about it. He showed us whole school including hostels, library, sports area, school campus etc. The school was full of greenery and freshness. Our guide told us history of school, present condition of school and also future plans about school. After visiting all the school with guide we again went to attend another lecture. That lecture was of theology. A girl gave presentation on her chosen topic according to her subject. Then we had an interactive session with the students and professor. That was really very exciting and a new experience for me. I was feeling very confident at that time. After all the interacting sessions, the professor showed us a video of 'Hakka' dance form which was really very funny and powerful. Then we went to a classroom where we can give our presentations. Students gathered there at fixed time and we were ready to give presentations. I was feeling a little bit nervous at that time. Then we started to give our power point presentations. I gave presen-

tation on Indian festivals including Diwali, Holi, Navratri and Dussehra. All the presentations went good. Then we sung 'Manache Shlok' in Marathi as well as German. Then again we sung a Hindi song in Hindi, English and German language. Then we distributed some gift which I bought for them from India before going. I have taken earrings, anklets, keychain related to Indian culture for them. They liked those gifts very much. I distributed all gifts among them. After everything done we said goodbye to everyone and took leave after clicking some photos. Then we rushed to catch the train on time. We said goodbye to all our friends that we made on that day itself. We all enjoyed a lot at the school. We left that place with a fascinating lifetime experience.

ORIENTATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Orientation programmes were arranged before we went for our tour. All the programmes were arranged for us only. Kelkar ma'am has arranged lectures of different personalities for us. All the lectures were so interactive and interesting. Every person was there for a reason. Each and every person gave us too much of information which were useful for us during the whole tour. During the orientation programmes we were all supposed to introduce someone and give someone a vote of thanks. According to the plan I was supposed to give introduction of Mrs Rekha Palshikar ma'am. She gave us a presentation on political system in Germany. That was pretty good. It was full of knowledge. As I was supposed to give her introduction, I contacted her and asked her to mail her CV to me. She mailed me all her details. Her lecture was interesting as well as fascinating.

During programmes snacks and refreshments were arranged for us. We enjoyed all the refreshments too much. We had done different activities during the orientation as well. That gave us confident and taught us how to contact with unknown a person. Orientations helped us to prepare ourselves to present ourselves and our country in front of other country.

We were also supposed to design t-shirts for our group. We tried so hard for designing the t-shirt. But at last we decided the design. The design was a fusion of Indian flag and European flag. And between the there was a quote written – 'India Meets Europe'. That was looking pretty cool. Everyone liked the design. Then I took everyone's size and confirmed the design. Then I went to a shop where one can design t-shirts. I gave him all the design detail and sizes. I tried to perform my re-

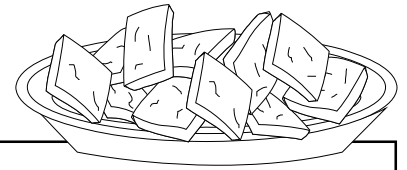
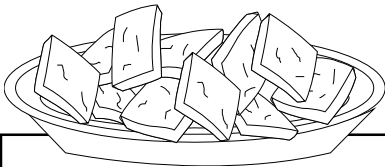
sponsibility very well. And the result was satisfying. Everyone liked the t-shirt too much. After that we all decided to wear those t-shirt at parliament house which we were going to visit in Berlin.

Then I was also supposed to take another responsibility and that was buying gifts for students of school which we were going to visit. As ma'am told me that the students like Indian jewellery, I decided to buy some traditional things for them. So I bought different earrings, anklets, rings, bangles, bracelets etc. for them. I bought keychain with traditional Indian 'Warli' painting on them. So I did too much of shopping for them. And we all distributed the gifts I bought in the school we visited in Meissen. Everyone liked the gifts. That time I felt really very satisfied.

Backing to the orientation, I want to say that all the persons I met during programmes are

too inspiring. They gave us lifetime information about European countries as well as our own country. The lectures were based on religions, political system, weather, discipline, family system, economic condition, cleanliness and too many things. I enjoyed all the orientation programmes a lot. Those programmes helped me to develop my confidence. All the programmes taught me how to represent myself in front of others. It helped me in personality development also. It also helped to build my personality also. All events gave a lifetime remembering experiences and memories. It was very fascinating. I enjoyed it a lot. Those events gave me the lessons worth remembering. And as I said all events helped me to build self-confidence and gave me lifetime memories.

Shraddha Latpate



Khavayyegiri

DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD ITEMS

Name of food item	Name of student	Quantity
Shankarpali	Vaishnavi	100 gm
Bhakarwadi	Yash	16 packets
Khakhra (masala)	Samkit	
Farsaan	Devshri	16 packets
Sev Bhujia	Muskaan	100 gm
Salted Peanuts	Aditya	
Puranpori (Chitale)	Peeyusha	16
Karanji	Shraddha	16
Tikhat pori	Rajashree	16
Satori (Chitale)	Sayali	
Gulpori	Saee	20
Bundi Ladoo	Vidhya	1 kg

Presentation & Demonstration by Rajashree Dhongade

Introduction

Name: Ms.Rajashree Dhongade

Education : 12th Passed With 2nd Year Graduation In Kathak Indian Classical Dances

1] Classical Dances Are Very Famous In Indian Culture.

2] Many Foreigners Wish To Come To India To Learn This Dance Forms.

3] There Are Seven Types Of Classical Dances Such As

[1] Kathak [2]kathakali [3] Manipuri [4] Bharatnatyam [5] Odisi

[6]mohiniattam [7]kuchipudi

Kathak Dance

* I Am Telling You More About Kathak Dance. ,known As Kathakars Or Storytellers.

* From The Sanskrit Word Katha Meaning "story And Kathak In Sanskrit Means "he Who Tells A Story " , Or To Do With Stories .

Information About Gharana [sections Of Kathak Dance]

• The Lucknow Gharana Of Kathak Dance Came Into Existance Mainly In The Court Of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah - The Ruler Of Awadh In The Early 19 Th Century

• The Lucknow Style Of Kathak Dance Is Characterized By Graceful Movements Elegance And Natural Poise With Dance , Abhinay Concern For Movements Shape And Creative Improvisations Are The Hallmarks Of This Style. Presently , Pt. Biraju Maharaj Is Considered The Chief Representative Of This Gharana.

• The Speciality Of Lucknow Gharana Is , • 1] Graceful Movements •2] That (with Different Poses) •3] Abhinay (expressions) • The Very Famous Kathak Dancer Of This Gharana Is Pt. Biraju Maharaj .

• The Speciality Of Jaipur Gharana Is • 1] Most Powerful Footwork • 2] Complicated & Technical Compositions Indifferent Talas. • 3] Big Parans

•The Very Famous Kathak Dancer Of This Gharana Is Pt. Rajendra Gangani Son Of Pt. Kundanlal Gangani • Banaras Gharana • Banaras Gharana Was Developed By Janakiprasad.

• The Speciality Of Banaras Gharana Is • 1] Different Types Of Thaata And Spins.

• 2] Very Soft Actions And Devotional Songs . •The Prominent Artist Of This Gharana Is Kathak Queen Sitara Devi. Information About Ghungharu : Ankel Bells

* Ghunghru are The Small Bells The Dancer Ties Around His / Her Ankles. The Kathak Bells Are Different From Those Of Other Indian Dance Styles, As They Are Not Affixed To A Pad Or Strip Of Leather, But Rather Are Individually Woven Along A Thick String. The Usual Number Of Bells Is 100 On Each Ankle, Although For The Initial Stages Of Learning Or For Children, 20 Or 50 Belled Strings Are Widely Available To Allow The Dancer To Get Used To Them.

Rajashree Presented the story of Kaliya Daman in Kathak Style.

Kaliya Daman Story

The story goes like this: There used to live a giant venomous serpent named Kaliya in river Yamuna, thus making the water of river poisonous due to which no one was able to drink the water neither animals nor folks.

Little Krishna decided to get rid of Kaliya. Once when Krishna along with his friends was playing with ball on the banks of river Yamuna, the ball fell into the river. To fetch the ball back he climbed the Kadamba Tree located alongside the river bank and jumped into the river.

Furiously, Kaliya rose up from the water vomiting poison. Lord Krishna's friends got horrified seeing the situation. Almost all the people of 'Gokula' gathered along the riverbank. Everybody was worried and eager to see Krishna safe.

Though Krishna-of very young age, we all know – there is nothing on this earth which will make our almighty Lord Krishna weak. As expected Krishna defeated Kaliya, but did not kill him. He asked Kaliya to leave the place, thus making the river safe for all animals,birds and folks.

युरोप टूर

वास्तुशैलीसाठी प्रसिद्ध अशा इमारती, कडाक्याची थंडी, भुरभुरणारा बर्फ, चॉकलेट्स यांचा आस्वाद घेत स्वच्छ, सुंदर, देखणे युरोप पाहण्याची मजा काही औरच.

आम्ही सर्वजण विमानाने पुण्याहून जर्मनीला पोहोचलो. तेथील रस्ते प्रशस्त, दुतर्फा कौलारू घरे आणि कमालीची शांतता.

जर्मनीला पोहोचल्यानंतर बाकी सर्व ठिकाणे बघण्यासाठी आम्ही रेल्वेतून प्रवास केला आणि बघतो तर काय! रेल्वे स्टेशनवर घाईगर्दी कुठेच दिसत नव्हती. सगळेच कसे शिस्तबद्ध! लिफ्ट, सरकते जिने यातून आम्ही रेल्वेत शिरलो आणि त्याच क्षणी मला मुंबईच्या दादर रेल्वे स्टेशनची आठवण झाली. नुसती झुंबड, घाईगर्दी, पण इथे आजिबातच तसे नव्हते. डब्यात शांतता होती. कुणी वाचनात मग्न तर कुणी लॅपटॉप उघडून त्यांचे काम करत होते, आम्ही सगळ्यांनी मात्र मनसोक्त पत्ते खेळण्याचा आनंद लुटला. गाडी भरधाव वेगाने चालली होती. गाडीतून बोगदे, हिरवळ, पिवळी पाने, शेते दुतर्फा दिसत होती.

आम्ही पॅरिसला पोहोचलो, आयफेल टॉवर पाहण्यासाठी गेलो, गर्दी खूप होती आणि थंडी मात्र फारच होती. सूर्याची किरणे दिसत होती. त्या किरणांनी पॅरिसच्या सौंदर्यात भर घातली होती. आम्ही लिफ्टने वर जाऊ लागलो. तीन टप्प्यांवरून दृश्य पाहण्यास मिळाले. तिथून संपूर्ण पॅरिसचे दर्शन झाले. तेथील पूल, नद्या, गगनचुंबी इमारती यांचा उत्तम नमुना नजरेस पडला. फ्रान्सची राजधानी पॅरिस हे फॅशनचे उगमस्थान आहे. म्हणून आम्ही सर्वजण शॉपिंग करण्यासाठी मॉलमध्ये गेलो आणि ठरलेल्या वेळेत एका ठिकाणी सर्व झाल्यावर भेटायचे ठरले. मी व माझ्या मैत्रिणी एकत्रितपणे सर्व पाहत होतो. तेथे एका ठिकाणी काही आकर्षक रंगाच्या बाटल्या ठेवल्या होत्या आणि त्यावर फ्रेंच भाषेत काहीतरी लिहिलेले होते व किंमत होती ८ युरोज. काचेची गुलाबाच्या पाकळ्यांप्रमाणे दिसणारी व त्याच्या आतमध्ये वेगवेगळे रंग असणारी कलरफुल बाटली म्हणजे सेंटचीच असणार असे मला वाटले म्हणून मी जेथे टेस्टर लिहिले होते ती बाटली उचलली आणि हातावर मारून पाहिली. खूपच सुंदर वास दरवळला आणि मग मी लगेचच निर्णय घेतला की ह्या सेंटच्या ४-५ बाटल्या घेऊन जायच्या सर्वांला आणि सेंट मारल्याबरोबरच माझ्या हातावर खूपच फेस झाला. जवळपास संपूर्ण हातच भरला आणि मग मात्र आम्ही सर्वजण घाबरलो. आम्हाला वाटले आपले काहीतरी चुकले आहे. येणारीजाणारी माणसे माझ्याकडे व हाताकडे विचित्र नजरेने पाहत होती. मग मी लगेचच टिशू पेपरने हात स्वच्छ केला आणि आम्ही सगळेच कोणी काही बोलू नये म्हणून तेथून निघालो, पण माझ्या मैत्रिणी म्हणाल्या की तू काय हातावर मारले आहेस ते तरी कळायला हवे ना. आम्ही जाऊन कोणाला तरी विचारून येतो. असे म्हणून त्या परत गेल्या. मी मात्र तेथेच थांबले. अजूनही हाताला चांगलाच वास येत होता. थोड्या वेळानंतर त्या खूप जोरात हसत आल्या व त्यांनी सांगितले की मी जे सेंट म्हणून मारले ते टॉयलेट क्लीनर होते. हसून हसून आमची पुरेवाट झाली.

आता कळले की लोक असे विचित्र नजरेने का पाहत होते, पण त्या कलरफुल काचेच्या बाटल्या बघून वाटणारच नाही की ते टॉयलेट क्लीनर होते म्हणून. सगळीकडे हशा पिकला पण तेव्हा मात्र माझी चांगलीच तारांबळ उडाली. हा एक मजेशीर किस्सा.

पुढे आम्ही फ्रान्समध्ये फिरलो, रस्त्यावर सिग्नल दिसत होते पण ट्रॅफिक पोलीस दिसत नव्हता. युरोपात प्रत्येक शहराची रचना वेगळी आहे. तेथील घरांचे नक्षीकाम, चर्चवरील नक्षीकाम वाखाणण्याजोगे आहेत.

पुढे आम्ही बेल्जियमला गेलो. तेथे चीज फॅक्टरी पाहिली. सर्वत्र कडाक्याची थंडी होती. तरीदेखील आम्ही रोज निरनिराळ्या प्रकारचे आईसक्रीम बघून आणि खाऊन अक्षरशः वेडेच झालो. एवढे निरनिराळे प्रकार पाहून किती खाऊ किती नको असेच झाले सगळ्यांना. तेथे सायकल्स भरपूर प्रमाणात आहेत. आम्हीसुद्धा सगळ्यांनी सायकल चालवण्याचा आनंद लुटला.

सर्वत्र युरोपात रस्त्याच्या दुतर्फा विविध आकाराची फुले, विविध रंगाची फुले आणि झाडांना सुंदर आकार दिला होता.

त्यानंतर आम्ही ऑस्ट्रियाला जहाजाने प्रवास केला. त्याचे वर्णन करणे अवर्णनीय आहे. आल्प्सच्या रांगा, बर्फाळ डोंगर, मध्ये पाणी, उंच पर्वतरांगा आणि मधून वाहणारी स्वच्छ, सुंदर व्हाईन नदी.

जर्मनीमध्ये मोठमोठे चर्च पाहिले, तेथे तर खूपच कोरीवकाम दिसून आले. अनेक धर्मगुरूंचे पुतळे होते. एक जुना राजवाडा होता.

त्यानंतर आम्ही शाळेला भेट दिली. मी कथक नृत्य करत असल्याने केळकर मॅडमनी मला कथक नृत्याचे प्रेझेंटेशन व नृत्य करायला सांगितले. तो अनुभव शब्दात न सांगता येण्यासारखा आहे. शाळेत आमचे खूप सुंदररित्या स्वागत झाले आणि तेथील मुलांनी तर वेलकम इंडियन्स, कथक डान्स अशा ठिकठिकाणी पाट्या लावल्या होत्या. त्यामुळे माझा उत्साह आणखीनच वाढला आणि ती मुलेदेखील खूप उत्साही होती. त्यांच्यासमोर प्रेझेंटेशन देताना, नृत्य करताना खूप मजा आली. नंतर तर त्यांनी स्वतः येऊन मला सांगितले की आम्हाला खूप आवडला डान्स. ती माझ्यासाठी खूप मोठी गोष्ट होती. त्याचवेळी मला कळले की नृत्य करण्यासाठी भाषेचे बंधन नसले तरी चालेल पण भावना किंवा त्यामागचे एक्सप्रेशन पोहोचणे हीच महत्त्वाची गोष्ट आहे. आम्हाला एकमेकांची भाषा न येऊनही मी काय केले हे त्यांना कळले व आवडले यातच सर्वकाही आले. हा माझ्या आयुष्यातला पहिला अत्यंत महत्त्वाचा प्रसंग आहे. तो मी कधीच विसरणार नाही.

आम्ही सर्वांनी चॉकलेट मात्र भरपूर खरेदी केली. त्यांची शिस्त, कचऱ्याचे व्यवस्थापन, अतिशय चोख हे मला त्यांच्याकडून शिकायला मिळाले. मला असे वाटते की पॅरिस ही अक्षरशः मायानगरी आहे. येथे आल्यावर स्वर्गात आल्यासारखेच वाटले. हे सर्व केवळ केळकर मॅडममुळे शक्य झाले. युरोपला जाण्याअगोदर त्यांनी वेगवेगळ्या

लोकांना बोलावून युरोपबद्दल माहिती दिली. त्यामुळे आमच्या ज्ञानात भर पडली. एकूणच ही ट्रीप अविस्मरणीय ठरली. आम्ही सगळ्यांनी खूप मजा केली. आणि याहून मला खूप शिकायला मिळाले. मयुरेश सरांनीसुद्धा मला वेळोवेळी मदत केली आणि हे सर्व केवळ केळकर मॅडममुळे शक्य झाले. त्यांच्यामुळेच तेथे माझ्या नृत्याला वाव मिळाला. त्यामुळे त्यांना खूप खूप थॅक्स! आणि टॉयलेट क्लिनरच्या किश्यामुळेसुद्धा ही ट्रीप अविस्मरणीय झाली. परत आल्यावर मी सर्वाना हा किस्सा सांगितला तेव्हादेखील सर्वांचे हसून हसून पोट दुखायला लागले. आजही तो प्रसंग आठवून हसायला येते आणि असाच अजून एक प्रसंग माझ्या बाबतीत पॅरिसमध्ये एका वेगळ्या मॉलमध्ये गेलो असताना घडला. तेथे फिरत असताना आम्ही 'कॉस्मेटिक सेक्शन'मध्ये गेलो. तेथे बरेच सेंट ट्राय करून बघितले आणि शेवटी पोलका नावाचा एक नक्की केला. पण त्याच्यावर

लिहिले होते, 'यु दि टॉयलेट.' हे फ्रेंचमध्ये लिहिले असल्यामुळे मी पेचात पडले. आता हे काय नवीन? पण आधीच्या प्रसंगामुळे मी थोडी शहाणी झाले होते. पण तरीही प्रश्न पडला की हा नक्की कुठे व कोणत्या जागी मारायचा. म्हणून तेथील एका कर्मचारी बाईला विचारले. तिला इंग्लीश थोडेफारच बोलता येत होते. म्हणून तिने इतक्या मजेशीररित्या हातवारे करून सांगितले की कुठे मारायचा आणि कुठे नाही. ते बघूनच आम्ही खूप हसलो. हसून हसून आमची पुरेवाट लागली. डोळ्यातून अक्षरशः पाणी आले.

असे हे माझ्या बाबतीत झालेले दोन किस्से मी कधीही विसरणार नाही. मी खूप मजा केली. नृत्य करण्याचा आनंद काही वेगळाच होता. एकंदरीतच संपूर्ण ट्रीप अविस्मरणीय झाली. पुनश्च ऐकदा मी केळकर मॅडमचे आभार मानते की त्यांनी मला ही संधी दिली.

राजश्री धोंगडे

मनाचे श्लोक

मना श्रेष्ठ धारिष्ठ्य जीवी धरावें ।
मना बोलणे नीच सोशित जावें ।
स्वयें सर्वदा नम्र वाचे वदावें ।
मना सर्व लोकांसि रे नीववावें ॥७॥

Sei Deine Seele mit erfüllt
Lass Sie Dulden bösses Wort
Sprich dünnig, sei gut
Bring den Seelen Frieden und Gult

नको रे मना द्रव्य ते पूढिलांचे ।
अति स्वार्थ बुद्धि ने रे पाप साचे ।
घडे भोगणे पाप ते कर्म खोटे ।
न होतां मनासारिखे दुःख मोटे ॥९॥

Wünsche nie, was dir nicht gehört
Dich verdirbt die Selbstsuch nur,
Und die Untat zur Sünde führt
Und das Gewollte nie erreicht

जनी सर्व सूखी असा कोण आहे ।
विचारे मना तूचि शोधूनि पाहे ।
मना त्वांचि रे पूर्वसंचित केले ।
तयासारिखे भोगणें प्राप्त झाले ॥११॥

Wer ist zufrieden un der Welt?
Mein Geist, bedenke dies erst
Deine Taten - gute oder schlechte
Fallen auf dich doch zurück

From the book by Dr. Vinita Mahajani