

2nd Report

Foreign Exchange India



According to the UN-Population prospect, India has been the most populous country since 2023. For half a year we'll spend our lives here in this country of contradictions. We are Dario and Samuel and we completed our apprenticeships as mechanical design engineers in summer 2023 at azw.

Its Saturday morning and our first working week is over. For the first time we can try the breakfast buffet in the Hotel. As usual in India, the breakfast is mostly hearty and warm. Poha (flattened, yellow rice) quickly develops to be our favourite. Other classics are "Sabudana Khichdi" and "Dosa".

Afterwards we grab our backpacks and explore our surroundings. We find a "Joggers Park" in our neighbourhood. It offers a little bit of peace in midst of the hectic city. Sadly it closes its gates at 11:00 for a lunch break. We decide to visit the Aga Khan palast. Inside the feudal building we learn many things about Indias past, especially about Mahatma Gandhi, who spent some time in prison there, and the "Quit-India-Movement".

After this lesson in mid last century history we decide to go back to the shopping mall which is near to our hotel. There is a small kitchen in our hotel room for which we want get groceries. Some things are available, others aren't. Pasta and risotto rice are both available, other things like bread and pelati are not.

After some weeks and many more impressions we go on vacation for the first time. We travel southbound to Goa. This coastal region is known for its wild parties and the ancient Portuguese who erected their buildings here. Our hotel is just across the street from the beach, making early morning and evening walks along the beach a routine activity. Due to the high humidity it is simply too hot around noon for us. We run into a father with two boys, and he promptly invites us for a game of cricket. We don't really understand the rules, but when the ball is flying you need to run as fast as possible in order to earn points.

Back in Pune the months fly by and on the first of May we use the national holiday to our advantage and spend a long weekend in Mumbai. We enjoy the three-hour ride in the panoramic coach of the Indian Railways. The terminal station in Mumbai is very central and the walk to our hotel on Marine drive. Thats when we notice something strange: The traffic in Mumbai is much more civilised, the drivers actually drive according to the rules and they only use their horn when it really is needed. This is a very welcome change for our nerves and ears. Mumbai is a pretty clean city, at least around the marine drive. We visit the famous "Gateway of India", several museums and look at the historical architecture. On Friday two of our Burckhardt-Compression colleagues join us for the highlight of our trip. We are going to an "Indian Premier League" cricket game. The hometown team "Mumbai Indians" are playing against the "Kolkata Knight Riders" from the east of India. During four hours the two teams are playing for as many runs as the can. Even though the fans are loudly supporting the "Mumbai Indians" they are beaten by 169 to 145 runs in the end. But still, a very entertaining evening and for sure one of the highlights of our trip.

Best regards from afar

Dario Meyer and Samuel Müller