

EXCURSION MUMBAI

30.11. - 08.12.2024

WDLM22G2/ WLOG22G1/ G2



PARTICIPANTS:

Prof. Dr. Dirk Hartel & Nicole Bronder

WDLM22G2: Amanda Mai, Frederik Nick, Ilona Pietzko, Alina Stein

WLOG22G1: Jannik Baumgarthuber, Sarah Binner, Agustina Diaz-Valdes, Paul Grahle, Yannik Mosebach, Timo Müller, Nico Schanz, Matthias Thumm, Julie Weinmann

WLOG22G2: Sophie Bartholomäi, Elena Biemann, Leonardo Daniel, Sofie Jakobsen, Phillip Janza, Chiara Klan, Valentin Schweizer, Silas Strassacker, Mona Teller, Falk Weber

DAY 1

30.11. & 01.12.2024

The journey began on Saturday at Stuttgart Airport, where the group gathered for an initial round of introductions to foster bonding between the participants. The first leg of the trip took us to Istanbul, where a 4-hour layover offered the chance to enjoy a meal together and explore Europe's largest airport. The excitement for the journey ahead grew as we prepared for the flight to Mumbai.



During the overnight flight, we had our first interactions with Indian passengers, offering an early glimpse into the vibrant culture we were about to experience. On Sunday morning, at approximately 6:00 a.m., we touched down in Mumbai. The immigration process was lengthy and challenging, but our Indian buddies greeted us warmly upon completion. They guided us through the bustling arrival area to our bus, which transported us to Somaiya Vidyavihar University.



The drive provided an eye-opening introduction to Mumbai, a city alive with contrasts and energy. Exhausted after nearly 24 hours of travel, we arrived at the university campus, where we were given some time to rest before the day's activities began.



The program officially started with a welcome speech by Dr. Satyendra Kumar Upadhyay, which was preceded by a hearty lunch on the campus. Afterward, we explored the campus during a tour. The vastness and modern facilities of the campus left a strong impression, including a glimpse of an ongoing construction project for a new building.

Following the campus tour, we set out to explore South Mumbai. The first stop was the iconic Gateway of India, where we coincidentally witnessed a military parade, a unique & striking introduction to the city!



The tour continued to Marine Drive, where we enjoyed a picturesque sunset despite the large crowds. This location provided a stunning panorama of the city skyline.

By evening, the group returned to the campus. After a delicious dinner, everyone retired early, thoroughly worn out from the long journey and eventful day. With much anticipation for the days ahead, we prepared for the activities to come.

Refreshed and well-rested after our journey, Monday started with an energizing hour of cricket, India's national sport.



This activity not only introduced us to a key part of Indian culture but also set a positive, team-oriented tone for the day. Afterward, we enjoyed a hearty breakfast together, preparing ourselves for the packed schedule ahead.

The day officially began with a warm welcome address by Dr. Manjari Srivastava, Associate Dean, who introduced the program and extended her greetings. The first lecture, led by Dr. Vaishali Padake, provided fascinating insights into the Indian economy. We learned about its structure, growth trends, and the opportunities and challenges it faces on its development journey.



Following this, Dr. Vidhya Thakkar gave an engaging lecture on Indian culture and society. She explored the importance of family life, different living arrangements, and India's incredible cultural diversity. Lunch was served in the campus cafeteria, where we had the chance to try traditional Indian dishes like paneer, a spiced Indian

cheese, giving us our first taste of the local cuisine. Afterward, we joined an interactive session with Mr. Stefan Halusa, Director General of the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce. He shared valuable insights into business relations between India and Germany, providing a unique perspective on international collaboration.

The afternoon lectures focused on key topics. Dr. Pramod Shetty introduced us to supply chain management in India, explaining how logistical challenges are addressed with innovative strategies. This was followed by a lecture on governance in India by Dr. Krishna Shetty, who explained the complexities of India's federal system and its role in the country's development.



In the evening, we were treated to a cultural show organized by our Indian peers. The performances included singing, dancing, and plenty of laughter, making us feel warmly welcomed. To end the day, we visited a shopping mall, where some explored the shops & others enjoyed dinner.



Finally, we gathered at an Irish pub to reflect on the day's experiences before heading back to campus, sharing rides in Ubers or Tuk-Tuks. It was a day filled with learning, cultural exchange, and new friendships, leaving us excited for the journey ahead.

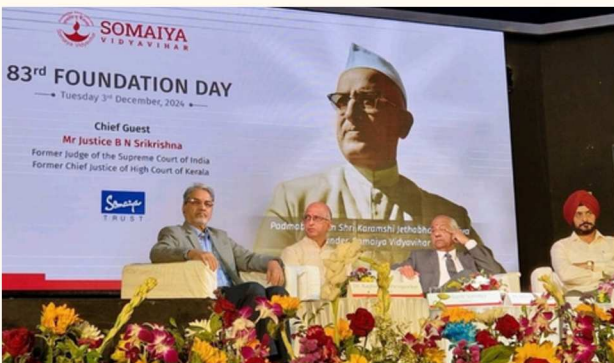
DAY 3

03.12.2024

Like every day, morning sports started promptly at 7 a.m. on campus; today it was the turn of the sport “Kabaddi”. This is a traditional Indian contact sport in which 2 teams compete against each other.



A team provides a “Raider” who must catch the opposing players in their half of the field while the defenders try to prevent him from returning to his own half of the field. Everyone involved had a lot of fun, then we went to breakfast and then together with the Indian students to celebrate the 83rd Foundation Day of Somaiya University.



Many important guests such as a former member of the Indian Supreme Court visited and many speeches and traditional dances were performed.



Afterwards there was lunch outside in the pavilion and the students had another chance to exchange ideas with the Indian students, professors, and other guests. Many pictures were taken together, and interesting conversations were had. After everyone had eaten and packed their things, we took the bus to the “Times of India”, where we received an introduction to the work and its relevance to the Indian population as well as a tour of the production hall.



Various newspapers were also presented there, which either smelled of coffee, changed color when they encountered water or had a special design.



At the end of the day, the buddies went to BKC Dive, where there was a selection of Indian cuisine but also many western dishes. We ended the evening relaxing there.

Our day began early like every morning with a joint sports session. A particularly exciting highlight was the Indian game Kho Kho, which we tried out together that day. It is a traditional team game where the goal is to "tag out" opponents through tactical running and skillful touches while they try to escape from a circle of chasers. It was not only a physical challenge but also a lot of fun and helped strengthen our teamwork. After this active session, we enjoyed a shared breakfast to recharge for the day ahead.



In the late morning, we arrived at the logistics company Allcargo, where we were warmly welcomed. In the conference room, coffee and biscuits awaited us, providing the perfect setting for an initial informal exchange. After the welcome, we were shown an informative video presenting the company's structure and vision. A definite highlight was the subsequent tour of the facility. We were able to witness operational processes and the technologies used firsthand, gaining fascinating insights into the day-to-day work environment.

After the tour, we were invited to a joint lunch, where we had the opportunity to engage in further discussions and learn more about the company.

In the early afternoon, we bid a warm farewell to our hosts and expressed our gratitude with a small gift as a token of our appreciation. This gesture, we noticed, is a popular custom in India and one we had observed several times during our stay. Following this, we returned to the university, where we enjoyed some free time.

As our stay in India was not solely focused on sightseeing, we had an assignment in the afternoon to meet in small groups with Indian students and work on a joint project. These assigned projects were of significant importance, as they often reflected real-life scenarios that Somaya University was planning to implement. It was incredibly engaging to collaborate interculturally and observe the various approaches to problem-solving. We found that these approaches differed more than one might initially expect.

The evening was free for individual plans, and our group decided to have dinner at the restaurant The Daily, which we can highly recommend if you are looking for a diverse dining experience. Our day concluded together with some Indian students in a bar, where we reflected on the eventful day in a relaxed atmosphere and had the chance to explore India's vibrant nightlife.



The morning of our fifth day started with a round of yoga outside on the sports field. With the rising sun in the background and the quite varied exercises, it was an interesting change from the yoga that many of us already knew from home.

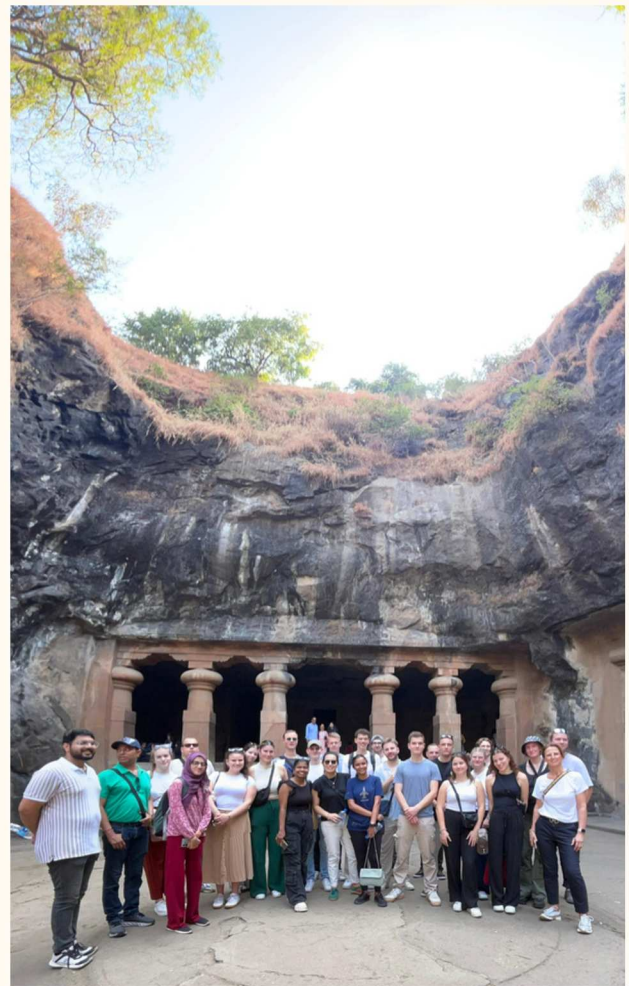


After a hearty breakfast, we boarded the bus and made our way to the Gateway of India, which we already knew from our first day, to catch the boat to the Elephanta Islands at the ferry terminal there. Once there, we were amazed at how “few” people there were compared to our first experiences, when we couldn't even see the ground because of all the people.



Once we arrived at the boat quay, after a short wait we took one of the ferries and traveled for just under an hour to the islands. Once there, we made our way to the Elephanta Caves. The path was lined with countless street shops and booths, selling classic souvenirs as well as all kinds of food. Under the shady tarpaulins stretched across the path, we tackled the 120 steps that had to be climbed.

We were accompanied by cows, street dogs and even monkeys along the way. After we had reached the top, panting and sweating, we went into the caves, where a local guide explained the background to the Hindu stone sculptures. The Elephanta Caves contain rock-cut stone sculptures, mostly in high relief, that show syncretism of Hindu and Buddhist ideas and iconography.



After a few group photos and time to explore the caves, we headed back down the steps to the boat quay. After the crossing, we quickly made our way back to the bus. As we didn't have the opportunity to have lunch, the staff in the kitchen had already packed lunch packages for us in advance, which some of us then ate.

Back on campus, we had some time to rest and recover. Refreshed again, we met up with the Indian student groups in the evening to continue working on the group projects. After the dinner, we fell back into our beds to catch our well-deserved sleep.

Our penultimate day in Mumbai started with morning sports. Since not many students showed up, we played table tennis in the reasonably cool morning air.



After a hearty breakfast, we met with the Indian students in the seminar room to further refine and finalize our projects. This was followed by the group presentations and the feedback and Q&A sessions. After the final discussion, we received small gifts from the Indians and Mr. Hartel accepted a gift on the occasion of the ten-year partnership between DHBW and Somaiya.



After a final group photo, we went to lunch. Afterwards, a few of us were allowed to describe their experiences of the week in front of the Somaiya social media team. We then took the bus towards the city center to get a few more impressions of street shopping and markets.



We stocked up on spices of all kinds and colors at a market booth and also got the chance to buy scarves made of cashmere, silk and other beautiful fabrics. As night had already fallen, it was a real experience to walk among all the people, market booths and cars and scooters hurrying around. The lights, the noise and the smells were very impressive.



Once we had all crossed the streets unscathed, we settled down at Leopold's Café to have dinner. The café is unsightly famous for the terrorist attacks in 2008 when the café was one of the targets. You could still see bullet holes in the walls!



While some of us shopped for t-shirts and sports jerseys after dinner, the rest of us gathered back in the bus. The drive back to campus was the end of the day and we all fell into bed for the last time before our flight back home.

DAY 7

07.12. & 08.12.2024

On our last day, we started with the soccer match against the Indians, which some of us had been looking forward to for days. Unfortunately, for organizational reasons, there was only a match with mixed teams. This meant that the nations were not able to face each other separately, but the team in red won 5:3.

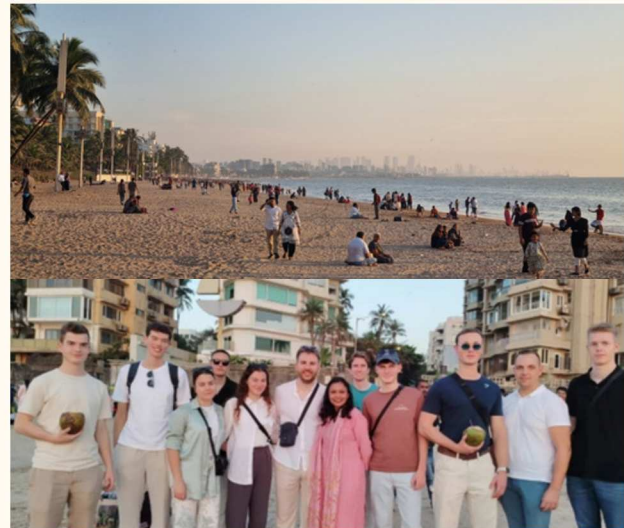


We then went to our last breakfast, where we fortified ourselves before giving our presentations on the various modes of transport in Germany in the seminar room. After a subsequent round of feedback on how we felt about our week in Mumbai, it was time for lunch. We filled our bellies one last time and then took the bus to a temple together.



This experience was truly impressive. Apart from the fact that we had to take off our shoes and wash our hands before entering the temple, the whole scene was simply outstanding. Seeing the people living a religion that was completely foreign and unfamiliar to us and the rituals associated with it was very interesting. After we had finished the tour and put our shoes back on, we walked a short distance

down to the beach to watch the sunset. The truly picturesque scenery left nothing to be desired and so many photos were taken. Some bought fresh coconuts to further enhance the experience.



After the sun had set, we headed back to the bus and then to Phoenix Mall. There we dispersed and did all sorts of things. In addition to delicious food, we also bought souvenirs to round off the evening.



Then it was time for us to head back to the hostel. Some of us took the infamous tuk tuks to round off the whole Mumbai experience. We didn't have much time left after arriving at the campus, as we had to meet up for the bus to the airport at 02:00.



Around half past seven in the morning we took to the skies and left India behind us.



IN CONCLUSION,

this week was an impressive experience for all of us. We learned a lot about the country and the people and were able to immerse ourselves in a culture that was completely foreign to us before. We will probably never forget what we experienced during this week in Mumbai. We are grateful for all these impressions and what we were able to learn from them. The partnership between DHBW and Somaiya University is a valuable example of intercultural exchange, which is all the more important in today's world.

