

## **My beautiful experience in BITS Pilani:**

*Ram Ram*

I was always fascinated of the big cultural and colorful country named India and it was always my plan to go there once. To combine the fulfilment of this dream with a meaningful use is even better!

So my journey began on the 5th November 2015 when I took my flight for the first time to India. At the beginning, everything is well organized from the Institute of Machine Tools and Production Technology (IWF) Braunschweig and BITS Pilani so you can arrive safe and fast to Pilani. There is a pickup from the airport, where probably most Germans will arrive; Delhi Airport to BITS Pilani. The trip takes approximately five and a half hours, "can be more, can be less, it depends on your luck and the traffic" and gives a first impression of the area in which you will live in the next months. After arriving at the big campus, you get immediately to your hostel. Here at first you can relax from that big trip and unpack your entire luggage. In my case, I got a room after two days because of some Alumni event, so at first I shared the room with Harald Friese, whom I would like to thank for his kindness and hospitality. I quickly integrated myself into the Bitsian daily life and I quickly fell in love with everything on the campus! Indians love bureaucracy, so with all the issues that come up, everyone will help you with everything, because in the first hours and days in such a different country, you sometimes can get confused. For me and most German students, everything worked very well and after a couple of days, I was able to get a room in CVIR, the newest student dorm on the campus. In the beginning I wasn't able to give any contribution in the workshop, so I tried to make myself useful where ever I could: I wrote some posts on this blog, I helped to collect some data for Felix, another student who also became a very good friend of me. After some days I got a specific task where I had to evaluate the damage caused by the traveling from both partners (Ecological assessment of the traveling within the indo-German Cooperation) with Umberto NXT universal. For that I had the chance to learn and work with a very nice and useful program. Working in workshop is nice when it is full of people, so you don't get really bored. And if you are working on Umberto, you have no other choice, because there is no license key for private laptops so you can only work on the systems there. But if you are alone, reading or writing, I can only advise you to go to the library; it's such a nice and quiet place. If you are staying at BITS until the end of December, you will see after the final exams, how all the students leave the campus to go back to their home towns or to vacations. Only a few students, which are writing their thesis or doing research, will stay. So the campus, the food courts and the hostels, which are all during the semester full of students and also full of life, will be left alone within a few days. That for me was a funny feeling, like everything was falling asleep during winter. But don't worry, all the offices and services are still open during the whole time, in case you need to sign something. These are just some examples of the different German and Indian cultures, but still for every system their own rules seem to work. Though I had sometimes to adjust my perception and behavior on Campus and everyday life, the stay in India was one of my greatest experiences in my life. I could learn a lot for my future, enjoy beautiful moments, trips and meet the most grateful and warm-hearted people. Finally, I think this is even the most important thing for your own individual character: to learn and accept conditions in a foreign country and to gain the most out of it. If you are confronted with unknown and unusual situations you can learn a lot about yourself. They

say India is the country of polarities. I am very proud that I had the possibility to experience these polarities in all manners.

Nevertheless, the decision to go to India was one of the best in my life. I just can recommend it to everybody, even when India can be hard sometimes, but it is worth it. You will have great friends, great weather, great culture and great experiences, you will never forget in your life.

At last I would like to thank DAAD for supporting the exchange program. A big thumb up to the Mechanical Department of BITS Pilani, India, and the Institute of Machine Tools and Production Technology of TU Braunschweig, Germany, for having the collaboration! I am grateful to Stefan Böhme who gave me the chance to come here! And also grateful to every friend who made my days in Pilani easier and funnier!

Statement: You'll never, never know, if you never, never go!

*Namaste!*

*Your Nafaa*

