

Report

Foreign exchange India



According to the UN-Population prospect, India has been the most populous country since 2023. [1] 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.

Whilst still preparing for our final exams, we visit the presentation for the foreign exchange. Eric Fischer enthusiastically tells us about this opportunity to combine profession and adventure. Two graduates can demonstrate their knowledge in a new environment. On our bicycle ride home we decide to apply for this opportunity. After our acceptance, we have to take some precautionary vaccinations, and our adventure starts in mid January 2024.

One last hug with our families, and then we fly from Zürich to Delhi. Because of the time shift we reach Delhi at midnight, but we are still very much awake. After some hours, the first flight of the day takes us to Pune. At least, that's what we think when we board the plane at 04:45. Because of heavy fog, which is normal for this time of the year, the plane is still stuck on the ground 6 hours later. In the meantime, the crew has reached their allocated time and leave the airplane. After two more hours a new crew finally takes over. Approximately one hour later, we land in the Indian industrial- and IT-City Pune.

Pune is the 8th largest metropolitan region with its 7.2 Million inhabitants.[2] Among the many international companies, the Winterthur based company Burckhardt Compression has two locations in and around Pune. The long-term partnership between the azw and Burckhardt Compression India (BCIN) makes this whole trip even possible. That same evening, we are met by an employee from the HR department. He gives us the information we need for our first day and shows us the nearby shopping mall.

At seven the next morning, the company bus picks us up. The 55 minute ride which covers 40 kilometers goes by fast. There is so much to see, cars, motorcycles, trucks everything everywhere, and they all have one thing in common, they use their horn. After some breakfast we get our safety shoes, safety glasses, laptop and a workspace. In the first two weeks we are introduced to the different compressor-types and get to know their peculiarities and applications. The principle of the piston compressor has been the same for quite some time, but Burckhardt Compression still manages to use new Ideas and processes to develop a better product for the customer. It's incredibly interesting to learn the nuances behind the parts and see the rapid evolution towards sustainability.

For lunch, we go to the canteen with our new colleagues. Afterwards we go for a digestion walk around the company premises. At 16:45 a siren lets everyone know that the work day is over. Again, we use the bus, which takes us back to our apartment. Everyone we meet in India, from the department-head to the Uber-driver is incredibly nice and wants to know where we are from, what we are doing here and if we too like to play cricket.

Greetings from afar

Dario Meyer and Samuel Müller



Sources:

[¹] United Nations (2023): India to overtake China as world's most populous country in April 2023, United Nations projects URL: <https://www.un.org/en/desa/india-overtake-china-world-most-populous-country-april-2023-united-nations-projects> [Accessed: 09.03.2024].

[²] Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India (2011) Provisional Population Totals, Census of India 2011; Cities having population 1 lakh and above URL: https://web.archive.org/web/20120507135928/http://www.censusindia.gov.in/2011-prov-results/paper2/data_files/India2/Table_2_PR_Cities_1Lakh_and_Above.pdf