

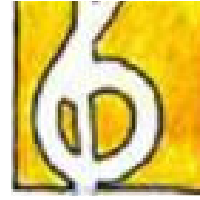


THE new-COMERS



by GYMNASIUM NEUSTADT





NEW-COMMERS EDITION

TRAVELLING TO INDIA

HENNA ART IN GWALIOR



At the vibrant Bada Market in Gwalior, we came across a stall offering beautiful henna tattoos. The scent of fresh henna filled the air, and we couldn't resist stopping to watch the artist at work, creating intricate designs. All the girls in our group quickly decided to get one, each choosing her own unique pattern—mostly delicate floral and ornamental designs that looked perfect on their hands.

To our surprise, Josef, one of the boys in our group, decided to get a henna tattoo as well. This was a bit unusual, as henna tattoos are traditionally more common among girls. But Josef wasn't fazed and selected something bold and meaningful for himself: a warrior symbol, representing strength and courage. He had it applied to his forearm, giving him a striking, distinctive look.



As the artist began working on Josef's tattoo, a small crowd started to gather around us. The reactions from onlookers were interesting and varied. Some smiled, impressed by Josef's confidence in embracing the traditional art in such a unique way; others looked a bit surprised, likely because they weren't used to seeing a boy with henna. A few even came closer, asking the artist about the meaning of the warrior symbol.



In that moment, the little henna stall became the center of curious conversations and fascinated glances and we all felt as if we'd shared in something truly special.

Our Discovery of India

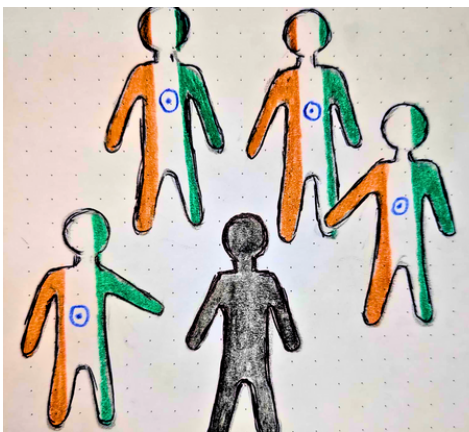
During our time in Gwalior, we experienced both the bustling atmosphere of Bada Market and the serene beauty of a Hindu temple with historical ties to the esteemed Scindia family.

“WE ARE THE ATTRACTION”

There is no single day without being asked for photos. Everytime we are recognized, which is not really hard, people are excited.



Being white and travelling through India is an experience you can't compare with anything else. People frequently approach us, some shyly and others more boldly, asking if they could take photos with us. Often, we find ourselves in a spontaneous “photo shoot” with groups of friends or families, each person excited to capture a memory with us. Sometimes, it feels as if we are celebrities, and the constant requests for selfies becomes a part of our daily routine.



There are moments, too, when locals wave at us with warm smiles, a gesture that feels genuine and welcoming. We often return the waves, smiling back at children peeking out from rickshaws or groups of friends watching us pass by. There is a kindness in these small exchanges that reminds us of the warmth within the bustling, chaotic energy of the city.

At the same time, being seen as “wealthy foreigners” also meant that beggars and street vendors see us as potential sources of income. Some approach us with opened arms, hoping for spare change, while others try to sell their souvenirs.



Being foreigners in India means we often feel like outsiders, but it also opens a door to connect with people in ways we hadn't anticipated. The friendly waves, the fascination, the hospitality, and even the begging all becomes part of our experience, making us feel both welcomed and challenged.

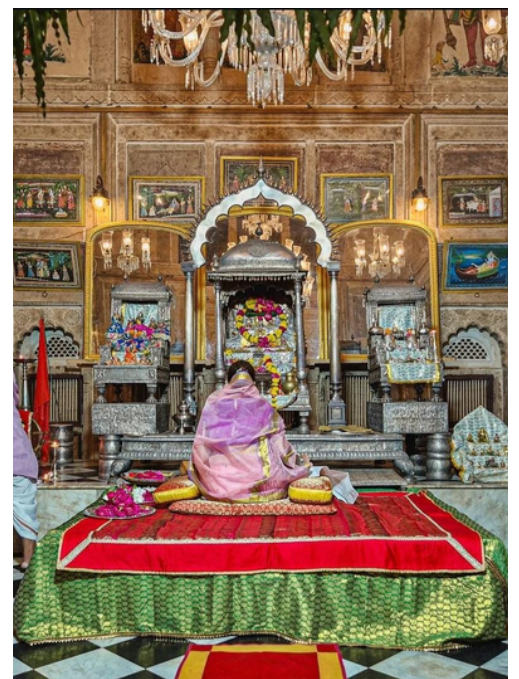
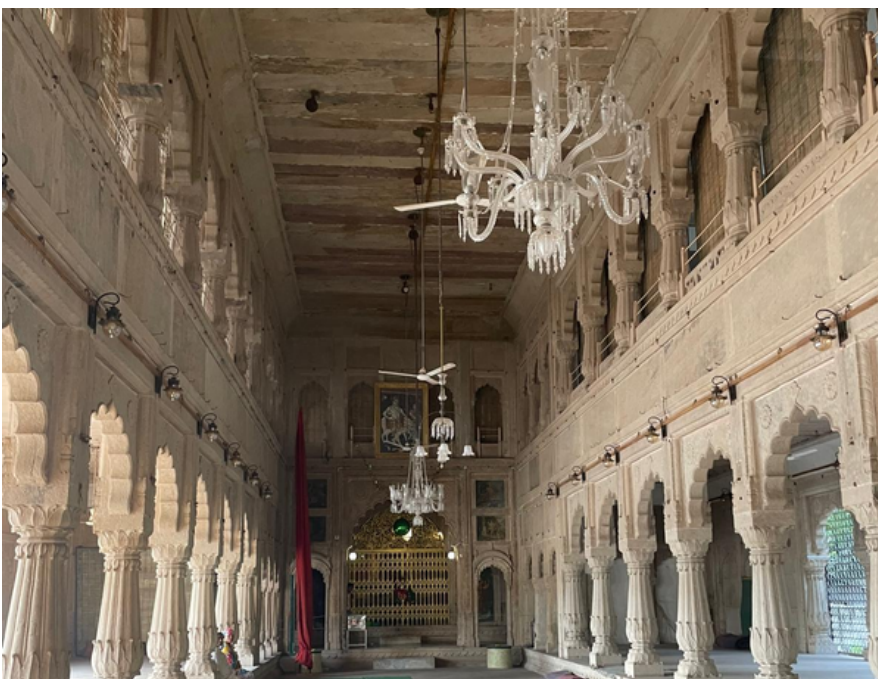
But it is also a lesson for ourselves too, that we always give people from another country enough space and be respectful and friendly, because you never know how they feel about it or how their ethics and culture is.

Our discovery of India – Hindu Temple



We visited a nearby Hindu temple, which held a deep historical and cultural connection to the Scindia family. This temple was a world apart from the noise of the market, with a peaceful ambiance that immediately grounded us. As we entered the temple grounds, we were welcomed with warmth and respect. Locals and temple caretakers shared the significance of the temple's features, and some guided us through rituals with patience and kindness. Despite being outsiders, we were embraced with a respect that made us feel at home in this sacred place.

Inside the temple, we were greeted by worshippers who smiled and nodded, occasionally stopping to chat or ask for a photo. Being welcomed so openly into a temple with strong ties to the Scindia family left a lasting impression on us. It was an honor to be part of a space so meaningful to the community and their heritage.



Scindia School – Back then and now



Gopal Chaturvedi, 54, has been a cornerstone of The Scindia School for 22 years, teaching German and shaping generations of students. Originally from Varanasi, his journey to Scindia began after lecturing at the Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages (CIEFL) and publishing a book on his subject.

Joining the school in 2002, Mr. Chaturvedi has served as a teacher and housemaster, first in Jankoji House for junior students and later in Jayappa House for seniors. As a teacher himself, he recalls simpler times with fewer facilities and less comfort in the dorms, long before the campus underwent renovations in recent years.

Over the decades, he has witnessed significant changes in students' attitudes, learning styles, and manners. "Since COVID, teachers have to put in more effort to help students understand," he noted, highlighting the challenges of modern education. Despite these shifts, his commitment to mentoring and inspiring students remains unwavering, making him a respected figure in the school community.



“Whats trending in Germany”



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