



NIRMITI

Indian Fraternity in Göttingen, Germany

Annual Report 2017-18



Indian Fraternity in Goettingen



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Preface

'NIRMITI' is an association, of and for the Indians living in Göttingen, which came into existence in the year 2009. True to our name, which means '*creation*', we have made efforts to create an environment of mutual support, social interaction and a blend of Indian – German cultures. NIRMITI presents an account of activities carried out in the year 2017-18 in the form of an annual report. In this report, we tried to include all the information regarding the events which we organized. It includes location, approach to the authorities for permission, participants' registration for the events, finance and publicity. Thus, it provides guidance to the future functionaries of the organization in the years to come.

We organized the variety of events which witnessed a brilliant portrayal of Indian culture, food, traditions and celebration. Each event serves as a platform for students, working professionals, scientists and families to know each other, socialize, take part in events or just enjoy oneself being an audience.

NIRMITI Annual Report 2017-18 is intended to set precedents for the future, as it is first of its kind, an annual account of activities presented. Therefore, team NIRMITI aims to build best NIRMITI for future with more emphasis towards scientific activities. We thank all, who contributed for bringing out this report and supported our collective efforts.

NIRMITI
Team

Executive Summary

As a functional association in Göttingen, we have contributed towards helping the growing Indian community for social activities and offered support to incoming and existing Indians in Göttingen. NIRMITI has been organized cultural, educational and sportive events in the year 2017-18. We organized ten events, in which two events were organized in collaboration with the International Office, University of Göttingen Germany and Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM). The events ranged from casual day-trips, hiking, cultural, potluck dinners, sportive and educational events. We also attended the ISG meetings held in Bonn and Munich. These organized events were well-received by the public. We have welcomed gathering of more than 100 people, including Germans and people from other countries as well.

We have been an active community for the past nine years now. We have our own, functional webpage, Facebook groups and WhatsApp groups, where we share information regarding living in Göttingen (Germany), visa, job opportunities, emergency contacts (Indian Embassy) and different cultural and educational events. Our public relations officer is very active and replies to all the posted questions and queries immediately. To be in touch with all the Indians member in the city, we have a registration form on our webpage and inform new entrants to register with us. As soon registering as member of organization, they will be added to the mailing list.

We, 'NIRMITI', as an association, are endeavouring to support and organize several events to foster the sense of community among our members in association with International Office, University of Göttingen Germany, Indian Students in Germany (ISG), Consulate General of the Republic of India, Hamburg and Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM). Finally, a brief financial statement of the Organization and team of NIRMITI are furnished in the report.

NIRMITI
Team

NIRMITI

NIRMITI is an association of Indians living in Göttingen, Germany. We are a group of students, scientists, working professionals and families. NIRMITI brings together members of Göttingen's growing Indian community for social activities and offers support to incoming and resident Indians in the city.

The Association came into existence in the year 2009 with the support of more than a hundred Indians living in Göttingen. Our purpose is to create an environment of mutual support, offer opportunities for social interaction, and to assist in the exchange of social, cultural and scientific values between India and Germany. The association's name, 'NIRMITI', means 'creation' and its logo, a picture of hand supporting a growing-seedling and the alphabets of NIRMITI etched in colors of Indian and German national flags. that signify the mutual support and cooperation between the Indo-German communities. The statement 'Indian Fraternity in Göttingen' inscribed below in the logo defines its edifice. We have been an active community for the past several years, supporting and organizing several events to foster a sense of community among our members. The core committee members are elected yearly through election and executive members join committee voluntarily.

Vision: To support incoming and resident Indians in Goettingen.

Mission: To create an environment of mutual support, offer opportunities for social interaction, and to assist in the exchange of social, cultural and scientific values between India and Germany.

We are a nonprofit, volunteer-run association that organizes events with the support of the International Office, University of Göttingen, Germany.

Events organized in the year 2017-18

In the year 2017-18, NIRMITI organized ten events, in which two events were organized in collaboration with International Office, University of Göttingen, Germany and Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM). NIRMITI also attended and represented in two events in 2017-2018. The events ranged from casual day-trips, cultural, national and sports events, and professional development events.

I. Day Trips

1. *Hike to Titan RT*

NIRMITI organized, on 2nd September 2017, a hike to Titan-RT, in which 16 enthusiasts visited 458.5 m long pedestrian suspension bridge at Harz Mountains, opened in 2017. The cable bridge is in the areas of Oberharz am Brocken and Thale in the Saxon-Anhalt region of Harz. The bridge hangs over the part of the reservoir of the Wendefurth dam, which is connected



to the Luftseite der Staumauer the Rappbodetalperre. The 483m long building is one of the longest pedestrian masts on the earth. Photo gallery: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/VfzjmVvkFD6D9pz23>

2. *Picnic to Hainich National Park*

A picnic was organized on 15th October 2017 to Hainich National Park to witness the Autumn colours on vegetation and to enjoy the Canopy Walk, which march right through the crowns of mighty deciduous trees and the viewpoint, that stands above the canopy. Quietly, the wooden path reveals the mystery of the gigantic trees that are normally out of reach.



Moreover, Hainich National Park is an ancient woodland in the heart of Germany is a part of the World Heritage region of Wartburg Hainach. This wild and untamed national park in Thuringia is located in the southern part of the Eichsfeld-Hainich-Werra Valley Nature Park.

Photo gallery: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/faevvrXxdUmhi5zL6>

II. Cultural and National events

1. *Diwali 2017*

Diwali or Deepavali, a festival of lights, originating from the Indian subcontinent is celebrated every year in autumn in the northern hemisphere (spring in southern hemisphere). A grand event was organized on 21st October 2017 at Max Plank Institute of Experimental Medicine, Hermann-Rein Str. 3, 37075 Göttingen. More than 125 people graced the occasion and witnessed the spirit of festivity together. The program started with a prayer, followed by cultural activities, fireworks, Indian dinner and ended with Indian DJ. It is a long-lasting memory in our minds.



Photo gallery: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/VDRTGbWpD560vHzL2>

2. *India's 69th Republic Day and New Year potluck dinner*

On the occasion of India's 69th Republic day as well as on a note of beginning an amazing new year 2018 ahead, an informal get together was organized on 27th January 2018. The gathering, which included 37 people, was held in a pleasant cafeteria of Max Plank Institute of Experimental Medicine, Hermann-Rein Str. 3, 37075 Göttingen. The event witnessed an overwhelming response from the people especially for the potluck dinner. Cravings for delicacies from different states of India were totally fulfilled here in this occasion. Along with enjoying the mouth-watering food, some fun games like quiz and musical chair also made the occasion more relaxing and entertaining.

A fun going event was given a rhythmic end by some DJ dance moves, a joyful closure of the event.



Photo gallery: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/3gosBwCsRrC9BZ656>

3. Holi Celebration

Holi festival ("festival of colours" or "festival of love"), originating from the Indian subcontinent, was celebrated on 3rd March 2018 at Stadtsporthund Göttingen e. V., House of Sports, Goettingen. NIRMITI arranged colours and served snacks and coffee. Sathyan Sharma and family arranged delicious bread-pakodas. The festival signifies the victory of good over evil. Folks gathered and enjoyed on-spot fun games.



Photo gallery: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/e6dNS6MnVsiN5XRZ6>

4. Independence Day 2018

The 72nd Independence Day was celebrated with flag hoisting at Sports Centre of the University of Goettingen, Sprangerweg 2, 37075 Göttingen. The event witnessed large gathering which signified importance of the event. The flag was hoisted by Ms Nivedita Mani,



in her speech she reminded us all the sacrifices made by our great freedom fighters and the importance of freedom we are currently enjoying. Following flag hoisting we sang the national anthem and national song. After having out photography session we ended the event by having some refreshments. The flag retreat was done in a proper formal manner in the evening.

Photo gallery: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/81mTo6PpPHDNymux8>

5. Independence Day potluck dinner 2018

NIRMITI organized Independence Day potluck dinner on 18th August 2018 at Max Plank Institute of Experimental Medicine, Hermann-Rein Str. 3, 37075 Göttingen. It witnessed the participation of more than 50 individuals. During which prizes were distributed for the winner



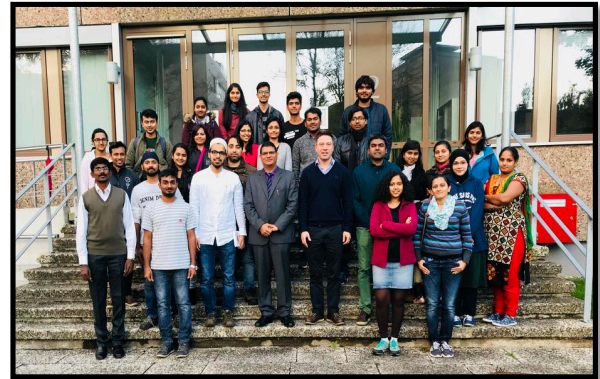
of all games conducted during the Sports day event. The event included various cultural activities such as dance and singing etc. Annual election was conducted to elect members for the new committee for the year of 2018-19. Potluck dinner gave an opportunity to taste various cuisines from different parts of India. It was followed by music and dance.

Photo gallery: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/urtjkhCoQmyDuEUU9>

III. Professional Development activities

1. *Introductory Event 2017*

An Introductory Event was organized in collaboration with International Office - Georg-August-Universität Göttingen on 6th October 2017 at Foyer International, Von Siebold-Str. 2, 37075 Göttingen. The motive behind this event was to make life easy for freshers from India and Indian people in Goettingen. A platform was created for interaction, discussion and sharing of various



issues and experiences. Event was graced by Shri. Madan Lal Raigar, Consul General of India, Hamburg, Dr. Bala Ramani, Coordinator, International Office, Leibniz Universität Hannover and Dr. Jan Fiscoeder, Welcome Centre Officer, International Office - Georg-August-Universität Göttingen. More than 30 people attended the event.

Photo gallery: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/XuEnuDuuJYhEAZW47>

2. *Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM) India Information Session*

A session was organized in collaboration with CIM, on 30th October 2017, at Foyer International, Göttingen International Office, Von-Siebold-Straße 2, Goettingen.



The motive behind this event was to create an awareness about opportunities back in India. CIM supports individuals who are heading back to India and are capable of bringing socio-economic and environmental changes. Ms. Richa Arora, India-Country-Coordinator, CIM, presented the step by step procedure to approach CIM, opportunities and modes of support CIM provides to the selected person. Ms. Arora also explained how individuals and organizations can approach for support.

Photo gallery: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/c8Bm8ivWwXk9KLZy6>

3. Indian Students in Germany (ISG) Meeting in Bonn

The ISG meeting at Bonn, held on 3rd February 2018, was attended by committee members of NIRMITI. The event outlined many topics, out of which, handling of distress faced by students in Germany was emphasized the most. The outcome of the meeting suggested to create a Distress Handling Cell. Issues concerning intellectual property rights and conflict



handling were also discussed. We discussed these issues and conveyed messages to the members on social media. The weekly cricket, badminton and football clubs are providing platform to address the issues. In the issues regarding with the host professors, the students were advised to contact OMBUDSPERSON of the respective University. Then, the need to inform new students about the ARD Radio money which is a compulsory fee for all students irrespective of where they live or work.

4. Career guidance-session 2018

A career guidance event was organized on 1st July 2018 at Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research, Justus-von-Liebig-Weg 3, 37077 Göttingen. We invited Dr. Muralee Thummarukudy, Chief of Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Environment Program, Geneva. He provided guidance on



current trends in job market and career prospective in United Nations and International Civil Service. He emphasized on women empowerment and entrepreneurial ventures. Dr. Muralee also shared his experience in post-disaster response and follow up of almost all major disasters of the twenty-first century.

Photo gallery: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/gWNdNPC1GUaJaGg97>

5. ISG meeting in Munich

The ISG event held at Munich on 23rd June 2018, which was in succession to the ISG Meeting held at Bonn on 3rd February 2018. The main topics discussed in the meeting includes integration of incoming students for Winter Semester 2018 and creating awareness regarding fraudulent consultancies and fraudulent people demanding money for consultation. The CIM discussed on its current integration programs with the alumini of German Universities who are currently working in India. They requested more association in the future from the students who are currently pursuing education in Germany and will go back to India for work. Announcements for more of Indian cultural events from Magdeburg and for a big central event for Indian students were put forward in the meeting.



IV. Sports events

1. Sports day 2018

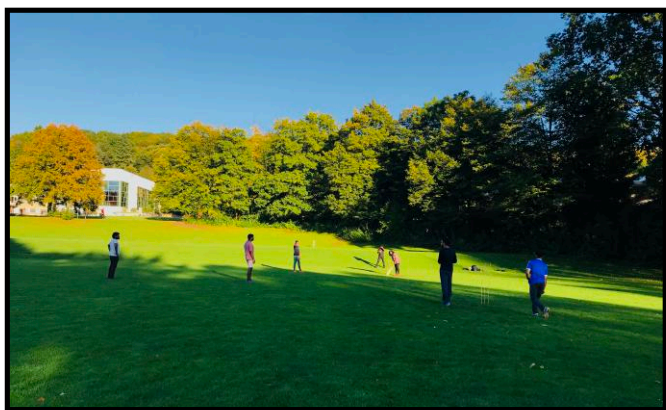
Sports day was organized on 11th August 2018 at Sports Centre of the University of Goettingen, Sprangerweg 2, 37075 Göttingen. Event was organized in commemoration of Indian national sports day, which is being celebrated on 29th day of August every year. Several games including badminton, football, lemon and spoon race, three-leg race, tug of war, lagori, slow bike race, cricket is being played. The event concluded with a barbeque party. The events witnessed the sportive spirit among the participants and the strength of India in terms of diversity, fraternity and ultimate unity.

Photo gallery: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/M27iY1bYe6ne554L9>



2. Weekend sports

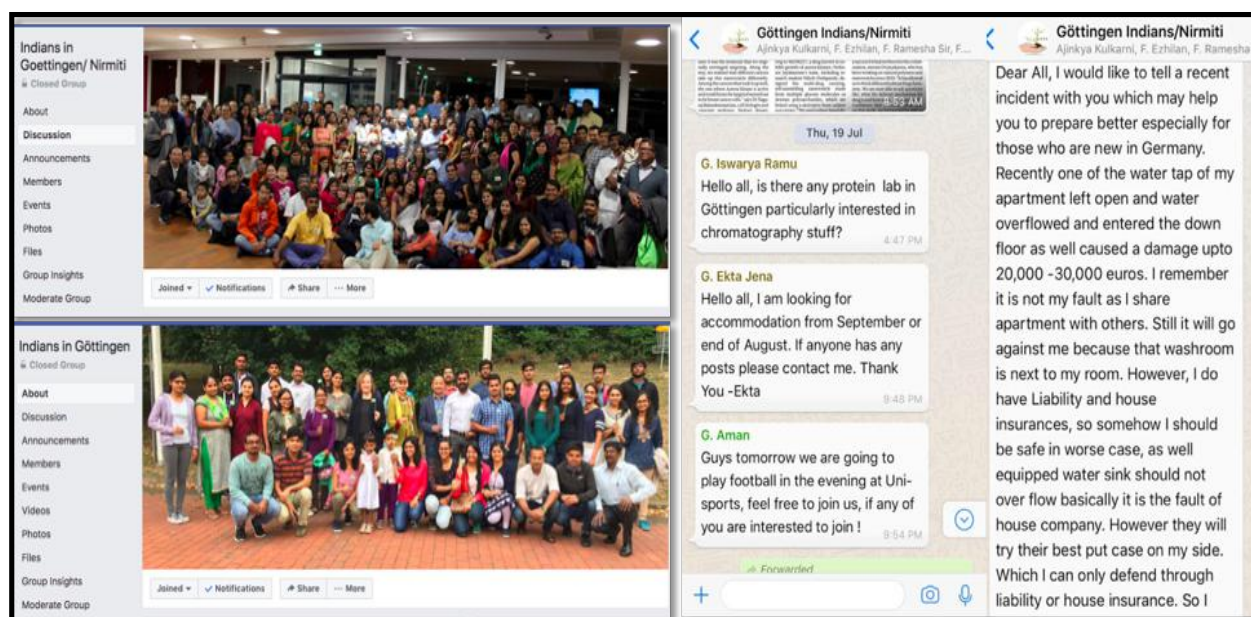
To give a platform for sports enthusiasts' weekend cricket, football and badminton clubs have been formed and members play regularly at weekends. These games are being played for fun and relaxing from stress in which boys, girls and children take part actively.



Link: <https://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/weekend+sports/572587.html>

NIRMITI on social media

NIRMITI is very active in social media with an active public relation officer who provides instant help to the fellow members on various occasions, for dealing issues regarding visa application, accommodation, city registration, health insurance, etc. The Facebook group, ‘Indians in Göttingen/ NIRMITI’ with 516 members, provides a platform for sharing thoughts, views, ideas and opportunities. Similarly, WhatsApp Group with 114 active participants help in instant exchange of messages. Day to day functioning of NIRMITI is largely benefited from social media platforms.







Financial Statement (Year 2017-2018)

I	Credit	(in euros)
	Funds collected for Diwali 2017	1545.00
	Donations to NIRMITI	167.80
II	Debit	
	Food, cutleries and other expenses for events	1376.53
	Travel allowances for events	117.60
	Balance (as on 18th August 2018)	218.77
III	Donations collected for Kerala flood relief	152.00

NIRMITI - Office holders 2017-18

	Dr. Amandeep Singh Arora <i>President</i>		Mr. Ramesha Mundre Ningappa <i>General Secretary</i>
	Mr. Udhaya Bhaskar Sathya Narayanan <i>Treasurer</i>		Ms. Mohini Kale <i>Cultural Secretary</i>
	Mr. Jhenkhar Mallikarjun <i>Public Relation Officer</i>		Dr. Trishna Dutta <i>Web Admin</i>

NIRMITI -Executive members 2017-18

	Mr. Rahul Pathinettil Raj <i>Executive member</i>		Ms. Shilpa Patil <i>Executive member</i>
	Ms. Maithily <i>Executive member</i>		Ms. Sowmya Krishnamurthy <i>Executive member</i>