

Dear friends in India, dear Nandhini, dear Fr Regis, dear Fr. Charles, dear Ambrose best wishes to all of you from Arivu-Team Nienburg, Germany!

We hope you are all doing well and our newsletter finds you all safe and sound. The visit of Nandhini and Viji to Europe is very fresh in our minds and hearts. It was a great pleasure to welcome them at our schools and homes. Their presence and the great presentations gave a great impact to our community.

Since the beginning of the academic year in August some activities have taken place that we like to share with you. Enjoy reading our Newsletter.

Visit of Nandhini and Viji in Nienburg



In September, Nandhini and Viji visited us in Nienburg and at the Albert Schweitzer School! We were very pleased!



At the school, the two guests were warmly welcomed with a musical program by different classes and students. The India Working Group, the student

and parent representatives, and the school principal greeted and honored the guests.



Afterwards, Nandhini and Viji briefly presented their projects to each class and thanked the students for the recent fundraising efforts for the new girls' restrooms and the new school bus. The students greatly appreciated the visit. Unfortunately, there was little time to ask questions, but many classes continued to discuss the projects in India with their teachers afterwards. We believe this discussion between teachers and students is very fruitful and important to keep the partnership alive at our school.

The elder students were invited to a detailed presentation in the Giebelsaal about the work of Nandhini and her team and the problems in the Indian society. Many interested classes attended, so the Giebelsaal was almost completely full. Nandhini and Viji gave a very impressive presentation



about the problems Dalits have to face. The audience was particularly shocked by the continued prevalence of honor killings based on the caste system.

In the afternoons and evenings, all Arivu members, other friends and interested people were invited to gatherings with coffee and cake and dinner. Once again, Viji and Nandhini gave impressive accounts of their work. We had a wonderful time together and enjoyed talking together!



India Working Group at the ASS

A new India Working Group has been formed at ASS in the new school year. 12 students meet every week with Mrs. Munk to learn more about Indian society and the projects in Neerpair, and to organize small fundraising events.

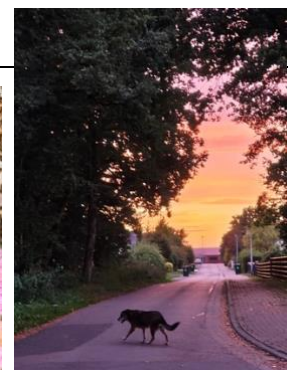
While Viji and Nandhini were at ASS, they cooked and had lunch at school with the India Working Group. That was wonderful!



Over the past few weeks, we've been making chocolate apples. We first went to an orchard and picked apples. We then made apple juice and dipped the apples in chocolate. We sold the chocolate-covered apples in the school's break hall. After 10 minutes, all the apples were sold, and the group was able to transfer a small donation for the projects in Neerpair.

Summer ends, autumn comes

The days are getting shorter, the nights are very fresh, autumn is coming. The last flowers are blooming and the leaves change the colours from green to yellow and red. Trees slowly lost their leaves, they cover the floor like a carpet.



Town Festival of Nienburg



The last weekend of september, the town of Nienburg celebrated its City Festival. From thursday to sunday, singers and bands offer a wide variety of music on different stages.



Instead of taking part in the flee market, a few Arivu members had a collaboration with the church of St. Martin in the city center. Right in front of the church we set up a wooden hut and sold little drinks to the people.

This hut was a popular meeting point for former pupils of Albert Schweitzer school as all the other years before. So we sold a lot of drinks and half of the money that we earned goes to Arivu and the India project.



Visit from our Indian Partnerschool at Gymnasium Oesede

In September, we had the great pleasure of welcoming guests from our partner school in India. Ms. Nandhini Krishnan, project leader, and her sister Viji Krishnan from Dr. Arulappa Higher Secondary School spent several days in Oesede. They brought warm greetings



and expressed heartfelt thanks

for the continued support from our school over the past years. Headmaster Mr. Rohm, together with Mrs. Haase and the India Club, welcomed our guests with a short speech in front of the assembled

students. As a sign of gratitude, a beautiful green silk scarf was presented to Mr. Rohm on behalf of the entire school community.



During their visit, Nandhini and Viji visited two classes of Year 11 and Q1 to talk about their projects and the situation in India. The students listened with great interest. Later, Year 6 gathered in the auditorium, where the children were deeply impressed by the lives of their peers in India and asked many thoughtful questions.



Later, an **Indian Afternoon** took place. After a warm welcome and exchange of gifts, Nandhini and Viji gave a presentation about their school, current projects, and life in India. Mrs. Haase translated their talk into German. The event concluded with lively conversations, Indian snacks, and Lassi prepared by the India Club. Everyone agreed that this partnership is truly special and should continue to grow.



The next day, a meeting with interested teachers took place at Dr. Gunhild Buse's home over coffee. A presentation on honour killings left everyone deeply shocked and reflective—everyone agreed that such tragedies must never happen.



On Sunday, after enjoying the Holland Market in Glandorf and some delicious ice cream in the autumn sunshine, the guests continued their journey to Nienburg. We sincerely thank Nandhini and Viji for their visit, their warmth, and the valuable insights they shared with us.

Guests from India at MARIANO-JOSEPHINUM in Hildesheim

On September 10, the India Working Group welcomed guests from their partner school in India.



How are the students at our partner school in Neerpair (India), and what is the situation like there? The India Working Group is very committed to maintaining contact and friendship with the partner school in India. Therefore, we were very pleased to welcome Nandhini Krishnan and her sister Viji as our Indian guests at Mariano-Josephinum on Wednesday, September 10, 2025. During the fourth period, the two sisters spoke to a tenth-grade class from the partner school before spending the rest of the morning with the India Working Group in the atrium. At a well-stocked potluck buffet, the Indian sisters answered many questions.



At 5 pm, a presentation started in the foyer for all interested students, teachers, and parents. Nandhini began by vividly discussing the cultural differences between the two countries. Although the caste system in India has been abolished on paper, it still exists in people's minds and divides the Indian population into layers.

Against this backdrop, she proudly presented the projects of Aktion Indien e.V. These include a primary school and the Dr. Arualappa Higher Secondary School, along with its associated dormitory. The students are almost exclusively Dalits (so-called "untouchables"), who stand at the very edge of Indian society, and whose parents often cannot read or write. These children, regardless of whether they are Christians, Hindus, or Muslims, are given the opportunity for education through the initiative and are supported by the so-called WE-Group even after graduation to further their education and pursue well-paying jobs.

Nandhini brought us closer to life in India through many photos and detailed descriptions, sharing stories of students who have already benefited from financial aid from Germany. These success stories



all tell of brave and intelligent young people who were born into poverty and are now mathematicians, doctors, and police officers. Throughout the day, we could feel the great warmth and gratitude of the Indian sisters. They spoke fondly of "Papa Mispagel," the founder of Aktion Indien e.V., and they could not stop expressing their thanks to their "German family."

Johanna Müller, standard XI

Religious Orientation Days 15th- 19th September 2025

The entire Year 12 cohort was able to sign up for a project during the Religious Orientation Days, which lasted one week. The aim of the week was to explore their own attitudes towards religion and life. Various projects were available: a week-long pilgrimage from Braunschweig to Hildesheim, exploring the three major religions in Frankfurt, spending a week in a monastery, engaging in artistic activities, and much more. Most of the students enjoyed the week, which gave them the opportunity to explore their own religious identity outside of school.



Experiencing India in Germany

On Monday, May 12, 2025, the project day for the elective courses of the 8th grades took place. The India course took the opportunity to explore the Indian temple "Sri Muthumariamman" in Hannover-Empelde and the Indian grocery store "Vinay Vermani."

We were welcomed by a young member of the community who guided us through the temple. It is important to mention that this is a South Indian temple, which differs significantly from North Indian places of worship. The first impression was overwhelming. The hall was filled with various "houses" of the respective deities, adorned with vibrant colors, magnificent statues, and fine decorations.



First, the young man explained to us the process of a Pooja, a worship service that serves to maintain the spirit of the community, which we later had the chance to experience ourselves. At noon, a Pooja began, which was considered particularly special due to the full moon. At the end of the service, the priest marked our foreheads with ash, which serves as a reminder of death. Additionally, he distributed milk, one of the five sacred liquids in Hinduism, which we were supposed to drink afterward. Following the Pooja, there was a large buffet in celebration of the holiday, which we were also allowed to enjoy.



We learned a lot about the deities, for example, that there is no temple for Brahma. This is because he is considered the creator of the earth and humanity, and thus seen as selfish, which is particularly negative in Hinduism. The religion emphasizes using one's free will without ulterior motives. Following Brahma, there are Vishnu (the maintainer) and Shiva (the destroyer), who can take on countless forms. Together, these three make up the Trimurti.

Not only did we learn many facts, but we also experienced countless aspects of the religion firsthand. Afterward, we headed to the grocery store. There, we were greeted by large sacks of rice, Indian sweets, various spices, fresh fruits and vegetables, snacks, and many other items. Ella Pektas, 8a

Dear Nandhini, dear Viji, dear Fr Regis, dear Fr Charles and dear Ambrose, we send our special greetings and wishes to you and all our Indian friends! Please convey our wishes to all children in St John's home, to all teachers, students and staff of Arulappa Higher Secondary School and all members of WE-Group!

*Hilde, Andrea, Edda, Kathrin, Cordula
and all friends from Arivu-Team and Aktion Indien*

