



SAI | SOUTH ASIA INSTITUTE
Heidelberg University

Cultural and Religious History of South Asia (Classical Indology)



Excursion to Goa and Hampi (India)

19.02. - 05.03.2012



From 19.02. - 05.03.20012 the department of Classical Indology organized an excursion to observe and analyze the ritual practices associated with worship of deities (Pūjā).

Together with Anand Mishra, ten students of the department stayed in *Śādvala - Center for Sanskrit Studies* in Goa and participated in the Pūjā rituals conducted by Dr. Patanjali Mishra (Sanskrit-Faculty, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi) and Dr. Shivdeo Mishra (Priest, Kashi Vishwanath Temple, Varanasi).

Each day, a group of two students were assigned the task of assisting the ritual experts for initial preparations and then participating and performing the following rituals with them.

Gaṇeśa-pūjana

(Erena Edmond Francis, Benjamin Edinger)

Kalaśa (Varuṇa)-pūjana

(Nathalie Gilhaus, Dominique Baur)

Ṣoḍaśa-māṭṛkā-pūjana, Sapta-ghṛta-māṭṛkā-pūjana

(Linde Goebel, Judith Unterdörfler)

Nāndī-śrāddha

(Anna Ries, Charlotte Backhaus)

Navagraha-pūjana, Homa

(Bastian Jantke, Nils Liersch)

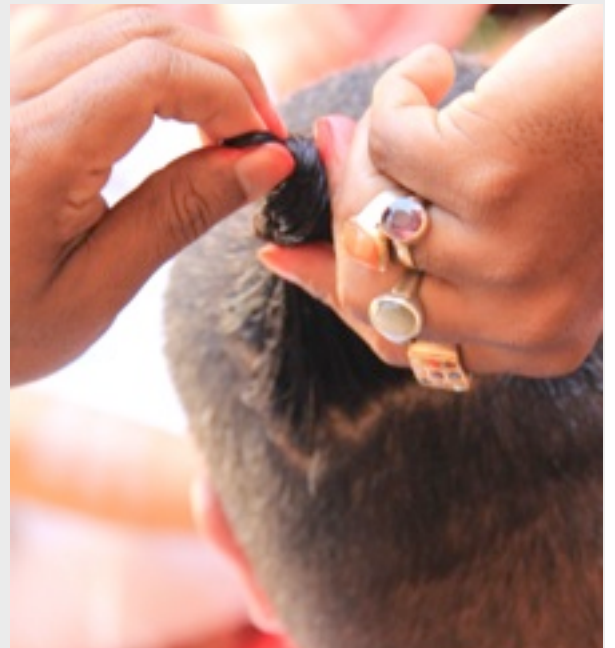




The next step of analysis involves identification of the ritual elements and units, annotating them and connecting the corresponding pictures and audio recordings. Once the collected material is processed, the results will be published on the course website.

For the group, it was a unique occasion to live with two traditional Pandits in the same house. Many issues of daily practices including ritual purity, food and other traditional customs were directly confronted and actively discussed.

On the occasion of Śivarātri (20.2.2012) the students visited the Saptakoṭīśvara-Tempel in Narve, Goa and observed the festivities as well as Rudrābhiṣeka rituals.



In the evening, they had a chance to view a temple theater (*Rudrapraṇayanī*) organized and performed by the local village community on the occasion of founding day of the temple.





Linde Goebel and Charlotte Backhaus presented historical, political and cultural background of Goa and the group visited the relevant places including Churches and Basilica of Old Goa, the Adilshahi Mosque and the Archaeological Museum. The students also participated in Sunday Mass conducted in Konkani in the Basilica of Bom Jesus.

A workshop was organized with a group of the followers of a new movement *Jivan Vidya Mission* getting popular among the middle class community in Maharashtra and Goa. This provided a glimpse into the way these groups organize themselves and communicate and propagate their ideas.



From 1.03.-05.03.2012 the group visited Hampi. Erena Edmond Francis, Benjamin Edinger and Bastian Jantke presented information about the history, town planning and archaeological features of the Vijayanagara Empire. Brief reports on the selected structures will be prepared and published on the course website.



The excursion was partially funded by the students' fees (*Studiengebühren*).



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Bastian Jantke, Dr. Shivdeo Mishra, Anand Mishra, Dr. Patanjali Mishra, Nils Jacob Liersch

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