

Three months in retrospect.
2nd Report
Mirella Frenzel

Time is passing. Sometimes quick and sometimes it goes like slow motion. It is just like a chewing gum.

For this report I really had to get aware again what actually happened the last three months. It is quite different compared to the first report. Of course it is.

Three months ago there were still a lot of new things that made a great impression to me, that I wanted to write down.

I don't want to say that it had stopped. Its just a different feeling now.

You get used to everyday commodities and sometimes start to change the view on it.

Now you have to take more time for thinking about the last three months.

What happened? What changed? What was particular?

In retrospect it was a time filled up with new and important experiences for me.

To start in the beginning of December I had a great time with my family. They joined my life here for three weeks. After one week having an introduction into Auroville we already started our journey around Kerala. It was very nice to see how easily you can travel by bus and train. What I didn't like was the feeling of being a tourist.

I know that you probably can't avoid this feeling but I like to try doing my travels without participating in big tourist attractions. A very impressive moment of this trip was the morning of the 1st of January.

Standing at the southernmost place in India, Kanyakumari, to watch the crowd of pilgrims bathing in the sea during the sunrise was really beautiful. The aesthetic combination of the colours, particularly the red saris and the light blue colour of the sea, was amazing!

After my hesitation to go as the only white coloured person to take a bath I really enjoyed the nice warm water in the morning sun.

During this time the nature showed up all her power at the eastern coast between Chennai and Pondicherry. A big cyclone took away a lot of trees and when we came back to Auroville we were really shocked. Nearly everything looked different and I was quite happy that my parents did see the Auroville area already before.

Our living situation didn't changed that much compared to some others.

But it was also good experience to live without electricity and water for a few days. Therefore I learned how to wash laundry in the lake like the village people do and also experienced the lake as a nice swimming place.

The awareness of the nature and how good it feels to live close to her I just experienced again a little when a friend moved to Fertile. She is living there in a treehouse and after some visitings I recognized again how different you live when you are that close to the nature rhythm.

Because I missed the feeling of being in the nature and not in a closed room I just slept one night outside on the roof. It was full moon and a quite calm night compared to other village nights.

In February we had our second seminar in the Center Guest House. It was quite short but really good filled up with practical exercises, for example the small nature walk.

After the seminar I get again a clear sight about many things. In the previous weeks I was in a mood of spending a lot of time just hanging around and writing to friends at home. Same time I was a little bit out of work. So afterwards I recognized the strong connection between work and private life.

Ended up with this cognition I really think that it is quite important for us to stay one year in the same project to get all this experience....to get through the different periods at the working place.

Living in India means also never miss any festival. So you can see, feel and hear if they starting to prepare and after celebrating their festivals. Especial our living situation in the village keeps us always close to all this festivals and functions that are going on.

In the beginning of this year already a few Indian festivals and functions took place. In the middle of January there was the big festival called Pongal. Through a visit at my tamil friends house in the next village I really experienced the festival. It was the last day of Pongal and the day when they did the puja for their vandis. So every bicycle, bike and car was blessed and we were just driving through the village calling „pongaloo“.

A few weeks later there was the Auroville Marathon where we helped starting in the morning 4.30 a.m. to distribute water and any snacks for the marathon participants. This day was also the function of our house owners daughter. The whole day some loudspeakers, installed on our roof, made our joy complete with playing music all the time. Would have been more nicely with more variety of songs and a better sound quality.

Finally, on the 28th of February, there was the Auroville birthday and at the same day the birthday of Svaram. Our day in Svaram was full of preparation for the evening and everybody was quite busy. There was for example a small cooking crew cooking the whole day for the dinner in the evening.

A lot of people were joining the Svaram Birthday and listening to a two hour performance of different music artist. It was a very nice atmosphere, especially when we started to lighting-up all the oil lamps. After the dinner the day ended with percussion and a few dancing people.

Might be the next months like a danced night.