

# A Report On The Trip To ENS

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I and my friend Debapriyo Majumdar visited *École Normale Supérieure (ENS)*, during the months of May and June, 2001, under the exchange programme between *ENS* and *Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI)*, Chennai (=Madras), India. The trip was very fruitful both academically and otherwise.

The duration of the trip was roughly eight weeks from 8th of May 2001 to 30th of June 2001. *CMI* sponsored the traveling cost while *ENS* paid for our stay in Paris. We were given food coupons for our lunch and dinner at the *ENS* canteen. Other things that were sponsored by *ENS* are the French courses at *Alliance Française* and an academic trip to Montpellier. We were given 6400 FF (including 850 FF for the talk that we gave at the end of our trip) for our other expenses. Apart from these we were given a book grant of 3000 FF.

In December 2000, it was decided that I will work under the guidance of Prof. Loïc Merel of *Paris 7 University* during my visit to Paris. This pre-assignment helped me to keep in touch with my guide and pick up the basic materials necessary for a qualitative work during the summer. The main aim of my work in Paris was to study the recent results connecting non-vanishing of modular  $L$ -functions and Landau Siegel zeroes. With the traveling assistance from *ENS*, I visited Prof. Philippe Michel of *Montpellier University*, one of the few masters in the above mentioned topic. Interaction with him gave me lots of new ideas and a much better understanding of the things that I knew already. I also clarified doubts with Prof. Régis de la Bretèche at *ENS*. At the end of our stay in Paris, I gave a talk titled “Non-vanishing Of Modular  $L$ -functions” based on the Mathematical work that I did during our stay.

Apart from the reading course, I attended several lectures in and around *ENS*. Prof. Don Zagier’s lecture series on Modular forms and Differential forms at Collège de France was very much related to my work. I also attended some of the lectures at *Paris 11 University* in Orsay on the occasion of “Colloque Raynaud”. The other lectures that I attended outside *ENS*

include the Indo-French Number theory conference at *Paris 6 University*, Prof. Katz's lecture on "Monodromy of L-functions", Dr. C S Aravinda's lecture on "Exceptional sets of certain endomorphisms of Nilmanifolds and Hausdorff dimension" at *Paris 6 University*. At *ENS*, I attended several of the students' seminars. I also followed few classes of the first year students.

We were put up at the *ENS* guest house, in the "chambres de passage". The facilities provided were of excellent quality and we were extremely happy about our accommodation. I cooked sometimes at the student's kitchen which was situated just below our rooms at the guest house. This gave me an opportunity to talk to the students who used to cook there.

Our office R3 was situated in passage rouge just next to salle Henri Cartan. The office was very spacious. An extra PC was also installed with a software to learn French. We had also joined a French learning course at *Alliance Française* for four weeks. This has helped us a lot to improve our French.

We spent our week ends in visiting various places in France and neighbouring countries. Apart from Paris I visited Chamonix-Mont Blanc, Lyon, Nice and Montpellier in France. We visited various cities in Italy and Spain. The trips were very entertaining and we had lots of memorable experiences (to mention one, our baggages were stolen during our journey back from Barcelona).

It was a great pleasure to be at *ENS* and no doubt I very much wish to visit *ENS* again. Thanks to *ENS*, *CMI*, Loïc Merel, Philippe Michel, Régis de la Bretèche, to all the non-academic staffs who were very helpful, to students at *ENS* and to my dear friends for their great hospitality, and to one and all for making my trip a memorable one.