

A Report on My Trip to ENS

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I, along with my colleagues Amit J. Deshpande and Yashonidhi Pandey, visited *École Normale Supérieure, Paris* during May and June of 2002, under the exchange programme between *ENS* and *Chennai Mathematical Institute, (Madras) India*. The trip was very enjoyable and fruitful.

The duration of our trip was 8 weeks (from April 28 to June 22). *CMI* sponsored our travel expense and *ENS* provided us with the living expense in France. I received 1020 Euros from *ENS*. I also received book grant of 300 Euros. Apart from these, I took a short course (two weeks) in *French* from *Alliance Française* sponsored by *ENS*. I was given 88 meal coupons for my lunch and dinner at the *ENS* canteen. The food was excellent and enjoyable. During the first half of our stay (till May 30) our accommodation was arranged at the *ENS* guest house at 46, rue d'Ulm. I enjoyed my stay here very much. Later, from June 1 to June 22 we stayed in the *ENS* guest house at Montrouge. An office with computer facilities was allotted for me in the Mathematics Department at *ENS* at R3 (passage rouge).

Academically my trip was very fruitful. I worked with Prof. David Harari, *ENS*. We had frequent academic discussions. I studied a few techniques of Number Theory, especially, Galois Cohomology. I used to frequently visit the library and I found it very useful. Apart from my work, I attended a few lectures at *ENS* for the first-year students. It gave me a general idea of this school. At the end of my stay I presented a talk based on my work here, which was titled "*Topics in Galois Cohomology*".

This trip was scientifically and otherwise a very good learning experience. It gave me an opportunity to have exchange of culture. My friends at *ENS* helped me in understanding the cultural and the social aspects of this place better. We visited various places in Paris and it was a great experience.

At the end, it was a pleasant experience to be at *ENS*. I thank both *ENS*, and *CMI* for arranging this exchange programme. I would specially like to thank Prof. David Harari for his kind help and guidance. I am debtful to Stéphane Fischler for taking care of our needs and comforts. I am thankful to the library staffs, academic and non-academic staffs at

ENS for their helpful services. I would like to thank my friends in Paris for their friendly gesture in making me at home. And finally, I thank Amit and Yashonidhi for making this trip more interesting. From *CMI* side, I would like to thank Prof. Nagarajan for guiding and advising me regarding my academic pursuit for this exchange programme. Thanks to everybody for making this trip memorable.