

Von: Gulshan Dhingra <culture.hamburg@mea.gov.in>

Betreff: Circular message to create awareness among the Indian Diaspora and Indian Students under the jurisdiction of Consulate General of India Hamburg

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like you to draw the attention of all Indian Students in Germany and Indian Diaspora members to a very serious issue of our young students/Indian Diaspora members getting drowned and losing their precious life, of late at a regular interval. The recent incidents (last week) at Clausthal (near Goettingen) and near Hamburg-Harburg were really heartbreaking where 2 young students lost their lives due to drowning in a lake.

In 2017, 2 Indian students died (both 23 years old) due to drowning in Duisburg. In 2018, a 22 year old Indian student died in Ruhrsee near Aachen. On 19 July, this year an Indian man drowned in Mannheim. On 28 July, a 28 year old student drowned near Ashaffenburg. And of course, the two recent incidents at Clausthal (near Goettingen) and near Hamburg-Harburg – which happened last week in quick succession.

I would request you to spread awareness among Indian students and other Indian Diaspora members living in Germany about the dangers of swimming in unknown lakes/natural water bodies. The water in these lakes/natural water bodies is really cold, which can affect swimming as a result of cramps leading to a cardiac arrest. Usually, these lakes do not have life guard facilities. One should avoid swimming in these serene and beautiful lakes by risking one's life. Please get suitable advisories posted on maximum number of Facebook pages/FB Groups/Whatsapp Groups and other social media groups etc. Spread the word, by all means, as much as possible. Make announcements during your programmes/shows/events/meetings. The Indian Students and the Indian Diaspora may please also conduct some awareness campaigns. We need support and cooperation from every member of the Indian Diaspora in protecting young lives.

Regards

(Gulshan Dhingra)

Vice Consul

संस्कृति अनुभाग / Culture Section

भारत का प्रधान कौंसलावास / Consulate General of India, Hamburg

Kohlhoefen 21, 20355 Hamburg, Germany

Tel: +49-40-330557, Fax: +49-40-323757

Website: www.cgihamburg.gov.in

Message from Consul General Frankfurt. Please spread the news so that all shall have this information.

Dear All, I would like to draw your attention to very serious issue- the deaths of young Indians due to drowning. In 2017, 2 Indian students died, both 23 year old due to drowning in Duisburg. In 2018, a 22 year old Indian student died in Rursee near Aachen. On 19 July this year an Indian man drowned in Mannheim. On 27 July , a 25 year old student died due to drowning in Hamburg/ Tatenberg and on 28 July a 28 year old student drowned near Ashaffenburg. One more Student drown & died in a lake in Berlin in the same year. I would request you all to spread awareness among Indians living in Germany about the dangers in swimming in unknown lakes. The water in these lakes is really cold which can cause cramps n affect swimming. Usually these lakes do not have life guard facilities. Please avoid swimming in these serene and beautiful lakes n risking your life. Kindly post some advisories on your respective Facebook pages. Spread a word in your respective companies/ universities/ groups. Make announcements during your programmes/ talk shows. Please do some awareness campaigns. We need your support and cooperation in saving young lives.

ADVISORY

Safety and Security

1. There have been several incidents in recent past of young Indians having drowned in lakes/ivers in Germany. **It is advised that Indian tourists as well as Indian community members residing here may exercise due caution and follow due warnings mentioned about areas that may be unsafe for swimming. Young Indian students studying in Germany may also be cautious so that such situations do not arise again.** Persons going on swimming must also take due precautions and wear life jacket before entering the water.
2. There have been several reports of personal belongings / hand bags being stolen at places frequented by visitors to Germany such as Airports, Railway Stations, Hotels, Trade Fairs and places of tourist interest. **Indian visitors to Germany may please ensure safety of their personal belongings including their passports at all times. It is advisable to store a scanned copy of the passport and Schengen visa on their personal internet cloud spaces for easy retrieval.**

Customs' Requirements

There have also been cases whereby Indian passengers have been questioned by customs authorities for carrying gold jewellery. **It is advised that, when travelling, one may like to restrict the amount of expensive jewellery being carried. More details on customs' requirements can be found at the following web links:**

https://www.zoll.de/EN/Private-individuals/Travel/Entering-Germany/Duties-and-taxes/Travellers-allowances/travellers-allowances_node.html
https://www.zoll.de/EN/Private-individuals/Travel/Entering-Germany/Restrictions/Cash/Entering-Germany-from-non-EU-country/entering-germany-from-non-eu-country_node.html

Visa Requirements

1. In some exceptional circumstances in the past, it has been seen that some Indians get stranded at the Frankfurt airport if their outbound evening flight gets cancelled. This happens because the Frankfurt airport closes down at 2300 hrs and Indians, who do not have a valid Schengen visa, are not allowed to leave the airport premises. It may be noted that one cannot leave the airport's international transit area or have an overnight stay in a hotel without a valid Schengen visa. **To avoid cases like these, those who have a Schengen tourist visa, may plan their departure at least a day before their visa expires instead of flying on the last day of the validity of their visa.** Some more information on this can be found at:

<https://www.germany-visa.org/airport-transit-visa/>

2. It has also been noticed that many individuals travelling to Germany see the validity period of the Visa but do not take note of the number of days that the visa is valid for

(normally mentioned on right side of the visa sticker). To avoid getting into trouble with the immigration authorities, Indian citizens are advised to check both the details before travelling.

Fraudulent Phone Calls

Incidents of fraudulent phone calls have also been brought to the Consulate's notice. Indian citizens have received phone calls mentioning about their visa applications or immigration processes and asking fraudulently for 'fines' to be paid. **It may be noted that no such requests are made by the Indian Embassy/Consulates on the phone for transfer of money electronically as payment towards 'fines'. Extra caution may be exercised when any phone call is received demanding electronic transfer of money.**