My Run in with "Reverse Culture Shock"
DEFINITION of 'Reverse Culture Shock'

The shock suffered by some people when they return home after a number of years overseas. This can result in unexpected difficulty in readjusting to the culture and values of the home country, now that the previously familiar has become unfamiliar. The bigger the cultural difference, the greater the reverse culture shock likely upon return.

BASIC FACT OF RCS [see cover for details]

* Prepare to be the Tourist
  You'll notice things with fresh, new eyes
  (everything)
  (disbelieving)
  (wonderful)
  (terrified)
  you get the idea

Pardon me, I'm a shifty globe drawer
So, the first amazing experience when I left

1 USD = 45 Indian rupees
Now
1 USD = 63 INR

There's no describing my shock at how expensive everything had become.
That was one exclamation after the other every time I had to purchase something.

Auto Rickshaws
Bargaining with Auto R. drivers over fares is a fact of life back home. But even they had changed.

Passenger is the KING but never Bargains
2. Speaking of buses, we had to take the local bus from my town to the nearest city. "Word to the wise," when you're scrambling for your seats, make sure to pick one that's not directly above the wheels. => Our butts were in the air half as much as they were slammed down on the seats.

3. Suffice it to say, it was one hilarious, bumpy ride.

"Stuck in traffic because any and all have the right of way; even an elephant procession."

3. Ahh... how could I have forgotten the traffic?

Basic rule to remember is no one follows the rules!!

It's a manic, chaotic system but one that's an unspoken understanding among its users, and it works! The shock is, going from Berea's (and largely the US') calm, quiet, etiquette-ruled roads to one
where you honk every time you're behind a vehicle and overtaking it (because oh, you can't expect people to look in their rearview mirrors... duh) and any gap in the traffic is an imaginary zebra crossing. Crossing in groups highly advised and don't expect any drivers to slow down!

As for the rest, I should probably leave it for you to find out on your own.

4. It was an amazing, heart-warming, frustrating, eye-opening, return home and I wouldn't change a single detail...