

STUDENTS FROM UNIVERSITY OF EXETER VISIT JAIN UNIVERSITY

IN SEARCH OF DESI KNOWLEDGE!

University of Exeter, the 49th best university in the world and Jain University, ranked No.1 among private universities in Southern India recently signed an MoU to explore academic opportunities including exchange programmes for students, faculty and staff for the purpose of education, training, research, cultural enrichment, development and implementation of joint projects.

As a part of the student exchange programme, 11 students with a background in history participated in **The Grand Challenges Week** organized by Jain University from June 3 – 10 2013 at Jain Global Campus.

The objective of the visit was to get insights into the Indian culture, tradition and issues pertaining to a developing country, the Jain University's faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences of conducted a highly interactive week long programme that included sessions on Indian Psychology, Indian art & architecture, Native aspects of Indian food, Indian Indigenous Games, Indian Cinema. Special session on Vrکشayurveda was also offered to the participants.

During their stay, the students from University of Exeter explored the Vedic world at **Om Shantidhama**, a spiritual place which imparts vedic and modern system of education in the true Gurukula methodologies. Students also performed yajna & sacred Hindu rituals along with the Om Shantidhama students through which they experienced the ancient vedic culture.

India's heart beats in its villages. It is the place where one can feel the desi atmosphere & tranquility far away from the chaos and hustle life of cities. To make students of University of Exeter to experience the village life, Jain University organised a rural village visit in Kanakapura, where Exeter students witnessed the traditional village lifestyle, art & architecture, a colourful folk festival & social life of the villagers.

Expressing her view on her first visit to India, Fiona Potigny, a young student from University of Exeter said, **"I had read and seen about India in the media & imagined India as a country full of colours, friendly people, known for its spicy food, music & dance but my visit has enlightened me to the real spirituality of the people. I'm touched by the hospitality of the people and really feel privileged. I look forward to visit this vibrant country again & again!"**

Alice Lawson, an archaeology research student of University of Exeter who spends 6 months a year in India said that India is second home for carrying her research activities, **"I think Indian Universities are as capable as Harvard & Cambridge Universities to carry out research activities. Jain University is not an exception for it too. When we visited Jain University, we were introduced to its interdisciplinary research subjects which have lot of**

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opportunities in the future. We learnt many aspects about the traditional medicines & Indian psychology during the special sessions on Vrکشayurveda & Psychology.”

Overall the sessions conducted by Jain University have made such an impact on University of Exeter students that you may not be surprised if they greet you with a **‘Namaskar’!!!**