

Newspaper Clips

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Multi-country advantage at JNU

The Global Studies Programme co-conducted by JNU opens doors to global varsities in Germany and Argentina

Vimal Chander Joshi

vimal.joshi@hindustantimes.com

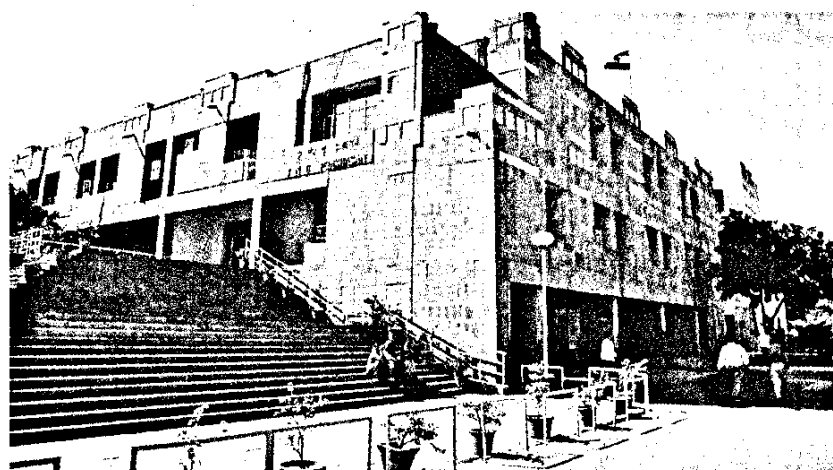
It's a postgraduate degree (MA) in social sciences which attracts students from different corners of the world every year, and is given jointly by the Albert-Ludwigs-Universitat, Germany; Flasco, Argentina and JNU, India.

Sharing her experiences with HT Horizons is Hande Diker from Turkey, an alumna of 2008 and the student representative of Global Studies Programme (GSP) now working in the British Embassy, cultural affairs department (British Council) in Turkey as the coordinator of a project on EU-Turkey Relations.

When did you complete your master's and what made you enroll for this programme?

I finished my MA in May 2008. Before I applied for GSP I was working in the civil society sector that focuses on sustainable development and youth empowerment.

I did my bachelor's in international relations and during the course of study I found sustainable development to be a key area in the globalisation process. I sought to improve myself on micro-



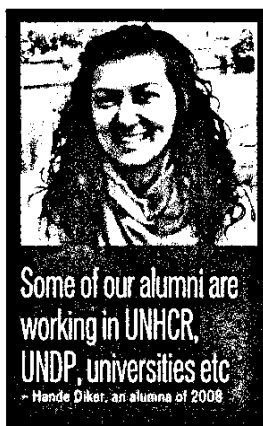
level approaches via a postgraduate study. I did plan to follow this aim with further analyses on the positive and negative effects of globalisation on sustainable development.

I applied for this programme because it was directly related to my background and future goals. I joined GSP to learn more about the dynamics of globalisation, sustainable development of the less developed countries, and the role of civil society on the development process.

In terms of curriculum, exposure and employability, how different is this programme from others?

I think GSP is a unique programme because it gives you the theoretical and practical perspectives on globalisation at the same time. Besides, you have the opportunity to observe the cultural identities and the different understandings on globalisation from the South American, South East Asian and European perspectives.

The programme consists of



Some of our alumni are working in UNHCR, UNDP, universities etc
- Hande Diker, an alumna of 2008

four different modules: globalisation, global governance, cultural change and the research methodology. Each module has different lectures in each semester in Germany, Argentina and India. For instance, under the module of cultural identity, the semester in Freiburg, Germany, has the lecture on 'modern European thought', while in Argentina the lecture of this module is called 'culture and identity in Latin America'.

I think studying these four modules in three different universities (and countries) was a fabulous opportunity and the most unique part of the GSP. The programme was beneficial not only for improving one's intellectual capacity, but also for specialising in development issues (in my case) with the supportive field studies within the programme. Besides, the diversity of students and professors at the school, and during internship have cultivated my vision as well.

Tell us something about the students in your batch?

In my semester there were 27 students from Australia, Ecuador, Canada, South Africa, Bangladesh, Turkey, Iceland, Germany, Mexico USA, Bosnia, Argentina, South Korea, Italy, UK, China and Guatemala.

There were no students from India in my semester. However, we took GSP courses together with other MA students of JNU while we were doing our semester in India.

SHORT TAKE

- Degree you earn: Master's in social sciences (MA)
- Eligibility: BA in social or related science
- Classes will start on: April 1, 2011
- The first and last semester are completed in Germany and there is an eight-week compulsory internship at the end of the first year
- For details: Visit www.gsp.uni-freiburg.de
- Last date to apply: November 30

Where are students placed?

After GSP, people work in NGOs, international aid organisations, international development organisations, governments, private sector, media or academy.

Some of our alumni are working in UNHCR, universities, UNDP, Earth Rights International, Sewa Bharat and media houses.

Who can enroll for this programme? Is it costly?

Compared to other international masters programmes, the tuition fee for the GSP programme is less (in India it is €400 per semester). The students who apply for GSP either have a certain degree of savings, or apply for scholarships during the semesters, work or take student loans. The programme itself has a limited amount of scholarship as well. I did have some savings, besides I worked in the GSP office and at a cafe in Freiburg in my last semester.

The Student Office of the University of Freiburg (www.studentenwerk.uni-freiburg.de/) is also quite good when it comes to helping students find jobs.

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Jamia gives honorary degree to Dalai Lama

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: For Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama, receiving a honorary doctorate degree from Jamia Millia Islamia, "a university with a Muslim flavour", was special.

"This degree from a university with Muslim flavour is special as I am committed to religious harmony. Since September 11, I have been defending Islam. For a few misguided people we should not blame a religion. Islam is one of the important religions in the planet, and hope for millions of people," said the Dalai Lama on Tuesday.

The Degree of Doctor of Letters (Honoris Causa) was conferred on the 14th Dalai Lama by vice-chancellor Najeeb Jung at Jamia's annual convocation. Union HRD, science and technology and communication and IT minister Kapil Sibal was present.

In a short message, Dalai Lama urged the students to strive towards a peaceful world. He started his speech by requesting those present not to misunderstand him for use of wrong words because "my English is not so good". "We should not generalize Muslims for a few mischievous followers of Islam. There are mischievous elements in all religions, including Hinduism and Buddhism. Problems we are facing in the world today are our own creation. To create a harmonious society, we need young people with vision and for that education and moral eth-

ics should go hand in hand," said Dalai Lama.

Paying tribute to the spiritual leader, Jung deviated from the conventional vice-chancellor's address and urged those present "to soak in the presence of His Holiness and the values he shares with our ancient land".

Lauding India's pluralism, Jung said: "The Jamia envisioned by its founders, was a pioneering teaching institution that would make Muslims full partners in the great project that is Indian pluralism. This pluralism is sometimes simplified into Hindu-Muslim amity. But this is to diminish the grandeur of the pluralist ideal."

A total of 3,529 degrees and diplomas were awarded to students from various faculties and departments of the university for successful completion of

their postgraduate, undergraduate and diploma programmes in the academic session 2008-09. The university also gave 147 gold medals to toppers in different courses and awarded 127 PhD degrees to research scholars.

Sibal said: "On the education front, I foresee that the number of illiterate people will go down by more than 150 million in absolute numbers. Universalisation of primary education will be a reality. Every child will receive school education. The stock of graduates in the country will double to around 100 million. There will be around 1,000 universities of all types with nearly 50,000 colleges. Ten of our institutions/ universities will feature among the top 100 in the world by 2020."

toireporter@timesgroup.com

Photos: Anindya Chattopadhyay



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Test to tell crime suspect's age from blood drop

A crime-busting test that can reveal the age of a suspect from a drop of blood has been devised by scientists. Detectives using the test can narrow someone's age to within nine years using tell-tale markers in their DNA. The profiling technique could shed light on unsolved 'cold cases' dating back to decades, according to the journal *Current Biology*. The breakthrough brings closer the day when forensic investigators can piece together identikit pictures of suspects - including their build and colour of the eyes, hair and skin, from a tiny speck of blood, skin or saliva left at a crime scene.

Sound to speed up wound healing:

An ultrasound device that fires sound waves into chronic wounds like leg ulcers can accelerate healing. Research shows treating wounds with high-intensity ultrasound, which helps to clean the wound of debris, can significantly improve the rate at which they heal. A study at the Mayo Clinic in the US found that more wounds healed with ultrasound than with conventional therapy alone.

Roman pool uncovered in Israel:

While excavating the site for a planned new ritual bath for Jews in Jerusalem, Israeli archaeologists uncovered a pool belonging to the Roman legion that sacked the city nearly 2,000 years ago. The discovery announced sheds a rare light on the city the Romans built. Ofer Sion, the director of the excavation of Jerusalem's Old City, said the site proves that the city was larger than previously thought.

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Simple cancer test that can shield women

London: Scientists have developed a new and cheaper test that can accurately detect cervical cancer, a breakthrough which they say could save thousands of women who die of the disease every year.

The test, known as the Cobas test, delivers overnight results and is highly accurate than the smear test which is currently used to spot early signs of the disease, according to the researchers. The test that will cost only £15 a time and could be available in hospitals within 12 months, said the scientists following successful trials on thousands of women in Britain and the US.

Another benefit of the new test, they said, is that patients may need to be screened only every five years, rather than every three years as required for the smear test, the Daily Mail reported. It's said that the smear test misses up to a third of all cervical cancer cases — but the new method picks up almost all of them.

Cervical cancer is the second most common form of cancer among young women and there are just under 3,000 new cases a year. But it is often diagnosed late so survival

The cervical cancer test, costing just £15, delivers overnight results and is highly accurate than the smear test which is currently used to spot early signs of the disease, say experts

rates are far lower than other cancers. The smear test checks for abnormal cells, but this latest test, developed by drug company Roche, is able to detect the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), which triggers the abnormal cell growth.

As a result, researchers said it picks up cancers much earlier and is also far more reliable. And women would be able to find out their results the very next day, while the smear can take as long as five weeks to be analysed.

Early trials by British and US researchers on 47,000 women over the age of 30 found that it picked up HPV in at least one in ten patients who had been given the all-clear following a smear test. The Cobas test is similar to a smear test in that it analyses a small sample of cells taken from a woman's cervix. **PTI**

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EDUCATION

HK universities for India partnership

New Delhi: A cluster of government-funded universities from Hong Kong (HK) Tuesday said it is looking for greater education collaboration with India.

The University of Hong Kong (HKU), has also opened a liaison office in New Delhi.

Raymond H.C. Wong, permanent secretary of education, Hong Kong, said they are looking for research collaboration, faculty and student exchange programmes with Indian Institutes of Technologies (IITs) and other leading educational institutions in India. The delegation has met human resource development minister Kapil Sibal. "India and China are two important countries and will be leaders in the world by 2050. HKU India liaison office will bring the best of Hong Kong, mainland China and India in the field of education," John Spinks, director undergraduate admission at HKU, said.

PRASHANT K. NANDA ●

Hindu ND

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New technology to produce fuel

NEW DELHI: The Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehra Dun, presented a technology to produce petrol, diesel and liquid petroleum gas from polybags and plastics at the "CSIR Technofest- 2010" at Pragati Maidan here on Tuesday.

"We use plastics made from polythene and polypropylene from the municipal and industrial waste and recycle it to produce gasoline, diesel, liquid petroleum gas, and petroleum products like benzene, toluene, and xylene," said Mahendra Pal, scientist of the Institute.