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ED WITH THE TIMES OF INDIA (DELHI EDITION) IN DEHRADUN, SELAQUI, DOIWALA, BHANIYAWALA AND MUSSOO

E-HELP AT HAND

Mind the Gap! is a rare utilitarian website that Parul Gupta has launched for international students in the UK. This she did in order to help Indian students who, she felt, required urgent guidance when studying abroad. Parul was in Doon recently visiting her maternal grandparents who live in Vasant Vihar. In an exclusive tête-à-tête, she speaks about this effort that she is very passionate about.

"I graduated from the University of Leeds in 2006 and chose to share my experiences as an in-

ternational student in the UK with others who were applying to the UK, through a handbook I wrote called 'The International Student's Guide to UK'. The book was a compilation of the lessons I learnt from my personal experience," she reveals.

The handbook received a very positive feedback and "I decided to convert it into an e-book so it could reach a wider audience," she adds excitedly.

At that time she was also working as an overseas education consultant in India. She then moved to the UK last year and decided to use her experience as a UK education consultant and her own personal experience as a student in the UK to build on the idea of an e-book. And that's how Mind the Gap! was born.



Elaborating she states, "Mind the Gap! is essentially a bridge for international students in the UK, aimed at making their crossover easier and more interesting. It is a blog site filled with information, tips, advice, and suggestions on everything that concerns and interests an international student. "Be it

travel, food, part-time jobs, career, applications, academics, shopping, budgeting, surviving a roommate, everything is there!" she smiles.

Concerned students can also access this e-book on the site. Moreover, Parul welcomes questions and

feedback from them, so she knows exactly what kind of information they are seeking, and so they know that there is someone they can turn to in the UK, when they arrive there.

Parul informs that she launched the website in January and the response has been overwhelming.

sunday, march 7, 2010
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In less than a month, the site has got well over a 1000 hits and it has a rapidly growing fan following on Facebook and on Orkut.

"If anyone requires any further information, I will be available on email," she signs off.

(Her website is <http://mindthegap-uk.com>)