

Nālandā
UNIVERSITY

Annual Report

Nalanda University

2010-2011 & 2011-2012



Nālandā
UNIVERSITY

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&

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Foreword

We are pleased to present the first Annual Report of Nalanda University. The report covers the period November 2010 to March 2012, i.e. part of the financial year 2010-2011 and the full financial year 2011-2012.

The report outlines in detail the developments at Nalanda University in addition to providing a vision statement. Further, it also provides a brief historical background of ancient Nalanda University and its revival as a modern University in November 2010.

The Annual Report comprises a message from the Chairperson and reports from the Vice Chancellor, the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) University Development and Academic Affairs and Officer on Special Duty (OSD) Finance on various aspects of the development of the University.

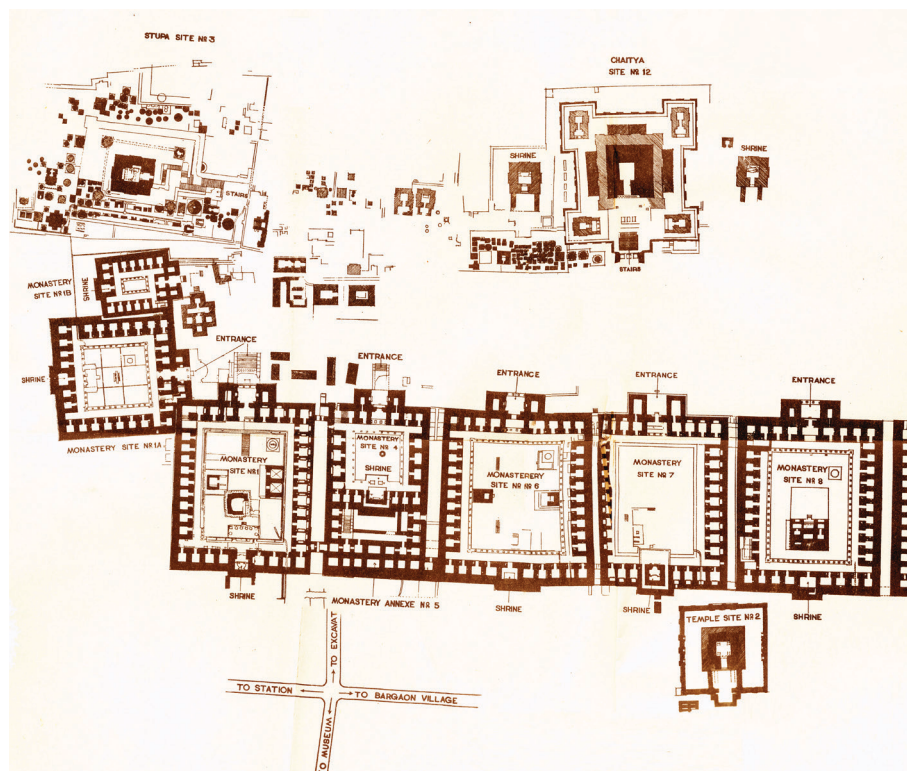
Nalanda University: Past And Present

Historical Background

The region of Nalanda is situated where the erstwhile kingdom of Magadha once was. Its capital Rajgriha, modern day Rajgir, is the site of the new Nalanda University. The oldest known centre of learning in the world, old Nalanda enjoyed this unique status since its emergence in 5th century CE almost uninterrupted till 12th century CE.

Set up initially as a centre of Buddhist learning, philosophy, alchemy, anatomy and mathematics, this residential university attracted many renowned scholars and students from various parts of central and east Asia, such as China, Korea, Tibet, Mongolia and Turkey. Faxian, Xuanzang and Yijing were distinguished visiting scholars at Nalanda. The holistic pedagogic model of Nalanda – anchored in lively debate and dialogue – strove to establish a balance between individual, human life and the larger biosphere. It also embraced multiple forms of knowledge. There was a rigorous admission test for entry into the University. At its peak, Nalanda accommodated as many as 10,000 students and 2000 teachers.

Given this wide knowledge base, the ancient university had three buildings entirely devoted to the library. This library, known as Dharma Gunja had the largest repository of Buddhist and Hindu literature in the world in its time. Apart from its academic excellence, Nalanda University was also an architectural wonder, evident from the archaeological



Plan of excavated remains at Nalanda

excavations of the site. The use of thick red bricks walls to insulate the interiors shows that attention was given to local climatic conditions. Extensive drainage systems were executed with utmost engineering expertise. Stucco plastered walls with exquisite ornamentation and relief sculptures are masterpieces impossible to replicate even today.

Nalanda's survival was primarily through royal patronage and material support with revenues and produce of surrounding villages as endowments, thus freeing the scholars from any concerns regarding their wellbeing.

Nalanda's decline in the 12th century marked the end of the longest surviving institution of higher learning that was truly international and held in its time the unprecedented position at the pinnacle of knowledge creation and dissemination.

Excavated remains of Monastries at Nalanda



Transition To A Modern University

Nalanda translates as 'no end to giving'. It is this philosophy that underpins the revival of this ancient seat of learning and fuels the desire to once again build an academically exalted institution that will help India regain its pre-eminent position at the cutting edge of a new knowledge revolution.

In March 2006, the then President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, while addressing the Bihar Legislature voiced this very idea. He stressed the need for reviving Nalanda University, and making it once again a place for the meeting of minds. This goal was to be accomplished by attracting scholars from across the world to carry out research; linking philosophy to science, technology, economy and spiritualism while integrating ancient and modern thinking.

The Government of Bihar, which itself was contemplating a plan to revive Nalanda University, supported the idea of establishing Nalanda University once again.

In mid-2006, a working paper entitled The Nalanda Proposal was received from the Singapore Government. It pointed to the potential of the Buddhist circuit in India if the infrastructure catering to tourists was upgraded. The working paper also suggested that Nalanda would be the ideal site for establishing a 21st century learning institution linking South and East Asia. There was the additional idea that if the infrastructure of the region was improved to promote tourism around the University at Nalanda, it would in turn enable economic development of the entire region.



Prime Minister
Dr. Manmohan Singh
at the fourth East Asia
Summit

The proposal was to revive Nalanda University with the support of the 16 Member States of the East Asia Summit (EAS). At the Cebu summit of the EAS in January 2007, the Member States welcomed the regional initiative for the revival of Nalanda University.

The Bihar Legislature in the meantime unanimously passed the University of Nalanda Bill 2007, in March 2007, to facilitate the setting up of the University. The Bihar Government also took concrete steps in this direction by earmarking about 500 acres of land in Rajgir, 10 kilometers from the site of the ruins of the old university of Nalanda.

Based on the Cebu Summit response, the Bihar Government decided to involve the Central Government in the Nalanda project as it wanted to make the new University truly world class.

The Ministry of External Affairs proceeded to form the Nalanda Mentor Group (NMG), under the Chairmanship of Professor Amartya Sen, to examine the framework of international cooperation and the structure of partnership, which would govern the establishment of the University. The following were the members of the NMG:

- 1) Professor Amartya Sen, Chairman, Harvard University
- 2) Mr. George Yeo, Foreign Minister of Singapore
- 3) Mr. N.K. Singh, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)
- 4) Professor Lord Meghnad Desai, Member, House of Lords, United Kingdom
- 5) Mr. Ikuo Hirayama, Japan
- 6) Professor Sugata Bose, Harvard University
- 7) Professor Wang Bangwei, Peking University
- 8) Dr. Tansen Sen, The City University of New York
- 9) Mr. N. Ravi Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Member-Secretary

The following members formally joined the NMG over the years:

1. Professor Wang Gungwu, East Asia Institute, University of Singapore, who was alternate member from the time of inception of the NMG became a full member .
2. Professor Susumu Nakanishi, Koshi Museum of Literature, Toyoma Prefecture, Japan succeeded Mr. Ikuo Hirayama upon the latter's passing away.
3. Professor Prapod Assavavirulhakarn, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok joined NMG as a new member.
4. Mr. N. Ravi was succeeded by Ms. Latha Reddy and later by Mr. Sanjay Singh as Member-Secretary.

The NMG was also tasked to make proposals for the governance structure of the University and fund-raising resources.

The NMG met six times:

Singapore (July 2007)

Tokyo (December 2007)

New York (May 2008)

New Delhi (August 2008)

Nalanda / Gaya (February 2009) and

New Delhi (August 2010).



The Nalanda Trail
exhibition, Singapore

The NMG envisioned that Nalanda University should focus on becoming a centre of excellence for research and teaching with an emphasis on postgraduate studies. It would draw on the understanding of the past while emphasizing its relevance to the future. Its vision would be based on a global philosophy while maintaining local relevance. It would be a public institution and also seek engagement and participation of the private sector and non-governmental organizations. The NMG reiterated that Nalanda University should be a unique place of learning. It would be academically autonomous and encourage high levels of scholarship and promote academic excellence. The NMG echoed the sentiments of the Bihar government stressing that the new Nalanda should develop into one of the best universities in the world for high caliber students and scholars engaged in cutting edge teaching and research.

The NMG agreed that the Nalanda University should benefit the local people and encourage the participation of local communities. They welcomed international contributions from foreign governments, international organizations and private sources for the establishment of Nalanda University.

Inaugural NMG meet ,
Singapore



The last meeting of
the NMG at
New Delhi with
Mr. Nitish Kumar and
Mr. S M Krishna



It was agreed that the architectural plan of the University must be environment friendly and the natural environment of the area should be incorporated in the design and structure of the university albeit with a contemporary character and a quiet setting. The NMG favoured the idea of having affiliations with academic institutions of distinction in other countries. The group reiterated that the philosophy behind the revival of the Nalanda University is not just based on study of Buddhism but also contemporary studies such as philosophy, history, business and management, ecology and environment, and information technology.

NMG suggested that the University should start functioning with research scholars and post-graduate students in the initial years. After reaching a certain degree of stability, admission at under-graduate level could be considered.

It was also decided that the structure of emoluments for the academic and non-academic staff would be comparable with international standards. Simultaneously, the fee structure for students would also have to reflect the international nature of the proposed university with meritorious students being supported with scholarships and/or other forms of assistance.

The NMG meetings in India saw the participation of the Chief Minister of Bihar Mr. Nitish Kumar and the former President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. The Chief Minister, on behalf of the Bihar Government, extended full support to the project. Mr. Nitish Kumar expressed the view that the University should engage with its surroundings and give back to the neighbouring community of villages as well as embark on research projects on old Nalanda.

By the time the NMG had its last meeting in August 2010, the Nalanda University Act (2010) was ready to be placed before Parliament. On August 12, 2010 the Nalanda University Bill was introduced and passed unanimously in the Upper House of Parliament, the Rajya Sabha. It was also passed unanimously in the lower House of Parliament, the Lok Sabha on August 26. The Bill received Presidential assent on September 21, 2010 and the Nalanda University Act, 2010 was published in the Gazette of India the next day. Following a Government notification, the Act came into force on November 25, 2010. Thus, November 25, 2010 is the founding day of the University.

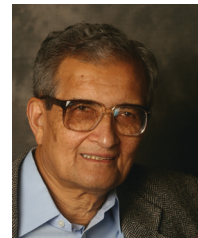
The Nalanda Mentor Group became the Governing Board from this date onwards for a period of one year. This provides continuity between the Nalanda Mentor Group and the University administration as they proceed with the task of establishing the university in keeping with the vision of the NMG.



Governing Board
Members at the site of
the proposed Nalanda
University

The Governing Board

Professor Amartya Sen is Lamont University Professor, and Professor of Economics and Philosophy, at Harvard University. Prior to that he was Master of Trinity College, Cambridge. His wide-ranging research spans economics, philosophy and decision theory, including social choice theory, welfare economics, theory of measurement, development economics, public health, gender studies, moral and political philosophy and the economics of peace and war. He has received the Bharat Ratna (the highest honour awarded by the President of India) and the Nobel Prize in Economics. Professor Sen is the Chairperson, Governing Board, Nalanda University.



George Yeo chairs the International Advisory Panel of the Nalanda University Governing Board. He is a member of the Foundation Board of the World Economic Forum, the Nicolas Berggruen Institute's 21st Century Council and the International Advisory Boards of Harvard Business School and IESE Business School. He has served for 23 years in the Government of Singapore as Minister for Information and the Arts, Minister for Health, Minister for Trade and Industry and Minister for Foreign Affairs.



N.K. Singh is currently Member of Rajya Sabha (Upper House of the Parliament of India) from the State of Bihar. He served as Secretary to the Prime Minister and was Member of the National Planning Commission as well as Deputy Chairman of the Bihar State Planning Board. He has written a large number of books and articles offering insightful analyses of the political economy of reform and the realities of coalition politics.



Professor Lord Meghnad Desai is Professor Emeritus at the Centre for the Study of Global Governance, which he founded in 1992 at LSE. He was made a life peer as Baron Desai, of St Clement Danes in the City of Westminster, in April 1991. Lord Desai was also a founding member of the Development Studies Institute (DESTIN) at the LSE in 1990. He has taught econometrics, macroeconomics, Marxian economics and development economics over the years.





Professor Prapod Assavavirulhakarn is Dean, Faculty of Arts at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. He was the Head of the Department of Eastern Languages at Chulalongkorn University. He did his PhD in Buddhist Studies from the University of California, Berkeley.



Professor Wang Gungwu is the Chairman of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies and University Professor, National University of Singapore (NUS). He is also Professor Emeritus of the Australian National University. He is the Chairman of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at NUS, He was Vice-Chancellor Hong Kong University. Professor Wang is also the Commander of the British Empire (CBE).



Professor Susumu Nakanishi, currently Director of the Nara Prefecture Complex, is an honorary professor of the International Research Center for Japanese Studies. Susumu Nakanishi's research interests lie in the literary study review on Japanese culture, centering on comparative research of ancient literature such as the Man'yo-shu Poetry Anthology.



Professor Sugata Bose is the Gardiner Professor of History at Harvard University. His scholarship has focused on colonial and post-colonial political economy, the relation between rural and urban domains, inter-regional arenas of travel, trade and imagination across the Indian Ocean, and Indian ethical discourses, political philosophy and economic thought. He has translated into English and published recordings of Tagore's songs. He was a recipient of the Guggenheim Fellowship in 1997.



Professor Wang Bangwei is currently Professor and Director of the Institute of Oriental Studies and Oriental Literature Research Center at Peking University. He is also the Director of the India Research Center at Peking University. He has published research papers on the history of Chinese Buddhist pilgrimages and the accounts of the Chinese monks Xuanzang and Yijing, as well as the cultural exchange history between China and India.

Tansen Sen is Associate Professor of Asian history and religions at Baruch College, The City University of New York. Currently he is visiting senior research fellow at the Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore. At present he is working on a monograph that examines cross-cultural trade in Asia during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, a collaborative project on the Southern Silk Road, and creating a website to archive the history and experiences of the Chinese community in India.



Sanjay Singh joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1976. He has served in Indian Missions in Mexico, Germany, Ghana and France and in the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi as Director in the Office of the External Affairs Minister and Joint / Additional Secretary and Head of Division dealing with Latin American countries, establishment and Gulf and Haj. He served as Consul General of India in Ho Chi Minh City and later as Ambassador of India to Iran from March 2009 to March 2011. He took over as Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs on 18 March 2011.



Gopa Sabharwal is Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University. She comes to Nalanda from India's foremost college, Lady Shri Ram College for Women where she founded the Department of Sociology in 1993. Her wide ranging research has focused on ethnic groups in urban India, visual anthropology and the history of society.



Vision Statement

As adopted by the Nalanda Mentor Group

Nalanda is a word known across the world and for centuries. It stands for a university which attracted students and scholars from across Asia and even farther away. It was a centre of excellence not only for Buddhist studies and philosophy but for medicine and mathematics as well. After teaching thousands of students for centuries, Nalanda ceased its existence just as universities were opening up in Bologna, Paris and Oxford at the beginning of the second millennium CE. The shift of centres of knowledge from East to West was symbolic of the eventual transfer of power which followed within half a millennium.

There is now a perfect opportunity to recreate the hallowed universalism of Nalanda as a centre of knowledge. The second millennium CE ended with a tremendous resurgence of Asia after centuries of stagnation, division and decline. Asia is today synonymous with a dynamic entrepreneurial and innovative culture, based on knowledge and enterprise not forgetful of its past yet not afraid to face the future. Asian countries are coming together to forge a continent based on the foundations of peace and harmony. The decision of the East Asia Summit in 2007, at its meeting in Cebu, Philippines, to endorse the plan to re-establish the Nalanda University underscores the commitment to these values.

Our challenge is to match the excellence of Nalanda of the first millennium CE for the third millennium CE. A university of the third millennium has to be universalist in its outlook, open to currents of thought and practice from around the globe, and it has to respond to the needs of a world which has miles to travel before it can ensure peace and prosperity with equity and hope for all the people of the world.

Above all, Nalanda must be a centre of knowledge and a most excellent one. Its primary function must be to harness the best talents for the creation and dissemination of new knowledge as well as for the recovery and restoration of valuable old insights which have suffered unintended neglect.

Nalanda has to be open to students from across the world chosen for their desire for and capacity to absorb knowledge in diverse fields. It must have once again, as it did before, the best scholars and researchers to create and recreate knowledge. It must afford them a vibrant living environment which will also be suitable for the nurture of the next generation – the children of those creating and recreating the centre of excellence. It must be adapted to the rhythm of Nature where it is located and enrich the lives of the people in the neighbourhood.

Nalanda will be new but it will aspire to be as good as its old self, if not better. Its name must reverberate across the world as a place where people go to seek as well as to add to the fund of knowledge and to go away from it disseminating its fruits everywhere. It must draw upon the best resources of Asia and indeed the world and repay manifold in the coinage of new and valuable insights on making the world better for all.



Logo And Identity Of The University

The logo designed by M/s Ray + Keshavan was unveiled on November 15 , 2011 on the occasion of handing over the contribution of US \$ 1 million by the Chinese Ambassador to the Vice Chancellor.

The logo illustrates the central idea of Nalanda, as articulated in "The Nalanda Way":

"Man living in harmony with man, man living in harmony with nature, and man living as part of nature.

Man living in harmony with man will be advanced in part through study of the humanities.

Man living in harmony with nature recognizes the importance of studying and furthering the sciences.

Man living as part of nature is predicated on creating a community that harmonizes with its local environment".

As a graphic, this logo is a "rebus" or visual pun. On the one hand, it depicts a tree, which is significant as a symbol of nature, significant because of the Bodhi tree's importance to the story of Nalanda, and significant because the tree is a metaphor for life and of giving. On the other hand, it shows interlinked figures of the people who have come together to create this new university.

Screenshot of the University Website



In depicting the interlinking of different stakeholders, the logo thereby exemplifies what is unique about this university – it results from the coming together of different countries, of people across geographies who are working together to create a new institution. It emphasizes a different aspect of globalization: the exchange of ideas and people to expand learning and culture.

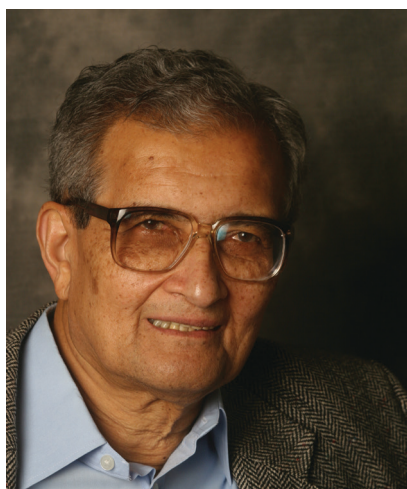
The visual treatment is clearly Asian in its expression, and it is unique in that it does not resemble any other logo. Derived from the DNA of the university, and drawn using classic and timeless design principles rather than a language that is trendy today but will be dated tomorrow, the logo promises to endure.

M/s Ray+Keshavan have also supported the development of the website of the University which is being hosted by M/s VIRUS. The website www.nalandauniv.edu.in went live on October 7 2011 on the occasion of first public event of the University which was an open session in New Delhi with Professor Amartya Sen as the Keynote Speaker.



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Different versions
of the logo for the
University



Chairperson's Message

Nalanda: Old And New

When the most ancient European university, the University of Bologna, was founded - this was in 1088 - the centre for higher education at Nalanda was already more than six hundred years old. The Old Nalanda university - a Buddhist foundation - was located about 55 miles south east of Patna in Bihar. It was founded in the fifth and the sixth centuries, expanded rapidly thereafter, and flourished for more than seven hundred years, and then towards the end of the twelfth century, it was violently destroyed in an Afghan attack in 1193. The destruction of Nalanda happened shortly after the beginning of Oxford University and shortly before the initiation of Cambridge. To be sure, Nalanda as an educational centre was not entirely extinguished then and there in 1193, and there are records that some teaching revived over the following century, and students, particularly from Tibet, continued to come to Nalanda. But Nalanda had lost its on-going institutional base, its tradition of excellence, and not least, its reputation as a centre for higher education.

Nalanda was a residential university, and had at its peak 10,000 students, studying various subjects, and close to 2,000 teachers or professors. Only about a tenth of the vast areas where the ruins of Nalanda can be found has been so far excavated. We know, however, that the campus had eight separate compounds in the seventh century, and a large number of class rooms and meditation halls or study rooms, and well-organized lakes and parks, and of course a

remarkable cluster of dormitories. Jeffrey Garten, the former Dean of the Yale School of Management, has suggested that Nalanda might have been the first educational institution in the world to have dormitories for students.

Chinese students in particular, such as Xuanzang and Yijing in the seventh century, wrote extensively on what they saw and what they particularly admired about the educational standards in Nalanda. Nalanda is, in fact, the only academic institution outside China to which any Chinese scholar went for higher education, in the history of ancient China.

I turn now to what can be called the Nalanda tradition. In assessing this, it is important to understand that there was a larger educational culture to which Nalanda belonged. While Nalanda was certainly very special, it was still a part of a larger nexus of organized higher education that developed in that period in India - in Bihar in particular. In addition to Nalanda, there were in the vicinity other institutions of higher learning, such as Vikramshila and Odantapuri, closely aligned to Nalanda. There is evidence that these institutions interacted and collaborated - and even competed - with each other, and they formed, taken together, something like a higher educational network in ancient Bihar. We can describe that network as the Nalanda complex, not just because of Nalanda's seniority in the cluster, but also because the educational establishments founded later were all influenced by the success of Nalanda's pioneering initiatives. Nalanda not only educated and trained students, it also inspired and motivated other educational institutions.

What subjects were taught in the old Nalanda? In answering this question, we do have a problem, since the documents in Nalanda were indiscriminately burnt by the invaders in the late twelfth century. We do know, however, that the Buddhist fascination with "enlightenment" (even Buddha means "the enlightened one") made room for a multiplicity of subjects on which old Nalanda offered education. And, furthermore, Nalanda was not conceived of as just a centre only for religious instruction. The subjects on which teaching occurred in Nalanda included, in addition to religion, such fields as history, law, and linguistics, but also medicine, public health, architecture and sculpture, as well as astronomy. The tall observatory, which Xuanzang described as towering over the fog on misty mornings in seventh-century Nalanda, is a rather graphic evidence of astronomical education in Nalanda.

What about mathematics? We do know that logic was a subject that was taught in Nalanda, and this is close to mathematics proper. But no less importantly, the pursuit of astronomy almost certainly linked with studies in mathematics, in particular trigonometry. Indeed, when astronomers were recruited from India for work in China (one of the recruited astronomers, called Gautama Siddhartha, even became the head of the powerful Chinese Board of Astronomy in the eighth century), the Chinese looked particularly for astronomers with mathematical knowledge and skills. And as it happens, a number of the Indian mathematicians, including the great founder of the Indian school, Aryabhata in early fifth century, were based in Kusumpur in Pataliputra, or Patna, only about fifty miles away from Nalanda. My expectation is that eventually evidence would firmly emerge on the mathematical components in the curriculum in Nalanda, as the unexcavated remnants - nine-tenths of the ruins - are excavated.

The New University

A new Nalanda University, close to the old site, is now being established through an Act of the Indian Parliament, on a proposal of the East Asia Summit, with the cooperation of China, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Thailand, and other countries included in the East Asia Summit. It has very strong support from the Bihar Government, which originally proposed the move, and which also secured the valuable support of Abdul Kalam, the then President of India, who advised the project, as the first Visitor of the planned establishment.

The reestablishment of Nalanda today has several important objectives. First, even though Asia, including India, had a long tradition of higher education, the great universities of today are primarily in the West. It would be absurd to expect that Nalanda would burst into excellence within a very short time, but that is the kind of a long-run goal that the new Nalanda can pursue. The old Nalanda can be a great inspiration for that.

Second, the old Nalanda was an excellent example of pan-Asian cooperation. There was a network of educational institutions spread across Asia which had links with Nalanda. For example, some Chinese scholars learnt Sanskrit in what was then called Sriwijaya, in what is now mainly Sumatra, on their way to India - and to Nalanda - by the sea route. The revival is also a pan-Asian initiative. There is already a functioning Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre in Singapore, and proposals for cooperation with universities in China, Korea, Japan, Thailand and elsewhere are being explored.

Third, Asian countries have many differences in political outlook and practice, and those differences are not going to disappear any time soon. But it is also important to live with each other in peace, and cooperate in areas in which joint action is possible. This applies particularly well to cooperation in education and research, involving all the countries of the Asian region.

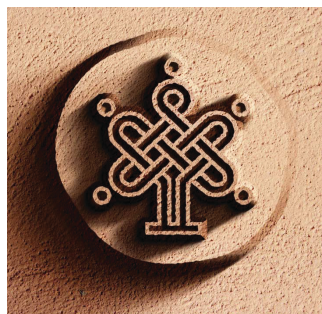
Fourth, in addition to the broadly global perspective, new Nalanda can play a constructive role in the immediate locality and neighbourhood. Even though for nearly a thousand years, Bihar was the cradle of what we can call the Indian civilization, it is now very much a backward part of a rapidly advancing India. Bihar needs development with great urgency, and Nalanda can be more than an inspiration for this, and act as an active agent of change. This effort will be particularly helped by the teaching in new Nalanda on information technology, environmental studies, management and development studies, and other subjects of immediate relevance to the problems of Bihar.

The Vision And The Challenge

Old Nalanda clearly had a passion for propagating knowledge and understanding. This was one reason for its keenness to accept students from abroad. Xuanzang as well as Yijing mentions the warm welcome they received as they arrived in Nalanda from China. Indeed, Xuanzang invoked this commitment to the spread of knowledge in an argument with the faculty in Nalanda when he was asked - and pressed - to stay on as a faculty member in Nalanda, after he had completed his studies. He mentioned his commitment, and here he invoked Buddha himself, to spread enlightenment "to all lands." He asked the rhetorical question: "Who would wish to enjoy it alone, and to forget those who are not yet enlightened?"

If Xuanzang was working for spreading the Nalanda tradition across geographical boundaries, the revival efforts in which we are now engaged can be seen as an attempt to spread that tradition also over time - indeed over many centuries - along with its global spread. The modern world has much to offer from which people in the past would have been thrilled to learn. But the past too has some great examples of intellectual breakthrough that can both inspire and inform us today, and contribute to our academic and social regeneration.

Nalanda is one such spectacular example - that of initiative, energy, commitment, and vision. There is something truly exciting in our efforts to rise to the challenge of working for a new Nalanda University based on that grand academic vision that used to inspire such a huge part of the globe. We need the help of everyone who can contribute to the realization of this vision.





Vice Chancellor's Report

The journey to formally build Nalanda University began when the Vice Chancellor (designate) started her tenure on October 8, 2010, soon after the Nalanda University Bill had gone through Parliament but before it had been notified as an Act. As the sole employee of the University, the Vice Chancellor (designate) was charged with the task of actually implementing the mandate of the Nalanda Mentor Group and formally setting up the University.

The immediate task was to set up an office where the University could operate from and acquire an address. The Bihar State Government had located an office space for Nalanda University a year before and this space was under lock and key waiting for the University's use. The University started functioning from this office at the first floor of the Indian Buildings Congress building, Sector VI, R.K. Puram, New Delhi, and continued functioning from there through the period covered by this report.



The office at R K Puram, Delhi

The task of making this office habitable went alongside the initial briefings at the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, and meeting with key officials involved in the project. The very important task of finding some staff that would allow the office to function was next. This included finding first and foremost cleaning and support staff and then someone who could handle basic administration and finances so that the University could have a bank account and incur essential expenses for stationery and equipment and so forth. Our first two employees were both in the finance and administration department: Mr. S.L Sharma and Mr. R.S. Mathur, both of whom have retired from the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).

The most important part of beginning work on the project was to visit the site. Due to elections in Bihar and religious holidays, the Vice Chancellor could only make her first trip to Patna, Rajgir, Nalanda and Bodhgaya in early November 2010. She visited not only the proposed site, but also the ruins of old Nalanda and the temple at Bodhgaya. She had important meetings with senior officers in the State administration both in Patna and Rajgir regarding the modalities of the transfer of land for the University from the Bihar Government to the University and also the possibility of Nalanda University getting some temporary office space in Rajgir. The university will be located on a campus of approximately 450 acres, in Rajgir, at a distance of approximately ten kilometers from the site of the ruins of the ancient Nalanda.

The Vice Chancellor
and OSD Academics
visiting the ruins



The state was in the midst of elections so the Chief Minister and some other officers were not available as the electoral code of conduct was in place and many officers were on election duty. The meeting with the Chief Minister took place in December 2010 in Rajgir during the Rajgir Mahotsav cultural festival. Vice Chancellor and the Chief Minister had a long and fruitful meeting where future plans were discussed.



The site for the proposed university near Rajgir



The Vice Chancellor at the Rajgir Mahotsav celebrations

Later in December 2010, a sub-committee of the Governing Board, headed by the Chairperson Professor Amartya Sen, met in New Delhi to take stock of the first few months of the University's life. The committee passed the Financial Regulations for the University thus enabling it to incur expenses (the University had by then received its first transfer of funds from MEA). They also cleared the appointment of the Officer on Special Duty (University Development and Academic Affairs) who could join immediately to help the University establish itself internationally and within India academically and administratively.

In this meeting as in others thereafter, issues of funding from other sources were also discussed and information gained of the promise of funds from some East Asia Summit countries. It was reported by the Ministry of External Affairs that China promised a contribution of US \$ 1 million. There were also promises from the Government of Australia for funding a chair in the School on Ecology and Environment and monetary promise towards building the library from Buddhist organizations in Singapore.

In Delhi there were many meetings with experts and administrators on formulating Statutes and Regulations for the University and with architects with regard to the steps involved in getting the master plan and architectural design for the campus. Meetings with designers and brand managers took place to explore the options for web and logo design for the University. In short, action was underway in all aspects of University development including its presence in the virtual world so that people may communicate with the University and also learn about its progress.

In January 2011, the Vice Chancellor visited Singapore on the invitation of the Nalanda- Sriwijaya Centre to deliver a talk on Nalanda University. The Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre, located at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore, was since its establishment in 2009, designated as one of the affiliates of the Nalanda University to "incubate" a research centre for Nalanda University that would engage in the kind of research that Nalanda University would undertake in the future.

Fittingly this was the first international engagement for the Vice Chancellor of Nalanda University to share the vision of the University with a wider audience. The Foreign Secretary, Ms. Nirupama Rao was also present in Singapore and she too discussed the progress of the University with the Vice Chancellor.

In January 2011 Dr. Anjana Sharma joined the university as an Officer on Special Duty (University Development and Academic Affairs) whose focus of work was International relations, and academic planning. Dr. Sharma has come on deputation from the University of Delhi. In addition, Mr. Sudhir Kumar who had retired from the Ministry of External Affairs and had been rehired as a Consultant by the MEA and was deputed by the Ministry to work out of the Nalanda University office. The University office was thus growing as was the work.



The Vice Chancellor at the Nalanda - Sriwijaya Center, Singapore

In February 2011, Dr. Sharma made her first visit to the site along with Vice Chancellor. On February 4, during that trip, Bihar Government handed over possession of the land along with the relevant papers to the Vice Chancellor. Professor Amartya Sen who was scheduled to be there was unable to travel at the last minute under medical advice. Bihar Government officials also showed Nalanda University Officials the office space and guest house earmarked for the University in Rajgir. The total land handed over to the University was approximately 450 acres.

At the same time, the University Officials and a representative of the Bihar Government recruited as Coordinator of the Rajgir office, Mr. Parvez Alam, who joined duty at Rajgir in March 2011. The University was thus able to operationalize the Rajgir office in the temporary space made available by the Bihar Government.

Handover of the land documents at Rajgir in the presence of Chief Minister Mr. Nitish Kumar



Temporary office at Rajgir



The first meeting of the Governing Board of Nalanda University, took place in Delhi on February 21 and 22, 2011.

The Board was briefed about the steps taken to find an agency that could provide the design identity for Nalanda University. The process would ultimately involve the creation of brand identity for the University which would effectively communicate the values underlying the creation of Nalanda University as set out in the Vision Statement of the Nalanda Mentor Group.

In keeping with the mandate to spread awareness about the University and its progress, in March, 2011 the Vice Chancellor made a presentation titled "Nalanda as a Symbol of Asian Renaissance" at the Delhi Dialogue III: Beyond the First Twenty Years of Indo-Asian Engagement, a conference organized in New Delhi by Indian Council of World Affairs. In April, as approved by the Board during its last meeting, Dr. Anjana Sharma OSD (University Development and Academic Affairs) and the Vice Chancellor visited Honolulu to attend the Association of Asian Studies (AAS) Conference held there. It was a successful visit with interactions with Asian scholars from across the globe. They met with the AAS President, Professor S. Sivaramakrishnan from Yale University and indicated a commitment to have a round table on the foundation of Nalanda University at the forthcoming AAS conference in Toronto, March 2012.

In April 2011 Vice Chancellor and Mr. S. L. Sharma, Administrative Officer, visited Rajgir and had meetings with the revenue officers and officials of the district administration in Nalanda District so as to facilitate the process for taking possession of the site. They also initiated the setting up of the Rajgir office for Nalanda University.

In May 2011 at a meeting of the Standing Committee to discuss various matters, it was decided that the contract for the design brief should be awarded to M/s Ray+Keshavan, a design firm from Bangalore. The company then proceeded to contact all the Board members and other people associated with the project to understand the vision of the University so that they were able to correctly understand the mission, vision and values of Nalanda University and represent the same in the logo identity for the University that they would design.

Also in May 2011, the first Statutes were prepared and circulated to the Governing Board Members and their approval received by May 25, i.e. within six months of coming into effect of the Nalanda University Act.

Dr. Sharma and the Vice Chancellor continued to meet with representatives of various EAS countries including officials in the Australian High Commission in India to discuss the scope and form of Chair to be financed by the Government of Australia. They also had discussions with officials in the Chinese Embassy on the Chinese offer of help in organizing the meeting of the Governing Board in Beijing in October 2011 and the contribution of US \$ 1 million offered by China.

In June, 2011, the organization Educational Consultants Indian Limited (EdCIL), which had prepared an earlier Detailed Project Report (DPR) on Nalanda University for the Government of Bihar in 2007, was commissioned to prepare a fresh and updated DPR for the Nalanda University as it now stood defined as an international university. Over the next few months University officials put in many hours of meetings with officials of EdCIL in connection with preparation of the DPR.

In the interim with work progressing, and with the need for space both within the office and for meetings with visitors, the office space from where Nalanda University began operations in October 2010 in New Delhi proved unsuitable for its purpose. The University was able to locate a suitable office space which suited not only the present needs but also future requirements of the University office in Delhi. Despite the approval of the Board for renting this space the University were unable to sign a lease for it as the trust that were the landlords could not get approval of the requisite authorities in Delhi to rent out the premises.

The University therefore decided that it would continue to operate from its present office in R. K. Puram – though it was not the best office space nor was the location suitable for the office of an institution like Nalanda University. The University also carried out some minor repairs in the present office space and created some additional cabins for some new officers in the University.

At the site in Rajgir, as mentioned above, the Government of Bihar had informally made available to the University the first floor of the old Sub-Division Office building of the Health Department at Rajgir, for use as its office till such time as the university campus at Rajgir is built. This is an old building and the office space provided requires extensive refurbishment for use as an office of Nalanda University. Even simple things like water supply and sanitation were not available in these premises. The University began seeking some preliminary quotations for arranging water supply and providing sanitation facilities at this office.

It took time for the Government of Bihar to issue a formal communication authorizing the University to use the office premises. In the absence of such communication, it was not possible to authorize any expenditure on the upkeep of this office. The formal communication from Government of Bihar to the University was received on 11 September 2011. The University then got a rent fixation for the space done and began taking steps to carry out the necessary repairs and refurbishment of these premises to make it suitable for use as an office.

The University also requested Bihar Government to hand over for use the full compound where the office building is located so that the University may refurbish all the surrounding open spaces and also many of the other structures in the complex that are in disuse. The University may also then secure the compound.

The next meeting of the Governing Board took place in Patna in July 2011. At that meeting the Board was informed that the former President of India Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam had indicated his unwillingness to be Visitor of the University since he was of the view that given the status of Nalanda University, the incumbent President of India should rightfully be the Visitor. The Governing Board decided that the Chairperson may once again write to Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam requesting him to reconsider his decision and communicating the Board's unanimous hope that the Board would continue to get his continued contribution to the University. Dr. Kalam regretted but pledged full support to the University and assured the Chairperson that he would be available for advice at all times. Dr. Kalam and Professor Amartya Sen met in New Delhi in October 2011.



Mr. George Yeo, Professor Nakanishi and Dr. Tansen Sen with Ambassador Kesavapany from Singapore at the Nalanda Ruins

At the July 2011 Board meeting, the Governing Board approved the award of the contract for building the boundary wall around the proposed campus site in Rajgir to Bihar Rajya Pul Nirman Nigam Ltd (BRPNN), an agency of the Government of Bihar. Immediately after the meeting University officials contacted BRPNN and initiated discussions on the Agreement to be signed.

The Board also approved the appointment of Dr. Padmakar Mishra, as OSD (Finance). Dr. Mishra is on deputation from University of Delhi and joined Nalanda University on August 12, 2011.

In the July 2011 meeting, the Governing Board also decided to constitute an International Advisors' Panel of eminent persons to create greater global awareness of the broader vision and objectives of Nalanda University. The Panel may perform such other roles and functions as the Governing Board may determine. Mr. George Yeo was declared the first Chairman of this Panel. It was also decided that constitution of this Panel would be formalized through a separate Statute.

The July meeting of the Board also decided to establish two schools in Phase-I; i. e. the School of Historical Studies and the School of Ecology and Environment Studies. It is with these Schools that the University will begin its academic enterprise.

A meeting of the Sub-Committee on formation of the School of Historical Studies and the Sub-Committee on Architecture was held in Kolkata on August 8-9, 2011 which was attended by Professor Sugata Bose, Lord Meghnad Desai, Dr. Tansen Sen, Dr. Gopa Sabharwal and Dr. Anjana Sharma.

Construction of the boundary wall at site



In September 2011, the University received intimation from the Member Secretary of the Governing Board that the President of India, Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil had assumed the role of Visitor of the University as set out in the Act. This was a welcome development since now many of the formal tasks that need the approval of the Visitor could get underway.

In September 2011 the Vice Chancellor visited Tokyo to attend the India Japan Global Partnership Summit. Nalanda University Board Members, Mr. N.K. Singh and Mr. George Yeo were also at the Summit. Mr. Singh and the Vice Chancellor also had a meeting with the newly appointed Japanese Senior Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs and other officers regarding Japanese funding for Nalanda University.

The Vice Chancellor also travelled to Kyoto to meet with and brief Professor Nakanishi, who could not make it to Tokyo, about the events in Tokyo. Professor Nakanishi also briefed the Vice-Chancellor about his talks with the President of Kyoto University and suggested that the Nalanda University should try and set up a meeting with him in November.



The Vice Chancellor, Mr. N K Singh and Mr. George Yeo at the India-Japan Global Partnership Summit, Tokyo

On October 7, 2011 the University hosted its first public event (an open session) in New Delhi captioned "A 21st Century University: (Re) Calling the Past". This was a well attended event, Chaired by Professor Pratap Bhanu Mehta in which the Chairperson, Professor Amartya Sen, Professor Sugata Bose and Dr. Gopa Sabharwal made presentations about the University and answered questions. The website of the University (www.nalandauniversity.org) went live at this event. We subsequently moved to the identity www.nalandauniv.edu.in.



Open Session at
New Delhi

In the inception year of the University the Governing Board met three times so as to closely monitor progress and steer the University in the direction of the vision set out by it. The Governing Board held its third meeting in Beijing, on October 14 and 15, 2011. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China graciously hosted the stay of the Governing Board in Beijing and arranged for their visit to Xian, which is indelibly linked with Nalanda through the scholar monk Xuanzang.

The meeting in Beijing marked the transition from the planning to the implementation stage of the Nalanda University project. The Board adopted the concept notes for the two Schools of Historical Studies and Ecology and Environment Studies. The Schools will begin with the appointment of a critical mass of faculty.

In the meeting there was also a discussion on the eight designs for logo of the University that had been sent by the design firm M/s Ray+Keshavan. The Board chose one design and asked for more options in other colours and some other treatments of the same before finalizing the logo. These were duly incorporated by M/s Ray+Keshavan and, after its approval by the Board, the logo was unveiled publicly on November 15, 2011 on the occasion of handing over of the contribution by the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China.



Governing Board
Members at the Wild
Goose Pagoda, Xian

Discussions were also held regarding the modalities for launching the Global Design Competition to 'Master plan' the campus and also the first buildings on the campus. In the meeting the draft DPR submitted by EdCIL for the establishment of the University was also discussed.

By November 2011 it was time to reconstitute the Governing Board as per the provisions of the Nalanda University Act. The provisions of the Act linked certain seats to financial contributions from the EAS Member States. This provision was found unworkable and the new Governing Board could not be constituted as per the provisions of the Act. Hence, to smoothen the University's governance, the term of the Governing Board was extended by a year (up to 24 November, 2012) or till the constitution of the new Board, whichever is earlier. This was done by the Ministry of External Affairs by issuing a gazette notification under the power granted to the Central Government under Section 41 of the Act (power to remove difficulties).

The promised contribution of US \$ million from China was handed over to the University by the Ambassador of the Peoples' Republic of China on November 15, 2011. The Government of China has indicated that it wants its contribution to be used for a Chinese floor in the Library of the University.

The Ambassador of Thailand made the gift of US \$ 100,000 on February 23, 2012 on behalf of his Government. He also handed over US \$ 5,000 contributed by a private company of Thailand.

Donation from the
Peoples' Republic of
China



Some other Thai companies are also coming forward to make contributions to the University in response to a discussion that Thai business houses in India had with their Prime Minister when she visited India in January 2012 as the Chief Guest for the Republic Day celebrations. The Thai government has opened a bank account earmarked for Nalanda University through which private individuals can donate.

The Government of Thailand desires that its contribution of US \$ 100,000 be added to the 'Establishment Fund' of the University and used as the Governing Board deems fit. It has also indicated that the contributions by the Thai private companies be used to set up a "Thailand Fund for Nalanda University" which would be earmarked for scholarships and/or fellowships for students and academicians pursuing Buddhist Studies, Philosophy and Comparative Religion.

Ambassador Madanjeet Singh, UNESCO goodwill Ambassador and the founder of South Asia Foundation (SAF) offered a contribution of US \$ 1 million to the University. The University is in touch with the foundation and Mr Madanjeet Singh to take this matter forward.



Donation from the
Government of
Thailand

Dr. Gopa Sabharwal and Dr. Anjana Sharma met Mr. Lu Hao, Communist Party Secretary of Gansu Province of China, on November 2, 2011 during his visit to India at the invitation of the Ministry of External Affairs. Mr. Lu Hao spoke about the rich Buddhist heritage of his province, specially the Dunhuang grottos. He carried with him a special gift for the University - a six volume set of scriptures. The volumes are rare and valuable and are the first gift of books to the University which will be eventually housed in the Chinese style section of the library that is to be built with the financial contribution from the Government of China.

The University received the gift of the private collection of a scholar, Late Professor Ken Gardiner of Australian National University, Canberra. His widow Ms Merril Gardiner gifted his collection of books to the University. This collection is on early and medieval Chinese and Korean history. The gift was made possible by the endeavours of Professor Pankaj Mohan who had been a former student of Professor Ken Gardiner.

The University is working on the logistics of transferring the books from Australia to India.

The Vice Chancellor was formally informed by MEA on March 19, 2012 that she had now been appointed as Vice Chancellor of Nalanda University by the President of India in the latter's capacity as Visitor of the University.

Receiving a set of
scriptures from
Mr. Lu Hao



The Statutes of the University were approved by the Visitor on March 7 and notified in the Gazette of India on March 31, 2012.

A Certification Audit of the accounts of the University for the period 2010-11 was conducted by a team from the office of CAG during the month of January 2012. This was followed by an up-to-date transaction audit of University accounts until January 2012.

Dr. Gopa Sabharwal



Mr. Sudhir Kumar,
Dr. Anjana Sharma,
Dr Gopa Sabharwal
and Dr. Padmakar
Mishra



Academic Planning

As a post graduate, research intensive Liberal Arts University, Nalanda is designed to encourage and promote a research paradigm where experiential learning and innovative thought are both encouraged. The academic vision - one that encompasses all the seven schools—is drawn from the desire to build bridges across the historical rupture of colonialism and craft a teaching-learning-research paradigm that privileges the model of a humanistic education. Hence, the University actualizes the dream of a new education model, one based on a mutuality of trust and a shared desire to establish the lost principles of peace and human harmony.

The Nalanda University Act concretizes this vision: "...to contribute to the promotion of regional peace and vision by bringing together the future leaders of the East Asia, who by relating to their past history can enhance their understanding of each other's perspectives and share that understanding globally." Furthermore, the University will nurture and "foster in the students and scholars the spirit of accommodation, understanding and...train them to become exemplary citizens of democratic societies."

What Nalanda seeks to create anew is a model of a University that is transcendent: consensual, free of divisiveness and fundamentally creative. It is this revisionist and revolutionary aspect of the University that underlay the choice of the first two Schools with which the University will begin its academic life: School of Historical Studies and the School of Ecology and Environment Studies. Given the University's location—bucolic, agrarian and in a historically dense area of the

ancient Magadha—the two chosen Schools best serve to seamlessly merge the local, the regional, the national and the transnational. Only about ten kilometres from the ancient ruins of Nalanda, the site of the new University is located in an area that is historically and archaeologically rich and will provide both students and faculty with an opportunity to engage with history and environment as a lived experience.

Scholarship at the ancient Nalanda ranged over many subjects and was marked by intellectual excellence. Engaging with multiple discourses, it allowed a scope for exploration, observation, experimentation and implementation. Indeed, Nalanda's pedagogical practice encompassed the local and the global. It prospered for hundreds of years because of its deep roots in its environs and its commitment to the spirit of critical enquiry. Pioneer in the holistic approach to life and learning Nalanda attracted students and teachers from across Asia. Nalanda's destruction buried this model of knowledge under the rubble of time. Now, with its revival the effort of the new University is to recover this model and make it live again with the context of our present day history and the challenges of the twenty-first century.

Given this mandate, the first step in the academic planning of Nalanda University is to rediscover the Nalanda mode of experiential learning albeit with a contemporary context. The choice behind the first two Schools of Historical Studies and Ecology and Environment has the twin purpose of exploring the past and developing the future landscape of present day Nalanda. The School of Historical Studies will be rooted in the history of the local, the regional and the Asian. The archeological exploration of the areas around the site of Nalanda along with its ecological survey and development will pave the way for future expansions. The first two Schools will become the academic spine of Nalanda University.

In consonance with this philosophy, the Governing Board at its meeting in Beijing in October 2011 approved concept notes of the first two schools. The Schools aim to be interdisciplinary, develop strong regional, national, Asian and international connections in order to promote high specialization. To create the momentum for this research intensive university, some important collaborations have been worked out and others are under consideration. To strengthen this process the Vice Chancellor and the Officer on Special Duty (OSD), Academic Affairs and University Development, have undertaken significant initiatives.

In addition, voluntary donations of invaluable resources like private collection of books have already begun. Professor Kenneth Gardiner's Chinese and Korean library is in the process of being transferred to Nalanda. In the western academia, the late Professor Gardiner was a pioneer in Asian Studies. Formerly he was Senior Lecturer in the Department of Asian History, Australian National University, Canberra. The desire of his wife to bequeath his personal library to Nalanda University underscores the international character of Nalanda University.

Furthermore, to promote and develop the academic programmes of Nalanda University, presentations have been made at various national and international fora. In late 2011 and early 2012, the Vice Chancellor and the Officer on Special Duty (UD and AA) visited the following universities to share Nalanda's academic programme:

- TERI University, India
- Yale University's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, USA
- Chatham University, USA
- Pennsylvania State University, USA
- Duke University, USA
- Kyoto University, Japan
- Ritsumeikan University, Japan
- Nalanda Sriwijaya Centre and ISEAS, Singapore

Wide-ranging discussions were also held with academic and administrative personnel in India and abroad to learn from each other's experiences. Exchange of thoughts and plans and on ways to learn and develop future collaborations between respective institutions and Nalanda University also took place. The shared visions of the aforementioned institutions and a sense of excitement about the new ways in which Nalanda University was approaching the two schools has encouraged the desire on the part of these institutions to develop collaborations with Nalanda University.

In order to further the awareness of the University and its aims and objectives, Dr Gopa Sabharwal and Dr Anjana Sharma also spoke at the following conferences and events, unveiling the vision and depth of Nalanda University.

January, 2011: Dr. Sabharwal visited Singapore on the invitation of the Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre to deliver a public lecture on Nalanda University.

6 February, 2011: Dr. Sabharwal presented a paper at the International Seminar organized by the Japanese Institute of Oriental Philosophy. Her paper which has subsequently been published is titled "Revival Plan of Nalanda University."

3-4 March, 2011: Dr. Sabharwal made a presentation about Nalanda University, "Nalanda as a Symbol of Asian Renaissance" at Delhi Dialogue III: Beyond the First Twenty Years of Indo-Asian Engagement a conference organized in New Delhi by Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi.

31 March - 4 April, 2011: Dr. Gopa Sabharwal and Dr. Anjana Sharma visited Honolulu to attend the Association of Asian Scholars Conference. During the visit they interacted with Asian scholars from across the globe and met the AAS President, Professor S. Sivaramakrishnan. They also indicated their commitment to have a round table on the foundation of Nalanda University at the forthcoming AAS conference in Toronto, March 2012.

2-4 September, 2011: Dr. Anjana Sharma visited Indian School of Business, Hyderabad to represent the University and participate in the Annual Retreat of Vice-Chancellors.

4-7 September, 2011: Dr. Sabharwal visited Tokyo to attend the India Japan Global Partnership Summit and participated in two sessions - one of them specifically on Nalanda University. University Board Members, Mr. N.K.Singh and Mr. George Yeo were also at the Summit. Mr. Yeo spoke at the first session on 'India as a New Education Hub' while Mr. Singh spoke at both sessions.

4 February, 2012: Vice Chancellor spoke at the session titled "Overcoming the Divide: Global North versus Global South" at the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit organized by TERI in New Delhi.

19 February, 2012: Vice Chancellor and Officer on Special Duty made a presentation on Nalanda University at the 10th BCIM Forum (earlier known as the Kunming Initiative) in Kolkata.

4 February, 2012: Vice Chancellor spoke at the session titled "Overcoming the Divide: Global North versus Global South" at the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit organized by TERI in New Delhi.

24 February, 2012: Vice Chancellor delivered a Diamond Jubilee Lecture at the National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (NISCAIR- CSIR).

13-17 March, 2012: Nalanda University hosted a round table on "The University in the 21st Century: Vision and Challenges" at the Association of Asian Studies Conference in Toronto where speakers were Professor Tay Kheng Soon, Dr Tansen Sen, Dr. Gopa Sabharwal and Dr. Anjana Sharma.

22 March, 2012: Public lecture titled "Nalanda University – Old and New" in Tokyo by the Vice Chancellor under the aegis of the Institute of Oriental Philosophy.

23 March, 2012: Vice Chancellor & Officer on Special Duty made a presentation at Kyoto University on the Nalanda University. This was followed by meetings on potential areas of interest and collaboration.

25 March, 2012: the Vice Chancellor presented a paper on "Nalanda University from the Academic Perspective" at the Annual Conference of the Institute of Oriental Philosophy, Tokyo, Japan.

The Round Table
at Toronto

The Vice Chancellor
delivering a lecture at
Tokyo



Ahead of the formal beginning of classes and in order to reflect the research orientation of Nalanda, the University also supported the following events:

Workshop on the Historical and Cultural Interactions Between China and India', co-sponsored by Peking University, Nalanda University and Nalanda-Sriwijaya Center at Peking University, October 2011. It was the first academic venture by Nalanda University and explored a range of enquiry working with old and new sources, sites of interactions, and diasporic networks. It reflected on Buddhist practices and arts, science and literature. Finally, it concluded by discussing contemporary interactions between India and China. Nalanda University sponsored two scholars for this conference.

Conference on 'Revival of Buddhism in Asia' co-sponsored by ICCR, Nalanda-Sriwijaya Center, International School for East Asia Studies (ISEAS), Nalanda University and Max Plank Institute was held in December 2011 at ISEAS, Singapore. Engaging with the idea of revival, this conference focused on Buddhism's contemporary journey through India and Sri Lanka across Myanmar, Thailand, China and Japan. The conference had inputs by historians, archeologists, anthropologists and scholars of religious studies making the engagement interdisciplinary in its texture.

Excited by the plans for building a green and sustainable campus, at National University of Singapore, a 'Nalanda Studio' conceptualized 'Nalanda University Mother Plan'. The Studio aspires to capture the humanistic wealth of ancient Asian people and balance it with a futuristic global version. Fourteen second and fourth year architecture students including two exchange Chinese students under the leadership of Professor Tay Kheng Soon are working on this academic exercise. The team had visited the site in Rajgir in the first week of February 2012 and was briefed by the Vice Chancellor and Officer on Special Duty (UD and AA) on the vision of Nalanda based on which they came up with the what the students defined as a "Mother Plan."

Dr. Anjana Sharma



Financial Management

Financial Management of any University involves planning, organizing, directing and controlling all the financial activities by applying general management principles to its financial resources. This ensures that optimum utilization of funds is achieved and the vision and objectives of the University are realized. Apart from this, the statutory obligations as enshrined under the Act, Statutes and the Regulations have also to be observed in a time-bound manner while upholding their spirit.

Nalanda University was established on November 25, 2010. With just a skeletal staff the University was able to formulate its budget for the remaining period of the financial year 2010-11, for the financial year 2011-12 , and for the financial year 2012-13, strictly according to the schedule as prescribed by the Ministry of External Affairs which is its administrative Ministry.

The University has its account with the State Bank of India, R.K Puram Branch. At all times due care has been taken and proper control exercised in the fund management in terms of parking available funds in fixed deposits as well as cash management for timely availability of adequate funds. The University received some funds from two Member States of the EAS - China and Thailand. These funds have been kept in fixed deposits in order to earn maximum returns on the investment.

The University prepared the annual accounts for the financial year 2010-11 which were approved by the Governing Board. In terms of Section 32 of the Nalanda University Act, the annual accounts have to be audited by the office of the CAG of India. Accordingly, the University got the annual accounts audited by the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General. Replies to some of the queries and observations made by the audit party have been sent. The Annual accounts for the year 2010-11 duly audited and approved by the Governing Board have been printed for submission to the Visitor and laying before the Parliament. For the proper management of its financial activities, the University has formulated its Financial Regulations which were approved by the Governing Board. Inputs and modifications suggested by the Ministry of External Affairs are under discussion.

The accounts of the University were computerized in Tally software to an appreciable extent and the process is underway to computerize all its financial transactions so that Financial Information Management System (FIMS) can be put in place for a better financial management of the University.

Padmakar Mishra

Campus

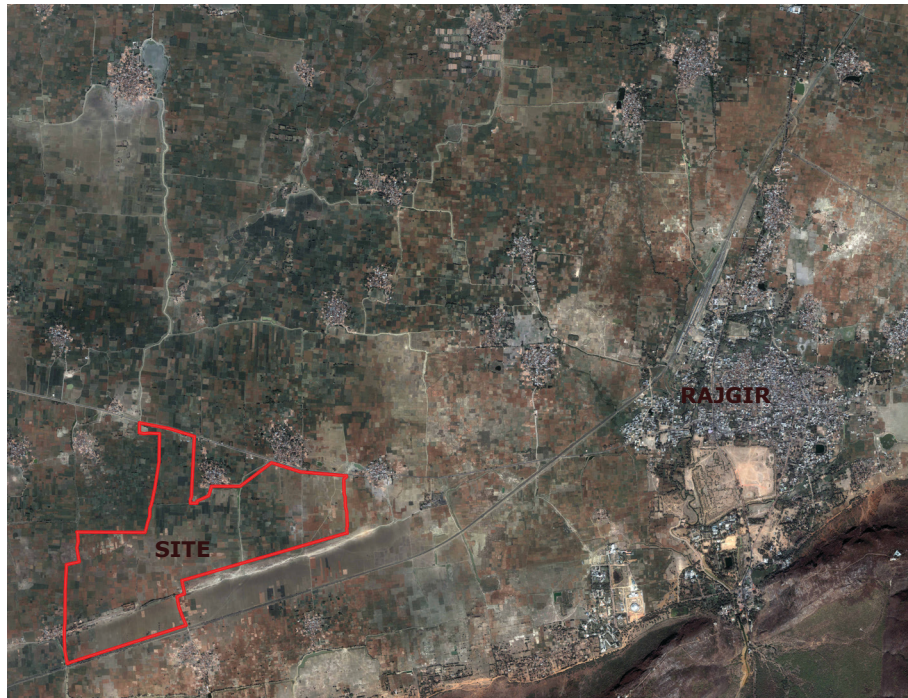
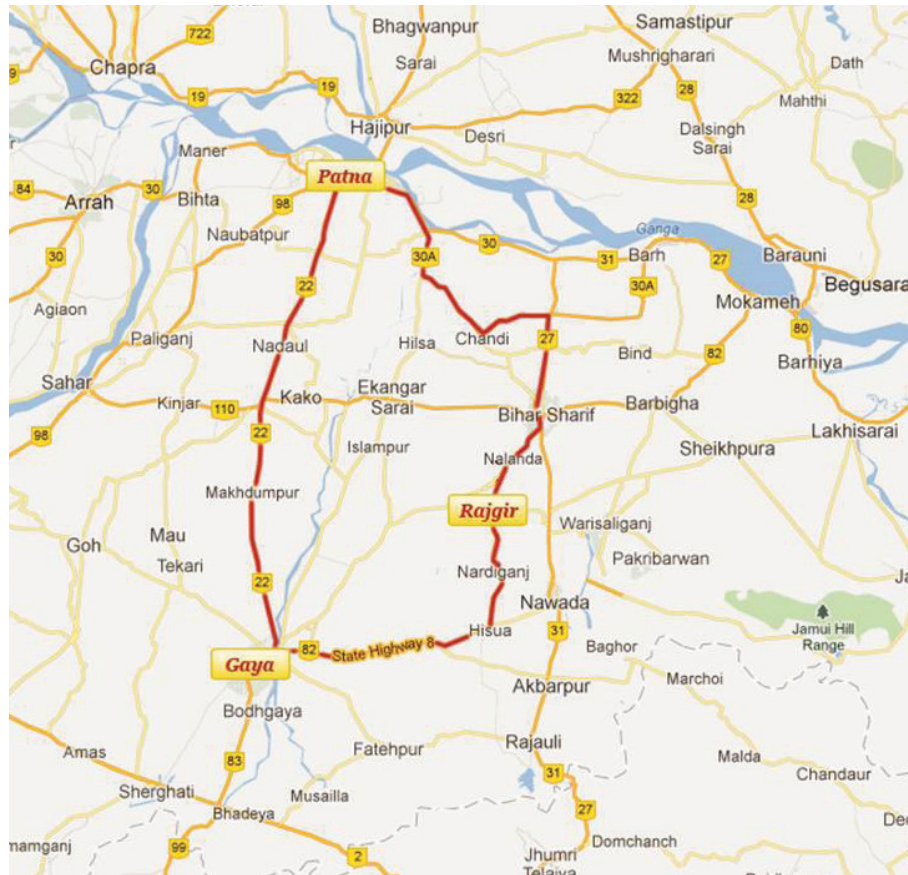
The site for the proposed University is located in the Nalanda District of Bihar and fronts the State Highway 71. The site is on the south-west outskirts of Rajgir town at a distance of 3.5 kms from the current urban edge of the town. Rajgir is also the administrative sub-division of Nalanda District. It is approximately 12 kms from the historical site of the ancient Nalanda University and about 100 kms by road from Patna, the capital of the state of Bihar.

The total area of the site is approximately 450 acres and oriented roughly east-west along the highway. Beyond the railway tracks the ancient Rajgir Hills form the backdrop on the south. The terrain of the site is reasonably flat with a few seasonal water bodies. The site is surrounded by the villages of Jati Bhagvanpur, Mudaffarpur and Kubri. In census terms Rajgir is identified as a Notified Area (NA). It is a Class III town with a population of 33,738 people (as per 2011 census). The Nalanda District makes up 2.77% of Bihar's population.

Rajgir is an important place on the Buddhist and Jain pilgrimage circuits. The Griddhkuta Peak, or Eagle Peak as it is called – the place where the Buddha gave his most profound discourse 'Lotus Sutra' – is an important tourist site in Rajgir. Some of the other tourist attractions are the hot springs called Brahma Kund and Makdum Kund. The annual cultural festival, Rajgir Mahotsav, organized by the district administration is also a big draw.



View of the site



The proposed university campus, while being modern and state-of-the-art will also undeniably follow the path of sustainability while being comfortable and efficient for the occupants and visitors alike. Sustainability and environmental sensitivity will be emphasized at all levels. It aims to achieve a campus that is Net Zero Energy, Net Zero Emission, Net Zero Waste and Net Zero Water. The key to this option is to design buildings that are frugal in energy use, are day lit and well ventilated and using the least amount of conventional energy.

Thus Nalanda University aspires to establish new benchmarks in the design and development of a self-contained sustainable university campus.



View of the site

Officers and Employees

The following employee working with Nalanda University as on 31.03.2012

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