



Nālandā
UNIVERSITY

Annual Report

Nalanda University

2012-2013

Foreword

The year 2012-13 was an important and busy year for the University. In order to document our progress in a comprehensive and accessible manner in the Report, we have divided the various activities under four major sections: Governance, Academics, Campus and Finance.

The University saw major movements on all these fronts.

The big highlights in Governance include Government of India setting up a committee to suggest amendments to the Nalanda University Act (2010) and a National Monitoring Committee (NMC) to support infrastructure development. Many eminent dignitaries also visited the University. The visitor list includes Professor Joseph Stiglitz, the well known American economist and Nobel Prize recipient, who currently teaches at Columbia University. Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, came to attend a meeting of the NMC. The Minister of External Affairs, Mr. Salman Khurshid visited along with the Bihar Chief Minister, Mr. Nitish Kumar.

Various endowments including the Australian grant for a Chair in the School of Ecology and Environmental Studies, a donation of \$ 50,000 from the Laos Government and a promised contribution of S\$ 5 to 10 million from Singapore were also announced this year.

On the Academic front a number of new initiatives were launched to share the University's intellectual mandate in the larger public space. The University's first international conference "Civilisational Dialogue and the ASEAN" was held in July 2012 and the proceedings from this conference were brought out in record time in the form of a book in December 2012. The Distinguished Lecture Series was launched this year as a forum for nurturing and sharing ideas in the public domain. The Nalanda Fellowship Programme was formally launched in January 2013.

The plans for the two schools—School of Ecology and Environment Studies and School of Historical Studies— moved ahead with a number of collaborations taking shape. The collaborating institutions include among others, the Archaeological Survey of India, The Academy of Korean Studies, Kyoto University, Yale University, Nalanda Sriwijaya Centre, University of Illinois (Urbana Champaign), International Institute for Asian Studies and École française d'Extrême-Orient (France).

In terms of the Campus, plans of construction moved ahead with the engagement of a Professional Advisor, who along with the Steering Committee conducted the Architectural Design Competition. Eight applicants have been short listed and will send their final entries by April 25, 2013. Several surveys—soil, water, topographical and archaeological, were also carried out on the site in preparation of the Competition and to provide background information for the master plan.

The University also got access to the entire 4.5 acre campus of the Health Department building at Rajgir, where the temporary office is currently located. This building will be repaired and refurbished by the University to make it ready for use as the interim campus.

We hope that you find this report useful. Please get in touch with us for any further details that you may be interested in.

CONTENTS

FOREWORD	i
GOVERNANCE	1
Nalanda Mentor Group Continues to Discharge the Functions of the Governing Board	1
Amartya Sen Appointed as Chancellor	2
Members of the Governing Board	3
Nalanda University Governing Board Meetings	7
Committee Set-Up For Amendments in the Nalanda University Act, 2010	8
National Monitoring Committee Set Up to Support Infrastructure Development	11
Endowment Committee Set-Up to Raise Funds for the University	15
Endowments Offered to Nalanda University	16
Consultative Committee for MEA Visits the NU Campus	18
Professors of University Of Illinois, Urbana Champaign (U.S.A.) Visit NU	19
Joseph E. Stiglitz Visits Nalanda University	19
NU Vice Chancellor Meets Singapore Foreign Minister	19
ACADEMICS	20
The Two Schools Take Shape	21
NU to Undertake Research and Study of South Bihar	23
Progress on Collaborations with National and International Institutions	25
Nalanda Fellowship Programme Launched	30
Distinguished Lecture Series Introduced	31
Nalanda Library Gets the First Private Collection	33
NU's First International Conference Held in Patna	33

NU's Maiden Publication Launched at the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit	34
Common Archival Resource Centre for Mekong-Ganga Region to be Set-Up at NU	35
NU Holds a Public Event with Amartya Sen 'Nalanda: The Way Ahead'	35
NU Holds a Discussion on 'Envisioning Nalanda' with Philip G. Altbach	36
External Conferences	36
CAMPUS	38
EdCIL Submits Detailed Project Report for the University Project	38
NU Re-Designates and Increases Manpower	39
Delhi Office Shifts to New Premises	40
Bihar Government Provides Space for Interim Campus	41
Plans for Design and Construction of the Permanent Campus Move Ahead	43
Construction of the Boundary Wall	51
FINANCE	52

GOVERNANCE

Nalanda Mentor Group Continues to Discharge the Functions of the Governing Board

The Nalanda Mentor Group has been discharging the functions of the Governing Board since the inception of the University in accordance with **The Nalanda University Act, 2010**.

This is in accordance with a clause in the Act that lays down the powers and functions of the Governing Board as follows:

8. (1) The Governing Board shall be responsible for all the policies and directions of the University and management of its affairs.

(2) The Governing board shall exercise such powers as may be prescribed by the Statutes:

Provided that the Nalanda Mentor Group shall exercise the powers and discharge the functions of the Governing Board for a period of one year or till such time the members referred to in clauses (c) to (g) of sub-section (1) of section 7 are nominated, whichever is earlier.

Following this clause the Nalanda Mentor Group has been requested by the Government of India (GoI) to continue to discharge their duties as the Governing Board, until the Board may be reconstituted in accordance with the terms of the Act.

The tenure of the Board was extended by GoI via Gazette notification in November 2011 and again in November 2012, in order to enable GoI to carry out certain amendments in the Nalanda University Act, 2010, more specifically in the section pertaining to the constitution of the Governing Board.

Amartya Sen Appointed as Chancellor

The Governing Board, in its meeting at Beijing in October 2011, had recommended a panel of three persons for the appointment of Chancellor, as laid down in the statutes of the University. These names were forwarded to the Visitor through the Ministry of External Affairs. The Visitor appointed Professor Amartya Sen as Chancellor of the University with effect from July 18, 2012.

Professor Amartya Sen gets congratulated by the Nalanda University Board





Members of the Governing Board

Professor Amartya Sen is the Chancellor of Nalanda University and the Chair of the Board of Governors of the University. Professor Sen is also the Lamont University Professor and Professor of Economics and Philosophy at Harvard University. Prior to this, 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.



Mr. George Yeo is the Chair of the International Advisory Panel of the Nalanda University Governing Board. He is also 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. Prior to this he was with the Government of Singapore for 23 years, serving as Minister for Information and the Arts, Minister for Health, Minister for Trade and Industry and Minister for Foreign Affairs.



Mr. N.K. Singh is Member of the Rajya Sabha from the State of Bihar. He was a bureaucrat with the Indian Government and handled important portfolios such as India's Expenditure and Revenue Secretary. He has also 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 number of books and articles offering insightful analysis 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 the London School of Economics (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. He received a BA and MA in Pali-Sanskrit from the Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University. His research interests lie in etymology, language and society, Pali-Sanskrit literature, and scriptural readings.



Professor Wang Gungwu is the Chairman of the East Asian Institute and University Professor, National University of Singapore. He is also Professor Emeritus of the Australian National University, Chairman of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at NUS, Vice Chairman of the Chinese Heritage Centre and Board Member of the Institute of Strategic and Defence Studies at Nanyang Technological University. Professor Gungwu is also the Commander of the British Empire (CBE). From 1986 to 1995, he was Vice Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong.





Professor Susumu Nakanishi is the Director of the Nara Prefecture Complex and an honorary Professor of the International Research Centre for Japanese Studies. His research interests lie in the literary study review on Japanese culture, entering on comparative research of ancient literature such as the Man'yo-shu Poetry Anthology. A well respected scholar of Shintoism, the Kojiki, Nihon Shoki, and other classical Japanese works, he has written several books on ancient Japanese writings.



Professor Sugata Bose is the Gardiner Professor of History at Harvard University. His scholarship has focused on colonial and postcolonial 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 awarded the Guggenheim Fellowship in 1997.



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

Dr. Tansen Sen teaches Asian history and religions at Baruch College, The City University of New York.

He is also visiting Senior Research Fellow at the Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore. 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.



Mr. Sanjay Singh is Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs with the Government of India. He has been with the Indian Foreign Service since 1976. He has served in Indian Missions in several countries and in the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi as Director in the Office of the External Affairs Minister and Joint Secretary and Head of Division dealing with Latin American countries. He also served as Ambassador of India to Iran from March 2009 to 2011.



Dr. Gopa Sabharwal is Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University. She comes to Nalanda from India's foremost liberal Arts college, Lady Shri Ram College for Women where she founded the Department of Sociology in 1993. Over the last two decades this department has transformed into one of the best in the country with a remarkable field-work component and regular student exchange with countries like Australia, the United States, Singapore and Japan. Her wide ranging research has focused on ethnic groups in urban India, visual anthropology and the history of society. She obtained a PhD in Sociology from the University of Delhi for her research on ethnic groups and ethnicity in Belgaum in Karnataka State.



Nalanda University Governing Board Meetings

During the year 2012-2013 the Governing Board met twice in Patna. The first meeting was on July 19 and 20, 2012 and the second on February 4, 2013. These were the fourth and fifth meetings of the Governing Board.

The Governing Board deliberated upon a whole range of issues pertaining to the establishment of the University, took stock of developments, accorded permission for various proposals and generally facilitated the University in its work.

1. First meeting: February 21-22, 2011, New Delhi
2. Second meeting: July 6-7, 2011, Patna
3. Third meeting: October 14-15, 2011, Beijing, China
4. Fourth meeting: July 19-20, 2012, Patna
5. Fifth meeting: February 4, 2013, Patna

Fifth meeting of the
Governing Board at Patna in
February 2013



Committee Set Up for Amendments in the Nalanda University Act, 2010

Shortly after the passing of the Nalanda University Act, 2010, it became clear that certain provisions in the Act would need alteration and also that a few standard clauses pertaining to University administration, were missing from the Act. In order to do a comprehensive review and suggest amendments to the Nalanda University Act, 2010, Government of India set up a Committee chaired by Professor N. R. Madhava Menon in April 2012.

The Committee met four times in 2012. Three of these meetings were held in New Delhi, on May 16, June 16 and September 6, 2012. The final meeting was held in Patna on October 7, 2012.

The Terms of Reference of the Committee included an examination of the provisions relating to academic, administrative and financial autonomy.

The Committee worked at:

1. Suggesting amendments to ensure that the University acquires international stature and excellence through representative and flexible governance and forward-looking legislation
2. Examining the statutes, ordinances and regulations and suggesting changes so that these are consistent with the Act

The Committee expressed overwhelmingly the view that the institution must be allowed to evolve differently from others in the country and the Nalanda University Act should in turn become the model for other University Acts to follow. It stated clearly that the University must have autonomy in all respects—academic, administrative and financial.

The Committee submitted its report on October 12, 2012.



Amendment committee
members visiting the
University Site

The University and the Ministry of External Affairs worked together to draft the Nalanda University Amendment Bill keeping in view the recommendations of the Committee. A draft amendment Bill was placed before the Governing Board in its fifth meeting held in February 2013. The Board made some observations on the constitution of the Governing Board and shared its views on the various categories of members and their numbers. The Bill now has to go through a consultative process between various arms of Government of India before it is introduced in the Parliament.

The Committee was constituted by an order of the Planning Commission (dated April 23, 2012) to suggest amendments in the Nalanda University Act, 2010 for its efficient functioning. The Committee consisted of the following members:

1. **Prof. N.R. Madhava Menon**, Former Vice-Chancellor, West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata. **(Chairman)**
2. **Prof. Pankaj Chandra**, Director, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore. **(Member)**
3. **Dr. Gopa Sabharwal**, Vice-Chancellor, Nalanda University. **(Member)**
4. **Prof. G. Mohan Gopal**, Director, Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies, New Delhi. **(Member)**
5. **Prof. K. Rajiv Saxena, Vice-President**, South Asia University. **(Member)**
6. **Dr. Meenakshi Gopinath**, Principal, Lady Shri Ram College , New Delhi. **(Member)**
7. **Dr. Jitendra Nath Mishra**, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, GoI. **(Member)**
8. Representative from Department of Legislative Affairs. **(Special Invitee)**
9. Representative from Department of Expenditure. **(Special Invitee)**
10. Adviser (Higher Education), Planning Commission. **(Member-Secretary)**

National Monitoring Committee Set Up to Support Infrastructure Development

The Government of India constituted a National Monitoring Committee (NMC) on April 23, 2012 to support the University for the development of basic infrastructure and facilities including road and air connectivity and timely and adequate flow of funds to it.

The Committee is chaired by the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and has, among others, the National Security Advisor, Member (HRD) and

Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia,
Planning Commission, Deputy
Chairman and other NMC
members visit Nalanda Ruins



Governing Board and NMC
members interact with each
other at Dinner



Member (International Economics) from the Planning Commission and Foreign Secretary as its members.

The Committee held its first meeting on June 27, 2012 in New Delhi. Apart from the members of the Committee, the meeting was attended by the Chief Minister of Bihar who was accompanied by the Chief Secretary, the Principal Secretary (HRD) and other officers of the State Government.

In this meeting the Committee discussed plans on the development of the University and the future course of action not only with respect to establishing the University but also on development of the whole region around it. This includes plans for better road connectivity and the possibility of having an international airport near the University. It also discussed ideas on how the local populace could be involved in the project and benefit from it.

The NMC also discussed the Project Report prepared by EdCIL India Ltd and suggested that the Governing Board should examine and approve the Project Report. Thereafter the Ministry of External Affairs should seek the approval of the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) of the Ministry of Finance.

The requisite funds can be made available by the Indian Government only after the approval of EFC.

The Governing Board considered the EdCIL report in its next meeting held in July 2012 and approved it.

The next meeting of the NMC was held in Rajgir on February 5, 2013 which was attended by the Chairperson and other members of the Committee. The Chief Minister of Bihar was also present as were senior officers from the concerned ministries of the Government of India and departments of the Government of Bihar. The Committee reviewed the progress made in the development of Nalanda University and made some valuable suggestions.

List of Participants at the National Monitoring Committee meeting held on June 27, 2012

List of Participants

1. **Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia** ,Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission
2. **Dr. Narendra Jadhav**, Member(HRD), Planning Commission
3. **Mr. Shivsankar Menon**, National Security Advisor
4. **Mr. N.K.Singh**, MP (Rajya Sabha), Member Governing Board, Nalanda University
5. **Mr. Ranjan Mathai**, Foreign Secretary, MEA
6. **Mr. Navin Kumar**, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Bihar
7. **Mr. Sumit Bose**, Secretary (Expenditure),Ministry of Finance
8. **Mr. Sanjay Singh**, Secretary (East), MEA
9. **Mr. R.P.Sisodia**, Joint Secretary (Higher Education),MHRD
10. **Dr. Gopa Sabharwal**, Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University
11. **Dr. Aromar Revi**,Director,IIHS, Bangalore
12. **Mr. Pawan Agarwal** (Adviser, Higher Education)

Special Invitees

1. **Mr. Nitish Kumar**, Chief Minister, Bihar
2. **Professor Sushanta Dattagupta**, Vice Chancellor, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan
3. **Mr. Amarjeet Sinha**, Principal Secretary(HRD), Govt. of Bihar
4. **Mr. Ashok Kumar Sinha**, Development Commissioner, Govt. of Bihar
5. **Mr. Vipin Kumar**, Resident Commissioner, Govt. of Bihar
6. **Mr. V.P.Agarwal**, Chairman, Airports Authority of India

7. **Dr. Jitendra Nath Misra**, Joint Secretary (Nalanda), MEA
8. **Mr. Gourangalal Das**, Deputy Secretary, PMO
9. **Mr. R.Ramanathan**, Additional Member, Railway Board
10. **Mr. A.Srivastava**, General Manager (Technical), NHAI(Bihar)
11. **Mr. Sanjiv Mittal**, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture
12. **Mr. Sudhir Kumar**, Consultant (Administration) Nalanda University
13. **Mr. Padmakar Mishra**, (Finance Officer) Nalanda University
14. **Dr. Anjana Sharma**, Dean, Academic



Special Invitee to the National Monitoring Committee, Mr. Nitish Kumar, Chief Minister of Bihar with Professor Lord Meghnad Desai and Mr. P.K. Sahi, Education Minister, Government of Bihar at a dinner in February 2013

Endowment Committee Set-Up to Raise Funds for the University

During the Fourth meeting of the Governing Board held in July 2012, the Board brought up the urgent need to set in place a mechanism for raising funds for the University, independent of Government of India. This will give the University financial stability and the freedom to plan things in an effective manner and function like other international institutions of repute.

To do this in a planned way, the Board decided to constitute an Endowment Committee headed by Mr. N. K Singh, Member of Parliament and a member of the Governing Board.

The Board also decided that the Chairperson of this Committee would be a permanent invitee to the Board Meetings. While accepting the responsibility, Mr. Singh mentioned that Private- Public Partnership will be one of the factors in raising funds for the University.

(Left to Right) Mr. N.K. Singh, Chairperson of Nalanda University Endowment Committee, and Board Member, Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission, Mr. Nitish Kumar, Chief Minister of Bihar and Mr. George Yeo, Board Member of Nalanda University arrive at Rajgir



Endowments Offered to Nalanda University

US\$ 1 million offered by Ambassador Madanjeet Singh of South Asia Foundation

Ambassador Madanjeet Singh, the founder of the South Asia Foundation (SAF) has offered to contribute US\$ 1 million to Nalanda University. This is the first private endowment made to the University. The Vice Chancellor was authorised by the Board to take the proposal forward and also determine the best possible use of this gift.

The Vice Chancellor visited Beaulieu-sur-Mer in France (April 13-17, 2012) to attend the annual meeting of SAF Council organised by Ambassador Singh. She made a presentation on the University to all the delegates at the meeting. Discussions on the modalities of use of this money for project related fellowships were held during the visit. Follow up discussions on this were held with Professor Veena Sikri (Vice Chairperson SAF-India), and over the telephone with Ambassador Singh.

Unfortunately Ambassador Singh passed away on January 6, 2013. The Board has however been assured that all commitments made by him will be honoured by the South Asia Foundation.

Dr. Gopa Sabharwal, Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University presenting at the annual meeting of SAF Council in France



S\$ 5-10 million offered by Singapore

Singapore will contribute S\$ 5-10 million towards construction of Nalanda University Library. The sponsor organisations from Singapore had proposed that they would like to design, build and hand over the library, within the framework, timeframe and discipline of the master plan.

The proposal has been approved and at the time of construction these organisations will work with the University Librarian to define the requirements and design, and put them to the University and the Governing Board for approval.

Australian grant to establish NU Chair in Environmental Studies

During her State Visit to India from October 15 to 17, 2012, the Prime Minister of Australia, Ms Julia Gillard, confirmed that the Australian grant to help establish a Nalanda University Chair in Environmental Studies would commence in 2013.

Laos Government offers \$ 50,000

The donation of \$50,000 from the Laos government was handed over to the Indian Ambassador to Laos in Vientiane on November 15, 2012. This amount was received in the account of the University in March 2013.

Mr. George Yeo, former Minister for Foreign Affairs, Singapore receiving the Padma Bhushan from President Pratibha Patil at Rashtrapati Bhavan on April 4, 2012



Consultative Committee for MEA Visits the NU Campus

The Consultative Committee for Ministry of External Affairs visited Rajgir and Nalanda on February 11 and 12, 2013. A total of five Members of Parliament made the trip. The External Affairs Minister, Mr. Salman Khurshid arrived on the 12th morning and attended the presentation given to the Committee by the Vice Chancellor at the interim office of the University and then visited the site. There was a discussion on the development of the University and planning for the future later. Mr. Nitish Kumar, the Chief Minister of Bihar, hosted a lunch for the gathering.



Discussion on development of the University with External Affairs Minister Mr. Salman Khurshid and others in the Consultative Committee



Mr. Salman Khurshid, Minister of External Affairs taking a closer look at the Site Map during a visit to the proposed campus



Professors of University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign visit the Nalanda University Site

Professors of University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign (U.S.A.) Visit NU

Professors from one of the University's collaborators the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) at the University of Illinois visited Nalanda University in March 2013. Discussions with ACES focused on how it can support the thrust areas of agriculture, hydrology and climate change at NU's School of Ecology and Environment Studies.



Dr. Anjana Sharma, Dean (Academic Planning), Nalanda University presenting Professor Joseph E. Stiglitz NU's first publication

Joseph E. Stiglitz Visits Nalanda University

The American Economist, former chief economist of the World Bank, and Nobel laureate Joseph Eugene Stiglitz, who is currently a Professor at Columbia University, visited Nalanda University along with his wife Anya Schiffrin. He visited the University site and a lunch was hosted in his honour at Rajgir.

NU Vice Chancellor Meets Singapore Foreign Minister

The Vice Chancellor visited Singapore from March 20 to 25, 2013 and had a number of meetings during her stay there. Among other issues discussed during these meetings was the partnership of Nalanda University with Nalanda Sriwijaya Centre. She also had a meeting with the officials of the Yale-NUS Project and exchanged views with them on the progress made in the project. During the visit she also met and briefed Mr. Liu Thai Ker, a member of the Design Jury, about the establishment of Nalanda University and more specifically, the Architectural Design Competition. The Vice Chancellor was hosted to dinner by Mr. George Yeo to introduce her to the members of the Library donation committee. She also had follow-up meetings with some of the members.



Dr. Gopa Sabharwal, Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University with H.E. K. Shanmugam, Foreign Minister,

The Vice Chancellor had a lunch meeting with H.E. Mr. K. Shanmugam, Foreign Minister of Singapore and briefed him about the progress in the project. He promised to visit Nalanda University in Rajgir at an early date.

ACADEMICS

The year 2012-13 saw significant developments with regard to crafting the academic heart of the university and sharing its particular intellectual mandate in the larger public space.

Hence, following the approval of the concept notes on the School of Historical Studies (SHS) and the School of Ecology and Environment Studies (SEES) by the Governing Board at its meeting in Beijing in October 2011, preparations for the first two Schools proceeded well during the year.

The Dean Academic Planning (AP) identified both individuals and institutions with whom, and from whom, Nalanda could draw both advice and experience in planning and executing international best practices for the first two Schools with which the university will launch its academic programmes.

In the Governing Board meeting on February 4, 2013, it was further decided that the list of advisors with whom the Dean (AP) was networking for the proposed two Schools be formalised and be treated as a list of experts who may be invited to serve on Selection Committees during the faculty recruitment process.

The wide ranging discussions with distinguished national and international academics and practitioners helped to refine the focus areas and define the pedagogy that would inflect and govern the first two Schools. The academic planning was centred on the idea that the academic programming of the university should, simultaneously, reflect back on the ancient heritage of the revival university and look forward to constructing a unique, intellectually stimulating curricula that is rooted in the local, the regional, the Asian and the global cartography of the university. Both the Schools have been built around the core principles of inter-disciplinarity and strengthening inter-Asian connections.

The Two Schools Take Shape

The School of Ecology and Environment Studies (SEES):

Nalanda's location, in an agrarian and bucolic landscape, is a unique advantage for the academic development of this School, since knowledge on pressing environmental and ecological concerns is not simply theoretical but practical and real.

The core idea of the School can be briefly summarised as being '*problem focused*' rather than only discipline centred.

After detailed discussions with its advisors, especially the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, the focus areas of the School were decided based on the needs that emphasised the ability to teach and do research work on problem areas that are Bihar, India and Asia specific. It was this consensus that determined the choice of the School's focus areas: water management/ hydrology, climate change, agricultural conservation, human ecology, energy studies and disaster management.

SEES to offer interdisciplinary degrees

Since the new understanding of the discipline indicates that no environmental challenge can be met with only scientific knowledge, it was decided to build, at Nalanda, a School that would effectively combine multidisciplinary knowledge from the sciences, the social sciences and the humanities which would provide holistic and lasting solutions to the environmental challenges.

The School's academic programme will be based on research and teaching across disciplinary boundaries and accommodate perspectives from the sciences, the social sciences and the humanities. However, certain compulsory courses in the first and second semesters will be from both streams. The idea behind this is to allow students to move beyond their undergraduate streams (Science, Social Science and Humanities) to acquire training in another disciplinary stream.

This approach would provide an opportunity for students to widen their intellectual ambit since, within a traditional system, they cannot switch streams. The proposed knowledge model will give NU an edge over other institutions and attract the interest of both faculty and students who wish to work beyond rigid disciplinary confines. Moreover, as mentioned earlier, it will echo the holistic model of learning that was the hallmark of ancient Nalanda.

The School of Historical Studies (SHS):

Academic planning for this School saw considerable progress as a sub-committee of the Governing Board consisting of Governing Board members—Professors Wang Gungwu, Sugata Bose, Lord Meghnad Desai and Dr. Tansen Sen—worked with the University to refine and develop SHS at NU.

Furthermore, exciting projects and collaborations at both the national and international level were being concretised. The University also added advisors and sought collaborations for this School from different institutions located in different parts of the world.

SHS to reflect both lineage and new trends in the study of history

The decision to situate the new university close to the site of the heritage ruins of ancient Nalanda and the rich repository of archaeological sites in Bihar were the bedrock for building SHS. Ancient Nalanda was a unique space of international significance and one that, moreover, developed an inter-Asian network and was the seat of civilisational dialogue. Thus, the School of History at NU would reflect both the lineage and also the new trends in the study of history in the best international universities globally. Once again, the academic programming was built around the wonderful opportunity that Rajgir, Bihar provided to study and practice history in the very cradle of a unique historical consciousness, which was both ancient Magadh and old Nalanda.

Furthermore, given both the national and international collaborations that SHS had begun to work with even before the hiring of faculty or the beginning of classes, it was decided that SHS

have the following focus areas: global history, Asian interconnections, archaeology, art history, economic history and the philosophy of history.

The developments on the academic front were discussed by the Board in its fifth meeting held in February 2013 and it was decided that the Governing Board should not have any special representation on the selection committees for appointments. The Vice Chancellor will represent the Board on these committees.

NU to Undertake Research and Study of South Bihar

Besides planning the academic focus of the two Schools, certain projects are also being planned under the aegis of both Schools to immediately launch NU's position as a doer and facilitator of cutting edge research.

These projects have been designed keeping in mind the objectives of the schools and also the oft repeated view of the Governing Board that NU begin with some high impact research initiative which will precede the formal start of the academic programme on the campus and the hiring of faculty.

NU will undertake research and study of the region of South Bihar in which the University is located. The projects that are planned are mostly focused on Nalanda, its location and history and are briefly as follows:

1. The Nalanda Source Book which will be a compendium of all accounts of Nalanda from all known language sources.
2. Archaeological exploration of area between Rajgir and Bodhgaya the 65 kilometre Xuanzang trail
3. Explorations centred in Rajgir
4. Documentation of the 200 villages surrounding the old Nalanda University Projects
5. (2), (3) and (4) could be in collaboration with

the K.P. Jayaswal Research Institute, Patna. The idea is to make the project multi-disciplinary and use the talents of a diverse range of specialists from fields like archaeology, history, epigraphy, numismatics, geology, art history, iconography, sociology, anthropology, environmental history, botany and paleo-botany; and others including photographers, draftsmen and surveyors.

6. Digitising project of the "*Shahnama*", the Book of Kings with the KhudaBaksh library.
7. Restoring the ecosystem of the Rajgir Hills which are getting denuded. The aim is to introduce certain plants which will not only provide fodder but also income to the villagers who will be partners in the project.
8. The Nalanda Borlaug Village Project which aims at adopting the village of Mudaffarpur which lies in the middle of the NU campus and working to make it a model village. We could examine the concept of 'Rurbanisation' in the context of this Village. The aim is to integrate the village into the water and electricity solutions of the University and also intervene in sanitation. This would mean including the Village in the overall infrastructural management model of the University.
9. Collaboration for projects (6) and (7) is with BISA, the Borlaug Institute of South Asia.

Progress on Collaborations with National and International Institutions

The Vice Chancellor and Dean (AP) held substantive discussions with key institutions of local and global stature. In order to promote and develop the academic planning of NU they also presented the University's academic programmes and the cultural and historical significance of the university and its revival.

Collaborations with the local institutions

Since ancient Nalanda University was anchored in a regional, intellectual and cultural eco system, the new university also plans to work with certain local institutions in Patna, Bihar.

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI): The Nalanda University (NU) has had preliminary discussions with the ASI for working together to establish a permanent Exhibition on Nalanda at Rajgir. It has also discussed the possibility of collaboration in running specific modules for the proposed courses under Archaeology in the School of Historical Studies. These could be conducted through a joint arrangement with the Institute of Archaeology under the ASI.

The University has also talked about working with ASI to conduct primary explorations and excavations in, as yet unexplored, but potentially rich archaeological sites in and around Rajgir/ Nalanda initially and the whole of the region subsequently.

KhudaBaksh library: The Patna based KhudaBaksh library houses the foremost private collection of Islamic antiquities and medieval texts. The University plans to bring out a facsimile edition of the 15th century text *The Shahnama*. NU will provide technical support for the publication which will be financed, published and distributed by KhudaBaksh Library.

K. P. Jayaswal Institute: In the same spirit, the University worked with the Director of the well-known, K.P. Jayaswal Institute, also in Patna, to take forward its heritage exploration in the state and build collaborative research projects to document and share the vast historical knowledge of the many sites in Bihar.

Collaborations with global institutions

Australia India Institute (AII): The University has plans to develop a joint online course with AII on "Contemporary India". The AII is a leading centre for the study of India in Australia. Based at the University of Melbourne, the Institute hosts a growing range of programs that are deepening and enriching the relationship between the two countries.



Since the mandate for both AII and NU is about fostering and nurturing intra-regional connections, it is a natural ally for NU. There have been several rounds of discussion on how best to build the partnership. The plan now is to explore new technology for idea and people exchanges and to launch short term courses in line with NU's academic mandate. The joint online course that is being planned, will be a credit bearing course, hosted under the aegis of the University of Melbourne with Nalanda University signed on as a collaborator.

AII and NU will jointly fund this programme. In addition, the concept note for this course on "Contemporary India" will be jointly drafted by NU and AII

Academy of Korean Studies (AKS): The University is planning on collaborating with AKS on a thematic cluster such as Comparative Asian Studies and Cultural Interactions in Asia.

Academy of Korean Studies, founded by the South Korean government in 1978, is at the forefront of research into the social sciences in Korea and it has taken on the task of overcoming the ethical confusion that has emerged alongside rapid industrialisation.





It has been proposed that NU could collaborate with AKS to open a Research Centre of Inter-Asian Connections which would promote scholarship on the topic through conferences and publications. It has also been suggested that NU organise a centre jointly with AKS, or even a consortium with NU, AKS and Kansai University in Japan which has a centre of Asian Relations.

Borlaug Institute for South Asia (BISA):

Going beyond the regional, on to the global, in the initial period of April-July 2012, considerable time was spent with officials of the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre based in Mexico (*Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maiz y Trigo*- CIMMYT) and its South Asian Institute, which is the Borlaug Institute for South Asia(BISA), to concretise collaborations with it.



European Consortium for Asian Field Study (ECAF) and École française d' Extrême-Orient (EFEO): The University is planning to collaborate with EFEO under the European Consortium for Asian Field Study (ECAF) Consortium.

EFEO was founded in 1898 and now has an extensive network of field centres conducting research into the heritage of South, Southeast, East and Northeast Asia.

ECAF and NU will create joint research programmes and courses that will be supervised by scholars from EFEO and ECAF and hosted by NU. They will work within the region around Rajgir-Gaya-Bodh Gaya. The cost for the collaboration will be shared by the two institutions. The core purpose of this partnership is to build a public interest group that will work as a resource pool to develop strong and innovative interdisciplinary field study plan around the School of Historical Studies.

NU has also put forth the proposition that, after seeking necessary permission from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) the University collaborate with both institutions to craft a super-specialised, new technology driven plan to explore, document, and archive the Nalanda ruins and other ancient sites that are located in the region.

International Institute for Asian Studies:

The University plans to start its links with IIAS by hosting a 2-3 days international conference on the cluster of ideas around Asian Heritage in Rajgir. The Conference will help to develop a joint research programme for graduate students. NU and IIAS can bring together students and scholars and construct courses that meet their mutual requirements.



The aim is to give a joint Nalanda-IIAS degree to these graduate students.

The International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) is a research and exchange platform based in Leiden, Netherlands. It encourages multidisciplinary and comparative study of Asia.

Kyoto University: Nalanda University has been in talks with Kyoto University to incubate a Peace Centre for NU.



Kyoto University, one of Japan's seven national universities is also its second oldest university. It is also one of the highest ranked universities in Asia.

The Japanese government which had recommended the collaboration with Kyoto University has confirmed that it would set up a Peace Institute in Japan, which will serve as an incubator of the "School of International Relations and Peace Studies," to be established and opened in near future at the Nalanda University.

Nalanda Sriwijaya Centre: The purpose of NSC at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore was purportedly to incubate a research centre for Nalanda University that would engage the kind of research that NU would undertake in the future. Now Nalanda University is ready to take on some of these projects. The University will be developing a joint research project on intra-Asian interactions, specifically on the role of South-East Asia in such interactions.





University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign: The University has been in talks with the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) at the University of Illinois for collaboration with School of Ecology and Environment at NU. The University of Illinois is recognised worldwide as one of the best public universities, and the College of ACES is a global leader in the most promising areas of scholarship in the agricultural, consumer, and environmental sciences.

Discussions with ACES focused on how it can support the thrust areas of agriculture, hydrology and climate change at NU. There have also been some preliminary explorations about joint research, graduate field study/study abroad programmes, and faculty support for courses at NU.



Yale University: Yale University will collaborate with NU to develop the School of Ecology and Environment Studies.

Yale University was founded in 1701 and is the third-oldest institution of higher education in the United States. It is a private Ivy League research University located in New Haven, Connecticut.

Nalanda University will work with Yale University to develop the curriculum and also guide and support NU's faculty search for SEES. Yale has recommended that NU's curriculum should be interdisciplinary to ensure that the multiple focus areas (Agriculture, Hydrology, Disaster Management, Human Ecology, and Climate Change) have interconnections. Yale has also suggested that the University keep connections between schools as well.

Nalanda Fellowship Programme Launched

The Nalanda Fellowship Programme which was approved by the Board in July 2012 was formally launched in January 2013 by advertising the same through print and electronic media inviting applications for fellowships connected with the first two Schools to be started in 2014.

Applications were invited for positions of Senior Fellows, Fellows and Junior Fellows for both these Schools.

In response to the advertisement, the University received 87 applications, from India and abroad. There were 34 applications for the School of Ecology and Environment Studies and 53 for the School of Historical Studies. The international nature of the competition was reflected in the fact that applications were received from scholars in Germany, the United States of America, Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, France, Netherlands, Vietnam, Switzerland, Bangladesh and Singapore.

Distinguished Lecture Series Introduced

The University launched its Distinguished Lecture Series on August 2, 2012 as a forum for nurturing and sharing ideas in the public domain. Through this series the University intended to foster creative and critical thought, besides hoping for an increased dissemination of new knowledge and exchange of ideas and people so as to expand learning and culture.

The unique feature of this series was that the lectures were delivered both in New Delhi and in Patna and/or Rajgir, Bihar.

Lecture by Professor Ayesha Jalal: The first lecture in August 2012 in the Series was a public lecture by Professor Ayesha Jalal, Mary Richardson Professor of History, Tufts University, Massachusetts, USA on "The Pity of Partition: Manto as Witness to History". The occasion was to commemorate the hundredth birthday of Sa'adat Hasan Manto, the writer who poignantly depicted everyday life in the midst of the chaos and horrors of Partition.

Ayesha Jalal, Professor of History, Tufts University (USA) delivering the Distinguished Lecture on "The Pity of Partition: Manto as Witness to History"



Lecture by Professor Lord Meghnad Desai: The second lecture was held on September 7, 2012 by Professor Lord Meghnad Desai, Professor Emeritus, London School of Economics and Governing Board Member, Nalanda University on "The Bhagvad Gita: A Secular Inquiry into a Sacred Text".



Professor Lord, Meghnad Desai, delivering the Distinguished Lecture on "The Bhagvad Gita: A Secular Inquiry into a Sacred Text".

Lecture by Professor Andre Beteille: The last lecture in the series this year was delivered by Professor Andre Beteille, Professor Emeritus, University of Delhi and Chancellor, NEHU in February 2013. The title of the lecture was "Sociological Reasoning".



Professor Andre Beteille, delivering the Distinguished Lecture on "Sociological Reasoning"

Nalanda Library Gets the First Private Collection

The first gift to the library – a large collection of books on medieval Chinese and Korean History was received by the University on October 16, 2012. This is a collection by late Professor Ken Gardiner of Australian National University, which was gifted to NU by his widow at the behest of his former student, Professor Pankaj Mohan.

The collection is on display at the Rajgir office.

NU's First International Conference Held in Patna

NU held its first international Conference in Patna in July 2012. The collaborative seminar called "Civilisational Dialogue between India and ASEAN" was organised by ICCR, Nalanda University and the Government of Bihar. The opening session of the Conference was attended by many distinguished guests.

Secretary(East) Mr Sanjay Singh welcomed all delegates at the inauguration while, Professor Amartya Sen delivered the Keynote Address and Mr. George Yeo gave the Inaugural Address. Professor Sugata Bose, Professor Wang Bangwei and Dr. Tansen Sen from the Nalanda University Governing Board, presented at the academic sessions of the conference. Distinguished participants from several Asian countries and beyond were also part of this three day conference.

The inaugural session at NU's first international Conference on "Civilisational Dialogue between India and ASEAN"



NU's Maiden Publication Launched at the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit

The aforementioned conference proceedings were brought out in record time as NU's first publication, entitled *Civilisational Dialogue – Asian Interconnections and Cross-cultural Exchanges* (New Delhi: Manohar, 2013). The volume was formally launched by Mr. Salman Khurshid, External Affairs Minister at the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit held in New Delhi on December 20-21, 2012 to mark the 20th anniversary of India's dialogue-level partnership and the 10th anniversary of the Summit-level partnership with ASEAN.

Foreign Ministers of all the ASEAN nations were present during the ceremony. The book carries contributions of three members of the Governing Board of Nalanda University- Lord Meghnad Desai, Professor Sugata Bose and Professor Wang Bangwei.

This is the first publication which carries the Nalanda logo and has been edited by NU's Dean (AP) Dr. Anjana Sharma. The volume will be widely distributed to all ASEAN countries and will help in developing NU's footprint in the region.



NU's first publication being formally released by Mr. Salman Khurshid, External Affairs Minister at the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit

Common Archival Resource Centre for Mekong-Ganga Region to be Set-Up at NU

At the request of the MEA a short note was prepared by the Dean (AP) on the setting of a Common Archival Centre for the Mekong-Ganga region in order to “foster regional cooperation in the framework of the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation.” This document was discussed and later adopted at the 6th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Ministerial Meeting held on September 3 and 4, 2012.

NU Holds a Public Event with Amartya Sen: “Nalanda: The Way Ahead”

The University organised a public event in which Mr. Shekhar Gupta, Editor-in-Chief, The Indian Express was in conversation with Professor Amartya Sen on “Nalanda: The Way Ahead” in New Delhi on July 30, 2012. The Vice Chancellor made a presentation on the project and Governing Board Member, Professor Sugata Bose also spoke at the event. Governing Board Member, Mr. N. K. Singh was also present at the event.

Professor Amartya Sen,
Chancellor Nalanda University
in conversation with
Mr. Shekhar Gupta, Editor-
in-Chief, Indian Express



NU Holds a Discussion on “Envisioning Nalanda”, with Philip G. Altbach

The University hosted a discussion on “Envisioning Nalanda” with Professor Philip G. Altbach, Director of the Center for International Higher Education, Boston College on November 7, 2012 at New Delhi. Various academic and administrative leaders were invited to give their inputs on building Nalanda University as a leading centre of knowledge.

External Conferences

The Telegraph Debate: The Vice Chancellor participated in *The Telegraph* debate organised by *The Telegraph* newspaper in Patna on April 6, 2012. Mr N.K. Singh, Member of Parliament and also a member of the Governing Board of Nalanda University was also a part of this debate. The topic debated was “In its Centenary Year, Bihar Needs a Strong Regional Identity for a Strong National Identity”. Both Mr. Singh and Dr. Sabharwal spoke for the motion.



Discussion on “Envisioning Nalanda” with Professor Philip G. Altbach, Director, Center for International Higher Education, Boston College

EDU's Annual VCs Retreat: Dr. Sabharwal attended the annual VCs retreat conducted by the EDU Magazine and Ashoka University on August 31, and September 1, 2012 at the Westin Sohna Hotel. She spoke at the session "Curriculum and Pedagogy: How can we be 'future-ready'?" Other panellists were Professor Indira Parikh, President – FLAME; Pankaj Jalote, Director -IIIT Delhi and Dheeraj Sanghi, Dean, Academic Affairs at IIT Kanpur.

Asian Borderlands Conference: Dean (AP) attended the 3rd Asian Borderlands Conference: "Connections, Corridors, and Communities" held in Singapore on October 11-13, 2012. She also used this opportunity to get updated on activities at the Nalanda Sriwijaya Centre, met Peter Peng, Director of the Yale-NUS collaboration, and shared NU's academic plans with the scholars.

A.N. College- Conference on Environment and History: Vice Chancellor and Dean (AP) attended the inaugural session of the conference on Environment and History at the A.N.College, Patna on November 30, 2012. The Vice Chancellor was one of the distinguished speakers at the commencement of the conference.

Dr. Gopa Sabharwal with other panelists at EDU's annual VCs Retreat



CAMPUS

EdCIL Submits the Detailed Project Report for the University Project

EdCIL India Ltd. which had been commissioned to prepare a Project Report for the Nalanda University Project submitted the report to the University in March 2012. The report was approved by the Board in July 2012.

As per this Report, it was estimated that the capital expenditure on the establishment of the University will be Rs. 2154.35 crores and there will be a recurring expenditure of Rs. 1378.26 crores over the period 2014-15 to 2021-22.

The Project Report was prepared on the premise that construction of the campus would commence by the beginning of the financial year 2013-14 and the first Schools will begin in the next academic year namely the session beginning in the summer of 2014. The University will become fully operational with all Schools functioning to full capacity by the academic year 2021-22.

Here is a snapshot of the main features of the Report:

1. Nalanda University will offer Master's and Doctoral degree programs in its seven Schools of Learning.
2. Each School under the University will have a provision for 150 students in Post Graduate programs and 50 students in the Doctoral programs at full capacity.
3. Nalanda University will start its academic activity from the academic year 2014-15 and the student population will stabilise at a level of 2450 at the end of the initial stage of development by the academic year 2021-22.

-
4. Nalanda University will be fully residential with housing being provided on a self-contained campus for all students, faculty and non-teaching staff.
 5. It is proposed that the services like housekeeping, security, horticulture, transportation, canteen/cafeteria, dining, farming etc. will be outsourced.
 6. The expenditure under the salary head for teaching and non-teaching staff has been worked out on the basis of the pay scales of the only other international university in India namely SAU. In order to attract good faculty and staff, it is proposed that all teaching and non-teaching staff in different grades will be provided certain allowances.
 7. The expenditure on construction of the campus has been estimated on the basis of CPWD Plinth Area Rates 2007 (PAR-2007). This with the relevant cost index consideration is an accepted standard for preparation of the budgetary cost of the projects in India (49% as of now).
 8. The campus will be GRIHA-5 compliant.

NU Re-designates and Increases Manpower

Change in designation of officers

- Dr. Anjana Sharma, who was appointed as Officer on Special Duty (Academic Affairs), was re-designated as Dean, Academic Planning to better reflect the role she is playing at the University and to make it easier for her to fulfil this role at various fora.
- Dr. Padmakar Mishra, who was appointed as Officer on Special Duty (Finance) on deputation basis from the University of Delhi, was appointed as the first Finance Officer of the University.

Expansion of office staff

The University has engaged another civil engineer stationed in Rajgir to supervise the progress and quality of the work on the construction of the boundary wall and look after maintenance and related activities at the interim campus in Rajgir which houses the office. In addition the University has engaged an office helper and a caretaker at the Rajgir office.

Following advertisements, the University held interviews for hiring a Receptionist and a Steno Typist, and a test cum interview for two junior Assistant cum Typists and two Accounts Assistants in the months of December 2012 and January 2013. The selected candidates joined the University's Delhi office shortly thereafter.

Delhi Office Shifts to New Premises

The University has been functioning since its inception, from premises originally rented for it by the Bihar Government in New Delhi. That office space was proving inadequate for accommodating all divisions of the University office and the need for a proper office space in New Delhi from where all the work of the University could be conducted, was increasing with each passing week. The University needed more space for officers, for interns, for conducting the architecture competition and also for fellows and faculty that it would recruit and also where visitors could be invited for meetings.

The University was able to find an appropriate space at a very good location consistent with its international stature, in New Delhi in Lodhi Estate. A proposal for leasing of these premises was circulated to a sub committee comprising Mr. N.K. Singh, Secretary (East) and the Vice Chancellor and the Chancellor's views were also sought. Upon receiving a positive feedback the University moved ahead with the process and moved into new offices in November 2012.

Bihar Government Provides Space for Interim Campus

In October 2012, the Bihar State Government informed the University that the entire 4.5 acre campus of the old Sub-Divisional Office building of the Health Department at Rajgir (barring 4 rooms in the main building and four houses at the back), would now be available for setting up the interim campus. The temporary office of the University is also currently located in a part of this campus.



A building at the interim campus before repair

The University then engaged architects to map the whole compound. It appears that the University will be able to refurbish eleven homes in the campus for its use in addition to almost twenty rooms that will be converted into offices, library, classrooms and office rooms for faculty.

The building and all its facilities will require extensive repair and refurbishment and the installation of basics such as running water and sewage systems etc. before it can be used by the University.

A building at the interim campus before repair





A building at the interim campus before repair

The University engaged M/s Kapoor Associates of Patna to provide consultancy and architectural services for the renovation of the 4.5 acre temporary campus. After detailed discussion with the University, this firm prepared an outline of the repairs/renovations required for various buildings in this campus. A detailed Bill of Quantities (BoQ) has also been prepared by them and the University is in the process of obtaining a technical sanction for the same. Estimated cost as per the BoQ is approximately Rs. 2.52 crores.

Plans for Design and Construction of the Permanent Campus Move Ahead

The Minister of State for External Affairs had assured Parliament in August 2010 during the introduction of the Nalanda University Bill that the design for Nalanda University will be chosen on the basis of a design competition. This commitment made in Parliament thus became a mandate that the University inherited in October 2010.

Planning for the Design Competition

The University spent considerable time learning about the manner in which design competitions have been conducted in India and met many people who were concerned with such competitions.

The University decided to follow the guidelines of the Council of Architecture (CoA), an autonomous Statutory Body of the Government of India under the Architects Act, 1972 which regulates the profession of Architecture in India.

Steering committee formed to advise on the conduct for the Design Competition

The University formed a Steering Committee on February 17, 2012 to advise it on the conduct of the Architectural Design Competition. The Composition of the Committee was as follows:

- 1. Mr. J.R. Bhalla (Chairperson)**, Former President, Council of Architecture
- 2. Mr. Ranjit Sabikhi**, Architect, Professional Adviser to the IGNCA competition in 1986 - the first international competition in India
- 3. Mr. B.S. Duggal**, Former Director General, CPWD
- 4. Mr. B. Bose**, Technical Project Manager with South Asian University and Former Additional Director General in CPWD
- 5. Dr. Gopa Sabharwal**, Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University

Professional Advisor engaged to conduct the Design Competition

As per CoA guidelines and on the advice of the Steering Committee it was decided to engage a Professional Advisor to prepare the competition brief and to conduct the Architectural Competition. An advertisement was published in media on March 14, 2012 inviting applications for appointment as Professional Advisor. Ten applications were received three of whom were shortlisted by the Committee on April 12, 2012.

The shortlisted candidates were interviewed on April 30, 2012 and the Committee unanimously decided to appoint Mr. A.R. Ramanathan, architect, as the Professional Advisor.

In its meetings on June 22 and July 17, 2012 the Committee negotiated with Mr. Ramanathan the fee payable as well as other terms of his engagement and approved the agreement to be signed with him. Mr. Ramanathan was engaged as Professional Advisor on July 17, 2012.

After the engagement of the Professional Advisor, there were detailed discussions on the parameters for eligibility criteria for participation in the competition and the competition process.

The Professional Advisor visited the site at Rajgir and worked with the University to understand the space requirements of the University.

The Steering Committee in consultation with the Professional Advisor decided that the competition should be a single stage process in which applications are invited from architects/architectural firms in India and abroad and then a few of them are short-listed. These pre-qualified architects/architectural firms could then be invited to participate in the competition.

Under the CoA rules only those architects/architectural firms that are registered with them are eligible to participate in such competitions.

Foreign architects/architectural firms could participate by establishing a joint venture with Indian architects/architectural firms.

An Expression of Interest (EoI) and Prequalification Document was finalised after protracted discussions with the Steering Committee spread over a number of meetings held on September 17 and 25 and October 12, 2012.

It gave a brief introduction about the University, regulations governing the EoI, participation and minimum criteria and prequalification requirements and format for evaluation.

Steering Committee recommends following the Net Zero approach for NU

The University had based its campus sustainability philosophy on being GRIHA-5⁴ compliant. During the process of discussions the university was introduced to Nexant, a US-based organization which has been working with the Government of India towards development of Net Zero/ Near Zero approaches for development of new facilities as part of a US-AID project. The Steering Committee strongly recommended that this approach should be incorporated in the EoI document as a component of the proposed campus development and the experience in the development of Net Zero/ Near Zero facilities figured in the evaluation of the applicants.

NU Campus becomes part of the Net Zero Energy Building Pilot Project of the Ministry of Power

Later on January 2, 2013 the University signed a "Letter of Participation" with the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power for participation in the Net-Zero Energy Building (NZEB) Pilot Project under the USAID Partnership to Advance Clean Energy-Deployment (PACE-D) Programme.

⁴ GRIHA, an acronym for Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment, is the National Rating System of India. GRIHA has been conceived by TERI and developed jointly with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India. It is a green building 'design evaluation system', and is suitable for all kinds of buildings in different climatic zones of the country.

Under this project USAID (PACE-D) Technical Assistance Programme in collaboration with BEE will offer technical assistance to Nalanda University to achieve Net Zero Energy (NZE) status in its Campus. Successful implementation of NZEBs in Nalanda University will be used to promote the design and construction of more NZEBs in India.

Parameters used for judging the Design Competition

Keeping in mind the significance of the project, the rich heritage of Nalanda and the scale of the work that the architectural masterplan would address, it was decided to judge the applicants on the following parameters:

1. Work Experience – Campus Planning
2. Architectural Expression – Buildings
25000 Sqm or more
3. Competitions Won during practice
4. Average Turnover in last three years
5. Experience in Net Zero or Green Buildings

The Architectural Design Competition was launched on November 21, 2012 and the applicants were required to send in their applications by January 8, 2013.

Information about the competition was circulated worldwide through the Indian diplomatic Missions/Posts abroad who were requested by the Ministry of External Affairs to disseminate this information. Printed copies of the EoI document were also made available.

Design Competition receives overwhelming response with 79 applications

The University had set December 27, 2012 as the last date for receipt of queries relating to the EoI. As many as 33 queries were received, replies to all of which were posted on the website of the University in six lots for the benefit of all prospective bidders.

There were more than 3,500 hits on the University website during the period the document was available on it for downloading. Seventy nine applications were received including applications from some prominent architects in the country.

Of the 79 applications received, 35 were from individual architects/architectural firms whereas the remaining 44 were from joint ventures. A total of 102 Indian and 35 foreign architects/architectural firms applied either individually or as joint ventures. Thirty three of the 79 applications were found to be eligible for evaluation.

Selection committee formed for short listing the participants

The University constituted a Selection Committee comprising the following for scrutinising the applications and prequalification of the applicants:

1. Professor Kulbhushan Jain, Director, Faculty of Architecture, Centre for Environmental Planning & Technology (CEPT), Ahmedabad
2. Professor K. Jaisim, Jaisim Fountainhead, Bangalore
3. Mr. R.K. Kakar, Retd, Additional DG, CPWD
4. Dr. Gopa Sabharwal, VC – Chairperson

The Selection Committee
scrutinising applications



The Committee met from January 15-17, 2013 and examined the responses. Marks were awarded under various categories as per the format for evaluation publicised in the EoI document and a cut-off was determined by the University.

The following eight applicants were declared pre-qualified for participation in the Competition:

1. CP Kukreja Associates, New Delhi
2. Hundred Hands, Bangalore and Allies & Morrison, UK
3. Opolis Architects, Mumbai and Maki & Associates, Japan
4. Raj Rewal Associates, New Delhi and Dulal Mukherjee, Kolkata and Arun Rewal, New Delhi
5. Sikka Associates Architects, New Delhi and Atkins (China) Ltd
6. Space matters, New Delhi and Space Design, New Delhi and Snohetta, Norway
7. Vastu Shilpa Consultants, Ahmedabad
8. Virender Khanna and Associates New Delhi and IDOM Spain

Out of the eight applicants who were pre-qualified, two were individual architects/architectural firms whereas six were joint ventures - five of them involving foreign partners.

Thereafter preparation of an exhaustive Competition Dossier was undertaken, outlining among other things, the competition regulations and guidelines, design guidelines, architectural programmes and spatial requirements, sustainable initiative and directions for information of the participating architects. These Dossiers were sent out to all the eight pre-qualified architects on February 21, 2013.

The pre-qualified participants are required to submit their designs and models for the campus

as well as for one sample building which will come up in the first phase of construction. The last date for submission of the entries is April 25, 2013.

Site Surveys held for investigating the construction site

While preparing for launch of the competition, the University also commissioned some essential surveys on the site, on the basis of open tenders. An underground water survey was also conducted by the Central Ground Water Board. The information collected through these surveys formed an important part of the Dossier.

Topographical survey: The tender for the Topographical Survey was floated on July 23, 2012 through an advertisement in the press and on the website of the University. The eleven bids received were evaluated by a Committee and the work was awarded to Monarch Surveyors and Engineering Consultants Pvt Ltd., Pune.

Soil investigation: The tender for soil investigation was put out on July 31, 2012 in the media and on the website of the University. The seven bids received were evaluated by a Committee and the work was awarded to M/s Allied Engineers of New Delhi.

Groundwater survey: A complimentary survey of the groundwater scenario in the campus of the University was carried out by Central Ground

Soil testing being carried out
at the Nalanda University
construction Site



Water Board, Patna. The Central Ground Water Board submitted its report in February 2013 to the Chancellor Professor Amartya Sen in Patna.

Archaeological and Ground Penetration

Radar Survey: The site of the University is located in a region which is rich in archaeological remains. Hence it was essential to know if there are any archaeological remains on or below the site before commencing of the construction activity or even before planning for the same.

Following the University discussions with the Archaeological Survey of India about the possibility of its involvement in helping the University in determining this aspect, ASI deputed a few archaeologists to 'walk' the land for a preliminary visual survey. This was completed in June 2012. The findings indicated that there may not be any substantial archaeological remains below ground on the site of the University.

However, to be absolutely sure about this aspect, it was decided to commission a Ground Penetration Radar Survey (GPRS). The bids for this were invited on January 25, 2014 through an advertisement in the press and after receiving the evaluation of the bids, the work was awarded to M/s Tojo-Vikas International Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi. The report submitted by this firm in March 2013 confirmed that the entire area is free from any archaeological remains/artefacts/utilities. However, the report also pointed out that there are two mounds on the site which would require special attention during construction of the University.

Construction of the Boundary Wall Almost Complete

Construction of the boundary wall around the main campus which began in December 2011 was almost complete by March 2013. There are a few gaps which have been left to enable the surrounding villages to have access to the main road through the University's land. These will be blocked once alternative routes are made available for the inhabitants of these villages.

Workers building the boundary wall of the 455 acre campus



FINANCE

The unaudited Annual Accounts for the Financial Year 2010-11 which had been approved by the Governing Board in its meeting held in Beijing in October, 2011, had been audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. The Annual Accounts so audited along with the audit report were submitted to the Governing Board in its fourth meeting held in July 2012 which passed the same.

The unaudited Annual Accounts for the Financial Year 2011-12 were also approved by the Governing Board in its fourth meeting held in July 2012. The Board was also assured that after the constitution of the Finance Committee, the Annual Accounts will first be considered by it before being placed before the Governing Board for its approval. The audited accounts for this year were approved in the next meeting of the Board in February 2013.

There was a transaction audit of University accounts until January 2012.

The University's major affairs on the fronts of Governance, Academics, Campus and Finance were managed by the following officers

Governance

Vice Chancellor: Dr. Gopa Sabharwal
(gsabharwal@nalandauniv.com)

Consultant: Mr. Sudhir Kumar
(skumar@nalandauniv.com)

Administrative Officer: Mr. S L Sharma
(slsharma@nalandauniv.com)

Academics

Dean, Academic Planning: Dr. Anjana Sharma
(asharma@nalandauniv.com)

Finance

Finance Officer: Dr. Padmakar Mishra
(pmishra@nalandauniv.com)

Campus

Professional Advisor, Architecture and Design:
Mr. A.R. Ramanathan
(ar.ramanathan@gmail.com)

NEW DELHI OFFICE
2nd Floor, Council for Social Development
Sangha Rachna, 53, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi – 110 003
Tel. +91-11 24618352, +91-11 26172328 Fax: +91-11 24618351
RAJGIR OFFICE
Rajgir, District Nalanda, Pin: 803 115
Bihar, India
www.nalandauniv.edu.in

