



Nālandā
UNIVERSITY

Annual Report 2014-2015



RAJGIR OFFICE

Rajgir, District Nalanda, Bihar, India, Pin- 803116, T: +91-6112-255330, Fax: +91-6112-255766
Bihar, India

NEW DELHI OFFICE

Delhi Office: 2nd Floor, Council for Social Development, 53 Lodhi Estate, New Delhi, India
Pin-110003 T:+91-11-24622330, Fax: +91-11-24618351
www.nalandauniv.edu.in

Nalanda University was established on November 25, 2010 after the Nalanda University Act (2010) came into force.

In all matters the Nalanda University is governed by the Act and subordinate legislation in the form of Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations, each of which set out responsibilities and powers of statutory officers, conduct of business and other such matters.

Nalanda University is administered by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

The President of India is the Visitor of the University.

The Chancellor is the head of the University and is also the Chairperson of the University's Governing Board. The Chancellor presides over Governing Board Meetings and Convocations of the University.

The Vice Chancellor is the principal academic and executive officer of the University.



Visitor, President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee



Chancellor, Professor Amartya Sen



Vice Chancellor, Dr Gopa Sabharwal

FOREWORD

2014-15 was a historic year for Nalanda University. This was the year when all of our work since the inception of the University came to life, amidst a gamut of emotions ranging from nervousness, exhilaration and the recognition of the historicity of the occasion.

The actual launch of the University's academic programmes in September was preceded by hours, weeks and months of hectic activity on many fronts with all hands on deck. The University embarked on an expansion drive with regard to staff and also further expanded its operations on the interim campus site in Rajgir, which became the focus of all attention.

Our days were long – there was much to do and some of it happened across time zones internationally too. The Governing Board too met in quick succession to help move the process forward. The multiple tasks included getting the infrastructure ready on the ground- both for administrative and academic offices and housing for faculty and students, hiring new staff and faculty and also getting everyone settled into life at Rajgir. The University Community and their activities permeated everything in Rajgir as everyone waited for the big day to arrive.

The refurbishment of the interim campus made available to the University by the Government of Bihar, initially in some part and then finally the full complex, was central to the University's functioning. Renovation works commenced on all structures on that campus extending beyond the main building to the housing for faculty, laboratories for the School of Ecology and Environment and lawns for outdoor activities.

With the academic side of the University going live, faculty recruitment was a major area of activity. The University advertised world-wide on various portals so as to reach as wide an audience as possible and also attract the best minds to Nalanda to fulfill our academic vision. Led by our Dean (Academic Planning) Dr Anjana Sharma, who hand held each member of the faculty and answered all their queries on all matters, this task was accomplished well in time.

Dean Sharma spent considerable time not only recruiting faculty but also organising the curriculum workshops to guide the faculty and ensure that the curriculum not only reflected the core principles of each school, but also that it was a curriculum that could hold its own among the best institutions internationally. Once again this involved many hours of meetings in person and virtually and much back and forth before we were ready to go.

Student recruitment was another key part of the launch. This task was undertaken using best practices internationally. This entailed the design of the admission process, decision on the kind of process we were putting in place to evaluate candidates and other related issues. The University was also committed to conducting this process in a sustainable manner—keeping it completely paperless.

A very personalised admissions process was designed which would allow each candidate to be evaluated

in a stand-alone manner on various parameters and not just marks secured in the undergraduate degree.

An interactive admissions portal was launched which encapsulated all of the information that potential students would desire and all queries were responded to as promptly as we could. It was decided to keep the incoming "pioneer" group to a small size so as to enable the University to pay attention to all aspects of their needs as also those of the faculty. Each student was interviewed by a committee led by Dean Sharma and finally our core group of Nalanda Pioneers was in place.

Since students are the heart of any University, much time and effort went into planning student amenities foremost among which was the Residence Hall where they would spend much of their time. A wonderful setting for the Student's Residence Hall was made available to the University by the Government of Bihar. This was a hotel run by Bihar State Tourism Development Corporation named Tathagat Hotel. After some refurbishment and renovation, the Tathagat Residence Hall became the home not only for the incoming students but also for the faculty and some senior staff of the University.

As the launch date came closer, the University was abuzz with excitement which was added to by the arrival of media from far and near to cover the launch of "new Nalanda". In September 2014 Nalanda no longer remained confined to those involved in the project - it became a global phenomenon. All elements that would now constitute the University, namely administration, incoming faculty, and students, found themselves at the centre of much attention and were soon thrust into the media lime-light having to give multiple interviews explaining what it was about Nalanda that appealed to them and led them to make this commitment.

The University Community was now visible and coming into being – the small team that had held things together in the initial years of the project had now expanded into a sizeable body.

The University now had an academic calendar and activities organised according to that matrix. The first activity on that calendar was of course the orientation programme for the incoming class. The week long orientation included activities at the University level and the School level and also those inside and outside the University campus. Orientation was followed by the beginning of formal academic activity and classes.

Classes were conducted for the first semester in the wonderful seminar rooms of the Rajgir International Convention Centre (RICC) another facility belonging to the Bihar Government. In addition the University library came into being on the interim campus so that students could read at leisure.

The highlight of the new beginning of Nalanda University was of course the formal inauguration of the University by the Minister of External Affairs Mrs Sushma Swaraj on September 19, 2014 at the International Conventional Centre. This was the largest event hosted by the University with the Minister, the Chief Minister of Bihar, members of the Diplomatic Corps and other invitees. The Minister in her speech hailing the occasion said, "It is wrong to say that today we are rejuvenating the 427 AD Nalanda University because tradition never dies ... Nalanda is not just a University but a tradition. "Nalanda University is a link between the past, present and future." The University could not have hoped for more inspiring words.

As the campus activities increased and the University settled down to a new rhythm, work on other aspects of building Nalanda continued. The University signed the agreement with the architects chosen to master-

plan and design the Phase-I of the permanent campus. This resulted in some very fruitful meetings between the architect team and all their consultants and the University team both in Ahmedabad and Rajgir. The full master-plan was plotted on the ground to enable everyone to see the proposed layout.

The annual report captures all these events and also other vignettes of life on the campus. The presence of students has meant the emergence of a vibrant campus life with the presence of many visitors, the celebration of festivals, sports and other activities.

Dr. Gopa Sabharwal

Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University



CONTENTS

FOREWORD	ii
PREPARING TO GO LIVE	1
Nalanda University Governing Board Meets Thrice During 2014-15	3
Infrastructure for Students and Faculty firmed up	5
Nalanda University Library (NUL) Starts Functioning	7
The Academic Structure Gets Final Shape	9
University Admissions Launched	12
GOING LIVE	13
Orientation of the Pioneer Batch	16
Formal inauguration by the External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj	17
ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES	19
Lectures and Talks	21
Field Trips	25
CAMPUS LIFE	27
Chancellor Spends a day with University Community	29
University Community Participates in Rajgir Mahotsav	30
Students Meet SDM Rajgir on National Voter's Day	30
Traditional Festivals Celebrated at NU	31
Foundation Day Celebrated at Tathagat Residence Hall on November 25, 2014	31
Republic Day Celebrated at Rajgir Interim Campus	33
Sports Events at NU	33
Significant Visitors to Nalanda University Campus in 2014-15	34

CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION	37
University Signs Agreement with Vastu Shilpa Consultants for Designing the Campus	39
Architectural Design for Phase-1 Construction Refined	41
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	43
THE NALANDA TEAM	45
Governing Board Members	45
Committees	49
Faculty Members at Nalanda University	50
Key Officers and Administrative Staff	59



PREPARING TO GO LIVE

The year 2014-15 was the turning point in the history of higher learning in India. It was the year when the University of Nalanda in its new avatar began classes.

The feverish pitch of activities a year ahead of the launch of academic operations at Nalanda had one and all work endlessly night and day. The single point agenda of the activities leading up to this, till August 2014, was geared towards welcoming the first batch of Graduate students in our two inaugural schools—the School of Historical Studies and the School of Ecology and Environment Studies.

Everyone at every level at the University was deeply involved in ensuring that the various components that are required to start academic operations come together in time for the launch.

The University's Governing Board (GB) was at the helm of affairs giving directions and taking stock of developments every step of the way. Even though the GB members were not physically present during this period of frenzied preparations, they remained in constant touch with University officials through virtual means. They also decided to meet in person for the meetings much more frequently to ensure their support and of course provide guidance whenever the occasion demanded it.

On the ground, the Vice Chancellor, Dr Gopa Sabharwal and Dean (Academic Planning) Dr Anjana Sharma were leading the University officials and helping the growing team settle in at Rajgir.

Critical for any new University, preparations were underway at three broad levels: Getting the infrastructure ready, giving shape to the academic core and launching the admissions process.

Getting the infrastructure ready in time for the incoming batch of students was a top priority for the University and to this end the Bihar Government was most forthcoming. It helped not only to provide space for establishing an interim campus but also aided the leasing of one of the state run hotels —Tathagat to be used as a Residence Hall for students.

The Academic DNA of the University took shape with the hiring of faculty and finalising the curriculum in keeping with Nalanda's academic vision under the aegis of Dean Sharma's astute leadership. To this end, curriculum workshops were held in order to crystallise ideas alongside discussions that had been

in progress since inception of the two inaugural Schools.

Student recruitment was also a crucial part of the whole process of launch and considerable time and effort went into studying international best practices that could be adopted at Nalanda. Thus, we not only designed a selection process that was personalised and individualistic, but also chose to go paperless by launching online admissions and thus achieving the first milestone of adhering to our mission of sustainability.

The University plans to launch postgraduate and doctorate courses in the following schools by 2020:

- **Historical Studies**
- **Ecology and Environment Studies**
- **Buddhist Studies, Philosophy and Comparative Religions**
- **Linguistics and Literature**
- **International Relations and Peace Studies**
- **Information Science and Technology**
- **Economics and Management**
- **Public Health**

Nalanda University Governing Board Meets Thrice During 2014-15

As reiterated earlier, with the time of launch drawing closer, and months and years of planning behind us, the Governing Board of the University met with greater frequency. Though they were kept abreast of activities on the ground at all times, the Board met in person more frequently in order to monitor progress on various fronts, take collective decisions on issues concerning logistics of the University and also to advise the University on various issues related to the launch.

Governing Board Meetings

Eighth Meeting: May 2, 2014, New Delhi

Ninth Meeting: July 19 and 20, 2014, New Delhi

Tenth Meeting: January 13 and 14, 2015, Rajgir

The Indian General Elections were held from April to May 2014 to constitute the 16th Lok Sabha and a new government was formed.

When the Governing Board met in July it also called upon the newly appointed External Affairs Minister Mrs Sushma Swaraj and the Finance Minister Mr Arun Jaitley. The Governing Board briefed both the Ministers about the project and also thanked them for continued support the University was getting from the Government of India.



Governing Board Meeting
on July 19, 2014

Governing Board Member Professor Wang Gungwu joins via Video for the Governing Board Meeting on May 2, 2014



Governing Board meets External Affairs Minister, Mrs Sushma Swaraj



Infrastructure for Students and Faculty firmed up

The permanent campus of the University will be coming up in Rajgir on the 455 acres of land, provided by the Bihar Government. Plans of building a Net Zero campus that is a model of sustainability are in the pipeline. However, as that is still sometime away, hence until the campus is ready, the University will function from its interim campus in Rajgir, provided by the Bihar Government.

A considerable effort went into renovating the interim campus to make it habitable. This being the election year, the renovation work was also delayed because of the election code of conduct. Even though there were times when it looked like the campus might not be ready in time, far from feeling dampened, the University team kept its spirits up and the campus was finally operational and ready for moving in by August 2015.

The support and help that the University received from the Government of Bihar for the renovation of the interim campus included the appointment of the Bihar Rajya Pul Nirman Nigam Ltd (BRPNN) as the executing agency for the renovation work of the University's interim campus. The Bihar Government also granted an additional building, the Tathaghat Hotel, to serve as the Students' Residence Hall.

Renovation of interim campus moves forward

The 4.5-acre interim campus, provided by the Bihar Government for Nalanda University to start functioning before the construction of the permanent campus, belongs to the Health Department and was formerly the premises of the Sub-Divisional Office Rajgir.

This campus was in urgent need of extensive repair and refurbishment when it was handed over to the University. The University has plans to use this campus to not just construct classrooms and offices but to also provide accommodation for faculty and the Vice Chancellor till the permanent campus comes up. Thus some of the structures at the interim campus were expanded and some new blocks of housing were built this year. BRPNN worked in close coordination with the University officials to design plans for the building in keeping with the needs of the University and also the stipulations laid down by the Bihar Government.

Though work was stalled briefly because of the General Elections, it sped up towards the end and the campus building was ready for occupation in time. The facilities of the Rajgir International Convention Centre (RICC) were used by the University to hold classes for the first semester before classes commenced at the campus. The RICC has world-class facilities with seminar rooms and conference halls that are still available to the University for use whenever required.



Tathagat Hotel leased for creating student residence hall

The interim campus lacked space for housing the students, thus the University spent considerable time looking around in Rajgir for the right accommodation. However, an appropriate property that could satisfy all the requirements including

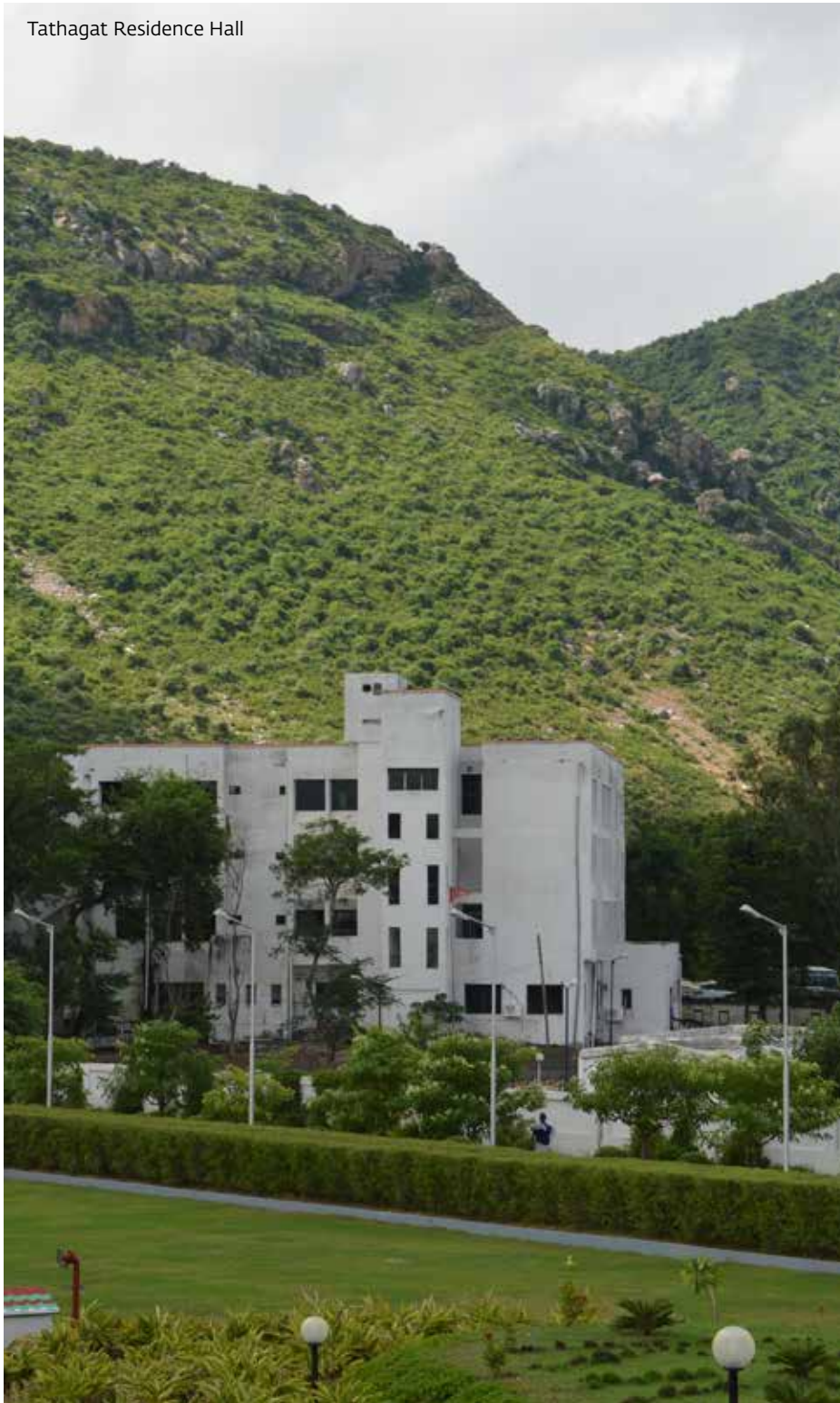
safety and easy accessibility was difficult to find till the Bihar Government intervened. Thus Hotel Tathagat of the Bihar State Tourism Development Corporation (BSTDC) was leased to the University by the Government of Bihar, for a period of three years for use as the Students' Residence Hall.

Strategically very well located, the property is right next to the Rajgir International Convention Centre (RICC). Tathagat, just a few minutes away from the centre of the town, has a very quiet and serene surrounding. It has a beautiful view of the Rajgir Hills that gets misty during the winters and its greenery provides the much needed relief during the summers. It has sprawling lawns, 44 rooms, a conference hall, a dining hall and a kitchen. BSTDC has also provided services of 11 employees of the Hotel as part of the lease including six sweepers, two gardeners, one electrician, one liftman, and one supervisor.

However, just like the interim campus, this property also needed repair work, though not as extensive. Thus in order to make the Students' Residence Hall fully functional prior to arrival of the first batch of students, the University refurbished it and operationalised the Dining Hall and Mess. Mess workers were hired by the University and a Mess Management Committee was set up. The Dining Hall and mess facilities are open to students, faculty and staff.

A badminton and volleyball court were constructed in the hotel premises and TV lounges was set up for students' relaxation and recreation.

The Tathagat Residence Hall was also home to some faculty and senior staff as work on the residences at the interim campus took some time to complete. This led to developing a great sense of community and laid the foundation for the kind of University that we are attempting to build.



Tathagat Residence Hall

Nalanda University Library (NUL) Starts Functioning

The Nalanda University Library is to be the fulcrum of the master plan of the University, both in terms of its design and bearing. The major objective of NU Library is to become an apex resource centre with a state-of-the-art repository of both print and digital books and services.

The library shall be a constant companion in the academic journey of the entire community of the University. It shall cater significantly in the quest for creating new bodies of knowledge.

The Nalanda University Library is committed to excellence in services as well as in supporting intellectual inquiry, research and lifelong learning needs of the University community. Its vision is to provide seamless access of information through innovative services to drive intellectual exchange and foster interdisciplinarity across campus research.

It is also committed to building an intellectual centre ensuring access to quality resources in a variety of easily accessible formats for the overall growth of students and teachers.

This year, the library became operational and launched an active acquisition programme of books, e-books, e-journals and online databases etc. NU Library has a collection of over 4350 books and it has also received endowments in the form of books from individual donors.

Gift of publications

The University had already received a large collection of books on medieval Chinese and Korean history from the late Professor Ken Gardiner of the Australian National University in October 2012.

This year it received a gift of publications from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Washington DC following a discussion between the Chancellor Professor Amartya Sen and the Director of the IMF Madame Christine Lagarde.

The University has also received an offer of donation of books from Professor Wang Gung Wu, who is a member of the University's Governing Board.

The University also received a gift of books on Environmental Engineering from Jagdish Chandra Kapur one of the first people in India to set up a solar firm.

E-Books

The library towards the end of the year had access to over 170 e-books, 4,800 e-journals and online databases such as Elsevier's Science Direct, JSTOR, Nature, Taylor and Francis, Oxford University Press, Sage Publication and Cambridge University Press etc.

Developing Library Network (DELNET) Inter-library loan / Resources Sharing

The Library started offering inter-library loan service to its users for books and periodicals not available in the Library. It registered itself as a member of the Developing Library Network (DELNET) which promotes resource sharing among a network of libraries. It collects, stores and disseminates information besides offering computerised services to users, to coordinate efforts for suitable collection development and also to reduce unnecessary duplication wherever possible.

Centre of Research Libraries (CRL) Inter-library loan / Resources Sharing

The Center for Research Libraries (CRL) based in Chicago is an international consortium of University, college and independent research libraries. CRL supports advanced research and teaching in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences by preserving and making available to scholars the primary source material critical to those disciplines. CRL acquires and preserves newspapers, journals, documents, archives and other traditional and digital resources from a global network of sources.

Nalanda University registered itself as a member of CRL and is now able to access a collection of approximately five million items, including journals, dissertations and paper collections. Nalanda University is the only Indian University registered with CRL.

Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre

Based in Gandhinagar, INFLIBNET is an Autonomous Inter-University Centre (IUC) of University Grants Commission (UGC) of India. The UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium subscribes to a large number of resources for its member institutions. All electronic resources subscribed are available from the publisher's websites. The access includes full text e-resources, bibliographic databases and other open access resources. The University has already initiated the process of membership registration with INFLIBNET.



Library Automation

To automate the sub-systems of a library system (to manage the accession, cataloguing and circulation of books), NU Library has implemented a library automation software, KOHA. Koha is a New Zealand term which means gift or donation. Koha is an Open-Source Integrated Library System (ILS). It is a web-based multilingual Integrated Library System to cater to the automation of large libraries around the world. Koha satisfies all the functional requirements of a library management system.

Online public access catalogue (OPAC)

OPAC has been introduced for library data search by users. OPAC is a powerful web-based search engine for finding any catalogued information from KOHA bibliographic

database online. Web-based OPAC.

The following services were also made available at the Library:

- Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI)
- Current Awareness Services (CAS)
- Reference and Information Services
- Information Literacy
- Orientation programme for users
- Reprographic service



The Library

The Academic Structure Gets Final Shape

Ancient Nalanda was renowned for its exceptional teachers and while envisioning the academic set-up of the new Nalanda University, this fact was uppermost in all discussions. The vision statement of the University states: "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."

The faculty hiring led by Dean (Academic Planning) Anjana Sharma was driven by this vision and entailed extensive planning, discussions and consultations with various people in the academia in India and overseas.

Curriculum design and development for both the inaugural schools had started the moment it was decided that these two schools would be the first two schools that the University would be launched with. The search for subject experts and collaborating institutions and also a decision on the focus areas of each school had been on for a while. This year it was time to concretise all inputs and discussions by focusing on finalising the curriculum for both schools

In fact, the process of hiring faculty was spread over several months. The University received over 500 applications from around the world. After shortlisting and interviews, 11 faculty members were appointed in the two inaugural schools.

As with members of any new project, the pioneering faculty too had many questions, dreams and apprehensions about joining the Nalanda team. But they were all inspired by the vision of Nalanda and were ready to join in this exciting journey. Dean Sharma was an anchor and always available to answer any questions the faculty might have and put to rest their apprehensions of relocating to Rajgir from all corners of the world.

Before the commencement of the Academic Year in August 2014 most of the faculty had relocated to Rajgir.

Faculty recruitment ran parallelly with curriculum designing which is fundamental in defining the academic core of any educational institution. Both processes were spearheaded by Dean Sharma.

Since both Schools were in their formative stages, the faculty members also participated in the curriculum designing process and were encouraged to take ownership of their School curriculum.

In order to finalise the curriculum, workshops were held for the two schools where various experts were invited for detailed and conclusive discussions on what the curriculum should look like.

Workshop on Curriculum Development for two-year Post Graduate Course in Ecology and Environment Studies held on April 26, 2014 in Delhi

Following this workshop, the curriculum for the School of Ecology and Environment Studies (SEES) was finalised and it was decided that the School would combine knowledge from the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities in order to promote teaching and research in a holistic manner. The aim of the School would be to foster research in local, regional and global environmental issues with a focus on experiential learning and field studies. The pedagogical aim would be to find creative solutions for the immense environmental and ecological challenges of our times.

As an interdisciplinary school, SEES would seek to combine knowledge from the basic sciences, social sciences and humanities. The School will also seek to bridge the current gap in the study of environmental issues between the Western and the Eastern perspectives. Students will be encouraged to take advantage of a large array of courses across disciplines offered at the School and will be expected to develop interests and skills needed to approach independently, at least one of the major environmental problem areas faced by society today.

All Master's students will be required to obtain at least 48 credits spread over 4 semesters, with a summer internship during the vacation between the first and second year and a dissertation in the last semester. The curriculum would comprise a mix of core and elective courses.

The first two semesters would have compulsory interdisciplinary courses to provide breadth of knowledge covering core concepts and their relationship to key environmental issues. The last two semesters would advance through an individual dissertation, supported by a few electives in the third semester. These semesters will focus on depth of knowledge and ability to conduct independent research. Field work will be emphasized throughout the course, through visits, assignments and projects in and around the campus, in the region and beyond. Work conducted during the summer internship will be presented in a report and seminar. The dissertation will form a critical part of the degree requirement.

Key Collaborations

The University had already established connections for collaborations on various fronts for this School. It was decided that the School would continue to strengthen connections and collaborative research links with the following institutions:

School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Yale University (U.S.A)

Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering (ABE), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (U.S.A)

Borlaug Institute of South Asia (BISA, India)

Following experts and resource persons were a part of the meeting:

Dr. Gopa Sabharwal, Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University

Dr. Anjana Sharma, Dean (Academic Planning), Nalanda University

Professor T.R. Rao, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Mohali

Dr. T. Mohan Rao, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad

Dr. Sharadchandra Lele, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bangalore

Dr. Ghazala Shahabuddin, Ambedkar University Delhi

Dr. Rohan D'Souza, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Dr. Vikram Dayal, Institute of Economic Growth

The key focus areas of the School are:

- **Human Ecology**
- **Hydrology/ Hydro Ecology**
- **Disaster Management**
- **Agriculture**
- **Climate Change**
- **Energy Studies**

Workshop on Curriculum Development for two-year MA Course in Historical Studies was held on April 28, May 1, and July 9, 2014

Following this workshop, the curriculum for the School of Historical Studies (SHS) was finalised and it was decided that the School would aim to develop strong world and Asian history programmes, besides working with the history of the Nalanda tradition. The study of archaeology, history and art history will be enhanced by strong field based research programs. Additionally, the learning of classical and modern languages needed for research will be encouraged.

The students will develop critical understandings of global histories, cultural-political histories, economic histories, intellectual histories, oral and visual histories, art histories, and religious histories.

The MA course would have a total of 48 credits. This includes core, elective, and language courses along with the completion of an MA thesis.

Course Curriculum credit structure

3 Core courses equivalent to 9 credits (3 X 3)

8 Electives equivalent to 24 credits (3 X 8)

3 Language courses equivalent to 6 credits (2 X 3)

3 Thesis components equivalent to 9 credits (3 X 3)

Following experts and resource persons were a part of the meeting:

Dr. Anjana Sharma,
Nalanda University

Dr. Gopa Sabharwal,
Nalanda University

Professor Hari Vasudevan,
University of Calcutta

Dr. Kashshaf Ghani, incoming
faculty at Nalanda University

Dr. Sraman Mukherjee, incoming
faculty at Nalanda University

Dr. Yin Ker, incoming faculty
at Nalanda University

Dr. Samuel Wright, incoming
faculty at Nalanda University

Dr. Abhishek Amar, incoming
faculty at Nalanda University

Professor Pankaj Mohan, incoming
faculty at Nalanda University

The key focus areas of the School are:

- **Global History**
- **Inter-Asian Connections**
- **Archaeology**
- **Art History**
- **Economic History**

Key Collaborations

The University had already established connections for collaborations for this School. It was decided that the School would continue to strengthen connections and collaborative research links with the following institutions around the world:

**Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre,
Institute of Southeast Asian
Studies (Singapore)**

**Chulalongkorn University
(Thailand)**

Peking University (China)

**Archaeological Survey
of India (ASI, India)**

**European Consortium for Asian
Field Study (ECAAF, France)**

**International Institute for Asian
Studies (IIAS, Netherlands)**

University Admissions Launched

Any University exists for its students and their recruitment is critical because they define the University. So in the run-up to the launch, another crucial factor was student recruitment along with the infrastructure and academic planning. As mentioned previously, the University opened its doors for admissions to the two-year Masters Programme in the two inaugural Schools — the School of Ecology and Environment Studies and the School of Historical Studies.

Discussions on student recruitment strategy and planning had begun last year. This year it had been decided that the process would be such that it allowed each candidate to be evaluated individually on parameters other than just marks obtained in their undergraduate degree. Besides, the size of the pioneer group of students would be kept small so that each student could get individual attention.

The University announced its admissions by publishing advertisements in major Indian newspapers. It also sent admission notices to various missions around the world and partner institutions of the two Schools.

The University, in keeping with its commitment to sustainability, and in line with best practices around the world decided to have paperless admissions for which a specially designed web portal for admissions was launched. The major criteria for admissions in both Schools this year were a Bachelor's degree, proficiency in English and a demonstrable interest in the discipline of study.

Admissions at Nalanda University were a two-tier process wherein the applications were first shortlisted based on eligibility, academic performance, and completeness of the Application Form. Final shortlisting was based on qualitative aspects like Statement of Purpose, referee's recommendation and written work.

The shortlisted candidates were then interviewed by a selection committee appointed by the Vice Chancellor. Personal interviews were conducted by means of video conferencing before the offer of admission is made. The final shortlisting from the interview session was based on the parameters like communication skills, confidence level of applicant, general awareness, subject interest and so forth. It was also decided that wherever there would be a requirement for qualitative assessment, the decision of the Selection Committee in that regard shall be final and binding.

The University also decided that it shall award freeships each year in the form of full or partial tuition fees waiver to the admitted candidates in need of financial assistance. It was also decided that scholarship and aid would be need based.

Students wishing to avail financial support were required to indicate the need at the time of filling the Application Form and a Financial Assistance Committee assessed the suitability of the candidate for getting the scholarship based on various criteria specified by the Committee.

The University received 2404 interests in the form of online registration via the Admissions portal. Applicants from over 20 countries showed interest in the University. However, most applications were received from India.

After the shortlisting and interview process, 15 students got admitted to the University in the Pioneer class.

Admission process

The process of selection for admissions was as follows:

Applications were shortlisted based on the Statement of Purpose and the following marks cut off:

Marks cut off for Indian students who have an undergraduate degree from a Central University was 60%

Marks cut off for Indian students who have an undergraduate degree from any other University was 65%

Marks cut off for non-Indian students was a Grade Point Average score of 3.5 (on a scale of 4.0).

The shortlisted students were interviewed on skype by a panel that included Dr Anjana Sharma, Dean (Academic Planning) and faculty members.



GOING LIVE

September 1, 2014 was the historic day that Nalanda University finally started the Academic session of two its schools — the School of Ecology and Environment Studies (SEES) and the School of Historical Studies (SHS) in Rajgir.

Months of preparation had finally borne fruit and culminated in this momentous occasion. While everyone at the University was neck-deep in work and establishing a foothold for themselves in Rajgir, the town too was infected with the excitement in the air and historical relevance of what was about to happen. The “pioneer” group of students started coming in and settling into the Residence Hall. The University Community started to feel more and more alive with their young and enthusiastic presence.

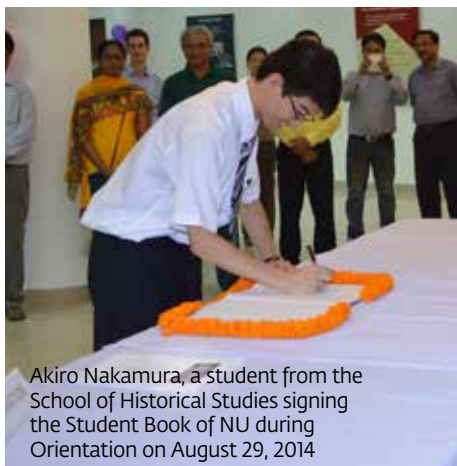
Rajgir was abuzz with life following the launch of the University. And before any of us could fathom the enormity of the whole affair, journalists from print and television swarmed in to freeze this moment in time through a multitude of

news reports and features. Officials, faculty and students were likened to celebrities as the “paparazzi” sought them out for interviews. It was an exhilarating moment as the world got news of classes having begun at Nalanda.

Heady with excitement, it was important for the University to inculcate in the students a sense of belonging and thereby enabling them to adjust to their new surroundings. Further, they needed to understand the University ethos and vision, for which a three-day orientation programme was organised before the start of classes. The orientation was also open to parents, some of whom had accompanied the students to Rajgir.

The curtain raiser was the formal inauguration ceremony on September 19, 2014 by the External Affairs Minister Mrs Sushma Swaraj that gathered maximum attention. Though often repeated and yet not nearly enough, September 2014 – a historical landmark saw the birth of the new Nalanda University that brought with it festivities which lasted the entire month.





Akiro Nakamura, a student from the School of Historical Studies signing the Student Book of NU during Orientation on August 29, 2014

Orientation of the Pioneer Batch

A three-day orientation was held for the pioneer group of students on August 29, September 1 and 2, 2014.

The orientation programme for the Pioneers kicked off with an orientation ceremony on August 29 at the Rajgir International Convention Centre. This programme was attended by students as well as their parents and guardians who had accompanied their ward to Rajgir to help them settle in.

Breaking away from tradition, the lighting of the lamp ceremony was conducted by the faculty and students, thereby creating a precedent.

The Vice Chancellor, Dr Gopa Sabharwal welcomed the first batch of students, the faculty and staff who comprised the first University community. She emphasized the vision of Nalanda and talked about its background. The Dean (Academic Planning), Dr Anjana Sharma gave an inspirational talk on the historic relevance and present significance of the University. All the faculty members and students introduced themselves and spoke about what Nalanda University means to them. Some parents also spoke about how emotional and historic this moment

was for them. The atmosphere at the venue was electric and the emotions of the students poured out when they recorded their comments in the "Student Book of NU".

The event concluded with the first dinner of the Nalanda University Community where everyone interacted with each other and began the process of getting to know everyone.

The students had a fixed schedule for the orientation on September 1, and 2 that involved some events that were School-specific and others that were meant for both the Schools. The orientation on these days also included a heritage walk to the Nalanda ruins led by the School of Historical Studies and a walk through the Rajgir Hills led by School of Ecology and Environment Studies. As a part of building connections with the local community, the students were taken out on a field trip to meet and interact with local farmers in Saril Chak village whose inhabitants are known to farm mushrooms.

Regular classes started soon after the conclusion of the Orientation Programme.



Dr. Samuel Wright, faculty School of Historical Studies lighting the lamp during Orientation on August 29, 2014



Dinner with students and parents after orientation on August 29, 2014



Formal inauguration by the External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj

The function for the formal inauguration of the University was held on September 19, 2014. Once again, there was excitement in the air, only this time on a much larger scale with frenzied activity and preparations preceding the inauguration.

Nalanda University was to play host to Mrs Sushma Swaraj (External Affairs Minister), Mr Jitan Ram Manjhi (Chief Minister of Bihar), Board Members—Lord Meghnad Desai and Mr N.K. Singh, and Mr Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East) Ministry of External Affairs.

The foreign dignitaries at the function included Lim Thuan Kuan, Singapore High Commissioner to India and Chalit Manityakur, Ambassador of Thailand in India. Diplomats from Australia, Vietnam, Germany, Japan and Laos were also present.

Before the inaugural function at Rajgir International Convention Centre, Mrs Sushma Swaraj and Mr Jitan Ram Manjhi planted saplings at the site where the permanent campus is coming up.

Welcoming everyone at the inaugural function, the Vice Chancellor Dr Gopa Sabharwal said, "The time to celebrate is finally here. In seeking to build afresh on the legacy of Nalanda, we have a chance to be as creative as the original Nalanda and create—once again— a unique teaching, learning, living experience."

Speaking on the occasion, Mrs Swaraj said, "The endeavor of Nalanda was to promote an understanding of knowledge in all its dimensions and to connect this with the society that it existed in. Understandably, it was a magnet, attracting scholars from all around, from the West to the East. Nalanda contributed deeply to connectivity between India and the broader region. Nalanda was the bridge and Nalanda was the fountain. The new Nalanda University will seek to revive that tradition."

She also announced that it has now been decided that the University will not just be open to East Asian nations for collaboration but to other countries as well. Speaking further she said that the Centre had already allotted Rs 2,727 crore for the University which would be used in building a world-class campus in the next 10 years.

Mr Jitan Ram Manjhi, the Chief Minister of Bihar said, "It is a proud day for Bihar as the launch of academic session marked culmination of a long endeavour towards establishment of the world-class University on its ancient ruins."



External Affairs Minister lighting the lamp to formally inaugurate the University



External Affairs Minister Mrs Sushma Swaraj planting a sapling at the campus site along with the Dean (Academic Planning) Dr. Anjana Sharma



Bihar Chief Minister, Jitan Ram Manjhi, External Affairs Minister Mrs Sushma Swaraj with the Vice Chancellor and others at the formal launch of the University



ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

With the commencement of its academic Programme, the University's academic calendar started buzzing with activities that included lectures and talks from scholars around the world, besides field trips and other events. Two manuscripts were also approved for publication by Nalanda University in association with Manohar Publishers, New Delhi with Dr. Anjana Sharma, the Dean (Academic Planning) as the Series Editor.

While the University hosted Chancellor Professor Amartya Sen's Distinguished Lecture in Delhi, the other lectures were held in Rajgir. The University recorded some of these lectures and also shared them online on platforms like YouTube. The topics of these lectures were varied and ranged from "Melding Down the Arab Spring" to "Effect of Rainfall on Child Health".

Fieldwork has been integrated into the Nalanda curriculum and its import was emphasized by both the Schools, through site visits, assignments and projects in and around the campus, in the region and beyond. Field visits thus were established as an integral part of the academic activities at the University in its first academic year.

All academic activities were designed keeping in mind the research focus, interdisciplinarity and experiential learning that make the postgraduate programmes at Nalanda University

stand out. Most of these activities were also open to students of both the schools.

Learning beyond the classroom was thus established as a norm and the academic community looked forward to all these events eagerly.

Lectures and Talks

The University organised several lectures and talks to foster creative and critical thought and to disseminate new knowledge and exchange of ideas in order to expand learning in its maiden year. With the start of the first academic year, these lectures and talks increased in number and frequency – a trend that will be carried on in the years to come.

Distinguished Lecture by Professor Amartya Sen held on October 16, 2014

A distinguished lecture by Professor Amartya Sen was held on October 16, 2014 at Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Teen Murti Bhavan, New Delhi. Shri Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India presided over the event.

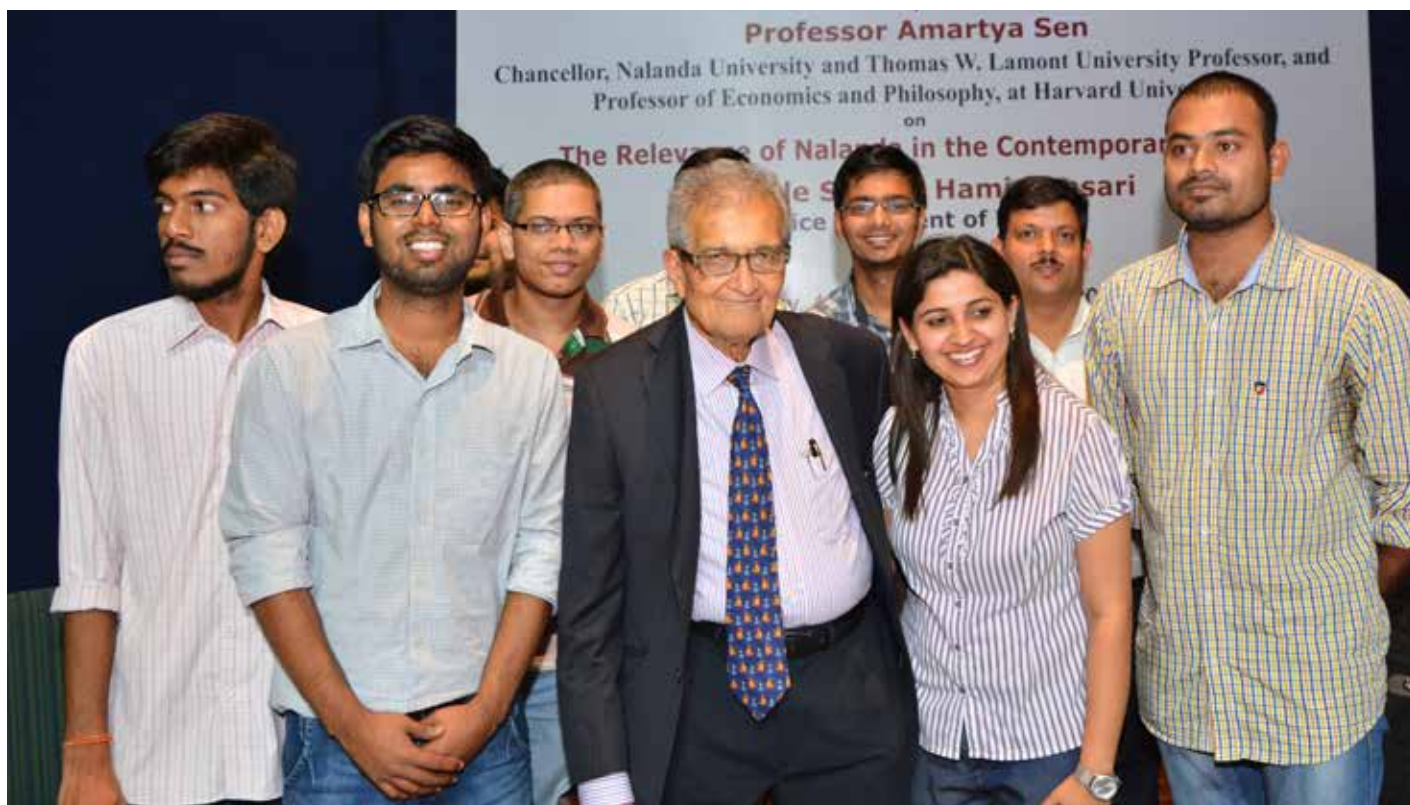
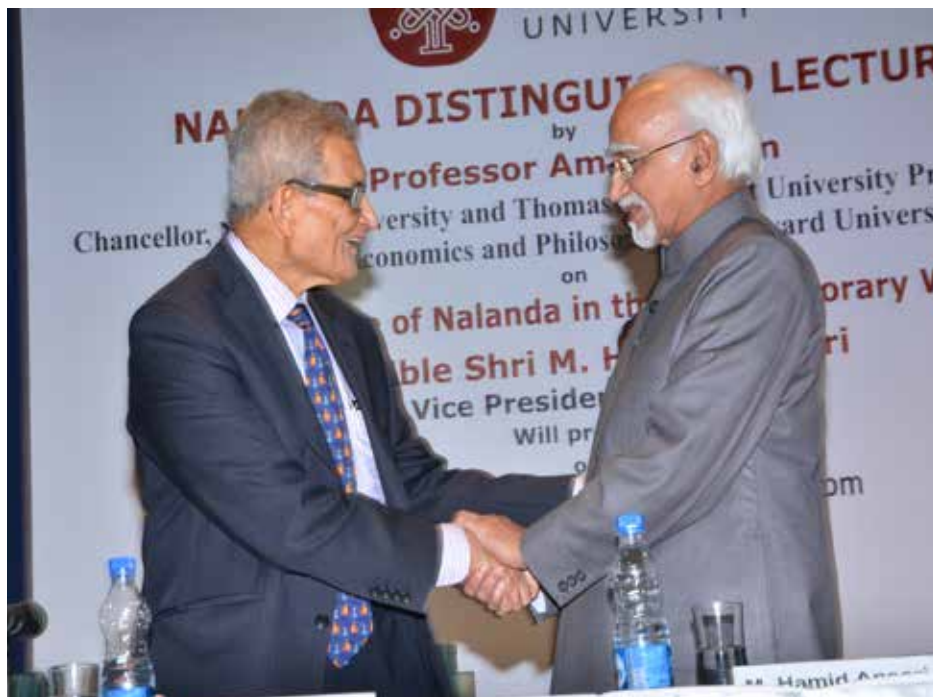
The topic of the talk was “The Relevance of Nalanda in the Contemporary World” where Professor Sen spoke about how Nalanda University is “a link between the past and present and the bridge to the future”.

Top

Chancellor Professor Amartya Sen greeting Vice President of India, Shri Hamid Ansari at the Distinguished Lecture

Bottom

Professor Amartya Sen with students after the Distinguished Lecture



Distinguished Lectures Held in Rajgir

Professor Frederick Asher from the Department of Art History, University of Minnesota spoke on the topic "India, Magadha, Nalanda: Ecology and a Premodern World System" on September 19, 2014.



Professor Kingshuk Chatterjee from the Department of History, Shiv Nadar University, spoke on the topic "Melding Down the Arab Spring" on November 22, 2014.



Dr. Santosh Kumar from the Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX, USA spoke on the topic "Effect of Rainfall on Child Health" on January 5, 2015.



Dr. Tansen Sen, Nalanda University Governing Board Member and a faculty at the Department of History, The City University of New York spoke on the topic "Politics of Pilgrimage: Xuanzang's Meetings with Indian Rulers" on January 14, 2015.

Dr. Parul Pandya Dhar, from the Department of History, University of Delhi spoke on the topic "India and South East Asia: The Iconography of Early Cultural Interaction" February 5, 2015.



Professor K.Paddayya, from the Department of Archaeology, Deccan College, Pune spoke on the topic "The Past in the Present in India" February 19, 2015.



Professor Imtiaz Ahmad, Director, Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna spoke on the topic "Shahnama Collection at Khuda Bakhsh Library" on February 26, 2015.



Professor Minowa Kenryo from the Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology, The University of Tokyo, spoke on the topic "Buddhist Meditation in Theravada and Mahayana: Concerning on Its Similarity" March 14, 2015.



Professor Ursula Rao from The Institute of Anthropology, Leipzig University, Germany spoke on the topic "Local Bodies in Global Cities" on March 19, 2015.



Professor Anne Cheng from College de France, Paris spoke on the topic "Challenging Chinese Universality: How Central is the Middle Kingdom?" on March 23, 2015.



Professor Amit Dey, from the Department of History, University of Calcutta, spoke on the topic "Environment, Folk Culture and Islam in Modern Bengal in Historical Perspective" on March 12, 2015.



Visiting Professors at Rajgir Campus

School of Ecology and Environment Studies invited the following academics for teaching a few courses at the School in Rajgir:

Professor T. R. Rao, School of Biology, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Mohali September, 2014.

Dr. Anindita Roy Saha, Department of Economics, Indraprastha College for Women, New Delhi October 30, 2014.

Professor Arun Kumar Sinha, Department of Statistics, Central University of Bihar November, 2014.

Dr. Ankila. J. Hiremath, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology & the Environment (ATREE), New Delhi November, 2014.

New Publications

The following manuscripts were approved for publication by Nalanda University in association with Manohar Publishers, New Delhi with Dr Anjana Sharma, the Dean (Academic Planning) as the Series Editor:

Nalanda Mahavihara: A Study of an Indian Pala Period Buddhist Site and British historical Archaeology, 1861-1938 by Mary Stewart

Sacred Sites and Sacred Identities: A Study of Nalanda and its Vicinity (c: 600-1200 AD) by Diwakar Singh

Dr. Rambhau T. Patil, Former Director of Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering & Technology (CIPHET), Ludhiana spoke on the topic "Strategic Approaches for Post-Harvest Technology Research, Education and Development in Horticultural Sector" on March 24, 2015.



Field Trips

Field trips are an important component of research work and both the present Schools at the University are committed to giving students real world experience rather than merely classroom instruction. Field trips at Nalanda University started in the Spring Semester.

Day trip to Biharsharif Dargah

This field trip to Biharsharif Dargah was organised by Dr. Kashshaf Ghani for students of the School of Historical Studies on February 26, 2015.

Day trip to Makhdum Kund

As a follow up trip to the trip to Biharsharif Dargah, Dr. Kashshaf Ghani took students to the hot springs linked to the Muslim saint on March 13, 2015.

Five day trip to BISA RAU (PUSA)

This five-day trip to Borlaug Institute for South Asia (BISA) and Rajendra Agricultural University, PUSA was organised for students of the School of Ecology and Environment Sciences by Dr Prabhakar Sharma and Professor Niggol Seo from March 11-15, 2015.

Four day trip to Munger, Bhagalpur and Vikramshila

This four-day trip to Munger, Bhagalpur and Vikramshila was organised by Dr Murari Jha and Dr Sraman Mukherjee for students of the School of Historical Studies from March 29-April 01, 2015.





Clockwise from Left

Students and faculty at Mir Qasim tunnel during a field-trip to Munger and Bhagalpur, March-April, 2015

Students and faculty on a boat-ride on the river Ganga during a field-trip to Munger and Bhagalpur

Students and faculty study the rock-cut sculptures at the site of Sultanganj, Bhagalpur during a field-trip to Munger and Bhagalpur, Bihar, March

Students and faculty meet the weavers' community of Bhagalpur during a field-trip to Munger and Bhagalpur, Bihar, March

Field-trip to Biharsharif Sufi Dargah, February 2015



CAMPUS LIFE

With the start of the Academic Session, faculty members and students joined the campus community making it more vibrant and dynamic. Since many faculty members and senior staff stayed along with students at Tathagat Residence Hall, the community on campus became very close knit and often got together for activities and celebrations. Sharing the same dining space at Tathagat ensured that everyone found time to interact with each other. From impromptu treks in the Rajgir Hills to weekend trips to Patna, the community found many ways to connect.

While there were many occasions that the University community got together, celebrations like those of Foundation Day, Indian Republic Day, Diwali and Holi were organised with much enthusiasm by the students and supported by staff and faculty. On Indian Republic Day, the University decided to break away from the tradition followed in most other Universities and introduce a new tradition -- giving an opportunity to students to unfurl the Indian flag. Cricket matches and other sports were also organised in which teams were formed that competed against each other.

With something planned for almost every week, the community was always busy learning and celebrating together.

The string of visitors and lively interactions with them also made campus life enriching and enjoyable. Everyone was particularly thrilled when the Chancellor Professor Amartya Sen spent an entire day in Rajgir interacting with students, faculty and staff.

Chancellor Spends a day with University Community

Chancellor Professor Amartya Sen, who could not come for the launch in September spent a few days at the University in October 2014. The entire University community was waiting eagerly for a chance to interact with Professor Amartya Sen. He was welcomed by everyone when he arrived at Tathagat Residence Hall with students lining up to greet him in traditional Indian style with flowers and a welcome lamp.

He also went for a walk in Rajgir along with the students who talked to him about their life in this town and their experiences as the Pioneer students. In the afternoon Chancellor Sen met the faculty over lunch and later interacted with the staff members.



Chancellor Amartya Sen and Vice Chancellor Gopa Sabharwal with Bihar's former Chief Minister Mr. Nitish Kumar



Chancellor Amartya Sen with the Faculty and Students of Nalanda University-October 14, 2014



Chancellor Amartya Sen walking along with students in Rajgir

University Community Participates in Rajgir Mahotsav

The students, faculty and staff members joined in the Rajgir Mahotsav celebrations held at Rajgir in January. Rajgir Mahotsav is an annual music and dance festival organised by Nalanda district administration in association with Government of Bihar's Department of Culture and Bihar State Tourism Development Corporation.

It was started in 1986 and was at that time known as Rajgir Nritaya (Dance) Mahotsav. Usually a three-day event, it was sponsored by the Tourism Department of Bihar Government until 1989. It was restarted in 1994, and since then has become a major event.

Various well-known artists from all over the country are invited to perform at this festival that also includes competitions like tonga race. The festival is held at Qila Maidan with a backdrop of Ratnagiri hills.

The Government of Bihar which played a key role in the founding of Nalanda University invites Nalanda University community members every year as special guests.

Students Meet SDM Rajgir on National Voter's Day

The students of the University met the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) of Rajgir on January 25, 2015 the National Voters Day to talk about the significance of this day and other issues related to democracy.

It was in 2011 that the Government of India decided to celebrate January 25 as National Voters' Day every year. This was started to encourage young first-time voters who had just turned 18 to get enrolled in the electoral rolls.

On this day the young voters are handed over their Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC) and a badge with its logo "Proud to be a voter - Ready to vote."

The SDM office in Rajgir had made special arrangements for students of Nalanda University to meet the SDM and celebrate this day.



On National Voter's Day with SDM, Rajgir - January 25, 2015



Students and faculty at Rajgir Mahotsav - January 2015



Holi celebration at NU, March, 2015



Diwali celebration at NU, October, 2014



Traditional Festivals Celebrated at NU

The University Community also got together to celebrate traditional festivals like, Diwali, Christmas and Holi.

While on Diwali the Tathagat Residence Hall and Interim Campus were lit up by lights and earthen lamps, Christmas brought with it a chance to let loose everyone's creativity with traditional festive Christmas decorations and Holi was celebrated by smearing of colours on each other. A special menu is served in the Dining Hall on each of these occasions.

Foundation Day Celebrated at Tathagat Residence Hall on November 25, 2014

The University Community at Rajgir organised a celebration on November 25 in honour of its Founders.

It was on November 25, 2010 that the Nalanda University Act (2010) came into force, which the University observes as Foundation Day.



The Pioneer batch along with the faculty and staff got together for the celebration. A cultural programme was organised by the community members with performances from students, staff and faculty followed by dinner where local administrators and other guests from Rajgir were also invited.

Clockwise from above

Faculty members performing on the occasion of Foundation Day

Dean Academic Planning Dr. Anjana Sharma and Vice Chancellor Dr. Gopa Sabharwal greet guests on the occasion of Foundation Day

Nalanda Pioneers after the function held on the occasion of Foundation Day

Nalanda Pioneers at Tathagat Residence Hall on the occasion of Foundation Day

Nalanda University Community after the celebration of Foundation Day

Republic Day Celebrated at Rajgir Interim Campus

India's Republic Day celebrations were held at the Interim Campus of Rajgir on January 26, 2015. In preparation for this day, Nalanda University decided to institutionalise a new tradition—flag hoisting by students.

It is a norm in all Indian organisations that the national flag be unfurled on both Independence Day and Republic Day by the head or a senior official of the organisation. In universities across India, it is usually the Vice Chancellor or the Registrar who hoists the flag.

But in Nalanda it was the students who unfurled the tricolour.

A male and a female student were selected to hoist the flag after the drawing of lots. Since Nalanda University is an international University it was also decided that students of other nationalities could also participate in drawing of the lots and hence experience the honour of hoisting the flag.

Rannjit Raj and Chandani Goel were the two students who got the opportunity to unfurl the Indian flag this Republic Day.

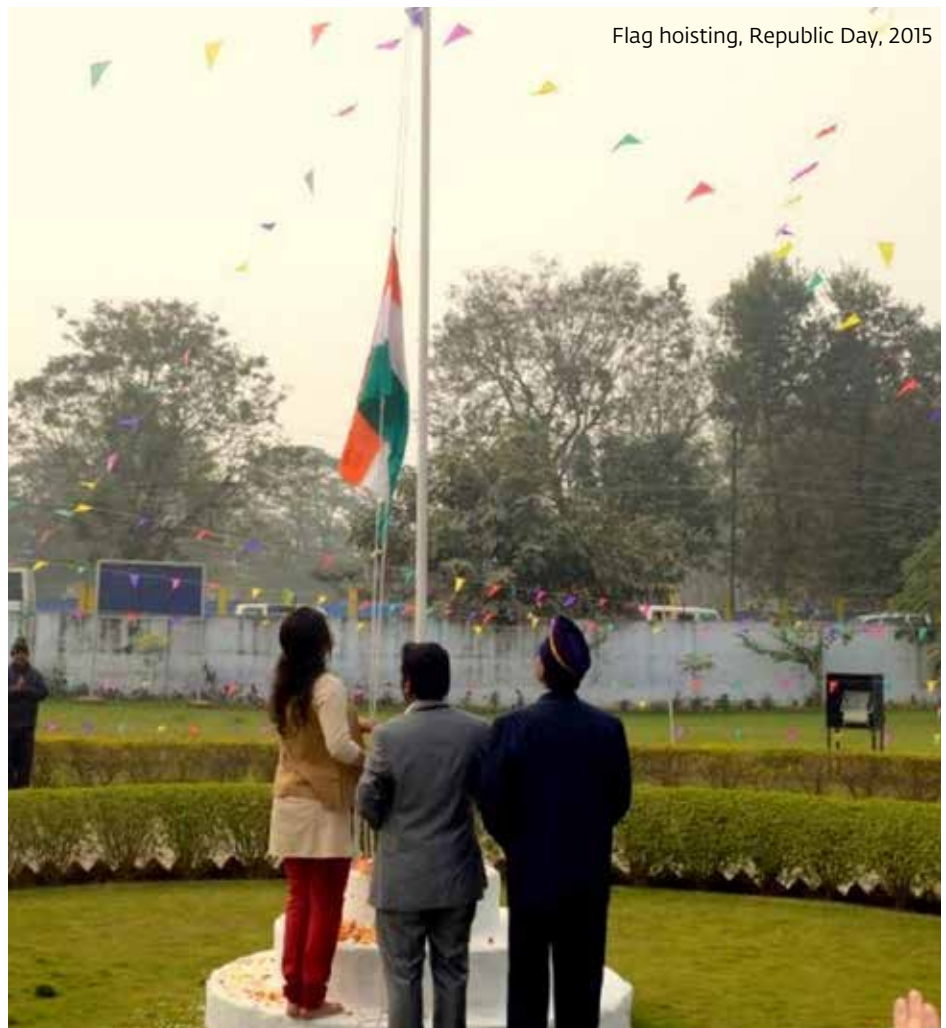
In this context, it would not be remiss to say that the future of any nation is in the hands of its youth and for a University its very existence is to prepare its students for that future. The vision statement of the University states: "A University of the third millennium has to be universalist in 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."

Sports Events at NU

The University Community organised a Badminton Tournament and a Cricket Tournament in February.



Badminton tournament at Nalanda University in February 2015



Flag hoisting, Republic Day, 2015

Significant Visitors to Nalanda University Campus in 2014-15

Dr. Gaurav Bansal, Consul for Political and Economic Affairs, US Consulate Kolkata

Students and Faculty from the Rissho University Japan

Mrs. Sushma Swaraj, Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, GoI,

Mr. Jitan Ram Manjhi, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Bihar,

H.E. Mr. Lim Thuan Kuan, High Commissioner of Singapore

H.E. Mr. Chalit Manityakul, Ambassador of Thailand

H.E. Mr. Bernard Philip, Deputy High Commissioner for Australia

Ms. Cecilia Brennan, First Secretary, Australian High Commission

H.E. Mr. Thongphanh Syackhaphom, Ambassador, Lao People's Democratic Republic

H.E. Mr. Nguyen Thanh Tan, Ambassador, Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Mrs. Rosemarie E. Hille, Deputy Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany

Mr. Karma Tsering Namgyal, Consul General Royal Bhutan Embassy, Kolkata and delegation

Mr. P.Y. Rajendra Kumar, Director General, National Library, Kolkata

Mr. Lalit Kumar Bhati architect Auroville, Pondicherry

Japanese Delegation from Cooperative Grocer Chain Group (CGC), Japan who were in Rajgir to attend Shantistupa Ceremony

Mr. Osamu Motojima, Director General, International Fusion Energy Organisation, France

Group of Seven Professors from Japan including:

Professor Hirose Hiroko, Senshu University

Professor Masao Naito, Professor Emeritus, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

Professor Mitsuko Sunayama, School of Economics, Senshu University

Professor Takeko Linuma, School of Economics, Senshu University

Japanese students on a visit to Nalanda University



Vice Chancellor with visitors at her office





Japanese students on a visit to Nalanda University



Japanese Delegation from Cooperative Grocer Chain Group at RICC during their visit to the University in October 2014

Guests from Rissho University





CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION

Even while the focus this year was on launching the inaugural schools and getting ready to receive the first batch of students, the University also kept working to move ahead with the plans of constructing the permanent campus.

Nalanda University launched its Architectural Design Competition in 2012 for the master plan of the campus and architectural design of buildings and facilities in Phase-1 of its development. The entire process of conducting the competition, writing the design brief, organising the exhibition of final entries etc were handled for the University by its Professional Advisor architect Mr A R Ramanathan.

The 79 entries received were examined by a Selection Committee which declared eight of them as pre-qualified for participation in the main competition. Five amongst these entries were top international design firms with the likes of Fumihiko Maki and Snøhetta. An international jury comprising four renowned architects and three members of the Governing Board of the University was constituted to assess the submissions by these eight pre-qualified architects. Since it is the endeavour of the University to develop a sustainable campus which will have a net zero or near zero environmental impact, the first of its kind in the world; special attention was paid to the manner in which each of the schemes addressed the issues of sustainability. Vastu Shilpa Consultants were selected as the winner of this competition.

Nalanda University is envisaged as the campus of the future, positioned at the forefront of global education

and as a hub of intellectual excellence. Thus the master plan of the campus had to be an iconic beacon that attracts global attention for adopting sustainable methods to achieve social and economic integration with the local community. The location of the campus, in a predominantly agricultural area, implies a larger impact on the adjacent areas. It is bound to transform the land use pattern of the surroundings through the creation of supporting infrastructure and linkages, resulting in the creation of a large tract of gated islands within the ever-expanding sprawls, disrupting natural connections between surrounding villages. This, in turn, will impact the very survival of the farmers with small land holdings.

The master plan of Vastu Shilpa Consultants integrates sustainable practices at every phase of the project, from site planning of the campus through the creation of infrastructure by cost-effective ways to both

reduce consumption of natural resources and minimize dependency on off-site building materials. The plan allows for incremental growth and flexible expansion and phasing, while preserving the agricultural and environmental basis of the region. The intent is to create a model campus plan that aims to replicate the spirit of Nalanda that endured in its relevance for 800 years by embracing environmental strategies that are simple, efficient, and appropriate to the place.

This year the University signed a formal agreement with Vastu Shilpa Consultants, the winners of the competition and also worked on refining the design for Phase 1 of its construction. A two-day workshop was also held at Rajgir with all the consultants of the architects to discuss various aspects of the master plan and its buildings.

University Signs Agreement with Vastu Shilpa Consultants for Designing the Campus

On May 9, 2014 the University signed the agreement with Vastu Shilpa Consultants (VSC) for designing the University campus.

VSC had won the international Architectural Design Competition that the University conducted in 2013.

The agreement was signed after the approval of the Building and Works Committee and the Governing Board. Following the signing of the agreement, the University team met all the consultants of the architect in Ahmedabad. This was followed by a two-day workshop on the campus site in Rajgir with all the consultants, where detailed presentations on all aspects of the master plan were made by each consultant and the steps ahead were discussed in detail.

Vastu Shilpa Consultants will prepare a comprehensive Master Plan of the Campus and the layout of all the buildings proposed under the first phase. This plan will also indicate entrances and exits, roads, lanes and paths; layout of all external services including water supply, electricity, telephone and other communication including IT, Wi-Fi relay towers etc; all waste disposal including collection points for management of waste; scheme for retention and storage of water including ponds, reservoirs, wet lands, canals and rivulets; harvesting of solar energy through banks of photo voltaic cells and the basic landscape arrangement including demarcation of experimental farmlands.

They will also prepare a detailed project report that covers all aspects of the project—architectural, structural, services and interiors. VSC will also aid Nalanda University to consciously 'walk' the path of Net Zero environmental impact to achieve a campus that is Net Zero Energy, Net Zero Water, Net Zero Waste and Net Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions.



Clockwise from right

University officials arrive at the Ahmedabad office of Vastu Shilpa

Signing of Agreement with Vastu Shilpa Consultants for designing the University

Chancellor Amartya Sen getting a briefing on the Campus design from VSC, Partner Rajeev Kathpalia

Rajeev Kathpalia, Partner, Vastu Shilpa Consultants arranging a model of the plan before a meeting







Vastu Shilpa Consultants and University officials at the permanent campus site after a walk around the campus

Architectural Design for Phase-I Construction Refined

The architectural design for Phase-I construction was further refined with the articulation of spaces better defined, supported by a distinct architectural vocabulary and the services systems getting rationalized and well integrated.

The University, keeping in mind, the progress on the ground and the decisions arrived at with respect to the commencement of the next two Schools, took a considered decision whereby a part of the component of work earlier scheduled to be taken up in the second and subsequent phase was brought forward to the first

phase. However, the overall scope of work for which the CCEA approval had been received in respect of capital expenditure remained unaltered.

The University also obtained the approval of the Local Government to the Master Plan and Phase-I Construction. The processing of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) clearance, mandatory before construction can commence, is now at an advanced stage.

Phase-I Construction will cover the following:

- **School of Ecology and Environmental Studies**
- **School of Historical Studies**
- **Outreach Centre**
- **Library**
- **Student Residence Hall**
- **Faculty and Staff housing**
- **Administration Building**
- **International Centre**
- **Campus Inn**
- **Integrated School & Creche**

Mr. Rajeev Kathpalia, Partner VSC talking to other participants at the Main Campus Site during the two day workshop-June 17, 2014



Participants at the two day workshop June 17, 2014



Financial Management

The University ensures that the funds of the University are utilised to the optimum level keeping in view the vision and the objective of the University.

While utilising the funds all the provisions laid down in the Act, Statutes and Financial Regulations have been observed in full spirit

The Annual Accounts of the University have been prepared in the format prescribed by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India on the pattern of accrual accounting system.

These accounts are placed before the Finance Committee and the Governing Board for submission to Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India for certification.

The Annual Accounts of the University are being audited by the office of the CAG of India, New Delhi. With the moving of university operations to Rajgir, the University's Audit will now be taken up by the Principal Director Audit (Central), Lucknow which has a branch office in Patna. The audited Annual Accounts along with the Audit Certificate will be placed in both the Houses of the Parliament.

The Birds eye-view of the financial position of the University is submitted below:

Abstract of Annual Accounts 2014-15

Receipt

Opening Balance	:	721.04 Lakhs
Grant from MEA	:	1700.00 Lakhs
Other Receipts	:	87.62 Lakhs
Total	:	2508.66 Lakhs

Expenditure

Capital Expenditure	:	796.27 Lakhs
Recurring Expenses	:	1172.71 Lakhs
Deposit and Advances:		127.12 Lakhs
Closing Balance	:	412.56 Lakhs
Total	:	2508.66 Lakhs

THE NALANDA TEAM

Governing Board Members

The University's Governing Board is responsible for all the policies and directions of the University and management of its affairs.

Professor Amartya Sen is the Founding Chancellor of Nalanda University. He is Thomas W. Lamont University Professor, and Professor of Economics and Philosophy, at Harvard University. Until 2004 he was the Master of Trinity College, Cambridge. He has served as President of the American Economic Association, the Indian Economic Association, and the International Economic Association and the Econometric Society

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 and moral and political philosophy. His honours include the Bharat Ratna (India), Commandeur de la Legion d'Honneur (France), the National Humanities Medal (USA); Ordem do Merito Cientifico (Brazil); Aztec Eagle (Mexico); Honorary Companion of Honour (UK); and the Nobel Prize in Economics.



Mr. George Yeo is the Chair of Nalanda University's International Advisory Panel. Mr. Yeo is the Chairman of Hong Kong-listed Kerry Logistics Network, as well as Vice Chairman of Kerry Group. He was a member of the 8-person Pontifical Commission for Reference on the Economic-Administrative Structure of the Holy See and is now a member of the newly-formed Vatican Council for the Economy. 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 Board of IESE Business School. He has worked 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. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan by the Indian Government in 2002.



Mr. N.K. Singh is a politician, economist and former bureaucrat. Till recently he was a member of the Rajya Sabha from the state of Bihar. He was a bureaucrat with the Indian Government and handled 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.



Professor Lord Meghnad Desai is currently chairman of the Official Monetary and Financial Institutions Forum (OMFIF) Advisory Board. He is also Professor Emeritus 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. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan by the Government of India.





Professor Prapod Assavavirulhakarn is the former Dean, Faculty of Arts and the Head of the Department of Eastern Languages at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. An expert in Buddhism and Sanskrit, he received his PhD in Buddhist Studies from the University of California, Berkeley. His research interests lie in etymology, language and society, Pali-Sanskrit literature, and scriptural readings.



Professor Wang Gungwu is University Professor, National University of Singapore and Professor Emeritus of the Australian National University. At the NUS, he is Chairman of the East Asian Institute and of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. In Singapore, he is Chairman of Board of Trustees of ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute. Professor Wang is a Foreign Honorary Member, American Academy of Arts and Science, and Honorary Member, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. He is also 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 General Director of Koshinokuni Museum of Literature, the President of the Association for the Study of Japanese Language and Literature, and the Chairman of Japanology Foundation. He is also Professor Emeritus (former Dean) at International Research Centre for Japanese Studies, Professor Emeritus (the former President) at Kyoto City University of Arts. He was a member of Science Council of Japan. His research is in comparative literature, especially "the *Man'yōshū*". He has written more than 100 books on Japanese writing including "the *Complete Works of NAKANISHI SUSUMU*" which consists of 36 volumes. In 1970 he was awarded the Japan Academy Prize, in 2013 he received the Order of Culture.



Professor Sugata Bose is the Gardiner Professor of Oceanic History and Affairs at Harvard University. He has served as Director of Graduate Studies in History at Harvard and as the Founding Director of Harvard's South Asia Institute. He was educated at Presidency College, Calcutta, and the University of Cambridge. Bose's many books include *A Hundred Horizons: the Indian Ocean in the Age of Global Empire* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2006), *Modern South Asia: History, Culture, Political Economy* (with Ayesha Jalal, 3rd edition, London and New York: Routledge, 2011) and *His Majesty's Opponent: Subhas Chandra Bose and India's Struggle against Empire* (Cambridge, MA: the Belknap Press of Harvard University Press and New Delhi: Allen Lane, Penguin, 2011). His scholarship has contributed to a deeper understanding of 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 is currently a Member of Parliament in India and Member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs.

Professor Wang Bangwei is 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. His research includes textual studies of Buddhist literature (of Sanskrit and its Chinese translation), history of Buddhism (both of China and of India), Sino-Indian cultural interactions particularly those topics related to Buddhism, accounts of the Chinese Buddhist pilgrims to India—Faxian, Xuanzang and Yijing—and the historical and religious sources related to these accounts.



Professor Tansen Sen is Professor of history at Baruch College, The City University of New York. Professor Sen received his MA from Peking University and PhD from the University of Pennsylvania. He specializes in Asian history and religions and has special scholarly interests in India-China interactions, Indian Ocean trade, Buddhism, and Silk Road archaeology.



Mr. Anil Wadhwa is the Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) with the Indian Government. Mr. Wadhwa has served as the Ambassador of India to Thailand, Poland and the Sultanate of Oman besides being the Director/Joint Secretary on deputation to the Provisional Technical Secretariat and later the Technical Secretariat for the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in The Hague. He has also served in various capacities at the Indian missions in Hongkong, Beijing, and the permanent mission of India in Geneva, and spent more than a decade on disarmament matters. Fluent in English, Hindi and Chinese, he has a Master's Degree in History with specialisation in Chinese history and Medieval Indian history and architecture.



Dr. Gopa Sabharwal is the founding Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University. A sociologist by training, 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. Her wide ranging research has focused on ethnic groups in urban India, visual anthropology, independence and the history of society. Her books include *Ethnicity and Class: Social Divisions in an Indian City* (New Delhi, Oxford University Press 2006); *The Indian Millennium- A.D.1000 to A.D.2000*, (Penguin India, 2000) and *India Since 1947: The Independent Years* (Penguin India, 2007). She was a Fulbright Scholar in residence at Chatham College for Women, Pittsburg, which is one of the oldest women's colleges in the US, in 2006.



University Committees

Academic Council

Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University: Chairperson

Dean(Academic Planning), Nalanda University: Member

Dean of Schools at Nalanda University: Member(s)

Two Faculty from each School at Nalanda University: Members

Registrar, Nalanda University: Member Secretary

Librarian, Nalanda University: Member

Dean Student affairs, Nalanda University: Member

One expert from industry or a practitioner: Member

Two eminent scholars from the academic field: Members

Finance Committee

Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University: Chairperson

Nominee of the Ministry of External Affairs: Member

Nominee of the Ministry of Finance: Member

One Dean of the Schools of Study from Nalanda University by rotation, nominated by the Vice Chancellor: Member

Ms. Janki Kathpalia Treasurer, University of Delhi: Member

Ms. Dipali Khanna Member Secretary, IGNCA: Member

Finance Officer, Nalanda University: Member Secretary

Building & Works Committee

Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University: Chairperson

Dean (Academic Planning), Nalanda University: Member

AS & FA, MEA or nominee: Member

JS (South), MEA or nominee: Member

Mr. Sudhir Kumar, Chief Project Manager, IIT Patna: Member

Mr. A. K. Sinha, formerly ADG, CPWD: Member

Mr. A. R. Ramanathan, Professional Advisor, NU: Member



Faculty Members at Nalanda University

Brief profiles including major publications, research projects, conference participation, fellowships and other achievements of faculty in 2014-15

School of Ecology and Environment Studies

1. Mihir Deb, Professor (Visiting), Acting Dean

Mihir Deb's research interests for close to five decades have centered on non-renewable natural resources, their environment of formation and sustainability of extraction. His recent studies included artisanal gold mining and mercury pollution in India and geochemistry of surface and ground water in the National Capital Territory of Delhi. He has published about 100 scientific articles in peer-reviewed national and international journals and has edited three scientific volumes.

With a Ph.D from Jadavpur University in Ore Geology, he pursued post-doctoral research in the City University of New York, was an Alexander von Humboldt fellow at the University of Göttingen, Germany and at the University of Leicester, U.K. He served on the faculty of the Department of Geology, University of Delhi between 1970 and 2010 where he also served as the Head. He was Director of the School of Environmental Studies at Delhi University between 2004 and 2009.

Mihir Deb was awarded the Nirmal Nath Chatterjee medal of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta in 1976, the National Mineral Award (Govt. of India) in 1996 and gold medal of the Indian Geophysical Union in 2013. He is a Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy and the Society of Economic Geologists, USA.



2. S. Niggol Seo, Professor

Niggol Seo is a natural resource economist who specializes in the study of global warming. Born in South Korea, he studied at Seoul National University, University of California Berkeley, and received a PhD degree from Yale University with a dissertation on micro-behavioral economics of global warming.

Since 2003, he has worked with the World Bank on various climate change projects in Africa, Latin America, and Asia. He has written more than 40 journal articles and two books on climate change economics. In 2011, he received an Outstanding Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy Article Award for developing the economics of adaptation to global warming from the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association in the US.

He serves on the editorial board or as referee for about 30 international journals and has advised many national governments and international organisations on global warming. He held faculty positions in the UK, Spain, and Australia since 2006.



3. Somnath Bandyopadhyay, Associate Professor

Somnath Bandyopadhyay holds a PhD in Environmental Sciences (from JNU, New Delhi), and has been trained professionally on environmental economics and policy analysis (at Harvard, USA) and making markets work for the poor (at Springfield, UK).

Dr. Bandyopadhyay's work combines policy with practice, natural sciences with social sciences and environment with poverty. He has used government policies and programmes, community institutions and market-based approaches to address complex issues. His focus is on interdisciplinary research related to water.



He has done pioneering work in environment policies (conceptualized and managed the first State Environment Action Program for Gujarat), livelihood enhancement (introduced savings groups as a model for financial inclusion in India) and social development programs (experimented with multi-input area development in Bihar) for over two decades. He spent over eight years each with the Gujarat Ecology Commission and the Aga Khan Foundation in various senior positions.

His recent focus is on ecological functions of, and ecological services from, aquatic ecosystems, water (and wastewater) management for multiple human uses, linking processes at the basin level with those at the community level.

Academic achievements in 2014-15

Chaired the LILA PRISM lecture by Vandana Shiva on "Food as continuity" at the India Habitat Centre in Aug 2014;

Chaired the plenary session of a training programme in Delhi for high-level officials, including the Minister, from the Ministry of Agriculture in Ethiopia, during Dec 2014;

Online dialogue on floods and disaster (<http://www.lilainteractions.in/dividing-waters/>).

Invited by the UNDP to a panel on "Technologies for Communities: Improving groundwater management in India", as part of the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS), the flagship annual event organised by TERI during 4-6 Feb 2015.



4. Prabhakar Sharma, Assistant Professor

Prabhakar Sharma graduated with technical degrees in Agriculture and Aquaculture Engineering from Rajendra Agricultural University and Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur then earned another Masters' in Water Resources Engineering and Management from University of Stuttgart, Germany. He pursued his doctoral degree in Biological Systems Engineering from Washington State University, Pullman, USA.

Dr. Sharma had worked at Ålborg University, Denmark and the University of Western Ontario, Canada before he joined Uppsala University (Sweden) where he investigated nano-size contaminants as well as gaseous CO₂ transport from subsurface systems. His research focuses on both agricultural and industrial contamination in water, combining laboratories and field research with advanced computer modeling approach and produced more than twenty peer-reviewed research articles.

Academic achievements in 2014-15

National and International research and field trips:

Uppsala University (Sweden) for research collaboration in the area of nanomaterial transport in soil and groundwater (24th January to 31st January 2015).

Publication in peer-reviewed international journal:

Sharma, P. and F. Fagerlund 2015. "Transport of surface-modified carbon nanotubes through a soil column." J. Visualization Experiments, 98, doi:10.3791/52634. [video paper with link: <http://www.jove.com/video/52634/>]

Sharma, P., G. Goel, S.M. Ashekuzzaman, G. Saini, and R. Singh. 2014. "Groundwater arsenic in south-east Asia: extent, effects and solutions." Asian Journal of Water, Environment and Pollution, 11:1-11.

Sharma, P., D. Bao, and F. Fagerlund. 2014. "Deposition and mobilization of functionalized multiwall carbon nanotubes under varying porous media sizes and solution chemistry." *Environ. Earth Sci.*, 72:3025–3035.

Kocur, C., A. Chowdhury, N. Sakulchaicharoen, H. Boparai, K. Weber, P. Sharma, M. Krol, L. Austrins, C. Peace, B. Sleep, D.M. O'Carroll. 2014. "Characterization of nZVI mobility in a field scale test", *Environ. Sci. Technol.*, 48:2862–2869.

Mekonen, A., P. Sharma, and F. Fagerlund. 2014. *Transport and mobilization of multiwall carbon nanotubes in quartz sand under varying saturation*. *Environ. Earth Sci.*, 71:3751–3760.

Publications in peer-reviewed book:

Sharma, P., C.F. Tsang, C. Doughty, A. Niemi, and J. Bensabat. 2015. "Feasibility of long-term monitoring of deep hydrogeology with Flowing Fluid Electric Conductivity Logging method. *Dynamics of Fluids and Transport in Fractured-Porous Media*", Geophysical Monograph 210, edited by B. Faybishenko, J. Gale, and S. Benson, John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 53-62, ISBN: 978-1-118-87720-3.

Conference presentations:

Basirat, F., H. Perroud, J. Lofi, N. Denchik, G. Lods, F. Fagerlund, P. Sharma, P. Pezard, and A. Niemi. 2015. "Viability of modelling gas transport in shallow injection-monitoring experiment field" at Maguelone, France. EGU General Assembly, Vienna, Austria, ERE5.2, EGU2015-15224 (poster presentation).

Fagerlund, F., M. Hedayati, P. Sharma, and D. Katyal. 2015. "Transport of carbon-based nanoparticles in saturated porous media." EGU General Assembly, Vienna, Austria, HS8.1.6, EGU2015-10731 (poster presentation).

Tsang, C.F., J.E. Rosberg, P. Sharma, A. Niemi, and C. Juhlin. 2015. "Hydrogeologic testing during drilling of COSC-1 borehole: Application of FFEC logging method." EGU General Assembly, Vienna, Austria, ERE1.6, EGU 2015-4414 (poster presentation).

Iverfelt, U., P. Sharma, and F. Fagerlund. 2014. "Fate and transport of fire-born particles in subsurface systems." EGU General Assembly, Vienna, Austria, ERE2.5, vol 16, EGU2014-5115 (oral presentation).

Basirat, F., P. Sharma, A. Niemi, and F. Fagerlund. 2014. "Experimental study of advective-diffusive gaseous CO₂ transport through porous media." EGU General Assembly, Vienna, Austria, ERE2.5, vol 16, EGU2014-12853 (poster presentation).

5. Arne Harms, Assistant Professor

Arne Harms is a social anthropologist with a specialization in environmental relations, global entanglements and mobility. He was trained in Berlin where he earned his doctorate for an ethnographic study of disasters, displacement and social memory in the Ganges delta (FU Berlin 2014). Earlier he completed a research project on ritual, hybridity and gender among Caribbean Hindus.

He has authored several articles and reviews in academic publications and contributed to public debate through non-academic writing. He has held positions as part-time lecturer and fellow in Berlin, Cologne and Munich.



Academic achievements in 2014-15

Research

Preliminary Research Trip to Mumbai for a research project on urban environments (February 2015)

Publications

Peer-reviewed Publications

Harms, Arne. 2015. "Leaving Lohachara: On Circuits of Displacement and Emplacement in the Indian Ganges Delta." *Global Environment* 8 (1): 62–85.

Working Papers

Harms, Arne. 2015. "Off the Grid: Environmental Degradation and Citizenship at the Margins." In *Crossroads Asia Working Paper Series*, No. 27. Simultaneously published in *Working Papers in Social and Cultural Anthropology (LMU Munich)*, No. 15.

Popular Scientific/ Other Publications

Harms, Arne, and Oliver Powalla. 2014. 'Die Indische Klimabewegung Im Spagat'. *Politische Ökologie*, no. 139: 73–75.

Scientific Reviews

Harms, Arne. 2014. 'Die Klimafalle: Die Gefährliche Nähe von Politik Und Klimaforschung, by Hans von Storch and Werner Krauß'. *AAG Review of Books* 2 (4): 150–52.

Talks

"Die andere Ganga: Ambivalenz und Differenz in der Deutung schleichender Katastrophen" [The Other Ganga: Ambivalence and Difference in Making Sense of Encroaching Disasters], presented at Asien-Orient-Institute, Zurich University, 5.12.2014

School of Historical Studies

1. Aditya Malik, Professor and Dean

Aditya Malik was trained in philosophy, archaeology, history, social anthropology and religious studies at St. Stephen's College (Delhi), Deccan College (Pune) and the South Asia Institute of the University of Heidelberg (Germany) from where he received his Ph.D. and Habilitation (Professorial degree). He has been a Senior Fellow of the German Research Council (Heidelberg); Visiting Faculty, Institute for Advanced Study, Hebrew University (Jerusalem); Visiting Professor, Cluster Innovative Centre, University of Delhi; Fellow, Max-Weber-Centre for Advanced Social Science Research (Erfurt/Germany); Deputy Director, New Zealand South Asia Centre (NZSAC); Associate Director, New Zealand India Research Institute (NZIRI); and Head of Religious Studies at the University of Canterbury. His research interests and publications, including sole authored books, edited volumes, articles and book chapters, are on pilgrimage, oral traditions, ritual embodiment and performance, religion, law and justice, and medieval and contemporary historiography in South Asia.



Academic activities in 2014-15

Publications:

Completion of book manuscript (approx. 100,000 words) tentatively titled: *Tales of Justice and Rituals of Embodiment. Oral narratives from the Central Himalayas*. OUP (New York). Currently in production with OUP. Expected date of release: 1 May, 2016.

Preparation of edited volume (with Antje Linkenbach, Max-Weber-Centre for Advanced Social Science Research, Erfurt) based on Amartya Sen's critique of John Rawls's conception of justice. Tentative title of book: *Realizing Justice? Normative Orders and the Realities of (In)justice in India*. Sixteen interdisciplinary contributions from international scholars (India, USA, Europe) working in the fields of philosophy, religion, history, law, sociology, social anthropology, and Sanskrit Studies.

Co-editor (with Will Sweetman): *Sage Handbook of Hinduism in India: Modern and Contemporary Movements*. (Vol. 2) New Delhi: Sage Publications. Release date: early 2016.

Book Chapter: 'Folk Hinduism: The Middle Ground?' In *Sage Handbook of Hinduism in India: Modern and Contemporary Movements*. New Delhi: Sage Publications.

2. Pankaj Mohan, Professor

Pankaj Mohan studied languages, history and cultures of East Asia, initially at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and subsequently at Peking University, Beijing, Seoul National University, Seoul where he completed advanced-level courses in Korean and Japanese languages and an M.A. course in Korean history. He received his Ph.D. degree in East Asian history from the Australian National University, Canberra. He has been lecturer and coordinator of Korean Studies Program at the University of Copenhagen (1999-2003), lecturer in Korean studies and Asian history (1997-1998, 2002-2009) and Head of Asian Studies Program at the University of Sydney and Professor and Dean of the Faculty of International Korean Studies, the Academy of Korean Studies, South Korea (2009-2013). His teaching and research interests include history of Buddhist culture in East Asia, pan-Asianism and inter-Asian connections



and intellectual and cultural history of Korea.

Academic activities in 2014-15

Publications

"Historical Texts on Early Korea and Modern Historiography" Colonisation: A Comparative Study of Korea and India, edited by V. Raghavan and R. Mahalakshmi, Academic Publishers, 2015

"Korean Monks in China and Beyond on the Silk Road in the 7th and 8th Centuries", A paper presented at an international conference on the theme (Silk Road Economic Belt and the Maritime Silk Route: Opportunities and Challenges), Center for Chinese and Southeast Asian Studies, JNU, 26-27 March 2015

"Buddhist Kingship in Early Korea" Korean Indian Culture, Vol. 19 (Dec. 2014, published in January 2015)

Other roles

Editor-in-Chief of the Journal Korean Indian Culture, Vol. 19

Member, Editorial Board of the following Journals

a) Review of Korean Studies

b) International Journal of Buddhist Thought and Culture



3. Murari Jha, Assistant Professor

Murari Jha was trained at Leiden University, the Netherlands (2006–2013) and also at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (1999–2006). He worked as a postdoctoral fellow at History Department, National University of Singapore (2013–2014). His current research on the Ganga River focuses on the dynamics of interconnections between the regional economy of the Ganga plain (Bihar region) and the maritime global economy during 1500–1800 CE. He is interested in learning more about the institutions of the Mughal Empire, the functioning of the early modern agricultural and commercial economy, the riverine economies and societies along the Bay of Bengal littoral, the social world of the South Asian merchant communities, activities of the European Companies in South and Southeast Asia, and Indian Ocean networks and world history.

Academic activities in 2014-15

Publications

Journal essay, "Migration, Settlement, and State Formation in the Ganga Plain: A Historical Geographic Perspective," *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* 57:4 (November 2014):587–627

Wrote a brief popular piece in Hindi, "Ganga nadi aur Bihar ke vyaparik samagriyon ka videsh vyapar: purv upniveshwadi pariprekshya" in *Bihar Samachar* (March 2015): 50–52

International visibility

Dissertation was longlisted at ICAS Book Prize 2015. <http://www.icas.asia/longlists-icas-book-prize-2015-ibp-2015>

World Economic History Congress (Kyoto 2015): Dissertation nomination for the best prize in the early modern period. International Economic

History Association's newsletter webpage: <http://www.ieha-wehc.org/newsletters.html>)

Outreach

Field trip to Begum Samru's Church at Sardhana, Company Bagh at Saharanpur and Pathargarh Fort built by Najib-ud-Daula (also known as Sultana Daku ka Qila).

Working with Jos Gommans for setting up an exchange programme for history MA/PhD students between Nalanda University, Universitas Gadjah Mada (Yogyakarta) and Leiden University. Also making an effort to have a Dutch language teacher sent to Nalanda by the Dutch embassy.

4. Sraman Mukherjee, Assistant Professor

Sraman Mukherjee completed his Ph.D. from the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta and the University of Calcutta. Trained as a historian of colonial and early post-colonial South Asia, his work explores the politics of heritage looking at modern biographies of sites, objects, monuments, and disciplinary and institutional histories of archaeology and museums. His current research looks at transnational geographies of heritage and histories of inter-Asian interactions. His study focuses on object lives of Buddhist corporeal relics circulating across different institutional, political, and cultural locations across South and mainland Southeast Asia and Europe during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.



Academic activities in 2014-15

Research

Objects in Transition: Afterlives of Buddhist Relics in South and mainland Southeast Asia (Ongoing research project)

November 2014 to January 2015 – Invited for post-doctoral research residence at KITLV (the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies, Leiden, Netherlands)

Conferences/ Seminar presentations:

"Afterlives of Buddhist Relics", paper presented in the panel 'Reconfiguring Buddhism: Sites, Objects, and Heritage in Modern South Asia' in the 43rd Annual Conference on South Asia at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA, on October 18, 2014.

"At the Frontiers of Empire: Buddhist Relics in the Colony", paper presented in the conference 'Sailing the waves of convergence: Cultural links and continuities across the Bay of Bengal', KITLV, Leiden on December 3, 2014.

"Bones on the Move: Diplomacy, Scholarship, and Ritual Lives of Traveling Buddhist Relics from British India to Siam", paper presented at fellows' monthly lecture at KITLV, Leiden (the Netherlands) on January 15, 2015.

"Specter of the Forged: Archaeologists, the Buddhist Pope, and the Bones of the Sakya Muni", paper presented at the inaugural conference of the Presidency University Historical Association on March 20, 2015.

Publications

"A Site Museum Without a Site: The Bodh Gaya Archaeological Museum", in Saloni Mathur and Kavita Singh eds., *No Touching, No Spitting, No Praying: The Museum in South Asia*. New Delhi: Routledge (Visual and Media Histories Series), 2015, pp. 247 -250.



5. Kashshaf Ghani, Assistant Professor

Kashshaf Ghani received his Ph.D. in History from the University of Calcutta. His dissertation explored Sufi rituals and devotional practices in South Asia across Sufi orders, connecting it to areas beyond South Asia. His fields of interest include Sufism, Islam in South Asia and Muslim societies with a focus on pre-modern India (1000-1800). He has held research positions at the Asiatic Society, Kolkata; the University of Sorbonne-Nouvelle, Paris, and at the Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin. His current research interests include early colonial South Asia where he explores Indo-Persian cultures, along with transcultural and transregional connections between Muslim communities in South Asia and Middle-East.

Academic activities in 2014-15

Fellowship

Project Fellow at the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata

International Project Collaborations

Contributor, Perso-Indica Project, Institut d' Etudes Iranienes, Universite Sorbonne Nouvelle- Paris 3, UMR 7528 'Mondes Iranien et Indien', Paris.

Translator in Bengali, Urdu and Hindi in ERC-funded research project 'Musical Transitions to European Colonialism in the Eastern Indian Ocean, 1700-1900', Department of Music, King's College, London, 2012-2014.

Publications

"In Search for Pure Islam: Mystical Tradition and Voices of Dissent from Bengal", in Lloyd Ridgeon (ed.), *Sufism and Salafism*, Bloomsbury, London, 2015

Where Knowledge meets the Seeker: Nalanda University, *SEPHIS e-Magazine*, Vol. 10, No. 1-2, 2014

Chair/Expert/Resource Person

Conference Discussant at the academic workshop on "Practice, Performance and Politics of Sufi Shrines in South Asia and Beyond", Aurangabad, 1-4 August 2014



6. Samuel Wright, Assistant Professor

Samuel Wright received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago (2014). His research and teaching interests include intellectual history and philological practices in early modern India (15th to 18th centuries), Sanskrit and Bangla palaeography and epigraphy, and the literary history of premodern Bengal. His current work examines connections between the thought-worlds of Sanskrit intellectuals and their social-political contexts in sixteenth and seventeenth centuries India.

Academic activities in 2014-15

Conference Acceptance

"Speaking Politically: Sanskrit Scholars and Politics in Early Modern Bengal." Language, Power and Identity in Asia: Creating and Crossing Language Boundaries. International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), Leiden (Netherlands). March 14-16, 2016.

7. Yin Ker, Adjunct Assistant Professor

Yin Ker is Adjunct Assistant Professor in the School of Historical Studies. She was trained in art history at the University of Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV) where she completed her Ph.D. in 2013. Prior to her appointment as adjunct faculty at Nalanda University, she was teaching assistant and tutor for Asian Art History at Nanyang Technological University, lecturer for Modern & Contemporary Southeast Asian Art History at Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, and assistant curator at Singapore Art Museum (National Art Gallery, Singapore). Her publications include «A Short Story of Bagyi Aung Soe in Five Images» in *Field Notes: Mapping Asia* (Hong Kong: Asia Art Archive, 2013), L'« art fou » ou l'art moderne birman selon les illustrations de Bagyi Aung Soe» in *La question de l'art en Asie orientale* (Paris: Presses de l'Université de Paris-Sorbonne, 2008) and «Modern Art According to Bagyi Aung Soe» in *Journal of Burma Studies* (DeKalb: North Illinois University, 2005/06). Her projects as independent researcher, curator and translator include *Video, an Art, a History 1965–2010, A Selection from the Centre Pompidou and Singapore Art Museum Collections* (Paris, Singapore), *plAy: Art from Myanmar Today* (Singapore), *Montpellier-Chine: Biennale of Contemporary Chinese Art* (Montpellier) and *From Callot to Greuze: French Drawings from Weimar* (New York, Paris, Weimar).



Key Officers and Administrative Staff

Vice Chancellor:

Dr. Gopa Sabharwal

Dean (Academic Planning):

Dr. Anjana Sharma

Finance Officer:

Mr. Padmakar Mishra (Till
September 30, 2014)

Director Administration:

Mr. V.K. Sridhar (Upto
January 31, 2015)

University Engineer:

Col. Manoj Kumar Prasad

Manager (Admissions):

Mr. Saurabh Choudhary

Academic Program Co-ordinator:

Dr. B Ambika Prasad Pani





RAJGIR OFFICE

Rajgir, District Nalanda, Bihar, India, Pin- 803116, T: +91-6112-255330, Fax: +91-6112-255766
Bihar, India

NEW DELHI OFFICE

2nd Floor, Council for Social Development, 53 Lodhi Estate, New Delhi, India
Pin-110003 T:+91-11-24622330, Fax: +91-11-24618351

www.nalandauniv.edu.in