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Overview

This Annual Report gives a glimpse of the all the important activities and developments taking place at the University for the year 2016-17.

In order to structure the report so as to make it more informative, the report has been divided into the following sections: *Governance at Nalanda, Academic Profile, Research Output, Events & Extension lecture, Community News, Statistics, Campus Construction Updates, and Statement of Accounts.*

Governance at Nalanda

This section contains the details of the individuals and committees that are instrumental in driving the vision of Nalanda, including the members of the Governing Board.

Academic Profile

The section on Academic Profile consists of the details about the programmes being offered through different Schools of Studies, during 2016-17. It also details the courses offered during the year and the Faculty who taught these courses at different Schools

Research Output

The University being mandated as a research University, the Faculty and Students are constantly involved in exploring new and fresh ideas for research. The section on Research Output consists of the details of the research endeavours put forth by the Faculty and students during 2016-17.

News & Events

The University community is continuously engaged in participating at the various **Events** being organized throughout the year. **Collaborations** are important for the University and the University strives to associate itself with the various centres of excellence across the Globe.

The **weekly lecture series and distinguished lectures** are imbibed as part of the teaching pedagogy at the various Schools. This section lists all such important events and lectures held and conducted during the year 2016-17. The sections also cover the various **field trips** undertaken by the Faculty as part of their experiential learning pedagogy.

The section also has the details on all social events like festivals and club activities at the University. Since Nalanda is a fully residential University, the community activities and social interactions form an important part of the University activities.

Statistics

The numbers of student enrolment at the University augmented further to include students from 20 Indian states and 13 countries across the world. This section entails the details about the figures related to enrolment of the students at the University.

Campus Construction Update

The actual construction, after award of tenders for different packages in Phase-I, started on the main site during the year. The section has a brief detail on the construction plan and the update for the year.

Statement of Accounts

The section presents the final accounts in the form of Balance Sheet and Expenditure & Income Statements for the year 2016-17. These accounts have been audited by C&AG but Special Audited Report (SAR) from C&AG has not yet been received

Nalanda University: At a Glance

Located in Rajgir, in the state of Bihar in India, Nalanda University is a postgraduate, research intensive, international university supported by the participating countries of the East Asia Summit.

The University was established on November 25, 2010 by a special Act of the Indian Parliament and has been designated as “an Institution of National Importance”.

During 2016-17, the University offered Masters programme in the School of Historical Studies, the School of Ecology and Environment Studies and the School of Buddhist Studies, Philosophy and Comparative Religions.

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



**Visitor: Hon'ble President of India
Shri Pranab Mukherjee**

Governing Board Meetings and Convocations of the University.

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

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

This Annual Report of the University captures the major events and announcements made in the Year 2016-17 (April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017) and also lists other important information with regard to the University during this year.

Governance at Nalanda

The University has a multi-level governing structure, where the decisions are taken at strategic, tactical and operational levels by various stakeholders viz. Governing Board, Executive Committee, Academic Council, Finance Committee, Building and Works Committee, Faculty and administrative staff.

Governing Board

The University's Governing Board is responsible for making all the strategic decisions related to policy making and thus leading the University to the path of attaining its vision. The Board meets twice in a year to deliberate on the issues related to policy decision making.

Governing Board Members

Dr. Vijay Bhatkar,

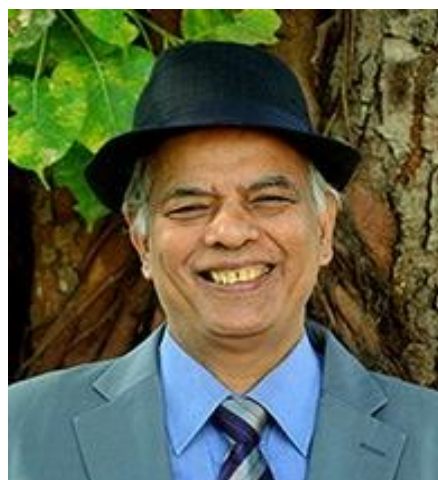
Chancellor, Nalanda University and Chairman Unnat Bharat Abhiyan



Dr Vijay Bhatkar is the Chancellor of Nalanda University and one of the the architect of India's first supercomputer and as the founder Executive Director of C-DAC, India's national initiative in supercomputing. He is credited with the creation of several national institutions, notably amongst them being C-DAC, ER&DC, IIITM-K, I2IT, ETH Research Lab, MKCL and India International Multiversity. He has been a Member of Scientific Advisory Committee to Cabinet of Government of India, Governing Council Member of CSIR, India and e-Governance Committee Chairman of Governments of Maharashtra and Goa. A Fellow of IEEE, ACM, CSI,INAE and leading scientific, engineering and professional societies of India, he has been honored with Padmashri and Maharashtra Bhushan awards. Other recognitions include Saint Dnyaneshwar World Peace Prize, Lokmanya Tilak Award, HK Firodia and Dataquest, Lifetime Achievement Awards, and many others. He was a nominee for Petersburg Prize and is a Distinguished Alumni of IIT,Delhi. He is presently the Chancellor of India International Multiversity, Chairman of ETH Research Lab, Chief Mentor of I2IT, and National President of Vijnan Bharati

Professor Pankaj Mohan,

Vice Chancellor (Interim), Nalanda University



Professor Pankaj Mohan studied East Asian languages and history, initially at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and subsequently at Seoul National University, Seoul, Peking University, Beijing and the Australian National University, Canberra from where he received his PhD degree. Prior to joining Nalanda University in January 2015, he taught courses in East Asian languages, history and culture at the Australian National University, the University of Sydney, the University of Copenhagen and the Academy of Korean Studies (AKS) , a Central postgraduate University in South Korea. He also served as the Dean of the Faculty of International Korean Studies at AKS for two consecutive terms.

In 2010 Seoul Metropolitan Government awarded him Honorary Citizenship for his contribution to the creation and dissemination of knowledge about Korean history. Professor Mohan has published five books, sixty peer-reviewed journal articles and book-chapters in English, Hindi, Korean and Chinese languages on various aspects of early Korean history, history of Buddhism in Korea and the religious and cultural dimensions of relations between East Asian and South Asian countries. His current research is focused on Buddhism, state and society in East Asia and Cultural Linkages between Korea and India.

Shri N. K. Singh,
Former Member of the Upper House of the Indian Parliament



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 Wang Bangwei,
Director, Institute of Oriental Studies and Oriental, Literature Research Centre, Peking University



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.

Mr. Peter Varghese,
Chancellor, The University of Queensland, Australia



Before his current position, Mr. Varghese was the Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade from 3 December 2012 to 22 July 2016. He Varghese was Australia's High Commissioner to India from 2009 to 2012. Between 2004 and 2009, he was Director-General of the Office of National Assessments. Before that he was the Senior Adviser (International) to the Prime Minister. Mr Varghese was Australia's High Commissioner to Malaysia from 2000 to 2002. He has also served overseas in Tokyo (1994), Washington (1986-88) and Vienna (1980-83). Mr Varghese has held a wide range of senior positions in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra, including as Deputy Secretary (2002-2003), First Assistant Secretary of the International Security Division (1997), Head of the White Paper Secretariat (1996-97) which drafted Australia's first white paper on foreign and trade policy, First Assistant Secretary of the Public Affairs Division (1994-96), and Assistant Secretary of Staffing (1991-92). He was seconded to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet as First Assistant Secretary of the International Division (1998-1999).

H. E Mr. Southam Sakonhninhom,
Ambassador the Lao People's Democratic Republic



The ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic of India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives.

H.E. Mr. Southam SAKONHNINHOM is a career diplomat and currently the Ambassador of Lao P.D.R. to India with concurrent Jurisdiction over Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives. Prior to his appointment as Ambassador to India he has also served as Ambassador of the Lao PDR to Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands and European Union.

Since joining Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1982 and during his diplomatic career his Excellency Mr. Southam SAKONHNINHOM held many important positions in Ministry of Foreign Affairs and overseas. He was Deputy Director General of International Organization Department, Director General of Europe- America Department. He also represented Lao P.D.R. as Counselor to the Permanent Mission to the United Nation, New York and to the Embassy of Lao P.D.R. to France.

H.E Mr. Southam SAKONHNINHOM, is Buddhist and has been fascinated with Asia, its contemporary life, history and culture.

Professor Prapod A.,
Former Dean Chulalongkorn University



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.

Smt. Preeti Saran,
Secretary (East) Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India



Mrs. Preeti Saran is the Secretary(East) in the Ministry of External Affairs. She has served until recently as the Ambassador of India to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and prior to that as the Indian Consul General in Toronto, Canada. Her earlier charges in the Ministry of External Affairs include that of Joint Secretary, SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) and Joint Secretary, Northern Division. She has also served in various capacities in Indian Missions in Geneva, Cairo, Dhaka and Moscow. She holds a Master's degree in English Literature from Delhi University.

Shri Anjani Kumar Singh,
Chief Secretary, Govt. of Bihar



Shri Anjani Kumar has a B.A in Geography and a PG from JNU with a first class in each exam. He also has an MBA from Southern Cross University, Australia. He is a 1981 batch IAS officer of Bihar Cadre. He started his career as SDO in the year 1983. During his career, he has served as Dy Commissioner and District Magistrate of Vaishali and Santhal Parghna districts in the undivided Bihar and also as Divisional Commissioner of Tirhut and Purnea Divisions. He took over as the Chief Secretary of the State on July 1, 2014. Prior to this he has served as Secretary/Principal Secretary in different departments of the State Government. He has also served as Director in Government of India for a period of 5 years.

Before taking Charge as Chief Secretary he has served as Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Bihar. During his tenure as the State Project Director, Bihar Education Project and Principal Secretary of the State he is credited with the successful recruitment of 4 lakh teachers all over the state, through Panchayati Raj Institutions. He also played an important role in setting up institutions like Chanakya Law University, Aryabhata Knowledge University and Chandragupt Institute of Management Studies in Patna. As Chief Secretary he is credited with establishing the International Museum in Patna.

Shri Chanchal Kumar,
Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Govt. of Bihar



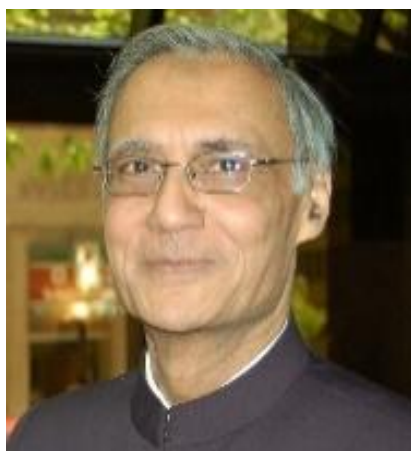
Shri Chanchal Kumar is the Principal Secretary to Chief Minister of Bihar. He has previously been Secretary to the Chief Minister and Secretary, Rural Works Department, Government of Bihar. He has also been Chief Executive Officer of Bihar Foundation, Secretary Building Construction Department and Secretary Art, Culture & Youth in Government of Bihar. A 1992 batch IAS he has a BTech and MTech in Computer Science from Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur and a Masters in International Development Policy, Applied Economics from Duke University. He also has a PhD in Economics from Patna University. He also has an Executive Degree in Microfinance from Harvard Kennedy School.

Shri Kewal Kumar Sharma,
Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India



Shri Kewal Kumar Sharma is Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resources Development. Shri Sharma is a 1983 batch IAS officer of Union territories cadre. He has a Bachelor's in Civil Engineering and a Diploma in Public Administration. He has served as the Chief Secretary of Delhi as well as Goa and as Additional Secretary, Department of Women & Child Development. He has also been an advisor to Governor of Punjab and administrator of Chandigarh. He was posted in Delhi as the Principal Secretary (PWD) from 2009 to 2011. He had served in Kosovo between 1999 and 2005 on United Nations assignment.

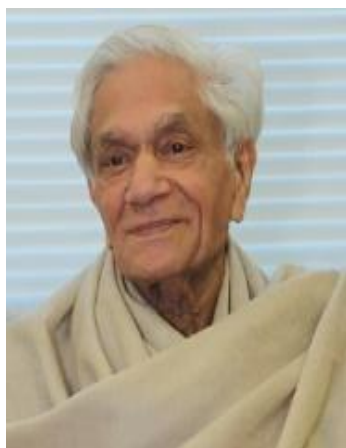
Professor Arvind Sharma,
Birks Professor of Comparative Religion McGill University, Montreal, Canada



Formerly of the I.A.S., Arvind Sharma (b.1940) is the Birks Professor of Comparative Religion in the School of Religious Studies at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. He has also taught in various universities in Australia (University of Queensland, Sydney) and the United States (Northeastern, Temple, Boston, Harvard) and has published extensively in the fields of comparative religion and Indology. He was instrumental in organising three global conferences on World Religions After September 11 in 2006, 2011 and 2016, which led to the release of the first-ever Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the World's Religions.

His recent works include *Mahatma Gandhi: A Spiritual Biography, Hinduism on its Own Terms*, and *Decolonizing Indian Studies* and his forthcoming books include *Orientalism Two, Our Civilization*, and *How to read the Manusmṛiti*. He is currently the general editor of the Encyclopedia of Indian Religions (Dordrecht: Springer, 2017)

Professor Lokesh Chandra,
President, Indian Council for Cultural Relations



Prof. Chandra is the President of Indian Council for Cultural Relations and the Honorary Director of the International Academy of Indian Culture. In the past, he has held several prestigious positions including Chairman of Indian Council for Historical Research, Vice President of Indian Council for Cultural Relations, and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) twice during 1974-80 and 1980-86. Prof. Chandra was awarded Padma Bhushan, in 2006 by the Government of India in recognition to his contributions to the academic life and public discourse. Prof. Chandra's major life-work is the study of cultural interflow between India and the countries of the world. Beginning with India's linguistic sharing with the Indo-European languages of the West he has written on arts, histories and literatures of the Buryatia in Siberia, Mongolia, Central Asia, Tibet, China, Korea, Japan, Cambodia and Indonesia. He has to his credit over 596 works and text editions. Among them are classics like Tibetan-Sanskrit Dictionary, Materials for a History of Tibetan Literature, Buddhist Iconography of Tibet, and his Dictionary of Buddhist Art in about 20 volumes.

Professor Arvind Panagariya,
Vice Chairman, Niti Ayog



Dr Arvind Panagariya is Vice-Chairman, Niti Aayog and has been Professor of Indian Political Economy at Columbia University. He is a former Chief Economist of the Asian Development Bank and Professor of Economics at the University of Maryland at College Park. He has also worked with the World Bank, IMF and UNCTAD in various capacities. He holds a Ph.D. degree in Economics from Princeton University. Dr Panagariya has authored more than fifteen books. His book India: The Emerging Giant (2008, OUP, New York) was listed as a top pick of 2008 by the Economist magazine and described as the "definitive book on the Indian economy" by Fareed Zakaria of the CNN. The Economist magazine has described his book, Why Growth Matters, (with Jagdish Bhagwati) as "a manifesto for policymakers and analysts." Professor Panagariya's scientific papers have appeared in the top economics journals such as the American Economic Review and the Quarterly Journal of Economics while his policy papers have appeared in the Foreign Affairs and Foreign Policy. Until recently, he wrote a monthly column in the Times of India and his guest columns have appeared in the Financial Times, Wall Street Journal India Today. In March 2012, the Government of India honoured Panagariya with Padma Bhushan, the third highest civilian honours the country bestows in any field.

Governing Board (Till November 24, 2016)

Mr. George Yeo	Chancellor
Professor Amartya Sen	Professor of Economics and Philosophy, at Harvard University
Mr. N.K. Singh	Politician, economist and former bureaucrat
Professor Lord Meghnad Desai	Professor Emeritus at the London School of Economics (LSE)
Professor Prapod Assavavirulhakarn	Former Dean, Faculty of Arts and the Head of the Department of Eastern Languages at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok
Professor Wang Gungwu	University Professor, National University of Singapore and Professor Emeritus of the Australian National University
Professor Susumu Nakanishi	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
Professor Sugata Bose	Gardiner Professor of Oceanic History and Affairs at Harvard University
Professor Wang Bangwei	Professor and Director of the Institute of Oriental Studies and Oriental Literature Research Center at Peking University
Professor Tansen Sen	Professor of history at Baruch College, The City University of New York
Mrs. Preeti Saran	Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs
Dr. Gopa Sabharwal	Vice Chancellor

The Executive Committee

1. Chancellor, Nalanda University – Chairperson
2. Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs - Member
3. Two nominees of Chancellor - Member
4. Vice- Chancellor - Member Secretary



Governing Board Members of Nalanda University at the 15th meeting of the Board

Governing Committees

Academic Council

1. Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University: Chairperson
2. Dean (Academic Planning), Nalanda University: Member
3. Dean of Schools at Nalanda University: Member(s)
4. Two Faculty from each School at Nalanda University: Members
5. Librarian, Nalanda University: Member
6. One expert from industry or a practitioner: Member
7. Two eminent scholars from the academic field: Members
8. Registrar, Nalanda University: Member Secretary

Finance Committee

1. Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University: Chairperson
2. Nominee of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) JS (South): Member
3. Nominee of the Ministry of Finance JSFA (MHRD): Member
4. One Dean of the Schools of Study from Nalanda University by rotation, nominated by the Vice Chancellor: Member
5. Ms. Janki Kathpalia Treasurer, University of Delhi: Member
6. Ms. Dipali Khanna Member Secretary, IGNCAs: Member
7. Finance Officer, Nalanda University: Member Secretary

Building & Works Committee

1. Vice Chancellor, NU– Chairperson
2. Professor Pankaj Mohan, Professor & Dean SHS, NU– Member
3. Mr Jaideep Mazumdar, JS South & Nalanda, MEA – Member
4. Ms Priyanka Chauhan, Director Finance, MEA – Member representing AS & FA, MEA
5. Mr Sudhir Kumar, Chief Engineer South Zone IV Madurai, CPWD – Member
6. Mr A K Sinha, Former Special Director General, CPWD– Member
7. Mr A R Ramanathan, Architect, Eminent Professional - Member
8. CA K Chandramoorthi, Finance Officer & Officiating Registrar, NU – Member Secretary

Academic Profile

The section on Academic Profile consists of the details about the programmes being offered through different Schools of Studies, during 2016-17. It also details the courses offered during the year and details of the Faculty who taught these courses at different Schools

Schools of Studies

The university is offered Post Graduation degrees in the following three schools for the Academic Year 2016-2017:

- a) School of Ecology and Environment Studies**
- b) School of Historical Studies**
- c) School of Buddhist Studies, Philosophy and Comparative Religions**

School of Ecology and Environment Studies (SEES)

Rooted in the tradition of the ancient Nalanda University, the School offers knowledge on environmental issues that transcend constraints imposed by disciplinary boundaries. It promotes research and education on various environmental concerns at local, regional and global levels. The School recognises unique environmental challenges of Asia and emphasizes studies relevant to the region.



Diverse perspectives are applied to analyse contemporary environmental concerns in order to develop meaningful solutions. The School currently offers a two-year Masters' programme and is planning to launch a Doctoral programme very soon. Life on campus encourages a paradigm of lived philosophy melding with taught philosophy.

Teaching and Research

Research activities in the School are driven by its interdisciplinary character. Diverse perspectives are used to analyse topics and are then mutually developed. Through its evolving research agenda, the School aims to work towards meaningful and practicable solutions for pressing environmental concerns.

The School offers two-year MA and MSc degrees. The course is designed for students coming from disparate backgrounds in social science, humanities, engineering, and natural sciences. Students are required to complete a thesis at the end of the second year to obtain the degree. Students are required to be in residence at Rajgir for the duration of their Master's Degree.



The Master's Programme

All Master's students are required to obtain at least 48 credits spread over 4 semesters, with a summer internship during the vacation between the first and second year. The curriculum comprises a mix of core and elective courses

The first two semesters have compulsory interdisciplinary courses to provide breadth of knowledge covering core concepts and their relationship to key environmental issues. The last two semesters advance through an individual dissertation, supported by a few electives in the third semester. These semesters focus on depth of knowledge and ability to conduct independent research. Field work is 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 is presented in a report and seminar. The dissertation forms a critical part of the degree requirement.

Focus Areas

The focus areas of the School are: Human Ecology

- Hydrology
- Disaster Management
- Food and Agriculture
- Climate Change
- Energy Studies

Structure of the MA Degree

Total Credits: 48

6 Core courses: 18 credits (6 X 3)

6 Electives: 18 credits (6 X 3)

1 Thesis: 12 credits

Semester-I (Total Credits: 4 X 3=12)	
4 Core Courses (3 credits each)	
Semester-II (Total Credits: 6+6=12)	
2 Core Courses (3 credits each)	2 Electives (3 credits each)
Semester-III (Total Credits: 6+6=12)	
2 Electives (3 credits each)	3 Electives (2 credits each)
Semester-IV (Total Credits: 12)	
1 Thesis component (12 credits)	
Total Credits: 48	

Core Courses

- Earth and Environmental Sciences
- Fundamentals of Ecology
- Economics of the Environment
- Environment and Society
- Introduction to Research
- Environmental Laws & Policy
- Sustainable Development
- Sustainability Analyses (Seminar)
- Research & Analysis Techniques
- Research Methods in Natural Sciences/ Social Sciences
- Project Work

Elective Courses

- Geohydrology
- Agroforestry
- Water & Energy in Development Policies
- Urban Ecology
- Global Climate Change
- Environment, Technology, and Society
- Agroforestry & Ecosystem Services
- Environmental Biotechnology
- Environment Impact Assessment
- Energy: Economics, Geopolitics and management
- Disaster Management

School of Historical Studies (SHS)

The School of Historical Studies (SHS) is a dynamic community of faculty members and graduate students, engaged in a systematic and rigorous enquiry into some of the fundamental questions that concern historical experiences within and beyond Asia. The five thrusts of the School, Archaeology, Asian interconnections, art history, global history and economic history, are built on the foundation of ancient Nalanda, chiefly its role as a conduit of India's vibrant intellectual, religious and economic linkages with the world, and the aim of SHS to open new frontiers of knowledge on interconnections between history, memory and time in Asian and non-Asian cultural, historical and philosophical contexts is also inspired and sustained by the glorious scholastic legacy of ancient Nalanda.

SHS currently offers an internationally competitive M.A. programme, and will soon develop a Ph.D. programme, focused on global and comparative history.

Students in the School of Historical Studies will gain an incisive knowledge of comparative and trans-regional history as well as global history, and develop a thorough understanding of methodological and theoretical issues, critical for multidisciplinary historical research. The overriding aim of SHS is to equip students with the required skill and capability to carry out original and innovative research based on archaeological findings, archival sources in classical and modern languages and field research.



Teaching and Research

All programmes at the School emphasise collaborative research with students and faculty from affiliated universities and institutions, study abroad experience, and foreign language training. Students are expected to pursue interdisciplinary research, choose courses relevant to their research interests in other disciplines/schools and study classical and modern languages to enhance their research skills. The Master's programme entails 11 history courses, language courses and a supervised thesis spread over two semesters.

The programme in archaeology will include training in laboratory work, study of epigraphy, and field research. The art history programme will include the study of cross-cultural influences and adaption, comparative analysis of Asian and European arts, and the architectural traditions of various regions and religions.



Focus Areas

The focus areas of the School draw their inspiration from the legacy of ancient Nalanda and its historical links with many countries in Asia and beyond.

- Asian interconnections,
- archaeology,
- art history,
- global history
- Economic history.

Structure of the MA Degree

Total Credits: 48

Three Core courses: 9 credits (3 X 3)

Seven Electives: 21 credits (3 X 7)

Three language: 9 credits (3 X 3)

One Thesis: 6 credits

Core Courses:

- Imagining Asia(s)
- Research Methodologies
- Topics in Historical Studies

Semester-I (Total Credits:6+6=12)		
2 Core Courses (3 credits each)	2 Electives (3 credits each)	
Semester-II (Total Credits:3+6+3=12)		
1 Core Course (3 credits)	2 Electives (3 credits each)	1 Language (3 credits)
Semester-III (Total Credits:9+3=12)		
3 Electives (3 credits each)	1 Language (3 credits)	
Semester-IV (Total Credits:3+3+6=12)		
1 Elective (3 credits)	1 Language (3 credits)	1 Thesis component (6 credits)
Total Credits: 48		

Electives:

- Intellect and Ideology in Asian Islamicate Societies
- Networked Piety? Understanding Sufism across Asia
- Exploring Indo-Persian Histories
- Approaches to South Asian History: Society, Politics and Economy (1200-1800)
- History and Philology in Pre-modernity
- Intellectual Histories of India in the Early Modern World
- Publics and Patrimonies: Heritage, History, and Memory in the Global Worlds of South Asia
- Visualizing South Asia: Sites and Mediums
- Buddhism Across Borders: Empire, Nation, and Faith in the Theravada Worlds of Asia Self
- Urban Cultures of Modern South Asia
- Rivers of Monsoon Asia: Natural Environment, Society and Economy along the Ganga and Irrawaddy
- The Indian Ocean Networks: Movements of People, Goods and Ideas (100BCE-1800CE)
- Notions of Kingship and Sovereignty in South and Southeast Asia
- Trade and Commerce in Early Modern (South Asia (1500CE-1800CE)
- Archaeological History of Ancient India
- South Asian Buddhism
- Ancient Vihar/Bihar: Regional and Local History
- Open Boundaries: Exploring Inter-Religious Dynamics in Pre-modern Bihar
- Water and Religion in Pre-modern South Asia
- Topics in East Asian Religions and Thought
- Topics in Japanese Empire and Modern Korean History
- Buddhism, State and Society in Northeast Asia
- Seminar in Pre-modern Korean History
- Buddhism in Global Contemporary Art, from West to East
- Cultural Exchanges Between Pre-modern South and Southeast Asia: From 'Greater India' to the 'Sanskrit Cosmo polis' (and beyond)
- Introduction to Visual Culture in Colonial India
- Reading Photographs
- Ecologies of Culture: Narrative, Landscape and the Sacred Imagination
- Performing Histories: The Ramayana, Mahabharata and Vernacular Oral Epics in South Asia in text and ritual
- Writing History: Textuality, Orality and Historical Imagination in South Asia
- Travel, Trade and Pilgrimage: Asian Connections through History
- Memory, Time and Historical Consciousness: Theoretical and Conceptual Reflections

Languages

- Introduction to Sanskrit I/II
- Intermediate Sanskrit
- Korean – I
- Korean – II (TBA)
- Classical Chinese – I (TBA)
- Classical Chinese – II (TBA)

School of Buddhist Studies, Philosophy and Comparative Religions (SBS)

The School has two main tracks: **Buddhist Studies / Religious Studies**

This School gives special emphasis to the study of Buddhist ideas and values in relation to other philosophical and religious traditions. The wider social-historical-cultural contexts of the development of Buddhist traditions are examined through an innovative and interdisciplinary curriculum.

The School fosters critical thinking and explore the wider cultural and historical context of Buddhism in the different regions of Asia. The dynamics of the spread of Buddhist ideas, art, literature; archaeology of key Buddhist sites across Asia; the study of primary texts, inscriptions, and Buddhist art and other artefacts; the comparison of and interactions between various religious and philosophical traditions of Asia; and the theory and methods of the study of religious and philosophical traditions are some of the focus areas of the School. The modern manifestations of Buddhism and its contemporary relevance could also be areas examined at the school.

The skills imparted to students extend from rigorous reading of literary and philosophical texts to archaeological training. Students should be able to pursue interdisciplinary research and are encouraged to take some of their courses in other relevant schools of the University.



Teaching and Research



The School gives emphasis to the study of Buddhism and its adjacent religious traditions in their full range of regional and cultural contexts. It studies Buddhism and other religious traditions, their history, culture and ideas in a scholarly way and from a Religious Studies point of approach which includes critically reflected and applied theory and methodology. The program includes a variety of study areas such as reading and interpreting literary and philosophical texts, archaeology, arts and architecture, among other disciplines. The School offers an M.A. Degree. The School has a strong language component for faculty and students to enable students to read original Buddhist and other religious texts and develop the skills necessary to do qualified Post Graduate research work.

Focus Areas

- Asian connections
- Buddhist Archaeology and Art
- South and East Asian religious traditions
- Philosophical traditions of South and East Asia
- Interaction of religious traditions
- Theory and Methods of Religious Studies

Structure of the MA Degree

Total Credits: 48

Four core courses: 12 credits (3 x 4)

Four language units: 12 credits (3 x 4)

Six electives: 18 credits (3 x 6)

Thesis Component: 6 credits



Semester-I (Total Credits:6+3+3=12)		
2 Core Courses (3 credits each)	1 Language (3 credits)	1 Elective (3 credits)
Semester-II (Total Credits:6+3+3=12)		
2 Core Courses (3 credits each)	1 Language (3 credits)	1 Elective (3 credits)
Semester-III (Total Credits:6+3+3=12)		
2 Electives (6 credits)	1 Language (3 credits)	1 Thesis component (3 credits)
Semester-IV (Total Credits:3+3+6=12)		
1 Elective (3 credits)	1 Language (3 credits)	1 Thesis component (6 credits)
Total Credits: 48		

Core courses

- Introduction to Buddhism (semester 1)
- Research Methods in the Study of Religion (semester 1)
- Introduction to the Study of Religion (semester 2)
- Understanding Buddhist Texts (semester 2)

Language courses

- Introduction to Sanskrit 1
- Introduction to Sanskrit 2
- Intermediate Sanskrit 1
- Intermediate Sanskrit 2
- Pali 1
- Pali 2
- Pali 3
- Pali 4
- Classical Tibetan 1
- Classical Tibetan 2
- Classical Tibetan 3
- Classical Tibetan 4

Elective Courses

- Introduction to Archaeology
- Introduction to Indian Philosophy
- Religions of Ancient India
- History and Politics of Yoga
- Hindu and Buddhist Tantra
- Buddhism, Gender and Archaeology
- Art, Architecture and Iconography
- Buddhist in South and Southeast Asia
- Introduction to East Asian Buddhism
- Reading and Analyzing Buddhist Historical Texts

Faculty at the Schools

School of Ecology & Environment Studies

1	Prof G. J. Chakrapani	Professor & Dean
2	Prof B. Mohan	Professor
3	Dr. Pushpa Kumar Lakshmanan	Associate Professor
4	Dr. Somnath Bandyopadhyay	Associate Professor
5	Dr. Prabhakar Sharma	Assistant Professor
6	Dr. Sayan Bhattacharya	Assistant Professor
7	Dr. Aviram Sharma	Assistant Professor
8	Dr. Radhika Kalle	Assistant Professor
9	Dr. Kishore Dhawala	Assistant Professor
10	Dr. Prasad Avinash Pathak	Assistant Professor
11	Dr. Bharat Sundaram	Assistant Professor

School of Historical Studies

1	Prof Pankaj Mohan	Professor & Dean
2	Prof Aditya Mallick	Professor
3	Dr. Muari Kumar Jha	Associate Professor
4	Dr. Sraman Mukherjee	Associate Professor
5	Dr. Kashshaf Ghani	Assistant Professor
6	Dr. Samuel Wright	Assistant Professor
7	Dr. Ranu Roychoudhuri	Assistant Professor
8	Dr. Christine Vial Kayser	Visiting Assistant Professor
9	Dr. Andear Aciri	Visiting Assistant Professor

School of Buddhist Studies, Philosophy and Comparative Religions

1	Dr. Alice Collette	Professor & Dean
2	Dr. Garima Kaushik	Professor
3	Dr. Aleksandra Wentz	Associate Professor
4	Dr. Noemie Verdon	Teaching Fellow
5	Mr. Sean Kerr	Teaching Fellow
6	Ms. Patricia Sauthoff	Teaching Fellow

Research Output

The University being mandated as a research University, the Faculty and Students are constantly involved in exploring new and fresh ideas for research. The section on Research Output consists of the details of the research endeavours put forth by the Faculty and students during 2016-17

Publications – Books/Chapters in Books – Articles in Journals

SEES Faculty Activities

Participation in seminars / conferences / paper presentations / training workshops as a panelist or resource person

Mohan Kumar, B. 2016. Integrated Farming Systems (IFS) for Maximizing Productivity and Profitability: a South and Southeast Asian perspective. General lecture at the Faculty of Animal and Agricultural Sciences, Diponegoro University, Semarang, Indonesia on 4 November 2016.

Mohan Kumar, B., Organized a workshop on scientific writing (1 to 3 November 2016) at Diponegoro University, Semarang, Indonesia (Organizer and principal resource person).

Sharma, P. 2016., Hydrogeologic testing during drilling of deep borehole: application of FFEC logging method, Federation of Indian Geosciences Associations, ISM Dhanbad, India.

Sharma, P. 2016. Nanomaterials in the environment, EMN Meeting on Nanoparticles, Singapore.

Bhattacharya, S., Delivered invited lecture in International Conference on Photography in Academic Research in Department of Archaeology, University College London, United Kingdom, 8th – 9th September, 2016.

Bhattacharya, S., Delivered invited lecture on “Natural resource management in ancient India: Case studies from old texts and archaeological evidences” in the International Conference on Sustainable Natural Resource Management at Banaras Hindu University, India, 12th and 13th January, 2017

Bhattacharya, S., Delivered lecture in 1st Asian Researcher Symposium at University of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia, 25th-27th April, 2016.

Bhattacharya, S., Delivered two lectures in The International Symposium on Functional Materials, Organized by Mathematics and Natural Science Department, University of Indonesia in Bali, Indonesia, 26th-27th July, 2016.

Sharma, A., Changing Irrigation Practices and Sustainability Challenges, International Seminar on Responsible Innovation and Sustainable Agriculture: The Problem of Rice Straw Burning in Punjab, organized by Maastricht University, The Netherlands, Khedi Virasat Mission and Centre for Sustainable Agriculture, Chandigarh, Punjab, 29-30 November 2016

Sharma, A., The Visions, Expectations and Realities of Diffusion of Emerging Solar Energy Technologies: A Case Study of Dharnai, Bihar, 8th S.Net Annual Conference - The Co-Production of Emerging Bodies, Politics and Technologies, University of Bergen, Norway, 12-14 October, 2016 – Peer reviewed conference

Sharma, A., Change and Continuity: Irrigation Technologies in South Bihar, India, Colloquium on Science, Technology and Society Studies: Interdisciplinary Approaches of Institute for Advanced Studies on Science, Technology and Society (IAS-STs) Graz, Austria, 28 June 2016.

Research Articles / Paper Published / Book Chapters

Mohan Kumar, B. and Jose, S. 2016. Phenotypic plasticity of roots in mixed tree species agroforestry systems: review with examples from peninsular India. AGROFORESTRY SYSTEMS. Springer, The Netherlands. doi:10.1007/s10457-016-0012-2.

Jose, S., Walter, D. and **Mohan Kumar, B.** 2017. Ecological considerations in sustainable silvopasture design and management. AGROFORESTRY SYSTEMS. Springer, The Netherlands. DOI 10.1007/s10457-016-0065-2.

Kunhamu T.K., Aneesh S., **Mohan Kumar, B.**, Jamaludheen, V., Raj, A.K. and Niyas, P. 2016. Biomass production, carbon sequestration and nutrient characteristics of 22-year-old support trees in black pepper (*Piper nigrum*. L) Production systems in Kerala, India. AGROFORESTRY SYSTEMS. Springer, The Netherlands. DOI 10.1007/s10457-016-0054-5.

Mohan Kumar B. 2016. New national agroforestry policy in India. In: Forestry for a low-carbon future Integrating forests and wood products in climate change strategies, Food and Agriculture Organization of The United Nations, Rome, p38.

Lakshmanan, Pushpa Kumar, Shachi Singh, 2017. 'Encouraging Socially Significant Legal Research' in M. K. Sinha and Deepa Kharb (eds) "Legal Research Methodology", Indian Law Institute (ILI) and Lexis Nexis, New Delhi, pp. 191-214. ISBN 978-93-5035-942-6.

Lakshmanan, Pushpa Kumar, Shachi Singh, S. Asta Lakshmi, Paris Agreement on Climate Change and India, Journal of Climate Change, vol. 3, no. 1, pp. 1-10, 2017 DOI: 10.3233/JCC-170001 ISSN 2395-7611 (P); ISSN 2395-7697 (E).

Lakshmanan, P. L., Dogra, N.K., Garg, P., Khandekar, P., Datta, K. (2016). Indo-US Cooperation on Climate Change. The Road So Far. New Delhi: Green Fulbrighters Forum, India.

Bandyopadhyay S. (2016) Sustainable Access to Treated Drinking Water in Rural India. Chp 9, pp 203-227. In Kumar D, James A.J. and Kabir Y. (Eds). Rural Water Systems for Multiple Uses and Livelihood Security. Elsevier Inc. ISBN 978-0-12-804132-1; <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-804132-1.00009-3>

Patterson., L., **Kalle., R** & Downs., C.T. 2016. A Citizen Science Urban Wildlife Survey: Knowledge and Attitudes of KwaZulu-Natal Residents. *Urban Ecosystems* 1-12 doi:10.1007/s11252-016-0619-0

Ramesh, T. **Kalle, R.,** & Downs, C.T. 2017. Space use in a South African agriculture landscape by the caracal (*Caracal caracal*). *European Journal of Wildlife Research* 63: 11. doi:10.1007/s10344-016-1072-3

Maseko, M.S.T., Ramesh, T., **Kalle, R.,** & Downs, C.T. 2016. Response of Crested Guinea-fowl (*Guttera edouardi*), a forest specialist, to spatial variation in land use in iSimangaliso Wetland Park, South Africa. *Journal of Ornithology* 1-9 doi:10.1007/s10336-016-1406-7

Ramesh, T., **Kalle, R.,** & Downs, C. T. (2017). Staying safe from top predators: patterns of co-occurrence and inter-predator interactions. *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology*, 71(2):41. doi:10.1007/s00265-017-2271-y

Yang, W., Y. Wang, **P. Sharma,** B. Li, K. Liu, J. Liu, J. Shang. 2017. Influence of Naphthalene on Transport and Retention of Biochar Colloids through Saturated Porous Media. *Bioresource Tech.* submitted.

Tsang, C.F., J.E. Rosberg, **P. Sharma,** C. Juhlin, and A. Niemi. 2016. Hydrologic testing during drilling: Application of flowing fluid electric conductivity (FFEC) logging method to drilling of a deep borehole. *Hydrogeology J.* 24: 1333–1341

Bhattacharya, S., Gupta, K., Ghosh, U.C. (2017). Synthesis, characterization and arsenic (III) sorption capacity of cerium aluminium nanostructured mixed oxide. *IOP Conference Series: Material Science and Engineering* (ISSN: 1757-8981) (Accepted, In press).

Sayan Bhattacharya (2016). Socio-Environmental survey and sustainable management of a forest edge mountain hamlet in Darjeeling district, India. *Proceedings of the 1st Asian Researcher Symposium at University of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia* (25th-27th April, 2016), pp. 549-564. ISBN No. 978-979-8972-63-8.

I. Arto, **K. Dhavala** and A. Markandya (2016), "The Environmental Challenge" in *Forward Looking Analysis of Grand Societal Challenges and Innovative Policies (FLAGSHIP)*, FP-7 Project, European Union, Brussels. http://cordis.europa.eu/result/rcn/182036_en.html.

I. Arto, **K. Dhavala** T. Bulavskayab, H. Boonman, T. Filatova, L.Niamir, J.Hu, S. Moghayer (2016), What would a socio-economic and energy technology system be like if we limit climate change to 1.5°C? A hybrid modelling system approach (D 5.6), *Knowledge-Based Climate Mitigation Systems for a Low Carbon Economy (COMPLEX)*, FP-7 Project, European Union, Brussels. http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/105327_en.html

Popular Articles / Media

Sundaram, Bharath, Pawns in the great forest game, Editorial, The Hindu, August, 2016

Sundaram, Bharath., How to tame our forest fires Editorial, The Hindu, March 2017

Bhattacharya, S., Photograph published as the best picture of the month in Asian Photography Magazine, Singapore in February, 2016.

Bhattacharya, S., Photograph published in Asian Photography Magazine, Singapore in April, 2016.

Bhattacharya, S., Portfolio of 8 photographs published (photo story on environment and culture of Indonesia) in Asian Photography Magazine, Singapore, January 2017 issue.

Bhattacharya, S., Aerial photograph of the Indo-Gangetic Delta was published in Lonely Planet (BBC) Magazine, February, 2017.

Bhattacharya, S., Photograph was published as the cover page of the book "Rediscovering the Ganga: A pictorial presentation" edited by Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman, West Bengal Pollution Control Board and sponsored by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt. of India (ISBN: 9788192495842).

Editorial, Reviewing, Refereeing and other Assignments

Mohan Kumar, B., Associate Editor, Agroforestry Systems, an international journal published by Springer Science, The Netherlands

Mohan Kumar, B., Associate Editor, Frontiers in Agroecology and Land Use Systems (Frontiers in Environmental Science), Nature Publishing Group. Lausanne, Switzerland

Mohan Kumar, B., Lead Author, Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) for the deliverable 2b - Regional assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services for Asia and the Pacific.

Mohan Kumar, B., Vice President, National Institute of Ecology, New Delhi.

Mohan Kumar, B., Reviewer: Agriculture, Ecosystems and Environment, Agricultural Systems, Agroforestry Systems, Malaysian Forester, Wetland Ecology and Management, Journal of Tropical Forest Management.

Mohan Kumar, B., Worked as a Member of the Working Group on Biodiversity, Kerala State Planning Board Government of Kerala, Kerala (submitted final report on 30 November 2016).

Mohan Kumar, B., Reviewed a project proposal titled "Co-delivery of food and climate regulation by temperate agroforestry (CALIBRE)" under the Greenhouse Gas Removal from the Atmosphere Research Programme of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), United Kingdom (January 2017).

Lakshmanan, Pushpa Kumar, Prepared 'The Policy Paper on Liability and Adequate Measures with respect to Genetically Engineered Products developed through Indo-Swiss Collaboration in Biotechnology' as an Expert Consultant to the Inter-governmental project between Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Government of Switzerland (2016).

Lakshmanan, Pushpa Kumar, Participated in the National Level Consultative meeting on sharing the outcome from COP-MOP8, Cancun and planning follow up activities organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi-110 003 on January 19, 2017.

Kalle, R., Reviewer, International peer-reviewed journals – Plos One, Journal of Zoology, Mammal Research, Biological Conservation, Ibis, Ecology, Journal of Mammalogy, Tropical ecology, Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society, Mammalian Biology, Mammal study, Folia Zoologica, , Egyptian Journal of Remote Sensing

Pathak, P.A., Invited talk about “Low cost sensors for mapping urban environment” in Southeast Asia International Joint Research and Collaboration Program in High-Performance Computing Applications and Networking Technology, organized by National Center for High Performance Computing, Taiwan. Dec. 5 – 9, 2016.

Sharma, P., Peer review of papers: Water Research, Journal of Hydrology, European Journal of Soil Science, Current World Environment, Environmental Engineering Science

Sharma, A., Reviewed Manuscripts for journals. Bulletin of Science Technology and Society (Sage) – Two manuscripts; African Journal of Science, Technology, Innovation and Development (Taylor and Francis) – Two manuscripts; Science, Technology and Society (Sage) – One manuscript

Fundings / Grants

Pathak, P.A., preliminary approval for DST-ICIMFACTS (Indo-Canada) project “Using low cost sensors for exploring urban morphology and urban heat island effect”. Duration – 2 years.

Bhattacharya, S., Received travel award for delivering lecture in the 1st Asian Researcher Symposium at University of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia, 25th-27th April, 2016

Honours / Memberships

Mohan Kumar, B., Member, Advisory Editorial Board, International Journal of Ecology and Environmental Sciences, National Institute of Ecology, New Delhi, and Agrivita, Journal of Agricultural Science, published by Brawijaya University, Malang, Indonesia.

Lakshmanan, Pushpa Kumar, Member, Expert Committee on Agro-biodiversity, the National Biodiversity Authority, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Govt. of India.

Lakshmanan, Pushpa Kumar, Member, Expert Committee to revise the existing ABS agreements, the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Govt. of India.

Kalle, R., Editorial Board Member, Ibis – British Ornithology Trust

Kalle, R., International Advisory Committee Member, International conference on current challenges in conservation of biodiversity

Kalle, R., Member, Bombay Natural History Society, World Wide Fund for Nature, Sanctuary Asia, Zoo Outreach Organization, Association of Tropical Biology and Conservation, Society for Conservation Biology, Small Carnivore IUCN

Sharma, P., Editorial Board Member, Frontiers in Environmental Science, Current World Environment

International Collaborations

Sharma, A., Organized joint sessions and collaborative field work for NU students and for students of Eckerd College, Florida, USA during 23-25th January 2017.

SHS Faculty Activities

Participation in seminars / conferences / paper presentations / training workshops as a panelist or resource person

Jha, Murari Kumar, “History, Myth and Memory of the Munger Fort: A Neglected Heritage Site on the Ganga River” at the conference on Heritage in context: Balancing the global with local, India International Centre, New Delhi, co-organized by Anneliese Maier Research Programme, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich and Nalanda University, Rajgir, 20–22 August 2016

Jha, Murari Kumar, “François Valentijn, the Dutch Networks of Knowledge Transfer and the Coromandel Coast on the Bay of Bengal” at the conference on Imaginings Asia(s): Networks, actors, sites, co-organized by The Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre, Singapore, and Nalanda University, Rajgir, held at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore on 10–11 October 2016.

Jha, Murari Kumar, “The Dutch Sources and the Dynamics of State Formation in Eastern India along the Ganga River, c. 1700–1750” in the panel on Dutch sources on Indian history organized at the 77th session of Indian History Congress, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, 28–30 December 2016.

Ghani, Kashshaf, United in Faith, Divided in Practice: South Asian Muslims and their World(s) of Islam, International Conference on ‘Global Muslim Encounters: Homogenization and Diversity Across Time and Space’, University of Cambridge, 9-10 December 2016

Ghani, Kashshaf, The Politics of Pilgrimage: Reception of Hajj among South Asian Muslims, International Conference on 'Imagining Asia(s): Networks, Actors, Sites', Singapore, 10-11 October 2016

Wright, Samuel, "The Logic of Dying in Kashi." 45th Annual Conference on South Asia. Madison, Wisconsin (USA). October 21.

Roychoudhuri, Ranu., Forgotten Photographs from Post Emergency Calcutta Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison (October 2016), Discovery of India(s): Resisting the National Biography

Roychoudhuri, Ranu., Imaging People, Crafting Monument, India International Center (New Delhi), Heritage in Context: Balancing the Global with the Local (August 2016)

Roychoudhuri, Ranu., Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta (December 2016), Lecture: An Art for Society's Sake: Documentary Photography, Iconoclasm, and the Making of "People of Calcutta"

Roychoudhuri, Ranu., Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago (October 2016), Gallery Talk on Documentary Photography: Telling Real Stories

Roychoudhuri, Ranu., The Asiatic Society, Kolkata (September 2016), Lecture: Photography and the Vernacular Press in Early-Twentieth Century Bengal

Mukherjee, Sraman, 2016. "The Body and the Text: Of Xuanzang and other Relics". Paper presented at the conference "Xuanzang and India-China Friendly Interactions", jointly organized by the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in collaboration with Nalanda University, Kolkata, November 7, 2016.

Mukherjee, Sraman, 2016. "Transmissions, Translations, Reconstitutions: Revisiting Geographies of Buddha Relics in the Southern Asian Worlds". Paper presented at the conference "Imagining Asia(s): Networks, Actors, Sites", jointly organized by the Nalanda -Sriwijaya Centre at ISEAS-Ishak Institute (Singapore) and Nalanda University, India, Singapore, October 10-11, 2016.

Mukherjee, Sraman, 2016, "Lives in Transition: Locating Buddhist Relics in Worlds of Scholarship, Antiquarian Market, Diplomacy, and Religion." Paper presented at 34th World Congress of Art History in Beijing, September 16-20, 2016

Mukherjee, Sraman, 2016. 'The Specter of the Forged: Revisiting Buddhist Relics in South and Southeast Asia'. Paper presented at the conference "Heritage in Context: Balancing the Global with the Local", co-organized by the School of Historical Studies, Nalanda University, Anneliese Maier Research Programme, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, and India International Centre, New Delhi, August 20-22, 2016.

Mukherjee, Sraman, 2016. "Imagining Asia(s): Networks, Actors, Sites", jointly organized by the Nalanda -Sriwijaya Centre at ISEAS-Ishak Institute (Singapore) and Nalanda University, India, Singapore, October 10-11, 2016.

Mukherjee, Sraman, 2016. "Heritage in Context: Balancing the Global with the Local", co-organized by the School of Historical Studies, Nalanda University, Anneliese Maier Research Programme, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, and India International Centre, New Delhi, August 20-22, 2016.

Jha, Murari Kumar, Chaired the inaugural session of the Nalanda-Kelaniya Workshop held at School of Historical Studies, Nalanda University on 1 December 2016.

Malik, Aditya. Organization, Conceptual Plan and Inaugural Note, International Workshop: Imagining Histories, Writing Pasts, School of Historical Studies, Nalanda University, March 2016.

Malik, Aditya. Organization, Conceptual Plan and Inaugural Note, International Conference co-hosted together with the University of Munich, Germany and the India International Centre, New Delhi: Heritage in Context: Balancing the Global with the Local. New Delhi, August 2016.

PUBLICATIONS

(Including Books, Edited Volumes, Book Chapters, Research articles published in Peer Reviewed Journals, Conference Volumes and Popular Articles)

Ghani, Kashshaf., "Medieval Indian Political Thought: Key Ideas", in Lopamudra Sengupta (ed.), Indian Political Thought and its Contemporary Relevance, Atlantic Publishers and Distributors (P) Ltd., New Delhi, 2016

Ghani, Kashshaf., "Ziauddin Barani (1288-1357)", in Lopamudra Sengupta (ed.), Indian Political Thought and its Contemporary Relevance, Atlantic Publishers and Distributors (P) Ltd., New Delhi, 2016

Ghani, Kashshaf., "Tomb Complexes in Khuldabad", Sahapedia, <http://www.sahapedia.org/tomb-complexes-khuldabad>, 2016

Ghani, Kashshaf., "Scrolling Down for More: Junaydis in the Deccan", review of Suleman Siddiqi, *The Junaydi Sufis of the Deccan: Discovery of a Seventeenth Century Scroll*, Primus Books, Delhi, 2014, pp. 294, *Deccan Studies*, Vol. XIV, No. 1, 2016

Wright, Samuel, "Circulating Scholarship: A Note on a Sanskrit Letter from Bengal circa 1535 CE." *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* (27)1: 83-91. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1356186316000407>, (published online October 2016)

Mukherjee, Sraman, 2016. "Buddhism in Contemporary India" (co-authored with David Geary), in Michael Jerryson ed., *The Oxford Handbook of Contemporary Buddhism* (New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 36-60)

Mukherjee, Sraman, 2016. "Recollections of the Restorer: Joseph Daviditch Melik Beglar and the Maha Bodhi Temple", in Bijoy Kumar Choudhary ed. *Bodhgaya: Impressions Within and Beyond*. (Patna: Bihar Heritage Development Society).

Malik, Aditya 2016. *Tales of Justice and Rituals of Embodiment. Oral narratives from the Central Himalayas*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 315.

Malik, Aditya and Will Sweetman (eds.) 2016: *Hinduism in India: Modern and Contemporary Movements*. (Vol. 2) New Delhi: Sage Publications, pp. 356.

Malik, Aditya 2016. 'Folk Hinduism: The Middle Ground?' In Aditya Malik and Will Sweetman (eds.) *Hinduism in India: Modern and Contemporary Movements*. New Delhi: Sage Publications, pp. 176-193.

Malik, Aditya 2017. 'Possession, Alterity, Modernity'. In SekharBandyopadhyay and Alok Parasher Sen (eds.) *Religion and Modernity in India*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 36-63. (Key Note address, International Conference: Society, Religion, and Modernity in India, University of Hyderabad, November 2013).

Editorial, Reviewing, Refereeing and other Assignments

Ghani, Kashshaf, "The Challenge of the Oceanic Feeling: Romain Rolland's Mystical Critique of Psychoanalysis and His Call for a 'New Science of the Mind'", *South Asian History and Culture*

Ranu Roychoudhuri, Book Manuscript Reviewer for Oxford University Press, Member of College Arts Association, Member of Association for Asian Studies

Wright, Samuel, Member, Advisory Board, *Journal of South Asian Intellectual History*

Wright, Samuel, Peer Review for *Journal of World Philosophies* (Indiana University Press) (Reviewed one manuscript in October 2016)

Malik, Aditya. Review of applications for Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral Fellowships in the field of History.

Malik, Aditya. Review of application for major, long-term research project, German Research Council.

Malik, Aditya. Tenure Review, Dept. of History of Art, University of Michigan, USA.

Malik, Aditya. Book Manuscript review, *American Academy of Religion/Oxford University Press* (New York, USA) series: Religion, Culture and History.

Malik, Aditya. Journal Article review, Religion, Routledge (UK).

Awards / Grants / Field Research

Malik, Aditya. Fellow, Max Weber Centre for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies, University of Erfurt, Germany, Sept. 2016 - August 2017.

Malik, Aditya. Nomination to President of India's Inspired Teachers In-Residence Programme held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Malik, Aditya. Preliminary ethno-historical fieldwork toward documentation of oral narratives and oral histories associated with fortress of Ranthambore (Rajasthan)

SBS Faculty Activities

Participation in seminars / conferences / paper presentations / training workshops as a panelist or resource person

Delivered a lecture on the theme "Gender, Art and the construction of Identity at a Buddhist Site: Sanghol a case study as part of Fashioning the Self, **Kaushik, Garima.**, Gender, Sexualities and Spaces of Representation, Gender Lecture Series conducted by SHS, Nalanda University on 9th Nov. 2016

Kaushik, Garima., Chaired a Session and presented a paper in International Conference on Symbolism in Indian Art, Archaeology and Literature titled The Swastika in Buddhism: its Gendered Symbolism and Sinicisation, Deccan College, Pune (1st-3rd Dec. 2016)

Kaushik, Garima., Attended Conference Xuan Zang and China-India Friendly Interactions organised by Nalanda University in collaboration with the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China (PRC) on 7th November 2016.

Kaushik, Garima., Attended the 2nd International Conference on Civilizational Links, 19 January 2017, Jakarta and presented a paper titled, Women In Monastic Buddhism In Southeast Asia: An Agenda For Archaeological Research.

Kaushik, Garima., Invited to contribute a paper for an edited volume, Representation of Women Space, ed. Dr. Bratati Ray, DCHC, West Bengal, March 2017.

Kaushik, Garima., Invited to present a paper at the Buddhist Studies Workshop "Evolving through Context: The Transformation of Buddhism(s) and their Legitimation(s)," to be held on March 24-25, 2017, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Münchenin , Munich, Germany. The paper is titled "Different Buddhists at Adi Badri: Addressing Sectarianism".

Wenta, A. 'From Spectator to Dancer: Performance Metaphor and the Quest for Knowledge in India', Cahiers de la Fondation: Indialogues, No.11 (2016/2017)

Sauthoff, P., presented paper at Society for Tantric Studies Conference, Flagstaff Arizona "Cosmic Cartography: Mapping *tattva* on the body," September 2016

Sauthoff, P., completed submission of PhD dissertation for the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London "Open secrets and the retention of power in esoteric non-dual Śaiva philosophy with special reference to the Netra and Svachchanda Tantras," - September 2016

Sauthoff, P., reviewed "Tantric Traditions in Transmission and Translation," *Reading Religion* - September 2016

Sauthoff, P., "Non-dual Śaiva Tantra," *Database of Religious History* -- December 2016

Sauthoff, P., attended *International Workshop on Tantric Studies* at Manipal University - January 2017

Awards / Grants / Field Research

Sauthoff, P., recipient of Brough Sanskrit Award - September 2016

Student presentations at Seminars / Conferences

Pinto, Deekshith Nevil. 2016, presented "Pollution control policies and technologies contributing to industrial ecology: case study of the distilleries in Karnataka" at RECYCLE 2016: International Conference on Waste Management, organised by the Department of Civil Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, on April 1-2, 2016.

Agati, Saket. 2016, participated at The 3rd Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation held at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi from April 12 to 14, 2016 as delegate and contributed in suggesting a proposal for zero-poaching to Tiger Range Countries.

Pinto, Deekshith Nevil. and Sharma, Swarnika, participated in the two-day workshop on Wealth from Waste & Pollution Awareness Online Monitoring, E-Waste Management & RoHS organised by Electro-chemical Society of India (ECSI) at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru on June 16 and 17, 2016.

Kundan, Sagar. 2016, presented "environmental challenges in transforming Biharsharif into a Smart City" at the International Conference on Climate Change Mitigation and Technologies for Adaptation (IC3MTA- 2016), held at Synod College, Shillong, Meghalaya, India on June 20-21, 2016.

Pinto, Deekshith Nevil. and Sharma, Swarnika, presented "The Bhopal Waste Story" and "Ocean Acidification" at The National Symposium on Electrochemical Science and Technology (NSEST)-2016 organized by the Department of Inorganic and Physical Chemistry in association with the Electrochemical Society of India. The symposium was held at the IISc, Bengaluru on July 15 and 16, 2016.

Master's Thesis submitted in 2016-17

School of Ecology and Environment Studies (SEES)	
Name of the student	Title of the dissertation
Abhishek Kumar	Consumption of coal by Thermal power plant
Abinash Mohanty	River system hydrology
Aishwarya Alexander	Sustainable Models for Safe Drinking Water for Rural Bihar
Ankit Chauhan	Soil carbon sequestration to mitigate climate change
Anupam Adarsh	Biodiversity of Rajgir
Anurag Verma	Flowing fluid electrical conductivity profiling of shallow bore well at Rajgir
Aparna Jha	Status of women in agriculture: some insights from North Bihar
Arvind.G.Christo	People's science movement and how it shaped the understanding of environment-Kerala Sashtya Sahitya Parishad
Ashna Sinha	Disturbances in the Floodplain Wetland Ecosystem of Ganga River Basin in Bihar : Survival, Loss, Resilience and Management
Deeke domataming	Distribution and conservation status of essential Medicinal plants in Sikkim Himalayas.
Deekshith Pinto	Carbon emission reduction pathways for India
Dibyendu Biswas	Niche Partitioning of Some common Birds in Urban/ Semi-Urban areas
Himani saini	Quantative study on Spring water and hot spring
Kongpheng Moua	Environment management and cord sector industry
Kundan sagar	Linking tourism into Disaster management to enhance disaster risk reduction: A case study from Nalanda District
Mankanwaldeep Rampal	Analysing the disaster management, preparedness viz-a-viz various stakeholders at multiple levels of governance
Manya Singh	Traditional knowledge and access-benefit sharing
Miran Syed	Desertification and Eco restoration
Nabaprabhat Paul	Social, Financial, Hydrological and Policy Analysis and optimization of Rajgir region using Water Evaluation and Planning System, MODFLOW and LEAP
Naw Klay Paw	Mangroves degradation impact on human societies on Bogalay, Pyapon, Iaputa and Mawlamyaunggyun township, Irrawaddy delta, Myanmar
Nazia Zafar	Post mining land reclamation and ecosystem restoration with special context to mining industries in Jharkhand
Ngawang Jamba	Phytosociological analysis of medicinal herb and associated TK in Zangthi Chiwog, Samdrup Jongkhar, Eastern Bhutan
Oindrila Ghosh	Synthesis, Characterization and Determination of Fate and Transport of Nanoparticles in soil and groundwater.

Pradeep Kumar Jha	Flood modelling with GIS
Rashmita Sharma	Valuation of the ecosystem services by the hot water spring and the forests of Rajgir
Rinzin Zhamo	Wildlife conservation in Bhutan
Sagarika Srivastava	Householders, waste generators and recycling at Rajgir
Salai K. Chha Nge	Urban perspectives on land use in Hakha town, Chin State, Myanmar
Sayantan Haldar	Climate change adaptation
Subhadeep Das	Climate change vulnerability assessment in an urban area
Swarnika Sharma	Ecological Economics: An Ecologist's Viewpoint
Swathi M P	Geographical indicator and Makkana, how the market is responding
Tanushree Mundra	Environmental impact on deep sea biodiversity

School of Historical Studies (SHS)

Name of the student	Title of the dissertation
Aman Verma	Social Change in Colonial India and Korea: A case study of Dalits of India and Packchongs of Korea
Anmol Swamy	Looking for reasons in the midst of chaos: The Mongol Conquest of the Khwarezm Empire (1219-1221 A.D.)
Arun Akella	Reinterpreting Eulogies: Re-examining the socio-political identities of the sĀtavĀhanas and the western kṣhatrapas
Aslah K	Jihad in Political Sphere of Malabar: Muslims and Portuguese in 15 th and 16 th Century
Azad Hind	Nalanda's connection with South East Asia: Networks, Cultural Interactions and Diplomacy
Deepa Choudhary	Buddhism as a solution to Environmental Crises
Navneet Sawhney	From Cabinets to Public Consciousness: Text, Testimony and Photo-Archives of lanfu.
P. Sreenivasa Reddy	A comparative study of State and Buddhism in Silla period and Mauryan period under Asoka
Phayphot Manirath	Exploring Buddhist tradition and culture in Lao society through a study of the role of the sangha
Pritha Mukherjee	The Saraikela Saptamatrikas: a study in image production, circulation, and altered lives of sculptures housed at the Patna museum
Rohit Jha	"Colonized, Classified, Marginalized: A Brief Study Of The Minorities In Bihar In The Context Of Colonial Anthropology"
Sachindra Pandey	Yoga-Body of Knowledge: Contemporary perspective on Modern Yoga through an ethnographic study of Isha Foundation
Theresa John	Islamic Education in Indonesia and Morocco: Case Studies from the Twentieth Century
Shikhar Goel	"Cartoons of the Emergency: A study of R.K. Laxman's cartoons published during the Emergency in The Times of India and their reproductions in the NCERT textbook"

News & Events

The University community is continuously engaged in participating at the various **Events** being organized throughout the year. **Collaborations** are important for the University and the University strives to associate itself to the various centre of excellence across the Globe.

The **weekly lecture series and distinguished lectures** are imbibed as part of the teaching pedagogy at the various Schools. This section lists all such important events and lectures held and conducted during the year 2016-17. The section also covers the various **field trips** undertaken by the Faculty as part of their experiential learning pedagogy.

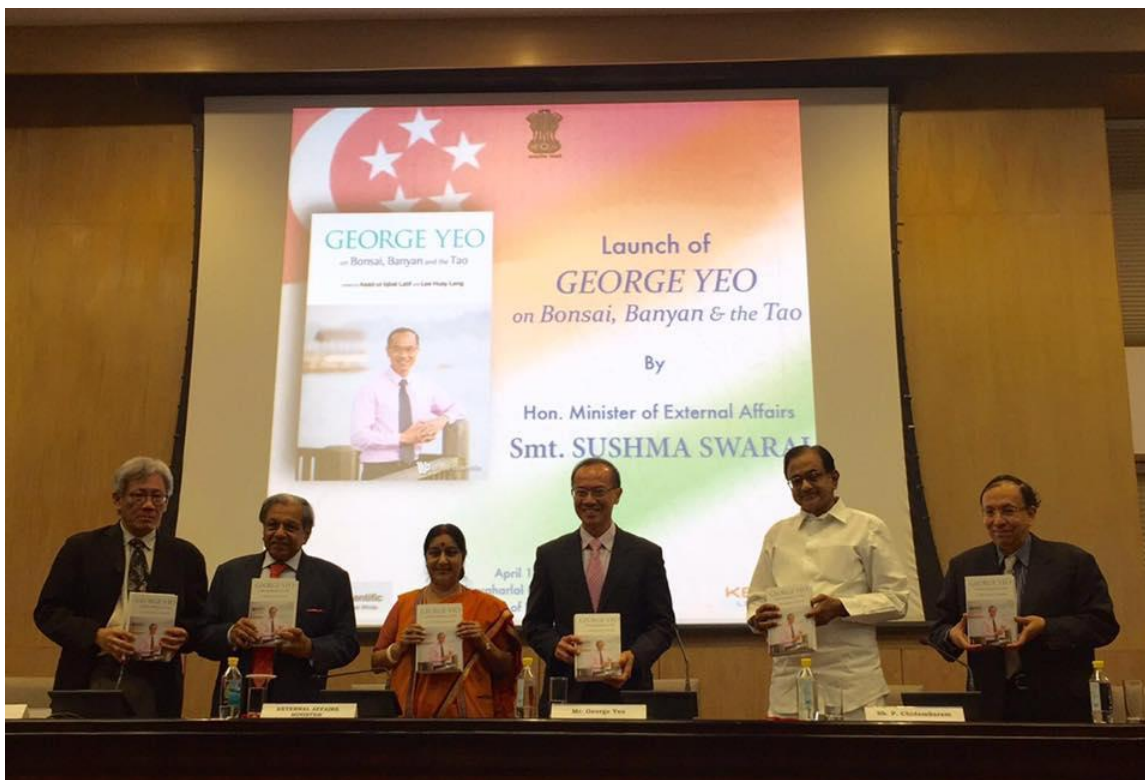
The section has the details on all social events like festivals and club activities at the University. Since Nalanda is a fully residential University, the community activities and social interactions form an important part of the University activities.

Events

Chancellor Yeo's Book Released by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj

April 17, 2016

Nalanda University (NU) Chancellor, Mr. George Yeo's book "George Yeo on Bonsai, Banyan and the Tao" was launched by External Affairs Minister, Mrs. Sushma Swaraj on April 12, 2016 at Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan in Delhi.



The distinguished panel that shared their views on Chancellor Yeo's book included former Union Minister P Chidambaram, Singapore's High Commissioner to India Lim Thuan Kuan, and Nalanda University Governing Board Members: Mr. N K Singh and Professor Sugata Bose.

The book is a compilation of 91 essays and lectures by Chancellor Yeo, who is Singapore's former Foreign Minister and had also served in the Singapore Armed Forces. The unusual title of the book according to its publishers is because "there are many aspects to George Yeo that makes him difficult to classify".

Calling the book a "testament to the power of ideas", Mrs Swaraj said "This collection of essays shows a deeply inquisitive mind, concerned with the primary task of building a sustainable political and social model for the modern world, but equally at home in our complex histories, the arts, culture and new forms of media."

Describing Mr. Yeo as "a man who lived and flourished at the crossroads of our civilizations; at the meeting point – between East and West, between our ancient heritage and our modern future" she concluded her speech by saying, "under Mr. George Yeo's stewardship, I am certain that Nalanda will also rise to redeem the promise of its glorious history."

NU Governing Board Member and former Member of Parliament Mr. N.K. Singh introduced Mr. Yeo and talked about the early days of Nalanda University. Professor Sugata Bose, who is also Nalanda University Governing Board Member, the Gardiner Professor of History at Harvard University and a Trinamool Congress

Member of Parliament, also shared his impressions of the book and spoke about Asian values and the learning from them.

Singapore's High Commissioner to India Lim Thuan Kuan, shared insights on how Chancellor Yeo has had an influence on the people of Singapore.

Former Union Minister P Chidambaram described Chancellor Yeo as a true friend of India and praised the Ministry of External Affairs for hosting the book launch.

Talking about how he and his family feel drawn to India, Chancellor Yeo said, "There is something in India that attracts me and my family to this great nation: Its culture, its people and its big heart."



Japan Confers one of its Highest National Honour to Nalanda University Governing Board Member NK Singh

May 15, 2016



Nalanda University's Governing Board Member, former bureaucrat and parliamentarian Mr NK Singh received Japan's second highest national award for his contribution in strengthening economic, educational and cultural ties between India and Japan.

'The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star' honour was bestowed on Mr Singh by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at a ceremony at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo.

The award citation hailed Mr Singh's role in boosting Indo- Japan economic ties, particularly in promoting Japanese investments into India over many years. Mr Singh has been actively involved in the establishment of Nalanda University as a part of the Nalanda

Mentor Group and now the Nalanda Governing Board.

Mr Singh was one among the eight foreign recipients who received this award which was given to 91 personalities. These awardees also had an audience with Emperor Akihito.

'The Order of the Rising Sun' was established in 1875 by Emperor Meiji. Foreign personalities started getting honoured with these awards in 1981.

Vice Chancellor Gopa Sabharwal participates in Buddha Purnima Celebrations at Maha Bodhi Society of India

May 24, 2016

Nalanda University Vice Chancellor, Dr. Gopa Sabharwal joined in the Buddha Purnima Celebrations and the Celebration of 125 years of the Mahabodhi Society of India on May 21, 2016 at the New Delhi Centre.

The Vice Chancellor and the former Dean Dr. Anjana Sharma were special guests of the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in India, H.E. Esala Weerakoon who was the Chief Guest on this occasion. Mr. Tsering Namgyal Shanoo, Member National Commission for Minorities in Government of India presided over the event.



Vice Chancellor Dr. Gopa Sabharwal being felicitated at the Maha Bodhi Society Celebrations

Maha Bodhi Society was founded by the Sri Lankan Buddhist revivalist Anagarika Dharmapala for resuscitating Buddhism in India, and restoring the ancient Buddhist shrines at Bodh Gaya, Sarnath and Kushinara in 1891.

The Society has completed 125 years this year and has been holding events to celebrate this milestone in various centres through the year.



University's Second Academic Council Meeting held in New Delhi

June 10, 2016

The second meeting of Nalanda University's Academic Council was held in the University's New Delhi office on May 30, 2016. Eleven members of the Academic Council were present for the meeting.

The meeting was chaired by the Vice Chancellor who updated the Council on various aspects of the University including launch of the new School, Academic Calendars, Fee Structure, Faculty Positions and Admissions. The Academic Council took note of all activities and in particular the launch of the new School of Buddhist Studies, Philosophy and Comparative Religions in August 2016.



Members of the Academic Council at the Meeting on May 30, 2016

The Council commended the decision of the University to hold the first convocation ceremony on August 27, 2016 in the presence of the President of India.

The Council also noted that the academic collaborations initiated by the University will help in expanding opportunities of academic exchange and promoting excellence. The Council Members encouraged the University to invite more academic scholars as Scholar-in-Residence to enlarge and deepen the learning process.

The Council deliberated upon the launch of PhD programmes in the existing Schools and decided that PhD programmes will not be offered in the coming academic session (Fall, 2016) but could be launched in the next session upon receipt of detailed notes on the programmes from the Schools.



China's Consul General in Kolkata meets Nalanda Vice Chancellor to discuss further collaboration

July 5, 2016

Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Kolkata, Mr. Ma Zhanwu, met Nalanda University Vice Chancellor, Dr. Gopa Sabharwal, at the University's Interim Campus in Rajgir, on June 30, 2016. China's Consular Attaches Chen Ankai and Gao Xiang, Nalanda University's Acting Registrar Dr. K. Chandramoorthi and Assistant Registrar Dr. B.Ambika.P. Pani were also present at the meeting.



Vice Chancellor Dr. Gopa Sabharwal (second from left) and Consular General Ma Zhanwu (third from left) at the meeting in the Vice Chancellor's office

Dr. Sabharwal gave a brief background of the University and talked about how the University has close connections with China. Professor Wang Bangwei, Professor and Director of the Institute of Oriental Studies and Oriental Literature Research Center at Peking University is on the University's Governing Board which is currently headed by the Chancellor, Mr. George Yeo, former Foreign Minister of Singapore.

She also apprised him of current developments including the much anticipated Convocation ceremony of the founding batch to be held in August 2016, when the President of India will confer degrees on the first Postgraduate students of the University and also lay the foundation for the construction of the buildings of the new campus.



Consul General Mr. Ma, Vice Chancellor Dr. Sabharwal and other Consular and University officials after the meeting

Vice Chancellor Dr. Sabharwal said, "The foundation of the University had many connections with China, and the old Nalanda ruins was discovered according to the detailed description of the famous Chinese monk Xuanzang. Because of the strong bondage, the University decided to set up the Xuanzang Centre for Asian Studies, and would like to have more exchanges and cooperation with the Chinese side."

Consul General Mr. Ma said that he was glad to learn that Nalanda University had made great progress since its establishment in 2010, and said the Chinese Consulate would strengthen communication with the University to promote China-India friendly exchanges.

The two sides also agreed to cooperate in organising a conference on "Xuanzang and China-India Friendly Exchanges".

Vice Chancellor visits NTU and NUS in Singapore to build institutional ties

June 25, 2016

Vice Chancellor Dr. Gopa Sabharwal recently met officials at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and National University of Singapore (NUS) in Singapore to benchmark institutional best practices and build closer ties with these universities.

Dr. Sabharwal met Professor Er Meng Hwa Vice President (International Affairs), President's Office NTU on June 15, 2016. Prof Er gave an overview of NTU and later Dr. Sabharwal was taken for a tour of the campus that included a visit to "The Hive" which has classrooms that have adopted the flipped model of learning. Dr. Sabharwal also signed the guestbook and exchanged mementos.



Vice Chancellor Dr. Gopa Sabharwal at the meeting with Prof Er Meng Hwa at NTU

On June 16, 2016 Dr. Sabharwal met with Professor Andrew Wee, Vice President, University and Global Relations, at NUS. Mr. Yeh Choy Yan, Associate Director, Office of the Vice President, University and Global Relations was also present at the meeting where the two sides discussed issues related to institution building.

University gets three new Residence Halls

June 30, 2016

Nalanda University has acquired three new Residence Halls on lease, in preparation for the expansion of its student strength.

The three new Residence Halls will be called: Ajatshatru, Ananda and Maitreya. While Ajatshatru has been leased from the Bihar Government, Ananda and Maitreya have been acquired from private players. The first residence hall of the University-Tathagat was also leased from the Bihar Government.



Pictures of Ajatshatru Residence Hall

All the Residence Halls (old and new) are within a radius of 4 kilometres from the interim campus. The University is currently running from an interim campus till its permanent campus comes up on the 450-acre land given by the Bihar Government.

Ajatshatru has two floors, 28 rooms, a dinning space with kitchen, a large conference hall, a central courtyard, and other facilities like students' lounge and guest lounge.

Ananda has three floors, 20 rooms, kitchen and dining facilities and other facilities like students' lounge and guest lounge.

Maitreya, which is within walking distance from the old residence hall Tathagat, has a basement, ground and first floor. Its 26 rooms are all located on first floor. The basement and ground floor have the kitchen, dining facilities and large halls which will be used as students' lounge and guest lounge.



Pictures of Maitreya Residence Hall

All the new residence halls are currently being refurbished and prepared for occupation in the new academic year.

University Prepares for first Convocation and Laying of Foundation Stone by President of India in August

July 30, 2016

Nalanda University is gearing up to host its first Convocation when Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble President of India will confer the degrees and also lay the Foundation Stone of the new campus. Guests of honour on this occasion include the Governor of Bihar Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Chief Minister of Bihar Shri Nitish Kumar and External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj.

Chancellor George Yeo and other members of the Governing Board will also be there besides various other distinguished guests. Indonesia's former Foreign Minister and member of Nalanda University's International Advisory Panel, Mr. Hassan Wirajuda will also attend. Members of the diplomatic corps are expected. The entire Nalanda University community will also be present. Over 500 guests are being invited for the Foundation Stone laying and Convocation program.



University officials and District administration holding a meeting at the University's main campus

The program will start at 11 am and end at 12 noon. The President will first lay the foundation stone and then the Convocation will start. This is the first visit of the President to the University and to Rajgir.

The University has been working together along with the District Administration to ensure success of the event. The District Administration and University Officials have been having weekly meetings to keep an overview of the preparations. The main campus of the University, which is the venue for this event is being prepared to hold the event. Approach roads, and parking areas are being developed on the campus.



Work underway at the main campus for preparing the approach roads, parking areas and grounds for Convocation

IPS Trainees Visit Nalanda University as part of their training

July 6, 2016

On July 4 2016, 15 Indian Police Service trainees visited Nalanda University as a part of their training programme. The Officiating Registrar, Mr. K. Chandramoorthi and the Assistant Registrar (Academics), Dr. B. Ambika Pani welcomed the officers. The Officiating Registrar gave a presentation to the trainees briefing them on the aims and objectives of the University and current academic activities.



The IPS trainees at Nalanda University's Interim Campus

President of India Confers Degrees on the Pioneering Batch and also lays the Foundation Stone of the New Campus

August 30, 2016

On August 27, 2016 Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble President of India conferred the degrees on Nalanda University's pioneering batch and also laid the Foundation Stone of its new campus. Guests of honour on this occasion included the Governor of Bihar Shri Ram Nath Kovind and Chief Minister of Bihar Shri Nitish Kumar. Former Foreign minister of Indonesia and Member of the International Advisory Panel Dr. Hassan Wirajuda was a special guest.

It was a historic occasion as Nalanda awarded its first degree in 800 years. The convocation and foundation stone laying ceremony were held at the 455-acre land given to the University by Bihar Government where the University's new campus will be built.

Hon'ble President of India gave the convocation address. Hon'ble Governor of Bihar Shri Ram Nath Kovind and Chief Minister of Bihar Shri Nitish Kumar also addressed the audience on this historic occasion.

Chancellor Mr. George Yeo, Founding Chancellor, Professor Amartya Sen and Vice Chancellor Dr. Gopa Sabharwal also addressed the gathering.

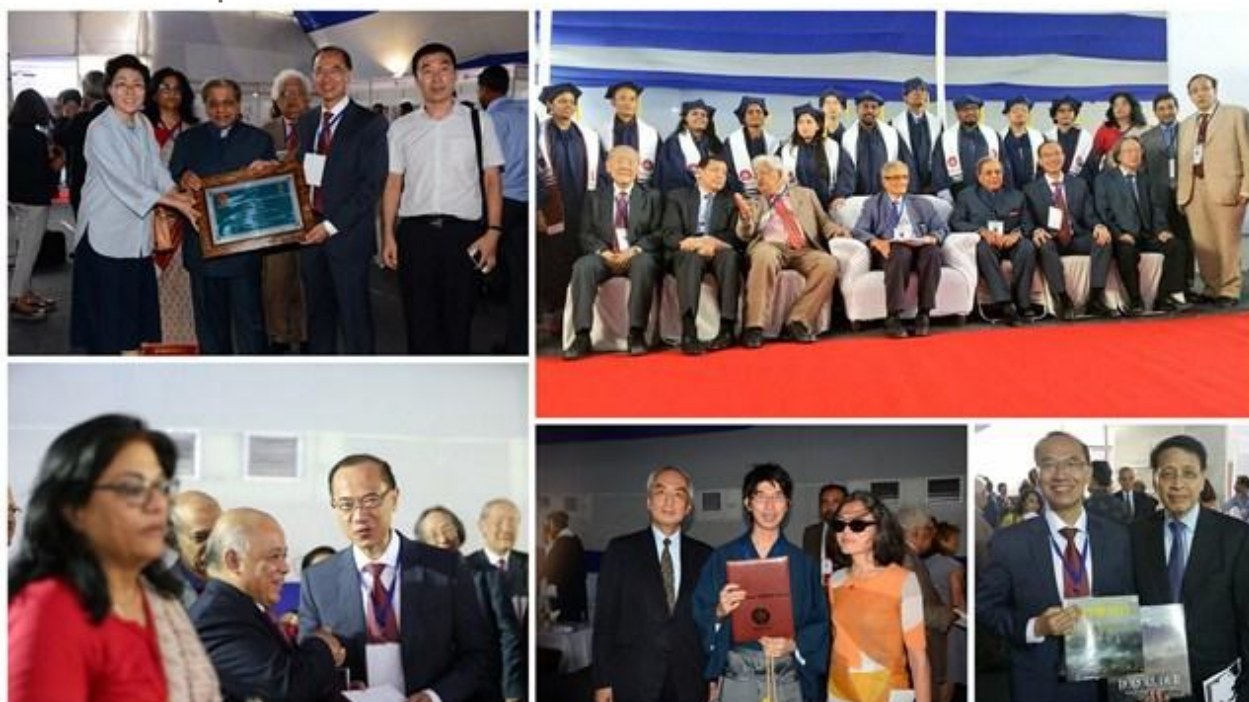


Hon'ble President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee arriving at the venue, taking a look at the exhibition on the upcoming campus and laying the foundation stone of the University

The Governing Board Members of Nalanda University had travelled from different parts of the world to be a part of this historic day.

Over 20 members from the diplomatic corps of 11 countries including H.E. Mr. Chalit Manityakul Ambassador of Thailand to India and H.E. Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu, Ambassador of Japan to India joined this event.

Various other guests from the Government of Bihar were also present including Deputy Chief Minister Mr. Tejaswi Yadav, Education Minister Mr. Ashok Choudhary. Former Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, Mr. Sushil Kumar Modi was also present.



Distinguished guests at the Convocation Ceremony

The Nalanda District Magistrate Mr. Thiyagarajan SM and Superintendent of Police Kumar Ashish and various other members of district administration who were in charge of security and other arrangements also joined this historic event.

The 12 Pioneering students who got their degrees, their parents and family members were present along with the entire University Community that included faculty, students, staff and their families.



The first Convocation Ceremony of Nalanda University

Members of the media included local and national representatives. Various people including weavers, shopkeepers, school principals, leaders of temples and others from Rajgir and Bihar Sharif were also a part of the audience. Around 650 people were present at the venue to witness the historic first convocation.

Nalanda University Becomes the first University to Adopt Khadi for its Academic Regalia

August 25, 2016

The University has officially adopted Khadi for its Academic Robes. Governing Board Member, Lord Meghnad Desai made this announcement at a Press Conference in Rajgir earlier today.

Speaking to the media he said, "The University wanted its academic dress to be in broadly in line with the internationally accepted guidelines on academic dress but to also have a distinctively Indian touch. The university experimented with fabrics that are woven in and around Nalanda and in Bihar and made a choice of trying to innovate with regalia made of khadi, the fabric at the heart of Indian identity with multiple symbolisms."

While the heavy velvet gowns that are the norm in the west, were designed to keep out the cold in old buildings, in the Indian weather, khadi is also the most climatically appropriate fabric.

"In opting for khadi for our regalia, Nalanda University becomes the first and only Indian university to have its entire academic regalia in the national fabric." he added.



Lord Meghnad Desai at the Press Conference (Left and above right). Right Below: Faculty dressed in the Academic Regalia

Academic costume or regalia is an important part of the identity of any institution. It defines the institution and is part of the abiding moment in the lives of all the graduates from the university and something they wear with pride. Once set, the academic regalia will define the identity of the institution for many years to come.

India has not adopted any National level code for academic regalia and so, Nalanda University was free to set its own rules with regard to colour and trimmings etc. Speaking on the occasion the Vice Chancellor Dr. Gopa Sabharwal said, "The two University colours, Nalanda Blue and Nalanda Red have been given respectively to the faculty and students-the two pillars of the University." She also informed that the silk used in the stoles of the Visitor and other Distinguished guests in the Academic procession was procured from the neighbouring village of Nepura.

University Welcomes the Class of 2018

August 11, 2016

In the first week of August Nalanda University welcomed its third batch of students in the Class of 2018 in the School of Ecology and Environment Studies, School of Historical Studies and the inaugural School of Buddhist Studies, Philosophy and Comparative Religions.

More than 80 students from 12 countries including India have joined the University this year.

The University held an orientation programme for university wide orientation from August 1 to 3. On the first day of Orientation the Vice Chancellor Dr. Gopa Sabharwal addressed the students after their registration and welcomed them into the Nalanda University Community. A high tea was held in the evening and students also wrote in the Nalanda Book. On the second day the students were introduced to different divisions in the University and shown around the interim campus. They also found out about the upcoming campus and were briefed on the Student Handbook. Senior students also held a dinner for the incoming batch in the evening.

Students from the Class of 2018 at their Orientation

On the third day, students visited the upcoming campus site and the Nalanda ruins. The last two days of the Orientation Week were spent in School Orientation for all the students of the incoming batch. The students met the faculty and senior students during School Orientation and also got a briefing on what they are expected to do in the



form of coursework in the next two years.



Students from the Class of 2018 at various sessions during the Orientation Week

Heritage in Context: Balancing the Global with the Local- International Conference by Nalanda University's School of Historical Studies in collaboration with University of Munich

August 23, 2016

The School of Historical Studies at Nalanda University organised an international conference in collaboration with the Anneliese Maier Foundation (University of Munich) from August 20-22, 2016. The conference titled, "Heritage in Context: Balancing the Global with the Local," was hosted by the India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi and funded by the Humboldt Foundation (Germany) and Nalanda University



Professor Aditya Malik's book titled *Tales of Justice and Rituals of Divine Embodiment: Oral Narratives from the Central Himalayas*, Oxford University Press, 2016 was also released on August 20, as a part of the conference.

Heritage in Context conference was held at India International Centre, New Delhi from August 20-22, 2016

Besides faculty members from the School of Historical Studies at Nalanda University (NU), the speakers and participants at the conference included: Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray, Anneliese Maier awardee, Ludwig Maximilian University; Prof. Sasanka Perera, Vice-President, South Asian University; Prof. Max Deeg, currently at Max-Weber-Kolleg, Universitaet Erfurt, who was also a Scholar in Residence at NU; Dr. Abhishek S. Amar, Hamilton College, New York who was a visiting faculty at NU earlier; Prof. Lynn Meskell, from Stanford Archaeology Center and Department of Anthropology; Prof Indira Rajaraman, Former Professor, IIM Bangalore, Member of the 13th Finance Commission, New Delhi; Dr. Noemie Verdon from Lausanne; Dr. Pia Brancaccio, Drexel University, Philadelphia; Dr. Uthara Suvrathan, Cornell University; Prof. Vijaya Ramaswamy, Centre for Historical Studies, JNU among others.



Professor Aditya Malik's Book "Tales of Justice and Rituals of Divine Embodiment: Oral Narratives from the Central Himalayas" being released

Nalanda will play an important role in establishing peace and harmony just like its ancient predecessor: Shri M. Hamid Ansari Hon'ble Vice President of India

September 9, 2016

In an interaction with students and faculty of Nalanda University on September 8, 2016 Shri Mohd. Hamid Ansari, Honourable Vice President of India said that Nalanda University will play a role in establishing peace and harmony just like its ancient predecessor.

“The ancient Nalanda University played an important role in bringing together Scholars from around the world and establishing peace and harmony. I expect the present university to follow the same path and provide answers to many of the complex questions the world has today. The University with its focus on inter-disciplinarity is as good place as any for cross fertilisation of ideas,” he said.

Honourable Vice President was on a two day visit to Bihar and was accompanied by the Governor of Bihar H.E. Shri Ram Nath Kovind and the Education Minister of Bihar Shri Ashok Choudhary for the interaction with Nalanda University Community.



Shri Hamid Ansari, Hon'ble Vice President of India lands at Rajgir and reaches the venue for interaction with Nalanda University

In the interaction with students he addressed various issues ranging from climate change to the idea of Nationalism.

Talking about the concept of Nation states, he said, “Nation states are a recent phenomenon. Xuanzang could walk across countries and he did not need a passport and visa to come to Nalanda. It was his urge for knowledge that brought him here. Today we are building more and more barriers. Instead of uniting we are dividing. People talk about one world but they don't implement it. It requires a change in mind-set, a change of thinking on a daily basis. We have to think as a global community. If a river is flowing by my house and I am creating barriers so that I get the water first and when there's a flood I remove the barrier so that the next person living by the river gets affected and I am fine then I am definitely not thinking about the community.” Answering questions on sustainable development he said, “I am not an environmentalist or scientist but I know that if I will burn my house then I will have no place to live. Development at the cost of environment is

never acceptable. The shelter which environment provides takes decades to restore. No Government can restore it in a short time.”



Clockwise from top: Distinguished guests on the dais; Vice President being felicitated; Vice President interacting with students; Students singing the National Anthem

Talking about what nations should actually consider as their interest he said, “A good indicator of how any country is protecting their national interests would be how much of its budget is given to environment, health or education.”

He lamented the fact that in India absenteeism of teachers in Schools is as high as 25 percent today. “If students don’t perform then it is teachers, who are failing. Implementation of right to education is vital. The kind of education we provide also needs to be examined. We need to have differentiated development. The country is facing an internal migration of skills and though we produce many graduates, we are not producing enough technicians and electricians.”



Students asking questions during the interaction with the Vice President of India

He concluded by saying that despite the instability, chaos and growing pessimism around the world, he remained optimistic about the future. “When Gandhiji started freedom movement he did not have any lethal

weapons to fight. He just had the will and the drive to make a change. We like to talk about change but now we need to make an effort to make a change and I am optimistic that this change can start right here at Nalanda. ”

Honourable Vice President was welcomed by the Vice Chancellor Dr. Gopa Sabharwal, who showed him the exhibition on the upcoming campus and also felicitated him with a Memento that is a replica of the Compressed Stabilised Earth Block carrying the Nalanda Logo, which is going to be used instead of bricks in building Nalanda's upcoming campus.

Honourable Vice President also visited the Nalanda ruins following the visit to the University.



Commemorative Pictures being taken with Students during the visit of Vice President of India

Nalanda University hosts documentary film festival MIFF in Bihar in association with Films Division

September 12, 2016 Information & Broadcasting) organised a three-day documentary film festival, MIFF in Bihar- a festival of selected films of Mumbai International Film Festival for documentary, short and animation films from September 8-10,2016 at Rajgir International Convention Centre (RICC). The festival was open for Nalanda University Community as well as the public of Rajgir and other neighbouring towns. This film festival was held in Bihar for the first time.

The festival was inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor Dr. Gopa Sabharwal on September 8. Speaking on this occasion she said, "Films are a medium of expression that have now even been adopted by Academics to present their work. We hope that this film festival inspires the students and the local community of Rajgir to delve deeper into the medium of films for academic purposes. With changes in technology and rapidly changing forms of

Nalanda University in association with the Films Division (Ministry of film-making, students may even think of presenting films as papers."



(Clockwise from left): Dr. Gopa Sabharwal, Vice Chancellor, NU, inaugurating the festival, Filmmaker Nidhi Tuli being felicitated after her talk, Audience during screening, Mr. Sumay Mukherjee, Kolkata Branch Manager, Films Division.

Mr. Sumay Mukherjee the Kolkata Branch Manager of Films Division said, “Mumbai International Film Festival is held in Mumbai every two years, and the Films Division takes these films to different parts of India so that these films find a wider audience. The purpose of these festivals is to raise awareness about different issues that documentaries depict. These films show reality and it is necessary that the masses also connect with such films.”

Film maker and script writer Nidhi Tuli gave a talk during the inauguration which was followed by the screening of her film “Ladies special” which was very well received. The film was followed by a discussion on the process and purpose of this film. The inaugural film Ashvin Kumar’s oscar nominated “The Little Terrorist ” was also very well received.

This film festival was an effort at involving the local community in University events. Hence it is open for Nalanda University Community as well as the public of Rajgir and other neighbouring towns.

Twenty five films were shown over three days. Besides films from India, the festival also showcased films from Australia, Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, Poland, Romania and UK.

Two Rajgir Heritage Walks organised in October in partnership with BHDS

October 20, 2016

Two Rajgir Heritage walks were conducted in the month of October by Nalanda University in partnership with the Bihar Heritage Development Society.

The first walk was conducted on October 2, 2016. The theme of the walk was “Archeological Rajgir”. The walk started from Banganga pass point covering the Paleolithic site of Rajgir, new excavated site near Banganga, the rut mark site and Jivakāmravana Vihāra. The participants included 25 students from Shivam Residential Public School, Nalanda and around 15 participants from Nalanda University and Rajgir. Towards the end of the walk a quiz was organised on the local history and three winners were given Rajgir Heritage Walk themed T-shirts. A cleanliness drive was also organised at the site of Jivakāmravana Vihāra marking the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.

The Rajgir Heritage Walk was launched during Rajgir Mahotsav in November 2015 , with the joint effort of Nalanda University and Bihar Heritage Development Society (BHDS) under Art, Culture and Youth Department, Government of Bihar. The aim of these walks is to educate the local people and visitors in Rajgir about the historical significance of the region and to generate awareness among them for heritage preservation.



Heritage walk on October 2 , 2016

The second heritage walk was organised on October 16, 2016. A group of ten senior party worker of Janta Dal United (J.D.U) from Bangalore, Karnataka contacted the Rajgir Heritage Walk team. The walk started from Banganga pass point and covered the cyclopean wall, newly excavated site near Banganga, the rut mark site and Jivakāmravana Vihāra. In addition the sites of Maniyar Math and Son Bhandar caves were also covered considering the enthusiasm shown by the participants.



Heritage walk on 16 October , 2016

Conference on Imagining Asia(s): Networks, Actors, Sites- Jointly organised by Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre and Nalanda University

October 28, 2016

The Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre and Nalanda University (India) jointly organised the conference “Imagining Asia(s): Networks, Actors, Sites” at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore, Yusof Ishak Institute on 10–11 October 2016.

Fourteen scholars from nine countries gathered at the conference in Singapore to explore Asian societies as interconnected formations through trajectories/networks of circulation of people, ideas, and objects in the *longue durée*. Moving beyond the divides of old Area Studies scholarship and the arbitrary borders set by late colonial empires and the rise of post-colonial nation states, this conference mapped critically the configuration of contact zones in which mobile bodies, minds, and cultures interact to foster new images, identities, and imaginations of Asia.



The two-day conference concluded with a short roundtable, in which the conveners discussed the issues of (trans)locality, mobility, and imagination in Asian contexts. Close to 70 participants attended the conference.

**Conference on
Imagining Asia(s):
Networks, Actors, Sites
held at ISEAS-Yusof
Ishak Institute**

One day Seminar on Xuan Zang and China-India Friendly Interactions

November 9, 2016

Nalanda University in collaboration with the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in Kolkata organised a one day seminar on “Xuan Zang and China-India Friendly Interactions” on November 7, 2016 in Kolkata, India. The seminar was organised to discuss the life and achievements of Xuan Zang and the range of related issues, including Cultural Buddhist exchanges between China and India, Buddhism and Cultural Ties between India and China .

The Seminar was inaugurated by Dr. Gopa Sabharwal, Vice Chancellor of Nalanda University and Mr. Ma Zhanwu, Consul General of PR China in Kolkata. Professor Max Deeg, Cardiff University and Professor Wang Bangwei, Peking University delivered key-note speeches.

Several distinguished scholars from universities and research institutions in India and overseas like Professor Upinder Singh, Delhi University, Professor Xue Keqiao, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Dr. Zhang Xing, Peking University, Dr. Sraman Mukherjee, Nalanda University and Dr. Bijoy Choudhary, Director, K.P. Jayaswal Research Institute presented papers and offered insights into various issues.



Speakers and Delegates at the Seminar on Xuan Zang and China-India Friendly Relations

In her closing remarks Vice Chancellor Dr. Sabharwal thanked the Consulate General of PR China in Kolkata for organising the seminar in collaboration with Nalanda University, and noted that there was a great amount of work to be done on several key issues such as cultural exchanges between India and China, Xuan Zang's journey to India and its contribution to Buddhist Archaeology. She stressed that there is a need for institutional collaboration to discuss various themes in the history of India-China relations from multidisciplinary and cross-cultural perspectives.

Workshop on “Archaeological Heritage, Community participation and Tourism” held in Patna in collaboration with BHDS

November 15, 2016

As part of the MoU signed between Nalanda University and Bihar Heritage Development Society to conduct Rajgir Archaeological Survey Project (RASP), a workshop was organised on ‘Archaeological Heritage, Community participation and Tourism’ on November, 12-13, 2016 at Patna Museum by Nalanda University in collaboration with Bihar Heritage Development Society, which is under the Department of Art Culture and Youth under Government of Bihar.

Speakers at the workshop included Dr. Gopa Sabharwal, Founding Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University; Dr. Bijoy Choudhary, Director, K.P. Jayaswal Research Institute; Dr. Gautam Sengupta, Former Director General, Archaeological Survey of India; Professor Sanghamitra Basu, IIT Kharagpur; Dr. O.P. Jaiswal, Former Professor, Patna University; Anil Kumar, Associate Professor, Vishwa Bharti University; and Dr. Imtiaz Ahmad, Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna.



Glimpses of workshop on “Archaeological Heritage, Community participation and Tourism”

The speakers emphasized the need for encouraging and mobilising the common people to join the efforts of government agencies for protecting monuments and sites of historical importance, pointing out that conservation efforts can never be successful without community participation.

New Governing Board Constituted by Hon'ble President of India

November 21, 2016

Hon'ble President of India in his capacity as the Visitor of Nalanda University, approved the constitution of a new Governing Board of the University on November 21, 2016.

Governing Board (Constituted on November 21, 2016)

- 1. Chancellor
- 2. Vice Chancellor
- 3. Five Members from member countries with highest contribution:
 - a) Representative from India Shri N.K. Singh
 - b) Representative from China
 - c) Representative from Australia
 - d) Representative from Lao PDR
 - e) Representative from Thailand
- 4. Secretary (East), MEA
- 5. Two representatives from Government of Bihar
- 6. One representative from the Ministry of HRD, Govt of India

- 7. Following three persons in the category of “Renowned Academician or Educationist”
 - a) Professor Arvind Sharma Birks Professor of Comparative Religion McGill University, Montreal, Canada.
 - b) Professor Lokesh Chandra President, Indian Council for Cultural Relations
 - c) Dr. Arvind Panagariya Vice Chairman, Niti Ayog

Professor Pankaj Mohan takes over as Interim Vice Chancellor

November 26, 2016

Professor Pankaj Mohan, Professor of East Asian history at the School of Historical Studies and the senior most Dean at Nalanda University, took over the charge of Interim Vice Chancellor from Dr. Gopa Sabharwal the Founding Vice Chancellor on November 24, 2016 in the presence of the Officiating Registrar Mr. K. Chandramoorthi.

Speaking on this occasion, Professor Mohan said, "Preserving and promoting Nalanda, the shared heritage of mankind, is a difficult task, but I have accepted the challenge with 'heart within and God overhead'."

Later in the evening the University Community bid adieu to Dr. Sabharwal at a farewell organised at Ajatshatru Residence Hall.



**Dr. Gopa Sabharwal
handing over the Charge
of Vice Chancellor to
Professor Pankaj Mohan**



Nalanda University Community bids adieu to its Founding Vice Chancellor Dr Gopa Sabharwal

Nalanda University Celebrates Foundation Day

November 26, 2016

The Nalanda University Community Celebrated the University's Foundation Day at Ajatshatru Residence Hall on November 25, 2016.

The University Flag was hoisted and the community pledged to work together to realise the vision of the University. Professor Pankaj Mohan, Interim Vice Chancellor addressed the community on this occasion and urged everyone to follow the ideals with which the University was originally founded.

The University came into being on November 25, 2010 by a special Act of the Indian Parliament. The University celebrates this day as Foundation Day.



Foundation Day being celebrated at Ajatshatru Residence Hall Grounds

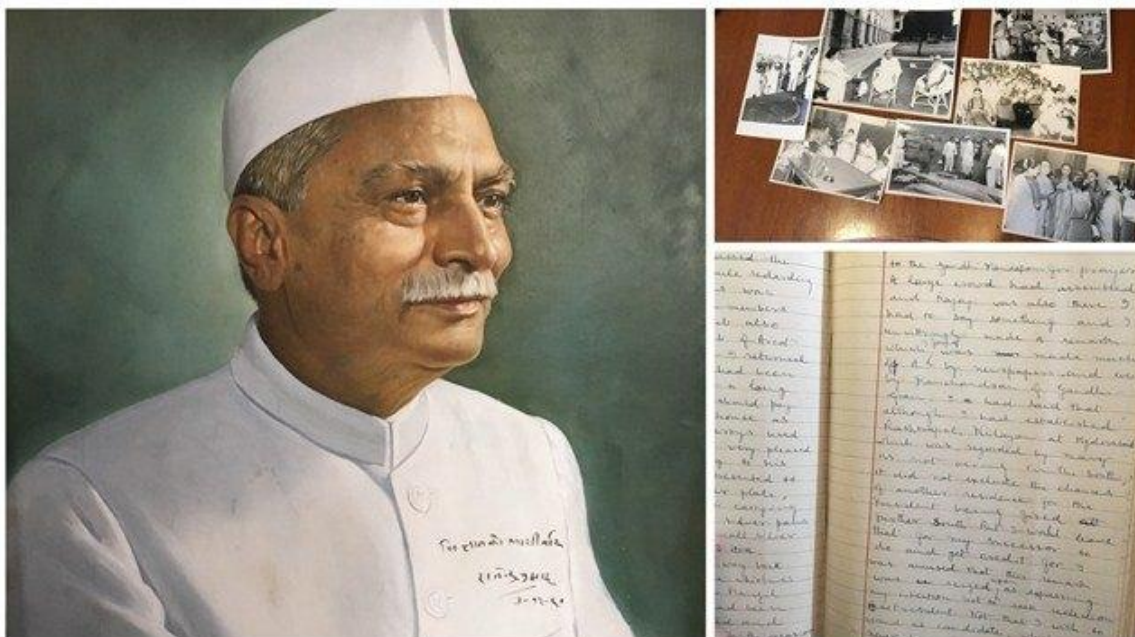
Nalanda Library gets Pictures and Personal Diaries of Dr Rajendra Prasad, India's First President

November 26, 2016

On October 26, Nalanda University Library received a gift of the personal diaries, papers, photographs and a signed oil portrait of the first President of the Republic of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad who was in office from January 26, 1950 to May 14, 1962.

The pictures and papers span many of the presidential years and include pictures by foreign journalists and the first woman journalist of India, Homai Vyarawalla. This gift was handed over by Mrs. Ranjana Shah, daughter of Dr(Mrs) Gyanwati Darbar who was a very close associate of Dr Rajendra Prasad.

**Portrait,
Pictures and
Personal Diary of
India's First
President, Dr.
Rajendra Prasad**



These presidential papers are of immense historical significance to the University as Dr Rajendra Prasad hailed from the State of Bihar, where the

University is located. The University plans to digitise these resources so as to make them accessible to wider audience.

First Nalanda-Kelaniya Workshop on Korean Studies and Language Studies organised by School of Historical Studies at Nalanda University

December 1, 2016

As part of an initiative of the School of Historical Studies (SHS), Nalanda University (NU) organised the first Nalanda- Kelaniya Workshop on Korean Studies and Language Studies on December 1, 2016 at the Interim Campus of the University.

A six-member delegation from Kelaniya University (KU), Sri Lanka, participated in the workshop.

Inaugural speech at the workshop was given by Professor Pankaj Mohan, Interim Vice Chancellor, NU.

Keynote speeches were delivered by Ven. Dr. Meemure Gunnanada Thero, Head, Department of Modern Languages, KU and Professor Hemantha Sirisena, Professor in Russian, Department of Modern Languages, KU.



Glimpses of Nalanda- Kelaniya workshop organised at Nalanda University

Presentations at the workshop included: “Karma motif in the Buddhist stories of Korea and Sri Lanka” by Professor Jin-Ryang Kim, Visiting Professor, KU; “The Character of Koryo Buddhism as State Religion: Focusing on the major Buddhist Elements in the Ten Injunctions (Hunyo Sipjo) of King Tǎejo of Koryo” by Choi Hyun Joo, Ph.D. candidate, Academy of Korean Studies; “Study on the Method of teaching Korean Language and Culture by a Comparison of Folk Tales between Korea and Sri Lanka: Focusing on the Value Systems” by Mr.Amilajith Nisanka Leelarathne, Lecturer, KU; “An application of Translation and back – translation writing tasks for Learners of Korean as a Foreign Language” by Mrs.Udani Gunasinghe, Lecturer, KU; and “Developing a Corpus for Learners of Korean as a Foreign Language in Sri Lanka” by Mrs. Nisansala Pathirana, Lecturer, KU.

Presentations from NU included: “Buddhist Linkages between South Asia and Korea in the Early 20th Century” by Professor Pankaj Mohan, Interim Vice Chancellor and Dean SHS, NU; Degradation in the Status of Nuns and Laywomen: Transition from Koryŏ to Chosŏn Dynasty by Navneet Sawhney, M.A. Student, NU; and “Relation between State and Buddhism in Silla Kingdom: A critical study” by P. Sreenivasa Reddy, M.A. Student, Nalanda University.

Nalanda main campus construction in full swing

December 30, 2016

The work for construction of Nalanda University's permanent campus on the 455 acre land given by the Bihar Government, commenced on September 30, 2016 and has progressed rapidly. The works for Construction of Internal Roads and Earthwork for providing Water Bodies as a part of Phase 1 Construction Programme was awarded to M G Contractors Pvt. Limited, Panchkula, Haryana. The embankment construction for the 12.5 Km long internal roads and the excavation of various water bodies is currently in progress.



Excavation of various water bodies at construction site

The tender for the second major package, Construction of Non-Residential Buildings which involves the construction of Academic, Administrative and various other campus amenities buildings are

likely to be awarded soon. The Estimated Cost for this work is Rs. 485.19 Crores.

The tender documents for the Residential Package Tender which involves construction of Vice Chancellor's Bungalow, Faculty Residences, Staff Quarters, Students' Hostels are in its final stage for publishing and award of work is expected by end of March 2017. The estimated cost for this work is Rs. 305.00 Crores.



Construction of roads at main campus

Nalanda University conducts four-day career counselling workshop in Rajgir

December 15, 2016

As a part of its community outreach activities, Nalanda University conducted a four-day career counselling workshop at its Interim Campus in Rajgir from December 8-11, 2016.

The workshop's objective was to provide career guidance to students from the schools and colleges in and around Rajgir. Students were offered step by step guidance on how to follow a career of their choice. They received detailed information on career options available in the subject of their interest, how to excel competitive exams and where to know about them, how to apply for admissions and availability of scholarships in their area of interest.

They were also told about the free online resources available to aid them in their studies through school and college.

Registration for the workshop was on the spot and free.

The workshop was a joint initiative by Shaashi Ahlawat an alumna from the School of Historical Studies and Bibhuti Praveen, a student from the Class of 2018 at the School of Historical Studies. They invited faculty, students and staff volunteers, with expertise in different areas, from the University to act as counsellors for the workshop.

The workshop was received with a lot of enthusiasm by the students of Rajgir and saw a huge participation.

Glimpses of Career Counselling workshop organised as a part of Nalanda University's community outreach activities



Nalanda University and HDFC Bank organise a blood donation drive

December 8, 2016

Nalanda University and HDFC jointly organised a blood donation drive at HDFC Bank, Dharamshala Road, Rajgir on December 9, 2016



Professor Pankaj Mohan, Interim Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University inaugurating the blood donation camp

Professor Pankaj Mohan, Interim Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University inaugurated the blood donation camp. Speaking at the inauguration of the camp, Professor Mohan said that blood donation is one of the noblest donations and organisation of such camps benefit the whole nation. He also thanked HDFC bank for involving Nalanda University in this noble cause. Students, staff and faculty from Nalanda University participated in the donation drive which was also supported by the Red Cross Society.

Dr. Vijay Bhatkar appointed Chancellor of Nalanda University

January 27, 2017



Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the President of India, in his capacity as the Visitor of Nalanda University appointed Dr Vijay P. Bhatkar as the Chancellor of Nalanda University for a three-year term with effect from January 25, 2017.

Dr Vijay Bhatkar is an internationally acclaimed scientist, IT leader and educationist of India. He is best known as the architect of India's first supercomputer Param, and it was at his initiative, effort and vision that several national institutions, notably amongst them being C-DAC, ER&DC, IIITM-K, I2IT, ETH Research Lab, MKCL and India International Multiversity, were created.

Dr. Vijay Bhatkar, Chancellor, Nalanda University

He has been a Member of Scientific Advisory Committee to Cabinet of Govt of India, Governing Council Member of CSIR, India and eGovernance Committee Chairman of Governments of Maharashtra and Goa. A Fellow of IEEE, ACM, CSI, INAE and leading scientific, engineering and professional societies of India, he has been honored with Padma Bhushan, Padmashri and Maharashtra Bhushan awards. Other recognitions include Saint Dnyaneshwar World Peace Prize, Lokmanya Tilak Award, HK Firodia and Dataquest Lifetime

Achievement Awards, and many others. He was a nominee for Petersburg Prize and is a Distinguished Alumni of IIT, Delhi.

Dr Bhatkar has authored and edited 12 books and 80 research & technical papers. His current research interests include Exascale Supercomputing, AI, Brain-Mind-Consciousness, and Synthesis of Science & Spirituality. He is presently the Chancellor of India International Multiversity, Chairman of ETH Research Lab, Chief Mentor of I2IT, and National President of Vijnan Bharati.

The Interim Vice Chancellor, Professor Pankaj Mohan congratulated the Chancellor and said, "Your leadership, guidance and vision will help Nalanda achieve its goal to stand at the 'juncture of 'tradition and modernity, heritage and development', and considerably enhance the university's ability to act as an agent of positive change in a world replete with challenges," and he added, "May your tenure as chancellor be full of blessings both for you and our university."

The Officiating Registrar, Mr. K. Channramoorthi also congratulated the Chancellor and said, "Your immense experience, strategic direction and leadership will help Nalanda University flourish."

Construction of Non-Residential Buildings on main campus to start in March

January 28, 2017

On January 27, 2017 the University awarded the work for construction of non-residential buildings and other related works to Nagarjuna Construction Co Limited (NCC). The work at site will begin by first week of March 2017 and is scheduled to be completed within 36 months i.e. by March 2020.

The Non-Residential Buildings constitute a major part of Nalanda University's Phase 1 Construction Programme of its proposed campus. With completion of this work the University will have buildings for schools, administrative block, communication centre, campus amenities like international centre, campus inn, amphitheatre, arcade, dining hall, faculty club, school, medical centre & infirmary, sports centre, commercial market, bank, post office, and all the services buildings.



Future Renderings of Upcoming Campus

The University had called for tender of the work on September 20, 2016 and tenders were received on October 20, 2016. Out of the three technically qualified bidders, Hyderabad based NCC Limited quoted the lowest amount of Rs 435.07 Crore which was 10.33% below the estimated cost.

The other part of the campus i.e. construction of the Residential Buildings and Hostels are covered under a separate package tender which will be published by end of February 2017 and is expected to be awarded by end of May 2017.

The work for construction of Nalanda University's permanent campus on the 455 acre land given by the Bihar Government, commenced on September 30, 2016 and has progressed rapidly. The works for Construction of Internal Roads and Earthwork for providing Water Bodies as a part of Phase 1 Construction Programme was awarded to M G Contractors Pvt. Limited, Panchkula, Haryana. The embankment construction for the 12.5 Km long internal roads and the excavation of various water bodies is currently in progress.



Future Renderings of Upcoming Campus

Nalanda University Community Participates in Human Chain Formation event by District Administration to raise awareness about Liquor Ban **January 16, 2017**

On January 16, 2017, the Nalanda University Community, including students, faculty and administrative staff participated in the Human Chain Formation event organised by the District Administration at the site of the Ancient Nalanda University to raise popular awareness about the liquor prohibition issue in the state. Talking about the University's participation in the District Administration's programme Professor Pankaj Mohan, Interim Vice Chancellor and Dean of the School of Historical Studies, said, "As part of the public outreach program we need to lend hands to the district administration to educate the public about and encourage prohibition. "Several other institutions had also joined this event organised at the Ancient Nalanda University.



Nalanda University's 15th Governing Board Meeting held in Delhi

February 13, 2017

The newly appointed Governing Board of the University met in Delhi on February 10, 2017 at JNB in Delhi. This was the 15th meeting of University's Governing Board.

At the outset of the meeting the Chancellor Dr Vijay Bhatkar welcomed the members, and assured them that he would exert utmost effort to establish Nalanda University as a globally acknowledged center of academic excellence. The Chancellor further noted that Nalanda University of the 21st century must live up to the ideals of ancient Nalanda University by attracting brilliant and self-motivated students from all over the world.



Governing Board Members of Nalanda University at the 15th meeting of the Board

In his brief report on the progress made since the last Governing Board meeting held in August 2016 the Interim Vice Chancellor said that the task of reviving the University inspired by global humanism and original scholarship was fraught with seemingly insurmountable impediments, but expressed his hope that the newly constituted Governing Body would overcome these challenges.

During the meeting a Search-cum-Selection Committee for the selection of the Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University was formed. An Executive Committee of the Governing Board, comprising the following members, was also constituted:

1. The Chancellor, Nalanda University – Chairperson
2. Secretary (East) , Ministry of External Affairs – Ex-Officio Member
3. The Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University - Ex-Officio Member
4. Shri. N.K.Singh – Chancellor's Nominee
5. Secretary Higher Education– Chancellor's Nominee

Mr. Rajeev Kathpalia, the Project Architect from Vastushilpa Consultants, made a presentation on the Master Plan and the designs for Phase – I construction of Nalanda University campus. While appreciating the Master

Plan's endeavour to respect and replicate the spirit of ancient Nalanda and its sensitivity to the issues of environmental sustainability, the Governing Board hoped that the infrastructure development is completed soon, paving path for the much-needed expansion of university.

An exhibition of the design and Master Plan of the upcoming campus was also organised at the foyer of JNB on the occasion of the Governing Board meeting.

Chancellor Bhatkar's first visit to Rajgir- Meeting with University Community, Bihar CM and attending campus construction commencement ceremony

March 6, 2017

Dr. Vijay Bhatkar, Nalanda University's Chancellor visited the University from February 28, 2017 to March 3, 2017 for interactions with Students, Faculty and Staff. During his visit to the University he also attended a function to mark the commencement of the construction of non-residential buildings on the main campus of the University.

Chancellor Bhatkar also met Shri Nitish Kumar, the Chief Minister of Bihar in Patna at the Chief Minister's residence during this trip.

Interactions with the University Community

Upon his arrival in Rajgir on February 28, 2017, Chancellor Bhatkar met the Nalanda Community over dinner at Ajatshatru Residential Hall.



Chancellor Bhatkar Meeting the University Community at Ajatshatru Residence Hall

Addressing the University Community, Dr. Bhatkar said that he felt privileged to be part of the dream to establish Nalanda as a centre of academic excellence. He also talked about how each member of the Community needs to contribute in order to co-create a holistic, humanistic and interdisciplinary environment that is required for a Nalanda of our times.

Over the next two days, Dr. Bhatkar also interacted with the faculty, students and staff in separate groups.



Chancellor Bhatkar with University's Administrative Staff

Participation in ceremony to mark commencement of construction

On March 1, 2017, Dr. Bhatkar was the chief guest at a ceremony organised by NCC (Nagarjuna Construction Company-the firm which has been awarded the contract for construction works.) to celebrate the commencement of the construction of non-residential buildings on the Nalanda University Main Campus. Speaking on this occasion Dr. Bhatkar said, "I consider myself extremely privileged that I have been a part of this historic day and this sacred ceremony. I have seen the design of the building and I am confident that when it comes up you will see a resurrection of the old Nalanda in terms of the design. I am hoping that with the joint efforts of Vastu Shilpa Consultants, NCC, MECON, and the University, we will see a structure emerge within one year. "



Chancellor Bhatkar at the Ceremony to mark Commencement of Construction

Mr. Rajeev Kathpalia, Partner Vastu Shilpa Consultants (architect of the project), Mr. G. Ramakrishna Reddy Vice President NCC, and Mr. Rana Chakravaty General Manager MECON (Project Management Consultant for the project) attended the ceremony.

The Nalanda District Magistrate Mr. Thiagarajan SM, Superintendent of Police Kumar Ashish, DSP and other senior officers of the District Administration also attended the event.

Meeting with Bihar Chief Minister

Later in the day on March 1, 2017 Chancellor Dr. Bhatkar left for Patna for a meeting with Shri Nitish Kumar, Chief Minister of Bihar.

Professor Pankaj Mohan the Interim Vice Chancellor and Mr. K. Chandramoorthi the Officiating Registrar of Nalanda University accompanied him for the meeting with Chief Minister.

Shri Chanchal Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Bihar Chief Minister, who is also a Governing Board member of Nalanda University was also present at the meeting.

During the meeting Chancellor Dr. Bhatkar and Shri Nitish Kumar shared their respective vision for the University. Chief Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar assured his support for the University and project and expressed the hope that the University would reach out and create links with the neighbouring villages. Dr. Bhatkar shared that besides encouraging research and innovation at the University his priority would also be to make NU an institution which inspires students not only to get degrees, but to also respond to the needs of the world.



Chancellor Bhatkar meeting Bihar Chief Minister Shri Nitish Kumar at his residence

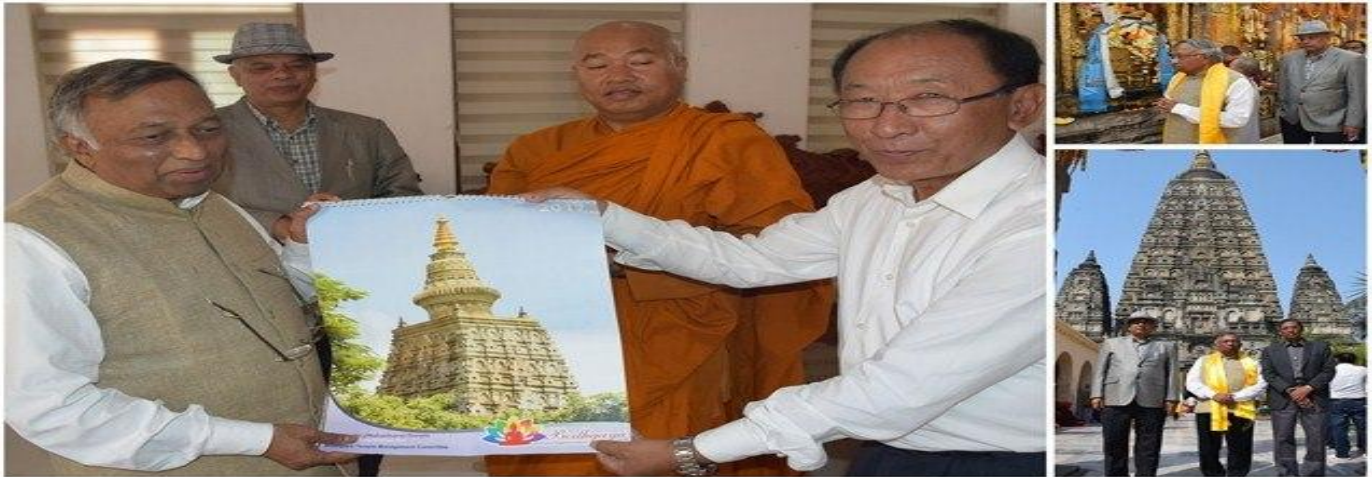
Visit to Nalanda Ruins and Bodh Gaya

Chancellor, Dr. Bhatkar also visited the Ancient Nalanda University ruins and the Mahabodhi Temple in Bodhgaya during this trip.

Interacting with the media in Rajgir for the first time after becoming the Chancellor Dr. Bhatkar said that he would like Nalanda University to become a centre of excellence just like the ancient Nalanda and attract students from across the globe.



Chancellor Bhatkar with Interim VC and Officiating Registrar at Nalanda Ruins



Chancellor Bhatkar's visit to Bodh Gaya

Professor Sunaina Singh appointed Vice Chancellor of Nalanda University March 30, 2017

Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Honourable President of India, in his capacity as the Visitor of Nalanda University has appointed Professor Sunaina Singh, Vice Chancellor, The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad as the next Vice Chancellor of Nalanda University. The University's Officiating Registrar, Mr. K. Chandramoorthi received a communication regarding the Vice Chancellor's appointment from the Ministry of External Affairs on March 29, 2017.

Professor Singh has been appointed for a five-year term from the date on which she enters upon office. The terms and conditions of her services will be as set forth in the Act, Statutes, Ordinances and other rules and regulations of the University. Following her appointment Professor Singh said, "I accept the appointment with all humility, and shall strive to work towards rebuilding this glorious institution." Professor Singh is expected to join Nalanda University in May 2017.



**Professor Sunaina Singh, Vice Chancellor
Designate, Nalanda University**

As the head of a Central University, Professor Sunaina Singh is among the most prominent women Vice Chancellors in the South Asian region. A distinguished academician and administrator, she also holds the position of Vice President of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). She has the distinction of being the first Indian woman to head as the President of Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, the bi-national research institution with headquarters in New Delhi and Calgary under the MHRD and Canadian Government.

Professor Singh brings with her a rich blend of scholarship, professional integrity, and administrative competence. Her impeccable and proven track record as an able and visionary administrator has enabled her to excel in her leadership role, a fact acknowledged by the many prestigious awards she has won including Award for Outstanding Contribution to Education, 2014 and 100-Most Influential Vice Chancellors, 2016 (World Education Congress). Currently, a member of several national and international Academic committees, Prof Singh is engaged in the challenging task of restructuring and redesigning university pedagogical and administrative systems.

Extension Lectures

Distinguished Lecture: Sāṃkhya and the Problem of Emplacement in the Sāṃkhya Kārikā and the Bhagavad Gītā

April 26, 2016



Dr. Geoff Ashton Assistant Professor, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, gave a Distinguished Lecture titled: "Sāṃkhya and the Problem of Emplacement in the Sāṃkhya Kārikā and the Bhagavad Gītā: A Comparative Analysis" on April 22, 2016 at Nalanda University.

Initiated by the School of Historical Studies, Dr. Ashton's lecture discussed at

length how "Place is a problem for the non-theistic philosophers of classical Sāṃkhya—for insofar as place manifests, we are em-placed and hence endure suffering (duḥkha)." Dr. Ashton argued that "the Gītā employs characteristically sāmkhya metaphysical analysis in order to map out the architecture of place (prakṛti). Further, it does so at times in order to dissociate Arjuna from the horrors of the place that he occupies—namely, the duty to initiate a civil war. Unlike the historically later Sāṃkhya Kārikā, however, the Gītā situates sāmkhya doctrine within a theistic metaphysics and a concern to both re-posses his place in the dharmic order and affirm the battlefield as a manifestation of the cosmic body of Krishna."

In this lecture Dr. Ashton established that "By re-imagining place as the body of Krishna, Arjuna learns to not simply bear his dharma, but find liberation through embracing his place in the dharmic order in full awareness that his 'yes-saying pathos' will not modify his fate."

Distinguished Lecture: Concept of Justice in India in Legal, Historical and Social Perspective

April 25, 2016

Professor Mahendra Pal Singh, Chancellor, Central University of Haryana and Chair Professor, Centre for Comparative Law, National Law University, Delhi, gave a Distinguished Lecture titled: "Concept of Justice in India in Legal, Historical and Social Perspective " on April 21, 2016 at Nalanda University.

Professor Singh talked about how the concept of justice has not drawn enough attention of the scholars even after the adoption of Constitution in 1949 that places "JUSTICE, social, economic and political" in the forefront among the goals that it sets to secure to all the citizens of the country. He shared how the Constitution and the concept of Justice were both borrowed from the west and thus most discussions around this concept are also from a western perspective. He however, has for sometime now been uncomfortable in confining the concept of justice in one model without associating it with the society to which it has to be applied.



Professor Singh's lecture thus addressed the issue of the concept of justice in the Indian context and whether Indians have articulated this concept in a way that is in keeping with the needs of the society.

Special Lecture: Environmental and Social Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development

September 20, 2016

Mr. Olivier Kayser, Managing Director at HYSTRA and Founder, Ashoka, Paris (detailed profile below), delivered a lecture titled, "Environmental and Social Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development: From Niche Social Innovation to Global transformations" in the SEES Special Lecture Series on September 15, 2016 at Ajatshatru Residential Hall. The objective of the lecture was to showcase how social entrepreneurship can help in sustainable development. Drawing examples from his rich experience Mr. Kayser explained how one can change the social and economic conditions of the society without posing any threat to the environment and how a little effort has started a chain of change in the favor of the environment as well as of the society. He also related the role of an environmentalist with the role of social

entrepreneur. The Lecture was followed by a question answer round where among several other questions students also asked questions about the problems that a social entrepreneur faces.

Mr. Olivier Kayser, Managing Director at HYSTRA and Founder, Ashoka, Paris delivering a lecture in the SEES Special Lecture series



Special Lecture: The Legal Universe of Natural Resources Management in India

October 28, 2016

Professor M. K. Ramesh from National Law School of India University, Bangalore, delivered a lecture titled, “The Legal Universe of Natural Resources Management in India” in the Special Lecture Series on October 21, 2016 at Ajatashatru Residence Hall.

The objective of the lecture was to explore the legal regime for natural resource management in India which appears to run on parallel tracks – the statutory and the administrative track on the one hand and the constitutional command track on the other. Convergence of the two, especially of the former, in accommodating, internalising and working the grundnorms (basic or fundamental norms) laid down by the latter, has not moved from the stage of aspiration to actualisation. The statutory and the institutional frame, in both content and intent, seems to continue to suffer from a ‘colonial hangover’ of common law traditions and practices, predominating the legal regime. Under it, while private and individual rights get statutory insulation of protection, the resources in the common domain – land, water, forests, wildlife, biodiversity etc., without any exception, are governed by a legal system shackled to colonial rule.

Professor Ramesh explained that environmental conservation concerns that were once an integral part of our customs and traditions, hardly ever figure in the scheme of things today. There are also some issues with the existing statutory law of natural resource governance that require re-thinking. At a time when human-made natural disasters are on the increase and cataclysmic climate conditions have become common there is a need for an integrated approach of management of all natural resources.



Professor M. K. Ramesh, National Law School of India University, Bangalore
delivering a lecture in the SEES Special Lecture series

First Lecture in Nalanda-Deakin Annual Lecture Series held in Delhi and Rajgir

November 12, 2016

The first lecture in the Nalanda-Deakin Annual Lecture Series was delivered by Dr David Halliwell, the Director of the Centre for Regional and Rural Futures (CeRRF), Deakin University on November 10, in New Delhi (Teen Murti Bhavan) and on November 11, in Rajgir (Rajgir International Convention Centre). The lecture was titled "Industry Driven Research Needs in Regional and Rural Communities".

Nalanda University is collaborating with Deakin University for holding annual lecture series titled: the Nalanda- Deakin Annual Lecture Series. As part of this series, every year, the speaker will deliver a lecture at Nalanda University and one other city in India.

Earlier this year, Nalanda had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Deakin on possibilities of having thinkers in residence, student and academic exchanges between Deakin and NU. The Nalanda-Deakin Annual Lecture Series are a part of this collaboration. Through this collaboration, Nalanda University and Deakin University would be able to showcase their academic credentials and their association with cutting edge academic discourse and their commitment to make knowledge available to a wider public outside the University.



Dr David Halliwell, the Director of the Centre for Regional and Rural Futures (CeRRF), Deakin University delivering the first lecture in the Nalanda-Deakin Annual Lecture Series

Distinguished Lecture: A Teacher of Thousand Years: Learn to Innovate, Empathise and be one with Nature

November 14, 2016

Professor Anil. K. Gupta, Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad delivered a Distinguished Lecture titled, "A Teacher of Thousand Years: Learn to Innovate, Empathise and be one with Nature" on November 15, 2016.

This lecture discussed teaching of frugality two thousand years ago when there was no shortage of water or other natural resources. The great teacher/s then anticipated human frailty of imagination and could exactly see what the world was getting into. According to Professor Gupta, frugal and grassroots innovations are manifestations of samskara of samvedana and mitvyayita still evident in our society. Professor Gupta talked about the importance of grass-root innovations, emphasising on the fact that minds at margins are not the marginal minds. He also shed light on the efforts of Honey Bee Network to recognise, respect and reward grass root innovators, traditional knowledge holders, creative children, innovative teachers and common property resource institutions etc.



Professor Anil. K. Gupta, Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad delivering the lecture

SEES Lecture Series: Water Sciences and its Importance in Indian and Global Scenario

November 20, 2016

Professor Saugata Datta, Department of Geology, Kansas State University, US, who is scheduled to join Nalanda University in Spring 2017 as a faculty member, organised a lecture series over Skype with the Master's students of the School of Ecology and Environment Studies. Along with four domain experts, based in Kansas State University in Kansas and Wagner College in New York in the US, Prof Datta delivered this lecture series remotely through Skype from November 17 to 19, 2016.

Along with Prof Saugata Datta, Dr. Stacey Tucker-Kulesza, Dr. Sara Vero, Prof Mohammad Alauddin and Dr Harshad Vijay Kulkarni covered different topics under water sciences in four lectures.

In the first lecture Dr. Stacey Tucker-Kulesza discussed "Soil Erosion and Water Resources", in the second lecture Dr. Sara Vero examined the "Role of the Vadose Zone in Water Transport and Quality (Vadose Zone and Water Modelling)", in the third lecture Prof Mohammad Alauddin discussed 'Water resources management and Human Health' and in the fourth lecture Dr. Harshad Vijay Kulkarni spoke on, "Water Organic Matter and Microbiology of Aquifer and Water Resources".

At the end of the three day lecture series Dr. Datta brought out a summary of all lectures with his own contribution on Groundwater Hydrogeochemistry and Food Security.



Prof Saugata Datta (centre), Dr. Stacey Tucker-Kulesza (left-top), Dr. Sara Vero (left-bottom), Dr Harshad Vijay Kulkarni (right-top) and Prof Mohammad Alauddin (bottom-right)

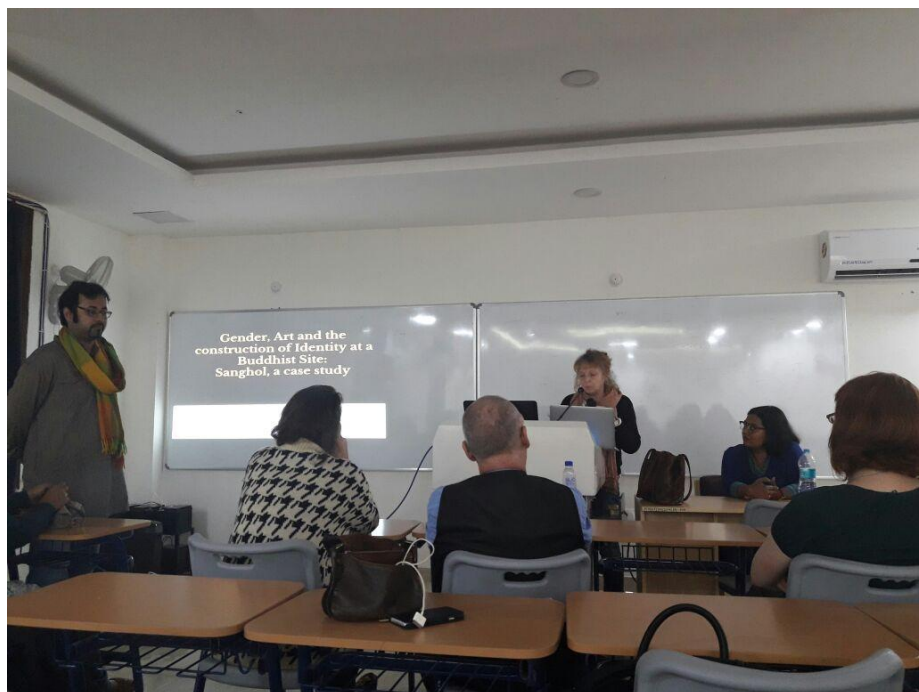
Lecture series on "Gender" launched by School of Historical Studies

November 12, 2016

Fashioning the self: Gender, sexualities and spaces of representations- a series of lectures convened by the School of Historical Studies, Nalanda University was launched on November 9, 2016. This series of lectures will aim at exploring the modalities of the relationship between gender, power and identities, looking at the dynamics of empowerment or disempowerment, which these notions bring into the representations of the self, at an individual, collective, and dialogical level.

The first lecture in this series titled, "Gender, Art and the construction of Identity at a Buddhist Site: Sanghol-A case study" was delivered by Dr. Garima Kaushik, Assistant Professor in the School of Buddhist Studies, Philosophy and Comparative Religions.

Dr. Kaushik discussed how representations of the feminine in art, especially Buddhist art is largely understood as symbols of fertility. The accidental cache of over a hundred sculptures from Sanghol, most of which depict the female in various forms and postures have been exhaustively dealt with by Art Historians, with emphasis on their physical form, sensuousness and associated with aspects of fertility and regeneration. Besides these well-known specimens there is also a singular, little discussed narrative panel from the site that has failed to attract the scholarly attention it deserved from Historians as well as Art Historians. It was found in-situ, at the entrance of a monastery at SGL 5, one of the more famous stupa sites at Sanghol, during excavations. The discussion revolved around the identification this narrative panel and its impact and significance in the construction of the socio-cultural identity of the Buddhist site.



Distinguished Lecture: The Dynamics of Social Stratification in China - A preliminary Socio-Political analysis.

November 24, 2016

Dr Ravni Thakur, Associate Professor, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi, delivered a lecture titled, "The Dynamics of Social Stratification in China - A preliminary Socio-Political analysis" on November 17, 2016.

This lecture explored the key features of the emerging dynamics of social stratification in China based largely on Chinese sources and surveys. At the theoretical level, the lecture examined the conceptual frameworks and analysis that Chinese scholars are bringing to the study of the subject and whether Chinese social strata can be now defined as class since the Chinese scholars do not do so and what the implications of these are for governance.

The lecture first examined the changing nature of social stratification in China and looked at the manner in which Chinese academics and researchers have studied the issue. and divided society into different strata. It then looked at the role of income and education inequalities and key factors for status inequality. It also briefly examined the role of the emerging middle class in China and finally ended by looking at the state's response to the increasing and visible inequalities in China.



Dr Ravni Thakur, Associate Professor at the Department of East Asian Studies, Delhi University delivering the lecture at Ajatashatru Residence Hall.

Distinguished Lecture: The Art of Describing: Redundancy, Transformation, Impersonation

November 26, 2016

Professor Margaret Olin, Department of the History of Art, Yale University delivered a Distinguished Lecture titled, "The Art of Describing: Redundancy, Transformation, Impersonation" on November 21, 2016.

The objective of the lecture was to showcase how an artist, describing a work of art, weaves stories about it that preserve its mysteries. According to Professor Olin, "the art historical description, however, uses scholarly methodologies to coax the work into giving up its secrets. Or so it might seem. But this assumption begins to unravel if one views the work of artists and art historians alike as performances. Both artists and scholars of art transform visual material using visual and verbal means." During the lecture Professor Olin examined visual methods developed by scholars of art in Austria and Germany in the early twentieth century, and verbal methods of describing which developed later in the century in art schools in the United States.



Professor Margaret Olin,
Professor, Department of
the History of Art, Yale
University
delivering the
Distinguished Lecture

Distinguished Lecture: Nathdwara's Artistic Legacy

November 5, 2016

Dr. Madhuvanti Ghose, Alsdorf Associate curator of Indian, Southeast Asian, Himalayan and Islamic Art at The Art Institute of Chicago delivered a Distinguished Lecture titled "Nathdwara's Artistic Legacy" on November 3rd, 2016.

The lecture explored the unbroken legacy of the traditional artists of the small temple town of Nathdwara near Udaipur, Rajasthan and the way in which they are negotiating today's India. Dr. Ghose talked about how these artists have maintained a tradition of painting on wasli (handmade paper), cloth and walls, within their family lineages going back to 18th and 19th centuries in many cases. She also talked about how some of the most important artists have emerged from this temple town, their influence on the development of the popular artistic traditions across India, and the importance of this artistic legacy which is increasingly under threat today.



Dr. Madhuvanti Ghose, Alsdorf Associate curator of Indian, Southeast Asian, Himalayan and Islamic Art, The Art Institute of Chicago Delivering the Lecture

Distinguished Lecture: Christian Missionaries and Faith-Based Development Aid in India, 1960s-2000s

January 31, 2017

Professor Idesbald Goddeeris, Professor of History, University of Leuven, Belgium delivered a Distinguished Lecture titled "Christian Missionaries and Faith-Based Development Aid in India, 1960s-2000s" on January 28, 2017 at Nalanda University.

This lecture discussed how faith-based development aid evokes varied reactions, arouses suspicion in our age of secularization and postcolonial sensitivity, but it also has its advocates, who for instance, emphasise that religion is an important aspect of people's daily lives worldwide, especially in those areas where development practitioners are active. Professor Idesbald also talked about a current project which aims to explore the particularities of Christian development aid, analyze how they evolved in the post-war period, and understand if and how they played a part in its effectiveness.



Professor Idesbald Goddeeris, Professor of History, University of Leuven delivering the Distinguished Lecture

SBS Special Lecture: Dharma Patanjala: A Saiva Scripture from Ancient Java

February 1, 2017

Dr. Andrea Acri, Maître de Conférences in Tantric Studies at École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris delivered a lecture in the School of Buddhist Studies Special Lecture series titled "Dharma Patanjala: A Saiva Scripture from Ancient Java" on January 31, 2017.

This lecture explored the Dharma Pātañjala which is an Old Javanese-Sanskrit Śaiva scripture transmitted through a single palm- leaf codex of West Javanese origin dating to before the 15th century AD. Dr. Andrea explained that the text fills a gap in our knowledge of Śaiva theology and philosophy in pre-Islamic Indonesia and also casts light on the origin and development of Śaivism in the Indian Subcontinent. The author of the Dharma Pātañjala adopted a variety of Pātañjala aṣṭāṅgayoga instead of the Śaiva ṣaḍaṅgayoga that is common in other Old Javanese texts, and attuned it to a Śaiva doctrinal framework. When elaborating his hybrid system, the author followed a commentarial tradition to the Sanskrit Yogasūtras that is closely related, yet not identical, to that of the Yogasūtrabhāṣya.

In the course of his talk, Dr Acri launched the second (South Asian) edition of his monograph Dharma

Patanjala: A Saiva Scripture from Ancient Java, published by Aditya Prakashan, New Delhi, in January 2017. The book presents a thoroughly revised critical edition, English translation, and study of the Dharma Pātañjala, whose doctrines are discussed in the light of related Old Javanese texts from Java and Bali, and Sanskrit texts from the Indian Subcontinent.



Dr. Andrea Acri delivering the lecture at Nalanda University

SBS Special Lecture: In Search for a New Orthodoxy-the Middle Path of Kalacakra

January 31, 2017

Dr. Francesco Sferra, Associate Professor, University of Naples "L'Orientale", Rome, Italy delivered a SBS Special Lecture titled "In Search for a New Orthodoxy: the Middle Path of Kalacakra" on January 30, 2017.

This lecture explained how in order to effectively meet the new socio-cultural challenges that had arisen around the eve of the second millennium (first of all the Islamic invasion in the Northern India and the revival of the Brahmanical traditions), the first authors of the Kālacakra sought to establish, within a consistent framework, a new Buddhist orthodoxy and to close the Buddhist ranks around the undisputed authority of the monastic community.

With a particular emphasis on doctrines, the lecture examined the strategies adopted by the first Kālacakra masters (in particular Puṇḍarīka, Vajrapāṇi and Vajragarbha, and those active in Nalanda and Vikramashila such as Nāropā and Abhayākara Gupta) in order to define and characterize Buddhist Tantrism as a whole and in particular the Kālacakra school in comparison with other Buddhist and non-Buddhist traditions.



Dr. Francesco Sferra, Associate Professor, University of Naples “L’Orientale” delivering the lecture at Nalanda University

SHS Special Lecture: With and Against the Sultan. Influences from Islamic Courts on the Vijayanagara Successor States, 17th-18th Centuries

January 9, 2017

Lennart Bes, Lecturer, Institute for History at Leiden University delivered a lecture titled “With and Against the Sultan. Influences from Islamic Courts on the Vijayanagara Successor States, 17th-18th Centuries” on January 6, 2017 in the SHS Special Lecture series.

In this lecture Mr. Bes, discussed how from the fourteenth century CE onward, south Indian states ruled by Hindu kings were strongly influenced by politico-cultural conventions from Muslim-governed areas. This development, Mr. Bes explained, was for instance manifest in the titles and dress of the rulers of the Vijayanagara Empire. As has been argued, they bore the title of Sultan and on public occasions they appeared in garments fashioned on Persian and Arab clothing. Both adaptations exemplified efforts to connect to the dominant Indo-Islamic world.

He further elaborated that from Vijayanagara’s fragmentation in the sixteenth century, new Hindu-ruled kingdoms arose. We may wonder to what extent those succeeding polities continued practices adopted from Islamic courts. With that question in mind, his lecture discussed royal titles and dress in four Vijayanagara successor states, based both on south Indian texts and works of art, and on records of the Dutch East India Company. It appears that these kings used other titles than their predecessors did and could wear several clothing styles at audiences. Influences now came from multiple backgrounds, comprising various Islamic as well as non-Islamic elements. Further, not all successor states followed the same conventions on titles and dress since earlier notions were modified in different ways, depending on varying political developments.



Mr. Lennart Bes, Leiden University delivering the lecture at Nalanda University

SEES Special Lecture: Plants, Society & Law

February 27, 2017

Professor Kanchi N. Gandhi, Senior Nomenclatural Registrar, Harvard University, MA, USA delivered a lecture titled "Plants, Society & Law" on February 24, 2017.

Professor Gandhi explained that plant species, unless adapted to particular habitats, are not confined to geographical borders of a country. However, laws of a country may prevent the introduction of invasive alien species, regulate the shipment of nursery and greenhouse plants, and minimize the impacts that invasive species might cause. He talked about why knowledge of species concept and of plant morphology, physiology, and reproductive strategy are essential to understand the ecology and environment of plants and to consider the regulation of plants for commercial use.

The lecture also covered basic the legal and economic issues pertaining to coconut, (*Cocos nucifera*) "congress weed" (*Parthenium hysterophorus*), dhatura (*Datura*), halophytes (*Salicornia*), orange-jasmine (*Murraya paniculata*), opium (*Papaver somniferum*); and tea (*Camellia sinensis*).

Professor Kanchi also talked about how species-based patents affected when the names of the relevant species change and shared insights from U.S. court cases on marijuana (*Cannabis sativa*) and tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*).



Professor Kanchi N. Gandhi, Senior Nomenclatural Registrar, Harvard University, delivering the lecture at Nalanda University

SEES Distinguished Lecture: Green Building Movement in India

February 18, 2017

Mr. S. Raghupathy, Deputy Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) delivered a lecture titled "Green Building Movement in India" in the SEES Distinguished Lecture series on February 17, 2017.

In this lecture Mr. Raghupathy, traced the journey of Green Building Movement in India and the role of Indian Green Building Council (IGBC), which is a part of CII. He talked about how IGBC embarked on this journey in early 2000 and today with over 4.48 billion sq.ft in terms of registered green building footprint India stands at no. 2 in the world.

He also shared that IGBC envisions that going green should become a way of life and we should go green in all areas of life including the place we live, work, study, play and the way we commute.

Mr. Raghupathy touched upon the strategies adopted by IGBC in facilitating a greener and healthier India and how it converted challenges into growth opportunities to make it a robust National movement.



Mr. S. Raghupathy, Deputy Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry delivering the lecture at Nalanda University

SEES Weekly Lecture: Water and Sacred Spaces-A Case Study of the Ellora-Khuldabad-Daulatabad Region

February 13, 2017

Dr. Yaaminey Mubayi, Visiting Faculty at School of Planning and Architecture delivered a lecture titled "Water and Sacred Spaces: A Case Study of the Ellora-Khuldabad-Daulatabad Region," in the SEES Weekly Lecture series on February 10, 2017.

In this lecture Dr. Mubayi presented a unique perspective to the study of water and human history. By focusing on a historically settled and culturally active region of South Asia, i.e. Ellora-Khuldabad-Daulatabad in the Marathwada region of the Indian Deccan Plateau, her talk sought to examine the ecological features of the region as underpinning the historical and cultural development of the political, socio-economic and cultural systems intrinsic to the area.

This area within a 10 km radius in Aurangabad district, is richly populated by historic sites such as the Ellora Cave complex, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Daulatabad Fort besides numerous smaller temples, pilgrimage centres, ashrams, Sufi dargahs and historic tanks (kunds). The theme for the region is set by the numerous water features, streams, rivulets, man-made reservoirs, temple tanks and historic state-sponsored

waterworks. The micro-watershed of Khuldabad Taluka, within which the study area is located, provides an appropriate context for the evolution of human settlements in the region since pre-historic times.

Dr. Mubayi talked about how water, an essential resource for the evolution of human settlements throughout history, has thus far escaped the attention of scholars of history in South Asia. She shared that contemporary research on water is largely on the examination of policy frameworks governing access to and distribution of water resources on the one hand, as well as fixating on the colonial period as a “watershed” dividing pre-modern water management systems from colonial and post-colonial policies seeking to control the use of water by communities.



Dr. Mubayi, Historian, Social Development Professional and Visiting Faculty at School of Planning and Architecture, delivering a lecture at Nalanda University

SEES Weekly Lecture: Conservation Importance of Serval and Leopard in South Africa

January 25, 2017

Dr. T. Ramesh, Postdoctoral Fellow, National Research Foundation and University of KwaZulu- Natal, South Africa delivered a lecture titled, "Conservation Importance of Serval and Leopard in South Africa" on January 20, 2017 at Interim campus, Nalanda University.

This lecture explored how spatial determinants of large and mesocarnivore populations indicate the ecological condition of the ecosystem, and provide a wider scope for conservation planning and management. Human interventions through the conversion of wetlands for farming have led to small disconnected patches of native vegetation within the matrix of inhospitable human altered land uses. This poses a serious threat to the survival of wetland dependent indicator species such as the serval in Drakensberg Midlands of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Dr. Ramesh shared how to address the effects of habitat fragmentation on serval space he used GPS fixes of collared individuals. Fragmentation indices were measured within the serval's home range and results showed that wetland was a key determinant for the survival and movement of servals in fragmented landscapes.



Dr. T. Ramesh, Postdoctoral Fellow, National Research Foundation and University of KwaZulu- Natal, South Africa while delivering the lecture.

SHS Distinguished Lecture: Deciding Who Counts-Hindus and Muslims in the Indian Census

March 24, 2017

Professor Peter Gottschalk, Professor of Religion, Wesleyan University, USA delivered a lecture titled "Deciding Who Counts: Hindus and Muslims in the Indian Census" on March 23, 2017 at Nalanda University. In this lecture Mr. Gottschalk, discussed how census operations in India are more than just an effort to take a demographic snapshot of its citizenry. He talked about how the census implicitly helps shape the identities of individuals and their understanding of their nation.

According to Professor Gottschalk, India's two centuries of subjugation to European imperialism transformed the way Indians viewed themselves and proved influential over the last seventy years of politics in independent India. The questions that governments choose to include in their censuses are not self-given hence they reflect the government's perspectives about the major social categories that influence social stability and governance. He also explained how historically these questions imply assumptions about not only the sub- categories that make up categories such as race, religion, gender, or class, but also about the nature of social categorization and belonging itself.



Professor Peter Gottschalk, Professor of Religion, Wesleyan University, USA delivering the lecture at Nalanda University

SEES Distinguished Lecture: Harnessing the Heritage in Shaping the Future

March 28, 2017

Professor Krishnamurthi Ramasubramanian, from Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB), Mumbai delivered a Distinguished Lecture titled, "Harnessing the Heritage in Shaping the Future" on March 27, 2017.

This lecture presented an overview of some of India's past intellectual tradition and scientific heritage as exemplified by various forms of arts and architecture, forts and canons, dams and water catchments, string and percussion instruments, as well as from the sophisticated techniques employed by them in handling various mathematical, and astronomical problems involved in the computation of lunar and solar calendars. Professor Ramasubramanian explained how by harnessing the long, rich and hallowed past of the country, we can march into the future with a completely open inquiring mind to seek the truth rather than getting caught in several skirmishes, which would in fact be defeating the very essence of education.



Professor Krishnamurthi Ramasubramanian, Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, IITB, Mumbai delivering the Distinguished Lecture

SHS Distinguished Lecture: Trends in South Asian Studies in the United States and Abroad

March 30, 2017

Professor Wendy Singer, Roy T. Wortman Professor of History and South Asian Studies, Kenyon College, USA delivered a Distinguished Lecture titled, "Trends in South Asian Studies in the United States and Abroad" on March 29, 2017.

In this lecture Professor Singer argued that South Asian Studies in the US is uniquely India- based with constant refreshing from South Asian scholars in the diaspora who travel back and forth. She explained that in 1956 India signed an agreement with the United States based on a Law—PL480— that provided wheat to India in exchange for payment in Rupees. That money enriched (in both senses of the word) US universities and libraries because they spent it on books, scholarships, and research opportunities in India. A new generation of students began to study Hindi and other Indian languages. The great libraries in Washington and Chicago built collections of books and manuscripts. And for the next few decades serious academics travelled to India to live and work and learn in India's archives, libraries, and highly respected universities. This was a remarkable transformation of American academics. She also talked about how this origin of South Asian Studies in the United States created a community of scholars that looked to their Indian professors, mentors, and, eventually, colleagues as the centre of Indian Studies.



Professor Wendy Singer, Roy T. Wortman Professor of History and South Asian Studies, Kenyon College, USA delivering the distinguished lecture.

SEES Special Lecture: Big and Small Tractors, Pumpsets and Transition-The Role of Rural Capital Goods in Green Revolutions in South Asia and Beyond

March 31, 2017

Professor Stephen D Biggs, Department of Development Studies, SOAS University of London, UK, delivered a special lecture titled, "Big and Small Tractors, Pumpsets and Transition: The Role of Rural Capital Goods in Green Revolutions in South Asia and Beyond" on March 30, 2017.

In this lecture, Professor Biggs talked about the role of rural capital goods in agrarian change and rural development over the last 50 years in some South Asian countries. In particular he talked about the spread of smaller engines (up to about 20 hp), that have provided the power for shallow tube wells, low lift pumps, boats, 2 wheel tractors, hullers, transport, etc. and the market institutions for custom services. He also discussed the decline in academic and policy interest in agricultural and other forms of rural mechanization over the last 40 years in the context of recent renewed interest in policies and projects influencing patterns of rural mechanisation and industrialisation.



Professor Stephen D Biggs, Research Associate at Department of Development Studies, SOAS University of London, delivering the special lecture at Nalanda University

SHS Distinguished Lecture: Indonesia and Greater India-Scholarly and Religious Knowledge Networks and Moral Geographies, 1880s-1990s

February 10, 2017

Dr. Marieke Bloembergen, Senior Researcher, KITLV - Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies, Leiden, Netherlands delivered a Distinguished Lecture titled “Indonesia and Greater India: Scholarly and Religious Knowledge Networks and Moral Geographies, 1880s-1990s”, on February 7, 2017.

In this lecture, she discussed work-in-progress of her ongoing project on ‘Indonesia and Greater India. Scholarly and religious knowledge networks and moral geographies, 1880s-1990s’. In this project, she explores, for the period 1900s-1980s, how, why and for whom, in Asia, Europe and the US, a predominant Islamic Indonesia became situated in ‘moral geographies of Greater India’ – or: moral and geographical imaginations of Asia as defined by one Hindu-Buddhist civilization, with its origin in India, and perceived to be superior to others.

She talked about how India, or Greater India was never far away for members of a generation of Indologists coming from Europe, and working in what is today South Asia, mainland Southeast Asia, and the Indonesian archipelago.



Dr. Marieke Bloembergen, Senior Researcher, KITLV - Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies, Leiden, Netherlands delivering the Distinguished Lecture

Field Visits

Field visit to Dooars: Understanding its environment in an interdisciplinary context and developing insights on human-wildlife conflicts

April 18, 2016

School of Ecology and Environment Studies (SEES), Nalanda University, organized a field excursion from April 11 to 17, 2016. Four faculty members (B Mohan Kumar, Sayan Bhattacharya, Somnath Bandyopadhyay and Prabhakar Sharma) accompanied 31 students to understand the environment of Dooars in the northern district of Jalpaiguri, West Bengal.



Forests and wildlife conservation areas compete with tea plantations in this landscape nestled between the Himalayan foothills of Bhutan to the north and alluvial plains of Bangladesh to the south. Wildlife, of course, do not restrict themselves to the boundaries of the areas protected by the Government, and often move through human habitations. The human settlements themselves are diverse, with substantial migrant Santhal labourers residing alongside indigenous Rajbanshi tribal communities. Ethnic Bengalis, Nepalese and Bhutanese populations are also substantial in the region.

Quadrats were laid out in the patches of forests on the bank of Murti River to determine floristic diversity, canopy cover and vegetation profiles. Rapid assessment of wildlife habitats in Gorumara National Park and Raimatang (parts of the Buxa Tiger Reserve) were conducted along with a visit to a local Animal Rescue Centre. Samples of water and macrobenthos were also collected.



The timber produce from plantations was calculated. Poaching is common and confiscation entails sufficient efforts from the Forest Department. People are allowed to collect non-timber forest produce and this is an interesting area for investigation.

The river beds at Murti and Raimatang was studied focusing on the rock types, boulder extraction from the river beds and socio-economic links of the local inhabitants with the hydrological system.

Santhal labourers settled in Lane 6 by the Batabari Tea Estate are generally unhappy about occasional attacks by wild elephants, loss to lives and properties and government compensations. The Rajbanshi communities, on the other hand, live in scattered villages and believe elephant intrusions to be auspicious. Culture and livelihood patterns play an important role in determining the local human perspectives on wildlife encounters and resultant conflicts, if any. The visit focused on building an interdisciplinary understanding on the physical environment of Dooars and developing insights on human-wildlife conflicts. Folk dances and tribal rituals underscore their traditional relation with nature and natural resources.



SEES Field trip to Ranchi: Students gain insights on Agroforestry Systems at BAU and ICAR RC ER

September 23, 2016

As a part of the course on “Agroforestry Systems”, seven Master’s students from the second year of the School of Ecology and Environment Studies went for a field visit to the Regional Station, ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region (ICAR RC ER), Ranchi and Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi (BAU) on September 16-17, 2016.

Faculty members, Dr. B. Mohan Kumar, Professor and Dean (Acting) and Dr. Prabhakar Sharma, Assistant Professor accompanied the students on the trip.



Students and Faculty at the Field Trip to ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region Research Centre

The purpose of this trip was to familiarize the students with the field experiments and laboratory facilities at the regional station of ICAR Res Complex for ER Ranchi and Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi; and in particular, the experimental/demonstration sites on agroforestry, intercropping, crop production plots including forest and horticulture species.

The students interacted with the faculty and researchers at the two institutions, visited the labs and field units and gained insights on the research and development of agroforestry, horticulture, green manures etc. The tour was guided by Dr. AK Singh, Head and his colleagues at ICAR RC ER, and Dr. MS Malik, Professor and Head (Silviculture and Agroforestry, BAU) and his colleagues at BAU.

The units visited include the following:

ICAR RC ER (16 Sep 2016): Agroforestry experimental block (agrisilviculture, silvopastoral and other trials), Medicinal/ Aromatic plants Block, Protected Cultivation Unit, Vermi-compost Unit, and Mango, Guava and Citrus Orchards.

BAU (17 Sep 2016): Visited agroforestry experiments including agrisilviculture, silvopasture, arboretum etc under the All India Coordinated Research Project on Agroforestry centre. Also, visited to labs, nursery, medicinal plant unit, seed production plots and the processing facilities at the College of Forestry, BAU, Ranchi.



Students and Faculty at the Field Trip to Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi

SEES field trip to villages in Gaya: Exploring traditional water irrigation system Ahars and Pynes

October 30, 2016

The School of Ecology and Environment Studies conducted a field trip to Jethian, Khiri and Chakra villages in Gaya district to explore the traditional water harvesting and irrigation system known as Ahars-Pynes on October 27, 2016 for first semester students.

Ahars-Pynes is a traditional irrigation system used in South Bihar. Students interviewed villagers and visited fields to know about current status of Ahars and Pynes. Students also explored water distribution patterns, current use of insecticides, pesticides and villagers' perception about its impacts on human health, the role of government policies and initiatives in the maintenance and functioning of Ahars and Pynes.



First Semester students from the School of Ecology and Environment Studies on a Field Trip to villages in Gaya

Comparative survey of three villages was done to find the impact of social structures on the above mentioned factors.

The trip was led by Dr. Aviram Sharma.



First Semester students from the School of Ecology and Environment Studies on a Field Trip to villages in Gaya

SHS Field Trip to Ghora Katora: Exploring relations between humans, nature and art

October 29, 2016

The School of Historical Studies organised a study trip to 'Ghora –Katora', Rajgir on October 23, 2016 as a part of the course "The Transformative Power of Art" taught by Dr. Christine Vial Kayser. The idea behind this study trip was to provide students a space where they can interact with nature and can learn to express their thought about art, aesthetics, life and its various colors more clearly and creatively. The students were asked to paint a picture, draw a sketch, write a poem, or use any other artistic means to express their feelings.



**School of Historical Studies
Field Trip for students from the
course on "The Transformative
power of Art"**

SHS Field Trip to Patna Museum, Bihar Museum and Buddha Smriti Park

October 5, 2016

The following write-up and pictures of the Field Trip have been contributed by Ms. Annalisa Mansukhani, School of Historical Studies, Class of 2018.

On October 1, 2016 as part of the elective courses: "Photography and the Making of Art History in Colonial South Asia," offered by Dr. Ranu Roychoudhuri and "Publics and Patrimonies: Heritage, History and Memory across Asia" offered by Dr. Sraman Mukherjee, the School of Historical Studies conducted a field trip to three sites in Patna - the Bihar Museum, the Buddha Smriti Park and the Patna Museum. This was to allow a deeper engagement with the field of museum studies and art history. After more than six weeks of involvement with seminal texts, the field trip served as an excellent grounding experience, putting to practice several concepts discussed in class. Beginning at the Bihar Museum, followed by a visit to the Buddha Smriti Park, the trip culminated at the Patna Museum with a guided tour of the premises.



Students at the field visit to Bihar Museum

The Bihar Museum in Patna, opened partially in August, 2015 and under construction ever since, is a space of 24,000 square meters on a campus of 5.3 hectares. The space of this museum was different in the way it sought to juxtapose the idea of a work in progress with timeless works of art. Though the eventual transfer of art objects from the Patna Museum would begin only later, the Children's Gallery of the museum had several incredibly interesting reconstructions from specific periods in history like the time of Mauryan Empire, with audio-visual interactive platforms for visitors to actively participate in crafting their own experience of the museum. A short cinematic screening was held to spread more awareness about the aims of the Bihar Museum and its symbolic presence as an institution of remembering and reconstructing the past.

The Buddha Smriti Park which was the next stop made for an entirely new understanding of the idea of what kinds of spaces a museum could occupy. Previously a prison during colonial times, the Park now contains relics within the Patliputra Karuna Stupa and an art gallery housing a wide range of art as replicas, photographic reproductions and originals. The architecture of the stupa was unique, different from what one would imagine a stupa to be like but it was this contemporary interpretation in glass, steel and wood that made the entire experience a thought-provoking, visual delight.

SEES Field Trip to Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary: Learning about field research techniques

September 30, 2016

The School of Ecology and Environment studies conducted a field trip to Rajgir (Pant) Wildlife Sanctuary on September 24, 2016. The purpose of the visit was to demonstrate data collection techniques used by researchers for biodiversity assessment. During the trip students were shown how to conduct sign and line transect survey for the assessment of mammal population in the area. The students also experimented with camera trapping and latest handheld navigational devices, which are the essentials of field research in biodiversity assessment and conservation.

A brief interaction with forest officials was also organised so that the students could learn about the forest and wildlife management initiatives taken in the sanctuary. The trip was led by Dr. Riddhika Kalle.



Students and Faculty at the Field Trip to Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary

School of Buddhist Studies Field Trip to Bodh Gaya: Understanding Buddhist Archaeology

October 25, 2016

Students from the School of Buddhist Studies, Philosophy and Comparative Religions (SBS) went for a field trip to Archaeological Museum Bodh Gaya, Sujata Garh and Maha Bodhi Temple on October 22, 2015. The field trip was conducted as a part of the course “Introduction to Buddhist Archaeology”, taught by Dr. Garima Kaushik.

The aim of this field trip was to introduce students to Buddhist Archaeology through the historical site of Bodh Gaya and other sites in the vicinity. During the trip students examined and studied various artifacts in the museum as well as in the historical sites. They also learnt about how to discern various layers that may be lying under any archaeological site just like the present site of Bodhi temple that has many layers under it.



SHS Field Trip to Vaishali

November 25, 2016

On November 23, 2016, students of the School of Historical Studies (SHS) enrolled in the elective “Transformative Power of art” went for a field trip to Vaishali where they visited the Archaeological Museum, Abhishek Pushkarini, The Lion Pillar or Ashoka Pillar, and Raja Vishal’s fort. The trip was led by Dr. Christine Vial Kayser a visiting faculty at SHS. The purpose of the visit was to elucidate Indian aesthetics in practical way, by comparing the similarity and difference between the Indian, European and Chinese art form.

The trip started from Abhishek Pushkarini or the coronation tank, which is located about a kilometer away from the town centre of Vaishali. It is surrounded by trees with steps leading down to the water and is a pleasant place to spend an evening. It is very close to the Lichchhavi Relic Stupa and the World Peace Pagoda. The tank is a medium sized natural body of water which was believed to be blessed with sacred powers. All the elected representatives of the Lichchhavi Republic had to undergo a ceremony before assuming office. During this ceremony, they were anointed with the sacred waters of the coronation tank which prepared them for discharging their duties with honor and justice.



Students at Vaishali during the Field Trip

The group then visited The Archaeological Museum of Vaishali, which houses the antiquities found during exploration and excavation around Vaishali. Established in 1971, it has four galleries. The first gallery houses terracotta objects like human figurines, Naigamesha, mother and child, Durga, Buddha's plaque, a plaque showing Bodhisattva's image and a female figure. There is also a stone Chhatravali, ancient moulded bricks and brick tiles on display. The second gallery has seals, copper coins, terracotta figurines of various animals, and other household items like wheel, rattle, dabber, beads, toilet pan of terracotta etc. Iron and copper implements and objects like antlers, bones, bangles, arrowheads etc. are displayed in the third gallery. The fourth gallery contains earthenware exhibits.

The next stop of the trip was The Lion Pillar or Ashok Pillar, which is the most popular tourist site in Vaishali. It was built by Emperor Ashoka to commemorate Lord Buddha's last sermon. It is located at Kolhua in Kutagarasala Vihara, the monastery where Buddha most frequently stayed. The pillar is carved out of a single piece of polished red sandstone and stands 18.3 m tall. A bell-shaped capital surmounts the top, crowned by a life-size figure of the Ashokan Lion. There is also a small tank near the pillar. Known as Ramkund, it is believed to be holy.

The last stop of the trip was Raja Vishal's Garh or the fort of King Vishal, which is located to the north of Vaishali town. It is a protected monument maintained by the Archeological Survey of India. The current structure is a large mound-like platform 6 feet by 10 feet. It has a circumference of one kilometre with walls that are 2 metres high and a 43 metres wide moat. The Garh is believed to have been the ancient parliament of the Lichchhavi King Vishal from whom the name Vaishali has been derived. More than seven thousand representatives of the federal assembly used to gather here to legislate and discuss matters pertaining to governance.



The group of students and faculty who were a part of the Field Trip

SEES field trip to Vaibhagiri Hill: Exploring vegetation pattern and invasive species in the area

January 24, 2017

On January 22, 2017, students of the School of Ecology and Environment Studies enrolled in the elective “Ecology of Invasive Species” went for a field trip to Vaibhagiri Hill, which is one of the seven hills in Rajgir, to explore the vegetation pattern across the altitude gradient of the hill.

Students hiked the hill to observe the native species present and various invasive species thriving in the area. Dr. Bharath Sundaram led the trip and helped the students to identify the invasive plants in the field which are one of the primary threats to biodiversity and ecosystem functioning. Students were also introduced to various factors which induce the establishment and spread of the invasive plant species.



Students from the School of Ecology and Environment Studies exploring Vaibhagiri Hill during the Field Trip

SEES Field Trip to Sabalpur: Understanding the water scenario in the area

January 23, 2017

On January 21, 2017, students from the Class of 2018 in the School of Ecology and Environment Studies, who are focusing on water as a part of their class project went for a Field Trip to Sabalpur Village to understand the water scenario in the area.

Students engaged with the villagers to understand various water related problems faced by them, explored the different sources of water utilised for irrigation and drinking purposes. They also found out how villagers' dependency on different sources of water changes through the year. Additional information like seasonal crops, villagers normally cultivate, what role does technology plays in their life in terms of extraction of ground water was also collected. The aim of the students was to understand water use pattern in the area, various problems associated with water resources as well as to evaluate the scope of sustainability in the current water scenario.

In order to evaluate, compare and understand the difference in quality of water available in different areas, students also measured the depth of the water level in different wells and collected water samples from open wells and hand pumps at various sites to check for pH and electrical conductivity.



Students conducting the study during the Field Trip to Sabalpur, Rajgir

Nalanda students collaborate with students from Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, Florida for a field study on Marigold at the Mahabodhi temple, Bodhgaya

January 25, 2017

On January 24, 2017 students of Nalanda University's School of Ecology and Environment Studies conducted a collaborative field study with the students from Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, Florida, at the Mahabodhi temple, Bodhgaya. The title of the fieldwork was 'Marigold: cradle to grave study'. The objective of the study was to understand how marigold usage has been happening from the farming through its usage till the disposal at the Mahabodhi temple. Prior to the fieldwork, students were given some preliminary reading based on which the questions to be investigated during the field work were narrowed down. The students engaged thoroughly in discussions held prior to the fieldwork and tried to assimilate all the previous understandings in the area of study. The method of study was to carry out semi-structured interviews with different target groups such as the farmers, merchants, suppliers, temple management, tourists, monks, and the labourers. Students were divided into different teams and given different areas to work on and report. After the completion of the fieldwork, students from both institutions worked for another day to consolidate all the findings.

Here's an account of their experience by Deekshith Nevil Pinto, a student from the Class of 2017 at Nalanda University's School of Ecology and Environment Studies.

Who grows the Marigold supplied to the Mahabodhi Temple and how

The study started from the cradle which is the farms that grow the flowers. Interviews with the local farmers revealed that a very small portion of the supply is actually met by the local farmers while most of the remaining supply comes from Kolkata and many other parts of the country. The local farmers growing the Marigold near Gaya are few in number and are usually small-scale farmers who fail to compete with the large-scale farming in other parts of the country. The students learned about the farming techniques, difficulties of farmers, the fertilisers and pesticides used, marketing methods etc., from the interactions with farmers.



Students from Nalanda University and Eckerd College in the Classroom and during the Field Study- Pic Credit:Deekshith Nevil Pinto

The dealers of marigold supplied to the Mahabodhi Temple

In order to trace the footprint of Marigold from fields to garbage, a market survey was also done by the students. It was verified that the major source of Marigold in the market was mainly Kolkata and nearby states. There are two major dealers in Bodh Gaya who arrange for the Marigold for events at the temple and sell it on a regular basis. These two dealers further sell these to small vendors and shopkeepers. Temple Management Committee (TMC) takes the quotation and the contract is being allotted to the dealer as a regular exercise. There is a kind of oligopoly in the market with a few dealers dominating the Marigold trade and the smaller vendors struggling to compete.

The religious and cultural significance of marigolds

Further, the students tried to understand the religious and cultural significance of marigolds. Most of the vendors, tourists and even monks being interviewed were clueless about the significance of the marigolds specifically to the Buddhist rituals. There was little enthusiasm among the people to understand such significance. The simple idea that came out was that the marigolds are produced in a huge quantity in India and hence they were being used. Some also commented that maybe the marigolds resemble the golden flower from the heaven and hence they are being used. One of the monks from Bhutan commented that the choice of the flowers except for lotus (which has a high significance in the Buddhist culture) depends on what is available locally. There exists a huge scope for further study in this area.

The disposal of marigolds

The final step in assessing the farm to trash management of marigold was to understand the waste management practices for Marigold waste at the Mahabodhi temple in Bodhgaya. The students interviewed the Mahabodhi temple management committee, tourists, cleaning staff, vendors, waste handling labourers, municipality staff, etc., for a comprehensive understanding. The group was surprised to find that, despite being a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Mahabodhi temple did not have a well-structured scientific way of waste management. All the waste generated at the temple including the marigold is collected together and disposed at the city landfill area. The temple premises were very clean and dustbins were available at the required locations. However, there was no segregation of any kind and all the wastes were collected at a corner of the temple. The students strongly recommended improvements in the waste management practices of the temple.

SEES Field Trip to Noorsarai and Harnaut: Learning about Agroecosystem Management

February 19, 2017

Students of the School of Ecology and Environment Studies enrolled in the course “Introduction to Agroecosystem Management” in the Class of 2018, went for a field trip to College of Horticulture, Bihar Agricultural University (BAU), Noorsarai and Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Harnaut on February 17, 2017.

The purpose of this trip, led by Dr. B. Mohan Kumar, Professor, SEES, was to show the students the field and laboratory facilities at BAU and KVK. In particular, the students were shown the experimental/demonstration sites on crop production, crop protection and water and nutrient management of crop plants including horticulture species.



SEES team during the field trip to College of Horticulture, Bihar Agricultural University, Noorsarai

The students interacted with teaching staff of the college, visited the labs and field units and gained insights on the research and development of crop varieties, plant nutrition, bio-fertilizers and green manures. They also interacted with scientists and trainee farmers at KVK, Harnaut. The tour was guided by Dr. P.K. Singh, Principal of the college and Dr. Umesh Babu at KVK Harnaut.

The group visited the following units:

Nalanda College of Horticulture: Soil Testing Lab, Plant Health Clinic, Plant Breeding and Genetics Laboratory, Tissue Culture and Molecular Biology Lab and Horticulture unit, Scented Rose Block, Medicinal/ Aromatic plants Block, Protected Cultivation Unit, and Mango, Guava and Citrus Orchards.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Harnaut (KVK): Labs, Apiary Unit, and Seed production plots.



SEES team during the field trip to Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Harnaut

SEES Field Trip to Bihar Sharif: Understanding the effects of Urbanisation on Urban Agriculture

March 25, 2017

By Praveen Kumar V.S. , School of Ecology and Environment Studies, Class of 2018

On March 3, 2017, students from the School of Ecology and Environment Studies (SEES) enrolled in the elective Asian Cities in a Globalising World, offered by Dr. Aviram Sharma, Assistant Professor SEES, went for a field trip to Bihar Sharif.

The purpose of the trip was to understand and analyse how urbanisation is affecting urban agriculture by studying the case of Bihar Sharif which has been shortlisted to be developed as a smart city by Ministry of Urban Development as a part of its 100 Smart City Mission.

Bihar Sharif is the administrative headquarter of Nalanda District with a population of 2, 32,071 as per the 2001 census (City Development Plan 2010-2030). In the year 2002 Bihar Sharif was established as Municipal Council, and in 2007 it was constituted as Municipal Corporation.



During the conversations with the residents it was revealed that the inclusion of Baburbanna in Municipal Corporation (Urban Classification), on the one hand has helped it get piped water supply, road and street light facilities but on the other hand has also resulted in higher land taxes, increased labor cost and soaring property prices. While the increase in construction activities has resulted in reduction of cultivable land, urbanisation has also provided farmers a market for their agricultural products as well as jobs to the urban poor, especially women and senior citizens who are not trained in any construction work or are not skilled in other tasks except farming. Increase in demand for vegetables has also resulted in a shift in cultivation of cereals to vegetables.

SHS Field Trip to Bihar Sharif: Understanding Sufism in Bihar

March 25, 2017

By Theresa Mangalath, School of Historical Studies, Class of 2017

On March 4, 2017, students from the School of Historical Studies (SHS) and the School of Buddhist Studies, Philosophy and Comparative Religions enrolled in the elective Understanding Sufism, offered by Dr. Kashshaf Ghani, Assistant Professor at SHS, went for a field trip to Bihar Sharif. The purpose of the trip was to enhance the knowledge of Sufism in Bihar by examining the major sites that are associated with the life and times of the famous Sufi, Shaikh Sharafuddin Maneri.



Students from Nalanda's School of Historical Studies during their field trip to Bihar Sharif- Pic Credit:Theresa Mangalath

The first stop during the field visit was at the Baridargah where the tomb of Shaikh Sharafuddin Maneri is located. What makes this dargah unique is the presence of women within the sanctum which is not allowed in most dargahs of the country. Two kinds of people access the dargah complex. The first set of people visit the shrine for praying to the saint and healing purposes while the second set are the caretakers who manage the rituals and other activities of the complex.

The next stop was the Khanqah which is located a few kilometers away from the Dargah complex. There were fewer people here as compared to the Dargah, which showed that it is not as important as the Dargah for Sufi gatherings. Both Dargah and Khanqah have similar architectural patterns as they were patronized by the same Sultan. After visiting the Khanqah the group moved to the Amber Dargah of Ahmad Chiramposh, which is again located a few kilometers away from the Baridargah. This site does not have too many distinguishable architectural features. However, during the visit the group noted that it has many more women residents and pilgrims than the Baridargah.

The final stop during this trip was the tomb of Ibrahim Malik 'Bayya' , who served as the general in the army of the Tughlaqs. It is located at the top of Pir Pahari hill and is completely isolated from the town below, unlike the other sites. The monument is made up of bricks and shows a minimal architectural style compared to the other monuments. Within the inner dome where the tomb of the general is located, there is a facility to offer ones respect. This dome is surrounded by many other smaller structures together with a watch tower like platform which give a perfect view of the Bihar Sharif town.

SEES Field Trip to Sagar Island: Understanding environmental complexities through an interdisciplinary approach

March 30, 2017

The School of Ecology and Environment Studies at Nalanda University organised a four-day field trip from March 21-24, 2017 to Sagar Island, West Bengal.

Three faculty members from the School-Dr. Somnath Bandyopadhyay, Associate Professor; Dr. Sayan Bhattacharya, Assistant Professor and Dr. Bharath Sundaram, Assistant Professor-accompanied the students during the trip.

The aim of the trip was to get students to understand the various environmental complexities of Mangroves and other associated ecosystems by adopting a holistic and interdisciplinary approach. During the trip, the students looked into current environmental issues and potential environmental threats to the Island's biodiversity and communities.



Students during field trip at Sagar Island
Pic Credit: Arijit Banerjee and Sonia Sharma

Sagar Island or Ganga Sagar is one of the largest islands in the Sundarban Biosphere reserve. It is an Island in the Ganges delta, lying on the continental shelf of Bay of Bengal. It lies at the mouth of the Hooghly River which separates it from the mainland to the east. Sagar Island represents almost the entire livelihood spectrum of the Sunderbans, thus it is considered a model island of Sunderban delta.

Students not only explored the ecological aspects of the ecosystem but also observed the complex knitting of society and environment in a remote and ecologically sensitive Island. Different topics explored by the students included development scenario, ecology and ecosystem services, and conservation trends in the area. The group visited various places like Bhagabatpur crocodile project, mud flats and sand flats and Fish bone channel aiding Nypa (*Nypa fruticans*) cultivation which is used for purposes like roof making by local communities.

SBS Field Trip- Experiencing and understanding the elements of Buddhist Sites

March 10, 2017

Students from the School of Historical Studies and the School of Buddhist Studies, Philosophy and Comparative Religions (SBS) enrolled in the elective Buddhism, Gender and Archaeology offered by Dr. Garima Kaushik, Assistant Professor, SBS went on a four day field trip to various Buddhist Sites including Nalanda Ruins, Kesariya, Lauriya-Areraaj, Lauriya-Nandangarh, Vishal ka Garh, Vaishali Museum and Kolhua. The aim of the visit was to provide students a visual experience of different types of Buddhist sites that evolved over different periods along with the awareness of different landscapes that together contribute to the making of a Buddhist site and to make them understand the different types of structures that together constitute a Buddhist site.

While the trip was led by Dr. Garima Kaushik, faculty members from SBS-Ms. Patricia Sauthoff, Dr. Noemi Verdon, and Mr. Sean Kerr were also part of the group.



Students enrolled in the elective Buddhism, Gender and Archaeology during the Field Trip

Pic credit: Shatarupa Dutta

The first trip was undertaken on February 27, 2017 to Nalanda Ruins and associated site Goshrajan which is also in Nalanda District. The architecture and the various phases of construction at the site as well as issues of structural conservation and their impact on the understanding and interpretation of excavated structures were discussed during the trip. Ancient Nalanda's interactions with its hinterland were also explored at Goshrajan. The trip also included a visit to Black Buddha and the Xuan Zang memorial.

The second part of the trip commenced on March 2, 2017 and ended on March 4, 2017. The group visited various monuments and sites including Kesariya, Lauriya Nandangarh, Ashoka Pillar Site of Lauriya Areraaj before arriving in Vaishali. In Vaishali, they visited the Museum, Relic Stupa, Shanti Stupa, Koluha and Raja Vishal ka Garh.

Collaborations

Nalanda Signs MoU with Peking University to enhance Academic Ties, during President Pranab Mukherjee's recent China visit

May 27, 2016

Chancellor George Yeo and Peking University President Lin Jianhua signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for academic cooperation on May 26, 2016. The two institutions agreed to make a joint effort in establishing a Xuanzang Centre for Asian Studies at Nalanda University besides taking several other steps to enhance academic ties.

The MoU was signed in the presence of President Pranab Mukherjee, who was in China for a four-day visit. The event was organised as a part of the China-India University Presidents Roundtable hosted by Peking University.

In his address to Peking University, President Mukherjee said, “As far back as the 6th Century, seats of higher learning like Nalanda, Takshashila, Vikramashila, Valabhi, Somapura and Odantapuri had drawn scholars and cultivated contacts and academic exchanges with famed institutions of other countries in the region and beyond. “



Commenting on the signing of MoUs during the roundtable he said, “Today, I am happy to see central institutes of higher learning from India are signing Memorandums of Understanding for co-operation with partner institutions of China. I am confident that these understandings will create a collaborative platform for academic cooperation in the areas of research and education, joint seminars and exchange of faculty and students. “

Nalanda and Peking will take several other steps to strengthen academic ties as a part of the MoU. Both institutions will develop exchange programs and collaboration; promote exchange of relevant information concerning teaching development and scientific research; encourage exchange of visits of faculty members and encourage scholar/student exchange for research and study.

Speaking on this occasion, Chancellor Yeo said, “This MoU will further strengthen our already existing ties with Peking University and also help build even greater understanding between two ancient civilizations”

President Lin Jianhua said, “The Xuanzang Centre for Asian Studies is an important step in building closer relations between the two universities.”

Nalanda University Governing Board Member Professor Wang Bangwei, who is also the Director of the Institute of Oriental Studies and Oriental Literature Research Center at Peking University, was also present at the event along with Vice Chancellor, Dr. Gopa Sabharwal.

Nalanda Signs MoU with Bihar Heritage Development Society for Rajgir Archaeological Survey Project

September 21, 2016

Vice Chancellor Dr. Gopa Sabharwal and Mr. Chaitanya Prasad, Chief Executive Officer, Bihar Heritage Development Society cum Principal Secretary, Ministry of Art, Culture and Youth, Government of Bihar signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Rajgir Archaeological Survey Project (RASP) on September 21, 2016. The MoU was signed in the presence of Mr. Shiv Chandra Ram, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Art, Culture and Youth, Government of Bihar.



Memorandum of Understanding to conduct Rajgir Archaeological Survey Project being signed in the presence of Mr. Shiv Chandra Ram, Minister of Art, Culture and Youth, Government of Bihar

The project aims to do an archaeological survey of Rajgir to better understand the archaeological landscape of this historical city through available antiquarian remains. RASP will examine the multi-phased and multi-layered development of Rajgir as an urban, political and religious centre.

During the event, the Vice Chancellor said that multiple workshops will be held as part of the survey and the students and faculty members of the University will be encouraged to be part of this project. The findings of the project will be documented in the form of a monograph. Mr. Bijoy Kumar Choudhary, Executive Director of Bihar Heritage Development Society and Mr. K. Chandramoorthi, Finance Officer cum Officiating Registrar, Nalanda University were present during the event.

Nalanda to sign MoU with Universitas Sebelas Maret

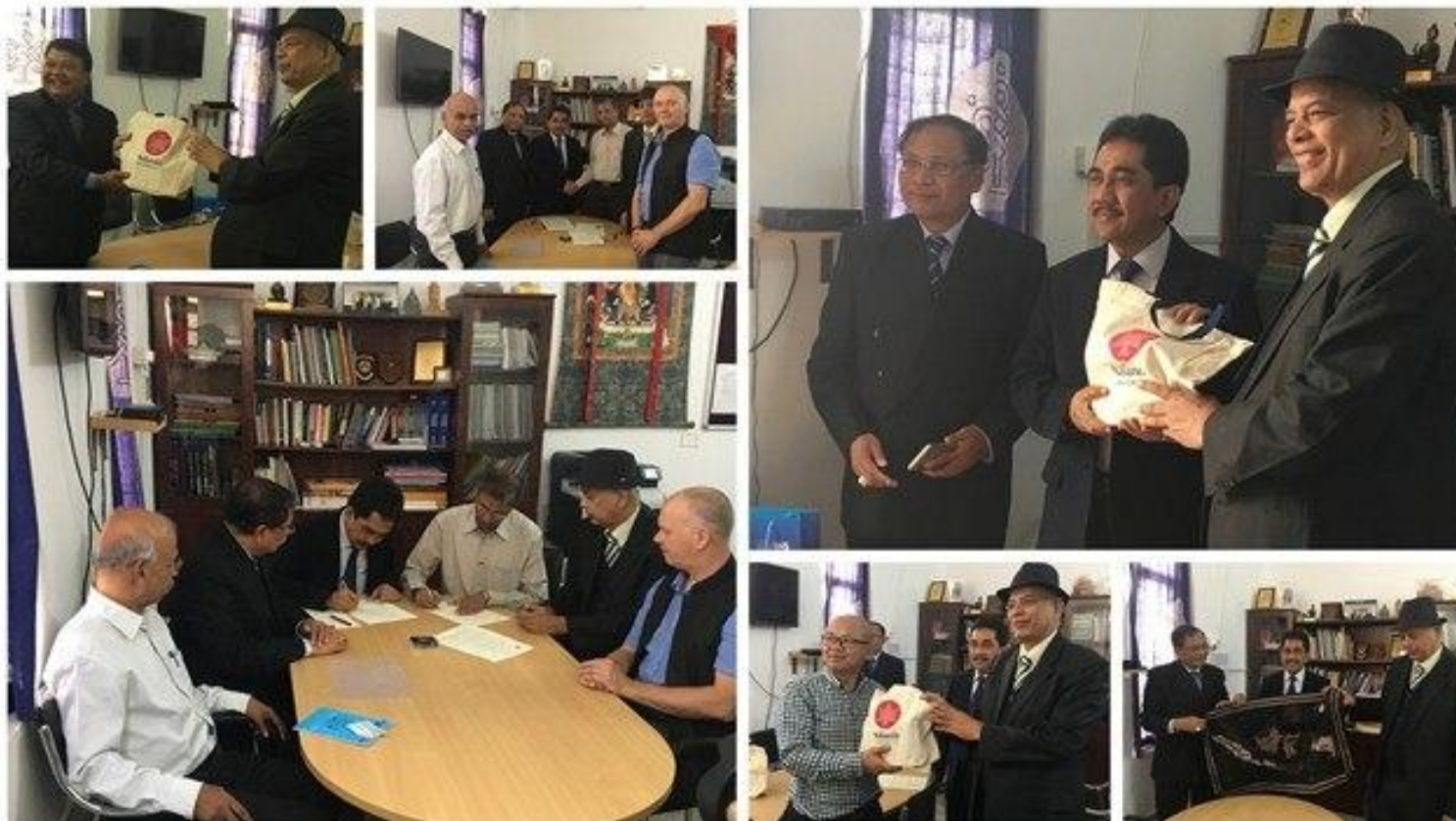
November 10, 2016

On November 9, 2016, Mr. K.Chandramoorthi, Officiating Registrar cum Finance Officer, Nalanda University and Professor Widodo Muktiyo, Vice Rector, Universitas Sebelas Maret, Indonesia signed a document to initiate a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Academic Cooperation between the two universities. They signed the document during the visit of a three member delegation from Universitas Sebelas Maret, for preliminary discussions with NU officials, senior Professors and Deans.

The MoU will include development of mutually beneficial academic programmes and courses, exchange of academic staff and research assistants for the purpose of teaching and research and exchange of documentation, pedagogical information, library resource sharing and research materials.

The delegation included Professor Widodo Muktiyo, Professor Sahid Teguh Widodo and Professor H. Suntoro Wongso Atmojo. They were accompanied by Professor Iwan Pranoto, cultural attaché for the Indonesian Embassy in New Delhi, India. Professor Pankaj Mohan, Dean School of Historical Studies, Professor B. Mohan Kumar, Acting Dean School of Ecology and Environment and Professor Max Deeg, Visiting Scholar at Nalanda University were present during the event.

Universitas Sebelas Maret is an Indonesian public university officially founded on March 11, 1976 in the suburban area of Surakarta, Central Java, Indonesia. It is also known as UNS or UNS Solo.



Delegation from Universitas Sebelas Maret with Nalanda University officials and faculty

Community News

Dean SHS, Aditya Malik Participates in the Inspired Teachers In- Residence Programme at Rashtrapati Bhavan in Delhi

April 29, 2016

Professor Aditya Malik, Dean, School of Historical Studies at Nalanda University, participated in the Inspired Teachers In-Residence Programme initiated by the President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee from 22-29 April. The Inspired Teachers In-Residence Programme was begun in 2015 with 31 university teachers who were nominated from Central Universities all over India to reside at Rashtrapati Bhavan and participate in a week-long series of meetings and events. This year the Inspired Teachers In-Residence Programme was also opened to National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPERs), Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs), Schools of Planning and Architecture (SPAs) and Nalanda University. This year 13 teachers were invited for this programme.



According to the concept note provided by the President's office for the Inspired Teachers In-Residence Programme:

"The educational renaissance in India will take place by listening to, and learning from Inspired Teachers. These teachers trigger an insatiable desire among the students to learn, explore, and push the frontiers of knowledge. They understand that thinking, knowledge, education and learning are inter-linked. They help students understand social realities, and link nature, society, culture and institutions

while disseminating knowledge. They encourage creativity, innovation and accept disagreements as a part of the process of learning. They recognize the potential of their students and bring out the best amongst them. They create a learning eco-system for internalization of knowledge and values. They mentor their students to achieve personal and collective goals for the betterment of the society and the nation."



Dr Sayan Bhattacharya delivers a lecture at Asian Researchers' Symposium on sustainable development at University of Indonesia

April 28, 2016

Dr Sayan Bhattacharya, Assistant Professor, School of Ecology and Environment Studies, Nalanda University delivered a lecture at the recently concluded Asian Researchers' Symposium 2016 organised by Universitas Indonesia (University of Indonesia).

The Asian Researchers Symposium was held from 24th to 27th April, 2016 to initiate international joint research collaboration for shaping sustainable world development. Researchers from many prominent universities from Japan, Taiwan, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Philippines were invited to present papers and exchange their research findings for collaborative research.



On this occasion, an abstract volume was also published and a few selected full papers were published in a book with ISBN number. Dr. Bhattacharya is the only Indian whose full research paper was selected and published in the book with ISBN number.

After the conference, Dr. Bhattacharya also visited the School of Natural Sciences (Chemistry, Biology and Geography Units), Department of Climate Change and Disaster Management Units in University of Indonesia. He interacted with the professors of the schools on different research perspectives which include ecosystem-based adaptations, climate change status in Indonesia, forestry disasters in the Indonesian Islands and biodiversity conservation issues in Sumatra.

Nalanda Student at Recycle 2016: International Conference on Waste Management

April 30, 2016

Deekshith Nevil Pinto, a student of the School of Ecology and Environment Studies, presented his paper titled "Pollution control policies and technologies contributing to industrial ecology: case study of the distilleries in Karnataka" at RECYCLE 2016: International Conference on Waste Management, organised by the Department of Civil Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, on April 1-2, 2016.

The paper has been co-authored by Chinmaya Delampady, from Mangalore Chemicals and Fertilizers, Mangalore, Vishnu Sharma. A, and Sanjith S Anchan of Department of Civil Engineering, MIT, Manipal University, Manipal. The paper discusses the concept of 'Industrial Ecology' and how the pollution control policies and technologies for the distillery spent wash (DSW) are leading to an interdependence among different industrial and agricultural set-ups in Karnataka. In the study, 38 distillery units operating in Karnataka were analysed with respect to distribution, capacity, DSW generation and treatment. The paper gives a complete overview of distillery industry in Karnataka, their performance in terms of DSW generation and treatment.



The two-day conference at IIT, Guwahati held on April 1-2, 2016 was to create awareness on Waste Management and encourage academicians to come up with solutions for the problems in waste management. There were presentations by researchers and research scholars from across the globe. The conference had keynote talks from Prof. Amiya Kumar Sahu, President, National Solid Waste Authority of India (NSWAI), Prof. G. Krishnamoorthy, San Diego State University, USA, Prof. Babu J Alappat, IIT Delhi, Prof. Ranjith Dissanayake, University of Peradeniya Srilanka, and Prof. M Narayana Rao Emeritus Professor, JNTU.

Deekshith's presentation received positive remarks from the chair persons and the audience. The abstract of the paper has already been published in the Conference Proceedings and the paper is currently under review for publication in either ELSEVIER Journal Procedia Environmental Sciences or a Springer journal.

Nalanda Student at the 3rd Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation

April 20, 2016

Saket Agasti, a student of the School of Ecology and Environment Studies, participated at The 3rd Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation held at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi from April 12 to 14, 2016 as delegate and contributed in suggesting a proposal for zero-poaching to Tiger Range Countries.

Chancellor George Yeo, who is a council member of Global Tiger Initiative, was also present at the inaugural session of the conference.



This conference was held to "review and endorse the national and global priorities relating to the Global Tiger Recovery Programme (GTRP) for the next implementation phase." Held under the aegis of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change in India the conference was attended by ministers and government officials from all 13 tiger range countries (TRCs): Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The conference was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Speaking on the occasion he said, "For the Tiger Range

Countries, a viable tiger population undoubtedly symbolises a mitigation strategy for climate change. This will create a huge carbon sink in the form of tiger bearing forests."

According to the conference website, "The status of wild tiger across Tiger Range Countries (TRCs) continues to remain endangered. Though there have been some gains on this front during the last few years as seen in the population build up in some TRCs, the global scenario is a cause for major concern. Tigers have become locally extinct in some TRCs and the status of prey as well as the habitat has declined in many."



Nalanda Bids Farewell to its Pioneer Batch

May 20, 2016

The University bid Farewell to its Pioneer Batch (2014-16) of Masters students from the School of Ecology and Environment Studies and the School of Historical Studies, at the end of the spring term.

An official farewell dinner was hosted by the Vice Chancellor Dr. Gopa Sabharwal on May 17, 2016 at Tathagat Residence Hall. Speaking on the occasion Dr. Sabharwal said, "It has been an emotional journey for all of us. The first batch of any university is special and contributes in building the spirit of the University. We will always have fond memories of this special group of students and we wish them all the best."



Besides the official dinner the Pioneers also had many informal get-togethers and dinners and lunches with faculty and students after the exam week ended on May 13, 2016. The Pioneers also got a send-off at Tathagat Residence Hall where they cut a cake on May 13.

The Pioneers will be back at the University in August when they will receive their degrees from the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee at their convocation.

Professor Aditya Malik gets a contract with one of Europe's oldest and most prestigious publishers for his forthcoming book

May 31, 2016

Professor Aditya Malik, the Dean of the School of Historical Studies at Nalanda University has been offered a contract with one of Europe's oldest and most prestigious publishers, Walter De Gruyter (founded in Berlin in 1749) to publish his new book in the De Gruyter Open Access Series. His new volume is tentatively titled: Hammira: Inception of a History.

The specific focus of this book is on the story of the 13th century legendary Rajput chieftain Hammira, and the shifting religious and political meanings the narrative achieves in different textual, historical, and historiographical contexts, medieval as well as modern. The primary text that the book will analyze is the 1500 verse Sanskrit poetical work, Hammira-Mahakavya (HM) that was composed by the Jain poet Nayachand Suri in western India in 1401. Besides the HM, our knowledge of Hammira is also derived from a

number of other sources like inscriptions, Persian narrative and textual sources such as the Ghurrat-ul-Kamal of Amir Khusrau (14th century CE), the Tarikh-i- Firoz Shahi of Ziauddin Barani (14th century CE), as well as later Hindi and Rajasthani works such as the Hammiraraso of Jodharaja (18th century CE), Hammirahatha of Chandrashekhara (n.d.), and Hammirayan of Bhandauvyas (n.d.).



**Images of Hammira's fortress of Ranthambore, south eastern Rajasthan
-courtesy Professor Malik.**

While some recent academic studies have begun to probe the fluid boundaries of religions, this new work of Professor Malik's focuses on the relationship between shared social and literary spaces, and shared relationships in an historical and contemporary perspective while suggesting that there are ideological, historiographical, and sociological forces that support both the expansion and contraction of these spaces. In other words, such shared spaces are in constant competition with powerful narratives that push toward rigidity and fixity. They may be expressed through the historiographies of various interrelated oral "texts," including epics, ballads, and written poetical and historical narratives. Such narratives and ritual spaces challenge nationalist and imperialist accounts that attempt to constrain the existence of fluid movements.

Nalanda students at Summer School Organised by UNEP and TERI

May 27, 2016

Nalanda University students, Deepa Choudhary (School of Historical Studies-Class of 2017) and Dibyendu Biswas (School of Ecology and Environment Studies-Class of 2017), participated at a Summer School Programme held in TERI University from April 18 to 22, 2016.



**Deepa Choudhary and
Dibyendu Biswas
with Sara Castro
(Programme Officer,
SWITCH Asia, UNEP)**

The programme titled "Building Learning In Sustainability Science School-2016" was held in TERI University in association with United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and European Union to promote Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Pattern. The participants at this programme included representatives from various organizations across South-East Asian countries.

This five-day programme was aimed at "training and preparing stakeholders for the forthcoming sustainable development challenges by initiating dialogue and disseminating knowledge and skills on critical issues such as environmental protection, ecological security and resource efficiency especially in a rapidly developing country like India."

Deepa and Dibyendu also made presentations during the programme. Sara Castro (Programme Officer, SWITCH Asia, UNEP) also made time for a personal interaction with the Nalanda students.



Vice Chancellor chairs a session at the ADRI Silver Jubilee Conference

June 30, 2016

Vice Chancellor Dr. Gopa Sabharwal chaired a session at International Conference on 'Social Statistics in India' organised by Asian Development Research Institute (ADRI) Patna to commemorate its Silver Jubilee from June 24-27, 2016.

The Conference had an opening session by the Vice President of India Shri M. Hamid Ansari. Chief Minister of Bihar Mr. Nitish Kumar also addressed the audience in the opening session.

The Vice Chancellor Dr. Sabharwal also chaired the Distinguished Lecture by Professor Ruchira Gupta, Visiting Professor at New York University and Advisor to the UN, organised on the second day of the conference. Professor Gupta's lecture was titled "Challenging SMART: Reaching the Last Girl — the Antyajaa."



The opening session of ADRI Silver Jubilee Seminar

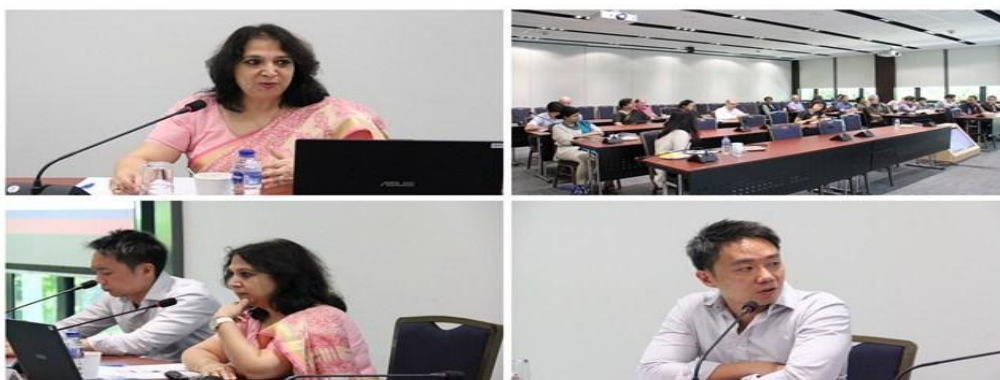
Professor Ruchira Gupta, who is also the founder of Indian anti-sex trafficking organisation Apne Aap Worldwide later also visited Nalanda University's Interim campus at Rajgir and went for a tour of the ancient Nalanda University ruins.

Founding Dean (Academic Planning) at ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute as a Visiting Senior Fellow

July 5, 2016

Dr Anjana Sharma, the Founding Dean (Academic Planning) of Nalanda University (currently with Delhi University) is being hosted as a Visiting Senior Fellow at Nalanda Sriwijaya Centre (NSC) of the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore. The month long fellowship from June-July 2016, is to work on publication of the volume "Cultural Heritage: Environment, Ecology and Inter-Asian Interactions" based on the International conference held by Nalanda University in January 2014.

The University and ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute are considering co-publishing this volume. During her stay



Dr Sharma also gave a public talk on Nalanda University titled "The Ruins and the University: Connections, Convergences, Communities". The talk was chaired by the Head of NSC, Dr Terence Chong.

Dr Anjana Sharma (top left), Founding Dean (Academic Planning) delivering the public talk on Nalanda University at Nalanda Sriwijaya Centre (NSC). The talk was chaired by Dr Terence Chong (bottom right), NSC Head

Prof. B.Mohan Kumar conducts a webinar cum seminar at the University of Missouri-Columbia

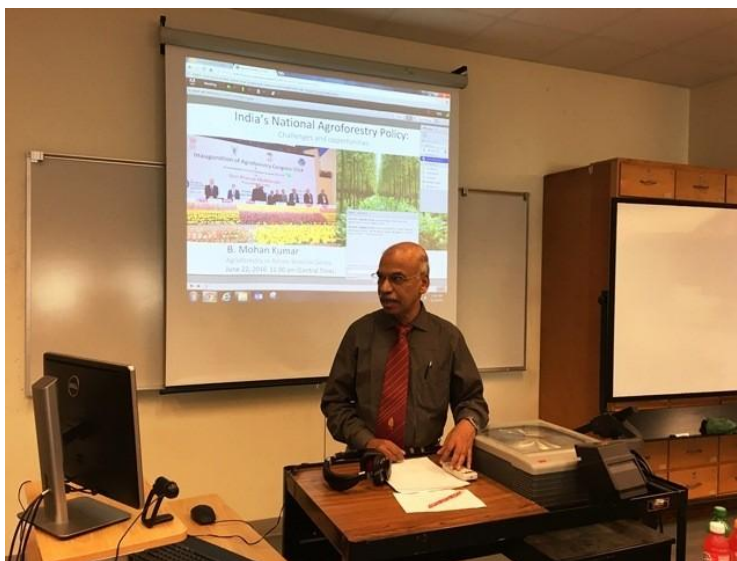
June 24, 2016

On June 22, 2016 Professor B. Mohan Kumar, the Acting Dean of School of Ecology and Environment Studies at Nalanda University, conducted a webinar cum seminar titled "India's National Agroforestry Policy: Challenges and Opportunities" at the University of Missouri-Columbia where he is a visiting faculty for the summer.

This webinar cum seminar had live as well as online participants and was a part of the Agroforestry in Action Webinar Series, a production of the Center for Agroforestry at the University of Missouri-Columbia, Missouri, USA.

Professor Mohan Kumar discussed the progress to date and challenges faced in the implementation of the National Agroforestry Policy in India since its adoption in February, 2014. He talked about how India is the first country to have articulated and adopted a comprehensive national policy on Agroforestry. He also elaborated on how the policy, overseen and implemented through a National Coordinating board and the participation of multiple ministries, aims to increase the percentage of tree cover in India while increasing farm incomes and reducing climate risk. He explained that the main strategies for achieving this are through

simplification of regulations in the forestry sector, land reform, research, new financing mechanisms and education and outreach.



Nalanda student leads Rajgir Heritage Walk

June 11, 2016

Nalanda University student, Shaashi Ahlawat, who completed her two years of Masters from the School of Historical Studies (SHS) last month, led the Rajgir Heritage Walk conducted on June 5. Rajgir Heritage Walk was launched during Rajgir Mahotsav in November last year with the joint effort of NU and Bihar Heritage Development Society (BHDS) under Art, Culture and Youth Department, Government of Bihar. At Nalanda University this initiative has been led by Dr. Abhishek Amar, Visiting Associate Professor at SHS. Ms. Ahlawat was trained by Dr. Amar and is currently working as Research Assistant for K.P. Jayaswal Research Institute, Patna Museum, Patna.



Rajgir Heritage Walk held on June 5, 2016

The theme of the walk held on June 5, was “Rajgir – Ancient to Modern” and covered the following sites: Ajatshatru Quila Maidan, Fortification wall of new Rajgriha, Venuvan, Pandu Pokhar and Veerayatan. Around 15 people joined in for the walk including locals and two monks from the Chinese Buddhist Temple, Nalanda. The main objective of the walk was to generate awareness about the multi-layered cultural and religious history of Rajgir among people of Rajgir and tourists. The walk also emphasised on the multi- religious importance of Rajgir and the dialogue between the past and the present.

At the end of the walk, a quiz on local history was organized and the winners were awarded with T-shirts from BHDS.

These walks are held on the first Sunday of every month and led by historians and archaeologists. BHDS also organizes heritage walks at three other places – Patna, Bodhgaya and Vaishali. The walks are to be led by the historians and archaeologists. There is no participation fees for these walks, however a nominal charge of INR 50 may be charged if the walk has to be organized on any other Sunday through special request made by a group of ten or more persons.

Nalanda Students at two-day workshop organised by the Electro-chemical Society of India at IISc, Bengaluru

July 3, 2016

Nalanda University students, Swarnika Sharma and Deekshith Nevil Pinto (School of Ecology & Environment Studies- Class of 2017), participated in the two-day workshop on Wealth from Waste & Pollution Awareness Online Monitoring, E-Waste Management & RoHS organised by Electro-chemical Society of India (ECSI) at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru on June 16 and 17, 2016.



Swarnika Sharma and Deekshith Nevil Pinto (School of Ecology & Environment Studies- Class of 2017) at the two-day workshop at IISc Bengaluru

The workshop also featured the 8th Dr S. Krishnamurthy Memorial Lecture series organized by ECSI. The participants included eminent scholars and representatives from various organizations & institutes dedicated for the Waste Management & Resource Recovery.

The workshop and the lecture series was aimed at training and awareness building towards scientific waste management. It was also aimed at building a dialogue between the scientists, industry leaders, entrepreneurs and research scholars on the issue of waste management and pollution control. The discussions were targeted towards developing sustainable techniques for generation of wealth from waste and resource recovery. Some critical issues discussed included Protection of Natural Resources, E-waste & its hazards, Dissemination of Hazardous Substances in the Environment, Policy making, etc.

Distinguished scholars of both academic and industrial background namely Dr P. Parthasarthy (MD, E-Parisara), Dr M.A.R. Iyengar (former BARC Scientist, Bengaluru), Dr Keshav Bulbule (Scientist, E-Parisara), Dr J.R. Mudakavi (Dept. of Chem. Eng., IISc), Dr Rajeev Deekshit (Proprietor & Director, Pyro Technologies), Dr N.R. Munirathnam (Director General, C-MET), Dr R.P. Dambal (CEO, Pollution Tech. AIDS), Dr H.P. Rudresh (Entrepreneur), Prof. E.S. Dwaraka Das (President, ECSI) presented their views and shared their research works. Deekshith and Swarnika also participated actively during the open discussion sessions with the scientists & researchers on different aspects of Environment Protection & Management.

Nalanda student presents paper on environmental challenges in transforming Bihar Sharif into a Smart City

June 27, 2016

Kundan Sagar, a Nalanda University student from the School of Ecology and Environment Studies-Class of 2017, presented a paper on environmental challenges in transforming Bihar Sharif into a Smart City at the International Conference on Climate Change Mitigation and Technologies for Adaptation (IC3MTA- 2016), held at Synod College, Shillong, Meghalaya, India on June 20-21, 2016. The conference was jointly organized by the University of Technology and Management, Shillong, Department of Geography, Synod College, Shillong, and IRD India

Kundan's paper was titled "Bihar Sharif as smart city: Metamorphosis plan and its challenges to sustainable development" and was co-authored by Abinash Mohanty (School of Ecology and Environment-Class of 2017).



Kundan Sagar presenting his paper on environmental challenges in transforming Bihar Sharif into a Smart City at Synod College, Shillong

The conference focused on many emerging and challenging issues on mitigation and technological adaptation to stand firm against climate change. Many intellectuals and researchers around the world participated and debated on possible approaches to climate change mitigation.

The presentation by Kundan was highly appreciated at the conference, by the co-presenters as well as the audience. The paper has been published in the proceedings of Conference and will soon be published in IRD India Journals after peer review.

Founding Dean (Academic Planning) delivers a Public Lecture at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore

July 15, 2016

Dr Anjana Sharma, the Founding Dean (Academic Planning) of Nalanda University (currently with Delhi University) gave a public lecture titled, “Cultural Heritage and Inter-Asian Interactions” as a part of the Nalanda Sriwijaya Lecture Series at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore on July 12, 2016. Dr Sharma was being hosted as a Visiting Senior Fellow at Nalanda Sriwijaya Centre (NSC) at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore for a month.

The lecture “explored questions about certain key ideas: Is my heritage your heritage? Is intangible heritage a country cousin to tangible heritage? Is culture singular, hermetically sealed or, particularly in the context of the long history of Asian civilisational dialogue, is it plural, porous and connected?”



Dr Anjana Sharma (top left), Founding Dean (Academic Planning) delivering the public lecture at ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore.

The lecture was chaired by Dr. Andrea Acri, Visiting Associate Professor at Nalanda University who was earlier a Research Fellow at Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre.

The topic of the lecture is a subject that Dr. Sharma became interested in during her time at Nalanda University (2011-2015) where she conceptualised and built the first two Schools of Historical Studies and Ecology and Environment Studies. Talking about this topic, Dr. Sharma says, “The Nalanda Project’s aim is to go beyond the image of an Asia uninflected by either Oriental, colonial discourse or its obverse, the post-colonial, uber-nationalistic one. Naturally then, the critical and conflicted subject of cultural heritage seemed to be the best way to explore both historical connections and historical ruptures—and to go beyond them.”

Dr. Sayan Bhattacharya Delivers Lectures at University of Indonesia's Conference in Bali

July 30, 2016

Dr. Sayan Bhattacharya, Assistant Professor from the School of Ecology and Environment Studies, Nalanda University delivered two lectures in the recently concluded International Symposium on Functional Materials in Bali, Indonesia. Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, University of Indonesia organized the conference on 26th and 27th July, 2016 in Bali, Indonesia.

Several speakers were present in the conference from leading institutes like University of Aberdeen, Kyoto University, University of Kansas etc. Dr. Bhattacharya delivered his lecture on the applications of nanomaterials in arsenic remediation. He explained the characteristics of his newly synthesized nanomaterial which can be used as an effective adsorbent for removing arsenic from contaminated groundwater.



Dr. Sayan Bhattacharya at the International Symposium on Functional Materials in Bali, Indonesia

Nalanda Students at the NSC-SOAS Summer Programme in Indonesia

August 5, 2016

Azad Hind Gulshan Nanda, Pritha Mukherjee and Shaashi Ahlawat- students from the School of Historical Studies attended the NSC-SOAS Summer Programme in Southeast Asian Art History and Conservation, held in Trawas, East Java, Indonesia from July 23 to August 2, 2016.

Here's an account of their experience by Pritha Mukherjee

The NSC-SOAS Southeast Asian Art History and Archaeology Summer Programme 2016 was spectacularly intensive and interesting at the same time. The lectures, or rather presentations, by renowned scholars such as Marijke Klokke, Swati Chemburkar, Peter Sharrock, Hadi Sidomulyo, Helene Njoto, our very own Andrea Acri and others made for an arresting array of information, materials and raised more avenues for questioning than I have ever encountered. The Programme focused on the Southeast Asian cultural

connections and a major thrust area was to look at the directionality of the exchanges and influences that one can see in this part of the world. The discussion revolved around the Ramayana(s) of South Asia, the Ramayana kakawin of Indonesia, the very Tantric Hanumans, and Bhimas and Garudas – motifs that were familiar yet completely reconfigured for their immediate context.



Clockwise from right: Candi Bajang Ratu; Candi Surowono; Pritha, Shaashi and Azad at Candi Tikus; Candi Jolotundo - on Mt Penanggungan; Candi Tikus

A three day trip to Blitar, in East Java, comprising visits to sites such as Candi Tikus, Candi Bajang Ratu, Candi Surowono, Candi Sawentar, Candi Kotes, the Panataran Temple Complex, Museum Airlangga, the Trowulan Museum and so on saw us grappling with the newness and yet an uncanny familiarity of the temple art. The architectural splendour of the mostly East Javanese temples and the vibrant reliefs that adorned their many tiers incited us to investigate and question any and every feature of the reliefs – be it the Arjunawiwaha, Garudeya, or Panchatantra stories being told, or the ornate foliage-like ornamentation.



Clockwise from right: Candi Surowono - The Arjunawiwaha Panel; Ritual bathing pond at the Panataran Temple Complex; Singhosari Temple; The Lone Dwarapala - found among sugarcane fields; Sculpture housed at Trowulan Museum

A hike to Mt Penanggungan was also scheduled, that took place on the last day of the Programme and that saw the enthusiastic participation of Azad and Shaashi. It was a gruelling yet satisfying sort of a “walk,” that took them close to the summit in a span of around 9 hours. The mountain is replete with verdant greenery and the remains of an almost-mythical number of religious sites. It is identified with the uprooting of the Mount Meru from India, and is thought to be the very peak of that mountain that got detached while being carried overseas (and over land – what a great story!).

Pritha chose to visit the erstwhile capital of the Singhasari dynasty, whose doings are still shrouded in mystery and myths – their temples still a puzzle to the modern-day historians, art historians and archaeologists. They visited places like Candi Badut – an exception of a Central Javanese temple seen in East Java (and let me tell you, the architecture is quite visibly different between the apparently small regions of Central and East Java), the Singhasari temple complex with the intricately carved third storey and the unfinished second and first storey (if they may be called so). Marijke Klokke, the supervisor for this group with an intimidating memory regarding the art, ornamentation and iconography of Southeast Asia, and even South Asia.



The view from the UTC Camous in Trawas - where the students were housed

Nalanda Student's Dalai Lama Fellowship Project nominated for "Emerging International Youth Leaders Forum"

July 30, 2016

Abinash Mohanty, a student of School of Ecology and Environment Studies at Nalanda University who is also a Dalai Lama Fellow recently got nominated for “Emerging International Youth Leaders Forum” which is organised by GEF (Global Environment Facility)". His project on “Empowering and creating more ethical community leaders along the Tonga community of Rajgir,Bihar” got selected at the screening at Berlin, Germany held from July 16 to 20.

Once the project is completed, Abinash will present the project at the same platform in Spring 2017.

Abinash also spent a fortnight (June 28 to July 14) at the 2016 Ethical Leadership Assembly (ELA) at Earth Rise institute of Neotical Sciences, Petaluma, California, San Francisco as a part of Dalai Lama Fellowship. ELA is a convention of new Fellows, along with those from past years, held each June near San Francisco, California. This was the sixth meeting of ELA.



Abinash Mohanty with other Dalai Lama Fellows (L), at Berlin (top) and with Mr. Marty Kransney, Executive Director Dalai Lama Fellows who is a Mentor for Abinash's project

Ethical Leadership Assembly(ELA) focused on the following theme: How might we deepen well-being while working across differences at the intersection of peace, justice, and ecology?

The core purpose of the ELA is co-creating a learning community that builds skills and plants the seeds of life-long commitment to social innovation and ethical, compassionate leadership based on universal values. Fellows across 34 different countries represented their respective countries. Abinash was one of the two fellows from India. Talking about his project and the fellowship Abinash said, "I thank the Nalanda Community for their support. I must specially thank Dr Pushpa Kumar Lakshmanan my mentor at the University since the inception of the project. I also thank Mr Kundan Sagar, Mr Ankit Singh Chauhan, Ms Himani Saini and Ms Tanushree Mundra for their unconditional support towards the project conception and designing."

Dalai Lama Fellows learn to work em-pathetically with triggers, patterns, and stories, to think and design systemically, find leverage points, and to discern the impact of their compassion-in-action projects, which address some of our most pressing global challenges.

Nalanda Students at the National Symposium on Electrochemical Science and Technology (NSEST) -2016, IISc, Bengaluru

July 15, 2016

Deekshith N. Pinto and Swarnika Sharma of the School of Ecology and Environment Studies, presented papers at The National Symposium on Electrochemical Science and Technology (NSEST)-2016 organized by the Department of Inorganic and Physical Chemistry in association with the Electrochemical Society of India. The symposium was held at the IISc, Bengaluru on July 15 and 16, 2016.

The two papers presented by the students titled “The Bhopal Waste Story” and “Ocean Acidification: Evil Twin of Global Warming” were a part of their ongoing research on Industrial Safety and Environment as well as Climate Change and Biodiversity. The first paper “Bhopal Waste Story” tries to highlight, using the case study of the Bhopal gas tragedy waste materials, how we tend to forget the root-cause behind any environmental crisis while continuing our political battle and tries to explain the necessary alternatives including the necessity to have legally binding post-disaster plans. The second paper on Ocean Acidification tries to highlight the current researched level, research gap and puts the understanding about ocean acidification into intense scientific scrutiny.



Deekshith N. Pinto and Swarnika Sharma at The National Symposium on Electrochemical Science and Technology (NSEST)-2016

The two-day symposium aimed to motivate the scientific community working towards electro-chemistry and environment to share their research works and spark new ideas. The workshop also featured the 13th Prof. S M Mayanna Endowment Lecture by Dr. Girija Suresh of Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakam and the 27th Prof. T L Rama Char Memorial Lecture by Prof. Vijayamohan from CSIR, Karaikudi. The participants included eminent scholars and representatives from various organizations and institutes working on the Electrochemistry and the Environment. Distinguished scholars of both academic and industrial background namely Dr M.A.R. Iyengar (former BARC Scientist, Bengaluru), Dr J.R. Mudakavi (Dept. of Chem. Eng., IISc), Dr Rajeev Deekshit (Proprietor & Director, Pyro Technologies), Prof. E.S. Dwaraka Das (President, ECSI), and Mr. Sameer Kongovi (Director, Kongovi Electronics) presented their views and shared their research works.

The participants appreciated and gave feedbacks on the presentations by Nalanda Students, who were also invited to be a part of ECSI in future. The papers are under review for publication in Journal of the Electrochemical Society of India, (JECSi) which is completing 60 years of continuous publication.

Nalanda University to hold a documentary film festival in association with Films Division from September 8-10

August 1, 2016

Nalanda University in association with the Films Division (Ministry of Information & Broadcasting) is organising MIFF in Bihar-a festival of selected films of Mumbai International Film Festival for documentary, short and animation films from September 8-10,2016 .

This films festival is an effort at expanding the horizons of knowledge for Nalanda students as well as inspiring and involving the local community in University events. Hence it is open for Nalanda University Community as well as the public of Rajgir and other neighbouring towns.

Besides films from India, this film festival will also showcase films from Australia, Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, Poland, Romania and UK. The inaugural film at the festival is Oscar nominated film The Little Terrorist, directed by Ashvin Kumar from India.

MIFF in BIHAR a festival of selected films of **MUMBAI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL** for Documentary, Short & Animation Films at **NALANDA UNIVERSITY**

Organized by



FILMS DIVISION
Government of India
&
NALANDA UNIVERSITY



Poster of the Film Festival

Chancellor Yeo spends time with the University at Pre-Convocation Dinner, Farewell and Administrative Staff meeting

August 31, 2016

Chancellor George Yeo arrived at Rajgir prior to the Convocation and participated in the pre-convocation dinner held on August 26 for the pioneering batch, their family members, the University Community and other distinguished guests.

On this occasion, Chancellor Yeo also unveiled the Convocation Brochure that carries details of the Academic Regalia being adopted by the University, Convocation Procession and profiles of the pioneering batch.



Chancellor Yeo unveiling the Convocation Brochure

Some members of the Governing Board, including Founding Chancellor Professor Amartya Sen, Lord Meghnad Desai and Professor Susumu Nakanishi were present on this occasion. Former Foreign minister of Indonesia and Member of Nalanda University's International Advisory Panel Dr. Hassan Wirajuda was also present.



Distinguished guests at the Pre-Convocation Dinner

Nalanda University's first private donors Mrs. Ursula Joshi and Dr. Rajendra Kumar Joshi were also represented at the dinner by Mr. Vipul Joshi and Mr. Abhishek Joshi.



Chancellor Yeo with students at the Pre-Convocation Dinner

On August 28, the Pioneering students were given a farewell by the Class of 2017. The Chancellor and Vice Chancellor bid them adieu and the evening ended with the Pioneering students singing the song "We shall overcome" with Faculty, Vice Chancellor and Chancellor-a song that they had sung during Rajgir Mahotsav in their first year at the University.



Chancellor Yeo at the Farewell Dinner of Pioneering Batch

Earlier in the day, the Chancellor also met the administrative staff of the University for tea and thanked them for their work during the days leading up to the Convocation.



Chancellor Yeo meeting Administrative Staff at the University

India's Independence Day and South Korea's Liberation Day Celebrated at Nalanda University on August 15, 2016

August 16, 2016

Nalanda University celebrates national days of all countries where its students come from. On August 15 it celebrated India's Independence Day and South Korea's Liberation Day.

The day started at 8.30 am with National Liberation Day celebrations of South Korea, when Min Kyung Sun, a Korean Student from the School of Buddhist Studies raised the Korean flag at Tathagat Residential Hall and shared details on the relevance of the day.

Later at 10 am the University Community got together at the Interim Campus. When students from 13 different countries including India started singing the Indian national anthem with the Indian national flag waving in full glory, what struck everyone was the oneness of humanity and the commitment of the University to follow the Nalanda way of "humankind living in harmony with each other".



India's Independence Day Celebrations at Nalanda University's Interim Campus

Following the University's tradition of giving the opportunity of hoisting the Indian National Flag to two students of the new batch, Aniket Prashant and Tatsama Motilal hoisted the Indian National Flag in the presence of Vice Chancellor Dr. Gopa Sabharwal. This was followed by a short speech by the Vice

Chancellor who congratulated everyone on the occasion.

The music society of the University Dhvani gave a fusion musical performance and the dramatics society performed on poems of Tagore and Baba Nagarjuna.



Min Kyung Sun, a Korean Student from the School of Buddhist Studies raised the Korean flag at Tathagat Residential Hall

Class of 2017 welcome the new batch at Aarabdh-The Freshers' Night

September 25, 2016

The Class of 2017 welcomed the Class of 2018 in a fun-filled event at Aarabdh-The Freshers' Night on September 23, 2016. The event started at 6:00 pm at Rajgir International Conventional Center (RICC) with a Vietnamese song followed by a poetry recital and flute performance by a first year student who mesmerized the audience with a poem about Nalanda's past and present. Other solo performances by Freshers included a classical song and a classical dance (Kathak). The Freshers also gave a group performance that was a fusion of comedy and dance. The music society of Nalanda Dhvani left the audience spell bound with folk songs of Maharashtra, Bengal and Orissa. The evening ended with a duet by two students from the Class of 2017.



Aarabdh-The Freshers' Night-2016

Fresher were also provided a special Selfie Corner where props of different movies and T.V. serials were created. A special dinner was also prepared by the Seniors for the Freshers.

Nalanda Community celebrates Eid-Al-Adha and Onam in September

September 21, 2016

Nalanda University's close-knit Community celebrates most festivals together and these occasions give everyone a chance to know about different cultures and traditions besides getting everyone together.

In September, Nalanda Family celebrated Eid-Al-Adha and Onam. Eid-Al-Adha was celebrated on September 13 at Tathagat Residential Hall with students singing songs and celebrating along with faculty and administrative staff.



Eid-Al-Adha Celebrations at Tathagat Residential Hall

Onam was celebrated for the first time in the University on Saturday, September 18 with same joy as it is celebrated in the state of Kerala.

The event was held at Ajatashatru Residential Hall where all the Nalanda Family was gathered. The event started with dramatic narration of Mahabali's story by Aditya Chaturvedi, a student of the School of Historical Studies.



Onam Celebrations at Ajatshatru Residential Hall

The celebration move further with party games like Musical chair, Lemon race, Sack race in which students, faculty and administrative staff participated. The highlight of the evening was a folk dance of State of Kerala, which was performed by a group of student. The event ended up with a sumptuous South Indian style dinner, where traditional dishes from Kerala were served on Banana Leaves laid on the ground.

Vice Chancellor pays tribute to Ven. Anagarika Dhammapala on his 152nd Birth Anniversary at Mahabodhi Society of India

September 20, 2016

Vice Chancellor Dr. Gopa Sabharwal paid tribute to Ven. Anagarika Dhammapala on his 152nd Birth Anniversary on 17th September at the Buddhagaya Centre of Mahabodhi Society of India.

The prayers on the occasion were led by Ven. K Medhankara Thero, the Joint Secretary & Bhikku-In-Charge of Mahabodhi Society of India's Buddhagaya Centre who paid his tributes to Ven. Anagarika Dhammapala the Sri Lankan Buddhist revivalist, writer and founder of Mahabodhi Society of India.



Vice Chancellor Dr. Gopa Sabharwal at Mahabodhi Society of India's Buddhagaya Centre

Professor Pankaj Mohan takes over as Dean, School of Historical Studies

September 2, 2016



Professor Pankaj Mohan has been appointed as the Dean, School of Historical Studies with effect from September 1, 2016 for a period of three years. He takes over from Professor Aditya Malik who has gone for a one year fellowship to the Max-Weber-Kolleg for Advanced Social and Cultural Studies at the University of Erfurt in Germany.

Prior to joining Nalanda University in January 2015, Professor Mohan taught courses in East Asian languages, history and culture at the Australian National University, the University of Sydney, the University of Copenhagen and

the Academy of Korean Studies (AKS), a Central postgraduate University in South Korea. He also served as the Dean of the Faculty of International Korean Studies at AKS for two consecutive terms.

Professor Aditya Malik gets fellowship at Max-Weber-Kolleg for Advanced Social and Cultural Studies in University of Erfurt, Germany

September 3, 2016

Professor Aditya Malik, has been awarded a prestigious fellowship at the Max-Weber-Kolleg for Advanced Social and Cultural Studies at the University of Erfurt in Germany for a period of one year beginning September 2016. The fellowship is awarded to ten international scholars only in a given academic year. The Max-Weber-Kolleg (MWK) is considered "a high-ranking research centre which forms an avant-garde institution of the University of Erfurt" with special attention to theoretical reflexivity, historical depth, and normative questions. The Kolleg is a research institute combining the features of an Institute for Advanced Study and a Graduate School. In 2008, ten years after it was founded, the Kolleg was chosen by the German Council of Science and Humanities as one of only nine Centres of Excellence for sociological research, out of more than 250 others. Amongst its noted fellows, past and present, are the sociologists Shmuel N. Eisenstadt and Hans Joas, the Indologist Sheldon Pollock, the historian Paolo Prodi, and the religious studies scholars Hans G. Kippenberg and Joerg Ruepke.



Above Left: Prof Aditya Malik with 'COFUND' fellows and administrative heads at the Max-Weber-Kolleg

**Other Pics: Images of Erfurt town with its historic, medieval buildings
-Courtesy Professor Malik.**

During the fellowship Prof. Malik will be working on a new book project tentatively entitled: Hammira: Inception of a History. He will also be actively participating in a weekly programme of colloquia, workshops, seminars and conferences involving an international body of visiting fellows, doctoral and post-doctoral students in the fields of sociology, history, philosophy, theology, religious studies, law, and economics. In 2015, the Kolleg received a large grant of more than 1.4 million Euros from the European Commission's COFUND programme. Professor Malik's fellowship is also funded by the EU's COFUND programme for research and innovation under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant. Besides travel, accommodation and research funds, the fellowship is also endowed with generous replacement costs for a visiting professor in the School of Historical Studies at Nalanda University for period of one year in which Prof. Malik will be a fellow at the Max-Weber-Kolleg.

Vice Chancellor invited as Chief Guest by Bihar Tourism at an event held to celebrate World Tourism Day in Rajgir

September 30, 2016

Vice Chancellor Dr. Gopa Sabharwal was invited as the Chief Guest at an event held by Bihar Tourism to celebrate World Tourism Day in Rajgir.

Rajgir is an important town on the Buddhist and Jain pilgrimage circuits and attracts many tourists. While the ancient site of Nalanda University has always featured as a must visit location for tourists, the new Nalanda has also started featuring on the itinerary of tourists. With the Nalanda Mahavihara now being granted the UNESCO world heritage site status, tourist interest in Nalanda University has increased remarkably.



Vice Chancellor, Dr. Gopa Sabharwal at the World Tourism Day event.

Dr Somnath Bandyopadhyay Presents a Paper at International River Symposium

September 30, 2016

Dr Somnath Bandyopadhyay, Associate Professor, School of Ecology and Environment Studies, Nālandā University, attended the 19th International River Symposium (<http://riversymposium.com/>) held in New Delhi during 12-14 September 2016 as a sponsored delegate.

The Riversymposium is a global forum for river managers, policy developers, scientists, consultants, students, NGOs, indigenous and community organizations and business and industry representatives. It is a flagship event of the International RiverFoundation (<http://riverfoundation.org.au/>), which champions integrated river basin management for the restoration, protection and sustainable management of the world's rivers. The principal sponsors of the event were The World Bank, the Department of Foreign Affairs (Australia) and the Brisbane City Council (Australia).



Dr Somanth Bandyopadhyay at the International River Symposium

Dr Bandyopadhyay presented a paper entitled “Towards e-flow policies for seasonal river systems through valuation of ecosystem services and biodiversity” in a session on Environmental Flows, chaired by Prof Gary Brierley. Co-panelists included Emeritus Professor Angela Arthington from Griffith University and Dr Alison Joubert from South Africa.

Dr. Sayan Bhattacharya Delivers Lecture on Photography in Academic Research at University College London, UK September 15, 2016

Dr. Sayan Bhattacharya, Assistant Professor from School of Ecology and Environment Studies at Nalanda University delivered an invited lecture during the international conference on Photography in Academic Research (September 8-9, 2016). The conference was held at University College London, United Kingdom and jointly organised by UCL Institute of Archaeology, The Royal Anthropological Institute and University of London, Birkbeck.



Dr. Sayan Bhattacharya, during the international conference on Photography in Academic Research at University College London, United Kingdom

Seventy speakers from 32 countries participated, delivered lectures and shared ideas in 20 panels and round tables. The speakers were from leading institutes like University of Oxford, King's College, University of Heidelberg, National University of Singapore, University of Cambridge, University of Lisbon, University of South Wales, University of California etc.

The aim of the conference was to provide a space of exchange, stimulating dialogue between social researchers and practitioners who engage with photography creatively and critically. It served as a platform for photography; encouraging its uses, analyses and practices in social research, expanding the possibilities of photographic practice beyond its current observational and illustrative uses within academia. The conference was for scholars and practitioners working in a varied range of cultures, contexts, and academic areas come together to share their perspectives on the use and representation of photography.

Dr. Bhattacharya delivered his lecture on the physical geography of the Eastern Himalayas. His lecture summarized the research works he has done in the last six years in different hamlets of the mountains, incorporating several perspectives of forest ecology, biodiversity, water management and emerging environmental issues of the Eastern Himalayas. The conference ended up with extensive discussions among the speakers and with the possibilities of potential collaborations between the academicians and the artists.

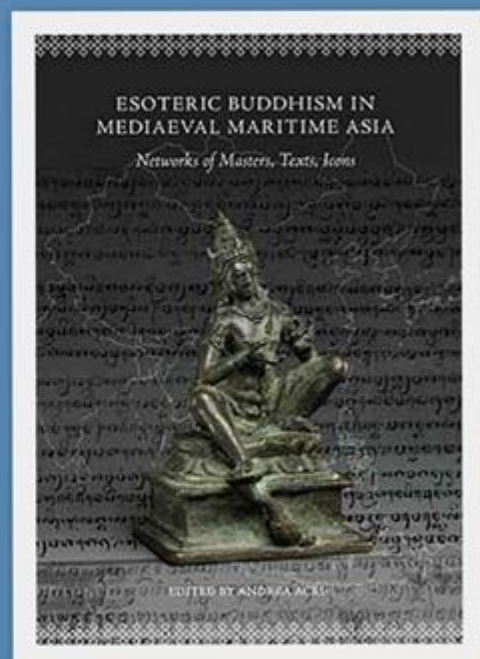
Dr Andrea Acri's book on Esoteric Buddhism in Mediaeval Maritime Asia released at SOAS University of London

September 20, 2016

Esoteric Buddhism in Mediaeval Maritime Asia: Networks of Masters, Texts, Icons- A book by Dr. Andrea Acri, Associate Professor at Nalanda University's School of Buddhist Studies, Philosophy and Comparative Religions was released at SOAS University of London on September 16, 2016.

The book has been published by ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute. More details on the book can be found on ISEAS Publishing Online Book Shop

*Esoteric Buddhism in Mediaeval Maritime Asia:
Networks of Masters, Texts, Icons- by Andrea Acri*



This volume advocates a trans-regional, and maritime-focused, approach to studying the genesis, development and circulation of Esoteric (or Tantric) Buddhism across Maritime Asia from the seventh to the thirteenth centuries AD. The book lays emphasis on the mobile networks of human agents ('Masters'), textual sources ('Texts') and images ('Icons') through which Esoteric Buddhist traditions spread.

Capitalising on recent research and making use of both disciplinary and area-focused perspectives, this book highlights the role played by Esoteric Buddhist maritime networks in shaping intra-Asian connectivity. In doing so, it reveals the limits of a historiography that is premised on land-based transmission of Buddhism from a South Asian 'homeland', and advances an alternative historical narrative that overturns the

popular perception regarding Southeast Asia as a 'periphery' that passively received overseas influences. Thus, a strong point is made for the appreciation of the region as both a crossroads and rightful terminus of Buddhist cults, and for the re-evaluation of the creative and transformative force of Southeast Asian agents in the transmission of Esoteric Buddhism across mediaeval Asia.

Vasantakumar Bellubbi a student from the School of Buddhist Studies, Philosophy and Comparative Religions, donates books to Nalanda Library

September 24, 2016

Mr. Vasantakumar Bellubbi, a student from Nalanda University's School of Buddhists Studies, Philosophy and Comparative Religions, has donated 25 books to the Nalanda Library.

Mr. Bellubbi had received these books from The Buddha Educational Foundation, Taiwan.

Vasantakumar is from Bijapur Bagalkote District of North Karnataka. He graduated from Nagpur University in 2016 with a major in Pali Literature and Buddhist Studies. Talking about what attracted him to Nalanda, he says, "There is a lot of suffering in the world and people are in search of peace. Teachings of the Buddha can help eradicate the suffering of humanity and the world. I want to create a link with other Buddhist friends of the world and I hope Nalanda will help me in this mission."



Mr. Vasantakumar Bellubi and the Nalanda Library

Diwali Celebrations at Nalanda University

October 31, 2016

Nalanda University celebrated the Indian festival Diwali on October 30, 2016. All the three Residence Halls (Tathagat, Ajatashatru and Maitreya) and the interim- campus of Nalanda University were beautifully decorated with Diyas (lamps) and colorful rangolis by the students.

The students also performed “Ram-Leela” (story of Lord Rama) where the Indian classical dance form Kathak was set to Sanskrit Shlokas to narrate the story of Lord Rama. Diwali is said to have originated from the festivities that the people of Ayodhya had indulged in upon the return of their King Lord Rama from exile. The city of Ayodhya was decorated with lamps on this day. Students and staff were also invited by

Professor Pankaj Mohan, Dean of the School of Historical Studies at his residence for Diwali celebrations.



The Nalanda Sriwijaya Centre-Nalanda University Internship Experience

October 25, 2016

The Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre (NSC) at ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore, launched the “NSC-NU Internship Programme” in 2016 to celebrate the long shared cultural past of Nalanda and Sriwijaya, the two globally renowned ancient learning centres and a fine example of inter-Asian connectivity over the past 2000 years. This programme is also a part of an ongoing collaboration between Nalanda University (NU) and NSC since the revival of NU. The programme provides an opportunity to two NU students every year to carry out an internship at NSC that last between six to eight weeks. This year Azad Hind Gulshan Nanda, a senior graduate student from School of Historical Studies, was selected as a pioneer intern under this programme and spent five weeks at NSC from June 20 to July 22. Recently, he made a presentation to share his internship experience with the Nalanda community.



Azad Hind Gulshan Nanda, student from Nalanda University's School of Historical Studies during his internship at the Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre at ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore

School of Historical Studies Student selected for Legislative Fellow Programme sponsored by US Department of State

October 22, 2016

Shashank Shekhar Pandey, Student from Nalanda University's School of Historical Studies has been selected for a Legislative Fellow Programme for India and Pakistan by World Learning, Washington, DC. The programme runs from October 15 to November 18, 2016 and is sponsored by US department of state. It is a two-way exchange project for professionals and young leaders from Pakistan, India and the US.



SHS student Shashank Shekhar Pandey at Legislative Fellow Programme in Washington, DC

The programme aims to make participants gain an understanding of the US legislative and political process, explore governance principles and practices in public and civil society institutions, enhance their appreciation for the role of civil society in the political process, gain a deeper understanding of US society, culture, and people as well as people of each other's countries, develop and implement projects in their home country that promote good governance, strengthen civil society, and/or support democratic institutions, create linkages and networks between Americans and other Professional Fellows and increase cooperation between the government and civil society of India and Pakistan .

Nalanda University Students hold Animal Welfare Camp for Tonga Community in Rajgir

November 13, 2016

Project Anwesh, comprising a team of students and faculty members from Nalanda University, held its first animal health checkup and welfare camp at Ajatshatru Residence Hall ground, Rajgir on November 13, 2016. The camp was conducted as part of the launch of Project Anwesh which has been designed for the welfare of the Tonga community based in Rajgir. The event was organised by Project Anwesh in collaboration with Nalanda University, Dalai Lama Fellows Foundation, People For Animals Trust (PFA), Animal and Fisheries Resource Department, Govt. of Bihar, and UNICEF.

Shri Ravi Jyoti, the MLA of Rajgir was a special guest on this occasion. Dr. Gopa Sabharwal, Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University, K. Chandramoorthi, Registrar, Nalanda University, Ms. Vasudha Gupta, President of PFA, Patna and Dr. Pushpa Kumar Lakshmanan addressed the audience at the launch. Dr. Pushpa Kumar Lakshmanan, Mentor of group Anwesh and Associate Professor, School of Ecology and Environment School at Nalanda University welcomed the dignitaries and other guests.

The event was formally declared open by Dr. Sabharwal, who also delivered the inaugural address. Abinash Mohanty, who ideated Project Anwesh, delivered the vote of thanks. Project Anwesh was officially launched by Shri Ravi Jyoti and Dr. Gopa Sabharwal when they switched on the electricity-generation motor that was attached to one of the Tongas. The motor, which was conceptualised by Team Anwesh, is designed exclusively to meet the needs of Rajgir Tonga community. The motor will enable the Tonga

community to generate electricity through the movement of their Tongas, bringing electricity to many of their homes.

The inaugural programme was followed by the health check-up and treatment of horses in and around Rajgir, by a team of ten veterinary doctors from Patna. Over 50 horses were examined at the camp for free.



Glimpses of First Animal Welfare and Health Checkup Camp at Ajatashatru Residence Hall, Nalanda University

School children in the vicinity of Rajgir were also invited and were sensitised on animal welfare issues, compassion and environment protection. A short video presentation on animal welfare was held by PFA, for the benefit of Tonga community and invited school students. A quiz related to animal life, environmental awareness and history of Rajgir's historical spots for the school children was conducted to enhance their awareness.

Professor B. Mohan Kumar, organises a workshop and delivers a general lecture at Diponegoro University, Indonesia

November 7, 2016

Professor B. Mohan Kumar, Acting Dean, School of Ecology and Environment Studies, was invited to organise a one-day workshop on scientific writing in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management at the Diponegoro University, Semarang, Indonesia on November 3, 2016. The workshop was jointly sponsored by the Faculty of Animal and Agricultural Sciences, Diponegoro University and the Journal of the Indonesian Tropical Animal Agriculture. About 30 faculty members from various Indonesian universities and the editorial board members of the Journal of the Indonesian Tropical Animal Agriculture participated in the workshop. Professor Kumar was also invited to deliver a general lecture at the Faculty of Animal and Agricultural Sciences, Diponegoro University on the topic "Integrated Farming Systems (IFS) for Maximizing Productivity and Profitability: a South and Southeast Asian perspective" on November 4, 2016. About 150 students and faculty members attended the lecture.



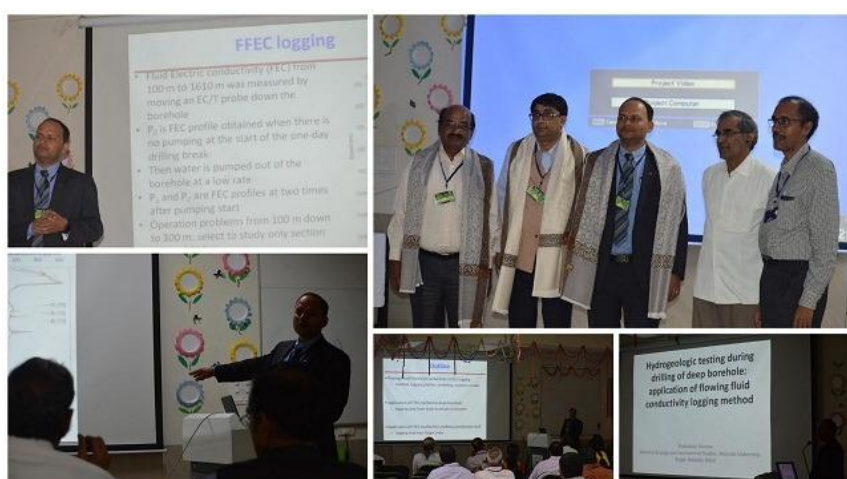
Professor B. Mohan Kumar, Acting Dean, SEES, at Diponegoro University, Indonesia

Dr. Prabhakar Sharma delivers a talk at a symposium organised by Federation of Indian Geosciences Associations at IIT, Dhanbad

November 25, 2016

Dr. Prabhakar Sharma delivered an invited talk at a symposium organised by Federation of Indian Geosciences Associations at Indian Institute of Technology, Dhanbad from November 8 to 10, 2016. This symposium brought together experts, young researchers and students from government, private sector and educational institutions to discuss the lessons learned from research studies for project implementation, and benefit of the community.

Dr. Sharma presented his ongoing research on “Hydrogeologic testing during drilling of deep borehole: application of flowing fluid conductivity logging method” and discussed the possibility of similar geophysical logging for shallow groundwater wells situated in and around Rajgir. He also chaired a session for Association of Hydrologists of India on “Water Resources and Water Policy”, a sub-theme of the conference and initiated discussion with scientists working in this area.



Dr. Prabhakar Sharma, Assistant Professor, SEES, delivering lecture at IIT, Dhanbad

Nalanda University students organise 'Joy of Giving' event for University's support staff

November 29, 2016

Nalanda University students organised a 'Joy of Giving' event on November 27, 2016 at Tathagat Residence Hall.

'Joy of Giving' is an annual event conducted by Nalanda University students celebrating the essence of compassion and stewardship. During this event Nalanda students thank the supporting staff (mess, security, sanitation and helping) of the University for their Services and gift them items of regular use. The required fund for the event is mobilised through collective donation from the student community.

Ancient Nalanda had very close ties with its neighbouring communities and was even supported by the villages in the vicinity. The new Nalanda aspires to carry this tradition forward by giving back to the community and this event is just one of the ways the students are getting involved in community outreach.



Glimpses of 'Joy of Giving' event conducted by Nalanda University students

Laos National Day celebrated at Nalanda University

December 4, 2016

Carrying on the vision of international brotherhood and the tradition of celebrating the national days of all countries where Nalanda University's students come from, the University celebrated the National Day of Laos on December 2, 2016. The celebration was organised at Tathagat Residence Hall, where students assembled for hoisting of the National Flag of Laos by the students from Laos, followed by singing of the national anthem of Laos in presence of Professor Pankaj Mohan, Interim Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University.

The people of Laos celebrate this day with parades and speeches to commemorate the creation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in the year 1975.



Laos National Day celebrations at Nalanda University

Nalanda student joins a collaborative research project on purifying drinking water at the Technical University of Liberec, Czech Republic

December 29, 2016

Abinash Mohanty, a student from the Class of 2017 at the School of Ecology and Environment Studies, Nalanda University is working on a collaborative research project at the Faculty of Textile Engineering, Technical University of Liberec, Czech Republic.

Abinash is working under the supervision of Dr Prabhakar Sharma, from Nalanda University and is also being guided by Dr. Jaromik Merek and Prof. Yakub Weiner from KMI in Department of Materials Engineering and Centre for Nano Applications. The research is on remediating Flouride and Boron contaminants from drinking water using nanotechnology according to World Health Organization (WHO) norms in an environmentally friendly way and at more affordable rates. He is testing the use of activated carbon nanofibrous materials-composite carbon particles made from carbiso milled reprocessed from organic materials, which are ecologically and environmentally friendly and blended with Poly urethane and Polyamide nanofibrous fabric filters for these experiments.

Abhinash Mohanty student from Nalanda University's School of Ecology and Environment Studies performing experiments at Technical University of Liberec, Czech Republic



Nalanda Community celebrates New Year and Commencement of Work

January 3, 2017

The Nalanda University Community met on January 2, 2017 at Ajatshatru Residence Hall to celebrate the New Year and also mark the commencement of semester.

On this occasion Professor Pankaj Mohan, Interim Vice Chancellor and the Dean of the School of Historical Studies at Nalanda addressed the University. He said, "As we gather here to celebrate the New Year and commencement of work in the new semester, we must also re-visit the ideals on which the University has been established and further expand the Nalanda code of conduct that promotes compassion, positivity and mutual respect among the Nalanda family."

Mr. K. Chandramoorthi, the Officiating Registrar and Finance Officer of the University also addressed the Community and gave a brief update on the progress the University has made so far and shared some plans for the future.



New Year and Commencement of Work Celebrations at Ajatshatru Residence Hall

Nalanda University Community Celebrates Harvest Festival

January 15, 2017

On January 14, 2017 Nalanda University celebrated Harvest Festival a combined festival depicting the joy, happiness, rituals and prosperity of Pongal, Lohri and Makar Sankranti.

The Nalanda family dressed in traditional attire gathered at the Tathagat Residence Hall for the celebrations around a bonfire. The event started with an address by Professor Pankaj Mohan, Interim Vice Chancellor of the University who wished everyone joy and prosperity in the new year. The community joined in singing Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Bhojpuri songs and also did traditional dances around the bonfire. The festivities left everyone aglow with the optimism that is traditionally associated with Harvest Festivals.



Harvest Festival celebrations at Nalanda University

Nalanda Celebrates Indian Republic Day

January 27, 2017

On January 26, 2017 Nalanda University celebrated the Republic Day of India. The Nalanda Community gathered together at the Interim Campus at 9:30 am to celebrate the day.

In keeping with the tradition of giving the honour of hoisting the national flag to students, Ajit Jha and Divyalakshmi S. from the Class of 2018 got the chance to hoist the flag this year. Professor Pankaj Mohan, the Interim Vice Chancellor addressed the community on this occasion. Members of Dhvani the Music Society at the University gave mesmerizing performances, singing various patriotic songs in different Indian languages.

In the evening, the community gathered again to celebrate with a cultural programme which included Songs, Ghazals, Poetry Reading and Dances by students, administrative staff and faculty.



Republic Day celebration at Nalanda University

Screening of the Documentary Biruni, the Quill of the Invaders

January 29, 2017

Dr. Noemie Verdon a Teaching Fellow at the School of Buddhist Studies in Nalanda University organised a screening of the documentary film Biruni, the Quill of the Invaders for the University Community on January 27, 2017. The documentary is based on the extensive research and field work done by Dr. Verdon and made by film-maker Vladimir Loncar.

This video-project crosses three countries, Uzbekistan, Iran and Pakistan, and goes through several centuries to revive the Perso-Muslim scholar Abu Rayhan al-Biruni. It oscillates between past and present, between living traditions and vestiges of a remote world, and spotlights intellectual exchanges vibrant in early medieval Central Asia.

Dr. Verdon, who completed her Ph.D. at the Institute for South-Asian Studies, University of Lausanne, had written her thesis on the Perso-Muslim scholar Abu Rayhan al-Biruni who lived in the 10-11th C.E. Noemie says that her knowledge of Sanskrit and Arabic gives her the tools to study this figure. Out of her five years of research, she spent two in New Delhi. Her sojourn gave her the chance to constitute a network of scholars, to participate in conferences and workshops and to collect a large amount of documents unavailable in Europe. Over time, she understood that the life of Biruni was strongly lacking in scholarly documentation, in spite of his historical value. She decided with Vladimir Loncar to follow in Biruni's footsteps, so as to not only fill this gap and to throw light on his life, but also to make a film introducing the scholar to a less specialised audience.



Screening of a documentary film, Biruni, the Quill of the Invaders at Rajgir International Convention Center

Dr. Sayan Bhattacharya Delivers Lecture at International Conference on Climate Change at University of Oxford

February 28, 2017

Dr. Sayan Bhattacharya, Assistant Professor in the School of Ecology and Environment Studies, Nalanda University delivered a lecture at University of Oxford, UK during the International Conference on Climate Change and Development in February, 2017.



Dr. Sayan Bhattacharya, during the International Conference on Climate Change at University of Oxford

The aim of the conference was to provide a platform for stimulating dialogue between social and scientific researchers and practitioners who engage with the research works on climate change and development scenarios. Researchers from 26 countries (Netherlands, France, Italy, Columbia, Russia, Czech Republic, Israel etc.) participated in the conference.

Dr. Bhattacharya's lecture was based on his recent research work in the Buxa Tiger Reserve situated in the Eastern Himalayas foothills. The study focuses on an interdisciplinary understanding on the physical and cultural environment of the forest and mountain areas. His work integrates the perspectives of human and social ecology, ecosystem services and sustainable development. His research incorporates photographic documentation with academic findings with a critical conclusion based on experimental and photographic data. The conference ended with panel discussions with the speakers where possibilities of potential collaborations in future were also discussed.

Nalanda Students celebrate Holi

March 15, 2017

Holi, the Indian festival of colours was celebrated on Monday March 13, 2017 at Nalanda University. Students of all the residence halls gathered at Tathagat Residence Hall and played the festival of colour. The University mess also served a special Holi menu with various savouries.



Holi Celebrations at Nalanda University

Statistics

The numbers of student enrolment at the University augmented further to include students from 20 Indian states and 13 countries across the world. This section entails the details about the figures related to enrolment of the students at the University.

Student Enrolment

Nalanda University has been offering Masters programme at the following Schools:

SNo	SCHOOL	COMMENCEMENT YEAR
1	The School of Ecology and Environment Studies	September 2014
2	The School of Historical Studies	September 2014
3	The School of Buddhist Studies	August 2016

SUMMARY OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN 2016-17

School of study	Enrolled
SCHOOL OF ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT STUDIES	40
SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES	22
SCHOOL OF BUDDHIST STUDIES, PHILOSOPHY & COMPARATIVE RELIGIONS	20
total	82

Foreign Students

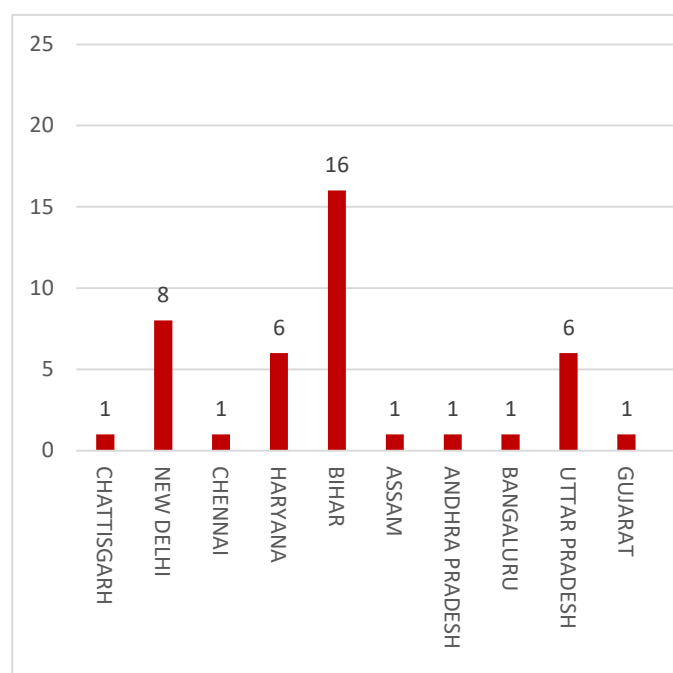
The countries from which international students have enrolled:

S.No	Countries	2016-18
1	Bhutan	05
2	Peru	01
3	Nigeria	01
4	Zimbabwe	01
5	Laos	02
6	Myanmar	01
7	Japan	01
8	China	01
9	South Korea	01
10	Sri Lanka	01
11	Vietnam	04
12	Brazil	02
	Total	21

Indian Students

The states from which international students have enrolled:

S No.	State	No. of Students
1	Chattisgarh	1
2	New Delhi	8
3	Chennai	1
4	Haryana	6
5	Bihar	16
6	Assam	1
7	Andhra Pradesh	1
8	Bangaluru	1
9	Uttar Pradesh	6
10	Gujarat	1
11	Uttarakhand	1
12	Orissa	2
13	Guwahati	1
14	West Bengal	7
15	Rajasthan	1
16	Delhi	1
17	Tamil Nadu	2
18	Jharkhand	1
19	Karnataka	2
20	Jammu & Kashmir	1
	Total	61



Distribution of Students for 2016-17

Degrees Awarded

The class of 2016 were awarded degrees on Convocation held on 27 August 2016. The following twelve students were awarded Master's degree:

School of Ecology & Environment Studies

1. Anshuman Shekhar
2. Machane Daniel Issac
3. Ganesh Diksheets Siragam
4. Arun Gandhi
5. Jyothirmayee Kandula
6. Lubna Khan
7. Rannjit Kumar
8. Sana Salah

School of Historical Studies

1. Shasshi Ahlawat
2. Ngawang Jamtsho
3. Akiro Nakamura
4. Pavni Sairam

Update on Campus Construction

The 455-acre Nalanda University campus is planned for an eventual 7000 population having a flexibility to accommodate double the population as planned. It is composed of three primary land use elements: the academic facilities, student and staff housing together with support infrastructure, and campus preserved to advance agriculture as the area's major economic engine. Like many historic settlements, a lake forms the epicentre of the campus. After careful analysis of the terrain and flooding pattern of the site, the creation of a manmade lake has been arrived at, that which feeds on a network of storm water channels.

The proposed Nalanda University campus, being modern and state-of-the-art, will undeniably follow the path of sustainability while being comfortable and efficient for the occupants and visitors alike. The masterplan of this project emphasizes upon sustainability and environmental sensitivity at all levels. It will further exemplify rational approaches to construction of a new campus in unspoiled rural setting with the stunning Rajgir hills in the background. Once completed the campus is likely to emerge as one of the largest Net Zero campus in the world.

The construction work for Phase-I has been taken up under several packages to facilitate the integrated development. The major construction work has commenced in three work packages i.e. Construction of Internal Roads and Earthwork for providing water bodies package (Work Package 1A), Construction of Non-Residential buildings package (Work Package 1B) and Construction of Residential buildings package (Work Package 1C).

The first package of work under Phase-I Construction programme involving more than 7 lakh cubic meters of earth work (excavation and embankment/subgrade) and construction of 12.8 km of road, with a cost of Rs. 37.22 crores has been awarded to M/s M G Contractors Pvt. Ltd (M/s MGCPL) on 7th September 2016 and work is in progress for development of internal roads. This will facilitate availability of road network inside the campus to help expeditious construction for non-residential and residential facilities in the campus. The work is envisaged to be completed within 12 months from award of contract. As on 31st March 2017 approximately 93% of embankment construction and 75% of subgrade & granular sub-base construction has been completed.

The second and largest package of campus construction is Work Package 1B. This involves construction of 17 non-residential buildings (academic, administrative and other amenities buildings) including other allied works. Work completion period for this package tender is 36 months from date of issue of work order. This work package has been awarded to M/s NCC Limited, Hyderabad at a tendered price of Rs. 435.07 crores. The work has commenced on 1st March 2017 and expected to be completed by February 2020.

The third major work package is works for construction of residential buildings in the campus which include one VC's Bungalow, 40 Faculty Housing Bungalows, 40 Faculty Apartments, 106 units of Type 2 & Type 3 quarters for staff, 552 Students' Hostel Buildings and 40 married students' hostels, Excavation for two quadrants of Kamal Sagar (the central Water Body), Underground Tanks for Domestic water, Rain Water and Treated Grey water - collection and distribution of all varieties of water for use in the Residential Buildings and Development of Footpaths, Walkways and Hard Landscape areas etc. It is estimated that the works will be completed within 24 months of award of work. The tender for inviting bids for this package has been published in print and electronic media on 25th March 2017 with an estimated cost put to tender of Rs. 302.52 crores.

Statement of Accounts

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2017

Amount in Rupees

SOURCES OF FUNDS	Current Year	Previous Year
CORPUS/CAPITAL FUND	₹ 447,450,375.00	₹ 378,502,059.00
DESIGNATED/EARMARKED/ENDOWMENT FUNDS	₹ 217,666,911.00	₹ 210,009,894.00
CURRENT LIABILITIES & PROVISIONS	₹ 548,955,627.00	₹ 30,897,814.00
TOTAL	₹ 1,214,072,913.00	₹ 619,409,767.00

APPLICATION OF FUNDS	Current Year	Previous Year
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible Assets	₹ 156,836,186.00	₹ 46,664,279.00
Intangible Assets	₹ 12,571,574.00	₹ 5,753,429.00
Capital Works-In-Progress	₹ 310,706,965.00	₹ 277,654,703.00
INVESTMENTS FROM EARMARKED / ENDOWMENT FUNDS		
Long Term	₹ 215,951,584.00	₹ 207,816,158.00
Short Term		
INVESTMENTS - OTHERS	-	-
CURRENT ASSETS	₹ 40,760,469.00	₹ 73,198,223.00
LOANS, ADVANCES & DEPOSITS	₹ 477,246,135.00	₹ 8,322,975.00
TOTAL	₹ 1,214,072,913.00	₹ 619,409,767.00

NALANDA UNIVERSITY
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2017

Amount in Rupees

Particulars	Current Year	Previous Year
(A) INCOME		
-		
Academic Receipts	₹ 18,139,477.00	₹ 9,697,711.00
Grants / Subsidies	₹ 152,421,236.00	₹ 316,700,000.00
Income from investments	₹ 796,777.00	₹ 3,215,236.00
Interest earned	₹ 6,234,535.00	₹ 1,793,401.00
Other Income	₹ 2,179,855.00	₹ 1,248,545.00
Prior Period Income	₹ 1,307,939.00	₹ 183,049.00
<u>TOTAL (A)</u>	₹ 181,079,819.00	₹ 332,837,942.00
(B) EXPENDITURE		
-		
Staff Payments & Benefits (Establishment expenses)	₹ 110,211,953.00	₹ 73,372,319.00
Academic Expenses	₹ 39,857,552.00	₹ 16,121,240.00
Administrative and General Expenses	₹ 95,633,220.00	₹ 62,870,836.00
Transportation Expenses	₹ 10,334,276.00	₹ 5,900,301.00
Repairs & Maintenance	₹ 3,625,522.00	₹ 2,095,342.00
Depreciation	₹ 22,015,546.00	₹ 9,790,851.00
Other Expenses	₹ 139,124.00	₹ 900,627.00
Prior Period Expenses	₹ 2,278,704.00	₹ 178,840.00
<u>TOTAL (B)</u>	₹ 284,095,897.00	₹ 171,230,356.00
Balance Being Surplus / (Deficit) Carried to Capital Fund	-₹ 103,016,078.00	₹ 161,607,586.00

NALANDA UNIVERSITY			
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2017			
	Current Year	Previous Year	PAYMENTS
			I. Expenses
			Establishment Expense
			Salary & Allowances
	₹ 333,558.00	₹ 344,286.00	Academic Expense
	₹ 65,233,041.00	₹ 41,451,836.00	Administrative Expense
	₹ 215,447,782.00	₹ 137,087,508.00	Infrastructure
			Communication
Government of India	₹ 802,300,000.00	₹ 316,700,000.00	Others
Government Funds	₹ 12,125,264.67	₹ 6,760,786.00	Finance Cost
			Transportation Expense
	₹ 1,850,004.00	-	Repairs & Maintenance
	₹ 736,825.00	-	Prior period Expense
	-	₹ 63,697,850.00	Other Expenses
II. Schemes	₹ 404,634.00	-	II. Payments against Earmarked/Endowment Funds
scholarship	-		
	₹ 1,704,469.00		
			III. Expenditure on Fixed Assets and Capital Works - in - Progress
	₹ 17,585,204.00		Purchase of Fixed Assets
	₹ 796,777.00		Capital Work-in-Progress
			IV. Other payments including statutory payments
(Plan Grant)	₹ 4,906,616.00	₹ 3,215,236.00	V. Deposits and Advances
Contributions)	-	₹ 13,868,886.00	Security Deposits
	₹ 1,236,825.00	₹ 1,814,248.00	EMD
	₹ 851,925.00		Advance to Suppliers
			Other Advance
			Advances against Sponsored Projects/Schemes
	₹ 494,745.00	₹ 8,210,041.00	Advance to Employees
	₹ 17,287,138.50		TDS (Interest on F.D.R.)
	-	₹ 28,202.00	T.D.S. Payable
	-	₹ 1,248,545.00	Closing Balances
	₹ 16,859.00	₹ 71,050.00	i) Cash in hand
	₹ 409,903.00	₹ 288,000.00	ii) Bank Balance
	-	₹ 2,230,188.00	Current Account
	₹ 384,188.00	₹ 839,312.00	Savings Account
	-	₹ 1,900,276.00	Deposit Account
	-	₹ 770,538.00	
Total	₹ 1,144,105,758.17	₹ 600,526,788.00	Total

Notes