

NALANDA : UNIVERSITY OF ETHICS & SPIRITUALITY



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► **Nalanda : Earliest University of the World**

LOCATION :- 95 km. South-east of Patna, near Bihar Sharif town, Bihar, nearest railhead is 11 km. From Rajgir.

FOUNDER :- Kumargupta 1st (415AD-454 AD) granted first to Nalanda.

DURATION :- 500 AD to 1200 AD, only Al Karaouine in Fez, Morocco (859 AD), Al Azhar in Cairo (972 AD), Bologna in Italy (1088 AD) and Oxford in the United Kingdom (1167 AD) have been founded before the destruction of Nalanda.

WORLD HERITAGE SITE :- UNESCO has declared.

► Background of Nalanda

- * **HIUEN TSANG** :- Meaning of nalanda is no end of gifts or charity without intermission.
- * **I-TSING** :- ' Naga nanda ' referring to the name (nanda) of a snake (naga) in the local tank.
- * **Hiranand Shastri , an archeologist** :- ' Nalas ' (lotus - stalks) represent the giver of lotus – stalks.
- * 24th Jain thirthankara , Bhagwan Mahavira , spent 14 rainy seasons at nalanda.
- * Gautama Buddha delivered lectures in nearby mango grove named Pavrika and his disciple ' Shariputra ' was born in this area.
- * Taranath, the 17th century Tibetan lama , states that King Ashoka built a great temple at Shariputra's chaitya.

► Admission , Curriculum and Faculty

- * 2000 teachers and 10,000 students.
- * Scholars used to come from China, Korea, Japan , Tibbet, Mangolia, Turkey, Sri Lanka and South East Asia.
- * Six gate in university, having six ' dwara pandit ' for entrance test of new students.
- * Abstract knowledge in Philosphy, Veda, Religion, Mahayan, Hinayana and Scientific thoughts in Astronomy, Mathematics, Anatomy , Medicin (ayurveda), Sankhya etc.
- * Shilabhadra was head of university in 7th century. Nagarjuna, Padamsambhawa, Shanti-rakshit, Dipanker, Asang and Vasubandhu etc. Were popular teachers.

► The First Residential University (450 AD to 1193 AD)

- * Boarding system was divided into three layers.
- * Stairway system and Ventilation system without windows.
- * Drainage system was inspired by the Harappan culture.
- * The open cooking mud-oven called Chullah.
- * A central walk way from south to north divided university complex. The east side was called ' Viharas ' (Monasteries) and the west side was called ' Chaityas ' (Temples).

► Library and Travelers

- * Dharmaganja (Piety Mart) was a great library which was comprised three large multi storeyed buildings.
 - Ratansagara (Ocean of Jewels)
 - Ratnodadhi (Sea of Jewels)
 - Ratnaranjaka (Jewel - Adomed)
- * Hiuen Tsang in Nalanda :- visited in 637 AD and 642 AD, around 11 travellers from China and korea visited Nalanda over the next three decades after his return to China.
- * I-tsing in nalanda :- visited in 673 AD.

► Administration and Finance

- * Assembly and Consensus
- * ' Viharpal ' was administrative officer.
- * No force or coercion was used to convince.
- * Education , residence and food etc. Were free of cost. Buddhyagupta, Baladitya, king Harsha , Dharampal etc.
- * Emperor as well as rich persons gave finance to the university.
- * King Harsh built a monastery of brass within university and remitted to it the revenues of 100 villages. He also directed 200 households in these villages to supply the institutions monks.

► Destruction and Revival of Nalanda

- * Nalanda university was brutally ransacked and destroyed by Bakhtiyar Khilji in 1193 AD.
- * It is belived that the library burned for more than three months.
- * Rahul Shri Bhadra was head of ayrvada faculty of the university in the period of Bakhtiyar Khilji.
- * On 28 march 2006 the 11th president of india Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam proposed the idea for revival of Nalanda university.
- * On 25th november 2010 Nalanda university further came in existance under central government of India.

Thanks!

