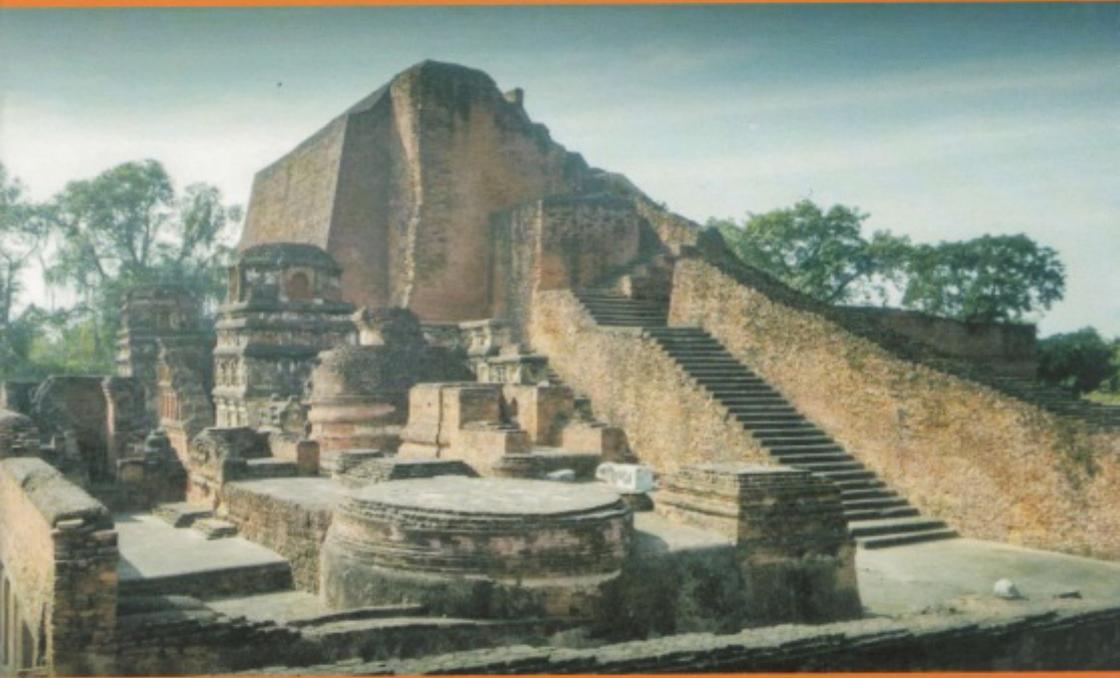


ŚRĪ NĀLANDĀ

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Vol. I

November, 2019



Chief Editor :

Baidyanath Labh

Editors :

Shrikant Singh
Hare Krishna Tiwary



Nava Nalanda Mahavihara
Nalanda (Bharat)

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Śrī Nālandā, is a biannual refereed International Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences, aiming at providing a healthy forum for scholarly and authentic views on broad social, cultural, philosophical and spiritual issues of engaging human interest.

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Chief Editor's Note

Nalanda is not merely a place, but a philosophy as well which paved the way of knowledge towards reality of life through profound thoughts and their implementation is day to day life. The ancient University of Naladna Śrī Nālandā Mahāvihāra (also known as Nālandā Mahāvihāra) was established by Kumāragupta during the mid – 6th century CE as a Centre of learning encompassing various aspects of life such as languages and literatures like Pali, Sanskrit etc., Philosophy, Ayurveda, Astronomy and Mathematics, Physics, Economics, Logic, Buddhavacanas etc., presented through various modes and languages, history, culture and so on so forth. The institution rose upto its zenith by the Pāla dynasty as an international university attracting students from different coursers of Asia like Tibet, China, Korea, Mongolia etc. Unfortunately it became a prey of the invasion and destruction by Bakhtiar Khilji during the last decade of the 12th century CE.

After a gap of over 750 years, when Bharat became independent from the British rule, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of Bharatiya Republic took active interest in reviving the ancient glory of Nalanda which resulted in the establishment of Nava Nalanda Mahavihara under the Directorship of Bhikshu Jagdish Kashyap precisely on November 20, 1951.

Nava Nalanda Mahaviahra ever since its foundation conceived the idea of propagating Pali and Buddhist Studies, which could act as a bridge between Bharat and Asia especially South, South-East and East Asian Countries.

The institutions had to pass through various stages of ups and downs, but it never stopped its academic sojourn. The entire literature of Pali Tripiṭaka based on the Chaṭṭha Saṅgāyana (Yangon, 1954-56) was published for the first time in Devanagari script in 41 Volumes by the Nava Nalanda Mahavihara in 1960s under the profound leadership of Bhikshu Jagdish Kashyap and scholarly team of his

erstwhile colleagues. It was followed by the publication of Nalanda Research Volume series and other literatures.

The Devanagari version of Pali Tripiṭaka has been published again and the set in on high demand for its accuracy, comprehensive nature and cost affordability.

Coming to the latest initiative being undertaken by the Mahavihara, we are introducing with the launching of 'Śrī Nālandā' bi-annual research journal. In its maiden volume there are 14 research articles by some eminent as well as budding scholars touching different areas of learning such as, Philosophy behind Nalanda, English novelists and impact of Buddhism on their thoughts and creations, Hindi novels highlighting psycho-ethical complication of life, logic etc.

I congratulate the Editors and referees for their invaluable observations, comments and suggestions in making our maiden venture a success.

Hope the coming issues of Śrī Nālandā will come out with even richer contents and thoughts.

Editorial

UGC team during one of its visits to Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda (Deemed University), Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India suggested that “NNM must have a Journal which gradually be turned into the face of the University”. Although time and again, the matter came in discussion of academic council, it remained inconclusive. When Shri M. L. Srivastava, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India took over the charge of the Mahavihara as its Vice-Chancellor, this agenda again came in discussion of academic Council and subsequently in the Board of Management of the Mahavihara which finally approved the same unanimously. It was decided that Dean Academics and Dean Students’ Welfare along with the Heads of the Dept. of English and Hindi would form the editorial board while the Vice-Chancellor would be its ex-officio Editor-in-Chief. It was decided that the Journal would be named as Śrī Nālandā. The name of Journal symbolises reverence to the place and all that happened in Śrī Nālandā Mahavihara, ancient University of Nalanda.

With Joining of Prof. Baidyanath Labh as NNM’s first regular Vice-Chancellor on September 5, 2018, the agenda received further Philip. He fixed 20th November 2019 as the date of the release of the Journal during the annual foundation day celebrations of the Mahavihara.

NNM had several research Volumes of repute to its credit but it did not publish a Journal in the strict sense of the word. Thus publication of the maiden Volume of the Journal is like fulfilling the Mahavihara’s long-felt dream.

But the question arises that when there are already thousands of Journals run by individuals and institutions in India why the Mahavihara is adding one more to the list?

The answer to this question is rooted in the foundation background of the Mahavihara which was founded in 1951 in order to revive the lost glory of the ancient University of Nalanda.

What was so special about the ancient University of Nalanda? Nalanda was, undoubtedly, the first unique experiment in the field of organised education in India. It was a happy blend of theory and

practice. What was taught in theory was practised in life. Modern Indian thinkers such as Swami Vivekanand and Rabindranath Tagore emphasise on holistic education which aimed at all-round development of an individual- his head, heart and hand. The aim of education at Nalanda was no different. Character-building or making of man was the hallmark of education, a vital element conspicuously absent from our modern system of education. In this regard, Nalanda has lots to offer. No deliberation on Nalanda can be complete or enough. Therefore, ŚRĪ NĀLANDĀ, like the current issue would continue to accept liberally submissions on Nalanda.

Subject in Humanities are taught in educational institutions expecting it would make the learners more humane. Our experiences of them fall for short of expectations. They do not seem to help people discover, develop and refine their talent, passions and abilities. The journal wishes to deliberate the issue further. The current issue has inducted paper dealing with this issue.

Modern education, no doubt, has great attainments to boost. But it is not without limitations. Through it the modern man has discovered a lot about the outer world but little about his own inner self. Consequent upon it, the man has equipped himself with knowledge to judge everything except himself. But same is not true about Indian educational System. From the very beginning, it has kept the human being himself into the centre. Consequently India's spiritual attainment has been phenomenal. Therefore the world turned disproportionately outwardly, looks forward to India for solace and inner fulfilment. In view of the above facts, Śrī Nālandā wishes to explore further the why and how of spiritualism hoping it to be redeeming factor for many kinds of ailments modern men suffer from. Incidentally the current issue could not induct any paper on such deliberation. But editors are keen to include the same in its future volumes. Similarly we require to reassess our own history, culture, philosophy and literature so that we could be authentic voice on our own things. For this reason submissions on Indology would also be appreciated.

The very ethos of the Mahavihara is Buddhistic. Besides, Buddhism is not a religion in the sense many other religions are. It is a philosophy, a way of life, very practical and scientific and above all, a great repository of moral, social and cultural values. Due to this reason, the current issue has preponderance of papers relating to Buddhism.

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