

2021

GREATEST ANCIENT UNIVERSITIES OF INDIA

In ancient times India was a center of higher learning as it is one of the oldest civilization in the world. Hence, historically, universities and libraries were a big part of Indus-Valley civilization

Mark Twain, the famous American writer, entrepreneur, publisher, and lecturer has rightly said India is the cradle of the human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend, and the great grandmother of tradition. Our most valuable and most informative materials in the history of man are treasured up in India only.

How was education imparted down the ages in India before the establishment of ancient universities? Since antiquity, thousands of Rishis chanted mantras and hymns and stockpiled the powerful positive energies in the atmosphere around. These were handed down from one generation to another through memorization by word of mouth. The Rishi, also the Guru who imparted the knowledge to his shishya, or sons, continued with this tradition through remembrance. Vedas are also called Shruti. The same was heard, remembered, chanted, and the cycle continued until they were compiled. For hundreds and thousands of years before they were compiled, they were Shruti. This is the reason why when one listens to Sanskrit chants from the Vedas and other scriptures, the positive energy is added and the aura around further energized. Each Rishi, who imparted knowledge, symbolized a Vedic school in the true sense in ancient times.

Preservation of ancient culture, study of the scriptures, character building, development of personality, religious duties, inculcation of the spirit of individual roles towards family and society, discipline and self-dependence were the factors considered while imparting education. Though thousands of temples and educational institutions were destroyed by Islamic invaders, the concept of temple education declined to some extent but not fully. The educational flame was kept alive. Under Islamic rule, the temples which were earlier run under the patronage of the rulers, were then supported by the local Hindu population. According to the book The Beautiful Tree by Shri Dharampal., temples were not only the centres of primary education for all Varnas but also a nuclei of important social, economic, artistic and intellectual functions.

GREATEST ANCIENT UNIVERSITIES OF INDIA



TAKSHASHILA UNIVERSITY



NALANDA UNIVERSITY



VIKRAMSHILA UNIVERSITY



VALABHI UNIVERSITY



SOMAPURA UNIVERSITY



JAGADDALA UNIVERSITY



RATNAGIRI UNIVERSITY



ODANTAPURI UNIVERSITY



PUSHPGIRI UNIVERSITY



KANTHALLOOR SALA UNIVERSITY



NAGARJUNA VIDYAPEETH



SHARADA PEETH TEMPLE UNIVERSITY



BIKRAMPUR UNIVERSITY



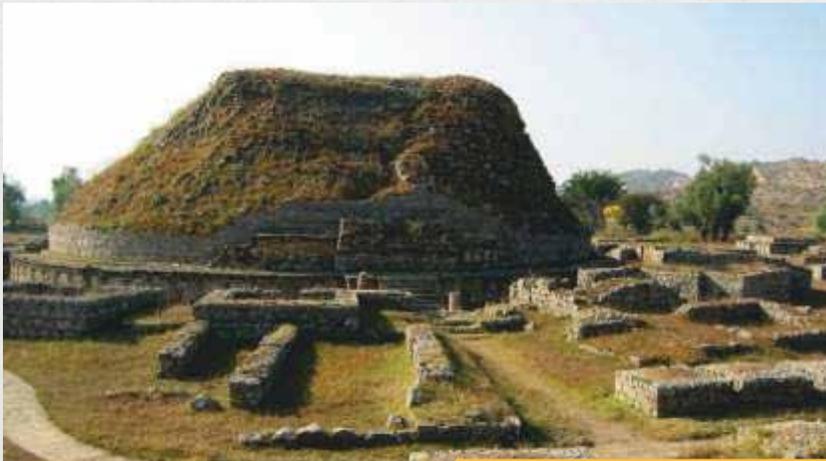
TELHARA UNIVERSITY



MORENA GOLDEN TRIANGLE UNIVERSITY

 **VAYUCON**TM
Where both Best Quality and Time meets

 **BLUE STAR**
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Takshashila University

Education :

Vedas, Vedanta, Vyakaran, Ayurveda, Surgery, Eighteen arts (Archery, Hunting, Elephant lore, etc), Military education, Law, Astronomy, Science, mathematics, Medicine, astrology, politics and Music

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January 2021



Where both Best Quality and Time meets

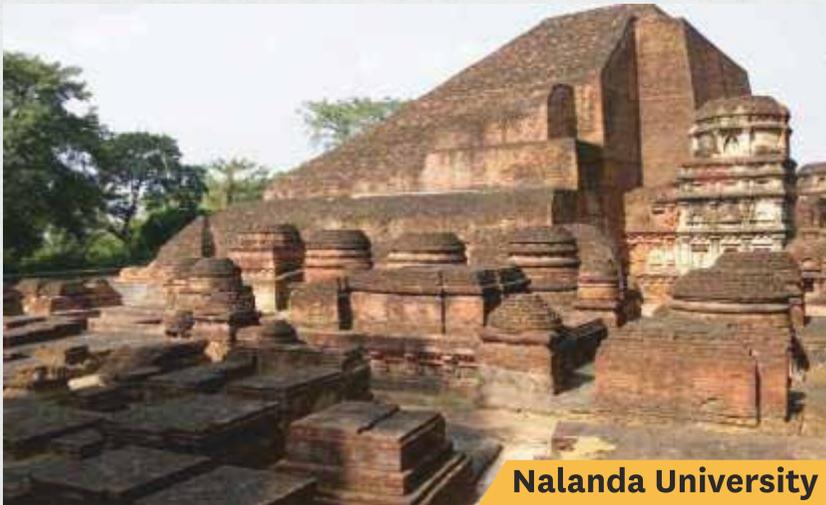
Takshashila, was an early Buddhist centre of learning. According to available references it is dated back to 500 BC making it one of the world's first universities for higher education. It became a noted centre of learning at least several centuries before Christ, and continued to attract students until the destruction of the city in the 5th century CE. It is situated about 50 km west of Rawalpindi, now in Pakistan.

There are several mentions of this World's oldest university, one of the mentions is, it is believed Kuru prince Duryodhan laid foundation stone at his mother's birthplace GANDHARI, Vayu purana traces the start of Takshila to Taksha, son of Bharata and is also mentioned in Mahabharata.

The university is known to have consisted of 300 lecture halls with stone benches for sitting, laboratories, observatory for astronomical research, a massive library called Dharma Gunj among few. The campus accommodated students coming from all over the world from as far as Babylonia, Greece, Arabia and China and offered over sixty different courses in different fields such as science, mathematics, medicine, politics, warfare, astrology, astronomy, music, religion and philosophy.

Takshashila is perhaps best known because of its association with Chanakya. The famous treatise Arthashastra (Sanskrit for The knowledge of Economics) by Chanakya, is said to have been composed in Takshashila itself. Chanakya (or Kautilya), the Maurya Emperor Chandragupta, the Ayurvedic healer Charaka, the Sanskrit grammarian Panini, studied at Taxila.

In the second half of the 5th century CE, it was severely damaged by Hephthalite invasions; during the 7th century it was gradually abandoned by its inhabitants. Excavations that began in 1913 revealed its details to the world and it was listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in 1980.



Nalanda University

Education :

Mahayana Buddhism, The Vedas, Samskrit grammar, Logic, Literature, Astrology, Astronomy, and Medicine.

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February 2021



Where both Best Quality and Time meets

Nalanda was an ancient Mahavihara, a revered Buddhist monastery which also served as a renowned centre of learning, in the ancient kingdom of Magadha (modern-day Bihar) in India. The university of Nalanda obtained significant fame, prestige and relevance during ancient times, and rose to legendary status due to its contribution to the emergence of India as a great power around the fourth century. The site is located about 95 kilometres southeast of Patna near the city of Bihar Sharif, and was one of the greatest centres of learning in the world from the fifth century CE to 1200 CE. Today, it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

At its peak the school attracted scholars and students from near and far, with some travelling from Tibet, China, Korea, and Central Asia. The highly formalised methods of Buddhist studies helped the establishment of large teaching institutions such as Taxila, Nalanda, and Vikramashila, which are often characterised as India's early universities. Archaeological evidence also notes contact with the Shailendra dynasty of Indonesia, one of whose kings built a monastery in the complex. Nalanda flourished under the patronage of the Gupta Empire in the 5th and 6th centuries, and later under Harsha, the emperor of Kannauj. The liberal cultural traditions inherited from the Gupta age resulted in a period of growth and prosperity until the ninth century CE. The subsequent centuries were a time of gradual decline, a period during which the tantric developments of Buddhism became most pronounced in eastern India under the Pala Empire.

Nalanda was destroyed three times but was rebuilt only twice. It was ransacked and destroyed by an army of the Mamluk Dynasty of the Delhi Sultanate under Bakhtiyar Khalji in c. 1200 CE. While some sources note that the Mahavihara continued to function in a makeshift fashion after this attack, it was eventually abandoned altogether and forgotten until the 19th century, when the site was surveyed and preliminary excavations were conducted by the Archaeological Survey of India.

On 25 November 2010, the Indian government, through an Act of Parliament, resurrected the ancient university through the Nalanda University Bill, and subsequently a new Nalanda University was established. It has been designated as an "International University of National Importance."



Vikramshila University

Education :

Logic, Philosophy, Vyakaran, Tanta Shastra, Metaphysics.

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March 2021



Where both Best Quality and Time meets

Vikramashila was one of the two most important centres of learning in India during the Pala Empire, along with Nalanda. Its location is now the site of Antichak village, Bhagalpur district in Bihar.

Vikramashila was founded by Pala king Dharmapala in the late 8th or early 9th century. It prospered for about four centuries before it was destroyed by Bakhtiyar Khilji along with the other major centres of Buddhism in India around 1193.

Subjects taught at Vikramsheela university included Logic, Philosophy, Vyakaran, Tantra Shastra, Kara Canda, and more..., later Tantra Shastra was the main subjects that attracted and influenced more students.

Vikramashila is known to us mainly through Tibetan sources, especially the writings of Taranatha, the Tibetan monk historian of the 16th - 17th centuries. Vikramashila was one of the largest Buddhist universities, with more than one hundred teachers and about one thousand students. It produced eminent scholars who were often invited by foreign countries to spread Buddhist learning, culture and religion.

Vikramaśīla was a centre for Vajrayana and employed Tantric preceptors. The remains of the ancient university have been partially excavated in Bhagalpur district, Bihar state, India, and the process is still underway.



Valabhi University

Education :

Economics, Law, Politics, Vyakaran, Medical Science,
Literature, Theology, Accountancy.

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April 2021



Where both Best Quality and Time meets

Valabhi University was established in Saurashtra of modern Gujarat at around 6th century CE and it flourished for 600 years till the 12th century.

The Valabhi University was an important centre of Buddhist learning and championed the cause of Hinayana Buddhism.

Valabhi was the capital of the Maitraka empire during the period 480-775 CE. It was an important port for international trade, present day it is called Vallabhipur located in Bhavnagar district of Gujarat in western India, identical with the old state of Vala. For some time, the university was considered to be a rival to Nalanda, in Bihar, in the field of education.

The prominence of Valabhi was known over the whole of Northern India. Gunamati and Sthiramati, the two famous Buddhist scholars graduated from this University. The university is popular for its training in secular subjects and attracted students from all over the country. Apart from religious sciences, subjects taught included Niti (political science), business, agriculture, administration, theology, law, economics and accountancy. In 775 CE, the patron kings succumbed to an attack by the Arabs. This gave the university a temporary setback; however, it continued as the successors of the Maitraka dynasty supported it. Later on, the defeat of its patron kings led to its end in the 12th century.



Somapura University

Education :

Bauddha Dharma Buddhism), Jina Dharma(Jainism) and Sanatana Dharma(Hinduism).

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May 2021



Where both Best Quality and Time meets

Somapura Mahavihara, an 8th century Buddhist monastery in Paharpur, Badalgachhi Upazila, Naogaon District, Bangladesh is among the best known centres of learning in the Indian Subcontinent and is one of the most important archaeological sites in the country. It is also one of the earliest sites of Bengal, where significant amount of Hindu statues were found.

Covering almost 27 acres (11 hectares) of land, it is one of the largest monasteries south of the Himalayas. Through the 17th century it was an important intellectual centre that was occupied alternately by Buddhists, Jains, and Hindus. Clues to its various inhabitants are found on artwork contained within the Somapura Mahavira's thick outer walls.

This university was almost as big as Nalanda university, influence of three traditions (Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism) is still visible in the ornamental terracotta carvings on the outer walls of the university.

Somapura Mahavira was one of the few Buddhist monasteries to survive the Muslim invasion of South Asia. The historic and cultural value of the immense quadrangular structure was first recognized by the British scholar Buckman Hamilton, who studied its remains in the early 19th century. More than a century later, in 1919, Somapura Mahavira was proclaimed a protected archaeological site, and excavations were begun four years later. In 1985 the monastery was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site.



Jagaddala University

Education :

Vajrayana Buddhism, Tantrayana philosophy, Sanskrit Literature

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June 2021



Where both Best Quality and Time meets

Jagaddala Mahavihara (late 11th century - mid-12th century) was a Buddhist monastery and seat of learning in Varendra, a geographical unit in present north Bengal in Bangladesh. It was founded by the later kings of the Pāla dynasty, probably Ramapala (1077-1120), most likely at a site near the present village of Jagdal in Dhamoirhat Upazila in the north-west Bangladesh on the border with India.

An interesting feature of the monastery is that granite stone was used for certain architectural components, including granite beams and granite pillars. The most common building materials of the time were black basalt stone and sandstone because granite was rare and costly. Excavations further show a large terracotta moulding on the outer wall of the monastery which features rich stone embellishments and tells the story of a prosperous era. A large number of monasteries or viharas were established in ancient Bengal and Magadha during the four centuries of Pala rule in North-eastern India (756-1174 CE). Jaggadala was founded towards the end of the Pala dynasty. Jagaddala specialized in Vajrayana Buddhism and Tantrayana philosophy.

Subhakara Gupta and Abhayakara Gupta, along with other scholars of Vikramashila Mahavihara, are believed to have taken shelter at the Jagaddala Mahavihara after the former's destruction, and to have prepared scores of Sanskrit works on Buddhism. These scholars - some of whom were Bengalees - not only wrote on religious subjects but also made considerable contribution to the development of Sanskrit literature, particularly poetry.

Jaggadala university was one among the five great universities other being Nalanda, Odantapuri, Vikramshila and Somapura universities.



Ratnagiri University

Education :

Vajrayana (covers various Buddhist practices associated with Tantra), Archaeology

July 2021



Where both Best Quality and Time meets

Ratnagiri (meaning "hill of jewels") is the site of a ruined group of monasteries in modern Odisha, India. It is located on a hill in between the Brahmani and Birupa rivers in Jajpur district.

Ratnagiri was established no later than the reign of the Gupta king Narasimha Baladitya in the first half of the sixth century, and flourished until the twelfth century. After perhaps the 16th century the site ceased to be used and fell into ruins.

The main construction of the surviving part of Monastery 1 was under the rule of the Buddhist Bhauma-Kara dynasty, whose capital was nearby at Jajpur. The hundreds of small votive stupas at Ratnagiri suggest it was an important site for pilgrimage.

These were hardly known until the 1960s when major campaigns of excavations by the Archaeological Survey of India ("ASI") revealed the site, producing large quantities of very fine sculpture.

The Monastery 1 has been described as the finest in terms of carved stone decoration to have survived in India. Some of this was removed to museums elsewhere, with much left on site.

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Odantapuri University

Education :
Vedic Scriptures, Buddhism.

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August 2021



Where both Best Quality and Time meets

Odantapuri (also called Uddandapura) was a Buddhist Mahavihara in what is now Bihar, India. It was established by the Pala Emperor Gopala-I, the first ruler of the Pala dynasty, in the 7th century. It is considered the second oldest of India's Mahaviharas after Nalanda University and was situated in Magadha.

Acharya Ganga jee of Vikramashila was a student at this Mahavihara. According to the Tibetan records there were about 12,000 students at Odantapuri which was situated at a mountain called Hiranya Prabhat Parvat and by the bank of the river Panchanan.

According to the Tibetan historian Tāranātha, King Mahāpāla supported 500 Śrāvakaśaṅgha bhikshus at Odantapuri. During the reign of King Rāmapāla, a thousand monks, belonging to both Hinayana and Mahayana, lived in Odantapuri. Most of the earliest students and teachers of the Odantapuri and Nalanda were from Bengal region.

The university perished, along with Nalanda, at the hands of Muhammad bin Bakhtiyar Khilji around 1193. It is said that the Muslim Invaders mistook the universities with their high walls for fortresses.



Pushpagiri University

Education : Buddhism

September 2021



Where both Best Quality and Time meets

Pushpagiri was an ancient Buddhist monastic complex located atop Langudi Hill in Jajpur district of Odisha, India. Until the 1990s, it was hypothesised to be one of all of the Lalitgiri-Ratnagiri-Udayagiri group of monastic sites, also located in Jajpur district.

However, archaeological excavations conducted at Langudi Hills during 1996-2006 resulted in the discovery of another site, with inscriptions describing the local monastery as puṣpa sabhar giriya, and identified by the excavators as Pushpagiri.

Pushpagiri is considered to be the ancient Indian higher learning institution parallel to the universities of Nalanda, Vikramashila and Taxila.

Pushpagiri along with Nalanda, Taxila, Vikramashila is one of the primary center of higher learning in 2nd century BC to 11th century CE of ancient India. It is believed to be present at three hill top named Ratnagiri, Lalitagiri and Udayagiri (and findings later on Langudi hill was added to it) in Jajpur and cuttack district of Odisha.

Recently few discoveries of Ashokas images were made at the sites, which suggests that the university might have been established by Ashoka in second century BC. Lalitagiri can be considered as the oldest of the three sites

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Kanthalloor Sala University

Education :

Vedas, Astrology, Weaponry, Chemistry, Goldsmithy, Medicine, Music, Atheism and Magic.

October 2021



Where both Best Quality and Time meets

Recent excavations near Valiyasalai in the Southern Indian state of Kerala revealed the existence of an illustrious ancient university.

Known as the Nalanda of South, the Kanthalloor Shala was once a famous centre of knowledge and due to the quality of education provided by this ancient university, it attracted scholars from other parts of India and Sri Lanka.

What set Kanthalloor apart from other ancient Indian universities of that era was the diversity in the subjects it offered.

At Kanthalloor, students were taught subjects such as Vedas, Astrology, Chemistry, Goldsmithy, Medicine, Music and even Atheism and Magic which until then were considered taboo in other universities.

Ennittum Kanthalloor, a documentary on the age-old university at Valiyasala, gives you a peek into the rich cultural and educational past of the varsity. Over 1,000 years old, Kanthalloor Shala is also one of the oldest educational institutions of the country.

Indians have always been known to the Western world as well-read and wise, and why not, when so many great universities thrived on the same soil. We were bound to take up that enriching knowledge about science, religion, philosophy and the truths of the globe.

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Nagarjuna Vidyapeeth

Education :

Medicine, Science, Philosophy, Mineralogy, Geography
Including teachings of Buddhism.

November 2021



Where both Best Quality and Time meets

Named after famous Buddhist philosopher, Nagarjuna Vidyapeeth was situated in South India on the banks of the Krishna river.

Archaeological evidence suggests that the university and its library flourished in the 7th century.

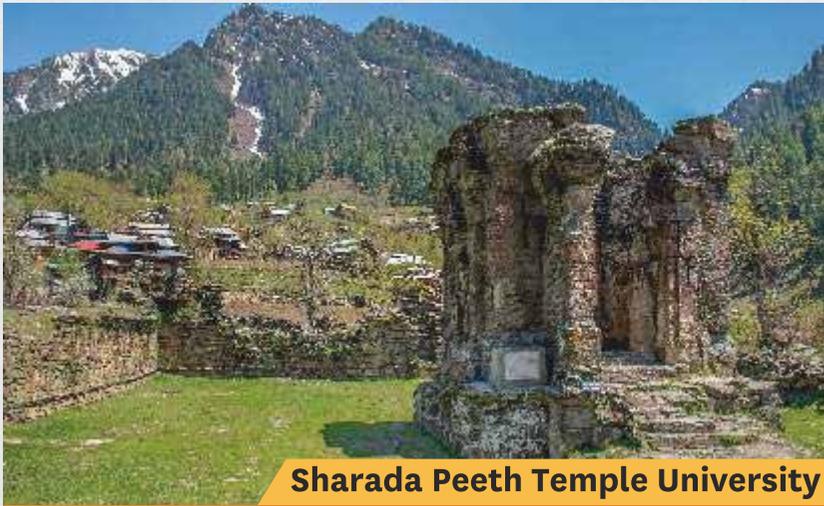
Its library housed on the top floor of the five story building had an enormous collection of the Buddhist philosophy, science and medicine. students from foreign countries came to study here.

The enormity of the collection is borne out by the fact that it not only had works on the Buddhist literature, but also on several branches of scientific knowledge, such as, Botany, Geography, Mineralogy and Medicine.

It was a great attraction for scholars from other ancient Indian universities and from other countries, like, China, Burma and Ceylon.

Arcaeological excavations at the site led to discovery of artefacts dating back to several hundred years before BCE, other finds include coins issues by shatavahana rulers, inscription og Gautamiputra vijaya satakarni, coins and inscriptions of Ikshvaku kings were aslo found at the Nagarjuna vidyapeeth site.

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Sharada Peeth Temple University

Education :

Philosophy, Literature, Grammar, Brahma Sutra, Archaeology

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December 2021



Where both Best Quality and Time meets

Sharada Peeth is a ruined Hindu temple and ancient centre of learning located in present day Azad Kashmir within the PoK. Between the 6th and 12th centuries CE, it was among the most prominent temple universities in the Indian subcontinent. There are various theories on the origins of the university. Some historians believe that it was built under the Kushan Empire (30 CE – 230 CE), whereas some others suggest it was built by Lalitadiya.

Known in particular for its library, stories recount scholars travelling long distances to access its texts. It played a key role in the popularisation of the Sharada script in North India, causing the script to be named after it, and Kashmir to acquire the moniker "Sharada Desh".

Sharada Peeth is approximately 130 kilometres from Srinagar, the capital of Jammu & Kashmir; it is about 10 kilometres from the Line of Control. It is situated along the Neelam River in the village of Sharda, in the valley of Mount Harmukh, believed by Kashmiri Pandits to be the abode of Shiva.

The centre of learning was prominent by at least the 4th century CE. Around that period, Buddhist scholars such as Kumarajiva, Thonmi Sambhota and Rinchen Zangpo were associated with Sharada Peeth. Thonmi Sambhota (7th century CE) was sent on a mission to Kashmir to procure an alphabet for the Tibetan language. There, he learned various scripts and grammar treatises from learned pandits, and then devised a script for Tibetan based largely on the Sharada alphabet. In the 11th century, the Vaishnava saint Swami Ramanuja travelled from Srirangam to Sharada Peeth to refer to the Brahma Sutras, before commencing work on writing his commentary on the Brahma sutras, the Sri Bhasya. The 13th century CE (1277 – 78) text Prabhāvākācārīta contains a story of the Śvētāmbara scholar Hemachandra who requested King Jayasimha Siddharaja to send a team to retrieve copies of the existing eight Sanskrit grammatical texts preserved there. These supported his own text of Sanskrit grammar, the Siddha-Hema-Śabdānuśāśana.

Sharada peeth is one of the 51 shakti peeths, Sati's right hand fell at this place and Bhagwan Vishnu cut her dead in to 51 pieces, which fell in 51 locations.



Bikrampur University

Education :

Arts, crafts, astronomy, geography, agriculture, herbal medicines, pottery

January 2022

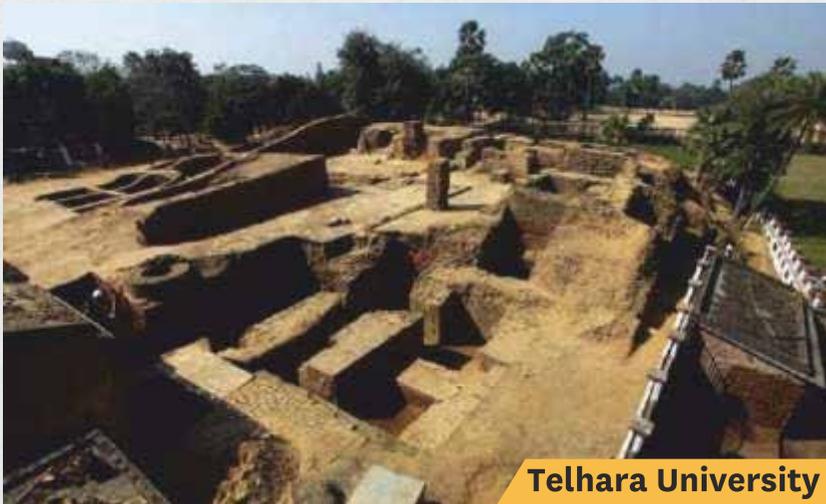


Where both Best Quality and Time meets

Bikrampur Vihara is an ancient Buddhist vihara at Raghurampur village, Bikrampur, Munshiganj District in Bangladesh. It was one of the best known Vihara of the ancient India, today part of the Munshiganj District. The ancient Buddhist vihara was the center of Buddhist education during Pala Empire.

On 23 March 2013, Director of the Archaeological Excavation and Research in Bikrampur region, declared the discovery of this 1000-year-old Buddhist Vihara. Over 100 precious idols and sculptures had been found till March, 2013. This is one of the thirty viharas built by Emperor Dharmapala during his regime 820 as the second emperor of the Pala Empire. It is connected to Atisa, an important figure in Tibetan Buddhism. During the time of Atisa, this region was the center of Buddhist education and some 8,000 students and professors came to study at Bikrampur from as far as China, Tibet, Nepal and Thailand.

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Telhara University

Education :

Mahayana Buddhism, Tantric Buddhism, Archaeology

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February 2022



Where both Best Quality and Time meets

This ancient learning centre is located at Telhara, at a distance of around 40 km from Nalanda University in Bihar. Archaeologists have traced the remains of this centre during the course of an excavation at Telhara, which began in 2009. The ruins were discovered in 2014. Chinese travellers Hiuen Tsang and Itsing have mentioned in their travel accounts about Telhara University as a seat of higher research and a competitor to Nalanda University.

Bricks that were used to lay the foundation of the university and sprinklers made of clay date back to the Kushana period, which corroborates it to be older than Nalanda University. According to a research piece 'The Chronology of Kushanas' by Vedveer Arya, the Kushana empire flourished in between 12th to 8th century BCE. This suggests that Telhara University is at least 3000 years old. Hiuen Tsang wrote about a three-storeyed structure, prayer hall and a platform to seat over 1,000 monks and students of Mahayana Buddhism at this university, the evidence of which were found during the excavations. It was also a centre of Tantric Buddhism.

During the excavation work, the ASI team stumbled upon a 1.5-foot-thick layer, of ash. This suggests that the Telhara university was destroyed and burnt. It was destroyed and set on fire by Bakhtiyar Khilji during the same time when he destroyed Nalanda University.



Morena Golden Triangle University

Education :
Astrology and Mathematics.

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March 2022



Where both Best Quality and Time meets

Morena in the Chambal division of Madhya Pradesh was a hub of university education from the 8th century. An inscription found in the Chaunsath Yogini temple in Mitavali mentions about Mitavali, Padavali and Bateshwar temples as a Golden Triangle within which a famous university existed. The temples in these three regions date back from 8th to 12th century. The temples were built by the Gurjar Pratiharas and later expanded and renovated by the Kachchapaghata rulers.

These three places in Morena hosted learning centres for different subjects. At the Chaunsath Yogini temple, Astrology and Mathematics were taught. Teachers banked upon the rays and shades of the sun for certain calculations. The rays of the sun fell in the temple in distinct designs and patterns given in the circular structure. Bateshwar temples were the centre, the nucleus of the Golden Triangle University.

Gerd Mevissen, an independent researcher from Berlin, who specialises in epigraphy of temples, also suggests that Bateshwar temples site was 'once a hub for temple-related arts and artists'. Most of the temples that depict a fusion of different temple building styles suggest that artists and students fused and experimented with a variety of temple building ideas. The premise of Garth Padavali complex is huge, which speaks volume about the learning centres it must have housed and the students and teachers it must have accommodated.

April 2022



Where both Best Quality and Time meets

Though mainstream records hardly mention about Mithila University, this learning centre had been in existence since the time of Raja Janak, the father of Sita. The reason is the lack of archaeological finds dating back to the ancient period. It was prominent seat of Brahmanical system of education. Here Raja Janak held religious conferences where Rishis and the learned took part.

This university taught literature and fine arts, science subjects, the scriptures including the Vedas, Nyaya Shastra, and more. 12th century Indian mathematician and philosopher Gangesha upadhyaya founded a school of New Logic (Navya-Nyaya) at this site where he wrote Tattva Chintamani. Two subjects that later gained prominence in Mithila University were Nyaya (jurisprudence) and Tarka Shastra (Logic).

Examination was tough. Students attained and received degrees only after they cleared the Salaka-pariksha (test) at the completion of their education.

Mithila University

Education :

Literature, Scriptures Fine Arts, Science, Nyaya Shastra, Vedas, Tarka Shastra (Logic)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					01	02
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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Tel: 040 4852 8212 **Mob:** +91 96760 00655

2022

January						
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30	31					

February						
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March						
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April						
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May						
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June						
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July						
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August						
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September						
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October						
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November						
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December						
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