

Key Facts about Nalanda University

June 19, 2024 • vajiramandravi.com



About Nalanda University:

- Nalanda stands out as the **most ancient university** on the **Indian Subcontinent**.
- It was **founded by Kumar gupta of the Gupta dynasty in Bihar** in the early **5th century**, and it flourished for 600 years until the 12th century.
- During the **era of Harshavardhan and the Pala monarchs**, it **rose to popularity**.
- It was a center of learning, culture, and intellectual exchange that had a profound impact on the development of Indian civilization and beyond.
- Nalanda was a **monastic establishment** in the sense that it was primarily a place where monks and nuns lived and studied. It used to **teach all the major philosophies of Buddhism**.
- It had **students from far-flung regions** such as China, Korea, Japan, Tibet, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, and Southeast Asia.
- The **students** at Nalanda were expected to **follow a strict code of conduct** and were required to participate in daily meditation and study sessions.

- **Subjects such as medicine, the ancient Indian medical system Ayurveda, religion, Buddhism, mathematics, grammar, astronomy, and Indian philosophy were taught there.**
 - It continued to be a centre of intellectual activity up until it **was destroyed in the 12th century AD, in 1193, by Turkish ruler Qutbuddin Aibak's general Bakhtiyar Khilji.**
 - After six centuries, the university was **rediscovered in 1812** by Scottish surveyor **Francis Buchanan-Hamilton** and later identified as the ancient university by Sir Alexander Cunningham in 1861.
 - **The Chinese monk Xuan Zang** has **offered invaluable insights** into the academic and architectural grandeur of ancient Nalanda.
 - It is also a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
-

Q1: What is the Gupta Dynasty?

Gupta dynasty, rulers of the Magadha (now Bihar) state in northeastern India. They maintained an empire over northern and parts of central and western India from the early 4th to the late 6th century CE. Among the products traditionally thought to be from the Gupta era were the decimal system of notation, the great Sanskrit epics, and Hindu art, along with contributions to the sciences of astronomy, mathematics, and metallurgy.

Source: [PM Narendra Modi to inaugurate Nalanda University in Bihar today | Things to know about the campus](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/nalanda-university/>

© Vajiram & Ravi. For personal use only.