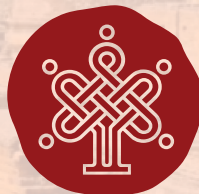




25TH INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL SCIENCE INSTITUTIONS **IASSI ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

26-28 October 2026 | Nalanda University, Rajgir, Bihar, India



Nālandā
UNIVERSITY



The Indian Association of Social Science Institutions (IASSI), founded in 1979, is a federation of academic institutions, including universities and research centers, dedicated to advancing and enhancing social science education and research. Additionally, IASSI publishes a peer-reviewed quarterly journal, IASSI Quarterly: Contributions to Indian Social Science. It is the only organisation of its type in India, with 47 years of existence promoting multidisciplinary social science teaching and research.

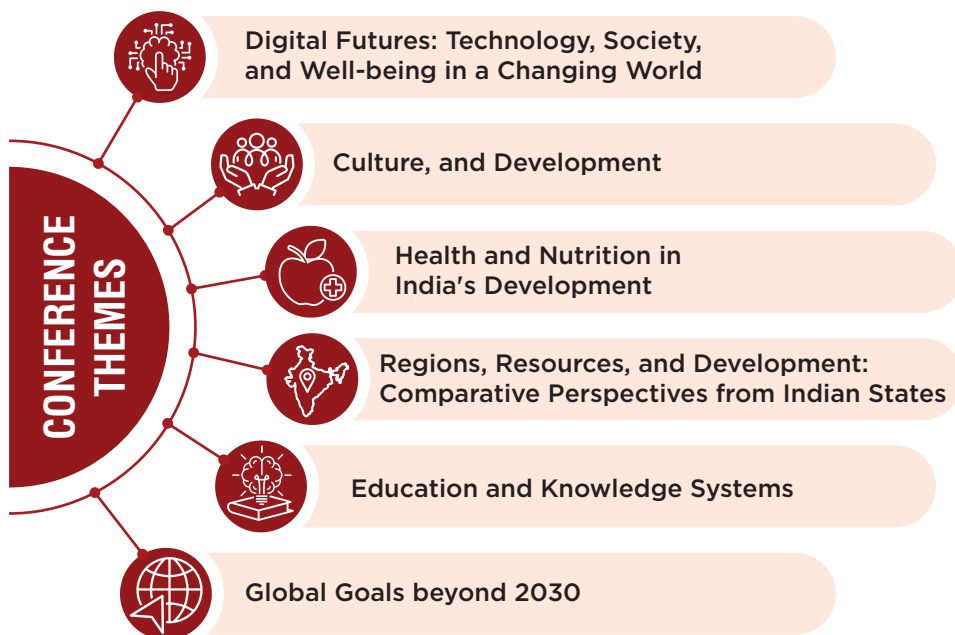
For more information, please visit: www.iassi.org

The 25th Annual Conference of IASSI, marks a significant milestone in advancing critical social science inquiry in India and beyond. Hosted at Nalanda University, an institution rooted in a legacy of global intellectual exchange, the conference aims to bring together scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to engage with some of the most pressing developmental challenges of our time. Through interdisciplinary dialogue and rigorous research, the conference seeks to promote meaningful conversations that shape future pathways for inclusive and sustainable development.

The 25th Annual Conference of the Indian Association of Social Science Institutions (IASSI) is scheduled during 26-28 October 2026 at Nalanda University, Bihar, India. **Professor Ram Singh**, Director, Delhi School of Economics, is the *Conference President*. **Dr. Kishore Dhavala**, Associate Professor, School of Ecology and Environment Studies, Department of Economics, Nalanda University, is the *Conference Organising Secretary*. The *Joint Organising Secretaries* of the Conference are **Dr. Muneer Ahmad Magry**, Faculty Member, School of Management Studies, Nalanda University; **Dr. Nalin Bharti**, Professor of Economics, Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, IIT Patna and **Dr. Antra Singh**, Fellow and Senior Lead, Institute for Human Development (IHD) - Bihar Programme Office, Patna.

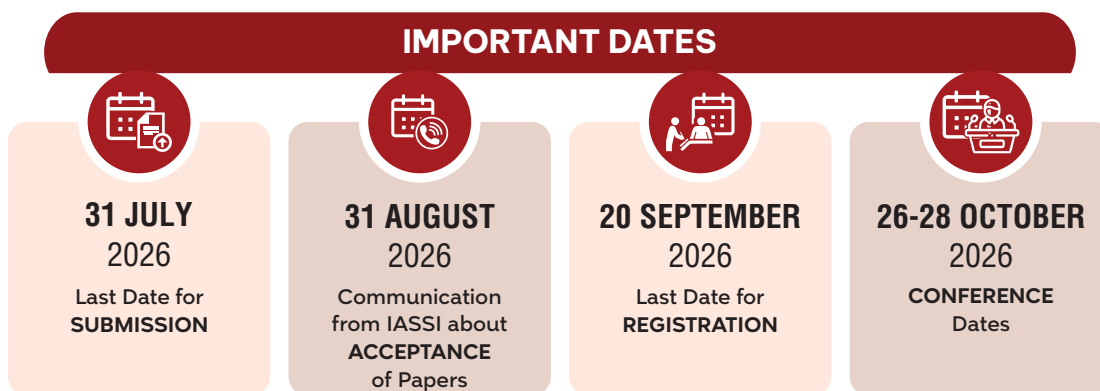
Conference Themes

The conference themes are designed to encourage interdisciplinary inquiry and critical engagement with contemporary development challenges, bringing together diverse perspectives across domains, regions, and methodological approaches. The themes of the Conference are:



Researchers, practitioners, and social scientists are invited to submit both conceptual and empirical papers addressing a variety of topics and sub-themes aligned with the Conference themes.

Alongside paper presentations in technical sessions, as in previous years, the Conference will also feature the Tarlok Singh Memorial Lecture to be delivered by Dr. Anantha Nageshwaran, Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India. In addition, the Conference will include several Thematic Panels, including a Plenary Panel focused on key issue of contemporary policy relevance.



CONFERENCE TIMINGS

The Conference will commence at 9:30 a.m. on 26 October 2026 and conclude by lunchtime on 28 October 2026.

Pre-Conference Event: A pre-conference session is scheduled from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on 25 October 2026. Details regarding its programme will be communicated in due course.

Excursion

A complimentary excursion to nearby tourist attractions will be organised following the Conference. Delegates interested in participating are requested to confirm their interest by 30 September 2026 to enable necessary logistical arrangements.

Delegates are advised to plan their travel accordingly.

PANEL PROPOSALS

During the conference, several Thematic Panels will be organised. Scholars and institutions are invited to submit proposals for panel sessions.

Each panel proposal should include the following:

1. The title of the panel, along with a description of its theme.
2. Titles, authors, and abstracts (approximately 500 words) of the papers to be presented.
3. Names, affiliations, and brief biographies (about 100 words) of each proposed panellist/speaker, along with a high-resolution digital photograph.
4. Name, contact details, and a high-resolution logo of the panel organiser(s).
5. Social media handles (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn) of participants and institutions.

NOTE

Each Thematic Panel Session will consist of 4-5 paper presentations. The organisers/coordinators of the session will be responsible for managing the panel discussion, including securing resources for speakers' travel and other related expenses.

A Panel Registration Fee of ₹50,000 for institutions within India or US \$1,000 for institutions outside India will cover overhead costs such as printing, photography, videography, documentation, booklets with panel details, brand visibility, and promotional activities.

Panel proposals should be emailed to iassi.conference@gmail.com no later than 10 August 2026.

LOGISTICAL AND OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Conference Registration

- ❖ The registration fee for participants from India is Rs. 7,000 for delegates and Rs. 4,000 for spouses/accompanying persons. For participants from developing countries, the fee is US\$ 200 for delegates and US\$ 125 for accompanying persons. For participants from other countries, the registration fee is US\$ 300 for delegates and US\$ 150 for accompanying persons.
- ❖ Registration includes modest boarding and lodging facilities along with a conference kit containing the Conference Programme and other materials and stationery.
- ❖ The Book of Abstracts, containing the abstract of the paper, will be published online at <https://conference.iassi.org> during the Conference. To avail of a hard copy of the Book Abstracts, an additional amount of Rs. 1000/- will be charged at the time of registration on the Conference portal.
- ❖ Accommodation will be provided for a maximum of four nights (25–28 October 2026). Participants staying beyond this period must arrange their own accommodation.
- ❖ Timely registration is required. On-spot registration will be available only for local participants or those not requiring accommodation. Those registering after the 20 September 2026, deadline will be responsible for their own accommodation and transportation arrangements.
- ❖ Delegates must submit complete registration details along with the registration fee receipt, to the Indian Association of Social Science Institutions - iassi.conference@gmail.com, in advance to ensure proper accommodation arrangements.

REGISTRATION FOR PARTICIPATION

Conference Participation Registration Charges

Participation Categories	Charges with Accommodation*			Charges without Accommodation**	
	Delegate	Accompanying Person	Ph.D / PG Student	Delegate	Ph.D /PG Student
India (INR)	7000	4000	4000	4000	2500
Developing Countries (US \$)	200	125	100	80	60
Other Countries (US \$)	300	150	150	50	40

* The charges include modest accommodation, meals, transportation to and from the conference venue during the event, and a conference kit. The registration fee also includes the mandatory IASSI Annual Membership fee of Rs. 1,000.

** The charges include meals during the conference days and a conference kit.

*** “PG Students” refers to individuals who have completed or are currently pursuing a postgraduate degree.

- ⦿ Accommodation will not be provided for registrations made after the 20 September 2026 deadline. On-site registration will be available only for participants attending without accommodation.
- ⦿ IASSI Annual Membership is mandatory for conference participation. The ₹1,000 membership fee is included in the conference registration fee.
- ⦿ Participants can register online at <http://conference.iassi.org/>.
- ⦿ The IASSI membership application form can be accessed at <http://iassi.org/pdf/Membership-Form.pdf>

MODE OF PAYMENT

- ❖ Registration fee may be paid by way of NEFT/RTGS/UPI Transfer or Demand Draft, or local cheque.

Details of the NEFT/RTGS Transfers:

Account Name : Indian Association of Social Science Institutions
Account No : 11084241607
Bank & Branch : State Bank of India, New Delhi Main Branch
11, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110 001
IFSC code : SBIN0000691

Details for Payment through Bank Draft or Local Cheque:

- ❖ Demand Draft/Local Cheque in favour of the “Indian Association of Social Science Institutions”, payable at New Delhi.
- ❖ Scanned copy of the transaction statement or the Demand Draft/Local Cheque number of the payment should be mailed to iassi.conference@gmail.com

Details for payment through UPI Transfer



A copy of the online receipt should be uploaded in the registration form

UPI ID: IASSI@SBI

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

- ❖ All paper presenters, resource persons, and participants are expected to cover their own travel expenses, as the Indian Association of Social Science Institutions does not have a regular funding source.
- ❖ For select keynote speakers, invited paper presenters, and resource persons who are either retired or unable to fund their travel, the organisers will make efforts to provide financial support.

SUGGESTIVE GUIDELINES FOR PAPER WRITERS

The guidelines on conference themes are indicative rather than exhaustive. Prospective contributors are encouraged to explore additional relevant sub-themes that align with the conference's broader scope. While submissions focusing on India are particularly welcome, papers addressing other regions and global contexts are equally encouraged. Contributions may adopt diverse theoretical perspectives and employ a range of empirical methodologies, including quantitative, qualitative, case-based, or mixed-method approaches. Original research that advances existing knowledge and contributes meaningfully to ongoing scholarly debates is strongly encouraged.

GUIDELINES FOR PAPER SUBMISSION

- ❖ Papers must be submitted online via the conference portal: <http://conference.iassi.org/>
- ❖ Authors of selected papers will be invited to present their work in the Thematic Technical Sessions.
- ❖ Submissions should not exceed 7,000 words (including tables and appendices) and must follow the writing style of IASSI Quarterly: Contributions to Indian Social Science. For detailed guidelines, visit www.iassi.org.
- ❖ Each paper must include an abstract of 300 to 500 words. Accepted abstracts will be compiled into a booklet and shared with conference participants.
- ❖ After peer review and necessary revisions, selected papers will be published in future issues of IASSI Quarterly: Contributions to Indian Social Science. Authors wishing to have their papers considered for publication should email their revised versions to the journal's Editor after the conference at stiassi79@gmail.com or iassi79@yahoo.com

Authors must ensure that their submissions are original and free from plagiarism.

SUGGESTIVE GUIDELINES FOR PAPER WRITERS



Theme 1:

Digital Futures: Technology, Society, and Well-being in a Changing World

Advancements in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, digital platforms, big data, and automation are fundamentally reconfiguring the structures through which societies organise labour, deliver services, exercise power, and produce meaning. Far from being neutral forces of progress, these technologies are deeply embedded in political economies that determine who benefits from digitalisation and who is left further behind. While this has led to unprecedented opportunities for innovation and economic growth, it has also given rise to new forms of exclusion, surveillance, and precarity, raising urgent questions about justice, rights, and governance in digital spaces. Critical inquiry is needed into how technological change intersects with existing social inequalities, particularly for marginalised communities, women, persons with disabilities, and populations across the Global South. Participants are encouraged to explore both the opportunities and challenges of digitalisation, bringing interdisciplinary perspectives to interrogate its implications for marginalised communities and developing countries.

Participants are encouraged to engage with, but are not limited to, the following research questions:

- What is the impact of automation on labour markets in low and middle-income countries, particularly among workers in the informal sector?
- How does platform-mediated gig work reshape labour relations, income security, and worker identity across rapidly urbanising Indian cities?
- In what ways do algorithmic systems embedded in social welfare and public service platforms reproduce or amplify existing socioeconomic and caste-based inequalities?
- To what extent do digital financial services, such as mobile banking and fintech platforms, improve financial inclusion for marginalised and rural communities?
- How does differential access to digital infrastructure shape economic mobility and patterns of social inclusion or exclusion in developing countries?
- What role do community-based digital literacy programmes play in enabling substantive participation in the digital economy?
- How do digital surveillance technologies affect civil liberties and political participation?



- How can AI governance frameworks be designed to reflect the ethical values, developmental priorities, and epistemic diversity of non-Western contexts?
- In what ways do social media ecosystems shape public discourse and democratic participation in developing countries?
- How are governments in the Global South approaching the regulation of digital platforms, and what are the implications of these regulatory choices for development outcomes?



Theme 2

Culture and Development

The relationship between culture and development has long been a site of intellectual and political contestation. Where earlier modernisation paradigms tended to treat culture as an obstacle to be overcome, contemporary development scholarship increasingly recognises cultural values, identities, practices, and indigenous knowledge systems as constitutive forces that actively shape development pathways and their outcomes; yet this recognition remains uneven. Developmental interventions continue to encounter deep tensions between externally designed frameworks and locally embedded cultural logics, raising persistent questions about legitimacy, representation, and the sustainability of change. Institutions, both formal and informal, serve as critical mediating structures in these encounters, either enabling culturally resonant development or reinforcing the marginalisation of non-Western epistemologies and indigenous perspectives. Participants are encouraged to interrogate these dynamics critically and examine the role of institutions in shaping these interactions, as well as how cultural dimensions of governance, social norms, community mobilisation, and contestations for heritage interact with development processes across diverse contexts.

Participants are encouraged to engage with, but are not limited to, the following research questions:

- How do social norms and cultural values shape women's agency and participation in economic and political life, particularly in rural and semi-urban communities?
- In what ways does language policy in education affirm or erode cultural identity, mother-tongue learning, and community well-being across linguistically diverse societies?
- What are the short-term and long-term developmental consequences of displacement?
- What tensions arise between the preservation of cultural heritage and the imperatives of economic development in rapidly urbanising or resource-extractive regions?

- How do indigenous knowledge systems contribute to sustainable natural resource management, and what institutional arrangements best facilitate their meaningful integration into development planning?
- What role do informal cultural institutions, such as community councils, religious bodies, and traditional governance structures, play in enabling or obstructing pro-poor development interventions?
- How do processes of intercultural dialogue, negotiation, and contestation in India influence the governance and equitable distribution of public goods and services?
- How can development organisations operationalise culturally sensitive programmes that acknowledge and respect indigenous epistemologies while simultaneously advancing equity and rights-based objectives?
- In what ways do dominant international development narratives and frameworks marginalise or displace local cultural identities?
- How do postcolonial legacies, including institutional path dependencies and epistemic hierarchies, continue to shape the design, conditionality, and impact of international development assistance?



Theme 3

Health and Nutrition in India's Development

India has one of the world's most extensive architectures of social provisioning, encompassing schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN), the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), and the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), yet the country continues to register deficits in learning outcomes, nutritional status, and universal healthcare access. The persistence of these gaps is not incidental, but reflects deep structural inequalities rooted in caste, gender, geography, and class, as well as the chronic challenges of translating policy into effective ground-level delivery. Understanding the dynamics of this implementation gap and designing appropriate interventions requires rigorous analysis of programme design, political economy, local governance, and community-level processes. Participants are invited to critically assess the effectiveness of public welfare programmes, examine patterns of inclusion and exclusion, and explore how data systems, frontline institutions, and participatory approaches can be mobilised to improve outcomes for India's most vulnerable populations.

Participants are encouraged to engage with, but are not limited to, the following research questions:

- In what ways do intersecting inequalities of caste, class, gender, and geography affect the awareness, access, and utilisation of social protection entitlements in rural and tribal communities?



- How do infrastructure deficits, teacher accountability mechanisms, and household poverty interact to shape educational achievement?
- How effective have conditional cash transfer and direct transfer schemes been in addressing nutritional deficiencies among children?
- What has been the role of frontline health workers, including ASHAs and Anganwadi functionaries, in improving maternal, neonatal, and child health outcomes in underserved and remote areas?
- What have been the inclusion and exclusion effects of Aadhaar-linked digital identification systems in the delivery of food, healthcare, and welfare entitlements?
- What are the principal barriers to achieving universal health coverage in India, and how do these barriers vary across states, districts, and/or socioeconomic groups?
- How has the implementation of the National Food Security Act affected food security and nutritional outcomes across different population groups and agro-ecological zones?
- How do the capacities and accountability structures of local governance bodies such as Gram Panchayats influence the quality and coverage of social service delivery?
- What lessons can be drawn from state-level policy innovations in education and health for designing nationally scalable reforms?
- How does the interaction between public and private healthcare providers shape equity, quality, and affordability of health services across urban and rural India?



Theme 4

Regions, Resources, and Development: Comparative Perspectives from Indian States

Regional disparities remain a defining feature of India's development trajectory, reflecting deep-seated differences in resource endowments, ecological conditions, institutional capacity, and historical trajectories. The relationship between natural resources and development outcomes is neither linear nor uniform; in several cases, regions endowed with minerals, forests, or water resources continue to experience uneven growth, ecological stress, and distributive conflicts. This raises critical questions about how political economy dynamics, governance structures, and policy choices mediate the translation of resources into inclusive development. At the same time, spatial inequalities are reinforced by variations in infrastructure, market access, and state capacity, producing divergent pathways of structural transformation across states. Understanding these differences requires moving beyond aggregate indicators to examine the interplay between geography, institutions, and history in shaping development outcomes.

Participants are encouraged to engage with, but are not limited to, the following research questions:

- What are the key factors that explain variations in development outcomes across Indian states, particularly in terms of growth, human development, and structural transformation?
- How do differences in regional contexts shape the trajectories of economic and social development across states?
- How do natural resource endowments influence development pathways, and under what conditions do they contribute to inclusive and sustainable growth?
- In what ways do geographical factors such as location, connectivity, and ecological conditions affect access to opportunities and development outcomes?
- How do institutional capacity and quality of governance shape the utilisation and management of resources across regions?
- What has been the role of public policy, including regional development programmes and fiscal transfers, in addressing inter-state disparities?
- How do intergovernmental arrangements and fiscal federalism influence regional equity and development outcomes?
- In what ways do historical trajectories continue to influence present-day regional inequalities?
- What explains the differences in sectoral transformation and industrialisation patterns across states?
- What lessons can be drawn from comparative state-level experiences to inform more inclusive and context-sensitive development strategies?



Theme 5

Education, Knowledge Systems

Education, when understood beyond the confines of formal schooling, encompasses a plurality of knowledge systems—including indigenous, traditional, and experiential forms—that shape how individuals and communities interpret, navigate, and sustain their social and economic worlds. However, dominant education systems have historically privileged formal, standardised knowledge, often marginalising community-based epistemologies and limiting their role in shaping development outcomes and well-being. This raises important questions about inclusion, relevance, and the relationship between knowledge and lived realities. At the same time, contemporary transformations, particularly digitalisation and changing labour markets, are reshaping knowledge hierarchies, access, and the value attached to different forms of learning.



Participants are encouraged to engage with, but are not limited to, the following research questions:

- How can education be understood in relation to broader dimensions of individual and collective well-being, including social, cultural, and economic aspects?
- What are the key limitations of formal education systems in addressing diverse learning needs and lived realities?
- How do different knowledge systems, including indigenous and local traditions, contribute to livelihoods, resilience, and community well-being?
- What challenges arise in recognising and integrating diverse knowledge systems within formal education frameworks?
- How can education systems incorporate multiple forms of knowledge while maintaining their distinctiveness and relevance?
- How is digitalisation transforming access to knowledge, learning processes, and educational equity?
- What are the implications of changing labour market dynamics for the role and design of education systems?
- What role do communities and local institutions play in sustaining and transmitting knowledge systems?
- How can education systems be made more inclusive and responsive to diverse socio-economic contexts?
- What policy approaches are needed to better align education systems with well-being, livelihoods, and long-term development goals?



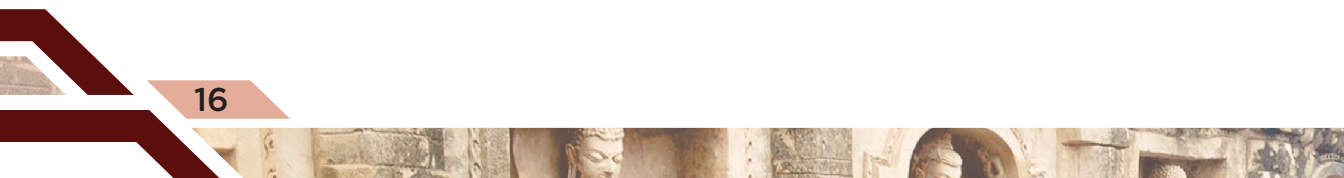
Theme 6

Global Goals beyond 2030

As the 2030 deadline for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) approaches, it is imperative to move beyond a narrow assessment of targets achieved and consider the broader structural limitations of the current global development framework. While the SDGs have provided a shared normative agenda, progress has been uneven, with persistent inequalities, climate vulnerabilities, and institutional constraints undermining their transformative potential. These challenges point to the need for a deeper reflection on the assumptions, priorities, and governance structures that underpin global development efforts. At the same time, emerging dynamics—including climate change, technological disruption, and shifting geopolitical alignments—are reshaping the context within which development goals are pursued.

Participants are encouraged to engage with, but are not limited to, the following research questions:

- What have been the major achievements and continuing challenges in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals across different regions?
- How and why has progress varied across countries, sectors, and population groups?
- What key principles should guide the design of a development framework beyond 2030?
- How can future global agendas better address issues of inequality, inclusion, and sustainability?
- How is climate change expected to influence development priorities and international cooperation in the coming decades?
- What role are technological advancements likely to play in shaping future development pathways?
- How do changing geopolitical dynamics affect global collaboration on development issues?
- How can global governance mechanisms be strengthened to support more effective and inclusive development outcomes?
- What role can countries of the Global South play in shaping the post-2030 development agenda?
- What lessons from the implementation of the SDGs can inform future strategies and institutional arrangements?
- Why has progress on inequality-related goals remained uneven across regions, and what structural factors explain these disparities?
- How do intersectional inequalities (gender, class, geography) shape the effectiveness of SDG interventions?
- To what extent does the SDG framework adequately incorporate principles of environmental justice and social equity?



NALANDA UNIVERSITY: A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

Nalanda University contains within it a memory of the ancient Nalanda Mahavihara, which was an undisputed seat of learning and was characterised by its ability to meld multiple discourses and embrace knowledge in its entirety. This made the ancient Nalanda uniquely attractive for the scholars and seekers of knowledge from across the regions, from places as distant as China, Korea, Japan, Tibet, Mongolia, Turkey, Sri Lanka, and South East Asia. The historical evidences show that the foundation of the Nalanda Mahavihara was laid during the reign of the emperor Kumaragupta, who reigned in 413-455 CE. The well-known Chinese scholar Xuan Zang studied the ancient Nalanda in 637 and 642 CE. The scholars who taught at the ancient Nalanda include Asanga, Dharmakirti, Dignaga, Haribhadra, Nagarjuna, Shantarakshita, Shantideva, Shilabhadra, Vasubandhu, etc.

To reinforce the University's global mandate, an inter-governmental Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) came into force at the 8th East Asia Summit held at Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei in October 2013 with 13 countries signing the MoU initially, underscoring their commitment to the vision of the revival of Nalanda University. This is further augmented by the addition of 5 more participating countries and today the number of participating countries stands at 18. The participating countries of Nalanda University are: Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Mauritius, New Zealand, Portugal, Republic of South Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The particular emphasis of Nalanda University, which sets it apart from all other existent universities in the region, is its foundational philosophy: it seeks to recover the lost connections and partnerships that existed in the region of Asia. Asian cultures have many such links that go deep into the past and are reflected in many common cultural features. The rediscovery of inter-Asian linkages in recent times has led to a resurgence in discovering and building upon a shared history. Nalanda University is envisaged an icon of this new Asian renaissance: a creative space that will be for future generations a center of inter-civilizational dialogue.

Nalanda University was established by an Act of Parliament of India (Nalanda University Act-2010) as an international University of National Importance. The University became functional since 2014, and offers International Masters programs, 4-year Global PhD programs, and various short-term programs. The University draws students, researchers and teaching faculty from across the world, with over seventy percent of the student composition being international. The courses taught are of international orientation, with an emphasis on interdisciplinary cutting edge research.



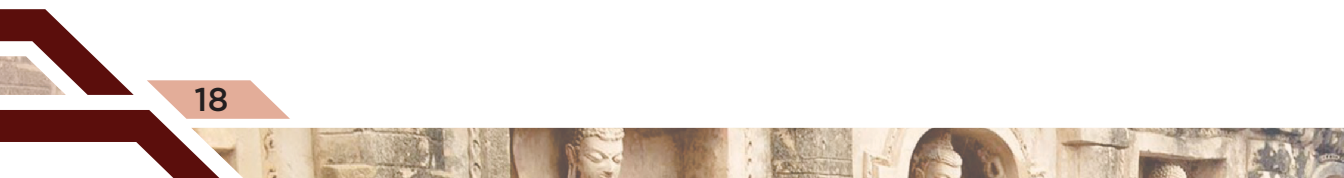
Sustainable and Net-Zero Campus Model

Nalanda University is India's first "net-zero" university, translating ecological responsibility into a green, carbon-neutral, and sustainable campus. Fossil fuel vehicles are restricted to designated visitor parking areas, while battery-operated carts facilitate mobility for students, faculty, and guests across the campus. The University's infrastructure including academic buildings, laboratories, and residential facilities is designed on eco-friendly and net-zero principles, reinforcing sustainability as a lived practice rather than a policy objective.

Sahbhagita: Social Innovation and Sustainable Development

The University's flagship initiative, Sahbhagita, represents a distinctive model of shared prosperity and community partnership. The programme focuses on improving the well-being of five neighbouring villages—Mahadeva, Kubdi, Jayi, Mahullah, and Mahadeva through targeted, multi-dimensional interventions.

Key initiatives include the formation of women's self-help groups, capacity-building and skills training, and the creation of forward and backward market linkages to enable sustainable livelihoods. The University also supports local farmers through training, access to quality seeds and agricultural inputs, promotion of organic farming practices, and direct procurement of vegetables and food produce. These efforts strengthen local incomes while fostering social coexistence between the University and surrounding communities. In addition, Nalanda University provides technical, vocational, and knowledge-based training to teachers from fourteen nearby schools, contributing to improvements in educational quality and learning outcomes for children in the region.



HOW TO REACH NALANDA



By Road

Nalanda University in Rajgir, Bihar, is well connected by road via NH-31/NH-2, with frequent taxis and buses from Patna, Gaya, and Rajgir. The campus is located in Rajgir, and visitors should contact the university in advance to arrange access.



By Air

Nalanda University is accessible via Patna Airport (approx. 90 km away)/ Gaya Airport (appx. 66 km away) or through nearby railway stations in Rajgir (appx. 5 km away).

From Patna: The nearest airport is Jayaprakash Narayan International Airport (PAT) in Patna, located about 90 km away. You can hire a taxi or take a bus or train from Patna to reach the campus in Rajgir, which takes about 2 hours. Daily flights operate to and from Delhi and other major cities of India.

From Gaya: Direct flights from Gaya International Airport (appx. 66 km away) connect to New Delhi, Kolkata, and Varanasi.



By Rail

Rajgir Railway Station (RGD): Approximately 5 km away from Nalanda University.

Delegates arriving at Patna or Gaya Airports on 25 October 2026 will be provided with bus transfers. Shuttle services will operate at intervals between Patna/Gaya Airports and Rajgir Railway Station, with departures scheduled from a designated common point. Details of the boarding location and timings will be communicated closer to the Conference dates. Delegates arriving at the specified location as per the schedule will be provided transport to the Conference venue.

Return transport will be arranged from the Conference venue to the respective airports/railway stations at around 3:00 p.m. on 28 October 2026, and in the morning of 29 October 2026 until 10:00 a.m.

WEATHER IN NALANDA DURING THE CONFERENCE DAYS

The weather in Nalanda during October is generally pleasant, with daytime temperatures ranging between 30°C to 35°C and cooler evenings around 18°C to 22°C. The climate is typically dry with low chances of rainfall, making it comfortable for travel and outdoor activities.

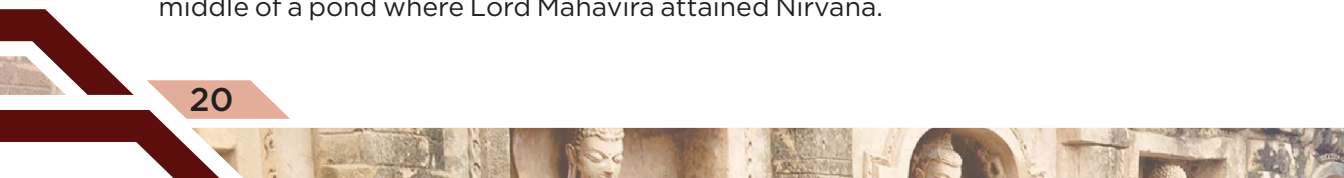
Delegates are advised to carry light cotton clothing for the day, along with a light jacket or shawl for the evenings.

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

Key, must-see sites in and around the ancient Nalanda University (a UNESCO World Heritage site) include the extensive, brick-built university ruins, the Stupa of Sariputra, and the Nalanda Archaeological Museum. Nearby attractions include the Hiuen Tsang Memorial Hall, Kundalpur Jain temples, and the stunning Pawapuri Jal Mandir.

Top Attractions in and around Nalanda

- **Nalanda University Ruins & Stupa of Sariputra:** The main archaeological site featuring remnants of monasteries, temples, and the impressive pyramid-shaped Stupa.
- **Nalanda Archaeological Museum:** Located opposite the ruins, it houses a rich collection of artifacts, including Buddhist, Hindu, and Jain, as well as pottery and seals.
- **Hiuen Tsang Memorial Hall:** Built in honor of the Chinese traveler who studied here, offering insight into its history.
- **Black Buddha Temple (Telia Bhairav):** Features a large black idol of Buddha, revered by many.
- **Kundalpur (2 km from ruins):** A significant Digambar Jain pilgrimage site believed to be the birthplace of Lord Mahavira.
- **Pawapuri (20 km):** A sacred Jain site featuring the Jal Mandir, a temple built in the middle of a pond where Lord Mahavira attained Nirvana.



- Kakolat Falls (65 km);, located in Nawada district is a scenic waterfall surrounded by lush greenery and is a popular spot for picnics and short excursions.

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Rajgir Area

- Vishwa Shanti Stupa (Peace Pagoda): Accessible by ropeway in nearby Rajgir.
- Griddhakuta Peak (Vulture's Peak): Where Buddha preached, located near the Shanti Stupa.
- Ghora Katora Lake: A scenic lake ideal for boating, close to the Shanti Stupa.
- Veerayatan Museum: A Jain museum focusing on history and art.
- Jarasandh ka Akhara: A historic site associated with the legendary king Jarasandh of the Mahabharata, and is believed to have been a wrestling arena used for combat training.
- Rajgir Hot Springs, nestled at the foot of Vaibhava Hill in Rajgir, are a collection of seven natural thermal streams known as Saptarshi. Renowned for their medicinal properties and religious significance

Patna Area

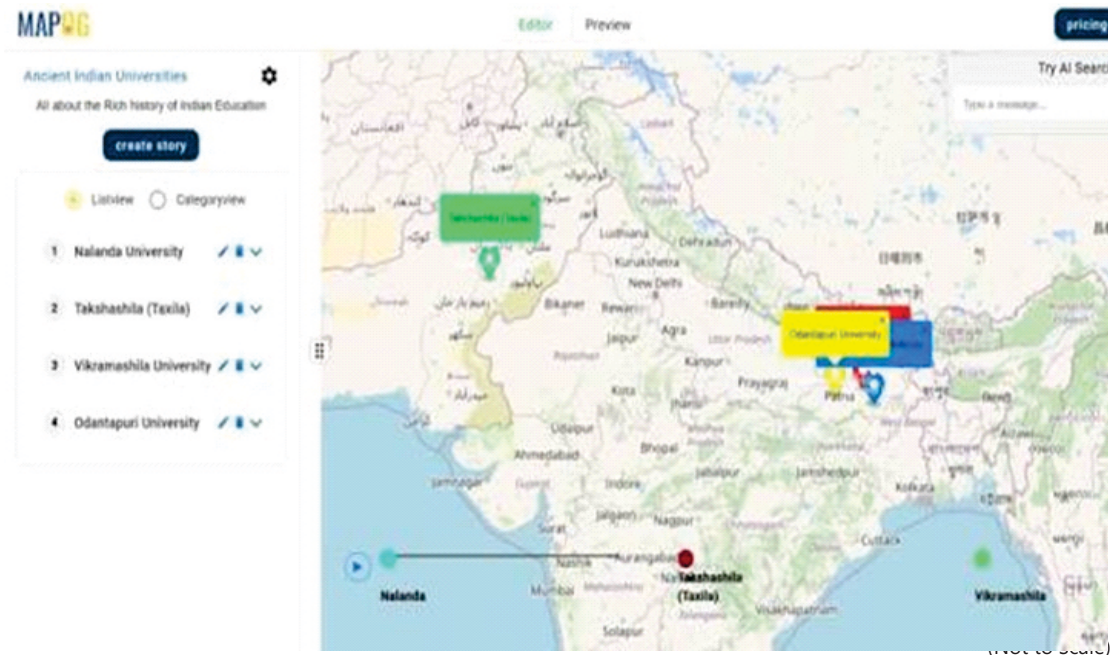
Patna, a historic city on the banks of the Ganga, offers a mix of ancient, religious, and modern attractions. Key places to visit include the sacred Takht Sri Patna Sahib, panoramic views from the Golghar, Kumhrar- an important archaeological site that preserves the remains of the Mauryan Empire and the scenic Sanjay Gandhi Botanical Garden. Rich history is showcased at the Bihar Museum and Patna Museum.

Gaya Area

Gaya, a premier spiritual destination, is renowned for the UNESCO World Heritage Mahabodhi Temple and the sacred Vishnupad Temple. Key highlights include meditating under the Bodhi Tree, visiting the 80-foot Buddha statue, exploring the ancient Barabar Caves, and experiencing diverse international monasteries



A ROUTE MAP TO NALANDA



CONTACT DETAILS

PATRONS

Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi

Vice-Chancellor, Nalanda University, Bihar; and Chairman, IASSI

CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

Professor Ram Singh

Director, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi

CONFERENCE ORGANISING SECRETARY

Dr. Kishore Dhavala

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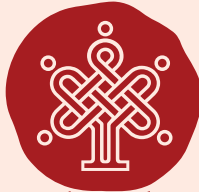
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