

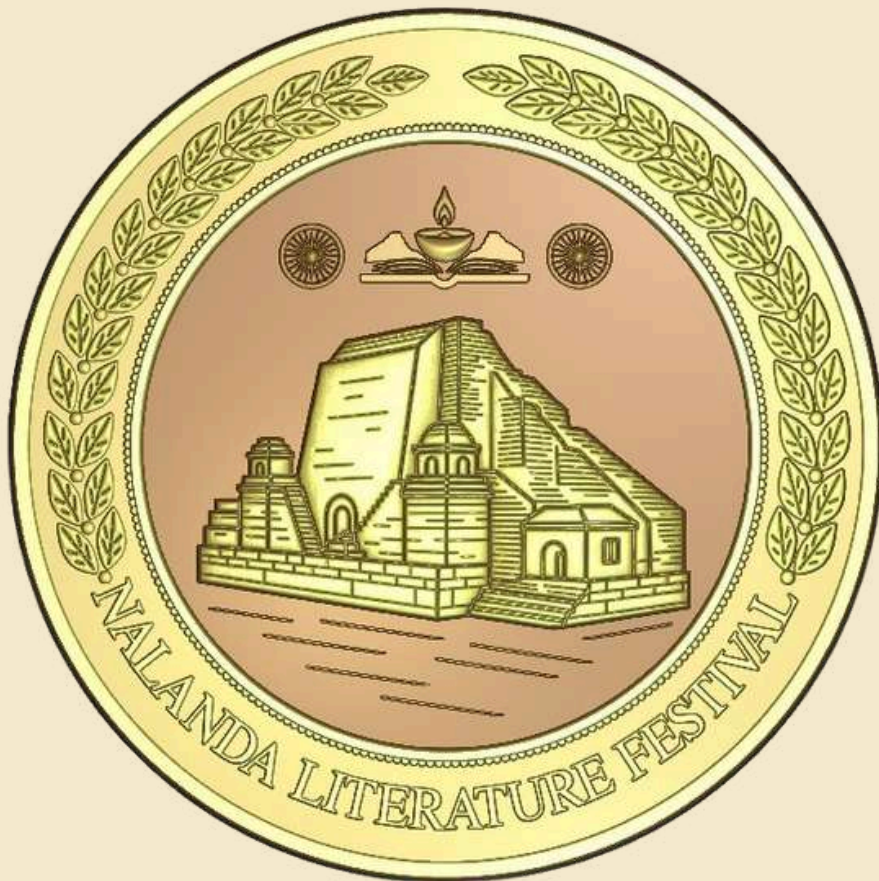


VISION DOCUMENT for Nalanda Literature Festival (Nalanda LittFest) 2026–2027

(Legacy | Language | Literature)

CENTRAL THEME FOR YEAR 2026-27

“NALANDA IN THE WORLD AND WORLD IN NALANDA”



www.littfest.in
www.nalandaliteraturefestival.com



@NALANDALITTFEST

email - info@littfest.in



SCAN
FOR FOR
MORE
DETAILS

VISION & OBJECTIVES

Vision

To revive Nalanda's civilizational legacy as a global hub of Indian knowledge system, ideas, modern science, dialogue, learning, connecting ancient wisdom and socio, cultural, religious consciousness thoughts with contemporary literature, policy, technology and culture.

Objectives

- **To promote regional literature:** NLF promotes regional literature and culture of India with special focus of undivided Bihar and North-east India.
- **To create a platform for movement of ideas:** NLF Creates platform for generation and movement of ideas with the aim to encourage youth, scholars, and first-time writers.
- **To develop library to preserve cultural legacy** for preservation and promotion of regional literature.
- **Connecting with the Indian Diaspora:** NLF strengthens cultural ties through the theme of "routes to roots."
- **To bridge between Literature with art, modern science, medicine, environment:** NLF links literature with modern science, medicine, environment fostering innovation, research, and opportunities for young literary talents.
- **To establish Permanent Centre:** Establish Nalanda as a hub for literary and cultural research.
- **To promote archival and translation Initiatives:** Promote archival and translation activities to preserve regional literature.
- **National and Global Literary Exchange:** Promote regional, national, and international literary discourse.

PROGRAMMING FRAMEWORK

Key Literary Tracks

- Nalanda Dialogues – Philosophy, religion & diversity in Nalanda, Indic & Asian thought
- World Literature Forum – Nobel laureate, Booker awardee, Sahitya Akademi, Jnanpith awardee etc
- Indian Languages Pavilion –Pali, Sanskrit, Maithili, Bhojpuri, Magahi, Bajjika, Angika, Santali, Kui, Saora, Ho and North East languages
- Translation Lab – Undivided Bihar, North-East & South Asian literature exchange
- Future of Knowledge – AI, publishing, digital humanities
- History & Civilizations – Universities, monks, travellers, archives
- Women & Literature – Feminist histories, voices, leadership
- Young writers (age less than 50 years)

YEAR-LONG ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

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Signature Programmes

- Nalanda Dialogues - 8 cities in India and 2 International destinations
- Nalanda Parampara - programme to encourage local writers, artists, culture
- Nalanda Daksha- programmes for skill development through recognised courses
- Nalanda Sathi- Fellowship support for young writers for research, publication, editing, translation
- Bhasha Rath- Activities in national & international schools & colleges
- Nalanda Main Festival - 4 days Mahaparva on Language, Literature & Legacy

PROJECT DESCRIPTION & PROGRAMME COMPONENTS

NLF to expand from an annual event into a sustainable knowledge institution through the following components:

Nalanda Knowledge Archives

A permanent digital and physical archive housing:

- Recorded festival sessions
- Transcripts, translations, and research papers
- Oral histories and regional narratives

These archives will ensure long-term accessibility for scholars, students and the general public.

Nalanda Dialogues

Annual and biennial dialogues with scholars and writers from Asia, Africa, and the Global South, focusing on:

- Shared cultural civilisational histories
- Migration and diaspora narratives
- Ethics of technology and artificial intelligence
- Post-colonial knowledge system
- Environmental issues
- Dialogue online on monthly basis (Podcast)

Nalanda Fellowship

A structured fellowship programme supporting translation:

- Between Indian languages
- From Indian languages into English
- Of oral and endangered literary traditions

Bhasha Rath

- Celebrate India's linguistic diversity through interactive school & college activities.
- Drive student engagement with fun, low-manpower language experiences.
- Blend culture, technology, and social media for wider outreach.

Leadership concepts

- Vedic Tradition
- Buddhist Tradition
- Jain Tradition
- Ayurveda & Ayush
- Natural Farming
- Traditional Ethics/ Philosophy
- Gurukul & Learning

This initiative will democratise access to knowledge and strengthen literary exchange.

Youth, Academia and Skill Integration

Partnerships with universities and cultural institutions to offer:

- Student internships and mentorships
- Research and documentation projects
- Skill-based workshops in publishing, archiving, translation, and cultural management

Undivided Bihar–Northeast Cultural Corridor

Residencies, joint publications, and cultural exchanges linking Bihar and the North-eastern states, strengthening historical and philosophical ties while fostering contemporary collaboration.

Youth/Tech Boost

Expand "Future of Knowledge" track with hands-on demonstrations of AI in literature, such as generative storytelling tools, along with contests for Generation Z creators (both regional and national) to drive social media virality and increase youth participation.

Policy Tie-ups with Govt Institutions

- Link to national priorities, e.g., NE development via cultural corridor, Ayush/Natural farming sessions.
- To connect with the existing government programmes like Swadesh Darshan 2.0's; Buddhist and heritage circuits in undivided Bihar/Northeast; the new Buddhist Circuit Scheme from Budget 2026-27, Dekho Apna Desh for spiritual sites, and Northeast Youth Exchange Programmes for cultural ties.

Labs

- Storytelling & Oral History Lab

TARGET BENEFICIARIES

- Writers, scholars, translators, and researchers
- Students and young cultural practitioners
- Regional and indigenous language communities
- Academic institutions and libraries
- Policymakers and cultural strategists
- General public seeking access to credible knowledge platforms.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

- 50,000 attendees; financial support for 100 translations, editing & research work; 100M digital reach.
- Establish Nalanda as a contemporary global knowledge hub
- Increase visibility and accessibility of regional and indigenous literatures
- Foster interdisciplinary research, modern science and dialogue
- Strengthen India's cultural diplomacy and soft power
- Create educational and employment opportunities within the cultural economy
- Build a sustainable, youth-driven knowledge ecosystem.
- Bolster Awareness of Environmental Impacts & Remediation
- Support Growth of Indigenous Education Values (Gurukul)
- Encourage Growth of Natural Remedies | Ayush | Ayurveda | Natural Farming
- Promotion & Linkage of pilgrimage, cultural & tourist places like Bodh Gaya, Ayodhya, Varanasi (Sarnath) etc.

SUSTAINABILITY AND LONG-TERM VISION

NLF aims to evolve into a permanent knowledge institution—comparable in intellectual ambition to the ancient Mahavihara, while fully responsive to contemporary realities.

ALIGNMENT WITH SUPPORTING PARTNERS

The Nalanda Literature Festival aligns closely related to:

- Cultural preservation and innovation
- Education and knowledge accessibility
- Youth engagement and skill development
- Regional integration and inclusion
- International cultural cooperation and diplomacy.

PARTNERSHIPS & STAKEHOLDERS

Government & Institutions

- Ministry of Culture/ Tourism/ DoNER/ Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India
- Tourism & Culture Dept, NCT of Delhi, Bihar, Odisha, W.B., Jharkhand & NE States.
- Universities (India, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Japan, Mauritius, Suriname, South Korea, SE Asia)
- Buddhist & Jain Entities

International Partners

- UNESCO-linked institutions
- Asian literary festivals
- Cultural embassies & councils (Vietnam, Myanmar , Thailand , Laos , Cambodia , Japan and China)

Corporate

- Publishing houses
- EdTech & knowledge platforms
- Business Entities
- Hospitality & travel partners

SUSTAINABILITY & LEGACY

Green Festival Plan

- Zero-plastic policy
- Local sourcing & crafts
- Carbon-neutral targets - The most notable carbon-neutral initiative in Rajgir, Bihar, is the new campus of Nalanda University, which has been designed as India's first fully net-zero, 100% solar-powered university campus.

Long-Term Legacy

- Annual Nalanda Publications
- Quarterly NLF Newsletter
- Permanent Digital Nalanda Library
- Policy papers & academic proceedings
- Yearly continuation as a global knowledge platform

EMINENT GUESTS

- Hon'ble President of India/ Guyana
- Hon'ble VP of India
- Hon'ble PM of Mauritius
- Hon'ble HM of India
- Hon'ble Culture Minister of India
- Hon'ble Governor of Bihar
- Hon'ble CM of Bihar, Assam & other NE States

SOME GUEST SPEAKERS

Eminent Category (Abroad)

- Bhuchung D. Sonam, Tibet
- Bob Dylan, USA
- Geoffrey Hinton, Canada
- Han Kang, South Korea
- Jhumpa Lahiri, USA
- Mohan Munasinghe, Srilanka
- Nuruddin Farah, Somalia
- Octavio Paz (laiz), Mexico
- Robert Thurman, USA
- Salman Rushdie, United Kindgdom
- Sarita Boodhoo, Mauritius
- Sunita Lyn Williams, USA
- Tenzin Tsundve, Tibet
- Walter Anderson, USA
- Yuval Noah Harari, Israel

Eminent Indian Scholars | Writers Category

- Abraham Verghese
- Amish Tripathi
- Amitabh Kant
- Amitav Ghosh
- Amitava Kumar
- Anand Kumar
- Anupam Kher
- Anuradha Roy
- Ashwin Sanghi
- Banu Mushtaq
- Devdutt Pattanaik
- Dilip Nandkeolyar
- Ganesh Narayandas Devy
- Gaur Gopal Das
- Geetanjali Shree
- Geshe Dorji Damdul
- Pullela Gopichand
- Javed Akhtar
- Kailash Satyarthi
- Kapil Kapoor
- Karma Tenzing
- Nandita Das
- Palash Krishna Mehrotra
- Pavan k Varma
- Praseon Joshi
- Purushottam Agrawal
- Rajmohan Gandhi
- Sanjeev Sanyal
- Shashi Tharoor
- Soumya Swaminathan
- Sudha Murthy
- Sudhir Chandra
- Twinkle Khanna
- Vandana Shiva
- Vikram Sampath
- Vikram Seth
- Vishal/ Rekha Bhardwaj

Undivided Bihar & North Eastern Speaker Category

- Arindam Chakrabarti
- Arup Kumar Dutta
- Bandita Phukan
- Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni
- D. Venkat Rao
- Hrishikesh Sulabh
- Indranil Chakravarty
- Jayram Singh
- KC Lalthlamuani
- Mahua Maji
- Pratibha Ray
- Rita Chowdhury
- Rituparna Neog
- S.P. Chatterjee
- Sachin Chaturvedi
- Siddharth Dev
- Siddharth Singh
- Sunita Dwivedi
- Tine Mena
- Vishwajit Kumar

EVENING CULTURAL PROGRAMMES

- Cultural Troupe from Mauritius & Thailand
- Piyush Mishra
- Manoj Joshi

DESTINATION FOR NALANDA DIALOGUE

Indian Destination

- Delhi - 9-10 May 2026
- Srinagar - 20th June 2026
- Calicut - 5th December 2026
- Bodhgaya - 30th January 2027
- Mumbai - 13th March 2027
- Guwahati - 17th April 2027
- Delhi - 9-10 May 2027
- Kolkata - 10th July 2027

International destination

- Mauritius
- England

Eminent Category | Public Figures

- Alakh Pandey (Physics Wala)
- Anil Kumble/ Virender Sehwag
- Asasuddin Owaisi
- Dattatreya Hosabale
- Khan Sir (Patna)
- Nitin Vijay/ Vikas Divyakirti
- Pankaj Tripathi
- Sri Sri Ravi Shankar
- Anil Agrawal
- Anand Mahindra
- Kanishka Narayan

Team Speaker Category

- Aquil Ahmad
- Pankaj Dubey
- Sachchidanand Joshi
- Shashank Shekhar Sinha
- Sonal Mansingh

Others Category

- Youth and Pop Cultures
- Japanese Poetry
- Indian K Pop Writers

Anchors / Sessions

- Pankaj KP Shreyaskar (English)
- Charles Thomson (Hindi)
- RJ Shashi / RJ Anjali
- Vic Gaffney - Presentor

CURTAIN RAISER IN
PATNA ON 25TH
SEPTEMBER 2027

NALANDA LITERATURE FESTIVAL 2026-27 (MAIN FESTIVAL)

Theme: Commemoration of 1600 years' establishment of Old Nalanda University

Focus States: Undivided Bihar and North-Eastern States

Focus Country: Vietnam/ Thailand

Location: Rajgir, Nalanda, Bihar, India

Duration: 17th – 20th October 2027

Work Plan

Daily Structure (break between sessions)

- Morning: Meditation, heritage walks, scholarly panels
- Afternoon: sessions, book launches, workshops
- Evening: Poetry, theatre, music, film screenings

Special Features

- Nalanda Book Fair (Indian & global publishers)
- Digital Nalanda Pavilion (VR, archives, AI tools)
- Monastic Dialogues (Buddhist universities worldwide)
- Cultural evenings inspired by ancient universities
- Outdoor pavilion on art & crafts; AI & Robot; literature, old universities

Some Glimpses of Nalanda Literature Festival (Nalanda LittFest) 2025



NALANDA LITERATURE FESTIVAL 2025



Nalanda – an outstanding lit fest



Organiser



Incredible India

Event Organiser



Radio and Music Streaming partner



gaana

Knowledge Partner



Institutional Partner



INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS