



NALANDA LITERATURE FESTIVAL 2025

(Legacy, Language & Literature)

21-25 DECEMBER, 2025

Rajgir Convention Centre, Nalanda, Bihar, India

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Nalanda Literature Festival 2025

(Central Theme: Legacy/ Language/ Literature)

Vision Statement

The Nalanda Literature Festival aspires to become a beacon of cultural renaissance rooted in the ancient ethos of Nalanda, a renowned global centre of learning excellence, by celebrating the prolificacy of languages, literature and global cultural collaboration. Through a confluence of literary luminaries, emerging voices and global diasporas, the festival aims to instill literary laced cultural consciousness among society.

Core Focus

Legacy | Language | Literature

- Reviving and honoring classical and contemporary languages and literary traditions of India.
- Encouraging regional, national and global literary exchanges with a spotlight on Bihar and the North East.
- Building an inclusive platform where diverse voices – from folklore to future-forward writing – find their audience.
- Diasporic literature and cultural barriers- A critical Review.
- Linkages between Literature with modern science for employment generation.

Festival Theme

States of Stories: Bihar & The North East

- The storytelling traditions, folk narratives, poetry and contemporary literature from Bihar and North Eastern states (Assam, Manipur, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim).
- Literary icons from these regions alongside emerging writers, poets, lyricists, artists and performers.
- Cultural intersections through cuisine, craft, music and oral traditions from both regions.

Diaspora Focus: Routes to Roots

- Mauritius
- Laos
- South Africa
- South Korea
- Bhutan
- Cambodia
- Seychelles
- Fiji
- UAE
- Sri Lanka
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Nepal
- Vietnam
- Japan
- Thailand
- Indonesia
- Suriname
- Guyana

Through the “Routes to Roots” segment, we aim to:

- Celebrate literary and cultural connections of Indian-origin communities abroad.
- Highlight diaspora literature reflecting migration, memory and identity.
- Invite authors, scholars, and artists from these countries to participate in panel discussions, performances and readings.
- Build diplomatic and cultural bridges with partner embassies and cultural institutions.

Festival Features

A. Sessions

- Main stage Conversations: with literary legends and young influencers.
- Regional Spotlights: Dedicated segments for Bihar and each North Eastern state.
- Language Labs: Workshops in Angika, Bajjika, Bhojpuri, Magahi, Maithili, Surjapuri, Hindi, Bodo, Assamese, Manipuri and more.
- Diaspora Dialogues: International panels exploring literature of displacement and belonging.
- Youth Takeover Stage: Performances, poetry slams and talks by new-age storytellers and social media writers.
- Attractions: Heritage Walks & Literary Trails around Nalanda and Rajgir.
- Locati Interactive session cum Press meets in various cities: Patna, Mumbai, Calicut, Guwahati, Kolkata, New Delhi & Nalanda.
- Curtain raiser Show: Indian International Centre, New Delhi.

B. Other Highlights

- Book Fair & Publisher Pavilion.
- Tribal and Folk Art Exhibitions.
- Local Cuisine Festival.
- Poetry Under the Stars (Evening open mic & musical poetry sessions).
- Diaspora café.
- Various outdoor activities such as Yoga, meditation, laughter therapy etc.
- Music Jam Session.

Target Participants

- Writers, Poets, Translators, Publishers, Scientists, Researchers.
- Filmmakers and Screenwriters inspired by regional literature.
- Linguists and Folk-lorists.
- Cultural Diplomats & Diaspora Leaders.
- Educators & Students.
- General Literature Enthusiasts.

Partnerships & Collaborations

- Sahitya Akademi, ICCR, IGNC.
- Universities, Culture & Literary Departments.
- Various State Governments such as Bihar, Tripura, Assam, Manipur.
- M/o DoNER & North Eastern Council (NEC).
- Embassies/High Commission of Mauritius, Suriname, Japan, Fiji, Trinidad & Tobago, Cambodia, Thailand, Bhutan, UAE, Sri Lanka, Laos, South Africa, Nepal, Seychelles, Indonesia, South Korea, Guyana & Vietnam.
- Cultural and Publishing Houses.
- Corporate sponsors with a literary, educational or regional footprint.

Young Brigade segment at Nalanda Literature Festival'25

- 5 Credible Indian Novelists Under 35 (Global).
- Five Young Writers with Bihar Connections (Under 35).

“Call for Manuscripts” or “Young Voices of Bihar” contest to spotlight more

To start “Nalanda Literature Prize”

Taglines:

- “3Ls- Legacy, Language & Literature”.
- “Reviving Civilizations, Rekindling Stories”.
- “From Roots to Routes: Stories That Travel”.
- “Voices from the Heartlands to the Horizons”.
- “Explore the world between the lines and rhythms”.
- “Immerse, Imagine, and Ignite”.

Long-Term Vision

- Establish Nalanda as a permanent hub for literary and cultural scholarship.
- To create NLF as pathway from literature to science & employment generation.
- Foster a literary tourism circuit around Nalanda-Rajgir-Bodh Gaya-Vaishali.
- Develop archival and translation projects for regional literature
- Mentor young curators, translators and writers through year-round fellowships and residencies.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME SCHEDULE:

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY LIST:

Artefacts | Visual Arts | Canvas Painting | Sculpture Art | Embroidery & Applique work | Bajjika Art | Madhubani Painting | Stone Art | Sikki Work | Other Art Forms

LIVE DISPLAY OF CULINARY CUISINES OF ENTIRE BIHAR & NORTH EAST

DISPLAY OF ETHNIC CONTEMPORARY ARTS & CRFAT ITEMS

(OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES)

LIVE HANDICRAFT WORKSHOPS AND DISPLAY OF ETHNIC AND CONTEMPORARY ARTS AND CRAFT ITEMS. APART FROM THIS, THE ACTIVITIES OF CULTURAL LEGACY OF BIHAR & NORTH EAST WOULD BE DISPLAYED. LIVE WORKSHOPS ON LOCAL ART FORMS – HANDICRAFTS

Programmatic Schedule of NLF-2025 (21st-25th December 2025)

Date: 21st December 2025

12:00-01:00 PM	Program A	Inaugural Ceremony
01:00-02:00 PM	Lunch Break	
03:00-05:00 PM	Program B	Site Visit:- Ruins of the ancient Nalanda University
05:00-06:00 PM	Program C	Visit of Xuanzang Memorial Complex, Nava Nalanda Mahavihara
6:00PM-9:00PM	Program D	Live Cultural Performance (Bihar Troupe) & Dinner

END OF DAY1

Date:22nd December 2025

Alloted Time	Avalokam	Topic	Alloted Time	Samaagam	Topic
07:00-08:00 AM	Program E	Activities on Yoga & Meditation by Bihar School of Yoga, Munger			
10:00-11:00 AM	Session 1	Interactive Session on Literature (Dr. Shashi Tharoor in conversation with Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi)			
11:00-12:00 PM	Session 2	Shabodon ki Social Factory	11:00-12:00 PM	Session 3	Culture Crossover with Languages
12:00-12:45 PM	Session 4	Book review:- How India scaled Mt G20: The Inside Story of The G20 Presidency (Sh. Amitabh Kant in conversation with Prof. Sunaina Singh)			
12:45-01:00 PM	Session 5	Film Muhurat: Ardhnayak			
01:00-02:00 PM	Lunch Break				
02:00-02:45 PM	Session 6	The Lost Love	02:00-02:45 PM	Session 7	Beyond Bolis, we are languages
02:45-03:30 PM	Session 8	Interactive Session on Language (Sh. Adoor Gopalakrishnan in conversation with Sh. Ganga Kumar)			
03:30-04:15 PM	Session 9	Word to Screen	03:30-04:15 PM	Session 10	Algorithms to Accents
04:15-05:15 PM	Session 11	Writing India in English: Celebrating its Multicultural Narratives	04:15-05:15 PM	Session 12	From Folklore to Future: Evolving Voices
05:15-06:00 PM	Session 13	Book Review:- A Zigzag Mind (Dr. Sonal Mansingh in conversation with Dr. Vikram Sampath)			
06:00-06:15 PM	Session 13A	Book Release			
07:00-09:00PM	Program F	Live Cultural Performance (Jasn-E- Mehfil) followed by Dinner			

END OF DAY2

Date:23rd December 2025

Alloted Time	Avalokam	Topic	Alloted Time	Samaagam	Topic
07:00-08:00 AM	Program G	Activities on Yoga & Meditation by Bihar School of Yoga, Munger			
10:00-11:00 AM	Session 14	Reimagining Bharatiya Itihas from an Indic perspective: A conversation	10:00-11:00 AM	Session 15	Her Words , Her World: Exploring Women's Voices in Indian Writing
11:00-12:20 PM	Session 16	Language as legacy : how regional Tongues safegurad our cultural roots ?	11:00-12:20 PM	Session 17	Exploring Nalanda Spirit in world
12:20-01:00 PM	Session 18	Inscriptions of NE States	12:20-01:00 PM	Session 19	Satyagrah: Champaran Prayog
01:00-02:00 PM	Lunch Break				
02:00-03:00 PM	Session 20	Seven sisters and the journey of languages	02:00-03:00 PM	Session 21	From Local to Global: Evolving Practices in the landscape of literary translations
03:00-04:00 PM	Session 22	The Language Tribe	03:00-04:00 PM	Session 23	Urdu: From Past to present
04:00-05:00 PM	Session 24	Oral Literature	04:00-05:00 PM	Session 25	Does religion overpowers our way of life ?
05:00-05:45 PM	Session 26	Book Review: Echoes of Eternity: A Journey through Indian Thought (Sh. Pavan K Varma in conversation with Sh. Sunit Tandon)			
05:45-06:00 PM	Session 26A	Motivational talk on Healthy and happy life by Ms. D. Aaliya			
06:00-06:15 PM	Session 26B	Book Release			
07:00-09:00PM	Program H	Live Cultural Performance (Dr. Sonal Mansingh on Deva Katha) followed by Dinner			

END OF DAY3

Date:24th December 2025

Alloted Time	Avalokam	Topic	Alloted Time	Samaagam	Topic
07:00-08:00 AM	Program I	Activities on Yoga & Meditation by Bihar School of Yoga, Munger			
09:30-10:15 AM	Session 27	Interactive Session on Legacy (Dr. Sarita Boodhoo in conversation with Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi)			
10:15-11:00 AM	Session 28	Nalanda: A window to the world	10:15-11:00 AM	Session 29	Manuscript Traditions
11:00-12:00 PM	Session 30	From Charkha to Chaupal: Gandhi's ideals and their echo in Bihar's Folk Traditions	11:00-12:00 PM	Session 31	Heritage of Scripts in India
12:00-01:00 PM	Session 32	Beyond the Binary: Transgenders characters in today's literature	12:00-01:00 PM	Session 33	India & Indian Diaspora with special focus on Girmitiyas: legend language and culture beyond boundaries
01:00-02:00 PM	Lunch Break				
02:00-03:00 PM	Session 34	Tales beyond Chokha and Gamchha	02:00-03:00 PM	Session 35	Live Show on Bihar Arts
03:00-04:00 PM	Session 36	Live Show on Veracities of Poem	03:00-04:00 PM	Session 37	Live Show on NE Arts
04:00-05:00 PM	Session 38	Journey of NLF and its motivational facets			
05:00-07:00 PM	Program J	Closing & Felicitation Ceremony			
07:00-09:00 PM	Program K	Dinner			
END OF DAY4					
Date:25th December 2025					
Tourism	Program L	Full day (10AM- 5PM)	Nalanda; Rajgir; Bodhgaya; Bihar Museum, Patna		

Details of Sessions & Speakers for NLF-2025

Session	Topic	Facilitator	Speakers	DESCRIPTION
Sec-I	BIHAR LANGUAGE /LITERATURE SECTION			
1	Culture Crossover with Languages	Sh. Vinod Anupam	Smt Vidya Chaudhury, Sh. K N Shrivastava	Relevance of Bajjika, Angika, Magahi, Bhojpuri in Indian Literature and their impact on the geo-political and cultural significance of the people of Bihar.
2	The Lost Love	Prof. M J Warsi	Sh. Umesh Prasad Umesh, Sh. Jay Ram Singh	Challenges and opportunities to preserve Bajjika, Magahi & Angika in Modern Bihar. Besides, strategies to revive these lesser- known regional languages.
3	Beyond Bolis, we are languages	Sh. Nirala Bidesia	Sh. Manoj Bhawuk, Sh. Naveen Choudhary, Sh. Kishore Keshav	To compare the poetic traditions of Maithili and Bhojpuri, focusing on their lyrical quality, themes, and cultural significance.
4	Words to Screen	Sh. Pankaj Dubey	Sh. Sanjay Mishra, Sh. Manoj Bhawuk, Sh. Aalok Shrivastav, Sh. Abhay Sinha	To discuss the status of various dialect in Indian Cinema.
5	Exploring Nalanda Spirit in world	Prof. Siddharth Singh	Ms. Shovana Narayan, Sh.Akhilendra Mishra	To explore the Nalanda Spirit through Linguistic and Literary Expressions Across world
6	Satyagrah: Champaran Prayog	Sh. Bhairab Lal Das	Sh. Purushottam Agrawal	To discuss on usage of Satyagrah in Gandhian philosophy with special reference to Champaran movement.
7	Tales beyond Chokha and Gamchha	Sh. Ravishankar Upadhyay	Dr. Pushpesh Pant; Sh. Akhilendra Mishra	To Compare the traditional food of Bihar and their life style.
8	Nalanda: A window to the world	Ms. Milee Ashwarya	Sh. Abhay K. , Dr. Shashank Shekhar Sinha	To discuss the pathway of cultural and educational legacy of Nalanda for rest of the world.
Sec-II	NORTH - EAST SECTION			
1	The Language Tribe	Prof. MJ Warsi	Prof Upen Rabha Hakasam; Prof Rita Chowdhury; Sh. Kuladhar Saikia	Significance of tribal languages in preserving cultural heritage and identity of North East.
2	Inscriptions of NE States	Dr. Z.D.Lalmangai zauva	Dr. Madhumita Barbora; Sh. Arup Kumar Dutta	To discuss the inscriptions of North Eastern States.

3	Seven sisters and the journey of languages	Dr. Z.D.Lalmangaih zauva	Sh. Kynpham Sing Nongkynrih; Prof. Ganesh Narayandas Devi; Prof. K.C.Lalthlamuani	Linguistic Diversity of North-East India, the Tibeto-Burman, Indo-Aryan and Tai-Kadai language families. Also, include major languages like Assamese, Bodo, Khasi, Mizo, Manipuri (Meitei), Nagamese and Arunachali languages.
Sec-III	BOOK REVIEW OF COMTEMPORARY WRITER SECTION			
1	A Zigzag Mind	Dr. Sonal Mansingh in conversation with Dr. Vikram Sampath		Books written in last 1 year
2	Echoes of Eternity: A Journey through Indian Thought	Sh. Pavan K Varma in conversation with Sh. Sunit Tandon		
3	How India scaled Mt G20: The Inside Story of The G20 Presidency	Sh. Amitabh Kant in conversation with Prof. Sunaina Singh		
Sec-IV	ICT USES IN LANGUAGE SECTION			
1	Shabdon ki Social Factory	Dr. Amit Kumar Pandey	Prof. Lakshmidhare Behera; Dr. Ilaria Torre (Online); Dr. Lipika Dey; Ms. Aditi Maheshwari	Status of language in the present digital era where digital Age of AI & Robotics software plays key role to magnify any perspective of culture and language.
2	Algorithms to Accents	Dr. Pramod Kumar	Ms. Anuradha Kanniganti; Sh. Prakash Ambwani; Dr. Rodolphe Hasselvander	The potential of creating NLP tools (e.g., chatbots, translators) for indian dialects & languages and the hurdles posed by its oral dominance.
Sec-V	NATIONAL LANGUAGE & LITERATURE SECTION			
1	Language as Legacy: How Regional Tongues safeguard our cultural roots?"	Ms. Milee Ashwarya	Ms. Manisha Kulshrestha, Prof. Ganesh Narayandas Devi	Significance of regional languages in preserving cultural heritage and identity.
2	From Folklore to Future: Evolving Voices	Ms. Manisha Kulshrestha	Sh. Hrishikesh Sulabh, Sh.Arun Kamal, Ms. Shovana Narayan	Latest trends in regional language & literature, including the impact of globalization and technology.
3	Her Words , Her World: Exploring Women's Voices in Indian Writing	Sh. Naveen Choudhary	Ms.Vandana Rag, Ms.Santa Khurai, Ms.Divya Mathur	Significance of Women's representation and its contribution in Indian literature
4	From Local to Global: Evolving Practices in the landscape of literary translations	Ms. Aditi Maheshwari	Sh. Amar Mitra, Sh. Shahu Patole, Prof. MJ Warsi	Latest trends in translation of Hindi and other Indian languages to English and vice-versa.
5	From Charkha to Chaupal: Gandhi's ideals and their echo in Bihar's Folk Traditions	Sh. Vinay Kumar	Sh. Arvind Mohan, Sh. Pushyamitra	Influence of Gandhi, Satyagraha, Suraj, Charkha on folk tradition of India with special focus on Bihar.
6	Reimagining Bharatiya Itihas from an Indic perspective : A conversation	Ms. Ami Ganatra	Dr. Vikram Sampath	To discuss about reimagining indian history from an Indic perspective.
7	Writing India in English: Celebrating its Multicultural Narratives	Dr. Pankaj KP Shreyaskar	Sh. Amit Lodha, Sh. Kuladhar Saikia	Indian Literature in English and exploring multi-cultural paradise of India.
Sec-VI	NATIONAL /INTERNATIOANAL LITERATURE & LEGACY SECTION			
1	Heritage of Scripts in India	Sh. Anantashutosh Dwivedi	Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, Sh.K K Muhammed, Prof D. Venkat Rao	The heritage of scripts of India that refers to the rich history and a wide range of writing systems prevalent in the Indian subcontinent over centuries.
2	Oral Literature	Ms. Vandana Rag	Sh. Devdutt Pattanaik	Oral literature which refers to stories, songs, poems, and other forms of verbal art that are passed down through generations by word of mouth.
3	Manuscript Traditions	Dr. Shiva Kumar Mishra	Sh. K K Muhammed, Sh. Pavan K Varma	Manuscript traditions, which refers to the historical processes of creating, copying, transmitting, and preserving handwritten texts, often over long periods.
4	Urdu: From Past to present	Dr. Aquil Ahmad	Prof. Muzaffar Ali Shahmiri; Prof. Asim Siddiqui	Discuss about evolution of Urdu as national language since inception and its present status.
5	Beyond the Binary: Transgenders characters in today's literature	Sh. Kiran Bhat	Ms. Vijayarajamallika; Ms. Rituparna Neog; Ms. Reshama Prasad	How transgender characters are represented in modern literature, exploring themes such as identity, acceptance, and marginalization?

6	India & Indian Diaspora with special focus on Girmitiyas: legend language and culture beyond boundaries	Sh. Anil Joshi Sharma	Ms. Divya Mathur; Dr. Sarita Boodhoo; Prof. Ajay Dubey	India & Indian Diaspora regarding legend language and culture beyond boundaries, esp in Mauritius, Suriname and other Caribbean countries. Also to discuss the cultural legacy of Girmitiyas, residing across the world.
7	Live Show on Veracities of Poem	Sh. Dinesh Mali	Padmashri Haldar Nag; Sh. Ashutosh Agnihotri; Dr. Ajit Pradhan	To discuss the veracities of Indian Poem in the global era.
8	Does religion overpowers our way of life?	Sh. Sunit Tandon	Dr. Aslam Parvaiz; Prof. D. Venkat Rao; Ms. Ami Ganatra; Prof. K.C.Lalthlamuani	Discuss the relevance of religious books i.e. Bhagwat Geeta, Ramayana, Rig veda, Quran, Bible, Guru Granth Sahib, Tripitaka, Agamas in present era.
9	Live Show on Bihar Arts	Sh. Ajay Pandey	Ms. Kanchan Prakash; Sh. Manoj Pandit; Sh. Dinesh Kumar	Discuss about evolution of various facets of Bihar arts and its present status in the form of live show.
10	Live Show on NE Arts	Sh. Manoj Bachchan	Ms. Pubali Shyam; Ms. Meghali Chetia; Ms. Ranjita Kalita Barman	Discuss about evolution of various facets of NE arts and its present status in the form of live show.
Sec-VII	EMINENT SPEAKERS SECTION			
1	Journey of NLF and its motivational facets	Ms. D. Aaliya in conversation with Sh. Sanjay Kumar		
2	Interactive Session on Legacy	Dr. Sarita Boodhoo in conversation with Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi		
3	Interactive Session on Language	Sh. Adoor Gopalakrishnan in conversation with Sh. Ganga Kumar		
4	Interactive Session on Literature	Dr. Shashi Tharoor in conversation with Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi		

THE END

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