

# The Ancient University Of Nalanda (Part-3)

PG HISTORY, SEM-2, PAPER CC:7

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# Scope of the study at Nalanda (नालन्दा में अध्ययन का दायरा)

Imparting practical knowledge and learning were applauding aspect of the study at Nalanda. The theoretical teachings were also introduced in the lives of the monks practically.

- Education means all round development-intellectual, moral, spiritual and aesthetic.
- Education covered both leading a successful and peaceful life in society and at times to get jobs in the royal administration.
- According to I-Tsing, sometimes the monks of Nalanda went to the king's court and after showing their abilities in Buddhist scripture got position.

# Admission and method of Instruction (प्रवेश और निर्देश की व ध)

- Admission was a prestigious matter and by no means an easy task.
- The *dwarpundits* or gatekeepers who were specialists in discussions and expert at religious controversialists admitted the students at Nalanda University through an interview.

# Method of study (अध्ययन की व ध)

- The old Brahmanic practice of reciting the texts and understanding their meaning were also in practice at Nalanda on a large scale.
- Both tutorial and discussion methods followed.
- Besides formal lectures given by the teachers, instruction was imparted orally, which was carried by way of discussion and interrogation.
- Everyday about 100 lectures were organized.
- Sometimes learned men from different cities attended discussions at Nalanda which were like modern Seminar and Conferences.

# Method of study (अध्ययन की वध)

- Academic Calendar of the university was very tight and it kept both the teacher and the students fully occupied throughout the year.
- It was a centre of higher education and students were instructed in all varied branches of learning.
- Students studied Mahayana Buddhism in the university

# Curriculum (पाठ्यक्रम)

- Vedas and other books such as *Yogasastra*, *Hetuvidya*, *Sabdavidya*, *Chikitsavidya*, *the works of Magic (Atharavaveda)*; and *Samkhya* were studied.
- Study of Theology and Philosophy was compulsory for all students.
- Encyclopedia was composed e.g. *Tattvasangraha*
- Probably there was an astronomical observatory, and that Astronomy formed part of Curriculum.

# Curriculum (पाठ्यक्रम)

- The University had a water clock which gave correct time for Magadha
- According to I-Tsing, medicine was also studied
- Study of Tantric Knowledge in Later Pala period.
- The art of metal casting was perhaps a part of the curriculum as evident from the furnace discovered at temple thirteen.

(To be continued)