

Bihar Special

Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara

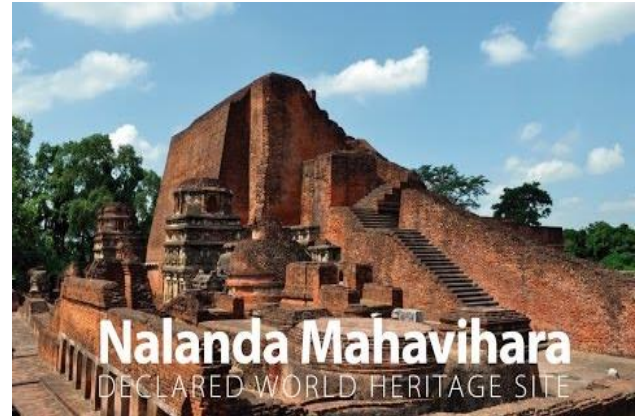
Why in the news?

- ❖ On June 19, 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the Nalanda Mahavihara site recognized as a World Heritage Site.
- ❖ The Nalanda Mahavihara stay site was recognized as a World Heritage Site in the year 2016.

About Nalanda University

- ❖ Nalanda holds historical significance as one of the world's oldest residential universities, dating back approximately 1600 years.
- ❖ Nalanda, an ancient centre of learning in Bihar, India, flourished from the 5th to 12th centuries CE.
- ❖ It was renowned as a premier university attracting scholars from across Asia.
- ❖ Founded by Gupta Emperor Kumar Gupta in the 5th century, Nalanda housed thousands of students and teachers in its residential quarters, offering courses in various disciplines including Buddhism, mathematics, medicine, and logic.
- ❖ Its library, said to have contained millions of manuscripts, symbolised its intellectual wealth.

- ❖ At the End Of 12th Century, Invader Bakhityar Khilji Destroyed the Nalanda University.



New Campus of Nalanda University

Why in the news?

- ❖ Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the new campus of Nalanda University on June 19, 2024.
- ❖ The campus features include two academic blocks with modern classrooms, seating for around 1900 students, and two auditoriums each capable of accommodating 300 people.
- ❖ It also includes a student hostel for approximately 550 students, an international center, an amphitheatre with a capacity of 2000, a faculty club, and a sports complex.
- ❖ The campus is designed as a 'Net Zero' Green Campus, featuring solar plants, water treatment and

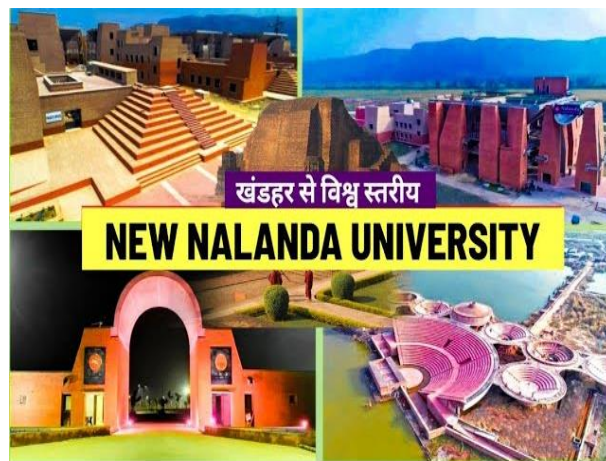
recycling facilities, and expansive water bodies spread over 100 acres.

What are programmes offered in modern Nalanda University?

- ❖ The modern university began operations in 2014 from a temporary location with 14 students. Construction of the new campus started in 2017.

The university now hosts six schools:

- ❖ The School of Buddhist Studies, Philosophy & Comparative Religions; the School of Historical Studies; the School of Ecology and Environmental Studies; and the School of Sustainable Development and Management.
- ❖ Nalanda University is a hub of international students. Nalanda University has support from 17 other countries, including Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Indonesia, and Thailand, which have signed MoUs.
- ❖ International students enrolled in the postgraduate programs for 2022-24 and 2023-25, and the PhD program for 2023-27, include students from Argentina, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ghana, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, the USA, and Zimbabwe.



16th Finance Commission Eastern Regional Conference

Why in the news?

The 16th Finance Commission's Eastern Regional Conference is set to take place on 18-19 June 2024 at the International Convention Hall in Rajgir.

- ❖ **Date and Venue:** 19th July, at the International Convention Hall, Rajgir.
- ❖ **Participating States:** Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal.

Objective:

- ❖ **Strategy Development:** Formulate strategies for the economic development of these states.
- ❖ **Plans:** Long-term, medium-term, and short-term plans to elevate these backward states to the level of developed states.
- ❖ **Chairman:** Dr. Arvind Panagariya

State-Specific Focus:

- ❖ **Bihar's Economic Assistance:** Bihar advocated for special economic assistance from the Finance Commission, emphasizing the unique challenges and needs of the state.

Economy

Fitch Raises India's Growth Forecast

Why in the news?

- ❖ Fitch Ratings has increased India's GDP growth estimate for the current fiscal year to 7.2%.
- ❖ **Previous Estimate:** In March, 2024 Fitch had projected a 7% growth rate.

Other Agencies' Forecasts:

- ❖ Asian Development Bank (ADB): 7% growth estimate.
- ❖ S&P Global Ratings and Morgan Stanley: 6.8% growth estimate.
- ❖ Moody's Ratings and Deloitte India: 6.6% growth estimate for FY 2024-25

Society

Thailand's Senate Passes Marriage Equality Bill

Why in the news?

- ❖ Thailand's Senate has passed the final reading of a marriage equality law, positioning Thailand to become

the first country in Southeast Asia to recognize same-sex couples.

- ❖ This was a monumental step forward, making Thailand the third Asian nation, after Nepal and Taiwan, to enact marriage equality legislation.



Art and Culture

Nepal International Tourism Expo (NITE)

Why in the news?

The two-day Nepal International Tourism Expo (NITE) took place in Kathmandu valley, aimed at promoting Nepal's tourism globally.

- ❖ **Support and Collaboration:** Organised with the support of Kathmandu Metropolitan City, in collaboration with the Nepal Tourism Board and other associations.
- ❖ **Dates:** Scheduled from June 14 to 15, 2024

Participation

- ❖ **International Participation:** 155 entrepreneurs from 16 countries, including Nepal, India, Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Maldives, America, Netherlands, Sri Lanka, China, Thailand, UAE, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Bhutan.
- ❖ **Bihar's Involvement:** The government of Bihar participated to share opportunities in the Guru Circuit, Jain Circuit, Ramayan Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, and Ecotourism in Valmiki Tiger Reserve.



Miscellaneous

First Skin Bank launched

- ❖ The Indian Army inaugurated a state-of-the-art skin bank at the Army Hospital (Research & Referral).
- ❖ This facility offers advanced treatments for severe burn injuries

to armed forces personnel and their families.

- ❖ It is the first of its kind within the Armed Forces Medical Services, addressing critical care needs for patients, especially those in remote areas and high-altitude deployments.

Sports

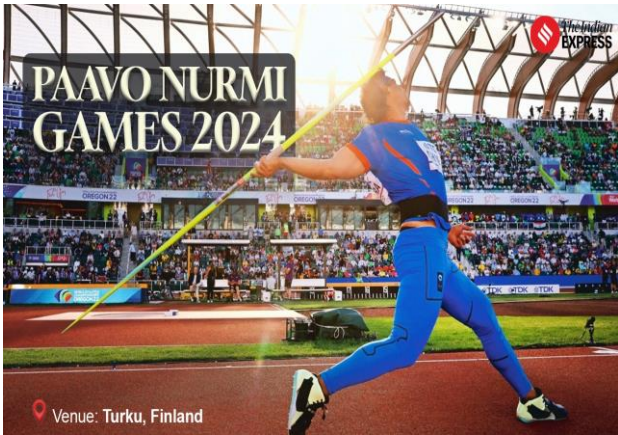
Paavo Nurmi Games

Why in the news?

- ❖ Neeraj Chopra clinched his first gold medal at the Paavo Nurmi Games.
- ❖ His performance was a significant improvement from his previous outing at the Paavo Nurmi Games in 2022, where he had won the silver medal.

Venue and Organization

- ❖ **Location:** The games are held at Paavo Nurmi Stadium in Turku, Finland, which is equipped to host international-level track and field events.
- ❖ **Organization:** The event is organized by the local athletics club, supported by the city of Turku, and is part of the World Athletics Continental Tour.



Important Days/ Dates

World Sickle Cell Day

- ❖ World Sickle Cell Day is observed on June 19 every year.
- ❖ The theme for World Sickle Cell Day 2024 is "Hope Through Progress: Advancing Sickle Cell Care Globally."



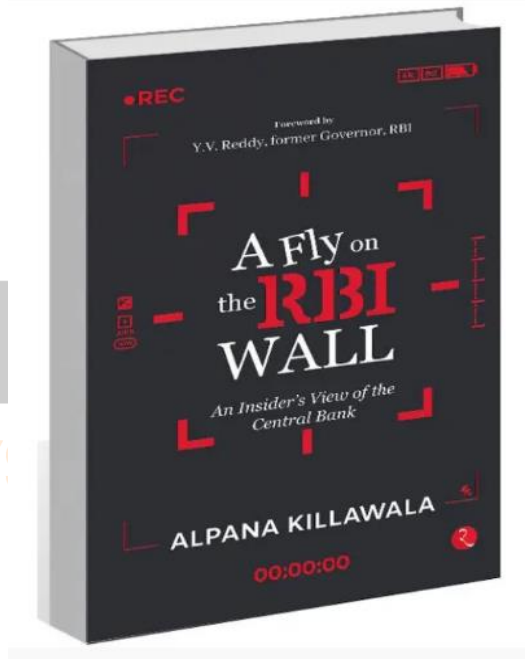
Books and Authors

"A Fly on the RBI Wall"

❖ **Author:** Alpana Killawala

About the book:

- ❖ In 'A Fly on the RBI Wall: An Insider's View of the Central Bank', Alpana Killawala narrates Raghuram Rajan's initial struggles with his public image as he became the RBI Governor.



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