

## Excavated Site, Nalanda

Bihar



Nalanda, one of the most important ancient universities of India was founded during the Gupta period. It became a famous centre of Buddhist learning and received the patronage of king Harshavardhana of Kannauj in the seventh century AD. The Pala kings of eastern India also extended patronage to this centre of knowledge. Excavations unveiled a remarkable lay out of the university town with numerous shrines and monasteries. Its rich collection of seals, sealings and images in stone and metal are displayed in the adjacent site museum.



**Contributions solicited in the range of Rs. 75 - 100 Lakhs for following activities:**

1. Conservation of monuments.
2. Environmental development.
3. Tourist facilities.
4. Construction of a new museum.



## Excavated Site, Koluha, Vaishali



Koluha is located on the outskirts of Vaishali. The site consists of an Asokan pillar with a *stupa* to its north; a large tank, a *chaitya* with *kutagarashala* on the south and a monastery to the west.

The Asokan pillar, locally known as 'Koluha-Let,' is a monolithic sandstone column bearing the typical lustrous *Mauryan* polish. This tapering 11.1 m high pillar is surmounted by an inverted lotus supporting a seated lion capital.

Though the pillar is not engraved with Asokan edicts, short inscriptions in *shell* characters in large numbers are engraved on the lower portion of the shaft.

The brick *stupa* which commemorates the miracle performed by Buddha at Vaishali was originally built by Asoka and subsequently enlarged in the Kushana period. Two successive domes and *ayakas* at regular intervals were added during the Gupta and late Gupta periods. A large terraced rectangular tank has been identified with the famous 'Markat Hrada' which is another beautiful structure of this place.

The excavations have yielded a large number of antiquities like beads of semi precious stones, terracotta figurines, seals & sealings, bricks inlaid with pearls and semi precious stones etc.



Bihar

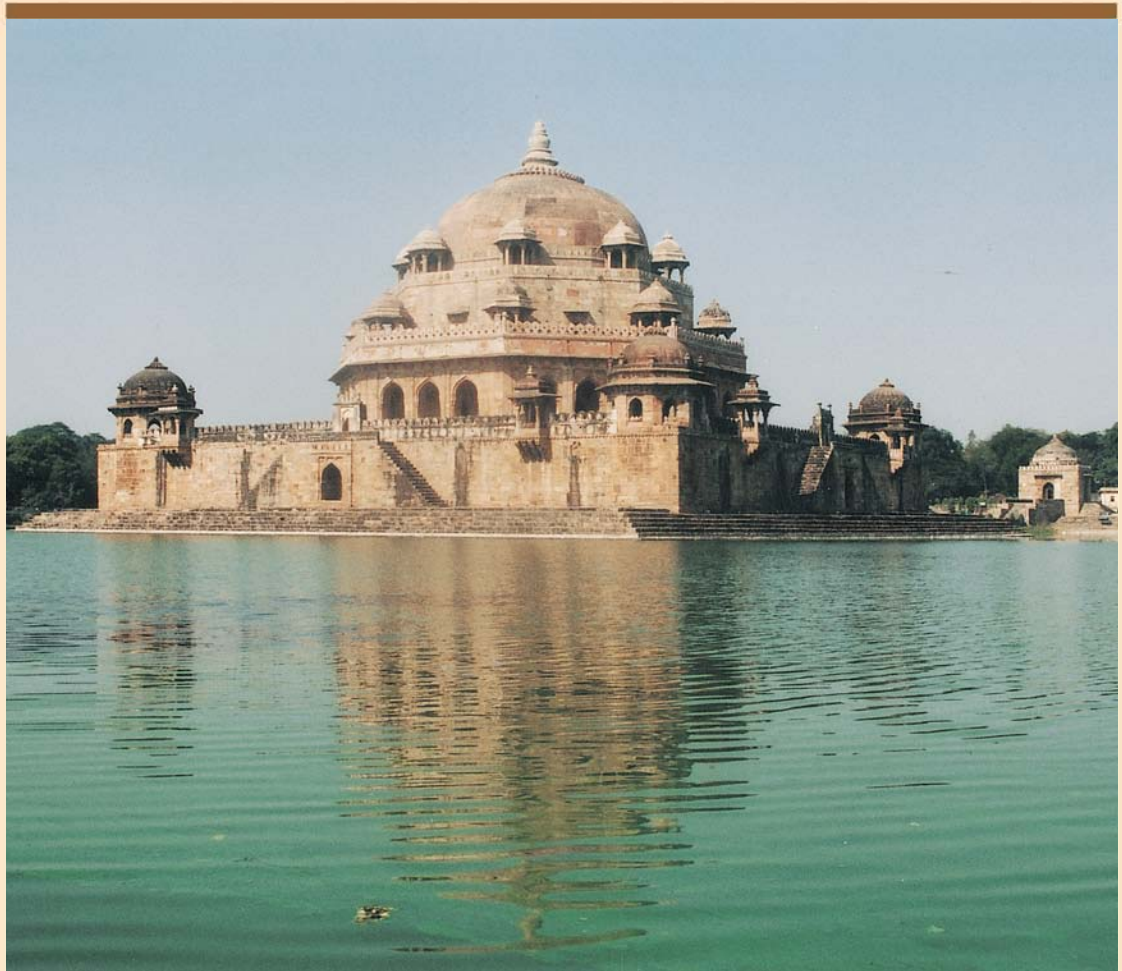


**Contributions solicited in the range of Rs. 25 - 100 Lakhs for following activities:**

1. Conservation of monuments.
2. Environmental development.
3. Providing tourist facilities

## Tomb of Sher Shah, Sasaram

Bihar



Contributions solicited in the range of Rs. 25 - 150 Lakhs for following activities:

1. Conservation of monuments.
2. Environmental development.
3. Providing tourist facilities

This magnificent mausoleum of Sher Shah (AD 1539 – 45) is one of the noblest specimens of *Pathan Architecture* in India. Its dome rises higher than 100 ft. from the floor of the main octagonal chamber. The tomb is remarkable for its sober style, its artistic setting in a tank and elegant kiosks grouped around the grand dome. The construction of the tomb, commenced by Sher Shah himself was completed after his death by his son Sultan Salim or Islam Shah Suri in AD 1545.

