

**Presidential Address of Shri Ram Nath Kovind,  
His Excellency The Governor of Bihar-cum-President  
Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda Society  
65<sup>th</sup> Foundation Anniversary Ceremony of the NNM,  
Scheduled to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2016.**

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Most Ven. Monks (Bhikkhu Sangha), Prof. Lokesh Chandra, President, ICCR, New Delhi, Shri M.L. Srivastava, Vice-Chancellor of this University -& Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, Dr. S. P. Sinha, Registrar, and all the Faculty Members and staff of the NNM, distinguished guests, Students, Ladies and Gentlemen!

It is indeed a moment of joy to be here on the land of Nalanda, an ancient and great seat of learning, for the third time in recent past on different occasions. The occasion of the "65<sup>th</sup> Foundation Anniversary Ceremony, 2016" of the Nava Nalanda Mahavihara stands something special to me as this institution embodies the revival of glory of ancient Nalanda University. I want to congratulate its first

Vice-Chancellor, Shri M.L. Srivastava on this occasion who, as I have been informed, has taken such initiatives which would fulfill the dream of its founding fathers since his joining as its Vice Chancellor.

Further, I have no hesitation in saying that I am proud to be part of this university, which was created way back in 1951 to be a worthy successor of the Ancient University of Nalanda which endured greatness for centuries. As I have been told that His Excellency Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of the Republic of India, was the inspiration, while Ven. Bhikkhu Jagadisa Kasspa was the person who had taken the initiation to create what we know today as Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, a Deemed University under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. It has also been brought to my notice that its remarkable achievements in a short span of time as well as its international character led the Ministry of

Human Resource Development (Department of Culture), Government of India to take it over in the year 1994 under its administrative control. The grant of Deemed to be University status to the Nava Nalanda Mahavihara in the year 2006 by the MHRD was the second turning point in the annals of the Mahavihara.

The Mahavihara is lucky enough to have a memorial museum in the name of Ven. Xuanzang, erected in joint collaboration with Indian and Chinese Governments, situated on a separate campus. I am happy to announce as informed by the Vice Chancellor, that the sacred body relic of Ven. Xuanzang, which is lying in safe custody of Patna Museum would be installed soon inside the premises of the Memorial Campus.

It would not be out of place to share with you my view on what is expected from the NNM. If we ponder over the great legacy of Ancient Nalanda

University, two clear messages emerge as a guiding principle upon which the Nava Nalanda Mahavihara may like to ensure its future path.

The NNM must take up the challenge to create a fine blend of theory and practice as a part of its curricula. In this context, I am happy to share with you that the Mahavihara is offering Vipassana Meditation Courses for its students and public at large. I am happy to note that my purpose of first visit to Nalanda was to attend a day long Vipassana Meditation Courses at Dhamma Nalanda.

Secondly, the Mahavihara should model its curricula on the lines of the Ancient Nalanda University which were characterized by an integrated system of education which in modern parlance is called inter-disciplinary approach to studies. Gone are the days when subjects were studied in isolation. In today's world all the discipline are taught in

integrated and multiple perspectives as all knowledge systems are dependent upon one another.

Buddhism is the central ethos of this University and its impact on the mind of the western world is a matter of pride. The reason why it is expanding in the West is simple. Buddhism is not a religion in the sense other religions are. It's a way of life, a code of self-discipline and self-discovery. Besides, it has complete compatibility with science. With advancement of science, many religious assumptions have become irrelevant but with regard to Buddhism this is not so. That is why it is said to be the future religion of the world by many.

Last but not the least, I congratulate you all including the Vice-Chancellor, Registrar and faculties for putting your best. Only with your sincere commitment that this institution would rise to the expectation of the Nation. I wish you all the very best for everything. Always remember to strive hard and

remain focused on the goal. With these words, once again I congratulate all of you.

Thank you all for listening patiently!

**JAI HIND!**

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