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Archaeological Findings within Last Two Decades in Dist. Nalanda, Bihar

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Abstract: Nalanda was certainly one of such glorious spots from which the light emitted and not only India but the neighbouring countries were also illuminated. The history of the place remained shrouded with mystery for long and despite untiring efforts made during a century and half, several layers remain concealed. There has been still a need for a comprehensive work on various aspects of Nalanda. The explorations done previously by the pioneers in the field such as Buchanan (1839), Kittoe, Cunningham (1871, 73, 80, 82 and 83) and Broadley (1872) are extremely important for the purpose. After 1947 there have been certain very useful explorations in the region. Now the settlement history of the area goes back earlier than the times of Buddha Findings from the excavations at Juafardeeh (2006-07) and at Ghorakatora (2008-09) and recovery of a few Palaeolithic tools and Microliths from Ban Ganga Valley, Rajgir compelled us to reconsider about the antiquity and settlement history of Nalanda.

Keywords: Historicity, Etemology, Geographical scenario, Settelment history, Chalcolithic, NBPW

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Nalanda district of Bihar occupies an area of 2355 square kilometer and the co-ordinate is 25° 12" 00"N latitude and 85°31" 12" E longitude (Fig.-1). It is a part of Lower Gangatic plain except its southern part, where small hills are separated over a large area. Barh district is in the north of this district where Ganga River flows from west to east direction. Patna is located in the north- west where as Gaya and Nawadah districts lie in the south- west and south of the district respectively, where hills belonging to the Chotanagpur hills spread over in a large area. Its topography slopes towards north and most of the streams flow northward and join the Ganges as tributaries.



Fig. 1: Satellite map of Nalanda District

Nalanda was certainly one of such glorious spots from which the light emitted and not only India but the neighbouring countries were also illuminated. What is interesting to note here is that along with its religious and theological activities, Nalanda also developed into a great Centre of Buddhist art. This is indeed written in an inscription of the time of Yashovermadeva (*MASI*. 1999: 27). There was definitely a workshop of art at Nalanda where images of gods and goddesses were made and molded on the advice of expert architects and sculptors. Here I would like to quote Havell's remark that "the University of Nalanda was a school of art and crafts. Nalanda has yielded some hundreds of sculptures in stone and bronzes. It is almost impossible to have so many sculptures without a regular school of art and crafts."

RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS

Since 1999 up to 2015 explorations and a few excavations were conducted successfully in the district. A brief report is given below:

1999-2001: During 1999-2001 excavations were done at Banganga Valley, Rajgir, Nalanda in which a brick stupa constructed in terraced shape was discovered (Fig. 2; Pl.I).

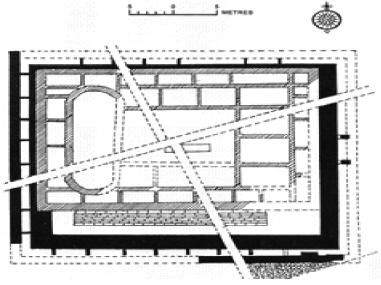


Fig. 2: Site plan of terraced stupa, Rajgir

2001-02: In 2001-2002 excavations were done at Chandi Mau (Lat. 25° 3'N.; Long.85° 30' E.). It is 10 km south-east of the ruins of ancient Nalanda Mahavihara and about 8 km south-east of Silao on Bihar Sharif-Rajgir Road. The mound located to the south-east of the village is extended into 3 acres with an extant height of 6 mts (Pl.II). The excavations yielded Black-and-Red Ware pottery associated with NBP Ware and revealed remains of brick-built Buddhist temple and Votive stupas. Besides these, Stone sculptures of Buddhist deities and plaques, sealings and votive stupas made of terracotta were also recovered (Pls.III-VI). To the south of the village there is a temple containing a number of Buddhist and Brahmanic images of Gupta and Pala period.

2004-05: During 2004-2005 scientific clearance behind Temple No.3 of Nalanda ruins revealed temple on wheels at four corners of Gupta period (Pl. VII).

2006-07: The ancient mound of Juafardih (Lat.25^o 8' N.;Long.85^o 27'E.) covering an area of 105x100 mts with an extant height of 15 mts (Pl. VIII) is located 3 km south- west of the ruins of Nalanda and 15 km south-west of Bihar Sharif, the present headquarter of district- Nalanda and 93 km

south-east of Patna, the capital of Bihar. The site is located on the ancient bed of the River *Paimar*. The river has shifted its course further west to a distance of 2.5 km from the site. During exploration done by the author, a good number of NBPW, Black Slipped Ware, Black-and-Red Ware, Grey Ware and Red Ware were found along with burnt bricks measuring 36x27x6 cm. Similar kind of ceramics had been recovered during excavation at Rajgir (Ghosh.1950:43). The site might have been associated with the ancient Nalanda Mahavihara. In 2006-2007 excavations were held at Juafardih and Begumpur, Nalanda. The ancient site of Begumpur is located just 1 km north to the ruins of Nalanda. Excavation report is still awaited. A mud stupa was exposed built during the NBPW phase at Juafardih (Pl.-IX). Apart of these pot-sherds of NBPW, Black Slipped Ware, Black-and-Red Ware, Grey Ware and Red Ware along with terracotta, stone and iron objects were found during excavations. Copper and Silver coins are the other important recoveries (Pls.-X-XIV). The most important contribution of Juafardih excavation is the early date for NBPW period supplied by Birbal Sahni Institute of Paleobotanical Research, Lucknow ranging from 1200-400 BCE (Saran *et al.*2008.:71): Early phase 1200-900 BCE, Middle phase 900-600 BCE and Late phase 600-400 BCE.

It is interesting to bring forth that there are four C¹⁴dates which have given early dates for NBPW levels which is shown in the Table 1:

Sl. No.	Sample No./ Depth	Layer	B.S. No.	Age of the sample based on the value of half life 4470#30 years	Calibrated Age
1.	3527,JFD-5/4.36 m	13	2705	3100+110 BP	1354 BCE
2.	3528, JFD-3/2.25-2.28 m	8	2706	3010+90 BP	1259 BCE
3.	3529,JFD-2/2.05 m	7	2707	3280+90 BP	1562 BCE
4.	3525, JFD-6/2.7-3.26 m	6	2703	2850+80 BP	1002 BCE
5.	3526, JFD-8/2.15m	8	2704	2740+100 BP	857 BCE

Table 1: C¹⁴dates of NBPW from Juafardih

2008-09: Ghorakatora (Lat.25^o 2' N, Long.85^o 32'E) village is located 18 km south-east to the ruins of Nalanda and 23 km south from the district headquarters of Bihar Sharif. There is a huge mound covering an area of 250x200 mts with an extant height of 15 mts situated on the eastern bank of the River *Panchane* (Pl. XV; Fig.3).

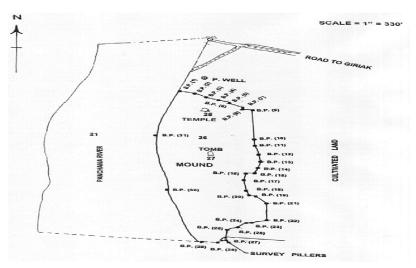


Fig. 3: Site-plan, Ghorakatora

During my exploration a large number of Ring Wells and remains of brick-walls are noticed on the mound (Pl.XVI). Pot-sherds of Red Ware, Red Slipped Ware, Black Ware, Black Slipped Ware, NBPW and Grey Ware along with terracotta balls and pottery discs were collected (Pl.XVII). A few terracotta and stone sculptures made of black basalt are kept on the northern side of the mound (Pl. XVIII). Excavations were made during 2008-09 and the findings show that the antiquity of this site goes back to Chalcolithic period. Excavation report is still awaited. On the basis of the pottery and antiquities recovered from the site its antiquity may be dated earlier than 10th century BCE. About 1 km east to the mound the famous *Indra Shila* cave (Pl. XXIX) is located on the southern face of the Giriyak hill which was mentioned by Fahien and Hiuen-tsang and identified by Broadly, Cunningham and Kittoe. It is said that here Indra had put 32 spiritual questions before the Buddha and the Buddha answered all the questions beautifully and satisfied Lord Indra. So that the cave was named as *Indra Shila*.

2008-13: Apart from Nalanda Mahavihara which was already identified and partly excavated, there were some other monasteries in the district. The ancient site of Telhara (Lat. 25°13'N.; Long. 85°11'E.) is 28 km west-northwest of the ruins of Nalanda and 4 km west of Ekangar Sarai on Ekangar Sarai-Jehanabad Road. A mound known as *Bilandi* is situated in the south-west of the village with an extant height of 7 mts (Pl.XX). During my exploration a number of Buddhist and Brahmanic images were found lying at various places of the village. Due to the archaeological importance of the site Cunningham was eager to excavate the site but his wish was not fulfilled.

It is indeed a great pleasure that the Archaeological Survey of India is now able to fulfill the task and since 2008 up to 2013 excavations were conducted at Telhara which revealed the ruins of Tiladhak Mahavihara (Pl.XXI) which is mentioned in Hiuen-tsang's travelogue. In one of the Nalanda seals the place is mentioned as Tilakanda Vihara (*MASI* 66:37). It was a great tantric seat.

2012-15: A village to village survey was done by the author and his team and 68 sites were found in the district having archaeological importance.

EXPLORED SITES

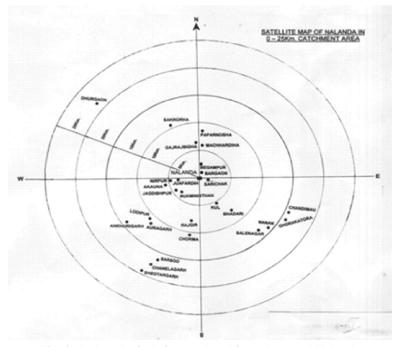


Fig. 4: Archaeological sites explored in and around Nalanda

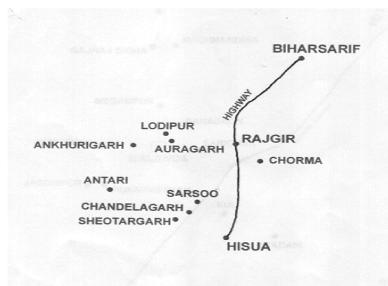


Fig. 5: Archaeological sites in the vicinity of Nalanda

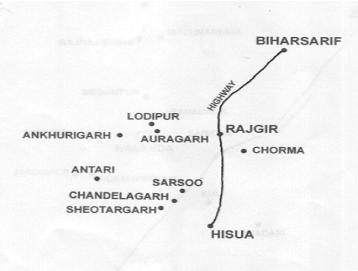


Fig. 6: Archaeological sites in the vicinity of Rajgir

During exploration 68 sites were found having archaeological importance; among them only unreported sites are shown in the table below:

S .	Name of the site	Latitude	Longitude	Findings	Nearby River
No.					
1	Ajaypur	25°10'13''N	85°32'24''E	RW,BW,NBP & Fragments of sculptures	Paimar 1 km West
2	Ajnaura	25°13'N.	85°24'E.	Buddhist & Brahmanic sculptures	Paimar 1 km West
3	Aldhanna .	25°15'N	85°27'E	RW,BW & BSW	
4	Arawan .	25°12'N	85°22'E	RW,BW,BSW&Buddhist &Brahmanic	Paimar 1 km East &
				sculptures	Muhane 1/2 km West
5	Badauni .	25°12'N	85°20'E.	RW & RSW	Muhane 2 km South &
					Pilchchain1.5 km East

Table 2: New archaeological sites reporteded by the Author in dist. Nalanda

S. No.	Name of the site	Latitude	Longitude	Findings	Nearby River
6	BadakiAat	25°11'62'N	85°24'43' E.	Brahmanic sculptures	Paimar 1 km West &Sansi 1 km East
7	Bahadurpur	25°20'N	85°25" E.	RW & RSW	Muhane moves West to north
8	Bara	25°6'89''N.	85°22'18''E	RW, BW &Brahmanic sculptures	Paimar 2 km South
9	Bara Khurd .	25°14'54"N.	85°25'23'E	RW, BW &Brahmanic sculptures	Paimar 3 km West
10	Barah .	25°23'N.	85°29'E	RW,RSW,BW,BSW,Kushanan brickbats & Buddhist & Brahmanic sculptures	Dhoba 6 km North & Muhane 8 kmSouth
11	Barhauna	25°18'N.	85°25'E	Brahmanic sculptures	Muhane 3 km West &Sansi 3 km East
12	Beswak .	25°10'N.	85°14'E	RW,RSW,BW,BSW,TC balls &Brhmanic and Buddhist sculptures	
13	Bhui	25°10'97'N.	85°21'33"E.	Brahmanic sculptures	Paimar 1 km North
14	Birnawan	25°19'N.	85°29' E.	RW,RSW &BSW	Muhane 4 km North
15	Chandasi .	25°16'N	85°28'E.	RW &RSW	Panchane 1/2 km East
16	Chandaura (Silao)	25°5'21'N.	85°25'71'' E.	RW,RSW &Brhmanic and Buddhist sculptures	Paimar 300 m East
17	Charuipar	25°17'N.	85°28'E.	RW & BW	Paimar 1/2 km East
18	Chorsanda	25°12'54''N.	85°19'43' E.	RW,RSW & GW	Muhane 1 km East
19	Dayalpur	25°20'N.	85°24'E.	RW &RSW	Muhane 1/2 km South &Chiraiya 1/2 km North- West
20.	Dhurgaon	Lat. 25°14'N.	Long. 85°16' E	RW	
21.	Dosut	25°19'N.	85°31'E.	RW &RSW	Muhane 5 km North &Panchane 2 km East
22	Eksara	25°10'5"N.	85°23'46'' E.	RW,BW,BSW,NBP&Fragments of sculptures	Paimar 1 km East
23	Gaura	25°16'2''N.	85°19'52' E.	RW,RSW,BW,BSW&Brhmanic and Buddhist sculptures	Nonai 2 km West &Chiraiya 2.5 km East
24	Karjara	25°6'89'N.	85°22'98'' E.	RW,RSW,BSW &Fragments of sculptures	Paimar ¹ /2 km South
25	Khaira	25°10'97'N.	85°21'33' E.	Inscribed Brhmanic and Buddhist sculptures	Paimar 1 km North
26	Kolawan	25°23'N.	85°27'E.	RW,Mud wall &Fragments of sculptures	Chiraiya 1/2 km West
27	Kondi	25°14'37'N.	85°26'71"E.	Fragments of sculptures	Paimar 7 km West
28	Kosnara	25°9'67'N.	85°22'54'E.	RW,RSW,BSW & Fragments of sculptures	Paimar 3 km East
29	Kundwapar .	25°13'N.	85°15'E.	RW,RSW,BW & BSW	Nonai 5 km East
30	Madhopur garh .	25°20'N.	85°23'E.	RW,RSW,BW & BSW& Fragments of sculptures	Chiraiya ¹ / ₂ km South
31	Makhdump ur (Ben)	25°8'94''N	85°20'82''E.	RW,RSW& Fragments of sculptures	Paimar 2 km West
32	Rukhaegarh	25°19'N.	85°22'E.	RW,RSW,BW,BSW,NBP, Kushanan bricks& copper coins of medieval period	Chiraiya 1 km South-East
33	Rukministhan	25°6'N.	85°25'E.	RW,BW& Buddhist images	Paimar 3.5 km West
34	Sahri	25°11'29''N.	85°22'21'' E.	Brhmanic sculptures	Muhane 1 km West &Etaua 2 km East
35	Sakrauḍha	25°10'97'N.	85°25' 62''E.		
36	Sonchari	25°11'24'N.	85°19'91' E.	RW,RSW &Brhmanic and Buddhist sculptures	Muhane ¹ / ₂ km East

S .	Name of the site	Latitude	Longitude	Findings	Nearby River
No.					
37	TazuBigha	25°8'91'N.	85°25' 29"E.	RW, BW,NBP & inscribed Buddha image	Paimar 2.5km West
38	Telmar	25°26'N.	85°26'E.	RW	Dhoba 2 km North
39	Tungi	25°10'13'N	85°32'24'E	RW,BW,BSW&Brhmanic and Buddhist	Gordhoba 1 km West
				sculptures	

2015-16: The ancient site of Rukhaegarh (Lat. 25^o 19'N, Long. 85^o 22'E) was explored by the author in 2012. It is 29 km north to the ruins of Nalanda and 26 km north-west from the district headquarters of Bihar Sharif. The *Chiraiya* River flows 1 km south- east to the village. There are two mounds situated to the south of the village (Pls.XXII-XXIII). Mound-1 is extended into 100x100 mts with an extant height of 15 mts while Mound-2 was totally destroyed by the local people. During exploration pot-sherds of NBPW and associated wares along with Red Ware, a few fragments of Buddhist sculptures and some copper coins of medieval period were recovered from the surface (Pls. XXIV-XVIII).

A small scale excavation was done by the author at Rukhegarh in 2015-16. Prime objectives of our limited excavations at the site are to know the cultural sequence of the site, to make comparative study of ceramics and antiquities found during excavations with other sites of Lower Ganga plain, to find out the linkages of the site with the ancient Nalanda Mahavihara and other sites of the region and to know the settlement pattern of the site.

CUTTING AND STRATIGRAPHY

We have measured coordinates of the main mound as. Lat. 25 ° 19.566' N.; Long. 85 ° 22.355' E. and height was 146' (Fig.7). But we could not lay out any trench at the top up of the mound because of modern settlements. However, we could excavate in the field just adjacent to the main mound where five vertical trenches *viz*. A1, E5, XA1 (Figs. 8-10), Y1 and Y2 measuring 3x3 meters were laid out for digging. Amongst them two trenches *viz*. Y1 and Y2 were found disturbed due to agricultural activities of the present inhabitants. We were able to reach up to the natural soil in the rest of the three trenches.

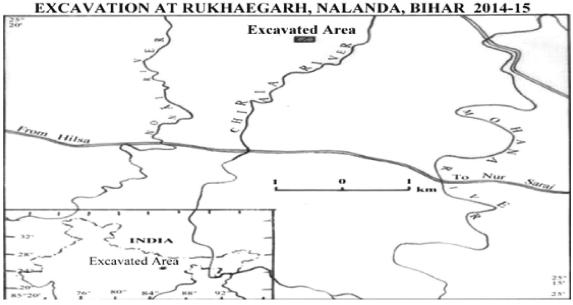


Fig. 7: Excavated area of Rukhaegarh

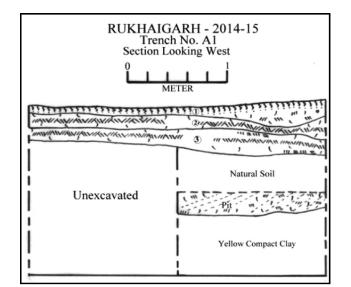


Fig. 8: Trench no. A I

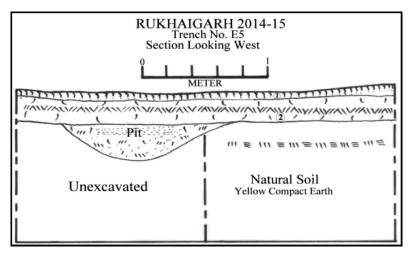


Fig. 9: Trench no. E 5

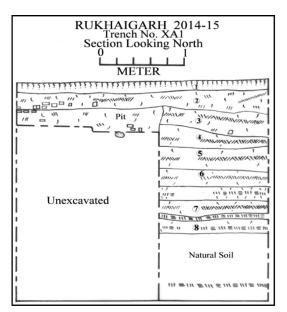


Fig. 10: Trench no. XA I

In addition to excavations at five trenches mentioned above, section scraping were done at five localities in the western and southern part of the mound which exposed a Ring Well (just west to Trench A1) of Kushan period (Pl.XXIX). The Ring well was dug up to the deposits of the NBP level; two wells of Sunga period, one was exposed up to 17 courses to the south of Trench A1 with an extant height of 89 cm having diameter of 90 cm full of filling materials like ashes, pot-sherds and loose earth (Pl.XXX) and other up to 37 courses just west to Trench. E5, diameter is 4 ft made of wedge-shaped burnt bricks measuring 23 cm in length and width is 20 and 16 cm respectively while thickness was 5 cm, sealed by 4 courses of Mauryan bricks measuring 48x28x5 cm (Pl.XXXI) were also exposed. In addition, 10 courses of Sunga-Kushan brick wall showing plan of five rooms along with another six courses of brick-wall measuring 52x30x5 cm was also recorded (Pl. XXXII).

CULTURAL SEQUENCE

The limited excavation brought to light four-fold cultural sequence *i.e.* from NBPW Culture to Early Medieval period without any break in between all of them. Period I is NBPW Culture; the cultural deposit of this period is 1.25 meter, which was recorded in trench nos. AI and XAI. Period II represents Sunga-Kushan period while Period III is Gupta-Post-Gupta and Period IV is Early Medieval period.

CERAMIC ASSEMBLAGE

The ceramic assemblage of Period I comprised of Black, Black slipped, Grey, Red slipped and NBP ware (Pl.XXXIII). The NBP ware has been recovered in different shades like black, silvery, golden and dark brown. Bowls and flanged bowls were found in majority. In Black slipped ware dishes are the principal type followed by knife edged bowls. The fabric and core of these vessels are very thin and light. The fine and medium fabric bowls, dishes, basins and vases have been recovered in Red ware. The common types are bowls with straight sides and inverted rim, knife edged bowls, dishes with incurved rim and sagger base and vases of varying sizes. In Grey ware, the pottery types of NBPW and Black slipped ware continues.

The pottery of Period II (Sunga-Kushan) is Red, Black and a few course variety of Grey ware. In comparison to the pottery of period I, the ceramic industry has declined in the clay quality (fabric), surface treatment and firing. The important shapes are ink-pot and knobbed lids, sprinklers, bottle necked jars and pans with elongated loop handle and bowls with inverted rims (Pls. XXXIV-XXXV)...

The Period III (Gupta) is characterized by the occurrence of Red ware only. The application of lustrous red slip was also applied in the pottery of this period. Big sized vases, knobbed lids, large sized basins etc. are recovered from this period (PI.XXXVI). Vases with out-turned long featureless rim and short concave neck and splayed out rim with expanding body are the other important shapes. The occurrence of glazed pottery from the surface suggests the existence of Period IV at the site.

ANTIQUITIES

A total of 71 antiquities were recovered from our limited excavations at Rukhaegarh. These included five copper objects including a copper coin, five iron objects, twelve beads including ten of terracotta and of bone and glass (one each), sling ball, wheel, gamesman, discs, terracotta figurines and other objects (Pls.XXXVII-XLII).

The excavation yielded five copper objects distributed in period I, II and III. They comprise a cast coin, an antimony Rod, a broken bangle, broken part of a bowl and an unidentified object due to heavy erosion. In addition to copper objects, five iron objects were recovered from period II and III; among them mentioned may be made of three Nails and one Chisel.

The limited excavation of Rukhaegarh yielded only twelve beads including ten made of terracotta. Bone and glass beads account only one specimen respectively; bone bead is spherical-shaped while glass bead is square in shape. Terracotta beads are *Ghata*, Areca nut and Cylindrical shaped and present in period II and III. *Ghata* shaped beads have been treated with bright red slip. They were fired under oxidizing conditions resulting in a red colour. Areca nut shaped beads are made of fine clay on a fast wheel and baked very hard at a high temperature. Perhaps these beads were fired in closed kilns under reducing condition, resulting in a black or smoky grey surface. The excavation yielded only two terracotta pendants which show exquisite craftsmanship. They are of circular and cylindrical in shape.

The excavation at the site yielded only one copper cast coin from the Trench XA I at the depth of- 1.05 m in Stratum- 5 from the upper level of NBP Period. The coin is made of Copper, circular-shaped having a diameter of 1.3cm, its weight is 1.80 gram and thickness is 0.23 cm. Obverse of the coin showing Crescent on three arched hills. On the Reverse side of coin an elephant is depicted. This type of coins is reported from Mathura, Kaushambi and also from Pakkakot.

The terracotta figurines recovered during the present excavation consist of four human and six animal figurines from period I, II and III. They were hand modeled and in molded form too. Among human figurines three were male and only one is female. Animal figurines are of snake, dog and buffalo. Other figures are badly broken and their fragmentary remains do not permit correct identification. All the specimens are solid and represent the technique of hand-modeling.

Among other terracotta objects mentioned may be made of discs, hop-scotches, lamps, gamesman, wheels, dabbers, cones etc. The excavation yielded very few specimens of terracotta discs. They are only three in number. A single specimen of similar type was also reported from Kumrahar excavations. Hop-scotches are made of waste pieces of pottery and have a rough circular shape. Some of the hop-scotches have single perforation in the centre. All these specimens are distributed in period I, II and III.

The excavation also yielded nine sling-balls including one made of stone from period II and III. They are solid, handmade, well rounded and baked to red colour. They have been found in sizeable numbers from Kumrahar and Vaisali. These balls were made of medium to fine grained clay and baked hard in oxidizing condition. Majority of the specimens are in bright red colour. The present excavation yielded four specimens of terracotta wheels distributed in period II and III. Such wheels are quite common in this area and reported from Pataliputra, Kumrahar and Vaisali.

The excavation yielded two stone and one terracotta pestle from period II and III. Stone pestles are broken while terracotta pestle is intact and pecked by excising the clay with the help of some sharp instrument. One terracotta dabber was recovered from period III having a solid handle. Two broken bangles and one specimen of ring were recovered from period II and III. In additions, five cones and three gamesman of terracotta were recovered also from period II and III. They are handmade and black in colour. Similar antiquity has been reported from Kumrahar

Samples of grains were collected by flotation process. Animal bones were also collected during excavations. Analysis of these remains is under study.

Our limited excavation revealed that-the pre-NBPW culture might be the first to make effective colonization at the site since during explorations several Black and Red ware sherds were collected. However, we could not trace their cultural deposit in the excavations. The limited excavation brought to light a four-fold cultural sequence from NBPW to early medieval period without any break in between them. All the four periods were characterized by their typical ceramic industries and other antiquities. The structural remains show that during Sunga-Kushan period the site was fully developed and compelled us to think that there might be a Buddhist monastery but due to lack of funding we couldn't able to reveal it.

The unique geographical situation of the site considers us to think that it was possible for its inhabitants to have commercial links with other contemporary cities like Rajgriha, Nalanda and Pataliputra. The site might be destroyed by flood activity during pre-NBP period because more than 2 meters sand-deposit was found after NBP level up to the natural soil in trench nos. A1 and XA1; still the site is surrounded by three rivers *i.e.* Nonai, *Chiraiya* and *Mohane*. Recovery of a good number of bowls and flanged bowls of deluxe variety of NBPW show that these ceramics might be used by Buddhist monks for alms. Considering the location of the Rukhaegarh situated between Nalanda and Pataliputra, it seems natural that the site was a halting-place for the Buddhist pilgrims. A number of fragments of Buddhist sculptures of Pala-Sena period made of black basalt were scattered at various places in the village. Black and Red Ware pot-sherds were also found from the pit but not from a stratified layer. The horizontal excavations in future may be able to reveal a pre -NBP level at the site.

Now the settlement history of Nalanda is going back earlier than the times of Buddha. The excavation at Chandi-Mau in 2001-02, Juafardih done in 2006-07 and at Ghorakatora in 2008-09 had brought out a pre-NBPW horizon. B.K. Choudhary, Director, K.P. Jayaswal Research Institute, Patna has reported about 52 sites of archaeological importance in and around Nalanda (Choudhary .2008:91-101). Choudhary claims that there are several sites in the region whose antiquity is as old as, or even earlier than, that of Juaferdih. During my village to village survey (2012-15) I have also reported 72 sites having archaeological importance in the district. Among them the ancient site of Rukhaegarh was excavated by me in 2015 which yielded a cultural sequence from NBPW period up to early medieval period without any interruption. Structural remains of Sunga-Kushan period was noticed on the site. Apart from these findings a few Palaeolithic tools and Microliths have been collected from Banganga Valley of Rajgir (PI.XLIII). These findings indicate us that the antiquity of District Nalanda may go back earlier than 10th century BCE. Scientific excavations on a broad level in the area may reveal the shrouded mysteries of Nalanda and add a new chapter in the history of the region.

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Pl.I: Brick Stūpa constructed in terrace form (Brick sizes 52 X 25 X 7; 42 X 27 X 6 cm), Rajgir



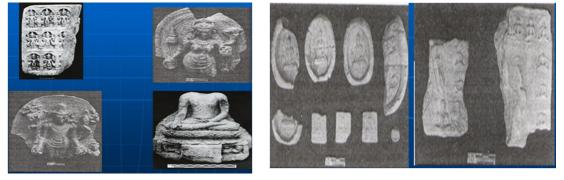
Pl.II: General view of the mound, Chandimau



Pl.III: Excavations at Chandi-Mau: 2000-01 70x60 sq.m., Single culture: Pala period



Pl.IV: Structural remains, Chandi-Mau



Pl.V: Sculptures recovered from Chandi-Mau

Pl.VI: TC objects recovered from Chandi-Mau



Pl.VII: Temple on wheels, Nalanda ruins



Pl.VIII: General view of Juaferdih mound



Pl.IX: Excavated mud stupa, Juaferdih



Pl.XI: TC objects, Juaferdih



Pl.X: NBPW and associated wares, Juaferdih



Pl.XII: Iron objects, Juaferdih



Pl.XIII: Silver & Copper coins and Iron objects, Juaferdih Pl.XIV: Stone objects, Juaferdih



Pl.XV: General view of the Ghorakatora mound



Pl.XVI: Kushanan bricks & Ring-well in the section, Ghorakatora





Pl.XVIII: Antiquities & sculptures, Ghorakatora



Pl.XIX: Indrashila cave opposite Ghorakatora site



Pl.XX: General view of the mound of Telhara



Pl.XXI: Exposed ruins of Tiladhak Mahavihatra



Pl.XXII: General view of Rukhaegarh mound-1



Pl.XXIII: Destroyed mound-2, Rukhaegarh



Pl.XXIV: Pot-sherds recovered from the surface, Rukhaegarh

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Pl.XXV: Pot-sherds recovered from the surface, Pl.XXVI: Fragments of Buddhist sculptures, Rukhaegarh Rukhaegarh





Pl.XXVII: Copper coins, surface findings, Rukhaegarh Pl.XXVIII: Copper coins, surface findings, Rukhaegarh





Pl.XXIX Ring -well of Kushan period near trench A1 Pl. XXX Well of Sunga period south of Trench A I



Pl. XXXI Well of Sunga period west to Trench E 5



Pl. XXXII Sunga-Kushan brick wall showing plan of five rooms



Pl. XXXIII NBPW and associated ware



Pl. XXXV Pot-sherds of Kushanan period



Pl. XXXVII Broken Animal figurines



Pl. XXXIX Copper objects



Pl. XXXIV Pot-sherds of Sungan period



Pl. XXXVI Pot-sherds of Gupta period



Pl. XXXVIII Terracotta objects

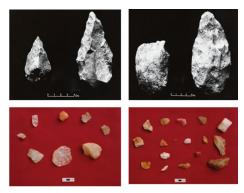


Pl. XL Iron objects





Pl. XLI Copper Cast-coin (Obverse and Reverse)



Pl. XLII Stone and bone bead

Pl. XLIII: Palaeolithic tools & Microliths, surface findings of Banganga valley, Rajgir