



NALANDA LITERATURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (NLDP)

 <https://nalandaliteraturefestival.com>



INTRODUCTION

From the timeless ruins of Nalanda, once the world's greatest university, emerges the **Nalanda Literature Development Programme (NLDP)** — a **nine-month** literature and cultural movement running from **September 2025 to March 2026**. Culminating in the **grand Nalanda Literature Festival from 21–25 December 2025** at the **Rajgir Convention Centre, Nalanda, Bihar**. The programme will bring together over **50,000 participants, including writers, poets, artists, translators, students, diaspora voices and cultural enthusiasts**. Highlights include panel discussions, heritage walks, book fairs, cultural exhibitions, cuisine festivals and evening performances, offering a holistic celebration of literature and culture. NLDP goes beyond festivity, building lasting cultural assets through translation projects, archives and regional language preservation. Distinctively, it integrates **technology with tradition, using AI, NLP and digital translation tools to preserve dialects and tribal languages**, connecting India's rich past with a global, digital future.



ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

DHANU BIHAR

Founded in 2020, Dhanu Bihar www.dhanubihar.org is a national-level autonomous trust dedicated to uplifting communities through art, culture, education and sustainable development. Rooted in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi-NCR. The organisation has emerged as a cultural catalyst, working to preserve heritage while empowering society. Its initiatives span language preservation (Angika, Bajjika, Bhojpuri, Magahi, Surjapuri & Maithili), rural-urban literary exchanges, farmer artisan promotion and eco-friendly agriculture. Through collaborations with cultural activists, policymakers and communities, Dhanu Bihar has hosted folk music concerts, handloom fairs, education campaigns and skill-building workshops that have touched hundreds of lives. As the lead organiser of NLDP, it brings proven expertise, deep cultural connection and an inclusive vision to celebrate India's heritage while paving the way for sustainable, future-oriented growth.

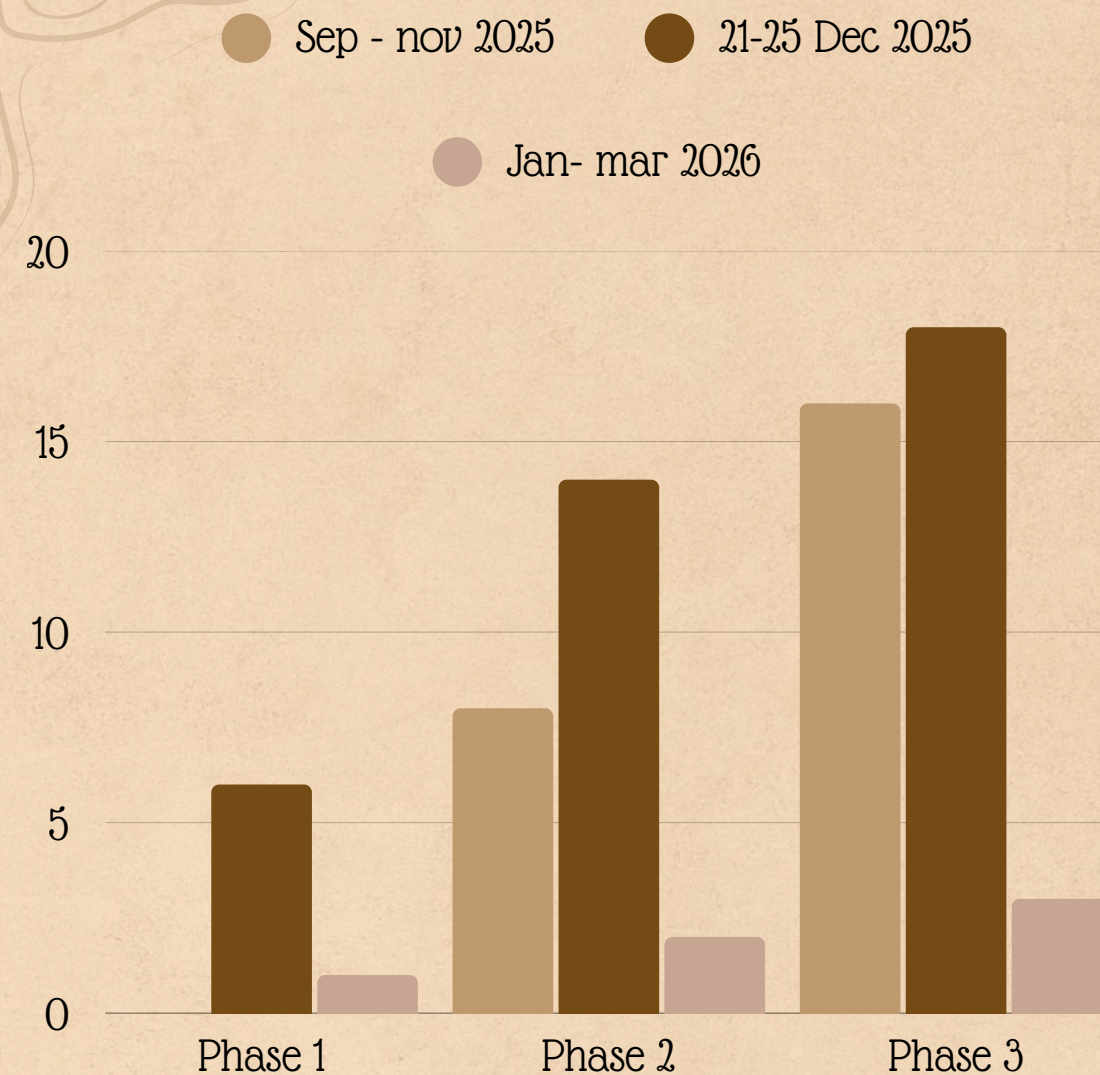


PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

The NLDP seeks to revive India's linguistic and cultural heritage with a special focus on **Bihar** and the **North-East**, promoting **classical and contemporary traditions** through **workshops, readings and translations**. By linking literary celebrations with heritage circuits like **Nalanda–Rajgir–Bodhgaya–Vaishali**, it will boost cultural tourism while fostering a national and global dialogue among **writers, poets, artists, translators and diaspora voices**. The festival empowers **artisans, folk performers, and storytellers** with visibility, while also leveraging AI and digital tools to preserve dialects and oral traditions. **Engaging 100+ schools & colleges across Patna, Tirhut & Magadh**. NLDP nurtures youth talent and pride in heritage. Through its **“Routes to Roots”** initiative, it further connects Indian-origin communities **worldwide**, ensuring that literature, culture and identity continue to thrive across generations.



GEOGRAPHIC SPREAD & PHASES



Phase I (Sep–Nov 2025)

- Literary workshops, panels & awareness drives in Patna, Kozhikode, Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Guwahati, Rajgir.
- Engagement with 100+ schools, colleges in Patna, Magadh, Tirhut & Munger areas through youth workshops & debates.
- Media & influencer campaigns for nationwide outreach.
- Curtain Raiser: 11 Dec 2025, India International Centre, New Delhi.

Bhasha Rath – Language Chariot (Phase I Drive)

- Mobile art & info exhibit across Patna, Magadh & key cities.
- Visits 100+ schools, colleges & public spaces.
- Student-led micro-activities: Bhasha Mic, Language Selfie Booth, QR Treasure Trail, AI Idea Box, Wheel of Language.
- Amplified through reels, shout-outs & #BhashaRath2025.

Phase II (21–25 Dec 2025)

- Nalanda Literature Festival at Rajgir Convention Centre, Nalanda, Bihar.
- 30+ panels, heritage walks, cultural shows, diaspora dialogues, youth takeovers.
- Book fair, language labs, cuisine festival (Bihar & North-East).
- Expected participation: 50,000+ attendees.

Phase III (Jan–Mar 2026)

- Post-event workshops & outreach in colleges & cultural centres.
- Festival documentary & anthology release.
- Impact assessment & reporting for legacy building.

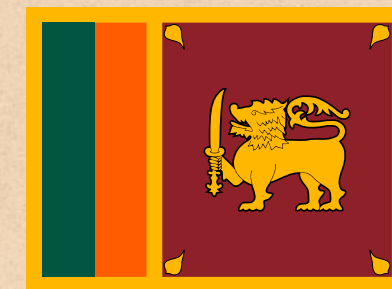
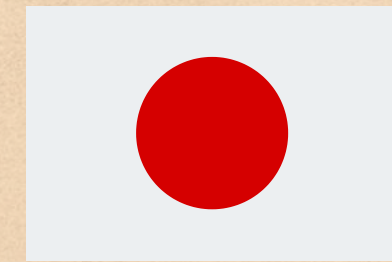
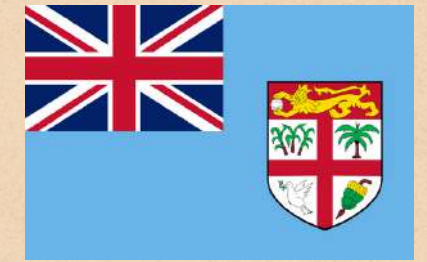
FESTIVAL FEATURES

The Nalanda Literature Development Programme will showcase diverse experiences. Mainstage Conversations will feature leading **writers, poets, artists and international voices**, while Regional Spotlights highlight the literary wealth of **Bihar and the North-East**. **Diaspora Dialogues** will explore migration, memory, identity and Language Labs in dialects like **Angika, Bajika, Bhojpuri, Maithili, Assamese, Bodo and many more** will spark pride in heritage. Visitors can experience **Folk & Tribal Art Exhibitions**, enjoy evenings of **Poetry Under the Stars** and witness the **Youth Takeover Stage** with slams and storytelling. Adding a holistic touch, **Wellness, Music & Cuisine Festivals** will blend yoga, meditation and food experiences. The highlight will be the **Dhanu Bihar Cultural Pavilion**, an interactive space of art, crafts and live workshops that preserve traditions while empowering artisans.



SPECIAL SEGMENTS

The Nalanda Literature Development Programme will feature unique Special Segments to enrich the festival experience. Routes to Roots will connect **Indian-origin writers, poets and cultural icons from Mauritius, Fiji, Suriname, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Japan** and beyond, exploring migration, memory and identity while building cultural bridges. **Young Brigade** will spotlight emerging talent, featuring **10 global Indian novelists under 35, five young writers with Bihar connections** and a “**Young Voices of Bihar**” contest. **The Nalanda Literature Prize** will honour excellence in literature, translations and regional language preservation, establishing a prestigious recognition linked to **Nalanda’s intellectual legacy**. Finally, the Tourism Showcase will offer curated tours of heritage sites like **Nalanda, Rajgir, Bodhgaya, Vaishali** and the **Bihar Museum Patna**, combining **literature with immersive cultural** and historical experiences while boosting regional tourism.





FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

21st December 2025

21st December 2025: Inaugural ceremony at Rajgir Convention Centre with cultural performances, marking the start of five days of literary and artistic immersion.

22nd - 24th December 2025

30+ panel discussions on Bihar & North-East languages, diaspora narratives, women's voices, translations and AI in language. Evenings feature music, poetry and cultural performances.

25th December 2025

Heritage tourism to Nalanda, Rajgir, Bodhgaya, Patna and Vaishali, offering immersive experiences of Bihar's historical and spiritual landmarks.



EXPECTED OUTCOMES & IMPACT

The Nalanda Literature Development Programme is expected to attract **50,000+ participants**, including writers, scholars, students and cultural enthusiasts, positioning it as one of India's premier literary gatherings. With workshops more than **five cities and 100+ institutions**, more than **10,000 students** will be directly engaged, fostering a new generation of storytellers and cultural ambassadors. **Extensive media partnerships will ensure a reach of 1,00,000+ nationwide**, while curated heritage linkages with **Nalanda, Rajgir, Bodhgaya, Patna and Vaishali** will provide a significant boost to tourism. Sessions on **Bhojpuri, Maithili, Magahi, Angika, Bajjika and North-Eastern languages** will drive regional language preservation and the creation of archives, annual prizes and cultural circuits will establish a **strong literary legacy for Bihar and beyond.**





LONG-TERM VISION

Nalanda as a Permanent Hub

Restore Nalanda's historic status as a global centre for knowledge, hosting year-round academic & cultural activities, festivals, workshops, heritage tours and international exchanges.

Fellowships & Residencies

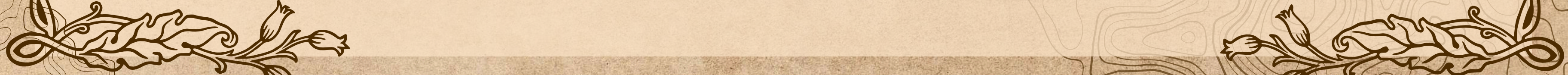
Support writers, translators, curators and scholars with fellowships and residencies, fostering local and international creative exchanges and nurturing the next generation of cultural leaders.

Annual Cultural Landmark

Establish the Nalanda Literature Festival as a prestigious yearly event, comparable to Jaipur, Berlin, and Edinburgh festivals, promoting Nalanda's civilisational legacy and India's linguistic diversity while driving cultural and economic impact in Bihar.

Translation & Archival Projects

Preserve India's linguistic heritage through digital archives, translation of regional works into Hindi, English and global languages safeguarding oral traditions and folk narratives.



CONCLUSION


The **Nalanda Literature Development Programme (NLDP)** is envisioned as more than a festival, it is a cultural renaissance rooted in Nalanda's timeless legacy. By celebrating **regional languages, oral traditions and folk arts**, the programme revives India's cultural essence while giving artisans, poets, artists and storytellers recognition on national and global platforms. Leveraging technology such as AI, **Natural Language Processing** and **digital translation**, NLDP preserves endangered **dialects** and bridges the oral and digital worlds. Engaging thousands of students through workshops, contests and the **"Bhasha Rath"** campaign, it invests in youth as custodians of cultural heritage. With global reach, diaspora linkages and cross-cultural dialogue. The programme blends literature with **tourism, economy** with empowerment and performance with preservation. Over time, NLDP will stand as a permanent cultural landmark, inspiring pride within India, projecting its soft power internationally and positioning Nalanda once again as a beacon of culture, wisdom and imagination for the **21st century and beyond**.




September 2025 – March 2026

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Dhanu Bihar

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Legacy, Language & Literature

