

RECENTLY DISCOVERED STŪPAS AT NALANDA AND ITS VICINITY

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Apart from the ancient ruins of Nalanda Mahavihara a few Stūpas and Votive Stūpas were recently discovered at Nalanda and its Vicinity. These were made of mud, bricks and terracotta also. During 1999-2001 excavations were done at BangangaValley, Rajgir, Nalanda in which a brick Stūpa constructed in terrace -form was discovered. In 2001-2002 excavations were done at Chandi Mau, Silao, Nalanda which revealed remains of brick-built Buddhist temple and Votive Stūpas. Besides these, Stone sculptures of Buddhist deities and Plaques, Sealings and Votive Stūpas made of terracotta were also recovered. In 2006-2007 excavations were held at Juafardih and Begumpur, Nalanda. A mud Stūpa was exposed built during the NBPW phase at Juafardih. 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 BC.

Early Phase 1200-900 BC

Middle Phase 900-600 BC

Late Phase 600-400 BC

It is interesting to bring forth that there are four C¹⁴ dates which have given early dates for NBPW levels which is shown in the Table No.-1:

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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 B.P.	1354 BC
2.	3528, JFD- 3/2.25-2.28 m	8	2706	3010+90 BP	1259 BC
3.	3529,JFD- 2/2.05 m	7	2707	3280+90 BP	1562 BC
4.	3525, JFD- 6/2.7-3.26 m	6	2703	2850+80 BP	1002 BC
5.	3526, JFD- 8/2.15m	8	2704	2740+100 BP	857 BC

Table No.-1: C¹⁴dates of NBPW from Juafardih

B.K. Choudhary, Director, K.P. Jayaswal Research Institute, Patna has reported about 52 sites of archaeological importance in and around Nalanda (Puratattva. 38:91-101). Choudhary claims that there are several sites in the region whose antiquity is as old as, or even earlier than, that of Juafardih.

Recent findings compelled me to do village to village survey of the district. I have started my exploration work keeping in mind the ruins of Nalanda as the main reference point and have surveyed more than 200 villages in the district and reported 72 sites having archaeological potential (Fig. Nos.1-4) among them only unreported sites having archaeological potential is given in Table No. 2:

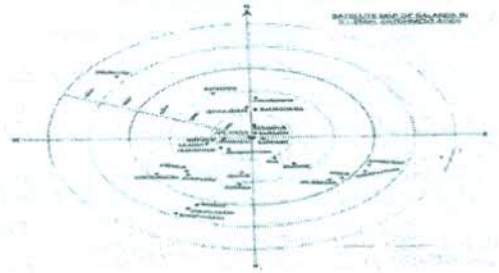
Sl. No.	Name of the site	Latitude	Longitude	Findings	Nearby River
1	Ajaypur	25°10'13"N	85°32'24"E	RW, BW, NBP & Fragments of sculptures	Paimar 1 km west
2	Ajnaura	25°13'N.	85°24'E.	Buddhist & Brahmanic sculptures	Paimar 1 km west
3	Aldhanna	25°15'N	85°27'E	RW, BW & BSW	
4	Arawan	25°12'N	85°22'E	RW, BW, BSW & Buddhist & Brahmanic sculptures	Paimar 1 km east & Muhane ½ km west
5	Badauni	25°12'N	85°20'E.	RW & RSW	Muhane 2 km south & Pilchchai 1.5 km east
6	Baḍaki Aat	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°06'89"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, Kushan brickbats & Buddhist & Brahmanic sculptures	Dhoba 6 km north & Muhane 8 km south
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 ½ km east
16	Chandaur a (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 ½ km east
18	Chorsand a	25°12'54"N.	85°19'43"E.	RW,RSW & GW	Muhane 1 km east
19	Dosut	25°19'N.	85°31'E.	RW &RSW	Muhane 5 km north &Panchane 2 km east
20	Eksara	25°10'05"N.	85°23'46"E.	RW,BW,BSW,NBP&Fragments of sculptures	Paimar 1 km east
21	Gaura	25°16'02"N.	85°19'52"E.	RW,RSW,BW,BSW&Brhmanic and Buddhist sculptures	Nonai 2 km west &Chiraiya 2.5 km east
22	Karjara	25°06'89"N.	85°22'98"E.	RW,RSW,BSW &Fragments of sculptures	Paimar½ km south
23	Khaira	25°10'97"N.	85°21'33"E.	Inscribed Brhmanic and Buddhist sculptures	Paimar 1 km north
24	Kolawan	25°23'N.	85°27'E.	RW,Mud wall &Fragments of sculptures	Chiraiya ½ km west
25	Kondi	25°14'37"N.	85°26'71"E.	Fragments of sculptures	Paimar 7 km west
26	Kosnara	25°09'67"N.	85°22'54"E.	RW,RSW,BSW & Fragments of sculptures	Paimar 3 km east

27	Kundwapar	25°13'N.	85°15'E.	RW,RSW,BW & BSW	Nonai 5 km east
28	Madhopurgharh	25°20'N.	85°23'E.	RW,RSW,BW & BSW & Fragments of sculptures	Chiraiya ½ km south
29	Makhdupur (Ben)	25°8'94" N..	85°20'8 2"E.	RW,RSW & Fragments of sculptures	Paimar 2 km west
30	Rukhaigarh	25°19'N.	85°22'E.	RW,RSW,BW,BSW,NBP, Kushanan bricks & copper coins of medieval period	Chiraiya 1 km south-east
31	Rukminis than	25°6'N.	85°25' E.	RW,BW & Buddhist images	Paimar 3.5 km west
32	Sahri	25°11'29 "N.	85°22'2 1" E.	Brhmanic sculptures	Muhane 1 km west & Etava 2 km east
33	Sakraudha	25°10'97 "N.	85°25' 62"E.	RW & Brhmanic and Buddhist sculptures	Paimar 500 m west
34	Silao	25°5'21" N.	85°25'7 1" E.	RW,RSW & Brhmanic and Buddhist sculptures	Paimar 300 m east
35	Sonchari	25°11'24 "N.	85°19'9 1" E.	RW,RSW & Brhmanic and Buddhist sculptures	Muhane ½ km east
36	TazuBigha	25°08'91 "N.	85°25' 29"E.	RW, BW, NBP & inscribed Buddha image	Paimar 2.5 km west
37	Telmar	25°26'N.	85°26'E.	RW	Dhoba 2 km north
38	Tungi	25°10'13 "N	85°32'2 4"E	RW, BW, BSW & Brhmanic and Buddhist sculptures	Gordhoba 1 km west

Table-2 Self-explored unreported sites by the Author



**Fig.1- Satellite map of Nalanda Ruins and its vicinity Fig.No.2
Archaeological sites in and around Nalanda**



**Fig.No. 3 Map of Nalanda Ruins and its vicinity Fig. No.4 Map of Rajgir
and its vicinity**

Through extensive excavations in the surrounding area of the ancient Nalanda Mahavihara more Stūpas may be discovered which will not only enrich the Buddhist history but also attract the entire Buddhist world.