

# State of Conservation Report by the State Party

(In compliance of Paragraph 169 of the Operational Guidelines)

<b>Name of the World Heritage Party:</b>	<b>Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara at Nalanda, Bihar (India)</b>
<b>State Party:</b>	<b>India</b>
<b>Identification Number:</b>	<b>C 1502</b>
<b>Criteria:</b>	<b>(i)(ii)(iii)(vi)</b>

## 1. Executive Summary of the Report:

Archaeological Site of NalandaMahavihara at Nalanda, Bihar was inscribed on the World Heritage list in 2016 under criteria (i)(ii)(iii) and (vi). The state party had submitted the last state of conservation (SOC) report for the property in 2019, which was reviewed in the World Heritage Committee's extended 44th session in 2021. As per the committee's recommendations in Decision: 44 COM 7B.23 and UNESCO's operational guidelines for SOC reports, steps have been taken as per the following details:

The Integrated Master Plan for NalandaMahavihara being developed by the State Government of Bihar. As per the latest communication with the state authorities it is informed that the mapping and the proposal has been submitted for approval of the competent authority and is likely to be finalized in the first quarter of 2023. All the key prerequisites regarding land, revenue records, land use maps, mapping etc., have been completed. The concerned agencies of the government have taken inputs from the Circle office of the Archaeological Survey of India concerning the national statutory laws governing the protected area of the NalandaMahavihara and its vicinity extending to about 300m all around as well as protocols and guidelines of UNESCO for management of vicinity of WH property. Information about the sites protected by the national legislation and also list of sites from where ancient remains are reported through explorations and excavations but not protected by either the national or state legislations were provided to better plan for future developmental activities.

One of the key points of emphasis of the Committee since the inscription of NalandaMahavihara has been 'on establishing the authenticity of the property, along with corresponding documentation that differentiates the authentic archaeological fabric from repairs'. Pursuant to the same, digitization of large volume of archival photographshas been started in Archaeological Museum, Nalanda. As many as 31 volumes of albums beginning from 1916 upto 1938 covering all aspects of the different

phases of exposure of the NalandaMahavihara ruins and more importantly of conservation of the excavated structures have been recovered.

As a preparatory to the Comprehensive Conservation Plan a photogrammetric survey and 3D documentation of the entire complex is underway. Experts in the field have been engaged for this and a timeline of 6 months has been fixed for the completion of the work in all respect. The data in the form of sectional drawings (horizontal and vertical) at every level will provide a thorough understanding of the structural irregularities and coupled with condition mapping, it will be the basis on which to draw upon a comprehensive conservation plan for the site.

**Recommendation 4:** All the ground work related to the Integrated Master Plan for Rajgir Regional Planning Area and NalandaMahavihara have been completed.

**Recommendation 5:**As part of the research programme to establish the authenticity of the original fabric of the NalandaMahavihara as against the numerous conservation activities at the site a cache of 1470 archival photographs in 31 albums have come as a valuable source material.

**Recommendation 6:**The five-year Conservation Plan for the (2016-2021) is being followed and work taken up at the different structural components.

**Current conservation issues:** No conservation issues have occurred which might affect the impact of the Property's outstanding universal value.

**Potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s):** At present, no major restorations or new constructions have been planned within the property area or the buffer zone.