

# Ancient Indian Universities “Institutional Repository” to Create Global Visibility for Learning and Research – Review-Based Analysis

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## Ancient Indian Universities “Institutional Repository” to Create Global Visibility for Learning and Research – Review-Based Analysis

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### ABSTRACT

**Purpose:** Ancient higher education has excellent teaching and research. Takshila University has produced scholars such as Chanakya, author of the great book Arthashastra, Panini, a renowned Sanskrit scholar and grammarian, Charaka, the father of Indian medicine, Surgeon Jivaka Kumarabhatta, Sharada Peetha Temple University has 5000 scholars like Kumarajiva Buddhist scholar, Thonmi Sambhota and Library, Pushpagiri University, Kanthalloor Sabha in Kerala, and Ujjaini University Alumni Brahmgupa and Bhaskar II. Dipankar Sri-Jnana, a prominent Vikramasila scholar, released over 200 volumes, while Mithila, a centre of Brahminical culture, produced intellectuals like Jagaddhara, who created writings such as Gita and Gita Govinda. These are the world's oldest institutions; no Institutional Repositories were discovered during the Vedic period, but the Buddhist period gave rise to Institutional Repositories, which house collections of books on various subjects. Scholars and students rely on institutional repositories. Takshashila University students come from all across Aryavrat, as well as from places like Greece, Arabia, Japan, Indonesia, Mongolia, and China. Nalanda University specializes in Buddhist education, but it also offers other courses. It contains a massive Institutional Repository of manuscripts from many curricula and Sanskrit texts totalling 5,00,000 shlokas. During the fifteenth century, Tibetan scholar Taranatha wrote about the nine-story library of Nalanda University with 9 million manuscripts and the Saraswati Mahal manuscript library of Tanjore in his travelogues about the Nalanda institutional repository namely Ratnasagara, Ratnodadhi, and Ratnaranjaka located in a complex called 'Dharmaganja'. The University Institutional Repository provides services to its members and community to threaten the institution's visibility, standing, and public ideals.

**Design/ Methodology/Approach:** This is a literature-based paper that investigates ancient university research academics' contributions to Institutional Repositories established around the world to create visibility.

**Findings and Results:** Ancient University Institutional Repositories are the house of millions of manuscripts, Sanskrit text, and its slokas contributed by alumni of the university and Scholars.

**Originality/Value/Novelty:** The article's case study and literature studies disclose the Ancient University Repository and researchers' and teachers' contributions to the repository.

**Type of Paper:** Literature Review.

**Keywords:** Institutional Repository, Ancient Indian University, Global varsity, Scholars, Manuscripts.

## 1. INTRODUCTION :

Sruti-Smriti was the basic principle of learning, and hand-written books or manuscripts on various subjects written by scholars are housed in the ancient university libraries of Takshashila, Nalanda, Vallabhi, Odantapuri, Vikramasila, Somapura, Jagadala, and Pushagiri Nagarjunkonda. In Vidyapeeth and Viharas, both spiritual and Buddhist Philosophy are taught in Varanasi, Nadia, Mithila, Ujjain Ayodhya, Prayag Kishrme, Kancheepuram, Manayakheta, and Sharada Peeth. These learning centres contained both libraries and meditation halls to provide a Holistic vision of education (Miller, J. 2019) [1]). Scholars in ancient India made significant contributions to mathematics, astrology, politics and administration, alchemy, Vedic science, yoga, logic, law, and ecology.

According to the 7th-century, Chinese traveller and Buddhist scholar Xuanzang, Nalanda had 1000 professors and University's courses were multidimensional including tenets of 18 Buddhist sects, Vedas, vayakarana, yoga, Samkhya, Nyaya, Tantras and Medical Sciences. Ancient Scholars travelled to India and their Scholarly writings Scholars Scholarly writings Meghasthenes-Greek traveller (302BC) Travelogue Indica Fa-Hien-Chinese traveller (399AD-414) Record of Buddhist Kingdoms Huen Tsang-Chinese Scholar (603-604) Records of the Travels to Middle India Faxian-Chinese traveller (405AD-411) Foguoji Xuanzang-Chinese traveller (63AD) Si-Yu-Ki & the Record of the Western Regions (Referred to 70 kingdoms in India) Duarte Barbosa-Portuguese Traveller Duarte Barbosa Sungyan-Chinese traveller (518CE) Gandhara Dynasty Tale Ptolemy-Greece scholar and Geographer (130 AD) Geography of India Yijing-Chinese Monk-(635-713) The Record of Buddhism as Practiced in India Sent Home from the Southern Seas and the Memoirs of Eminent Monks Who Visited India and Neighboring Regions in Search of the Law during the Great Tang Dynasty (Sen, T. 2006)) [2] Aryabuddhabhumivyakhyana (Introduction to the Land of Aryan Buddhism) Thommi Sambot and 16 scholars from Tibet who came to Kashmir to study the Brahmi alphabet of India, based on what the Panini Grammar has created. and wrote a new grammar for Tibetans. Alberni (1024-1030 AD) studied Sanskrit and Indian philosophy and wrote books on Hinduism. Wu Cheng'en (16th century) Journey to the West, based on the journey of Master Xuanzang (402 AD) The Diamond Sutra (Diamond Sutra - the first printed book in China) Source: Original Authorship and Reinterpretation of India's Educational Heritage by Singh, S. (2022) [3].

Evolution and Academic Trends of Contemporary Geographical Thinking in India A case study of scholars visiting India in ancient times. Kumarajiva was in India in 402 AD and studied in Kashmir, Kashgar and Kucha, where he was one of China's foremost translators and disseminators of Buddhist teachings. In the early 5th century, a Faxian Chinese scholar travelled to India with nine of his other students.

### Chinese and Western scholars with scholarly writings:

Indian Knowledge has profound and ancient heritages, foreign scholars from China and Western scholars visited India or Bharat for knowledge in the areas of Yoga, Vedic astrology, Ayurveda, Vastu Shastra and Natya Shastra carried to the West (Table 1).

**Table 1:** Some of Chinese and Western scholars with scholarly writings

Scholars	Scholarly writings
Meghasthenes-Greek traveller (302BC)	Travelogue Indica
Fa-Hien-Chinese traveller (399AD-414)	Record of Buddhist Kingdoms
Huen Tsang-Chinese Scholar (603-604)	Records of the Travels to Middle India
Faxian-Chinese traveller (405AD-411)	Foguoji
Xuanzang-Chinese traveller (63AD)	Si-Yu-Ki & the Record of the Western Regions (Referred to 70 kingdoms in India)
Duarte Barbosa-Portuguese Traveller	Duarte Barbosa
Sungyan-Chinese traveller (518CE)	Gandhara Dynasty Tale
Ptolemy-Greece scholar and Geographer (130 AD)	Geography of India

Yijing-Chinese Monk (635-713)	The Memoirs of Eminent Monks Who Visited India and Neighboring Regions in Search of the Law during the Great Tang Dynasty and the Record of Buddhism as Practiced in India Sent Home from the Southern Seas (Sen, T. 2006) [4].
Shlabbhadra (529-654 A.D.)	Aryabuddhabhumivyakhyana (Introduction to the land of Aryan Buddhism)
Thonmi Sambhot and 16 Scholars from Tibet	They had come to Kashmir to study Indian alphabets of the Brahmi script and wrote New Grammar for the Tibetans based on Grammar written by Panini.
Alberuni (1024-1030AD)	Studied Sanskrit, and Indian Philosophy and wrote a book on Hindu religion.
Wu Cheng'en (16 Century)	Journey to the West based on the journey of Xuanzang
Kumarajiva (402 CE)	Vajra-Chhedika- Prajna-Paramita Sutra (Diamond Sutra- first printed book in China)

Source: Author Own & Revisiting the Educational Heritage of India by Sahana Singh

## 2. RELATED WORKS :

Manuscripts provide valuable information on civilization, heritage, culture, and ancient knowledge for further research. India has the largest collection of manuscripts in the world. Indian manuscripts were written in a mixture of languages and scripts have survived till today (Table 2).

**Table 2:** Review of various relevant Manuscripts and their focus

S. No.	Area	Focus	Reference
1	Preservation and organization of Manuscripts	The author explained about preservation and organization of manuscripts and their types like palm leaf, Birch Barks (Birch Tree), paper, processing of manuscripts, Digitization of manuscripts, the Act Antiquities and Art Treasure Act1972, and Manuscripts calories like Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, National Mission for Manuscripts.	Chetty, P. R., et al. (2008). [5]
2	Indian Manuscripts Manuscript Cultures	The author cites Indian Manuscripts, writing the oldest physical writing in India survives as rock inscriptions, the earliest scripts are Kharosthi and Brahmi Syllabries and the earliest script is called Siddhamatrka found in Nepal and Bengal. The Sarada script of Kashmir belongs to the Gupta script in the form of birch bark manuscripts and manuscript libraries famous in Nalanda, Volabhi, Somapura, Odantapuri, and Jain temple libraries explain early Indian cultural and literary history.	Wujastyk, D. (2014). [6]
3	A selective review of scholarly communications on palm leaves of manuscripts	The article highlights the oldest collection of antique manuscripts "Panchami-Kaho" written in 1052 AD," Kuvalayamala" written in 1082 AD "Nisitha Churni" from 1101 AD, and two varieties of palm leaves are used for writing and also focuses on the preservation of the manuscripts and they are a treasure of cultural heritage and practices.	Sahoo, J. (2016). [7]

4	National Mission for Manuscripts	The essay examines the manuscript digitization effort in India, with a focus on the operations of the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM). Digitization aids in preserving and protecting legacy, particularly text, for future generations. The NMM is one of India's most important heritage conservation organizations, with the broadest network of institutions scattered across the country mandated to digitize and make available digital versions in a shared platform for access and use.	Jaiswal, P. et al. (2022). [8]
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Education has been given importance since the times of Vedic civilization, both Guru and Shishya worked together in learning at Gurukula, Monasteries, Viharas, and University are the most prominent traditional centres of advanced education. Acharyas of ancient learning centres are scholars of ancient universities (Table 3).

**Table 3:** Indian Ancient Centers of Advanced Education and Scholars

S. No	Area	Focus	Reference
1	Educational centres and universities	In his book "Education in Ancient India" the author explains educational centres like Takshila, Kashi, Kashmir Nalanda, Valabi, Vikramshila and their scholars. Takshila 100 scholars are from various countries and the curricula are literature includes Rigveda, Yajurveda, Samaveda, and Atharva Veda both Brahmanical literature, Buddhist literature along with handicrafts were taught and Acharyas of kasha were scholars of Takshila, kasha is a centre for Brahmanical learning. Nalanda University is a centre for Buddhism and Jainism, it attracted students and scholars from different parts of India. According to Yuan Chwang number of teachers at Nalanda University was 1510, They were categorized into classes of teachers based on the Explanation of books Sutras, and Shastras. The scholars of the university are Jimmitra, Chandrapal, Sthirmitra, Dharmapal, Gynamati, and Nagarjuna. Nalanda is a centre of Mahayana School, Valabicentre of Hinayana. Vikramshilahas had 108 scholars and it attracted several scholars from Tibet.	Jayapalan, N. (2005). [9]
2	Ayurvedic Writings and its Scholars	The Research article provides a brief history of therapeutic ideas and Ayurvedic writings in ancient India. In ancient India, the University of Taxila was highly known for studying medicine, and those trained there were regarded in high regard. From descriptions of contemporary Greek travellers to India, Buddhist writings, and Chanakya's Arthashastra, medicinal concepts and practises in India from 600 to 200 BCE are	Saini, A. (2016). [10]



		derived. the Charaka Samhita (Charaka's collection) and Sushruta Samhita (Sushruta's collection) Vagbhata's Astangahrdaya, dating from the seventh century CE, is another major Ayurvedic literature. According to the mythology of Jivaka, medical training took seven years to complete.	
3	Buddhist education and its universities	During that time, Indian Buddhist scholarship gave birth to six monastic universities. Buddhist education reached its pinnacle in India between the fourth and twelfth centuries AD. Naland, Wikramasil, Odantapuri, Somapura, Jagaddal, and Wallabhi were their names. Among these six universities, Nland got far greater attention from both domestic and international students. It was the first of its type in the world, a beacon of wisdom and understanding. According to Hieun Tsang, a Chinese great scholar-monk who studied at Nalanda, 10,000 resident students came from all across India and many foreign countries such as Tibet, China, Japan, Korea, Java, Sumatra, and Sri Lanka when he entered the institution. There were approximately 1510 teachers and 1500 labourers. 100lectures were delivered daily.	Meshram, M. (2013). [11]
4	The ancient education system in modern multidisciplinary education	From ancient times through the Renaissance period, India has had a rich heritage of education and learning, and the author highlights the path of education from the Vedic period 1500BCE-600BCE and techniques of teaching - listening, thinking, and meditation. Education was imparted in those days through Gurukuls, Parishads (academic Institutions), and Sammelans (conferences) and Vedic literature was followed by Sutra literature 600BCE-200BCE and education in the Epic period and it deals with practical methods of education, Panini, Katyayana, and Patanjali and many institutions such as Taxila, Ujjain, Nalanda, Banaras, Mudura and Scholars jivaka highly known medical expert in the sixth century, Panini Grammarian in the seventh century, and Kautalya in the fourth century were Taxila students and established National Education Policy and Ancient education always concentrated on better understanding of self and knowledge of power.	Mishra, N., & Aithal, P. S. (2023). [12]

Higher education centres include Wikramasil, Odantapuri, Somapura, Jagaddal, and monasteries, as well as Viharas and Naland. Buddhist educational centres, for example, provide instruction in the arts, medicine, astronomy, warfare, and urban development, among other subjects. The curriculum has a strong emphasis on contemporary multidisciplinary education. The ancient education centres have

produced great Scholars, Susruta, Panini, Chanakya, and Charaka who have contributed knowledge to the world.

### 3. OBJECTIVES OF THE PAPER :

- (1) To Identify the contribution of Scholars Representing the ancient university
- (2) To Know Ancient Indian Institutional Repository.
- (3) To Study the Number of Manuscripts recorded in the Ancient Indian Institutional Repository
- (4) To highlight the ancient Indian University.

### 4. IDENTIFY THE CONTRIBUTION OF SCHOLARS REPRESENTING THE ANCIENT UNIVERSITY:

Ancient University produced great scholars who wrote famous books in Aryuvadic, Medicine, Government-ship and politics and information about social life, grammar, and literature and given enormous gifts have laid the foundation for the modern world. Panini, the renowned Sanskrit grammarian and Kautilya author of Arthasastr, studied in Taxila, and Charaka father of Charaka-Samhita developed the medical instrument in Taxila (Kiran Shahid, K. (2012). [13]). Mathematician and philosopher Gangesha Upadhy wrote Tattva Chintamani at Mithila University it deals with Indian philosophy, logic and epistemology. Sharada Peeth Temple University has great scholars like AdiShankar who lived in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE and Tibetan translators Vairotsana, Kumarajiva, and Thonmi Sambhota studied at this temple university. In ancient Indian literature, women play a significant part. Many educated women lived in ancient India. Scholarly women might be divided into two categories: Sadyodvahas, who studied the Vedas till marriage, and Brahmavadinis, who were single and lived their lives immersed in the Vedas (Rout, N. 2016). [14]. Ashoka inducted his daughter, Sanghamitra, into the Buddhist clergy. The Jain texts tell us about the Kousambi princess Jayanti, who remained a spinster-to study religion and philosophy. Buddhist nuns produced hymns. Women did write Sanskrit plays and poetry and excelled in music, painting, and other noble arts.

#### Legendary academicians and scholars of Ancient Education and discipline:

Indian Knowledge system created in the ancient past, incorporating various disciplines provided valuable insights to the world. Kautilya (Chanakya) Arthashastra (The Science of Politics and Economics), Panini Sanskrit grammarian his major work Astadhyayi (Astaka) Sushruta, the father of surgery, Aryabhata and other Ancient Scholars discovered a remarkable wealth of knowledge.

**Table 4:** Legendary academicians and scholars of Ancient Education and discipline

Name of the Scholars	Discipline
Kautilya / Chanakya/ Kautilya, and Vishnugupta (350-275 BCE)	Arthashastra
Adishankara (788AD-820AD)	Philosophy
Gautama Buddha (563 to 483 BC)	Philosophy
Panini (400BC)	Grammar
Acharya Kapil (300BC)	Cosmology
Acharya Bharadwaj (800BC)	Aviation technology
Bhaskara I (600-680)	Mathematics & Astronomy
Brahmagupta(598-668)	Mathematics & Astronomy
AryabhataII (about 920)	Mathematics & Astronomy
Bhaskaracharya (1114-1183)	Algebra
Brahmadeva (1060-1130)	Mathematics & Astronomy
Sridharacharya (AD 991)	Mathematics
Baudhayana (880 BC)	Mathematics
Panini (400 BC)	Grammar
Varahamihir (499-587 AD)	Astrology & Astronomy
Acharya Sushrut (600 BC)	Medicine
Archarya Charak (600 BC)	Medicine
Nagarjuna (100 AD)	Chemistry
Archarya Kanad(600BC)	Physics (Atomic Theory)

Maharishi Patanjali/Katyayana	Patanjali Yoga Sutra
Kalidas	Literature work Abhijan Shakuntalam, Raghuvamsha, Meghaduta.
Vishakhdutta	Mudra Rakshas, Devchandra Gupta
Pampa	Adipurana, VikramarjivaVijaya
Jaidev	GeetGovinda (Sanskrit poem)
Chamundaraya. (940 CE to 989 CE)	'TrishashtiLakshanaMahakatha' is also known as the ChavundarayaPurana

Source: Infilibnet – Rana (2013) Evolution of Modern Geographical Thinking and Disciplinary Trends in India

## 5. CASE STUDY ON SCHOLARS WHO VISITED INDIA IN ANCIENT TIMES (Singh, S. (2022). [15])

**I. Kumarajiva** was in India in 402 CE and studied in Kashmir, Kashgar, and Koutcha among the best translators and propagators of Buddhist teachings in China. He has translated over 100 Sanskrit texts and is a teacher to the famed Chinese explorer Fa-Hien.

**II.** In the early fifth century, a **Faxian Chinese** scholar travelled to India with nine other students to pursue knowledge. He spent two decades in India, 394-414, travelling and learning Buddhist Vinayas. He travelled to Nalanda, Benares (Varanasi), and Budh Gaya, where he learnt Sanskrit and dharma and translated several sutras. He also wrote a memoir called A Record of Buddhist Kingdoms.

**III. Alberuniw** was an Islamic-Persian scholar who researched the Brahmanical tradition, wrote Kitab Tarik-AL-Hind, was a main collator of Indic knowledge, and translated works on a wide range of topics. He studied Sanskrit, philosophy, and physics, and translated the 'Brahmasiddhanta' into Arabic.

**IV. Thonmi Sambhota** is a Tibetan Grammarian and the founder of the Tibetan Alphabet based on Indian Sanskrit. During his time in India, Thonmi Sambhota is claimed to have studied under a renowned scholar named Devavidyasimha, who taught him the foundations of Sanskrit grammar based on grammar written by Panini and the Brahmi character. He studied Nalanda and drew inspiration from its teachings to create a new alphabet based on the principles of Devanagari and Kashmiri scripts and adapted to the distinctive sounds and phonetics of Tibet.

## 6. CASE STUDY ON SCHOLARS WHO TRAVELLED WITHIN INDIA AND OUTSIDE INDIA:

There has been a notable movement of intellectuals and students throughout the world and inside the country since ancient times. Scholars from Nalanda, including Sthiramati and Gunamati, came to Gurajit and founded Valabhi University. Ratnavajra, a scholar from Kasmira (Kashmir), travelled to Vikramshila. Dinnaga and Dharmapala, both from Kanchipuram in the south, are appointed as instructors at Nalanda. The spiritual guru Bodhidharma travelled from Kanchipuram to China to teach Buddhism, meditation (dhyana), and martial arts. Scholars such as Kamalashel, Kashyapa Martanga, Dharmarakshita, Acharya Kumarajiva, Bodhidharma, and Jnanabhadra travelled from India to Tibet, Japan, and China to spread Buddhism, Indian culture, and the Ayurvedic medicine system.

### (1) Case study on Gautama Siddha (QutanXida in Chinese):

In China's scientific system, several Indian mathematicians and astronomers occupied prominent posts. In the eighth century, an Indian scholar by the name of Gautama Siddha (QutanXida) presided over China's official Board of Astronomy. In addition, he rendered Indian numerals and the Navagraha calendar into Chinese (Sen, A. 2014). [16].

### (2) Case study on Dipankara Sri Jnana Known as Atisa:

An Indian scholar during the 10th-11th century was invited to Tibet to re-establish Buddhism, leading scholar of Vikramaśīla, he is specializing in Mahayana, Hinayana, Vaisheshika, and Vajrayana with 200 works.

### (3) Ancient Indian knowledge- the manuscript is a blueprint for research and learning through institutional repository:

Nalanda had a huge library called Dharmayajna, which had three sections known as Ratanasagar, Ratnadadhi and Ratnaranjaka. An ancient Sanskrit proverb is "Kosavan Acharya" meaning "educator with a library" In Kerala, an ancient institution of higher learning introduced with special training in martial arts for young people who chose to join the military, in Kandaloor Salai, this institution is known



as the Nalanda of the South, the library has a collection of manuscripts that were extensive and diverse (Raman Nair, R. (1991). [17].

The archaeological as well as literary evidence manuscripts are regularly practiced in the ancient period since the 4th century BC for writing and reading and manuscripts are the intellectual wealth of India. Indian Buddhists placed special emphasis on manuscript writing (Wujastyk, D. (2014). [18]. A manuscript is a handwritten composition of cloth, metal, wood, palm leaf, bark, and any other material that represents the splendour of Indian civilization including philosophy, art, languages, and architecture. The handwritten material was kept in the libraries of kings and chiefs, universities, temples, viharas, mutts, pathhala and government libraries. The famous centres of learning Taxila, Nalanda and Vallabhihad had several thousand books in their collection. In this context, Shankara, Ramanuja and Madhva established their centres in Shringeri, Melkote and Udupi (Vaidya, S. M., & Kulkarni, V. (2016). [19]. The Chinese pilgrim I-tsing reported that he stayed at Nalanda monastery for ten years and collected four hundred Sanskrit texts and five lakh slokas, indicating that the library was a rich collection of manuscripts. The teacher was the head of the various departments of this famous library of Nalanda. Usually, the teacher who taught a particular subject was the head of the corresponding subject collection in the library and guided his students appropriately. Acharya Nagarjuna, the founder of Madhyamika Buddhism and founder of Nagarujana University, had a multi-story library that contained manuscripts on various fields of knowledge such as medicine, science, philosophy, mineralogy, geography, and Buddhist teachings (Ghosh, P. (2020). [20]. In 1059 AD, King Udayaditya of Malwa built the Nikanthesvara temple in Udaipur, and there are facilities for reading manuscripts in the temple library. New monastic teaching institutions that grew in importance included Nland (Bihar, c. 4th century-1200), Valabh, Jagaddala (Bengal, c. 1100-1200), Odantapur (Bihar, c. 700), and Somapura (Rajshahi, Bangladesh, c. 8-12 centuries). Many of these organisations established libraries. According to the accurate descriptions of the Chinese traveller Xuan Zang (602-664). The scholarly centre Manyakheta in Karnataka is the capital of the Rashtrakuta dynasty, Amoghavarsha –I wrote the first classical Kannada work Kavirajamarga, near Manyakheta Mallinatha Basadi is found 59 manuscripts in Prakrit, Sanskrit and Kannada. The Jainas also developed a large network of temple libraries that were used by itinerant monks. Ancient Indian manuscripts are an invaluable document for scholars, teachers, and the public to understand Indian history, art, culture, heritage, political administration, economics, science, astronomy, cosmology, medicine, and philosophy; they inspire further new research and solutions for society. The original manuscripts of the Arthashastra are kept in the Oriental Research Institute in Mysore, and R. Shamastry edited the manuscript and published it in 1909. India was intellectually very advanced in ancient and mediaeval times, and the knowledge of the ancient knowledge systems has come down to us in the form of manuscripts. The National Mission for Manuscripts (NAMAMI) is an autonomous organisation established by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, to collect, locate and preserve Indian manuscripts and to create a national resource base for manuscripts to improve access, awareness and educational use. The Sarasvati Mahal Library at Thanjavur Palace is an exceptional repository for palm-leaf and paper manuscripts and volumes in Tamil, Sanskrit, Marathi, Telugu, Hindi, English, French, German, and Italian. The palace library collections began in the 16th century under the Nayak rulers of Thanjavur (1535-1675 CE) and were expanded by the Marathas. Raja Serfoji II (1798-1832), a bundle of palm leaves containing 24,000 slokas of the Valmiki Ramayana, had kept the library. In the old times, when there was no printing of books, the library consisted only of handwritten books or manuscripts. The basic principle of learning was Sruti-Smriti (Parmar, R. (2019). [21]). "In the Middle Ages, most manuscripts were illustrated and written in oriental languages" (Banerjee, D. N. (1996). [22]. Sanskrit manuscripts and Sanskrit literature consisting of dharanis, tantras, sutras and other texts preserved in Japan are older than (Singh, A. (2005). [23].

Manuscripts symbolize ancient intellectual history, thought and Heritage and they provide evidence of the past. The National Mission for Manuscripts organization was established to conserve Indian manuscripts, Mission runs a network of 32 conservation units across India.

**Table 5: Information about ancient Manuscripts in India**

Total Number of Manuscripts in India	5 million
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No Manuscript conservation centre in India	South, North, East, Central & West
South	24 Centre
North	22 Centre
East	24 Centre
Central	03 Centre
West	12 Centres

Source: National Mission for Manuscripts

### I. A Case Study on Jaya Mahantesha Institutional Repository:

The Jaya Mahanteshwar Ancient Library is located in the Shivagaga Mandira temple complex in Badami taluk of Bagalkot district, Karnataka, on the banks of the Malaprabha river. The Repository has a 111-year history, with treasures dating back almost a thousand years. Since time immemorial, many university scholars, students, and lecturers have come here to gain further information for their literary work. Rows of rare books on the shelves, vyasukta 18 puranas, Vedas, Upanishads, Sanskrit vanaspati, vachana, shastra, mat acharya Bhasyas, and literature about various religious and social issues are present in 1000 Palm leaves and bundles of manuscripts. As this is a spiritual and theological teaching university, Hanagal's most revered saintly person, Sri Kumaraswamy, created a library here in 1910 through a project called "PustakaJolige" for books to preserve eternal Indian history in such a large area of 84 acres. The library's design has evolved. Not only that but this library is now being digitalized, to make every page of every book available at the user's fingertips.

### II. Case Studies on National Institute of Prakrit Studies and Research Shrvanabelogola:

It is one of the Prakrit study centres, with details of 51,000 manuscripts and various life skills available in Prakrit (600 BC–100 BC) and Apabhramsa (600 AD–1200). Since the 10th century AD, when Siddhanta Charukeethy Nemichandracharya, the Guru of King Chavundaraya, authored several works in the Prakrit language in Shrvanabelogola, this holy location has been the seat of learning and promoting Prakrit studies. The Dhavaletara Prakrit text has been translated into Kannada by the Centre, and there are various Kannada commentaries and interpretations of ancient Prakrit writings available. The Prakrit language was the mother tongue of Mahavira, Buddha, and King Ashok, and teaching was available in the Prakrit language.

### III. Case study on The Oriental Research Institute (ORI), University of Mysore:

Rare palm leaf and paper text collections are kept in storage at the Research Institute in Mysuru. The institute was established in Mysore by His Highness Sri Chamaraja Wodeyar Bahadur, who was the Maharaja of the former State of Mysore (Mysuru Samsthana). The goal of the Oriental Research Institute is to gather, save, compile, edit, and publish rare and priceless manuscripts written in Sanskrit and Kannada on palm leaves and paper from our nation. The Oriental Research Institute's library contains more than 30,000 manuscripts in several formats. Identifying, categorising, and cataloguing thousands of manuscripts written on paper and palm leaves was the task of Pundits who were proficient in Sanskrit, Kannada, English, and other languages. Several rare books in Sanskrit, Kannada, and English were also acquired by the pundits at the Institute for research, study, and publication, in addition to the manuscripts. Consequently, an encyclopedia of literature, culture, and associated subjects was produced. The Institute's pundits critically edited and published valuable masterpieces in Sanskrit and Kannada, along with scholarly introductions. Arthashastra- An Indian polity, economics, military science, business management, administration, civil law, and governance work. It contains some fascinating elements such as gemology and metallurgy. Elephant and horse training for the battle is also illustrated here. The taxation policy is detailed in detail. Dr. R. Shamashastri, a well-known scholar and ORI Librarian, found and edited the whole palm-leaf manuscript of Kautilya's Arthashastra in Granta script for the first time. This work was published for the first time in the globe in 1909. The publication of this work won this institution widespread acclaim. Sritattvanidhi is a scholastic treatise by His Highness Krishnaraja Wodeyar III, the former monarch of Mysore. The king was a skilled writer in both Kannada and Sanskrit. This work is divided into nine volumes. They are Shaktinidhi, Vishnunidhi, Shivanidhi, Brahmanidhi, Grahanidhi, Vaishnavanidhi, Shaivanidhi, Agamanidhi, and Kautukanidhi, and they encompass practically all areas of Indian traditional knowledge. This monumental work's

gorgeous classical paintings and other embellishments add to its allure. Shaktinidhi, Vishnunidhi, Shivanidhi, and Brahmanidhi were among the nine nights that were published. The fifth volume of Grahanidhi, with Kannada and English translations, has been completed and is ready for publishing. The editing of Vaishnavanidhi, the sixth volume of Sritattavanidhi, is now underway. [<https://uni-mysore.ac.in/english-version/oriental-research-institutetex>].

#### IV. Case study on Manuscripts carried by Xuanzang:

Xuanzang is world-famous for his sixteen-year pilgrimage to India and his career as a translator of Buddhism. Xuanzang also studied Sanskrit and Brahmana philosophy at Nalanda, Hinayanaures is one of the most illustrious figures in the history of academic Chinese Buddhism. The Manuscripts that Xuanzang carried were classified as 224 Mahayana Sutras and treatises, many Hinayana texts at least 36 works on general logic (Hetuvidya Shastra) and 13 works on grammar (Shabdavidya Shastra) (Tilak, J. B. (2023). [24]).

### 7. EDUCATION CENTERS OF ANCIENT INDIA AND ITS SCHOLAR'S CONTRIBUTIONS:

Eeducation in ancient India dates back to the Vedic or Brahmanic period around the 3rd century BC with the Gurukula system of sutras and epics. During the Buddhist era, monasteries and vicars were significant centres of higher learning, gradually known as universities. Sanskrit was the language of instruction for the Vedas and Pali was the Buddhist language of education. The Brahmanical educational system emerged about 600-500 (200) BC. C.E. and the Buddhist educational system 500 (200) B.C.-1200 A.D. (Mefodeva, M. A. et al., (2017). [25]). The contributions of ancient Indian scholars to mathematics, political administration, architecture, philosophy, astronomy, art and literature have laid the foundation for future investigations. Kalidasa's great work 'Abhijanashakuntalam' was translated into all major languages. Gurumahavira or Mahaviracharya composed his book 'Ganitsarasangraha' in the ninth century, which is the very first text on mathematics (arithmetic) in modern form, Charaka's 'Father of Ayurveda', Charak Samhita, offers ancient theories on the human body, aetiology, symptomatology and a wide range of diseases. "Charaka recommended that metals should be turned into fine powder before use and great caution should be exercised during administration for various symptoms of disease (Bhavana, K. R. (2014). [26]). Brahmagupta's astronomy books Brahmasphutasiddhanta (628 AD) and Khandakhadaka (664 AD) deal with mathematics (Peters, M. A. (2019). [27]). King Manu, author of the Manusmriti, the " Code of Laws for Society," written between the 2nd and 3rd centuries B.C. CE was the first Sanskrit text studied by European philologists and translated into English and published by Sir William Jones (Johnson, K. A. 2010). [28]. Kautilya or Vishnugupta's 'Arthashastra' comprises fifteen adhikarans or books, Kautilya wrote several other books such as Chanakya-Sutras (rules of science) and Chanakya-Rajanitisastra (science of government policy) (Patel, D. (2020). [29]).

Education enjoyed a high status in Indian civilization since the Vedic period, and Emperor Harshavardhana studied at Nalanda. In the 8th and 9th centuries AD astronomical and medical treatises such as the Brahma Siddhanta, the KhandaKnadyaka of Brahmgupta, and medical writings of Charaks, Susiruta, and Vagbhattawere translated into Arabic in Kanthalloorsala. Shilabhadra is a Buddhist scholar and disciple of Acharya Dharmapala, the rector of Nalanda University. He became head of the academic department and chancellor of the NalandaMahavihara in 635 and is well versed in the Vedas, yoga, philosophy and medicine. His book is Aryabuddhabhumibyakhya (Introduction to the Land of Aryan Buddhism) (Muhammed, T. (2015). [30]), and he is a personal tutor of the Chinese Buddhist monk Xuanzang and a scholar called "Dharmanidhi" or "Treasure of the Good Law" (Chattopadhyay, J. (2003). [31]).

**Ancient Indian scholars are viswaguru, during ancient India**, there was a huge contribution to the fields of Mathematics, Yoga, Astronomy or Khagol Shastra, Ayurveda, Ganit Sara Sangraha, Astrology or Jyotish, Political and Public Administration, Literature, Atomic theory has contributed to Indian higher learning and concrete foundation for the research.

#### 7.1 Ancient University with subjects taught and Scholars:

Hindu universities include Taxila, Mithila, Nadia, and Varanasi, as well as Buddhist universities such as Nalanda, Vikramashila, and Odantapuri were established in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> centuries BCE, scholars

from the Gregioraphal area frequently visited these seats of learning. Many great Astronomers, Grammarians, and rulers are studied in Taxila, Nalanda.

**Table 6:** Information about some Ancient Universities with subjects taught and Scholars

Name of the University	Founder	Scholars
Nalanda	In the 5 century AD Emperor Kumar Gupta-Bihar	Nagarjuna, Dinnaga, Dharmapala, Lama Atisha
Takshashila	World's First University 700 BC Son of Bharata and Taksa	Jeevaa, Charak, (Medical Book-Charak Samhita) Chandragupta Maurya, Panini, Chanakya, (Arthashastra-Economic Policy and Military Strategy) Vishnu Sharma, Panini (Ashtadhyayi-Grammar Book of Sanskrit).
Vikramshila University	King Dhamapala Bihar in the 7th Century	VairocharaRakshita, Jetari, Prajnakaramati, Ratnakarasanti, Jnana Sri, Ratnavajara, Vagishvarakirti, Acharya Atisha (Dipankara Sri Gnana), Abhyankargupta, Tathagatrakshita, Manjusri, and Dharmakirti are some of the names mentioned.
Pushpagiri (Buddhist Seat of Higher Learning)	Established by Kalinga king/ Ashoka-2nd Century BC to 10th Century	Famous Buddhist monk Prajna studied in Pushpagiri, and prominent Tantrik Buddhist monk Rahulaa, Nagarjuna, Aryadeva, Sarbagami, Dignaga and Dharmakirti.
Vallabhi University	Established by Bhattarka of Maitraka King	Gunamati and Sthiramati
Salotgi University Karnataka & Nagavi University	Narayana Minister of Rashtrakuta Emperor (11th Century)	---
Manyakheta In Karnataka	Amagharvarsha Nrupatunga814AD to968 AD	Amagharvarsha-I, Mathematician Mahaveeracharya, Ajitassenacharya, Gunabhadracharya,
Kanchipuram 200 BC	Pallavas	Gautam Buddha and Xuanzang visited the Kanchipuram, Buddhaghosa, the author of Visuddhimagga, Bodhidharma- founder of Zen Buddhism.
KanthallurValiasala (Nalanda of the South)	The Chola-Rajendra Chola-1013AD-1045	Kuvalayamala by Jain saint Udyodana Suri
Nagarjunakonda or NagarjunaVidyapeeth	2nd Centure AD Acharya nagarjuna	

Source: Author's source



## 8. CONCLUSION :

Ancient India was a land of scholars and scientists. Their contributions are exceptional and highly relevant for the modern world, as evidenced by the numerous literary reviews, case studies, and institutional repositories of manuscripts, archaeological survey discoveries, and manuscripts carried by scholars who visited Ancient India and students from other countries who studied in the ancient higher learning institutions of Mahapandita, Pandita, and others.

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