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## **Dr. Birendra Nath Prasad**

Assistant Professor  
Centre for Historical Studies  
School of Social Sciences-III  
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### **Office Address**

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### **Residential Address:**

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### **Markers of international recognition**

- Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies (A Recognized Independent Centre of the University of Oxford) was willing to grant me institutional affiliation as a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow.

- I was invited by Times Higher Education, London, to participate in the Global Ranking of Indian and International Universities for two years.
- I was invited to peer-review a paper for a research journal published by Taylor and Francis, London.
- My research articles have been published in prestigious peer-reviewed international journals such as *Journal of the Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies*; *Buddhist Studies Review* (Journal of the UK Association for Buddhist Studies, London); *Religions of South Asia*, London; *Berlin Indological Studies*; and *Social Science Probings* (Delhi).
- I have presented papers in international conferences organised by the Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies, University of Toronto, National University of Singapore, and Wuhan University (China).

### **Educational Qualifications**

1. MA in History (specialisation in Ancient Indian History) from JNU. I was the topper of the batch in the Ancient Indian History section.

### **Research degrees earned**

Research Degree	Title of dissertation/ thesis	Degree awarded by
M. Phil in History	Vaiśālī: Emergence and Structure of an Early Indian Political and Urban Centre, c. BCE 600-CE 400	JNU, New Delhi
PhD in History	Religious Centres in Early Medieval Bihar and Bengal: An Archaeological Study <sup>1</sup>	JNU, New Delhi

### **Research interests**

- Religion and society in ancient and early medieval India; archaeological history of religions in ancient and early medieval India; Buddhist revival movements in contemporary northern India and their interface with the Dalit political and social mobilizations; economic history of early India; cultural contacts between India and Southeast Asia.

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<sup>1</sup> Length of the thesis: 601 pages (232,618 words).

### **Teaching experience**

- As a permanent faculty (Assistant Professor) in the UGC pay scale in the P.G. Department of History of three Central Universities (including JNU), I have more than 14 years of P.G. teaching experience. I have taught in MA, M. Phil (coursework) and PhD (coursework) classes.

### **Research supervision**

- I have supervised five M.Phil research scholars so far. Their degrees have been awarded. Supervised themes include archaeology of Buddhism, early medieval polities, early Indian economic history and Dalit history in Colonial and post- Colonial north India.

## **Representative Publications**

### **Edited Books**

1. *Monasteries, Shrines and Society: Buddhist and Brahmanical Religious Institutions in India in Their Socio-Economic Context*, Manak Publications, Delhi, 2011. ISBN No. 978-81-7831-231-6.
2. *Indian Buddhism: New Researches in Text, Archaeology and Related Themes* (forthcoming).<sup>2</sup>

### **Research articles published in international peer-reviewed journals**

1. 'The Socio-Religious Dimensions of Dedicatory Inscriptions on Sculptures Donated to a Buddhist Establishment in Early Medieval Magadha: Kurkihar, c. 800 CE-1200 CE', *Journal of the Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies*, Vol. 7, 2014, pp. 116-152. Editor of the journal: Prof. Richard Gombrich. Publisher of the journal: Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies (A Recognized Centre of the University of Oxford, U.K.)
2. 'A Folk Tradition Integrated into Mahāyāna Buddhism: Some Observations on the Votive Inscriptions on Sculptures of Puṇḍeśvarī/Pūrṇeśvarī/Puṇyeśvarī Discovered in the Kiul-Lakhisarai Area, Bihar', *Berliner Indologische Studien (Berlin Indological*

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<sup>2</sup> I am the first editor of this book.

- Studies*), Vol. 21, 2013, pp. 299-306. Editor of the journal: G.J.R. Mevissen. Publisher of the journal: WEIDLER Buchverlag, Berlin.
3. "Cultic Relationships Between Buddhism and Brahmanism in the 'Last Stronghold' of Indian Buddhism: An Analysis with Particular Reference to Votive Inscriptions on Brahmanical Sculptures Donated to Buddhist Religious Centres in Early Medieval Magadha", *Buddhist Studies Review*, Journal of the U.K. Association for Buddhist Studies, London, Vol. 30, no. 2, 2013, pp. 181-199. Editor of the journal: Prof. Peter Harvey (University of Sunderland). Publisher of the journal: Equinox Publishing Ltd, Sheffield, U.K.
  4. 'Brahmanical Temples, *Maṭhas*, *Agrahāras* and a Buddhist Establishment in a Marshy and Forested Periphery of Two 'Frontier' States : Early Medieval Surma Valley (Sylhet and Cachar) , c.600CE -1100 CE', *Religions of South Asia*, Vol. 6.1, 2012, pp.33-60. Editors of the Journal: Prof. Simon Brodbeck (Cardiff University) & Prof. Dermot Killingley (Newcastle University). Publisher of the journal: Equinox Publishing Ltd., Sheffield, U.K.
  5. 'Votive Inscriptions on Sculptures of Early Medieval Samatāṭa – Harikela, Bengal: Explorations in Socio-religious History', *Religions of South Asia*, Vol. 4, No.1, 2010, pp.27-43. . Editors of the Journal: Prof. Simon Brodbeck (Cardiff University) & Prof. Dermot Killingley (Newcastle University). Publisher of the journal: Equinox Publishing Ltd, London.
  6. 'Major Trends and Perspectives in Studies in the Functional Dimensions of Indian Monastic Buddhism in the Past One Hundred Years: A Historiographical Survey', *Buddhist Studies Review*, Journal of the UK Association for Buddhist Studies, London, Vol.25, No.1, 2008, pp.54-89. Editor of the journal: Prof. Peter Harvey (University of Sunderland). Publisher of the journal: Equinox Publishing Ltd, London.
  7. "Monarchs, Monasteries and Trade on an 'Agrarian Frontier': Early Medieval Samatāṭa – Harikela Region, Bangladesh", *South and Southeast Asia: Culture and Religion*, Vol.2, 2008, pp.160-177.

**Research article published in an Indian peer-reviewed journal**

1. ‘Urbanization at Early Historic Vaiśālī, c. BCE 600-CE 400’, *Social Science Probings*, Delhi, Vol.21, No.1, June 2009, pp. 21-46. With some modifications, this paper was reprinted in D.N. Jha (ed.), *The Complex Heritage of Early India: Essays in Memory of Professor R.S. Sharma*, Manohar Publishers, New Delhi, 2014, pp.213-242. ISBN No. 978-93-5098-05-3.

**Research articles published in peer-reviewed edited books having ISBN numbers**

1. ‘Marsh, Rice, Faith: Aspects of Environmental and Religious Changes in the Early Medieval Surma- Barak Valley’. In S. Nag (ed.), *Playing with Nature: History and Politics of Environment in North-eastern India*, Manohar Publishers, New Delhi, 2017, pp.20-50.
2. ‘The Social Bases of Patronage to the Vikramaśilā Mahāvihāra: An Epigraphic Enquiry’. In S. Nag & Ishrat Alam (eds), *Blending the Nation and the Region: Essays in Memory of Late Professor Amalendu Guha*, Primus Books, Delhi, 2018, pp.310-324. This paper was originally published in R.K. Sinha & O.P.Pandey (eds), *History and Archaeology of Vikramaśilā Mahāvihāra: The Last Beacon of Buddhist Philosophy*, Varanasi, 2015, pp. 49–64.
3. ‘Marsh, Rice, Faith: Aspects of Environmental and Religious Changes in the Early Medieval Surma- Barak Valley’. In S. Nag (ed.), *Playing with Nature: History and Politics of Environment in North-eastern India*, Routledge, 2018.<sup>3</sup>
4. A Viṣṇu Temple and Its Social Linkages in 11<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> Century A.D. Comilla, Bangladesh: A Study in Some Copper-Plate Inscriptions’. In D.P. Dubey (ed.), *Sanskrit Epigraphy in South Asia (Proceedings of the Epigraphy Section of the 16<sup>th</sup> World Sanskrit Conference, Bangkok, 2015 )*, forthcoming.

**Research articles published in journals with ISBN/ISSN numbers**

1. Dedicatory Inscriptions on the Early Historic and Early Medieval Sculptures of Bodhi Gaya: Explorations in Socio-religious History’, *Journal of Bengal Art*, Dhaka, Vol. 24, 2019 (forthcoming).

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<sup>3</sup> This book is the international reprint of the Manohar 2017 book.

2. Cultural Communications in Early Medieval India: Some Preliminary Observations'. *Prajna Bharati* , Journal of the K.P. Jayaswal Research Institute, Patna, Vol. XII, 2006, pp.27-49. ISBN no. 81-89785-19-2.
3. 'Trajectories of Urbanization: A Study of Seals and Sealings from Early Historic Vaiśālī', *Indica* (Journal of the Heras Institute of Indian History and Culture), Vol. 43, no.2, pp.103-114. ISSN No. 0019-686X.
4. 'Pilgrimage to Gaya , c.1250AD-1550 AD : An Enquiry into Some Sanskrit Inscriptions Discovered at Gaya', *Anusandhanika*, a research Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences , Ranchi, Volume VIII, Number 1, January 2010, pp.8-12. ISSN Number 0974-200X.
5. 'Royal Endowments in favor of Brahmanical Temples in Early Medieval Bihar: A Study in Some Sanskrit Inscriptions'. *The Journal of The Bihar History Congress*, Patna, No. 2, 2009, pp.109-113. ISSN Number 0976-5115.
6. 'Evolution of the Sacred Complex of Mandāra Hill: An Inscriptional Enquiry', *The Journal of the Bihar Purāvid Pariṣad*, Vol. 23-24, 2013, Patna, pp. 199-208. ISSN No. 0976-5107.
7. 'Inscriptions on the Sculptures of Aparājītā from Early Medieval Magadha: Explorations in Socio-Religious History', *Aitihya, The Journal of the Deptt. Of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology*, M.J.P. Rohilkhand University, Bareilly , Vol.4 , 2013,
8. 'Socio-religious Dimensions of Votive Inscriptions on the Buddhist Sculptures from Early Medieval Jhewari, Chittagong'. *Praga Samiksha*, Gwalior, Vol.1 ,no.1 , 2013, pp.29-34. ISSN No. 2321-659X.
9. 'Some Recently Discovered Archaeological Sites in the District of Nalanda: Preliminary Notes from the Field', *Praga Samiksha*, , Gwalior, vol. 2, no. 1, 2014, pp. 82-93. ISSN No. 2321-659X.

**Research articles published in edited books having ISBN numbers**

1. 'Historiography of the Functional Dimensions of Indian Monastic Buddhism'. In Birendra Nath Prasad (ed.), *Monasteries, Shrines and Society: Buddhist and Brahmanical Religious Institutions in India in Their Socio-Economic Context*, Manak Publications, Delhi, 2011, pp. 23-89. ISBN no. 978-81-7831-231-6.

2. ‘Rulers from Tribal Background as Patrons of Buddhism: A Note on Sāhura *Praśasti*, Discovered at Antichaka , Bihar’. In B. Labh (Ed.) , *The Ocean of Buddhist Wisdom* , Vol. V, New Bharatiya Book Corporation, New Delhi, 2011, pp.120-25. ISBN no. 81-8315-166-3.
3. ‘Bārā : A Recently Discovered Site in Nalanda District and Its Bearings on the Decline of Indian Buddhism’.<sup>4</sup> In B.Labh (ed.), *The Ocean of Buddhist Wisdom*, Vol. IV, New Bharatiya Book Corporation, New Delhi, 2010 , pp.225-233. ISBN no. 81-8315-119-1.
4. “Survival of Mahayana Buddhism in the Late Thirteenth–Early Fourteenth Century India: A Note on the ‘Poetic Inscription’ on a Korean Stūpa Erected in the Memory of Dhyānabhadra”. In P. Chenna Reddy & E. Sivanagi Reddy (ed.), *Bodhisiri, A Festschrift to A. Venkateswara Reddy* , Research India Press, New Delhi, 2014, pp. 86-91. ISBN no.: 9788189131753.
5. ‘Social Bases of Patronage to the Cult of the *Aṣṭamahāprātihārya* in the Early Medieval Nālandā Area: An Epigraphical Enquiry’. In Dr. C.P. Sinha (ed.), *India and Southeast Asia ---- Art, Culture and Religion: A Felicitation Volume In Honour of Prof. Sacchidananda Sahai*, B.R. Publishing Corporation, New Delhi, 2016, Vol.2, pp.348-354. ISBN No. 9789350502792.

### **Participation in Conferences**

#### **Research papers presented at International Seminars/Conferences/Symposiums organized by international institutions**

Sl. no.	Title of the paper	Presented at	Date of presentation
1	“Nalanda Mahāvihāra in Its Archaeological Landscape: Archaeology of Religious	20 <sup>th</sup> World Congress of the UNESCO sponsored International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR) ,	19.08.2010

<sup>4</sup> With N.G. Kumar and S.K. Pandey. I am the first author.

	Transformation in Early Medieval Bihar”	University of Toronto , Canada.	
2	“Monarchs, Monasteries and Trade on an ‘Agrarian Frontier’: Early Medieval Samatata Region, Bangladesh”.	An International Conference jointly organized by South and South East Asian Association for the Study of Culture and Religion, Delhi (An affiliate Institution of the UNESCO sponsored ‘International Association for the History of Religion) and Institute of Language and Culture, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand.	25.05.2007.
3	Beyond the Monastic Walls: Major Trends and Perspectives in Studies in Functional Dimensions of Indian Monastic Buddhism in Last One Hundred Years.	International Symposium on Buddhism Studies in the Last One Hundred Years’, organized by School of Philosophy, Wuhan University, China.	15.10.2006
4	Revival or Reinvention: Dalit Discourses on Buddhism in Contemporary Uttar Pradesh , c.2005-2011 CE.	Buddhist Revival In Asia Conference, jointly organized by Nalanda Srivijaya Centre, National University of Singapore; Nalanda International University ; and University of Delhi ; at the National University of Singapore.	15.12.2011
5.	Recent Buddhist Revival Movements in Uttar Pradesh	International Conference on ‘Buddhism Rejoins the Great Conversation in India, jointly organized by the Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies, University of Oxford; and Indian Institute of Buddhist Studies , Pune.	22.11.2014
6	Rethinking the Decline of Buddhism in the Nalanda	10 <sup>th</sup> international Congress of Bengal Art; jointly organized by The	23.02.2013



	Area: An Analysis in the Light of Some Recently Discovered Sculptures.	International Centre for the Study of Bengal Art, Dhaka , and Khudabaksh Oriental Public Library , Patna , at Patna.	
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**Papers presented at International Conferences organized by Indian Institutions**

Sl. no.	Title of the paper	Presented at	Date of presentation
1	Patronage and Societal Linkages: Buddhist Monasteries in Early Medieval Bihar and Bengal.	International Seminar on Buddhist Heritage, Gujarat; organized by Deptt.of Archaeology, M.S. University, Baroda.	15-17 January, 2010 .
2	Marsh, Rice, Religion: Aspects of Environmental and Religious Changes in Early Medieval Surma-Barak Valley’.	International Conference on Environmental History and Politics with Special Reference to North-Eastern India’ , jointly organized by the Deptt. Of History, Assam Central University, Silchar, and Association of South Asian Environmental Historians.	24-26 February, 2010.
3	Travails of a Nalanda Monk in the Late 13 <sup>th</sup> -Early 14 <sup>th</sup> Century India, China and Korea: A Note on the Dhyana-bhadra Inscription’.	<i>International Seminar on India and Korea Relationship</i> , Hapur , sponsored by The World Fellowship of Buddhists, Thailand and ICHR, Delhi.	14 <sup>th</sup> July 2010.
4	Decline of Buddhism in Early Medieval South-eastern Bengal: An Epigraphical Enquiry.	International Seminar on “Indian Buddhism in Its Social Context: From the Śākyamuni Buddha to the Present”, B.B. Ambedkar University, Lucknow	27.03.2014

5	Acharya Motiram Shastri and the Construction of Dalit Buddhism in Post- colonial Uttar Pradesh	International Seminar on “Indian Buddhism in Its Social Context: From the Śākyamuni Buddha to the Present”, B.B. Ambedkar University, Lucknow	28.03.2014
6	Borobudur’s Indian ‘Predecessors’? A Study of Some Buddhist Monastic Centres of Early Medieval Bihar and Bengal	International Seminar on ‘India & Southeast Asia: One Indic Belt, Shared Culture and Common Destiny’, organized by CSEAS (JNU) & State University of Yogyakarta (Indonesia)	

**Papers presented in National Conferences/Seminars organized by Indian Institutions**

Sl.no.	Title of the paper	Presented at	Date of presentation
1	Votive Inscriptions on the Sculptures of Early Medieval Anga Area, Bihar: Explorations in Socio-religious History with Particular Reference to the Patterns of Social Patronage to Buddhism.	9 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Indian Society for Buddhist Studies at Gujarat Vidyapith , Ahmadabad	18.09.2010
2	An Analysis of Votive Inscriptions on the Brahmanical Images Donated to Buddhist Institutions in Early Medieval Magadha	9 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Indian Society for Buddhist Studies at Gujarat Vidyapith , Ahmadabad.	19.09.2010
3	Reconsidering Functional Dimensions of Buddhism in a Land Lost by the Indic World: Samatata-Harikela, Bangladesh, c.400 CE-1250 CE.	National Seminar on ‘Recent Trends in Early Indian History’, Deptt.of History, BHU, Varanasi	23.11.2010
4	Art and Archaeology of a Village <i>Pratibaddha</i> to the Nālandā	National Seminar on “Recent Researches in Buddhist Art”, Bihar	19.12. 2010.

	Mahāvihāra: A Note on the Socio-economic and Cultural Dynamics in the Hinterland of Nālandā Mahāvihāra.	Puravida Parishada , Patna	
5	Cultural Processes in the Hinterland of the Monastery: A Case Study of a Village in the Neighborhood of Nalanda.	National Seminar on “Heritage of Nalanda: Icons and Symbols, Thoughts and Literature’, Nava Nalanda Mahāvihāra (A Deemed University) , Nalanda	13.02.2011
6	Reformulating Buddhism: Dr. Ambedkar’s Construction of Buddhism as an Emancipatory Ideology.	National Seminar on “Dr. Ambedkar: Thoughts and Legacies’ , Dr. Ambedkar Studies Centre , BB Ambedkar University , Lucknow	February 26-27, 2011
7	Recent Archaeological Explorations in the Neighbourhood of Nalanda.	ICHR sponsored National Seminar on Recent Archaeological Excavations and Explorations in the Ganga valley , organized by the Bihar Puravida Parishad, in collaboration with the Archaeological Survey of India , Excavation Branch III , Patna	28.02.2012
8	Pala Religious Policy in the Varanasi Area and Adjoining Portions of Bihar: An Epigraphical Enquiry.	First Lucknow Social Science Congress, organized by School of Ambedkar Studies , BB Ambedkar University, Lucknow	March 14-15 , 2013.
9	Some Aspects of Ambedkar’s Discourses on Religion in Indian History and Society.	National Seminar on ‘Discrimination, Identity and Philosophy of Dr. Ambedkar’ organised by Dr. Ambedkar Studies Centre & Deptt. Of	April 8-9, 2013.

		Sociology, BB Ambedkar University, Lucknow,	
10	Some Aspects of Buddhist Revival in Uttar Pradesh, 1950-1980.	National Seminar on Angarika Dharmapala and Revival of Buddhism, Organized by International Research Institute of Buddhist Studies , Lucknow	17.09.2014

### **Book Reviews Published in peer-reviewed Journals**

1. A combined Review of Gail Omvedt, *Buddhism in India: Challenging Brahmanism and Caste*, Delhi, 2003; and D.C.Ahir, *Buddhism Declined in India: How and Why*, Delhi, 2005 was published in the *Indian International Journal of Buddhist Studies*, Varanasi, 2006, pp.171-175.
2. Review of Ronald M. Davidson, *Indian Esoteric Buddhism: Social History of the Tantric Movement*, Delhi, 2004 , was published in *Social Science Probing*s, Delhi, 2006, pp.147-149.
3. A combined Review of Allen Trevithick, *The Revival of Buddhist Pilgrimage at Bodh Gaya: Angaraika Dhammapala and the Mahabodhi Temple*, Delhi, 2006; and John Clifford Holt, *The Buddhist Visnu : Religious Transformation, Politics and Culture* ,Columbia University Press, 2005, was published in *Indian International Journal of Buddhist Studies*, Varanasi, 2009.

### **Invitation lectures delivered**

1. ‘Cultic Encounters between Buddhism and Brahmanism in Early Medieval Bihar: An Archaeological Perspective’. Lecture delivered at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, on 08.03. 2017.
2. ‘A Sculptural Epitome of the “Cult of Pilgrimage”’: Some Observations on a particular Genre of the Sculptures of the Buddha Śākyamuni in Pāla period Magadha’. Lecture delivered at the Allahabad Museum (under the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India) on the occasion of Buddha Jayanti , on 09.05.2017.

3. 'An Archaeological Study of the Evolution of Inter-religious Equations in the Religious Space of Some Excavated Buddhist Religious Centres of Early Medieval Bihar and Bengal'. Lecture delivered at the Bihar Heritage Development Society (An Autonomous Institution under Govt. of Bihar) on 09.07.2018.
4. 'The Decline of Buddhism in India: A Review of the Debate'. Lecture delivered at the UGC- HRDC (Academic Staff College), JNU, on 07.08.2018.

**Exposure to Field Archaeology**

- In January- February 2006, I participated in a month long Excavation at Bhon (in Buldana District, Maharashtra), under the supervision of Dr.B.C. Deotare, Deccan College, Pune.
- In April 2006, I participated in another Excavation at Ramanagar (on the outskirts of Varanasi), under the supervision of Prof. Vidula Jayaswal, BHU.
- In December 2007, I undertook a village to village archaeological survey in the ten km radius of the Nalanda Mahavihara.
- In April 2011, I participated in the excavation of the monastic site of Telhara, district Nalanda, Bihar.

**Other responsibilities**

- I have been appointed an external member of the Board of Studies in the subject *Buddhism* in the School of Dr. Ambedkar Thought and Philosophy, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Samajika Vigyana Vishvavidyalaya (A State University under Govt. of Madhya Pradesh), Mhow, District Indore, Madhya Pradesh, w.e.f. 05.02.18.

**Date:**

**Dr. Birendra Nath Prasad**

**Place:**