

PROFESSOR ANIL KUMAR

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Professional Summary

- Professor of Ancient Indian History, Culture & Archaeology with expertise in the field of socio-economic history of early India and early medieval archaeology. Over two decades of experience in field research, excavation, and academic leadership. Completed excavation of Lalpahari hilltop Buddhist Monastery, Lakhisarai, Bihar and documentation of antiquarian remains in Lakhisarai (Ancient Krimila), a project by the Government of Bihar. Presently engaged in Geophysical survey of Mohane river valley, situated in the states of Jharkhand and Bihar, India.

Educational Qualifications

- Ph.D. – 2000, Patna University, Patna, Bihar
- Master of Arts (Ancient History, Culture & Archaeology), University of Allahabad, Prayagraj, U.P.
- Bachelor of Arts (Ancient History, Culture & Archaeology and Philosophy), University of Allahabad, Prayagraj, U.P.

Honours and Awards

- Chaired International Conference on Archaeology, Culture, and Religion of South Asia, Comilla University, Bangladesh, 2024
- Chaired ICHR-sponsored National Seminar on Sacred Spaces in Hinduism, Udaipur, Rajasthan, 2023
- Chaired International Conference on Land Transportation, Locomotive Heritage, and Road Culture, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka, 2017
- Chaired International Conference on Buddhist Traditions, GBU, Greater Noida, U.P., India, 2012
- Senior Research Fellow, University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi, 1994
- Junior Research Fellow, University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi, 1992

Research Projects

- Integrated Non-invasive Geophysical and Archaeological Study of Itkhori Heritage Sites (DST-funded, 2021) – ₹1.4 Crore
- Excavation at Lalpahari Buddhist Monastery (Director, 2017-2021) – ₹50 Lakhs
- Archaeological Works at Lakhisarai, Bihar (2017-2021) – ₹50 Crore Approx.
- International Collaborative Project for Digital Mapping of Buddhist Monuments in India and ASEAN (Historical Advisor, 2013) – ₹1.25 Crore
- Project on Explanatory Signage for Historical Sites in Bihar (2013) – ₹1 Crore
- Documentation of Antiquarian Remains in Bihar (Lakhisarai) (2008) – ₹10 Lakhs

Administrative Experience

- Head of Department, Ancient Indian History, Culture & Archaeology, Visva-Bharati University (2017 - 2023 & 2024 - Present)
- Joint-Coordinator, World Heritage Cell, Visva-Bharati University (2024 - Present)
- Chairperson, Transport Committee, Visva-Bharati University (2021 - 2023)
- Director, Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) & Chairperson, NAAC Committee, Visva-Bharati University (2021 - 2022)

Publications

Books

1. Trade in Early Medieval Eastern India, Janaki Prakashan, Patna, Delhi (2001, 2nd Edition 2009) – Reviewed in Indian Historical Review (ICHR, New Delhi) and The Quarterly Review of Historical Studies (Kolkata)
2. Bihar Sthaniya Itihas Evam Parampara (Ed.) (Hindi), Janaki Prakashan, Patna, Delhi (1998) – Reviewed in Hindustan Times, Delhi
3. Resuscitation of Śrīmad DharmaVihāra: The Forgotten Hilltop Monastery of Ganga Valley (Excavation Report of Lalpahari, 2017 - 2021), Ministry of Art, Culture & Youth Affairs, Government of Bihar (Upcoming).

Journal Articles

1. The Emergence and Expansion of Religious and Exchange Centers as ‘Urban’ in Early Medieval Bihar, Alok Parasher Sen (ed.) *Handbook on Urban History of Early India*, Springer, 2024, pg. 457 – 478.

2. Machine Learning-Driven Archaeological Site Prediction in the Central Part of Jharkhand, India Using Multi-parametric Geospatial Data Sanjit Kumar Pal, Shubhankar Maity, Amit Bera, Debajit Ghosh & Anil Kumar, Journal of the Indian Society of Remote Sensing, Year 2024. Springer Nature, London, USA.
3. Srimaddharmmavihara-Monastic Sealing from a Recently Excavated Buddhist Site in South Bihar, Monthly Bulletin, Asiatic Society, Kolkata, Volume LIII (No. 5), Year 2024, Pages 45 – 49, Kolkata.
4. Discovery of an Ancient Nunnery in Magadh: Its implication on the Bhikkhuni Sanghas of Thailand, ANC Journal for Discourses in Humanities and Social Sciences, Volume 2, Year 2022, Pages 1 – 25, Patna.
5. A Typo-chronological Study of Ceramics from Lalpahari, Lakhisarai, Bihar, Pratna Samiksha, Volume 11, Year 2020, Pages 41 – 71, Kolkata.
6. Antiquarian Remains at Lakhisarai: An Appraisal, Syed Ejaz Hussain and Sanjay Garg Alternative Arguments, Essays in Honour of S. Gopal, Volume 1, Year 2020, Pages 152-186, New Delhi.
7. Excavation at Lalpahari (Lakhisarai, Bihar) 2018-2019, Interrogating Early India: Evolving Perspectives, Year 2019, Pages 26-48, Kolkata.
8. *Krimila: A Forgotten Nagar of Early Medieval Eastern India*, Occasional Papers, Nehru Memorial Museum, Year 2019, Pages 1 – 35, New Delhi.
9. The Excavated Remains of a Buddhist Nunnery the (Matha) at Lal Pahari (Jainagar)”, District Lakhisarai, Bihar, Bharati, Volume 42, Year 2018, Pages 107 – 131, Varanasi.
10. Book Review Article on Archaeological Gazetteers of Districts Nalanda, Vaishali, Samastipur, Kaimur and Gaya, Bharati, ISBN -0523- 1302, Volume 42, Year 2018, Pages 451 – 455, Varanasi.
11. Recent Explored Buddhist Monuments at *Krimila Adhithana: Its Implications*, Archaeology of Buddhism: Recent Discoveries in South Asia, Year 2016, Pages 169-181, Manohar, New Delhi.
12. Latest Archaeological Finds at Lakhisarai: Fresh Light on the Reconstruction of Early Medieval Indian History, Prajna –Bharati, Volume XIX, Year 2016, Pages 196-208, Patna.
13. Recent Archaeological Finds at *Krimila: Their Implications on the Historiography of Early Medieval Indian History*, Journal of Indian Research, Volume 4 (No. 1-4), Year 2016, Pages 18 – 30, New Delhi.
14. Locating “ChaliyaParvat”, A Forgotten Stupa: As Centre of Shared Culture and Different Histories in Early India, Dharmadoot, Volume 81, Year 2015, Pages 62-79, Sarnath.

15. Material Background of Religion in Early Medieval Bihar, Reinterpreting History, Year 2015, Pages 1 – 15, New Delhi.
16. Towns in Pre-Modern Bihar”, Sthāpatyam, Volume 1 (3), Year 2014, Pages 265-274, New Delhi.
17. Defining the Towns of Early Medieval Bengal, Urbanity and Economy, The Pre-Modern Dynamics in Eastern India, Year 2014, Pages 121 – 134, Kolkata.
18. Faith Ritual and Feudal Order: World of Early Medieval Women in Lower Ganga Valley, Indian Women Through the Ages, Year 2013, Pages 49 – 61, Patna, New Delhi.
19. Emergence of Temple Centered Society in Early Bihar: Mundesvari Inscription a Case in Point, History Research, Volume 2 (5), Year 2012, Pages 332 – 340, David Publication, USA.
20. Lakhisarai: A Gateway to South East Asia?, Changing Perspectives and Methodologies in South Asian Archaeology, Year 2012, Pages- 163-182, Patna.
21. *Krimila*: A Forgotten *Adhithana* of Early Medieval Eastern India, Indian Historical Review, Volume 38 (1), Year 2011, Pages 27-48, Sage, USA, New Delhi.
22. Interesting Early Medieval Sculptures of Magadh: A Case Study of Sculptures from "*Krimila Adhithana*", Proceedings of Indian History Congress, Volume 70, Year 2010, Pages 1034 – 1048, New Delhi.
23. The Panchobh Copper Plate of Samgrama Gupta: A Study, Social Science Research Journal: Past, Present and Future, Volume 2 (2), Year 2009, Pages 39-41, Patna.
24. Urbanisation in Ancient India, Indian Historiography, Volume 1, Year 2008, Pages 61-98, Kolkata.
25. Market Centres and Trade Routes in Late Ancient Bihar, Proceedings of Indian History Congress, Volume 67, Year 2006, Pages 131 – 144, New Delhi.
26. Changing Faces of Gupta and Post Gupta Towns of Bengal, Proceedings of Indian History Congress, Volume 66, Year 2005, Pages 173 – 182, New Delhi.
27. Valgudar: An Early Medieval River Port of Bihar, Proceedings of Bihar Itihas Parishad, ISBN 8190869701, Volume 6th Annual Conference, Year 2005, Pages 249-258, Patna.
28. Precious Items of Trade: Gleanings from the *Brihatsamhita*, Proceedings of Indian History Congress, Volume 65, Year 2004, Pages 82 – 86, New Delhi.
29. Passage to Early Medieval Phase: Emergence of Temple Centred Society in Bihar, Proceedings of Indian History Congress, Volume 64, Year 2003, Pages 247 – 253, New Delhi.

30. Trade and Trade Routes in Early Medieval Mithila: An Archaeological Study (Hindi) Region in History Perspectivising Bihar, Year 2002, Pages 221 – 226, Patna.
31. Early Medieval Guilds in Bihar: A Study in Their Decline, Readings in Indian History, S.H. Askari Centenary Volume, Year 2001, Pages 140-146, Patna.
32. Economy of Nalanda: An Early Medieval Perspective, Nalanda Buddhism and World, Volume VII, Year 2001, Pages 38 – 48, New Delhi.
33. Valgudar: Ek Itihasik Punravalokan, Bihar Sthaniye Itihas Evam Parampara, Year 1998, Pages 174 – 178, Patna.

Paper Presentation in International Conferences/Seminars:

1. “Late Pala Inscriptions from *Krimila Adhithana*: A Reapresal”, 6th World Archaeology Congress, Dublin, Ireland, 2008.
2. “Pilgrimage Centres of Early Medieval Bihar” in 3rd Conference of SSEASR, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia. 2009.
3. “Emergence of Temple Centred Society in Early Bihar: Mundesvari Inscription a Case in Point” , IAHR: XXth Quinquennial World Congress, 2010, Toronto, Canada.
4. “Recently Discovered Buddhist Sculptures from *Krimila Adhithana*: Their Implications”, Buddhist Linkages in South and South East Asia: Perspectives And Prospects, International Conference, 2011, Delhi University, Delhi, India.
5. “*Chaliya* Stupa: Locating a Forgotten Stupa of Early India”, International Conference on Introspection on Buddhist Traditions, GBU, Greater Noida, U.P., India, 7-9 Sept. 2012.
6. “Political Aspects of Indian Religious Art in Early Medieval India: A Case Study of Recently Discovered Sculptures from Magadh”, 7th World Archaeology Congress, Dead Sea, Jordan, Jan. 13-18, 2013.
7. “Lesser Known Buddhist Centres of Bihar”, International Conference on Tourism, Organized by Govt. of Bihar, Patna, 2013.

8. “Women and Religion in Feudal Social Order of Lower Ganga Valley”, South Asian Conference in History, Patiala University, Patiala, 2013.
9. “Identifying "Chāliyā Parvat," A Forgotten Stupa of Early India: As Cultural Passage to South East Asia”, Indo-Cambodia Relations through Buddhism, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 2015.
10. “Exploring Forgotten Buddhist Monuments of Magadh: Their Implications, 8th World Archaeology Congress, Kyoto, Japan, August 27-September 1, 2016.
11. “Locating Mediaeval Trade Routes of Eastern India: Their Implications on Early Medieval Historiography”, The International Conference on Land Transportation, Locomotive Heritage and Road Culture, Centre for Heritage Studies, University of Kelanya, Colombo, Srilanka. 14th-15th December, 2017.
12. “Revisiting Archaeological Remains at Mandar”, Hindu Cultural Trails”, Jointly Organized by SAARC Cultural Centre, Colombo and IGNCA, New Delhi 8th-10th October 2018.
13. “Buddhism and Women’s Liberation”, 30-31st January, 2019, Organized by Mahabodhi Society of India at Bodh Gaya.
14. “Recently Discovered Ancient Nunnery at Lal Pahari, Lakhisarai: Its Implications on the Modern Buddhist Nuns of Thailand”, Buddhasavika Foundation, Nakhonpathom, Thailand, 13th -14th August, 2018.

Chaired Academic Session:

15. Chaired a Session in an International Conference entitled “Introspection on Buddhist Traditions”, GBU, Greater Noida, U.P., India, 7-9 Sept. 2012.

Attended and Presented Articles in National Conferences/ Seminars:

16. “Early Medieval Economy of Bihar C.A.D. 600-1200,” 56th Session of Indian History Congress, 1995, Calcutta.
17. “Trade in Brihatsamhita”, 57th session of Indian History Congress, 1996, Madras.
18. “Trade and Trade Routes in Early Medieval Bihar,” 58th Session of Indian History Congress, 1997, Bangalore.

19. "Making of Early Medieval Eastern India," 59th Session of Indian History Congress, 1998, Patiala.
20. "Guilds in Early Medieval Eastern India," 60th Session of Indian History Congress, 2000, Calicut.
21. "Towns in Early Medieval Bengal," 62nd Session of Indian History Congress, 2001, Bhopal.
22. "Archaeology of Trade Routes in Early Medieval Bihar" in Kolkata session of ASHA, 1999.
23. "Trade Routes in Early Medieval Bihar" Seminar entitled, "Phases of Transition in The History of Bihar", organized by Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library, Patna, 2006.
24. "Role of Women in Agrarian Activities in Early Medieval Eastern India". Seminar on "Empowerment of Women in Rural Bihar, December, Patna.
25. "Participation of Women in Religious Practices in Early Medieval Eastern India", Seminar on Gender Equality: A Historical Perspective, A.M. College, Patna.
26. "Recently Discovered Sculptures from Krimila Adhithana: Their Implications", Seminar on "Heritage of Nalanda: Icons and Symbols; Thoughts and Literature, Nava Nalanda Mahavihar, Nalanda.
27. "Early Medieval Social Formation in Bihar", Seminar on Social History of Ancient India, Vinova Bhavne University, Hazaribagh, 2007.
28. "Role of Women in Buddhist Viharas during Early Medieval Eastern India", National Seminar, D.A.V. College, Kanpur, 2008.
29. "Religion and Women in Early Medieval Inscriptions of Bengal", Seminar on Gender Studies organized by Centre for Gender Studies, Patna, 2010.
30. "Recently Discovered Brahmanical Sculptures of Magadh: Their Political Implications", Workshop, Organized by Dept. of AIHC&A, V.B. Santiniketan, 2010.
31. "Interpreting Early Medieval Sculptures of Magadh: A Case Study of Sculptures from Krimila Adhithana", National Seminar, Heritage of Nalanda: Icons and Symbols; Thoughts and Literature" Organized by, Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda, 2011.

32. “Vratyas of Magadh”: A Historical Critique”, MM Bikram (Patna), 2011.
33. “Poorva Madhyakalin Mithila Me Vyapar”, 7th Congress of Bihar Itihas Parishad, 2011.
34. “Temple Centred Society in Early Medieval Magadh”, Buddhist Heritage of Magadh, Seminar Organized by Nava Nalanda Mahavihar, 2012.
35. “Political Interpretations of Recently Discovered Sculptures from Magadh”, Seminar on Recent Trends of History Writings, Problems and Prospects, DAV College, Kanpur, 2012.
36. “Interpreting Local State Formations in Early Medieval Magadh”, Seminar on Heritage of Magadh in Present Developmental Context, Barahiya Collage, T.M. University, Bhagalpur, 2012.
37. “Religio-Political Interpretations of Recently Discovered Sculptures from *Krimila Adhithana*” , Seminar on Social Ideals and Reality in Ancient India, B.H.U. Varanasi, 2012.
38. “Women and Religion in Early Bihar”, Third Annual Conference on Gender Issues, 2012.

Invited Lectures:

39. “Pre-History of Chota Nagpur: Problems of Dating of Artifacts”, Archaeology of Chota Nagpur, Seminar organized by Vinova Bhave University, Hazaribagh, 2006.
40. “Buddhist Art of Eastern India- Some Specimens,” Buddha Study Circle, Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Kanpur, 2007.
41. “Nature of Trade of Early Medieval India,” Lecture organized by D.A.V. College, Kanpur, 2008.
42. NSS, “Rabindranath Tagore and his Ideas of *Ashrama*”, Santiniketan, 2011.
43. “Archaeology of 7th cent. A.D. to 10th Cent. A.D. in Different Regions”, Institute of Archaeology, ASI, New Delhi, 30 June, 2016.
44. “Nature of Early Medieval Urbanization in Eastern India: *Krimila* a Case in Point”, Nehru Memorial Museum, New Delhi, 2017.

Professional Affiliations

- Member, World Archaeology Congress (WAC)
- Life Member, Indian History Congress (IHC)
- Life Member, South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Culture and Religion (SSEASR)
- Member, Asiatic Society, Kolkata.