Twitter Thread by Shwetank

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A THREAD on Saint #AmartyaSen.
A comprehensive story of how the Nobel Laureate in economics (a committed communist klutz to be precise) thoroughly botched up the revival of the Nalanda University using a mix of nepotism, incompetency, and ad hoc functioning.

Please read & share:

> Visva-Bharati Land Row: This Is Why Amartya Sen, Far From Being Wronged, Is Actually In The Wrong https://t.co/pWMkOv0uvn via @swarajyamag
>
> — Prasanna Viswanathan (@prasannavishy) December 29, 2020

First, the appointment of #AmartyaSen, who throughout his career has heaped scorn on everything that is rooted in the Indian tradition, was outrageous for Nalanda University, that had once symbolized Indian culture and the world's best traditions of excellence in learning.

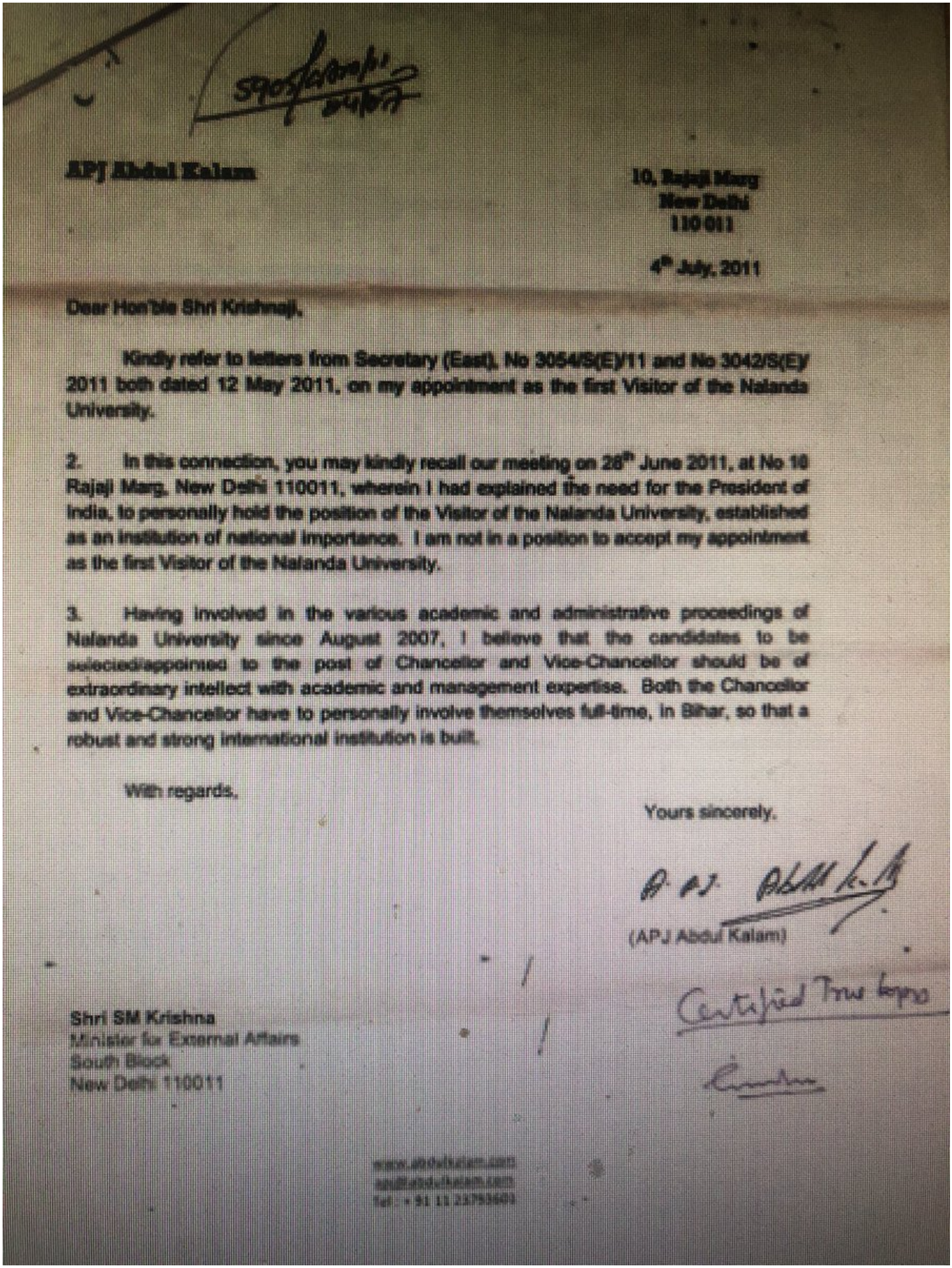
Indeed, it is open knowledge that the sole qualification of #AmartyaSen to head the Nalanda University was his proximity with Manmohan Singh and Sonia Gandhi.



In 2007, UPA govt constituted a Committee, which was supposed to file a feasibility report in 9 months. But #AmartyaSen didn't submit any report in 3 yrs, could not even prepare a financial estimate or bring any funds from abroad. Yet he was made Chairman of the Board.

Instead, #AmartyaSen continued to use his position to decide on the University's syllabus and other programs and controversially ignoring the rules.
Why? What was his agenda?
It has to be understood in the perspective of the 'politics of obligation' that Dr. Sen practices.

The seed for reviving the Nalanda University was sown by President Kalam, who resigned in disgust but never shared with media why exactly he left NU project.
His letter to the EAM SM Krishna (suppressed by MEA, retrieved through an RTI) reveals why:



APJ Abdul Kalam

10, Rajaji Marg
New Delhi
110 011

4th July, 2011

Dear Hon'ble Shri Krishnaji,

Kindly refer to letters from Secretary (East), No 3054/S(E)/11 and No 3042/S(E)/ 2011 both dated 12 May 2011, on my appointment as the first Visitor of the Nalanda University.

2. In this connection, you may kindly recall our meeting on 28th June 2011, at No 10 Rajaji Marg, New Delhi 110011, wherein I had explained the need for the President of India, to personally hold the position of the Visitor of the Nalanda University, established as an institution of national importance. I am not in a position to accept my appointment as the first Visitor of the Nalanda University.

3. Having involved in the various academic and administrative proceedings of Nalanda University since August 2007, I believe that the candidates to be selected/appointed to the post of Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor should be of extraordinary intellect with academic and management expertise. Both the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor have to personally involve themselves full-time, in Bihar, so that a robust and strong international institution is built.

With regards.

Yours sincerely.

(APJ Abdul Kalam)

Shri SM Krishna
Minister for External Affairs
South Block
New Delhi 110011

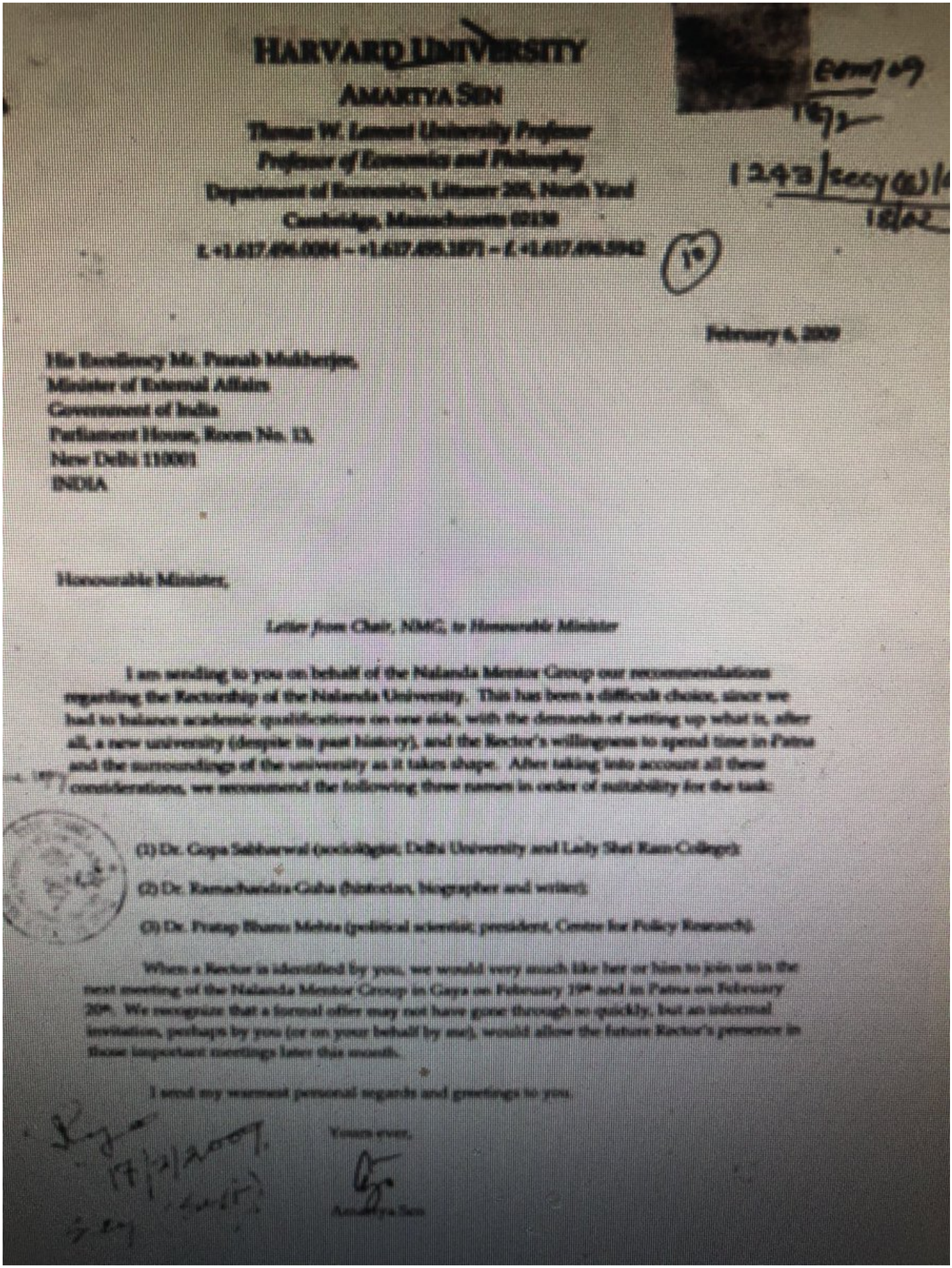
Govt spent Rs. 2.11 Crore on meetings held by a “Mentor Group” headed by #AmartyaSen in Singapore, Tokyo, NY & Delhi to conceptualize the establishment of NU.

Enjoy flying trips and luxury hospitality, and get repeated opportunities to preach to lesser mortals - what a life!

However, the controversy erupted when a chain of rule-violations ensued. Gopa Sabharwal, appointed as Vice-Chancellor by #AmartyaSen was unfit on all counts. Neither did she possess any qualifications mandated by the UGC. Her salary was Rs.5.6 Lakhs, twice that of the VC of DU.

In reply to a question, MEA said no VC has been appointed in NU. But as per an RTI reply, VC Sabharwal and seven of her associates are drawing salaries since Oct 2010.
Gopa's friend Anjana Sharma drew a salary of Rs. 3.3 Lakhs, (no central university in India offers to A. Prof)

Amartya Sen’s letter to Pranab Mukherjee revealed that it was he who recommended three names for the post of Rector. They were in the order of preference
a) Dr. Gopa Sabharwal
b) Dr. Ramchandra Guha and
c) Dr. Pratap Bahanu Mehta.



HARVARD UNIVERSITY

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February 6, 2009

His Excellency Mr. Pranab Mukherjee,
Minister of External Affairs
Government of India
Parliament House, Room No. 13,
New Delhi 110001
INDIA

Honourable Minister,

Letter from Chair, NMG, to Honourable Minister

I am sending to you on behalf of the Nalanda Mentor Group our recommendations regarding the Rectorship of the Nalanda University. This has been a difficult choice, since we had to balance academic qualifications on one side, with the demands of setting up what is, after all, a new university (despite its past history), and the Rector's willingness to spend time in Patna and the surroundings of the university as it takes shape. After taking into account all these considerations, we recommend the following three names in order of suitability for the task:

(1) Dr. Gopa Sabharwal (sociologist, Delhi University and Lady Shri Ram College);

(2) Dr. Ramachandra Guha (historian, biographer and writer);

(3) Dr. Pratap Bhanu Mehta (political scientist, president, Centre for Policy Research).

When a Rector is identified by you, we would very much like her or him to join us in the next meeting of the Nalanda Mentor Group in Gaya on February 19th and in Patna on February 20th. We recognize that a formal offer may not have gone through so quickly, but an informal invitation, perhaps by you (or on your behalf by me), would allow the future Rector's presence in these important meetings later this month.

I send my warmest personal regards and greetings to you.

Yours ever,

Amartya Sen

Other recruits were MM Singh's daughter Upinder Singh, who continued her stay in the US while drawing the salary from NU. Upinder's colleague Nayanajyoti Lahiri was referred to as an "Expert."

#AmartyaSen turned NU into a private estate with public money in the name of autonomy.

As per the Act, the NU headquarters should be at Nalanda, Bihar, but within 2 months of Gazette notification, #AmartyaSen shifted it to RK Puram, New Delhi.
The varsity was granted a massive Rs 2,727 crore financial package (borne by Indian taxpayers) over a period of 12 yrs.

After his term expired in July 2015, the Modi Govt didn't express any interest in his continuance at the University. Shamelessly, #AmartyaSen took to the media to claim "political interference in education," for calling Modi as an 'unsuitable' PM candidate before 2014 LS polls.

What an irony! When the Manmohan Singh Govt appointed #AmartyaSen (who appointed MMS's daughter) as the head of the NU revival project despite his being totally unqualified for the task. Why didn't it occur to his eminence that there was "political interference in education?"

#AmartyaSen's conduct as the NU's boss counts as an act of unparalleled shamelessness. But the courteous media never put uncomfortable questions to this 87-year-old 'historian' cum 'political scientist' cum 'philosopher' cum 'sociologist,' who has no fig leaves to hide.

NALANDA UNIVERSITY, AMARTYA SEN, AND THE MASSIVE FRAUD IN RECONSTRUCTION !!
#AmartyaSen
https://t.co/mWGnSkRzaq

Do you folks know that it was #AmartyaSen's grandfather Kshiti Mohan Sen and mother Amita Sen, who were the brain behind the conspiracy to oust Rabindranath's son Rathindranath Tagore from Biswa Bharati? Later they also usurped Rabindranath Tagore's wealth and property.
Google.

If you wish to know more about this committed communist klutz... read this: The strange saga of #AmartyaSen and the Rothschilds https://t.co/EMM6fE3liy… via
@SundayGuardian