

Shailendra Kumar



Founder and President, Nalanda 2.0

Author, *Building Golden India: How to unleash India's vast potential and transform its higher education system. Now.*

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Shailendra "Shail" Kumar is the Founder and President of Nalanda 2.0 (www.Nalanda2.org) and author of *Building Golden India: How to unleash India's vast potential and transform its higher education system. Now.* (www.shailkumar.com) In addition to receiving international acclaim from academic and business leaders, in 2017, a Nobel Laureate presented this book to India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

To start Nalanda 2.0, Shail brings an enduring passion for improving India's higher education system and over 30 years of diverse experiences as a university administrator, entrepreneur, corporate executive, student, alumni leader, parent, and an author.

Nalanda 2.0 is inspired and informed by *Building Golden India*, a book that Shail wrote and published in 2015. For this book, he dedicated two years of his time and resources and drew from his experiences. He also read thousands of pages of national and state level committee reports and numerous non-fiction books. Finally, he conducted over hundred interviews with a diverse group of stakeholders in India and across four continents.

Prior to writing the book, Shail was an administrator at two world-class multidisciplinary research universities: UC Berkeley (ranked #5 in Top 500 of Global Rankings, ARWU, 2017) and UC San Diego (ranked #15 in Top 500 of Global Rankings, ARWU, 2017). During this time, he worked with university leadership team, deans, faculty members, directors of several interdisciplinary research centers, and staff. He built and strengthened industry-university partnerships across diverse industries and geographies, established and managed cross-border university-university collaborations, initiated and executed new development strategies, and led teams to deliver funding to build and enhance excellence in education, research, and service to the society. He also played a pivotal role in launching an entrepreneurship initiative at UC Berkeley.

Earlier, he was co-founder and CEO of two start-ups, and executive in several Fortune 500 and Silicon Valley high technology companies. Alumni leader since 1991, he was President of the IIT Foundation and co-founder of the Pan IIT alumni movement in the US. Shail is a recipient of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur's *Distinguished Service Award*.

Shail has given talks on India's higher education system at institutions such as Stanford University, UC Berkeley, Princeton University, IIT Gandhinagar, IIIT Delhi, and IIM Calcutta; and spoken at conferences such as IIT Leadership Conference in SF Bay Area, Berkeley India Conference, and Harvard India Conference.

He has an MBA from the Kelley School of Business, Indiana University, Bloomington and a B.Tech with honors in Mechanical Engineering from IIT Kharagpur.

Yoga and Vipassana practitioner, Shail enjoys reading books, traveling, and meeting people. He currently lives in Silicon Valley, California with his wife and two children.