



# A FRATERNITY TRAVELOGUE ON SRI LANKA IN A DIARY



"The Pearl of Indian Ocean"

In Conversation With

S. P. Rath, Madhura Mane, Amar Ekal, Pooja Patil



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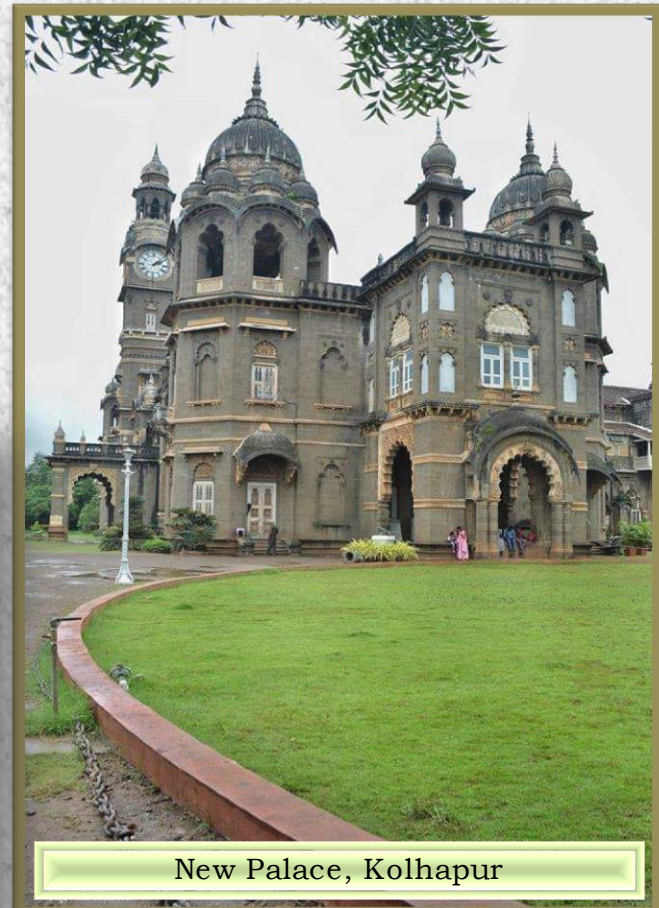
**Central Library Building Chhatrapati Shahu Institute  
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## HISTORY OF KOLHAPUR, INDIA

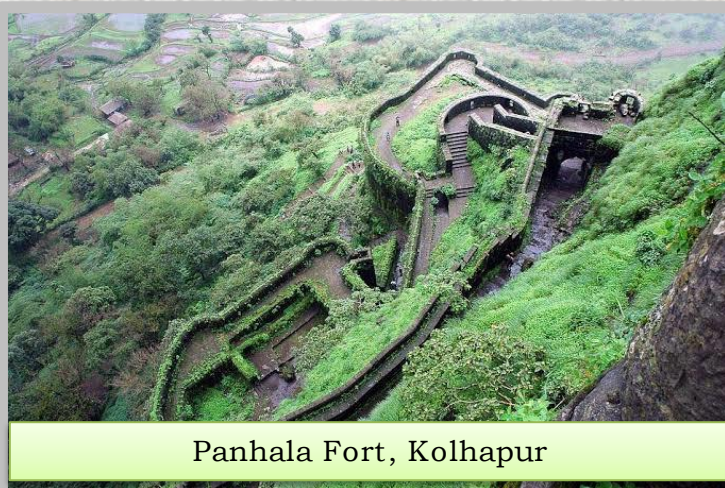
Surrounded by the Sahyadri Mountain ranges, Kolhapur historic City, on the river Pachaganga banks spells a swinging history of four hundred years in active lifestyle of the modern urban hood. A wall city with an ideal blend of ancient traditions with hustling and bustling modern influences. The culinary capital of western India with a massive lake Rankala in the heart of the city stands out as the identity of Kolhapur, the medieval urban settlement. With a dry cool climate, the region is gifted with fertile soil for large agricultural fields, the green is maintained. The city with a green touch, Kolhapur in Maharashtra, India.



Ancient Kopeswhar Temple, Khidrapur



New Palace, Kolhapur



Panhala Fort, Kolhapur

## Story Teller - S. P. Rath

Serving as Director & Professor of Marketing in CSIBER, Kolhapur, India, delivered a Keynote Address in the VUIRC on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2023.



Lighting VUIRC - Lamp



Port City at the Back



Token of Appreciation, Receiving From Prof. T. Mangaleswaran



Students' Traditional Procession Escorting the Guests



**Madhura Mane Receiving a Memento**

## Story Teller - Madhura Mane

Engaged as Dean, School of Business, CSIBER, Kolhapur, India, presented a Research Paper & delivered the role of Chairperson of Business Management Track in the VUIRC on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2023.



**Listening Conference Deliberations**



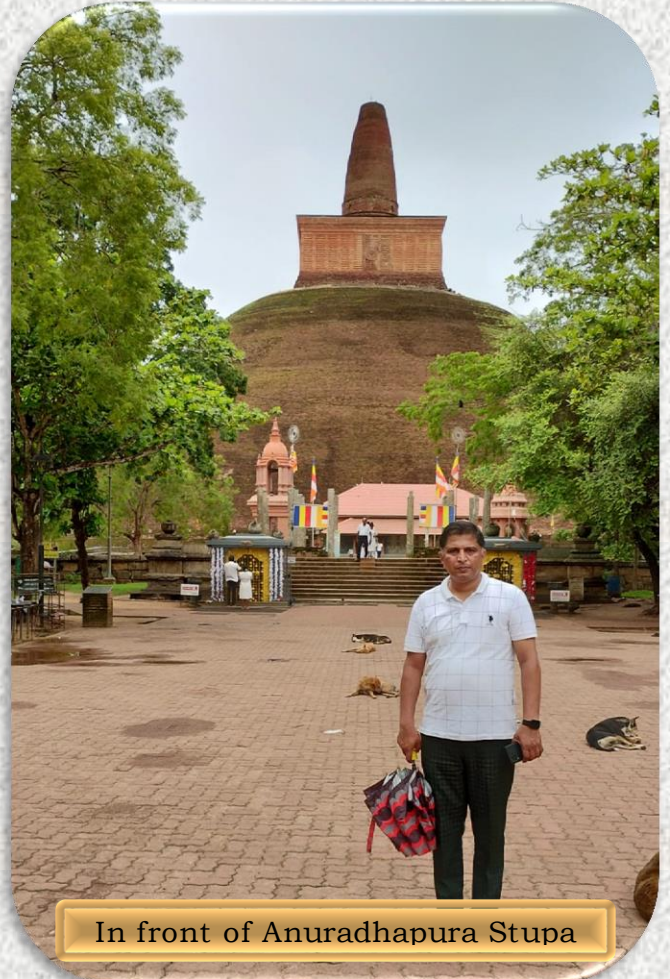
**One Face Galle Mall**



**Part of the Conference Procession  
University of Vavuniya, Sri Lanka**

## Story Teller - Amar Ekal

Assistant Professor of Operations  
Research & Business Statistics in  
CSIBER, Kolhapur, India,  
presented Research Paper in  
VUIRC on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2023.



In front of Anuradhapura Stupa



On the Coastline of  
Trincomalee



With Prof. T. Mangaleswaran & Dr. K. Arjunan



Presenting Research Work VUIRC, Vavuniya

**Story Teller - Pooja Patil**  
Working as an Assistant Professor in the School of Environmental Science & Management in CSIBER, Kolhapur, India, presented Research Paper in Agriculture, Forestry & Environment Science Track in VUIRC on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2023.



On the Sea beach of Mannar



Moments with Professors – Sri Lanka





## VAVUNIYA, SRI LANKA

### THE CITY OF ACADEMIA VIBRATION

Like any other city in Sri Lanka, the historical evidence of its existence and activities are recorded in the pages of the history, starting from 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE. Between 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE till the 13<sup>th</sup> Century ADE Vavuniya was a part of the Rajarata Kingdom of Anuradhapura. In the pre-colonial phase the Vavuniya kingdom was ruled by the Vanni chieftains of Jaffna kingdom. During the European occupation, the Portuguese, Dutch and the British ruled Vavuniya. From 1815 ADE the British ruled the entire Ceylon (Sri Lanka) till 1948 ADE. Vavuniya is located in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka. Vavuniya is a home to several world heritage sites recognized by UNESCO.

Madukanda Vihara is a historic Buddhist temple. This historic religious site is located within the Madukanda village, which is at a distance of 4 kilometres from Vavuniya City centre. The Madukanda village and the sacred temple date back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century ADE. With reference to some historical records, during the journey of the holy Buddha's tooth relic, Madukanda was the 4<sup>th</sup> resting place. Madukanda Vihara is the relic house where the sacred tooth of Lord Buddha was venerated until the temple in Anuradhapura was built. Princess Hemamala and Prince Danta Kumara brought the Buddha's tooth relic from Kalinga to Sri Lanka.



Receiving International Keynote Speakers



Traditional Girls Band of the University



Dr. K. Kalainathan lighting the VUIRC Lamp

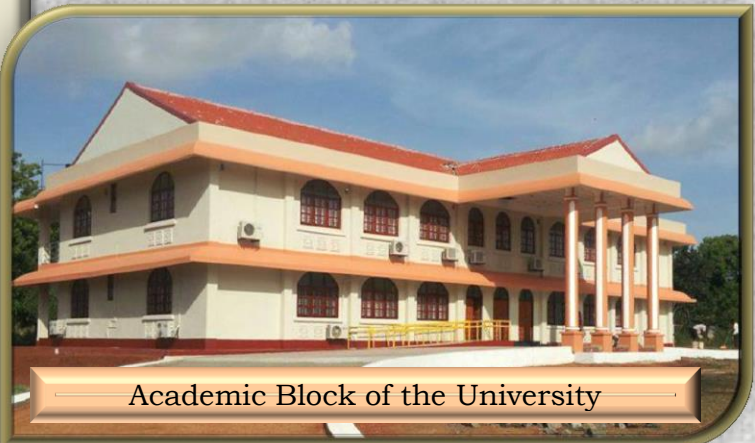
Hindu architecture in Sri Lanka is very well defined on the Kandasamy Kovil temple in Vavuniya. The temple's vibrantly decorated facade gives South India's temple decoration impressions. Interesting temple gateway tower (Gopuram) along with the idol decorated in gold and placed in the sanctum of the temple leave architecture and marvel of sculpture.

Murugan (or Lord Kartikeya) is the primary deity in this Hindu temple. The temple is often crowded during major Hindu festivals.

University of Vavuniya located in the outskirts of the township, with more than one hundred fifty acres of lush green campus holds the academia vibration of Northern Sri Lanka, is an academia partner of Chhatrapati Shahu Institute of Business Education and Research (CSIBER), Kolhapur, India celebrating the academic advancements and journey of accomplishments.



University of Vavuniya



Academic Block of the University



University of Vavuniya - 17th National University of Sri Lanka

Get way to the University of Vavuniya



The Local Railway Station



Participants of the University



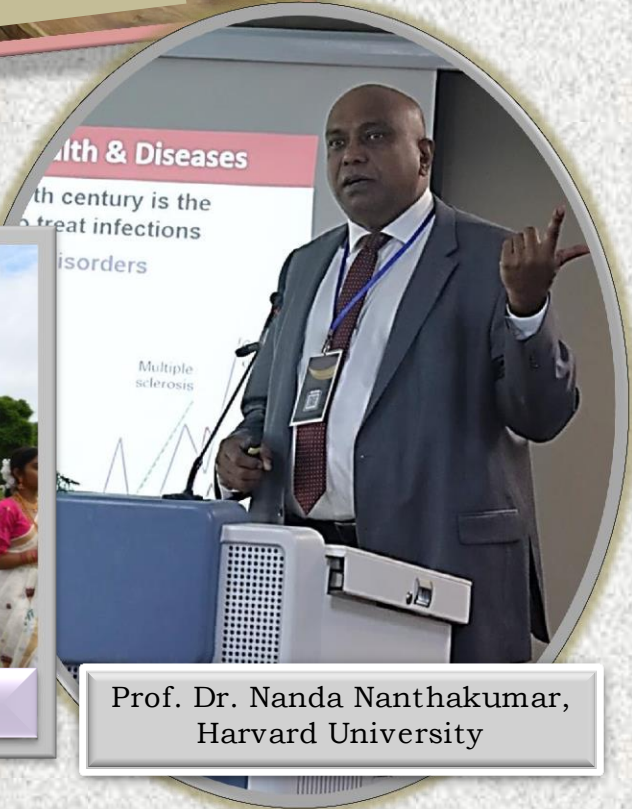
Centre, Prof. Dr. Nanda Nanthakumar  
Harvard University – Keynote Speaker



Inaugural Address by the  
Vice-Chancellor  
At International Conference  
17<sup>th</sup> November 2023



Sharing the moments with Academic Fraternity



Prof. Dr. Nanda Nanthakumar, Harvard University



Traditional Music Band, Vavuniya



City Centre Round About – Vavuniya City



Academia of the University of Vavuniya



August Gathering at the Conference



Ms. Madhushani – Compere of the Conference



Keynote Speakers & Professors



Expression of Honour to the National Anthem



Academia on the Dias – International Conference



Dr. S. P. Rath, Director – CSIBER – Addressing the Conference



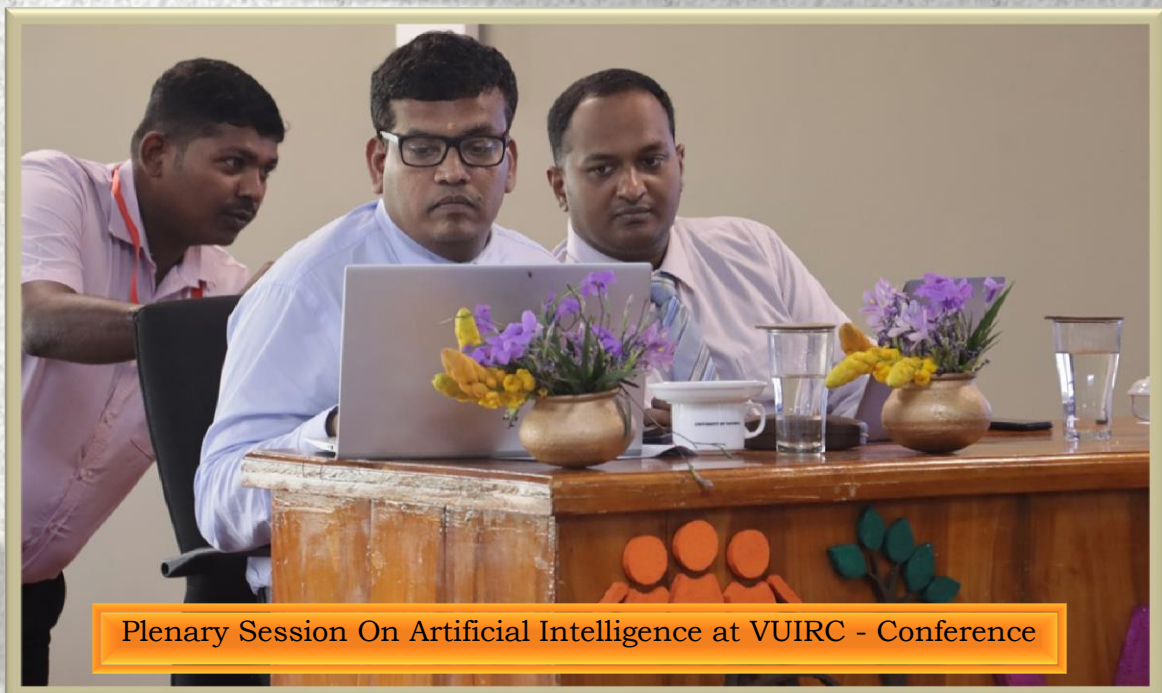
Vice Chancellor, Prof. T. Mangaleswaran Presenting the Conference Memento



Organizer  
of the  
International  
Conference



International Conference Participants

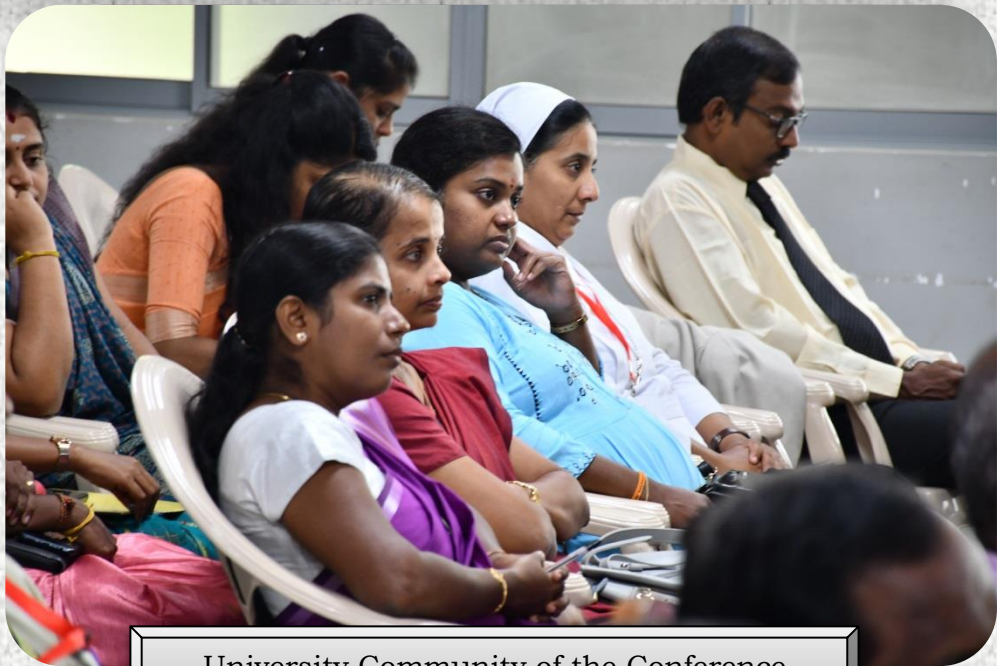


Plenary Session On Artificial Intelligence at VUIRC - Conference





University Community of the Conference



University Community of the Conference



Speaker from the University of Cambridge



Dr. S. Kirushanth on the Podium



Keynote Speakers of VUIRC, Vavuniya





Plenary Presenters



Felicitation of the Conference Speakers



Light moments at Conference Break



Food Platter of Sri Lanka's Delicacies



Hearty welcome Professor



Dr. Pooja Patil  
Presenting a  
Research Paper



Welcome Moments of the  
International Participants



**Madhura Mane & Pooja Patil in the Welcome Ceremony**



**Academia on a march to the Conference Venue**



**Amar Ekal in the Intellectual Procession**



**Madhura Mane, Pooja Patil, Amar Ekal from CSIBER**



## The Pearl Island Lanka

Dr. S. P. Rath

Lanka Dvipa in mythology to Kautilya's Parasamudra  
Kalinga Prince Vijaya named Tamraparni, many more in the process  
the last name, Lanka the pearl of the Indian Ocean, Sri Lanka  
ancient maritime trade, valued pearl  
on silk route to spice route, precious pearl  
the pearl of the Sinhala Dvipa,  
Moti Silam, the Arab world luxury for the Greco-Roman Bazar  
Arab, Jews, Persians, Chinese and Kalingans  
the traders of high value, overseas maritime  
gift of the blue-ocean, gift of the sea God  
oyster's gift, the Roman's choice  
the Greeks craze, the Arabs dream  
ornaments, valued possessions, jewels  
gemstone, diamonds, gold and the pearl,  
the symbols of the reach, the wealth of the richness  
the pearl, a prized wealth, the Lanka origin.  
Lanka, a drop beneath, the sub-continent  
island of crystals and gems  
coastline of pearls, jungles of ivory  
Woods of sandal and red sanders  
traders of Kalinga, crew and commandos  
high value, low volume, maritime trade  
Pearl from Lanka, Pearl from Basra  
Pearl money, the prosperous Lanka  
tons and ship loads, added value by smiths  
the overseas emporiums, Roman markets  
pearl from the island Tambaparni.  
Sea pirates' raids, merchants' bargains  
armies in defense of pearl trove,  
women army, women commander, lady master  
the Europeans interest,  
two millenniums global trade  
pearl of the pearl island, Lanka.

**A Poetic Expression in the Travelogue**



**Ketheeswaram Temple at the backdrop**



**Ministry of Crab Colombo**

**Painting on the walls of "Grand Oriental Hotel"**



**Lotus Tower, Colombo**

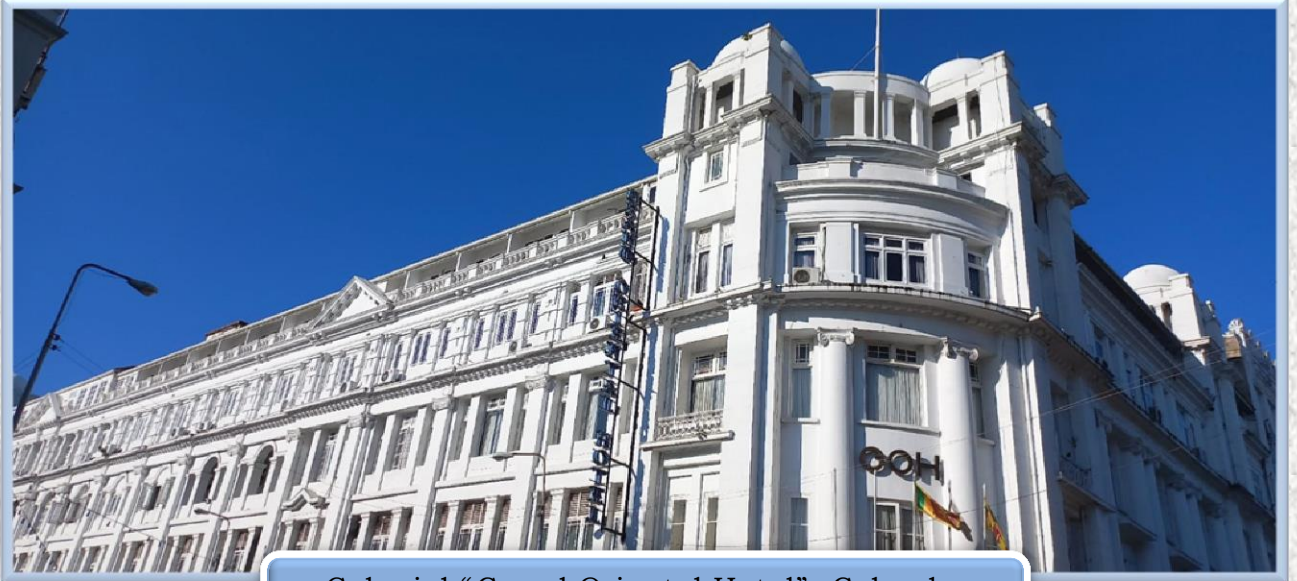




**European Heritage Building Colombo**



**The Bodhi Tree, Anuradhapura – Since 3<sup>rd</sup> Century BCE Brought by Princess Sanghamitta from India**



Colonial "Grand Oriental Hotel" , Colombo



Colombo Clock Tower



**Holy Ritual before the International Conference**



**Vavuniya University Professors on the move to the Conference Venue**



## **Mannarama - Mannar**

Mannarama, in the early days spelt as Mannar today, located on the Mannar Island means the raised place of sands overlooking the Gulf of Mannar, in the Northern province of Sri Lanka. The city, the island was a part of Rajarata Kingdom of Anuradhapura from 5<sup>th</sup> Century BCE to 13<sup>th</sup> Century ADE. This ancient trade town and center of pearl fishing Mannar has been mentioned in the Greco-Roman geographer's travelogue text "Periplus of the Erythraean Sea" of the 1<sup>st</sup> century ADE. The home of ancient Ketheeswaram Hindu temple. Mannar is known for its Portuguese Fort, baobab tree, Catholic Church and many monuments, perished in the hands of nature. The Mannar island contains the main city centre of Mannar, Keeri Beach, the Talaimannar Lighthouse, the 700-year-old Baobab Tree, and Mannar Fort. Mannar passed through the governance of Portuguese, Dutch and the British powers. It is linked to the mainland through a causeway. Shrine of our lady Madhu, Christian Church inside the forest complex attracts people of different faiths.

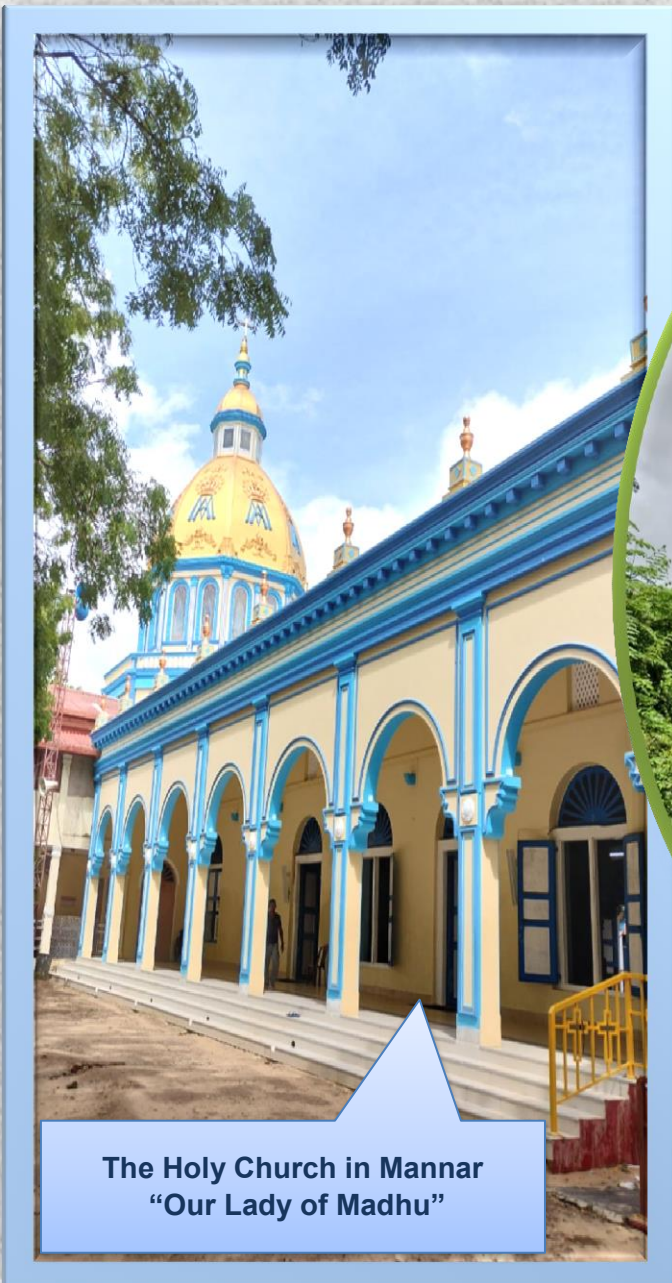


**Ruins of the Fort of Pearl, Sri Lanka**

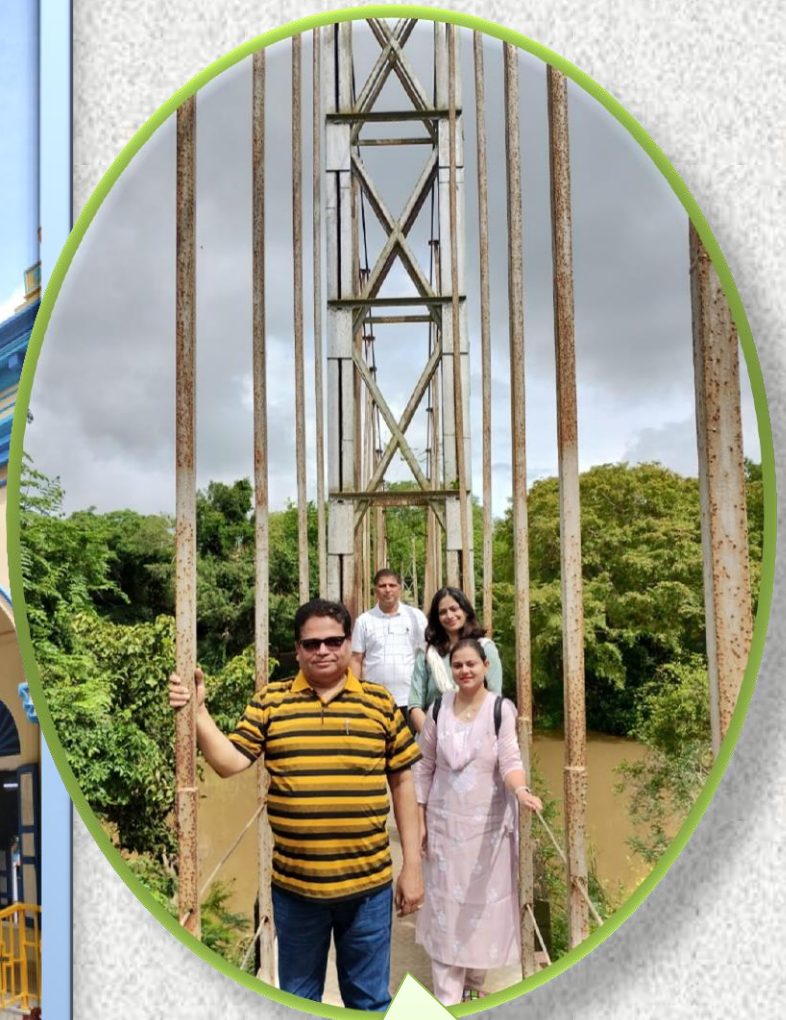




**Silent Epitome of the Ruins of the Fort of Pearl on the Coast**



**The Holy Church in Mannar  
"Our Lady of Madhu"**



**On the Hanging Bridge over the  
River Madhu Ganga, Sri Lanka**





**Mannar at the Sea**



**The Green Palm on Great Mannar Lake**



**Traveller in the Evening**



Ruins of the Fort of Pearl



A Part of the fort gate – “Fort of Pearl”



**On the Ocean Breeze at Mannar**



**Flock from Siberia on Mannar Water**



**Baobab Tree  
at the  
backdrop  
Mannar**



**Mannar Light House standing tall on the  
Ancient Mannarama Port lighthouse Site**



**CSIBER Faculties with Mr. T. Keerthanaram of UOV, at Mannar**



**Ketheeswaram  
Shiva Temple at  
Mannar**

## Colonial Castle – Mannar

Dr. S. P. Rath

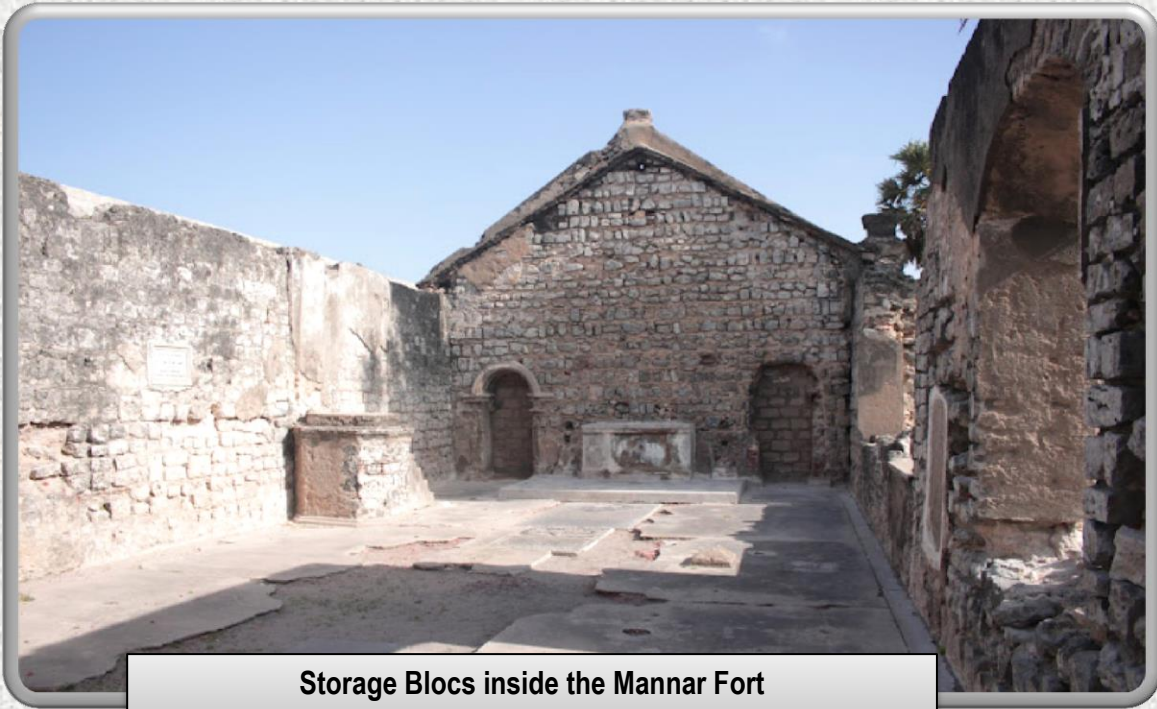
European myths, Discover India  
the courage, the guns and gun powders  
power of sea piracy, plundered ships wealth  
lustful needs, need to plunder the origin  
Indian sub-continent, the land of wealth  
Discover, the good word of colonization  
thousands of years before,  
Indian elephants on Roman ports  
Elephant platoons in Roman army  
India, trade linked Greco-Roman domains  
16<sup>th</sup> Century search for India  
Lisbon to Calicut, a sea route  
rest, the Europe followed  
the history of piracy,  
plundering subsided to colony  
lands and islands grabbed  
the means unfair, the business  
textile, cotton, spices, Indigo, and more  
gold, silver, gems copper and pearls  
ports developed, posts of guns stationed  
bastions erected, troops posted  
needs heightened, warehousing came up  
forts and castles constructed  
shipments, trade safely – that's the priority  
fear of wars, European brother's attacks  
intercommunity piracy, the prime threat  
native kingdoms, native army, another means  
strong fort walls, fear creation, the motto  
the Portuguese, the Dutch, the French, the British  
none above any vices, the colony plundering  
gun power, razed temples  
stone bricks, stone slabs  
many forts, posts created



**Baobab Tree Trunk at Mannar**



**Public Hanging Execution Post on the Portuguese Fort, Mannar**



**Storage Blocs inside the Mannar Fort**



**Mannar Sea and its Fishing Boats**



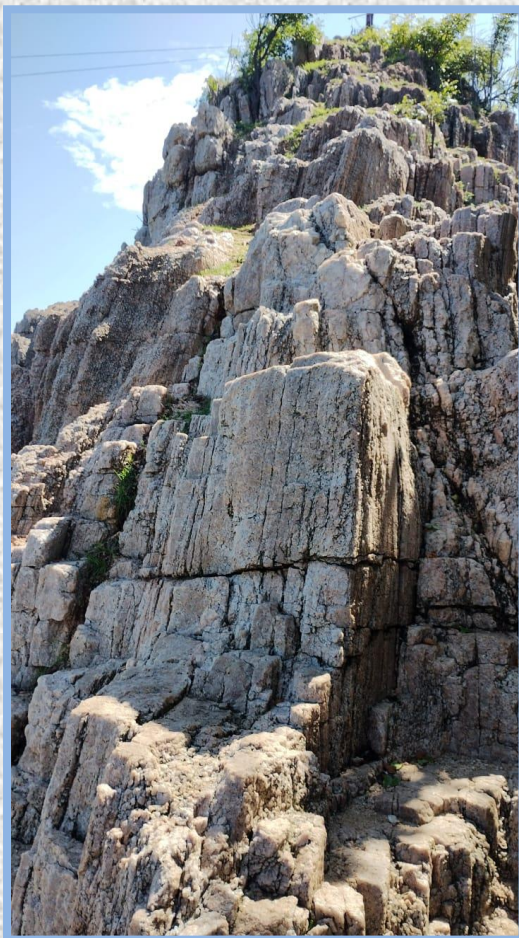
Portuguese castle – Mannar, depicts a tale  
tale of cruelty, atop public hanging  
the fear of extreme, created  
methods abhorrent, heinous  
the melancholy narrowness, European colonizers  
frightened, horrified Northern Ceylon  
the castle at a cost, ancient Ketheeswaram  
temple Shivalaya razed, the stones of stone fort  
passed to hands, the Dutch to the British  
What a sorry predicament!  
forts and castles built, temples demolished  
the story, the painful pages of history  
hanging people atop, torment  
pathetic, European colonizes  
the same like any barbaric invaders,  
the historic lines of pain, written with blood  
civilizations to remember,  
the colonial castle on Hindu temple debris  
stands mum, monument, the oppressive tyranny  
European castles, on the sub-continent  
the story of the destruction, the melancholy.  
Mannar Castle, memory unforgotten.



Known as “Dutch Fort” at Mannar



**Koneswaram Temple, Trincomalee**



**Crystal Stone Rock at Trincomalee**

### **Ancient Trikona Bandara To Modern Trincomalee**

Ancient natural harbour of the 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE, well known in the Kalinga maritime trade history as “Trikona Bandara”, means a harbour with three corners, can be marked from a distance on sea. This port town is renowned in history and legends by several names – Kona malai, Tiru Kona Malai – Trincomalee. This is the site of the sacred hill of the three temples. Trincomalee finds mention in the Pali canon Mahavamsa by the name of Gokarna in the Sanskrit language in Pali script around 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE. The port town of Sri Lanka, on the island’s northeastern coast lines. It is situated on a peninsula in Trincomalee Bay, formerly called Koddियar (means “Fort by the River”) Bay—one of the world’s finest natural harbours and busiest ancient overseas trade port. Many infamous histories are associated with the Trincomalee. On the summit of the three Swami Rock, there was the Hindu temple of splendour and unusual size, renowned overseas in the whole of India but the temple was razed to the ground and demolished by the Portuguese colonizers in 1624 ADE. The earliest reference to this temple is found in the 7<sup>th</sup> century devotional hymns of the Shivite saint Tirujnana Sambadar.



**Trincomalee Sea from the rock top**

The inscriptions found on the archway of the Fort Frederick with the double fish symbol of the Pandyan kings of India of 13<sup>th</sup> century ADE, depicts the connections from 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE till the occupation of the European colonizers. The shrine fared at the hands of the Portuguese. The temple received royal patronage from the Pallavas, Cholas, Gangas and Pandyan kings of India. The Portuguese took possession of the two ports – Batticaloa and Trincomalee from the emperor of Kandy in 1622 ADE and ruthlessly demolished the temple of a thousand columns in order to employ its material in fortifying the heights on which it stood. Today, fragments of carved stone-work and slab bearing inscriptions in ancient character are still discerned in the walls of the fort and on the platforms of the guns.



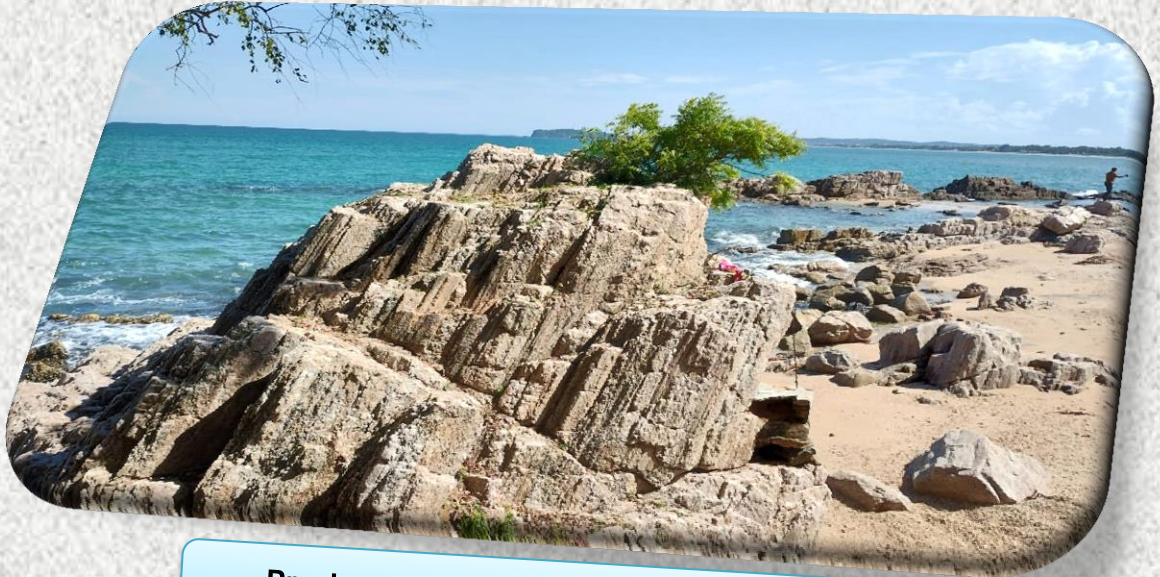
**Koneswaram God  
Shiva Statue,  
Trincomalee**



**Stupa at  
Trincomalee City**



**Amar on the Trincomalee Sea Beach**



**Precious Crystal Stone Rock at Trincomalee**



**Clam Sea and Pristine Trincomalee Beach**



**Pooja Patil – Trincomalee Sea at the backdrop**



Dr. K. Arjunan on the Trincomalee Sea

Some of the Brahmi script Kalinga inscriptions establish a very early link with the ancient Kalinga trader's community. Trincomalee was in the early times a major settlement of Indo-Aryan immigrants from the Kalinga region and Tamil region. The port's possession changed hands repeatedly among the Portuguese, Dutch, French, and British until the British gained lasting possession of it in 1795 ADE. Trincomalee's importance as a major British base was heightened after the Japanese ousted the British from Singapore in World War II; the Japanese bombed the town in 1942 ADE. The British continued to hold the harbour after Sri Lanka's independence but relinquished it in 1957 ADE. Trincomalee has witnessed many European hostility and military conflicts with heavy casualties in the colonial era.



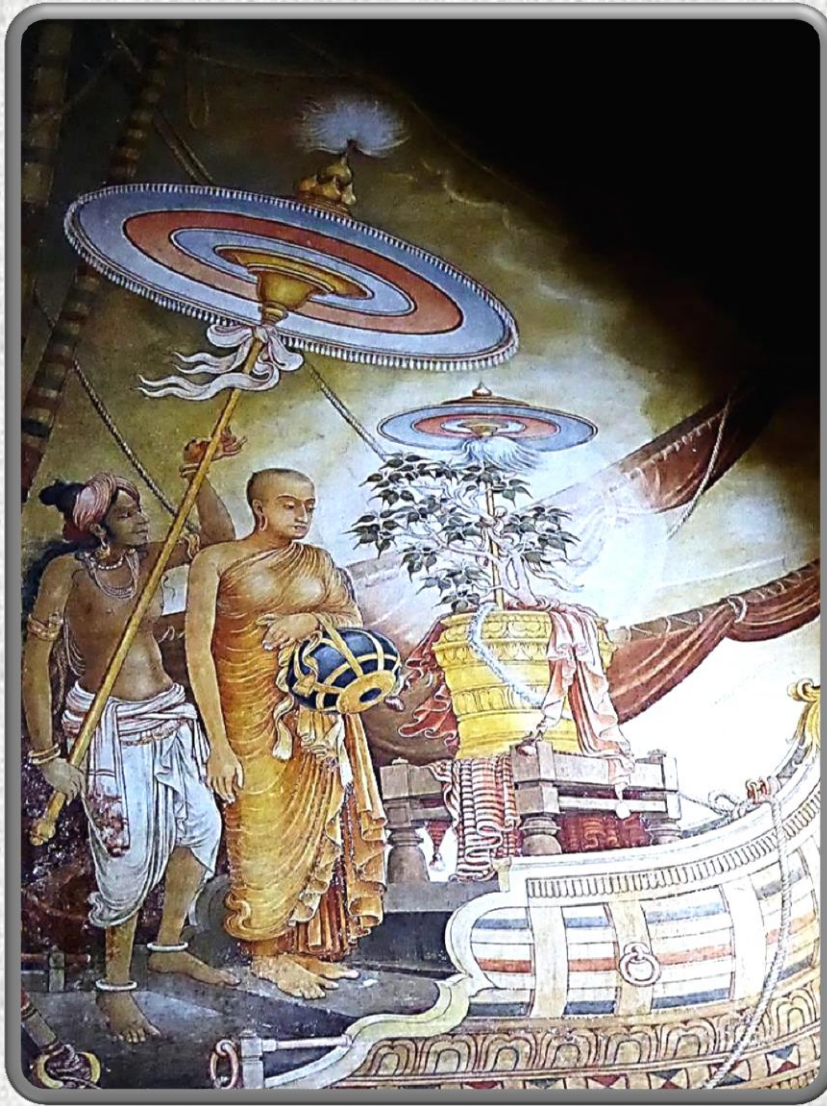
Feeding Leaves to Deer at Trincomalee

## Sanghamitta

Dr. S. P. Rath

Your pulchritude in discussion around  
Greek Empires to Egyptian realms  
all around the kingdoms of the world  
your charming elegance of Maurya Empire  
princess of the Great Asoka  
the splendor and allure, the celestial wishes  
many around the universe, to wish a queen  
your shown prettiness, you were, beyond the reach  
the mighty Maurya, you vivacious gloria  
you the comeliness princes of Magadh  
none dare to write your femininity  
poets and composers, silent with  
glittering Magadh swords  
mighty Maurya's ocean of army  
all whispering, glamour you shown  
you, the young, the grace  
you, the paragon beauty "Sanghamitta"  
the eldest princess of Asoka the Great  
the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century BCE, Indian beauty  
your place with grace, Pali cannons  
Greek texts, Brahmi manuscripts  
Buddhist Jatakas, Persian studio books  
everywhere, you the spinster, the dream  
Kalinga war, the epoch-making event  
the Continent changed,  
clarion call of peace, echoed around  
the philosophy, the Buddhist chants  
you wished, you turned,  
the Buddhist nun, Bikkhuni Sanghamitta  
royal resistance failed

In Expression, Poem of the Traveller



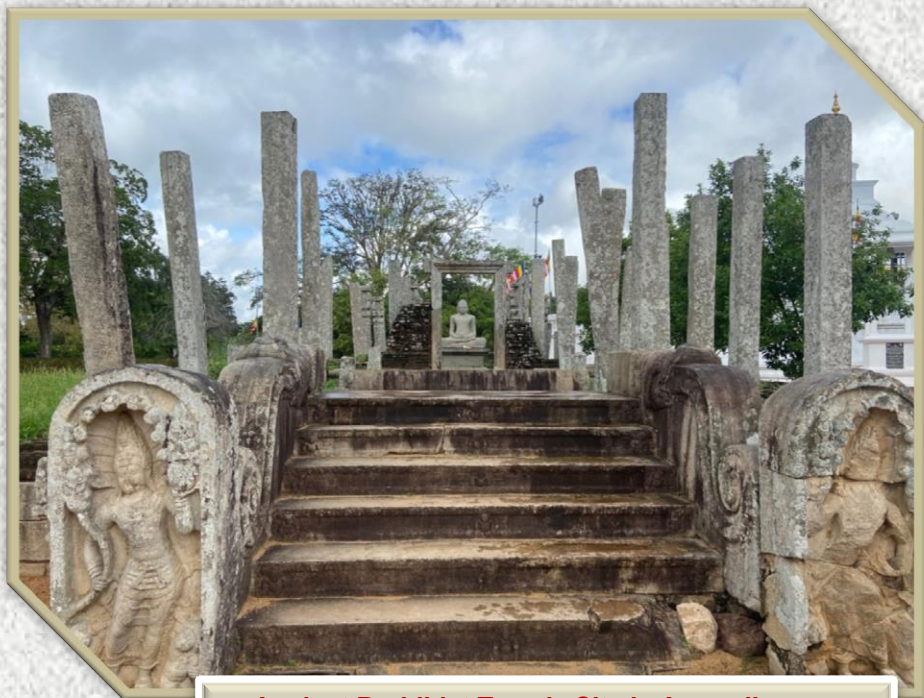
An European Painter's Imagination of Sanghamitta



**Sanghamitta Stupa, Anuradhapura**



**Sanghamitta Statue in Anuradhapura**



**Ancient Buddhist Temple Site in Anuradhapura**

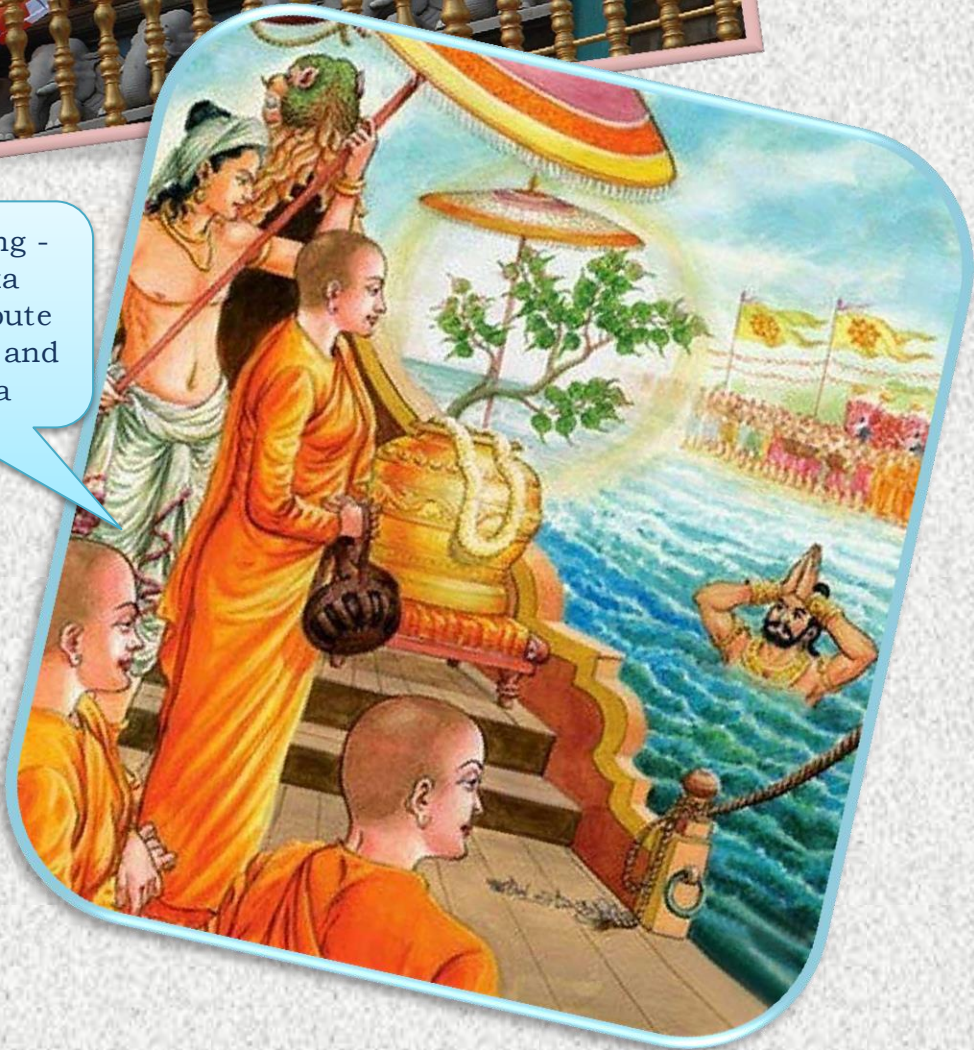


mighty Maurya emperor, in silence,  
honoured the wishes,  
listened to Tathagata, noble truths  
you left, luxury, the palace, the highness  
voyage “Singhala Dvipa”, the peace messenger,  
onboard the Boita ship, port Tamralipti  
Bodhi tree sapling, Buddhism spirits  
Emperor Asoka left helpless  
a compulsion, aftermath of the war in Kalinga  
touched Tambapanni, the Sadhava port  
the land of pearl,  
in mission for preaching peace  
royal exchange receiving, king Devanam Tissa  
destination Anrudhapura, the cosmopolitan  
the Bodhi tree, the faith, till today  
you on proselytization, the Bikkhunis Sangha  
female monastic order, the Theravada Buddhism  
your glories, lines in Dipavamsa chronicle  
two millennium Bodhi tree, the celestial wonder  
the Anuradhapura blessings, the mankind blessed  
Sanghamitta, the Bikkhunis Sangha  
You wrote the six decades, Buddhist nun  
You the radiance, septuagenarian Sanghamitta  
The Sanghamitta Stupa, over your ashes  
proximity, the Thuparama, Anuradhapura  
the Ujjain born beauty, the nun Stupa  
The messenger of peace, the Buddhist nun  
Sanghamitta, the festivity of arrival  
Uduvapa Poyaa, the full moon December day  
the paragon beauty Sanghamitta, in peace  
the empress of Meheini Sasana Sri Lanka  
in peace, in Sanghamitta Stupa  
the end of the episode,  
paragon beauty, Buddhist nun, Sanghamitta .



The Holy Boodhi Tree brought by Sanghamitta to Sri Lanka

From a Painting - Samrat Asoka Paying his Tribute to Boodhi Tree and Sanghamitta



## Stupas And Pagodas In Sri Lanka (Anuradhapura)

### 1. Jetavanaramaya Stupa (Anuradhapura)

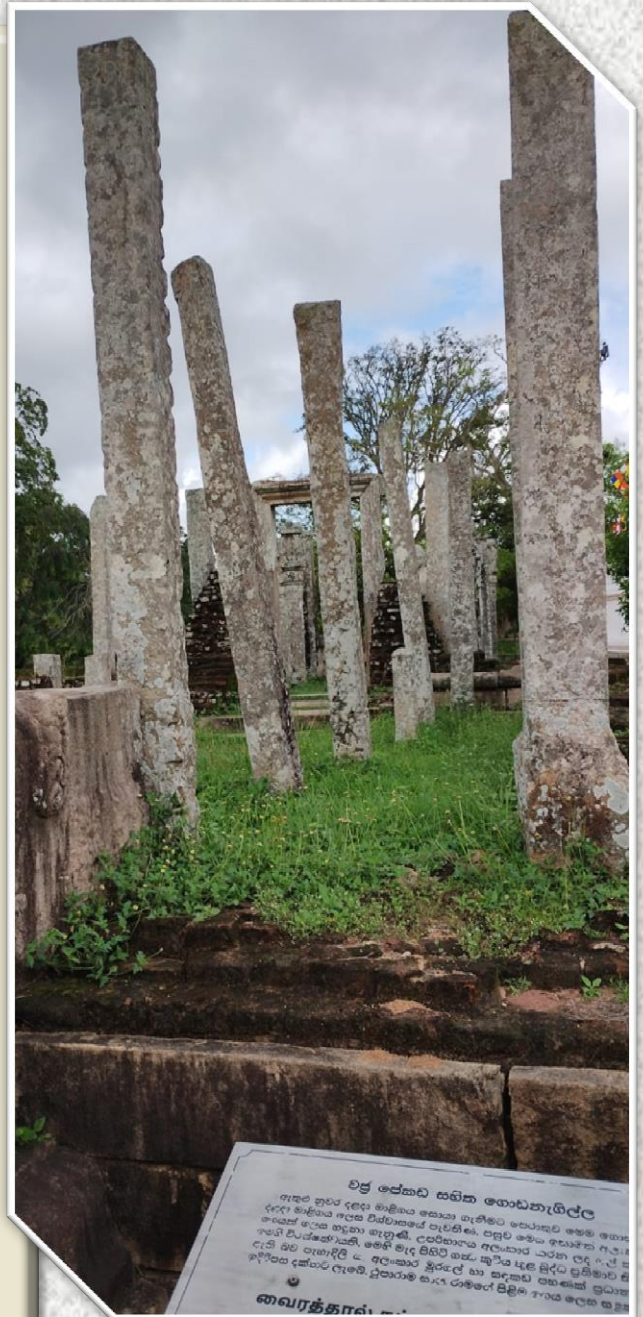
A Stupa, or a Buddhist reliquary monument situated in the ruins of Jetavana Monastery in the World Heritage City of Anuradhapura. Built between 273 – 301 ADE during the reign of the King Mahasena of Anuradhapura of 400 feet height. The Stupa is enshrined with a Buddhist relic. One of the tallest structures of the ancient world.

### 2. Thuparama Vihara (Anuradhapura)

The Buddhist temple was built by Sri Lanka's Emperor of Kalinga origin, King Devanampiya Tissa between 247 – 207 BCE. The Stupa building dates back to the arrival of Prince Mahinda, the son of Emperor Asoka, bringing Theravada Buddhism and Chaitya worship to Sri Lanka. This was a Stupa and a residential Complex for monks. The Stupa was built in the shape of a bell.

### 3. Ruwanweli Maha Seya (Anuradhapura)

The Swarnamali Maha Seya, the Great Stupa also known as Ruwanweli Maha Stupa. Buddha's relics are enshrined in the Stupa, built by King Dutugemunu in 140 BCE, with 338 feet height. The Stupa was renovated during the reign of King Parakramabahu I in 1158 – 1187 ADE.



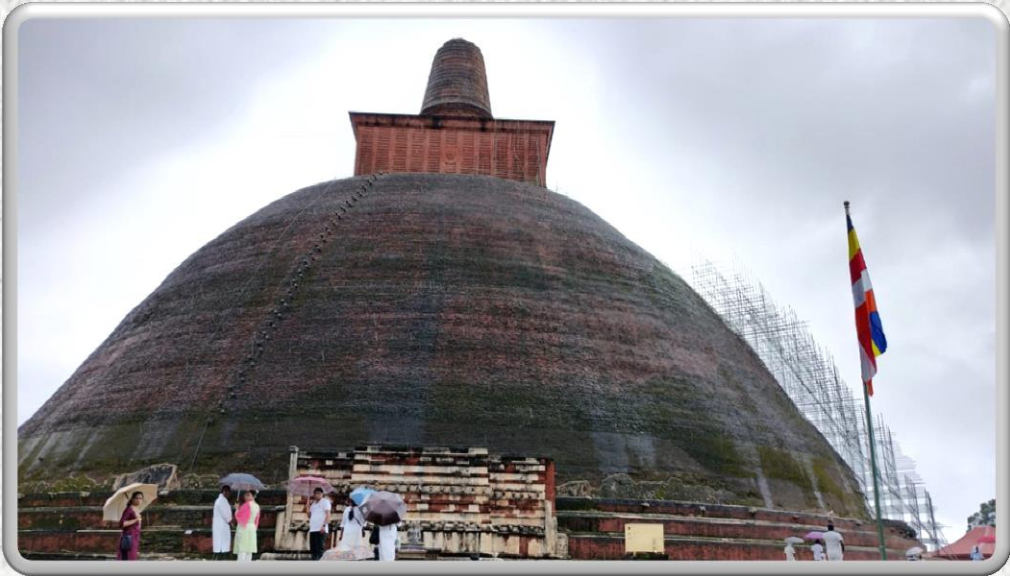
Ruins at Thuparama Ancient Monument Site



Ruwanweli Maha Seya Stupa, Anuradhapura



**Ancient Thuparama Site Buddha Statue, Anuradhapura**



**Abhayagiri Vihara, Stupa at Anuradhapura**



**Thuparama Stupa, Anuradhapura**



**With Ms. Madhushani of Vavuniya University**

#### 4. Jaya Sri Maha Boddhi (Anuradhapura)

Historically sacred Bo tree (*Ficus Religiosa*) in Anuradhapura. The tree sapling was brought by Sanghamitta from India in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century BCE. The oldest living human planted tree in the world, with more than 2300 years old. A major Buddhist pilgrimage site.

#### 5. Sanghamitta Stupa (Anuradhapura)

The nun immortal, eldest daughter of Maurya Emperor Asoka, traveled to Sri Lanka as a Buddhist nun with the sapling of Maha Bodhi tree. She lived in Sri Lanka as a Buddhist nun till her last breath. On her cremation site the Stupa was erected – a holy Buddhist site.

#### 6. Abhayagiri Vihara – (Anuradhapura)

One of the major monastery and varsity sites of Theravada. Mahayana and Vajrayana Buddhism in Anuradhapura. One of the largest universities built in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century BCE, remained in the pinnacle of international universities of the ancient period from 1<sup>st</sup> Century BCE till 12<sup>th</sup> Century ADE. The varsity housed students and professors from many countries. Achrya Nagarjuna of India stayed as a professor in Abhayagiri University during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century ADE. The Stupa and the surrounding complex, an academia wonder of the ancient world.



Ancient Boodhi Tree, Anuradhapura  
2300 years old tree



Lord Buddha, Anuradhapura

## *The Varsity Enlightened – Abhayagiri Vihara*

*Dr. S. P. Rath*

The Metropolitan dates back 6<sup>th</sup> Century BCE  
the city of prosperity, wealth and enlightened  
the urban settlement of many nations and faiths  
the city designed to ultimate destiny, Anuradhapura  
the faith of Buddhism and Hindu followings  
all looked at this knowledge city and temples of learning  
The Abhyagiri Vihara, the varsity of the universe  
surrounded with sprawling urban palaces  
maritime traders' emporiums  
mighty Kalinga princes' rulings  
palaces of opulence, buildings of rich merchants  
the massive varsity, Abhayagiri – the Stupa, the Vihara  
the champion of the world knowledge, fourteen centuries.  
The university of one faith, knowledge  
The varsity of one pride, professing  
The center of many nations and nationalities  
The faith of imparting learning  
The Anuradhapura epitome Abhayagiri University

Past has passed away, plinths are present  
the text of discourses vanished, the arguments exist  
the Stupa spanning more than two millenniums  
the professors of lost generations  
still some memory, contemporary Taxila University  
six-thousand pupils graduating  
thousand professors imparting  
more towards careers of glory

Abhayagiri reputations, far reaching across seas  
the name spells, knowledge is fearless  
freedom of knowledge, Abhayagiri principle  
the magnificent wonder of the ancient globe



Plinth of Abhayagiri Vihara  
Ancient University, Anuradhapura  
Sri Lanka



The Ruins of the Abhayagiri  
Vihara – Convocation Hall  
The Ancient University of  
2<sup>nd</sup> Century BCE



the life spells, progress  
the knowledge spells, development  
the university spells, enlighten the world  
the teachers, preachers of the truth  
the truth remains, fearless  
the varsity Abhayagiri, spells the truth

The world quest for knowledge,  
one and half millennium, Abhayagiri Vihara  
Mahavamsa Pali canon, testifies king Valagamba  
many texts of Pali composed; university testified  
scholars in search, Kashmir to Java  
Tibet to Korea, all veterans, in search of  
Dhama, knowledge, discourse and scripts  
Faxian in 5<sup>th</sup> Century, Xuan Zang the 7<sup>th</sup> century  
king Gajabahu, hosting Buddha tooth relic  
patronage of Parakramabahu,  
the thousand strong professors  
the scholars of the World  
the epitome, the University Abhayagiri

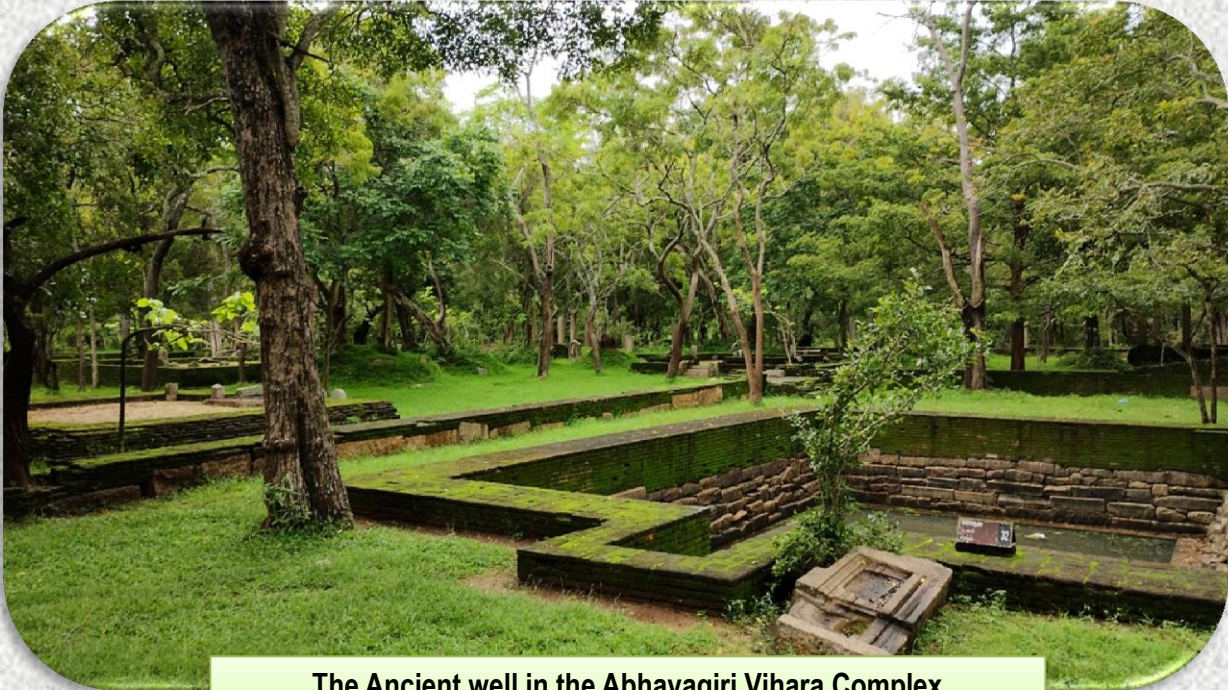
Ancient disciplines, modern day wonders  
Knowledge with discourses in Pali  
Enlighten the brains with science  
Science of society, money, engineering  
Science of pharmacology, philosophy and more  
that graduates and Vachaspati's, scholars of importance  
the university lamp the knowledge, half the world  
across oceans and seas, beyond mountains  
the Southeast Asia, the far east,  
the Indian sub-continent  
created scholars, statesmen, generals  
Abhayagiri University, trained many civilizations  
the knowledge wonder of the globe  
still stands mighty against the winds  
the varsity on the pearl of the Indian Ocean

## Ancient University of 2<sup>nd</sup> Century BCE - Abhayagiri Vihara of Anuradhapura

Only few Universities were in the BCE period of the ancient world, some in the Indian Continent and one each in China and Greece. Mesopotamia had a small varsity with specialized travel training and few other disciplines. Taxila University is the oldest in the world with the existence from 8<sup>th</sup> Century BCE along with Kasi Vishwavidyalaya, Rajakiya Vidyalaya of Pataliputra, Brahmagiri Mahavihara of Bamiyan in Afghanistan, Udayagiri University in Bhubaneswar etc. were the leading ones. Abhaya Giri Vihara of Anuradhapura of Sri Lanka had its prominence in the academia with the presence of international students and professors. The plinth of the knowledge complex depicts the massiveness and the richness of education, the ancient University of 2<sup>nd</sup> Century BCE. Abhaya Giri was a great monastic center of Buddhism and a higher learning center of many advanced disciplines as well as a royal capital of Sri Lanka with rulings of different dynasties, with magnificent monasteries rising to many stories, roofed with gilt bronze or tiles of burnt clay glazed in brilliant colours. The Prime focal point of the complex is an ancient Buddhist Stupa, the Abhayagiri Dagaba (Stupa). Abhayagiri Vihara was a seat of the Northern Monastery, or Uttara Vihara and the original custodian of the holy Buddhist Tooth relic in the island of Singhal. This ancient University was founded in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BCE, it had grown into an international institution of great learning centre by the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, attracting and housing scholars and professors from distant locations and encompassing all shades of Buddhist philosophy, different sciences and social sciences. As per the records of Mahavamsa (the Pali Canon), the name Abhayagiri Vihara originated from the names of King Vattagamani Abhaya and the Jain monk Giri who lived in the monastery (University Complex) earlier. Most ancient monasteries and Viharas were built around a hillock, or Giri in Sinhala, for example the Vessagiri, Meghagiri or Chetiyagiri monasteries and learning centers, it is possible that the name Abhaya Giri.



**The 1<sup>st</sup> Century BCE Abhayagiri Vihara Buddhist Stupa**



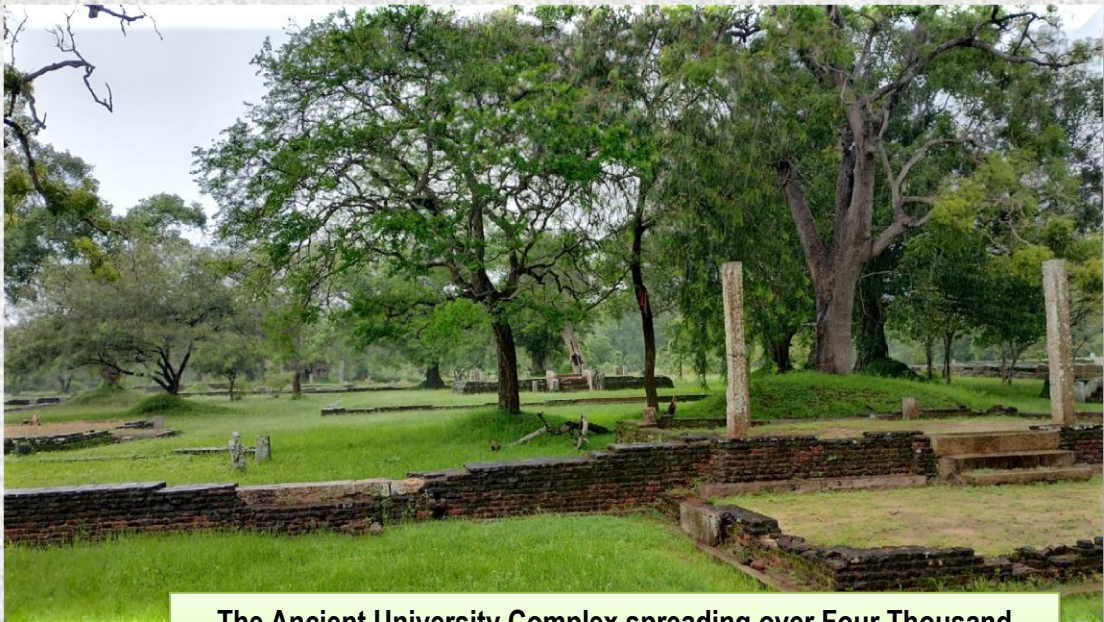
**The Ancient well in the Abhayagiri Vihara Complex**

After the Buddha's Tooth Relic was brought to Sri Lanka in the 4th century ADE by Hemamala, the princess of Kalinga, Abhayagiri was selected to house it for public veneration. The Chinese traveller Faxian came to Sri Lanka in search of the Dhamma and visited Abhayagiri in 412 ADE, it had developed into a leading Buddhist Centre and an University of massive size of Sri Lanka. By the 7<sup>th</sup> century ADE, Abhayagiri Vihara (University) consisted of four Mulas (literally meaning "families", fraternities or grouped institutions for religious teaching and other teachings with analytics): Uttara-Mula, Kapara-Mula, Mahanethpa-Mula and Vahadu-Mula. All of these have been located and identified through archaeological excavations, research and epigraphically evidence.

In the course of time, Abhayagiri Vihara (University) had developed into a well-organized religious and educational institution of very large size of an area of 6000 acres complex having well-established relations and exchanges with China, Java (Indonesia), and Kashmir (India) during 5th-6th century ADE. The Kalinga Merchants link by the Sadhava Community links were the key factors of large international exchanges of scholars and professors. Nagarjuna, the great Buddhist scholar and geologist served in the Abhaya Giri Vihara (University) as a professor for some years. With reference to another Chinese source, in 426 ADE, Eight Sinhala Buddhist nuns arrived in Nanjing, the capital of the Liu Song dynasty (420-477 ADE), on a merchant ship owned by a man named Nandi, a Kalinga Sadhava merchant. Consequently, three more nuns, headed by Tissara, arrived in Nanjing. In the year 434 ADE, over three thousand nuns received their higher ordination for the second time in the presence of more than ten Sinhala nuns headed by Tissara at the Nanjing Temple in China. The Culavamsa (the Pali Canon), narrates that (ch 78:1-27) king Parakramabahu I purified the Mahavihara first and then unified it with the Abhaya Giri and Jethawana fraternities. A dark era and a silent phase of eight hundred years engulfed Abhaya Giri Vihara (Ancient University)



**Civil Engineering Marvel of the Ancient University**



**The Ancient University Complex spreading over Four Thousand Acres of Land in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century BEC**

until its rediscovery in the 1880s ADE awoke scientific and scholarly interest in the abandoned and vandalized ruins. Buddhism was the state religion and the principal doctrine followed by the majority of the population, the influence of other local beliefs, particularly Hinduism, was considerable, and is expressed in the architecture of the period. The architectural evidence provides ample examples of the facts. The design of entrances, for example, illustrates the practice of placing buildings under the protection of a guardian deity.

Hindu symbols represented on these stones, the most common, apart from the Pot of Abundance and Kalpavrksa, is the figure of the Nagaraja, or anthropomorphic King Cobra. The best example of these, and one of the finest guard stones yet discovered, was found at the Ratna Prasada (Palace) in Abhaya Giri, and illustrates the degree of perfection reached by the sculptors of Abhaya Giri. Lotuses and Punkalas are indicative of plenty. Ratna Prasda was the palace of opulence of the Eastern Ganga of Kalinga, who were actively engaged in maritime trade spanning across forty-six countries of the world. Other sources of Kalinga provide the evidence of fundings and generosity of the Ancient University – Abhaya Giri Vihara, Anuradhapura in Sri Lanka.



**The Remnants of the Ancient Abhayagiri University of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century BCE**

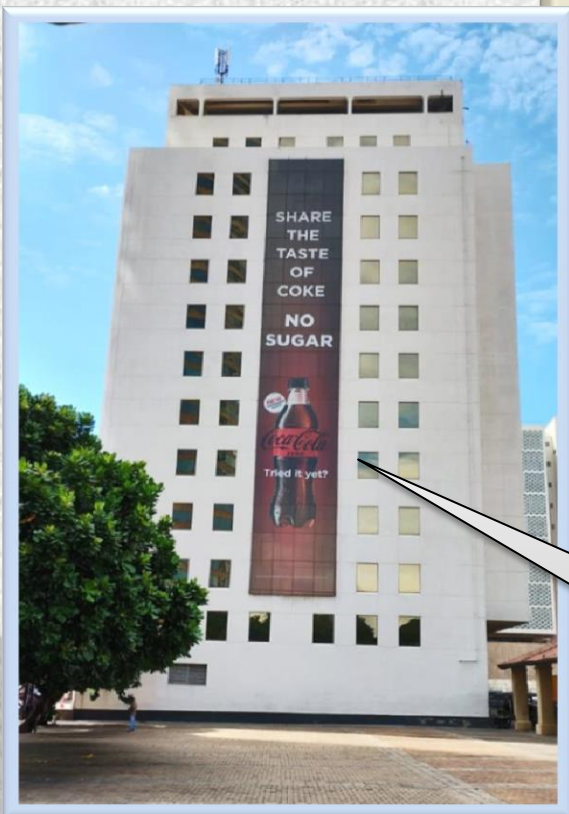


**Modern Skyscraper, Colombo**

## *Colombo - Sky With The Towers And Glittering Lights*

Colombo has many names from the past to date. On the Laccadive Sea, located on the West coast of Sri Lanka as the capital city has many historic tales to tell. Ancient port town, maritime merchants' emporiums, international markets with the presence of Arabs, Chinese, Kalingans, Javanese, Jews, Persian, Greeks, Egyptians and many more traders on the busy streets of ancient Colombo, bargaining for a better deal of imports and exports. Overseas demands of pearls, precious gemstones, semi-precious gems and master smiths' craftsmanship of ornaments of Roman paragon beauties, Greco masters, the royals of Rome, Egypt nobles, Indian Rajas, Sadhava merchants, army commanders, marine chieftains, millionaire intermediaries, Gods and Goddesses of the temples, shrines of the Lord Buddha, royalty in Persia, Iraq, Burma, Siam, Pagan and the kingdoms of Asia and Africa.

Early modern era witnessed the approaching ships of Portugal, Holland, England, France, Denmark and many more with ships having cannon guns and handguns. Merchandising the high-priced gems, pearls, spices and cloths for European markets. The war monger traders of Europe with vested interest in colonies and exploitations resettled cunningly and intermingled with the simple living local community. The stories of colonization began, Colombo colonized. Maritime traders from China, Greece, Arab and Kalinga are believed to have visited the city over 2,600 years ago. First arrivals were from Kalinga. Many travellers, geographers, scholars stepped into the land as expeditions and in search of texts of knowledge.



**Advertisement on the Building Colombo**



**Dusk over the Galle Face Green Beach, Colombo**

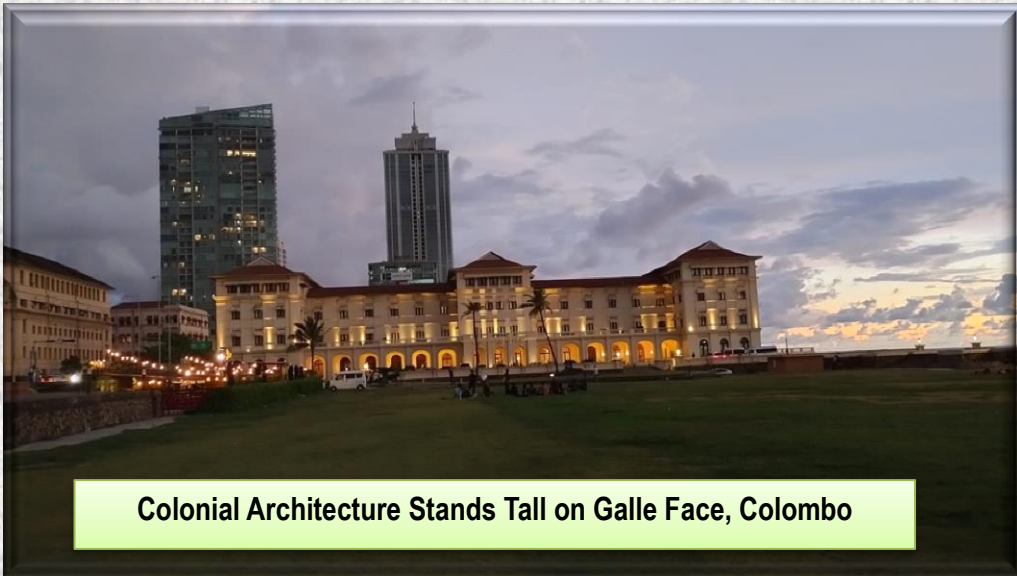


**An Evening in Colombo**



**European Colonial Legacy Building, Colombo**





**Colonial Architecture Stands Tall on Galle Face, Colombo**



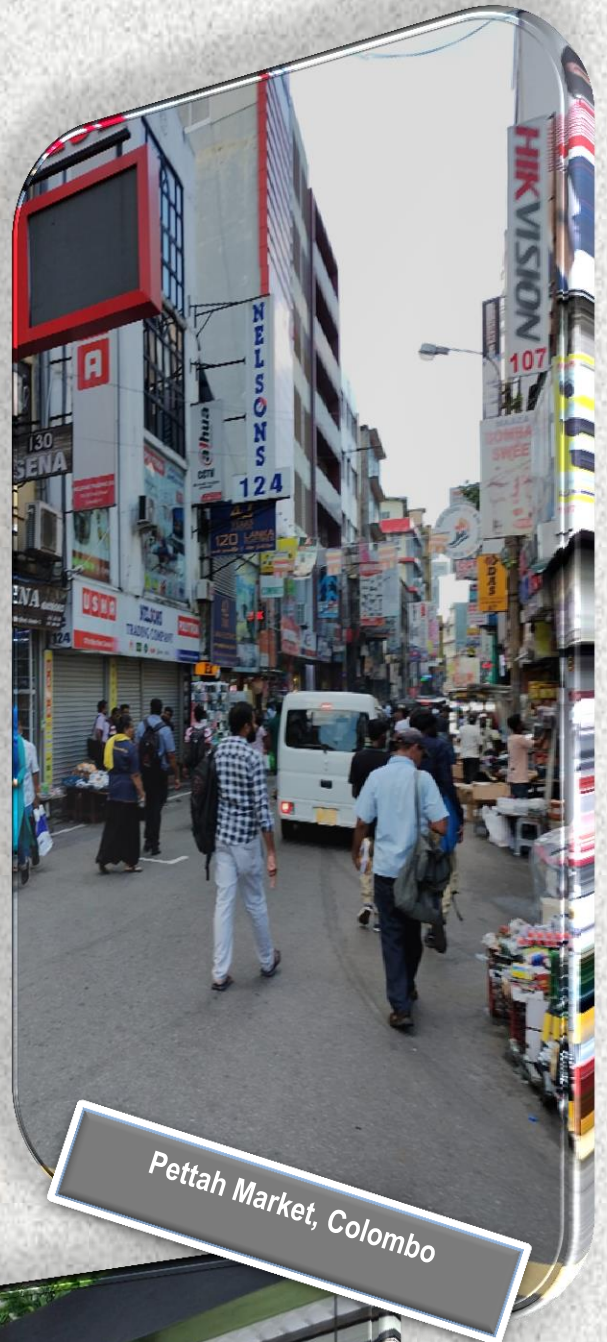
**Remnant of a Heritage Building Uninhabited, Colombo**



**Fort Area – The Heart of the City, Colombo**



A Round About in Colombo



Pettah Market, Colombo



Restaurant on Colombo High



**Sri Kailawasanathan Swami Kovil  
(Temple), Colombo**



**Priceless Vintage Rolls Royce, Colombo**

Chinese monks, Greco-Roman explorers, Indian Acharyas (Professors) and scholars stepped into this holy land through merchants' ships in search of different interests.

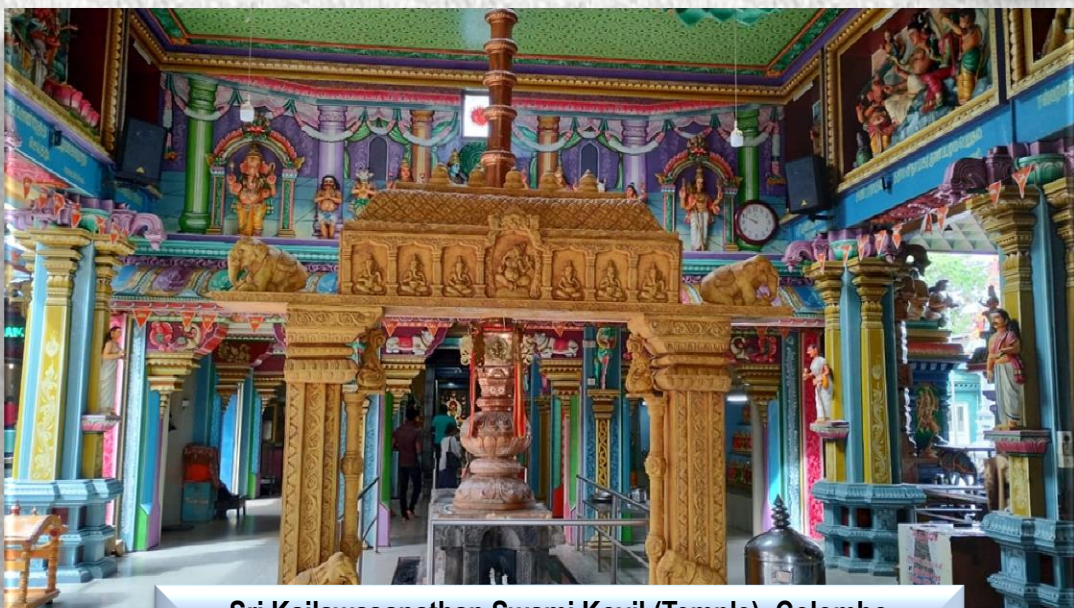
The city building and street names are from the time when Sri Lanka was a colony of the Portuguese, Dutch and British. Slowly, the names of buildings and roads are being replaced by more Sri Lankan names. The architectural structure and marvel speak of the colonial legacy and the opulence of the Europeans. The harbour on the sea was a reason for Colombo to attract many and there were also many goods the country had to offer for high margin overseas trade. In the 14th century, Moroccan traveller Ibn Battuta visited the island and is believed to have referred to Colombo as Kalanpu, after finishing his India tour, he moved to Sri Lanka. The coastal area of the island came under the rule of the Portuguese and later, the Dutch, Colombo was used as the financial capital city. In 1796 ADE, Colombo came under British rule and Colombo continued to be the trade capital city of the island and administrative capital, which was then known as British Ceylon. Still there are buildings that belong to this colonial era and they are constant reminders of heritages of the city and also the country's colonial history. Sri Lanka gained its independence from the UK in 1948 ADE. The architecture, food, culinary culture and culture of Colombo have been influenced by the European colonial era. The city Colombo inhabits more than 5 million people. The city extends the hustling and bustling illuminated skyscrapers today facing the Galle Face prime urban area with luxury hotel brands and buildings, and the street is packed with tourists and visitors from overseas.



**National Museum, Colombo - With Priceless Artifacts Collection**



**Police Patrolling on Horseback, Colombo**



**Sri Kailawasanathan Swami Kovil (Temple), Colombo**

## Ancient to Modern Maharashtra

# India

Though the exact etymology is uncertain, Maharashtra – translated as Great Nation is one of the most prominent states in India. It is nick named as “Gateway of India” and is one of the most industrialized states in India. It is a prominent state located in Western India on the Deccan Plateau.

People of Maharashtra revere their hero Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj who laid the foundation of the rule of the Marathas – Swaraj or self-rule at the age of 16 by taking oath in the famous temple of Raireswar in 1645. The different forts conquered and constructed by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj form an integral part of the state’s rich heritage. In the early nineteenth century, the region was divided between the Dominions of the Peshwa in the Maratha Confederacy and the Nizamate of Hyderabad. But before that, the state was enriched by the rule of many illustrious dynasties of India from Satvahanaas to Mauryas, from the Chalukyas, to the Rashtrakutas, and from Yadvas to Khaljis, and the Tughlaqs, to the Mughals.

The Ajanta Caves which is a world famous tourist site in present-day Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar display influences from the Satavahan and Vakataka styles.

Blessed with a rich and prosperous flora and fauna the state has two main rivers- Godavari and Krishna.

The State has a beautiful coastline of 720 kilo meters along the Arabian Sea. It boasts to be home to six UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Ajanta Caves, Ellora Caves, Elephanta Caves, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus). The Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai and the Western Ghats.

More than 70 per cent of its population speaks the local Marathi Language. Its capital Mumbai is the Financial Capital of India. The State has been a pioneer in Education having 24 Universities. In fact, the Jyotirao Phule and his wife Savitribai Phule pioneers of women’s education in India, started schools for women in 1848 in Pune City.

Though the Marathi film industry started in Kolhapur City in Maharashtra, Mumbai became the main location for the Indian entertainment industry, with enormous films, television series, books, and other media production companies being set there. The state is home to more than 200 newspapers and 350 consumer magazines.



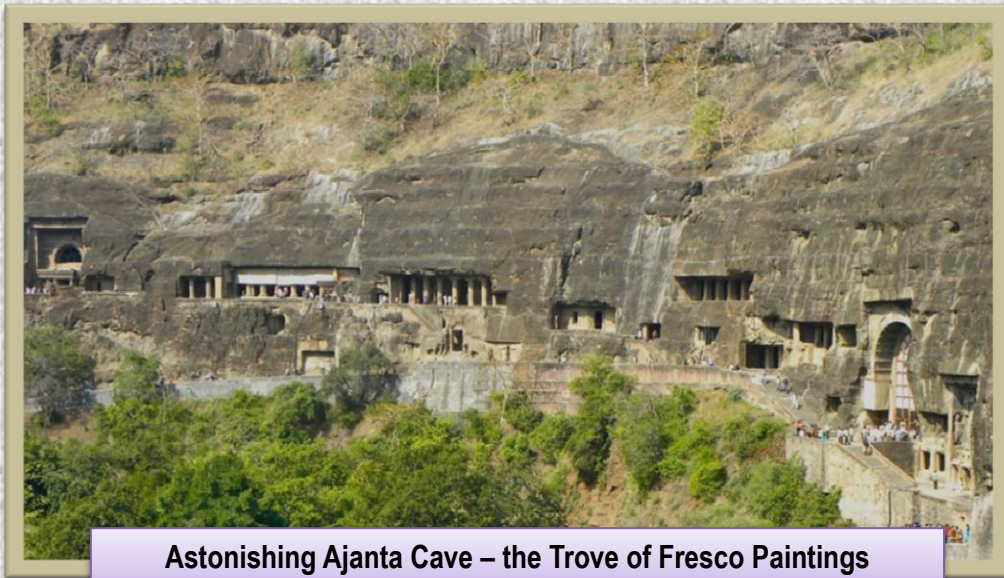
**The British Period Heritage – Gateway of India, Mumbai Megacity**



**Shaniwar Wada Palace Gate of Emperor Bajirao – I, 1736 ADE, Pune City**



**Raigad Fort, on the Western Ghat, Maharashtra**



**Astonishing Ajanta Cave – the Trove of Fresco Paintings**



**Monolithic Marvel, Kailasa Temple, Ellora**



**Mahalaxmi Temple in the Kolhapur Wall City**

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