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“Humanities and Social Sciences - Legacies and  
Challenges in Development Discourse”



**RUICHSS**  
**2017**

## **ABSTRACTS**

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## CONTENTS

Message from the Vice Chancellor	5
Message from the Dean	6
Foreword	7
Organizers of RUICHSS	11
Editorial Board	13
Panel of Reviewers	14
Citation- Keynote Speaker	15
Keynote Address	17
Citation-Guest of Honor	24
Speech- Guest of Honor	25
Paper Index	27
History, Archeology and National Heritage	47 - 56
Tourism For Development	57 - 67
Women and Empowerment	69 - 77
Water and Natural Resources	77 - 85
Health and Psychology	87 - 107
Conflict Studies	109 - 121
Poverty and Development	123 - 138
Religion and Philosophy	139 - 154
Literature, Language and Arts	155 - 166
Population, Environment and Human Settlement	167 - 178
Environment and Waste Management	179 - 189
Natural Disaster Management	191 - 199
Education and Information Technology	201 - 217
Politics and Governance	219 - 226
Economy and Statistics	228 -247

## PAPER INDEX

### A - History, Archeology and National Heritage

**RUICHSS2017/L/036**

**A Historical Review of 'Personal Naming' in Ancient Ceylon  
(From 6 BC to 3 AD)** 49

Ven. Irudeniya Nanda & Ven. Demunneve Upali

**RUICHSS2017/L/038**

**An Archaeological Study on the Cobra Sculpture in the Historic  
City of Anuradhapura**

Piyatissa Senanayaka, K.S.N.K. Karunadasa & K.M.S.R. Kulathunga 50

**RUICHSS2017/L/042**

**Battle Organisation Characteristics Revealed by the 1818 Protest  
Against British**

H.M.S.B. Herath 51

**RUICHSS2017/L/044**

**Importance of Deega Pashana in the Formation of First Human  
Settlements and Cultural Transition Far in Anuradhapura** 52

Thusitha Mendis

**RUICHSS2017/L/096**

**Going Online With Archaeology: A View on Sri Lankan  
Archaeology and Internet**

Harshani Pathmakulasooriya 53

**RUICHSS2017/L/102**

**Ancient Traps for Avoiding Insecticides** 54

Gamini Ranasinghe

**RUICHSS2017/L/104**

**Archaeological Study About Distribution of Pearl and Use in  
Modern Sri Lanka** 55

Kasun Ruhiru & Aparna Sudasinghe

**RUICHSS2017/L/106**

**Ancient International Trade Relationships that Provide Marine  
Archaeological Evidence in Kirinda and Galle Ports of Sri Lanka** 56

A.K.R. Madhumali & P.R.A. Buddikasiri

## **Importance of Deega Pashana in the Formation of First Human Settlements and Cultural Transition far in Anuradhapura**

**Thusitha Mendis**

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Anuradhapura had been colonized by the Balangoda man who lived about 5900 years ago during the Mesolithic period and this has been further proved through absolute dating. Since then, the cultural landscape of ancient Anuradhapura was formed over a long period of time by passing through a number of techno cultural phases. The objective of this study is, therefore, to analyze the utility (usefulness) of the Deegha Pashana in forming the cultural landscape of Anuradhapura. A number of methods were made use of in collecting and analyzing the data of this study. In order to gather data, exploration was done on ground as well as excavations. In order to complement data, necessary secondary sources and literature on similar studies were also consulted. There are a lot of evidences of material culture of the proto historic settlements surrounding the deegha pashana between 1000-300 BC. These include BRW Clay instruments, BW Clay instruments, Crucibles, Slag and Mineral stones. Proto historic burials have also been founded. Clay instruments, crucibles, and burial ground around Perimiyankulama excavated around Vessagiriya is also a good example for this. Transformation of culture from stone technology to iron technology is clearly visible in these materials excavated from these sites (ibid). The early historic phase of the next human settlements with reference to Degha Pashana can be found between 300 BC-100 AD. Driplages cave were created Vessagiriya and Abayagiriya area for the use of Sangha and small tanks were expanded into larger ones (Mv. xv). Example Tissa wewa, Abhaya wewa, and Gamini wewa. Iron industry was dominant during this period and over 120 chisels marks, stone instruments, conical hall around Deegha pashana is also visible during this period. Stone industry was dominant during this period and the expansion of human settlements took place simultaneously.

**Key Words:** *Chisels Marks, Conical Hall, Driplages*