

Pearl in the world



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Dedication

I dedicate this my first book to my teacher
Project Coordinator Mr. Senevirathne and my
loving parents, who always believed in me.

Foreword

Literary development is a yardstick to measure the development of a country. The Kotte and Dambadeniya eras stand out in the history of the world because they were literary enlightening periods. If so, this is the golden period of the history of the *Mahamaya* as well. This is the reason why our daughters have been enchanting through book writing for many years now. It is a special event that our writers have succeeded in building a culture of writing books in the school and spreading it to the entire school system and this time involving the global student community in it.

Beyond this, this time the school community itself has also decided to rebuild the past *Yatiwara* writing tradition in the country in order to pay tribute to the founder of our school, **Karadana Atthadassi Thero**.

The *Pirivena* student monks have also taken up book writing “*The Herana Gatkarani*” project was introduced.

It is a matter of pride for me as the principal to lead the way in bringing about a qualitative change in the education of schools and *Pirivena* education through this academic and religious service, and it is also an achievement for the school.

This book, which is the result of recognizing one’s innate talent at an early stage in life and turning to writing, will undoubtedly be a help for future education and future life.

Shashikala Senadheera
Principal
Mahamaya Girls’ Collage
Kandy.

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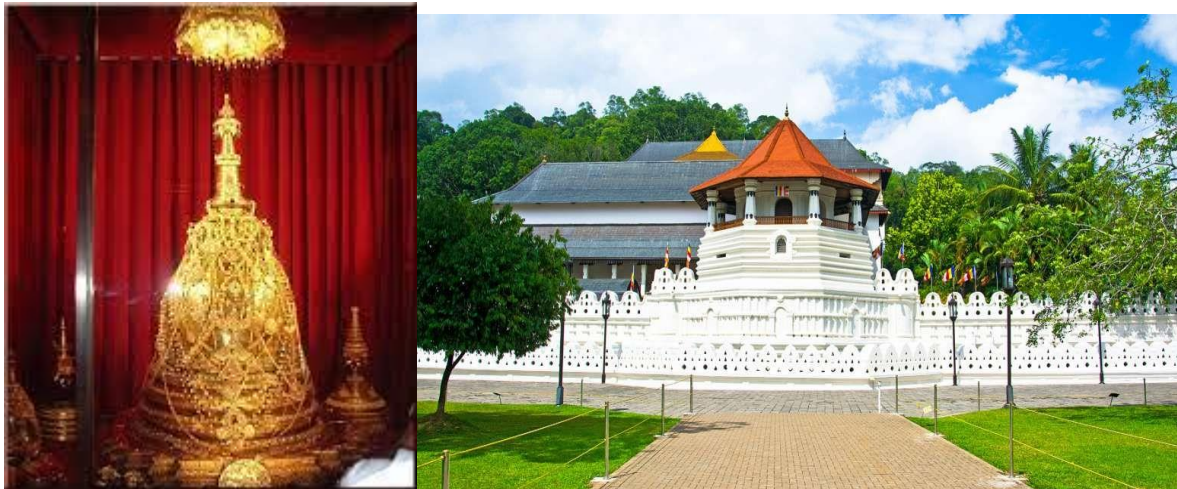
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1. Temple of the Tooth

The Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic is a world renowned place of worship, where the left Canine tooth of Gauthama Buddha is enshrined.

This is built in the city of Kandy near the ancient Royal Palace which is situated to the North of the temple and the forest reserve called “Udawaththa Kelalya” to the East. The famous Kandy Lake also known as “Kiri Muhuda” to the South and “Natha and Paththini Devala” on the West.

Bhikkhus of the two particular chapters, the Malwathu chapters and Asgiri chapters, conduct daily worship in the inner chamber of the temple. Rituals are performed there times daily, at dawn, at noon and the evenings. On Wednesdays, there is a symbolic bathing of the relic with a herbal preparation made from scented water and fragrant flowers called “*Nanumura Mangallaya*”, this holy water is believed to contain healing powers and is distributed to those present.



2. Sri Dalada Perahera

The Kandy Esala Perahera (the Sri Dalada Perahera procession of Kandy) also known as *The Festival of the Tooth* is a festival held in July and August in each year in Kandy, Sri Lanka. The reason that Kandy Perahera falls in July is that Buddhist believed that first teaching of Buddha was given to the five disciples in this month after sage Siddhartha became enlightened. The Kandy Perahera lasts for around ten days with various festivities. This historical procession is held annually to pay homage to the Sacred Tooth Relic of Buddha housed at the Sri Dalada Maligawa in Kandy. A unique symbol of Sri Lanka, the procession consists of traditional local dances such as fire dances and performances in whip-dance garments. The most awaited feature the lavishly decorated elephants. The festival ends with the traditional *Diya-kepeema* ritual, a water cutting ceremony which is held at the Mahaweli River at Getambe, Kandy.

The Dalada Perahera is believed to have begun when the Sacred Tooth Relic of Lord Buddha was brought to Sri Lanka from India during the 4th century CE, eight hundred years after the passing away of the Buddha. It was the time when reign of King Kithsiri Meghawanna was in Sri Lanka. There was a war in Kalinga in India where King Guhasiva was in procession of the Sacred Tooth Relic of Gauthama Buddha. Because of the waging war there was a threat to Sacred Tooth Relic so King Guhasiva decides to send it to Sri Lanka.





3. Sri Pada Mountain

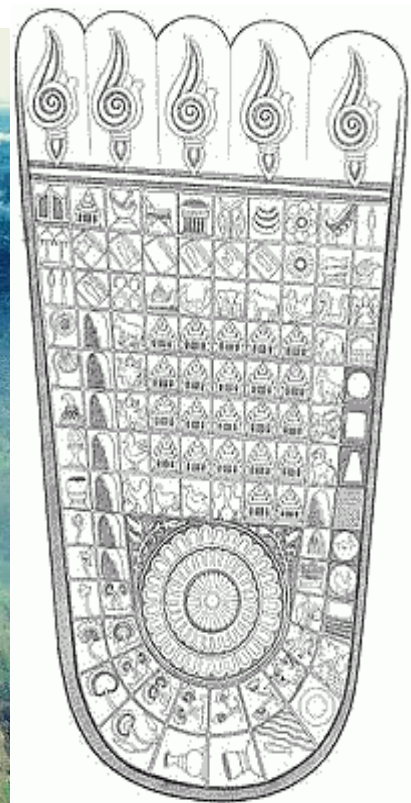
Sri Pada Mountain is located in the southern reaches of the Central Highlands in the Ratnapura District and Nuwara Eliya District of the Sabaragamwa Province and Central Province.

This mountain is revered as a holy site by Buddhist, Sri Lankan Hindus, and some Muslims and Christians.

For Buddhist, the footpath mark is the left foot of the Buddha, left behind when Buddha visited Sri Lanka, as a Symbol for worship at the invitation of the Buddhist God Saman.

Tamil Hindus consider it the foot print of Shiva. It is also fabled that the mountain is the legendary mount "Trikuta" the capital of Ravana in the "Ramayana" from where he ruled Lanka.

Sri Pada Mountain is the source of four major rivers in Sri Lanka. There are Mahaweli River, Kelani Ganga, Kalu Ganga, Walawe River.



4. Kelaniya Raja Maha Viharaya

In the 8th year after attaining enlightenment, The Buddha visited the kingdom Kelaniya on the invitation of the king “Maniakkhika” of the “Naga” tribe.

According to the chronicles the Buddha visited the Kelaniya with 500 bhikkhus and preached dharma to the King and his people on the spot where the temple stands today thus part of the Solosmasthanana.

The original Temple and the Stupa was built in 5th century BC, but none of the earlier structure survive today. Mentioned in the Sri Lankan chronicle “Chulawansa” is that, the Kelaniya Temple was 5 stories high with traditional styling and roofing. It also states that the temple was rebuilt by King Vijayabahu III and King Parakramabahu II.

The Kandyan era paintings are housed in two chambers and in good condition. Other than the Kandyan era paintings there are somewhat beautiful modern paintings which were done during 1927 – 1946 by the famous artist *Soliyas Mendis*.





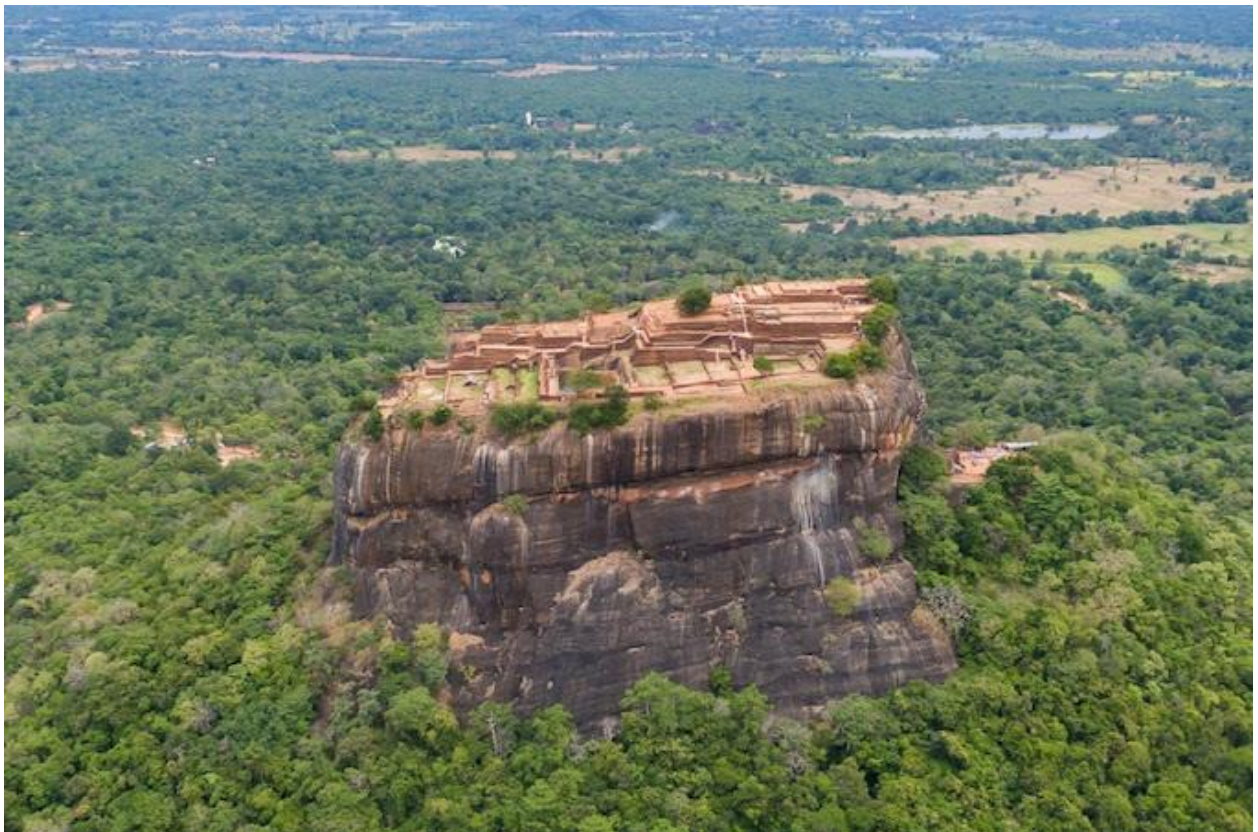
5. Sigiriya

Sigiriya or Sinhagiri is an ancient rock fortress located in the northern Matale District near the town of Dambulla in the Central Province.

Sigiriya built by King Kashyapa during the 5th century. The Sigiriya site has the remains of an upper palace sited on the flat top of the rock, a mid-level terrace that includes the Lion Gate and the mirror wall with its frescoes, the lower palace that clings to the slopes below the rock, and the moats, walls and gardens that extend for some hundreds of metres out from the base of the rock.

Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa Kingdoms are often regarded as the golden eras of Sri Lanka.

Among the remarkable artworks from the Anuradhapura era are the renowned Sigiri Frescoes. Specifically the famous “Sigiri Apsara” frescoes, depicting maidens, showcase the Buon Fresco technique. There are 21 fresco paintings in Sigiriya rock. These paintings are estimated to be over 1,500 years old.





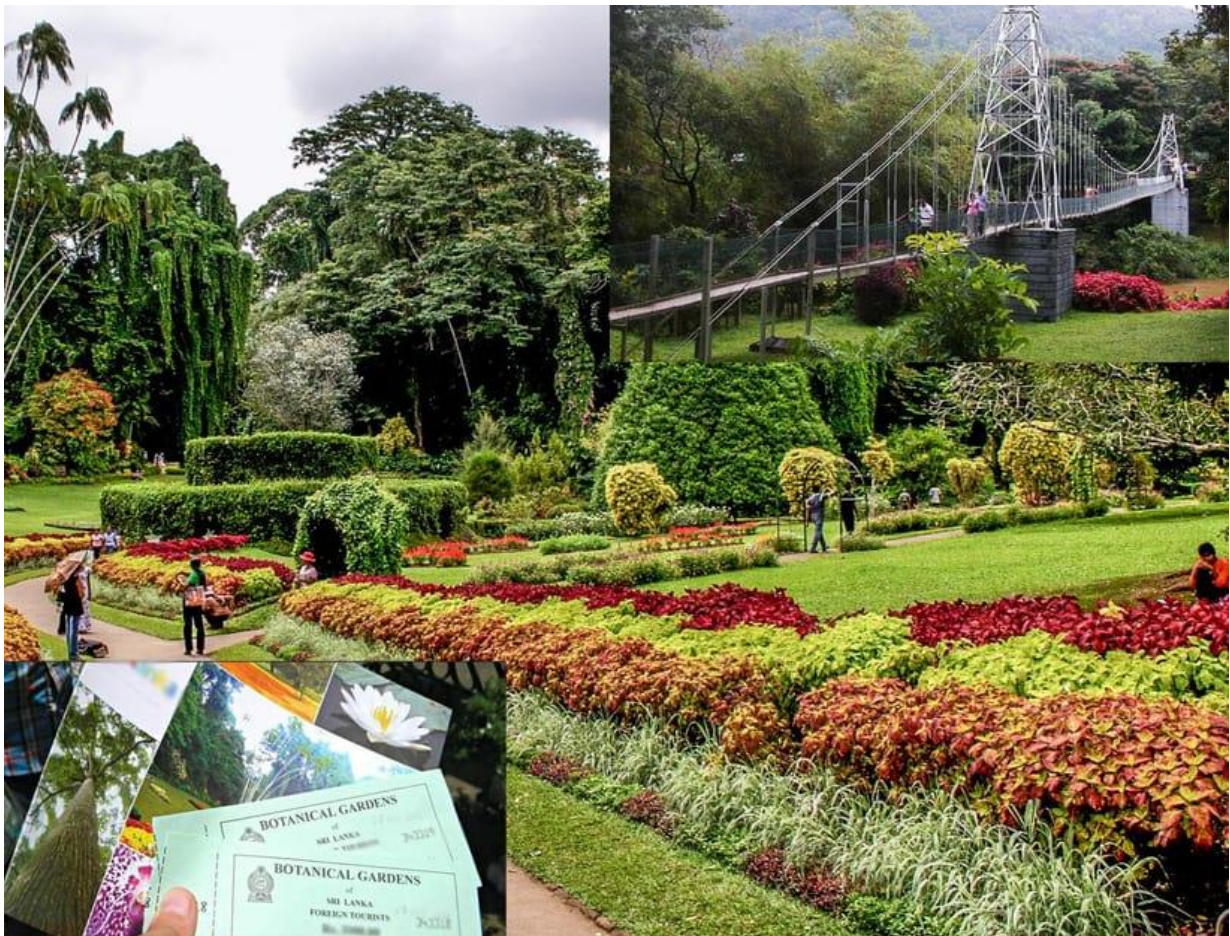
6. Botanical Gardens

A botanical garden is a place where people can visit to learn about and appreciate different plant species. It also provides educational programs and opportunities for both adults and children to explore and engage with plants.

Sri Lanka's botanic gardens have a long and proud history, punctuated by colonialism and industrial change.

Mainly 7 Botanical Gardens in Sri Lanka.

1. Royal Botanical Garden - Peradeniya, Kandy
2. Hakgala Garden – Nuwara Eliya
3. Seethawaka Wet Zone Botanic Garden – Avissawella
4. Mirijjawila Botanical Garden – Hambantota
5. Gampaha Botanical Garden – Gampaha
6. Dry Zone Botanical Garden – Hambantota
7. Sirilak Spice and Herbal Botanical Garden – Kawudupelella



7. Hindu Nallur Kovil

The Nallur Kandasamy Kovil is one of Jaffna's most significant Hindu temples and it is the fourth re-built structure, since the original temple was built in 948. The temple is a socially important institution for the Sri Lankan Tamils Hindu identify of North Sri Lanka and for the Sri Lankan Tamil diaspora. Located in the ancient capital town of Nallur in Jaffna, it is recorded that the centre of the city was once a bustling market place.



The annual festival of Nallur Kandaswamy Temple is conducted during July and August of each year for 28 days, concluding with the August new moon, with crowds of devotees attending the elaborate "Pujas" and Temple Rathams (Chariots) pulled through the streets. It is the largest Hindu Temple festival in the Jaffna peninsula and during the so-called Nallur festival season this temple puts on its most colourful face. During festival time, devotees from other parts of the country also visit Nallur temple in Jaffna.



Afterword



According to my concept, under the project that has been running since 2014 to direct school children to writing, we have been fortunate to have planted more than sixty thousand writer seedlings in the local literary field. The objectives of this project are to improve the quality of education, to promote literature that will contribute to the future development of the country, to hone the abilities of the future generation, and to build a platform to showcase the creations of children.

It is our social responsibility to create the fertile soil for those seeds to sprout and grow. This is the only project in recent history that has been implemented continuously for several years at the school level, provincial, national and international levels for the sake of the productivity of education. This time, it is special that the *Pirivena* student monks have also been involved in this. The nation should be grateful for the dedication shown by the Principal, daughters, teachers, parents and alumni of *Mahamaya Balika Vidyalaya*.

The printed book is still the main tool of our education. The enjoyment that a child gets from a book cannot be provided by anything else.

It is experimentally proven that the use of various electronic devices to store human knowledge and the distancing of children from books has been detrimental to the quality of education and has created various problems in society. This project, which is being implemented as a solution to this, has been adapting the smart younger generation of the digital age to modern technology by writing electronic works for the past two years, together with school children in the country.

To take their creations to international readers, Mahamaya girls have built a digital fiction for their own, literary creative abilities.

My congratulations to the young writers who have entered it through their creative abilities.

Project Founder and Coordinator,
Senevirathne Mahalekam.

