



THE NATIONAL TRUST – SRI LANKA

“Prehistoric Sri Lanka”

By

Dr. Nimal Perera

The Monthly Lecture Series No: 150 of the National Trust

Thursday 25th May 2023 at 6.00 pm

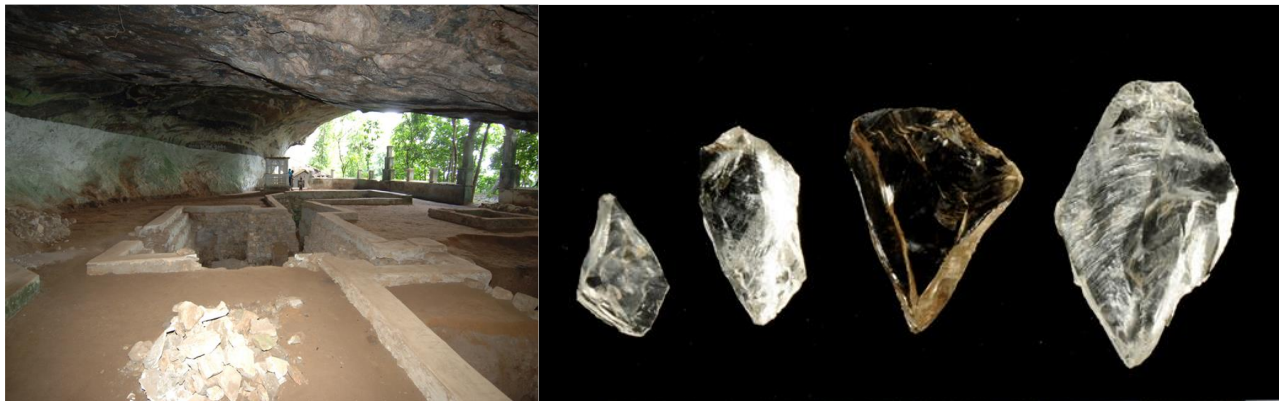
at the Auditorium of the College of Surgeons of Sri Lanka,

No. 6, Independence Avenue, Colombo 7.

(For those who join online please click the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89309795021>)

The Prehistoric record from the Middle Pleistocene to the Mid-Holocene in Sri Lanka is potentially one of the best in South Asia. The archaeological record of Sri Lanka has been as long as in India and numerous sites have been explored and excavated, often to high standards. There are some excellent studies of late Pleistocene rock-shelters, most notably in the lowland south-western region of the island. Additionally, Sri Lanka has rich ethnographic records of modern hunter-gathers that have enriched assessments of plant usage, hunting techniques, pattern of land usage and material culture. Because of its size and location, lying approximately halfway between Africa and Australia, along the northern rim of the Indian Ocean, Sri Lanka played a pivotal role in the evolution and dispersal of modern humans. Its prehistoric record can also provide information on technological changes and the evolution of symbolism. The lecture will focus on the richness of Sri Lanka’s pre-historic heritage and on the Island’s role in the evolution and dispersal of the modern humans.



Dr. Nimal Perera received his B.A. in Archaeology, Geography and Political Science from the University of Peradeniya, M.A (First Class) in Archaeology from the University of Pune, India and Ph.D. from the Australian National University, Canberra. He joined the Department of Archaeology in 1982 and was the Deputy Director General from 2008 till his retirement from the Department in 2013. Considered as an expert in Sri Lanka’s Pleistocene sites, he has directed a number of excavations in late Pleistocene-early Holocene rock shelters and open air sites where he pioneered the application of geoarchaeological and bioarchaeological methods. He has authored the most up-to-date overview of the island’s prehistory and has also published extensively on his research work in Sri Lanka and abroad, including Prehistoric Sri Lanka in the British Archaeological Report Series (Oxford) and several peer-reviewed research papers in international journals.

The National Trust – Sri Lanka conducts monthly lectures generally on the last working Thursday of each month. The lectures are open to the members and the general public. The HNB Sustainability Foundation is the principal sponsor of the events of the National Trust – Sri Lanka.

Further information can be obtained from the Trust Office Tel.0112682730/ 0719566929