



NEWSLETTER

FACULTY OF
SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

2025



RAJARATA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

2025 Volume 1 issue I & II

Vice Chancellor's Message



It is with great pleasure that I extend my greetings to the Dean, academic and non-academic staff, students, and all stakeholders of the Faculty on the occasion of publishing this Newsletter for the year 2025.

The past year has been a significant and productive period for the Faculty, marked by various achievements in teaching, research, and community engagement. I am pleased to see the Faculty's continued commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and students' development, which aligns with the University's vision and mission.

The diverse range of activities highlighted in this Newsletter reflects a conducive academic environment and a strong culture of collaboration and service.

I encourage the Faculty to further enhance interdisciplinary research, industry partnerships, and community outreach initiatives, ensuring that the knowledge generated contributes meaningfully to national development and global progress.

I congratulate everyone involved in compiling this Newsletter and commend the Faculty for its achievements throughout 2025. I wish you continued success in all your future endeavors.

Prof. P.M.B. Jayathilake
Vice Chancellor
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

Dean's Message

It is with great pleasure that I share this message with you through the 2025 Newsletter of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities. This publication reflects the academic achievements, research contributions, and community engagements of our faculty, students, and staff throughout the year.

The year 2025 has been a productive and progressive year for our faculty. Despite the many challenges faced in the higher education sector, we have continued to uphold our commitment to academic excellence, quality research, and social responsibility. Our departments have actively contributed to knowledge creation through conferences, publications, and collaborative projects, while our students have demonstrated outstanding performance in both academic and extracurricular activities.

I sincerely appreciate the dedication of our academic and non-academic staff, whose continuous efforts ensure the smooth functioning and advancement of the faculty. My gratitude also goes to our students, whose enthusiasm and commitment remain the driving force behind our success.

As we move forward, we remain committed to strengthening interdisciplinary research, enhancing international collaborations, and creating more opportunities for students to develop as competent and responsible citizens. I am confident that the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities will continue to grow as a center of academic excellence and innovation.

I want to thank everyone who contributed to making this newsletter a success. I hope this publication will serve not only as a record of our achievements but also as an inspiration for future endeavors.

Prof. E.M.S. Ekanayake
Dean
Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities



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Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities - RUSL

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES



Inauguration Ceremony of the 2023/2024 Intake

The Inauguration Ceremony for the 2023/2024 intake of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka was held on 29 October 2025 at the EPIPHANY Auditorium, Faculty of Technology.

The event was graced by the Acting Vice-Chancellor of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Dr P.H.G. Janaka Pushpakumara, the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Prof. E.M.S. Ekanayake, and all Deans of Faculties. The Registrar, Bursar, Librarian, and the academic and non-academic staff of the faculty were also in attendance.



RUSL Delegation Strengthens Academic and Cultural Ties with Hangzhou City University, China

A delegation from Rajarata University of Sri Lanka (RUSL) successfully completed an academic visit to Hangzhou City University (HCU), China, from November 3rd to 7th, 2025, marking an important milestone in international collaboration, digital heritage innovation, and cultural exchange.

The delegation – Prof. EMS Ekanayake, Prof. Nuwan Abeywardana, and Mr. Thilanka Siriwardana engaged in a series of meetings, field visits, and technical discussions aimed at advancing joint research, student mobility, and digital cultural heritage programs between the two universities.



Building the Future of Heritage Research: MoU with Bauddaloka Foundation

On November 25, 2025, the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities signed a landmark MoU with the Bauddaloka Foundation to enhance research and student development. The Foundation will fully fund archaeological research activities in the Northern Province for the next five years, creating valuable opportunities for staff and students. This partnership supports the faculty's vision of strengthening the Department of Archaeology & Heritage Management as a leading center for research and heritage development in Sri Lanka.



Chinese Ambassador scholarship Awards 2025

Under the theme “Bridging Excellence and Compassion: Strengthening Sino-Sri Lankan Bonds through Education and Social Responsibility,” the Chinese Ambassador Scholarship Awarding Ceremony 2025 was held on November 27, 2025, at the Main Auditorium of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.

The event was graced by H.E. Mr. Qi Zhenhong, Ambassador of China to Sri Lanka, along with distinguished guests including the Acting Vice Chancellor, Dr. P.H.G. Janaka Pushpakumara, and the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Prof. E.M.S. Ekanayake.

Funded by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, the scholarship—valued at LKR 4.2 million—supports undergraduates demonstrating academic excellence and financial need. Administered through the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, the program prioritizes students in the Chinese BA Degree Programme while also providing opportunities to other deserving undergraduates.

The ceremony highlighted the importance of higher education in strengthening cultural ties and reaffirmed the enduring friendship between China and Sri Lanka.



Annual Progress Review Workshop – 2025

The Annual Progress Review Workshop – 2025 of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, was successfully held at the Central Bank Auditorium, Anuradhapura on December 31, 2025, under the guidance of Dean Prof. E. M. S. Ekanayake. Organized by Dr. M. M. S. A. Marasinghe, Coordinator of the Faculty Quality Assurance Cell, the workshop aimed to review the annual progress of the faculty and its departments.

The event was held under the patronage of Acting Vice Chancellor Dr. P. H. G. Janaka Pushpakumara as the Chief Guest. Prof. E.M.S Ekanayake delivered the inaugural address, outlining the workshop's objectives. Prof. G. V. T. V. Weerasooriya and Mr. Palitha Abesinghe served as evaluation panel members, with active participation from both academic and non-academic staff.



5th Undergraduate Research Symposium – 2025

The Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka successfully held the 5th Undergraduate Research Symposium – 2025 on January 27, 2026 under the theme “Advancing Knowledge: Empowering Undergraduates to Overcome Future Challenges.” The event provided a dedicated platform for final-year students to present their research outcomes of BA (Hons) dissertations and BA research projects.

A total of 207 abstracts were accepted following a rigorous review process, and presentations were conducted physically across seven thematic tracks representing all disciplines of the faculty. The symposium was organized under the guidance of Professor E.M.S. Ekanayake, Dean of the Faculty, with Professor Mohamed Mahees from the University of Colombo serving as the Keynote Speaker. Dr. L.M.A.P. Gunawardhana was served as the chair person of the symposium.

The inauguration was graced by Dr. P.H.G. Janaka Pushpakumara, Acting Vice Chancellor, along with university officials, staff, and over 350 participants. The event was successfully coordinated by a dedicated organizing committee, contributing to the strengthening of undergraduate research culture within the university.



DEPARTMENT OF

**ARCHAEOLOGY AND
HERITAGE MANAGEMENT**DEPARTMENT OF
ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE MANAGEMENT**Lunch Time Talk 01**

The First Session of the “Lunch Time Talk” was held on 22nd of January 2025, from 12.00 p.m. to 1.00 p.m., at Hall No. 20, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. Senior Lecturer Dr. W. M. T. B. Wijepala shared his experiences at CollAsia 2024, Thailand.



The second session of the “Lunch Time Talks”, was held on April 22, 2025, from 12.00 p.m. to 1.00 p.m., at Hall No. 20 of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities. Dr. Ariane de Saxce, Research Associate for South and South-East Asia at the German Archaeological Institute, Commission for the Archaeology of Non-European Cultures (Bonn), joined the session as the guest speaker and delivered a lecture titled “Results of the Recent Collaborative Projects between Rajarata University and the German Archaeological Institute.”

The third session of the “Lunch Time Talks”, was held on August 27, 2025, from 12.00 p.m. to 1.00 p.m., at Hall No. 20. The session was delivered by Senior Lecturer Mr. N. D. T. M. Siriwardena and featured a lecture entitled “Listening to the Land: Three Years in Aboriginal Australia,” providing insights into Aboriginal heritage and land practices.



Blood Donation Program 2025

The “Blood Donation” Program, organized by the Society of Archaeology and Heritage Management, Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka for the second time, was successfully held on February 19, 2025.



Excavation – Kok Ebe

The excavation at the Kok Ebe Megalithic Burial Site was conducted from February 21 to 26, 2025. Third-year students of the BA (Honours) Degree Programme in Archaeology and Heritage Management gained valuable academic and practical experience through this excavation. The excavation was organized by the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.



International Research Forum on Ancient Water Management System in Sri Lanka

The International Research Forum on Ancient Water Management Systems in Sri Lanka: Integrating Traditional Knowledge for Sustainable Development, organized by the Department of Archaeology & Heritage Management, Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, according to the concept of Prof. Nuwan Abeywardana (Head of the department), was successfully held on March 11, 2025, at university premises of Mihintale. The event was honored by Dr. P.H.G. Janaka Pushpakumara, Acting Vice-Chancellor of RUSL, as the Chief Guest, while Prof. Dr. Wiebke Bebermeier (Freie University Berlin, Germany) delivered the Keynote Speech, highlighting the impact of human activities on environmental changes.

This event strengthened Sri Lanka's sustainability efforts by integrating traditional and modern water management, fostering interdisciplinary research, and highlighting heritage-based tourism.



Lecture Session

Senior Lecturer Mr. NDTM Siriwardena (Discovering the past coastal life of the tropical islanders of Sri Lanka)

A Lecture Session was conducted on March 03, 2025, from 1.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m., at Hall No. 20, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. The lecture, titled "Discovering the Past Coastal Life of the Tropical Islanders of Sri Lanka," focused on archaeological perspectives of coastal communities.

The lecture was delivered by Senior Lecturer Mr. N. D. T. M. Siriwardena, Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.

Field Class

Field Class Sessions at the Jaffna Museum was held on April, 22 2025. Third-year students of the B.A/BA (Honours) Degree Programme in Archaeology and Heritage Management gained an enriching academic experience through this field study. The field class was organized by the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the Central Cultural Fund (CCF) – Jaffna Project.



Field Class Sessions at the Dambulla Cave Temple was held on April 24 and 25, 2025. Third-year students of the BA/BA (Honours) Degree Programme in Archaeology and Heritage Management gained an enriching academic experience through this field study. The field class was organized by the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the Central Cultural Fund (CCF) – Dambulla Project

A Field Class on Underwater Archaeology in Galle Maritime Archaeology Unit was held on 11th from 30th of April 2025 for third-year students of the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management. The field class was organized by the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the Central Cultural Fund (CCF) – Galle Project.





Field Class & Practical Conservation Sessions in Sigiriya were held on June 07, 2025. The 3rd year students of the BA/BA Honors degree program in Archaeology & Heritage Management had an enriching experience during this field study organized by the Department of Archaeology & Heritage Management. In the first phase, Mrs. Menaka Rodrigo, Conservator (Chemical) of CCF, joined as a resource person and conducted a laboratory session at the Sigiriya Museum Laboratory. The field class was organized by the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the Central Cultural Fund (CCF) – Sigiriya Project.



A Field Class on Site and Project Management in Bingiriya Tampita Viharaya was held on August 13, 2025 for third-year students of the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management. The field class was organized by the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the Department of Archaeology, Sri Lanka.



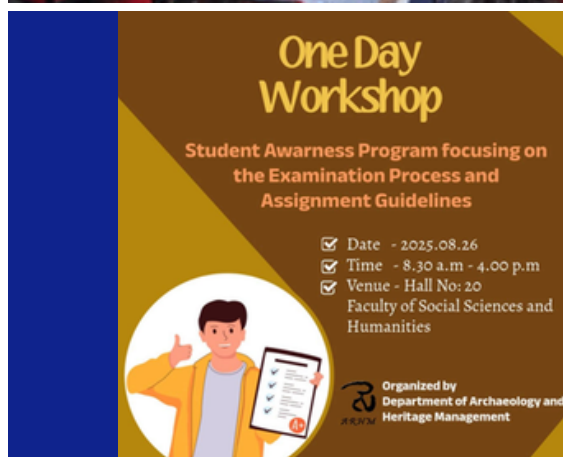
A Field Visit on Proto History in Yan Oya Basin was held on August 28, 2025 for third-year students of the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management. The field class was organized by the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.

A field visit in Horowpothana was conducted December 24, 2025 for all special students of the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management. The visit focused on exploring a historic Biso Kotuwa and its archaeological significance. The field visit was organized by the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.



Workshops

One-day workshop titled “Student Awareness Program Focusing on the Examination Process and Assignment Guidelines”, organized by the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management was successfully held on August 26, 2025. The workshop was conducted by Senior Lecturer Mr. N. D. T. M. Siriwardena.



Two-day workshop on “Prehistoric Stone Tools” for third-year students of the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management was successfully conducted on October 3 - 4, 2025. This workshop conducted by Dr. Nimal Perera, providing students with practical insights into prehistoric tool-making techniques.



The 10th Undergraduate Research Symposium, URSARU 2025

The 10th Undergraduate Research Symposium (URSARU 2025), organized by the Society of Archaeology & Heritage Management, Department of Archaeology & Heritage Management, Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, was successfully conducted on December 23, 2025 at the faculty premises. The symposium, held under the theme “Culture Reflection in Art and Science of Creative Thinking,” provided a platform for students to showcase their research, fostering academic growth and deepening the understanding of Sri Lanka's rich archaeological and cultural heritage.



DEPARTMENT OF

ECONOMICS



Curriculum Revision: Stakeholder Consultation Workshop

The Department of Economics initiated the revision of the B.A (Hons) in Economics curriculum to enhance academic coherence, ensure relevance to national development priorities, and align the program with evolving labour market demands. As part of this process, a two-day stakeholder consultation workshop was held in Dambulla on October 30 and 31, 2025, with the participation of 28 external stakeholders representing public institutions, private sector organizations, financial institutions, and development agencies.



The workshop was attended by the Head of the Department, Prof. S. K. Naradda Gamage, together with all academic staff members of the Department. Feedback was gathered through group discussions and consultations. The insights obtained from this engagement contributed significantly to the development of a more modern, practical, and industry-relevant curriculum. The program was conducted with financial support provided by the University.

Electronic Module Development Project

In 2025, the Electronic Module Development Project was implemented in collaboration with the Management Development & Training Unit - North Central Province to strengthen the professional capacity of government officers in the North Central Province. The project was conducted under the coordination of Prof. S. K. Naradda Gamage, with active participation from Department academics and external experts, combining academic knowledge with practical field experience.

Key outcomes included:

- Conducting 10 capacity-building workshops for government officers
- Developing 10 electronic training modules tailored to professional development needs



Student Engagement and Cultural Activities

The Department of Economics organized a range of activities in 2025 to promote student well-being, teamwork, and cultural unity. Events included a Softball Cricket Tournament, the “Awurudu Uthsawaya” cultural celebration, and field training programs, providing students with opportunities for recreation, practical learning, and cultural appreciation while strengthening community bonds within the Department.

Softball Cricket Tournament on 09 March 2025



Awurudu Uthsawaya Cultural Event on 22 April 2025



Field Training Programs

The Department of Economics organized field training programs to provide students with practical exposure to real-world development issues. Students participated in hands-on learning activities, exploring community development challenges and analyzing local economic conditions. These programs enhanced students' practical skills, critical thinking, and understanding of economic and social dynamics in diverse communities. Locations: Galgamuwa, Thambuththegama, Dambulla, and Trincomalee



Research Initiative

The Department of Economics carried out a research project titled “Impacts of Microfinance on the Sustainable Rural Development Process in Rural Sri Lanka – Current Issues and Future Challenges”, supported by the Research and Publication Committee of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.

The study examined the role of microfinance in promoting entrepreneurship, women’s empowerment, and rural economic sustainability, providing important insights for policy-making and rural development planning. The project produced a wide range of outputs, including 12 research papers, one book, conference papers, feature articles, and policy documents, reflecting the Department’s dedication to high-quality, policy-relevant research that supports sustainable development in rural communities.



Workshops and Career Development Programs

A series of workshops were conducted to enhance students’ research capacity, employability, and professional skills, including:

- Workshop on Soft Skill Development and CV Writing
- Workshop on How to Find a Research Topic
- Workshop on Career and Higher Studies Opportunities
- Workshop on Passenger Transport Performance Analysis
- Financial Awareness Session with Bank of Ceylon



Professional Short Courses

To strengthen applied knowledge in economic and research practices, the Department conducted several short courses for students and professionals, including:

- Import and Export Procedures
- Research Methodology
- Statistical Techniques for Research
- Monitoring and Evaluation

These courses provided practical training in analytical methods and real-world economic applications.



Achievements & Highlights

The Department of Economics proudly celebrated the accomplishments of its academic staff at the University Research Awards Ceremony 2025. Outstanding contributions to research were recognized, with awards presented to Prof. S. K. N. Gamage, Prof. Prasanna, Dr. Adikari, and Ms. Ganga Lalani. These honors reflect the Department's commitment to excellence in research, knowledge creation, and academic distinction.



DEPARTMENT OF

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING



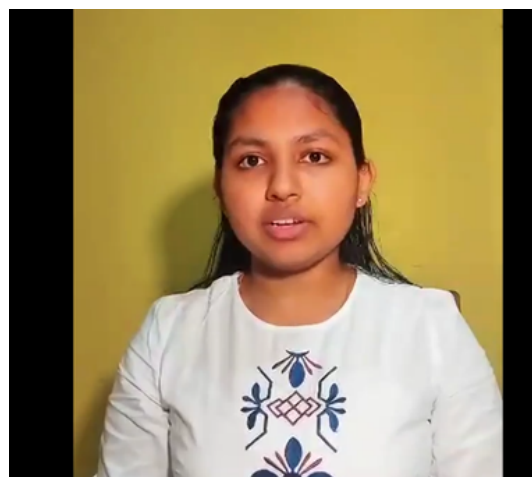
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
LANGUAGE TEACHING

English Language Enrichment Activities: Virtual English Night Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

The Department of English Language Teaching organized “Magical Nightfall 2025,” a Virtual English Night for the 2023/2024 batch of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities on October 14, 2025.

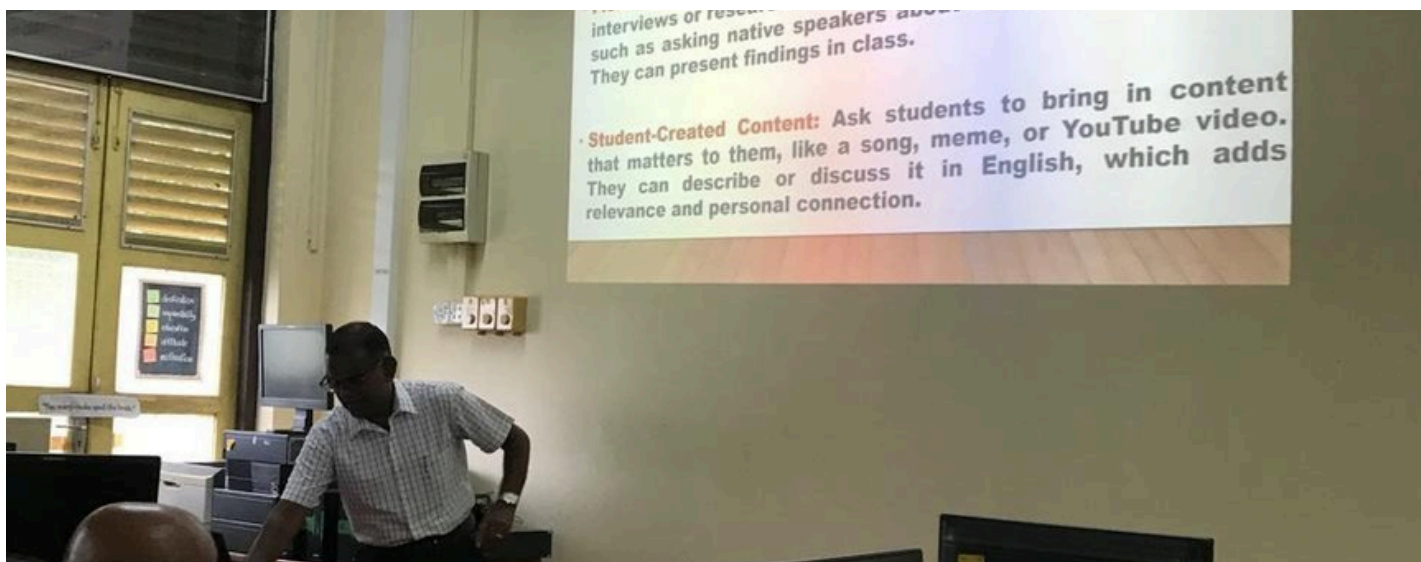


The programme aimed to promote English language proficiency and communication skills among undergraduates. Students participated in a range of performances, demonstrating creativity, confidence, and effective use of English.



Staff Development Activities

The Department of English Language Teaching conducted a staff training workshop on “Reported Speech” and “Student Apathy” at the English Language Laboratory. The workshop was attended by both senior and junior members of the department.



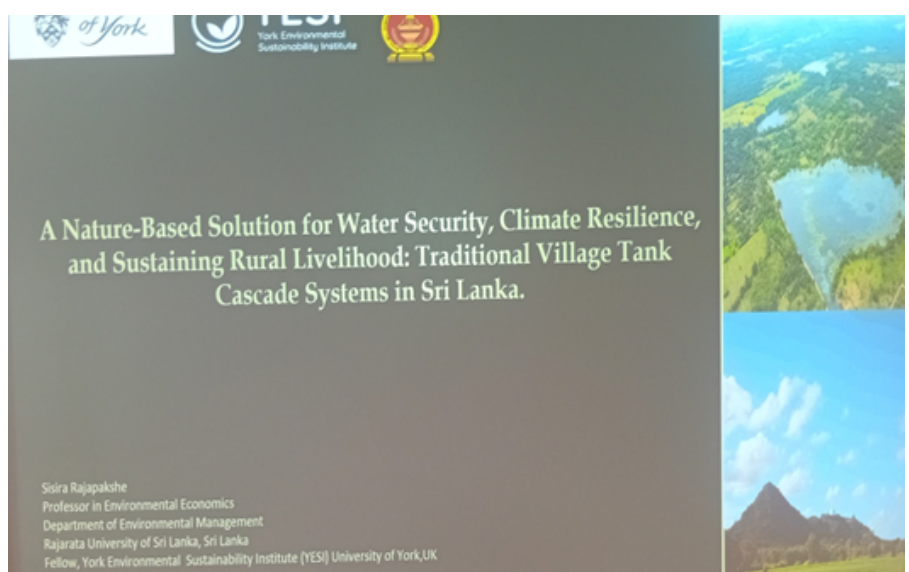
DEPARTMENT OF

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT



Fellowship Awarded to Prof. P.S.K. Rajapakshe from York Environmental Sustainability Institute on June/July 2025

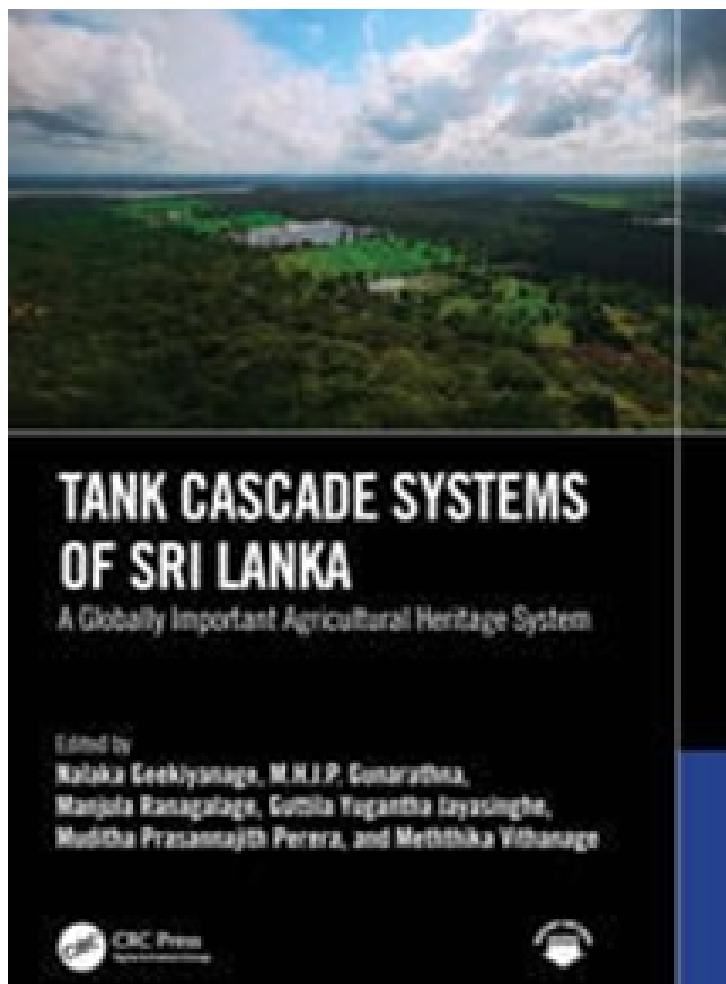
Prof. P.S.K. Rajapakshe of the Department of Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, has been awarded a prestigious fellowship from the York Environmental Sustainability Institute (YESI), University of York, United Kingdom. This fellowship recognizes Prof. Rajapakshe's significant contributions to environmental management, sustainability research, and policy-relevant studies.



Through the fellowship, Prof. Rajapakshe engaged in collaborative research, academic discussions, and knowledge exchange with scholars at the University of York, thereby strengthening international collaboration and enhancing research capacity in the field of environmental sustainability. This achievement significantly enhances the reputation of the Department and the academic standing of the faculty. As part of this international academic engagement, Prof. Rajapakshe delivered invited talks at the University of Huddersfield and the University of Leeds, United Kingdom.

Professor Manjula Ranagalagage's academic contribution to a global publication on tank cascade systems in Sri Lanka on 25th May 2025

Prof. Manjula Ranagalage made a significant scholarly contribution as an editor of the internationally published volume *Tank Cascade Systems of Sri Lanka: A Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System*, released by CRC Press in 2025.



As a member of the editorial team, Prof. Ranagalage contributed his expertise in environmental analysis, spatial assessment, and sustainability studies to strengthen the scientific rigour of the publication. His involvement supported the integration of geospatial and environmental perspectives in analysing Sri Lanka's traditional tank cascade systems and their relevance to climate resilience and sustainable agriculture. Prof. Manjula Ranagalage made a significant scholarly contribution as an editor of the internationally published volume *Tank Cascade Systems of Sri Lanka: A Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System*, released by CRC Press in 2025. As a member of the editorial team, Prof. Ranagalage contributed his expertise in environmental analysis, spatial assessment, and sustainability studies to strengthen the scientific rigour of the publication. His involvement supported the integration of geospatial and environmental perspectives in analysing Sri Lanka's traditional tank cascade systems and their relevance to climate resilience and sustainable agriculture.

Advancing Research Excellence: Grant Awarded to Prof. Dissanayake

Prof. D.M.S.L.B. Dissanayake of the Department of Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka (RUSL), has been awarded comparative research grants funded by RUSL and Serving as Principal Researcher. This grant aims to strengthen research capacity, promote innovative inquiry, and support evidence-based knowledge relevant to national and regional development. This achievement highlights the Department's commitment to fostering a strong research culture and enhances the Faculty's academic standing.

Quality assurance awareness workshop promoting academic excellence among students – contribution of Dr. JMSB Jayasundara on 30th April 2025

The Department of Environmental Management organized a QA Awareness Workshop titled Awareness on Quality Assurance (QA) for Students, hosted by the Faculty Quality Assurance Committee (FQAC) of the Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka held at the Faculty Examination Hall. The workshop aimed at enhancing students' understanding of quality assurance, academic integrity, and continuous improvement in higher education.



Presentations by Dr. J.M.S.B. Jayasundara, Prof. P.S.K. Rajapakshe, and Dr. M.M.S.A. Marasinghe highlighted QA frameworks, student responsibilities, and the learners' role in maintaining academic standards. The programme encouraged students to embrace academic excellence and actively contribute to a culture of quality within the Faculty and University.

Initiatives led by Dr. M.M.S.A. Marasinghe to promote waste management and academic excellence on Jan – Dec 2025



In 2025, Dr. M.M.S.A. Marasinghe, as Waste Management Coordinator of RUSL, led key initiatives to advance environmental responsibility and academic excellence. On 20th November, She conducted a Hospital Waste Management Awareness Programme at the National Nephrology Hospital, Polonnaruwa, engaging doctors, nurses, officers, and PHI officers in best practices for safe waste handling and disposal. Dr. Marasinghe conducted a session on Waste Management Orientation Programme for the new intake of the Department of Environmental Management, promoting sustainable practices such as segregation, minimization, reuse, recycling, and environmentally sound disposal. The interactive session empowered students as future environmental leaders.

Exploring Nature at Its Best – Sinharaja Field Class 2025

The Department of Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, successfully conducted a three-day field class at the Sinharaja Forest Reserve on 24-26th of March 2025 for the final-year BA (Hons) Environmental Management undergraduates.

The programme provided students with a valuable opportunity to experience one of Sri Lanka's most significant tropical rainforests while enhancing their practical knowledge of biodiversity, ecosystem dynamics, conservation practices, and sustainable environmental management.

During the field excursion, participants trekked nearly 21 km through the rainforest, gaining first-hand exposure to endemic flora and fauna and strengthening their field observation and analytical skills. Coordinated by Prof. P. S. K. Rajapakshe, with the guidance of the department's academic staff and experienced field guides, the programme successfully combined academic learning with practical experience, fostering teamwork, environmental stewardship, and a deeper appreciation of Sri Lanka's rich natural heritage.



Contribution of Mr. NSK Herath in exploring the cooling effects of urban wetlands in Colombo city, Sri Lanka

In 2025, Mr. NSK Herath played a pivotal role in the study titled Exploring the Cooling Effects of Urban Wetlands in Colombo City, Sri Lanka. As a key member of the research team, Mr. Herath was responsible for coordinating field data collection, analyzing remote sensing datasets, and validating temperature measurements across multiple urban wetland sites. His expertise in geospatial analysis enabled the team to accurately map temperature variations and identify areas most affected by the urban heat island effect. Mr. Herath's contribution was instrumental in demonstrating how urban wetlands can significantly reduce ambient temperatures and improve environmental quality in Colombo City. Through his work, Mr. Herath has provided valuable insights that support sustainable urban planning and wetland conservation initiatives, reinforcing the importance of integrating natural ecosystems into urban development strategies.

Community Awareness on Disaster Risk Reduction by Dr. W.M.S.B. Wanninayaka on 5th December 2025

Dr. W.M.S.B. Wanninayaka of the Department of Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, actively contributed to community awareness on disaster risk reduction.



An article titled Cyclone, Flood, Landslide: Managing the Impact of a Cascade of Events was published in a national English-language newspaper, highlighting the interconnected nature of climate-induced disasters and emphasizing integrated risk management, early warning systems, land-use planning, and community preparedness. A Sinhala-language feature was also published to reach a broader local audience, focusing on flood risks and community-level preparedness. These outreach efforts demonstrate Dr. Wanninayaka's commitment to translating academic expertise into public knowledge, enhancing community resilience, and promoting disaster awareness and social responsibility.

Distinguished leadership of Dr. LMAP Gunawardhana at the 5th undergraduate research symposium – 2025- 2026

Dr. LMAP Gunawardhana, serving as Symposium Chair, played a key role in organizing the 5th Undergraduate Research Symposium at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities.

Under his guidance, the event brought together undergraduate researchers, academic staff, and students, fostering a dynamic environment of intellectual exchange. Dr. Gunawardhana ensured smooth execution of presentations and interactive discussions while providing insightful guidance and constructive feedback to participants. His leadership highlighted the importance of undergraduate research, inspiring students to pursue academic excellence, critical thinking, and innovative inquiry, and strengthening a culture of scholarship within the faculty.



DEPARTMENT OF

HUMANITIES



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Department of Humanities

Appointments and Promotions

Dr. M. A. Prasad Kumara and Dr. D. J. K. Ihalagedara have successfully completed their doctoral degrees, marking a significant academic achievement. This accomplishment reflects their dedication, perseverance, and commitment to advancing knowledge in their respective fields.



Workshop and Trainnig

The Department of Humanities conducted workshops on Video Editing and Artificial Intelligence for the students of Mass Communication. Training sessions were conducted on Field Map Creation, Health Communication, Public Speaking, Radio Media Studies, Traditional Food Cooking and Marketing (Food Festival), and Traditional Knowledge in Nuwara Kalaviya. The Research and Capacity Development Programme was conducted for the young academic staff.



Cultural Event

Students of the BA (Hons) in History Degree Programme held the Varam-2025 Cultural Event, while the students of Postgraduate Education Science held the Rasoghaya-2025 Cultural Event.



Outreach activities (Knowledge dissemination, social responsibilities)

On Poson Poya Day of 2025, the Tourist Guides Association organized a special tourist guide program, while students of the Mass Communication Programme organized a beach cleaning program, and the final year students of Education Science Unit organized a Sisu Diriya program. Dr. M. A. Prasad Kumara participated in a conference held at the P.G. Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture, and Archaeology, Utkal University, Odisha, India. Prof.M.K.L.Irangani and Mr. H. G. C. Sampath participated in the annual prize distribution ceremony of Thirappane National School and Mihintale National School.





Conferences and symposia

All academic staff members of the Department of Humanities actively participated in several conferences to present their research and published full research papers in the Index and Refereed Journals.

Awards

Prof.T.G.A. Thalwatte received an award for Research Editorial Work, while Mr. Asitha Mallawarachchi was honored with an award for Research-Based Publication, at the Bauddhaloka Literary Festival.

The students of Department of Humanities excelled in both film and dance in 2025, at the Central Province State Short Film Festival. Ms. R.W.M. Sudari Wanasinghe's film, 'The Candle,' swept the awards for Best Short Film, Director, Cinematography, and Editor. Meanwhile, Mr. Pasidu Amantha won second place at the Prathibha – All Island Dance Competition.



Grants

RJT/R&PC/2025/R/FOSH/02:

Cultural Tourism in Rajarata: Balancing Heritage Preservation, Community Engagement, and Modern Tourism Innovation.

RJT/R&PC/2025/R/FOSH/07:

An Investigative Study of Drug Addiction in School Children in Sri Lanka.

Sports

Ms. I. M. Dilrukshi, a BA (Hons) in Mass Communication student, secured third place in the Women's Below 73 kg Taekwondo category at the SLUG 2025 Inter-University Sports Tournament.



Academic Matters

The department hosted five guest lectures featuring distinguished experts from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, the Postgraduate Institute of Archaeology, Bhasha Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, and Axiata Digital Lab. These sessions significantly enhanced students' academic and professional development. Field classes were conducted for History in Trincomalee, Colombo, Kandy, Anuradhapura, Handagala, and Mihintale, while Mass Communication field studies took place in Puttalam, Dambana, and Trincomalee.



DEPARTMENT OF

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



Department of
Information Technology

Workshop on Outcome-Based Education (OBE), Independent Learning Strategies

On June 4, 2025, the Department of Information Technology of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the Faculty Quality Assurance Cell (FQAC), organized a full-day workshop on “Outcome-Based Education (OBE) and Independent Learning Strategies” at Hall No. 20 of the faculty.



This significant initiative marked an important milestone in the department's ongoing efforts to strengthen academic excellence by promoting learner-centered teaching practices. The workshop focused on enhancing the capacity of academic staff to design and deliver courses aligned with Outcome-Based Education (OBE) principles while meeting national quality assurance standards. It also encouraged the adoption of effective independent learning strategies to improve student engagement, critical thinking, and overall learning outcomes.



DEPARTMENT OF

LANGUAGES



Rev. Galkulame Uparathana Thero Appointed as Senior Student Counsellor



We are pleased to announce that Rev. Galkulame Uparathana Thero, Senior Lecturer, has been appointed as the new Senior Student Counsellor of FSSH. Rev. Uparathana Thero brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to student welfare, and will play a key role in providing guidance and support to students throughout their academic journey.

This appointment is expected to strengthen the support services available to students and enhance their overall well-being. We wish Rev. Uparathana Thero success in this important new role.

Chinese Ambassador Scholarships 2025: Honoring Academic Excellence at Rajarata University

Rajarata University of Sri Lanka (RUSL) held the Chinese Ambassador Scholarship Awarding Ceremony on November 27, 2025, under the theme "Bridging Excellence and Compassion." The ceremony was graced by H.E. Mr. Qi Zhenhong, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Sri Lanka, and Dr. P.H.G. Janaka Pushpakumara, Vice Chancellor of RUSL, celebrated academic excellence and cultural exchange.

The scholarship, funded by the Chinese Embassy with LKR 4.2 million (42 lakhs), supports students who excel academically and have financial need. The award prioritizes Chinese language undergraduates and BA (Hons) degree Undergraduates from five other departments in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities.

This event marked a significant step in strengthening Sino-Sri Lankan relations and enhancing educational opportunities for Sri Lankan students.



Lighting the Path of Multilingual Expression: The Launch of Lumina

The Department of Languages has launched Lumina (ISSN 3084-9535), a multilingual e-magazine aimed at promoting linguistic diversity and intercultural dialogue. The first issue, Volume 1, Issue I, was published on May 08, 2025, Department's commitment to creativity and multilingual education at RUSL.

Lumina offers a platform for student contributions in Sinhala, English, Hindi, Chinese, French, and Japanese. It features essays, poetry, short stories, reviews, artwork, and short documentary videos. All submissions go through an academic review process to maintain quality.

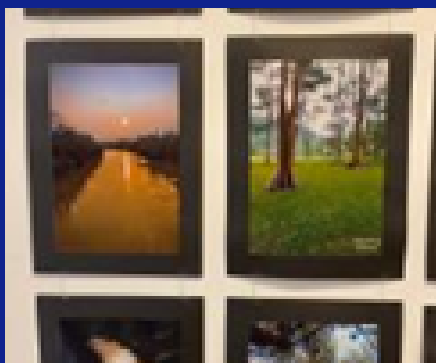


Visit to Alliance Française of Kotte to Participate in a Francophonie Workshop

Students learning French at the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, accompanied by Senior Lecturer S.T.H.P. Samarasinghe, visited the Alliance Française of Kotte on the March 25, 2025 as part of their academic enrichment activities. During the visit, a workshop was conducted for the students, featuring engaging and interactive activities centered on Francophonie. The session provided students with valuable exposure to French language and culture, while encouraging active participation and cultural awareness in an authentic learning environment.



Rajarata University Students Showcase Talent at Francophonie Photography Exhibition



A photography exhibition related to Francophonie was held at the Alliance Française on March 19, 2025, under the theme "Nature." Students of Rajarata University actively participated in the exhibition and presented their own photographic work. The event took place under the guidance of Senior Lecturer S.T.H.P. Samarasinghe and provided students with a valuable opportunity to express their creativity while engaging with Francophone culture through visual art.

Diyaketa Pahana 3rd Phase– A Night of Melody and Celebration

On October 15, 2025, the Department of Languages hosted the Diyaketa Pahana – Third Edition Singing Ceremony at the Faculty of Management's Art Theatre.



Supervised by Professor Ven. Olaganwatte Chandasiri Thero, the event featured artist Mr. Indika Liyanage as a special guest. The ceremony honored student talent, with Nipun Sandip winning the Most Popular Singing Star award and Aditya Bandara receiving the Top Singing Talent award. It fostered creativity, competition, and unity within the university.



Sankathana Sanalika Mandapaya Series at Rajarata University



The Department of Languages host the Sankathana Sanalika Mandapaya series, fostering literary dialogue and intellectual exchange. Guided by Professor Ven. Olaganwatte Chandasiri Thero, the programme has delivered thought-provoking lectures, earning recognition from both local and international audiences. Each event brings together students, faculty, and literary enthusiasts worldwide, strengthening creative discourse and cultural connections.

Rajarata Sankathana at Department of Languages at Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities

As part of the ongoing Rajarata Sankathana academic lecture series, Rajarata University hosted a distinguished lecture on Sinhala poetry by Professor Garrett Field from Ohio University, USA, on August 04, 2025 at Hall 20, Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities. The lecture explored the poetic legacy of Kumarathunga Munidasa, revealing his impact on Sinhala literary education.

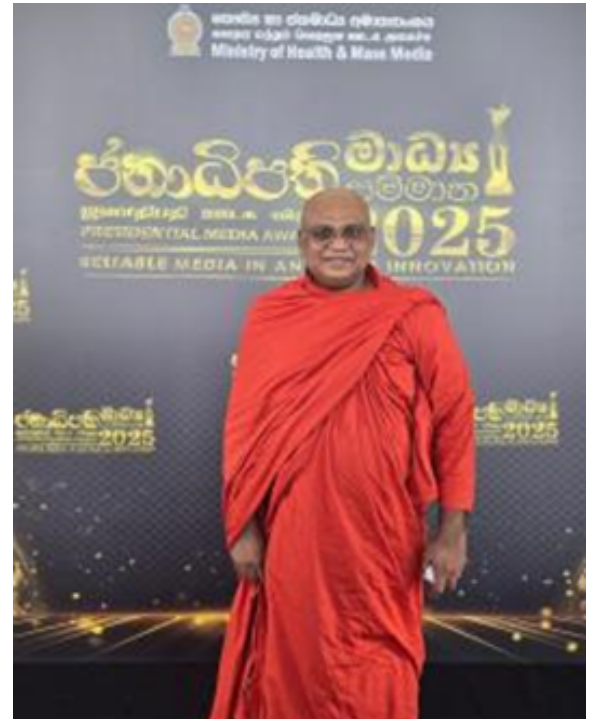
Attended by faculty members and students, the event emphasized the importance of preserving and promoting Sinhala poetry and literature. Organized by the Department of Languages and led by Professor Ven. Olaganwatte Chandasiri Thero, this session continues the university's commitment to intellectual growth and literary scholarship.



Ven. Prof. Olaganwatte Chandasiri Thero Serves as Judging Panel Member at the 2025 Presidential Media Awards

Ven. Prof. Olaganwatte Chandasiri Thero, Head of the Department of Languages, has been invited to serve as a Judging Panel Member at the prestigious 2025 Presidential Media Awards. This unique opportunity recognizes Ven. Prof. Chandasiri Thero's significant contributions to academia and the media sector.

His role in the judging panel highlights his expertise and influence in promoting academic excellence and media integrity in Sri Lanka. Ven. Prof. Chandasiri Thero's involvement in this distinguished event underscores his commitment to fostering knowledge and enhancing the relationship between media and academia.



Japanese Ambassador's Visit

On February 10, 2025, His Excellency Mr Akio Isomata, Ambassador of Japan, visited Rajarata University of Sri Lanka and held a meeting specially with the undergraduates who are following Japanese Language. The occasion provided a valuable opportunity for academic collaboration and discussion. During the meeting, the students were warmly congratulated by the Ambassador on their academic excellence and achievements, with due recognition given to their dedication, hard work, and success in their respective programmes.



Establishment of the Language Club by the Department of Languages at Rajarata University

On August 13, 2025, the Department of Languages at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, launched the Language Club, aimed at supporting inclusive and equitable quality education. The club provides a dedicated space for undergraduate students to practice their language skills, engage in cultural exchange, and participate in charity and social work. Encouraging collaborative learning, the Language Club offers students the opportunity to improve their language proficiency, contribute to social causes, and interact with peers from diverse backgrounds. This initiative reflects the university's commitment to fostering an inclusive, dynamic academic environment that also promotes community engagement.



Department Research: Folk Culture in Kabithigollawa Division – Tradition and Transformation

The Department of Languages at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka is currently conducting research on the folk culture of Kabithigollawa Division, focusing on its traditions and transformations. As part of this initiative, the department organized a series of workshops to enhance the research capabilities of academic staff.



The first workshop, held on June 05, 2025, was led by Professor Manoj Samarathunga. This workshop, supported by a grant, focuses on various research methodologies, providing faculty with the latest research tools and fostering collaboration and professional development.

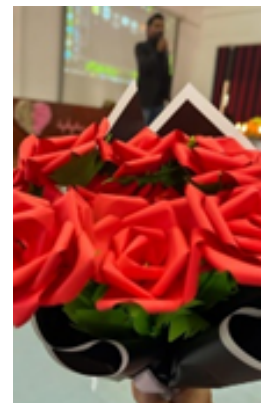
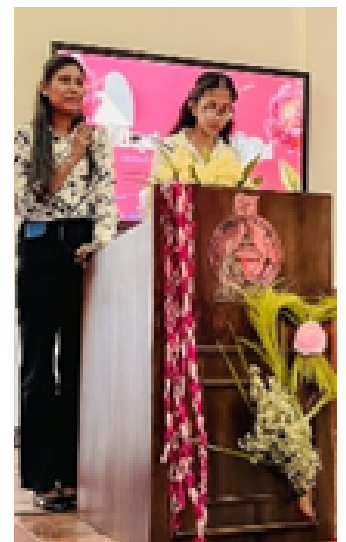
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES



DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SCIENCES

Valentine's Day Programme

The Department of Social Sciences at the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka organized an engaging Valentine's Day program on February 13, 2025, exploring the theme "Cinematic Love and University Love" for the undergraduates of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, in faculty premises. Guest speaker Mr. John Dinesh, acclaimed actor and former Temporary Assistant Lecturer at the University of Kelaniya, shared insightful reflections that enriched the audience's understanding of love in both artistic and academic settings. The session fostered meaningful dialogue and brought the university community together in the true spirit of Valentine's Day.



Women's Day Workshop

The department of Social Sciences at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka organized a two-day workshop for the undergraduates of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities to celebrate International Women's Day 2025 under the title of, "Gender, Prevention of gender-based Violence and Mental Health", with the great guidance of the Head, Dr. Prabash Siriwardhana. That was held on March 11-12, 2025, at Hall 20, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, collaborate with the National Committee on Women, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs. It was attended by the Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Prof. E. M. S. Ekanayake and the Dean, Faculty of Applied Sciences, Dr. Manoj Fernando and the Head of the departments of the faculty.



The first day featured distinguished resource persons such as Dr. Asitha Kosala, Medical Officer of Health Kekirawa, addressed the audience about the topic of 'Sex and Gender'. Mrs. Jeewa Ranasinghe (Attorney at Law), Assistant Deputy Director, North Central Province Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka conducted an insightful lecture on 'Gender base violence and Sri Lankan Law'. The Dean Faculty of Applied Sciences Dr. Manoj Fernando also delivered a lecture to the audience based on the workshop title. Day two focused on practical activities aimed at enhancing students' mental well-being. The sessions were conducted by Ms. Thushini Vithanage and Mr. Ruwan Hettiarachchi, Psychological Counselling Officers from the National Committee on Women. During the two days, undergraduates gained valuable knowledge, enjoyed meaningful discussions, and benefited from the refreshments and meals provided by the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs. The workshop concluded successfully, providing an enriching learning experience with for all participants with valuable participation certificate.



Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) Workshop

The Department of Social Sciences successfully held a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) Workshop on August 22, 2025. The program aimed to strengthen the practical skills of Sociology undergraduates as amateurs' researchers in participatory development methods. The workshop blended with enriching activities, including insightful guest lectures about PRA methods, field visits and collaborative group assignments.



The sessions were conducted by two expert facilitators, Mr. Priyantha Kumara (T-Field Child Development Federation) and Mr. Naveen Dharmawardhana (Institute for Participatory Interaction in Development – IPID), who shared valuable insights and hands-on experiences. A practical field component at Mihinthale Village allowed students to apply PRA tools such as transect walks, community mapping, seasonal calendars, and focus group discussions. This real-world exposure helped bridge lecture room learning with community-based practice. The Department expresses its gratitude to the facilitators, and the Mihinthale community for their contribution to making the workshop a meaningful practical learning experiences for our undergraduates.



“අත්තවු” CSR project

As part of its commitment to community engagement and social responsibility, the Sociological Association of the Department of Social Sciences successfully implemented the first step of the “අත්තවු” CSR project as a social work initiative on August 29, 2025. This project was carried out for the benefit of students of Mihinthale ‘Ukkulankulama Rural School’ in Anuradhapura District, with the guidance and supervision of the Head of the Department and the Senior Treasurer of Sociological Association. Under this initiative, the Association mobilized contributions from well-wishers and collected essential school accessories to support students from rural backgrounds. In addition, a Ceiling fan was donated to the school’s main hall, contributing to the improvement of the learning environment. This initiative reflects the Sociological Association’s dedication to applying sociological values in practice and fostering meaningful connections between the university and surrounding rural communities.



Guest Lecture Series 01

A guest lecture series led by Prof. HUS Pradeep Department of Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, was organized by Department of Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. The guest lectures provided Sociology undergraduates with insight for “Human Rights and Fundamental Rights in Sri Lanka” with overview to the principles of human rights, the structure of fundamental rights in the Sri Lankan Constitution, and their relevance to contemporary social issues. Students and the staff of the Department of Social Sciences actively participated in this guest lecture on October 09, 2025 from 9.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m.



The second guest lecture on the topic of “Skills for Effective Presentation” was also led by Prof. HUS Pradeep, for the students of Department of Social Sciences, from 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. on the same day. The Department of Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities Rajarata University of Sri Lanka organized this guest lecture aimed at enhancing students' ability in presentation skills.



Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) Workshop

The Department of Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, successfully organized a research-oriented lecture series aimed at strengthening students' academic writing and research skills. The series included three insightful sessions: “How to Perform an Effective Literature Review” by Dr. Susantha Rasnayake, “How to Write a Research Proposal” by Prof. Dhammika Herath, and “Grounded Theory as an Approach to Qualitative Inquiry” by Dr. Thushara Kamalrathne, all from the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya, conducted on October 10, 2025 at Hall 20, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities. The lectures provided our undergraduates with guidance on literature reviewing, proposal writing, and qualitative research methodologies, significantly enhancing their research competence and academic confidence.



“Salaniya” Cultural Show 2025

The Department of Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, successfully organized “Salaniya”(සලනියා) – Cultural Show 2025’ on October 15, 2025 at the ‘Epiphany Auditorium of the Faculty of Technology, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. This vibrant cultural event was graced by the Dean of the Faculty, Heads of Departments, Senior Assistant Registrar (SAR), along with all academic and non-academic staff, and was opened to all undergraduates of the University.



Introduced as a pioneering initiative by the Head of the Department, Dr. Prabash Siriwardana, “Salaniya” marked the first cultural talent show of its kind organized by the Department of Social Sciences. The successful execution of the event was made possible through the generous support of local and foreign sponsors, whose contributions played a vital role in enhancing the quality and scale of the programme. Beyond entertainment, the event integrated sociological and tourism perspectives, highlighting themes of cultural identity, diversity, tradition, modernity, globalization, and social transformation. Through music, dance, drama, and artistic performances, “Salaniya” provided a meaningful platform for undergraduates to express creativity while reflecting a “Society in Transition,” fostering unity, cultural appreciation, and intellectual engagement within the university community.





NEWS LETTER 2025

Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka
