

## Conceptual hypothesis for Lakshmi coins in Sri Lanka

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Sri Lanka having a long history for the Numismatics Evidences. 1st coin that finds in Sri Lanka dated to 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC. Its a punch mark coin. Then the Lakshmi coins and elephant and swastika coins are showing in history. Those coins were dated to 2nd century BC according to the Anuradhapura Gedige excavation. When we are talking about the Lakshmi coins, the Lakshmi concept is very important. In Sri Lanka around the 2nd century BC, there was no evidence can find about the Lakshmi concept. But in the Indian context and the literary sources shows Lakshmi most of the times. The first resource that shows about Lakshmi is Reg, Veda. And the Athar Veda is the book that used the word, Lakshmi. But in the context of Sri Lanka, we don't have archaeological or a piece of literary evidence that giving the details about Lakshmi. The Lakshmi figure firstly shows in Sri Lanka in the period of Polonnaruwa. From that onwards there are lots of evidence about Lakshmi. But in the history of Numismatics, it's changed. In 2nd Century BC, we can find the first evidence of Lakshmi Coins. And also its continues until the 7th Century AD according to the evidence that finds in Ruhuna. And several types of Lakshmi coins can find in around Sri Lanka. The concept of Lakshmi in Sri Lanka it's changed. Most of the researches who studied about Lakshmi, said that Lakshmi is a Hindu concept and it comes from India. but the question is if it's a Hindu concept or a worshiped goddess in india, how it comes to Sri Lanka in the period of 2nd century BC. Because in that period Buddhism is very tuff in Sri Lanka. And the second thing is the according to the archaeological researches the Lakshmi coins are begins in Ruhuna. According to the history of Sri Lanka, Ruhuna is the main place that Buddhist empires made for trone in Sri Lanka. It shows Lakshmi is not only a religious belief in ancient India and Sri Lanka. It also a conceptual hypothesis in the old days. In this research, my research aim is to study the reason that the concept of Lakshmi used for numismatics evidence in Ancient Sri Lanka. And according to that research aim, my research question is how can I overlap the idea about the Lakshmi concept in modern Sri Lanka.

Key words : Sri Lakshmi, Concept, Numismatics Evidence, Sri Lanka, India

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