



NEWSLETTER

University of Sri Jayewardenepura

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PHOTOGRAPHED BY
DULRAN HEWAVITHANA

T20 WOMEN'S CRICKET MATCH
ORGANIZED BY THE WOMEN'S CRICKET TEAM - USJ

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The newsletter of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura
"Savidu" is a tri-annual newsletter carrying the vibrant academic,
cultural and communal life of
the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

NEWS

Prof. Shirantha Heenkenda Reappointed as Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

The University of Sri Jayawardenepura reappointed the Senior Professor Shirantha Heenkenda as the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. A distinguished economist and academic leader, Prof. Heenkenda brings over two decades of experience in higher education, public policy, and research to this vital leadership role.

ලංකාදීප ජූනි 24, 2025

ජ්‍යෙෂ්ඨ මහාචාර්ය ශිරාන්ත හෙවැනි වරටත් ජ'පුර මානව ශාස්ත්‍ර පීඨාධිපති ධුරයට

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Annual Oration at the 5th Biennial Conference, College of Biochemists of Sri Lanka

Prof. Sagarika Ekanayake, Senior Professor and Chair at the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medical Sciences, delivered the Annual Oration at the 5th Biennial Conference of the College of Biochemists of Sri Lanka, titled "Living Healthier, Living Longer: Tackling NCDs through Dietary Habits". The event was held on 27th June 2025 at Mandarina Hotel, Colombo.



Contributing towards Ministry of Health initiatives

Prof. Sagarika Ekanayake, Senior Professor and Chair at the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medical Sciences, participated as a contributor in the following consultative meetings organized by the Ministry of Health and Mass Media, on the invitation of Deputy Directors General (Public Health Services) of the Ministry:

- Consultative meeting for the development of a TOT manual for Food Based Dietary Guidelines (FBDG), held on 1st August 2025, at the Ministry auditorium.

Second Consultative meeting for the revision of guidelines for a healthy canteen in workplaces, held on 8th July 2025, at the auditorium of the Family Health Bureau.

Preservation of Repatriated Indigenous Human Skeletal Remains of Sri Lankans Returned from Switzerland and the United Kingdom, at Dambana–Mahiyanganaya

University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom (on 22nd November 2019), and Natural History Museum Basel, Switzerland (on 30th April 2024), safely returned nine (09) and forty-two (42) indigenous human skeletal remains of Sri Lankans and cultural objects from their collections, to the rightful custody of the indigenous population chief Uruwarige Wanniya Aththo.



This was initiated by Dr. Oshan Wedage, Senior Lecturer, Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Indigenous population chief Uruwarige Wanniya Aththo and the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs of Sri Lanka granted permission to Senior Professor Surangi Yasawardene (Chair Professor of Anatomy, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura) and Dr. Sajith Edirisinghe (Senior lecturer in Anatomy, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura) to carry out osteometric measurements, radiological assessments, and DNA analysis of the returned skeletal remains and to assemble and preserve these skeletons for exhibition and future research. As a response to the national request, Senior Prof S.G. Yasawardene, Dr. Sajith Edirisinghe, Prof. Harsha Dissanayake, Professor in Anatomy, FMS, USJ and Prof. Maduwanthi Dissanayake, Professor in Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, visited the cultural heritage museum in Dambana village - Wariga Maha Gedara (වාරිග මහගෙදර), Mahiyanganaya and preserved the skeletons for exhibition purposes and for future scientific studies.

The museum with preserved skeletons and cultural objects was ceremonially opened for public display on 9 August 2025, along with the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

celebration by his excellency Anura Kumara Dissanayake, Executive President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Prof M M Pathmalal, Vice-Chancellor, Prof Manori Gamage, Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Senior Prof Surangi G Yasawardena, Prof Harsha Dissnayake, Prof Bawantha Gamage, and Dr. Sajith Edirisinghe participated in this occasion.



Inauguration of the 5th intake for the Diploma in Forensic Medicine and Toxicology

The Department of Forensic Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences marked a significant milestone with the inauguration of the fifth intake of Diploma in Forensic Medicine and Toxicology held on 24th August 2025, at the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. We had the honour of the presence of the Vice Chancellor (Act.) Professor Shirantha Heenkenda, Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences USJP, Professor Manori Gamage, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine Uva Wellassa University, Professor Muditha Vidanapathirana, Coordinator of programme, Professor Sanjaya Hulathduwa, Director General of Presidential Legal Affairs, Mr. J. M. Wijebandara ALL, Honourable District Judge Mr. Kesara Samaradiwakara, Professor Ravindra Fernando, Head of the Department of Forensic Medicine Professor Dammika Ariyaratna and distinguished members of the staff. Around 150 students participated in the ceremony.

The vice chancellor and other academic members addressed the gathering, warmly welcoming the new candidates encouraging the candidates to uphold the highest standards of professionalism

and ethics throughout their studies. They highlighted the vital role of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology in the justice system and public health.

The ceremony was concluded with a note of gratitude and optimism, marking the beginning of an enriching academic journey for the 5th Batch of diploma candidates.



Life-Saving Skills for Three-Wheeler Drivers

On 18th August 2025, the Skills Lab of the Faculty of Medical Sciences became the venue for a unique community initiative - a pilot training workshop for three-wheeler drivers recruited through the ride-share platform PickMe. The programme was designed to give drivers practical, life-saving skills that they could apply immediately at the roadside in case of emergencies.



Three-wheeler drivers are often the first on the scene after road accidents. Equipping them with the confidence to act quickly and correctly can prevent catastrophic complications and even save lives.

The training programme focused on what can realistically be done at the roadside with available resources. Followed by an initial lecture in Sinhala, the participants were given hands-on practice at five skills stations with mannequins. A colourful brochure designed by students was provided to each participant as a take-home guide.

Based on a concept by Prof Manori Gamage, Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, the programme was planned and guided by Dr Kavya Botejue and facilitated by the students of the Resuscitation Club of the faculty, under the full sponsorship of PickMe.



Hands-on training workshop on systematic fish necropsy examination and histopathology for veterinarians

As part of the continuous professional development programme conducted by the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association (SLVA) for veterinarians in Sri Lanka, Dr. Erandi Pathirana, of the Department of Aquatic Bioresources, Faculty of Urban and Aquatic Bioresources, was invited by the SLVA as a resource person to conduct a hands-on training workshop on systematic fish necropsy examination. The hands-on session was followed by a clinical discussion on fish histopathology using clinical cases and disease outbreaks. Both sessions highlighted the use of necropsy examination and histopathology as diagnostic tool in fish health management. The programme targeted veterinarians already involved in aquatic animal health management and those who were interested in expanding their clinical and diagnostic approaches to cover aquatic animal health management.

The training workshop was successfully held on 13th June, 2025, at the Aquaculture Development Center, Western Provincial Council, Pitipana, Negombo, with the participation of state veterinary investigation officers, field veterinarians and private practitioners. The workshop was well embraced both by the participants of the workshop and the SLVA, leading to requests from related institutions, to conduct programmes targeting various related groups and professionals involved in aquatic animal health management.



Dr. Erandi Pathirana - Appointment as the General Secretary of the Sri Lanka College of Veterinary Surgeons

Dr. Erandi Pathirana, Head/Department of Aquatic Bioresources, Faculty of Urban and Aquatic Bioresources, has been appointed as the General Secretary of the Sri Lanka College of Veterinary Surgeons at the 10th Annual General Meeting and the Induction Ceremony of the Sri Lanka College of Veterinary Surgeons, held on 27th June, 2025, at the Hotel Renuka, Colombo.

Officially established in the year 2015, the Sri Lanka College of Veterinary Surgeons is the apex body of registered veterinarians in Sri Lanka, registered under the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007. It is primarily aimed at the advancement of the veterinary profession, enhancing competence of those who practice in the veterinary profession, and to examine, certify and award professional qualifications (honorary fellowships, fellowships and memberships) to veterinarians as specialists in specified areas of veterinary and allied sciences. Dr. Pathirana is a registered fellow of the College.



First Professor of the Faculty of Urban and Aquatic Bioresources appointed on merit-basis

Dr. Erandi Pathirana, Head/Department of Aquatic Bioresources, Faculty of Urban and Aquatic Bioresources, was promoted to the post of Professor in Aquatic Bioresources with effect from 30th April, 2024. Prof. Pathirana is a registered veterinarian in the Sri Lanka Veterinary Council and she achieved her Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Peradeniya in the year 2003, securing two prestigious gold medals for best performance at the final BVSc examination. Having earned a Master of Science degree in Biological Sciences from the Osaka Prefecture University, Japan, Prof. Pathirana obtained her PhD degree from the University of Sydney, Australia, specializing in Aquatic Animal Health and Microbiology, as an Endeavour Postgraduate Scholar of the Australian Government.

Prof Pathirana was awarded the Eminent Veterinarian Award for Sri Lanka (Category – Aquaculture) from the SAARC Regional Veterinary Association, in the year 2024. An affiliate of the University of Sydney, Australia, Prof. Pathirana secured a competitive research grant from the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) in the year 2021 to characterize the microbiome of Indian oysters for sustainable and profitable oyster farming in Sri Lanka. She also serves the General Secretary of the Sri Lanka College of Veterinary Surgeons. With over 13 years of experience as a permanent academic in the Sri Lankan university system, Prof. Pathirana is the first Professor of the Faculty of Urban and Aquatic Bioresources, appointed on merit-basis.



Keynote at the First International Conference on Unravelling Pathogen Lifecycles and Advancing Diagnostics in the One Health Era

Prof. Neelika Malavige was invited as the Keynote speaker of the IDEAnet Health Forum of the University of Colombo. This is the First International Conference on Unravelling Pathogen Lifecycles and Advancing Diagnostics in the One Health Era. Prof Malavige spoke on the topic "From Limited Resources to Limitless Impact: Rethinking Research for Health and Prosperity." The event was graced by the German ambassador and many scientists from Robert Koch Institute, including officials from the WHO and MOH, Sri Lanka.

Her Keynote address was also featured in the Island and Vidusara: 'Recognizing science, research and innovation vital for economic turnaround' – The Island



Keynote at the Annual academic sessions of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Moratuwa

Prof. Neelika Malavige was invited as the Chief Guest and the Keynote speaker of the Annual academic sessions of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Moratuwa and addressed the gathering on the topic 'Should doctors do research?'



13th Annual Scientific Sessions of the Vaccines and Infectious Diseases Forum of Sri Lanka 2025

Prof. Neelika Malavige was invited as the Chief Guest at the 13th Annual Scientific Sessions of the Vaccines and Infectious Diseases Forum of Sri Lanka 2025, and delivered a talk on 'Overcoming the Roadblocks: Challenges in Vaccine Development and Immunization Programs'



10th Asian Vaccine conference

At the 10th Asian Vaccine conference held in Penang, Malaysia, Prof Neelika Malavige delivered a lecture on Comprehensive Management, Control and Prevention of Dengue. She also participated in judging the oral presentations at the conference, which was attended by over 600 Paediatricians and other clinicians from Asia.

Link to conference website: <https://mpa2025.org/>



The annual International Symposium on Hepatitis C Virus, Flaviviruses and Related Viruses (HCV-Flavi-2025)

Prof. Neelika Malavige was invited to deliver a Plenary talk on 'Pathogenesis of Severe Dengue in the Context of Obesity: Roles of T Cells, Monocytes, and Oxidative Stress'.

The annual International Symposium on Hepatitis C Virus, Flaviviruses and Related Viruses is recognized internationally as the premier meeting for researchers working in the HCV and related flavivirus fields. Rotating through meeting venues in Europe, North America and Asia/Australia since 1992, the meeting has played a key role in both promoting excellence in research, driving discoveries in virus replication, pathogenesis and genetics, and providing the knowledge base for the spectacular advances in antiviral and vaccine development.

Link to conference website: <https://www.hcv-flavi2025.org/>

Immuno-Cambodia 2025: Immune responses to Arbovirus infections

At the Immuno-Cambodia 2025: Immune responses to Arbovirus infections held in Cambodia, Prof. Neelika Malavige was invited to deliver a lecture on 'Comorbidities and the Impact of Genetic Background on Arboviral Diseases'. She also contributed as a mentor at the grant writing workshop and was a judge of the posters. This meeting was organized by the Education Committee of the International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS) and Institute of Pasteur Cambodia.



Prof Bawantha Gamage's research takes centre stage at global surgical congress

In a remarkable achievement that puts Sri Lankan cancer research on the international stage, Prof. Bawantha Gamage from the Department of Surgery at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura delivered the prestigious Dr. R.L. Spittle Oration 2025 at the Sri Lankan Surgical Congress held at Cinnamon Grand Colombo on September 13th, 2025.

This annual academic showcase, organized by the College of Surgeons of Sri Lanka (CSSL) in collaboration with the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, UK, and the South Asian Surgical Care Society, brought together leading surgical experts from around the world, including representatives from the UK, USA, Japan, Russia, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, and across the South Asian region.

Professor Gamage was selected by an expert panel from seven competitive submissions to present his pioneering research on "Metagenomic analysis of colonic tissue and stool microbiome in patients with colorectal cancer in a South Asian population" – marking the first study of its kind ever conducted in Sri Lanka.

This groundbreaking cancer research represents a significant milestone in understanding colorectal cancer within South Asian populations and demonstrates USJP's commitment to cutting-edge medical research that addresses regional health challenges while contributing to global scientific knowledge. The research was conducted by the team led by Prof. Bawantha Gamage & Prof. Neelika Malavige.

The recognition at this international platform underscores the university's growing reputation as a center of excellence in medical education and cancer research innovation.



Welcome Ceremony for the 35th Batch of the Faculty of Medical Sciences

The Welcome Ceremony for the 35th Batch of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, was successfully held on 16th December 2025 at the Anatomy Auditorium. The event warmly welcomed the aspiring young undergraduates, marking the beginning of their academic journey with inspiration, guidance, and a strong sense of community.



Advanced Certificate in Monitoring & Evaluation - 4th Intake Inauguration

The Department of Community Medicine of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, in collaboration with the Centre for Evaluation of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, offers the Advanced Certificate in Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) programme.

In Sri Lanka, this 4-month M&E programme is currently offered only by our university, the pioneer in M&E education in the country. This highly sought-after programme is designed to equip beginners and professionals with essential knowledge and practical skills in M&E

We celebrated the inauguration of the 4th intake and the certificate awarding ceremony for the 50 participants of the 3rd intake who successfully completed the course on 22nd November 2025 at the Faculty of Medical Sciences.

Prof. Manori Gamage, Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Organised under the guidance of Prof. Maheeka Seneviwickrama, Course Coordinator and Head of the Department and Dr. Asela Kalugampitiya, Director for Centre for Evaluation and an M&E expert, this event highlights the university's continued commitment in fostering expertise in the field of M&E. The event was attended by academic and administrative officials of the faculty and distinguished experts in the M&E field.



CONFERENCES AND RESEARCH RELATED EVENTS

Medical Undergraduate Research Symposium (MURS)

Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura successfully hosted the Medical Undergraduate Research Symposium (MURS) 2025 on 14th November 2025, under the theme “*Innovative Research for Sustainable Healthcare*”. Organised by the Research Committee, the symposium provided a national platform for medical undergraduates from across Sri Lankan universities to present original research aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The event commenced with an Inauguration Ceremony, graced by Senior Professor Pathmalal M. Manage, Vice Chancellor of USJ, and Professor Manori Gamage, Dean of FMS. The keynote address was delivered by Vidyajyothi Professor Asita de Silva, who inspired the audience with a compelling reflection on the role of research, innovation, and global health priorities. He emphasised ethical, evidence-based, and locally relevant research while encouraging students to pursue curiosity-driven inquiry and sustainable healthcare solutions.

A total of 62 abstracts were presented, selected through a peer-reviewed process by the Scientific Committee, and categorised into nine thematic areas. Presentations took place across three parallel sessions, with over 300 participants in attendance. Academic judges selected the Best Presentation in each session, with winners receiving certificates during the closing ceremony. The Book of Proceedings, which includes all accepted abstracts, is now



available for download via the official symposium webpage: <https://medical.sjp.ac.lk/murs-fms/>. A special highlight of MURS 2025 was the official logo competition, won by Mr. Zainy Hassan Ziya of the 32nd Batch. His design now features on all symposium materials. Additional entries received certificates of appreciation for creative contribution.

Feedback from participants praised the event's organisation, mentorship, and academic quality. MURS 2025 marks a significant step in nurturing research culture among medical undergraduates, fostering academic excellence, inter-university collaboration, and student-led innovation in healthcare.



CONTRIBUTION TO NATINAL DEVELOPMENT

WHO Regional Technical advisory group (RTAG) on Dengue and other arboviruses of public health importance in the South-East Asia Region

Prof. Neelika Malavige, who was appointed as a member of the WHO SEARO RTAG on dengue and other arboviruses in 2025 (1 August 2025 to 31 July 2028), shared her expertise on dengue and other arbovirus surveillance and enhancing laboratory capacity, dengue case management, risk communication and community engagement.



Regional Meeting on Review of Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Partnership Contribution (PC) and Preparedness and Resilience for Emerging Threats (PRET) implementation in SEAR in Colombo

University of Sri Jayewardenepura has been selected as the WHO UNITY study site in Sri Lanka. Of the 10 member countries in the SEARO region, only 5 countries had centers, which fulfilled the requirement to be a WHO UNITY study site, with University of Sri Jayewardenepura being one of the 6 study sites (2 sites are from India). Prof. Neelika Malavige is the principal investigator of this study site in Sri Lanka and will lead these studies in collaboration with MOH, Sri Lanka.



Successful completion of 20th placenta accreta lower segment cesarean section delivery at placenta accreta center in CSTH.

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AWARDS OF ACADEMIC STAFF

SUSRED 2024 award for M.Phil supervision

Prof. Sagarika Ekanayake, Senior Professor and Chair at the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medical Sciences, received the SUSRED 2024 award for M.Phil supervision, at the National Science Foundation Awards ceremony for the year 2024 held on 16th July 2025 at the BMICH.



Sri Lanka Academy of Young Scientists (SLAYS) - Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition at National Science Week 2025

Dr. Thushali Ranasinghe, a Lecturer at the Department of Immunology and Molecular Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences, was selected as one of the 10 finalists at the 2025 Sri Lanka Academy of Young Scientists (SLAYS) Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition, on Thursday 13th November 2025 held at Water's Edge Hotel, Battaramulla.

She presented her work on Anaphylaxis in Sri Lankan patients and important causes representing an important contribution to understanding the clinical and social issues that are often missed.



AWARDS OF STUDENTS

Faculty of Medical Sciences Wins Inaugural Oncology Quiz 2025

The Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, emerged as the champions of the inaugural Oncology Quiz organized by the Sri Lanka College of Oncologists, competing against teams from all 12 medical faculties in the country.

The team was guided by Prof. Thushara Matthias of the Department of Medicine and consisted of:

Mahima Suresh

Ghajhanee Vigneswaran

Mahen Samaranayake

Dinul Rabel

Pasan Kularatna

Vihanga Liyanagamage

This achievement reflects the dedication and effort of our students, as well as the guidance and support of the faculty. We warmly congratulate the team on their success and commend them for bringing recognition to the University.



This victory is yet another testament to the Faculty's tradition of academic excellence and commitment to nurturing future medical professionals.

University of Sri Jayewardenepura Wins Inter Medical Faculty Physiology Quiz 2025 Championship

Students from the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, have been crowned champions of the prestigious Professor Carlo Fonseka Challenge Trophy – 10th Inter-Medical Faculty Physiology Quiz 2025. The event, organized by the Physiological Society of Sri Lanka, took place on June 14, 2025, at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo.

The victorious team demonstrated exceptional knowledge and unwavering determination

throughout the competition. Their journey began with a strong performance in the opening round against Uva Wellassa University, followed by a quarter-final victory over Sabaragamuwa University. They then progressed through a challenging semi-final encounter with the University of Colombo.

The team's quiet dedication and collaborative spirit were evident, culminating in a strong showing in the final match against the University of Peradeniya. Their profound grasp of physiology and cohesive teamwork were key to their success.

The Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, is immensely proud of the team's hard work and the respectful manner in which they represented their university. This achievement stands as a testament to their commitment and collective effort



Mahima Suresh Tops National MBBS Merit Order List

We are immensely proud to announce that Mahima Suresh, a medical student of the Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS), University of Sri Jayewardenepura, has secured the first place in the National Merit Order List of MBBS Graduates for the 2017/2018 intake.

It is also noteworthy that this is the second consecutive year that a medical student of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura ranked first in the All-Island MBBS Merit order.

Mahima Suresh has demonstrated unparalleled academic excellence throughout her career at the FMS. She obtained First Class Honours in all three MBBS examinations (1st, 2nd, and Final MBBS), achieving distinctions in all 15 subjects, a truly remarkable feat. Her brilliance has been recognised with prestigious awards, including the Prof. Senaka Bibile Award in Pharmacology and the Most Outstanding Award for Excellence in Academics and Extracurricular Activities (2019/2020).

While an undergraduate at the FMS, Mahima brought much honour to the university at various events. She was a member of the teams that emerged Champions at the Inter-Faculty

Microbiology Quiz (2022) and the Inter-Faculty Oncology Quiz (2025), and reached the semi-finals of the Global Inter-Medical College Physiology Quiz (2021). She won the title of Best Speaker at the Sri Lankan Inter-University Debating Championship 2019, organized by the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo. In recognition of her well-rounded excellence, she was named a semi-finalist for the Best Employability Skills Achiever Award (2022), organized by the Career Guidance Unit.



Mahima has also excelled in compering, winning 1st place at the Talents Competition, and has hosted many cultural and academic events. Mahima is also a talented veenai player and Carnatic vocalist. Being gifted in creative writing, she won 1st place in short story writing and 3rd place in essay writing at the Talents competition. In sports, she demonstrated her versatility by winning 1st place in table tennis at the inter-batch tournament.

Mahima has displayed strong leadership qualities as a National Council Member of the Sri Lanka Tamil Debaters Council and Vice President of the Hindu Society, FMS. She also organised and actively contributed to 'Kalvi Karam 2023', the annual social project of the Hindu Society, FMS. Mahima has also been involved in several research projects and presented abstracts at Medical Conferences. After completing her MBBS, Mahima has been working as a Demonstrator at the Department of Medicine, FMS, where she has contributed to the teaching of final-year medical students, while continuing her involvement in clinical research and conference presentations.



Mahima Suresh's achievements exemplify the balance of academic brilliance, leadership, cultural talent, social commitment, and research excellence. Her journey serves as an inspiration to aspiring medical students across the country, and as she embarks on her professional career, we are confident that she will continue to bring pride and honour to the faculty and university.

it was J'pura Women's Hockey team who stole the spotlight with an unbeaten streak, rising as the champions.

Outstanding research excellence earns MPhil gold medal at university of Sri Jayewardenepura

T.M.G. Y. Demini Wimalajeewa was awarded the MPhil Gold Medal at the convocation of university of Sri Jayewardenepura on 19th November 2025, for her outstanding contributions to research, including achieving the highest number of national and international publications, patents, and research awards.

Her remarkable academic journey, guided by Professor Madura Jayawardane as the principal supervisor, demonstrates innovation, scholarly excellence, and significant impact. The award recognizes her dedication, perseverance, and leadership in advancing knowledge and research productivity.

The university appreciated her achievement as a testament to its commitment to nurturing top-tier researchers, inspiring the next generation of postgraduate students to pursue excellence in innovation and academic contributions.



Inter Faculty Internal Medicine Quiz 2025

The Inter-Faculty Internal Medicine Quiz 2025 organized by the Sri Lanka College of Internal Medicine (SLCIM) was held on the 4th November 2025. In its fourth consecutive year, this competition brought together 11 medical faculties from around the country for a highly competitive medical contest.

The quiz comprised 5 rounds each consisting of eight questions. It was held primarily as a picture quiz covering key areas of internal medicine while also incorporating some components from history of medicine. Marks were awarded based on both the accuracy and the speed of response. The team from Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura lead the quiz with the highest score and emerged as winners of the quiz. The winning team was subsequently awarded the trophy and medals at SIMCON 2025- the Annual Academic Sessions of the Sri Lanka College of Internal Medicine- held at Shangri-La Hotel on 14th November 2025. The awards were presented by Dr. Krishantha Jayesekara, President of SLCIM.

The team consisted of Indeewara Thilakarathna, Lakshika Varatharajah, Chamod Dissanayake, Yomashi Dickmadugoda and Tharindu Dinethra whose dedication, hardwork and excellent team coordination lead them to this outstanding achievement. The team's success was further strengthened by the continuous training and mentorship provided by Dr. Rakitha Higgoda along with Dr. Indika Wettasinghe and Prof. Nilanka Perera.

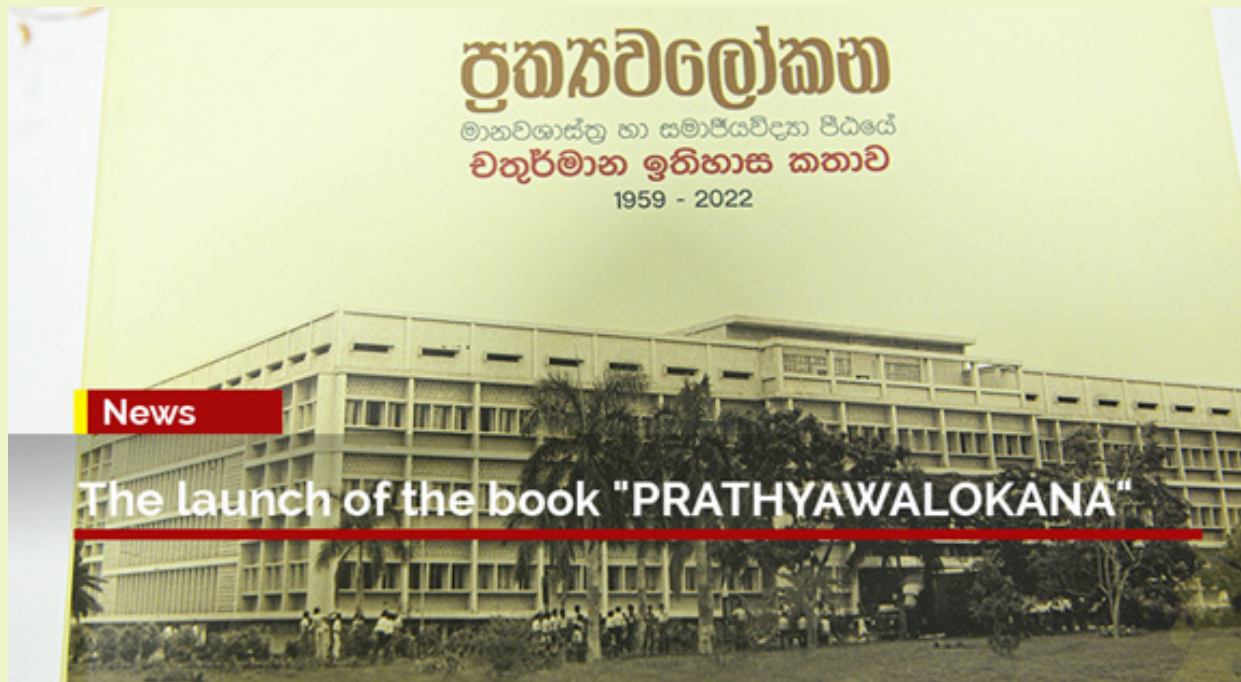
This exceptional achievement has brought immense pride and recognition to both the Faculty and the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

The most coveted awards of the night, the Most Outstanding Sportswoman and Sportsman of the Year, were presented to Tharushi Himahansika Weerasekara and R. Thushyanthana, respectively, for their exceptional performances in their respective sports.



LAUNCH OF BOOKS, JOURNALS, MAGAZINES

The launch of the book "PRATHYAWALOKANA", compiled based on the history of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, was held on 16.06.2025 at 10.00 a.m. at Sri Wimaladhamma mansion with the participation of the Senior Prof. Pathmalal M Manage, Vice-Chancellor of University of Sri Jayewardenepura.



SPORTS

Historic T20 Women's Cricket Match Held at University of Sri Jayewardenepura



The first-ever women's cricket match in the history of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was successfully held on the 12th of June 2025 at the university grounds, marking a significant milestone in the university's sporting journey. The event was organized by the newly formed women's cricket team of the university.

The much-anticipated T20 match featured the University of Sri Jayewardenepura Women's Team and the Sabaragamuwa University Women's Team, both showcasing remarkable talent, sportsmanship, and enthusiasm for the game.



In a thrilling contest, the Sabaragamuwa University Women's Team emerged as champions, while the University of Sri Jayewardenepura Women's Team secured the runners-up position. The match was not only a competitive encounter but also a celebration of women's participation in university-level cricket.

This historic event marks a progressive step forward in promoting women's sports within Sri

Lankan universities and is expected to inspire more female students to take part in competitive athletics.



Out Bounding Training Program for University Sports Leaders



A special Out Bounding Training program was successfully conducted on May 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, 2025, at the Maduru Oya Special Forces Camp, Rajarata. The program was organized by the Physical Education Division with the aim of developing leadership skills and team spirit among university sports leaders.

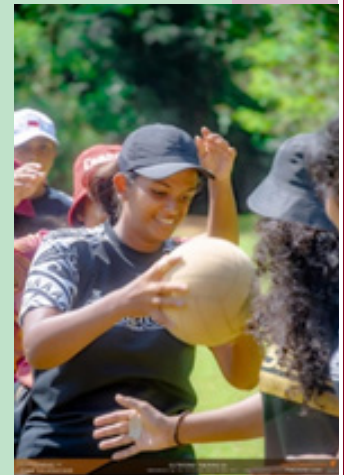
A total of 75 University Sports Captains and Vice-Captains participated in this intensive three-day training. The event was designed to prepare student leaders both mentally and physically for the upcoming Sri Lanka University Games, fostering the qualities needed to lead their teams to victory.

The training sessions were conducted under the guidance of the Sri Lanka Special Forces, who introduced participants to a series of structured activities, including physical challenges, strategic games, obstacle navigation, and leadership tasks. These activities focused on building teamwork, communication, confidence, and resilience.



The unique environment of the **Maduru Oya Special Forces Camp** added authenticity and intensity to the experience. The combination of military discipline and physical endurance training gave participants a new perspective on leadership, unity, and goal-oriented teamwork.

This program was widely appreciated by all participants, who left with a renewed sense of purpose, unity, and motivation. With strengthened leadership capabilities and team cohesion, the university sports captains and vice-captains are now better prepared to guide their teams to success in the **Sri Lanka University Games**.



The 15th Sri Lanka University Games 2025 – A Celebration of Sporting Excellence

The 15th Sri Lanka University Games (SLUG) 2025 was held from the 27th of June to the 21st of September 2025 at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, bringing together the best university athletes from across the island. This prestigious multi-sport event showcased the spirit of unity, competition, and sportsmanship among Sri Lankan universities.

A total of 16 universities participated in this year's games, competing across 40 championships representing a wide range of sporting disciplines. The event served as a platform for students to demonstrate their athletic talent and university pride, continuing a long-standing tradition of excellence in inter-university sports.

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura emerged as the standout performer of SLUG 2025, securing the Overall Championship, the Overall Men's Championship, and the Overall Women's Championship. This remarkable



achievement reflected the university's consistent dedication, teamwork, and high level of performance across all sports categories.

In total, the University of Sri Jayewardenepura claimed 7 championships, finished as runners-up in 13 events, and achieved 2nd runner-up positions in 9 events, marking one of the most successful performances in its sporting history.

The 15th SLUG 2025 will be remembered not only for its competitive edge but also for the camaraderie and unity it fostered among the university community. It was a true celebration of youth, talent, and the enduring spirit of Sri Lankan university sports.



"Champions Eve"

"Champions Eve", organized by the Sports Council of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held on the 07th of October 2025, at the Science Auditorium



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Opening the renovated Nature and Photography Club room and the "Bag drop" Room for students at the Medical Faculty premises

A building complex which was abandoned and neglected for a long time due to major water leakage from the slab was repaired and renovated with the financial contribution of the Nature and Photography Club, the Student Welfare Advisory Committee of the Faculty of Medical Sciences and the All-Island Funeral Directors' Association. The required human resources and some raw materials were provided by the maintenance unit of the university.

The Nature and Photography Club's existing room is among the renovated. A vacant room adjacent to the above was also renovated, to fulfil the long-felt need of a secure space for the students to keep their bags and belongings while attending their routine dissections and other laboratory practicals. Accordingly, the second room has been converted to a storage space by installing steel racks and named "Bag Drop".

The renovated building complex was declared open on 13th August 2025 by the Dean, Faculty of Medical Sciences and handed over to be used by the medical, dental and paramedical students.



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

"හුස්ම දෙවන අදියර", organized by the 2nd year Students of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, was held on the 16th of August 2025 from Maharagama to the University Premises



“Installation Program”, organized by the Japura Tourism Club of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, was held on the 14th of August 2025 at the Sumangala Auditorium



"Interactive Guest Lecture", organized by the Physics Society of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, was held on the 14th of August 2025 at the Physics Lecture Theater



Senehase Panhinda – Charity & Community Outreach

The Senehase Panhinda initiative was successfully carried out from 2nd to 4th November 2025 by the Association of Computing Students at Ganegoda Maha Vidyalaya, Elpitiya, with the objective of promoting educational equity and community upliftment. As part of the charity programme, essential school supplies were distributed to nearly 200 students, including all G.C.E. Ordinary Level students and a selected group of primary students from Grades 1 to 5. These provisions significantly reduced the financial burden on families while ensuring students were adequately equipped for daily learning. The programme was made possible through the generous support of sponsors, including NCG Holdings (PVT) Limited and Prime Base (PVT) Limited, and was conducted under the guidance of Dr. Nuwan Jayarathne, Senior Lecturer and Advisor to ACS. The charity event was accompanied by a ceremonial and inspirational gathering attended by lecturers, parents, community members, and media representatives, fostering unity and encouragement.



Senhase Panhinda – Academic Seminars & Educational Support

From 3rd to 4th November 2025, Senhase Panhinda delivered structured Mathematics and English seminars for G.C.E. Ordinary Level students of Ganegoda Maha Vidyalaya as its core academic intervention. Guided by the academic mentorship of Dr. Nuwan Jayarathne, the sessions were carefully designed using prior student performance analysis to ensure targeted and effective instruction. Students were grouped according to their academic levels, enabling personalized attention and meaningful engagement. Comprehensive tutorial booklets, model papers, and marking schemes covering all six compulsory O/L subjects were distributed to enhance exam preparedness and independent learning. Interactive teaching methods, guided practice sessions, and continuous student support helped strengthen conceptual understanding and boost confidence. Through this focused academic approach, the seminars contributed significantly to improving student motivation, exam readiness, and long-term aspirations toward Advanced Level studies and university education.



Over 350 Students Engage in Two-Day EduACS 2.0 Advanced Level ICT Seminar at Rajapaksa College

At a time when technology is shaping every aspect of modern life, over 350 Advanced Level students were given the opportunity to explore the world of Information and Communication Technology through the EduACS 2.0 Advanced Level ICT Seminar, held on 18th and 19th December 2025 at Rajapaksa College, Weeraketiya. The two-day seminar was organized by the Association of Computing Students (ACS) of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and brought together students from six schools, including Rajapaksa College, Walasmulla National College, Sri Lanka-Singapore Friendship College, Kirama Dhammananda National College, Katuwana National College, and Kanumuldeniya South College.

The seminar offered a well-structured and interactive learning experience. The first day featured sessions on Computer Networking and Web Development Fundamentals, introducing students to data communication and the technologies behind the modern web. On the second day, sessions on Databases and the Internet of Things (IoT) demonstrated how structured data and smart interconnected devices are transforming today's digital world.

Conducted by university undergraduates and subject experts, the sessions encouraged active participation and curiosity, while a motivational segment inspired students to pursue higher education and careers in IT. With the support of faculty members, dedicated volunteers, and sponsors including Lanka Salt Limited, the seminar concluded with outstanding success, marking EduACS 2.0 as a meaningful step in strengthening the bond between the university and the school community and inspiring the next generation of technology professionals.

INDUSTRY/COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

Orthopedic and Craniomaxillofacial Surgery Hands-on Training Cadaveric Workshops

Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medical Sciences, in collaboration with professional associations, conducted three hands-on training cadaveric surgical workshops.

The first work shop was on cadaveric Arthroscopy surgical skills development. It was conducted on 27th and 28th June 2025 in collaboration with Sri Lanka Orthopaedic Association.

The second workshop was an advanced course on head and neck flap harvesting and reconstruction, which was conducted on 22nd and 23rd July 2025 in collaboration with the Department of Oral Surgery, Faculty of Dental Sciences and AO Craniomaxillofacial Surgery (AO CMF).

The third workshop, the orthopaedic surgical skills development on cervical spine surgeries, was conducted on 27th July 2025 in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Orthopaedic Association & Sri Lanka Spine Society.



Human cadavers preserved using Phenoxyethanol-based preservation techniques, which gave more life-like appearance and softer embalming compared to traditional formalin-based preservation, were used for the workshops.

These training sessions were designed for orthopedic surgical trainees to develop their hand skills on specific surgical procedures. Leading international and national experts in the field outlined the anatomy, steps in performing different surgeries, harvesting technique and clinical utility of different procedures by lectures followed by demonstration of technique on cadaveric specimens.

Senior Prof S.G. Yasawardene, Prof. Harsha Dissanayake and Dr. Sajith Edirisinghe, representing the Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medical Sciences and Dr. Ananda Rathnayake, and Dr Suresh Shanmuganathan, representing the Department of Oral & maxillofacial surgery, Faculty of Dental Sciences, were the resource persons for the respective courses and were involved in organising these workshops on the part of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

Coconut Seedlings Distribution Program Organized by the Urban Green Pulse Society



Urban Green Pulse Students' Society of the Department of Urban Bioresources successfully organized and conducted a Coconut Seedlings Distribution Program on 26th June 2025, with the objective of promoting coconut cultivation in urban home gardens.

Alongside the distribution program, the society also successfully conducted an awareness workshop on coconut cultivation for the university community. These programs were organized in collaboration with the Coconut Research Institute, Coconut Cultivation Board, and Coconut Development Authority.



Join Us for Awareness Program on Coconut Cultivation

Discover the future of Urban Greenary!

"Learn about the benefits of dwarf coconut trees and how they contribute to urban biodiversity and sustainable living in our communities"

Organizing in parallel with the coconut seedlings distribution program

Guest Speakers from: Coconut Research Institute of Sri Lanka

Guest Speakers Moderated by: Dr. Surani Chathurika Department of Urban Bioresources

Organized by: Urban Green Pulse Department of Urban Bioresources University of Sri Jayawardenepura



26th June 2025



10.00 am - 11.00 am



Wimaladharma Mansion Hall Number 103

All are warmly invited. Let's grow knowledge together!

Faculty of Computing Facilitates Industry Visit to Hutchison Telecommunications Lanka

On 17th July 2025, the Faculty of Computing proudly organized an enriching industry visit to Hutchison Telecommunications Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, offering a group of 75 undergraduates' valuable exposure to the inner workings of a leading telecommunications provider.

As a subsidiary of the global conglomerate CK Hutchison Holdings, HUTCH seamlessly combines international expertise with local innovation making it an ideal learning platform for the next generation of IT and telecommunications professionals.



During the visit, students explored a range of critical infrastructure components including telecommunication towers, grounding systems, access control mechanisms, and data center operations. These hands-on experiences provided deep insights into the robust technological framework that supports Sri Lanka's island-wide 4G network.

A key highlight of the visit was the tour of the Network Operations Center (NOC), where students observed real-time network monitoring, incident response, and system optimization processes in action offering a rare glimpse into the operational heart of a telecom network.

This industry engagement not only enriched students' academic learning with practical insights but also strengthened ties between the university and the telecommunications sector. It marks a significant step toward fostering future collaborations in research, internships, and knowledge exchange, while preparing students to meet the demands of an ever-evolving digital landscape.



Faculty of Computing Collaborates with Cambio Software for Student Industry Exposure

Reinforcing its commitment to integrating academic learning with industry innovation, the Faculty of Computing organized a student field visit to Cambio Software Sri Lanka on 23rd, 24th, and 29th July 2025. The program provided 150 undergraduates with a unique opportunity to engage directly with one of Sri Lanka's premier healthcare IT solution providers.

Cambio is a recognized leader in digital health transformation, known for cutting-edge platforms such as Cambio CDS (Clinical Decision Support) and Cambio COSMIC, a sophisticated digital medical journaling system that supports accurate diagnosis and enhances patient care.

During the visit, students gained firsthand insights into how artificial intelligence, data analytics, and user-centered design are applied to improve clinical efficiency, patient safety, and overall healthcare delivery. This practical exposure allowed students to understand how emerging technologies are reshaping critical sectors such as healthcare.

Beyond the technical learnings, the visit facilitated meaningful dialogue between students and industry professionals, offering valuable perspectives on career development, innovation in healthcare IT, and the evolving role of technology in clinical settings.

This initiative is a testament to the Faculty's vision of producing future-ready graduates who are equipped not only with strong academic foundations but also with the practical skills and industry awareness needed to drive impactful change in vital sectors like healthcare.



Faculty of Computing Strengthens Industry Ties with IFS R&D International

In line with its mission to cultivate strong partnerships with leading technology enterprises, the Faculty of Computing at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura organized an industry visit to IFS R&D International (Pvt) Ltd a global pioneer in Industrial AI solutions on 26th and 29th July, and 6th August 2025. Over the course of three sessions, 150 undergraduates gained firsthand exposure to the cutting-edge technologies driving innovation in enterprise software.



Students explored how IFS is revolutionizing global operations through AI-driven platforms, real-time anomaly detection, simulation, and optimization tools. The visit provided a valuable window into the future of asset and workflow management, showcasing how Industrial AI is being used to enhance efficiency, sustainability, and decision-making across industries.

Through direct engagement with IFS engineers and R&D professionals, students learned how data, automation, and intelligent systems converge to help organizations manage complex assets with precision and responsibility. Discussions highlighted real-world applications of Industrial AI, from predictive maintenance to intelligent resource planning, giving students a deeper understanding of how technology solves large-scale operational challenges.

This visit strongly aligned with the Faculty's vision to provide students with access to emerging technologies, real-world industry insights, and opportunities for future collaboration with global tech leaders. It marked another important step in preparing industry-ready graduates equipped to drive innovation in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.



ON-GOING CONSTRUCTION PROJECT AT USJ

"Opening Ceremony of the New Faculty Building", organized by the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, was held on the 24th of July 2025 at the University Premises

