



Newsletter

Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration

August 2026



Story of SLIDA

The Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration is a cornerstone in Public Administration and Management education, serving as the premier public sector training hub in Sri Lanka. We are committed to fostering leadership and innovation, offering programs that blend knowledge with practical skills. Our faculty consists of industry veterans, guiding students to become future change-makers. SLIDA alumni contribute significantly across various sectors, embodying our mission to advance governance and public service standards.

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Sri Lanka Planning Service (2009) Grade I Capacity Building Program - Group D

Sri Lanka Planning Service (2009) Grade 1 Capacity Building Program Group D Batch has officially commenced, focusing on Strategic Human Resource Management and Personal Development. This important program is designed to enhance the strategic HRM and leadership capabilities of senior planning officers, enabling them to effectively lead development initiatives, strengthen institutional performance, and promote a culture of collaboration.

As part of the program, participants took part in a hike in the Sinharaja Forest, gaining first-hand experience of leadership and teamwork in a natural setting. The activity encouraged managing pace, fostering inclusivity and supporting one another while overcoming physical challenges.

The module is coordinated by Ms. Anusha Batawala Gamage, Additional Director General (Learning and Development) - Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA).

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Editorial Note – SLIDA Newsletter August 2026

As public administration evolves to meet complex national challenges, the mandate of the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration remains firm: bridging theoretical frameworks with impactful, real-world execution. The initiatives highlighted in this August issue reflect our ongoing commitment to shaping an agile, future-ready public service capable of leading national development. A central theme across our recent initiatives is the power of experiential learning in building resilient leadership. From senior planning officers navigating team dynamics in the Sinharaja Rain Forest to Special Grade Administrative Officers exploring environmental governance and climate responsibility in Nuwara Eliya, immersive education has proven invaluable. Practical field visits, such as those undertaken by public procurement diploma participants to key infrastructure and sustainable tourism projects ensure that academic principles translate directly into effective operational management.

Simultaneously, SLIDA continues to broaden its institutional footprint by conducting high-level, targeted capacity-building programs across diverse sectors of governance. In partnership with the National Police Academy, SLIDA recently equipped Senior Superintendents of Police with strategic planning and data-informed decision-making tools to foster an accountable, people-centered police service. In addition, specialized modules were delivered to staff officers at the Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education to strengthen adherence to legal and administrative provisions under the Establishments Code.

Our broader engagement strategy extends to embedding climate resilience into state planning and mentoring the next generation of public administrators. Expert-led sessions on environmental sustainability now form an integral part of development training for planning service officers. Furthermore, SLIDA welcomed undergraduates from the Department of Public Administration at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, introducing them to career pathways and research opportunities within the public sector. Through continuous inter-agency collaboration, rigorous professional standards, and practical learning, SLIDA remains dedicated to driving sustainable, long-term national impact.

Editor
M.M.Halida
Senior Consultant

Orientation Program for Special Grade Officers of Sri Lanka Administrative Service – Batch II

“Future-ready Public Leadership Transforming Governance for National Impact”

As part of the Special Grade Orientation Programme – 2026, participants embarked on a field visit to Nuwara Eliya, engaging in an experiential learning journey focused on environmental leadership and sustainable governance.

The visit provided valuable insights into the relationship between Governance, environmental responsibility, and community impact, while encouraging reflection on the role of senior public officers in promoting sustainability within national development.

Participants also engaged in meaningful discussions on climate responsibility, environmental conservation, and policy implications, especially in light of the evolving environmental challenges faced by the country.

This experiential learning component was designed by Ms. Anusha Batawala Gamage, and facilitated with the support of Dr. Mayura Arandara and the SLIDA team, creating a meaningful and impactful learning experience.

This immersive experience further strengthened participants’ understanding of leadership in action, reinforcing the importance of responsible, resilient, and forward-thinking governance.



Capacity Development for the Staff of the Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education

We're happy to share highlights from the Capacity Development Program designed for the Staff of the Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education. This program aims to strengthen the knowledge, skills, and professional competence of Staff Officers of the Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education (SLIATE) in understanding and applying disciplinary laws, procedures, and principles in accordance with the Establishments Code, Public Service Commission Rules, and other applicable legal and administrative provisions.

The program was coordinated by Senior Consultant Mr. Dashitha Niroshana.



SLIDA hosts undergraduate students from the University of Sri Jayawardenepura

Strengthening collaboration with the academic sector and providing exposure to contemporary developments in public management, SLIDA welcomed a group of undergraduates from the Department of Public Administration, University of Sri Jayawardenepura, for an organizational visit on 10 August 2026. The program commenced with an overview of SLIDA and its role in public sector capacity development, followed by three sessions:

Session I: Overview of the Sri Lankan Public Sector and Public Administration

Session II: Career Opportunities in the Sri Lankan Public Service and Proactive Preparation

- * Selection to the All-Island Services
- * Recruitment Procedures and Preparation
- * Career Progression

Session III: Research and Development Activities at SLIDA

The programme concluded with an interactive Q&A session, providing students an opportunity to engage with SLIDA officials and gain practical insights into public administration, career pathways, and research in the public sector.

The visiting group was accompanied by Prof. Pavithra Madhuwanthi, Head of the Department; Dr. Aruna Muthulingama, Senior Lecturer; and Ms. Amanda, Probationary Lecturer.

SLIDA was represented by Mr. A.V. Janadara, Director General; Ms. Anusha Batawala Gamage, Additional Director General (Learning & Development and Research & Development); and Dr. Mayura Arandara, Senior Consultant.



Training Programme on Development and Management for Senior Superintendents of Police

SLIDA, in collaboration with the National Police Academy, successfully concluded a high-level Training Programme on Development and Management for Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs) from August 10th to 14th, 2026. Coordinated by Dr. Sepalika Sudasinghe, Additional Director General (Organizational Development), this intensive 5-day initiative equipped senior officers with advanced capabilities in strategic planning, data-informed decision-making, change management, and human rights to foster a professional, people-centered, and accountable police service. Both the inauguration and closing ceremonies were graced by Mr. Vimukthi Janadara, Director General of SLIDA, alongside faculty and staff, marking a significant milestone in strengthening institutional performance and public trust in Sri Lanka Police.



SLPS Grade I Capacity Building Programme (2008 Intake) - Group B

As part of the ongoing Capacity Building Programme for Officers of the SLPS, intake 2008, Group B participants engaged in an enriching session on the module “Environmental Aspects of Development and Disaster Management.”

The session was led by Prof. D. M. S. Hemanti Kariyawasam Ranasinghe, Emeritus Professor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, who shared her invaluable insights, practical experiences, and expertise on integrating environmental sustainability, climate resilience, and disaster risk considerations into the planning, implementation, and evaluation

The module is coordinated by Ms. Anusha Batawala Gamage, Additional Director General (Learning and Development) -SLIDA.



Field Visit – HND in Public Procurement and Contract Administration 2024/2025

Participants of the Higher National Diploma in Public Procurement and Contract Administration (HNDIPPCA) – 2024/2025 Weekday and Weekend Groups recently took part in an educational field visit to two significant projects: the Kurunegala-Kandy Highway Project (CEP 03) and Pekoe Trail Stage 22, from Kandapola to Pedro Estate.

The field visit provided participants with an opportunity to connect their academic learning with practical experiences in public procurement, contract administration, project management, supply chain management, and sustainable development.

Through first-hand observation and engagement with project activities, participants gained valuable insights into the practical application of procurement and contract management principles in large-scale infrastructure and sustainable tourism development projects.



TIMELESS THOUGHT

"One of the most important kind of leadership skills:
If you make decisions that everybody likes all the time,
then those are the decisions that they would make without you.
So, you are not actually adding any value."

Ben Horowitz



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