

Newsletter

Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration

July 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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Launch Ceremony of Sri Lanka Journal of Development Administration (SLJDA), Kalamana Magazine & Researcher Development Program 2025 Certificate Awarding Ceremony

The Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration marked a significant milestone in advancing academic excellence and evidence-based governance with the official launch ceremony of the Sri Lanka Journal of Development Administration (SLJDA), Kalamana Magazine, and the awarding of certificates for the Researcher Development Program.

The event was graced by the Chief Guest, Hon. Prof. Chandana Aberathne, Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils & Local Government, alongside Mr. S. Alokabandara, Secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration, Prof. W. Indralal De Silva, Emeritus Professor of Demography at the University of Colombo, Senior Prof. Arosha S. Adikaram from the Faculty of Management & Finance, University of Colombo, Prof. Pavithra Maduwanthi from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, and Mr. Vimukthi Janadara, Director General of SLIDA, together with members of the SLIDA Faculty and Management.

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This initiative underscores SLIDA's continuous commitment to promoting research, knowledge dissemination, and researcher capacity development within the sphere of development administration. By fostering academic rigor and providing structured platforms for research, the Institute reinforces its dedication to supporting innovation and evidence-based public service delivery across Sri Lanka. This achievement reflects the dedicated efforts of the Sandharani Research Team, led by Ms. Anusha Batawala Gamage, Additional Director General (Research and Development), whose collective work ensured the successful launch of these publications and programs. SLIDA extends its sincere appreciation to the Chief Guest, distinguished invitees, academic contributors, researchers, and participants whose presence and support made this event a resounding success.



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Editorial Note – SLIDA Newsletter July 2026

At the heart of a responsive and forward-thinking public service lies a commitment to rigorous research, critical inquiry, and continuous institutional learning. Highlighting this vision, the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration celebrated a major milestone this month with the grand launch of its flagship academic publications, the Sri Lanka Journal of Development Administration (SLJDA) and Kalamana Magazine, alongside the certificate awarding ceremony for the Researcher Development Program. Graced by distinguished cabinet ministers, academic leaders, and senior administrators, this landmark event underscores SLIDA's dedicated commitment to expanding its research ecosystem, facilitating knowledge dissemination, and driving evidence-based policy formulation across Sri Lanka's public sector.

Complementing this academic foundation, SLIDA's capacity-building and executive education initiatives throughout July continued to translate theory into impact. SLIDA's strategic reach also extended to institutional development and cross-sector partnerships this month. Tailored consultancies, such as the strategic management program for the Ayurveda Drug Corporation, and collaborative initiatives like the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) design workshop, demonstrate SLIDA's commitment to institutional performance and accountability. Coupled with exposure visits to global technology hubs like Microsoft Sri Lanka, these initiatives ensure that public officers are well-prepared to lead digital transformation.

Ultimately, the synthesis of academic research, strategic training, and institutional capacity building remains SLIDA's defining strength. By empowering officers with both empirical research tools and practical administrative capabilities, SLIDA continues to serve as a pivotal catalyst for modernizing public administration and elevating public service delivery nationwide.

Editor
M.M.Halida
Senior Consultant

Inauguration of the Training Program for Newly Recruited Assistant Directors of the National Physical Planning Department

The training consultancy programme for newly recruited Assistant Directors of the National Physical Planning Department was ceremoniously inaugurated at the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration with the participation of distinguished officials.

The inaugural session was graced by Mr. A. V. Janadara, Director General of SLIDA, Mr. Ruchira Withana, Director General of the National Physical Planning Department, Ms. Anusha Batawala Gamage, Additional Director General (Learning and Development), SLIDA, Mr. Rasika Silva, Director (Administration), National Physical Planning Department; Ms. Chamini Jayasinghe, Director (Finance), National Physical Planning Department; and Mr. R. M. T. B. Ratnayake, Director (Architecture), National Physical Planning Department.

Coordinated by Ms. Ciara Mendis, Consultant at SLIDA, the programme is designed to equip the newly recruited Assistant Directors (Urban Design) of the National Physical Planning Department with the administrative, financial, managerial, ethical, and attitudinal competencies required to effectively discharge their responsibilities as public officers while fostering a strong commitment to public service excellence.



Capacity Building Programme for SLPS Grade I (2008 Batch -Group E)

The SLPS capacity building program for grade I (2008 intake - group E) 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), SLIDA.



Training Consultancy on Strategic Management and Execution for the Ayurvedic Drug Corporation

A targeted training consultancy on strategic management and execution for the Ayurvedic Drug Corporation was successfully completed on 10 July 2026. Coordinated by Dr. Sepalika Sudasinghe, Additional Director General (Organizational Development), the programme aimed to enhance managerial and leadership capabilities among the Corporation's managerial staff to support implementation of strategic priorities, improve production and supply chain performance, ensure quality and regulatory compliance, and lead adaptive improvements that sustain the Corporation's mission and service delivery.

Resource persons included Senior Consultant Mr. Sampath Mallawarachchi and Mr. N. Gowridasan, from the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration. The certificate awarding ceremony was held on 10 July 2026 and was graced by Mr. A. V. Janadara, Director General of SLIDA, Chairperson Ms. Geethamani Karunaratne and members of the Board of Directors of the Ayurvedic Drug Corporation. Participants received certificates recognizing their successful completion of the programme and their commitment to applying strengthened strategic management practices within the Corporation.



Inauguration of the Induction Training Program for Sri Lanka Information and Communication Technology Service Officers - Class I Grade III (Open)

The inauguration of the induction training program for Sri Lanka Information and Communication Technology Service Officers – Class I Grade III (Open) was ceremoniously held at the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration on 13 July 2026.

The event was graced by Mr. Vimukthi Janadara, Director General of SLIDA, Mrs. Anusha Batawala Gamage, Additional Director General (Learning and Development), Mr. A.M.M.N. Amarasinghe, Director of Combined Services, Ministry of Public Administration and Mr Niruka Laththuwahandi, Director-IT, SLIDA, whose presence marked the commencement of this important capacity-building initiative for the inductees.

The program is coordinated by Ms. Halida Mahroof, Senior Consultant, SLIDA, and is designed to equip participants with the knowledge, skills, and professional competencies required to effectively perform their roles in advancing digital transformation and innovation within the Sri Lankan public service.



MEL Design Workshop organized with DPMM & ADB

The Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration was pleased to host the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) design workshop, jointly organized with the Department of Project Management and Monitoring (DPMM) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The workshop marked an important step towards developing a practical and sustainable monitoring, evaluation, and learning programme for Sri Lanka's public sector. The initiative aims to strengthen evidence-based planning, monitoring, evaluation, and organizational learning across government institutions, thereby enhancing public sector performance and accountability.

The event brought together policymakers, public sector practitioners, academics, development partners, and private sector representatives to contribute their expertise to the design of the proposed programme. Through interactive discussions and knowledge sharing, participants explored key priorities, emerging challenges, and best practices for building an effective MEL ecosystem in the Sri Lankan public sector.



Training Program for Newly Recruited Assistant Directors of the National Physical Planning Department & Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

Training programme for newly recruited Assistant Directors of the National Physical Planning Department & newly recruited Assistant Directors of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resource has commenced with a focus on team building and collaborative leadership. This essential program aims to equip newly recruited officers with the administrative, managerial, ethical, and attitudinal competencies required to foster positive attitudes and effectively perform their duties as public officers. As part of the program, participants visited the Rajawaka Agriculture In-Service Training Institute and engaged in a morning hike to Hunugal Pokuna, Balangoda. These activities allow them to observe natural leadership and teamwork in action, especially when facing physical challenges. It also supports the development of skills in managing pace, fostering inclusion, and encouraging mutual support among team members.

The module was coordinated by Mrs. Anusha Batawala Gamage, Additional Director General (Learning and Development) and Ms. Ciara Mendis, Consultant at SLIDA. Under their guidance, participants receive a high-quality learning experience that effectively integrates theoretical knowledge with practical application.



Capacity Building Program for SLAS Grade III (2021 Intake - Group G)

As part of the ongoing capacity building programme for SLAS Grade III 2021 Intake- group G, a key session under the module on law for public administrators, was conducted by Mr. M.L. Dashitha Niroshana - Senior Consultant-SLIDA.

The session, titled practical application of fundamental rights, offered participants valuable insights to enhance the legal literacy of public sector officers and strengthen their capacity to apply legal principles. The module was coordinated by Mr. Dashitha Niroshana - Senior Consultant, SLIDA.



Induction Training for the SLAS 2025 (Open) Intake

As part of the induction training for the SLAS 2025 (Open) intake, a comprehensive Tamil language residential program was conducted at the National Institute of Language Studies in Agalawatta.

The program aligns with national language requirements to provide an overall understanding of basic Tamil language skills and their effective application in public administration and official communication. This program was organized by the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration and coordinated by Senior Consultant Dashitha Niroshana under the guidance of the ADG (Learning & Development) and the Director General of SLIDA.



Field Visit to Microsoft Sri Lanka

As part of the Induction Training Program for Sri Lanka Information and Communication Technology Service Officers – Class I Grade III (Open), participants visited Microsoft Sri Lanka on 14 July 2026.

The field visit provided participants with a valuable opportunity to gain firsthand insights into the operations of a global technology leader and to explore the evolving landscape of digital transformation. Through exposure to Microsoft's work, cloud technologies, digital applications, and innovative solutions, participants gained a deeper understanding of how emerging technologies can be leveraged to enhance efficiency, innovation, collaboration, and public service delivery.

The field visit formed an important component of the induction program, coordinated by Ms. Halida Mahroof, Senior Consultant, SLIDA, and designed to equip participants with the knowledge, skills, professional competencies, and broader perspectives required to contribute effectively to the digital transformation and innovation of the Sri Lankan public service.

The visit was attended by Mr. Niruka Laththuwahandi, Director – IT, along with Ms. Halida Mahroof, Senior Consultant, SLIDA.



Orientation Program for Special Grade Officers of Sri Lanka Administrative Service 2026 – Batch II

The inauguration of the orientation program for Special Grade Officers of Sri Lanka Administrative Service -2026- Batch II was ceremoniously held at SLIDA on 27th July 2026.

The event was graced by the Secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government, Mr. S. Aloka Bandara; Ms. Deepika Jayasekara, Additional Secretary (Public Administration); Mr. Vimukthi Janadara, Director General of SLIDA; Ms. Anusha Batawala Gamage, Additional Director General (Learning and Development); Ms. Sajeewani Athapattu, Director (SLAS); and SLIDA faculty members.

This program is coordinated by Mrs. Anusha Batawala Gamage, Additional Director General (Learning and Development), SLIDA, to strengthen the leadership and professional capacities of Special Grade Officers.



Capacity Building Programme for SLPS Grade I (2009 Batch -Group D)

Sri Lanka Planning Service (2009 batch) 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).



TIMELESS THOUGHT

"I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work."

Thomas A. Edison

