



NSF World Science Day and Award Ceremony on Science Popularization 2025

Nature Inspired Technology for Sustainable Development





National Science Foundation

**NSF World Science Day and Award Ceremony
on Science Popularization
2025**

“Nature Inspired Technology for Sustainable Development”

4th November 2025

Organized by
National Science Foundation
47/5, Vidya Mawatha,
Colombo 07,
Sri Lanka
2025

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Message from the Hon. Minister of Science and Technology



It is with great pleasure that I contribute this message to the proceedings of the World Science Day and Science Popularization Award Ceremony 2025 organized annually by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to recognize and celebrate the exceptional achievements of school students and teachers who have excelled in STEAM-based competitions conducted by the NSF.

This ceremony is more than a celebration of academic excellence it is a tribute to the spirit of research and discovery that drives scientific progress. Science is not merely a subject confined to textbooks it is a dynamic process of thinking critically, questioning deeply, and exploring boldly. Our students have embraced this mindset, demonstrating a remarkable ability to engage with the natural world through hands-on experiments, research projects, and creative STEAM-based activities. What makes this year's celebration particularly meaningful is the novelty of ideas and approaches presented by our young awardees. Their work reflects not only a mastery of existing knowledge but also a "vision for the future" introducing fresh perspectives and inventive solutions that contribute to the evolving landscape of science and technology.

As we honor these achievements, we also recognize the importance of nurturing such ingenuity. These students are not just learners; they are "future researchers", capable of transcending boundaries and shaping a better tomorrow. Their contributions remind us that science thrives on curiosity and flourishes through creativity.

Thus, I extend my congratulations to all the award winners for their outstanding accomplishments. I also wish to express my appreciation to the National Science Foundation for its unwavering commitment to the popularization of science and the promotion of science education in Sri Lanka, in alignment with its national mandate.

Prof. Chrishantha Abeysena
Minister of Science and Technology

Message from the Chairman



It is with great pleasure that I contribute this message to the proceedings published to mark the NSF World Science Day and Award Ceremony for Science Popularization 2025. As the premier national institution mandated to promote Science and Technology (S&T) for socio-economic development in Sri Lanka, the National Science Foundation (NSF) continues to uphold its mission by offering a wide range of programmes. Among these, the encouragement, motivation, and recognition of outstanding students and teachers in science remain a top priority.

In pursuit of this goal, the NSF conducted several key initiatives during 2024–2025, including the Kid Naturalist Programme, the School Science Competition (SSC) 2025 under the theme “Nature-Inspired Technology for Sustainable Development”, the Science Research Project Competition (SRPC), the NSF Best Teacher Award, and the Star-Rating of NSF School Science Societies 2024. These programmes attracted nearly 6,000 participants from across the country, and over 300 outstanding winners will be felicitated at this year’s award ceremony.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the award recipients for their remarkable achievements. Your dedication, creativity, and pursuit of scientific excellence are truly commendable. I wish you continued success in your future endeavors and initiatives.

Dr Sudath Samaraweera
Chairman
National Science Foundation
Sri Lanka

Message From the Director General



I am pleased to send this message on this occasion annually organized by the National Science Foundation (NSF), recognizing the outstanding achievements of school students and teachers in STEAM-based competitions conducted by NSF.

This ceremony is not only about recognizing excellence but also about appreciating the curiosity, creativity, and enthusiasm that drive students to explore and discover. Through its various programmes, the NSF aims to inspire young minds to think critically, ask questions, and find innovative solutions while also helping them gain early exposure to research and new technologies.

The award-winning students have demonstrated how effectively they can transform their ideas into practical solutions and convey scientific concepts creatively through STEAM-based activities. This achievement is a promising sign for the nation, highlighting the emergence of future adults with vision, creativity, and strong problem-solving skills. Recognizing and showcasing such talents on national platforms not only celebrates their accomplishments but also inspires and motivates young minds across the country to explore, innovate, and contribute to the advancement of science and technology. In this journey, teachers play a vital role, and special awards are presented to those who have guided and supported their students in achieving excellence.

I extend my sincere congratulations to all the award winners for their remarkable achievements. May this recognition encourage you to continue exploring, learning, and contributing to the progress of science and innovation in Sri Lanka. I also wish to acknowledge with appreciation the hard work and dedication of the Head and staff of the Science Popularization and Outreach Division of the NSF for their invaluable contribution to making this event a success.

Dr Sepalika Sudasinghe
Director General
National Science Foundation
Sri Lanka

Preface from the Head, Science Communication and Outreach Division



Since 2002, the National Science Foundation (NSF) has proudly commemorated World Science Day for Peace and Development declared by UNESCO on 10th November together with its annual Award Ceremony on Science Popularization. This prestigious event is held under a unique theme each year, with the overarching goal of fostering a deeper appreciation and understanding of science among the general public.

The ceremony has grown into a vibrant national celebration, drawing the participation of over 1,500 attendees, including students, teachers, principals, parents, scientists, undergraduates, and media personnel both in person and online. A hallmark of the event is the keynote address delivered by a world-renowned scientist, whose insights inspire and elevate the discourse on science and innovation. The programme also features performances by school students who have excelled in national science competitions, adding dynamic and youthful energy to the proceedings. This year's theme is celebrated is "Nature-Inspired Technology for Sustainable Development". 290 winners will be felicitated at the Ceremony in recognition of outstanding achievements in competitions organized by the NSF in year 2024-2025. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the winners whose dedication and creativity have earned them national recognition. Your achievements are a source of inspiration and a testament to the vibrant future of science in Sri Lanka.

Further, Science Communication and Outreach Division of the NSF wish to express our sincere appreciation to the all-panel members, NSF staff, whose tireless efforts and unwavering commitment have been instrumental in conducting these programmes and organizing this prestigious event.

Together, we celebrate science not only as a discipline but as a powerful force for sustainable development and societal progress towards scientifically literate nation.

Dr Dilrukshi Ranathunga
Head
Science Communication and Outreach Division (SCOD)
National Science Foundation
Sri Lanka

Nature as Our Greatest Teacher: Innovation, AI, and Citizen Science for Sustainable Development



Nature has always been humanity's most creative innovator. From the structure of bird wings that shaped modern aviation, to the gentle glow of fireflies that inspired energy-efficient lighting, and to the hidden fungal networks beneath forests that resemble data-sharing systems, the natural world continues to offer guidance to modern science. Biomimicry reminds us that many solutions to our most complex technological problems already exist in nature. What we need now is a new generation of observers and thinkers who can study these systems carefully, using both traditional field skills and modern digital tools. This keynote reflects on three interrelated themes central to sustainable technological development in the 21st century.

1. Learning from Nature through Observation

Biomimicry begins with curiosity. When young scientists study nature with patience and precision, they learn to ask meaningful questions: How does this organism overcome a challenge? What principles guide this ecosystem's balance and efficiency? This habit of observation turns students from passive users of technology into creative problem-solvers who design solutions inspired by natural processes.

2. Artificial Intelligence and Citizen Science

Artificial intelligence now strengthens the power of citizen science. With tools such as mobile applications for species identification, students can gather and share data that supports conservation efforts. Our partnerships with the Young Biologists' Association, NSF school science societies, and university environment societies have shown how fieldwork combined with AI can deepen environmental understanding and produce real outcomes. When a student in a rural village photographs a butterfly, identifies it instantly through AI, and uploads it to a global database, that act connects Sri Lanka to the wider scientific world.

3. Addressing National Environmental Challenges

Sri Lanka faces growing environmental pressures: human–wildlife conflict, pollution from single-use plastics, and the loss of natural habitats. Nature itself offers the best models for resilience. Mangrove restoration teaches how coastal ecosystems protect shorelines; wetlands demonstrate how water can be purified naturally; and wildlife corridors show how animals maintain balance across landscapes. These lessons from nature translate into practical, sustainable development strategies for our country. The young scientists, educators, and families gathered here today embody Sri Lanka’s future. Your research projects, science societies, and innovation programmes are the laboratories where creativity and responsibility meet. As the nation faces climate and ecological challenges, the ability of this generation to learn from nature, apply technology wisely, and act with civic awareness will determine our collective success in achieving sustainability. Today, we celebrate more than achievement. We celebrate a way of seeing — one that values simplicity, patience, and respect for the living world. Because in the end, nature has always been the greatest scientist, and the most generous teacher. Our task is to listen, learn, and pass that wisdom on.

Prof. Hiran Amarasekera,
Professor in Forestry and Environment Science
Department of Forestry
University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Theme of the Year 2025

Nature Inspired Technology for Sustainable Development

Before the emergence of human civilization in the world, it is correct to assume that humans followed the processes of nature. During the evolution of civilization, knowledge accumulated gradually, the emulation of nature became more intense for technological development. However, with the advent of industrialization, humanity distanced itself from the belief that innovation could only occur by mimicking nature. Human has now come to understand that the excessive accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere caused global warming, leading to climate change as its consequence.

As a result, humans have inclined towards the development of nature-inspired technologies. There are many examples of this. What is known as biomimicry involves understanding natural patterns and using them in fields like design, engineering, and material science to create innovative solutions. By observing structures like plant leaves, spider webs, or the fins of sea creatures, it has become possible to develop new materials and technologies. Examples include stronger but lighter materials, efficient solar panels, and robust adhesives. Scientists and engineers are currently studying natural patterns to create sustainable, human-friendly, and efficient products in significant quantities.

This year's theme of the National Science Foundation's School Science Competition program directs you to study historical creations and, inspired by them, develop new dramas, poems, and songs. Although this may seem challenging, you will realize it is not that difficult. Below are a few examples.

The renowned genius Leonardo da Vinci studied the flight of birds deeply and introduced the concept of the 'flying machine,' which marked the beginning of airplanes. By observing the tail movements of humpback whales, wind turbines were developed. Recycling systems were created by emulating the cyclical operations of natural ecosystems. Collecting rainwater from mist and air was inspired by observing the activities of *Badura*. The front design of Japan's bullet train was modeled after the shape of the kingfisher's beak. The structure of termite mounds inspired the development of self-cooling systems in large buildings. Could human, in the future, create extraordinary shoes by understanding how geckos' feet allow them to move on slippery surfaces without falling? Could you, in turn, create a new invention? This is your opportunity to think creatively.

Dr P. B. Dharmasena
Visiting Lecturer
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

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Preamble of the Award Ceremony

The Role of the National Science Foundation towards Building Scientifically Literate Nation

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has been a leading organization in the country working in the areas of Science and Technology since 1968. The NSF is currently working under the purview of the Ministry of Science and Technology. As per Parliament Act No. 11 of 1994, NSF is mandated to popularize science and promote science education in the country. Accordingly, to facilitate the science popularization activities and promote science education in the country, the NSF has established Science Communication and Outreach Division (SCOD) at the NSF in 2005.

The Science Communication and Outreach Division (SCOD) of the NSF stand at the forefront of promoting scientific literacy and civic engagement across the nation in promoting science education. Guided by the principle of “Science for All,” SCOD is dedicated to democratizing access to scientific knowledge and fostering a culture of inquiry, innovation, and critical thinking among the different levels of the community, especially targeting school community.

Through a dynamic portfolio of programs and initiatives, SCOD actively bridges the gap between scientific research and public understanding of science. It champions STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) education by nurturing grassroots science societies, organizing national competitions like the School Science Research Project Competition (SRPC), and curating year-round outreach activities that engage students, educators, and communities alike.

The Division’s mission is not only to inform but to inspire and empower individuals to participate meaningfully in scientific discourse and contribute to Sri Lanka’s development through knowledge, creativity, and collaborations.

Accordingly, the NSF conducts below mentioned programmes and competitions targeting school community annually and the best performers of these competitions are felicitated at the NSF Award Ceremony on Science Popularization concurrently with the UNESCO declared World Science day celebrations 2025.

The School Competitions conducted during 2024-2025 include:

1. Kid Naturalist Programme (KNP)
2. School Science Competitions (SSC)
3. School Research Competitions (SRPC)
4. NSF Teachers Award in Science Popularization
5. Star Rating for Best performed School Science Society
6. Participation for International Competitions

Kid Naturalist Programme 2024

Kid Naturalist Programme 2024

The Kid Naturalist Programme (KNP) is conducted annually by the National Science Foundation (NSF), since 2020 with the collaboration of the Primary Section and Science Branch of the Ministry of Education (MoE). The programme targets students from Grades 1 to 6. The primary objective of the programme is to nurture students to observe and appreciate the natural environment they live in using scientific methodologies. It aims to ignite a lifelong interest in science and foster a generation both scientifically curious and nature-loving.

Participants are required to maintain a nature journal over a six-week observation period, following guidelines provided by the NSF. These journals are then evaluated by a panel of evaluators appointed by the Board of Management (BoM) of the NSF.

In 2024, the Kid Naturatis Programme received an overwhelming response with 4,955 applications from students across the country. Following the observation period, 2,230 students successfully submitted fully complete nature journals, showcasing their dedication to environmental exploration and scientific documentation. The most well-crafted and insightful journals were selected for awards, recognizing excellence in observation, creativity, and scientific accuracy.

Evaluation Panel

	Name	Affiliation/ Designation
1	Dr Jayantha Wattavidanage	Deputy Director, South Asian Center for Teacher Development, UNESCO Category II Center
2	Prof. R. M. Dharmadasa	Senior Deputy Director, Biotechnology Unit Industrial Technology Institute
3	Dr N. Karthikeyan	Senior Lecturer in Physics, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Open University of Sri Lanka, Nawala
4	Dr Prabath Abeysiriwardena	Deputy Director (Planning), Ministry of Science and Technology
5	Mr K. A. I. P. Jayarathna	Deputy Director General (Retired), Primary Education Division, Ministry of Education
6	Ms Y. Manel Gunasinghe	Deputy Director General (Retired), Primary Education Division, Ministry of Education
7	Ms G. A. S. K. Perera	Deputy Director of Education, Zonal Educational Office, Colombo
8	Ms A. Prabhakaran	Advisor (Primary), Zonal Educational Office, Colombo
9	Dr P. R. M. P. Dilrukshi	Head, Science Communication and Outreach Division

Winners of the Kid Naturalist Programme 2024

Grade 1

No	Name of the Student	Name of the School
1	Manuli Bihansa Rohanadheera	G/Dr Richard Pathirana Primary School, Galle
2	N. Kiruli Aranya	MR/ Siddhartha Primary School, Deniyaya
3	K. I. O. Mihisara	MR/Morawaka Primary Vidyalaya
4	D. K. Yenuja Nimsara	G/Shariputhra Maha Vidyalaya, Ahangama
5	H. M. S. Prabud Senadeera	WP/MINU/Horagasmulla Primary College
6	Senthil Mithusiya	J/Thavady Hindu Tamil Mixed School
7	K. L. Sasath Manula Sanumitha	MR/ Siddhartha Primary School, Deniyaya
8	D. M. R. Sethlini Dissanayake	Wp/ KE/ Sri Dharmaloka College, Kelaniya
9	Jeevan Yasmi	J/Thavady Hindu Tamil Mixed School
10	W. Gauri Pahanya	MR/ Siddhartha Primary School, Deniyaya

Grade 2

No	Name of the Student	Name of the School
1	H. R. L. Samedi Ohansa	MR/Sidhdhartha Primary School, Deniyaya
2	L. B. Kovidi Dhihansa Mihiduli	G/Shariputhra Maha Vidyalaya, Ahangama
3	G. A. C. Nethsara Senavirathna	Kg/Dehi/ Haloluwa Kanista Vidyalaya, Kannaththota
4	I. G. Thisuli Gihansa	MR/Thalapekumbura Kanista Vidyalaya. Alapaladeniya
5	Kavinaya Charles	J/Holy Family Convent, Jaffna
6	N. Shaikh Ahmed Aadhil	BT/BC/Oddamavadi Dharul Uloom Vidyalayam
7	M. D. R. Sayumdi Gunathilaka	Wp/ KE/ Sri Dharmaloka College, Kelaniya
8	N. Sehansa Bodipakshaga	MR/Thalapekumbura Kanista Vidyalaya. Alapaladeniya
9	M. D. Panhida Perera	Wp/ KE/ Sri Dharmaloka College, Kelaniya
10	K. B. G. Yuwani Methara	Wp/ KE/ Sri Dharmaloka College, Kelaniya

Grade 3

No	Name of the Student	Name of the School
1	H. M. U. Gauthmie Bandara	St. Joseph's B.M.V., Kegalle
2	K. A. H. Randira Senarathna	CP/H/ Ginigathhena Primary Collage, Gnigathhena
3	A. G. Y. Ranudisa Dithnal	MR/Sidhdhartha Primary School, Deniyaya
4	M. E. Okithma Fernando	B/Medawela Primary School, Uva-Paranagama
5	Agarsai Kamalarajan	J/St. John Bosco's Vidyalayam, Jaffna
6	L. A. Sandali Sammani	K/Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy
7	Inuki Lithumsa Bandara	K/Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy
8	W. C. Dedunu Diyas	WP/Dudley Senanayake College, Colombo 5
9	D. M. Udaya Methmika	MR/Gomila Primary School, Matara
10	M. D. Senudi Dinanya	WP/KE/Mahamaya Balika M.V., Gampaha

Grade 4

No	Name of the Student	Name of the School
1	K. G. Thamiru Thisalaka	MR/ Siddhartha Primary School, Deniyaya
2	A. Aaliya Noof	BT/BC/ Oddamavadi Dharul Uloom Vidyalaya
3	W. M. D. Minruka Weerasinghe	Thurstan College, Colombo 7
4	K. R. Thineth Lakdinu	MR/ Morawaka Primary School, Matara
5	A. Yoshini Yuwanya	MR/ Siddhartha Primary School, Deniyaya
6	R. L. S. Sandeeth Jayadithyaya	MR/ Deniyaya Central College, Deniyaya
7	K. Dulanya Yapa	Musaeus College, Colombo 7
8	A. P. Mihika Damsara	MR/ Morawaka Primary School, Matara
9	R. Y. Geolyn Rino Yogatheepan	J/St. John Bosco's Vidyalayam, Jaffna
10	K. K. Sachin Nimsara	MR/ Siddhartha Primary School, Deniyaya

Grade 5

No	Name of the Student	Name of the School
1	M. G. L. Janadini Bandara	Ke/Dehi/ Pahala Maniyagama Primary School
2	W. K. Akeesha Irandi	WP/KE/Vishaka Balika Vidyalaya, Makola
3	H. R. L. Isidu Oshan	MR/Siddhartha Primary School
4	V. A. T. R. Samarawickrama	Kandy International School, Kandy
5	R. L. Raveesha Hasarangi	MR/ Siddhartha Primary School, Deniyaya
6	K. V. I. Prabhashwara	MR/Dampahala Junior School, Matara
7	W. M. A. S. Wanigasekara	KG/St. Joseph's Balika Vidyalaya
8	D. N. Liyanage	Ananda College, Colombo 10
9	Deepika Rony Ruckman	J/Holy Family Convent (National School)
10	B. A. T. C. Miheli Bandara	KG/St. Joseph's Balika Vidyalaya

Grade 6

No	Name of the Student	Name of the School
1	Y. M. S. V. Yapa	St. Sylvester's College, Kandy
2	W. A. Nethsara Fernando	Ranabima Royal College, Peradeniya
3	N. R. C. Jananya Bandara	KG/St Joseph's Balika, Kegalle
4	A. Delakshany	Jaffna Hindu Ladies College
5	D. Nethumsa Rodrigo	MR/Sujatha Vidyalaya, Matara
6	L. J. Methvidu Sigera	Ku/St Anne's College, Kurunegala
7	A. G. Warangana Sathsarani	NC/PL//HG/ Ananda Balika National College, Higurakgoda
8	N. K. Vihan Randira	WP/Ke/Sri Dharmaloka College
9	M. S. Sethika Venuja	MR/Thelijjawila Central College
10	J. C. Galappaththi	A/Nachchaduwa Sinhala Maha Vidyalaya

School Science Competitions 2025

**Theme - “Nature Inspired Technology
for Sustainable Development”**

School Science Competitions

School Science Competitions (SSC) are annually conducted by Science Communication and Outreach Division of the NSF to popularize science among the school community. Accordingly, eight (08) competitions under the theme “Nature Inspired Technology for Sustainable Development” were conducted in 2025. First round of the competitions such as song, viridu and role play were conducted through recorded submissions and final round was conducted in person with performance on stage in the Auditorium of the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) on 23 September 2025.

The Science Competitions (SSC) conducted on the Theme 2025

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Essay Competition | 5. Short Science Stories (fiction) |
| 2. Digital Storytelling | 6. Song Competition |
| 3. Viridu Competition | 7. Roleplay Competition |
| 4. Poster Competition | 8. Short Science Drama |

Evaluation Panel of the School Science Competitions 2025

	Name	Affiliation/ Designation
1	Dr Jayantha Wattavidanage	Deputy Director General, South Asian Centre for Teacher Development, UNESCO Category II Center
2	Prof. R. M. Dharmadasa	Director / Research Professor, Herbal Technology Section, Industrial Technology Institute
3	Prof. Mangala Senanayake	Department of Drama, Oriental Ballet and Contemporary Dance, Faculty of Dance and Drama, University of Visual and Performing Arts
4	Mr. Maneesha Dugannarala	Lecturer, Department of Drama, Cinema and Television, Faculty of Humanities, University of Kelaniya
5	Mr. P. A. D. J. Padmasiri	Faculty of Dance and Drama, University of the Visual and Performing Arts
6	Dr N. Karthikeyan	Senior Lecturer, Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, The Open University of Sri Lanka
7	Mr. Thusitha Malalasekera	Science Communicator (Independent), Sinhala Editor Vidurava Science Magazine
8	Mr. M. A. T. De Silva	English Editor, Vidurava Science Magazine
9	Dr Seetha I. Wickremasinghe	Former Assistant Editor/ JNSF Both Sinhala and English languages
10	Ms Ruvini Jayalath	Deputy Director of Education, Ministry of Education
11	Dr P. R. M. P. Dilrukshi	Head, Science Communication and Outreach Division (SCOD)

Winners of the School Science Competitions

1. Essay Competition

No.	Name of the Student	School	Place
Sinhala Medium			
1	W. A. T. Thinara Indunilmi Peiris	Royal Central College, Polonnaruwa	1 st
2	A. Senethma Methsiluni	Musaeus Vidyalaya, Kalutara	2 nd
3	Chanumi Lisakya Peiris	Musaeus Vidyalaya, Kalutara	2 nd
4	A. M. Sehara Nimnadi Abeykoon	Attanakadawala National College, Polonnaruwa	3 rd
Tamil Medium			
1	Tharankiny Amirtharanjan	Hindu Ladies College, Jaffna	1 st
2	Thivyaraj Thasangan	St. Michael's College, Batticaloa	2 nd
3	G. Pirunthavan	Victoria College, Chulipuram	3 rd
English Medium			
1	Suvetha Sivaingaran	Rambaikulam Girls' Maha Vidyalayam, Vavuniya	1 st
2	T. Jehan Randeew Fernando	St. Joseph's College, Colombo 10	2 nd
3	D. M. Thisarani Samadhi Dissanayake	St. Anthony's Girls' School, Panadura	3 rd
4	P. D. Thimashi Dilsha Punsarani	JGO International College	Special Skills
5	K. S. Hirushi Navodya Fernando	JGO International College	Special Skills
6	Bhishman Kumarendiran	Carmel Fatima College	Special Skills
7	Shazaad Shafeel	Unique Interational School, Kurunegala	Special Skills

2. Digital Storytelling Competition

No.	Name of the Student	School	Place
1	Kaveesha Nethsara Daham Amarasinghe	Harischandra National College, Negombo	1 st
2	Sithun Senanayake	Mahinda College, Galle	2 nd
3	Yonal Gavriil Batuwita	St. Joseph's College, Colombo 10	3 rd

3. Viridu Competition

No.	Name of the Student	School	Place
1	G. P. Chamodya Dilhari and B. M. B. Prathiba Vijerathna	Agrabodhi Maha Vidyalaya, Vavuniya	1 st

4. Manual Poster Competition

No.	Name of the Student	School	Place
Grade 6			
1	S. P. Daham Thamsara	Highway International School, Homagama	1 st
2	G. V. Jenul Yuthmira Peiris	Royal Central College, Polonnaruwa	2 nd
Grade 7			
1	Senarathge Sithmi Navoda Kadewatta	St. Joseph Girls' College, Kegalle	1 st
2	Henak Gedara Nehansa Senudi	Royal Central College, Polonnaruwa	2 nd
3	Ashmi Methusari Bandara	Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy	3 rd
Grade 8			
1	A. A. Minidi Peiris	Royal Central College, Polonnaruwa	1 st
2	U. G. Pasindu Buddhika	Royal Central College, Polonnaruwa	2 nd
3	K.T. Taniya Fernando	Agrabodhi M.V., Vavuniya	3 rd
Grade 9			
1	Nethila Sanhinda Bandara	Agrabodhi M.V., Vavuniya	1 st
2	A. H. M. V. Vihansa Abeyrathna	Royal Central College, Polonnaruwa	2 nd
3	T. O. Amaya Wimalarathna	Royal Central College, Polonnaruwa	3 rd
Grade 10			
1	A. M. Shenuri Nimnadi Abeykoon	Attanakadawala National College, Polonnaruwa	1 st
2	Puvanenthiran Sastika	Vivekananda Ladies College, Batticaloa	2 nd
3	Susanthan Meruja	Vivekananda Ladies College, Batticaloa	3 rd
Grade 11			
1	S. G. M. Punsith Induwara Senevirathne	Royal Central College, Polonnaruwa	1 st
2	A. G. Nethmina Thejan Dharmasiri	Royal Central College, Polonnaruwa	2 nd
3	K. Rathurshana	Victoria College, Jaffna	3 rd
Grade 12			
1	M. A. Y. Thushani Sasanka Gimhani Perera	Royal Central College, Polonnaruwa	1 st
2	Adsaraa Panchadsaralingam	Skandavarodaya College, Jaffna	2 nd
3	U. G. Chathumini Kaushalya	Royal Central College, Polonnaruwa	3 rd

5. Science Fiction

No.	Name of the Student	School	Place
Sinhala Medium			
1	H. M. Isumi Gehansa Herath	Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy	1 st
2	G. Navani Amaya Ranathunga	St. Joseph Girls' College, Kegalle	2 nd
3	H. H. A. Sithumini Bhagya	Harischandra National College, Negombo	3 rd
Tamil Medium			
1	Rubiga Arunthavam	Vembadi Girls' High School, Jaffna	1 st
2	Thayakumaran Keshika	Chavakachcheri Hindu College, Chavakachcheri	2 nd
3	Adchaya Gnanachandran	Jaffna Hindu Ladies College, Jaffna	3 rd
English Medium			
1	K. M. Dulsara Ashinsa	Royal Central College, Polonnaruwa	1 st
2	D. A. R. Mewithya Dewasinghe	St. Joseph Girls' College, Kegalle	2 nd
3	Senuli Rashwita Menon	Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy	3 rd
4	Mumudi Abhigya Gajadeera	Horizon College International, Malabe	Special Skills
5	H. D. Risinu Chithsara Hirunmeth	Royal Central College, Polonnaruwa	Special Skills
6	L. L. Onitha Induwara	Royal Central College, Polonnaruwa	Special Skills
7	Himaya Swethani Perera	Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy	Special Skills

6. Song Competition

Name of the Student	School	Award
Main Singer: J. P. Rohasha Malshi Prisenithi Fernando Co-singer: K. D. Didulana Nimesh Edirisinghe Composer and Lyricist: J. P. Rohasha Malshi Prisenithi Teacher-in-charge: Ms C. A. M. S. Fernando Orchestra: R. M. Sandun Sugandha Dissanayake- Guitarist E. M. Hesandu Sathmira Weerasinghe - Kajon player	Mahindodaya Maha Vidyalaya, Hettipola	Certificate of Merit
Singers: S.A.D. Sesanya Premalal and M.P.R. Vinodya Muthugala Teacher-in-Charge: Ms A. T. N. Munasinghe Composer: Ms Nishani Perera Lyricist: Ms Dhammika Pathirana Orchestra: R. A. D. Mahodya Methmina K. C. S. Kaluarachchi Osanda Methmal Mendis Weerasinghe W. M. Nadil Nimsara E. Sahas Laknitha Rodrigo	Harischandra National School, Negombo	Certificate of Merit

7. Role Play

No	Name of the Student	School	Place
1	J. W. Nathari Aanya	Highway International School, Homagama	1 st
2	Pawani Manodya Jayasinghe	Highway International School, Homagama	2 nd
3	Disha Manoja Kumar Mishra	Highway International School, Homagama	3 rd
4	G. I. Aeshan K. Fonseka	Kingswood College, Kandy	3 rd

8. Science Drama

Award	Name of the student, School
Best Drama on Stage	Ranabima Royal College, Gannoruwa
Best Drama on Stage	Meesalai Weerasingam Central College, Jaffna

Best Actor	Manoraj Abishek, Meesalai Weerasingam Central College – Role as a Monkey
Certificate of Appreciation	A. G. M. A. Bandara, Ranabima Royal College - Role as Researcher

Best Music	Mr B. G. T. P. Abeysinghe Ranabima Royal College, Gannoruwa
Best Choreography	Ms W. W. B. M. K. D. Wijesinghe Ranabima Royal College, Gannoruwa
Best Set Design	Mr Sinnathurai Sopithan Meesalai Weerasingam Central College, Jaffna
Best Costumes	Mr Lingeswaran Santhirahasan Meesalai Weerasingam Central College, Jaffna
Best Drama Script	Mr Lingeswaran Santhirahasan Meesalai Weerasingam Central College, Jaffna
Best Drama Script – Special Jury Award	Ms W. W. B. M. K. D. Wijesinghe Ranabima Royal College, Gannoruwa

Drama Team
Ranabima Royal College, Gannoruwa

(Sinhala Medium)

Actors	Name	Role Name	Grade
Student 1	J. W. M. N. M. Kapukotuwa	King of Apaya	Grade 12
Student 2	W. R. T. Ariyaratne	God	Grade 8
Student 3	A. T. B. Premachandra	Yamapalla	Grade 9
Student 4	B. M. W. J. M. K. C. Jayasundara	Yamapalla	Grade 9
Student 5	G. R. G. D. N. Jayarathne	Yamapalla	Grade 9
Student 6	A. G. M. A. Bandara	Researcher	Grade 10
Student 7	H. C. D. Herath	Yamapalla	Grade 10
Student 8	U. Y. G. K. P. Jayarathne	Yamapalla	Grade 10
Student 9	N. P. B. Kavisekara	Yamapalla	Grade 11
Student 10	D. H. N. Weerakkody	Yamapalla	Grade 11
Student 11	A. C. H. Bandara	Yamapalla	Grade 12
Student 12	H. M. K. S. V. B. Herath	Yamapalla	Grade 12
Student 13	A. M. B. G. S. S. Athauda	Yamapalla	Grade 12
Student 14	P. H. R. L. Weerasekara	Yamapalla	Grade 12
Student 15	A. W. K. G. M. Weerakoon	Chimes Player	Grade 12
Script Writer	Ms W. W. B. M. K. D. Wijesinghe	Drama Teacher	
Choreographer	Ms W. W. B. M. K. D. Wijesinghe	Drama Teacher	
Stage Setup	Ms W. W. B. M. K. D. Wijesinghe	Drama Teacher	
Music	Mr B. G. T. P. Abeysinghe	Drama Teacher	
Teacher-in-Charge	Ms N. D. C. Sagarika Gunathilake	Teacher-in-charge Science Society	

Drama Team
J/Meesalai Weerasingam Central College, Jaffna

Title : Nature is a benefactor (Tamil Medium)

Actors	Name	Role Name	Grade
Student 1	Koneswaran Kingstan	Bear	Grade 11
Student 2	Thayaparan Lokerth	Fox	Grade 9
Student 3	Manoraj Abishek	Monkey	Grade 9
Student 4	Jekanathan Sapishan	Ant	Grade 8
Student 5	Juval thas Liyastan	Lion	Grade 11
Student 6	Veeramannan Kapilash	Spider	Grade 11
Student 7	Sukumaran Pirasenan	Hunter	Grade 13
Student 8	Uthaya Kumar Nerujan	Child	Grade 7
Student 9	Sivakumar Dilaxan	Elephant	Grade 11
Student 10	Uthajakumar Pavishan	Fish	Grade 9
Student 11	Sivanatham Aksayan	Tree	Grade 13
Student 12	Jekavinothan Shajakan	Tree	Grade 13
Student 13	Inpararaj Isaac	Tree	Grade 7
Student 14	Sivaruban Abishan	Tree	Grade 9
Student 15	Pirasath Anesh	Fronter	Grade 9
Music Group	Srikumar Piruththika	Singer	Grade 9
	James Arulmathy Thanusika	Singer	Grade 13
	Mayuran Nithash	Singer	Grade 7
	Mayooran Vinishan	Organ Player	Grade 11
	Selvaraththinam Jenany	Violin Player	Grade 12
Choreographer	Mr Lingeswaran Santhirahasan	Drama Teacher	
Stage Setup	Mr Sinnathurai Sopithan	Teacher	
Script Writer	Mr Lingeswaran Santhirahasan	Drama Teacher	
Teacher -in-Charge	Ms P.G. Asha Damayanathi	Teacher-in-charge of the team	

**Science Research Project
Competition (SRPC) - 2024**

Science Research Project Competition (SRPC) - 2024

To inculcate research culture among the school community the NSF is conducting Science Research Project Competition (SRPC) annually since 2008. Accordingly, SRPC 2024 initiated in June 2024. The students of selected project proposals carried out their projects under the supervision of a senior scientist of university or research institution for a period of 6-8 months. After continuous progress monitoring done by the NSF, projects became eligible to participate in the competition. The competition was conducted in two steps (STEP I and STEP II). The STEP I was conducted on to select the best twenty (20) projects and the final evaluation (STEP II) was conducted on 26 April 2023 to select ten (10) national winners.

Table 03: Evaluation Panel of the Science Research Project Competition 2024

	Name	Affiliation/ Designation
1	Dr Jayantha Wattavidanage	Deputy Director, South Asian Center for Teacher Development, UNESCO Category II Center
2	Eng. Neil Abeysekera	CEO/ Director General at IESL College of Engineering, Vidya Mawatha, Colombo 07
3	Prof. Sunethra Karunaratne	Retired professor in Education, Post Graduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya
4	Prof R. M. Dharmadasa	Research Professor, Herbal Technology Section, Industrial Technology Institute (ITI)
5	Dr Pradeepika Saputhanthri	Senior Lecturer, Department of Plant Sciences, University of Colombo
6	Prof. Inoka C. Perera	Professor, Department of Zoology and Environment Sciences, University of Colombo
7	Dr N. Karthikeyan	Senior Lecturer in Physics, Faculty of Natural Sciences, The Open University of Sri Lanka
8	Prof. Janitha Liyanage	Senior Professor, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya
9	Dr Vijanaka Fernando	Senior Lecturer, Department of Physics, The Open University of Sri Lanka
10	Dr P. R. M. P. Dilrukshi	Head, Science Communication and Outreach Division

Winners of the Science Research Project Competition 2024

	Title	School	Students	Principal Supervisor
1	Study on the efficacy of <i>Mikania micrantha</i> extracts incorporated with nano clay as a pest controlling method against aphids	Dharmaraja College, Kandy	A.Y.B. Weerakoon Teacher in charge Ms Thilini Wijesundara	Dr W. H. Jayasinghe Department of Agricultural Biology, Faculty of Agriculture University of Peradeniya
2	Producing flour from banana (<i>Musa</i>) rhizome for widening its uses in the food industry	Maliyadeva College, Kurunegala	M. A. K. M. Dodamgoda J. A. M. R. Jayakody Teacher in charge Ms A. A. N. N. Kumari	Dr (Mrs.) J. A. A. C Wijesinghe Department of Biosystems Engineering Faculty of Agriculture & Plantation Management, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka
3	Ecological niche modeling of <i>Channa orientalis</i>	Harischandra National College, Negombo	K. G. G. Kavisha Nethsara Daham Amarasinghe Teacher in charge Mrs. A.T. Nelka Munasinghe	Dr Ajith Gunawardhane, Director, Environmental Education and Awareness Division, Central Environmental Authority
4	A sustainable solution for polymer synthesis	Sirimavo Bandaranaike Vidyalaya, Colombo 07	P. A. Thewmali Piyadasa Teacher in charge Ms K. H. B. B. Jayasekera	Dr M. A. Madhubhashini, Maddumaarachchi, Department of Polymer Science, Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura
5	Effect of coconut water, well water and IBA on rooting of <i>Jasminum officinale</i> stem cuttings	Sanghamiththa Balika Vidyalaya, Galle	Lakithi Sesenya Samarawickrama Kuruppuge Teacher in Charge Ms M. G. R. N. Gamage	Prof. Nilanthi Dahanayaka, Department of Agricultural Biology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna

6	Mapping Dengue vector breeding sites and assessing knowledge, attitudes, and practices on dengue control among students	Jaffna Hindu College, Jaffna	S. Abinaban S. Ashwin G. Sharankan Teacher in charge Ms Thatchagini Viknaruban	Dr P. Amal Dinesh Coonghe Department of Community and Family Medicine, Faculty of Medicine University of Jaffna
7	Comparative study of phytoremediation on water quality in the Dutch canal: using <i>Nymphaea nouchali</i> , <i>Nymphaea pubescens</i> and <i>Pistia stratiotes</i>	Sanghamiththa Balika Vidyalaya, Galle	R. K. T. Pasandi S. A. Lokuge H. K. J. Nimasara Teacher in charge Ms I. Y. Gurusinghe	Dr Udari Rathnathunga Faculty of Urban Agriculture, University of Sri Jayawardhanapura
8	Sustainable solution for disposing used pens in Sri Lanka: An eco-friendly approach for students and professionals	Visakha Vidyalaya, Colombo.	N. N. Ekanayake Teacher in charge Ms T. Wijesuriya	Prof. D.S.M. De Silva, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya
9	Nutrient enriched eco-friendly grow mat for vegetable cultivation	Harischandra National College, Negombo	W. Shelan H. Silva Teacher in charge Ms A. T. Nelka Munasinghe	Dr Priyanga Dissanayake Soil and Plant Nutrition Division Sustainable Agriculture Research and Development Centre
10	Utilization of Mango leaves <i>Mangifera indica</i> L.) as in-situ bio-monitoring tool against vehicular air pollution	<i>Paddiruppu Madya Maha Vidyalayam, Kaluwanchikudy</i>	T. Abidshan G. Bovilaashini S. Shapthangsana Teacher in charge Mr S. Thevakumar	Prof. M. Sithambaresan Department of Chemistry Eastern University of Sri Lanka

NSF Awards for Teachers in Promoting Science 2025

The NSF felicitates the best performed Science Teachers to give recognition for their contribution towards popularization of science and promoting science education among school community to popularize science among the school community. Further, this also become a motivation to get their fullest engagement to promote science education beyond school curriculum. These awards include one Lifetime award (01), Commendation awards (max 02) and Appreciation awards.

The Winners of the Teachers Awards 2025

	Award	Name of the teacher	Name of the school
1	NSF Lifetime Award for Popularization of Science	Mrs. S. I. W. Samaranayake	Po/Royal Central College, Polonnaruwa
2	Certificate of Commendation	Mr. Selvarajah Thevakumar	BT/PD/Paddiruppu National School, Kaluwanchikudy
3	Certificate of Appreciation	Mrs. A. Abayasiriwardena	Rajasinghe Maha Vidyalaya, Colombo 09

The NSF Best Performed School Science Society for the Year 2025

The National Science Foundation (NSF) felicitates the best performed School Science Societies under the NSF School Science Society Network by evaluating their performance on the previous year by giving “star ratings”. The awards are given to the Schools Science Societies that received 5-3-stars at the evaluation. The school, Teacher in-charge of the Science Society, President and Secretary of the School receive awards and certificates at the Ceremony.

Winners of the Star Ratings for the best performed Science Societies 2025

Award	School of the Science Society	Teacher in charge	Principal	President	Secretary
5 stars	WP/Ng/ Harishchandra National College, Negombo	Ms. A.T. Nelka Munasinghe	Mr. U.G.V.D. Siriwardhana	Nethula Kodithuwakku	Ms. Navodi Narmadha Panawanna
4 stars	Royal College Polonnaruwa	Ms. S. I. W Samaranayake	Mr L.K.K. Ravilal Wijewansa	W.K. Anushka Induwara Kulasooriya	M.A.Y.M.S. Herath
3 stars	ST/PD/ Paddirippu National School	Mr. S. Thevakumar	Mr. M. Sabes Kumar	Ms. T. Janushka	T. Virushan

International Competitions

1. Participating in the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) 2025

The International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) is the world's largest pre-college STEM competition. For more than 70 years, thousands of students from affiliated science fair network have explored their passion for scientific inquiry at the world's largest global science competition for high schoolers, the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF). Each year, students from more than 75 countries, regions, and territories compete in ISEF across 21 different STEM disciplines. This year Regeneron sponsored International Science and Engineering held in Columbus, Ohio, USA from 10-16 May 2025. Regeneron ISEF is often referred to as a "Mini Nobel Competition" and "Olympic of Science". Sri Lanka Team have been participating ISEF since 2008. Accordingly, in 2025, the students (03) of three projects that became top in the Sri Lankan Science and Engineering Fair 2025 conducted jointly by the National Science Foundation, Institutes of Engineers Sri Lanka (IESL) and Ministry of Education on 13th February 2025 participated in Regeneron ISEF.

The Students Team participated in ISEF 2025:

	Name of the Student	School	Title of the project
1	P. M. B. W. Dasindu Sithmira	Sivali Central College, Ratnapura	Game
2	A. Y. B. Weerakoon	Dharmaraja College, Kandy	Study of the efficacy of <i>Mikania micrantha</i> extracts incorporated with nano clay as a pest controlling method against aphids
3	Ramiru Thehan Wijayasiriwardhane	Ananda College, Colombo	RAIN: Really Autonomous Irrigation Network

2. Participating in the 31st International Conference of Young Scientists (ICYS 2025) from 6 - 10 April 2025 in Rayong, Thailand

The International Conference of Young Scientists (ICYS) is an annual gathering that serves as a distinguished platform for young researchers to present their work and connect with the global academic community. The 31st ICYS 2025 was held from April 6-10 in Rayong, Thailand, providing students with a valuable opportunity for academic, professional, and personal development. Participants had platforms to showcase their research across various scientific fields, gaining hands-on experience in scientific communication. They also received constructive feedback from international experts and peers, helping them refine their research and analytical skills. Outstanding research selected for publication in conference proceedings and scientific journals, enhancing students' academic credentials. Additionally, the conference also allowed participants to explore advancements in multiple scientific disciplines, expanding their knowledge base. Following students participated in the ICYS and had won awards for their performance at the competition.

The Students Team Participated in ICYS 2025

Name of the Student	School	Title of the project
M. A. K. M. Dodamgoda and J. A. M. R. Jayakody	Maliyadeva College, Kurunegala	Producing flour from banana (<i>Musa</i>) rhizome for widening its uses in the food industry
K. G. G. Kavisha Nethsara Amarasinghe	Harischandra National College, Negombo	Developing a Simple ML-Drive Model for Predicting Fish Species Distribution
P. A. T. Piyadasa	Sirimavo Bandaranaike Vidyalaya, Colombo	A sustainable solution for polymer synthesis
A. Y. B. Weerakoon	Dharmaraja College, Kandy	Study on the efficacy of <i>Mikania micrantha</i> extracts incorporated with nano clay as a pest controlling method against aphids
S. K. L. Sasenya	Sanghamiththa Balika Vidyalaya, Galle	Effect of coconut water, well water and IBA on rooting of <i>Jasminum officinale</i> stem cuttings

Three students mentioned below presented at the Conference received Medals at the conference, showcasing the exceptional research capabilities of the students. These international awards highlight the high standard of scientific inquiry being fostered through the SRPC.

1. **M. A. K. M. Dodamgoda and J. A. M. R. Jayakody**
Maliyadeva College, Kurunegala - *Bronze Medal*
2. **K. G. G. Kavisha Nethsara Amarasinghe**
Harischandra National College, Negombo - *Bronze Medal*
3. **P. A. T. Piyadasa** - Sirimavo Bandaranaike Vidyalaya, Colombo -
- *Bronze Medal*

National Science Foundation

Staff of Science Communication and Outreach Division (SCOD)

Head,
Principal Scientific Officer(PSO) : Dr P. R. M. P. Dilrukshi

Senior Scientific Officers (SSO) : Mrs Dilrukshi Ekanayake
Mrs Maduka Senarathne

Scientific Officers (SO) : Mrs Abhimani Ranathunge
Mrs Apeksha Hearth

Management Assistants : Ms Anjalee Perera
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NAITA Trainees : Mr Pasindu Mahendra
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