



IPSL - Newsletter

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Volume 19, Issue 1

INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS, SRI LANKA (IPSL)

Vidya Mandiraya, 120/10, Wijerama Mawatha, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka.

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IPSL Highlights - 2025

Prof. Milvaganam Memorial Oration

Abstract:

Existence of a new fundamental particle, with some properties similar to those of the neutrino as we know today, was first hypothesized by Wolfgang Pauli in 1930 as an explanation for the continuous nature of energy spectra of beta particles. Some physicists suggested that it would never be possible to experimentally detect such a particle because of its implied elusiveness associated with the weakly interacting nature with other particles. But with the implementation of some clever experimental techniques, physicists were able to experimentally detect and measure some of the properties of neutrinos in the year 1956. This breakthrough opened up a number of new research areas, both experimental and theoretical, which paved the way for new understandings and refining of some of the existing theories in physics. One specific example is the development of neutrino telescopes that introduced a novel method for astrophysical observations. A comprehensive review of the major neutrino experiments, their significance in understanding the Universe and future trends in neutrino research will be presented in this oration.



45th Annual General Meeting

The 45th Annual General Meeting of the Institute of Physics Sri Lanka was held on 22nd March, 2025 at the Department of Physics, University of Colombo. New office bearers and the members of the Council were unanimously elected for the year 2025/2026.

Prof. C Mahesh Edirisinghe was elected as the President. He expressed his gratitude towards all the council members for appointing him as the President of IPSL for the year 2025/2026. He also conveyed his appreciation to the former council, for their exceptional service to IPSL over the last year, 2024/2025.

Prof. C Mahesh Edirisinghe expressed his willingness to organize several activities to uplift the status of IPSL in the coming year while requesting the support of all the council members for future events.

41st Technical sessions - Papers presented

The 41st technical sessions of the Institute of Physics, Sri Lanka was held on the 22nd March, 2025 at the NPLT, Department of Physics, University of Colombo. Fourteen (14) papers were presented within three sessions. Dr. R C L De Silva chaired the Session I from 0830h to 1030h, Prof. P A A Perera chaired the Session II from 1030h to 1200h and Prof. K P S C Jayaratne chaired the session III from 1300h to 1400h.

Fourteen research papers were received and they were accepted for oral presentations at the 41st Technical Sessions, after reviewing each and every paper by two reviewers.

The papers accepted for the oral presentations and the programme for the Technical Sessions on 22nd March, 2024 are given below.

Session I (0830-1015 hrs) – Session Chairman: Dr. R. C. L. De Silva

1. **Design And Construction of an Inexpensive Magnetometer for the Study of Geomagnetic Variations and Solar Coronal Mass Ejections**
H. M. D. N. Abeyasinghe, K. P. S. C. Jayaratne, J. Adassuriya
2. **Advancing Photovoltaic Performance in Quantum Dot-Sensitized Solar Cells Through Sulfur-Enhanced CdS Quantum Dots and Innovative Material Engineering**
N. F. Ajward, J. V. P. Fernando & V. P. S. Perera
3. **Optimized Low-Temperature Gas Sensing Performance of Cu₂O-ZnO Heterostructured Thin Films**
A. H. M. N. N. Bandara, K. N. D. Bandara, G. K. R. Senadeera, V. P. S. Perera
4. **Reviewing the capacitive properties of Cu₂O crystal structure and composite**
U. A. D. P. Bhagya, P. K. D. D. P. Pittigala
5. **Light Curve Modeling of Eclipsing Binary Systems with Delta Scuti Component**
J. A. D. M. Dharmathilaka, J. Adassuriya, K. P. S. C. Jayaratne, Jordi L. Gutiérrez
6. **Machine Learning Application for the Classification of Solar Radio Bursts**
D. S. Kulasuriya, K. P. S. C. Jayaratne, J. Adassuriya

Session II (1030 -1200 hrs) – Session Chairman: Professor P. A. A Perera

7. **Determination of Speed and Source Height of Coronal Shock Waves Using Type II Solar Radio Bursts**
G. L. S. S. Liyanage, J. Adassuriya, K. P. S. C. Jayaratne, C. Monstien
8. **Development of A Low Cost Geophone for Finding Epicenter of An Earthquake**
M. S. F. Musfiqa, D. D. Dharmasiri and N. G. S. S. Gamage
9. **Two-Level Open Quantum Systems: Energy Dissipation, Population Dynamics, and Entropy Evolution**
Kanishka W. Palihakkara, Mahesh N. Jayakody
10. **A Systematic Review of Urban Heat Island Impact on Selected Asian Cities**
Saumya Chathuranga, K. P. S. Chandana Jayaratne
11. **Impact of Core Relaxation on the Asymmetry Parameter in Photoionization of Spin-Orbit Split Components of the Xenon 3d Subshell**
K. P. R. V. Silva, C. R. Munasinghe, S. T. Manson

Session III (1300-1400 hrs) – Session Chairman: Professor K. P. S. C. Jayaratne

12. **Dye-sensitized Solar Cells using Natural Dyes Extracted from Barbados Cherry Fruit, Purple Shamrock Leaves, and Wild Snake Root Fruit**
W. M. G. H. P. Wickramasinghe, U. W. N. H. Gunawardhana, G. C. Wickramasinghe, S. Davisan, V. P. S. Perera, S. H. R. T. Sooriyagoda
13. **Study of Low-temperature Electrodeposition Growth of Copper(I) Oxide (Cu₂O) Thin Films on Indium Tin Oxide (ITO) Glass Substrate**
J. R. R. Wickramasingha, P. K. D. D. P. Pitigala, W. W. P. De Silva
14. **Crustal Structure Beneath the Pallekale Seismic Station in Sri Lanka using Receiver Function Analysis**
W. M. D. M. Wickramasinghe, N. G. S. Shantha Gamage
15. **Presidential Address: Quantum Consciousness**
Dr. R Chinthaka L De Silva
President
Institute of Physics, Sri Lanka
Venue: NPLT, Department of Physics, University of Colombo

IPSL Council - Year 2025/2026

The Council photograph was taken for the Year 2025/2026 on 7^h March 2026.



Standing Row L to R:

Dr. R. Thotagamuge (Treasurer), Prof. W.K.I.L. Wanniarachchi (Vice President), Dr. (Ms.) H.O. Wijewardane (Vice President), Mr. G.H. Ashoka (Council Member)

Seated Row L to R :

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Absent:

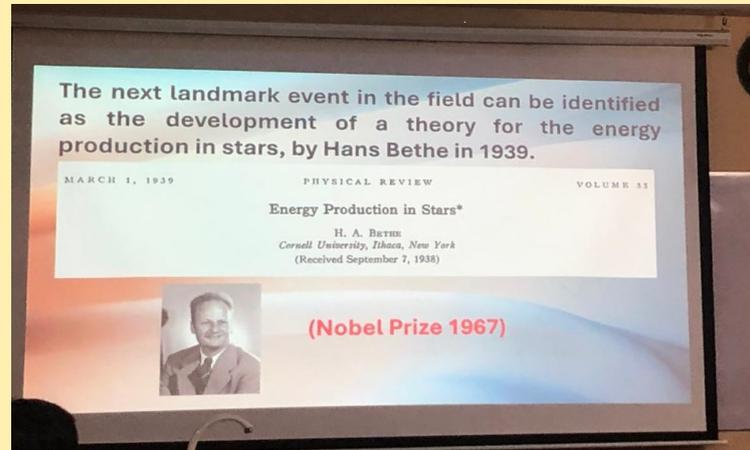
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Prof. Mailvaganam Memorial Oration - 2025



The Prof. A W Mailvaganam Memorial Oration 2025 took place on 5th January 2026 at the New Physics Lecture Theatre (NPLT), University of Colombo. This annual event honors the legacy of Prof. A W Mailvaganam, a pioneering figure in Sri Lankan physics. .

This year's oration was delivered by Professor Aloy Perera, Senior Professor at the Department of Physics and Electronics, University of Kelaniya. His lecture was titled "*Role of Neutrinos in Comprehending the Universe*".



Best Undergraduate Physics Research Project Award — 2025

The Institute of Physics, Sri Lanka (IPSL) annually recognizes outstanding undergraduate research in physics through the Best Undergraduate Physics Research Project Award, with the aim of encouraging research excellence and strengthening analytical and experimental skills among physics undergraduates in Sri Lanka.

A panel of academics appointed by the IPSL Council evaluated the submissions for the 2025 award. The evaluation panel consisted of Dr. Harshani Wijewardane, Prof. Susira Perera, Dr. Wasanthi De Silva, and Dr. Binuka Gunawardana.

Following the evaluation process, the Best Undergraduate Physics Research Project Award – 2025 was awarded to Mr. Sathira Promodya Widyawansa from the Department of Physics, University of Colombo, for his thesis titled “Graphene-based Flexible LP Gas Sensor.”

The Institute congratulates Mr. Widyawansa for his outstanding undergraduate research contribution. IPSL remains committed to promoting excellence in physics education and encouraging young researchers to contribute to the advancement of science and technology in Sri Lanka.



Sri Lankan Olympiads Competitions - 2025

The IPSL conducts four local Olympiads competitions;

- (i) Sri Lankan Physics Olympiad Competition
- (ii) Sri Lankan Astronomy and Astrophysics Olympiad Competition
- (iii) Sri Lankan Junior Astronomy Olympiad Competition
- (iv) Sri Lankan Junior Science Olympiad Competition,
- (v) Sri Lankan Nuclear Science Olympiad Competition,

at the National level with the aim of promoting Physics, Astronomy, and Science among school children.

These Olympiad competitions are conducted annually by the IPSL in collaboration with the Department of Physics, the University of Colombo, University of Kelaniya and University of Sri Jayewardeneepura. Applications were called from school children who wish to participate in these Olympiad competitions, and they are generally held in all three languages (Sinhala/Tamil/English) at the examination centers located at the Departments of Physics in the Universities of Colombo, Eastern, Jaffna, Kelaniya, Sri Jayewardeneepura, Peradeniya, Ruhuna, Wayaba, Open University, Uwa Wellassa, and Vavuniya.

Sri Lankan Olympiads Competitions - 2025

The 19th Sri Lankan Physics Olympiad Competition & the 17th Sri Lankan Astronomy and Astrophysics Olympiad Competition, and 13th Sri Lankan Junior Astronomy Olympiad Competition were held on , was conducted on 02nd November 2025. The 08th Sri Lankan Junior Science Olympiad competitions was held on 26th April 2025 and 3rd Sri Lankan Nuclear Science Olympiad Competition Was held on 17th January 2026.

The four national coordinators of the respective Olympiad competitions are Prof. S. R. D. Rosa (National Coordinator – Physics Olympiad), Prof. K. P. S. C. Jayaratne (National Coordinator – Astronomy and Astrophysics Olympiads), Prof. H. H. Sumithipala (National Coordinator – Sri Lankan Junior Science Olympiad), and Prof. N. G. S. Shantha Gamage (National Coordinator – Sri Lankan Nuclear Science Olympiad).

13th SRI LANKAN JUNIOR ASTRONOMY OLYMPIAD COMPETITION - 2025 REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

SCAN for registration

October 25 Application Deadline

November 02 11.00 AM Examination

Visit the link: <https://ceynexk.com/astromony-olympiad/>

Conducted by: INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS, SRI LANKA
 Contact: assu.uoc@phys.cmb.ac.lk
 Visit: <https://ipsl.lk/astromony-olympiad/>

17th SRI LANKAN ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS OLYMPIAD COMPETITION - 2025 REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

SCAN QR CODE FOR REGISTRATION

OCTOBER 25 Application Deadline

NOVEMBER 02 11.00 AM Examination

LINK FOR REGISTRATION: [HTTPS://CEYNEK.COM/ASTROMONY-OLYMPIAD/](https://ceynexk.com/astromony-olympiad/)

Conducted by: INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS, SRI LANKA
 Contact: assu.uocephys.cmb.ac.lk
 Visit: <https://ipsl.lk/astromony-olympiad/>

THE SRI LANKAN PHYSICS OLYMPIAD COMPETITION - 2025 REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

SCAN QR CODE FOR REGISTRATION

OCTOBER 25 Application Deadline

NOVEMBER 02 9.00 AM Examination

LINK FOR REGISTRATION: [HTTPS://CEYNEK.COM/PHYSICSOLYMPIAD/](https://ceynexk.com/physicsolympiad/)

Conducted by: INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS, SRI LANKA
 Contact: assu.uocephys.cmb.ac.lk
 Visit: <https://ipsl.lk/physics-olympiad/>

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR THE 3RD SRI LANKAN NUCLEAR SCIENCE OLYMPIAD (SLNSO) 2026
 For School Students

EXAMINATION PAPER

- Duration: Two Hours
- Date: 11 January 2026
- Medium: Sinhala/ English/ Tamil
- Questions based on A/L Physics Syllabus
- 25% of the questions will cover topics from the Matter & Radiation section

AWARDS

- Gold Medals
- Silver Medals
- Bronze Medals
- Certificates of Merit

Register Now!

Students under the age of 20 years by 01.01.2026 can apply

APPLICATION DEADLINE 28th of December 2025

Best Selected Contestants may represent the 3rd International Nuclear Science Olympiad Competition held in August 2026
 (Note: To participate in the international competition, the student should be below 20 years of age on 31st August, 2026)

In 2025, 4 students from Sri Lanka participated in the 2nd INSO held in Malaysia, winning two silver medals and two bronze medals.

The team's participation was fully sponsored by IAEA

Organized by: The Institute of Physics, Sri Lanka
 For more info: <https://www.facebook.com/SLNuclearScienceOlympiad>

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SRI LANKAN JUNIOR SCIENCE OLYMPIAD-2025

Competition Date 2025-05-10
Tele- 071 848 7622

Visit - www.sljsio.lk more detail

Sri Lankan Physics Olympiad Competition – 2025, 17th Sri Lankan Junior Astronomy Olympiad Competition – 2025 and 13th Sri Lankan Astronomy and Astrophysics Olympiad Competition – 2025

Meanwhile competitions of the 2025, namely the 19th Sri Lankan Physics Olympiad (SLPhO), 17th Sri Lankan Astronomy and Astrophysics Olympiad (SLAAO), and 13th Sri Lankan Junior Astronomy Olympiad (SLJAO) were held on 2025.11.02. These three Olympiad competitions will be held in all three languages (Sinhala/Tamil/English) at the examination centres at the Departments of Physics in the universities of Colombo, Ruhuna (Matara), Jaffna, Rajarata(Mihinthale), Kandy(Polgolla) & Batticaloa Regional Centres of the Open University. The award ceremony was held on 07.03.2026 at the New Arts Theatre of the University of Colombo with Senior Professor Kapila Seneviratne, the Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC), as the Chief Guest and Senior Professor Indika Mahesh Karunathilake, Vice-Chancellor, University of Colombo, as the Guest of Honour.

The following are the medal winners' numbers

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
Sri Lankan Physics Olympiad Competition - 2025	16	17	18
Sri Lankan Junior Astronomy Olympiad Competition - 2025	30	42	96
Sri Lankan Astronomy and Astrophysics Olympiad Competition – 2025	16	20	17



Sri Lankan Junior Science Olympiad -2025

The 8th Sri Lankan Junior Science Olympiad was successfully conducted throughout the island on May 10, 2025. Then another 5 MCQ selection tests were conducted online, and a theory test was performed to select the final team to participate in the 22nd International Junior Olympiad 23 November – 02 December 2025, Sochi, Russia. However, due to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, the city of Sochi was under threat. We therefore cancelled participation in the competition for the participants' security.

22nd edition of the International Junior Science Olympiad
23 November-02 December 2025 Sochi – Russia




SRI LANKAN TEAM

					
M F M Ammaar Lyceum International School - Panadura	K R C Karunaratne Musaeus College	R M M D Rajaguru Polymath International	S S Samarawickrama Holy Family Balika Kurunegala	D V Weragama Sivali Central College	W. M. A. A. Wariyapola Musaeus College

18th INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIAD ON ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS — 2025

A team comprising of 5 students who excelled at the 16th Sri Lankan Astronomy and Astrophysics 2025. Prof K P S Chandana Jayaratne, who was the National coordinator for Astronomy olympiads was the leader -1 of the team and Dr. Janaka Addassuriya was the Leader -2. The team was given usual vigorous training on theory and practical sides of astronomy prior to their departure at the Colombo University, and also at the Sri Lanka Planetarium and at the astronomical observatory of the Arthur C Clarke Institute for Modern Technologies, Katubedda, Moratuwa.

The following students participated.

Jayakodiarachchige Don Damien Piyushan Nanayakkara	St. Joseph's College Colombo-10
Melewwe Thantrige Anuja Nadun Maitipe	Ananda College, Colombo 10
Weda Madinage Rusiru Hasith Muthumal Upathissa	Nalanda College, Siridhamma mawatha, Colombo 10
Dasanayake Mudiyanseleage Dinodh Hasmira Dasanayake	Nalanda College, Colombo 10
Ramiru Dilnuka Balasooriya	Nalanda College, Siridhamma Mawatha, Colombo 10.

Student Jayakodiarachchige Don Damien Piyushan Nanayakkara received a honorable mention.

The main purpose of this exercise is to popularize Astronomy and Astrophysics in Sri Lanka, and to attract bright high school students all over the country to follow Science stream and especially towards Astronomy and Astrophysics.



With the Sri Lankan Ambassador at the Opening Ceremony

Sri Lankan Nuclear Science Olympiad (SLNSO) 2026 and International Nuclear Science Olympiad (INSO) 2025

The Institute of Physics Sri Lanka conducted the 3rd Sri Lankan Nuclear Science Olympiad (SLNSO) in January 2026 for G.C.E. (A/L) students from government and non-government schools. The examination, based on the A/L Physics syllabus, was held at 11 centers island-wide in Sinhala, English, and Tamil, under the coordination of the National Coordinator, Prof. Shantha Gamage.

At the IPSL Annual Awards Ceremony held in March 2026, 7 Gold medals, 14 Silver medals, and 21 Bronze medals were awarded at the national level. In addition, 62 Certificates of Merit were sent to the recipients.

Based on first-round performance and age eligibility, 14 students were shortlisted for the second competitive examination. Four students will be selected, based on their performance in both the first and second examinations, to represent Sri Lanka at the International Nuclear Science Olympiad (INSO) 2026. The INSO, organized under the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency technical cooperation project on Nuclear Science and Technology Education, is an annual global competition for students under 20 years of age.

The Institute of Physics, Sri Lanka (IPSL), conducted the 2nd Sri Lankan Nuclear Science Olympiad (SLNSO) for G.C.E. (A/L) students from both government and non-government secondary schools. The examination, based on the A/L Physics syllabus, was held in January 2025 at 12 centers across the island and conducted in Sinhala, English, and Tamil. Based on their performance in the SLNSO, Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals, along with Certificates of Merit, were presented to the winners at the national level during the annual awards ceremony organized by IPSL in March 2025. From these winners, a pool of around 12 students was selected, and IPSL conducted several practical and theory workshops for them. Four representatives were then chosen for the Sri Lankan team through a highly competitive examination. Prior to the international competition, practical and theoretical training programs were conducted at the Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Board, the Department of Physics, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, the Department of Nuclear Science, University of Colombo, and Apeksha Hospital, Maharagama.

Four Sri Lankan students participated in the 2nd INSO, held in Malaysia from July 30th to August 6th, 2025, competing among more than 60 contestants from 15 countries. The team achieved excellent results, winning two Silver medals and two Bronze medals: The Silver Medals were awarded to T. D. Wickramaratna and L. L. Ilangamge from D. S. Senanayake College, Colombo. The Bronze Medals were awarded to G. K. R. B. Ranatunga from Maliyadeva College, Kurunegala, and C. Y. Ranasinghe from Dharmaraja College, Kandy.

The Sri Lankan team was expertly led by country coordinator of INSO Prof. Shantha Gamage, Professor in the Department of Physics at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, and Prof. Susura Perala from the Open University of Sri Lanka. Financial support for the team was provided by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Austria through the Atomic Energy Board of Sri Lanka.

The International Nuclear Science Olympiad (INSO) is an annual competition for secondary school students under the age of 20, aiming to increase awareness of the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology. INSO was initiated under the framework of the IAEA technical cooperation project, *"Supporting Nuclear Science and Technology Education at the Secondary and Tertiary Level."*

Sri Lankan Nuclear Science Olympiad (SLNSO) 2026 and International Nuclear Science Olympiad (INSO) 2025

Highlights of success at the INSO 2025:



IPSL Olympiads Awards Ceremony - 2025

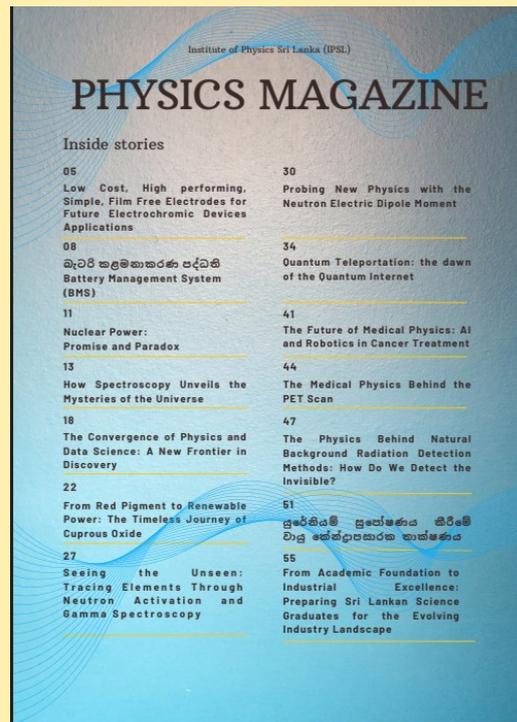
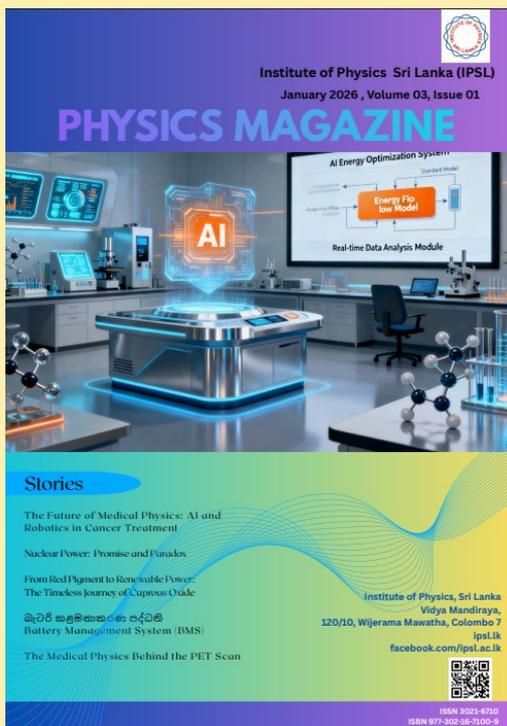
The IPSL Olympiad Ceremony 2025 was held on 7th March 2026 from 1.00 am to 4.30 p. m. at New Art Theatre (NAT) university of Colombo. The Chief Guest was Senior Professor Kapila Seneviratne, Chairman of the University Grants Commission, and the Guest of Honor was Senior Professor Indika Mahesh Karunathilake, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Colombo. The Olympiad Award Ceremony was coordinated by Professor Chandana Jayaratne.

Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals and Certificates of Merit were presented to the winning students of 19th Sri Lankan Physics Olympiad Competition, 17th Sri Lankan Astronomy and Astro physics Olympiad Competition 13th Sri Lankan Junior Astronomy Olympiad Competition and 8th Sri Lankan Junior Science Olympiad Competition and 3rd Sri Lankan Nuclear Science Olympiad Competition. Certificate for the Best Undergraduate Physics Research Award were also presented at this ceremony. List of winners were published in the IPSL web site and some highlights of the event are given below.

Olympiad	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	Total
Sri Lankan Physics Olympiad Competition - 2025	16	17	18	51
Sri Lankan Junior Astronomy Olympiad Competition - 2025	30	42	96	168
Sri Lankan Astronomy and Astrophysics Olympiad Competition – 2025	16	20	17	53
Sri Lankan Junior Science Olympiad (SLJSO)-2025	08	14	16	38
Sri Lankan Nuclear Science Olympiad Competition – 2026	07	14	21	42

IPSL Physics online magazine - 2025/2026

The IPSL Physics Online Magazine (January 2026, Volume 03, Issue 01) was published by the Institute of Physics Sri Lanka under the editorial leadership of Dr. (Mrs.) W. W. P De Silva and Dr. R. A. D. D. Dharmasiri. This edition features a rich collection of articles covering topics ranging from medical physics and AI applications to quantum cryptography and advanced spectroscopy. The magazine continues its mission to promote physics education and research in Sri Lanka by highlighting both academic research and industry perspectives, including contributions from students across Sri Lankan universities.



Sri Lankan Journal of Physics (SLJP)

Two issues of Volume 26 of the Sri Lankan Journal of Physics have been published online on the IPSL website and in the Sri Lankan Journal Online (SLJOL) system during the year 2025. Altogether eight articles were published in Volume 26 of the journal. The Editorial Board of the SLJP, served during the year 2025, is as follows.

Editorial board/ Sri Lankan Journal of Physics

Editor in chief:	Prof. P A A Perera, University of Kelaniya
Associate editors:	Prof. W G D Dharmaratne, University of Ruhuna Prof. K P S C Jayaratne, University of Colombo Prof. J K D S Jayanetti, University of Colombo Prof. D U J Sonnadara, University of Colombo Prof. W L Sumathipala, Open University of Sri Lanka Prof. V P S Perera, Open University of Sri Lanka Prof. C P Abeyratne, University of Sri Jayewardenepura Prof. L B D R P Wijesundera . University of Kelaniya Prof. A G U Perera, Georgia state University, USA Prof. R C Woods, Louisiana State University, USA
Ex-Officeo:	Dr. R C L De Silva, Industrial Technology Institute
Copy Editor:	Prof. P S Hewageegana, University of Kelaniya

Annual Dinner - 2025

The Annual Dinner will be held on 14 March 2026 from 1800h onwards at Hotel Janaki, with the participation of members of the Institute of Physics Sri Lanka.

OPA Membership- 2025/2026

The OPA membership was renewed for the year 2025/2026. Prof. C Mahesh Edirisinghe, Prof. K P S C Jayaratne and Prof. N G S Shantha Gamage represents IPSL at OPA General forum and other sub committees.