FACULTY OF SCIENCE

EASTERN UNIVERSITY, SRI LANKA

2026

Newsletter • A Biannual Publication

FOSNEWS

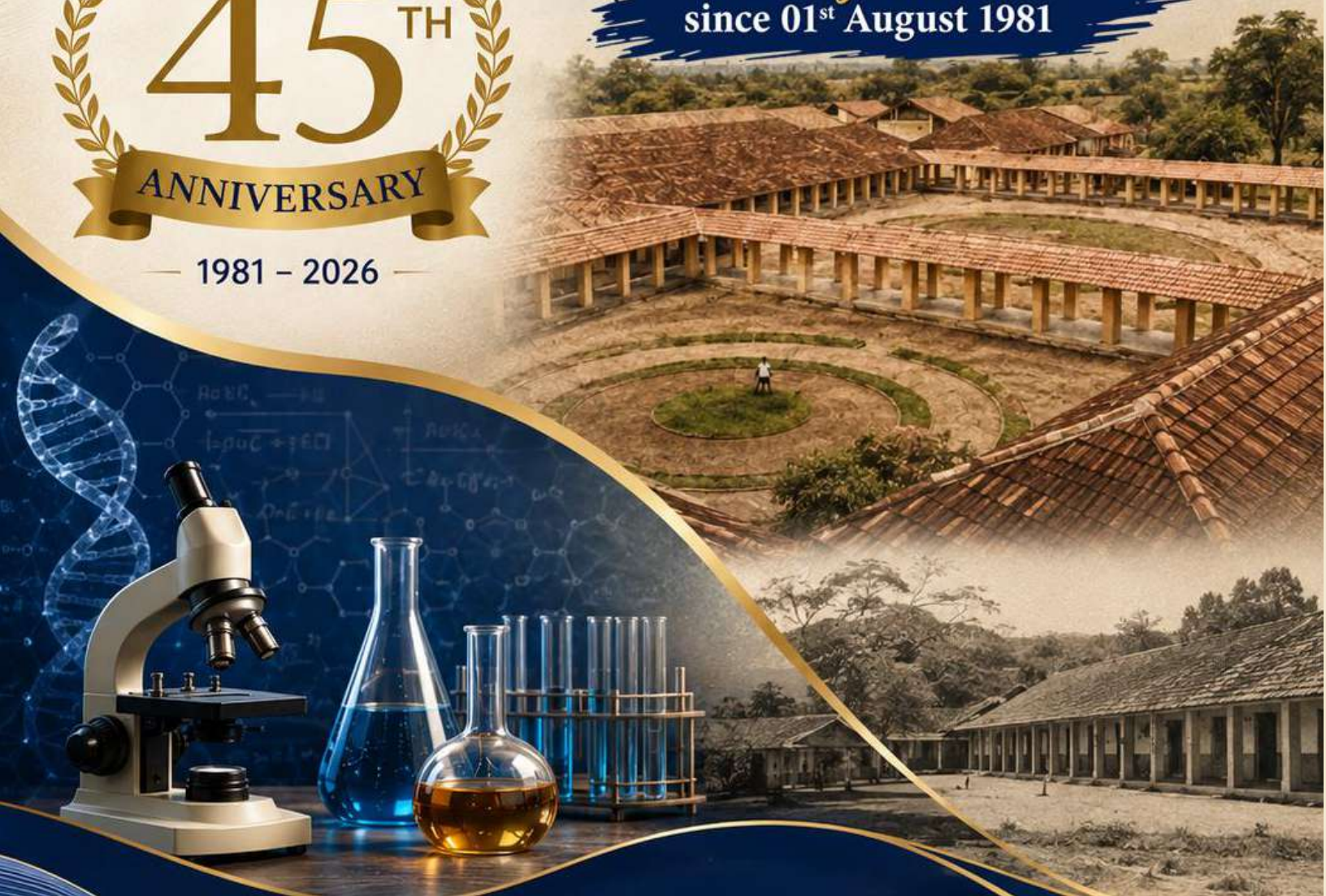
Volume 6 | Issue 1

CELEBRATING 45TH ANNIVERSARY

1981 – 2026

Pioneering Excellence

since 01st August 1981



In this issue ...

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Vision

Faculty of Science, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, aims to be a national centre of Excellent for higher learning and research with the competitive advantage, responsive to the dynamics of the regional, National and Global conditions.

Mission

Faculty of Science is to be a National Centre for Excellent in teaching and research. Our teaching and researches are geared to regional and national needs. Batticaloa District has ample of human and natural resources. Curriculum is geared to education and training suited to modern needs of the globe, thereby enhancing the socio-economic development of the region and people. The faculty is committed to work for this goal.



Faculty Profile

Student Number (Studying in 2026)

The following table presents the number of students currently enrolled in both Bio Science and Physical Science streams.

Year	Bio Science			Physical Science			Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Year 1 (23/24)	17	62	79	58	77	135	214
Year 1 (22/23)	10	69	79	66	81	147	226
Year 2 (21/22)	19	54	73	54	50	104	177
Year 3 (20/21)	21	41	62	53	66	118	180
Honours	02	47	49	20	36	56	105
Total	69	273	342	251	310	561	903

Academic Strength (2026)

The academic staff for the year 2026 comprises a dedicated and qualified team across six key departments: Botany, Chemistry, Zoology, Mathematics, Physics, and Computing. Their collective expertise ensures the delivery of high-quality education and the advancement of research within their respective fields.

Status	Department						Total
	Bot.	Che.	Zoo.	Math.	Phys.	Comp.	
Emeritus Professor	1	-	-	-	-	-	01
Senior Professor	-	-	1	2	1	-	04
Professor	2	3	1	1	2	-	09
Associate Professor	-	-	-	-	1	-	01
Senior Grade (I)	2	1	1	4	-	1	09
Senior Grade (II)	-	2	3	1	-	1	07
Lecturer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Probationary	4	1	1	-	3	-	09
Total	09	07	07	08	07	02	40

Degree/ Diploma programmes offered

The Faculty offers a diverse range of academic programmes designed to meet the evolving needs of students and the broader scientific community. These programmes are structured to provide strong theoretical foundations, practical skills, and research opportunities that prepare graduates for academic, professional, and industrial careers.

➢ Undergraduate Programmes

✓ BSc (General)

A three-year programme providing broad knowledge in science disciplines, ideal for students seeking foundational scientific education with flexibility in subject choices.

✓ BSc (Honours)

Specialized four-year degree programmes that offer in-depth knowledge and advanced training in specific disciplines:

- Botany
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Zoology

These programmes are research-oriented and prepare students for postgraduate studies or specialized career paths.

➢ Postgraduate Programmes

✓ Master of Science (MSc)

- Science Education – designed for educators aiming to deepen their understanding of science teaching and learning methodologies.
- Environmental Sciences – focuses on interdisciplinary approaches to address environmental issues through scientific knowledge and innovation.

✓ **Master of Philosophy (MPhil)**

A research-based degree that allows students to engage in independent scientific investigation under expert supervision.

✓ **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)**

The highest academic qualification offered, focusing on original research contributing to new knowledge in a chosen field of science.

➢ **Diploma Programmes**

✓**Diploma in Laboratory Technology (DLT)**
Provides hands-on training in modern laboratory practices and techniques, essential for careers in scientific laboratories and research institutions.

✓ **Diploma in Information and Communication Technology (DICT)**

Equips students with practical ICT skills for professional roles in technology, education, and data-driven sectors.

Faculty Publications

The Faculty actively promotes academic communication and knowledge sharing through a variety of publications. These include peer-reviewed journals, student-led annuals, and regular newsletters that highlight faculty activities, research achievements, and student engagement.

➢ **Journal of Science (JSc)**

A double-blind, refereed academic journal published by the faculty. It serves as a platform for publishing original research articles, reviews, and scientific discussions across a wide range of disciplines. The journal maintains rigorous academic standards and promotes interdisciplinary collaboration.

➢ **Blossom**

An annual publication curated and compiled by the Faculty Students' Union. It features student articles, creative writing, artwork, event highlights, and reflections on campus life, encouraging self-expression and student engagement within the academic community.

➢ **FOSnews Newsletter**

A biannual newsletter published by the faculty.
It includes updates on faculty events, research highlights, academic achievements, workshops, outreach programs, and more, keeping both staff and students informed and connected.

Conference

➢ Annual Research Session (ARS)

The Annual Research Session (ARS) is the premier academic conference organized by the Faculty, providing a platform for faculty members, researchers, and students to present their research findings and scholarly work.
It encourages knowledge exchange, interdisciplinary collaboration, and academic dialogue across the sciences. The event features oral and poster presentations, keynote addresses by eminent researchers, and promotes a culture of research excellence within the academic community.

Appointments

Acting Head



Mrs. S. Thavareesan
Department of Computing



Mr. K.A.N.K. Karunarathna
Department of Mathematics

Warden Men's Hostel



Mr. P. Paramadevan

Staff research and Publications

Department of Botany

- **Thushanthan, K.**, Wijayawardene, N. N., **Mathiventhan, T.**, Caldera, H. I. U., Watsuntorn, W., Dai, D. Q., & Ariyawansa, K. G. (2026). Host- and tissue-mediated structuring of culturable endophytic fungal communities in two co-occurring mangrove species: Taxonomic diversity and functional potential. Chiang Mai Journal of Science, 53(3), e2026057. https://doi.org/10.12982/CMJS.2026.057
- **Mahendranathan C.** and Chamindri Ekanayaka E.M.M. (2023). Post-harvest management to reduce fruit and vegetable losses for food sustainability: A review. Vavunia Journal of Science (2023-2)pp.6-10. DOI: https://doi.org/10.4038/vjs.v2i2.67
- **Chandrakantha Mahendranathan** and Mathushika M. J. (2026). Significance of Biofertilizers for Sustainable Agriculture, Food Safety and Food Security: A Review. Vingnanam Journal of Science, 21(1), pp.24-33. DOI: 10.4038/vingnanam.v21i.4294
- **Mahendranathan C.**, and Kaveevendan K., (2026). First report of foliar anthracnose on Hydrangea macrophylla, an ornamental plant in Sri Lanka. Ceylon Journal of Science, 55 (2); pp. 398-405. DOI: 10.4038/cjs.v55i2.8933
- Yaroosha, M.F.D. and **C. Mahendranathan** (2026). Identification of the pathogen, casing leaf spot disease in Terminalia cattapa in Sri Lanka. Proceedings of the 5th International Symposium on Agriculture (5th ISA 2026) Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka. pp. 17
- **Mahendranathan, C.**, Jonathan, F. T., & Kirushananth, N. (2025). Mushrooms as biocontrol agents: Alternate to chemicals. In Y. K. Mohanta, J. Panda, P. C. Nath, & H. Thatoi (Eds.), Mushrooms in sustainable development: An industry and environment paradigm. CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group.

Department of Chemistry

- Kapilraj Natkunarajah, **Masilamani Koneswaran**, Evaluation of the Water Absorption Capacity of Sulphonated Polystyrene Films Prepared in Different pH Environment, Journal of Applied Polymer Science, 143 (2026) e70604.
- Kapilraj Natkunarajah, **Masilamani Koneswaran**, Microstructures and its Influence on the Durability of Concrete: Review, Journal of Technology and Innovation, 6 (2026) 30 – 40.
- **R. Siddeeque, M. Koneswaran**, Development of carbon nanotube-based enzymatic electrochemical sensor for rapid agricultural pesticide screening, Proceedings of the 3rd International Conference on Technological Research and Innovation - Faculty of Technology: 25th May 2026, Eastern University, Sri Lanka (p 10).
- R. J. Kunnath, E. B. Seena, **M. Sithambaresan**, M. Patel, B. Jeong, M. Raju, M. R. Kurup, "Copper(II) complexes derived from 3,5-dibromosalicylaldehyde semicarbazone: Crystal structures, spectra and in vitro cytotoxicity studies," Polyhedron, 289 (2026) 118002.
- R. J. Kunnath, Jinsa, M. Jacob, E. Manoj, **M. Sithambaresan**, K. Narayanan, K. E. Rakesh, T. Francis, M. R. Prathapachandra Kurup, "Crystal structure, Hirshfeld surface analysis and antioxidant activity of a thiocyanato-incorporated copper(II) chelate based on a tridentate N2O donor Schiff base," Chemical Data Collections, 61 (2026) 101221.
- L. K. Suresh, N. Mohan, K. Sreekanth, P. S. Parameswaran, **M. Sithambaresan**, M. R. Prathapachandra Kurup, A. Santhy, "Mononuclear and trinuclear zinc(II) architectures derived from functionalized pyrazole-fenamic acid hybrids: Synthesis, structure, fluorescence, and bioactivity," Journal of Molecular Structure, 1349 (2026) 143844.
- K. K. Mohammed Hashim, K. Sreekanth, E. K. Radhakrishnan, **M. Sithambaresan**, M. R. Prathapachandra Kurup, E. Manoj, "Copper(II) complexes of iodine and nitrogen-rich ligands and their antimicrobial features: Highly promising antifungal agents," Journal of the Indian Chemical Society, 103 (2026) 102350.
- S. Muthu, V. L. Siji, S. S. Sreejith, **M. Sithambaresan**, "Synthesis and structure of a 1:1 1-phenylsemicarbazide–1-phenylpyrazolidin-3-one cocrystal," Acta Crystallographica Section E: Crystallographic Communications, 82 (2026) 371–374.

Department of Mathematics

- P. Paramadevan, 3rd International Conference on Technological Research and Innovation (ICTRI 2026), 25th of May 2026, An Integer Programming Model for Blending Optimization in Food Production Technology .
- S. Thilaganathan, A.G. Johnpillai and F.M. Mahomed, Classifications of Hamiltonians for One-Dimensional Particle Systems, Math. Meth. Appl. Sci., 49(10) (2026), 11205-11226.
- TP Jude, P Elango, M Koneswaran, Topological analysis of dendrimers for CO_2 adsorption: insights into Zagreb and Randić Indices, Ceylon Journal of Science 55 (4), 1201-1211

Plenary talks/Invited talks, delivered at the international conferences

- Prof. (Mrs.) C. Mahendranaathan participated an International Conference, titled *"Science for a Sustainable Future: Innovation of Pure and Applied Research"* as an Invited Speaker and delivered the talk on **"Impact of Climate Change on Plant Diseases and its Productivity"**, held at Rani Durgavati University, Jabalpur, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India, from 26.02.2026 to 28.02.2026.





- Prof. (Mrs.) C.Mahendranaathan delivered the Plenary talk (online) on **'Epidemiology, Trends and Economic Impact of Emerging Foliar Diseases in Asia'** at a Two days International Conference (virtual) on 'Research Interventions & Advancements in Plant Science (RIAPS 2026)' organized by Department of Botany and IQAC of Dapoli Urban Bank Senior Science College Dapoli, in association with BoS in Botany, University of Mumbai on 7th and 8th April, 2026

45th Faculty Day Events

Tree Planting in the Forestry plot of the Department of Botany, EUSL

A significant environmental conservation initiative was successfully conducted on 5th June 2026, coinciding with World Environment Day. The Faculty proudly organized a large-scale tree planting programme in the Forestry plot of the Department of Botany, EUSL, demonstrating its commitment to environmental sustainability and biodiversity conservation.

During this remarkable event, 150 forest saplings representing 10 different indigenous forest species were planted, contributing to the enhancement and preservation of the university's green ecosystem, which is focused towards developing an arboretum . The programme witnessed the enthusiastic participation of the Vice Chancellor, Bursar, academic staff, administrative staff, and academic support staff, and students reflecting the collective dedication of the university community towards environmental stewardship. The success of this initiative was further strengthened by the generous support of the Batticaloa and Chenkalady Forest Offices, which donated 200 forest plant seedlings free of charge and actively joined the planting activities. Their valuable contribution highlights the importance of collaboration between higher education institutions and government agencies in promoting sustainable environmental practices.

This memorable event not only celebrated the 45 years of academic excellence and service of the Faculty of Science but also symbolized its commitment to nurturing a greener, healthier, and more sustainable future for generations to come.



Mangrove Planting

A meaningful mangrove planting programme was carried out on the same day along the shores of the Batticaloa Lagoon. This environmental initiative highlighted the Faculty's commitment to biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and the protection of vital coastal ecosystems.

A total of 150 mangrove saplings were generously donated by United Kingdom, and made this conservation effort possible. The planting programme was successfully implemented with the active support and collaboration of the Municipal Council of Batticaloa, demonstrating the importance of community partnerships in safeguarding natural resources.

The event served as a powerful symbol of environmental responsibility and sustainable development, while commemorating 45 years of academic excellence and community engagement by the Faculty of Science. Through this initiative, the Faculty has not only celebrated its rich legacy but has also planted seeds of hope for a greener, more resilient, and environmentally sustainable future for the Eastern Region and beyond.

Community Outreach Activity – Kumbuk Tree Donation

The Faculty extended its commitment to environmental sustainability and community service through a meaningful Community Outreach Programme. In support of greening initiatives and environmental conservation efforts, the Faculty donated 100 tree saplings (Kumbuk (S)) to World Vision, Batticaloa.

The tree planting programme was subsequently carried out in Vakarai, Batticaloa, contributing to the enhancement of local green spaces and promoting environmental awareness within the community. This initiative reflects the Faculty's dedication not only to academic excellence but also to creating a positive and lasting impact on society through sustainable development and environmental stewardship.

By reaching beyond the university boundaries and partnering with community organizations, the Faculty of Science continues to strengthen its role as a catalyst

for positive change, nurturing both knowledge and nature for the benefit of future generations.



Strengthening fishers community for their livelihoods and Awareness for school

As part of the 45th Anniversary Celebration of the Faculty of Science, a series of impactful and community-oriented activities have been organized to commemorate this significant milestone in the Faculty's history.

The inaugural programme was successfully conducted in collaboration with the EMPOWER Project of World Vision Lanka from 2nd to 4th June 2026, demonstrating the Faculty's commitment to environmental sustainability and community engagement.

The activities included:

- Three Community Awareness Programmes

Conducted on Strengthening Livelihoods through Mangrove Restoration. Focused on enhancing community understanding of the ecological and economic benefits of mangrove ecosystems and their role in sustainable livelihoods.

- Three School Awareness Programmes

Organized on Mangrove Conservation and Protection for school students. Aimed at fostering environmental stewardship and promoting conservation awareness among the younger generation.

- Art Competition for School Students

Conducted to encourage creativity and environmental consciousness through artistic expression. Focused on themes related to mangrove conservation, environmental protection, and sustainable development.

These programmes were successfully implemented within the Vaharai Divisional Secretariat Division, contributing to environmental awareness, community empowerment, and the promotion of sustainable natural resource management.

Through these initiatives, the Faculty of Science proudly continues its legacy of academic excellence, community service, and environmental responsibility while celebrating 45 years of outstanding contributions to education, research, and national development.



The Invention and Innovation Competition



The Invention and Innovation Competition was successfully held on 10 June 2026. Charmal Fathima College, Kalmunai, and Paddiruppu MMV National School, Kaluwanchikudy, participated enthusiastically in the competition.

The preliminary round was organized at the school level to select the top ten innovations from each participating school in the Eastern Province. A total of 27 innovative projects were exhibited, demonstrating the creativity, scientific thinking, and problem-solving abilities of the young participants.

The innovations were evaluated by an academic panel comprising Mrs. Sajeetha Thavareesan, Mrs. Hamigah Anton Tharshanth, Dr. A. J. M. Harris, and Mr. S. Thanusanth, who assessed the projects and encouraged the young innovators through their expert guidance and constructive feedback.

Workshop on Research, Project Development, Invention, Innovation, and Evaluation

As part of the Faculty Day Celebrations 2026, a workshop on Research, Project Development, Invention, Innovation, and Evaluation was successfully conducted at Tharusalam Maha Vidyalayam, Sammanthurai.

The workshop aimed to enhance the knowledge and skills of school teachers in conducting research, developing innovative projects, fostering creativity, and understanding evaluation criteria for invention and innovation competitions. A total of 43 teachers representing schools in the Sammanthurai Educational Zone actively participated in the programme.

The session provided participants with practical guidance on identifying research problems, developing project proposals, transforming ideas into innovative solutions, and preparing projects for exhibition and competition. Special emphasis was placed on promoting a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship among school communities.

As a follow-up to this initiative, an Invention and Innovation Competition will be organized among the participating schools at the end of July 2026. The competition is expected to showcase creative ideas and innovative projects developed by students and teachers, thereby encouraging research-based learning and problem-solving skills within the school sector.

This programme serves as one of the key outreach activities organized under the Faculty Day 2026 celebrations, strengthening the Faculty's commitment to community engagement, knowledge dissemination, and the promotion of research and innovation among school students and teachers in the Eastern Province.













Cleaning and Mangrove Tree Planting Programme

A mangrove site cleaning and mangrove plantation programme was successfully conducted in partnership with the EMPOWER Project of World Vision Lanka. The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of all Honours Degree students, who actively engaged in environmental conservation activities aimed at restoring and protecting the coastal ecosystem. The programme enhanced awareness of the importance of mangrove forests in biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and sustainable environmental management.



Awareness Programme on Effective GCE (A/L) Examination Answering Methodologies

The Community Outreach Science Unit (COSU), Faculty of Science, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, conducted an awareness programme for GCE (A/L) 2026 Science Stream students and teachers of the Kalkuda Education Zone on 03 July 2026 at BT/KK/Vantharumoolai Mathya Maha Vidyalayam.

The programme focused on effective examination answering techniques, systematic answer presentation, time management, common mistakes, and the effective use of marking schemes to enhance students' examination performance.

Resource Persons:

- Prof. S. Arasaretnam,
- Dr. G. Parthiban,
- Dr. M.S.M. Raaif (Department of Chemistry), and
- Dr. A.J.M. Harris (Department of Zoology).

The programme was jointly organized by COSU and the School Development Societies of the Kalkuda Education Zone as part of COSU's continued efforts to support and strengthen science education among school students.



COSU Conducts Awareness Programme on GCE (A/L) Examination Answering Methodologies in Trincomalee



The Community Outreach Science Unit (COSU) of the Faculty of Science, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, successfully conducted an Awareness Programme on Answering Methodologies for the GCE (A/L) Examination on 8 June 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The programme was held simultaneously at the following schools in Trincomalee:

- ✓ T/Sri Shanmuga Hindu Ladies College, Trincomalee
- ✓ T/R.K.M. Sri Koneswara Hindu College, Trincomalee

The primary objective of the programme was to enhance students' understanding of effective examination answering techniques for GCE (A/L) Science Stream subjects. The sessions focused on improving students' performance by providing guidance on presenting answers systematically and avoiding common mistakes frequently observed in examination scripts. The discussions were conducted with reference to the official marking schemes of the respective subjects.

Resource Persons:

The programme featured expert resource persons from the Faculty of Science, Eastern University, Sri Lanka:

- ✓ Physics: Prof. Rodney Fernando, Department of Physics
- ✓ Chemistry: Prof. M. Sithamparesan, Department of Chemistry
- ✓ Biology: Dr. A.J.M. Harris, Department of Zoology
- ✓ Combined Mathematics: Prof. P. Elango, Department of Mathematics



Inauguration of Diploma in Laboratory Technology 2026/ 2027

The third batch of the Diploma in Laboratory Technology (DLT) programme (2025/2026) was officially inaugurated on 9th May 2026. The programme commenced on 16th May 2026, with a total of 20 students registered for the course.


LECTURE HALL - 2
LECTURE HALL - 2

Honouring a Distinguished Academic Career






A distinguished career comes to a close, but a legacy of knowledge, dedication, and service continues to inspire
























The Eastern University, Sri Lanka (EUSL) was officially established on 1st October 1986 under a University Order dated 26th September 1986, pursuant to Section 2 of the Universities Act No.16 of 1978. It succeeded the Batticaloa University College, which was founded on 1st August 1981 to address the long-standing need for higher education in the Eastern Province.

The Faculty of Science, one of the two original faculties of Batticaloa University College, has been operational since 1981. It consists of six departments: Botany, Chemistry, Computing, Mathematics, Physics, and Zoology. The Botany and Zoology departments boast extensive collections of local and imported specimens housed in their Herbarium and Museum, enriching the teaching and learning experience. The Faculty offers a comprehensive range of subjects—including Botany, Chemistry, Mathematics, Computer Science, Physics, and Zoology—playing a vital role in advancing science education in the region.

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From the Editor's Desk

Welcome to Volume 6, Issue 1 of *FOSnews*, the biannual newsletter of the Faculty of Science.



Mrs S. Thavareesan
The Editor
FOSnews Newsletter

This edition of the FOS Newsletter highlights the vibrant academic environment of our Faculty, showcasing recent research developments, scholarly activities, academic achievements, and the noteworthy contributions of our staff and students.

Each issue seeks to keep our academic community informed and connected by sharing innovative work, significant accomplishments, and collaborative initiatives across disciplines. Through these stories, we aim to celebrate the diverse academic and professional contributions that continue to enrich our Faculty.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all faculty members, staff, and students who have contributed their achievements, activities, research, and insights to this edition. Your continued engagement and commitment are greatly valued and contribute significantly to the strength and spirit of our Faculty.

I invite you to explore this issue and discover the latest news, achievements, research, and stories from across the Faculty of Science.