



Postgraduate Institute
of Science (PGIS)
University of Peradeniya

PGIS NEWS 2026

Activities and Progress of the Postgraduate
Institute of Science (PGIS), University of
Peradeniya, Sri Lanka



*The Pioneer
Postgraduate
Institute of Sri Lanka*

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01. ANNUAL PIRITH CHANTING CEREMONY AND NEW YEAR GATHERINGS AT PGIS

01-02/01/2026

The Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS) warmly welcomed the New Year by organizing its Annual Pirith Chanting Ceremony, followed by a series of fellowship events that brought together members of the PGIS and the wider University of Peradeniya community. The Annual Pirith Chanting Ceremony was held to invoke blessings for the New Year and to wish good health, peace, and prosperity to all members of the PGIS and the university community. Following the religious observances, a New Year fellowship gathering was held, creating an opportunity for staff members to celebrate the occasion together.



The gathering commenced with a welcome address by the Director of PGIS, Prof. B. M.N.W. B. Balasooriya. This was followed by inspiring speeches delivered by the Deputy Registrar, the Registrar, the Bursar, and two members of the PGIS staff, who reflected on the achievements of the past year and shared their best wishes for the year ahead. The celebrations continued with a fellowship lunch organized by the Institute, while several staff members added a festive touch to the occasion by entertaining the audience with musical performances.

On the following day, PGIS hosted a special New Year tea party for its academic community. The event was attended by the Dean of the Faculty of Science, Chairpersons of the Boards of Study, Board Secretaries, academic staff of PGIS, and other distinguished officials, including the Registrar of the Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya. The gathering provided an excellent opportunity to strengthen professional relationships and foster collaboration among the academic community in a warm and friendly atmosphere. The event was further enlivened by musical performances presented by members of the PGIS staff, adding a joyful conclusion to the New Year celebrations.

These annual events reflected the spirit of unity, mutual respect, and fellowship that characterizes the PGIS community, while reaffirming the Institute's commitment to nurturing strong professional and personal relationships among its staff and academic partners.



02. GUEST TALK ON “DRIVERS OF PANDEMIC EMERGENCIES AND A ONE HEALTH RESPONSE” BY PROF. MALIK PEIRIS

13/01/2026

A guest talk titled “Drivers of Pandemic Emergencies and a One Health Response” was held on 13 January 2026 at the PGIS Conference Hall. The lecture was delivered by Prof. Malik Peiris, Emeritus Professor of Virology at the University of Hong Kong and a globally recognized expert in emerging infectious diseases. He is internationally renowned for his pioneering contributions to the understanding of emerging infectious diseases, including influenza viruses, SARS, MERS, and COVID-19. Prior to his retirement, Professor Peiris was Tam Wah-Ching Professor in Medical Science and Chair of Virology. He co-directed the WHO H5 Reference Laboratory and the WHO SARS-CoV-2 reference laboratory at the School of Public Health at HKU. Through his extensive research and involvement in international public health initiatives, he has played a significant role in advancing global preparedness and response to emerging infectious diseases.



The event attracted a total of 77 participants, comprising 37 in-person attendees and 40 online participants. The audience included academic staff from the Faculties of Science, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, and Agriculture of the University of Peradeniya, together with academics from other universities, healthcare professionals,

representatives from international organizations, and undergraduate and postgraduate students.

During the lecture, Prof. Peiris discussed the major drivers of pandemic emergencies and highlighted the importance of adopting a One Health approach that integrates human, animal, and environmental health. Drawing on global experiences and current scientific evidence, he emphasized the need for interdisciplinary collaboration in addressing emerging infectious disease threats and strengthening global health security.

The lecture provided a valuable platform for knowledge sharing and interdisciplinary discussion among participants from diverse professional backgrounds. The session enhanced awareness of contemporary public health challenges and underscored the importance of collaborative approaches to disease prevention, surveillance, and response.



02. GUEST TALK ON “DRIVERS OF PANDEMIC EMERGENCIES AND A ONE HEALTH RESPONSE” BY PROF. MALIK PEIRIS

13/01/2026



This successful event further strengthened the role of PGIS in promoting scientific excellence, interdisciplinary learning, and engagement with internationally renowned experts, while enhancing the Institute's visibility within the academic and professional community.

Written by:

Dr. Jayampathi Herath,
Senior Lecturer,
Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS),
University of Peradeniya

03. INFECTIOUS DISEASES MINI SYMPOSIUM 2026

17/01/2026



The Board of Study in Biomedical Sciences of the Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS), University of Peradeniya, organized the Infectious Diseases Mini Symposium 2026 on 17 January 2026 at the Postgraduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya.

The symposium brought together experts from Sri Lanka and overseas to provide participants with valuable insights into current challenges, emerging trends and recent research advancements in infectious disease management. The programme featured distinguished speakers representing the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo; Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, University of Peradeniya; the University of Southampton, United Kingdom; and the North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services, United States of America.



A key feature of the symposium was its emphasis on contemporary approaches to infectious disease research. In addition to expert presentations, the programme included a hands-on bioinformatics practical session, providing participants with an opportunity to strengthen their understanding of modern data-driven approaches applicable to infectious disease studies.



The event served as a valuable platform for postgraduate students, researchers, and academics to broaden their knowledge of infectious diseases while gaining exposure to developments in biomedical research.

The participation of experts from different disciplines and international institutions further contributed to the exchange of scientific knowledge and perspectives. The symposium also highlighted the growing importance of integrating biomedical research, interdisciplinary collaboration, and bioinformatics in addressing contemporary infectious disease challenges. Such academic programmes contribute to strengthening research capacity and encouraging knowledge-sharing among students and professionals in the field.



03. INFECTIOUS DISEASES MINI SYMPOSIUM 2026 (CONTD.)

17/01/2026



Organized by the Board of Study in Biomedical Sciences, PGIS, University of Peradeniya, the Infectious Diseases Mini Symposium 2026 reflects the institute's commitment to providing opportunities for postgraduate education, scientific interaction, and professional development.



04. PGIS PARTICIPATES AT ED EX EXPO 2026 EDUCATION EXHIBITION – CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

24-25/01/2026

The Postgraduate Institute of Science, participated in the Kandy edition of EDEX Expo 2026, held on 24th and 25th January 2026 at the Kandy City Centre (KCC). EDEX Expo is recognized as Sri Lanka's largest and most comprehensive education exhibition and career fair, bringing together higher education institutions, professional bodies, training providers, and employers from across the country and abroad.



The PGIS stall attracted a large number of visitors, including undergraduates, recent graduates, school leavers, and working professionals seeking information on postgraduate education opportunities. Academic and administrative staff of the Institute interacted with prospective students and provided guidance on the wide range of postgraduate degree programmes offered by PGIS, admission requirements, research opportunities, scholarships, and career prospects.

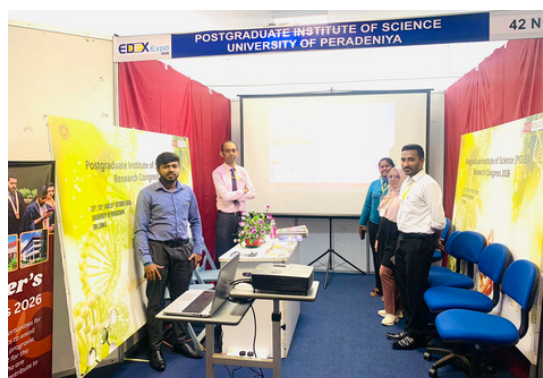
The exhibition provided an excellent platform for PGIS to showcase its academic and research strengths in diverse disciplines. Visitors were also informed about the Institute's commitment to research excellence, innovation, and capacity building through postgraduate education.

Participation in EDEX Expo 2026 enhanced the visibility of PGIS among prospective students, academics, researchers, and industry stakeholders. The event facilitated valuable interactions with individuals interested in advancing their academic and professional careers and highlighted the important role played by PGIS in developing highly skilled scientific professionals for Sri Lanka and beyond.

Through its participation in this nationally recognized educational exhibition, PGIS reaffirmed its commitment to promoting postgraduate education, research, and lifelong learning while expanding its outreach to future generations of scientists and professionals. The event also provided an opportunity to strengthen collaborations and increase awareness of the Institute's academic offerings among a diverse audience.

Written by:

Dr. Jayampathi Herath,
Senior Lecturer,
Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS),
University of Peradeniya



05. INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY STUDIES BY E-DNA METABARCODING

12/03/2026

The Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS), University of Peradeniya, successfully conducted a one-day International Workshop on “Aquatic Biodiversity Studies by eDNA Metabarcoding” on 12 March 2026 at the PGIS Conference Hall as the first pre-conference workshop of RESCON 2026. The workshop was coordinated by Prof.

Shalika Kumburegama and Dr. Jayampathi Herath with the aim of introducing participants to the rapidly developing field of environmental DNA (eDNA) metabarcoding and its applications in aquatic biodiversity research.

The workshop featured a distinguished team of resource persons from the Tropical Biosphere Research Center, University of the Ryukyus, Japan, including Prof. Tadashi Kajita, Dr. Iori Mizukami, Ms. Marizka Juliano and Ms. Bernadeth Grace. Their presentations provided participants with both theoretical knowledge and practical insights into the use of eDNA metabarcoding for biodiversity observation and ecological monitoring.

The programme covered several important aspects of eDNA-based biodiversity assessment, including the fundamentals of DNA metabarcoding technology, case studies on fish biodiversity conducted in Iriomote Island, Japan, and the practical challenges associated with eDNA metabarcoding research from a beginner's perspective. A special session was also conducted on user-friendly approaches for next-generation sequencing (NGS) data analysis using Kaggle, followed by a hands-on practical session held at the PGIS

Computer Laboratory, where participants engaged directly in data analysis exercises. The workshop attracted 40 participants representing undergraduate and postgraduate students, researchers, and academics from different institutions. The event provided an excellent platform for interdisciplinary interaction and scientific exchange in the fields of molecular ecology, biodiversity conservation, and environmental monitoring.



05. INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY STUDIES BY E-DNA METABARCODING (CONTD.)

12/03/2026



At the conclusion of the workshop, certificates of participation were awarded to all participants. The organizers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Director of the PGIS for providing the opportunity to conduct this international workshop as part of the RESCON 2026 pre-conference activities. Special appreciation is also extended to Prof. Sanjeewa Malaviarachchi, Chairperson of RESCON 2026, for his valuable support and assistance in organizing the event. The organizers further thanked the resource persons, participants, and supporting staff whose contributions ensured the success of the programme.

The workshop further strengthened the growing academic collaboration between the University of Peradeniya and the University of the Ryukyus, Japan, while highlighting the increasing importance of eDNA-based approaches in aquatic biodiversity research and conservation.

Written by:
Prof. N.P.S. Kumburegama
Department of Zoology,
Faculty of Science,
University of Peradeniya



06. ADVANCING FRONTIERS IN RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

16/10/2025



The Young Researchers' Forum (YRF) of the Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS), University of Peradeniya, successfully conducted a one-day workshop titled Advancing Frontiers in Research Excellence and Career Development on 28 March 2026 at the PGIS Auditorium. The event was organized with the objective of enhancing the research excellence, professional competencies, and careerpreparedness of postgraduate students and young researchers. Featuring a series of insightful sessions led by eminent academics from the University of Peradeniya, the workshop served as a valuable platform for learning, interaction, and professional growth.



The workshop commenced with a session on Scientific Presentation Skills conducted by Prof. Namal Priyantha of the Department of Chemistry. The session focused on the principles of effective scientific communication, providing participants with practical guidance on designing impactful presentations, organizing scientific content, and confidently presenting research findings to diverse audiences.



The second session, Artificial Intelligence for Research, was delivered by Dr. Upul Jayasinghe of the Department of Computer Engineering. Participants were introduced to the rapidly expanding role of artificial intelligence in modern research, including AI-assisted literature reviews, data analysis, scientific writing, and research workflow optimization. The session highlighted the opportunities and ethical considerations associated with integrating AI tools into academic research.

The programme then shifted its focus to career development through a session titled Career Preparation and Skills, presented by Dr. Ashwini Amarasinghe from the Department of Mathematics. The session emphasized the importance of developing

the importance of developing essential professional competencies, effective communication, career planning strategies, and lifelong learning skills required for success in both academia and industry.



06. ADVANCING FRONTIERS IN RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT (CONTD.)

16/10/2025



The final session on Research Instrumentation and Data Analysis was jointly conducted by Prof. Amalka J. Pinidiyaarachchi (Department of Statistics and Computer Science), Prof. W.A. Priyanka P. De Silva (Department of Zoology), Prof. Rohana Chandrajith (Department of Geology), and Dr. Kapila Bandara Wijayaratne (Department of Physics). Drawing on their expertise from diverse scientific disciplines, the resource persons shared practical insights into the selection and application of research instruments, data acquisition techniques, and appropriate statistical and analytical approaches to enhance the quality and reliability of scientific research.

The workshop concluded with an interactive discussion, allowing participants to engage directly with the resource persons and exchange ideas on current research trends and career opportunities. The event was well received by participants, who appreciated the practical knowledge, interdisciplinary perspectives, and networking opportunities provided throughout the programme.

The Young Researchers' Forum expresses its sincere appreciation to all the resource persons, participants, and the staff of the Postgraduate Institute of Science for their invaluable support in making the workshop a success. Through initiatives such as this, the YRF continues to strengthen the research culture at PGIS by equipping young researchers with the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to excel in their academic and professional careers.



07. UNLOCKING THE SCIENCE BEHIND BEAUTY: PGIS COSMETIC SCIENCE COURSE DRAWS STRONG PARTICIPANT ACCLAIM

29/03/2026



The Board of Study in Biomedical Sciences of the Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS), University of Peradeniya, recently concluded its inaugural Short Course in Cosmetic Science, offering participants a unique opportunity to explore the scientific foundations, practical applications, and emerging innovations that shape the modern cosmetic industry.

The programme was inaugurated on 29 March 2026 at the PGIS Conference Hall in the presence of Prof. Terrence Madhujith, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, Prof. Nanda Balasooriya, Director of PGIS, and Prof. Sanath Rajapakse, Dean of the Faculty of Science. The course was organized by the Board of Study in Biomedical Sciences and coordinated by Prof. Priyanga Wijesinghe and Dr. Jayampathi Herath.

A total of 36 participants, including healthcare professionals, academics, entrepreneurs, and individuals interested in the rapidly expanding cosmetic and personal care sector, successfully completed the programme. Delivered in a hybrid mode, the course combined lectures, practical sessions, and interactive learning activities to provide a comprehensive learning experience.

The programme featured two distinguished resource persons: Prof. Nimal Punyasiri, former Professor of the Institute of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, University of Colombo, and Dr. Abhisheka Tennakoon, Medical Officer with training in aesthetic and regenerative medicine. Their complementary expertise enabled participants to appreciate cosmetic science from both product-development and consumer-safety perspectives.

Course content covered a wide range of topics, including cosmetic formulation science, skin and hair care products, soap manufacturing, cosmetic microbiology, natural cosmetic ingredients, product safety, regulatory considerations, and emerging trends in the cosmetic industry. Participants were also introduced, at an awareness and observational level, to contemporary aesthetic and regenerative procedures, including laser-based treatments, microneedling, chemical peels, and other approaches commonly encountered within the cosmetic and aesthetic sector. Another session on “AI in Cosmetic Science: From Prompting to Product Discovery”, conducted by Prof. Wijesinghe introduced participants to emerging applications of artificial intelligence in cosmetic science, highlighting evidence-based ingredient discovery, formulation support, market intelligence, product innovation, and future trends in personalized beauty solutions.



07. UNLOCKING THE SCIENCE BEHIND BEAUTY: PGIS COSMETIC SCIENCE COURSE DRAWS STRONG PARTICIPANT ACCLAIM (CONTD.)

29/03/2026

The programme also benefited from the dedicated support of Dr. P.H.R. Suraweera of Wayamba Diagnostics Medical Laboratories, Mr. Nivandana Bandaranayake of Pure Herbs Inventions, Matale, the staff of the Britanna Skin Clinic, Kandy, and the PGIS technical staff. Through a dedicated session on entrepreneurship, innovation, quality assurance, and business development, Dr.



Suraweera inspired participants to explore pathways for transforming scientific knowledge into sustainable enterprises within the cosmetic and allied industries. The contributions of all supporting personnel in facilitating practical demonstrations, laboratory resources, equipment, and technical assistance further enriched the programme and contributed significantly to its success.

Participant feedback collected at the conclusion of the programme indicated exceptionally high levels of satisfaction. All participants commended the quality of teaching, the relevance of the curriculum, the practical demonstrations, and the effective coordination provided by the organizing team. Many participants described the course as an inspiring experience that successfully bridged the gap between academic knowledge and real-world cosmetic applications.

The overwhelmingly positive response from participants highlights the growing demand for structured cosmetic science education in Sri Lanka and reflects the commitment of PGIS to delivering innovative, industry-relevant training programmes that support professional development, entrepreneurship, and lifelong learning.

Written by:

Prof. Priyanga Wijesinghe,
Chairperson, Board of Study in Biomedical Sciences,
Co-Coordinator, Short Course in Cosmetic Science,
Postgraduate Institute of Science
University of Peradeniya



08. WEBINAR ON RESPONSIBLE AI EMPOWERS THE PGIS RESEARCH COMMUNITY

24/04/2026

The Young Researchers' Forum (YRF) of the Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS), University of Peradeniya, successfully organized a timely and thought-provoking webinar titled "The AI-Augmented Scholar: Mastering Responsible AI for Professional and Academic Growth" on 24 April 2026 via Zoom. The session was conducted by Dr. Damayanthi Herath, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Computer Engineering, University of Peradeniya.

The webinar addressed the rapidly growing role of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in higher education, research, and professional environments. As AI technologies continue to transform academic workflows, the session emphasized the importance of using these tools responsibly while preserving academic integrity, critical thinking, and intellectual development.

Dr. Damayanthi Herath provided participants with practical insights into how AI can serve as a cognitive partner rather than a replacement for human creativity and scholarship. The discussion explored the ethical integration of AI into research, teaching, and learning, while introducing participants to responsible AI practices and the AI Assessment Scale. The session also highlighted the need to redefine educational approaches in an increasingly automated world and encouraged researchers and students to adopt AI in ways that enhance, rather than compromise, their academic and professional growth.

The webinar attracted enthusiastic participation from postgraduate students, early-career researchers, and academic staff, who actively engaged in discussions on the opportunities and challenges presented by AI in research and higher education. The interactive nature of the session provided attendees with a valuable platform to clarify concerns regarding ethical AI use and to explore best practices for integrating AI into their scholarly work.

This initiative reflects the continued commitment of the PGIS Young Researchers' Forum to providing meaningful professional development opportunities that equip researchers with contemporary knowledge and skills. By fostering awareness of responsible AI use, the webinar contributed to preparing the PGIS community to confidently navigate the evolving landscape of research and innovation in the digital era.

The poster features a blue background with a grid pattern. At the top, the title "Webinar on The AI-Augmented Scholar: Mastering Responsible AI for Professional & Academic Growth" is displayed in white and yellow text. Below the title, a small text box states: "As Generative AI becomes embedded in professional and academic workflows, answering what is proper has become the defining challenge of higher education. This workshop explores how the community in higher education can harness AI as a powerful cognitive partner while maintaining academic integrity and personal intellectual growth. We will demystify the AI Assessment Scale, redefine the purpose of education in an automated world, and provide actionable, ethical frameworks for integrating AI into research and learning processes." A circular portrait of Dr. Damayanthi Herath is on the right. Below the title, event details are listed: "24th April 2026", "6.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.", and "Via zoom". A QR code is on the left, with the text "Scan to register or use the below link: <https://forms.gle/fHi9NyMiVPPXWxtXA>". At the bottom, it says "Organized By" followed by logos for YRF, PGIS, and the University of Peradeniya. The text "Session Conducted by Dr. Damayanthi Herath, Senior Lecturer, Department of Computer Engineering, University of Peradeniya" is at the bottom right.

09. US-SRI LANKA GRAPHITE SUMMIT

27-28/04/2026

The US-Sri Lanka Graphite Summit 2026 was an international research and industry event hosted at the University of Peradeniya, mainly at the Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS), on 27-28 April 2026, with related workshops and field activities extending through early May.

The summit brought together academics, geologists, mining experts, policymakers, investors, and industry representatives from both the United States and Sri Lanka to discuss the future of graphite research, sustainable mining, and advanced material technologies.

The summit focused on advancing research on natural vein graphite, one of Sri Lanka's most valuable mineral resources, while strengthening scientific collaboration between the United States and Sri Lanka in graphite mining, processing, and clean-energy technologies.

Discussions also highlighted the importance of graphite in lithium-ion batteries, fuel cells, and other emerging energy technologies, as well as the need to promote value addition and sustainable mining practices instead of exporting raw graphite materials.

Professor Kusali Gamage from Austin Community College, USA, initiated the concept after winning an NSF-USA grant as a Fulbright Specialist. The event was coordinated by Dr. Patrick McNamara, Executive Director of the US-Sri Lanka Fulbright Commission, and Prof. S.P.K. Malaviarachchi, Director, International Relations Office, University of Peradeniya.

The inauguration ceremony held on 27th April 2026 at the Conference Hall of the PGIS was graced by Prof. Terrence Madhujith, Vice Chancellor, University of Peradeniya; Prof. Ranjith Pallegama, Deputy Vice Chancellor; Prof. Sanath Rajapakse, Dean, Faculty of Science; and Prof. Nanda Balasooriya, Director, PGIS.



09. US-SRI LANKA GRAPHITE SUMMIT

27-28/04/2026



Eminent scientists, researchers, industry stakeholders, and both undergraduate and postgraduate students from Sri Lanka and the United States actively participated in the summit, sharing their expertise and insights related to the graphite industry and future collaborative opportunities.

The National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka also collaborated in organizing and supporting the event.



10. PGIS OPEN DAY

12-13/06/2026



The Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS), University of Peradeniya, successfully hosted its Open Day 2026 on 12 and 13 June 2026, marking a significant milestone in the Institute's journey of postgraduate education, scientific research and innovation. The event was particularly memorable as it coincided with the 30th Anniversary of PGIS, providing an opportunity to celebrate three decades of academic excellence while showcasing the Institute's contribution to science and higher education in Sri Lanka.

The Open Day brought together postgraduate students, academics, researchers, prospective students, industry representatives and members of the wider community. Through a series of academic and interactive activities, participants were given an opportunity to learn about postgraduate programmes, research opportunities, laboratory facilities and the diverse areas of scientific research conducted at PGIS. A key attraction of the Open Day was the opportunity for visitors to engage with the academic and research community and gain a better understanding of postgraduate education at PGIS. Information about postgraduate programmes and research pathways was shared with prospective students, highlighting the opportunities available for advancing knowledge and developing professional and research competencies.



10. PGIS OPEN DAY (CONTD.)

12-13/06/2026



As part of the programme, the Industry-Science Roundtable provided a valuable platform for interaction between the scientific community and industry stakeholders. The session highlighted the importance of strengthening collaboration between universities, researchers and industry to translate scientific knowledge and research outcomes into practical solutions for societal and economic development. Another notable feature was the “Research Path” panel discussion, which provided insights into the journey of conducting research and developing an academic and professional career. The discussion offered participants an opportunity to understand different stages of the research pathway, from identifying research problems and developing innovative ideas to disseminating research findings and establishing professional collaborations.

The Open Day also served as a platform to showcase the research culture and multidisciplinary environment of PGIS. The Institute’s diverse postgraduate programmes and research activities demonstrate the importance of interdisciplinary approaches in addressing contemporary challenges in science, technology, agriculture, environmental sustainability, health and other fields.

The 30th Anniversary celebration added special significance to the event. Over the past three decades, PGIS has contributed to the advancement of postgraduate science education and research by providing opportunities for students and researchers to pursue higher education, develop scientific expertise and contribute to knowledge generation.



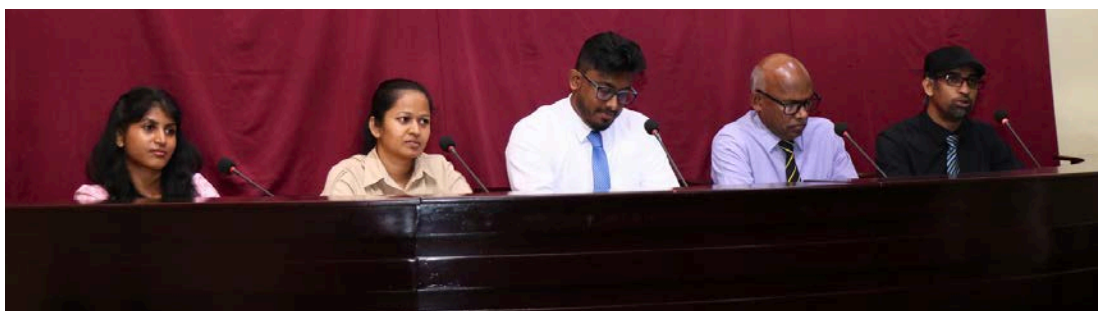
10. PGIS OPEN DAY (CONTD.)

12-13/06/2026



The successful completion of Open Day 2026 reflects the continued commitment of PGIS to promoting postgraduate education, research excellence, innovation and meaningful engagement with society and industry. The event not only celebrated the achievements of the past 30 years but also created a platform for looking towards the future and strengthening the role of postgraduate education and scientific research in addressing emerging national and global challenges.

As PGIS moves forward into its next chapter, Open Day 2026 stands as a celebration of its achievements and a reminder of its continuing mission to nurture researchers, encourage innovation and contribute to the advancement of science and society.



11. PGIS RESCON PRE-CONFERENCE TALK 01

12/06/2026



As part of the PGIS Open Day 2026 and in preparation for the PGIS Research Congress (RESCON) 2026, the Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS), University of Peradeniya, organized a pre-conference talk titled “Ecology of Sambar (Rusa unicolor unicolor) in Horton Plains National Park, Sri Lanka.” The session was held on 12 June 2026 from 3.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. at the PGIS Conference Hall.

The talk was delivered by Dr. Danushka Weerasekara, Postdoctoral Scientist at PGIS, who is also a recipient of the Prof. Felix Prashantha Amerasinghe Memorial Postgraduate Research Award (2023/2024). The session provided an opportunity for participants to gain insights into the ecology and significance of the Sambar deer, a prominent large mammal inhabiting the montane ecosystems of Sri Lanka.

The presentation focused on the Sambar (*Rusa unicolor unicolor*) in Horton Plains National Park, highlighting the importance of understanding wildlife ecology within the unique high-elevation environment of the park. Through the discussion, participants were able to appreciate the ecological significance of Sambar deer and the importance of research-based approaches to understanding and conserving Sri Lanka’s biodiversity.

The event brought together postgraduate students, researchers, academic staff and other members of the PGIS community, creating a valuable platform for knowledge sharing and scientific engagement. The session also demonstrated the diverse areas of postgraduate research and expertise within PGIS, extending beyond conventional laboratory-based research to encompass wildlife ecology, biodiversity and environmental sciences.

The pre-conference talk formed part of the wider programme of PGIS Open Day 2026, which celebrated the Institute’s 30th anniversary while providing opportunities to showcase research, academic activities and scientific achievements. Such programmes contribute to strengthening the research culture at PGIS and encourage interaction among researchers and the wider academic community.



24/06/2026

The 87th General Convocation of the University of Peradeniya, one of the most significant events in the university calendar, was ceremoniously held on the 17th and 18th of June 2026 at the University Gymnasium.

A total of 249 PGIS students who successfully completed their postgraduate programmes were awarded their degrees during this session. Graduates represented a wide range of academic disciplines across the MSc, MPhil, and PhD programmes offered by the institute. Graduates also received a feedback survey to share their insights contributing to the continuous improvement of postgraduate education at PGIS.

Photography by: Perabeats Insights



24/06/2026

List of the Graduates**Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) - 4****Mathematics (1)**

Mr. Gnanapragasam, S R

Plant Sciences (1)

Ms. Senevirathne, W I N S

Science Education (1)

Ms. Rupasinghe, D D

Zoological Sciences (2)

Ms. Sivabalakrishnan, K

Degree of Master of Philosophy (MPhil) - 27**Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (3)**

Ms. Devindi, K M

Ms. Gamlath, R D S M

Mr. Rajapaksha, G D S P

Chemical Sciences (9)

Ms. Amarasena, R A L R

Ms. Fahmidha, H F

Mr. Hewage, K P

Ms. Jayasundara, J M J

Ms. Jayasundara, P D T S N

Ms. Kumari, G M M

Ms. Nilmini, B M S

Ms. Prasadini, H R P

Mr. Samaraweera, A P G M V

Earth Sciences (7)

Ms. Chandrakumara, G T D

Ms. Mahalekam, N D

Mrs. Nadeeshani, K W N

Ms. Samarakoon, S M T N

Ms. Weerathne, K P M

Mr. Wickramasinghe, W A G K

Ms. Wijesinghe, W M H M

Environmental Sciences (1)

Mr. Senarathna, S M D M C

Mathematics (2)

Ms. Karunarathna, W H D T

Mr. Weerathna, M D M C P

Physics (3)

Ms. Mr. Gurunanthanan, V

Mr. Maddumage, D C

Mr. Rajakaruna, R P P D

Science Education (1)

Mr. Dayananda, D N G

Zoological Sciences (1)

Ms. Gunasekara, W K K H S

Degree of Master of Science (MSc) - 63**Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (2)****MSc In Clinical Biochemistry (1)**

Mr. Samarasinghe, W C

MSc In Experimental Biotechnology (1)

Ms. Wakkumbura, J R

Chemical Sciences (8)**MSc In Analytical Chemistry (3)**

Ms. Jayasuriya, N J T A G A W D

Ms. Jayawardana, G L P N

Mr. Kodisinghe, D T

MSc In Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (5)

Mr. Dissanayake, K M M K

Ms. Lochana, E A L

Mr. Madhuwantha, M D

Mr. Prabuddika, G G D K

Mr. Rathnayake, J P I U

Earth Sciences (22)**MSc In Disaster Management (2)**

Ms. Abeywardhana, D C

Ms. Holiyabandara, H B M W U L

MSc In Engineering Geology and Hydro-geology (9)

Mr. Barammane, W M S H

Mr. Daranagama, D A S

Mr. De Silva, P H H M

Mr. Jayasuriya, J A C M

Mr. Kendaragama, K M N

Mr. Madusanka, T P

Mr. Munasinghe, W G H P K

Mr. Rajakaruna, R M C M

Mr. Weerakoon, M P S T

MSc In Gemmology and Industrial Minerals (4)

Mr. Bandara, H M D S E

Mr. Dayarathna, U K I

Ms. Konara, K M R S

Mr. Kulasoorya, H M M P

MSc In GIS & Remote Sensing (7)

Ms. Dissanayake, D K

Mr. Hettiarachchi, S N

Ms. Kalpana, P V U

Mr. Krishnarajah, K V

Ms. Mathanki, J

Mr. Prradhepan, T

Mrs. Ushanthini, G

MSc In Water Resources Management (1)

Mr. Herath, D I

Environmental Science (5)**MSc In Biodiversity, Ecotourism and Environment Management (1)**

Ms. Senevirathne, A M A M

MSc In Applied Statistics (4)

Ms. Danasekara, D R S R

Ms. Pathiraja, P A W D

Ms. Ranthanne, K R G S K

Mr. Rupasinghe, R A K P

Physics (2)**MSc In Medical Physics (1)**

Ms. Dasanayake, D R M S

MSc In Physics of Materials (1)

Mr. Heenatikumbura, R W M K

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Science Education

MSc In Sciecn Education (8)

Ms. Chandrathissa, H T P M P
Ms. Hettiarachchi, H T N
Ms. Jayatissa, J K A
Mr. Kapijijel, S
Mr. Lekamge, L A B
Mrs. Niranjane, A
Mr. Pathmaseela, B G A
Mrs. Shifana, M H

Statistics and Computer Science (16)

MSc In Computer Science (14)

Ms. Akliya, J N
Mr. Bopegedara, A M A L B
Mr. Jayananda, P K V
Mr. Jayasundara, M A S D
Mr. Kahatapitiya, K R A L
Ms. Madushi, K B A
Mr. Nallaperuma, N A P M M
Ms. Nisansala, M M A
Mr. Pujinthan, S
Mr. Pushpanayagam, S
Mr. Rathnayaka, R M G U
Ms. Sivasubramaniam, S
Ms. Sulaxan, L
Ms. Wilathgamuwa, D K D

MSc In Data Science (1)

Mr. Himal, M K T

MSc In Information Technology (1)

Mr. Vithanage, M S N

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Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (5)

Experimental Biotechnology (3)

Ms. Fernando, K D P
Ms. Ramasinghe, R Y C
Ms. Risna, M N F

Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (2)

Ms. Ekanayaka, E M T A
Ms. Jayarathne, G U

Chemical Sciences (17)

Analytical Chemistry (11)

Mr. Ekanayake, E M G G C S B
Mr. Gallage, I P
Ms. Gonigoda, G P W C M R Y K
Ms. Hapsa, M S F
Mr. Kaluarachchi, R B
Ms. Karunathilaka, W M
Mr. Rumaiz, H M M
Mr. Sumanasekara, K M V G
Ms. Thilakarathna, P G T S
Ms. Vivian, K
Ms. Wickramathilake, N G H

Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (6)

Ms. Rathnayake, D T
Ms. Karunarathne, R H A S S
Mr. Rajapakse, D C
Mr. Gunasena, D A S S
Ms. Liyanaarachchi, N C M
Ms. Udathari, M D B

Earth Sciences (28)

Disaster Management (6)

Ms. Bandara, A R M T G
Mr. Chandrasiva, M
Ms. Dissanayaka, D M C P
Ms. Lawunahewage, N
Ms. Madarasinghe, A P
Mr. Weerabaddana, K S

Gemmology and Industrial Minerals (4)

Mr. Maduranga, R P D T
Mr. Premarathna, P D C
Mr. Samanjith, A K R
Mr. Wijethilake, M A D K

GIS and Remote Sensing (16)

Ms. Amarasinghe, A G J N
Ms. Bothejue, W I S
Mr. Dayananda, S B P L V
Ms. Dissanayaka, D M S U K
Mr. Fernando, W N M C
Mr. Gamlath, M G R C K K
Mr. Gunasegaram, D
Ms. Hewage, H D
Ms. Hettiarachchi, H P T
Ms. Nethmini, H B O
Mr. Neththipola, M M T D
Mr. Nivejan, S

Mr. Silva, M M S A
Ms. Weerasinghe, W A A D
Mr. Weerasooriya, H M G S
Mr. Wijetunga, W W M R G P M B

Water Resources Management (2)

Ms. Hegoda, H A C I
Ms. Gunawardhana, M G P M

Environmental Science (24)

Biodiversity, Ecotourism and Environment Management (11)

Mrs. Apsara, G S
Mr. Attanayake, N G
Mr. Bandara, A E H
Ms. Jayarathna, K H D L
Ms. Lakmali, K S
Mr. Pathirana, G P J P B
Mr. Samarasekara, W G K H
Ms. Silva, T M D
Ms. Siwrathna, S B Y M A K K
Mr. Suranga, A M N
Ms. Udayangani, G M

Environmental Science (13)

Mr. Ekanayake, E M C K
Ms. Gamage, M M
Ms. Gunawardana, I B I S
Mr. Jayasundara, A J M S N
Mr. Kulasuriya, B A D M
Mr. Nihath, M N M
Mr. Ranatunga, R A G N
Ms. Ranasinghe, P M D N
Ms. Samarakoon, S M N U
Mr. Siyam, M S M
Ms. Weerasinghe, H P H
Ms. Weerasooriya, W M I U
Ms. Wickramasinghe, P G M U

Plant Sciences (8)

Medical Microbiology (2)

Ms. Dolapihilla, D G L E
Ms. Zulfa, M S F

Pharmaceutical Botany (6)

Ms. Hettiarachchi, I K
Ms. Isanthika, W K S
Ms. Naleefa, U L
Mr. Neranja, M G D
Ms. Sandanayake, C L T
Ms. Sivakumaran, M

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Mathematics (9)

Industrial Mathematics (9)

Mr. Abeysinghe, A M D L
Mr. Gunasekara, A D A I
Ms. Koswatte, K R R H
Mr. Kumara, P G P
Mr. Priyashantha, S P D D
Ms. Rajaguru, R B W M M K
Ms. Raju, R
Ms. Rakshana, S
Ms. Sithara, W O K

Physics (4)

Medical Physics (2)

Ms. Hemamala U G D S
Ms. Wanninayaka, T W D U

Physics of Materials (2)

Ms. Samarawickrama, A A B C
Mr. Subhasinghe T W G A M

Statistics and Computer Science (35)

Applied Statistics (12)

Mr. Abeykoon, H M S R B
Ms. Abeyesiriwardhana, K A P B
Mr. Bandara, W M N I
Ms. Bandara, H M N D
Ms. Chandrasiri, G H D
Mr. Herath, H M N C
Mrs. Ihalage, D
Ms. Ishara, M I F
Mr. Padmasankha, L M K P
Ms. Nirosha, E
Ms. Ridmi, S R A K
Mr. Sadakelum, W M L

Computer Science (12)

Mr. Atapattu, A U
Mr. Dias, P P D A
Mr. Hatharasinghe, G L B
Mr. Liyanage, G P
Mr. Makuloluwa, T W B

Ms. Niluckshini, M R C
Mr. Rajakulathilaka, RAH
Mr. Ranaweera, G M K M
Mr. Samarakoon, S J M I M B
Ms. Shereen, M N A
Ms. Sivarajah, S
Ms. Thewarapperuma, T D A G

Data Science (3)

Mr. Heshan, W P
Ms. Wanigasekara, W M S G D C
Ms. Wickramarachchi, W A P S

Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (6)

Mr. Bandara, A M D
Mr. Dasanayaka, D M C D B
Ms. Dissanayake, D M G S
Mr. Gunawardane, S M
Ms. Hettiarachchi, H C
Mr. Perera, M N S

Information Technology (2)

Mr. Hasmy, I L M
Mr. Krishnakumar G

Earth Sciences (2)

Engineering Geology and Hydrogeology (2)

Mr. Rangana, P G P
Ms. Wickramanayake, H P T S

Science Education (16)

Science Education (16)

Ms. Egodawatta, P B
Mr. Hakeem, M A A
Mr. Herath, H M A B
Ms. Jayarathne, S H
Ms. Jeyavahini, A D
Ms. Kumutha, K
Mr. Kumara, W A D R
Mr. Neluwala, N G G B
Ms. Nimshika, G A J
Ms. Niruba, K
Ms. Nusra, R F
Mr. Rathnayake, R M R K
Ms. Sindhuja, S
Ms. Sutharshini, S
Ms. Thilakarathne, S M E K
Ms. Wickramasinghe, W D H D

Zoological Sciences (7)

Applied Epidemiology (7)

Ms. Ariyadasa, H M K B
Ms. Bandara, D M A U
Ms. Gamage, K Y G D K
Ms. Ranathunga, R A D S
Mr. Thiviyananth, M J J
Ms. Ubhayasiri, P C
Ms. Wijesinghe, W G N

 **Congratulations, Graduates!** 

The Postgraduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya, extends its warmest congratulations and best wishes to all our postgraduate graduates. May your knowledge, dedication, and achievements lead you to a bright and successful future. Wishing you every success in your journey ahead!

13. POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA AWARDING CEREMONY

26/06/2026



Postgraduate Diploma Awarding Ceremony 2026 Successfully Held at the University of Peradeniya.

The postgraduate institutes of the University of Peradeniya successfully held their Postgraduate Diploma Awarding Ceremony 2026 on 26 June 2026 at the University Gymnasium, University of Peradeniya.

The ceremony was jointly organized by the Postgraduate Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences (PGIHS), the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture (PGIA), and the Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS). Approximately 450 postgraduate diplomas were awarded to both local and international students in recognition of their academic achievements.



The event was held under the patronage and leadership of Chancellor Lakshman Dissanayake, Vice Chancellor Prof.

Terence Madhujith, Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof. Ranjith Pallegama, and the Directors of the three postgraduate institutes— Prof. Nanda Balasuriya (PGIS), Prof. Wasantha Athukorala (PGIHS), and Prof. Pushpakumara (PGIA).

The ceremony was attended by the Deans of the faculties of the University of Peradeniya, academic staff, distinguished guests, graduates, and their families, with more than 100 senior academics participating in the event.

The Postgraduate Diploma Awarding Ceremony was organized alongside the General Convocation of the University of Peradeniya, which was held on 24 and 25 June 2026, marking another significant milestone in the University's commitment to postgraduate education and academic excellence.

Written by:

Prof. Wasantha Athukorala

Postgraduate Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences (PGIHS),
University of Peradeniya

26/06/2026

List of the Diploma Holders

Chemical Sciences (18)

Analytical Chemistry (7)

P. Abeysiriwardhana
W. V. T. U. B. Bowaththa
G. E. M. R. Ekanayake
G. A. J. A. Gane Arachchi
K. M. U. P. Kulasekara
N. H. S. W. K. Naiduwa
W. M. K. G. Weerakoon

Clinical Biochemistry (7)

L. G. P. I. Dhananjani
C. M. J. Jayasinghe
L. J. Jeyabalasingam
H. L. N. R. Pradeep
W. N. H. R. Rudrigu
S. Srikrishnan
M. F. F. Zeeniya

Industrial Chemistry (2)

N. M. K.C. Nawarathne
S. M. D.D. Samarakoon

Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (2)

M. M. C. N. Marasinghe
K. S. I. S. Subasena

Earth Sciences (11)

Disaster Management (4)

W. A. A. S. Bindusara
S. K. Kugendran
W. H. K. P. Priyadarshani
S. S. Selvarajah

Engineering Geology & Hydrogeology (2)

C. Gokilakumaran
S. R. A. P. C. Ranawaka

GIS and Remote Sensing (4)

K. W. B. M. A. G. J. W. Bandara
B. A. J. M. K. Karunarathne
C. P. Thilakaratna
V. C. Weerawarna

Water Resources Management (1)

K.M.S.K. Rajapaksha

Environmental Science (3)

Environmental Science (3)

D. M. D. G. J. B. Dasanayake
S. M. P. K. Kumara
W. M. H. G. S. Wickramasinghe

Mathematics (2)

Industrial Mathematics (2)

L.G.R.K. Galappaththi
W.B.C.P. Weeraratne

Medical Microbiology (2)

Medical Microbiology (2)

R. Sivatharsini
H.M.G.A. Herath

Plant Sciences (7)

Biodiversity, Ecotourism and Environment Management (7)

B. N. D. Dissanayaka
H. P. R. Jayathilaka
A. Pararajasekaram
M. N. Rajarathna
K. W. M. P. Senadheera
D. G. A. D. Sumanathissa
H. L. A. K. Suranjith

Science Education (106)

Science Education (106)

A. M. E. K. Abeyakoon
A. H. M. N. T. Abeyarathna
A. M. C. W. K. Abeykoon
P. T. G. A. I. Abeywansa
A. A. J. C. K. Abhayaratne
M. A. D. D. Aboobucker
A. M. T. I. Adhikari
M. G. H. Alwis
A. A. D. S. Amarasinghe
R. K. Angunawala
V. Arumugathas
P. Aruran
A. M. K. M. Athapattu
P. Atheesan
A. T. Athukorala
A. M. T. S. Attanayake
A. M. Azhar

G. G. H. M. H. S. Bandara
K. H. D. Chathurika
A. D. D. Dissanayaka
A. M. G. G. D. M. Dissanayake
D. M. B. S. Dissanayake
D. M. S. E. Dissanayake
D. M. S. K. Dissanayake
R. G. T. Dulanjalee
M. Elaneshan
R. A. Gunarathna
K. M. A. P. Hemapala
P. P. N. Ilangarathna
I. K. Indrasena
M. A. C. M. Ismath
J. L. H. S. Jayasinghe
U. R. N. T. Jayasinghe
J. M. C. P. Jayasundara
M. D. C. U. S. Jayathilaka
W. C. Jayathunga
V. Jeyakumar
S. Jeyaseelan
A. Jeyatheesan
J. Jeyckanth
N. Karunanithi
A. M. A. G. N. Karunathilake
K. D. M. Kodithuwakku
D. J. Kommala
R. Krishnathas
S. H. S. Kulathilaka
P. M. N. A. Kulathunga
D. M. R. P. Kumara
N. W. K. C. P. Kumara
R. A. P. Kumara
Y. R. S. P. Kumara
K. D. Kumaranayaka
P. V. L. Kumari
B. V. T. Lakmali
S. Munasinghe
M. H. F. Musliha
P. N. H. D. Nanayakkara
M. M. Nawas
M. K. F. Nifla
G. A. J. Nimshika
A. Nirubarani
M. N. F. Nizmiya
P. K. S. T. Nonis
S. A. S. P. Perera
G. C. Peterson
W. K. G. Piyadarshani
K. J. Prasanga
H. M. J. Pushpakumara

26/06/2026

J. V. Pushpakumara
R. P. V. D. S. N. Rajapaksha
R. M. H. M. Ramanayake
V. Ramesh
W. M. C. Rasanjali
K. E. D. A. A. Rathnasiri
R. M. S. R. Rathnayaka
M. F. M. Riswan
H. J. Sajeewani
U. M. A. Samanthilaka
K. D. A. Sameera
K. P. S. Sandamali
S. Sasikaran
K. D. N. S. Senanayake
H. L. M. Senarathna
M. B. Shafiya
P. W. A. Shantha
H. N. K. K. Siriwardhana
S. M. S. U. L. Siriwardhana
M. S. F. Siyana
S. D. T. G. Sudasinghe
P. D. Suraweera
P. P. G. I. Tharangani
P. Theivanayaki
T. M. N. D. Thennakoon
M. M. A. A. M. Thilakarathne
S. Thirunesarajah
U. G. S. W. Ududeniya
W. V. P. Vitharama
W. S. M. C. S. Wanasinghe
M. S. B. Wanninayake
W. M. D. Y. Weerakoon
W. M. T. S. Weerasekara
T. G. W. A. S. C. Weerasinghe
W. J. S. D. Wickramasinghe
N. P. Widyarathna
W. M. T. D. Wijesundara
N. D. S. Wimalasena

Statistics and Computer Science (10)

Applied Statistics (1)

M. Mayoaran

Computer Science (8)

B. M. G. M. K. Beligammana
P. M. De Silva

A. U. D. A. Goonasekera
S. C. B. Herath
K. M. D. D. Karunarathne
P. H. P. Nilanga
T. C. K. Rangamaarachchi
U. E. A. T. Thewarapperuma

Information Technology (1)

R. Thaneshkumar

Zoological Sciences (12)

Applied Epidemiology (11)

A. R. B. L. Alawathura
E. M. P. I. Ekanayaka
G. K. Y. U. Kapuge
H. P. G. N. Niwarthana
J. A. N. Nagasinghe
J. Wijesooriya
K. M. W. Warnakulahewa
S. M. Seneviratne
T. G. C. N. Thirana
W. G. R. M. S. Nandakumara
W. K. I. S. Wijenayaka
W. M. C. Wickramasinghe

Fish and Wildlife Management (1)

V.T.K. Dayarathna

 **Congratulations,
Graduates!** 

**The Postgraduate
Institute of Science,
University of
Peradeniya, extends
its warmest
congratulations and
best wishes to all our
postgraduate
graduates. May your
knowledge,
dedication, and
achievements lead
you to a bright and
successful future.
Wishing you every
success in your
journey ahead!**



PGIS NEWS

2026

VOLUME 26, No. 01



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Comments and suggestions to improve the quality of this newsletter are welcome.

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THANK YOU !



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ISSN 1391 - 5754