NEWSLETTER
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WORLD WATER DAY CELEBRATION AT DIVULGANE, EHETUWEWA WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF DIBULAGALA CENTRAL COLLEGE STUDENTS

INSIDE THE ISSUE

In celebration of World Water Day 2026, students of Dibulagala Central College stepped into nature for an engaging and educational experience beyond the classroom.

The program was successfully held on 26th March 2026 in Ehetuwewa, bringing together students, educators, and environmental professionals in a meaningful initiative focused on water conservation and sustainable living. The event was graced by the presence of the school principal, Ms. W.M.S.K. Wanninayaka, alongside teachers Mr. N.J. Basnayaka (Agriculture Instructor – Ehetuwewa) and Ms. R.M.C.N. Rathnayaka (Agriculture Technical Assistant).

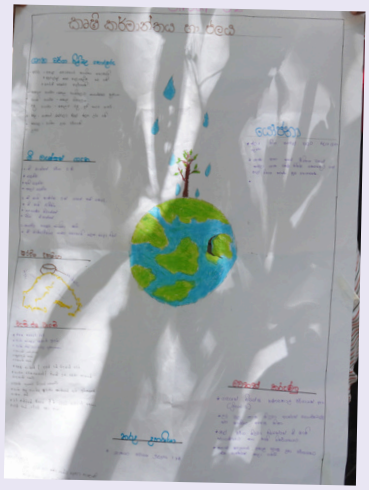
Special participation was also marked by Dr. Tanuja Ariyananda (CEO) and other officers from the Lanka Rain Water Harvesting Forum, who organized and facilitated the program.

The day featured a variety of interactive and educational activities designed to enhance students' understanding of water resource management and environmental sustainability. Key highlights included:

- Field visits to observe household rainwater harvesting tanks, providing practical exposure to water-saving techniques

Continued on the next page

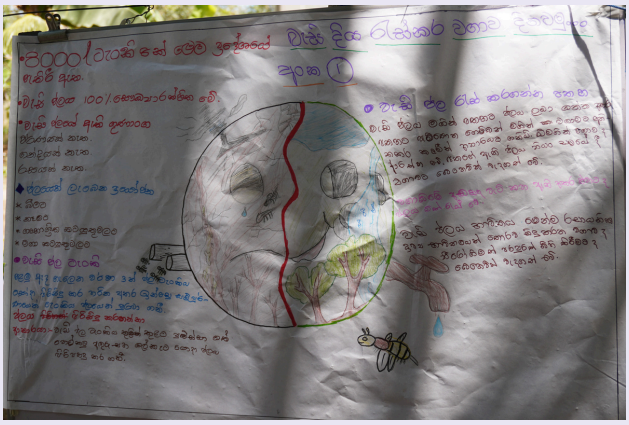
- Demonstrations and observation of Pataha (traditional water collection practices)
- A poster competition showcasing students' creativity and awareness of water conservation
- Student speeches, where participants shared their learnings and reflections from the program
- A street drama performance by students, creatively conveying messages on Rain water Hrvesting and environmental protection
- Distribution of plants to students by plant nursery established by LRWHF at Divulagane vilalage
- Distribution of bee-keeping boxes to farmers at Divulagane and thimibiriyayaya promote sustainable livelihoods and ecological balance



Poster Competition - Poster of Team -A

This initiative not only deepened students' knowledge but also encouraged them to become active advocates for sustainable water management within their communities.

The program also fostered a strong sense of environmental responsibility among the students, encouraging them to apply the knowledge gained in their daily lives. By directly engaging with practical demonstrations and community-based solutions, students developed a deeper appreciation for sustainable water management practices.
The initiative not only highlighted the importance of conserving water but also empowered the younger generation to become proactive contributors towards building climate-resilient and water-secure communities.



Poster Competition - Poster of Team -B

Plant Distributing

Dr Tanuja Ariyananda addressing the Audience

Bee Keeping Boxes

Observing 8000L Households Rainwater harvesting Tank system by Students

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS: VISIT OF IRHA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARC SYLVESTRE TO SRI LANKA

The recent visit of Mr. Marc Sylvestre, Executive Director of the International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance (IRHA), marks an important milestone in strengthening collaboration, fostering knowledge exchange, and advancing sustainable rainwater harvesting initiatives in Sri Lanka

During his visit to Sri Lanka , Mr. Marc engaged in a series of productive discussions and meetings with key stakeholders in the water and environmental sectors. He met with Board Members of the Lanka Rain Water Harvesting Forum (LRWHF), reinforcing ongoing partnerships and exploring future collaborative opportunities to promote rainwater harvesting across the country.

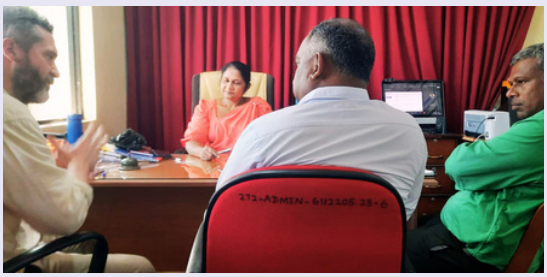
Plant nursery Opening -Divlagane , Ehetuwewa

In addition, Mr. Marc held discussions with researchers from the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), focusing on innovation, research integration, and sustainable water management practices. He also met with officials from the Groundwater Section of the National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB) in the North Western Province, highlighting the importance of coordinated efforts in managing groundwater resources.

Further strengthening regional engagement, meetings were conducted with the Divisional Secretaries of Rasnayakapura and Kotavehera, emphasizing the role of local governance in implementing effective rainwater harvesting solutions at the community level.

Discussions with Groundwater Section of the National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB) in the North Western Province

Mr. Marc also engaged in several field visits to observe ongoing rainwater harvesting and environmental initiatives. These included visits to school rainwater harvesting systems, weather monitoring stations, household rainwater harvesting tanks ,well recharge systems and Toilet. He further visited agroforestry gardens established in the areas of Divulgane and Thimbiriyaya, gaining first-hand insight into community-level implementations and the positive impact of sustainable water management solutions.



Discussions with Divisional Secretaries in Kurnegala District

This visit reflects a shared commitment to addressing water challenges through strategic partnerships, technical collaboration, and community-driven approaches. It also underscores the growing importance of rainwater harvesting as a sustainable solution for water security in Sri Lanka.

Discussions with International Water Management Institute (IWMI),

Discussions with Board Members of the Lanka Rain Water Harvesting Forum (LRWHF)

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT: RAINWATER HARVESTING SYSTEM INAUGURATED AT KIRINDA SCHOOL

A 16,000-litre rainwater harvesting system was successfully handed over and inaugurated at Kirinda School, Kirinda, in the Kurunegala District on 27th February 2026, marking another significant step toward promoting sustainable water management practices in Sri Lanka

The inauguration ceremony was graced by Mr. Marc Sylvestre (Executive Director, International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance – IRHA), Zonal Director of Education – Kirinda and Dr. Tanuja Ariyananda (CEO, Lanka Rain Water Harvesting Forum – LRWHF), along with school staff, students, and community members.

This initiative aims to promote sustainable rainwater management and water conservation among school children through practical exposure to rainwater harvesting systems, while the newly installed 16,000L tank will help meet the school's water needs.

A mobile weather station was also established at this school to educate the children on weather monitoring and forcasting .These modern weather stations enable students to monitor real-time weather conditions, including rainfall, temperature, wind speed and direction, as well as air quality indicators such as Total Volatile Organic Compounds (TVOC levels).

The event was further enriched by vibrant cultural and awareness activities organized by the students. A street drama performance highlighted the importance of water conservation and environmental protection, while traditional dance presentations added a cultural touch to the occasion, making the event both educational and engaging.

Through such initiatives, the importance of water conservation is reinforced while helping to reliably meet the school's daily water needs.

හීන් අරත්ත වගාවෙන් ගොවි ආදායම ඉහළට: සාර්ථකව වෙළඳපොළ සවිබල ගැන්වීම

ලංකා වැසි ජලය රැස්කිරීමේ සංසදය (LRWHF), ජාත්‍යන්තර වැසි ජලය රැස්කිරීමේ සන්ධානය (IRHA) සහ ස්විට්සර්ලන්තයේ Fédération Genevoise de Coopération ආයතනයේ සහයෝගීතාවයෙන් ක්‍රියාත්මක කළ "ජල හා පරිසර පද්ධති ඒකාබද්ධ සම්පත් කළමනාකරණ ව්‍යාපෘතිය" යටතේ කුරුණෑගල දිස්ත්‍රික්කයේ ගොවීන්ට සිය අස්වැන්න සඳහා ඉහළ ආදායමක් ලබා ගැනීමට මඟ පෑදී ඇත.

මෙහිදී "හීන් අරත්ත" වගා කරන ගොවීන් ඉලක්ක කර ගනිමින් ක්‍රියාත්මක කළ වෙළඳපොළ සබඳතා වැඩසටහන මඟින් ඔවුන්ගේ ජීවනෝපාය සාර්ථක ලෙස නංවාලීමට හැකි විය.

වෙළඳපොළ මැදිහත්වීම සහ ලබාගත් ජයග්‍රහණ

පෙරදී ඇහැටුවැව ප්‍රදේශයේ ගොවීන් තම අස්වැන්න කිලෝවක් රුපියල් 120 වැනි අඩු මුදලකට අලෙවි කළහ. එහෙත්, මෙම ව්‍යාපෘතිය හරහා ඇති කළ සෘජු වෙළඳපොළ සබඳතා මඟින් එම හීන් අරත්ත අස්වැන්න කුරුණෑගල ප්‍රදේශයේ දේශීය ආයුර්වේද අලෙවිසැල් වෙත සෘජුවම ලබා දීමට කටයුතු කෙරිණි.

ආර්ථික බලපෑම:

- පැරණි මිල: රු. 120.00 (කිලෝවක්)
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- මිලෙහි වැඩිවීම: රු. 480.00 (කිලෝවක් සඳහා)
- පළමු අදියරේ අලෙවි කළ ප්‍රමාණය: කිලෝ ග්‍රෑම් 50

මෙමඟින් අතරමැදියන්ගේ සූරාකෑම අවම වී, ගොවීන්ගේ ආදායම 5 ගුණයකින් පමණ ඉහළ ගොස් ඇත.

හීන් අරත්තවල ඖෂධීය වටිනාකම

හීන් අරත්ත යනු දේශීය ආයුර්වේද වෛද්‍ය විද්‍යාවේදී ඉතා ඉහළ වටිනාකමක් සහිත ඖෂධයකි. එහි ඇති ප්‍රධාන ගුණාංග කිහිපයක් පහත දැක්වේ:

- මූත්‍රා පද්ධතිය ආශ්‍රිත රෝග සමනය කිරීම.
- වකුගඩු ආශ්‍රිත ආබාධ කළමනාකරණයට සහය වීම.
- ශරීරයේ ඇති විෂ ද්‍රව්‍ය ඉවත් කිරීම (Detoxification).
- පරිවෘත්තීය ක්‍රියාවලිය ක්‍රමවත් කර ශරීරයේ සමබරතාවය පවත්වා ගැනීම

මෙම වැඩසටහනේ සාර්ථකත්වය හුදෙක් ආදායම වැඩි වීමට පමණක් සීමා නොවේ. ව්‍යාපෘතිය හරහා ගොවීන්ට අවශ්‍ය නවීන කෘෂිකාර්මික උපදෙස්, වැසි ජලය කාර්යක්ෂමව කළමනාකරණය කරන ආකාරය සහ තාක්ෂණය පිළිබඳ දැනුම ද ලබා දී ඇත.

ලංකා වැසි ජලය රැස්කිරීමේ සංසදය මඟින් ක්‍රියාත්මක කළ මෙම වැඩසටහන හරහා පෙනී යන්නේ, නිසි වෙළඳපොළ සම්බන්ධීකරණය සහ වටිනාකමක් සහිත වෙළඳපොළවල් හඳුනා ගැනීම මඟින් ග්‍රාමීය ගොවියාගේ ආර්ථිකය ශක්තිමත් කළ හැකි බවයි. මෙම සාර්ථක පුවත, උපායමාර්ගික වෙළඳපොළ ප්‍රවේශය තුළින් ග්‍රාමීය ජීවනෝපායන් පරිවර්තනීය වෙනසකට ලක් කළ හැකි ආකාරය පිළිබඳ කදිම නිදසුනකි.

A SUCCESS STORY IN CLIMATE RESILIENCE: RAINWATER HARVESTING AT VALARPIRAI, POINT PEDRO

The successful implementation of rainwater harvesting systems at Valarpirai in Point Pedro stands as a powerful example of climate resilience and sustainable water management in Northern Sri Lanka.
Mr. Senthivel Jayakumar and his company, Valarpirai Pvt Ltd, are part of the success story of Point Pedro. Their work is bringing more growth to the Jaffna Peninsula.

Rainwater harvesting storage tanks installed under the guidance of the Lanka Rain Water Harvesting Forum have reached full capacity. Since October 2025, farming at Valarpirai has relied entirely on harvested rainwater, with no dependence on any external water supply.

Based on current consumption patterns, the stored water is expected to support agricultural activities for approximately 100 more days, even under the assumption of no rainfall during the typically dry months of February and March. This achievement highlights the critical role of rainwater harvesting in ensuring water security for farming communities.

Harvest at P.P

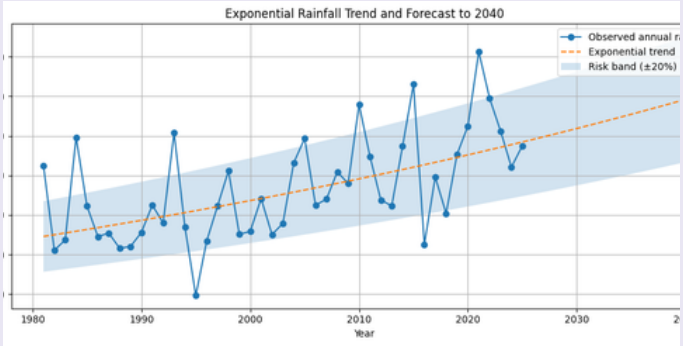
While the initiative has been successful, it also reflects shifting climate conditions in the area. Rainfall is now concentrated into short, intense periods, followed by extended dry spells. These changes highlight the need for efficient rainwater collection, larger storage capacity, and effective overflow management.

A detailed analysis of 45 years of rainfall data (1981–2025) for the Point Pedro area further reinforces these observations. The findings reveal:

- A noticeable increase in average annual rainfall in recent decades
- An accelerating, non-linear rainfall trend rather than a steady rise
- A strong concentration of rainfall during October–November, with early months remaining consistently dry
- Increasing variability and extremes from year to year

These trends underline the urgent need to rethink and redesign farm-level water management systems, moving beyond traditional approaches and adapting to current climate realities.

The Valarpirai experience clearly demonstrates that well-designed rainwater harvesting systems can effectively meet immediate water needs while also strengthening resilience to changing climate conditions. It serves as a strong example for other communities in Northern Sri Lanka, showing how practical solutions and sustainable approaches can help secure water for the future.



Rainfall at Point Pedro 1980-2040

LRWHF INTRODUCES SANITATION SOLUTIONS

Lanka Rainwater Harvesting Forum (LRWHF), in a strategic move to enhance rural hygiene and sanitation, has officially launched a new initiative to construct toilets for selected households in the Ehetuwewa Divisional Secretariat area.
This project, supported by the International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance (IRHA), represents a holistic evolution of LRWHF's mission with linking clean water access with safe, sustainable waste management.

Several design of toilet systems were tested out to assess the suitability to the location and cost saving. Design tested were brick and ferrocement (design adopted from Kanchan Nepal) housing structures and sokage pit and septic tank pit systems.

Technical Breakdown: The Sanitation Components System Toilet Housing

1. Ferrocement Wall Construction
Ferrocement is a highly versatile construction material consisting of a thin layer of cement mortar reinforced with closely spaced layers of wire mesh.

- Benefits: It is exceptionally lightweight yet strong, making it ideal for areas where traditional heavy materials are difficult to transport.
- Foundation Strength: It provides a seamless, water-tight structure that is highly resistant to cracking and tremors.

2. Traditional Brick Wall Construction
For regions where materials are readily available locally, traditional brickwork offers a robust and familiar alternative.

- Durability: Provides high compressive strength and stability for permanent structures.

Brick wall design Under constructions

Ferro cement design Under constructions

Continued on the next page

Waste Management System

There are two primary waste processing designs based on the geology and hydrology of the the location

- Single Pit System: A straightforward, cost-effective solution where waste is collected in a single underground pit. The pit is sealed, and the waste eventually decomposes into safe organic matter.

- Septic Tank + Soakage Pit: A more advanced two-stage treatment system.
  - The Septic Tank allows for the anaerobic (without oxygen) digestion of solids.
  - The Soakage Pit filters the remaining liquid effluent through layers of gravel and sand, allowing it to safely permeate back into the ground without contaminating the surrounding water table.

2 pit Design

Single pit design

பருவநிலை கல்வியை மேம்படுத்தல்: பாடசாலைகளில் தொழில்முறை வானிலை நிலையங்கள் நிறுவுதல்

இலங்கை மழைநீர் சேகரிப்பு மன்றம் மற்றும் சர்வதேச மழைநீர் சேகரிப்பு கூட்டணி ஆகியவற்றின் கூட்டு முயற்சியின் ஒரு பகுதியாக, பருவநிலை கல்வியை வலுப்படுத்தவும், நிலையான நீர் மேலாண்மை நடைமுறைகளை ஊக்குவிக்கவும் இலங்கையிலுள்ள இரண்டு பாடசாலைகளில் தொழில்முறை வானிலை நிலையங்கள் வெற்றிகரமாக நிறுவப்பட்டுள்ளன.

2026 ஜனவரி 14 ஆம் திகதி, குருநாகல் (மஹோ) வேரகல ஸ்ரீ ராகுல மகா வித்தியாலயத்தில் ஒரு வானிலை நிலையம் கையளிக்கப்பட்டது. அதனைத் தொடர்ந்து, 2026 மார்ச் 27 ஆம் திகதி சர்வதேச மழைநீர் சேகரிப்பு கூட்டணியின் நிறைவேற்றுப் பணிப்பாளர் திரு. மார்க் சில்வெஸ்டர் அவர்களின் பங்கேற்புடன் கிரிந்த வித்தியாலயத்தில் மற்றுமொரு வானிலை நிலையம் நிறுவப்பட்டது.

இந்த நவீன வானிலை நிலையங்கள் மூலம் மாணவர்கள் மழைவீழ்ச்சி, வெப்பநிலை, காற்றின் வேகம் மற்றும் திசை போன்ற நிகழ்நேர வானிலை நிலவரங்களையும், அத்துடன் மொத்த ஆவியாகும் கரிம சேர்மங்கள் அளவுகள்) போன்ற காற்றின் தர குறிகாட்டிகளையும் கண்காணிக்க முடியும்.

நேரடி கற்றல் வாய்ப்புகளை வழங்குவதன் மூலம், மாணவர்கள் பருவநிலை மாற்றங்கள், சுற்றுச்சூழல் மாற்றங்கள் மற்றும் நிலையான நடைமுறைகளின் முக்கியத்துவத்தை சிறப்பாக புரிந்து கொள்ள இந்த முயற்சி உதவுகிறது. வகுப்பறை கற்றலுடன் நடைமுறை அவதானிப்புகளை ஒருங்கிணைப்பதன் மூலம், இத்திட்டம் மாணவர்களின் அறிவை மேம்படுத்துவதுடன் சுற்றுச்சூழல் பாதுகாப்பில் அவர்களை தீவிரமாக ஈடுபட ஊக்குவிக்கிறது.

வளர்ந்து வரும் சுற்றுச்சூழல் சவால்களை எதிர்கொள்வதற்கு தேவையான கருவிகள் மற்றும் அறிவை இளம் சமூகத்தினர்களுக்கு வழங்கி அவர்களை வலுப்படுத்துவதில் இந்த வானிலை நிலையங்களின் நிறுவல் ஒரு குறிப்பிடத்தக்க விடயமாகும்.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Rainwater Adventure!

Did You Know?

Rainwater harvesting means collecting and storing rainwater for later use. It helps save water, protect nature, and keep our planet happy!

Every drop counts!

CREATIVE CORNER: Draw & Imagine

"My Rainwater System"

Draw your dream house that collects rainwater.

Add:

- A big roof
- Pipes or gutters
- A storage tank
- Plants or a garden

Bonus: Color it with bright rainy-day colors!

4. MATCH & CONNECT – PART 3

Match the action on the left with its benefit on the right.

1 Collecting rainwater	a Increases greenery and brings more rain
2 Using stored rainwater	b Saves water and reduces bills
3 Recharging groundwater	c Helps water go back into the earth
4 Planting trees	d Everyone learns and joins in saving water
5 Fixing leaks in taps and pipes	e Water is available in dry seasons
6 Spreading awareness	f Reduces water wastage

Hint: Good actions today create a better tomorrow!

වර්ෂා

වර්ෂා Varsha வர்ஷா

Please send your creations, ideas, letters, articles and suggestions to the address given below.

ඔබේ අදහස්, යෝජනා, නිර්මාණ සහ ලිපි මෙම ලිපිනයට එවන්න.

உங்கள் ஆக்கங்கள் , கடிதங்கள், கட்டுரைகள் மற்றும் பரிந்துரைகளை கொடுக்கப்பட்டுள்ள முகவரிக்கு அனுப்பவும்.

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