

Sri Lanka Inventors Commission
Presidential Awards for Local Inventions – 2024/2025
Calling for Applications

General Information, Instructions, Rules & Guidelines

General Information

The Sri Lanka Inventors Commission is a statutory body operating under the Ministry of Science and Technology, established under the Sri Lanka Inventors Incentive Act No. 53 of 1979.

- 01) In line with its objectives, the Commission promotes Sri Lankan inventors by providing technical, financial, and legal assistance required to develop their inventions and bring them to the market.

To achieve this objective, the Commission implements various programs, among which the Presidential Awards for Inventions is a flagship initiative.

- 02) As stipulated in the paragraph 11(f) of the Sri Lanka Inventors Incentives Act, the Presidential Awards are given annually to the Sri Lankan citizens for their patented inventions or innovations.
- 03) Sri Lankan inventors who obtained local patents during the year of application i.e. from January 1st to December 31st are eligible to apply for the Presidential Award competition in the respective years. Sri Lankan inventors have the opportunity to present their inventions as individuals, groups or organizations for this Presidential Award competition under relevant technical fields.
- 04) A panel of judges appointed by the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka will evaluate the inventions submitted by applicants who satisfy the basic eligibility requirements for the purpose of selecting recipients of the Presidential Awards. The panel of judges shall select the best invention in each technical field (or, where two or more inventions receive equal marks, the relevant inventions) and shall grant a certificate or a certificate together with a cash award, in accordance with the prevailing decisions and directives of the Government. The Presidential Award for the Outstanding Invention of the Year shall be conferred upon the invention determined to have the highest overall potential from among the best inventions selected across the respective technical fields. Where, at any time between the evaluation of inventions and the selection of the Outstanding Invention of the Year, an invention is determined not to meet the prescribed eligibility requirements, the awards referred to above shall not be conferred.

General Instruction, Rules and Guidelines

- 1) The competition is open to all Sri Lankan inventors who have obtained a patent issued by the National Intellectual Property Office of Sri Lanka for the years 2024 and 2025.
- 2) Applicants must carefully read and fully understand these general instructions, rules, conditions, and guidelines issued for the Presidential Awards competition, and agree to be bound by them throughout the program.
- 3) All applicants must carefully read the guidelines issued by the Sri Lanka Inventors Commission and submit applications using the prescribed application form. Only eligible inventors should apply, and applications must be submitted by the inventors themselves.
- 4) Applications may be submitted by individuals or teams. In case of applicants represent an institution, they may apply either individually or as a team on behalf of that institution.

- 5) If the patent has been granted to a group of inventors, the first-named inventor or any member listed under the inventors section in the patent document may sign the application. The names and relevant details of the remaining inventors should be annexed to the application.
- 6) Only one application should be submitted for each invention. In case of a group invention, only one member of the team should submit a single application, including the details of all the other team members along with their signatures to imply their consent to apply in this.
- 7) Inventors who obtained more than one patent within the considering period must submit separate application forms for each invention.
- 8) Competitors should submit at least a prototype or a working model of the invention/innovation to adequately demonstrate the concept for evaluation. In exceptional cases where it is not possible to submit a prototype or working model, a detailed report accompanied by drawings, sketches, photographs, or videos may be submitted for evaluation.
- 9) The inventor must ensure that a clear description of the invention, including photographs and/or diagrams illustrating the invention, is submitted together with the application.

The description should be prepared to include the following information:

- a) Concept of the invention and the factors that led to its development
- b) Working mechanism
- c) Practical applications/usefulness
- d) Raw materials required for the final product of the invention (whether sourced from local or foreign markets).
- e) Production cost
- f) Commercial potential and market demand etc.
- g) The theories/principles* on which the invention is based

** If the applicant introduces new theories or principles in the development of the invention, the applicant must be able to demonstrate and substantiate the practical applicability of those theories or principles to the evaluation panel. If this is not possible, the applicant must submit a certificate issued by a recognized institution confirming that the practical applicability of such theories or principles has been established.*

Furthermore, if the applicant's invention is a medical product (whether traditional/local or western medicine), the effectiveness of the product must be clinically verified. If clinical verification has not been carried out, the applicant must submit a certificate from a recognized medical institution containing sufficient and verifiable data confirming that the product can be used successfully and safely for the benefit of the human community.

Note :-

- **Original documents should NOT be attached with the application. The original documents must be presented to the judging panel on the date of the evaluation.**
- **All information, documents, and other materials related to the invention must be submitted to the evaluation panel on the day of the evaluation itself. Any information provided after that date will not be considered for the evaluation.**

- 10) Applicants wishing to apply for the Presidential Awards competition for a particular year must have obtained a patent granted by the National Intellectual Property Office of Sri Lanka during the period from January 01 to December 31 of that respective year.
- 11) Although intellectual property protection may have been obtained at the time the invention is submitted to the competition, the Sri Lanka Inventors Commission shall not be held responsible for any disclosure or exposure of the technologies embodied in the invention to third parties.
- 12) After correctly completing and signing the application form, applicants who agree to be bound by the rules and conditions of the competition must send their applications by registered post to the office of the Sri Lanka Inventors Commission, ensuring that it reaches the Commission on or before the closing date for applications.

The closing date for the submission of applications is August 31, 2026. Applications received after this date will be rejected.

- 13) Where a patent has been granted by the National Intellectual Property Office in the name of an institution or organization, and the application for the Presidential Awards competition is submitted by the inventor, the Presidential Awards applicant's name must be stated in the patent as the inventor. In such a case, if the invention wins an award, the relevant certificate, trophy, and prize money will be **issued in the name of the inventor(s).**
- 14) The final decision of evaluation rests with the judging panel, and the final decision on all other issues rests with the Commission.
- 15) Applications for the competition may be submitted under the following technical fields.
 1. Public Safety, Welfare & National Defence
 2. Chemistry
 3. Food Technology
 4. Medicine & Pharmacy
 5. Traditional Medicine
 6. Public Works and Infrastructure Engineering
 7. Physics
 8. Information & Communication Technology
 9. Agriculture
 10. Applied Sciences and Technology
 11. Energy
 12. Environmental Conservation
 13. Transportation
 14. Engineering

The above technical fields are used for the purpose of identifying and selecting specific inventions with commercialization potential, taking into consideration the operational requirements of the competition.

- 16) Any attempt taken by a contestant to contact or influence the judging panel which cause to any form of affection for the evaluation process, either before or after the competition, shall constitute grounds for disqualification and removal from the competition.

General Information

Maintaining a properly organized written record of all background details related to the invention will ensure that no important information is overlooked. If you possess any written evidence, it is advisable to clearly document and bring it along, as this will support a more systematic and accurate presentation of facts to the panel of judges.

In some instances, the questions raised by the judging panel may appear strict or challenging. However, such questions are intended to be clarified by the contestants, as the panel requires accurate and complete information in order to make a fair and informed decision regarding the competition.

Contestants are required to be present at the interview venue at least 10 minutes prior to the scheduled time. This time will be useful for setting up any videos demonstrating the functionality of the invention or preparing the necessary arrangements for its presentation.

When selecting special awards under each technical field, priority will be given to inventions that demonstrate strong potential for commercialization or practical application for the benefit of society. Appropriate documentary evidence or supporting information must be provided to verify and substantiate the same.

Furthermore, if any issues arise during the judging process or related activities, they must be reported immediately to the officials of the Sri Lanka Inventors Commission at the time of the evaluation. It should be clearly understood that the Sri Lanka Inventors Commission will not entertain or intervene in any complaints raised after the completion of the process.

Special Notes

Any negligence, lack of understanding, or misinterpretation of the above-mentioned instructions by a contestant, as well as failure to complete any required task, may result in final decisions made by the judging panel or the Commission, including disqualification from the competition. The Commission shall not bear any responsibility for any inconvenience, loss, or consequences arising from such actions, and contestants are required to accept and abide by such outcomes.

★ The Judging Panel means all the members involving in judging process of the Presidential Awards for Inventions Competition. The judging process will be carried out in the sense of inventions and related steps such as commercializing the invention, testing and verifying etc.

Definitions of Key Words

- a) Invention - An invention is a unique or novel device, method, composition or process. The invention process is a process within an overall engineering and product development process. It may be an improvement upon a machine or product, or a new process for creating an object or a result. An invention that achieves a completely unique function or result may be a radical breakthrough. Such works are novel and not obvious to others skilled in the same field.
 - b) Innovation - A significant improvement or development to an existing product or process based on a novel concept or technique with an inventive step, industrial applicability and usefulness to people.
 - c) Prototype - A prototype is as an original, full-scale, and usually working model of a new product or new version of an existing product.
 - d) Working Model - A model of an actual or proposed machine that can do on a small scale the work which the machine itself does or is expected to do
 - e) Patent - A patent is a government authority or license conferring a right or title for a set period, especially the sole right to exclude others from making, using, or selling an invention.
- ❖ Duly completed application forms should be sent to the address given below. It is mandatory to indicate “Presidential Awards for Inventions –” (the relevant year should be inserted in the blank space) on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.

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