# Story Dash Guidelines

25th Anniversary Celebrations

Department of Statistics, University of Colombo

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Department of Statistics, we are excited to invite you to participate in an upcoming competition that gives you an opportunity to showcase your creativity, technical skills, and innovative ideas by developing a product that captures public interest.

## 1. The Challenge

The challenge is simple. Pick real, existing data on a topic that would genuinely interest the general public in Sri Lanka, and turn it into a dashboard that tells its story. The dashboard should be self-explanatory and user friendly.

## 2. Who can participate?

- Undergraduates of the Faculty of Science, University of Colombo, and the University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC).
- You may participate individually or work together in teams of up to three (3) members.

## 3. Platform to use

Participants may build their interactive dashboard using either one of the following platforms:

| PowerBi | Python streamlit | R Shiny |
|---|---|---|

## 4. How to submit

- Submit all files required to smoothly run your dashboard in a single zipped file.
- Include a one-page summary explaining your concept, data source, main message, statistical methods used, platform, and any AI assistance.

Submit your file through the Google Form below.

Submit your dashboard and summary

Click the link above or scan the QR code.

Sign-in required: Please sign in to your university Google account using your university email address and password before accessing the submission form.

**Submission Deadline: 13th November 2026**

# Selection, awards & integrity

## 5. Selection and Exhibition

- Shortlisted participants will be invited to a 15-minute face-to-face session to present their work and answer questions from the selection panel.
- Based on these presentations, the top 10-12 submissions will be selected to present their work at DST Data Gallery Walk 2026 organized by the Department of Statistics, Faculty of Science, University of Colombo on 25th November 2026.

## 6. Prizes and Awards

**Cash Prizes: 1st Place - Rs.20,000, 2nd Place - Rs.15,000, and 3rd Place - Rs. 10,000**

**Certificates for winners and those selected to be featured at DST Data Gallery Walk**

## 7. Academic integrity and AI use

Your dashboard must reflect your own analysis, visuals and interpretations. AI may provide limited assistance as outlined below, but it must not replace human analysis or generate the dashboard content.

| Category | Permitted assistance | Not permitted |
|---|---|---|
| **Data & analysis** | • Code debugging in Python/R<br>• Power BI usage assistance | • Generating synthetic or fake datasets, or manipulating data and visualizations.<br>• Using AI interpretations without independent logical verification. |
| **Visualization & design** | Standard dashboard UI elements and visual styling tools. | • Automated text-to-infographic AI generators.<br>• Generative artwork used in place of authentic data plots. |
| **Interpretations** | • Basic spelling and grammar assistance, such as Grammarly, etc. | • Asking LLMs, (ChatGPT, etc.) to write body text or drafts.<br>• Paraphrasing AI-generated text to bypass detection. |