

# Sri Lanka computer literacy at 27.5-pct: Digital literacy growing

Overall computer literacy reported in 1st half of 2018 for Sri Lanka is 27.5 percent, a new survey shows. This is a decrease of 0.8 percentage points from 2017 (1st half) to 2018 (1st half).

When the digital literacy is considered two out of every five (aged 5 – 69) has digital literacy, the Census and Statistics Department said.

Digital literacy is higher than computer literacy for all disaggregated levels, showing the drift from Personal Computer to smartphones/tablets.

The Urban sector shows the highest computer literacy rate (38.4 percent) among residential sectors.

In 1st half of 2018, at least one computer is available in 22.9 percent of households in the country. That is more than one out of every five households owns either a desktop or a laptop computer.

This percentage is 39.5 percent in urban sector. The rural and estate sectors show 20.3 percent and 4.9 percent

respectively.

The highest availability is in the Western province (33.4 percent) while the lowest availability is reported from the Uva province (10.7 percent).

Computer literacy rate for rural and estate sectors are 25.9 percent and 11.1 percent respectively. Among the provinces the highest level of computer

literacy is reported from the Western province (36.1 percent) while the lowest percentage is reported from the Eastern province.

The computer literacy rate among districts show variations ranging from 8.6 percent (Kilinochchi) to 42.6 percent (Colombo) and shows the still prevailing digital divide. (LBO)

## Colombo Port to get pilot boats for more efficient service

The Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) will sign an agreement with Colombo Dockyard PLC to build two pilot boats for Colombo Port enabling it to handle a greater volume of activities with more efficiency.

A pilot boat is a type of boat used to transport maritime pilots between land and the inbound or outbound ships that they are piloting. The Colombo Port currently has four pilot boats and the

fleet was last upgraded in 2007.

“Colombo Port has become busier over the years and its infrastructure needs to be developed allowing it become more competitive on a global scale,” Sagala Ratnayaka, minister, Development said.

The Minister expressed confidence that the Colombo Port would use the two pilot boats from 1 December.

(LBO)