

CNCI NEWS BULLETIN

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Mr. Kevin Edwards Deputy Chairman

Mr. Pradeep Kahawalage Vice Chairman

Mr. Shamendra Panditha Vice Chairman

Mr. Kasun Rajapaksa Vice Chairman

Mr. Mahinda Saranapala Vice Chairman

Mr. Amila Sugathapala Treasurer

**Secretary General** Mr. Samantha Wickramasena

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FUTURE

CNCI Training

The Ceylon National Chamber of Industries - CNCT No.20, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Galle Face Court 2, Colombo 03, Sri Lanka Tel: +94 11 2452181 | 2339200 | 2331444 : Fax : +94 11 2331443 Email : enci@slt.lk Web: www.enci.lk



Upcoming Seminars of CNCI Page 09 - 10

SEMINAR

Unlocking Sustainability: Mastering GHG Gas Inventory with ISO 14064-1

The Ceylon National Chamber of Industries CNCI

Dote : 07th Sep 2023 9.00 am - 4.00 pm Q Hotel Taj Samudra

AN APPROACH TO IMPROVE YOUR COM SUCCESS WHILE ENSURING YOUR EMP

**Training Seminar** 

PF / ETF

THE CEYLON NATIONAL CHAMBER OF INDUSTRIES-CINCI

## **CNCI Achiever Awards 2023**



The Ceylon National Chamber of Industries (CNCI) is now in the stage of internal and external judging. What makes this year; the year 2023 remarkable for the CNCI Achiever Awards is the extended number of enthusiastic applicants, looking forward to make their organization reach the peek of industrial excellence.

It is a fact that many organizations of industrial sector in the country have passed a critical period during the past few years in the face of varied issues known to all of us. One significant feature what we observed in our entrepreneurs was that they do not make it a reason to get themselves discouraged or reluctant to participate in this golden opportunity. Instead, they seem to have perceived that the time is invaluable to apply for the CNCI Achiever Awards 2023, exposure of which will result in increasing customer and employee confidence to accelerate their move towards the desired goals.

The Achiever Award application covers 12 operational areas to be filled with data, which will certainly stand about these operational areas and the standards to be maintained for the success of their business. Whether you win an Award or otherwise, what is more important is for you to participate at the competition which certainly guides you to enter into the correct track to reach the business excellence.



# EDB Five-Year Grandiose Plan to Increase Country's Exports To USD 31.3 BN By 2027



The Export Development Board (EDB) of Sri Lanka said yesterday (02) that it is working on a fiveyear strategic plan to enhance the country's yearly exports to 31.3 billion US dollars by 2027. In addition, the EDB intends to grow Sri Lankan exports to its top ten existing export destinations by 10% each year. The top ten markets are the United States, the United Kingdom, India, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Canada, the United Arab Emirates, Belgium, and France. In addition, the EDB intends to identify 10-15 prospective new markets and raise Sri Lanka's market share in these areas by 5% every year. According to the EDB, exports would be enhanced through pushing customized value-added products and services at premium pricing to recognized niche markets.

The EDB was founded in 1979 and will celebrate its 44th anniversary on August 1, 2023. Earnings from exports reached 13 billion US dollars for the first time in 2022, a 4.9 percent rise from the previous peak in 2021.

Source: The Island - 03 August 2023



# Sri Lanka Tourism Set to Surpass 900,000 Arrivals Milestone

Sri Lanka Tourism is set to surpass the 900,000 arrivals milestone by tomorrow, coinciding with the 16th Edition of the Asia Cup. During the first 27 days of August, the country welcomed 123,285 tourists, bringing the year-to-date arrivals to 891,198. This marks the largest influx of tourists to Sri Lanka in three years. India remains the single largest source market in August, followed by the UK, China, Germany, and Russia. China has shown remarkable progress in terms of YTD basis, highlighting the growing appeal of Sri Lanka's offerings among Chinese travelers. The Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB) will unveil its Global Promotional Roadmap at the Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management. The focus on delivering exceptional experiences aligns with the broader vision of achieving sustainable growth within the tourism sector.

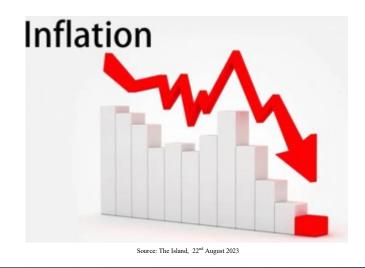


Source: DailyFT - 29th August 2023



## **Inflation Dips to 4.6%: Dept. of Census And Statistics**

Sri Lanka's National Consumer Price Index (NCPI) inflation decreased to 4.6% in July, from 10.8% in June. Food category inflation dropped to negative 2.5%, while non-food group inflation decreased to 10.9%. Central Bank Economic Research Department Director P. K. G. Harischandra predicts further inflation fall in August 2023 and stabilization between 4% and 6%. Sri Lanka's inflation has been steadily decreasing since September 2022 when it reached 73.7%.



## Cabinet Approves Draft Bill for New VAT

The Cabinet of Ministers has approved revising the Value Added Tax Act No. 14 of 2002, which will abolish the Simplified Value Added Tax (SVAT) methodology from 1 January 2024. The move aims to boost tax receipts by eliminating tax exemptions and abolishing the SVAT methodology. The move comes despite protests from exporters against the abolition of SVAT, which allowed imports of inputs without VAT. Several items currently exempt from VAT will be eliminated to boost tax revenue by 1.2% of GDP. However, health,

education, agriculture, and low-income will families excluded. not be The extended International Monetary Fund's funding facility (EFF) recommends two major changes to the VAT: eliminating most exemptions, revising the VAT scheme, and discontinuing the SVAT approach. During the six months ending June 2023, the government revenue and grants increased to Rs. 1,317 trillion, while non-tax revenue decreased to Rs. 116 billion.

Source: -Daily FT - 30th August 2023



# SL External Trade Dips Sharply In 1H 2023

Sri Lanka's external trade experienced a sharp decline in the first half of 2023, with cumulative export earnings decreasing by 10% YoY to \$5.87 billion and import expenditure declining by 18.6% YoY to \$8.16 billion. The trade deficit billion, a significant narrowed to \$2.89 improvement from the \$3.5 billion recorded in 2022. The Central Bank noted that export earnings declined by 19.5% YoY to just over \$1 billion in June 2023, reflecting the high base in However, import expenditure 2022. June increased by 11.6% YoY to \$1.36 billion in June 2023, supported by the low base in June 2022. The largest intermediate goods category of imports saw a 7.3% YoY increase to \$875.4 million, while imports of building materials and transportation equipment recorded a decline.

The Central Bank noted that industrial goods declined in June 2023 due to a broad-based decline in earnings from most industrial products, mainly garments. Exports of garments to major markets continued to record declines, while rubber products, petroleum products, food, beverages, tobacco, printing industry products, and animal fodder also declined.



Source: - Daily News - 1st August ,2023

Source: - Daily News, 1st August 2023



## DFCC Bank Empowers Migrant Workers, Launches Financial Literacy Guide

DFCC Bank has launched a new Financial Literacy guide titled "Is this Every Sri Lankan Migrant Worker's Story?" to empower migrant workers in Sri Lanka. The guide, spearheaded by DFCC Bank PLC's Remittances Department, aims to create awareness about financial literacy and educate migrant workers on the advantages of remitting money through legitimate channels. The



guide aims to contribute to increased foreign currency inflows to the country and help migrant workers secure their financial futures better. DFCC Bank CEO Thimal Perera believes that the guide will become a trusted guide for financial planning and investment decisions, helping migrant workers secure their financial future and support their loved ones back home. Senior Vice President of Offshore Banking, Remittances and Business Development Anton Arumugam emphasized the importance of the initiative, stating that migrant workers play a vital role in supporting the economy and society. The guide will also be facilitated by the regional offices of the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment. The guide was launched at a special ceremony at the DFCC Bank Head Office, with the patronage of the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment and Assistant General Manager for Corporate Affairs L. A. P. K. Liyanwala.

Source: -Daily News - 29th August ,2023

THE CEYLON NATIONAL CHAMBER OF INDUSTRIES-CNCI

## President Unveils Revenue Authority Plan To Strengthen Tax Collection Process

H.E Ranil Wickremesinghe plans to establish a Revenue Authority to address tax loopholes and strengthen the tax collection process to meet fiscal targets. Despite increased tax revenue, the government is falling behind revenue targets under the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme.

The proposed Revenue Authority will separate revenue management and tax administration of key agencies. The government plans to roll out an e-procurement system

by the end of this year, aiming to enhance transparency and reduce corruption. A new Financial Management Act (FMA) is being drafted to manage public finance and expenditure more efficiently, with binding fiscal rules expected fiscal to bring discipline.



Source: Daily Mirror : 9th August 2023



Source:cartoon– Daily FT – 24-08-2023

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# EXCHANGE RATES AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2023

Date	Buy Rate (LKR)	Sell Rate (LKR)
Australian Dollar	202.8721	214.0315
Canadian Dollar	231.1421	243.0310
Swiss Franc	356.0016	375.1796
Renminbi	42.4937	45.4451
Euro	342.6382	358.9868
British Pound	399.8580	417.4850
Yen	2.1527	2.2527
Singapore Dollar	232.0936	243.6192
United States Dollar	315.3357	326.9396

Source: <u>https://www.cbsl.gov.lk/en/rates-and-indicators/exchange-rates/</u><u>daily-buy-and-sell-exchange-rates</u>

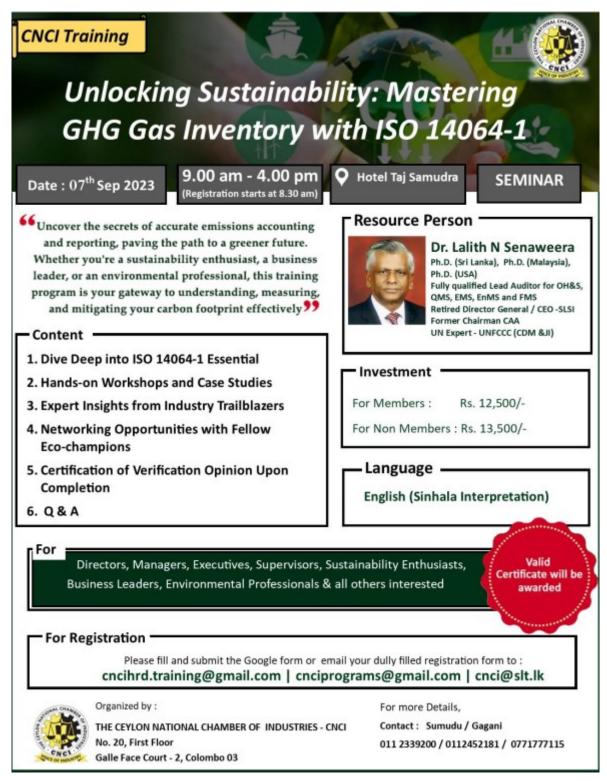
# Sri Lanka Economy SNAPSHOT



Source : https://www.cbsl.gov.lk/en/sri-lanka-economy-snapshot

THE CEYLON NATIONAL CHAMBER OF INDUSTRIES-CINCI

## **Upcoming Training Programmes by CNCI**



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## THE CEYLON NATIONAL CHAMBER OF INDUSTRIES-CNCT

# **Upcoming Training Programmes by CNCI**



The Ceylon National Chamber of Industries - CNCI Training Seminar

# EPF / ETF an approach to improve your company's success while ensuring your employees future

#### EPF

- Importance and Objectives of EPF
- Forwarding of EPF contribution and contribution details
- Role of CBSL EPF Department in executing EPF refund payments
- Facilities availed for members/ employers
- Introduction and Objectives of EPF Act
- Obligations of the employer
- Consequences of Non-compliance
- Administrative Framework of EPF
- Maintenance of EPF member accounts
- Payment of Retirement and Pre-retirement benefits

#### ETF

- ETF Acts Introduction and Objectives
- Reckonable total earnings
- Collection of contribution
- Maintenance of member accounts
- Consequences of non-compliance
- Payment of Retirement & Pre-retirement benefits
- ETF Provisions for member benefits
- Obligations of employer
- Recent Developments

#### **Target Audience:**

Directors, CEOs, All Managers, Executives, Accountants and All Others Involved In Finance, Human Resource <u>Management & Administration</u>

### For Registration

Please fill and submit the Google Form or Email your duly filled registration form to: cncihrd.training@gmail.com | cnciprograms@gmail.com | cnci@slt.lk Contact For More Details:

0112 339 200 / 0112 452 181 / 077 1777 115 (Sumudu/ Gagani)



21<sup>st</sup> OF SEPTEMBER 2023

9 AM - 4 PM

HOTEL GALADARI

### **RESOURCE PERSONS**

Mr. A.G Upali Thilakarathna Superintendent Employees' Provident Fund Central Bank of Sri Lanka

Mr. W. P. M. P. Wijewardhana Assistant Labour Commissioner Employees' Provident Fund Department of Labour

Mr. Nihal Prasanna Assistant General Manager Employees' Trust Fund

INVESTMENT Members : Rs. 12,500/-Non Members : Rs. 13,500/-

Valid Certificate will be Awarded

