



CNCI NEWS BULLETIN

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MARCH 2024

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Mr. Samantha Wickramasena

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CNCI Achiever Awards 2024 Applications are Now Open

Category	Eligibility		Period of Operation
	Manufacturing (Net Revenue/ Investment (NRI) (Whichever is Higher)	Service Turnover (NRI)	
Micro	Up to 15M	10M/20M	To be engaged in business for 3 years.
Small	>15M to 75M	>10M to 200M	
Medium	>75M to 750M	>20M to 750M	To be engaged in business for 5 years.
Large	>750M to 1000M	>200M to 1000M	
XL-Large	>1000M	>2500M	

For Applications & Details Visit CNCI Website or Contact Us:
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UPCOMING WEBINARS BY CNCI

Customer Relationship Management & Customer Centric Strategy for Your Business Success

CONTENT

- Understanding Your Customer and Customer Centricity
- Developing Customer Vision
- Managing Customer Feedback Channels and Complaints
- Developing Emotional Association

25th April 2024
9.00 am - 12.30 pm
ZOOM



AWARENESS PROGRAMME FOR "ACHIEVER AWARDS 2024"

Since the Applications for the Achiever Awards competition have been collected by a large number of enthusiastic applicants by now, an awareness programme was organized on 14th March 2024 at the Board Room CNCI, for the benefit of all prospected applicants who wish to apply for the competition. The Chairman, Internal Panel of Judges of “Achiever Awards 2024”, Mr. Amila Sugathapala conducted the session with the Secretary General of CNCI Mr. Samantha Wickramasenain in attendance.

The general objectives of organizing the awareness session was to advise the Prospective applicants how to fill the relevant applications, to explain the methods of calculations, definitions of any technical terms, the required supporting documents to be attached, evaluation procedure, layout, preparation and submission of the reports etc.



CBSL Further Reduces Policy Rates



The Monetary Policy Board of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) has decided to reduce the Standing Deposit Facility Rate (SDFR) and the Standing Lending Facility Rate (SLFR) of the Central Bank by 50 basis points (bps) to 8.50 per cent and 9.50 per cent, respectively.

The Board said it arrived at this decision at its meeting held on 25 March 2024 following a comprehensive assessment of current and expected domestic and international economic developments, to maintain inflation at the

targeted level of 5 per cent over the medium term, while enabling the economy to reach its potential.

“In arriving at this decision, the Board took note of, among others, subdued aggregate demand conditions, the lesser-than-expected impact of the recent changes to the tax structure on inflation, favourable near-term inflation dynamics due to the recent adjustment to electricity tariffs, well-anchored inflation expectations, the absence of excessive external sector pressures and the need to continue the downward trajectory in market interest rates.”

The Board observed that the possible upside risks to inflation in the near term would not materially change the medium-term inflation outlook, as economic activity is projected to remain below par for an extended period, the statement said.

The Monetary Policy Board underscored the need for a swift and full passthrough of monetary easing measures to market interest rates, particularly lending rates, by the financial institutions, thereby accelerating the normalisation of market interest rates in the period ahead.

The Board also noted the improvements in domestic money market activity alongside the improvement in liquidity conditions and decided to remove the remaining restrictions on the usage of the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) of the Central Bank with effect from 01 April 2024.

“This would further support market-based transmission of monetary policy adjustments,” it said.

“The Monetary Policy Board stressed the need for all financial institutions to take swift measures to reduce market lending interest rates to ensure that the benefits of the series of monetary policy easing measures are adequately passed on to businesses and households.”

Sri Lanka celebrates its remarkable recovery at ITB travel fair in Berlin

Sri Lanka Tourism is all set to give it's best at the ITB Berlin this year, which will kick off on the 5th of March 2024 and continue till 7th March 2024 at Messe Berlin, Germany. The Island paradise will showcase all its Tourism Products to lure the International tourists to come and have an experience of a lifetime.

Sri Lanka is seeing continuous increase in the number of Tourist arrivals since 2022 and is celebrating a remarkable come-back with 1.5million tourists in 2023. Sri Lanka is a regular participant of the ITB and as a result of its promotional efforts, the number of German travelers to the destination has doubled in 2023 compared to 2022. Germany is one of the top source markets for Sri Lanka Tourism, which has the second highest number of arrivals from Europe after UK. This time, Sri Lanka Tourism will have a myriad of travel and holiday opportunities to offer for the German counterparts, with new initiatives and projects rolled up on its sleeve, in order to highlight that Sri Lanka is still one of the most renowned travel destinations in the world. The number of Airlines to Sri Lanka have increased and several top Airlines including Emirates, Qatar Airways, Turkish airlines and Lot polish Airlines have resumed flights to Sri Lanka, as a result of the continuous promotional efforts carried out by Sri Lanka Tourism.

Source: -The Island – 06/03/2024

First 2 months tea crop up 3.5%

Sri Lanka's tea crop in the first two months of this year has increased by 3.50%, showcasing a promising growth compared to the same period in previous years. January-February 2023 cumulative production totalled 84.09 million kilos, registering a drop of 2.14 million kilos or vis-à-vis 86.23 million kilos YoY.

Cumulative production for January-February 2024 totalled 38.53 million kilos, registering an increase of 1.30 million kilos vis-à-vis 37.23 million kilos year-on-Year (YoY), reflecting the resilience and strength of the industry, despite challenges posed by various factors.

Data analysed by Forbes and Walkers Research said the growth trend was evident across all elevations, except for Green Tea, which experienced a marginal negative variance.

When compared to the tea production figures from February 2022, which amounted to 18.22 million, February 2024 showed a notable increase of 1.77 million.



Source: -Daily FT – 23/03/2024

Lanka Special Steels launches GI wire product range for international markets



Lanka Special Steels Limited, Sri Lanka's premier and pioneering manufacturer of hot-dipped galvanized steel wire, with a rich history of over 25 years, recently announced the launch of its flagship international brands of wire, "Lanka Special Steels Ltd Poultry 300" and "Lanka Special Steels Ltd Premium 100". These high-quality products are designed for use in the poultry industry and for general fencing requirements, respectively. Lanka Special Steels is launching these products for the Indian market, where these use cases are niche markets with few high-quality solutions.

Lanka Special Steels utilizes only premium quality virgin raw materials sourced from reputable suppliers, including JSW Steel, TATA Steel, and Hindustan Zinc, ensuring superior finished products. The Galvanised Steel wires manufactured by Lanka Special Steels find extensive applications across various industries, including poultry enclosures, chain-link fencing, barbed wire, PVC-coated fencing, cable armour wire, ACSR wire, and numerous other diverse applications.

Source: - The Island - 04/03/2024

Nestlé Lanka Honoured at the Best Corporate Citizen Sustainability Awards 2023

Nestlé Lanka was recognized at the Best Corporate Citizen Sustainability Awards 2023 held recently, taking home five awards in several categories including, Second Run-



ners Up – Best Corporate Citizen Sustainability Award 2023, Top Ten Best Corporate Citizens, Sector Award – Manufacturing, and two awards in Consistent Commitment and Continuous Improvement for Environmental Commitment and Environmental Integration. Widely considered Sri Lanka's highest corporate honour, the Best Corporate Citizen Sustainability Awards, organized by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, recognizes sustainability champions who operate with a strong focus on people, planet, and profit.

The Good food, Good Life Company is the largest food and beverage company in the world and has been an integral part of Sri Lankan lives for over 115 years. Driven by its purpose of 'unlocking the power of food to enhance quality of life for everyone, today and for generations to come', Nestlé has nourished generations of Sri Lankan families from early childhood to old age.

Source: - Daily FT - 27 March, 2024

Govt. widens tax net via quarterly information sharing with IRD

The Government is widening the tax net via mandating sharing of information quarterly and monthly by multiple institutions and individuals with the Commissioner General of Inland Revenue (CGIR) from next month.

The Gazette bearing the number 2376/25 and dated 21 March was issued by President Ranil Wickremesinghe in his capacity as the Finance, Economic Stabilisation and National Policies Minister to enhance tax compliance and administration in the country.

Effective 1 April 2024, several institutions and select public sector personnel must provide specified information outlined in Schedule I of the notice to the CGIR. The information will be incorporated into the Revenue Administration Management Information System (RAMIS) of the Inland Revenue Department to manage tax risks effectively.

Accordingly, financial institutions including banks and non-banking financial institutions regulated by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and Colombo Stock Exchange are required to submit information quarterly, no later than the 20th day of the month following the end of each quarter. If any information is not currently maintained by individuals or institutions, they must commence record-keeping by 1 July 2024 and comply with the notification accordingly.

Banks and leasing companies are mandated to supply Current Account holders' balances, loans and advances, leasing contracts and all information shared with Credit Information Bureau (CRIB).

The CSE is required to submit information of investors' shareholding and value among other details.

The Registrar General's Department is to supply information on land and property deals. The Registrar General of Companies and Department of Motor Traffic are also among mandated institutions.

Public sector personnel in charge of granting contracts for supply of goods, work or consulting are required to furnish monthly information.

The CGIR will notify individuals and Government institutions of the commencement date for furnishing information under Schedule I through written or public notices.



The Inland Revenue Department

Source: -Daily FT - 2024/03/25

SL Showing Signs of Stability, Recovery from Economic Crisis – ADB

Sri Lanka is showing signs of stability and recovery from a deep economic crisis. Data shows that Sri Lanka's inflation significantly declined from 69.8% to 4% between September 2022 and December 2023. Foreign exchange reserves have increased to \$4.4 billion in 2023 from \$1.9 billion in 2022

Sri Lanka's economic growth returned to positive territory in the second half of 2023 and that momentum is likely to continue, The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said.

Meanwhile the ADB has launched a new country partnership strategy (CPS) for Sri Lanka covering the period 2024–2028. The strategy will focus on restoring the country's macroeconomic stability, reviving growth, and establishing the foundation for sustainable recovery and resilience.

"This new partnership strategy will build on ADB's ongoing assistance to support the country's efforts to restore macroeconomic stability, and to achieve green and long-term sustainable growth," said ADB Country Director for Sri Lanka Takafumi Kadono.

"The CPS responds to Sri Lanka's economic situation by tailoring ADB assistance to address the country's long-standing macroeconomic imbalances and structural impediments through

knowledge solutions, policy advisory support, and priority investments."

ADB's assistance under the new CPS for Sri Lanka will focus on three strategic objectives: strengthening public financial management and governance; fostering private sector development promoting green growth; and improving access to climate-smart public services and deepening inclusion.

The new CPS will support the country's efforts to tackle the key underlying causes of the crisis. ADB will focus on reforming the public financial management system, strengthening governance, accelerating domestic resource mobilization, and improving fiscal and debt sustainability, as well as measures to improve the performance of state-owned enterprises.

The strategy recognizes the critical role of the private sector in the country's recovery and long-term economic growth. Structural reforms to promote greater private sector participation in the economy and diversify the economy with emphasis on green and sustainable growth will be supported under the new strategy. ADB will continue to support financial inclusion and small and medium-sized enterprises development, especially those managed by women, and provide advisory and capacity building support to promote trade and investment. The strategy aims to improve access to climate-smart public services and deepen inclusion through strengthening social protection and human capital development and fostering agriculture modernization.

As of the end of December 2023, ADB had committed more than \$3.7 billion in 45 public sector loans and grants in Sri Lanka, as well as \$25.6 million in private sector investments.

Source: Daily News : 2024/03/30

Cartoons

World Water Day



Source: cartoon – Daily Mirror – 22. 03. 2024



Source: cartoon - Daily Mirror 30.03.2024

Export Revenue Reaches 983.7 Million Rupees in Two-Month Period

Small and Medium Enterprises Development State Minister Prasanna Ranaweera stated that Sri Lanka has recorded an export income of Rs. 983.7 million rupees in the past two months. This figure serves as a confirmation that the country is heading in the right direction economically. million in 2023.

The state minister also highlighted that fostering an entrepreneurial environment within schools provides significant support in nurturing individuals to become successful entrepreneurs.

State Minister Prasanna Ranaweera, highlighted this during a press conference at the Presidential Media Centre (PMC) today (28) under the theme 'Collective path to a stable Country'

He further commented,

As a nation, we have made significant strides in overcoming the economic challenges faced during the previous season. Notably, in the last two months, we have generated an export income of Rs. 983.7 million. Additionally, approximately 500,000 tourists visited the island in January and February alone. Furthermore, our efforts have resulted in an increase in the number of entrepreneurs from 2.5% to 3%. These statistics affirm that our country is moving in the right direction economically.

Sri Lanka Institute of Textile and Apparel has recently awarded diploma course certificates to nearly 500 students. Furthermore, in collaboration with the Industrial Development Board (IDB), we have successfully established school entrepreneurial circles and assessed the students' potential. It's worth noting that cultivating an entrepreneurial atmosphere within schools greatly aids in fostering future entrepreneurs. This initiative is pivotal in laying the foundation for a robust manufacturing economy within the country.

The initiative to provide welfare benefits to 2.4 million underprivileged families is progressing smoothly. Additionally, a lunch program has been initiated to cater to the nutritional requirements of 1.7 million school children from grades one through five, and it is being effectively executed.

Furthermore, efforts are underway to boost the clay, brass, and cane industries by commencing exports of these products to countries like Italy, Canada, and Germany. Collaborating with the Asian Development Fund, arrangements have also been made to offer loans at a concessional interest rate.

Transportation issues related to cane materials have surfaced recently. However, following consultations with the Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Conservation, we have organized transportation for up to 500 canes. Additionally, discussions with the National Crafts Council have led to an arrangement allowing the transportation of a maximum of 5 cubes of clay, addressing logistical concerns in this sector.

CNCI Achiever Awards 2024

Applications are Now Open



Achiever
CNCI Achiever of industrial excellence

CNCI ACHIEVER AWARDS 2024
FOR INDUSTRIAL EXCELLENCE
For the 23rd Consecutive Year

THE ANNUAL GRAND AWARDS COMPETITION

Organized by
The Ceylon National Chamber of Industries - CNCI
in collaboration with
The Ministry of Industries

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN !

WHO CAN APPLY?

- All Sri Lankan Industries (Manufacturing / Service)
- All Sri Lankan Industries (Manufacturing / Service) in Operation within SAARC Countries.
- All Sri Lankan Industries (Manufacturing/ Service) operating in any other country.



CATEGORIES & ELIGIBILITY

Category	Eligibility		Period of Operation
	Manufacturing Net Turnover/ Investment (LKR) (Whichever is higher)	Service Turnover (LKR)	
Micro	Up to 15 Mn	Up to 20 Mn	To be engaged in Business for 3 years.
Small	> 15 Mn to 250 Mn	> 20 Mn to 250 Mn	
Medium	>250 Mn to 750 Mn	>250 Mn to 750 Mn	
Large	>750 Mn to 1500 Mn	> 750 Mn to 1500 Mn	To be engaged in Business for 4 years.
Ex - Large	>1500 Mn	> 1500 Mn	

For Applications & Details Visit CNCI Website or Contact Us:

- The Ceylon National Chamber of Industries - CNCI
No. 20, 1st Floor, Galle Face Court 02, Colombo 03
- +94112452181, 2339200, 2331444 | Fax +94112331443
- cnci@slt.lk, cnciprograms@gmail.com
- www.cnci.lk



Upcoming Training Programmes by CNCI



**CNCI
WEBINAR**

Customer Relationship Management & Customer Centric Strategy for Your Business Success

CONTENT

- Understanding Your Customer and Customer Centricity
- Developing Customer Vision
- Managing Customer Feedback Channels and Complaints
- Developing Emotional Association with Customers
- Customer Experience and Employee Experience
- Matrices to Manage

Target Audience:

Directors, CEOs, All Managers, Sales and Marketing Executives, Customer Service Representatives, Academics and All Others Interested in Customer Relationship Management

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/ Nilanthi)



25th April 2024



9.00 am - 12.30 pm



ZOOM

RESOURCE PERSON

Ms. WAJIRA RATHNAYAKE

(BB.Mgt HRM sp, MHRM, ACIPM, Dip in Psychology and Counselling)
Senior Lecturer, Researcher and a Corporate Trainer over Twelve years

INVESTMENT

Members : Rs. 6,000/-

Non Members : Rs. 6,500/-

LANGUAGE

Sinhala / English (Notes in English)

EXCHANGE RATES AS AT 31ST MARCH 2024

Date	Buy Rate (LKR)	Sell Rate (LKR)
Australian Dollar	192.0789	202.2315
Canadian Dollar	217.0100	226.6909
Swiss Franc	324.0839	340.1478
Renminbi	39.9573	42.6322
Euro	318.2104	331.8435
British Pound	371.8200	386.8512
Yen	1.9374	2.0176
Singapore Dollar	217.2139	227.5652
United States Dollar	295.0963	304.5631

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

Sri Lanka Economy SNAPSHOT



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