

CNCI NEWS BULLETIN

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CNCI Achiever of industrial excellence



"CNCI ACHIEVER AWARDS 2025"
FOR INDUSTRIAL EXCELLENCE

ORGANIZED BY
**THE CEYLON NATIONAL CHAMBER OF INDUSTRIES
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY
AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

Applications are now open



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UPCOMING WEBINARS BY CNCI



CNCI WEBINAR



Effective Procurement Strategies
for
Cost Reduction, Risk Mitigation and Efficiency Improvement

CNCI WEBINAR

**ISO 14001
& It's Impact
on Environment**

CONTENT

- Overview of ISO 14001:2015 Standards
- Discussion of Aspect and Impacts
- Discussion of Risks and Opportunities Requirements
- Discussion of the Life Cycle Perspective

30th April 2025
9.30 am - 12.30 pm
ZOOM



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Applications are now open

For

- All Sri Lankan Industries (Manufacturing / Service)
- All Sri Lankan Industries (Manufacturing / Service) operating in SAARC countries
- All Sri Lankan Industries (Manufacturing/ Service) operating in any other country

**APPLICATION
CLOSING DATE
15TH MAY 2025**

Categories and Eligibility

Category	Eligibility		Period of operation
	Manufacturing Investment / Net turnover (LKR) (whichever is higher)	Service Turnover (LKR)	
MICRO	Up to 20 Mn.	Up to 20 Mn.	To be engaged in business for 3 years
SMALL	>20 Mn. to 350 Mn.	>20 Mn. to 350 Mn.	
MEDIUM	>350 Mn. to 1000 Mn.	>350 Mn. to 1000 Mn.	
LARGE	>1000 Mn. to 2000 Mn.	>1000 Mn. to 2000 Mn.	To be engaged in business for 4 years
EXTRA LARGE	>2000 Mn.	>2000 Mn.	

For Application

Visit CNCI website or contact :

The Ceylon National Chamber of Industries (CNCI)

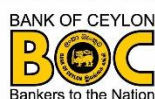
No.20, 1st Floor, Galle Face Court 02, Colombo 03

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"Customs Procedures with Economic Impact Programme"

The Seminar on "Customs Procedures with Economic Impact Programme" was successfully held on the 12th of March 2025 at Hotel Taj Samudra.

We express our gratitude to all the participants for the day



Sri Lanka export finance costs to rise due to removal of SVAT: Apparel Exporters

ECONOMYNEXT – Sri Lanka’s exporters will have to pay interest on cashflow given to the state as result of charging value added tax on local inputs, following the scrapping of the so-called SVAT scheme, apparel exporter said.

The Department of Inland Revenue said exporters will be categorized as low, medium and high risk.

Low and medium risk exporters will be given refunds without an audit after then submit returns.

Exporters will be categorized as high risk based on their past interactions with customs, inland revenue and also the central bank.

Other may have to wait up to six months to get a return until an audit is done.

Apparel exporters alone will have to pay 2.6 billion rupees a year interest, even if the VAT is refunded within 45 days as promised, Yohan Lawrence, Secretary General of the Joint Apparel Exporters Forum told an exporters forum at Sri Lanka’s Export Development Board.

This would be the outcome if every exporter was rated low or medium, he said.

Another outcome will be that exporters will stop buying local inputs, and working with domestic subcontractors as that will now be more expensive than sourcing imported inputs or subcontracting for foreign factories, exporter said at the forum.

The scrapping of the SVAT is has been proposed in part due to so-called ‘leakages’ but there has been no evidence to show that leakages have taken place, some exporters have said earlier.

It is also not fair to impose collective punishment on all exporters, without catching and punishing those who are supposed to have mis-used the system, they have said.

There was no mention of leakages at Monday’s forum.

There has been a high-profile VAT fraud several years ago which in part led the setting up of the SVAT system.

Sri Lanka’s Inland Revenue Department however said a simulation will be done to prove that the system works before it is implemented. (Colombo/Mar25/2025)

Sri Lanka Exporters’ Forum receives 110 exporter concerns for discussion



ECONOMYNEXT – Sri Lanka’s exporters have submitted a total of 110 issues for discussion at a forum organized by the Sri Lanka Export Development Board (EDB).

“Of these, 79 issues were presented directly by companies, while 31 were submitted through industry associations and Trade Chambers such as the Exporters’ Association of Sri Lanka (EASL) and the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,” the EDB said in a statement.

Some of these issues are currently being addressed by referring them to the relevant institutions through the Export Facilitation Task Force,

the trade body said.

“Meanwhile, 37 issues (categorized under 17 key topics) were prioritized for discussion during the Forum.”

The 25th Exporters’ Forum provided a platform for exporters to voice their concerns and seek practical solutions to challenges faced in the export sector and attracted a diverse group of stakeholders from the export industry.

“The event enabled exporters to engage directly with policymakers, share their challenges, and propose solutions to streamline export-related processes.”

Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development Sunil Handunnetti, “reaffirmed the government’s commitment to facilitating trade and addressing the challenges faced by exporters”.

“He also emphasized the importance of collaboration between the public and private sectors in enhancing Sri Lanka’s export competitiveness and achieving sustainable growth in the global market.” (Colombo/Mar26/2025)

Government is committed to providing the necessary support to secure a share for Sri Lankan entrepreneurs in the global market – President

President Anura Kumara Disanayake stated that the government is committed to providing the necessary support to secure a share for Sri Lankan entrepreneurs in the global market.

He highlighted that the government has a strong strategic plan to facilitate access to international markets by integrating diplomats and entrepreneurs into a unified process.

The President made these remarks while attending the 26th Anniversary of the Chamber of Young Lankan Entrepreneurs (COYLE), held on Monday (10) at the Shangri-La Hotel in Colombo.

President Disanayake further stated that this year's budget has been designed to create a more dynamic and flexible economy, replacing the stagnant economic conditions of the past.

He noted that allowing greater economic mobility would enable the country to achieve a certain level of development. Accordingly, the budget has been structured in a way that does not cause major economic shocks.

The President also emphasized that the current government remains sensitive to economic decision-making, ensuring that policies do not place an unbearable burden on the Sri Lankan Rupee. He acknowledged that certain decisions had to be made in alignment with recommendations from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

President Anura Kumara Disanayake revealed that the current government has taken the necessary and correct decisions to restore confidence in an economy where trust had previously collapsed. As a result, the country, which was officially declared bankrupt, has now been able to overcome its state of bankruptcy.

The President further emphasized that his government ensures every rupee spent is treated as a public trust and utilized with the highest level of responsibility.

Due to the government's economic policies, efforts have been made to restart 11 economically significant projects that were previously halted by the Japanese government, as well as 76 projects that had been suspended by the Chinese government.

The current government has already taken significant steps to provide economic stability, creating a more secure environment for investors. As a result, the government has been able to facilitate large-scale investments in renewable energy, including the construction of a 50-megawatt wind power plant in Mannar.

The President also highlighted that a business-friendly environment has been established where investors can operate without having to pay any commissions.

Furthermore, he stated that the government is prepared to empower young entrepreneurs, not only within Sri Lanka but also by providing them with the strength to expand into international markets.

"We have built the strongest and most politically stable administration in Sri Lanka," President Disanayake stated. He pointed out that, in past parliaments, it was common for MPs representing the opposition to later join the government and vice versa. However, he emphasized that such a situation does not exist in the current parliament, where there is a clear distinction between the government and the opposition. He described this as a strong example of political stability.

President Disanayake also remarked that a model political system has now been established in Sri Lanka. He assured that, by the end of the current administration's tenure, there would be no room for a destructive political climate to re-emerge.

The event was attended by government ministers, state officials, diplomats and a group of young entrepreneurs.

The Island 2025/03/11

MEMBERS NEWS

Three Sinha Industries wins Gold at COYLE Entrepreneur Awards



Three Sinha Industries Pvt. Ltd. has been honoured with Gold Award in the Extra Large Category at the “I am the Sri Lankan Entrepreneur Awards” organised by the Chamber of Young Lankan Entrepreneurs (COYLE).

The award was presented at the TWENTY 30 & Beyond Ceremony held at Shangri-La Hotel in Colombo, powered by Sampath Bank.

Three Sinha Managing Director Manjula Ariyakumara accepted the award on behalf of the company.

Three Sinha Industries provides a comprehensive range of construction-related products and services, catering to modern infrastructure needs. These include roller doors, shutters, and fire-resistant doors that ensure safety and durability, aluminium fabrications, sensor doors, and automatic barriers, offering innovative solutions for residential, commercial, and industrial projects, and green energy solutions, including on-grid, off-grid, and hybrid solar PV electricity systems, as part of the company's commitment to sustainability.

Daily Mirror 25 March 2025

E.B. Creasy Solar unveils SUNGROW Service Centre



E.B. Creasy Solar, the renewable energy arm of E.B. Creasy & Co., PLC, celebrated the opening of the SUNGROW Service Centre and E.B. Creasy Solar Customer Care Centre on March 12, at Union Place, Colombo 02.

The event was attended by representatives from E.B. Creasy Solar and SUNGROW, marking a significant step in enhancing customer support and service excellence. With a strong focus on performance, reliability and innovation, this new centre reinforces E.B. Creasy Solar's commitment to providing customers with cutting-edge solar technology and expert assistance, while also advancing Sri Lanka's transition to renewable energy.

Daily News - March 19, 2025

MEMBERS NEWS

Alumex shines at NIBE Awards 2024

Alumex PLC was recognised as the Best National Industry Brand in the Metal, Die, Mold, Machinery Tools and Allied Industry Sector (Large-Scale Category) at the 2024 National Industry Brand Excellence (NIBE) Awards.

This accolade presented by the Ministry of Industry & Entrepreneurship Development in collaboration with the Industrial Development Board (IDB), underscores Alumex's commitment to quality, innovation, and industry leadership.

Commenting on the achievement, Pramuk Dediwela, Managing Director of Alumex PLC said, "At Alumex, we are dedicated to pushing the boundaries of innovation and sustainability in the aluminium industry. This recognition further motivates us to continue delivering world-class solutions that contribute to Sri Lanka's industrial progress."

Daily Mirror 20 March 2025



Bairaha Farms adopts ambulance for 1990 'Suwa Seriya Foundation'



Bairaha Farms PLC, adopted an ambulance through the 1990 Suwa Seriya Foundation's 'Adopt an Ambulance' programme, to enhance access to emergency healthcare services across the island.

The ambulance adopted by Bairaha Farms was restored at a cost of Rs. 5 million and was released for service on March 5, currently serving Nittabuwu in Gampaha.

Bairaha Farms PLC Managing Director Yakooth Naleem said; "As one of the country's leading poultry processor, a key goal of ours in ensuring in providing a healthy and nutritious food to our esteemed consumers. Our initiative to adopt and restore an ambulance under the 1990 Suwa Seriya Foundation's 'Adopt an Ambulance' programme reiterates our objective of putting the health of our consumers and community, first."

Established in 2016, 1990 Suwa Seriya is a national ambulance service providing free pre-hospital emergency care across the island. Bairaha Farms' support in this effort underscores the company's commitment to upholding and enhancing the nation's healthcare infrastructure, now providing swift access to emergency medical services, for all Sri Lankans.

Bairaha Farms PLC is the pioneer in poultry production, with a rich history of nearly 50 years in Sri Lanka, and is well known among households for its quality chicken and processed chicken products.

The company's operations are vertically integrated, starting from broiler farms, where the chicken is bred and further processed into value-added, pre-cooked chicken products. The company has a steady growth trajectory and has been the recipient of many local and international accolades.

Daily News - March 14, 2025

Cabinet nod to amend industry Promotion Act No 46 of 1990



It has been noted that the provisions of the Industry Promotion Act No. 46 of 1990 existing at present are not sufficient to compile industry policies that enable fulfilling the contemporary requirements in the fields of technical, trade, skills, and environment in the industry sector. Therefore, approval has been granted to amend the said Act at the cabinet meeting held on 08-03-2025.

At present, the legal draftsman is in the process of amending the said Act, and the legal draftsman has shown the necessity of obtaining the policy consent of the present cabinet of ministers for the function of amending the Act.

Accordingly, taking into consideration the proposal presented by the Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development, the Cabinet of Ministers has decided to grant the policy consent for the expeditious completion of the function of preparation of the said draft.

Over 172,000 tourists arrive from March 1 to 23

Sri Lanka attracted 172,317 tourist arrivals from March 1 to 23, 2025 raising the total number of visitors up to this period to 665,295.

The country which won several global accolades including 'Sri Lanka has been ranked among the top 10 destinations to travel in 2025 by BBC' and is looking at attracting 3.5 million arrivals this year and make it the best figure to date over running the 2018 mark of 2,333,796.

Moving towards this target Sri Lanka tapped over 240,000 arrivals in both January and February and in March. With daily arrivals averaging around 6,000 to 7,000 per day, March arrivals are also expected to pass the 200,000 mark.

Many observers say that the only gray area is the low arrivals from China which was among the top two source markets prior to the C-19 pandemic. Chinese arrivals are now at the sixth place and have only attracted 37,150 from March 1 to 23 2025.

India was the best source market attracting 108,453 arrivals while Russian Federation visitors were second (87,371) United Kingdom (62,534) | third and Germany (46,840) and France (40,378) fifth and sixth from March 1 to 23 2025.

Daily News March 27, 2025

Cartoons



Daily FT 05..03.2025



Daily News 28.03.2025



New Zealand to help out in SL's export crop promotion

New Zealand has expressed interest in promoting local export crops production by acquiring and managing efficiently large extents of land in Sri Lanka, which at present are not productive.

"A scheme to establish dairy farms in the North and East, which New Zealand helped to draw-up a few years back but was subsequently abandoned, serves to highlight the need to resume such programs, High Commissioner of New Zealand to Sri Lanka, David Pine, said at a Pathfinder Foundation forum comprising

industry experts and representatives of local media institutions held at the Colombo Club, Taj Samudra last Thursday.

High Commissioner Pine said there is already cooperation in the dairy and agricultural sectors. New Zealand is willing to provide further assistance regarding food safety and phytosanitary (health of plants) standards.

New Zealand further aims to help Sri Lanka in knowledge- sharing and technology transfer in capacity building, climate resilience and increasing support in the education sector by establishing educational institutions, besides facilitating student exchange programs.

At present the bilateral trade balance is in favour of New Zealand, that is, Sri Lanka imports more than US \$ 252 million while Sri Lanka exports only US \$ 41 million to New Zealand.

HC Pine said that both countries should have close economic relations to harness the true growth potential of both countries.

The HC reiterated that an increased population of South Asian heritage immigrants living in New Zealand and existing dynamics in the geopolitical space had stimulated interest in the region.

HC Pine added: "The response to the imbalance in bilateral trade is to focus on the overall trade balance, as the bilateral trade balance becomes irrelevant in the context of global value chains.

"In addition to tourism and trade, governance, parliamentary exchanges and social relationships are also important in the bilateral context.

"The importance of the visit of the 'Women in Peace' delegation needs stressing, as is the need to focus on increasing opportunities for Track II dialogue.

"In terms of future prospects in promoting Sri Lanka as a tourist destination among New Zealanders, the aim is to engage and mobilize the diaspora, improve connectivity and extend support for niche areas, including sports, as a connector of two sport-loving nations.

"New Zealand is resolute in paying close attention to the South Asian region and Sri Lanka, in particular, on the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries."

The Pathfinder Foundation has previously hosted similar roundtable discussions with the Heads of Mission of France, Australia and the UK. At the event diplomat and chairman of the Pathfinder Foundation Bernard Gunathilake presided.

The Island – 2025/03/11

UPCOMING WEBINARS BY CNCI



Effective Procurement Strategies for Cost Reduction, Risk Mitigation and Efficiency Improvement

CONTENT

- Introduction to Procurement and Supply Chain Management
- Purchasing Vs Procurement
- Procurement Strategy Development
- Risk Management in Procurement
- Vendor Selection and Supplier Relationship Management
- E-Procurement: Leveraging Technology for Procurement Efficiency
- Q & A

TARGET AUDIENCE

Directors, CEOs, Warehouse Managers and Executives, Procurement Managers and Executives, Supply Chain Managers and Executives and All Others Interested

LANGUAGE

Sinhala / English (Notes in English)

For Registration

Please fill and submit the Google Form or Email your duly filled registration form to:

cnchrd.training@gmail.com | cncl@slt.lk

Contact For More Details:

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

8th April 2025

9.30 am - 1.00 pm

ZOOM

RESOURCE PERSON



Mr. Bandu Samaranayake

B.Sc. (Physical Science), MBA
Visiting Lecturer: Faculty of Graduate Studies - KDU,
CINEC Campus, Ocen University,
Management Consultant, Corporate Trainer

INVESTMENT

Members : Rs. 6,000/-

Non Members : Rs. 6,500/-



ISO 14001 & It's Impact on Environment

CONTENT

- Overview of ISO 14001:2015 Standards
- Discussion of Aspect and Impacts
- Discussion of Risks and Opportunities Requirements
- Discussion of the Life Cycle Perspective
- Q & A

TARGET AUDIENCE:

Directors, Environmental Managers and Consultants, Sustainability and CSR Professionals, Compliance and Regulatory Officers, Operations and Quality Managers, Senior Executives and Decision-Makers, Environmental Auditors & all others interested

FOR REGISTRATION

Please fill and submit the Google Form or Email your duly filled registration form to:

cnchrd.training@gmail.com | cnclprograms@gmail.com | cncl@slt.lk

Contact For More Details:

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

30th April 2025

9.30 am - 12.30 pm

ZOOM

RESOURCE PERSON

Dr. Lalith N Senaweera

Ph.D. (Sri Lanka), Ph.D. (Malaysia), Ph.D. (USA)
Fully qualified Lead Auditor for OH&S, EMS, EnMS and FMS
Retired Director General / CEO - SLSI
Former Chairman CAA

INVESTMENT

Members : Rs. 6,000/-

Non Members : Rs. 6,500/-

LANGUAGE

Sinhala / English (Notes in English)

EXCHANGE RATES AS AT 31ST MARCH 2025

Date	Buy Rate (LKR)	Sell Rate (LKR)
Australian Dollar	181.7928	191.0513
Canadian Dollar	202.6881	211.2618
Swiss Franc	328.3284	343.5492
Renminbi	39.3866	41.9277
Euro	313.3986	326.1557
British Pound	376.5107	390.7131
Yen	1.9269	2.0037
Singapore Dollar	216.1572	225.8625
United States Dollar	292.0669	300.5806

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>