



EDB
SRI LANKA

EXPO NEWS

MONTHLY BULLETIN

VOLUME 25 | ISSUE NO. 01

JANUARY 2025

READ ONLINE



WELCOME



Expo News is published by
Export Development Board

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EXPORT DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS [EDCM] RESUMES OPERATIONS AFTER 28 YEARS



In line with the new government's policy of "A Thriving Nation- A Beautiful Life," President Anura Kumara Disanayake directed officials to take the necessary steps to increase export revenue to \$36 billion by 2030.

The President expressed these views during the meeting of the Export Development Council of Ministers (EDCM), held on Monday (27) at the Presidential Secretariat.

Export revenue, which stood at USD 16.1 billion in 2024, is expected to rise to USD 18.2 billion this year, with a long-term goal of reaching USD 36 billion by 2030 through a comprehensive action plan.

The discussions emphasized the importance of strengthening domestic production and transitioning to an export-driven economy.

Participants also highlighted the need to leverage Sri Lanka's strategic location, human resources, and natural assets to develop a sustainable industrial growth plan.

This focused on revitalizing struggling domestic manufacturing industries, enhancing the competitiveness of export sectors, promoting the services industry, and capturing global markets through innovative strategies.

Additionally, attention was drawn to attracting Foreign Direct Investment under a national framework, creating a conducive environment for new investments, reducing production costs, and ensuring the availability of essential infrastructure and resources.

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Key decisions and discussions at the meeting included:

A decision was made to establish a VAT refund system at the airport for goods purchased by tourists.

To address delays and inefficiencies in the inspection of export products, plans have been made to replace the manual system with an automated scanning system that complies with international standards.

This system will be installed at the Katunayake airport, with funding allocated by the Ministry of Industries.

It was also decided to permit the “inspection of railway engines” manufactured in Sri Lanka, which had previously posed a barrier to exports, to be conducted within the country.

It was decided to introduce renewable energy sources to reduce costs within the export industry and to launch a program to encourage exporters to adopt modern technology, enhancing cost efficiency while conserving electricity.

It was decided to provide funding from the CESS fund to implement programs focused on entrepreneurs and investors to achieve export targets.

Investment Facilitation Committee was established to facilitate investment in the export sector by providing investment support for both domestic and foreign investments.

It was decided to provide export incentives for the export of gems and jewellery by identifying the correct export value through an appropriate method.

The government has focused on the export of electronic equipment and devices manufactured locally, and discussions were held regarding providing customs duty concessions on raw material imports for this purpose.

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SRI LANKA RECORDS HIGHEST EVER EXPORT REVENUE OF USD16.17 BN IN 2024

The latest report from the Sri Lanka Export Development Board reveals that the country achieved a record-breaking total export revenue of US\$ 16.17 billion in 2024. This marks the highest export earnings in Sri Lanka's history, surpassing the previous peak of US\$ 15.72 billion recorded in 2018.

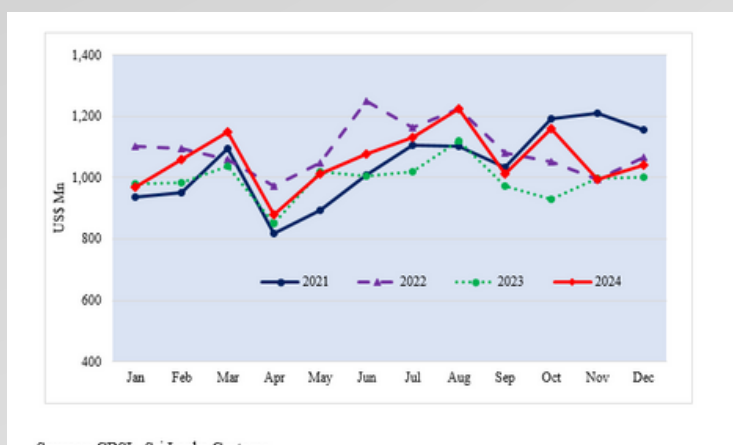
The 2024 figure comprises US\$ 12.70 billion from merchandise exports and US\$ 3.46 billion from services exports, reflecting a strong performance across key sectors.

Provisional data from Sri Lanka Customs indicates that merchandise export earnings for December 2024 amounted to US\$ 1,042.5 million, a 4.06% increase compared to December 2023. This growth was driven by higher earnings from Apparel & Textiles, Tea, Rubber-based products, Coconut-based products, Spices & Concentrates, and Food & Beverages.

Services exports for December 2024 were estimated at US\$ 322.92 million, representing a significant 29.96% increase over the corresponding period in 2023.

As a result, total exports for December 2024, including merchandise and services, amounted to US\$ 1,365.42 million, reflecting a moderate year-on-year growth of 9.21%.

Figure I shows Monthly Merchandise export performance from the year 2021 to 2024.



Major Exports in December 2024

a) Products & Services with Positive Growth (Increases)

Export earnings from Apparel & Textile increased by 1.83 % y-o-y to US \$ 446.84 Mn in December 2024 compared to December 2023.

Export earnings from tea, which made up 12% of merchandise exports, increased by 18.43 % y-o-y to US\$ 131.6 Mn in December 2024 compared to December 2023. This increase is mainly due to the positive performance in the export of Tea Packets (30.02 %) and Bulk Tea (8.85 %).

Export earnings from Rubber and Rubber finished products have increased by 1.41 % y-o-y to US\$ 80.74 Mn in December 2024, with a strong performance in exports of Industrial & Surgical Gloves of Rubber (36.88 %).

On monthly analysis, export earnings of Coconut-based products increased by 33.05 % in December 2024 compared to December 2023. Moreover, export earnings of Coconut kernel products, Coconut fiber products and Coconut shell products increased by 28.54 %, 52.98 % and 26.0 % respectively in December 2024 compared to December 2023.

Moreover, Export earnings from Coconut oil, Desiccated Coconut, Coconut milk powder and Liquid Coconut Milk which are categorized under the Coconut kernel products increased by 58.97 %, 44.13 %, 67.52 %, and 7.77 % respectively in December 2024 compared to December 2023.

Being the largest contributor to Coconut-based sector, Coco Peat, Fiber Pith & Moulded products which are categorized under the Coconut fiber products, increased by 70.4 % to US\$ 14.45 Mn in December 2024 in comparison to December 2023.

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In addition, export of Activated Carbon, which is categorized under Coconut shell products, increased by 30.13 % to US\$ 14.51 Mn in December 2024 compared to the month of December 2023.

Export earnings from Electrical and Electronics Components increased by 13.24 % y-o-y to US\$ 39.6 million in December 2024, primarily due to an increase in export of Insulated Wires and Cables (12.48%) and Switches, Boards & Panels (53.14%).

Export earnings from Food & Beverages increased by 42.07 % y-o-y to US\$ 41.5 Million in December 2024, with a positive performance in exports of Animal feed (31.42 %) and Processed Food (100.14%).

Export earnings from Spices and Concentrates increased by 50.1 % to US\$ 47.16 Mn in the month of December 2024 compared to month of December 2023 mainly due to the strong performance in the export of Pepper (195.11 %) and Cinnamon (17.89 %).

Furthermore, the estimated value of ICT exports is expected to increase by 29.81 % to US\$ 141.06 Mn in December 2024 when compared to December 2023. In addition, the estimated value of Logistics & transport services is expected to increase by 46.45 % to US\$ 162.28 Mn in December 2024 when compared to December 2023.

b) Products & Services with Negative Growth (Decreases)

Export earnings from Seafood decreased by 15.34 % to US\$ 20.14 Mn in December 2024 compared to December 2023. This decrease was mainly due to the poor performance in export of Fresh fish (-30.08%) and Shrimps (-68.9%).

Moreover, export earnings from Ornamental fish decreased by 1.97 % to US\$ 1.99 Mn in December 2024 compared to December 2023.

Exports during the period of January - December 2024

During the year 2024, cumulative merchandise exports recorded notable growth of 6.67 % to US\$ 12,705.44 million compared to the same period in 2023.

Services exports also showed promising growth, with an estimated increase of 8.51 % to US\$ 3,467.15 Mn during the year 2024, compared to the corresponding period last year.

As a result, the total export value, encompassing both merchandise and services, reached US\$ 16,172.59 Mn during this period, reflecting a 7.06 % growth over the same period in 2023.

This performance underscores the resilience and continued potential of Sri Lanka's export sector amidst evolving global trade dynamics.

a) Products & Services with Positive Growth (Increases)

Earnings from the export of Apparel, Tea, Rubber products, Coconut products, Food & Beverages, and Spices & Concentrates increased by 3.83 %, 9.62 %, 7.66 %, 20.9 %, 11.7 % and 16.11 % respectively during the period of January to December 2024 in comparison to the corresponding period of 2023.

Earnings from the export of Apparel & Textiles have increased by 3.83 % to US\$ 5,050.99 Mn during the year 2024 compared to the same period in 2023. Additionally, exports of Apparel & Textile to the USA and UK increased by 5.05 % & 7.6 % respectively in the year 2024 compared to the corresponding period of 2023.

Earnings from the export of Tea increased y-o-y by 9.62 % to US\$ 1,435.86 Mn in 2024. This increase was mainly due to the strong performance in the export of Bulk Tea (11.74 %) & Tea Packets (9.07 %).

In addition, export earnings from Rubber & Rubber finished products increased by 7.66 % to US\$ 1,001.54 Mn in the year 2024 compared to the year 2023 attributed to increased exports of Industrial & Surgical Gloves of Rubber (23.09 %) and Pneumatic & Retreated Rubber Tyres & Tubes (1.39 %).

Export earnings of Coconut & Coconut-based products increased by 20.9 % to US\$ 856.39 Mn during the year 2024 compared to the last year.

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Earnings from all the major categories of Coconut based products increased in 2024 compared 2023, due to the strong performance in export of Coconut Oil (24.05 %), Desiccated Coconut (39.22 %), Coconut Milk Powder (41.8 %), Coconut Cream (25.06 %), Liquid Coconut Milk (26.14 %), Cocopeat (23.16 %) and Activated Carbon (17.1 %).

In addition, export earnings from Spices and Concentrates increased y-o-y by 16.11 % to US\$ 461.85 Mn in the year 2024. This increase mainly driven by the strong performance in exports of Pepper (90.14%) and Cinnamon(3.87%). Pepper exports to India increased 91.35 % in the year 2024 compared to the corresponding period of previous year.

Export earnings from Food & Beverages have increased by 11.7 % y-o-y to US\$ 478.05 Million in the year 2024, with the positive performance in exports of Processed food (40.36 %).

Furthermore, the estimated value of ICT exports is expected to increase by 18.55 % to US\$ 1,454.46 Mn during the year 2024 when compared to the corresponding period of 2023.

In addition, the estimated value of Logistics & transport services is expected to increase by 13.13 % to US\$ 1,753.11 Mn during the year 2024 when compared to the corresponding period of 2023.

b) Products & Services with Negative Growth (Decreases)

Meanwhile earnings from export of Electrical and Electronic Components (EEC) decreased by 13.29 % to US\$ 421.98 Mn in the period of January to November 2024 compared to the corresponding period of 2023. This decline was primarily driven by poor performance in exports of Switches, boards & Panels (-14.45 %), Insulated wires (-12.63 %) and Other Electrical & Electronic Products (-16.72 %).

Further, export earnings from Seafood decreased by 11.15 % to US\$ 257.45 Mn during the year 2024 compared to year 2023 due to the poor performance in Frozen Fish (-8.3 %) and Shrimps (-37.49 %).

Export earnings from Ornamental fish decreased by 7.28 % to US\$ 24.46 Mn in the year 2024 compared to the same period of 2023.

Table 1 shows the comparison of Export performance during the month of December 2024 and the year 2024 compared to 2023.

Table 1: Comparison of Sector-wise Export Performance

Exports of Goods & Services	Values in US\$ Mns					
	Jan-Dec 2023	Jan-Dec 2024	% Growth (23-24)	Dec 2023	Dec 2024	% Growth (23-24)
Apparel & Textile	4,864.53	5,050.99	3.83	438.78	446.83	1.83
Tea	1309.90	1435.87	9.62	111.12	131.60	18.43
Rubber-based	930.24	1001.54	7.66	79.62	80.74	1.41
Coconut-based	708.70	856.79	20.90	55.97	74.47	33.05
Diamond, Gems & Jewellery	388.16	282.07	-27.33	17.88	11.03	-38.31
Electronics & Electronic Components	486.66	421.98	-13.29	34.97	39.60	13.24
Spices and Concentrates	397.78	461.85	16.11	31.42	47.16	50.10
Processed Food & Beverages	427.97	478.05	11.70	29.21	41.50	42.07
Seafood	262.24	232.99	-11.15	23.79	20.14	-15.34
Ornamental Fish	26.38	24.46	-7.28	2.03	1.99	-1.97
Vegetables	29.19	29.79	2.06	2.58	3.05	18.22
Fruits	43.27	41.72	-3.58	3.42	3.79	10.82
Other Export Crops	91.30	65.02	-28.78	3.04	5.46	79.61
Flowers & Foliage	15.01	13.67	-8.93	1.28	1.25	-2.34
Boat Building	78.50	41.10	-47.64	0.76	0.45	-40.79
Petroleum Products	372.04	415.65	11.72	13.49	33.95	151.67
Others	1,478.93	1,851.90	25.22	152.44	99.49	-34.73
Total Merchandize Exports	11,910.80	12,705.44	6.67	1,001.80	1,042.50	4.06
ICT/ BPM	1,226.87	1,454.46	18.55	108.67	141.06	29.81
Construction	354.80	207.50	-41.52	22.30	15.80	-29.15
Financial Services	64.00	52.08	-18.63	6.70	3.78	-43.58
Transport & Logistics	1,549.69	1,753.11	13.13	110.81	162.28	46.45
Total Services Exports	3,195.36	3,467.15	8.51	248.48	322.92	29.96
Total Exports	15,106.16	16,172.59	7.06	1,250.28	1,365.42	9.21

Sources: CBSL, Sri Lanka Customs

SL's Export Performance in Major Markets

Among Sri Lanka's top 10 export markets, India, Germany and Netherlands markets showed positive growth in the month of December 2024 and the cumulative period from January to December 2024, compared to the corresponding periods in 2023.

Furthermore, United States of America, Sri Lanka's single largest export destination, which absorbs 23% of Sri Lanka's merchandize exports, decreased by 1.47 % to US\$ 250.02 Mn in December 2024 compared to December 2023. In parallel, exports to United States of America in the cumulative period of January to December 2024 increased by 5.49 % to US\$ 2,909.97 Mn compared to the corresponding periods in 2023.

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Exports to the United Kingdom decreased by 3.98 % to US\$ 69.45 Mn in December 2024 compared to the corresponding month in 2023. Meanwhile, exports to the United Kingdom increased by 6.8 % to US\$ 903.72 Mn in cumulative period of January to December 2024 compared to the corresponding period in 2023.

Table 2 shows the comparison of Merchandise export performance of top 15 export markets during the month of December 2024 and the year 2024 compared to 2023.

Table 2: Comparison of Merchandise Export Performance of Top 15 Export Destinations

Values in US\$ Mns						
Destination	Jan-Dec 2023	Jan-Dec 2024	% Growth (23-24)	Dec 2023	Dec 2024	% Growth (23-24)
1 United States	2,758.57	2,909.97	5.49	253.74	250.02	-1.47
2 United Kingdom	846.16	903.72	6.80	72.33	69.45	-3.98
3 India	829.70	883.65	6.50	53.70	86.77	61.58
4 Italy	679.05	595.43	-12.31	47.01	44.62	-5.08
5 Germany	587.40	628.25	6.95	57.61	59.96	4.08
6 United Arab Emirates	357.09	334.63	-6.29	27.95	34.14	22.15
7 Netherlands	343.47	393.60	14.60	37.01	39.55	6.86
8 France	304.95	263.75	-13.51	19.50	21.25	8.97
9 Canada	293.21	319.87	9.09	24.24	23.69	-2.27
10 China	257.73	251.91	-2.26	19.69	23.39	18.79
11 Australia	226.51	247.13	9.10	18.74	23.26	24.12
12 Belgium	221.45	239.09	7.97	16.21	22.10	36.34
13 Turkey	195.66	136.77	-30.10	12.62	10.01	-20.68
14 Japan	188.76	179.24	-5.04	14.58	16.42	12.62
15 Switzerland	185.30	160.62	-13.32	11.78	7.52	-36.16
Others	3,635.79	4,257.81	17.11	315.09	310.35	-1.50
Total	11,910.80	12,705.44	6.67	1,001.80	1,042.50	4.06

Sources: CBSL, Sri Lanka Customs

Exports to FTA Partners (India & Pakistan)

a) December 2024

In December 2024, exports to India and Pakistan accounted for 8.4 % of total merchandise exports, experiencing an increase of 60.89 % to US\$ 93.22 Mn compared to December 2023. Both, exports to India and Pakistan increased by 61.58 % and 51.53 % respectively in December 2024 compared to December 2023.

The Positive performance of India was driven by higher exports of Petroleum oils (925%) and Pepper (216.74%) and the Positive performance of Pakistan was driven by higher exports of Other Articles of Stones and Other Textile Articles

b) January - December 2024

Exports to India & Pakistan accounted for 6.8 % of total merchandise exports increased by 6.14 % to US\$ 959.96 Mn during the year 2024 compared to the corresponding period of previous year.

Exports to India increased by 6.5 % while Exports to Pakistan decreased by 2.17 % during the period of January to November 2024 when compared with the corresponding period in 2023.

The positive export performance of India was driven by higher export of Pepper (91.35 %). In parallel, increased exports to Pakistan were led by increased exports of Other Products of Base Metal.

Sri Lanka's Export Performance in Regions

Table 3 shows the comparison of region wise exports during the month of December 2024 and the year 2024 compared to 2023.

Table 3: Comparison of Region wise Merchandise Export Performance

Values in US\$ Mns						
Region	Jan-Dec 2023	Jan-Dec 2024	% Growth (23-24)	Dec 2023	Dec 2024	% Growth (23-24)
United States	2,758.57	2,909.97	5.49	253.74	250.02	-1.47
European Union (EU) excluding UK	2,711.93	2,739.95	1.03	226.05	242.56	7.30
South Asia	1,192.75	1,348.93	13.09	79.48	127.05	59.85
ASEAN	995.00	969.05	-2.61	72.53	90.89	25.31
CIS Countries	324.79	318.18	-2.04	25.98	25.29	-2.66
African Countries	327.95	341.34	4.08	23.19	23.13	-0.26
Middle East Countries (excl. Cyprus & Egypt)	239.87	292.74	22.04	18.24	29.58	62.17
Others	3,359.94	3,785.28	12.66	302.59	253.98	-16.06
Total Merchandise Exports	11,910.80	12,705.44	6.67	1,001.80	1,042.50	4.06

Sources: CBSL, Sri Lanka Customs

Exports to the European Union (EU) which accounts for 24% of Sri Lanka's exports, increased by 7.3 % y-o-y in December 2024. However, exports to EU increased by 5.49 % during the year 2024.

Exports to the top five EU markets were recorded as; Germany US\$ 628.25 Mn (increased by 6.95 %), Italy US\$ 595.43 Mn (decreased by 12.31 %), Netherlands US\$ 393.6 Mn (increased by 14.6 %), France US\$ 263.75 Mn. (decreased 13.51 %) and Belgium US\$ 239.09 Mn (increased by 7.97 %) during the year 2024 in comparison to the corresponding period in 2023.

26TH PRESIDENTIAL EXPORT AWARDS CEREMONY ON FEBRUARY 7 AT BMICH



The 26th Presidential Export Awards Ceremony, organized by the Sri Lanka Export Development Board (EDB), will take place on Friday, February 7, 2025, at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) under the patronage of His Excellency Anura Kumara Dissanayake, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

The Presidential Export Award is the highest recognition awarded by the President to Sri Lankan exporters who have made significant contributions to the export sector and the economic development of the country. This awards ceremony aims to honor exporters who have played a pivotal role in Sri Lanka's economic growth.

Initiated by the EDB in 1981, the Presidential Export Awards have been held 25 times. The 26th ceremony is expected to be held with approximately 1,500 invitees, including Cabinet Ministers, diplomatic representatives, government officials, award winners, and exporters.

This year's ceremony recognizes the best exporters for the 2023/24 financial year. The awards will be presented under two main categories, comprising 14 overall awards and 51 sector-specific awards. Additionally, merit awards will be granted to eligible sectors based on performance and contributions to national economic objectives. Evaluation for sector-specific awards considers criteria beyond export revenue, such as market diversification, job creation, export growth, value addition, sustainability, corporate social responsibility, and export proceeds repatriation.

The EDB received a large number of applications from the export community, reflecting their enthusiasm for this prestigious accolade. Initial evaluations were conducted by a screening committee, while the final awardees were selected by an esteemed panel of judges chaired by a retired Supreme Court Judge. We are also pleased to announce that Ernst & Young (EY) is partnering as the knowledge partner for the 26th Presidential Export Awards Ceremony.

Aligned with the new government's policy framework, strategies have been implemented to expand Sri Lanka's exports significantly. These include market and product diversification, innovation, value addition, promoting local brands internationally, sustainable export practices, and regional value chain development. Exporters' contributions in these areas are vital to achieving the government's goals.

The winners of the Presidential Export Awards will receive a trophy/plaque and a certificate. Additionally, the Presidential Export Award logo can be used as a marketing tool for three years from the date of the award.

The 26th PEA is organized by the EDB under the guidance and directions of Hon. Sunil Handunneththi, Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development, Hon. Chaturanga Abeyesinghe, Deputy Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development, Mrs. Thilaka Jayasundara, Secretary to the Ministry of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development and under the leadership of Mr. Mangala Wijesinghe, Chairman/CEO of EDB

CEAT TEAM MEETS EDB CHAIRMAN TO DISCUSS TRADE EXPANSION OPPORTUNITIES IN SRI LANKA



A delegation from CEAT, an RPG India company, led by Managing Director and CEO Mr. Arnab Banerjee, met with Mr. Mangala Wijesinghe, Chairman and CEO of the Sri Lanka Export Development Board (EDB), recently at the EDB Head Office in Colombo .

During the meeting, Mr. Banerjee provided an overview of RPG's operations across various sectors, including agriculture, engineering, and rubber. The delegation expressed interest in expanding CEAT's presence in Sri Lanka by diversifying its product portfolio in the rubber sector. Highlighting the company's recent acquisition, Mr. Banerjee elaborated on the CAMSO brand, which is produced in Sri Lanka under RPG's ownership.

Congratulating the team on their expansion initiatives, Mr. Mangala Wijesinghe underscored additional investment opportunities in Sri Lanka, particularly in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, ICT, agriculture, and logistics.

The meeting was attended by senior officials from CEAT, including Mr. Vipul Vaid, Chief Financial Officer; Mr. Amit Tolani, Chief Executive of CEAT Specialty; and Mr. Ravi Dadlani, Managing Director and CEO of CEAT Sri Lanka. Representatives from the EDB, including Board Member Mr. Thusara Hettithanthrige, were also present.



FACETS SRI LANKA 2025: A RESOUNDING SUCCESS IN SHOWCASING THE NATION'S GEM AND JEWELLERY INDUSTRY



The prestigious FACETS Sri Lanka 2025 International Gem and Jewellery Exhibition successfully concluded at the Cinnamon Grand Colombo, marking a significant milestone in the country's gemstone and jewellery industry.

The grand event was inaugurated on January 4 under the patronage of President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, who also toured the exhibition to explore the diverse array of exquisite gems and jewellery on display.

Organized by the Sri Lanka Gem and Jewellery Association (SLGJA) in collaboration with the National Gem and Jewellery Authority (NGJA) and the Export Development Board (EDB), the exhibition celebrated its 31st edition as one of Asia's leading industry showcases. The event, which ran until January 6, attracted delegations from China, India, the United States, Europe, and other international markets. Several globally renowned gem and jewellery companies visited Sri Lanka for the first time, further strengthening the country's position as a key player in the global gemstone trade.

Local gem entrepreneurs from industry hubs such as Ratnapura, Elahara, Beruwala, Eheliyagoda, Galle, and Colombo captivated attendees with their exceptional craftsmanship, demonstrating Sri Lanka's deep-rooted expertise and artistry in gem cutting, jewellery design, and precious stone trading.

A key objective of the exhibition was to foster business opportunities for traders, exporters, and industry professionals worldwide, with an ambitious goal of surpassing USD 1 billion in gem and jewellery exports. FACETS Sri Lanka has long been regarded as a premier platform for networking, investment, and showcasing the nation's rich heritage, diversity, and sustainability in the gem and jewellery sector.

The event was attended by several distinguished guests, including Minister of Industry and Enterprise Development Mr. Sunil Handunnetti, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment, and Tourism Mr. Vijitha Herath, and Deputy Minister of Industry and Enterprise Development Mr. Chaturanga Abeyasinghe, alongside ambassadors and key stakeholders from the industry.

With another successful edition of FACETS Sri Lanka completed, the nation continues to solidify its reputation as a global leader in gem and jewellery excellence, offering unparalleled opportunities for collaboration and growth in this vibrant sector.



EXPORTING TO GREAT BRITAIN: LAUNCH OF SECTOR HANDBOOKS



The International Trade Centre (ITC), in collaboration with the British High Commission in Colombo and the SheTrades Sri Lanka Hub, hosted by the Sri Lanka Export Development Board (EDB), launched two sector-specific export handbooks aimed at equipping Sri Lankan women-led businesses with essential knowledge to enter the United Kingdom (UK) market. The launch event which, held on 27th January at Westminster House in Colombo convened key stakeholders from Sri Lanka and the UK to mark this significant milestone in trade facilitation.

The distinguished guests included Ms. Catherine West, UK Minister and Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Indo-Pacific; Hon. Chaturanga Abeyesinghe, Deputy Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development, Hon. (Dr.) Namal Sudarshana, Deputy Minister of Women and Child Affairs, H.E. Andrew Patrick, British High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and Mr. Tanvir Ahmad, Senior Advisor - SheTrades Hubs of Asia of the International Trade Centre (ITC).



The development and launch of the two export handbooks are part of the SheTrades Commonwealth+ Programme, which is implemented by ITC and funded by UK International Development, with strong support from the British High Commission in Colombo. This initiative underscores the UK and ITC's commitment to fostering sustainable trade growth in Sri Lanka, particularly by empowering women-led businesses and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The EDB, serving as the host institution of the SheTrades Sri Lanka Hub, has provided critical support for this initiative, reinforcing its ongoing efforts to strengthen the country's export ecosystem for women-led businesses.



The two export handbooks provide in-depth guidance on compliance, regulatory frameworks, and market access requirements for the Textiles and Apparel (including women's accessories, footwear, and handicrafts) and Processed Agrifood and Spices sectors. These comprehensive resources aim to enhance the export readiness of Sri Lankan businesses and are available for download through the EDB's official website at <https://www.srilankabusiness.com/exporters/assisting-women-in-business.html>, with forthcoming translations in Sinhala and Tamil to ensure accessibility for entrepreneurs across the country.

The SheTrades Commonwealth+ Programme, in partnership with EDB and the British High Commission in Colombo, reinforces the strong trade partnership between the UK and Sri Lanka, supporting inclusive economic growth and fostering new opportunities for Sri Lankan businesses in global markets.

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SRI LANKA EXPORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD



ISSN 2579-1680

EXPO NEWS

MONTHLY INFORMATION BULLETIN FOR SRI LANKAN EXPORTERS

Compiled & circulated by :

TRADE FACILITATION & TRADE INFORMATION DIVISION

011 2300705-11 (Ext. 317)