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EDB HELP DESK

Exporters are kindly requested to contact the following officers during office hours on working days for clarifications, guidance, and advice on export-related matters and to overcome issues due to the covid-19 restrictions,

No.	NAME	SECTOR	CONTACT NO.	EMAIL				
	Agricultural Exports							
1	Ms. Nilmini Wanasinghe, Assistant Director	Spices & Concentrates	077 3665720	inoka@edb.gov.lk				
2	Ms. Gayani Wijayathilake, Assistant Director	Food & Beverage	071 8365003	gayani@edb.gov.lk				
		Service Exports						
3	Mr. Akila De Zoysa, Assistant Director	Electronic, Printing & Packaging and Constructions	071 6855188	akiladishan@edb.gov.lk				
4	Ms.Vajira Kularathne, Assistant Director	ICT/BPM,Logistics, Marine & Offshore engineering	072 7303869	vajira@edb.gov.lk				
		Industrial Exports						
5	Mrs. Janithi Morawaka, Assistant Director	Industrial products	077 8983139	mjanithi@edb.gov.lk				
6	Mr. Indika Sugathadasa, Assistant Director	Industrial products	071 8246762	indikas@edb.gov.lk				
	c	verseas Markets and Other Matte	rs					
7	Ms. Udeni Wijekoon, Deputy Director	Export Market related matters	071 8365005	udeni@edb.gov.lk				
	R	egional SME Export Related Matte	rs					
8	Mr. D.M.P. Dissanayaka, Deputy Director	Regional Export Related matters	071 8034071	dissa005@gmail.com				
9	Ms. Nipuni Munasinghe, Export Promotion Officer	Regional Export Related matters	071 8810987	nipuni@edb.gov.lk				
	Trade Faci	litations / Trade Information / Poli	cy Matters					
10	Mrs. Achini Weerawardena, Deputy Director	Policy / Fiscal Related Matters	071 8334160	achini@edb.gov.lk				
11	Mrs. S.A.G. Anuradha, Deputy Director	Trade Facilitations / Information	071 2938054	anuradha@edb.gov.lk				
12	Mrs. Helmalie Vitharana, Assistant Director	Trade Facilitations / Information	077 7215911	helmalie@edb.gov.lk				
13	Mrs. Dhanushka Ruwanpathirana, Export Promotion Officer	Trade Facilitations / Information	071 2476227	dhanushka@edb.gov.lk				
14	Help Desk	General	011 2300710	helpdesk@edb.gov.lk				

EDB FACILITATES CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR EXPORTERS DURING THE LATEST TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

The Export Development Board (EDB) has made arrangements to facilitate export-oriented industries based on the circulars issued by the Health Authorities to continue operations during the lockdown of specific areas and inter-provincial travel restrictions subject to stringent health regulations.

Although travelling between provinces is restricted till 31 May, transport of cargo to/from the country's port of entry/exit is allowed during this period (proof required).

EDB said export-oriented industries are allowed to function within a bio-secure bubble by ensuring secure transport and accommodation for workers under the close supervision of the area medical officer of health, while agricultural activities are permitted normal operations with strong compliance to DREAM (Distance, Respiratory Etiquette, Aseptic technique, Mask).

The export enterprises in lockdown areas have also been given permission to function, however, employees residing in lockdown areas shall not report to work. The companies are advised to adhere to the relevant revised operational guidelines on preparedness and response for COVID-19 outbreak for the manufacturing/apparel industry and other health guidelines pertaining to the functionality of the enterprises issued by the Ministry of Health.

The guidelines and instruction that need to be followed by the enterprises during this period can be obtained from the EDB website – www.srilankabusiness.com and by contacting the EDB helpdesk via 011 2300710 or by emailing helpdesk@edb.gov.lk

The EDB has taken steps to strengthen its helpdesk in order to assist exporters during this difficult time period by introducing 14 focal points for the relevant export product/service sectors, and their contact numbers are available on the EDB website.

All relevant Government authorities including the police and the tri-forces have pledged their continued support for the smooth operations of the export sector.





CERTIFICATE COURSE ON EXPORT & IMPORT PROCEDURES

This training program offered by SLEDB is scheduled to be commenced on 19th June 2021. The course will be done through online technology.

This is a great opportunity for Exporters, Importers and potential exporters alike to expand their horizons on Import & Export Procedures. Enhance your theoretical and practical knowledge on Import/Export operations including cargo clearance, freight forwarding and shipping.

Join with the premier Organization for the development and promotion of exports in Sri Lanka to position yourself in the Global market !

For more information please contact ; Chathuri - 011 2302072 / 077 8281052

Sri Lanka Export Development Board No. 42 Nawam Mawatha, Colombo 02 www.srilankabusiness.com

Sri Lanka Export Development Board (SLEDB) is Sri Lanka's apex organization for development and promotion of exports, established in 1979 under the Sri Lanka Export Development Act No. 40.

EDB PLANS REVISION TO 2021 EXPORT TARGET



EDB Chairman Mr. Suresh de Mel

The Export Development Board (EDB) is expected to revise the target for the year 2021.

EDB Chairman Suresh de Mel stated that the export target would certainly witness a revision due to the week-long travel restrictions that have come into effect and several areas being caught under isolation. However, he said it is too premature to assess the impact or divulge the revised target. He noted that the revision is 'absolutely necessary.

Giving his focus on the garment industry, de Mel said the garment industry has been identified as very vulnerable to the situation. It is because the aforementioned industry was affected by Covid-19 immensely during Sri Lanka's second wave of the pandemic.

"These are very uncertain times," said the EDB Chairman, highlighting the unpredictability of the circumstances in the country which would subsequently affect the process of manufacturing and exporting.

"Maybe within a period of a week or two, we'll be able to resume," he added, referring to the period of the week after the travel restrictions, assuming that the Government-imposed health measures would decide the performance of the exports.

de Mel pointed out that the EDB doesn't have information on this situation, adding that decisionmaking needs to be done with a prior, proper analysis because the collected data has the possibility of demonstrating the focal point of the arising situation.

According to EDB statistics, apparel exports contribute to the Sri Lankan economy higher than any other export merchandise while tea, rubber-based and coconut-based product exports remain at second, third and fourth places respectively.

Further, in comparison, apparel could only earn \$ 64.91 million during the month of April 2020, whereas, during April 2021 the mentioned sector is estimated to have reached an export earning of \$ 365.04 million which is a dynamic growth of 462.38 in percentage.

"It can also be the most uncertain period that we are going to face," said de Mel emphasizing that the overall behavior can put all exports at a stake due to the new wave.

The apparel industry was drastically affected last year to the extent where a whole new Covid-19 cluster emerged leading to a deadly second wave in the country. It was with the diagnosis of a Covid-19 infected factory worker at an apparel plant in Minuwangoda on 3 October 2020.

EXPORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD SUPPORTS FARMERS & PROCESSORS TO OBTAIN SRI LANKA ORGANIC CERTIFICATION



The Sri Lanka Export Development Board (EDB) is implementing an assistance scheme to enable farmers and processors in Sri Lanka to obtain organic certification as per the Sri Lanka Organic Standard – SLS 1324:2018. The certificates will be issued by the certification institutes accredited for SLS 1324:2018 by the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB).

This assistance initiative intends to promote the National Organic Standard (SLS 1324:2018) among small farmers; streamline production, handling, processing, and labelling of organically grown agriculture products to meet a consistent standard; encourage conventional farmers to transform into organic cultivation and increase the production volumes and income; establish transparency throughout the supply /value chains from farm to market and upgrade farmers to obtain international certification in the future to meet the export demand.

The farmers and processors willing to follow organic agriculture and processing practices in rice, fruits, vegetables, cashew, herbs, fertilizer, pulses, spices, coconut kernel-based products, and green leaves are eligible to apply for assistance. The selected applicants will be assisted by the EDB to cover the initial cost of certification including field inspection and lab testing of samples.

Applications of the assistance programme can be obtained from the EDB website www.srilankabusiness.com under "Announcements". The duly filled application with all the relevant documents as stipulated in the scheme needs to be sent by registered post to reach Additional Director General-Development, Sri Lanka Export Development Board, No.42, Nawam Mawatha, Colombo 02 on or before 04th June 2021. Further details can be obtained from the National Organic Control Unit, EDB, Assistant Director – S.M.D. Madhumali on 2300705-11 (Ext: 235), Fax: 0112304879, and E-mail: madhumali@edb.gov.lk.

ONLINE WORKSHOP ON DEVELOPMENT OF RECREATIONAL BOATING AND MARINA IN SRI LANKA



As an initiative of the Commercial section of the High Commission of Sri Lanka in Singapore, an online workshop on the Development of Recreational Boating Industry in Sri Lanka was successfully held on 11 May.

The event was co-hosted by the Sri Lanka Export Development Board and Singapore Boating Industry Association, and supported by Singapore-Sri Lanka Business Council and the Boat Building Technology Improvement Institute of Sri Lanka. Over 100 participants from Singapore and Sri Lanka participated at the event.

The online workshop comprised two panel discussions and a round table discussion. Panel sessions were focused on the development of the export sector of boat building and the development of the domestic sector particularly on marina development, infrastructure and nautical tourism with the participation of eminent industry experts from Sri Lanka, Singapore, UK, Spain, Thailand and Hong Kong. They represented mainly GMBA, UK, Thailand Yachting Business Association, Sub-committee of the Sri Lanka Singapore Business Council, Hong Kong Boating Industry Association, SUTL Enterprises – One 15 marina Singapore, GMBA, Spain and Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority.

The two panel sessions were moderated by Colombo Dockyard Head of Marketing Prince Lye and Singapore Boating Industry Association Chairman Y.P. Loke respectively.

The workshop provided an opportunity for the state sector and private sector to the strategic direction of the industry and provide details of the capabilities and competitive position of the industry, the policy framework of marina development, and domestic opportunities for nautical tourism.

Presentations were made by the State Ministry of Boats and Ship Building, Sri Lanka Export Development Board, Boat Building Technology Improvement Institute, Neil Marine Ltd., Sail Lanka Charter Group to showcase Sri Lanka's supply capability and investment and JV opportunities in order to create awareness and to attract foreign investments, buyers and distributors.

High Commissioner Sashikala Premawardhane, Export Development Board Chairman Suresh de Mel and Singapore Boating Industry Association Chairman Y.P. Loke made opening remarks at the event.

The round table discussion held was chaired by the International Council of Marine Industry Association Secretary General Udo Kleinitz, with the participation of the Export Development Board, Board of Investment, Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, Boat Building and Technology Institute, Colombo Dockyard and Singapore Boating Industry Association and the session highlighted the key findings for way forward in both boat building industry and nautical tourism areas.

The online workshop facilitated an opportunity for stakeholders to understand the strategic direction of the recreational boating industry, market expansion, design and quality upgrading of the sector and gain an understanding of the domestic culture that needs to be developed in order for Sri Lanka to become an attractive marina destination in the region.

SRI LANKA'S EXPORT PERFORMANCE JANUARY - APRIL 2021

Sri Lanka's export performance continued its upward momentum in the first three months of 2021. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic-induced lockdown last year, exports were contracted by a record 64.63 percent in April 2020. However in April this year, exports grew up by 183 percent to US\$ 798.9 Mn in comparison to the previous year.

This growth could be attributed to the gradual lifting of Covid 19 restrictions imposed within the country and globally. It must be noted that the year-on-year growth in April 2021 was largely due to the negative growth a year ago.

The Export Development Board (EDB) Chairman Suresh de Mel said, "in comparison to the lowest point in April 2020, exports are up by 183% in April 2021. We thank the entire export community for serving the national economic needs at this vulnerable time. The EDB staff and I stand committed to help our exporters through this crisis in the best way possible".



Graph I: Monthly Merchandise Export Performance 2019, 2020 & Jan-April 2021

Sources: Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka Customs & Sri Lanka Export Development Board

Export Performance of Major Sectors

As shown in the table below, earnings from the export of major product sectors such as Apparel, Tea, Rubber-based Products, Coconut based, Spices, and Electrical & Electronic Components were increased both in the month of April 2021 and during the period of January to April 2021 compared to the previous year.

Values in USS Mns

Exports of Goods	Jan-Apr 2020	Jan-Apr 2021	% Growth (20-21)	April 2020	April 2021	% Growth (20-21)
Apparel	1,315.78	1,693.31	28.69	64.91	365.04	462.38
Tea	348.44	417.38	19.79	78.37	79.26	1.14
Rubber-based	229.11	333.28	45.47	25.77	64.74	151.22
Coconut-based	164.81	250.49	51.99	27.88	55.76	100.00
Diamond, Gems & Jewelry	54.44	92.86	70.57	1.05	27.77	2544.76
Electronics & Electronic Components	91.42	129.09	41.21	9.46	27.06	186.05
Spices and Essential Oils	63.49	136.76	115.40	12.09	22.46	85.77
Food & Beverages	100.82	117.44	16.48	13.83	27.77	100.80
Seafood	63.26	75.55	19.43	6.27	19.19	206.06
Ornamental Fish	3.94	5.03	27.66	0.25	1.25	400.00
Vegetables	7.92	7.83	-1.14	1.24	1.87	50.81
Fruits	11.34	11.98	5.64	2.14	2.87	34.11
Other Export Crops	24.77	19.00	-23.29	1.75	4.84	176.57
Flowers & Foliage	4.37	4.74	8.47	0.42	1.02	142.86
Boat Building	0.91	0.95	4.40	0.00	0.31	
Petroleum Products	114.41	23.42	-79.53	8.69	13.46	54.89
Others	254.65	380.23	49.31	28.18	84.23	198.90
Total Merchandize Exports	2,853.88	3,699.34	29.62	282.3	798.9	183.00

Table 1: Merchandise Export Performance

Sources: Sri Lanka Customs / Sri Lanka Export Development Board

Export earnings from Spices and Essential Oils in April 2021, increased significantly compared to April 2020 - growth is mainly due to increased exports of cinnamon, pepper and cloves. The significant increase of 115.4 % recorded in the period of January to April 2021 compared to year 2020 – is an increase beyond the corresponding period of 2019 too.

Export earnings of tea increased y.o.y. in April 2021 by 1.14 % compared to April 2020. First four months comparison records at 19.79 % increase - The higher performance is due to demand growth of UAE, China and Libyan markets.

Earnings from all the major categories of Coconut based products increased by 100 % in April 2021 compared with April 2020 due to the improved performance in export of Coconut Oil, Liquid Coconut Milk, Cocopeat & Activated Carbon. Similarly, earnings from the export of all the major categories of Coconut based products increased by 51.99 % during the period of January to April 2021 compared to the corresponding period of 2020.

Export earnings from Rubber & Rubber finished products increased by 151.22 % y-o-y to US\$ 64.74 Mn in April 2021 due to the better performance of exports of Industrial & Surgical Gloves of Rubber (188.87%) and Pneumatic & Retreated Rubber Tyres & Tubes (172.72%). In parallel Export earnings from Rubber & Rubber finished products increased by 45.47 % during the period of January to April 2021 compared to the 2020.

Meanwhile earnings from export of Electrical and Electronic Components (EEC) increased by 186.05 % to US\$ 27.06 Mn in April 2021 in comparison to April 2020. Also, earnings from export of EEC increased by 41.21% to US\$ 129.09 Mn in the period of January to April 2021 compared to the corresponding period of 2020. Export of Insulated wires increased by 148.81 % in y-o-y to US\$ 4.18 Mn in April 2021 also increased by 34.04 % during the period of January to April 2021 to US\$ 22.17 Mn compared with the corresponding period of previous year.

Sri Lanka's Trade Performance in Major Markets

The single largest export destination of United States of America recorded US\$ 920.6 Mn worth of exports in the period of January to April 2021– a significant year on year increase of 21.2 % in comparison to US\$ 759.58 Mn recorded in 2020.

Exports to United Kingdom as the second largest trading partner recorded an increase of 16% to US\$ 294.23 Mn during the period of January to April 2021 compared with the corresponding period of previous year.

Further, Exports to China and Netherlands increased y-o-y by 77.79 % and 222.77% in April 2021 while the increase of the same markets improved by 64.89 % and 88.53 % respectively during the period of January to April 2021.

Strong performance made by Apparel and Liquid Coconut Milk exports has resulted to the increased Exports to Netherlands and better performance of export of Bulk tea, Mineral Sands, Activated Carbon and Cocopeat has resulted increased exports to China.

On a region wise comparison exports to all other regions increased except ASEAN during the period of January to April 2021 compared with the corresponding period of the previous year.

Top 10 Export Destinations

	Country	Jan-Apr 2020	Jan-Apr 2021	% Growth (20-21)	April 2020	April 2021	% Growth (20-21)
1	United States	759.58	920.60	21.20	50.82	205.20	303.78
2	United Kingdom	253.65	294.23	16.00	14.89	68.34	358.97
3	India	184.90	247.35	33.78	11.58	53.91	365.54
4	Germany	157.76	232.20	47.19	15.51	52.03	235.46
5	Italy	117.57	185.57	57.84	5.02	33.52	567.73
6	Belgium	78.70	105.47	34.02	5.85	22.26	280.51
7	Netherlands	71.60	134.99	88.53	8.74	28.21	222.77
8	China	58.25	96.05	64.89	10.58	18.81	77.79
9	Canada	59.19	94.51	59.67	4.39	22.37	409.57
10	Turkey	52.55	65.45	24.55	8.99	10.50	16.80
	Other Markets	1,060.13	1,322.92	24.79	145.93	283.75	94.44
	Total Merchandise Exports	2,853.88	3,699.34	29.62	282.3	798.9	183.00

Sources: Sri Lanka Customs & Sri Lanka Export Development Board

Export Regions

Region	Jan-Apr 2020	Jan-Apr 2021	% Growth (20-21)	April 2020	April 2021	% Growth (20-21)
EU excluding UK	613.11	925.95	51.03	53.78	192.43	257.81
United States	759.58	920.60	21.20	50.82	205.20	303.78
South Asia	282.55	361.01	27.77	20.66	78.32	279.09
ASEAN Countries	101.70	89.58	-11.92	13.37	26.19	95.89
CIS Countries	79.97	82.56	3.24	19.92	16.03	-19.53
African Countries	65.85	100.05	51.94	9.06	25.68	183.44
Middle East Countries (Excl. Cyprus & Egypt)	216.71	243.93	12.56	31.59	49.17	55.65
Others	734.41	975.66	32.85	83.10	205.88	147.75
Total Merchandise Exports	2,853.88	3,699.34	29.62	282.3	798.9	183.00

Sources: Sri Lanka Customs & Sri Lanka Export Development Board

Export of Services

The services exports estimated by EDB which includes ICT/BPM, Construction, Financial services and Transport & Logistics show exports of US \$ 1,194.3 Mn for the period of January to April 2021 compared to US\$ 1,021.9 Mn recorded in the corresponding period of 2020. Estimated service exports increased by 16.87 % in the first four months of 2021 compared to the corresponding period of 2020.



SRI LANKA EXPORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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SRI LANKA PRODUCT DISPLAY AT SEOUL FOOD & HOTEL SHOW, SOUTH KOREA 27th TO 30th JULY 2021

Sri Lanka Export Development Board (EDB) in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Embassy in Seoul, Korea proposes to organize a Sri Lanka product display at Seoul Food & Hotel Show (SFH) to be held in South Korea from 27th-30th July 2021 to display product samples of 5-6 Sri Lankan export companies. The 13th edition of SFH was successfully organized by the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) in 2019 with around 50,335 visitors out of which 44% are decision makers and 70% of the exhibitors had met visitors with high purchasing power.

The 14th Seoul Food & Hotel Show 2021, which is to be organized by KOTRA in partnership with an exhibition organizer "Informa Markets" in Korea, is scheduled to be held on 27th-30th July 2021 at Korea. Please visit http://www.seoulfoodnhotel.co.kr/introduce/01.php for more information on the above fair.

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Exporters/potential exporters from Food & Beverages sector including Tea, Coconut, Snacks & Confectionary, Soft Drink, Seafood, Spices & Food Ingredients, Organic Food Products, Processed Food, Food Services and Technology, Hotel, Restaurant Design & Deco could display products and promotional materials at the event.

COST OF PARTICPATION & EDB ASSISTANCE

EDB will consider assistance towards the cost of solution package which will consists of a back wall racks and company name board. Cost of airfreight of product samples will have to be borne by the selected Sri Lankan companies.

HOW TO APPLY

Application should be made on the prescribed application form attached herewith. Duly completed application should be sent to Director-Market Development, EDB **on or before 4th June 2021**. Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed by a Selection Panel.

For further information, please contact Ms. Manuka Perera, Export Promotion Officer, – Tel: 0112300705 (Ext. 264) / 0112 300721 / 722, email : manuka@edb.gov.lk.

CHAIRMAN & CHIEF EXECUTIVE SRI LANKA EXPORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD No. 42, EDB/NDB Tower, Nawam Mawatha, Colombo 02 WEB: www.srilankabusiness.com

SRI LANKA CUSTOMS - RATES OF EXCHANGE EFFECTIVE FROM 31.05.2021 TO 06.06.2021

Country	Country	Currency	Currency Code	Rate of Exchange (Rs.)
1 Australia	AU	Dollar	AUD	157.1076
2 Bahrain	BH	Dinar	BHD	538.1687
3 Bangladesh	BD	Taka	BDT	2.3941
4 Brazil	BR	Brazil Real	BRL	38.7235
5 Brunei	BN	Brunei Dollar	BND	153.2572
6 Canada	CA	Canadian Dollar	CAD	167.878
7 China	CN	Renminbi	CNY	31.815
8 China	CN	Offshore	CNH	31.837
9 Czechoslovakia	CZ	Koruna	CZK	9.716
LO Denmark	DK	Kroner	DKK	33.241
L1 Egypt	EG	Pound	EGP	12.939
L2 Euro Zone	-	Euro	EUR	247.210
L3 Ghana	GH	Cedi	GHS	34.965
14 Hongkong	HK	Dollar	HKD	26.147
15 Hungary	HU	Forint	HUF	0.710
16 India	IN	Rupee	INR	2.795
17 Indonesia	ID	Rupiah	IDR	0.014
18 Iran	IR	Riyal	IRR	0.004
19 Japan	JP	Yen	JPY	1.846
20 Jordan	30	Dinar	JOD	286.163
21 Korea	KR	Won	KRW	0.181
22 Kuwait	KW	Dinar	KWD	674.567
23 Macau	MO	Pataca	MOP	25.367
24 Malaysia	MY	Ringgit	MYR	48.983
25 Maldives	MV	Rufiya	MVR	13.123
26 Mauritius	MU	Rupee	MUR	5.015
27 Myanmar	MM	Kyat	MMK	0.123
28 Nepal	NP	Rupee	NPR	1.746
29 New Zealand	NZ	Dollar	NZD	147.541
30 Nigeria	NG	Naira	NGN	0.491
31 Norway	NO		NOK	and the second state of th
32 Oman	OM	Kroner		24.288
		Riyal	OMR	526.999
33 Pakistan	PK	Rupee	PKR	1.306
34 Papua New Guinea	PG	Kina	PGK	57.823
35 Philippines	PH	Peso	PHP	4.230
36 Poland	PL	Zloty	PLN	55.040
37 Qatar	QA	Riyal	QAR	54.890
38 Russia	RU	Rouble	RUB	2.760
39 Saudi Arabia	SA	Riyal	SAR	54.088
40 Seychelles	SC	Rupee	SCR	12.29
41 Singapore	SG	Dollar	SGD	153.25
42 South Africa	ZA	Rand	ZAR	14.72
43 Sweden	SE	Krona	SEK	24.48
44 Switzerland	CH	Francs	CHF	225.98
45 Taiwan	TW	Dollar	TWD	7.30
46 Thailand	TH	Baht	THB	6.47
47 U.A.E.	AE	Dirham	AED	55.23
48 United Kingdom	GB	Sterling Pound	GBP	287.80
49 United States of	US	Dollar	USD	202.88
50 Zambia (Old)	ZM	Kwacha	ZMK	0.03
51 Zambia (New)	ZM	Kwacha	ZMW	9.02
52 Zimbabwe	ZW	Dollar	ZWD	0.53

LET'S FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

STAY INDOOR Stay Safe



SRI LANKA EXPORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD



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EXPO NEWS

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Compiled By : TRADE FACILITATION & TRADE INFORMATION DIVISION

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