

most
admired
leaders
of Sri Lanka 2019

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MOST ADMIRLED LEADERS OF SRI LANKA 2019

INTRODUCTION

The Most Admired Leaders of Sri Lanka awards are for outstanding Sri Lankans. The four people selected are exceptional and are driven by a powerful sense of purpose both in their individual lives and in relation to the world at large. This year the awards will be made under four categories - Peace and Reconciliation, Statesmanship, Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Technology. The awards are meant to recognize leaders, who have not only excelled in their respective fields but also have brought recognition and honour to themselves, and to our nation. They are people who have demonstrated courage, tenacity, and superlative results over many years. Also, despite being tested right up to the edge, they have followed their purpose with an unrelenting energy and passion. They are TRUE SRI LANKANS who have put our country first.

CATEGORIES

NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION

1. Peace and Reconciliation

A leader who has a big interest in social issues and has been engaged in establishing peace for all communities. A leader in his own way who has helped to give greater visibility to war-time violence, so that the perpetrators can be held accountable for their actions. A leader who has performed a particularly courageous act or who intervenes, in a crisis situation, because of a lifelong desire for peace and respect for all communities.

2. Statesmanship

Here we recognize a Sri Lankan national leader with outstanding leadership qualities, and contribution to the nation over many decades in public service. The contribution made has been achieved during his lifetime. He has served the people of this country with dignity and with great humility. Good governance, personal freedom and justice have been the hallmark of his career. A leader who has dedicated his life to the betterment of his country and the people living in the country. This is a person who has implemented policies without fear or favour only because such policies are meant to better serve the interests of the country they serve.

BUSINESS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Entrepreneurship

A master at taking risks. Here we pay tribute to a business leader in Sri Lanka who has had unmatched success over many years, by building a business empire that has withstood decades of challenges. He has been courageous and authentic by being true to his style of leadership. He has been decisive in his actions and been a true entrepreneur. He has uplifted the lives of many by venturing into uncharted territory, and thereby providing a livelihood to many young people. He has been generous to the less fortunate. A business leader who wields strong influence in the business world we live in today. He has been most influential in terms of setting the tone for business in the country, driving value to customers, and their desire to put Sri Lanka on the world map.

2. Innovative and Bold Investments

A Sri Lankan business magnate, entrepreneur and investor. A leader who has transformed his companies and introduced innovative products and services. Widely recognized as a pioneer and a trend-setter in many industries.

SPECIAL AWARDS CATEGORY

This is an award given for the outstanding contribution to the development of the country through dedicated work in the chosen field.

MOST ADMIRED LEADERS OF SRI LANKA 2019 CITATIONS

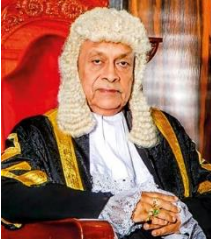


His Eminence Malcom Cardinal Ranjith
For Peace and Reconciliation

Albert Malcolm Ranjith Patabendige Don, often known simply as Malcolm Ranjith or Albert Malcolm Ranjith, is the cardinal of the Catholic Church, Sri Lanka. He is the ninth and current Archbishop of Colombo, serving since 2009. He was elevated to the cardinalate in 2010.

The Cardinal has repeatedly emphasized the importance of all Sri Lankans joining together irrespective of differences, to provide harmony and peace. After the Easter Sunday terrorist attacks the Cardinal said very strongly "We all should get-together to ensure that these incidents do not in any way damage the harmony and peace that exists between us: Christians, Buddhists, Hindus and Muslims." Statements by Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith contributed directly to unify all religions, including even non-believers. He also courageously confronted the extremist elements.

The Cardinal always emphasises God's mercy, concern for the poor and commitment to inter-faith dialogue. Based on his firm ideology and moral principles, the conduct of Cardinal Ranjith after the Easter Sunday tragedy and its aftermath made a major contribution towards avoiding further violence in the country. While wishing to condemn this act in the strongest possible terms, he asked all Sri Lankans not to take the law in to their hands but help maintain peace and harmony in this country.



Desabandu Karu Jayasuriya For Statesmanship

Desabandu Karu Jayasuriya, MP is a Sri Lankan politician and statesman. He is the current Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka. Previously he was Mayor of Colombo from 1997 to 1999, Minister of Power and Energy from 2001 to 2004, Minister of Public Administration and Home Affairs from 2007 to 2008, and Minister of Buddha Sasana, Public Administration, and Democratic Governance in 2015. He has served as Chairman of the Leadership Council of the United National Party (UNP), as well as Deputy Leader of the UNP. He is a Member of Parliament and has represented the Gampaha District from 2001. He had served as Sri Lanka's Ambassador to Germany. As Speaker of Parliament, he also acts as Chairman of the Constitutional Council.

He has done his duty by the country and that does not need any third party to document, as his record is public and speaks for itself. People know his invaluable service both as a philanthropist and socially conscious national leader. However, history will remember him not for his awards but for his role in shaping the history of the country in which he played a crucial, and arguably a statesman's role which redefined the course of history during the constitutional crisis of October 2018. His firm intervention prevented a disaster that could have had long term repercussions on the democracy of the country and the future of the nation. During the period of near anarchy that ensued, most functions of government stood still, but Mr Jayasuriya stood by parliamentary traditions, democracy and by the nation and made sure that democracy was preserved.

Mr. Jayasuriya's audacious, daring and fearless role he played during the chaos and uncertainty that followed the Constitutional Crisis in spite of personal insults, vilifications and also threats of bodily harm, defined not only the final outcome but also the leader he is.



Desamanya D.H.S Jayawardena For Entrepreneurship

Don Harold Stassen Jayawardena, widely known as Harry Jayawardena, is a Sri Lankan business magnate and investor. He is currently chairman of Melstacorp PLC, Distilleries Company of Sri Lanka PLC, Lanka Bell and Aitken Spence PLC. Jayawardena is also the Honorary Consul General for Denmark in Sri Lanka. Mr. Harry Jayawardene started his career in the tea business working for the government organization involved in the buying and exporting of tea. Over the years he has demonstrated that he is not afraid to take risks when buying a business. He is not afraid to put his money down whether it be the government owned farms both in Ambewala and Pattipola, or the government owned Milk Powder Company or the monolithic Insurance Corporation of Sri Lanka. He took all of them in his stride and made them buzz.

The secret of his success is that he knew what was going on in every business of his. He did not delegate in the way experts say you should. Today he is one of the foremost businessmen in Sri Lanka, with hardly any failure in his career. Certainly in that respect, he is unmatched. Harry Jayawardena was bestowed the Knight Cross of Dannebrog, the Danish version of the British Knighthood, by the Queen of Denmark, Margrethe II. Harry Jayawardena is currently the Consul General in Colombo for Denmark.



Mr Dhammika Perera For Innovative and Bold Investments

His beginnings were humble and different to many other business leaders. He started life as an apprentice and has risen to be the major shareholder of some of the largest conglomerates in the country. What does he owe his success to? He owes his success to, the fact that, while he gives the impression of being an unlearned city businessman, he has studied every subject in which he has been involved. He has information at his fingertips and is able to argue with top economists and statisticians, taking them on their own terms.

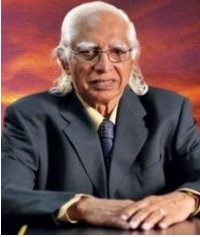
He is quick to identify an opportunity regardless of the economic environment. His strength is numbers, where any company that fits his business model would soon be moulded into success. Many of his acquisitions have been successes and his reach has spread across many sectors. He has a wealth of knowledge on many subjects and the very fact that he has turned around so many businesses which he has put his hand to – those businesses are individually at the top rung of their category, which is a great tribute to this man.

Dhammika Perera concurrently holds several other positions in both private and public sector. These include, Vallibel Finance PLC, Vallibel Power Erathna PLC, The Fortress Resorts PLC, The Queensbury Leisure Ltd and Delmege Limited; Co Chairman of Hayleys PLC, Royal Ceramics Lanka PLC, Horana Plantations PLC, Lanka Ceramic PLC and LB Finance PLC. He is on the boards of Amaya Leisure PLC, Haycarb PLC, Hayleys MGT Knitting Mills PLC, The Kingsbury PLC, Dipped Products PLC, and Lanka Floortiles PLC.

Dhammika Perera was a former Chairman of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Chairman of The Queensbury Leisure Ltd., Chairman for Hayleys Agriculture Holdings Ltd., Non-Executive Chairman of Sampath Bank PLC and a Former Secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Highways.

Having studied at the Taxila Central College, Horana; Perera enrolled in the National Diploma in Technology (NDT) program at the Institute of Technology, University of Moratuwa before dropping out later to pursue his business interests. He is undeniably and incontestably the epitome of a self-made man.

Dhammika Perera currently advocates very strongly for the Sri Lanka's private sector to take the lead in adopting Artificial Intelligence (AI) to drive future economic growth in the country.



Mr Chandra Schaffter Special Award

The founder of Janashakthi Insurance Mr. Chandra Schaffter, is fondly referred to as the 'Father of Insurance in Sri Lanka' due to his immense contribution to the local Insurance industry. He started his career as a clerk at Ceylon Insurance Co. Ltd in 1952 and later qualified as an Associate member of the Chartered Insurance Institute.

In 1979, he was the only individual who was appointed as a principal agent of the National Insurance Corporation. At the age of 64, he established the company that is today known as Janashakthi Insurance PLC.

His unparalleled contribution to the insurance industry is also seen through his service in many industry forums. He has served as President of the Insurance Association of Sri Lanka and as the representative for Insurance at the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce. He was feted with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012 at the 16th Asia Industry Awards. In 2015 he was also awarded LMD's Lifetime Achievement Award.

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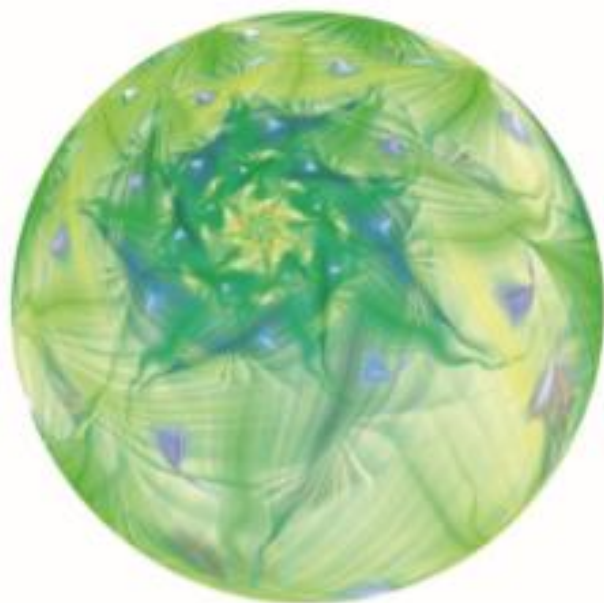
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