Issue 02 | Covering July 2026 News

DPR INVESTMENT CONSULTANTS

The gateway to invest in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka Investment & Business News Digest

Monthly intelligence-style newsletter for business communities, embassies, chambers of commerce, trade delegations and investors interested in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka Records Major Improvement in Investor Relations and Debt Transparency

Sri Lanka was ranked fourth among the world's fastest-improving countries in the 2026 Institute of International Finance Investor Relations and Debt Transparency Report, marking an important achievement for the country's investment environment. Sri Lanka's Investor Relations Country Score increased from 37.33 out of 50 in 2025 to 43.67 in 2026, placing the country within the top quartile of the 57 emerging and developing economies assessed. The report recognised Sri Lanka's progress in strengthening communication with investors, improving the disclosure of public-debt information and enhancing transparency relating to public finances. Sri Lanka also demonstrated progress in Environmental, Social and Governance data and policy disclosures, enabling international investors to make more informed investment decisions. These improvements contribute towards rebuilding international investor confidence and strengthening Sri Lanka's reputation as a more transparent and investor-friendly economy.

4th
Fourth-fastest improvement globally

43.67
Investor Relations Score in 2026

Top Quartile
Among 57 emerging and developing economies

Debt Transparency
Greater public-debt disclosure

ESG Progress
Progress in ESG-related disclosures

Key Highlights

- Fourth-fastest improvement globally
- Investor Relations Score increased to 43.67
- Greater public-debt transparency
- Improved communication with investors
- Progress in ESG-related disclosures

Investment Climate | Major Investments | New Opportunities | Business Engagement | Policy & Tax | Emerging Sectors

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Published in the first week of every month

MAJOR INVESTMENTS & DEVELOPMENTS

PORT CITY

Port City Colombo secures US$300 million FDI commitment

Port City Colombo secured a foreign direct investment commitment of US$300 million, reinforcing its position as one of Sri Lanka's most significant investment destinations. The development is expected to attract multinational corporations, financial institutions, technology companies and international service providers seeking strategic access to Sri Lanka and the wider South Asian market. The commitment supports the continued positioning of Port City Colombo as a regional centre for financial services, technology, innovation and international business operations.

Photo: Port City Colombo *Source: Port City Colombo*

INVESTOR INTEREST

UAE leads foreign investor interest in Port City Colombo

Investors from the United Arab Emirates accounted for 19% of foreign investor interest in Port City Colombo. Singapore, China and the United Kingdom each represented 13%, demonstrating diversified international interest in Sri Lanka's Special Economic Zone. The figures also indicate growing potential to attract additional capital from India and the wider South Asian region.

Photo: Port City Colombo / investor outreach *Source: Port City Colombo, July 2026*

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Twenty-three industrial projects approved across regional estates

The Cabinet approved the allocation of land in 13 regional industrial estates to 23 selected investors under 35-year lease arrangements. The projects represent an estimated investment of LKR 2.81 billion and are expected to create approximately 870 direct employment opportunities. The approvals reflect the Government's continued focus on regional industrialisation, job creation and the expansion of manufacturing activity outside Colombo.

Photo: Industrial estate / official project image *Source: Cabinet Decisions, 27 July 2026*

Monthly observation

July's major investment stories reflected continued interest in Sri Lanka's flagship investment zones and regional industrial development. Together, these developments reinforce the country's efforts to attract capital, generate employment and strengthen investor confidence.

NEW INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

TOURISM

Tourism projects at five state-owned properties

The Cabinet approved inviting investment proposals to develop former President's Houses in Bentota, Kataragama, Mahiyanganaya, Embilipitiya and Anuradhapura. The properties are expected to be offered under long-term lease arrangements for tourism-related development projects. The initiative may create opportunities for boutique resorts, wellness developments, heritage tourism projects and other hospitality ventures. Formal requests for proposals and detailed conditions are expected to be issued separately.

Photo: State property / tourism development reference

Source: Cabinet Decisions, 27 July 2026

ENERGY

Battery Energy Storage System investment opportunity announced

A global investment opportunity was announced for Battery Energy Storage System projects in Sri Lanka. The opportunity is relevant to international energy developers, technology suppliers, financiers and strategic investors. Battery storage can help support renewable-energy expansion, improve grid stability and facilitate the effective use of electricity generated through solar and wind projects.

Photo: Energy project reference

Source: BOI Sri Lanka investment opportunity notice, 9 July 2026

REAL ESTATE

Investors invited for Dematagoda mixed-development project

Local and international investors and developers were invited to submit proposals for a mixed-development project on Urban Development Authority-owned land in Dematagoda, Colombo 09. The project may include commercial, residential and other approved developments, providing access to transport links, commercial centres and a substantial urban market. The location offers strong potential for a landmark city development.

Photo: Urban Development Authority / development reference

Source: UDA / BOI investment opportunity notice, 7 July 2026

Why it matters

These July opportunities show continued momentum in tourism, energy and urban development. For investors, they signal both immediate project openings and a broader pipeline of sectoral opportunities in Sri Lanka.

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT

INDIA

Indian export delegation explores trade opportunities

A 31-member delegation led by the Federation of Indian Export Organisations visited Sri Lanka from 8 to 10 July 2026. The delegation represented pharmaceuticals, engineering products, apparel and textiles, food and agricultural products, and infrastructure. Delegates engaged in business-to-business sessions with Sri Lankan counterparts to explore new trade and collaboration opportunities.

Photo: Federation of Indian Export Organisations / visit coverage

Source: FIEO visit reporting, July 2026

INDIA

Indian Chamber delegation strengthens commercial partnerships

A 30-member delegation from the Indian Chamber of Commerce visited Sri Lanka in late July. A networking session was held on 28 July 2026 at Hilton Colombo Residences in collaboration with the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and the Indo-Lanka Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The visit focused on trade, investment and cross-border commercial partnerships across multiple sectors.

Photo: The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce

Source: The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, 28 July 2026

RUSSIA

Russian construction delegation explores infrastructure cooperation

A high-level delegation from Russia's National Association of Builders visited Sri Lanka from 22 to 25 July 2026. The delegation *included senior representatives and technical experts from Russian construction companies. Discussions focused on construction, infrastructure, urban development, hotel projects, tourism infrastructure and employment opportunities for Sri Lankan construction professionals.*

Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka, July 2026

BUSINESS COUNCIL

Sri Lanka–China Business Council celebrates 25 years

The Sri Lanka–China Business Council celebrated its 25th anniversary at Shangri-La Colombo, recognising its role in strengthening trade, investment and commercial cooperation between Sri Lanka and China. The Council also held its AGM and elected its Executive Council for 2026/2027, with DPR Investment Consultants (Pvt) Limited elected as a member of the Executive Council.

Photo: Sri Lanka–China Business Council

Source: Sri Lanka–China Business Council / Ceylon Chamber, July 2026

Monthly observation: July's international business engagements reflected strong regional and bilateral interest in trade, investment and sector-specific collaboration with Sri Lanka.

POLICY, EVENTS & EMERGING SECTORS

SUMMIT

Sri Lanka Economic & Investment Summit 2026 opens registrations

The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce opened registrations for the Sri Lanka Economic & Investment Summit 2026, scheduled to be held on 12 and 13 October 2026 at Shangri-La Colombo.

The Summit will be held under the theme, 'Positioning Sri Lanka in a Changing Global Economy: Resilience, Reform, and the Future of Economic Policy.' It is expected to bring together policymakers, investors, business leaders, government institutions and industry representatives to discuss Sri Lanka's economic reforms, investment opportunities and future competitiveness.

Photo: The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce

Source: The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, July 2026

TAX POLICY

India and Sri Lanka amend Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement

India amended its Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement with Sri Lanka by introducing additional anti-avoidance and tax-transparency provisions. The amended protocol entered into force on 19 June 2026 and will apply in India to income derived from 1 April 2027. The Principal Purpose Test is among the key features of the amendment.

Photo: Treaty / policy reference

Source: India–Sri Lanka DTAA amendment reporting, 2026

DIGITAL ECONOMY

Sri Lanka seeks to become a regional AI infrastructure hub

Sri Lanka announced its ambition to attract investment in artificial intelligence infrastructure, data centres, cloud computing and advanced digital technologies. The country aims to leverage its strategic location, submarine cable connectivity and renewable-energy potential to support regional digital services.

Photo: Digital infrastructure reference

Source: Digital economy / AI infrastructure reporting, July 2026

CULINARY TOURISM

Sri Lanka recognised as a leading culinary destination

Sri Lanka was recognised among the world's top 50 culinary destinations for 2026, highlighting its traditional cuisine, indigenous ingredients, seafood, street food and regional culinary experiences. This strengthens the country's attractiveness for hospitality, tourism and food-sector investment.

Photo: Culinary tourism reference

Source: Travel and tourism destination reporting, 2026

MEDICAL TOURISM

Sri Lanka ranked among top medical tourism destinations

Sri Lanka secured 49th place among the world's top 50 medical tourism destinations for 2026. The recognition reflects the country's affordable healthcare, qualified medical professionals, modern private hospitals, Ayurveda, wellness services and attractive recovery destinations.

Photo: Medical tourism reference

Source: Travel and tourism destination reporting, 2026

About the Publisher

DPR Investment Consultants (Pvt) Limited publishes DPR Business News as a compact business and investment news digest for embassies, chambers, business councils, trade delegations, corporate contacts and overseas business communities.

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Selected Source References: The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce | DPR City Colombo | Cabinet Decisions | Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka | BOI Sri Lanka | UDA | India–Sri Lanka DTAA reporting | Travel and tourism destination reporting