



NEWSLINE

Daily by Faraz



“Questioning
The Answers”



A GENTLEMAN. A LEADER. A LEGACY.

UPALI DHARMADASA

1952 – 2026

Upali Dharmadasa passes away at 74

The former Chief of Sri Lanka Cricket on multiple occasions and respected cricket administrator passed away yesterday, leaving behind a reputation built on decency, integrity and an abiding love for the game.

“CRICKET IS
THE NOBLE GAME.”

Whenever we met, Upali would remind me of something he believed with quiet conviction.

A leading figure within the Nawaloka Group, he carried forward the legacy of his father, Deshamanya H. K. Dharmadasa, and helped shape both corporate Sri Lanka and the country's most cherished sport.



CRICKET ADMINISTRATOR

Served Sri Lanka Cricket with integrity and dignity through periods of challenge and change.



BUSINESS LEADER

Guided the Nawaloka Group, expanding its presence across multiple sectors.



A MAN OF VALUES

Known for courtesy, humility and an unwavering belief in the noble game.



Upali will be returning home today around **5:30 pm** & the funeral will be from there on Wednesday **29th July 2026.**

SRI LANKA HAS LOST A LEADER.
WE HAVE LOST A GENTLEMAN.

Be that as it may.



NAWALOKA
GROUP OF COMPANIES



*Fish Head Curry
by Upali's
by Nawaloka*





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ATTACK ON WILDLIFE...

The arrests are therefore only the beginning. Investigators must establish what prompted the confrontation, whether the officers were acting within the scope of a lawful operation and whether the alleged attackers were linked to a wider illegal enterprise. The public must also be told whether firearms or other weapons were used and whether any officer sustained serious injuries.



There must be no attempt to reduce the matter to a misunderstanding if the evidence suggests an organised assault.

Sri Lanka has enacted enough laws to protect forests, reserves and endangered species. Its recurring failure is enforcement.

Those who profit from environmental destruction frequently calculate that penalties will be delayed, weakened or avoided altogether. Attacking officers may simply be another method of forcing the State to retreat.

That cannot be permitted.

A country which cannot protect the men and women enforcing its environmental laws will eventually discover that it cannot protect the environment either.

DENGUE REMAINS SRI LANKA'S MOST PERSISTENT PUBLIC HEALTH BATTLE

While public attention continues to be drawn to politics, the economy and international affairs, another battle is quietly being fought in hospital wards across Sri Lanka. It is the battle against dengue, and despite years of public awareness campaigns, the disease continues to expose the country's vulnerability.

Health officials report that thousands of cases have already been recorded this year, with the Western Province once again accounting for a significant proportion. Children remain among the most vulnerable, although adults too continue to require hospitalisation as recurring outbreaks place increasing pressure on already stretched healthcare facilities.

The challenge is not simply medical. It is behavioural.

Every year authorities undertake islandwide clean-up campaigns, inspect homes and institutions, issue warnings and prosecute those who allow mosquito breeding sites to develop. Yet, with each spell of rain, discarded containers, blocked drains, neglected construction sites and even household gardens become ideal breeding grounds for the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito.

Medical specialists continue to stress that early diagnosis remains the single most effective way of reducing fatalities. Persistent fever, severe headaches, pain behind the eyes and abdominal discomfort should never be ignored, particularly during periods of increased transmission.

The economic cost is also substantial. Parents lose working days while caring for sick children, businesses face staff shortages and hospitals divert valuable resources to managing seasonal surges.

The unfortunate reality is that dengue is no longer a seasonal visitor. Climate variability, urbanisation and changing rainfall patterns have made outbreaks increasingly unpredictable throughout the year.

Be that as it may, dengue remains one of the few national problems that every citizen can directly help solve. Eliminating stagnant water takes only minutes. Ignoring it can cost a life.

COLOMBO PORT FACES A NEW ERA OF REGIONAL COMPETITION

For decades, Colombo Port has enjoyed a position few regional competitors could challenge. Its location astride one of the world's busiest east-west shipping lanes made it the natural transshipment hub for South Asia.

Today, however, the competitive landscape is changing.

Major investments are flowing into ports across India, Pakistan and the Middle East. India's ambitious port modernisation programme, coupled with new deep-water facilities and expanding logistics networks, is steadily reducing its historical dependence on Colombo for container transshipment.

At the same time, Colombo itself continues to expand. The Colombo West International Terminal is expected to increase capacity significantly once fully operational, while ongoing improvements in digital logistics and cargo handling should strengthen efficiency.

Yet infrastructure alone will not guarantee success. Shipping lines increasingly demand reliability, speed, competitive tariffs and regulatory certainty. Delays in customs procedures, industrial disputes or inconsistent policy decisions can quickly erode advantages that have taken decades to establish.

Sri Lanka also faces growing competition for shipping-

related investment. Ports are no longer judged solely by the depth of their harbours or the size of their cranes. Investors examine taxation, connectivity, logistics parks, rail infrastructure and the ease of doing business before deciding where to base regional operations.

The Port of Colombo remains one of the country's greatest economic assets. It supports thousands of jobs and contributes substantially to foreign exchange earnings.

Its future therefore extends beyond the Sri Lanka Ports Authority or terminal operators. It is closely linked to the country's broader economic competitiveness.

Be that as it may, geography gave Colombo its opportunity. Whether it retains its leadership will depend upon governance, efficiency and the willingness to adapt to an increasingly competitive maritime world.

UPALI DHARMADASA PLAYS HIS FINAL INNINGS

Former Chief of Sri Lanka Cricket on multiple occasions and prominent businessman Upali Dharmadasa passed away at the age of 74, leaving behind a reputation built on decency, integrity and a deep affection for the game he served for many years.

Dharmadasa was a leading figure within the Nawaloka Group and played an important role in carrying forward the business legacy established by his late father, Deshamanya H. K. Dharmadasa. His responsibilities extended across several areas of corporate life, but it was cricket administration that brought him most visibly into the public eye.

He served Sri Lanka Cricket during periods when the sport was increasingly influenced by politics, commercial pressures and internal division. Through it all, he remained courteous, measured and dignified. He did not seek attention for its own sake, nor did he appear consumed by position or title.

Whenever we met, Upali would remind me of something he believed with quiet conviction: "Cricket is the noble game."

It was more than a phrase. It reflected the values he associated with cricket: honour, sportsmanship, fairness and respect. He believed the game was greater than those who temporarily occupied office and that administrators carried a responsibility to protect its character.

Those who knew him will remember an approachable man who treated people with the same courtesy regardless of rank or influence. In a public culture increasingly marked by noise and confrontation, his manner stood apart.

His remains have now returned home with the funeral scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 29 July 2026.

Sri Lanka cricket has lost a former leader, the business community has lost a respected figure and many have lost a gentleman who believed, until the end, that cricket was indeed the noble game.

Be that as it may.



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— ACROSS THE — PALK STRAITS

— FROM OUR CHENNAI DESK —



TAMIL NADU PUSHES HARDER FOR GREATER STATE AUTONOMY

The relationship between New Delhi and Chennai continues to be tested as the Tamil Nadu Government intensifies its campaign for greater autonomy on a range of constitutional, financial and educational matters.

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has repeatedly argued that India's federal structure functions best when states enjoy greater freedom in administering education, language policy, taxation and welfare programmes. The State Government has also continued to challenge several decisions of the Union Government, including aspects of the National Education Policy and the implementation of centrally sponsored schemes.

Political observers note that the dispute is no longer confined to party politics. Increasingly, it has become a debate over the balance of power between India's Union Government and its states.

The issue carries significance beyond Tamil Nadu. Several southern states have expressed concern over revenue-sharing arrangements, while others have questioned whether highly centralised decision-making adequately reflects India's diversity.

Despite the political rhetoric, cooperation between Chennai and New Delhi continues in infrastructure, industry and investment. Tamil Nadu remains one of India's strongest manufacturing states, attracting substantial domestic and international investment in automobiles, electronics, renewable energy and information technology.

For Sri Lanka, developments in Tamil Nadu deserve close attention. The state remains one of Colombo's closest economic and cultural neighbours, with growing commercial links across shipping, tourism, higher education and manufacturing.

The debate over federalism is therefore unlikely to diminish. While neither side appears willing to concede ground easily, both recognise that sustained economic growth ultimately depends upon cooperation as much as political competition.

As India's economy continues to expand, the evolving relationship between the Union Government and one of its most influential states will remain an issue watched carefully throughout South Asia.

CHENNAI STRENGTHENS ITS CLAIM AS SOUTH INDIA'S INVESTMENT CAPITAL

Chennai continues to consolidate its position as one of India's leading centres for manufacturing, technology and international investment, with new industrial projects reinforcing Tamil Nadu's reputation as one of the country's most business-friendly destinations.

The automobile industry remains a cornerstone of the state's economy, but recent years have witnessed rapid growth in electronics manufacturing, semiconductor-related industries, renewable energy and advanced engineering. Global companies continue expanding their operations across the Chennai metropolitan region and neighbouring industrial corridors.



State officials attribute the continued investment to improved infrastructure, a skilled workforce, relatively stable industrial relations and proactive engagement with international investors.

The Port of Chennai and nearby Kamarajar Port continue to play a vital role in supporting exports, while new logistics projects are intended to improve supply-chain efficiency across southern India.

For Sri Lankan businesses, Chennai's continued rise presents both opportunities and challenges. The city's expanding economy creates greater prospects for trade, logistics, professional services and tourism. At the same time, stronger industrial capacity across the Palk Strait inevitably increases regional competition for investment that might otherwise have flowed elsewhere.

Several Sri Lankan companies already maintain commercial links with Tamil Nadu,

while increasing numbers of Sri Lankan patients, students and business travellers continue to regard Chennai as their preferred destination.

Economic analysts believe Tamil Nadu's long-term strategy of combining manufacturing with technology and research is likely to strengthen its competitiveness further over the coming decade.

For Colombo, the lesson may be straightforward. Geography alone no longer guarantees investment. Consistency of policy, infrastructure, skilled labour and investor confidence increasingly determine where capital ultimately chooses to go.

TAMIL CINEMA CONTINUES TO DRIVE SOUTH INDIA'S CREATIVE ECONOMY

Tamil cinema is doing far more than entertaining audiences. It has become one of South India's most powerful economic and cultural industries, generating employment for thousands while projecting Tamil language and culture to audiences around the world.

The industry continues to attract substantial investment, with major productions increasingly combining traditional storytelling with advanced visual effects, digital production techniques and international distribution platforms.

Streaming services have further expanded the global reach of Tamil films, introducing new audiences to directors, actors and writers who were once known primarily within India.

The influence of cinema in Tamil Nadu extends well beyond the screen. Film personalities continue to shape advertising, philanthropy, social campaigns and, on occasion, politics itself. The state's political history demonstrates that cinema and public life have often been closely intertwined, with several leading political figures having first achieved prominence through the film industry.

Chennai remains the centre of this creative ecosystem. Production houses, music studios, post-production facilities and technical specialists contribute to an industry that supports a broad network of professionals ranging from writers and cinematographers to designers, technicians and digital artists.



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TAMIL CINEMA...

For Sri Lanka, Tamil cinema occupies a special place. New releases enjoy loyal audiences across the island, while cultural links between Sri Lankan Tamils and Tamil Nadu continue to be strengthened through film, music and television.



As the industry adapts to changing audience habits and growing international competition, its ability to innovate will determine its future success.

What seems certain, however, is that Tamil cinema will remain one of the region's most influential cultural exports —telling stories that resonate far beyond the borders of Tamil Nadu and continuing to shape the identity of one of India's most dynamic creative industries.

From our Chennai Desk.

Agreed. We did the Metro piece already. Let's replace it with something more political and business-focused that would genuinely interest Sri Lankan readers.

FOXCONN'S TAMIL NADU

EXPANSION REINFORCES THE STATE'S GLOBAL AMBITIONS

Tamil Nadu continues to strengthen its position as one of Asia's fastest-growing electronics manufacturing hubs, with Foxconn expanding its operations in the state as part of India's broader ambition to become a global alternative to traditional manufacturing centres.

The Taiwanese technology giant, best known as Apple's principal manufacturing partner, has invested heavily in Tamil Nadu over recent years. Its growing presence has attracted a network of component suppliers and logistics companies, creating thousands of jobs and reinforcing the state's reputation as one of India's preferred destinations for advanced manufacturing.

State officials view the expansion as validation of a long-term strategy centred on reliable infrastructure, skilled labour, industrial parks and investor-friendly policies. International manufacturers are increasingly looking beyond China to diversify production, and Tamil Nadu has emerged as one of the principal beneficiaries of that shift.

The development is being watched closely across South Asia. For countries such as Sri Lanka, the lesson extends beyond electronics. Investors increasingly seek policy consistency, efficient public administration, dependable infrastructure and certainty in regulation before committing significant capital.

Tamil Nadu's success has not come overnight. It reflects decades of investment in education, technical training and industrial planning, supported by governments of different political persuasions that broadly maintained the state's economic direction.

As global supply chains continue to evolve, Tamil Nadu appears well positioned to attract further investment in electronics, semiconductors, electric vehicles and advanced manufacturing.

For Sri Lanka, located less than an hour's flight away, the opportunities are considerable. Stronger economic integration, supply-chain partnerships and specialised services could allow both neighbours to benefit from the region's industrial growth rather than compete directly for every investment dollar.

The challenge, as always, will be ensuring that opportunity is recognised before it passes elsewhere.

CHENNAI'S START-UP ECOSYSTEM IS QUIETLY CHANGING SOUTH INDIA

While Bengaluru often dominates discussions on India's technology industry, Chennai is steadily emerging as one of the country's most dynamic centres for start-ups, innovation and deep-technology enterprises.

Supported by leading engineering universities, research institutions and a growing network of venture capital investors, Chennai has witnessed a steady rise in companies specialising in artificial intelligence, fintech, healthcare technology, electric mobility and software engineering.

Unlike some technology centres that focus primarily on digital services, Chennai has increasingly combined innovation with manufacturing. This has allowed young companies to develop products that move from design to production within the same regional ecosystem.

The Tamil Nadu Government has actively encouraged entrepreneurship through incubators, innovation grants and partnerships between universities and industry.

Several multinational corporations have also established research and development centres, creating opportunities for collaboration with local entrepreneurs.

For Sri Lankan start-ups, Chennai offers an increasingly attractive gateway to the Indian market. Geographic proximity, cultural familiarity and improving connectivity make the city an accessible destination for companies seeking partnerships, investment or market expansion.

Industry analysts believe Chennai's greatest strength lies in its diversity. Rather than relying upon a single sector, the city has developed expertise across manufacturing, healthcare, logistics, information technology and clean energy, creating a resilient innovation economy.

As India continues its rapid economic expansion, Chennai's role is likely to grow even further.

For Sri Lankan entrepreneurs looking north across the Palk Strait, the message is becoming clearer each year. Chennai is no longer simply a neighbouring city.

It is increasingly one of South Asia's most important centres for innovation, investment and enterprise.

From our Chennai Desk.

**SEMINAR ON
THE CHANGES TO SRI LANKA'S
ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING
REGIME**

Three amendments were passed by Parliament on 9 July 2026 to strengthen Sri Lanka's AML/CFT regime in line with international standards and enhance the country's framework for combating money laundering, terrorist financing, and financial crime.

Guest Speaker **Key note Speaker** **Speakers**

Joshi A. M. M. S. Nanda **Dr. Rajan K. S. S. S. S. S.** **Dr. S. C. Jayasinghe PC** **Dr. S. C. Jayasinghe PC** **Dr. S. C. Jayasinghe PC**

1. Prevention of Money Laundering Act, No. 5 of 2006 (as amended)
2. Financial Transactions Reporting Act, No. 6 of 2006 (as amended)
3. Convention on the Suppression of Terrorist Financing Act, No. 25 of 2005 (as amended)

This seminar is for: Compliance Officers of Banks, Financial Institutions, Company Directors, Company Secretaries, Lawyers, Accountants, and Auditors

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