H.E. Levan Dzhagaryan

**Ambassador** 

## **MESSAGE BY** H. E. LEVAN DZHAGARYAN, **RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR TO SRI LANKA**



H.E. Vladimir Putin, President of Russian Federation

n June 12 we celebrate one of the most important national holidays in our country - Russia Day. This date commemorates the beginning of its fundamental transformation through which it has proved once again its capability to overcome difficulties regardless of their nature.

On this day the Russian people rejoice over strong patriotic sentiments and respect for the Motherland, a country with a millennia-long history, unique legacy, and culture, which has united a multitude of peoples,

religions and languages.

Russians around the world have been going through some critical times and severe trials. But our people are meeting all challenges with dignity and honour. June 12 symbolizes a future-oriented Russia, successful development of its economy, improvement of social security, consolidation of the friendship between the peoples of the Russian Federation, strengthening of its position on the international arena as well as reminds of great victories and accomplishments of many generations of our predecessors.

The modern world is also undergoing deep transformation. The start of the Special military operation in Ukraine was a response to the blatant ignorance by the West of security concerns of Russia, and the abandonment by the West of its commitments. It is also a response to the genocide perpetrated by the Kiev regime against civilians in Donbass, including citizens of

the Russian Federation. The operation is not aimed against civilians in Ukraine. The goal is to demilitarize and denazify Ukraine, as well as bring to trial those who perpetrated numerous abominable bloody crimes. Ukraine and the Ukrainian people have been turned into an instrument of Western policy to destabilize Russia. This operation will last till all its aims, pointed by our President Vladimir Putin, are reached. Our cause is just, and we will win. No doubt.

The multipolar world means being more just and transparent. And this is one of the aims of today's struggle - struggle for the better life of our children, struggle against undermining traditional values and the entire name of family, for the better future of the whole world. Now the center of gravity of the global growth is rapidly moving towards Asia-Pacific region, including South Asia.

The Russian-Sri Lankan relations provide a good example of sincere friendship and mutual understanding that can exist between two countries. Our states have similar approaches to important foreign policy

issues. Sri Lanka supports Russia's initiatives at the UN General Assembly, including resolutions on countering the glorification of Nazism, the prevention of an arms race in outer space, backs up our efforts to promote international information security, arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation. Russia, in its turn, has always supported Sri Lanka in all international fora, particularly in the United Nations Human Rights Council. Political dialogue continues to develop

steadily between our countries. We have launched productive interaction in the UN. its specialized agencies, and institutions, as well as other multilateral organizations, including the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, where Sri Lanka has a dialogue partner status. We welcome the Sri Lanka aspirations to join BRICS where Russia is one of the founders. And, of course, we deeply appreciate its balanced

position on the Ukrainian issue despite all the pressure and efforts to incline Sri Lanka to Western side of the conflict.

Russia and Sri Lanka are expanding trade, economic, cultural, educational, humanitarian and tourism ties. Our country remains one of the major importers of Ceylon tea. Russia continues its active cooperation with Sri Lanka in the energy field. Sri Lanka has become one of the main destinations for Russian tourists. Our citizens are on the leading positions among travelers arriving to Sri Lanka for vacations.

Russian higher education is rightfully top rated worldwide for its high quality standards. Thousands of Sri Lankan citizens have got higher education in Russia and USSR throughout the last six decades. Many graduates reached significant positions in their corresponding professional areas, became high ranking officials, prominent businessmen and top level specialists in various fields. Currently, we are working on increasing the number of state-sponsored grants for Russian higher education. Long live friendship between Russia and Sri Lanka!

**Message from the** Minister of foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka Hon. M. U. M. Ali Sabry, P.C., M.P.



Hon. M. U. M. Ali Sabry, P.C., M.P. Minister of foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka I congratulate the Russian Federation's government and people on their National Day. Our two countries' friendly relations have been strengthened over time through meetings, highlevel engagements and collaboration.

Mutual respect, goodwill, and a strong sense of solidarity define our bilateral relationship. Sri Lanka and Russia have strong economic links based for trade, investment, and tourism.

In recent years, our two countries have furthered their people-to-people, cultural, technical, and educational collaboration. I am confident that the good relations between our two nations will continue to grow from strength to strength in the years to come.

### **Extracts from the Interview of the Deputy Minister of** Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation A. A. Pankin on the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Eurasian **Economic Union (EAUU) Treaty**

The EAEU is one of the most advanced integration associations in Eurasia, within which there are no customs borders between the participants, there are "four freedoms" of movement of goods, services, labor and capital, and a common internal market. Today the Union includes Russia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan

The differences between the EAEU and other regional organizations are primarily in its agenda, which is defined precisely by the Treaty on the Union, which stipulates that our association is an international organization of regional economic integration. According to the Agreement, a number of competencies of the member states have been transferred to the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) under supranational jurisdiction. This applies to foreign trade policy, customs tariff and non-tariff regulation, technical regulation and a number of other issues.

An important difference between the EAEU and other integration associations in the post-Soviet space is also the fundamental principle of consensus, on the basis of which most decisions in the Union are made. In simple terms, nothing is done without the consent of all parties, regardless of their contribution to the budget and economy of the EAEU. This, in turn, entails the ability to listen and hear each other, take into account the interests of all participants in the association and try to find compromises.

Such practices definitely benefit all EAEU member-states. From 2015 to 2023 the Union



A. A. Pankin

GDP grew from 1.6 to 2.4 trillion dollars. industrial production in the EAEU increased by 25.4%, agricultural production - by almost 30%. We proceed from the fact that a hypothetical rejection of Eurasian economic integration by someone would be contrary to their interests. In 2023, the GDP of all the countries of the Union grew. The growth rate in each economy of the "five" exceeded the global one (3.2%, according to IMF estimates) and amounted to 8.7% in Armenia, 6.2% in Kyrgyzstan, 5.1% in Kazakhstan and 3.9% in Belarus.

We managed to significantly increase the

volume of mutual trade with partners in the EAEU, while in 2015-2023 exports of domestic products increased by 2 times, and imports from the countries of the union – by 3 times, and about a quarter of goods in mutual trade are cars, vehicles and the equipment. At the same time, according to the latest data, the share of settlements in national currencies is about 90%. This statistic indicates that there is a demand for our products, they are competitive and occupy a certain niche in the partner markets.

It needs mentioning that the EAEU is, first of all, about people and for people. A fairly recent example: on May 2, the Agreement on Mutual Recognition of documents on academic degrees in the EAEU states came into force. This means in practice that an academic degree obtained in either country will be automatically recognized in the other. This norm will allow citizens of our countries to significantly save time and money when searching for and going to work, ease the bureaucratic burden on the educational authorities of the member states, increase the mobility of the population and open up new opportunities for them.

An even more vivid example of how the EAEU achievements apply to ordinary citizens is related to an area of technical regulation, namely the labeling of goods. Almost every product on the Union market has the "EAC" (Eurasian Compliance) mark, which means that this product meets the quality and safety standards

### Message from Dr. Saman Weerasinghe

the two countries while

times of need.

standing by each other in

As a proud Russian

graduate and former Sri

Russian Federation. I am

Lankan Ambassador to the

As the Former Sri Lankan Ambassador to the Russian **Federation and General Secretary** of the Sri Lanka-Russia Friendship Society, I am delighted to extend my best wishes on the occasion of the Russian National Day. This significant day commemorates the historic ratification of the Declaration of Sovereignty of the Russian Federation on June 12,1990, marking Russia's Independence from the USSR.

Throughout the years, Russia has been a steadfast ally, offering invaluable support to Sri Lanka. As the General Secretary of this esteemed society, I am dedicated to further strengthening bilateral ties between our nations. The roots of our friendship trace back to 1942 with the establishment of the Friends of the Soviet Union, which evolved into the Sri Lanka-Russia Friendship Society in 1957. Since then, the society has played a pivotal role in strengthening diplomatic relations between



Dr. Saman Weerasinghe

deeply grateful for Russia's unwavering support. From fully funded scholarships for Sri Lankan youth since 1960, to providing daily meals worth \$5 million to schoolchildren through the World Food Program, Russia's contribution to education and welfare are truly commendable.

Russian language courses offered across the country cater to various sectors, from tourism to academia, enriching cultural exchange and understanding.

I would also like to highlight the remarkable work of the Russian Center in Colombo, established through the strong bilateral relations between Russia and Sri Lanka. The

Center's Department of Information and Education offers scholarship for Sri Lankan students to pursue courses in medicine, engineering, and various other specialties at Russian universities. This department also provides valuable guidance to Sri Lankan students on higher education opportunities in Russia. Additionally, the Russian Language Institute offers language programs for all proficiency levels, from beginners onwards. The Department of Cultural Activities successfully showcases Russian culture, with the Russian School of Ballet and Dancing standing out as a thriving and expanding establishment. The Anatoly Karpov Chess Club and the music school further contribute significantly to the cultural

On this special day, I extend my warmest wishes to the President H.E. Vladimir Putin, Prime Minister Mr. Mikhail Mishustin, Foreign Minister H.E. Sergey Lavrov, the Russian Ambassador to Sri Lanka H.E Levan Dzhagaryan, and all those celebrating the Russian National Day.

#### Sri Lanka - Russia Business Council of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce



From L-R (Seated): Ms. Shamindi Kumarasinghe, Treasurer-SLRBC, Nature's Beauty Creations, Mr. Kolitha Wickremasinghe, Immediate Past President – SLRBC, SALOTA International (Pvt) Ltd, His Excellency Levan Dzhagaryan, Ambassador, Embassy of the Russian Federation in Sri Lanka, Mr. Jude Fernando, President – SLRBC, Rhino Roofing Products Limited, Mr. Buddhapriya Ramanayake, Vice President – SLRBC, Maxims Overseas Holdings (Pvt) Ltd. From L - R (Standing): Ms. Aneesha Boteju, Secretariat - SLRBC, The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, Ms. Aindeenie Ranmuthugala, Committee Member – SLRBC, Scanwell Logistics Colombo (Pvt) Ltd, Mr. Prabath Harshakumar, Vice President – SLRBC, Walkers Tours Limited, Mr. Buddhika Liyanage, Committee Member – SLRBC, Avian Technologies (Pvt) Ltd, Mr. Hiran Karunaratne, Committee Member – SLRBC, Regency Teas (Pvt) Ltd, Mr. Chamath Hettiarachchi, Committee Member – SLRBC, Millennium Teas (Pvt) Ltd, Mr. Samantha Pitiyage, Committee Member – SLRBC, Ceylon Fresh Teas (Pvt) Ltd, Mr. Niral Kadawatharatchie, Committee Member – SLRBC, Freight Links International (Pte) Ltd, Mr.

Sunith Caldera, Committee Member – SLRBC, Unitrades (Pvt) Ltd, Mr. Lasantha Welikala, Committee Member – SLRBC, Shan Teas (Pvt) Ltd, Mr. Sethpriya Dassanayake (Not Present), Committee Member – SLRBC, HVA Foods (Pvt) Ltd.

#### **Message from Jude Fernando President of the** Sri Lanka - Russia Business Council of the Ceylon **Chamber of Commerce**

On behalf of the Sri Lanka-Russia Business Council (SLRBC), I extend my warmest wishes to His Excellency Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, His Excellency Levan Dzhagaryan, Ambassador of Russia to Sri Lanka, and the citizens of the Russian Federation on the occasion of the National Day of Russia.

Established under the aegis of the Ceylon



cultural bonds that unite our two **Jude Fernando** great nations. We wish to express our sincere gratitude to the Embassy of the Russian

Chamber of Commerce in 2001, Federation in Sri Lanka and the Sri Lankan the Sri Lanka-Russia Business Embassy in Russia for their unwavering support Council (SLRBC) has spent over and cooperation. The guidance and assistance 23 years fostering the promotion provided by both Ambassadors have been of trade, investment, and tourism instrumental in our efforts to enhance bilateral between Sri Lanka and Russia. Our council is dedicated to strengthening the economic and

As we celebrate this significant day, we look forward to deepening the friendship, ties, and cooperation between Sri Lanka and Russia. We are committed to continuing our work to promote mutual prosperity and understanding for many years to come.



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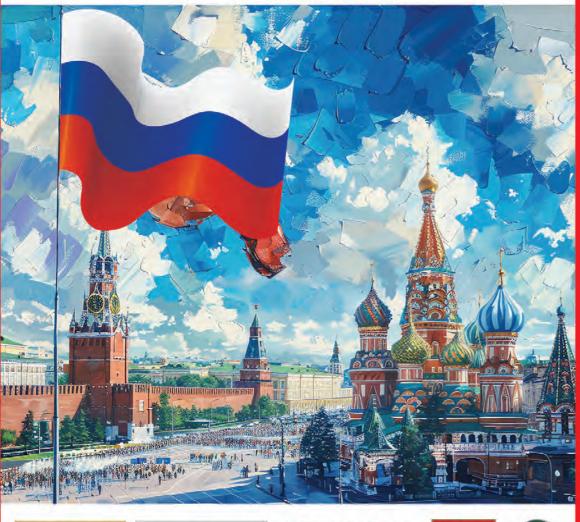


# RUSSIAN FEDERATION

ON THEIR

#### NATIONAL DAY

12TH JUNE 2024













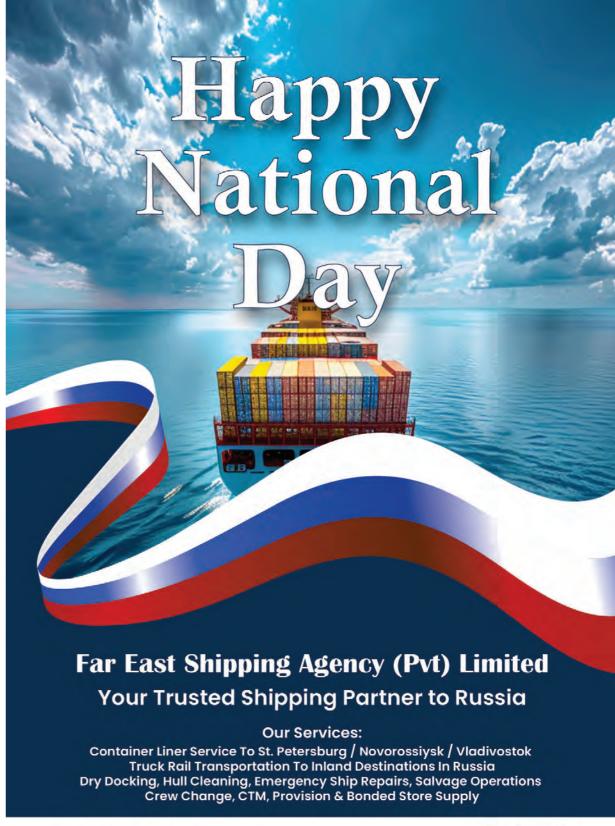




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# HAPPY RUSSIA DAY

12<sup>th</sup> June

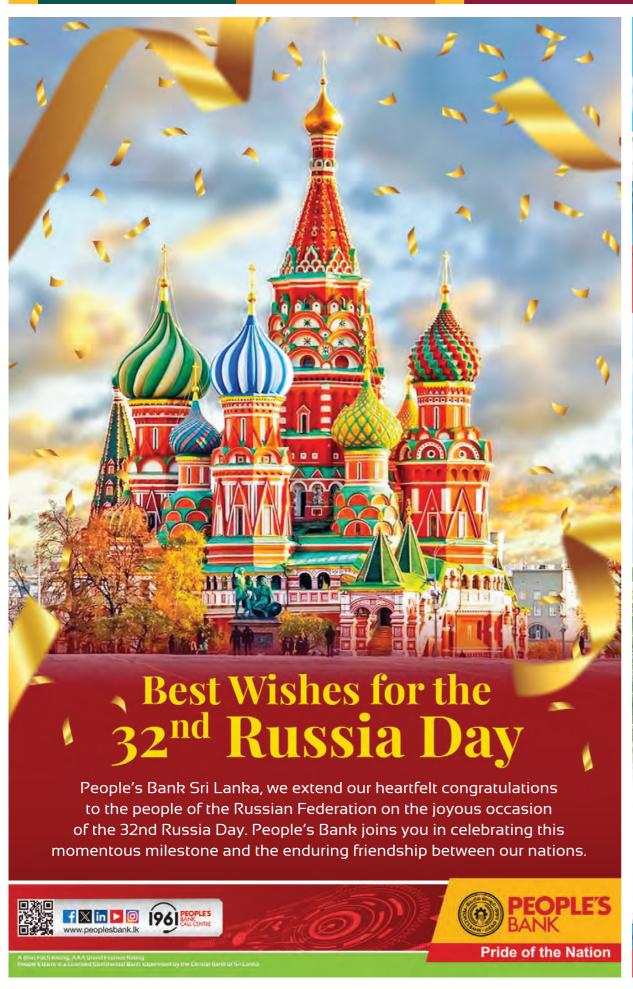
Sending you warm wishes on your Independence Day

May this day bring you peace and joy in your life!











# RUSSIA STEADILY FOLLOWING ITS WAY FORWARD

Russia is a dynamically developing country. The desintegration of the Soviet Union was followed by hard times for the people, state and economy. The terror war by extremists inspired by the Western powers was unleashed against us. Only when Mr. Vladimir Putin was elected as President, the situation began stabilizing which made possible the growth of the Russian economy and its population living standards.

Today Russia is a federative state of 89 regions – Republics (24), Krais (9), Oblasts (48), Federal Cities (3), Autonomous areas (4) and one Autonomous oblast. More than 146 mln people of 150 ethnical groups live in Russia on the vast territory of more than 17 mln sq.km. It is a secular state with Christian majority, where nevertheless the rights of all faiths' followers are secured. Throughout the centuries Muslims, Buddhists and other religions have lived peacefully with Christians. And this kind of mutually respectful

coexistence will be further carefully preserved regardless the external efforts to disrupt it.

In recent years our country has launched numerous programs aimed at rebuilding economy, infrastructure and improving living standards of ordinary people. Hundred thousand kilometers of new and reconstructed roads and railways were built to ease the transition of passengers and goods. Numerous new factories are opening each year to give people jobs and produce the needed items. The intercity and internal transport including more active use of electrobuses and suburban trains is also under development.

For hundreds of years the Kerch straight was an obstacle on the route from Cuban to Crimea. Now, under the Decree of the President, by the hard efforts of thousands citizens, this impediment is removed and the beautiful Crimean Bridge binds the banks of that straight, parts of

one indivisible country. The peninsula that finally came back to the native harbor, has direct, solid and short connection with the South of Russia. In the Russian North you can witness powerful atomic icebreakers, which pave the way for the caravans of ships passing through the North Maritime Route, the shortest sea route from the Northern Europe to China and North America.

20 percent of the Russian electricity generation (no breaks in supply and power shortages) is produced by nuclear power stations. Russia is an undisputable leader in this sphere, and there is no other country in the world with the same strong and reliable expertise in nuclear technologies.

The Russia's experience in space exploration is also unique. Our country is a leader in orbit launches. Our cosmonauts surf the outer space and carry out researches for future generations and improvement of

everyday life. We are aimed at discovering new planets' surfaces, delivering scientists to the Moon as a part of our Lunar program.

Despite the illegal western sanctions and attempts to "cancel" Russia, our industry is steadily developing. There is a significant growth in mechanical engineering, light industry, car and tractor manufacturing and some other areas. Our opponents predicted the deficit of goods and long queues of unemployed and hungry workers but our manufacturers, on the contrary, managed to increase production and thus ensure our food security.

We are a peaceful nation fully devoted to the international law. But Western countries, that see themselves as a globe hegemon, tend to take kindness for weakness. That's why – and also due to their colonialist nature – they unleashed a total

war, a genocide against Russians with the hands of a brotherly nation – Ukraine. Blatant abominable proxy war was aimed at eradicating the Russian culture and history. We had no choice but to protect our people, our children, our borders and our state. That's why the Special Military Operation in Ukraine was launched, and it will last till the fulfilment of its goals. No doubt that we will defeat the enemy!

As it was in 90s the West wants to defeat Russia and loot our heritage.

They would prefer not to see it on the map, at least that strong. But we, Russians, do need our country. And the rest of the world also does. Since it is the question of life and death, we will not allow them to implement their cruel fantasies.

Long live our Motherland – the Great Russia! Long live our people - united and free!

### Anatoly Karpov Chess Club Celebrating 25 years of excellence at the Russian House in Colombo



The Anatoly Karpov Chess Club, named after the Russian Chess Grandmaster, was brought back to life in October 1998. Ever since its launch, the island-famous chess club has been enjoying a huge popularity under the guidance of its all-time President and coach, Sri Lanka's first Chess Olympiad Gold Medallist, first Woman International Rated Player and 10 times Women's National Chess Champion, WFM Mrs. Suneetha Wijesuriya, who has raised many champions of this intellectual sport during her impressive career.

Head of the Russian House, Madam Maria Popova always emphasize the importance of chess for boosting intellect and achieving important life goals. Although this sport does not involve physical activity, it forces brain cells to move, which makes people think and calculate their steps.

Addressing the gathering at the Annual Members' Chess Tournament Mrs. Wijesuriya was thankful for the Director of the Russian House for opening a new chess class in June 2023, marking the 25th anniversary of the Club. The spacious, light-filled room is equipped with a demonstration chessboard and specialized furniture. Young chess players are attracted by the many trophies and memorable awards in beautiful display cases. The rich history of the Club is presented in photographs decorating the walls of the classroom, where more and more children eagerly come to master the game.

The coordinator for the chess club, Ms.
Komudi Pinnedoowe, always works towards



Opening the tournament, Maria Popova and Suneetha Wijesuriya played the first symbolic game, tightly surrounded by the young club members.



the aim of popularizing and uplifting the game of chess in Sri Lanka which has been evidently achieved by the Anatoly Karpov Chess club, The chess club has been able to produce some of the nation's best chess players who have shone internationally brining honour to the country under the guidance of Mrs.

Suneetha Wijesuriya, Mr. Udara Hewagama & Mr. Nishantha Withana.

More than 80 students of the Anatoly Karpov Chess Club took part in the Tournament as the competition was held for all age categories under the watchful eye of three international chess arbiters.

#### Sri Lanka – Russia Business Council of The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce

Sri Lanka-Russia Business Council: Strengthening Bilateral Trade and Investments

The Sri Lanka-Russia Business Council (SLRBC) was inaugurated on 09th August 2001, on the initiative of the then Russian Ambassador in Sri Lanka, Mr. Mikhail A. Konarovskiy and then Chairman of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Chandra Jayaratne with a primary objective to function as a promoter and facilitator of bilateral trade, investments and tourism between Sri Lanka and the Russian Federation, particularly to promote exports to Russia.

The Sri Lanka-Russia Business
Council aims to promote various sectors, particularly exports from Sri Lanka to Russia, by actively encouraging trade, tourism, and other services between the two nations. Recognizing the potential for growth, the council also seeks to attract Russian investments and foster joint business ventures between Russian and Sri Lankan investors.

To achieve these goals, the council emphasizes the exchange of vital information on trade and investment with relevant Russian bodies. It organizes joint meetings with Russian business organizations in both Sri Lanka and Russia, facilitating a platform for fruitful dialogue and collaboration. Moreover, the council acts as a representative of Sri Lanka's business sector, ensuring its interests are well-represented in matters concerning business relationships with Russia.

Furthermore, the SLRBC plays an active role in promoting Sri Lankan participation in trade fairs held in Russia, aiming to showcase the country's products

and services to a wider audience. It also collaborates closely with the Sri Lankan government, aligning its efforts with national objectives and strategies.

Recognizing the significance of partnerships, the council endeavors to establish strong links with Chambers of Commerce in Russia, fostering cooperation and synergy in pursuit of shared objectives. In line with its commitment, the council undertakes all necessary measures incidental or conducive to achieving its outlined goals.

With its comprehensive agenda and dedicated approach, the SLRBC is poised to contribute significantly to the growth of bilateral trade, investments, and tourism between Sri Lanka and Russia. By promoting mutually beneficial collaborations and facilitating meaningful interactions, the council aims to create a solid foundation for sustained economic cooperation and prosperity between the two nations.

How to Become a Member?
Individual persons, partnerships,
companies, corporations or other
organizations engaged in trade, tourism or
services with Russia, or engaged in joint
ventures with Russian organizations or
interested in entering into or promoting
trade, tourism, services or joint ventures
with Russian organizations shall be eligible
for membership of the Council.

For further details regarding membership of the Council, please contact the Secretariat of the Sri Lanka – Russia Business Council of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, No. 50, Navam Mawatha, Colombo 02. E-mail: industry@chamber.lk or Tel.: 011 5588856, 5588800.

#### A Glimpse into The Russian School of Ballet and Dancing



under the Russian House in Colombo is the foremost ballet and dance institution in Sri Lanka. established 24 years ago. Beginning with just four young girls, it has since grown and flourished remarkably. Throughout our comprehensive programs, students master classical dance, historical dance, character dance, and acting, paving the way for them to turn their passion for ballet into a professional career. The school employs the Vaganova method, a ballet technique developed by the esteemed Russian dancer and pedagogue Agrippina Vaganova, where each element of classical ballet is meticulously studied through structured lessons. In keeping up with its standards, the Russian School of Ballet conducts annual examinations that are exclusively directed under the patronage of Mrs. Oxana Karnovich of the Moscow State Academy of Choreography, Ballet critic and author. The exams are then followed by a ballet concert/



prize giving where the most outstanding students are recognized by the Russian National Ballet Academy, as encouragement to further continue their study of ballet

Under the current Head of The Russian Centre in Colombo Madam Maria Popova, the school has expanded it's territory to open another brand new ballet studio, "The Oxana" enabling us give opportunities to more students from our exciting waiting list.

The school was initiated with the support of Mr. Mikhail Ustinov-then Director of the Russian House in Colombo, and Mr. Buddhapriya Ramanayaka-Chief Executive Officer, with Mrs. Galina Pleshakova as the founding instructor. Mrs. Chandi Aluvihare, Cultural Officer of the Russian House, conceptualized and standardized the school

in 2001. Our annual concerts, presented with grandeur, gain significant attention and provide students with the opportunity to showcase their talents to proud parents. The Russian School of Ballet also conducts annual examinations, overseen by Mrs. Oxana Karnovich from the Moscow State Academy of Choreography, motivating students to achieve higher levels of proficiency.

The school is home to over a few hundred students who study classical ballet under the expert guidance of Mrs. Galina Pleshakova, Mrs. Samantha Samararathne, Mrs. Niluka Madurawala, Mrs. Radeesha Bodiyabadu, Ms. Shenaalie Dias and a team of assistant teachers including Ms. Kavishka Prematilake, Ms. Nisuri Edirisinghe, Ms. Vihini Samarasinghe, Ms. Nikini Fonseka, Ms.



Asha Fernando, Ms. Indeewara Miltaso, Ms. Vicharo Udawatte, all distinguished former students of the school. The major feature of the school apart from it's syllabus is that the school charges a very nominal fee and the opportunity given to the special children

The Russian House in Colombo takes immense pride in its unwavering commitment to bringing the finest of Russian arts and culture to Sri Lanka. With its dedication to high standards and comprehensive training, the school not only nurtures the talents of its students, but also instills a deep appreciation for the rich heritage of ballet. For those with a passion for ballet and to master its intricacies, the Russian School of Ballet and Dancing stands as an unmatched symbol of excellence. The Russian School of Ballet has initiated with the Russian Centre in Colombo many times to bring the world of Russian Ballet to Sri Lanka to showcase world renowned Russian Classical Ballet in Colombo and will be looking forward to bring another spectacular performance in Sri Lanka in near future.

#### **▼**CONTD.FROM PAGE 1

Extracts from the Interview of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation A. A. Pankin on the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAUU) Treaty

In addition to its impressive economic performance the EAEU has sufficient weight in the international arena. It is one of the economic centers of Greater Eurasia. The Union has 3 free trade agreements (FTAs) with Vietnam, Serbia and Iran, as well as 2 non-preferential agreements with China. Relevant work has been launched on the preparation of similar documents with Egypt, Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates. Negotiations on a temporary trade agreement with Mongolia have been launched.

The EEC has signed more than 80 memoranda of understanding or cooperation with various international and regional organizations, as well as Governments of third countries from Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, and the Asia-Pacific region.

Cooperation with Uzbekistan and Cuba, which received the status of an observer state at the EAEU in 2020, is being strengthened.

If we move away from official terms, I will say this: the EAEU is people. These are the people who are working to build the Eurasian economic integration, and the people for whom this is being done. And, of course, we would like the people of our countries to know and appreciate the efforts to create and improve economic processes within the framework of the EAEU.