

ADVERTISER’S SUPPLEMENT



Life Beyond the Horizon: The Story of Sri Lanka’s Seafarers

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Sri Lanka, an island at the heart of the Indian Ocean, has always been defined by the sea. For centuries, the waters surrounding the island connected it to distant civilizations, carried merchants and explorers to its shores, and shaped

the livelihoods of its people. Today, this deep maritime heritage continues through the thousands of Sri Lankan men and women who serve as seafarers across the world’s oceans. Their lives unfold far beyond the horizon, yet their contribution to the nation and to global trade is immense.

Modern seafarers are the unseen workforce behind the global economy. Nearly ninety percent of world trade moves by sea, carried by the vast network of merchant ships that connect continents and economies. On board many of these vessels are Sri Lankan seafarers, officers, engineers, and

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safely toward distant ports.

Perhaps the greatest sacrifice made by seafarers is time away from their loved ones. Months can pass before they return home. Birthdays, anniversaries, and important family milestones are often missed. Communication with family may be limited, especially during long voyages. Yet despite these challenges, Sri Lankan seafarers remain steadfast in their commitment, driven by a sense of responsibility and pride in their profession.

Seafarers today also find themselves navigating not only the forces of nature, but the uncertainties of a world marked by conflict and geopolitical tension. In times of war, merchant vessels and their crews often become unintended victims, caught in dangerous waters, facing threats to their safety, and operating under heightened risk without the protections afforded to combatants. Despite these dangers, seafarers continue to carry out their duties with remarkable courage and professionalism. They persist because global trade depends on them, and because their commitment to their livelihood and to the flow of essential goods remains unwavering. In the face of conflict, their resilience stands as a quiet testament to the strength and dedication that define the seafaring profession.

Their contribution extends far beyond the

Life at sea is unlike any other profession. Seafarers face long voyages, unpredictable weather, and the constant responsibility of maintaining the safety of their ship and crew.

ships they serve on. Through their earnings and remittances, seafarers support their families and contribute significantly to Sri Lanka’s economy. Many seafarers invest in education for their children, build homes, and uplift entire communities. In many coastal towns and villages, the success and stability of families are closely tied to the dedication of those who work at sea.

Seafarers also represent Sri Lanka across the globe. In every port they visit, they carry with them the values and character of their homeland. Their professionalism, discipline, and cooperation with multinational crews reflect the strong maritime reputation Sri Lanka has built over the years. In this way, they act as ambassadors of the nation, strengthening Sri Lanka’s presence in the international maritime community.

National Seafarers’ Day is therefore more than a symbolic celebration. It is a moment to recognize the courage, resilience, and dedication of those who spend their lives navigating the oceans. It is also an opportunity to acknowledge the families who support them and the maritime institutions that prepare them for this demanding profession.

As Sri Lanka looks toward the future, the role of its seafarers remains vital. The global shipping industry continues to evolve with new technologies, environmental responsibilities, and increasing demand for skilled maritime professionals. Sri Lanka’s seafarers, with their strong training and enduring maritime heritage, are well positioned to meet these challenges and continue contributing to the world’s maritime industry.

Beyond the vast oceans and distant ports lies the story of a profession built on courage and commitment. Sri Lanka’s seafarers live their lives beyond the horizon, yet their impact reaches home to the island they proudly represent. On National Seafarers’ Day, the nation pauses to honour these individuals whose journeys across the seas keep the wheels of global trade turning and whose dedication reflects the enduring maritime spirit of Sri Lanka.

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On the occasion of National Seafarers’ Day, Manaco Marine salutes YOU.

Manaco Marine proudly pays tribute to the dedicated Sri Lankan seafarers who conquer the world’s oceans with resilience and courage.



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