

First Capital's 'Performance First' Culture Now Certified by Great Place to Work® in Sri Lanka

The 'Performance First' work ethic embraced by First Capital Holdings PLC, a Janashakthi Group Company, received industry validation recently as it was certified as a great workplace by the independent analysts at Great Place to Work® in Sri Lanka. First Capital employees engaged in a multi-faceted anonymous survey conducted by Great Place to Work® on their workplace and provided extensive ratings based on which the company earned this valuable credential.

A nationally recognised financial

solutions provider, First Capital team members work on a foundation of shared ideas, expertise and knowledge, confident in the belief that their services truly stand out due to an exemplary work ethic that encompasses both productivity and a virtuous way of doing business. The organisation is driven by the motto 'performance first' and 'performance' is an integral part of the wider Group's values where people can look forward to a mutually rewarding career at First Capital.

"At First Capital, the entire employee life cycle is carefully



Dilshan Wirasekara - Director-CEO First Capital Holdings PLC

designed to create a rewarding career and a motivating work environment for our employees. Values are embedded in our performance culture, and employees are evaluated and rewarded annually on how they live values," stated Dilshan Wirasekara, Director / Chief Executive Officer at First Capital Holdings PLC. "The Great Place to Work® certification is an excellent testimony to the people practices that are in place at First Capital. To be recognised by Great Place to Work® as a great place to work is indeed an honour, and is a reflection of the

Management's commitments towards its people in enabling a rewarding career within the company," he added.

According to Great Place to Work®, a great workplace is one in which employees no matter who they are and what they do for the organisation are having a consistently positive experience of trusting their leaders, enjoying the people they work with, and having pride in what they do. It is an honour for the company to be recognised by their employees as an organisation that fosters respect, trust and fairness.

Cargills among the Most Admired Companies of Sri Lanka for 2nd consecutive year

Cargills is humbled to have been selected as one of the Top 10 Most Admired Companies of Sri Lanka by CIMA, ICCSL and the Daily FT, for the second consecutive year.

This recognition is a testament to the resilience of the Cargills business model in the face of the pandemic, as we continued to grow by placing the needs of the community first. Our philosophy has always been based on the belief that by focusing on community development, the balance sheet looks after itself.

Community first

As an essential service provider and a leading food company, we continued to meet the needs of the consumers during the pandemic. Our reach and impact went beyond serving our consumers. At a time when many farmers across the country were left without a marketplace, we provided a guaranteed market for thousands of farmers and supported their livelihoods. At the same time, we ensured that not a single ounce of milk went to waste as we increased our fresh milk collection rate to 180,000 liters per day.

During the 2020/21 Financial Year alone, Cargills generated direct income over Rs 9 B to the dairy and agriculture farming community in Sri Lanka. Realising the challenges faced by small entrepreneurs in the

aftermath of the first lockdown last year, we launched an initiative called 'Village to Home' in September 2020, with a vision to provide local entrepreneurs a platform to engage with a larger market. In addition to supporting them with packaging, marketing, and quality assurance, the Cargills Bank provides low-cost financing to help increase their capacity.

Supporting the economy

By sourcing most of our raw materials locally and producing value-added consumer foods that compete with global brands, Cargills plays an important role in saving foreign exchange for the country. Our food brands have become leading national brands due to our focus on quality and innovation. In spite of the challenging operating environment that prevailed during the last 18 months, Cargills continued to make investments across all business verticals and across the country.

In total, the Cargills Group made Rs 6.4 B in capital investments during the 2020/21 Financial Year. It reflects our belief in Sri Lanka and her ability to overcome the current challenges and rise again stronger as we have done before. As a leading Sri Lankan corporate, Cargills stands ready to continue our investments, impacting

community development and driving value for all stakeholders.

Our team is our strength

This recognition was only possible due to the Cargills team, who continue to serve the needs of the community even during the most challenging of times. During the pandemic, our primary duty was to protect our team and ensure their emotional, physical, and financial well-being.

In addition to providing the necessary support and building confidence of the team, we have also taken steps to ensure our team is vaccinated. Over 98% of the Cargills team which consists of over 12,000 members have been vaccinated to date.

Forward together

Our farmers and suppliers played a pivotal role in helping us meet the consumers' needs. We would like to thank them and assure that Cargills will stand by our partners at all times. Our sincere appreciation to our consumers, who continue to support and believe in us.

As one of the oldest and most trusted companies in the country with a heritage of 177 years, Cargills will continue to stay true to its core values of providing affordable nutrition and serving our communities across Sri Lanka.

Venture Engine 2021 applications to close 22 October

Sri Lanka's pioneering startup acceleration programme, Venture Engine, will soon wrap up its submissions phase, with applications set to close on 22 October 2021. This date is fast approaching, so don't miss out on the chance to participate in 2021's programme, which will help startups immensely accelerate during these unprecedented times.

Geared toward Seed and Growth stage startups that are interested in scaling, the Venture Engine programme is also open to entrepreneurs opting to submit new, early stage business ideas with huge addressable markets. Visit www.ventureengine.lk to learn more about the application process.

Founded by BOV Capital and the Indian Angel Network, Venture Engine is partnered by the Lankan Angel Network (LAN) with the Ford Foundation being the programme's Platinum Sponsor in 2021.

Held over October, November and December 2021, providing much needed support for the local startup sector during this pandemic, Venture Engine returns for its tenth year with plans to help innovative and scalable startups solve a genuine pain point.



This year's Venture Engine programme will, for the fourth time, offer up a very special Impact Entrepreneurship Award that highlights for-profit Social Enterprises. This initiative is once again being promoted by Indian Venture Capital firm Aavishkaar, a Gold Sponsor for Venture Engine 2021. Other sponsors and partners for 2021 include ICTA, SL@100, Council for Startups, SLASSCOM, HATCH, Dialog Axiata PLC, KPMG, PwC, AOD, Shift and CPP.

Following the closing of the Venture Engine 2021 application process, selected participants will go through several rounds of filtering and workshops, during which they will pitch their ideas to a panel of investors and domain experts.

NSB recognised as one of the 'Most Admired Companies of Sri Lanka'



National Savings Bank (NSB) has been recognised as one of the 10 Most Admired Companies in Sri Lanka in 2021 by the International Chamber of Commerce Sri Lanka (ICCSL), in collaboration with the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA).

Having established with the original mandate of inculcating the habit of saving among the people of Sri Lanka NSB has flourished to be one of the strongest and safest financial institutions in the country, firmly rooted in the soils and the hearts of the people of Sri Lanka. Being true to our mandate, we are committed to fostering a healthy, sustainable, and secure savings protocol for all people of the nation.

NSB is the only Sri Lankan bank with a 100% Government guarantee for its depositors' money and interest therein, thus being crowning as the safest place for savings of the people. Meanwhile, NSB holds a strong position as a bank, committed to carry out a business in a manner that positively builds the society at large by participating in nation building by funding long-term development projects, and socio-economic projects of the Government.

Navigating the troubled waters of a truly challenging year triggered by COVID-19, NSB took all possible efforts to provide an uninterrupted and continuous service for our customers while ensuring our fullest support to the Government and Health Authorities in responding to COVID-19 successfully.

Recording its highest ever profit for a period of six months with a Profit Before Tax (PBT) of Rs 13.9B and a Profit After Tax (PAT) of Rs. 11B, NSB shows strength and financial resilience in performance amidst the heightened uncertainty due to COVID-19 pandemic which has triggered a wide range of shocks on the Banking Sector and the Economy as a whole.

SDB bank – A future-ready bank that supports SMEs, empowers women and drives digitalisation

Since its inception 24 years ago, SDB bank has been continually driven by its core intention of helping people from all walks of life to stand on their feet. The bank recently unveiled an island-wide campaign, aptly themed #WhereYouAreValued, highlighting its commitment to uplift the SME sector and the community at large. Supporting Sri Lanka's small and medium enterprise (SME) sector, which plays a vital role in the country's economy and contributes 53 per cent to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), is SDB bank's core purpose, as well as the empowerment of women entrepreneurs and the realisation of digital inclusion of Sri Lanka's masses. This objective is encouraged by its big impact investors who share this common goal.

"SDB bank has surpassed several hallmark events in recent years: it set the record as Sri Lanka's first Colombo Stock Exchange-listed entity to host a fully digital rights issue and recently concluded its Secondary Public Offering (SPO) – both endeavours were successfully completed with oversubscriptions," said Head of Marketing Hasitha Samarasinghe. "These milestones, together with the elevation of the bank's operations, technology and how we serve our islandwide clientele, have fuelled SDB bank's core objective of uplifting SMEs, empowering women entrepreneurs and enabling islandwide digital inclusion," he added.

SDB bank fervently commits itself to ensure that women entrepreneurs are supported in multiple ways to get to the next level so that they could actively contribute to the economy of Sri Lanka. In addition to specialised financial products, the bank also runs mentoring programmes, workshops and other initiatives to enhance the potential of women entrepreneurs. SDB bank was recently granted a US\$ 40 million credit line from the United States International Development Finance Corporation, out of which 40 per cent will be allocated to women entrepreneurship development – a commitment which will ultimately benefit the Sri Lankan economy.

SDB bank positions itself as a future-ready bank, providing holistic, 360-degree support to its customers. Identifying, understanding and being empathetic to the needs of small to medium-scaled customers, the bank offers a range of comprehensive platforms and products to cater to their specific needs by looking at their true potential and enable them to be more competitive.

Catering to customers' ever-changing needs, it also offers a gamut of value additions, such as awareness-building programmes on various business aspects, from value chain enhancements to financial management. To elevate these knowledge-sharing initiatives, the bank partners with organisations such as CA Sri Lanka for mentorship programmes.

SDB Bank is a pioneering body that drives the journey towards digital inclusivity of the community. Working in tandem with the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) to drive LANKAQR – a highly efficient and secure payment solution launched by CBSL to digitally empower Sri Lanka – and through its own revolutionary multi-functional mobile wallet UPay app, SDB bank has empowered customers with multiple digital transaction solutions and value-added services that have taken digital technologies to the masses.

Sustainability is another key concern for SDB Bank, which strives to make the Sri Lankan economy sustainable. From simple acts such as reducing energy usage in its branches to lowering customers' commute by enabling them to enjoy all the bank's services online and via digital channels, to providing special financial solutions for alternate energy projects, the bank is a key driver of sustainability, financially and environmentally.

SDB bank distinguishes itself from the market by its core purpose, operational excellence and technology-centric growth drive. Not motivated by profits by principle, the bank is driven by its causes: supporting Sri Lanka's SMEs, empowering women entrepreneurs and taking digital technologies to the masses.

#WhereYouAreValued perfectly defines SDB bank, where every customer is valued for their potential and not their worth.

LG introduces all-new Direct View LED TV

Globally renowned South Korean brand, LG, has always introduced innovative products featuring the latest technology, with the aim of ensuring people lead comfortable and convenient lifestyles. LG has set the bar once more for innovation beyond its competitors, with an impressive product that is sure to capture the attention of all customers.

If you're looking for a gigantic TV for your home, LG has now introduced an all-new Direct View LED (DVLED) Extreme Home Cinema line that is aimed at customers who wish to experience a cinematic atmosphere in

the comfort and safety of their homes. This new design uses between two million and 33 million LED diodes to form a complete picture in customised shapes, with the ability to scale to size as a customised build.

Therefore, you can choose from a normal 81-inch to a massive 352-inch setup, according to your viewing requirement. If a gigantic screen is what you're aiming for, then the conventional 16:9 ratio is ideal; but you can also opt for 32:9 "UltraStretch" arrangements to watch multiple video sources at the same time – like live sports featuring all the teams you love and support.

8K picture quality can be obtained with 33 million diodes, but a 4K or even 2K design (in both single and dual configurations) will offer superior visual capabilities that are sure to impress everyone watching. The WebOS controller box adds on the magic, with smart TV functions for a streamlined performance.

LG promises the best and always delivers nothing but the most advanced technological advancements via products that push the limits of excellence that can be achieved. The Direct View LED line of televisions meets these expectations, and far surpasses its peers in terms of innovation and design.