



The Official Quarterly Newsletter | July, 2026

EIGHT BELLS

By: Company of Master Mariners of Sri Lanka

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EDITORIAL



Dear Members,

As we present this latest edition of our quarterly newsletter, we do so at a significant moment in the journey of the Company of Master Mariners of Sri Lanka. Following the successful conclusion of our Annual General Meeting, a new Council has assumed office, entrusted with the responsibility of guiding our esteemed organization into its next chapter.

On behalf of the membership, I extend heartfelt congratulations to the newly elected Council. Their appointment marks not only a transition of leadership but also an opportunity for renewed energy, fresh perspectives, and innovative initiatives that will further strengthen our standing Sri Lanka's premier professional maritime body. While embracing new ideas and addressing the challenges and opportunities of an evolving maritime industry, we remain firmly committed to the traditions, values, and professional excellence that have defined our Company for more than three decades.

As we look toward new beginnings, we are reminded that every voyage is built upon the foundations laid by those who sailed before us. It is therefore with deep sadness that we acknowledge the passing of two highly respected members of our fraternity, Captain Udaya Somachandra and Captain Suresh Ratnasinha. Both gentlemen served the maritime profession with distinction and embodied the professionalism, leadership, and camaraderie that our Company seeks to uphold. Their contributions to the maritime community and their unwavering support of the Company of Master Mariners of Sri Lanka will be remembered with gratitude and respect. We extend our sincere condolences to their families and loved ones. May they rest in peace, and may their legacy continue to inspire future generations of mariners.

The continued success of our Company depends on the active participation of its members. Whether through sharing professional insights, mentoring young mariners, contributing articles, or supporting our events, each member plays a vital role in sustaining the vibrant spirit of the CMMSL.

As we embark on this new term, let us move forward together with confidence, unity, and a shared commitment to advancing the interests of the maritime profession in Sri Lanka. May the months ahead bring fresh opportunities, meaningful achievements, and continued growth for our Company and its members.

Fair winds and following seas.

Rajitha Semage

Editor- CMM

DEAR DEPARTED

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

UDAYA SOMACHANDRA



A loving and very strong
husband, father and a grandfather.

 DOB 27th April 1958	 PASSED AWAY 21st May 2026
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FINAL REMAINS LIES AT HIS RESIDENT
970, KANDY ROAD, HINGULA

FUNERAL WILL BE HELD ON
23rd MAY 2026, 6PM
AT MAWANELLA CEMETRY



CAPT. UDAYA SOMACHANDRA



It is with profound sadness and a deep sense of loss that we bid farewell to Capt. Udaya Somachandra, a remarkable maritime professional, mentor, teacher, colleague, and friend whose legacy will continue to inspire generations of seafarers for years to come.

He started his career as an apprentice from Trincomalee naval maritime academy under the sponsorship of Ceylon Shipping Corporation. Started as a rating he quickly worked his way towards becoming an officer after completing his operational level studies.

Capt. Udaya was far more than an accomplished mariner. He was a guiding light to countless Sri Lankan officer cadets and aspiring seafaring officers who were fortunate enough to learn under his tutelage. Throughout his distinguished career, he dedicated himself not only to the profession he loved but also to the development of those who would follow in his wake. His passion for teaching, combined with his exceptional practical knowledge and unwavering commitment to excellence, made him one of the most respected mentors in the maritime community.

What truly set Capt. Udaya apart was his extraordinary ability to teach. His methods were effective, engaging, and deeply impactful. He possessed the rare gift of transforming complex maritime concepts into lessons that were easy to understand and impossible to forget. Many of his students often spoke of the confidence they gained through his guidance, the discipline he instilled, and the wisdom he shared both inside and outside the classroom.

Today, his influence can be found across oceans and continents. The thousands of officers and seafarers serving aboard vessels around the world, from newly qualified officers to senior masters, carry with them lessons learned from Capt. Udaya. Many owe a significant part of their professional success to his mentorship (myself included), encouragement, and belief in their potential. His teachings continue to sail with them on every voyage, serving as a lasting testament to the profound impact he had on their lives.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Capt. Udaya will be remembered for his humility, kindness, and generosity of spirit. He was always willing to share his knowledge, lend a helping hand, or offer words of encouragement. To his colleagues, he was a trusted professional and respected leader. To his friends, he was a loyal companion. To his family, he was a source of strength, pride, and love.

The maritime fraternity has lost a giant, but his legacy remains firmly anchored in the hearts and minds of all who knew him. Every officer he trained, every student he inspired, and every life he touched stands as a living tribute to his life's work.

As we mourn his passing, we also celebrate a life exceptionally well lived—a life devoted to service, learning, teaching, and uplifting others. The countless seafarers navigating the world's oceans today are, in many ways, a reflection of his dedication and influence.

Capt. Udaya Somachandra may no longer be with us in person, but his teachings, values, and spirit will continue to guide mariners across every sea. He leaves behind a legacy that cannot be measured in miles sailed or years served, but in the many lives he shaped and the enduring respect and affection he earned.

Fair winds and following seas, Capt. Udaya. Your voyage may have reached its final port, but your legacy will continue to sail the oceans of the world through the many seafarers whose lives you helped shape. You will be deeply missed and forever remembered by your colleagues, friends, family, and the entire maritime community.

Rajitha Semage

DEAR DEPARTED

REST IN PEACE



Capt S.K. Ratnasinha
1962 - 2026

With deep sadness, we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father, and grandfather, Captain Suresh Kumara Ratnasinha, who departed this life on 14 March 2026.

A respected leader, a proud family man, and a person who touched and helped many throughout his life. He carried himself with dignity and earned the love and respect of all who knew him. His memory and legacy will forever live in our hearts.

Lovingly remembered by his wife, children, and grandsons.

Viewing
21 March 2026 | 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
The Respect by Jayaratne, Borella

Cremation
Borella Cemetery (Kanatte General Cemetery), Colombo

35TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 35th Annual General Meeting of the Company of Master Mariners of Sri Lanka (CMM) was held at the picturesque Hikka Tranz by Cinnamon, Hikkaduwa, on 27 July 2026, bringing together a distinguished gathering of Master Mariners, maritime professionals, and their families from across the country.

The event was marked by strong camaraderie, fellowship, and a shared commitment to the advancement of the maritime profession. The formal proceedings of the Annual General Meeting provided an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the past year, recognize the valuable contributions of members, and chart the course for the future of the CMM.

Beyond the official agenda, the gathering served as a wonderful occasion for members and their families to reconnect, renew friendships, and celebrate the enduring bonds that unite the maritime community. The evening was filled with laughter, storytelling, and fond memories as generations of mariners came together in a relaxed and convivial atmosphere.

The celebrations continued well into the night, reflecting the vibrant spirit and close-knit fellowship that have long been hallmarks of the Company of Master Mariners. The event was a resounding success, leaving attendees with cherished memories and reaffirming the strength and unity of Sri Lanka's maritime fraternity.

As the CMM moves forward, the 35th Annual General Meeting will be remembered not only for its achievements and recognition of service but also for the warmth, camaraderie, and sense of belonging shared by all who attended.



NEW COUNCIL

- President: Capt. Upul Peiris
- Vice President: Capt. Mahendra Ranatunge
- Vice President: Capt. Hemantha Madanayake
- Secretary: Capt. Lasith Anythony De Silva
- Asst. Secretary: Capt. Sumudu Lakmal
- Treasurer: Capt. Ishan Kodithuwakku
- Asst. Treasurer: Capt. Sanjeewa Delgoda
- Editor: Capt. Rajitha Semage
- Immediate Past President: Capt. Lasitha Cumaratunga
- Shore Member: Capt. Lakshi Wasantha
- Shore Member: Capt. Miyuru Gunasekara
- Shore Member: Capt. Chamil Wijewardena
- Shore Member: Capt. Sanjeewa Usgodarachchi
- Shore Member: Capt. Sunil Jayaweera
- Sailing Member: Capt. Janaka Mathalawa
- Sailing Member: Capt. Sumudu Dodampalage
- Sailing Member: Capt. Nishantha Hettiarachchi
- Sailing Member: Capt. Jagath Atapattu



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As we assume office for the forthcoming term, the maritime industry finds itself in a period of unprecedented transformation. The global maritime landscape is being reshaped by rapid technological advancements, the drive towards the IMO's 2050 decarbonisation goals, evolving geopolitical realities, and emerging challenges across the maritime sector. As the newly elected office bearers of the Company of Master Mariners of Sri Lanka (CMMSL), we have a responsibility to ensure that our organisation remains at the forefront of these developments and continues to provide leadership and guidance to the maritime community.

During our tenure, my team and I will focus our efforts on three key pillars:

1. Professional Development and Networking

We will concentrate on critical thematic areas including the green transition, the blue economy, marine spatial planning, digitalisation of the shipping sector, maritime security, and the protection of undersea infrastructure. To support these priorities, we will organise a range of seminars, workshops, technical discussions, and professional programmes for members, seafarers, and cadets. These initiatives will not only enhance knowledge and professional competence but also create valuable networking opportunities. Through stronger engagement and collaboration, we aim to build meaningful partnerships within the maritime industry, both locally and internationally.

2. Elevating Sri Lankan Seafarers and Nautical Standards

The CMMSL will continue to be a strong advocate for the professional welfare, continuous development, and global competitiveness of Sri Lankan seafarers. Sri Lanka has long been recognised for producing highly skilled and resilient maritime professionals, and it is our responsibility to uphold and enhance this reputation.

We will actively promote mentoring programmes that connect cadets and young officers with experienced masters and senior maritime professionals, helping to bridge generational gaps and ensure the transfer of knowledge, skills, and leadership values essential for the future of our profession.

3. Advocacy and Representation

As a member of the Organisation of Professional Associations of Sri Lanka (OPA), the CMMSL remains an independent and non-partisan body of maritime professionals committed to serving the national interest.

We will continue to offer our technical expertise and professional insights to government authorities and other stakeholders on matters affecting the maritime sector. At the same time, we will maintain a strong and active presence within the OPA, advocating for issues of importance to the maritime industry and contributing constructively to national dialogue and policy development.

With the support of an experienced and highly capable Council, I am confident that we will advance the mission and values of the CMMSL. Our aim is to strengthen the Company as a dynamic and respected professional institution—one that effectively represents its membership while attracting and inspiring the next generation of Master Mariners to participate actively in its future.

The strength of the CMMSL does not rest with its President or Council alone. It lies in the collective wisdom, experience, and commitment of our more than 400 members. As Master Mariners, we understand that challenges are inevitable; however, we are equally accustomed to navigating uncertainty, adapting to changing conditions, and steering a steady course towards our destination.

I look forward to working closely with each of you in the years ahead. Together, let us embrace the opportunities and challenges before us and continue building a vibrant, resilient, and forward-looking organisation that serves both its members and the wider maritime community with distinction.

Capt. Upul Peiris

President

Company Of Master Mariners- Sri Lanka

AGM- HIGHLIGHTS



AGM- HIGHLIGHTS



CAPT. NIRMAL SILVA

The Company of Master Mariners of Sri Lanka was privileged to honour Capt. Nirmal Silva at its recent Annual General Meeting in recognition of his remarkable 25 years of dedicated service as a Council Member. This milestone stands as a testament not only to his unwavering commitment to the Company but also to his enduring passion for the advancement of the maritime profession in Sri Lanka.

Over the course of a quarter century, Capt. Nirmal Silva has been an integral part of the CMM, serving in numerous capacities and undertaking various responsibilities with distinction. Regardless of the position he held, his focus remained constant—working tirelessly for the betterment and growth of the Company of Master Mariners and the maritime community it represents.

What makes his contribution even more extraordinary is that it was made alongside the immense responsibilities of his professional career, particularly in his role as the Harbour Master of Sri Lanka. Despite the demands and pressures of such a significant national appointment, Capt. Nirmal always found time to support the affairs of the CMM. His commitment never wavered, and his willingness to contribute his expertise, guidance, and leadership was greatly appreciated by all who had the privilege of serving alongside him.

Beyond his accomplishments and service, Capt. Nirmal is perhaps best known for the qualities that endeared him to colleagues and friends alike—his ever-present smile, his positive outlook, and his approachable nature. His optimism was infectious, and his calm, constructive attitude often helped navigate challenges and bring people together. Over the years, these attributes became synonymous with his presence within the Council and contributed significantly to the camaraderie and spirit that characterize the CMM.

His influence extends far beyond the meetings he attended or the positions he held. Through his wisdom, professionalism, and dedication, he helped shape the direction of the CMM and strengthened its standing within the maritime fraternity. His contributions have left an indelible mark that will continue to benefit the organization for many years to come.

As Capt. Nirmal steps away from the Council, he does so with the gratitude, admiration, and respect of his fellow members. While his physical presence in Council deliberations will undoubtedly be missed, the legacy of his service will continue to resonate through the work of the Company and its future leaders. The foundations he helped build, the standards he helped uphold, and the values he embodied will remain an enduring part of the CMM's identity.

On behalf of the Company of Master Mariners of Sri Lanka, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to Capt. Nirmal Silva for his exceptional 25 years of service. His dedication, leadership, and friendship have enriched the organization immeasurably, and his name will forever be associated with the growth, strength, and success of the CMM.

Thank you, Capt. Nirmal Silva, for your remarkable service, your steadfast commitment, and the positive spirit you brought to every endeavour. Though you leave the Council, your legacy will remain an integral part of the Company of Master Mariners of Sri Lanka, inspiring future generations to serve with the same dedication, integrity, and passion that you have exemplified throughout the past twenty-five years.

Dear Sir,

Though you might not be in the council, looking forward to having you in all the events of CMM in the future!!

CAPT. NIRMAL SILVA



CMM IN SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media continues to be a powerful platform in today's world, and at the CMM, we have decided to elevate our social media campaign to the next level for the benefit of both our current members and future members.

This initiative will not only provide greater engagement and accessibility for our membership but also position CMM on a broader public platform. Through this increased presence, we aim to enhance awareness, promote visibility, and showcase the importance of the maritime industry within Sri Lanka.

So, come on board and stay connected with us by following our social media channels on Facebook and LinkedIn.



FLASHBACK TO LAST QTR

The Company of Master Mariners Sri Lanka successfully held its annual Members' Get-Together on 26 April 2026 at the picturesque Saffron Beach Resort. The event brought together members and their families for a memorable day of fellowship, camaraderie, and friendly competition.

The programme featured an exciting cricket match, a lively karaoke competition, and a variety of entertaining games that kept participants engaged throughout the day. The enthusiasm and sportsmanship displayed by members added to the vibrant atmosphere, while the activities provided an excellent opportunity for members to reconnect, strengthen friendships.

The event concluded on a high note, with participants leaving with cherished memories and renewed bonds of fellowship. The Company extends its sincere appreciation to all members, families, and organizers whose enthusiastic participation and support made the gathering a resounding success. We look forward to many more occasions that continue to strengthen the spirit of our maritime community.



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FEED BACK

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Company of Master Mariners Sri Lanka is published for our members, and your feedback is invaluable in helping us make each edition more informative, engaging, and relevant.

We warmly invite you to share your comments, suggestions, articles, photographs, or ideas for future editions. Your contributions will help us continue to strengthen our maritime community and ensure the newsletter reflects the interests and achievements of our membership.

Please send your feedback to the Newsletter Editor, Capt. Rajitha Semage, on +94773177143. We look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your continued support.



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