

A CELEBRATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND CULTURE

COLOMBO INTERNATIONAL
BOOK FAIR 2026

📍 Sri Lanka



Over a quarter of a century, the Colombo International Book Fair (CIBF) has evolved into Sri Lanka's most anticipated cultural and literary event, drawing passionate readers, seasoned writers, creative illustrators, pioneering publishers, and the general public into a single, vibrant space that celebrates the written word.



A LEGACY OF 25 YEARS

In 2024, the Colombo International Book Fair marked its 25th anniversary with a silver-jubilee edition that paid tribute to the initiators and past presidents who first envisioned a dedicated stage for Sri Lanka's publishing industry and reading public. The ceremonial opening, graced by these founders, transformed the occasion into both a celebration of achievement and a moment of gratitude for the leadership that shaped the fair's enduring character.

CIBF 2025: SCALE AND SPIRIT

The 26th edition, CIBF 2025, carried this momentum through ten vibrant days in September, drawing over 1.6 million visitors and transforming BMICH's 4,500 square meters across 12 halls and 450 booths into a bustling city of books. The fair featured 160 leading local publishers alongside 33 international publishers represented through local distributors. Powered by 17 publishing sector sponsors and 14 non-publishing partners, it marked a resounding success for this major cultural gathering.



A SEA OF READERS



For many international participants, the fair offered a rare and powerful glimpse into Sri Lanka's reading culture. One foreign publisher, experiencing CIBF for the first time, expressed astonishment at the "sea of book readers" and the sheer enthusiasm with which visitors embraced the opportunity to discover and purchase books. This sense of wonder echoed throughout the exhibition halls, where long queues, full shopping bags, and crowded aisles testified to an island-wide passion for reading and learning.

Such reactions highlight CIBF's unique identity: not just a commercial platform, but a living testament to the intellectual curiosity and cultural resilience of the Sri Lankan public. The fair's success has become a source of pride for the local publishing community, demonstrating that books still hold a central place in the national imagination.

LOOKING AHEAD TO CIBF 2026

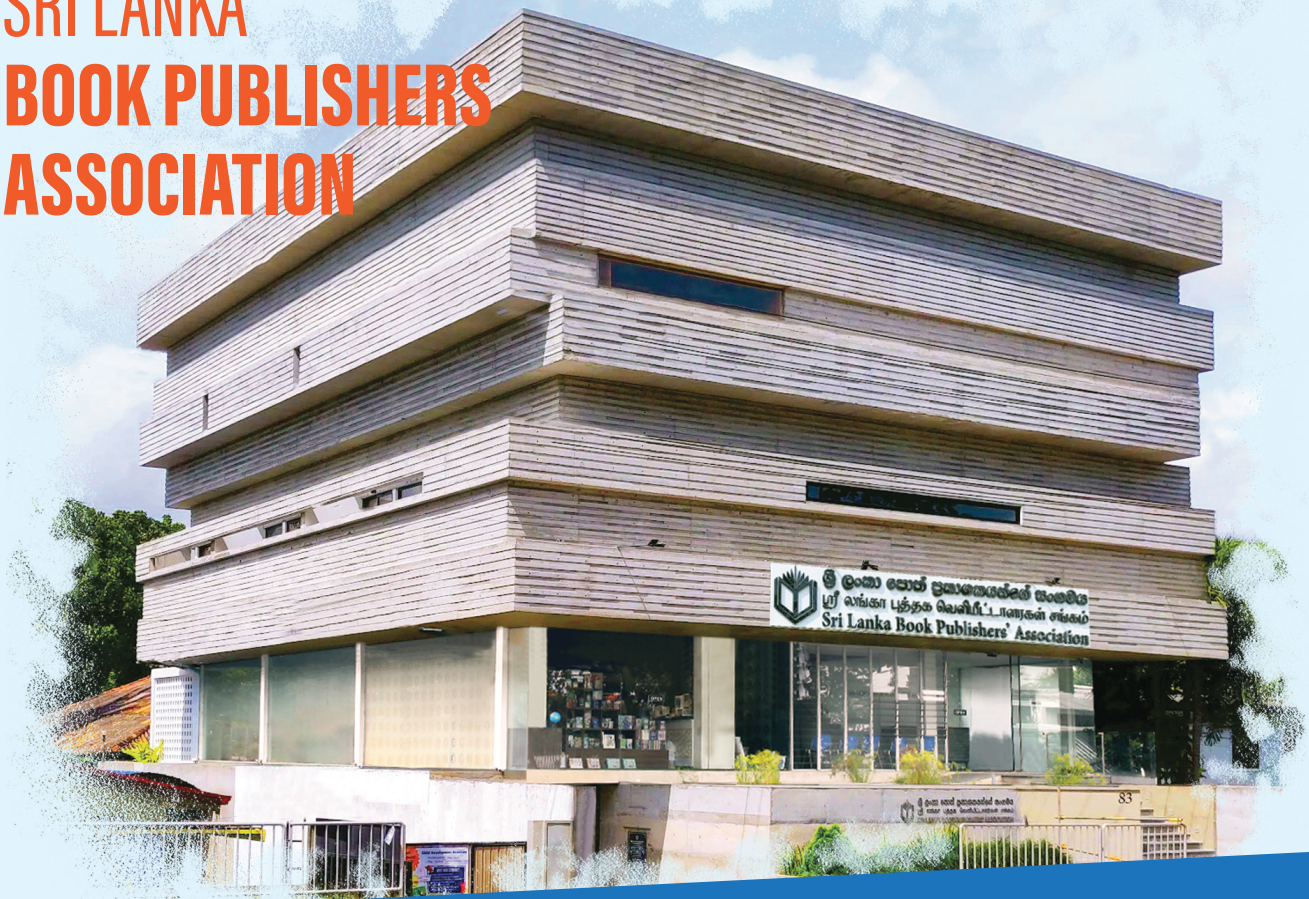


A Meeting Point Of Publishers

Join the excitement at CIBF 2026—25 September to 4 October at BMICH, Colombo 7! Local and international book lovers, exhibitors, and visitors: save the dates. Dive into a buzzing world of books, spark new connections, uncover hidden gems, and reignite your passion for stories in a fresh, collaborative vibe.



SRI LANKA BOOK PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION



The Colombo International Book Fair is organized by the Sri Lanka Book Publishers Association. The Sri Lanka Book Publishers Association was established in 1985 under the leadership of its founding president, the eminent writer Dr. K. Jayathilaka. Beginning with 27 members, the Association now comprises over 150 publishers and is recognized both nationally and internationally. The Association holds membership in the International Publishers Association and the Asia Pacific Publishers Association.

The Colombo International Book Fair, now recognized as the largest literary event in South Asia and the centerpiece of Sri Lanka's literary month, attracts more or less 1.6 million readers annually and has grown into a major national festival spanning ten days.



At the 26th Colombo International Book Fair, more than 500 stalls will be present, featuring the publications of member institutions and government agencies offered at special discounts. Notably, over 30 international stalls will participate this year. A series of programs will be held alongside the fair, including book launches, cultural performances, workshops, reader-writer meetings, and other daily events designed to enrich the literary experience for all attendees.



"Katapath Pawura" a place where visitors able to note their creative poems and verses



Book Launches



Cultural Performances



Reader - Writer Meetings



Workshops



Kids Conner (Daily Events)

ASSOCIATION'S KEY LITERARY EVENTS

Colombo International Book Fair

Annual flagship event in September, celebrating the vibrant month of literature.



Kandy Book Fair

Annual event in June-July, Central Province.



Colombo International Children's Book Fair:

Debating May 2026 (dates TBC).



Sri Lanka Book Awards

Annual honors—Swarnapusthaka (best novel) + three Rajathapusthaka awards (short story, young adult novel, poetry).



Annual Book Donations

Annual book donations to school libraries



Beyond the fairgrounds, organizers envision CIBF 2026 as a gateway to Sri Lanka's cultural heritage, offering curated round trips and experiences that allow participants to explore historic sites, artistic traditions, and the island's rich civilizational legacy—ensuring that their visit becomes both a literary pilgrimage and a cultural journey.

TOUR PACKAGES TO SIGIRIYA, SRI LANKA

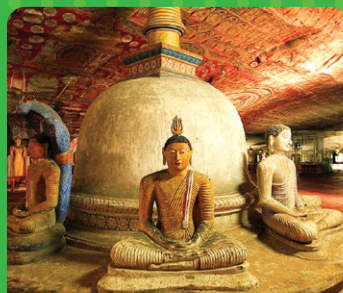


Discover the iconic Sigiriya Rock Fortress and Dambulla Cave Temple on a day tour from Colombo. Visit the largest and best-preserved cave temple complex in Sri Lanka

PLACES OF INTEREST YOU MAY LIKE TO VISIT



Colombo City Tour



Dambulla Cave Temple



Temple of
The Sacred Tooth Relic



Sacred City of Anuradhapura



Ancient City of Polonnaruwa



Beaches in Colombo & West Coast
within one to three hours drive

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