



Sirasa Super Star: Dream Season 2 begins

By Ramesh Uvais

The Sirasa Super Star contest that created unprecedented excitement in the country's television and music scene was one of the most talked about programmes in recent history.

After weeks of suspense, pain and pleasure the contest produced the country's Super Star – Ajith Bandara from Mawathagama and at the same time brought to the limelight several new faces like Malith Perera, Shihan Mihiranga, Amila Perera and others. But there can be more Ajiths, Maliths and Shihans in this country and Sirasa television is now ready to go ahead with its second dream season of the Sirasa Super Star contest from next month.

"Last time we received about 7,000 applications but this time it's six times more. We are planning out a new strategy to select the cream of this 42,000 and send them in for the first round, which starts next month. This initial selection process due to be held at the Dambulla Cricket Stadium alone might take about 18 days," Maharaja Group Director Mano Wickremanayake told journalists recently.

Sirasa Group Director Nedra Weerasinghe said the Sirasa Super Star contest – a brainchild of Sirasa Creative Director Nilendra Deshapriya – created so much of hype across the country that people were curious to know when the second segment would begin as soon as the results of the first contest was out.

Outlining the new segment, Sirasa Channel head Susara Dinal said though the general format would remain as it is, there would be slight changes to make the contest more attractive.

"There was a grouse that there were no females among the final 12 in the last contest. We have introduced a new method which will remedy such a situation this time," he said.

Sirasa Creative Director Nilendra Deshapriya hinted that the new contest might prolong for about a year given the higher number of participants and the high quotient of interest shown by the general public.

This time too, the masses will have to play a vital role when it comes to the selection of the finalists through an SMS vote and to cope with the high demand, the organizers said their telecom providers for the contest would expand their infrastructure to meet the demand.