SAILING CATAMARAN

VOLUME 06
ISSUE 5



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF LEO CLUB OF NEGOMBO CATAMARAN FOR THE LOEISTIC YEAR 2025/2026

GREETINGS FROM CATAMARANS

Club IT Director

Leoistic Year 2025/2026
Leo Vihnaga Shenith
Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran

Warm greetings to all our readers,

It is with great excitement and responsibility that I step into the role of IT Director of the Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran for this term. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the club by supporting and enhancing our digital systems, which are essential in keeping our members connected, informed, and engaged.

In this role, I will focus on ensuring smooth operations across our online platforms, maintaining accurate digital records, and supporting communication efforts that allow our projects and initiatives to shine. Working closely with the executive committee, I hope to strengthen the club's technological capabilities so that every activity we undertake is well-organized, efficient, and impactful.

I also want to thank the district for its guidance and support, which continually inspires us to serve with dedication. To all our readers, your encouragement motivates us to do more, reach further, and continue creating positive change in our community. I look forward to a year of growth, learning, and meaningful contribution.



Club Assistant IT Director

Leoistic Year 2025/2026
Leo Shenol Fernando
Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran

A warm hello to all our readers,

I am honored to serve as the Assistant IT Director of the Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran this term. I am grateful for the trust placed in me and for the chance to support our club's digital efforts, which are so important in keeping our community connected and informed.

In my role, I will work alongside our IT Director to manage online platforms, organize digital records, and ensure our communication systems run smoothly and efficiently. By supporting these technical tasks, I hope to make it easier for the club to focus on service, growth, and meaningful projects that positively impact our community.

I sincerely thank the district for its continued guidance and encouragement, and I also extend my gratitude to our members and readers. Your interest and support inspire us to keep improving, learning, and serving with purpose. I am excited for a year filled with learning, teamwork, and opportunities to contribute to the club's mission.



Happy International Leo Day!



Every Leo carries the spirit of service, compassion, and leadership in their heart. Every Leo believes in making a difference, no matter how big or small, bringing hope to those who need it most. Today, on International Leo Day, we celebrate the power of this movement a movement that turns empathy into action, and ideas into meaningful change. From supporting communities to uplifting the underprivileged, every act of kindness reflects the true essence of being a Leo. As Catamaran Leos, we pledge to continuously serve our nation, stand by those in need, and light the way wherever help is required.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- ROARING WORDS WITH IMMEDIATE PAST CLUB PRESIDENT: LEO LION ADITHYA WEERASIGNHE PFLM
- THE PRIDE OF THE MONTH
- CATAMARANS IN ACTION
- BEHIND THE FAME WITH DJ MASS
- CATAMARAN LEOPRENEUR
- ROAR OF INSPIRATION
- ICON OF SERVICE
- ROARS ACROSS THE DISTRICT
- ROARS ACROSS THE MULTIPLE DISTRICT
- ROARS ACROSS THE WORLD
- A LEGACY THAT LIVES ON
- CURRENT WORLD
- NATION NOW
- BRAIN BOOST
- CREATIVITY LOUNGE
- CATAMARANS SNAPS
- SIGNING OFF
- BEHIND THE PAGES

LEO LION ADITHYA WEERASINGHE PELM



Looking back at your term, what would you say was the toughest challenge you faced, and how did you overcome it?

One of the toughest challenges was reviving the energy and momentum of the club after a period of less engagement. Members had different schedules, different levels of motivation, and we were coming out of a phase where engagement was low. What helped me overcome it was rebuilding trust and unity within the team. I focused on clear communication, appreciating every individual's contribution, and creating a culture where everyone felt valued. Once the team aligned, everything else followed naturally from major events to service projects.



Achieving all of that must have taken a huge amount of work. Were there times where it felt exhausting, and how did you handle the pressure?

Yes, absolutely. There were days I felt completely drained especially when events and service projects overlapped with my studies.
But what helped me push through was reminding myself why I was doing this.
It wasn't about awards, it was about impact. And whenever I felt the pressure, my team was always there. Their support was my biggest strength.



What leadership habits or routines helped you stay consistent and motivated throughout the year?

I always kept three habits: planning, communication, and reflection.I planned every project, communicated openly with my team, and after each event I reflected on what went well and what could improve.

Another big motivator was the impact we created seeing our service projects help families and seeing our events bring people together kept me going even on the hardest days.

And also one of the biggest routines that kept me consistent was focusing on my members' happiness and making them feel like they belonged to a family, not just a club. I always made sure everyone felt appreciated, included, and valued whether it was a simple message, checking on them, or celebrating their efforts publicly.

When your team feels like a family, they naturally give their best.Seeing them enjoy the journey, laugh together, work together, and grow together was what motivated me every single day. Their energy was my driving force.

When your name was announced as the Best President in Sri Lanka and Maldives, what was going through your mind in that moment?

When my name was announced as the Best President in Sri Lanka and Maldives, the first thing that flashed in my mind was a moment from the previous year. Back in 2023/24, when I was the Vice President, I watched the Best President award go to a senior Leo from the Leo Club of University of Moratuwa. He was someone much older than me, from a massive university club. And at that moment, standing in the audience, one thought hit me clearly: 'Why can't we?'

That was the exact turning point for me. It planted the belief that if we work hard enough, our club even though we're not a university club could reach the same level.

So this year, when the compere announced my name, that entire memory replayed in my head. Because I had competed with giants like UOM, UOC, UOK clubs with huge numbers and long histories.
Winning against them felt like a massive personal victory, but even more importantly, it was a historic moment for my club and our district.

Becoming the first ever multiple award winning president of my club and bringing that title back to our district after a long time was something truly special.
And I can confidently say I'm one of the youngest Most Outstanding Leo Club Presidents in Sri Lanka and Maldives.
It was a dream, and in that moment, it felt like the dream had come full circle.



You also led our club to become the Best Club in Sri Lanka and Maldives. Was that something you targeted from the start, or did the vision evolve as the year unfolded?

From the beginning, my goal wasn't to chase titles it was to build a strong, united, and consistent club.
But as the year progressed, I realized how capable my members were. Their commitment, creativity, and energy showed me that we could aim higher.
That's when the vision evolved. The goal became not just doing projects, but setting new standards.
Becoming the Best Club was simply the result of a team that gave their 100%



You recently graduated with a first class degree as well. How did you manage to balance your studies with the responsibilities of being such a high performing president?

Balancing my degree with the responsibilities of being President wasn't easy, but I always gave my fullest to both.
When it was time for the club, I was fully committed whether it was planning events, handling projects, or being there for my members.

At the same time, I never allowed my academics to fall behind. Even when I was travelling for a trip, I remember completing my report and submitting it on time. Moments like that became normal for me whenever it was time for academics, I put in everything I had. I sacrificed sleep, personal time, and comfort just to make sure I delivered my best on both sides.

It was tough, but that discipline and willingness to push beyond my limits is what helped me graduate with a First Class while leading the club to its biggest achievements.

If you could give one piece of advice to future presidents or young Leos who want to make a real impact, what would it be?

Lead with your heart, but run your projects with discipline. Be humble, appreciate your team, and never do anything for recognition. Impact comes when you focus on people, not awards.

And the most important thing, consistency. Even small steps, taken consistently, build a legacy.



Now that you've achieved so much at a young age, what's the next goal or direction you're excited to pursue?

After a year filled with so many achievements and responsibilities, I'm taking a small rest from Leoism to focus on my personal growth. I want to use this time to develop myself further, explore new opportunities, and prepare for the next stage of my life.

One of my main goals now is to pursue my master's and build a strong foundation for my future career.

Even though I'm stepping back for a moment, I'm not stepping away, this journey has shaped me, and I know it's only going to push me to aim higher.

Honestly, this is just the beginning.



THE PRIDE OF THE MONTH...

Leo Sanija Nanayakkara

We are thrilled to recognize Leo Sanija Perera as our Leo of the Month for December 2025. Since the day he became a prospect and joined our club, Sanija has shown remarkable dedication and commitment to every club activity he has been a part of.

His consistent involvement, enthusiasm, and willingness to take initiative have made a noticeable difference in the smooth running of our projects and events. Sanija's dependable nature and proactive approach reflect not only his passion for service but also his genuine desire to contribute meaningfully to the club's mission.

By setting such a strong example through his dedication, Sanija has inspired his fellow Leos and earned their respect and admiration. His journey so far is a testament to the impact one committed Leo can make, and we are excited to see him continue to grow and lead in the future.

Congratulations, Sanija! Your hard work and unwavering commitment do not go unnoticed, and we look forward to seeing your continued contributions shine.





Catamaran

IN ACTIONS

Leos of SriLanka & Maldives

PROJECT
SERVE NEGOMBO



Serve Negombo is a flood relief project organized by the Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran to help communities in Negombo, which experienced severe floodings. As a result of heavy rainfall, many families in Negombo have experienced damaged housing, destruction of food, and disruption of their normal way of living. The Leo Club understood that there is a great need in the community, and hence a six-day continuous service project was organized by the club.

In the course of the project period, members from Leo went to flood-affected areas to interact with the community members to grasp their most urgent needs. Accordingly, based on their understanding, the club offered dry ration, basic food items, clothes, slippers, among other basic house materials to flood-affected families. The most vulnerable sections were prioritized in the issuing process to avoid favoritism. These vulnerable groups include children, senior persons, and poverty-ridden families.

Besides material support, the project gave emotional assurance and encouragement to the victims to help them feel that they were not alone during this time. In addition, teamwork, coordination, and proper time management were all necessary for daily distributions that took place over a period of six successive days. The project also called for strong member participation, whereby members' time, energy, and compassion were needed in service. Thus, the service at Negombo indicated the very spirit of service to address immediate humanitarian needs, strengthened community cohesion, and showed the commitment of the Leo Club towards standing with the community in times of crisis.

HEARTS IN HARMONY



The Hearts in Harmony initiative is a special activity that was organized by the Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran on the 26th of December, 2025, which is the Boxing Day, at the Peter Weerasekera Children's Home. This initiative is aimed at celebrating the Christmas occasion with kids from disadvantaged backgrounds, those that may not have the chance to have fun on the festive occasion with their families. Recognising the social needs that the kids experience, the Leo Club decided to undertake this activity.

In this project, members of Leo were able to visit the children's home where they spent quite a lot of time engaging with the kids. In this act, there were conversations, playing, as well as singing, which created a very happy atmosphere. There were also gifts given to all the kids, including basic things as well as nice treats, which made them all smile as the event brought joy to their faces.The project also proved to be a particularly valuable arena for Leo members to exercise leadership, teamwork, and organizational abilities in active service. By working directly with the children, members developed an appreciation of community needs and the importance of emotional support.

In essence, Hearts in Harmony combined celebration with service very well and dispersed festivity into cheer, social interaction, and bonding between the children and themselves within the Leo Club. This initiative reflected the club's commitment to serving humanity with compassion, care, and dedication, which really made Christmas special for the children


Some moments don't need big words.
Just time, laughter, and being fully present.
Spent the holiday sharing smiles, stories,
and simple joy with these little hearts
and that's a memory I'll always carry


DJ
MASS
LCNC

Your sound blends EDM with Sri Lankan elements really well. How did that fusion come about, and was it intentional from the start?

Its a bit of both. My International experience in working with many reputed Artists and Producers, talking to them, taking their advice helped a lot. It was skrillex who gave me the biggest advice when he told me to reach out to my tribe and Make Music for my people which I could play at a global stage. This and the unique Asian elements embedded into my DNA i guess.



Tracks like Pem Kekula connected with a wide audience. Did you expect that kind of response, or did it surprise you?

Pem Kekula was my first release in making a comeback after 20 years away from Sri lanka. I had to enter the Lankan market with a bang. So I strategically planned the release for over 9 months, with a strong marketing plan. the outcome was way beyond my expectations. It was a dream come true to finally come back after so long and make my people dance. Truly humbled.



When you're creating a new track, what usually comes first for you: the beat, the melody, or the emotion you want people to feel?

There's no particular order as such. Sometimes its just a simple idea that transforms into a work of art. And yes definitely the emotional state im in resonates with the outcome



You've played to very different crowds over the years. How do you read a room and decide what energy to bring as a DJ?

I like to think of it as an exchange of energy. The room feeds off my energy and in return I feed off their energy. Its all positive and good vibes flowing through music





How do you stay creatively fresh in a scene that's constantly evolving and trend-driven?

I run a dj school. And as much as my students learn from me, I too learn a lot from them. They keep me grounded and updated with the latest trends that makes me evolve to become a better creative DJ

What has been the most challenging moment in your journey so far, and what did it teach you as an artist?

The most challenging moments as a sri lankan artist is our passport and the travel restrictions imposed on us. Ive lost many opportunities due to delays in visa approvals or even visa rejections. ive learnt to appreciate the gigs I get to play and play every show as if its my last one.



Are there any artists, local or international, who've shaped your sound or inspired you behind the scenes?

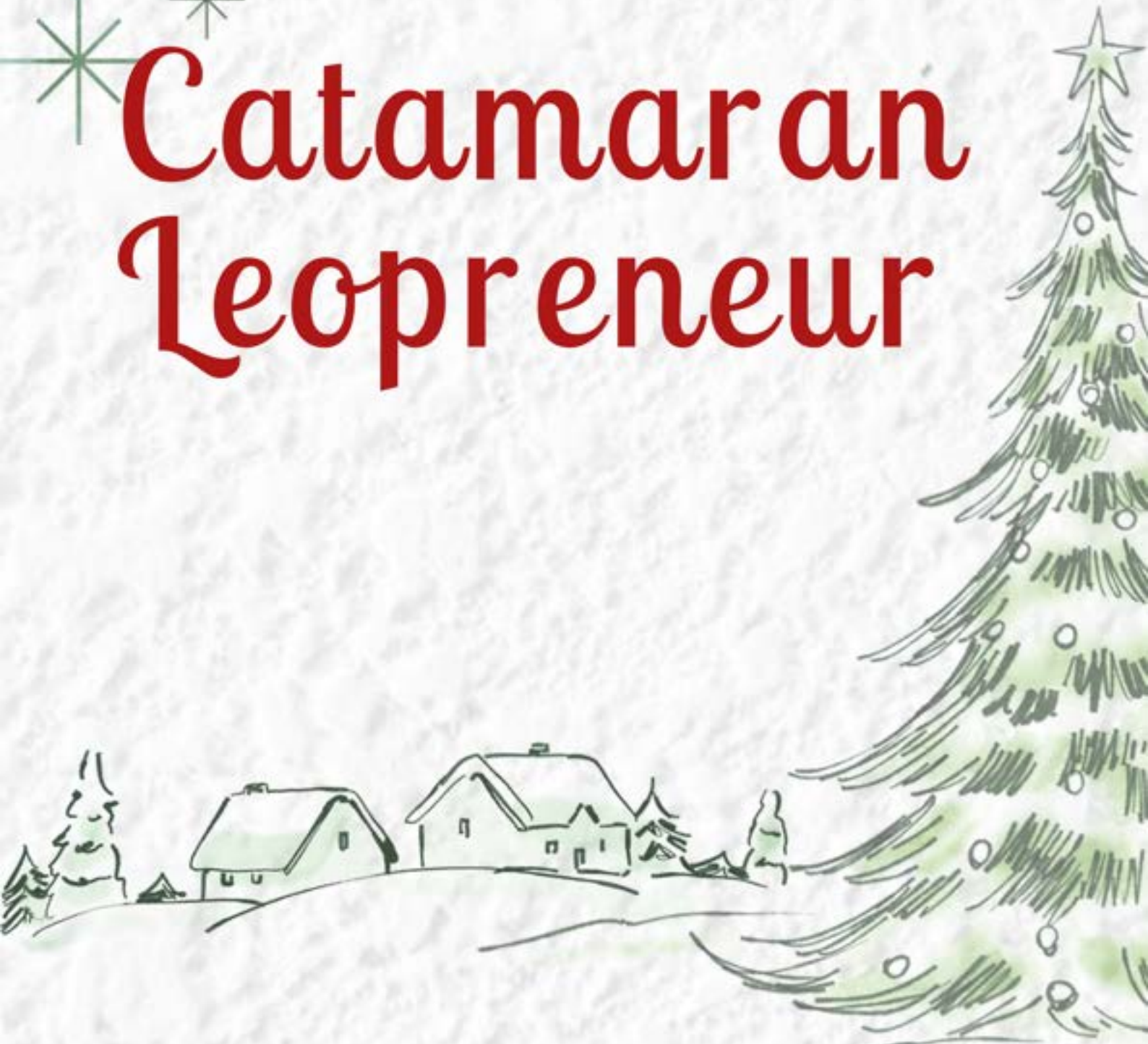
A few of them to mention. Skrillex, KSHMR, DJ Snake, Major Lazer and DJ Katch, they inspired me with my sound and have always given me sound advice



Looking ahead, what's next for DJ Mass, and what kind of legacy do you hope your music leaves?

I have always embraced change, helping youth movement and building communities. I would want to continue doing this for as long as I can. As for my legacy this will continue with every soul ive touched and passed on my music to. May it be a DJ playing at a club full of people, or simply a child singing her heart out and dancing alone at home. We are here to spread joy and happiness, and music has the power to do that

Catamaran Leopreneur



LEO MITHUNI SERASIGNHE

Leos of SriLanka & Maldives
INSPIRING LIVES

BEYOND NAIL STUDIO



Beyond Nails Studio is a modern and creative beauty space built on passion, skill, and a strong commitment to quality, owned by Leo Mithuni Serasinghe. Known for its professional service and stylish results, the studio offers a refined nail care experience that caters to a diverse clientele, creating looks that are both elegant and trend-forward. Based in Negombo, Beyond Nails Studio has become a trusted and well-loved name in the area, welcoming clients who value precision, hygiene, and personalized beauty services.

Blending creativity with high-quality products and the latest techniques, Beyond Nails Studio adapts each service to suit individual preferences and styles. From classic, minimal designs to bold, artistic expressions, every treatment is delivered with attention to detail, professionalism, and genuine care. With a strong focus on client satisfaction, comfort, and lasting results, Beyond Nails Studio continues to stand out as a place where beauty meets confidence, leaving clients feeling polished, empowered, and refreshed.

ROAR OF

Inspiration

Leo K. M. Nawodya Randika



Club President
Leo Club of Chilaw Marians

Club President

Leoistic Year 2025/2026
Leo K. M. Nawodya Randika
Leo Club of Chilaw Marians

It is with great pleasure that I extend my warm greetings to the Leo Club of Negombo Catamarans. Your club continues to stand as a strong pillar of leadership, unity, and meaningful service within the Leo movement.

As young leaders, we share a common responsibility to serve our communities with compassion, integrity, and innovation. The dedication shown by the Leo Club of Negombo Catamarans in uplifting society and empowering youth is truly commendable and inspiring.

I look forward to strengthening inter-club fellowship and collaboration, working together to create impactful projects and lasting change. May your journey ahead be filled with success, unity, and service beyond self.
Wishing you a fruitful and memorable Leo year.



ROAR OF

Inspiration

Leo Sudesh Santhosh



Club President
Leo Club of Colombo North United

Club President

Leoistic Year 2025/2026
Leo Sudesh Santhosh
Leo Club of Colombo North United

Warm greetings to the Leo Club of Negombo Catamarans.

Your club's consistent efforts in serving the community and nurturing capable young leaders truly reflect the strength and spirit of our district. It is inspiring to see the passion and commitment with which you continue to make a positive impact through your initiatives.

Being clubs from the same district, I strongly believe that collaboration and unity among us will further amplify our service. I look forward to building a strong bond between our clubs and working together on meaningful intra-district community service projects that bring lasting value to the people we serve.

May the year ahead be one of growth, teamwork, and impactful service. Wishing the Leo Club of Negombo Catamarans a successful and rewarding Leo year.



THE ICON OF SERVICE...

Jim Graver

The Coach Who Started a Global Youth Service Movement

In the world of service clubs, it's rare that one idea changes the trajectory of millions of young lives. That's exactly what Jim Graver did when he helped create the very first Leo Club. a youth-driven arm of Lions Clubs International. Long before Leos became a global movement, Graver saw something important: young people want to serve, and with the right support, they can lead with heart and impact their communities in powerful ways.

The Spark: From Baseball Dugout to Service Leadership



Jim Graver was a high school baseball coach at Abington High School in Pennsylvania, USA, in the 1950s. Outside the dugout, he was also an active member of the Glenside Lions Club. Along with fellow Lion William Ernst, Graver wondered if the energy and teamwork he saw in his students could be channeled into community service, just like the adult Lions did.

At the time, youth service clubs like the Key Club (sponsored by the Kiwanis) and early Interact philosophies existed, but there wasn't yet a Lion-sponsored youth service club. Graver and Ernst thought differently: why not give young people a chance to serve as themselves not just under mentorship, but as leaders? With support from the Glenside Lions, they invited students. Graver even brought along his whole baseball team to the first meeting.

A Club Is Born

On December 5, 1957, the Abington High School Leo Club was officially chartered. It started with 35 students and something simple yet resonant: the acronym LEO, representing Leadership, Equality, Opportunity (with Equality later changed to Experience). The club adopted the school's maroon and gold colors, which went on to become the official Leo colors around the world.

This first club wasn't just a social group it was a service club. Members met regularly, organized community projects, and built confidence and skills by doing real work. It was a new idea: young people not just helping out, but learning, leading, and shaping the experiences that mattered.

Lions and Leos,
A Great Partnership!!!

From Local Experiment to Global Youth Movement

The Abington High School Leo Club inspired others. By the early 1960s, more Leo Clubs appeared across Pennsylvania, and the U.S. Lions Clubs International recognized the immense value of this youth-driven service model, and in 1967 the Leo Club Program was officially adopted as part of the Lions family. From that moment forward, Leos began spreading internationally.

In a few short years, hundreds of clubs formed in multiple countries. Today Leo Clubs exist in over 140 countries with tens of thousands of young members who carry forward the values Graver helped shape: leadership, service, and opportunity for youth to make a difference.

LEO clubs are an official activity of Lions Clubs International that encourages young men and women to serve others in their community and around the world.

LEO clubs are sponsored by local lions clubs and may be either school-affiliated or community based.
LEO club activities include regular meetings, service projects and social functions.

The LEO motto - Leadership, Experience, Opportunity - is fulfilled as members work together in response to the needs of others.

What began with a coach, a group of motivated students, and a Lions Club's encouragement grew into a global network that empowers young people every day. From community clean-ups to public health campaigns, from leadership conferences to international service projects, the Leo legacy lives on in thousands of youth who choose service as a way of life. It's a reminder that great things often begin with a simple leap of faith in the next generation.



Roars Across the District D3



D3

Believe Become Be One & Be The One

LEO LION LASIKUMAR PARAMESWARAN
LEO DISTRICT 360 D3
DISTRICT PRESIDENT 2025/2026



08th LEO ISAME FORUM

Warmest wishes to the delegates of Leo District 306D3 as you step onto the international stage at the 8th Leo ISAAME Forum happening in India on 16th - 18th December 2025

DONATIONS TOWARDS LCIF

A proud and historic moment at the 08th Leo ISAME Forum as the Leos of District 306 D3 become the first Leos of the district to donate to the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF).



Roars Across the Multiple District



Leos of SriLanka & Maldives



LIONS INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT'S VISIT

A historic and powerful milestone for Leo leadership as we proudly welcome the Lions International President for an inspiring visit with LMD 306 Leos. Two days filled with leadership, connection, and service that reflects the true spirit of Leoism!

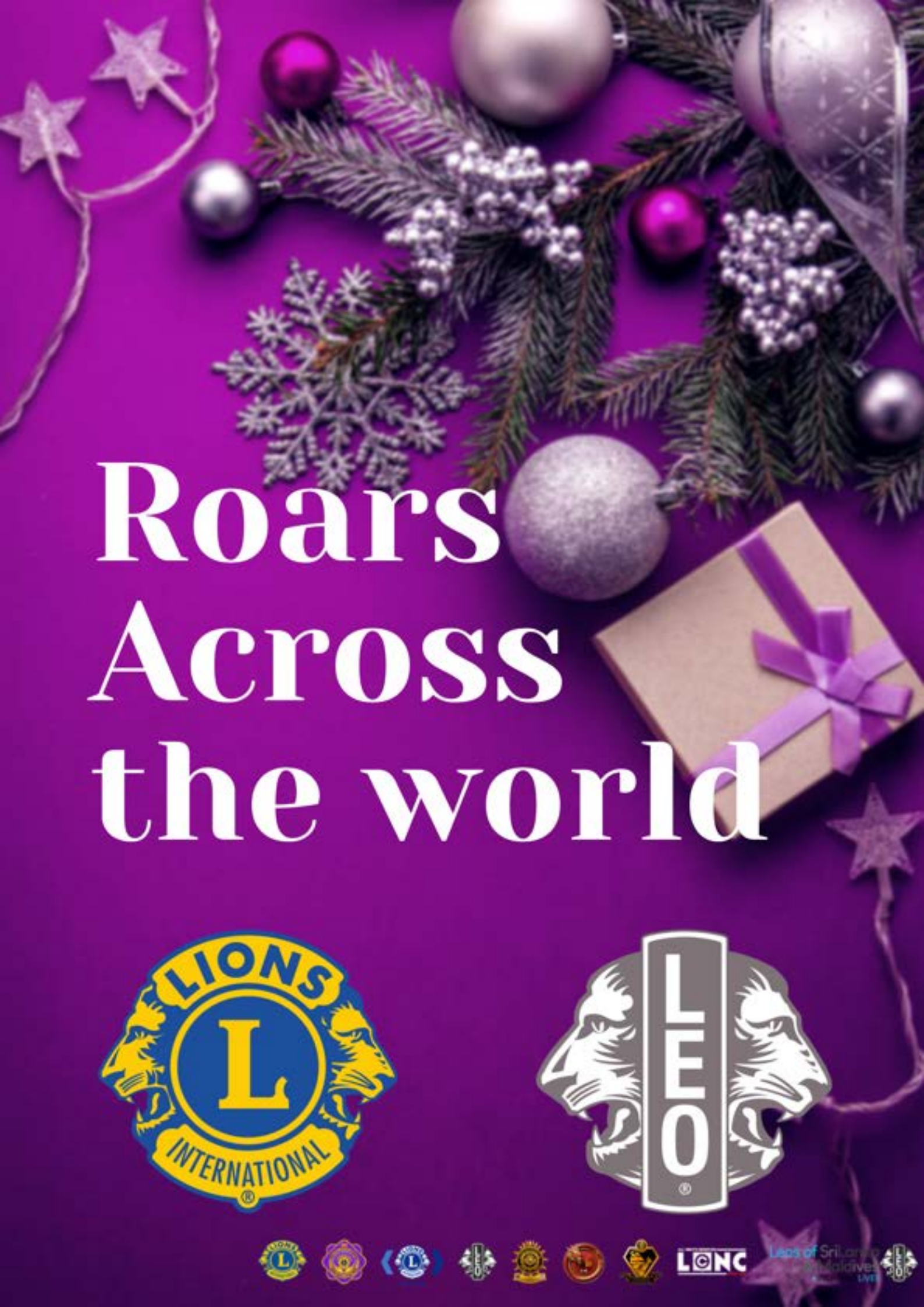
08th LEO ISAME FORUM

REPRESENTING WITH PRIDE.
LEADING WITH PURPOSE.

From the shores of Sri Lanka & Maldives to the heart of Ahmedabad, Gujarat **11 PROUD DELEGATES** of Leo Multiple District 306



Leos of SriLanka & Maldives
INSPIRING LIVES


Roars
Across
the world
LIONS
INTERNATIONAL
LEO
LCNC



International Leo Day Celebrations

Although not one single event, International Leo Day (Dec 5, 2025) was recognised around the world in December. Leos shared their service stories and #HeartofaLeo video contest entries, celebrating young volunteers from dozens of countries who are tackling community challenges in their own ways from health awareness to environmental outreach, showcasing leadership, service, and energy within the global Leo movement.

Lions International at the 137th Rose Parade

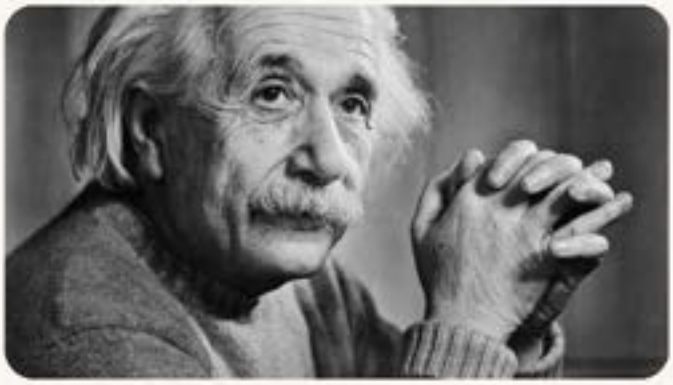
As 2025 closed out, Lions Clubs International unveiled its 2026 Rose Parade float titled "In Harmony We Serve" in the annual Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California. The float highlighted the theme "The Magic in Teamwork", celebrating how Lions and Leos unite across borders to serve communities from vision care and disaster relief to youth empowerment. The design featured four lions and thousands of flowers symbolising unity and compassionate service by members worldwide.



A LEGACY THAT LIVES ON...

Albert Einstein
The Mind That Redefined the Universe

Albert Einstein is remembered as one of the greatest minds in human history, but his legacy reaches far beyond science. He changed how we understand time, space, energy, and the universe itself. More than that, he showed the world that curiosity, imagination, and courage to question accepted ideas can lead to extraordinary breakthroughs. Even today, his work continues to shape modern technology and our view of reality.



A Curious Mind from the Beginning

Einstein was born in 1879 in Germany, and as a child he was not seen as a prodigy by his teachers. In fact, he often struggled in traditional classrooms because he preferred to think deeply rather than memorize facts. What set him apart was his curiosity. He constantly asked "why" and "how," even about simple things. This habit of questioning everything eventually led him to ideas that would transform science forever.

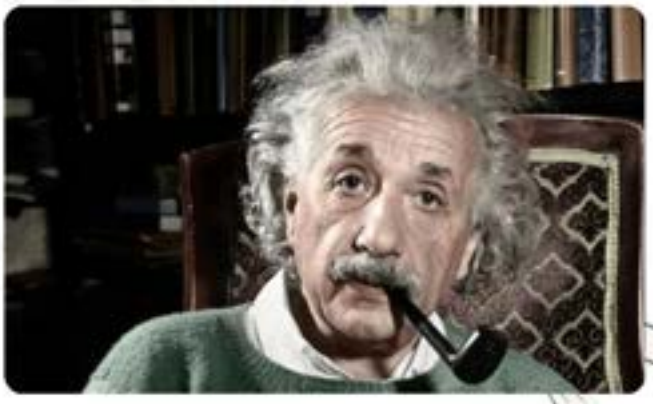
Gandhi's greatest contribution was showing the world that nonviolence could be a powerful tool against oppression. Through peaceful protests, civil disobedience, and mass participation, he challenged British colonial rule without raising a weapon. Events like the Salt March demonstrated how simple acts could become symbols of national resistance. Gandhi's approach demanded immense self-control and sacrifice, proving that strength lies not in domination, but in moral authority and unity.



Changing How We See the Universe

Einstein's most famous achievement was the theory of relativity, which changed how people understood space, time, gravity, and energy. He showed that time is not the same for everyone and that mass and energy are connected, summarized by the famous equation $E = mc^2$. These ideas were shocking at the time but later became the foundation for modern physics. Today, technologies like GPS, nuclear energy, and space exploration all rely on principles Einstein helped uncover.

Einstein was not just a scientist working in isolation. He cared deeply about humanity and the future of the world. He spoke out against war, supported civil rights, and believed in peace and global cooperation. Even when his discoveries were used in ways he did not fully agree with, he remained committed to the idea that science should serve humanity, not destroy it. This moral side of Einstein makes his legacy even more powerful.



Decades after his death, Einstein's ideas are still taught, debated, and expanded upon. Scientists continue to build on his theories, and his image has become a symbol of intelligence and creativity. From classrooms to laboratories and even popular culture, Einstein's influence remains everywhere. He proved that one person's curiosity and determination can change the world's understanding of reality.

Albert Einstein left behind far more than equations and theories. He left a legacy of curiosity, courage, and imagination. His life reminds us that asking bold questions and thinking differently can lead to incredible discoveries. In a world that is always evolving, Einstein's spirit continues to guide those who dare to explore the unknown.



Current World

Leos of SriLanka & Maldives

2025 Year-End Weather Wrap: A World Shaped by Extremes

As 2025 drew to a close, the planet's weather once again reminded humanity of its power. From blistering heatwaves in North America to snowstorms in Europe, cyclones in South Asia, wildfires in Australia, and devastating floods in Southeast Asia, December highlighted the diversity and severity of global climate events. Scientists and meteorologists warned that these patterns were no longer anomalies but part of a larger trend shaped by climate change, highlighting the need for resilience and adaptation worldwide.

Heatwaves Across North America

December began unusually warm in parts of North America, with record-breaking temperatures in cities across the United States and southern Canada. In states like Texas, Louisiana, and Florida, daytime temperatures soared well above seasonal averages, sparking early wildfire concerns and stretching energy grids as air conditioning usage peaked. The extreme warmth also contributed to wildfires further west, notably in California, where dry conditions combined with high winds to fuel rapid fire spread. Residents faced evacuations, and fire crews worked tirelessly to contain blazes before they could threaten urban areas.





Snowstorms Sweep Through Europe

Contrasting the heat in North America, Europe experienced heavy snowstorms in December, particularly across the Alps and northern regions. Countries like Switzerland, Austria, and Germany reported record snowfall in some mountain towns, causing transport disruptions and power outages. Ski resorts welcomed an unexpected boost in tourism, but residents in rural and urban areas faced challenges navigating icy roads and blocked railways. Meteorologists noted that such intense early winter snowfall is becoming more frequent in Europe, partially due to shifting jet streams and colder polar air mixing with warmer southern currents.

Cyclones and Flooding in South and Southeast Asia

Meanwhile, the tropical regions faced the destructive force of cyclones and associated flooding. Cyclone Ditwah struck Sri Lanka and southern India in late November and persisted into early December, bringing torrential rains, wind damage, and flooding. Southeast Asia also saw record rainfall in parts of Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia, inundating low-lying communities and disrupting transport. Relief efforts were extensive, involving local authorities, NGOs, and international organizations, highlighting the growing human and economic toll of extreme weather in tropical regions.





Wildfires in Australia and the Pacific

In the southern hemisphere, Australia continued to battle wildfires in December, especially in New South Wales and Queensland. High temperatures and prolonged dry conditions, combined with strong winds, created dangerous fire fronts. Firefighters and volunteers worked around the clock to protect communities, and authorities urged caution amid ongoing heatwaves. While some fires were contained, satellite imagery revealed significant scorched land, emphasizing the ongoing threat of wildfire season in the region.

Global Impacts and Lessons Learned

December 2025 illustrated that extreme weather is a global phenomenon, affecting every continent in unique ways. Heatwaves, snowstorms, cyclones, floods, and wildfires each brought their own challenges, but all underscored a common theme: the world must prepare for more frequent and intense weather events. Governments and communities are increasingly investing in early warning systems, resilient infrastructure, and disaster response plans. Meanwhile, scientists continue to study the interplay between climate change and extreme weather, urging global cooperation to mitigate future impacts.



The events of December serve as a stark reminder: while climate extremes are natural phenomena, their intensity and frequency are being magnified by human activity. As the calendar turns to 2026, the planet faces the challenge of adapting to this new climate reality, balancing urgent action with long-term planning to safeguard lives, communities, and ecosystems.




nation
now
LCINC

Sri Lanka's Tourism Puzzle: More Visitors, Less Revenue

As 2025 came to a close, Sri Lanka's tourism story was a mix of celebration and concern. On one hand, the island nation welcomed a record number of visitors, surpassing previous highs and reclaiming its status as a top destination in South Asia. On the other hand, the financial returns from this surge in visitors did not match expectations, prompting industry leaders and analysts alike to ask why rising arrivals did not translate into stronger revenue.

By December, official figures showed that tourist arrivals had risen year-on-year, but foreign exchange earnings from tourism fell sharply, shedding light on an uneasy disconnect between quantity and economic value.

Arrival Numbers Tell a Positive Story

Over 2025, Sri Lanka steadily rebuilt its tourism footprint.

- The country welcomed over 2.36 million tourists for the year, marking approximately a 15.1% increase over 2024 and surpassing the total from that year.
- In late December alone, the number of arrivals continued to grow, with reports of more than 258,000 tourists visiting in the month, a 4.2% rise compared to December 2024.
- Sri Lanka even broke its all-time arrival record, exceeding the previous peak from 2018.

These statistics reflect a sustained global interest in Sri Lanka's beaches, wildlife parks, cultural heritage sites, and scenic hill country, as well as successful promotional efforts to attract travellers from key markets like India, the United Kingdom, Germany and Russia.



Revenue Tells a Different Story

Here's where the picture becomes more complex:

- In December 2025, tourism revenue dropped by around 14.8% compared with the same month in 2024, falling to approximately US$308.6 million, even though arrivals were up.
- This marked the fourth revenue decline in six months, underscoring a trend where higher visitor numbers were not translating into proportionate financial returns.

Why did this happen? Two main factors stand out:

Lower Spending Per Visitor

The Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority revised its estimates for average daily spending by tourists. In 2025, the average dropped from roughly US$171 per day to US$148 per day, reducing the overall value of incoming tourism.

Broader data also show that, for the whole year, average tourist spending per visit dropped by nearly 11–12%, even as total visitor numbers climbed.

Shorter Stays and Budget-Sensitive Markets

Many of the tourists contributing to the increase were travellers with lower per-capita spending patterns, such as short-stay visitors or travellers from nearby regional markets who generally spend less per day than long-haul tourists. This trend often happens when popularity outpaces spending power, especially in post-crisis recovery phases.

Together, these factors meant that Sri Lanka's tourism sector saw more people come, but less money coming in per person. That imbalance weighed heavily on revenue figures.





Why This Matters

Tourism has long been one of Sri Lanka's key economic pillars. Before the pandemic and economic challenges of recent years, the sector contributed roughly 5% of GDP at its peak. When earnings don't match visitor growth, several ripple effects can emerge:

- Foreign exchange inflows weaken, affecting the country's ability to import goods and services.
- Local businesses, especially in hospitality and travel services, may struggle to grow despite higher foot traffic.
- Long-term investment decisions can hinge on profitability, not just visitor numbers.

Still, tourism did contribute positively overall in 2025, and the slight annual increase in total revenue to around US$3.2 billion suggests the sector is slowly regaining strength.

Looking Ahead

As Sri Lanka moves into 2026, industry discussions are shifting toward strategies that encourage higher-value tourism. This includes:

- Attracting visitors who stay longer and spend more on experiences, dining and services.
- Diversifying offerings beyond classic beach and cultural tours to wellness, adventure and niche markets.
- Improving infrastructure and service quality to compete with regional destinations.



Sri Lanka's tourism rebound tells a nuanced story. The world is rediscovering the island's natural beauty and culture, as reflected in rising arrival numbers. But raw visitor figures don't always translate into economic gain without supporting factors like longer stays and higher spending.

For businesses and policymakers alike, the challenge now is harnessing this momentum, fine-tuning experiences and pricing structures, and ensuring that the gains from every extra tourist go further into strengthening Sri Lanka's economy.



BRAIN BOOST!!

Christmas: A Celebration of Faith, History, and Joy

Christmas is celebrated every year on December 25th and marks the birth of Jesus Christ, one of the most important figures in Christianity. For Christians around the world, it is a sacred day that honors love, peace, and hope. Over time, Christmas has also become a global cultural celebration enjoyed by people of many backgrounds, bringing families and communities together through traditions, music, food, and acts of kindness.



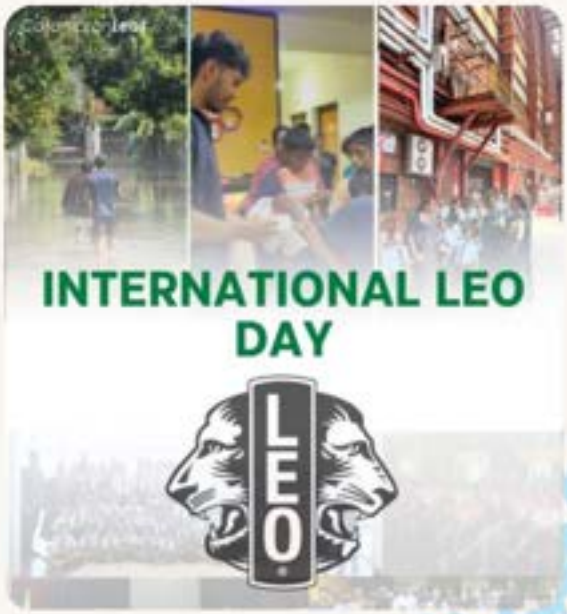
The origins of Christmas go back more than two thousand years to the story of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. According to the Bible, Jesus was born to Mary in a humble stable, and his arrival was announced by angels to shepherds and guided by a bright star for the wise men. Early Christians began celebrating this event to remember God's gift of love to the world. As Christianity spread, Christmas grew into one of the most important religious festivals, filled with prayers, church services, and reflections on compassion and giving.

The deeper meaning of Christmas is not just about decorations or gifts, but about caring for others. It reminds people to show kindness, forgiveness, and generosity, just as Jesus taught. This is why many people use the season to help those in need, visit the lonely, and share meals with family and friends. Even in today's busy world, Christmas encourages everyone to slow down and focus on what truly matters: love, gratitude, and togetherness.

Santa Claus is one of the most beloved symbols of Christmas, especially for children. He is inspired by a real historical figure named Saint Nicholas, a kind bishop who lived hundreds of years ago and was known for secretly giving gifts to the poor. Over time, stories about Saint Nicholas turned into the cheerful, red-suited Santa we know today, who brings presents to well-behaved children on Christmas Eve. Santa represents generosity, joy, and the magic of giving, which fits beautifully with the true spirit of Christmas.

Leo Day: Celebrating Service, Leadership, and Youth Power

Leo Day is celebrated every year on December 5th to honor the global Leo movement, a youth organization connected to Lions Clubs International. The day recognizes young people who come together to serve their communities, build leadership skills, and create positive change in the world. Leos come from many cultures and backgrounds, but they are united by a shared goal: to make their communities better through kindness, teamwork, and action.



The Leo movement began in 1957 in the United States when the first Leo Club was formed to give young people a space to grow as leaders while serving others. The name "Leo" stands for Leadership, Experience, and Opportunity, which reflects what the organization offers its members. Over the years, Leo Clubs have spread across more than 140 countries, including Sri Lanka, allowing millions of young people to take part in projects that support education, health, the environment, and social welfare.

Leo Day is not just a celebration but also a reminder of the responsibility that comes with being a Leo. On this day, clubs around the world reflect on their service, honor their members, and renew their commitment to helping others. Many clubs organize charity projects, blood donation campaigns, food drives, and community clean-ups to mark the occasion. It is a time to appreciate how small acts of service, when done together, can create a big impact.

At its heart, Leo Day celebrates the spirit of youth leadership and compassion. It reminds Leos that age is never a barrier to making a difference. Whether it is helping a child, supporting a family in need, or improving the local community, every Leo effort matters. Through service, friendship, and dedication, Leo Day highlights how young people can lead with purpose and shape a brighter future for everyone.

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INSPIRING LIVES





Creativity Beyond the Paper

Some creativity isn't written, drawn, or painted. ***It's felt, heard, and shared in moments that move us.*** *In this edition, we step beyond the page and into sound, where emotion and expression come together through a simple song.*



This beautiful cover is performed by ***Leo Nishani Peiris****, a talented singer and a proud member of the Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran. Her voice carries warmth, emotion, and a quiet strength that makes every song feel personal. Through her song covers, she brings fresh feeling and sincerity into music people already love.*

Follow her page to stay updated with her latest covers as she continues to share her passion through her voice

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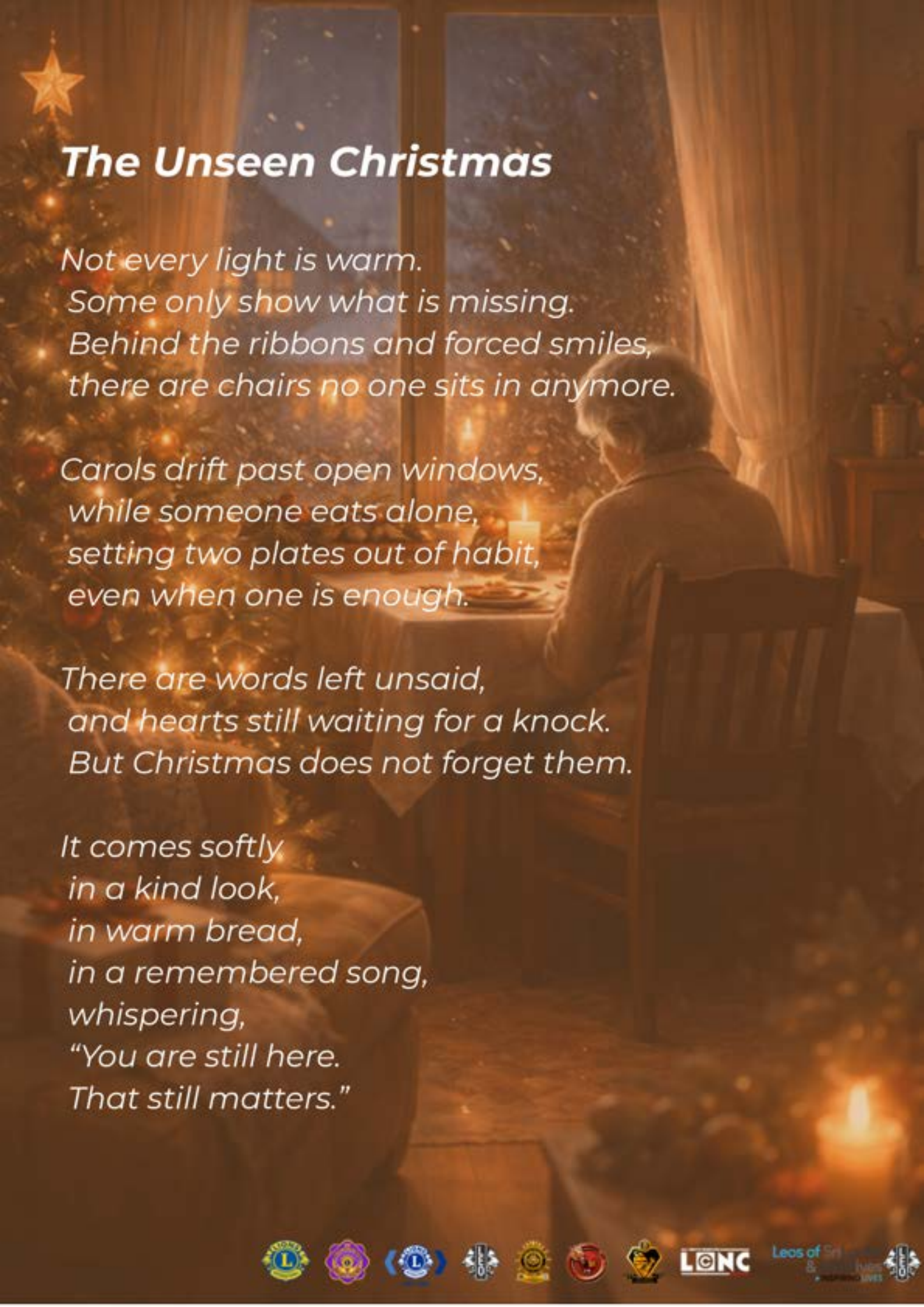

The Unseen Christmas

Not every light is warm.
Some only show what is missing.
Behind the ribbons and forced smiles,
there are chairs no one sits in anymore.

Carols drift past open windows,
while someone eats alone,
setting two plates out of habit,
even when one is enough.

There are words left unsaid,
and hearts still waiting for a knock.
But Christmas does not forget them.

It comes softly
in a kind look,
in warm bread,
in a remembered song,
whispering,
“You are still here.
That still matters.”

catamarans snaps...















SIGNING OFF...

Leo Treesha Shavindya



As we sail into the warm and glowing waters of the sixth edition of Sailing Catamaran, this special Christmas issue welcomes you aboard a journey filled with light, kindness, and togetherness. Just like the season itself, these pages are wrapped in gratitude, reflection, and the joy of sharing moments that truly matter within our Leo family.

Within this edition, every story feels like a gentle wave of hope. Acts of service, laughter shared, and bonds strengthened remind us that the true spirit of Christmas lives in giving, unity, and the love we show one another. Even in busy days and long nights, our shared purpose continues to guide us, steady and bright.

Thank you for sailing with us through another meaningful chapter. Your support, dedication, and belief in this journey are what keep our sails full and our hearts warm. As we look ahead to the months to come, may this festive edition inspire us to keep spreading light wherever we go.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Christmas filled with warmth, peace, and joyful moments.

BEHIND THE PAGES...



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As we tie off this Christmas edition, we look back on a season filled with warmth, kindness, and the quiet magic that comes from serving together. Every story, every smile, and every small act of care has been part of a journey we are grateful to share.

Thank you for being with us through another chapter, for reading, for supporting, and for sailing alongside us as we spread hope wherever the tide takes us.

As the year draws to a close and new horizons wait ahead, may your days be bright, your hearts be full, and your spirit always ready for the next adventure.

Warm wishes and gentle seas,
The Editors

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