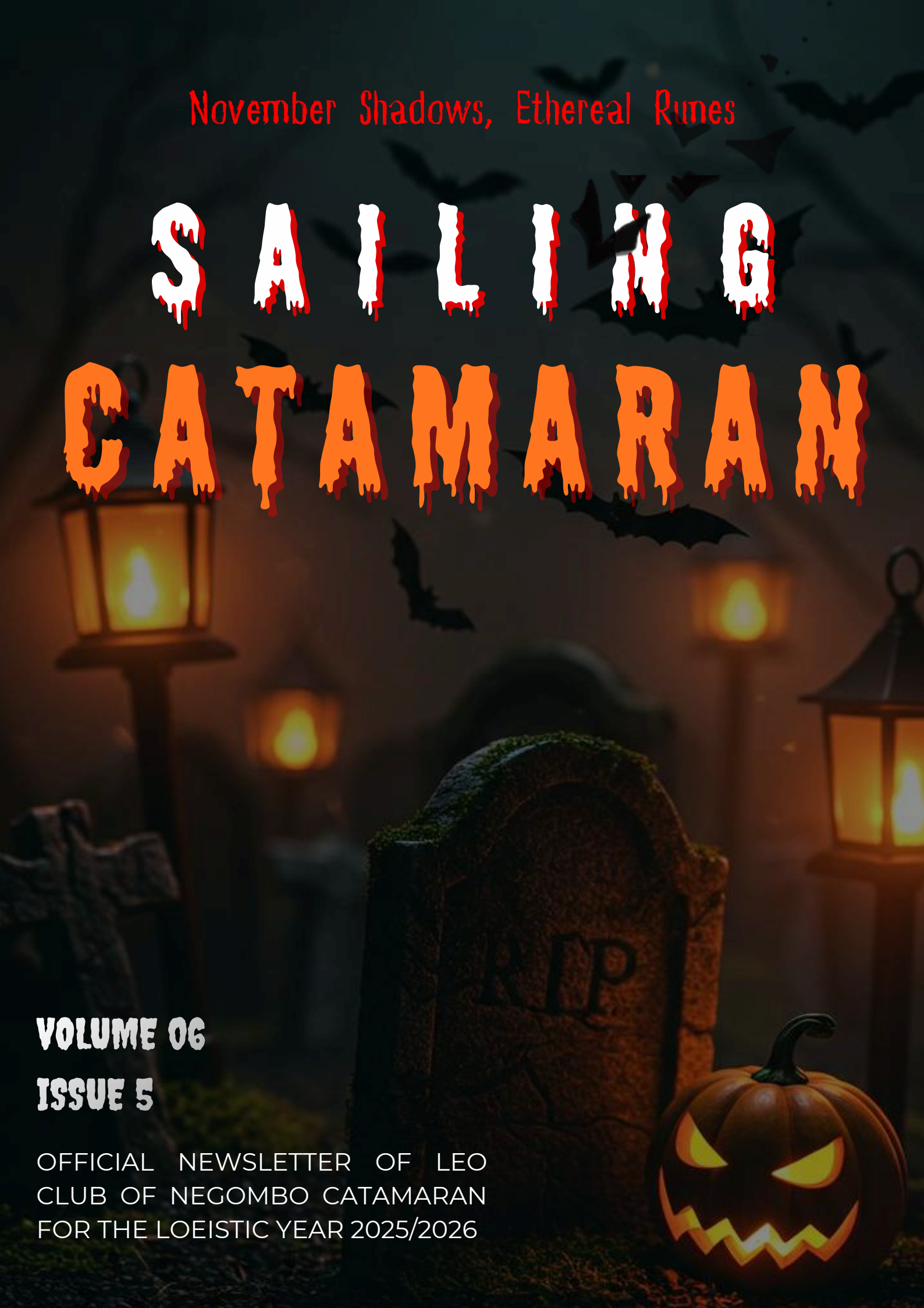
November Shadows, Ethereal Runes

SAILING CATAMARAN



VOLUME 06
ISSUE 5

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

Greetings from Catamarans

Club Assistant Secretary

Leoistic Year 2025/2026
Leo Treesha Shavindya
Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran

Warm greetings to all our readers,

It is a privilege to serve this term as the Assistant Secretary of the Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran, and also as the Chief Editor of our club newsletter. I'm truly grateful for the trust placed in me and for the opportunity to contribute both to the smooth functioning of the club and to the voice through which we share our journey.

As Assistant Secretary, I work closely with the Secretary and the board to ensure clear communication, accurate records, and well coordinated activities. Good organization may not always be visible, but it plays a key role in keeping our projects effective and our goals on track. I am committed to supporting this foundation with dedication and responsibility.

As Chief Editor, this newsletter holds a special place for me. It is more than a record of events. It is a reflection of our members' efforts, our values, and the spirit of service that defines us as Leos. Through these pages, I hope to highlight inspiring stories, meaningful initiatives, and the collective energy of our club, while keeping our readers informed and connected.

I extend my sincere appreciation to our district for its guidance and continued encouragement, which motivates us to uphold high standards in all that we do. To our members and readers, thank you for your constant support and engagement. Your interest reminds us that our work reaches beyond meetings and projects, and into the community we proudly serve. I look forward to learning, growing, and giving my best in both these roles as we move forward together.



Club Assistant Secretary

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

Warm greetings to all our readers,

It is a pleasure to serve as the Assistant Secretary of the Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran during this term. I am thankful for the confidence placed in me and for the opportunity to be part of a team that is committed to meaningful service and active leadership.

As Assistant Secretary, my focus is on supporting the day to day coordination of the club by assisting with correspondence, maintaining accurate records, and ensuring that communication flows smoothly among our members. These responsibilities help keep our initiatives well structured and allow our projects to move forward with clarity and purpose. I strive to carry out this role with diligence and a strong sense of accountability.

I am grateful to our district leaders for their guidance and constant motivation, which encourages us to grow as individuals and as a club. To our members and readers, thank you for standing with us and taking interest in our journey. Your support strengthens our commitment to serve with sincerity and enthusiasm. I look forward to contributing my best throughout this term as we continue working together for the betterment of our community.



HALLOWEEN

2025

Halloween is a celebration of imagination, courage, and a little bit of playful mystery. It's a day when creativity comes alive through costumes, stories, and shared laughter, reminding us that it's okay to explore the unknown and have fun along the way. Behind the masks and makeup, Halloween brings people together, encouraging self expression, confidence, and the joy of stepping into a different world, even if just for a night.

As we celebrate Halloween, let's remember the magic of togetherness it creates. It's not just about the thrills and treats, but about making memories, sharing smiles, and creating moments where everyone feels included and free to be themselves. May this Halloween be filled with warmth, laughter, and safe fun for all, leaving us with stories to smile about long after the night ends.

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LEO NISHANE SILVA FLM

IMMEDIATE PAST DISTRICT PRESIDENT
LEO DISTRICT 306 B1



"Leadership is not about being the most powerful person in the room, but about creating an environment where others feel capable, supported, and inspired to lead with you."

-Nishane Silva

Looking back at your tenure as District President, what do you consider your biggest achievement and the biggest challenge you faced?

As District President for FY 2024/25, my biggest achievement was uniting the district under a common vision and elevating the overall standards of leadership, service, and administration across all Leo clubs in 306 B1.

What I am most proud of is seeing clubs step out of their comfort zones, collaborate more closely, and deliver projects with greater impact and sustainability. Strengthening club structures, empowering emerging leaders, and creating an environment where district officers and club presidents felt supported and appreciated truly shaped the success of our year. Watching young leaders grow in confidence and capability has been the most rewarding part of my tenure.

The biggest challenge, however, was balancing the diverse expectations of clubs while maintaining consistency, discipline, and fairness across the district. Each club had its own culture, capabilities, and priorities. Ensuring equal opportunities, managing limited resources, and addressing conflicts or performance gaps required patience, diplomacy, and constant communication. Navigating these challenges taught me the importance of listening deeply, making tough decisions when necessary, and staying committed to the district's long-term goals rather than short-term comfort.

Overall, the challenges strengthened me, and the achievements belong not just to me but to the entire district team who stood together throughout the year.



How has serving in the Leo Movement shaped you personally and professionally?

Serving in the Leo Movement has been one of the most defining experiences of my life. Personally, it has shaped my character, strengthened my values, and taught me the true meaning of empathy and service. Leading diverse teams, working closely with young volunteers, and being exposed to different communities helped me grow into a more patient, understanding, and grounded individual. The movement reminded me that leadership is not about authority, it's about responsibility, humility, and the ability to inspire others.

Professionally, the Leo platform has been an exceptional training ground. It sharpened my skills in leadership, public speaking, project management, decision-making, and strategic planning. Working with deadlines, coordinating district-level initiatives, and managing stakeholder expectations taught me real-world management lessons that no classroomcould ever offer. The experience also improved my communication skills, emotional intelligence, and ability to work under pressure, qualities that have directly strengthened my professional life.



What is the most important lesson about leadership that you learned while serving as District President?

The most important lesson I learned as District President is that leadership is ultimately about people, not positions. Holding a title gives you responsibility, but earning trust gives you influence. Throughout my term, I realized that effective leadership is built on three pillars:

·Listening before leading.

Understanding the needs, concerns, and aspirations of clubs and officers allowed me to make better decisions. When you listen genuinely, people feel valued and that brings the entire team together.

·Empowering others instead of doing everything yourself.

A District President cannot succeed alone. Delegating, encouraging, and giving space for others to grow turned our officers into confident leaders and strengthened the district far beyond the year.

·Staying calm and consistent, even in challenging moments.

Leadership isn't tested when things go well, it's tested when things get difficult. Handling pressure with clarity, fairness, and patience taught me the importance of emotional intelligence in leadership.

Can you share a project or initiative during your term that had a significant impact on the community or members?

One of the most impactful initiatives during my term was the LYLIA (Lion Young Leader In Action), which was designed when I was the club president of Leo Club of Negombo Orient to create long-lasting value both for the community and for our Leo members.

From a community perspective, the project stood out because it went beyond a one-day activity. It addressed a real need, involved proper planning, and ensured that the beneficiaries continued to receive support even after the project was completed. The initiative brought together multiple clubs, strengthened our district's visibility, and demonstrated how powerful collaborative service can be when we work with purpose and unity.

For our members, the project served as a powerful platform for leadership development. It encouraged Leos to step into organizing roles, coordinate logistics, communicate with stakeholders, and manage responsibilities at a district level. Many members have told me that this initiative gave them the confidence to take on higher positions and shaped their leadership journey.

What made this project truly special was that it combined meaningful service with meaningful growth, impacting lives in the community while also developing strong and capable young leaders within the district.

How did you inspire and motivate fellow Leos to stay active and engaged during your term?

During my term as District President, my approach to motivating Leos was simple:
create a culture where everyone felt valued, supported, and excited to be part of something bigger than themselves.
Here's how I did that:

·By building personal connections
I made it a priority to communicate openly with club presidents, officers, and members. Whether through meetings, messages, or visits, I wanted them to feel that the District President was not just a title—but someone genuinely invested in their success. When people feel personally connected, their commitment naturally grows.
·By giving recognition generously and consistently
Leos thrive on appreciation. I ensured that every effort, big or small, was acknowledged. Recognizing clubs, project chairs, and individual members helped boost morale and encouraged others to step forward as well.
·By creating opportunities for growth
I encouraged members to take leadership roles, lead district-level projects, and voice their ideas. When young leaders see real opportunities to grow, they become more active, confident, and inspired.
·By maintaining a positive, energetic atmosphere



A leader's attitude is contagious. I always tried to bring enthusiasm, clarity, and encouragement to meetings, events, and discussions. This energy helped keep members motivated even during challenging periods.
·By keeping the district united under a shared purpose
More than anything, I constantly reminded everyone why we serve, not for awards or positions, but for impact. Aligning clubs around a meaningful vision kept the movement strong and active throughout the year.



What advice would you give to the next District President or current leaders to make their term more effective?

My advice to the next District President or any current leader is to begin the year with a clear vision and communicate it consistently so that the entire district understands the direction and purpose behind every initiative. Focus on building a strong, united leadership team by empowering your officers, trusting their abilities, and creating an environment where they feel supported and appreciated. Maintain open, transparent communication with your clubs, because when members feel heard and valued, their motivation naturally increases. Always prioritize quality over quantity; a few well-planned, meaningful initiatives will leave a far greater impact than many routine activities. Above all, lead with humility, patience, and emotional intelligence. Challenges will arise, but how you respond will define your leadership. If you remain grounded, celebrate every success, and remember that service, not titles, is at the heart of our movement, your term will not only be effective but truly memorable.



From your perspective, what are the biggest challenges the Leo Movement faces today, and how can they be addressed?

From my perspective, one of the biggest challenges the Leo Movement faces today is maintaining consistent member engagement in a world where young people are increasingly busy, distracted, and pulled in many directions by academic, professional, and personal commitments. Additionally, the movement faces the difficulty of balancing tradition with innovation, ensuring that long-standing structures remain strong while still adapting to the expectations of a new generation. Another key challenge is sustaining collaboration among clubs, as internal competition or misunderstandings can sometimes overshadow the larger purpose of service. To address these issues, the movement must prioritize meaningful leadership development, create impactful and relevant projects, adopt modern communication strategies, and foster a culture of unity rather than comparison. Most importantly, we must remind members that the heart of the Leo Movement lies in genuine service, personal growth, and the lifelong relationships we build along the way. When we refocus on these values, the movement becomes stronger, more vibrant, and more resilient.

How do you see the Leo Movement evolving in the next 5–10 years, and what role do you hope past leaders play in that growth?

In the next 5–10 years, I believe the Leo Movement will continue evolving into a more dynamic, digitally driven, and globally connected platform for youth leadership. With the rapid advancement of technology and changing expectations of young people, the movement will place even greater emphasis on innovation, skill development, and sustainable impact rather than traditional, one-day service activities. I expect to see stronger collaborations between districts, more professional training opportunities, and projects that address real societal challenges in a measurable way. As this transformation unfolds, past leaders will have a vital role to play, not by directing the journey, but by guiding, mentoring, and supporting new leaders with their experience and wisdom. Our role is to empower the next generation, encourage fresh ideas, and ensure the values of the movement remain strong while allowing creativity to flourish. By staying connected, offering guidance when needed, and championing the growth of emerging leaders, past leaders can help shape a movement that is more vibrant, inclusive, and impactful than ever before.





THE PRIDE OF THE MONTH...

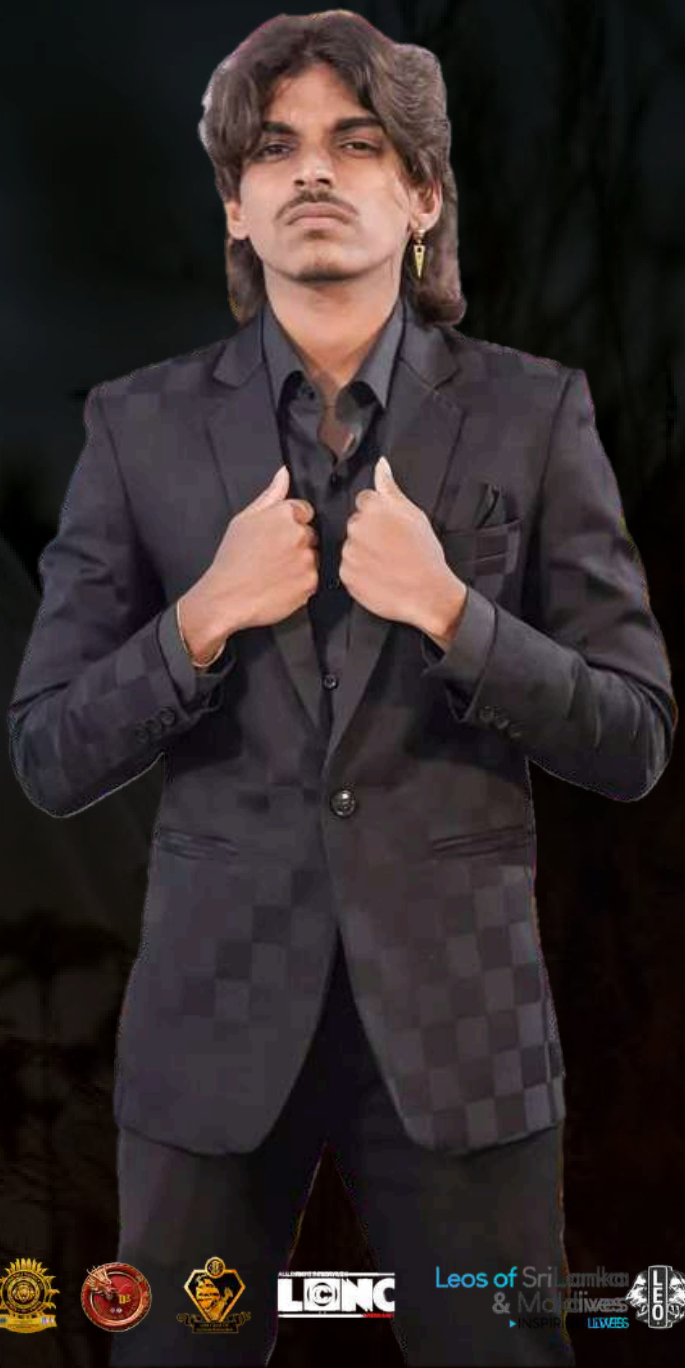
Leo Achala Ekanayaka

We are delighted to recognize Leo Achala Ekanayaka as our Leo of the Month for December 2025. His outstanding dedication and commitment, particularly during Project Spookzilla, made a meaningful impact and played a key role in the project's success.

Achala consistently stepped up whenever support was needed, offering his time, energy, and effort without hesitation. His willingness to help in every possible way, along with his hands-on approach, showed a strong sense of responsibility and true team spirit. Throughout the project, he remained dependable, proactive, and focused on ensuring everything ran smoothly.

His contribution reflects a genuine passion for service and a clear understanding of what it means to work for the greater good of the club. Achala's dedication and positive attitude have earned the appreciation of his fellow Leos and set a strong example for others to follow.

Congratulations, Achala! Your commitment and hard work have not gone unnoticed, and we look forward to seeing you continue to grow and make an even greater impact in the months ahead.




Catamaran
in actions
Leos of SriLanka
& Maldives
LIVES

SPOOKZILLA



The Spookzilla event, held on November 8 in Negombo and organized by the Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran, was a large-scale Halloween celebration intended to bring the community together for an evening of fun, creativity, and festivity. It aimed at creating a safe, pulsating environment in which people of all ages could take part in Halloween-themed activities, music, and social interaction. The highlight of the event was the dynamic lineup of four talented DJs-Ludi Spex, Arixx, Audiophile, and Bombsaway-whose performances truly electrified the crowd, contributing to an unforgettable atmosphere.

The Leo members, in turn, had to plan the project carefully and coordinate it, including all preparations at the venue, stage arrangements, sound and light coordination, crowd management, safety, and comfort of all present. It was their team effort and commitment to work that played a central role in ensuring a smooth flow of events right from the beginning to the end.

Spookzilla also inspired creativity through the costumes, makeup, and Halloween-inspired fashion that participants were encouraged to wear. It fostered socialization and unity wherein people could come together to celebrate in a happy, acceptance-filled environment. It provided an avenue for youth engagement where young people could assemble in a well-organized and secure environment.

DRAGONSTORM



The Dragonstorm District Orientation Programme, put together by the Leos of Negombo Catamaran and held on 22nd November at Maris Stella OBA, was a specially designed programme to guide new Leos into the movement. It was an informative and interactive programme that taught the structure, purpose, and values of the organization. Newcomers were introduced to leadership responsibilities, teamwork, and serving the community with dedication and enthusiasm through interactive sessions.

The distinguished guest speakers involved in the program were Leo Lion Rageesh Yogeswaran MJF, PMAF, PFLM, Leo Lion Rachika Sovis, Leo Lion Lasikumar Parameswaran, and Lion Nilesh Alston MJF, MAF. Through their insights and experiences, the youngsters felt motivated and inspired. Their guidance encouraged participants to discover their strengths, build confidence, and prepare for an active journey ahead.The program also had provision for networking and team-building activities to help the new Leos get in touch with fellow members across the district. This would foster unity, cooperation, and an enabling environment where ideas could flow freely.In all, Dragonstorm was a relevant and structured induction program that consolidated the foundation of new members and prepared them for any future service undertakings.

SERVE NEGOMBO



Initiated by heavy flooding that severely affected many families in Negombo, the project was organized jointly by Rotaract Negombo, Live Negombo, and the Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran. The flooding caused massive destruction, where a large number of residents did not have access to food or clean drinking water and also were unable to stay in safer homes. Realizing the urgent requirement for alleviating their suffering, a joint response aimed at addressing the situation in coordination was thus designed and implemented by the organizations.

The project was carried out on the 29th and 30th of November, when volunteers pinpointed the most affected households and distributed vital supplies to those families. The volunteers gave food packets, drinking water, and other basic necessities so that families could meet their immediate needs. The initiative focused not only on material assistance but also on providing emotional support, offering reassurance in times of hardship.Members were involved in practical work throughout the project, showing teamwork, empathy, and the ability to plan their actions successfully. The project brought the organizations and the local community together, making it clear that collaboration during crisis situations is of utmost importance. Urgent needs were met within the framework of the project, and support was provided while alleviating immediate challenges of flood-affected families by way of enhancing resilience, hope, and community solidarity.

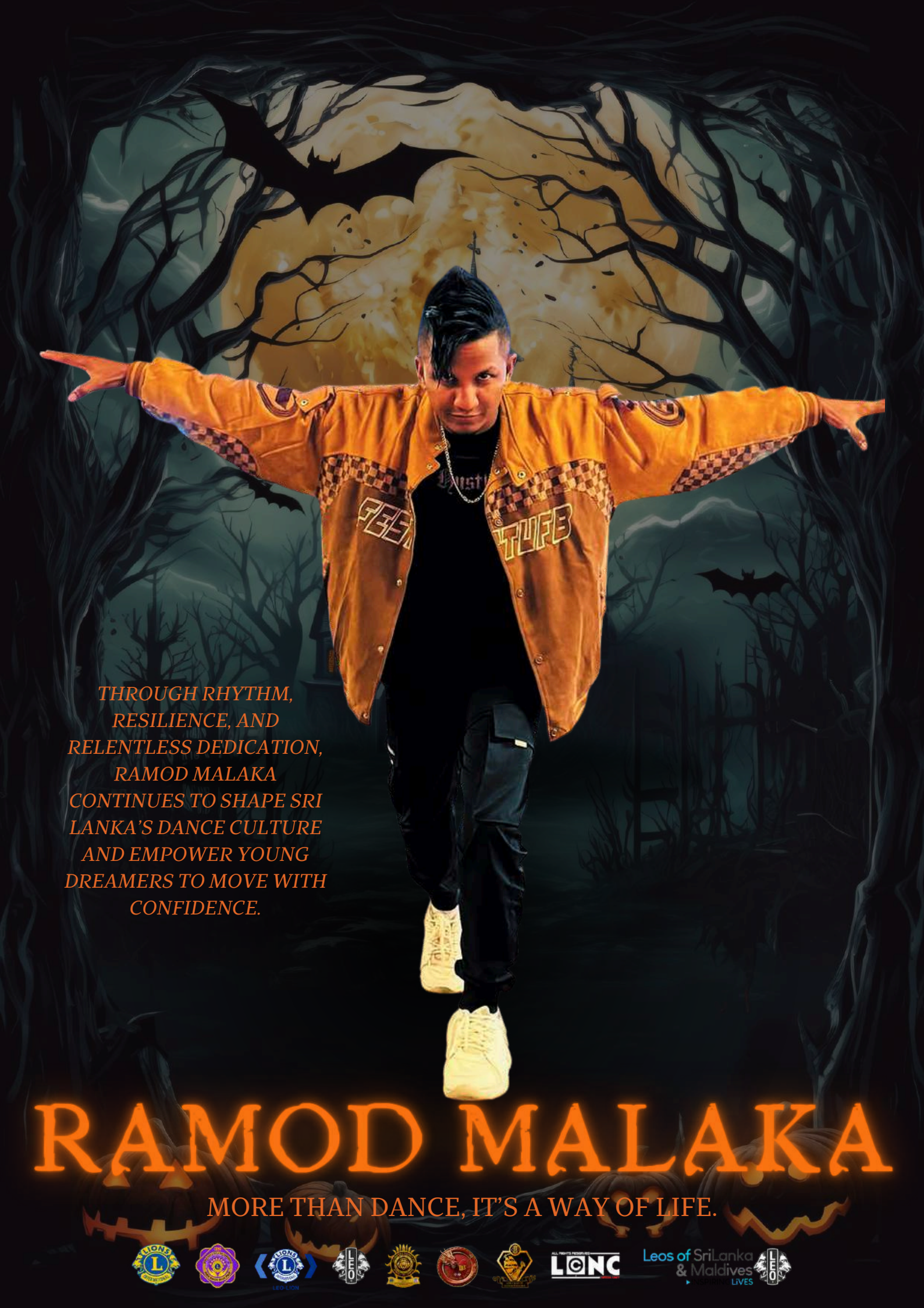
HEARTS IN HARMONY



The Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran carried out a service project to assist an elder home in Negombo that had been badly affected by heavy rains. Flooding and the accumulation of water in the premises caused damage and unhygienic conditions, creating potentially unsafe and uncomfortable conditions for the elderly residents. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, our club members organized a hands-on cleanup initiative to restore the premises and ensure a safer, more comfortable environment for the residents.

In the process, group members cleaned the flooded areas, removed debris, sanitized the surroundings, and managed the essential spaces within the home.The initiative not only tackled the immediate physical needs brought about by the rains but also offered emotional support to the citizens, who felt cared for and valued through our efforts.

This project brought out the essence of community service, teamwork, and empathy. In being fully involved in this cleaning process, our members enhanced their sense of social responsibility while making a real difference in the lives of the residents of this elder home. The initiative developed goodwill and reaffirmed the Leo Club's philosophy in serving the community.


THROUGH RHYTHM, RESILIENCE, AND RELENTLESS DEDICATION, RAMOD MALAKA CONTINUES TO SHAPE SRI LANKA'S DANCE CULTURE AND EMPOWER YOUNG DREAMERS TO MOVE WITH CONFIDENCE.
RAMOD MALAKA
MORE THAN DANCE, IT'S A WAY OF LIFE.

What first pulled you into dancing, and when did you feel it becoming more than just a hobby?

When I was a kid, I was dancing at weddings and everywhere I went. I was mainly influenced by Michael Jackson's videos. Later, I joined a class called RnR Dance Studio. Within a few months, I took part in a TV dance competition and reached the finals...That's when I realized this is my passion, and I knew I had to move forward with it



You've built a strong identity through your choreography. How would you describe your style in your own words?

I love being cool and dancing cool. Our dance studio is also called Cool Steps. I've always liked being unique when someone sees my steps, they should say, 'That's Ramod's style. I always try new moves that connect with the lyrics and musicality, so my dancing is mainly unique and cool.



Many young dancers look up to you. What do you think is the most overlooked part of becoming a good performer?

Discipline. Talent can only take you so far, but when you combine talent with discipline, you can go a long way.
If you truly love what you do, don't stop, stay consistent. Your day will come





Cool Steps has grown a lot over the years. What was the biggest challenge you faced while building it?

I love challenges. Building a team and keeping the same members together for years is not easy.Sometimes dancers face problems at home or at work, and after many years, some have to step away. When that happens, I need to find and train strong replacements, because Cool Steps has a high standard both the main crew and the kids crew must perform at that same level. It's hard when a good dancer leaves, but it's also a challenge...Now I have the experience and knowledge to build a strong dancer and replace someone when needed.
In summary, keeping the team together like a family for years is a challenge, but I always do my best to make it work.

What's a moment from your career that changed you or pushed you forward in an unexpected way?

It was definitely my first international winning act. I competed in a major competition in Sri Lanka with many Latin dancers and performers from other countries.I first participated in the Latin category in the morning, but I didn't place in the early rounds. Later, I noticed there was a Show Dance category.I've always loved performing unique solo pieces, so without overthinking, I applied. I already had a solo track with me. The main show was at night,in front of a large crowd, and most of the other participants were international dancers. I gave it my all and I won. I was over the moon. That win opened many opportunities for me and gave me a huge boost to pursue my passion with even more dedication and confidence.I won the same category again the following year.



You work with dancers of all levels. What qualities do you instantly notice in someone who has real potential?

Before talent, I value dedication and passion for dancing. If someone has that, that's what truly matters.
By practicing, you can improve your talent and skills. It's like hunger if you have a true passion for dance, you can succeed with discipline





Dance trends come and go. How do you stay original while still keeping up with what's fresh and exciting?

As dancers, we have to keep updating ourselves all the time. It's important to stay aware of global trends and new styles that's a must...From the very beginning, I've never liked copying dance steps, because copying can destroy creativity. It might bring short-term attention or views,but it doesn't last. Staying true to my own style and creating instead of copying is something I've always believed in. So I always update myself and combine my own style with new styles

If you could give one honest piece of advice to young Sri Lankan artists trying to make a name for themselves, what would it be?

My advice: Love what you do and stay true to your dance. Always practice and balance your home and work life. Have fun while dancing and always give your best. Set a goal and work toward it, If you believe in yourself, you can for sure.



CATAMARAN LEOPRENEUR

Leo Vihanga Shenith
Leo Anuhas Induwara
Leo Shenon Fernando

CUBE



CUBE is a versatile and energetic band built on passion, talent, and strong musical chemistry, formed by Leo Vihanga Shenith, Leo Anuhas Induwara, and Leo Shenon Fernando. Known for their engaging live performances, CUBE creates music experiences that connect effortlessly with both local and foreign audiences. Based mainly in Negombo, the band has become a familiar and well-loved name in the area, performing at a wide range of events, venues, and gatherings where good music sets the tone for great moments.

Blending smooth melodies, powerful rhythms, and carefully crafted arrangements, CUBE adapts their sound to suit every crowd and occasion. Whether it's laid-back vibes, upbeat crowd favorites, or high-energy performances, each set is delivered with attention to detail, professionalism, and a genuine love for the craft. With a strong focus on quality, versatility, and audience connection, CUBE continues to stand out as a band that brings people together through music, leaving a lasting impression long after the final note.

ROAR OF INSPIRATION



Leo Lion Methushan Sivakumar

President
Leo Club of Colombo Waters Meet
Leo District 306 D3

Warm greetings from the Leo Club of Colombo Waters Meet!

A sincere thank you to Leo Thuhina Gimhan, President of the Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran, for the kind opportunity to share a few words through your newsletter. It is always a pleasure to connect with fellow Leo clubs and leaders who share the same passion for service, friendship, and growth.

I truly admire the energy and commitment shown by your club, and I look forward to strengthening the bond between our clubs through future projects, fellowship, and shared experiences.

Wishing the Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran continued success and many more impactful initiatives ahead.



ROAR OF INSPIRATION



Leo Lion Gayathri Sathsarani

President
Leo Club of BCI Negombo
Leo District 306 D3

Dear Leos of Negombo Catamaran,

I'm Leo Lion Gayathri Sathsarani, President of the Leo Club of BCI Negombo. I am very happy to send my warm greetings to your club.

Your club has always shown great teamwork and a strong spirit of service. The way you plan your projects, support your community, and stay united as one team is truly beautiful. You bring a bright and positive energy to our District 306 D3. Because of your hard work, many of us feel inspired to do better and serve more.

As Leos, our goal is the same to spread kindness, help people, and create a better future. When our clubs support each other, we can achieve more together. I believe your club will continue to work with passion, creativity, and strength throughout this year.

Please keep going forward with courage and a kind heart. Even small actions can create big change. The good work you do today will help someone's life tomorrow.

I wish your club a very successful year filled with new ideas, strong friendships, and meaningful service projects. May you continue to grow, learn, and inspire others in everything you do.



THE ICON OF SERVICE...

William Perry Woods

The Leader Who Built the Foundation of Lions Clubs International

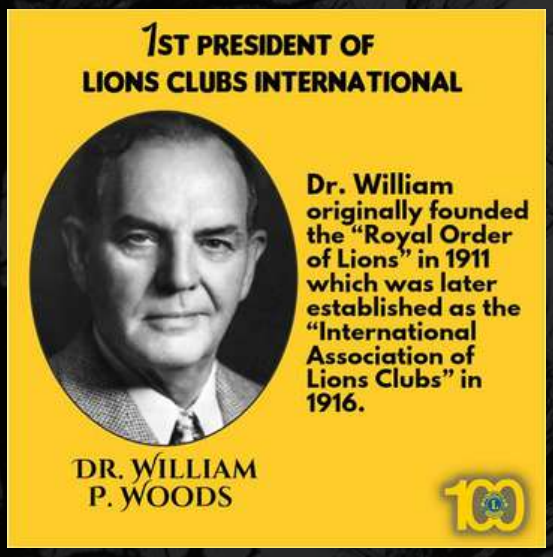
While Melvin Jones is remembered as the founder of Lions Clubs International, Dr. William Woods is remembered as the man who helped turn a powerful idea into a lasting global organization. As the first International President of Lions Clubs International, Dr. Woods played a critical role in shaping the structure, discipline, and direction of the movement during its earliest and most fragile years.

Dr. Woods was a respected physician, and his professional background deeply influenced his approach to leadership. He believed in organization, responsibility, and service driven by genuine community need. When Lions Clubs International was formed in 1917, the vision was clear, but the systems were not. Clubs were new, scattered, and still finding their purpose. Dr. Woods stepped in at a time when strong leadership was essential to ensure the movement did not lose momentum or direction.



As International President, Dr. Woods focused on building a solid framework for Lions Clubs. He helped establish operational structures, ethical standards, and leadership responsibilities that allowed clubs to function effectively and consistently. His work ensured that Lions Clubs were not just social gatherings, but service-driven organizations with accountability and purpose. This early foundation allowed the movement to grow rapidly across communities and later across borders.

One of his most important contributions was reinforcing the idea that Lions Clubs exist to serve, not to seek personal gain. Dr. Woods strongly supported the principle that Lions should dedicate their time, skills, and resources to uplift their communities. This belief aligned closely with the emerging motto "We Serve," which would later become the identity of Lions Clubs worldwide. His leadership helped embed service as the heart of the organization, rather than an optional activity.



Dr. Woods also played a key role in uniting clubs under a shared identity. During his tenure, Lions Clubs began to develop a sense of belonging to something larger than their local community. This early sense of unity laid the groundwork for Lions Clubs International to expand nationally and eventually become one of the largest service organizations in the world.

Although Dr. William Woods may not always be the most spoken-about figure in Lions history, his impact is undeniable. Without his steady leadership in the early years, the Lions movement may never have developed the strength and clarity it needed to survive and grow. His legacy lives on in every Lions and Leo project carried out today, reminding us that strong foundations are what allow great movements to stand the test of time.

ROARS ACROSS THE DISTRICT



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

Leos of SriLanka & Maldives LIVES



LEOS TOGETHER

Leo District 306 D3 together with Leo District 306 D5 initiate the project “Leos Together” to help those who affected by the Ditwah Cyclone.

This initiative shows that leos are everywhere when there is a need.

ROARS ACROSS THE MULTIPLE DISTRICT





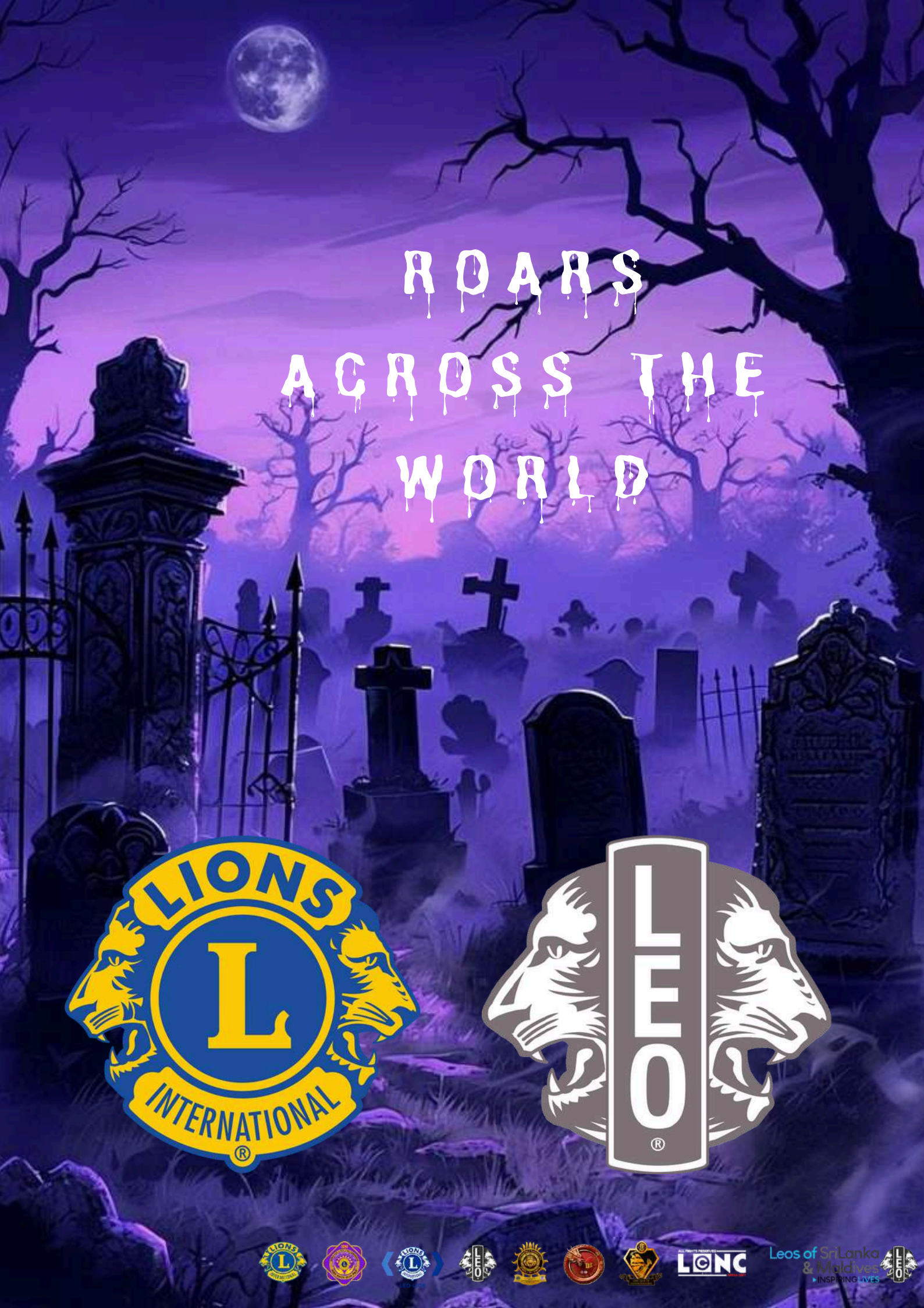
Radiance - Leo Mass Induction

Radiance- The mass induction ceremony of Leo Multiple District 306 Sri Lanka & Maldives was held on 23rd November 2025 with participants of more than 1500+ Leos. This is truly a proud record of Leos

Rebuild Together Sri Lanka

Rebuild Together Sri Lanka was an initiative led by our Multiple District President Leo Lion Rageesh Yogeswaran to help those effected by the Ditwah Cyclone




ROARS
ACROSS THE
WORLD
LIONS
INTERNATIONAL
LEO
LCNC
Leos of SriLanka
& Maldives
INSPIRING LIVES

Northlakes High School Leo Club gets major community funding



In late November 2025, the Northlakes High School Leo Club in San Remo, Australia received a $10,000 Community Kickstart grant from the Northlakes Shopping Centre. The funding will support the club's ongoing outreach including food hampers, clothing drives for the homeless, support for families in need and fundraising for health causes. The grant highlights how young Leos are being recognised and backed by the wider community for their volunteer service.

First Responders Leos bring food and books to community in NYC

In Richmond Hill, Queens (New York), the First Responders Lions and Leo Clubs hosted a pre-Thanksgiving pie and food distribution on Nov. 17, 2025, giving out pies and holiday trimmings to churchgoers and community members. Leo volunteers worked alongside Lions and NYPD partners to make the event welcoming, and even gifted books to children. It's a strong example of Leo service being part of meaningful community-building activities during the holiday season.



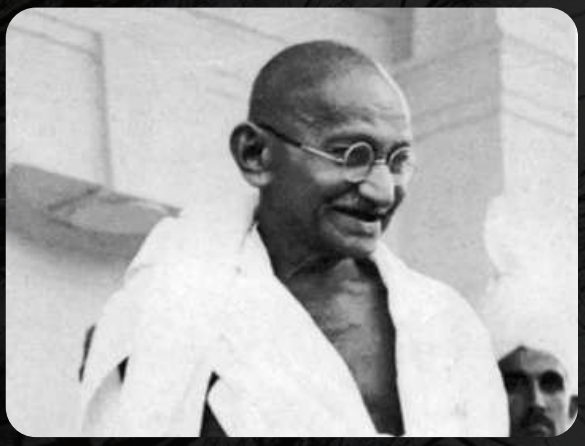


A LEGACY THAT LIVES ON...

Mahatma Gandhi

A Life That Changed the World Without Violence

More than seven decades after his passing, Mahatma Gandhi remains one of the most influential figures in world history. He was not just a leader who guided India to independence, but a moral force whose ideas reshaped how people think about power, justice, and resistance. Gandhi proved that real change does not always come from force or violence, but from courage, discipline, and unwavering principles. His legacy continues to inspire movements, leaders, and everyday people across the globe.



Born in 1869 in Porbandar, India, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi did not begin his life as a revolutionary icon. He was a quiet, determined individual who studied law and spent formative years in South Africa. It was there that he experienced racial discrimination firsthand, shaping his understanding of injustice. Instead of responding with anger, Gandhi began developing his philosophy of nonviolent resistance, known as Satyagraha, meaning the pursuit of truth through peaceful means. These early experiences laid the foundation for the leader the world would later come to admire.

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.



Leos of SriLanka & Maldives LIVES

A Life of Simplicity and Principle

Beyond politics, Gandhi lived the values he preached. He embraced a simple lifestyle, wore modest clothing, and encouraged self-reliance through local production. His personal discipline reflected his belief that social change begins with individual responsibility. Gandhi spoke openly about equality, religious harmony, and the dignity of every human being. He reminded people that freedom meant more than independence from foreign rule; it meant freedom from hatred, fear, and injustice within society itself.





A Global Influence Beyond Borders

Gandhi's ideas did not remain confined to India. Leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela drew inspiration from his philosophy of nonviolence in their own struggles for civil rights and freedom. Even today, activists around the world look to Gandhi's teachings when confronting inequality and injustice. His life continues to serve as proof that peaceful resistance can challenge even the most powerful systems.

Mahatma Gandhi's legacy lives on not through monuments or history books alone, but through the values he stood for. In a world still facing conflict and division, his message remains deeply relevant. Gandhi taught humanity that lasting change requires patience, compassion, and moral courage. His life reminds us that one individual, guided by truth and nonviolence, can influence generations and shape the course of history.



CURRENT WORLD

G20 Summit 2025: A Historic Gathering in Johannesburg

In late November 2025, world leaders and top policymakers gathered in Johannesburg, South Africa for the 20th annual G20 Summit, the first time this influential forum met on African soil. Hosted at the Nasrec Expo Centre from 22–23 November, the summit took the spotlight as a forum for global economic cooperation, climate action, and inclusive development under the theme of "Solidarity, Equality, and Sustainability."

This year's meeting drew global attention not just for its location, but for the shifting dynamics of international cooperation amid growing geopolitical tension and divergent approaches to global problems.

An extraordinary feature of the Johannesburg summit was the absence of the United States at the leader level. U.S. President Donald Trump chose to boycott the event, citing political disputes with South African authorities; this marked a rare instance where a founding G20 member skipped the summit entirely.

Despite Washington's absence, the summit went ahead with participation from other major economies and invited states, totaling around 42 countries and regional blocs represented at various levels.

The boycotted summit sparked debate about the future of multilateral cooperation and whether global governance structures can adapt when the world's largest economies are not fully engaged.



Key Outcomes and Agreed Priorities

On 23 November, G20 leaders adopted a joint declaration that outlined shared priorities on economic cooperation, climate action, and sustainable development. This document (over 120 paragraphs) was finalized despite objections raised by the U.S., signaling a united front among the attending nations on several issues.

Shared Goals Highlighted in the Declaration

- A renewed commitment to multilateral cooperation and joint decision-making.
- Strong emphasis on climate action, aligning with the Paris Agreement and ambitions to limit global warming.
- Focus on financing sustainable development, particularly for developing economies and nations in the Global South.
- Efforts to address debt sustainability and strengthen financial safety nets for vulnerable states.

Spotlight on the Global South

South Africa used its presidency to push issues long championed by emerging and developing economies priorities that reflect broader concerns around equity and fairness in international policymaking.

For many African leaders and economists, the summit was meant to elevate the voice of the Global South advocating for reforms in global finance, infrastructure investment, and expanded access to energy and technology.

Proposals emerging from related discussions included:

- Improved access to development finance and joint strategies to tackle the debt burden.
- Efforts to expand energy access across Africa.
- Advisory reports and expert panels focused on strengthening economic participation.

Diplomacy and Global Cooperation

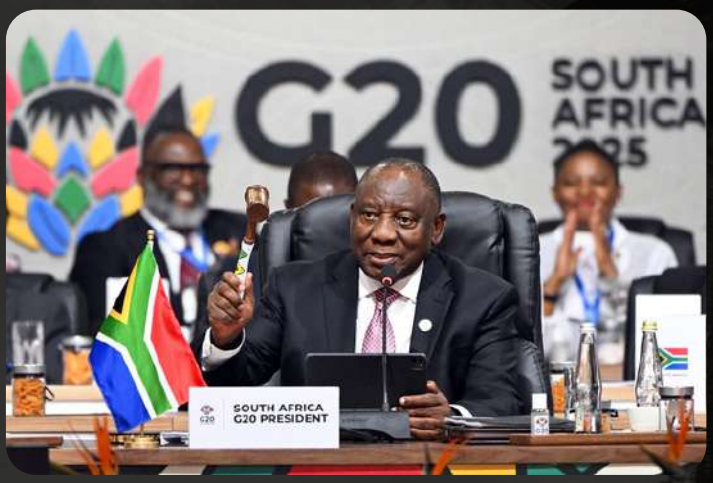
The summit wasn't just about declarations. Behind closed doors, leaders and delegates held bilateral discussions on trade, technology, health, and security cooperation. Officials also explored ways to reform global institutions like the WTO to better reflect contemporary realities and to expand pathways for small and middle-income economies to contribute meaningfully to global policy.

At the close of the summit, host President Cyril Ramaphosa highlighted unity and partnership even amid serious differences, underlining that collective action remains critical to tackling cross-border challenges.

What This Means Going Forward

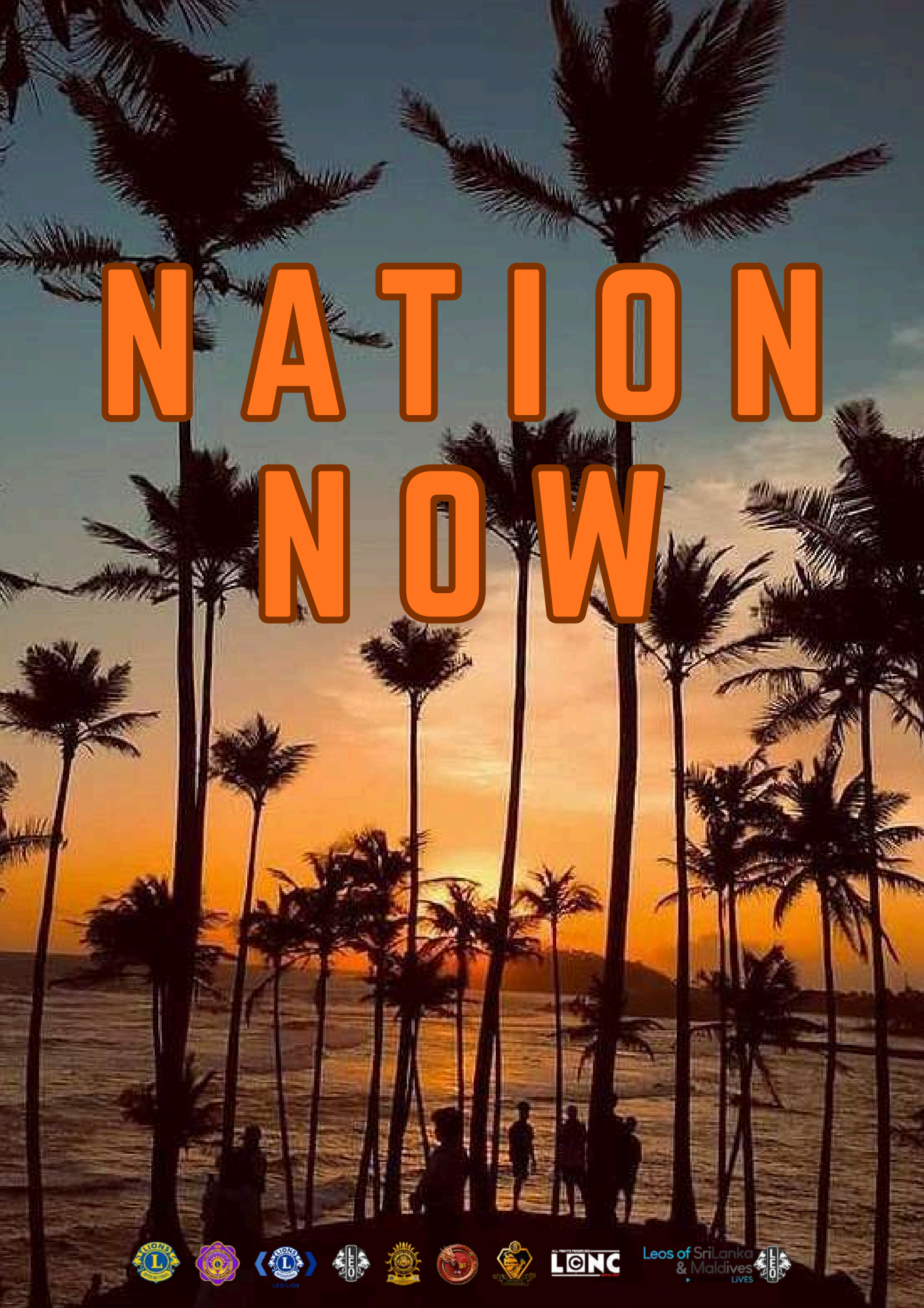


The Johannesburg summit was more than a meeting of economic powers; it was a symbolic moment in the ongoing evolution of global governance. Its outcomes emphasized cooperation on climate, inclusion of new voices from the Global South, and an attempt to keep multilateral dialogue alive even with fractures among big powers.



Observers say the real test will come at the 2026 G20 Summit, where the U.S. assumes the rotating presidency amid ongoing debate about the role of global leadership and collaborative problem-solving in an increasingly complex world.

As the world moves into the final stretch of 2025, the G20 Summit in Johannesburg leaves behind a clear message: global challenges can no longer be tackled in isolation. While differences among nations were visible, the summit reinforced the need for dialogue, shared responsibility, and inclusive decision making. Hosting the G20 on African soil brought fresh perspectives to the table and reminded the world that sustainable progress depends on listening to all voices, especially those often left unheard. What follows now is not just policy on paper, but the real test of turning collective promises into meaningful action.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Cyclone Ditwah and Sri Lanka: A Nation Responds...

Sri Lanka faced another stern reminder of nature's force as Cyclone Ditwah swept across the region, bringing days of intense rainfall, strong winds, and widespread disruption. While the cyclone did not make a direct landfall at peak strength, its outer bands were enough to affect large parts of the island, testing disaster preparedness systems and community resilience once again.

From coastal belts to inland districts, Ditwah's impact was felt in many forms. Flooded roads, rising rivers, damaged homes, and disrupted livelihoods became the reality for thousands. As the country moved from emergency response to recovery, the event raised important questions about climate readiness, infrastructure strength, and long-term adaptation.



How Cyclone Ditwah Developed

Cyclone Ditwah formed over the Indian Ocean under favorable atmospheric conditions, intensifying as it moved closer to the South Asian region. Meteorological authorities closely tracked its movement, issuing regular updates and warnings as the system approached Sri Lanka's vicinity.

Although the cyclone weakened before passing near the island, its associated weather patterns remained severe. Prolonged heavy rainfall, gusty winds, and rough seas affected both land and marine activities. Weather experts noted that even weakened cyclonic systems can cause significant damage, especially when combined with already saturated ground conditions.



Areas Affected Across the Island

Several districts experienced intense rainfall, leading to flash floods and landslides in vulnerable areas. Low-lying regions saw rivers overflow, submerging homes, farmlands, and access roads. In hill country districts, continuous rain increased the risk of slope failures, prompting evacuation advisories in certain locations.

Coastal areas faced rough seas and strong winds, forcing fishing communities to suspend operations. Small-scale fishers, who rely on daily income, were particularly affected as harbors remained closed and boats were kept ashore for safety.

Urban centers were not spared either. Poor drainage in some towns led to temporary flooding, disrupting transport and daily routines. Power outages and fallen trees further added to the challenges faced by residents.



Impact on Communities and Livelihoods

For many families, Cyclone Ditwah meant sudden displacement. Emergency shelters were opened to accommodate those forced to leave their homes due to rising water levels or structural damage. Schools and community centers served as temporary refuges, supported by local authorities and volunteers.

Agriculture, a vital sector for rural livelihoods, suffered notable losses. Flooded paddy fields, damaged vegetable crops, and soil erosion raised concerns about upcoming harvests. Farmers expressed worries not only about immediate losses but also about long-term soil quality and recovery time.

Small businesses and daily wage earners were equally affected. With transport disrupted and markets temporarily closed in some areas, income opportunities were reduced at a time when many households were already under economic strain.

Emergency Response and Government Action

Disaster management authorities activated emergency protocols as early warnings were issued. Evacuations were carried out in high-risk zones, while relief teams were deployed to assess damage and assist affected communities.

The military, police, and disaster response units played a key role in rescue operations, clearing blocked roads, and delivering essential supplies. Relief packages, including dry rations, drinking water, and medical assistance, were distributed to those in shelters and heavily affected areas.

Health officials closely monitored the situation to prevent disease outbreaks, particularly in flood-affected zones where contaminated water can pose serious risks. Public advisories emphasized hygiene, safe drinking water, and mosquito control measures.



Beyond official response efforts, community solidarity stood out as a powerful force during the crisis. Local volunteers, youth groups, and civil society organizations stepped in to provide food, clothing, and emotional support to displaced families.

Social media and community networks helped coordinate donations and share real-time information, enabling quicker responses at the grassroots level. In many villages, neighbors opened their homes to those in need, reinforcing the importance of collective responsibility during times of crisis.

These acts of compassion highlighted how community-based resilience can complement formal disaster management systems, especially in the crucial first hours of an emergency.

Looking Ahead: Recovery and Resilience

As waters recede and cleanup efforts continue, attention is now shifting toward recovery and rebuilding. Damage assessments will guide compensation, infrastructure repairs, and livelihood support programs in the weeks ahead.

Experts stress that recovery should not simply aim to restore what was lost, but to build back better. Strengthening flood defenses, improving early warning dissemination, and investing in climate-resilient infrastructure are key steps toward reducing future vulnerability.

Public awareness also plays a vital role. Encouraging preparedness at household and community levels can save lives and reduce losses when extreme weather strikes again.

Cyclone Ditwah may pass into history as another challenging chapter in Sri Lanka's climate story, but its lessons remain relevant. The event underscored the importance of coordination, compassion, and preparedness in facing natural disasters.

As a nation, Sri Lanka continues to navigate the delicate balance between development and environmental resilience. How these lessons are applied will shape the country's ability to withstand future storms, both literal and figurative.

For now, the focus remains on supporting affected communities, restoring normalcy, and strengthening systems to face whatever comes next.

BRAIN BOOST!!

Halloween: A Day of History, Imagination, and Tradition...

Halloween, celebrated every year on October 31, is widely known today for costumes, pumpkins, and festive gatherings. However, the day has roots that go back over 2,000 years to an ancient Celtic festival called Samhain. The Celts believed this was the time when the boundary between the living and the dead became thin, allowing spirits to move between worlds. To protect themselves, people lit bonfires and wore disguises, traditions that slowly evolved into the Halloween customs we recognize today.

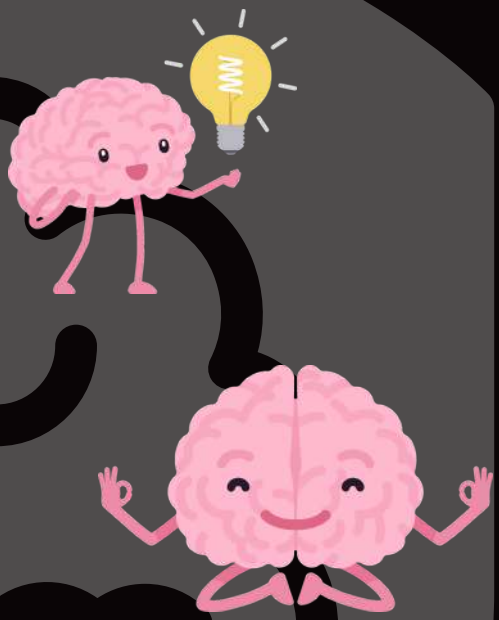


As centuries passed, Halloween was influenced by Christian traditions, particularly All Hallows' Eve, the night before All Saints' Day. Over time, religious meaning blended with local folklore, seasonal celebrations, and community rituals. When European immigrants carried these traditions to North America, Halloween transformed further, becoming less about superstition and more about storytelling, creativity, and community fun.

One of the most recognizable symbols of Halloween is the carved pumpkin, often called a jack-o'-lantern. This tradition originated from Irish folklore, where turnips were carved to ward off evil spirits. Pumpkins later replaced turnips because they were more abundant and easier to carve. Costumes, another key part of Halloween, reflect the original idea of disguise, though today they celebrate imagination, popular culture, and self expression rather than fear.

In the modern world, Halloween has grown into a global cultural event celebrated in different ways across countries. While some observe it with parties and decorations, others use the day to explore history, folklore, and creativity through art and storytelling. Beyond the costumes and sweets, Halloween reminds us how ancient beliefs can evolve into shared traditions that bring people together through curiosity, culture, and fun.

Brain Boost Challenge: The 30-Second Switch



Pause for a moment and look around you. In 30 seconds, list (in your head or on paper) five things you can see, four things you can hear, and three things you can feel.

Now ask yourself one simple question: What's one small thing I can do next to move forward today?

This quick mental switch helps reset attention, ground the mind, and bring clarity back when things feel rushed or overwhelming. It's short, simple, and surprisingly powerful.

Mini Sudoku (4 x 4)

1			4
	3		
		2	
4			1

Tip: *Each small box is a 2x2 square*


CREATIVITY
LOUNGE

Creativity Beyond the Paper








Under the Creative Lounge theme Creativity Beyond the Paper, Leo Leesha brings imagination to life through stunning Halloween nail art. Blending bold colors, playful details, and seasonal flair, her designs show how creativity can move beyond sketches and pages into wearable art. As one of our own club members, Leo Leesha's work is a proud reminder that talent within our Leo family shines in many forms, sometimes right at our fingertips.

The Earth Did Not Scream..

The earth did not scream.
It sighed.

Rivers forgot their names and ran wild,
fire walked through forests like grief,
and cities watched their own shadows fall
in sheets of broken glass.

We call them disasters
as if they arrive without reason,
as if the sea does not remember our scars,
as if the ground does not tire
of holding our weight.

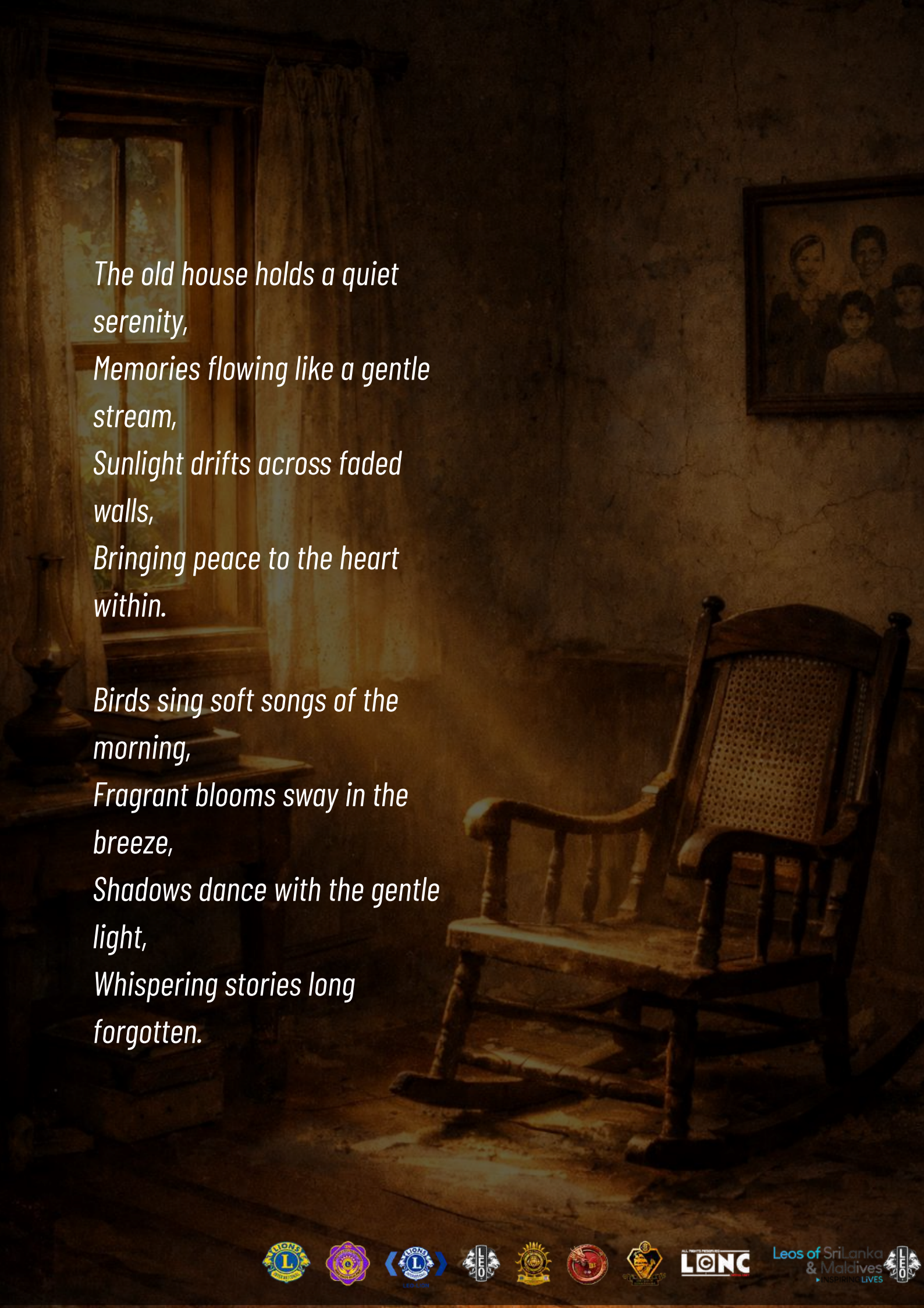
Water rose, slow and polite,
then climbed our walls, our photographs,
until even prayers learned how to drown.

When the earth split open,
it was not rage,
it was exhaustion
finally spoken aloud.

After, there is a silence
heavier than rubble,
where names echo
and the sky keeps going anyway.

Yet in the ruins,
hands still find hands.
Hope, bruised but breathing,
stands up once more.

- S



The old house holds a quiet serenity,
Memories flowing like a gentle stream,
Sunlight drifts across faded walls,
Bringing peace to the heart within.

Birds sing soft songs of the morning,
Fragrant blooms sway in the breeze,
Shadows dance with the gentle light,
Whispering stories long forgotten.

Leos of SriLanka & Maldives
INSPIRING LIVES

CATAMARANS SNAPS...













SIGNING OFF...

Leo Treesha Shavindya



As we drift into the moonlit waters of the fifth edition of Sailing Catamaran, this special Halloween issue invites you aboard a voyage where mystery meets meaning. Under lantern light and shadowed sails, we reflect on the spirited energy, creativity, and service that continue to bind our Leo family together even when the seas feel a little eerie.

Within these pages, stories unfold like whispered legends on deck. Moments of courage, laughter, and connection rise through the fog, reminding us that even on the spookiest of nights, our shared purpose is the compass that keeps us steady. Each article and image carries a flicker of magic, proof that unity and dedication shine brightest in the dark.

Thank you for sailing with us through this hauntingly memorable edition for reading, supporting, and celebrating every twist in our journey. As we chart our course toward the next issue, may this Halloween voyage inspire us to face the unknown with brave hearts and open minds.

Here's to glowing horizons, fearless sails, and adventures that linger long after the mist clears.

BEHIND THE PAGES...



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As we anchor this Halloween edition, we pause to celebrate the voyages we've shared and the moments that guided us through moonlit waters and misty tides.

Thank you for being part of our crew, for reading, and for sailing alongside us even when the seas felt a little mysterious.

Until the next breeze fills our sails, keep exploring, keep inspiring, and let your passion light the way through every shadowed horizon.

Fair winds and glowing lanterns,
The Editors

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