Cosmic Rhythms, September Dreams .

# SAILING CATAMARAN

**VOLUME 06**
**ISSUE 3**

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

# Greetings from Catamarans

## Club Secretary

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

My Dear Leos ,

It is with great joy and pride that I share this edition of our newsletter. Each page reflects the dedication, passion, and tireless efforts of our members, who continue to uphold the true spirit of service and fellowship. Our club's journey is built not only on achievements and milestones, but also on the bonds of unity and compassion that strengthen us as one family.

hrough our projects, initiatives, and shared moments, we have shown that together we can create meaningful change. Every effort—no matter how small—adds to the greater impact we bring to our community. This newsletter serves as a record of those efforts and a reminder of the potential we hold when we work hand in hand.

As we look ahead, may we continue to be guided by purpose, inspired by service, and encouraged by the successes we achieve together. Let us embrace new opportunities, nurture our friendships, and commit ourselves to making a difference in the lives we touch.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to our club's mission. The journey continues, and together, we willaccomplish even greater things.



# Club Treasurer

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

Dear Leos and Well-Wishers,

It is with great pride that I share this message with you as the Treasurer of the Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran..




Our club continues to grow not only in numbers but also in impact. Over the past term, we have successfully organized and supported several meaningful initiatives aimed at uplifting our community—ranging from youth empowerment projects to environmental and health-focused campaigns. Each of these efforts was made possible through careful financial planning and, most importantly, your unwavering support.

As Treasurer, my responsibility is to ensure that every rupee entrusted to us is used with transparency, accountability, and purpose. I am pleased to report that our finances remain strong and well-managed, allowing us to confidently pursue projects that align with our values and vision.

A detailed financial report will be made available for member review, and I encourage you to stay informed and engaged. Transparency and collaboration are the cornerstones of our success.

Let us continue working together to serve with heart, lead with integrity, and build a brighter future—for our club and for those we strive to help.

# Legacy in Action...







***A Project done by our mother Club:***
***Lions Club of Negombo Catamaran***

The Lions Club of Negombo Catamaran recently took a meaningful step to support education by donating a phone to a young student, enabling her to continue her learning and stay connected with educational resources. This thoughtful initiative was led by the Club President, Lion Sanjeewa, reflecting the club's ongoing commitment to empowering children and fostering opportunities for growth in the community.

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# ROARING WORDS WITH:
# PAST MULTIPLE DISTRICT PRESIDENT

*An accomplished leader whose vision continues to shape the Leo movement.*



# LEO LION DULINI COORAY FLM

**Leadership, service, and inspiration three words that perfectly define today's guest. We are honored to feature a Past Multiple District President of the Leo Club program, a dynamic leader whose journey has been marked by dedication, resilience, and a passion for empowering young people. Through her vision and commitment, she has shaped not only the Leo movement but also the lives of countless emerging leaders. In this interview, she shares her story, the lessons she has learned along the way, and her perspective on building a stronger future for youth leadership.**



***What motivated you to join the Leo movement, and how did that journey lead you to becoming a Multiple District President?***

*I first joined the Leo movement in 2013 because I wanted to give back to my community and, to be honest, because I was a little bored after my O/Ls. I even dragged my best friend along, not really knowing what we were signing up for. What began with small service projects quickly grew into something much bigger, opening doors to new friendships, responsibilities, and leadership roles. Each step from club level to district, and eventually to the Multiple District, taught me something new about myself. So, when I finally became Multiple District President, it didn't feel like a sudden leap, but rather the natural next chapter in a journey that had shaped me every step of the way.*

***What was the biggest challenge you faced as a young leader, and how did you overcome it?***

*Being young, one of my biggest challenges was proving that I had the maturity to lead. There were moments when others doubted whether I could handle the pressure, and at times, I even doubted myself. Instead of letting that hold me back, I chose to work harder, listen more, and let my actions speak louder than my words. What made the biggest difference was the small circle of people who supported me. It wasn't a large group, just a handful of trusted individuals during my time as District President and later as Multiple District President, but their belief in me shaped the leader I became. Over time, consistency built trust, and that trust gave me the confidence to lead authentically.*



***Looking back, what do you feel was your most meaningful contribution to the Leo movement in Sri Lanka?***

*Looking back, I don't see my contribution as one big project or achievement. What means the most to me are the small moments where I saw younger Leos step up because of something I helped create. I had the privilege of mentoring and sometimes simply being a friend to so many upcoming leaders. Watching them climb the leadership ladder, take on roles, and even go beyond what I achieved has been my greatest joy. Whether it was giving them the chance to lead a project or just encouraging them to believe in themselves, those moments of empowerment are what I consider my true contribution to the Leo movement.*





***As a female leader in a space that's often male-dominated, what unique challenges or opportunities did you experience?***

*There were definitely times when I felt I had to work a little harder to be heard. But those moments pushed me to grow a thicker skin and stay grounded in my purpose. The challenges made the victories even more meaningful. At the end of the day, what truly matters is the respect and trust of the Leos you lead; everything else is just background noise. On the positive side, being a female leader also gave me the privilege of inspiring other young women who wondered if they could step into similar roles. I've always believed that leadership has no gender, and I'm proud to have played a small part in breaking that perception.*



***Who were the mentors or role models that shaped your leadership style, and how do you now guide the next generation?***

*I've been fortunate to have mentors in both the Leo and Lions movements who guided me with patience, often even before I realized how much I needed their advice. They taught me that true leadership isn't about being the loudest voice in the room, but about lifting others up. That's something I now try to pass on by mentoring younger Leos, not by giving them all the answers, but by helping them discover their own path.*
*Beyond Leoism and Lionism, the person who shaped my leadership the most has been my father. He was the one I turned to with every challenge. His advice on the do's and don'ts, and his constant reminder to always consider the feelings of others, taught me to be a good human first and a leader second.*

***How did you balance studies, personal life, and such a demanding leadership role at the same time?***

*If I'm being honest, it wasn't always easy. There were late nights, missed outings, and plenty of stress along the way. What kept me going was passion. I genuinely enjoyed what I was doing, and that made the sacrifices feel worthwhile. I also had the support of my family, especially my mother, who often nagged me about overcommitting but, deep down, understood why this mattered to me. The balance was never perfect, but it taught me discipline, resilience, and time management lessons I still carry with me today.*

***What advice would you give to Leos who dream of holding leadership positions like you did?***

*Don't chase titles, chase impact. Start with service, say yes to opportunities that challenge you, and don't be afraid to make mistakes along the way. Leadership is a journey, not a destination. If you focus on people and the difference you're making, the positions will naturally follow. But if your focus is only on titles or privileges, and you start thinking you're above others, then you've missed the point, because Leo is a voluntary movement, and no one owes you anything. Remember, any title lasts only for a year, but the respect you earn lasts far longer. And that respect can never be demanded; it has to be earned.*

***How has your Leo journey shaped your professional and personal life outside the organization?***

*I often say the Leo movement was my training ground for life. It gave me the confidence to speak in front of a crowd, the patience to work with diverse teams, and the ability to take on responsibility under pressure. More importantly, it shaped my values, empathy, service, and resilience. The friendships I built feel like family, and the experiences still guide how I approach challenges in both my career and personal life.*

*For me, Leo is not life itself, but it gives you lessons and connections that will last a lifetime. The key is to figure out how it helps you grow, what you take away from it, and most importantly, when it's time to let go and when it's worth holding on.*




***In reflecting on her journey, Past Multiple District President [Her Name] leaves us with a powerful reminder: leadership is defined not by position, but by purpose. Her legacy of service, resilience, and inspiration continues to resonate within the Leo movement, setting a standard for generations to come. We extend our sincere gratitude for her time, her insights, and her enduring contribution to youth leadership.***

# THE PRIDE OF THE MONTH...

## Leo Mithuni Serasignhe

We are proud to announce Leo Mithuni Serasinghe as our Leo of the Month for September 2025. Mithuni's active participation and consistent commitment towards the club's projects have truly set her apart this month.

Her enthusiasm, dedication, and willingness to step in wherever needed have been an inspiration to fellow Leos. Whether it's lending a hand during planning, actively engaging in execution, or motivating others to get involved, Mithuni has shown the true essence of teamwork and leadership.

Her contributions reflect not only her passion for service but also her determination to uplift the standards of our club. With her positive spirit and reliability, Mithuni continues to embody the values of Leoism in everything she does.

Congratulations, Mithuni! Your hard work and devotion do not go unnoticed, and we look forward to seeing you achieve even greater heights in the journey ahead.



# Catamarans in Actions



# HEARTS IN HEALING




The Hearts in Healing project's main goal was to provide patients and their families at Apeksha Hospital in Maharagama with empathy and useful assistance. The initiative sought to provide relief, comfort, and hope through meaningful acts of service, acknowledging the financial, emotional, and physical difficulties that people undergoing long-term medical treatment face. The project aimed to improve the wellbeing of individuals undergoing treatment and their loved ones by attending to their immediate needs and cultivating a sense of care.

Hearts in Healing sought to make a significant difference by encouraging empathy and interpersonal relationships in addition to offering practical assistance. The project served as a reminder that even modest acts of compassion can have a significant impact on the lives of those who are struggling.

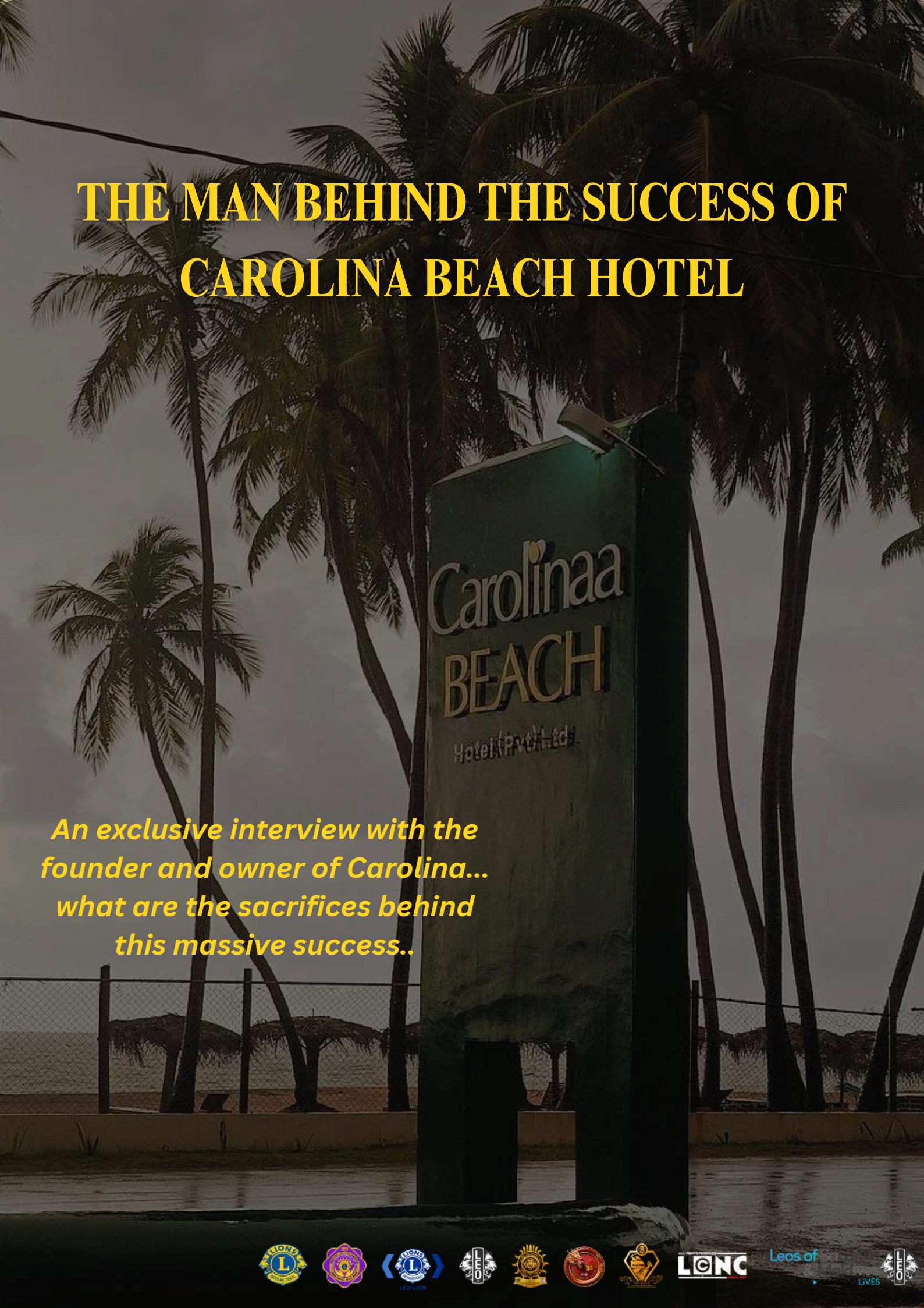
# HEARTS IN HARMONY



The key objective of the Heart in Harmony project, which was planned by the Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran, was to encourage kindness, camaraderie, and concern among the residents of Wester Seaton Cheshire Home. Through the creation of a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere that is full of love and happiness, the project sought to improve the emotional and social wellbeing of the elderly and people with disabilities who live there.Encouraging meaningful interaction between volunteers and residents through shared experiences and activities was one of the project's main goals. Through singing songs, sharing laughter, and fostering harmony in the home, volunteers participated in uplifting moments of togetherness. In a small but meaningful gesture that symbolised friendship and solidarity, the event ended with an evening tea where volunteers and residents shared a cup of tea and a piece of cake.. Beyond fostering emotional involvement, the project aimed to fortify the Leo spirit of service by promoting empathy, collaboration, and leadership among participants. The club wanted to show through Heart in Harmony that even small deeds of kindness and sincere human connection can have a big impact on people's happiness and quality of life.



Hearts in Harmony; small acts, big warmth - making their home feel like home, one step at a time




# THE MAN BEHIND THE SUCCESS OF CAROLINA BEACH HOTEL

*An exclusive interview with the founder and owner of Carolina... what are the sacrifices behind this massive success..*

***what inspired you to start Carolina Beach Resort & Spa, and what was the original vision behind it?***

*Carolina Beach Resort & Spa was born out of a dream my father had. He always wanted to build a beautiful beachfront hotel where guests could relax and experience the best of Sri Lankan hospitality. Unfortunately, he passed away before he could make that dream a reality. So, I decided to continue what he started. When we opened in 2009, it was more than just a business it was a tribute to his vision. When we started Chilaw was not a developed area for tourism, but we believed in its potential. We began with only 15 rooms, but the goal was always to create a place where comfort, warmth, and the natural beauty*






***Running a hotel in the tourism industry isn't easy. What were some of the biggest challenges you faced in the early days, and how did you overcome them?***

*It definitely wasn't easy in the beginning. In 2009, Chilaw was quiet there weren't many tourists coming here, and it was hard to get noticed. Infrastructure was limited, and even finding the right staff was a challenge. But we focused on one thing: making sure every single guest left happy. Slowly, word spread. People started coming back and bringing their friends. That's how we built trust and grew, step by step.*

***Sri Lanka's tourism scene is competitive and constantly changing. How do you keep Carolina Beach Resort unique and appealing to both locals and international guests?***

*Our uniqueness comes from the combination of location, service, and genuine hospitality. Carolina Beach Resort offers guests a peaceful and private coastal experience, away from the crowded tourist spots. We make sure every guest feels personally cared for. We also continue to upgrade our facilities, offer authentic Sri Lankan cuisine, and create memorable experiences like dining by the beach, spa treatments, and nature-based activities that showcase Chilaw's charm.*

***What core values guide your decisions as a business leader, especially when it comes to your team and guests?***

*Honesty, respect, and dedication are my main values. I believe success comes from treating people right both our guests and our employees. Our team is like family, and when they feel valued, they give their best to every guest. We also focus on consistency and humility no matter how much we grow, we stay true to the values that started this journey.*



***The hospitality industry often demands long hours and constant attention. How do you balance business with your personal life and mental wellbeing?***

*That's one of the toughest parts of this industry. In the beginning, I worked almost every day and night. But as the team grew, I learned to delegate and trust them. Spending time with my family*

***Looking back, is there a particular moment or milestone that made you realize your dream was truly becoming a reality?***

*Yes, definitely. When we expanded from 30 to 86 rooms, it was a proud and emotional moment. Standing there, seeing guests from all over the world enjoying something that began as my father's dream, made me realize we had achieved something special. It felt like completing a promise I made to him years ago.*

***What advice would you give to young entrepreneurs in Sri Lanka who want to start something of their own, especially in tourism or hospitality?***

*do it now. Not tomorrow, not in the evening now. Don't wait for the "perfect time" because it will never come. If you have an idea or a dream, start working on it today. You'll learn as you go. When I started, things weren't easy, but if I waited for everything to be ready, Carolina Beach would never have existed. So take that first step. Be honest, stay focused, and keep moving the results will follow.*



***what's next for Carolina Beach Resort & Spa..and for you personally, as a founder and visionary?***

*We're always looking to improve and expand. Our next steps include enhancing the guest experience with more wellness and eco-friendly offerings, and continuing to promote Chilaw as a peaceful coastal destination. Personally, I want to keep learning and inspiring others to follow their dreams*



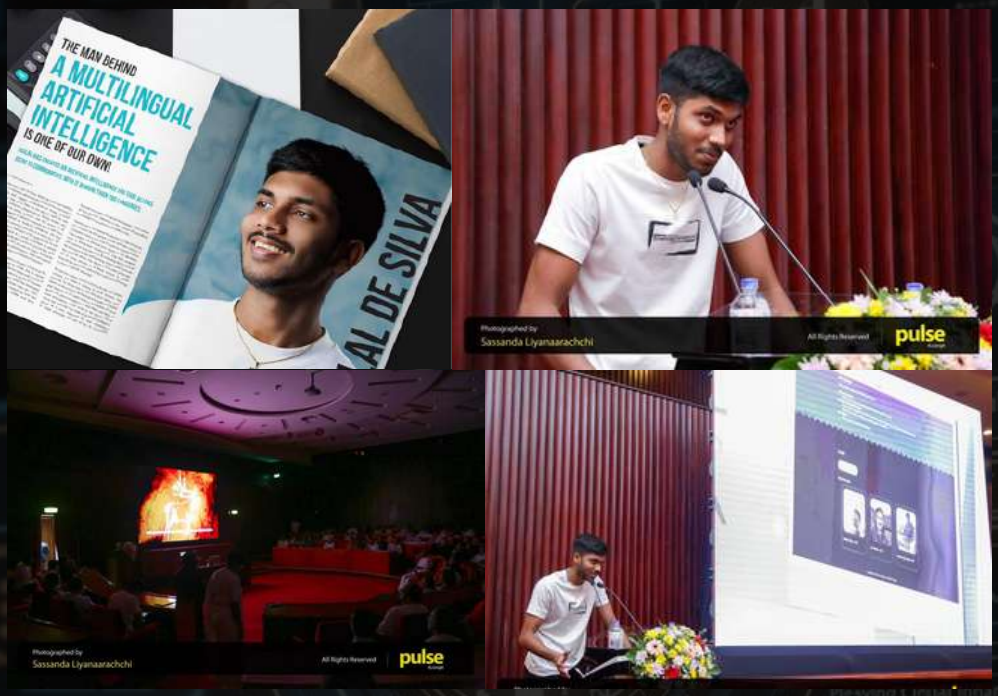


# CATAMARAN LEOPRENEUR

LEO SISILAL DE SILVA

Leos of SriLanka & Maldives
INSPIRING LIVES

# LINGUAGPT




LinguaGPT is a growing Sri Lankan innovation built around one simple idea: making language, learning and technology easier for everyone. The goal is to create tools that help people communicate, study and work with more confidence, especially in Sinhala and Tamil, while also bringing modern AI closer to local communities. It's not just about building another tech product. It's about giving people a smarter, friendlier way to learn, create and express themselves.

As the driving force behind this vision, Sisilal De Silva leads LinguaGPT with a focus on curiosity, creativity and practical impact. His work centres on using AI to solve real problems and to open opportunities for students, professionals and anyone who wants to grow. The project reflects his belief that technology should feel accessible, useful and genuinely empowering. With that mindset, LinguaGPT continues to move forward, helping more people learn, explore and reach their goals in their own language.

# ROAR OF INSPIRATION...



Leos of SriLanka & Maldives
INSPIRING LIVES

# Club President

Lionistic Year 2025/2026
Lion Sanjeewa Jayasooriya
Lion Club of Negombo Catamaran

Dear Lion and Leo Members,

The Lions Club of Negombo Catamaran continues to stand strong in its mission of “We Serve with Respect.” Our club has always been dedicated to uplifting our community, serving the underprivileged, and creating meaningful change through collective action. Each project we undertake whether in health, education, environment, or humanitarian service reflects our deep commitment to compassion, equality, and integrity. Together, we strive to extend the Lions movement by inspiring more individuals to join our journey of service and leadership.

I am equally proud of our younger generation the Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran whose vibrant energy and passion for service have been truly commendable. Under the inspiring leadership of Leo President Thuhina Gimhan, the club has demonstrated outstanding teamwork, creativity, and compassion in every initiative. You have become a shining example of youth empowerment in action, serving the underprivileged and making a visible difference in our community.

As the Mother Club, we will always stand beside our Leos guiding, supporting, and encouraging you to grow into future Leo Lions and eventually strong Lions who will carry our legacy forward. Together, we form one family bound by respect, unity, and service working hand in hand to make our world a better place.

Leos of SriLanka & Maldives
INSPIRING LIVES

# Club Secretary

Lionistic Year 2025/2026
Leo Lion Chanuka Wijeyweera
Lion Club of Negombo Catamaran

Dear Lions and Leos,

It is both an honor and a privilege to serve as the Secretary of the Lions Club of Negombo Catamaran for this Lionistic year. I am deeply grateful to our Club President, Lion Sanjeewa, for his trust, guidance, and encouragement in entrusting me with this responsibility. His leadership continues to inspire us all to work with unity and dedication toward meaningful service.

I also wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to Lion Nilesh Alston, who first introduced me to the world of Leoism and guided me on this remarkable journey of leadership and service. His mentorship and encouragement laid the foundation for the path I walk today.

Equally, I extend my warm thanks to Leo Club President Thuhina Gimhan, whose commitment and enthusiasm continue to motivate the younger generation of Leos to grow in service, leadership, and fellowship. Together, the Lions and Leos of Negombo Catamaran form a strong bond that allows us to create a greater impact in our community.

As Secretary, I look forward to working closely with our President, fellow club officers, members, and our vibrant Leo movement to ensure smooth communication, effective coordination, and purposeful service. This year promises new opportunities, and with unity, innovation, and compassion, I am confident that we will continue to build on our proud legacy of service.

Let us move forward together with pride, dedication, and the true Lionistic spirit to serve those in need and strengthen the bonds of friendship within our family of Lions and Leos.



# Club Treasurer

Lionistic Year 2025/2026
Lion Madhuraa Suntharalingam
Lion Club of Negombo Catamaran

Dear Leos and Lions,

Every great journey begins with a single wave, and every act of service sends ripples far beyond what we can see. As Leos, we are not just leaders of tomorrow; we are changemakers of today. With courage in our hearts, compassion in our actions, and unity in our spirit, we hold the power to turn challenges into opportunities and dreams into reality.

Each project we take on, no matter how big or small, carries a purpose that goes beyond ourselves. Through service, we give hope, inspire others, and leave behind footprints of kindness that shape a better tomorrow. Our strength lies not only in what we do but in how we do it, with dedication, teamwork, and the unwavering belief that service can transform lives.

As Leos, we are driven by more than recognition; we are driven by impact. Together, we rise above boundaries, bring light to the forgotten corners of our communities, and remind the world that true leadership begins with empathy. With every smile we create and every life we touch, we prove that age is never a limit to making a difference.

Let us continue to serve with passion, lead with purpose, and roar with pride. Let us be the generation that doesn't wait for change but becomes the change. Because the world needs our light, our strength, and our service now more than ever.

# THE ICON OF SERVICE...

## *Lion Mahendra J. C. Amarasuriya*

## Sri Lanka's Lion on the World Stage

**When a person from a small island nation takes the helm of a global organisation, it's worth pausing to reckon with what that means for the individual, for the country, and for the thousands of people who benefit from the organisation's work. Lion Mahendra J. C. Amarasuriya is one such figure. Elected International President of Lions Clubs International for 2007–2008, he remains the only Sri Lankan to have held that office a milestone that brought global visibility to Sri Lanka's civic leadership and helped raise the profile of service work across the country.**

Mahendra Amarasuriya comes from a family with deep roots in Sri Lanka's public life. He is the son of Thomas Amarasuriya, a noted planter and former President of the Senate of Ceylon  a background that paired public service with a familiarity of enterprise and community responsibility. Mahendra's formal education at Royal College, Colombo, followed by a Bachelor of Science from the University of Ceylon, gave him a solid academic foundation; later executive training at international management institutes rounded his leadership toolkit. These early influences service, disciplined study, and exposure to management practice would shape both his business career and his long commitment to Lions.



Mahendra's involvement with Lions dates back decades. He is a charter member of the Lions Club of Galle and served in multiple leadership roles at district, national, and regional levels before moving to the international stage. He became an International Director in the early 1990s, went on to serve as First Vice-President, and was elected International President at the association's 90th convention in Chicago, held July 2–6, 2007. That election marked a proud moment for Sri Lanka's civic sector and for the many Leos and Lions who had supported his journey.

## *The presidency: "Challenge to Change" and practical service*

As International President, Amarasuriya framed his leadership around the theme "Challenge to Change." The phrase wasn't just a slogan; it pointed to a practical, project-oriented approach: strengthen clubs, increase membership, and align international resources behind measurable community outcomes. During his term he emphasized capacity building, community health programs, and expanding the reach of Lions projects in developing regions. The presidency also amplified Sri Lankan Lions' role in global service conversations and inspired a new wave of local club activity and fundraising back home.

Outside the Lions movement, Mahendra Amarasuriya has had a long and influential career in Sri Lanka's corporate sector. He served as chairman of the Commercial Bank of Ceylon and chaired or directed a number of major companies in agriculture, food processing and finance. Under his stewardship the Commercial Bank grew from a primarily Colombo-focused bank into a major national player — a transformation often credited to longer-term strategic decisions made while he chaired the board. His business roles reinforced his reputation as a leader who could bridge commercial discipline and public-spirited work.

Colleagues and club members often describe Mahendra as a leader who combines business acumen with a quiet stewardship mentality. He's not flashy; his leadership style is steady, process-oriented and relationship driven. That temperament suits both boardrooms and volunteer networks: boards need structure and strategy, while volunteer organisations need trusted relationships and a steady hand in moments of crisis. This blend helped him navigate the twin demands of running companies and leading one of the world's largest service organisations.

***What Mahendra Amarasuriya's story gives Sri Lanka is a clear, repeatable template: local service + disciplined management + global engagement = outsized impact. His election as Lions International President told the world two things at once: Sri Lanka produces leaders capable of running global movements, and service work in the country can be professional, strategic, and influential. Back home, that message translated into renewed energy for club growth, youth engagement through Leos and Lions programs, and sharper focus on community health projects. For service clubs and community leaders, his career remains a practical case study in scaling local efforts onto a global stage.***

***Lion Mahendra Amarasuriya stands as one of Sri Lanka's best examples of how civic service and professional leadership can reinforce each other. His career shows that leadership doesn't mean the loudest voice in the room; often it's the person who quietly builds capacity, then uses that capacity to serve. For Sri Lanka's Lions and the next generation of service leaders, that is a practical, hopeful blueprint.***

# ROARS ACROSS THE DISTRICT




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

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## *Awakening of the Dragon - District Workshop*

The District workshop was held on 7th September 2025 at Lion's activity centre. with the present of many leos and council officers to grace the workshop with their valuable insights and knowledge







## *Cancer Awareness Walk - 2025*

The cancer awareness walk organized by the lions of District 306 D5 together with Lions of district 306 D3 was held on 13th September 2025 at maris stella college ground.

## *Stage is Yours - Short Speech , Short Story and speech Competition*

A competition organized by lions together with Leos, WNPS and Sasnaka Sansanda as an awareness about the environment was held on 19th September and this project was chaired by Leo Treesha from Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran and Leo Shenara from Leo Club of BCI




Leos of SriLanka & Maldives LIVES

# ROARS ACROSS THE MULTIPLE DISTRICT

LEO MULTIPLE DISTRICT 306

SRI LANKA & MALDIVES

STRIVE - TO - THRIVE

MULTIPLE DISTRICT PRESIDENT
2025 | 2026

LEO LION RAGEESH YOGESWARAN
MJF PMAF PFLM

Leos of Sri Lanka & Maldives
INSPIRING LIVES

# *RADAEL*
# *Multiple District Council*
# *Outing 2025*





The Annual Multiple District Council Outing was held on 27th and 28th September at Aqua Pearl, lake Resort, Panadura. The outing was filled with joy, laughter and warmth as leos across the 12 multiple district joined to this event. It was more than just an outing, but a place where Leos find joy

# ROARS ACROSS THE WORLD







Leos of SriLanka & Maldives




## *LCIF Wins Vision Award*

LCIF received the 2025 António Champalimaud Vision Award for its long-term work reducing preventable blindness and improving access to eye care for millions across underserved communities worldwide.

## *Hamilton Lions Cubs Honored*

The Hamilton Lions Club in Bermuda recognized its young Cubs for exceptional community service, leadership, and dedication, celebrating their growing role in supporting meaningful local projects and volunteer work.



## *410+ Million People Served Globally*

Lions and Leos completed nearly 1.5 million service projects and supported over 410 million people through vision care, hunger relief, environment projects, and youth development efforts during the past service year.

# A LEGACY THAT LIVES ON...

## *Usain Bolt*

## Where speed becomes legend.

When people talk about greatness in sport, they usually mention athletes who pushed boundaries, inspired millions, and changed how the world viewed human potential. Usain Bolt didn't just fit into that category. He redefined it. Long after his spikes were hung up, his influence continues to stretch across track lanes, communities, and continents.



Usain Bolt was born in 1986 in the small town of Sherwood Content in Jamaica. Like many young Jamaican kids, he grew up playing cricket and football on dusty fields. His natural speed was obvious from early on, but no one could have imagined that the lanky boy from a rural community would one day become the most recognized sprinter in history. What set him apart wasn't just his physical gifts. It was his attitude. He ran with a sense of joy and ease that made the world fall in love with him, and he carried the pressure of international expectations with a smile that became as iconic as his lightning-bolt celebration.

Bolt's rise began in earnest at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The world watched in disbelief as he broke the 100m and 200m world records, both while appearing almost effortless. His long strides, relaxed shoulders, and unmatched top-end speed made him look like he was running on a different clock from everyone else. Over the next two Olympic Games, he went on to win eight gold medals, a feat that cemented him as the greatest sprinter of all time. His world records in the 100m (9.58 seconds) and 200m (19.19 seconds) still stand today, untouched and almost mythical.



But Bolt's legacy is more than numbers. He brought track and field into mainstream conversation. He became a global figure who drew audiences that normally tuned in only for football or cricket. Stadiums filled just to watch him warm up. Kids all over the world copied his signature pose. Even people who didn't normally follow athletics knew one thing for sure: when Bolt stepped onto the track, something magical was about to happen.

He changed the sport in other subtle ways too. Before him, sprinters were often seen as serious, even intimidating athletes. Bolt showed that competitors could be relaxed, playful, and charismatic while still performing at the highest level. He danced on the track, cracked jokes, interacted with fans, and broke the stereotype of what a champion was supposed to look like. His presence alone helped the sport regain global attention at a time when controversies and declining viewership threatened its future.




Off the track, Bolt used his influence to lift others. Through the Usain Bolt Foundation, he has supported children in Jamaica with access to education, sports facilities, and better opportunities. He continues to be a symbol of hope for young athletes who dream big but come from humble beginnings. He often speaks about discipline, patience, and the importance of believing in yourself even when life gives you more reasons to quit than to continue. His message is simple and grounded: talent may open the door, but hard work and character keep you in the room.

Even in retirement, Bolt's impact remains strong. His achievements are frequently used as motivational lessons in schools and leadership programs. Sports scientists still study his running technique. Young sprinters look up to him as the gold standard. His story is shared across cultures as proof that greatness doesn't require perfect conditions; it requires passion, resilience, and the courage to dream beyond your surroundings.

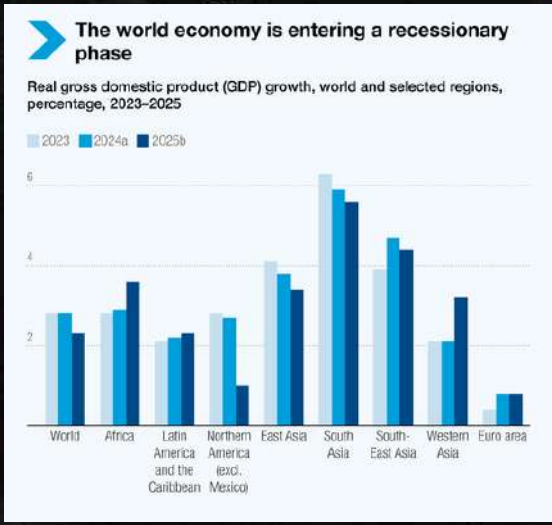
***Today, as we look back at his career, Usain Bolt stands as more than a champion. He represents the power of pushing the limits of human possibility. He reminds the world that joy and excellence can exist together. And he leaves behind a legacy that continues to inspire every generation that dares to run their own race.***
***Usain Bolt may no longer sprint down the track, but his legacy isn't slowing down. It's woven into history, etched into athletics, and alive in the dreams of every young athlete who wants to be faster than the wind.***




CURRENT
WORLD

# Global Economy at a Crossroads...

In September 2025, major economic institutions issued stark warnings: the world economy is entering a phase of slowing growth, rising debt risks, and long-term structural disruption. What once might've seemed like a temporary bump is now being framed as the start of a deeper realignment. Chief economists from around the world are calling this a "new economic environment" not just another downturn.



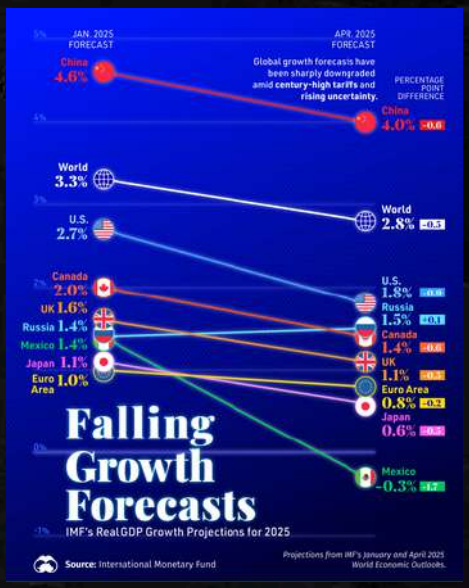

According to the OECD's Interim Economic Outlook, global GDP growth is projected to decelerate from 3.3% in 2024 to 3.2% in 2025, then dip further to 2.9% by 2026. The slowdown is broadly driven by a mix of policy uncertainty, geopolitical tensions, and trade barriers

In the U.S., for instance, growth is expected to slow significantly: the OECD projects 1.8% in 2025, dropping to 1.5% in 2026. Europe isn't faring much better; the euro area is forecast to hover around 1.2% in 2025, tapering to 1.0% in 2026, as higher trade costs and uncertainty cloud investment and consumption.

In September 2025, major economic institutions issued stark warnings: the world economy is entering a phase of slowing growth, rising debt risks, and long-term structural disruption. What once might've seemed like a temporary bump is now being framed as the start of a deeper realignment. Chief economists from around the world are calling this a "new economic environment" not just another downturn.

Meanwhile, inflation is easing in many places, but risks remain. The OECD warns that lingering trade frictions could sustain price pressures even as growth slows a challenging environment for both businesses and policymakers.

## *Structural Disruption, Not Just a Cycle*

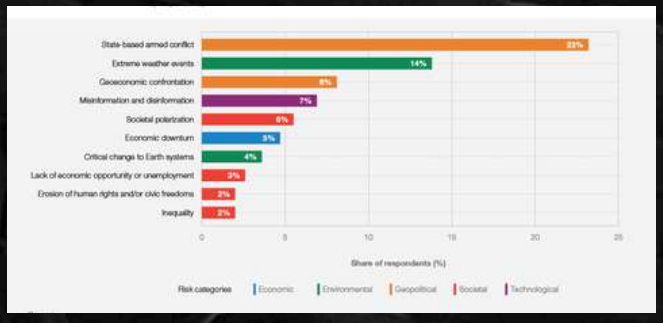



What's striking about the current moment is that economists increasingly believe the problems aren't purely cyclical. In the World Economic Forum's September 2025 Chief Economists' Outlook, 72% of surveyed economists said they expect "weak growth" by 2026. And more revealing: 80% of them warn of intensifying debt vulnerabilities, especially in developed economies.

**These economists point to a number of lasting shifts reshaping the global order:**

- **Trade Realignment:** Global value chains are reconfiguring. Countries are increasingly sourcing regionally or rethinking dependencies, especially given geopolitical risks.
- **Technological Disruption:** Rapid advances in AI and automation are creating both opportunity and risk. While technology promises productivity gains, it's also displacing traditional jobs and raising questions about regulation, inequality, and economic inclusion.
- **Resource Strain:** Natural resources and energy are under pressure, both from environmental stress and from geopolitical competition.
- **Institutional Shift:** The institutions that governed the post-Cold War economy are being questioned. Economies are not only dealing with immediate trade and fiscal headaches but are also navigating a more fragmented world order.

***In short: this isn't just a rough patch many economists argue that we're headed into a fundamentally different global regime.***

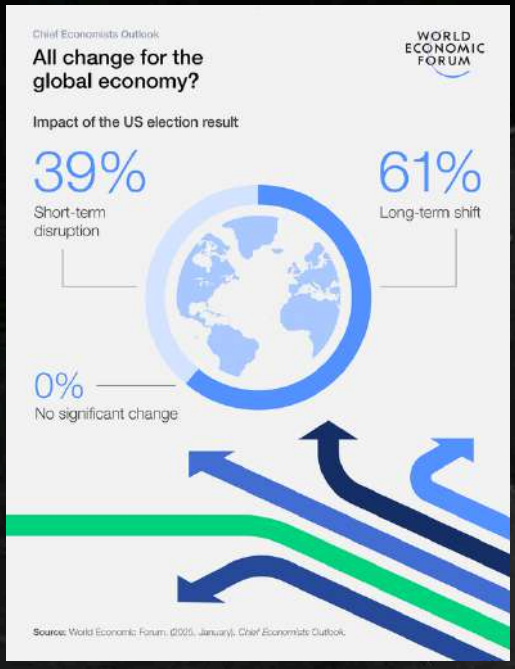


## *Risks, Opportunities and What Comes Next*

One of the biggest concerns right now is the rise in government debt across advanced economies. Countries borrowed heavily during the pandemic, and with interest rates still high, managing that debt has become harder. This limits how much governments can spend to support growth, and economists warn that financial pressure could linger for years if policies don't adapt.

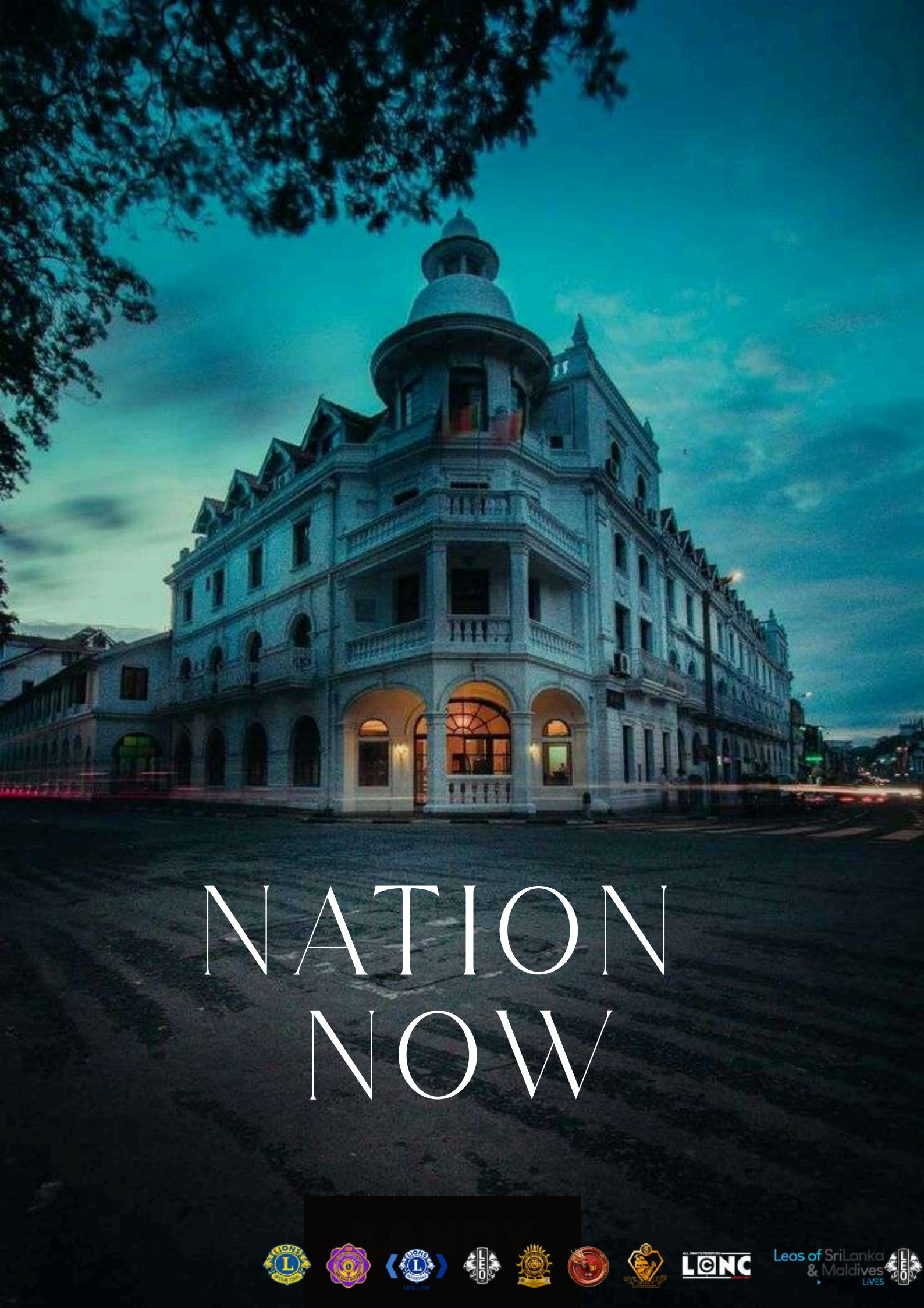
The global outlook is also splitting across regions. Europe and the United States are slowing, while parts of South Asia, East Asia and the Middle East continue to grow steadily. These emerging markets have younger populations, expanding industries and rising investment, making them important drivers of future global growth.

China's challenges add another layer of uncertainty. Weak consumer confidence and deflationary pressure are affecting trade and investment around the world. Europe faces its own struggles with low demand and energy concerns. Meanwhile, emerging markets remain promising but still vulnerable to global financial shifts.




Looking ahead, leaders need to focus on long-term resilience rather than quick fixes. This includes investing in innovation, strengthening supply chains and improving regional cooperation. Technology, especially AI and automation, can boost productivity if it's adopted responsibly and used to support workers and businesses of all sizes.

For readers, the takeaway is that the global economy is shifting into a new phase. These changes may influence jobs, prices and future opportunities. Staying informed now can help people prepare for what lies ahead.



# NATION NOW

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# Sri Lanka's Rising Star on the Global Stage...

From the grand halls of pageantry to the international spotlight in Bangkok, Tishani Perera is making her mark. Crowned Miss Grand Sri Lanka 2025 on September 24 at the elegant Mount Lavinia Hotel in Colombo, she isn't just a beauty queen, she's a young woman on a mission.



At just 20, Tishani embodies grace, intelligence, and determination. A student of International Trade and Management, she balances her academic pursuits with her passion for modelling and performance. Her victory in the national pageant wasn't a fluke she also won several special awards, including Miss Best Personality, Miss Best Figure, and Miss Best Dancer.



What's particularly inspiring is how grounded she remains despite her growing profile. When Tishani departed for Bangkok on September 29 to represent Sri Lanka in the 12th Miss Grand International Pageant, her send-off was deeply personal: family, friends, and her pageant coach, Rukmal Senanayake, gathered at Bandaranaike International Airport to wish her well. Her flight, early in the morning, carried not just her dreams, but the hopes of many Sri Lankans watching her journey.



Her participation in Miss Grand International is significant. This global pageant, held in Bangkok from September 30 to October 18, draws contestants from over 100 countries. For Sri Lanka, she's not just a representative she's a symbol of aspiration, youth, and cultural pride.

Beyond the glitz of the crown, Tishani's story is rooted in perseverance. She studied at the National School of Business Management (NSBM), where she's been recognized not just for her beauty but for her leadership and commitment. Her journey in pageantry is also a nod to her talent winning Miss Best Dancer highlights that she brings artistry and energy, not just poise.




Her ambition isn't limited to winning titles. In interviews, she has emphasized the importance of using her platform to inspire others especially young Sri Lankan women who dream big but sometimes doubt they belong on the international stage.

Tishani's presence in Bangkok is not just a pageant trip; it's a moment of representation. She carries more than a sash she carries the stories of her life, the dreams of her community, and the potential of her generation. Whether she wins or not, her journey sends a powerful message: Sri Lanka's next generation is ready to shine, and they're doing it with substance.

As she competes among over 100 women from around the world, all eyes back home are on her rooting for her, inspired by her, and seeing in her a path forward. Tishani Perera isn't just a beauty queen. She's a promise.

***Tishani Perera's journey reminds us that dreams aren't measured by distance or stage, but by the courage to step forward and shine despite challenges. She carries with her the hopes of a nation, showing that dedication, passion, and authenticity can open doors to the world. Her story isn't just about crowns or titles it's about inspiring others to believe in themselves, pursue their passions relentlessly, and embrace every opportunity to make a mark. In Tishani, Sri Lanka sees not just a representative, but a symbol of possibility, resilience, and the extraordinary potential within each of us.***


Mahen.lk
PHOTOGRAPHY
MISS GRAND SRI LANKA
MISS GRA
Beyond the crown,
she carries dreams
~Tishani Perera
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# BRAIN BOOST!!

## *Exploring the Universe: A Journey Through Astronomy....*



Astronomy is the scientific study of the universe beyond Earth, including stars, planets, galaxies, and cosmic phenomena. It's one of the oldest sciences, with humans observing the night sky for thousands of years to understand time, seasons, and the mysteries of the cosmos.

Stars are massive balls of gas producing light through nuclear fusion. Planets orbit stars, with rocky planets like Earth, gas giants like Jupiter, and icy worlds like Neptune. Smaller objects like asteroids, meteoroids, and comets offer clues about the solar system's formation.

Stars and planets form galaxies. Our Milky Way contains hundreds of billions of stars, and billions of other galaxies exist beyond it. Studying these systems helps us understand cosmic evolution, black holes, and dark matter.
Astronomers use telescopes, satellites, and space probes to explore the universe. Observations fuel scientific discoveries and inspire technology, from satellite communication to advanced imaging.

Astronomy reminds us of our place in the vast cosmos. Each star, planet, and distant galaxy is a window into the history of the universe, inviting us to explore, discover, and wonder.

***The universe is vast and full of wonders, and every star, planet, and galaxy reminds us how much there is to explore. Astronomy invites us to keep looking up, asking questions, and discovering our place in the cosmos.***

# Astronomy Fill-in-the-Blank Puzzle

Instructions: Fill in the blanks with the correct word based on the hint.

- The star at the center of our solar system: **S _ _**
- Earth's natural satellite: **M _ _ N**
- Orbits a star and can have moons: **P L A _ _ _**
- Giant ball of gas producing light: **S _ _ R**
- A body of ice and rock that sometimes has a tail: **C _ M _ T**
- Massive system of stars, gas, and dust bound by gravity: **G _ L A _ Y**
- Object with gravity so strong nothing can escape it: **B L A C K H _ L E**
- Closest planet to the Sun: **M _ R C _ _ Y**
- Planet famous for its rings: **S _ T _ R N**
- Fifth planet from the Sun, famous for its Great Red Spot: **J _ P _ T _ R**


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*Even in the wildest forests,*
*love finds a way to soften the edges.*
*A mother's embrace*
*where wilderness becomes peace....*

*~Leo Nadun*

හිතේ සිහිනයක සොඳුරු පැමිණිලි,
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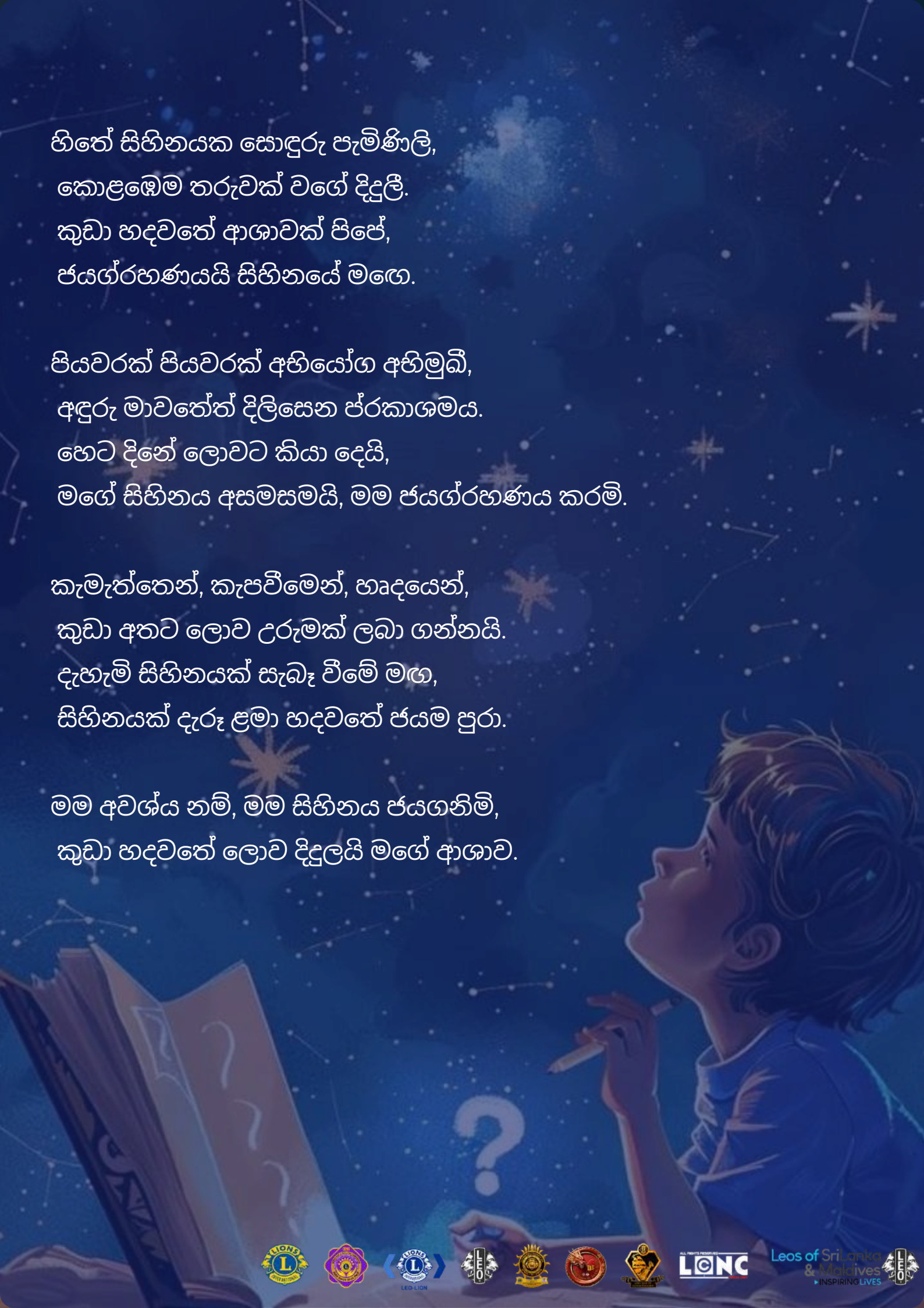



கிருஷ்ணன் கீதம்....

மாலை பூங்காற்றில் நின் குரல்,
முத்து துடிப்பில் மயக்கம் தரும்.
வீணை சுருதி சுகந்தம் போல,
நினைவில் வாழும் தெய்வம் நீயே.

பாலக் கண்ணன், நதி நீர் போல,
மனதை நன்கு மிதக்கும்.
மஞ்சள் உடை, நளின மாலையோடு,
நம் வாழ்வை பாடல் போல் நிறைக்கும்.

# CATAMARANS SNAPS...














# SIGNING OFF...

## Leo Treesha Shavindya



As we reach the final page of this second voyage, we pause to celebrate the journey we've shared in Sailing Catamaran. With each edition, our newsletter grows not just in pages, but in spirit, capturing the energy, dedication, and vibrant moments that define our Leo family.

This issue has carried stories of service, triumphs, and heartfelt connections—reminders of why we sail together, united in purpose and passion. Every feature, every photograph, and every reflection has been a sail catching the winds of inspiration, propelling us toward new horizons.

Thank you for being part of this journey, for reading, supporting, and celebrating with us. As we prepare for the next edition, may this issue remind us all of how far we've come and how much more we can achieve together.

Here's to new adventures, fresh stories, and endless inspiration on the horizon.

# BEHIND THE PAGES...



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*EDITOR*



*Leo Saviour Fernando*

*DESINGER*

*As we dock this edition, we celebrate the journey we've shared and the stories that have carried us forward.*

*Thank you for being part of our crew, for reading, and for sailing alongside us.*

*Until the next wind fills our sails, keep dreaming, keep striving, and let your spirit guide the way.*

*Fair winds,*
*The Editor*



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