Leos of SriLanka & Maldives
INSPIRING LiVES

SAILING CATAMARAN



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Leos of SriLanka & Maldives
INSPIRING LIVES

Greetings from Catamaran

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

LEO SURANGA WIJAYAPURA



Membership is the foundation of every successful Leo Club, bringing together individuals who share a passion for leadership, fellowship, and community service. As the Membership Chairperson of the Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran, I believe that every new member brings fresh perspectives, unique talents, and renewed energy to our Leo family.

Our strength lies not merely in the number of members we have, but in the connections we build, the experiences we share, and the impact we create together. As we continue to welcome new members, let us strive to create an environment where everyone feels valued, encouraged, and inspired to serve.

May we continue to expand our horizons, strengthen our bonds, and inspire more young individuals to become part of this meaningful journey. Together, let us build a stronger Leo family and create a lasting impact through service.

Let us grow together, serve together, and make every connection count!

Leo Suranga Wijayapura
Membership Chairperson
Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran

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Greetings from Catamaran

PROJECT CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

LEO MITHUNI SERASINGHE



Projects are the heart of our service, transforming our intentions into meaningful actions and our ideas into positive change. As Project Chairperson of the Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran, I believe that every project, regardless of its scale, holds the potential to create a lasting impact on the lives of those we serve.

Through teamwork, dedication, and compassion, we have the opportunity to address community needs, inspire others, and turn challenges into opportunities. Every initiative we undertake is a reflection of our commitment to the values of Leoism and our determination to make a difference.

As we continue our journey, let us approach every project with creativity, purpose, and a willingness to go beyond expectations. May our collective efforts continue to bring hope, strengthen communities, and inspire a culture of service among the next generation of leaders.

Let every project become a purpose, every effort create an impact, and every act of service leave a lasting mark.

Leo Mithuni Serasinghe
Project Chairperson
Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran

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COMING SOON

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ROARING WORDS WITH



Leo Lion

PMDP

DULINI COORAY

What does the Leo Movement mean to you today, and how has that meaning evolved since you first joined?

When I joined the Leo Movement in 2013, at the age of 17, I had no idea how significantly it would shape my life. Initially, it was an opportunity to serve communities, make friendships and be part of something meaningful. I never imagined that it would take me on a journey that would challenge me, transform me and teach me so much about myself and the people around me.

As the years passed, Leo became much more than a platform for service. It became a space where I discovered my leadership potential, learned to navigate challenges, and developed the confidence to take on responsibilities I might once have considered beyond my reach. From leading a club to serving at district and multiple-district levels, every experience contributed to the person I became.

Today, I see the Leo Movement as an important chapter of my life that has given me opportunities, relationships, experiences and lessons I will always carry with me. It has shown me both the beauty of collective service and the complexities of working with people, managing expectations and standing by your principles.



My journey has been bittersweet, filled with achievements and recognition, but also criticism, disappointments and difficult lessons. Yet, I would not measure its value solely by the good moments or the challenges. I measure it by how much I have grown through both.

Leo will always be part of my story. Not simply because of the positions I held, but because of the person I became through the journey

You rose to the position of Multiple District President at a relatively young age. What do you think prepared you for that level of responsibility?



I believe leadership begins long before you receive a title. It is shaped by the responsibilities you accept, the mistakes you make, the challenges you overcome and the willingness to learn from every experience.

My journey through the Leo Movement gave me the opportunity to grow progressively as a leader. Serving as a Club President in 2015/2016, District President of Leo District 306 B1 in 2018/2019, and subsequently taking on multiple-district responsibilities as Secretary, Vice President and eventually Multiple District President for 2023/2024, each role prepared me for the next in a different way.

Those experiences taught me how to work with diverse personalities, manage expectations, make decisions under pressure and remain focused on the bigger picture. They also taught me that leadership is not about having all the answers; it is about having the courage to make decisions, the humility to acknowledge when you are wrong and the willingness to take responsibility for the outcomes.

Being a young leader came with its own challenges. I understood that I had to demonstrate my capabilities through my actions rather than expect credibility simply because I held a position. I learned the importance of being prepared, consistent and accountable.

However, I would not attribute my journey solely to my own efforts. Every leader is shaped, in some way, by the people they encounter, the opportunities they receive and the circumstances they navigate.

Becoming Multiple District President was a privilege, but it was also a responsibility that demanded commitment and resilience. Looking back, I realise that it was not one particular achievement that prepared me for that role. It was the accumulation of experiences, lessons and difficult decisions that gradually shaped me into the leader I needed to become.

Leadership often comes with moments of uncertainty. Was there a particular decision or moment during your leadership that significantly changed the way you lead?

One of the most defining lessons of my leadership journey was realising that doing what you believe is right does not always mean being understood, appreciated or supported by everyone. Throughout my time in the movement, I encountered situations that challenged my expectations of leadership, relationships and the importance of standing by my principles. There were moments when I had to navigate disagreements, make difficult decisions and accept that the outcomes would not necessarily please everyone.





Those experiences changed the way I viewed leadership. Earlier in my journey, I placed considerable importance on building consensus and maintaining harmony. Over time, I learned that while both are valuable, neither should come at the expense of integrity or sound judgement.

I began to understand that leadership is not about avoiding difficult conversations or making decisions that guarantee approval. It is about listening carefully, considering different perspectives, making informed decisions and having the courage to stand by them.

I also learned that not every situation can be resolved in the way we hope, regardless of how much effort or sincerity we bring to it. Sometimes, the most important thing is to recognise what is within your control and what you must learn to let go of.

As a woman in leadership, have there been moments when you felt you had to approach leadership differently because of the expectations placed on female leaders?

I believe women in leadership often navigate expectations that extend beyond the responsibilities of the position itself. There can be an expectation to be accommodating and approachable while simultaneously being decisive, confident and assertive. Sometimes, qualities that are celebrated in one leader may be perceived differently in another.

As a young woman taking on leadership responsibilities, I became conscious of the importance of establishing credibility, communicating confidently and ensuring that my decisions were supported by sound reasoning.

There were situations that made me reflect on how female leaders are perceived and the additional expectations they may encounter. However, those experiences also taught me not to allow external perceptions to determine the kind of leader I wanted to become.



I believe a woman should not have to choose between being compassionate and being assertive. You can listen to others while maintaining your position, demonstrate empathy while holding people accountable, and lead with kindness without compromising your principles

For me, the important lesson was to focus on the substance of my leadership rather than trying to fit into a particular expectation of what a leader should look or behave like.

I also recognise the importance of creating opportunities for other young women to lead with confidence. When women take on leadership positions, they should be able to contribute their ideas, make difficult decisions and learn from their experiences without feeling that they must constantly prove they belong.

Ultimately, I hope we continue moving towards a culture where leadership is evaluated on integrity, competence, courage and impact, rather than gender or preconceived expectations.

Beyond titles and achievements, what is one lesson from your Leo journey that has stayed with you and continues to influence the person you are today?

The most important lesson I have learned is that you can dedicate yourself to a cause without losing yourself in the process.

Throughout my journey, I invested a great deal of time, energy and commitment into the movement. I took on responsibilities, worked towards goals and experienced the fulfilment that comes from contributing to something bigger than yourself.

There were moments of immense pride, recognition and achievement. There were also moments of disappointment, criticism and situations that challenged my understanding of people, relationships and leadership.

Those experiences taught me that titles are temporary, recognition is fleeting, and circumstances can change. What ultimately remains is your character, the values you uphold and the way you treat people, especially when things do not go according to plan.

I have learned that commitment should not mean compromising your wellbeing, principles or sense of self. You can be passionate about something and still recognise when you need to establish boundaries. You can appreciate the people who have been part of your journey without expecting every relationship to remain the same forever.

This lesson has influenced how I approach both my professional and personal life. I place greater importance on understanding my own values, making decisions that align with them and recognising that my worth is not determined by the positions I hold or the recognition I receive.

I am grateful for the achievements that came with my Leo journey, but I am equally grateful for the lessons that came through its difficult moments. Ultimately, I believe the greatest measure of growth is not how high you rise, but how much you learn along the way and how faithfully you remain connected to the person you want to be.



Leadership can be demanding. How have you learned to protect your personal identity, relationships, and wellbeing while carrying significant responsibilities?

I would not say I have always managed that balance perfectly. Leadership can be demanding, particularly when you are deeply invested in the responsibilities you carry and feel accountable to the people who depend on you.

There were times when commitments, events, deadlines and expectations occupied so much of my attention that it became difficult to separate my responsibilities from my personal life. Leadership can also carry an emotional weight that is not always visible to others. Beyond the practical demands, there are relationships to navigate, difficult decisions to make and expectations that can sometimes feel overwhelming.



Over time, I have learned that being committed does not mean being available to everyone at all times. Nor does it mean assuming responsibility for every problem or allowing every disappointment to become a personal burden.

One of the most important things I have come to understand is that I am more than the roles I perform. My professional ambitions, personal relationships, family and wellbeing are equally important parts of who I am.

Protecting those parts of my life requires conscious effort. It means being more intentional about where I invest my time, recognising when I need to step back and understanding that saying "no" does not automatically mean I care less.

I have also learned to appreciate the people who support me beyond the titles and responsibilities I carry. The people who genuinely care about you should be able to see you as a person, not simply as someone who is always expected to lead, organise or solve problems.

I continue to learn and grow in this area, but one thing has become clear to me: leadership should enrich your life, not consume your entire identity.

You can be passionate about a cause and still choose yourself. You can care deeply about others and still maintain boundaries. And you can step away from a responsibility without diminishing the value of what you contributed.

If you could speak to the version of yourself who was just beginning her Leo journey, what would you tell her?

I would tell the 17-year-old girl who joined Leo in 2013 that she is about to embark on a journey that will change her life in ways she cannot yet imagine.

I would encourage her to dream boldly, take opportunities even when they seem intimidating, and never allow her age or inexperience to convince her that she is not capable of achieving something meaningful.

I would tell her to embrace every experience, including the uncomfortable ones, because some of the most valuable lessons will come from situations she never expected to face.

But I would also tell her to protect her heart, trust her judgement and remember that good intentions do not guarantee good outcomes. She will meet people who inspire her, support her and believe in her potential. She will also encounter disappointment and situations that challenge her understanding of loyalty, friendship and leadership.

I would remind her that she does not need to prove her worth by constantly taking on more responsibilities or by being everything to everyone. She can be ambitious without exhausting herself, kind without allowing others to disregard her boundaries, and committed without making her entire identity dependent on a single organisation.

Most importantly, I would tell her to enjoy the journey while she is living it. Celebrate the little victories, cherish the friendships, appreciate the opportunities and remember that the moments that seem ordinary today may become the memories she treasures most tomorrow.

I would also tell her that it is okay for people, priorities and chapters of life to change. Something can be deeply meaningful without needing to last forever. Leaving a chapter behind does not erase the impact it has had on you.

If I could give her one final piece of advice, it would be this: Never let the pursuit of becoming a great leader make you forget the importance of becoming a person you are proud to be.

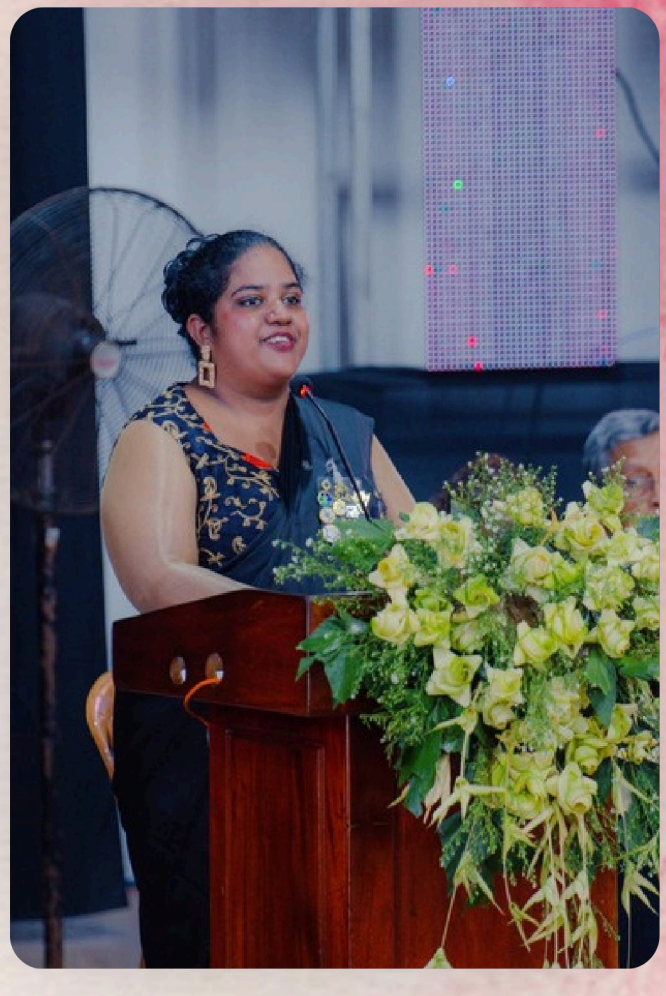


Finally, what do you hope the next generation of Leo leaders will do differently, and what kind of legacy would you like to see them create?

I hope the next generation of Leo leaders will remember that the movement exists for a purpose far greater than the titles we hold or the recognition we receive.

Leadership should be about creating opportunities, empowering people and making a meaningful difference in communities. I would love to see greater emphasis on the quality and sustainability of service, the development of young leaders and the values that guide the movement, rather than focusing predominantly on positions, awards or individual achievements.

I also hope future leaders will create a culture where people feel comfortable expressing their views, questioning decisions respectfully and learning from their mistakes. Healthy organisations are not built by avoiding difficult conversations; they are built by addressing challenges with honesty, fairness and mutual respect.



Another important lesson I hope they embrace is that unity should not mean silence. A strong movement should be able to welcome different perspectives, address concerns constructively and hold its leaders accountable while remaining committed to its purpose.

Having served at club, district and multiple-district levels, I understand the influence that leaders can have on the experiences of younger members. The way we lead today can determine whether someone feels encouraged to grow, confident enough to take on responsibility and inspired to continue serving.



As for my own legacy, I would not want it to be defined solely by becoming Multiple District President at a young age or by the achievements associated with that position. Those milestones will always be meaningful to me, but I hope my contribution represents something more enduring.

I hope my journey demonstrates that leadership is possible even when you are young, that challenges can become opportunities for growth, and that a woman can lead with both strength and compassion.

Above all, I hope I have encouraged others to believe in their potential, pursue opportunities they might otherwise hesitate to take, and remain true to their values even when the path becomes difficult.

If the next generation can build a movement that is more inclusive, more accountable, more purposeful and more committed to developing people than ever before, that would be something worth celebrating.

For me, a legacy is not simply about how people remember you. It is about what continues because you were there. If my journey helps someone else find the courage to lead, the confidence to serve or the strength to stand by their principles, then I would consider that a legacy worth leaving.

These experiences made me more thoughtful, more discerning and more conscious of the boundaries I need to maintain as a leader.



I



"I still believe in leading with empathy and giving people the benefit of the doubt. However, I have learned that compassion must coexist with accountability, and that standing by your principles is sometimes more important than being universally liked."

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Trailblazer Of the Month

LEO KAWISH FERNANDO



Every month brings forward individuals whose dedication and commitment embody the true spirit of Leoism. As we celebrate the remarkable efforts of our members, Sailing Catamaran proudly presents **Leo Kawish Fernando** as the **Leo of the Month for October**, recognizing his contribution, enthusiasm, and commitment to the ideals of leadership and service.

Being a trailblazer is more than achieving milestones; it is about setting an example, embracing responsibilities, and inspiring others through action. This recognition celebrates Leo Kawish Fernando's journey and the qualities that make his efforts worthy of appreciation. His achievement reflects the importance of staying committed to one's goals while continuing to grow through every experience.

As we honor our October Trailblazer, we celebrate not only an achievement but also the spirit of a Leo who continues to be part of a movement built on leadership, friendship, and service. May this recognition serve as a reminder that every effort matters, every contribution counts, and every step taken with purpose can inspire others to follow.
Congratulations, Leo Kawish Fernando**,** on being named our October Leo of the Month!

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LEO IN THE Spotlight

LEO SATHNARA PERERA

Tell us a little about yourself. Who are you beyond the Leo vest?



Beyond the Leo vest, I am an undergraduate at the University of Colombo, specializing in English, with a keen interest in language studies, literature, and creating positive change in society. I am someone who enjoys exploring new perspectives, meeting people from different walks of life, and stepping outside my comfort zone. I believe that growth often begins when we dare to take risks, embrace unfamiliar experiences, and challenge ourselves to see the world differently.

I value meaningful connections and opportunities that allow me to learn, contribute, and grow, both as an individual and as a member of the community.



What inspired you to join the Leo Club, and what has kept you motivated to stay?

I initially joined the Leo Movement to meet new people, expand my network, and gain experiences and opportunities for personal and professional growth. The three pillars of Leoism — Leadership, Experience, and Opportunity , aligned with my goals, while the unity and strong sense of community within Negombo Catamaran Leo Club inspired me to join the club.

What keeps me motivated is the club's genuine commitment to making a difference. The support we share, the lessons we learn, and our determination to grow together make this journey meaningful. Being part of a team with a common purpose reminds me that even the smallest contributions can create a lasting impact to the society.



Which Leo project or memory has had the biggest impact on you, and why?

One of the most impactful experiences for me was witnessing Negombo Catamaran Leo Club's response to Cyclone Ditwah. Despite severe flooding and difficult conditions, our members collected funds, coordinated efforts, and distributed essential rations to affected communities.

What made this experience meaningful was the compassion and determination behind every effort. It taught me that true service means showing up when people need us most, regardless of the challenges. Seeing everyone unite to help others strengthened my belief in humanity and reminded me that collective kindness can bring hope even in the darkest times. To me, that is what Negombo Catamaran represents: a community that always finds a way to serve.

What is one skill or lesson you've gained through Leoism that has changed you as a person?



One of the most valuable lessons I have gained through Leoism is to be more aware of the needs of people and communities around me. Service has taught me that making a difference begins with recognizing where help is needed and taking the initiative to act.

I have also learned the importance of teamwork, adaptability, and shared responsibility. Leoism has shown me that leadership is not always about being in charge, but about listening, supporting others, and working together towards a common goal. Most importantly, I have learned that meaningful change happens when people unite their strengths for a shared purpose.

If you could share one message or piece of advice with fellow Leos, what would it be?

Needless to say, Leoism offers us much more than the opportunity to serve our communities. It teaches us about ourselves; how we think, how we act, how we make decisions, and how we respond when faced with challenges. It gives us the chance to develop our leadership skills, gain invaluable experiences, and create meaningful opportunities to contribute to society.



However, if there is one thing I would encourage every Leo to cherish above all else, it is the unwavering team spirit that lies at the heart of our movement. Projects will come to an end, titles will change, and the experiences we gain will eventually become memories, but the people who stand beside us and the bonds we build along the way are what make this journey truly special. We must remember that we are not simply a group of individuals working towards separate goals; we are a team that celebrates one another's successes, learns from one another's mistakes, and stands together during the most difficult times.

So, my message to fellow Leos is to strive to become better leaders, never stop seeking opportunities to grow, and always remain committed to serving others. But above all, never lose the spirit of togetherness that brought us here. Because while we may join Leoism for the leadership, experience, and opportunities it offers, it is the people beside us and the difference we create together that make it unforgettable.

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Bridging of Roars

THE JOURNEY OF A LEO LION

THE JOURNEY OF
Leo Lion Rachika Sovis FLM

Leadership is not merely about the positions we hold, but the lives we touch and the legacy we leave behind. In this edition of Sailing Catamaran, we turn the spotlight on **Leo Lion Rachika Sovis FLM, Past District President of Leo District 306 B1**. Through this conversation, we delve into the experiences, challenges, and defining moments that have shaped his journey in Leoism, uncovering the lessons that continue to inspire a generation of young leaders.

Beyond the titles and achievements lies a story of commitment, growth, and service — a story that reminds us that true leadership is measured not by the positions we occupy, but by the difference we make.



My Leo journey began in 2015, shortly after I completed my GCE Ordinary Level examination. There was a period of free time before the commencement of my Advanced Level studies, and I wanted to use that time to explore something new. It was my sister who first introduced me to the concept of Leo Clubs. Curious to learn more, I searched Google for Leo Clubs in my area, and that was how I discovered the Leo Club of Negombo Orient.

Back then, I was the youngest member of the Club, surrounded by senior Leos who were much older and more experienced than me. Looking back, I consider it a privilege to have had the opportunity to associate with them, learn from their experiences, and understand how the movement functioned. What I appreciated most was that they never treated me differently because of my age. Instead, they welcomed me and gave me the space to learn and grow.

Gradually, I became more involved in the movement. I participated in District and Multiple District events, chaired projects, won awards, built lasting friendships, and progressed through the leadership structure. What began as a way to spend my free time eventually became a significant part of my life and shaped the person I am today.



As time passed, I had the opportunity to work more closely with Lions, and those relationships became an important part of my journey. I must especially remember our beloved late Lion Malick Uncle, who was among the first people to recognise our potential and believe in what we could achieve. Having someone who recognised your capabilities and encouraged you to move forward made a real difference.

Another memorable experience was working with Lion Chithrani, who served as the Lions Club President during my tenure as Leo Club President. Together, we worked closely during the COVID-19 pandemic, organising relief efforts and supporting people in need. It was a time when communities were facing uncertainty and hardship, and our responsibility extended beyond organising projects or conducting events. It was about being present for people when they needed help the most. These experiences taught me that service is not limited by age or position. The relationships we build with Lions, the trust they place in us, and the opportunities they provide can have a lasting impact on our development as leaders.

My transition towards higher leadership positions was not something I had planned from the very beginning. At one point, becoming a District President was simply an idea that crossed my mind, and I thought I would give it a try. However, as I became more involved in the movement, I realised that leadership offered an opportunity to create an impact beyond the boundaries of my own Club.



During that period, I had the opportunity to contribute to some significant achievements. We established two university-based Leo Clubs, something our District had not achieved since its inception. We also brought the Leo of the World title back to our District after an absence of 11 years. These milestones were particularly meaningful because they demonstrated what could be achieved through commitment, collaboration, and a willingness to take on new challenges. At that stage, life felt good. There was excitement in achieving milestones, developing new initiatives, and seeing the results of our efforts. More importantly, these experiences encouraged me to believe that I could contribute at a higher level. What initially began as a simple attempt to take on a new challenge gradually became a deeper commitment to serving the movement and the people within it.

Being part of a Leo Club is very different from serving at the District level, and being part of a Multiple District committee brings an entirely different level of responsibility. As you progress through the leadership structure, the nature of your work changes. The focus moves beyond the activities of an individual Club towards broader organisational priorities, relationships, challenges, and the expectations of a much larger membership.



At the Club level, you can often see the immediate results of your efforts. However, at the District and Multiple District levels, the challenges become more complex. You begin dealing with different personalities, competing interests, organisational expectations, and issues that cannot always be resolved in a straightforward manner. One important aspect of leadership is recognising that responsibilities must be shared. As senior leaders, we should create opportunities for younger and emerging Leos to take responsibility, make decisions, learn from their mistakes, and develop their own leadership capabilities. We must be willing to step back when necessary and allow others the space to grow.



I have come to understand that leadership is not simply about holding a higher position or having the authority to make decisions. It is about managing complexity, making difficult choices, and creating an environment in which others can develop and succeed. The higher you climb, the greater your responsibility becomes, and the more important it is to remember why you started serving in the first place.

If there is one difficult lesson I have learned throughout my Leo journey, it is that people can change drastically when their personal interests are at stake. I have seen how priorities, relationships, and attitudes can change depending on what individuals stand to gain. Personally, I do not consider this a good practice, especially within a prestigious movement that is built on service, fellowship, and leadership.

We are here to make people's lives better. That should remain at the heart of everything we do, regardless of the position we hold or the recognition we receive. If every member approached the movement with that genuine intention, rather than focusing on personal benefits, titles, or recognition, I believe our movement could have achieved far more than it has today.



Leadership has also taught me that good intentions alone are not enough. We need integrity, consistency, accountability, and the willingness to put the collective purpose ahead of personal interests. We may not always agree with one another, and disagreements are inevitable in any organisation. However, our differences should never make us lose sight of the greater purpose that brought us together.



Throughout my journey, I have benefited from the guidance, encouragement, and experiences of many people. Every interaction, whether positive or challenging, has contributed to my understanding of leadership. Some experiences taught me what to do, while others taught me what I should never do. Ultimately, I believe that the true measure of a leader is not how high they climb, but whether they remain faithful to the values that brought them there.

When I look back at my Leo journey, I realise that the skills and experiences I gained through the movement have become an integral part of my professional life. The confidence to speak, the ability to communicate with different people, the experience of organising projects, and the capacity to manage responsibilities have all contributed to my development in the workplace. Many of the things I do in my career today are influenced by what I learned as a Leo.

Beyond the practical skills, the movement has also shaped my perspective on teamwork, responsibility, and leadership. It has given me opportunities to interact with people from different backgrounds, face challenges, and take on responsibilities that pushed me beyond my comfort zone. These experiences have helped me grow not only as a leader but also as an individual.



If I were to share one message with the next generation of Leos, it would be this: never forget why you joined the movement in the first place. Enjoy the friendships, embrace the opportunities, take on leadership responsibilities, and celebrate your achievements. However, never allow positions, titles, awards, or personal interests to become more important than the purpose of serving others.



Your leadership journey will not always be easy, and you will not always agree with everyone you encounter. There will be disappointments, difficult decisions, and lessons that you may only understand much later. Nevertheless, remain true to your values and continue creating opportunities for others to grow.

For me, the greatest achievement of my Leo journey is not simply the positions I have held or the milestones I have reached. It is the person I have become because of the journey. I began as a young student looking for something new to do, and over the years, the Leo Movement became a platform that shaped my confidence, character, and leadership. Whatever path I take in the future, the lessons and values I gained through this movement will continue to guide me.

Once a Leo, always a Leo—not merely because of the title we carry, **but because of the values we choose to uphold and the lives we continue to touch.**

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RIDING THE Waves

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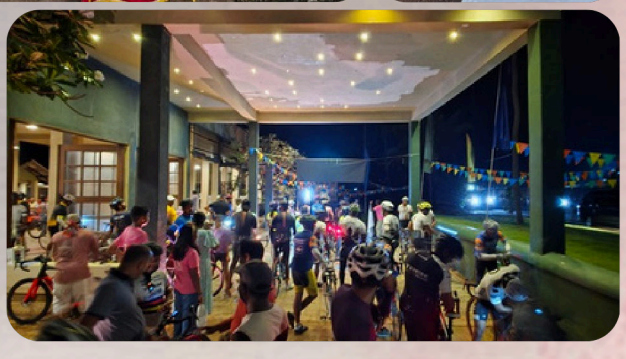
RACE
CHILAW TO COLOMBO
C2C
FOR THE CAUSE









In a world where awareness can save lives, **C2C**, a breast cancer awareness project organized by **Adrenaline Rush by CTX**, brought an important cause into the spotlight. Serving as the event-organizing partners, we contributed to bringing this initiative to life, supporting a project dedicated to raising awareness about breast cancer and highlighting the importance of early detection.

Through this collaboration, we were proud to be part of an initiative that encouraged awareness, understanding, and support for a cause that touches countless lives. C2C reflected the power of collective effort in creating meaningful experiences and spreading messages that truly matter.

Together, we turned collaboration into awareness and awareness into a step towards change.

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A.I.M

AWARENESS | INDEPENDENCE | MASTERY



Awareness paves the way for change, and through **Project A.I.M.**, the Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran continued its mission of educating and empowering the younger generation. Held at **St. Nicholas International College, Negombo**, the project featured an insightful road safety awareness session conducted by our Guest Speaker, **Mr. Thushara, Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of Katunayake.** Through his informative talk, students were educated on the importance of road safety, responsible behavior on the roads, and the vital role each individual plays in preventing road accidents. The session encouraged young minds to develop safer habits and become more responsible road users. With Project A.I.M., we continue to move forward with purpose, spreading awareness, inspiring responsibility, and shaping a safer tomorrow, one initiative at a time.

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Merchant OF THE PRIDE

FT. LEO LION CHANUKA WIJEWEERA

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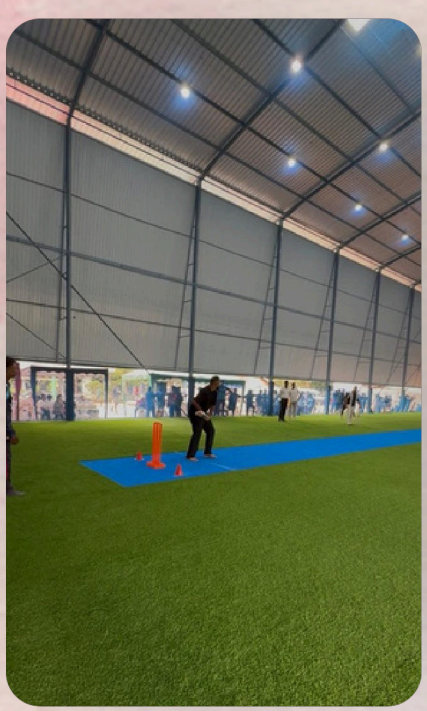
HITZONE
INDOOR CRICKET ARENA
NEGOMBO







Where passion meets the pitch, every shot tells a story!

Bringing the thrill of cricket indoors, **HITZONE Indoor Cricket Arena,** a venture by **Leo Lion Chanuka Wijeweera**, is all about turning a love for the game into an exciting sporting experience. Whether it's the perfect shot, a competitive match, or the unforgettable moments shared with teammates, HITZONE brings the spirit of cricket to life in an engaging indoor setting. More than just a place to play, it represents the passion, determination, and entrepreneurial vision behind a venture built around the love of sport.

Through Merchants of the Pride, we celebrate Leo Lion Chanuka Wijeweera for taking his passion beyond the boundary and creating a space where cricket enthusiasts can come together, compete, and make every moment count.

HITZONE Indoor Cricket Arena — Step in, gear up, and own the game!

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ROARS OF THE Visionary pride

Leo Lion
Vinuk Thismalpola

Leo Lion
Buddhika Abeynayaka

Leo Lion Dimithri
Ranawake MAF PFLM



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INSPIRING LIVES

Message from the District President of D1

Values Lead Purpose: The Legacy We Choose to Leave

Every great journey is guided by a purpose, but the journeys that truly matter are shaped by the values we uphold. In Leoism, we often celebrate projects, awards, and achievements, yet I believe our greatest accomplishment lies in the smiles we create, the dreams we inspire, and the lives we touch through service. These moments may never appear in an annual report, but they represent the true spirit of our movement.

As the District President of Leo District 306 D1, my vision under the theme ***"Values Lead Purpose"*** is to build a culture of strong governance, transparency, impactful service, and collective leadership. I believe leadership is not merely about holding a position; it is about empowering others to discover their potential and creating opportunities for people to grow. Every Leo has the power to make a difference, regardless of their title or the scale of their projects. Sometimes, the smallest act of kindness becomes the most unforgettable part of someone's life.

To every Leo, I encourage you to lead with integrity, serve with compassion, and embrace every opportunity to learn and grow. Our titles may change and our leadership years may come to an end, but the values we uphold and the lives we influence can continue to inspire generations.

Let us strive not merely to be remembered for what we achieved, but to be remembered for the people we empowered and the difference we made. Let our values lead our purpose, and let our service become the legacy we leave behind.

Leo Lion Vinuk Thismalpola
District President | Leo District 306 D1
Leoistic Year 2026/2027



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Message from the District President of D2

ear Leos of the Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran,

Every great movement is built upon the lessons of its past, the strength of its unity, and the courage of those who dare to envision a better future.

As we continue our journey in Leoism, we must recognise that our legacy is not merely something we inherit; it is something we have a responsibility to strengthen. The achievements of those who came before us provide direction, the challenges we encounter shape our leadership, and the decisions we make today determine the future we leave for those who follow.

As District President of Leo District 306 D2 for the Leoistic Year 2026/2027, my vision, ***"United in Purpose,"*** reflects a fundamental belief: our greatest strength lies in our ability to stand together despite our differences. Across clubs, districts, and communities, we may have different journeys, perspectives, and ambitions, but our commitment to service unites us under one greater purpose. Through Synergy, Spirit, and Simplicity, we can transform individual potential into collective progress and meaningful, sustainable impact.

I believe that true leadership is revealed not by the authority we exercise, but by the opportunities we create for others to rise. It is about empowering every member, strengthening every club, and ensuring that our service reaches beyond the boundaries of our own circles. Let us learn from the past without being confined by it, embrace the present with unity, and approach the future with courage and conviction.

To the Leos of Negombo Catamaran, may your journey continue to be defined by purposeful leadership, genuine fellowship, and service that leaves a lasting mark on the lives you touch.

Let our pride be rooted in our purpose, our strength be found in our unity, and our legacy be measured by the difference we make together.

Because the true roar of Leoism is not the voice of one leader, but the collective voice of a generation committed to making the world a better place.

United in Purpose.

Leo Lion Buddhika Abeynayake
District President
Leo District 306 D2
Leoistic Year 2026/2027



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Message from the District President of D4

My dear club members of the Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran,

I'm so glad to be here and to celebrate this very special day with you all.

The Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran has been a club of service, leadership and fellowship since its inception. I love seeing the commitment and passion you share with your projects and the impact you've and continue to have on your community.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate our new President, Leo Rajinda and his team. Becoming a leader is a wonderful thing, yet also a tremendous responsibility. It is a chance to learn, to grow and to make something of it. Best of luck to you and your team with the upcoming year and hope you all have a wonderful year.

Meanwhile, the success of a club is dependent not just on its leaders. All members are needed. I continue to encourage all of you to stay active, support each other and collaborate with each other not only in reaching our club's goals, but our district's goals as well. So much more we can do, and make an even bigger impact through our service, when we do it together with a common purpose

Keep in mind that Leoism is not limited to projects we conduct, or events we organize.It's also about the friendships we develop, the experiences we have and the leaders we become in the process.

Take advantage of all the opportunities, learn from each other and use the values learned as a Leo in your studies, work and life

To the members and new leadership of Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran, a happy and memorable year for you. May you always be growing, serving and making a difference in all that you do!

Thank you and all the best for the coming year!

Leo Lion Dimithri Ranawake MAF PFLM
District President
Leo District 306 D4
Leoistic Year 2026/2027



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Roars

ACROSS THE DISTRICT



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Leo Distirct 306D3

Presents

PHOENIX
ASCEND

Annual District Installation

Coming Soon

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Across the Multiple District Roars



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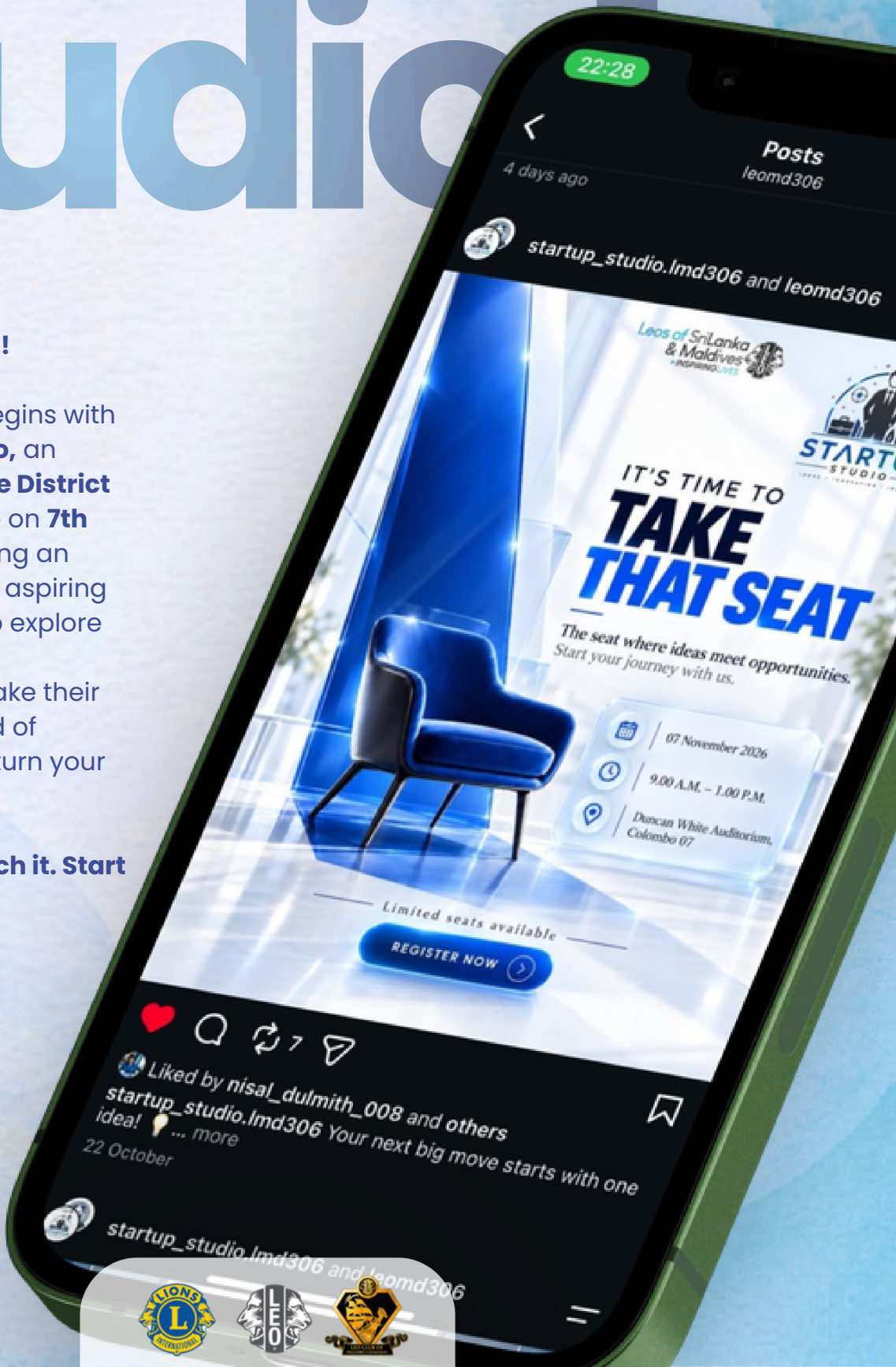
Startup Studio

Big Ideas. Bold Visions. Boundless Possibilities!

Every great business begins with an idea! **Start Up Studio,** an initiative by **Leo Multiple District 306**, is set to take place on **7th November 2026,** creating an exciting opportunity for aspiring young entrepreneurs to explore their potential, develop innovative ideas, and take their first steps into the world of business. Get ready to turn your vision into reality!

Dream it. Build it. Launch it. Start Up Studio!



Leos of SriLanka & Maldives
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Roars

ACROSS THE WORLD

Leos of SriLanka & Maldives
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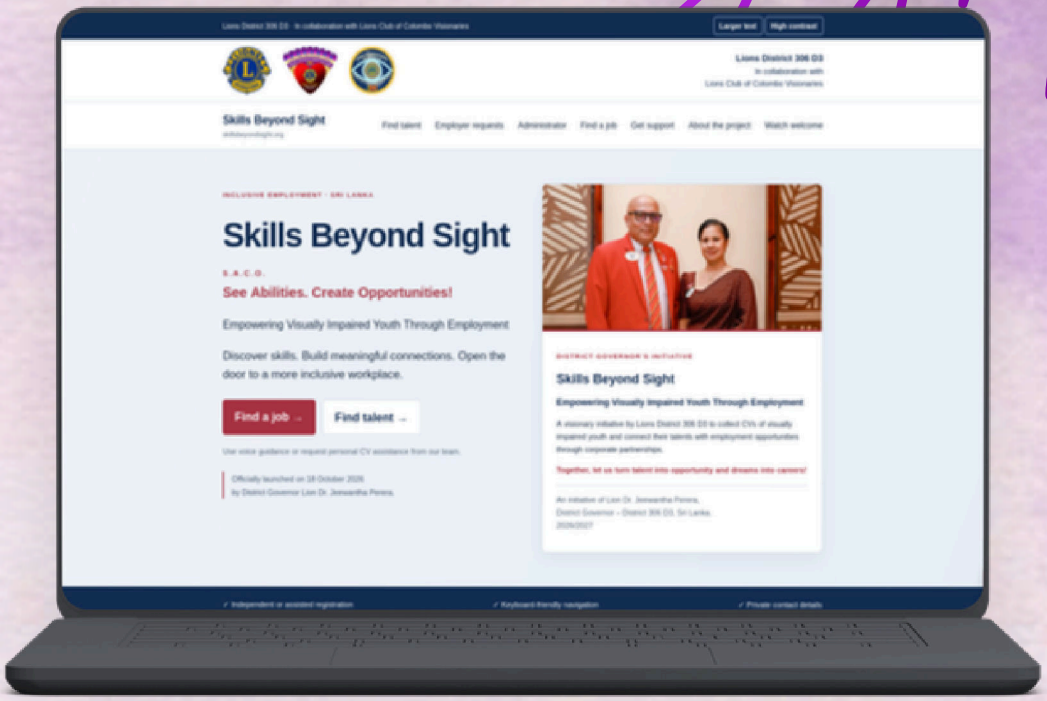
Skills Beyond Sight



In a world where opportunities should never be limited by sight, **Lions District 306 D3** has taken a meaningful step towards a more inclusive future with the official launch of Skills Beyond Sight (S.A.C.O.) — an initiative designed to connect blind and visually impaired individuals with employment opportunities.

Launched by **District Governor for the Lionistic Year 2026/2027: Lion Dr. Jeewantha Perera MJF MAF**, the initiative was developed in collaboration with the **Lions Club of Colombo Visionaries.** By connecting talented individuals with potential employers, the platform aims to create pathways towards meaningful employment, independence, and professional growth.

With website concept, design, technology, and hosting sponsored by the **Lions Club of Mabole, District 306 D3**, the initiative demonstrates how technology and service can work together to break down barriers and create opportunities for all.

Skills Beyond Sight is more than a website; it is a step towards a future where ability takes precedence over disability, and every individual has the opportunity to contribute, grow, and thrive.

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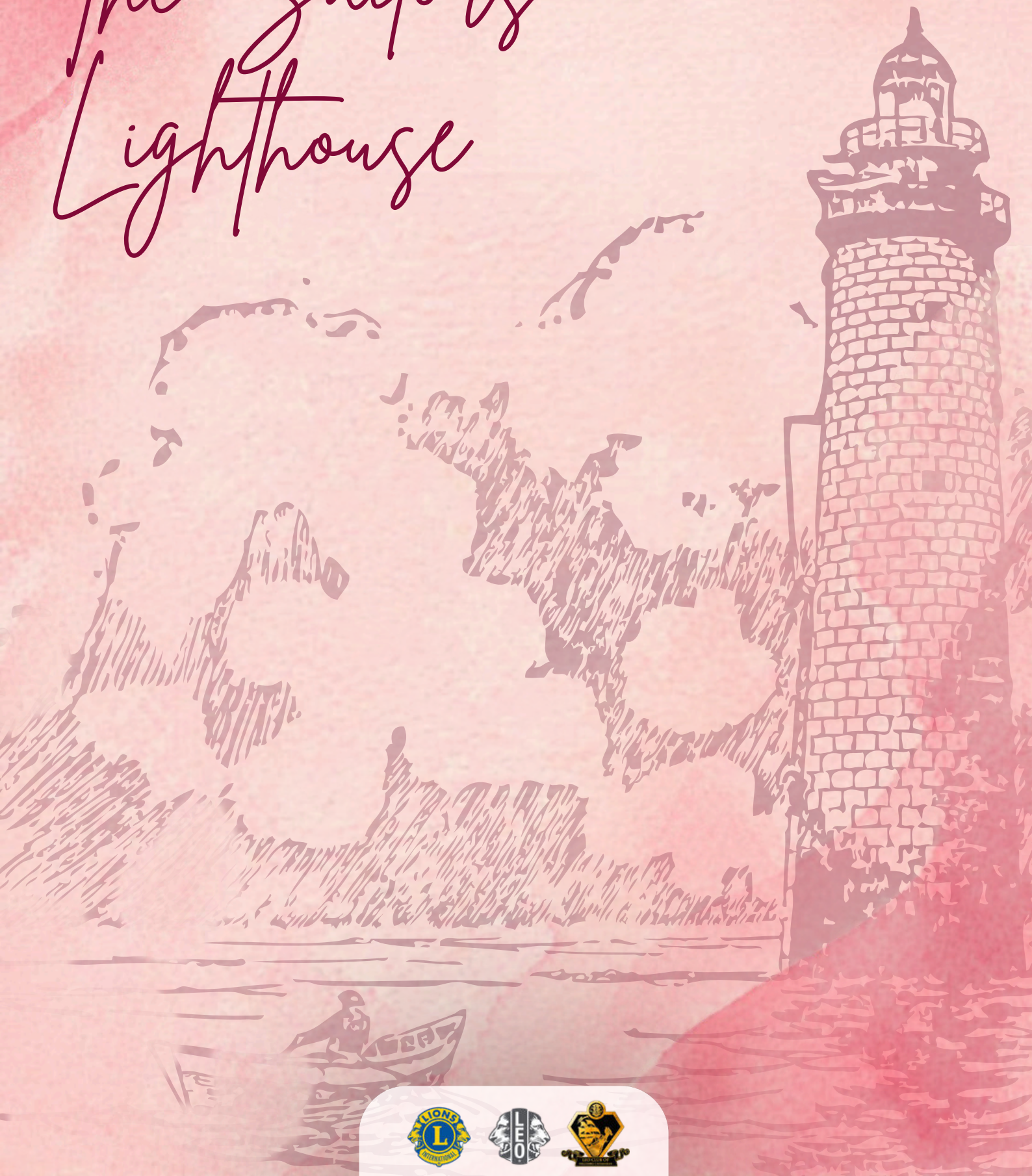
The Sailors Lighthouse



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The Pink Ribbon

Every October, we see pink ribbons, awareness campaigns and messages encouraging women to take care of their health. However, breast cancer awareness should be more than a once-a-year reminder. It is about understanding our bodies, recognizing warning signs, and making sure that fear or a lack of information does not prevent someone from seeking medical help.

Breast cancer develops when abnormal cells in the breast grow uncontrollably and can spread to other parts of the body if left untreated. Although it is often associated with older women, it can occur at different ages, and men can develop it too. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 2.3 million women were diagnosed with breast cancer worldwide in 2022, making it one of the most common cancers affecting women globally.



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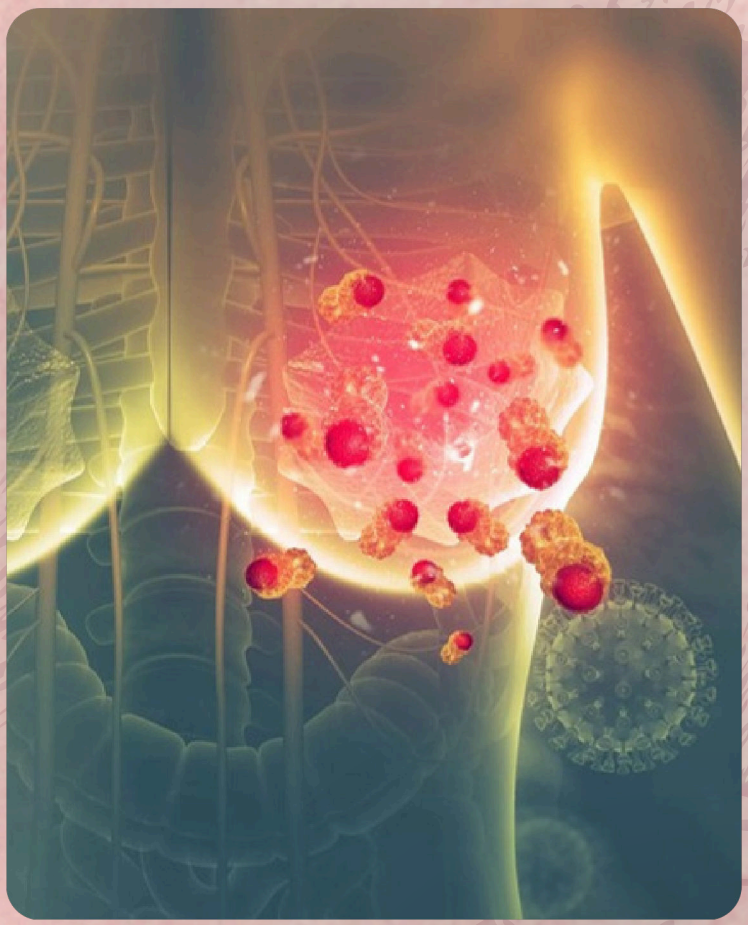
THE REALITY IN SRI LANKA

Breast cancer is not a distant problem that affects only people in other countries. According to the National Cancer Control Programme's Cancer Incidence and Mortality Data Sri Lanka: 2022, published in November 2025, Sri Lanka recorded 4,555 new breast cancer cases in 2022. Breast cancer accounted for approximately 26% of all newly reported cancer cases among women, making it the most frequently diagnosed cancer in this group.
These figures remind us why awareness, timely medical attention and accessible healthcare matter. Early detection can improve the chances of successful treatment, yet embarrassment, fear, misinformation and delays in seeking medical advice may prevent people from getting the help they need.

KNOWING THE SIGNS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



One of the most important steps in breast cancer awareness is knowing what changes to look out for. These may include a new lump or thickening in the breast or armpit, a change in the size or shape of a breast, dimpling of the skin, changes to the nipple, or unusual discharge from the nipple, particularly if it contains blood

Becoming familiar with the normal appearance and feel of our breasts can help us recognise changes. Breast awareness is useful, but it does not replace professional assessment or recommended screening. Women should discuss appropriate screening with a healthcare professional, taking their age, personal medical history and family history into account.

Not every breast lump or change is cancerous. However, an unusual or persistent change should never be ignored simply because it is painless. Anyone who notices a new or concerning change should seek medical advice promptly rather than attempting to diagnose it independently.

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BREAKING THE SILENCE

Conversations about breast health can sometimes feel uncomfortable, especially in communities where reproductive and women's health are not discussed openly. Some women may feel embarrassed to seek an examination, while others may avoid medical appointments because they fear what a diagnosis could mean.

This is why awareness must go beyond sharing statistics and wearing pink. We need to create an environment in which women feel comfortable discussing their health, asking questions and seeking medical care without shame or judgement. Families, friends, educational institutions and community organisations all have a role to play in making these conversations normal.

It is equally important to remember that breast cancer is not always preventable, and developing it is not a personal failure. Although certain lifestyle factors can influence risk, many people diagnosed with breast cancer have no identifiable risk factors beyond being female and getting older. Awareness should therefore encourage informed action, not fear or blame.



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A REMINDER TO OURSELVES AND THE WOMEN AROUND US

This October, let us look beyond the pink ribbon and consider what it represents: the importance of knowledge, compassion, early detection and support. Let us encourage the women in our lives to prioritise their health, attend recommended check-ups and seek medical advice when something does not feel right.

A conversation may encourage someone to make an appointment. A reminder may help someone recognise a change. A supportive friend or family member may make it easier for someone to seek help.

Breast cancer awareness is not simply about knowing that the disease exists. It is about ensuring that knowledge leads to action and that no woman feels she has to face uncertainty alone. Sometimes, the most meaningful act of care is simply reminding someone that her health matters.

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CREATIVE Collective

DREAMS BY the shore

We walked where waves touched soft, warm sand,
Your laughter sweet, your gentle hand.
The sunset held us in its glow,
A fleeting peace I long to know.

Your eyes met mine, the world stood still,
A quiet promise, an untold will.
We kissed, the sea forgot its sound,
A moment pure, where love was found.

But morning came, the dream was gone,
The shore, the kiss, the setting sun.
Yet still you stay within my heart,
A dream of us, though worlds apart.

If dreams could show what words can't say,
I'd find the courage to speak one day.
To close the space, to heal the divide,
And walk again, with you by my side.

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WHISPERED Confession

I met you first that restless night,
Amid the crowd, you felt so right.
Your voice, your smile, the way you spoke,
Something in me quietly woke.

You're charming, bright, and hard to ignore,
With every text, I feel it more.
The jokes we share, the names we say,
Hide the emotions I push away.

I wonder if you feel the same,
Or if to you, this is just a game.
Should I risk it all and speak my mind,
Or leave these feelings undefined?

That night still lingers, clear as day,
And I don't know what words to say.
If I told you now what's in my heart,
Would it bring us closer—or tear us apart



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EDITORS note

LEO ANGELO ABEYKOON

As we turn another page in the journey of the Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran, Sailing Catamaran continues to capture the stories, service, friendships, and moments that make our Leoistic journey meaningful. Every initiative reflects our commitment to creating an impact and inspiring change.

This issue shines a light on Breast Cancer Awareness, highlighting the importance of early detection, spreading knowledge, and standing together with compassion and hope. Through our collective efforts, we are reminded that even the smallest actions can make a meaningful difference.

As you turn these pages, look beyond the photographs and words to discover the purpose behind every initiative and the spirit that unites our Pride.

As one voyage reaches its final page, may its message continue to sail beyond these shores, touching hearts, inspiring action, and saving lives.
With pride and purpose,



Leos of SriLanka & Maldives
INSPIRING LiVES

Hands on DECK

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Every voyage leaves behind memories, meaningful connections, and stories that become part of our journey. As this edition of **Sailing Catamaran** draws to a close, may the message of Breast Cancer Awareness sail far beyond these pages, encouraging early detection, spreading hope, and inspiring meaningful change. Though this chapter ends, our voyage continues, guided by purpose and united by the spirit of service.

Until our paths cross on the next voyage, may the winds of purpose guide us, the tides of hope move us forward, and the stories yet unwritten remind us that our greatest journeys are still ahead.

With pride and purpose,
The Editors of Sailing Catamaran

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Leo Club of Negombo Catamaran