

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

Volume 23 | Issue 01

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STORIES OF SERVICE,
LEADERSHIP
AND EXCELLENCE

‘
ROOTED IN SERVICE
RISING THROUGH
LEADERSHIP
SHAPING A BETTER
TOMORROW’

TABLE OF CONTENT

1	Editor's Note	01
2	Address from the Multiple District President	02
3	Address from the District President	03
4	Address from the Club President	04
	Project Introductions	05
5	සඳහම් අභියෝග	06
6	WAVEZ'26	07
7	Diploy Sprint	08
8	UoM Leos at D2 Con'26	09
9	Honouring the Outgoing Leaders:	18
10	Then vs Now	21
11	Spark	24
12	My Leo Experience	25
13	Look Back	27
14	Mora Insights	28
15	Future Ready	29
16	සුව දිවියකට මග	30
17	Leos Around the Island	31
18	Pearl of Heritage	33
19	Words to Live By	34
20	Solve It	35
21	Creative Pulse	36
22	IT'S US Team	37
23	Signing Off	38

EDITOR'S NOTE

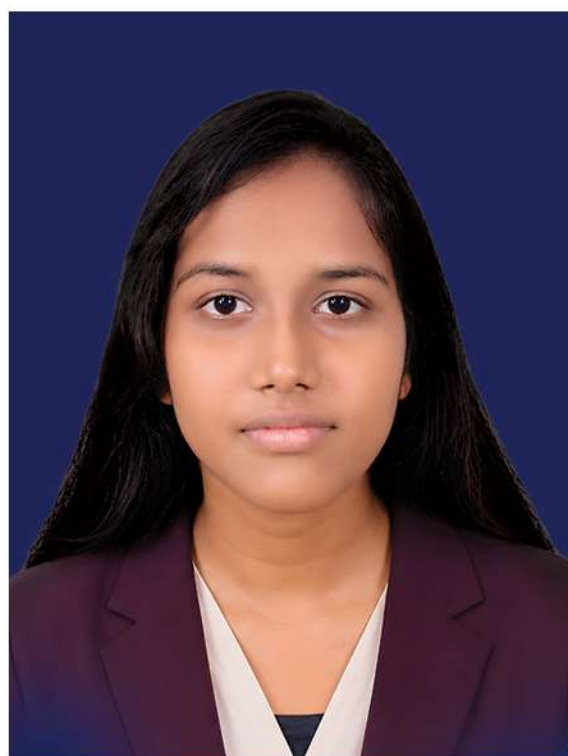
As we turn the page to a new Leoistic year, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the first issue of Volume 23 of IT'S US, the official newsletter of Leo Club of University of Moratuwa.

Every new beginning brings fresh purpose and renewed enthusiasm. This edition marks the start of another chapter in our club's journey. It reflects where we have been, celebrates what we have achieved and looks ahead to the opportunities that await us. It is a collection of the moments, memories and values that continue to shape us as Leos.

Within these pages you will find inspiring messages from our leaders, reflections that bridge generations of Leos, stories from our service journey and proud milestones that remind us of what we can achieve together. This edition also invites you to explore the innovative spirit of the University of Moratuwa, discover perspectives that encourage personal growth and well-being, appreciate the richness of Sri Lankan cultural heritage and enjoy many more engaging features prepared for you.

More than a newsletter, IT'S US is a reflection of our shared identity and the passion that unites us. As you turn these pages, I hope you find inspiration to learn, lead with purpose, serve with compassion and continue creating a meaningful impact in every step of your journey.

Wishing you an inspiring and enjoyable read.



*“Every
new beginning
brings
fresh purpose
and renewed
enthusiasm”*

Leo Thathsarani Jayalath
Chief Editor
Leo Club of University of Moratuwa

ADDRESS FROM THE MULTIPLE DISTRICT PRESIDENT

“ *Lead for a Change: Inspiring a
New Era of Leoism in 2026/27 “*

It gives me immense pleasure to extend my warm greetings and convey my message for the monthly official newsletter "IT'S US" of Leo Club of University of Moratuwa.

As the Multiple District President of Leo Multiple District 306 Sri Lanka and Maldives for the Leoistic Year 2026/27, I am deeply honored and humbled to serve this remarkable movement under the theme "Lead for a Change." This theme represents a commitment to inspire transformation within ourselves, our clubs and the communities we

Leo Nisal Dulmith FLM
Multiple District President
Leo Multiple District 306

proudly serve. Our vision for this year is to standardize the Leo community while bringing innovation, inspiration and a renewed sense of purpose to create meaningful change.

In a world that continues to evolve, the role of Leos must evolve as well. Our service should go beyond short-term initiatives and focus on creating sustainable solutions that address real community needs. Every Leo has the potential to become a change-maker by identifying challenges, embracing creativity and implementing impactful projects that empower communities and create a lasting difference.

The strength of Leo Multiple District 306 lies in our unity and diversity. Through collaboration among districts, clubs and members across Sri Lanka and Maldives, we can build a stronger and more connected Leo family. By sharing knowledge, encouraging innovation and embracing new opportunities, we can elevate the Leo movement to greater heights.

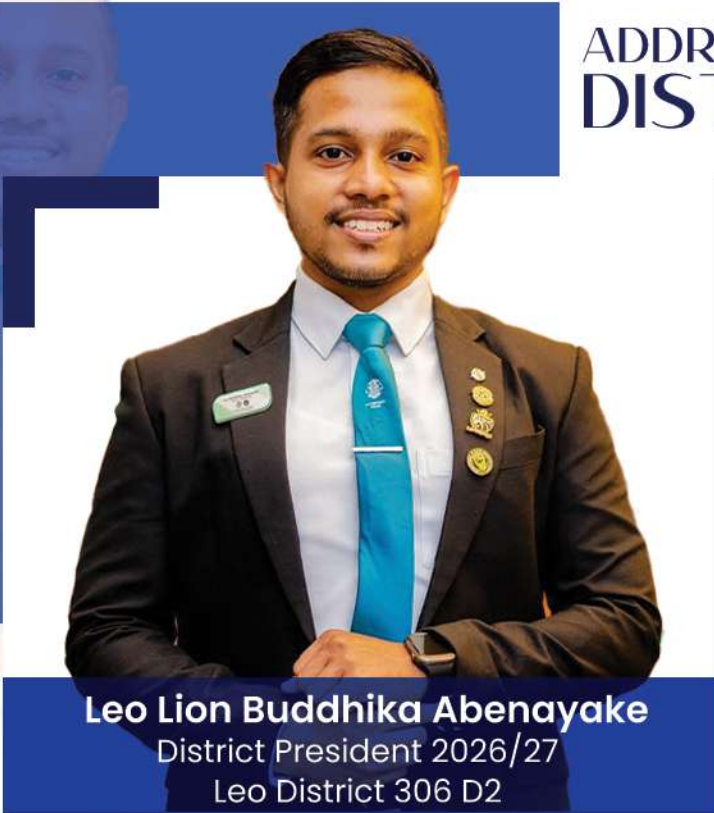
Throughout this year, our leadership will be guided by integrity, accountability, empathy and adaptability. True leadership is not defined by a title, but by the ability to inspire, influence and serve others with dedication. I encourage every Leo to step forward with confidence, explore new possibilities and lead initiatives that create positive change.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to Leo Club of University of Moratuwa for their exceptional commitment and inspiring service to the community. Your dedication represents the true spirit of Leoism. I wish all past, present and future Leos continued success, growth and fulfillment as you continue building a legacy of service.

"Lead for a Change"

Leo Nisal Dulmith FLM
Multiple District President
Leo Multiple District 306

ADDRESS FROM THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT



Leo Lion Buddhika Abenayake
District President 2026/27
Leo District 306 D2

It is with great pride and gratitude that I address you as the District President of Leo District 306 D2 for the Leoistic Year 2026/2027. I am delighted to share this message in the first edition of "IT'S US", the monthly official newsletter of Leo Club of University of Moratuwa. My sincere appreciation goes to the editorial team for providing this platform to celebrate Leoism, share inspiring stories and strengthen the bond among our members. I wish the newsletter every success and hope it continues to inspire Leos for many years to come.

As we embark on a new Leoistic year, our district is guided by the theme "United in Purpose". More than a theme, it reflects our shared commitment to serving our communities with one vision, one spirit and one unwavering dedication. When we unite with a common purpose, we amplify our impact and create meaningful change that extends beyond our individual clubs.

Our vision for the year ahead is to strengthen club administration, cultivate exceptional leaders, encourage innovative and sustainable service initiatives, expand membership and foster stronger collaboration throughout the district. By embracing new ideas while remaining true to the core values of Leoism, we will continue to empower every Leo to grow, lead and serve with excellence.

I encourage every Leo to embrace opportunities with confidence, lead with integrity, serve with compassion and support one another in every endeavor. Together, we can build a stronger district and create a lasting legacy of service and leadership.

As we begin this exciting journey, let us move forward, United in Purpose, inspiring one another through our actions and working hand in hand to make Leo District 306 D2 a beacon of excellence. I wish Leo Club of University of Moratuwa and the "IT'S US" editorial team every success in this wonderful initiative and look forward to many remarkable editions ahead.

Leo Lion Buddhika Abenayake
District President 2026/27
Leo District 306 D2

ADDRESS FROM THE CLUB PRESIDENT



Leo Hiruna Karunarathna
Club President

Dear Fellow Leos,

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I address you for the first time as the Club President of Leo Club of University of Moratuwa for the Leoistic Year 2026/27.

Two years ago, I joined this club as a Prospect with nothing more than a willingness to serve and a desire to grow. Never did I imagine that one day I would have the privilege of leading this incredible family. Looking back, I am grateful for every project we completed, every challenge we overcame and every friendship we built. Last year, I had the privilege of serving as the Vice President of this remarkable club, where I gained invaluable experience, embraced new responsibilities and grew both as a leader and as a Leo.

Those experiences have shaped me into the person I am today and have prepared me to lead our club with confidence and purpose.

As we begin this new Leoistic year, I am proud to introduce our theme:

“The Change Begins With Us.”

This theme reminds us that meaningful change starts with each one of us. Every impactful project and every act of service begins with individuals who choose to make a difference.

This year, I encourage all of us to embrace creativity, strengthen our unity and serve with passion. Together, let us build on our proud legacy while creating new milestones that leave a lasting impact on our university and the community. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to our newly elected and appointed Board of Officers. I have every confidence that, together, we will make this a year of meaningful service, innovation and lasting memories.

Finally, my sincere gratitude goes to every Leo leader, mentor and member who guided and inspired me throughout my journey. Your support has made me the leader I am today.

As we embark on this exciting journey together, let us lead with purpose, serve with compassion and inspire change through our actions. Because every great transformation begins with a single decision and that decision begins with us.

Warm regards,
Leo Hiruna Karunarathna
Club President
Leo Club of University of Moratuwa
Leoistic Year 2026/27

PROJECT INTRODUCTIONS

A new Leoistic year marks the start of new opportunities to serve. With every initiative, we dedicate our time, skills and hearts to making a lasting impact while upholding the values of Leoism.

Here are the projects launched by Leo Club of University of Moratuwa in July 2026, marking the beginning of another meaningful journey of service and impact.



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DEPLOY SPRINT

Leo Club of University of Moratuwa recently organized a project called Deploy Sprint, collaborating with Knurdz Community; a platform designed to empower undergraduate students to learn, innovate and gain practical experience in technology-based project development. This event was open to undergraduate students from the University of Moratuwa who are interested in tech ideas.

Registrations were open from June 6th to July 2nd, giving interested students the opportunity to apply and become part of the competition. On July 5th, a bootcamp session was organized for the registered participants at ENTC Hall of University of Moratuwa.

After the bootcamp, a virtual qualifier was conducted online on July 6th. During this qualifier, teams showed their projects online and the teams for the final round were selected.

The final event was on July 26th. On this day, there was a competition where the selected teams showed their finished tech projects. They explained how their ideas could help people in society and the winning teams got cash prizes to help them build their projects even further.

Deploy Sprint was a simple way for students who like technology to learn new things, share their ideas with others and get real experience. Special thanks go to Knurdz Community, the judges and everyone who helped to organize and take part in this event.



WAVEZ'26

With the shared vision of protecting our marine environment and promoting environmental responsibility, Leo Club of University of Moratuwa in collaboration with AIESEC in University of Kelaniya successfully organized WAVEZ'26, a marine conservation initiative under the Waste Management avenue on 19th July 2026 at Wellawatte Beach.

The project commenced with an Awareness Walk from St. Peter's College, Colombo 04, where participants spread messages on the importance of marine conservation and the need to reduce marine pollution. The walk served as a platform to encourage the public to take responsibility for protecting our oceans and coastal ecosystems.

Following the awareness walk, participants gathered at Wellawatte Beach for a Beach Cleanup. Equipped with the necessary cleanup materials, volunteers worked together to collect waste scattered along the shoreline, contributing to a cleaner and healthier coastal environment. Their collective efforts reflected the power of teamwork and community service in creating a positive environmental impact.

Beyond the cleanup activity, WAVEZ'26 emphasized the importance of sustainable environmental practices and inspired participants to become advocates for marine conservation in their daily lives. The project demonstrated that even small actions, when carried out collectively, can lead to meaningful and lasting change.

WAVEZ'26 stands as a testament to the commitment of Leo Club of University of Moratuwa and AIESEC in University of Kelaniya to serving the community through impactful environmental initiatives. Together, we continue to create waves of change for cleaner shores and a greener future.



UOM LEOS AT D2 CON'26

The Inaugural District Conference of Leo District 306 D2 (D2 Con'26) was held on Saturday, 20th June 2026 at the Golden Rose Receptions. This historic event gathered Leos from all corners of the newly formed district to celebrate a year filled with transformative service, administrative brilliance and an unprecedented sweep of top accolades for the Leoistic Year 2025/26.

At the intersection of academic excellence and purposeful service, UoM Leos carried their pride forward to rewrite the history books, proving once again that collective dedication translates student energy into measurable, lasting outcomes.



OVERALL CLUB TRIUMPHS & SPECIAL HONORS

With the continuous and tireless efforts of our dedicated members, the Leo Club of University of Moratuwa was proud to bring home the pinnacle title of Most Outstanding Leo Club in Leo District 306 D2. This ultimate recognition reflects the depth of our leadership, institutional resilience and widespread impact across the entire district.

Keeping our historic streak alive by leading the way in university driven community service, the club was also awarded the prestigious title of Most Outstanding University Based Omega Leo Club in Leo District 306 D2. This honor celebrates our members' unique capacity to balance rigorous academic studies at the university with professionally executed, high-impact projects.

In addition to these major titles, UoM Leos established absolute administrative, operational and competitive dominance by winning foundational district honors:



Most Outstanding Leo Club - Winner



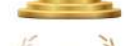
Most Outstanding University Based Omega Leo Club - Winner



District Contest Excellence - Winner



Best Administered Leo Club - Winner



Best IT Enabled Leo Club - Winner



Most Supportive Leo Club - 1st Runner Up

PROJECT EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Our community service initiatives broke all previous records, completely dominating the project evaluation categories. Below is the comprehensive, official list of all recognized UoM Leos projects at D2 Con'26, kept exactly in their original order:



Winner Awards (Best Project)

- ◊ Best Project for Spotlight on Children - "Sihina Yathra"
- ◊ Best Project for Nutrition and Food Safety - "Ahuru Asweduma"
- ◊ Best Project for Peace, Religious & Cultural Activities - "Voices for Peace"
- ◊ Best Project for Senior Citizens Development - "Smart Seniors"
- ◊ Best Project for Public Relations - "Tharka"
- ◊ Best Project for Fund Raiser - "Hithawanthi"
- ◊ Best Project for Differently Abled - "Jiwanarunodhaya"
- ◊ Best Project for Quality Education & Literacy - "Shilpasara"
- ◊ Best Project for Women Empowerment - "Sheroes"
- ◊ Best Project for Clean Water & Energy Conservation - "Sustania"
- ◊ Best Project for Crime and Accident Prevention - "Hope Heaven"
- ◊ Best Project for Street Animals, Wildlife & Life Below Water - "Safe Lives"
- ◊ Best Project for Betterment of Leoism - "Lumina Excellence"
- ◊ Most Innovative Project - "LeoLink"
- ◊ Best Project Organized on Behalf of the Leo District - "Holi Fest '26"
- ◊ Best Joint Project with Non-Leo / Outside Organization - "Dev{thon} 3.0"
- ◊ Best Joint Intra District Project - "Dev{thon} 3.0"
- ◊ Best International Joint Project - "HOPE"
- ◊ Best Project for Disaster Management & Prevention - "Awadanamata Pera"
- ◊ Most Outstanding Service Project - "Sustania"
- ◊ Best Project for Hunger - "Aswenna"
- ◊ Best Project for Childhood Cancer - "HOPE"
- ◊ Best Project for Vision - "Suwa Diwiyata Siha Sawiyak"
- ◊ Legacy Project Award - "Waste2Wonder"

PROJECT EXCELLENCE AWARDS



1st Runner Up Awards (Best Project)

- ◇ Best Project for Responsible Consumption & Waste Management - "Eco Dash"
- ◇ Best Project for Health & Wellbeing - "Hope Hugs"
- ◇ Best Project for Quality Education & Literacy - "Tharka"
- ◇ Best Project for Women Empowerment - "AurorAWE"
- ◇ Best Project for Poverty & Better Life - "Jiwanarunodhaya"
- ◇ Best Project for Clean Water & Energy Conservation - "Eco Spark"
- ◇ Best Project for Crime and Accident Prevention - "Be a Warrior"
- ◇ Best Project for Research & Development - "Life in Balance"
- ◇ Best Project for Fellowship - "Leo Padura"
- ◇ Most Outstanding Continuous Project - "Wellness First"
- ◇ Best Project Organized on Behalf of the Leo District - "MentorLink"
- ◇ Best Project Organized on Behalf of the Leo Multiple District - "LeoLink"
- ◇ Best Joint Project with Non-Leo / Outside Organization - "Me & Nature"
- ◇ Best International Joint Project - "Virtual Classroom for All"
- ◇ Best Project for Diabetes - "Suwa Diwiyata Siha Sawiyak"



2nd Runner Up Awards (Best Project)

- ◇ Best Project for Peace, Religious & Cultural Activities - "Delwena Mathaka"
- ◇ Best Project for Sports & Recreation - "Dream in Motion"
- ◇ Best Project for Infrastructure Development - "Rest with Hope"
- ◇ Best Project for Drug Prevention & Rehabilitation - "Mathin Thora Deshayak"
- ◇ Best Project Organized on Behalf of the Leo Multiple District - "MDPL"
- ◇ Best Project for Fellowship - "MDPL"
- ◇ Most Outstanding Service Project - "AurorAWE"
- ◇ Most Outstanding Continuous Project - "Turing"
- ◇ Best Project for Environment - "Eco Dash"
- ◇ Best Project for Youth - "MentorLink"

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP & SPECIALIZED SPOTLIGHTS

Behind this grand showcase of achievements stands an exceptional panel of dedicated leaders, officers and innovators who were recognized for their tireless contributions, character and strategic vision:



Leo Hasitha Dhananjaya

Winner
Most Outstanding
Club President

Winner
Most Outstanding
Leo Entrepreneur



Leo Hiruna Karunarathna

Winner
Most Outstanding
Club Vice President

Winner
Most Popular Leo



Leo Lohan Ekanayake

Winner
Most Outstanding
Club Secretary



Leo Akindu Kalhan

Winner
Most Outstanding
Club Treasurer



Leo Dulanjana Dilshan

Winner
Most Outstanding
Digital Transformation
Champion



Leo Kalani Nimasha

Winner
Most Outstanding
Bulletin Editor



Leo Dinithi Adithya

1st Runner Up
Most Popular District
Council Officer



Leo Lion Darshika
Prabhashwara

2nd Runner Up
Most Outstanding
Immediate Past Club
President

DISTRICT PRESIDENT'S APPRECIATION AWARDS

Our collective triumphs were built on the individual passion and untiring efforts of our members. We are incredibly proud to celebrate and salute the outstanding individuals who were honored with the prestigious District President's Appreciation Awards for the Leoistic Year 2025/26:

Leo Hasitha Dhananjaya



Leo Dulanjana Dilshan



Leo Lion Darshika
Prabhashwara



Leo Avishka Vishmitha



Leo Dinithi Adithya



Leo Ihithishaam Fazaal



Leo Hiruna
Karunarathna



Leo Prabash Liyanage



Leo Lohan Ekanayake



Leo Lion Shehan
Akmeemana



Leo Akindu Kalhan



Mr. Praminda Vindika



Leo Lahiru Chinthaka



Lion Isuru Senadeera



Leo Tarini Kalansooriya



UoM Leos salute your individual excellence and united effort that powered our club to the very top this year!

FOUNDATIONAL GUIDANCE & MENTORSHIP

The historic heights scaled by UoM Leos this year were guided by the steady encouragement, strategic counsel and unwavering support of our institutional and district mentors:



Dr. Lesly Ekanayake

Winner

**Most Outstanding
Staff Advisor**



Lion Sumudu Amarasinghe

Winner

**Most Outstanding
Leo Club Advisor**

Dr. Lesly's mentorship provided the vital framework allowing students to seamlessly balance their heavy academic responsibilities with profound public service. Simultaneously, the wise counsel and dedicated leadership of Lion Sumudu Amarasinghe remained an indispensable pillar of strength, helping transform our ambitious visions into sustainable realities.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP PROFILES



Leo Hasitha Dhananjaya

Winner

Most Outstanding Club President

Leo Hasitha Dhananjaya's executive journey has been nothing short of exemplary. Stepping into the presidency following a highly decorated year as Vice President, his strategic vision, quiet humility and profound commitment steered the club toward institutional excellence. His thoughtful leadership unified the membership, inspired creativity across all project committees and solidified UoM Leos' reputation as an impactful force for social good.



Leo Hiruna Karunarathna

Winner

Most Outstanding Club Vice President

Leo Hiruna Karunarathna served as an invaluable administrative and operational driver for the club. His sharp strategic insight, reliability and proactive initiative contributed significantly to the club's growth and operational resilience. Widely recognized across the district for his approachability, warmth and genuine care, he also claimed the title of Most Popular Leo, beautifully balancing structural execution with true district fellowship.



Leo Lohan Ekanayake

Winner

Most Outstanding Club Secretary

Leo Lohan Ekanayake anchored the administrative spine of the club with absolute precision and consistency. His meticulous record keeping, strict adherence to reporting timelines and clear, effective communication channels reinforced the club's administrative strength. His structured efforts ensured that the club's massive operational scale was executed with professionalism and seamless district engagement.



Leo Akindu Kalhan

Winner

Most Outstanding Club Treasurer

Leo Akindu Kalhan managed the extensive and complex financial ecosystem of the club with exceptional discipline, transparency and foresight. His prudent financial planning and fiscal management kept our financial foundation secure, empowering the club to execute ambitious, large-scale and long-term community service projects with absolute confidence and sustainability.

UOM LEOS AT



SPECIALIZED LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION PROFILES



Leo Dulanjana Dilshan

Winner

Most Outstanding Digital Transformation Champion

Leo Dulanjana Dilshan spearheaded the modernization of our technological infrastructure. His focus on digital transformation, optimized data management and automated workflow enhancements left a lasting, sustainable digital legacy that significantly elevated the speed, efficiency and resource accessibility of the entire club.



Leo Kalani Nimasha

Winner

Most Outstanding Bulletin Editor

Leo Kalani Nimasha elevated the public image and storytelling standard of the club to new professional heights. Her creative eye for storytelling, narrative precision and commitment to quality beautifully captured the heart of the club's journey. Through her publications, she kept members, alumni and district partners deeply informed, connected and inspired.



Leo Hasitha Dhananjaya

Winner

Most Outstanding Leo Entrepreneur

Displaying an exceptional entrepreneurial spirit, Leo Hasitha Dhananjaya was honored for his proactive ability to spot real world problems, map resource efficient pathways and drive innovative, sustainable solutions. His creative ambition stands as a prime example of how modern engineering thinking translates into high-impact, transformative social leadership.



Leo Dinithi Adithya

1st Runner Up

Most Popular District Council Officer

Leo Dinithi Adithya earned widespread admiration across the district for her exceptionally welcoming demeanor, strong structural commitment and innate ability to connect clubs together. This recognition reflects her invaluable contribution to the harmony, synergy and collaborative success of the entire district council.



Leo Lion Darshika Prabhashwara

2nd Runner Up

Most Outstanding Immediate Past Club President

Providing the club with continuous direction, Leo Lion Darshika Prabhashwara was honored for his thoughtful leadership, strong sense of responsibility and dedicated mentorship. His ongoing involvement post-presidency laid a firm foundation, ensuring the smooth transition of organizational values and empowering the next generation of club executives to lead with total confidence.

With this historic, record-breaking performance at D2 Con'26, Leo Club of University of Moratuwa continues to set the benchmark for excellence within the country. Our deep gratitude goes out to every member, advisor, sponsor and partner who walked this monumental path with us. UoM Leos remains resolutely committed to pushing boundaries, breaking barriers and serving our global community with clarity, heart and enduring purpose.

HONOURING OUTGOING LEADERS

“Leadership is not about
the position you hold, but about
the legacy you leave behind.”

Serving as the President of Leo Club of University of Moratuwa has been one of the greatest privileges and most rewarding experiences of my life. As I look back on this remarkable journey, I do so with immense gratitude, pride and satisfaction for everything we have achieved together.

When I began this journey, I envisioned a year that would inspire professionalism, innovation and meaningful service. However, what made this vision a reality was not one individual, but an extraordinary team that shared the same passion, commitment and purpose. Every project we carried out, every challenge we overcame and every milestone we celebrated was the result of our collective dedication to making a positive impact.

Throughout this year, we were able to transform ideas into action and dreams into accomplishments. Together, we strengthened our club through impactful community service, professional development initiatives, technological innovations and sustainable projects that will continue to benefit future generations of UoM Leos. Witnessing the growth of our members and the influence our club created within the university, the district and the community has been the greatest reward of this journey.

Leadership has taught me lessons that extend far beyond meetings, projects and responsibilities. It has taught me resilience during difficult times, humility in success, confidence in uncertainty and the importance of empowering others. Most importantly, it has reminded me that true leadership is about serving people, building lasting relationships and creating opportunities for others to grow.

I am deeply grateful to every individual who became part of this journey. To my Board of Officials, fellow Leos, Prospects, Members, Old Mora Leos, Club Advisors, District and Multiple District leaders, Lions, sponsors, partners and everyone who believed in us – thank you. Your trust, encouragement and unwavering support gave me the strength to lead with confidence and purpose.



Leo Hasitha Dhananjaya
Immediate Past Club President

As I conclude my term, I do so with a heart full of gratitude and countless unforgettable memories. While every leadership journey eventually comes to an end, the friendships we built, the lives we touched and the legacy we created together will continue to inspire me for years to come.

As I pass on this responsibility, I do so with complete confidence in the future of Leo Club of University of Moratuwa. To the incoming Board of Officials and every member, I wish you a Leoistic Year filled with purpose, unity and remarkable achievements. Embrace every challenge as an opportunity to grow, lead with humility and continue creating meaningful change through service. Thank you for giving me the privilege of serving as your President. I leave with a heart full of gratitude, knowing that the best chapters of our club's story are yet to be written.

Leo Hasitha Dhananjaya
Immediate Past Club President
Leo Club of University of Moratuwa

HONOURING OUTGOING LEADERS



A meaningful legacy is built by those who choose service over self."

Being recognized as the Best Leo Club Secretary of Leo District 306 D2 and the 1st Runner-up (2nd Best Secretary) of Leo Multiple District 306 Sri Lanka is an honour I will always treasure. More than the awards themselves, they represent a journey of dedication, growth, continuous learning and the unwavering support of an incredible team.

As I conclude my tenure as the Club Secretary of Leo Club of University of Moratuwa, I do so with a heart full of gratitude. What began as an opportunity to serve soon became one of the most rewarding chapters of my university life. This club became more than an organization - it became a family. Along the way, I had the privilege of meeting inspiring individuals who challenged me to grow, celebrated every achievement and stood by me through every challenge.

Serving as Secretary was never just about meetings, reports or administration. It was about bringing people together to turn ideas into meaningful service. Every project completed, every milestone achieved and every success we celebrated was the result of teamwork, commitment and a shared passion for making a difference.

These past two years have shaped me into a better leader and a better person. They strengthened my leadership, communication, organizational and time management skills while teaching me invaluable lessons about responsibility, resilience, collaboration and servant leadership.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to my President, Past Club Secretaries, Board of Officials, fellow Leos, Prospects, Members, Old Mora Leos, Club Advisors, District and Multiple District leaders, mentors and everyone who supported and believed in me throughout this journey. Your trust, guidance and encouragement made every achievement possible.

As I close this chapter, I leave with unforgettable memories, lifelong friendships and experiences that will continue to inspire me in the years ahead.



Leo Lohan Ekanayake
Club Secretary 2025/26

To the incoming Board of Officials and every Leo beginning a new journey, I wish you a successful and impactful Leoistic year. Lead with humility, serve with passion, support one another and continue the proud legacy of Leo Club of University of Moratuwa. I have every confidence that our club will continue to reach even greater heights.

Once a Leo, Always a Leo.

Leo Lohan Ekanayake
Club Secretary 2025/26
Leo Club of University of Moratuwa

HONOURING OUTGOING LEADERS



Leadership is not about managing finances. It is about creating systems that last and leaving the organization stronger than you found it."

Every year, someone signs off on the numbers. My hope was always to be remembered for more than that. When I began my term as Treasurer of Leo Club of University of Moratuwa, I set myself a single goal to introduce something new and meaningful that would outlast my year in office, rather than simply keeping the seat warm. With projects worth over LKR 50 million passing through our books, that ambition carried real weight.

Transparency became my starting point. In place of the traditional single annual audit, I introduced three separate audits across the year, keeping our financial reporting to the District and Multiple both accurate and on time. I also brought our auditor into the room, inviting him to present his findings directly to the membership at both the Mid-Year and End-Year Reviews. Watching members engage openly with the club's own finances, asking questions and holding us to account, became one of the defining moments of my term.

Funding was the next tradition I wanted to challenge. Rather than leaning on familiar fundraisers such as sticker and bookmark sales, we placed our energy into building genuine industrial sponsorships. To honor the organizations that believed in us, we launched a special newsletter edition, "With Us," celebrating the partners behind our projects. And because a good idea should never leave with its author, I ran knowledge-sharing sessions for our junior Leos on approaching companies, communicating professionally and building fundraising that lasts.

None of this came easily. Changing long-held habits tested my patience and earning trust in new systems took persistence. Yet those challenges were exactly where I grew the most. I learned to lead through influence rather than authority, to carry a vision clearly and to stay accountable when the stakes were high.



Leo Akindu Kalhan
Club Treasurer 2025/26

It was humbling to see this work recognized at D2 CON with the Most Outstanding Club Treasurer Award, an honor that belongs to everyone who believed in what we were building.

To our current members and the leaders still to come, my advice is simple: do not be afraid to question tradition and build something better in its place. The legacy I hope to leave is a culture of transparency and a sponsorship approach that grows stronger every year. My vision for UoM Leos is a club that keeps raising its own standard, one committee at a time. To my fellow Executive Committee, our Past Leos, our members and our sponsors, thank you for walking this road with me. It has been an unforgettable journey.

Leo Akindu Kalhan
Club Treasurer 2025/26
Leo Club of University of Moratuwa



THEN NOW



"Then Vs Now" bridges the past and present through conversations between former and current board members of Leo Club of University of Moratuwa. This feature celebrates shared experiences, lessons learned and aspirations for the future while showcasing how leadership continues to evolve across generations. In our first edition, Former Chief Editor Leo Kalani Nimasha joins Current Chief Editor Leo Thathsarani Jayalath to reflect on their editorial journeys, the growth of IT'S US and their vision for the future of the club's official newsletter.

1. How did your journey as Chief Editor begin?

Kalani:

My journey began when I served as an Editorial Panelist under the leadership of Chief Editor Leo Vinuki Bandara during the Leoistic Year 2024/25. Throughout that period, I received invaluable guidance and support, which helped me develop my skills and contribute meaningfully through creative and well-organized work.

With the trust and confidence of the club, I was later appointed as Chief Editor for the Leoistic Year 2025/26. I accepted this role with deep gratitude, as it became a truly rewarding chapter in my life.

Thathsarani:

My journey as Chief Editor began quite unexpectedly. During the previous Leoistic Year, I served as the Director of Senior Citizens Development and had never imagined myself taking on the role of Chief Editor. When the position became vacant, our Club President, Leo Hiruna Karunaratna, approached me and encouraged me to take on the responsibility.

At first, I wasn't sure if I was the right person for the role. After learning about the responsibilities and taking some time to understand what the position involved, I accepted the challenge with confidence. Although I started without much knowledge about editorial work, the trust placed in me motivated me to learn, grow and give my very best to the role.

2. How did the two of you first connect and how has that connection evolved through your editorial journeys?

Kalani:

My connection with Thathsarani began through our work within Leo Club of University of Moratuwa. Before becoming the new Chief Editor for the 2026/27 Leoistic Year, she had already served as one of the Directors of the club and we had the opportunity to collaborate on several tasks.

Today, I am sincerely eager to share my experience with her, offer guidance wherever needed and support her in making the editorial journey of the club even more impactful and successful. I also wish her every success and hope she continues to bring even greater creativity to this role.

Thathsarani:

My first interactions with Leo Kalani were through project publications when I was serving as a Director. At that time, we worked together professionally, but we didn't have a very close connection.

Everything changed when I became the Chief Editor. Since I had very little experience in editorial work, she became the first person I turned to for guidance. She patiently taught me the entire editorial process, answered every question I had and never hesitated to support me whenever I needed help. Over time, our professional relationship grew into a genuine friendship and I am truly grateful to have had such a supportive mentor throughout my journey.



THEN NOW



3. What has been the most memorable part of your editorial journey?

Kalani:

The most memorable part of my editorial journey has been overcoming challenges while fulfilling my responsibilities with commitment and integrity. There were moments when I had to balance this role alongside my internship and personal challenges including a particularly difficult phase in my life.

Looking back, I feel deeply grateful to myself for enduring that period with strength and determination. I am also sincerely thankful to the Editorial Panel, former Chief Editors, the Club President and Board of Officials who extended their support during that time.

Thathsarani:

The most memorable part of my journey has been learning to lead an editorial team without having prior experience in the editorial role. Every publication became an opportunity to learn something new and improve myself.

Balancing editorial responsibilities with my academic work and personal life was challenging, but it taught me valuable lessons in time management and leadership. I was also fortunate to work with an enthusiastic Editorial Panel within seven members. Although many of us were new to editorial work, we learned together, supported one another and successfully overcame every challenge as a team. I am truly thankful to my panel for their dedication, trust and unwavering support throughout this journey.

4. What's one lesson being Chief Editor has taught you that you'll always carry with you?

Kalani:

One lesson I will always carry with me is that good work requires not only effort, but also balance, sincerity and purpose. We must make time for rest, remain positive even in difficult moments and stay spiritually grounded so that we can work with clarity and integrity.

I have also learned that work should be done with true intention, not merely for the sake of completing a task. When necessary, seeking help is important. What matters most is not just delivery, but the quality and authenticity of the final output.

Thathsarani:

The greatest lesson I've learned is that every challenge becomes an opportunity when we are willing to accept it and learn. At the beginning, I had little knowledge about editorial work, but with patience, continuous learning and genuine passion, I gradually grew into the role.

This experience taught me that nothing is impossible when you embrace challenges with confidence and give your best effort. Growth comes from stepping outside your comfort zone and that is a lesson I will carry with me throughout my life.

5. Kalani, what advice would you give to the current and future Chief Editors ?

My advice to current and future Chief Editors is to approach the role with responsibility, attention to detail and a sense of purpose. As editors, we are entrusted with ensuring that all club publications are accurate, ethical and delivered within the required timeframe.



THEN NOW



At the same time, editorial work is not only about publications. It is also about contributing to the growth of the club by strengthening its visibility and building meaningful connections with the community. Always verify information carefully, maintain the highest standards of accuracy and uphold authenticity and ethical values in every publication. Most importantly, ensure that your work adds value to both the club and the wider community.

Finally, I wish all the editors and Leo Club of University of Moratuwa every success in all its future endeavors.

6. Thathsarani, what is your vision for the future of IT'S US and what legacy do you hope to leave behind?

My vision is to make IT'S US more than just a newsletter. I hope it becomes a platform that informs, inspires and connects not only our members but also everyone who reads it. Through meaningful stories, valuable knowledge and creative ideas, I want every edition to leave readers with something new to learn and something to remember.

The legacy I hope to leave behind is a newsletter that is recognized for its quality, creativity and authenticity - a publication that future editorial teams will proudly continue to develop, carrying forward a tradition of sharing knowledge and celebrating the journey of Leo Club of University of Moratuwa.

Finally, I would like to thank the former Chief Editors, our Club President, the Board of Officials, my Editorial Panel and everyone who will stand with me throughout this Leoistic Year. I hope we will continue to make this journey a successful and memorable one together.



SPARK

THE INSPIRING JOURNEY OF NICK VUJICIC

When Nick Vujicic was born in 1982, his parents were shocked to learn that he had tetra-amelia syndrome, a rare condition that left him without arms and legs. As he grew up, Nick struggled to understand why he was different. He faced bullying, loneliness and self-doubt, often believing that he would never live a meaningful life.

At the age of ten, overwhelmed by hopelessness, Nick considered ending his life. However, the unwavering love and support of his family helped him see that his life had purpose. Instead of focusing on what he lacked, he made a life-changing decision to focus on what he could achieve.

With determination and perseverance, Nick learned to write, type and swim using a computer and perform everyday tasks using his small foot. Each accomplishment strengthened his confidence and proved that determination is far more powerful than physical limitations.

As he grew older, Nick began sharing his story with students, communities and audiences around the world. His message of resilience, hope and self-belief resonated with millions. He later founded Life Without Limbs, became a bestselling author, married and built a loving family. Today, he has inspired people in more than 70 countries through his speeches and outreach.

Nick's journey reminds us that success is not defined by our circumstances but by our attitude and willingness to move forward. Challenges may test our strength, but they also shape our character and reveal our true potential.

His story teaches us that asking, "What can I learn from this?" is far more powerful than asking, "Why is this happening to me?" It is this mindset that transforms obstacles into opportunities.



MY LEO EXPERIENCE

When I first entered the University of Moratuwa, I knew I wanted to be involved in meaningful activities beyond academics. Like every first year undergraduate, I was searching for a place where I could grow, meet inspiring people and make my university life truly memorable. One day, one of my batchmates shared a link to join the UoM Leos Prospects group. Without realizing that a simple click would change my life, I joined the group.

As I explored the initiatives shared there, I was amazed by the meaningful and impactful projects organized by Leo Club of University of Moratuwa. The passion, dedication and enthusiasm of the members inspired me and I knew this was a journey I wanted to be part of.

My Leo journey officially began when I applied for “Sherose”, a women empowerment project and was selected as its Project Chairperson. It was both exciting and challenging to lead my very first project. Through Sherose, we empowered low-income women by conducting mushroom cultivation workshops, flower bouquet making sessions and flyer designing workshops to help them develop practical skills and create income opportunities. Seeing how a simple initiative could bring confidence and hope to others made me realize that community service was something I genuinely wanted to continue.

Soon after, I joined the Phase 1 of “Mathin Thora Deshayak” as an Organizing Committee member. Travelling to Horana, Ratnapura and Bentota, we conducted drug prevention awareness sessions for school students and had the opportunity to interact closely with them. Their curiosity, enthusiasm and positive responses made every moment worthwhile. Later, I continued my journey as an Organizing Committee member for Phase 2 and had the privilege of serving as the Project Chairperson for Phase 3 in the project “Mathin Thora Deshayak”. Each phase strengthened my leadership, teamwork, communication and sense of responsibility.

Among all the projects I have been part of, Project Leap in Mandaram Nuwara remains the most unforgettable. At first, I applied simply because I love travelling. However, the experience became so much more than a journey to a beautiful place. It challenged me to step outside my comfort zone, strengthened my leadership skills and introduced me to incredible people.



Leo Malshi Welikala
Activity Coordinator
Leo Club of University of Moratuwa

MY LEO EXPERIENCE

The laughter, late-night conversations, teamwork and unforgettable memories completely transformed my Leo journey. It was the project that made me realize that Leo is not just about organizing events. It is about growing together while making a positive impact on society.

I also had the opportunity to serve as an Organizing Committee member of the project "Hithawanthi" Live in Concert, another remarkable experience that introduced me to new challenges and unforgettable memories. My dedication throughout these projects was recognized when I was officially inducted as a New Leo Member, honoured as the Leo of the Month and awarded the Most Supportive New Leo at the End Year Review. These recognitions meant far more than certificates or titles. They reminded me that every sincere effort is appreciated and that dedication never goes unnoticed.

Today, I am proud to serve as one of the Activity Coordinators for the Leoistic Year 2026/27. Looking back, I often think about the girl who joined the Prospects group without knowing what Leoism truly meant. Today, I have grown with this movement and it has become a part of who I am. Leo has given me confidence, lifelong friendships, unforgettable experiences and countless reasons to smile.

To every prospect and fellow Leos, I encourage you to embrace every opportunity that comes your way. Step outside your comfort zone, believe in yourself and never hesitate to serve others. You will discover that Leoism changes not only the lives of the people you serve but also your own.



Leo Malshi Welikala
Activity Coordinator
Leo Club of University of Moratuwa

LOOK BACK

As Leo Club of University of Moratuwa continues to celebrate its proud legacy, "Look Back" shines a light on the inspiring individuals whose dedication has shaped the club's journey. In this edition, we are honoured to feature Lion Sumudu Amarasinghe, a proud charter member and past Club Secretary of Leo Club of University of Moratuwa. Having served as the Club Advisor of Leo Club of University of Moratuwa last Leoistic year and now serving as the District Leo Chairperson of Leo District 306 D2, she continues to inspire the Leo movement through her leadership. In her heartfelt reflection, she shares the memories, challenges and lessons that made her Leo journey truly unforgettable.

Carved in Service: My Leo Journey

Among the countless memories carved across my university years, none shine brighter than the time I spent as a member of Leo Club of University of Moratuwa. What began in 2003 with a humble orientation led by members of the Lions Club of Dehiwala North and the District President of Leo District 306 A concluded in my proud installation as a charter member at the Lions Activity Center, Moratuwa.

Those early years were rich with service and fellowship. Monthly Bodhi Pooja programmes, Sports Days, Leo Padura, Blood Donation Camps, Dengue Awareness Programs in Korelawella and Akurata Sawiyak are not merely projects in my memory; they are the experiences that shaped my character and built friendships I still treasure today.

The journey was not without heartbreak. The loss of Leo Mahesh Abeywickrama (Past Club President) was one of the most unforgettable moments in our Leo story. Together, as one team, we slowly rebuilt the club after his loss. That turning point tested our resilience and unity, but it also shaped who we became. Serving as Club Secretary after that difficult chapter gave me the leadership skills I carried into District-level roles and every position that followed.

More than any title, the Leo Club gave me values that still guide me – leadership, teamwork, collaboration and empathy; quietly supporting every step of my professional ladder.

Looking back, I am grateful for every moment, every project and every person who walked this journey with me. The Leo Club did not just teach me to serve – it taught me who I am.

Lion Sumudu Amarasinghe



FALCON E RACING

When discussing innovation at the University of Moratuwa, one name stands out with pride, Falcon E Racing. More than just a student project, Falcon E Racing represents the determination, creativity and engineering excellence that define every Moratian.

Established in 2017 by a passionate group of undergraduate students from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Falcon E Racing set out with an ambitious goal, to design and build Sri Lanka's first Formula Student Electric Race Car. What began as a bold dream soon became a remarkable achievement through countless hours of research, design, manufacturing, testing and teamwork.

The team designed and developed the vehicle while gaining practical experience in mechanical design, electrical systems, battery technology, aerodynamics, manufacturing and project management. This hands-on learning transforms classroom knowledge into real world engineering solutions while preparing students to meet international industry standards.

Falcon E Racing has proudly represented the University of Moratuwa on the international stage through prestigious Formula Student competitions. One of the team's greatest milestones came at Formula Bharat 2022, where they emerged as the Overall Runner up while also securing Second Place in both the Business Plan Presentation and Concept Goals Management events. These achievements demonstrate that Sri Lankan engineering talent can compete alongside some of the world's best student teams.

Beyond the trophies and technical success, Falcon E Racing embodies the true values of the University of Moratuwa. The project encourages innovation, leadership, collaboration, resilience and continuous learning. Students from different disciplines unite with a shared vision, overcoming technical and financial challenges while inspiring future generations of engineers.

Today, Falcon E Racing continues to push boundaries with new vehicle developments and international ambitions. Their journey reflects the University's commitment to excellence in engineering education and proves that with passion, teamwork and perseverance, Sri Lankan students can make a global impact.

Falcon E Racing is not simply building electric race cars, it is shaping the next generation of engineers, innovators and leaders. It is a shining example of why every Moratian can take pride in being part of the University of Moratuwa.



Future Ready

BEYOND THE CODE: THRIVING IN THE AGE OF AI

The future isn't waiting around for us anymore. It's already here, and it is completely changing how we study, work and live. Right now, everything revolves around AI. If you're about to graduate or start a career, being "future ready" isn't about memorizing textbooks or mastering one specific software. Honestly, it's just about how fast you can adapt when things change.

Let's be real, it's completely normal to feel stressed about AI taking over jobs. But the actual truth is pretty simple: **AI itself won't replace us, but people who know how to use it will definitely replace those who don't.** Instead of worrying or trying to fight it, we just need to start looking at these tools as our helpers.

Think about how much time we waste on boring, repetitive stuff. AI can actually save us hours of work by handling tedious tasks like sorting data, formatting documents or doing basic research in just a few seconds.

It also works great as an instant brainstorming partner. Whenever you get stuck on a project or find yourself staring at a blank screen, you can use it to get fresh, creative ideas immediately.

When we let technology handle the heavy lifting, we get our time back. That means we can focus on what we do best deep thinking, actual problem solving and making big decisions.

At the end of the day, a piece of computer code can't feel empathy, lead a team with kindness or make hard ethical choices. Those human qualities are our actual superpower and no machine can copy them.

Thriving today just takes a little bit of curiosity. We need to be ready to learn new things, throw out old habits and keep relearning as our tools change. We don't have to race against the machines. We just have to learn how to run them.

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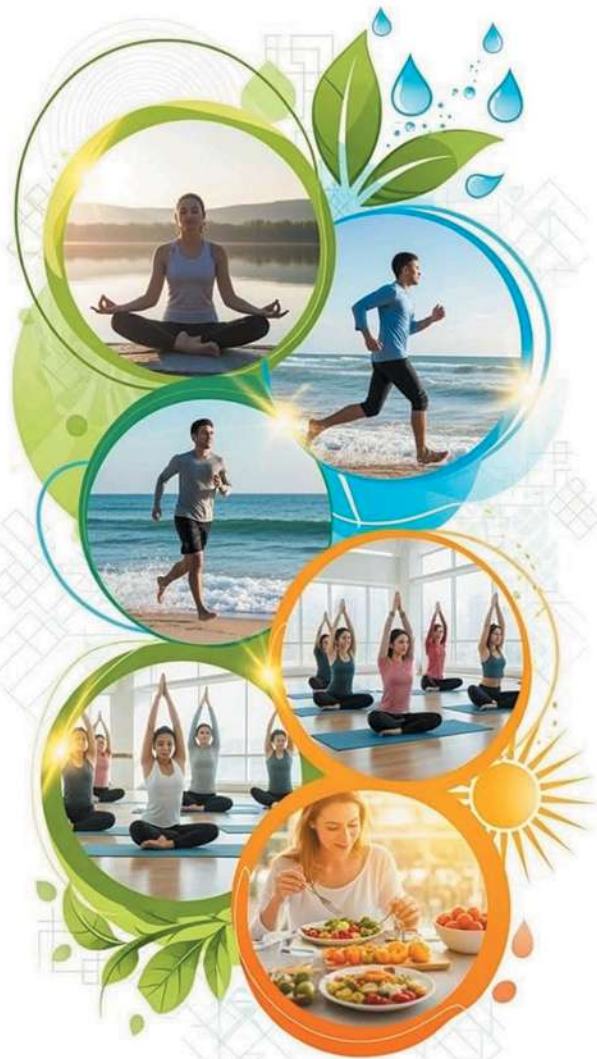
නිරෝගීකම උතුම්ම ලාභයයි.

මනුෂ්‍යයන් වන අපට මෙලොව දිවිය තුළ දී අත්විඳිය හැකි උතුම්ම ලාභය ලෙස එදා බුදුරජාණන් වහන්සේ දේශනා කළ වදාළ නිරෝගීකම, අද වන විට සැබවින්ම දුර්ලභ ලාභයක් බවට පත්ව ඇති බව සමාජය දෙස බලන කල අපට හොඳින්ම පැහැදිලි වේ. වර්තමාන සමාජය පීඩා විඳින රෝගවලින් බහුතරයක් බෝ නොවන රෝග ගණයෙහිලා සැලකිය හැකිය.

පුද්ගලයෙකුගෙන් තවත් පුද්ගලයෙකුට බෝ නොවන, කලක පටන් ක්‍රමයෙන්, සෙමෙන් වර්ධනය වන රෝග බෝ නොවන රෝග ලෙස සලකනු ලබයි. සංඛ්‍යාලේඛන දත්තවලට අනුව වර්තමානයේ ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ සිදුවන මරණවලින් 80%කට වඩා වැඩි ප්‍රමාණයකට සහ රෝගී තත්ත්වයන්ගෙන් 70%කට ආසන්න ප්‍රමාණයකට හේතුවන ප්‍රධානතම මහජන සෞඛ්‍ය ගැටලුව බවට බෝ නොවන රෝග පත්ව ඇත. හෘද රෝග, පිළිකා, දියවැඩියාව, නිදන්ගත ශ්වසන රෝග සමාජය තුළ බහුලව දක්නට ලැබෙන බෝ නොවන රෝග කිහිපයකි.

බාල මහලු වයස් හේදයකින් තොරව සියලුදෙනා අද වන විට පීඩා විඳින මෙම බෝ නොවන රෝගී තත්ත්වයන් කෙරෙහි පුද්ගලයන්ගේ දෛනික ජීවන රටාවන් සෘජුවම බලපායි. අධික ලුණු, සීනි සහ තෙල් සහිත ආහාර පරිභෝජනය වැඩිවීම, දිගු වේලාවක් එකම තැන වාසි වී සිටීම සහ ව්‍යායාම නොකිරීම, දුම්වැටි භාවිතය හා මත්පැන් පානය යනාදිය මේ සඳහා හේතුවන ප්‍රධාන අයහපත් සෞඛ්‍ය පුරුදු ලෙස හඳුනාගෙන ඇත.

බෝ නොවන රෝගවලින් ආරක්ෂා වීමට අප විසින් යහපත් සෞඛ්‍යසම්පන්න ජීවන රටාවක් අනුගමනය කළ යුතුය. මෙහිදී සාමන්‍යයෙන් අප දන්නා සෞඛ්‍ය වත් පිළිවෙත්වලින් ඔබ්බට යා යුතුය. පාන් පිටීමය ආහාර අවම කර සුදු බත් පරිභෝජනය කිරීම වෙනුවට රතු බත්, කුරක්කන් වැනි සම්පූර්ණ ධාන්‍ය තෝරාගන්න. ආම්න්ඩි, කජු, රටකජු වැනි ඇට වර්ග මීටත් පමණ දිනපතා ආහාරයට එකතු කරගන්න. ඔබේ උදෑසන ආහාර වේලෙහි ප්‍රෝටීන් ප්‍රමාණය වැඩි කරන්න. බිත්තර, කබල, මුං ඇට, කිරි වැනි ප්‍රෝටීනමය ආහාර රුචිරයේ සීනි පාලනයට උපකාරී වේ. ශරීරයේ බර අඩු කර ගැනීමට වඩා ඔබේ ඉණෙහි වට ප්‍රමාණය කෙරෙහි වැඩි සැලකිල්ලක් දැක්වීම වැදගත් වේ. මන්ද උදරයේ මේදය වැඩිවීම හෘද රෝග සහ දියවැඩියාව වැළඳීමේ අවදානමක් ඇති කරයි. රාත්‍රී ආහාරයෙන් පැය 2ක 3ක කාලයකට පසුව නින්දට යාම රුචිරයේ සීනි පාලනයට මෙන්ම ශරීරයේ පරිවෘත්තීය ක්‍රියාවලිය සඳහා ද හිතකර වේ. නියමිත වේලාවට නිදාගැනීම සහ උදෑසන හිරු එළියට නිරාවරණය වීම එනම් ශරීරයේ ජෛව ඔරලෝසුව නිසි ලෙස ක්‍රියාත්මක වීම දියවැඩියාව සහ හෘද රෝගවලින් ආරක්ෂා වීමට හේතු වේ. දිනපතා ව්‍යායාමවල නිරත වුවද දිගු වේලාවක් එකදිනට වාඩි වී සිටීම හෘද රෝග සහ දියවැඩියා අවදානම වැඩි කරන බැවින් පැය භාගයකට හෝ පැයකට වරක් නැගිට වලනය වීම යෝග්‍ය වේ. ශාරීරික සෞඛ්‍යයට අමතරව මනස ද ආනතියෙන් තොරව තබා ගැනීම හුදෙකලා නොවී යහපත් සමාජ සම්බන්ධතා පවත්වා ගැනීම, දිනකට විනාඩි 10ක් පමණ ගැඹුරු හුස්ම ගැනීම වැනි ශ්වසන අභ්‍යාසයක යෙදීම හෝ භාවනා කිරීම පුරුදු පුහුණු වීම ආදිය ද බෝ නොවන රෝගවලින් ආරක්ෂා වීම සඳහා වැදගත් වේ.



මහජන සෞඛ්‍ය කෙරෙහි විශාල බලපෑමක් එල්ල කරන මෙම බෝ නොවන රෝග තත්ත්වයන් පාලනය කිරීම සඳහා රජය විසින් රජයේ රෝහල් සහ සෞඛ්‍ය වෛද්‍ය නිලධාරී කාර්යාලවල බෝ නොවන රෝග පරීක්ෂා කිරීමේ සායන පැවැත්වීම සහ දියවැඩියාව, අධි රුධිර පීඩනය, පිළිකා වැනි බෝ නොවන රෝග හඳුනා ගැනීම සඳහා අදාළ පරීක්ෂණ මහජනතාවට නොමිලේ සිදු කරගැනීමට අවස්ථාව සලසා දී ඇත.

වර්තමාන සමාජය තුළ බොහෝ දෙනා දුක් විඳින මෙම බෝ නොවන රෝගවල මිළඟ ගොදුර ඔබ ද විය හැකිය. හෙට දිනයේ බෝ නොවන රෝගවලට ගොදුරක් වී දුක්වනවාට වඩා අද දිනයේ යහපත් සෞඛ්‍ය පුරුදු දෛනික ජීවිතයට එක් කරගැනීම ඔබේ අනාගතය සුවෙන් සතුටින් ගත කිරීමට ඉඩ හසර ලබා දෙනු ඇත.

නිරෝගී හෙටක් වෙනුවෙන් ප්‍රමාද නොවී අදම ආයෝජනය කරමු!

LEOS AROUND THE ISLAND

"Leos Around the Island" is an article series that celebrates the diversity, leadership and impact of the Leo movement across Sri Lanka. Through inspiring conversations with Leo leaders from different districts, we explore their journeys, signature initiatives and visions for the future, fostering stronger connections and inspiring collaboration among Leo clubs nationwide. In this edition, we are delighted to feature Leo Lohan Devasurendra, District President of Leo District 306 D8, who shares his leadership journey, district initiatives and aspirations for the year ahead.

1. Please introduce yourself, your current position and the Leo club or district you represent.

First and foremost, it is a great pleasure to pen down a few words for the Leos of the University of Moratuwa. I have always shared a special connection with UOM Leos because many of the Mora Leos, who led the movement during my early years in Leoism was among the greatest inspirations in my own leadership journey. Their passion for service, professionalism and commitment to excellence motivated me to dream bigger, take on new challenges and grow as a leader. It is truly an honor to share my experiences with a club that has inspired countless Leos across Sri Lanka

2. Could you share your Leo journey and what inspired you to take on a leadership role?

My Leo journey began in 2016 when I was studying for my Advanced Level examinations at Rahula College, Matara. One day, we received an invitation to join an orientation program for a youth organization that was completely new to us, the Leo Club Program. Out of curiosity, my friends and I attended the session, never imagining that it would become one of the most life-changing moments of our lives.

That orientation was conducted by several inspiring leaders, including Past District President Leo Kesari Seneviratne, Leo Kasun Geeganage, Leo Yasiru Nilan, Leo Buddhi Rajapaksha, Leo Tikuli Pitigala, Leo Shehan Akmeemana and Leo Poorni Kumbukage. It was the very first Leo orientation I attended, and even today I believe that single session is the reason why I continue my Leo journey. What touched me the most was not the awards or titles they spoke about, it was the love, friendship and lifelong bonds they had built while serving the community. That was the moment I realized Leoism was much more than a volunteer organization.

I began my journey as the Assistant Club Treasurer of Leo Club of Rahula College during its charter year. After leaving school, together with a few close friends, we fulfilled our dream of chartering a new community-based Leo Club in Matara. Thus, in 2019/2020, the Leo Club of Matara Nilwala was born, and I had the privilege of serving as its Charter Club Secretary. From there, my leadership journey continued as Club President, Zone Director, Assistant District Secretary, District Secretary, District Contest Director of Leo District 306 A2, Membership Chairperson & Chief Coordinator - District Contest of the newly formed Leo District 306 D8 and today, I am honored to serve as the District President of Leo District 306 D8.

Looking back, I can confidently say that my biggest inspiration has never been a position or a title. It has always been the love we share, the service we render and the lifelong friendships we build through Leoism. Those three things continue to inspire me every day and remind me why I proudly call Leoism my second family.

3. What is your vision for your club or district and what do you hope to achieve during your term?

My vision for Leo District 306 D8 is to build a district that is recognized for its excellence, unity and professionalism. As the District President of our district, I believe we have a unique opportunity to lay a strong foundation and create a legacy that future generations of Leos will be proud of. My goal is to support every Leo Club in reaching its fullest potential while ensuring that no club is left behind.

One of my key priorities during my term is to maintain the highest standards of administration across the district. I strongly believe that good administration is the backbone of every successful Leo Club. Alongside that, I hope to strengthen membership growth, encourage meaningful service projects, develop future leaders and foster a culture of collaboration among our clubs. Ultimately, I want every Leo in District 306 D8 to look back at this year with pride, knowing that together we built a district that truly leads with excellence, friendship and service.



LEOS AROUND THE ISLAND

4. Can you tell us about a key initiative or flagship project you have introduced during your leadership and what inspired it?

One of the initiatives that is closest to my heart is "Leo Naadha." During my tenure as the Zone Director of Leo District 306 A2, our district had a talent show that had been conducted for many years. I saw the opportunity to give it a fresh identity and a stronger purpose, so I rebranded the event as "Leo Naadha."

The inspiration behind this initiative was to create a platform where Leos could confidently showcase their talents, express their creativity and strengthen the fellowship among members beyond community service. I have always believed that Leoism is not only about serving the community but also about discovering and celebrating the unique talents of our members while building lifelong friendships. The most rewarding part is seeing that Leo Naadha has continued to grow and remains one of the district's signature fellowship events even four years later. Knowing that an initiative I introduced has become a lasting tradition is something I am truly proud of, and I hope it continues to inspire and bring Leos together for many more years to come.

5. What has been the most rewarding experience of serving in your current leadership role?

Being the District President of Leo District 306 D8 has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my Leo journey. Since 2017, I have always been a backstage person, working behind the scenes to support others and make things happen. Now, stepping into this role, the most fulfilling part is seeing my fellow Leos taking that same responsibility, putting in their dedication, passion and hard work behind the scenes to support me, our team and the success of this remarkable year.

It reminds me that leadership is not about standing in the spotlight alone; it is about building a team where everyone contributes with love, commitment and a shared vision. Seeing my fellow Leos grow, take ownership and work together to create memorable moments have truly been the greatest reward of this journey.

6. What challenges have you encountered as a leader and how have you worked to overcome them?

One of the biggest challenges I have encountered as a leader is managing different expectations, perspectives and working styles within a diverse team. As a District President, I am working with Leos from different backgrounds, experiences and personalities, and bringing everyone together towards a common vision requires patience, understanding and effective communication.

I have worked to overcome these challenges by building strong relationships, listening to my team members, understanding their strengths and creating an environment where everyone feels valued and empowered. I believe leadership is not about having all the answers but about working together to find solutions. Through trust, teamwork and continuous learning, we have been able to turn challenges into opportunities for growth and create a stronger, more united team.

7. How do you encourage collaboration, innovation and active participation among Leo clubs and members?

I believe collaboration, innovation and active participation come from creating an environment where every Leo feels valued, heard and empowered to contribute. As a District President, my approach is to strengthen the connection among clubs by encouraging them to share ideas, support each other and work together beyond their own club boundaries.

I encourage innovation by giving Leos the freedom to think differently, introduce new initiatives and bring creative solutions to community needs while providing the necessary guidance and support. Through open communication, recognition of efforts and creating opportunities for members to take ownership, I aim to motivate every Leo to actively participate.

Ultimately, my goal is to build a culture where every club feels that they are not working alone, but are part of one united Leo family working together to create a greater impact through service and leadership.

8. Finally, what advice would you give to aspiring Leo leaders and members across Sri Lanka?

My advice to every aspiring Leo leader and member across Sri Lanka is to embrace every opportunity that comes your way and believe in your ability to make a difference. Leoism is not just about holding positions or receiving recognition; it is about the experiences we gain, the people we inspire and the positive impact we create through service.

Always be willing to learn, step out of your comfort zone and take responsibility. The best leaders are not created overnight, they are shaped through dedication, teamwork, failures and continuous growth. Value every moment, every connection and every lesson you gain throughout your Leo journey. Most importantly, lead with passion, serve with humility and never forget the reason you started. When we unite with love, commitment and a true spirit of service, we have the power to transform our communities and create a lasting legacy.

PEARL OF HERITAGE

AMBALANGODA MASKS AND THE LIVING HERITAGE OF WOODCRAFT

This month, our journey into Sri Lanka's cultural heritage brings us to the vibrant world of traditional mask carving. Far more than just a coastal craft, this ancient art form is tied to folklore, ritual theater and centuries old performances that reflect the spiritual roots of our island.

The historic town of Ambalangoda on the southwestern coast serves as the undisputed heart of traditional Sri Lankan mask carving. For generations master artisans here have kept the secrets of this craft alive, passing their skills down through family lineages. These masks are not just decorative items. They are functional pieces central to low country dance rituals, especially Tovil healing ceremonies and Kolam satirical plays. With their bold colours and dramatic expressions, they portray characters ranging from mythological demons to familiar village personalities.

Crafting a mask is a slow, fully manual process that requires deep familiarity with natural materials. Artisans use wood from the native Kaduru tree, which is lightweight, soft and highly durable. The freshly cut timber is seasoned, smoked and dried for several weeks to prevent cracking. Once it is ready, the carver uses specialized chisels, mallets and knives to sculpt intricate details and wild expressions from a single block of wood. The mask is then smoothed out using natural abrasives like rough leaves.

The bright colours come from organic pigments mixed with a plant resin binder. Historically these paints were sourced entirely from nature. White was made from crushed sea shells, black from charred coconut shells, yellow from local clays and deep red from ground mineral stones. Every brushstroke is painted with precision, creating the bold lines and symmetrical patterns that define characters like the eagle demon Gurulu Raksha and the chief healing demon Maha Kola.

Today this heritage has found a place beyond traditional rituals, becoming highly valued as fine art and home decor. While some modern makers use industrial paints for convenience, the core carving techniques remain completely unchanged. This keeps the authentic craftsmanship alive. By supporting the artisans of Ambalangoda, we help protect a vital part of our creative history and keep the stories of our ancestors alive for the future.

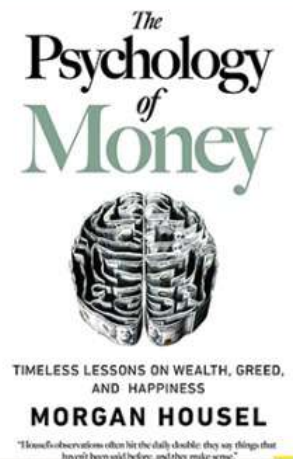


WORDS to LIVE BY

"DOING WELL WITH MONEY HAS LITTLE TO DO WITH HOW SMART YOU ARE AND A LOT TO DO WITH HOW YOU BEHAVE."

- MORGAN HOUSEL, THE PSYCHOLOGY OF MONEY

THIS QUOTE HIGHLIGHTS AN IMPORTANT TRUTH ABOUT MONEY: FINANCIAL SUCCESS IS SHAPED MORE BY OUR BEHAVIOR THAN BY OUR INTELLIGENCE. MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT EARNING OR INVESTING WISELY REQUIRES EXCEPTIONAL KNOWLEDGE, BUT MORGAN HOUSEL EXPLAINS THAT PATIENCE, DISCIPLINE AND EMOTIONAL CONTROL ARE OFTEN FAR MORE VALUABLE. FEAR, GREED AND THE DESIRE TO KEEP UP WITH OTHERS CAN LEAD TO POOR FINANCIAL DECISIONS, EVEN FOR HIGHLY EDUCATED PEOPLE. INSTEAD, BUILDING SIMPLE HABITS SUCH AS SAVING CONSISTENTLY, SPENDING RESPONSIBLY AND THINKING LONG TERM CREATES A STRONGER FOUNDATION FOR FINANCIAL SECURITY. THE QUOTE REMINDS US THAT WEALTH IS NOT BUILT OVERNIGHT THROUGH LUCK OR RISKY DECISIONS BUT THROUGH SMALL, CONSISTENT ACTIONS REPEATED OVER TIME. BY LEARNING TO MANAGE OUR EMOTIONS AND MAKING THOUGHTFUL CHOICES, WE GAIN GREATER CONFIDENCE AND CONTROL OVER OUR FINANCIAL FUTURE. IN THE END, SUCCESS WITH MONEY IS LESS ABOUT WHAT WE KNOW AND MORE ABOUT HOW WE BEHAVE EVERY DAY.

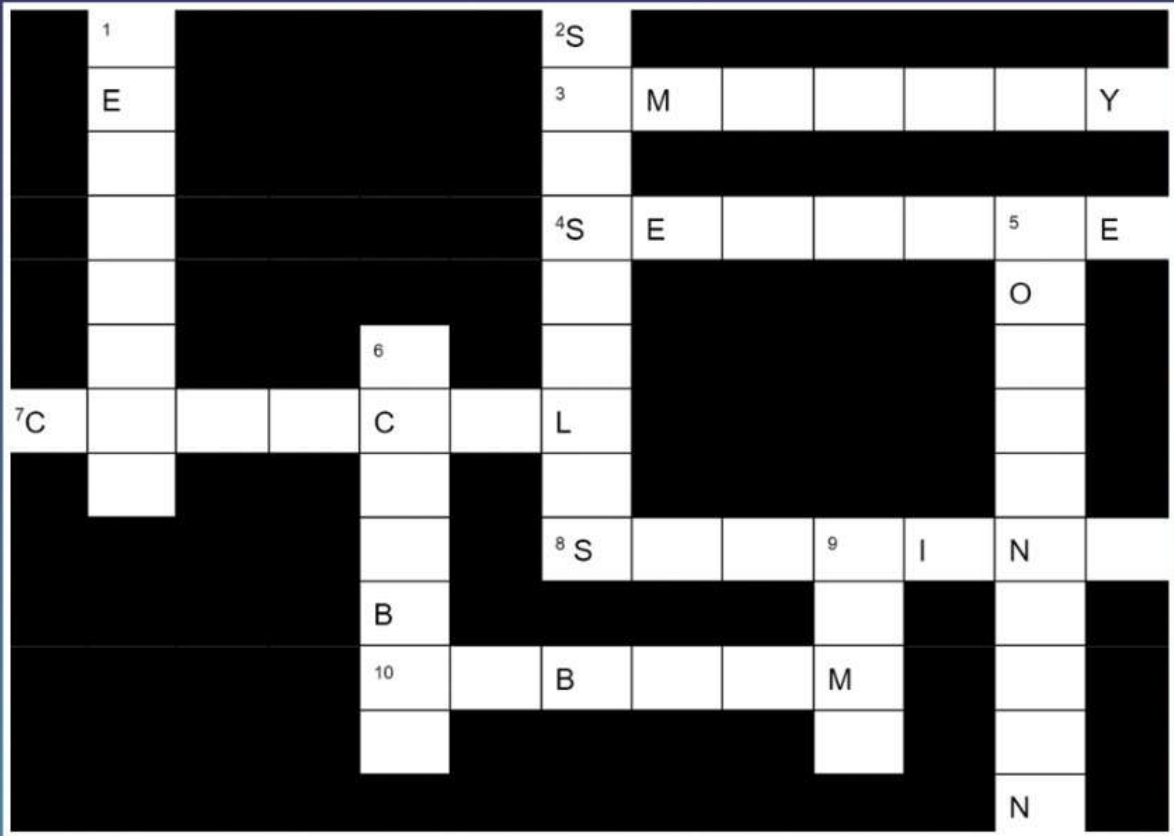


PUBLISHED IN 2020, THE PSYCHOLOGY OF MONEY IS A BESTSELLING BOOK BY AMERICAN AUTHOR AND FINANCIAL JOURNALIST MORGAN HOUSEL. THROUGH 19 ENGAGING STORIES, THE BOOK EXPLORES HOW PERSONAL EXPERIENCES, EMOTIONS AND BELIEFS INFLUENCE THE WAY PEOPLE EARN, SAVE, SPEND AND INVEST MONEY. RATHER THAN FOCUSING ON TECHNICAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES, HOUSEL EXPLAINS THAT LASTING FINANCIAL SUCCESS COMES FROM DEVELOPING GOOD HABITS, STAYING PATIENT AND MAKING SENSIBLE DECISIONS OVER TIME. HIS PRACTICAL EXAMPLES MAKE COMPLEX FINANCIAL IDEAS EASY TO UNDERSTAND, ALLOWING READERS FROM ANY BACKGROUND TO APPLY THE LESSONS IN THEIR OWN LIVES. AS A PARTNER AT THE COLLABORATIVE FUND AND AN AWARD-WINNING FINANCIAL WRITER, MORGAN HOUSEL HAS HELPED MILLIONS OF READERS UNDERSTAND THAT MONEY IS NOT ONLY ABOUT MATHEMATICS BUT ALSO ABOUT HUMAN BEHAVIOR. THE PSYCHOLOGY OF MONEY CONTINUES TO INSPIRE PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD TO DEVELOP A HEALTHIER, WISER AND MORE BALANCED APPROACH TO MANAGING THEIR FINANCES.



SOLVE IT

Welcome to SOLVE IT – Volume 23, where every puzzle is a new adventure. Test your knowledge, sharpen your logic and enjoy an exciting collection of brain teasers created to challenge and inspire.



Across

- 3.Which human quality is highlighted as irreplaceable by AI?
- 4. What is the main purpose of every Leo project?
- 5. What is the governing body of Leo Multiple District 306 called?
- 6. What does AI handle before humans solve problems?
- 10.What is the official symbol of Leo Clubs called?

Down

- 1.According to Morgan Gousel, financial success depends more on your ----- than your intelligence.
- 2.What natural object was traditionally used to produce white pigment?
- 6.Which month is celebrated as Leo Awareness Month?
- 9.What is the greatest advantage of starting to save early?

Send your answers to our official email: uomleoclub@gmail.com along with your contact details on or before 10th August 2026. Stay tuned to find out if you're the lucky winner.

CREATIVE PULSE

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23 Batch
Faculty of Engineering



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SINGING OFF

"The best way
to find
yourself is
to lose
yourself in
the service
of others"

Mahatma Gandhi

The first chapter closes here. The journey continues.
See you in the next issue of **IT'S US.**