

LA RIVISTA

Leo Club of Raththanapitiya

Leos of Sri Lanka
& Maldives
INSPIRING LIVES





TABLE OF CONTENT

02	Messages from the Leaders
07	Message from The Editor
08	Nanda Malini Memorial
09	Sports
11	Global Health
13	US and Iran War
14	Education & Career Guidance
15	Leo Spotlight
17	Club Projects
20	Project Article by Leo Club of Kalubowila
21	Voices of Leadership
23	Writers and Editors of La Rivista

DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is indeed a privilege and a pleasure to share a message for LA-RIVISTA, the official magazine of the Leo Club of Rattanapitiya. Thank you Leo Sanuka for the invitation. The Leo Club of Rattanapitiya is a club with a proud history, and it is really encouraging to see how well the club has been growing since its reformation a few years ago. You have been steadily rebuilding the club, finding your identity, and most importantly, showing your colours through your commitment to Leoism and service. It is wonderful to see Rattanapitiya once again making its presence felt within the district.

I would also like to appreciate the valuable contribution made by the Leo Club of Rattanapitiya during the past Leoistic Year. Your dedication, active participation, and commitment to service have been truly commendable, and your efforts have contributed meaningfully to the Leo movement.

As you continue forward, I encourage you to keep that same energy and enthusiasm. Continue to strengthen the bond among your members, and make sure every member feels that they are an important part of the club. Projects may bring us together, but it is the friendships, experiences, and memories we create along the way that keep us connected to Leoism.

To all the members, my little advice is simple: don't just be a member who attends projects - be someone who takes initiative, supports others, and makes the most of every opportunity Leoism gives you. Try new things, take up responsibilities, build friendships, and most importantly, enjoy the journey. The experiences you gain through Leoism will stay with you far beyond the projects you organize.

Finally, I wish President Leo Damithu and all the members of the Leo Club of Rattanapitiya nothing but the very best for the journey ahead. May you continue to grow stronger as a club, achieve many more milestones, and create an even greater impact in your community and throughout the district.

Keep the energy high, keep the bond strong, and keep showing your colours!

With warm wishes,

Leo Lion Bonomi Tharinda
District Vice President
Leo District 306 D2



PAST CLUB PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, Leos of Raththanapitiya!

It is with great pride and gratitude that I write this message to the **Leo Club of Raththanapitiya**, a club that gave me one of the most meaningful and defining chapters of my Leo journey.

Having served as the **Club President during the Leoistic Year 2023/24**, I will always cherish the memories, challenges, achievements, and most importantly, the incredible team that stood together throughout the journey. The recognition we received at **A2CON 2024**, including being recognized among the **Top 10 Club Presidents of Leo District 306 A2** and receiving the **1st Runner-Up award for Most Disciplined Leo**, was a reflection of the dedication, discipline, and unity of our team.

But the journey of a club does not end with one President or one Executive Committee. A strong club grows because each generation of leaders builds upon the foundation left by those before them.

I am proud to say that after our year, **Leo Isuri Jayakodi** carried forward the responsibility with great dedication and played her role exceptionally well. Following her leadership, **Leo Chathuka Nilakshana** continued that momentum and did a remarkable job in taking the club forward. Through the collective efforts of these leaders, their Executive Committees, and the entire membership, today the **Leo Club of Raththanapitiya proudly stands among the Top 5 Clubs in the District**. This is not the achievement of one person. It is the result of a continuous journey built by dedicated leaders and committed Leos, year after year.

And now, **it is your turn, Leo Damithu Fonseka**.

To our new Club President, I extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes as you take on this important responsibility. You are taking over a club with a proud history, a strong foundation, and great potential. Along with your dedicated **Executive Committee and the entire membership**, you now have the opportunity to take the Leo Club of Raththanapitiya to an even greater level.

Do not simply try to repeat what has been done before. **Dream bigger, think differently, introduce new ideas, and create your own identity as a team.** Build upon the legacy left by those before you, while creating a new chapter that will inspire the generations to come.

There will be challenges, but face them together. There will be responsibilities, but share them as a team. Stay united, trust one another, and always remember the true purpose of Leoism to **serve, to lead, and to make a difference.**

The past has built the foundation. The present holds the responsibility. And the future is yours to create.

I have complete faith in **Leo Damithu Fonseka, his Executive Committee, and every member of the Leo Club of Raththanapitiya.** I eagerly look forward to witnessing the heights you will reach and the legacy you will create.

May you lead with courage, serve with compassion, work with unity, and achieve with excellence.

Take Raththanapitiya to the next level. The best is yet to come!

Leo Aditha Udara
Past Club President
Leo Club of Raththanapitiya



MESSAGE FROM THE CLUB PRESIDENT

Fellow Leos, Prospects, and Friends,

Cheers for another issue of La Rivista for this Leoistic year. Last month we prepared and established our goals. We have been witnessing the implementation of those plans in this month. Our emphasis continues to be on community service and youth empowerment and we have consistent communication and guidance with our lions club for the upcoming projects.

I am so proud of all the momentum we've created in our members in the last few weeks. We completed 2 projects and one of our large scale project Golden Ticket Gala Season 03 are continuing to make good strides, where we are giving particular focus to inter club collaboration. In addition, we are making great strides in preparation of our charity cycling event, Pedal with Purpose and more projects that will be featured in the newsletter before the initializing.

This is when we need to turn our excitement into action. Continue to stretch, remain purposeful in service and support each other. Also I want to take this chance to thank the Leo Club of Kalubowila for sharing one of their project insight to feature in La Rivista. Finally I am very thankful for my club editorial director, for your ongoing effort for the Leo Club of Raththanapitiya. Make this month even more impactful!

Leo Damithu Fonseka
Club President
Leo Club of Raththanapitiya



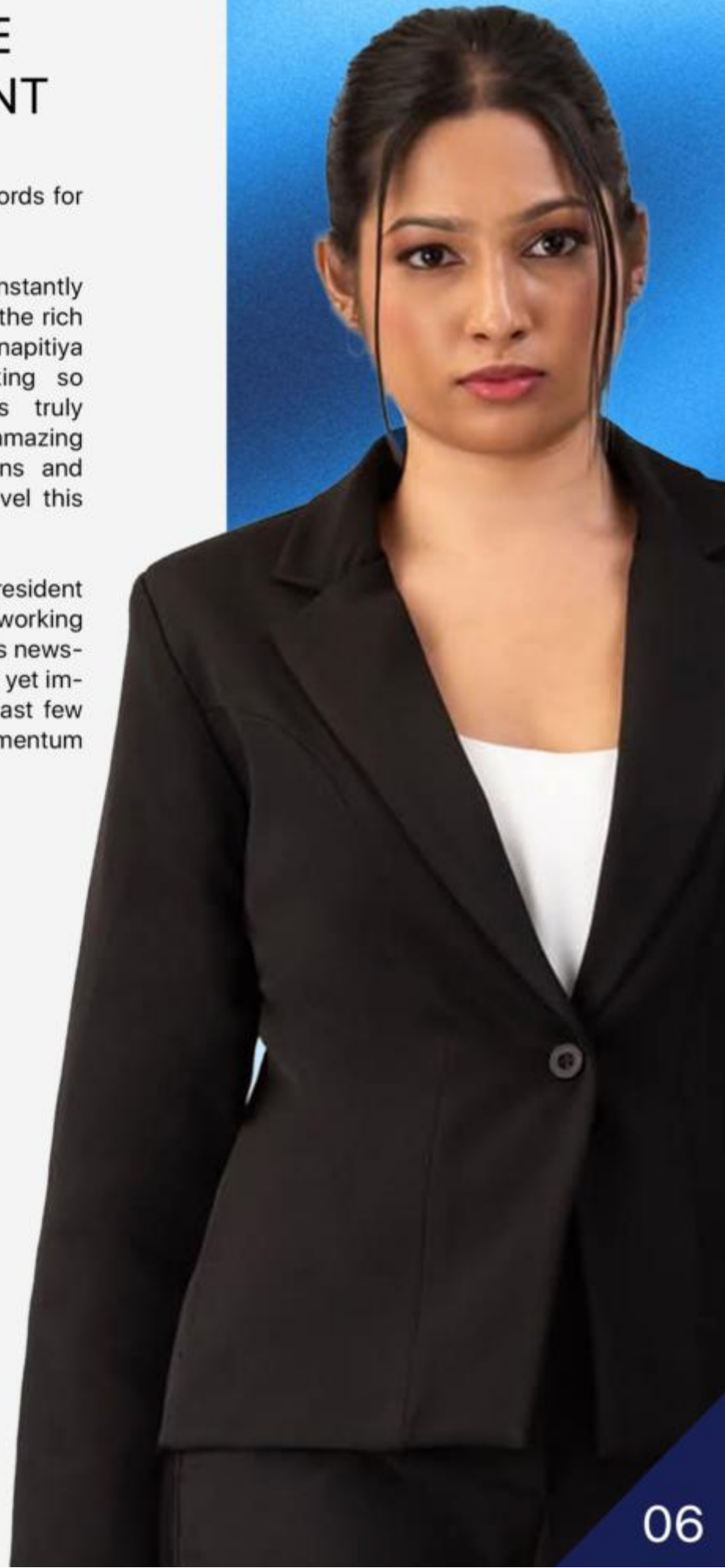
MESSAGE FROM THE CLUB VICE PRESIDENT

It is an absolute privilege to write a few words for the second issue of Volume 7 of La Rivista.

As a relatively new Leo in this club, I am constantly amazed by the incredible enthusiasm and the rich legacy that the Leo Club of Raththanapitiya carries forward. Seeing everyone working so tirelessly toward our shared goals is truly inspiring. I also have to commend our amazing team, because our club's public relations and digital presence are simply on another level this year!

I am deeply proud to serve as your Vice President and to be a part of such a dedicated, hardworking family. I hope you enjoy reading this month's newsletter, which beautifully captures the simple yet impactful moments we've shared over the past few weeks. Let's keep this amazing momentum going!

Leo Nadee de Silva
Club Vice President
Leo Club of Raththanapitiya



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Leo Leaders and Readers,

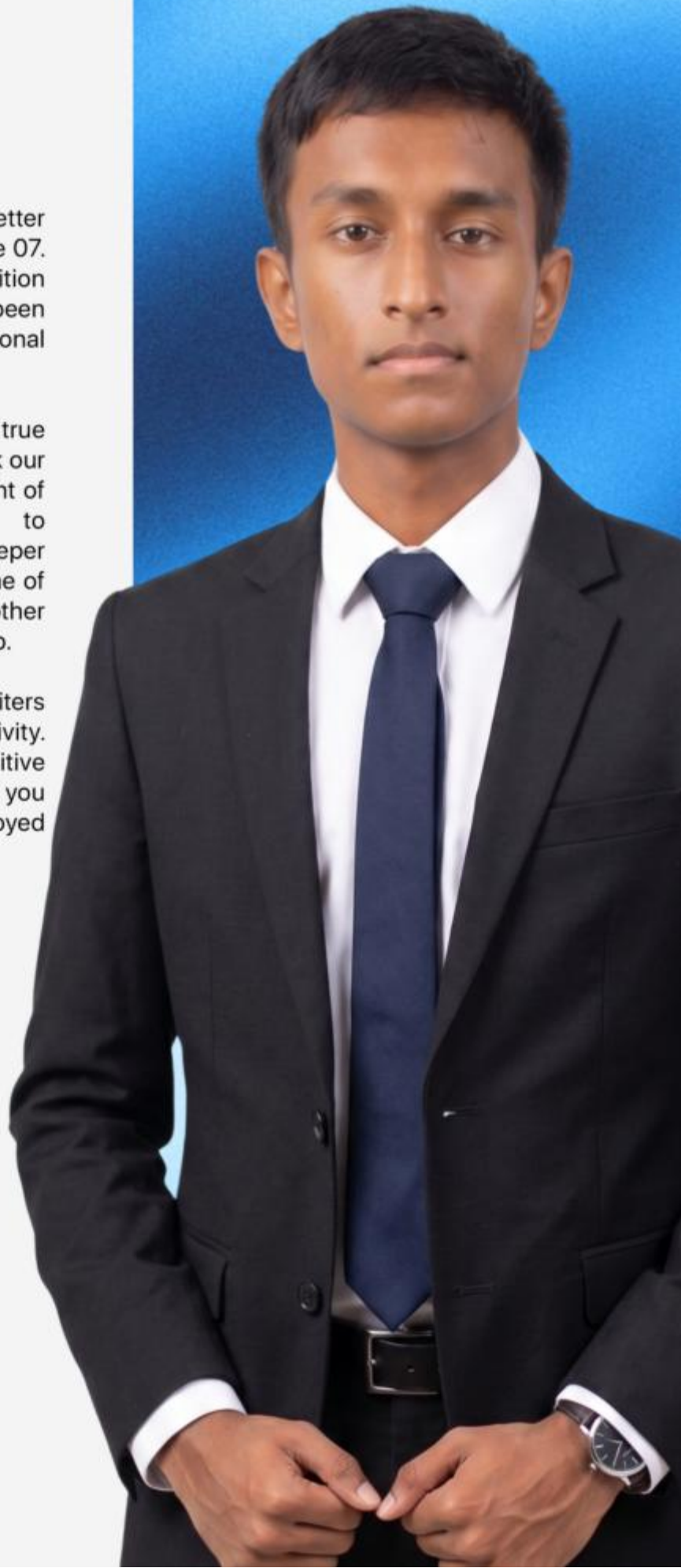
This is the second issue of the official Newsletter of the Leo Club of Raththanapitiya for Volume 07. Following our successful launch of our first edition last month, me and my editorial team has been working hard to produce another inspirational collection of updates.

This August issue is our attempt to reflect the true spirit of the Leo movement and the good work our club is doing. La Rivista becomes a focal point of our members' passion and dedication to community service projects as they delve deeper into these activities. We want to capture some of these journeys and share them with other members and future generations of leadership.

I would like to say I'm deeply grateful to our writers and the entire editorial panel for their creativity. Thanks to all of our readers for all of your positive comments on this first issue. We hope you enjoyed reading these stories as we have enjoyed curating them!

Yours in Leoism,

Leo Sanuka Jayasooriya
Editorial Director
Leo Club of Raththanapitiya



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THE RACER'S ROAD HOME HEARST AT ZANDVOORT

The ultimate Dutch Grand Prix of August 23 at Zandvoort was supposed to be a celebration, for the packed orange grandstands at the Dutch racecourse. Rather it brought destruction. Home hero Max Verstappen was disqualified on lap one after the final corner was still wet with the rear of his Red Bull and he hammered into the barriers after crashing into the front of another car. He walked away unharmed but his emotional goodbye to his home circuit was a matter of seconds later. "It was a frustrating start and end of the weekend," he said.

The DNF was all the more disappointing seeing the pedigree of Verstappen; a driver who has dominated since the comeback, having claimed three victories and two runner-up finishes at the seaside track in F1.

It also marked the end of a dismal 2026 season. The four time champion is a shocking sixth on 112 points, without a point and over 100 points behind leader Kimi Antonelli under the new rules with the RB22. F1 fared a good-bye in Zandvoort as Lando Norris was dominant.

But when it comes to overcoming setbacks and seizing victory, few people can do it as well as Max Verstappen. This is a driver who has come from a rough start to build a successful season, with a few bumps and bruises along the way, and has turned things around for the better by sheer determination and the skill of racing, ultimately becoming a record-breaking, championship-winning driver. One lap at Zandvoort cannot wash away four world championships or the fierce drive to compete that made him a generational talent. The turnaround is possible thanks to his new contract, which will keep him with Red Bull at least until the end of 2030. As Red Bull looks to inject pace into their engines, it is certain that the Dutchman will be racing hard to reclaim the front, find more victories and fill this already storied career with new chapters. The orange army may be in grief today, but the next roar of triumph will be just around the corner. His story is far from over, it's just waiting for its next comeback.

THE FARE:





Breakthroughs and Milestones: Global Health in August 2026

August saw a series of positive health news items, both scientific and global, and a good run of them.

The most significant news was that of battling HIV/AIDS. During AIDS 2026 in Rio de Janeiro, research was brought to light on other promising tools like twice-yearly injectable lenacapavir for prevention and a possible once-weekly oral treatment. The momentum started to increase when the U.S. State Department announced that it had agreed to add nearly \$2 billion in new partnerships to end HIV/AIDS globally, including \$1.4 billion for integrated health services in 20+ countries, as one expert described it, bringing the world "closer than ever to ending HIV/AIDS as a public health threat."

Along with this, technology transformed the definition of preventive care. Science Corp. has also just commercially released the first CE-approved brain implant that restores central vision to those with advanced macular degeneration that enabled 84% of patients in the clinical trial to read letters and words. At the same time, there was another trend – healthcare making people's lives at home. There was a home cervical cancer screening and even an at-home device that tracked blood pressure and heart rate inside of a "smart toilet seat"!

On the policy side, WHO joined Lions Clubs to increase mental health services in Jordan and Nepal; and Ebola vaccines were allocated to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Prevention, access and innovation are merging at an unprecedented pace in August.

US – IRAN WAR

The escalation of the US–Iran conflict in August marked an increase in Economic Warfare and Diplomacy. Economic Warfare and Diplomacy increased in US–Iran conflict in August.

In August, the armed conflict that has been brewing between the United States and Iran evolved from military confrontation to economic warfare.

Washington was on the offensive, called "Operation Economic Outcast," with trade through the vital oil transit corridor severely disrupted, and a kinetic stalemate with the belligerent forces. The U.S. Treasury Department issued harsh secondary sanctions against 60 companies in order to break Iran's ability to evade sanctions through technology, shipping, air transport and financial institutions.

American officials warned key world powers such as China, India and Russia to cut their commercial dealings with Tehran or be completely cut off from the U.S. financial system.

Iranian authorities in turn threatened to take "countermeasures" against the Persian Gulf states if they join Washington's financial sanctions, stating that export of oil from the Persian Gulf could be blocked altogether. At the same time, diplomatic efforts were launched in the region. Pakistan and Oman's mediators facilitated intense negotiations with Tehran for the creation of a short-term maritime corridor, joint mine-cleaning efforts and to help alleviate global energy shortages in the hope of negotiating a larger ceasefire accord.

RECLAIMING THE CLASSROOM

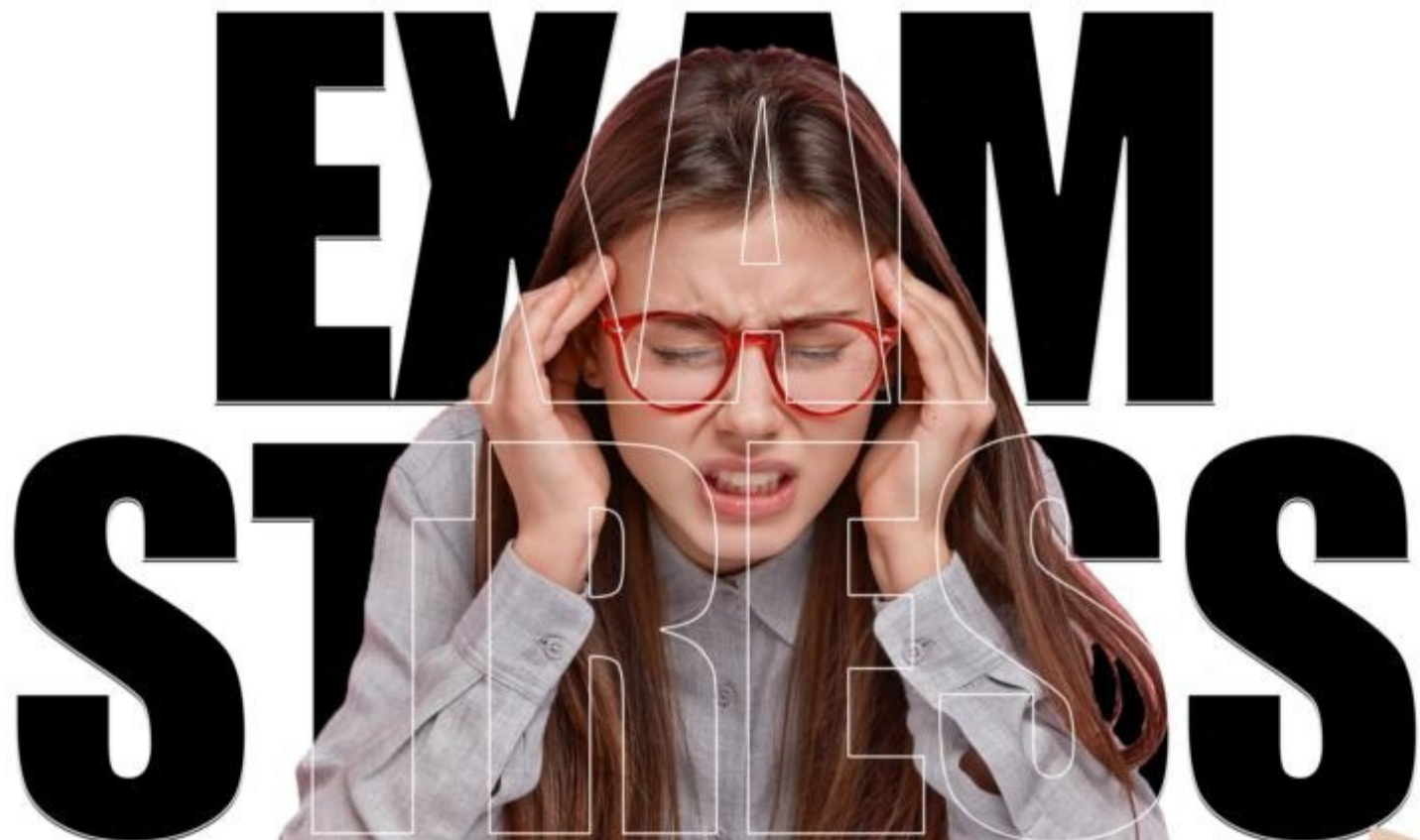
The Global Backlash Against High-Stakes Exams

Student advocacy and education reform erupted in August, creating a strong wave of students' own voice with a loud message against the world's dependence on high stakes standardized testing. In several continents, families and teachers took to the streets in protest after a growing sense of anxiety, extreme fatigue, and a general test-security scandal, including national papers being leaked.

Single day examinations have been the key to university admissions and job prospects for decades. But extensive psychological studies show an appalling physiological cost: high test stress results in high levels of cortisol, which affects the brain's functioning and therefore punishes the good student rather than the real ability.

Grassroots efforts push for a radical change in assessment practices in response to citizen outrage. Parent/teacher coalitions are urging ministries of education to replace binary pass/fail measures with ongoing and portfolio-based assessments that focus on sustained thinking and student participation in the classroom.

Governments are starting to take note. This month, several administrative boards released preliminary reviews of their testing policies, marking a change of course to embedding mental health protections into the academic structure. Student frustration has become an international movement, remodeled to redefine educational success.



LEO

Spotlight

A Journey Beyond Titles: Leadership, Service and Opportunity

My journey in the Leo movement has always been about much more than positions, awards, or recognition. It has been a journey of discovering myself, serving others, building lifelong friendships, and understanding what leadership truly means.

One of the most significant milestones of this journey was receiving the Lions International President's Leadership Medal. Being recognized at an international level is an honour that is difficult to put into words. For me, this medal represents far more than an individual achievement. It reflects the collective effort of the incredible people who worked alongside me, supported my vision, challenged me to improve, and believed in what we could accomplish together. Receiving this recognition has made me even more grateful for the opportunities Leoism has given me and has strengthened my responsibility to continue serving and inspiring others.

Another exciting chapter of my journey is serving as the Web App and Development Lead of Leo Multiple District 306. Coming from a technology background, this opportunity allows me to combine two areas that I am deeply passionate about technology and Leoism. I believe digital transformation can strengthen our movement, improve how we connect and operate, and create better experiences and opportunities for Leos across Sri Lanka.





Serving as a District President was undoubtedly one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of my Leo journey. It taught me that leadership is not about having all the answers. It is about listening, making difficult decisions, trusting your team, accepting responsibility, and continuing to move forward even during challenging moments.

Some of my greatest memories in Leoism are not connected to awards or titles. They are the late-night discussions, project days, travelling together, conventions, friendships, unexpected challenges, celebrations, and simple moments shared with fellow Leos. Those experiences are what make this movement truly special.

To every Leo beginning or continuing their journey, my advice is simple: explore every opportunity that comes your way. Volunteer for something you have never done before. Apply for positions that challenge you. Meet people outside your usual circle. Learn new skills, make mistakes, and grow from them.

Do not join Leoism only to build a CV or collect titles. Build yourself, build people, and create an impact. The opportunities within this movement are enormous, but their true value depends on what you choose to make of them.

Your Leo journey will eventually become a collection of memories. Make sure they are memories worth carrying for a lifetime.

Leo Lion Thameera Dananjaya

Immediate Past District President

GOLDEN TICKET GALA

Season 03

The Journey Has Begun

The Golden Ticket Gala – Season 03, initiated by the Leo Club of Raththanapitiya, has officially moved from planning to action! All seven participating Leo Clubs have now begun selling e-tickets and actively working towards their sales targets. It has been exciting to see each club getting involved, spreading the word, and bringing more people on board with the initiative.

Alongside ticket sales, we have also started developing the official Golden Ticket Gala website, which will provide a dedicated digital platform to showcase the project and make information more accessible to participants.

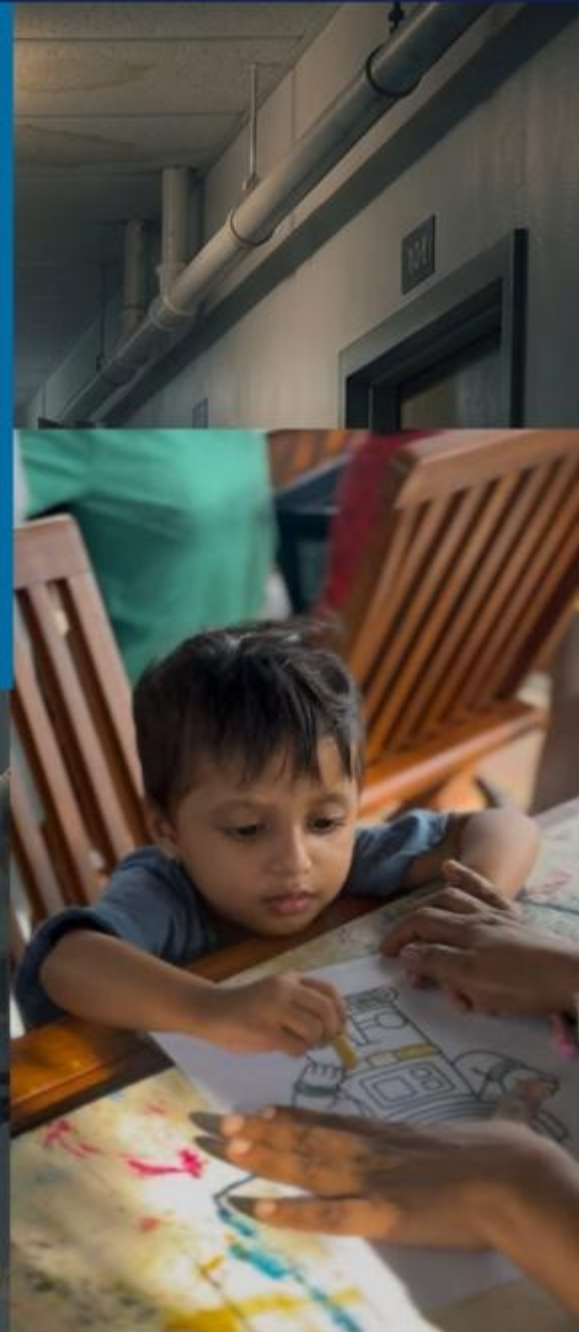
Our PR and sponsorship campaign has also kicked off, with the team reaching out to potential sponsors, pitching the project, and exploring valuable partnerships to make the Gala even bigger and more rewarding.

As the project continues to grow, we look forward to reaching more people, achieving our targets, building stronger connections, and making Golden Ticket Gala – Season 03 a memorable success. The journey has only just begun!

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On the 19th of August at 4.00 PM, an inspiring relaxation session titled "සිහින මන්දිරුව" took place at the Indira Cancer Trust, initiated and executed by the Leo Club of Raththanapitiya alongside dedicated volunteer friends.

The project focused on emotional rehabilitation for over 15 brave children under the age of 18 undergoing cancer treatment. Through structured interactive games, guided coloring, and freehand drawing, the organizing team provided a comforting space for the kids to express their creativity and regain the simple joy of childhood. We the Leo Club of Raththanapitiya Leos are honored to have our project featured in Leo Club of Kalubowila's official newsletter for the month of August.





At the Leo Club of Raththanapitiya's recent monthly Board meeting, the Club exchanged their board meeting agendas for action cards at an incredibly memorable Uno Night in Maharagama at The Barista. It was supposed to be just a good time after dinner, but it quickly turned into a very competitive game! Draw Fours and Reverse cards were whizzing across the table, and Friendships took a back seat for a bit. It was a hilarious and competitive game with all involved fighting hard to win.

The night was not only an amazing experience of gameplay, but also a great team bonding experience. We were particularly excited to have three new Leos join us at the table. The contest was the perfect ice-breaker, and our new members were able to get to know the other board members in a fun and relaxed environment. In the end, the laughter, and fellowship over the coffee, reinforced our bonds, and we all recognized that the best teams play hard and work even harder!



HOT TAKES FC – FIFA WORLD CUP

The FIFA World Cup isn't just a tournament. It's a global stage for unforgettable moments, endless debates, and millions of people coming together through one shared passion: football. Inspired by that energy, we proudly launched Hot Takes FC – FIFA World Cup as the flagship project of the Leoistic Year 2026/27.

We began with an interactive digital handbook designed to make World Cup knowledge accessible to everyone. From the tournament's origins and defining milestones to legendary players, iconic records, and exciting trivia, the handbook became a one-stop guide for both lifelong fans and first-time viewers. By sharing it online, we aimed to spark curiosity and help more people connect with the legacy of the world's biggest football event.

To bring that spirit to life, we hosted a World Cup Final Watch Party that welcomed both Leos and non-Leos. The atmosphere was electric – predictions flying, strategies discussed, and every goal celebrated together. More than just watching a match, it was about experiencing football's biggest night as one united community.

More than a football project, Hot Takes FC became a platform for connection. It created space for meaningful conversations, friendly debates, and memories that go beyond the final whistle. It reminded us that the beautiful game is bigger than competition. It builds friendships, strengthens communities, and brings people together through passion.

Leo Club of Kalubowila



VOICES OF LEADERSHIP



1. What inspired you to become interested in the Leo Movement?

My interest in the Leo Movement began during my school days, when I had the opportunity to work on a project for children battling cancer. That experience had a profound impact on me and made me realise how meaningful it is to dedicate my time and abilities to making a difference in someone else's life.

That project became the starting point of my journey. It inspired me to step into the Leo Movement, where I discovered that service could be much more than simply helping others - it could also be a journey of learning, leadership, friendship, and personal growth.

2. What initially motivated you to get involved in the Leo Movement?

What initially attracted me to Leo was the opportunity to be part of something bigger than myself. I wanted to contribute to the community while also challenging myself to grow beyond my comfort zone.

Leo offered me a platform to work with different people, take on responsibilities, organise meaningful initiatives, and experience leadership in a practical way. Over time, what began as an interest in service became a journey filled with friendships, challenges, lessons, and experiences that shaped the person I am today.

3. How has your experience as a Leo impacted your professional, academic, or university life outside the club?

Being a Leo has had a significant influence on both my professional and university life. The experiences I gained through Leo gave me practical exposure to areas such as administration, professional communication, email correspondence, project planning, coordination, and team management.

More importantly, Leo taught me how to work with people, understand different perspectives, handle responsibilities, adapt to unexpected situations, and communicate effectively. These are skills that go far beyond the classroom, and I believe many of the lessons I learned as a Leo will continue to support me throughout my professional journey.

4. As a Club President, what was your vision and plan for taking the club to the next level?

As Club President, my vision was to bring development to every aspect of the club - from IT, projects, and public relations to administration and the overall member experience.

I wanted the development to go beyond simply increasing the number of projects or activities. I wanted the club to grow in its identity, creativity, sustainability, digital presence, and most importantly, in the value it creates for its members and the community.

I built my approach around two key concepts: Creativity and Sustainability. My aim was to encourage the club to think differently, introduce new ideas, embrace innovation, and create initiatives that could leave a lasting impact.

For me, taking the club to the next level was never about one individual achievement. It was about building a stronger club, creating opportunities for members to grow, and leaving behind a foundation that future leaders could continue to develop.

5. If you had to describe your entire Leo journey in just three words, what would they be?

Growth. Memories. Bonds.

Three simple words, but together they represent everything my Leo journey has given me - the person I became, the moments I will always remember, and the people who became an unforgettable part of my life.

Leo is not simply about CSR, projects, or reporting. It is a movement where you can collect experiences that eventually become a part of your life.

You get the opportunity to learn, lead, make mistakes, discover your strengths, meet incredible people, build genuine bonds, and create memories that stay with you long after your Leo journey comes to an end.

What makes Leo truly special is that while you enter with the intention of serving others, you often leave with so much more - confidence, experience, friendships, unforgettable memories, and a better understanding of yourself.

6. What would you tell someone who is considering joining the Leo Movement?

So, if someone is thinking about joining the Leo Movement, I would simply say: come with an open heart, get involved, take every opportunity, and make the most of every moment. You never know how beautifully this journey might change your life.

Leo Chathuka Nilakshana

Immediate Past Club President
Leo Club of Raththanapitiya





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