

LEO TIMES

VOLUME 15 | EDITION 15 | MARCH 2024

*"SHE WASN'T LOOKING FOR A KNIGHT, SHE WAS
LOOKING FOR A SWORD."*

— ATTICUS

LEO CLUB OF
UVA WELLASSA UNIVERSITY



CONQUERORS WALK'24

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Dear Esteemed Leo Club Members and Readers,

Greetings!

As we gather once again through the pages of our Leo Club newsletter, I am filled with boundless enthusiasm and gratitude for the journey we are undertaking together. In my role as the Chief Coordinator of the Leo Club of UWU, I am continually awed by the transformative power of our collective efforts. **Our Leo Club is not merely a club—it is a sanctuary of service, a crucible of growth, and a beacon of leadership.**

Amidst the whirlwind of academic pursuits, let us pause to recognize the manifold blessings that come with being a part of our Leo community. Here, amidst like-minded individuals driven by a shared passion for service, we find not just camaraderie, but also invaluable opportunities for personal and professional development.

Joining a Leo Club opens doors to a world of possibilities. It is a pathway to discovering untapped talents, honing leadership skills, and forging lifelong friendships. Through our diverse range of projects and initiatives, we gain hands-on experience, develop critical thinking abilities, and cultivate a profound sense of empathy and social responsibility.

As I reflect on my journey within the Leo Club, I am reminded of the countless ways in which this community has enriched my life. From the joy of serving others to the thrill of

overcoming challenges as a team, every moment spent in service has left an indelible mark on my heart. As Chief Coordinator, I am deeply humbled by the dedication and passion demonstrated by each member of our Leo family. Together, we have weathered storms, celebrated victories, and grown stronger with every hurdle we've overcome.

Let us, then, approach the days ahead with renewed vigor and determination. Let us seize every opportunity to make a positive impact, not only within our university but also within the wider community we

Thank you, dear members, for your unwavering commitment to service and leadership. May our journey together continue to inspire and uplift us all.

With warmest regards and heartfelt gratitude

LEO Joshiga Ravikumar
Chief Coordinator of Leo Club of
Uva Wellassa University



Dear Leos and other readers,

I'm Sachini Keeragalaarachchi, the Director in Club Relationship of Leo Club of Uva Wellasa University. I'm truly honoured to have this opportunity to share my thoughts with you.

The Leo Club is not just a club; it is a place where we can share our talents, skills, and ideas, fostering the development of interpersonal skills while actively engaging in community service and other club-related activities, providing a revitalising impact amidst the exhausting university life. **"Leadership, experience, opportunity"** embodies not just some words but a guiding principle that inspires us as Leos to dedicate ourselves to enhancing our community and nation.

Leadership is not about authority; it's about influence and service. As a director of the Leo Club of UWU, I have experienced firsthand how leadership, experience, and opportunity contribute to individual growth and collective success.

In the club, we collaborated to make plans for social service events, fundraising events, and other club-related activities. We got many experiences through those activities, and they helped us to develop ourselves while supporting others. We could have leveraged each other's strengths to achieve our goals through effective communication, delegation, and synergy while working as a team.

The most important thing to me about the Leo Club is that it creates an environment where every member feels valued and motivated to contribute their best. Leo Club gave us an opportunity to collaborate closely with each other to coordinate events, manage projects, and foster meaningful relationships within the club and the community.

Serving the community has deepened our sense of empathy, compassion, and social responsibility. In the Leo Club, true leadership is not measured by how high we climb but by how many we lift along the way. Experiences we gain through activities enhanced our skills and courage. In Leo Club, we have opportunities to empower each other to reach greater heights and make a positive impact on the world. As Leos, let's commit to fostering a culture of service, collaboration, and growth, ensuring that together, we rise by lifting others through leadership, experience, and opportunities. Let's pledge ourselves for the betterment of our community and our country.

LEO Sachini Keeragalaarachchi Director in Club Relationship



Past Event: ශ්‍රේෂ්ඨ සවිය

දීප්තිමත් අනාගතයකට සිහින දකින පුවි සිත් වලට සවියක් වෙමින් "ශ්‍රේෂ්ඨ සවිය" පසුගිය මාර්තු 30 වැනිදා බදුල්ල කොතොවිලකඳුර මහා විද්‍යාලයේදී පවත්වන්නට උච්ච වෙල්ලස්ස විශ්ව විද්‍යාලයීය ලියෝ සමාජයට හැකියාව ලැබුණි. මෙම ව්‍යාපෘතියේ මූලික අරමුණ වූයේ පාසලේ යටිතල පහසුකම් ප්‍රතිසංස්කරණය කිරීම සහ එහි සිසුන්ට ඉගෙනීමට හිතකර පරිසරයක් නිර්මාණය කිරීමය.

මේ අනුව කොතොවිලකඳුර මහා විද්‍යාලයේ පන්නි කාමර අලුත් වැඩියා කිරීමේ සිට පාසල් භූමිය අලංකාර කිරීම දක්වා පාසලේ සෑම අංශයකටම ප්‍රතිසංස්කරණ අවශ්‍යතා පැවතිණි. ලියෝ සාමාජික සාමාජිකාවන්ගේ උදෙසාගිමත් සහභාගීත්වය සහ නොමසුරුව ලැබුණු මූල්‍යමය පරිත්‍යාග, ව්‍යාපෘතිය කාර්යක්ෂමව සහ ව්‍යාදායී ලෙස හිම කිරීමට හේතු විය.

"ශ්‍රේෂ්ඨ සවිය" මගින් ප්‍රතිසංස්කරණයට ලක් වූ කොතොවිලකඳුර මහා විද්‍යාලය අධ්‍යාපනයට වඩාත් සුදුසු, පහසුකම් වලින් පරිපූර්ණ වී ඇති අතර විද්‍යාලයීය සිසුන්ට අධ්‍යාපන කටයුතු කෙරෙහි විශේෂ පෙළඹීමක් ඇති කිරීමට එය සමත්වනු ඇති බව අපගේ විශ්වාසයයි.

මෙම ව්‍යාපෘතිය සාර්ථක කර ගැනීමට දායක වූ සියලුම දෙනාට උච්ච වෙල්ලස්ස විශ්ව විද්‍යාලයීය ලියෝ සමාජය ලෙස අපගේ හදපිරි ප්‍රණාමය පුදකර සිටිමු. "ශ්‍රේෂ්ඨ සවිය" මගින් කොතොවිලකඳුර මහා විද්‍යාලයේ සිසුන්ගේ අධ්‍යාපනය ගොඩ නැංවීමට සහය දැක්වූවා මෙන්ම සමාජය තුළ අධ්‍යාපනය සවිබල ගැන්වීම සඳහා කටයුතු කිරීමට අපි බලාපොරොත්තු වන්නෙමු.





Past Event: CHELONIAL TRAILS



The Leo Club of Uva Wellassa University is delighted to share the success of the Chelonial Trails initiative, a collaborative turtle conservation project with the Kesbewa Turtle Conservatory Center, which took place on April 30th.

During this event, participants engaged in various activities such as cleaning turtle nests and creating captivating wall art to raise awareness about turtle conservation. By actively participating in these initiatives, attendees played a crucial role in safeguarding the nesting habitats of turtles and promoting environmental responsibility within our community.

The event was a resounding success, with enthusiastic volunteers coming together to champion the protection of these incredible creatures and make a lasting impact on their conservation efforts. Together, they worked towards creating a brighter future for turtles and our planet!





හෙට දවස 2.0

ඉගෙනීමේ දිනපත

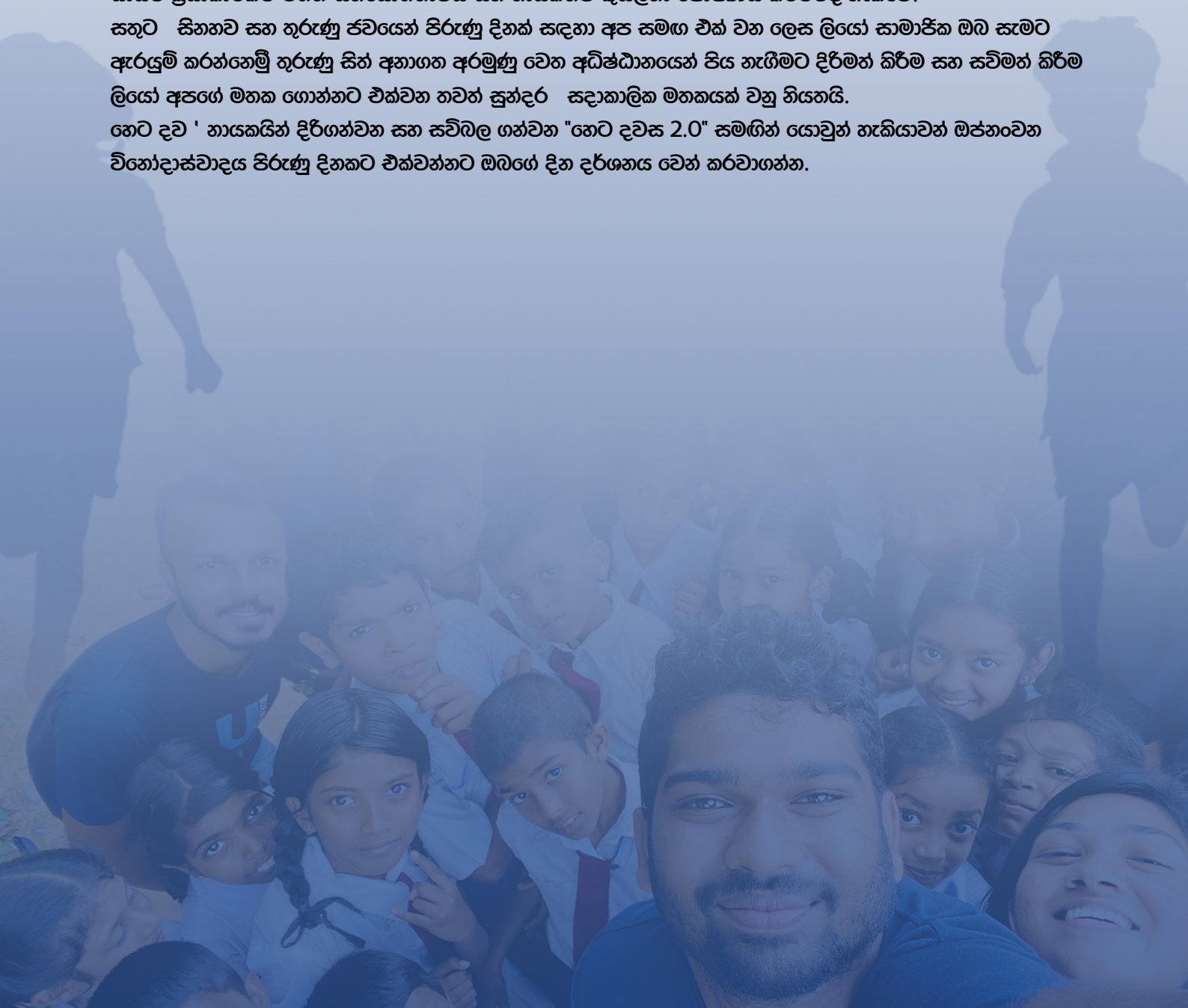
උෞච්ච වෙළුමක් විශ්ව විද්‍යාලීය ලියෝ කමාජය විසින් සංවිධානය කරන ලද "හෙට දවස 2.0" එළඹෙන අප්‍රේල් 4 වැනිදා කුරුණෑගල නික/වාර්/ ගන්තිරියාව මහා විද්‍යාලයේදී පැවැත්වීමට නියමිතයි. මෙහිදී 9 සිට 13 වන ශ්‍රේණිය දක්වා සිසු සිසුවියන්ට දීර්ඛත කිරීමේ සුවිශේෂී වැඩසටහනක් පැවැත්වීමට කටයුතු සුදානම් කර ඇත.

"හෙට දවස 2.0" සංවිධානය කිරීමේ මූලික අරමුණ වනුයේ සිත් ඇදගන්නාසුලු විනෝද ක්‍රියාකාරකම් සමඟින් යොවුන් මහජන තුළ අභිප්‍රේරණයක් ඇති කිරීමයි. සිසුන් තුළ පුද්ගල සංවර්ධනය සහ ආත්මාවබෝධය වර්ධනය කරගැනීම සඳහා වේදිකාවක් නිර්මාණය කිරීම මෙම වැඩසටහනෙහි අපේක්ෂාවයි.

මෙම අවස්ථාව යොවුන් වියේ පසුවන ශිෂ්‍ය ශිෂ්‍යාවන්ට ඉතා අන්තර්ගත අත්දැකීමක් වනු ඇති අතර ඔවුන්ගේ හැකියාවන් සොයා ගැනීමට සහ අනාගත සිහින විශ්වාසයෙන් යුතුව තඹා යාමට බල ගන්වනු ඇති එමෙන්ම කණ්ඩායම් ක්‍රියාකාරකම් මගින් සහයෝගීතාවය සහ නායකත්ව කුසලතා පෝෂණය කිරීමටද හැකිවේ.

සතුව සිහනව සහ තුරුණු ජවයෙන් පිරුණු දිනක් සඳහා අප සමඟ එක් වන ලෙස ලියෝ කමාජික ඔබ සැමට ඇරයුම් කරන්නෙමු තුරුණු සිත් අනාගත අරමුණු වෙත අධීෂ්ඨානයෙන් පිය නැගීමට දීර්ඛත කිරීම සහ සවිමත් කිරීම ලියෝ අපගේ මනක ගොන්නට එක්වන තවත් සුන්දර සදාකාලික මනකයක් වනු නියතයි.

හෙට දව ' නායකයින් දීර්ගත්වන සහ සවිබල ගන්වන "හෙට දවස 2.0" සමඟින් යොවුන් හැකියාවන් ඔප්නංවන විනෝදාස්වාදය පිරුණු දිනකට එක්වන්නට ඔබගේ දින දර්ශනය වෙත් කරවාගන්න.



Conquerors' Walk'24: Empowering Sri Lankan Youth

The resounding success of Conquerors' Walk'24 on March 2nd, 2024, reverberated throughout Sri Lanka, as over 1000 enthusiastic Leos and Lions from across the nation gathered for a day of inspiration and empowerment. This monumental event, themed "Empowering Youth to Conquer Within," left an indelible mark on all who participated.

Behind this triumph stood a dedicated team whose tireless efforts ensured the event's seamless execution. Their commitment and perseverance transformed the vision into a vibrant reality, igniting the flames of passion and resilience within each participant.

As the day unfolded, memories were forged, and bonds were strengthened, fostering a sense of camaraderie and unity among attendees. From exhilarating activities to heartfelt discussions, Conquerors' Walk'24 offered an enriching experience that will be cherished for years to come.

To all those who contributed to this extraordinary endeavor, we extend our heartfelt gratitude. Your dedication has empowered a generation, leaving an enduring legacy of inspiration and fellowship. As we reflect on this remarkable journey, let us carry forward the spirit of empowerment, ensuring that every youth has the opportunity to conquer within and thrive.



As we embark on a new month filled with exciting opportunities and challenges, it is important to reflect on the core values that define our club and guide us towards personal and professional growth. At the heart of the LEO Club philosophy lies the acronym LEO, which stands for Leadership, Experience, and Opportunity. These three pillars serve as the foundation for our club's mission to empower young leaders and make a positive impact in our communities.

Leadership is a quality that each of us possesses in our own unique way. Whether you are leading a service project, organizing a fundraiser, or collaborating with fellow members, embracing your leadership potential is essential for driving positive change. By honing your leadership skills through active participation and taking on new challenges, you can inspire others and create a lasting impact in the world around you.

Experience is the key to personal and professional development. Through hands-on involvement in club activities, volunteering opportunities, and leadership roles, you gain valuable skills and insights that shape your journey towards success. Embrace every experience as a chance to learn, grow, and expand your horizons, knowing that each moment contributes to your overall growth and development.

Opportunity is all around us, waiting to be seized and transformed into meaningful action. As a LEO, you are fortunate to have access to a wealth of opportunities for personal growth, community service, and leadership development. By actively seeking out new opportunities, networking with like-minded individuals, and staying open to possibilities, you can unlock doors to success and make a difference in the world.

In conclusion, the LEO Club embodies the spirit of Leadership, Experience, and Opportunity. By embracing these core values and committing to personal growth and community service, we can make a lasting impact in our communities and beyond. Let us continue to strive for excellence, support one another, and seize every opportunity to shine as leaders in service.

Together, let us unlock our potential with LEO!

**UNLOCKING YOUR POTENTIAL WITH LEO
LEADERSHIP, EXPERIENCE, OPPORTUNITY**





Ramadan

Ramadan, in Islam, is the ninth month of the Muslim calendar and the holy month of fasting. It begins and ends with the appearance of the crescent moon. Ramadan begins 10–12 days earlier each year because the Muslim calendar year is shorter than the Gregorian calendar year.

During Ramadan, Muslims engage in fasting from pre-dawn to sunset, abstaining not only from food and drink but also from sexual relations with their spouses and preventing them from engaging in immoral behaviours such as gossiping, lying, arguing, backbiting, etc. This period is a time for introspection and spiritual advancement, aiming to develop moral excellence and enhance one's piety for God, known as "Taqwa". Fasting extends beyond mere physical abstinence to encompass avoidance of negative actions, promoting discipline and self-control. Although fasting is obligatory for all Muslims who have reached puberty, exceptions are made for

In Muslim households, the day during Ramadan typically begins with a pre-dawn meal known as "suhur," which is a modest breakfast-like meal. After the sunset prayer, families get together to break their fast with a meal called "Iftar," often shared with friends and neighbours. This meal traditionally starts with dates. Additionally, many mosques organize daily Iftar gatherings for the less fortunate and travellers, fostering a sense of community and generosity during the holy month.

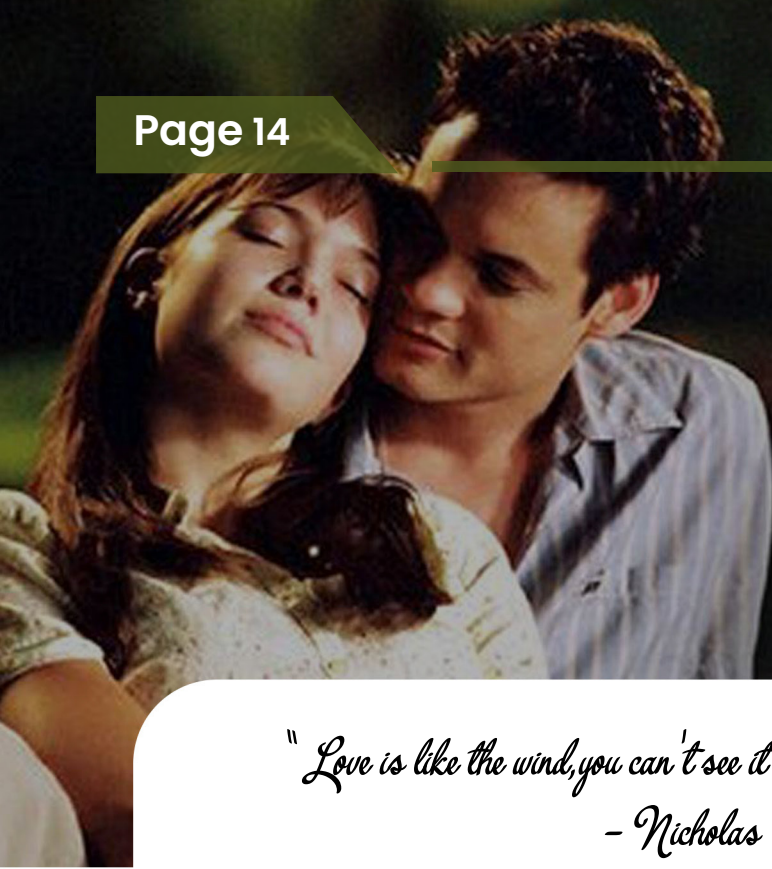
During Ramadan, Muslims commemorate the "Laylat al-Qadr" (Night of Power), celebrated on one of the last 10 nights of the month, when Allah revealed the Quran to Prophet Muhammad as guidance for humanity. Muslims aim to read and practice the entire Quran during Ramadan, and the entire Quran is recited during special nightly prayers known as "Taraweeh".

Ramadan fosters a strong sense of social connection among Muslims, who frequently invite each other to Iftar and gather for prayers at the mosque. This period is marked by heightened acts of charity, as fasting cultivates empathy for the less fortunate. Many mosques organize food drives or fundraisers for charity during Ramadan, embodying the spirit of generosity and compassion that defines the holy month.

At the end of Ramadan, Muslims commemorate "Eid ul-Fitr," known as the Festival of the Breaking of the Fast. The day begins with a special prayer and sermon, and Eid includes feasting, games, and donning of new attire, with special gifts for children. "Eid Mubarak," meaning blessed festival, is the customary greeting exchanged as friends and families come together to socialize, eat, and reconnect with acquaintances, marking the joyous occasion.

Leo Raees Ahmedh
Computer Science and
Technology Degree Program

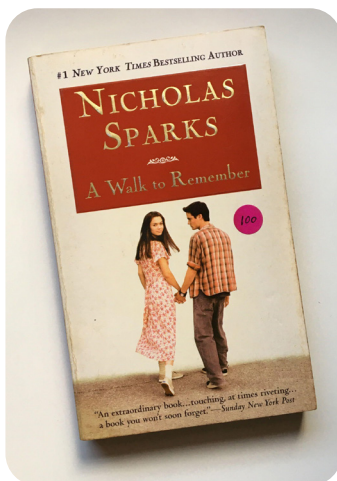




A Walk to Remember : *A Timeless Tale of Love and Grace*

"Love is like the wind, you can't see it but you can feel it"
- Nicholas Sparks *A Walk to Remember*

Nicholas Sparks, who is well known for his heartbreaking stories and "A Walk to Remember" is another masterpiece of Nicholas Sparks. This story is literary masterpiece and also engaging readers with this timeless tale worldwide. The novel was released in October 1999. The novel is story of two teenagers who fall in love with each other and this story gives readers to an unforgettable journey of hope, humanity, strength of love as well as beauty of young love with the a lot of difficulties.



Readers meet Landon Cater and who a popular high school senior in Beaufort, North Carolina and Jamie Sullivan who daughter of the town's minister and they are the leading characters of the story. The Landon and Jamie met at the beginning of the story and they met at the school play and Landon involved to that and Jamie is one of the participants of that. When Landon saw Jamie at the first time he struck by her unique beauty and quiet personality. That was the beginning of their journey of love.

In the middle part of the story Landon found out about Jamie's illness and their limited time together when Jamie tells to Landon about she has leukemia and hasn't been responding to treatment. From that day began to grow and stronger their love in every second.

At the ending of the story and after embracing Jamie's condition, Landon promised by her side until the end and Landon fulfilled every wishes of Jamie and also Landon's father helped to him. Landon built a telescope for Jamie to see a one-time comet in the springtime. In that day, Landon asked her to marry him and Jamie accepted it and they married. After spending the summer together, Jamie passed away. Landon was forever changed by the lessons of forgiveness that her teach him and their love. As well as her soul continuous to live him on in the memories that they shared. That story is a heartwarming tale and that demonstrates the power of love.

Leo U.D Vinushi Ranshila
Information and Communication
Technology Degree Program



Ushering in a New Era of Medical Excellence: The Grand Opening of Uva Wellassa University's Medical Faculty

The inauguration of the Medical Faculty at the University of Uva Wellassa marks a significant milestone in Sri Lanka's educational landscape. With an initial intake of 50 students, this auspicious occasion was celebrated with grandeur and grace. The opening ceremony, graced by esteemed dignitaries including Shipping and Aviation Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva, Sr. Professor Sampath Amaratunge, Chairman of the University Grants Commission, and wProfessor Kolitha B. Wijesekara, Vice Chancellor of UWU, was a testament to the importance of this new venture.

The establishment of the Medical Faculty underscores the university's commitment to addressing the healthcare needs of the nation and advancing medical education. It represents a beacon of hope for aspiring medical professionals, offering them a platform to pursue their dreams and contribute to society's well-being.

The presence of such eminent figures at the inauguration signifies the collective support and endorsement of this initiative by the government and educational authorities. As the first cohort of students embarks on their journey towards becoming healthcare professionals, the Medical Faculty of the University of Uva Wellassa stands poised to make a meaningful impact on the healthcare landscape of Sri Lanka.



Uva Wellassa University's 13th General Convocation: A Triumph of Academic Excellence

On March 15, 2024, Uva Wellassa University (UWU) held its 13th General Convocation at the Magam Ruhunupura International Convention Centre (MRICC) in Hambantota, Sri Lanka. The ceremony was a celebration of academic achievement and a testament to the university's commitment to fostering excellence.

A total of 620 bachelor's degrees, 8 Master of Philosophy (MPhil) degrees, and 39 Master of Business Administration (MBA) degrees were conferred during the event. The degrees were bestowed upon the graduates by Professor Jayantha Balawardane, the Chancellor of Uva Wellassa University, who also holds the prestigious positions of Professor in Oncology and Executive Director of the University Hospital at the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU).

The seamless coordination of the convocation was ensured by Professor Kolitha B. Wijesekara, the Vice-Chancellor of Uva Wellassa University, and Professor Amila Sandaruwan Ratnayake, the Chairman of the 13th General Convocation Committee and Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences. Their dedication and meticulous planning contributed to making the event a resounding success, leaving an indelible mark on the university's legacy of academic excellence.



LYRIC HUNTING

You know you love me, I know you (1).....
 Just shout (2)..... and I'll be (3).....
 You are my love, you are my (4).....
 And we will never, ever, ever be (5).....
 Are we an (6)? Girl, (7)..... playing
 We're just (8) what are you saying?
 Said "There's (9)..... "and (10)..... right in my eyes
 My first love (11)..... my heart for the first time, and I was (11)
 Baby, baby, baby oh
 Like baby, baby, baby (12).....
 Like baby, baby, baby oh
 (13)you'd always be (14).....
 Oh, for you I would have done (15).....
 And I just can't believe we (16)..... together
 And I (17)..... play it cool, but I'm (18)..... you
 I'll buy you anything, I'll buy you any (19).....
 And I'm in (20)..... baby, (21)..... me
 And just (22)..... me (23)..... you wake me from this bad (24)
 I'm going down, down, down, down
 And I just can't believe my first love (25)..... be around, and (26)
 When I was (27)....., I had my (28).....
 love
 There was nobody that (29)..... to my baby
 And (30)came between us, no one could
 ever come (31).....
 She had me going crazy
 Oh, I was (32).....
 She woke me up (33)..... don't need no (34).....
 She made my heart pound, and skip a beat when
 I see her in the street (35)..... At school on the (36).....
 but I really want to see her on the (36).....
 She knows she's got me (37)
 cause she was so amazing And
 now my heart is breaking, but I
 just keep on (38).....

Send your answers via
leoclubofuwu@gmail.com



SKILL BOX

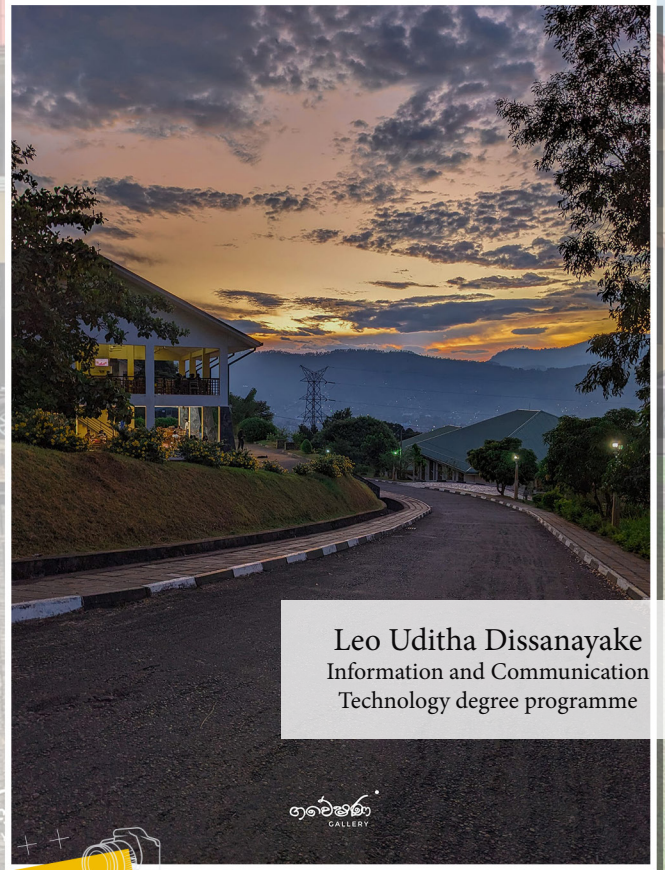


Leo Preesika Sulakshani
Information and Communication
Technology degree programme

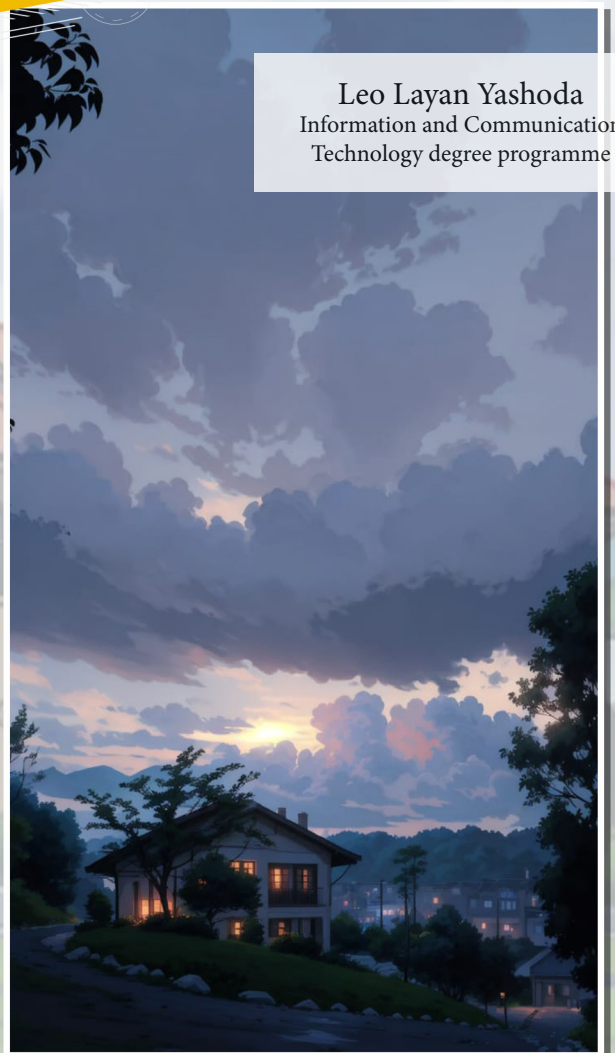
SKILL BOX



Leo Thilina Adikari
Computer Science and Technology
degree programme



Leo Uditha Dissanayake
Information and Communication
Technology degree programme



Leo Layan Yashoda
Information and Communication
Technology degree programme

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Leo Dinithi Semini
Entrepreneurship and management
degree program



අපේ වලක



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Leo J. M. A. I. Prabhath Jayasundara
 Hospitality, Tourism and Events Management
 degree program



Women's Day

Honoring women's rights and accomplishments worldwide, Women's Day is observed on March 8th each year. Women speak out on this day all throughout the world to celebrate the accomplishments they've made and to fight for their rights. Day serves as a reminder of the continuous fight for gender equality and the necessity of continual activity, from local groups to global forums. Furthermore, it is an occasion to honor the outstanding accomplishments of women in a variety of fields and to acknowledge their contributions to politics, society, culture, and the economy.

Women's Day has a long history dating back to the early 1900s, when it was first established as a result of the struggle for women's work rights and suffrage. Women's Day was first observed in 1911, and it was a turning point in the global fight for gender equality because of the bravery of the women who demonstrated against unfair labor practices and called for basic rights. Women's Day began as protests for social fairness and developed into a widely observed worldwide holiday before being officially recognized by the UN in 1975. Women's Day is important today not only for remembering the past but also for reaffirming the resolve to improve gender equality and empower women everywhere.

Women's rights advocacy, gender awareness promotion, and accomplishment celebration continue to be the core goals of today's Women's Day celebrations. An annual theme is adopted by the event to reflect the goals and difficulties of the modern world. With 2024's theme being "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress," the focus is on providing resources and support to women in order to hasten the beneficial changes that society is undergoing. Women's Day, with its many campaigns, activities, and initiatives, keeps igniting change by motivating people and institutions to support gender equality and create a more welcoming society in which women's contributions are acknowledged and respected on a daily basis.



Leo Sanduni Bodhika
Information and Communication
Technology degree programme



Shattering Glass Ceilings: Why Women's Empowerment Matters More Than Ever

Can you imagine a world where women are free to reach their full potential without cultural standards or negative biases holding them back? This is not a far-off dream, but rather the driving force behind a global movement for women's empowerment. It's a rising tide that has the potential to completely transform society and open new opportunities in the future.

Understanding women's empowerment is crucial for promoting a more equitable and inclusive society where everyone can thrive. Acknowledging the significance of women's empowerment can help us overcome systemic inequalities, unlock unrealized potential, and pave the way for prosperity and progress as a nation. Recognizing the value of women's empowerment also enables us to promote social justice, strengthen our communities, and build a more equitable society that ensures a sustainable future for future generations.

Sri Lanka and the world are filled with inspiring examples of women's empowerment. In Sri Lanka, Dr. Ray Wijewardhana, a leading marine biologist, protects essential ecosystems through her oceanographic research. Pushpa Kumari empowers rural women by creating a thriving organic flour business, "Serendib Flour," while Chandrika Kumartunga's legacy as Sri Lanka's first female president opens a path for future generations of women leaders. On the global stage, Malala Yousafzai's unwavering fight for girls' education despite the Taliban continues to inspire, while Michelle Obama champions the cause through her Let Girls Learn initiative. The late Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg's groundbreaking legal decisions stand as a testament to her lifelong dedication to gender equality. These women and countless others are breaking down stereotypes and creating a brighter future where everyone can prosper.

Women's empowerment is not just a catchy slogan; it is the foundation of a thriving society. Families, communities, and countries all benefit when women have the freedom to make decisions about their lives, pursue their education, and actively engage in employment. Imagine a world where girls have access to education, leading to a happier, healthier, and more educated next generation. Skilled women leading businesses can drive innovation and economic progress. A society where women can engage equally in political decision-making can lead to just and equitable laws. Women's empowerment unlocks this potential, creating a future full of advancement for everyone. It's about equality, recognizing the immense value women bring to the table, and ensuring that they have the necessary resources and autonomy to reach their full potential. This is not just about women's rights; it's about creating a stronger and more prosperous world for everyone.

Despite significant progress, achieving full gender equality requires more work. Social biases, discriminatory practices, and limited access to resources continue to hinder women's empowerment in many parts of the world. Therefore, women's empowerment is a shared responsibility, and it cannot be achieved individually. Individuals can challenge gender stereotypes in everyday conversations, stand for equal pay, and support women-owned businesses. Businesses can support equitable opportunities for women in leadership positions, hiring, and promotions. Governments play a critical role in establishing policies that ensure equal access to education, healthcare, and political participation for women.

Together, as individuals, groups, and legislators, we can break down the barriers that hinder women's progress. Imagine the impact of living in a society where everyone is respected, encouraged to use their unique abilities, and empowered to reach their full potential. Let's embrace this collective responsibility and pave the way for an era where women are not just breaking barriers but shattering them altogether.



The fight for women's empowerment is not a distant echo, but an urgent call to action echoing across the world. It's a call for shattered ceilings and a world where women are not just passengers, but builders of their destiny and active participants in shaping a brighter future. By acknowledging the intrinsic worth of women, developing their abilities, and collaborating as a society - as individuals, organizations, and governing bodies - we have the power to turn this call into a loud and clear progressive chorus.

Let us choose to be the generation that eliminates the walls of inequality and brings in an era where women not only reach for the stars but hold them strongly in their hands, inspiring generations to come. The future we imagine, a future filled with equality and boundless possibilities, awaits our united action. Let's take on the challenge and build a society in which women's empowerment is not just an ideal but a reality.



Leo R.W.V.Dinushika Lakmali
Animal Production and Food Technology
degree programme



Taylor Swift

Celebrating a Woman Who Redefined Music

This International Women's Day, we celebrate Taylor Swift, the multi-award-winning artist and Time Magazine's 2023 **Person of the Year**, who has not only redefined music but also empowered a generation. She's a cultural phenomenon who has redefined what it means to be a successful woman in the music industry.

Taylor Swift was born on December 13, 1989, in Reading, Pennsylvania. She grew up on a farm where they grew Christmas trees. Taylor really loved music and storytelling from when she was little.

When she was 14 years old, Taylor asked her family to move to Nashville, Tennessee, because she wanted to become a singer. Nashville is famous for country music. At first, it was hard for her to get noticed by music companies, but she kept trying.

In 2006, when Taylor was just 16, she released her first album called "Taylor Swift." She wrote most of the songs herself. People loved it, and it made her famous in country music. That's how Taylor Swift's music career started.

From Beloved Country Singer to Famous Pop Star

Taylor Swift started her career singing country songs. Her popular songs like "Teardrops on My Guitar" and "Love Story" made her famous in country music. But Taylor didn't want to stick to just one style of music. She tried new things and mixed in pop music with albums like "1989" and "Reputation." This made her even more successful and showed she wasn't afraid to change.

Breaking Records as a Songwriter

Taylor Swift isn't just a singer; she's also really good at writing songs. She's won ten Grammy Awards! She's the first woman and the fourth person ever to win Album of the Year at the Grammys three times. People love her songs because they talk about things like love and finding yourself.

Standing Up for Artists' Rights

Taylor Swift did something big when she fought to own her own music. This made other artists want to do the same thing and showed how important it is for artists to get paid fairly. She speaks up for artists' rights and inspires others to do the same

Connecting with Fans Online

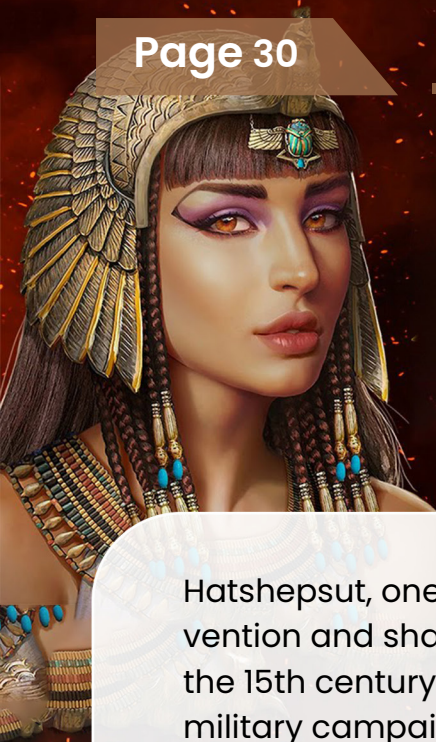
Taylor Swift has a lot of followers on social media, more than 200 million! But she doesn't just post pictures of herself. She talks to her fans, who are called "Swifties," and shares things about her life and how she makes music. This makes her fans feel like they know her.

Taylor Swift isn't just a singer; she's someone who shows that women can be powerful and successful in their own way. This International Women's Day, let's celebrate Taylor Swift and all the other women who are making a difference in the world.



Leo Rashmi Ruwanthika Athukorala
Computer Science and Technology
degree programme





HATSHEPSUT:

THE FEMININE PHARAOH OF EGYPT

Hatshepsut, one of the ancient remarkable monarchs of Egypt, denied convention and shattered gender barriers as she ascended to the throne during the 15th century BCE. Known for her ambitious building projects, successful military campaigns, and bold assertion of power, Hatshepsut left an ineradicable mark on Egyptian history even with attempts to erase her legacy by succeeding pharaohs.

She was born into a strong 18th-century family. Her parents were Pharaoh Thutmose I and Queen Ahmose. She married her half-brother, Thutmose II, who succeeded to the throne after their father passed away, and so started her journey to become a monarch. Nevertheless, Hatshepsut became the regent for their little son, Thutmose III, after Thutmose II's brief rule.

Instead of focusing only on raising her kid, Hatshepsut seized the chance to exercise direct control. Clad in royal regalia, including a kilt and a false beard, Hatshepsut; a woman who had never held the title of pharaoh; announced her coronation. This was unheard of in Egyptian history, and she used her claim to be the direct descendant of the main deity of the Egyptian pantheon, Amun-Ra, to justify her rule.

During Hatshepsut's reign, trade, diplomacy, and large-scale building projects were prioritized. She sent explorers to the far-off country of Punt, which was abundant in exotic commodities like incense, ebony, and myrrh. These endeavors strengthened Egypt's economy and acquired important resources needed for official events and religious rites.

Renowned architect Hatshepsut made a significant contribution to the field of architecture. Her trusted architect, Senenmut, created the enormous project of the funeral temple at Deir el-Bahari, which she commissioned. The temple complex had sculptures, cascading colonnades, and a massive pyramid representing her heavenly connection and authority. But after she passed away, her stepson Thutmose III tried to obliterate her memory and consolidate his own authority, posing a threat to her legacy.

The passage of time concealed Hatshepsut's true accomplishments, leaving her a mystery figure for future generations. But her legacy was reevaluated when her temple complex was rediscovered in the 19th century, sparking interest in her rule. She is regarded as one of the most intriguing and amazing pharaohs of ancient Egypt, a trailblazer who broke cultural norms and had a lasting impact on history.

In the chronicles of Egyptian history, Hatshepsut stands as a testament to the enduring power of leadership, innovation, and perseverance. Her reign serves as a reminder that greatness knows no gender and that even in the face of adversity, true visionaries can shape the course of history.



Leo H.N.M. Ahinsa Arunodi
Industrial Information Technology
degree programme



Holi

හෝලි කියන වචනය ඇසු පමණින් කාගේත් සිත් පිරී යන්නේ වර්ණවත් සිතුවිලි වලින් යි සරලව එය පාට කුඩු විසිකරන විනෝදාත්මක දෙයක් වුවත් එයට චෛතිකාසික වටිනාකමක් මෙන්ම සතුට සමානාත්මතාවය හා ආදරය ගැබ් වී ඇති හෝලි වර්ණ උත්සවය වසරේ වඩාත්ම වර්ණවත් දිනය වේ.

මාරතු මාසයේදී මෙය පවත්වන අතර සෑම වසරකයක්ම ඉන්දියාව පුරා සහ ලොව පුරා සිටින ජනයා හින්දු උත්සවයක් වන හෝලි සමරමින් වර්ණවත් ජලය සහ කුඩු එකිනෙකා මත ප්‍රීතිමත් ලෙස විසිකරයි. කුලය ක්‍රීඩා පුරුෂ භාවය වයස සහ තරාතිරම වැනි සමාජ ශ්‍රේණිගත කිරීම් නොසලකා එකට ප්‍රීති වෙමින් සෑම හෙකුම වර්ණවත් කුඩුවලින් හැඟවීම මෙහිදී සිදු වේ.

හෝලි සම්ප්‍රදායන් 60 පුරා වෙනස් වන අතර ඒවායේ මූලයන් ඉන්දියානු මිටිකා කථා තුළ ඇති බොහෝ ස්ථානවල මෙම උත්සවය පුරාණ ඉන්දියාවේ යසෂ රජෙකු වූ හිරණ්‍යකශිපුගේ පුරාවෘත්තය හා සම්බන්ධ වේ විෂ්ණු දෙවියන්ගේ හත්තිවන්ත නමස්කාරකයෙකු වූ නම පුත්‍ර පුත්‍රලාද මරාදැමීමට හිරණ්‍යකශිපු නම කොහොයුරිය වන හෝලිකාගේ සහාය ලබා ගත්තේයි පුත්‍රලාදව පුළුස්සා දැමීමට උත්සාහ කිරීමේදී හෝලිකා ඔහු සමඟ සෑයක් මත හිඳගෙන ඇයව ගින්නෙන් ආරක්ෂා කරන සඵලක් පැළඳ සිටියාය. නමුත් සඵල පුත්‍රලාදව ආරක්ෂා කළ අතර හෝලිකා දැවී ගියේය. එදින රාත්‍රියේ විෂ්ණු හිරණ්‍යකශිපුව කාතනය කිරීමට සමත් වූ අතර එම කථාංගය නපුරට එරෙහිව යනපතේ ජයග්‍රහණයක් ලෙස ප්‍රකාශ වීයි ඉන්දියාවේ බොහෝ ස්ථානවල හෝලි උත්සවයට පෙර දින රාත්‍රියේ මෙම අවස්ථාව සැමරීම සඳහා විශාල සෑයක් දල්වනු ලැබේ. මෙම හෝලිකා යක්ශනියගේ නම නිසා මෙයට හෝලි ලෙස නම ලැබී ඇත.

ඇතැම් මූලාශ්‍ර වලට අනුව ක්‍රිෂ්ණා සහ රාධාගේ කතාව කේන්ද්‍රිය වේ. විෂ්ණුගේ ප්‍රකාශනයක් ලෙස සැලකෙන හින්දු දෙවියෙකු වන ක්‍රිෂ්ණා කිරි සේවිකාව වන රාධාට ආදරය කළ නමුත් ඔහුගේ සම තද නිල් සහ ඇගේ පැහැපත් බව නිසා ඔහු ලැජ්ජාවට පත් වූ බව කතාවේ දැක්වේ. මෙය නිවැරදි කිරීම සඳහා ඔහු ඇය සහ අනෙකුත් කිරි සේවිකාවන් සමඟ ක්‍රීඩාවක් අතරතුර ඇගේ මුහුණ සෙල්ලක්කාර ලෙස වර්ණවත් කළේය. මෙය වර්ණවත් ජලය සහ කුඩු විසිකිරීමේ මූලාරම්භයක් ලෙස සැලකේ.

මිනිසුන් හෝලි ක්‍රීඩා කරන අතර ආදරය, මිත්‍රත්වය සහ වසන්තයේ පැමිණීම සංකේතවත් කරමින් නම ආදරණීයයන් වර්ණ ගන්වයි.



හෝලි පුරාණ ඉන්දියානු වාරිනු වාරිනු සහ කෘෂිකාර්මික පිළිවෙත් වල මූලයන් ඇති එය සශ්‍රීක මංගලයය, වසන්තයේ පැමිණීම සහ නව ජීවිතයක මල් පිපීම සමරනු ඇතැයි විශ්වාස කෙරේ. හෝලි දිනයේදී ගොවීන් තම ගොදුර නිරෝගී අස්වැන්නක් සඳහා දෙවියන්ට කැප කරන අතර තම භූමියේ සාරවත් බව සහතික කිරීම සඳහා වාරිනු ඉටු කරති. වර්ෂයෙන් හා ජලයෙන් හෝලි සැමරීම වසන්තයේ වර්ෂාවත් මල් පිපීම සහ ස්වභාවධර්මයේ ජීවය අලුත් කිරීම නියෝජනය කරයි.

කාලයාගේ ඇවෑමෙන් එය සංස්කෘතික අංගයකින් ඔබ්බට ගොස් නිවාඩු දින ජර්නිය, එකමුතුකමේ සැමරුම බවට පත් වීයී එය දැන් ලෝක ප්‍රසිද්ධි උත්සවයකි. එය ඉන්දියාවේ මෙන්ම ලෝකයේ බොහෝ රටවල මහත් උද්යෝගයෙන් සමරනු ලබයි.

හෝලි උත්සවය වර්ෂා, සංගීතය, රසවත් රසකැවිලි හා විනෝදාත්මක දේවල් වලින් පිරී ඇතිමේ සඳහා ප්‍රධාන වශයෙන් හිල්, කොළ, රෝස හා කහ වැනි දීප්තිමත් වර්ණ යොදා ගනී.

හින්දු දින දර්ශනයේ මාරතු මාසයේ පුර පසළොස්වක පොහොය දින, වාර්ෂිකව ශීත කාලව අවසානයේ හෝලි සමරනු ලැබේ. එය ඉන්දියාව පුරා ක්‍රීඩා කරන නමුත් උත්තර ප්‍රදේශ, බිහාර් සහ රාජස්ථාන් ඇතුළු උතුරු ප්‍රදේශ වල මෙන්ම මනාරාජ්‍ර, ගුජරාට් සහ බටහිර බෙංගාලය වැනි අනෙකුත් ප්‍රාන්තවල බොහෝ පුරව ප්‍රසිද්ධියි දිල්ලි, මුම්බායි, කොල්කටා සහ ජායිපූර් වැනි ප්‍රධාන නගර හා ඉන්දියාවෙන් ඔබ්බට, තේපාලය, බංග්ලාදේශය, පකිස්ථානය වැනි ඉන්දියානුවන් සිටින රටවල ද හෝලි සමරනු ලැබේ. උසම්ටිකම්,පන්ති හේද නොසලකා සෑම හදවතක්ම එක සේ වර්ෂා ගැන්වීම පාට කුඩුවලට පමණක් සීමා නොකර, ආදරය, කරුණාව වැනි මානුෂීය ගුණාංග වලින්ද වර්ෂාවත් වීම සමාජයේ යහපැවැත්මට හෝලි සමාජයට දෙන පණිවිඩයයි.



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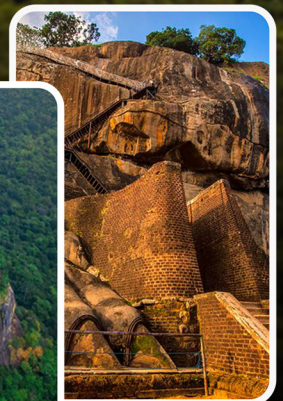
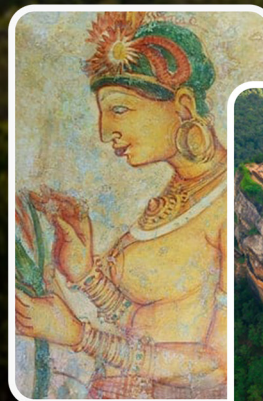
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Sigiriya is a big rock in Sri Lanka. People call it Lion Rock because it looks like a lion. It's very old and special. Long ago, a king built his palace on top of it. There are stairs carved into the rock! You can climb them and see amazing views. On the way up, you'll find pretty gardens and paintings on the walls. But be careful of the big lion paws at the entrance! Sigiriya is a famous place tourists love to visit. It's like stepping into history. If you go to Sri Lanka, don't miss Sigiriya!





Kumar Sangakkara is a former Sri Lankan cricketer who is widely regarded as one of the greatest batsmen in the history of the sport. Born on October 27, 1977, in Matale, Sri Lanka, Sangakkara had a remarkable career spanning over 15 years. Sangakkara was raised in Kandy, Sri Lanka. He attended Trinity College, Kandy, where he excelled in both academics and cricket. He was renowned for his elegant batting style, impeccable technique, and leadership on the field. Sangakkara represented Sri Lanka in all three formats of the game: Test matches, One Day Internationals (ODIs), and Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is). Sangakkara made his international debut for Sri Lanka in 2000 and quickly established himself as a key player in the team. He was known for his elegant batting

style, solid technique, and ability to perform under pressure. Throughout his career, Sangakkara achieved numerous milestones, including being the first player to score four consecutive centuries in ODIs, scoring over 10,000 runs in both Test and ODI formats, and leading Sri Lanka to the final of the 2011 Cricket World Cup. He holds several records, including the highest partnership in Test cricket (624 runs with Mahela Jayawardene) and the most dismissals by a wicket-keeper in a single World Cup (54 dismissals). Sangakkara amassed over 28,000 international runs across formats, including 63 centuries and 153 fifties. He is one of only six players to score over 10,000 runs in both Test and ODI cricket. Sangakkara served as the captain of the Sri Lankan national team from 2009 to 2011. Under his leadership, Sri Lanka reached the final of the 2011 Cricket World Cup. Sangakkara retired

from international cricket in 2015 after his final Test match against India. He continued to play in domestic T20 leagues for a few years before retiring from all forms of cricket. Sangakkara retired from international cricket in 2015 after his final Test match against India. He continued to play in domestic T20 leagues for a few years before retiring from all forms of cricket. After retiring from playing, Sangakkara has been involved in various roles in cricket administration, commentary, and as the president of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC). He has also been a vocal advocate for the development of cricket in Sri Lanka and globally. Sangakkara is known for his eloquence and intelligence both on and off the field. He has been actively involved in philanthropic activities and has spoken out on various

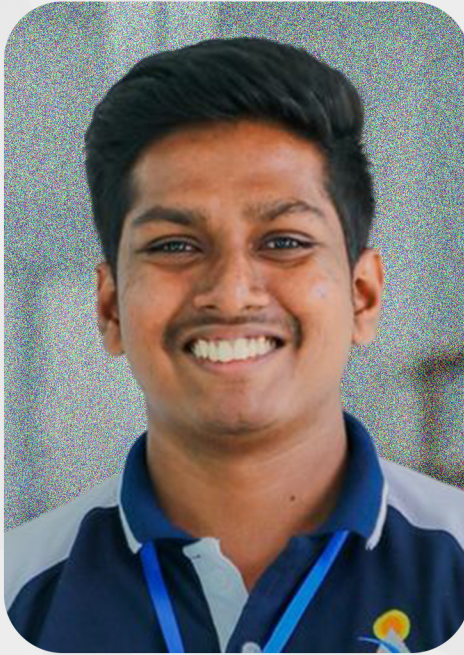
social issues. Kumar Sangakkara's life is marked by his outstanding contributions to cricket, his leadership qualities, and his endeavors beyond the cricket field. He currently has a huge fan following and is loved and respected by fans for his good attitudes and playing sports skills.



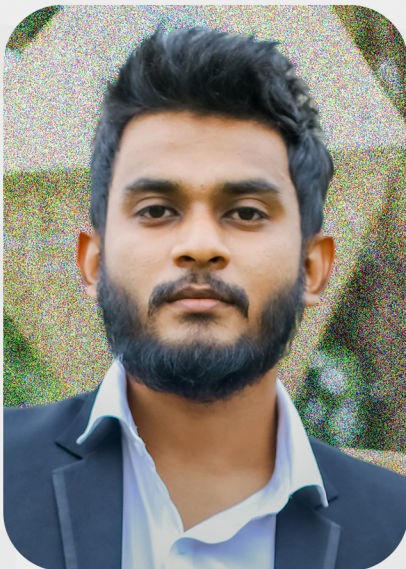
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