

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF UVA WELASSA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

LEO TIMES

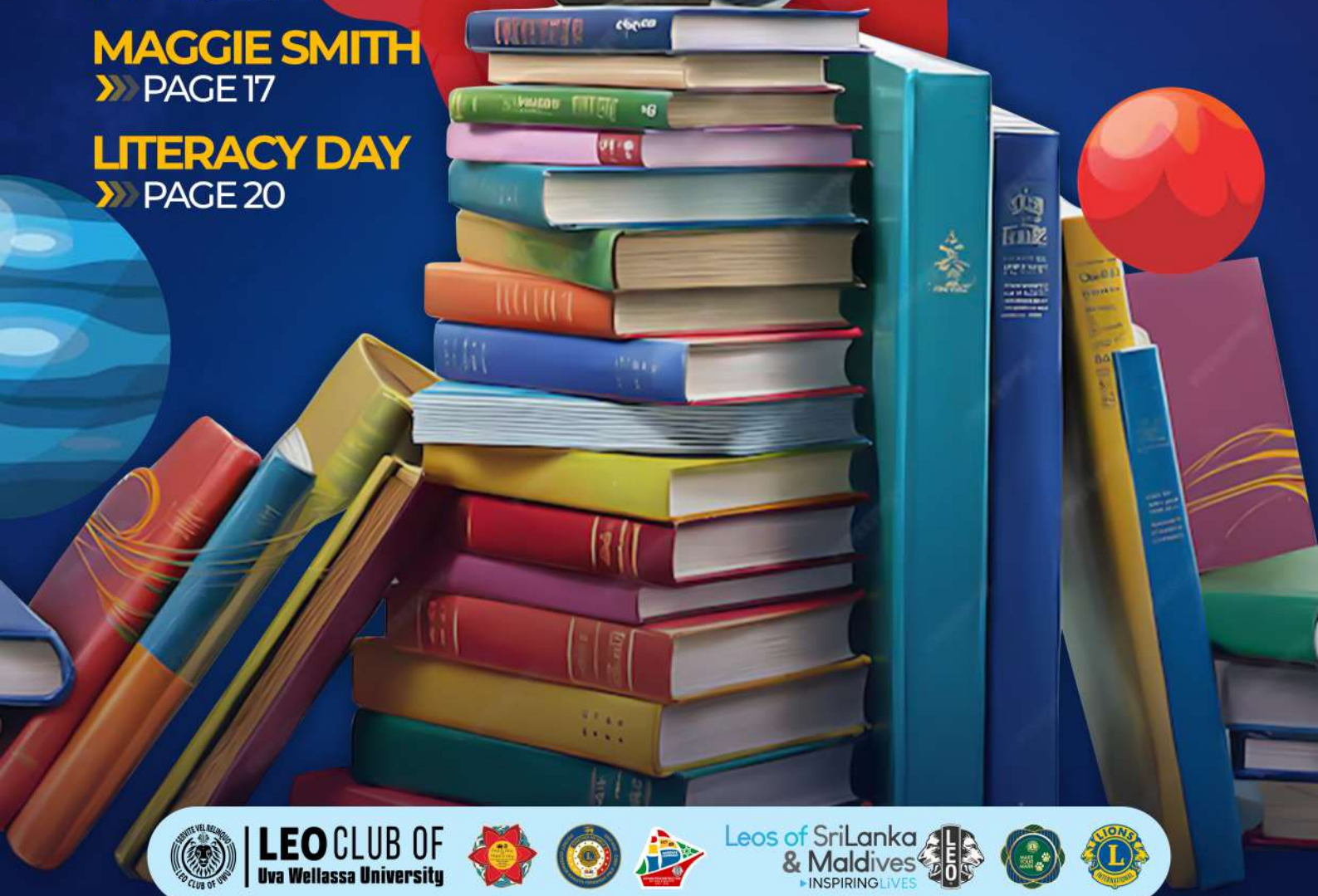
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LEO CLUB OF
Uva Wellassa University



Leos of Sri Lanka
& Maldives
INSPIRING LIVES



MESSAGE FROM 2ND VICE PRESIDENT LEO CLUB OF UWU



Dear Fellow Leos,

I am truly honored to take on the role of 2nd Vice President of the Leo Club of Uva Wellassa University for this Leoistic year. As we move forward, I believe this year holds great potential for us to elevate our contributions and strengthen our impact.

This year is about growth, not only in the projects we undertake but also in how we support one another as a team. Our club thrives on collaboration and shared vision, and I am confident that with your commitment, we can achieve exceptional results. This year, I encourage all of us to think beyond the usual, to innovate, to push boundaries, and to take on new challenges that will benefit both our club and the community.

Your participation is key, and every idea or contribution, no matter how big or small, plays a crucial role in our collective success. Let's work together to ensure that our projects are meaningful, our events impactful, and our camaraderie strong.

I am grateful for your dedication, and I look forward to witnessing what we will accomplish together in the months ahead.

**Leo Madhavee Herath
2nd Vice President
Leo Club of Uva Wellassa University**

*Madhavee
Herath*

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MESSAGE FROM PROJECT SECRETARY LEO CLUB OF UWU

Hey there Leos,
I'm Leo Dinithi Ukwatta, I'm currently assigned as a project secretary of the Leo Association. I am ready to give my supreme effort together with our leo family to make it proud. Let's make this leoistic year an unforgettable and victorious year. Join us to make our Leo Club more successful and remarkable one.

LEO Dinithi Ukwatta
Project Secretary
LEO Clube of UWU



*Dinithi
Ukwatta*

MESSAGE FROM PROJECT SECRETARY LEO CLUB OF UWU



Hello Incredible Leos,
Hi, I am Hiruni Parindi, As Project Secretary of the Leo Club at Uva Wellassa University for the Leostic Year 2024/25, I am responsible for managing and arranging numerous club activities. My responsibilities include planning and organising projects that are consistent with our club's objective of serving the community and developing leadership skills among members. With a background in business and a passion for creative thinking and innovation, I bring excellent organisational and communication abilities to the table. My goal is to guarantee that each project runs smoothly while encouraging teamwork and making a good social effect through our activities.

LEO Hiruni Parindi
Project Secretary
LEO Club of UWU

Hiruni Parindi

A portrait of Erandini Ambalampitiya, a woman with long dark hair, wearing a blue sari and several medals. She is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a dark blue with a faint, stylized floral or leaf pattern.

ERANDINI AMBALAMPITIYA

PROMOTED NEW DISTRICT ASSISTANT TREASURER

It is our great pleasure to communicate happy news about induction of Leo Erandini Ambalampitiya to the District Assistant Treasurer of Leo District 306 C2. This prestigious appointment honours her commitment, leadership and focus to the Leo community and beyond.

As a District Assistant Treasurer that has been recently selected, Leo Erandini will be in charge of facilitating financial activities in the district, as well as providing assistance to different LEO projects. She plays a very crucial role in improving the accountability of the organization and support to the projects that are embarked on primarily with the aim of improving the standards of life of the community.

Leo District 306 C2 is a Leo club which is part of Leo clubs international, we focus mainly on community service and youth leadership. Erandini's new position as District Assistant Treasurer means that she will be able to bring in more value-added to the district.

Her appointment has really been welcomed by fellow Leos given the effort she has displayed and accomplishments. Bringing servant leadership to the new capacity, there is so much anticipated on the other positive contributions she is going to offer.



KIRULA PRAMOD

PROMOTED NEW REGION HEAD OF LEO DISTRICT

This is a great accolade because Leo Lion Kirula Pramod is now officially recognized as the Region Head of Region 5 under Leo District 306 C2. This exciting announcement came from the Leo Club of Uva Wellassa University which is a remarkable achievement next to Kirula's leadership path with the Leo Club.

Kirula's new role as Region Head is evident that he is committed, passionate and stakeholder to the vision and mission of Leos of Sri Lanka & Maldives. He has worked for the company for several years and his vision corresponds to the mission of the Leo Club International to encourage the youth to make changes and bring improvements to their society.

Leo Club movement is a popular one that aims at guiding youth towards the proper leadership building as well as beneficial community service. As for these values Kirula has set an example by his activity and is now prepared to further progress towards new accomplishments in leading Region 5.

The Leo Club of Uva Wellassa University along with the Leo District 306 C2 congratulates on this earned accomplishment Kirula Pramod who is leaping forward in his new position in Uva province as the Region Head.



අනුර Kumara Dissanayake

Leading Sri Lanka Towards
a Just and Equitable Future
**as the 9th
Executive
President.**

Anura Kumara Dissanayake of JVP was elected as the Ninth Executive President of Sri Lanka at the time of the toughest either economic or political crisis in its history. At present the leader of the opposition in Sri Lankan Parliament, Dissanayake has always championed socialist policies, corruption eradication, and social equity causes. His political journey started in students politics and he alone metamorphosed the JVP from a revolutionary force into a parliamentary political party of the working masses and the downtrodden.

During his presidential campaign, Dissanayake resonated his country's necessity for political change, and anti-corruption campaigns and economy revival. He pledged to fighting corruption, reforming welfare services, and implementing policies which would help to fight-poverty. For Sri Lanka, his vision is for a society that is more socially just, with resources better distributed in the public sphere and for a consolidation of democracy.

When Dissanayake succeeded to leadership of his country the situations were quite critical indeed Sri Lanka was experiencing high inflation levels, competitions debts and an angry public bent on ridiculing conventional political parties. His administration struggles with practicing prudence on the one hand and addressing people's needs, on the other hand and searching international support on the third hand to stabilize the economy.

Transparency, coupled with sustainability in leadership, can be underlined as key governance attributes in Dissanayake's governance agenda. To restore the public confidence he has vowed to reduce corruption in the government, empower Sri Lankan economy and lift the general standard of living in the country. This means that his presidency defines a generation of the country's political and or economic destiny.



Professor
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රත්නසේකර

Appointed as Governor of Eastern Province

While **Professor Jayanthala Rathnasekara** now has been appointed as Governor of Eastern Province which shows another successful chapter in his career. Before this assignment, he was the Vice Chancellor of the Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka since 02/2017 to 11/2023 and done a tremendous job in bringing new dimensions and development to the university's academic programs and facilities. Responsible leadership is also indivisible from efficient research improvement, students' education and welfare throughout his tenure.

As a leader who has great concern towards growth and development of the eastern province the newly appointed Governor is expected to encourage the development of education, economical activities and impart the spirit of togetherness, unity/peace within the eastern province. His hope and aspiration for the province is participatory, good, and sustainable local governance.

Experience of Professor Rathnasekara in other University and in the leadership position will help him in this position. His stewardship at the Uva Wellassa University an institution of higher learning which specifically focuses on entrepreneurial education has given him a philosophy on the education and economic development of underdeveloped regions.

There are congratulatory messages on his appointment as the Governor, and high expectation of improvement of the region by the people. It is expected that his leadership will contribute a lot to improvement of the Eastern Province and its inhabitants' standards.

HOW TO FIND YOUR SIGNATURE LOOK



Having a unique look can be a personal touch and help you stand out in a crowd. To figure out your signature style, there are easy ways to create a look that makes you feel the best about yourself. A signature style can range from haute couture regular to casual jeans-and-tee styles.

Fashion is a form of expression, and it's important not to perfect the system to avoid anxiety in the long run. Getting to know what style makes you comfortable can also help define how you want to be seen. The world is your oyster, and fashionistas are your barbers.

When you're intrigued by the idea that certain clothing items can make you look and feel good, you might wonder whether you need to shop for items according to the latest season or select what is best for you. These questions contribute to the development of personal style and enable us to better understand how we perceive, express, and relate to ourselves. We learn how to put together our appearance in ways that reflect our own sense of self.

It's your right to have a personal style and wear what suits you. Clothing may be an indication of who you are, and habits and ways are peculiar to a human being, including behavior, speech, and dress. Everything we do is geared towards making people comfortable, especially when it comes to personal style.

In everyday life, we face different societal issues, and your personal style and comfort can help you navigate these challenges. If you're looking to round up your wardrobe, consider if you've ever been happy and excited with a style prevalent among the young crowd. People who keep up with the trends of fashion often find themselves in a more comfortable and confident environment.

HOW TO FIND YOUR SIGNATURE LOOK





INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY

SEPTEMBER 15

The term 'democracy', stemming from Greek *dēmokratīā* meaning 'by the people, comes from the people', has always been one of the preferred systems of managing the affairs of a society. Embracing democracy or people-centered governance is so central to any nation that even the nations celebrate the International Day of Democracy every September 15 each year. This importance has been noted out at the international level by the United Nations, which declares December 21 to be the International Day of Democracy.

THE EVOLUTION OF DEMOCRACY

Democracy as an idea has developed through the ages. Beginning with the Athenian system of direct and participatory democracy, as it was practiced in Ancient Greece, to today's representative democracies 'of the people, for the people and by the people' in which the value and importance are assigned to the mass - democracy has remained the same. It is a structure within which human rights, equality, and freedom of expression can be realized. This particular system of government is meant to establish a society which is governed by laws made with the active involvement of participants, so that the leaders will be responsible and open to a communicable order.



A GLOBAL REFLECTION ON DEMOCRACY

In recent years, the world has witnessed numerous challenges to democracy, with growing authoritarianism, inequality, and restrictions on freedom of speech in several regions. International Day of Democracy is a powerful reminder that democratic governance is not guaranteed—it requires vigilance, protection, and continuous improvement.

Across the globe, many societies are engaging in debates about the future of democracy in an increasingly interconnected world. Issues such as climate change, digital surveillance, and social inequality are testing the adaptability of democratic institutions. These challenges call for a more inclusive form of democracy, one that extends beyond electoral systems to include all voices, especially those of marginalized communities.

DEMOCRACY AND YOUTH PARTICIPATION

The 2024 International Day of Democracy emphasizes the importance of youth participation in democratic processes, highlighting the need for their fresh perspectives and innovative ideas. However, many countries exclude youth from decision-making due to structural barriers or societal attitudes. Promoting youth leadership and ensuring their participation in democratic institutions is crucial for democracy's sustainability. Initiatives like youth parliaments, digital platforms, and education programs can equip young people with the tools to become active, informed citizens.



DEMOCRACY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

The digital era has introduced new ways to strengthen and do harm to democratic governance. Technology opened new ways, on the one hand for increasing citizen engagement. Social Media Platforms, Town Halls and online petitions have broadened the scope of Political Participation making people have a say on their lives. This is the digital age, where citizens can keep leaders honest in real-time, and movements like the Arab Spring or Black Lives Matter can go global on a dime via digital networks.

But the digital age has also brought its dangers to democracy. Misinformation operations and online hate speech, along with behaviors that manipulate algorithms to fuel extremist views have already headline affecting our democracies in negative ways. Increases in electoral interference by cyberattacks and trust erosion experienced in democratic institutions have forced to find out that democracy cannot be granted easily this age of digitization Enter link to reply Without these essential measures in place, our new home cyber fortress falls as it is the most vulnerable in any of the old-world battles.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY

SEPTEMBER 15





DEMOCRACY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Civil society movements have historically been at the forefront when it comes to demanding democratic rights. From suffragette movements that fought for women's right to vote to anti-apartheid campaigners who demanded equal treatment for all South Africans; such efforts have consistently helped reshape notions of political representation. They continue to do so now as well: be it campaigns focused on environmental protections and conservation; those advocating against rampant corruption; or those seeking justice for minority communities and members of the LGBTQ+ community.

THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY

Looking ahead, the future of democracy depends on how societies respond to both internal and external challenges. Education, inclusivity, and resilience will be key factors in determining whether democratic systems can thrive or falter. In many parts of the world, young people are emerging as the vanguard of democratic movements, using their voices and votes to demand more accountable governance, environmental stewardship, and social justice.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY

SEPTEMBER 15





THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY

The International Day of Democracy reminds us that democracy is not a static system but an evolving one that requires continuous effort and engagement from all sectors of society. As citizens, we each have a role to play in ensuring that our governments remain responsive, inclusive, and transparent. The task of building and protecting democracy is ongoing, but it is a task worth undertaking for the promise of a fairer, freer, and more just world.

CONCLUSION

Each September 15th, commemorates the International Day of Democracy in which both the global and local strides made in attempting to promote democracy are recognized and celebrated. Such a call seeks to correct these and other persistent shortcomings and marks again, that democracy is not an end in itself, rather something which has to be worked on, and supported at all times. On this occasion of holiday, it is essential to once again make a pledge in favor of the principles of democracy and guarantee that everyone is heard, that all can feel that their voice is important.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY

SEPTEMBER 15





**M. Gooie
Smith
M. Gooie
Smith**

**A Celebratory
Post for a
Legendary
Actress**

A Celebratory Post for a Legendary Actress Maggie Smith



Maggie Smith is a famous British actress who acted as Professor Minerva McGonagall in the “Harry Potter” series. She was always very talented as she has proved in several shows she has performed for several decades now. The biography of originated actor includes an information that Smith was born on December 28, 1934, and he states a great number of achievements in theatres and on-screen, film awarding and active in television program, Smith gained two Academy Awards and many BAFTAs.

Its from this film which she played McGonagall, the strict authoritative figure, yet a compassionate head of the Gryffindor house of Hogwarts that made her one of the favorites of the film series. Smith is making quite an impact in her performances which will continue to provide depth And warmth to profeminine characters on popular culture today.

In recent years there where rumors that she has died and people where so condolences grieving both fans and her co-workers. But as of today, Maggie Smith is still a beloved woman in the sphere of the film industry. The late actress left a lifelong contribution to actors worldwide and fans with her performances that remain encouraging to this generation.

Despite such claims need to be confirmed from other reliable sources, it is impossible to question the value of Maggie Smith for the film and theatre, as her works will stay for generations.

Maggie Smith
1934-2024



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WORLD LITERACY DAY

A STEP
TOWARDS
A BRIGHTER
FUTURE






Every year on September 8, people around the world celebrate World Literacy Day. This day is a reminder of how important it is for everyone to learn to read and write. Literacy is more than just being able to read books or write a message. It is the key to a better life. With literacy, people can gain knowledge, improve their skills, and have more opportunities in life. It allows people to understand the world around them, communicate better, and make informed decisions.



Even though literacy is essential, millions of people still cannot read or write. According to UNESCO, there are 773 million adults worldwide who are illiterate, and two-thirds of them are women. This means many people face challenges in their daily lives. Without literacy, it is difficult to find a good job, access information, or even help children with their homework. This is why World Literacy Day is so important. It reminds us that there is still work to be done to make sure everyone can enjoy the benefits of literacy.

Literacy is not only about education; it is also about equality and empowerment. When people can read and write, they can improve their lives and the lives of their families. Communities with high literacy rates are usually healthier, more prosperous, and more peaceful. Children who grow up in literate families tend to do better in school and have more opportunities in the future.



There are many ways we can help promote literacy. For example, donating books to schools and libraries can make a big difference. Volunteering to teach someone to read or write can also change a life. Even something as simple as encouraging others to read can help spread the joy of learning. Raising awareness about the importance of literacy is another way to show support. By talking about how learning to read and write can transform lives, we can inspire others to take action.

World Literacy Day is a chance to celebrate the progress we have made, but it is also a time to reflect on the work that still needs to be done. Every person deserves the opportunity to read and write, no matter where they live or what challenges they face. As we celebrate World Literacy Day, let's remember that literacy is a powerful tool that can bring positive change to individuals, families, and communities. Together, we can build a world where everyone has the chance to learn and grow through the gift of literacy.



Editor's MESSAGE



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the latest edition of the Leo Club of Uva Wellassa University newsletter! As the content editor, it is my pleasure to present this collection of stories, initiatives, and achievements that highlight the remarkable efforts of our club. Over the past few months, our members have passionately dedicated themselves to serving the community and making a tangible difference in the lives of those in need.

In this issue, you'll read about our recent projects, heartwarming stories of service, and gain a glimpse into the exciting events we have planned for the future. Each article captures the enthusiasm and teamwork that drives our Leo spirit forward.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to making this edition possible. Your creativity and hard work are the backbone of this newsletter. I encourage all our members to stay engaged and keep pushing the limits of what we can achieve together.

Let's continue to lead with empathy, serve with purpose, and create lasting change.

With gratitude,

Vihini Ranasingha

Content Editor
Leo Club of Uva Wellassa University



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