

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF UVA WELLASSA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

# LEO TIMES

VOLUME 17 | EDITION 08 | FEB 2025



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| LEO CLUB OF  
Uva Wellassa University



Leos of Sri Lanka & Maldives  
INSPIRING LIVES



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# MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT PRESIDENT LEO DISTRICT 306 D7



It is with immense pride and joy that I extend my heartfelt felicitations to the Leo Club of Uva Wellassa University for the Leo Times magazine. This publication stands as a testament to your creativity, dedication, and commitment to the Leo movement.

Beyond the pages of this magazine, your club's unwavering dedication to social service is truly inspiring. The impact you have made through your projects and initiatives is a shining example of what it means to be a Leo. Your efforts to uplift communities, address pressing issues, and bring positive change reflect the very essence of our mission.

As you continue to share the stories of your service and the voices of your members, I am confident that Leo Times will inspire and motivate others to join us in our cause. Your hard work and passion not only strengthen our Leo community but also make a tangible difference in the lives of those you serve.

Congratulations once again for your Leo new journey, and may your journey of service, leadership, and fellowship continue to thrive.

Warm regards,

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**Leo Lion Hansathi Imethma FLM**  
**President**  
**Leo District 306 D7**

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Hansathi Imethma". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Hansathi" on top and "Imethma" on the bottom, both starting with a capital letter.



# **ROARING**

**EVENTS OF THE**

**LEO MONTH**

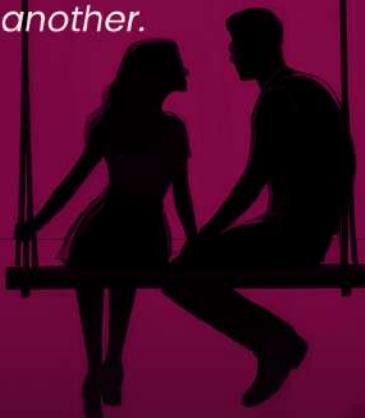


# ବେବୁନ୍ଦ

A Heartfelt Celebration

To celebrate the season of love and friendship, the Leo Club of Uva Wellassa University proudly organized "Sparsha 2025"—a heart-warming and unforgettable event that truly captured the essence of emotional connection, bonding, and celebration. Held on January 29, 2025, just ahead of Valentine's Day, this event wasn't just about romance—it was about cherishing all kinds of relationships that bring warmth to our lives, including friendships, family ties, and community unity.

The purpose of Sparsha 2025 was to create a memorable experience for the UWU student body by fostering a strong sense of belonging and shared joy. The event brought together students from all faculties and backgrounds into one vibrant space, allowing them to connect beyond academic boundaries. Whether it was through music, games, open mic performances, or the beautifully decorated event setting, Sparsha gave everyone a chance to express themselves, share moments of laughter, and strengthen their bonds with one another.



# සප්ර්ෂා

A Heartfelt Celebration

*From the initial planning stages to the final moments of the celebration, the dedication and teamwork of the Leo Club members were evident. Volunteers worked tirelessly to ensure that every detail of the event—from decorations and logistics to promotional materials—was handled with care and creativity. The atmosphere was filled with colorful lights, heart-themed designs, and engaging activities that made it an event to remember.*

*In addition to the in-person celebration, Sparsha 2025 gained attention and appreciation on social media platforms, especially on Facebook, where real-time updates, behind-the-scenes glimpses, and heartfelt messages were shared with the wider university and Leo community. These posts not only reflected the joy of the event but also helped spread the message of love and togetherness beyond campus walls.*

*Sparsha 2025 was more than just a celebration; it was a successful initiative that proved how powerful student-driven events can be when aimed at building a positive and inclusive culture. Events like these help nurture emotional well-being, encourage active participation, and create lasting memories for everyone involved.*



**સ્પર્શા**

*A Heartfelt Celebration*

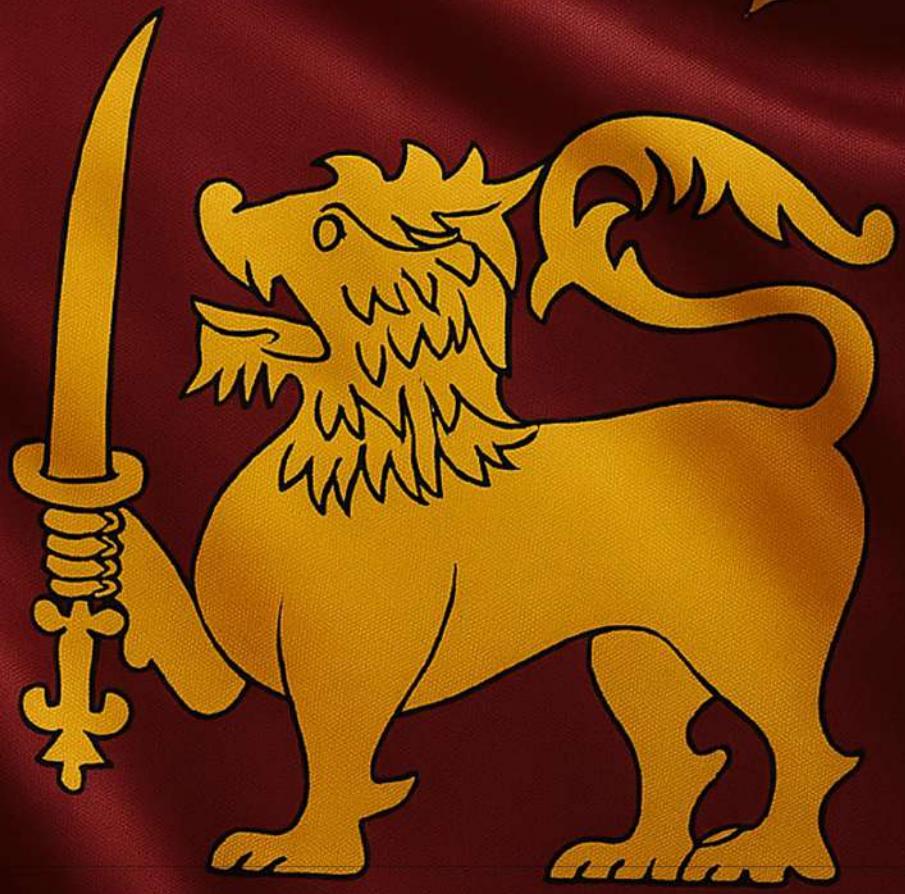
*The UWU Leo Club extends its heartfelt gratitude to every individual who took part in Sparsha 2025—whether as a participant, organizer, or supporter. Your enthusiasm and energy played a vital role in making the event a grand success. As we reflect on the joy and unity that Sparsha brought to our community, we eagerly look forward to the exciting initiatives and meaningful moments yet to come. Stay connected, stay inspired, and get ready for more amazing experiences ahead!*



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**SRI LANKA'S  
77th  
INDEPENDENCE DAY**

# SRI LANKA'S 77th INDEPENDENCE DAY

## A New Chapter of Hope and Unity

On February 4, 2025, Sri Lanka commemorated its 77th Independence Day, marking more than seven decades of freedom from colonial rule and celebrating the journey of a resilient nation that continues to move forward with pride and determination. The event was not just a tribute to history but also a powerful call for unity, equality, and progress under a fresh political era.

This year's celebrations were particularly significant as they took place under the leadership of President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, whose presidency reflects a new direction in Sri Lankan politics. The national theme, "Together for a Just Nation", echoed the hopes of citizens across all communities for peace, inclusivity, and responsible governance.

The main state ceremony was held at Galle Face Green, Colombo, and was attended by key government officials, members of the armed forces, foreign diplomats, religious leaders, and proud citizens from every province. The event featured traditional rituals, the raising of the national flag, the singing of the national anthem, a 21-gun salute, and a military parade that showcased the strength and discipline of Sri Lanka's security forces. Cultural performances representing all ethnic groups added color and diversity to the national celebration.

President Dissanayake addressed the nation with a speech that highlighted the importance of rebuilding trust between the state and its people, ensuring justice for all, and creating opportunities for every citizen, especially the youth. He paid homage to the national heroes who led the fight for independence in 1948 and reminded the nation that true freedom lies not just in political sovereignty but in economic justice, social harmony, and democratic accountability.

Across the country, schools, universities, and local institutions marked the occasion with their own celebrations—featuring patriotic songs, flag hoisting ceremonies, dramas, debates, and community service projects. The involvement of youth was particularly inspiring, as it symbolized their deepening role in shaping Sri Lanka's future.



Happy  
Valentine's  
Day

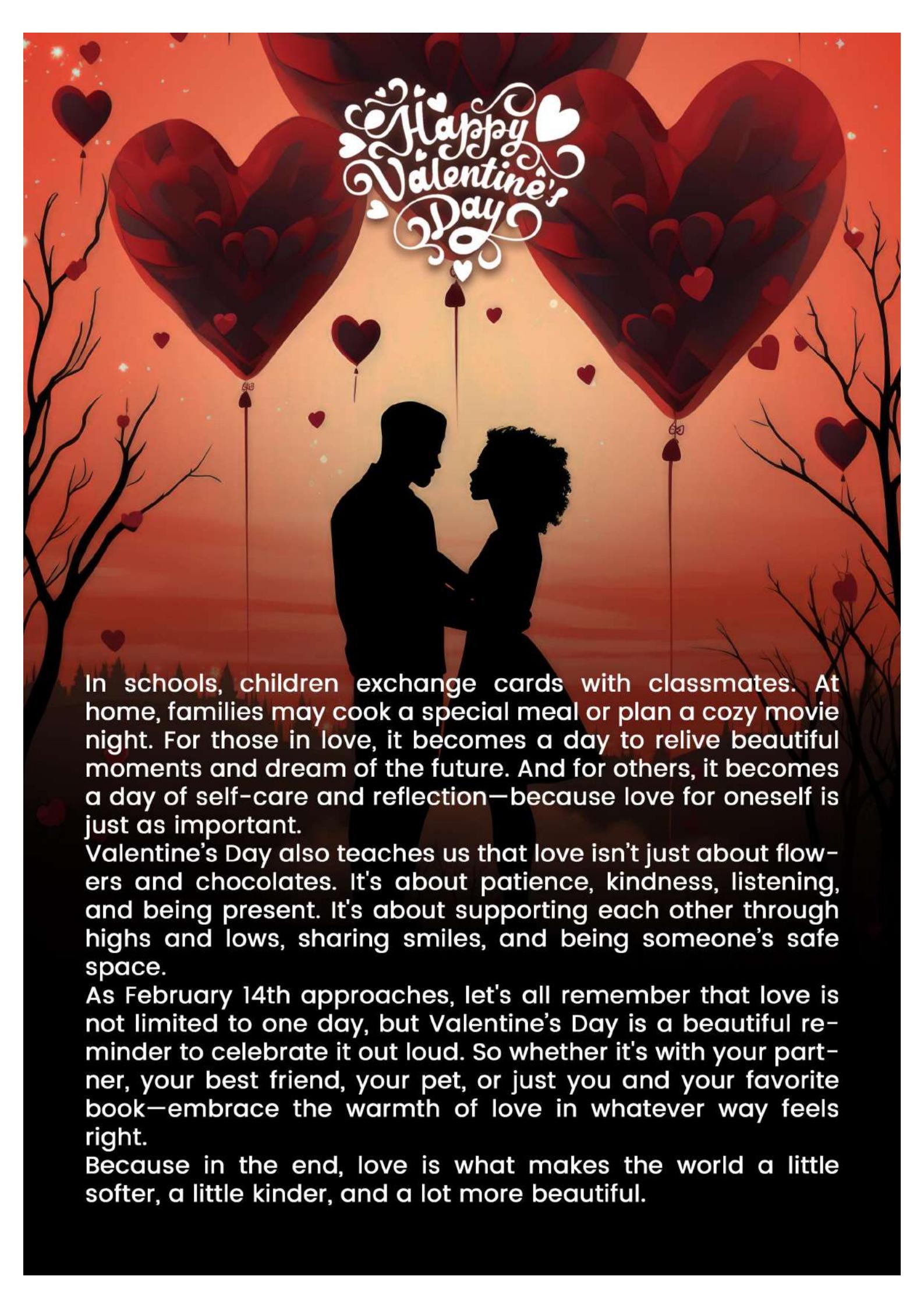


*Happy Valentine's Day*

Every year, as February arrives with its soft breeze and gentle warmth, there's one day that stands out, wrapped in shades of red and pink—Valentine's Day. Celebrated on February 14th, it's a special time that reminds people around the world to pause, appreciate, and express love in its many beautiful forms.

Originally inspired by stories of Saint Valentine, the day has grown far beyond romantic gestures. It's not just about couples; it's about connection. It's a chance to show love to friends, family, pets, or even to oneself. Whether it's a handwritten letter, a small gift, a simple message, or just spending time together, the smallest gestures often carry the most meaning.

Shops and streets begin to fill with roses, heart-shaped chocolates, and glowing decorations, but the true charm of Valentine's Day lies in the thought behind each action. A kind word, a shared memory, or a walk under the stars can speak louder than any grand gift. It's a celebration of being there for one another.



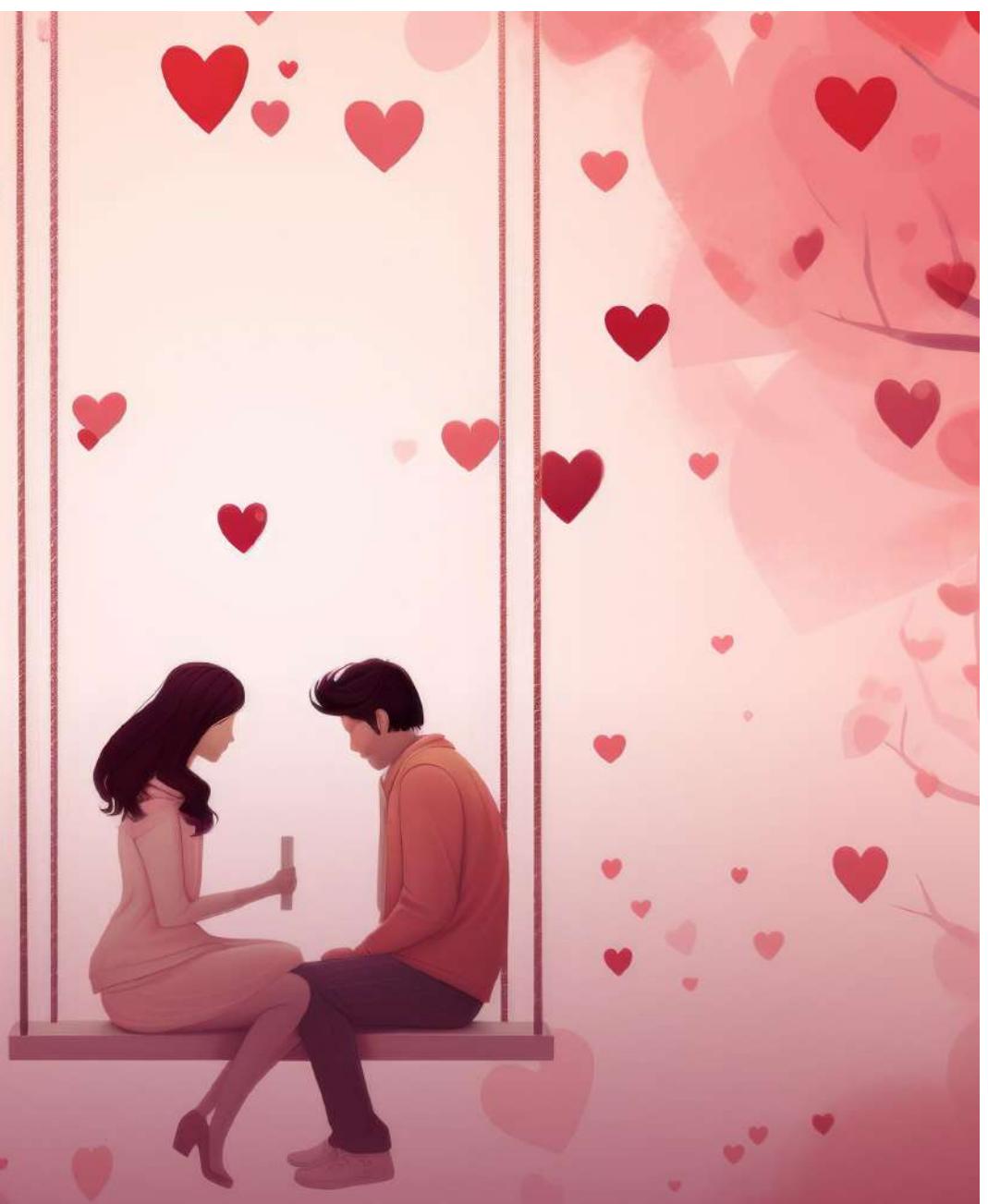
*Happy Valentine's Day*

In schools, children exchange cards with classmates. At home, families may cook a special meal or plan a cozy movie night. For those in love, it becomes a day to relive beautiful moments and dream of the future. And for others, it becomes a day of self-care and reflection—because love for oneself is just as important.

Valentine's Day also teaches us that love isn't just about flowers and chocolates. It's about patience, kindness, listening, and being present. It's about supporting each other through highs and lows, sharing smiles, and being someone's safe space.

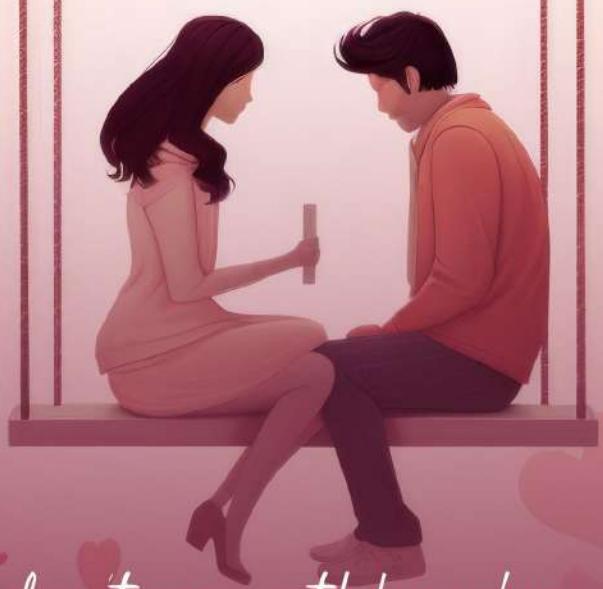
As February 14th approaches, let's all remember that love is not limited to one day, but Valentine's Day is a beautiful reminder to celebrate it out loud. So whether it's with your partner, your best friend, your pet, or just you and your favorite book—embrace the warmth of love in whatever way feels right.

Because in the end, love is what makes the world a little softer, a little kinder, and a lot more beautiful.



To My  
Secret  
Crush

# To My Secret Crush



Sometimes, love doesn't arrive with fireworks or grand gestures—it tiptoes in quietly, like a secret crush hidden behind shy glances and half-smiles. It's the feeling of your heart racing when they walk into the room, the way their laugh becomes your favorite sound, and the way just seeing their name can brighten your day. You don't tell anyone, not even them, but it lives quietly in your chest—soft, sweet, and a little scary. And sometimes, love at first sight isn't about knowing everything about them; it's about a sudden, unexplainable pull, as if your heart already recognizes theirs before your mind can catch up. It's innocent, beautiful, and leaves you wondering... what if they feel it too?



# **WORLD SCOUT DAY**



**22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY**



WORLD SCOUT DAY, CELEBRATED ON FEBRUARY 22ND, MARKS THE BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF LORD ROBERT BADEN-POWELL, THE FOUNDER OF THE SCOUTING MOVEMENT, AND HIS WIFE LADY OLAVE BADEN-POWELL, SYMBOLIZING UNITY IN THE SCOUT AND GUIDE COMMUNITIES. IT'S A DAY TO HONOR THE VALUES OF LEADERSHIP, SERVICE, AND PERSONAL GROWTH THAT SCOUTING INSTILLS IN YOUNG PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD. ORIGINATING FROM THE FIRST EXPERIMENTAL CAMP IN 1907, SCOUTING HAS BECOME A GLOBAL MOVEMENT. ON THIS DAY, SCOUTS ENGAGE IN MEANINGFUL ACTIVITIES LIKE COMMUNITY SERVICE, EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS, AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES, REFLECTING THEIR COMMITMENT TO BUILDING A BETTER SOCIETY. WORLD SCOUT DAY IS A CELEBRATION OF THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF SCOUTING AND A REMINDER TO CONTINUE EMPOWERING YOUTH TO LEAD WITH PURPOSE, CHARACTER, AND COMPASSION.

# INTERNATIONAL

## INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

### FEBRUARY

CELEBRATING LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY

# LANGUAGE DAY





# INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

## Celebrating Linguistic Diversity

International Mother Language Day, celebrated on February 21st, promotes linguistic and cultural diversity and raises awareness about the importance of preserving native languages. Declared by UNESCO in 1999, the day emphasizes the role of language in shaping identity, preserving heritage, and fostering unity. With over 7,000 languages spoken globally and many facing extinction, the day highlights the urgent need to protect endangered languages. It also promotes multilingual education, especially in early childhood, and encourages the recognition of all languages in public life. Events like workshops and cultural programs mark the observance, underlining the value of language in social inclusion, education, and peacebuilding. Ultimately, the day reminds us that preserving languages helps protect the cultural identity and wisdom of communities worldwide.

# Is Valentine's Day Commercialized?



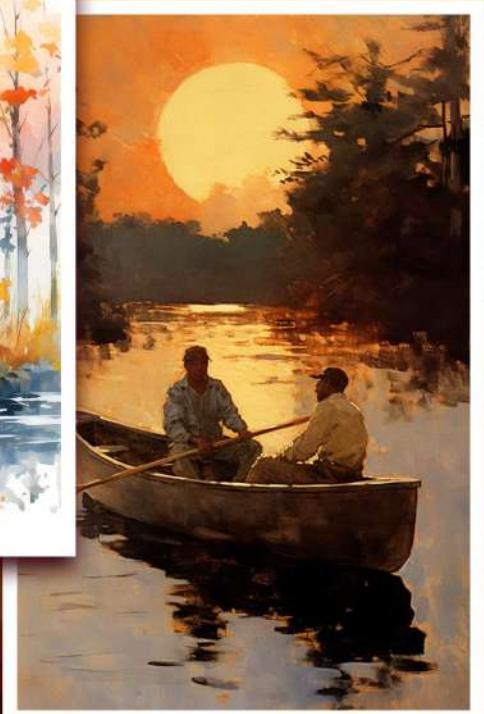
Valentine's Day, once a celebration of pure love and affection, has evolved into one of the most commercialized holidays in the world. What started as a simple tradition of exchanging heartfelt love notes has now become a billion-dollar industry. Businesses saw an opportunity to capitalize on this day, turning it into a shopping event that promotes everything from chocolates and flowers to jewelry and exclusive couple experiences. Today, stores are filled with heart-shaped merchandise, while advertisements and social media campaigns create a sense of pressure to buy the perfect gift.

This commercialization has significantly changed how people celebrate the occasion. Instead of focusing on genuine expressions of love, many feel obligated to purchase expensive gifts. The numbers speak for themselves—billions of dollars are spent globally on Valentine's Day each year. Popular purchases include flowers, chocolates, personalized gifts, and even jewelry, making it a profitable time for businesses. This spending isn't just limited to romantic couples; brands have extended their marketing to include friends, family, and even pets.

As a result, the true meaning of Valentine's Day often feels lost. For many, it has become less about love and more about consumerism. However, it's still possible to celebrate the day meaningfully through small, thoughtful actions like writing a personal note, spending quality time together, or giving handmade gifts. These simple gestures can carry much more meaning than expensive purchases.

In the end, while Valentine's Day is undoubtedly commercialized, it's up to individuals to choose how they want to celebrate it. Focusing on real connections and thoughtful expressions of love is the best way to keep its true spirit alive. After all, love is not something that can be bought.

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**Leo Gihan Vimukthi**  
Information and Communication Technology  
Degree Program

MOVIE  
REVIEW

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7  
7



CHARLIE

**\*Charlie (Hindi)\*** is a heartwarming and emotional film that beautifully portrays the bond between a man and a dog. The story revolves around Dharma, a man struggling with his past, who unexpectedly finds companionship in a stray dog named Charlie. What starts as a hesitant connection gradually transforms into a deep, healing relationship filled with warmth, trust, and silent understanding. The film is visually touching and emotionally rich, with minimal dialogue and strong performances that let the emotions speak for themselves. The soulful background music and simple yet powerful storytelling make it a memorable watch. \*Charlie\* is a gentle reminder of the unconditional love animals offer and how they can bring light into even the darkest corners of our lives.





# EDITORIAL CREW



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# *Editor's* MESSAGE



**Dear Esteemed Readers,**

As we unveil this edition of Leo Times, I find myself reflecting on the incredible journey we've embarked on together. This newsletter is not just a collection of articles, it's a chronicle of our shared experiences, filled with stories of overcoming challenges and daring to dream.

Within these pages, you'll discover the extraordinary efforts and achievements of our members. From the launch of new initiatives to personal triumphs and collective milestones, this edition is a celebration of the unwavering spirit and excellence that define our Leo community.

My hope is that as you read through this publication, you find more than just information. May the stories within inspire you to persevere, to support one another, and to make a meaningful and lasting impact in the world.

Thank you for being an essential part of this journey. It's your contributions that make Leo Times truly exceptional.

With heartfelt gratitude,

*Tharul Jayasundara*

**Editor  
Leo Club of Uva Wellassa University**



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