



109th Anniversary Bodhi Pooja

A Bodhi Pooja to commemorate the 109th Anniversary of Visakha Vidyalaya was held on 16th January 2026 at the school Bo Maluwa. This annual event was organized by the Religious Subcommittee to invoke blessings of the noble triple gem on the school, its students & the staff and was conducted this year by the Ven. Rajanganaye Seelawimala Thero.

The Principal of Visakha Vidyalaya and the President of the VVOGA, Mrs Manomi Seneverathne, Past Principals, Past Teachers, Executive Committee Members of the VVOGA and old girls were among the participants of this event.



Resilient as a Nation – Sri Lanka's Enduring Spirit

Sri Lanka's journey as a nation has been shaped by centuries of challenge, change and perseverance. From colonial rule and internal conflict to natural disasters and economic crises, the country has faced repeated trials. Yet, what continues to define Sri Lanka is not the hardships themselves, but the resilience of its people and their ability to endure, adapt and move forward together.

This resilience is most visible in everyday life. In moments of crisis, Sri Lankans have consistently shown a remarkable willingness to help one another. Communities have shared food, shelter and resources, often crossing ethnic, religious and social boundaries.

The response to the 2004 tsunami, as well as more recent economic hardships, revealed a deep culture of solidarity. This quiet strength, found in households, villages and neighborhoods across the island, remains one of the nation's greatest assets.

Sri Lanka's rich cultural and spiritual heritage further strengthens this resilience. The island's diversity of religions, languages and traditions has created both complexity and depth. Values such as compassion, patience, tolerance and generosity which are central to Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism and Islam, continue to guide people through difficult times. Festivals, rituals and shared traditions foster a sense of belonging and remind citizens of their shared humanity, even during uncertainty.

Institutions such as education and healthcare have also played a vital role in sustaining national resilience. Despite economic limitations, Sri Lanka's commitment to free education and public healthcare has empowered generations and maintained social stability. Education has encouraged critical thinking and innovation, while healthcare has protected communities during times of crisis. These systems, though challenged, represent long-term investments in the nation's strength and wellbeing.

The country's resilience has been tested again by the devastation caused by Cyclone Ditwah, which affected 25 districts, triggering deadly floods and landslides. Lives were lost, many went missing and thousands were displaced, compounding existing hardships. Yet, even in the aftermath, unity and compassion emerged as powerful forces of recovery. At this critical moment, the Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association exemplified resilience in action. The Association stepped forward to support affected students of Visakha Vidyalaya, past Visakhians and the community. Through a dedicated initiative, essential school supplies, household items and financial assistance were provided to those most in need, helping restore stability and dignity.



As part of this initiative, financial assistance was extended to 17 students from 15 families currently studying at Visakha Vidyalaya, while six past Visakhians affected by landslides and severe flooding also received support, reaffirming the enduring bond of the Visakhian community. To further safeguard health and wellbeing, a water purification unit was donated to Bandarawela Visakha Balika Madya Maha Vidyalaya, ensuring continued access to safe drinking water in the aftermath of the floods. Additionally, the Association contributed to the distribution of essential household items to 250 families affected by the disaster, working in collaboration with the Zonal Education Department.



These efforts, made possible by the generosity of members and well-wishers, transformed empathy into meaningful action. They remind us that resilience does not mean ignoring hardship, but facing adversity with honesty, unity and hope. Sri Lanka's enduring spirit shows that resilience is not merely a response to crisis, but is an integral part of who we are as a nation.

Ayodya Rodrigo

Upcoming Events

Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association




28TH MARCH 2026
from 8.30 am to 10.00 pm
at Visakha Vidyalaya

PAMODA - 071 824 6422 | RIVINDU - 071 409 0261

MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA
by



JUNE 6 @ BMICH 6.00 PM ONWARDS



Upcoming Events



VVOGA CALENDAR 2026

JANUARY 23 EDUCATION FAIR FOR A/L BATCH 2025	MARCH 7 BLOOD DONATION PROGRAM	MARCH 25 FOUNDER'S DAY PIRITH	MARCH 26 FOUNDER'S DAY ALMSGIVING	MARCH 28 VISAKHA AVURUDU POLA & CARNIVAL
MAY 9 VESAK PROJECT	MAY 10 ANNUAL MEDICAL CAMP	JUNE 6 'WAYO' MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA	JULY 23 PULIMOOD ORATION	JULY 29 ESALA SIL PROGRAM

☎ Manika 071 474 3074 for general inquireis

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 @VISAKHAVIDYALAYAOGA

VVOGA Annual General Meeting

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE VVOGA

The Annual General Meeting of the Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association (VVOGA) was held on the 28th June 2025 at the Old Hall of Visakha Vidyalaya. A new executive committee for the year 2025/2026 was duly elected and the Jt. Secretaries' and Treasurer's reports for 2024/2025 were also presented to its members.



Executive Committee of VVOGA



VISAKHA VIDYALAYA OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2025/2026



SEATED (L - R)
 Ms Thathsarani Bulathsinghala (Staff Member), Ms Renuka Dharmadasa, Ms Lilani De Silva (Assistant Treasurer), Ms Ayodya Rodrigo (Joint Secretary), Ms Priyangani Ratnasekera (Vice President) Mrs Manomi Senevirathne (President), Ms Shanta Gunaratna (Vice President), Ms Manika Weerawardena (Joint Secretary), Ms Navodya Waidyarathne (Treasurer), Ms Kumudini Gomes

STANDING 1ST ROW (L - R)
 Ms Chamika Walpita, Ms Jinali Wijekoon, Ms Pamoda Imbulana, Ms Uththara Amarawickrama, Ms Ardithya Senaratne, Ms Maheshini Peiris, Ms Udari Bandara, Ms Lakmini Diwakara, Ms Dilmi Ambewela, Ms Rusari Jayasuriya, Ms Rivindu Vithana, Ms Anusha Malwatta, Ms K A D Sandamini, Ms Samindi Wasana, Ms Eranthi Premaratne, Ms Geeshani Jayasinghe, Ms Seuvandhi Munasinghe, Ms Taniya Perera, Ms Shashinika Perera

STANDING 2ND ROW (L - R)
 Ms Imojani Marasinghe, Ms Virajini Somathilake, Ms Ganga De Silva, Ms Sanjeevani Karunaratne, Ms Dulhasi Soysa, Ms Thilini Perera, Ms Nishanthi Wimalaratne, Ms Yasoma Weerasekara

Conveners of 2025/2026

Sub Committee	Convener	Contact No	E-mail ID
Secretariat	Thilini Perera	0779770834	thiliniperera32@yahoo.com
Building & Maintenance	Samindi Wasana	0778527518	samindiwasana.222@gmail.com
Medical	Yasoma Weerasekara	0718377106	yasoma.kumari@yahoo.com
Archives	Maheshini Peiris	0773643227	
Education	Ganga De Silva	0777349907	gangadesilva@hotmail.com
Religious	Udari Bandara	0776632116	chathurika.b@gmail.com
Newsletter & Communication	Jinali Wijekoon	0775666923	jinaliwijekoon2@gmail.com
New Members	Dulhasi Soysa	0775535508	dulhasi@gmail.com
Hostel	Sanjeevane Karunaratne	0771918787	sanjeevane1978@yahoo.com
Social Activities	Rusari Jayasuriya	0771336421	rusari.jayasuriya@gmail.com
Fund Raising	Pamoda Imbulana	0718246422	pamoda.imbulana@gmail.com
Sports	Seuvhandi Munasinghe	0777650216	seuvandhimunasinghe@gmail.com

THE 34TH SUSAN GEORGE PULIMOOD MEMORIAL ORATION

“NO MARGIN FOR ERROR: PRECISION, PASSION & PERSEVERANCE”

Delivered by Dr. Udayangani Samarakkody

An oration is a lengthy speech delivered to an audience, usually mixed, to commemorate a formal occasion. It is thus an in-depth academic exercise. Memorial Orations are designed in addition to pay tribute to a deceased personality in appreciation of exceptional contribution to a specific institution or policy. Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association adopted this method of honoring a beloved principal of 22 years with the Susan George Pulimood Oration inaugurated 34 years ago and held on the 23rd of July each year. Ms. Pulimood was a pioneer of science education for girls in Sri Lanka.



This year the oration was delivered by Dr. Udayangani Samarakkody, a past pupil who has achieved the highest level in her chosen profession of Paediatric Surgery, a hitherto male dominated field shunned by female medical graduates as an impossible vocation, thus breaking the glass ceiling.

Her exploits and achievements as a paediatric surgeon, a professional academic and in non-academic welfare activities are well documented in an edited version of her oration in the Sunday Times PLUS page 3 of 3rd August 2025. However, what was missed out in this newspaper article was the revelation of her personal story as a student which made it possible for her to reach this professional pinnacle.

Her school career, which she cleverly weaved into the oration, was both amazing and inspirational to all. From her early schooling at a small suburban school in the Central Province, a chance encounter while participating at a National Schools Competition in Colombo changed her focus. That day, she witnessed the Visakha Vidyalaya School Band making an impressive performance to claim victory over several boys' schools and made her determined to further her studies at Visakha. This she did by excelling at the Grade 5 scholarship examination, gaining admission to the Colombo school which is by no means an easy feat. For her, this was the beginning of using all available opportunities to show her passion and skill in the varied extracurricular activities of sports & drama that the school offered, even gaining the wrath of the hostel Matron for skipping study times.

Thus, she had followed her life principles entitled in her oration, not only in her professional career but from early days in school, leaving no margin for error with precision, passion and perseverance in whatever endeavour she undertook. It was a fitting tribute to a past principal who paved the pathway for girls to venture into science. Udayangani took this vision one step further, urging female medical graduates to take up the field of surgery where the special female attributes of empathy, compassion and communication skills can make a difference.

Thank you, Udayangani.

Manel de S Wijesundera
nee Ratnavibushana

Emeritus Professor,
Faculty of Medicine,
University of Peradeniya



Dinadi Niriella
Bio Science



Amasha Perera
Commerce



Chanuli Senevirathne
Arts



Sanduni Mahawithana
Commerce



Piumdee Abeywickrama
Bio Science

Dinner Dance



The Organizing Committee of the Dinner Dance



The Visakha Dinner Dance 2025 which was held at the Cinnamon Life on 19th July 2025 was a huge success. Since 2008, the Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association (VVOGA) has supported and maintained the English stream of education at Visakha Vidyalaya through a fundraiser in the form of a Dinner Dance. Annually, a sum of Rs 3 Million is required for this purpose and raising money has become a challenging task, while more students are opting to study in English at Ordinary and Advanced levels.

The Dinner Dance, which is generally held on a biennial basis, could not be held for 7 years due to the various challenges faced by the country. This year the Dance Committee was delighted to organize the Visakha Dinner Dance once again.

As our students continue to shine in the various avenues of study and exposure related to English education in terms of academics, debating and theatre, we as past students, consider it our duty to support their efforts by way of sustaining the funding required to ensure they are equipped with the best resources. This is a vital element in our efforts to produce dynamic and wholesome Visakhians who in turn will move on to serve as future leaders of our country.



Enhancing Hostel Life: Health, Happiness, Creativity and Care

A series of meaningful initiatives were successfully carried out to enhance the overall well-being, happiness and personal development of students residing at the Visakha Vidyalaya hostel.

The Hostellers' Health Screening Program, organized by the Medical Subcommittee, was conducted on 24th and 25th September 2025 with the aim of assessing and promoting students' health and well-being. A total of 113 hostellers underwent comprehensive medical examinations, and students requiring further attention were appropriately referred for specialized medical care. This initiative played a vital role in ensuring early identification of health concerns and reinforcing the importance of student welfare.

In celebration of Children's Day, the Hostel Subcommittee organized a joyful event on 2nd October 2025 for all hostellers. The celebration featured an entertaining magic show and an engaging karaoke session, creating a lively and cheerful atmosphere. Each child received a customized gift along with refreshments. The enthusiasm and smiles of the children made the event a memorable and successful one.

Continuing to nurture creativity and self-expression, a Drama Workshop was conducted on 30th October 2025 from 5.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. The workshop was conducted by past Visakhian Theruni Indrapala, who recently guided Visakhians to secure 1st place in the All-Island Shakespeare Drama Competition. The session provided hostellers with a valuable opportunity to explore drama, build confidence, and enjoy a creative learning experience.

In addition, a monthly special meal plan has been introduced for hostellers, with the aim of enhancing their dining experience and nutrition. Well-wishers and donors are warmly invited to contribute towards sponsoring a monthly special meal. Those interested in making a donation are kindly requested to contact Sanjeevani for further details.

Together, these initiatives reflect a strong commitment to creating a healthy, joyful and supportive hostel environment for all Island scholars.

Act Fast, Save Lives - Emergency Care Session

A Basic Life Support (BLS) training program was conducted on 30th October 2025, with the support of Dr. Nilmini Wijesuriya, Consultant Anaesthetist and Chair of the Sri Lanka Resuscitation Council, along with her team.

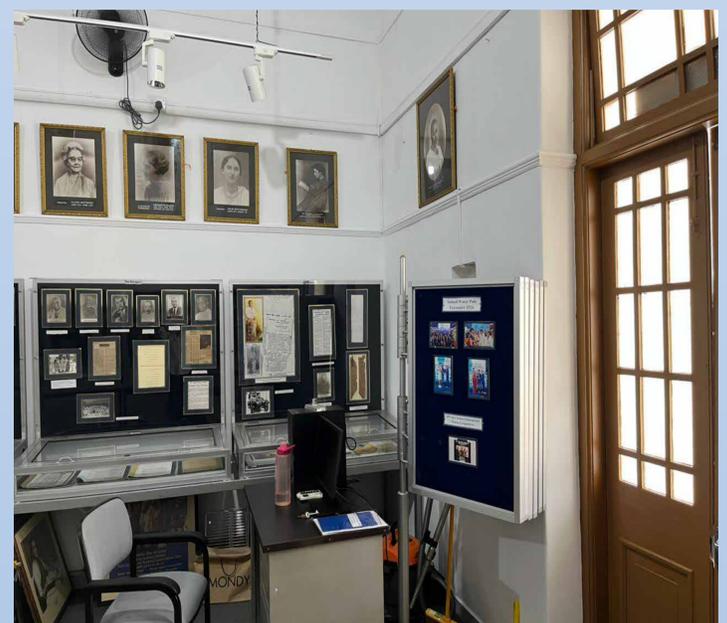
The training program covered approximately 100 students, including members of the Cadet Platoon, Red Cross Society, and Junior Prefects' Guild, representing students from Grades 9 to 11. The session provided essential life-saving knowledge and practical skills, empowering students to respond effectively in emergency situations.

Renovation of the School Archives

Renovation work on the Visakha Vidyalaya School Archives is currently underway, beginning with colour washing and repairs to windows and doors. As part of the upgrade, a new air-conditioning system will be installed. Two steel cupboards have been added to safeguard valuable records and artefacts.



Designed with the support of the Department of Archives and the VVOGA Archives 25-26 Sub-Committee, this project aims to preserve the legacy of generations of Visakhians. Alumni are invited to support this initiative through sponsorships, donations or by contributing historically significant documents, photographs or artefacts.



Sports Fiesta 2025

Proudly organized by the Old Girls' Association of Visakha Vidyalaya, was a vibrant celebration of friendship, fitness, and enduring school spirit. From the moment the gates opened on the bright and sunny 1st day of November, 2025, the grounds came alive with the laughter of familiar faces, the cheer of friendly competition, and the energy that comes when friends come together once again. Mrs. M. N. Edussuriya graced the occasion as the Chief Guest while Mrs. Dilini Dolapihilla attended as the Guest of Honour.



The event brought together past pupils from across generations each proudly carrying the colors, camaraderie, and memories of their school days. The day's program featured a spirited mix of athletic events and fun games, ensuring something for everyone. The event featured a wide range of activities including track events, relays and team events as well as an impressive march-past and a captivating drill display creating an atmosphere filled with joy and healthy competition.

Adding a special touch to the event was the spirited performance of the old girls' Western Band, whose melodies set an upbeat tone for the event. Teams cheered each other on, classmates reunited after years apart, and new bonds were formed over shared memories and fresh victories. Dias House emerged as the overall champions while Pulimood House was awarded the runners-up position. As the sun set on a day filled with laughter, friendly competition, DJ music, good food and fun, everyone left with full hearts and renewed pride in being part of a sisterhood that lasts a lifetime.



Teachers' Felicitation at Waters Edge

'World Teachers' Day' was celebrated by the Education Subcommittee at Waters Edge, Battaramulla, on 20th October 2025. In recognition of teachers' dedication and hard work throughout the year, several sessions were conducted to foster stronger bonds among teachers, inspire collaboration and enhance professional well-being.

The program featured valuable contributions from four resource persons. Mrs. M. N. Edussuriya, former Principal of Visakha Vidyalaya, delivered an insightful talk on "Responsibilities of a Teacher Beyond the Classroom". Mrs Edussuriya spoke of her own experiences as principal of Visakha for nearly 13 years. She emphasized the impact a teacher has on a growing child who spends most of her formative years in a school environment - learning, interacting, developing confidence and building skills for the future.

She stressed the need for justice and fair play at all times and why teachers should not have favourites in the classroom. She also stressed the importance of honesty in their dealings with children, parents, colleagues, administration and others.

Punctuality, planning lessons, not being slack in the classroom giving children assignments while engaging in personal work like studying for their exams, taking leave of absence from school often were some aspects highlighted by Mrs Edussuriya. A teacher needs to be aware that children are observant, and even critical and, will look upon a teacher with principles and empathy as a role model for her to emulate.

Cyber Bullying has caused much anxiety among parents, teachers and educators alike. Mr. Hans Billimoria spoke on "Going Online in 2025" where he highlighted the dangers of exposure to unsupervised online activities among children. But he said the target of cyber bullying is not limited to children, but adults and senior citizens as well. He cited examples of lonely seniors who have been duped by con men on internet platforms like dating sites, Investment scams and social media. He also discussed the legal avenues open to defend oneself in such unfortunate situations.

Ms. Ridmali Nagaranayake conducted a session on Yoga and stress management, supporting teachers in coping better with daily challenges. Additionally, Ms. Eranthi Premaratne enlightened the audience on the invaluable services provided by VVOGA to the school through the generous support of our past students, which enables the school to maintain her high standards.

The session created an atmosphere of friendly camaraderie, enabling the teachers to socialize and relax. VVOGA hopes that through these sessions, teachers will be better equipped to guide students toward a brighter future. The Principal, Mrs. Manomi Senevirathne, along with Deputy Principals, Assistant Principals and teachers attended this full-day program.



New Water Cooler Installation

A new water cooler was purchased and installed on the school grounds to replace the previous unit, which had become unusable. This purchase was made possible through the generous contribution of a sponsor. At present, four water coolers are functioning regularly within the school premises, each undergoing quarterly servicing to ensure a continuous supply of clean, filtered and purified drinking water.

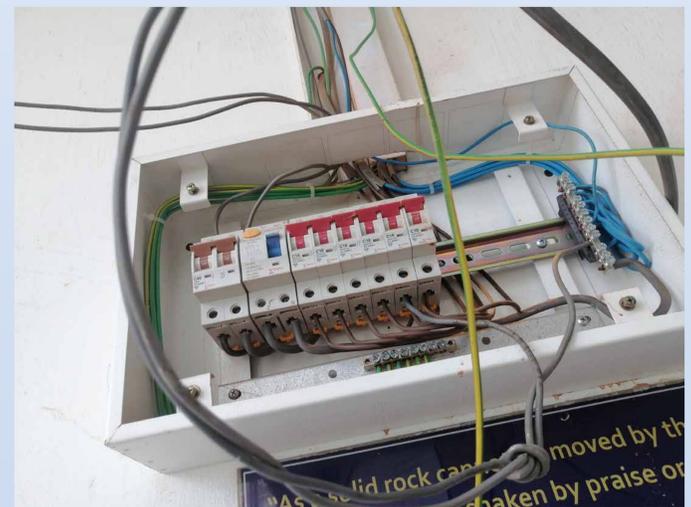


With the increasing impact of global warming and rising temperatures, providing adequately cooled drinking water has become essential for the comfort and well-being of students. These cooling facilities play a vital role in maintaining hydration and supporting the overall health of the school community.

Electrical System Upgrade

The three-storey classroom building, which accommodates students of Grades 5, 8, 9, 10, and 11, holds a special place in the school community, filled with years of learning, laughter and lasting memories.

However, the building's old electrical wiring system has caused occasional electrical hazards, posing a serious safety concern for both students and teachers. Recognizing the urgency of this matter, the Principal, School Management, and the Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association (VVOGA) have initiated the process of upgrading the entire electrical system. This project includes the complete removal of the existing wiring and the installation of new wiring, distribution boards, and main control panels to ensure a safe and reliable learning environment.



While the initial steps have already been taken, the successful completion of this essential project requires financial support. Contributions from well-wishers and members of the school community will greatly assist in safeguarding the well-being of current and future students.

For further details or to extend your support, please contact:
Co-Convenor – Building & Maintenance Sub Committee
Uththara Amarawickrama
076 717 2106

Batch Representative Meetup 2025

The Social Activities Subcommittee successfully completed the Batch Representatives' Meetup 2025, held on 21st September from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Jeremias Dias Hall.

The event was attended by 120 participants and included presentations on past OGA services, upcoming projects, financial functions, as well as an open forum that encouraged dialogue and engagement with representatives. The meetup strengthened communication and collaboration between batches and the OGA.



Katina Bana

The Katina Pinkama 2025 was successfully held at Sri Vajiraramaya Temple, Bambalapitiya, and was a significant religious observance in Visakha Vidyalaya's annual calendar. Organized with dedication and reverence, the event reflected the school's deep-rooted commitment to Buddhist values and traditions.

As part of the temple's Katina Pooja, the Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association (VVOGA) Religious Sub-Committee organized the Bana sermon on the fourth day, which took place on 10th October 2025. Adding to the spiritual significance of the occasion, students of Grade 5-D, together with teachers and parents, conducted a Bodhi Pooja, invoking blessings for the school and its wider community.

The Bana sermon was delivered by Venerable Rajanganaye Seelawimala Thero, whose discourse offered peace, reflection, and spiritual enrichment to all who attended. The event beautifully highlighted Visakha Vidyalaya's enduring dedication to fostering Buddhist principles, preserving tradition and strengthening community unity.



Past Visakhians in the Spotlight



From Visakhian Roots to the World Stage

Meet Prathibha Liyanaarachchi, a proud Visakhian from the 2016 A/L Arts stream, who now holds the prestigious title of Miss World Sri Lanka 2025.

Her journey to the crown has been one of dedication, growth and resilience. Looking back, she credits many of the values and strengths she carries today confidence, discipline and a deep sense of purpose to the formative years she spent at Visakha Vidyalaya.

After completing her studies at school, Prathibha pursued a degree in Integrated Design at the University of Moratuwa. Since 2018, she has also established herself as a professional model, walking for leading designers and taking the runway at Colombo Fashion Week. Today, as she steps onto the world stage, she does so not just as an individual but with immense pride in calling herself a Visakhian.

School Events

Academic Excellence

Visakha Vidyalaya continues to uphold its proud legacy of excellence in academics, sports, and the performing arts. At the 2024 G.C.E. Advanced Level Examination, 156 students achieved 3 As. Amasha Dulari Perera of the Commerce stream secured the island-wide first place.

Of the 156 students who obtained 3 As, 58 were from Commerce, 30 from Arts, 41 from Biological Science, 24 from Physical Science and 3 from other streams. Demonstrating sustained academic excellence, 92% of the 2024 A/L cohort qualified for university entrance, reaffirming Visakha Vidyalaya's commitment to nurturing academically accomplished, well-rounded and socially responsible young women.

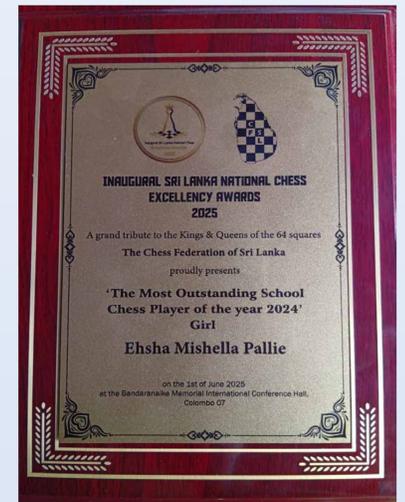


Amasha Perera
(Commerce Stream)

Chess Champion

Eisha Mishela Pallie of Visakha Vidyalaya was honoured by the Chess Federation of Sri Lanka at the BMICH Convention Centre on June 1, 2025, in recognition of her outstanding chess performance in 2024. This prestigious accolade acknowledges her status as one of the nation's top players and celebrates her dedication, discipline and exceptional skill.

Eisha's achievements in the local and international arenas bring immense pride to her school and continues to inspire young chess enthusiasts across Sri Lanka.



A Voyage of Songs

The 28 member Visakha Vidyalaya Senior Choir proudly represented Sri Lanka at the prestigious "A Voyage of Songs International Choral Competition 2025," held in Bangkok, Thailand, from August 2nd to 5th. Featuring choirs from across Southeast Asia, the competition provided a vibrant platform for cultural exchange and musical excellence.

Invited as Sri Lanka's No. 1 Girls' Choir for the fourth consecutive year, Visakhians showcased their talent, cultural richness and innovation. The choir achieved remarkable success, winning Gold awards in Chamber Choir, Equal Voice (Category Champion) and Folklore, in addition to securing the award for Best Conductor, presented to Rohan de Lanerolle. Warm congratulations are extended to Choir Leader Manekha Gomez, deputies Mihika Jayasena and Newandee Bastian and the entire team for bringing international recognition to our Alma Mater.



50th All Island Inter School Shakespeare Drama Competition

Visakha Vidyalaya emerged as the winners of the Girls' Finals at the 50th All-Island Inter-School Shakespeare Drama Competition organized by the Rotary Club of Colombo North and YMCA Colombo.

Manekha Gomez of Visakha Vidyalaya was awarded the Best Actress title for her role as Othello, receiving the Winifred Jayamaha Memorial Challenge Cup, while Pabasara Peiris was honoured with the Rotary Club of Colombo North Challenge Trophy for the Best Portrayal in a Villain Role as Iago.

Congratulations to our talented young Visakhians for shining on stage and carrying forward the legacy of excellence!



Water Polo

The 20th Annual LC-VV Water Polo Encounter 2025 for the M. N. Edussuriya Trophy was held on September 9th at the Sugathadasa Swimming Complex. Visakha Vidyalaya triumphed in the Under-19 match, defeating Ladies' College with a score of 16-9, while Ladies' College secured victory in the Under-15 match. The encounter once again showcased the strong sporting spirit, tradition and competitive excellence of both schools.



Netball

Visakha Vidyalaya, Colombo, secured a convincing victory over Sujatha Vidyalaya, Nugegoda, in the third edition of the "Battle of the Golds" for the Clara Motwani Challenge Shield. The match was held at Police Park, Colombo and once again demonstrated Visakha's dominance in the encounter.

The Visakha team continued their winning streak, claiming back-to-back titles following their emphatic victories of 49-10 in 2019 and 28-17 in 2023. The match further reinforced Visakha Vidyalaya's strong tradition of excellence and consistency in school sports.



Rowing

It is with great pleasure and pride that we inform you of the outstanding achievements of the Visakha Vidyalaya Rowing Crew at National level in recent times. During the 2025 National Rowing Championship, our team made history by securing the Junior and Intermediate Overall Titles -the first junior crew in the 40-year history of rowing in Sri Lanka to achieve this distinction. In addition, at the Indoor National Rowing Championship in January 2025, we won the overall championship in both the Junior and Senior women's categories.

The crew won every award, proving their strength and determination having borrowed equipment. However borrowing equipment has become very challenging.



As equipment is needed urgently for the crew for their training for the upcoming Regattas in 2026, we look forward for the kind support from donors to collect the Rs. 15 million that is needed to purchase boats and oars. We thank the Melbourne branch of VVOGA for their generous donation of AUD 2000 towards this challenge.

If you are willing to help the crew in this endeavour, please send in your contribution to the VVOGA.

Remembering

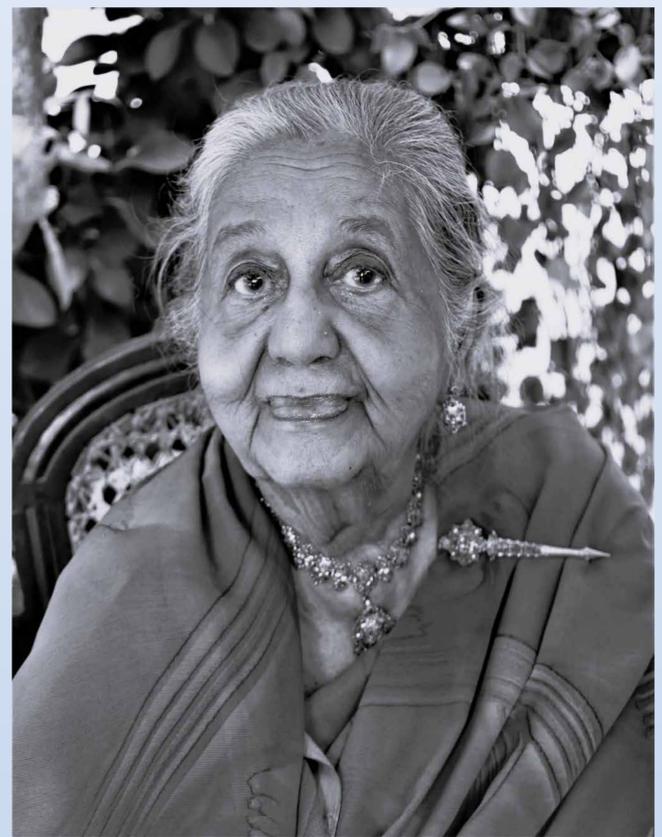
A Life of Grace, Strength and Simplicity:

Seela Kalyana Rupa Kottegoda Gunawardena (1923-2025)

Seela Kalyana Rupa Kottegoda Gunawardena was born on 7th February 1923 in Thabbovita, a quiet village in the Kalutara District. As the middle child among seven siblings her early childhood was shaped by Buddhist values and the profound influence of the Maha Sangha. She often recalled with deep affection Ven. Kadavedduwe Jinawansa Thero of the Galduwa Aranya, who served as a young Samanera monk at the Thabbovita Temple during her formative years. These early experiences instilled in her a spiritual grounding that guided her throughout her long life.

Her education took her to the Visakha Hostel when Mrs. Clara Motwani was the Principal. During her hostel years Rupa formed friendships that lasted a lifetime. She remembered every friend by name and address and they continued to exchange letters and visits well into their senior years.

Her enthusiasm for school life never dimmed. She participated in every hostel event and trip, often taking the lead in organizing games and sing-alongs. Well into her nineties, she remained connected with her Visakhian spirit. At the age of 92, she attended the 'Back to School' event in 2015 with school tie, badge and her hair tied in a ponytail with ribbons. She was also a beloved and regular presence at the annual Avurudu Pola.



In 1947, at the age of 24 she married Robert Gunawardena, a pioneering leftist in Sri Lanka's political landscape. The couple moved to Boralugoda, where Rupa quickly became an integral figure in her husband's extended family and the wider village community. Villagers sought her counsel and affection, valuing her wisdom, kindness and steady guidance. Throughout her life she extended her support generously to everyone around her a fact reflected in the thousands who arrived to pay their respects before her cremation carried out within 24 hours as per her wishes.

Rupa was a devoted mother of four, grandmother of ten and great-grandmother of ten. Remarkably, she maintained an excellent memory and clarity of mind until the very end of her long and meaningful life.

She passed away peacefully on 24th October 2025 at the age of 102½ years. True to her simplicity, she requested that no flags, banners or flowers be used at her funeral.

Her life is a reminder of the impermanence of all things and of the quiet strength found in compassion, humility and service.

May she attain Supreme Bliss of Nibbana.

Membership & Donations Made Easy!

Past Visakhians can now join the VVOGA and make donations easily through our official website:
www.vvoga.lk

You can also make Payments via Direct Bank Transfer.

Bank Transfer Details:

Account Name: Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association
Bank: Commercial Bank
Branch: Wellawatte
Account No: 6411290
Swift Code: CCEYKLX

After completing the transfer,
please WhatsApp your deposit slip to:

077 7872332 - Lilani (Assistant Treasurer)

Or

Email the transfer confirmation to: donatevvoga@visakhavidyalaya.lk

For further information please contact:

Ayodya: +94 77 338 9709 Manika: +94714743074 Dulhasi: +94 77 553 5508.

SUPPORT OUR HOSTELLERS

The Hostel Subcommittee is committed to the health, happiness and well-being of our hostellers through health screenings, celebrations and creative programs.

MONTHLY SPECIAL MEAL PROGRAM

A special meal is organized once every month to nourish and uplift our hostellers.

Would you like to make a difference? You are warmly invited to sponsor a monthly special meal.

Contact:
Sanjeewani - 077 191 8787

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