



CANARA UNION NEWSLETTER

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www.canaraunion.co.in

Vol.LXXII No. 01

January 2025



Nainpally Gopalakrishna Memorial Drama Festival



Wishing You a Very Happy New Year 2025!

Programmes for the Month of January 2025

Saturday	11	10 a.m.	Canara Union Annual Sports continues
Sunday	26	9.30 a.m., 5 p.m	and concludes – see details inside.
Tuesday	14	7 a.m. onwards	Sankranti Celebrations – Breakfast followed by Morning Music Concert. See details inside.

FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT

**THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT PAID THEIR ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2024-25
MAY NOTE THAT THEIR MEMBERSHIP STANDS CANCELLED EFFECTIVE 1.1.2025**

Annual Membership Subscription Fees

All Members shall pay in advance their Annual Subscription for the period 1st April to 31st March of the financial year. For ease of payment, we have introduced UPI and the QR code which is published hereunder.

Annual subscription is as follows. Pay by Cash/Cheque/NEFT/UPI. Contact office 080-23342625 if you need clarification.

60 years & below	Rs.300/- + GST 18% Rs.54/- = Rs.354/- per annum
Above 60 years	Rs.150/- + GST 18% Rs.27/- = Rs.177/- per annum
Over 80 years:	No subscription

For Hard Copy of CUNL (Canara Union Newsletter) please add Rs.150/- per annum (April-March) towards postage/delivery charges. You can add to Annual Membership Subscription.

Pay: "The Canara Union", S/B Acct No.10600 31300 00822,
SVC Co-Operative Bank Ltd.,
IFSC Code: SVCB0000060.

If paid by NEFT, please email NEFT reference number to canaraunion@gmail.com or Whatsapp to 8310857255 with your name. If paying by UPI, please send screenshot with name and details of payment.



All members are requested to send a hello email to canaraunion@gmail.com giving your latest email ID, phone number and address.

Hon. President:	Prakash Aroor	
Hon. Gen. Secretary:	Meera Philar	
Editor:	Amit Kilpady	amitkilpady@hotmail.com
Editorial committee:		
Member –	Meera Philar	meeraphilar79@gmail.com
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Member –	Anand Kilpady	anandkilpady@gmail.com

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Let me first of all wish you, your family and friends a very happy, healthy and peaceful new year!

This time I want to write on something familiar we have all used, continue to enjoy—some of us every day — but perhaps don't notice specially. I am talking about our Reading Room, probably the oldest feature of the Canara Union building. There is a beautiful history behind the RR.



In the early years of the last century, when people of our community started moving to Bengaluru to join the Sirur group's Mysore (Maharaja) Mills and were eager as an educated and enlightened community to know what was happening in the rest of the world—politics, wars, arts, education and sports—newspapers and the radio were the only ways they could keep pace. And not everyone had a radio, I remember, but newspapers could be read and shared so easily.

Around 1910, a few of the early migrants to Bangalore began to meet every day in the compound of the residence of one our earliest founders, Shri Badakere Venkatrao, on the 6th Main Road. They met every evening after mill hours and before going home after a hard day's work, would take turns to read out the newspaper to the others. Such kindness! I am told that Smt Badakere Ratnapachi would so kindly serve tea and snacks, with many recipes drawn, she told everyone, from the *Rasachandrika*. So the 'reading room' was also a social place for rest and comfort.

It moved, in the early 1930s, to the front verandah of the BVR hall, the oldest building of the Canara Union. It has remained there for over 75 years except that we now have sofa sets for readers to sit on and read comfortably. Back then, the day's newspapers used to come from the houses of some senior members of the community who were better placed than many others. Nagara Shivmaam or Yeshwant the Manager used to fetch the different newspapers from these houses by about 4 p.m. every day and spread those out on an old and abandoned table tennis table. And then after all readers had left, the papers would be returned to the houses from where they had come.

I cannot imagine the wonder of this community spirit, and no one now would believe the variety of newspapers and weeklies and magazines we used to get to read. The most popular ones were The Hindu, The Deccan Herald, The Times of India and *Prajavani*. There were also magazines like Sport and Pastime, the Illustrated Weekly of India, Shankar's Weekly, *Prajamatha*, and there was always a Hindi and a Marathi newspaper.

What are our future plans to preserve this kind of wonderful place? People are reading less and less print these days, but we have decided to improve the facility in our forthcoming project by planning provision for a lounge with better lighting, sofas and chairs to relax on, soft music, some magazines and newspapers and maybe a small library of books on interesting subjects. We may even think of providing a coffee and tea service, let's see. I welcome your thoughts on the subject.

PRAKASH AROOR

A Time to Reflect...

The Canara Union Newsletter wishes all our readers a very Happy New Year 2025!

We are now completing 25 years since stepping into the new millennium! While editing this issue of the Canara Union Newsletter, I briefly paused to look back at the past quarter of a century. And I'm pretty sure you would have too at some point!

Do you recall our lives and times when we stepped into the Y2K? Mobile phones and the Internet had made their grand entries, and while not as “smart” as their descendants today, were what just about everyone wanted to get their hands on! Computer technology, industry, medicine, economy, and other areas of human endeavor were stepping into the new millennium with new confidence but also with new challenges lurking ahead!

While fears of the Y2K bug and global apocalypse thankfully turned out to be damp squibs, there were economic downturns, natural disasters, political tumult, terrorist attacks, climate change effects, and a bunch of sinister crises lurking ahead!

India had just proved Her resoluteness in the Kargil War, but at the cost of 527 valiant sons on our icy frontiers. The United States was still led by President Bill Clinton while our PM was the genial Atal Behari Vajpayee. Our cricketing world was yet to be hit by the match-fixing scandal, and Sachin Tendulkar was still at the peak of



his career (batting-wise certainly, if not in terms of captaincy!). Names or concepts such as T20, social media, Ganguly, Modi, 9/11, Dhoni, IPL, Youtube, Whatsapp, OTT, and hundreds of others were yet to be added to our national lexicon!

Let's look back at our own life. At what age and phase were we back then? Have we moved homes, cities, countries, jobs, or careers over the past 25 years? How have marriage, parenthood (or grandparenthood!), and the loss of loved ones, helped us cope and evolve as human beings? How much have we changed – for better or for worse - in each aspect of our life?

And yet... what is that part deep inside us that just hasn't changed and forges on into the second quarter of the twenty-first century with renewed resolve and zest for life?

-Editors



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PRINT COPIES and E-ISSUES



We thank those who have written/telephoned to indicate their preference of the CUNL.

Members who haven't contacted us and who prefer e-issues please let us know your preference. And those members who have opted for e-issues but are still getting hard copies of CUNL, please let the office know. Please write to canaraunion@gmail.com with a copy to meeraphilar79@gmail.com or phone the Canara Union at 080 23342625. Thank you.

PS: Members who have not paid Rs.150/- towards postage of the CUNL for the year, are requested to pay - Cash or Cheque favouring "The Canara Union". If transferring by NEFT, please transfer to "The Canara Union" S/B Acct No.10600 31300 00822, SVC Co-operative Bank Ltd., IFSC Code: SVCB0000060. Please send us a copy of NEFT transfer and your name.

You can also pay by UPI. See details on page 2

NOTE: We are updating our Membership List. Request all Members to send us your latest address, phone numbers (Landline and Mobile) and email IDs to canaraunion@gmail.com.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are deeply grateful to the following for the donations made by them towards:

Canara Union Sports – Table Tennis Tournament

SVC Cooperative Bank Ltd., Main Branch	Rs. 5,000.00
SVC Cooperative Bank Ltd., Vidyamandir Branch	Rs. 5,000.00
SVC Cooperative Bank Ltd., Koramangala Branch	Rs. 5,000.00
SVC Cooperative Bank Ltd., Hesaraghatta Branch	Rs. 5,000.00

Canara Union Medical Relief Fund

Shri Suresh Balvalli	Rs.25,000.00
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Canara Union Monthly Distress Relief Fund

A Well-Wisher	Rs. 12,000.00
Smt. Kusum Suresh Kilpadi	Rs.1,00,000.00
(In memory of Late Shri Prabhakar Savkur and Smt Sumanabai Savkur)	

Canara Union Welfare Fund (Chathurbhuj Seva)

A Well Wisher	Rs. 5,000.00
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PS: We request all donors to provide us with a letter and a copy of PAN Card and Address Proof at the time of donation, which is a requirement by the IT Department.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new Life/Student/Associate Member into our fold:

LIFE MEMBER

Ms. Vaishnavi Gurunandan Bhat

Correction

The artwork attributed to Aparna Aroor Shanbagh in our December 2024 issue's Talent Corner section was incorrectly captioned. The correct artist is Suzanne Allard.

We regret the inconvenience caused.

RENEWED APPEAL FOR MONTHLY DISTRESS RELIEF ASSISTANCE

Dear Friends, Canara Union continues to assist the badly affected families of Covid-19 every month. Your continued support and help towards this scheme as long as possible would be appreciated. You may make payments either by cheque or bank transfer to the account specified below. For any clarification you may contact or write to us at:

Prakash Aroor, President Mobile: 9901560602

Meera Philar, Hon. Secretary Mobile: 9844022713

Harish Sujir, Hon. Treasurer Mobile: 9845055567

Email: canaraunion@gmail.com

Payments can be made to THE CANARA UNION WELFARE FUND either by cheque or by Net Banking transfer to the following:

The Canara Union Welfare Fund

Savings Bank A/C No.: 10980 31300 05454

SVC Co-Operative Bank Ltd. Vidyamandir Branch, Malleswaram, Bangalore 560 003

IFC Code: SVCB0000098

VERY VERY IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING DONATIONS

All Members/Donors wanting to make donations, please see one full page ANNOUNCEMENT in the CUNL. You may pay either by CHEQUE OR NEFT. Follow it up with a letter or fill details in a copy of the Announcement Sheet along with a copy of your PAN Card and Proof of Address. If sending by NEFT, please send to respective account (Name and No.) of your donation choice as mentioned in the Announcement Sheet. For any clarification, please email canaraunion@gmail.com or WhatsApp or call Meera Philar at 9844022713 or Harish Sujir at 9845055567.

DONATION

From:
Name: Sri / Smt. _____
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To,
The President
The Canara Union(Regd.)
Bangalore-560003

Sir,
Sub: Donation towards Endowment Fund/s

I wish to donate a total sum of Rs. _____ (in words: Rupees _____
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Building Fund		The Canara Union, Account No 34050851518 State Bank of India, IFSC SBIN0007080
Distress Relief Fund		The Canara Union(Regd) Distress Relief Fund Account No 10600 31300 18707 SVC Co-operative Bank Ltd., IFSC Code: SVCB0000060
Medical Relief Fund		The Canara Union(Regd) Medical Relief Fund Account No 10600 31300 18706 SVC Co-operative Bank Ltd., IFSC Code: SVCB0000060
Students Scholarship Fund		The Canara Union(Regd) Students Scholarship Fund Account No 10600 31300 18705 SVC Co-operative Bank Ltd., IFSC Code: SVCB0000060
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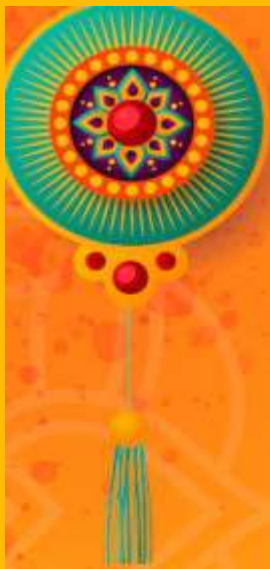
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- Is to be distributed in the next occasion for disbursement as decided by the Canara Union.

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Regards,

Signature
Phone No:



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TUESDAY, 14TH JANUARY, 2025

BREAKFAST : 7.00 - 7.30 AM

CONCERT : 7.30 - 9.30 AM

THE GAZEBO - CANARA UNION

ALL ARE WELCOME

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SPORTS

The 54th Canara Union State Ranking Table Tennis Tournament

Sanjay Mavinkurve,
Hon. Secretary - Sports

The 54th Canara Union State Ranking Table Tennis Tournament between 22nd and 25th November 2024, at the Prakash Courts, was a grand success. This tournament in the name of Late Shri C.V.L. Shastry Memorial Tournament under the auspices of Karnataka Table Tennis Association (KTTA) was sponsored by CANARA UNION and co-sponsored by Canara Union Charitable Trust (CUCT).

The tournament attracted 605 entries from various categories, ranging from U-11, U-13, U-15, U-17, U-19, Boys and Girls, Men and Women. The tournament showcased talent and passion for the game of Table Tennis in Karnataka, providing them a platform to compete at national level. It was great to watch the little ones U-11 and U-13 Boys and Girls punch their hands in the air and scream for every winning point. The tournament received good coverage by leading newspapers. The prizes and certificates were distributed to the winners by the various Committee Members of Canara Union, CUCT and officials of SVC Co-operative Bank Ltd.

The tournament arrangements were made in less than a week, which was a remarkable feat considering the scale and quality of the event. This would not have been possible without the support of our various committee members of both Canara Union and CUCT and staff. Special thanks to Shamrao Vittal Cooperative Bank Ltd. for their constant support and donations made to the tournament. The success of the 54th Canara Union State Ranking Tournament also goes to the support received from KTTA and its officials. The hospitality provided by Canara Union during these 4 days was appreciated by the officials of KTTA. It is always a privilege to be able to conduct such a great event in Canara Union and continue the legacy of the past.





Nainpally Gopalkrishna Memorial Drama Festival 29th & 30th November 2024 - A Centenary Gala



ANUJA MUDUR

Theatre enthusiasts were in for a treat on the 29th and 30th of November 2024.

The legendary Nainpally Gopalkrishna Memorial one-act drama festival at the Canara Union was held over that weekend. We had waited a long, long time (the last festival/competition was held in 2019) and this year seemed the right one to revive the tradition as the year 2024 is the centenary year of the birth anniversary of Nainpally Gopalkrishna maam. It was heartening to see the overwhelming response from our Canara Union members and other amchis who made it a point to book tickets well in advance to make it an almost house-full show on both the days.

On Day 1, the first play that was staged was the drama troupe Srishti's "Preeti ki Paiso". This play was directed by Shri Anand Nagarkar and translated from the original Goan play by Shri Ramchandra Kodange. The story revolved around the life of four orphaned siblings and the other people in each of their lives. The main idea of the story was to understand what is truly more important – Preeti ki Paiso – Love or Wealth? The striking quality depicted by the actors was the emotions that they brought out through their words, actions and expressions. The two child artistes, Purva Nagarmath and Arohi Basrur, were excellent in their acting and dialogue delivery. An important point to be noted here is that all the other artistes in this play were debutants. They supported the overall performance to the best of their abilities.



The second play on the same day was Bhoomika's "Silence Please" written by Shri Krishna and well-directed by Smt Rekha Heranjal. The play sent out a message that 'when the blind meet the dumb, what ensues is a series of misunderstandings and blame-games.' Highlights of the play were the command the actors had on their dialogues, actions and the smooth flow of the entire play. There were also moments of humour and laughter which were of great appeal to the audience. On the whole, an enjoyable play with powerful performances from the actors!



Day 2 brought us the first play "He koNe kelle?" by the drama troupe Ankur based on an Agatha Christie script and directed by Shri Gautam Ubhayakar. The spine-chilling story depicts how the protagonist's fall from her second floor balcony gets her doctor and a police inspector to investigate whether it was the result of an attempted murder, suicide or an accident. The impactful dialogues and the suspense kept the audience glued to their seats in anticipation of what would follow and how the mystery would unfold.





The final play of the festival was the Kannada play “Blackout.” This was put up by the theatre group Rangasiri and was directed by Shri Sandeep Pai. A play with a comical take on the otherwise mundane lives of an '80s household, it portrayed many facets like romance, swindling, flirtatious sarcasm, etc. It mainly depicted how characters change the situation according to their needs, resulting in a journey of laughter. Action-packed performances and quick, uninterrupted dialogue delivery made it a gripping watch for the audience.



The first three plays were Konkani plays and the fourth one was in Kannada. We are ever grateful to our discerning audience who came in large numbers and made it a great experience for our artistes. We appreciate the effort put in by the members of all four troupes and express special thanks to each of the directors for giving the cast and crew a platform to exhibit their talent. It is a matter of pride for the Canara Union Committee and the Arts Section that it continues the tradition of staging plays and nurturing talent and passion amongst those who are a part of such festivals.

VIDUSHI LALITH J. RAO HONOURED WITH THE GURUMA ANNAPURNA DEVI AWARD

TARA KINI

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MURALI KUMAR K.



It was indeed a precious moment, not just for Vidushi Lalith J. Rao and her family, her disciples, and admirers, but for the world of Hindustani classical music. Two trustees and a member of the Annapurna Devi Foundation had travelled from Mumbai on November 29th, 2024, to Lalithji's home in Malleswaram, Bengaluru, to bestow the prestigious award.

Ma Annapurna Devi, the brilliant Surbahar player, daughter of the legendary Baba Allauddin Khan, had herself established this foundation in 2015. This award in Ma Annapurna Devi's name seems particularly appropriate for Lalithji, who, like Ma Annapurna Devi, has been a devotee of Goddess Saraswati in the truest sense. With deep reverence for her Gurus, Lalithji has pursued music as an offering to them and to the art, never for any selfish reason.

Pandit Nityanand Haldipur, who looked after Ma Annapurna Devi as a devoted son would, is a Trustee of the Foundation. He said in his speech on the occasion of the award ceremony, that this award was being conferred on Lalithji, one of the finest vocalists of the country, and a senior guru of music. The trustees were conferring the award on Lalithji in her home owing to her fragile state of health, though the public event would be held in Pune on December 6th, followed by several concerts.

On behalf of Lalithji's disciples, I had the pleasure of speaking of the deep bond of affection and reverence that was shared by them with their Guru, which influenced every aspect of their lives, just as Nityanandji had experienced with Ma Annapurna Devi.



In her acceptance speech, Lalithji thanked the Foundation for conferring the prestigious award on her. She then proceeded to place the award, at the feet of her Dharma Guru H.H. Shrimat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji and her musical Gurus, Pandit Rama Rao Naik, Pandit Dinkar Kaikini, and Padma Bhushan Ustad Khadim Hussain Khan. She felt honoured and overwhelmed, she said, to be the recipient of an award in the name of Ma Annapurna Devi, who was a creative genius, whose disciples were the only lucky ones to be able to hear and receive the superlative music of the reclusive artist. The award also placed a great responsibility on her, Lalithji said.

She stressed the importance of family support essential for every artist, citing the fact that if it had not been for an understanding family, Nityanandji would never have been able to serve Ma Annapurna Devi in the way he had done. Her own husband Jayavanth, she said, had been her backbone, greatest support, and staunchest critic.



The ceremony was attended by several leading musicians and personalities of Bengaluru. Pandit Vinayak Torvi, Vidwan Anoor Ananthakrishna Sharma, Vidwan R.K. Padmanabha, Pandit Nagarajrao Havaldar, Pandit Ravindra Yavagal, Shri Dattatreya Velankar, Shri Udayaraj Karpur, Shri

Shashibhushan Gurjar and Shri Ravindra Katoti. The famous photographers Sreedharmurthy and Saggere Radhakrishna, journalists C.S. Sarvamangala and Deepa Ganesh, noted film maker Maya Chandra, and impressario G.S. Hegde were also present.

Shri Jayavanth Rao honoured the Trustees, Pandit Nityanand Haldipur and Shri Prafull Rai with shawls. Nityanandji's disciple, Hemant Krishna, maintained a beautiful flow to the evening's events, as the master of ceremonies. An interesting point that he made was that both Ma Annapurna Devi and Vidushi Lalith Rao had broken the glass ceiling in their times.

In a moving speech, Pandit Vinayak Torvi prayed for good health and a long life for Lalithji and Shri Jayavanth Rao, so that every aspect of the music of Agra Gharana could be preserved and taken to future generations by the students who were being trained by Lalithji.

A grand high tea in celebration of the event, afforded an opportunity for all to mingle with musicians, friends and family who had gathered.

The music of several generations seemed to resound in the room and lent grandeur to a simple but unique award ceremony. Each person felt the genius of two great Gurus and dedicated musicians reverberate in their hearts, Guru Lalith J. Rao and Ma Annapurna Devi.



MY FIGHT AGAINST LIFE'S HARDEST BATTLES

SHILPA KALBAG



Quotes on life always inspire us in many ways. One that motivates me tremendously comes from author and poet Reyna Biddy: "Switch your mentality from 'I'm broken and helpless' to 'I'm growing and healing' and watch how fast your life changes, for the better."

I'm Shilpa Kalbag, Hypnotherapist, Spiritual Past Life Regression Practitioner, Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP) Practitioner and now also an entrepreneur. But my life was not always the same. Let me take you through a small flashback of how I came out of something infinitely challenging, and I hope my story inspires each one of you to overcome your own difficulties in life.



I was born and brought up in a middle-class family in Hyderabad. After my secondary schooling, we shifted to Mangalore, where we continued leading a simple and happy life. After my graduation, I got married and we were soon blessed with two beautiful daughters.

When everything in life seemed just about perfect, I was diagnosed with cancer to everybody's dismay. Treatment was started immediately, with several sessions of chemotherapy that continued for six months!

Though I survived the chemotherapy, I had plunged into an intense depression. It was a phase that was incredibly traumatic for me and my husband to deal with. Fears and anxieties of all kinds -- about the situation, about survival, of the future -- seemed to always lurk everywhere around! There were even occasional thoughts of ending my life. I had to look for someone who could help me out of what I was going through. Fortunately, I managed to find a counsellor in Malleswaram who changed my thinking and guided me to a new world. I learnt new things that I had never heard of! Studying hypnosis and counselling was absolutely new to me, but my urge to learn seemed unstoppable. I completed my course in Hypnotherapy, Spiritual Past Life Regression, NLP and other healing techniques. Apart from that, since I've always loved cooking, I learnt how to make chocolates and scented designer candles.

Today I have bounced back in life as the proud founder and CEO of my own company called Parijnan Creations (https://www.instagram.com/shilpa.kalbag__2478/). Launched in the year 2021, our venture crafts homemade chocolate goodies and customised scented designer candles. We were awarded Best Home and Craft Startup of

the Year in 2023 by PRCI (Public Relations Council of India), while on the personal front, I managed to win the Best Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2024 from JCOM (Jaycees Chamber of Commerce).

Despite the laurels, I've continued to learn so many new things from the people around me. When I look back at the dark days I endured, it was not just my counsellor Dr. C J Jeyachander who supported me but even my close family and loved ones. Finally, it is left to oneself to struggle and fight from the inside and come out

of precarious situations in life!

Life is never about ending one's life when something bad happens. It's about how courageously you come out of the situation. Always have the goal of never giving up, no matter what the situation. Always keep your head high and look directly into the eyes of Fear.

I'd like to end my article with another quote, this one from American civil rights activist Rosa Parks:

"I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear."



[Adapted from an article originally featured on www.wonderwomanwednesday.com]

Don't look back and think what you have not been able to do.

- Ratan Tata, Industrialist

INTRODUCTION TO POPULAR SAVINGS PLANS

NARESH BANTWAL



Saving money is crucial for financial stability, future planning, and dealing with unforeseen expenses. With a wide variety of saving instruments available, individuals can make well-informed decisions that align with their financial goals and risk appetite. From traditional bank accounts to more modern investment avenues, each saving option caters to a unique need. Let us explore some of the popular saving options, covering traditional, government-backed, market-linked, and modern choices.

Traditional Savings Schemes

Bank Savings Accounts (SB)

A savings account is the most fundamental saving option that most Indians turn to. With easy access to money and moderate interest rates of 3-6%, a savings account provides liquidity and safety. The convenience of deposits, withdrawals, and online banking services make this an accessible tool for individuals to store emergency funds. Though returns are not high, the flexibility offered makes savings accounts one of the most popular choices for financial planning.



Bank Fixed Deposits

Fixed Deposits, or FDs, are offered by banks and financial institutions to individuals who want a guaranteed return on their savings. By investing a lumpsum amount for a specific tenure, ranging from a few months to several years, people can earn interest rates of 5-7%, which are usually higher than those of savings accounts. FDs come with an option for cumulative or non-cumulative returns, allowing investors to either receive regular interest payouts or reinvest to compound their returns.

Bank Recurring Deposits

Recurring Deposits (RDs) are ideal for those who wish to invest smaller amounts regularly rather than one lumpsum. In RDs, individuals deposit a fixed amount every month for a pre-decided tenure, after which the principal and interest are paid back. RDs help inculcate a disciplined savings habit and yield slightly better interest rates than savings accounts, usually in the range of 5-6%.

Government-Backed Savings Schemes

Public Provident Fund (PPF)

The Public Provident Fund (PPF) is a long-term savings option backed by the Government of India. It offers tax-free returns, which makes it a preferred choice among individuals looking for both safety and substantial returns. PPF has a lock-in tenure of 15 years, and the interest rate, which is revised every quarter by the government, typically hovers around 7-8%.

Deposits made in PPF are eligible for tax deductions under Section 80C, providing a dual benefit of growth and tax savings. One can invest in the name of their minor children or grandchildren and claim tax benefits.

National Savings Certificate (NSC)

The National Savings Certificate (NSC) is a fixed-income investment scheme available at post offices. NSCs have a tenure of five years and provide a guaranteed return, which is currently around 6.8%. Like PPF, investments in NSC are also eligible for deductions under Section 80C of the Income Tax Act. NSCs are particularly popular among risk-averse investors who are seeking safe investment avenues with reasonable returns. Banks offer loans against pledging of NSCs.

Sukanya Samridhi Yojana (SSY)

Government of India has launched as part of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative, the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana (SSY). This scheme is aimed at securing the future of a girl child. Parents or guardians can open an SSY account at designated banks or post offices in the name of their girl child below the age of 10. It offers a competitive interest rate, currently around 8%, and provides tax benefits under Section 80C. The maturity period is 21 years from the date of opening, with partial withdrawals allowed for educational purposes.



National Pension Scheme (NPS)

The National Pension Scheme (NPS) is a government-sponsored retirement-focused investment plan. Individuals contribute regularly to their pension account, and upon retirement, they receive a part of the corpus as a lumpsum, while the rest is used to buy an annuity that ensures a regular income. These funds are managed by designated fund managers like HDFC PMC, ICICI PMC, LIC Pension Fund, etc. The pooled funds are invested primarily in equities, corporate debt, or government securities. This is a long-term savings option that provides tax benefits under Sections 80C and 80CCD.

Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS)

The Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS) is designed to provide financial security to senior citizens above the age of 60. With a tenure of five years, SCSS offers an attractive interest rate of 7.4%, which is payable quarterly. It also has tax benefits under Section 80C. Given its risk-free nature and regular interest payouts, SCSS is a suitable savings option for retirees looking for a steady source of income.



Market-Linked Savings Options

Mutual Funds

Mutual funds are a popular investment avenue among individuals who are looking for higher returns as compared to traditional savings

options. These pool money from multiple investors to invest in stocks, bonds, or other securities. Depending on risk appetite, one can choose equity, debt, or hybrid mutual funds. Equity funds, though riskier, provide higher potential returns, while debt funds are more stable. Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) allow individuals to invest small amounts regularly, which makes mutual funds more accessible and easier to implement.

Equity-Linked Savings Scheme (ELSS)

Equity-Linked Savings Scheme (ELSS) is a type of mutual fund that comes with tax benefits. ELSS has a lock-in period of three years, which is shorter as compared to other tax-saving instruments like PPF or NSC. Investments made in ELSS are eligible for deductions under Section 80C. Since ELSS funds primarily invest in equities, these come with some risk but have the potential for substantial returns.

Unit Linked Insurance Plans (ULIP)

Unit Linked Insurance Plans (ULIP) combine insurance coverage with investment benefits. A portion of the premium goes towards life insurance, while the rest is invested in equity or debt instruments. ULIPs provide flexibility in choosing funds based on one's risk appetite. These have a lock-in period of five years and offer tax benefits under Section 80C. ULIPs are suitable for individuals looking to combine life insurance with market-linked growth.

Alternative Saving Avenues

Gold

Gold has always been an attractive investment option for Indians, not just for its cultural value but also as a hedge against inflation. Apart from purchasing physical gold, investors can opt for digital gold, gold ETFs, or government-

backed Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs). SGBs are particularly popular because these offer periodic nominal interest along with the appreciation in gold value, making it a smart way to invest in this precious metal without dealing with the physical asset itself. SGBs offer capital gains exemption on maturity.



Real Estate

Real estate remains one of the preferred long-term investment avenues for many Indians. Investing in residential or commercial properties can provide good returns over time through capital appreciation and rental income. However, it requires significant initial capital or access to long-term housing loans and has low liquidity, making it more suitable for those with a longer investment horizon and the ability to handle higher risk.

Online Apps and Platforms

With advancements in technology, digital savings apps such as MFU India, CAMS, Groww, Zerodha, INDmoney, Upstox, ET Money and various online mutual fund platforms have gained in popularity. These



platforms make savings and investing simple and accessible. This has made financial planning more streamlined for tech-savvy investors by offering SIPs, mutual funds, and even direct investment in stocks.

Conclusion

Saving money is essential for achieving financial goals, whether it be for purchasing a home, funding a child's education, or for securing one's retirement. With so many savings options available, each catering to different needs and risk appetites, individuals

can diversify their asset portfolio for balanced growth. From safe options like bank FDs and PPF to market-linked schemes like mutual funds and ELSS, there is a savings scheme for every type of investor. Understanding these various avenues and aligning these with one's personal financial goals can lead to better wealth creation and financial security.

[Interest rates mentioned in this article are subject to change from time to time.]

It is very simple to be happy but very difficult to be simple.

- Rabindranath Tagore, Poet and Philosopher

PERSONALIA

Dear Members of the Canara Union,

The Canara Union frequently gets enquiries about personal announcements. These are personal in nature, usually small, and are generally about the following:

- births, weddings, engagements, thread ceremonies
- items for sale
- services available (catering, paying guest accommodation etc)
- student performance
- success at work, awards, personalia information etc
- change of address, relocation
- seeking information about services available

'**THE INDEPENDENT PAGE**', for small-format, half- and full-page announcements will be published at a nominal rate. The tariff will be as follows + GST of 18%:

Upto 50 words	-	Rs 100.00 without photo
51 to 150 words	-	Rs 150.00 with photo if any
151 to 250 words	-	Rs 250.00 with photo if any

Also:

Full-page feature/ad of A4 size	-	Rs 700/- per page
Half-page	-	Rs 300/- per half-page

Please send all announcements to the Canara Union by the 16th of the month.

CANARA UNION SPORTS COMPETITIONS
25th DECEMBER 2024 TO 26th JANUARY 2025

DAY	DATE	TIMING	AGE	EVENT
WEDNESDAY	25.12.2024	10.00 A.M.	ALL AGES	INDOOR/OUTDOOR SPORTS - REGISTER WITH MAHESH UBHAYAKAR 7019130181
		5.00 P.M.	ALL AGES	JUMBLED WISDOM - REGISTER GAME WITH PRAKASH JOTHADY 9845844663
SUNDAY	29.12.2024	10.00 A.M.	10 & ABOVE	CARD GAMES - RUMMY - REGISTER WITH PRAKASH AROOR 9901560602
		5.30 P.M.	10 & ABOVE	MEMORY GAME - REGISTER WITH PRAKASH JOTHADY 9845844663
SATURDAY	11.01.2025	10.00 A.M.	ALL AGES	RANGOLI - NOTE: CHANNI/SIEVE, FLOWERS OR GRAINS NOT TO BE USED. NO REFERENCE PAPERS SHOULD BE BROUGHT - REGISTER WITH SHRUTHI UBHAYAKAR 9423008640 / JYOTHI HALDIPUR 9886059623
		5.00 P.M.	ALL AGES	ANTHAKSHARI - REGISTER WITH RESHMA NAIMPALLY 9886008581 OR ROSHNI KUMTA 9886678587
SUNDAY	12.01.2025	10.00 AM	ALL AGES	DRAWING COMPETITION - REGISTER WITH SHRUTHI UBHAYAKAR 9423008640 / JYOTHI HALDIPUR 9886059623
		5.00 P.M.	ALL AGES	KONKANI ELOCUTION CONTEST - REGISTER WITH ANAND NAGARKAR 9886355508
SATURDAY	18.01.2025	5.00 P.M.	ALL AGES	KUNKDA MANKDA LAGNA QUIZ - REGISTER WITH PRAKASH JOTHADY 9845844663
SUNDAY	19.01.2025	10.00 A.M.	ALL AGES	BOARD GAMES - CARROM, CHESS - REGISTER WITH SANJAY MAVINKURVE 9448485357 TABLE TENNIS - REGISTER WITH UDAY CHANDRAGIRI 94802235091
		5.00 P.M.	ALL AGES	SINGING COMPETITION - REGISTER WITH ANAND NAGARKAR - 9886355508 - FILM SONGS & BHAJANS (FILM & NON-FILM)
SATURDAY	25.01.2025	5.00 P.M.	10 ABOVE	WHAT'S THE GOOD WORD - REGISTER WITH UDAY CHANDRAGIRI 9480235091
SUNDAY	26.01.2025	9.30 A.M.	ADULTS	TREASURE HUNT ON WHEELS - TEAMS OF TWO. THE RIDER SHOULD BE AN ADULT WITH A VALID DRIVING LICENSE. BOTH MUST WEAR HELMETS. REGISTER WITH NIRAD MUDUR & ANUJA MUDUR 9980402654
		5.00 P.M.	ALL AGES	FANCY DRESS - REGISTER WITH SHEETAL SHIRALI 9886225732
		7.30 P.M.		PRIZE DISTRIBUTION

NOTE:

- 1) ALL THE ABOVE COMPETITIONS ARE OPEN ONLY TO MEMBERS, ASSOCIATE MEMBERS, THEIR FAMILIES & AMCHIS
- 2) PARTICIPANTS ARE REQUESTED TO REGISTER THEIR NAMES IN ADVANCE OR ARRIVE BEFORE THE START TIME
- 3) FOR FURTHER DETAILS, PLEASE CONTACT THE CANARA UNION OFFICE ON 080 23342625
- 4) All programs are subject to change. An event may be cancelled for want of sufficient entries.
- 5) Decision of the organisers/judges/referees will be final and binding in all competitions.

Sanjay Mavinkurve
CU Hon. Secretary - SPORTS

Report on the Activities of the Bangalore Local Sabha for the Month of November 2024

Reported by **SAIKRUPA NALKUR**

On 10th November, Shashtyabdapurti Janma Divasa of HH Shrimat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji was observed with Bhashya Pathana, Navratri Nityapath, Samoohika Devi Anushthanam and Arati followed by prasad bhojana. On the 11th, the idol installation day of HH Shrimad Anandashram Swamiji was observed with Ashtavadhana Seva. On the 12th, on the auspicious occasion of Jagarani Ekadashi, Akhanda Bhajan was rendered by sadhaka-s. On the 13th, on the auspicious occasion of Tulasi Pujan and the date-wise Janma Diwas of HH Shrimat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji, Samuhika Guru Pujana was performed followed by Tulasipujana by Ved Shri Karnad Bhat mam. On the 15th, on the occasion of Kartika Purnima, Samuhika Durga Namaskara was performed. On the 24th, Samaradhana of H.H. Shrimat Vamanashram Swamiji was observed with Bhashya Pathana and Ashtavadhana Seva.

On 11th December, Gita Jayanti was observed with Sampurna Gita Pathana by sadhaka-s and Shrimad Bhagavadgita Pujana. In the evening, there was welcome address by Bengaluru Local Sabha President, Shri Chaitanya Shiroor maam, talk by Chief Guest Smt Sunetra Nagarkatti, followed by Bhashya Pathana and prasad vitarana.

Samvit Sudha® creations, products made of fabric and handmade paper, and books for children under the "Parijna Series" and upcycled products under "Holding Hands" are available at Shri Chitrapur Math, Bengaluru.

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Website: www.samvitsudha.com

Contact: Shobha Ulpe 8861715493, Shruthi Ubhayakar 9423008640, Sheela Nagarkatti 9343093002

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Send CVs to vivek.kelkar@ascendantcommerce.com or WhatsApp CV to 9448342271

OBITUARY

We convey our deepest sympathies to the family and relatives of

Shri Vinod Gangoli, aged 80 years, on 4 December 2024 in Bengaluru

Smt Sumitra K S, aged 92 years, on 15 December 2024 in Bengaluru

Shri Ravi Mankikar, aged 62 years, on 17 December 2024 in Bengaluru

Smt Devyani Mohandas, aged 90 years, on 20 December 2024



THE CANARA UNION (REGD.)

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Website : www.canaraunion.co.in

Notice to Donors of Canara Union's FCRA Account

With the changes in the Foreign Contribution Regulations Act (FCRA), it has become mandatory to channelize all foreign donations by a social/charitable organization in India through the State Bank of India, New Delhi, Main Branch (SBI-NDMB). In accordance with this new FCRA Regulation, Canara Union has opened a new FCRA Account with SBI (NDMB), New Delhi. Hence, the old FCRA account with Bank of India, Margosa Road, Malleswaram, Bengaluru cannot be used for any foreign inward remittance.

We give below the details of the new designated account where the Foreign donations should be remitted.

Name of the Bank: State Bank of India, New Delhi Main Branch
Address: FCRA Cell, 4th Floor, New Delhi Main Branch, 11 Sansad Marg,
New Delhi – 110001,
Account No: 40255120262 (FCRA Savings Account)
Branch Code: 00691
IFSC No: SBIN0000691
SWIFT: SBININBB104
Purpose Code: P1303

All foreign institutions and individual Donors, will have to remit their donations only through the above designated SBI bank FCRA Account. A person of Indian origin, holding a foreign passport, will be covered by the term “foreigner” for the purpose of FCRA. Foreigners having an NRO account in India, if he chooses to use the funds from that NRO account for donation purposes, will also need to transfer to the above stated account only, as it is classified as foreign source donation under the FCRA rules. Donors are advised to use the swift code while doing the remittance for faster transfer. We also request all donors to intimate the Canara Union office of the remittance and clearly state the purpose of the donation (Scholarships, Medical or Distress) and whether it is towards corpus (endowments) or to be disbursed in the year of receipt for the stated purpose. We also request you to give the passport copy, the tax code/identification number, if any, for our various compliance and audit purposes.

(Canara Union Hon. Gen. Secretary: canaraunion@gmail.com)

Prakash Aroor
Hon. President
prakash.aroor@gmail.com

Harishchand Sujir
Hon. Treasurer
sujirharish@gmail.com



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