



CANARA UNION NEWSLETTER

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www.canaraunion.co.in

Vol.LXXII No. 05

May 2025



Photographs by Vidya Sagar (Rameshwaram Beach)

Programmes for the Month of May 2025

Sunday 11 5.30 p.m.

Hindustani Music Concert – Musical Tribute to Bharat Ratna Pt. Bhimsen
Joshi and Gaanasaraswati Kishore Amonkar - details inside

FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT

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

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,
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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.

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Hon. Gen. Secretary:	Meera Philar	
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Member –	Anand Kilpady	anandkilpady@gmail.com

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

March 2025 ended with Ugadi at the Canara Union. It was probably one of the highest attended with about 400 members and their friends, the audience spilling out into the grounds and beyond the shamiana. It was thrilling and I was reminded of Ugadi in the 1950s and 1960s, noisy and joyous!

The programme began with a Panchang Vaachan by a group led by Ved. Shri Baddukuli Radhakrishna Bhat and was followed by paanak-panvaar. The highlight of the evening and going with the mood of the new year was the bright and lively concert by a group of Gen-next singers.



The programme was organised by Anand Nagarkar (Secretary - Arts and Culture), Shashank Sanade and Gautam Ubhayakar. It was brilliantly conceived, seeking to bring very talented young singers presenting film songs, old and new, that had a base in or a feel of a Hindustani raag. They were accompanied by a wonderful orchestra. The delightful part was the beautiful dances by the two little girls. For the audience there was complete immersion in the magic of film songs, and most people stayed right up to the end!

THE CANARA UNION
Invites you to
Grand Yugādi Celebrations - 2025
Presenting our Gen-next Singers
Shrestha Herenjal, Vaibhavi Kadange
Kartik Shukla, Abhishek Nagarkar, Anant Nagarkar, Omkar Bhat
With
Rohit, Shiva, Kumar, Rajesh, Amith
On Sunday, 30th March 2025, at The Gazebo, Canara Union
Panchang Vachan at 4.30 pm - Followed by Paanak-panvaar
Orchestra Music Programme thereafter





At such times, I always think of the hard work that has gone into preparing for this evening of music, the many rehearsals with people, almost all of who have jobs which keep them busy with long hours. It spoke to me of the commitment of all—directors, singers, orchestra. My warm congratulations!

April was another active month for our Arts and Culture section. The first was a wonderful concert by two artistes, Shadaj Iyer and Shatavisha Mukherjee, accompanied by Rajendra Nakod (tabla) and Satish Kolli (harmonium), organised by Sursagar in association with the Canara Union. The following day, we had another excellent concert organised by us, and this time the artiste was Nishant Panicker who is a disciple of Vidushi Lalith J Rao.



Though Nishant has performed on our stage before along with other disciples of Vidushi Lalith J Rao, this was the first time he was performing solo. The concert was organised as a shraddhanjali to our own tabla maestro, the late Shri Gourang Kodical. This was probably among Nishant's most brilliant concerts and the audience, held in its enchantment, gave him and the accompanists a standing ovation.

We are extremely thankful to the SVC Cooperative Bank for co-sponsoring the programme. Thank you, Nishant, and most importantly our thanks must go to Shri Jayavanth Rao and Vidushi Lalith J Rao for suggesting Nishant's name, and the accompanists, Shri Shashibhushan Gurjar and Shri Surya Upadhya. An unforgettable evening.

April is also an important month for a different reason. Our young boys and girls are at the crossroads, having completed the milestone stage of their future career and aspirations, the Pre-university/12th standard examinations. To those who will do well, my hearty congratulations. To those who don't, I urge you, with all my heart, not to despair. There are many avenues open to the young today, many courses leading to good careers. Just be persistent, and work hard. All the best to all.

PRAKASH AROOR

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 Monthly Distress Relief Fund

A Well-Wisher

Rs. 12,000.00

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.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

The medical equipment donated by members to Canara Union are meant to help patients tide over their immediate requirement for a period not exceeding 3 months. If required beyond 3 months, members are requested to make alternative arrangements. (This will help equipment availability to others in need.) All requests need to be made either by email or letters. Henceforth, a nominal refundable deposit will be collected, as follows:

Walking Stick: Rs.100/- Walker: Rs.250/- Wheelchair: Rs.500/- Hospital Bed: Rs.1000/Rs.2000.

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

LISTINGS

We would like to feature new LISTINGS about the availability of services in and around us. Those who cater to any professional services from their homes and small offices, and would like to be included in this listing, please email brief and concise details to meeraphilar79@gmail.com

DEAR PARENTS AND CHILDREN

Thank you for the photographs/paintings/drawings you send us. Please continue to send us these. We would like you to send us articles/stories from time to time, which will be published at the discretion of the Editor. Please email these to meeraphilar79@gmail.com

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:
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Address:

Date: _____
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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 _____)
towards The Canara Union Endowment Funds detailed below:

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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
Cultural Endowment Fund		The Canara Union(Regd) Cultural Endowment Fund Account No 10600 31300 18703 SVC Co-operative Bank Ltd., IFSC Code: SVCB0000060
Sports Endowment Fund		The Canara Union(Regd) Sports Endowment Fund Account No 10600 31300 18704 SVC Co-operative Bank Ltd., IFSC Code: SVCB0000060
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- Is to be distributed in the next occasion for disbursement as decided by the Canara Union.

The donation is given in the memory of:

I have attached a copy of my PAN CARD and PROOF OF ADDRESS.

Regards,

Signature
Phone No:



CANARA UNION
ARTS SECTION

&

the NAYAL FAMILY

Present

A MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO **BHARAT RATNA PT. BHIMSEN JOSHI** AND
GAANASARASWATI KISHORE AMONKAR THROUGH A PRESENTATION OF ABHANG,
GAZAL, THUMARI, NATYASAGEET AND BANDISHES IMMORTALIZED BY THEM.



VOCALS : ABHISHEK KALE | DR. RADHIKA JOSHI



Accompanists:

Tabla: Roopak Kallurkar

Harmonium: Prawara Sandeep

Sutradhaar: Vasanthi Hariprakash

Date: 11th May 2025

Time: 5:30 PM

Venue : Canara Union, Malleswaram, Bengaluru.

ENTRY FREE

Contact : Devesh Nayel +91 98455 16704



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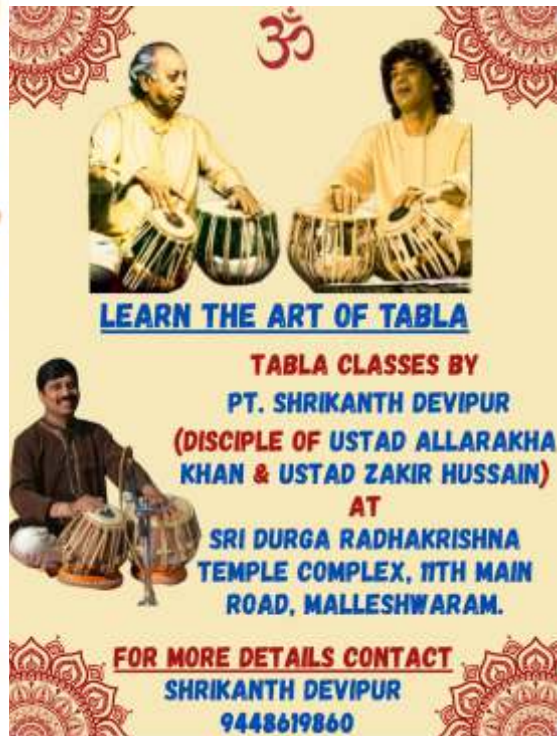
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

April 2025 issue has come out very nice. Thanks to the editorial team's efforts and interest in making CUNL interesting, informative and showcasing the activities of our Canara Union. "Letters to the Editor" and the initial responses were welcome. I am sure more and more readers will participate and make CUNL an eagerly awaited magazine.

- Naresh Bantwal



LEARN THE ART OF TABLA

TABLA CLASSES BY
PT. SHRIKANTH DEVIPUR
(DISCIPLE OF USTAD ALLARAKHA KHAN & USTAD ZAKIR HUSSAIN)

AT
SRI DURGA RADHAKRISHNA TEMPLE COMPLEX, 11TH MAIN ROAD, MALLESHWARAM.

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT
SHRIKANTH DEVIPUR
9448619860

The Amchi Catering Service



The Amchi Catering Services

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A FASCINATING VOYAGE ACROSS SOUTH INDIA - PART 1: MADURAI AND RAMESHWARAM

VIDYA SAGAR



South India has a rich cultural heritage showcasing diverse culture, ancient temples and spiritual traditions. The magnificent temples there are not just places of worship, but valuable centres of art and architecture, historical significance and vibrant traditions. I really wonder sometimes why despite being born and brought up and living in Bangalore for so many years, I had not visited many such famous places in South India. So, when we got this opportunity and some free time, my husband and I planned this sojourn through the region.

history, beautiful architecture and breathtaking landscapes. Here are some glimpses of our incredible voyage through South India:

The first city on our itinerary was Madurai, famous for its rich cultural heritage, particularly its ancient temples and rich history. Our primary aim was to visit the Meenakshi temple, the crown jewel of Madurai dedicated to Devi Meenakshi and Shri Sundareswaran. As we entered the temple premises, I was spellbound seeing the architecture, the sculpted passageways, gopurams, and the thousands



Our week-long journey from Bangalore to Madurai, Rameswaram, Kanyakumari, Trivandrum, Cochin, and back home was an enriching and transformative experience. Every city that we visited offered us a unique blend of

of figures depicting stories from Indian mythology. We had a long wait before getting the darshan of Meenachi Ammal (as she is known in Tamil Nadu) and Sundareswaran. As I watched the beautiful deities with awe and reverence, my eyes filled up with tears involuntarily. The Aayiram Kaal Mandapam, Golden Lotus Tank, and the Hall of Thousand Pillars are some of the highlights of the temple. There is a strict dress code and mobiles phones or cameras are not allowed inside the temple. These must be kept within the lockers provided outside by the temple authorities.



Meenakshi Ammal Temple, Madurai

We then visited the famous Thirumalai Nayaka Palace which represents a unique blend of Italian, Dravidian and Islamic architectural styles. We were fascinated by the beautifully hand-painted ceilings, magnificently sculpted

interiors, and the majestic pillars depicting the life of the 17th century king Thirumalai Nayaka. The palace has been declared a national monument by the Tamil Nadu Archaeological Department. There is a light and sound show arranged every evening which is among the most attractive features of this palace. The show is held in both English and Tamil. Since we visited the palace during the day and had to head later to Rameshwaram, we missed the show and plan to include it in our next visit.



Thirumalai Nayaka Palace and Throne, Madurai

En route to Rameshwaram, we viewed the mighty Pamban bridge built across the Bay of Bengal, connecting the island of Rameshwaram to our mainland. We were amazed to see this engineering marvel, the longest bridge in India constructed over a bay. It is 2.05 kms long with a unique 72 m vertical split. We walked along the bridge and had a great view of the sea. It is India's first vertical-lift sea bridge and has been compared to famous bridges like the Golden Gate Bridge in the USA, Tower Bridge in the UK, and the Oresund Bridge between Denmark and Sweden



Pamban Bridge, Rameshwaram

because of its modern design and technology.

After reaching Rameshwaram, our first destination was the Ramanathasamy Temple. At the temple we were struck with wonder to see the famous thousand pillared corridor. I felt I was in a dream witnessing its magnificence as the sun cast its golden rays, highlighting the colours of the exquisitely painted pillars. I felt transported into a timeless era of beauty and splendour.

After a 15 km drive, we reached Dhanushkodi, the southernmost tip of Rameshwaram, famous for its intriguing history, natural beauty and ruins from the devastating cyclone of 1964. Driving down the newly constructed road, we reached the Ashoka Pillar that marks land's end. With the ocean on either side of the road, we walked on and reached the rocks. Sitting on the boulders and watching the waves crash on to the shore was a beautiful experience. We then walked back to explore the ruins left behind by the horrific cyclone. We saw an abandoned railway station, church, and a few other buildings that were once part of the prosperous port city. It is said that during the British era, the town had prosperous businesses and trade, with travellers commuting regularly between Dhanushkodi and Sri Lanka!

Fishing is the main livelihood of the people of Dhanushkodi at present. We saw various stalls selling artifacts made from shells and we bought quite a few to take home as



Ashoka Pillar and Church Ruins at Dhanushkodi



Glimpses of the Ramanathaswamy Temple and Thousand Pillared Corridor

memorabilia. There were stalls selling seafood prepared fresh from the catch of the day. Colourful fishing boats add to the beauty of the landscape while the sound of the waves crashing on the shore was wonderful to listen to. Dhanushkodi is one of the few places where we can see both sunrise and sunset over the ocean.

We then climbed up the 49-meter-high lighthouse tower, from the top of which we get a panoramic view of the sea and the surroundings. We could see a sandy patch that is believed to be the Ram Sethu, also called the Adam's Bridge.



Glimpses of Dhanushkodi



We later visited the Kothandarama Swamy Temple and Hanuman Temple believed to be more than a thousand years old. We were amazed to learn that the massive cyclone of 1964 had left these temples unscathed! The

former, surrounded by the Bay of Bengal on one side and the Gulf of Mannar on the other, has many legends attached to it pertaining to Shri Rama. We had to climb numerous steps to reach the temples. The beautiful view and the



View from the Lighthouse



View of Rama Sethu in the Distance



Rama Paduka



Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Museum

gentle breeze at the top where the temple is located was very calming.

At Rameshwaram, a visit to the Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Museum, is a must! It was the most enriching experience that left an indelible impression on me. This museum is a wonderful tribute to Bharat Ratna Dr Kalam's life and achievements. It is housed within his childhood residence and encapsulates his journey from humble beginnings to a national hero remarkably well. I could feel the aura of simplicity and dedication that characterised his

life while I was in the precincts. The exhibits showcase Dr. Kalam's early years, academic pursuits, and his illustrious career as a scientist and leader. The collection includes personal memorabilia, including photographs, books, and even his handwritten notes, which offer a glimpse into his intellectual acumen and commitment to transforming his motherland.

Models of some of the important projects that he worked on like the SLV-III and Agni missile are also displayed here, highlighting his contribution to the defence and space missions of India. The many quotes and anecdotes displayed serve as a source of inspiration, reminding visitors of his far-sighted vision for developing India through advancement in science and technology. I felt that this museum is not just a collection of artifacts of an illustrious leader but a legacy of perseverance and the highest pursuit of excellence. As we left the museum, I felt immense admiration for the great personality who continues to inspire millions even today.



UNIVERSALS IN OUR LIVES

USHA AROOR



I get my word 'universals' from a beautiful British Airways advertisement that appeared several years ago and which featured children in two photograph frames. The text below the first one read:

Children always walk to school.

And the second one:

They *always* run back home.

There are many such universals, shared across all human behaviour, no matter where we live. Here is a mostly lighthearted look at some.

One of these occurs when we have made some food item and are sharing it with a friend. She or he clearly enjoys it but says, '..... makes it even better.' Or '..... doesn't use milk, she makes it with curd which gives it a better taste.' Or 'My mother used to make this.

No one makes it like her.’ And so what we have taken the trouble to make and serve is left unacknowledged.

Another universal is also usually about food. You have taken some, say, samosas, to share with friends. As they are eating it, one of them says, ‘You get better samosas in’ (and names a shop). He is contradicted by another friend who says, ‘No, no, [names another shop] is even better.’ And so it goes on!



Language is a big field of universals! One of these is that there is a tendency in us to correct someone who is trying, in text or conversation, to use a phrase from a language they are new to, or a language they like but do not know well. They want to use the phrase and feel good about using it. They are almost always corrected, and often when they are still speaking, or writing a text.

I am reminded of the time when I was new to Lucknow and to the ‘shudh’ Hindi that had set

in in the late 1950s. I lost hard-gained confidence because someone would always correct the phrase itself, the grammar or the pronunciation (including the syllable to be stressed—and mind you, Hindi, unlike English, is not a stress-timed language!) It wasn’t a teacher or an examiner, it was always someone who didn’t need to correct me, because the meaning was clear enough—for example, a friend, or while buying something.

I remember once I was buying travel tickets in Lucknow at the railway station counter. I said to the man, ‘Kripa Kanpur ke doh tickets.’ The man at the counter looked up and proceeded to correct me. “‘Krip-ya” kahiye, “kripa”nahin,’ he said severely. ‘Aur hindi mein angrezi bahuvachan [English plural forms] ka prayog nahin hota hai. “Ticket”, kahiye, “tickets” nahin.’ Hey, I got free Hindi lessons while buying train tickets!



Universals are also about competition. When we were growing up, there were friends who, when a new film was released, went to what was called ‘first-day-first-show’. It was a matter of triumph, the thrill of I’ve-seen-the-film-before-you. The thing was the provocation always worked, and one felt overtaken and even a little jealous, so much so that one didn’t want to

be in a group that was discussing the film! This first-show race works worldwide. When the Star Wars new episodes were released in the US in 2015 (*The Force Awakens*) and 2019 (*The Rise of Skywalker*), fans went to the cinemas the night before and actually slept rough on the pavements around to be early in the queue for tickets!

Long years ago, a neighbour whose daughter was the same age as our daughter said to me, 'How do you spell your daughter's name?' We were both seeking admission for our daughters to the same school and class. Puzzled about why he was asking, we answered, 'The usual way—A-P-A-R-N-A.' Upon which he smiled. 'My daughter's name is Arthi. But for the school, I am going to change it to A-A-R-T-H-I.' 'But why,' we asked, still not understanding. 'So that she will always be first in the attendance register and called first in any interviews they attend

together—in fact, before anyone whose name begins with a single A!' This tendency for primacy is more common than we realise.

And when someone says in a whisper, referring to someone we can see, 'Don't look now, don't point,' we always look 'now' and always point, don't we?

And finally, for true laughter, a universal about girl siblings, especially. True for me and maybe for many others as well. It goes like this. Some kind adults would give my sister and me, little girls then, some sweets—an equal number, carefully counted out. I, the younger of the two, would gobble the sweets at supersonic speed, then look hopefully at my sister. No prizes for guessing what my kind sister did. I think older siblings were created for these noble purposes.

A SYMPHONY OF SMELLS

PRAKASH JOTHADY



I discovered I had forgotten to wear my mask this morning as I laced up my shoes for my regular stroll over Malleswaram. I first had a tinge of fear at missing my customary protection, but as soon as I walked outdoors the vivid tapestry of smells enveloped the air and rapidly calmed my concerns.

Early in the morning Malleswaram is a sensory paradise. The roads smell like mogra (jasmine) as the sun peaks over the horizon. Often spreading this exquisite flower aroma in gifts

and garlands, India enjoys its seductive sweetness. Along with the jasmine, citrus scents suggesting freshness and vitality fly around, mixing with deeper notes of holy sandalwood, which conjure a contemplative calm and capture the very core of our society.

Still, not all the smells are appealing. The strong gasoline scent from old-fashioned auto-rickshaws hangs in the air, a sobering reminder of the city's activity. As joggers go past, lazy dust swirls about and their sweaty bodies add their own scent to the mixture. I laughed at the absurdity of avoiding the less pleasant smells of metropolitan life but while still appreciating the natural perfumes.

I came across a blossoming Raat ki Rani plant while I was walking, its pleasant aroma restoring my calm. A temple nearby was burning its agarbathi (incense), releasing a spiritually suffused perfume into the early light that softly merged with the earthy scent of the petrichor, a trace of the mild rainfall from the previous night. It revived recollections of childhood, of rainy days vibrantly alive.

Turning a bend, I came across an elderly lady running a busy pedestrian stand offering



lavender and flowers. The fresh, pleasant smells of the flowers invited onlookers to stop and enjoy the little pleasures of life. Not far off, the crisp, pure fragrance of eucalyptus from our Canara Union trees anchored me within the hectic rhythm of daily life.



I grinned at the idea of all the lives entwined in these daily smells as I came to finish my stroll and smelled camphor burning far away. Men hurrying to their jobs caught my attention as well; their body sprays left a last layer of aroma reminiscent of the human element among the natural gifts.

I had forgotten my mask on my early walk, but what I discovered instead was a rich tapestry of smells depicting Malleswaram—vibrant, chaotic, and wonderfully alive.

MY FRIEND MELINDA

MAYA HATTIANGADI



This was way back in 1978 when my husband was transferred to Calcutta. Both my daughters got enrolled in St Theresa's Convent there. I found a lot of mothers used to drop and pick their girls from school. I thought it was a good way to get to know them and make friends.

Trams were a novelty for my daughters, so we used to travel in them. On the way we used to see a big, beautiful bungalow with a huge compound full of old ladies in different attires – housecoats, saris, pyjamas, and what not! Some were sitting, some sleeping in the sun, some walking, and others speaking loudly.



One day, I was outside the gate and peeking inside to see what was going on. Suddenly a nun appeared and welcomed me warmly, put her arms around me, and started showing me around the place. She happened to be Sister Rose Mary, the matron of the institution, which was called St Catherine's Home. She went about introducing me to the inmates. She very gently asked me if I could help as a volunteer as they were short of staff. I would be doing

great service, and the Almighty Lord would bless me, she added.

While we were walking around, a sprightly old lady, four feet nothing with lovely silvery hair, called out loudly to Maria and summoned the latter to her immediately. The Sister tapped me on the shoulder, told me I was being called by Melinda, and asked whether I would like to meet her. Walking towards Melinda, I was dumbfounded seeing her starting and ending every sentence with the choicest of abuses! So shocked was I that had Sister Rose Mary not held me, I would have quickly turned tail and bolted straight out of the gate! Poor Melinda had thought I was her daughter Maria (who had sadly died some 20 years previously).

I was curious and eager to know more about Melinda and the other elderly people. Therefore, I started going regularly and was given the duty of doing odd jobs for Melinda – talking to her, combing her hair, affixing colourful clips and pins on it, and writing letters to her beloved husband John (who, as I got to know later, had also passed away many years ago!)

Melinda lived in a world of her own. She would make me write letters every week with all the complaints and abuses, then put those into envelopes to post. Fortunately, she never saw me 'posting' those into the wastepaper basket! After a few days when there was no reply, she would get very restless and agitated. So I had to pretend to be John and reply to her letters. She

would wonder why her John and Maria had become so reserved and did not resort to her usual colourful language at those moments. It must be the influence of the nuns, she would say loudly, making sure the Sisters could hear her!



Melinda wanted to celebrate her birthday on 17th October, and I agreed. She ordered me to get a cake, cutlets, samosas and chips. She merrily invited 7 or 8 old ladies – but just her friends. It was so difficult! What do I do with all the others who were equally eager to join the party? I finally ended up inviting the whole lot of them, including the staff – a grand total of 120 people!

Soon after, I told Sister that I was leaving to order the eats and the decorations. I asked my husband Kison for his car and driver. On instructing the driver on what items I needed for the party, I was taken straight to the shops. He helped me choose the articles – streamers, bunting, lanterns, balloons, and what have you! Next morning, I took the driver along again and asked him to help the staff and the nuns in decorating the huge lawns.

We wanted to begin the party at 3 pm and wind up by 5.30 pm. But when I go at 2 pm what do I see? All the ladies busy fussing about which dress to wear, which shoes, clips and lipstick –

and all screaming at the top of their voices! Worse than a fish market.

Sister Rose Mary came to the rescue with her usual plate and beat it with a stick so loudly that silence and order soon followed. She warned Melinda and her friends that if they were not ready in 10 minutes, she would close the gates, and then they'd have no party, no cake, and no goodies.

Even then it took us all nearly one hour to get all the ladies ready. Melinda wore an old but beautiful pink lace gown that was four sizes too big! So I put a blue belt on her and helped her into 4-inch high black stiletto shoes – and Madame walked in daintily, fluttering her eyelashes. We had a wonderful time, cutting the cake, singing birthday songs, and playing games, laughing all the while.

What fun we had - until a bottle of Coca Cola was opened, which Melinda mistook for rum. Everyone clinked their glasses and exclaimed "Cheers!" But the moment she sipped it, all hell broke loose! She started shouting, scolding, and abusing. She demanded scotch, whiskey, and nothing else! Sister tried to calm her down and told her the liquor shops were closed. Just to placate Melinda, she ordered me to go to John to 'fetch his permit for the alcohol'.

Four years passed by so very quickly. I had become very attached to Melinda and the other inmates. It broke my heart when my husband was transferred to Delhi and I had to leave them all. I did not know how to break this news to them. When Sister told Melinda eventually, it did not register, and she thought I was going away for just a few days. She advised me about what clothes I should carry, how I should eat my food with a knife and fork, and how I should always behave like a lady. She hugged and kissed me. That was the last time I saw her.

God with His merciful ways had different plans for her. Just two days after we left for Delhi, my friend Melinda died peacefully in her sleep. She was 88 years old, active and alert till the end. People ask me – what did Melinda give you? My answer is – something so precious that all the wealth in this world cannot buy: immense joy, greatest satisfaction, contentment, and a real high whenever I saw her beautiful face break out into a smile.



May God grant her soul Eternal Peace.

[Representative images only. Courtesy: www.stockcake.com]

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.

LISTINGS

Product	Contact	Mobile No.
Internationally Certified Make-up Artist & Hair Stylist Specialising in bridal, fashion and party makeovers. Available for bridal and pre wedding events, fashion photoshoots.	Anagha S Kamath	+91 8861441021
Home Made Condiments Aamti Pitti, Kholombo pitti, Madras sambar powder, Rasam powder, Idli Sambar powder (no adding cooked tuvar dal), Chow chow masala powder (with tamarind), Methkut, Garlic chutney, Fried gram chutney powder, Molagapodi (for idli and dosa), Groundnut chutney powder.	Vidya & Santosh Irde	+91 9341183420 +91 9379897639
Refashioned/Customised/Handmade Items Crochet, quilling and fabric accessories, hand embroidery, stitching(kids), handmade toys and planters, giving a new life to anything to Reduce, Reuse and Renew.	Sheethal Shirali	+91 9886225732
Fun About Crochet Handcrafted in crochet just for you at your doorstep. Key chains, mobile, IPad pouches, Bookcovers, Bookmarkers, Sling Bags, Baby Sets, Baby Blankets, Saree Blouses & Crochet Jewellery. Email: smita.koppikar67@gmail.com	Smita Koppikar	+91 9910077916
Kodial Kitchen Authentic Vegetarian & Non Vegetarian Mangalorean Saraswath homestyle food. Customised -Day/Week Plans at customized price. Bulk orders on package pricing	Anoop Kumar Baidoor	+91 9449445757 +91 8217641219
Insurance Vehicle and Medical Insurance requirements and other utility services	Ravikiran Shirali	+91 9343584044
Insurance Advisor for LIC Life Insurance and HDFC ERGO General Insurance (e.g. Health, Vehicle, Home, Fire, Industrial, etc)	Prashant G Balsekar (Authorised Agency Code: 2014 8271 0921)	+91 8310183498, +91 9343097773
Purohit Performance of various Poojas, vratas, ceremonies and rituals	Niteesh Mudur Bhat	+91 9900911144
Purohit Contact me for all types of Poojas, homas, apara kriyas and ceremonies	Ruthwik Shukla	+91 9740670573
Godshey Artisan Chocolates Pure & Real Bean-to-Bar Chocolates, made to European Standards, using finest organic cacao beans. 100% Veg & Natural, No preservatives, No Artificial flavours. We make customised gift hampers for every occasion. Over 30 variants including sugar free, drageeand spreads. Visit www.godshey.in or call/whatsapp.	Tejal Savur Katre	+91 9594932266
Ruah Associates - Cleaning Products For all needs-hand wash, floor cleaner, dishwash liquid, toilet cleaner, detergent powder, glass cleaner, multipurpose cleaner, phenyl.	Monisha Kallianpur	919902057999
Aakar Creations and Aakar Art Classes For gifting ideas of hand painted products and learning different kinds of art for children and adults.	Monisha Kallianpur	919902057999
Advaya Dishwashing Liquid Soap Home-made soap with minimum chemicals and can be used for cleaning utensils by hand (Not for machines) and ceramic tiles too. Quality comparable to other popular brands and reasonably priced. Available in ½ ltr and 1 ltr cans. Fresh stock available.	Anjali Karkal	919869107108

KIDS CORNER



Neev Kulkarni (11 Years)



Pranika Hattikudur (9 Years)

Report on the Activities of Bangalore Local Sabha for the Month of March and April 2025

Reported by **SAIKRUPA NALKUR**

Special Programmes

On 1st March, the Shishyaswikara Divasa of H.H Shrimat Parijnanashram Swamiji III, was observed with Bhashya Pathana and Ashtavadhana Seva. On 30th March, on the occasion of Yugadi which marked the commencement of the Vishvasu Nama Samvatsara, Panchanga Shravana was hosted by and at Canara Union followed by Panaka Panwara. Math calendars for the new Samvatsara were distributed at the Vantiga counters set up by the Math. To commemorate 25 years of Shri Shankar Jayanti celebrations at SCM Bengaluru, various competitions were held which attracted good participation as detailed below:

- Drawing and painting competition on the theme 'An Incident in Adi Shankara's Life'.
- Storytelling was also organised for sadhaka-s in the age group 5-14 on the same theme.
- Essay competition on the topic: Inspirations for a Sadhaka through bhakti and belongingness to the Lord was organised for sadhaka-s in the age group 16-35 years.
- Stotra recitation on 'Achyutashtakam' was conducted.

All these competitions faced enthusiastic participation across all age groups. Shri Shankaracharya Ashtottara Shatanamavali Parayana commenced in the Math from 16th February and will continue on all Sundays till April 27th on which day Mangal will be performed.

Regular Programmes:

- Pujan is performed by Gruhastha-s at Bengaluru Math, in Garbha-Gudi every morning and in Anandashram Sabhagriha every Monday, Thursday, and Friday evenings.
- Sadhaka-s perform Samoohika Gayatri Japa Anushthaan on Sundays.
- Online Sanskrit Sambhashan classes are being held every week, and Prarthana Varga sessions are conducted at the Math every Saturday.
- A short 5-minute Ninada practice is a part of all regular activities.

Upcoming Events at Bengaluru Math

- 12th April: Ashtavadhana Seva on the occasion of Rathotsava at Shirali.
- 26th April: Samaradhana of H H Shrimat Parijnanashrama Swamiji I: Shri Chitrapur Guruparampara Charitra Pathana, Bhashya Pathana and Ashtavadhana Seva.

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. Sales counter timings: 4.00 pm to 6 pm on Thursdays and Saturdays Website: www.samvitsudha.com Contact: Shobha Ulpe 8861715493, Shruthi Ubhayakar 9423008640, Sheela Nagarkatti 9343093002

CLASSIFIED

FOR RENT/TO LET

Flat No. B 79/2, 2 BHK, For Rent at Pandurangashram, 2nd Floor, 8th Main, Malleswaram, Bangalore 560055.

Contact: Mohan Nirody 9945523072 / Sheetal 9663671545

FOR RENT

2 BHK, Semi-furnished Apartment for Rent at Kalpatharu Apartment, KT 4, 13th Cross, 10th Main Road, Malleswaram, Bangalore 560003

Contact: Rajani A 9845157075

OBITUARY

We convey our deepest sympathies to the family and relatives of

Smt Shobhana Chandragiri, aged 72 years, on 6 March 2025 in Mumbai

Shri Gollarkeri Krishna Kumar, aged 72 years, on 1 April 2025 in Bengaluru

Shri Suresh Savanal, aged 91 years, on 11 April 2025 in Bengaluru

Shri Dinkar Bijoor, aged 89 years, on 12 April 2025 in Bengaluru



THE CANARA UNION (REGD.)

No. 42, The Canara Union Road (8th Main), Malleswaram, Bangalore - 560 003.
Phone : 080-23342625 e-mail : canaraunion@gmail.com
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, 4 th 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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