



BOOK POST

# CANARA UNION NEWSLETTER

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[www.canaraunion.com](http://www.canaraunion.com)

Vol.LXXII No. 12

December 2025



Dhol Players (Acrylics on Canvas) - **Sarita Koushik**

## PROGRAMME FOR DECEMBER 2025

Thursday 25 10.00 a.m. Canara Union Annual Indoor/ Outdoor Sports Events begin (See details inside)

## **NEW ANNOUNCEMENT**

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

**MEMBERS WHOSE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2025-26 IS STILL DUE ARE  
REQUESTED TO PLEASE PAY AT THE EARLIEST.**

### **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.106003130000822,  
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

## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happiness can be a combination of many feelings. I feel these now with what has been made possible for the Canara Union.

The Canara Union has been able to disburse over 2 million rupees under the distress, medical relief and student support schemes, all schemes put together for 2025–26. And those of us who have had the privilege to work on this have a humble feeling of something that is beyond happiness. It is a record for the Canara Union.



Everything we are able to share with the less fortunate members of our community, every rupee, is made possible by the great compassion and generosity of those who have contributed to various funds. They are the reason we can reach out. To think that we started in the 1930s with an annual disbursement of Rs 251, so valued in its time! This tradition has been held close not only by local donors but even those far away in the US and other countries. We are so grateful.

Donations come to us with trust and goodwill in so many ways. For example, a family has sponsored the complete medical education of a deserving student which covers fees, extras, stay, books and numerous other items. Another family has donated a large enough corpus, the interest of which supports the complete college education of a girl child, while others are likewise helping children who are doing postgraduate studies in management and biomedical engineering. There is then another moving initiative from the community in distress relief and medical support through which we have been able to offer help.

One of the community's mottos, true across time and place, has been the preservation of the community's values. Our founders, and members of the past, handed over a baton to us which held the self-assumed responsibilities of empathy and response to need, and which looked at distress relief, healthcare, hospitalisation and education, at sports and advancing performing arts such as theatre, music and dance.

Writing about the philanthropic bent of our community, I would like to mention here two small incidents that took place in the 1930s. I got these from the minutes of meetings. Once, after allocating the scholarship amount to students seeking help, it was found that there was a shortfall of Rs 2 and 12 annas. Without a moment's hesitation, Ubhayakar Devanmaam pulled out his wallet and not only made good the shortfall but added an additional Rs 10 for any late applications. He must have said 'KoNai yevncha puroti rey, magiri tanka help korka nhave?' Just like that!

The second incident is about a non-CSB person living nearby who requested the Canara Union for Rs 15 for his son's SSLC examination hall ticket. This was outside the bylaws. But without hesitation, all the members in the meeting chipped in and made up the amount. And there were no conditions attached. Imagine this! There must be many more such stories in our minutes. This was our community and by the grace of our Guruparampara, it stays true!

In keeping with this tradition, I appeal to our community to donate generously so that we cover more children and families from other parts of the state in close co-ordination with the Shri Chitrapur Math and the KSA.

**PRAKASH AROOR**

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Canara Union is happy to announce their new Website [www.canaraunion.com](http://www.canaraunion.com) which has gone live with immediate effect. We look forward to your thoughts and feedback, if any.

## 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](mailto:canaraunion@gmail.com) with a copy to [meeraphilar79@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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**

**Smt. Saras Rao**

**Rs. 11,000.00**

(In memory of parents Shri Nayampalli Ramanand Rao & Smt Anasuya Rao)

### Canara Union Student Scholarship Fund

**Smt Usha S Philar**

**Rs.1,50,000.00**

(In memory of husband Shri Suresh Philar)

**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.**

**CANARA UNION SPORTS COMPETITION**  
**25th DECEMBER 2025 TO 26th JANUARY 2026**

DAY	DATE	TIMING	AGE	EVENT
THURSDAY	25.12.2025	10.00 A.M.	ALL AGES	INDOOR/OUTDOOR SPORTS - REGISTER WITH MAHESH UBHAYKAR - PHONE 7019130181
		5.00 P.M.	10 & ABOVE	JUMBLED WISDOM - REGISTER GAME WITH PRAKASH JOTHADY - PHONE 9845844663
SATURDAY	03.01.2026	10.00 A.M.	10 & ABOVE	CARD GAMES - RUMMY & BRIDGE - REGISTER WITH PRAKASH AROOR - PHONE 9901560602
		5.30 P.M.	10 & ABOVE	MEMORY GAME - REGISTER WITH PRAKASH JOTHADY - PHONE 9845844663
SUNDAY	04.01.2026	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 UBHAYKAR - PHONE 9423008640
SATURDAY	10.01.2026	6.00 P.M.	10 & ABOVE	ANTHAKSHARI - PARTICIPANT MUST SING COMPLETE OR REASONABLE AMOUNT OF MUKDA/ANTARA AS REQUIRED. NO FILLERS OR CHANGE OF WORDS IN THE SONG IS ALLOWED. REGISTER WITH RESHMA NAIMPALLY PHONE 9886008581/ ROSHNI KUMTA - PHONE 9886678587
SUNDAY	11.01.2026	10.00 AM	ALL AGES	DRAWING COMPETITION. REGISTER WITH SHRUTHI UBHAYKAR - PHONE 9423008640
		5.00 P.M.	ALL AGES	KONKANI ELOCUTION CONTEST - REGISTER WITH ANAND NAGARKAR - PHONE 9886355508
SATURDAY	17.01.2026	5.00 P.M.	ALL AGES	KUNKDA MANKDA LAGNA QUIZ (USHA AROOR) - REGISTER WITH PRAKASH JOTHADY 9845844663
SUNDAY	18.01.2026	10.00 A.M.	ALL AGES	BOARD GAMES - CARROM, CHESS - REGISTER WITH SANJAY MAVINKURVE - PHONE 9448485357
		5.00 P.M.	10 & ABOVE	TABLE TENNIS - REGISTER WITH UDAY CHANDRAGIRI - PHONE 94802235091 WHAT'S THE GOOD WORD - REGISTER WITH UDAY CHANDRAGIRI - PHONE 9480235091
SATURDAY	24.01.2026	5.00 P.M.	ALL AGES	SINGING COMPETITION - REGISTER WITH ANAND NAGARKAR - PHONE 9886355508 FILMY SONGS & BHAJANS (FILMY & NON-FILMY)
SUNDAY	25.01.2026	9.30 A.M.	ADULTS	TREASURE HUNT ON WHEELS – 2-WHEELER - TEAM OF 2 RIDERS, MUST BE ADULTS WITH DRIVING LICENSE - REGISTER WITH NIRAD MUDUR & ANUJA MUDUR 9980402654
MONDAY	26.1.2926	6.00 P.M.	ALL AGES	FANCY DRESS.- REGISTER WITH SHEETAL SHIRALI - PHONE 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 EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DEPENDING ON NUMBER OF ENTRIES
  - 5) DECISION OF THE ORGANISERS/JUDGE/S OR REFEREES IN COMPETITIVE EVENTS WILL BE FINAL AND BINDING
- FOR FURTHER DETAILS KINDLY CONTACT THE CANARA UNION OFFICE ON 080-23342625

Sanjay Mavinkurve

Hon. Secretary - SPORTS CU

## 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**

## 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](mailto:canaraunion@gmail.com) or WhatsApp or call Meera Philar at 9844022713 or Harish Sujir at 9845055567.

## DONATION

From:  
Name: Sri / Smt. \_\_\_\_\_  
Address:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
PAN NO: \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_)  
towards The Canara Union Endowment Funds detailed below:

Type of Donation	Amount	Bank Details
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
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
Monthly Distress Relief Fund		The Canara Union Welfare Fund Account No 10980 31300 05454 SVC Co-operative Bank Ltd., IFSC Code: SVCB0000098

I am enclosing the cheque for the above said amount / remitted by NEFT/RTGS, as detailed below:

Cheque No..... Dated ..... drawn on Bank....., Branch.....  
NEFT / RTGS Details Remittance made Dated..... Bank / Branch.....  
The amount of donation [tick any one]

- Is to be kept as a Corpus Fund and interest earned thereon is to be used for disbursement.
- 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:

## HAPPY HUNDREDTH!

### SHAILAJA GANGULY



*This is the centenary year of the outstanding writer-director-actor and producer GURU DUTT (9th July 1925-10th October 1964) who left us asking for more, at a premature 39! An open letter to this unforgettable artiste by SHAILAJA GANGULY [Originally featured in Kanara Saraswat Magazine]*

I cannot forget...



*Photo credit: V.K. Murthy*

...you gazing at the sleeping Waheeda Rehman with the adoration of a lovestruck hero, to the soul-stirring accompaniment of that mesmerizing song "Chaudhvin ka chand ho"- a melodious number which will continue to reign on top of the charts so long as hearts continue to beat to the quixotic, universal and immortal rhythm of that one emotion which defies both reason and extinction! (Film: *Chaudhvin Ka Chand*; Singer: Mohammed Rafi; Lyric: Shakeel Badayuni; Music: Ravi)

I cannot forget...

...you hamming to the hilt as the feet-shuffling, dhoti-clad, permanently puzzled and totally inconsequential Bhootnath in that perfect depiction of the degenerate imperfection of a wayward Zamindar, his beautiful, heartbroken wife and that utterly charming maiden (Waheeda) feeling the stirring of first love for this bumbling boy Friday! (Film: *Saheb Biwi Aur Ghulam*; Singer: Geeta Dutt; Lyric: Shakeel Badayuni; Music: Hemant Kumar)

I cannot forget...

...you standing forlorn and forsaken in the stark grey of a bare film set, separated by that metaphoric beam of light from the woman you love who is now out of reach and forever unattainable! (Film: *Kaagaz Ke Phool*; Singer: Geeta Dutt; Lyric: Kaifi Azmi; Music: S.D. Burman) These are just three of your magnetic frames imprinted in the vast gallery of memorabilia which will never fail to bring a catch in the throat and a deep sigh in the heart about how an ultra-sensitive talent has to rise to unsurpassed heights only to, finally, get overpowered by the agony and ecstasy of being 'different'.

You were Vasanth Kumar Shivashankar Padukone, a bona fide Chitrapur Saraswat born in Bengaluru and then raised in a simple middleclass home in Kolkata. A head injury in childhood and consequent recovery prompted the family to rename you as Gurudatta from which you coined the split-name Guru Dutt, perhaps ensnared by the allure of the culturally

abundant Kolkata. Your creative fire was first ignited at an impressionable 16 by your training at dance virtuoso Uday Shankar's Academy at Almora.

Joining the film industry in 1944 at Prabhat Studios, the providential meeting and deep bonding with Dev Anand, the opportunity to assist leading directors in Mumbai all sped you towards your directorial debut with *Baazi* (starring *bondhu* Dev, of course) followed by hits like *Aar Paar* and *Mr. and Mrs. 55* in quick succession, after which your popularity surged skywards... and love arrived in the guise of a sultry singer with an inimitable voice – Geeta Roy! The famous artist and your dear sister Lalita Lajmi has recounted how she often played postwoman carrying love letters to and fro till you both married in 1953 and you became a happy householder and proud Baba too... But that bliss was destined to be shortlived, alas...

*Pyasa* (1957)-hailed as a cult-classic catapulted you to the glory you richly deserved for it was listed by no less than Time magazine among the 100 greatest films. But with it, behind the scenes, came insomnia, melancholy and a yen for one too much. It was not a clime wherein seeking counselling, therapy, medication, in short- professional help for a mental condition was socially accepted... So your brilliant mind kept swinging between outstanding work and terrible lows...Till life became even more difficult when, just by chance, you met a one-dance-wonder-girl named Waheeda Rehman – a much-wowed star of a Telugu film in Hyderabad. She came to Mumbai upon your invitation, created magic onscreen again with a more-impish than vampish dance in her debut film *CID* and soon unfurled a tsunami in your already disturbed mind.

It is hard to say whether your life imitated art or art imitated life after that momentous meeting and sensational entry of Waheeda in your films

and your life. Your ability to unfold the plot through a song was one of your exemplary skills which found impeccable expression as much in the agony of the scorned wife in "Naa jao Saiyyan chhudaa ke bainyyaan" as in her self-conning "Piya Aiso Jiya Mein Samaaye gayo re" both portrayed flawlessly by Tragedy Queen Meena Kumari who again was echoing her own angst through the misery of the Chhoti Bahu of *Saheb Biwi aur Ghulam*. The clincher of course, being that mind-blowing scene in *Kaagaz Ke Phool* where you used your other brilliant technique of using light and shade almost as characters to portray the tempestuous highs and lows of both - love gone awry and the ephemeral nature of fame and glory. The iconic song "*Waqt Ne Kiya Kya Haseen Sitam*" where the forlorn set, the beam of light separating you - the defeated poet from your distanced Muse was as autobiographical as it could get, the impact driven home by your master-touch and this masterpiece of a song... While in a recording studio not too far away, the stinging and singeing ache in Geeta Dutt's unforgettable "*Meraa Sundar Sapna Beet Gaya*" sounded like an eerie echo of a life in shambles, a marriage beyond repair and you walking the edge, still unwilling to seek help, still pretending nothing was wrong till doomsday arrived.

Unspoken passion that throbbed in silent frames. Enchanting music that refused to go away from the listener's mind or heart. Themes heartrendingly close to life behind the scenes. Plus, a master craftsman's use of light and shadow as a visual metaphor of the tumultuous interplay of joy and sorrow in the kaleidoscope of life... You handled all this more with sculpted finesse that hurts and haunts every discerning viewer.

You were born to live and be loved forever Guru Dutt!

Happy Hundredth!

## KARUNA GOKARN - ST XAVIERS MUMBAI'S FIRST WOMAN PRINCIPAL IN 156 YEARS

PRAKASH JOTHADY



Dr. Karuna Gokarn, a seasoned microbiologist with over three decades of service at St. Xavier's College in Mumbai, made history as the institution's first female principal in 156 years.

Dr. Gokarn, 55, has a deep understanding of the college's academic environment, thanks to

her experience as Vice Principal (Academics) and her leadership roles in implementing the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and institutional quality benchmarks. She says that Xavier's has "shaped her as much as she has shaped it" over her 31-year tenure.

Dr. Gokarn has established a clear vision for her five-year tenure. Her top priorities include addressing faculty shortages at the college, which has a "dearth of teaching posts sanctioned by the government."

- Improving faculty retention by addressing ad hoc appointments and job insecurity.
- Enhancing research culture to foster "a deeper culture of scientific inquiry."
- Advancing the institution to University status.

Dr. Gokarn believes our greatest strength lies in our values and our ability to respond to the changing times and expectations of higher education.

*You may not always have a comfortable life and you will not always be able to solve all of the world's problems at once but don't ever underestimate the importance you can have because history has shown us that courage can be contagious and hope can take on a life of its own.*

*- Michelle Obama*

## BETTER LATE THAN NEVER - A TRIBUTE TO MY MOTHER NAINA/JOY GANESH KALYANPUR

PREETA BELLARI



My mother was a beautiful and strong soul. She was like strength wrapped in grace. A woman who wore many roles with dignity. A loving and dutiful wife, a devoted mother and above all a wonderful human being. She had a big heart and knew only how to give. She was our guiding light, our world and safe place.

She brought up her four children almost single handedly. My dad was a successful businessman, his demanding schedule meant that much of the household pressure rested on my mom's capable shoulders. She never let us feel his absence. She filled every space with her presence, guiding, nurturing and loving us. Though dad was busy building dreams for us and himself, she built hers right at home, raising us with discipline, laughter and values, that still shape who we are today.

Her world was filled with both comfort and responsibility. A sprawling four-bedroom bungalow with a garden all around stood as her kingdom with maids, a chauffeur driven car, a gardener etc. She could have stepped back, but she never did. She was hands on in every little thing from the way the curtains fell, to the way she arranged her house and to getting everything ready for us. You could spot her driving her big jeep through the winding roads of the hill station confident, poised, and full of life. Those days hardly any women drove cars in Lonavala. Right from buying groceries, vegetables, to taking us to the doctor or shopping, she did. Her touch was everywhere. Her voice echoed through every busy corner,

her cooking brought every one of us to the table and her kindness touched every soul who walked through our doors or around our house.

A woman who was elegant yet unpretentious, well read and well spoken. She had that rare blend of modern in her outlook yet deeply rooted in old school values that



never went out of style. She taught us to be independent but humble, to dream big but stay grounded and to help others without any expectations. She helped everyone who crossed her path, whether it was a neighbour in distress or a stranger in need, her big heart was open for one and all.

Mom had a gift that was making everyone who came home feel at home. Friends, relatives and even acquaintances found comfort in her company. Her hospitality was legendary. Our house was always open for all, and both my parents loved entertaining them. Guests who came for a day would stay for a week or more, not because of the luxury but because of the love she showered on them. Every meal she cooked was a reflection of her heart. Generous and flavourful and made with care. Everything she made was a masterpiece. From biryanis to

bakes, from traditional meals to any dish from around the world, she could do it all. Her culinary skills were admired far and wide. She could turn an ordinary afternoon into a feast and an ordinary day into a celebration.

A social woman because my dad was very social. Attending parties with dad, going for naval balls, having her circle of friends, attending kitty parties and coffee clubs. A social butterfly yet a deeply family-oriented woman. Her life did revolve around us. We were her pride and purpose of joy. A woman of substance she was... Strong yet soft, firm yet

forgiving and modern yet timeless. She lived a life that inspired many and even today her essence lingers in every life she touched. She taught us strong doesn't mean being hard and that kindness is the truest form of courage. We were and will always be blessed to call her our mom.

It is a year and a half since we lost her, as we look back today our hearts swell in gratitude for her strength, her sacrifices and her endless love. Everything we are today, we owe it to both our parents.

## **NOSTALGIA ON CANVAS – REMINISCING OUR TRIP TO KERALA**

**POORNIMA NALKOOR**



A virtual journey we all had at an online painting class with a landscape from the backwaters of God's own country - with a houseboat, coconut palms, reflections and the lone house on the shore. @rekha.createes (Rekha Mavinkurve) had taken us to the English countryside, the valley of flowers, poppy fields in Tuscany and



finally this! A busy virtual travel month it has been, pleasurable, no bags packed, no tickets booked, no airport visits, no jet lags. A four-week travel without its travails!

It all took me back to the time we had been to Kerala and taken a houseboat ride along the backwaters and then on to a river that resembled an ocean! A cool climate person at any given time, the coastal heat after the super cool mountainous tea gardens and valleys of Munnar kept me yearning to get back there. Vast expanses of water seen through the day without sight of land made me a little queasy by the end of the day, when all I wanted was to feel the ground beneath my feet. This, for having gone overboard in wanting the whole day

cruise instead of the half day a few other tourists had opted for!

The cruise was pleasant no doubt, with stops for tender coconut water with the coconuts plucked off the palm tree with a skilful climb. Or the fibre rope industry we stopped by to see how coconut, with its myriad uses as a fruit,

complete with shell and fibre proves to be an absolute zero-waste marvel of nature!

"Virtually", we travelled to four places in four weeks, and God's own country beckons again! Perhaps this time I will not get greedy and lounge around in the houseboat for just half a day!

## THE WONDER YEARS – MANGALORE (PART 2)

### VANDANA RAO PANDIT



*This is an extract from Vandana Rao Pandit's book Head in the Clouds - My Adventures in the Air Force and Life Beyond. The following is from the eighth chapter of the book. Subsequent chapters will be published in forthcoming issues of CUNL.*



*With Nikhil and Sameer at Mangalore*

My mother's sister Nirmala, her husband Dipak, and their sons Nikhil and Sameer, lived

in England and would visit us during the holidays, although it was mostly my aunt with the boys. On one such trip to Mangalore, I gave my cousin Nikhil a haircut when the mothers had gone shopping. I was bored and he had no choice. It did not go well. He looked much like a victim of the same rat that had chewed on my sister's hair a few years ago. Personally, I thought it was not a badly done job considering my lack of qualification, plus he had wriggled and tried to get away throughout, making my task difficult.

When the mothers returned and saw that the silken haired boy they had left behind now resembled a plucked chicken, I got a severe scolding from my mother through her laughter - unfortunately, mothers multitask marvellously. Nikhil was cool about his latest look and accepted his fate as such. Being mature for his age, he knew the hair would grow back and he was not entering the Mr UK contest anytime soon. Mothers make too much drama over a simple free haircut was my bitter private

thought. No gratitude at all.

Nikhil is a doctor today and seems to have emerged from this childhood trauma unscathed. It may even have helped.

Milk arrived in an autorickshaw every day and Namu and Nikhil- who are almost the same age, would run down the lane just before the auto turned towards the house and ride in it full of glee, legs held high above the large aluminium milk containers. I never understood this fascination they had to ride in autos as I thought of them as just a means of transport and was contemptuous of their childish delight.

My maternal grandfather Anant whom we called 'Ajja' was a tall, spare and quiet man and I enjoyed spending time with him. We often sat in companionable silence or argued about life or in my opinion, the unfairness of it. I had strong views on the unfair treatment of girls in society and the unseemly logic of allowing boys into civilised society and schools. I was always ready to argue relentlessly with no signs of backing down. He would invariably end those arguments chortling, "You should be a lawyer when you grow up because even a



*With Ajja and Amama*

judge will run for safety into his chambers after listening to you."

My daughter is a lawyer today and so he was partially right, although one generation too late.



*My parents & I with Ajja, Amama and Nirmala*

My mother said he was very strict with them as children and had lots of rules which included restricted radio time, no talking to boys and not being permitted to learn singing and dancing. My mother being my mother and a latent rebel managed to learn singing on the sly and won many competitions in school and college. Namu and I saw no sign of any of this behaviour in him and thought it was an exaggeration on her part. He always let us do as we pleased and was very indulgent with us. It was only many years later when my own kids were born that I realised the same parents who had terrorised us as children, had become a

---

gooey, mushy and completely unrecognizable species with their grandchildren. So, she was probably right in her account of her own childhood.

My Ajja always smelled of a combination of fresh starched cotton and beedis, which he smoked. He wore a thin white cotton shirt with a hand towel on his shoulder and a Mundu - a South Indian garment worn around the waist. I still associate the smell of freshly starched cotton with him, although the beedi smell is missing. He was notorious for his generosity and would literally give the shirt off his back to a needy person. The downside of this generous behaviour was that it knew no bounds and often the family would have to bear the consequences of him loaning money to folks who naturally never returned it.

Beedis are thin cigarettes or mini cigars filled with coarse tobacco flake, commonly wrapped

in a dried leaf from the Peepal tree and tied with a string at one end. Sarojini who worked in the house was a part time beedi worker to earn some extra money, and would sit on the steps outside their little house at the back cutting the leaves for the beedis. I would often sit with her in the evenings watching her deftly fashion out each beedi with a pair of scissors using a tiny steel template.

Beedi rolling in India is an age-old industry involving women working at home rolling the raw beedies. This has always been an integral part of Indian rural life. Even in Bollywood, they seem to have flourished and been glorified with dance 'item numbers' devoted to them.

I also tried my hand at making them with Sarojini but never succeeded – it wasn't as easy as it looked at all. Another career option was gone.

## DID YOU KNOW...

- A cloud weighs around a million tonnes. A cloud typically has a volume of around 1 cubic kilometer and a density of around 1.003 kg per cubic meter – that's a density that's around 0.4 per cent lower than the air surrounding it (That is how they are able to float).
- Giraffes are 30 times more likely to get hit by lightning than people. True, there are only five well-documented fatal lightning strikes on giraffes between 1996 and 2010. But due to the population of the species being just 140,000 during this time, it makes for about 0.003 lightning deaths per thousand giraffes each year. This is 30 times the equivalent fatality rate for humans.
- Earlobes have no biological purpose. While they are rich in nerve endings and may play a role in social bonding, many scientists argue that earlobes don't have any true biological purpose.

## LISTINGS

Product	Contact	Mobile No.
<b>Internationally Certified Make-up Artist &amp; Hair Stylist</b> Specialising in bridal, fashion and party makeovers. Available for bridal and pre-wedding events, fashion photoshoots.	Anagha S Kamath	+91 8861441021
<b>Home Made Condiments</b> 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
<b>Refashioned/Customised/Handmade Items</b> 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
<b>Fun About Crochet</b> 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
<b>Kodial Kitchen</b> 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
<b>Insurance</b> Vehicle and Medical Insurance requirements and other utility services	Ravikiran Shirali	+91 9343584044
<b>Insurance</b> 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
<b>Purohit</b> Performance of various Poojas, vratas, ceremonies and rituals	Niteesh Mudur Bhat	+91 9900911144
<b>Purohit</b> Contact me for all types of Poojas, homas, apara kriyas and ceremonies	Ruthwik Shukla	+91 9740670573
<b>Godshey Artisan Chocolates</b> 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 <a href="http://www.godshey.in">www.godshey.in</a> or call/whatsapp.	Tejal Savur Katre	+91 9594932266
<b>Ruah Associates - Cleaning Products</b> For all needs-hand wash, floor cleaner, dishwash liquid, toilet cleaner, detergent powder, glass cleaner, multipurpose cleaner, phenyl.	Monisha Kallianpur	919902057999
<b>Aakar Creations and Aakar Art Classes</b> For gifting ideas of hand painted products and learning different kinds of art for children and adults.	Monisha Kallianpur	919902057999
<b>Advaya Dishwashing Liquid Soap</b> 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

## 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.

## KIDS CORNER



*Nidhi Kundapur (7 years)*



*Lila Mudbidri (8 years)*



Pranika Hattikudur (10 Years)



Girl in Grey - Shloka Haldipur (14 years)

## TALENT CORNER



Colour Pencil Artwork -  
Shruti Ubhayakar Shenoy



Colour Pencil Artwork - Nivedita Baidoor



*Colour Pencil Artwork - Ujwal Moodbidri*



*Winter Paintings in Watercolor  
-Rekha Mavinkurve*

## **Report on the Activities of Bangalore Local Sabha for the Month of October and November 2025**

Report by **Saikrupa Nalkur**

### **Special Programmes:**

On 20th October, Deepavali - Naraka Chaturdashi was observed with Shri Lakshmi Pujana performed by gruhastha-s. On 31st October, Samoohik Devi Anushthana was performed on the occasion of tithi-wise janma divasa of HH Swamiji. On 1st November, Ashtavadhana Seva was performed on the occasion of the idol installation day of HH Shrimad Anandashram Swamiji. On 2nd November, Jagarani Ekadashi was observed with Akhanda Bhajana and Tulasi Pujana. On 5th November, on Karthik Purnima, Samuhika Durganamaskara was performed. On 13th November, on the occasion of Samaradhana of Parama Pujya Vamanashram Swamiji and date-wise Janmadivasa of HH Shrimat Sadyojat Shankarashrama Swamiji, sadhaka-s recited Shri Guruparampara Charitra Pathana and performed Samuhika Guru Pujana which was followed by Bhashya Pathana and Ashtavadhana seva.

HH Swamiji's Visit: Sadhaka-s were blessed with the visit of HH Swamiji from 7th to 12th November. On 7th November, HH Swamiji arrived in Bengaluru. On 8th November, there was swagat dharma sabha. Sadhaka-s were blessed with ashirvachana by HH Swamiji which was followed by Mahapuja, Shri Paduka Puja, Tirtha Vitarana and Shri Bhiksha Seva. HH Swamiji performed Shivapujana and there was Ashtavadhana Seva thereafter. On 9th November, Prarthana Varga children welcomed Parama Puja Swamiji with a tableau – Karthikotsav- Janmakathavali of Lord Subramanya. This was followed by Paduka Pujan, Tirtha Vitarana and Shri Bhiksha Seva. During this period, sadhaka-s participated in various other events like Manyu Sukta Homa, Devi Anushthana, Vimarsh, Bhajan Sevas by bhajan mandali-s and Sambhashan session conducted by Girvana Pratishtha Varga. On 12th November, sadhaka-s recited the niropa geet and HH Swamiji departed after Niropa Upadesha.

### Upcoming Events

December 1st: Shri Geeta Jayanti: Shrimad Bhagavadgita recitation, Geeta Pujana in the morning and talk by speaker, Shiva Pujana and Bhashya Pathan

December 11th: Samaradhana of Parama Puja Krishnashrama Swamiji and December 13th: Samaradhana of Parama Puja Keshavashrama Swamiji: Shri Guruparampara Charithra Pathana, Bhashya Pathana and Ashtavadhana Seva

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## OBITUARY

We convey our deepest sympathies to the family and relatives of

**Smt Kumudini Mundkur**, aged 91 years, on 27 October 2025 in Bengaluru

**Shri Sudhir Kombrabail**, aged 67 years, on 29 October 2025 in Bengaluru

**Shri S.R. Bheemsen**, aged 82 years, on 4 November, 2025 in Bengaluru

**Shri Dinesh Bhat**, aged 78 years, on 21 November 2025 in Bengaluru

**Smt Premi Srinath Ullal**, aged 91 years, on 22 November 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, 4th Floor, New Delhi Main Branch, 11 Sansad Marg,  
New Delhi – 110001,  
Account No: 40255120262 (FCRA Savings Account)  
Branch Code: 00691  
IFSC No: SBIN0000691

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

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