



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members of the Karnataka Goan Association,

I hope you all had a joyous Christmas and a blessed New Year! As we step into 2025, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible events we've shared over the past months and express my sincere gratitude for your support.

One of the standout events of last year was the Think Goa Live Goa celebration, a joint effort with the Catholic Club. Over 1100 guests attended, celebrating Goa's cultural heritage under the theme 'Villages of Goa'. A captivating skit brought Goan village life to the stage, while a fashion show by House of Talera showcased beautiful traditional and contemporary attire. The lively youth dance, Goan cuisine, and dynamic music from 'Shine On' and DJ Neil Hoskins kept the energy high all night. Special thanks to the Catholic Club MC for their efforts in making the event a seamless success.

Our Annual Celebration in Honor of Saint Francis Xavier on November 30th was another memorable occasion. Despite a smaller turnout due to the exposition of St. Francis Xavier's relics in Goa, the evening was filled with celebration and reflection. Craig Faria, our Vice President, highlighted the KGA's 50-year legacy, and we recognized outstanding youth with awards. The surprise visit of Santa Claus, portrayed by Stephen, added a festive touch.

The KGA Ladainha and Rosary on October 20th was a deeply spiritual event. Despite the rain, we gathered at St. Joseph's Boys

High School for an evening of hymns, prayer, and fellowship. Thanks to Monica for the beautiful candles and to Gia, Eslinda, Aiona, and our choir for their stunning music. The evening's prayer and devotion truly strengthened our bond as a community.

As we look ahead to 2025, I'm excited for the new memories we'll create. These events remind me of the power of our community and our shared love for our culture, faith, and each other.

Wishing you all a prosperous and blessed year ahead!

Warm regards,

**Valerian Fernandes**  
*President*

## KGA Ladainha & Rosary

by *Monica Robinson*

The KGA Ladainha and Rosary held on the 20th of October was such a sweet and lovely event.

Though the rain was being so naughty, it was an evening of praise and fellowship, at St. Joseph's Boy's High School, well spent. The decorations were so very grand, thank you Craig and team.

The lovely Latin singing by Gia, Eslinda, Aiona and the choir and musicians continued non-stop.

The candles in their awesome cups,

thank you Monica, sparkled and shone and 'twas like there was a warm blessing in each and every rain drop!

Stephen, Grace, Evaan, Sherrick, Maria and Angelo recited the Rosary and sang with voices like angels alone can do.

They praised our dearest Mother Mary and it was like the sun was shining through.

The snacks and special festive channa were made more tasty too, as they were by our courteous President, Nikita, Zuriel and Sheila, with love and kindness served.

A little Rosary pouch was our President Valerian's thanks to those who came and was very well-deserved.

So that's our little write-up of prayer and fellowship so true...

Through the showers of blessings at our Ladainha, our love and faith just grew!



# Annual Celebration in Honor of Saint Francis Xavier by the Karnataka Goan Association

by *Craig Faria*

The Karnataka Goan Association (KGA) hosted its much-anticipated annual event in honour of Saint Francis Xavier on the 30th of November. The gathering was a vibrant and joyous occasion, thoughtfully organized to celebrate community, culture, and faith.

The celebration began with a solemn Mass, with Fr. Joseph Fernandes as the main celebrant, accompanied by Fr. Darrell Fernandes and Fr. Nelson. The beautiful choir, conducted by Ms. Deirdre, added a heavenly touch to the liturgical celebration, creating a spiritual atmosphere that resonated with all attendees.

The evening's proceedings were led by the dynamic Natasha, whose engaging emceeing kept the energy alive, and the audience captivated. A warm welcome was extended by Craig Faria, Vice President of KGA, on behalf of President Valerian Fernandes. Craig highlighted the remarkable 50-year journey of the Association and shared an inspiring vision for its future endeavours.

A two-piece band kept the crowd entertained with lively music that set the perfect tone for

the evening. Guests indulged in an array of delectable dishes and refreshing beverages that added to the festive cheer.

The highlight of the evening was the recognition and felicitation of six outstanding youth for their remarkable accomplishments in their respective fields. This thoughtful gesture demonstrated KGA's dedication to encouraging and celebrating the younger generation's success.

Adding to the festive spirit, Santa Claus, portrayed by Stephen, delighted children and adults alike with his cheerful presence. The event's seamless orchestration was made possible by the tireless efforts of Nikita and Craig, with valuable support from Sheila, Sherrick, and Monica.

The Karnataka Goan Association continues to exemplify the spirit of unity and tradition through such celebrations. This event served as a testament to the enduring bond within the Goan community in Karnataka and its shared commitment to preserving its rich heritage while fostering togetherness and joy.



# Think Goa. Live Goa.

by *Leah D'Souza*

The Think Goa Live Goa event, a joint celebration organized by the Karnataka Goan Association (KGA) and the Catholic Club, was a resounding success, drawing over 1100 members and guests for an unforgettable evening. The theme of the event, 'Villages of Goa', beautifully showcased the region's rich cultural heritage, offering a vivid portrayal of Goa's traditions, customs, and vibrant spirit.

The evening kicked off with a captivating Village Parade, conceptualized by Eslinda, Monica, and Samantha, that took the audience on a journey through the unique characteristics and stories of Goa's villages. Through compelling performances, the parade brought to life the traditions, folklore, and everyday scenes of Goan village life, offering a deep insight into the cultural tapestry of this beloved region.

The festivities continued with a fashion show by House of Talera, which was highly appreciated by all in attendance. Models strutted the runway in an exquisite mix of traditional and contemporary Indian attire, reflecting the seamless blend of heritage and modernity that defines Goan fashion. The designs on display were a stunning fusion of timeless elegance and contemporary flair, capturing the essence of Goan style in every stitch.

A lively youth dance performance followed, with talented dancers energizing the crowd with choreography inspired by Goa's scenic beauty and festive spirit. The performers showcased the essence of Goa's joyful, vibrant atmosphere, making sure that the dance floor remained packed and the energy high.

The evening also featured an assortment of delectable Goan cuisine, giving guests a taste of the region's rich and aromatic flavors. From spicy seafood dishes to traditional sweets, the food offerings were a true celebration of Goan culinary traditions.

The night was kept alive by the dynamic sounds of 'Shine On' from Goa and DJ Neil Hoskins, who ensured the dance floor remained packed until midnight, with guests dancing the night away to lively beats.

A special thanks was extended to the Catholic Club MC, whose efforts helped make the event a seamless success. Their hard work and dedication ensured that Think Goa Live Goa was not only a night of celebration but a testament to the spirit of collaboration and community.

In all, Think Goa Live Goa was a spectacular showcase of Goa's cultural richness, celebrating both its timeless heritage and its modern, cosmopolitan flair, all while bringing together the community in a night of joy, style, and celebration.



## Just Konkani Uloi

by *Monica Robinson*

The Konkani Rockers were planning for a long time, to meet

So, on January 16 at the Catholic club, a get-together took place, it was so sweet

Shikshak Eslinda's was the marvellous suggestion and she took up our "lessons" it was really great

Arlette brought her dad, Albert de Souza's books, we had snacks and chatted in Konkani, it was a get-together first rate

Bernie, Vivienne, Ludomilla, Deepika, Maria, Monica were the keen shishyas who participated with much gusto

Audrey read out her lovely thank you speech and Stephen was the Master of Ceremonies being the only *dadlo*

President Valerian took time, from his hectic schedule, to say a quick hello and launch the "**Just Konkani Uloi**" note books

Everyone went home with a pen and book, good bon homie and happy looks

As Audrey so rightly put it, Viva Goa, Viva *amchi sobit Konkani bhas*, Viva KGA !!!

And so on that happy note we went our various ways, looking forward to get together on another sunshine day

*Deo borem dis dium tumkam sogleank.*





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