



GOENKAR

For private circulation

Newsletter of Karnataka Goan Association - Bangalore

November 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I address you as the President of the Karnataka Goan Association (KGA). Being entrusted with this role is both an honor and a deep responsibility to serve our vibrant Goan community with dedication, compassion, and a spirit of unity. Over the years, the Karnataka Goan Association has become a home away from home for countless Goans living in Karnataka, a place where our shared culture, traditions, and faith bring us together as one large family. It is a space that nurtures friendships, strengthens bonds, and keeps the Goan spirit alive no matter how far we may be from our homeland.

As we move forward, our vision is to preserve and promote the richness of Goan heritage while embracing progress and inclusivity. We want to ensure that every Goan, young and old, feels connected to their roots and proud of the identity we share. Our cultural events and festivals will continue to highlight the true essence of Goa — the music that stirs the soul, the dances that bring joy, the cuisine that brings people together, and the hospitality that defines who we are. These celebrations will serve not just as a reminder of our past but also as a bridge to our future, allowing new generations to experience the warmth and pride of being Goan.

Beyond celebration, we remain deeply committed to community service and social responsibility. Through initiatives in education, healthcare, and welfare, we hope to uplift those in need and extend a helping hand wherever possible. Our association will also focus on creating meaningful opportunities for professional networking, collaboration, and personal growth. The Goan community is rich in talent and potential, and by bringing people together, we can help one another grow, succeed, and inspire.

I truly believe that the strength of KGA lies in its people — in every member who contributes time, ideas, energy, and enthusiasm to make our association stronger. Your participation and involvement are what turn our goals into achievements and our dreams into reality. Together, we can continue building a community that thrives on togetherness, compassion, and pride in who we are.

I also take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation to all our past presidents, office bearers, and members who have worked tirelessly to build and sustain this wonderful association. Their vision, leadership, and commitment have given KGA a strong foundation and an enduring legacy. It is upon this legacy that we will continue to grow, guided by the same spirit of faith, friendship, and unity that has always defined us.

As we embark on this new chapter, let us carry forward the essence of Goa — its warmth, its joy, and its boundless sense of community. Let us celebrate our culture, support one another, and work hand in hand to make a lasting impact on every life we touch. Together, we can ensure that the Goan spirit continues to shine brightly in Karnataka and beyond.

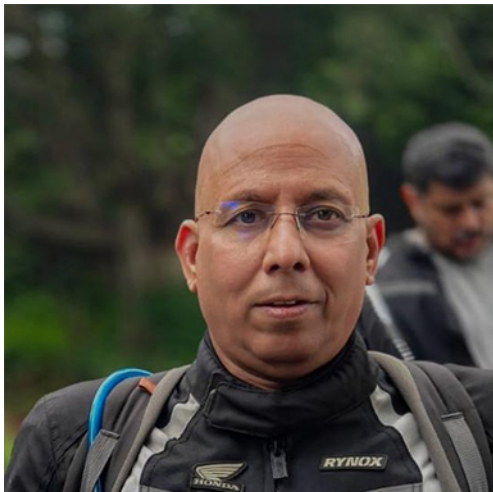
Jai Goan! Jai Karnataka!

Thank you,

Valerian Fernandes

President

The Managing Committee



Valerian lives in Koramangala since 2003. Product Technology & GTM Consultant for Indian Startups in AI, ML, IOT, Cybersecurity & Healthcare. Co-founder of Maria's Goan Kitchen & founder of Honda Beer Riding Club. Avid foodie, cyclist, motorcycle rider.

Valerian Fernandes
(President)

Hi im Craig Faria, although I was born and brought up in Bangalore, I originally hail from Candolim. I wear two hats: one as a dedicated real estate consultant, and the other as an experienced event management professional. As a third generation KGA member, I am passionate about community, culture, and great conversations, I take pride in combining professionalism with a personal touch, making every deal smoother and every event unforgettable.

Craig Faria
(Vice President)



Hi! I'm Nikita, and I'm from the lovely village of Tivim in Goa. I absolutely love baking, swimming, and dancing — they're my go-to ways to unwind and have fun! My kitchen is usually buzzing with the smell of something sweet, often inspired by Goa's amazing food traditions. My little passions keep me grounded, happy, and always ready to bring a smile to someone's day.

Nikita Pereira
(Secretary)

Bosco Andrade here - back again on the MC (yes, again... I've lost count too!). Every time I think I'll take a breather and put my feet up, the floor has other plans - and I somehow get "promoted" to continue! But hey, when you're doing it with passion, good vibes, and for a community you love, how can you say no?

Bosco Andrade
(Treasurer)





I've been a proud KGA member for about 25 years now, with my Goan roots tracing back to my maternal grandparents from the charming villages of Uccassaim and Aldona. Once a professional secretary, I now enjoy the fulfilling role of a home-maker and volunteer at a day care. What really lights me up? Sharing creative ways to use craft and handwork as a form of therapy — because a little creativity goes a long way.

Monica Robinson
(Committee Member)

Hi, I'm Savio Allan Lamb - half Goan, half Anglo, and a full-on believer in the Susegad way of life! While I might be a teetotaler (yes, you read that right!), I've definitely got that classic Goan spirit - especially when it comes to dancing! Outside of books and briefs, you'll find me on the field - I love playing hockey, football, badminton, and my latest obsession: pickleball!

Savio Lamb
(Committee Member)



Hi! I'm Sheila Marline Browne, originally from Margao in South Goa. I've been part of the KGA family for over 31 years now. I spent close to 30 years as a teacher, and it was a truly rewarding journey. I enjoy cooking, baking, doing a bit of social work, offering English coaching for foreign students, and most of all, anything to do with music, singing, and dancing!

Sheila Marline Browne
(Committee Member)

Hi, I'm Maria D'Souza! Originally from the bustling city of Mapusa in Goa, I've called Bangalore home for many years now. I'm married to Nagaratnam Satish, and we have a wonderful son, Pranav, who keeps life interesting (and on our toes!). Fun fact - my family was part of the KGA way back before we moved to Goa in 1986, so in many ways, this feels like a full-circle moment.

Maria D'Souza
(Lady Representative)



Think Goa Live Goa - A Celebration of Goan Culture in Bangalore

by *Verushka Rebelo*

The Karnataka Goan Association along with the Catholic Club Association successfully hosted its cultural event Think Goa Live Goa on 6th September 2025 at the Catholic Club, Bangalore.

One of the main highlights was the electrifying performance by the popular Goan band Black Sapphire. Riding on the success of their chart-topping hit Rosalina, the band set the stage ablaze with their infectious energy. Their performance had the audience on their feet. The mix of traditional and contemporary music took many down memory lane, evoking songs heard in cafés by the beach, in village festivals, and backyard celebrations.



Another unique highlight was a graceful fashion show that showcased the traditional attire of the Kunbi tribal community. KGA members draped in these sarees walked with poise,



bringing the timelessness of Goan craft into a modern spotlight. The women's saree was complemented by men wearing handwoven "Kaxtis" in the striking checked palette, a reminder of the unity of Goan identity in everyday wear.

The audience watched with pride and admiration, many realizing how the saree represents resilience, sustainability, and heritage. For the younger generation of Goans in Bangalore, it was an introduction to a cultural heirloom; for the older ones, a revival of memories tied to village life and ancestral roots.

The program also featured a touching literary moment, as Arlette (surname) read a poignant Konkani poem composed by her father, highlighting the deep emotional and cultural bonds of Goans with their mother tongue.

True to the season, it was raining. But as many members put it, "the rain only made Goa in Bangalore more real." The dampness outside did nothing to dampen the energy inside. The audience danced on, unfazed by the

weather, perhaps even more connected because of it.

Huge kudos to the Karnataka Goan Association (KGA) committee for organizing the event so meticulously, every detail bore the stamp of their dedication and passion. The success of the evening reflected careful planning and execution. Core organising team pulled together logistics, performances, décor, and hospitality to deliver a memorable night.

Think Goa. Live Goa. was more than entertainment. For many in Bangalore's Goan community, it was an affirmation of identity, a declaration that distance does not dim culture. It bridged generations, bringing together elders and youth, many of whom grew up away from Goa yet carry its music, food, and language in their hearts.

As the lights dimmed and the last notes of music faded into the evening, what



lingered was a sense of joy, belonging, and hope. Events like these keep cultural memory alive, especially for diaspora communities. They remind people not only to remember, but to live their culture, to pass it on.

A special word of thanks goes out to the President of the Karnataka Goan Association, Mr. Valerian Fernandes and to Mr. Jude Rajesh Ferrao, President of the Catholic Club, for their invaluable support and leadership in making this celebration possible.



An Evening with Author Vivek Francis Naik

— A Celebration of Goan Talent and Literary Flair

by Monica Robinson

The Karnataka Goan Association, in collaboration with the Catholic Club's iBrowse Book Club, hosted a delightful evening to felicitate Goan author Vivek Francis Naik on the launch of his latest book, "Assassinate Authoress." Vivek, who happens to be KGA member Joy Eapen's cousin, was warmly welcomed and celebrated for his literary accomplishment.

Held at the Catholic Club on Wednesday, 27th August 2025, the event was a cosy and lively affair, attended by an enthusiastic audience of readers, members, and well-wishers. The evening began with an elegant and heartfelt introduction by Craig Faria, who set the tone with a warm and stylish welcome for the author.

Joeita, introduced by Monica Robinson, led a captivating conversation as moderator, posing insightful questions that allowed Vivek to share his journey, inspirations, and the creative process behind his book. His responses were engaging and witty, keeping the audience thoroughly involved throughout the discussion.

Adding an element of fun, Nina Goes designed a clever "mystery quiz" based on Vivek's book — in code!

Guests enthusiastically joined in to crack the puzzle, and Cynthia emerged as the lucky winner.

The evening also had a personal touch when Monica Robinson presented Vivek with a beautifully hand-crafted congratulatory card and a "Just Konkani Uloi" pen, along with a warm congratulation in Konkani — a gesture that reflected the Goan spirit of the occasion.



V a n i t a Thamboochetty, representing the iBrowse team, extended heartfelt thanks to Jude Ferrao (President, Catholic Club), Valerian Fernandes (President, KGA), Gavin, and the entire iBrowse team for their excellent arrangements and seamless coordination.

Though the rain made its presence felt, it only added to the charm of the evening. With cheerful conversations, hearty laughter, and steaming cups of chai served alongside samosas and pav bhaji, it turned into a truly memorable celebration of literature, culture, and Goan camaraderie.

Indeed, it was an evening where books, friendship, and the Goan spirit came together beautifully!

KGA Ladainha

by Eslinda Lauzado

The beautifully decorated grotto of our Mother Mary with flowers, fairy lights all around and pretty candle holders (thanks to Sheila) created the perfect ambience for the annual gathering of our KGA members who had gathered in reverence for the Ladainha. The weather was also on our side and we enjoyed a cool winter evening.

The highlight this year was that all the decades of the Rosary were said in Konkani followed by the Litany in Latin. Many of our members are now familiar with the Konkani version having learnt it in the previous year. We also sang all the hymns to our Lady in Konkani as well.

Thanks to Aldrin who trained the choir and led us through the Litany with practiced ease. We thank our choir this year which had many new members and we thank Stephen and Bernie for hosting the practice this year and all who helped with the singing and training the kids. The kids were all happy with the gifts in blue bags that they got organised by Monica.

Two of our young KGA kids (Aden and David) this year did us exceptionally proud by reciting an entire decade in konkani. Angelo did the introductions to the decades and all our kids practiced and sang two hymns at the end dedicated to our Lady trained by Shanaiya. Thanks to Adele too for conducting the service.

We prayed for all our members and their families, past and present and missed all those who couldn't make it this year

Our President, Vice President, Secretary and committee members did a fabulous job of putting the event together.

The evening was complete with the delicious snack boxes from Munchies which ended the evening on a happy and satisfied note. We also got a little Rosary as a memento.

With blessings from our Mother Mary on one and all, may we continue with this tradition.

God bless the KGA.



KGA Kids Online Konkani Rosary

A Beautiful Evening of Prayer and Togetherness

by *Monica Robinson*

The KGA Kids, along with the 'teens and 'tweens group, came together in faith and devotion for an online Konkani Rosary held on 13th October 2025. The initiative, beautifully organised by Monica and Arlette, was specially planned for our children to celebrate the month dedicated to Our Blessed Mother Mary.

Although it was a weekday and a few children couldn't join due to school commitments, those who participated experienced a truly serene and prayerful evening.

President Valerian Fernandes opened the session with a warm and inspiring welcome address, speaking about the importance and power of the Rosary in our daily lives. His words set the perfect tone for the evening of reflection and prayer.

Our talented KGA kids, Angelo Aloysius and Shanaiya Felix, led the group in reciting three Mysteries of the Rosary, alternating between English and Konkani, making it both

meaningful and inclusive. They were wonderfully supported by Maria Fernandes and Bernie Gonsalves, who helped complete the Rosary in Konkani with devotion and grace.

The group also lifted their voices in melodious hymns, Ave Maria and Mamma Mary, filling the online space with a spirit of

joy and reverence as they honoured Our Lady on her feast day.

A heartfelt thank you to all the children and parents who participated so willingly at such short notice, and a special word of appreciation to Arlette Aloysius for graciously coordinating the Zoom session and ensuring everything ran smoothly.

The evening was a gentle reminder of how prayer can unite us, even across screens

and distances. We look forward to continuing this beautiful tradition of the Konkani Rosary for our KGA children, nurturing faith, culture, and togetherness for years to come.





St. Francis Xavier's Feast

Saturday,
6th December, 2025

Mass: 6p.m (Konkani),
St. Joseph's Boys' School Chapel,
Museum Road

Followed by dinner
at the concert hall.



DJ GISELLE
BEHIND THE CONSOLE

Tickets:

Children (5-12 years)	Rs. 150.00
Members	Rs. 350.00
Guests	Rs. 500.00

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