



GOENKAR

For private circulation

Newsletter of Karnataka Goan Association - Bangalore

March 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear respected members and well-wishers of the Karnataka Goan Association.

It gives me immense pleasure to reflect on some of the wonderful events that brought our community together over the past few months. These occasions not only celebrated our traditions but also strengthened the bonds that make the KGA such a vibrant and united family.

The Feast of St. Francis Xavier, which we celebrated on the 6th of December at St. Anthony's Chapel, was a deeply spiritual and meaningful event for all of us. St. Francis Xavier holds a very special place in the hearts of Goans across the world, and it was truly heartwarming to see so many members come together in prayer and devotion.

The celebration continued with a fellowship dinner at St. Patrick's School Hall. It was a beautiful evening where faith, friendship, and community spirit came together. Thanks to all the volunteers and organizers who worked tirelessly to make the event such a success. Your dedication ensured that everyone present felt welcomed and part of something special.

Our second event was the Christmas Carol Singing by the KGA Choir, which brought the true spirit of Christmas into our community. The choir's melodious voices filled our hearts with joy and reminded us of the essence of the season - peace, love, and giving.

Along with the singing, the distribution of Christmas hampers helped us spread cheer and support to members of our community. Christmas is not only about celebration but also about compassion, and I am proud that our association continues to uphold these values. I extend my sincere appreciation to the choir members and all those who helped organize and distribute the hampers.

The third major highlight was the Festa do Carnaval, organized jointly by KGA and the Catholic Club on the 15th of February. What an incredible evening it was! The vibrant music, lively performances, colourful atmosphere, and the joyful participation of everyone truly captured the spirit of the Goan Carnaval.

Carnaval is not just a festival—it is an expression of our culture, our heritage, and our love for celebration. Seeing our members, young and old, come together to dance, laugh, and enjoy the festivities reminded us how important it is to keep our traditions alive, even when we are away from Goa.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our organizing teams, volunteers, performers, and partners who made this event possible. Your energy and enthusiasm made the evening memorable for everyone present.

Dear friends, events like these remind us why the Karnataka Goan Association exists—to preserve our culture, and bring our community together. None of this would be possible without the continued support, participation, and goodwill of our members.

As we move forward, let us continue to celebrate our heritage, support one another, and build an even stronger community for future generations.

On behalf of the Karnataka Goan Association, I thank each one of you for your presence, your participation, and your unwavering support.

God bless you all,

Valerian Fernandes

President

KGA Christmas Carol Singing & Hamper Distribution

by Monica Robimson

A carolling we come... para rum pum pum!

Christmas carols, warm mulled wine, bonhomie, rum plum cake, and the cool December air—yes, we're talking about the KGA Carol Singing and Hamper Distribution, beautifully organized by Aiona on the 16th of December with great flair.

Our "Santas," Daphne and Marlene, generously volunteered their "sleighs," while their cheerful "elves" - Florence, Joanne, Monica, and Nicolette - spread joy with smiles as bright as sunshine.

Though the night was cool, the singing was truly grand. We even discovered a hidden talent in Stephen, our pianist for the evening, who gladly joined the

band and added a special musical touch.

A delightful Goan essence was brought alive as we sang Silent Night in both English and Konkani, making the experience even more meaningful and close to our hearts.

With beautiful carols, charming cribs, and twinkling Christmas trees, the evening wrapped us in warmth and happiness. The melodies of The Little Drummer Boy, Deck the Halls, and We Wish You a Merry Christmas filled the air with festive cheer.

Our beloved Evergreens joined in wholeheartedly, singing their hearts out as mulled wine, snacks, and plum cake



were served—adding to the joy of the evening.

Alfie, Debby, Stephen, Bernie, Eulalia, Fatima, and many more of our charming Evergreens, resplendent in the colors of the season, made the celebration even more special. We thank each one of you!

A big thank you to everyone who participated and made the evening

memorable—Viva Goa, Viva KGA MC, Viva EWP!

And we must say, no one can match a KGA Evergreen when it comes to being kind, welcoming, sporting, warm, and truly jolly!

A Happy Birthday to Christ our King

God bless us all as we continue to worship and sing.



Konkani Classes

by *Monica Robinson*

"Konkani boroj, Konkoni uloi, Konkani fuloi!"

(Write in Konkani, speak Konkani, grow (promote) Konkani!)

In the year 2024, the KGA President, Valerian Fernandes, approved the starting up of a WhatsApp group for KGA members to learn "*amchi bhas*".

The group is going strong and the learning and fellowship continue.

In September 2025 at the "Live Goa Think Goa" event, President Valerian Fernandes felicitated our "Shikshak" Eslinda Louzado for her outstanding contribution and support to the group for over a year.

On account of personal commitments, Eslinda handed over the reins to Melwin Pereira who is from Orlim. She continues to play an important role in the group, ably assisting

Melwin with continued support from Monica Robinson and Stephen Gonsalves.

Melwin starts each lesson with the greeting "*Devache kurpen borlolo dis anvdeetanv*" (wishing you a day filled with God's blessings).

He has also introduced the catch phrase : *Konkani boroj, Konkoni uloi, Konkani fuloi* which we all use regularly now.

Those who wish to learn Konkani and also about Goan traditions and culture are welcome to join the group.

The group thanks President Valerian Fernandes and Mrs Maria Fernandes for their support and warmth as we learn Konkani, meet other members online and also enjoy ourselves.

Deo borem korum.



Festa do Carnaval

by Cameryn De George

As the waves rolled in and out, the Catholic Club in association with The Karnataka Goan Association brought the spirit of Goa alive with a spectacular Goan Carnival on 15th February 2026. Bright, bold, and bursting with energy, the celebration was filled with colour and excitement at every turn. With A26 all the way from Goa setting the rhythm live on stage and DJ Callie on the console keeping the beats pumping, the Catholic Club truly rocked from noon to moon.

The carnival unfolded like a story along Goa's coastline, beginning with a serene sunrise theme led by children and seniors, symbolising hope and new beginnings. As the day moved into dusk, the youth and adults lit up the stage with vibrant performances that captured the golden glow and festive spirit of evening by the sea.

The arrival of King Momo and his Queen brought the revelry to its peak. Accompanied by a dazzling troupe, they embodied the true essence of Carnival, where joy reigns and worries fade away. Performances by the Waves troupe and the Blue Sapphire Maidens added grace and grandeur, while Sunrise and Sunset came alive once more in a magical



dance of colour and movement.

As the night deepened, King Momo and his Queen returned to the floor to a lively Goan Konkani melody, culminating in a joyful proclamation that invited everyone to celebrate in true Carnival spirit.

A heartfelt thanks to Catholic Club President Mr. Jude Rajesh Ferrao and KGA President Mr. Valerian Fernandes for bringing this vibrant celebration to life. Special appreciation to Samantha Pasha for the stunning costumes that added sparkle and charm to the evening. We also extend our gratitude to Kingfisher for their generous sponsorship and support in making the event a grand success.

And as the waves continue to roll, so does the spirit of Carnival, carrying us forward until we celebrate again.







Khursachi Vatt (Stations of the Cross in Konkani)

by *Orville Francis*

An initiative by the Konkani Rockers group, the online Khursachi Vatt marked a first for the KGA community.

Held on the evening of 28 February 2026 via Zoom, the gathering brought together the faithful in a deeply prayerful and reflective environment. The service beautifully blended Konkani and English, highlighting the rich cultural and linguistic heritage of the congregation while meditating on the Passion of Jesus Christ.

The Stations were read in Konkani, accompanied by reflections in English, enabling participants to connect more personally with the message. The community came together in prayer for peace, hope, forgiveness, sacrifice, compassion, and charity. Special prayers were also offered for members who were unwell and had requested intentions.

The devotion concluded with a moving rendition of Khuris Kallzan Dovortolom (The Old Rugged Cross) by Gilbert Britto, adding a poignant and heartfelt close to the evening.

Participants across age groups shared their experiences. Shanaiya Felix (14) expressed, "I would like to thank everyone who organised the Way of the Cross so creatively online. It was truly a beautiful experience for me. Deo borem korum."

Aden (9) and Ethan (6) Rodrigues shared, "Our dad taught us our lines in Konkani (he's very passionate about the language), and we hope

he is proud of us. We were eager to say the Stations in Konkani and look forward to participating in more KGA programmes. We were also happy to be part of a group of all ages—children, adults, and senior citizens."

The Konkani Rockers group extends heartfelt thanks to President Valerian Fernandes for his unwavering support; "Shikshak" Melwin Pereira for teaching and guiding participants in Konkani; Monica Robinson and Adele Britto for initiating this online devotion; Maria D'Souza for the meaningful reflections; and Wilander Rodrigues for his technical expertise.

We praise God for blessing this devotion and thank everyone who joined the Khursachi Vatt. We hope this initiative grows into a cherished KGA Lenten tradition.

Deo borem korum.





Evergreens Spring Fiesta

Innovative ice-breaker
Challenging games
Mind-boggling quizzes
& much more!

Swing to the beat,
shake a leg.
After all it's
SHOWTIME!

Members: Rs. 399/-*

Evergreen guests: Rs. 799/-*

* Inclusive of lunch

312271

Save
the
Date

On Saturday 18 April, 11:00 a.m. onwards
@ Raintree, Catholic Club

St Francis Xavier's Feast Celebration - 2025

by Adele Britto

Come December , the KGA looks forward to celebrating the Feast of St Francis Xavier, our Goencho Saib. The Feast was celebrated on the 6th December 2025, at St Anthony's Chapel in St Patricks Church premises, Brigade Road. It was the 1st time, the Konkani Feast Mass was celebrated in this beautiful Chapel and it was a wonderful feeling. Sometimes change works out for the best!

The choir led by Eslinda Louzado with Cyrus DLima on the keyboards, was a good 20 singers all dressed in red & white. The choir had put in a lot of practice hours at Eslinda's home and truly sounded melodious and prayerful, as we blended together , to raise our voices in song, to our patron saint. We did receive much appreciation from all those who attended the Mass & yes, the Chapel was filled to capacity.

There were 5 Celebrants and the Homily by Fr Manuel Antao delivered partly in English & Konkani was inspiring & thought provoking. Every part of the Feast Mass was carefully planned, including the Offertory procession & the Prayer of the Faithful, which had representation across the board, from tiny tots to teens, young adults & Evergreens. That's the USP of the KGA from its inception in 1974 to date! A warm thanks was raised by Adele Britto in the Chapel on behalf of the Managing Committee who had put in a lot of work to ensure a meaningful and wonderful Feast.

After the Feast Mass, everyone moved to the adjacent St Patricks Hall, including all our celebrants who were very involved with the presentation of the Excellence Awards. As usual, there was a lot of cheer & bonhomie.

Maria D'souza announced the Awards and did a fabulous job as the Emcee.

11 Excellence Awards were given to our meritorious youngsters; 9 in Academics, 1 in Music and 1 in Sports. The President Valerian, introduced a new set of President's Awards this year; 4 awards to the MC members of Craig, Nikita, Monica & Sheila for the hard work put in during the year.

Santa Claus made his rounds and truly brought in the spirit of Christmas. Valerian, Craig, Monica , Sheila , Maria & the other MC members had put in a lot of effort for a wonderful evening where the food was yummy and spirits (though missing) did not in any way dampen the spirit!









