

THE CANARA BANK OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION (Regd.)

Registered under Trade Unions Act, 1926 at Mumbai.
(Affiliated to AIBOC)



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“A girl should be two things: who and what she wants.” ~Coco Chanel

Dear Canpals,

On this meaningful and inspiring occasion of **International Women's Day**, I extend my heartfelt greetings, deep respect and warm wishes to every woman Canpal, who continues to illuminate our Mother Bank and Mighty CBOA with dedication, compassion, sacrifice, strength and wisdom.

International Women's Day is not merely a celebration marked on the calendar. It is a day of reflection, recognition and renewed commitment. It is a day, when the world pauses to recognise the silent sacrifices, quiet strength and extraordinary courage of women who shape families, strengthen organisations and transform societies.

The **United Nations** is marking **International Women's Day 2026** under the theme **“Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls.”** This theme underscores the need to reinforce the rights of women, ensure equitable access to justice and accelerate meaningful action towards achieving gender equality across the world. To carry this message forward, various programmes, dialogues and events are being organised across the UN system globally.

International Women's Day 2026 is also being celebrated under the global campaign theme **“Give to Gain,”** which emphasises the transformative power of collective support in promoting gender equality. The campaign calls upon individuals, institutions and societies to

contribute their time, resources, mentorship and opportunities to empower women and help them realise their full potential. The message behind this theme is simple and profound – *when society invests in the aspirations and progress of women, the rewards extend far beyond individual success and strengthens families, uplifts communities and ultimately builds a more inclusive, balanced and buoyant society.*

In many ways, our country has always **celebrated the spirit of womanhood**. Our scriptures describe woman as the embodiment of courage, wisdom, nurturing and creation. The affection of a **mother**, the firm support of a **sister**, the aspirations of a **daughter** and the determination of a **leader** together embody the remarkable strength and limitless spirit of womanhood.

Today, the story of Indian women is one of transformation and empowerment. Across our nation, women are leading change in every sphere of life. From villages to metropolitan cities, from classrooms to boardrooms, from research laboratories to public offices, women are shaping the future of India.

India is witnessing an unprecedented rise in women's participation across sectors. Let us reflect on some remarkable realities that highlight the rising power of women in our country.

- Women constitute **nearly 48% of India's population**, making them a central pillar of national progress.
- **More than 10 crore** women are associated with **Self-Help Groups** under the National Rural Livelihood Mission, building powerful networks of entrepreneurship and financial independence.
- **More than 2.2 crores of MSMEs** in India are owned or led by women, contributing significantly to employment generation and innovation.
- **India has over 1.4 million elected women representatives** in Panchayati Raj institutions, one of the largest examples of grassroots women leadership globally.

These numbers are not just statistics. They represent millions of dreams, countless struggles and the steadfast courage of women who dared to believe in themselves.

In our Mother Bank, Women Canpals have been playing a phenomenal role in strengthening the banking ecosystem. As bankers, women are not merely professionals managing accounts or transactions, they are problem solvers, analysts, mentors and pillars of trust for customers. *Their empathy builds relationships! Their discipline strengthens systems! Their integrity protects the institution!*

Across branches, administrative offices and leadership positions, women Canpals continue to exemplify outstanding professionalism, commitment and a deep sense of responsibility. Many of them gracefully balance demanding professional responsibilities, while nurturing families and guiding future generations. **Such strength deserves not only appreciation but deep admiration.**

What made this year's Women's Day celebration even more touching is the *beautiful spirit demonstrated by Canpals across every Circle and Region*. Instead of limiting celebrations to offices or formal gatherings, our Canpals chose to **take the spirit of Women's Day to society.**

Across the nation, our Canpals visited orphanages, homes for destitute women and schools for underprivileged girls. We spent time with children, distributed books and essential materials, encouraged young girls to dream fearlessly and brought smiles to faces that rarely experience such care. These gestures truly captured the soul of humanity. **Those innocent smiles, those grateful eyes and those silent blessings that emerged from those interactions are far more precious than any celebration within four walls.**

I wholeheartedly appreciate every Canpal who participated in these noble activities. Our compassion reflects the true character of our Mighty CBOA. We have reminded that banking is not merely about numbers and transactions, but also about touching lives and nurturing hope.

Empowering women is not merely about policies or programs. It is about changing attitudes, breaking stereotypes and creating a culture of respect and equality. **India's future will be brighter when every girl is educated, every woman is respected and every dream is given an opportunity to grow.**

Friends, let us therefore pledge today that we will not only celebrate women but **support them, respect them and stand beside them** in every step of their journey.

On this most special day, I express my wholehearted gratitude and appreciations to all the women Canpals, who are working with extraordinary zeal and enthusiasm for the growth of our Mother Bank and continued strength and progress of our Mighty CBOA. I trust that our **women leaders** will always walk an extra mile in their efforts for the benefit of our Canpals and set a shining example for others to follow.

Let us always remember those underprivileged girls and women who are still waiting for opportunities. I humbly request every Canpal to reach out, encourage them, support them and stand up for their dignity and dreams.

I wish all my Sisters of Canpal Family a Happy and Jubilant Women's Day!

Dream big, do more and go further than your dreams can imagine!

You care for the Bank and CBOA cares for you!

Flaw-Free Banking! Fraud-free Bank!

Discipline in CBOA! Development in Canara Bank!

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ravi Kumar K', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

**RAVI KUMAR K
General Secretary**