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Uplifting the Village Community

VOICE

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Basilica - Nagasaki



**MAHARASHTYACHI YE HAI MOTHI SHAAN
SANT GONSALO GARCIA LA DEVUYA MAAN**

Our Saint Of The Soil - Saint Gonsalo Garcia



Vasai Fort



Nagasaki Hill



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EAST INDIAN NOTICE BOARD

St. Gonsalo Garcia Project Promotion of our Native Saint

Some initiatives taken or plans dedicated to our Native Saint.

- *St. Gonsalo Garcia Chapel to be built at Manori, the first religious place dedicated to our Saint in Mumbai Diocese
- *Plans for a Japan Tour to Nagasaki where our saint was crucified
- *Request to State Government to restore the Bassein Fort especially baptismal font at St. Josephs Church where St. Gonsalo Garcia was baptized around the year 1500
- *Religious articles and Merchandise of our Patron Saint
- *East Indian Awards dedicated to our Native Saint
- *Statue of Saint installed at Kaka Baptista East Indian Museum
- *St. Gonsalo Garcia Gaothan Yatra - Visit of the Statue of our Saint during Lenten time
- *A special page dedicated for February in the East Indian Calendar 2020
- *An initiative under our Education Project to be dedicated to St. Gonsalo Garcia
- *An art Installation to be dedicated to our Native Saint in Maharashtra State



A Mobai Gaothan Panchayat Initiative

MGP Gifts to the Community - 2020 10 Years! 10 Gifts!

This being out 10th Year we have 10 special Gifts besides our list of various projects and activities. The MGP Network - locally, nationally and internationally will targets to touch the 100 mark in 2020

Top ten MGP gifts for the coming year

1. St. Gonsalo Garcia Chapel - Manori site work starts soon, likely to be completed by year-end or Feb 2021
2. East Indian Bhavan - Dharavi Beth phase 1 to be completed by May and other regional Bhavans at Mumbai, Thane, Raigad and Vasai
3. Gaothan Voice - an active team which is likely to plan a monthly release
4. East Indian Baazaar - a target if 2 Baazaar every month and plan to reach out to all villages
5. Gaothan Bachav Project - Restore, Revive, Protect and Preserve
6. Education Project - Counselling, scholarships, seminars and more
7. East Indian Sann 2020 - 10 activities planned in Jan Feb 2020
8. East Indian Calendar 2021 - to be released by November with a print run of 3000+
9. Gaothan Games - foundation in promoting sports and other plans like tournaments, club teams and a Gym
10. Reetiñ Reevaj - A Culture Guide to be released by year end

All these projects are challenging and we invite you to support as volunteers, Coordinators or Advisors.

Call 9820087771/7506175302 more details

MGP - Lets Make Things Happen

MGP 2019 - A YEAR THAT WAS

Mobai Gaothan Panchayat thanks you all for your Support and Prayers. The Year 2019 was a great one for MGP and the East Indian Community. We thank all those who made 2019 extra special for us. Some of the memorable moments and activities for the year were:

1. East Indian Dictionary - the first ever Dictionary released in the East Indian Dialect
2. East Indian Baazaar - a series of around 10 Baazaars across the year
3. East Indian Sann 2018 - A series of events were held across Jan Feb 2019
4. Mot Mauli Yatra - the statue of Mount Mary visited around 40 Gaothans
5. Agera - MGP was one of the core groups to promote this Harvest festival Celebrated in more than 100 Gaothans
6. Gaothan Shakha - 10 shakhas opened across East Indian Gaothans
7. Gaothan Voice - readership reached 50,000 with active online network
8. East Indian Calendar 2020 - More than 2000 copies printed of MGPs first edition
9. East Indian Conclave 2019 - 25 Participants took active part to plan way forward on the theme based on Education and Career
10. Sarvajanic Krist Janmotsav - The Mega Christmas Festival was organised on an all India level

We look forward to your continuous prayers and Support. Wishing you a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year 2020.

To join our MGP Team contact 9820545302/9820087771

GAOTHAN ADS VILLA

GAOTHAN VOICE FAMILY

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Alphi Desouza - Vakola
Averil Fernandes - Gundavli
Gleason Barretto - Old Kurla
Penny Miranda - Amboli
Rita Rodricks - Bandra
Sybil Rodrigues - Kalina
Walter Murzello - Orlem
Jamaica D'Ilma - Marve
Lovesh Miranda - Dubai



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GAOTHAN VOICE - FEB 2020

EAST INDIAN NEW ISLAND

Your Community News Page

Jamaica Dlima - Marve

East Indian Baazaar at Erangal gets a Great Response

Mobai Gaothan Panchayat kickstarted the East Indian Sann 2020 with the East Indian Bazaar at Erangal on Sunday 12th January. The stall had a variety of items to sell. The East Indian Calendar 2020, EI dictionary, EI cook books and a variety of other East Indian merchandise. MGP Team thanks all those who visited our stall at Erangal.

Will Gaothans benefit from the Special Development rules?

According to a report published in Mid Day on 17th January, UDRI had a special meet with the BMC Commissioner to make a presentation on the DP Policy for Gaothans. All UDRI meets were attended by Neil Pereira from Bandra Pali Gaothan. MGP members have also attended some of the UDRI Meetings led by Alphi D'Souza and Bryce Rodricks. MGP Team thanks all groups and activists who have selflessly worked to protect and Preserve our Gaothans.

First Edition of Gaothan Games Gets a Good Reponse

The first ever Gaothan Games organised by Be Fit in collaboration with MGP got a very good response. MGP is grateful to Fr. Magi Murzello for supporting us to have the Gaothan Games at St. Andrew's College, Bandra on Sunday 26th January. MGP thanks BE FIT Directors Ruth and Brinston Miranda and team for organising the first Gaothan Games. We also thank all our Sarpanches and Coordinators for their unending support. Special thanks our compere Alistair D'souza for his support always. MGP Team thanks all those who were present and participated in the first edition of the Gaothan Games.

East Indian Community Awards 2020

Mobai Gaothan Panchayat is organising the East Indian Community Awards 2020. More than 20 categories of awards will be presented to various individuals or institutions who have contributed to our community. Some of the categories are as below:

- East Indian Religious of the Year
- East Indian Heritage Cross of the Year
- East Indian Activist of the Year
- East Indian Association of the Year
- East Indian Initiative of the Year
- East Indian Project of the Year
- East Indian Entrepreneur of the Year
- East Indian Singer of the Year
- East Indian Photo of the Year
- East Indian Band of the Year
- East Indian Sports person of the Year

Appreciation awards will also be presented to various individuals or groups who have made our community proud and famous across India or the world in their specialized field or East Indian community related issues.

Diary

11th January - East Indian Baazaar at St. Andrew's College Cafeteria, Bandra

12th January - East Indian Baazaar at Erangal

26th January - First ever edition of Gaothan Games at St. Andrew's College, Bandra

In the News

January 17th, Page 7, Mid-Day

Will Special development rules help preserve Gaothans, Koliwadass?

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EAST INDIAN PUNCH

The Mouthpiece of the Mobai Gaothan Panchayat

MAHARASHTYACHI YE HAI MOTH SHAAN
SANT GONSALO GARCIA LA DEVUYA MAAN
Our Saint Of The Soil - Saint Gonsalo Garcia

Walter Murzello - Orlem

Around the year 1532 the Portuguese landed at the coastal town of Vasai and destroyed the fortress standing there which was built by Sultan Bahadur Shah of Gujarat. The Portuguese then went on to rebuild a citadel on the very same location. By this time consequent to a treaty between the Sultan and the Portuguese, and after all the land transactions were completed by the ruler Bahadur Shah of Gujarat and the Portuguese, Vasai along with its other villages was handed over to the Portuguese. Then onwards from 1936 the citadel began to flourish as a center of Portuguese civilization. The Portuguese then built churches in and around the citadel. The three churches were Nossa Senhora da vida (Our Lady of Life) 1536, St. Anthony's church 1537, and Church of the Holy Name of Jesus 1549.

It was in this very citadel and the Vasai Fort that St. Gonsalo lived in his formation years. His father was a Portuguese Christian and his mother was a native who converted to Christianity from the Vasai region. Gonsalo was baptised in 1557 at the church of The Holy Name which is situated within the fort itself. Gonsalo got his primary education within the fort from the Jesuits whom he was wanting to join but being a non European he was refused. He then tried his hand at Merchandising, but his calling and Christian zeal was so strong that he finally found himself admitted as a Franciscan lay brother.

Gonsalo Garcia joined a team of lay missionaries to Japan and then the Philippines and there after back to Japan where they began to spread the word of God and evangelize. It was in Japan that Gonsalo along with other six Franciscans, three Jesuits and about seventeen lay persons were imprisoned and tortured and eventually speared to death on crosses atop Nagasaki Hill on 5th February 1597. Gonsalo Garcia was canonised and declared a saint in the year 1862.

For us Saint Gonsalo being the first Indian Saint from the region around Vasai, is considered as a Native Saint. Mobai Gaothan Panchayat has over the past many years been knocking at the doors of The Archdiocese of Bombay to rethink on the issue of Saint Gonsalo as "Principal Patron Saint of the Archdiocese of Bombay", especially since not only is he the first Indian saint, but also a "Saint of the Soil".

So far there are three churches in the Vasai region, including one in the Vasai Fort, named after saint Gonsalo Garcia, but sadly not a single church in the Archdiocese of Bombay dedicated to our Saint of Bombay.

Mobai Gaothan Panchayat has taken upon themselves the responsibility of highlighting the issue of rightfully declaring St. Gonsalo Garcia as the Patron saint of Mumbai. As a first step Mobai Gaothan Panchayat has decided to build a "Chapel" honoring our "Saint of our Soil" Saint Gonsalo Garcia. We are also in touch with tour operators to plan a Pilgrimage Tour to Nagasaki. A special appeal is also being made to the Maharashtra State Government to restore places of importance in the life of our Saint especially the Vasai Fort. A special meeting with authorities is being planned to give due recognition to our Saint.

We look forward to your prayers and support as we plan to do our very best to Promote our Saint of the Soil - St. Gonsalo Garcia

Dedicated to our East Indian Native and Patron Saint.

ST. GONSALO GARCIA CHAPEL

Aaplaa GAAV! Aapla Devool!

Chapel Project Coordinator - Bonny Pereira, Orlem
Site - Manori

Highlights

- *The First Religious structure(Chapel/Church) in Bombay Archdiocese to be dedicated to our Native Saint
- *The Chapel is likely to be inaugurated in the year 2020
- *Chapel plot belongs to the family of Late Beatrice (Joanna)/ Peter D'Souza (sodawalla) admeasuring about 50 sq metres opposite the Kaka Baptista East Indian Museum in Manori
- *We look forward to Support from Experts(Designers, architects, Sculptors, fabricators, etc) in building this Chapel
- *A separate Bank account for this project has been opened for this project
- *MGP Team started the Fund Generation by having a Box Collection for this project along with the Mot Mauli Yatra and we have collected Rs.111,957/-
- *Contributions by Cheque or in kind are welcome
- *We plan to get relics from Japan and promote pilgrimage to Nagasaki
- *Well known Sequeira Brothers from Vasai to design the altar and the religious statues
- *The Boat on which the Chapel will stand will be made by Clyde Henriques

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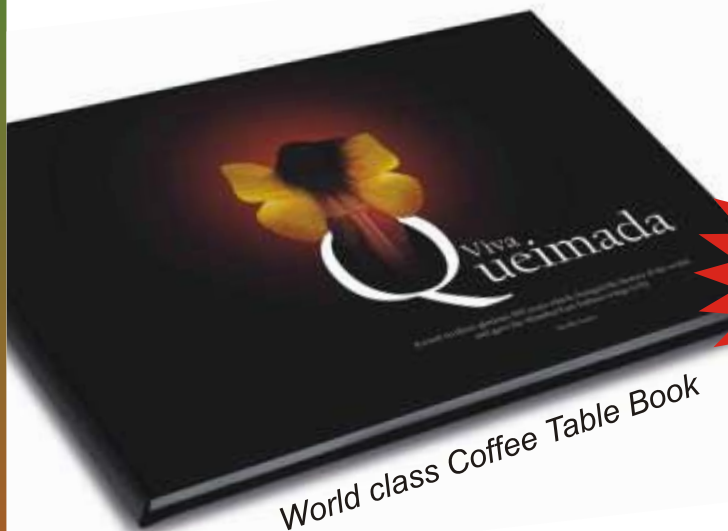
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