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The East Indian Magazine

One Village !

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East Indian Samaj Covid Action Team

Mobai Gaothan Panchayat is launching the East Indian Samaj Covid Action Team (EIS-CAT) to combat Coronavirus and its adverse effects on mankind. Even after the lockdown is lifted, it will be a while till normal everyday life is restored. The EIS CAT initiatives will focus on East Indian Community, Gaothans, Village, City, State, Country and the World at large. We are hoping the Religious can join this special team to create and solidify the spiritual connect. Professionals and Experts are always welcome to join as Advisors and Mentors. To join EIS-CAT whatsapp 9820087771 or email us at mgpmobai@gmail.com

Pascucha Sann Hausheshi Gajila

For the first time since a century people were forced to celebrate Easter Sunday inside their homes all thanks to the Coronavirus. Mr Mario Gracias from Kharodi contacted MGP with the idea of celebrating Easter inside our homes and that how we started with the first ever East Indian Singers Live on Easter Sunday. Ten famous and popular East Indian singers sang in the first edition. The event was streamed live and was watched by more than 6000 viewers. The prizes were sponsored by Julia & Jillyn Jeffrey Lobo from Madh Island.

Coronavirus Lockdown - Support in Times of Emergencies

The Coronavirus lockdown may help flatten the curve but many

people who depend on daily wages for their livelihood are in trouble and therefore Mobai Gaothan Panchayat has decided to support needy families in the Gaothans irrespective of Caste, Creed or Religion. A ration kit containing pulses and other essentials have already been given to more than 150 needy families. In case you wish to help, MGP will accept donations by cheques or by funds transfer only. For more details you may contact 9820545302 or email us at eastindianfund@gmail.com

Stay Home, Stay Safe and Watch Mee East Indian on Youtube

Before Coronavirus could come and disrupt our lives, the official MGP YouTube channel Mee East Indian had a measly 267 subscribers. What started off as a way to keep our East Indian brethren spiritually connected during the Lenten season turned out to be a huge hit on Easter Sunday and thereafter. As of May 6th, the channel has more than 7000 subscribers and the East Indian Singing Online Competition crossed 1 Lac views and still Counting. MGP Team thanks all those who made time to Watch and Enjoy MGPs East Indian Online Singing Competition and various other videos on MeeEastIndian.

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1ST EAST INDIAN ONLINE SINGING COMPETITION

Mobai Gaothan Panchayat held their first East Indian online singing competition today
It was live streamed at 7.15 p.m. on 'Mee East Indian', MGP's very own YouTube Channel from Mumbai
The event was conceptualized by Mario Gracias from Kharodi
The chief competition coordinator was Bryce Rodricks from Amboli

Arnold Rodrigues from Kurla live streamed the event
It was fun filled and melodious truly an evening well spent
Our very own Alistair Dsouza from Juhu was the effervescent host for the evening with his happy face
He very effortlessly compered the show in English and East Indian Marathi dialect with aplomb and grace

There were Thirty-Three contestants and one complimentary song
Solos and Duets were sung with gusto by old and young
Guitars, Keyboards, Trumpets, Drums and Ghumats (Clay Drum) were all part of the act
It was a visual treat watching the contestants displaying their talent with finesse and still being on track

Rocky D'silva who sang 'Kir Corona' is from Bandra
Paul Gonsalves, Leanne and Lionel, are from Kalina
Rudolf Dcunha and Welbourn Gomes on the drums are from Kurla
Shannon Nunes, a young budding singer is from Wadala

Christilda and Donald, Rinku and Ignatius, Roylin Kinny this gang is from Manori
Janice Nunes, Jerald and Janice Nunes are from Dongri
Snedden Kinny, Zenobia and Alveno, Sherly and Tarence are from Kharodi
Master Roland and his team hail from Rathodi

Fr. Donald Rodrigues is from the parish of Maroli
Clifton and Gilbert Dsouza represented Vikhroli
Claver Zolar sang 'Laraai Yi Jiktin' is from Gorai
Ainsley Pereira from 'Ghumat Gang' is from Vasai

Rynel Tixeira, Cedric Tixeira, Adolf Creado and Justice Gonsalves are residents of Juhu
Their YouTube music videos get a lot of likes, shares and views
Abriana Dsilva another young singing star from Bhayander made us proud
Melody Ferreira, Sachin Thopelya, Allwyn Pereira, Fr. Ashley and Tristan Gonsalves all from Uttan quite a crowd

Victor Misquitta, Ollentina and Partner from Vile Parle put up an act
Royston and Shallet from Kirol sang 'Dukryachi Mushi' with their own tract
Reverend Father Donald Rodrigues sang his composition 'Vishwas' a tribute to seafarers
Father Ashley Bhanga gave us his rendition of 'Seveche Doot' which has become a hit with his followers

Viewers were asked to participate by posting selfies of themselves and their families for the Audience Contest with prizes to be won
They could be wearing traditional Lugas/Surkhas, Singing, Dancing or Snacking during the live streaming to join in the fun
East Indian USA with Roweena and her team were very much active on the scene
They were all rooting for their favorites and making family connections in between

1ST EAST INDIAN ONLINE SINGING COMPETITION

Viewers were requested to vote for their favorite contestant by leaving a like

Comments and Shares added to their popularity which resulted in a spike

More than Fifty Thousand Views were registered which is very encouraging indeed

Thank-you to our Sponsors, Advertisers, Participants and Audience for their unflinching support in times of our need!

Rita Rodricks - Bandra



EAST INDIAN ONLINE SINGING COMPETITION GRAND AWARD CEREMONY

Today Mobai Gaothan Panchayat held their online Grand Awards Ceremony for the East Indian Singing Competition. It was live streamed at 9.15 p.m. from Mumbai hosted by Madonna Tixeira who had us all at rapt attention. Valentine and Trinette Machado, a father-daughter duo from Sahar began the show with their composition of 'Puranpoli'. They are a singing family who do live shows with much entertainment and glee.

The Best Urta Solo song prize was awarded to Vile Parle's Victor Misquitta. His song was about traditional East Indian weddings in 'Valanchi Varada'. Zenobia and Alveno Gracias from Kharodi won the prize for the best theme song 'Isartay Boativarcha Sapan'. They sang a duet with great gusto and style; it was sure a lot of fun.

Snedden Kinny from Kharodi won for the highest YouTube views for his religious song 'Navla'. More than seven thousand views were recorded by his fans from near and far. Melody Ferreira from Uttan overwhelmed us with her trumpeting which gave us a thrill. She won the Multi Talented Young Star Award for her unexceptional talent and skill.

Nancy Netto from Sahar performed a song and dance on 'Tonka Farak' which made us smile. She gave us a fashion show as well; her family supported her by dancing as they went that extra mile. Stanlon Rodrigues from Kurla sang his own composition on the Corona Virus. He has his own YouTube music videos which are modern, catchy and has all the fizz.

The Young Rising Stars awards went to Abriana Dsilva from Bhayander and Shannon Nunes from Wadala. These two young talented girls sang 'Aayar Taishi Pairaavani' and 'Dayaa'. 'Notes and Beats' a band from Uttan played 'Main Shayar Toh Nahi' an old Hindi song along with the modern 'Despacito'. Their lively music will have you singing, dancing, tapping and much more.

Cedric Tixeira, from Juhu won the second consolation prize for his composition 'Corona Parmesrachi Thaap'. He is an accomplished singer and musician by far. He and his wife Jane sang 'Boat-In Sanala Yeun' accompanied by him playing the mouth organ and the guitar. Father Ashley Nanga from Uttan won the first consolation prize sponsored by Ivan Dsouza (Calvision) for 'Seveche Doot' with his melodious voice. It holds him in good stead when he sings the hymns in church which everybody enjoys.

Jerald and Janice Nunes from Dongri won the third prize with their song 'Maavlichi Naavan'. Their prize was sponsored by Morris Kinny who sang 'Abhaar'. Gilbert Dsouza from Vikhroli won second prize for 'Phasi' sponsored by Roger Neil Miranda. First Prize sponsored by Jeffrey James Lobo was awarded to Justice Gonsalves from Juhu on the Corona Virus for 'Saran Sar'.

Appreciation gifts of cash were presented to some of the contestants by well wishers. It motivates old and young singers to work hard on their talent including amateurs. The show ended with 'Notes and Beats' playing an old mix of melodious tunes. The songs were so familiar that we audience could join in and croon.

EAST INDIAN ONLINE SINGING COMPETITION GRAND AWARD CEREMONY

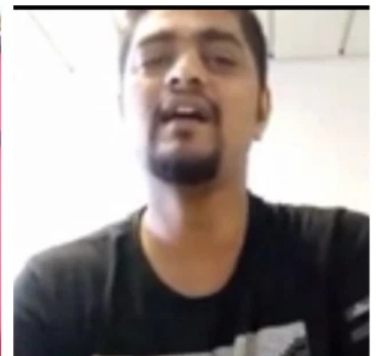
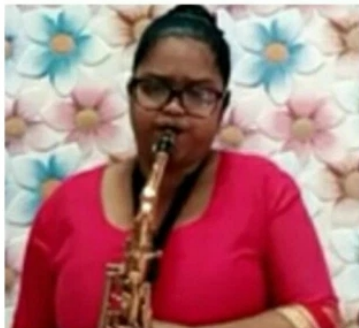
Special Thanks goes out to Gleason Barretto, Founder Member, Trustee and Chief Project Co-ordinator of Mobai Gaothan Panchayat who works tirelessly

He ensures and takes care that for all the MGP events and functions people leave happily

Next is the online 'East Indian Comedy' competition on YouTube please participate

Please send in your comical video entries by the 7th of May, 2020 do not be late!

Rita Rodricks - Bandra



GAOTHAN MEMORIES

It's not only Bandra that is changing so quickly but gaothans across the city are donning a new avatar. We can't do much about the change and can't stop it either but we can preserve and protect what is left by our ancestors. Many of the East Indian villages across Bombay, always had a cross at the entrance of the village while others were dispersed around the neighbourhood.

But today, these crosses and roadside shrines now have a new neighbour. Across Bandra and some of the other gaothans today sport a 'chowk' christened mostly after a Bollywood personality or a local MLA. What's disheartening is that the charm of Bandra and its heroes who once did Bandra proud are long forgotten. We have chowk's like the most recent one – Padma Shri Mahendra Kapoor Chowk at the junction of St. Martin and Turner Road that was inaugurated in April 2019. Bandra is truly peppered with such chowks across roads and junctions. We have Vali Mohammad Bhamla Chowk at the junction of Perry Cross Road and Turner Road (the road that leads to old Kantwadi), which took the residents by surprise just like the one at St. Martin Road. Then there is another, not so recent chowk at the junction of Hill Road, and S.V Road- Just diagonally opposite Lucky restaurant which is P. Mohd Rafi Chowk and then another, Rustom Chowk- just outside the now high end apparel store- Marks & Spencer.

Where are our Bandra heroes and how do we relive their memories for our younger generations? What does it take for a chowk to be named after someone, do you need to be a Padma awardee or have some political inclination?

But more than a chowk and of real prestige was once an arch that graced Hill Road and erected by the erstwhile Government of Bombay to recognise stalwart – Peter John Fonseca.

Peter joined Her Majesty's Custom House in the year 1858 as a young lad of just 20 years. In the years to come, for his diligence and faithful service, he was raised to the post of Overseer, Import Department, in the year 1876. A post he held with much rigour for 42 years.

Peter hailed from one of the oldest families of Bandra and his descendants continue to live in and around Bandra. He was a resident of St. Martin Road and with his brother Manuel Anthony Fonseca. the Very. Revd. M.A. Fonseca, Vicar of the R. C. Cathedral of Bombay personally supervised and also built the Chapel of Our Lady of Calvary which stood at the flank of Parvar village, Pali Hill.

What's interesting is that neither did Peter or his family petition for a recognition, the arch or a title. It was his sheer gallant services which he was recognised for.

*The arch was erected six months after his demise by the Officers and employees of the Custom House and all those who worked with him in official capacity. They subscribed and erected the monument to his memory as a mark of their esteem. The arch stood opposite the Tata Agiary, Hill Road. The inscription on the memorial read, *“Erected to the memory of Mr. Peter John Fonseca, a most patient, careful and trustworthy Overseer, Import Department, 25 years.” (Collector's Office Order No. 2370 of 10 Dec 1900) by his admirers, and by Officers, Employees and Dalals of the Bombay Custom House, as a mark of the esteem.”* The opening ceremony was completed by Mr. H. Crawford, Assistant Collector, Import Inspecting Department, in the presence of a select gathering consisting of Customs Officials, community and family members.

Peter was not only a dedicated professional, but also cared for his community dearly. In his spare time, seeing the poverty of his neighbours at Khar he established a Conference of St. Vincent de Paul, later known as the Conference of Nossa. Senhora. de Monte. To further, help his neighbours, he started a village school at Khar however he was unable to sustain it for long. Nevertheless, he had children visit his residence and taught them Catechism, once back from

GAOTHAN MEMORIES

work. When the Khar and Pali roads were being constructed he willingly parted with portions of his property free of charge. For several years when living at Khar he provided water at his residence to the foot passengers, free of charge. One of his last acts of benevolence was to allow a water pipe in his garden for the use of those who found it difficult to get water elsewhere.

...but today the arch on Hill Road has long since disappeared and so has the memory of Peter John Fonseca. It was demolished by the BMC as part of a road widening project in the 1970's.

We need to relive and bring to life the work of such long forgotten heroes who have done Bandra, the East Indian Community, Bombay and India proud. Have you heard of any other arch in Bombay that was built by the British or even the past few governments to recognise the work of a fellow East Indian, less an Indian? But yes, chowks continue to spring up, sadly not in reminiscence of our Bandra stalwarts but those who have very recently made Bandra their home.

It's interesting to note that the only other arch in Bombay, is The Gateway of India, which we all know was built to commemorate the visit of King George V and Queen Mary to Mumbai.

Here's hoping that the younger generation preserve and protect what we have left and do the community proud. Mobai Gaothan Panchayat has been playing a stellar role in reviving the East Indian customs and more so bringing this to life across villages and showcasing it to the larger population. Let's do what we can, while we can!

With inputs from Major Leon G. Fonseca (Retd.) and excerpt from The Examiner, Dec 22 1900

Floyd Almeida - Bandra



MGP Vibhag Sarpanch of Kurla Kalina Vakola Passes Away RIP Aloysius Gomes

It is with much sadness in our hearts MGP mentions the sad demise of our MGP Vibhag Sarpanch of Kurla Kalina Vakola - Aloysius Gomes. He was one of our very active members and also very active locally. Condolences to the family members. May his Soul Rest In Peace!

MGP PROJECTS

1.	Gaothan Voice	16.	East Indian Business Network
2.	Gaothan Restoration Project	17.	St.Gonsalo Garcia Chapel Project
3.	East Indian Conclave	18.	East Indian Merchandise
4.	East Indian Baazaar	19.	East Indian Community Fund
5.	East Indian Card	20.	East Indian Bhavan
6.	East Indian Dictionary	21.	International East Indian Community Council
7.	Kaka Baptista East Indian Museum	22.	East Indian Sanskriti Gaothan
8.	East Indian Calendar	23.	Gaothan Shakha
9.	East Indian Office	24.	East Indian Education Project
10.	Sarvajanik Krist Janmotsav	25.	The Kaka Baptista Project
11.	Mot Mauli Purcessao Yatra	26.	Gaothan Bachav Andolan
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Jesus Che Naavan Khuruj Bandhilay Sagle Gaavan May the Holy Cross Save Us All

A famous East Indian Hymn has a powerful chorus, "O Crussa Salami Tula, Eklas Bharvansa Tu Amcha". Holy Crosses are a common feature at every East Indian Gaothan in Bombay, Thane, Vasai and Raigad. An East Indian Gaothan is Complete only if it has a Heritage Holy Cross and almost all of them are more than a 100 years old.

In the month of May villagers gather every evening to recite the Holy Rosary in front of the Community Cross. Each Holy Cross also selects a day to celebrate their Cross Feast. Cross Feast is a prevalent custom anticipated with much zeal in most of our villages. On the last day of May many celebrate the Cross Feast and are treated with channas and soft drinks and spend some time mingling together and interacting with each other. As children it was one event in the month of May we did not want to miss.

Keeping this in mind Mobai Gaothan Panchayat(MGP) had declared May 31st as Holy Cross Day in the year 2013. The Holy Crosses have existed for centuries and a sizeable number were built to save the village from plague around a century ago. Majority of them are more than a century old and have heritage value but we need to ensure that they are restored and not renovated. Some of them need urgent preservation especially when many locals have migrated from their villages. Our East Indian Holy Cross Traditions have existed since centuries even before BMC was established.

The Holy Crosses have a rich history in protecting our Gaothans from Plague and now as we live in fear of the Coronavirus let's pray that we are blessed and saved. It may not be possible to recite the rosary outdoors but we can revive the family Rosary which was slowly being missed out by some families. Also on one day we can all look out of our windows and recite the community rosary together with our families. A Nice way to give our Gaothans the East Indian feel and make it prayerful in these Challenging times.

When we pass by our Holy Crosses let's say a small prayer to safeguard our world from this pandemic. Some of our Gaothans also have the statue of St.Roque or even have a procession around the Gaothans. St.Roque is the Patron for eradication of pandemics. Let's also pray to St.Roque during these times.

An appeal to all our community members to Preserve, Protect and Restore our Heritage Crosses. The Miraculous Holy Cross at Kurla and Malwani need to be venerated and given a special thought for our Religious activities. Some Holy Crosses need urgent preservation and protection and a special project for this needs to be worked on. MGP plans to initiate the same at an appropriate time.

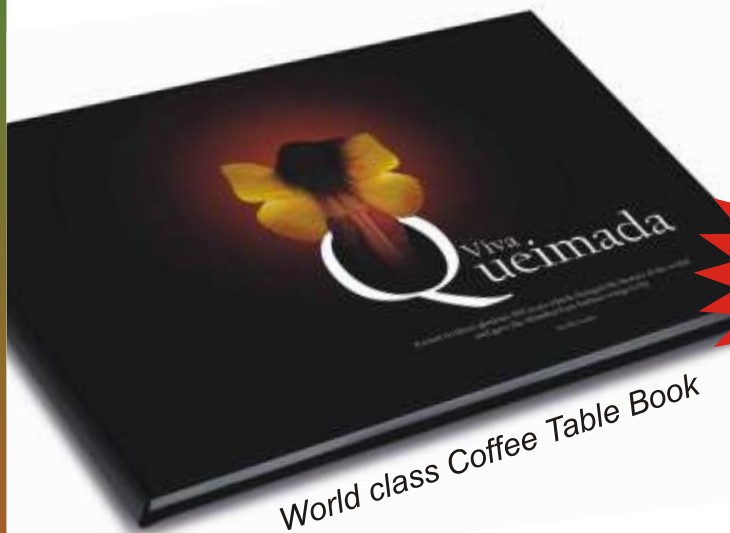
MGP Team wishes your family a Happy and Prayerful Holy Cross Month of May. May the Holy Cross Save Us all from this Pandemic and may things turn to normal once again.

Gleason Barretto, Old Kurla



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