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Uplifting the Village Community

For Private circulation only

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Mangna Mangatla Ghevoon Luzar Maulini Aikatla Amcha Lazaar Mother Mary was our Only Hope



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The sky is the limit for Mee Eastindian

Coronavirus doesn't seem to be going away anytime soon but fear not because we are here to cheer you up. Mee Eastindian - The official YouTube Channel of Mobai Gaothan Panchayat is all set to keep your entertained throughout this year. Our tagline is Innovate Initiate Inspire and that is precisely what we are going to do. we have an interesting lineup of events and this is what our proposed annual calendar looks like. 1.East Indian Online Singing Competition2.Barki Larki - Children Singing Sensations3.Bands Talent Performance4.East Indian Voice5.East Indian Community Awards6.East Indian Music Awards7.East Indian Master Chef8.East Indian Instrumental Talent9.East Indians Got Talent10.International Singing Competition11.Dance Talent Performance12.East Indian Choir Performance Besides these, we will also have the annual East Indian calendar showcaing Gaothans and we also have plans for monthly and fortnightly shows.To be a part of the core, planning, activity or technical teams contact Bryce Rodricks on 88981 78889.

Aapley Ugavtey Taarey

There is a famous saying; the youth are the future of the country. Aapli tarun peedi khub mahtvachi hai and yana jar apun chance dila puran yevala, we can expect miracles because youth are and will always be the biggest strength of our community.Keeping this in mind, MGP has launched a new show for our Young Achievers. Aaple Ugavtey Taarey will feature young rising stars and their achievements. We want them

to come ahead and be an inspiration for all the youth and children watching them.The first guest on the show is Captain Keithair Misquitta. She is a typical East Indian, very level headed and ambitious, her journey started at the age of 17 and she got her commercial flying license at the age of 23. She's proud of her East Indian heritage and speaks her mother tongue fluently. She was presented a special award at the East Indian Awards 2019Aapley Ugavtey Taarey is streaming on "Mee Eastindian" - The official YouTube Channel of Mobai Gaothan Panchayat.If you think there is any youth who has achieved success and can be an inspiration, get in touch with us. Call or Whatsapp your details on - 9820327315.

Shikshan - MGP Launches its Education Project

Education has always been the need of the hour, but this time so more than ever. Therefore Mobai Gaothan Panchayat has decided to launch Shikshan. Seminars and Webinars on Various important aspects of education will be organised and conducted by Experts and Professionals. Conference is also being planned with experts from the education sector. We are also planning counselling sessions by Specialists. Mentors will give guidelines and support. Social media updates with website links, will also be given on education opportunities.The Chief Coordinator of this project is Alistair Dsouza. Those who would like to be a part of it may contact us at mgpmobai@gmail.com or on 9820169092Baashe Cha Maan - East Indian YouTube seriesThe first ever East Indian YouTube Series will be streamed on Mee Eastindian, our very own East Indian channel on YouTube. The director of the sereis is Mr

Anthony D'souza from Oshiwara. Russel Gonsalves from Versova is on board as Special Advisor. This will be the First East Indian YouTube Series based on peserving the East Indian Language. Anthony D'souza has worked in various TV serials like Tarak Mehta Ka Ulta Chasma and CID. Russel Gonsalves was instrumental in releasing the first East Indian play after a long break in the East Indian traditional playsThose who wish to act in this YouTube series may contact Anthony on 9819806438. Videographers and video editors who wish to be a part of this series may contact us at mgpmobai@gmail.com

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GAOTHAN MEMORIES

The name of the suburb of Santa Cruz is often incorrectly spelt "Santacruz" these days, much to the chagrin of its long time residents.

The name of the area is "Santa Cruz", not "Santacruz". It is two words (distinct and capitalized), not one; that mean "Holy Cross" in Portuguese. To call it "Santacruz" is plain wrong and historically inaccurate. It would be akin to using "Newdelhi", or perhaps "Malabarhill". The correct name also pays tribute to the Holy Cross, after which it is named, and an erroneous one is almost disrespectful.

Santa Cruz was one of the twenty odd original *paçarias* (hamlets) of the Portuguese "*Aldeia do Bandora*" (township of Bandora), in the Portuguese colonial era; the main occupations of whose residents were toddy-tapping and general cultivation.

The pre-Portuguese era name of the locality was Khulbowree (roughly translated as "yard-long well"). In the Portuguese colonial era, the village of Khulbowree was extended and expanded, to become Santa Cruz, translated as "Holy Cross" in English. The name comes from a wooden cross that was erected by its residents. A Chapel dedicated to "Santa Cruz" was also erected in the late 1600s by Jesuits priests, at the site of the present day Missionaries of Charity, on Chapel Lane in Santa Cruz (West).

The *paçaria* of Santa Cruz was one of the last on the island of Salsette to be surrendered by the Portuguese to the invading Maratha forces, in June 1737, a couple of years before the total Portuguese withdrawal from Bandora (present day Bandra) itself. The original Chapel of Santa Cruz was razed to the ground by the Marathas, in 1739.

Santa Cruz remained a part of Bandra in the context of coming under Bandra Municipality until 1950, when the later was expanded to include Khar and Santa Cruz in 1933.

There are over a hundred places around the world named "Santa Cruz", thanks primarily to Portuguese and Spanish colonization, practically on every inhabited continent of the planet. There are several places named "Santa Cruz" in India too, such as in Goa and Kerala. Yet, no other place spells it as "Santacruz", as our suburb is now incorrectly referred to. It is therefore surprisingly odd, that the name of the suburb has metamorphosed into what it is today. An error, made in the late 1990s, that has regrettably stuck.

While "Santacruz" is often (incorrectly) used, one wonders if it would be possible to officially make corrections, so that the name in its correct and logical form, i.e. "Santa Cruz" is used. Perhaps if the local government can do something, the use of the correct name will percolate to the grassroots, where the common man will once again use "Santa Cruz", just as the incorrect "Santacruz" is used today, more oft than not.

In the current political climate, there is also another aspect of not using the proper name. The original and correct name, while having its independent, non-religious and historically justified connotations, is looked upon as a "foreign". Though how using "Santacruz" makes it more "local sounding" is beyond most logical minds. Given the current trend of changing the names of anything that sounds even remotely "foreign", the genuine and justified concern is that "Santa Cruz" may be next on the hit-list of politicians.

Another unfortunate feature of Santa Cruz these days is the incorrect change in the names of several streets, by the authorities. A glaring error that is noticed is the labeling of the famed Avenues of Santa Cruz, built in a grid format over a century ago, as "Avenue Road", by the authorities. This is incorrect and inconsistent - if it is an "Avenue", it cannot be a "Road". By definition, an Avenue is a "road lined by trees on both sides". There is nothing in the English language like "Avenue Road", which is incorrect in itself.

We already have had many unwanted name changes as of late, all of which robs us of our history. Let us use the correct historical name of this suburb so as to preserve its heritage.

GAOTHAN MEMORIES

**Santa Cruz,
as seen from
Pali Hill, Bandra;
early 1900s**
(Photo : Gomes
& Laurie)

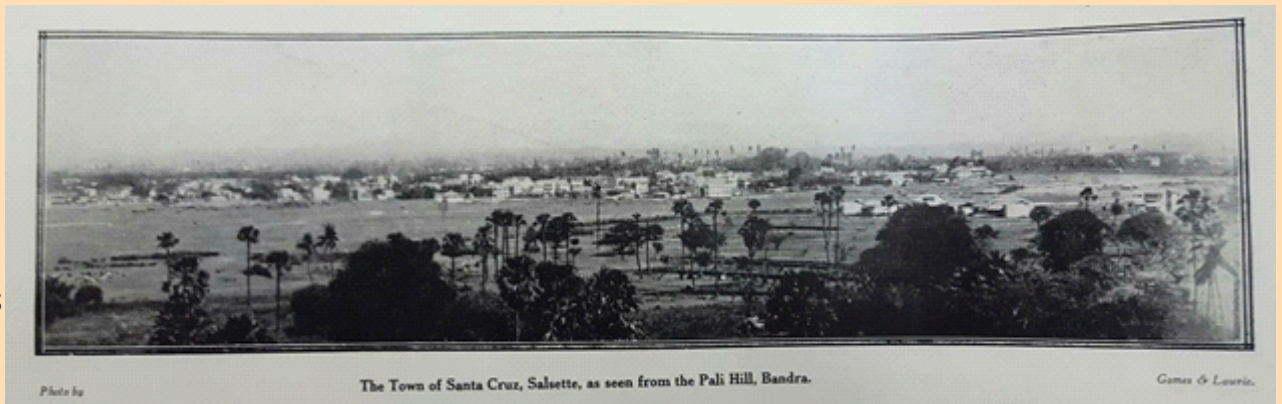
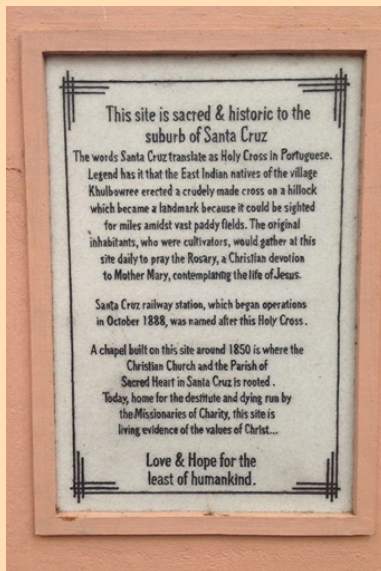


Photo by

The Town of Santa Cruz, Salsette, as seen from the Pali Hill, Bandra.

Gomes & Laurie.



**The Santa Cruz
Heritage plaque
erected in 2015.**



*One of the
original
Santa Cruz
houses -
“Del House”,
on
Central
Avenue;
circa 1950*



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MGP'S 'AAPLEY UGAVTEY TAAREY' – (EAST INDIAN RISING STARS) CAPTAIN KEITHAIR MISQUITTA

Rita Rodricks

Introducing our very first East Indian rising star 'Captain Keithair Misquitta'
In a freewheeling YouTube chat on the 'Mee East Indian' channel with host Ashwin D'souza
Keithair had set her sights on becoming a Cardiologist one day
Her father convinced her to become a Pilot instead which has paved the way

She started her training at the age of seventeen and got her pilot's license at twenty-one
At twenty-three, for the world record expedition Navy Blue Foundation decided she was the one
She was part of a two women civilian team to fly in a Motor Glider named 'Mahi' to circumnavigate the Globe halfway
It is the very reason she is famous and well known around the world today

'Mahi' the Glider weighed only five hundred kilos with massive wings and a tiny body
The Motor Glider could easily be pushed around that made it even more scary
They covered seventeen countries with twenty-seven stops in fifty-one days
Training was with Pipistrel in Slovenia for twenty odd days

Changing tires, inspecting spark plugs, opening the engine were all part of the training
Before flying the Motor Glider they had to spend two hours in cleaning
'To empower a hundred girls and inspire a thousand girls' was the tagline for this venture
'Beti Padao Beti Bachao' was to educate girls to become independent without any fear

Raised and brought up with twenty-five members in a joint East Indian family
Eighteen children have learned from each other and to live in harmony
Speaking the East Indian Marathi Dialect, Music and Food at home keep her connected to her roots
Her Grandfather's decision for the family to live under one roof has impacted her in her pursuits

She can drape the East Indian Luga (Sari) without much ado
Wearing her Pilot uniform and the Luga gives her pride anew
Keithair's future plan is to become a Test Pilot for the Airbus in the aviation industry
Else she wants to start a Pilot Academy for the less privileged to give back to society

Keithair strongly believes that 'You can do whatever you want to do'
Being ambitious and level headed has been her strong focal point too
In 2019 Mobai Gaothan Panchayat awarded Keithair 'Star of the Community'
She is an inspiration and an exemplary role model that we can all see
We wish Keithair all the very best in securing her goals and target

May she soar high the sky is not only the limit!



Mangna Mangatla Ghevoon Luzar **Maulini Aikatla Amcha Lazaar** **Mother Mary was our Only Hope**

Mother Mary showed us how if we pray with great faith we can expect the impossible. East Indian Community are no doubt the founders of the Bandra Fair however there is no Community Connect today. The Founders have been sidelined and ignored in this annual festival. For almost a decade we have been requesting that there should be an East Indian Connect to the Bandra Fair through Special mentions, East Indian Marathi masses, East Indian hymns, East Indian Speciality stalls and many others but we were never considered. Many of our Annual rallies have either started or ended at Mount Mary's Bandra but it seems to have not mattered to the concerned officials

Authorities, both religious and political who could have done their bit, chose not to do so for reasons best known to them. We reminded them year after year and we were given some irrelevant reasons and kept away. Bandra Fair may be the only such festival in the world that has no exhibit of Native Art and Specialty. The MGP team also met the political Representatives and Municipal authorities besides the church officials for some stalls to promote local specialty but in vain.

United in prayer we decided to start with the Annual Procession to revive memories of the first such procession wherein the statue of Mount Mary was bought from Mahim Church to Mount Mary Bandra. The Procession started 3 years ago and then we started the Mot Mauli Yatra wherein the Statue of Mother Mary visits Gaothans, the vilage settlement of the East Indian Community. Infact we had a special visit to the Bandra Fair route to identify spots where we could have stalls but had no success. We then made a stop at Mount Carmels which has the famous September Garden. We were informed that the Parish Priest was not there, we then called a Priest and aksed him if he could help. And he simply said that we should not expect much but just pray.

Last year the Mount Mary Visit was held at more than 50 Gaothans, an unexpected number for us all. This Year our Tag line says - Don't Come to Venerate Me this Year, I will come to Visit Your Place. Our prayers seem to have been answered differently. The Pandemic has forced the cancellation of the Mount Mary Festival and Bandra Fair, something the authorities may have never dreamt of. Our devotion gets deeper this year with more Initiatives to promote our Native Devotions - Mount Mary and St.Gonsalo Garcia.

In this tough times, we pray to Mother Mary to wipe out this Pandemic from this world. We the East Indian Community are fine if we don't get stalls and other basic rights as original inhabitants. No stalls has given birth to the East Indian Baazaar with 4 versions and around 100 Baazaar's expected within a year and around more than a 100 Baazaar based businesses all set to join our wide Network. The East Indian Community will never give up and do the impossible to see our flag flying high always with the blessings of Mother Mary. As they say Faith can move mountains and here the faith of our community has surely moved the Mount Mary from its Religious walls to our Homes in the Gaothans.

Gleason Barretto, Old Kurla



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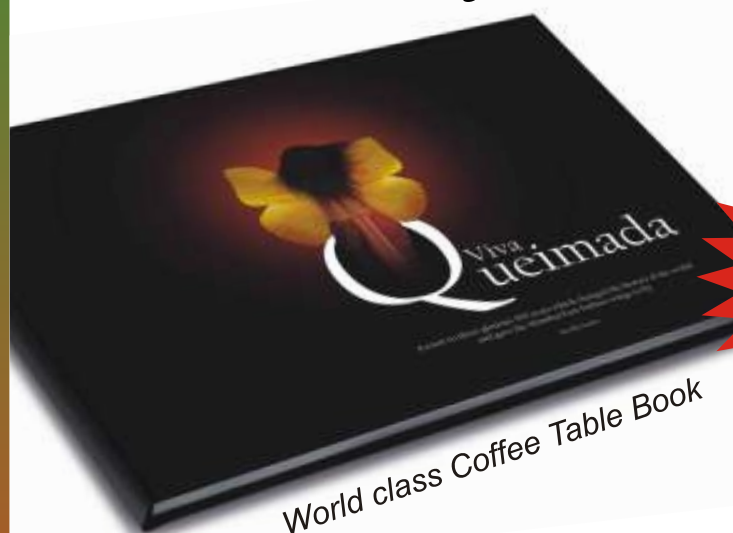
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