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One Voice !

The East Indian Magazine



One Village !

Email : gaothanvoice@yahoo.in

MILOON EAST INDIAN SAMAAJ SAARA GAJVOOYA AGERA

A New Harvest! A New Prayer! A New Hope!





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Gleason Barretto - Old Kurla
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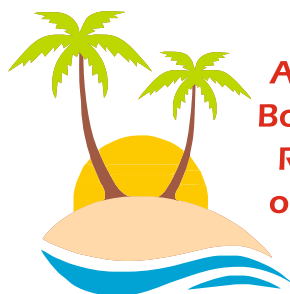
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MOT MAULI YATRA

Promoting native devotions has always been one of MGP's biggest agenda and this year Mot Mauli Yatra will take place albeit with precautions due to Coronavirus. This yatra will indeed be unique since we cannot go venerate Our Lady but instead she will come into our Gaothans and houses.

The Mount Mary statue will be taken across Mumbai, Thane, Raigad and Vasai throughout September and October. Below are the Mot Mauli Yatra Guidelines which will be strictly followed.

- * Maintain social distancing during prayers
- * Avoid processions
- * Avoid veneration by touching the statue
- * Ideally statue to be kept in a common gathering place like holy cross, grotto, chapel, village square
- * Statue to be cleaned with damp cloth during visits
- * Avoid using any cleaning solutions or sanitizers.
- * Statue will be kept at a Gaothan for 1 day from 7pm to 5pm next day depending on travel time

To Participate in this Mount Mary Visit to your Gaothan contact Alphi on 9820087771.

VELANKANNI MAULI CHA SANN: LAZAR ANI LUZAR

The month of September is special one as we celebrate the birthday of our beloved Mother Mary beginning in Velankanni and ending with Mount Mary's Bandra.

But this year due to the pandemic, many of our East Indian brethren couldn't make their annual pilgrimage to Velankanni to venerate our Lady. Therefore in keeping up with the times MGP launched a series called Sermao. Sermao is the East Indian word for sermon. Rev. Fr. Donald Rodrigues gave a special sermon dedicated to the Flag Hoisting at Velankanni and its relevance on 29th August. Fr. Botham Patil from Uttan Pali who is now based in Italy gave sermons on all the nine days of the novena as well as the feast day. The theme of the novenas was based on the Seven Sacraments. The Sermaos were broadcasted on MGP's YouTube channel MeeEastIndian and as usual garnered many views.

MGP has launched the Velankanni Mauli Pilgrim Project. This project is a collaboration of various charities in Velankanni. Some of them are feeding the needy, sponsoring a pilgrim tour next year for the needy, sponsoring food for an orphanage, donation to renovate the shrine amongst many other activities. MGP has already formed a team for next year to initiate activities at Velankanni in our small way. Your suggestions are always welcome at mgpmobai@gmail.com.

GAOTHAN AVTAN

MGP launches its East Indian Cultural and Heritage Journey in a new series called Gaothan Avtan. The show will be hosted by Alistair D'souza and episode 1 will be showcasing the Madh Christian Gaothan. Gaothan Avtan will be releasing soon on Mee East Indian, Aapla YouTube Channel

BAND VAAZTAY GAAV NAACHTAY

After organising the first ever East Indian singing competition online, MGP came up with various initiatives to entertain and encourage our East Indian brethren. On the feast day of our beloved Mother Mary, MGP organised yet another initiative to promote our culture and tradition and this time it was an opportunity for our East Indian Bands to showcase their talent. Six bands from Kharodi, Uttan, Vile Parle and Vidhya Vihar Gaothans did a splendid job and the show garnered more than 5 thousand views on MeeEastIndian, aapla YouTube channel. The special advisor for this initiative was Jacob Gomes. (MGP Kurla Taluka Sarpanch)

SEQUEIRA BROTHERS - VASAI

'Every Block of Wood or Stone has a statue inside it and it is the task of the Sculptor to discover it'
This was the introductory statement by Ashwin D'souza our host for the 'Mee East Indian' Channel, suitably fit

Our Guests are Mingleswar and Benzoni known as the Sequeira Brothers from Small Giriz, Vasai
They have carved a name for themselves and their craft not only in their village but globally hereby

In the early days people were divided by their profession and the Sequeiras were 'Sutars' (carpenters)
Not being satisfied with only carpentry they specialized and honed their skills by becoming wood carvers

They are extremely simple, humble and down to earth people this is also my personal opinion
Their wood carvings, statues and gold gilded panels had me mesmerized I was totally taken in

In 1920 their Grandfather fondly called 'Mamoosha' their home too is named after him started his wood carving business

In 1919 the local church did not possess statues for the Lenten Services and had to borrow from St. Thomas a neighboring parish a tedious process

The parishioners informed the parish priest that Mamoosha could execute the job and they need not borrow any more

The work done only with a chisel was so commendable after that there was no looking back orders kept coming in through their door

Our Lady of Remedy, Our Lady of Fatima, St Roque statues, Altars in the Portuguese churches were ordered due to the exquisite workmanship

The fifteen feet cross at Salvation Church, Dadar, the twelve feet crucifix at Mt. Carmel's Church, Bandra, the altar and pulpit at St. John the Baptist Church, Thane are some examples of their exceptional craftsmanship

The feather in their cap was the 2005 UNESCO Asia Pacific Heritage Conservation Award of Excellence for their project by far.

It took them six months and five kilos of gold gilding to restore the columns and pillars of the Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum in Byculla

Their Uncle Roque and Dad Renold have taken them to Museums and have been their mentors
They were inspired that even a hundred years later the wood carvings are a legacy left behind by the carvers

They also specialize in creating life like busts and statues of ordinary people with barely any specifications
Their inherited attributes has enabled them to create these statues out of their own imaginations

'It is important to know and feel your wood and the way it cuts' is the advice from the Sequeira Brothers within
Patience, hard work and passion for the art will bring you peace of mind and satisfaction

Three generations have taken their art and expanded it manifold along with education
The fourth generation along with modern technology is already being groomed to step in

Mingleswar's message to the community is to stay motivated and be an Inspiration
Benzoni's is to stay focus and just do whatever you want with dedication

REETIÑ REEVAJ - REVIVING CULTURE AND TRADITION

By Rita Rodricks - Rita Tales, Bandra

The East Indian community celebrates 'Agera' on the first Sunday in October annually

It is in thanksgiving for the rich harvest of grains actually

'Agera' is derived from the Latin word which means field

It is a celebration of the plentiful and bountiful yield

This harvest festival has been celebrated for several centuries

Modern twists have been given to this festival to keep alive these memories

In the gaothans (villages) a few sheaves of rice are cut symbolically from the fields by the priest

The sheaves are then carried to Church in bullock carts or reklas (horse carriage) to symbolize this feast

In the city the sheaves are carried to the Church from the nearest Cross

The women wear traditional lugras (saris) and the men wear surkas in processions across

An East Indian Brass band accompanies the parishioners and the priest playing their lilting music

While Altar boys and girls lead the procession carrying a cross or a candle stick

The Rice Sheaves are distributed to the congregation after being blessed

It is displayed at home to symbolize that we are thankful for the rice that we are fed

Traditional dishes are prepared for lunch which is a family affair

There is merriment, singing and dancing rendering the air



They would like people to have at least one of their statues in their home
Religion is not a barrier and on order will even create you a gnome

Cont.. pg 4

While a student of Sir J.J. College of Art, Benzoni gave a demonstration of a wood carving portrait
He was the first person to present his skills as there was no one capable of that trait

Their gold gilded panels are adorned in a church in Miami, Florida
They get orders from individuals and churches from continents near and far

Mingleshwar and Benzoni have extended an open invitation to visit their workshop I guarantee you will be
overwhelmed by its beauty

The Sequeira Brothers have thanked Mobai Gaathan Panchayat for recognizing and acknowledging their talent in
the community!

91 Gaothans have confirmed to Celebrate Agera.. Let's keep our a traditions alive..

AGERA – The Harvest Festival of the East Indian Community

As per the Latin Dictionary, “Agera” is derived from the word “Ager” meaning field or farm. Agera will be celebrated on Sunday, 4th October. Request all in the community to request the Parish Priest to mention the term “Agera” during all masses

MGP Guidelines for Agera Celebrations 2020 - Due to Pandemic

- *Paddy to be blessed at the Church or Chapel/Holy Cross at Gaothan
- *After blessing, local Coordinators can distribute the paddy at each home or place it at a Holy Cross
- *The families to affix the paddy on their entrance door or place it on the altar
- *The family prepares a traditional meal keeping the harvest festival in mind
- *Each East Indian family have the afternoon or evening meal together with a Thanksgiving Prayer

For more details contact 9820087771/8898178889

List of Gaothans who have confirmed

Acton - Vasai	Juhu Gauthan No.2	Mulgaon - Vasai
Agashi Mangla - Virar	Juhu Gauthan No.3	Naupada - Kurla
Agashi Kumbharwada - Virar	Kalina Big village	Navghar - Uttan
Aldea - Uttan	Kandivali - Gaothan	New Giriz - Vasai
Amboli - Andheri	Kanjur Lower Pakhadi	Old khar - Khar
Andheri - Andheri	Kanjur Upper Pakhadi	Old Kurla - Kurla
Bamanpuri - Andheri	Kantwadi - Bandra	Oshiwara Gaothan
Bamanwada - Sahar	Kashegaon - Kashmirira	Pakhadi - Parle
Bangli Village - Vasai	Kevni - Amboli	Pali - Naigaon
Bazar Road - Bandra	Khajori wadi – Uttan	Palli - Bandra
Bhandarwada - Gorai	Khallai - Kirol	Panchghar - Manori
Big Carpentry - Vasai	Kharodi - Malavni	Papdy Village - Vasai
Big Giriz - Vasai	Killabundar - Vasai	Parle - Parle
Chakala - Andheri	Kirol -Kirol	Poinsur - Kandivali
Chapel Road - Bandra	Koldongri - Andheri	Pond - Parle
Chimbai - Bandra	Koloverly - Kalina	Rathodi - Malavni
Church pakhadi - Gorai	Kumbharwada - Manori	Sahargaon - Sahar
Church pakhadi - Sahar	Kumbharwada - Vasai	Santacruz - Santacruz
Cross Garden - Bhayendar	Lepora Street - Bhayendar	Satmai Village - Sandore Vasai
Culbavor – Kurla	Lower koliwada - Gorai	Shepali pakhadi – Gorai
Culvem - Gorai	Madh Christian village - Madh	Shire - Uttan
Dongri - Uttan	Malavni Gaothan	Small Carpentry - Vasai
Eksar - Poinsur	Mandli Street - Bhayendar	Small Giriz - Vasai
Ghodbandar - Ghodbandar	Mandpeshwar - Borivali	Suttar pakhadi - Sahar
Golibar - Santacruz	Manickpur - Vasai	Talzen , mulzen pakhadia' - Gorai
Gomes Street - Bhayendar	Manori koliwada	Tape - Amboli
Gundavli - Andheri	Marol - Andheri	Upper koliwada - Gorai
Halawar pakhadi - Gorai	Marve - Malavni	Vairala pakhadi - Gorai
Hall Village - Kurla	Mota Gaon - Uttan	Vakola Gaothan
Juhipada - Gorai	Muddhan pakhadi – Gorai	Valnai (Orlem) Gaothan
		Versova Gaothan

EAST INDIAN BAAZAAR IS NOW ONLINE

Coronavirus doesn't seem to be going away anytime soon and we all have to learn to live the new normal. Keeping this in mind, MGP has started the East Indian Baazaar: Online Community Market. We start with our first offering online with the East Indian Coffee Table book, Viva Queimada. More books and merchandise will be available on our online Baazaar Those who wish to sell their East Indian themed articles can contact Alphi Dsouza on 9820545302.

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EAST INDIAN PUNCH

THE MOUTHPIECE OF THE MOBAI GAOTHAN PANCHAYAT

MILOON EAST INDIAN SAMAAJ SAARA GAJVOOYA AGERA

A New Harvest! A New Prayer! A New Hope!

Gleason Barretto - Old Kurla

Around 8 Years ago Agera Celebrations were diminishing. Modernisation and lack of farming lands in most parts of the city was the cause. MGP Team took up the most challenging task of reviving Agera, something considered impossible by many. We started on a small note and gradually things picked up. Last year we painted the city, with a majority of the East Indian Community dressed in Traditional Luga. The Luga fame, also remains one of MGP's successful Revival stories.

Gaothans were the base of the entire Agera Celebrations with a majority of the processions starting from the Gaothan Holy Crosses or the fields. Over the years, people as well have Gaothans participating in the Celebrations has increased considerably. Last year MGP had a target total of 100 Gaothans and succeeded in getting 106 Gaothans to participate in the Agera Celebrations. MGP was just a facilitator and the credit goes out to local parishes, associations and social workers.

Etched in memory are some Agera Celebrations which stand out with their cultural creativity along with the traditional touch. Kurla grows paddy in the Church compound while Marol has been having the traditional procession for more than a decade. Dharavi Beth Island of Manori, Gorai and Uttan has all parishes starting the processions from the Village fields. Kurla also has a grand evening cultural Celebration with the food festival. Vakola has a Celebration near the village well and Malwani serves traditional sweet to all after the service.

Rekla, the traditional mode of transport with horses or bullocks are now a must in the Agera procession. These Reklas are all decorated and have the priest seated during the procession. The Traditional East Indian brass band adds music and festivity to the procession. And soon after the holy mass, the bands play Celebration songs ensuring people dance to their festive tunes. After mass, tea is served with hot fugyas as people greet each other on this Harvest festival and in some parishes even traditional sweets like Lapshi and Mugoori is served. Each family collects their sheaves of paddy to be kept at the altar or affixed on the entrance door.

Active Communities Never Let Their Traditions Fade. East Indian Community has seen a major revival since a decade, thanks to the many associations and individuals who have done their bit to take the Community to greater heights. This year, due to pandemic there won't be any public celebrations but families can get-together for a meal on this special day in Thanksgiving to God for blessing the family and Gaothan with a good harvest. MGP has released Guidelines this year keeping the pandemic in mind. Agera reminds us of giving Thanksgiving to God for the New Harvest. In the current scenario let's say a New Prayer with a New Hope that things get better and this Pandemic is wiped out and we see a New World of Peace and Good Health. Wishing you all a Happy Agera. May this harvest festival bless your homes with abundance of food and happiness

MGP OBSERVES KAKA BAPTISTA MEMORIAL DAY

18th September 2020 marked the 90th death anniversary of our beloved Kaka Baptista. The morning of 18th September saw a number of Uttankars present at the bust of Barrister, Kaka Joseph Baptista to pay homage to our East Indian Freedom Fighter. Prominent among those present were Sanjay Nagorama, Edward Correia, Edward Gonsalves and Shoun Leo Colasco. The representative of MGP garlanded the bust of Kaka Baptista followed by others. MGP has made a commitment that after the lockdown a nice roof would be placed above the canopy which MGP has installed above the bust. At the same time on the other side of Mobai, Bryce Rodricks (Andheri Taluka Sarpanch) paid homage at the grave of Kaka Baptista at Sewri cemetery. MGP thanks all those who had assembled to pay homage to our beloved Kaka Baptista

BARA KHA! NIROGI WHA! SUKHALA,

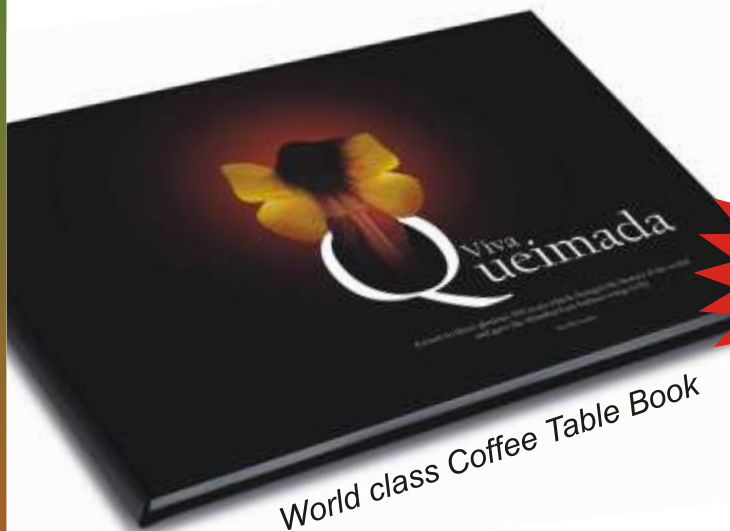
The East Indian Good Health Show was launched on 8th September on Mee East Indian, aapla YouTube channel. MGP has collaborated with Charmaine D'Souza and her team at GHA to present this unique cooking show. Come join us as Charmaine helps us understand how we can improve our blood sugar levels through lifestyle modifications and through the use of kitchen herbs and spices. MGP Team thanks Charmaine Dsouza and her Team for support in this project to revive our traditional medical remedies.

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