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Public Trust Registration No: F-57349(MUMBAI)

GAOTHAN VOICE DEC 2020

Vol:GV 12/20

For Private circulation only

Uplifting the Village Community

VOICE

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The East Indian Magazine

One Village !

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The Official Community Calendar**

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PUBLISHED BY :

Mobai Gaothan Panchayat
Welfare Association,
Public Trust Registration No:
F-57349(MUMBAI)

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

Benny Jacinto house, Kolivery village,
next to Chris chinese, Kalina,
Santacruz east, Mum - 29

Printed at:

Printania, D/21, Shalimar Ind. Estate,
Matunga, Mumbai - 19

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AAPLAA GAAV! AAPLA SANN!

Traditional Festivals of the East Indian Community

KASHIMIRA CHA SANN The East Indian Boxing Day Festival

Feast of St. Jerome's Church @ Kashmirira Village celebrated on 26th December every year

1. St. Jerome's Church stands on a hill between these two Gaothans, Kashi(Cassi) and Mira (Mirem)
2. The present Church is the third structures, built on the same site, blessed and opened for public worship on 26th December 1926 which continues to be celebrated as the feast day though the actual feast of St. Jerome falls in September.
3. The Portuguese Franciscan Fathers selected this site at Kashmirira between two villages and built their first Church in the year 1595, a beautiful wooden structure made by the local carpenters and this Church lasted for 23 years, destroyed in a terrible cyclone in October 1618.
4. The second Church structure was built 1628 besides the ruins of the old Church. By 1630, the parish consisted of Gaothans - Kashi, Mira, Sanbojapal, Chene, Bandonli, Baroli and Tantoli. This church was destroyed in 1739 during the Maratha invasion.
5. The statue of St. Jerome was preserved and placed on the main altar of the 3rd Church Structure that was built 187 years later in the year 1926.
6. In front of the old ruined church is a cross about 386 years old and in 1926 a new cross was erected in front of the New Church.
7. On the feast day, a fair is held and is attended by thousands from all over Salsette, Bassein and Thane districts selling local farm produce, Sukelis(dry Bananas) and Ghumats
8. Irrespective of caste, creed and religion, people of all faith seek blessings at this church which has historic relevance. Several years ago a severe epidemic of plague gripped the region, people from all religion sought refuge in the church seeking divine intervention and were saved
9. Well decorated East Indian Reklas, Tongas and Gaaras are a common sight at the Kashmirira feast
10. This feast is one great way of celebrating an extended Christmas Celebration with the Erangal Feast/Baravi Cha Sann just about 2 weeks away.

MANPESAR CHA SANN IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH, BORIVALI

This Village East Indian Community Festival continues year after year at IC Church, Borivali popularly called Manpesar Cha Sann.

*The Church structure traces its origin back to the fifteenth century, a monument with an historical and national significance. Besides the present Church building are the Mandapeshwar caves which date back to around the year 750-850AD

*A Franciscan missionary was the founder of this Church in 1547. By October 1548, a number of locals were baptized and a 'devout hermitage' was started at Mount Poincur.

*Around 1630 there were around 1500 parishioners in the Gaothans of Mount Poincur, Dhainsa (Dahisar), Canary (Kanheri), Simpor and Cassor. Around this time the name of the Church was changed to Our Lady of Immaculate Conception from Our Lady of Piety

*The Village Festival is celebrated on the Sunday after the Church feast day on 8 December

*The Local East Indian Community and from all East Indian Gaothans come in large numbers, following a tradition passed down over the centuries that has seen this Church as a centre for pilgrimage.

*The Village Fair and the Reklas of our community are an added attraction at this Feast like at all other East Indian Village Festivals

EAST INDIAN MUSIC AWARDS 2021

Music is a very integral part in an East Indian's life. Baptisms, birthdays, communions and weddings are incomplete without our foot tapping music. Mobai Gaothan Panchayat is going to honour our musicians at the first-ever Exclusive Music Awards for the East Indian Community on Saturday 23rd January 2021 This award ceremony is being held to appreciate all those talented musicians who take our music to greater heights.

Since this will be the first ever music awards, MGP is looking for sponsors, donors, memorial dedications and sponsors in kind as well. Bands who would like to perform LIVE can send their quotes. Suggestions for different awards categories are welcome too.

For details, sponsorships and quotes, contact Bryce on 8898178889

SARVAJANIK KRIST JANMOTSAV 2019

MGP's Annual Christmas Festival

*The Prizes could not be distributed as per plan on East Indians Day@Manori

- 1) Gaothan Crib Competition - First Prize
Fatima Boys - Kharodi
- 2) All India Church Crib Competition - First Prize
Our Lady of Velankanni Church – Irla
- 3) Christmas Church Decoration Competition - First Prize
St Joseph's Church - Juhu
- 4) Christmas Gaothan Decoration Competition - First Prize
Palli Gaothan
- 5) Christmas Bylane Decoration Competition - First Prize
Ranwar Gaothan
- 6) Christmas Decoration Structure Competition - First Prize
Infinity 2 Malad
- 7) Christmas Art Installation Competition - First Prize
IC Borivali
- 8) Christmas Symbol Installation Competition - First Prize
Ringo Boys - Parle
- 9) Maharashtra Outdoor Crib Competition First Prize
Chapel Road - Bandra
- 10) Christmas Photo Contest
Rita J Rodricks - Bandra

MGP Team Congratulates all winners. They can collect their Prize Winning Trophy from SKJ Chief Coordinator - Samuel Dsouza (9820581826)

EAST INDIAN BUSINESS NETWORK - WEBSITE DIRECTORY

MGP has always been promoting and encouraging businesses and professionals and now are taking it one step further by introducing the East Indian Business Network - Website Directory.

The need for this network was finalized at the East Indian Conclave 2018. EIBN will support those who want to start Business or join a Profession.

For business we plan to have a one-to-one mentorship. Entrepreneurs and Professionals will be a part of EIBN Core and Advisory Team. All Businesses and Professions can join the network - small, medium, large and corporates.

Mr. Joseph Dsouza from Alf Engineering and Farm Products will be our Special Advisor for this project.

To join this network, you may update your details with our MGP Team.

**It's Christmas Time..
Lets Showcase our festivity..**

SARVAJANIK KRIST JANMOTSAV 2020 The Fourth Mega Christmas Festival

This Christmas Festival will promote Unity in Diversity amongst all communities. There will be Celebrations at all levels - National, State, City and Gaothan.

Highlights of SKJ 2020:

*This celebration is dedicated to Kaka Baptista, our Community Freedom Fighter who played an active role in organizing the Sarvajanic Movement along with Lokmanya Tilak

*All Association and Groups who organize Christmas activities or make Community Cribs can contact us as supporting groups in this Movement. We target around 100 groups to support us

*Christmas Competitions are also being encouraged on parish, ward, assembly and city level

*This initiative has been taken keeping The Kaka Baptista Project in mind

National Church Crib Competition

Maharashtra State Outdoor Crib Competition

Gaothan Crib Competition

Gaothan Decoration Competition

Gaothan Christmas Display Competition

SKJ 2020 is an initiative by Mobai Gaothan Panchayat, represented by the Native East Indian Community. For more details and sponsorship contact 8898178889 / 9820581826 / 9820087771

Entries can be sent at skj.mobai@gmail.com by 31st December 2020

MGP Team wishes your family a Merry Christmas

MEIY - MGP EAST INDIAN YOUTH

MGP has always believed that the Youth are our Future. And to ensure our future is in safe hands MGP is getting our youth ready to be Future Leaders and Initiators.

The Youth Team will now have an International Network. Connects will be held virtually to discuss way forward to promote and revive culture.

Future of our community will also be discussed to take our community to greater heights.

Some of MGP projects will also be supported by the MEIY team

To join the Youth group, you may send an email to mgpmobai@gmail.com or message 9820545302 / 982008777.

EAST INDIAN PUNCH

The Mouthpiece of the East Indian Community

MANASHI GAZUYA NAATAAL
DAAVRUYA SAMAJACHA KAMAAL
Time to make a Difference

Gleason Barretto - Old Kurla

Nice time of the year but we never expected a last minute announcement to create restrictions for the Christmas service. Many Churches cancelled the Christmas Service as it was difficult to arrange the logistics and only a few Churches were able to organize the Christmas Service. The Church in Maharashtra was informed about this decision at the very last minute and we saw disappointment in people's faces as they were told to manage with an online Christmas Service. A large section of the Christian Community feels that they have been side lined and taken for granted. This is a 'Wake-Up' call for the Peace loving Christian Community which has now become 'Voiceless' too.

Awake everyone as Baby Jesus is born. 'Awake' has been redefined in our community as we have been sleeping and have been caught unaware of this sudden political decision. Do we have a political voice in Maharashtra and India? NO! A Community that has been lauded for its service to the Nation especially in the form of Schools and Hospitals has not managed to create Community leaders. Many of our current politicians have studied in our Catholic schools so why do we not have Christian Political Leaders? Do we not have the caliber for creating great Community Leaders who can be clean and committed to the Nation? It is time to rethink our strategy and create initiatives to take our community forward on the Political scenario.

Awareness is the key word. MGP team took a general census and the result was that more than 90% of our community feels that the Christmas restrictions were uncalled for and had a selective political agenda. A few wish to differ but it is about the majority in a democratic country. Creating awareness across the community is the need of the hour. The Christmas Midnight Service held across the world was suddenly stopped around a decade ago, and then we had restrictions of 250 people for religious services and then came the bigger blow, night curfew followed by only 50 people for the Services announced just a day before Christmas. Sad but true our Community has been taken for granted. Not a single Political Party spoke on our behalf and in support of the Christian Community.

Tradition plays an important role in each community and changing these traditions does not go well especially at a time when we are all in 'Revival' mode. The traditional midnight service was discontinued due to sound restrictions. Do other communities follow these rules? No, but our silent community obediently follow these rules being a good role model to other communities. This Christmas has proved us wrong. The communities that break rules are given special SOPs for their festivals and those who follow rules are pressurized with more restrictions. Today, we find that injustice towards the Christian Community is at its peak and it is time to speak against the injustice as mentioned in the Holy Bible.

Act now or it will be too late. Get like-minded people to think aloud and give suggestions. Think out of the box, get a committed team and let us counter this with creative and effective solutions. Our future Christmases should be brighter and happening. We need to create a strong Christian identity so that no political party can take advantage of us and take us for granted. MGP is all set to team up with like-minded people who have this passion to take our Christian Community to greater heights. We need to work on numerous plans so that some can see the light of day by next year and all others within 5 to 10 years. Should the Church support these initiatives? Obviously yes, but we cannot be totally dependent.

Actually this is the ideal time for the happy go lucky community to get serious and what better way than by active participation in the upcoming BMC elections in February 2021. Our Voice needs to be heard across the political circles either by representation in political parties, a new community led party or independent candidature. Let us not look at immediate successes or personal agendas but at the future of our community. It is time to lay the foundation of a community that has been the change makers in the field of Education, Medicine, Social Service and now Politics. Politics is not a dirty word as considered by many, it is time to enter this field, clean it up and make a difference.

Love, Joy, Peace and Hope is the message we receive at Christmas. Let us love all communities but let us not be taken for granted by any. Let us spread joy on the face of all especially the needy. Let us continue to be Messengers of Peace but let us not encourage those who want to split us apart. Let us continue to Hope for a better future of the Community through active participation across all fields. With the birth of Baby Jesus time has come to give birth to a Christian Revolution. To speak against injustice and be the change makers that God wants us to be. Join this Revolution for change every hand counts and can make a big difference!

EAST INDIAN AGENDA 2020

Memorandum of the East Indian Community

CENTRAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT

1. Simplified OBC certificate process for East Indian Community
2. Special job reservations for East Indian community in public and private corporates
3. East Indian Representative to be appointed with Special representation in the State on behalf of the Sons-of-Soil community
4. Simplified repair permissions for Gaothans
5. Special permissions for time limit to be given for Umbrachapani and Christmas midnight mass
6. Special permissions for time limit to be given for Umbrachapani and Christmas midnight mass
7. Housing Quota on MHADA projects for East Indians
8. Manori-Gorai-Uttan Tourism Plan and Bridge Project to be scrapped
9. No Municipal Property and Water Tax for all houses in the Gaothans owned before 1960
10. East Indians Day to be observed and recognised by the Government
11. An East Indian Community welfare fund to be instituted through funds allocated from land income on East Indian owned acquired lands like airport, BKC, University, industrial and infrastructure projects
12. Cremation grounds to be allotted at all locations with a Christian majority
13. East Indian Bhavan in Bombay-Thane-Vasai and Raigad
14. Gaothan expansion policy to be implemented by allotting lands towards East Indian community housing projects in lieu of land unavailable around gaothans
15. Regular special trains to be started from Bombay to Velankanni twice a week
16. Special Tour subsidies for Travel to Holy Places and Pilgrimage Shrines
17. Specific DC Rules for planned development in Gaothans
18. Ground plus SITU development to be permitted in Gaothans

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

1. Regularisation of all Holy Crosses in the East Indian gaothans and their vicinity
2. Harassment by BMC officers to be immediately stopped during house repairs
3. East Indian Municipal Corporator to be nominated to represent the city basis elections amongst the East Indian Community
4. No tax to be charged for gaothan homes
5. East Indian Food stalls to be approved for each Municipal ward
6. Heritage homes in gaothans to be given a special incentive for maintaining their structure.
7. Gaothan Infrastructure to be improved
8. Roads bylanes and street furniture within the gaothans to be designed to maintain the village look
9. Space to be allotted for Community Centre at each East Indian Gaothan
10. Local community association heads to be authorised to suggest Gaothan civic projects

EAST INDIAN AGENDA 2020

Memorandum of the East Indian Community

ARCHDIOCESE

1. Properties donated by East Indians should not be sold, if parish cannot develop or use for the betterment of the community, they must be returned back to the original owners
2. The Word "East Indian Catholic" to be written in remarks column without visit to archbishop's house to be done as per recommendation by local East Indian association heads or professionals
3. Halls and grounds provided for occasion to be given at discounted rates for East Indians
4. Special discounts and reservation of beds at Catholic Hospitals
5. Housing schemes for East Indians on vacant church properties and existing properties going for redevelopment
6. Preference to East Indians for jobs opportunities in the Parish, Church organisations and institutions
7. Mass and Hymns in the East Indian dialect every week
8. Land to be allotted for the East Indian Bhavan
9. Special East Indian Community Member to be appointed in the Parish Council to protect and preserve East Indian traditions and heritage
10. East Indians to be appointed on the finance and property committees
11. Stalls to be allotted at the Bandra Fair to the East Indian Community
12. St. Gonsalo Garcia Day to be made official and a Church in Bombay to be dedicated to the Saint
13. Church announcements should be made about activities organized by East Indian Groups
14. East Indian Associations to be given premises without hire charges for activities and meetings
15. Monthly open meets with the East Indian community and Bishops
16. Space to be provided for East Indian businesses on parish property
17. Ten percent of proceeds on hired premises to be allocated towards the East Indian Community welfare fund
18. Development projects/Monopoly for hired halls/quadrangles and grounds only to East Indian businesses
19. Halls Grounds and Awards to be dedicated to Cardinal Simon Pimenta in each parish with East Indian majority

EAST INDIAN COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS AND GROUPS

1. Education support through scholarships and discounts in courses
2. Medical support through full or partial assistance
3. Ration scheme for poor East Indian families
4. Business network to be encouraged to promote East Indian businesses
5. East Indian food restaurant to be opened
6. East Indian Village office to be set up to assist locals in various projects and matters
7. Sports projects to be launched to promote talented youngsters
8. Signages to be installed at various East Indian gaothans giving information and history on the gaothan
9. Promotional books and CDs to be released to promote East Indian culture and tradition
10. Special and Exclusive East Indian Community Television and Radio Channel



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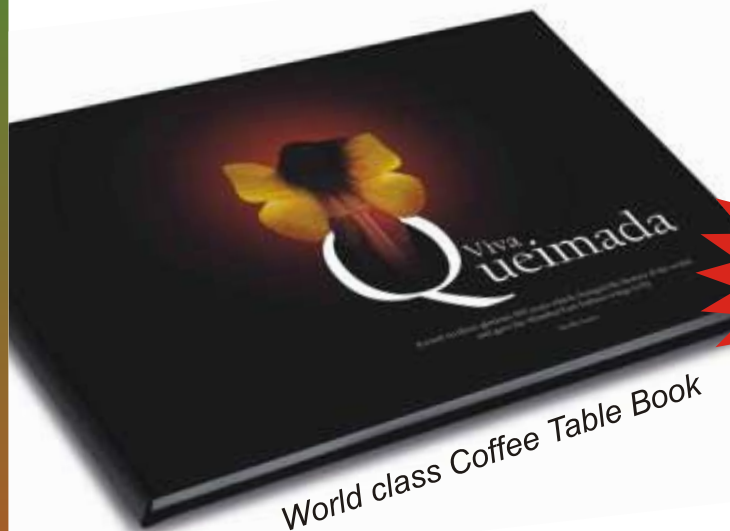
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