

GAOTHAN

VOICE

Registration No. Mah 1230 of 2013 GBBSD

Uplifting the Village Community

March-April 2015 Vol : GV-03-04/15

गावठण वॉईस

For Private circulation only

One Vision !

One Voice !

One Village !

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The East Indian Magazine

Email : gaothanvoice@yahoo.in

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EAST INDIAN APPEAL

Together Lets Lend a Helping Hand

EAST INDIAN COMMUNITY FUND Support in Education, Medical and other Emergencies

Mobai Gaothan Panchayat(MGP) has launched the East Indian Community Fund to support a section of our community who are poor or belong to the middle class. The authorities who boast of helping the poor do not help in the right spirit as they have improper processes which prevent our community members to approach these authorities. Besides our community members are always known to suffer silently. MGP has decided not to be depend on these authorities who seem to be least cared about the East Indian Community. The challenge now remains to help our community in our own small way.

MGP will appoint the EIC Fund Coordinators in each village/zone and will also have a central coordinator. On submitting an Application form the family will be supported from the Fund account basis the fund balances in the account. MGP will support the amount in full or partially towards Education, medical needs and in case of emergencies. MGP is sure that each East Indian will contribute to ensure that the needy in our community are given the support they need. Special drives and initiatives will be released from time to time to generate funds for the East Indian Community.

The Highlights of the East Indian Community Fund are as follows:-

- *Donors can also sponsor basis the number of students for education support
- *All Donors names will be mentioned in the Gaothan Voice
- *The names of beneficiaries will not be published but will be provided to donors as per their request
- *This support will be provided only to the East Indian Community
- *The financials of this account will be released once a year
- *pls mention your name in your funds transfer
- *Please inform your East Indian Friends and Relatives in India and Abroad to Support the East Indian Community Fund

For more details or to be local coordinator you may contact 7506175302 or email us at eastindianfund@gmail.com

Bank account details:-

Account Name -East Indian Community Fund
Bank name – Citizen Credit co-op bank, Vakola Branch
Savings Account number – 15624
IFSC code - CCBL0209016

East Indian Museum Promoting Culture and Tradition

Mobai Gaothan Panchayat(MGP) has been trying it's best for allotment of land for the East Indian Bhavan and this could take a couple of years or even decades. There is an urgent need to create awareness about our culture and the Museum is one great way. MGP has opened an East Indian Museum(2nd Phase) at Mobai Bhavan, Manori. The Basic Plan of the East Indian Museum had an estimated cost of around Rs.9 lacs and the Dream Project could cost much more. We appeal to you to help us in recovering costs for the 3rd Phase to be released in May 2015. The List of planned additions to the Museum will be shared by our Museum Team soon.

You could support us in the following ways:-

Family Donation - Rs.500/-

Special Donors - Rs.10,000/-(names will be mentioned at the Museum Entrance)

Memorial Sponsors – Rs.25,000/-(photographs will be installed at the Museum entrance)

Monthly Sponsors - Rs.6,000

Weekly sponsors - Rs.2,000

- *You could also donate a higher amount and donations in kind are also welcome.
- *All donors names will be mentioned in the Gaothan Voice.
- *Please inform your East Indian Friends and Relatives to Support this East Indian Museum Project.

Bank account details:-

Account Name -Mobai Gaothan Panchayat

Bank name – Citizen Credit co-op bank, Santacruz West

Savings Account no. – 4891

ifsc code - CCBL0209015

*pls mention your name in your funds transfer

For more details you may contact 9820087771.

The East Indian Museum will now be open on all days due to vacations till 10th June from 10am to 5:30pm. We welcome all our community members to visit. You may share your feedback at mgpmobai@gmail.com

THE EAST INDIAN DICTIONARY The First Ever edition of the East Indian Language

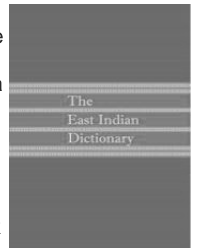
MGP is giving the final touches to the first-ever East Indian Dictionary. The East Indian Dictionary will create awareness amongst youngsters and will promote our East Indian dialect. The East Indian Dictionary will be a compilation of the words spoken in English and after the release of the English version the book will be translated in Marathi.

Our Dictionary Team has done a great job in collecting East Indian words and the Dictionary. Our Team has tried its best to cover all east Indian words and we look forward to your suggestions and feedback. We have tried to cover East Indian words on the basis of Weddings and Celebrations, Grammar and general words, religion and caste, occupation and business, food and drink, household and kitchen. The Objective of this project is to promote awareness of the East Indian Language, demand recognition of the language and be a handy reference to young East Indians and other communities. We propose to release the East Indian Dictionary in 2015.

The MGP Dictionary Team has been formed and work on the project has begun. Our volunteers are as follows :-

Chief Project Coordinator - Candida Remedios, Dictionary Team - Gladys Dsouza, Marcus Couto, Cedric Tixeira, Sybil Rodrigues, Seema Nunes, Corina Misquitta and Bernard Miranda.

The Dictionary project will cost us around 1 Lac for 1000 copies. All those who wish to assist us in this project in whatever small way are requested to contact 9820545302 or email us at mgpmobai@gmail.com



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**Kinny's Farm House & Resort, Manori - Village,
Manori-Gorai Road, Malad (West), Mumbai - 400 095**



The Annual Festival of the Sons of Soil of Bombay, Thane, Vasai and Raigad

Mobai Gaothan Panchayat(MGP) is pleased to announce its 6th Annual East Indian Community Festival. East Indian Sann 2015 will showcase East Indian Culture and Tradition. The festival will begin on 1st May and will close on 31st May.

EAST INDIAN FOOD – Way Forward

A Seminar to discuss the way ahead to promote East Indian Cuisine

Date : Friday, 1st May 2015

Venue : Avion Hotel, Opp Santacruz Airport, Western Express Highway, Vile Parle East

* Chefs, Food specialist, caterers, food stall owners, hoteliers and all those who have a passion for East Indian food can attend basis confirmation from our organizing committee

* Attendance by invitation only. Those who wish to attend may call Sybil on **9930229742**

EAST INDIAN CONCERT – AWARDS – FOOD FESTIVAL 2015

Date : Thursday, 7th May 2015, **Time :** 7pm onwards, **Venue :** St.Stanislaus Grounds, Bandra

Special Highlights of the Evening:

*Prominent members will be presented with Awards of appreciation and excellence

*Live Performance by Cedric Tixeira and his team of Performers

*All types of stalls for Rs.750/ only, Contact Alphi - 9820087771

*Gaothan Kala – A special East Indian stall for ladies with special designer lugras, imitation jewellery and lots of East Indian Goodies

*Awards dedicated to Cardinal Simon Pimenta and Kaka Baptista

*Free classifieds of East Indian Businesses and Professionals in the 2nd Edition of East Indian Directory



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EAST INDIANS DAY

A Special Day dedicated to the East Indian Community

Date : Sunday, 17th May 2015, **Time :** 10:00am onwards,

Venue : East Indian Museum, Manori

*The East Indian Museum – 3rd phase will be opened to public

*Thanks giving mass in East Indian at 10 am followed by performances

*East Indian singers will perform in presence of an East Indian Band.

**Lunch Coupons
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HOLY CROSS DAY

Lets Pray Together to Protect our East Indian Gaothans

Date : 31st May 2015

Venue : At Holy Crosses across East Indian Gaothans

To participate contact
9892689587/9619500730



For more details on Lunch coupons, stall bookings, advertisements and sponsorships you may contact :-

Vakola - Alphi **9820087771**, Kalina - Sybil **9930229742**, Kurla - Bonnie **7208698257**,
Juhu - Clint **9820878421**, Gorai - Rossi **9892844354**, Royston - **9619620902**. E-mail: **mgpmobai@gmail.com**

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

MGP NEWS ISLAND

THE EAST INDIAN NEWS CHANNEL

EAST INDIAN RALLY GETS A GOOD RESPONSE

The 3rd Annual East Indian Rally got a good response with around 250 people joining the same. The Rally looked attractive with a line-up of reklas crossing the roads of Bandra. The Rally began at Mount Carmels Church and ended at St. Stanislaus Grounds with speeches by East Indian leaders.

Before the rally Bandra West MLS and BJP Mumbai President, Adv. Ashish Shelar met the community members and assured those present that he would look into our issues. MGP will go ahead with its political meets and initiatives from the month of June.

MGP OBJECTS DP PLAN

Mobai Gaothan Panchayat has raised an objection to the proposed DP Plan. A specific communication has been sent to the specific authorities that the gaothans should not be touched without taking the local villagers into confidence. MGP has also been attending meetings called by the NGO, Hamara Shehar and planning the ways of objecting to the plan along with koliwada and adivasi pada residents.

The local East Indian Community needs to create a group in each gaothans and prevent authorities from touching the gaothans under the disguise of development.

ST. LAWRENCE SCHOOL THANE CELEBRATES SILVER JUBILEE CLOSING CEREMONY

The Silver Jubilee closing ceremony was held on 7th of March 2015 on the eve of International Women's Day. Prominent social worker Mrs. Sindhutai Sapkal (Mai) was the Chief Guest of the function. Mrs. Janet D'Souza (Chairperson - State Minority Commission) graced the occasion as a Guest of Honour. Thane Municipal Corporation's women corporators were felicitated by Mai.

Mrs. Janet D'Souza explained the role of today's women as vital in transforming the today's society and working in tandem with their male counterparts. Chariman of the trust Mr. Sylvester D'souza explained that the reason of coinciding the Silver Jubilee closing ceremony with Women's Day is to understand the importance of women's role for the progress of the country, by specially thanking Mai for being present for this momentous

occasion.

KAKA BAPTISTA JAYANTHI CELEBRATED BY EAST INDIAN COMMUNITY

The East Indian Community led by MGP celebrated 17th March as Kaka Baptista Jayanthi. Joseph "Kaka" Baptista is a freedom fighter who was a close associate of Lokmanya Tilak during India's freedom struggle. Kaka Baptista was born on March 17, 1864 at Matharpacady, Mazagaon and his father, John Baptista hailed from Uttan, near Bassein.

The local East Indian community along with MGP representatives paid their respects at the Bust of Kaka Baptista, Uttan. MGP has renovated the shed, canopy and painted the place last year. MGP has approached the BJP government in Maharashtra to give due importance and benefits to the sons of soil community of Bombay, Thane, Raigad and Vasai. Special appreciation to the community freedom fighter, Kaka Baptista will also be demanded and a list of suggested initiatives will be presented.

In the meanwhile, MGP has decided to place a bust of Kaka Baptista at their East Indian Museum at Manori. MGP also requested various East Indian Associations to place a bust in their offices as a sign of appreciation to their Community leader. The annual East Indian Awards now have some awards dedicated to Kaka Baptista.

GORAI SARPANCH LEADS MORCHA FOR WATER ISSUE

On 20th April 2015, under the leadership of Mr. Shivanand Shetty (Corporator BMC Ward No.8 R-Central) in association with Mobai Gaothan Panchayat (Sarpanches- Rossi Dsouza and Royston Godinho) and Sarvodaya Samaj Kendra a strong Protest was held at the BMC Office Borivali. Women shouted the slogans and even broke earthen pots showing their anger, because they are not getting their daily drinking water, inspite of paying their regular water bills. Few residents have received heavy bills of around Rs. 5000 plus, inspite not getting a single drop of water. The meter reading is done in once a year and the pipe line comes from under the sea via Manori village, few resorts have taken illegal connection and consuming large amount of water. Due to this, gorai village residents get only the remaining water. Last week also about 9 illegal water connections were disconnected.

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**We Do Our Best
God Will Do the Rest.**

PULPIT AND THE HOLY WORD

Story based on the the Uttan Dumping Ground and the recent Church attacks.

Sunshine Village was one of the shining villages and everyone in the city loved to visit it at weekends to enjoy by the seaside. The Villagers were peace loving and united, celebrated all festivals together and supported the local Church in all its activities and projects. Soon the greedy politicians and builders decided to take up projects to commercialize the village. The Sunshine Villagers were united and the Village Head, Ronald called for a meeting. All Villagers decided not to spare their lands to any development which will destroy their lovely Village. The builders got frustrated and started developing projects in nearby villages. The politicians and builders continued to eye Sunshine Villages so decided to destroy it since the villagers were unwilling to sell their lands.

The politicians met the city's Mayor and decided to create a garbage dumping ground at Sunshine Village. Sunshine villagers came to know about this and the Village Head called for an immediate meeting. All decided to oppose the project of a dumping ground as it would affect the health with air borne diseases and destroy their farming lands. The city administration was adamant and allotted a reserved land for the dumping ground. The Villagers decided to protest peacefully on the road and not allow any dumping truck to enter the Sunshine Village border. The authorities were adamant so initiated a lathi charge but the villagers stood ground and were brutally beaten including the Village Head, Ronald and his wife, Rose.

The administration were surprised with the Village unity and so decided to initiate a gun-fire but the Villagers decided to take the gun shot to save their village. The politicians then thought of an idea as the villagers were god-fearing people. The politicians called the city religious head, Bishop Wallace and informed him to request the villagers to stop their agitation. Bishop Wallace informed the local priest to make the Church announcement and a majority of the villagers did not join the agitation. The Village Head, Ronald continued to agitate and seeing just a handful of supporters the police lodged a complaint and arrested him with false charges. The Village heads wife, Rose met some local leaders and the Parish Priest and nobody was ready to assist. Rose and their only son, Joe were very sad and prayed everyday for Ronald's release but the greedy politicians succeeded to keep him behind bars.

Months passed by and the Parish Priest, Fr. John was attacked by some politicians due to some local issues faced by another community with the Church. All Villagers assembled and decided to protest with full support by the Bishop. Bishop Wallace initiated a Church announcement on the peaceful protest march due to the attack on the Parish Priest. Rose decided not to join as Ronald was still in jail due to the Bishops call to stop the agitation which caused her husband's arrest. But their son, Joe was just 10 years but told his mother not to follow the Pulpit but what's written in the Holy Bible. Joe suggested to his mother to forgive and join the protest against the injustice towards the catholic community.

The rally got a very good response led by Bishop Wallace. Joe was the only little boy in the rally and as Bishop Wallace passed he saw tears rolling down the little boys eyes. Bishop Wallace stopped and asked little Joe what had happened. Little Joe told his story to Bishop Wallace on how his father fought to protect the village and was now in jail. Then Little Joe smiled back at Bishop Wallace and told him his new principle, "I will never listen to what's spoken on the Pulpit, but only hear the word of God in the Holy Bible". Bishop Wallace embraced him and assured little Joe to request for the release of his father. Bishop realized on how he came on the roads to protect the Church but never came out to support Sunshine Villagers to protect their village.

Mobai Gaothan Panchayat

Christmas Competition Winners

Crib Competition

- 1st Prize - Old Kurla Christian Village Citizens Forum
- 2nd Prize - Goodwill Boys , Kurla
- 3rd Prize - Clayson Fonseca, Irla Village

Best Decorated Gaothan Competition

- 1st Prize - Old Kurla Village organised by Old Kurla Christian Village Forum
- 2nd Prize- Rajan Rizvi Complex, Bandra
- 3rd Prize - Christian Lane, Madh Island organised St. Joseph BCC Zone
- 3rd Prize - Bamanwada Village organised by Our Lady of Vaillankani BCC Zone

*Prizes sponsored by - Bhairav Jewellers, Kalina

*Prizes will be presented at East Indian Awards 2015 at St. Stanislaus Grounds, Bandra at 8pm on 7th May

*For more details contact Alphi on 9820087771



19th April, 2015	Marol East Indian Assoc Venue: St. John the Evangelist School Premises	5.30 p.m.	Marol
1st May, 2015	Juhu Welfare Association Venue: Juhu Church Ground	5.00 p.m.	Juhu
2nd May, 2015	St. Jerome Youth Committee Venue: Gorai, Muddam Pakady	6.00 p.m.	Gorai
17th May, 2015	Marouli East Indian Assoc Venue: St. Sebastain Church Ground	6.00 p.m.	Marouli
24th May, 2015	Kanjur Gaothan Catholic Assoc Venue: Sr. Francis Xavier Church Ground	6.00 p.m.	Kanjar Marg

EAST INDIAN RALLY 2015

The third East Indian Rally was held on 1st March 2015 from Mount Carmel Church to St.Peters Church, Bandra via Mehboob Studios and St Andrews Church. Mr Ashish Shelar, President of the Mumbai BJP and Bandra West MLA made a brief appearance at Mount Carmels church a little before the Rally could begin, he spoke to the organizers and apologized for not being able to attend the rally since he had to catch a flight to Delhi. He invited MGP to meet him along with the East Indian Community Memorandum which will be done shortly. The Rally began at 11.30am with a short prayer in East Indian by Royston Godinho, MGP Deputy Sarpanch of Gorai. Around 250 East Indian community members joined the Rally led by Reklas and Motor bikes. Sr.Police Inspector, Shri Ramchander Dhawale accompanied the Rally and ensured the Rally was peaceful.

The Rally reached St.Stanislaus Grounds by 12.30pm followed by a welcome by Compere Alistar D'Souza who conducted the proceedings of the Rally professionally. The East Indian Anthem was sung LIVE by Mr Cedric Tixera and his team which was well appreciated by the audience. The Speakers included Adv.Shane Cardoz - Bandra, Alexander D'Souza - Kurla, Fr. Micheal G - Vasai, Gleason Barretto - Kurla, Fr Andrew – Bandra, Merck D'Silva - Bandra Buzz and Julie Shinde - Marol. They spoke on various issues faced by East Indians and appealed to the community to raise their voices against the injustice towards the community.

The Rally ended with the Vote of Thanks by Alphi D'Souza to the Senior Inspector of Bandra Police Station, Fathers of St.Peters Church and Mount Carmel Church, the speakers at the Rally, Roger Drego for sponsoring drinking water, Vakola East Indian Association for sponsoring a Bus, Joel Fonseca, Alexander Dsouza and USWA Kurla for their kind contribution, MGP committee members and Volunteers.



EAST INDIAN BHAVAN

My dear East Indian brothers & sisters,

Having our own Bhavan was thought of by some prominent Associations in the past, but somehow it did not materialise as there was no proper support and follow up.

The concept of an East Indian Bhavan was recently worked out by our own East Indian architect, Audrey D'souza Baptista. The blue print plan of the Bhavan is so impressive that anyone who sees it will definitely favour making this Bhavan a reality and this is exactly what impressed all of us who attended that meeting in Vile Parle in December. Thereafter, we had another meeting on 1st February and the East Indian Bhavan possibility is taking shape now. We have reached almost all the main Associations and requested them to join us and appeal is also made through "Gaothan Voice" and "Bandra Buzz".

East Indian Bhavan - PLAN

The estimated cost of the Bhavan works out to Rs 12 Crore (Land & Construction) and it will have the following:

Auditorium : seating capacity around 500 people.

East Indian Museum : This will showcase the original living style of our community articles, used by our ancestors along with the original East Indian names of the articles. It will also highlight some of the outstanding achievements of our community members.

East Indian Restaurant : with kitchen facility to prepare East Indian cuisine.

Conference room - It will have a seating capacity of around 20

Administration offices : A couple of offices for administration of day to day activities at the Bhavan.

EAST INDIAN BHAVAN, AAMCHA BHAVAN, AIKAALA KAURA BAARA WHATTAI.

Khoob East Indian lokancha aisa vichar hai, bhaheerun avuun, lookanjan yaa mobai madhi thanche lonka saathi, Bhavan bandilaa hai. UP, Bihar, Gujarati, Jain aani itaar jati che maansanjan Bhavan bandhili. Tha aapla East Indian Bhavan kaala nai. Boolne madhi anni Kaarne madhi khoop farak hai.

There are two types of people, those who only talk and criticize and there are those who do think silently and give results. We believe in working silently.

Hence, we have decided to go ahead with the plan and with people's support we will have our East Indian Bhavan soon. We all know that this is a huge task, but we also believe nothing is impossible and with our hard work together we will get this done. Encouraged by the fact that many prominent and influential East Indian personalities have liked our idea and pledged us their all-out support. Hence, very soon we will reach out to all the people in about 100 odd parishes and start the funds collection process. We need people with commitment, dedication, sincerity and talent. If you have the time and the talent, please come forward to be a part of this project. We firmly believe this is going to be a once in a lifetime project, which when becomes a reality, will be a milestone achievement for all of us and to be remembered by generations to generations to come. So be a part of this "East Indian Bhavan Project" and join the team.

There is a stall here, which will provide you the information of this Bhavan, how it will be and the facilities it will have. Please give your name and contact numbers. MGP has worked hard and established a network and setup which will be useful to us to coordinate the East Indian Bhavan implementation programme.

Aate yeekach laksha, aamcha East Indian Bhavan.

Jai East India, Jai Christa Samaj.

Alexander D'souza – East Indian Commissioner
International East Indian Community Council

*Those who wish to support or volunteer for the East Indian Bhavan Project may contact us at eastindianbhavan@gmail.com or call **9920078585**.

EAST INDIAN AWARDS 2015

Honouring our Community members

Cardinal Simon Pimenta Service and Community Awards

East Indian Religious of the Year

This Award will be presented to a Priest or Nun who has gone beyond the call of God to voice the issues of the East Indian Community and has supported or encouraged our community.

East Indian Educationist of the Year

This Award will be presented to an East Indian who has been a strong promoter of Education.

East Indian Association of the Year

This Award will be presented to the East Indian Association which has promoted a series of activities in their village or in the city.

East Indian Initiative of the Year

Every year we come across newer initiatives to promote our community and this Award will encourage the initiatives that have brought our community to greater heights.

East Indian Project of the Year

East Indian Projects are the need of the hour to get our community to greater heights. This Award will be presented to the most impressive project for the East Indian Community.

East Indian Sarpanch of the Year

Individuals who serve the community are the biggest gift for us as they give time for our community inspite of the challenges at work and home. This Award will be presented to the Sarpanch who has done exceptional service to our East Indian Community.

East Indian Heritage Cross of the Year

As our Holy Crosses across the Gaothan are being renovated the very essence of its heritage and sentiments are sometimes lost. To encourage the preservation of Holy Crosses especially those which are centuries old and have been maintained with its original structure.

East Indian Social Worker of the Year

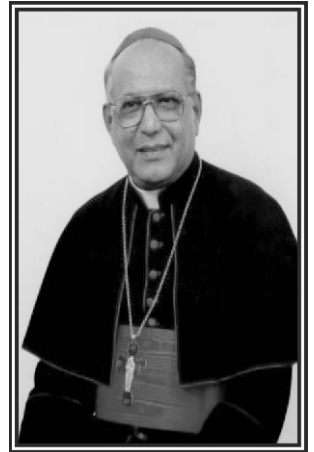
This Award will be presented to an East Indian who has done remarkable service to the community in social work.

East Indian Activist of the Year

Our East Indian Community issues begin to grow and there is an urgent need to voice our concerns. This Award will be presented to individuals who have voiced our concerns with the authorities.

East Indian Panchayat of the Year

Mobai Gaothan Panchayat created a new face to the community by initiating the Panchayat in some villages. This award will be presented to the most active Village Panchayat in the East Indian community.



Kaka Baptista Appreciation and Excellence Awards



East Indian Entrepreneur of the Year

Encouraging the business mindset is urgently needed. This award will be presented to the East Indian who has excelled in business.

East Indian Singer of the Year

Our East Indian Singers have given the best contribution towards our music. Some of the songs are fabulous and so its important to appreciate Singers who have given East Indian music a new meaning. This Award will be presented to the Singer of the year who has performed exceptionally well.

East Indian Album of the Year

Every year we get the opportunity to come across East Indian Albums which give us a flavour of East Indian music. We will appreciate the most impressive East Indian Album of the year.

East Indian Photo of the Year

Photographs promoting our East Indian culture and tradition are appreciated by us all. In this aware we will appreciate the best photograph. We will also display some of these photographs at our East Indian Musuem.

East Indian Band of the Year

Our East Indian weddings are incomplete without a brass band. We will honour the band which has been most impressive for promoting our community. This award will be presented to the oldest East Indian band.

East Indian Sportsperson of the Year

Many from our community have a passion for sports and this Award will be presented to the individual who has been a great supporter and performer of sports.

East Indian Book of the Year

We come across various books on our Community or members of our community. We will present this award to the most appreciated Book of the year.

Appreciation Awards

The Appreciation awards will be presented to various individuals or groups who have made our community known across India or the World.

EAST INDIAN COMMUNE

MGP Communciation on East Indian Community Issues

Suggestion/Objections and Request for Hearing for the Proposed Draft Development Plan for Mumbai 2014-34.

Mobai Gaothan Panchayat(MGP) was established on 24th March 2010 to protect the East Indian Gaothans, demand rights of the indigenous community and preserve East Indian Culture. We are saddened to read the proposed DP Plan which will surely affect our villages especially as we are the original inhabitants of Bombay. MGP has its network spread out across more than 100 East Indian gaothans in Mumbai, Thane, Vasai and Raigad.

The East Indian community feels cheated by the authorities. Laws were made from which our lands were grabbed with excuse of various projects. Some were paid peanuts and at times nothing. These grabbed lands now have made way for commercial projects wherein the state has earned in crores and the original owners struggle to make ends meet some of the prominent lands being the BKC, Airport and now Aarey. Some industrial houses were granted land for setting up industries and today they have sold most of these lands for commercial projects. In the early 1900's, the individuals who collected taxes claimed these lands as theirs under the names of so-called trusts and today they claim to be owners of large chunks of land in Bombay. Most of the lands snatched from us were encroached by slum dwellers who were given flats as a gift for their art of encroaching. On the other side, our families which increase struggle to live in our small homes. Together they managed to destroy our native land.

Some of our gaothans have been marked as slums in our DP plan, some have roads eating into our villages and every attempt is being made to destroy the gaothans. The 189 Gaothans have come down to around 66 as per BMC meet we last attended in January 2014 and how was this reduced? Only the natives will decide what will happen to our native land in Bombay.

The MGP view on the DP plan is as follows:

- 1)Gaothan Development Board to be formed represented by residents of the gaothans
- 2)MGP will create its own Gaothan Policy which should be considered for the DP plan
- 3)Objections/suggestions on behalf of the Gaothans has been attached with this letter
- 4)Gaothans should not be touched without consulting the native community, East Indians
- 5)Gaothans to be surveyed and marked with boundaries with support from local natives.

We look forward to your response to this communication. Our representatives look forward to a meet in this regard. As stated, we at MGP will not allow a single inch of Gaothan land being touched without our consent of the local natives of the respective villages. We are ready to support you in planning forward to make the DP plan which protects the rights of the indigenous community go Bombay.

Yours faithfully,
Alphi Dsouza
MGP CEO and Head Sarpanch

*This communication has been sent to the Municipal Commissioner, Chief Engineer, Mayor and Chief Minister.

*The annexure covers around 30 points based on the Gaothans and the East Indian Community.

*MGP members attended some meetings organised by Hamara Shehar to plan way forward

*At the time of going to press, we have been informed that the DP Plan has been scrapped

EAST INDIAN PUNCH

The Mouthpiece of the Mobai Gaothan Panchayat

**ESTEK OR SEGLEM KHEPLEM AAPLEM
RELAI MATHAIVER TOPLEM**

The DP Plan ignores the sons-of-soil and their aboriginal rights

Your days are numbered East Indian People
You never raised your voice and remained dull
You blindly followed the religious and political leaders
They are having a laugh and dumped you in coffers

mghpmobai@gmail.com

MGP was born in the year 2010, we tried our best to awaken the people, we succeeded at times, but most of our people remained complacent. In March this year, MGP completed 5 years and we are pleased in our success and we agree there was room to do lots more. But our challenges then and today remains the lack of a large team of committed and dedicated workers.

Everyone expects us to object on the DP plan and we will surely object but can we all come out of our homes, have local meets very often, raise civic needs of our village, appoint a committee to take the issues forward and have a better managed gaothan. The gaothans belonged to us and will always belong to us but we cant sleep and show that we have our hold on the native land. People from all over Maharashtra and India have entered our villages and are now proclaimed Shakha Pramukhs and Village Heads and we in many villages stand nowhere. We love to fight with our immediate neighbours but stay away from fighting for our village and our community. Wake up, My East Indian People as times get worser each passing year.

Some of our gaothans have been marked as slums in our DP plan, some have roads eating into our villages and every attempt is being made to destroy the gaothans. The 189 Gaothans have come down to around 66 as per BMC meet we last attended and who have they consulted? The natives will decide what will happen to our native land in Bombay. This rule applies to our other villages in Vasai, Thane and Raigad. If they have a problem they are free to get back to their native place and apply these development plans there.

The East Indian community feel cheated by the authorities. Laws were made from which our lands were grabbed with excuse of various projects. Some were paid peanuts and at times nothing. These grabbed lands now have made way for commercial projects wherein the state has earned in crores and the original owners struggle to make ends meet. Some industrial houses were granted land for setting up industries and today they have sold most of these lands for commercial projects. In the early 1900's, the individuals who collected taxes claimed these lands as theirs under the names of so-called trusts and today they claim to be owners of large chunks of land in Bombay. Most of the lands snatched from us were encroached by slum dwellers who were given flats as a gift for their art of encroaching. On the other side, our families which increase struggle to live in our small homes. Together they managed to destroy our native land. What did our beloved religious and political leaders do to protect us? Nothing.

Wake up People! The people who have planned to destroy our identity should be told to keep their limits. We will fight with whatever little army of committed workers we have. We will face the bullet if required but we will not let them destroy our village identity. If there is a need for development, they need to consult a new body of committed natives, "Gaothan Development Board."

The stage is set for a fight to protect our gaothans specially the ones marked as slums. The BMC and the State Government needs to understand the rights of the natives, the East Indian Community. If they don't understand, we will make them understand. Gaothan Development Board is the answer and they either consult us or forget touching our gaothans in any way under the disguise of development.

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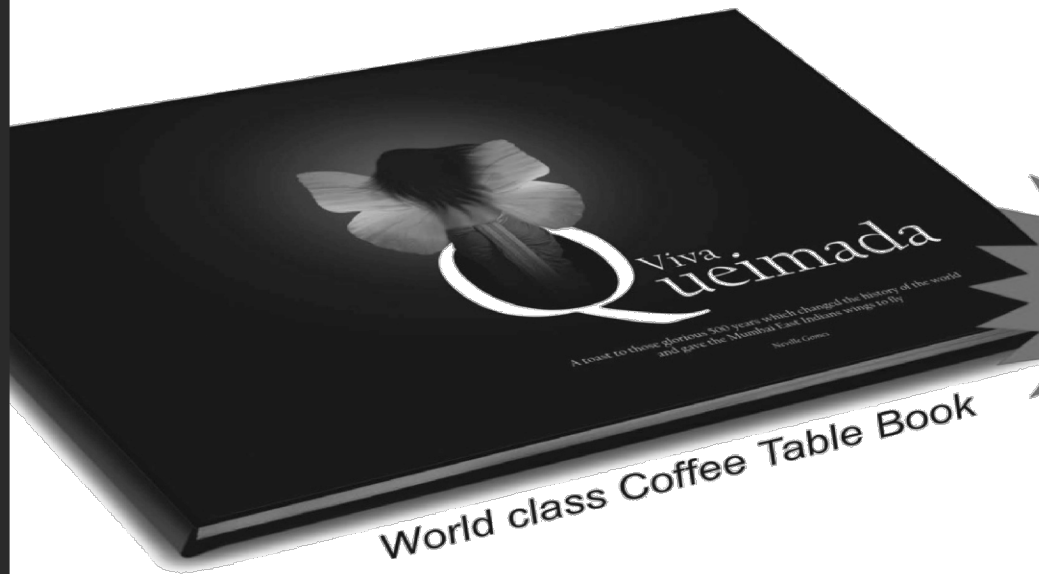
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