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# GAOTHAN VOICE

Uplifting the Village Community

GAOTHAN VOICE JULY 2017

Vol:GV 07/17

गावठण वॉईस्

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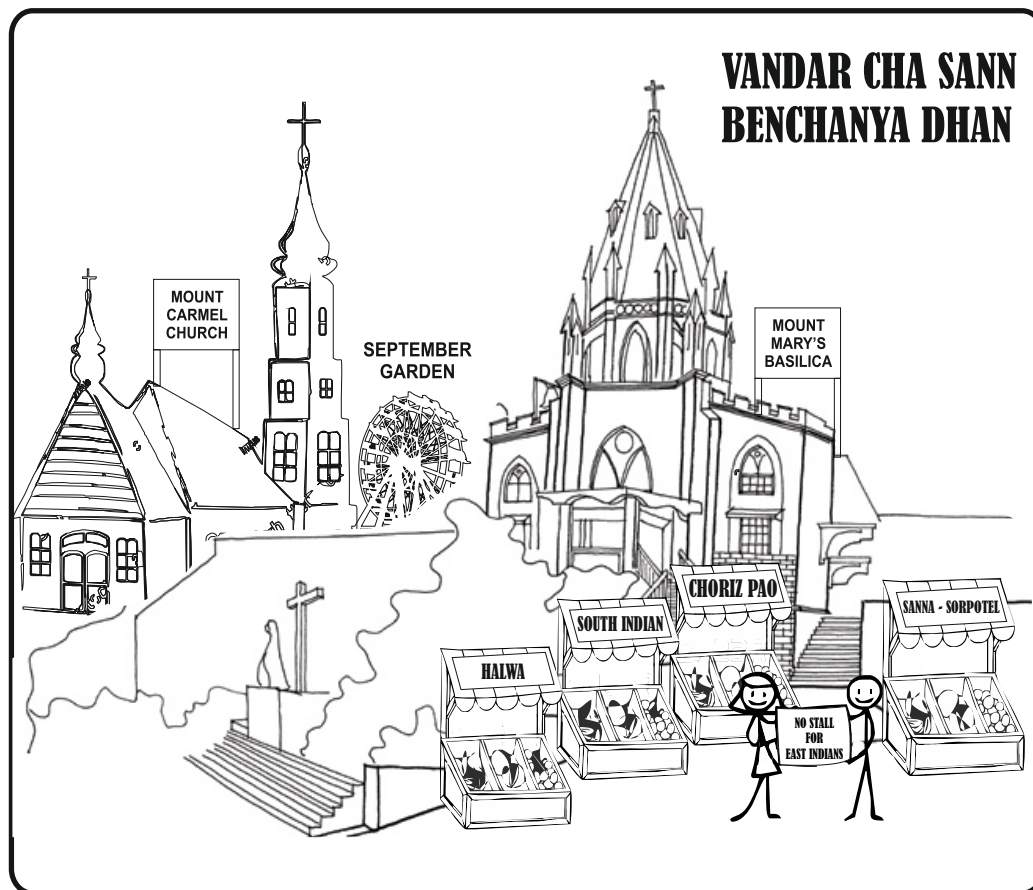
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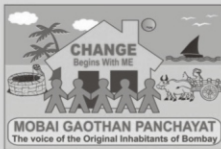
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# EAST INDIAN APPEAL

## Every Hand Matters ! Every Rupee Counts!

### 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(3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4th Phase to be released in May 2016. The List of planned additions to the Museum will be shared by our Museum Team soon.

#### You could support us in the following ways:-

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 any amount big or small 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, Vakola Branch**  
**Savings Account no. – 15620**  
**IFSC code - CCBL0209016**

**\*pls mention your name in your funds transfer**  
**For more details you may contact 9820087771.**

### 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
  - \*Please 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 EIC Fund Coordinators you may contact 7506175302 or email us at [eastindianfund@gmail.com](mailto:eastindianfund@gmail.com)

#### Bank account details:-

Account Name -East Indian Community Fund  
Bank name – Citizen Credit Co-operative Bank Ltd, Vakola Branch  
Savings Account number – 15624  
IFSC code - CCBL0209016

### THE EAST INDIAN DICTIONARY

#### The First Ever edition of the East Indian Language

MobaiGaothan Panchayat announced its plans to release the first-ever East Indian Dictionary in July 2012. The project took its time as we had a small bunch of volunteers who came forward to compile the Dictionary. The East Indian Dictionary is now set for release by this year end and the Dictionary Team has planned all the actionables pending to ensure timely release.

The East Indian Dictionary will create awareness amongst youngsters and will promote the East Indian dialect. The East Indian Dictionary will be a compilation of the words spoken by East Indians initially in the English version and also plans to have a Marathi version released later.

Our Dictionary Team has done a great job in collecting East Indian words. Our Team has tried its best to cover as many East Indian words. 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.

#### The MGP Dictionary Team volunteers are as follows:-

Chief Project Coordinator and Assistant Editor - Candida Remedios, Vikhroli  
Editor- Gleason Barretto, Old Kurla  
Team Members - Gladys Dsouza(Bandra), Marcus Couto(Panvel), Cedric Tixeira(Juhu), Sybil Rodrigues(Kalina), Corina Misquitta(Parle) and Bernard Miranda(Kalina).

*The Dictionary project will cost us around 1 Lac for 1000 copies. All those who wish to assist us in this project are requested to contact 9820545302 or email us at [mgpmbai@gmail.com](mailto:mgpmbai@gmail.com). Sponsors are welcome at Rs.5000 each and the names of the sponsors will be mentioned on one common page in the East Indian Dictionary.*



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# EAST INDIAN CENSUS - CARD

MobaiGaathanPanchayat(MGP) launched the first-ever East Indian Census on Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2016 which also happened to be an important date in the East Indian Community Calendar. On this day, the East Indian Community celebrates the feast at St.Bonaventure Church along the Madh Island popularly known as Baravi Cha Sann or Erangal Cha Sann.

This census will be open to all in the East Indian Community online and also through printed Census forms. This will be one of the most challenging Projects to be undertaken by MGP. As per reports there are around 5 lac East Indians across Bombay, Thane, Vasai and Raigad.

## Highlights of the Census

- ✦ First ever Census launched exclusively for the East Indian Community
- ✦ Printed as well as Online form will be available
- ✦ Any individual whose any one parent, any one grand parent or spouse is an East Indian can register for the Census
- ✦ Census entries will be listed Free of Cost
- ✦ Those listed can also apply for an East Indian Card @Rs.100/- The first Batch of cards will be released in the coming months
- ✦ The Census will help in getting an update on the actual East Indian Population
- ✦ Will also help us create a data with important references in networking amongst the community and creating a support system to uplift the community
- ✦ A Census form will be approved by 2 Census coordinators basis which the Census entry will be approved and be allotted a Unique East Indian Census Identification Number

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For more details you may contact:

Alphi - 9820087771

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## GIFT US YOUR MEMBERSHIP

We invite each one of you to register as an MGP member. You are also invited to register your family members and even children and infants. The idea behind having this membership drive is to show our number following to influential individuals and groups to ensure that we are not deprived of our basic right as the original inhabitants of Bombay.

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# MGP NEWS ISLAND

## THE EAST INDIAN NEWS CHANNEL

### A Bit of East Indian History Mot Mauli Cha Sann - Vandar Cha Sann

#### Mount Mary Feast - Bandra Fair

• It was the zeal of the native Christians (Agris, Kunbis, Bhandaris, Kolis and many more later known as East Indians) that popularized the Bandra (Moth Maule) Mount Mary Fair.

• In 1566 the Jesuits built a modest Oratory of mud and thatch and dedicated it to Our Lady of the Nativity

• In 1739 during Maratha invasion this chapel was destroyed and the statue was allegedly dumped into the sea which was rescued by the local fishermen and kept at St. Andrews Church

• In 1761 the Chapel was rebuilt and the statue was carried in procession and restored to its original place on the Mount

• In 1882 a glass enclosed portico was added to the Chapel for extra accommodation as more and more pilgrims came to the shrine to seek mothers blessings

• In 1904 the new Church was built, an edifice in gothic architectural style was opened to public after 2 years of construction

• It was the natives (aka later known as East Indians) from Bandra and the islands of Salcette and North Konkan homeland that celebrated the feast of Our Lady of the Mount with great zeal and gusto

• The Thursday preceding the feast was called the "Farm Day" when sweets and cakes were baked in all homes of the East Indian communities.

• In those days specialty sweets were called Cucumber sweets called "Pan-Mouries" and "Umbers"

• Pigs were slaughtered on this day and East Indian delicacies like Vindalo and Ser-pe-tair were prepared

• A home brewed spiced alcoholic concoction popularly called "Khimad" was a "must" and was kept ready for the feast on the coming Sunday

• The Bandra East Indians invited all their relatives for the Celebration of the Feast in reciprocation, those relatives invited their Bandra counterparts for the Harvest Festival "Agera" which would soon follow

• Horse Tongas or "garras" plied from Bandra station to the very foot of the hill during the Church festivals

• Stalls were set up by North Indian and Konkan belt migrants selling black grams and sweets. Also temporary canteens were set up alongside the pathways selling food and special dishes for the pilgrims.

• It is said that the steps that go up the hill right up to the Church on the Mount was built by a Parsi Gentleman who had made a petition to Mother Mary after his wish was granted, and this childless couple were blessed with a child.

(Source – Trace, Compiled by Gleason Barretto)

### HOLY CROSSES GET NOTICES FOR SHIFTING

The Holy Crosses in many Gaothans have been issued notices to shift as someone them obstruct the roads. Also some have been issued notices to be removed as they did not have valid documents and illegal extensions like sheds. Timely help from elected representatives has also helped save some of our Holy Crosses especially in the Andheri West constituency represented by MLA Ameet Satam. MGP has also launched a survey to plan way ahead.

### VASAI PRIEST CELEBRATES PLATINUM JUBILEE

Fr Michael Gonsalves celebrated his Platinum Jubilee on 14th May, 2017. He has been ordained a priest for the last 25 years. Fr Michael has been a stalwart in reviving and rejuvenating the Liturgy both at the diocesan and national level. He is well known for adapting Indian Ethnic and Cultural aspects in the Liturgy. He is an ardent Social Activist fighting for the cause of differently-abled children through 'Apang Seva', an institution which he co-founded. As MGP we are congratulate Fr for all his achievements and wish him good health and success for all future endeavors.

### One Liners

Fashion Designer James Ferreira organizes a theme dinner, "An East Indian Feast" at his Khotachiwadi residence on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> July

Mumbai District Football Association elections won by Aditya Thackeray as President with 3 sons-of-soil East Indians – John Almeida, Firmin Dsouza and Ryan Menezes.

# EAST INDIAN MASALA

## UMBER

Procedure is same like handbreads

### Ingredients

4 cups wheat flour

2 cups rice flour

500gms jaggery adjust accordingly as per your taste

½ kg yellow pumpkin washed and cut into small pieces

3 tbsp teel

### Method

Mix both wheat and rice flour and keep aside. Take a vessel add enough water just to cook the yellow pumpkin. Cook till the pumpkin is done. After the pumpkin is cooked add 2 cups of water to it and when the water begins to boil add the flour (mix wheat and rice before adding) let it cook for 4 minutes. Poke the flour with a stick (I used the thin rolling pin) while it is cooking then stir with the same stick or rolling pin. Put off the gas. Empty in a thalie, add the jaggery and teel. No water at all. If you find it sticky apply oil for your palms and knead to a soft dough. Roll out thicker than a chappati. Cut into roundals (I used a small cutter). Once you are done with entire dough, deep fry them and enjoy when hot.



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## East Indian Singing Competition

Date :

5th November 2017

Venue :

Christ the King Church

Place : Oshiwara

Contact person:

Anthony 9819806438

## East Indian Singing Competition

Date :

3rd December 2017

Venue :

Our lady of Fatima Ground

Place : Kirol

Contact person:

Sunny Dsouza 9619923009

## \*Reetn Reevaj - Reviving Traditions\*

### Prayers for Rain and the Significance of Holy Crosses- The East Indian Way

Centuries ago when Bombay was struck with plague, Holy Crosses were built at entrances and prominent locations across Bombay to protect the gaothans and its people from plague. This initiative of building Holy Crosses did work and from that time onwards people still venerate Holy Crosses. Its saddening to hear that the authorities have served notices on some of these Holy crosses that once saved the city from Plague.

Bombay now waits anxiously for good rains and even in this case the sons-of-soil would do what they believe helped bring rains to Bombay centuries ago. In some villages the East Indian community will soon begin the ritual performed by our ancestors. As a sizeable number of East Indian community members were into farming decades ago, rains were a basic need. Today although most of the farming lands no more exist, rains continues to be a basic need.

Centuries and decades ago whenever the city wanted rains the East Indian community went through the village in procession with a piece of stone placed on their head invoking God to bless the city with rains. During the procession the prayers said were “Sant Anthon saargan.. pani partai dongran... Sant Anthon mafi kar... pani para shetavar”(Saint Anthony in Heaven... it is raining on the mountains... Saint Anthony forgive us.... Bless our fields with rains..) while some other villagers pray “Jesus pani de, pani nay tar maran de” (Jesus Bless us with rains, if not give us death). The procession goes through the village stopping at every Holy Cross and praying for good rains. In some places villagers also pray before the statue of St. Anthony.

While a section of our community continue to follow this tradition of praying for good rains our Gaothan Holy Crosses are likely to get affected due to notices served on them. MGP appeals to all community members to not just pray for rain in the traditional way but also for the protection of our Holy Crosses which existed even before the birth of BMC. Time for the BMC to relook on its plan, how can they expect our century old Holy Crosses to register when even BMC was not born? Have the century old traditions been taken for granted by the authorities? Have they forgotten the traditional importance on the existence of our Holy Crosses? Do the authorities know how Plague can affect our city? What happens if there are no good rains?

East Indian Community will continue to follow its traditions to protect our community, our Gaothans and the city. If the City will be affected by disease or with no rains all the migrants will run away but our native East Indian Community will not move from our native villages. The Sons-of-soil community will continue to stay on our Native Land which has been our Home for generations. Just by proclaiming “Mee Mumbaikar” or “Jai Maharashtra” is of no use if an individual does not have a heart for the place they live in.

May God bless our community and may our basic rights as sons-of-soil be granted.

# **EAST INDIAN PUNCH**

## **The Mouthpiece of the Mobai Gaothan Panchayat**

### **VANDAR CHA SANN, BENCHANYA DHAN**

**The authorities have forgotten the East Indian Community – Founders of the Annual Mount Mary Festival**

**Gleason Barretto – Old Kurla**

We visit various local fairs and festivals across the world and every time we have visited we are sure to notice one important aspect. The locals get prominence in the entire festival and this is followed across the world. So you will see stalls selling local handicrafts, native food specialties, indigenous games and every festival activity will revolve around the aboriginal community of that village.

In Bombay, we see something totally different and its time we ask this question to the authorities. Who founded the Bandra Fair? The vicinity of the Church where Bandar Fair is held surely belonged to the indigenous East Indian Community. So why has the community been neglected and ignored?

Am sure everyone has walked down the steps and even observed outside the church. The stalls are mostly owned by migrants. The stalls put up during the fair at the Mount Mary's steps start with stalls playing music in Konkani, Food specialties with Goan specialties, goan sweet stalls, toy shops owned by other migrants and the list goes on and on with everything being given away to outsiders. Our native saint, St. Gonsalo Garcia does not find a place in the stalls selling religious books and articles.

So it was fitting to see a front page headline in a leading newspaper a couple of years ago, "Bandra Fair Hijacked by Outsiders". Many non-East Indians and Bandraites debated on this. The fact remains that only those who are outsiders will feel guilty of their status. An awareness was created on East Indians getting prominence and priority for allotment of stalls. MGP has been in talks with the Church authorities and we were told that the stalls could not be allotted due to past policies. We hope and pray that the Church authorities realise the importance of our community as founders of the fair and consider allotting stalls to the East Indian Community.

The East Indians gave everything they could to their native town and today they are a neglected lot. The contribution of the native East Indian community has been forgotten. A Fair founded by the East Indian Community has now been snatched away by migrants. The BMC authorities continue to talk about allotment policies which need to be changed to favour the natives of Bombay. MGP has also communicated to the government authorities on this issue as many stalls are also allotted by BMC. The local MLA has been communicated on the BMC allotted stalls and we await his positive response.

MGP stays focused in raising our voices for the needs of the community. We appeal to the religious and government authorities to give us a listening ear and pay heed to the demands of the East Indian Community. Bandra Fair has changed its face and its high time we get back what is rightfully ours. Vandar Cha San or Mot Mouli Cha Sann started by the East Indian Community needs to get back its original face, with everything initiated by the native East Indian Community just like it is done in every village or town across the World.

MGP is sure that good sense will prevail and the concerned authorities grant our East Indian Community stalls to promote their cuisine, culture and tradition.

### **Pride of being an East Indian**

**- Averil Fernandes - Gundavali**

As I pen down this article there are multiple thoughts going through my mind, all of them filling my heart and mind with enthusiasm and patriotism towards being an East Indian. What comes to mind when you hear "EAST INDIAN" - Gold Jewellery – big designs to be precise; Food that can make you feel like you are in heaven; Beautiful & warm hearted people, especially well mannered girls – proud to be one myself; lots of property and yes we East Indians are the original inhabitants of the Island Bombay or should I say MOBAI, yes "MEE MOBAI CHI EAST INDIAN".

As our name suggests MOBAI GAOTHAN PANCHAYAT (MGP), we truly are MOBAIKARS by heart, spirit and birth. This takes me back to my school days, vacation time to be specific, when my class mates asked me "Are you going to your village for holidays?" and I would proudly tell them that my forefathers too were born in Bombay and hence this is my only Village, it feels so great to belong to a place that you can call your own, to be born here and to enjoy living here and be close to your family and roots while you carry on your daily life goals. Mobai is the place our forefathers built. My friends this is the Pride of being an East Indian, to be part of such a rich culture and heritage and live here in this beautiful city.

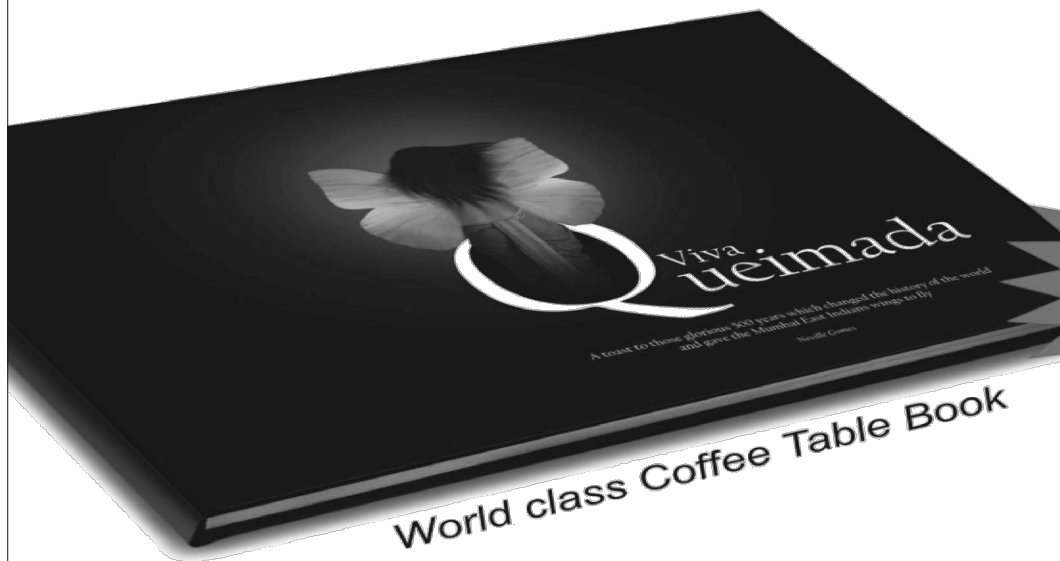
In every part of Bombay right from Colaba to Virar and beyond you will find a cozy East Indian Gaothan situated in its heart. Our language, our cuisine, our Jewels, our warm hearts all add beauty and essence to Mobai. We need to keep this culture alive by being united. We no longer will be called crabs who pull each other down but the new age East Indians who push each other towards progress and success. We will take pride in one another's achievements.

We must set examples of our unity in this diverse city that our forefathers built. Let us all vouch to build and restore our rich culture for generations to come and may we East Indians be etched in the hearts, minds and books of tomorrow as East Indian Mobaikars - the original inhabitants of this beautiful Island MOBAI and I repeat myself with pride filled in my heart

MEE EAST INDIAN, MEE MOBAI CHI EAST INDIAN.



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