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**One Voice !**

The East Indian Magazine

**One Village !**

Email : [gaothanvoice@yahoo.in](mailto:gaothanvoice@yahoo.in)



Released on - 16th Sep 2017  
Venue - St.Peters Church  
Released by - Fr.Andrew Rodrigues  
Designed by - Neville Gomes

MGP is happy to present its new logo for the journey ahead. The 'Circle of Life' captures the essence of the cultural heritage. There is a strong association with coastal waters which fostered trade and commerce from the earliest times and made our Mobai the urbs Prima, long before New York, Singapore or Hong Kong. The 'hands' typify the diverse occupations from the sea and the land. The color palette bears a strong umbilical link to Maharashtra. And the festive ribbon reinforces the Community's zest for the good things of life and its unique claim to being 'Sons of the Soil'.

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Sybil Rodrigues - Kalina Koloverly  
Franco Patil - Sion  
Averil Fernandes - Andheri  
Rita Rodricks - Bandra



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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 its 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 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

#### 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 mgpmobai@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

MobaiGaothanPanchayat(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

## Special Help Desk

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Santacruz East, Mumbai 4000029

For more details you may contact:

Alphi - 9820087771

Sybil - 9930229742

Gleason - 7506175302

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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.

### **FREE MEMBERSHIP DRIVE OF MOBAI GAOTHAN PANCHAYAT**

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\*Volunteers welcome to garner membership in their villages

\*Special award for those who register maximum members

\*For membership forms and more information you may call

Alphi : **9820087771**

### **MGP Members Privileges**

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# MGP NEWS ISLAND

## THE EAST INDIAN NEWS CHANNEL

### GAOTHAN BACHAV ANDOLAN GETS BACK TO ACTION

Soon as news reached about the Gaothans being considered as slums, the Gaothan Bachav Andolan got back to action by having an emergency meet followed by a special meet to discuss the issue. A committee was formed to be headed by Alexander Dsouza from Kurla. GBA was covered in two newspapers—Hindustan Times and Asian Age. An action plan has been finalized and the committee will work towards fulfilling the same.

MGP has approached MLA Ameet Satam and Krishna Hegde and they have confirmed their support to the Gaothan Bachav Andolan. GBA is ready to join hands with all like-minded individuals and associations who confirm to participate in a joint movement without any organisation or individuals being mentioned. The joint objective of protecting our Gaothans stands important and not individual or association names.

### MGP REVIVES MEMORIES WITH MOT MAULI PURCESSAO

MGP revived memories of the year 1761 when the statue of Mount Mary was taken in procession from Mahim Church to Mount Mary's Church. This procession was called "Mot Mauli Purcessao" (Mount Mary Procession). MGP has also decided to celebrate East Indian Traditional Day. The procession was organized on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> September by MGP in association with St. Peter's Confraternity, Bandra. A decorated rekla(cart) carried the statue from Mahim Church to St. Peter's Church accompanied by cars and bikes. This was followed by a walking procession from St. Peter's Church, Bandra to Mount Mary's Church. MGP made 3 special releases at St. Peter's Church compound – New MGP Logo, release of OBC booklet by Major Leon Fonseca and launch of Inter School Essay Competition by Neville Gomes. Three East Indian Brass bands played East Indian Hymns namely Valentine Music

Makers – Kirol, Velankanni Band – Pond and St. Blaise Band – Parle

The Procession was attended by around 200 people, some joining at Mahim Church and Mount Mary's and most of them at St. Peter's Church. A special thanks to the 3 bands - Valentine Music Makers Kirol, Velankanni Band Pond and St. Blaise Band Parle for giving the procession a facelift. Thanks to St. Peter's Confraternity for their assistance. We plan to make this an annual event and look forward to your continuous support and prayers. The Procession was covered in 3 newspapers—Times of India, DNA and Hindustan Times.

### PUNCH LINERS

\*MGP supporters from Valnai(Orlem) - Gerald Misquitta, Barse and Otilia Dsouza featured in Midday dated 6<sup>th</sup> August page 14

\*Mark Dharmai, the recipient of our annual Community Award for East Indian Sports person of the Year 2017 won the Silver Medal at the World Dwarf Games 2017 at Guelph, Canada.

\*Special East Indian Song Released on 8<sup>th</sup> September dedicated to Our Lady of Good Health, Vailankanni by Kevin Jacinto and his team

\*MGP launches its first ever Inter School Essay Competition to encourage reading and research

\*MGP launches 'Guidelines For OBC Certificate' book compiled by Major Leon Fonseca and released by Fr. Andrew on 16<sup>th</sup> of September at St. Peter's Church, Bandra

\*MGP observed Kaka Baptista Memorial Day on 18<sup>th</sup> September by paying respects at Kaka Baptista's grave at Sewri Cemetery and at Kaka Baptista's bust at Uttan

\*MGP releases a video of the East Indian Hymn "Sant Ann Tuzem Safal Jinem" sung by Cedric Tixeira

\*Notes and Beats Band releases an East Indian Love Song - Sangaat

### MGP Guidelines for Agera Celebrations

\*Start Procession from a Holy Cross in the Village or nearest paddy field (the priest cuts a few sheaves of paddy)

\*In procession the bundles of paddy to be carried by ladies in traditional Lugra or men in traditional Surkhas

\*East Indian brass band or Vanzootar (local tribal band) to be a part of the procession

\*Ideally hire a Tonga, Rekla or Bullock cart as a part of procession

\*The procession enters church where the paddy is kept near the altar for blessing

\*Offerings of fresh fruits and vegetables to be made during offertory or when the procession enters the church

\*After mass the East Indians in traditional attire to distribute the paddy

\*East Indian band to play some celebration songs after holy mass

\*Stalls selling East Indian food to be set up especially harvest related food stuff

\*The families go back home and 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

\*Before the meal the family serves homemade wine or Khimad calling out "Sukhala" the East Indian way

\*In the evening the families visit their friends and relatives or join the village get-together.

For paddy you may contact Alphi on 9820087771 or Walter from Uttan on 9819116857.



# MOT MAULI PURCESSAO

Rita Rodricks

16th September, 2017

Today the Mobai Gaothan Panchayat along with St. Peter's Confraternity revived a 250 year old memory of a procession, It was in 1761 when the Mount Mary statue was first carried from Mahim Church to Bandra by the natives who made it their mission.

It was also celebrated as East Indian Community Traditional Day  
People were encouraged to turn up in lugras and surkas any which way.

The statue arrived at St. Peter's Church from Mahim, thanks to Father Simon Borges, at 8.15am accompanied by motorbikes and cars,  
There was a well decorated rekla (horse carriage) with pink and white balloons which could be seen from afar.

There were three East Indian brass bands, Velankanni Band Pond, Valentine Music Makers-Kirol and St. Blaise Band Parle that played their instruments in perfect harmony,  
In their color coordinated outfits they were a grand spectacle for all to see.

The procession began with Father Andrew Rodrigues reciting the prayers in Marathi which is the East Indian dialect,  
Sybil Rodrigues gave the vote of thanks to all the members who had worked hard to ensure that it was perfect.

Major Leon Fonseca released his booklet which is a quick guideline to obtain the OBC certificate,  
The first copy was presented to Alphi Dsouza who is the head sarpanch of the MGP which was aptly fit

Neville Gomes inaugurated an essay competition for sixty schools based on his book "Viva Queimada"  
This book is a tribute to the East Indians who have contributed to the community so far

The procession was led by the Irmous and Confraternity members of various parishes in their uniform,  
The statue was carried by a woman who was well attired as per the norm.

There were women dressed in the traditional lugra(sari) while the men wore T-shirts that stated 'Mee East Indian'  
My old neighbor Bernadette who is affectionately called Queen wore a pink smock fashioned out of the lugra fabric she looked fashionably in

Everything went smoothly thanks to Inspector Sunil Bhonsle of Bandra Police Station,  
Suzie Napier did an excellent job of coordination.

The procession of people reached the Mount Mary Basilica for the 9.30 am mass,  
After which we all dispersed to enjoy the Bandra Fair which will end this Sunday alas!







# EAST INDIAN MASALA

## East Indian Stew



### Ingredients:

**½ kg Mutton**  
**Vegetables**  
**1 no carrot cut long in to 4 halves**  
**¼ cup green peas**  
**3 to 4 potatoes cut into 4 halves**  
**8 onions cut fine**  
**8 flakes of garlic cut fine**  
**5 green chillies cut fine**  
**1 tomato cut into 4 halves**  
**Small piece of ginger cut fine**  
**½ ts pepper powder**  
**1 tsp Turmeric powder**  
**1 tsp Garam masala**

**2 tbsp Rava (optional)**

**Salt**

**½ tsp Lime or vinegar or as per taste**

### Method:

Cook the mutton by adding sufficient water. Once cooked add the cut vegetables carrot, potatoes and green peas take only 1 whistles. Heat oil in a vessel fry onion till translucent, add chillies, ginger fry well, add garlic cook till done, add the dry powders garam masala, pepper, turmeric stir it well. Now add the cooked mutton alongwith the vegetables and the water in it, add salt. When the curry begins to boil add rava to it. Squeeze lime. Cook for a while and garnish with fresh coriander and serve when hot with rice and enjoy.

## East Indian Singing Competitions

<p>Date : 5th November 2017 Venue : Christ the King Church Place : Oshiwara Contact person: Anthony 9819806438</p>	<p>Date : 18th November 2017 Venue : Versova Ground(Nr.Church) Place : Versova Contact person: John Buthello 9167166011</p>	<p>Date : 3rd December 2017 Venue : Our lady of Fatima Ground Place : Kirol Contact person: Sunny Dsouza 9619923009</p>	<p>Date : 28th January 2018 Venue : Sahar Church Ground Place : Sahar Contact person: Clifton Menezes 9867437511</p>
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## Agera Cha Sann

**AGERA CHA SUN SAAZRA KARU YA. DEVACHE ABHAR MANU YA.**

**- Averil Fernandes - Gundavali**

Agera commonly known as The Harvest Festival is celebrated by us East Indians from several years. Some of our Ancestors were Farmers and Agera signifies the celebration of the Paddy or “BHAATH” that has been harvested. Agera is celebrated in Thanksgiving for the good Harvest that reaped during the year and hence celebrated as the rains come an end; namely the 1 st Sunday in October. Many Parishes celebrate it as Thanksgiving Day and have a small get together in their respective communities. Today we no longer are famers, all thanks to our Forefathers who worked hard to educate us and make us capable, then why do we still celebrate AGERA. Two main reasons for it being – To keep tradition alive and To Thank the Lord for the Harvest in our lives, the harvest of good talent, good homes, success in jobs, success in studies and everything that is good within us. So let us keep this tradition alive and Thank our Lord for all that we are and be Thankful to all the people in our life, let us set aside any sourness in relationships and move forward as true Thankful East Indians this AGERA.



# EAST INDIAN PUNCH

## The Mouthpiece of the Mobai Gaothan Panchayat

### AGERYAA TUKUN HAATI PAALU VALLAANCHYAA RITI

#### Reviving Tradition the East Indian Way

-Gleason Baretto.

Around 5 years ago Agera was a forgotten tradition in many parishes. A few parishes kept on the tradition in whatever small way they could. MGP was one of the associations that took the initiative to revive this festival which was slowly fading with each passing year.

Agera was a big festival when a large section of our community had fields and farming was one of the main occupations. It was a special day as our community celebrated this Harvest Festival as a Thanksgiving to God for blessing the family and the village with a good harvest. As our fields vanished due to development the festival did not have a connect with the East Indian community in the city. Those staying on Dharavi Beth island, Raigad and Vasai continue to celebrate Agera in the traditional way.

MGP started first around 5 years ago by arranging for paddy required by those in the city for the Agera festival. In the last more than 5 years Agera is slowly catching up and more parishes are reviving this tradition and some have made their Agera celebrations bigger. St. John's East Indian Community, Marol organizes a procession from the Gaothan to the Church followed by mass and a Cultural Programme. Holy Family Church, Chakala will have processions from 4 East Indian Gaothans – Gundavli, JB Nagar, Parsi wadi and Chakala meeting at the Church for a joint Eucharistic celebration. Agera celebration has got better each passing year at Holy Cross Church Kurla and is organized by USWA. The USWA members grow paddy in the church backyard about a month before Agera and celebrate the festival in the traditional way. The priest goes to the backyard where the members cut paddy in their traditional outfits followed by blessing and procession to Church.

MGP targets to reach 50 parishes celebrating Agera this year. In the coming years we will encourage every parish with East Indian community to celebrate Agera. A special mention to the Dubai East Indian Community for organising Agera Cha Sann every year. All Agera celebrations who confirm to us will be mentioned in the Gaothan Voice. We also plan to give an award for the Best Agera Celebration.

A communication will be sent to the Archdiocese Hierarchy for support from local parishes in celebrating the harvest festival of the Indigenous people, the East Indian Community. A request will also be made to call this special day as Agera and not just Thanksgiving Day. Special guidelines for this festival will be issued to the East Indian Community for celebrating Agera.

MGP started the Year 2017 with the theme – Uplift! Empower! Restore! Revive! and in keeping with this theme we have tried our very best to Revive our Traditions. In mid-September we bought back memories of the Procession of Mount Mary from Mahim Church to the Mount Mary Church and we plan to make this an annual tradition from this year. We look forward to Revive many of our Traditions which have been forgotten and we look forward to the support of our community.

The word Agera sounds fresh and brings in a feeling of a new beginning. MGP looks forward with a new mindset to work for our community in a conducive way with increased commitment and dedication. The journey ahead is surely not going to be smooth but with Gods Presence we are sure we will succeed in our own little way.

Lets joyously hold the paddy sheaves in our hands as we join in prayerful procession Thanking God for a Good Harvest. MGP Wishes you all a Happy Agera. Sukhala!

### MOBAI GAOTHAN PANCHAYAT ANNOUNCES THE ARRIVAL OF ITS MERCHANDISE



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# REETIN REEVAJ

## REVIVING CULTURE AND TRADITION

### AGERA – The Harvest Festival

-Specially written for MGP.

In Bombay centuries ago the Holy Mass was celebrated in the Latin rite and at the Harvest festival the paddy was blessed in the fields using Latin which was the language of the Tridentine Mass. As per the Latin Dictionary, “Agera” is derived from the word “Ager” meaning field or farm and “Agricola” which means Farmer.

The East Indian Community, sons-of-soil of Bombay, Thane, Raigad and Vasai celebrate Agera on the first Sunday in October. The Archdiocese in recent times also celebrates the age old Agera as "Thanksgiving day". The feast is celebrated across East Indian Gaothans with great enthusiasm. The local East Indian Groups based in urban areas are making efforts to revive this great harvest festival of Agera in the traditional way. In many villages in Manori-Gorai-Uttan, Vasai, Thane and Raigad the festival has always been celebrated the traditional way as many families continue to follow their occupation of farming. While the farming villages of the East Indian Community celebrate Agera as per tradition followed for generations the gaothans(urban villages) generally begin their celebrations from the village.

As per the tradition on this festival, on the morning of Agera, before the celebration of Holy Mass, the parish priest leads a procession of parishioners to the nearest paddy field, He then blesses the paddy and cut a few sheaves. Then a few volunteers proceed to cut stacks of paddy and carry it into the church in procession to the accompaniment of either a local tribal band called the Vanzootar and or the Brass Band. The vanzootarias were normally labourers on the paddy fields. The brass band musicians are normally from the respective villages. In most of the urban parishes the paddy sheaves that are distributed comes from the East Indian villages in the Gorai-Uttan regions.

In the Gaothans where farming is no more an occupation due to urbanization, Agera is celebrated a little differently by the local East Indian group. The Celebration begins from a prominent Holy Cross in the Gaothans in procession led by the ladies in traditional lugra. The stacks of paddy are either carried by the ladies in lugra on men in traditional surkhas. In some villages the stacks of paddy are carried on bullock carts, tongas or reklas. The solemn procession is accompanied by the East Indian Brass Band who play traditional hymns. The locals also join the procession in prayer thanking God for a good harvest. The procession reaches the Church where the ladies and men in their traditional attire place the paddy on the Church altar. The priest during Holy Mass blesses the paddy which is then distributed to each family. Outside churches stalls selling East Indian food are set up.

The families go back home and affix the paddy on their entrance door or place it on the alter. The family prepares a traditional meal keeping the harvest in mind with wedding rice, varyas, fugyas, chittaps, and vegetable foogath accompanied with the delicious Vindyal, sarpatel, kujit, Lonvas or Moile. Each East Indian family have the afternoon meal together with a thanksgiving prayer. Before the meal the family sips on homemade wine or Khimad calling out “Sukhala” the East Indian way. In the evening the families visit their friends and relatives or join the village get-together.

The Indigenous People have marked Agera in their calendar, yet another big day to celebrate for the East Indian Community. This year Agera will be celebrated on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> October. Wishing you all a Happy Agera. May this harvest festival bless your homes with abundance of food and happiness.

**Elias J. Gonsalves**

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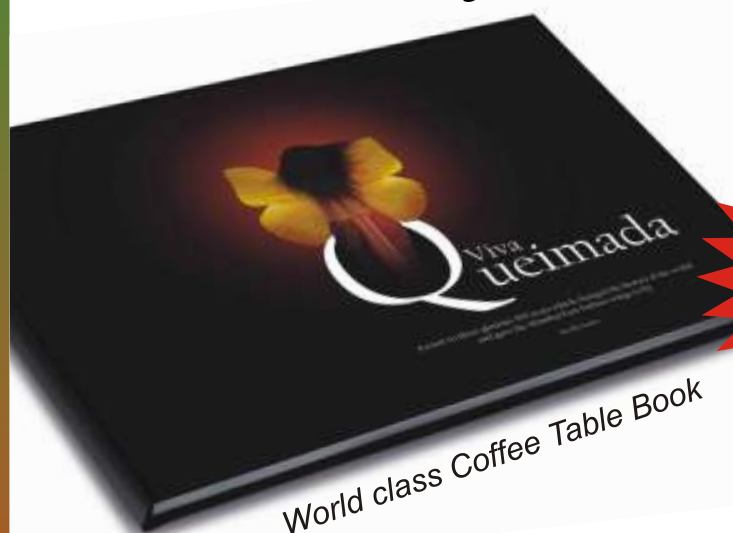
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