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Public Trust Registration No: F-57349(MUMBAI)

GAOTHAN VOICE MAY-JUNE 2018

Vol:GV 05-06/18

For Private circulation only



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The East Indian Magazine

One Village !

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Alphi Dsouza - Vakola
Denver Dsilva - Kurla
Sybil Rodrigues - Kalina Koloverly
Franco Patil - Sion
Averil Fernandes - Andheri
Rita Rodricks - Bandra
Gleason Barretto - Old Kurla
Walter Murzello - Orlem



PUBLISHED BY :

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

Printed at:

Bibiana Printers, 99 Dixit Road,
Vile Parle (E), Mumbai - 400057

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MGP Team Attends Meet at UDRI

MGP Team attended a Meeting at Urban Design Research Institute Office at Kala Ghoda. The meet was attended by various activists from Gaothans and Koliwadass.

The 2 hour meeting on the DP was to raise objections and also seek an extension date for the same. MGP presented its objection letter at the Town Planning Department.

The Gaothans were represented by Alphi Dsouza, Walter Murzello and Neil Pereira

Kaka Baptista mentioned in RSS Meet Speech by Ex President

Swaraj is my Birthright and I shall have it Between 11.35 and 11.45 mins the Ex President Pranab Mukherjee mentioned about the phrase coined by our East Indian Freedom Fighter, Barrister Joseph Baptista.

This was at a speech made by the Ex President today at the RSS Meet. MGP Team thanks the Ex President for appreciating a member of our East Indian Community.

Bhandaris were the first Police of Bombay

The Bhandaris were the first to be appointed as Police in 1669. This indicates that our East Indian Community had an important role to play centuries ago and is a sure proof that we are the Children of the Soil

MGP Launches Social Media Team

MGP Team Wishes you a Very Happy Dongaracha Sann.

*The Social Media Team will manage our MGP links on Website, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Email, YouTube,

*Special assignments to members for each handle to promote and encourage creativity

*The Social Media Team will be announced soon as we have the first meet in June

*The Social Media Team will be led by Conrad Coelho

MGP objects to the Tourism plan on 30 acres of land in Gorai.

No plans in Dharavi Beth without the approval of the local East Indian community.

A specific communication in this regard will be sent to authorities.

As stated before MGP demands are as follows:

1. East Indian Bhavan in Mumbai, Thane, Vasai and Raigad
2. East Indian Reetiñ Gaothan on around 2 acres of land as per specifications by Architects and Heritage Consultants approved by the East Indian Community

Locals of Dharavi Beth are requested to stay away from plans that will destroy our Gaothans

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EAST INDIAN DAY

The Sixth Kaka Baptista Museum/East Indian Day

Every third Sunday in May the Mobai Gaothan Panchayat celebrates Museum/East Indian Day
This year was the sixth annual celebrations which was done in a grand way
The Guests started arriving at Manori from various gaothans(villages) dressed in their traditional finery
There were young and old people and families who came by bus, bikes and cars and even by ferry
At the entrance there was the MGP kiosk selling lunch coupons for Rs. 150/- only
For Breakfast a food stall had on sale Sandwiches, Bread Pakoras and Vada Pao(Indian Burger) along with tea
A statue of Our Lady of the Mount was installed in the Museum which has been sponsored by Eleanor Barrow
Large size artificial fish, crabs and lobsters have been added to the Museum displays on show
The East Indian Marathi Mass was celebrated by Fr. Botham who is from Pali, Uttan but is based in Latur which is far
The concelebrant was Fr. Magi Murzello, one of our main supporters who belongs to St. Andrew's Church, Bandra
Fr. Botham is bilingual, a charismatic orator and a singer with a melodious voice
The mass was exceptional; we hope that he comes back next year by choice
The Malwani Choir from St. Anthony's Church rendered some beautiful hymns
They sang so harmoniously that everybody joined in
The newly appointed MGP Sarpanchas and Gaothan Coordinators were formally introduced
Cold drinks and Water were served to the guests their thirst reduced
Thank you Neil Creado and Gracy Sutari for sponsoring the cold drinks and the drinking water
Especially as it is summer it was very much appreciated this year
Neale Murray and Vivien Amonkar of Bandra too generously contributed towards the event which helped in some way
There was an article in today's DNA, Mumbai stating that the community was celebrating 'East Indian Day'
There were spot prizes for the best traditionally dressed person and the oldest couple
The participants eagerly ran to the dais to see if they had the qualities that they had to fulfill
'The Ghumat Gang' from Vasai had everybody dancing to their beats
Their music was so lively everybody got up to dance and left their seats
The Lunch Buffet was set up and people started to queue
There was mouth watering authentic East Indian food for you
The culinary delights were Chicken Curry Fridath and Gawar (cluster bean) Foogath
Steamed rice, bread, appas (flat rice hand bread) fugias and salad completed the lot
Road side vendors were doing brisk business selling Mangoes and Tadgolas (ice apples)
To beat the heat you could slurp on multi colored Sherbet (cold drink) and Golas (ice lollies)
It was indeed an enjoyable and fun filled day at the Kaka Baptista East Indian Museum
If you missed out this time be sure to be there next year along with your friends we will surely welcome them!

Rita Rodricks

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EAST INDIAN BAAZAR

The Local Gaothan Community Market



EAST INDIAN .CAM

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES



The East Indian Day celebrated on 20th May 2018 at the East Indian Museum, Manori.

VILLAGE FESTIVALS

ST.MICHAEL - MAHIM



Mahim one of the 7 islands of Bombay, is situated at the North Western extremity and separated by a Creek from Salsette Island. the original church of St. Michael is believed to have been built in 1534 by Antonio de Porto a church builder of the Franciscan order.

In the 17th century the island was described as a large town with a bazaar. The buildings were of brick and covered by pantiles. By the river fronting the Mandove (Custom house) stood a large and beautiful church with a large verandah before the portal. Nearby at a short distance on the road, stood a Cross erected on a brick pedestal. The East Indian Native Christians of Mahim bequeathed large estates to the church where housing societies stand today. the area all around was covered with coconut groves. (to add about fort)

When the Marathas conquered Salsette in 1739, the portuguese at the instance of the British destroyed the chapel of Our Lady of The Mount Bandra. They did this so that the chapel woul not fall in the hands of the Marathas. The Statue of Our Lady was however ferried across the Mahim Creek and kept safely in the church of St. Michael. it remained there until 1761, the year of defeat of the Marathas in the battle of Panipat.

In 1853 the church witnessed a show down between the vicars Apostolic and the Portuguese Padroado for the control of the church, for 15 days Bishop Anastasius Hartmann and his followers were prevented by the locals who had alliance to the Padroado from coming out of the church without enough food or water. They lead siege and all entrances to the church were blocked. On the fifteenth day, the civil authorities intervened and insisted that the church should be opened. Bishop Hartmann lost control of the church passing it to the Padroado.

The weekly nevana services was started in 1948 when Fr. Edward Placidus Fernandes from Bombay on his visit to Europe noticed a similar ritual celebrating our lady of perpetual succour at Belfast, Northern Ireland. Fr. Edward brought with him a picture touched to the original icon of our lady of perpetual succour at Rome. the first novena was held by the Vicar Fr. Fernandes on 8 September 1948, the birthday of mother Mary, it was a Wednesday, from then on novena services were held every Wednesday and has become so popular among Christians and people of other faiths, that has attained the status of a pilgrim centre.

St. Michaels church is situated on the old Portuguese church street (now known as mori road) and was rebuilt in 1973, it has no distinguishing original feature of previous historical buildings.



How to get there:

Walking distance from Mahim Station West

- Fr. Milton Gonsalves

San Jao Cha Sann - Zaavaycha Sann The East Indian Tradition on St.John the Baptist Feast

- *San Jao Cha San is celebrated by the East Indian Community on 24th June, Feast of St.John the Baptist or on the 1st Sunday after the feast day.
- *The feast is generally celebrated at Bassein(Vasai), Dharavi Beth(Manori, Gorai and Uttan), Pond(Vile Parle) and many other gaothans where Talav and wells still exist.
- *The East Indian Community members jump into lakes, talavs, and beaches amidst geity and fanfare
- *This dip in the waters is symbolical of San Jao Bautis baptizing Jesus in the river Jordan
- *This feast is also celebrated as Zaavaycha Sann (New Son-in-Law Day)
- *On the eve of the feast day the newly-wed couple visit the Bride's residence and are welcomed with fanfare
- *On the feast day the New wed couple visits the Bride's Parish for mass in traditional attire not forgetting the gold worn and gifted at their wedding
- *The couple are served with traditional East Indian Sweets like Letri, Laapsi, Mugoori, nevrís after mass at the bride's residence
- *The Bride's parents cook a special lunch buffet with varyas, fugias, moile, fugaath, wedding pickle, wedding rice, roast, vindyal and sarpatel for the newly weds
- *The Newly Wed couple then visit the nearest well or pond for a dip and in some places they also wash the feet of the newly weds
- *The Newlyweds are taken in a procession with the East Indian Brass Band

GAOTHAN COORDINATORS

MGP is glad to announce the next line of our MGP Structure by appointing Gaothan Coordinators and Sarpanches across Gaothans in Bombay, Thane, Vasai and Raigad. The Gaothan Coordinators have been designated their line of activities and we are sure that they will do their very best to protect their Gaothans and promote our culture & traditions.

SARPANCH NAME	GAOTHAN
Cyrus Misquitta	Juven (Juhu)
Darryl Gonsalves	Juven (Juhu)
Bryce Rodricks	Andheri
Regan Mendonza	Kanjur
Gloria Moraes	Marol
John Buthelo	Versova
Johan Dharmai	Vandre
Bonny Pereira	Valnai (Orlem)
Mario Fishery	Vandre (Bandra)

COORDINATOR NAME	GAOTHAN
Coretta Dsouza Fernandes	Amboli
Samuel D'souza	Andheri
Caster Fernandes	Big Carpentry
Duffy Pereira	Juhu gaothan No.3
Brendan Sutari	Khar
Bosco Patel	Kharodi
Silvy Pereira	Papdy
Daillyn Dias	Ratodi
James Fernandes	Small Carpentry
Chrysantus Miranda	Vakola
Regina Almeida	Giriz
Hector Dsouza	Kanjur Upper Pakhadi
Dianna Ferro	Kanjur Upper Pakhadi
Romuald Dcruz	Kirol
Sunita Alphonso	Cherai
Sachin Pereira	Marol
Anthony Sequeira	Sahar Sutar Pakhadi
Shabana Dsouza	Santacruz
Anna Gomes	Santacruz
Ashley Rodrigues	Vakola

**To Join the MGP Team as MGP Sarpanches or gaothan Coordinators please contact on
9820087771 / 9820545302**

MGP STRUCTURE

MCAT & MAC

MGP Core Action Team (MCAT)

Name	Gaothan
Alistair Dsouza	Juhu
Alphi Dsouza	Vakola
Belmira Miranda	Vakola
Darryl Fernandes	Gundavli
Gleason Barretto	Old Kurla
Penny Miranda	Amboli
Rita Rodricks	Bandra
Sachin Kinny	Worli
Sybil Rodrigues	Koloverly
Walter Murzello	Orlem/Uttan

MGP Activity Coordinators (MAC)

Name	Gaothan
Ashley Rodrigues	Vakola
Charlotte Rodricks	Bandra
Chrysantus Miranda	Vakola
Clarissa Dsouza	Vakola
Errol Dmello	Bandra
Gladys Dsouza	Bandra
Mark Barot	Kandivali
Reuben Dias	Kalina Motha Gaon
Susie Napier	Bandra

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EAST INDIAN MASALA

East Indian Summers!!!!

Averil Fernandes, Gundavli

Pickles, Tamarind, Sukka Bombil, Ambushi, Kolim, kandria(Wul), Bottle Masala.... All these words surely ring a bell in every East Indian household. As summer begins we wait to replenish our stock for the year to come till next summer. So why do we stock so much?? Well for starters to keep up the age old tradition when there were no refrigerators and the upcoming rains meant low availability of fresh fish, secondly the summer sun expedited the process of drying in order to remove all moisture and store for a rainy day in the literal sense.

As soon as March begins and the Sun shines bright, our grand mothers would start inquiring from the local grocer if the new condiments have arrived, only the best chillies and spices would be picked, then the process of cleaning, drying and roasting them till the big day arrives when it has to be pounded at the chakki (Mill) and someone has to be there monitoring the process, the amount of masala that an East Indian household consumes on an average is about 8 kilos or 1/2 Paili in a year, Not to forget the tedious job of filling the masala in glass beer bottles to keep it from losing its fragrance and colour. Then comes the tamarind (Chinch) that is used to add zing or tang to our curries, these are cleant and salted, made into round or oval shaped balls and stored in Earthen Barnis that can be used throughout the year, Ambushi or dried mango again these add a peculiar sourness to the curries, mango pieces cut, salted and dried till they are completeled dehydrated and stored in air tight containers to be used later, Pickles of all kinds especially Mango as it is the mango season are made in every East Indian household during summers, Sukka Mawre or Dry fish of all sorts starting from Bombils to Shrimps - Zavla, kardi etc are purchased in bulk and stocked, Kandria(Wul)- white onions tied together to form a big bunch that can be hung on a rod suffices for the upcoming rains, Last but not the least Kolim - the necessity of every East Indian household to make spicy curries during the rains, the baby prawns are cleant, washed, dried, salted and later chopped chillies, garlic, ginger, bottle masala and oil are added so that it can be used as and when desired.

The best part about East Indian summers are that every household follows these traditions of stocking for the year ahead and every one has their own speciality and secret ingredient may it be for their masala, balchao or pickle. No matter how much we advance in technology with regards to storage, drying and refrigeration, We will still keep our East Indians Summers alive, there is something about doing it the old school way that makes it so special and adds the taste to our already delicious and wholesome food. I am sure you all are well stocked and enjoying your delicacies during the rains.

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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- *For membership forms and more information you may call

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EAST INDIAN PUNCH

The Mouthpiece of the Mobai Gaothan Panchayat

Aplaa Gaav! Aapla Raaz!

Time to Save our Gaothans ! East Indians have the First Right

Gleason Barretto, Old Kurla

Just more than a week ago 2 houses in Kharodi were demolished and our community brethren were homeless. All they were asking for was a compensation as Gaothan residents and not as slums. The East Indian Community has mostly been at the receiving end. We were always given a pittance or nothing for decades and its time we change this mindset of the authorities.

Our Gaothans residents have ownership documents like 7/12 unlike the slums. We are owners and not encroachers. Surprisingly migrants who settled later and residing in buildings are given huge compensations and our community which has its roots in this city from the time it came into being are ignored. Its time the authorities open their eyes to the East Indians, one of the communities that gave birth to Mumbai, Vasai, Thane and Raigad.

The History books hardly make a mention about our community and there is no mention also on the numerous government websites. Its encouraging to see many of our activists and associations doing their best to promote our community existence, culture and traditions. The awareness of our community continues to grow each passing year.

To ensure our voice is heard as Children of the Soil a Solidarity Rally has been organized. We are likely to assemble at around 5 spots near our Gaothans. The East Indian Solidarity Rally is scheduled on Sunday, 29th July 2018 from 10:30am to 11:30am.

While all the demands to the Central, State, Municipality and Archdiocese will be highlighted a special focus will be on the Gaothans especially the Resettlement policy. The MGP Team along with newly inducted members of the Gaothan Bachav Andolan and our Special Advisors consisting of Professionals will help us draft the policy. The first list of the Gaothan Resettlement Policy will be released in a weeks time taking into account the urgency of the Kharodi Gaothan issue.

At all the identified spots the participating members will be given cloth and paper flags, paper caps, placards and banners. The turnout for our Annual Rally has not been encouraging and we hope this time we get a better turnout. Each family should send atleast one member to represent their family and village. It's a day to show our solidarity towards our community and its issues.

The Top 10 issues to be raised at the rally are:-

- 1)Special Gaothan Development and Resettlement Policy
- 2)Housing and Job reservations for the East Indian Community and implement of Gaothan expansion policy
- 3)Single window permissions and self-developed ground-plus-two SITU for gaothans to be granted.
- 4)Land to be allotted for East Indian Bhavan and Museum in Bombay, Thane, Vasai and Raigad.
- 5)East Indian Food stalls to be allotted in each gaothan area and municipal ward.
- 6)If No tax to Encroachers then no tax should also apply to East Indians, the original owners of Bombay.
- 7)Lands donated to churches and the archdiocese should not be sold and if not developed should be returned back for community development.
- 8)Simplified OBC process and East Indian Community to be recognized as natives of Bombay by the State and Central Government.
- 9)An East Indian Community welfare fund to be started in lieu of properties given to government for airport and other infra projects
- 10)East indian gaothans to be self governed and a municipal corporator to be elected by the East Indian community, an East Indian to be appointed on the BMC/ MMRDA/ Town Planning committee for Gaothans

*Each East Indian Family should send atleast one member to represent their Family and Village.

*All East Indian Associations who wish to support the Rally may contact us

*We welcome sponsors in cash or kind towards Rally expenses like water, transport, sound, banners, posters, handbills, flags, etc.

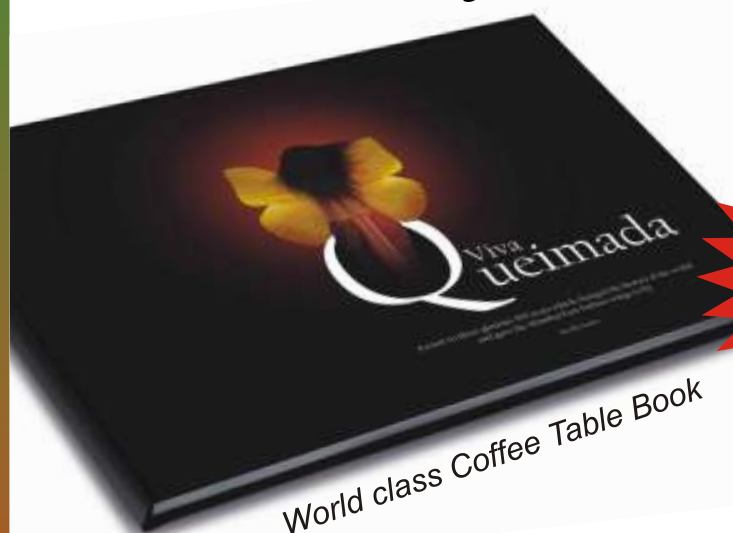
*Those who wish to volunteer at the Rally at respective locations may contact us.

*For details contact 9820087771/9820545302



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