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Mobile - 9820087771

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GAOTHAN VOICE JAN 2021

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Uplifting the Village Community

**VOICE**

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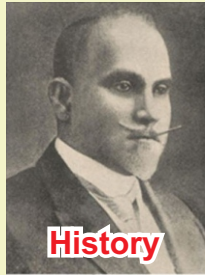
The East Indian Magazine

**One Village !**

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**AAPLAA GAAV! AAPLAA NAAV!**

**Making East Indians Popular as Natives of the City**



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**Bank name** - Citizen Credit Co-op Bank Ltd., Vakola Branch

**Savings Account number** - 2090162000015624

**IFSC code** - CCBL0209016

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### EDITORIAL TEAM

Alphi Dsouza - Vakola  
Averil Fernandes - Gundavli  
Gleason Barretto - Old Kurla  
Penny Miranda - Amboli  
Rita Rodricks - Bandra  
Sybil Rodrigues - Kalina  
Walter Murzello - Orlem  
Jamaica D'lima - Marve  
Lovesh Miranda - Dubai



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### E-MAIL

eastindianvoice@gmail.com

### LAYOUT AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Shiv Mourya - Juhu Church

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# EAST INDIAN NEW ISLAND

Your Community New Page

## **MGP PRESENTS EAST INDIAN COMMUNITY MEMORANDUM TO ADITYA THACKERAY**

*Jamaica Dlima - Marve*

The meeting was held at Matoshree with Aditya Thackeray - Minister of State for Environment and Tourism. MGP was represented by Bryce Rodricks (GBA Commissioner) and Alphi Dsouza (MahaSarpanch) from MGP and Neil Pereira and Savio from Pali Bandra Gaothan. MGP handed over the East Indian Community Memorandum of Demands for the State Government and Municipal Corporation to Aditya Thackeray.

Soon after the first meeting, MGP met Aditya Thackeray for the second time within a week. The meeting was arranged by Aditya Thackeray in consultation with UDRI at Sahayadri Guest House. This Meet was held with Government officials from Urban Dept Mantralaya and chaired by Aditya Thackeray. Architect Pankaj Joshi made a presentation on various plans for the Gaothans and Koliwadass. Demarcation of Gaothans was requested as soon as possible and we were assured on the same. MGP Presented Aditya Thackeray with the East Indian Calendar 2021 which has the Gaothan and Heritage Theme.

## **DONATE TO THE KAKA BAPTISTA MUSEUM**

MGP is looking for donors who would like to donate artefacts of great significance for the community to the Kaka Baptista East Indian Museum and future Bhavan.

Items like the tizal, taaman and various other kitchen articles, occupation equipments, furniture, reklas and gaaras, old Vehicles like Rickshaw, scooter, Ambassador can be donated.

For pick up please contact Alphi D'souza on 9820087771.

## **CHRISTMAS CAROLS NITE ON MEE EAST INDIAN**

MGP organised Christmas Carols Nite

On Mee East Indian. The young and old participated in the Carol Nite from far and near.

Ten-year-old Ann Marie D'souza from Canada sang Silent Night while Angelina Crasto from Thane sang O Holy Night. East Indian Singers from Juhu came together to Go Tell It On The Mountain as a sign of Unity. Gershwin Remedios from Vasai played an instrumental version of White Christmas on his paino.

Sau Roque Koloverkyar performed an East Indian version of a Christmas Carol. Six singers and twelve band members came together for this special performance.

If you have missed watching these lovely performances, you can log on to MeeEastIndian, aapka YouTube channel and join in the festive spirit.

## **CHRISTMAS SERMAO FROM THE VATICAN CITY**

Fr. Botham Patil preached a special Christmas Sermon from the Vatican City of Rome.

MGP Team thanks Fr. Botham Patil for this sermon for Christmas. Fr. Botham is from Uttan and is currently based at Rome, Italy for further studies

Sermao as it is called in the East Indian language, will be published on various important dates in the East Indian Religious calendar. These sermons may be given by our community priests, nuns, religious brothers, deacons and other religious members. The sermons may be given in East Indian, Marathi or English. The Religious who would like to share their sermons can contact us at 9820545302

## **47 GIFT HAMPERS ! 47 FAMILY SMILES! ONE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**

Christmas is the season of giving. This year was unlike any other. The pandemic doesn't seem to get over however MGP, staying true to their tagline, Every Smile Matters ensured that the needy celebrated too. Christmas Hampers worth Rs. 1000 were distributed per family.

The East Indian Community Fund Helpline Chief Project Coordinator is Sybil Rodrigues from Kalina.

MGP Team thanks all the Christmas Hamper sponsors and Sarpanches/ Coordinators for the distribution.

## MGP'S EAST INDIAN CALENDAR 2021

**RITA RODRICKS**

**23<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER, 2020**

*Mobai Gaothan Panchayat released their East Indian Calendar 2021 for the second consecutive year*

*This year's theme is heritage Gaothans (villages) from far and near*

*The Calendar cover page is a tribute to the traditional East Indian Luga (Sari) Maroon, Gold and Yellow are the predominant colors by far*

*There are fun group photographs of men, women and children attired in luga outfits*

*My personal favorite is the group of young girls in lugras wearing sun glasses to give it a twist*

*Each calendar month has a collage of photographs from a particular Gaothan (village) with its own special attractions*

*There are also a few facts, origin of name, heritage precincts, village feasts and local associations*

*There are pictures of heritage Crosses and traditional houses dating back to more than hundred years old*

*Along with their old and renovated Parish Churches and beautifully engraved altars in gold*

*The Culinary Recipes have sweet and savory dishes with an accompanying picture to see*

*It will surely entice you to try and cook these authentic traditional foods because it looks so very tasty*

*The cost of the calendar is only one hundred rupees, buy it quickly I recommend*

*It is an ideal Christmas gift for your local and global family and friends*

*Thank you to all our sponsors and the calendar team who worked tirelessly to get the job done*

*Take a bow all of you the complements have been pouring in for each and every one!*

## MGP 2020 - THE YEAR THAT WAS TAKING OUR COMMUNITY TO GREATER HEIGHTS

\*In spite of the Pandemic MGP did the best it could in initiating our projects for the East Indian Community

\*MGP now has a list of 40+ projects focussed on various needs of the Community

MGP's Top 5 projects as on December 2020

1. Kaka Baptista East Indian Museum - The first ever Museum in the world based on the East Indian Community with future plans for a East Indian Bhavan
2. East Indian Calender - We have printed the East Indian calenders with the Gaothan theme for the year 2021 with 3000 Print-run and around 10 Lac plus viewers in India and across the world
3. Mee East Indian - MGP's YouTube Channel made history when 50,000+ viewers watched the first-ever Singing Online Competition followed by a series of Community based shows and events
4. East Indian Community Fund - We have distributed 250+ ration kits and 47 Christmas Hampers to the needy families through this special bank account opened to support our community
5. Gaothan voice, initiated in 2009 and one of the most effective means of communication

MGP Team thanks you all for your Support and Encouragement. Looking forward to your Prayers in the New Year 2021.

To join our team contact 9820087771 / 9820545302 or email us at [mgpmobai@gmail.com](mailto:mgpmobai@gmail.com)



# EAST INDIAN AGENDA 2021

## Memorandum of the East Indian Community

### CENTRAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT

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

### MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

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

# EAST INDIAN AGENDA 2021

## Memorandum of the East Indian Community

### ARCHDIOCESE

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

### **EAST INDIAN COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS AND GROUPS**

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

# EAST INDIAN PUNCH

The Mouthpiece of the East Indian Community

**AAPLAA GAAV! AAPLAA RAAJ!  
AAPLAA GAAV! AAPLAA NAAV!**

**Making East Indians Popular as Natives of the City**

**Gleason Barretto - Old Kurla**

It's been more than a century since we took upon the name East Indian Community but the citizens are not fully aware about our Indigenous connect as Children of the soil. There is an urgent need to increase the awareness about our community through multiple initiatives. MGP has taken upon itself to join hands with like-minded community associations and activists to do the best we can to create this awareness. This will be a 5 to 10 year plan with a year on year review on the progress of initiatives and the up-coming year's action plan will be finalised accordingly. The first Year plan has been finalised after informing and taking inputs from MGP Advisors

**RESTORE** - We have seen multiple projects and initiatives driven to Restoration and this is a welcome change. Around a year ago MGP even changed the name of the Gaothan Beautification Project to Gaothan Restoration Project (GRP). Here we plan to Restore whatever we can to bring back memories of our Gaothans and its past. The Gaothan Restoration will be managed by a team of hardcore Gaothan residents who want to give our areas the ideal Gaothan Look. The GRP will restore wells for Umbrachapani, design special benches and street lights, include an entrance arch with a history board and lots more

**REVIVE** - Making our Community specialty well known amongst other communities is the target. Our Community will be requested to make these East Indian Specialty by its inclusion at all Village Festivals, Gaothan events, cultural Celebrations, Religious practices and house functions. Gaothan specialty would be Rekla, Ghumat, Chatir and much more to give a direct connect and make them synonymous with our community. All local associations and activists need to ensure they are always included. A data bank of these is being worked upon for our Business Network as well as our Culture Guide project

**TRADITION** - Customs, Beliefs and way of doing things in the past should never be forgotten. Tradition plays an important role in defining our roots and we can never forget our roots. The Luga has become a trend at all our weddings and celebrations and has paved a way for traditions to make a come back. Customs and Beliefs are being documented thorough our book project, Reetiñ Reevaaj which will also release episodes in video format on our YouTube channel. Appealing to our community to follow these customs and beliefs will then be the immediate agenda.

**GAOTHANS** - In our City, you talk of the Gaothans and immediately there is an East Indian Connect. Multiple meetings with politicians and authorities have ensured that the Gaothans are not erased but instead specially included in the City's future plans with the approval of the indigenous people, the East Indian Community. The Gaothans and its special inclusions like the Holy Cross and Heritage Houses should not be touched as they give the perfect look for the community settlement. Promotion of Gaothans with local festivals and events will place them prominently on the City maps. A special awareness drive will be launched to restore Holy Crosses and not renovate them.

**HISTORY** - Past records of East Indian Community will be publicised to ensure the History of our community and its rich culture is not forgotten. Special information and highlights of Kaka Baptista will be promoted through various media forums. Some projects have already been dedicated to Kaka Baptista and we plan to dedicate many more to our community freedom fighter. Historical facts about our community will be documented and promoted on various mediums to enlighten all about our rich culture and roots. Mapping history of each Gaothan and its specialty in the yesteryears will be published as a reference for all citizens.

**HERITAGE** - The Churches are a clear testimony of our Heritage and existence. As always the Archdiocese will be requested not to renovate but instead restore all heritage Churches. The Church foundation and its connect to the local Native East Indian Community will be documented for the reference of future generations. Every historical structure or statue in religious premises should be maintained and restored. A Religious Structure dedicated to our Native Saint Gonsalo Garcia to be built to honour the indigenous connect of the Saint and his historical importance to Maharashtra State and India.

**FOOD** - The real taste of the East Indians is from its vast varieties of food and cuisine. In recent times we have seen a few hotels and we should have many more. The over the counter fast food stalls selling East Indian food needs to be promoted even if it's a take away concept. Our Community Food specialty can create wonders and we need to do our best to ensure its presence and popularity. The variety of preservatives like our Masalas and Pickles need to be promoted and nice to see many such initiatives in this direction. The East Indian Bottle Masala should be made Internationally well known to our talented home chefs and entrepreneurs.

**MUSIC** - East Indian Music is unique and can be taken to greater heights if all in the music community come together. Some recent initiatives online have been encouraging but there is much more we can do. The Ghumat should be in every East Indian household and its presence at every Celebration should be ensured. Music releases should be targeted not only for the listening pleasure of the community but the larger audience too. The Music experts should be roped in to create this unique quality thereby creating East Indian Music lovers in India and Internationally too. Our East Indian Bands should also work towards appreciation from a larger audience through their talent and expertise.

The list of action points to fulfill this objective of making East Indian Community well known maybe endless but the time has come to act on this. We at MGP plan to review all these plans and do our very best to take our community to greater heights. We need your support and every hand counts. Join Us and Together Lets Make This Happen.





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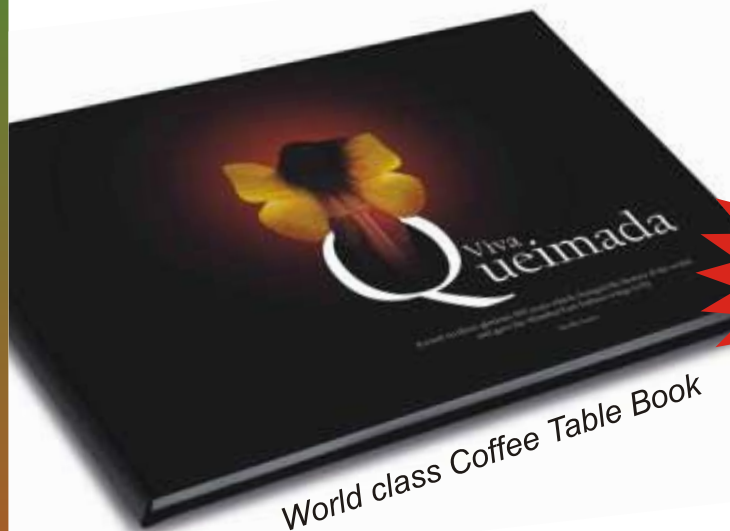
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