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Uplifting the Village Community

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By Jamaica Dlima - Marve

### East Indian Online Singing Competition & Awards 2021

After the grand success of our first ever Online East Indian Singing Competition in April 2020, Mobai Gaothan Panchayat is planning to host the second edition of the East Indian Online Singing Competition & Awards 2021 on our very own YouTube channel – MeeEastIndian.

The tentative competition dates are August-September 2021. The prize money and competition rules will be announced soon. Only new songs will be accepted. Some award recipients will also perform at the event. Selection of performers at the sole discretion of the organisers.

Mr. Jacob Gomes, MGP Kurla Taluka Sarpanch, is the competition organiser & advisor. For sponsorships and details contact Welbour Jacob Gomes on 9167461118.



### East Indian girl from Malad opens an authentic East Indian restaurant in Goa.

Keziah Correia, a 25-year-old East Indian girl from Malad has made waves on social media. Fugiyas, the newly launched authentic East Indian restaurant in Goa was opened by Keziah on 4th April 2021 and is the first ever East Indian Restaurant in India outside Maharashtra. The restaurant is set up at a 140-year-old Portuguese house and already has rave reviews for its scrumptious dishes and unique cocktails.

The Mobai Gaothan Panchayat has nominated Fugiyas for the East Indian Community Awards 2021. So, the next time you are in Goa (which is mostly after the lockdown and after being fully vaccinated too) and crave for East Indian food, just visit Fugiyas at Siolim and satisfy your taste buds.

### MGP's Covid Action Plan

The MGP Team organised a special online team meet to plan and support our community in these challenging times. The three-step plan is as follows.

1. Covid Support and Awareness- Hospitalisation support, vaccination awareness and ration assistance.
2. Traditional Prayers during Pandemic - Special prayers will be streamed online and our community will be urged to pray to St. Roque and the Holy Cross.
3. Online entertainment to bring hope and joy - Online programmes to be streamed with a special Online Singing Competition planned post lockdown.

If you wish to support our endeavour please contact Alphi Dsouza on 9820087771



### Thana Martyrs' Feast

The Feast of the Thana Martyrs on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021, marked a historic day for the Archdiocese of Bombay.

Seven hundred years ago, four Franciscans namely Blessed Thomas of Tolentino, James of Padua, Peter of Siena and Demetrius of Tiflis (Georgia) received the crown of martyrdom in Thana. To commemorate this day, the Church organised a special online mass which was celebrated by Bishop Allwyn D'Silva. There was also an exposure of the relics of Blessed Thomas that we are privileged to have.

This special day dates to the 14<sup>th</sup> century when these four Franciscans were martyred in Thana 700 years ago in 1321. They were made to stand in the hottest hours of the day and they survived. They walked through fire and emerged unscathed. Thomas, James and Demetrius were then taken to Kalwa where they were beheaded. Peter was arrested the next day. He was first hung from a tree and then beheaded. In 1894, Thomas was beatified by Pope Leo XIII. His relic can be venerated at St. John the Baptist Church, Thane.

The MGP Team under the Native Devotions Project plans to take this forward. For any suggestions please write to [mgpmobai@gmail.com](mailto:mgpmobai@gmail.com)

### GAOTHAN VOICE READERSHIP SURVEY

The MGP is proud to bring you the Gaothan Voice bulletin steadily for the past 18 years. We are conducting the Gaothan Voice (GV) readership survey to make sure we hear your opinions and suggestions so that the bulletin can serve you better. Your participation in this survey is entirely voluntary. Your feedback will help us gain a clear understanding of what you expect to see in the Gaothan Voice (GV), which will help us produce a bulletin that is a true reflection of interests and concerns of the East Indian community. We would be grateful for your time and support in completing this survey.

Survey Link: <https://forms.gle/ao6pEpupTxb8DBC47>

To receive the survey link on whatsapp, please contact 9820545302

# THE EAST INDIAN VOICE

## Holidays Ahoy!!!!

It's that time of the year again, when we all looked forward to as children. The planning for summer holidays would start well before the final examination & that would be the only incentive to study knowing well, that post the exams we would be heading either to our Aunt's house or Grandma's house or a combination of both, to spend our month-long vacation of doing all the things that we were not permitted to do at home.

Most of our time was spent outdoors. We played morning & evening, which was never permitted at home, as mornings had to be generally spent doing some studying, or handwriting practice, which I so required. On a lighter note, it's amazing that even after all that writing practice, nothing seems to have worked for me. At the same time, I can imagine what it would have been without that practice.

At home, we were very clearly told that morning hours were to be spent at home, doing some amount of desk work, and household chores, like cleaning up our cupboards, helping with stuff around the house etc. That way I think we also learnt to do chores around the house. Once we were out of the bounds of our house we were permitted to eat at road-side stalls, play outdoors, go cycling, or visit our grand mum who stayed down the road & enjoy all the local produce from her garden which had trees laden with love apples, jambuls and more.

Evenings were generally spent reciting the rosary at the village cross, after which we relished the chana, wafers, cold drink & other snacks that were offered. Every old aunty in the village would have her turn to distribute some goodies and treats after the rosary & we could hardly wait for that. For us, that was more important than the rosary itself & so we looked forward to it.

At the end of the holidays we would realize that the friends of our cousins had become our friends too & we would all be one happy bunch. We would promise to stay in touch (which we hardly did once we got into back to our own routines) until we met the following vacation again and the same fun, frolic & holiday continued. From May holidays to Diwali holidays, this routine remained, more or less, the same & yet we never complained about not being taken out for holidays to exotic locations. At the best of times we even went to places like Khandala, Lonavla, Karjat, Mahabaleshwar, Panchgani, and others. Those were the days my friends, such happy, simple & unforgettable days. I wish they would all come back to me.

- Dale Pereira

## Rita's Tales - Covid 19

In this present global Covid-19 fight,  
We must all wear our masks just right.  
Avoid stepping out of your homes for no reason,  
Or else you will definitely not survive this season.  
Wash your hands with soap and water regularly,  
Sanitize often to stay fit and healthy.  
Please ensure that you all get vaccinated,  
Follow up with the second dose on the date recommended.  
Do not ignore Covid-19 symptoms; go and get tested,  
Seek medical help immediately, if infected.  
Follow quarantine rules and regulations,  
Make this world safer for us and the future generations!

-Rita Rodricks



## The Ten Covid Commandments Rules to have a Safer and Better World

- 1.Thou shall be Honest** - Please inform your friends, relatives and neighbours to ensure you get timely help.
- 2.Thou shall Help** - If you know of any affected family, please help them with food and medicine so that they don't move out.
- 3.Thou shall Quarantine** - If affected with Covid please stay indoors to avoid spread.
- 4.Thou shall Share** - Help needy families with food and ration.
- 5.Thou shall Pray** - Daily family prayers to be said for safety of your family, your city and the world.
- 6.Thou shall Vaccinate** - Please encourage all those eligible to receive vaccination.
- 7.Thou shall Stay Home** - Don't venture out unless required as you may place your family at risk.
- 8.Thou shall Stay Safe** - Practice Covid appropriate behaviour like wearing a mask, sanitizing your hands and practicing social distancing.
- 9.Thou shall Support** - Help and coordinate for those who need hospitalisation or medical advice.
- 10.Thou shall Bring Cheer** - When the affected, come back from the hospital, welcome them with great joy and an applause.

- Gleason Barretto



# **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

## **Saglyan bari hoti ti razaa**

### **Ekot hovun karauchu majaa**

*Summer Holidays - A Time to Unite as One Family*

**Gleason Barretto - Old Kurla**

**E**agerly waiting for Summer Holidays was an annual feature for all of us. As soon as it was the last week of April, it was time to go to the place of our immediate family members like grandparents or uncles place for the much-awaited holidays. All family members assembled around the same time and it was fun catching up with them. The morning scene had the ladies busy cooking while children played indoor games like carrom and ludo. In the evening, the elders were busy preparing the evening meal while children played outdoors. The children also made it a point to visit the nearest wadi for boras, avla, mangoes and tamarind. The traditional games like viti dandu, tyre rolling, saath kapri(seven tiles), chupa chupi (hide and seek) and many more were the highlights of these holidays.

**K**ursaachi Ladin was a specialty during the month of May. Each family dedicated its annual litany at the Gaothan Cross on a special day like birthday, anniversary or any memorable day. House to house invitations were made, to invite near and dear ones to attend the litany. Family names offering litany were also mentioned near the holy cross. Sometimes, everyday there was a cross litany dedicated by various families and as kids we went daily for the rosary at the cross which was followed by snacks that included drasna and chanas. On the last day was the cross feast with special refreshments and celebrations. This was many a times followed by a game of housie with cash prizes.

**O**ne United Family just spent the day together and it passed off with a lot of fun and laughter. During these holidays the entire family planned an outing to the nearest beach or village, and at times to the prominent places in South Mumbai like Gateway of India. The evening meal was mostly together with the entire family after the mandatory rosary at the cross or at the altar. If there was a home wedding it was more fun and celebration. The East Indian food specialties was never missed at these holidays and functions be it the fugiyas or varyas, moile or khuddi, fugaath or chinchavni, letri or lapsi.

**T**imes have changed and so nowadays we spend these holidays differently. The summer holidays of yesteryears are simply etched as memories in our lives. The families today prefer trips to tourist destinations in India and abroad. The clash of work timings and fewer holidays add to the challenges today. It's time we revive this annual practice which was an opportunity to meet the extended family members even though it may be for a couple of days or the weekend. An annual family picnic can also be an added activity during the holiday season. This annual feature ensures that the family was closer and connected unlike today where this practice seems to be dying down slowly.

MGP Punch Line - EKOT means Unity in the East Indian dialect and these summer holidays ensured that. Let's ensure we revive this annual feature to promote unity, love and togetherness within our families.





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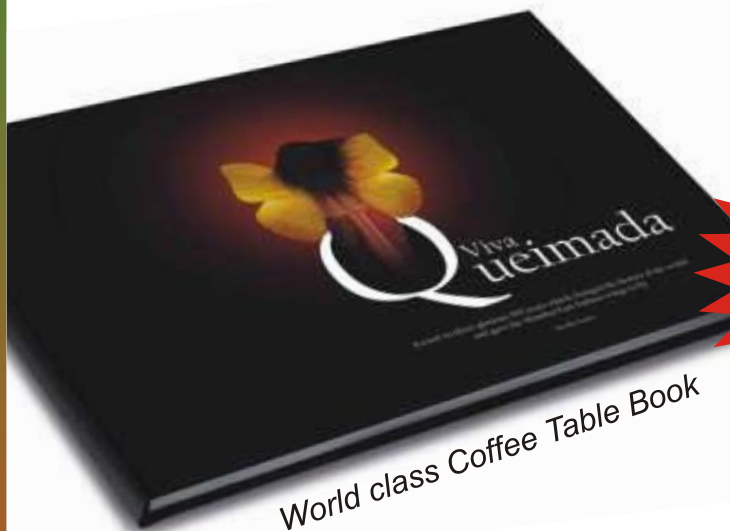
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