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Uplifting the Village Community

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*Tip Tip Tibaltaan Javalam  
Aagotini Pasarilyaan Paavalam*  
Monsoon and the East Indian Way



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- \*No cash contributions will be accepted.

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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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### Velankanni Mauli Pilgrim Project

Every year thousands of East Indians visit Velankanni in the month of September. There are many others who wish to pay their respects to Our Lady of Velankanni but cannot do so due to financial issues. Mobai Gaothan Panchayat has come up with the idea to sponsor a pilgrim tour for the needy.

MGP has connected with some tour operators for tour quotes per person for next year's Pilgrimage. Basis the same, those interested can sponsor a needy pilgrim. You can also sponsor a part of the cost like stay, food or travel. Our target is to sponsor 10 to 100 needy pilgrims next year on basis of the sponsorships received.

Those who visit every year can consider sponsoring a needy Pilgrim in lieu of last year's cost. Sponsor names will be publicised only after obtaining their permission. As per the MGP policy, the names of needy pilgrims will not be publicised. Preference will be given to individuals/families who have never visited Velankanni. Tour operators who would like to quote can also contact us. You can also refer a person from your locality who may not have access to social media.

For further details please contact 9820087771/8898178889.

### San Jao Cha Sann - Zaavaycha Sann

*San Jao Cha San* is celebrated by the East Indian Community to coincide with Feast of St. John the Baptist on 24th June or on the following Sunday. This feast is also celebrated as *Zaavaycha Sann*. (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 newly-wed couple visits the Bride's Parish for mass in traditional attire. On this day, it is traditional for the couple to wear the gold ornaments that they had worn on their wedding along with the gold pieces gifted to them.

The couple is served traditional East Indian sweets like *letri*, *laapsi*, *mugoori*, *nevris* after mass at the bride's residence. The bride's parents cook a special lunch buffet of East Indian dishes which includes *varyas*, *fugias*, *moile*, *fugaath*, wedding pickle, wedding rice, roast, *indyal* and *sarpattel* for the newly weds. After lunch, the couple must visit the nearest well or pond for a dip. In some places, it is also customary to wash the feet of the newly-weds. The newly-weds are taken in a procession with the East Indian Brass Band.

We at MGP are compiling more data on the feast for our planned historical project - *Reetin Reevaj*, A Cultural and Traditional Guide for our East Indian Community.

To help us with more information, suggestions and to join our team please call 9820545302/9820087771

### East Indian Community Fund - Support In Times Of Emergencies.

The East Indian Community Fund was started in 2014 to support those in need. The fund was set up primarily for educational and medical needs and for any other emergency faced by any of our community members. After the lockdown was imposed in March, Mobai Gaothan Panchayat decided to use some funds from East Indian Community Fund to support needy families in the Gaothans irrespective of caste, creed or religion.

As the Academic year begins, it is time to support the children of our community for their educational needs. If you know of any needy family who requires support for education, in the form of books, uniforms, fees and stationery please do inform us.

MGP will support the amount in full or partially towards education needs, basis the fund balances in the account.

Alongwith this, MGP has also decided to give financial support for hospitalisation and medicine. Covid Financial Support will also be covered. Payments will preferably be done directly to hospitals or medical stores.

As per MGP policy, the names of beneficiaries will not be publicised. The financials of this account will be shared only with donors basis their request. MGP will accept donations by cheques or by funds transfer only. No cash contributions will be accepted but sponsors can support in kind.

Please note: Support will be given basis availability of funds.

Bank account details: -

Account Name -East Indian Community Fund

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

Savings Account number – 2090162000015624

IFSC code - CCBL0209016

Chief Coordinator - EIC Fund - Sybil Rodrigues - 9930229742

Medical Financial Support Helpline Coordinator

Alphi Dsouza - 9820087771

For more details or to be volunteer you may contact

9820545302 or email us at [eastindianfund@gmail.com](mailto:eastindianfund@gmail.com)

### Mot Mauli Yatra

Mobai Gaothan Panchayat firmly believes in promoting native devotions and since the pandemic is still prevalent, this year too we are organizing for Our Lady's statue to come to your Gaothan.

Gaothan Visits begin on Sunday, 1st August 2021. The statue of Our Lady of the Mount will be taken across Mumbai, Thane, Raigad and Vasai throughout August and September.

The *Mot Mauli Yatra* Guidelines must be strictly followed.

- Maintain social distancing during prayers.

- Avoid processions.

- Avoid veneration by touching the statue.

- Ideally statue to be kept in a common gathering place like holy cross, grotto, chapel, village square.

- Statue should be cleaned with a damp cloth during visits.

- Avoid using any cleaning solutions or sanitizers.

- Statue will be kept at a Gaothan for 1 day from 7pm to 5pm next day depending on travel time.

To participate in this *Mot Mauli Yatra* for Our Lady to visit your Gaothan contact Alphi on 9820087771.



# THE EAST INDIAN VOICE

## RITA'S TALES

### *Feast of St. John the Baptist – 'San Jao Cha Sann'*

*The Feast of St. John the Baptist falls on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June annually. It is celebrated on the following Sunday of the feast day actually. The East Indians refer to the feast as 'San Jao' in their local Marathi dialect.*

*While the Goans call it 'Sao Joao' in their Konkani dialect. This day is celebrated with much gaiety and mirth in the gaothans (villages).*

*Jumping into wells, lakes, tanks or ponds is a ritual which one must partake to have fun.*

*The East Indians also celebrate it as 'Zaavaycha Sann' (New Son-in-Law's Day).*

*The new son-in-law and his bride arrive at her parent's house the previous day.*

*The Bridal couple announces their arrival with the sound of fireworks in the air.*

*They are welcomed by family, friends and neighbors amidst much fanfare.*

*The next day the newlywed couple attends the feast mass attired in their traditional finery.*

*They also wear the gold ornaments that have been gifted to them along with all their wedding jewellery.*

*When they return to the house they are served traditional East Indian sweets.*

*Letri, Laapsi, Mugoori and Nevris are some of the eats.*

*Lunch is a grand affair consisting of traditional dishes.*

*The menu is set according to the son-in-law's wishes.*

*Wedding Rice, Wedding Pickle, Gawar Foogath, Varyas, Fugas and Chitaps are definitely on the table.*

*Chicken Khudi, Duck Moile, Pork Indyal, Pork Sarpatel, and even a whole roasted pig will also be available.*

*After lunch the couple visits the nearest well or pond for a quick dip in the water.*

*Their feet are also symbolically washed by family and relatives if they prefer.*

*The Newlyweds are then escorted around the village in a procession.*

*With the East Indian Brass Band playing their instruments in unison!*



## Monsoon Special Recipe

### **Bombil Moile (Dry Bombay duck Moile)**

**-Clementine D'mello**



This is a simple and tasty recipe to savor in the monsoons. During the olden days dried seafood was one of the survival foods to be stored in every East Indian home as there is a shortage of fresh seafood and Bombil Moile is one such

alternative to the other versions of the poultry based moiles that are part of the East Indian cuisine.

#### **Ingredients:**

10-12 Dry Bombils (Dry Bombay Ducks) preferably big to medium sized  
3 – Medium sized Onions thinly sliced  
¼ Cup Garlic thinly sliced  
1-inch piece of ginger thinly sliced  
4-5 Green Chillies slit  
3 tsp Bottle Masala (adjust as per your taste)  
1 tsp Vinegar  
1 tbsp rice flour mixed with little water forming a liquidy paste.  
¼ tsp Garam Masala

4 tbsp Refined Oil

½ Cup freshly chopped coriander

Salt as per taste

**Preparation:** Cut the dried bombils into two halves and soak them in water no more than 5 minutes. Drain and keep aside.

#### **Method:**

Heat the oil and stir fry the bombil until lightly browned, add the bottle masala and fry further for a few minutes then add all the chopped ingredients garlic, ginger, onion and chillies stir fry everything on a medium low heat for 2 mins, make sure the masala does not burn at the bottom, add salt and then add water as per the consistency of the gravy you want and let it simmer until the bombil are soft and begin splitting. Now add the rice flour paste let it simmer then finally add in the garam masala and vinegar. Garnish with freshly chopped coriander. Serve hot with hand breads or rotis.

**Note:** You may add fried potatoes as a topping to the gravy.



# EAST INDIAN PUNCH

The Mouthpiece of the East Indian Community

## Tip Tip Tibaltaan Javalam Aagotini Pasarilyaan Paavalam Monsoon and the East Indian Way

Gleason Barretto - Old Kurla

As the rains splash across the city the Gaothans get that perfect village look. The Gaothans were village settlements where East Indian families lived together on higher ground to safeguard them from floods. Every Gaothan had a Holy Cross installed at the entrance and at important junctions. The reason why we see many Gaothans not affected by floods as they were situated on higher ground. With reclamation of land and closure of water bodies some are affected by floods today. For sheds, earlier most homes got their *kavlas* (roof tiles) checked and today mostly *tarpatri* (tarpaulin) sheets are placed on shed to prevent leakage.

A variety of East Indian food specialty was a compulsory inclusion as each East Indian home as a monsoon special. Dry fish like *bombils* and *waktis* were fried or roasted. The pickled *kolim* was the tastiest thing to have during the rains with piping hot *rotiyas*. Then we had the dried *kardi* chutney which tasted like a perfect East Indian specialty. By this time each East Indian home had stocked up on the Bottle Masala. Special pickles made during the summer months were relished during this time, like the sweet mango pickle and prawn pickle. So, in this way a lot of our traditional food with preservatives were served on our dining tables during this season. Not forgetting our special sweet dishes during these times like *panmorisor paatolis* made on the feast of Our Lady of Assumption and *tharpol* cake or *umber*.

Great and important festivals at monsoon time were feast of St. Anthony and St. John the Baptist. Coincidentally both these feasts have a connect with the season. The East Indian Community invoked to St. Anthony especially when there was scarcity of rain. They all went in procession and prayed at every Gaothan Holy Cross. 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...). *San Jao cha sann* also called *zaavaycha sann* saw newly-wed couples being taken to the nearest pond and their feet being washed followed by celebrations at the bride's home. The youth also celebrated by taking a dip at the village wells.

On the occupation front while the Kolis stayed away from the rough sea for a few weeks on the other hand the farmers prayed for rains for a good crop. Many of our villages focussed on plantation during the start of the monsoon. Most of the crops were then ready in time for the East Indian Harvest Festival of Aagera. On Aagera day the priest was taken to the fields and cut the first sheaves to be blessed with a prayer to God for a good harvest.

Traditions don't die unless neglected or forgotten. It's encouraging to see many groups, families and individuals now getting into the business of masalas, pickles, dry fish and much more. The feast of San Jao is now picking up and we are trying to document this feast to ensure that it's celebrated at most Gaothans. Aagera festivity has grown to a great extent, during the last decade and we will try to ensure the celebrations are restored and revived each passing year. Preservation, restoration and revival of water bodies like *talavs* (ponds) and *baavris* (wells) seems to be a challenging task but we plan to work things around it. The *aagot* season has a special place in the heart of each home and we pray that we do our best to revive our culture and tradition during this part of the year. Let's do our bit and ensure that our Community shines during the Aagot season and always.

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**This year you need not come to venerate me..  
I will Visit your Gaothan..**

## Mot Mauli Yatra

Promoting Native Devotions



\*Gaothan Visits began on Sunday, 1st August 2021\*

\*The Mount Mary statue will be taken across Mumbai, Thane, Raigad and Vasai throughout August and September

#### \*Mot Mauli Yatra Guidelines\*

\*Maintain social distancing during prayers

\*Avoid processions

\*Avoid veneration by touching the statue

\*Ideally statue to be kept in a common gathering place like holy cross, grotto, chapel, village square

\*Statue to be cleaned with damp cloth during visits

\*Avoid using any cleaning solutions or sanitizers.

\*Statue will be kept at a Gaothan for 1 day from 7pm to 5pm next day depending on travel time

To Participate in this Mount Mary Visit to your Gaothan contact Alphi on  
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# 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**

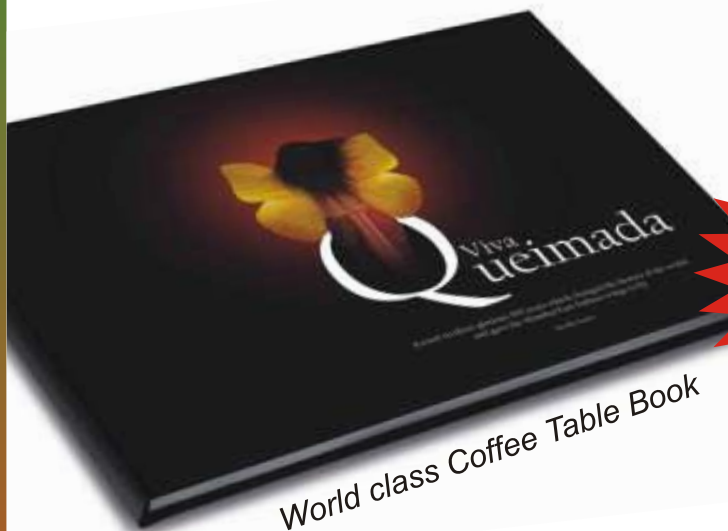
1. Education support through scholarships and discounts in courses
2. Medical support through full or partial assistance
3. Ration scheme for poor East Indian families
4. Business network to be encouraged to promote East Indian businesses
5. East Indian food restaurant to be opened
6. East Indian Village 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





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