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Public Trust Registration No: F-57349(MUMBAI)

GAOTHAN VOICE SEPT & OCT 2021

Vol:GV 09-10/21

For Private circulation only

Uplifting the Village Community

VOICE

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MOT MAULI YEL GAO-GAUN, SAGLYAANA MILEL BESAAUN MOUNT MARY'S VISIT TO GAOTHANS IS A BLESSING



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MOT MAULI PURCESSAO



Kaka Baptista Memorial Day 2021

GAOTHAN NEWS ISLAND

Your Community News Page

100 PARISHES! ONE AGERA FESTIVAL!

Agera is the Harvest Festival of the East Indian Community. It is celebrated on the first Sunday of October and each year the celebrations keeps getting bigger and better. As per our updates, Agera was celebrated in around 100 Gaothans and Mobai Gaothan Panchayat provided paddy to around 25 Gaothans. Special thanks to our Cardinal for mentioning about Agera at his Sunday Mass basis request from MGP.

MGP Team thanks all Parish Priests, Associations and social workers who made this possible inspite of the pandemic. Special thanks to all associations and Parish Priests who walked the extra mile to ensure the Indigenous Festival was celebrated in a big way.

MGP OBSERVES KAKA BAPTISTA MEMORIAL DAY

1 8th September 2021 marked the 91st death anniversary of our belved Kaka Baptista.

The morning of 18th September saw a number of Uttankars present at the bust of Barrister, Kaka Joseph Baptista to pay homage to our East Indian Freedom Fighter. Mr. Walter Murzello, Founder member of MGP garlanded the bust of Kaka Baptista and paid his respects.

At the same time on the other side of Mobai, Sybil Rodrigues paid homage at the grave of Kaka Baptista at Sewri cemetery.

MGP thanks all those who had assembled to pay homage to our beloved Kaka Baptista inspite of the current restrictions.

DHARAVI BETH - THE FORGOTTEN ISLAND BOOK

Fr. Milton Gonsalves has written a special book on the Manori - Gorai - Uttan region popularly known as Dharavi Beth. The book gives a brief history of the island and is divided into two parts. The first half gives us a general history of Dharavi Beth along with places of interest and the other half gives us an insight on the catholic community, it's lifestyle, trade and the life centered around the Church, it's institutions and the outstanding people of the place.

The book will be released on Fr. Milton's 50th Ordination Anniversary on 19th December at Holy Cross Church, Kurla. The book sale will be done online and also through coordinators in Manori, Gorai and Uttan.

ONLINE BOOKINGS OPEN

East Indian Calendar 2022

The Official Community Calendar

Calendar theme - Gaothans and Heritage

MRP - Rs.100/-

*Basis Multiple requests by regular purchasers who don't want to wait for a FREE copy through our Coordinators

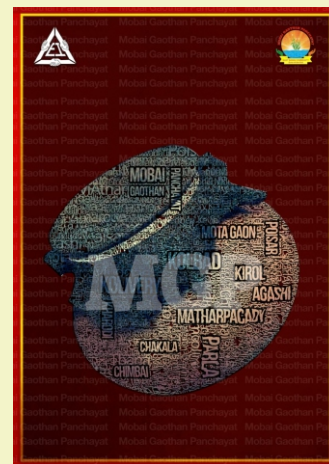
*4,500 copies have been reserved as Complimentary copies

*Bulk Complimentary Copies for all MGP Paid members - Star, Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze basis their membership plan

*For Online booking only 1 copy is permitted for each East Indian HomeFor MGP Membership Plan and bulk Complimentary copies contact 9820087771/9820545302

MGP - Protect Preserve Promote

Online booking link <https://mobaikar.in/2021/11/27/east-indian-calendar-2022/>



By Jamaica Dlima - Marve

Mot Mauli Yel Gao-gaun Saglyaana Milel Besaun Mount Mary's Visit to Gaothans is a Blessing

Gleason Barretto - Old Kurla

Mot Mauli or Mount Mary has a special place in the hearts of the East Indian community -- the indigenous community of Mumbai, who are her native devotees. So, a need for revival is necessary. And our MGP team decided to take the steps needed to revive it. Some five years ago, the community visited the Bandra fair during the octave week without realising their claim to the festival was being diluted by other non-native groups. A need was felt to get back what was rightfully the devotion and festival of the children of the soil, the East Indian community.

A project was launched to promote native devotions starting with St. Gonsalo Garcia -- our native saint, and Mount Mary. Efforts are underway to revive and create awareness about these native devotions. The MGP team is continuously thinking on these lines to get back the devotions which are rightfully ours. While we may request or demand the authorities in these regards, we will also draft an alternate plan to ensure that we are not totally dependent. We may first approach the Catholic hierarchy as true Catholics, but alternate plans will be drawn.

Unique ideas have been initiated under MGPs Native Devotions Promotion project. Some East Indian awards have been dedicated to St. Gonsalo Garcia and his statue has been installed at the Kaka Baptista East Indian Museum at Manori. Similarly, a statue of Mount Mary has also been installed at our MGP Museum. This statue visits our Gaothans once every year under the Mot Mauli Yatra initiative, thereby strengthening the native connect. To revive the memories of a procession that happened over 400 years ago, a procession of Mount Mary is taken from St. Michael's Church, Mahim to Mount Mary Church on a rekla accompanied by our East Indian brass band. Sadly, our demands to the Archdiocese on native devotions are yet to see the light of day.

Land for a chapel dedicated to St. Gonsalo Garcia and a grotto dedicated to Mount Mary is being identified through donors or government land allotments. We expect to succeed in this plan by 2022 year-end. Special prayers and hymns to St. Gonsalo Garcia and Mount Mary are also being encouraged. An awareness drive amongst the community about the native devotion connect is also being drawn. The East Indian Mass will be the highlight at the proposed chapel and will be celebrated on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis given the availability of priests and choirs. Additionally, the community will now be told to celebrate the feast and devotions on a grander scale. The Gaothan Holy Crosses should also try to install a statue of our native devotions.

Initiating projects and activities to promote our native devotions will surely have a bigger impact in the hearts and minds of the East Indian community since religious initiatives are very close to our hearts. We are sure that these initiatives will bear fruit. The MGP looks forward to like-minded advisors, experts, activists and volunteers coming ahead to take the Native Devotions Promotion project to the next level. Let's give St. Gonsalo Garcia and Mount Mary the right stature and importance in their native place. If we do our very best in these devotions, our East Indian community will surely reap bigger blessings.

Why no Bandra Fair for two years?

The MGP Story

On 15th September 2015, a front page headline in the Mid-day proclaimed, "Bandra Fair hijacked by outsiders". The devout Catholics were disturbed but little did they understand the reason behind the headline. Have you heard of any international fair where the indigenous community does not have a single stall to promote its cuisine and artefacts? Hundreds of stalls were allotted by Mount Mary Church and the BMC, but no place for a stall to the founders of the fair -- the East Indian community. A couple of weeks before the 2015 Bandra fair, the vice rector called for a meeting with the MGP Team along with an East Indian priest. The vice rector assured since the allotment was done for the year they would surely look at an allotment for the next year.

The vice rector was transferred and a new rector was appointed. The MGP team approached the new rector only to be told that it was not possible for stall allotment with various surprising reasons, but the bottom line seemed to be that they did not want to allot stalls for the East Indian community. The MGP also sent a communication to the local MLA but all we got there again were assurances. The founders of the Bandra fair were truly being treated like outsiders.

As per our research, the Church as well as BMC had a lobby which only wanted to selectively allot stalls to either regulars or high bidders at auctions. The religious fair was now more commercial with the blessing of the authorities and their special teams. Year after year we reminded the authorities about the need to allot stalls to the indigenous community like done across the world. The first rightful community now had no space to accommodate the promotion of their cuisine and handicrafts.

The next point raised was a need for the native East Indian dialect Holy Mass with preference for the state language Marathi, on all days. A request was also made that the recessional hymn should be in the East Indian dialect. This also was not considered and to add to our woes, preference was given to a migrant language. Why this disheartening treatment to the indigenous community? Infact, after the annual procession the Rector avoided mentioning about the revival of the procession with the historical connection of the group behind it.

In the year 2019, like previous years, we approached the Church rector, BMC authorities and political leaders and got the same negative answers. Their lobbies seem to have grown stronger and the authorities seem to have no qualms with the commercial angle running into lakhs and crores. We decided to go down the Mount Mary steps and identify other alternatives along the way and landed at Mount Carmel Church, famous for its September Garden. When we called the parish priest he was unavailable and did not seem to be interested in allotting a stall to the native community. We then called an East Indian priest only to be told that truly we were being ignored and all we should do is pray and Mount Mary will surely bless us. Truly our prayers seem to be answered as the Bandra fair was not held for the last two years which has never happened in the fair's history. In spite of the pandemic, the MGP continued with its Mot Mauli Yatra and the Purcussao on the traditional rekla.

Mount Mary has truly given us a strong message that the indigenous people of Bombay, the East Indians, have a special place in the history of the festival. So what if we were sidelined and ignored, Mount Mary stood by the community which religiously visited the fair year after year since inception. There could have been no Mount Mary Church or Bandra fair without the East Indians and it is high time the authorities realise it. We will continue to pray and we are confident that Mount Mary will bless us with what we rightfully deserve.

GAOTHAN ADS VILLA

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PUBLISHED BY :

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

Printed at:

Printania, D/21, Shalimar Ind. Estate,
Matunga, Mumbai - 19

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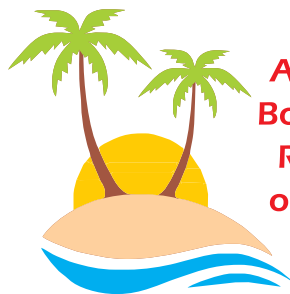
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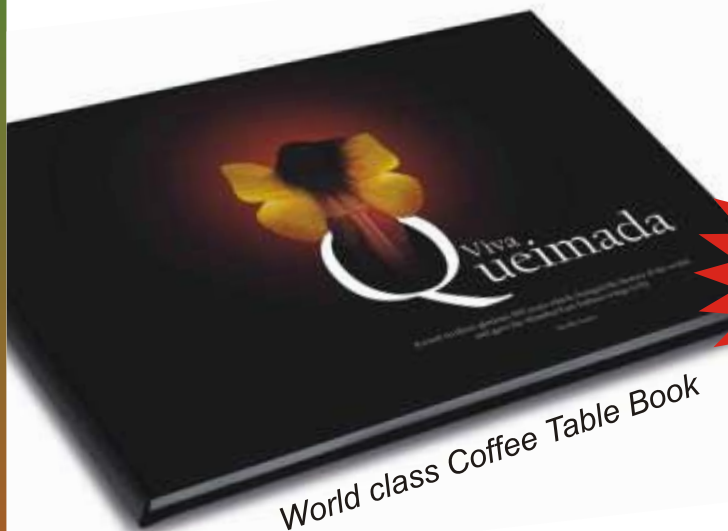
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