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# GAOTHAN

Uplifting the Village Community

## VOICE

गावठण वॉईस

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The East Indian Magazine

**One Village !**

Email: eastindianvoice@gmail.com

## Utha Ge Utha Tumhi Aazun Ka Nizlyan

**East Indians RISE - Revive! Initiate! Serve! Empower!**



**East Indian Conclave 2021 Hotel Avion - Vile Parle**

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Bishop Allwyn D'silva releasing the East Indian Calendar 2022



Fr. Magi Murzello being presented with the framed version of the East Indian Calendar 2022 cover design



Conclave participants all smile after the successful Conclave



Bishop Allwyn being presented with a Ghumat as a Token of Appreciation



East Indian Conclave participants are all smiles after a successful and constructive Conclave

# CONCLAVE CONNECT

## A Brief on East Indian Conclave 2021

The 9th annual East Indian Conclave organised by the Mobai Gaothan Panchayat (MGP) was held on Friday, the 19th of November 2021 at Hotel Avion, Mumbai. The key takeaways from it were as follows:

- The theme of this year's conclave was East Indians RISE – Revive! Initiate! Serve! Empower!
- Attendees included prominent personalities from the community, members of the MGP, and youth.
- Bishop Allwyn D'silva and Rev. Fr. Magi Murzello addressed the conclave and highlighted the importance of indigenous communities, unity with other communities to achieve a common goal, and care for creation by reducing carbon footprint.
- The Agenda – which spokesperson Mr. Gleason Baretto delved into – revealed through responses from an online survey that preference to East Indians for jobs opportunities in the Parish, Church organisations and institutions, and medical support through full or partial assistance, were of prime concern for members this year.
- Other items on the agenda include simplification of the OBC certification process for East Indians, an East Indian corporator to be nominated to represent the community at the municipal level, special job reservations for East Indian community in public and private corporates, and East Indian Bhavan in Mumbai-Thane-Vasai and Raigad.
- Also discussed was the membership plan and its various components for those wishing to become members of the MGP.
- Attendees had the first look at the 2022 East Indian Calendar which was launched by the Bishop. They were also presented with a book titled 'Kole Kalyan or Kalina – The Origin Story' which was written by our very own Fr. Milton Gonsalves and published by the MGP.
- Ms. Saviya Lopes(artist), Mr. Paul Kinny(chef), Ms. Madonna Texeira(host) and Ms. Sharon Misquitta(researcher) were the speakers for the day and spoke extensively on the theme and what it meant to them through personal experiences and anecdotes.
- Group discussions among the attendees raised the following points:
  - Introduction of a credit course in colleges about the East Indian community.
  - Publishing research papers and articles about the community on the website mobaikar.in along with creating a community database.
  - Greater promotion of community initiatives through various channels.
  - Promoting education among the community, including emphasis on a higher education institution on Dharavi Bet island.
  - Emphasis on preservation of the East Indian dialect of Marathi.
  - Creation of the East Indian Voice to discover new talent, reinvigorating sporting events and tournaments, dance competitions, etc.
- The Conclave ended with a vote of thanks by Mr. Alphi Dsouza, the Mahasarpanch of the MGP, followed by lunch.
  - Britney Dharmai - Bandra



# CONCLAVE COVER

## A detailed write-up on East Indian Conclave 2021

Hello everyone,

*By Saviya Lopes - Vasai*

My gratitude to all for attending the East Indian Conclave on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2021.

We covered many important topics and have achieved several goals that were set during the previous conclave. So that's a great job!

We discussed the content strategy for our theme for this year—East Indians RISE - Revive! Initiate! Serve! Empower! We reviewed what tasks were completed since the last meeting and listed additional projects.

The Conclave commenced with a ritualistic breakfast of fugyas and tea, followed by a short prayer by Auxiliary Bishop Allwyn D'silva.

As the Chief Moderator for the event, Mr. Gleason Barretto, founder-trustee of MGP put forth a brief introduction of the conclave theme, objectives and agenda. Thereafter, the participants briefly introduced themselves.

The East Indian Calendar for 2022 was launched by Bishop Allwyn along with Mr. Alphi D'souza, founder-trustee of MGP. It proceeded with Mr. Gleason updating the participants on various achievements of the previous year. These included the publishing of books by Fr. Milton Gonsalves about the histories of Kalina and Dharavi Bet. He spoke about past year's agenda, activities and content that was established by conducting online surveys, having meetings at Urban Design Research Institute (UDRI), with Ministers and MLAs on Gaothans, getting closer to East Indian Bhavan and coverage in newspapers.

He reviewed the same by speaking further on Agera, the EI Community Fund and the press releases for 2021. The projects that rose to top 5 positions included Kaka Baptista East Indian Museum, Gaothan Voice, the East Indian Calendar, East Indian Community Fund and the East Indian Awards. Along with which, the EI Calendar 2021 and EI Community Fund became instant hits whilst the MGP EI Youth – International Network and the EI Business Network – Online Directory failed to make it up to the mark. The latter were further acknowledged in regards to kick-starting them again for this year's conclave agenda.

With the above, the speakers were called upon to speak on the conclave theme. The speakers, namely Ms. Saviya Lopes, Chef Paul Kinny, Mrs. Madonna Tixeria and Ms. Sharon Misquitta spoke on the importance of museum as catalysts for community cohesion and regeneration; on promotion of the East Indian culture through its cuisine and acknowledging the fading traditions of handmade breads; on the lack of physical and emotional support in regards to career opportunities and on the importance of intellectual and political representation of the community by navigating through its history.

Mr. Gleason mentioned the following agenda points that topped the list based on online survey:

- In terms of the Central & State Government, the EI community needed a simplified OBC certificate process, a representative on their behalf on the state level and special job reservations in public & private corporations.
- In context to the Municipal Corporation, the EI community wants to put forth regularisation of holy crosses in their vicinity and Gaothans, to cease harassment by BMC officers during house repairs and to nominate a EI community municipal corporator to represent the city basis elections amongst the community.
- From the Archdiocese, the EI community requests donated properties to be returned back to the community and not be sold, to give preference to the community members for job opportunities at the Parish, church organisations & institutions along with special discounts and reservation of beds at catholic hospitals.
- As for the EI Activists and Association, there are requests for education support through scholarships and discounts in courses, medical support through either full or partial assistance, and ration schemes for poor families in the EI community.



# EAST INDIAN NOTICE BOARD

## Special MGP Announcements

### **SARVAJANIK KRIST JANMOTSAV 2021** **The Fourth Mega Christmas Festival**

This Christmas Festival will promote Unity in Diversity amongst all communities. There will be Celebrations at all levels – National, State, City and Gaothan

Highlights of SKJ 2021:

- \*This celebration is dedicated to Kaka Baptista, our Community Freedom Fighter who played an active role in organizing the Sarvajanik Movement along with Lokmanya Tilak
- \*All associations and Groups who organize Christmas activities or make Community Cribs can contact us as supporting groups in this Movement. We target around 100 groups to support us.
- \*A Special Inter-Church Crib Competition is being organized on a national level
- \*A State Level Competition is also being planned in tune with SKJ 2021
- \*Gaothan level Christmas Competition will also be organized – Crib, Best decorative display, best decoration, best celebration
- \*Christmas Competitions are also being encouraged on parish, ward, assembly, and city-level
- \*This initiative has been taken keeping The Kaka Baptista Project in mind
- \*Special Christmas Hampers will be handed over to Needy Families

SKJ 2021 is an initiative by Mobai Gaothan Panchayat, represented by the Native East Indian Community. For more details and sponsorship contact 9820087771/9820545302

*Cont.. Saviya Lopes - Vasai*

The agenda points were followed by Fr. Magi Murzello, who brilliantly spoke of bursting the bubble in which we live; of self analysing our acts in order to evolve from them. To which he added the largest issue of environmental degradation in turn making a point towards reducing carbon footprint.

Based on the action points put forth by group discussions within the participants, Mr. Gleason helped de-brief them into the following:

- Importance for content marketing strategy for the community in regards to the topics related to the activities undertaken by MGP and Gaothans.
- Education support through scholarships for children.
- Free sports coaching to be undertaken along with sports activities to be held in Gaothans.
- Promotion of culture and cuisine through the museum and East Indian Bhavan.
- To build up the database required for the website; including business directory, job opportunities, blog services, thesis papers and focusing on documentation and history.
- Drives to reduce carbon footprint in Gaothans.
- Generation of economic stability for long term sustenance.

Final announcements were made regarding new initiatives like the East Indian Voice, which will be undertaken to encourage new talent in the community and the MGP membership plans. In addition to the above, MGP spoke on the current status of new projects; i.e. St. Gonsalo Garcia Chapel, the East Indian Bhavan and the EI Calendar 2022; wherein the Calendar was released during the conclave while the former two were in due process.

In culmination of everything discussed, Mr. Alphi D'souza expressed his gratitude to all the participants present at the conclave.

As rightly said by MGP, this conclave was one of the most interactive and impactful looking further into community projects, launches and targets for the upcoming year.

Thank you.

# **EAST INDIAN AGENDA 2022**

## **The Demands of the East Indian Community**

### **Central and State Government**

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

### **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. Heritage homes in gaothans to be given a special incentive for maintaining their structure.
6. East Indian Food stalls to be approved for each Municipal ward
7. Space to be allotted for Community Centre at each East Indian Gaothan
8. Gaothan Infrastructure to be improved
9. Roads bylanes and street furniture within the gaothans to be designed to maintain the village look
10. Local community association heads to be authorised to suggest Gaothan civic projects



# EAST INDIAN AGENDA 2022

## The Demands 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. Preference to East Indians for jobs opportunities in the Parish, Church organisations and institutions
3. Special discounts and reservation of beds at Catholic Hospitals
4. Halls and grounds provided for occasion to be given at discounted rates for East Indians
5. Housing schemes for East Indians on vacant church properties and existing properties going for redevelopment
6. The Word "East Indian Catholic" to be written in remarks column without visit to archbishops house to be done as per recommendation by local East Indian association heads or professionals
7. Land to be allotted for the East Indian Bhavan
8. Special East Indian Community Member to be appointed in the Parish Council to protect and preserve East Indian traditions and heritage
9. Mass and Hymns in the East Indian dialect every week
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. Development projects/Monopoly for hired halls/quadrangles and grounds only to East Indian businesses
15. East Indian Associations to be given premises without hire charges for activities and meetings
16. Monthly open meets with the East Indian community and Bishops
17. Space to be provided for East Indian businesses on parish property
18. Ten percent of proceeds on hired premises to be allocated towards the East Indian Community welfare fund
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. Sports projects to be launched to promote talented youngsters
5. East Indian food restaurant to be opened
6. Business network to be encouraged to promote East Indian businesses
7. East Indian Village office to be set up to assist locals in various projects and matters
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

# GAOTHAN ADS VILLA

## GAOTHAN VOICE FAMILY

### EDITORIAL TEAM

Alphi Dsouza - Vakola  
Gleason Barretto - Old Kurla  
Penny Miranda - Amboli  
Rita Rodricks - Bandra  
Sybil Rodrigues - Kalina  
Walter Murzello - Orlem  
Jamaica D'lima - Marve  
Candida Remedios - Vikhroli  
Britney Dharmai - Bandra



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# EAST INDIAN PUNCH

## The Mouthpiece of the East Indian Community

### Utha Ge Utha Tumhi Aazun Ka Nizlyan

#### East Indians **RISE** - Revive! Initiate! Serve! Empower!

*Gleason Barretto - Old Kurla*

**E**ast Indians can no longer be complacent as a community but need to rise up and speak up for our basic rights as the indigenous people of Mumbai city. "East Indians RISE - Revive! Initiate! Serve! Empower!" was the theme of the East Indian Conclave 2021, and a need was felt that we need to rise up and be a much better known community. East Indians RISE is a special long term plan with an objective to make the East Indian community more known, and at the same time ensure its growth with every passing year through a well thought plan and strategy. For decades the East Indian community has remained silent, peaceful and reserved, but now is the time to wake up and make our voice heard and our presence felt. We humbly appeal to all community members to come forward and join like-minded East Indian groups to ensure that we become a powerful force to reckon with across various sections of society.

Revive has been one of the key words in the history of MGP. From the very beginning MGP has strived to revive the forgotten or lost cultural aspects of the East Indian community. A sizeable number of our cultural and religious practices have been discontinued due to westernisation. We seem to have sacrificed our culture to please other communities and religions. Revival is challenging but not impossible, and the perfect example of revival in our community is of the harvest festival —Agera. When MGP was established in 2010 this festival was slowly disappearing from Mumbai and MGP was one of the groups that decided to revive this festival. Today Agera is celebrated by more than 100 gaothans and we plan to revive it on a larger scale with each passing year. Our cultural celebrations like weddings seem to be in the revival stage and that too, is encouraging. We hope to release our MGP Cultural Guide —Reetin Reevaj soon, as a perfect reference to our cultural and religious practices.

Initiate a variety of projects for the East Indian community has been the top agenda for MGP. As of today, MGP has around 40 community projects focusing on various aspects of the East Indian community. While we want to enrich and build these projects further, the only challenge remains volunteers and funds. We have onboarded around 50 special advisors to help us in our decision-making on community projects and efforts are on to streamline as many projects as we can. Many of our projects are unique and have been well-appreciated like the Kaka Baptista East Indian Museum, Gaothan Voice, East Indian Community Awards, East Indian Dictionary, Mot Mauli Purcessao Yatra, East Indian Calendar and East Indian Baazaar. A project plan will be drawn to ensure each of the projects undertaken are impactful.

Serve selflessly and be great examples to all those around us. Service and support to the community in times of need will make a great difference. During the pandemic, MGP supported the needy through ration kits distribution and medical support. Civic and social support will be the main focus of our network team, especially our Sarpanches. MGP will have special planning sessions to initiate service-based projects or infuse existing projects with the service touch. Along with service there will also be a need to create a support system amongst our community, acting as a safety net. In testing times differences in affiliation should take a backseat with a target to resolve the issues faced with a team of like-minded people.

Empower the community and it will be bound to reach greater heights. Creating an education or skill based support system is urgently needed. One of the most challenging projects in this realm is being planned with the support of an experienced and committed mentor. Also under Shikshan—MGPs Education Project, we are drawing a plan to mentor those who want to study abroad. Seminars and guidance sessions will be arranged as and when needed. Apart from this, encouraging businesses, big or small, will be factored as a part of the empowerment initiative. A women's self-help group is in the works with focus not just on food products but also on handicrafts.

**East Indians RISE** is the newest entrant in the MGP bag of community goodies and it is a perfect gift during this Christmas season. As MGP has taken upon this long term plan with a year-on-year review, we look forward to your continuous support and prayers. We invite you to join us in achieving our common objective.



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# CONCLAVE PHOTOS



Bishop Allwyn present a special East Indian Calendar 2022 cover design frame to Art Director Saviya Lopes



Bishop Allwyn present a special East Indian Calendar 2022 cover design frame to Music Director Hyacinth Dsouza



Bishop Allwyn present a special East Indian Calendar 2022 cover design frame to Dr. Karen Miranda



Bishop Allwyn present a special East Indian Calendar 2022 cover design frame to Actress Madonna Tixeira



Bishop Allwyn present a special East Indian Calendar 2022 cover design frame to Adv. Urmila Pereira

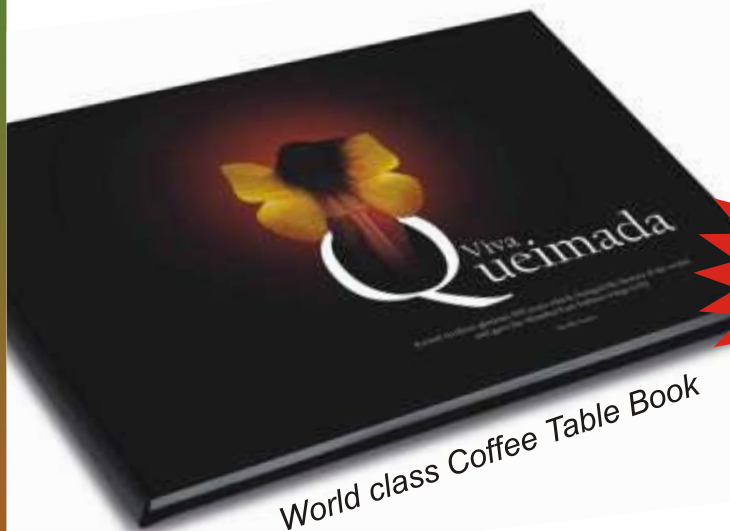


Bishop Allwyn present a special East Indian Calendar 2022 cover design frame to Award winning Chef Paul Kinny



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