A Monthly Bulletin for the Villages, Gaothans and Koliwadas of Mumbai, Thane, Vasai and Raigad District



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20 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

For Private circulation only

One Vision!

GAOTHAN VOICE DECEMBER 2023

One Voice!

One Village!

www.mobaikar.com

The East Indian Magazine

Email:eastindianvoice@gmail.com

Sanaan Sann Naataalcha Sann Gaavo Gaav Gazvu Sagli Jann A VIBRANT GAOTHAN CHRISTMAS



Sponsor a Christmas Hamper Let's Ensure the Needy Celebrate too.

East Indian Community FundSupporting The Needy

*MGP will support the Needy families with a Christmas Hamper

*Contributions welcome at a minimum Rs.100/-

*If you do not receive a receipt within a month please message us

*We welcome our community groups and members to also directly help needy families in their Goathans during Christmas

*MGP Donations are eligible for exemptions under 80G

East Indian Community Fund Helpline

Sybil Rodrigues - 9930229742

MGP - Every Smile Matters

East Indian Gaothans – 100+ Villages ★ Readership – 50,000 ★

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News in Pictures



By Joulyn Kenny - Worli





BANDRA GYMKHANA & MGP FORGE A VISIONARY PATH FOR EAST INDIANS:

The Bandra Gymkhana witnessed a dynamic MGP team meeting on Sunday, November 5, 2023, starting at 11 am. Discussions centered around the BANDRA acronym, outlining initiatives to Brand, Acknowledge, Network, Direct, and Revive the East Indian community. The meeting emphasized fostering an ideal East Indian connect, acknowledging inspirational figures, creating a united network, mentoring youth toward entrepreneurship, and celebrating cultural talents within the community. Stay tuned for the impactful developments stemming from this visionary gathering.





EVENT MILESTONE AT ST. LAWRENCE SCHOOL:

St. Lawrence International School in Kalyan celebrated a momentous occasion on November 26, 2023, with the Blessing of the Grotto & Auditorium.

Hosted by the St. Lawrence Educational & Charitable Trust, the ceremony, guided by Reverend Bishop Barthol Barretto, unfolded at the picturesque Adharwadi — Umbarde Road campus, emphasizing the institution's commitment to holistic education and community spirit. The Holy Eucharist added a spiritual dimension to the event, fostering gratitude within the school community. We wish St. Lawrence School all the best in their future endeavours as a beacon of education and community engagement in Kalyan.







Registered as Mobai Gaothan Panchayat Welfare Association, Registration no F-57349 (MUMBAI)

MOBAI GAOTHAN PANCHAYAT

The Voice of The East Indian Community

C/o Alphi Dsouza, A 601,Krishna Towers,56 Vakola Village, Santacruz (East), Mumbai 400 055.

Mob:9820087771



My Christmas Gift to MGP



- Join us as a MGP Member or upgrade your membership Diamond, Gold, Silver and Bronze.
- 2. Donate or sponsor an amount of your choice towards MGP projects and Activities.
- 3. Refer Corporates with CSR as Contributions towards Mobai Gaothan Panchayat are eligible for tax exemptions under 80G.
- 4. Join our Special Team of Ambassadors or Advisors to take our community forward.
- 5. Pray for MGP and the East Indian Community.



For more details you may contact Gleason on 9820545302 or Alphi on 9820087771.



MOBAI GAOTHAN PANCHAYAT - MEMBERSHIP PLAN								
MEMBER TYPE / BENEFITS	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD	DIAMOND	PLATINUM	STAR		
Membership Fee	1,000	2,500	5,000	10,000	25,000	1,00,000		
Membership Monthly Scheme	NA	NA	500	1,000	2,500	10,000		
Vive Queimada	10% Discount	20% Discount	30% Discount	40% Discount	50% Discount	Complimentary		
El Books	NA	NA	10%	20%	30%	Complimentary		
Gaothan Voice	Doorstep Delivery	Doorstep Delivery	Doorstep Delivery	Doorstep Delivery	Doorstep Delivery	Doorstep Delivery		
MGP Events	NA	NA	NA	Free Entry	Free Entry	Free Entry		
El Day	NA	NA	Free Pass	Free Pass	Free Pass	Free Pass		
El Calendar	Free 1 Copy	Free 2 Copy	Free Upto 5 Copies	Free Upto 10 Copies	Free Upto 20 Copies	Copies as per Request		
Per Year Total Benefits	500	1000	1500	2000	4000	10000		

Account Name - Mobai Gaothan Panchayat | Bank Name - Bassein Catholic Cooperative Bank | Branch - Kalina, Saving Account Number - 032100100000791 | IDSC Code - BACB0000032

GAOTHAN VOICE : DECEMBER 2023



EAST INDIAN VOICE

EAST INDIAN COMMUNIT

An East Indian Heart Speaks

CHRISTMAS IN THE GAOTHANS

By Amarylisa Gonsalves - Juhu

Christmas is coming! It's that time of the year again, which is so close to every Christian's heart. It's the season of Joy, Peace, Hope and Love. Christmas and Advent not only fill the atmosphere with positivity but also our hearts with renewed faith to prepare for the second coming of Jesus.

ouses adorn a beautiful look with cribs, Christmas trees, wreaths, stars, and all things Christmassy! And oh, is our Christmas complete without the Christmas sweets and delicacies?! Of course not! Come mid-December, and East Indian houses and gaothans have this irresistible aroma of sweets and savories. We celebrate the birth of Jesus by exchanging Konswat, thus promoting a festive fellowship.

Resounding Christmas Carols on Christmas Eve add to the already high festive vibe. Dressed in our best outfits we welcome Jesus and exchange warm greetings. People of other faiths attending the midnight mass further prove the bliss that Jesus brings. Baby Jesus placed in the creative cribs radiating a 'complete' emotion is truly a sight to behold. Parties and celebrations follow in full enthusiasm.

s all that enough? Is that all that completes the Christmas festivities for us? We're forgetting something. As we decorate our houses, we're forgetting our gaothans. As clusters of East Indian catholic households, our gaothans too, need to give out festive feelings and joy.

Stars lit outside our respective houses and the slowly vanishing community cribs may not be enough. Our gaothans need to radiate the magic and joy of Christmas announcing to the world that there are Christians here are celebrating the birth of Christ. Just like we see localities inhabited by other faiths all decked up during their respective festivals, East Indian gaothans should be decked up too.

This will help the government and other individuals who are eyeing our gaothans open their eyes, see and realize that the people living in the goathan are united. It will also showcase our love for gaothans and that we love staying close to our roots. Besides, it will also promote belongingness among those who are not celebrating the festival due to financial or personal issues or because of the loss of a loved one.

obai Gaothan Panchyat has taken the initiative this year to decorate Gaothans and give them a festive look with the help of local groups or activists. We believe that in today's fast-changing dynamic world, gaothans are what will keep us, East Indians, close to our roots and our culture alive.

As we prepare for the coming of Jesus, with this initiative, we wish to spread cheer joy, and send a strong message out to the world. Meanwhile let each of us do our bit too, by getting in touch with our respective gaothan coordinators and help in making Christmas memorable not just for own own homes but for our gaothans too. You may also bring together your friends and family from your village and plan on decorating your Gaothan and arranging Christmas activities for your gaavkaris.

Sanaan Sann Naataalcha Sann, Gaavo Gaav Gazvu Sagli Jann - with this spirit in our hearts, now is the time. 'Tis the season to be jolly and spread the cheer of Christmas and the New Year. Celebrate with our friends, family and villagers.



HOW CAN GAOTHANS CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

Community Crib
Christmas Tree
Prayers At The Crib
Bylane Buntings
Standard Stars At Every Home
Bylane Lights
Old Man
Children's Christmas Party
Gaothan Unity Celebration

Senior Citizens Traditional Party
Carol Singing
House Outdoor Lighting
Christmas Themed Installations
Santaclaus Visit
Christmas Hampers For Needy
Christmas Baazaar
Konswat

Community Stars





MGP IN THE NEWS

Article Overview



EI ALL THE WAY MIDDAY - 11[™] NOVEMBER - BY Tanishka D'Lyma

By Joulyn Kenny - Worli

looking forward to another bazaar, it brings the comm

Media Recognition:

The Midday spotlights the upcoming MGP - East Indian Bazaar, inviting readers to explore the rich culture of the East Indian community at Bandra's vibrant weekend flea market.

Cultural Highlights:

Delve into East Indian heritage with traditional

Feast on potato chops, sor-potel and hand bread. Maria Gomes from Maria g fugias, deep-fried bal-bread, before they sell We like ours served fresh

books, clothing, food, and handmade products, many crafted by talented women within the community.

A weekend bazaar and flea in Bandra lets you explore the culture of an indigenous

community through its food and fashion

<u>Diverse Delights at East Indian Bazaar:</u>

Explore traditional garments and unique bags from MGP's Gaothan Store and home businesses. Indulge in East Indian cuisine, including favorites like fugias and potato chops. Immerse yourself in artistic creations and literary gems while enjoying the lively bazaar atmosphere.

Community Pride:

Alphi D'Souza, Chief of MGP, expresses pride in the community's efforts to foster togetherness through the East Indian bazaar.

Event Details:

Date and Time: November 18, 5 pm to 9 pm. Location: St Andrew's College, Bandra West.

WOMEN RULE THE ROOST AT EAST INDIAN BAZAAR THE FREE PRESS JOURNAL 19TH NOVEMBER BY FPJ News Service

A worker clean the statue of Maharana Pratap during renovation work at Mazgaon

(Pull story on freepressjournal.in)

Women rule the roost at East Indian Bazaar

FPJ NEWS SERVICE / MUMBAI

Women micro-entrepreneurs ruled the roost at the 'East In-dian Baazaar' at St Andrew's College, Bandra, on Saturday. Lace ornaments, fish pick-

les, spice mixes and hand-made merchandise pulled weekend shoppers to the 35 odd stalls, mostly run by women. A decade-old project by the Mobai Gaothan Panchayat (MGP), an association of the East Indian communi-ty, the markets are meant to support small and local businesses run by the indigenous people who live in the Gaothans or villages in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR).

One of the stalls was man ged by Charmaine and Bosco D'Souza from Agashe village near Virar. The couple

stocked products from their Vajreshwari, includ ing pickles made from tendli or ivy gourd and the East In-dian wedding pickle made with papayas. For those interested in the predominantly fish-and-meat cuisine of the community, there were pick-

les made from dry shrimp and Bombay duck (bombil).

cently bra

The markets started in 2009-2010, but have picked up traction recently

bottle masala and indyal, or the East Indian version of the advice from a young relative Marion Fernandes's stall

vindaloo spice mix. "The most beautiful part of displayed the rare handicraft of tatting, an art that is often the festival is the emphasis on compared to crochet. Fernantradition," said D'Souza who des, who retired from a job at added that most recipes that he uses were handed down the city airport, became an entrepreneur recently. Her from his grandmother. He reproducts included ornaments with lace and hypoallergenic surgical steel that is not ended his products harmful to the skin. "It gives us an excellent opportunity to showcase our homemade ar-ticles created with love. Moreover the stall rates are so rea-

sonable compared to other ex-hibitions. This shows their true spirit of their mission or 'women empowerment'. Λ big thanks to the MGP," said Fernandes, an Andheri resident who added that the emphasis on East Indian cuisine at the fair was one of the rea-

usinesses run by women. Food was indeed in the spotlight at the fair, with the release of two books on East Indian cooking, 'Christmas with the Rebellos' and 'East Indian Celebration.

The markets started in

2009-2010, but have picked up traction recently Alphi D'-Souza, the chief executive officer of MGP said that the markets have achieved its aim of helping small entrepreneurs among women. The women who take part (in the bazaar) are happy not only because it gives them power and money The fairs are also a social occasion," said D'Souza.

The events have been most-

ly held at Bandra but there are plans to take it to Andheri and Orlem, Malad. Media Recognition: The Free Press Journal highlights the success of Mobai Gaothan Panchayat's (MGP) recent East Indian Bazaar held at St Andrew's College, Bandra.

Women Empowerment: The market celebrated the entrepreneurial spirit of women microentrepreneurs, with 35 stalls primarily run by women offering diverse products, supporting local businesses in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

Diverse Offerings: Charmaine and Bosco D'Souza from Agashe village near Virar presented farm products, including unique pickles, emphasizing tradition. Marion Fernandes, a retired professional turned entrepreneur, showcased the rare handicraft of tatting with lace ornaments.

Impact and Expansion: The fair served as a platform for women entrepreneurs, economically empowering them while also acting as significant social occasions. Started in 2009-2010 primarily in Bandra, the East Indian Bazaar plans to expand to Andheri and Orlem, Malad, highlighting its growing reach and success as a community initiative.



Reetin Reevaaz



The East Indian Culture Guide

KASHIMIRA CHA SANN - 26th December 2023

Feast at St. Jerome's Church @ Kashimira Village

Gleason Barretto. Old Kurla

- St. Jerome's Church stands on a hill between these two Gaothans, Kashi (Cassi) and Mira (Mirem)
- The present Church is the third structures, built on the same site, blessed and opened for public worship on 26thDecember 1926 which continues to be celebrated as the feast day though the actual feast of St. Jerome falls in September.
- The Portuguese Franciscan Fathers selected this site at Kashimira between two villages and built their first Church in the year 1595, a beautiful wooden structure made by the local carpenters and this Church lasted for 23 years, destroyed in a terrible cyclone in October 1618.
- The second Church structure was built 1628 besides the ruins of the old Church. By 1630, the parish consisted of Gaothans Kashi, Mira, Sanbojapal, Chene, Bandonli, Baroli and Tantoli. This church was destroyed in 1739 during the Maratha invasion.
- The statue of St. Jerome was preserved and placed on the main altar of the 3rd Church Structure that was built 187 years later in the year 1926.
- In front of the old ruined church is a cross about 386 years old and in 1926 a new cross was erected in front of the New Church.
- On the feast day, a fair is held and is attended by thousands from all over Salsette, Bassein and Thane districts selling local farm produce, Sukelis (dry Bananas) and Ghumats
- Irrespective of caste, creed and religion, people of all faith seek blessings at this church which has historic relevance. Several years ago a severe epidemic of plague griped the region, people from all religion sought refuge in the church seeking divine intervention and were saved
- Well decorated East Indian Reklas, Tongas and Gaaras are a common sight at the Kashimira feast
- This feast is one great way of celebrating an extended Christmas Celebration with the Erangal Feast/Baravi Cha Sann just about 2 weeks away.

MGP Team Wishes you a Happy Kashimira Feast. Another opportunity to grab our favourite drink, Khimad and shout aloud Sukhala!

BARAVI CHA SANN – ERGAL CHA SANN

14th January 2024 - Second Sunday of January Church Feast of St.Bonaventure, Erangal

The original inhabitants of Bombay, the East Indian Community have been visiting Erangal for centuries popularly known by the community as, "Ergal cha Sann" or "Baravi Cha Sann". St.Bonaventure Church is an historic Church. This Annual Feast is celebrated on the 2nd Sunday of January. Many of the families who visit still follow the tradition of settling down at a nearby wadi(open place) to cook and eat together as a family.

The heritage Church at Erangal was built in the year 1575 by the Portuguese and destroyed by the Marathas in 1739. This Church was left in ruins and roofless until the 1950s. Repairs and renovations with donations from well-wishers were carried out including a roof and a new Altar. The Parish Priest of Our Lady of the Sea, Madh Island takes care of this Church.

The wide seashore in front of the Erangal church is transformed into a huge mela or fair with entertainment like giant wheel, merry-go-rounds, game stalls, horse rides and a variety of stalls selling local produce and food specialties. All the wadis from Madh to Erangal are occupied by pilgrims and their families who come by bus or their private vehicles that have replaced the traditional bullock carts. Some horse drawn 'Reklas' continue to visits the Annual fest. The air is filled with the aroma of East Indian curries cooked by pilgrims for their afternoon meals on makeshift 'chulas'. The Festival celebrations are in full swing with sound of music and dancing everywhere with the accompaniment of the Ghumat, a Traditional East Indian musical instrument. At this annual mela there are many East Indian speciality foods, musical instruments and music CD's up on sale.

There were other families around and quick neighborly are planned to meet relatives from other villages. These Church feasts also provided eligible bachelors and spinsters an opportunity for proposals and friendships, many of which ended up in marriage. Families gathered together to celebrate with music and dance accompanied with a Ghumat. Khimad, the official community drink is served followed by a traditional East Indian Lunch. The families then pack their belonging to return home but before this they have their rounds at the stalls to buy shingaras, kasras, tallas(shoots of tadgola) and the famous Ghumat!



SARVAJANIK KRIST JAMNOTSAV 2023

EAST INDIAN COMMUNIT

MGPs Annual Christmas Festival

EMBRACING UNITY AND JOY THE ESSENCE OF SARVAJANIK KRIST JANMOTSAV

By Joulyn Kenny - Worli

Introduction:

Sarvajanik Krist Janmotsav, an annual celebration that transcends boundaries and unites communities, is more than just a festival; it's a testament to the strength that lies in togetherness. This joyous occasion is a platform for communities to converge, celebrate diversity, and make a collective impact, echoing the ideals of Kaka Baptista, a luminary in our community's history.

The Legacy of Kaka Baptista:

At its core, Sarvajanik Krist Janmotsav pays homage to Kaka Baptista's unwavering commitment to the freedom struggle. His efforts to unite people under a common cause continue to inspire the essence of this festival – a celebration that transcends religious and cultural boundaries.

Why Come Together:

Community Strength: In unity, there is strength. Sarvajanik Krist Janmotsav provides a platform for communities to stand together, supporting one another and creating a sense of collective power rooted in Kaka Baptista's vision.

Cultural Celebration:

The festival is an opportunity to celebrate our rich cultural heritage. Through events like Crib Competitions, Display Competitions, and Village Level Decorations, we showcase the vibrant tapestry of our traditions.

Empowering Initiatives:

Beyond celebrations, Sarvajanik Krist Janmotsav is a call to action. It encourages us to address shared challenges, fight for our rights, and work collectively for the betterment of our communities, echoing Kaka Baptista's legacy.

Making a Difference:

<u>Promoting Local Businesses:</u> Events like the East Indian Naataal Baazaar not only add a festive charm but also provide a platform for local vendors and craftsmen to showcase their talents, aligning with Kaka Baptista's vision of community empowerment.

<u>Community Support:</u> Initiatives like the Christmas Hampers program demonstrate the spirit of giving within the community, making a positive impact on the lives of those in need, mirroring Kaka Baptista's dedication to community welfare.

<u>Fostering Togetherness:</u> Whether through Christmas parties, carol singing, or best-decorated stall contests, Sarvajanik Krist Janmotsav encourages community members to connect, share joy, and build lasting relationships in the spirit of Kaka Baptista's vision for a united community.

<u>Conclusion:</u> Sarvajanik Krist Janmotsav is more than a festival; it's a movement towards unity, cultural celebration, and community empowerment, rooted in the legacy of Kaka Baptista. By coming together, we not only enrich our lives but also contribute to the betterment of our communities. Let us embrace the spirit of Sarvajanik Krist Janmotsav, celebrate our diversity, and make a lasting difference together in honor of Kaka Baptista's invaluable contributions.

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GAOTHAN VOICE: DECEMBER 2023



MOBAL CHE HIREY

EAST INDIAN COMMUNITY

East Indian Stars

CORDELIA D'SOUZA EXCELLING THE EDUCATIONAL SPHERE

by - Amarylisa Gonsalves, Juhu

Taking home the Educationist of the Year award at the MGP Awards 2023 was Thanekar Cordelia D'souza. After serving as a teacher for years, Cordelia is currently serving as the Principal at St. Lawrence International School, Kalyan.

With multiple qualifications under her belt and her passion for shaping young minds, Cordelia is the epitome of a responsible, committed, and driven professional who takes her job seriously. She believes that education goes much beyond just academics, developing the lives of young kids.



How does it feel to be named East Indian Educationist of the Year?

It feels great. Thank you for the honour and recognition. It's very encouraging.

Tell us more about your career and passion for teaching. Did you always want to be in this field?

I was inspired by some of the amazing teachers who have taught me. I understood that I possessed the ability to teach and enjoyed doing so when I used to explain concepts to my friends in college. I was encouraged to pursue my Bachelors in Education by Sylvester D'souza and over the years, my dedication has strengthened.

What are your core beliefs in the education field, and what do you have to say about the Indian education system?

I truly believe that knowledge empowers and education increases knowledge, builds skills, strengthens the mind and develops one's personality. Education incorporates the emotional, social and mental development of a child apart from academics. The Indian Education System is evolving. With the implementation of the National Educational Policy 2020, a lot of emphasis is given to the development of essential skills, personality, mental well-being and student-friendly practices.

Having worked in the educational sector for so many years, what is the one big change in the field that you'd like to see/make?

From my experience, I would say Connection between the student and the teacher. Children spend most of their formative years in school so it is very important for educators to connect with their students to help them grow and evolve. Today, students can learn from various platforms but what they crave is connection, encouragement, and assurance. These motivate them to excel in their life and to make this possible a shift in our education system in all aspects is very necessary where we focus on quality over quantity.

What advice would you give to aspiring educators who are passionate about making a positive impact in the field of education?

Be true to your profession and take it very seriously as you are entrusted with the great responsibility of guiding young students. Be interested in learning new methods and upgrading your skills because it's never going to be enough, be dedicated and committed and most of all be kind and patient towards your students.

You were also awarded the "Best Principal of the Year.' Tell us more about that

I was honored the 'Best Principal of the Year' for promoting holistic education by Singhania Education & Sahodaya Schools Complex earlier this year for the training, guidance and opportunities that we give our students to unleash their potential in both the scholastic and non-scholastic areas through the daily activities. Staying true to the motto of our school 'Bloom where you are planted' we nurture students with knowledge and resources that lay a strong foundation for all that they aspire be.



RAPID FIRE:

Your Village/parish
St. Lawrence Church, Wagle Estate, Thane

Your favourite East Indian song Lugryacha Maan

Your favourite East Indian delicacy
Prawn Vegetable Curry & Rice

One East Indian word you use the most Sukhala!

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MGP NOTICE BOARD



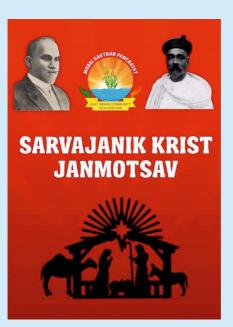
The Announcement for the East Indian Community

JOIN THE CELEBRATION! SARVAJANIK KRIST JANMOTSAV 2023

Embrace the festive spirit with us at the Seventh Mega Christmas Festival! This year, we're dedicating the celebrations to Kaka Baptista, a true hero of our community's freedom movement. Let's unite and make it an unforgettable experience!

Event Highlights:

Exciting Crib Competitions
Creative Display Competitions
Christmas-themed Village Decorations
East Indian Naataal Baazaar
Village-level Christmas Parties
Christmas Carol Singing
Special Christmas Hampers for Needy Families
Winners will be presented with Trophies



Participate in the festivities at all levels - National, State, City, and Gaothan! This is your chance to showcase your creativity, spread joy, and win big.

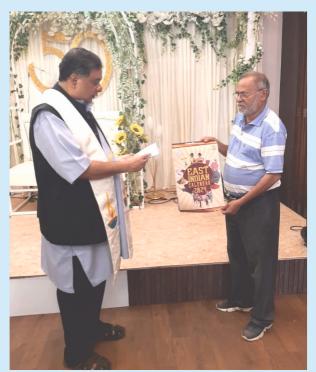
Submit your entries by 31st December 2023 at skj.mobai@gmail.com

Inviting Sponsors:

Make this celebration even more special by becoming a sponsor! Your support will contribute to the success of Sarvajanik Krist Janmotsav 2023, bringing joy to every corner of our community.

Contact for Sponsorship: 9820087771 / 9820545302

Let's come together, celebrate unity in diversity, and make SKJ 2023 an extraordinary event!



Explore the rich tapestry of East Indian Heritage with our East Indian Calendar 2024!

Bookings are now open! Embrace the beauty of our cultural heritage captured in each month.

Sales kick off on 5th December, and each copy is priced at just Rs.100/-. Secure your limited edition copy today!

Exciting news! From 10th December onwards, indulge in our special Sukhala Bag and Calendar Combo at Rs.200/-.

Don't miss the chance to own a piece of East Indian history! Limited copies available. Reserve yours now and celebrate our heritage throughout the coming year.



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Recaptures those glorious 500 years which made Mumbai the 'urbs prima in Indis'



Proceeds go entirely to charity

Mobai Gaothan Panchayat

the voice of the original inhabitants of "Bombay"

A tribute to Sandra Gomes

Produced, printed and published by:

MULTIMEDIA AQUARIUS PVT. LTD.

Email: vivaqueimada@mmapl.co.in







EAST INDIAN PUNCH



The Mouthpiece of the Mobai Gaothan Panchayat

Sanaan Sann Naataalcha Sann Gaavo Gaav Gazvu Sagli Jann

A VIBRANT GAOTHAN CHRISTMAS

Gleason Barretto, Old Kurla

Participating in Sarvajanik Krist Jamnotsav is not just a choice; it's an opportunity for everyone to be part of something truly special. This celebration reflects the heart of community involvement by displaying beautiful decorations, supporting charitable activities, and highlighting our shared traditions.

ativity scenes across Gaothan bylanes and junctions were seen aplenty giving the Village a perfect Christmas look. The Outdoor cribs were eye-catching with interesting themes. The Gaothan cribs get lesser year on year and needs a major revival plan. Local groups and churches are doing their bit by organising Crib Competitions to encourage more outdoor cribs but this needs a major revival and promotion plan. Village groups need to be sensitized to create a Christmas presence in our Gaothans starting with multiple outdoor cribs.

A ctivities were organised in a big way during Christmas time'. Christmas party for children, locals or senior citizens were a great way to make this festival more inclusive. Then there were many other events and competitions to make the festive season a vibrant one. Youngsters went around the village singing Christmas Carol's along with Santaclaus. While the activites continue there is a need to have many more and multiple events to make the festive season much more happening.

Art installations and decorations give the Gaothans the much-needed facelift. Art installations in the form of Stars, large Santas, snow man, reindeers and the Christmas tree make the Gaothan bright and attractive. As a part of the revival plan an arch should be installed at the entrance to the Gaothans with Christmas decorations. Every bylane should be decorated with colourful buntings and Christmas symbols. Every junction or corner should have an eyecatching large Christmas themed installation.

Traditions during Christmas time are unique and differ from village to village. Visiting friends, relatives and neighbours to greet is most important to create a feeling of a united village. Close friends and relatives exchange gifts especially for children. A special family meal is organised where all members are present to celebrate with food and drink. The family together Attend the midnight services and joyously take part in Carol singing. After the services the family greets all known parishioners. We need to encourage our people to ensure they greet relatives. Greeting cards for those staying at other places or countries could be a part of the revival plan.

ssistance to the needy is one great way to show how much we care for those who struggle to make ends meet. MGP has been distributing Christmas hampers for a few years now and there are very few takers. Local groups should help the needy families with support at Christmas time. In our community very rarely do families come forward seeking help as they prefer to live within their means. Hence it's important local activists go out on the grassroot level to identify the families in need. Families can also donate toward social projects like orphanages and old age homes.

roma of sweets fill the Gaothan air and gives the Christmas season the much-needed special feeling. Passerbys keep guessing the names of sweets being prepared as they cross each home. Konswat is a great way to connect with families within the Gaothans exchanging a variety of sweets. Traditional sweets need to be promoted either by making them at home, giving an order to small businesses operated from home or purchasing from local shops selling sweets. People prefer readymade cakes and chocolates which do not have a traditional connect, could be given to office colleagues. Gaothan families should urgently opt for homemade traditional sweets.

Lights give the Gaothan the perfect bright Christmas look. Some Goathan groups have taken upon themselves to Light up each Village Street. Many families set up outdoor lighting at each home and decorate the Entrance with special lights. A standard size and type of star could be distributed to each home to showcase a united Gaothan. Bylanes should be lit up to give each lane the Christian identity. The entrances and junctions should have unique lighting to make the Village attractive at Christmas time. Each Village groups should take great interest to ensure the Gaothan looks brighter during Christmas. Together let's do our very best and celebrate a Vibrant Gaothan Christmas.

So, this shows how people in the Gaothan can come together, proving our unity and strength as a community. The festival, itself is a symbol of our shared culture, expressed through lights, laughter, and celebrations that everyone enjoys together.

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GAOTHAN VOICE: DECEMBER 2023



गावठण कला Gaothan Kala



East Indian Lugras & Accessories

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MGP MAI BOLI CONTEST # 9 For School and College students Only

There are names of 10 East Indian Christmas Sweets hidden in this Crossword. Find all 10 and send it to us at eastindianvoice@gmail.com by 15th January 2024.

One lucky prize winner will win an Amazon Gift voucher of Rs.500/-

S	K	S	F	Ε	Z	А	S	Т	В	Ν	Ü	J	U	R
0	U	E	٧	0	Т	Н	٧	М	Z	5	J	L	А	0
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0	К	М	L	Ν	I	А	Т	А	K	Ν	А	Ν	Ρ	Ε
В	U	R	G	А	0	U	Ε	Н	Υ	F	G	\times	×	\subset
I	L	0	Ε	Ν	Р	R	К	F	\subset	G	Q	\subset	Ν	0
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R	М	Р	E	R	U	\subset	Н	А	Н	А	L	W	А	5
Z	R	Υ	0	J	V	I	5	R	0	Р	Н	\subset	Н	V
Т	E	E	W	S	I	L	А	А	Н	Т	K	s	Q	Υ
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F	В	Ν	\subset	В	Υ	\times	Ε	Z	W	G	Υ	А	W	\subset

Amarylisa Gonsalves - Juhu

Dal Sweet (Dalicha Halwa)

1 cup boiled gram dal.

1 1/2 cup grated fresh coconut.

1 cup sugar.

6 green cardamom powdered.

2 tbsp ghee.

Food colour as per your choice.

METHOD

Grind the grafted coconut and boiled gram dal fine. once ground take a kadai mix it well alongwith sugar. Put it on slow gas, keep stirring now and then. When it begins to thicken add the cardamom powder. Now when it becomes difficult to stir add the colour keep stirring. Add ghee to ot. When it begins to leave the sides of the vessel it is as the nearing stage. Empty on a greased plate and when cool cut in diamond shape.





By Sybil Rodrigues - Kalina

M B A ÎKAR THE GAOTHAN STORE A Mobai Gaothan Panchayat Initiative

GAOTHAN VOICE - ADVERTISEMENT RATES

Advertisement Type	Single Issue	3 Months (Adv. rate per issue)	6 Months (Adv. rate per issue)	12 Months (Adv. rate per issue)
	₹	₹	₹	₹
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Full Page	6000	17100 (5700)	32400 (5400)	57600 (4800)
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For bookings or more details contact 9820087771/9930229742

East Indian Golden Raffle 2023



Organised by - Mobai Gaothan Panchayat Date of Draw - 26th December 2023

- Each ticket entitles you to a complimentary copy of the East Indian Calendar 2024
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For Raffle tickets contact local MGP Team members

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A MGP Project