

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



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Public Trust Registration No: F-57349(MUMBAI)

GAOTHAN VOICE MAY 2025



Uplifting the Village Community

22 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

MGP 15th Anniversary Special Issue

Vol:GV 05/25

For Private circulation only

SUPPORT  
MGP



One Vision !

www.mobaikar.in

One Voice !

The East Indian Magazine

One Village !

Email: eastindianvoice@gmail.com

## O Crussa Salaami Tula Eklas Barvasa Samajacha MGP Launches Kuruz Holy Cross Project



### East Indian Community Fund

Support the Needy of the  
Community

- \*Support for Education, Medical and Emergencies
- \*Beneficiary names will not be published
- \*Donations by cheques or by funds transfer only
- \*No cash contributions will be accepted.

#### 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

For more details Call Sybil  
on 9930229742 or email us  
at eastindianfund@gmail.com

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Monday Closed

We Have  
No Branch







**MGP Prays for the Archdiocese, State and Central government that they may realise and grant the needs of the East Indian Community as Indigenous People**

### **EAST INDIAN SAMAJ KOREZMA LAZAAR**

Date - Monday, 14th April 2025

Time - 9:30am to 12:30pm

Venue - Holy Name Cathedral, Fort

Organized by - Mobai Gaothan Panchayat

Around 16 Community members gathered to pray and sing hymns in the East Indian dialect followed by the Krist Puran

#### **Top 10 Community issues**

1. Language Priority to Marathi & East Indian dialect
2. Policy Implementation - East Indian Samaj Archdiocese - EISA Policy & Mumbai Bhumi Putra Policy
3. Housing Benefits for East Indian Samaj
4. Revival and Preservation of Religious Traditions
5. Patrons of Bombay Archdiocese - St. Gonsalo Garcia as Principal Patron and Mount Mary as Patroness
6. East Indian Representation in parish councils, church committees, Municipal Corporation & State Government
7. Simplified OBC Process
8. Recognition as Indigenous People - State and Central government
9. East Indian Heritage & Cultural Projects - Bhavan, Model Gaothan, theme park, Art Installation & Museum
10. Closure of Uttan Dumping Ground

Thanks to Bosco Patel and Vicky Misquitta for coordination. Vicky for also making arrangements for refreshments. Special thanks to Edward Dmello for leading the prayer gathering.



### **MGP ORLEM UNIT ORGANISES ROSARY IN EAST INDIAN DIALECT**

The community came together to pay their respects and offer prayers at the historic cross in Valnai Village (Bazar Cross). The event was well-attended by Mobai Goathan Panchayat members, Orlem Unit members, and Orlem parishioners, who recited the Holy Rosary in the traditional Marathi East Indian dialect. The participation of even the market vendors highlights the significance of this cross to the community. Built in 1804 during the first plague, the cross is set to turn 221 years old in May 2025, making it a cherished landmark for the Valnaikars



### **EAST INDIANS IN AMERICA SHOWCASE CULTURE AND TRADITION**

Savita Pereira, Daughter of Anil & Delyse Pereira of Pleasanton, California, USA displayed the East Indian Culture and Tradition at the International Cultural Festival at Berkeley

The stall got very good feedback due to its cultural and traditions displayed which was very informative to all those who visited the Stall.

While we East Indians Rocked at Bandra, India, the Community are at their best in the USA as well.

MGP provided some of the merchandise on display like the East Indian Umbrella, Flags, Bags, Calendars and the Gaothan Voice as well.

### **50TH GOLDEN JUBILEE OF THE HOLY CROSS (SINCE IT'S SHIFTING) 1975 - 2025**



This Holy Cross was built in the end of 18 century by villagers of Agarwada near J Building.

Due to the construction of the road and J building, the cross was shifted from the area near J Building to its current location on 10 May 1975 and then it was renovated inaugurated on 13 May 1978. This Holy across was last beautified and inaugurated on 10th May 2003 By Shri Babubhai Bhavanji - Ex-Dy Mayor of Mumbai

organised by - Agarwada Bhandarwada Association, Sion





# MOBAIKAR GAOTHAN STORE

Aaplaa Gaav! Aapla Dukaan!



**Gaothan Kala**  
East Indian Lugas and accessories

Lugas, embroidered/ready to drape lugras, kurtas, shirts, surkhas, pleated lugra material, jewellery and accessories




**Contact Info.**  
Add: H.No 5/A, Benny Jacinto House,  
Kolovery Village, Kalina,  
Santacruz (E), Mumbai - 98

Landmark - Kalina Masjid Lane, Opp Palm Villa Apt, Chris Chinese Corner

**Mob No:** 7045022631 / 9321335674

**MOBAIKAR**  
**THE GAOTHAN STORE**  
A Mobai Gaathan Panchayat Initiative



**EAST INDIAN COMMUNITY**

For Gaothan Store at the museum  
Collet Kinny 9167130921

**Vailankanni Textile**  
Lugra Hai aple "East Indian chi Shaan"


- \* Eastindian Lugas
- \* Sonkari Lugra
- \* 6mtr Lugas Sarees
- \* Lugra Shirts
- \* Kurta & Dress Material
- \* Pure Cotton Lugas



**Palmira Dalmat**  
Mob.: 9930745461  
d\_palmira28

Case De Graca, St. Francis Nagar,  
Karaipada, Uttan Pali Road,  
Bhayander (W)

**KAKA BAPTISTA EAST INDIAN MUSEUM**  
East Indian Books & Merchandise on sale



**Address -**  
Theresa Villa, Manori - Gorai Rd,  
Manori Village, Malad West, Mumbai,  
Maharashtra 400095

**Good Shepherd Caterers**  
Articles on sale - East Indian food



**Sunita Alphonso**  
**9892613407**

John Building, 102, Near Income Tax Office,  
Above Raghuvel Hotel, Naupada,  
Teen Hath Naka, Thane West - 400602

**Vailankanni Food Cart**  
(BABA'S Burgers Wraps & Fries)

Articles On Sale -  
Vindaloo, Sorpotel, Roast,  
Potato Chops, Pan Rolls, Cutlets,  
Burgers, Wraps, Sandwiches And Fries



**Clarence Rodricks - 8551024915**  
Opp Lawrence Park,  
Near little Rose Nursery School, Naigaon (West).

## AN INVITE TO BE A PART OF MOBAIKAR GAOTHAN STORE

- \*Can be operated from home, shop, festival stalls or on wheels
  - \*Owner can also sell things prepared or manufactured on their own or procure articles from locals for sale
  - \*MGP will provide books, Merchandise, home made products prepared by Self help groups and other products as decided from time to time
  - \*MGP will try to give around 20% against each article on sale
  - \*Monthly sale updates to be given by this Gaothan shop owners
  - \*Self help groups especially those local ones can use this mode actively
  - \*Owners to display the board provided by MGP to promote this Gaothan store concept
  - \*product list to be provided by MGP monthly or as needed from time to time
  - \*A Display board will be provided by MGP
  - \*MGP will also provide support for promotion material and promote the concept on social media platforms and it's monthly magazine
- Those interested in being a part of the Mobaikar store concept or the Self Help Group can WhatsApp us on 8886225903 / 9820545302



# KURUZ

## MGP's Holy Cross Project



### TOGETHER LET'S PRAY FOR THE EAST INDIAN COMMUNITY AND THE GAOTHANS

One Gaothan! One Holy Cross!

#### MOTHI LADIN

Ek Luzaar! Ek Lazaar! Ek Awaaz!

The Annual Thanksgiving Litany of MGP and the East Indian Community.

**Date** - Saturday 7th June 2025

**Rosary in** - East Indian Dialect, **Time** - 8.00 pm

**Location** - Gaothan Holy Crosses across Mumbai, Thane, Vasai & Raigad District

\*A Rosary will be organised at Only One Holy Cross of every Gaothan

\*Mothi Ladin will be held annually on the first Saturday of June

\*Local groups or activists who wish to organise the Ladin (Rosary) at their Gaothan can send details on WhatsApp to our Holy Cross - Mothi Ladin Project, regional or village Coordinator

\*Details to be sent are - Holy Cross Name, Gaothan name, Year Cross built, Cross Coordinator, Mobile Number to our Kuruz Project Coordinators or whatsapp 9820545302

\*MGP will provide the East Indian rosary leaflet

\*Each Gaothan will organise a Mothi Ladin only at one Holy Cross and finalisation will be done by MGPs Holy Cross Project Team

To sponsor or donate towards refreshments - grams, soft drink, etc please contact 9820087771 or WhatsApp 9820545302

#### \* HOLY CROSS DAY \*

#### O Crussa Salami Tula

Ekilas Bhavansa Tu Amcha

Holy Crosses are a common feature at every East Indian Village in Bombay, Thane, Vasai and Raigad. Cross Feast is a prevalent custom anticipated with much zeal in most of our villages. In the month of May villagers gather every evening to recite the Holy Rosary in front of the Community Cross. On the last day of May many celebrate the Cross Feast and are treated with snacks and soft drinks and spend some time mingling together and interacting with each other. As children it was one event in the month of May we did not want to miss. Keeping this in mind Mobai Gaothan Panchayat(MGP) had declared May 31st as Holy Cross Day in the year 2013.

The Holy Crosses have existed for centuries and a sizeable number were built to save the village from plague around a century ago. Majority of them are more than a century old and have heritage value. Some of them need urgent preservation especially when many locals have migrated from their villages. Our East Indian Holy Cross Traditions have existed since centuries even before BMC was established.

The objective of the Holy Cross Day is:

- To promote Unity in the Gaothans by coming together to recite the Rosary
- Celebrate the Cross Feast as One Gaothan Family
- Protecting the East Indian Gaothans which are being targeted by the authorities
- Preservation and Restoration of the Heritage Crosses to maintain the East Indian Gaothan identity.

Taking these important objectives into consideration MGP has organised Mothi Ladin at Holy Crosses across Gaothans tomorrow on 7th June at 8.00 pm.

This Holy Cross Day let us all pray that our Gaothan Holy Crosses are Preserved, Protected and Restored. May the authorities and those with vested interests respect our Indigenous People - East Indian Ancestral Culture and Traditions.

### One Day! One Time!

#### MOTHI LADIN

Saturday 7th June 2025

8.00 pm across #Gaothans

#### \*Gaothan Holy Cross Coordinators (GHCC) - Guidelines\*

\*GHCC to select the Holy Cross where the Mothi Ladin will be held

\*GHCC to share details with RHCC - Holy Cross Name, Year built, Gaothan, Coordinator name, Mobile Number

\*GHCC to inform locals through notice board, banners, handbills or WhatsApp

\*GHCC to make arrangements for things needed like Garlands, candles, channas and soft drink

\*If no local sponsors, the GHCC to contact Regional coordinator for MGP financial support or sponsors

\*GHCC to contact Regional coordinator for East Indian rosary leaflets on WhatsApp

\*GHCC to make arrangements for things needed on the Mothi Ladin day

\*Volunteers should be invited for cleaning, decorations & service of refreshments

\*GHCC to share the photos with Regional coordinator as well as share on social media and tag MGP

To participate WhatsApp on 9820545302

This religious initiative will surely help us to Protect & Preserve our Gaothans and Promote East Indian Culture & Tradition

#### TOP TEN ACTION POINTS

1. Restoration of Holy Crosses to be promoted to preserve its History and Heritage.
2. Appointment of Holy Cross Coordinators to take care of crosses that have no coordinator.
3. A day to be dedicated to the Holy Cross, It's Heritage and History - 31st May.
4. Holy Cross Census to maintain important data and information of Holy Crosses in Mumbai Metropolitan Region.
5. Each Holy Cross to have a board with a brief on its history.
6. Installation of CCTV to protect the Holy Crosses from desecration.
7. Special fund generation to restore Holy Crosses which need basic financial support.
8. Team to be formed to deal with Holy Crosses under threat from infra projects, developers and other entities
9. Youth Engagement via a Social Media Campaign to educate and inform our youth and the public about our Heritage Holy Crosses.
10. Recognition of restoration of Holy Crosses through awards and shout outs.

by Gleason Barretto, Old Kurla



### KURUZ BACHVA

#### Importance of Preserving Holy Crosses

*Britney Pharmai, Bandra*

Mumbai's holy crosses are the cornerstone of life in its gaothans and villages. These revered crosses are a testament to the faith of the East Indian community.

They were erected to celebrate religious jubilees, to honour family members, in thanksgiving, and most famously in gratitude for the protection offered to gaothans after the bubonic plague that ravaged Mumbai in the 19th century.

With the city changing rapidly in terms of infrastructure and demographics, the social fabric of life in Mumbai's indigenous East Indian villages is changing, yet its crosses remain symbols of East Indian identity, history, and faith. However, these changes pose a threat to the existence of these crosses by way of demolition for infrastructure projects like road widening, redevelopment, and vandalism by miscreants. Once a cross is moved, it fades into history and its relation and significance to the area is lost.



If we want our crosses to exist and thrive, it is necessary to carry out restoration efforts along with spiritual efforts. Many crosses need repairs to improve their structural integrity and protect them from the elements. While repairing them is much needed and appreciated, care must be taken to ensure that they are restored to retain their heritage beauty and historic markers.

Once crosses are rebuilt and their appearance is changed, they lose their credibility in an environment that is hostile to their existence. They need to look their age in terms of aesthetics so that no one dares to question their heritage status. This will help in quashing efforts and silencing voices who wish to remove our holy crosses for whatever reason. This will be quite an effort as it requires expert advice and consultation and increases costs. So it rests upon the community to chip in and help out as a whole.

It has been observed through the ongoing cross census that a large number of Mumbai's holy crosses do not carry any information about patronage or age. Every cross must be accompanied by a plaque with details about when it was built and rebuilt along with information on who erected it. In this way, we honour the lives of our ancestors and their faith. If there are miracles or information associated with the cross, it must be recorded with a signboard.

Our crosses have stood for centuries so may we save and cherish them for the centuries and generations to come.

### MOBAI GAOTHAN PANCHAYAT

#### 50+ Projects! 15 Years Service! One East Indian Community!

Project Name # 2 - Kaka Baptista East Indian Museum  
Opened - May 2010

Punchline - The Worlds 1st East Indian Community Museum

Objective - To Preserve, Protect and Promote the Culture and Tradition of the Indigenous People of Mumbai, East Indian Community

Address - Theresa Villa, Main Road, Manori

Land offered by - Family of Late Theresa Fernandes from Chuim/Manori without any financial consideration

Museum dedication - Kaka Baptista, a freedom fighter from the East Indian Community, who coined the phrase, "Swaraj is my Birth Right" made famous by Lokmanya Tilak

Visitors - Tourist on Dharavi Beth island, historians, art enthusiasts, School and college students

#### Activity Plan

Museum Open Daily from 10.30am to 5pm, Monday closed

Annual Museum Day on 3rd Sunday of May

World Museum Day on 18th May

Open for Veneration for St Gonsalo Garcia Day on 6th February

Mot Mauli Yatra in August begins from this Museum to Gaothans across Mumbai, Dharavi Beth, Vasai and Thane

Artefacts Collection Day in the month of April or May

#### Support list

Chief Coordinator, Active Coordinators, Special Advisors, Support Coordinators, Museum & Arts Experts, Restorers, Finance Manager, Musuem Manager

#### Financials

\*CSR - Corporate Social Responsibility funding for Musuem Management & Maintenance

\*Donor Members Platinum and Star to be mentioned at Manori Museum

\*Museum Sponsors to sponsor artefacts or display needs

\*Monthly Sponsors to cover monthly Museum costs

#### Join Us

To support us in this project whatsapp 9820545302. Some support list activities will be paid a stipend/honorarium.

#### MGP Focus 2025 Special

East Indians Day & World Museum Day on Sunday, 18th May 2025 at Manori

<https://youtu.be/snbVKV7HvPM?si=sH4wKbXY06hdB4GS>



### MGP in the NEWS

Free Press Journal - Page 5  
Friday, 18th April 2025

### MGP Supports Koli Samaj for Food Stalls on Carter Road Promenade

\*MGP in its Mumbai Bhumi Putra Policy clearly specifies on food stalls to be allotted to Indigenous People - Mumbai's Bhumi Putra Samaj Aagri, Koli & East Indian Samaj

\*The Bandra Danda Kolis have the right to set up stalls as they are one of the Original Inhabitants of Bandra

\*Carter Road Promenade Residents who have an objection need to respect the Existence and Identity of Indigenous People

\*MGP as a representative of East Indian Community will support the Aagri and Koli Samaj whenever issues faced to showcase an United Mumbai Bhumi Putra force.

Mobai Gaothan Panchayat as always stays committed to the Promotion, Preservation & Protection of East Indian Language, Culture, Tradition, Heritage, History, Existence and Identity.

**Aaplaa Gaav! Aaplaa Raaj!**

### MGP IN THE NEWS - MIDDAY

Monday, 21st April 2025 - Page 4

The biggest East Indian food festival of the year food stalls sold out..

### EAST INDIAN FOOD FESTIVAL & MUSIC AWARDS 2025

#### Event Highlights:

- East Indian Food Festival: Savor the flavors of Mumbai's indigenous people, featuring specialties from the Kulbis, Bhandaris, Kolis, and Agris communities.

**Music Awards:** Celebrating the best talent in the East Indian community.

**Date:** Saturday, April 26, 2025

**Food Fest Timings:** 5 pm to 10 pm

**Awards Event:** 6:30 pm to 10 pm

**Venue:** St. Andrews School Quadrangle, Bandra West

**Entry:** FREE

East Indian Food Festival Chief Coordinator - Royston Jacinto

East Indian Music Awards - EIMA 2025 Coordinator - Sherline Barretto

For details WhatsApp 8886225903



### MGP IN THE NEWS - FREE PRESS JOURNAL

Friday, 25th April 2025

### East Indian Food Festival 2025

Date - Saturday 26th April 2025

Time - 5.00 pm to 10.00 pm

Venue - St Andrew's Quadrangle Bandra (Entry FREE)

### Top 10 Reasons to Visit the Food Festival

**LIVE Fugiyas and Umber\* - Taste them Hot and fresh, fried in your presence.**

**Mobai Kitchen - An East Indian Restaurant with a Special buffet spread of 10 authentic East Indian dishes.**

**Koli Food - Stalls selling a variety of fish specialty like prawns, pomfrets, surmai and more.**

**Umbrachapani refreshments stall - A community well cultural themed stall with juices and soft drinks.**

**Stage performances - Popular songs sung by the best talent in the East Indian Music industry with a special Dance performance too**

**Lugra and Jewellery - A wide variety of Lugra and accessories with East Indian traditional jewellery.**

**Books & Merchandise - East Indian cookery books and merchandise like Ghumats, Sukhala bags and lugra themed umbrellas.**

**Spot Prizes - Carry the rarest of things and be lucky to win our spot prizes**

**Summer specials - Will (white onions) and Sukeli (dry bananas)**

**Housie - An East Indian Village is incomplete without a game of housie during summer holidays, bring back memories with loads of goodies as prizes.**

The event will begin with a minute silence and Prayer for Pope Francis

### MGP IN THE NEWS - MIDDAY

Tuesday 8th April - Page 4

Which team will be crowned the Gaothan Games Champions.

### Gaothan Games 2025

The Mega Sports Festival for the Gaothans

#### Organised by -

Mobai Gaothan Panchayat

#### In association with -

BEFIT FITNESS ACADEMY

Event postponed to Oct/Nov 2025

**Games :** Sprint race, tyre rollers, Tug of war, Catch the Hen, relay

Special Open Track events for non-team participants







# MGP NOTICE BOARD

## The Announcement for the East Indian Community



### SARVAJANIK KRIST JANMOTSAV - SKJ 2024

Congratulations to the Winners.

Prize trophies will be announced today at Manori - East Indians Day

#### Gaothan Crib Competition

1. Lover Boys Club, Uttan Mothagaon
2. Gift of Peace Community Malwani
3. Culbavour Gaothan Crib, Kurla

#### Gaothan Outdoor Decoration Competition

- 1 Ringo Boys, Parle
- 2 Lover boys, Uttan
- 3 Irla Goathan

#### Church Crib

1. Our Lady of Velankanni Church, Irla

#### Largest Crib in Mumbai

Cardinal Care Trust



### SAN JAO CHA SANN - JAAVAYCHA SANN

The East Indian Tradition on St. John the Baptist Feast

\*San Jao Cha San is celebrated by the East Indian Community on 24th June, Feast of St. John the Baptist or on the Sunday after the feast day.

\*This feast is also celebrated as Jaavaycha Sann (New 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 New wed couple visits the Bride's Parish for mass in traditional attire not forgetting the gold worn and gifted at their wedding

\*The couple are served with 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 with varyas, fugias, moile, fugaath, wedding pickle, wedding rice, roast, vindyal and sarpatel for the newly weds

\*The Newly Wed couple then visit the nearest well or pond for a dip and in some places they also wash the feet of the newly weds

\*The Newlyweds are taken in a procession with the East Indian Brass Band

### LET'S CELEBRATE SAN JAO CHA SANN, THE EAST INDIAN WAY!

**## Invitation to Hoteliers, Resort Owners, and Community Businesses**

We're excited to invite you to participate in this festive celebration by offering special deals and discounts from June 21st to 29th. Share your unique offers with the community and attract more customers!

#### ## Offer Ideas

- Per person inclusive food packages
- Special buffet meals showcasing East Indian cuisine
- Discounts for family bookings or group reservations
- Special rates for resort bookings or packages
- Other creative offers that showcase your hospitality

#### ## Benefits

- Attract more customers and increase bookings
- Showcase your culinary expertise and hospitality
- Be part of a vibrant community celebration
- Increase visibility and reach a wider audience

#### ## How to Participate

1. Share your special offers with us.
2. Specify the dates and duration of your offers.
3. Promote your offers through our channels.

Let's come together to revive the spirit of San Jao Cha Sann and make it a memorable celebration for everyone!

## 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
EI 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
EI Day	NA	NA	Free Pass	Free Pass	Free Pass	Free Pass
EI 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 | IFSC Code - BACB0000032



### 200 YEARS OF BANDRA'S MIRACLE CROSS

Clarence Gomes - *Bandra Times*



The Miracle Cross Was Built On a flat rock Called "PATLA" In Marathi meaning Big Flat Rock by The East Indian Koli Community in the Year 1825. Every Year In the month of May the Local residents used to go venerate and pray at this Cross along the Bandra Sea.

In the nights when the moon light used to shine on the Cross, it used to act like "A Light House" for the fisherman to come back home safely. In the year 1960 when the sea was reclaimed with mud stones and big boulders the young fisherman put a boundary around the Cross with their fishing boats and fishing nets with wooden poles.

In the year 1995 the Municipal Corporator built a brick wall around the Cross. In the year 1989 the Miracle Cross Prathnalaya was built with the MLA funds by MHADA. Every Thursday evening Novena prayers are said at 6pm and On 3<sup>rd</sup> May every year a Grand Feast is celebrated at this Miracle Cross Prathnalaya. In fact this year on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2025 we will Be Commemorating and Celebrating 200 years of this Miracle Cross. Many Miracles like Devotees have been cured of Cancer, Heart ailment, kidney stone and many other serious diseases. People from all other Caste and Religions come to pray at this Miracle Cross Prathnalaya.



### WORLI HOLY CROSS

Inauguration Ceremony

**Installed by** - Catherine Baptista Quiney Trust

**Site** - Catherine Baptista Quiney Memorial

**Location** - Worli Koliwada, facing the Bandra Worli Sea Link

**Inaugurated by** - Bishop Thomas D'Souza, Bishop of Vasai

**Date** - Thursday, 8th May 2025

**Time** - Inauguration Ceremony began at 4.30pm

MGP Team congratulates the Trust Management and the Worlikars for installation of the Holy Cross which has a Great significance for Protection of Gaothans and Koliwadass

### ON A SMALL HILL, ABOUT TEN MINUTES FROM THE HOLY CROSS CHURCH, IS A CROSS BELIEVED TO HAVE MIRACULOUS POWER

**Phool Dongricha Sann**  
**The Miraculous Holy Cross at Kurla**

Feast - 2nd Sunday of May

Situated at - Holy Cross Church Compound, Kurla

\*The name Phool Dongri comes from the variety of flowers that grew on the slopes of the hillock where the cross stood first

\*This cross has been in existence prior to the year 1882

\*This Cross was venerated and honoured by people of various castes and creeds

\*During plague epidemic the villagers left their homes and lived at the foot of Phool Dongri Hill and prayed at this Holy Cross on the top of the hill

\*Every year during the month of May people went up the hill to recite the Rosary

\*There was also a practice that newly wed couples went up the Cross to seek blessings for their married life

\*The Phool Dongri Sann was originally celebrated with great gaiety and the festival Celebrations went on till evening

\*People came for the feast on Reklas and Gaaras

\*On September 19, 1936 a Way of the Cross was introduced from Church to Phool Dongri

\*In 1958, the Government proposed to build a runway for the Airport and so asked to shift the Cross.

\*The Cross was ceremoniously brought down and re-erected in the Church compound.

### HOLY CROSS CENSUS 2025

Protect! Preserve! Restore! Revive!

MGP's mega census drive of Holy Crosses in Mumbai Metropolitan Region

The number of Holy Crosses in Mumbai remains a mystery.

But it doesn't have to be that way anymore!

Mumbai's crosses have seen war, plague, independence and have stayed with us as we ushered in the modern, globalised world.

Therefore, it is of utmost importance that we continue to maintain their legacy and aid efforts to preserve them.

MGP plans to document each of Mumbai's crosses, which are at risk due to the ever-changing and developing cityscape. MGP Targets to collect data on around 100 Crosses within a month.

We need your help! Do your bit in this Cross Census by filling out this. Those who wish to be Kuruz Project Coordinators, Regional or Village Coordinators can whatsapp 9820545302

Google Forms link -

<https://forms.gle/mF4g7kYaJGYb6jup9>



## O Crussa Salaami Tula Eklas Barvasa Samajacha

MGP Launches Kuruz Holy Cross Project

*Gleason Barretto, Old Kurla*

**C**rosses are unique to every Gaothan and in fact a Gaothan is complete only if it has a Holy Cross within its borders. As the demography of many Gaothans changes, it also brings in the challenge of protection of our Holy Crosses. The historical and religious relevance at times seems to be lost or forgotten. With the migration of some families outside city limits or abroad, there is no caretaker for some Holy Crosses at times. This can be risky as it may lead to desecration or even demolition. These Holy Crosses should be protected and their distinct identity should be preserved or restored to create awareness of their existence and relevance.

**R**estoration of our Holy Crosses is one of the most important aspects to preserve and promote our Gaothan Heritage. It's saddening to see some of the crosses being renovated and repaired instead of being restored. All Holy Cross owners and care takers should make sure that Crosses are restored to justify its history and heritage. Also, the original structure of the Holy Cross should not be affected due to sheds, grills or walls. Expert architects and restorers can be invited to suggest and advise on what's best for Holy Crosses depending on the material used.

**U**nity begins at the Holy Cross, especially in the months of May and October. This is one of the best sights to see as local villagers come together to recite the rosary. Traditionally in the month of May, Cross Feasts are celebrated in our Gaothans, on a historically relevant day. Rosary is recited throughout the month of May; offered by a family which sponsors grams and cold drinks after prayers. The hymns are mostly in the East Indian dialect honouring Mother Mary and the Holy Cross. The Unity of the Holy Cross should be practiced all year long and not just for a month.

**S**tate Government recognition of the Holy Crosses as Heritage Structures to ensure their Protection and Preservation is the need of the hour. Restoration of heritage crosses involves high costs towards professional advice and restoration by experts. The State Government should recognise the relevance of Holy Crosses in the city especially because they protected the city from plague more than a century ago. A special State Government policy to protect and preserve the Holy Crosses needs to be implemented. The policy should also sanction CCTV for protection from desecration by miscreants. The Holy Crosses historically protected Mumbai City and it's time the administration realises the importance of these heritage religious structures.

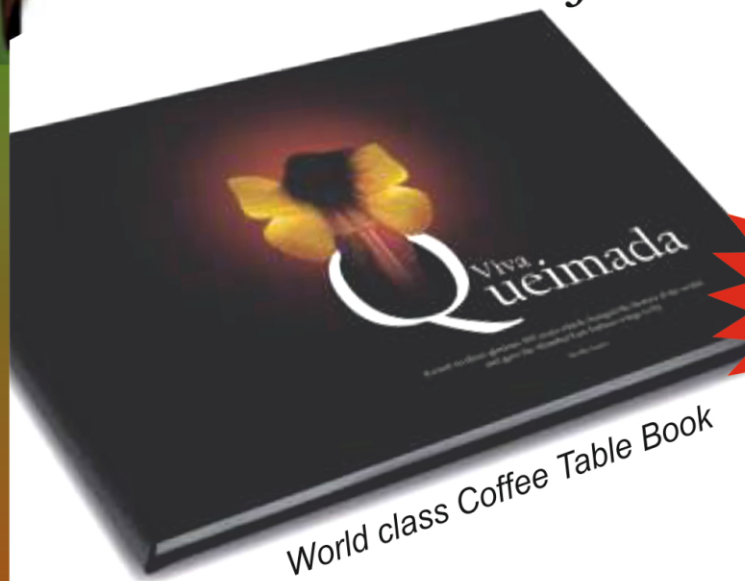
**S**pecial Census to document Holy Crosses will surely help in the future. Each of the crosses should be assigned codes for easy identification and reference. Holy Cross Coordinators should be appointed at a regional and local level to ensure the Holy Crosses are protected and preserved. MGP has launched a mega census in which we plan to register 100+ crosses and initiate a phase wise plan going forward. A ten point agenda has been finalized and soon a Special Holy Cross Policy will be drafted under MGP's Kuruz Holy Cross Project. MGP's team will take expert advice in the creation of the first ever Holy Cross Policy for Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

**A**wareness of the Holy Cross and its rich history needs to be initiated urgently. Social Media will play an important role and the Kuruz project team will initiate multiple strategies to make citizens aware of the existence and identity of Holy Crosses. A History Board or Plaque near each cross could be a good addition besides regular cleaning and maintenance by the Cross Managers. A special fund for maintenance and restoration needs to be started to ensure support to all crosses in need of urgent preservation. Together, let's pray that the Holy Cross may bless our East Indian Community and protect our Gaothans. MGPs Kuruz Holy Cross Project is one of the most challenging ones and we look forward to your prayers and support.



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Mobai Gaothan Panchayat (MGP) is happy to announce its initiative in building the first religious structure in the Diocese of Mumbai dedicated to our East Indian Native and Patron Saint..

### ST. GONSALO GARCIA CHAPEL

**Aaplaa GAAV! Aapla Devool!**

Proposed site Mumbai City, Mumbai Suburb, Dharavi Beth, Thane & Raigad.

#### Highlights

- \*The First Religious structure in Bombay Archdiocese to be dedicated to our Native Saint.
- \*The Chapel Fund generation will be actively initiated once the land is purchased or donated
- \*The Chapel is likely to be opened by next year
- \*We look forward for Support from Experts (Designers, architects, Sculptors, fabricators, etc) in building this Chapel.
- \*Contributions by Cheque or in kind are welcome.
- \*We plan to get relics from Japan and promote pilgrimage to Nagasaki.
- \*Well known Altar designers to be a part of the project interiors.
- \*The boat on which the Chapel will be built will be made by a well-known boat maker.

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