

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



mgpmobai@gmail.com  
Mobile - 9820087771

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20 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

GAOTHAN VOICE JANUARY 2024

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**One Vision !**

www.mobaikar.com

**One Voice !**

The East Indian Magazine

**One Village !**

Email: eastindianvoice@gmail.com



**RENV NAKO KONACHE BHARVASYAAVAR  
AAPUN JAGU AAPLE HIMTIVAR**

**East Indians Are Capable To Take Community Forward**

**रेंव नको बिज्यांचे भरवंश्यावर  
आपुन् जगूं आपले हिमंतीवर**



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### JINGLE BELL

First Performance - 1970

Singer - Master Roland Hanso

Event - East Indian Singing Competition

Organised by - Sunshine Dramatic Club Venue - Rangmandir, Khar

Music Project by

MusElc

A Mobai Gaothan Panchayat initiative

Main Sponsor

Joel D'silva - Dombivali

Gold Sponsor

\* East Indian Americas

\* Xenechka Macsel Gracias & Family - Rathodi

MusElc Project Song Coordinator

Zenobia Gracias - Rathodi

Concept and Directed by

Master Roland Hanso - Rathodi

Video DOP & Editor

Bharat Malap - Vasai

Music Composed By

Maxwell Fernandes - Vasai

Music Thesis Composed By

Master Valley Ferreira - Uttan

Lead Singer

Master Roland Hanso - Rathodi

Lyrics Composed By

Late. Francis Gomes (Baba Francis) - Bandra

Female Chorus

\* Zenobia Gracias - Rathodi

\* Mariet Hanso - Manori

\* Sherline Barretto - Sion

- 3 -

**GAOTHAN VOICE : JANUARY 2024**



Brass

Jesus Band - Uttan



# Reetin Reevaaz

## The East Indian Culture Guide



### EAST INDIAN HERITAGE - REKLA

Avid East Indian music fans have certainly heard the famous song “Varil Shetkari” which describes the old traditional farming equipment and lands used by East Indians, that have become extinct today. One of the lines of the song goes, “*Kai geli ti bailanchi gaari.*”

The line highlights one of the most important and certainly the only mode of transport our ancestors had, known as “Rekla” or “Bailgaari.” Rekla is a heritage item, which has unfortunately gone out of sight, and spotting a rekla has become an amusement nowadays.

#### What is Rekla?

Rekla is a vehicle used for transport and farming made of wooden planks, wooden dowels, and wooden wheels. It has a single or a pair of either horses or bullocks, who drive the wooden assemble. Rekla was also known by other names like “Bailgaari” or “Gaara.”

In the olden days before industrialization, Rekla was used as the primary mode or rather was the only mode of transport available, whenever people wished to travel from one place to another. East Indians used Reklas to travel across gaothans for functions or to celebrate village festivals. It was also used for religious processions and wedding celebrations. Horses and bollocks were a common sight in gaothans back then.

The rekla was decorated with flowers and other decorative items when traveling to celebrate a festival or feast, commonly known as ‘sann.’

Apart from being used as a transport vehicle, Rekla was also used to transport farm produce by the farmers of the community. Reklas are used even today in some parts of India, however, their use has shifted from transportation to rekla races. These cart races or rekla races were also common among the East Indians back then. These races were called “Hakahaki.”

As technology evolved, reklas were replaced with machine-driven vehicles for transportation and tractors for farming needs. Slowly and eventually, Reklas diminished, and today we rarely get to see them.

However, even today some villages still have Ghorewalas who keep the traditions alive, while some East Indians continue to own a Rekla. They can be spotted at feasts in and around Mumbai such as Baravicha Sann, Trindadcha Sann, and more.

#### Reetin Reevaaz

Church and gaothan feasts have always been dear to the East Indian community. These celebrations bring people of the community together as they celebrate with faith, dance, music, food and drink. And there is never a shortage of feasts for East Indians.

People often travel to other gaothans and churches in and around Mumbai to celebrate the feast dedicated to a particular saint.

In the coming month, between January 15 to February 15, 2024, these are some feasts that East Indians celebrate with great enthusiasm.

#### 26th January - Mother of Forsaken or 'Barodacha Sann'

After a Jesuit priest sculpted a replica of Mother of the Forsaken in Valencia and enthroned it in the Shrine in Baroda, present-day Vadodara, on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1959, the locals began celebrating its feast on 26<sup>th</sup> January every year. As the word spread, East Indians started traveling all the way more than 400 KM to Baroda, Gujarat, to celebrate this feast.

Even today thousands of East Indians travel to Braoda during the novenas from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of January, followed by the feast on 26<sup>th</sup> January. The priests have been kind enough to build and provide accommodation for the devotees at minimal charges in the church rooms.

#### 10th February - Infant Jesus feast or 'Nashikcha Sann'

The feast of the Shrine of Infant Jesus is celebrated every year on the second Saturday of February, after the church was inaugurated in February 1970. East Indians visit the church on the feast day as well as on other days of the year. Since it is located in Nashik, more than 150 KM away, it serves as a short trip for families to travel together.

Communities and gaothans also organize buses at minimal rates to travel for the feast. Since the time of the feast coincides with the season of grapes, getting grapes from Nashikcha Sann has become a ritual for many East Indians.

#### 11<sup>th</sup> February - Introze

Introze is the quintessential feast celebrated in every East Indian household and gaothan. Celebrated during the last few days before Ash Wednesday, this year's Introze begins from 11th February. It is celebrated as a day of feasting before the season of Korezma (lent) begins.

During Korezma, observing fasts is a common practice among East Indians. Thus Introze is celebrated with dance, music, scrumptious food and drinks, before beginning the 40-day fast.





# MGP IN THE NEWS

## Article Overview



### MGP IN THE NEWS

#### Hallelujah! The singing priest helping preserve a dialect



**MANU KAMACHANDAN**  
Mumbai

When the pandemic hit, the city closed doors during the lockdown. A Catholic priest from Malwani, Malad, gave voice to the anguish of the faithful who were denied access to a church they had always sought during life's vicissitudes.

Father Dalmat is an assistant priest at St Anthony's Church in Malwani, an area known for its historical significance to AD 1600. While his main job is to tend to the spiritual needs of church members, he writes songs and composes songs in the East Indian dialect of Malwani, a language spoken in villages around Mumbai's Gateway to India, and some parts of Rajkot district. The dialect is influenced by the Portuguese who had established Roman Catholic missions and churches in the area in the 16th century.

One of Father Dalmat's songs, 'Devilachi Dar', was composed during the pandemic when doors of most churches were closed and public religious services were banned. Father Dalmat's voice gave voice to the anguish of the faithful who were denied access to a church they had always sought during life's vicissitudes.

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### MGP IN THE NEWS



#### NEWS



#### Celebrating creativity

A crib from last year's edition

The Mobai Gaothan Panchayat (MGP) has given the age-old tradition of crib decoration a competitive twist with a city-wide competition. "There is no set theme for the decorations because we want people to be as creative with their ideas as possible," Gleason Barreto (below), global ambassador, MGP, told this diarist. The submissions — often led by Manori, Uttan and Gorai — are open till December 31. The entries will be examined by a jury of members from within and outside the MGP. Those interested can submit at [skj.mobai@gmail.com](mailto:skj.mobai@gmail.com).

**MGP IN THE NEWS : 01 DEC 2023 , THE FREE PRESS JOURNAL, PAGE 2.**

**Title: "Father Dalmat Honored as 'East Indian Priest of the Year' for Musical and Cultural Contributions"**

**Description:** Discover the inspiring story of Father Dalmat, a Catholic priest from Malwani, Malad, featured in The Free Press Journal on December 1, 2023. Recognized for his heartfelt song 'Devilachi Dar' and awarded for preserving the East Indian dialect, Father Dalmat's 25 years of service celebrate his commitment to music, culture, and community.

**MGP in the NEWS - Midday dated 27th December 2023 Page 4.**

**Title: "SKJ Christmas Competitions 2023: Call for Festive Creativity!"**

**Description:** Midday, dated December 27, 2023, on page 4, announces the Seventh Mega Christmas Festival - SKJ 2023. Join the excitement by participating in crib and display competitions, with prizes and trophies awaiting winners. Capture the spirit of Christmas and submit entries by December 31, 2023, to [skj.mobai@gmail.com](mailto:skj.mobai@gmail.com). Choose from national, state, city, and Gaothan-level competitions to showcase your creativity and spread joy.

### MGP IN THE NEWS



#### Hindustan Times MY MUMBAI

#### Koliwad, gaothans out of SRA schemes' bounds

The slum authority's recent order on Worli Koliwada brings relief to lakhs of residents

**Slum Reclamation Authority**

**MUMBAI:** The Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) has rejected an application to include a portion of the Worli Koliwada, a 65-acre area, in its slum rehabilitation program.

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Number of gaothans
189
Number of koliwad
42
Total size of Worli Koliwada
65 ACRE

**WHAT DOES THE ORDER MEAN?**

The slum authority's recent order on Worli Koliwada brings relief to lakhs of residents. The SRA has rejected an application to include a portion of the Worli Koliwada, a 65-acre area, in its slum rehabilitation program.

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#### NEWS

**MGP IN THE NEWS – 'SRA schemes cannot be implemented in koliwad and gaothans' -HINDUSTAN TIMES , DATE: 20 DECEMBER 2023, PAGE -3**

**Title: "SRA Rejects Worli Koliwada Designation, Protecting Ancestral Land"**

**Description:** Hindustan Times, on December 20, 2023, reports a landmark decision as the Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) rejects an application for Worli Koliwada, safeguarding residents' ancestral land. The ruling sets a precedent against threats to gaothans and koliwad in Mumbai. Residents are open to tailored Special DC rules, emphasizing the need for revenue department demarcation before implementation. Alphi D'Souza of Mobai Gaothan Panchayat asserts SRA schemes are unsuitable for gaothans and koliwad, celebrating a victory for Worli Koliwada and hoping for future DC rules respecting heritage and living





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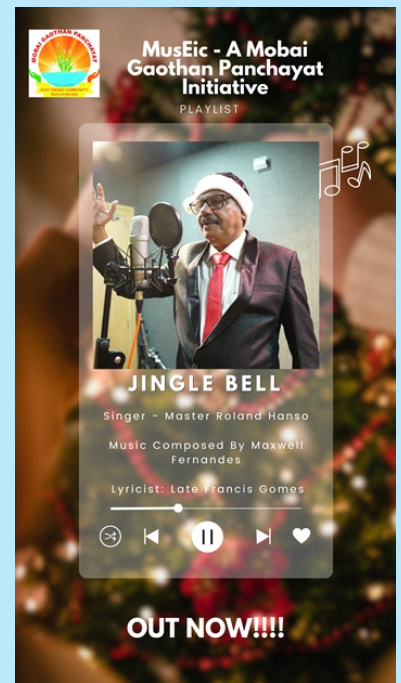
## The Announcement for the East Indian Community



### MusIEc's Christmas and Wedding Special Music Receives Rave Reviews After Release

In a momentous occasion, MusIEc, a Mobai Gaothan Panchayat Initiative, unveiled the studio version of their Christmas and wedding special music on Mee East Indian Channel's YouTube platform on January 21, 2023. The highly anticipated release has exceeded expectations, becoming a resounding success within a short span.

Featuring the soulful vocals of Master Roland Hanso, complemented by the masterful Music Production of Maxwell Fernandes and the enchanting Music Thesis by Master Valley Ferreira (Jesus Band - Uttan), the musical masterpiece has captured the hearts of listeners far and wide. The fusion of festive joy and wedding vibes has resonated with audiences, creating an unforgettable experience. The team at MusIEc expresses gratitude to their supporters and invites those who haven't tuned in to immerse themselves in the magic on Mee East Indian Channel's YouTube platform. The celebration of this musical triumph continues, marking a significant milestone for MusIEc and their community



### A Heartfelt Thank You for a Spectacular SKJ 2023!

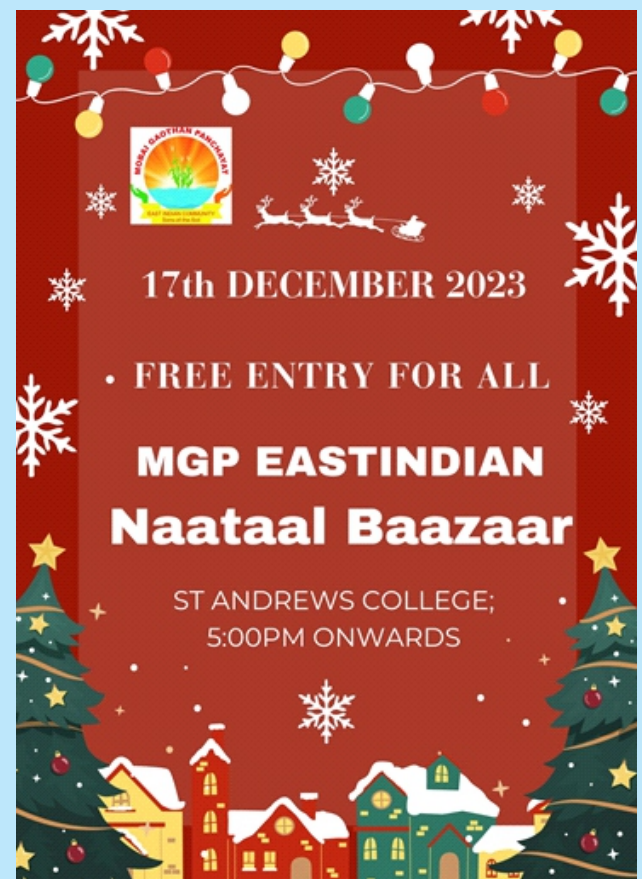
As the curtains fall on the Seventh Mega Christmas Festival, we extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who made this event a resounding success! To our incredibly creative participants who brought their A-game to the Crib and Display Competitions, your entries lit up the festival with joy and innovation. Your enthusiasm and dedication truly made SKJ 2023 a celebration to remember.

A special shoutout to our esteemed sponsors whose generous support illuminated every corner of our community. To every individual, family, and organization who stood by us and contributed to the festive spirit, thank you for making SKJ 2023 an extraordinary event. Your support fuels our commitment to unity, diversity, and the joy that community celebrations bring. Until next year, let the memories of SKJ 2023 continue to warm our hearts!

### MGP – NAATAAL BAAZAAR

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the incredible stall owners and cherished customers who turned this festive gathering into a resounding success. Your unwavering support and enthusiasm transformed the event into a vibrant celebration of East Indian culture, fostering a sense of community that will resonate for years to come. To our dedicated stall owners, your unique offerings and spirited displays brought the market to life, offering visitors an array of East Indian specialties and delightful finds. Your commitment to showcasing the essence of our culture truly made the Naataal Baazaar an unforgettable experience.

Equally, we want to express our deepest appreciation to the patrons and customers who graced the event with their presence. Your enthusiasm and patronage not only contributed to the success of individual stalls but also added to the overall festive atmosphere. It's heartening to witness such strong community support, and we look forward to building on this momentum in future events. Thank you for being an integral part of the East Indian Naataal Baazaar, and we can't wait to welcome you back for more joyous celebrations in the future!





## BECOME A STORYTELLING CONSULTANT IN 2024

In a world saturated with content, attention is more precious than ever. Businesses and organizations are scrambling to rise above the noise, but traditional marketing tactics often fall flat. Enter the storytelling consultant: a wordsmith with the power to weave narratives that captivate audiences and build lasting connections.

### Why Storytelling?

Storytelling isn't just for campfire nights. It's a fundamental human trait, hardwired into our brains to learn, understand, and remember. A compelling story taps into our emotions, builds empathy, and stays with us long after the last sentence is uttered.

### What Does a Storytelling Consultant Do?

A day in the life of a storytelling consultant can be as diverse as the stories they craft. Here's a glimpse into their world:

- **Listening:** Understanding the client's goals, values, and target audience is key.
- **Strategizing:** Developing a narrative arc that resonates with the audience and aligns with the client's objectives.
- **Crafting content:** This might involve writing website copy, blog posts, social media messages, video scripts, or even internal communications.

### Why Become a Storytelling Consultant?

- **Demand is soaring:** Businesses are hungry for authentic, emotional connections with their customers, and there's a growing demand for skilled storytellers to lead the way.
- **Creative freedom:** You get to play with words, explore different narratives, and see your imagination come to life through impactful storytelling.
- **Make a difference:** Your work can influence how people understand and interact with brands, communities, and even social issues.
- **Be your own boss:** Many storytelling consultants choose to freelance, offering flexibility and the ability to build a diverse clientele.

If you're a wordsmith with a passion for human connection, becoming a storytelling consultant could be your dream career. Hone your skills, build your portfolio, and start weaving magic with words. In 2024, the power of storytelling is stronger than ever, and the stage is yours to seize.



Here are some avenues to explore and equip yourself for this promising career path:

### Formal Education:

- **Master's in Communication:** Several universities offer Masters programs with specializations in Communication Management, Strategic Communication, or Corporate Communication. These programs often explore storytelling as a communication tool and can be a strong foundation.
- **Postgraduate Diploma in Content Writing:** Many institutes offer diploma programs specifically focused on content writing, often covering narrative writing, brand storytelling, and audience engagement.
- **Storytelling Bootcamps:** Various institutions and individuals conduct intensive bootcamps focused on the practical aspects of storytelling in business contexts. These workshops can help refine your skills and build a network.

### Online Resources:

- **Courses on Storytelling Platforms:** Platforms like Udemy, Coursera, and Skillshare offer a range of online courses on storytelling fundamentals, business storytelling, and even storytelling for specific industries.
- **Podcasts and Webinars:** Many industry experts and organizations host podcasts and webinars on storytelling for business. Tune in to learn from leading practitioners and stay updated on current trends.
- **Blogs and Articles:** Immerse yourself in the world of storytelling through blogs and articles by reputable consultants and thought leaders. Several Indian consultants like Deepa Agarwal and Shalini Lalwani offer valuable insights.

Storytelling Consultant salaries in India can vary significantly depending on several factors, including:

**Experience:** Entry-level consultants with less than 3 years of experience can expect an annual salary ranging from INR 3 lakhs to INR 6 lakhs. Mid-level consultants with 3-7 years of experience can earn between INR 6 lakhs to INR 12 lakhs. Senior consultants with 7+ years of experience and a proven track record can command salaries of INR 12 lakhs or higher.

**Location:** Major cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, and Hyderabad typically offer higher salaries compared to smaller towns.

**Education & Skills:** A relevant postgraduate degree or specialized certification in storytelling or communication can boost your earning potential. Strong writing skills, analytical thinking, audience understanding, and project management skills are also valued.

**Industry & Employer:** The industry you work in can also make a difference. Consulting firms, advertising agencies, and large corporations generally offer higher salaries compared to start-ups or non-profit organizations.

**Freelancing vs. Full-time:** Freelancers can potentially earn more than full-time employees if they secure high-paying projects and consistently build their client base. However, freelance income can be less stable, and you'll need to cover overhead costs like health insurance and retirement savings.



# MOBAI CHE HIREY

East Indian Stars







# EAST INDIAN PUNCH

The Mouthpiece of the Mobai Gaothan Panchayat



## **Renv Nako Konache Bharvasyaavar Aapun Jagu Aaple Himtivar East Indians Are Capable To Take Community Forward**

*Gleason Barretto, Old Kurla*

**C**reating a mindset that we can do things on our very own rather than stay dependent on political and religious authorities, should be our New Year's resolution. It's been more than a decade that we have been coordinating and following up for Indigenous People's rights and privileges for the East Indian Community but there has not been much success. Housing is the key community issue with increasing nuclear families and less space available. The Indigenous owners of the city are not allowed to build their houses vertically even for their personal use. A platform for affordable housing and finance facility for development of houses could be a key influencer to take our community forward. MGP will announce its plan for this platform soon. The coordination and reminders for Mumbai Bhumi Putra Policy and East Indian Samaj Archdiocese - EISA Policy will continue with regular follow-ups.

**A**ctivating our community on every front to witness an all-round development is the key to our growth. Education will play one of the most important role in giving us more visibility as a highly qualified community. Creating a base to create awareness about Education options and higher studies will benefit the community in a great way. Shikshan, MGPs education project will rope in advisors, counsellors and mentors to assist our community youngsters to opt for higher studies in India or Abroad. MGPs international team, IEICC will also give us inputs to support the community for studies abroad at well known universities.

**P**lanning strategies to make the community known across India and the world through our rich culture and tradition should take priority. Promotion and revival of East Indian Community and culture will be the main objective. Reetin Reevaaz, our culture and tradition projects will work on various aspects to ensure the revival and promotion are at their best across the community. A Calendar of all community based cultural practices and religious traditions will be listed with an action plan for revival and promotion for each of them.

**A**cquiring data of the community through a census or surveys, to capitalise on our community strengths and build on our weaknesses, will be an active and well coordinated initiative. MGP plans to create a Network that is strong and impactful across Gaothans, cities, states and across the globe. A new revised and attractive census and card scheme will be rolled out giving like-minded businesses an opportunity to join the network of thousands of community members.

**B**inding the East Indian Community in as many ways, to ensure a strong platform to raise and resolve our issues will be initiated. Social and Gaothan issues are increasing and there is an urgent need to raise these issues with the respective authorities. A multilevel approach will be created to raise and highlight the pressing issues to get an early resolution. MGP Team members will be directed to raise the local and generic issues on every platform to ensure maximum reach to the authorities to ensure faster resolution.

**L**inking all community businesses into a strong network to support each other and grow from strength to strength needs to be encouraged. Business is one area where the community needs to focus on enabling us to have more entrepreneurs. The East Indian community historically were entrepreneurs dealing in farm produce, salt, fish and many other skilled jobs. The community at large then developed a mindset for security to opt for salaried jobs. In recent times we see a marginal increase in Entrepreneurs but we need to encourage more to start their own businesses. An initiative to promote and mentor existing and new entrepreneurs with a strong support network base will be created soon.

**E**mpowering the community on all fronts is the key to see a vibrant East Indian Community. Multilevel strategy approach will need to be driven to witness an all round growth of the East Indian Community. Mobaikar Gaothan Store and self help group are two of our most promising projects to take our community to greater heights. A detailed empowerment plan will be drawn with timelines to help us review and strategise the next step basis best practises and prior success drivers. MGP takes up this challenging task with renewed passion to deliver its very best through and all round development strategy. We look forward to your prayers and support.



# EAST INDIAN MASALA

The Unique Mix for your Family



## MGP MAI BOLI CONTEST # 10

For School and College students Only

There are names of 12 East Indian Heritage items mentioned in the East Indian Calendar 2024 hidden in this Crossword.

Find them and send them to us at [eastindianvoice@gmail.com](mailto:eastindianvoice@gmail.com) by 15th February 2024.

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

Q V M Y I Q Z L B S F L A P R  
V M O R L I Z Y L R V E T O D  
M Y D R E K L A P W F T A T Q  
G O G T Z G A P J I A R W H J  
G M D N A B S S A R B I R A O  
A L A S A M E L T T O B A Q P  
R I U J L F U A U B F N V T Q  
A Y R G U K C H R T N K I G H  
U S X G R F M X G Z G Q N T N  
K F I Z G A K Z N N T I A S W  
G A H X S W Q H A U Y U A V M  
S F T H B E V C I K S D T G V  
C K L B Q R U F C M F U A C Z  
I I I T H H G Y G Y A S A R M  
J U C C D A L C U V Y D P E X

500g mince chicken

ingredients

2 medium size onions chopped fine  
1 boiled potato smashed  
8 flakes garlic minced  
small piece of ginger  
6 light green chillies  
1/2 turmeric  
1tsp garam masala  
1tbsp lime juice  
2 bread slice grind dry in the mixie  
1 egg beaten  
coriander/ mint leaves chopped  
rawa

Method

cook mince separately and keep aside.

Heat oil add onion cook till transparent, now add the ginger, garlic, ginger cook till done. Add the cooked mince to it mix well add turmeric powder, garam masala, salt, chopped coriander mint leaves, the slice bread that is ground, lime juice. salt. Cool the mixture and grind to a fine paste (optional) if you wish to.

Take a spoonful n shape into cylindrical rolls or as you wish. chill for 15mnts. later dip the rolls in egg and roll in rawa or bread crumbs. Deep fry till done.



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	₹	₹	₹	₹
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Full Page	6000	17100 (5700)	32400 (5400)	57600 (4800)
Half Page	3500	9975 (3325)	18900 (3150)	33600 (2800)
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For bookings or more details contact 9820087771/9930229742





# GAOTHAN ADS VILLA

The Village Advertisement Space



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Amarylisa Gonsalves - Juhu  
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Joulyn Kenny - Worli  
June Miranda - Vakola

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EAST INDIAN DIALECT ADVISORS  
Russel Gonsalves - Versova  
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### CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

Mobai Gaothan Panchayat  
C/o Alphi Dsouza A 601,  
Krishna Towers, Vakola Village,  
Santacruz (East), Mumbai - 55

### E-MAIL

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## AN APPEAL

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 is likely to be inaugurated in the year 2023.
- \*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.



#### Bank details:

Account Name : ST GONSALO GARCIA CHAPEL  
Bank Name : Bassein Catholic Coop Bank, Kalina Branch  
Account type : Savings  
A/C No : 032100100000792  
IFSC Code : BACB0000032

Cheques favouring  
**"ST GONSALO GARCIA CHAPEL"**  
can be couriered at  
Mobai Gaothan Panchayat,  
C/o Alphi Dsouza,  
A 601 Krishna Towers,  
Vakola Village,  
Santacruz East,  
Mumbai - 400 055.

For more details or to support contact  
9820087771/9820545302  
MGP - Promoting Native Devotions



**A MGP Project**





Cover page - MGP Team Photo if any - photo on self sustainab  
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3 - Heritage item of the month - Marylisa  
4 - Reetin Reeveaz - upcoming feasts - Amarylisa  
5 - MGP In the News - joulyn  
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9 - East Indian Punch - cover write up - Gleason  
10 - East Indian Masala - Amarylisa/ Sybil  
11- ads villa - same  
12 - chapel advt - Same