

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



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Mobile - 9820087771

Public Trust Registration No: F-57349(MUMBAI)



Uplifting the Village Community

21 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

**SUPPORT  
MGP**



GAOTHAN VOICE JANUARY 2025

Vol:GV 01/25

For Private circulation only

**One Vision !**

www.mobaikar.in

**One Voice !**

The East Indian Magazine

**One Village !**

Email: eastindianvoice@gmail.com

## BHASHA REETI ANI REEVAAZ ASTITVA VALAKH ANI ITIYAAZ

Language \* Culture \* Tradition \* Heritage \* History \* Existence \* Identity



### 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- \*Beneficiary names will not be published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**

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

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## MGP ANDHERI WEST TEAM CONGRATULATES MLA AMEET SATAM FOR HIS HATTRICK WIN



Mobai Gaothan Panchayat - Andheri West Team met MLA Ameet Satam to congratulate him on his win.

MGP will schedule a special meeting to decide the way forward for the East Indian Community and Gaothans

## EICA REVIEW

SaCha's TheraSpice and GHA are proud to have played a small role in enabling the Mobai Gaothan Panchayat felicitate Mr Conroy Remedios - East Indian Sportsman of the Year 2024 and Mr Samir D'Monte, East Indian of the Year 2024!!!



There are so many simple yet meaningful ways to give back to your community and begin your journey of positive impacts.

Find a cause you believe in, donate today and stay blessed with good health...always!!!



**East Indian Jeweller of the Year 2024 - Bhairav Jewellers**  
MGPs Gleason Barretto presenting the award to Lokesh Doshi at his jewellery store at Kalina

## MGPS MAHASARPANCH MEETS BISHOP OF VASAI

Bishop Thomas D'Souza, Bishop of Vasai was presented the East Indian Calendar 2025 by our MahaSarpanch James Fernandes. James met the Bishop of Vasai along with Bonny D'Souza.



As we at MGP get set to connect with the 2 news Clergy Heads of Bombay and Vasai Diocese we look forward to their support and prayers. MGP will always work towards promotion & preservation of East Indian Community Language, Culture, Tradition, Heritage, History, Existence and Identity.

The East Indian Community needs to be given its basic importance and respect as Indigenous People of the Diocese.

## GARAJ & MGP JUHU UNIT ORGANISES CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY



- \*The Children's Christmas Party was held in Juhu Gaothan no.2 on Thursday 26th December at 6pm
- \*Highlights were the magic show and gifts for all 300+ children present
- \*The entire event was led and organised by the Darryl Gonsalves, Sarpanch of Juhu Gaothan no.2
- \*The main sponsor of the event was MLA Ameet Satam
- \*Special thanks to all our sponsors for the event

MGP thanks all those who supported us at the event -

Elroy Bugree, Gleason Barretto, Collin Gonsalves, Claudia Pereira, Virginia Gonsalves, Dianne Gonsalves, Lyanne Gonsalves & Shiv Mourya.



# EAST INDIAN CALENDAR

The Official Calendar of the East Indian Community



## EAST INDIAN CALENDAR 2025

100+ Gaothans! 10+ Nations! One East Indian Community!

### Top 5 Highlights

1. MGPs Annual Community Calendar plans to reach out to 120 Gaothans and 15 Nations this year
2. The Calendar theme this year with a specially designed cover page is - "Origins of East Indian Music and Way Forward" with a brief on each of the monthly Music theme topics
3. 12 exclusive East Indian or fusion recipes by renowned Chefs and Home chefs across the world
4. East Indian community special days marked in calendar for easy reference
5. A free community classifieds page added for the very first time to promote community businesses and culture

**Ideator & Strategist** - Gleason Barretto, Old Kurla

**Planning & Administration** - Alphi Dsouza, Vakola

**Chief Coordinator** - Jamaica Dlima, Marve

**Design Consultant & Assistant Editor** - Anora Coutinho, Germany

**Media Coordinator** - Sherline Barretto, Sion

**Recipe Coordinator** - Zenobia Gracias, Rathodi

**Special Dates Coordinator** - Belmira Miranda, Vakola

**Layout and Design** - Shiv Mourya, Juhu - 9930558808

**Logistics** - Vicky Misquitta, Mankhurd & Royston Jacinto, Vakola

**Cover Design** - Chrysologus Dmello, Vasai

**Print Media Partner** - Mid-day Infomedia Ltd

### CALENDAR TEAM

Alphi Dsouza, Vakola  
Anora Coutinho, Germany  
Belmira Miranda, Vakola  
Christina Carlos, Chembur  
Corina Misquitta, Parle  
Elroy Bugree, Juhu  
Gleason Barretto, Old Kurla  
Jamaica Dlima, Marve  
Joulyn Kenny, Worli  
Sherline Barretto, Sion  
Sybil Rodrigues, Kalina  
Walter Murzello, Orlem  
Zenobia Gracias, Rathodi

### Music Theme Advisors

Hyacinth D'Souza - Santacruz  
Ashley Quinney - Kalina  
Sydney Pereira - Kurla  
Russel Dmello - Kirol  
Russel Gonsalves - Versova

Special thanks from MGP to all in our Calendar team



## EAST INDIAN CALENDAR 2026

Those who wish to be a part of the project please confirm with us on 9820545302.

### East Indian Calendar 2026 - Support Team

Job list - Support Needed

#### Overall Coordinator

Will do the overall coordination and management of this project, will chip in wherever required

#### Photo Coordinator

Will collate all photos and source photos wherever required

#### Cover design

Will design the calendar cover page

#### Layout and design

Will design all the monthly pages

**Recipe Coordinator** Will co-ordinate for all recipes required

**Sponsor Coordinator** Will promote sponsors and ensure all collectiona done

#### Print coordinator

Will co-ordinate with printer for printing and timely release

#### Page info Coordinator

Will source info for each calendar page

#### Special dates coordinator

Will collate and share all special dates for the East Indian Calendar to be marked for East reference

**Free Classifieds Coordinator** Will collate details and share with designer for layout

#### Distribution Coordinator

Will plan the distribution to ensure maximum reach before year end





# MGP FOCUS 2025

Taking Our Community To Greater Heights



## MGP ACTIVITY CALENDAR 2025

### Generic activities

East Indian Baazaar - theme based  
Gaothan Voice - Monthly

### January

Maharashtra Catholic Marathi Basha  
Sanmelan

### February

St Gonsalo Garcia Day

### March

Introze  
East Indian Conclave  
Kaka Baptista Jayanthi  
MGP Foundation Day

### April

East Indian Food Festival  
East Indian Music Awards

### May

Gaothan Games  
East Indian Sola  
East Indian Baazaar  
Holy Cross Day

### June

Mothi Ladin  
San Jao Cha Sann

### July

East Indian Rally  
MGP Annual Offsite

### August

Bhumiputra Dis - World Indigenous People  
Day  
Mot Mauli Gaothan Yatra

### September

Mot Mauli Purcessao  
Kaka Baptista Memorial Day

### October

Agera  
East Indian Community Awards - EICA 2025

### November

East Indian Calendar 2026 Release

### December

Sarvajanik Krist Janmotsav  
MGP Annual Christmas Raffle Draw

For suggestions, feedback, details,  
participation, support or sponsorship you may  
whatsapp 9820545302



## East Indian Golden Raffle 2024

# Golden Raffle Result

# Congratulations

## WINNERS

**1st Prize - 5 gms gold coin**  
**Bano Z (Rathodi) (Ticket No. 0536)**

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**2nd prize - 2 gms gold coin - Sponsored by Joel Dsilva**  
**Radha Malkari (Kalina) (Ticket No. 1335)**

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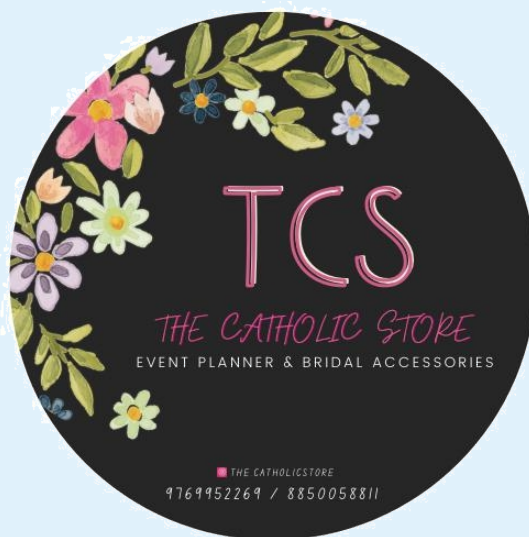
**3rd prize - 1 gms gold coin - Sponsored by Joel Dsilva**  
**Henry D'Souza (Kirol) (Ticket No. 1528)**

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## CONSOLATION PRIZES

**Amazon Gift Voucher @Rs. 2000/- each -**  
**Sponsored by Melvin Fonseca**

- 1. Neil D (Rathodi) (Tic. No. 0413)**
- 2. Trevor Fonseca (Kandivali E) (Tic. No. 0561)**
- 3. Valerian (Pali) (Tic. No. 1236)**
- 4. Pierson Almeida (Oshiwara) (Tic. No. 1545)**
- 5. James Fernandes (Bhoiwada) (Tic. No. 0110)**
- 6. Ayush Ingle (Dahisar - E) (Tic. No. 0946)**
- 7. Sydney Moraes (Naigaon) (Tic. No. 1260)**
- 8. Mevryn D'souza (Rathodi) (Tic. No. 0456)**
- 9. Neil D. (Rathodi) (Tic. No. 0414)**
- 10. Fiona Fernandes (Vakola) (Tic. No. 0167)**



## East Indian Brass Bands

**St Blaise Band, Parle -**  
**Navy Master - 81085 34750**

**Sr Francis Xaviers Band, Kanjur**  
**Joseph Master - 98691 29760**

**Valentine Music Makers, Kirol**  
**Russel Master - 98202 74523**





# EAST INDIAN CALENDAR 2025

On Every Wall of an East Indian Hall



## Reaching Out Across Gaothans And The Globe

**15 Nations ! 133 Gaothans! One East Indian Calendar!**

### NATIONS

Australia  
Bahrain  
Belgium  
Canada  
England  
Germany  
KSA  
New Zealand  
Qatar  
Scotland  
Singapore  
Switzerland  
UAE  
USA  
Oman

### GAOTHANS

Acton - Vasai  
Agashi - Virar  
Agarwada - Sion  
Amboli - Andheri  
Andheri - Andheri  
Aldea - Uttan  
Bamanpuri - Andheri  
Bamanwada - Sahar  
Bangli Village - Vasai  
Bazar Road - Bandra  
Bhandarwada - Gorai  
Bhandarwada - Sion  
Bhatia - Uttan  
Big Carpentry - Vasai  
Big Giriz - Vasai  
Bhoiwada - Parel  
Chakala - Andheri  
Chapel Road - Bandra  
Chimbai - Bandra  
Chincholi - Malad  
Church pakhadi - Gorai

Church pakhadi - Sahar  
Cherai - Thane  
Chowk - Uttan  
Cross Garden - Bhayendar  
Culbavor - Kurla  
Culvem - Gorai  
Dahisar - Dahisar  
Dharavi - Dharavi  
Dadar - Dadar  
Dsouza Wadi - Thane  
Dongri - Uttan  
Ghodbandar - Ghodbandar  
Gomes Street - Bhayendar  
Eksar - Poisar  
Gundavli - Andheri  
Golibar - Santacruz  
Govandi - Mankhurd  
Halawar pakhadi - Gorai  
Hall Village - Kurla  
Juhipada - Gorai  
Juhu Gauthan No.2 - Juhu  
Juhu Gauthan No.3 - Juhu  
Kandivali - Gaothan  
Kantwadi - Bandra  
Kashegaon - Kashimira  
Kevni - Amboli  
Kelve - Palghar  
Khajori wadi - Uttan  
khallai - Kirol  
Kharodi - Malad  
Khotachiwadi - Khotachiwadi  
Killabundar - Vasai  
Kirol - Kirol  
K Villa - Thane  
Koldongri - Andheri  
Koliwada - Manori  
Kolovery - Kalina  
Kolbad - Thane

Kondita - Marol  
Korlai - Raigad  
Kumbharwada - Vasai  
Kumbharwada - Virar  
Lepora Street - Bhayendar  
Lower Koliwada - Gorai  
Lower Pakhadi - Kanjur  
Laxmi Baug - Sion  
Mangla - Virar  
Marouli - Chembur  
Madh Christian village - Madh  
Malad - Malad  
Malavni - Malad  
Mandli Street - Bhayendar  
Manickpur - Vasai  
Mandpeshwar - Borivali  
Marouli - Chembur  
Marol - Andheri  
Majiwada - Thane  
Marve - Malad  
Matharpacady - Mazgaon  
Mota Gaon - Kalina  
Mota Gaon - Uttan  
Muddhan pakhadi - Gorai  
Mulgaon - Vasai  
Mahim - Mahim  
Manickpur - Vasai  
Mankhurd - Mankhurd  
Naigaon - Naigaon  
Naupada - Kurla  
Naupada - Thane  
Navghar - Uttan  
New Giriz - Vasai  
Old khar - Khar  
Old Kurla - Kurla  
Oshiwara - Oshiwara  
Pakhadi - Parle  
Palghar - Palghar

Pali - Naigaon  
Palli - Bandra  
Pali - Uttan  
Panchghar - Manori  
Papdy Village - Vasai  
Parle - Parle  
Poinsur - Kandivali  
Pond - ParleRabodi - Thane  
Raigad - Korlai  
Ranwar - Bandra  
Remedy - Vasai  
Rathodi - Malavni  
Saphale - Palghar  
Sahargaon - Sahar  
Santacruz - Santacruz  
Sandor - Vasai  
Satmai - Vasai  
Shepali Pakhadi - Gorai  
Shire - Uttan  
Small Carpentry - Vasai  
Small Giriz - Vasai  
Suttar Pakhadi - Sahar  
Tape - Andheri  
Talzen Mulzen Pakhadi - Gorai  
Tank Pakhadi - Sahar  
Ulwe - Navi Mumbai  
Upper koliwada - Gorai  
Upper Pakhadi - Kanjur  
Uran - Navi Mumbai  
Vairala pakhadi - Gorai  
Vakola - Vakola  
Vikhroli - Vikhroli  
Valnai (Orlem) - Malad  
Versova - Versova  
Worli - Worli



# MGP IN THE NEWS

Exclusive News Coverage



EAST INDIAN COMMUNITY

## MGP in the NEWS - Free Press Journal Monday, 2nd December 2024 - Page 2

### Mumbai's East Indians honoured

FPJ News Service  
MUMBAI

Mumbai's East Indians held the 14th edition of their community awards, honouring 42 people for their contribution to various fields.

The top award of the 'East Indian of the Year 2024' was given to Samir D'Monte, founder of SDM Architects, a Mumbai-based architect celebrated for sustainable and community-centric projects.

The 'East Indian Principal of the Year' was presented to Father Magi Murzella, rector of St Andrew's College and principal of St Andrew's School. The 'East Indian Heritage Church of the Year' was given to Our Lady of Grace Cathedral in Papdy, Vasai, built in 1965, for its beautiful restoration. Chrison Shannon Kinny, an assistant teacher at St Mary's High School in Kalina, an award-winner teachers, received the 'East Indian Educationist of the Year'. Conroy Remedios, a superintendent at Mumbai Customs and a Dronacharya Award winner was given the 'East Indian Sportsman of the Year'.

### East Indian Community Awards - EiCA 2024

MGP Presented 42 Community Awards at the Grand Ceremony

Mobai Gaothan Panchayat organised its 14th East Indian Community Awards ceremony on Friday 29th November 2024 at Marshal Lawns, a sea facing venue at Aksa

Awards were presented for various categories like Education, Profession, Religious, Entrepreneurship, Social service and Event organisers. Jesus Band based at Uttan performed LIVE and there was also a Special East Indian Dinner served by Psychedelic Caterers.

The nominations for EICA 2025 are now open. You can even self nominate or refer any of your community friends or relatives. Send us their profile at [mgpmobai@gmail.com](mailto:mgpmobai@gmail.com)

## MGP in the NEWS - Times of India Online Tuesday, 3rd December 2024

### East Indian Community Awards - EiCA 2024

MGP Presented 42 Community Awards at the Grand Ceremony

Mobai Gaothan Panchayat organised its 14th East Indian Community Awards ceremony on Friday 29th November 2024 at Marshal Lawns, a sea facing venue at Aksa

Awards were presented for various categories like Education, Profession, Religious, Entrepreneurship, Social service and Event organisers.



(Image credits: Insta/ @mobagaathanpanchayat)

Mobai Gaothan Panchayat distributes awards to East Indian achievers

The Times of India

3rd Dec, 24 2:03 PM

BELLA JASINGHANI, TNN & CITY

MUMBAI: An association named Mobai Gaothan Panchayat (MGP) organised its 14th East Indian Community Awards ceremony at Aksa, Malad, on November 29. Categories included education,

## MGP in the NEWS - Midday

Tuesday, 31st December 2024

Perfect Way to End the Year 2024

### East Indian Calendar 2025

120 Gaothans! 15 Nations! One East Indian Community!

The Official Calendar of the East Indian Community

Every East Indian Home should place the calendar on their walls

\*Copies are available with most of our team members

\*Complimentary copies to MGP Donor members and supporters

\*Associations can book bulk copies at a special discount for their members

\*Calendar available at Irla Church Religious Stall and Kurla Newspaper Stall

\*To advertise in the 2026 Calendar edition please contact 9820545302 ASAP as limited space available

Calendar team members featured - Jamaica Dlima, Chief Coordinator and Chrysologus Dmello, Cover page Designer

MGP Team thanks all journalists who have covered MGP Projects and Initiatives in the year 2024 from various newspapers for their support and coverage - Midday, Free Press Journal, The Times of India, Hindustan Times, The Hindu and Indian Express.

## MGP in the NEWS - Midday Saturday, 28th December 2024

### Sarvajani Krist Janmotsav MGPs Christmas Competitions

- \*National Church Crib Competition
- \*Maharashtra Outdoor Crib Competition
- \*Gaothan Crib Competition
- \*Gaothan Decoration Competition
- \*Christmas Display Competition



## MGP in the NEWS - The Hindu Saturday, 21st December 2024



### East Indians Traditional Christmas Celebration

An article on how East Indians traditionally celebrate Christmas

With modernisation some traditions seem to be forgotten or

toned down. Time to revive our rich East Indian Christmas traditions

Congratulations to Franco Patil for being covered in this article. Franco is the MGP Project Coordinator and is a part of the MGPs MusElc Project

### Save a date with the East Indians

Listening to an East Indian tune or savouring one of the community's many delicacies are experiences that might be hard to forget. But the Santacruz-based Mobai Gaothan Panchayat is leaving no stone unturned in preserving these memories with the 2025 edition of The East Indian Calendar, dedicated to spotlighting these unique aspects of the culture. The theme for the new calendar is the origins of East Indian music and the way forward, marked by artist Chrysologus Dmello's illustrations of instruments including the ghumat (an age-old EI percussion instrument) on the cover. "Beyond the theme, one can also find lesser-known recipes from East Indian homes, and important dates such as Joseph 'Kaka' Baptista's (an activist and contemporary of Lokmanya Tilak) birth anniversary. This year we aim to take the calendar to 15 countries around the world," said chief co-ordinator Jamaica D'Lima. Those interested in getting their hands on the calendar can log on to [mobaigaathanpanchayat](mailto:mobaigaathanpanchayat).



A digital preview of the East Indian Calendar





# MGP NOTICE BOARD

## The Announcement for the East Indian Community



### MGP TEAM FOCUS 2025

East Indian New Year 2025 - Language \* Culture \*  
Tradition\* Heritage \* History\* Existence \* Identity

As we step in the Year 2025 it's time to review the past year 2024 and focus on what we need to do next to move forward and see our community grow.

Some of the immediate Focus Points and Immediate Actionables are mentioned below -

**Ek Project Ek Naav** - MGP team member will lead only one of the 50+ projects to manage them better and efficiently.

**East Indian CabElnet** : the initiative launched last year will be reviewed and team members are welcome to choose a unit of choice, continue with the same or take a sabbatical

**Language Promotion** - launch of initiatives to promote the Maharashtra State language, Marathi and the community dialect, East Indian will be one of this year's core objective.

**Finance Plan** - multiple projects and initiatives involve huge costs and efforts to generate funds will be brainstormed with active support of team members.

**Core Projects Plan** - a few projects will be short listed as core projects to be driven this year

**Active Participation** - with 50+ projects we look forward to team members time and involvement to enable MGPs smooth functioning

Wishing you all a Very Happy New Year. Looking forward to your continuous Support and Prayers. To be a part of MGP Team and projects as Advisors, Active Coordinators or Support Team whatsapp us on 9820545302

Rgds  
Gleason Barretto  
MGP Projects - Policy & Strategy

### Gaothan Voice - Support Team

Join our Team - Let's Write Together  
Inviting Writers, Homemakers, Students, Senior's and more..

The Year 2025 will see a New Look Gaothan Voice gearing up to be the East Indian Family Magazine

Job list

**Overall Coordinator** - to coordinator with the larger team to ensure timely release

**Editorial team member** - a write up atleast once a quarter. The write up will be featured basis theme

**Edits Coordinator** - support to edit all write ups to be featured in GV

**Content collection manager** - Sourcing content from existing books to be featured in various regular pages

**Special page managers** - to manage any of these pages like East Indian Masala, Interviews, Career & Education, News, Music

**Event listing Coordinator** - to collate all events across the East Indian scene

**Advertisement manager** - to connect for advertisement and maintain data-follow up on packages

**Contests coordinator** - to run contests and announce winners

**Finance Manager** - to manage the financials for GV

**Postage Coordinator** - to manage the post of GV to subscribers and donors

**Mailing list Coordinator** - to maintain mail and well as email list

**Photo Coordinator** - collate and finalise the photos and illustrations to be covered

Let's make the Gaothan Voice a truly East Indian Magazine

To join Gaothan Voice Team whatsapp on  
9820545302 or email us at  
eastindianvoice@gmail.com



# EAST INDIAN SANN 2025

MGP Annual East Indian Community Festival



The Annual East Indian Community Festival has 4 Events as mentioned below:

Sr. No.	Event Name	Place	Place	Time
1	East Indian Food Festival & Music Awards	St Andrew's Quadrangle, Bandra	26 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	5.00 pm to 10.00 pm
2	Gaothan Games	St Andrew's School Grounds, Bandra	04 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	06.00 pm onwards
3	East Indian Sola	Kaka Baptista East Indian Museum, Manori	18 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	09.30 am onwards
4	East Indian Day	St Andrew's School Entrance, Bandra	24 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	05.00 am to 9.00 pm

The Sponsor Rates for East Indian Sann 2024 are as follows:

**Title Sponsor – Rs. 2,00,000/-**

Special Banner, common banner, social media, special invite

**Associate Sponsor – Rs. 1,00,000/-**

Special Banner, common banner, social media, special invite

**Gold Sponsor – Rs. 50,000/-**

Common banner, social media, special invite

**Silver Sponsor – Rs. 25,000/-**

Common banner, social media

**Bronze Sponsor – Rs. 10,000/-**

Common banner, social media

\*We invite your support in the form of Sponsorships, Advertisements or Donations for our Festival and around 50 Community Projects.

\*You can also be a Sponsor in Kind by being our Annual Festival Partner for various requirements like Banners, Trophies, Stall kiosks, Jerseys, Decorators, Merchandise, LED Screen, Stage, Lights, Contest prizes, Table & Chairs, Sound system, Video & Photography, Water, Refreshments, etc.....

\*Cheques to be drawn in favor of 'Mobai Gaothan Panchayat'

You may mail it to us at our office address or call us to arrange for a pick up.

For Sponsorship/details you may contact 9820087771

MGP also plans to organise multiple events in association with other groups & businesses during the annual festival months

\*We thank you for your support in the past. This is a generic appeal sent to all our supporters to update on our planned events. If possible, do support

\*Please Sponsor only if you are convinced that MGP Projects has been of great help to the East Indian Community.



**For electronic funds transfer the Bank account details are:**

**Account Name - Mobai Gaothan Panchayat**

**Bank name - Bassein Catholic Co-operative Bank Ltd**

**Branch - Kalina**

**Savings Account number – 032100100000791**

**IFSC code - BACB0000032**



**MGP - Aaplaa Gaav! Aapla Sann!**





# EAST INDIAN PUNCH

The Mouthpiece of the Mobai Gaothan Panchayat



## BHASHA REETI ANI REEVAAZ ASTITVA VALAKH ANI ITIYAAZ

Language \* Culture \* Tradition \* Heritage \* History \* Existence \* Identity

*Gleason Barretto, Old Kurla*

**LANGUAGE** is at an all-time low and while we may blame the authorities around us, we need to blame ourselves too. An agenda was in place to sideline the state language Marathi by a section of migrants and the religious and they succeeded to a great extent. The Goa Exposition clearly showed their overconfidence to trample upon a community which humbly accepted them in Maharashtra. Additionally, we have received reports of Parishes wherein the Marathi services are being sidelined, toned down or stopped. MGP is trying to create a network amongst like-minded community members who want to promote Marathi language. MGP is finalising a Language Promotion Plan on a State, Archdiocesan, Deanery and Parish level. A meeting to take this agenda forward is being planned.

**CULTURE** has seen an encouraging upward trend in the last more than a decade. The East Indian Wedding now sees a trend wherein all customs are followed. Those abroad have realised the importance of culture and are doing their bit to promote on a global level. Efforts are being made to practice cultural aspects in detail. Religious aspects also see an increased interest as they relate to our strong spiritual beliefs. The revival of the East Indian Luga has been impressive and any family or community celebration is incomplete with the colourful outfits. East Indian food remains unique in its own way with our best community offering in the form of the Bottle Masala.

**TRADITION** revival has been taken seriously by the young and the old alike. The community celebrations and religious practices have been followed by generations, now sees an increased interest amongst our people. Agera, the harvest festival which was being forgotten about a decade ago has seen a great revival across villages and parishes. Papiya singing is slowly growing and so is the San Jao feast. The village festivals of Erangal, Kashimira, Vandar and Manesar continues to be celebrated in the traditional East Indian Way for over a century. Promotion of East Indian music through regular Singing Competitions has continued for over a decade, and all credit goes to our local Community Groups.

**HERITAGE** needs to be preserved and restored which is one of the most important and critical need of today. Some of our community groups and activists are doing their very best to preserve our heritage especially houses and religious spaces. MGPs village themed projects will focus on preserving and restoring heritage Churches, religious spaces, houses and other related areas. We may also create our own research and heritage themed authority to ensure protection and restoration of our community structures and spaces of great significance to the East Indians.

**HISTORY** of our community has been rich, but the awareness seems to be poor. A team will be set up to initiate research and create awareness about the rich history of our community. The historical research will be mostly on the community and village level. MGPs social media team will also finalise a plan to promote our community history. Tie-ups with historical tour companies to drive this perspective will also be worked out. Historians, experts and students who can support this plan and activities will be invited to take forward this project. The ultimate objective will be to drive home the strong historical connect to the East Indian Community amongst migrants, government authorities, religious heads and political leaders

**EXISTENCE** of our community needs to be publicised and published across the length and breadth of Maharashtra State, our country India and across the world. We, as a community, have not taken this seriously and its high time we drive this point into the mindsets if all around us. It's because of the existence of the East Indian Community that Mumbai stands tall as the financial capital of India. The blood and sweat of the East Indian Community as Indigenous People of Mumbai cannot and should not be ignored. Leaders need to understand and recognise that Mumbai stands today due to the existence and contribution of the East Indian Community.

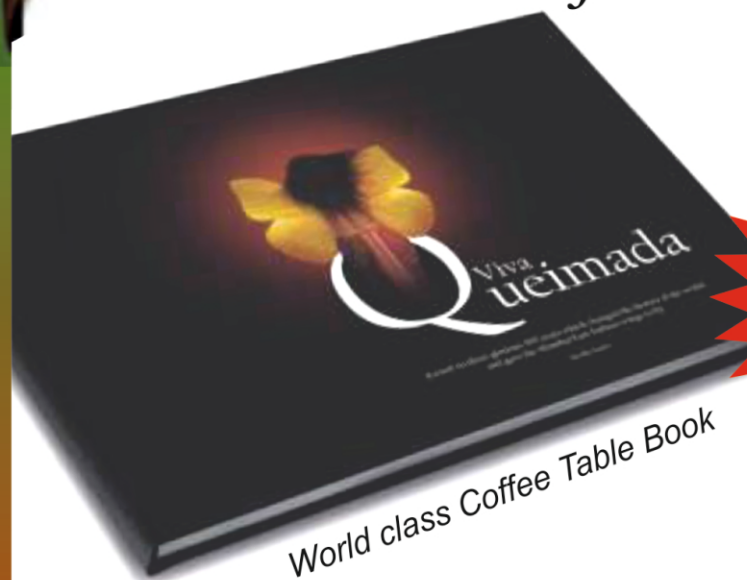
**IDENTITY** seems to be lost with the influx and influence of the migrants in Mumbai Metropolitan Region. Identity of the East Indian Community has not been known widely due to lack of promotion and communication to the Mumbaikars in general. There seems to be an identity crisis as authorities have identified only a section of a community as Mumbai's Indigenous People or Bhumiputras. One well-known historian rightly raised it about a month ago that if Kolis were the only Indigenous People, who did they sell their fish to. He goes on to explain that the Portuguese converted Catholics across Mumbai mostly Agris, Bhandaris Kunbis and Kolis together called themselves East Indians. The Bhumiputra East Indian Samaj took this name to differentiate themselves from migrants from other cities and states.

Mobai Gaothan Panchayat Focus 2025 is specifically on all these pointers, and if we get all round support, the East Indian Community is surely going to have a lasting impression on Mumbaikars. We appeal to all like-minded community members to support and pray as we take this important and much needed challenge forward.



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# GAOTHAN ADS VILLA

The Village Advertisement Space



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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 Fund generation will be actively initiated once the land is purchased or donated
- \*The Chapel is likely to be inaugurated in the 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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