

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



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Public Trust Registration No: F-57349(MUMBAI)



Uplifting the Village Community

VOICE

गावठण वाईस्

20 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

GAOTHAN VOICE SEPTEMBER 2023

Vol:GV 09/23

For Private circulation only

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The East Indian Magazine

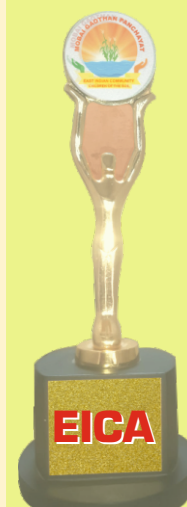
One Village !

Email: eastindianvoice@gmail.com

**EAST INDIAN BHUMIPUTRA MOBAICHI SHAAN
AAISA AAPLE SAMAJALA MILLAA MAAN
Bombay Archdiocese Takes First Big Step**



**Mobai Gaothan Panchayat
Presents**



**East
Indian
Community
Awards
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Date : Saturday, 7th October

Time - 7:30 pm onwards

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THE FIRST INDIGENOUS PEOPLE DAY CELEBRATION

Date : 15th August 2023

Venue : St. Michael Church Auditorium, Mahim

Presided by - Cardinal Oswald Gracias

Bishop in Charge - Bishop Allwyn Dsilva

Priest in Charge - Fr. Leslie Malya





Mumbai Bhumi Putra Policy

The Rights of the Indigenous People



Drafted by - Gleason Barretto

HOUSING

- *Housing Quota on MHADA projects for East Indians
- *A Special Bhumi Putra Housing Scheme to be initiated
- *Gaothan expansion policy to be implemented by allotting lands towards East Indian community housing projects in lieu of land unavailable around gaothans

INFRA COMPENSATION

The community lands were taken away under various laws like Land Acquisition Act, Land to tiller Act, Urban Land Ceiling Act and the original owners were never compensated. These lands which were taken for infra projects are now today converted to commercial projects hence a compensation for these need to be given especially for the below mentioned projects which are on lands with East Indians as original owners

- *Sahar International Airport and Santacruz Domestic Airport
- *Bandra Kurla Complex
- *Kalina University
- *Aarey
- *Railways
- *Juhu Aerodrome

TAX

- The East Indians as Indigenous People should not be taxed
- *No Municipal Property and Water Tax for all houses in the Gaothans owned before 1960
- *Electricity with a special scheme basis consumption where those upto a specific consumption get it for free

CULTURE PROMOTION

- *East Indian Bhavan in Bombay-Thane-Vasai and Raigad
- *Special permissions for time limit to be given for Umbrachapani and Christmas midnight mass
- *Space to be allotted for Community Centre at each East Indian Gaothan
- Self government

CASTE CERTIFICATE

- *Simplified OBC certificate process for East Indian Community
- *East Indian Community to be granted Schedule Tribe Status

JOBS

- *Special job reservations for East Indian community in public and private corporates
- *Local tourism projects to be allotted only to Indigenous People
- *Infra projects on East Indian owned lands like Airport and Railways to have a quota for jobs to Bhumi Putras

BUSINESS

- *East Indian Food stalls to be approved for each Municipal ward
- *All mega infra projects like Airports and Railways should allot special stalls to promote East Indian food specialty and handicrafts
- *Each Metro station should have stalls earmarked for promotion East Indian food and handicrafts

REPRESENTATION

- *East Indian Representative to be appointed with Special representation in Maharashtra State on behalf of the Sons-of-Soil community
- *East Indian Municipal Corporator to be nominated to represent the city basis elections amongst the East Indian Community
- *Local community association heads to be authorised to suggest Gaothan civic projects

RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

- *Regular special trains to be started from Bombay to Velankanni twice a week
- *Special Tour subsidies for Travel to Holy Places and Pilgrimage Shrines
- *Regularisation of all Holy Crosses in the East Indian gaothans and their vicinity

TOURISM

- *Manori-Gorai-Uttan Tourism Plan and Bridge Project to be scrapped and locals to be allowed to set up their local tourism businesses
- *All tourism related projects should have an East Indian connect in the form of cultural centre, food stalls, handicraft shops and community theme centres

LANGUAGE AND DIALECT

- *The East Indian Dialect to be recognised by the Central and State Government

COMMUNITY WELFARE

- *An East Indian Community welfare fund to be instituted through funds allocated from land income on East Indian owned acquired lands like airport, BKC, University, industrial and infrastructure projects

HISTORY

- *East Indians Day to be observed and recognised by the Government
- *All mega projects like Airports, Metro and Railways should mention History of the city and the local area
- *All Gaothans to mention the local history at its entrances
- *Metro and Railway Stations should also mention the original local names along with a brief history

GAOTHANS AND HERITAGE

- *Simplified repair permissions for Gaothans
- *Ground plus SITU development to be permitted in Gaothans
- *Specific DC Rules for planned development in Gaothans
- *Harassment by BMC officers to be immediately stopped during house repairs
- *Heritage homes in gaothans to be given a special incentive for maintaining their structure.
- *Gaothan Infrastructure to be improved
- *Roads, bylanes and street furniture within the gaothans to be designed to maintain the village look



EISA POLICY

Rights of the Indigenous People in the Archdiocese



EAST INDIAN SAMAJ ARCHDIOCESE POLICY

CULTURE PROMOTION

- *East Indian Bhavan lands to be allotted at Goregaon Seminary site
- *Churches to ensure full support to all East Indian Community religious traditions
- *Agera, the East Indian Harvest Festival should be given support and to be termed as the official festival of the Archdiocese
- *All East Indian groups should be given church premises for free to promote their culture and tradition

CASTE CERTIFICATE

- *Simplified OBC certificate process for East Indian Community by approvals at deanery level
- *In Church records, new births to mention caste as East Indian in their Baptism certificate
- *In School records, new admissions to mention caste as East Indian in their School records which will reflect in the Leaving certificate

HOUSING

- *Additional flats in Housing Reconstruction projects by Church on existing societies should be allotted only to East Indians
- *A special Bhumiputra Housing Scheme to be initiated for East Indian Samaj on Church vacant lands
- *All beneficiaries of church owned flats now settled abroad to return the same for East Indian Community

GAOTHANS AND PROTECTION

- *Church should ensure the protection of the Gaothans as the Gaothan residents were the founders and donors for the local church
- *Gaothan Holy Crossea should be recognised and supported for their restoration
- *A Special Gaothan Emergency Fund to be initiated to assist needy families for their house repairs

RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

- *East Indian Lenten Traditions like papiya, processions and Krist Puran should be supported in all parishes
- *Special Marian Holidays to be given to schools for the Velankanni pilgrimage
- *Church to maintain data of all Chapels and Holy Crosses and ensure their upkeep and protection

LANDS AND PROPERTIES

- *Properties donated should not be sold
- *Church to return donated lands to original owners if they can't maintain

MEDICAL SUPPORT

- *A special medical fund to support needy families with simplified process
- *Special discounts on hospitalisation bills to all East Indians in Catholic hospitals
- *Special discounts on medical check-ups to all East Indians in Catholic hospitals
- *Group Mediclaim policy to be initiated to cover all East Indians by the diocese

COMPENSATION TOWARDS DONATED PROPERTY

- *In lieu of Church donated lands sold or rented commercially, 10% proceeds to be transferred to East Indian Community Fund
- *Party venues on Church property should be given at special discounts for the East Indian Community
- *Special discounts on medical bills at all Catholic hospitals

FUND GENERATION

- *All income from hired property for sports and party venues should have 10% of the proceeds allocated towards East Indian Community welfare
- *All collections should have 5% allotted towards the medical needs of the East Indian Community

BUSINESS

- *East Indian Food stalls to be approved for each parish
- *The school and college canteens to be allotted to the East Indian Community
- *All church projects should be allotted only to the East Indians
- *Each Church festival should allot a section of prominent stalls to East Indians
- *Space to be allotted in church premises for East Indian businesses
- *East Indian Baazaar to be permitted at all Churches to promote East Indian Cuisine and handicrafts
- *Monopoly or panel for Church venues to be given only to the East Indians

Drafted by - Gleason Barretto



EISA POLICY

Rights of the Indigenous People in the Archdiocese



EAST INDIAN SAMAJ ARCHDIOCESE POLICY

JOBS

- *Special job reservations for East Indian community in all catholic schools, colleges, Churches, hospitals and other facilities
- *Skilling centres to be set up at all parishes to train and skill community members

REPRESENTATION

- *East Indian Representatives to be appointed with Special representation in the Archdiocese of Bombay
- *East Indian Representative must be appointed by the local East Indian group in the Parish council
- *Church property and finance committee should only have representatives from the East Indian Community
- *Bishops and Dean's should be appointed only from the East Indian community
- *Local community association heads to be authorised to suggest Church projects and initiatives
- *Venues and facilities on church owned property to be dedicated to Cardinal Simon Pimenta in every deanery of Bombay Diocese

TOURISM

- *A special religious tour with guides from the East Indian Community to be initiated with visits to heritage churches and native devotions

LANGUAGE AND DIALECT

- *To promote the East Indian Dialect, holy masses should be organised every week at East Indian founded or dominated parishes
- *All special holy masses on days of obligation should only be in English, Marathi and East Indian
- *Masses at prominent time slots should only be in English, Marathi and East Indian
- *At all Church festivals the feast mass should be in East Indian Marathi

COMMUNITY WELFARE

- *An East Indian Community welfare fund to be instituted through funds allocated from land income on East Indian donated lands
- *Monthly Open Meetings by Bishops with the East Indian Community to discuss community welfare initiatives and issues faced

HISTORY AND HERITAGE

- *East Indians Day to be observed and recognised by the Archdiocese
- *All Churches should mention History of the Church with the East Indian connect and a signage mentioning that the Church land is donated by the East Indian Community
- *All Churches should be restored and revived but not renovated or rebuilt to promote heritage
- *Heritage Churches should be given special status and the one which were rebuilt should be given their original facade

NATIVE DEVOTIONS

- *St. Gonsalo Garcia Day to be officially recognised by the Archdiocese
- *St. Gonsalo Garcia Church to be opened in Bombay Diocese
- *St. Gonsalo Garcia should be considered as the Principal Patron saint of the Bombay Diocese
- *Mount Mary Church devotion to be promoted across churches
- *Mount Mary Church Octave feast should have representation and support only by the festival founders, East Indian Community
- *The Bandra fair at the Mount should have specially allotted stalls for the Indigenous East Indian Community

EDUCATION

- *Preference for East Indian teachers from the Village and it's vicinity
- *Free Education in all our schools and colleges for East Indians
- *All additional fees towards co-curricular, sports & stationery to be supported through a Special Education fund



Drafted by - Gleason Barretto



PURSUING A BIOCHEMISTRY DEGREE: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Are you passionate about unraveling the mysteries of life at the molecular level? Do you find yourself intrigued by the intricate dance of molecules within living organisms? If so, a degree in biochemistry might be the perfect path for you. However, before you embark on this exciting journey, there are a few crucial things to keep in mind.

1. The Interdisciplinary Nature of Biochemistry:

Biochemistry sits at the crossroads of biology and chemistry. It explores the chemical processes and substances that occur within living organisms. As a biochemistry student, you'll need a strong foundation in both biology and chemistry. Be prepared to delve into subjects like genetics, organic chemistry, and cell biology.

2. Rigorous Curriculum:

Biochemistry is not for the faint of heart. The coursework can be demanding, involving complex concepts and rigorous laboratory work. You'll need to develop strong analytical and problem-solving skills to excel in this field.

3. Laboratory Time:

Hands-on laboratory experience is an integral part of a biochemistry degree. You'll spend a significant amount of time conducting experiments, analyzing data, and working with cutting-edge equipment. This practical experience is invaluable and will prepare you for a career in research or industry.

4. Career Opportunities:

A biochemistry degree opens doors to a wide range of career opportunities. You can work in pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, healthcare, academia, and more. Biochemists are in high demand for roles such as research scientists, clinical laboratory technologists, and quality control analysts.

5. Research Opportunities:

If you have a passion for discovery, biochemistry offers ample research opportunities. You can contribute to groundbreaking discoveries in areas like drug development, genetics, and disease mechanisms. Pursuing research can be intellectually rewarding and may lead to exciting advancements in science.

6. Continuing Education:

Many biochemists choose to pursue advanced degrees, such as a Master's or Ph.D., to further specialize in their chosen field. These higher degrees can open up even more career prospects and research opportunities.

7. Ethical Considerations:

Biochemistry often raises ethical questions, especially in fields like genetic engineering and biotechnology. It's essential to be aware of the ethical implications of your work and stay informed about the latest ethical debates in the field.

8. Adaptability:

The field of biochemistry is constantly evolving, with new technologies and discoveries emerging regularly. As a biochemist, you'll need to stay current with the latest advancements and be adaptable in your approach to research and problem-solving.

9. Collaboration:

Biochemistry is rarely a solitary endeavor. Collaboration with other scientists, both within and outside your field, is crucial. Effective communication and teamwork skills are highly valued in the scientific community.

10. Passion and Perseverance:

Above all, pursuing a biochemistry degree requires a genuine passion for science and a strong sense of perseverance. There will be challenges along the way, but your passion for understanding the intricacies of life at the molecular level will drive you forward.

In conclusion, a biochemistry degree can be a rewarding and intellectually stimulating path for those who are passionate about science. It offers a wide range of career opportunities and the chance to contribute to our understanding of the natural world. Just remember to stay committed, adaptable, and ethically conscious as you embark on your journey into the fascinating world of biochemistry.

by - Joullyn Kenny - Worli



MGP NOTICE BOARD

The Announcement for the East Indian Community



MGP Impact - Archdiocese launches Commission for Indigenous People

- *MGP has been actively involved for Indigenous issues and demands for more than 10 years
- *One of the demands was for East Indian Representation in the Archdiocese
- *Around 2 years ago a need for an Indigenous People cell was communicated
- *Last year we actively took up this issue and communicated with Archdiocesan hierarchy and the Vatican
- *A few months back in March we released the first version of the East Indian Samaj Archdiocese - EISA Policy
- *The EISA Policy was presented to Bishop John at the East Indian Annual Rally on 19th March and also sent to the Archdiocesan hierarchy
- *In a week's time the Cardinal announced plans for the Commission of the Indigenous People on March 26
- *On 15th August the Commission for Indigenous People was formally launched by the Cardinal Ossie by appointing Bishop in Charge as Emeritus Bishop Allwyn and Fr. Leslie Malya as the Coordinator

MGP will continue to speak up for the Indigenous People of Mumbai, Thane, Vasai and Raigad - East Indian Community

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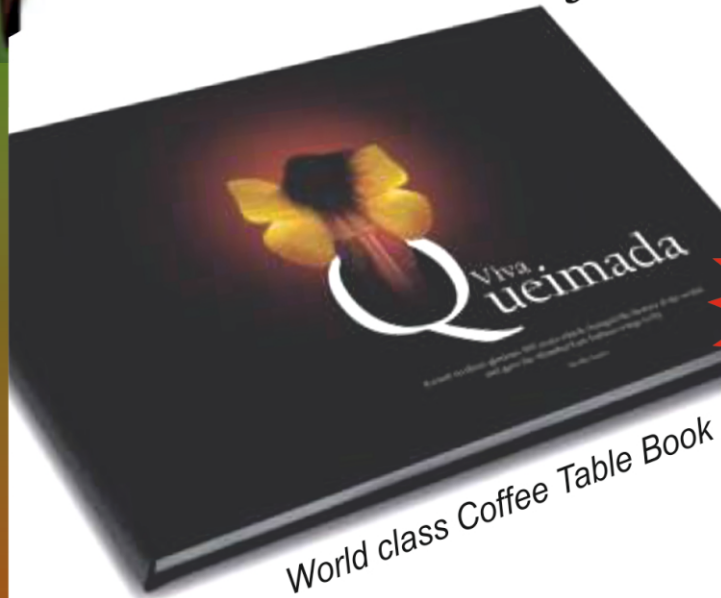
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MGP GUIDELINES FOR AGERA CELEBRATIONS

- *Start Procession from a Holy Cross in the Village or nearest paddy field(the priest cuts a few sheaves of paddy)
- *In procession the bundles of paddy to be carried by ladies in traditional Lugra or men in traditional Surkhas
- *East Indian brass band or Vanzootar(local tribal band) to be a part of the procession
- *Ideally hire a Tonga, Rekla or Bullock cart as a part of procession
- *The procession enters church where the paddy is kept near the altar for blessing
- *Offerings of fresh fruits and vegetables to be made during offertory or when the procession enters the church
- *After mass the East Indians in traditional attire to distribute the paddy
- *East Indian band to play some celebration songs after mass
- *Stalls selling East Indian food to be set up especially harvest related food stuff
- *The families go back home and affix the paddy on their entrance door or place it on the altar
- *The family prepares a traditional meal keeping the harvest festival in mind
- *Each East Indian family have the afternoon meal together with a thanksgiving prayer
- *Before the meal the family serves homemade wine or Khimad calling out "Sukhala" the East Indian way
- *In the evening the families visit their friends and relatives or join the village get-together.

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EAST INDIAN PUNCH

The Mouthpiece of the Mobai Gaothan Panchayat



EAST INDIAN BHUMIPUTRA MOBAICHI SHAAN AAISA AAPLE SAMAJALA MILLAA MAAN

Bombay Archdiocese Takes First Big Step

Gleason Barretto, Old Kurla

Be persistent and success may very well be yours. Around 10 years ago, MGP began its communication and follow ups with Church and Government leaders. In the initial years it felt that whatever we asked for fell on deaf ears. Mobai Gaothan Panchayat used all mediums - email, letters, writeups, Facebook, twitter, Instagram and many more to put forward our Voice to look into the East Indian community demands. Multiple meetings and discussions were held with various authorities but there was no positive sign. We at MGP felt that our community was being ignored and sidelined.

Hope was not lost and so the MGP Team continued to try even after 10 years. The annual community survey continued year after year and the agenda basis the online survey were released every year. The Community Agenda for the authorities was released at the Annual Conclave with the support of like-minded members. The Gaothan Voice covered the Agenda multiple times in the year double up with communication on email and at meetings. A variety of reasons were given for non acceptance of the community needs. The Annual East Indian Rally tried to raise its Voice with limited support but there was no success. We at times thought we had lost and we even gave up at times.

Unique culture and tradition was slowly being toned down or stopped with various inappropriate reasons. MGP kept a close watch on the happenings on the ground at the grassroot level. We got updates through our strong network spread out at 100+ Gaothans across Mumbai, Thane, Vasai and Raigad. Our first active revival project was Agera and with the support of like-minded individuals and groups we managed to grow each passing year. Today Agera is celebrated with great enthusiasm across parishes in Archdiocese of Mumbai and Vasai. MGP now looks forward to revive more community festivals and religious traditions irrespective of the result. An effort for active revival stands important even though we may not taste success.

Making our demands and using different strategies to make our voice heard was the new focus for MGP. The Mumbai BhumiPutras Policy and the East Indian Samaj Archdiocese - EISA Policy for many eye balls. MGP kept the authorities guessing on our next step and our actions caught them off guard at times. We will continue to try various strategies with an objective to uplift and empower the East Indian Community. The recent 2 big successes have been the Kaka Baptista East Indian Theme Gardens approved by the State Government and the Commission of Indigenous People initiated by the Bombay diocese. MGP will continue to follow up for the other demands listed in the policies released to authorities.

Indigenous People Matter and that's the strong message we need to give the authorities. For decades now the BhumiPutra East Indian Community has not been given its due. We were silent initially and of late there has been awakening. The authorities are slowly realising about our importance and relevance as Indigenous People of this city and state. There is now a every reason to believe that the Indigenous People Voice is spread across the Gaothans which cannot be ignored anymore. MGP will continue to raise its Voice for the Indigenous East Indian Community and we look forward to the support and prayers of the community at large. Every hand that supports us will help us grow and every prayer will make a difference.



GAOTHAN ADS VILLA

The Village Advertisement Space



GAOTHAN VOICE FAMILY

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MGP MAI BOLI CONTEST # 6

For School and College students Only

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

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CUCUMBER CAKE

(Tavsacha cake)



200g Dalia (Lapsi)
 3 Tbsp ghee
 200 g Rava
 300 g Jaggery
 2 cups Cucumber puree
 ½ fresh Coconut grated
 25g Cashew grind coarsely
 1 tsp Baking powder
 1 tsp elaiche powder

Method:

Soak Lapsi by adding 2 cups of water for an hour and keep aside. Peel and deseed cucumber. Put in a mixer and puree.

Take a deep bottom vessel, heat 3 tbsp ghee and roast rava till it turns golden brown. Add to it the soaked lapsi (drain the water), cucumber puree, grated coconut, jaggery, elaiche, baking powder. Let this mixture stand for a 1 hour and then bake for an hour until top is lightly browned.

By Amarylisa Gonsalves - Juhu

By Sybil Rodrigues - Kalina

MOBAI GAOTHAN PANCHAYAT - MEMBERSHIP PLAN

MEMBER TYPE / BENEFITS	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD	DIAMOND	PLATINUM	STAR
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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
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Awards for Academic Excellence 2022-2023

This Educational Fund was founded by the late Fr. D. G. Almeida of Thane, for the empowerment of children, to help them aspire for a higher education.

Applications are invited from **East Indian** students who have passed Standard 10, Standard 12, Graduate (Degree), at the first attempt, from any recognised Board/University, with minimum percentage as detailed below; and those proceeding for Ecclesiastical studies.

***Standard 10:** 90%

***Standard 12:** Science/Commerce : 80%

Arts : 75%

Graduate (Degree) : 'A Grade'/First Class

***Proceeding for Ecclesiastical Studies**

Trustees:

Fr. Magi Murzello (Chairman)

Mr. Jude Gomes

Mrs. Delyse D'souza

Mrs. Lucille Rodrigues - Fund Secretary

Mr. Joseph A. J. Pereira

Mr. Tony D'silva

Mrs. Jennifer Pereira

Application forms are available with the Secretary.

Last date for submission of application forms is **September 30th, 2023**

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

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

