

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

गावठाण वॉईस

22 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

SUPPORT  
MGP



GAOTHAN VOICE OCTOBER 2025

Vol:GV 10/25

For Private circulation only

One Vision !

www.mobaikar.in

One Voice !

The East Indian Magazine

One Village !

Email: eastindianvoice@gmail.com

# KRISTAAN

MGP's Religious Traditions Revival Project



Pritam Colaso



## MGP Annual Christmas Raffle 2025

Organised by - Mobai Gaothan Panchayat  
Date of draw - 26<sup>th</sup> December 2025

1st Prize  
2 gms gold coin

2nd prize  
1 gm gold coin



10 Consolation Prizes  
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### MOT MAULI PURCESSAO

Special thanks from the MGP Team

Bombay Velankanni Pilgrims Band - for performing at the procession

Richard Pereira - Rekla

St Peters Confraternity & Errol - leading the procession

Dinesh - Photography

Vicky - Police permission

Gleason - Coordination for Rekla, Band, Photographer

Sybil, Sunita Alphonso, Sunita Dey - Conducting Prayers

Alphi, Royston Jacinto, Francis, Gleason - overall Coordination

Sunita Alphonso for fugyas

All members present for support, participation, distribution and traffic management



### MGP Team Members present

Mot Mauli Purcessao

Alphi Dsouza  
Alan Gonsalves  
Coretta D'Souza  
Damian Cabral  
Darryl Gonsalves  
Errol Dmello  
Francis Rodrigues  
Gilroy D'Souza  
Gleason Barretto  
James Fernandes  
Joanna Sutari  
June Miranda  
Nymphya Dey  
Ramsey Rebello  
Royston Jacinto  
Sybil Rodrigues  
Sunita Alphonso  
Sunita Dey  
Vicky Misquitta  
Walter Murzello

MGP also thanks around 150 participants for joining MGPs Annual Mount Mary Procession

### Bombay Velankanni Pilgrims Band Members present

1. Aaron D'mello - Kanjur
2. Alick Kinny - Kalina
3. Anthony Pires - Sahar
4. Blayne Mendonca - Kanjur
5. Clinton D'mello - Kanjur
6. Elvis Misquitta - DN nagar
7. Gabby Maben - Kanjur
8. Gilroy Corriea - Kurla
9. Grenij Borges - Dongri
10. Hasten Dsilva - Sandhurst road
11. Hubert Tixeira - Pond
12. Ignatius Rodrigues - Marouli
13. Jackson Gomes - Kurla
14. Joseph Jacinto - Kalina
15. Jude Dsouza - Marouli
16. Lloyd Gonsalves - Kurla
17. Micheal D'mello - Kirol
18. Onil Dsilva - Khalai
19. Paul Chokar - Kurla
20. Prince Gigool - Kirol
21. Raj Singh - Marouli
22. Roman Khan - Kharodi
23. Russell D'mello - Kirol
24. Samson Fonseca - Kirol
25. Sylvester Pereira - Khalai
26. Thomas Dsouza - Parle
27. Trevor Creado - Bhoiwada



Photo by - Dinesh Shahu, Vakola  
Compiled by - Raffellia Fonseca, Irla



# MOBAI GAOTHAN PANCHAYAT

Invites you to

# EICA 2025

in association with

# NZEA

New Zealand Education Advisors Ltd.



## EAST INDIAN COMMUNITY AWARDS 2025

Date: Saturday, 15th November 2025

Venue: St Andrew's Auditorium, Bandra West, Time: 10.00am onwards.

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### EAST INDIAN TRADITIONAL FESTIVALS IN MAHARASHTRA

**Aaplaa Gaav! Aapla Sann!**

#### **Gorai Vashi Island - Holy Cross Feast - Island Across Gorai Beach**

The month of May holds special significance for the community, marked by numerous Cross Feasts which are celebrated at Holy Crosses across East Indian villages. Every year, locals travel by boat to Vashi Island off Gorai Beach to celebrate this cherished cross feast community tradition and recite the (Latin) rosary. The day begins with Holy Mass, followed by a hearty lunch shared among family and friends, a custom that has been lovingly upheld for decades. Many also spend the day on the island returning before dusk to the mainland.

#### **Baravi Cha Sann - Ergal Cha Sann - St Bonaventure Church - Erangal**

This feast has been held by the East Indian community for centuries. The annual feast is held on the second Sunday of January, drawing families from across Mumbai and nearby villages. At the heart of this celebration stands the historic St. Bonaventure Church, a symbol of deep-rooted faith and enduring heritage. Generations continue to uphold the age-old custom of gathering at nearby wadis (open spaces), where families cook on makeshift 'chulas'. They dance to the playing of the ghumat and consume khimad, the official community drink followed by a traditional East Indian lunch. The day is marked by prayer, thanksgiving, and a sense of togetherness that transcends time.

Built in 1575 by the Portuguese, St. Bonaventure Church stands as a testament to the region's colonial and spiritual history. Though it was destroyed by the Marathas in 1739, the church was restored in the 1950s, thanks to donations from well-wishers. The church is now in the care of the Parish Priest of Our Lady of the Sea, Madh Island.

On the day of the feast, the seashore in front of the Erangal church is transformed into a huge mela or fair with entertainment like giant wheel, merry-go-rounds, game stalls, horse rides and a variety of stalls selling local produce and food specialties. Private vehicles have replaced the traditional bullock carts.

#### **Nasik Cha Sann - Infant Jesus Shrine - Nasik**

The East Indian community traditionally travels to the Infant Jesus Shrine in Nashik to attend the Feast of Infant Jesus. The pilgrims attend mass followed by veneration. Usually a day out, devotees end up spending the day at the church premises, leaving in the evening, with many families picking up locally grown grapes before returning home. Several catholic local groups and tour operators organize buses for the feast. The shrine offers year-round accommodation to devotees, with some choosing to stay overnight at the shrine nearby hotels or home stays. Weekly novenas are held every Saturday, making it a spiritual destination throughout the year.

#### **Killa Cha Sann - Vasai Fort - St Gonsalo Garcia**

This Vasai feast is held on the 1st or 2nd Sunday of January at St. Gonsalo Garcia Church, Vasai Fort, honoring St. Gonsalo Garcia, Maharashtra's native and India's patron saint. The tradition, started by Rev. Fr. Peter Fernandez, marks the saint's childhood home and learning place. A mela or fair is held close to the church. The Maharashtra Gaothan Parishad (MGP) plans to seek restoration of the church and fort and proposes to build a museum and memorial in his honor, as part of its effort to revive village festivals across Vasai, Erangal, Bandra, Kurla, and beyond.

To join the initiative, WhatsApp 9820545302.

#### **Ghormal Cha Sann - Barvasa Mauli Cha Sann - Our Lady of Hope Church- Thane Ghodbunder**

Our Lady of Hope Church, Ghormal, stands on a hillock near Nagla Bunder, off Ghodbunder Road. Believed to be a private chapel, it was left in ruins after the war of 1737-1739. Once roofless, it was covered with an asbestos covering and doors for protection from nature's fury.

Older residents recall devotees from Kashimira, Bhayandar, Vasai, and nearby villages visiting the shrine on the Sunday after Easter, bringing water in earthen pots and picnicking under the trees. Pilgrims arrived by boats from Vasai and Uttan, bullock carts, tongas, offering fresh fish at the Offertory.

Devotees from villages such as Charai, K'Villa, Utalsar, Kolbad, and Horta kept the tradition alive. In 1995, under the direction of Fr. Dominic Pereira of St. John the Baptist Church, Thane, parishioners renovated the chapel and built steps up the hill. Today, mass is celebrated on the first Sunday of every month.





### **Trindat Cha Sann - Holy Trinity Church - Trindaz Powai**

The Feast of Holy Trinity Church, Powai, is celebrated on the last Sunday of May and remains a major East Indian village festival attracting thousands. The church, located on a hill, now has a new building behind the ruins of the old church.

Founded by Jesuits in 1550 in the Valley of Vihar, the church was moved to the hillock in 1557 due to malaria. It remained operational until 1737 when it was damaged during the Maratha conquest. Legend says the original church lies submerged under Vihar Lake, where the top is sometimes visible when the water level recedes. Locals also believe that a statue of Mother Mary with Infant Jesus and a cross was found in the Vihar lake bed and it now rests inside the Conditia church in Marol.

The Creado family from Juhu Gaothan for decades has been celebrating their Cross feast at the Holy Cross inside the church premises on the eve of the Church feast. Until some years ago they took a bus load of Juhukars for the Cross feast, staying overnight by settling themselves in the church compound to celebrate the feast the next day.

### **Manpesar Cha Sann - Immaculate Conception Church - Borivali**

Our Lady of Immaculate Conception Church, Mount Painsur, traces its origins to the 15th century and stands alongside the historic Mandapeshwar Caves (c. 750–850 AD) nearby. Founded by a Franciscan missionary in 1547, the church began as a 'devout hermitage,' with locals baptized by 1548. By 1630, around 1,500 parishioners lived in the Gaothan of Mount Painsur, Dhainsa (Dahisar), Canary (Kanheri), Simpor, and Cassor. Around this time, the church's name changed from Our Lady of Piety to Our Lady of Immaculate Conception, known as IC Church. A colony with catholic dominance in the area and buildings came to be known as IC Colony.

The village festival is celebrated on the Sunday after the feast day 8<sup>th</sup> December, attracting East Indian communities from Mount Painsur and surrounding Gaothans. This like many other East Indian festivals is a centuries-old pilgrimage and celebration tradition.

### **Karjat Cha Sann - Our Lady of Fatima - Karjat**

Our Lady of Fatima Church, Karjat, is the first in Asia dedicated to this devotion. It has been a pilgrimage site since 1935. The statue of Our Lady of Fatima, brought from Portugal in 1920, was initially placed at the Karjat Railway Station. Traditionally, community members traveled by train or road and settled near a stream or open space during the feast. In 1978–79, the Fatima Express brought pilgrims from Bombay, though it was later discontinued. Today, some pilgrims stay at nearby resorts, home stays or farmhouses. A dedicated page for this feast appeared in the East Indian Calendar 2020. This feast is also celebrated at Imitri, Dongri.

### **Kashe Cha Sann - St Jerome Church - Kashimira**

St. Jerome's Church, perched on a hill between the Gaothans of Kashi (Cassi) and Mira (Mirem), is the site of three successive church structures. The current church, blessed on 26<sup>th</sup> December 1926, continues to host its feast day then, though St. Jerome's official feast falls in September.

History books state that the first church, built in 1595 by Portuguese Franciscan Fathers, was destroyed in a cyclone in 1618. A second structure arose in 1628, serving parishioners from Kashi, Mira, Sanbojapal, Chene, Bandonli, Baroli, and Tantoli, until it was destroyed during the 1739 Maratha invasion. However, the statue of St. Jerome was preserved and placed on the altar of the third church built 1926.

A 386-year-old cross stands tall before the old ruins, with a new cross erected in 1926. The feast draws thousands from Salsette, Bassein, and Thane, featuring a fair selling local produce, sukeli (dry bananas), and ghumats. People of all faiths visit for blessings; the church was a refuge during a historic plague.

Not far away, locals as well as East Indians arrive in decorated reklas, tongas and bullock carts that add to the festive atmosphere, spending the day here. The feast also complements the extended Christmas celebrations, with Erangal Feast/Baravi Cha Sann just two weeks later in January.

Compiled by Verus Ferreira, Bandra





# MGP NOTICE BOARD

The Announcements for the East Indian Community



## MGP SPECIAL RELEASE

### Mumbai Gaothan Demarcation: A Step Towards Inclusive Development

Mobai Gaothan Panchayat, representing Mumbai's Indigenous People - East Indian Community are calling on the Maharashtra government to demarcate Gaothans in Mumbai, ensuring equal treatment and opportunities for growth and development.

They have also appealed for implementation of the Gaothan Extension Policy, as per the Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning Act of 1966, which allows villages to extend their boundaries by 200 meters every year to accommodate population growth. However, Mumbai's residents remain excluded from this policy, despite having vacant land in areas in and around Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

#### Key Demands:

- Equal Treatment: Extend the Gaothan Extension Policy to Mumbai, ensuring equal opportunities for growth and development.
- Implementation Feasibility: Demarcate all Gaothans with a special DP Plan

#### Benefits:

- Better Planning: Demarcating Gaothans will enable better planning, development, and management of these areas.
- Improved Lives: This initiative will ultimately improve the lives of residents, providing them with access to basic amenities and services.

#### Call to Action:

We urge the Maharashtra government to consider our plea and take necessary steps to demarcate Gaothans in Mumbai. We believe that this initiative will promote better planning keeping Heritage, history, Existence and Identity in mind

Let's work together to make Mumbai a more inclusive and sustainable city!

MGP appreciates that Maharashtra State Minister, Ashish Shelar has taken on the initiative to Demarcate koliwad. We appeal to the State Government to initiate the demarcation for Gaothans too as the East Indian Community are the Bhumi Putra Samaj of Mumbai.

## MGP IMPACT

Bandra Gym Elections - Vote Individuals basis Credentials & Potential

### Bandra Gymkhana Simply East Indian

MGP thanks all BG members for voting keeping in mind the future of the Gymkhana and the East Indian Community. The election results are a clear indicator that our Appeal had an impact. MGP is not the only one, hence we also thank like-minded individuals and groups for their drive on this communication on various platforms

#### Action Points

- \*Response on MGPs Memorandum within a week of election failing which MGP will initiate an action plan against each point
- \*MGP to create a core team of like minded BG members from the East Indian Community as Advisors and Action group
- \*A protest rally planned mostly in October 2025 from Bandra Gym

A Special Meeting amongst like minded East Indian groups and individuals to plan a way forward for the BG to make it \*Simply East Indian

MGP congratulates all the elected candidates at Bandra Gym elections & we wish them the very best

Bhumiputra East Indian aSamaj - Aaplaa Gaav!  
Aaplaa Raaj!  
An MGP Initiative



## MOBAI GAOTHAN PANCHAYAT

### DONOR MEMBERSHIP PLAN



SILVER	GOLD	DIAMOND	PLATINUM
<b>5,000/-</b>	<b>10,000/-</b>	<b>25,000/-</b>	<b>1,00,000/-</b>
<b>Benefits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vive Queimada - Rs 500/-</li> <li>• Ei Books - Rs. 200/-</li> <li>• Umbrella - Rs 300/-</li> <li>• Sukhala bag - Rs 100/-</li> <li>• Gaothan Voice @ doorstep - Rs 300/-</li> <li>• East Indian Calendar - upto 5 worth Rs 500/-</li> <li>• East Indian Merchandise - Rs 100/-</li> </ul>	<b>Benefits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vive Queimada - Rs 1000/-</li> <li>• Ei Books - Rs. 500/-</li> <li>• Umbrella - Rs 300/-</li> <li>• Sukhala bag - Rs 100/-</li> <li>• Gaothan Voice @ doorstep - Rs 300/-</li> <li>• East Indian Calendar - upto 10 worth Rs 1000/-</li> <li>• East Indian Merchandise - Rs 500/-</li> </ul>	<b>Benefits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vive Queimada - Rs 1500/-</li> <li>• Ei Books - Rs. 1000/-</li> <li>• Umbrella - Rs 400/-</li> <li>• Sukhala bag - Rs 100/-</li> <li>• Gaothan Voice @ doorstep - Rs 300/-</li> <li>• East Indian Calendar - upto 25 worth Rs 2500/-</li> <li>• East Indian Merchandise - Rs 1000/-</li> </ul>	<b>Benefits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vive Queimada - Rs 2500/-</li> <li>• Ei Books - Rs. 2000/-</li> <li>• Umbrella - Rs 500/-</li> <li>• Sukhala bag - Rs 100/-</li> <li>• Gaothan Voice @ doorstep - Rs 300/-</li> <li>• East Indian Calendar - upto 50 worth Rs 5000/-</li> <li>• East Indian Merchandise - Rs 2500/-</li> </ul>
 <b>Benefits worth Rs. 2000/-</b>	 <b>Benefits worth Rs. 3700/-</b>	 <b>Benefits worth Rs. 6800/-</b>	 <b>Benefits worth Rs. 12900/-</b>

**Account Name- Mobai Gaothan Panchayat | Bank Name- Bassein Catholic Cooperative Bank | Branch - Kalina**

**Saving Account Number - 032100100000791 | IFSC Code - BACB0000032**



Manu Joseph, PIC COURTESY/ALEPHI BOOKS LIBRARY

### Flea for all

TODAY, expect a vibrant East Indian market to celebrate the annual Bandra Fair, from 4 pm to 9 pm. Organised by Mobai Gaothan Panchayat (MGP) at the St Andrews School canteen, this unique FLEast market offers a range of activities for visitors and Bandraites alike. "There's Radio Bodio and Kerala Halwa, but mainly authentic East Indian cuisine. There are 25 stalls selling knick-knacks, clothes and masalas," Alphi D'Souza, CEO, MGP, shared with this diarist. "There are also games for children



Women at a stall during a previous fair. PIC COURTESY/MGP and adults, including house, folk music, pop-ups, and more. Additionally, there will be live performances. "To immerse in the diversity of East Indian culture, this is one opportunity not to miss."

**MGP in the NEWS -**  
**Midday, 13th September 2025,**  
**Page 4**  
**Bandra Fair Begins Today..**

**EAST INDIAN BAAZAAR**  
**FLEast Indian + EI Community**  
**Market + Vanda Cha Jatra**  
**EI Food + Games + Merchandise -**

**Lugras - Jewellery + Bandra Fair Specials + Onspot Tshirt prints + Toys + Masalas + Pickles**

**Introducing East Indian 3 fold Umbrella@500 & Mouse Pad @150**

**Stock your homes with foods & goodies for your Bandra home guests & relatives visit**

**Date - Saturday, 13th September 2025**

**Time - 4pm to 9pm**

**Venue - St Andrew's School Canteen, Bandra West**

**Entry - FREE! FREE! FREE!**

**Contact: 9820087771 / 8886225903 or WhatsApp 9820545302 for more details, sponsorships, and stall bookings.**



### Mount Mary pilgrimage

Mother Mary devotees joined the annual Mot Mauli Purcussao pilgrimage from St. Michael's Church, Mahim, to the Basilica of Our Lady of the Mount, Bandra, on Saturday morning. The eight-day Bandra Fair, centred on the Basilica, popularly called Mount Mary, will end on Sunday. The 90-minute journey recreated the first procession to the Bandra shrine in 1761 when a rekla or a horse-drawn cart carried the Statue of Our Lady of the Mount.

**MGP IN THE NEWS -**  
**FREE PRESS JOURNAL**  
**Sunday 21st September**  
**2025 - Page 9**

**Mot Mauli Purcussao**  
**The Annual Traditional**  
**Procession to Mount Mary**

**\*The procession was**  
**attended by around 150**  
**devotees**

**\*The highlight of the**  
**procession was the East**

**Indian brass band - Bombay Velankanni Pilgrims Band and the Rekla**

**\*Parish Priest Fr Luke Rodrigues welcomes us to St Peter's Church Compound with a short introduction, prayers and blessings**

**\*MGP now has 4 dedicated Religious projects - St Gonsalo Garcia Project, Mot Mauli Project, Kuruz Holy Cross Project & a soon to be named Project focusing on Indigenous People Religious Traditions and Festivals**

**\*Religious project expenses are managed through donations, crowd funding & kind sponsors**

**\*Currently activities and initiatives like Mot Mauli Yatra, Mot Mauli Purcussao, St Gonsalo Garcia Chapel, Mothi Ladin are a part of the above mentioned exclusive projects**

**Those who wish to support as advisors, or coordinators the East Indian Religious themed projects can WhatsApp 9820545302. Email your suggestions and feedback to mgpmobai@gmail.com**

**<https://www.freepressjournal.in/mumbai/mumbai-news-devotees-recreate-historic-mot-mauli-pilgrimage-from-mahim-to-mount-mary-basilica>**

**KAKA BAPTISTA MEMORIAL DAY**  
**95<sup>th</sup> Death Anniversary**

**Date: Thursday, 18th September 2025**

**\*MGP team along with local representatives will pay their respects on the Death Anniversary of our Community Freedom Fighter.**

**Location#1 - Kaka Baptista's grave at Sewri Cemetery @8am**

**Location#2 - Kaka Baptista's bust at Boot Bangla, Uttan @9am**

**\*We request our community members to visit these locations throughout the day to pay their respects.**

**\*Kaka Baptista, Our community freedom fighter coined the phrase "Swaraj is my Birth Right"**

**May Kaka Baptista inspire us to demand the true freedom from authorities who have deprived us of our basic rights as the sons-of-soil**







Holy Family - Chakala



Bhoiwada Gaothan



St Francis Xavier - Kanjur



St John the Baptist - Thane



St Blaise - Amboli



Sacred Heart - Santacruz



Our Lady of Fatima - Kirol



Our Lady of Assumption - Kandivali



Our Lady of Lourdes - Orlem





Our Lady of Good Health - Sahar



Holy Cross - Kurla



St Andrews Bandra Chimbai Gaithan



St Joseph - Juhu



St Anthony's - Vakola



Our Lady of Good Counsel - Sion



### GROOMS WANTED

\*RC, El Spinster looking for a suitable alliance, 27 years old, 5'6" residing in Mumbai. She is a B.COM Graduate currently working as a specialist in Accounting. If interested kindly share profile & recent photographs on celestegomes779@gmail.com.

\*Alliance needed for an RC El Spinster, 36 years old, 5'8" residing in Mumbai. She is a Masters in Information Management. Currently working as an Associate Manager. If interested kindly share your profile & recent photographs on barrowvenishka@gmail.com.

\*Alliance needed for an RC El Spinster, 26 years old, 5'2" residing in Mumbai. She is a MBBS Doctor. Currently working for a reputed Hospital in Mumbai. Kindly reply with profile & recent full size photograph on marydsouza620@gmail.com.

### BRIDES WANTED

\*RC El Bachelor 28 years old, 5'9" residing in Mumbai. Having a degree in ITM -IHM (Bachelor of Arts in International Hospitality & Tourism Management). Currently working in Caribbean Cruises as a Head Butler. Kindly share details (profile with recent photographs on rocky64dsouza@gmail.com).

\*Seeking an Alliance for an RC El Bachelor, 28 years old, 5'9" residing in Pune. He has a MBA degree & currently employed as a Logistics Coordinator in an MNC Swedish Company in Pune. Kindly reply with profile & recent photographs on brandonpereira1997@gmail.com / bernardgba@gmail.com.

\*Seeking an Alliance for an RC El Bachelor, 32 years old, 5'7" residing in Mumbai. He has a degree in Bachelor of Engineering Information Technology. Currently working as a Senior IT Project Manager in a MNC. Those interested in this alliance kindly share your profile with recent photographs on clint.tix@gmail.com.

\*Seeking an Alliance for an RC El bachelor, 37 years old, 5'11" residing in Mumbai. He is a BSc Graduate. Currently working as a Manager in a reputed Hotel. If interested in this alliance kindly share your profile with recent photographs on ryanagomes@gmail.com.

\*Seeking a life partner for RC El Bachelor, 35 years old, 5'4" residing in Mumbai. He is a Bachelor in Arts & Currently working as an Procurement Officer in a reputed firm. Those seeking an alliance kindly share profile with recent photographs on joselyn.norris14@gmail.com.

\*Seeking a suitable match for an RC El Bachelor, 32 years old, 5'9" residing in Mumbai. He is a BMS graduate & currently working as an WFM Scheduling Analyst at Teleperformance. If interested in this alliance kindly share profile with recent photographs on jacksonkoli@gmail.com.

\*Seeking an alliance for an RC El Bachelor, 32 years old, 5'9" residing in Mumbai. He has a degree in BSc Nautical Science & is currently working as a 3rd Officer with a Ship Management Ltd Co. If interested kindly share your profile with recent photographs on santosdahlin@gmail.com.

\*RC East Indian Bachelor 33 years old, 5'5" residing in Mumbai. He has a degree in Bachelors in Commerce & currently working as an Investment Banking Operations Manager. If interested in this alliance kindly share your profile & recent photographs on sheldonsutari123@gmail.com.

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**Students.. Housewives .  
Senior Citizens.. Language  
Experts..**

### East Indian Dictionary - 2nd Edition

1000 Copies of 1st Edition - SOLD OUT

The Mobai Gaothan Panchayat (MGP) is calling for support team members for the 2nd edition of the East Indian Dictionary, slated for release by 2026. Here are the details:

#### Support Team Roles

- **Overall Coordinator:** Oversee the entire project
- **Editorial Team Member:** Assist with editing and compiling dictionary content
- **Edits Coordinator:** Manage and implement edits
- **Finance Manager:** Handle financial aspects of the project
- **Logistics Manager:** Coordinate logistics for the project
- **Mailing List Coordinator:** Manage mailing lists for promotions and updates
- **Photo Coordinator:** Handle photography-related tasks

#### How to Support

If you're interested in supporting the 2nd edition of the East Indian Dictionary, you can:

- **WhatsApp:** Contact MGP at 9820545302
- **Donate:** Contribute to the project through bank cheques drawn in favor of "Mobai Gaothan Panchayat" (donations in INR only)

#### Project Background

The East Indian Dictionary project aims to promote and preserve the East Indian dialect. The first edition was released on January 12, 2019, and the MGP plans to release new editions with updated words and informative content. The organization also engages in language awareness initiatives through music and entertainment.





# EAST INDIAN PUNCH

The Mouthpiece of the Mobai Gaothan Panchayat



## KRISTAAB

MGP's Religious Traditions Revival Project

*Gleason Barretto, Old Kurla*

**K**eeping language as the primary focus of our religious traditions stands important, as many of the practices prominently use the East Indian dialect. Marathi should also be given importance as it is the state language of Maharashtra. A growing set of community members mention their mother tongue as English instead of East Indian dialect. While schools give priority to the universal language, the onus of teaching the East Indian dialect remains with parents and grandparents. If it's called the mother tongue, it basically means that the parents should make efforts, which remains a challenge. Many religious practices were followed in Marathi or the East Indian dialect, but have been subtly changed by a section within the laity and clergy with vested interests. The Archdiocese of Goa's incident regarding Marathi services during the Exposition of St. Francis Xavier was a clear indicator that we should give only prominence to our native dialect, East Indian and Maharashtra state language, Marathi. MGPs experience has been that if we stay quiet, our language will vanish from religious platforms, and we will then have ourselves to blame.

**R**estoration of heritage structures is finally being taken seriously. From the past, when religious buildings like the heritage Dadar Portuguese Church were demolished to make new, historically irrelevant structures by a team with misplaced interests, to a time when we see the restoration of our churches taking precedence. Heritage structures showcase our unique and rich design and architecture. In recent times, the restoration of St. John the Baptist Church - Thane, Our Lady of Grace Cathedral - Vasai, Mount Mary's Basilica - Bandra and St. Andrew's Church - Bandra are a positive sign from the Catholic Church in its efforts to preserve heritage and history. This restoration initiative need to continue across all heritage churches in Archdiocese of Bombay and Vasai Diocese. A plan for restoration of churches in ruins at Seepz - Marol, Trindaz - Powai, Ghormal - Ghodbunder, Vasai fort and Erangal - Madh is also necessary, as many of our traditional East Indian village festivals take place in these heritage churches.

**I**dentify and existence are critical, as a growing sign of migrant dominance is being seen across parishes. Decisions on hierarchy at the parish level are many a times taken against the traditional interests of the indigenous people of Mumbai, the East Indian Community. MGPs EISA Policy clearly states that parish councils should have an East Indian representative nominated by the local East Indian association to ensure indigenous people's traditions are practiced and thrive. Some of the recent controversial decisions taken by some parish councils are change of traditional parish feast days, discontinuing traditional practices, stopping East Indian hymns & prayers. Across parishes, a section of migrant groups, supported by the Church hierarchy, clergy, laypersons, and professionals, are showing signs of erasing East Indian community's existence and identity. It's high time we take due cognizance and react accordingly.

**S**inging of East Indian hymns, which were earlier the tradition, is now being targeted across parishes. Many of these hymns have been specially written for parishes basis their local feasts and patron saints. Parishes today have set up liturgy and choir committees who are unaware of the relevance of traditional hymns and the priests in charge also do not adequately do their research on the native traditions of the parishes they serve. The traditional hymns are being discontinued or toned down by vested interests with the blessings of migrant groups and clergy heads. Papiya, Veronica's Song & Krist Puran were traditionally followed for generations but are being either stopped, toned down, or the language changed. Traditionally, East Indian hymns were sung during novena and feast days, but now things have changed across many parishes.

**T**raditions followed by ancestors for generations are vanishing slowly, and hence, the locals need to be vigilant. The East Indian community has a variety of rich cultural & religious practices which need to be revived and restored for future generations. While we must be accommodative and hospitable to the migrants at large, we just cannot forget our roots. Our traditional processions are unique, and some are organised in specific parishes on special occasions. The traditional East Indian brass band adds a local flavour of devotion through the hymns they play during processions. Any religious procession in Mumbai is incomplete without the East Indian band.

**A**gera's revival is a clear indicator that if we do our very best, success will be surely be ours. MGP was one of the groups that helped revive Agera with its 100+ Gaothan network. Now Agera is bigger and better across the village, regional, and international levels. MGP now plans to revive other occupational based festivals and we will research and make announcements accordingly. Narali Purnima, a festival celebrated by our Koli brethren, will be reviewed, and the MGP festival guideline pointers will be drafted soon. Similarly, we plan to announce a traditional day for the East Indian community to be followed across on one special day or a series of important days for the community. Efforts to make Bhumi Putra Dees (World Indigenous People day) bigger and popular are being planned too.

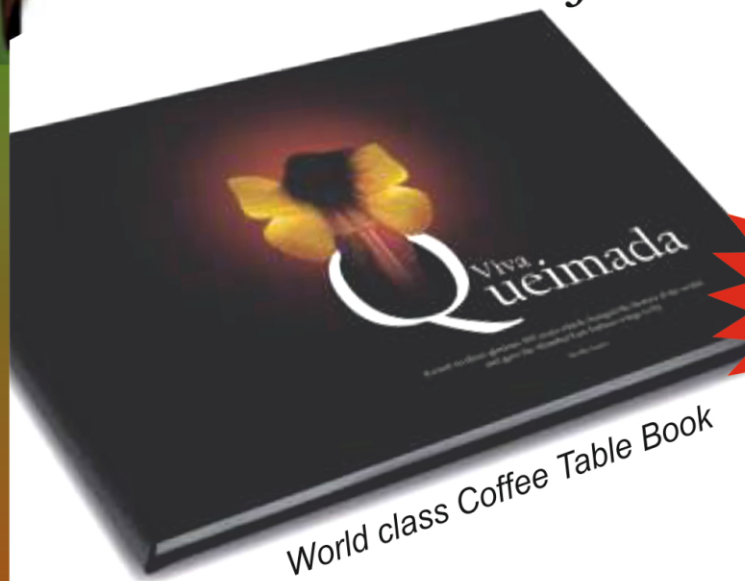
**A**rchiving and recording historical facts is very important in today's times. A section of migrants and a handful of our very own conspire to erase our history and heritage; hence, we cannot stay blind to this risk of losing our past. We will encourage and support the release of historical books and research papers. Archdiocese & Parishes will be requested to maintain a repository on the local church and its history. MGPs plan for a library in the Bhavan, or a museum, or an independent venture, will be re-examined. This library, dedicated to St. Jerome, patron of libraries and also revered by the East Indian community during the Kashimira feast, will include books especially on the East Indian community's language, culture, traditions, heritage, history, existence, and identity.

**V**illage festivals are one of our community highlights as they showcase unity among East Indians through celebration and religious devotion to the village church. While some festivals at Erangal, Kashimira & Bandra draw the crowds, at the same time, we have some of our traditional village festivals being forgotten or toned down. Village festivals need to be better planned, revived, and celebrated on the local as well as the regional level. MGP will draft a list of these festivals and share it with the community to ensure its awareness reaches a bigger audience through social media. MGP stays committed to the revival of East Indian religious traditions, and the Kristaav Project will do its best to create an impactful platform. Without the support of local and global groups, this will be impossible; hence, we appeal for support. Let's all come together to keep our community flag flying high on all fronts—celebrating our East Indian language, culture, traditions, heritage, history, existence, and identity.



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# GAOTHAN ADS VILLA

The Village Advertisement Space



EAST INDIAN COMMUNITY

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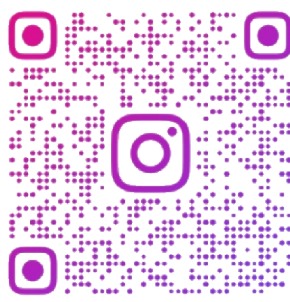
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**Aaplaa GAAV! Aapla Devool!**

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.

#### Bank details:

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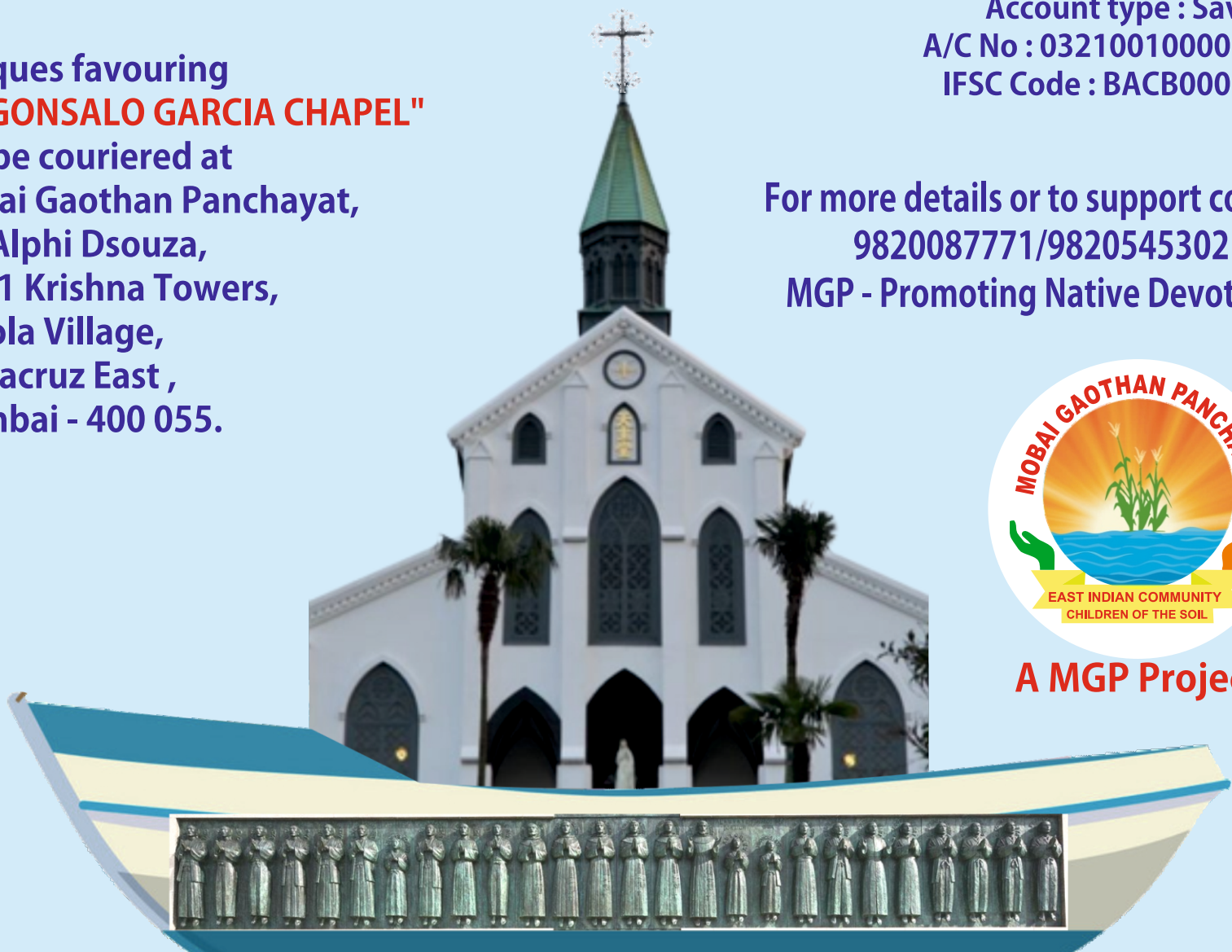
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MGP - Promoting Native Devotions



**A MGP Project**







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A Mobai Gaathan Panchayat Initiative

**EAST INDIAN COMMUNITY**

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Those interested in being a part of the Mobaikar store concept or the Self Help Group can WhatsApp us on 8886225903 / 9820545302





# *In Loving Memory*



**Thomas Miranda**



**Neil Miranda**