

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



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Uplifting the Village Community

VOICE

गावठण वाईस

22 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY



GAOTHAN VOICE FEBRUARY 2026

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One Vision !

www.mobaikar.in

One Voice !

The East Indian Magazine

One Village !

Email: eastindianvoice@gmail.com

MARATHI BHASHECHI SHAAN AAPLAA FR HILLARY MAHAN

Fr Hillary Fernandes - Marathi Language Ambassador



Marathi Author
Marathi Bhaktigeet Composer
East Indian Mahotsav Initiator
Muktisagar Prabodhan Kendra Founder
Marathi Choir Competition Pioneer

मराठी भाषेची शान - आपला फादर हिलरी महान

Congratulations

Roger Pereira
Knighthood & Papal Medal



Knight of the Order of
St Gregory the Great

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



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MGP Annual Christmas Raffle 2026



First Prize - 2 gms gold coin
Won by - Rajesh Zolar, Gorai
Handed over by - Lokesh Doshi, Bhairav Jeweller Kalina
Congratulations to all the winners

JUHU GAOTHAN REPUBLIC DAY FLAG HOISTING CEREMONY 2026

Flag hoisting by - Albert Gomes
Taluka Sarpanch - Alan Gonsalves - Andheri Taluka
Sarpanches - Darryl Gonsalves and Cyrus Misquitta
Gaethan Coordinators - Elroy Bugree & Savio Misquitta
Compere - Alistair Dsouza
Venue support - Renuka Pereira, Wangs Tailors
Special Support - Duffy Pereira, Eugene Gonsalves, Gleason Barretto, Rosen Gonsalves

Organised by - MGP Juhu Unit and GARAJ



MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS 2026 - CONGRATULATIONS

East Indian Community Winning Candidates - Municipal Elections



Karen D'Mello
BMC Ward 101 - Congress



Adv. Tulip Brian Miranda
BMC Ward 90 - Congress



Mable Noel Correa
MBMC Ward 6A - BJP



Shoun Leo Colaco
MBMC Ward 6A - Congress



Sharmila Bagaji
BJP Ward - (Uttan)



Tarren Mendonca
MBMC Ward 19 A - Congress



Freeda Bernard Dmello
MBMC Ward 24C - Shiv Sena

MGP Supported Winning Candidates - Municipal Elections



Sunita Rajesh Mehta
BMC Ward 71 - BJP



Aneesh Makwaaney
BMC Ward 70 - BJP



Sudha Singh
BMC Ward 69 - BJP



Shivachand Shetty
BMC Ward 9 - BJP

MUNICIPAL ELECTION RESULTS AND WAY FORWARD

Mumbai - Vasai - Thane - Mira Bhayendar

MGP Team thanks all those who took active part in the Elections to support candidates who had the potential or a good past record. We wish all the candidates contesting the very best for the Election results Today

Way Forward

- * MGP will coordinate & follow up with all winning candidates for Bhumiputra demands
- * There have been instances where we could not support candidates as per our MGP policy - Approach - Request support - local team feedback - advisory view - core team approval
- * Also instances where villagers supported another candidate other than the ones preferred
- * Elections over, it's time to move ahead, forget the past, look over differences & positively move forward to serve the Gaothans & community as ONE
- * This election was a great learning of active participation to ensure better local civic support and protection of Gaothans
- * Our participation does not stop here but we should continue to serve our community & Gaothans in a much better way

Together let's take the Goathans and the East Indian Community to greater heights as One Village Family.

MGP - Protect! Preserve! Promote!

LIFE AND TIMES OF ST. GONSALO GARCIA:

Early Life (1557 - 1572)

- Born on 6th February 1557 in Bassein, India (now Vasai, Maharashtra) to a Portuguese father and an Indian mother.
- Baptized as Gonsalo Garcia.
- Raised in a devout Catholic family.

Education and Vocation (1572 - 1580)

- Studied at the Jesuit College in Bassein.
- Joined the Jesuits as a novice in 1572.
- Took his vows in 1578.

Missionary Work (1580 - 1593)

- Sent to Japan as a missionary in 1580.
- Worked in the provinces of Bungo and Arima.
- Preached the Gospel, baptized converts, and established Christian communities.

Persecution and Martyrdom (1593 - 1597)

- Persecution against Christians intensified in Japan.
- Gonsalo Garcia was arrested in 1593 and imprisoned in Omura.
- Transferred to Nagasaki, where he was executed by crucifixion on February 5, 1597.

Canonization and Legacy

- Beatified in 1627.
- Canonized as a saint by Pope Pius IX in 1862.
- First Indian saint.
- Feast day : February 6

Interesting Facts

- Gonsalo Garcia was fluent in several languages, including Marathi, Portuguese, Spanish and Japanese.
- He was known for his kindness, humility, and devotion to his faith.
- His martyrdom inspired many Christians in Japan and India to remain faithful despite persecution.



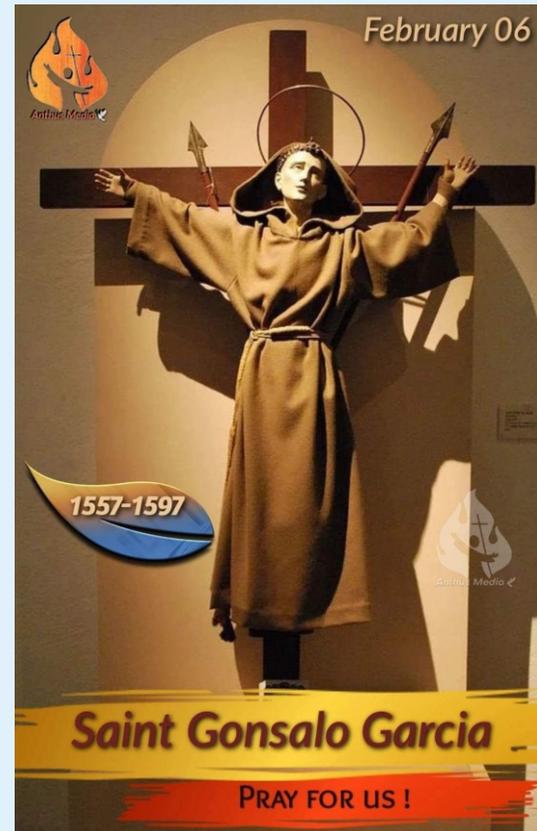
MGP to dedicate February month to St Gonsalo Garcia - Bhartiya Maha Sant

MGP will dedicate the entire month of February toward awareness to India's First Catholic Saint born in Maharashtra.

MGP will release and announce various projects and initiatives dedicated to the East Indian Native & Patron Saint thought this month. As per MGPs basic research not much is known of St Gonsalo Garcia hence an urgent need to create awareness.

In the first our Awareness series, we have a video created by Warren Fernandes, MGP International Coordinator of New Zealand during his visit to Nagasaki during his Japan Tour. (YouTube - St Gonzalo Garcia & 26 Saints of Japan)

This video very nicely captures the three sites at Nagasaki - Monument, Musuem and Aura Church. This is one of MGPs projects to promote devotion to our Native and Patron Saint Gonsalo Garcia by supporting tours to Nagasaki.



St Gonsalo Garcia Project

Bhartiya Maha Sant - Patron Saint of the East Indian Community

MGPs 10 Year Plan - Mission 25 Years Jubilee

In Association & Coordination with Government Authorities, Diocesan Hierarchy, Churches, Local Groups and Community Members

1. **St Gonsalo Garcia Chapel** in Bombay diocese the first ever religious structure dedicated to our Native Saint in Archdiocese of Bombay
2. **Historical & Heritage Tours** to places in the life of St Gonsalo Garcia like Nagasaki and Vasai
3. **Religious Books & Merchandise** based on our saint
4. **Installation of Statues** in Churches, at Gaothan Holy Crosses and homes
5. **Vasai Fort Restoration** keeping St Gonsalo Garcia as a theme
6. **St Gonsalo Garcia Museum** to be set up at Vasai
7. **New Hymns and Songs** dedicated to St Gonsalo Garcia
8. **Art installation or Large Statue** of our saint installed at a prominent location
9. **St Gonsalo Garcia to be officially recognised** as Bhartiya Maha Sant by the Government
10. **Special Weekly Novena dedication** at a Church to promote Devotion to St Gonsalo Garcia

We look forward to your support and prayers as we strive to Promote this Native Devotion and Create awareness about St Gonsalo Garcia

For feedback, suggestions and to support whatsapp us on 9820545302

MGP in the NEWS - Hindustan Times Friday 9th January 2026 - Page 5

Mobai Gaothan Panchayat announces its Municipal elections plan with the release of its Manifesto - Mumbai Bhumiputra Policy, 2026 edition

Gaothans covered - Old Kurla, Kalina Koloverly & Vakola.



In city's many gaothans, sons of the soil vote for progress, protection

... (transcription of the article text) ...

MGP Team Covered -

- Alphi D'Souza - MGP Chief**
- Bonnie Gomes - 1st Old Kurla Gaothan Sarpanch**
- Royston Jacinto - Kurla Taluka Sarpanch (Mulund to Vakola)**
- Tolstoy Gomes - Gaothan Sarpanch of Old Kurla**

Key Issues:

- **Gaothan Development:** Residents are seeking better infrastructure and amenities in their areas.
- **Heritage Preservation:** Efforts are being made to protect and restore the unique cultural identity of gaothans.
- **Indigenous Rights:** The East Indian community is advocating for their rights and recognition as the original inhabitants of Mumbai.

MGP plans multiple releases in the coming days with Municipal Elections in mind.

Special thanks to Aditi Shekhar for the press coverage

MGP - Aaplaa Gaav! Aaplaa Raaj!

<https://share.google/DIRakJII1A12wet40>

Bhumiputra East Indian Samaj appreciates Mahayuti Manifesto in line with Mumbai Bhumiputra Policy - Ruling Alliance acknowledges demands of the Indigenous People of Mumbai

Mobai Gaothan Panchayat was pleased on hearing the announcement of Mahayuti Manifesto which mentioned a points raised by the Mumbai Bhumiputra East Indian Samaj. Mumbai's Bhumiputra Samaj includes East Indians, Aagris, Kolis, Bhandaris, Kunbis

Some highlights of Mahayuti Manifesto

- * Special Gaothan Development Policy
- * Affordable housing to Bhumiputras
- * Cultural centre in BMC to promote Indigenous People culture
- * Promotion and support for the Marathi language projects

MGP has been continuously following up on the points mentioned in the Mumbai Bhumiputra Policy with BJP Mumbai President, MLA Ameet Satam

Special thanks to Ameet Satam and MGP will continue to coordinate and follow up on the manifesto included points as well as those mentioned in the Mumbai Bhumiputra Policy

MGP in the NEWS # 2 - Free Press Journal Friday 9th January 2026 - Page 2

Mobai Gaothan Panchayat Releases its Manifesto for Municipal Elections - Mumbai Bhumiputra Policy 2026 edition - Indigenous People Representation

Key Issues:

- 5 nominated corporators - these corporators should be from the Mumbai Bhumiputra community
- Special Gaothan Policy; no SRA tag to Gaothans
- Bhumiputra Mayor: the Mayor of Mumbai should be a Bhumiputra from Mumbai city

MGP plans multiple releases in the coming days with Municipal Elections in mind.

Special thanks to Manoj Ramakrishnan for the press coverage

MGP - Aaplaa Gaav! Aaplaa Raaj!

<https://www.freepressjournal.in/mumbai/mumbais-indigenous-groups-urge-parties-to-nominate-them-to-bmc-seats>



Indigenous groups press for nominated BMC seats

Manoj Ramakrishnan
MUMBAI

Organisations representing Mumbai's indigenous communities have asked political parties to appoint members of these groups to the five nominated seats in the BMC.

Ideally, experts on urban policy are nominated to these posts with the objective of assisting the administration in the creation and development of improvement programmes.

However, parties have been nominating their own members to the posts. In the last House, based on their strength, the Shiv Sena, with 84 seats, and the BJP, with 82, nominated two corporators each. The Congress nominated one.

The Bhumiputra Manifesto 2026, released by the Mobai Gaothan Panchayat (MGP), appeals to political parties to take up issues that uniquely affect gaothans. There are

Experts on urban policy are nominated to these posts to assist the administration in the creation of improvement programmes

more than a hundred gaothans and kolvadas in the city, such as Banwar and Chimbai in Bandra; Marol, Sahar and

Kunbi and Pathare Prabhu. The communities have been saying that their land was used to create infrastructure for the city, such as the airport, university campus, planned housing layouts, the port and defence installations.

There was a proposal to increase the number of nominated seats from five to ten. In 2023, the government tabled a Bill to amend the BMC Act, 1988, to increase the number in all municipal corporations.

MGP in the NEWS - Free Press Journal Monday, 12th January 2026

Special report on our East Indian Traditional Village Festivals

- * Barai Cha Sann - St Bonaventure Church Erangal
- * Vasai Killa Cha Sann - St Gonsalo Garcia Vasai Fort

MGP Team members covered

- * James Fernandes - Vasai
- * Bosco Patel - Malad

Special thanks to Manoj Ramakrishnan for coverage

Kristaav

MGP's Religious Traditions Revival Project

<https://share.google/K70WhzjEpQ2R1eW9k>

Story In Picture

Ancient shrines echo with faith in modern Mumbai




Two four-century-old shrines - a church dedicated to St Gonsalo Garcia, the first Roman Catholic saint from India, inside the historical Vasai Fort, and the St Bonaventure Church at Erangal - celebrated their annual feast days on Sunday.

Hundreds of worshippers attended the religious services at the partially ruined Church of the Holy Name, one of the seven built by different Roman Catholic orders, including the Franciscans and Jesuits, inside the Vasai Fort. Father Peter Fernandez presided over the celebration. The locals refer to the feast and the fair around it as 'Killa Cha Sann'.

St Gonsalo Garcia (1557-1597) was born in Vasai to a Portuguese father and an Indian mother. He spent his childhood learning in the college that was attached to the church. He is recognised as the patron saint of the Diocese of Vasai.

Father Caesar Dabre, a priest in the Vasai Diocese, said that Garcia studied to be a priest but was not ordained as one. "He became a businessman but later joined priests in their religious missions in East Asia. He learned Japanese and started teaching catholicism as a Franciscan Brother," said Dabre.

In Japan, Garcia was among 26 people accused of sedition by the local administration. They were crucified in Nagasaki on February 5, 1597. He was declared a saint by the Vatican in 1862, becoming the first Indian Catholic saint.

James Thomas Fernandes, global culture coordinator and Vasai head of Mobai Gaothan Panchayat, a community organisation representing Mumbai's native Catholics, said that the Vasai Fort is maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India, but locals are allowed to hold a religious service every Sunday. "People from outside Vasai travel to the church for the annual event," said Fernandes.

Thousands of worshippers also gathered at Erangal, near Madh, on Sunday for the feast of the Church of St Bonaventure.

The church was built in 1575 by the Portuguese and destroyed during the Maratha wars in 1708. The ruins were repaired in the 1950s. Many local families continue the tradition of arriving at the church the evening before the feast. They set up enclosures to cook and sleep before waking up for the religious service.

-Manoj Ramakrishnan

ROGER C. B. PEREIRA

Knight of the Order of St Gregory the Great

Mr. Roger C.B. Pereira, a trailblazer in Indian advertising and public relations with more than five decades of influence, received the title of Knight of the Order of Saint Gregory the Great - an honour bestowed upon Catholic men and women in recognition of their personal service to the Holy See and to the Church, through their unusual labours, their support of the Holy See, and the examples they set in their communities and their countries.

As a key architect of the industry, he co-founded the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) and the India chapter of the International Advertising Association, while presiding over major advertising bodies.

Deeply involved in the Catholic community, he serves as a trustee of Take Charge; a mentorship program fostering excellence among Catholic youth, with over 820 mentor-mentee pairs formed.

Oswald Cardinal Gracias bestowed the medal, commending Mr. Pereira's blend of professional innovation and faith-driven service as a beacon for future generations.

MGP Congratulates Roger Pereira on Papal Medal and Knighthood!

The East Indian Community is thrilled that Roger Pereira has received the Papal Medal and been appointed a Knight of the Order of St. Gregory the Great. This prestigious recognition celebrates his outstanding service, commitment, and contributions to the community and Church.

Roger's dedication and humility inspire us all. We also congratulate his family on this momentous honour. As a strong MGP supporter and East Indian of the Year 2017, Roger's achievements reflect the community's values.

Roger has been nominated for the East Indian Community Awards - EICA 2026



MOBAI GAOTHAN PANCHAYAT

Donor Membership Plan

YEARLY PLAN

1000/-

Benefits

- Umbrella - Rs. 300/-
- Sukhala Bag - Rs. 100/-
- Gaothan Voice @doorstep - Rs. 300/-
- East Indian Calender - upto 1 worth Rs. 100/-

Benefits Worth Rs. 800/-

SILVER

5000/-

Benefits

- Vive Queimada - Rs. 500/-
- Ei Books - Rs. 200/-
- Umbrella - Rs. 300/-
- Sukhala Bag - Rs. 100/-
- Gaothan Voice @doorstep - Rs. 300/-
- East Indian Calender - upto 5 worth Rs. 500/-
- East Indian Merchandise - Rs. 100/-

Benefits Worth Rs. 2000/-

GOLD

10000/-

Benefits

- Vive Queimada - Rs. 1000/-
- Ei Books - Rs. 500/-
- Umbrella - Rs. 300/-
- Sukhala Bag - Rs. 100/-
- Gaothan Voice @doorstep - Rs. 300/-
- East Indian Calender - upto 10 worth Rs. 1000/-
- East Indian Merchandise - Rs. 500/-

Benefits Worth Rs. 3700/-

DIAMOND

25000/-

Benefits

- Vive Queimada - Rs. 1500/-
- Ei Books - Rs. 1000/-
- Umbrella - Rs. 400/-
- Sukhala Bag - Rs. 100/-
- Gaothan Voice @doorstep - Rs. 300/-
- East Indian Calender - upto 25 worth Rs. 2500/-
- East Indian Merchandise - Rs. 1000/-

Benefits Worth Rs. 6800/-

PLATINUM

100000/-

Benefits

- Vive Queimada - Rs. 2500/-
- Ei Books - Rs. 2000/-
- Umbrella - Rs. 500/-
- Sukhala Bag - Rs. 100/-
- Gaothan Voice @doorstep - Rs. 300/-
- East Indian Calender - upto 50 worth Rs. 5000/-
- East Indian Merchandise - Rs. 2500/-

Benefits Worth Rs. 12900/-

Account Name - Mobai Gaothan Panchayat | Bank Name - Bassein Catholic Cooperative Bank | Branch - Kalina, Saving Account Number - 032100100000791 | IFSC Code - BACB0000032

MLA Ameet Satam & MGP Team Visit to Kaka Baptista Gardens Site

A special site visit was arranged at the upcoming Kaka Baptista Gardens by BJP Mumbai President MLA Ameet Satam and MGP Team. Various features at the Juhu Gardens site were discussed.

Special thanks to MLA Ameet Satam for making time for this site visit in spite of his busy schedule

MGP Gardens Committee Team present - Alphi Dsouza, Alan Gonsalves, Francis Rodrigues, Gilroy Dsouza, Gleason Barretto, Royston Jacinto & Rupas Bugree.



OPPO A3 Pro 5G
Francis | Mumbai | 30 January 2026 at 11:52 am

KAKA BAPTISTA EAST INDIAN THEME GARDENS

Mumbai's Bhumiputra East Indian Samaj to Get an Exclusive place to showcase their Culture and Tradition

Special Thanks to MLA Ameet Satam for his continuous coordination and follow up to get this project sanctions & necessary permissions

Proposed inclusions at the Kaka Baptista East Indian Theme Gardens site -

1. Pergola

- * The pillars will have a wood finish or a brick look
- * The shed to have an heritage home tile look
- * A elevated stage for performances

2. Museum

- * A portacabin will house the Musuem
- * East Indian artefacts will be on display
- * An Audio visual presentation space will also be featured

3. Maquet

- * A small model of a typical East Indian Gaothan
- * Will also serve as a selfie space
- * Efforts to include aspects of a Model Gaothan
- * Features of the Gaothan Restoration and Beautification project also to be included

4. Well

- * The well which was an important inclusion will find a special place here
- * The core activity for the traditional Umbrachapani efforts will be made to have an original well
- * This space will be promoted as an ideal place to celebrate umbrachapani

5. Occupation Space

- * A demarcated zone for each occupation
- * Live size statues with a display of the occupation to be included
- * The selfie or photography aspect to be included
- * A brief note on the occupation will be placed on a lollipop board

6. Children Play Area

- * A special space for children to play will be created
- * The inclusions will have fabricated large size artefacts with the play area theme

7. Amphitheatre

- * A special place for open air events
- * Special performances will be planned on a monthly or quarterly basis

9. Library

- * A Mobile library placed in a silent area of the Gardens
- * Books on East Indians and authored by East Indians will be on the book stand

8. Lawns

- * A perfect place for community gatherings and meetings
- * This place will be surrounded by King size artefacts of the East Indians
- * Lighting will also match the ambience of the lawns

10. Kaka Baptista Statue

- * Since this garden is dedicated to Kaka Baptista having a statue will be a perfect inclusion
- * The statue will be placed near the entrance

Community members are welcome to join our project team or experts can join as Advisors. Whatsapp 9820545302 if interested



EAST INDIAN NATEKAR

MGPs Matrimonial Project



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.

*Alliance needed for an RC El Spinster, 37 yrs old, 5'0" residing in Mumbai. She is a Masters in Education & currently working as a Lecturer. If interested kindly share your profile & recent photographs on raffon17@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, 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, or Contact on 9890196841

*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 a 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.

*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.

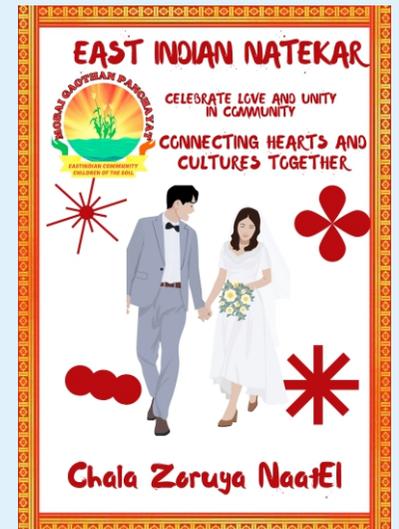
*Seeking an Alliance for an El bachelor, 25 years, 5'7" residing in Mumbai. He holds a Bachelor Degree in Electronics & a Masters Degree in Cyber Security. Currently working as a Cyber Security Professional. If interested kindly share your profile with photographs on 8433887390.

*Seeking an Alliance for an El Bachelor 38 years, 5'7". He holds a MBA degree in Marketing, Post Graduate in Earth Sciences, Bachelors in Chemistry. Currently working as a Marketing Head at Gold's Gym India. If interested kindly share your profile with recent photographs on mikhailpereira@gmail.com.

CAVEAT

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प्रिय हिलरी, तू गेलास? पण मी का रडू?

कारण तुला जायचंच होतं आणि मलाही लवकरच यायचंच आहे.

शिवाय तू गेलास पण तुझा आवाज शमलेला नाही!

तुझे शब्द उपासनावर्षभर घुमत राहातील.

भाविक तुझ्याच शब्दांत एकमेकांना हाक मारतील-

"या हो, या हो सकल त्वरा/ प्रभुरायाचे स्तवन करा..."

तुझ्याच शब्दात आम्ही बाळ येशूचे स्वागत करू-

"उठा प्रभूचे स्वागत करण्या/ मार्ग प्रभूचा सजवा/

प्रायश्चित्काळात ते तुझ्याच शब्दात रडतील, "दुःख वाटते रे प्रभू दुःख वाटते/सर्व पापे आठविता हृदय फाटते/"

आणि ईस्टरकाळात ते गर्जतील, "एकच करू पुकार/गर्जू जय जयकार/ उठला तारणहार/"

हिलरी, तू ओंकाराने मरणाला पुरून उरलायस.

आता स्वर्गात तुझं स्वागत करताना सगळे केरूबीम आणि सेराबीम देवदूत एकत्र जमलेले मला पहायचे होते,

ते सुस्वरामध्ये गात असतील, "तू याजक युगायुगाचा!" ते गायन मला ऐकायचे होते!

असो! "सेवक तव पदी आला, प्रभुजी/ निद्रावश तो झाला/"

ओम शांती!

-फादर मायकल जी.



FR HILLARY FERNANDES

22.10.1938 - 21.01.2026

FR HILLARY FERNANDES: PROPHET OF RELEVANCE

Fr Hillary Fernandes, who passed away recently, leaves behind not merely a body of work but a living legacy of words that prayed, preached, and provoked. To speak of him only as a prolific writer, poet, dramatist, or translator would be accurate—but insufficient. To many of us, he was above all a prophet of our times, one who believed that God must be heard in the language of the people, and that faith must breathe through the rhythms, metaphors, and cadences of their everyday life. A Wordsmith in the Service of Faith

Passing of Fr Hillary Fernandes is a quiet departure of a prophetic voice that refused to let faith become irrelevant and distant from life.

Like Amos, who warned that worship divorced from justice becomes noise, Fr Hillary believed that prayer which does not touch real lives becomes hollow. And like Jeremiah, who carried the Word as a fire in his bones, he bore the burden of making God intelligible—patiently, persistently, passionately, often without recognition.

His prophecy took a humble but demanding form: relevance.

For Fr Hillary, faith that could not be understood could not heal. Liturgy that could not be owned could not convert. This conviction shaped every line he wrote, every play he staged, every sacred text he translated. His poetry entered human struggle; his drama exposed moral tension; None of it was ornamental. All of it was incarnational.

His translation of liturgical and religious texts into Marathi was not an act of convenience, but of Incarnation theology lived out. He believed, deeply and uncompromisingly, that just as the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, so too must the Word take flesh in the language, culture, and breath of the people.

By grounding prayer in Marathi, he restored to liturgy its prophetic sharpness—its capacity to console the grieving, disturb the comfortable, and call believers to coherence between what they pray and how they live. In his hands, language became sacrament: a meeting place between God, ordinary lives and a call to spirituality.

As a poet and dramatist, Fr Hillary refused safety. Prophetic art never is. His work did not merely express belief; it examined it, exposing the gap between ritual and justice, devotion and responsibility. Like Nathan before David, his art held up a mirror and trusted truth to do its work.

His fidelity to the mission that God must be made known in the language of the people was itself a prophetic stance. In a world tempted by prestige and borrowed voices, he chose the language of the people.

Fr Hillary was not a prophet who shouted but one who quietly returned again and again to the same task, trusting that relevance pursued in faithfulness would outlast resistance and indifference alike.

In mourning Fr Hillary Fernandes, we inherit not only his words, but his mission. To carry it forward is the truest tribute we can offer.

Fr. Adolph sdb

Fr Hillary Fernandes - One of the First to Support, Encourage and Inspire Me to Serve

My activism Journey - Boys For Music > GARAJ > Gaothan Voice > Mobai Gaothan Panchayat and the movement continues..

By Gleason Barretto, Old Kurla

I was associated with a private youth group in Juhu Parish, Boys For Music (BFM) established in 1993. BFM was popular then for our large Christmas crib at a prominent location along Juhu Church road.

In 1996, Fr Hillary was the Parish Priest and on noticing BFM members talent and activities invited us to take active part in the parish beginning with the Christmas crib which we made at our own cost for around 10 years

In the meanwhile around this year I joined the editorial board of the Parish bulletin, Parish post as I was fond of writing. In 2002 the Parish bulletin name was changed to Wave Length, a name suggested by me.

Fr Hillary was always supportive to BFM activities and projects. He whole heartedly gave us a free hand for our creativity and organising skills. He had full trust in BFM that we will be committed and focussed on our work for the Parish. In 1998, we started a sound on hire business and here again we provided our services to the church & it's associations free of cost.

In the Jubilee year 2000, I approached Fr Hillary with a plan for my first book, Juhu Catholic Guide. Fr Hillary was very supportive and told me not to worry if the print cost was not covered with advertisement collections but luckily we managed to cover the cost thru ads. In December 2000, the Juhu Catholic Guide was released by Fr Hillary at St Joseph's Church, Juhu.

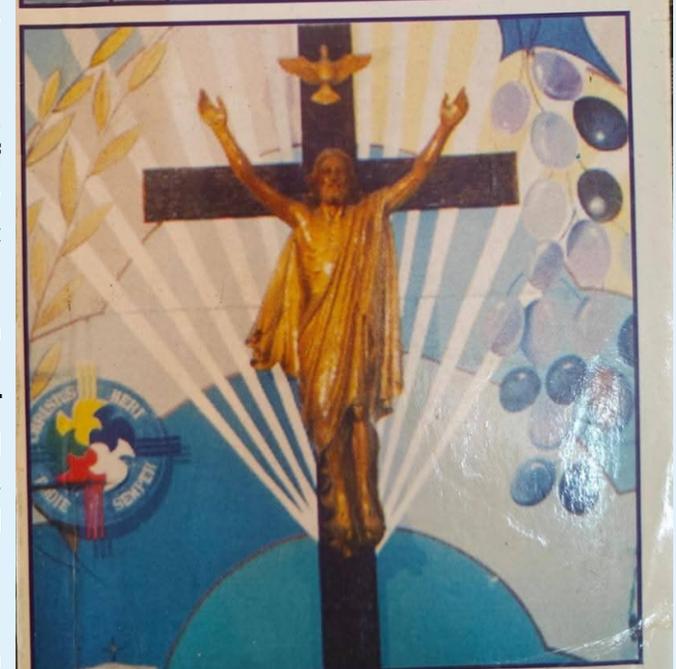
BFM started a Juhu Gaothan based group in 2002 named GARAJ (Gaothan Active Residents Association of Juhu). The flagship project was the GARAJ Street Kids Project strongly supported by Sr Maria Dolores & Fr KT Emmanuel wherein we served dinner daily to around 20 street kids and financed their education needs. Gaothan Voice exclusively for Juhu was released by GARAJ in March 2003 and it was converted to a Mumbai Metropolitan Region based bulletin in March 2009.

GARAJ along with Gaothan Voice had its first model Juhu Gaothan Panchayat in 2009 and this initiative drove us to launch Mobai Gaothan Panchayat in March 2010. MGP now has 50+ projects for the East Indian Community and Gaothans.

Some of our projects are focussed on Maharashtra state language, Marathi and the native East Indian dialect. Fr Hillary was excited on knowing about the release of MGPs East Indian Dictionary and eagerly awaited for a copy. He always appreciated & supported our language based initiatives & projects. Fr Hillary looked forward to meet me but due to time constraints we could not meet many times.

For decades I have been encouraged and supported by Bishops and Priests, but the support of Fr Hillary Fernandes will always be one of the biggest reasons i serve the East Indian Community and Gaothans.

Fr Hillary and Marathi was a strong bond which got along well together. The great contributions made by Fr Hillary can never be forgotten and needs to be treasured for generations. As an Ideator & Founder of MGP we will dedicate some projects and initiatives to Fr Hillary. especially the ones with language theme. We will also request the Archdiocese of Bombay and Vasai to dedicate projects and initiatives to Fr Hillary. A formal request will also be made to the Maharashtra State Government.



JUHU CATHOLIC GUIDE	
EDITED BY	- GLEASON BARRETTO
PUBLISHED BY	- FR.HILARY FERNANDES
CONTRIBUTORS	- ANGELO PEREIRA SYDNEY CASTON WILLIE FERNANDES
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Padma Bhushan (1):

2. Shri Vijay Amritraj - Sports - United States of America: Tennis legend from Chennai; part of a prominent Tamil Christian family.

Padma Shri (6)

3. Shri A E Muthunayagam - Science and Engineering - Kerala: Aerospace pioneer (ISRO); born Augustine Eugene, from a Christian community in southern India.

4. Ms. Armida Fernandez - Medicine, Maharashtra: Neonatologist; Goan Christian heritage, founder of SNEHA NGO.

5. Shri Hally War - Social Work - Meghalaya: Grassroots activist in a Christian-majority state (Khasi tribe, predominantly Presbyterian).

6. Prof. (Dr.) Lars-Christian Koch - Art - Germany: Musicologist; name and European background indicate Protestant/Catholic Christiani

7. Ms. Liudmila Viktorovna Khokhlova - Literature and Education - Russia: Scholar; Russian Orthodox Christian common in her demographic.

8. Shri Vladimer Mestvirishvili (Posthumous) - Sports - Georgia: Wrestling coach; Georgian Orthodox Christian.

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East Indians Day

East Indian Baazaar

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Let's come together to make East Indian Sann 2026 a grand success!

#EastIndianSann2026 #CultureCelebration #CommunityUnity





EAST INDIAN PUNCH

The Mouthpiece of the Mobai Gaothan Panchayat



MARATHI BHASHECHI SHAAN AAPLAA FR HILLARY MAHAN

Fr Hillary Fernandes - Marathi Language Ambassador

Gleason Barretto, Old Kurla

Music, or to be specific, **Bhaktigeet**, was very close to Fr. Hillary's heart. He wrote many Marathi hymns, many of which are popular today and sung at Marathi masses across Maharashtra. Fr. Hillary played a significant role in encouraging Marathi choirs through an annual choral competition. He ensured that his Marathi hymns had that Indian touch. A Marathi mass is complete only if one of Fr Hillary's original compositions is sung.

Artistic and cultural promotion was the highlight of Fr Hillary's illustrious life. East Indian Mahotsav was strongly supported by Fr Hillary when it was first launched at Uttan, and it continues to be celebrated annually to date. He encouraged the revival of culture and stressed the need to preserve our roots. He initiated inculturation during religious services decades ago, when it was not practiced and so at times faced objections. Today, witnessing the performance of aarti and lighting the Diya are common at special religious services.

Rights of Indigenous People are what Fr Hillary always supported. He encouraged and supported all East Indian groups that approached him. His appreciation and guidance helped many members of the East Indian community and East Indian associations grow. Fr Hillary appreciated and was impressed by MGP's drive to demand basic rights as Indigenous People of Mumbai, Bhumi Putra East Indian Samaj. He was very happy among the people of Uttan and their culture that he decided to spend his last days in this vibrant village.

Activities unlimited, with support guaranteed, was his mantra. Giving space for creativity and new initiatives was his speciality. One of the top reasons for Mobai Gaothan Panchayat's existence is Fr Hillary, as he gave full support and the right spark for its founders to begin their activism journey. The Muktisagar Prabodhan Kendra was full of activities thanks to Fr Hillary and his vision to create a Marathi-themed centre to serve the Archdiocese of Bombay. Muktisagar was a testament to holistic development, whether it was catering to the youth, women, assisting in marriage preparation or helping senior citizens.

Talent-driven and focused to ensure maximum impact. He ensured that he made the best of his God-given talent on various fronts. He had great leadership qualities, but was never considered to lead the Mumbai church hierarchy. His passion and dedication to serve Catholics in the archdiocese were commendable. Fr Hillary was gifted with multiple talents, and he worked hard to ensure he exercised them to their utmost potential.

Hillary Fernandes and Marathi were made for each other. He remained focused on the upliftment of the Marathi language and its use during religious services in Mumbai, Vasai and across Maharashtra. MGPs' language-themed initiatives impressed Fr Hillary, especially the East Indian Dictionary. He eagerly looked forward to witnessing the 2nd edition release of the East Indian Dictionary. Fr Hillary authored many books and articles in his favourite language, Marathi.

Inspiration to many who worked with him in parishes, on projects and initiatives. He surely laid one of the best foundations to promote Indigenous Peoples' culture, religious traditions, the Marathi language and many other initiatives. With his death, the biggest challenge will be to move forward from what Fr Hillary left us with. There is a subtle effort being made by a section of clergy and laity to sideline Marathi language, religious traditions, cultural practices, the identity of the Indigenous People and the representation in churches locally and on a diocesan level. We appeal to our community members to stand up and speak out against the section that conspires against us. MGP will always support and encourage like-minded individuals and groups to fulfil our dream of a better future for the Indigenous People of Mumbai.



GAOTHAN ADS VILLA

The Village Advertisement Space



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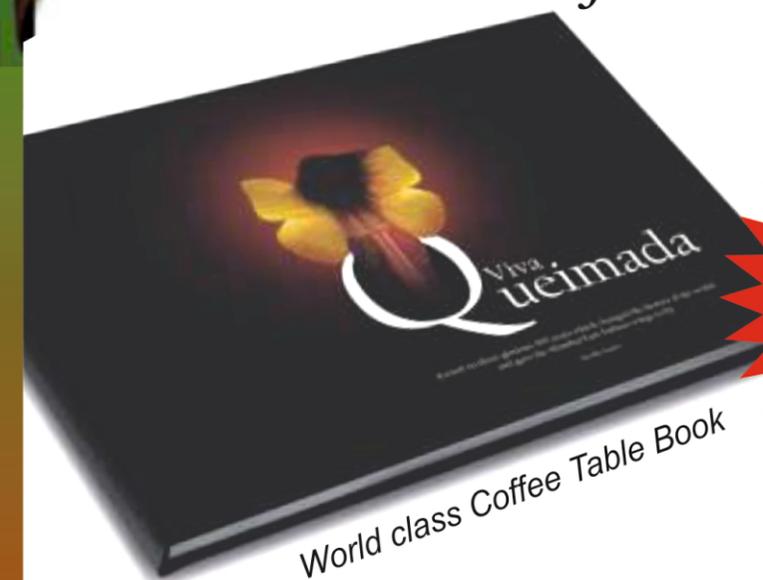
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