

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



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23 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY



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One Voice !

The East Indian Magazine

One Village !

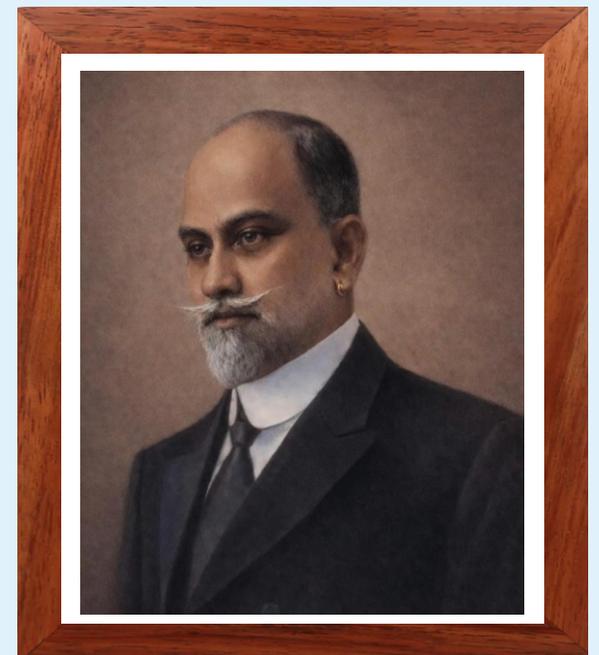
Email: eastindianvoice@gmail.com

**BHUMIPUTRANCHA NAAV
PASRUVA GAAVO GAAV**
Village Awareness! Global Impact!

Kaka Baptista Jayanti
17th March



Matharpacady



Kaka Baptista Project
An MGP Initiative

Photo Frame at Institutions and Offices

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



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THE EAST INDIAN FIESTA 2026
 Organised by Melbourne East Indian Association
 Saturday, 7 February 2026
 Sacred Heart Church Hall, Corner of Johnson & Mora Avenue, Oakleigh



MGP Team attended the Indian Responsible Tourism State Awards 2026 - Maharashtra Chapter today at Yashwantrao Chavan Centre, Nariman Point. MGP was invited for its project - Kaka Baptista East Indian Museum at Manori
 MGP Team members who attended the event - Royston Jacinto, Vicky Peter Misquitta and Rekha Jacinto

Bonnie Anthony Gomes



17th April 1950 - 26th February 2026

Husband of Georgina Gomes
 Father of Tolstoy, Roger & Gladwin Gomes

Condolences from the MGP Team
 Bonnie Gomes was one of the most active MGP Sarpanches of Old Kurla Gaothan
 His Son, Tolstoy Gomes now carries forward his dream for the East Indian Community and Goathans by representing as MGP Sarpanch of Old Kurla



MGP Orlem Unit - Introze Party

MATHARPACADY RISING.....

Have you ever imagined a 300-year-old heritage village in the heart of Mumbai – that seamlessly blends history with modern life? Well, that's what you'll experience here in Matharpacady!

Welcome to a place where every street holds a story, and every corner reveals a piece of history. For 300 years, Matharpacady has been a hub of culture, and tradition. It's where these exquisite bungalows share a story with every visitor.

Walk through history with architecture and bungalows that have stood for centuries. Traditional festivals that keep our heritage alive.

Discover history. Discover culture. Discover a place that's still growing, still evolving, still living.

The name 'Matharpacady' stems from the Sanskrit word 'Mathara' which means 'wise one'. This is what the Portuguese called their arbitrators who were known as 'vereadores'. In return for their services to the Portuguese government, they were given parcels of land; Matharpacady was one such land given to an arbitrator in the 1820s. Other stories suggest that it either stems from the Marathi meaning of the words Mathar and Pakkadi that are used to describe a 'cluster of dwellings on the forehead (hillock)', or the Portuguese meaning of 'oart' meaning "garden of orchards".

The Holy Cross Oratory is more than just a building; it's a symbol of resilience and unity. Nestled in Matharpacady, one of the last heritage villages with Portuguese-style homes, it stands as a living testament to the East Indian community's contribution to Mumbai. When Mumbai was ravaged by the scourge of the Great Plague in the 1896, our forefathers and their families assembled at the Holy Cross Oratory and prayed. On 1st May 2025, we celebrated 150 years of the Holy Cross Oratory—a beacon of hope that rose from the ashes of the Great Plague of 1875. When death swept through the Village, the people turned to prayer, trusting in the power of the Cross and the intercession of St. Roque. Through their faith, they built a sanctuary of stone, mud, and hope—a place that's protected the Village from the forces of time, disaster, and those who would erase its legacy.

There is more to the sweetness of Matharpacady villagers than meets the eye — their Portuguese-influenced bungalows in Mazgaon goathan were constructed in the late 1800s using sugar and jaggery.

Here we find the lineage of Koli fishermen, the Bhandari Toddy Tappers, and the Kundi Agri farmers who converted during the Portuguese persecution and were later employed by the East India Company. Along with them, members of various Goan and Mangalorean clubs ("Coors") from Goan and Mangalorean villages made this space their home.

Matharpacady was home to the city's first Indian mayor Dr Mafalldo Ubaldo Mascarenhas, a freedom fighter, advocating the return of Portuguese Goa to India. Ex-communicated by the Portuguese government in Goa, he lived and worked in Bombay, to become the city Mayor in 1948-49. The Mascarenhas Road in Mazagon is named after him. Today his grandnephews stay in the bungalow.

Behind the oratory was a verdant hill with huge trees and a bungalow that stood on the hill, that belonged to Joseph "Kaka" Baptista, the freedom fighter who worked with Lokmanya Tilak. He went on to become the first president of Indian Home Rule League in 1916, and later the first India Mayor of Bombay, in 1925.

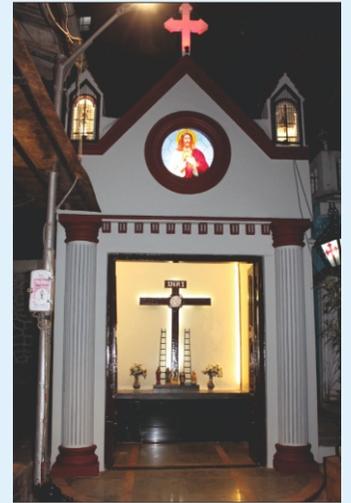
Come visit Matharpacady - where stories never grow old, and the adventure is just beginning.

The Village of Matharpacady with its graceful Portuguese styled houses and residents with Portuguese sounding surnames. The shock you'll get is that you enter from cacophonous traffic noise into an area so quiet that the dominant sound is bird-song from the trees or a piano or guitar playing somewhere in the background.

Matharpacady Village is a Grade III Heritage precinct.

Matharpacady is more than just a destination—it's a living, breathing celebration of the past, present, and future. Come and be part of our ongoing story.

By Stanislaus Baptista



MGP in the NEWS - Mumbai Mirror
11th February 2026 - Page 7

Gaothans are not slums

Article Highlights:

- SRA notice to survey Gaothans is unjustified
- MGP's mission is to preserve East Indian culture, heritage, and identity
- Gaothans have rich history, tied to Mumbai's indigenous people
- Residents have titles, lineage, and history; treating them as encroachers is unacceptable
- MGP demands withdrawal of notice, respect for Gaothan rights
- MGP to decide on an action plan - legal recourse or protests if survey proceeds
- Standoff highlights unease in Mumbai's old settlements over redevelopment
- Residents fear loss of community spaces, cite "builders profit, locals lose"
- MGP communication on this issue sent to Maharashtra Chief Minister & BJP Mumbai Chief

Special thanks to Dipti Singh for coverage

MGP members covered - Alphi Dsouza, MGP Chief and Joan Gonsalves, Vibhag Sarpanch of Chakala & Bamanwada



Congratulations to Our Lady of Grace Cathedral, Papy Vasai for winning the UNESCO Award

GP had presented an award to this Church for restoration under its award category - East Indian Heritage Church of the Year 2024

MGP's heritage promotion project - HerEltage aims at encouraging Restoration in the Archdiocese and

UNESCO award for restored 475-year-old Vasai Cathedral



Mobai Gaothan Panchayat (MGP) strongly objects to SRA notice for survey in Gaothans

Mobai Gaothan Panchayat (MGP), a registered trust working for the upliftment of the East Indian Community, has expressed its strong objection to the Slum Rehabilitation Authority's (SRA) notice for a survey in Gaothans. The notice, issued without proper consultation, threatens the rights and interests of the indigenous people of Mumbai.

MGP asserts that Gaothans and Koliwadadas cannot be treated as slums, as they are ancestral lands with rightful owners. The SRA's actions are seen as an attempt to undermine the community's rights and pave the way for redevelopment projects that benefit builders rather than the residents.

"We demand the immediate withdrawal of the notice and respect for the rights of Gaothan residents," said Alphi D'Souza, MGP Chief. MGP will take all necessary steps to protect the interests of the community.

Papiyas - Special Prayers and Hymns at Lenten time Bhavando, utha tumche neezemanche, deemi ghala, lazaar kara, ek Amche Bapala.....

- *Papiya is a Marathi word which means Penitents
- *Papiyas or Devaats as they are called, are a group of devout Christians who move about from cross to cross at the dead of night, chanting prayers and imploring Christians to wake up from their sleep, get down on their knees and pray and ask for God's forgiveness
- *These groups become active from the Sunday night before Palm Sunday and their activity culminates in a crescendo on Maundy Thursday
- *Papiyas organize themselves into groups of 10 to 20 persons or more and start with visiting various Gaothans during Lenten time
- *They shroud themselves in black or blue or brown tunics with a hood so they cannot be easily recognized
- *Their lamentable chants in tones similar to Gregorian chants are in East Indian dialect
- *Listening to their mournful chants can be a hair raising experience and can send shivers down one's spines, especially when one hears them at the dead of night.
- *Tradition has it that Papiyas from one village would visit the neighbouring village and vice versa, No two groups could come face with each other.
- *If both groups had the occasion to travel and would cross paths, then the group that spotted the passing group would hide behind the bunds (baands) of the field till the other group passed by
- *People of the neighbourhood would keep a kettle of hot tea at the foot of the cross for the Papiyas
- *Papiyas are representative of the apostles Peter, James and John who accompanied Jesus to the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prayed and during the 'Agony' on the Mount of Olives

MGP thanks all our community members who join Papiya Singing for ensuring our Religious Traditions are revived and passed on to our future generations.

Issued by - Mobai Gaothan Panchayat





MGP NOTICE BOARD

The Announcements for the East Indian Community



Marathi Bhasha Divas 27th February Aaplaa Gaav! Aapli Basha!

Mobai Gaothan Panchayat has 2 special projects connected to Marathi Language Day -

1. East Indian Dictionary - Second Edition
2. East Indian Marathi Basha Project

Highlights of these initiatives -

- *An appeal to the State Government to recognise East Indian dialect spoken by the Indigenous People of Mumbai with a majority of words common to the Marathi language.
- *MGP plans to launch the Second Edition of the East Indian Dictionary with more information and research within 2 years.
- *East Indian Marathi religious services to be recognised and permitted in Mumbai across the year
- *Communication to all churches with weekly novenas to give preference to state language Marathi and native East Indian dialect
- *Communication to authorities for implementation of regular Marathi religious services which should be given the utmost priority
- *Programmes and awareness initiatives to promote the East Indian dialect on Social Media.

Together let's ensure that there is awareness about the East Indians as the Indigenous Marathi speaking people of Maharashtra and that we have a very close connect with the Marathi language

For feedback and suggestions you may mail us at mgpmobai@gmail.com

MGP - Protect! Preserve! Promote!

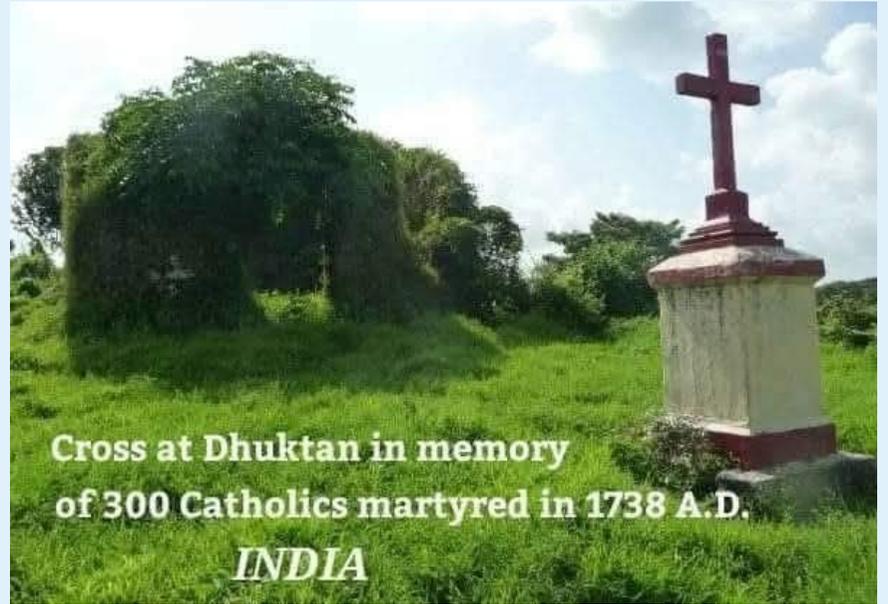
The CROSS at DUKHTAN

"Discover the haunting history of Dhuktan!

Hidden in the hills of Palghar lies a powerful symbol of faith and resilience - the Dhuktan Cross. This stone monument was built in 1915 by Rev. Fr. Comajariz Souza Menezes to honor the memory of 300 Catholic martyrs brutally killed in 1738.

The name 'Dhuktan' itself echoes with the pain of that tragic event, derived from the East Indian word for 'pain'. Imagine the horror of that day, when survivors fled to the nearby village of Mann, 8 km away, seeking refuge. Located on the Palghar-Manor road, about 15 km east of Palghar railway station, Dhuktan is a testament to the unbreakable spirit of those who chose faith over life.

Every February, a feast brings together the community to commemorate their sacrifice. Let's remember their story and the power of unwavering devotion. #DhuktanCross #FaithAndSacrifice #History"



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

Bombays Natives, the East Indians to pay their respects to Community freedom fighter

KAKA BAPTISTA JAYANTI

The East Indian Community to observe this day on March 17th every year

Mobai Gaothan Panchayat (MGP) in its efforts to create awareness of Bombay Natives, the East Indian Community declared that March 17th every year will be observed as Kaka Baptista Jayanti. Joseph "Kaka" Baptista is a freedom fighter who was a close associate of Lokmanya Tilak during India's freedom struggle. Kaka Baptista was born on March 17, 1864 at Matharpacady, Mazagaon. His father, John Baptista hailed from Uttan, near Bassein.

To commemorate this special Day for the East Indian Community, the MGP Team will pay there respects at 2 venues -

Venue 1 - Kaka Baptista Chowk, Bhoot Bangla - Uttan @9am
In association with Corporator Shoun Leo Colaco

Venue 2 - Kaka Baptista East Indian Bhavan Gardens Site, H B Gawde Road - Southend, Juhu Tara, Santacruz (West), @8am
*Garden work has begun, should open by this year end

A Special large size photo frame has been made for the Juhu event and medium size (A3) photo frames of Kaka Baptista are being given complimentary to Schools, Colleges, offices and other places of importance. Those who need photo frames can contact us.

Highlights about Kaka Baptista

- *Kaka Baptista coined the phrase "Swaraj is my Birth Right" which was later made popular by Tilak
- *Kaka Baptista was the First Mayor of Bombay in the year 1925-1926
- *He worked with BMC for 17 years from the year 1901
- *The Mazagaon Gardens is the 1st Garden named after Kaka Baptista and the 2nd Garden is at Kalina
- *He assisted Tilak by launching the Sarvajanic Ganeshotsav
- *He was a legal advisor to Lokmanya Tilak
- *Played an active role in the Home Rule Movement along with Lokmanya Tilak and Annie Besant.
- *As an Advocate in the High Court, he defended Veer Sarvarkar and demanded an open trial on the basis of fundamental rights.

Due to his valuable contribution to the city and India's freedom struggle, MGP has demanded the following from the Maharashtra State Government

- *The Bandra-Worli Sealink to be named after Kaka Baptista
- *Bandra Terminus to be named after Kaka Baptista
- *A special Community fund to be started for the natives, Kaka Baptista East Indian Community Fund to support the community for Education, Medical and other needs.
- *Land to be allotted for East Indian Bhavan to have an auditorium/hall in memory of Kaka Baptista.
- *Kaka Baptista to be recognised by the Maharashtra Government for his valuable contribution to the city and country and various projects to be named after him.
- *March 17th to be recognised as Kaka Baptista Jayanti by the Maharashtra State Government and also a special commemoration by the BMC.
- *An East Indian to be directly chosen as a Corporator by the community members and associations to represent in the BMC House

In the meanwhile, MGP has decided to place a statue of Kaka Baptista at their proposed Kaka Baptista East Indian Bhavan Gardens at Juhu.

MGP's Kaka Baptista Project - Your suggestions are welcome to make our Community Freedom Fighter known across India and Abroad, Advisors especially from Kaka Baptista family are welcome to join our project. To be a part WhatsApp 9820545302.





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.

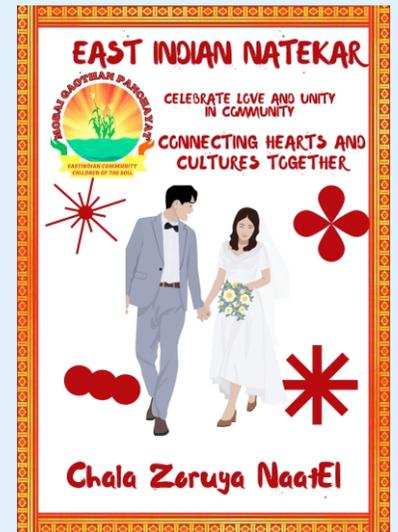
*Seeking an Alliance for an El bachelor, 25 years, 5'7" residing in Mumbai. He holds a Bachelor Degree in Electronics & a Masters Degree in Cyber Security. Currently working as a Cyber Security Professional. If interested kindly share your profile with photographs on 8433887390.

*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.

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Book Review

Versova, Once Upon A Shoreline (Pentagram)

'Versova, Once Upon a Shoreline' is a poignant and evocative exploration of Mumbai's coastal neighborhood of Versova, tracing its transformation from a quiet fishing village into a densely urbanised suburb. The book blends history, memory, and environmental reflection, offering readers an intimate portrait of a shoreline that has shaped, reshaped by human lives.

The once sleepy village has a vibrant past and a bright future that breathes a cultural ecosystem shaped by generations of artists, filmmakers, fishing communities and families with stories that often go undocumented. The chapters of the book are dedicated to them. Unlike the early days, today, every lane is bustling with cafes, food joints and the shops, jostling with a village look that goes back centuries.

Spanning six immersive chapters, 'Versova, Once Upon A Shoreline' captures the many layers of this coastal suburb through evocative photography and narrative. From the Tides of History and the deep-rooted East Indian Legacy to its architectural Heritage, Bollywood connections, cherished East Indian Cuisine and a contemplative look at Versova in the Future, the book is both a visual chronicle and a love letter to a shoreline that continues to evolve while staying rooted in its past. The East Indian recipes are mentioned in detail showcasing every step of preparation be it curries, fugias and other El delicacies. The pictures add to the beauty of this section.

Through dozens of old and new photos, the book is a visual treat shot by renowned photographer Sunhil Sippy, whose images capture Versova in its postcard size format and its large bigger than life imagery.

One of the book's strongest aspects is its attention to the indigenous Koli fishing community which is headed by the East Indian community. Through personal narratives and cultural descriptions, the author foregrounds the everyday lives, traditions, and struggles of the Kolis, whose relationship with the sea is both economic and spiritual. This human-centred approach prevents the book from becoming a purely nostalgic account; rather it brings together how the small village once known as Visava, Vesava or Vesave, later got tagged as Versova. The book showcases the changes the place has undergone such as urban expansion, real estate development, and environmental degradation.

Photos date back to the time when Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru visited the shores and danced with the Koli women embracing their rich cultural heritage, to Kolis taking part in the Republic day parade, images of the iconic the Madh Fort on an island called Ambadevi that was the backdrop of Bollywood films like 'Baazigar' and 'Tipu Sultan'.

Launched by Viceroy Properties, the beautifully book, enclosed in a box set, is not only a book lovers delight, a travelers companion or a culinary lovers reference, but it is an intimate introduction to the small village of Versova. It travels from the Koli legacy, who defied the British salt monopoly, to the enduring East Indian traditions of Bottle Masala and the distinct architecture of their Mangalore-tiled homes.

The book printed by Mumbai-based Pentagram printers, on 130 GSM, is an analogue undertaking in a digital age: a meticulously printed, heavy-stock cultural archive dedicated to one of Mumbai's most evocative coastal enclaves.

Published by: Pentagram
 Author: Cyrus Mody
 Editor in Chief: Serena Paes
 Pages: 144

By Verus Ferreira

The Book Launch



The soirée hosted at the charming Kino Cottage in Versova in January, had a thoughtfully styled venue that set the mood for an evening that celebrated memory, culture, and community, complemented by East Indian-inspired cocktails and traditional bites such as crispy bombil, bottle masala chicken tikka and broccoli, that set the mood for what you can expect to see and also read about in this book.

The guest list reflected the soul of the book itself—contributors, local residents, artists, and creative voices who have shaped Versova's identity over the decades, came together for an evening of conversation, and shared nostalgia.

One of the highlights of the evening was 'Stories from the Shore', a warm, reflective tête-à-tête led by Maria Goretti, a distinguished figure in the East Indian community with members of the East Indian community. Revisiting her own years in Versova, she spoke candidly about the neighborhood's evolving character and enduring charm. "Versova is quaint, filled with green pockets, cozy cafes, and hidden spaces that become part of your daily rhythm," said Goretti, moderator for the evening, while sharing, "What I love the most is the sense of coexistence. In the morning, you might hear church bells, the azan from the mosque, or mandir bells, all blending into everyday life."



This interaction was followed by an engaging discussion featuring Cyrus Mody of Viceroy Properties, filmmaker and photographer Sunhil Sippy—whose images lend visual depth to the book—Rajhans Tapke, founder of Versova's iconic annual seafood festival, and long-time resident Noel D'souza.

By Verus Ferreira



EAST INDIAN PUNCH

The Mouthpiece of the Mobai Gaothan Panchayat



BHUMIPUTRANCHA NAAV PASRUYA GAAVO GAAV Village Awareness! Global Impact!

Gleason Barretto, Old Kurla

Vibrant and unique villages are an important part of Mumbai Metropolitan Region. Every village has their traditional Gaothans (village settlements) with their history and heritage. The modernization of Mumbai has brought settlers from across Maharashtra and India who don't know about the history of these villages and their existence, that are an integral part of this city. Creating awareness about villages is an urgent need or they could be erased forever. To achieve this objective MGP plans to announce initiatives in the coming months.

Indigenous People's recognition is one of the most important things needed to today's times. While we as East Indians thought we were well known, the ground reality is totally different. As a community we did not create awareness like the Agris and Kolis. Decades ago our community did not realise the importance of this aspect and so we need to start with like-minded associations like MGP who have tried to do this in the last 16 years. We are late by around 100 years and so we need to speeden up before things seem impossible. Projecting Kaka Baptista, a freedom fighter from our community, is one ideal strategy.

Literature-rich historical books need to be released for each village. Documenting our past through books and videos needs to be encouraged across the community, for future reference. Each village has an interesting story of its culture, tradition, occupation, history & heritage. We already have a few books on village history but every village needs to be covered or else we may be forgotten as Indigenous People of Mumbai. Local writers, activists, associations, professionals and entrepreneurs need to plan and support the documentation of each village.

Landmarks need to be revived and restored. A number of villages and areas around the city have important junctions and they need to be protected and preserved. With rapid urbanization some landmarks have disappeared and hence those left need to be promoted and marked on maps. Creating new landmarks by naming roads and junctions after well-known personalities and institutions needs to be initiated to ensure the existence and identity of the Indigenous People is not erased. MGP Taluka and Vibhag Sarpanches will drive this initiative with local MGP team members.

Art installations at village entrances and important junctions will define the indigenous character of our city. The Koli Samaj has impressively placed their installations across spots of importance of their community especially around Koliwad. Art experts and designers need to suggest art installations ideas connected closely with the East Indian Community. Parallely, like-minded community members and groups can finalise spots for these art installations. Art installations may be connected to our traditional occupations, culture or customs.

Gaothans define the tradition and heritage of the Bhumi Putra Samaj. Efforts to preserve and protect historical living spaces need to be taken seriously. A special DP policy giving special importance to heritage and housing needs to be formulated. MGP will revive its Gaothan Restoration Project and approach elected representatives to initiate it at their respective wards. A review of Gaothan awareness initiatives is planned and this specially devised plan will be launched this year.

Existence and Identity of Mumbai's Natives needs to be given priority. Not many Mumbaikars are aware of the Bhumi Putra East Indian Samaj as the Indigenous People of Mumbai. MGP in the last 16 years has done it's very best to create awareness of our community through press releases and projects. Elected representatives have mentioned about our community as Indigenous People of MMR, in the Maharashtra State Assembly which is a positive sign. Promotion series through articles and videos is being reviewed and will be launched on social media. Every East Indian has a role to play to like, share and forward these posts on social media. Influencers need to include this point in their reels to reach out to thousands and millions across the globe. The road ahead is challenging and we look forward to yours prayers and support.



GAOTHAN ADS VILLA

The Village Advertisement Space



EAST INDIAN COMMUNITY

GAOTHAN VOICE FAMILY

EDITORIAL TEAM

Alphi Dsouza - Vakola
Gleason Barretto - Old Kurla
Sybil Rodrigues - Kalina
Walter Murzello - Orlem
Coretta Dsouza - Amboli
Raffellia Fonseca - Irla
Belmira Miranda - Vakola
Steffi Dias - Andheri
Verus Ferreira - Bandra
Britney Dharmal - Bandra



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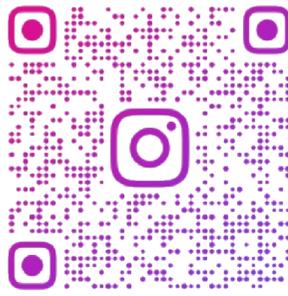
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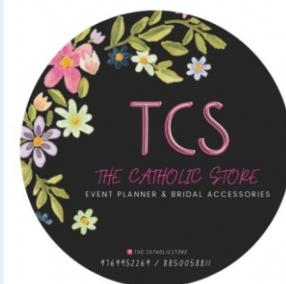
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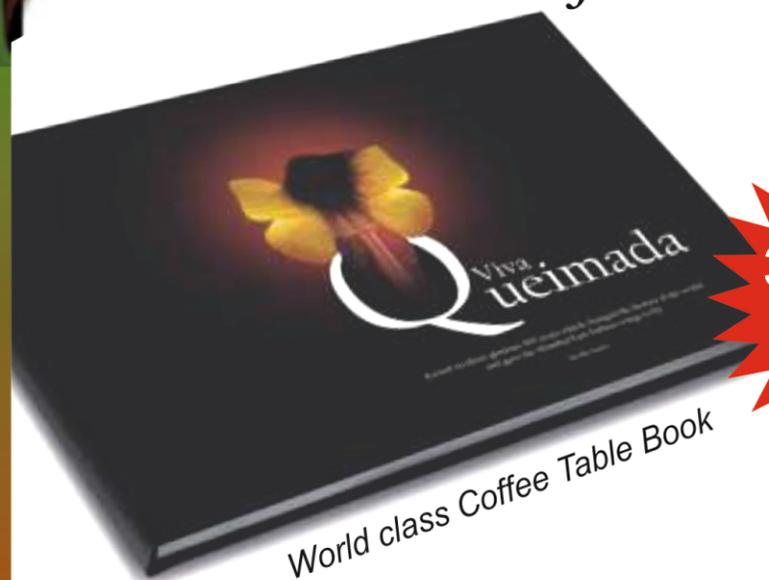
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