



What is MitraUK?

MitraUK is a not-for-profit community based organisation that allows members of the Maharashtrian community to network and assist one another in the UK. The organisation is based and administered in the UK by Purnima Gore.

The guiding principles of the MitraUK are:

1. To Build Community: To allow those with Maharashtrian backgrounds to share information and help one another.
2. To Promote Maharashtrian Culture: To promote to one another the language and culture of Maharashtra whether this is through music, literature, food, education and other areas of Marathi Culture
3. To Integrate: To introduce MitraUK members to activities and events around the country through collaboration with Mandals and other non-Marathi local organisations as well as MitraUK events.
4. To Provide Assistance: To help others in the community with information freely and without consideration of profit, including those from other Marathi not-for-profit organisations around the world.

Membership

Membership is available in the following groups:

- Yahoo Groups
- Facebook
- LinkedIn
- Twitter (@MitraUK)

Membership requests for the Yahoo Group will be managed from the MitraUK website from the 28th January 2013.



Membership Criteria

Yahoo Group

Criteria

MitraUK Yahoo Group membership is open to

1. Anyone over the age of 18 **and** either
 - a. Belongs to a Maharashtrian family or
 - b. Are born Maharashtrian or
 - c. Have lived in Maharashtra or
 - d. Consider themselves Maharashtrian or
 - e. Speaks Marathi
 - f. **And** Lives in the UK*
2. **Or** are representatives of Marathi Mandals around the world in order to assist with global communication.

*Membership will remain open to those that took out membership whilst in the UK and have moved to another country as this provides an excellent communication channel between countries and members.

To be in MitraUK you do not have to speak Marathi.

Joining & Access

- Membership to the group is free
- Members may unsubscribe from the group at anytime
- Members are given the facility to post messages to other Members by using either an email address or via the Yahoo Groups Site.
- Members have access to the archive facility in order to view messages and discussions previously posted.

Messages

Using the principles of MitraUK, members of the Yahoo group are encouraged to communicate with one another, whether this is by starting discussions, requesting or providing information to other members. The following framework sets out guidelines for posting messages. There are rules that provide an overall framework for posting and others that are posting type specific.



Framework for Posting

All Messages:

1. Members **may not** post messages on behalf of **non-members**; these should be sent via the "Yahoo Message Request" form on the MitraUK Website <http://wwwmitrauk.org>) under the *Contact Us* Tab. Requests will be forwarded to the group, by the Moderator if the request is considered appropriate. The form will request specific information so please use this.
2. Posts **must not** be racist, sexist or personally attack anyone in the group.
3. Posts **must not** include pornography or links to websites that promote violence or illegal activity.
4. Posts **should** be in English. If you wish to provide information in Marathi then please provide an English Translation underneath. Not all members of MitraUK read Marathi because not all are native Marathi speakers.
5. Any opinions are the opinion of the sender and are not necessarily those held by other Members or the group.
6. Members **must not** request or give information or help that is illegal.
7. Members **should** indicate the subject of their post clearly, in the subject header, giving the opportunity for Members that do not want to read the email to delete it.
8. Members **may not** send a post that has another organisation in distribution list. This is to ensure data protection of members. Please also do not forward posts from other groups for the same reason.
9. Prior to starting a new thread or posting a help or information requests, members **should** check the archive facility to avoid the same topic being repeated when information may already be available.
10. You **must** use your personal email address and your signature **may not** contain any advertising information or a commercial website address.

Discussions:

Discussions allow members to share views about topics. Although no topics are banned, members should be sensitive to the language that is used to ensure that none of the main rules of posting are broken. You may of course express your own opinion and members are encouraged to have discussions create a good debate.

1. Please consider your audience and response. Not everyone knows one another and nuances in tone that you have when speak do not necessarily translate to the written word. It is important to consider your language, punctuation and use of upper case letters so that your post is readable, gives your point of view politely and does not offend. If you unhappy with a post please contact the sender in the first instance and if the issue cannot be resolved the complaint should be sent to the Moderator at MitraUK-owner@yahoogleroups.com with full details



Request for Information:

Members are encouraged to respond to requests for help and request help from the group. This will often include information about travel, transport, legal services and education.

1. Responses **may** include information about services that provide a benefit to members and this **may** include contact details, website addresses and telephone numbers, as long as permission has been sought prior to posting.
2. You **may** post information about services from local and central government.
3. Members **may not** post any information about Political Parties or events related to them.

Those that use methods to get around the terms of sales advertising posting by purposefully & wilfully submitting questions in order to allow advertising of services outside of the terms will be seen to be violating the rules of posting and their memberships will be changed to "banned."

Advertising:

MitraUK may not be used as a sales advertising channel to advertise goods, products or services that are not within the list below.

1. Members **may** advertise their own products and services that are Marathi in origin such as food, books, music and classes **once**, as long as they are based in the UK. Members can look in the archives for details of services in the future and should communicate with the sender directly.
2. Members **may** post personally owned items for sale to the group. This will include items such as cars, furniture, electrical items and baby items & books
3. Members **may** advertise their own residence for sale.
4. Members **may** advertise rooms for rent in their own residence.
5. You **may** advertise the arrival of time limited fruits and products sold in local shops such as Mangos and Festival Food. (This does not include catering businesses / home cooks which comes under point 1 of this section)

Charities & Volunteers:

Members often take part in supporting communities here in the UK and abroad.

1. Members **may** request sponsorship from other members of the group and **must** give full details of the event and organisation that they are supporting.
2. Members **may** request volunteers for charitable events help as long as they do not break the main rules of posting.

Jobs:

In order to ensure that the forum is not used as a recruitment hub:



1. Member **may** post jobs vacancies in their own organisation or company (you may not post for anyone else or act as an agent)
2. Members **may not** post a request for seeking work or a job; although this does not include career advice and information (such as Careers Fairs)

Events:

Event information is posted primarily on the MitraUK website, however, reminders and information are also sent to the group.

1. Any event from a Maharashtrian/Marathi Organisation from an approved member **may** be posted to the Yahoo Group. (This may include overseas). The event should also be posted to the website (this can be done without logging in). *This may also be done by the Moderator.*
2. Events that are from other charities **may** be posted as long as they do not break the rules for posting.
3. Events for organisations **other** than those covered in point 1 & 2 in this section **may not** be posted.
4. UK Local Authority Events **may be** posted.

Yahoo Group Moderation

Moderation takes time and effort. The rules provide enough flexibility to ensure that Members are not spammed by those joining the group simply to find a marketing opportunity and for those that are simply there to find a job. The objective is that high quality contributions are made by members and that the flow of information is unrestrictive (i.e. does not have to be moderated every time).

For those that violate the rules, membership status will be changed to **“may not post”**. You will be informed of the change, and you will have the opportunity to contact the moderator should you choose to discuss this. This is to prevent extra moderation time required.

This may result in your membership being changed to **“moderated”** which means that all posts sent by the user are then moderated before being released. This change may not be indefinite but this is at the discretion of the moderator.

Moderation may create a delay between the Member posting a message, and the Moderator receiving it and approving it. It is the responsibility of the Member to read the terms and conditions above and follow them.

In some instances, where the issue is considered serious, such as but not limited to, racism, sexism, requesting help that is considered illegal and data protection, the member may be **banned**.

These terms and conditions come into force on Monday 28th January at midnight (00:01)

Communication should be sent to MitraUK-owner@yahoogroups.com
Purnima Gore (January 2013)