



# Bombay Times

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Pics: Prathamesh Bandekar



ANUPRIA GOENKA

## 'AT BANDRA FAIR, I FELT LIKE A CHILD AGAIN'



This was Anupria's first visit to the Bandra Fair

Onkar Kulkarni

**T**he scorching heat and crowd didn't deter Anupria Goenka from making the most of her first visit to the Bandra Fair. After offering prayers at the Mount Mary Church, the actress was excited to visit the stalls and taste the delicacies on offer. As she tried some *kala chana*, *kadio bodios* and other sweets, the *War* actress said, "I feel like I have become a child again. I am reliving those days when I would visit fairs. I wish I had my sister with me, she would have loved this, too." The Mount Mary Fair in Bandra has been a custom for more than 300 years, commemorating the birth of the Virgin Mary.

CONTINUED ON 3

**W**e have always seen the city skyline from various places, but viewing Bandra from the top of a Ferris wheel was a different experience. Though I was scared initially, it felt amazing to be at such height

## I panicked: Raveena apologises for refusing fans selfie in London



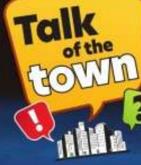
Raveena Tandon

**R**aveena Tandon took to social media to post a note apologising to her fans in London after she left abruptly without taking selfies with them. In her post, Raveena said that her reaction to the situation stemmed from a previous incident in Bandra, where she was mobbed and even falsely accused of being drunk and causing a car accident.

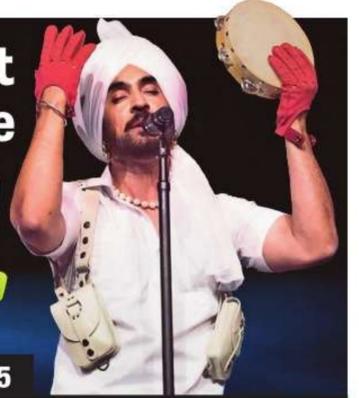
CONTINUED ON 3

## Diljit concert ticket prices spark debate

Soon after Diljit Dosanjh announced his India tour, many took to social media to complain about the expensive ticket prices. Others countered that attending a concert isn't a necessity and the prices justified the singer's status



PAGE 5



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**ARIES**  
Mars sets the tone to move ahead despite any negative indications. By your drive, you shall be able to achieve your targets this week. Barring Wednesday/Thursday, it is a largely successful week. Guard against acidity and heat-related problems, hydrate yourself properly, and drink enough fluids and fruits. There are chances of your name being spoilt in a controversy, and feeding cows with fodder shall act as a remedy. Don't give anyone a chance to thwart your plans or chip away at your confidence.

**TAURUS**  
A largely productive and successful week, career interests proceed smoothly, and midweek is good for interaction with bosses, customers and government officials/public dealings. One-on-one relating will point to many different possibilities. A higher-up could be more irritable than he or she has been in the recent past. From the 18th, there may be an increase in disputes/controversies. Don't allow others to get to you, especially if it involves a risk. Take good care of yourself, no matter what is happening.

**GEMINI**  
Lie down on Monday/Tuesday, don't enter into any controversies. The latter half of the week is more productive for success. Over the next couple of days, new and surprising directions will have to be taken. There is plenty of time to get what you want. If you don't get it today there will be something better waiting just around the corner. Good food and pleasant family time with children are seen. Some increase in enmity is seen, but you will also make new friends. You are prone to viral infections, take care.

You might want to rethink a decision you recently made, as you hear unexpected news or new information. You might feel as if you are being pulled in two different directions at once. A financial matter is still being debated back and forth. You might have difficulty making a decision.

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**CANCER**  
Be aware of what others want. Open up discussions to make sure that you are on the same page. Once you do that, you will make smart financial gains, try to postpone a financial matter beyond the 18th. A favourable time to buy a luxury vehicle/renovate your house and beautify your surroundings and go for a wardrobe upgrade.

**LEO**  
Professional trends look bright, capitalise on the Venusian transits, and socialise more, both for business and professional purposes. You enjoy a favourable streak of luck till Thursday, the weekend is low energy and not conducive to pleasure activities. Your popularity shall rise and you shall meet interesting people who shall be useful in the future. A good period for those in the media and real estate. Some people, especially domestic servants/helpers will be challenging, no matter what you do or say.

**VIRGO**  
A better week than before, though health issues continue to need attention due to Sun-Mercury moving through your 12th house. Some obstacles and impediments shall be experienced at work. It's not that you've been ignoring anybody or, as some say, being secretive. Rather, you've sidestepped certain matters because you were so busy there wasn't time to discuss them properly. Or so you say. Deep down, you'd rather avoid these.

One-on-one relating forces you to detach and see the situation from both perspectives.

**LIBRA**  
The best way to create harmony with each other is to first be in harmony with yourself. Don't expect others to take care of your needs and wants and vice versa. Try to respect each other's boundaries and this will ensure a better relationship. Also, do not fall prey to manipulation attempts by certain people.

**SCORPIO**  
Avoid adventurous sports, and don't get into brawls on the road/elsewhere as you are prone to hurt. The key is to lead yourself and not follow what others tell you. Look within yourself and find what makes you happy. Don't try to keep things inside, but follow what your heart tells you. One of life's greatest gifts is the ability to appreciate somebody for who they are. Watching arrangements you worked hard to organise come undone is disheartening. Yet, on the other hand, you're well aware these have outlived their time and must come to an end.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
A week to plan carefully as success is in low measure, however, Monday/Tuesday can be employed profitably for short travels/signing important documents/contracts and correspondence as the Moon shall be favourable. Wednesday/Thursday occupy you with domestic matters and slight tension too. Obstacles and snail pace movement in business and professional work continue as long as Mercury moves through your ninth house. From the 18th Venus moves into the eleventh house bringing luxuries, gain from friends in particular. A rise in gains is also indicated.

Mercury in the 8th house continues to give you wealth. The progress of children will be satisfactory. Mars continues to be

**CAPRICORN**  
helpful in activities that are required during encouragement, clarifications, and competitive examinations/situations. Monday/Tuesday are days of worry, financial concerns entail proper planning of expenditure in the wake of restricted cash flows, and avoiding any kind of financial risks/lending money to anyone. You need to keep a watch on your diet and what you eat as digestive upsets are likely. Tuesday/Wednesday are the best days of the week for success and achievement, so plan your activities accordingly. From the 18th, Venus shall not be favourable and can bring some mental tension and misunderstandings.

**AQUARIUS**  
It is indeed quite a tough week, as most planets are loaded against you. There might also be open resistance, stay calm, and wait for the tide to pass. Mercury in the seventh house is known to cause opposition and also disputes with family members. Monday/Tuesday bring some respite and comfort, go out, and enjoy good meals with family. Wednesday/Thursday shall again be somewhat tense days. Venus will also move to your ninth house, which is a welcome movement for bringing in peace and leisure, travel, and happiness.

**PISCES**  
Quite an eventful and eventful week. Complete activities that require energy and determination by the 16th. Mercury continues to be favourable, bringing achievements, and success for those in writing/publishing/competitive exams. Monday/Tuesday will make you unpopular amongst relatives, who will also create tension for you and also talk ill about you behind your back. An increase of enemies and opposition from your relatives. Venus will move out of affliction from the 18th and its entry into your 8th house will bring good financial income, comforts and good fame also.

# Prunes can be your go-to snack



Prunes from Chile, known for their high quality and taste, are now easily available across India. "Prunes are considered to be a nutrient powerhouse. They have been used as a natural remedy for constipation due to their high fibre content and the presence of sorbitol, a natural laxative that helps in regular bowel movements. Eating 5 to 6 prunes a day is typically recommended to help relieve constipation," says the representative of the Chile Prunes Association. In addition, prunes are packed with essential vitamins and minerals, including vitamins K, A, C, potassium, and iron. These nutrients support bone, heart, and skin health, and also increase immunity.

**Did You Know?**  
Coffee plant flowers bloom only one day each year.  
Coffee plant flowers have a unique characteristic: they bloom only one day each year. The flowers are typically white and fragrant, and their brief bloom period creates a significant moment for coffee farmers, as the timing and quality of the bloom can impact the flavour profile of the coffee beans produced.

## LEISURE

**GARFIELD**  
BARK!  
BARK! BARK! BARK! BARK!  
THERE GOES OPIE AFTER A SQUIRREL.  
RIGHT INTO THE TOOL SHEP.  
AND THERE GOES THE SQUIRREL AFTER OPIE.  
YIP! YIP! YIP!

**SUDOKU CHALLENGE**  
Level: Medium  
HOW TO PLAY  
Fill in the grid so that every horizontal row, every vertical column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9, without repeating the numbers in the same row, column or box. You can't change the digits already given in the grid. Every puzzle has one solution.

	5			1				
	3	2		6	8			
7			5	9				3
	7	9			4	8		
8								1
	3	1			7	5		
4			9	8				6
		7	3	1	5			
	8					9		

**TIMES KAKURO**  
HOW TO PLAY  
The numbers in the coloured squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the coloured square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 2 boxes below 12 must contain 2 digits that add up to 12, whereas for 20, the 3 boxes placed horizontally next to it must add up to 20. No zeroes are used here, only the digits one through nine.

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**SPELLATHON**  
Today's Ratings:  
06-average | 07-good | 09-outstanding  
A G I  
F G I  
M L N

**LOOP THE LOOP**  
RULES  
• Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A).  
• Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B).  
• Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines.  
• You can't draw lines around zeroes.  
• Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown in today's puzzle? In making a word, a letter can be used as many times as it appears in the puzzle. Each word must contain the central letter. There should be at least one seven letter word. Plurals, foreign words and proper names are not allowed. British English Dictionary is used as reference.

**SCRAMBLE**  
Rearrange the letters in the four word jumbles, one letter to each square/circle, to make four ordinary words  
KPEEO  
INKLE  
EENUDG  
AAENKW  
HOW TO PLAY  
Now arrange the letters in the circles to form the answer to the riddle or to fill in the missing word as indicated  
The larger the island of \_\_\_\_\_ the longer the shoreline of wonder. - Ralph Washington Sockman (9)

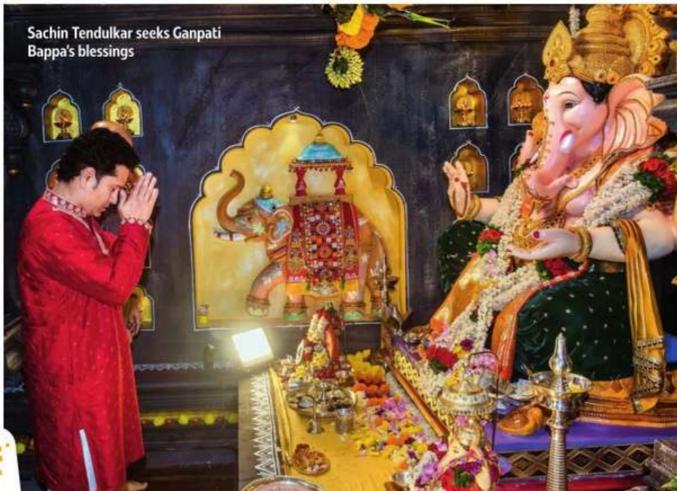
**SOLUTIONS TO GAMES/PUZZLES**  
TIMES SUDOKU  
LOOP THE LOOP  
TIMES KAKURO  
SPELLATHON  
align, faming, ling, malign  
SCRAMBLE  
wonder - Ralph Washington Sockman  
Answer: The larger the island of knowledge, the longer the shoreline of wonder. - Ralph Washington Sockman  
Words: Ploce, liken, denque, awaken

# A musical get together at Shankar Mahadevan's Ganpati celebrations

Pics: Tejas Kudtarkar



Shankar Mahadevan with Shaan



Sachin Tendulkar seeks Ganpati Bappa's blessings



Anu Malik with Salim Merchant



Sara and Anjali Tendulkar



Shivam and Siddharth Mahadevan



## Fan responds to Raveena's post

CONTINUED FROM ₹ 1

Raveena wrote, "A few days ago in London, I was walking by, and a few men approached me. I, anyway, had not heard such great things about the crime situation here, so I withdrew a bit when they asked if I was who I was, and my first instinct was to say no and walk away even faster, as I was alone. They just wanted a picture, I guess, and I most of the time oblige, but after the incident that happened in Bandra a few months ago has left me a bit nervous and traumatised, so when I'm with people, I am ok, but alone I still get a bit nervous these days (sic)."

Expressing her regret, Raveena continued, "I should've probably given them a photo as maybe they were innocent fans, but I panicked and walked away fast and just asked a security guy for help. I felt really bad after this incident and would want to apologise to them through this medium if they are reading, that it was not my intention to offend (sic)."

Wishing for another chance to meet the fans, she added, "Hope I can meet you again and click a picture with you. I try my best to be accessible and normal, but I fail at times. So sorry, guys. I hope you are reading this and know that I shouldn't have panicked (sic)."

I can fully understand from a woman's point of view that it can be scary when guys approached, especially when you are away from home. And you do not need to apologise

— Bhavin Patel

I am glad I found you! Bro. I'm really sorry for that day. I panicked. Thank you for getting in touch, will surely meet you here in London and take a picture together too

— Raveena Tandon



Raveena Tandon

### 'Will surely meet you in London'

One of the fans responded on social media and said, "Hi Raveena, my name is Bhavin Patel from London and the story which was uploaded on Instagram story today about incident, just to let you know that I was the guy who approached you. I was walking and I was pretty sure I saw you and I was excited. I really wanted a photo because I grew up watching your movies and I have been following your career and you are my favourite actress that's why I approached you (sic). I can fully understand from a woman's point of view that it can be scary when guys approached, especially when you are away from home. And you do not need to apologise and I was upset what happened because I was in shock. Whatever happened, you are still my favourite. After reading the story, my respect has increased (sic)."

Raveena replied to his message and said, "Yes Bhavin, am glad I found you! Bro. I'm really sorry for that day. I panicked. Thank you for getting in touch, will surely meet you here in London and take a picture together too (sic)."

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# BARODA PROPERTY PULSE

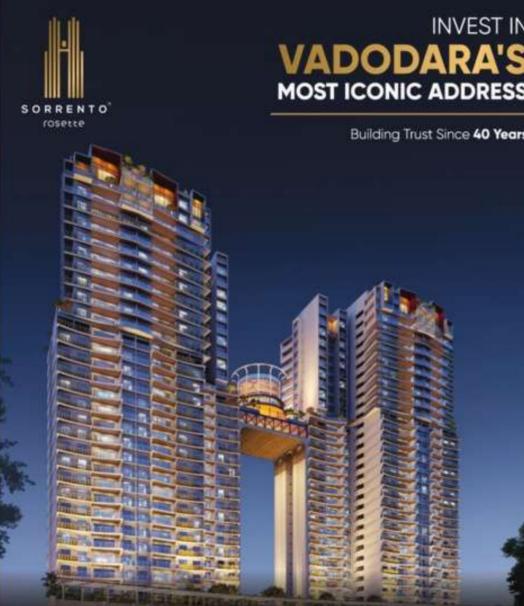


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## A favourable prospect

Money saved on housing can be invested in other avenues or used to enhance lifestyle choices. Moreover, the city's growing industrial base and improving infrastructure suggest potential for property value appreciation in the future.

**॥ दर्शनम् ॥**

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Vadodara, a vibrant commercial hub in Gujarat, offers a unique blend of affordability, spacious living, and modern amenities, making it an attractive destination for investors seeking a high quality of life, rich cultural heritage, and growth



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Whether it's a first home or an investment property, one must carefully weigh their options before taking the plunge. In recent years, the idea of investing or buying property in emerging Tier II and Tier III cities has gained considerable traction amongst young individuals. These locations often require less capital while offering better value and property specific-

ations. Vadodara, an emerging commercial hub in Gujarat, presents such an opportunity, particularly appealing to those from nearby metros like Mumbai. As property seekers increasingly look beyond traditional hotspots, the comparison between established megacities and up-and-coming urban centres becomes ever more relevant.

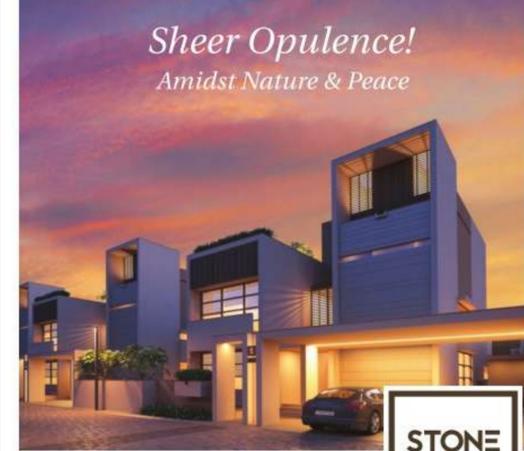
**METROPOLITAN CONUNDRUM**  
Mumbai, with its soaring skyscrapers and sea-facing apartments, has long been synonymous with eye-watering property prices. The city's real estate market continues to defy gravity, with even modest accommodations commanding astronomical sums. A one-bedroom flat or small commercial property in a decent locality can easily cross the 1 crore rupee mark, a figure that would have seemed outlandish just a decade ago.

ing affordable housing compared to Ahmedabad and Surat. The city boasts good internal roads and connections to the Ahmedabad-Mumbai expressway and the upcoming bullet train route. As Gujarat's educational and cultural hub, Vadodara provides a rich lifestyle at lower costs than surrounding metros. Its status as India's cable and transformer hub, coupled with low expenses and labour costs, attracts multinational companies, boosting employment. The affordable real estate market offers larger spaces and promises high future appreciation. In essence, Vadodara represents profitable luxury accessible to all.

most expensive real estate. However, this comes at the cost of compromised living spaces, long commutes, and a significant portion of income being directed towards housing. Vadodara, on the other hand, offers a more balanced proposition. The lower property prices mean that homeowners can enjoy larger living spaces, better amenities, and potentially a higher quality of life. The mon-

**LOOKING AHEAD**  
The stark contrast between Mumbai and Vadodara's property markets is likely to persist in the foreseeable future. Vadodara, meanwhile, is poised for further growth. As more companies set up operations in Gujarat and infrastructure projects like the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor progress, the city's attractiveness as a residential and investment destination is likely to increase.

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Ankit Singh, an entrepreneur and real estate consultant, shares, "This pricing phenomenon is not limited to the island city's posh localities. Even in the suburbs and extended suburbs, property prices remain stubbornly high. The reasons are manifold, for example, land availability, high population density, and the city's status as India's financial and entertainment capital. Mumbai's property market is a testament to the age-old adage of demand outstripping supply."

**VALUE PROPOSITION**  
In stark contrast, Vadodara offers a completely different proposition. Here, the same budget that barely secures a modest flat in Mumbai can buy a luxurious 3-bedroom apartment with a hall and a kitchen in a prime location. Vadodara's property market is characterised by spacious homes, modern amenities, and a quality of life that is increasingly attractive to both locals and migrants from other parts of India. Rajesh Vaswanala, chairman of Shreedhar Group, explains, "Vadodara is emerging as a premium destination for young investors, outshining metro cities due to its proximity to financial hubs like Mumbai, Ahmedabad, and Surat. Its central location and excellent connectivity to major Gujarat-based cities are key advantages. Vadodara strikes a balance between urban amenities and tranquility, offer-

The city, known for its rich cultural heritage and educational institutions, has seen significant development in recent years. Industrial growth, coupled with infrastructure improvements, has made Vadodara an attractive destination for both homebuyers and investors. The property market here offers a range of options, from affordable housing to upscale gated communities, catering to various segments of society. Viral Sheth, founder of Courtyard Group, highlights, "Vadodara has ascended as a prime real estate investment destination, offering investors a compelling alternative to mega metros. With its robust educational institutions, quality healthcare facilities, and strategic proximity to major business hubs, Vadodara provides a winning combination of lifestyle and investment potential. The city's significantly lower property rates compared to metros are a game-changer, allowing investors to enter the market at a fraction of the cost. This affordability, coupled with Vadodara's growing infrastructure and business-friendly environment, positions it as a smart choice for those seeking long-term value and a high quality of life."

**FINANCIAL EQUATION**  
The disparity in property prices between Mumbai and Vadodara raises important questions about value, lifestyle choices, and financial planning. For potential homebuyers and investors, it presents a complex equation to solve. In Mumbai, the high property prices are often justified by the promise of better career opportunities, higher salaries, and the prestige associated with owning a piece of India's

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## Boost dishes with creamy avocados

Avocados can be a good addition to your daily diet due to their versatility and rich nutrition. World Avocado Organisation's representative says, "With heart-healthy monounsaturated fats, avocados help maintain healthy cholesterol levels. Packed with vitamins K, E, and C, avocados enhance skin health, immune function, and overall well-being. Their dietary fibre aids digestion and supports weight management."

From smoothies to salads and sandwiches, the creamy texture of avocados elevates various dishes and boosts your nutrient intake. The rep adds, "The World Avocado Organisation (WAO) is dedicated to promoting the health benefits of this versatile fruit."



## SoBo gets a swanky EV showroom

At a recent event that redefined automotive luxury, Group Landmark celebrated the inauguration of its state-of-the-art BYD showroom in Worli, bringing the future of electric luxury to South Mumbai. The event showcased the brand's cutting-edge range of Electric Vehicles (EVs), drawing attention from car enthusiasts, industry leaders and eco-conscious consumers alike.

Sanjay Thakker (Chairman and Founder, Group Landmark) said, "The new showroom offers a luxurious space where customers can experience the brand's innovative designs and breakthrough technology. The BYD SEAL, a sleek, all-electric sedan known for its futuristic aesthetics and industry-leading range is designed to deliver both power and elegance."



Also on display was the BYD ATTO 3, the popular electric SUV that combines advanced safety features with an impressive driving range of 520km, offering the perfect blend of style, comfort, and sustainability.



Rajeev Chauhan (Head of Electric Passenger Vehicles (EPV) Business, BYD India) added, "As part of the ambitious plans to expand its footprint in India, the brand also teased the much-anticipated 7-seater electric SUV, the eMAX 7, the new electric MPV set to succeed the BYD e6, India's first electric MPV."

With this new showroom, the brand is changing the way South Mumbai experiences electric luxury, paving the way for a cleaner, greener future.

**Did You Know?**  
Nail polish was originally made for men

Just like heeled shoes and wigs, nail polish was also originally created for men. Men in ancient Babylon, China and Egypt painted their nails. The Babylonians, for example,

would distinguish between their upper-class and lower-class warriors by having the former use black kohl and the latter use green kohl on their nails.



## 'Too costly' vs 'it's his choice': Diljit's concert ticket prices spark debate

Despite many complaining that tickets for Diljit Dosaanj's upcoming concert in India were too expensive, they sold out within minutes. While those who won this race against time took to social media to share their happiness, those who missed out shared their disappointment

Talk of the town

**Rushik Rawal** @RushikRawal  
I just saw someone pay ₹42k for Diljeet's 3 hours concert tickets. The GenZ needs to learn making better financial decisions no matter how much extra cash they have to spend!

**coachnehashetty**  
Why should anyone exempt? Core audience ke pass paisa hai, isliye it got sold out no? Also, attending a concert is not a necessity 😊 unemployed aadmi ke liye jobs ki baat karte hai, not accessibility to a concert!

**\_raiarnav**  
Why are we making such a fuss over a concert? It's his concert, it should be his choice what to charge for it. And it is not something like a need or basic thing, concert is a luxury, it's supposed to be costly. And even if you can afford it it's your choice if you want to go or not if you think it is costly or unnecessarily high then don't go. That's it

**singh.vaishnavi99**  
My friends booked tickets for Diljit's concert in 2500 rupees. Which is pretty affordable for middle class. You just weren't able to book it timely in the rush and that is why you are acting sour af. Fan pit is the only extremely costly one. If he is selling out stadiums in literally 30 seconds ldk why he should lessen down the prices. Because concerts are meant to extract money and a lot goes on to organise concerts on the scale he does. Gaane to hai hi accessible on any music platform. Very few other artists have sold out the stadiums he has, I think he is justified in demanding more if he is that famous currently. When he was not, clearly the prices were lesser. We become class conscious only when fellow Indians are performing.



Diljit Dosaanj liked a video by creator Saloni Gaur, in which she teased people who didn't get tickets. Another creator, Saumya Sahni, said that it was not fair for an Indian artiste to charge so much for a concert

**Darshannn** @D4Dramatic  
Diljit Dosaanj concert tickets sale:



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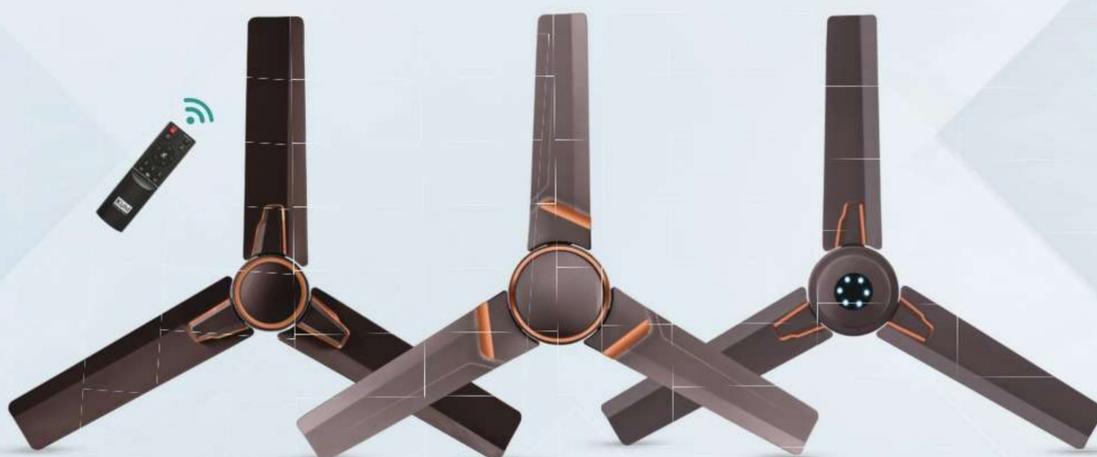
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# Anupria's day at Bandra Fair

Pics: Prathamesh Bandekar

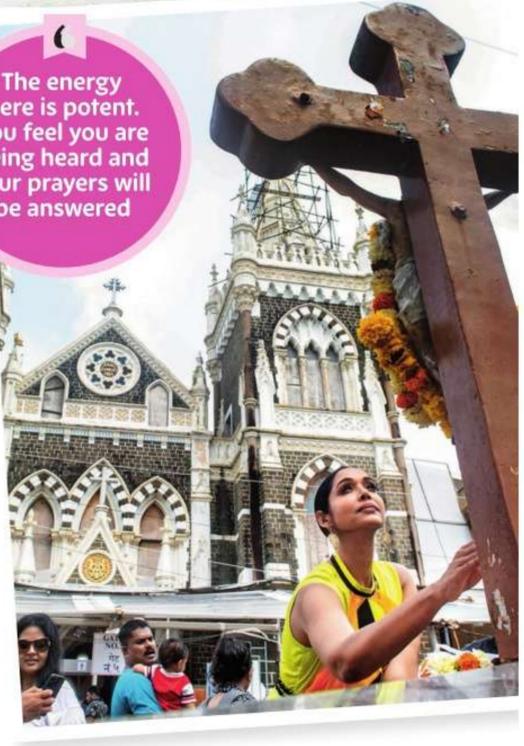


Anupria Goenka shooting balloons at the fair

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

Anupria channelled her inner child as she shot balloons, blew bubbles and even hopped on to the joy rides, including the Break Dance ride and the Ferris wheel. "We have always seen the city skyline from various places, but viewing Bandra from the top of the Ferris wheel was a different experience. Though I was scared initially, it felt quite amazing to be at such height," she said post the ride. Summing up her experience as she left the fair, Anupria said, "There's something about the aura of the church... it gives you peace. The energy here is potent. You feel you are being heard and your prayers will be answered. I feel chirpy and relaxed at the same time."

The energy here is potent. You feel you are being heard and your prayers will be answered



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involves careful deliberation and extensive planning. Among the several options available to buyers, newly launched projects, with their various perks, are much sought after. We speak to experts to find out if they are worth the investment.

Bhavesh Shah, the joint managing director at Today Global Developers, notes, "The biggest benefit is that instead of paying the full EMI, one only needs to incur the pre-EMI until they receive possession of the flat,

making it a more manageable financial commitment. Also, newly built units incur lower maintenance costs in the initial years."

Besides the various rewards, there are some limitations. could impact project timelines and result in delays, inconvenience, and additional financial costs for investors. Secondly, there's no guarantee that the completed project will meet the initial expectations of buyers."

Dubey, on the other hand, believes that and flexibility with respect to payment plans. However, those who require immediate cash flow should avoid such projects, as rental income will begin only once the project is completed."

**BENEFITS AWAIT**

- Vouchers for home decor and appliances with other perks as part of festive deals.
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**SPEND LESS, SAVE MORE**

For the uninitiated, a newly launched project is one that has been recently announced by the developer and/or is still in the construction stage and open for bookings. Kamal Dubey, a contract commercial professional (construction), sheds light on why you should consider investing in one: "These projects offer considerable savings as they cost less than ready-to-move-in (RTMI) homes. Secondly, one can customise their units to a certain degree, which may not be achievable at a later stage, and select the flat, floor or plot that best meets their requirements. They also come equipped with the latest technology, like smart home systems, advanced security features, energy-efficient gadgets, and high-speed internet connectivity, alongside modern designs and architecture."

These properties are also advantageous to salaried individuals who are likely to seek a loan to

## New home, new you

With numerous auspicious muhurat, it's not surprising to find a spate of newly launched projects. Let's assess the viability of these investments



Dubey highlights, "Since these properties are still in the process of being constructed, unexpected events, economic downturns, market fluctuations, and supply chain issues

**WEIGH THE RISKS AND REWARDS**

If you're wondering whether a newly launched project is the right choice for you, Shah shares some helpful insights: "Young buyers and investors will find under-construction projects favourable due to their potential for investment growth

first-time homebuyers or those who require immediate possession, are averse to risk, or have a limited budget must steer clear of them."

Sameer Singhal, a trading advisor, who purchased a property during the pre-launch phase in Navi Mumbai around 15 years

ago, tells us, "By investing in the project early on, I was able to bag a fruitful deal and incentives from the developer and have also received high returns on my investment over time." However, Singhal shares that the developer did not complete the project on time which impacted many investors.

Considering the uncertainty involved, Shah advises buyers to review the credentials of the developer, their previous projects, construction quality, and possession timelines before signing on the dotted line. He concludes, "Verify legal documents of the property and examine its location, upcoming infrastructure developments, surrounding social infrastructure, and available amenities."

So, as developers launch prom-

ing projects, let these suggestions guide your investment choices during this propitious time.

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# AVIAL, RASAM, PAYASAM: DECODING ONAM SADHYA

Onam, the vibrant harvest festival of Kerala, is not just a celebration of the bountiful crops and the arrival of King Mahabali but also a grand culinary affair. At the heart of this festival lies the Onam Sadhya, a traditional vegetarian feast that embodies the rich cultural tapestry of Kerala. The term 'Sadhya' translates to banquet in Malayalam, and the Onam Sadhya is nothing short of a grand banquet. This elaborate meal is prepared with meticulous care and served on a banana leaf, which is believed to add a unique flavour and aroma to the food. Each dish is a testament to the culinary traditions of Kerala.

## The spread of flavours: What to expect:

A traditional Onam Sadhya features a wide range of dishes, each crafted to offer a unique flavour profile. Here's a glimpse into some of the essential components of this feast:  
**Rice:** The cornerstone of the Sadhya, rice serves as the base for the meal.  
**Sambar:** A hearty stew made with lentils and vegetables, flavoured with tamarind and different spices.  
**Rasam:** This tangy, spiced soup made with tamarind, tomatoes, and a medley of spices is both refreshing and comforting.  
**Avial:** A mixed vegetable dish cooked with a coconut and yoghurt base. The combination of various vegetables with the creamy coconut sauce provides a balanced flavour.  
**Thoran:** A dry, stir-fried vegetable preparation with grated coconut and spices, *Thorán* adds a crunchy texture to the Sadhya.

**Olan:** A mild, soothing curry made with ash gourd and black-eyed peas, simmered in coconut milk.  
**Kalan:** A yoghurt-based curry featuring vegetables like raw banana or yam. The creamy, sour taste complements the other dishes.  
**Pachadi:** A sweet and tangy side dish made with yoghurt, fruits, or vegetables. This refreshing accompaniment provides a counterpoint to the spicier elements of the meal.  
**Pickles:** A variety of spicy and tangy pickles that add an extra kick.  
**Banana Chips:** Crispy, fried slices of banana that offer a delightful crunch and a touch of sweetness.  
**Payasam:** A sweet dessert made with ingredients like rice, lentils, or vermicelli, flavoured with cardamom and garnished with nuts and raisins. It's the perfect ending to a hearty meal.



# Drunk worms & scared cows: Ig Nobels award quirky researches



The Ig Nobels are awarded annually to celebrate 10 unusual achievements in scientific research areas. The aim is to "honour achievements that first make people laugh, and then make them think"

## THE WINNERS

**Physiology:** For finding that animals could absorb oxygen into the bloodstream when delivered via rectum.  
**Anatomy:** For finding that there is a greater instance of scalp hair spiralling in a counter-clockwise direction in the Southern Hemisphere.  
**Peace:** For exploring the feasibility of housing live pigeons inside missiles to guide them to their targets.  
**Physics:** For comprehensive investigation of swimming abilities of a dead trout.  
**Probability:** For proving that tossed coins are (slightly) more likely to land the same way up as they started. The team flipped 350,757 coins to test a hypothesis.  
**Chemistry:** For using chromatography to separate drunk and sober worms.  
**Biology:** For finding that placing a cat on the back of scared cows and repeatedly exploding paper bags every 10 seconds for two minutes led to them producing less milk. Agencies



Actual Nobel laureates handed the prizes to winners

## WHAT ARE THE IG NOBELS?

Held almost a month before the actual Nobel Prizes are announced, the 34th annual Ig Nobel prize ceremony at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was organised by the *Annals of Improbable Research* magazine's website to make people laugh and think. Winners received a transparent box containing historic items related to Murphy's Law — the theme of the night — and a nearly worthless Zimbabwean \$10 trillion bill. The first Ig Nobel Prize ceremony was conducted in 1991 at the MIT Museum in Cambridge Massachusetts.



Onam Sadhya is served in a specific order

The dishes are served in a specific order and they also have their designated places on the banana leaf. For example, pickles are placed on the top left corner and bananas on the bottom left corner of the leaf.



# Modak's distant Indian cousins to continue the festivities



## Doodh Puli: A favourite during Sankranti

One of the popular varieties of *pithe* (umbrella term for sweets made during Sankranti) from Bengal, Doodh Puli is made with rice flour and has a coconut-jaggery filling, where the *puli* (dumplings) is shaped like half-moon. Skills and expertise is required to get the *doodh* creamy and the *puli*, soft. To make this slow-cooked treat, *nolen gur* or date palm jaggery is mixed with simmering milk, to which coconut-jaggery stuffed *puli* is added and cooked. It's rested for a couple of hours to get the best flavours.



Nandini Ganguly

A conversation around Ganeshotsav without the mention of *ukdiche modak*, is hardly a conversation. While the rice flour dumplings are at the core of celebrations, dishes similar to the steamed Maharashtrian treat like Doodh Puli, Kozhukatta, or Pundi, find a place in the kitchens across Indian states for different festivals.

## Pundi: From the coast of Karnataka

Call it *undi*, or *pundi*, this coastal Karnataka dish uses rice, coconut and the steaming method, just like the other dumplings. But these are savoury and often served with accompaniments like chutneys, or spicy gravies. The family recipes are usually passed down generations, especially among the Tulu community. This is prepared in many ways - boiled rice mixed with grated coconut and spices, boiled rice mixed with rice grains, ground rice made into a paste-like consistency, or rice cooked with coconut milk.

## INGREDIENTS:

- FOR THE FILLING:**
  - 3/4 cup jaggery/dark brown sugar
  - 1 1/2 cup grated coconut
  - 1/2 tsp ground cumin seeds
- FOR THE DOUGH:**
  - 1 1/4 cup roasted rice flour
  - 1 cup water
  - 1/2 cup coconut milk
  - 1/4 tsp salt
  - 1 tsp coconut oil
- FOR THE SAUCE:**
  - 1 1/2 cup thick coconut milk
  - 75gms sugar
  - 10 pods ground green cardamom, seeds only



## METHOD:

- For the filling, add jaggery, 2 tbsp water on medium hot skillet
- Add grated coconut, ground cumin once jaggery dissolves
- Mix until moisture evaporates. Set aside
- For the dough, add water, coconut milk, salt. Let it come to low boil

## Kozhukatta: A Vinayaka Chaturthi and Palm Sunday must-have

Call it Kozhukatta like the Keralites, Kozhukattai, or Kadubu like the Tamilians and Kannadigas, this Vinayaka or Pillayar Chaturthi dessert looks like modak's cousin but with few dissimilarities. These versatile steamed dumplings, apart from the coconut-jaggery stuffing, also come with ingredients like poppy or sesame seeds, and camphor that lends a different flavour dimension. Its savoury varieties have black gram, mustard seeds, or green gram fillings. These are usually shaped into balls, or can be conical too, like modaks but sans the pleats.

- Add toasted rice flour, and mix
- It will look crumbly. Let the moisture get absorbed into the flour
- If still crumbly, add warm water
- Once done, add coconut oil
- Mix till it's soft but holds shape
- Now, let the dough rest before kneading. Make 10 small balls
- Rub your hands with coconut oil
- Thumb press the center of the balls. Rotate, pressing the dough outward to form a bowl
- Add filling, and fold
- Pinch the opposite sides to close the seam and form round shape
- Steam for 10 minutes
- For the coconut milk sauce, simmer thick coconut milk. Add ground cardamom, sugar
- In a bowl, add the rice balls, pour the sauce, and serve hot or cold

By Piyush Menon, chef and consultant

## From other parts of Asia

Dumplings with sweet fillings aren't alien to other parts of Asia. Japan has a steamed glutinous rice cake, *Daifukumochi* or *Daifuku*, filled with sweetened red bean paste, and *Sasa Dango* - bamboo leaf-wrapped rice cakes made from rice flour. While Philippines has sweetened coconut filled *Palitaw*, there's *Khanom Sai Sai* or *Khanom Sai Sai* in Thailand. Its wrapping is made of rice flour mixed with coconut cream or milk. The filling? A mix of palm sugar and coconut.



## Cartier LOVE bracelet

"Cartier Love Bracelet is the first piece that comes to mind when we talk about iconic bracelets. The rose gold and classic yellow gold versions stand out the most — they pair effortlessly with any outfit. For those looking to elevate their style, there's always the option to go for the diamond-encrusted version, adding a touch of glamour," says Nitibha Kaul, digital content creator.

## Hermès Clic H bracelet

"The Cartier Love Bracelet is iconic for its minimalistic design and symbolic message of everlasting love. Another favourite is the Hermès Clic H Bracelet. The simplicity of the design, paired with a pop of colour, gives it an edge without losing its classic appeal," says Vivek Ramabhadran, founder and CEO of a designer jewellery brand.

## Elevated stacks

One also has the liberty of playing with different metals while stacking multiple bracelets - a diamond bracelet with a silver watch for example. I like to call the stacking bit as a 'wrist party'

— Roshni Bhatia, digital content creator

Digital content creator Roshni Bhatia, adds, "I love the Bulgari Serpenti bracelet and the Tiffany cuff, Boucheron bangles—those are one of the classics and go well with most of the outfits. My favourite would be stacking them all together with a classic Cartier or a Bulgari Serpenti watch. They give a more cohesive look."

# A LUXE BRACELET FOR YOUR JEWELLERY COLLECTION

Divya Kaushik

Whether stacked with a luxe watch or adorned as a standalone piece, there's an unmatched charm to bracelets. Even those who take pride in their understated style opt for these to add a touch of luxury to their look. So if you are looking for luxe bracelets to add to your collection, take note of these classic designs.

## Bulgari Serpenti

"I can't not think of the Serpenti bracelet by Bulgari when we talk about classic designs. It exudes a distinctive charm. Have seen so many celebs adorning the Serpenti!" says digital content creator Anmol Dua

## The Tiffany T bracelet

Featuring the T motif, the bracelet's clean lines, bold geometric shapes, and sleek design have made it a staple among luxury connoisseurs

## 'Understated options for men'

Though Cartier's Juste un Clou gold bracelet, Valentino's Vlogo and Alexander McQueen's Skull bracelets are classic options for men, recently kada bracelets gained popularity, thanks to Bulgari. "For men, the Louis Vuitton Nanogram cuff is also a great example of a timeless piece. I love how people have responded to the kada bracelets. The trend of luxury bracelets among men has been increasing, driven by a demand for sophisticated, yet understated accessories that reflect personal style," says Vivek Ramabhadran, founder & CEO of a designer jewellery brand.

## Bulgari kada bracelet

## Van Cleef & Arpels Alhambra bracelet

A favourite of Queen Camilla, she is often seen wearing this classic clover design

## BACK BEAT

# 'I have learnt not to let my characters consume me'

Having worked across both films and television, Sudha Chandran feels most at home on the small screen. From her iconic role as Ramola Sikand in *Kaahin Kissii Roz* to Maneka in her new show *Safal Hogi Teri Aradhna*, the veteran actress feels blessed to have been consistently offered powerful roles.

She says, "Television has given me everything - respect, money, fame and the satisfaction of playing strong characters. I also believe I've earned it because I have always been a dedicated artiste, committed to my craft. It's not just luck that's brought me these opportunities."

She is widely recognised for her portrayal

of negative characters, but does she ever wish to play a positive character? She replies, "As an actress, whatever roles come my way, I'll take them up and give them my all. I'd love to play positive one, and I am sure the time for that will come. However, when things are going well, why disrupt the flow? Why take a risk and end up regretting it?"

While negative characters can sometimes be overwhelming, she has mastered the art of detaching from them once the camera stops rolling. She says, "As soon as my make-up is on, I'm in character; but between shots, I love to have fun and chat with people. I have learnt not to let my characters consume me. If I had carried those negative roles home, my house would have fallen apart by now (laughs!)."

— Neha Maheshwari

I'd love to play a positive character and I am sure the time for that will come. However, when things are going well, why disrupt the flow? Why take a risk and end up regretting it?



Sudha Chandran

## Today Bhojpuri films are made for family audiences: Monalisa

Monalisa likes playing a *daayan* on TV. After *Nazar*, she is now enjoying playing one in *Shamshaan Champa*. The actress says, "I am glad that the audience loves to see me as a *daayan*. I am happy to be typecast in supernatural characters. In fact, there is a lot of scope to perform when it comes to these roles."

Talking about why she hasn't been seen in a typical *saas-bahu* drama, she shares, "I do get offers to play a vamp in *saas-bahu* shows, but I want to do something different."

Monalisa, who has acted in a number of Bhojpuri films, says much has changed in the industry there. "Obscenity has gone down in Bhojpuri films and today, films are made for family audiences. The music has improved and there are many good directors in the industry, too. I'd like to be a part of good films, but it is just that my television commitments leave me with not much time."

I do get offers to play a vamp in saas-bahu shows, but I want to do something different



Monalisa

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