

DNA speak up

big shout

Today's Question:
Should Omkara be banned?

alwaz on ur mind
4567
sms **SU** <space> **A** or **B** or **C**
to **4567** for answer.
A: Yes **B:** No **C:** #*%*#@

Yesterday's Question:
Have potholes in your area been filled up?

21% Yes **49%** No **30%** I'm waiting



Potholes near Ghatkopar station need repair, but BMC seems to be missing in action here.
Nanda Porecha



The BMC hasn't started work on Linking Road, which is in complete shambles.
Pretty M



Potholes outside Grant Road station have been there forever. Where's BMC?
Sneha Agarwal

E-mail speakup@dnaindia.net, call 39888888 Extn 455 | Team Speak Up: Kiran Wadhwa, Devraj Uchil, Salil Deshpande, Radhika Agarwal



Photo: Radhika Agarwal

Now evict beggars too

If the authorities really want to make the beachfront better, they should also evict beggars and hawkers who continue to harass us.

Even without food stalls, the beach remains a fun place. The debris on the flattened area should be cleaned. Let the vacant plot add to the open space on the beachfront.

— **Shruti Tiwari**, Khaghar

Juhu: No more bhaji on the beach

Juhu beach is finally free of vendors, who will be relocated nearby. People there insist that a lack of food stalls won't make the beach bland

The beach is more fun now

It's okay if the food stalls are being relocated, otherwise the BMC's cleanliness drive will strip them off their livelihood. I stroll on the beach with my friends after college. The beach used to be very dirty after a Sunday, but today it is unrecognisable. I've never seen it this clean. It makes walking on the beach more fun.

Despite the absence of food stalls, I will come here. If the razed area is to be utilised at all, then the authorities should build toilets. The existing ones are few and dirty.

— **Rashmi Khandekar**, Andheri

No food stalls, no kachra

The beach looks clean and good today, unlike the disaster it usually is after a weekend. No food stalls mean fewer *taporis* on the beach who usually hang around these stalls and harass visitors.

No food stalls also means people littering less. The government should build a garden on the cleared area. It would attract more visitors and beautify the beachfront further. Food stalls or no food stalls, I will keep coming back to the beach as it is so much fun.

— **Shweta P.**, Andheri

Why allow peanut vendors?

The beach is cleaner, but I miss the food stalls. Munching while walking down the beach adds to the charm. I'm not saying that all the razed food stalls be brought back, but the place should have a snack corner and may be a small garden too.

Right now, I can see so many gram-sellers on the beach, why not fine them too? If the BMC has sent the food stall owners packing, why not these guys?

I will keep coming back here because I love the beachfront.

— **Dnyanda Gandre**, Bhandup

Some food stalls needed

This is my second visit here and the place was as it is today — clean, not crowded. I've heard of crowded Sundays, but I did not see any such a thing, probably because of the lack of food stalls.

As a visitor, I would say some grub is needed on the beach. Since people from across the nation come here, there should be a provision for hygienic and cheap food. Also, there ought to be more changing rooms and lockers so that visitors don't have to carry their bags around and are assured of safety of their belongings.

— **Vivek Chopra**, Dehradun

“We are finally getting to enjoy a clear view of the Arabian sea after years of dirt. Ask those who have been coming to Juhu beach for the past 30 years and you will know how glad we are. The food stalls have only been relocated, you can still get your favourite ice *ka gola*. There are a few things left to be done and we have sent a report to the concerned authorities. Juhu beach will get better by the day.”

— **PC Jain**

Vice President, Juhu Citizens' Welfare Group

the billboard



Sweet seawater or idols drinking milk are not miracles. BMC covering potholes before Aug 30 will surely be one.

— **Mohana Iyer**

Send us funky billboards to win cash prizes

Fine print

Cable quotes
Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act states that programmes not suitable for children must not be aired at the time when children are viewing.

numericks



There will be **80** stalls at the upcoming food plaza at Juhu

Sudoku

For the first time ever: Download Ultimate SUDOKU on your mobile. SMS <SDK> to 7575. Downloading charges Rs 99 per game. Only on GPRS WAP enabled mobile sets.

How to play

Fill each of the blank boxes with the number grid from 1-9, and the letter grid from A-I with no letters or numbers repeating in vertical, horizontal rows or 3x 3 grids. Do not repeat any letters in a line. Each puzzle has only one solution. Answers tomorrow.

Yesterday's solution

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

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

	C				A			B
A	E		G					
			B		I		C	
C	A						F	
	I	D				E	H	
F						A		G
		G	E	D				
					B		I	H
B		C						E

From a Delhiite to a Mumbaikar

An out-of-towner learns that recklessly jumping on and off fast trains is the only way to be a complete Mumbaikar

Dr AK Singal

What started as disgust and anguish, turned to tolerance, surprise and finally, joy. No, the transition was not quick but it sure was pleasant. We went through a gamut of emotions after shifting to Mumbai.

Initially, we used to miss Lutyens Delhi and its open spaces and greenery. We used to curse our profession and then ourselves for landing in Mumbai. Discussions invariably focused around positives of Delhi like better roads, more open and green spaces, now also a Metro. Our friends from Mumbai used to lament that though Mumbai pays the highest taxes, Delhi gets all the development.

Initially, we travelled by local trains and fresh from our brush with the Delhi metro, the contrast could not have been starker. We were amazed to see people hanging from the doors of trains. One of my friends remarked that it was not because the train was full but because the hangers wanted fresh air.

As we slowly adjusted to Mumbai, we understood the vibes of the city, and that the local train maintains its hustle and rhythm.

Once as we were travelling on the local, my wife noticed some people on the adjacent train. She commented on their happy faces — people crammed, beating the harsh summer sun, but still smiling. They seemed to be enjoying travelling on the Mumbai local. We carefully looked at the people around us. None of them seemed to be stressed or disgusted. We looked at each other and wondered if we were the only ones stressed out. We realised that the frustration lies within. From that day, we start-

ed looking at the Mumbai local differently. I now prefer the train to the car.

We finally got our PhDs in the Mumbai local train travel and people who travel on the western line will attest that. We were planning to meet our friends in Kandivali and had to travel from Vashi. We took a bus to Bandra and reached there by 7pm (the rush hour on working days). As we waited for a fast train, the Bhayendar Fast arrived and without thinking twice my athletic wife and I somehow got into the jam-packed second class compartment.

We were greeted by pushes, shoves, hostile glares and above all surprised stares. A guy standing beside us was watching us keenly and asked, "Where are you from?" We replied, "Delhi."

He said he had guessed as much. No person in the right mind in Mumbai will ever dare to get onto a Bhayendar Fast from Bandra and then hope to get down safely at Borivali.

Thankfully, the same guy helped us jump off the moving train at the right time and we landed among a sea of bodies on the Borivali platform. Till date, our friends laud us for that unimaginable feat. Amidst all this, I remember the kind gentleman who administered us the necessary skills to travel the Bhayendar Fast. I am sure these skills will come in handy.

Trains offer their own unique set of experiences. Share your stories. Mail us at speakup@dnaindia.net. All articles will be paid for

mumbai moment

1916 - 2006
May his soul rest in peace

TRIBUTE TO THE MAESTRO: Reader Deepal Shah sent this illustration as a mark of respect and homage to the Late Ustad Bismillah Khan

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Speakup inbox

Dude, where are the bins?

This is in response to 'Officials Speak' (August 9) The spokesperson of Central Railways AK Singh requested commuters to help them keep stations clean. Being a civic-minded person, I tried but found it to be an impossible task.

I can speak of the condition of two stations on the Harbour line that I travel to and from daily — Juinagar and Chembur. I request the concerned authorities to show me where they have hidden the dustbins and spittoons so that I can use them. This, I am sure, is the state of most stations along the Central and Western lines too.

Where is a person supposed to dispose rubbish when there are no dustbins on the entire station? Is wanting a dustbin or a spittoon every 10 to 20 feet too much to ask for?

A few other problems which residents of Sanpada and Juinagar face are listed below. Can anyone please alleviate these problems?

There is no foot overbridge or subway in front of Juinagar station. The only architectural-ly-pleasing overbridge there has entry and exit points at the roads parallel to the highway. There is at least a metal bridge over the *nullah* at the station side, but no such thing on the other side. Because of this, those coming from Thane and alighting at the stop on the highway find it hard to reach the station.

The road leading from Juinagar station to Sanpada is a motorist's or for that matter, even a pedestrian's nightmare. The road not only is infested with potholes, but is devoid of streetlights. I have been travelling on this road for the past five years and have seen it lit only twice, for a period of not more than 40 days. After that, it was back to 'spot the pothole in the dark' game that just might kill us.

I request officials to wake up before something untoward happens and solve the problem without giving the now-clichéd 'lack of funds' or 'passing the buck' reasons.

— **Neeraj R.** Sanpada