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Abu Dhabi relaxes alcohol restrictions

Arakkal Shada Amina

DUBAI, UAE: The residents of Abu Dhabi have mixed feelings about the Department of Culture and Tourism's (DPT) recently-issued circular informing liquor distribution companies of changes in the emirate's liquor distribution regulations.

The circular highlighted the DPT's decision to cancel the requirement of an liquor license for individuals to purchase liquor and store them in their homes.

However, the recent revision of restrictions now stipulates only that an individual must be 21-years of age to



Representational Image

purchase alcohol, and that they consume these beverages from private places and other authorized establishments such as bars and clubs.

"This seems like a step in the right direction", says Mohd Razin, a 20-year old student residing in Abu Dhabi.

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"Muslims were not allowed to have a liquor license before, which I think is limiting. Even though its a predominantly Islamic country, I think the ease in restrictions will contribute to the development of the country", he adds.

Home to the Sheikh Zayed

Grand Mosque, the emirate is considered extremely safe and family-friendly. "I am worried that the ease in restrictions will lead to increased consumption and threaten the safety offered by residential communities", says Varsha Vineesh, a 21-year old medical student hailing from Abu Dhabi.

Many residents found the previously mandatory liquor license to be restricting. Siddarth Narayan, a 26-year old Engineer currently based in Abu Dhabi, says "to obtain a liquor license, you need a No-Objection Certificate (NOC) issued by your employer, which can be

extremely embarrassing. In that regard, the new rules seem beneficial not only for the economy but also to individuals that do not want to mix their personal and professional lives".

"We shouldn't take advantage of the revised restrictions and must behave irresponsibly", says Rameshan Pulikkodan, a 54-year old Businessman based in Abu Dhabi. "The change in rules greatly reduces the risk of drunk driving, as it is now easier to procure and consume alcohol out of the comfort of our homes. Ultimately, it is our duty to drink responsibly", he concludes.

Unlock creativity with Alcohol Inks

Priyansha

JHARKHAND: With new ideas rising to the surface, alcohol mixed in color pigments 'Alcohol Inks' stand as an absolute trend among vibrant fluid paints. First Indian 'Alcohol Ink' manufacturer, BeyondInks, co-founder Gayathri Gupta said, "Alcohol Inks are acid free, super vibrant, highly pigmented and fast drying inks which can be easily used on any non-porous surfaces. Since these Inks are alcohol based they evaporate quickly."

"The idea behind manufacturing these inks was that people weren't aware of these inks in the Indian market. There were some imported brands which were relatively costlier than what we are selling today. With our launch in March 2019 in Hyderabad we tried creating awareness about these inks." she added.

Another Mumbai based firm, Shilpi is also gearing to popularize these inks in India. Parag Kenia, co-founder of Shilpi said, "Alcohol inks are extensions to the ink line and fluid painting. These are specially packaged keeping the need of the art in mind. The bottles come with a long needle tip for controlled application."

Dr. Anand Lakshman on social media and public health

Vandana Nampoothiri

CAMPUS: "In social media, there is so much bombardment of information, you don't know which is correct and which is wrong" says Dr. Anand Lakshman, a public health entrepreneur and manager, during a webinar at St Joseph's college, Bengaluru. The topic for discussion was 'newest trends in the promotion of public health in the media'.

Dr. Lakshman talked about how social media has become a major platform in propagating fake news. "If I have to give a very clear message as a doctor, I have to compete with 10 other whatsapp forwards which are forwarding fake news (sic)", he said.

The shift from print ads to mobile phones have changed the public health campaign approach. "People don't have the time to read long texts or go through a lengthy article" added Dr. Lakshman while talking about the latest trends in public health social media campaigns. Short and brief videos, and live streaming

are much more appreciated today. While Facebook advertising, which has a very targeted audience, are also used for campaigns, other social media apps like Instagram and Snapchat use photo based communications which are targeted at the young audience.

Celebrities like Amitabh Bachchan have become the face of persuasive communication. "The

moment Amitabh Bachchan speaks, the whole nation is up to listen" says Dr. Lakshman referring to an old polio advertisement.

Websites like Youtube also play an important role in promoting public health today. In fact Baba Ramdev's video on daily routine is the most viewed video on public health, with 27 million views.

Dr. Anand Lakshman is the founder and CEO of addresshealth, child healthcare centre in Bengaluru. He has a youtube channel, C Positive. He has also written opinion pieces in magazines and also blogs in magazine websites.

Howrah to get two new water treatment plants

Megha Bhattacharjee

HOWRAH: After many years Howrah will get two new water treatment plants at Padmapukur Shibpur, which will supply water to the added area of Howrah Municipal Corporation (HMC) where water scarcity has become an acute problem.

HMC has two distinct zones, one is the old Howrah municipality area and the other one is an added area zone. These five wards were added to HMC in the year 1984 from gram panchayat, when Howrah municipality was elevated to be a corporation. Earlier, the area was under the control of local



Ongoing construction at Howrah

Megha Bhattacharjee

gram panchayat and was deprived of treated surface water along with other civic facilities.

Recently, there has been a rise in demand for drinking water supply. HMC finally decided to build two new water treatment plants of 20 MGD capacity to mitigate this issue.

These treatment plants will be constructed by the

Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority (KMDA). One plant will be financed by the State govt and other will be funded by the State as well as the Central govt under AMRUT Yojana.

KMDA Chief Engineer, Sri Amitava Mukherjee said "Around 5 lakh people in the area are will benefit from this project."

Pubs and clubs continue to screen IPL matches amid Covid-19

Pavithra Prabhu

BENGALURU: The ambience, food and overall experience of enjoying IPL screenings hasn't changed except for the increase in hygiene protocols because of Covid pandemic.' recounted Akshith, about IPL screenings at Chin Lungs.

Pubs such as Hangover, The Local, 3 Monkeys Brew Pub have started screening IPL

and providing exclusive offers to their customers. The guidelines issued by the Karnataka government are being followed to adhere to the safety precautions to the pandemic while the nation adapts to Unlock 4.0.

Bangalore-based Indian Gymkhana Club settled down with their hygiene protocols as well. The members of the club are

informed through a text message regarding the screening and only three members are allowed to sit at a table within cubicles. As per the guidelines by the Karnataka Government, 50% of the staff currently sign in for work while wearing masks, gloves and face shields. "We are asked to step into the sanitisation booth after which a

temperature check is done. Disposable plates and cups are used to serve food and drinks. We are satisfied with the precautions that are being taken." Said a member of the Indian Gymkhana Club.

Hangover even introduced, "Irresistible offers: an IPL special cocktail bucket line-up ad 1+1 on draught beer and cocktail bucket." to treat their customers.