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### Exploring Mumbai - Past, Present and Fascinating Trivia

Hey Aspirants! We're back with another blog on the blog series '**Know Your City**'. The city you're going to learn about is '**Mumbai**'. So, without a further delay, let's start exploring the city.

**Mumbai**, often fondly referred to as the '**City of Dreams**', stands as an extraordinary urban junction. It is a city where ambitions escalate, life beats with youthfulness, and history and modernity coexist in an incredible embrace. It's a world of potential and diversity beyond its busy streets and well-known buildings, where traditions and modernity coexist. As we delve into Mumbai's heart you'll learn to appreciate its multifaceted nature and how this bustling city has something to offer everyone who visits.

Before looking at the different aspects, one must know the City symbols of the particular city. The city symbols of Mumbai are:



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<b>Mumbai</b>	
<b>State</b>	Maharashtra
<b>Official Language</b>	Marathi
<b>City Bird</b>	Flamingo
<b>City Tree</b>	Ashoka
<b>City Flower</b>	Lagerstroemia speciosa
<b>City Fish</b>	Bombay Duck
<b>MP of the City</b>	1) Shri Gopal Chinayya Shetty 2) Shri Gajanan Chandrakant Kirtikar 3) Shri Manoj Kishorbhai Kotak 4) Smt Poonam Vajendla Rao, (Mahajan)
<b>Administrator</b>	I.S Chahal
<b>Other Names</b>	Financial capital, City of Dreams, City of Seven Islands, Hollywood of India, Gateway of India, Maximum City
<b>Emblem</b>	The coat of arms of Greater Mumbai
<b>Governing Civic</b>	Brihanmumbai



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## Exploring Mumbai - Past, Present and Fascinating Trivia



[Image Source: Britannica]

So now, let's move on to the first aspect of the blog i.e. **History of Mumbai**

## History of Mumbai

Mumbai, formerly known as Bombay, is a city with a rich historical background, developed from small fishing villages into the booming metropolis it is today. Indigenous tribes have inhabited Mumbai (Bombay) since the Stone Age. The **Kolis** and **Aagri** (a Marathi-Konkani people) were the earliest known settlers of the islands. It was ruled by Muslims in the 14th century until passing into Portuguese hands in 1534 and becoming known as "Bombaim". It was transferred to the British in 1661 as a piece of Catherine of Braganza's dowry.

Mumbai played a crucial part in India's movement for independence during the 20th century, with stalwarts like Mahatma Gandhi leading the way. It was designated as the Bombay State's capital after independence in 1947. The **name of the city, Mumbai** is derived from patron deity the Mother **Goddess Mumba Devi**, worshipped by the earliest inhabitants the Kolis.

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[Image Source: Wikipedia]

Let's divide the history of Mumbai into periods of early history, mediaeval period, British Colonial period and post Independence period.

- **Early History:** The earliest known inhabitants of the Mumbai area were the **Koli** people, who were fishermen and traders. The first recorded mention of Mumbai is in the 3rd century BCE, when it was known as Heptanesia. In the 1st century CE, Mumbai was part of the Satavahana Empire.
- **Mediaeval Period:** In the 10th century, Mumbai was ruled by the Shilahara dynasty. In the 13th century, it was conquered by the Delhi Sultanate. In the 16th century, Mumbai was ruled by the Portuguese.
- **British Colonial Period:** In 1661, the Portuguese ceded Mumbai to England as part of the dowry of Catherine of Braganza, who was marrying Charles II of England. The British East India Company took control of Mumbai in 1668. Under British rule, Mumbai grew rapidly. In the 18th century, it became a major centre for trade and commerce. In the 19th century, Mumbai became a major industrial centre.
- **Indian Independence:** India gained independence from Britain in 1947. In 1960, the state of Bombay was divided into two states: Maharashtra and Gujarat. Mumbai became the capital of Maharashtra.
- **Post Independence Period:** Since independence, Mumbai has continued to grow rapidly. It is now one of the most important economic and cultural centres in India.

## Here is a timeline of some key events in Mumbai's history:

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- **Pre-13th Century:** Fishing communities on the archipelago.
- **1348:** Under Muslim rule.
- **1534:** Portuguese conquest, renaming it "Bombaim."
- **1661:** Ceded to the British Crown as part of Catherine of Braganza's dowry.
- **18th Century:** British expansion, construction of Fort St. George.
- **19th Century:** Suez Canal opening transforms Mumbai into a thriving port.
- **20th Century:** Mumbai played a pivotal role in India's struggle for independence.
- **1947:** India gains independence, Mumbai becomes part of the Bombay State.
- **1960:** Bombay State divided into Maharashtra and Gujarat, Mumbai becomes the capital of Maharashtra.
- **1995:** Bombay renamed to Mumbai.
- **Today:** Mumbai is India's financial and entertainment capital, renowned for its resilience and cultural diversity.

Mumbai has been through numerous changes in its name over a period of time.

## Evolution of Mumbai Names:

1. **Mumbāṭī:** The original Marathi name, from ancient times.
2. **Bombaim:** A name used during Portuguese colonial rule (1534-1661).
3. **Bombay:** The name given by the Portuguese and continued during British colonial rule, from 1661 until 1995.
4. **Bombaye:** A French variant of "Bombay" used historically.
5. **Muṃbā:** An alternative Marathi name.
6. **Mambai:** Another historical Marathi name variant.
7. **Bombai Muziris:** Referring to Mumbai's historical connection with the ancient trading port of Muziris.
8. **Bambai:** An informal local pronunciation of "Bombay" or "Mumbai".
9. **Bom Bahia:** A term used by the Portuguese meaning "Good Bay".

This timeline showcases the evolution of Mumbai's name over the centuries, reflecting its diverse cultural influences and historical periods.

Mumbai is a city with a rich and diverse history. It has grown from a small fishing village to one of the most important cities in India. Mumbai is a city of opportunity, where people from all walks of life come to pursue their dreams.

Let's move on to the next aspect of this blog i.e **Geographical aspect**.

## Geographical Aspects of Mumbai

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Mumbai is a coastal city in India, on the western coast of the Konkan region. It is situated on Salsette Island, which it partially shares with the Thane district. The city is surrounded by the Arabian Sea to the west and Thane Creek to the east. Mumbai has a total area of 603.4 km<sup>2</sup> (233 sq mi), of which 67.79 km<sup>2</sup> (26 sq mi) is the island city and 370 km<sup>2</sup> (143 sq mi) is the suburban district. The remaining areas belong to various Defence establishments, the Mumbai Port Trust, the Atomic Energy Commission and the Borivali National Park, which are out of the jurisdiction of the MCGM. The Mumbai Metropolitan Region which includes portions of Thane, Palghar and Raigad districts in addition to Greater Mumbai, covers an area of 4,355 km<sup>2</sup> (1681.5 sq mi).



[Image Source: India Today]

## Geographical Features:

Here are the geographical features of Mumbai in points, these points provide a comprehensive overview of Mumbai's geographical characteristics, highlighting its coastal, urban, and natural elements.

- **Coastal Location:** Mumbai is located on the western coast of India, along the Arabian Sea.
- **Island City:** It comprises a series of islands, with Salsette Island being the most significant.
- **Elevation:** Mumbai's elevation is generally low, with the highest natural point being Malabar Hill at approximately 50 meters (164 feet) above sea level.
- **Coastline Length:** The city boasts a lengthy coastline stretching for about 149 kilometers (93 miles).
- **Rivers and Creeks:** It is intersected by several rivers and creeks, including the Mithi River, Ulhas River, and Thane Creek.
- **Geological Diversity:** Mumbai's geology varies, encompassing rocky coastal regions, fertile plains, and some marshy areas.
- **Urban Landscape:** Despite its natural features, Mumbai is densely urbanized, featuring a mix of residential, commercial, and industrial areas.

## Demographic Snapshot:

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Mumbai's demographic features reflect its status as one of the most populous and diverse cities in India. Here are the demographic features of Mumbai :

- **Population:** Mumbai is one of the most populous cities in India, with over 12.5 million people in the city proper and more than 20 million in the metropolitan area.
- **Density:** 21,000/km<sup>2</sup> (54,000/sq mi)
- **Diversity:** The city is culturally diverse, home to people from various Indian states and a variety of languages spoken, including Marathi, Hindi, Gujarati, and English.
- **Economic Disparities:** The city exhibits significant economic disparities, with affluent neighborhoods like Malabar Hill alongside densely populated slums like Dharavi.
- **Gender Ratio:** As of the last update in 2023, Mumbai had a sex ratio of around 853 females per 1,000 males.

## Physiographical Aspects:

Mumbai's physiological factors influence the city's livability, with residents adapting to the tropical climate and monsoon season's distinct challenges.

- **Climate:** The city experiences a tropical climate. In winter, the average temperature is 25°C (77°F), whereas in summer, it is 32°C (90°F).
- **Rainfall:** The city has heavy downpours throughout the monsoon season, with an annual average of about 2,200 millimeters.
- **Air Quality Index:** Mumbai's traffic and industrial activity have a negative impact on the city's air quality. The AQI can change, and PM2.5 levels can occasionally be higher than advised limits.
- **Healthcare:** Mumbai is home to top-notch hospitals and medical services. About 1 doctor to every 2,000 patients, which reflects good availability of healthcare.

## Soil and Vegetation:

The soil of Mumbai is predominantly sandy, whereas in the suburban district, the soil cover is alluvial and loamy. The sandy soil is due to the city's proximity to the sea. The alluvial and loamy soil in the suburban district is due to the presence of rivers and streams.

Here are some of the specific vegetation types found in Mumbai:

- **Coastal vegetation:** This type of vegetation is found along the coast of Mumbai. It is characterized by salt-tolerant plants such as mangroves and casuarinas.
- **Forest vegetation:** This type of vegetation is found in the forests on the outskirts of Mumbai. It is characterized by a variety of trees, shrubs, and grasses.
- **Urban vegetation:** This type of vegetation is found in the city of Mumbai. It is characterized by a mix of native and introduced plants, as well as trees that have been planted for ornamental purposes.



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The vegetation of Mumbai is an important part of the city's ecosystem and provides many benefits to its residents.

Mumbai, dazzles with iconic landmarks: the majestic Gateway of India, UNESCO-listed CST station, the sparkling Queen's Necklace (Marine Drive), ancient Elephanta Caves, the serene Haji Ali Dargah, Siddhivinayak Temple's spiritual aura, the historic Prince of Wales Museum, Juhu Beach's vibrant spirit, the lush Sanjay Gandhi National Park, and the architectural wonder, Bandra-Worli Sea Link.



[Image Source: The Times of India]

Now let's move on to the **political aspects of Mumbai**.

## Political Aspects of Mumbai

Mumbai is the headquarters of the Maharashtra state government and the Western Naval Command of the Indian Navy. The city is divided into seventeen traffic police zones and seven police zones, each of which is led by a deputy commissioner of Police.



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- The BMC is in charge of meeting the city's infrastructure and civic demands. The council members vote indirectly among themselves to choose the mayor, who holds office for a term of two and a half years.
- In the Maharashtra state assembly elections held every five years, Mumbai is represented by 36 assembly constituencies and 6 Parliamentary Constituency .
- **Chief Minister:** Eknath Shinde.
- **Deputy Chief Minister:** Devendra Fadnavis, Ajit Pawar.
- **Chief Secretary:** Manoj Saunik, IAS.
- **Political Parties:** Mumbai houses numerous political parties, including Shiv Sena, BJP, NCP, INC, and others, each vying for control in local and state elections.
- Mumbai's political significance extends far beyond its geographic boundaries, impacting not only Maharashtra but also the nation at large due to its economic clout and cultural diversity. For the most up-to-date political information, it's essential to consult current sources and news outlets.
- The municipal commissioner, an officer of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), is granted full executive authority and is chosen by the state government.
- Out of 21 cities in India, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation was ranked ninth for best governance and administrative procedures in 2014.
- Mumbai also has two lower courts, the Small Causes Court for civil matters, and the Sessions Court for criminal cases. Mumbai also has a special Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (TADA) court for people accused of conspiring and abetting acts of terrorism in the city.
- Mumbai had been a traditional stronghold and birthplace of the Indian National Congress, also known as the Congress Party. The first session of the Indian National Congress was held in Mumbai from 28 to 31 December 1885.
- The BMC's annual budget for 2023-2024 is ₹45,853 crore (approximately US 6 billion dollars).
- The voter turnout in Mumbai in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections was 57.4%.



[Image Spource: Hindustan Times]



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Mumbai is a politically sound city. The city's diverse population and its important economic and cultural status make it a key battleground for political parties. The city's politics is also shaped by the interests of business leaders, industrialists, and artists.

## Culture of Mumbai

Mumbai's culture offers a blend of traditional and cosmopolitan festivals, food, entertainment, and nightlife. The city's cosmopolitan and urban-centric modern cultural offerings are comparable to other world capitals. People from all across India and the world call Mumbai home, creating a cultural melting pot.



[Image Source: Travel Triangle]

## Exploring Mumbai - Past, Present and Fascinating Trivia

- **Language:** Marathi is the official language of Mumbai. Gujarati, English, and Hindi are also frequently spoken, nevertheless. With so many individuals in the city speaking many languages, it has a distinctive linguistic landscape.
- **Religion:** There are several different religions practiced in Mumbai, including Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, and Jainism.
- **Festival:** Mumbai's festivals showcase the city's wide range of religions and cultures. Ganesh Chaturthi, Diwali, Navratri, Eid-ul-Fitr, Christmas, and Maha Shivratri are a few of the most celebrated holidays.
- **Literature:** Mumbai has a long-standing, thriving literary heritage that dates to the 17th century. The city has been home to some of India's most well-known writers, including Munshi Premchand, Bal Thackeray, and Vikram Seth.
- **Cuisine:** The food in Mumbai is a fusion of Indian and foreign influences. The most well-liked foods in the city are kebabs, biryani, vada pav, and pav bhaji. Mumbai is also well-known for having some of the best street food in the world.
- **Attire:** Mumbai's population diversity is reflected in the city's dress. It's common to see people from all areas of life dressed in traditional Indian attire, Western attire, or a combination of the two.
- **People:** Mumbai's inhabitants are renowned for their friendliness, generosity, and fortitude.
- **Music:** Mumbai is a major center for Indian music. Numerous music venues in the city showcase performances by both Indian and foreign performers. Bollywood music, classical Indian music, and folk music are some of the most well-liked musical genres in Mumbai.
- **Dance:** Mumbai is a major hub for Indian dance. Kathak, Bharatanatyam, and Odissi are just a few of the Indian dance styles taught in the city's numerous dance schools.
- **Temple:** The Siddhivinayak Temple, the Haji Ali Dargah, and the ISKCON Temple are just a few of the significant Hindu temples that can be found in Mumbai. Hindus from all around the world visit these temples frequently as places of worship.
- **Handicraft:** Traditional handicrafts from Mumbai, like pottery, weaving, and embroidery, are well-known.
- **Cinema:** Mumbai is the birthplace of Indian cinema- Dadasaheb Phalke laid the foundations with silent movies followed by Marathi talkie and the oldest film broadcast took place in the early 20th century.
- **Bollywood:** Mumbai is home to the Hindi film industry, also known as Bollywood, which is the largest film industry in the world in terms of number of films produced. Bollywood films are exported to over 100 countries and have a global audience of billions. In 2022, Bollywood produced over 1,000 films, which generated over ₹100 billion in revenue.

Now, let's talk about the **Environment in Mumbai**.

## Environment in Mumbai

Mumbai is a coastal city located on the western coast of India. It has been recognised as **'2021 Tree City of the World'** by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (UN) jointly with Arbor Day Foundation.

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Few pointers related to the environment in Mumbai are as follows:

- **Green Cover:** Mumbai has 12% of its area covered by greenery, which is less than the national average of 24.56%. The city has, nevertheless, been working to improve its green space in recent years.
- **Urban biodiversity:** A wide range of urban wildlife, including birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians, may be found in Mumbai. Mangroves, wetlands, and woodlands are just a few of the significant ecosystems that call the city home.
- **Lakes and Water bodies:** The Powai Lake, the Vihar Lake, and the Thane Creek are just a few of the lakes and water features in Mumbai.
- **Flora and fauna:** Mangroves, coconut palms, and banyan trees are a few of the typical vegetation found in Mumbai. Birds like the flamingo and the kingfisher, mammals like the monkey and the leopard, and reptiles like the crocodile and the snake are a few of the frequently encountered creatures in Mumbai.
- **National Park:** Sanjay Gandhi National Park is the only national park located in Mumbai. The park, which is home to a variety of species including leopards, monkeys, and peacocks, is situated in the northern suburbs of Mumbai.
- **Environmental sensitivity:** Mumbai is becoming more and more conscious of the value of environmental preservation. The government has also launched a number of initiatives to improve the city's environment, such as the Clean Mumbai Mission and the Green Mumbai Mission.

Mumbai faces a number of environmental challenges, including air pollution, water pollution, and solid waste management.



[Image Source: Wikipedia]

Mumbai is a complex city with a diverse environment. The city faces a number of environmental challenges, but there is also a growing awareness of these issues and a number of initiatives are underway to improve the city's environment.

## Economy of Mumbai

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Mumbai	
<b>GDP</b>	\$277.98 billion
<b>GDP per Capita</b>	\$23,000
<b>Contribution to India's GDP</b>	6.16%
<b>Employment</b>	5.2 million
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	5.1%
<b>Major Industries</b>	Financial services, information technology, manufacturing, and tourism

Mumbai is the financial capital of India and is one of the most important economic hubs in the country. The city's economy is based on a diverse range of sectors, including finance, trade, manufacturing, and tourism.

- Mumbai's GDP is estimated to be US\$277.980 billion in 2023.
- Mumbai accounts for 6.16% of India's GDP.
- Mumbai contributes 10% of factory employment in India, 30% of income tax collections, 45% of entertainment tax, 60% of customs duty collections, 20% of central excise tax collections, 40% of foreign trade, 100% of stock market assets, and rupees 1,60,000 crore (US\$20 billion) in corporate taxes to the Indian economy.
- Bollywood films generate over ₹100 billion in revenue annually.
- Mumbai is home to a number of Fortune 500 companies, including Tata Group, Reliance Industries, and Mahindra & Mahindra.
- Mumbai has a long history as a financial center. The city was first settled by the Portuguese in the 16th century, and it quickly became a major trading center. In the 19th century, Mumbai became a major center for the British East India Company. After India gained independence in 1947, Mumbai became the financial capital of the new country.
- As of 2023, Mumbai is home to the seventh-highest number of billionaires of any city. With a total wealth of around \$960 billion, it is the richest Indian city and one of the richest cities in the world. As of 2008, the Globalization and World Cities Study Group (GaWC) has ranked Mumbai as an "Alpha world city", third in its categories of Global

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[Image Source: The Economic Times]

### Key sectors:

- **Finance:** Mumbai is home to the Bombay Stock Exchange, the National Stock Exchange of India, and the Reserve Bank of India. The city is also a major center for banking and insurance.
- **Trade:** Mumbai is a major port city and is a hub for international trade. The city is also home to a number of multinational companies.
- **Manufacturing:** Mumbai is a major manufacturing center, with a focus on industries such as textiles, pharmaceuticals, and engineering.
- **Tourism:** Mumbai is a popular tourist destination, known for its Bollywood industry, its beaches, and its historical monuments.

### Challenges:

Despite its economic success, Mumbai faces a number of challenges, including:

- **Poverty:** A significant proportion of Mumbai's population lives in poverty.
- **Inequality:** Mumbai is one of the most unequal cities in the world, with a large gap between the rich and the poor.
- **Infrastructure:** Mumbai's infrastructure is under strain, with many of the city's roads and public transportation systems overcrowded.

Mumbai is a city where old and new come together seamlessly. Ancient landmarks stand tall next to modern skyscrapers, all surrounded by lush greenery. Mumbai's strong economy and technological progress keep its rich history alive in the present. It invites everyone to enjoy its beauty and charm, blending its heritage with the modern world effortlessly.