MUMBAI
A View from Heavens

Gopal Bodhe
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Publisher's Note:

Aerial Photography has been extensively used all over the world for various applications such as documentation, mapping, town planning or environmental studies. However, aerial photography is new to our country. There is an urgent need to use this newly developing branch of photography for the benefits of society. Mumbai is a cosmopolitan city with constant changes. The need of the hour is not only to preserve our glorious past but also to look forward towards preservation of environment and heritage. This book is a humble effort in that direction. We are very happy to present herewith the first edition of this unique, visually rich documentation.

We would like to thank HDFC and State Bank of India for supporting this project. We would like to specially thank Shri Sunil Sen for designing the book, Shri Kiran Talcherkar and Shri Girish Vasudey for all other help. We would like to specially thank INDIAN NAVY and all the Naval staff who have supported this unique venture.

Sudha Bodhe, Kaustubbh Bodhe
(Siddhishakti Publications)
About the author:

Gopal Bodhe
Born in Sangli - Maharashtra - India on 9 July 1948
Fluency: English, Marathi, Hindi

Background:
Dedicated service in Indian Navy since 1972.
Developed liking in photography at the age of 10 for livelihood.
Trained for advanced photography in International Workshops.
Extensive work in the various fields of photography such as nature, wildlife and aerial photography.
Special interest in heritage and environmental preservation and has conducted many nature workshops for World Wild Life Fund for Nature (WWF) - India, Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and Photographic Society of India (PSI) for photography development, and nature and heritage awareness.
In-charge of Photography at Asiad 1982 for yachting event.

Acknowledgements:
Letter of Appreciation from Former President of USA Mr. Bill Clinton.
Photographic work recognized by past and present Presidents of India, Prime Ministers of India and Defense Ministers of India.
His Excellency the President of India Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam’s remarks on Gopal Bodhe’s Photography: "Excellent photography with creativity."

Achievements:
Pioneer in developing following photographic specialties in India:
Aerial Photography
Infrared Photography
Panorama Photography

Records:
1. First photographer to have aerially photographed more than 8500 Km of coastal India and Ladakh region for topographic documentation, heritage and environment.
2. 62 feet print panorama of Marine Drive (Queen’s Necklace) in Mumbai, displayed at World Photo Fair held in 1999 Mumbai and is now permanently displayed in the Museum aboard the former INS Vikrant. (Limca book of records 2001)

Publications:
2. SEA FORTS ON WEST COAST. Maritime History Society. Mumbai.
3. Forthcoming publications: AERIAL PERSPECTIVES of KOLKATA, TAMIL NADU and COASTAL PLACES OF WORSHIP IN INDIA.
4. Articles on environmental awareness in various dailies and newspapers.

Exhibitions:
ON WILDLIFE. Six exhibitions for BNHS for wildlife awareness in society and especially in schools.
MUMBAI - A BIRDS EYE VIEW. A photographic exhibition on aerial photography of Mumbai. More than 7 exhibitions at various places in Goa and Maharashtra States held since 2003 with over 2 lakh visitors.
GOA - A VIEW FROM HEAVENS. A photographic exhibition on aerial photography of Goa. More than 10 exhibitions at various places in Goa and Maharashtra State were held since 1996 onwards with over 3 lakh visitors. This was carried out in collaboration with the Government of Goa as a special drive for environmental protection and promotion of Ecotourism in the State.
A Few words

Mumbai is one of the growing commercial markets in a global scenario and its inhabitants have always shown a special love for this city.

My love for aerial Mumbai begins with a helicopter ride around Gateway of India, when I first noticed the dome roof of the historic landmark. The view from a bird's eye perspective was simply captivating and unique in several ways. I decided to capture these rare sights so that people could savor them leisurely.

As I embarked on photographing Mumbai from the air, I realized the increasing beauty of this city over space and time.

These mesmerizing vistas have immense importance for topographic documentation. I have tremendously enjoyed my journey in space and over time, when photographing the unique fabric of Mumbai and I wish to share these moments with you.

This is a book of many pictures. And if a picture can say a thousand words, read along and enjoy this visual journey of my collection spanning a period of over 12 years.

GOPAL BODHE
**List of Photographs : Location (year of shoot)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location and Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lighthouse and Mumbai (2003)</td>
<td>P.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southernmost Lighthouse (2002)</td>
<td>P.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunset of Colaba (2003)</td>
<td>P.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. C. Church, Colaba (1997)</td>
<td>P.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghan Church, Colaba (1992)</td>
<td>P.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sassoon Dock, Colaba (1995)</td>
<td>P.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colaba (1998)</td>
<td>P.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cusrow Baug on Causeway (1999)</td>
<td>P.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighthouse &amp; Gateway (2003)</td>
<td>P.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gateway of India &amp; Taj (1995)</td>
<td>P.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gateway of India (1995)</td>
<td>P.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nariman Point (1999)</td>
<td>P.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vidhan Bhavan Panorama (1999)</td>
<td>P.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCPA (2001)</td>
<td>P.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gateway of India (2001)</td>
<td>P.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gateway of India (2004)</td>
<td>P.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuffe Parade (1994)</td>
<td>P.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Trade Centre (2001)</td>
<td>P.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gateway of India (1995)</td>
<td>P.15 &amp; 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vidhan Bhavan &amp; Nariman Point (2001)</td>
<td>P.17 &amp; 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mantralaya &amp; Vidhan Bhavan (2001)</td>
<td>P.19 &amp; 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum (1995)</td>
<td>P.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vidhan Bhavan (1996)</td>
<td>P.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kala Ghoda (1998)</td>
<td>P.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kala Ghoda with Jehangir Art Gallery (1995)</td>
<td>P.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regal Circle (1995)</td>
<td>P.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institute of Science Panorama (1998)</td>
<td>P.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University &amp; High Court Panorama (1998)</td>
<td>P.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horniman Circle (1994)</td>
<td>P.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Thomas Cathedral (1994)</td>
<td>P.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Court Roof Tap (1994)</td>
<td>P.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oval to Gateway View (1994)</td>
<td>P.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mumbai by Night (2001)</td>
<td>P.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Churchgate WR HQ Roof Top (1994)</td>
<td>P.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eros Junction &amp; Maidans (1994)</td>
<td>P.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hutatma Chowk Flora Fountain (1994)</td>
<td>P.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. N. Road (1995)</td>
<td>P.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bombay Gymkhana (1994)</td>
<td>P.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fountain at Fort Market (1994)</td>
<td>P.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. P. O. (1994)</td>
<td>P.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. C. G. M. (1994)</td>
<td>P.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. George Hospital (2003)</td>
<td>P.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. S. T. Station (1996)</td>
<td>P.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Railway Tracks (1998)</td>
<td>P.37 &amp; 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Xavier’s College (1995)</td>
<td>P.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.C.G.M. HQ. &amp; Times of India (1995)</td>
<td>P.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esplanade Court &amp; M.C.G.M. (1995)</td>
<td>P.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crawford Market (1995)</td>
<td>P.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sir J. J. School of Arts (2003)</td>
<td>P.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing Boats at Ferry Wharf (2003)</td>
<td>P.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. J. Flyover (Before)(1995)</td>
<td>P.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before J. J. Flyover (1995)</td>
<td>P.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferry Wharf (2002)</td>
<td>P.47 &amp; 48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. J. Hospital (2004)</td>
<td>P.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Byculla Bridge (2004)</td>
<td>P.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jijamata Udyan (2003)</td>
<td>P.51 &amp; 52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haffkine Institute (2003)</td>
<td>P.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K. E. M. Hospital (2001)</td>
<td>P.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bombay Dyeing Mills (2004)</td>
<td>P.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dadar T.T. Space Before Flyover (1994)</td>
<td>P.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khodadad Circle After Flyover (2003)</td>
<td>P.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tilak Bridge (1995)</td>
<td>P.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King’s Circle (1995)</td>
<td>P.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sion Circle Before Flyover (1995)</td>
<td>P.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sion Circle After Flyover (2003)</td>
<td>P.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imax Cinema (2004)</td>
<td>P.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sion with R.C.F. in the background (1994)</td>
<td>P.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewree Fort (2004)</td>
<td>P.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sion Fort (1996)</td>
<td>P.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dharavi (1995)</td>
<td>P.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kala Qilla Dharavi (1995)</td>
<td>P.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dharavi (1994)</td>
<td>P.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flamingoes at Sewree (1996)</td>
<td>P.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brabourne Stadium (2001)</td>
<td>P.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mumbai by Night (2001)</td>
<td>P.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Princess Street Flyover (1996)</td>
<td>P.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Gymkhana (2003)</td>
<td>P.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wankhede Stadium by Night (1996)</td>
<td>P.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wankhede Stadium (1996)</td>
<td>P.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhobi Ghat Mahalakshmi (2001)</td>
<td>P.71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Saat Rasta Mahalakshmi (2001) P.72
Ganesh Visarjan at Chowpatty (2000) P.73
Ganesh Visarjan Procession at Chowpatty Junction (2000) P.74
Babalunath (2000) P.75
Nana Chowk (1996) P.75
Nana Chowk (2003) P.76
Peddar Road & Chowpatty (1999) P.77
August Karni Maidan (1996) P.78
Bombay Central (2003) P.78
Girgaum Chowpatty
Panorama (2003) P.79 & 80
Raj Bhavan Malabar Point (2001) P.81 & 82
Kamla Nehru Park (1996) P.83
Banganga Tank (1997) P.83
Jaslok Hospital (2003) P.84
Tardeo (1996) P.84
Mahalakshmi Temple (1996) P.85
Mills at Parel (1994) P.86
Haji Ali From the Sea (2003) P.87
Nehru Centre (1996) P.89
Vallabhbhai Patel Stadium (1996) P.90
Mahalakshmi Race Course (1996) P.90
Worli Hill (2003) P.91
Siddhi Vinayak Temple (1996) P.93
Thapar House (2003) P.94
Shivaji Park & Dadar Chowpatty
Panorama (2001) P.95 & 96
Worli Sea Face Panorama (1995) P.97
Worli Point (1998) P.97
Worli Fort (1997) P.98
Chaitya Bhoomi, Dadar beach(1996) P.99
Shivaji Park (2003) P.100
Shivaji Park Chowk Sena Bhavan (1997) P.101
Dadar Kabutarkhana (1996) P.102
Mahim Church (1999) P.103
Mahim Nature Park (1996) P.103
Mahim Fort (1997) P.104
Bandra Flyover (2003) P.105
Before Bandra Flyover (1995) P.105
Bandra Point (2001) P.106
Mahim Mangroves (2001) P.106
Bandra East (1996) P.107
Prabodhankar Thakre Flyover (2003) P.108
Bandra Fort (1999) P.109
Mount Mary Church, Bandra (1996) P.109
Bandra Talao (2001) P.110
Bandra Kurla Complex Mangroves (2001) P.110
Bandra Flyover (2002) P.111 & 112
Bandra Bandstand (2001) P.113 & 114
Drive-in Theater (1995) P.115
Khar Danda Mangroves Panorama (1997) P.116
Bandra Kurla Complex (1999) P.116
Juhu Chowpatty (2001) P.117 & 118
Juhu Beach (2001) P.119
Juhu Beach Panorama (2001) P.120
Helicopter Shadow at Chowpatty (2003) P.120
Hyatt & Grand Maratha Sheraton
Hotels (2003) P.121
Renaissance at Powai Lake (2003) P.122
Powai & Tulsi Lakes (2003) P.122
Hiranandani Complex, Powai (2002) P.123
Hiranandani & Foreground
of Powai Lake (2001) P.123
Versova Mangroves (2002) P.124
Versova Creeklet (1996) P.125
Fishing Boats at Juhu (2001) P.125
Before Jog Flyover (1995) P.126
After Jog Flyover (2003) P.126
Madh Fort (2003) P.127
Esselworld Water Kingdom (2001) P.128
Taxis at Airport (2003) P.129
Dahisar Housing (2003) P.129
Dahisar Mangroves (2003) P.130
Kanheri Caves (1996) P.130
Kandivili Flyover & National Park (2003) P.131
Tulsi Lake (2001) P.132
National Park, Borivli (2001) P.133
National Park, Borivli with
squatter settlement (2001) P.134
Article on Mumbai P.135 & 136
Acknowledgment P.137
Lighthouse and Mumbai
South looking north, the city's wedge mass between the Arabian Sea and the Thane Creek.

Southernmost lighthouse
Prong's Lighthouse sheds its warning beam for a distance of almost 30 km.

Sunset at Colaba
Looking west marking a sunset over Colaba, Mumbai's southern peninsula.
R.C. Church, Colaba
A local landmark, the R.C. Church at Colaba.

Afghan Church, Colaba
Church of St. John the Evangelist or Afghan Church, stands out in the skyline of Colaba.

Sassoon Dock, Colaba
Mumbai's first wet dock, the Sassoon Dock is marked by its clock tower gateway.
Colaba
Nariman Point as seen with a foreground of Colaba and Malabar Hill in the background.

Cusrow Baug on Causeway
Looking north along Colaba Causeway. Note the pitch roof texture of Cusrow Baug at left.

Lighthouse & Gateway
Strand Road along Gateway of India looking beyond at Backbay and Malabar Hill in the horizon.
Gateway of India & Taj
Gateway of India and the Taj Mahal Hotel, two distinct landmarks on the South Mumbai waterfront.

Gateway of India
Gateway of India dwarfed by the new wing of the Taj Mahal Hotel and the Yacht Club in the foreground.

Gateway of India
Domes top the Gateway of India while the Taj Mahal Hotel casts its long shadow on the park.
Nariman Point
Nariman Point the new part of Mumbai's CBD lies between Marine Drive at north and Cuffe Parade at south.

Vidhan Bhavan panorama
Nariman Point skyline punctuated by the domed Assembly Hall of the Vidhan Bhavan complex.

NCPA
Southwest end of Marine Drive is marked by the NCPA complex, at the tip of Nariman Point.
Gateway of India

Navy House - 1875

Gateway of India
A spectacular look at the Gateway of India on its Apollo Pier promenory and the linear Colaba area beyond.
Bombay Stock Exchange
Jeejeebhoy Towers, The Bombay Stock Exchange makes its presence felt as the image of commerce.

Cuffe Parade
Residential Cuffe Parade in Colaba looking east from the Sea towards the Creek beyond.

World Trade Centre
Beyond the WTC and Cuffe Parade are the Backbay waters fronting the Chowpatty beach and Malabar Hill.
Gateway of India
A view towards the Gateway of India as a ferry passes by and boats glitter in the surrounding waters.
Wormatation & V.I.P. Room
The Mandala Hall, the administrative building at centre and V.I.P. Brau assembly hall.
Museum
The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya
(Prince of Wales Museum) building and front garden.

Vidhan Bhavan
An illuminated Vidhan Bhavan complex at dusk.
Kala Ghoda
From Elphinstone College to the former Watson’s Hotel at Kala Ghoda in south Mumbai.

Kala Ghoda with Jehangir Art Gallery
The traffic island at Kala Ghoda across the Jehangir Art Gallery, a prime landmark of the vicinity.

Regal Circle fountain
The Wellington fountain at Regal circle - at the confluence of six roads in south Mumbai.
Institute of Science panorama
Panorama of the Institute of Science and Presidency Magistrate’s Court from right to left on the east of Oval.

University & High Court panoramas
Panorama of the Mumbai University fort campus and High Court from right to left on the east of Oval.

Horniman Circle
Horniman Circle garden and surrounding curvilinear façade marked at east by the Town Hall.

St. Thomas Cathedral
The St. Thomas Cathedral at Horniman Circle and the State Bank of India HQ in the background
High Court Roof Top
A top view of the roofscape on the
High Court building in south Mumbai.

Oval to Gateway View
South Mumbai's landmarks from those around
the Oval maidan to the extreme end of the Gateway of India.

Mumbai by Night
A night view of Rajabai Tower across the Oval
and the BSE Tower standing tall beyond.
Churchgate WR HQ Roof Top
The Western Railway Head Quarter building at Churchgate with the Eros Cinema junction in the foreground.

Eros Junction & Maidans
From Eros-Churchgate junction on axis to Flora Fountain through the Cross and Oval maidans.

Hutatma Chowk Flora Fountain
"Hutatma Chowk" with the Martyr's Memorial and the Flora Fountain in the heart of the CBD of Mumbai.

D.N.Road
Dense development within the Fort CBD area.
Bombay Gymkhana
The Bombay Gymkhana with its lawn and wedge-shaped strategic site surrounded by roads on two sides.

Fountain at Fort Market
The Mountbatten Mujeer Water Fountain at Fort Market in south Mumbai.

GPO
Looking north-west at the GPO domed edifice with the St. George's Hospital behind in the Fort area.
MCGM
An interesting texture pattern of roof profiles on the MCGM HQ.

St. George Hospital
Remnant of Fort St. George, now lying within the St. George's Hospital in the Fort area.

MCGM & CST
The Central Railway HQ / CST station and MCGM HQ at the junction of D.N.Road & Mahapalika Marg.
CST Station
A UNESCO World Heritage site - the Central Railway HQ or Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus.

CST Station
Over the roof of CST concourse, the CR HQ on D.N.Road & Bora Bazaar locality in the Fort area beyond.

MCGM & CST
The D.N.Road turns as it touches the CST station and meets Mahatapika Marg at the face of the MCGM HQ.
St. Xavier's College
A view looking west over the St. Xavier's College near Azad Maidan in south Mumbai.

MCGM HQ & Times of India
D. N. Road with the MCGM HQ, Times of India HQ, Anjuman-e-Islam School and the CST Station.

Esplanade Court & MCGM
Esplanade Court with the MCGM Annexa wing, the Cama & Albless Hospitals along the Azad Maidan.
Crawford Market
Crawford Market visibly marks the northern limit of Colonial landmarks in south Mumbai.

Sir J.J. School of Arts
A wide view (before J.J. Flyover was built) of the sprawl beyond Crawford Market & the Sir J.J. School of Arts.

Fishing Boats at Ferry Wharf
A top view of parked boats at a jetty in the Ferry Wharf water terminal.
JJ Flyover
The meandering alignment of the J.J.Flyover follows the road pattern underneath.

Mohammed Ali Road
Mohammed Ali Road looking south before the J.J.Flyover was built.
Mohammed Ali Road
Mohammed Ali Road prior to the J.J. Flyover, looking south-east.

JJ Flyover
The road above road alignment of the J.J. Flyover looking west.
Ferry Wharf

Ferry Wharf or Bhau Chudalak, transport terminal on the Thane creek east of the city.
JJ Hospital
The Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy (J.J.) Hospital at Byculla.

Byculla Bridge
The crisis-cross of routes at Byculla with the roads and railway line corridors bridging above and under.
Haffkine Institute
The Haffkine Institute at Parel.

K.E.M.Hospital
The King Edward Memorial (K.E.M.) Hospital complex at Parel.

Bombay Dyeing
The urban industrial fabric of Mumbai's textile mill district of Parel.
**Dadar T.T.- Before Flyover**
Dadar T.T. or Khodadad Circle before the flyover was built above this parking lot roundabout.

**Khodadad Circle After Flyover**
The Khodadad Circle Flyover at Dadar T.T.
**Tilak Bridge**
Dadar’s Tilak Bridge connects the east and west parts of the island city while spanning over the Railway corridor.

**King’s Circle**
Meheshwari Udyam (King’s Circle) along B. Ambedkar Road, east of Dadar & Matunga localities.
**Sion Circle - Before Flyover**
The Sion circle before the Sion Flyover was constructed above this green roundabout.

**Sion Circle - After Flyover**
Flyover at Sion cutting over the Sion Circle roundabout.

**Imax Cinema**
Mumbai's popular dome cinema - the Imax theatre at Wadala.
Sion with RCF in the background
Locality around Sion then crossing over saltpan lands and getting a view of the RCF plant in the background.

Sewree Fort
The Sewree Fort at the east edge of the island city.

Sion Fort
The Sion Fort atop the hill surrounded by squatter settlement at the foothill.
Dharavi
This squatter settlement at Dharavi is stated to be Asia’s largest slum.

Kala Qilla - Dharavi
Kala Qilla or Dharavi Fort remnants.

Dharavi
Dharavi locality lies at the edge of Mumbai’s island city.
Flamingoes at Sewree
Flamingoes at the creek of Sewree east of the island city.

Brabourne Stadium
Brabourne Stadium at Marine Drive with the orderly skyline of uniform development of its time.
Mumbai by Night
Marine Drive, the 'Queen's Necklace' as seen glittering by night.

Princess Street Flyover
Marine Drive connects to Princess Street with a Flyover south of the Gymkhana Maziar grounds.
Police Gymkhana
The gymkhana grounds along Marine Drive with the localities of Girgaum and Kalsadevi beyond.

Wankhede Stadium - by Night
Night play at Wankhede Stadium in south Mumbai.

Wankhede Stadium
The Wankhede Stadium sandwiched between Marine Drive at Backbay and the Western Railway lines.
Dhobi Ghat - Mahalakshmi
Mumbai's popular 'Dhobi Ghat' (clothes washing area) at Mahalakshmi, east of the WR line.

Saat Rasta - Mahalakshmi
The roundabout of 'Saat Raas' or the meeting place of seven roads at Mahalakshmi east.
Ganesh Visarjan at Chowpatty
A rare view showing crowds at Girgaum Chowpatty during Ganesh Festival idol immersion.

Ganesh Visarjan Procession at Chowpatty Junction
The procession of devotees during Lord Ganesh Festival immersion day at the Girgaum Chowpatty crossing.
Babulnath
Babulnath Temple complex at Malabar Hill.

Nana Chowk
Nana Chowk junction's radiating pattern of roads marked at their meeting with corner buildings.

Nana Chowk
The Sripati Towers at Nana Chowk traffic junction and Grant Road railway station on the WR.
Peddar Road & Chowpatty
Peddar Road, with views of August Kranti Maidan, Malabar Hill greens and Girgaum Chowpatty beyond.

August Kranti Maidan
August Kranti Maidan at Gowalia Tank locality near Gamdevi.

Bombay Central
The Bombay Central station is a major landmark on the WR network.
Raj Bhavan - Mahalaxmi

Raj Bhavan, the Governor's residence occupies a part of the southern tip of Malabar Hill.
Kamla Nehru Park
The Kamla Nehru Park garden atop Malabar Hill with posh residential development in its vicinity.

Banganga Tank
Situated a few meters from the coast, this sweet water tank at Warkeshwar is a haven of peace.

Jaslok Hospital
Jaslok Hospital along Peddar Road and M.L. Dahanukar Road on Cumballa Hill.

Tardeo
Over Tardeo Road at the base east of Cumballa Hill with a glimpse of Forjett Street joining Warden Road.
Mahalakshmi Temple
The rocky outcrop at Mahalakshmi Temple stands prominent with the city's Cumballa Hill area at rear.

Mills at Parel
View of Mill area from Mahalaxmi.
**Haji Ali from the Sea**
From Haji Ali bay looking over the island landmark with the Hornby Vellard drive and the city skyline beyond.

**Haji Ali Circle Before**
The original Haji Ali circle roundabout before conversion into a signal junction.

**Haji Ali Junction**
The Haji Ali junction today, looking south-west.
Nehru Centre
The cylindrical form of Nehru Centre is a landmark looking west with the Hajj Ali complex in the bay.

Vallabhbhai Patel Stadium
The VP Stadium of the NSCI at Worli prior to redevelopment and the Race Course stables seen at the rear.

Mahalakshmi Race Course
Looking south over the Race Course at Mahalakshmi.
Worli Hill
Worli Hill with Dr. A. B. Sawant Road in front and the Worli point promontory fading in the background.

Jamboree Maidan & B.D.D. Chawls
The Jamboree Maidan at B.D.D. Chawls in Worli with the chawl buildings seen in the foreground.
Siddhi Vinayak Temple
Shree Siddhi Vinayak Temple at Prabhadevi attracts devotees on Tuesdays in droves of faith.

Thapar House
Corporate landmarks like Thapar House stand apart expressing a presence of globalization.
Worli Sea Face panorama
Worli sea face stretches north south along a rocky coastline on the west and marked by a popular promenade.

Worli Point
Looking south from Worli point the city skyline grows taller as the land widens in the island city area.

Worli Fort
A solitary Worli Fort stands alone due to difficult accessibility for development.
**Chaitya Bhoomi, Dadar beach**
The Chaitya Bhoomi complex at Shivaji Park beach attracts visitors in droves on Ambedkar Jayanti.

**Shivaji Park**
The Shivaji Park maidan in central Mumbai, clustered with peripheral row of residential buildings.
Shivaji Park Chowk
The Shiv Sena Bhavan in at Dadar, and Kohinoor Mill site with North Light truss industrial roofing.

Dadar Kabutarkhana
Dadar market west of the railway station, also known as 'Dadar Kabutarkhana'.
**Mahim Church**
The St. Michael's Church at Mahim junction.

**Mahim Nature Park**
The Mahim Nature Park situated between Dharavi and the southern bank of Mahim creek.

**Mahim Fort**
The Mahim Fort along the Mahim bay shoreline contains a settlement within.
**Bandra Flyover**
The Mahim Bandra Flyover after the causeway over Mahim creek looking north-west.

**Before Bandra Flyover**
Mahim causeway and Bandra junction prior to the Bandra Flyover, looking east.

**Bandra Point**
The land's end at Bandra point, looking south-east over Mahim bay towards the island city skyline.

**Mahim Mangroves**
Mangroves along Mahim creek's south bank that lies within the Mahim Nature Park.
Bandra East
Growing north, the suburbs begin at Bandra.

MIG Club, Bandra East
The recent and popular M.I.G. Club at Bandra East with its cricket ground and lawns.

Prabodhankar Thackeray Flyover
Thackeray Flyover marks the transition of the Western Express Highway to the main arterial road.
**Bandra Fort**
The surviving remnant of Bandra Fort.

**Mount Mary Church, Bandra**
The Mount Mary Church at Bandra west.

**Bandra Talao**
The Bandra Talao or Lake at S.V.Road with Bandra station along the WR line seen in the background.

**Bandra Kurla Complex Mangroves**
Mangroves at Bandra-Kurla Complex.
Drive-in Theatre
The original Drive-in Theatre at Bandra east marks the entry point to Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC).

ILFS & BKC
The imposing cylindrical form of the Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Corporation HQ at BKC.

Khar Danda Mangroves Panorama
Mangroves along Khar-Danda area, north of Bandra along the extended Bandstand stretch.

Bandra Kurla Complex
Dhirubhai Ambani International School.
Juhu Beach
A lower level view of Juhu beach during the early evening catches flocks of people on the sandy shoreline.

Juhu Beach panorama
Juhu's sandy beach covers a linear stretch over 4 kilometers and in the background is the Bandra skyline.

Helicopter shadow at Chowpatty
Juhu's sandy beach provides a screen for shadow play of the helicopter hovering above.
Hyatt & Grand Maratha ITC
Hospitality near the airport - the Hyatt and Grand Maratha Hotels at Sahar in Andheri east.

Renaissance at Powai lake
Picturesque Powai lake with the Renaissance Hotel block at its edge.

Powai & Tulsi lake
The Powai and Tulsi lakes in the green hills at the centre of the suburbs.
Hiranandani Complex, Powai
Hiranandani Complex at Powai with the Lake Castle megastructure at rear against a backdrop of the hill.

Hiranandani & foreground of Powai lake
Powai lake with the Hiranandani complex and development growing tall to match the hilly surroundings.

Versova Mangroves
Panorama of Versova in the western suburbs, with its mangrove stretch along the Arabian Sea coastline.
1. **Versova Creeklet**
   Fishing boats along a creeklet at Versova with coconut groves and settlements in the vicinity.

2. **Fishing Boats at Versova**
   Boats neatly parked at Versova beach in the locality along the coastline.

3. **Andheri Junction on WE Highway**
   Construction work on the Jog Flyover along the Western Express Highway at the suburb of Andheri.

4. **Jog Flyover**
   The Jog Flyover at Andheri along the Western Express Highway.
Madh Fort
The Madh Fort stronghold at Madh island on the western shoreline after Malad.

Kandivli Buildings
New housing in the western suburb of Kandivli portrays the trends of development in a growing city.

Esselworld Water Kingdom
Esselworld Water Kingdom, an amusement park along the western suburban shoreline of Malad.
Taxis at Airport
A characteristic view of taxis parked at the Airport terminal.

Dahisar Housing
Dahisar suburbs show buildings surrounding undeveloped patches of marshy land that await intervention.

Dahisar Mangroves
Mangroves at the western limit of the city’s suburb of Dahisar.

Kanheri Caves
The Buddhist caves of Kanheri near Borivli.
Kandivali Flyover & National Park
Flyover on the Western Express Highway at Kandivali with extents of the National Park seen beyond.

Tulsi Lake
Tulsi Lake amidst the natural hill surroundings with vegetation that extends further north.
National Park, Borivli

The National Park with squatter settlement marking nature's edge with manmade form.
Mumbai: The ultimate city

The city of Mumbai is one of the largest metropolises in the world and apart from being are entrepreneurial base of cosmopolitan nature, its asset lies in a socio-economic and religious heritage shared by its many inhabitants. The diversity that it contains and the variety it encompasses could make Mumbai a city of myths and legends, in a historic sense.

Not long ago, a small, insignificant, undistinguished and sleepy group of islands, Mumbai has, by successive reclaimations, grown into an attractive metropolis. Today, this city, more appropriately termed as 'Greater Mumbai' lies sprawling from Colaba in the south to the extended suburban areas of Mulund and Dahisar in the north-east and north-west respectively.

The city and its extended suburbs house more than 12 million inhabitants. With over twenty five thousand foreign tourists pouring into this city each month on an average, by air and sea, and also with its resident population contributing over a quarter of the Nation's total tax efforts, Mumbai is hailed variously as the 'Gateway of India' and popularly referred to as the 'commercial capital' of the country. It is also the seat of the Government of the progressive State of Maharashtra.

Record also states that the city's name also changed according to its different dominant inhabitants. There are therefore, various theories on how the city bore its immediately passed title of Bombay and the present name of 'Mumbai'. The Mumbai of today, since its 'heptagon islands' by Ptolemy, has grown into a new marvel.

This littoral city a site by the sea, is indeed a sight to see. A city of dreams, of courage, of humility, of the many in its oneness, Mumbai from the ground is an experience of a lifetime. India's foremost cosmopolitan settlement, Mumbai shares its space with one and all; be they the people, the buildings, the commons or the uncommon, everything within displays a sense of belonging.

There are no distinct hierarchies except for geographical settings that make for the historicity of Mumbai. From the island city peninsula at south to the suburbia joining the hinterland at north the city's wedge-shaped profile stands pronounced as ground space. A space that contains the world; in its diversity of people and place, a colourful palette of many hues and shades. Mumbai marks a global influence on local India.

The city then is not just another settlement in the world's largest democracy. It forms a vital part of this largeness. Clichéd as the country's commercial Capital by way of its tax contribution, Mumbai is also known as India's hometown of the Hindi film industry. Its sheen notwithstanding, the metropolis is touted to house the 'largest slum in Asia' at Dharavi. The rural banality of such quarters is lost in the urban silhouette of the global city. Towering skyscrapers, sharpened skyscrapers and space citadels of skycities as in Powai provide an urban skyline distant from ground realities.

This city of dreams is an experience that life can offer. It is said that in Mumbai one may not go hungry but the pavement will not be affordable. Purse and poverty coexist in the physical environment through the culture of consumerism in malls and the business of begging at traffic nodes. Sin and spirituality cycles revolve in the mental frame of humans as seen through the media day-in and day-out. Luxuries become necessities for the rich and rising aspirations trigger dependability on man, media, technology and teeth to survive in the mayhem of this metropolis.

Within this imbroglio of Mumbai, the city yet stands apart for its unusual traits. The quest for spirituality brings out its pilgrims to various sites each marked for a different day of the week. For example, the Lord Shiva temple at Babulnath on Mondays, the Shree Ganapati temple of Siddhi Vinayak at Prabhadevi on Tuesdays, the Noveno prayers at Mahim Church on Wednesday and so on.

Likewise, the vital circulation lifeline of Mumbai, the local train travel network attracts hordes of commuters despite running beyond its carrying capacity. With decentralizing shifts in business centers,
this river can be said to flow in both directions with commuters almost throughout the day. Water-based transport options being limited, Mumbai yet relies on land-based modes, for which the city has seen a spurt of flyovers and road-over-road projects in many quarters since 1995.

At a local level, the city's business acumen being dominant indeed, it is the efficiency of running the metropolis that needs to be acknowledged. From the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai to the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority, the city has many public bodies that manage its functioning despite the looming population, waning resources vis-à-vis infrastructure and a constant pressure for development.

In similar vein, the city's other non-public but wider essentials of social norms and culture are addressed through various non-government organizations (NGO) from activity focus groups registered to locality specific associations, the citizens add value to the making of a metropolis. Mumbai's most popular and recognized, the "dabbawallas" (lunchbox carriers) has been noted for its efficient system of organization in terms of pick-up, delivery and return back home through simple coding and absolutely essential communication as well as timing.

These systems have sprung from within the city. Prior to email and ebanking, intra-city couriering is now another similar system that has reduced commuting to the nearest Post Office. The running of the city offers many challenges and it is normally in Mumbai that there are challenges aplenty. For a mind seeking to address these challenges, this city is the best destination. And ideas that address such challenges will find themselves working to a mutual advantage in such a climate where work is worship.

On the aspect of worship, Mumbai is a saintly city in one way. Shrines are often found in nooks and corners along sidewalks, under trees, on boundary walls and areas that need to be kept free from encroachment by man. The ingenuity to prevent encroachment being one aspect, Mumbai is also a marketing paradise.

The "Wada Pav" (fried potato pattice sandwiched in a bread bun) is a local fast food that originates from Mumbai. Sold on the street by vendors, this is an affordable and widely known food item in Mumbai. Marketed by word of mouth literallty, the Wada Pav is ubiquitous to the city more than Bombay duck seems to be today.

Work culture in Mumbai remains the primary activity during the week, with time for socializing being set for the evenings and weekends when the citizens drive out to nearby destinations. Enveloping a major green space, a vital lung for a settlement as populous as Mumbai, the National Park at Borivli offers a necessary shelter for flora and fauna engulfed in this otherwise concrete jungle of the city. Adding to this natural treasure, the city is also an annual stopover for flamingoes at the beginning of March. Mud Flats along the creek at Sewree swarm with flocks containing thousands in pink and white hues during this season. Thus, Mumbai as a space is a microcosm of the world. A model of what the globe contains.

The essence of Mumbai is in its man-made extremes. The city within that contains the varieties of this one World. The city without that shows them from afar in their respective textures and colours. The city is primarily perceived at ground level and within while it is at the higher plane that Mumbai can be read to understand it in wider context of scale. Looking at Mumbai from above is also vital documentation that adds to a continuing historical context of time.

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