



Mumbai - Mega City



- Mumbai is the top most largest city in India, with a population of about 16.3 Million people
- In 1947 the population of Mumbai was 4 million, an increase of about 12 million has occurred since then due to internal migration.
- World's eight most-populated city.
- It is also known as India's finance centre (due to the ports), and also a centre of culture due to "Bollywood"
- It was originally a series of fishing villages that became a port and this is what helped encourage its early development. (Top right picture)
- Mumbai is also a major centre for out-sourced work- companies there mostly work for foreign companies!
- Around 7.5 million passengers who go to work cram themselves into local trains every day, and the metro also!
- About 700,000 cars are on the road everyday in Mumbai and the government just adds flyovers and expressways, instead of building a better and speedy system. (Personal view: If you leave your house after 3-4 pm, you will be stuck in traffic for a minimum of one or two hours to go anywhere!)
- There is less than 0.03 acres of open space per 1000 people
- In 2005, the entire city was held hostage for three days when it rained continuously and water levels had reached 668 mm in just 12 hours, whole of Mumbai wasn't looking as the countries financial capital, but looking like a ditch full of water.
- The urban growth started usually when people from villages and from the countryside came into town for higher skilled jobs and to have better life chances in the city.
- Travellers from Europe used the ports to import and export goods and then the ports were known as "The Gateway to India".
- There were a variety of services around the port and this led the city to grow during British rule and after 1947, when British rule had left, it grew even more rapidly.
- Banking and finance, and insurance that were associated with the ports allowed Mumbai to become a major source of finance, and this is enabled Mumbai grow and allowing it to become a world city.
- There are loads of health problems in India due to pollution from within the poor towns and heavy industry causes air pollution which leads to poor health.
- There is so much poverty in India and unemployment also because so many move into that area and also there is a high-birth rate.
- Land value in Mumbai is very expensive these days due to there being so little land so it makes it impossible for those in shanty towns to afford homes.
- The largest slum is 'Dharavi' and it is home to about 800,000 people which has cheap, poorly made housing. (Top left picture)
- Children there play amongst sewage waste and doctors deal with 4,000 cases a day of diphtheria and typhoid.
- Water is a big problem for Mumbai's population; standpipes come on at 5:30am for 2 hours as water is rationed. These standpipes are shared between many people.