

## Challenges of an Urbanising World: Mumbai





Mumbai is a **megacity** in Western India, along the coast of the Arabian Sea. There are many reasons why Mumbai is a leading city economically:

- Mumbai has a population of **22 million** and is the second largest city in India.
- Mumbai has a large **deep-water port** that is critical for international trade.
- Mumbai International Airport sees **32 million passengers** travelling through and into India.
- Mumbai is located in India's **richest province**, due to the high business connections and fast-growing economy.

However, Mumbai faces challenges and **poverty** within its city; up to **62%** of the city's population live in slums.

### Contrast of Lifestyles:

Mumbai is a city of varying lifestyles, with **20%** of the population living **below the poverty line** but the highest number of millionaires in any Indian city (**246 millionaires** live in Mumbai). To see the difference, take a look at two contrasting areas in Mumbai:

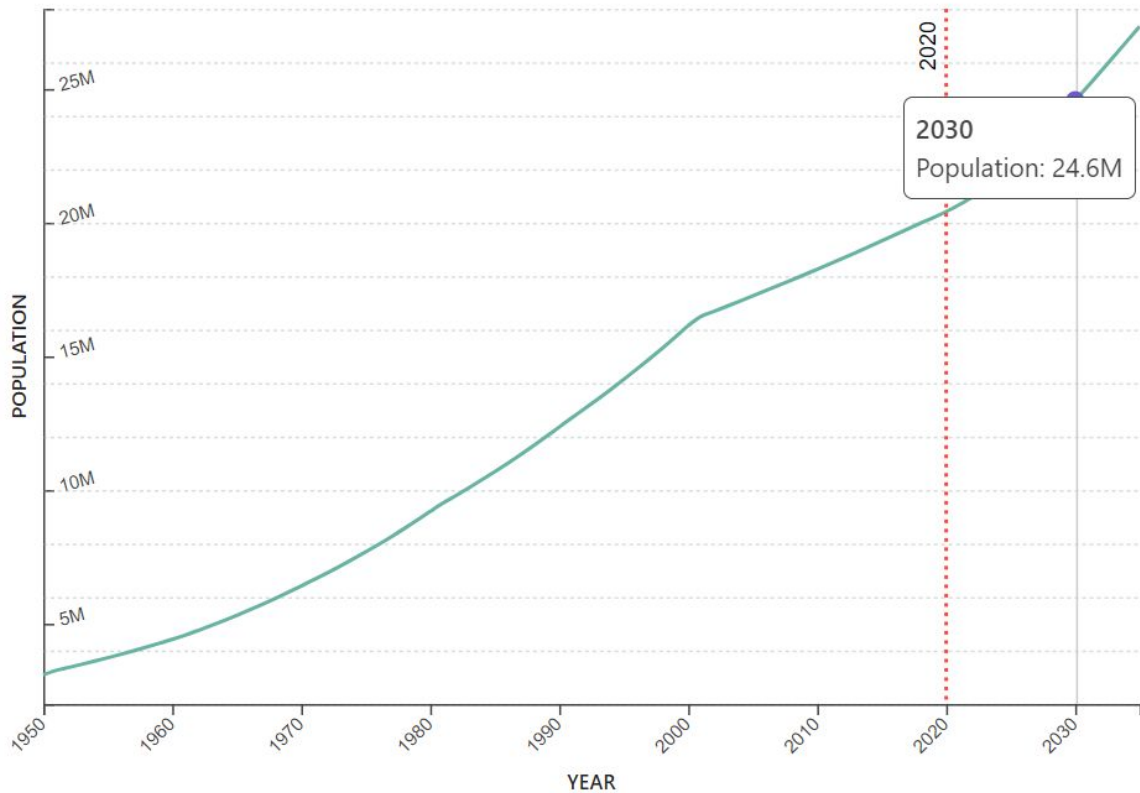
Malabar Hill - Richest Residential Area	Dharavi - The Largest Slum
 <p>Source: <a href="http://www.dnaindia.com">www.dnaindia.com</a></p> <p>Wealthy areas can be found along the <b>coastline</b> and inner city, situated in areas with <b>picturesque views</b> and far away from any other settlements.</p> <p>Malabar is one of the <b>richest residential areas</b>, home to many businesspeople.</p> <p>It is also a <b>tourist attraction</b>, with the Walkeshwar Temple and Chowpatty Beach within the area.</p>	 <p>Source: <a href="http://www.dnaindia.com">www.dnaindia.com</a></p> <p>Dharavi is thought to be <b>Asia's largest slum</b>, with a population of approximately 1 million. Most residents work in <b>recycling and rag-picking</b>, processing the waste from the rest of Mumbai.</p> <p><b>Slumdog Millionaire</b> - an oscar-winning film - was filmed in Dharavi. Some tourists visit the area as part of walking tours to view the industry and living conditions of locals.</p>

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## Mumbai's Growing Population:

Although Mumbai's population is already very large, it continues to grow. By **2030**, Mumbai's population is expected to increase to **25 million**.



Source: Population Review

There are **two main reasons** why Mumbai's population continues to grow:

- **Rural-to-Urban Migration** - Thousands of young people migrate to Mumbai to improve their quality of life and opportunities. In rural India, **agriculture** is usually the only source of income, and some households have **limited electricity** and no internet. Instead, in Mumbai there are: universities and schools, shops & restaurants and job opportunities that don't involve agriculture.
- **Natural Increase** - The fertility rate in Mumbai is **2.2 births per woman**, which means that there are many **families** in the city. This is especially the case since migrants from rural regions tend to be young, so they come to Mumbai to settle and start families. This process naturally **increases the population** over generations.



## Challenges to Mumbai:

As the city's population continues to grow, the **challenges** of living here increase and living conditions worsen. This is leading to **reduced life expectancy** and even fatalities.



There is a large **shortage of housing** and since many migrants move with little income, they cannot afford a house. Instead, they construct homes out of **salvaged materials**, but these usually do not comply with housing standards. This can create many problems:

- **Electricity cabling** - some houses tap illegally into other houses' electricity, which is dangerous and can lead to power cuts.
- **High risk of fire and disease** - houses are built **close** to each other, so the spread of disease and fires can be rapid.
- **Far from help** - Residents live on the outskirts of the city, far from emergency services, education and employment opportunities. **Public transport** can't run through the slums since the streets are too narrow, so residents must walk across the slums, which can be **dangerous at night**.



Source: *blogs.wsj*

Other challenges include:

- **Water pollution** is becoming a huge issue with slums increasing. In Mumbai, **800 million litres of sewage** flows into the Mithi River. Contaminated water can lead to **water-borne diseases** such as Diarrhoea, Salmonella and Typhoid Fever.
- In Dharavi, there are **20,000 small factories and sweatshops**. Some workers are paid a fair wage, but other sweatshops employ children, have one bathroom for 20 families and the factories don't follow building regulations.
- **10 people die** each day on Mumbai's train lines. Roads are congested and car ownership is expensive, so most workers rely on trains to travel across Mumbai. However, the **trains are**



Source: *hindustantimes*



**over-congested** and many die from electrocution on cables, fall out of the train or cross the tracks at the wrong time.

