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for Mumbai

BMC budgetary outlay

The Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai employs 1,40,626 people in different categories. The Corporation operates an annual budgetary outlay in excess of Rs. 3300 crores.



Mumbai Makeover

Project

Sewri -Nhava Sheva link - the 22-km six-lane bridge will connect Sewri to Nhava Sheva by sea link project and will be developed by the Anil Ambani led Reliance group. The sea link bridge will be built on Design, Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (DBOOT) basis.

Benefits

The road transport system is under severe stress and the Sewri -Nhava Sheva Link Bridge will be critical to facilitate more traffic and reduce pressure from the Mumbai-Pune Expressway, Mumbai-Chennai Highway and the Mumbai-Goa Highway and thus decongest the city. This sea link will be the future of Mumbai Metropolitan Regions, which includes Navi Mumbai and will help gain quick access to the southern half of Navi Mumbai.

Cost

The project will cost Rs 6,000 crore and is likely to be constructed by 2013.



Vasai Vista

Located about 40 km from the heart of Mumbai, Vasai has rapidly changed; and starting in the 1980's, the change is brought about by a large influx of people due to availability of more affordable housing than in Mumbai. In the beginning of the 17th century, Vasai was used for ship building. Portuguese had their colony here for the protection of which they had built a sea-fort. In 1739, Marathas conquered the fort under the stewardship of Chimaji Appa. The ruins of the Portuguese fort called Bassein still stands. The watch towers of the fort, which was established by the Portuguese as the headquarters of their Indian operations in 1534 and centre of their operations until 1739, still stand, with safe staircases leading up. However, the Portuguese buildings inside the fort are in ruins, although there are enough standing walls to

give a good idea of the floor plans of these structures. Three chapels inside the fort are still recognizable. They have façades typical of 17th century Portuguese churches.

The proper Vasai village is 5 to 6 kms. away from Vasai Road railway station. Today, there are a number of attractions in and around Vasai area. For instance, many of the churches in Vasai were built in the 16th century and all of them are in use by the community. Vasai is also famous for its beaches like Gaulwada/Bhaskarali, Mercis, Raangaon, Kalamb, and Rajodi that attract scores of people from Mumbai and other places during weekends.



Mumbai Musings



■ The Minerva Theatre in central Mumbai has had an uninterrupted run of the blockbuster movie Sholay, starring Amitabh Bachchan, for more than five years. Bus conductors used to refer to the stop near the theatre as the "Sholay stop."

■ The Banganga Tank, a rectangular pool structure that is part of the Walkeshwar Temple Complex, has a wooden pole in the center that signifies the center of the earth. It is said that Lord Rama created the tank by piercing the earth with his arrow.



■ The population is 18 million, projected to reach 28.5 million by 2020.



■ A unique Pagoda about 325 feet high was recently inaugurated by President Pratibha Patil at Gorai in Mumbai. It's the first of its kind in the world and is being developed in memory of Sayagyi U Ba Khin.