

Studying the Coastline of Mumbai and Fishermen communities.

### 1) Uttan Beach

- The beach comes after a section of Mangroves and some saltpans. The beach was really dirty and very few boats were seen. I discovered how fish were dried out on bamboo structures.

### 2) Gorai Beach

Interview with Mr. Hemant and Mr. Bhagvan- fisherman (working for 9, 10-15 years)

- They are from the Marathi community and they help boat owners to take their boats into water and fish.
- This also have a few mangroves but a lot of arid land.
- Their job is to put the net/‘Jaali’ in water and remove it out which requires 12-13 people for 1 boat.
- The peak time to fish is in Aug- from Ekadashi where they go into the sea for 10 to 12 days together.
- They take Roti (cooked) on ice and heat it there again.
- They have to throw the net 2-4 times during the day and twice during the night where they can collect 200-300 kgs of fish at one go.
- Their boat is about 60-65 ft where they live for all these days, as they catch fish they keep store them in ice boxes.
- It takes about 2-3 hours to travel 50 km to Naigaon by road but they prefer going by sea which takes them about an hour.





- They go to Naigaon to sell their fish- in Naigaon market where these fish are auctioned.
- It takes about 2-3 hours to travel 50 km to Naigaon by road but they prefer going by sea which takes them about an hour.
- Paplet/pomfret POMFRET SURMAI
  - » 1.5ft – 5 pieces cost Rs. 1200
  - » Better Quality
  - » 6-7 inches
  - » 5-6 pieces for 1 family dinner
  - » 1 kg = Rs. 1200
  - » Quality is assessed by weight
- After working until July/Aug (depending on rains) the people who work in the boats get the final money in December by the boat owner.
- In the meantime, the fishermen can take money from the boat owner as they need it.
- Between January to August they take out daily boats. They also catch Mandeli, Kolim, Jhinga shrimps. (Mandeli- 1 kg = Rs 55 these have to be dried, Kolim- 5-6 kg = Rs. 1000, Jhinga Prawn- 3-4 kg = Rs. 1000).
- The Khaotdi area (Mangrove)/Tida region stops storms and the water from coming in
- Essel world has not affected the village in any way or while doing any of their activities.
- The fisherman doesn't pay any tax but the consumers have to pay taxes now.

- The prices of fish have not varied much from before.
- They have observed increasing heat in the past years but they don't mind it because the produce is more and they benefit more.
- They go to the sea during high tide and put the net inside twice a day.
- They both are happy with this job and do not wish to go to the city.

### 3)Manori Beach

- The time we reached Manori Beach was when all the boats were about to come back from the sea.
- We interviewed women this time who were walking towards
- Interview with Ranjana Tai who belongs from the Koli community.
- She has been living here since the last 40 years.
- She says that women don't go on the boat the men of the family do.
- The women lay down the fish, hang them to dry on the sticks and sort them and then they have to drain the water out of the fish.
- They sell these fish at Marol, Andheri.
- If they catch fish on Wednesday and they sell it on Friday.
- Bombil/Bombay Duck, Mandeli, Zomla are sold
  - » 30 kg can be sold by Rs. 2000 to Rs. 2500
  - » 3 baskets, 10 kgs each





- They also get more fish in hot seasons.
- However, the business has reduced over the years, this year especially.
- They have to buy baskets as well as the net from outside for about Rs. 300.
- The floods in 2005 did not hit them.

#### 4) Marve Beach

- This was a small beach which housed a jetty for a ferry.
- We witnessed the fish caught being separated on this beach.
- Unfortunately, the fish, shrimp and prawns were full of plastic packets like RIN washing bar covers.
- This beach had many hawkers and a decent number of people waiting on the jetty for the ferry to arrive.



#### 5) Aksa Beach

- The number of boats visible here were significantly fewer on this beach but there were still a few.
- This beach had a lot more hawkers and visitors of the beach looking for leisure.
- One of the stall owners claimed that visitors prefer using plastic glasses to drink/eat *golas*.
- One can find stalls for gola, sugarcane, coconut, miscellaneous food.
- This beach was a little rocky.
- Fisherman activity seemed less.

## 6) Silver Beach

- This beach was the dirtiest beach out of all of them. Despite access being difficult.
- There were signs of few boats but small ones. They didn't look like fishing boats.
- No signs of fishing
- Only 1-2 stalls
- There was a small monument like structure.

## Day 2

## 7) Versova Beach

- To my surprise this beach had tetrapods which signifies the corrosion of the beach and preventive measures for it.
- The beach seemed clean in the beginning, but it smelled of urine.
- After observing for some time, I saw that many people were releasing the morning bowel movements straight onto the beach.
- Everyone looked at us like we were aliens at that beach at that time of the day.
- After walking for some time, we found the little rivulet made up of sewage water released into the sea.
- This sewage rivulet comes from the city side and forms the 'border' between Juhu and Versova beach.





### 8) Juhu Beach

- From Versova beach to Juhu beach- the beaches are relatively clean because of citizen interventions.
- This beach started off with shanties and *Jhupdas* which belonged to the fishermen community.
- The beach housed many recreational activities, people jogging, walking their dogs, practicing yoga, taking selfies, creating sandcastles, drinking coconut water and playing volleyball.
- The stall owners come at night and the beach becomes a mess. However, it does get cleaned at night/early morning.
- There were boats parked near the shanties in a row but there was no visible ferry.
- Affluence was visible at that time, signs of activism were also seen.



### 9) Khar Danda

- This area was a fisherman colony where the fishermen lived in shanties across the road.
- We did not get across to the settlement/people at all.

### **10)Cater's Road/Promenade**

- This is a recreational space built on top of rocks and a very small beach stretch.
- The promenade had a large seating space chess tables.
- Carte's road houses are very fancy and elite restaurants facing the sea-like Carter Road social and the real estate prices are very high.
- There were small parked on very rocky land, with a few mangroves.

### **11)Pali Hill Mangroves**

- This is the only part which has mangroves and a small water collection.
- Unfortunately the mangrove regions are also dirty.
- It is less rocky near the mangroves.

### **12)Band Stand**

- This area also has seating available as well as proximity to the water.
- The rocks are low lying and can be accessed if you walk down the stairs.
- There are many hawkers seen here despite food not being allowed but the promenade is kept fairly clean.
- We noticed some women washing and drying clothes on these rocks which indicated that all the soap water and dirt from clothes goes directly into the water.





### 13)Bandra Fort

- The most visible addition to the skyline of Mumbai can be seen from this public space.
- The bottom is rocky .
- Only a few boats can be seen.
- Events and performances happen here.
- Taj Land's End is also here.
- Some construction along with an army parade was seen .
- This place has been featured in many Bollywood films.

### Day 3

### 14)Dadar Chowpatty

- Tetrapods are found here and no boats are seen signifying no fisherman activity
- A small clean beach strip found here with *Nirmalya Kalash* to throw in *Pooja* waste.
- There were still Marie gold flowers and pots found in the ocean.
- Sea birds drinking water.
- Permanent food stalls (probably belonging to the Marathi community as they had orange flags and Shiv Sena banners).





### 15)Sea-Link

- Bandra-Worli Sea Link/Rajiv Gandhi sea link.
- Famous 8 lane bridge along the arc of Mumbai.
- 37,500 vehicles per day.
- Cost: INR 16 billion.
- Toll: Rs. 70 one way.
- 5.6 km long, cuts travel times from 45 min to 7-10 min.

### 16)Worli Seaface + Haji Ali Dargah

- Another famous promenade
- Interview with some workers- they informed me that work for the Coastal Road project started in 2019 and would go on till atleast 2022.
- The bottom of the promenade already has tetrapods and according to the workers the construction of the coastal road will require more installations of these tetrapods to save them from being destroyed.
- The entire promenade's view was blocked out by Coastal Road project banners.

### 17)Priya Darshini Park

- Leisure space with a beach view, rocks, construction view.





### **18)Chowpatty Beach**

- The most famous beach after Juhu beach.
- There was a random tree right in the middle.
- Lifeguards, birds, few people, dogs and some people lazing around.
- A lot of young couples seen here
- The wind was displacing large amounts of sand towards the north side of the city- I assume it was the long shore drift.

### **19)Queen's Necklace/Marine Drive, Sea View Point**

- This area is at the tip of the land.
- Many tetrapods seen here.
- No beach mass at all.
- There is a Koliwada here as well- Between Sasson docks and sea viewpoint- Cuff Parade Koliwada.



### **20)Sasson Docks**

- This dock area housed a huge art project- the Sasson Dock art project, 2017.
- We spoke to a street vendor there who had been selling water, paan since 40 years.
- The fishermen go into the sea in the morning.
- Many fisherman families had gone home for the Holi festival and will come back now.
- The fish produce has reduced in the last few years.
- The fish is sold all over the city.

- » Gateway of India is the biggest tourist attraction in
- » Bombay. Many ferries also leave from here to go to Ali Baug and for recreational purposes. You can see the Taj Hotel from here.
- » The Mazgaon area was navy owned and restricted. There were big gates and no views of what was happening.
- » Bhau Cha Dhaka: Dock area where the national and international boats go and come from. The Goa to Mumbai ferry arrives at this jetty.
- » There was one fisherman who was selling some fish out of an ice box at this dock.

## 21)Sewri

- We drove up to the sewri mangrove park, however it was non-existent. The entire way was bumpy and large construction equipment was seen to be covered with dust.
- The end of the road/jetty was restricted due to construction.
- The boats seen were parked on land, since many years perhaps. They seemed dusty and abandoned, even wrecked.





- According to the guard Mr. Shyam, who is a local there, said the flamingoes only come in the mornings but the total number of these birds coming here have drastically reduced over the years (1.5 years) due to the construction of the bridge.
- Fisherman also don't take their boats anymore. Boats used to come from Mahul but they have stopped coming because of the Chembur Bridge.

To view all the pictures from the photo archive use this link : [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/11EF1KwGsu0onmOs3a\\_eEzuRgfj\\_gyde0UKELAOAtSP5Q/edit#slide=id.g818e4ecfae\\_0\\_38](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/11EF1KwGsu0onmOs3a_eEzuRgfj_gyde0UKELAOAtSP5Q/edit#slide=id.g818e4ecfae_0_38)