

SCULPTED ECHOES OF MUMBAI

A JOURNEY OF TIME THROUGH ART



SIDDH VORA

Acknowledgements :

Dedicated to my parents and friends who kept travelling with me around the city and patiently stood by me while I kept clicking away hoping to get that best photo shot using the Canon EOS SL3 camera.

I also thank the Team of Kubik Photos for helping me assemble and edit the photographs and help me compile the collection.



Foreword:

In a world where time stands still, and history breathes through the stone, there exists a unique tapestry of human expression. Welcome to "Sculpted Echoes in Mumbai: A Journey of Time through Art." This captivating volume invites you to embark on a visual adventure through the ages, where the silent voices of statues resonate with profound significance. Within these pages, I unveil the masterpieces of sculptors who dared to immortalize their visions, encapsulating the essence of cultures, beliefs, and aspirations. Each photograph tells a story, each sculpture a chapter, and together, they reveal the unspoken narratives that have shaped the city of Mumbai.

This collection is not just a compilation of photographs; it's a personal odyssey through the heart of this vibrant and resilient city. Over the years, my camera lens has been my faithful companion, capturing moments that have shaped my own journey. In this photographic chronicle, I unveil the often-overlooked treasures that quietly adorn Mumbai's bustling streets. These statues, like silent sentinels, have witnessed the ebb and flow of the city's life, holding within them stories untold. Through my lens, I have endeavoured to breathe life into these stone and metal figures, inviting you to join me in discovering the character and essence of Mumbai that might have otherwise gone unnoticed amidst the whirlwind pace of our urban existence. As you turn the pages of this book, may you too find yourself captivated by the sculpted echoes that resonate with the soul of this remarkable city.

This book is a tribute to some of the monumental pieces of Art that I got to see up close and to the great Architects, Sculptors and Labourers who breathed life into these Sculptures.

-Siddh Vora

LORD GANESHA

Referred to as the Elephant-Headed God and most revered and fondly addressed by all as “Vighnaharta” - The Remover of all Obstacles.

I begin my collection with one of my favourite pictures of Lord Ganesha.

He is undoubtedly one of the most renowned and revered deities in the expansive Hindu pantheon. Every year, Mumbai comes alive during the 10-day Ganesh festival, a vibrant celebration that reinforces the unwavering faith people have in him. Devotees firmly believe that propitiating Lord Ganesha bestows upon them success, prosperity, and protection from adversity.

Ganesha is a non-sectarian deity, that transcends the boundaries of Hindu denominations. Hindus of all backgrounds invoke his blessings at the commencement of prayers, important endeavours, and religious ceremonies. The mere mention of Mumbai instantly evokes the image of Lord Ganesha in the minds of its inhabitants.

Lord Ganesh imparts invaluable life lessons through his symbolism and stories. His elephant head symbolizes wisdom and intellect, reminding us of the importance of knowledge and intelligence in our journey through life. The large ears represent the significance of listening attentively, a skill vital for effective communication and understanding. His broken tusk signifies sacrifice, teaching us to let go of our ego and pride for the greater good. The mouse as his vehicle teaches us that even the smallest of obstacles can be overcome with determination. Furthermore, Ganesh's love for sweets reminds us to savour the sweet moments in life amidst challenges.

Above all, his act of circling around his parents as they mean the world to him serves as a model for me to respect and honour my parents' wishes and guidance.



Location : clicked during the Visarjan ceremony at Chowpatty.

CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI MAHARAJ

(19 February 1630 – 3 April 1680)

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was a 17th-century Indian warrior king and the founder of the Maratha Empire. His life and leadership provide valuable insights and lessons that remain relevant today.

One of the most enduring lessons from Shivaji's life is his unwavering determination and courage. From a young age, he faced formidable challenges but never wavered in his quest to establish his kingdom. His life teaches me the importance of resilience and perseverance in the face of adversity.

Shivaji was not just a military leader but also an astute statesman. He implemented innovative administrative reforms and emphasized decentralized governance. This approach underscores the value of effective leadership, which empowers local communities and encourages participation from all levels of society.

In the realm of military strategy, Shivaji's tactics are still studied today. His use of guerrilla warfare, fortifications, and naval prowess set a precedent for strategic thinking and adaptability. These lessons are pertinent in both military and business contexts, highlighting the importance of flexible strategies.

Shivaji's commitment to cultural preservation is another vital lesson. He championed the protection of Hindu culture and traditions while also respecting diversity and religious tolerance. This principle underscores the importance of fostering unity in diversity and promoting a harmonious society.

Furthermore, Shivaji's legacy extends beyond his lifetime. He laid the foundation for the Maratha Empire, demonstrating the power of visionary leadership and nation-building. His ability to forge alliances, negotiate diplomatically, and strategically navigate complex political landscapes provides invaluable lessons for modern leaders and diplomats.

In conclusion, Shivaji's life offers a rich tapestry of lessons in courage, leadership, strategy, cultural preservation, and nation-building. His enduring legacy continues to inspire individuals and leaders like me to overcome challenges, lead with integrity, and contribute positively to the society.



Located at Gateway of India, Mumbai

FLORA FOUNTAIN

Flora Fountain, located in the heart of Mumbai's historic Fort area, is a magnificent architectural gem and an enduring symbol of the city's rich heritage. Erected in 1864, this ornate fountain was dedicated to the then-Governor of Bombay, Sir Henry Bartle Edward Frere, in recognition of his contributions to the city.

Designed in the Neo-Gothic style, Flora Fountain features intricate sculptures and detailing that pay homage to the Roman Goddess Flora, known as the Goddess of Abundance and Fertility. The fountain's cascading waters and the bronze figurines adorning its facade add an air of grandeur to the bustling streets of Mumbai.

Over the years, Flora Fountain has not only quenched the city's thirst with its fresh water but has also served as a meeting point, a site for cultural events, and a testament to Mumbai's enduring history and architectural splendour. It stands as a cherished monument and a testament to the city's ability to blend tradition with modernity, making it a must-visit landmark for tourists and a source of pride for the residents of Mumbai.

Flora Fountain symbolizes Mumbai's ability to preserve its history while adapting to the demands of a modern, bustling metropolis, offering lessons in heritage conservation, urban planning, and the enduring significance of historical landmarks.



Located at Hutatma Chowk, Fort, Mumbai.

MR MOHANLAL KARAMCHAND GANDHI (MAHATMA GANDHI)

(2 October 1869 – 30 January 1948)

Mahatma Gandhi, affectionately known as the "Father of the Nation" in India, left an indelible mark on the world through his unwavering commitment to Truthfulness (Satya) and Non-Violence (Ahimsa). He effectively employed these principles to lead and protest against oppressive British rule in India.

Mr. Gandhi championed gender equality, recognizing the equal role of women in the freedom struggle. His advocacy for going "Vocal for Local" promoted indigenous businesses and self-reliance.

What remains particularly inspiring is Mr. Gandhi's emphasis on self-discipline, which underscores the need to conquer inner weaknesses and desires.

One of his most profound quote:

"Your beliefs become your thoughts, your thoughts become your words, your words become your actions, your actions become your habits, your habits become your values, your values become your destiny."

serves as a timeless reminder of the profound influence of our inner world on the course of our lives.

Mr. Gandhi's legacy continues to inspire individuals like me to pursue positive change and propel personal growth through the application of his enduring principles.



Located at Mahatma Gandhi Udyan, Churchgate, Mumbai.

“A Child gives Birth to a Mother”

A mother-and-son relationship is a special and unique bond characterized by love, nurturing, and lifelong connections. Mothers play a pivotal role in a son's life, providing emotional support, guidance, and care from early childhood through adulthood. Sons often look up to their mothers as role models and sources of wisdom. This relationship evolves over time, with the mother fostering independence while remaining a steadfast source of love and support. The bond that I share with my mother is built on trust, understanding, and a deep connection between us, and it holds a special place in both of our hearts.

Tracing back to the olden times, women were primarily mothers and homemakers, with limited access to education and professional opportunities. However, in modern times, women have entered various professions and leadership roles, benefiting from changing cultural and societal attitudes and legal reforms aiming at greater gender equality. The Women's Reservation Bill in India is one such example.

Despite significant progress, challenges such as the gender pay gap, underrepresentation of women in leadership roles, and work-life balance issues persist.

I am working towards women's upliftment and intend to continue the same, which can bring a positive change in society leading to overall progress and development of communities and nations. By advocating for women's rights, education, and opportunities, I am making my contribution to creating a more inclusive and equitable world. I encourage all to join this cause, that can amplify its impact and lead to meaningful change. I believe “if a woman is happy, her family will prosper.”



Located at Mahim, Mumbai

SWAMI VIVEKANAND

(12 January 1863 – 4 July 1902)

Swami Vivekananda, often hailed as the Father of Modern Indian Nationalism, was one of the most influential philosophers and social reformers in India, who left an enduring mark on the society. He is widely regarded as a patriotic saint, a key figure in shaping modern India, and has made indelible contributions to the world.

In 1893, at the World's Parliament of Religions in Chicago, he delivered a historic speech that introduced Hindu philosophy and the concept of religious tolerance. He is credited with elevating Hinduism to the status of a major world religion and is a pioneer in introducing Yoga to the Western world.

One of his profound thoughts, which resonates with many, emphasizes tolerance and compassion:

"Condemn none, if you can stretch out a helping hand, do so. If you cannot, fold your hands, bless your brothers, and let them go their own way."

This message embodies his philosophy of universal brotherhood and underscores the importance of empathy and kindness in our interactions with others, making it a guiding principle for me.

He believed in the empowerment of individuals and the upliftment of the masses. His legacy continues to inspire people to seek inner strength, pursue their life's purpose, and work for the betterment of humanity, making him a timeless spiritual icon.



Located at Gateway of India, Mumbai

YOGA

Yoga is a spiritual discipline that seeks to unite the mind and body, combining ancient wisdom with modern principles of well-being. *It is* a holistic way of life that encompasses physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. Originating in ancient India, yoga has deep roots in Indian culture and philosophy. It combines physical postures (asanas), breath control (pranayama), meditation, and ethical principles to promote balance and harmony in one's life.

The International Day of Yoga, celebrated on June 21st, was initiated by India at the United Nations to promote the benefits of yoga globally. Yoga's popularity has spread worldwide, with millions of people embracing it as a means to improve physical fitness, mental clarity, and overall well-being.

Yoga is not just an exercise routine but a way to connect with one's inner self, find inner peace, and attain a deeper understanding of life and existence. It reflects India's rich spiritual heritage and its timeless contribution to the well-being of humanity.

Yoga offers a profound set of teachings that extend far beyond the mat. Through the practice of yoga, I learned the invaluable lesson of the mind-body connection, recognizing how our physical and mental states are intricately linked. It instills mindfulness, urging me to be fully present in the moment, enhancing awareness, and reducing stress.

Yoga emphasizes the importance of self-care and self-compassion, reminding me that nurturing our physical and mental health is essential for a fulfilling life. The resilience developed on the mat translates to our everyday challenges, teaching us to stay calm and composed in the face of adversity. Yoga encourages balance in both the physical and metaphorical sense, reminding us to find equilibrium in our lives. It teaches patience and the value of consistent effort on our path to personal growth. Moreover, yoga promotes non-attachment, acceptance, and gratitude, fostering a more peaceful and contented way of living. Ultimately, yoga's essence lies in unity, reminding us of our interconnectedness with all living beings and inspiring compassion and empathy in our interactions with the world.



Located at the Bandra Reclamation, Mumbai.

PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

(14 November 1889 – 27 May 1964)

Jawaharlal Nehru, affectionately known as "Chacha" Nehru, was a visionary leader whose life and teachings continue to inspire generations. As the nation's first Prime Minister, he served three consecutive terms and played a pivotal role in shaping India's destiny.

Nehru's unwavering commitment to India's struggle for freedom above his personal pursuits demonstrated his selflessness and dedication. His commitment to democracy, secularism, and social justice serves as a cornerstone of Indian governance. Nehru emphasized the importance of education, scientific temper, and cultural diversity. His dedication to building a modern and industrialized India led to the establishment of many educational and scientific institutions, earning him the title "Architect of Modern India."

His life teaches us the value of leadership that prioritizes the welfare of the people, fosters intellectual growth, and promotes unity in a diverse nation. Nehru's legacy reminds us of the enduring principles of democracy, inclusivity, and progress.

His distinctive style, including the Sherwani, Nehru Jacket with a red rose, and Nehru Topi, remains iconic even today.

His life and teachings continue to inspire me to strive for progress and be inclusive.

“Culture is the widening of the mind and of the spirit. ...

We live in a wonderful world that is full of beauty, charm, and adventure. There is no end to the adventures that we can have if only we seek them with our eyes open. “

The above quote teaches me to remain open-minded, embrace diversity, be a curious and continuous learner, explore experiences and adventures with a positive mind-set leading to personal growth and fulfilment.



Located at Churchgate, Mumbai

THE BULL, BOMBAY STOCK EXCHANGE

The "Raging Bull" at the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) refers to a bullish and strongly upward-trending financial markets. A "bull market" is a period characterized by a prolonged period of rising stock prices, investor confidence, and overall optimism about the economy and investment opportunities. However, stock markets can go through periods of both bull and bear markets, and these cycles can be influenced by various economic, financial, and geopolitical factors.

The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), located in Mumbai, India, is one of the oldest and most prestigious stock exchanges in Asia. Established in 1875 as the "Native Share & Stock Brokers' Association," BSE has played a pivotal role in India's economic development. It serves as a critical platform for companies to list their stocks and raise capital from investors, making it a vital contributor to the country's financial infrastructure.

BSE is renowned for its benchmark stock market index, the BSE Sensex, which tracks the performance of select stocks and is a key indicator of India's stock market health. Over the years, BSE has evolved to embrace electronic trading, ensuring efficiency and transparency in stock transactions.

Regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the exchange fosters investor confidence and market integrity. With a diverse investor base and a wide array of financial instruments, including equities, bonds, derivatives, and mutual funds, BSE continues to be a cornerstone of India's financial landscape, supporting economic growth and investment opportunities for both domestic and international investors.

The stock market imparts several valuable life lessons, in resilience, discipline, and adaptability that extend beyond the world of finance.

Firstly, it underscores the significance of patience and a long-term outlook, teaching us that while market fluctuations may occur in the short term, history shows a general upward trend over time. It also highlights the importance of risk management, emphasizing that higher returns typically come with higher risks.

Furthermore, the market teaches us the value of research, knowledge, and informed decision-making, as well as the perils of emotional reactions to market movements, such as fear and greed. Diversification, asset allocation, and the futility of attempting to time the market become evident through experience.

Additionally, the stock market demonstrates the power of compounding, encouraging individuals to reinvest earnings and let investments grow over time.

Lastly, adaptability is key, as markets evolve, and what works in one period may not work in another.



Located at Horniman Circle, Fort, Mumbai.

DADABHAI NAOROJI

(4 September 1825 – 30 June 1917)

Dadabhai Naoroji, often hailed as the "Grand Old Man of India," was a trailblazing figure in India's struggle for independence during the 19th and early 20th centuries. His teachings and contributions spanned various aspects of India's growth and progress.

His historic role as one of the first Asians to be a Member of Parliament in the United Kingdom allowed him to shed light on the economic exploitation of India and question British colonial rule. Notably, he articulated the "Economic Drain Theory," portraying the economic exploitation faced by India under British colonial rule. With a clear vision and exceptional communication skills, he tirelessly advocated for improving India's situation within the British Empire and worked towards social reform, gender equality, and the promotion of education.

He is rightly considered the Father of Indian Nationalism, and his quote, "Sometimes there is no next time. No time-outs, no second chances. Sometimes it's now or never," reflects the urgency and determination with which he pursued the cause of India's independence during crucial moments in history.

The quote encapsulates vital life lessons for me. It urges me to be acutely aware of the opportunities that present themselves and to seize them with determination and urgency. Waiting for a more convenient or favourable moment can often lead to missed chances and unfulfilled potential. This quote underscores the significance of living in the present, taking calculated risks, and being adaptable when faced with change. It serves as a powerful reminder to make deliberate choices and actions in the here and now, minimizing the possibility of future regrets and ensuring that I make the most of the opportunities that come my way.



Located at Fort, Mumbai.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Mumbai, the entertainment capital of India, truly stands as a colossal melting pot of music, where diverse streams and styles converge harmoniously. This city's magnetic pull attracts a multitude of migrants from all corners of India, leading to a rich tapestry of cultures blending seamlessly.

From classical music venues like the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) to the bustling streets where local musicians perform, Mumbai offers a dynamic musical experience. Bollywood, the heart of India's film industry, is a major contributor to Mumbai's musical identity, with countless recording studios and live performances.

In this vibrant metropolis, one can find enthusiasts of Indi-pop, Marathi and Hindi music, Indian classical melodies, rock, and international pop tunes. Even Western classical music finds a dedicated following in Mumbai. As a resident who finds solace, joy, and meditation in music, I resonate deeply with this fusion of musical cultures. Music isn't just an art form here; it's life, it's peace, it's a daily meditation. This piece of art encapsulates that sentiment, serving as a poignant representation of Mumbai's musical heartbeat.

Music imparts a wealth of profound lessons and experiences. It teaches us the universal language of emotion, enabling us to connect with our feelings and those of others. Through music, we learn the power of harmony, as different melodies and rhythms come together to create beautiful compositions.

Music nurtures creativity and self-expression, allowing individuals to convey their thoughts and emotions in unique ways. It instils a discipline and perseverance in musicians who dedicate themselves to mastering an instrument or perfecting their vocals.

Moreover, music serves as a bridge between cultures, fostering understanding and appreciation for diverse traditions and customs. Most importantly, music reminds us of the transformative impact of art on our lives, offering solace in times of sorrow, elation in moments of joy, and a constant soundtrack to the human experience.



Located at Shivaji Park, Mumbai.

JAMSETJI TATA

(3 March 1839 – 19 May 1904)

Jamsetji Tata, often referred to as the "Father of Indian Industry," was a visionary Indian entrepreneur and the founder of the Tata Group, one of India's largest and most respected conglomerates. He is known for his pioneering contributions to India's industrial and economic development during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He emphasized innovation and excellence, setting a high standard for product quality and technological advancement in business.

Breaking away from his tradition of being a priest, he ventured into various industries, from textiles to iron and steel, and left an indelible mark as a respected business leader. His generosity extended beyond business success, with significant contributions to education and healthcare, earning him recognition as one of the greatest philanthropists of his time. He established institutions like the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bangalore and Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) in Mumbai to promote education and research.

What impresses me the most, is that his life and legacy exemplify the true essence of philanthropy and ethical entrepreneurship. The Tata Group, headquartered in Mumbai, has maintained a sterling reputation for ethical business practices and a genuine commitment to the well-being of its employees.

His enduring message, encapsulated in his quote,

“No success or achievement in material items is worthwhile unless it serves the needs or interests of the country and its people and is achieved by fair and honest means.”

underscores the importance of honesty and the alignment of business success with the betterment of the nation and its people, leaving a profound legacy that continues to inspire business leaders worldwide.



Located at Churchgate Garden, Mumbai.

THE ASHOKA STAMBH - THE INDIAN NATIONAL EMBLEM

The Indian National Emblem, known as the State Emblem of India, is an iconic symbol of the nation's rich cultural heritage and values, its commitment to truth and ethics, and its unity in diversity. It is prominently featured on official government documents, currency, and buildings, including the Indian Parliament. The emblem signifies the country's democratic values, secularism, and its status as a republic along with its commitment to a just and inclusive society.

The Indian National Emblem imparts profound learnings even in today's modern era.

The central and most prominent element of the emblem is the **Lion Capital of Ashoka**, a sculpted representation of four lions standing back to back. The four lions are mounted on a circular abacus, symbolizing unity in diversity, and reminding me of the strength that arises when diverse elements come together in harmony.

Below the Lion Capital is the **Ashoka Chakra**, a wheel with 24 spokes. It signifies the pursuit of knowledge, wisdom, and spiritual growth, encouraging us to seek enlightenment and self-improvement.

The Satyameva Jayate Inscription encircles the Lion Capital and the Ashoka Chakra. It is written in Sanskrit, which means "Truth Alone Triumphs." This motto reinforces the timeless importance of truth and righteousness in our actions and decisions, serving as a moral compass for society.

The emblem inspires me to uphold moral and ethical principles while embracing our diverse heritage.



Located at Chaityaboomi, Shivaji Park, Mumbai.

BAL KESHAV THACKERAY

(23 January 1926 - 17 November 2012)

Bal Thackeray, affectionately known as "Saheb," was a charismatic and influential leader who founded the Shiv Sena, a regional political party in Maharashtra, India. Known for his strong leadership, charisma, and advocacy for the Marathi-speaking population, Thackeray left an indelible mark on Indian politics.

He began his career as a cartoonist, using his newspaper as a platform to advocate for the rights of Marathi locals and campaign against non-Marathi influences in the state's politics. Fearless and unwavering in his stance, he championed the cause of his community, striving for their protection and representation in jobs and services.

Thackeray's populist leadership played a pivotal role in shaping Mumbai into an economic powerhouse. His strong nationalist beliefs highlight the importance of all residents abiding by the nation's laws.

I am moved by his below quote:

“Once you decide upon something, align all your resources and thoughts to accomplish it. Don't look back. History can only be created then.”

This emphasizes resolute determination and forward-looking action, and continues to inspire individuals like me to make history through unwavering commitment to their goals.



Located at Colaba, Mumbai.

Statue of “The DABBAWALA”

The “Dabbawala” statue holds profound significance as a tribute to the extraordinary work and unwavering dedication of the Dabbawalas of Mumbai. These humble lunch box carriers have perfected the art of precision and efficiency, delivering thousands of meals with an astonishingly low error rate amidst the bustling chaos of the city.

The Dabbawalas impart valuable learning and stand as a testament to the power of simplicity, meticulous organization in problem-solving, efficient supply chain, and a strong sense of teamwork exemplifying the importance of precision and reliability in any endeavour.

The Dabbawalas' commitment to their work serves as a reminder of the significance of dedication and pride in one's profession. The statue celebrates a unique cultural subculture within Mumbai, highlighting the city's diversity and the importance of preserving traditional occupations.

Moreover, their ability to create a seamless system with minimal resources showcases the power of simplicity and efficiency in problem-solving, making them a source of inspiration for businesses and organizations worldwide.



Located at Haji Ali, Mumbai

DR BHIMRAO RAMJI AMBEDKAR

(14 April 1891 – 6 December 1956)

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, affectionately known as "Babasaheb," was a towering figure in Indian History. He was a revered social reformer and political leader who chaired the committee responsible for drafting India's Constitution.

He remains an icon for the Dalit community, tirelessly advocating for their rights and identity. Ambedkar was a trailblazer in promoting education and socio-economic upliftment for oppressed classes, emphasizing the need for equal rights. His legacy extends beyond India's borders, inspiring social justice movements globally.

His timeless quotes resonate with contemporary challenges, highlighting the importance of not only education but also moral development, as education alone lacks value without morality.

His life story teaches me what the transformative power of education can do and have an unwavering determination to break the shackles of discrimination. He teaches me hope and resilience with his contributions that continue shaping the path towards a more just and equitable society with high moral standards.



Located at Fort, Mumbai.

The Statue of Kala Ghoda

The Kala Ghoda (Black Horse) statue serves as a multifaceted symbol of Mumbai's vibrant art and cultural district, also known as the Kala Ghoda Art Precinct. It represents the city's rich artistic heritage and creative spirit. The annual Kala Ghoda Arts Festival, held in the vicinity, celebrates various art forms, making the statue a focal point for cultural events.

Historically, it stands as a marker of colonial-era architecture and the city's evolution over time. This artistic expression encourages appreciation for visual arts and sculpture, enriching the cultural landscape.

Furthermore, the statue's role as a tourist attraction, community gathering point, and symbol of unity reflects the resilience and creative spirit of Mumbai. From the Kala Ghoda statue, I believe in the enduring power of art to unite communities, celebrate history, and infuse a city with life and culture.

The Kala Ghoda icon has been a vibrant backdrop for countless artists and creative minds. It has been one of the inspirations for my creative pursuits and artistic endeavours too.



Located at Fort, Mumbai.

LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI

(2 October 1904 – 11 January 1966)

Lal Bahadur Shastri, India's second Prime Minister, left an indelible mark on the nation's history. He led India to victory over Pakistan in the 1965 war.

He is famous for coining the iconic slogan "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, (Hail the Soldier, Hail the Farmer)" celebrating the valour of soldiers and the hard work of farmers. He emphasized the importance of both national defence and agricultural self-sufficiency for the development of the nation.

His life was a testament to his honesty, humility, and dedication to public service. His enduring legacy is characterized by his open-heartedness and unwavering commitment to the nation.

One of his inspiring quotes that I find relevant in today's global context is:

"We believe in the dignity of man as an individual, whatever his race, colour or creed, and his right to better, fuller, and richer life."

His values and principles continue to inspire people worldwide, serving as a beacon for the pursuit of equality and a better future for all.



Located at Colaba, Mumbai.

THE FILM MAKER STATUE

The term "Bollywood" is a portmanteau of "Bombay" (the former name of Mumbai) and "Hollywood" (the famous American film industry). It was coined to describe the Mumbai-based film industry's similarity in style and scale to Hollywood.

This metal art installation symbolizes the "Bollywood" film industry and the dreamy glamour of the city. This unique art installation features multiple sculptures inside the primary sculpture, depicting various aspects of Mumbai's life and culture. The prominent torso of a man made out of a spring, shows the resilience of Mumbai, and its indomitable spirit of bouncing back from any situation, which is an invaluable life lesson.

Bollywood is an integral part of India's cultural diversity, multifaceted heritage, and entertainment landscape. Known for its grandiose productions that seamlessly blend music, dance, drama, and romance, Bollywood is one of the largest and most influential film industries globally and continues to captivate hearts with a roster of iconic actors, actresses, and filmmakers. Its movies transcend borders, resonating with audiences worldwide. Beyond entertainment, it often addresses important societal issues, raising awareness and advocating for change. It contributes significantly to the city's economy, generating substantial revenue and providing employment to a vast workforce involved in film production, distribution, and related industries.

Bollywood offers valuable learnings that extend beyond the silver screen. At its core, it teaches us about the power of storytelling and how narratives can connect people across cultures and languages. The industry's diversity highlights the beauty of different traditions and perspectives, fostering an appreciation for cultural pluralism. Bollywood's relentless pursuit of creativity and innovation serves as a reminder that embracing change and pushing boundaries can lead to artistic excellence. Moreover, the industry's ability to entertain and inspire reminds us of the importance of joy, laughter, and celebration in our lives. Bollywood's influence on fashion, music, dance, and even language underscores its capacity to shape culture and society. Above all, it exemplifies the enduring role of cinema in capturing the essence of the human experience and sparking conversations about important social issues.



Located at Byculla, Mumbai.

PHEROZESH AH MEHTA

(4 August 1845 – 5 November 1915)

Phirozeshah Mehta made remarkable contributions to the nation's progress. He played a pivotal role as one of the founding members and Presidents of the Indian National Congress, championing the cause of India's freedom.

Despite his legal education in England, Mehta returned to India to practice law, setting an inspiring example by thriving in a profession, largely dominated by British lawyers.

Beyond his political leadership, Mehta's impact extended to the governance of Mumbai, where he served four terms as the Municipal Commissioner and earned the title "Father of Bombay Municipality." His influential work led to the establishment of the Bombay Municipal Act of 1872, laying the foundation for modern urban governance. He is revered as the architect of the modern Bombay Municipal Corporation, which continues to play a vital role in the city's development, even today!

He was affectionately known as "The Lion of Bombay" and the "Uncrowned King of Bombay" due to his commanding influence. Today, Mumbai bears testament to his legacy, with numerous roads and buildings bearing his name, a reminder of his tireless efforts in shaping the city's progress.

Pherozeshah Mehta's life imparts several invaluable lessons that resonate with me today. Mehta's courage to challenge established norms, particularly in choosing to practice law in India dominated by British lawyers, underscores the importance of resilience and determination in pursuing one's goals. As a political leader, he demonstrated the power of effective leadership, inspiring and mobilizing people toward a shared cause, and teaching us about the potential for social and political change. His role in reforming Mumbai's governance through the Bombay Municipal Act of 1872 highlights the transformative impact of thoughtful policy and legislation. Above all, Pherozeshah Mehta's life epitomizes the principle of service over self, reminding us of the enduring difference one person can make, when driven by a sincere commitment to uplift their community and nation.



Located at BMC Headquarters, Mumbai

THE COMMON MAN, by R. K. Laxman

The "Common Man" character created by the celebrated Indian cartoonist R.K. Laxman is an iconic figure in Indian literature and journalism. The character was first introduced in 1951 in the English-language daily newspaper "The Times of India." R.K. Laxman created the Common Man as a symbol of the ordinary, everyday Indian citizen who is a silent and astute observer of the complexities and ironies of Indian society, economy and politics.

The Common Man is typically portrayed as a middle-class individual, often seen wearing a checkered coat and dhoti (traditional Indian attire), with a distinctive bald head and round glasses. Through this iconic figure, Laxman provided a voice to the ordinary Indian citizen, highlighting the everyday struggles, hopes, and ironies of Indian society and politics. The Common Man serves as a reminder of the importance of recognizing and addressing the concerns of the common people, often overlooked in the grand narratives of politics and power.

This character offers several valuable lessons in empathy and social commentary. Firstly, the Common Man embodies the virtue of keen observation, curiosity, engagement and awareness of the world around him.

Secondly, the Common Man's simplicity and humility serve as a reminder of the importance of these qualities in a complex world and the necessity to appreciate the ordinary and to find meaning in everyday experiences.

Lastly, the Common Man's ability to use humour and satire to comment on serious issues demonstrates the power of creativity and constructive criticism as tools for addressing societal challenges.



Located at Horniman Circle, Fort, Mumbai.

