

BP-57 · Bigger Picture · AI Move of the Day

Research One Mumbai Issue

Mumbai's traffic, water, and housing problems are not random. There are reasons, people affected, and solutions other cities have tried. Use AI to see the bigger picture — then verify.

Start the slow burn

Build the prompt

YOUR CURRENT LEVEL

0 XP

Level 1: City Noticer

Pick Mumbai issue

Ask structured prompt

Verify real sources

Map causes + impact

Compare city solutions

Pick surprise cause

The city issue move

This is civic research, not party politics. You are not trying to blame one person. You are trying to understand the system: causes, who is affected most, who has responsibility, and what solutions have been tried elsewhere.

Choose one topic: **traffic, water, or housing**. Keep the question factual and verify with real sources.

1 Pick one Mumbai-specific issue

Start with one issue. Mumbai is too big for one vague question.



Traffic

Congestion, long commutes, bottlenecks, road design, public transport pressure, parking, last-mile travel.



Water

Water supply, leakages, unequal access, monsoon flooding, drainage, tanker



Housing

High rents, slum redevelopment, density, old buildings, affordability,

dependence, lake/reservoir links.

commute distance, public services.

Choose the issue

Mumbai traffic



Optional focus area or angle

Example: Western Express Highway traffic, monsoon flooding, affordable rental housing

THOUGHT BULB

A smart city question is not “Why is Mumbai so difficult?” It is “What causes this issue, who is affected most, and what solutions have been tested?”

☐

I chose one Mumbai issue: traffic, water, or housing.

2

Ask the Mumbai issue prompt

Perplexity is useful here because you need sources. ChatGPT, Claude, or Gemini can help organise and simplify.

YOUR FILLED PROMPT

Help me understand Mumbai traffic: what causes it, who it affects most, and what solutions other cities have tried. Keep it civic, factual, and not party-political. Separate: 1. Main causes 2. Who is affected most 3. Which authorities or systems are involved 4. What solutions other cities have tried 5. What evidence supports each solution 6. What needs checking with Mumbai-specific sources

COPY-PASTE PROMPT

Help me understand Mumbai traffic: what causes it, who it affects most, and what solutions other cities have tried.

Keep it civic, factual, and not party-political. Separate:

1. Main causes
2. Who is affected most
3. Which authorities or systems are involved
4. What solutions other cities have tried
5. What evidence supports each solution
6. What needs checking with Mumbai-specific sources

Copy my filled prompt

CAUTION BOARD

Keep it civic, not party-political. Ask for causes and evidence, not slogans. Check all claims with real sources.

☐

I asked the structured Mumbai issue prompt.

3 Verify with real Mumbai sources

AI can summarise, but city facts need receipts.

1

Official source

Municipal corporation, transport authority, water department, planning authority, census/statistics,

2

Local reporting

Credible Mumbai reporting, civic explainers, data journalism, public-interest reports.

3

Maps/data

Commute maps, rainfall/flood maps, ward data, housing price/rent summaries, public transport data.

4

Expert or civic report

Urban planning papers, NGO reports, research institutes,

court/order
documents.

transport or
environment studies.

SOURCE-CHECK PROMPT

Review this answer about [Mumbai issue]. Make a table:

1. Claim
2. Source given
3. Date of source
4. Is it Mumbai-specific?
5. Is it official, news, data, expert report, or opinion?
6. What still needs checking?

Do not invent missing sources.

Copy source-check prompt

☐ I checked at least one real Mumbai-specific source.

4 Map causes, affected people, and responsibility

A serious answer has more than one cause.

Research question	What to look for	Example for Mumbai traffic
What causes it?	Systems, habits, design, rules, demand, funding, geography, enforcement, maintenance.	Commuting patterns, road bottlenecks, parking, last-mile gaps, freight movement, construction.
Who is affected most?	People facing the biggest time, cost, health, access, or safety burden.	Daily commuters, bus users, pedestrians, school children, delivery workers, elderly people.
Who is responsible?	Departments, authorities, civic bodies, service providers, builders, residents, businesses.	Traffic police, municipal body, transport agencies, road contractors, parking users.
What is uncertain?	Claims that need better data or updated sources.	Whether one flyover, metro line, or rule will actually reduce congestion.

My Mumbai issue notes

Causes: _____

Who is affected most: _____

Who is responsible / involved: _____

What is uncertain: _____





I mapped causes, affected groups, responsibility, and uncertainty.

5

Compare solutions from other cities

G12 challenge: do not copy solutions blindly. Compare the situation.

What did the other city try?

Congestion pricing, bus priority, leak reduction, flood drains, rental housing, redevelopment rules, zoning changes.

What problem did it solve?

Traffic speed, water access, flood risk, housing supply, public transport use, safety, cost.

Would it fit Mumbai?

Mumbai has its own density, geography, coastline, monsoon, land limits, jobs, and transport network.

CROSS-CITY COMPARISON PROMPT

Find 3 other cities that tried solutions for [Mumbai issue].

For each city, tell me:

1. What solution they tried
2. What problem it aimed to solve
3. Evidence of success or failure

4. What limitation or trade-off remained
5. Whether it could work in Mumbai, and what would need to change

Give sources I can check.

Copy comparison prompt

BIGGER PICTURE MOVE

“Other cities did it” is not enough. Ask: what is similar to Mumbai, what is different, and what trade-off would appear?

☐

I compared solutions from other cities and checked whether they fit Mumbai.

6 Pick the one cause that surprised you

This is the closer. Find one cause you did not expect.

One cause that surprised me

Example: I thought traffic was mostly about too many cars, but I was surprised by the role of last-mile connections and parking.

Why this cause matters

This matters because _____

CLOSER

Pick one cause that surprised you. That is the moment the city becomes less random and more understandable.

☐ I picked one surprising cause and explained why it matters.

7 Optional: make your AI Move card

A small reminder of the Mumbai issue research move.

CARD COPY

Title: AI Move of the Day

Move: Research one Mumbai-specific issue: traffic, water, or housing.

Prompt: “Help me understand [Mumbai issue]: what causes it, who it affects most, and what solutions other cities have tried.”

Rule: Verify with real sources. Keep it civic, not party-political.

Closer: Pick the one cause that surprised you.

☐

I made, sketched, or saved the AI Move card.

Final 5-minute move

Complete this sentence: "Mumbai's _____ issue is not random. One cause is _____, and one possible solution to study is _____."

My bigger-picture sentence

Mumbai's _____ issue is not random. One cause is _____, and one possible solution to study is _____.

☐ I stayed civic and non-partisan.

☐ I verified at least one claim with a real source.

☐ I compared at least one solution from another city.

NOTEBOOK LINE

Write this down: **"A city problem has causes, people affected, responsibility, and trade-offs."**

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