

Lower Parel

This district in Mumbai has gone through ups and downs which can be seen today in contrasts such as the old settlements and markets near the railway station (below) versus the glitzy malls a little distance away.

BY CHARUKESI RAMADURAI



MUST-VISITS

BlueFrog

This club routinely features interesting musicians from all genres. Popular Indian artistes like Raghu Dixit and international ones like John McLaughlin have performed here. bluefrog.co.in

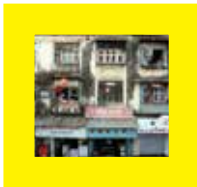
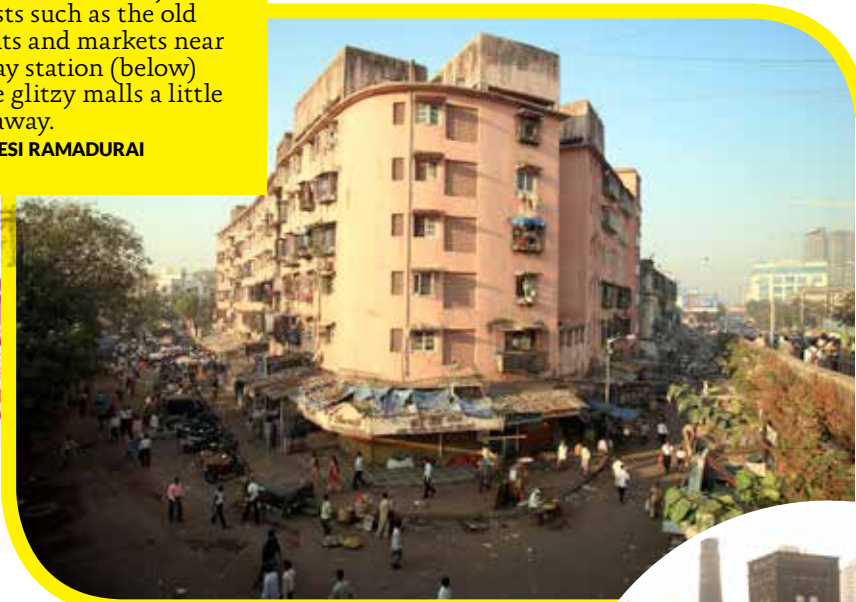
Freedom Tree

It's the place to go for funky home products like the Agartha cosmic round bowl and Agartha black medium drum lampshade (left). freedomtree.in

A CENTURY AGO, THERE WERE

81

WORKING TEXTILE MILLS (BELOW) IN AND AROUND THIS DISTRICT. TODAY, THERE ARE NONE.



FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY, FROM THE 1850s, THE AREA WAS DOTTED WITH THE CHIMNEY STACKS OF TEXTILE MILLS (RIGHT) AND CROWDED ONE-ROOM TENEMENTS CALLED CHAWLS (LEFT) INHABITED BY MILL WORKERS WHO HAD MIGRATED TO MUMBAI TO EKE OUT A LIVING.



IN THE LAST TWO DECADES, IT HAS DONE A COMPLETE ABOUT-FACE AND IS NOW REPLETE WITH SWANKY BUILDINGS (FAR RIGHT) HOUSING MALLS, OFFICES AND LUXURY APARTMENTS (RIGHT), AS WELL AS THE HAUNT OF ADVERTISING, BANKING AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS.



PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

CHANGING FACES OF LOWER PAREL

1534

The village in the area comes under Portuguese rule and is called Parella.

1770s

The district goes upmarket after the British Governor of Bombay moves in.

1854

Bombay Spinning Mill is set up. More textile mills follow and the area becomes an industrial hub.

1990s

High Street Phoenix, the first complex with shops and offices, opens, followed soon after by others like it.

According to restaurant review site zomato.com, there are more than

600

restaurants, cafes, bars and pubs in the Lower Parel area.