Of Flyovers and Muslim Mohallas: Mapping the Political Horizons of Bombay

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Horizons are affective artifacts, constantly framed through the practices of built form, but also situated on the existential sensibilities of society & human life. Appearing as views, bypasses, persistence, or imaginations; the horizon folds through the ontic, the political, the every-day and the virtual. This paper explores some locations of the architecture of these horizons, the multiple nodes in which the creation, contestation and bypassing of horizons occur in the so-called ‘native town’ of Bombay. My fieldwork, undertaken in the Muslim Mohallas located here, explores how the construction of a ‘flyover’ provided new political and bureaucratic horizons to an already stigmatised area of the city. I ethnographically explore this horizon, through forms of by-passing, contestation and surveillance.

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