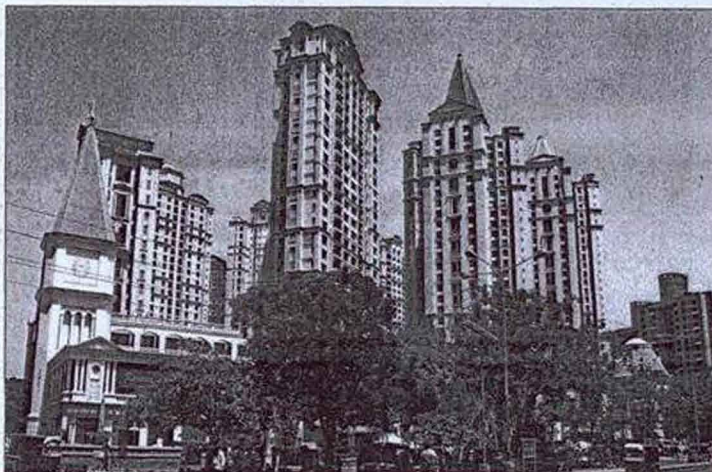




WITHIN YOUR REACH

THANE FOCUS

A CONSUMER CONNECT INITIATIVE



What best defines a city's evolution is whether it is self-sufficient or not. Does Thane succeed on this parameter? **Ami Pandya** finds out

es. All these facilities are well-connected by roads that can be covered by the multiple public transport system here. The plans for a ring route and the upcoming metro-rail will further improve the connectivity," he feels.

Thane is probably the only city just outside Mumbai which is totally self-sufficient in all aspects, says Sanjiv Modi, MD, Hermitage Consultancy Services (P) Ltd. "It has the highest number of malls, theatres, lakes, largest area coverage for parks/gardens, a wide range of markets for every level of buyers. A hill and a river on either side, with excellent connectivity, it is a 'satellite city' set to morph into a global city," he adds.

Thane is very close to being self-sufficient, says Sanjeev Uppal, MD, Evergreen Habitats & Realities Private Limited. "Almost, not yet fully there," he adds. "The city needs to plan for the future - the positioning being that of a global city, we need to consider self-sufficiency from that aspect. Present-day Thane residents can get everything within the city itself, be it world class medical care facilities (hospitals like Jupiter) or good retail brands in malls (Korum), good theatres (Inox), good hotels (SaiKar Residency, Fortune, Lerida, Vihangs Inn, Mantraa, etc.). All leading elec-

“

The city can certainly boast of good medical, educational and recreational facilities. One also needs to emphasise the open spaces available here. Connectivity is improving and in the future, it will be better once the upcoming monorail and metro networks dovetail in to the existing transport network

(United 21, Golden Swan, etc.) providing much needed recreation, are present here. If we look at the present-day scenario, there are so many aspects where Thane is much better than even Mumbai," he opines.

The parameters on which Thane's self-sufficiency needs to be evaluated include basic necessities, says Himanshu Jain, MD, Aastha Investments & Marketing. "Yes, Thane is self-sufficient in terms of water and electricity. This city can certainly boast of good medical, educational and recreational facilities. One also needs to emphasise the open spaces available here. Connectivity is improving and in the future, it will be better once the upcoming monorail and metro networks dovetail in to the existing transport network," he feels.

Thane is definitely self-sufficient, says Soneish Dedbia, director, Dedbia Group. "Residents can avail all the standard facilities for daily living, getting practically everything at one's doorstep. I would say, from pin to plasma TV and schools to colleges, malls to entertainment hubs to hotels, kids' play area or medical facility, literature or art and so on - in Thane, one just needs to name a brand and one finds it, as per one's requirement and budget," he concludes.

STILL SOME WAY TO GO?

Mabesh Makwana, chairman, Thane Estate Agents Association (TEAA), looks at Thane as beyond just a real estate destination. "Thane is a global city and global cities are self-sufficient as per the city's requirements, and that of its residents. Thane, without any doubt, is a self-sufficient city where one finds all her/his needs and requirements available

within the city limit," he adds. Kalpataru Group's spokesperson points out that unlike Mumbai, Thane as a city, has been developed on the hub and spoke model; every residential development in Thane is supported by required social infrastructure. "Today, the city boasts of numerous schools, hospitals, malls, multiplexes, etc., on par

with international standards and these are well-spread across the city. Along with luxurious housing facilities and social infrastructure, Thane offers a lot of open spaces that provide peace and tranquility to its residents. The city has an equal presence of entertainment and leisure facilities in the form of malls, entertainment zones and multiplex-

tronic retail giants are present here (Vijay Sales, Kohnoor, Next, etc.) and even most car dealers (BMW, Nissan, Volvo, Renault, Toyota, Honda, etc.) have realised the potential of Thane and thus, have their presence in Thane. Leading schools (Billabong, Sulochana Singhania, Hiranandani School, Vasant Vihar School, etc.) and also the clubs