

Thane 2020: What the future holds...

Will the vision of 'Thane 2020' turn out to be 'future perfect'? **Kamlesh Pandya** goes crystal ball gazing

“When we say 'Vision 2020' for Thane, essentially the focus is on a cleaner, greener and self-sufficient city,” says architect and town planner, Arunkumar Suvarna. “It is not just about adding up to the economic benefits of the citizens but also complimenting the sustainability quotient. The vision document mentions all the right things; the real issue in ensuring that Thane becomes 'future perfect' is in implementation, which should be time bound,” he adds.

“Thane's 'Vision 2020' seems to be inspired by former president, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam's, 'Vision 2020' document,” informs Suraj Parmar, MD, Cosmos Group. “Thane's Vision 2020 is not just about keeping one's area clean and green; it is also about developing all the facilities in conjunction with future growth,” he adds.

Future perfect Thane is also about a change in the resident profile, adds Himanshu Jain, MD, Aastha Investments & Marketing. “From a city of middle class residents, Thane is on its way to grow into a megacity with excellent connectivity. Today, one finds all classes and segments residing in this mega city. From this point onwards, the future of Thane is 'very bright', given the trend of real estate development already seen here,” he points out.

Thane, over the last few years and especially the last half decade, has generated its own identity and has reached the stage of 'self-progress' in all fields, points out Sanjiv Modi, MD, Hermitage Consultancy Services (P) Ltd. “Currently, home owners see Thane as a 'package deal' which offers day-to-day as well as 'long-term' living options, in terms of good infrastructure, standard of living and pollution free environment. Moreover, Thane is also a good mix of commercial and retail structures. So, one does not need to venture 'outside' Thane. The TMC's plans, especially the vision document for the future and the potential they offer, are

excellent. By 2020, it will truly be a clean and green city and new transportation options like the metro and the mono rails, will drive the transformation of Thane in 2020,” he opines.

Sanjeev Uppal, MD, Evergreen Habitats & Realities Private Limited, shares that “The TMC is driving most of the initiatives in terms of improving the city's infrastructure; from developing infrastructure to measures aimed at enhancing the city's vibrant culture. Lifestyle enhancements will be the USP going into the future and expectations of home buyers have increased, be it from the city, the TMC or the developers. The Vision 2020 for Thane would include transparency in the process of buying a home with technical specifications and also the norms being properly defined. Vision 2020 for a home seeker should translate into the 'ideal scenario' for buying a home,” he adds.

Thane has grown rapidly, at a very fast pace in the last decade, observes Sonesh Dedhia, director, Dedhia Group. “The growth has been across segments, from residential to retail as well as commercial. The city is moving towards becoming a 'global city' and it is a positive sign that future development, especially when it comes to developing the infrastructure of Thane, seems to be 'well-planned' for the future,” he smiles.

Thane, as a city, is going through a metamorphosis, says a spokesperson from the Kalpataru Group. “Thane's skyline has changed in the last decade with the growing number of high-rise buildings. Thane has become a self-sufficient city wherein, it is able to fulfill every need of residents,” the spokesperson adds.

Mahesh Makwana, chairman, Thane Estate Agents Association (TEAA), says that “Thane on paper, has many optimistic plans. These being fulfilled on a time bound basis, will ensure that 'Vision 2020' will be about Thane being a mega city in itself, not a satellite city of Mumbai,” he signs off.

PIC: NASSER LALLJEE

