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Initiative By ठाणेवैभव



Delivering Future!

Dr. Mohan Chandavarkar
Apeksha maternity nursing home

“ Medicine is not an exact science and life is not eternal. Both these factors need to be understood by both sides. Concerned authorities need to create medicosurgical infrastructure to give affordable healthcare to all, supported by a grassroot percolation of insurance for all. All of us are cogs of society and a transparent, approach with empathy, sympathy, understanding and respect for all will help strengthen relationships.



Raymond Realty to invest Rs 700 crore on a commercial project in Thane

Raymond Realty plans to develop a 'Grade A' commercial and high-street retail space in Thane on 9.5 acres of land, with an estimated investment of around Rs 700-800 crore, CEO Harmohan H Sahni told Moneycontrol.

"The company intends to invest close to Rs 700 to Rs 800 crore for construction of the commercial project, which is expected to take off in the next fiscal. Construction and launch of the commercial project is expected to take place in March-April 2022. Currently, we are at the planning stage. Construction is expected to begin in March 2022 and the asset is expected to be operational by 2026. The million square feet of land that Raymond Realty intends developing as part of the first phase is already owned by the company, so there is no investment in the land per se," Sahnisaid.

Sahni however also added that it may take four years for the asset to be fully constructed, leased out and operational. The company may consider a combination of equity and debt or get in a strategic investor. "All of these options are possible and discussions are on. The cost is in place already. We know what we want to build. We are discussing the funding bit right now," he added.

Demand rebound

Sahni said that most commercial markets, such as the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) and NCR, are witnessing fresh demand after two waves of the COVID-19 pandemic, with demand bouncing back to the extent of 80-85 percent, which is "encouraging."

"The numbers look good in the MMR market with demand of around 3.5-4.5 million sq. ft per annum in fresh commercial



supply compared to 16-17 million sq. ft in Bengaluru, which is the largest market. Mumbai commands about 25 percent of Bengaluru's total demand. Pune is in a similar range and NCR is around 5 million sq. ft or so. Hyderabad commands 7-8 million sq. ft per annum," he said.

Having said that, Grade A commercial stock is definitely in short supply in MMR and "that is what prompted us to get into a Grade A commercial at this point in time. You either have IT and ITeS buildings or B grade buildings," he explained.

Joint development focus

The company announced its foray into the commercial segment on October 5, 2021. It is also evaluating several options through a joint development agreement without land acquisition in MMR.

"We are exploring joint development opportunities in the MMR. There is sufficient work in Thane for the next 10 years. We plan to construct facilities through joint development with a potential to generate revenue of Rs 2,000 crore each. We are hoping that the potential of each deal would be in the

range of Rs 1,000 to Rs 2,000 crore. We are not looking at very small or mega size projects but medium size projects," he said.

So far, Raymond Realty has sold over 70 percent of the total launched inventory of nearly 2,350 units at its maiden project, called 10X. The township project's first phase has 10 towers spread across 14 acres, with a saleable area of 2.8 million sq. ft.

The company now plans to build premium residential units comprising 3 and 4 BHK units spread across a million square feet, subject to requisite approvals, and intends to take a bank line worth Rs 100 crore to Rs 150 crore for it.

The 10X project with its

1 BHK and 2 BHK units "is a cash-surplus project for us. All our investments are back and more. Our net debt is zero. We are sitting on a cash surplus on that. For the launch of the new 3 and 4 BHK project around Diwali, we have only invested in approvals, which is not a significant amount. We would have spent Rs 10-15 crore on approvals so far. It is a residential project and residential projects typically do not require too much capital. We will probably contract debt and keep it on the safe side. Our estimate is that we may not even have to draw the debt that we contract, going forward," he added.

Source: Moneycontrol



FLY, OK, TATA!

Editor's Note



Best Wishes,

Miilind Ballal

Editor, Know Your Town

Running business is none of the business of the government, this can be a critical bottom line of the union government's decision on the handing over of the country's flag-bearer airline. The move has been aptly welcomed by Mr Ratan Tata, who simply tweeted 'welcome home Air India'. For him it was one of the poignant moments, and why not?

The airline was in the safe hands with the Tatas as JRD had more compassion about flying than making only money. Having personally flown the first ever flight between Karachi and Mumbai via Ahmedabad, the bonding was more than clear and the then government had any business to disrupt the arrangement under the guise of so called socialism. The Tatas were humiliated, the airline was mulched by all those in the corridors of power and particularly the aviation ministry to the extent that the losses literally touched the skies. Tatas have once again stepped as saviours and the signatures have been put on the dotted lines leading to the start of a new era. That it took 68 long years and crores of rupees of the tax payers that went down the drain, the people can expect 'acche din' as the Tatas take to the cockpit!

Privatisation has been the key word, more so particularly after India embraced financial perestroika. With many public sector undertakings, larger than Air India, having been privatised, the acquisition by Tatas should not be surprising at all. That it was delayed definitely casts a dark shadow on the efficiency of the people concerned. Now coming back to the pertinent question of whether the government must perform the role of entrepreneur.

That requires a dozen desiring qualities like skill, experience, transparency, accountability, knowledge, understanding and last but not the least financial prudence. The last quality was grossly missing and which was more than evident with the piling of losses that took to higher altitude year after year.

Tatas have indeed an uphill task in front of them. The challenge is daunting but not to forget they are Tatas. They will overcome that with their sheer track record of discipline, dedication and dynamism. Taking a cue from the developments, one is prompted to think that if Tatas are roped in for air transport, then perhaps railways and road transport are not far off where private players will be invited too. This will be obviously met with stiff resistance, but then the question of accountability remains unanswered. It is however equally important that such acquisition deals must be done in open and the transparency will keep malpractices at bay.

Tatas can give a new direction to the privatisation policy which is generally mired in controversies. Many are ready to board the flight for a voyage which may in real sense stop the dirty games that are played in our PSUs.

To conclude, privatization is not that evil but perhaps divine and need of the hour particularly in the service sector where the public hardly get value for money and the people who run the show throw accountability to the dogs. Tatas can perhaps bring forward the fair play of privatization where both the consumers and service providers can give the desired result. Only then the truck drivers can write behind their vehicles "Fly Ok Tata".

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Delivering Future!

Nikhil Ballal / Juili Kulkarni

A well-acclaimed gynaecologist with almost four decades of practice, a popular professor amongst his students, eloquent speaker, a humour writer, a past district governor of Rotary, Dr Mohan Chandavarkar is multi dimensional versatile personality. But above all he is one of the best human beings. Thane is proud of him. A valuable Thanekar indeed.

What made you choose the field of medicine?

Wouldn't it sound a bit idealistic and romantic to say that right from my childhood I had an inclination towards medicine. The options in the 70's was either medicine or engineering. My father and his family grew up from abject poverty in the village to their success in the city. We were told - that he wanted to be a doctor, but economically and facility wise it remained a dream. Maybe that was the subtle inspiration - I am happy it worked out for me as well as it fulfilled his dream.

Why did you opt for gynaecology?

One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world" said - Malala Yousafzai.

That teacher for me was Dr SN Daftary at the Wadia Hospital and GS Medical College - my guru, guide, mentor, well wisher, critic, philosopher, hand holder, skill developer, and human being par excellence. I was inspired by him and sky was not the limit under his chhatrachhaya.

How challenging was it when you started your career?

In 1983, I was married had a small son and was a lecturer in a medical college- the salary would last for 15 days. Then, inspite of being a MD, I was still eating from my father's plate. Veena's father expressed a wish that when they were around, we should have our own setup. We searched from Alibag to Nashik and Vapi to Surat for opportunities. Inspired by Dr Daftary's setup, we dreamt of a nursing home,



Dr Mohan Chandavarkar
Apeksha Maternity Nursing Home

without the availability of necessary finances. The cost of a place in Mahim, where I stayed was Rs 2500 / sqft. So like the Malyalee who goes to the Gulf for petrodollars, we came to Thane in May 1985 with Apeksha Nursing Home - the quintessential expatriate.

When did you start your own nursing home and how were the initial days?

Finance was at 18% pa and that too after giving the documents of your parents, inlaws and anybody the bank thought would bale us out, if there was



a crisis. The practice grew like a typical pregnancy. It took time – a fairly long gestational period. We did not have a phone – I used to move around with 50 paise coins to be used at the Raymond gate PCO – to call an anaesthetist, to call a pediatrician. For personal calls, I had to give the number of a chemist at Vartakanagar. For sustenance, I used to travel to Cooper Hospital for duties as a lecturer. For the first three years we never ate out – there just wasn't anything left to be called disposable. But slowly things picked up. As they say Naam Ek Din main Nahin banta, Par Thaan lo aur jidd, jigar, jaan, aur josh se kaam lo. To ek din ban hi jaata hain.

How many operations have been executed by you so far any count..

Frankly speaking, I don't know as I have not kept a count. But have had the honour to teach at Rajiv Gandhi Medical College and Chhatrapati Shivaji Hospital, and the opportunity to operate at many corporate setups. As guesstimate, must have done more than 10,000 deliveries.

Can you share some of your experiences that you have had with your patients?

KS was a patient who delivered a second time normally in Mulund. She bled a lot and needed an obstetric hysterectomy there. Then she went into

Medical facilities have undergone a sea change in Thane. There was a time when in the quest of an ICU bed or even latest therapies, there was an exodus to Mumbai. That flow has stopped because of the availability of state of the art facilities and cutting edge technology, matched with the art and skills of doctors here – IVF, endoscopic surgery, advanced sonography, cardiac surgery, bariatrics, organ transplants, cochlear implants – to name a few.



coagulation failure. She was shifted to Singhania Hospital. We stabilised her with many transfusions, but Dr Ashalata and I had to reopen as there was a lot of blood in the abdominal cavity. We had to take a death on table consent. Subsequently, KS went into ARDS

needing the ventilator, renal shutdown needing dialysis, subcutaneous gangrene, and puerperal sepsis needing heavy antibiotics. But she fought and after 45 days of struggling to keep her afloat, she went home.

UM was a 30 year old who had suffered from four pregnancy losses. When she came to me, I told her PhD husband, I will manage this according to some empirical methods I have learnt from my guru – and you can help by not asking for evidence based action. He was desperate and agreed. She needed a cervical tightening and complete bed rest

but finally she was blessed with a baby girl. Eyes streaming with tears the husband dis shastang namaskar to me in the waiting room- crying – "Doctor, Tumchya Mule Zhala". Subsequently they relocated to the US. But for many a year whenever they visited India, they would come straight from the airport for a pilgrimage to Thane – associated with embarrassing namaskars. Even now, she always reconfirms the doctors treatment in the US with an early morning telephonic consult.

Isn't it natural that this abundant niswara affection is the elixir that keeps us going - i treat He heals.

How has the field of gynaecology evolved over a period of time?

Newer suture materials, newer





surgical techniques, better anaesthesia equipment and drugs have made surgical interventions widely available, affordable and safe. In the gynec segment, new drugs eg for endometriosis and minimally invasive surgery have made - minimised hospitalisation, better postoperative pain care and quick recovery a routine option. In vitro fertilisation along with other assisted reproductive techniques have revolutionised the stigma of infertility. Role of NCDs, PCOS and better coping of menopause are better understood and treated.

As a maternity nursing home how have you changed in the last

two decades especially in terms of technology?

The advent of advances in maternal imaging because of the latest sonology, and MRI facilities has helped in better antenatal care and predictions. Antenatal testing for fetal problems have been a great boon. Blood availability even with fractionation has helped fight the menace of hemorrhage. Antibiotics, antiseptics and better sterilisation techniques have managed to control infections very well. Fetal medicine, fetal monitoring methodology and advanced neonatological care has ensured the survival of many a baby. Huge drops in the national indicators Maternal Mortality rate and Infant Mortality rate

reflect the effect of the advances.

How can the relationship between patients and doctors be strengthened?

Medicine is not an exact science and life is not eternal. Both these factors need to be understood by both sides. Concerned authorities need to create medicosurgical infrastructure to give affordable healthcare to all, supported by a grassroots percolation of insurance for all. All of us are cogs of society and a transparent, approach with empathy, sympathy, understanding and respect for all will help strengthen relationships.

You are also active socially. How have you contributed to the society?

We learn, then earn and then return. Our commitment of giving back to society is fundamental to human living and existence. There is the power of one – everyone can and should do – and they do. But working together works. And if you get associated with an organised setup, you land up doing things – bigger, better and bolder. I was invited to Rotary in 1986. I had come to Thane alone with wife and child. I landed up with an extended family of 3500 Rotarians. In 2019-20, as District Governor I could oversee them, collectively doing Rs 30 crores worth of community benefitting projects – from checkdams to solar lighting, from ewaste management to elearning kits. We gave over half a million dollars to the Rotary Foundation, did a quadrilateral bike trip Bharat ke Veer which generated Rs 45 lakhs for the armed forces martyrs. I became a professional asker – no qualms in begging for a cause. During the Covid pandemic, community kitchens to grain distributions, donations of PPE and masks to oxygen concentrators to ventilators – we were there, at a cost of almost Rs 4 crores. ... and more is to come Picture abhi baki hai dost !

How are the medical health care facilities in Thane. How has Thane upgraded?

Medical facilities have undergone a sea change in Thane. There was a time when in the quest of an ICU bed or even latest therapies, there was an exodus to Mumbai. That flow has stopped because of the availability of state of the art facilities and cutting edge technology, matched with the art and skills of doctors here – IVF, endoscopic surgery, advanced sonography, cardiac surgery, bariatrics, organ transplants, cochlear implants – to name a few.



Smile please!

Over the years, dental treatment has progressed leaps and bounds but Two thoughts still haunt patients "What will I do if I lose my teeth", and "I hate dentists, I am SCARED!"

Let's address the first thought. Despite major advances, loss of teeth is still a major disease worldwide. It affects millions of people causing inability to eat properly, laugh or talk with a major drop in self-confidence. For many years the only option were plastic dentures. But today we have DENTAL IMPLANTS! With a success rate of 98%, a dental implant when maintained, can last a lifetime.

"Contrary to belief, dental implants aren't 'New'", comments Dr.Rahul Shah (MDS Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery). Dr.Rahul is a dental implant expert since 2011, currently trainer for two leading implant companies and the FIRST Indian global trainer for Dynamic Implant Navigation surgery with ClaronavNavident. Dental implants have research of over 80 years. They are basically replacement tooth roots providing a strong foundation for fixed



teeth. Dental implants feel like your natural teeth, and improve quality of life. They can give you back a younger facial structure; and help prevent jawbone deterioration.

The best part of dental implants almost anyone can benefit from it – whether you are 18 or 80! And it's all here in Thane- Sahyog Maxillofacial Centre, headed by Dr. Rahul Shah and

his able team, is a superb state-of-the-art destination for all dental implant solutions. They have the latest technology with start to end solutions- inhouse facility for CBCT 3D bone scanning, virtual intraoral scanner, 3D printer, virtual implant planner and Navident dynamic navigation. It is the FIRST & currently the Only facility in India to provide all these services together. The purpose of making the entire workflow digital is to provide maximum precision & predictability and being minimally invasive. That brings us to your second thought- "I am scared!" Digital guided implantology and dynamic navigation surgery makes your dental implant experience more comfortable with NO STITCHES. If you still have any fears, their inhouse anesthetist can provide a seamless experience with conscious sedation to alleviate your anxiousness till your procedure is completed.

Say Goodbye to loose missing teeth and Hello to a new smile with fixed teeth today!

-KYT Team



SAHYOG MAXILLOFACIAL CENTRE, OFFICE 1-A, MADHUBAN CHS, BEHIND ICICI BANK, EASTERN EXPRESSWAY SERVICE RD, PANCHPAKHADI, THANE(W)-400602. +918879656529/ 9820775127



Carrying the strong legacy of his father Dr. Mohan Chandavarkar, forward, is the Chandavarkar scion Dr. Abhishek Chandavarkar. Like father, like son, Dr. Abhishek is a leading gynaecologist and obstetrician, practicing in Thane for over 12 years. Dr. Abhishek has completed his basic Gynaecological training from RGM/CSMH & Holyspirit Hospital, Mumbai. He has also done a fellowship in Advanced Endoscopy in Clermont Ferrand, France, a world renowned institute for Endoscopy.

Rubbing shoulders with Dr. Abhishek is his wife Dr. Madhura Chandavarkar, who is also a gynaecologist and obstetrician. The husband-wife

duo work at Apeksha Maternity and Surgical Nursing Home, which boasts of state of the art facilities, including five star rooms, modern technology, and experienced staff. It was started by Dr. Mohan. Dr. Madhura says, "At Apeksha Maternity and Surgical Nursing Home, we lay emphasis on normal deliveries. Given that normal deliveries have become rare nowadays, we counsel the patients to opt for normal deliveries instead of caesarean. Usually patients are unwilling to have normal deliveries but we try to educate them stressing on their speedy recovery and tell them that there will be no scars on their uterus. We monitor baby's health very minutely with our

Spreading happiness



in-house high end technology. We perform painless epidural deliveries. Additionally we also have an Infertility center, where IUI (Intrauterine insemination) is done. We have a success rate of 30-40%."

Though Dr. Abhishek is also a gynaecologist and obstetrician, he specializes in performing laparoscopy and hysteroscopic surgeries. Dr. Abhishek is in the managing council with Indian Association of Gynaecological Endoscopists (IAGE) and Thane Obstetrics Gynaecology Society (TOGS). Dr. Abhishek avers, "My scope of work includes performing advanced surgeries like fibroid removal surgery, treating uterine fibroids, other laparoscopic surgeries for blocked fallopian tubes, to name a few. Uterus conservation process and

laproscopic cancer surgeries are also conducted here successfully. Advanced anaesthesia is used. We use the latest laproscopic technology including high definition cameras, high end energy sources and Ultrasound energy systems. Safety of patients is the top priority."

Apart from being a practicing doctor, Dr. Abhishek is into academic, as an Associate professor for UG and PG courses in DY Patil Medical College in Navi Mumbai. He also conducts workshops on Endoscopy. His research has been published in several reputed journals and he has won many accolades for the same.

-KYT Team



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Superwomen!



Neerja Bhanot Women courage celebration day was conducted online by Rotary Rotaract District 3142 of Thane to honor the courage of Neerja Bhanot, a head purser who was shot dead point blank by the terrorist while she was saving passengers on Pan Am Flight 73 which was hijacked during a stopover in Karachi on 5 September 1986, just two days before her 23rd birthday. She was bestowed India's highest peacetime gallantry award, the Ashoka Chakra posthumously, becoming its youngest recipient. Her heroism inspired the biopic Neerja in 2016.

A AV on Neerja Bhanot was highlighted in the event organized by Rotary club of Ambarnath and Rotaract club of Ambarnath (Convener Rajesh Chawadi, President Gunwant Bhangale and supported by Dr Dhande, Apeksha and Aishwarya Warke).

This concept was conceptualized by Dr Lucky Kasat, Consultant Pediatric Surgeon from Thane.

2 exceptional women were awarded to mark the day - Capt Swati Mahadik and Jahnvi Panwar.

Capt Swati Mahadik is from Pogarwadi village in Satara, at present stationed at Dehradun. A mother of two, she set a courageous example by joining Indian army as lieutenant at age 37, after husband Colonel Santosh



Mahadik, Commanding Officer of 41 Rashtriya Rifles succumbed during the operation in forest of Kupwara in Kashmir in 2015. Mahadik fulfilled his dream of stepping into her late husband's shoes!

JANHVI PANWAR, the "Wonder Girl of India" can speak 9 accents: Australian, Scottish, Canadian, Norfolk, R.P., Posh, Cockney, British, American at age 17. She cleared 10th class at

age 11 and is now in BA 3rd year at 17! She has addressed 150 IAS officers of 9 states with CM of Haryana and 7,000 audience in International Film Festival! A Tedx speaker, she also anchored a show on BBC & bestowed the title "Ratn-e-hindustan".

Rotary Governor Dr Mayuresh Warke was the chief guest while DRR Rahesh Donny, District Rotaract Representative, was the guest of honor.

-Dr Lucky Kasat

One woman, three global brands

KYT Team

Sudha Shankarnarayan Iyer is a Food Technologist with a wealth of experience that stretches beyond 25 years in Quick Service Restaurant (QSR) industry. She has been associated with several brands such as Domino's, McDonalds, Papa John's, to name a few. She is also a certified Sensory and Flavour Expert, a BRCS Lead Auditor and trained in International Cuisines at the CIA (Culinary Institute of America), New York.

Sudha completed her education from SNDT college, Juhu, Mumbai. Through campus placement, she was hired by Domino's Pizza and was an integral part of the team that launched Domino's Pizza in India in 1996. She played a pivotal role in sourcing basic ingredients like 'the right maida' for the pizza base, to the best cheese and toppings in the Indian market that would appeal to the Indian palate.

After her stint with Domino's, she spent 11 years with McDonald's as their R&D and QA head, leading a lot



of innovations for the Indian market. At present, she works as the Director, Food Safety & Quality Assurance (Asia, Middle East & Africa) at Papa John's Pizza International. She has been instrumental in opening new markets and launching many new products for Papa John's. She also leads the 'Better Ingredients Better Pizza' initiative for the region.

Through her associations with the global brands, she had been instrumental in introducing 'McSpicy Burger & Peri Peri Fries' in India, 'Chamorro Chicken Pizza' for Guam, and 'Multigrain Seafood Pizza' for Beijing & 'The Carnivore Pizza' for Middle East.

Being an ardent fitness enthusiast, Sudha starts her day with a run or does core strengthening, meditation and yoga every morning, before she gets down to her work commitments. She is also a trained Bharat Natyam dancer. She has recently taken up Kathak and is also learning to play the violin. She also manages to make time for riaz amidst her busy schedule because by now, she is a master in time management. She is also an active member of a Rotary Club for over a



decade and has been deeply involved in many initiatives. She has personally led and supported local adivasi communities in the area of woman empowerment, literacy, water and sanitation. Being from the food industry, she recognised that visually impaired students, while missing their sense of sight, have their other senses more accentuated than normal people. This led her to experiment and launch along with Industry experts, a unique Food Testing /Sensory Training Module for visually challenged children as a part of their 'Skill Development'.

Before signing off, Sudha offers advice to youngsters who aspire to make a career in food technology. She says, "The world outside is full of challenges and unanswered mysteries. If one is prepared to decode this every single day with the same enthusiasm, then the world is yours - nothing can stop you. Work hard, wear your best attitude, do good each day and you will certainly get the keys to the door that will lead you towards a bright future."

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Thane Municipal Corporation announces SOP for reopening swimming pools in the city



On October 8, the Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) announced SOP (standard operating procedure) for reopening of swimming pools in the city. According to the SOP, the swimming pools will be reopened only for the competitive swimmers, participating in state, national or international competitions.

Among the competitive swimmers, those below 12 years of age are not allowed at the pool. Those between 12 years and 18 years should strictly provide age proof identification. Moreover, those who are above 18 years should ensure that they are double vaccinated. Coaches and swimming pool staff should also maintain all safety protocols. Strictly, the pool will be used for competitors and not for general fitness or to learn swimming.

Apart from these, the SOP includes general safety measures that need to be implemented at swimming pools by the staff, trainers and swimmers. Entry to visitors will be prohibited. Only a minimum number of staff, trainers and swimmers will be allowed. The number of swimmers allowed will be based on the size of the swimming pool.

Lake Shore may raise funds to acquire Viviana Mall: Report

Lake Shore India Advisory is planning to buy Viviana Mall in Thane from Singapore's GIC and Ashwin Sheth group for Rs 2,000 crore. Viviana mall is situated on a 13-acre land parcel in Thane on Pokhran Road and has a total lease area of 1.7 million square ft. Lake Shore is in talks with private equity firm Apollo Global Management to raise \$100 million (around Rs 740 crore) debt, Business Standard has reported. The proceeds from this transaction will be used to purchase the mall.



Lake Shore is backed by Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA). "Lake Shore is planning to fund

the mall acquisition through equity and debt. Talks with Apollo Global Management are at an advanced stage," a

source told the publication. Money control could not independently verify the story.

Ashwin Puri, director of Lake Shore told Business Standard that "As a policy, we do not comment on market speculation." Apollo Global Management and a spokesperson for Ashwin Seth group did not comment on the matter, while GIC had not yet responded. GIC had purchased a 49 percent stake in Viviana Mall from Sheth Group in 2016.

Source: Moneycontrol News

Eknath Shinde surveys spots for parking heavy vehicles in Thane to ease traffic



In the first week of this month, Thane Guardian Minister, Eknath Shinde, surveyed spots at four locations in the district where parking lots for heavy vehicles could be created to ease traffic congestion. Shinde surveyed areas in Uran, Kharegaon, Dapodi and Bhiwandi. The requisite instructions were issued to start and finish the work at the earliest possible time.

The city which has a population of over a million has witnessed heavy traffic jams over the last few days, with the Ghodbunder Road being the worst hit. These jams are primarily caused due to heavy vehicles that enter Thane from the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) and from Gujarat to go to Mumbai.

A co-ordination team comprising officials from the Thane, Raigad and

Palghar districts to tackle the problem has been created. Parking lots are being created so that heavy vehicles can park there during peak hours and be released in a staggered manner. The team surveyed a 50 hectare plot at JNPT, a 100 hectare plot at the Razdan junction and several smaller plots as well. Work on these plots will be conducted on war footing.

Thane-based environmentalists claim rare trees and birds in Kolshet are being gradually destroyed

Thane city is known as the city of lakes and also has the reputation of having a rich biodiversity of rare heritage trees and birds, particularly in its Kolshet area. However as per the survey undertaken by Thane-based environmentalists recently, it is known that this rich biodiversity is gradually being destroyed. The survey was conducted from Nandibaba Chowk to Kolshet Creek, which is arguably the area with the most-green cover.

In the recent past, the construction and development activities have been taking pace in this area, which has necessitated protecting 17.5% of the bird species there. The survey also posit that without even identifying the species of trees in this area, orders to transplant or cut trees have been issued by the concerned authorities.



Kolshet area is blessed with a good number of trees. There are a number of typha-rich wetlands and a vast creek with mangroves. Many environmentalists visited Kolshet areas to know more about their rich biodiversity. In the process, they found that permissions were granted to transplant or cut trees without understanding the species

or their importance. In the current scenario too, it is possible that rare and important trees have not been identified correctly and clubbed together as wild by the local authorities.

In a permission granted by the Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC), the Thane tree authority has mentioned 46 trees as wild trees. This constitutes just more than 10% of the 431 trees in Kolshet. However, in the survey conducted by the environmentalists last month, they found out that there are eight mango trees, seven jamun trees and many banyan, peepal and umbar or gular trees that are likely to be around 50 to 60 years old. There were another two amherstianobilis (Urwashi) trees found behind Clariant Bus Stop that seem to be the only trees of this species in the entire city.

Doorstep delivery of 7/12 land extracts to farmers in Thane district

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Thane gets a 150-bed paediatric ward in anticipation of COVID-19 third wave

Schools reopened in Maharashtra from October 4 and soon malls, theatres and swimming pools will be reopened. Despite the positive news of reopening of schools, malls, theatres and swimming pools, a dark cloud of third wave of COVID-19 continues to loom over the state as well as the country.

In view of an anticipated third wave, a 150-bed paediatric ward has been set up near the Thane Mental Hospital by the Thane District Health Department. This is apart from the ones set up by individual municipal corporations within the district. From among these 150 beds, around 25 will be specifically used in case of any disaster or emergency wherein children need hospitalisation.

The paediatric ward has been set up on the ground floor of the health department adjacent to the Mental Hospital. Moreover, a state-of-the-art operation theatre has been set up for

the convenience of pregnant women along with a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

An additional 50-bed facility within the premises and preparations for the same are going on as well. This will be apart from the existing NICU and the 150-bed facility. If there is a sudden spike in numbers, then there will be enough space to admit children and no one will be devoid of any facility or treatment.

Within Thane district, Thane Municipal Corporation has already set up a 100-bed paediatric facility, KalyanDombivli Municipal Corporation has set up a 50-bed paediatric ward and BhivandiNizampur City Municipal Corporation has set up an 80-bed facility within their respective jurisdictions. As it is anticipated that children would be most affected in the probable third wave, preparations are being made as per the rules stated by the State government.

CR restores 16 AC suburban local services on Thane-Panvel route

Commuters on Thane-Panvel, Thane-Vashi and Thane-Belapur rail sections have been enjoying the comfort of cool train rides from October 7, thanks to Central Railway, which has restored 16 AC suburban local services.

Following services from Thane will depart for Nerul at 6.46am, 9.19am, 5.16pm, 6.29pm, for Vashi at 8.08am, for Belapur at 10.40am, and for Panvel at 7.49pm and 9.54pm. Thane-bound trains



will leave Nerul at 7.29 am, 9.57am, 5.54 pm and 7.08 pm, leave Vashi at 8.45am, leave Panvel at 5.44am, 4.14pm and 8.52pm. The 16 services will run with an AC rake from Monday to Friday, and as non-AC rakes on Saturday.

These services will not run on Sundays and holidays, while the Thane-Nerul train leaving at 5.16pm and Nerul-Thane leaving at 9.54pm will run with non-AC rakes as per Sunday time-table schedule.

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