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# FOR INDIA, BY INDIA

## The Thane-Built AI Transforming Legal Policing

In a landmark achievement for India's technology ecosystem, Thane-based firm Gradiante Creatives, led by Sunil Soni, has developed and delivered NARIT-AI (Narcotics Analysis & RAG-based Intelligence Tool) for the Gujarat Police. Widely regarded as India's first AI-powered legal intelligence platform for police departments, the solution marks a significant shift in how law enforcement approaches investigation and legal preparedness.

The platform was officially launched by senior Gujarat Government leadership, including Honourable Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Home Minister Harsh Sanghavi, signalling a strong push toward technology-driven policing.

The journey of NARIT-AI began with one critical factor- trust. Building for law enforcement required more than technical capability; it demanded reliability, accountability, and deep alignment with real-world policing workflows. The Gradiante team spent considerable time understanding how FIRs are written, where cases typically weaken, and how legal processes unfold on the ground.

Unlike conventional AI tools, NARIT-AI uses a Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) architecture, ensuring that every



output is grounded in statutory provisions, procedural law, and historical case references. The system delivers real-time, context-aware legal insights while functioning strictly as a decision-support platform, keeping officers at the centre of all actions.

A key strength of the platform is its ability to seamlessly process both colloquial Gujarati and formal legal English, ensuring that no nuance is lost in translation while converting field-level inputs into structured legal intelligence.

The initiative was envisioned by SP Abhay Soni (IPS), Vadodara, Gujarat Police, under the leadership of DGP Dr. K. N. Rao. Early estimates suggest that NARIT-AI can significantly reduce case preparation time

Looking ahead, Gradiante Creatives aims to evolve NARIT-AI into a broader legal intelligence platform covering multiple crime categories. For Gujarat Police, this innovation represents more than just a technological upgrade—it marks a fundamental shift toward intelligence-led, legally robust policing, aligned with the vision of "For India, By India."

and procedural lapses, leading to stronger, more legally robust investigations. At the launch, Home Minister Shri Harsh Sanghavi emphasised that the platform strengthens Gujarat's "zero-tolerance" approach toward narcotics by enabling sharper, more compliant case building.

Notably, NARIT-AI, built entirely in Thane, was selected over several large domestic and international technology players, underscoring the city's emerging potential as a deep-tech innovation hub. With access to talent and proximity to Mumbai's enterprise ecosystem, this achievement sends a strong message: world-class, mission-critical AI solutions can be built outside traditional tech centres like Bengaluru.

# Healing Planet and People: The RNisarg Revolution



In 2016, founders **Dr Lata Ghanshamnani, Veena Angadi and Dr Leena Kelshikar** established the **RNisarg Foundation** with a mission to bridge healthcare expertise, community action, and climate resilience. It is a women-led and doctor-managed non-profit organisation in Thane.

With 5 special programmes, the foundation addresses "invisible" waste streams, such as sanitary, pharmaceutical, and diabetic waste which often bypass traditional waste management systems, posing serious risks to

By leveraging their medical background, the founders have transformed waste management from a logical task into a healthcare priority. Celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, RNisarg Foundation ensures a 'habitable planet' for future generations.

the ecosystem as well as our health.

Although India has approximately 355 million menstruating women, our society places a taboo on menstrual hygiene education. Poor

hygiene and unhealthy menstrual practices are leading contributors to vaginal infections and the rising incidence of cervical cancer. Additionally, unsafe disposal of menstrual

products degrades the environment.

Project Sakhi was initiated by RNisarg Foundation to mitigate the environmental impact of the tons of menstrual waste generated annually in India. Along with Asha workers and healthcare workers, Sakhi has significantly reduced period poverty by educating women in villages about the benefits of switching from the use of sanitary pads to a menstrual cup. The foundation has managed to educate over 100,000 women and supplied menstrual pads to over 20,000 women in Maharashtra with a 100% adoption rate in tribal areas. Partnering with medical professionals and staff around the city, the foundation conducts workshops to raise awareness, and distribute menstrual cups.

Additionally, the foundation led India's first sanitary waste initiative in May 2025 in collaboration with BMC. The goal is to collect an average of 6 tons of sanitary waste from 6000 plus registered units, including households and hostels. The foundation manages menstrual waste through a holistic social movement focused on the 3 E's (Education, Empowerment, and the Elimination of period poverty) by promoting menstrual cups to reduce waste and ensuring the safe disposal of single-use pads.

# Thane Is Expanding...But At What Cost?

While many shout in the void of India's shrinking forests, the quiet rebels raise their voices that echoes as a call for a sustainable future. Such is **Rohit Joshi, an environmental activist and the current President of 'Yeoor Environmental Society'.**

In 2014, he founded the 'Yeoor Environmental Society,' and has since stood against the system to address the issues like the Thane creek, the conservation of trees, mangroves, and the Aarey forest. He has won multiple honors for his efforts to make the area 15% pollution-free in five years by involving the public and government machinery.

Recently, commuters tired of the city's congestion have reacted positively to inaugurations of major transportation projects. However, for Rohit Joshi this is overshadowed by the loss of 3000 trees. The real question, according to him is – "Is this truly progress if it comes at the irreversible cost of our city's green lungs and biodiversity?" While 3000 trees may seem like a small number for the government, he argues that trees are essential and free infrastructure that filters air, reduces urban heat, and promotes local biodiversity. Rather being against development, he advocates intelligent development. Frequently challenging the authorities over 'zero-felling' assignments, he often questions whether felling has simply been the default and easy choice for contractors. Joshi says that saplings cannot replace old



**Beyond the obvious loss of trees, he warns of increasing temperatures in our communities. The absence of shade and transpiration from trees causes residential blocks to become heat traps. This raises health risks and boosts energy use, creating a vicious cycle of climate deterioration.**

trees, particularly when transplant survival rates sometimes go below 30%.

Joshi's "Green Infrastructure First" framework calls for three mandates: defining

'zero-felling' as a legal requirement for project clearance, tying contractor payments to an 80% survival rate for greenery over five years, and legally safeguarding community-led forests inside the city's master plan.

The fight for a "breathable Thane" is not an isolated quest. Joshi is encouraging housing societies and individual inhabitants to go from bystanders to active stakeholders. Citizens may influence the outcome by



joining local conservation organisations, denouncing unlawful cutting, and demanding openness from local leaders. The lesson is sobering: if Thane does not learn to integrate its infrastructure with the environment, the growth it desires may render the city unsustainable.

## Thane: The Vanishing Blue-Green Legacy

The blue-green legacy of Thane must outweigh politics of concrete and speed. Currently, Thane's landscape is being swallowed by "mega-projects" like the coastal road, twin tunnels and serpentine flyovers. The high-speed connectivity is designed primarily for private vehicle owners. With Metro fares set at a premium price, the common man remains sidelined. While marketed as 'Vikas', in reality it destroys the environment—erasing our greenery, choking the lakes and nullahs and ruining the mangroves along the creek.

Ancestral Koliwadadas, fishing communities and poorer communities in traditional villages are being displaced, for a builder-political nexus that prioritises profit over people.

When infrastructure is touted as progress for political optics rather than real public need, the "connectivity" promised rarely reaches the common man. Instead, the city is left with an increasing public debt, a hotter city and constant threats of floods, fires and disasters. What Thane needs is a vision that values its resident's home, health, education, culture and environment. What Thane needs is to preserve its legacy as the 'City of Lakes' and not an overgrown 'Concrete Jungle'.

**(Sulakshana Mahajan, Architect and Urban Planner)**



## Rotary Club of Hiranandani Estate: A Commitment Close to the Heart

As the first and oldest Rotary Club in the Hiranandani Estate area, it has long stood as a pillar of community service. According to **Rotarian Anubha Kharabe**, the club's path demonstrates how sustained, community-driven initiatives may result in long-term change. She states that the core mission is a steadfast commitment to environmental conservation— a vision that resonates deeply within its membership and drives the club's most impactful initiatives.

The Rotary motto, "Service Above Self," has served as the club's foundation for a sustainable legacy. For many years, the club has put this principle into action through a varied portfolio of green projects, ranging from large-scale tree planting campaigns. The group promotes environmentally friendly behaviours, acting as a catalyst for a cleaner, greener local ecology.

### Cultivating the Next Generation

The Rotary Club of Hiranandani Estate's major focus is the education and development of youngsters, recognising that the younger generation is responsible for a lasting environmental change. Their interactive platforms include Magic Talks for environmental education, Eco-Camps for nature immersion, and Competitions to drive sustainable thinking, through which they instill important hygienic practices and environmental responsibility in school children.

Community engagement includes the installation of Clean Drinking Water Stations and Sanitary Vending Machines in underserved schools to promote student health and dignity.

The Rotary Club of Hiranandani Estate continues to be a light of hope, motivating people to help preserve the world for a cleaner, greener future.



The year 2007 was a turning point for humanity, where, for the first time ever, more people lived in the cities than in the countryside. Since then, the concrete jungle has only expanded.

According to the Economic Survey of India 2025-26, India is on the verge of an urban explosion. Urban areas already contribute almost 70 per cent of India's GDP, underscoring their central role in the nation's economic growth. Maharashtra stands out as one of the most urbanised states, with nearly 45 per cent of its population living in urban areas, closely mirroring global trends.

## An Earth Day Reflection

Nearly 45% of its population is in urban areas, the density is focused heavily on Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, and Thane, placing immense pressure on land, infrastructure, and natural resources.

The impacts of climate change are expected to be most severe in urban areas, particularly in coastal cities, due to rising sea



levels, extreme weather events, and water stress.

**Professional Urban Planner Jitendra Lonkar** notes that sustainable urban development relies on the careful use of finite land resources by protecting natural ecosystems and water bodies. Innovative strategies like Miyawaki afforestation can

transform wastelands into thriving micro-ecosystems, while urban farming enhances food security, reduces carbon footprints, and builds resilience. To ensure urban resilience, we must prioritise rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge, improving waste management through source segregation, composting, and the "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" principle.

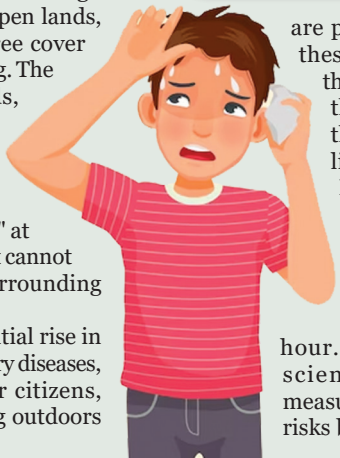
This Earth Day, let's commit to sustainable urban practices, responsible consumption, and collective action to build a resilient, inclusive, and environmentally sound urban future for India.

# Thane's Urban Heat Island Effect

With temperatures in Thane city reaching 38 to 40 degree Celsius, it is evident that the "Urban Heat Island" effect is intensifying. Thane, once known for its lush greenery, is becoming a web of cement and concrete, directly impacting the environment and health of its citizens.

The reduced capacity of trees and open spaces has led to an increase in the heat storage within the city. According to urban environmentalists, open lands, water bodies, and dense tree cover are crucial for natural cooling. The concrete and asphalt roads, construction, and glass-walled buildings absorb heat and retain it for long periods. Glass buildings create a "Greenhouse Effect" at the local level where the heat cannot fully escape, raising the surrounding temperature.

Experts warn of a potential rise in cases of heatstroke, respiratory diseases, and heart diseases. Senior citizens, children, and those working outdoors



are particularly vulnerable to these conditions. To combat this, it is essential to increase the 'green cover' in the city through various measures like rainwater harvesting. Environmentalists suggest adopting a 'Cool Roof' technology. Prioritising environmental balance in urban planning has become the need of the hour. Only by implementing scientific and eco-friendly measures in time can the future risks be mitigated.

## We asked a few people about their thoughts on the current weather in Thane...

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Thane's heat this year has been brutally dry and can be compared to the heat that a lot of northern states face in the peak of summers. I have to constantly hydrate myself with electrolytes to stay cool here  
- Adarsh Vajpai

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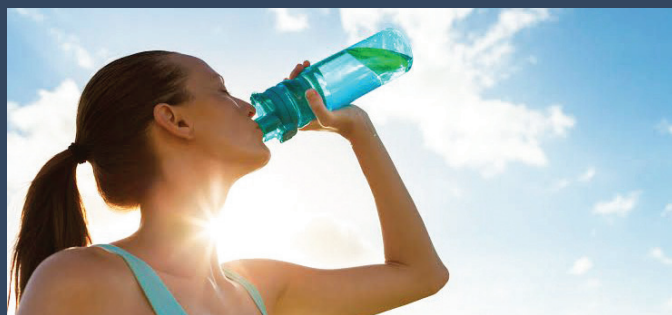


Travelling back and forth for work amidst this heat surge in Thane, 'chaas' has become my choice of beverage for hydration on-the-go  
- Anjali Pujari

“



Summers are harsher now due to global warming and may keep worsening. For now, we stay safe by avoiding peak sun and keeping hydrated with cooling, electrolyte-rich foods and drinks  
- T N Venkateswaran



## Heatwave 2026: From Sizzling to Staying Chill

With temperatures rising in Thane and the coastal humidity making it feel like a 'sauna,' staying hydrated is not enough, you need to be smart-hydrated. The IMD has issued a yellow-alert for Thane and Mumbai, warning that the temperatures and humidity is on a rise. Here is how to stay crisp, cool, and energised while the sun does its worst.

When our bodies sweat, we lose vital minerals like sodium and potassium. Drinking plain water is great but not sufficient because your body needs electrolytes to actually absorb that moisture. Doctors and nutritionists highlight the holy trinity of powerhouse recovery drinks- Coconut water, buttermilk, and lemon water with a pinch of rock salt.

Solid water snacks, like watermelon with chaat masala sprinkled on top, cold slices of cucumber, muskmelons, and oranges, make for the best hacks to stay hydrated without feeling heavy in summers. If you must go out, stick to loose-fitting cotton clothes which allows your skin to breathe and sweat to evaporate. Choose light colors as they reflect heat quicker and use an umbrella or a hat to keep your head covered and cool. Most importantly, do not forget to apply sunscreen before you step out of the house. Indoor plants like Aloe Vera and Snake plants can help slightly improve air quality and keep the room feeling fresher.

**In case you suspect that someone is having a heatstroke, apply a cold, damp cloth to the pulse points- wrists, groins, temples. The blood vessels are closer to the skin there, helping the core temperature to drop faster. It keeps the temperature slightly balanced until they can seek medical attention.**

## Thane Taps Out: Car Washes Banned in the City

Until June 10, washing vehicles and other cleaning activities at all service centres in the city has been banned. Mayor Sharmila Pimpalolkar and Commissioner Saurabh Rao have appealed to the citizens to cooperate in this manner.

Since the past few days, due to intense heat, the water level in the dams and borewells is decreasing. The administration has urged citizens to use water sparingly. As an effective measure for water conservation, the washing and cleaning of two-wheelers, three-wheelers, four-wheelers and other vehicles at service centres has been temporarily suspended. The Commissioner has stated that those who violate these orders will be punished under the Maharashtra Municipal Corporation Act.

Mayor Pimpalolkar has urged citizens to adopt water-saving habits at the household level. Habits



that lead to water wastage such as washing cars at home, hosing down courtyards, or leaving taps running should be avoided.

## Drivers Head Back to School for Marathi



Following the orders issued by Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik to make

speaking Marathi mandatory for non-Marathi rickshaw and taxi drivers in Maharashtra, a seminar

was organised. Bal Kandalkar, President of the Konkan Marathi Sahitya Parishad is set to guide this seminar on April 23 at Mantralaya. The meeting aims to discuss the mandatory nature of the Marathi language, its implementation, and to create a training framework.

The government had taken a decision in 2019 regarding mandatory communication in the Marathi language. However, until now, this decision was not implemented effectively.

The state's Transport Department has undertaken a special campaign to coincide with Maharashtra Day on May 1.



# 398 Crore Success

## How the CREDAI-MCHI Expo Redefined Thane's Property Market

The 23rd edition of the CREDAI-MCHI Thane, held from April 17-19, has concluded, marking a significant milestone for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region's real estate sector. Hosted at Dosti West County in Balkum, the event served as a platform for developers, homebuyers, and financial institutions.

The expo displayed a vast portfolio of over 500 projects from more than 100 RERA (Real Estate Regulatory Authority) - approved developers. The offerings catered to a diverse spectrum of budgets and lifestyles. Prices started at 55 lakh for 1BHK apartments and extended up to 4BHK residences valued at 2.25 crore.

Due to the hype around the planned Thane-Borivali Tunnel, the upcoming metro lines, and the coastal road, regions of Ghodbunder, Kolshet, Majiwada, and Pokhran emerged as the "hot favourites" of investors and homebuyers. Properties under redevelopment in the older regions of Thane saw a surprising surge in curiosity, indicating a growing interest in old and familiar neighbourhoods with new and modernised infrastructure. There were also specialised stalls at the expo, offering advice on legal procedures and Vastu Shastra, helping families navigate the complexities of buying a home.

Expressing gratitude for the overwhelming response, President Sachin Mirani, Secretary

The three-day event experienced a massive footfall of 20,467 visitors.

The turnout displayed tangible results, with 234 citizens officially booking their dream homes at the event. The strong purchasing power and the willingness of the modern homebuyers was highlighted in the on the spot sanctioning of 398 crore rupees worth of loan proposals.

This was made possible by the major banks, including State Bank of India and Union Bank, setting up dedicated stalls to provide immediate processing of loan applications.

Fayyaz Virani, and Exhibition Committee President Vaibhav Borkar noted that the event reflects Thane's newfound status as a premier destination for a high-quality lifestyle. Thane's blend of rich culture and rapidly developing infrastructure continues to attract local buyers, as well as Non-Residential Indians, and institutional investors. The CREDAI MCHI Thane Property Expo has proven, yet again, that Thane remains on the centre stage of residential and commercial growth.



Group A Winners: DTDC



Group B Winners: Aruprit Tigers



Group C Winners - Marsh

## A Legacy in Runs: Thanevaibhav Celebrates 50 Years of Cricket

The 50th Thanevaibhav Inter-Office Cricket Tournament reached a spectacular end at the iconic Dadoji Konddev Stadium on April 16. The event, a staple of Thane's athletic calendar, celebrated five decades of corporate sportsmanship with a series of high-energy matches and clinical performances. 28 teams divided into three groups fought hard over the last two months in 35-overs per side affairs. The tournament, which is affiliated to Mumbai Cricket Association, exuded fair play right through its course.

The sporting extravaganza culminated with a prize distribution ceremony, which was graced by Adv. Ashish Shelar, Board Member of Asian Cricket Council and former BCCI Treasurer, Adv. Niranjan Davkhare, MLA, Milind Ballal, Editor - Thanevaibhav, and Nikhil Ballal, Managing Editor - Thanevaibhav.



## Thane's 2 Education Officials Arrested

The Anti-Corruption Bureau caught two officials from the Education Department of the Thane Zilla Parishad red-handed while accepting a bribe of ₹20,000. The officials allegedly demanded ₹1 Lakh from a retired teacher to close a pending inquiry and release his retirement benefits. The arrested individuals are both administration officers in the Thane Z.P. Education Department. On April 21, the complainant filed a report with the Thane Anti-Corruption Bureau. After verification, the ACB caught the accused red-handed on April 22. Currently further legal proceedings are underway against the officials.

## What's happening in Thane? Read about the Upcoming events

Thanevaibhav and Shikhar Art are co-organising a creative workshop designed for children, between the ages of 10-14, to explore their talents.

- **Date:** Saturday, April 25, 2026
- **Time:** 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM
- **Location:** MRR Children Hospital, 1st Pokhran Road, Shastri Nagar, Thane West. Interested participants can register by scanning the QR code on the flyer or by contacting the organisers at **9833662076** or **9833662916**.



### Bollywood Cinema Carnival:

April 25 and 26

Location: The Walk, Hiranandani Estate.

### "Dil Hai Chota Sa - Thane":

April 25 | A one-day workshop by Team Naach at Busy Feet Dance Studio, Thane West, from 12 pm - 3 pm IST.

### Eco-Sur Bhajan Jamming:

April 25 | Location: Arya Global Management Pvt Ltd. Timing: 5 pm onwards.

In celebration of World Book Day, MRR Children's Hospital is hosting Thane's first-ever Children's Book Festival, a comic-themed event designed to bring stories to life.

- **Date:** Saturday, April 25, 2026
- **Time:** 11:00 AM onwards
- **Location:** MRR Children's Hospital, Thane.
- **Entry:** Free, but spots are limited.

**For more information call : 022 6910 2000 or WhatsApp: 9004696714**