Ease of Living Index: Centre's report ranks Greater Mumbai at 10

Launched by Union ministry for housing and urban affairs, the EoLI and the accompanying Municipal Performance Index (MPI) examine the quality of citizens' lives in 111 cities across four main pillars: economic ability, sustainability, citizens' perceptions and quality of life. Expanded, these pillars cover 14 different categories such as housing, economic opportunities, green spaces, and
5   even city resilience. […]

Aaditya Thackeray, state environment minister and guardian minister for Mumbai, said, "Let me go through the report and its basis. We are working on upgrading ease of living. But it's not a hidden fact that the ease and joy of living in Mumbai is actually the highest, irrespective of this ranking, (else) so many people wouldn't call it the City of Dreams."

10   Urban development experts said that Greater Mumbai's ease of living cannot improve unless larger infrastructural issues that face housing and transportation in the city aren't tackled first.

Madhav Pai, executive director at WRI Ross Center (India) for Sustainable Cities, said, "While we have to look at the indicators, it is very clear that Mumbai is not able to attract talent because housing and commute are major issues. The Metro network will solve at least one of these issues."

15   Three indicators were used to rank the cities in terms of mobility: availability of public transport, transport-related fatalities, and road infrastructure. In a city of more than 20 million residents, at least 8 million passengers would travel by local train network – that's 1,774 trains on the Central Railway and 1,367 trains on the Western Railway – everyday, in pre-pandemic times. However, the report lists Chennai as the best performing city in this pillar.

20   Greater Mumbai scores little above 60 – the national average is 79 out 100 – in the category of housing and shelter. Metropolitan cities including Delhi, Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad, as well as satellite cities like Thane, Vasai-Virar, Kalyan, Navi Mumbai score better than Greater Mumbai.

Pankaj Joshi, principal director, Urban Center, pointed that the report needed to be clearer in terms of the methodology and parameters employed. "Even in 2019, we had stated that the ministry needs to
25   be clear on what are the parameters on the basis of which cities are being ranked and what are the indicators based on which cities can do better? It is also unfair to classify all cities in India as either more than a million or less than a million population. A Delhi cannot be compared to an Indore or a Nanded." […]