

A'bad, Gandhinagar get metro extension, riverfront expansion

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar municipal corporations were in the spotlight in the budget for the financial year 2024-25. The cities witnessed plans for an extended riverfront and a direct metro train to the airport.

The state govt focused on enhancing connectivity by extending the Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar metro route to the international airport and the interiors of GIFT City. The long-pending proposal for a metro extension to the airport finally saw approval in the budget.

To achieve excellence in sports, the government announced the construction of Olympic-class sports infrastructure.

The Sardar Patel sports complex in Ahmedabad is slated for phased development to meet international standards.

Furthermore, the budget outlined the govt's decision to extend the riverfront from Ahmedabad to Gandhinagar. Phases 4 and 5 of the riverfront will be developed from Indira Bridge to Gandhinagar, to-

₹10K CR OUTLAY FOR HOME DEPT; 1,000 TRAFFIC COPS TO BE APPOINTED IN 4 CITIES

The state home department received a budget allocation of Rs 10,378 crore. With rising traffic density in Ahmedabad, Surat, Vadodara, and Rajkot, the state govt has allotted Rs 57 crore for 1,000 posts under SUGAM Yojana for traffic control. According to senior officials, it will nearly double the force in Vadodara and Rajkot while improving police presence in Ahmedabad and Surat. Moreover, Rs 120 crore has been allocated for the VISWAS project on CCTV installation, Rs 115 crore for police housing, Rs 94 crore for quick response teams, Rs 69 crore for police station upgrades, Rs 38 crore for IT equipment, and Rs 25 crore for the Special Action Force (SAF). The state will get 200 outposts upgraded with the posting of a PSI-level officer for Rs 18 crore. Moreover, Rs 15 crore have been allocated to create posts and infrastructure in the State Cybercrime Cell under the Trishul scheme.



talling 38.2km, making it the 'longest riverfront' globally.

To develop an economy related to the space sector, the govt plans to set up a manufacturing hub in Khoraj, Ahmedabad. Additionally, a Special Action Force (SAF) at SRPF Group-2, Ahmedabad, and a cyclotron project for nuclear medicine, along with a proton beam therapy centre at the Gujarat Cancer and Research Institute in Ahmedabad, were included in

the budget. Grants for roads, infrastructure, and medical equipment were also outlined at M and J Institute of Ophthalmology, Ahmedabad, and Spine Institute, Ahmedabad.

The govt has also decided to build a 300-bed district-level hospital near Kamrej in Surat and Bavla in Ahmedabad.

The budget earmarked funds for constructing a new 'Nari Sanrakshan Kendra' building with advanced and modern facilities in Surat.

Vadodara, Rajkot, and Surat saw relatively fewer announcements. It remains to be seen if the govt has made provisions for bridges and underpasses in these cities.

SEVEN NEW MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS: Noting a shift towards urban living, the govt plans to convert seven municipalities — Navsari, Gandhidham, Morbi, Vapi, Anand, Mehsana and Surendranagar-Wadhwan — into municipal corporations. The government aims to accommodate 75% of the population in urban areas by 2047, highlighting urban centres as not just places to live but also hubs for economic development. The conversion of these municipalities into municipal corporations is expected to accelerate the development of these towns, enhancing services and facilities for citizens, according to the budget proposal.

