

On track for Olympics 2036: Metro expansion to connect all sports hubs

Areas Around SG Road, SP Ring Road Also Being Mapped For Connectivity

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Gandhinagar: Gujarat is going all in on its Olympic aspirations. Beyond building world-class sports complexes in and around Ahmedabad, the state is embarking on a massive expansion of its metro rail system. The goal? To bolster urban mobility and create a comprehensive network that links every major sports venue — those already built and those still on the drawing board — paving the way for a successful 2036 bid.

Plans are also under way to extend the city's metro rail services to the neighbouring town of Sanand, a rising semiconductor hub. Additionally, authorities are exploring metro expansion corridors along SG Road and SP Ring Road to accommodate the city's rapidly growing urban sprawl.

A source close to the development said that both

METRO RAIL EXPANSION ON ANVIL Image: AI



- All major sports complexes being planned as part of the 2036 Olympics bid to be connected by metro rail
- Govt has initiated detailed project reports for new metro corridors
- Metro rail to be extended to Godhavi and Sanand to connect fledgling semiconductor industry and the proposed Olympics village
- Cost likely to be Rs 300 crore/km for elevated metro, Rs 600 crore/km for underground facility

the Union and state govts consider a robust public transport network vital for hosting an international event of Olympic scale. "A well-connected metro network will not only enhance public transportation but also ensure quick and efficient access to major sports venues in Ahmedabad and its periphery," said a senior official. "A key focus of this ex-

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pansion is the proposed Olympic Village in Godhavi on the outskirts of Ahmedabad. It is also close to Sanand, an emerging hub for the semiconductor manufacturing industry. The state govt aims to extend the network from Thaltej to Sanand," said a source in the know. Currently, Ahmedabad's metro network spans 40km, linking Vastral to Thaltej and APMC to Sector 1 in

Gandhinagar. However, with the city's rapid expansion along SG Road and SP Ring Road, the demand for metro connectivity is rising significantly.

"To meet this demand, the govt has initiated detailed project reports (DPRs) for these new corridors, expecting a substantial increase in ridership. The expansion strategy follows Delhi's metro development model, ensuring swift and efficient execution," said an official connected to the projects.

Once the DPRs are finalised, the state will seek financial backing from the Union govt, which funds a major portion of metro rail projects. "The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) and Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority (Auda) are closely collaborating for streamlined planning and implementation," a source revealed.

Financial challenges remain a hurdle, with construction costs estimated at Rs 300 crore per km for elevated metro and Rs 600 crore per km for underground metro. "Despite funding constraints, the state govt is fully committed to rapidly expanding Ahmedabad's metro rail network," affirmed a senior official overseeing the project.

Direct metro to Gandhinagar

Ahmedabad: From Feb 16, people travelling by metro rail to Sector 1 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) or Gift City from APMC station won't have to switch trains at Motera. Gujarat Metro Rail Corporation officials said they have received approval from the commissioner of metro rail safety to increase frequency on the route, along with permission for direct connectivity.

Metro rail officials confirmed that passengers no longer need to change trains at Motera Stadium or GNLU when travelling to Gandhinagar Sector 1 and Gift City. Additionally, bus services now operate between GNLU station and Gift City offices at 30-minute intervals, with stops at Pandit Deendayal Energy University (PDEU).

Previously, trains to Motera ran at 80-minute intervals, and travelling to Gift City required commuters to switch trains at GNLU with a waiting time of 5-10 minutes.

Under the new arrangement, trains to Sector 1 or Gift City will operate every 30 minutes during peak hours and hourly during off-peak periods. However, passengers travelling from Vastral or Thaltej Gam will have to change trains at the Old High Court station.

Passengers on the east-west corridor (Thaltej Gam to Vastral Gam) can travel to Gandhinagar on the same ticket. TNN