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Metro to touch down at airport, extend into GIFT City

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: The Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar Metro will soon offer smoother rides across the twin cities, with fresh plans to link the airport and GIFT City. The Gujarat Metro Rail Corporation has finalized detailed project reports (DPRs) and is awaiting green lights from the Union govt. Passengers can expect easier access, although multiple train changes will be needed to reach the airport. New tenders have also been issued for further metro extensions.

The airport extension will connect the north-south corridor at Koteswar, bringing a major boost for travellers.

Officials from Gujarat Metro Rail Corporation (GMRC) said that the DPRs for both the airport link and the internal extension at GIFT City have been approved at the state level and are now awaiting the Centre's nod. The metro extension inside GIFT City will cover around 7km and is expected to cost about Rs 2,300 crore. It will be linked to the current GNLU-GIFT City metro line.

As for the airport route, officials explained that the line will branch off from the Motera-Gandhinagar corridor near Koteswar, offering a fast-track connection to the airport. However, it won't be a seamless ride for all passengers. Those travelling from GIFT City will have to change trains three times, while passengers from Thaltej and Vastral will have to change twice.



Meanwhile, GMRC has floated tenders to prepare a feasibility report for extending the current Vastral-Thaltej line, aiming to add more links and improve metro access across the city. This model is inspired by the Delhi Metro's success in enhancing urban transit.

The officials stated that the extension will mainly focus on catering to the needs of the Olympics. The main extension from Thaltej Gam would move towards SP Ring Road and likely stretch up to Manipur. The plan is to run metro lines parallel to the existing Ahmedabad-Virangam railway track to minimize land acquisition issues — a strategy already adopted for the north-south corridor near Ashram Road.

They also revealed plans for a 2-3 km connector linking the main metro corridors for smoother transfers. Future connectivity may reach areas like Sanand, Bhadaj and Vaishnodevi Circle. Officials said tenders for the feasibility report are already out, and once that study is completed, a final DPR will be drawn up, detailing routes and alignments.

DPRs for Rajkot, Vadodara metro rail sent for approval

Ahmedabad: The Gujarat Metro Rail Corporation (GMRC) Ltd submitted the detailed project report (DPR) for metro rail projects in Vadodara and Rajkot cities to the Union govt for approval. Additionally, they submitted plans for expanding the Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar Metro Rail service within GIFT City and a route connecting Koteswar to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad.

High-ranking officials from the GMRC confirmed that these four projects were approved by the state govt and have been sent to the Union govt for final clearance.

"DPR for metro rail services for the municipal corporations of Vadodara and Rajkot, along with the expansion of the Ahmedabad metro rail, have been sent to the Union govt. The Gujarat govt is expecting the Union govt to bear 50% of the cost of these projects."

According to the official, Vadodara's proposed 40 km metro rail project is estimated at Rs 11,000 crore, while Rajkot's 38 km metro rail is estimated at Rs 10,000 crore. The Vadodara route will link industrial zones, commercial hubs like Alkapuri and Akota, and the airport, with another section joining the old city to the GSFC industrial area. TNN