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## Soon, houses near metro stations

**GMRC to launch pilot project at 2 Surat stations; aims to make metro accessible**

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In a first-of-its-kind initiative in India, the Gujarat Metro Rail Corporation (GMRC) is set to construct houses near select metro stations to encourage greater use of public transport. The pilot project will be launched at Aquarium Metro Station and Model Town Metro Station in Surat.

The concept—widely adopted in the UK and across Europe—aims to integrate housing with metro infrastructure, offering doorstep access to public transit. The idea behind this initiative is to make metro travel more convenient and attractive, especially for Surat's large migrant workforce.

A total of 336 housing units for the economically weaker sections (EWS) will be built at a cost of Rs 108 crore. The work order has been issued, and construction is expected to be completed within 24 months.

Designed with urban functionality in mind, the housing complex will feature separate lifts from ground



**Pilot project to be ready in 2 yrs**

level, retail shops and a landscaped podium garden above the metro platform, individual units with living and dining areas, balconies, attached toilets, kitchen-adjacent utility/wash spaces and storage areas.

"This initiative addresses both housing and mobility needs of Surat's working population," said a senior GMRC official, adding, "With rising road congestion, expanding public transport is essential—not just for convenience, but also to reduce carbon emissions."