

A'BAD GOES FOR GOLD WITH ₹1K CR PUSH

■ ₹500 Crore Dedicated To Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave

■ ₹2,217 Crore Provided For Metro Rail Expansion In Ahmedabad, Surat

■ ₹800 Crore Set Aside For AMC, Auda Under Resilient Cities Partnership

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

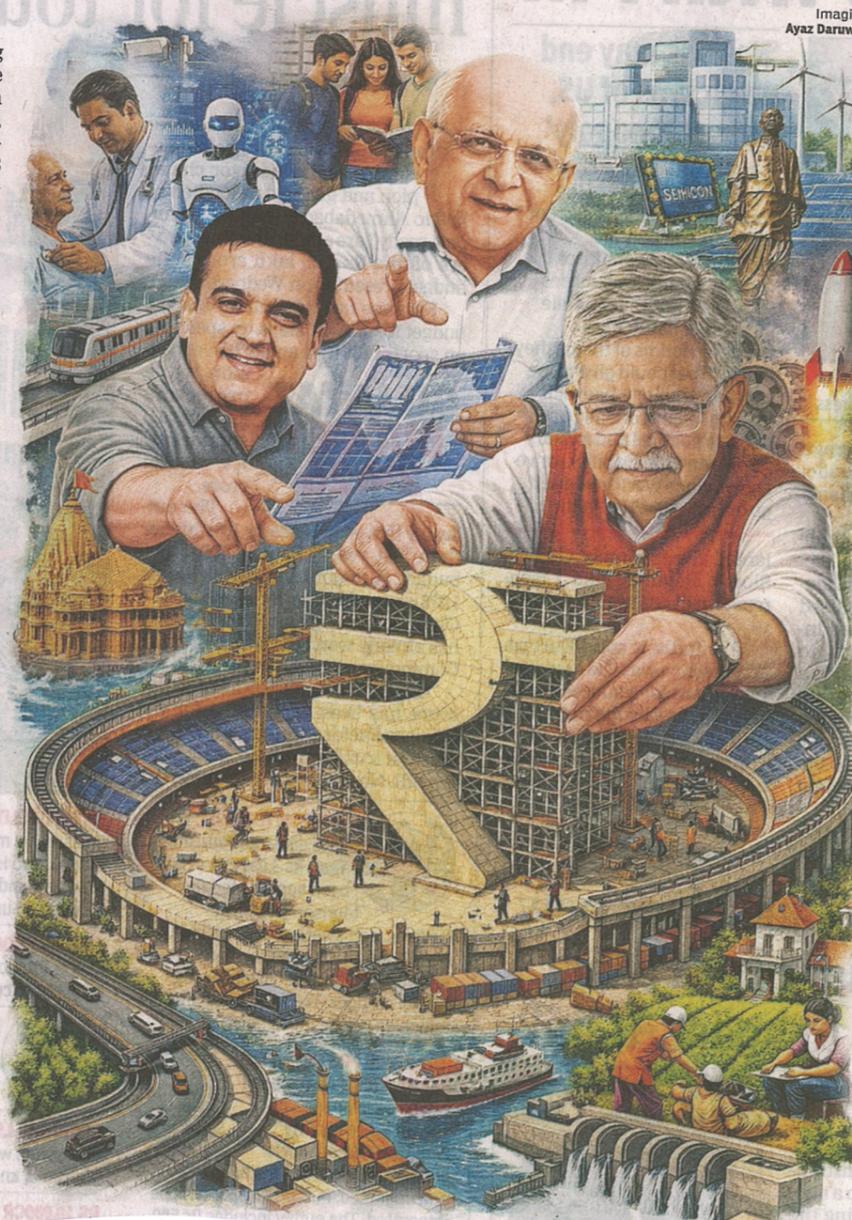
As sporting dream is driving a sweeping urban upgrade. As the host of the 2030 Commonwealth Games and an aspirant for the 2036 Olympics, Ahmedabad is gearing up for a defining decade as the state budget commits Rs 1,278 crore to build international standard sports facilities and upgrade core infrastructure. Metro corridors, drinking water pipelines and control centres are part of the same blueprint. The message is clear: sporting prestige must rest on civic strength.

The 2026-27 budget presented on Wednesday sets out an ambitious plan to make Gujarat's commercial capital Games-ready. The Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave alone will receive Rs 500 crore to anchor the upgrade.

Transport and mobility form the backbone of the plan. The budget provides Rs 177 crore to expand the ring road and initiates the conversion of SG Highway into a 'green urban highway', backed by Rs 100 crore. Metro Rail funding continues at scale: Rs 676.40 crore has been allocated for Phase I operations and Rs 21.12 crore for Phase II. Initial provisions have also been made for two new metro links — Rs 40 crore for Koteswar Road to Sardar Patel Airport and Rs 42.90 crore for Thaltej to Godhavi — aimed at connecting the airport and fringe areas to the broader transit system. Overall, Rs 2,217 crore has been provided in 2026-27 for Gujarat Metro Rail projects to expand the Ahmedabad and Surat Metro systems.

Urban resilience and basic infrastructure also feature prominently. A provision of Rs 800 crore has been made as external funding support for the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation and Auda areas under the Gujarat Resilient Cities Partnership Programme. For long-term drinking water supply, Rs 1,044 crore has been allocated for a bulk pipeline from Dhanki to Navda. Additionally, the Peri-Urban Livability Improvement Project, supported by a Rs 400 crore international loan, will provide infrastructure to Bopal, Sanand, Godhavi and Shela.

Public safety systems are set for expansion. An integrated control and command centre has been allocated Rs 100 crore, while another Rs 100 crore is for an adaptive traffic control system. New police stations are planned in Vastral, Hanspura and Motera, and new divisions will be created. Ahmedabad has also been selected as a pilot city for premium vehicle registration and licence services.



■ ₹610cr for trunk infra to power chip ecosystem in Dholera

Gujarat govt has earmarked major funding for Dholera Special Investment Region (SIR) to position it as a global hub for future industries, with finance minister Kanu Desai announcing the allocations in the budget on Wednesday.

Industry representatives said the provisions could accelerate Dholera's emergence as an industrial centre. Pathik Patwari, chairman of the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Gujarat chapter, said, "There is a provision of Rs 1,100 crore for the Gujarat Semiconductor Policy and also assistance of Rs 150 crore under the Gujarat Electronics Policy. An allocation of Rs 610 crore for developing trunk infra at Dholera SIR will help Dholera become an industrial hub."

The minister said that Phase 1 of the Logistics and Trunk Infrastructure Project is underway at Dholera SIR, covering the Dholera airport, modern roads, water and wastewater treatment facilities, underground cabling for power distribution, and smart ICT infrastructure.

Dholera and Sanand are emerging as semiconductor hubs, while Dholera is also expected to get an aircraft manufacturing facility and attract data centre investments.

For water supply, the budget provides Rs 300 crore to deliver 100MLD pipeline water from Bhaskarpura village lake in Lakhtar taluka of Surendranagar district to Dholera SIR, and Rs 650 crore for a new 100MLD bulk pipeline network to ensure uninterrupted supply. An additional Rs 50 crore has been allotted for infrastructure facilities in the SIR.