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## Affordable homes draw biggies

AHMEDABAD: After [Godrej](#) and Adani made their foray into housing sector, it is now the turn of the Tatas who are coming to Gujarat in a big way. The [Tata Housing Company](#) limited has signed an MoU with the [Gujarat government](#) for constructing affordable houses worth Rs 3,500 crore in Ahmedabad district.

Another highlight of the Vibrant Gujarat summit in the [affordable housing](#) sector was a Chicago-based company, [Hawthorne Development Corporation](#) claiming to partner with Gujarat based realty companies for sharing a Rs 1 lakh crore [affordable housing](#) technology .

Hawthorne claims that it is already involved [in affordable housing](#) project in Chennai being undertaken over 500 acres. Similarly, a Finland based Elimatic company signed an MoU with Dutt design India worth Rs 15,000 crore for knowledge sharing in pre-cast technology . In the pre-cast sector Spiroll services, UK signed an MoU with Apollo Infratech Ltd worth Rs 5,000 crore.

[Bakeri Private Limited](#) signed an MoU worth Rs 1,500 crore for affordable houses in Vejalpur area over a land spread over 1.5 lakh square meters and have sought help with revenue and town planning clearances.

Affordable houses saw the maximum audience at the vibrant summit especially with the government claiming that it intends to construct 50 lakh [affordable homes](#) worth \$ 30 billion over five years. V Suresh, former HUDCO , CMD claimed that in Gujarat this could become a reality only if the government reforms its taxation, stamp duty policies.

"Gujarat has a low FSI which is hurdle for affordable housing. Besides 42 per cent of Gujarat population resides in urban centers which is spread over just 3 per cent of total geographical land."

Revenue, urban development and road and building department minister Anandi Patel said, "I have been allotted the three departments to remove hurdles in urbanization issues, be it matters related to revenue, town planning or engineering. Besides in five years we are committed to 22 lakh affordable houses in cities and towns and 28 lakh houses in villages."

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/affordable-homes-draw-biggies/articleshow/18004557.cms>