



## Affordable housing: Builders pledge Rs 1.34-lakh crore investment

**Avinash Nair** Posted online: Sun Jan 13 2013, 02:39 hrs

*Sankalp Disable Association promises Rs 5,592 crore to build nearly 25,000 houses specially designed for differently-abled persons, which will be provided at a annual rent of Re 1*

A “FREE” residential scheme for the differently-abled at an annual rental of just Re 1 was among the eight major memoranda of understanding (MoUs) worth Rs 1,34,600 crore signed at an event for [affordable housing](#) on the second day of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Investors’ summit (VGGIS) in Gandhinagar.

This Rs 5,592-crore MoU for “free” houses was signed by city-based Sankalp Disable Association (SDA). The SDA has pledged to provide nearly 25,000 houses specially designed for the differently-abled at 10 different locations, including Shiyal in Ahmedabad, Ukai, Surendranagar, Bhuj, Himmatnagar, Surat, Rajkot, Gandhinagar, Vadodara and Palanpur.

The SDA will invest the pledged amount over the next five years and these houses will be provided for lifetime at a annual rent of one rupee.

Tata Housing signed an MoU promising to invest

Rs 3,500 crore in urban [affordable houses](#) in Ahmedabad district.

City-based Bakeri Urban Development Private Ltd signed an agreement worth Rs 1,500 crore for developing 1.5 lakh square metres of land in Ahmedabad (Vejalpur) for an [affordable housing](#) scheme.

The biggest of the MoUs in the sector was signed by Chicago-based high-rise developer Hawthorne Development Corporation, pledging an [investment](#) of Rs 1,00,000 crore. The company plans to bring [in affordable housing](#) technology to build houses that are cost-effective and can withstand natural calamities.

Another Rs 15,000-crore MoU signed by Elematic of Finland and Dutt Design India Pvt Ltd proposes to bring modern pre-cast technology to the state. Similarly, UK-based Spiroll Precast Services Ltd and Apollo [Infratech](#) Pvt Ltd signed an MoU worth

Rs 5,000 crore to provide [technical support](#) to build homes using precast technology, including design, manufacturing, erection and commission of buildings.

City-based MV Omni Projects (India) Ltd signed an MoU promising Rs 3,000 crore for “slum rehabilitation” in the cities of Ahmedabad, Vadodara and Surat. Similarly, Sheetal Infrastructure pledged an investment of Rs 1,000 crore to develop slums and to construct “very reasonable housing dwelling units” within 10 years.

Speaking at the MoU signing meet, experts felt it would require a massive investment of about 30 billion dollars to construct 50 lakh houses in five years. “The Gujarat government’s initiative to build five million houses in a span of five years creates an investment proposal of 30 billion USD,” said V Suresh former CMD of HUDCO.

“Between 2001-2011, Gujarat has added five million census homes. Now the effort is to replicate the same numbers in five years,” he added.

Urban Development Minister Anandi Patel said that the government was planning to create 22 lakh houses in urban centres and 28 lakh units in villages.