

# Property tax scam hits 1k+ Amdavadis

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Ahmedabad: Imagine waking up one morning to find the civic body dropping a hefty property tax bill at your doorstep, demanding payment for something you thought was settled years ago. This is now the reality for many Amdavadis, caught in the middle of a "property tax scam".

The con, affecting all city zones but most severely in the West Zone, has left over 1,000 property owners — who had already paid their dues — receiving bills from the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC), some of which add up to lakhs of rupees. All, because of the scam that lay hidden for nearly five years.

A group of touts or agents that liaised on behalf of citizens with AMC's property tax department five years ago is suspected to be behind the scam, said a senior AMC official.

"They allegedly misused the login credentials of an employee of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation's West Zone. The agents, allegedly, collected cash from property owners, claiming to pay their outstanding dues. They are believed to have pocketed the cash then using the employee login to tamper with the system and falsely show 'zero outstanding dues' for several properties," said a senior civic official in the know.

An investigation by the e-governance department exposed the manipulation. AMC's system recalculated the dues, and the falsely cleared bills have been reclassified as unpaid. As of now, the estimated value of the scam

ranges between Rs 1.5 crore and Rs 2 crore.

One such case emerged in Khadia, where a family owning five small shops was issued fresh bills in 2025-26 showing total dues of Rs 1.59 lakh, despite their old receipts showing "zero" dues. "The scam has impacted dues from as far back as 2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-20. The outstanding amount ranges from Rs 21,000 to Rs 46,000 per property," said a family member, refusing to be named. The family immediately reported the matter to AMC's tax department.

Another AMC official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told TOI, "The manipulation involved using credit and debit cards to create the illusion of payment. Only those who retained card receipts have been refunded. Those who paid in cash and do not have receipts are now being asked to pay again," the official said.

Despite the scale of the scam, AMC has yet to take decisive action. Repeated requests over the past week to officials from the property tax and e-governance departments have yielded no official data on the recovery of outstanding dues. "The actual number of citizens affected by this scam is yet to be ascertained. The issue spans all zones, with the West Zone showing the highest irregularities. No disciplinary action has yet been taken against any involved personnel," added the AMC official.