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# AP Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill 2026 — Amaravati Declared Sole Capital of Andhra Pradesh

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# AP Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill 2026 — Amaravati Declared Sole Capital of Andhra Pradesh

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## WHY IN NEWS

Parliament passed the **Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026**, formally establishing **Amaravati as the sole statutory capital** of Andhra Pradesh. The bill amends **Section 5** of the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014, replacing “a new capital for the successor State of Andhra Pradesh” with “**Amaravati shall be the new capital**”. The bill received broad cross-party support, with **YSRCP opposing** and staging a walkout.



## BACKGROUND — THE CAPITAL SAGA

YEAR	EVENT
2014	AP Reorganisation Act bifurcated AP; Hyderabad became joint capital for 10 years
2015	CM Chandrababu Naidu (TDP) selected Amaravati; foundation laid
2019	CM Jagan Mohan Reddy (YSRCP) proposed <b>three capitals</b> : Amaravati (legislative), Visakhapatnam (executive), Kurnool (judicial)
2020	AP Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All Regions Act passed
2022	AP High Court struck down the three-capital proposal
2024	TDP returns to power under NDA; Chandrababu Naidu becomes CM again
2026	Parliament formally designates Amaravati as sole capital

## KEY PROVISIONS OF THE AMENDMENT

ASPECT	BEFORE AMENDMENT	AFTER AMENDMENT
Section 5 of AP Reorganisation Act	“A new capital” (unnamed)	“Amaravati shall be the new capital”
Legal status	No statutory capital designated	Amaravati has <b>statutory backing</b> from Parliament
State’s discretion	State could choose/change capital	State cannot change capital without Parliament’s amendment



## AMARAVATI — THE CITY

PARAMETER	DETAILS
Location	Krishna and Guntur districts, on the banks of Krishna River
Area	~217 sq. km (proposed master plan)
Current status	Under construction; basic infrastructure in place
Master plan	Designed by Foster + Partners (UK-based architects)
Investment so far	~Rs 15,000 crore (estimated)
Distance from Vijayawada	~30 km

## CONSTITUTIONAL POSITION ON STATE CAPITALS

The Indian Constitution does **not explicitly define state capitals**. Key points:

- **First Schedule** lists states and their territories — not capitals
- State capitals are traditionally determined by **convention and state legislation**
- The AP Reorganisation Act, 2014 (a Central Act under **Article 3**) is what makes Amaravati's designation a parliamentary matter
- **Article 3** gives Parliament the power to form, alter, and reorganise states — including their boundaries and names. Capital designation falls within this scope when done through a reorganisation act

## WHY THE THREE-CAPITAL IDEA FAILED

CM Jagan's 2019 proposal for three capitals faced legal and practical challenges:

- 1 **AP High Court** held that decentralising the capital without Centre's approval violated the Reorganisation Act
- 2 **Land acquisition issues** — 33,000+ acres of agricultural land pooled by farmers under Nara's government would have been abandoned
- 3 **Investor confidence** — shifting the executive capital to Visakhapatnam created uncertainty for businesses that invested in Amaravati



- 4 **Hyderabad's joint capital status** expired in June 2024 — AP urgently needed a functioning capital

## UPSC RELEVANCE

### GS Paper 2 — Polity & Governance

- Article 3 — Parliament's power to reorganise states
- State Reorganisation: history, principles, SRC recommendations
- Centre-State relations in capital designation
- AP Reorganisation Act, 2014 — provisions and amendments

### Prelims Fast Facts:

- AP Reorganisation Act: **2014** (bifurcated AP and created Telangana)
- Hyderabad was joint capital for: **10 years** (2014-2024)
- Amaravati location: **Krishna and Guntur districts**, on Krishna River
- Article 3: Parliament's power to **form/alter/reorganise** states
- YSRCP's three-capital proposal struck down by: **AP High Court**
- 2026 Amendment amends: **Section 5** of the Reorganisation Act

## FACTS CORNER

- **Amaravati** has historical significance — it was the capital of the **Satavahana dynasty** (2nd century BCE) and is home to the famous **Amaravati Stupa**, one of the earliest Buddhist structures in India
- India's state capitals are not mentioned in the **First Schedule** — unlike Pakistan's constitution which explicitly names Islamabad as the federal capital
- **Article 3** requires the President to refer any bill altering state boundaries/names to the affected state legislature for its views — but Parliament is **not bound** by the state's opinion
- The **State Reorganisation Commission (1955)** under Fazal Ali recommended linguistic states — AP was the first state formed on a linguistic basis (**Andhra State** in 1953, from Madras Presidency)
- AP is the only Indian state that has had its capital changed **three times** in its modern history: Kurnool (1953-1956), Hyderabad (1956-2024), and now Amaravati (2026-)



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