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Amaravati Notified as Sole Capital of Andhra Pradesh – AP Reorganisation Amendment Act 2026

8 April 2026

POLITY

GS2

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

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Amaravati Notified as Sole Capital of Andhra Pradesh — AP Reorganisation Amendment Act 2026

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WHY IN NEWS

The **Ministry of Law and Justice** formally notified **Amaravati as the single, exclusive capital of Andhra Pradesh** on April 8, 2026, through the **Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Act, 2026**. The notification amends **Section 5 of the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014**, legally superseding the previous government's controversial **three-capital plan** that had split capital functions across three cities.

BACKGROUND — THE THREE-CAPITAL CONTROVERSY

AP Reorganisation Act, 2014

When Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated to create Telangana in **June 2014**, the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014, designated **Hyderabad as the joint capital** for a maximum of **10 years**, with the residuary AP required to develop a new capital. Section 5 of the Act addressed the capital question.

TDP Government's Amaravati Plan (2014–2019)

The TDP-led Chandrababu Naidu government selected **Amaravati** (Guntur district, on the banks of the Krishna river) as the new capital, with ambitious plans for a **world-class greenfield capital city** modeled on Singapore. Land was pooled from **29 villages** under the Land Pooling Scheme.

YSRCP's Three-Capital Formula (2019–2024)

After winning the 2019 elections, the **YSR Congress Party (YSRCP)** government under **Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy** proposed decentralising capital functions:

CAPITAL FUNCTION	PROPOSED CITY
Legislative Capital	Amaravati
Executive Capital	Visakhapatnam (north AP)
Judicial Capital	Kurnool (Rayalaseema)

The **AP Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All Regions Act, 2020** was passed to implement this formula, but it faced:

- **High Court challenges** (AP HC struck down the three-capital law in March 2022)
- **Farmer protests** (Amaravati land pooling farmers)
- **Supreme Court stays**



TDP-NDA Return (June 2024)

The **NDA coalition** led by **N. Chandrababu Naidu** returned to power on **June 2, 2024**, immediately reviving the single-capital Amaravati plan.

THE AP REORGANISATION (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2026

PARAMETER	DETAIL
Full Name	Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Act, 2026
Section Amended	Section 5 of AP Reorganisation Act, 2014
Ministry	Ministry of Law and Justice
Key Change	Specifies Amaravati as the sole capital of AP
Effective Date Inserted	June 2, 2024 (TDP government's assumption of power)
Effect on Three-Capital Plan	Legally nullifies YSRCP's Decentralisation Act

SIGNIFICANCE OF AMARAVATI

Location

- Situated on the **south bank of the Krishna river**, Guntur district
- Adjacent to the ancient temple town of **Amaravati** (famous for 2nd century BCE Buddhist stupa)
- On the national **Vijayawada–Guntur highway** (NH-16 corridor)

Capital City Area

- The Capital Region Development Authority (**CRDA**) oversees a larger **Capital Region** of ~8,352 sq km
- The **Core Capital Area** (Amaravati city) spans ~217 sq km

Infrastructure Status (2026)

- **Assembly and High Court buildings** partially completed
- **Secretariat** complex under construction
- **High Court of AP** already sitting in Amaravati since 2019



- World-class **flood protection infrastructure** being developed given Krishna river flooding history

UPSC RELEVANCE

GS Paper 2 — Indian Polity & Governance

- **State reorganisation** under the Constitution
- Centre-state relations — Parliament’s power to reorganise states under **Article 3**
- **Judicial review** of state legislature decisions on capital matters
- Federalism debate — can Parliament mandate a state capital?

Key Constitutional Provisions

ARTICLE / PROVISION	RELEVANCE
Article 3	Parliament’s power to form/alter/merge/reorganise states
7th Schedule, Union List 97	Centre’s concurrent power in state reorganisation
AP Reorganisation Act, 2014	The parent Act; Section 5 amended
AP HC judgment (2022)	Three-capital law struck down as unconstitutional

THREE-CAPITAL VS. ONE-CAPITAL: THE DEBATE

Arguments for Single Capital (Amaravati)

- **Administrative efficiency** — governance requires physical concentration
- **Farmer commitment** — 29 villages pooled land trusting Amaravati as capital
- **Momentum** — ₹7,000+ crore already invested in Amaravati infrastructure
- **Investment certainty** — multi-city model deters private investment

Arguments for Decentralisation

- **Regional equity** — Rayalaseema and north Andhra historically neglected
- **Balanced development** — prevents hyper-concentration of activity in one city
- **Pandemic lesson** — dispersed governance reduces systemic risk



FACTS CORNER

ITEM	FACT
Amendment enacted	AP Reorganisation (Amendment) Act, 2026
Section amended	Section 5, AP Reorganisation Act, 2014
Effective date (inserted)	June 2, 2024
Three-capital cities	Amaravati, Visakhapatnam, Kurnool (revoked)
Land pooled for Amaravati	29 villages (Guntur district)
CRDA Capital Region area	~8,352 sq km
Core Capital Area	~217 sq km
State bifurcation	AP split on June 2, 2014 (Hyderabad = joint capital for 10 years)
AP HC on 3 capitals	Struck down YSRCP's Decentralisation Act (March 2022)
Current CM	N. Chandrababu Naidu (TDP)

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