

## Andhra Pradesh's Capital Conundrum

### Why in news?

Andhra Pradesh Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All Regions Bill, 2020, sets to replace earlier plan of building Amaravati as a capital to developing 3 capital cities.

### What is 3 Capital Plan?

- The bill states that the State will have Visakhapatnam, Amaravati and Kurnool as the executive, legislative and judicial capitals of the State respectively.
- The plan is similar to that in South Africa.
- The Sribagh pact, which happened between **Royalaseema and coastal Andhra in 1937**, decided that if high court is in coastal Andhra, capital should be in Royalaseema
- K.C. Sivaramakrishnan (KCS) Committee has also made recommendations along similar lines
- Even Maharashtra has two capitals, **Mumbai & Nagpur**, with the latter being the winter capital of the state.

### What are the benefits of the plan?

- It helps to promote Even development in the state as north-coastal Andhra and Royalaseema districts are the backward compared to the central coastal districts.
- A secretariat in Vizag can help in the development of regions **like Vizianagaram and Srikakulam** which consists of tribal and rural areas and are the most backward regions of the state.
- It helps to promote decentralised governance to spatially de-concentrate executive power, driven by region-specific economic activities.
- Eg: KCS Committee recommends that for Vizag region's suitability, it should have government offices relevant to local economic potential, such as for ports, shipping, fisheries and industry.

### What are the challenges in it?

- Running legislative business with most of the secretariat located 400 km

away can lead to high logistical costs and inefficiencies.

- There is lack of well-developed infrastructural network linking the growth centres.
- Visakhapatnam, in spite of its excellent and natural advantages, is lacking in in infrastructure.
- It might unfold new problems as uncontrolled real estate interests can compromise the environmental interests.
- The recent environmental disasters, including the LG Polymers gas leak also expose the city's vulnerabilities.
- The bill also lacks appropriate details for the distributed development.

**Source: The Hindu**

