

World Bank's Probe on Amaravati

Why in news?

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World Bank panel seeks 6 months to decide whether a probe is required or not in Amaravati plan.

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What is Amaravati?

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- Amaravati, is the proposed capital of Andhra Pradesh, it is envisioned to be a city of world-class standards.
- The planned city is located on the southern banks of the Krishna River in Guntur district.

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• The word "Amaravati" derives its name from the historical Amaravathi Temple town, the ancient capital of the Telugu Rulers of the Satavahana dynasty

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• The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) is the body which runs the project.

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- The Land Pooling scheme was adopted by CRDA which is consider to be the largest and the most successful of its kind in India. \n

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What is the financing mechanism for this project?

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- The AP government is expecting \$300-million loan from the World Bank for Amaravati Sustainable Capital City Development.
- The total financing for the projectis \$715 million, of which the World Bank lending is proposed to be \$300 million. \n
- Which is through an IBRD(International Bank for Reconstruction and Development)investment project financing loan.
- The State government has so far pooled over 33,000 acres from farmers for construction of thenew capital under different categories of agreements. \n
- The Bank's financing is planned to be used within the 217 sq km area designated for the development of Amaravati Capital City. \n

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What is the probe about?

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 \bullet Farmers of the region complained to the World Bank in September this year,who alleged that they were forced to part with their land. \n

• They also claimed harmfrom a land pooling scheme (LPS) being implemented to assemble the land required for the city, aswell as from other project activities.

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- Due to this complaints World Bank inspection panel, had recommended a probe into the charges of forcible land pooling against the Andhra Pradesh government. \n
- It recommended an investigation into the alleged issues of harm and related potential noncompliance with bank policies, especially relating to involuntary resettlement.

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- Now it has sought six months' time to decide if a probe is required or not. \n
- The decision deferredbased on the discussion with panel and the proposed actions.

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Source: Business Line, Business standard



