

PRESS RELEASE

State of Andhra Pradesh in India and UN-Habitat commit to global urban innovation partnership

Andhra Pradesh, India, 15 July 2026 — The government of Andhra Pradesh, India, and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) launched a landmark partnership to accelerate inclusive, resilient and sustainable urbanization through innovation, applied research, digital transformation and strategic urban development.

Formalized through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the partnership aims to position Andhra Pradesh as an international centre of excellence for urban innovation while supporting the state's ambition to build more inclusive, resilient and future-ready cities and communities. It will also generate practical urban solutions that can be adapted and scaled across India and internationally. Andhra Pradesh is one of the leading states in India in terms of smart digital governance and progressive urban reforms. The state is developing Amaravati as a “people’s capital” and one of the world’s most liveable greenfield cities, which is built on a pioneering land pooling scheme and includes large-scale investment in trunk infrastructure, green–blue networks and smart systems.

The partnership was launched during an online ceremony led by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, N. Chandrababu Naidu, and the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Anacláudia Rossbach.

The two leaders emphasized that, “The partnership reflects a shared commitment to advancing affordable housing, resilient infrastructure, digital governance, economic growth and long-term rural-urban integration. It is designed to develop, test and scale urban development models that are both locally grounded and globally relevant.” It also contributes to India's Viksit Bharat@2047 vision and Andhra Pradesh's Swarna Andhra@2047 strategy.

The partnership is built around four mutually reinforcing pillars that together provide an integrated framework for urban transformation across the state:

- **Roadmap to Zero Poverty** – advancing affordable housing, transforming informal settlements and slums, expanding access to basic services and strengthening livelihood opportunities for urban poor communities.
- **Strategic Urban Planning for Regional Growth of Economy (SURGE-AP)** – strengthening economic productivity and inclusive growth through strategic planning of rural-urban clusters connected by logistics infrastructure.
- **Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable Ecosystems (RISE-AP)** – strengthening resilience through climate-proof infrastructure, sustainable urban systems and disaster preparedness.

- **Urban Partnership for Liveability, Inclusion and Future-Ready Urban Transformation (UPLIFT-AP)** – advancing liveable cities through digital transformation, innovation and SDG-responsive urban development.

The partnership plans the establishment of a Centre of Excellence in Amaravati, envisioned as an international hub for urban knowledge, innovation and policy dialogue. The Centre will bring together governments, academia, research institutions and international partners to support applied research, innovation, peer learning and data-driven urban governance. It will also facilitate communities of practice and strengthen international cooperation on scalable urban solutions.

Beyond supporting sustainable urbanization in the state, the partnership seeks to develop innovative urban policies, planning approaches and investment models that can be replicated and adapted across India and internationally.

By bringing together political leadership, technical expertise, innovation and strategic partnerships, the collaboration aims not only to improve the lives of millions of people in Andhra Pradesh but also to contribute to global efforts to build more inclusive, resilient and sustainable cities.

About UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat is the United Nations entity responsible for sustainable urbanization. It has programmes in over 90 countries supporting policymakers and communities to create socially and environmentally sustainable cities and towns. UN-Habitat promotes transformative change in cities through knowledge, policy advice, technical assistance, and collaborative action. To know more, visit www.unhabitat.org or follow us on social media @UNHABITAT.

About the Government of Andhra Pradesh

The government of Andhra Pradesh is pursuing a strong state-level urban agenda, anchored in the Viksit Bharat@2047 national vision and the state's own Swarna Andhra@2047 framework, with a focus on inclusive and sustainable urban development. The state's vision is being advanced through the development of Amaravati city as a “people's capital” and one of the world's most liveable greenfield cities, as well as a strong investment and institutional architecture built around long-term planning, land management and digital governance.

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