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The Deccan

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# A.P. Cabinet nod for three-capital plan

## Amaravati, Visakhapatnam, Kurnool to be legislative, executive, judicial capitals; move sparks protests

V. RAGHAVENDRA  
RAJULAPUDI SRINIVAS  
VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet cleared the decks for the development of Amaravati, Visakhapatnam and Kurnool as the legislative, executive and judicial capital cities of State respectively at its meeting ahead of the three-day special Assembly session that began on Monday.

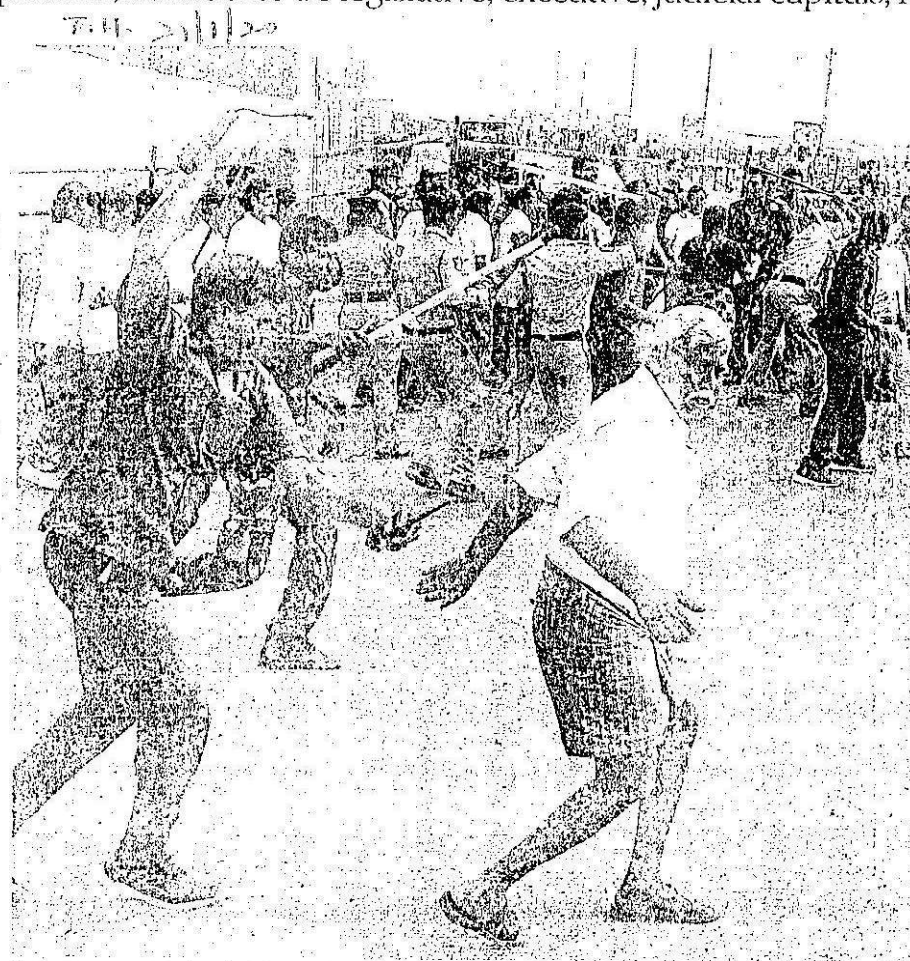
The AP Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All Regions Bill, 2020, also provides for dividing the State into various zones and establishing zonal planning and development boards.

Moving the Bill in the Assembly, Finance and Legislative Affairs Minister Buggana Rajendranath said the government decided to enact a new legislation for decentralisation and inclusive development of all regions to ensure "balanced and inclusive growth" of AP.

Other Cabinet decisions included annuity payment to farmers who had given their lands for 15 years as recommended by the high powered committee.

The decision set off protests by villagers in the Amaravati region.

Hundreds of villagers



Farmers' angst: Police lathi charging farmers who arrived for the 'Chalo Assembly' protest against the three-capital proposal, at Velagapudi in Guntur district on Monday.

tried to lay siege to the Assembly protesting against three-capital proposal. The

police took several persons into custody and shifted them to different places.

Tension prevailed in Mandadam, Thullur and other capital villages when mem-

bers of Amaravati Parirakshana Samithi (APS) and activists of various political parties marched towards the Assembly demanding that the government retain the entire capital in Amaravati.

### Police disperse crowds

The police dispersed the protesters who attempted to organise 'Chalo Assembly' and 'Jail Bharo' rallies. Police were deployed in large numbers on all the roads leading to the Assembly to prevent any untoward incident.

Except Secretariat and the High Court officials and staff, traffic was restricted on Prakasam Barrage. The officers and staff were requested to carry and display the ID cards, said Vijayawada Police Commissioner Ch. Dwaraka Tirumala Rao.

Earlier, the police from the Krishna, Guntur and other districts served notices on the leaders of various political parties and detained them to prevent 'Chalo Assembly' rallies and protests. Members of the APS and leaders of political parties had called for 'Chalo Assembly' and other protests during Assembly session.