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Title: Need to include Amaravathi city in Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh in Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana.

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): With a view to revitalize the heritage cities and bring together urban planning, economic growth, heritage conservation, beautification in an inclusive and integrated manner with focus on cleanliness, livelihoods, skills, safety, security, accessibility and faster service delivery so as to make them economic growth engines, Government of India has a scheme called Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY). Some cities have been selected under the scheme with an outlay of Rs. 500 crore.

Amaravathi, a historical town in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh where a Buddhist Stupa and a school of art named after the Buddha are located and also a UNESCO declared Heritage City has rightly been chosen by Government of India under HRIDAY. Amaravathi is one of the 12 cities identified under HRIDAY. The town is also popular among tourists, as the Amaralingeswara Temple is located here. In 2006, it hosted the 30 Kalachakra, which was attended by His Holiness Dalai Lama.

Recently, Urban Development Ministry has issued guidelines and list of cities to be taken up under HRIDAY. Surprisingly, Amaravathi which was included in the first list, is left out in the final list released by the Ministry. Amaravathi is a very important place for Buddhism since 2nd Century BC and the presence of Amareshwara temple of Lord Siva, which is one of the famous Pancharamas, gives a blend of Buddhism and Hinduism.

In view of the historical importance and to protect the heritage of Amaravathi, I request the Government of India to include Amaravathi in the list of Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana.