

ANDHRA PRADESH FARMERS VISIT SINGAPORE TO LEARN ABOUT URBAN PLANNING

1. Thirty-four farmers from Andhra Pradesh, India are in Singapore as part of a collaboration between Singapore and the State of Andhra Pradesh to develop the new capital of Andhra Pradesh, Amaravati. This is the second in a series of four visits for 123 farmers from Andhra Pradesh. The visits are being held between October 2017 and February 2018.

2. Singapore and the State of Andhra Pradesh signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in May 2017 to collaborate on three key areas. First, to provide support for the work of the master-developer of Amaravati. Second, to promote economic development through the identification of commercial opportunities for Singapore companies in Amaravati and Andhra Pradesh. Third, to share institutional expertise in areas such as urban governance and education.

3. As a follow-up to the MoU, the Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP) has initiated visits for the farmers of Andhra Pradesh who contributed land for Amaravati's development, to Singapore. The visits will allow the farmers to view how residential and commercial property is developed here and give them greater insight into how Singapore integrates its services in areas such as transport, recreation, markets, clinics and other essential services.

4. "The visits by Andhra Pradesh farmers to Singapore affirms the very good progress of our collaboration to date. The farmers will be able to see how we integrate our residential, commercial and community spaces. They will also gain a better appreciation of how, despite rapid urbanisation, we have managed to preserve heritage buildings, green spaces and waterways and how these have enhanced our overall living environment," said Mr Eric Tan, Director, Amaravati Partnership Office, Ministry of Trade & Industry.

5. Some of the areas that the farmers will be visiting include parks, HDB estates, HDB hubs, heartland shopping malls and cultural streets. The farmers will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Trade and Industry and Centre for Liveable Cities, Ministry of National Development.

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