

AS INTRODUCED IN THE RAJYA SABHA
ON THE 2ND FEBRUARY, 2018

Bill No. XXVIII of 2017

THE HERITAGE CITIES AND SITES (CONSERVATION AND
DEVELOPMENT) BILL, 2017

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BILL

to provide for the conservation and development of heritage cities and sites by way of retaining their historical identification and promoting international and domestic tourism and publishing their historical importance through booklets, pamphlets and such other material and for declaring heritage cities as smart cities for overall development and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Sixty-eighth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Heritage Cities and Sites (Conservation and Development) Act, 2017.

5 (2) It extends to the whole of India.

(3) It shall come into force with immediate effect.

Short title,
extent and
commencement.

Definitions.	2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—	
	(a) "appropriate Government" means in the case of a State the Government of that State and in other cases the Central Government;	
	(b) "Fund" means the National Heritage Cities and Sites Development Fund established under section 4;	5
	(c) "heritage City or heritage site" means a city or site, as the case may be, having historical importance which has been declared as such either by United Nations Organisation or any other international organization or as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare to be heritage;	
	(d) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act.	10
Central Government to declare new heritage cities and sites.	3. (1) The Central Government shall, after inviting suggestions from the Governments of the States and Administrations of the Union Territories, by notification in the Official Gazette declare new heritage cities and sites in the country.	
	(2) Every city declared as heritage city under sub-section (1) shall also be declared as a smart city under the policy of the Central Government.	15
Constitution of National Heritage Cities and Sites Development Fund.	4. (1) The Central Government shall, within a period of six months from the date of commencement of this Act, constitute a Fund to be known as the National Heritage Cities and sites Development Fund with initial corpus of rupees fifty thousand crore to be provided by the Central Government.	
	(2) The Fund shall be utilised in such manner as may be prescribed for,—	20
	(a) development of heritage cities and sites;	
	(b) creating infrastructure such as hospitality establishments and services, public utilities, water facility, and such other facilities as the appropriate Government may deem necessary for the promotion and development of tourism including publicity through booklets, pamphlets, print and electronic media and through the Indian Embassies and High Commissions abroad to attract foreign and domestic tourists in large numbers to such heritage cities and sites; and	25
	(c) providing necessary transport facilities including air services, rail connectivity, metro rail projects, public transport system, and such other means to reach and see the heritage cities and sites.	30
Heritage cities to be developed as smart cities.	5. Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law or policy of the Central Government for the time being in force every heritage city covered under this Act shall be developed as Smart City by the Central Government.	
Central Government to provide requisite funds.	6. The Central Government shall, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, provide requisite funds from time to time, for carrying out the purposes of this Act.	35
Act to supplement other laws.	7. The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of any other law for the time being in force dealing with the subject matter of this Act.	
Power to make rules.	8. The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.	40

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Our Nation, one of the oldest civilizations, is an ancient country with rich cultural traditions in which many cities and sites were tastefully created and developed by the then rulers which today have great heritage value. One such heritage city is Aurangabad in the State of Maharashtra which is the gateway to world heritage site of Ajanta and Ellora caves. This ancient city named after Moghul emperor Aurangzeb has witnessed the proud history of Moghul dynasty. Apart from Ajanta and Ellora caves this city is famous for duplicate Taj Mahal known as *Biwi ka Makbara*, Grihaneshwar temple, Daulatabad fort, Salim Ali Lake and bird sanctuary and 52 gates where every gate has its own history and named after someone important in history. Being a Moghul era city there are many Dargahs and Mosques in this ancient city.

There are many other historical cities and sites of heritage value. Many of them have been declared as historical sites and remains under an Act of Parliament. Some sites have also been declared as world heritage sites by UNESCO. But, unfortunately, most of them are in dilapidated condition, completely neglected and are in need of refurbishment.

In fact these heritage cities and sites having historical value can be converted into hubs of tourism and in turn will create employment opportunities and generate revenue for the exchequer apart from preserving our history.

Hence this Bill.

RAJKUMAR DHOOT

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 4 of the Bill provides for the constitution of National Heritage Cities and Sites Development Fund with an initial corpus of rupees fifty thousand crore to be provided by the Central Government. Clause 6 makes it obligatory for the Central Government to provide requisite funds for carrying out the purposes of the Bill. The Bill, if enacted will involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. Apart from initial corpus of rupees fifty thousand crore it is estimated that a sum of rupees sixty thousand crore may involve as recurring expenditure per annum. Non recurring expenditure to the tune of rupees ten thousand crore may also involve.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 8 empowers the Central Government to make rules for carrying out the purposes of the Bill. The rules will relate to matters of details only. The delegation of Legislative power is of normal character.

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(Shri Rajkumar Dhoot, M.P.)