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Venkaiah Naidu to inaugurate smart city project on September 9

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RANCHI: Chief minister Raghubar Das on Tuesday invited the newly elected Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu to lay the foundation of the Ranchi smart city project next month. Das, who was in New Delhi since Monday, met Naidu and invited him for the stone-laying ceremony in Ranchi's Dhurwa area.

Das posted a photograph of the meeting on his Twitter account and wrote, "Met the Vice-President in New Delhi and sought his guidance on several matters." In a separate tweet, Das said, "Naiduji will inaugurate the smart city project in Ranchi on September 9. He has accepted my invitation."

Ranchi was picked with 97 other cities for the Centre's ambitious smart city project. The new city will be built over a 653 acre area in Dhurwa area on land that has been handed over by the Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC). Das was initially scheduled to lay the foundation on August 12.

Das also posted his photograph with President Ramnath Kovind, whom he met at the Rashtrapati Bhavan earlier in the day. He also met BJP's national president Amit Shah in the evening and discussed his planned Ranchi visit on September 15 to ramp-up preparations for 2019 Lok Sabha and assembly elections.

Former chief minister Arjun Munda and current state cabinet minister Saryu Roy also met Naidu in what they said was a

courtesy call.