



**Visit of Hon'ble Minister for Urban Development to Barcelona to attend  
the Smart City Expo World Congress 2014**

The Urban Development Minister, Mr. M. V. Naidu visited Barcelona, Spain from 17-19 November, 2014 to participate in the Smart City Expo World Congress. While speaking at the inaugural session of the event on 18<sup>th</sup> November, the Minister highlighted India's plans to develop 100 smart cities and renewal of 500 smaller cities. He emphasized that as a result of political stability emerging from the last general elections, India has embarked on a new generation of economic reforms. With the consequent change in the investment climate, economic growth figures are looking up, inflation is down and industrial growth has resumed an upward trend. He also pointed out that there is lot to learn from Barcelona and that a lot can be picked up from Barcelona and adapted to conditions in India, in building up urban India. He expressed his hope of getting into strong partnership in doing this as India needs expertise and technology that Spanish companies excel in. Those sharing the dais with the Minister were Mr. Antoni Vives, Deputy Mayor, Barcelona City Council; Mr. Anibal Gaviria, Mayor, City of Medellin, Colombia; Mr. Jerry MacArthur Hultin, Senior Presidential Fellow and President Emeritus, Polytechnic Institute of NYU, New York and Mr. Mike Lake, President & CEO, Leading Cities, Boston, USA.

The Urban Development Minister also visited the Barcelona Sants railway station where authorities from Renfe (state-owned company operating freight and passenger trains) presented details and information on Spanish high speed rail system and commuters' services. Thereafter the Minister met with the officials of the Barcelona Chamber of Commerce at their corporate headquarters. On 19<sup>th</sup> November the Minister met with the Mayor of the City of Barcelona and talked about bilateral cooperation in the field of smart city technologies.

***Please visit 'Photo Gallery' for photographs of the visit.***