



PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
(Research Unit)
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India



Central Vista Project

(Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs)

“Modernization is the main goal in this ‘Amrit Kaal’ in our behaviour, means, resources and infrastructure.”¹

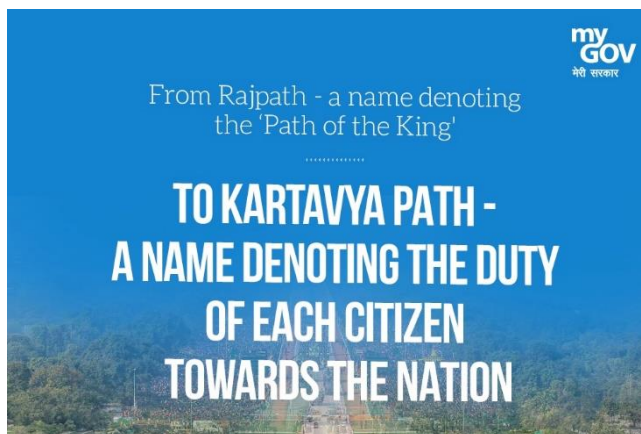
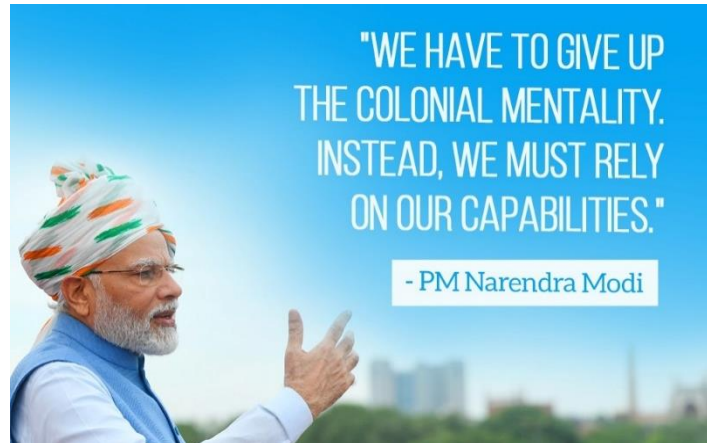
Prime Minister Narendra Modi

November 22, 2022

INTRODUCTION

The Central Vista complex is the centre of administration for the nation and houses all facilities needed for efficient functioning of the Government of India. It is also of significance as a major tourist attraction, besides being the site for the majority of India’s national festivals and key ceremonial events.

Inaugurated in 1931, the Central Vista included the Rashtrapati Bhavan, North and South Blocks, the Parliament House, the Record Office (later named as The National Archives) along with the India Gate monument and the civic gardens on either side of the Rajpath.



The Central Vista Avenue comprises of Kartavya Path and India Gate lawns. **Rajpath has been renamed as Kartavya Path** which symbolizes a shift from an icon of power (Rajpath) to being an example of public ownership and empowerment (Kartavya Path).

Post-independence, the Central Secretariat buildings such as Udyog Bhawan, Nirman Bhawan, Shastri Bhawan, Rail Bhawan

¹ <https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1857903>

and Krishi Bhawan were constructed during 1956 - 1968 to cater to the increased demand for office spaces, required for the Central Government Ministries.

EVOLUTION OF THE CENTRAL VISTA

The Delhi Town Planning Committee, set up in 1912, prepared a layout, which divided the new capital into three main categories. The first category focused on the buildings that the Government would provide before the new city became the seat of the government, the second focused on the buildings that the Government could add later on to the new city and the third included the buildings that were to be constructed by private agencies.

The Government of British India appointed Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker as the architects for designing the imperial buildings, in 1913. The original set of Lutyens-Baker buildings were designed and constructed over two decades, from 1911 to 1931.

NEED FOR THE CENTRAL VISTA DEVELOPMENT/REDEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN

The Central Vista development/redevelopment project aims to strengthen governance infrastructure by building new facilities for India's Parliament, an efficient and sustainable Central Secretariat to house all the ministries of the Government of India. The objectives of the Central Vista development/redevelopment project are:



1. RESTORING THE ORIGINAL SYMMETRY AND LAYOUT OF THE CENTRAL VISTA

The Central Vista was originally designed with a strong underpinning geometry, splendid symmetry and a carefully choreographed processional route. The Master Plan aims **to restore the original symmetry and order**, while respecting the Heritage of the building and spaces.

2. STRENGTHENING THE FUNCTIONING OF LEGISLATURE

The Master Plan proposes **the first purpose-designed Parliament for independent India, equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure** to meet all needs of an expanded Parliament. After the present building is retrofitted and refurbished, the two will be used in conjunction. In addition, a separate building to house the offices for Members of Parliament is also planned.

3. IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY AND EFFICIENCY OF ADMINISTRATION

The planned Common Central Secretariat (CCS) will include 10 office buildings and a Central Conference Centre. **All the 51 Ministries are envisioned to be located in 10 CCS buildings** to improve coordination, collaboration and administrative synergies. The present buildings of the Central Vista shall be replaced with modern office buildings with capacity to hold about 54,000 personnel to meet the present and future needs of the Ministries/ Departments.

4. CONSERVATION AND REJUVENATION OF CULTURAL AND HERITAGE FACILITIES

The North and South Blocks will be refurbished to house the National Museum. The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) will continue its important cultural agenda, at a new location opposite Hyderabad House. A purpose-designed facility is also envisioned beside the historic building of the National Archives of India (NAI) for creating state-of-the-art facilities.



5. PROVIDING ADEQUATE AND SECURE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR EXECUTIVE OFFICES

A modern, secure and appropriately-equipped **Executive Enclave** is planned to house executive offices and facilities for the Prime Minister's Office, the Cabinet Secretariat and the National Security Council Secretariat.

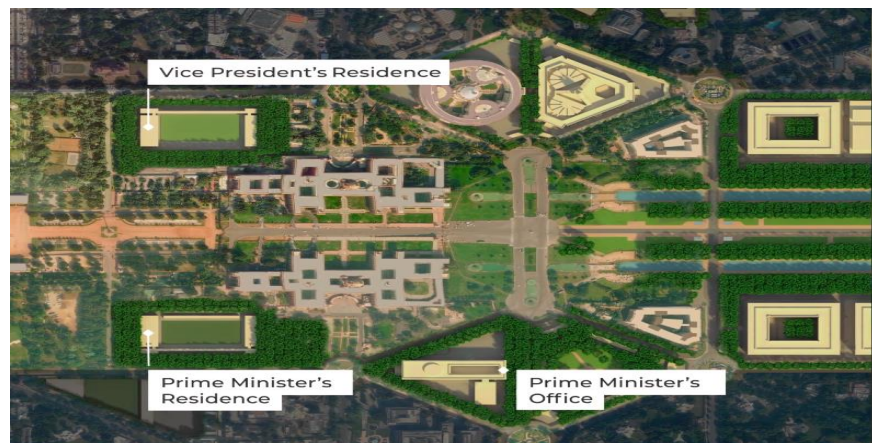
6. ENSURING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, EXPANDING PUBLIC SPACE AND EXTENDING THE CENTRAL VISTA AXIS

The overall objective of works planned on the Central Vista is to **ensure environmental sustainability, expand and improve public space**, and to extend its axis. The New India Garden is being planned near the River Yamuna. A publicly-accessible National Biodiversity Arboretum is also planned to the west of the President's estate, to **showcase endangered plants of India** in high-tech greenhouses set amidst indigenous forestation.



7. PROVIDING ADEQUATE AND SECURE FACILITIES FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER

Modern, adequate and secure residential facilities for the Vice President and the Prime Minister are planned to the north of North Block and south of South Block respectively. These new residential facilities will be highly functional and equipped with all necessary amenities. Locating offices and residences of all dignitaries in a single location will **reduce redundancies of infrastructure and improve city traffic management.**



8. PROMOTING TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

The Central Vista Development/Redevelopment project has been envisaged by integrating the principles of **transit-oriented development**. All buildings of the Central Secretariat will be connected to each other and to Delhi's metro network via a secure underground people mover and with the city's bus network via a grade shuttle. As a result of uptake of shared transit facilities, **overall emission and air pollution level from personal vehicles is expected to reduce**, resulting in the improvement in overall air quality of the capital city.

BENEFITS OF STRENGTHENING AND REFURBISHING THE CENTRAL VISTA

GOVERNANCE BENEFITS

The objective of the Central Vista Development/Redevelopment Master Plan is to **improve the productivity and efficiency of administration** by providing it with highly functional and purpose-designed office infrastructure. Some of the emergent governance benefits shall be as follows:

- Combining all 51 Central Government Ministries in 10 Common Central Secretariat buildings will allow for **easy movement of personnel, documents and goods**, thereby increasing administrative efficiency.
- It will create modern workspaces with latest technology for **better productivity and efficient utilization of human resources**. The infrastructure and facilities will be built at par with global standards.
- The Prime Minister's Office, Residence and Vice President Residence are proposed to be built near the South Block and North Block respectively, in proximity to the Parliament and Common Central Secretariat, which would help in **addressing security and logistic arrangements in a comprehensive manner**, without interfering with the regular movement of traffic.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Environmental sustainability is at the core of the Central Vista project, with a comprehensive plan to use centralised systems and infrastructure, promote the use of public transport and have upgradeable technology, systems and services.

The projects will result in **overall increase in green cover. No trees will be cut in any projects in Central Vista.** Strict measures are also being undertaken simultaneously to minimise environmental effects of the Central Vista project during the construction phase. **Steps are being taken to minimise on-site air emissions, noise, wastewater discharge, soil erosion as well as construction waste.**

All construction and demolition waste received from dismantling of existing buildings shall be processed in construction and demolition (C&D) waste treatment plant and recycled for use in construction.



ARCHITECTURAL CENTRALITY

None of the listed Heritage Buildings in Central Vista will be demolished. While these heritage buildings retain their architectural majesty, they are under severe stress and in need of comprehensive upgradation. Therefore, the **heritage buildings that fall under the scope of the Central Vista development/redevelopment project will be appropriately retrofitted, as per Heritage Conservation standards**, and refurbished for their future use. All the works planned on Central Vista are designed to be mindful of the Vista's original layout, its geometries and its architectural character. All the paintings, sculptures, manuscripts, collections and other significant heritage and cultural artefacts that are presently housed at the National Museum, National Archives of India and Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) are carefully preserved.

CENTRAL VISTA AVENUE

The Central Vista Avenue comprises **Rajpath and India Gate lawns.** The Central Vista Avenue is considered to be one of the most important roads in Delhi, where the annual Republic Day parade takes place on 26 January.

Post-Independence, the Central Vista Avenue streets were also renamed: **King's Way became Rajpath** and **Queen's Way became Janpath**. The Viceroy's House became the Rashtrapati Bhavan and the All-India War Memorial became the India Gate.



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CENTRAL VISTA AVENUE REFURBISHMENT PROJECT: A WORLD CLASS AVENUE, WITH MODERN AMENITIES

The original stretch of the Central Vista Avenue has undergone multiple changes over the course of time. Despite the changes, the Avenue continues to retain its basic character and serves as a setting for national and public events, a precious civic garden for the city and an important tourist attraction. Thus, redevelopment of Central Vista Avenue emerged as a priority area for the Central Vista Master Plan.



Before

After

The objectives of the Central Vista Avenue refurbishment proposal are to:

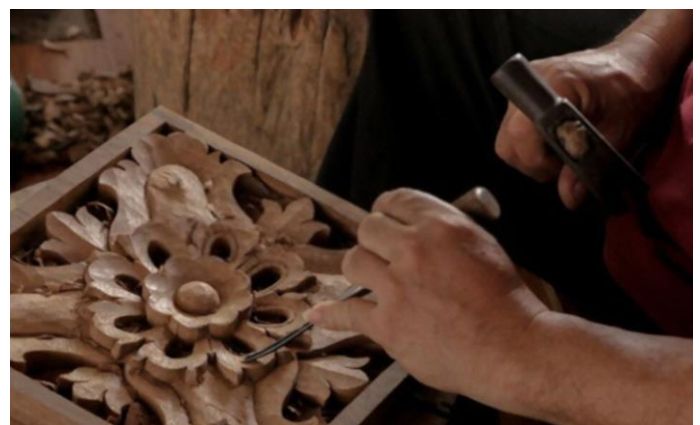
- Refurbish, strengthen and restore its landscape
- Provide amenities that make it comfortable for civic users and tourists to use
- Make it more pedestrian friendly and easier for traffic to negotiate through
- Provide adequate space and facilities for vendors
- Ensure that arrangements for national events cause minimal disruption
- Ensure integrity and continuity of the Avenue's architectural character.

The Central Vista Avenue Refurbishment Project will **modernise the avenue while also restoring elements with heritage value.**

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY FOR THE CENTRAL VISTA PROJECT

#1 SANDSTONE AND GRANITE STONE FROM RAJASTHAN

Sand stone from Sarmathura in Dholpur district of Rajasthan; Granite stone from Lakha village in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan are being used extensively in the Central Vista Project to develop both the exterior as well as interior layer of various structures.



#2 AUTHENTIC WOODEN CRAFTWORK FROM MAHARASHTRA

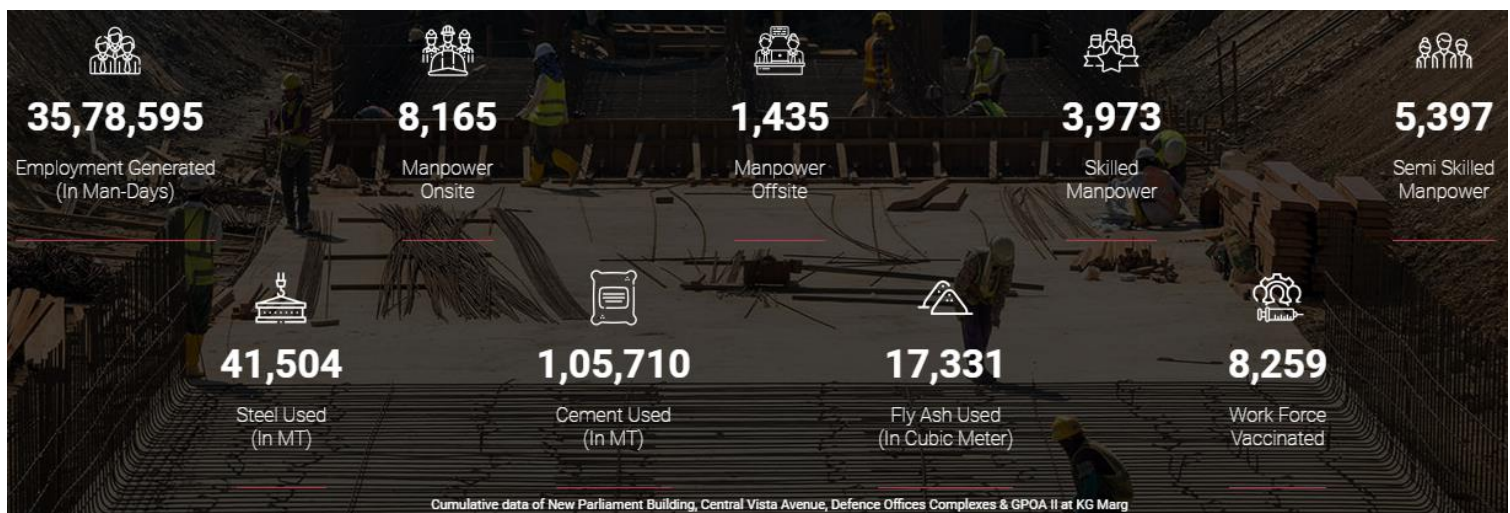
The New Parliament Building in Central Vista will have extensive usage of wooden structures for creation of interior as well as exterior decor, rooted in traditional motifs and elements. The **wood is being procured from Nagpur and the wooden architecture design is being led by artisans & craftsmen from Mumbai, Maharashtra**, promoting authentic wooden craftwork from the State.

#3 HAND-KNOTTED CARPETS FROM UTTAR PRADESH

The New Parliament Building will have **hand-knotted carpets from Bhadohi, Uttar Pradesh popular for its beautiful hand-knotted carpets, earning it the name of ‘Carpet City’**. Renowned for the “knot-by-knot” technique, the beauty of the design comes from the way the knots are made by craftsmen in an intricate manner, using fingers.



PROGRESS OF THE CENTRAL VISTA PROJECT



(data as on November 22, 2022)

UNHEARD STORIES OF CENTRAL VISTA

- 100% of the workforce working on the Central Vista have been insured
- AQI is comparatively better from adjoining monitoring station by about 8-10%
- 10 saplings planted for every tree relocated
- 8259 labourers working on Central Vista have been vaccinated till date, and 100% vaccination is being targeted.

In this Amrit Kaal, the new Central Vista will be **the architectural icon** every proud Indian will turn towards for inspiration and a feeling of belonging. India is a proud nation with a vibrant democracy. The vision for the new Central Vista gives a symbolic expression to this pride that resides in every Indian's heart.

References:

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