

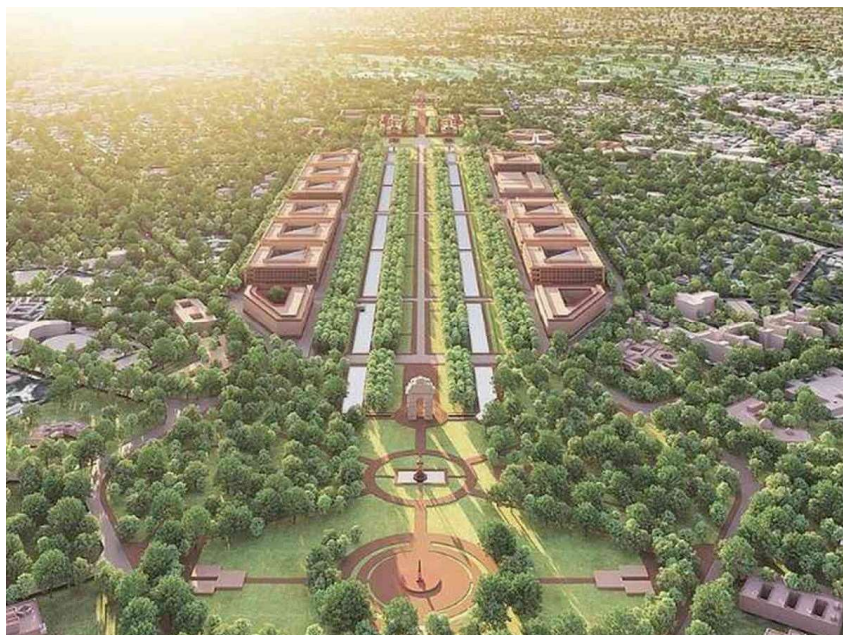
SUMATI FUSION

VIRTUL LEARNING PORTAL



Central Vista Project

The Central Vista Project is a major redevelopment initiative undertaken by the Government of India to transform the central administrative area of New Delhi, notably around Raisina Hill and Rajpath (now Kartavya Path). The project aims to modernize and consolidate the government's core institutions, construct new buildings, and create a more efficient administrative infrastructure.



INR 20,000 CRORES

A STATE BUDGET TO **FIGHT CORONA** VS THE CENTRAL BUDGET FOR **NEEDLESS CONSTRUCTION**


- 2 MONTHS WELFARE PENSION
- EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE
- FREE FOOD GRAINS
- LOANS FOR POOR and WOMEN
- TAX RELIEF FOR STRESSED BUSINESSES
- PUBLIC HEALTHCARE SUPPORT
- SUBSIDIZED MEALS

Questionable Priorities

INR 20,000 CRORES

MEDICAL FACILITIES VS **NEEDLESS CONSTRUCTION**



20,000 CRS. = 15 NEW AIIMS

From 2009 to 2019, INR 20,754 CRORE allocated for building 15 new AIIMS, to be completed between 2020 and 2023.*

AIIMS Location	Beds	Cost (Cr.)
AIIMS, Mangalagiri	960	1620
AIIMS, Gorakhpur	750	1749
AIIMS, Manethi	750	1299
AIIMS, Bhalinda	750	0925

*https://www.bhaskarbusinessline.com/news/5100-cr-spent-but-hardly-progress-on-most-new-aiims/articles/30484670.html

- OVER 03 CRORE SQ. FT. OF BUILT-UP AREA
- DEGRADATION OF HERITAGE
- LOSS OF NATIONAL ICONIC OPEN SPACES
- MASSIVE TRAFFIC SNARLS FOR THE CITY
- POTABLE WATER LOSS FOR 23 LAKH PEOPLE
- DRASTIC RISE IN ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION
- UN-RECOVERABLE CARBON FOOTPRINT

Questionable Priorities

#saveCentralVista #lokPATH #saveRajpath #saveNewDelhi #saveParliament #saveTrees

Key features and components:

- **New Parliament Building:** A larger, technologically advanced structure built beside the current Parliament to accommodate future expansion in the number of members.
- **Common Central Secretariat:** Ten new buildings (some still under construction), intended to house all ministry offices, replacing older structures like Shastri Bhawan, Krishi Bhawan, etc..
- **Executive Enclave:** This will comprise the new Prime Minister's Office, Cabinet Secretariat, India House, and the National Security Council Secretariat; new residences for the Prime Minister and Vice-President are included.
- **Redeveloped Kartavya Path:** The ceremonial boulevard (formerly Rajpath) has been revamped for public use, better aesthetics, and enhanced visitor amenities, with pathways, refurbished canals, and improved landscaping.
- **Conservation and Repurposing:** Iconic British-era buildings such as North and South Blocks will be converted into museums, while some heritage structures are being retained or repurposed; several outdated ministry buildings are being demolished.

Objectives and rationale:

- Modernize government workspaces for better capacity and integration.
- Address structural, fire safety, and space limitations of existing buildings, many of which have outlived their useful life.
- Create a world-class, sustainable, and efficient administrative district while strengthening national heritage and facilitating better public engagement.

Timeline, cost, and progress:

- The redevelopment spans roughly 3.2 kilometers and was launched in 2019.
- The initial cost estimate was around ₹13,000–20,000 crore with some cost escalation due to inflation and construction delays.
- Major milestones already achieved include the inauguration of the new Parliament building (2023), Vice President's Enclave (2024), and the revamped Kartavya Path (2022) Kartavya Bhawan 3 (2025).
- Full completion, including ten Common Central Secretariat buildings, is expected by 2028, with about 45% done by the end of 2025.

Public and legal context:

- The project has faced criticism over heritage conservation, environmental impact, monetary transparency, and lack of public consultation.
- The Supreme Court cleared the project in 2021, with some dissent on procedural lapses.
- Supporters cite the need for modernization, increased capacity, and improved governance efficiency.
- In summary, the Central Vista Project is reimagining India's administrative heart, combining new, sustainable infrastructure with conservation, and is poised to redefine the architectural and functional landscape of Delhi's governance core.

Revamped Kartavya Path (2022)



The revamped Kartavya Path (formerly Rajpath) was inaugurated on 8 September 2022 as part of the Central Vista Redevelopment Project, transforming New Delhi's iconic ceremonial boulevard into a modern, accessible, and sustainable public space. The renovation involved extensive landscaping, improved pedestrian infrastructure, enhanced amenities, and rebranding to shed colonial associations.

Key changes and features include:

Renaming and symbolism: The stretch, previously called 'Rajpath' (King's Way), was renamed Kartavya Path ("Path of Duty") to promote a sense of public service over colonial symbolism and to reflect India's contemporary values.

Infrastructure upgrades:

- Over 16 km of new pedestrian walkways and robust sidewalks were constructed.
- 16 permanent bridges over canals to improve access.
- Refurbished canals, historic light poles restored, new stone benches, and ample street furniture.
- Construction of underground utility trenches for efficient maintenance of services like stormwater piping, power, and communication cables.

Amenities for the public:

- Eight new amenity blocks with vending kiosks, drinking water fountains, and public toilets, including accessible facilities.
- Seven organized vending plazas and four new pedestrian underpasses at busy junctions for safer traffic segregation.

Landscaping and green spaces:

- Lawns were relaid with region-appropriate grass varieties and improved irrigation.
- Preservation of original trees, with additional planting to enhance green cover.
- Enhanced drainage and water management for sustainability.

Sustainability initiatives:

Solid waste and stormwater management systems, recycling, rainwater harvesting, and energy-efficient lighting.

Events and heritage:

Upgraded areas to support Republic Day celebrations with modular bleachers and services for large crowds, while reducing disruption and protecting lawns.

Cost and scope:

Total redevelopment cost was approximately Rs 608 crore, covering the 3 km stretch from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate and National War Memorial.

The revamped avenue reflects both an aesthetic upgrade and a shift in public philosophy, prioritizing accessibility, environmental sustainability, and democratization of heritage space while preserving historical landmarks.

New Parliament building of India-2023

THE NEW TEMPLE OF DEMOCRACY

The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has sought environment clearance for the construction of the new Parliament House building



PARLIAMENT HOUSE AREA

2 plots

10.75 acres

area of existing Parliament House

9.5 acres

of the proposed building (land use yet to be changed)

STATUS OF GREEN COVER

326 no. of trees on the new plot

250 no. of trees in the existing building

250 no. of trees proposed to be planted

194 no. of trees to be felled/transplanted

RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN

50 m height of the new Parliament House

300 tonnes expected construction and debris waste generation

CENTRAL VISTA

Central Secretariat

INDIA GATE

INFLUX OF PEOPLE

3,200 workers construction phase (200 permanent and 3,000 temporary staff)

9,500 people operation phase (both in the new and old complex; 4,500 permanent employees and 5,000 temporary staff and visitors)

5,000 number of people currently working at Parliament House

The new Parliament building of India was inaugurated on May 28, 2023, as part of the Central Vista Redevelopment Project in New Delhi. It was constructed to address space, safety, and technological limitations of the old Parliament building, which was built in 1927.

Key features and context:

- The new building is located adjacent to the old Parliament House and is distinct for its triangular shape.
- It covers approximately 65,000 sq m and has four floors.
- The building was designed by architect Bimal Patel and constructed by Tata Projects Ltd.
- Seating capacity has been expanded to 888 for Lok Sabha (House of the People) and 384 for Rajya Sabha (Council of States), with joint sessions able to accommodate up to 1,272 members.
- Each member is provided with a digital touchscreen, and the building emphasizes paperless, technology-driven operations.
- The Lok Sabha chamber features peacock-themed designs and the Rajya Sabha chamber is lotus-themed—each symbolizing Indian national heritage.
- It includes advanced safety features such as being earthquake-resistant and incorporates green building practices, reducing energy consumption and incorporating water conservation systems.
- The building was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who also installed the 'Sengol', a symbol of the power transfer from British to independent India, in a ceremonial act.
- The old Parliament House is planned to be converted into a museum of democracy to preserve its legacy.
- The new Parliament building is intended to meet the expanding requirements of Indian democracy in terms of space, security, and technology while symbolizing the nation's cultural, architectural, and democratic ideals.

Vice President's Enclave (2024)



- The Vice President's Enclave in 2024 refers to the newly built official residence and office complex for the Vice President of India, located next to the Parliament complex and behind North Block in New Delhi.
- Jagdeep Dhankhar was the first Vice President to reside in this newly constructed enclave, having moved there in April 2024. The complex is a feature of the larger Central Vista redevelopment project, which aims to modernize and improve India's administrative infrastructure, making government offices more interconnected, environmentally sustainable, and purpose-driven. The Enclave became an important site for official meetings and events throughout Dhankhar's tenure, including visits from foreign dignitaries and addresses to various delegations.
- After Dhankhar's resignation in July 2025, the Vice President's Enclave would remain the designated housing for his successors, with Dhankhar himself set to move to an alternative government bungalow as per entitlement for retired Vice Presidents. The enclave thus symbolizes both the modernization of India's governance spaces and the country's evolving approach to constitutional offices in Delhi.

Kartavya Bhawan 3 (KB 3)-2025



Kartavya Bhawan 3 (KB 3), also known as the first completed building of the new Common Central Secretariat under the Central Vista Redevelopment Project, is a modern government office complex in New Delhi inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in August 2025.

Key details and features:

Purpose: KB 3 is the first of ten planned secretariat buildings intended to house major central government ministries, which were previously scattered in aging buildings such as North Block, Shastri Bhawan, Krishi Bhawan, and Udyog Bhawan.

Ministries to be housed: Ministries of Home Affairs, External Affairs, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Rural Development, Personnel, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, and the Principal Scientific Adviser.

Location: Built at Kartavya Path on the site of the former Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts.

Specifications:

Total area: 1.5 lakh square metres.

Structure: Two basements plus seven floors (ground + 6 floors).

Facilities: 24 main conference halls (capacity 45 each), 26 smaller conference rooms (capacity 25 each), 67 meeting rooms or work halls, centralized air conditioning, 27 elevators, escalators, yoga and medical rooms, crèche, café, multi-purpose hall, and parking for 600 cars.

Security: Access control through smart cards, extensive CCTV system, integrated surveillance, ID-based access, and a central command center.

Green features: Double-glazed facades, rooftop solar panels, rainwater harvesting, advanced HVAC, solar water heaters, e-vehicle charging, waste water reuse, and solid waste management.

Administrative aims: Enhance inter-ministerial coordination, accelerate policy-making, improve operational efficiency, and enable agile governance.

Current status:

The Ministry of Home Affairs has already moved into KB 3, with other ministries scheduled to follow soon.

The construction of KB 1 and KB 2 is expected to be completed next, with the overall redevelopment scheduled through 2027.

Significance: KB 3 is a central component of one of the most ambitious administrative and urban upgrades in Lutyens' Delhi, consolidating government offices and setting new standards for transparency, sustainability, and work environment for public administration in India

The Central Vista Project has encountered several significant controversies and challenges during its implementation:

- **Heritage and Environmental Concerns:** Critics argue that the redevelopment threatens the architectural integrity and historic value of New Delhi's central administrative district. Demolition and alteration of British-era structures have sparked protests from conservationists and heritage experts, who fear irreversible loss to India's cultural legacy.
- **Environmental Impact:** Environmentalists have raised alarms over the felling of trees and potential ecological disturbance in a heavily trafficked part of the city. Concerns included the adequacy of environmental clearances and the project's carbon footprint, particularly as construction occurred during periods of elevated pollution in Delhi.
- **Public Consultation and Transparency:** There has been criticism about the lack of broad-based public consultation and perceived gaps in transparency during planning and approval stages. Allegations of insufficient stakeholder participation and limited parliamentary debate were prominent among activists and opposition political parties.
- **Legal Challenges:** Several legal petitions were filed in the Supreme Court and High Courts challenging procedural aspects, land use changes, and environmental clearances. Although the Supreme Court ultimately cleared the project in early 2021, at least one judge voiced dissent regarding procedural irregularities.
- **Budgetary and Fiscal Criticism:** The project's substantial cost—estimated at ₹13,000–20,000 crore—faced scrutiny, especially as it continued through the COVID-19 pandemic and a period of broad economic distress. Opponents questioned the prioritization of funds for new government infrastructure when public health and welfare spending were under pressure.
- **Administrative and Project Management Issues:** Challenges typical of large-scale public projects emerged. These included resource allocation difficulties, delay risks, coordination issues among multiple government agencies, and the challenge of meeting ambitious deadlines while ensuring quality and safety.
- **Political Controversy:** The Central Vista Project has been at the center of sharp political debate, polarizing parliamentary discourse. The government has positioned the project as essential for modernization and efficiency, while critics frame it as wasteful or symbolic of governmental opacity and unilateralism.

- **These challenges**—spanning heritage conservation, environmental stewardship, procedural transparency, and finance—have made the Central Vista one of the most scrutinized public architecture initiatives in contemporary India.