

# THE CENTRAL VISTA PROJECT

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Central vista project is an ambitious project of the NDA government at the Centre, which aims to redevelop a 3.2-km stretch called the Central Vista that lies at the guts of Lutyens Delhi built by the Britishers within the 1930s. The architecture of the present Parliament House of India is inspired from Ekattarso Mahadeva Temple.

This project involves demolishing and rebuilding several government buildings, and constructing a new Parliament at a total cost of Rs 20,000 crores. The revamp envisages a replacement triangular Parliament building, with capaciousness for 900 to 1,200 MPs. In 2019, the central government announced the redevelopment project to offer a replacement identity to the 'power corridor' of India. The project, which is estimated to be completed by 2024, is being executed by the Union Ministry of Housing and concrete Affairs. In September 2019, Tata Projects won the bid to construct the new Parliament for Rs 861.90 crores. Tata Projects beat the bid of L&T of Rs. 865 crores. The designs were finalized in October 2019 by the government. Ahmadabad based Architecture Company HCP Design was chosen to style the building. As stated by the solicitor general of our country, the central vista does not have a central secretariat and various ministries have hired premises on rent due to which thousands of crores of rent is paid for housing central government ministries.

According to the government, the central vista project is expected to bring in a new era for the heritage, develop modern, sustainable and upgradeable facilities for administration, cultural institutions and public space. Infact, the noisiest neighbours will not be the construction of new hospitals, but for the ambitious Rs20,000 crore Central Vista project, which was conceptualized well before the Covid-19 crisis. The Centre's grandiose decide to redevelop the Central Vista has are available for severe criticism from environmental experts, historical experts along with the public who have contended that it's nothing but just how of the government of "pampering itself" without considering that the project goes to sacrifice huge green cover and make the air toxic with its construction and demolition dust. The value of these prestigious heritage buildings comes from the ancient reign and not just the buildings that stand on these ancient reigns.

Naming it under the economy but honestly we all know that the economy is the massive engine for environmental degradation. Secondly, this project shows a scarcity of respect for history, albeit an inalienable a part of its colonial history. Our Constitution was born within the existing Parliament building. With each passing day, the government rules various kinds of laws affecting the whole society in this building to strengthen our Constitution. That is what the living heritage of Parliament is. Why can't these old signature buildings can be repurposed, and re-built inside out for the modern age with greater structural strength and without changing the external profile, as has been through with the White House. Considering, if the Lok Sabha chamber is too small to welcome more members (as may become necessary), then the Central Hall might be made the lower house. Why can't we talk about shifting this way? Third, I fail to understand that under such a fragile situation how can the Central Public Works Department who designated the project considers this project as an essential service during the Covid-19 pandemic and informed the Delhi Police that work will continue "during all three shifts" when people are advised to stay at home, the laborers are made to come out and build. Fourth, in Mumbai, there are demands that the ambitious Shivaji statue-in-the-Arabian-Sea project, costing Rs 3,500 crore should be halted and the money used for the health sector. Likewise, the UP government is funding the new Ayodhya City along with a giant Lakshman Statue in Lucknow. Earlier, the government of Gujarat started its share for critics through the Statue of Unity. When all these monuments are for the people and when people are opposing it then why are we not talking seriously about critics? How is it for the people when public and semi public use is just 5 per cent which was earlier 60 per cent till March 2020 and this five per cent includes public spaces like museums, galleries, centre of arts, national library, (the Delhi) high court, etc.?

In conclusion, I would say that for the next three years, Central Delhi will reflect with the noise of construction and drown out the noise of the project's opponents and the need of the environment.