

3 office buildings to come up at IGNCA plot

ANANYA TIWARI

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28

THREE BUILDINGS of the Central Secretariat will come up at what is currently the plot of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), which will be demolished for the ambitious Central Vista Project (CVP), officials have said. The plot is spread over approximately 25 acres.

The Indian Express had reported that the IGNCA will be

temporarily shifted to the Janpath Hotel, which is currently undergoing renovations, expected to be completed by February-March next year.

Ten office buildings or complexes will constitute the Central Secretariat, as per the CVP plan, and three of these will come up on the plot where IGNCA currently is. Located on Rajpath, it is among the capital's most prime locations.

"The planning and construction of the project is being done in

a phased manner. Once the ministries shift to these new buildings, the older Bhawans there will be demolished for construction of new buildings. Therefore, offices will not need to shift to alternative areas," said an official.

The three office buildings will have ground-plus-six floors and two basements. As per the initial plan submitted by the HCP Design, Planning And Management Pvt Ltd, the office buildings were to be either G+7 or G+8 floors. In the initial plan,

the offices were to have glass and steel interiors to allow light to enter, a courtyard, and an exterior facade matching that of the Central Vista area, with heights lower than the India Gate.

The IGNCA was launched in 1985 by the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. A design competition was held for its design, and Professor Ralph Lerner, an American architect, won the award. The competition had received 194 entries from across the world.

REDEVELOPMENT TO BE COMPLETED BY R-DAY 2022

Central Vista Avenue to have more trees, lawns to get makeover

ANANYA TIWARI

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 19

PLANNING FOR the Central Vista Avenue redevelopment is underway and will be executed after this year's Republic Day, it is learnt. "We are preparing a detailed plan, keeping public convenience in mind," a source told *The Indian Express*. Work is expected to be completed in time for next year's Republic Day.

The tender for redevelopment of the Avenue was awarded to Shapoorji Pallonji and Co Pvt Ltd on January 8; the firm is expected to complete the work in 300 days. As per the tender document, sanctioned costs shall be Rs 372.9 crore for the 'Civil Work and Horticulture Component'; Rs 113.7 crore for the 'Electrical and Mechanical component'; and Rs 15.51 crore for 'Operation and Maintenance' for five years.

As per the plan for the rede-



Work will start after this Republic Day event. *Gajendra Yadav*

velopment of the Avenue presented by HCP Design, Planning and Management Pvt Ltd — the architectural consultant of the Central Vista project — lawns and canals shall be refurbished, new trees would come up and parking spaces and vending areas shall be created, all keeping in mind that the Avenue also hosts the annual Republic Day event.

Edwin Lutyens had initially conceptualised the Avenue being framed by indigenous trees of the

region, which include Peepal, Banyan and Wild Ficus, and as per HCP, over decades, many species of trees have emerged at the Avenue. "A masterplan for trees is being worked out which will be gradually realised over a couple of decades. It will have a slightly wider range and more trees compared to the original sparse tree landscape designed by Lutyens. Grown trees will be transplanted," said an official from HCP.

Lawns shall also be refurb-

ished with old and new species of grass. "Canals will not change in size; existing canals will be refurbished and water replenished to ensure availability of water round the year. Appropriate technology and service infrastructure will be integrated to ensure easy maintenance," said the official.

"The design also provides appropriate facilities and designated, well-organised spaces for a larger number of vendors," added the official.

Widening key roads, signals at roundabouts in proposal for revamped Central Vista

ANANYA TIWARI
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

WIDENING OF Akbar road, Rafi Marg, and Janpath to 6-8 lanes, installing traffic signals at roundabouts, flyover(s) at intersections — these are among recommendations listed in a traffic management assessment of the Central Vista area, as traffic volume is expected to increase post revamp.

As per the assessment report, made by TATA Consulting Engineers Ltd, traffic along major arterial roads of the Vista will in-

crease annually and after construction of the new buildings. It was submitted by the Central Public Works Department to the Expert Appraisal Committee (Infra 2) in March for environmental clearance.

"Central Vista development/redevelopment adds significant amount of traffic... on Dr Rajendra Prasad Road, Maulana Azad Road, Ashoka Road, Akbar Road, and Shershah Road", and "at three roundabouts (near VP house, Pancha mukhi Chowk, Raisina roundabout)", says the report.

It also states that "Ashoka road and Rafi Marg approaches at the roundabout in the horizon year 2026 will have traffic demand exceeding approach capacity, resulting in significant queue formation..." The analysis also shows an overall impact on the road network due to the revamp in 2026.

Due to this projection, Tata has recommended expansion of the roads. Ashoka and Shershah roads will require "immediate upgrade to 8 lanes" from its present 4 lanes. "Akbar Road, Rafi Marg, Janpath will require to be upgraded to 6 lanes divided configuration in 2026" from its existing 4 lanes, and Akbar Road will require further upgrade to "8 lanes divided configuration in 2039". Dr Rajendra Prasad Road "will require 4 lanes divided con-



figuration in 2031".

A flyover and traffic signals are also recommended at roundabouts. "Intersection traffic volume nearing 10000 PCU/hr usually results in very inefficient and hazardous traffic condition. At this level, provision of grade-separator or flyover is recommended.. provision of bypass lanes at major/minor approaches to reduce vehicle delay," says the report.

However, a senior CPWD official said: "We have carried out detailed studies and submitted our proposal for traffic improvement to UTIPEC for approval. It will not be appropriate for me to give details of all traffic improvement measures till these are approved. However, we will provide service roads near entrance/exits of buildings to make them smooth without affecting traffic on main roads. We are also providing Automated People Mover/Light Metro, which will encourage people to use pub-

lic transport. Further, by constructing Common Central Secretariat building, we are not increasing number of officials in Central Vista... more parking space inside buildings will reduce vehicles presently being parked on roads..."

Meanwhile, issuing clearance to the new PM residence, VP enclave constructions, Common Central Secretariat — all estimated to cost Rs 13,450 crore — the EAC put forth recommendations for a detailed traffic management plan during construction. This is to "ensure service of roads... may not get adversely impacted during implementation of the project...", it said during its 63rd meeting on April 12-13 held via video conferencing.

The document, however, does not mention impact of redevelopment on traffic in the area, air pollution, or recommendations made on widening of roads or other traffic mitigation strategies.

ARMY INSTITUTE OF NURSING, GUWAHATI CORRIGENDUM

Reference to the original advertisement published in the newspaper on 14th April 2021. Scheduled date i.e. 27th Jun 2021 for conduct of online Admission Test is hereby postponed. Fresh date will be notified in due course of time.

Army Institute of Nursing Guwahati extends the dates for submission of online applications for admission into B.Sc(Nursing) Course are as under-

- (i) Till 15th June 2021 - Without late fee
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New IGNCA to be 'forward-looking but retain traditional elements'

ANANYA TIWARI

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 26

THE NEW Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) is expected to be completed by 2023, with a design that will have modern facilities while retaining elements of Indian architectural and design heritage based on its foundational principles, officials at HCP, responsible for its design, have told *The Indian Express*.

The new IGNCA will come up at Jamnagar plot on C-Hexagon or the India Gate circle. It is currently located at Janpath road over a plot of 10.10 hectares, and its construction is incomplete due to lack of funding for decades.

For the time being, it is readying itself for a shift to Janpath Hotel, which is currently undergoing renovations and is expected to be completed by February-March 2021. Director (admin) Lt Col (Retd) RA Rangnekar told *The Indian Express*, "We are in the process of making an inventory of everything, and our target to move out is December 31."

The Janpath Hotel will have an auditorium, an outdoor exhibition centre, a media room, lecture and exhibition halls for the centre, he added.

The old and new

The HCP said the design of the new IGNCA is at a concept stage, though it will follow the foundational principles envisioned for the current IGNCA. As per HCP, the new facility "will be a modern, forward-looking Indian building, retaining elements of India's architectural and design heritage".

The new building will be



It is currently located at Janpath road. *Express*

ground plus four floors, spread across different blocks. The HCP said: "At its inception, the IGNCA was based on deep philosophical attitudes to nurturing, research and sharing of all forms of India's indigenous arts and crafts... and these concepts shall continue to drive the inspiration and design of its new incarnation."

The IGNCA's plot, as per the plans, will house three Central Secretariat office buildings reaching up to 39 metres in height, lower than the India Gate at 42 metres. The plans for it include two basements, a ground and six floors, to house over 14,000 employees and over 2,400 vehicles in its underground parking. The cost of the three buildings is expected to be Rs 2,990 crore.

Before the IGNCA came up, the plot was envisaged as a Cultural Plaza by Lutyens in relation to the National Archives

across the Janpath road and the National Museum across the Vista. That did not materialise, and it was occupied by an Indian Air Force Officers' Mess accessed from Janpath road and two government bungalows accessed from Dr Rajendra Prasad Road.

The foundation for IGNCA was laid by former PM Rajiv Gandhi on November 19, 1985, on the birth anniversary of former PM Indira Gandhi, and an International Architectural Competition was announced for its design. The jury comprised 7 architects and the late Dr Kapila Vatsyayan, the then secretary to the department of arts, and founding member of IGNCA's trust. The architects were Olufemi Makeodunmi (Nigeria), Geoffrey Bawa (Sri Lanka), Fumihiko Maki (Japan), James Stirling (UK), Habib Rahman (India), AP Kanvinde (India), BV Doshi (chairperson of the Jury,

India). The award was announced by Gandhi on November 19, 1986.

The first prizewinner was Prof. Ralph Lerner (USA), the second was Gautam Bhatia (India), and the third was shared between Francoise Helene Jourda and Perraudin (France), David Jeremy Dixon (UK) and Alexandros Tombazos (Greece). The first prizewinner was awarded Rs 10 lakh, the second 5 lakh and the third prize winners Rs 3 lakh each.

As per IGNCA's introduction to its foundational design principles from that time, "the five divisions of the Centre are envisioned in a manner which emphasises the interdependence of the conceptual, ideational, theoretical, textual, historical and the practical, the contemporary and the creative".

The five components of the design were the Kala Nidhi (a national information system/data bank, library), the Kala Kosha (for research studies leading to publication), the Janapada (research division focused on oral, tribal and folklore traditions, its documentation and display, along with ecology), the Kala Darshana (focused on venues for theatres, performances), and the Sutradhara (administrative offices).

Dr Ralph Lerner's design had five major courts – each representing one of the Centre's objectives. Due to various reasons related to lack of funding, only one building emerged. The plot currently has a colonial style bungalow with halls and semi-nar rooms.



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The riverbank area comes under the DDA's Yamuna Riverfront Development plan, and the Garden will come up as part of it, said an official. *Gajendra Yadav*

Trees along Yamuna's west bank to make way for Central Vista garden

ANANYA TIWARI

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 22

TREES AND shrubs along the western banks of the Yamuna will make way for the New India Garden or Nav Bharat Udyan as part of the Central Vista Redevelopment project. Officials said the garden will be constructed in a way to avoid monsoon floods.

The riverbank area comes under the Delhi Development Authority's (DDA) Yamuna Riverfront Development plan, and the Garden will come up as part of it, said the official.

The area cuts off from the Ring Road into an area with dense vegetation — mostly trees and shrubs, lacking human

habitation.

As part of the plan to extend the Central Vista axis from its current 2.9km to 6.3km, the Garden will be constructed over 20.22 acres of area south of the Pragati Thermal Power Plant near the Purana Qila and Bhairon Marg.

The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) in a design competition for an "iconic structure" which can be three times as high as the India Gate, stated that it should be designed keeping in mind the foundation of "sandy soil with high water table", and factors such as "soil stability, wind velocity, seismic forces and vulnerability to flooding".

On December 17, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and CPWD organised a webinar for

interested parties seeking to know more or enter the design competition, where the various guidelines were discussed. Till date, 223 entries have been received by the CPWD for it, largely from Delhi with 44 entries. The iconic structure will come up closer to the Ring Road.

"The garden shall not extend all the way to the river and will be situated above the flood lines there, as there is an embankment running parallel 50 metres from it. The area contains plantations. The vegetation there will be removed for the project," said the official.

As part of the Yamuna Riverfront Development the banks are to be converted to forests and wetlands, as stated by LG Anil Bajaj recently in a tweet.

Plum trees, guavas, eucalyptus, jamun, mulberry, and saccharum munja, typha and other forms of grass and shrubs are found along the floodplains of the river, said Faiyaz Khudsar, scientist-in-charge of the Yamuna Biodiversity Park and a professor at the Delhi University.

"The riverbanks experience huge floods once every 15-20 years, when entire floodplains are covered for around a fortnight. Native species of plants tend to survive floods, such as jamun trees," he said.

Construction of other aspects of the garden has not begun yet. The final design for the "iconic structure" will be chosen through a competition and will be announced in the last week of December.

New Parliament: Location for MPs' chambers shifted after on-ground survey

ANANYA TIWARI

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 25

THE DESIGN for the chambers for Members of Parliament, which will come up where the Shram Shakti Bhawan and Transport Bhawan are currently located on Rafi Marg and Sansad Marg respectively, is at the concept stage and will have approximately 800 or so offices for MPs, officials of the HCP Design, Planning and Management Pvt Ltd have said. The new Parliament shall have six committee rooms for conducting business, they further said.

The foundation stone for the New Parliament was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 10. The new building will have 888 seats for members of the Lok Sabha, 384 for those of the Rajya Sabha. For joint meetings, the Lok Sabha Hall on the ground floor shall be able to house 1,272 members.

Earlier, the plan was for the chambers or offices for the MPs to come up in either the North or South block, said officials from the HCP. "Since on-ground surveys are more effective, this plan



An artist's impression of the new Parliament

was changed and now the chambers shall come up where the Transport Bhawan and the Shram Shakti Bhawan are located. The plan is constantly evolving," an official told *The Indian Express*.

"The two buildings will be demolished, and more than one building will come up in all probability. Even if two buildings come up, they shall be connected in some way," said officials from the HCP.

The offices shall be rudimentary, considering that MPs have their own offices across the country and do not necessarily need to spend too much time in Delhi, and design for the same is at the initial stages, said officials.

In order for MPs to conduct business inside the Parliament, the interiors of the new Parliament shall have six committee rooms with modernised features, said the HCP.

These committee rooms shall feature various audio-visual facilities such as simultaneous language interpretation system, sound reinforcement system, voice lift application, video wall for video content enlargement and enhancement, in-room video conferencing, wired and wireless presentation system, active speaker viewing with PTZ cameras, POTS/VOIP based audio-conferencing, and AVoIP transmissions, officials said.



RENOVATIONS TO WRAP UP BY MARCH

For Central Vista revamp, IGNCA to get a new home — Janpath Hotel

ANANYA TIWARI

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

THE INDIRA Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) on the Rajpath area, which will be demolished as part of the Central Vista Redevelopment project, will be temporarily shifted to the now unoccupied The Janpath Hotel. Renovations at the hotel will wrap up by February-March next year.

The Janpath Hotel was an India Tourism Development Corporation-owned enterprise

before it became office for the ministry of tourism. It was handed over to the ministry of housing and urban affairs in late 2017.

On January 23 this year, the Central Public Works Department floated a tender for the renovation and repair of the hotel. The Dee Vee Projects Ltd, a Raipur-based construction company, had won the tender for Rs 90 crore, said an official at the ministry.

Work on the renovation of the 5-floor hotel had begun this March, but was delayed due to the lockdown, said an official

from the company Saturday.

As part of the renovations, the building will be freshly whitewashed and painted, floors will be re-tiled, landscaping will be added and retrofitting measures will be taken.

"The hotel has auditoriums and galleries, in fact better ones than the IGNCA. A team of specialists will be hired to ensure that it is retrofitted in the right manner," said the official.

The IGNCA, an academic and cultural institution, was established by Prime Minister Rajiv



The Janpath Hotel under renovation, Saturday

Gandhi in remembrance of Indira Gandhi on November 19, 1985.

In 1987, American architect Ralph Lemer won the international design competition for the IGNCA.

The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts Trust was constituted and registered on March 24, 1987. The founder trustees of IGNCA were Rajiv Gandhi, President R Venkataraman, then union minister PV Narasimha Rao, cultural activist Pupul Jayakar, bureaucrat HY Sharada Prasad and leading cultural

scholar Dr Kapila Vatsyayan.

The current chairperson of the trust is Padma Shri awardee Ram Bahadur Rai, a Hindi journalist and former editor of Jansatta. Hindi lyricist Prasoon Joshi, art scholar of miniature paintings and Jain art Saryu Doshi, Bharatanatyam dancer Padma Subrahmanyam and others are part of the trust.

The Centre hosts an array of events such as dance and art performances, exhibitions, seminars, festivals and lectures related to Indian culture. It houses

various lecture rooms, seminar halls and an auditorium.

In 1993, Jasbeer Sawhney was appointed the associate architect and construction commenced in 1994-95.

In 2001, then PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee inaugurated the arts library. "In 2002, the second building went into construction but no funds were provided. Around 2009, an estimate was provided to the then government to begin the third building but again no funds were provided," said Jasbeer Sawhney.

Central Vista redevelopment: CPWD invites bids to transplant 1,838 trees

ANANYA TIWARI

NEW DELHI, MAY 27

THE CENTRAL Public Works Department (CPWD) will have to seek approval from the Delhi forest department for the transplantation of around 1,838 trees from where the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) is located and the Dr Rajendra Prasad Road in front of National Archives, as per a tender inviting agencies for the work, released on their portal on May 25. Three office complexes of the Central Secretariat will emerge on this plot.

The forest department will have to approve the transplantation. The agency that wins the bid will have to also survey the plot again and "submit the methodology of tree transplantation before starting work. The presentation shall be made to Delhi Forest Services to satisfy their requirements to get their approval."

The tender document elabo-



The deadline for submitting the bids is June 4, 2021. *Archive*

rates on methods that must be employed for the transplantation.

This includes roots investigation, diagnosis of health & treatment of infected area, analysis of the soil at the proposed transplant site where the tree has to be translocated, formative pruning, preparation of the site where they shall be transplanted, and guidelines to be followed during the transportation process and after-

care, among others.

The agency would have to submit its plan of transplantation before starting the work, and "photographs of each tree before the start of the process of translocation shall be submitted by the bidder. ... The entire process of translocation shall be video-graphed and submitted fortnightly to CPWD. The penalty of Rs 5,000 shall be imposed if the

agency fails to do so." The work is estimated to cost around Rs 1.87 crore. The deadline for submitting the bids is June 4, 2021, and the time allotted for completing the work is 60 days for transplantation work and 365 days from the date of the beginning as defined for maintenance and upkeep of the trees.

A senior official of the CPWD said, "Tree transplantation will be carried out in Eco Park, NTPC Badarpur. This will be done after Environmental Clearance is granted by MoEF&CC and permission is granted by the Forest Department. Tenders have been invited only to save time."

Dr Manju Menon, senior fellow at the Centre of Policy Research, said, "The project has been pushed forward by hurriedly put up tenders and even more hurried, totally undemocratic and opaque approval processes. This tender is just a fig leaf for destroying the national public space and ecological commons of India."

Central Vista revamp: Environmentalists and landscape experts write to CPWD

ANANYA TIWARI

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 15

LANDSCAPE ARTISTS and environmentalists have written to the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) over what they say are issues with the redesign plan for the Central Vista Avenue.

The plan, released by the ministry of urban affairs and housing, foresees multiple changes to the Avenue — with pedestrian underpasses, wide walkways or footpaths, bridges across canals, new parking lots, and more trees, along with more lawn area, an irrigation system and specific vending areas.

Phase-I of the project was awarded by CPWD to construction major M/s Shapoorji Pallonji Company (Pvt) Limited at a cost of Rs 477 crore through competitive bidding on January 8. Work began last Thursday.

Anuj Srivastava, from LokPATH, an organisation which submitted some objections, told *The Indian Express*, "They have not followed proper procedural norms. The Heritage Conservation Committee (which cleared the proposal) is filled with bureaucrats; CPWD is heading the projects — they will not speak against the government. They are supposed to function in-



Barricades being placed along the Rajpath to begin work on the project. Ananya Tiwari

dependently."

LokPATH said the Central Vista precinct, and not just individual buildings, is protected as a grade 1 Heritage site, which includes "plots, boundaries, landscape and streetscape elements and natural features such as trees and water bodies", and not just the buildings situated in it. "No information has been shared about the Automated People Mover... this APM physically endangers various heritage elements and structures of the Central Vista," it said.

Objection were also raised

over removal of pedestrian movement on Rajpath by removal of zebra crossings, and changing the red *murrum* into hard pavements, which can increase the risk of flooding as it restricts rainwater run-off and also disrupts "both the recreational use of the green and its grandeur".

With regard to 16 bridges proposed across the canals, LokPATH states it is "interventionist encroachment on top of the heritage structures and a clear violation of grade 1 heritage protection given to the Central Vista".

LokPATH also wrote that hard paved parking "will cause a huge reduction in water table replenishment, endangering the entire plantation of Central Vista... and unmitigated flooding in the region. No water drainage plan has been submitted."

"Demolition and reduction of the length of historic water bodies at Man Singh Marg is a clear violation of grade 1 heritage protection under the law," it said.

The Indian Society of Landscape Architects (ISOLA) also submitted its objections, stating that "issues of mainte-

nance exist, and the lack thereof has rendered the space undesirable in parts. These aspects are easily remedied within the larger spatial design through a maintenance and management regimen and do not demand any attempt to redesign the entire precinct." It also raised the issue of walkways, stating: "Bridges, additional footpaths, etc, contribute to a disjointed, incohesive space..." and the APM "does not consider the construction and operational impact on the existing trees and landscape."

Placing vendors at the ends, stated ISOLA, can lead to their "marginalisation... vendors are an integral part of the experience... adding to the cultural experience that will be lost..."

ISOLA also raised ecological concerns, saying "depletion of groundwater recharge because of added basement and underground structures, amphitheatres, toilet blocks and hard paving... needs urgent attention".

Madhav Raman from LokPATH told *The Indian Express*: "CPWD could have organised a public meeting for this, or taken cognizance of these objections."

A senior CPWD official said, "We have submitted our response to each objection to HCC." An official of the HCC did not respond to calls seeking a comment.

TEMPORARY RELOCATION

From IGNCA to Janpath hotel: 3 lakh books, 60,000 microfilms in boxes

ANANYA TIWARI
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

AROUND 3 lakh printed books, over 1 lakh slides on various cultural traditions, 3 lakh manuscripts, 60,000 microfilm rolls, thousands of paintings, textiles, and other archival material — these are being packed carefully into boxes at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), as it prepares to shift to a temporary location at The Janpath Hotel. The transition is set to be complete by the end of April.

At the Centre, rolls of bubble wrap, packed cardboard and

wooden storage boxes dot the area as items are organised and put into boxes to avoid hassles during unpacking. Around 50 contractual employees have been hired for packing and moving.

Said IGNCA director R C Gaur, "We received a letter from the Central Public Works Department on February 16 that the renovation work (at the hotel) is complete and to vacate by mid-April. This month, we have started to pack all material such as paintings, microfilms and others."

The Centre also houses personal collections of 45 artists. "Library items are being packed based on various subjects, with



Staff at IGNCA pack artwork on Thursday as the Centre readies to shift to a new space. *Abhinav Saha*

books being scanned using the library management software. A

list of what each box contains is being pasted on the boxes.



Everything is being numbered and packed. Microfilms are be-

ing organised and packed in a chronological manner," he said.

The shift was necessitated as the Centre, currently located at Janpath road on a plot of 10.10 hectares, will be demolished as part of the Central Vista Redevelopment project. The new IGNCA will come up at Jamnagar plot on C-Hexagon or the India Gate circle.

The tender to renovate The Janpath Hotel was given to Dee Vee Projects Ltd for Rs 90 crore, as reported by *The Indian Express*. The hotel was an India Tourism Development Corporation-owned enterprise before it became the office for the Ministry of Tourism. It was handed over to the Ministry of Housing and

Urban affairs in late 2017.

"For a year, we have been having discussions with CPWD on exactly what our requirements are. The new Centre has a library with a reading room, an exhibition hall and an auditorium, classrooms. It has sufficient space. This Centre is now becoming outdated and doesn't suit our needs," said Gaur.

The IGNCA was founded by former PP Rajiv Gandhi in 1985. An international design competition was held for its building, which was won by the late American architect Ralph Lerner in 1987. Its construction, however, has been incomplete for decades due to lack of funding.

Central Vista: Office complexes to be connected to Metro in last phase

ANANYA TIWARI
NEW DELHI, MAY 23

THE 10 office complexes comprising the Central Secretariat will be connected to the existing Delhi Metro network after they are built, in the final phase of the Central Vista revamp project. The firm(s) that will win the tender for the development will only construct an underground tunnel for this purpose, an official of the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) told *The Indian Express*.

As per the design created by HCP Design, Planning and Management Pvt Ltd, the architectural consultant of the Central Vista project, the 10 office complexes of the Central Secretariat will emerge on the two parallel horizontal axes of the Rajpath.

Designed along the lines of transit-oriented development (TOD), each complex will be interconnected through a loop and to the existing Delhi Metro lines (yellow and violet) that traverse underneath.

Dr Bimal Patel, head of the firm, last year mentioned during a presentation, "At the underground level, a people mover and an underground loop will connect to the Metro station. You get off the Metro and get inside the people-mover. It will go around in circles of the Secretariat and will be connected to the Metro. Such people-movers are seen in various international airports."

The CPWD floated a detailed tender for the first three secretariat office complexes — which will emerge in front of the National Archives, where the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts is situated — in April and pre-bid meetings with various firms were also held on April 30.

The firms which showed their presence at the pre-bid



For security and safety reasons, photography at the site is prohibited. Amit Mehra

meetings for clarification of the various terms, conditions and build requirements were Shapoorji Pallonji & Company Private Limited, MEP, L&T, JMC Projects (India) Ltd, Girdhari Lal Constructions Pvt Ltd, Montecarlo Ltd, and PSP Projects. The final date for submission of expression of interests is June 15, 2021. Technical bid submissions shall open on May 25.

The finalised plans for the three complexes show they would have two basement parking levels.

An official from the CPWD said, "The construction of the TOD will take time as the underground Metro network can be connected only when all Secretariat buildings are completed. This will be taken up in the last phase. Meanwhile, part of the underground tunnel for the Metro falling within the plot for buildings 1, 2 & 3 will be completed to avoid disruption at a later stage as these will be in use by then."

No unauthorised photography

As per security requirements that contractors will have to maintain, the construction site must be monitored by CCTVs and security guards. Personal ID cards must be allotted to personnel working on site. The peripheries will also be barricaded by 10-m-high special acoustic barricading or as directed by the NGT.

"Photography/videography at the site should be carried out by authorised personnel identified by the engineer in-charge. Contractor shall make necessary arrangements to keep away unauthorised persons to take photographs/videos," said a senior CPWD official.

The official added, "There is no clause for prohibition of photography/videography by the general public. The construction site is secured for safety purposes and entry of public is allowed only after permission and with Personal

Protective Equipment like helmet and shoes under the guidance of a supervisor. These are required for safety purposes. For the safety of visitors and the public, we enclose the site with barricading boards as work is carried out through heavy machinery. Any public entry without safety equipment may cause accidents and fatalities. It is a mandatory practice followed at every site by CPWD, PWD, DMRC."

Basement parking

The two basement floor underground parking will also have 2X2 multi-level puzzle (stackable) parking, along with single parking spaces. As per this plan, cars will be stacked on two levels. The total parking capacity of one office complex will be 1,861 cars.

White and red stones will be used for cladding, teak wood for carving and jali-work, and white and green marble, lakha red and black granite stones for the flooring.

IGNCA building to take cues from neighbour

ANANYA TIWARI

NEW DELHI, MAY 14

THE NEW Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) complex will have a facade reflecting and integrating "the strong geometry and iconic character of the Hyderabad House", verdant gardens, conservations labs, and other updated features, officials from HCP Design, Planning and Management told *The Indian Express*.

The old building located at Janpath road is set to be demolished as part of the Central Vista Redevelopment project. It has temporarily been shifted to the Janpath hotel, which has been renovated for the purpose. "The

new IGNCA building will be located near India Gate, right opposite Hyderabad House. Hence, its design will reflect and integrate the strong geometry and iconic character of the Hyderabad House," an official said.

Officials said the new Centre will have "state of the art, purpose-designed facility, modern and upgradeable infrastructure. It will have an auditorium, conservation labs, and environmentally-controlled archival spaces. Comfortable facilities for administration, research, and education will be provided. There will also be flexible multi-purpose spaces for performances and exhibitions. It will also have new public facilities such as verdant gardens,

a spectacular rooftop café with vast views across the lush gardens of 'Hexagon C' to India Gate".

The IGNCA has around 3 lakh printed books, more than 1 lakh slides on various cultural traditions, around 3 lakh manuscripts, over 60,000 microfilm rolls, besides thousands of paintings, textiles, and other archival material such as sculptures; and boasts personal collections of 45 artists, as reported by *The Indian Express*.

In early April, *The Indian Express* visited the five-floor Janpath hotel. It has four wings that will include a library block, various cultural archive storage centres, meeting rooms, and corporate-style cubicles for offices that will accommodate some of

the over 250 staff members of the Centre. A new auditorium with a capacity to seat 160, and a media centre above it with over two studio rooms and four classrooms, is currently under construction. An amphitheatre, overlooked by the library, was also constructed for the IGNCA.

Due to the second Covid wave and the lockdown, the transfer process is at a standstill, IGNCA Lt Col (Retd) RA Rangnekar, director (administration) told *The Indian Express*. "By late April, we stopped the transfer, and we do not know how long the lockdowns will continue, and how long it will take to re-mobilise the teams. We will have to start everything afresh once things reopen," he added.

National Archives to get additional building

Officials added that a new building will also be constructed for the National Archives.

"The notified heritage building in the National Archives complex will be refurbished. An additional building, within the campus, is also proposed to accommodate the needs of the National Archives of India. We will know more details about the refurbishment once the building has been studied and surveyed carefully. Refurbishment and extension of the National Archives have been planned in the subsequent phases of the Central Vista project," said the official.

CENTRAL VISTA PROJECT

Ticked off for breach, CPWD seeks nod to transplant trees near Badarpur

ANANYA TIWARI

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

CLAIMING THAT the transplantation of trees from the Parliament complex to the Central Vista Avenue location would have disturbed the proposed Central Vista redevelopment project, the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has sought permission from Delhi government's forest department for the trees to be transplanted at the NTPC Eco Park in Badarpur.

The CPWD was given permission by the department on October 21 to transplant 404 trees from the site of the new Parliament building, adjacent to the current Parliament House, to eight pockets in the Central Vista area, and was directed to do additional compensatory afforestation of 4,040 tree saplings of indigenous species of 6-8 feet height in the same area.



Forest dept granted permission for transplantation on Oct 21

The trees were however being sent to the National Thermal Power Corporation in Badarpur, close to Delhi's border with Haryana, in violation of the conditions. After this was brought to their notice, the forest department threatened to act as per Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994.

In a reply to the forest department on December 3, CPWD said that a "comprehensive scheme for redevelopment of Central Vista Avenue including plantation scheme with selected species... is being finalised. Carrying out transplantation at this moment in Central Vista Avenue without finalising the plan will disturb the

EXPLAINED

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The plan so far

THE CPWD has to transplant 404 trees from the site of the new Parliament building to eight pockets in the Central Vista area. It was also directed to do additional compensatory afforestation of 4,040 tree saplings in the same area.

transplant the trees to their holding nursery at Vanasthali, near Simon Bolivar Marg but it was not found suitable "due to hard or rock surface encountered in the area", as per the CPWD's reply. The NTPC Eco Park was also seen as the possible location for the compensatory afforestation of the 4,040 trees, even though the direction had been to do so at eight pockets in the Central Vista Area.

Around 130 trees have been transplanted to the existing Parliament complex, and 274 trees to the NTPC Eco Park.

The CPWD has asked permission to transplant the 4,040 trees to the NTPC Eco Park and asked for an extension of the deadline from January 31, 2021 to January 31, 2022.

"We will study their proposal, and also do the field visits to determine the number of trees that have been transplanted elsewhere," said an official from the forest department.

proposed scheme."

The Indian Express reported in July that trees in the Rajpath area will be brought back to Lutyens' original design of planting jamun and ficus (Peepal, Banyan and the Wild Ficus) trees only, and that other trees of the area shall be replaced as per this design.

The CPWD initially sought to

Central Vista: CPWD to seek fresh approvals

ANANYA TIWARI

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 7

CPWD will have to seek fresh approval of the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) to include the Prime Minister's Office and residence, Vice-President Enclave and Special Protection Group in the redevelopment under the Central Vista project after being asked to "refrain from piecemeal approach for the proposed development and redevelopment".

On February 12, CPWD applied to EAC for environmental

clearance for proposed expansion and renovation of existing Parliament building, which was cleared on June 17 by the union environment ministry. On November 25, the EAC (Infra 2) returned the proposal submitted by CPWD which sought amendment to the Terms of Reference issued on November 10 for development and redevelopment of the Common Central Secretariat Buildings and Central Conference Centre. EAC directed CPWD to "refrain from piecemeal approach for proposed development and redevelopment".

As part of revamp, Metro stations near Central Vista may get a facelift

Under plan, underground shuttles to connect Delhi Metro with 10 new office buildings

**MALLICA JOSHI
& ANANYA TIWARI**
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 18

THE UNION Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry is looking at expanding and improving facilities at the Metro stations around the Central Vista, as part of the plan to revamp the entire stretch.

The Yellow and Violet Lines of the Metro intersect at Central Secretariat and two stations — Central Secretariat and Udyog Bhawan — are in close proximity to the Vista.

The revamp is being considered as part of the plan to have a people mover — like those that exist at the Singapore and Dubai Airports — to connect, underground, the 10 office buildings that will come up as part of the Central Secretariat.

The Central Vista redesign is being helmed by architect and urban planner Bimal Patel and his team at HCP Design. During a presentation of the redevelopment plan, Patel said the new offices will be geared towards the concept of Transit Oriented Development (TOD).

Under TOD, efficient public transport systems are built around high density office spaces to minimise the use of private vehicles and promote public transport.

In Patel's plan, all 10 office buildings which will come up on the Vista will be connected with the underground people mover that will run in a loop connecting all offices with each other and with the two Metro lines.

"The idea is to bring all central ministry offices in one place — presently 22 out of 51 are located inside the Vista...

The idea that is being worked on, and is in the stage of development, is to have an underground people mover to connect all the buildings and the Metro at the underground level. This is a people mover, not a Metro; they are underground shuttles. We are working on that. We should make it possible for people to reach their offices without coming off the Metro," said Patel.

"We will have to expand and improve facilities at the two Metro stations to make the TOD plan successful. At present, the

Udyog Bhawan and Central Secretariat stations are very cramped. Central Secretariat station is part of the Yellow Line that was opened in 2005 and there is very little space on the platforms. These aspects will have to be looked into if the Metro and people mover combination has to work well," said a senior ministry official.

The Centre and state have an equal partnership in the Delhi Metro, and the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry is the centre's nodal agency under which the Metro falls.

IGNCA will be shifted as part of Central Vista revamp

**MALLICA JOSHI &
ANANYA TIWARI**
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

THE INDIRA Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) will be shifted to where Jamnagar House is located and one of the 10 office buildings will come up in its place, as per the Central Vista revamp plan.

Architect and planner Bimal Patel, whose firm HCP Design has been awarded the contract to redevelop Central Vista, said the cultural space will be shifted to the 15-acre space in Jamnagar House, where hutments are located at the moment.

IGNCA is currently located opposite the National Museum on the Central Vista. After the shift, it will be built opposite the Hyderabad House. The facade of the new IGNCA building will also complement Hyderabad House.

Sources say the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has written to the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to change the land use of the space, where IGNCA is located, from socio-cultural activity to office space.

IGNCA was built in the late 1980s after an international jury



The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts will be shifted to where Jamnagar House is located, and one of the 10 office buildings will come up in its place

that included British architect James Sterling and Japanese architect Fumihiko Maki and India's A P Kanvinde and B V Doshi was instituted. The jury picked American architect Ralph Lerner's design.

Sources said the request to change land use of hutments, which are being used as offices, adjacent the North and South Block from office space to residential has also been made to accommodate the new residences of the Vice-President and the Prime Minister.

According to the plan, the Vice-President's residence will shift from near the National

Museum to north of the North Block; the PMO and PM's residence will be built near the South Block. Communication to change land use of the green area next to Parliament House, which currently has a parking space, to office space has also been sent to DDA. The change is expected in two to three months.

Ministry officials said a competition to come up with a design for the New India Gardens on the bank of the Yamuna beyond the Purana Qila will also be held. The Gardens are at the planning stage but will be made to commemorate 75 years of Independence in 2022.