

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

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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."