



India's New Parliament House

For Prelims: India's New Parliament House, [Central Vista project](#), [Lok Sabha](#), [Rajya Sabha](#), [Earthquake](#), [Foucault Pendulum](#), [Sengol](#).

For Mains: Need for India's New Parliament House.

Why in News?

Recently, the Indian Prime Minister has inaugurated India's new **Parliament building**, part of the revamped [Central Vista project](#).

- The construction of the new building, designed by Architect Bimal Patel, began in 2019.



What is the Need for New Parliament Building?

- **Narrow Seating Space for MPs:**
 - The old building was never **designed to accommodate a bicameral legislature** for a full-fledged democracy. The number of Lok Sabha seats is likely to increase significantly **from the current 545 after 2026**, when the freeze on the total number of seats lifts.
- **Distressed Infrastructure:**
 - The addition of services like water supply and sewer lines, air-conditioning, firefighting equipment, CCTV cameras, etc., **have led to seepage of water at several places** and impacted the aesthetics of the building.
 - Fire safety is a major concern at the building, the official site says.

- **Obsolete Communication Structures:**
 - Communications infrastructure and **technology was antiquated in the old Parliament**, and the acoustics of all the halls need improvement.
- **Safety Concerns:**
 - The old Parliament building was **built when Delhi was in Seismic Zone-II**; currently it is in Seismic Zone-V. This raises structural safety concerns.
- **Inadequate Workspace for Employees:**
 - Over the years, inner **service corridors were converted into offices** which resulted in poor-quality workspaces. In many cases, these workspaces were made even smaller by creating sub-partitions to accommodate more workers.

What are the Key Points Related to the New Parliament?

- **Triangular Shape:**
 - The new building is triangular in shape, mostly **because the plot of land that it is built on is a triangle**.
 - The new building's design is **influenced by sacred geometry found in various religions**. Its design and materials are meant to complement the old Parliament, with the **two buildings expected to function as** one complex.
- **Environment Friendly:**
 - Built using **green construction techniques**, the new building is supposed to reduce **electricity consumption by 30%**, compared to the old one.
 - Rainwater-harvesting and **water-recycling systems have been included**. It has been designed to be more space efficient and meant to function for the next 150 years.
- **Earthquake-Safe:**
 - Since Delhi is in seismic zone-V, the **building is primed to be [Earthquake-safe](#)**.
- **Lok Sabha:**
 - The new [Lok Sabha](#) chamber **has a peacock theme**, with designs **drawn from the national bird's feathers** carved on the walls and ceiling, complemented by teal carpets.
 - The Lok Sabha chamber will have 888 seats, up from the existing 543, with the option of **expanded seating up to 1,272**. The Lok Sabha will be used for joint sittings of both Houses **in the absence of a Central Hall**, which was the fulcrum of the old building.
- **Rajya Sabha:**
 - The Rajya Sabha chamber has been **decorated with the lotus as its theme**, with red carpets.
 - In both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, **two MPs will be able to sit on one bench** and each MP will have a **touch screen on the desk**.
 - The Rajya Sabha chamber can **accommodate 384 Members of Parliament (MPs)**, as opposed to the existing capacity of 250. The increased capacity of both chambers is meant to cater to any future increase in the number of MPs following Delimitation.
- **Constitution Hall:**
 - The new building has a Constitution Hall, where the **journey of Indian democracy has been documented**.
- **Material from across India:**
 - For the interior and exterior of the building, construction **materials have been brought in from across** the country, including *sandstone from Sarmathura* in Dholpur and **granite from Lakha village in Jaisalmer**, Rajasthan.
 - Similarly, the **wood used in the decor is from Nagpur** and **craftsmen from Mumbai** have led the wooden architecture design.
 - **Bhadohi weavers from Uttar Pradesh** have made the **traditional hand-knotted carpets for the building**.
- **Gandhi Statue:**
 - The 16-foot-tall bronze statue of [Mahatma Gandhi](#), **originally placed at the main entrance of Parliament in 1993**, has been relocated between the old and new buildings.
 - It now faces the old building, near the entrance used by the [Lok Sabha Speaker](#). The statue has been a significant site for protests, gatherings, and photo-ops for students and Members of Parliament.

- It was created by renowned sculptor Ram V Sutar, a recipient of the [Padma Bhushan award](#).

- **National Symbols:**

- The building is replete with national symbols, including the **national emblem — the Lion Capital of Ashoka** — that weighs 9,500 kg and is 6.5 metres in height, and is visible from a distance.
- To support this massive bronze sculpture, a **structure of 6,500 kg was constructed on top of the central foyer**. At the entrance, the Ashoka chakra and the words 'Satyameva Jayate' have been carved in stone.

- **Golden Sceptre:**

- A [golden sceptre \(Sengol\)](#), given to [Jawaharlal Nehru](#) on the eve of Independence to mark the transfer of power from the British, **will sit in the new Lok Sabha chamber**, near the Speaker's podium. This sceptre was given to **him by priests from Tamil Nadu**.

- **Going Digital:**

- In line with the environment-friendly focus of the new Parliament, **all records — House proceedings**, questions and other business — are being digitised. Besides, tablets and iPads will become a norm.

- **Galleries in the Building:**

- A gallery called 'Shilp' will exhibit textile installations from across India, along with pottery items made from the mitti of all Indian states. The **gallery 'Sthapatya' will exhibit the iconic monuments of India**, including those from the different states and UTs. Besides monuments, it also amalgamates yoga asanas.

- **Vaastu Shastra:**

- At all the entrances of the building, **auspicious animals as guardian statues will be exhibited**, based on their importance in Indian culture and vaastu shastra. These include the elephant, the horse, the eagle, the swan, and mythical creatures shardula and makara.

- **Foucault Pendulum:**

- A Foucault pendulum installed inside the new Parliament building. At the latitude of Parliament, it takes **49 hours, 59 minutes and 18 seconds** to complete one rotation.
 - The Foucault pendulum, named after **French physicist Léon Foucault**, is used to demonstrate the earth's rotation.
- The pendulum consists of **a heavy bob suspended at the end of a long, strong wire** from a fixed point in the ceiling. As the pendulum swings, the **imaginary surface across which** the wire and the bob swipe is called the plane of the swing.

Central Vista

- The Central Vista of New Delhi houses **Rashtrapati Bhawan, Parliament House, North and South Block**, India Gate, National Archives among others.
- In December 1911, **King George V made an announcement in Delhi Durbar** (a grand assembly) to shift the capital of India from Calcutta to Delhi.
 - Delhi Durbar was hosted to mark the coronation of King George V.
- The task of constructing a new city was given to **Edwin Lutyens, known for his strong adherence to European Classicism** and Herbert Baker, a prominent architect in South Africa.
 - Herbert Baker is also the architect of the Union buildings at Pretoria, South Africa.
- The Parliament House building was **designed by both Lutyens and Baker**.
- Rashtrapati Bhavan was designed by Edwin Lutyens.
- The Secretariat, which includes both north and south blocks was designed by Herbert Baker.

[Source: IE](#)

