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New Parliament work may start today

Panel approved proposal on Monday

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

Construction work on the new Parliament building is likely to begin on Thursday, after the Supreme Court gave the go-ahead on January 5 and the Heritage Conservation Committee (HCC) approved the proposal on Monday, Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry officials said on Wednesday.

A top official said the work would start on Thursday, which happens to be the auspicious day of Makar Sankranti.

The project was scheduled to start in December, but construction and demolition at the site was put on hold while legal challenges to the project were pending in the court. On December 7, the court allowed the ground-breaking ceremony to take place after the government submitted an affidavit that it would not start construction, demolition and tree transplantation until the court gave its judgment.

With the court clearing the project on January 5, the Central Public Works Department moved the HCC for approval, which was granted on Monday, according to HUA Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation



Workers at the construction site of the new Parliament.

stone for the project on December 10, 2020. The project, the contract for which was given by the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) to Tata Projects Ltd. for ₹971 crore, is expected to take 22 months to complete.

Work on the redevelopment of Rajpath, another part of the larger Central Vista revamp, is expected to start after the Republic Day celebrations.

Mr. Mishra had said at a press conference on Monday that the work would start by February 1.

According to a CPWD official, the contract was awarded to Shapoorji Pallonji and Company Ltd. on January 8 after its bid of ₹477.08 crore emerged as the lowest. The work would start after the requisite approvals are obtained, the official said.