

Auction of jamun from trees at India Gate finds no takers

19 May 2023



The government's auction of the fruit on jamun trees around India Gate Thursday received no response, according to officials aware of the development.

The Central Public Works Department had on May 11 issued an auction notice for the jamun fruit on both sides (North and South) of Kartavya Path and C Hexagon — the area around India Gate. The reserve price for the fruit was set at Rs 1.30 lakh and responses were invited till 3 pm on Thursday.

According to two officials, no responses were received till the deadline. Whether the auction would be organised again or not was yet to be decided, one of the officials said.

While such auctions are routine, the officials said, Thursday's auction would have been the first one since Kartavya Path was redeveloped and renamed from Rajpath last year, as a part of the government's Central Vista redevelopment plan.

The auction notice had set August 31 as the deadline for the fruit to be plucked by the highest bidder. "The fruits should be collected safely without any harm to tree trunks. No Rope, jhula/swing etc will be allowed to collect the fruits," it had said.

The last time a similar auction was carried out was before the pandemic and it netted

Rs 1.18 lakh, another official said. The aim of such auctions is to prevent people from damaging the trees while plucking the fruit, the official said.

The jamun trees around India Gate had been a topic of discussion while the CPWD was carrying out the Kartavya Path redevelopment project. Activists had in May 2021 raised concerns that some of the trees were being uprooted for the project.

Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Puri had responded in a tweet, saying, “No jamun trees have been removed. Only few trees will be transplanted in entire project”.

The 3-km stretch reopened to the public in September 2022 after being closed for redevelopment for 20 months.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/auction-of-jamun-from-trees-at-india-gate-finds-no-takers-8617309/>