

IIT-Gn students to design campus landmark

The institute has invited design entries from its students for a 28-metre-high iconic structure on the new campus that would reflect the ethos of IIT

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Harvard Steps at IIMA and the Chai Gate at NID are two of the famous on-campus landmarks that remain etched forever in the hearts of students who have passed out of these institutes. However, neither of the two premier institutes can boast of an initiative like IIT-Gn's—inviting designs from students for the construction of an iconic structure that would reflect the ethos of IIT.

The institute currently operates out of Vishwakarma Institute of Engineering and Technology Chandkheda. It will now be shifted to Palej, close to the river. Prof Bhaskar Dutta, assistant professor of Chemistry at IIT-Gn said, "We are planning a 28-metre-tall tower-like structure in the canteen complex. The design should reflect what IIT stands for. Earlier, the institute got the students to interact with the architect where they came up with some wonderful ideas on what the landmark should be. Now, we have organised a contest and are inviting en-



One of the designs of the landmark submitted by the students

tries from the students on the design of that landmark."

He adds, "The response has been overwhelming. One of the students suggested a hybrid model design

while another suggested we construct a rock with grooves in it so that students can climb up, symbolic of perseverance."

IIT-Gn has been encouraging maxi-



mum level of student-architect interaction in the design process, says Dutta. He says, "Earlier, we asked students to come up with ideas for reading spots or solitude points on the campus.

These were not part of any contest, but they were definitely brilliant suggestions. Some of these included electronic displays, ornamental gardens, small accessible balconies with elements of regional or national heritage."

The contest poster that was circulated among the students read: "Among other things, a part of you lives on, in the campus, forever." Shreyans Nahar, a second year mechanical engineering student who is participating in the contest, says, "This is a great concept. Not many students are involved in something like design of an institute. Unlike the other IITs, ours is just five-years old and therefore we are all the more fortunate. If my design is chosen I am going to feel happy and extremely proud. Even after I pass out, I will leave behind a part of me here. It is such a great feeling to even think of it."

Talking about his design, he says, "I have suggested a space for few people to sit on the top of the tower. It would be quite an experience to sit there, facing the river and enjoying the cool winds."