

Ancient stepwell tech for IIT-Gn rainwater harvest

It Is Building Vav-Like Structures On Its New Campus

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Ahmedabad: An intricately-constructed vav, delicately-carved pillars and stepped corridors. This is not magnificent Rani-ki-Vav in Patan. History is repeating itself on IIT-Gandhinagar's new campus where several vavs have been designed to recycle and conserve water.

Water is the central theme at



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IIT-Gn's permanent campus near Palaj village. Measures have been taken to harvest rainwater and recycle the water used on the eco-friendly institute's grounds spread over 400 acres, says Prof Harish Palanthatandalam-Madapusi, of mechanical engineering department.

Taking inspiration from the vav concept in Gujarat, IIT-Gn has designed vavs (jal mandaps) on top of huge underground rainwater harvesting tanks. These 'jal mandaps' are small monuments that celebrate water and have rainwater harvesting tanks underneath, he says.

Underground tanks and water in these vavs are now not visible from outside, but they will be developed as mini-stepwells in coming months. Right now, informal seating areas have been developed to make them vibrant spaces for gathering. Deep trenches will be dug for dependable and round-the-year groundwater.