

# IIT-GN Palaj campus to have 10-storey 'landmark tower'

**LAKSHMIJAY**

AHMEDABAD, MAY 22

A "LANDMARK tower", 30 meters in height, made of red pigmented concrete akin to a ten-storey building, is going to be a unique feature at the new permanent riverfront campus of the Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar. The institute which was functioning from a temporary facility at Vishwakarma Engineering College (VEC) on the outskirts of Ahmedabad, is expected to make a move with around 1,000 students and close to 100 faculty to its permanent 400 acres residential campus at Palaj in Gandhinagar by mid-July.

Six architectural firms, including two from the city, have participated in the design of the permanent campus which is located on the banks of the Sabarmati at Palaj. While the masterplan was drawn up by Delhi-based Green campus development consortium, the student hostels were designed by HCP Design Planning and Management Pvt. Ltd, faculty

and staff housing have been done by Vastu Shilpa Consultants and the academic areas have been designed by Pune based Mitimitra Consultants Pvt Ltd (MCPL).

"The 'Landmark tower', which will measure 30 meters, is built in such a way that it is visible from the other side of the river Sabarmati. The building will be as tall as ten floors and will have observation decks for students and will be their activity area. There will be student canteen and cafeterias in the first and second floor canteen of the tower. A large green belt stretching across campus, terrace gardens and two natural lakes which we will be supplementing and sustaining will provide cooling. We are looking to develop the 400-acre campus with long-term plan as the strength of students is growing in numbers. In the next few months, other amenities like more formal sports facilities like a stadium, additional housing for students and faculty will be built to cater to increased strength in coming years," said Harish Palanhandalam-Madapusi, an IITGN faculty from the mechan-

ical engineering department, who is involved with the campus work at Palaj.

While the initial project cost of construction was estimated at Rs 1,200 crore, sources claimed that IIT-GN has till now spent Rs 400 crore till now. Looking to grow in student and faculty numbers, a 600-seater auditorium, a sports stadium, shopping arcades, and a library building are next in line at the new campus.

Harish added, "In the first phase, around 1,200 students will be able to move into the new Palaj campus by mid July. We have completed a major part of construction in the first phase including basic amenities like hostels, labs, class rooms, library, playground and more amenities are on way. In the second phase, Pune-based MCPL is set to complete the ongoing work and for finalising smaller projects within the campus, while the next phase of student hostels will be designed by Neeraj Manchanda Architects, Delhi." IIT-GN students and faculty also came up with innovative engineering solutions like ventilation strategies, use of structural methods.