

City students to shine at solar meet

FIRST TIME Aspiring architects from IIT-B, Rachna Sansad are making a solar-powered house for a global competition in France

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MUMBAI: Sixty-five architecture students from two city-based institutions will be showcasing a prototype of a solar-powered house at the prestigious Solar Decathlon Europe to be held at Versailles, France next June.

The team comprising students and professors from the Indian Institute of Technology in Powai (IIT-B) and Rachna Sansad Academy of Architecture in Prabhadevi is the first Indian team to participate at the international competition to build exclusive solar-powered homes.

Named Team Shunya, the group will work on designs and technology to build a prototype of a solar-power house inside the IIT-B campus.

"In recent years, Indian students are increasingly taking part in competitions on an international level and this is proof of the fact that they have confidence in their abilities," said Rohit Shinkre, principal

FIRST INDIAN TEAM TO CONTEST

THE TEAM COMPRISING STUDENTS

and professors from the Indian Institute of Technology in Powai (IIT-B) and Rachna Sansad Academy of Architecture in Prabhadevi is the first Indian team to contest at the international competition to build exclusive solar-powered homes. Solar Decathlon Europe is modeled on the lines of a competition created in 2002 by the US department of Energy.

NAMED TEAM SHUNYA, THE GROUP

will work on designs and technology to build the prototype of a solar-power house inside the IIT-B campus.

INDIAN CULTURE and traditions will be the basis of the design. This includes positioning of rooms based on the traditional belief of Vastu Shastra.



Students of team Shunya discuss the construction of their solar-powered home which they intend to make with low-energy substances.

of Rachna Sansad Academy of Architecture.

The prototype of the house has to be built in such a way that it can be dismantled by and flown to France where students have to re-assemble it at the final stage of the competi-

tion.

The team aims to design a house keeping in mind the Indian culture and tradition such as designing the positioning of rooms based on the traditional belief of Vastu Shastra. They are also work-

ing on innovative techniques to utilise traditional building materials and low-energy substances to construct and design a cost-effective model.

Adwit Kashyap, 22, a final year student of energy and science at IIT-B said, "We are in

talks with a few construction companies, and others that are doing research in the field of technological development, to get sponsorship."

When asked what pushes them to spend hours a week working on this project, Sayuri

Kulkarni, 21, a final year architecture student from Rachna Sansad, said, "We are attempting something different, something new and we are getting a great platform to showcase our ideas, which is what keeps me going."

COMPETITION, A LEARNING EXPERIENCE

"This is a good experience for these students as they will learn on the job and that is the best way to experience working in a team. It is a way for students to get involved with the subject while also doing something for society."

RANGAN BANERJEE,
professor, IIT Powai

"Right from the beginning I have been taught time and again that wasting energy is criminal. When this opportunity came up, I was excited to work on it."

SWAROOP HANGAL, student,
Aerospace Engineering, IIT Powai