

Water sports institute to get new iconic building at Caranzalem

 Joaquim Fernandes, TNN | Nov 26, 2013, 01:25 AM IST

PANAJI: Having its only campus in India off the Caranzalem beach, the national institute of water sports (NIWS) is set to get a brand new iconic building and related infrastructure.

The Goa State Infrastructure Development Corporation (GSIDC) has recently tendered the project sanctioned by the Union ministry of tourism at an estimated cost of 39.59-crore. The work is likely to begin in December.

The NIWS was set up at Caranzalem in 1990 and is the only campus of the NIWS in India. It has a mandate to deal with leisure water sports, develop training courses in variety of water sports including boat handling, pool management, parasailing, river rafting, etc.

Designed by award-winning architects, MOFA Studios, New Delhi, the institute hopes to be "one of its kind in Asia." The institute will provide state-of-the-art facilities, training and courses on luxury water sports, wind surfing, dinghy sailing, river rafting, kayaking, water skiing, scuba diving, para-sailing /gliding, rescue, life guards, boat repairs, tourism, management of water sports facilities etc.

The project also includes a boat house to house various boats, canoes, kayaks, sails, yachts, etc. There is an Olympic size swimming pool with

swimming, diving, and life guard training, deep sea rescue and training facilities; a 110-bedded hostel separate for men and women, toilets, warden room and guest accommodation. There will also be scuba diving training facilities, boat training, maintenance and repair workshops, administrative block, faculty block, classrooms, seminar rooms, technical and e-library, training hall, computer room and cafeteria.

MOFA Studios told TOI that the architecture of the building mimics the open expanse of the sea with large span steel structure roof with sustainable building materials. The building has large overhangs to keep the rainfall out but let wind pass through the building and keep it naturally ventilated. "The project also includes an Olympic-size swimming pool with diving facilities and the landscape using local trees and bunds across the land creating criss-crossing water channels to always remind that the land is merely the path. The destination is the sea," said MOFA.

Sutheeshna Babu S, NIWS nodal officer in Goa told TOI, "When the new infrastructure is ready, we will be able to utilize our full potential which we presently cannot. We get lots of requests for training and management from all over the country including from the army and the air force which we cannot honour. With the new infrastructure, we will be able to honour the requests."