

India's biggest convention centre to come up at MU with ₹30-cr aid

Yogita Rao

The country's largest convention centre will come up at Mumbai University's Kalina campus soon, claims the vice-chancellor of the university, Rajan Welukar.

It will have a capacity of 5,500 seats. An alumnus of Podar College of Commerce and Economics, Asit Koticha, donated Rs30 crore to the university for construction of the centre. On Tuesday, Koticha and the V-C signed the MoU for the international convention centre. This is the first time that the university has received a donation of such a huge amount.

The world-class convention centre will have state-of-the-art facilities. It will also have ex-



ecutive suites for delegates, and will meet the requirements of corporates, educational institutes, and will also be used for political events. "We will get globally acclaimed architects to design the building. Mumbaiites need not look for options beyond the one that we are making for seminars and conferences," said Welukar.

Construction work on the 5-acre land in Kalina will start from June 5, World Environment Day. "Since we plan to make a green building, we have decided to begin construction on this day. Around 15 renowned architects will be shortlisted, of which we will select one," said Rajpal Hande, director of Board of College and University Development.

Koticha had completed a BCom from Podar College. Instead of donating money for the project to the university, but will build the centre and hand it over, which will then become the university's property. According to Welukar, Koticha is ready to pump in even Rs100 crore, if need be, for the convention centre.