

The towers will undergo wind tunnel test to ensure they can withstand mighty winds at such a height

AN ARCHITECT ASSOCIATED WITH THE ANANDAPUR PROJECT

TIMES CITY

THE TIMES OF INDIA, KOLKATA | SATURDAY, JULY 12, 2008

We will pull out all stops to create an iconic building. It is our grand vision to gift Kolkata something spectacular

Karan Paul | APEEJAY SURRENDRA GROUP CHAIRMAN

Apeejay's 'spectacular' gift for city

Subhro Niyogi | TNN

Kolkata: The Apeejay Surrendra group has vowed to construct a Manhattan-style skyscraper on the plot it recently acquired along the EM Bypass.

Speaking to TOI, Apeejay Surrendra group chairman Karan Paul said the group was determined to create the most defining building in Kolkata.

"We will pull out all stops to create an iconic building. It is the grand vision of the family to gift Kolkata, our home, something spectacular," Paul said. It will also be a fitting edifice to mark the group's centenary in 2010.

He, however, refused to divulge how tall the proposed building would be as Life Insurance Corporation of India, too, is in the race to build the tallest tower in the city. With the latter stating that its building would be more than 50 storeys, the Apeejay Surrendra group could push the bar higher at 60-75 storeys.

The group has appointed US architecture firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM), which is involved in multiple prestigious projects worldwide, including Ter-



минал 3 at Changi International Airport, Canary Wharf development, Burj Dubai, Brunswick building, Chase Manhattan Bank, China World Trade Centre, City

Santa Fe and Infinity Tower.

"We loved what SOM did for our hotel project in Hyderabad and are confident they will do something extra special in Kolkata. We hope to finalise everything in a couple of months and begin work early next year," he said.

While the building will have a futuristic design, Paul is keen to blend Indian motifs in general and Bengal in particular in the building's architecture. "We want to build a structure that is extremely contemporary with local motifs integrated in it so that it does not seem out of place," said Paul.

Apart from the super-luxury hotel, the building will also have a retail and commercial section. "The focus will be on the hotel. Anything else that is housed in the super-structure will only complement the hospitality business," he added.

The group purchased the 3.35 acres near Science City for a whopping Rs 135.77 crore. While two hotels — ITC Sonar Kolkata and Hyatt Regency — are already located along the stretch, three more hotels — Hilton, JW Marriott and Holiday Inn — are underway in adjacent plots.