

Sculpture at IIT Palakkad

Request For Proposals (January 2026)

RFP No: 17/IITPKD/EWD/2025-26/369



INDIAN INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY
PALAKKAD

Introduction

The Indian Institute of Technology Palakkad (IIT Palakkad) invites proposals from qualified artists to conceptualize, design, and execute a monumental sculpture to be installed at a designated site within the campus. This installation is envisioned as a permanent artistic landmark symbolizing creativity, scientific thought, and institutional identity.

About IIT Palakkad

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Palakkad is a Higher Education and Research Institution of National Importance under the Ministry of Education, Government of India. Established in 2015, IIT Palakkad is dedicated to creating an environment that enables students and faculty to engage in the pursuit of knowledge, to dream, think and innovate thereby becoming change agents for a better world. Having begun with just 120 students in July 2015, IIT Palakkad has since grown into an establishment which is about 1470 students strong and with the best of manpower in key positions. IIT Palakkad aims to become a multi-disciplinary institution with 2600 students by 2029. In alignment with its long-term institutional vision and master planning framework, the fully developed campus is designed to accommodate a future capacity of approximately 12,000 students, along with supporting faculty, research infrastructure, industry engagement spaces, and associated amenities. More information about the institute can be found on our website: <https://iitpkd.ac.in/>

Background on the Project

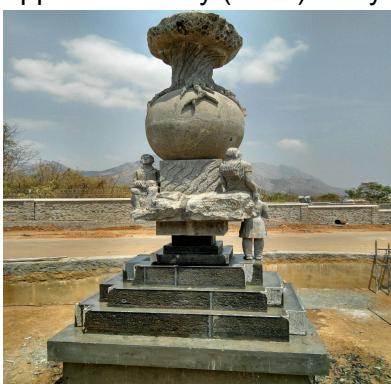
Over the past 5 years few granite/ monolith marble sculptures made by different artists have been unveiled by the graduating students during their convocation.

Given below are a few Existing Sculptures at IIT Palakkad

The campus already features a series of stone and monolithic sculptures unveiled by graduating student batches over the past years. Selected examples include:

Unfinished (2019) — by Sanul K.K.

Trapped Visionary (2023) — by Tarvinder Singh and Mandeep Singh



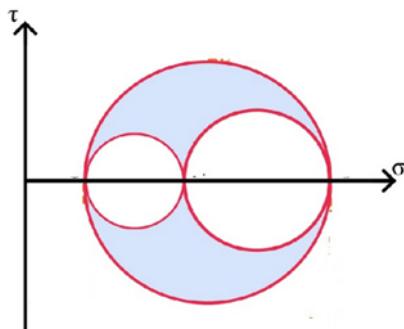
*Unfinished, 2019 by
Sanul K. K*



*Trapped Visionary, 2023 by
Tarvinder Singh and Mandeep Singh*

To extend this artistic legacy and add a technically meaningful symbolic landmark, IIT Palakkad proposes a sculpture integrating the scientific representation of Mohr's Circle within a stylised form of a peacock (Mor – in Hindi) - a unique coincidence of engineering symbolism and regional natural identity. Mohr's Circle, commonly represented in mechanical, civil, materials, and structural engineering, visually demonstrates the transformation of the Cauchy stress tensor.

Typical Mohr's Circle



Further, IIT Palakkad is home to a thriving population of peacocks that are frequently seen across campus. The sculpture concept integrates this symbolic bird with the scientific representation of Mohr's Circle—a widely recognised graphical tool in core engineering branches.

The sculpture is envisioned as an artistic fusion where the elegance and cultural symbolism of a peacock harmoniously coexist with the precision and geometry of Mohr's Circle. The design must meaningfully incorporate the graphical elements of the circle, including the coordinate axes and the symbols τ (shear stress) and σ (normal stress), without compromising aesthetic expression.

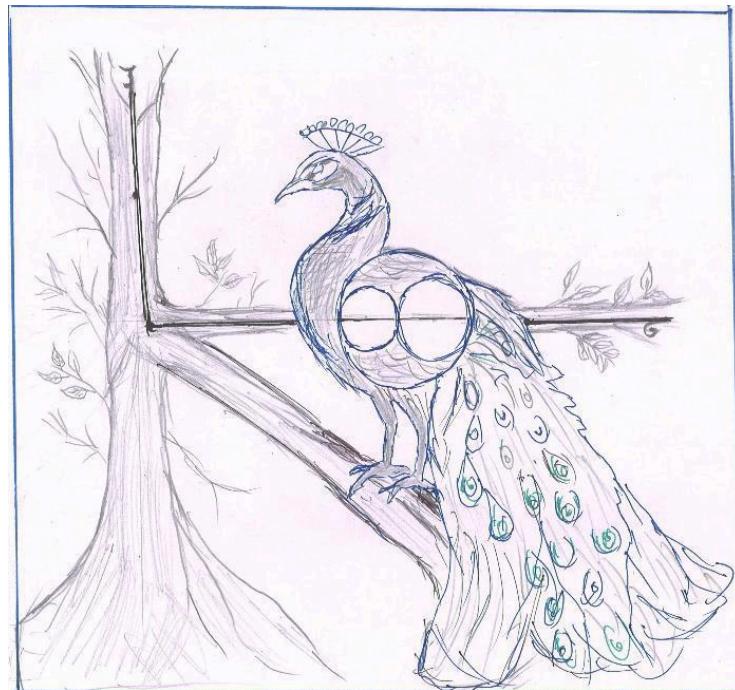
The sculpture should incorporate:

- A clear visual representation of Mohr's Circle and its features
- Associated axes and symbols: τ , (Greek: Tau) representing the shear stress and σ (Greek Sigma) representing the normal stress
- A peacock-inspired sculptural interpretation

The reference image provided below is only indicative. Artists are encouraged to reinterpret the theme creatively and propose innovative forms, materiality, construction techniques, and artistic language. Durability, structural stability, and suitability for long-term outdoor display should be carefully considered while conceptualizing the final design. There may be one or many Peacocks

based on the demand of the proposed location without compromising the intended theme of the art work from all directions.

An indicative reference image



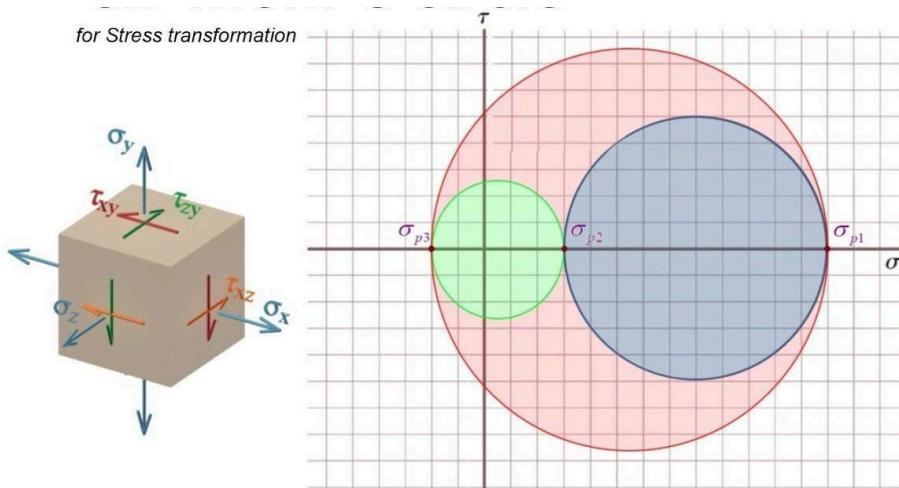
Technical Details of Mohr's Circle

Mohr's circle is a simple graphical way to understand how forces act inside a material when it is loaded. When external forces act on a body, the stress at a point inside a body can act in many directions, which can be difficult to visualise. Mohr's circle converts this complex three-dimensional stress state into an easy-to-read two-dimensional diagram. By drawing a circle using the applied stresses, one can directly identify the maximum and minimum normal stresses and the corresponding shear stresses, as well as how these stresses vary with orientation.

An important feature of Mohr's circle is the pole (also called the origin of planes). The pole is a specific point on the circle that serves as a reference to determine stresses acting on any plane within the material. Once the pole is located, the stress on any inclined plane can be found simply by drawing a straight line from the pole parallel to that physical plane; where this line intersects the circle gives the normal and shear stresses on that plane. In this

way, the pole creates a direct geometric link between the real orientation of a plane inside the material and its corresponding point on Mohr's circle. The Mohr's circle illustrations presented in this document are indicative in nature. Artists are encouraged to interpret the concept creatively, provided the scientific principles of Mohr's circle are not compromised. For instance, the placement of the vertical (Y) axis either within or outside the circle is acceptable in Mohr's circle construction; accordingly, the two illustrated Mohr's circles are shown differently. Artists may contact ewd@iitpkd.ac.in for any technical clarifications related to the components of Mohr's circle.

Typical Mohr's Circle (3D)



The proposed location.

The proposed location of the sculpture is at the centre of the roundabout in front of the Kedaram Mess (picture attached). The location is the confluencing space where the hostel, academic and recreational activities of the institute meet. It is frequented by students, staff, faculty and the campus community, confluence on their way to and back from their respective spaces. The location is adjacent to the sculpture, "Trapped Visionary", surrounded by the Hostels, Mess, Academic blocks, Amphitheatre(future) and with the backdrop of the Sahyadri Mountain ranges. Artists are welcome to visit the site (at their own expense), and if they wish to do so, may contact ewd@iitpkd.ac.in.



[\[A video that showcases the overall ambience of the exterior can be viewed here\]](#)

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fcZtfh0SuNIAtlJ-bGHBuW5I19JGi3ww/view?usp=drive_link

Specification of the Proposed Monument

1. **Design Freedom:** Open and artist-driven, but must align and comply with the theme, which is outlined in this document. It is worth mentioning that the design should also comply with the existing artistic, natural and manmade features of IIT Palakkad.
2. The proposed installation site is located at the **centre of a roundabout**, which will be developed as a **plaza-like space**.
3. **Diameter of the area:** 22 metres (approximately **72 feet**).
4. The sculpture should be designed keeping in mind **360-degree visibility** and pedestrian movement within a plaza setting
5. **Dimensions:** Sculpture must fit not less than an 8 ft x 8 ft plinth and must not be between 9 to 10 feet. Structural stability is mandatory.
6. The sculpture must remain visually balanced and structurally stable within the given spatial context.
7. **Material:** Granite only-

8. **Construction type:** The sculpture **must be a monolith** (single stone).
9. The material and finish should ensure **long-term durability** under local climatic conditions.
10. The proposed design must be developed with sensitivity to the **relationship between flora, fauna, and the natural landscape of the IIT Palakkad campus**, including its biodiversity and surrounding Western Ghats (Sahyadri ranges).
11. The artistic expression should harmoniously integrate with the campus environment while maintaining the scientific and symbolic integrity of the theme.
12. The **reference image provided in the document is only indicative** and serves purely as a conceptual suggestion. Artists are encouraged to propose original interpretations.
13. **Work agreement:** All materials, helping artists, and transportation are to be arranged by the artist. The financial quote should be inclusive of all these. IIT Palakkad may provide further logistic support at the site as per actual requirement.
14. **Work site:** The artist may work on the sculpture at their studio and transport it to the site, or work at the site, or opt for a combination of these. The proposal shall include their preference for the work site and expected infrastructural support from the Institute.

Selection and Execution Process

The selection will be through a two-stage evaluation consisting of

- Stage 1. Evaluation of the design proposal, and
- Stage 2. Evaluation of financial proposal.

Part 1 (Design Proposal) should contain

- Justification of the theme “Mohr’s Circle” and its features
- Drawing (sketch) of the proposed sculpture
- Concept note/ A brief description of the proposed artwork
- Proposed dimensions (base and height)
- Proposed material
- Estimated timeline for completion
- Preference for work-site and logistic support required
- Artist portfolio including the selected previous works

Part 1 is to be submitted using the following link by **6th March 2026**.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1R8bINU0_G4v0-Q0WDDD1RTF-sGO6RG1fCRVF12dbQQ/edit

A **maquette (scale model)** of the proposed sculpture must also be submitted/produced as part of the design development process (physical or as specified by the Institute at a later stage).

Conceptual clarity and feasibility will be key criteria during evaluation.

One artist is allowed to submit multiple proposals. However, each proposal should have a Name with a numerical sequence to his/ her work. Artists who have previously contributed sculptures to IIT Palakkad may please refrain.

Part 2. (Financial Proposal). The financial proposal (financial bid) should mention **the total cost of executing the project**. The cost should include the honorarium for the artists, cost of all materials, transportation charges (if applicable), loading and unloading, installation, etc. The financial proposal for each design should be submitted in a separate sealed envelope in which the name of the design proposal is clearly marked on the outside. If the artist is submitting multiple proposals, the financial bids for each proposal should be in separate envelopes with the titles clearly indicated.

The financial bid is to be sent by post only in a sealed envelope to the address mentioned below so that it reaches by the **13th of March 2026**. The sealed envelope must be marked clearly as "**Proposal for Sculpture**" and below it, in capital letters, the title of your proposal.

Office of the Dean Infrastructure
Engineering Works Division
IIT Palakkad (Main Campus)
Near Gramalakshmi Mudralayam,
Kanjikode West, Pudusseri Po
Palakkad - 678 623
Phone No. 04923 226 542

Selection procedure

A jury appointed by the Institute will evaluate the design proposals and shortlist the qualified proposals to open their accompanying financial bid. The decision of the jury shall be final and binding. Only the financial proposals of the shortlisted design proposals will be opened. If the shortlist contains more than one design proposal, then the one with the lowest financial quote will be declared as the winner.

Timeline

<i>Stage</i>	<i>Last Date</i>	<i>Procedure</i>
Call for Proposals	2 nd February 2026	IIT Palakkad will issue this call for proposals from interested artists
Design Proposal	6 th March 2026	Last date to receive Part 1 (Design Proposal) via the online submission form.
Financial Proposal	13 th March 2026	Last date to receive Part 2 (Financial Proposals) with the design proposals in hard copy at IIT Palakkad.
Shortlisting and Selection	16 th March 2026	Shortlisting based on the proposal by the jury and final selection based on financial bids.
Work Order	18 th March 2026	IIT Palakkad issue the work order to the shortlisted artist
Completion	15 th May 2026	The sculpture installation is to be completed on-site.