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KP station to be a melange of tradition and technique

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Historic Kasturchand Park will soon get a metro station, making people's life better and easing off the traffic woes of the commuters. This development has awakened the curiosity of Nagpurians, who really want to know how the station would look like and whether the elements of tradition would reflect in the design aspect.

Managing Director of Maha Metro, Brijesh Dixit, explains, "The hi-tech concept of metro would be blended beautifully at the Kasturchand Park station. At the station, we will give the commuters the best of facilities. But we also realise the importance of this place, which is surrounded by stunning heritage structures, including Reserve Bank of India, Vidhan Bhavan and Kasturchand Park. There will be two entrances to the metro station and one of them facing Kasturchand Park, will have ethnic elements complementing the old-world charm and wealth of heritage in the neighbourhood. We will use the stone that is similar to the one used at RBI for the outer wall of the station and will try and add some pillars or structures that give lucidity to the colonial aura of the place. We are also thinking of making a clock tower there if possible, although final decision is yet to be taken in this regard."

Ask him if the heritage committee has given a green signal to all these elements, and the chief of Maha Metro says, "They agree in principle and I'm sure we are all on the same page as far as the development and conservation go. We are working hard to make this station a world-class project despite

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legal and conservation-related challenges because we have promised this to the people of Nagpur."

As far as the outer design of the station or its facade goes, conservationist and city architect Habib Khan offers a suggestion. He says, "I feel when you decide to contemporize history in architectural design, you must not replicate it. The new architecture must be a contemporary extension of the old and it must be contextual, respecting people, the nearby buildings, the materials and the climate of the place. I'm sure if these elements are incorporated into Kasturchand Park station, it would be a great success."