

The Times of India  
Vijay Pinjarkar / TNN  
12 September 2020

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Proposed 3D view

NAGPUR: The Heritage Conservation Committee (HCC), under the aegis of Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC), cleared the proposal of Nagpur railway station. The proposal was approved with the condition that existing main building structure will not be damaged.

Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC) is developing 600 stations in the country. These redeveloped hubs will be called 'Railopolis', as it will attract huge investment and business opportunities. In the request for qualification (RFQ), six parties have evinced interest to redevelop Nagpur station as world class at a cost of Rs 465 crore.

IRSDC is a special purpose company incorporated under the Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA), Ircon International Limited (IRCON), and Rail India Technical and Economic Services Limited (RITES).

IRSDC's joint general manager PS Uttarwar said, "In order to de-risk the project, we do processes to obtain approvals. As part of the same, we submitted a detailed proposal to NMC and heritage impact plan to Heritage Conservation Committee consisting of town planning officials, architects, engineers and environmentalists. We are glad that the panel ayed the proposal."

HCC member Tapan Chakrabarty said, "The approval has been granted subject to the condition that main station building, which has historical significance and is a Grade-II heritage structure, will not be damaged. The building is made up of Kanhan yellow sandstone in classical block style."

ISRDC architect Utkarsh Chaudhary said, "We will not damage the building but will clean it up. The plan is to de-clutter heritage building by relocating the surrounding buildings, enhance beauty and grandeur of the heritage building. Also it is proposed to introduce lift for universal accessibility and modernize without disturbing the heritage."

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” However, the HCC has said ‘no’ to develop a shade for passenger movement in front of the station building. Rest of the proposal was approved as it is. The IRSDC had applied for clearance in March but due to Covid-19, meeting was held last month and the approval came on September 7.

Uttarwar said IRSDC has been designated as nodal agency for redevelopment of all railway stations across Union government has given powers to IRSDC for approving its plan under Section 11 of the Railways Act 1989.

IRSDC shall consult urban local bodies and other statutory authorities while approving its plan so that the development is harmonious to its surroundings. The presentation for Nagpur station was made by French architect firm ENIA Design Private Limited and IRSDC by video conferencing.

To a question, Uttarwar added, “Heritage Grade II buildings present regional and local importance, along with special architectural, aesthetic merit, its cultural and historical significance, workmanship, ornamentation, climate responsive architectural. Our heritage plan is prepared considering all these aspects.”