

REDEVELOPEMENT OF KOPARGAON RAILWAY STATION

KOPERGAON RAILWAY STATION :

Indian Railways launched **AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME** in year 2023 for redevelopment of selected stations in India. The scheme is designed for continuous development of stations on long term basis in phases. It involves preparation of Master Plans and their implementation in phases to improve the amenities at the stations like improvement of station access, circulating areas, waiting halls, toilets, lift/escalators as necessary, cleanliness, free Wi-Fi, kiosks for local products through schemes like 'One Station One Product', better passenger information systems, Executive lounges, nominated spaces for business meeting, landscaping, etc keeping in view the necessity at each station. The scheme also envisages improvement of building, integrating the station with both sides of the city, multi-modal integration, amenities for Divyangjans, sustainable and environment friendly solutions, provision of Ballast less tracks, phasing and feasibility and creation of city centres at the station in the long term.

HISTORY OF KOPERGAON STATION :

Kopergaon railway station is a railway station serving Kopergaon town, in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra State of India. It is under Pune railway division of Central Railway Zone of Indian Railways. It is located at 508 m above sea level and Shirdi Airport is at distance of 20 kilometres. Kopergaon is situated at 19.88°N 74.48°E. It has an average elevation of 593 meters (2,117 feet) and lies on the banks of the Godavari River.

Shirdi is a town in the state of Maharashtra near Kopergaon, in western India. It's known as the former home of revered spiritual leader Sai Baba, and as a major pilgrimage site. Devotees gather daily at the Sai Baba Temple complex to honor his legacy. Here, the Samadhi Mandir shrine has an ornate marble statue of Sai Baba, alongside his tomb. Close by are Dwarkamai, a mosque where Sai Baba once lived.

KOPERGAON RAILWAY STATION UNDER ABSS SCHEME :

Kopergaon Railway Station (KPG) is situated in the town of Kopergaon, Ahmednagar district, Maharashtra. It has 3 platforms and offers basic amenities like waiting rooms, drinking water, and toilets. It is a popular stop for travellers heading towards Nashik and Aurangabad.

Station Address-

Sanjivani College Road, Kopergaon, District Ahmednagar - 423 603 State: Maharashtra

Tel: 02423-222268 ;

Elevation: **550 m above sea level**

Type: **Regular**

Category: **NSG-3**

Zone: **CR/Central**

Division: **Pune**

Nearest Airport : **Shirdi Airport/SRD: 20 km**

Highlights-

Number of Platforms: **3**

Number of Halting Trains: **78**

Number of Originating Trains: **0**

Number of Terminating Trains: **0**

Kopargaon is one of the most crucial railway stations in India that has a station code name of KPG. As a leading platform under the central district, it's considered as the busiest station and it serves as the major transportation hub. At present, approximately 78 trains pass through the KPG in total. The Kopargaon offers every traveller with a vast range of facilities, such as availability of ticket counters, food halls, sanitised washrooms, restrooms, ticket counters and access to various transportation modes. With these services, the Kopargaon aims to provide comfortable and relaxing experiences to the travellers. Overall, the station is well-connected with other cities also, making it easier to reach the destination.

The station is well-connected to a number of Indian cities. Some of the major routes include to the places of Vijayawada Jn, New Delhi, and Howrah Jn. There are 2 weekly trains connecting Vijayawada Jn to Kopargaon, 2 weekly trains connecting New Delhi to Kopargaon, and 9 weekly trains connecting Howrah Jn to Kopargaon.

Some of the popular trains traveling to Kopargaon are Nzb Pune Pass(51422) to Pune operating 7 times a week, Pune Nzb Pass(51421) to Nizamabad operating 7 times a week, and Pune Mmr Pass(51401) to Manmad operating 7 times a week. Traveling in one of these trains will be a memorable experience.

KEY FEATURES OF DESIGN AT KPG STATION :

- **Enhanced Station Approaches and Circulating Area:** Improvement of station approaches with, drop off zone, Porch, signages and landscaping for beautification of circulating area.
- **Inclusive Accessibility and Facilities for Divyangjan:** Divyangjan-friendly design with accessible signage, dedicated toilet facilities, and separate parking areas for two-wheelers, four-wheelers, and Divyangjan passengers.
- **Façade Enhancement:** Major improvement of the façade of the existing building.
- **New Passenger Amenities and Improved:** Provision of Renovation of booking office, non-AC waiting hall, modern toilet block and improvement of old station building etc.
- **Platform Improvements:** Improvement of Platform surface & new shed and covering of platform surfaces upto FOB.
- **Upgraded Passenger Information Systems:** Improvement to passenger information system by providing Coach Guidance display board, Multiline Display Boards, Single Line Display Boards, Public Addressing System, Large LED screens and GPS based Digital Clock.

DESIGN CONCEPT :

The local design philosophy for Kopergaon Railway Station blends modern amenities with a functional and aesthetically pleasing environment. The design will focus on the following principles:

- **Modern Architecture:**

Modern architecture was based upon new and innovative technologies of construction (particularly the use of glass, steel, and concrete) the principle functionalism (i.e. that form should follow function) an embrace of minimalism and a rejection of ornament.

- **Use of Local Materials:**

The use of local materials in building construction is a strategy that aims to reduce costs, promote sustainability, and support cultural continuity. Local materials can be sourced from the immediate environment .

- **Sustainability and Climate Sensitivity:**

There are 7 principles used for sustainable construction-

1. Design.
2. Durability.
3. Energy efficiency.
4. Waste reduction.
5. Indoor air quality.
6. Water conservation.
7. Building materials.

- **Modern Amenities:**

Modern infrastructure is been proposed by providing passenger amenities like digital signages, divyangjan friendly toilets, ramps, etc. with universal design. What are the facilities required at railway station?

There are many facilities that are available in a railway station such as:

- Water vending machine for fresh drinking water.
- Ramps or stairs for moving across platforms.
- Stalls for food and magazines.
- Benches for waiting.
- Cleaners for keeping platform clean.
- Indian Railway has one of the biggest infrastructure in the country. So many free facilities provided to passengers like waiting room for passengers, free drinking water, LED display for train information and entertainment.

- **Warm Color Palette:**

Using soothing colour combinations to keep one's eyes pleased.

These principles will transform Kopergaon Railway Station into a modern, sustainable, and enhancing the passenger experience and creating a landmark for region.

CHALLENGES TO OVERCOME:

The old station building lacked the aesthetics and the lack of proper space utilization, which have been improved by the revamping of the complete station building. Now the station building is more spacious and passenger friendly. The existing circulating area was not having the proper movement of the vehicle with single entry & exit and the same has been improved through the planned development of circulating area, separate entry/exit and increased parking space. This will give an ease of movement of vehicles and proper vehicle navigation in the circulating area. The station platform's surfacing was improved with tactile marking for Divyangjan, and additional platform shelters were provided for the passengers waiting at platform, which will further help them during hot and rainy weather. Specious waiting rooms/ halls were renovated, which will provide a comfortable waiting space to the passengers. New booking offices with latest facilities giving restriction free access to passengers. Modern toilets are constructed providing hygienic & comfortable experience to users as well as facilities for divyangjan are proposed.

CURRENT STATUS OF WORK:

The redevelopment work at Kopergaon Railway Station is progressing steadily, with a tentative completion during 2025. Once completed, the station will transform into a symbol of modernity and efficiency, setting new benchmarks in railway infrastructure and passenger amenities, while preserving the region's cultural heritage. This revitalization will enhance connectivity, comfort, and convenience for travellers, making Kopergaon a key hub in the region.