

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3301
ANSWERED ON 28.03.2025

DAMAGE CAUSED TO RAILWAY PROPERTY DURING KUMBH MELA

3301 DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry can provide the details of the damage caused to railway property during the Kumbh Mela, including specific incidents, locations and value of property;
- (b) steps that were taken by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) to address the destruction and number of cases registered;
- (c) the details of compensation provided to passengers affected by these incidents, including details of ex-gratia payments; and
- (d) the actions that have been taken against individuals responsible for vandalizing railway property and the measures being implemented to prevent similar incidents during future large-scale events?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (d): 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and, therefore, State Governments are responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and maintenance of law and order on Railways through their law enforcement agencies viz. Government Railway Police (GRP)/District Police. Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP/District Police to provide better protection and security to railway property, passenger area and passengers and for matters connected therewith. Cases of damage, destruction of government property including railway property are registered and investigated by the concerned GRP/State Police under BNS & Railways Act.

23 incidents of breaking door/window glasses of coaches have been reported during the Kumbh Mela across different railway stations. In these incidents, railways suffered a loss of approximately ₹ 3.13 lakhs. In all the incidents legal action was taken by Railway Protection Force where 11 people were arrested.

Comprehensive Security arrangements for Maha Kumbh, 2025 were made with an emphasis on crowd regulation, surveillance and real-time monitoring at railway stations in Prayagraj a total of approx. 1200 CCTV cameras, including 116 Facial Recognition System (FRS) cameras were used to monitor crowd and track potential miscreants. Drone cameras were also deployed for surveillance of tracks and crowd management at approach roads to stations. 15,000 Railway Protection Force (RPF) & Govt. Railway Police (GRP) personnel were deployed to ensure security at Railway stations in Prayagraj. Additional deployments were also made at various stations i.e. Ayodhya, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Patna etc. for smooth operation of trains and flow of passengers.

Besides above, the following steps were taken by the Railways in coordination with GRP/Local Police and other stakeholders for safety and security of peoples in view of Mahakumbh, 2025:-

1. Track patrolling across a stretch of 35 KMs from Karchana to Manauri station using drones & CCTVs were done.
2. Screening of passengers & their luggage were done using baggage scanners, metal detectors and dog squads.
3. “Meri Saheli” teams comprising of women security personnel were deployed at stations and in trains to ensure women’s safety.
4. Awareness campaigns were conducted at station premises using video displays, Public Address System and loud hailer covering various security issues and to encourage passengers to report suspicious activities.
5. Intelligence units (CIB/SIB) and plain cloth staff are deployed for collection of information about rush and accordingly arrangements were made associating GRP/Police.
6. Additional enclosures were made to hold rush of passengers and their regulated entry to platforms & while boarding trains.
7. Close coordination was made with State police & GRP to restrict criminal activities over the railway infrastructure.
8. CCTV cameras were monitored 24x7 in CCTV control room.
9. Rapid Action Teams were formed and stationed at key locations for quick response.

10. GRP & RPF staffs are deployed at sensitive locations to regulate crowd smoothly during the heavy rush period and render real time assistance to passengers.
11. Queue System is maintained for hassle free boarding of passengers in general coaches of important trains at originating stations.
12. GRP & RPF staffs are deployed at foot-over bridges to regulate crowd smoothly in order to avoid stampede like situation during the heavy rush period and render real time assistance to passengers.

Railways pay compensation for death/injury of railway passengers in train accidents and untoward incidents as defined under Section 124 and 124-A(read with Section 123) of the Railways Act, 1989, which is decided by Railway Claims Tribunal(RCT) on the basis of a claim application filed by the victims/their dependents before RCT and it disposes of the cases after following the due judicial process. Railway Administration pays compensation when a decree is awarded by Hon'ble RCT in favor of the claimant and Railways decide to implement the decree. In the stampede that occurred at New Delhi Railway Station on 15.02.2025, an ex-gratia of ₹ 2.01 Crore have been paid to 33 victims or their family members.

Further, to handle heavy rush of passengers at stations, following decisions have been taken by railways -

1. Permanent holding areas at 60 stations:
 - i. During the festival season of 2024, holding areas were created outside stations. These waiting areas were able to hold large crowds at Surat, Udhna, Patna and New Delhi. Passengers were allowed only when the train came to the platform.
 - ii. Similar arrangements were made during Mahakumbh at nine stations of Prayag area.
 - iii. Based on the experience of these stations, it has been decided to create permanent waiting areas outside stations at 60 stations across the country which periodically face heavy crowds.
 - iv. Pilot projects have started at New Delhi, Anand Vihar, Varanasi, Ayodhya, and Ghaziabad stations.
 - v. With this concept, the sudden crowd will be contained within the waiting area. Passengers will be allowed to go to platforms only when the trains arrive at the platform. This will decongest the stations.
2. Access control:
 - i. Complete access control will be initiated at the 60 stations.

- ii. Passengers with confirmed reserve tickets will be given direct access to the platforms.
 - iii. Passengers without a ticket or with a waiting list ticket will wait in the outside waiting area.
 - iv. All unauthorised entry points will be sealed.
3. Wider foot-over-bridges (FOB):
- i. Two new designs of 12 metre wide (40 feet) and 6 metre wide (20 feet) standard FOB have been developed. These wide FOBs with ramps were very effective in crowd management during Mahakumbh. These new standard wide FOBs will be installed in all the stations.
4. Cameras:
- i. Cameras helped crowd management in a big way during Mahakumbh. A large number of cameras will be installed in all stations and adjoining areas for close monitoring.
5. War rooms:
- i. War rooms at large stations will be developed. Officers of all departments will work in the war room during crowd situations.
6. New generation communication equipment:
- i. Latest design digital communication equipment like walkie-talkies, announcement systems, calling systems will be installed on all heavy crowd stations.
7. New design ID card:
- i. All staff and service persons will be given a new design ID card so that only authorised persons can enter the station.
8. New design uniform for staff:
- i. All staff members will be given new design uniforms so that they can be easily identified during a crisis situation.
9. Upgradation of station director post:
- i. All major stations will have a senior officer as station director. All other departments will report to the station director.
 - ii. Station director will get financial empowerment so that he can take on-the-spot decisions for improving the station.

10. Sale of tickets as per capacity:
 - i. Station Director will be empowered to control the sale of tickets as per capacity of the station and the available trains.
