

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3213
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.03.2025**

SPECIAL TRAINS FOR MAHAKUMBHA

3213. SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Railways announced 178 special trains for Mahakumbha from different zones during Prayagraj's Mahakumbha 2025;**
- (b) if so, whether Rs. 5,000 crore was allotted for infrastructure upgrades and special services to Prayagraj's Mahakumbha in 2025 therefor;**
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government fails to provide security and confirm tickets to manage the enormous influx of pilgrims and upgrade railway infrastructure thereof, if so, the reasons therefor; and**
- (d) the reports on railway passengers movement, with train details, delays and safety failures if any, reported during the period of Mahakumbha and action taken by the Government thereon and complaints received on toll-free helpline number 139 and emails therein?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) and (b) To cater to the needs of passengers and facilitate their journey during Maha Kumbh-2025, Indian Railways (IR) had operated more than 17,300 nos. trains which included 7484 Special trains. These Special trains include 996 long distance trains. All these measures served approximately 4.24 crore passengers. During Kumbh 2019, 8394 trains were operated which included 694 special train services.

Infrastructure improvement

Infrastructure improvement/augmentation/capacity enhancement works, of more than ₹5,000 cr have been completed. Commissioning of entire Eastern

Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) enabled movement of goods trains on DFC thus freeing up space for running additional Kumbh special trains along the Delhi-Howrah route.

The doubling of Prayagraj-Varanasi and Phaphamau-Janghai, including the construction of a major bridge across the River Ganga, was completed. Major upgradation of yards including those at Prayagraj, Subedarganj, Phaphamau, Rambag, and Jhunsi, have been made to accommodate a larger number of trains.

Additionally, three new washing lines and 21 Nos. Road Over Bridges (ROBs) and Road Under Bridges (RUBs) have been built thus eliminating all level crossings in the region for improved mobility of road users.

Passenger Amenities

To improve the tourism infrastructure and to ensure easy access and comfortable experience to domestic and international pilgrims at Prayagraj, Naini, Prayagraj Cheeki, Subedarganj, Jhusi, Prayagraj Rambag, Prayag and Phaphamau stations, various works have been carried out as per the requirement.

These works include improvement to circulating area, parking, Divyangjan facilities, signages, platform surfacing, construction of drinking water booths, Ashray Kendras, toilets, widening of approach roads, development of second entries and construction of foot over bridges etc.

Additional food and refreshment arrangements were made to cater to the large volume of passengers. Furthermore, waiting rooms at railway stations have been upgraded and enhanced for better comfort.

For the first time, Yatri Suvidha Kendras was established at Prayagraj Junction and Prayagraj Chheeki, offering essential services such as wheelchairs, luggage trolleys, hotel and taxi bookings, baby milk, and essential medicines.

To avoid delays, ticketing capacity increased to issue up to 10 lakh tickets per day. A four-stage power backup plan was implemented to ensure continuous power.

First Aid booths and medical observation rooms were set up across stations. Additionally, a railway toll-free number was made available for passenger convenience, and a multi-lingual leaflet in 12 languages is being distributed to assist pilgrims in navigating the event.

Health

Sufficient medical facilities have been provided at the various stations for the well being of pilgrims.

(c) and (d) On Indian Railways, occupancy pattern of the trains is not uniform throughout the year and it varies over lean and peak periods. During peak rush periods, the occupancy of the trains especially on popular routes remains full whereas during lean period and –on –less popular routes, there is sub optimal utilization. Traffic pattern of the trains running on Indian Railways is monitored on regular basis and to cater to additional demand, load of existing trains are augmented, special trains are run, new trains are introduced, frequency of existing trains is increased etc. subject to operational feasibility.

Comprehensive Security arrangements for Maha Kumbh, 2025 were made with an emphasis on crowd regulation, surveillance and real-time monitoring. 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.

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 hailers covering various security issues and to encourage passengers to report suspicious activities.**
- 5. Bomb Detection teams of RPF were deployed to enhance overall security infrastructure.**
- 6. Inter Agency coordination was made to collect intelligence inputs.**
- 7. Additional enclosures were made to hold rush of passengers and their regulated entry to platforms & while boarding trains.**
- 8. Close coordination was made with State police & GRP to restrict criminal activities over the railway infrastructure.**
- 9. CCTV cameras were monitored 24x7 in CCTV control room.**
- 10. Rapid Action Teams were formed and stationed at key locations for quick response.**
- 11. A response plan was developed to handle potential incidents swiftly and effectively in coordination with state police, intelligence units and other railway departments at stations in Prayagraj.**
