

# 2,500 'Make In India' drones to dazzle opening, closing ceremonies of mega fair

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**LUCKNOW:** The first and final Snaan of Mahakumbh 2025, set for January 14—Makar Sankranti and February 26—Maha Shivratri, will feature an exclusive drone show. A fleet of 2,500 'Make In India' drones is set to dazzle spectators with a spectacular display at the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj.

The Mahakumbh will commence on January 13, with the Paush Purnima Snaan.

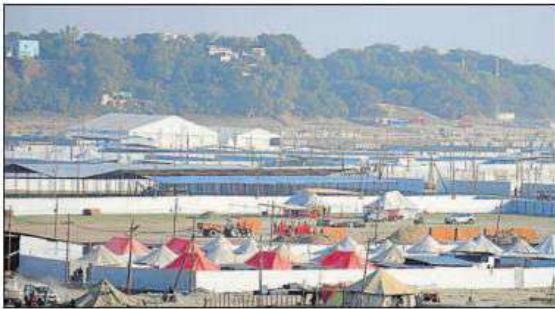
According to information, during Makar Sankranti, the drone show will begin with the formation of the word 'Om' and will welcome guests with slogans like 'Atithi Devo Bhava' and 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' formed in the sky. Following this, a scene of Samudra Manthan will be depicted by the drones. The trial run for the drone show will be held on January 13, before the opening ceremony, and on February 25, 2025, a day before the closing ceremony.

On the closing day, Maha Shivratri, the drones will depict the divine presence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati rivers, followed by the Shiv-Shakti Vivah. This will be followed by the Samudra Manthan sequence, showing the 14 Ratnas. The 2,500 'Make In India' drones will put up a mesmerising show for 15 days, both on the opening and closing days, at Mahakumbh 2025 in Prayagraj.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Mahakumbh Nagar in Prayagraj on December 13 to formally inaugurate the Mahakumbh celebrations and review preparations for the mega religious fair next year.

Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath conducted a comprehensive inspection on December 7 to ensure all arrangements for the grand event are on track.

On December 7, Yogi Adityanath reviewed progress to ensure directives are effectively implemented. The chief minister also took note of arrangements, focusing on a clean and green Mahakumbh 2025. Various state departments are tasked with executing beautification projects.



Tent city taking shape ahead of Mahakumbh on the banks of Sangam in Prayagraj. **ANIL KUMAR SHARMA/HT**

## Promotion campaign kicks off, two U.P. ministers in Ahmedabad

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**LUCKNOW:** In the run-up to the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj, the Uttar Pradesh government is ramping up its promotional efforts.

On Sunday, U.P. ministers Arvind Kumar Sharma and Kapil Dev Agarwal arrived in Ahmedabad to begin the Gujarat leg of the promotional campaign. The ministers held high-level meetings with Gujarat governor Acharya Devvrat and chief minister Bhupendra Patel.

During their visit to the CM's residence, the ministers

discussed the preparations for the Mahakumbh, emphasising the U.P. government's efforts to make the event divine and grand under the leadership of U.P. CM Yogi Adityanath.

They presented the Gujarat CM with a special Kumbh Kalash filled with Gangajal, the Mahakumbh 2025 logo, an invitation letter, Kumbh literature, and jaggery (gur) from U.P. Later, the ministers visited Haj Bhavan to meet governor Acharya Devvrat, where they presented similar gifts and formally invited him to attend the fair. Both the governor and the chief minister assured the ministers of their participation in the event.

The ministers emphasised that Mahakumbh is not only a spiritual event but will also showcase India's rich cultural heritage on the global stage.

They also urged the people of Gujarat to join the grand event and experience India's ancient traditions and values. On Monday, the ministers will embark on a roadshow in Ahmedabad to spread awareness about Mahakumbh 2025.

They will engage with representatives from various communities, organisations, and prominent figures, encouraging them to participate in the event.

## 'Netra Kumbh' to offer eye care for visitors, pilgrims

**MAHAKUMBH NAGAR (PRAYAGRAJ):** Alongside prioritising the convenience and safety of pilgrims arriving for Mahakumbh 2025, strong emphasis is also being placed on ensuring the good health of visitors. Netra Kumbh, a special initiative dedicated to eye care, is part of this effort.

Spread over nine acres, Netra Kumbh aims to examine the eyes of more than 5 lakh pilgrims and distribute 3 lakh pairs of glasses free of cost. Furthermore, for the first time,

eye patients identified during these examinations who require surgical interventions will be able to undergo free operations at hospitals located near their homes. This will be facilitated by agreements signed with over 150 hospitals across the country, informed officials. Chairman of the organising committee of Netra Kumbh, Kavindra Pratap Singh, said that for the first time in Mahakumbh history, patients referred by doctors for eye surgeries will be able to receive

free surgery at a hospital in their district or home. "After examination, patients will receive referral cards, one of which will be sent to the respective hospital while the other will go to Saksham, the organising body of Netra Kumbh. Patients or Saksham workers can coordinate the surgeries based on convenience," he added. 50,000 referral cards will be distributed during Mahakumbh to facilitate free eye operations, he said.

## LANGUAGE WILL BE NO BAR IN PATIENT CARE

**MAHAKUMBH NAGAR (PRAYAGRAJ):** Keeping the fact in mind that Mahakumbh 2025 will be the melting pot of devotees, tourists from across the globe as well as different states from within the country, the U.P. government is putting in an advanced artificial intelligence (AI)-based system to understand and translate different Indian as well as foreign languages.

This capability will help doctors to better communicate and understand the patient's concerns and their history in case of any emergency.

To ensure best medical care for needy pilgrims set to converge on the banks of Sangam for Mahakumbh-2025, AI-intensive care units are all set to be introduced aiming to enhance the quality of patient care. Being deployed for the first time within the fairgrounds, the advanced AI-messaging flow system is capable of interpreting and conveying the concerns of patients from any part of the country or the world to doctors, say officials aware of the move. "As part of AI-messaging flow system, special AI-enabled microphones will be installed near each patient, capable of instantly translating 22 regional and 19 international languages into Hindi or English. This will bridge language barriers, enabling seamless communication between doctors and patients for effective treatment," said Dr Gaurav Dubey, senior medical officer in charge of the central hospital and nodal officer for Mahakumbh 2025.

"Also, advanced AI-enabled cameras will be installed throughout the ICU to monitor patient's condition in real-time," Dr Dubey added.

## Spl trains for Mahakumbh to have engines on both sides: Vaishnaw

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**PRAYAGRAJ:** The Railways has made special arrangements for the convenience of pilgrims visiting Prayagraj for Mahakumbh-2025.

Union railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Sunday said that 25,000 crores have been invested in the preparations for Mahakumbh over the two years leading up to the fair. This time, more devotees are expected to attend Mahakumbh than last time. To accommodate them, railways will run 3,000 special trains and an additional 10,000 regular trains for pilgrims' benefit. A total of 13,000 trains are ready to operate during the mega 45-day fair, he shared.

In Prayagraj to review the Indian railways' preparations ahead of Mahakumbh-2025, the minister, while talking to media persons, said that trains from across the country will be deployed for the pilgrims, including 16-coach MEMU (Mainline Electric Multiple Unit) trains. Even regular coach trains will have engines on both ends to save time needed for engine shunting, he added.

The minister also highlighted that a new rail bridge has been built over the Ganga after 100 years. Doubling the tracks between Phaphamau and Janghal, undertaken ahead of the fair, has significantly increased capacity. A total of 48 platforms have been constructed and developed in preparation for Mahakumbh-2025, he said.

In Kumbh-2019, 7,000 trains were operational, but this time, 13,000 trains will run. Like Ayodhya, color coding has been implemented at Prayagraj's railway stations. Arrows indicating the direction to platforms will match the color of the passenger sheds assigned for holding pilgrims, depending on their travel direction. Tickets will also feature the same color for added convenience, he further explained.

Mobile ticketing arrangements have been made, with railway workers issuing tickets directly to pilgrims. Additionally, pilgrims can book tickets



Union railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw during inspection in Prayagraj on Sunday. **HT**

## 'Four ring trains to operate between Prayagraj and Ayodhya'

**VARANASI:** Union railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw emphasised the crucial role of Indian railways in ensuring the success of the Mahakumbh 2025. Speaking to journalists in Varanasi on Sunday, the minister revealed that four ring trains would operate between Prayagraj and Ayodhya during the event to facilitate the travel of devotees.

He highlighted the ongoing preparations for the fair, including new waiting areas, holding zones, platform extensions, and enhanced passenger facilities to support uninterrupted train

operations. In line with the preparations, minister Vaishnaw inspected the Gant station before travelling to Prayagraj by train. According to Kuldeep Tiwari, senior divisional commercial manager of Northern Railway, Lucknow, the minister reviewed arrangements at Phaphamau Junction and Prayag Junction station.

The inspection included an assessment of passenger management methodologies, ongoing projects, and policies for crowd control during the fair.

Multilingual officers and employees will also be deployed to assist pilgrims from different regions. A multilingual brochure has been prepared to provide devotees with all the necessary information about Mahakumbh and travel routes in their native languages.

During his visit, the minister inspected various development and beautification projects undertaken by the Railways ahead of Mahakumbh-2025. He visited Jhansi station, reviewed the new railway bridge over the Ganga, and inspected Phaphamau, Prayag, and Prayagraj Junction stations. Additionally, he reviewed the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation (DFCC) control room at Subedarganj.

The railway minister stated that all control rooms have been integrated with the police control room. Ten thousand additional RPF personnel will be deployed, along with 10,000 GRP personnel, to bolster security. Moreover, 13,000 railway officers and employees from across the country will serve at key stations during the fair.