

# ABC NEWS

## Mumbai: Stampede at Indian train station kills 22 people

Updated Fri 29 Sep 2017, 8:49am

**A rush hour stampede during a sudden monsoon downpour at a railway station in Mumbai has killed at least 22 people and wounded more than 30, police have said.**

The cause of the stampede on a bridge at the city's central Elphinstone station during the rainstorm was being investigated, a police official at the accident site said.

"There were too many people on the bridge, and the people were in hurry and wanted to move out," said Brijesh Upadhyay, one of the many caught in the crowd.

"There was nobody helping, it was very suffocating, and we just wanted to get out of there — and fell on each other."

The stampede took place after the cloudburst caught commuters off guard, prompting scores to scurry for cover under the roof of the station's pedestrian overbridge, one of the injured Akash Koteja said.

"Trains were rolling in and some people wanted to get out of the station, but others were not making way," Mr Koteja said.

"When a few tried, it led to a stampede."

Hospitals were treating 32 injured people, including 19 women and 13 men.

As Mumbai police appealed to citizens to donate blood to help the injured, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his condolences to the families of those killed.

The bridge is usually crowded at that time of day, as it also serves as an exit route for passengers getting off trains at an adjoining railway station, he added.

Mumbai police official Gansham Patel said some falling concrete had hit part of the bridge railing, leading people to surge forward out of panic at the thought that the bridge was collapsing.

One rescuer told Indian broadcaster NDTV that the stampede trapped dozens in the narrow passage, forcing rescuers to break the railing to pull people out.

**RELATED STORY:** Disease fears as floods destroy 100,000 houses in Bangladesh

**MAP:** India

### Key points:

- The stampede took place after a heavy downpour took commuters off guard
- Other police said the stampede was triggered by a rumour that a pedestrian bridge collapsed
- A witness says emergency services were slow to respond



**External Link:** Narendra Modi on Twitter: y deepest condolences to all those who have lost their lives due to the stampede in Mumbai. Prayers with those who are injured.



**PHOTO:** Members of the National Disaster Response Force team respond to the scene. (AP: Rafiq Maqbool)

"Two of the injured are in serious condition," said Deepak Sawant, the Health Minister of the western state of Maharashtra surrounding Mumbai, who provided the estimate of casualties.

People were huddling under the canopy covering the bridge to escape heavy rains, making the deadly tragedy worse, said Shaina Nana Chudasama, a politician from the governing Bhartiya Janata Party.

Manish Mishra, a witness who helped some of the injured, said the situation was worsened as police and emergency officials did not respond immediately or enforce crowd control measures.

Police and emergency officials were not immediately reachable for comment on Mr Mishra's statement.

Deadly stampedes are fairly common during Indian religious festivals, where large crowds gather in small areas with few safety or crowd control measures.



**PHOTO:** Footwear of the victims are seen under the station's pedestrian overbridge. (Reuter: Shailesh Andrade)

**Reuters/AP**

**Topics:** accidents, india, asia

*First posted Fri 29 Sep 2017, 3:40am*