**Mumbai train blasts 'kill 160'**

At least 160 people were killed today after seven explosions tore through packed commuter trains in Mumbai, India's financial centre, police say.

The blasts - suspected to be caused by bombs - ripped through passenger compartments in choreographed terrorist attacks on several different trains at separate sites.

The attacks, in the city centre and suburbs, came at the height of the evening rush hour, causing devastation and chaos on one of the world's busiest railway lines.

Witnesses described seeing body parts strewn about the blast sites. More than 160 people were killed and around 460 injured, a police inspector told Reuters.

The prime minister, Manmohan Singh, called an emergency cabinet meeting and blamed "terrorists" for the "shameful act". "I urge the people to remain calm, not to believe rumours and carry on their activity normally," he said.

Police and the local state chief minister, Vilasrao Deshmukh, said bombs had caused the explosions. VK Duggal, the Indian home minister, told Indian television that authorities had "some" information an attack was coming on the rail network - one of the world's busiest - but did not know the time or place.

Local television footage showed some survivors sprawled on railways tracks at one of the blast sites. The force of the blasts ripped doors and windows off carriages, and luggage and debris were strewn about.

One piece of footage showed dazed survivors with wounds from injuries to heads, legs and hands at one railway station with little sign of any emergency medical aid. In other footage, people in torn and bloodstained clothes were shown carrying the dead and wounded on stretchers as steady monsoon rain fell.

A policeman was shown carrying two white, blood-stained bundles of what appeared to be body parts, while hundreds of dazed commuters wandered along the tracks.

The blasts occured throughout Mumbai's western suburbs, which are linked to the downtown office and business areas mainly by a train network that is used by some 6.5 million people each day.

Commuters fled suburban rail stations in panic after the explosions and mobile phone lines were jammed.

"We heard a loud blast in one of the train compartments. When we rushed there and looked, we saw people with severed limbs and grievous injuries," one witness told the CNN-IBN news channel, standing in a blood-spattered coach.

On the blog at [Reofior](http://reofior.spaces.msn.com/blog/), Mumbai resident Sunny Jain wrote: "I personally counted 15 [bodies] lying in an isolated area."

A resident of Birmingham, UK, named as Harpreet, wrote that a friend resident in Mumbai had been traumatised by the blasts: "He was on the same train when the first class compartment exploded. He saw an orange flame and then smoke. People were jumping out of the running train. When he got off, he saw bodies on the tracks."

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks, but the blasts came in quick succession - a common tactic employed by Kashmiri militants that have repeatedly targeted India's cities.

The blasts came just hours after suspected Islamist militants killed seven people, six of them tourists, in a series of grenade attacks in Indian Kashmir's main city, Srinagar, police said, the most concerted targeting of civilians in months.

Kashmir is split between Pakistan and India but both countries claim the entire province, and the two states have fought three wars over the territory since independence. [India](http://www.theguardian.com/world/india) claims that Pakistan covertly supports Kashmir-based terrorist groups such as Lashkar-e-Toiba, which is accused of carrying out the 2001 attacks on the Indian parliament.

However, India's home secretary VK Duggal said there was no connection between the Srinagar and Mumbai blasts and Lashkar-e-Toiba denied involvement in the attacks, NKTV television reported.

Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf also said he "strongly condemned" the attacks and expressed condolences over "the loss of innocent lives".

"This despicable act of terrorism has resulted in the loss of a large number of precious lives. Terrorism is a bane of our times and it must be condemned, rejected and countered effectively and comprehensively," a statement from Pakistan's foreign ministry added.

The US state department described the attacks as "senseless acts of violence" and said it had been in touch with the Indian government about providing assistance.

Authorities in New York also tightened security across the city's transport network in the wake of the attacks.

The first blast was in a first-class compartment of a local train near station in the north-western Khar suburb at 6.24pm local time (2.54pm BST), the Times of India website reported. Within the next 11 minutes, there were six further blasts on trains and on platforms at stations, including the Matunga station in the city's centre, and at Mahim and Santa Cruz.

Mumbai's roads became jammed in the wake of the blasts as workers tried to find alternative ways home.

There were reports of police carrying out raids across the city following the blasts. Police in the Indian capital New Delhi said they were on the lookout for more violence. "We have mobilised our entire forces who are conducting checks in all areas such as buses, bus stops, train stations and religious institutions," Anil Shukla, deputy commissioner of police for South Delhi, told Reuters.

Mumbai, a metropolis of about 17 million, has been hit by a series of bomb blasts in the past decade. More than 250 people died in a string of bomb explosions in Mumbai in 1993, which were blamed on the city's underworld criminal gangs.