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India train bombs kill woman, injure nine at Chennai station

By South Asia correspondent Michael Edwards

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Twin bombs on a train have killed a 22-year-old woman and injured nine other people in India's main southern city of Chennai.

The explosions, which come as India holds its general elections, went off in two carriages on a train arriving at Chennai Central Railway Station this morning.

A 22-year-old female passenger was killed instantly. Two people suffered serious injuries.

General manager of Southern Railway Rakesh Misra said the blasts were of "minor intensity" in two coaches.

"Both are sleeper-class coaches," he said.

Chennai, the capital of the state of Tamil Nadu, is now on full alert.

Security has been tightened across India during its six-week general election which has been marred by deadly violence in other parts of the country, including attacks by Maoist rebels.

Police have increased surveillance on suspected members of the Indian Mujahideen as well as the Maoist guerrillas fighting to overthrow the government in the east and south of the country.

Voting has already taken place in most major cities, including Chennai which went to the polls last week. More than 800 million voters are involved nationwide.

The election is set to finish on May 12.

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PHOTO: The bomb disposal squad examines a passenger train at Chennai's central railway station. (Reuters/Babu)

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