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CHENNAI, MAY 01, 2014 08:48 IST

UPDATED: SEPTEMBER 06, 2016 13:48 IST

A 22-year old woman was killed and 14 others injured, two of them grievously, when two bombs exploded in the Bangalore–Guwahati tri-weekly express here on Thursday. The explosions took place minutes after the train reached Platform No. 9 at the **Chennai** Central Station at 7.15 a.m. on Thursday.

Train No 12509 that left Bangalore Junction at 10.30 pm on Wednesday was scheduled to arrive at Chennai Junction at 5.40 a.m. However, the train reached Central station around 7.10 a.m. Within few minutes, bombs exploded one after the other in reserved second sleeper coaches, S 4 and S 5.

Explosives were kept under the seat number 28 in Coach S 4 and under seat number 69 in coach S 5. If the train had been on time, it would have entered Andhra Pradesh, > [where the BJP's prime ministerial candidate Narendra Modi is scheduled to address a rally near Nellore](#) on Thursday evening.

A multi-agency probe has been launched to investigate the source and nature of the bombs.

As soon as the news of blast started spreading, there was commotion in the busy Central station, the main gateway to the city, and traffic congestion on all roads leading to it.

Police and railway officials on emerging out of both the coaches in which the blast took place said that it was a low intensity **explosion** caused by suspected objects kept beneath the seats.

The deceased was identified as 22-year old Swati, a post-graduate in M.Tech from Hyderabad working in Bangalore who was on her way to meet her parents at Vijayawada.

Injured list

Grievously injured persons included; one unidentified male and Sumantho Devnath (37). Names of those who sustained minor injuries include; Shaiful Haque (27-M), Anjanedu (29-



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journey around 11.30 a.m. In the impact of the collision, there were minor damages to the three adjacent coaches - S 3, S 4 and S 5.

Sniffer dogs were pressed into service and Anti-Sabotage Teams (AST) of the Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad of the City Police carried out searches. The three damaged coaches were detached for detailed forensic analysis.

Passengers from these coaches were accommodated in other coaches. Railway Protection Force, Government Railway Police and Chennai City Police cordoned off the Platform No 9. Passengers in other coaches who disembarked for enabling the police to search the coaches complained that miscreants had looted their belongings, making use of their temporary absence.

Bagal Singh (55) who was travelling along with his family on the train said there was a noise and soon the train came to a halt and it took a few minutes for those in the nearby coaches to realise that it was an explosion.

Director-General of Police K. Ramanujam, DGP (elections) Anoop Jaiswal, Additional Director-General of Police (Law and Order) T.K. Rajendran, Chennai City Police Commissioner J.K. Tripathy, Inspector-General of Police – Railway Police, Seema Agarwal, Chief Security Commissioner of RPF – Southern Railway V.K. Dhaka and other officials visited the scene of crime.

Main lines unaffected

As a result of the explosion, trains towards Chennai Central were detained outside Central and were accommodated in other platforms after a brief delay. However, Southern Railway said there was no cancellation or rescheduling of trains as the main lines were unaffected, .

Southern Railway has asked the passengers to report at the station one hour in advance to go through security checks such as frisking and scanning of baggage before boarding the train. Many trains approaching Chennai were detained at various stations.

General Manager of Southern Railway Rakesh Misra, who was accompanied by Additional General Manager S. Vijayakumaran, said that a compensation of Rs 50,000 would be paid to the family of the deceased as an immediate measure, Rs 25,000 would be paid to those who sustained serious injuries and Rs 5,000 to those who sustained minor injuries.



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The Railways has opened two helplines in **Chennai** – **044 25357398** and **044 64502416** – and one in **Bangalore 080 22876288**.

PTI adds that one person has been detained in connection with the blast.

(With additional reporting by S. Vijay Kumar)

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Printable version | Oct 5, 2018 8:08:59 AM |

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/woman-killed-in-twin-blasts-at-chennai-central-station/article5965170.ece>

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