

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعية الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## INDIA: UTTAR PRADESH EXPLOSIONS

08 March 2006

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 183 countries.

### In Brief

**This Bulletin (no. 01/2006) is being issued for information only, and reflects the status of the situation and information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.**

*For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:*

- Indian Red Cross Society: S. P. Agarwal (secretary-general); email: [spagarwal@indianredcross.org](mailto:spagarwal@indianredcross.org); Phone: +91.11.2371.6424; Fax: +91.11.2371.7454;
- Federation country delegation in India: Mohamed Babiker (acting head of delegation); email: [mohamed.babiker@ifrc.org](mailto:mohamed.babiker@ifrc.org); Phone: +91.11.2332.4203; Fax: +91.11.2332.423
- Federation regional delegation in India: Bob McKerrow (head of regional delegation); email: [bob.mckerrow@ifrc.org](mailto:bob.mckerrow@ifrc.org); Phone: +91.11.2411.1125
- Federation Secretariat in Geneva: Jagan Chapagain (regional officer, Asia Pacific department); email: [jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org](mailto:jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org); Phone: +41.22.730.4316; Fax: +41.22.733.0395 or Nelly Khrabrava (regional officer, Asia Pacific department); email: [nelly.khrabrava@ifrc.org](mailto:nelly.khrabrava@ifrc.org); Phone: +41.22.730.4306; Fax: +41.22.733.0395

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

### The Situation

In a series of three bomb blasts in Varanasi in the state of Uttar Pradesh on 7 March 2006, there have been 14 confirmed deaths (*Government source: All India Radio*), though it is reported by the media that others were also killed. Over 100 people have been injured, some critically.

The blasts, which occurred between 18:15 pm to 18:30 pm local time (23:45 to 24:00 GMT), was felt throughout the city. The first blast occurred in a Hindu holy shrine, "Sankat Mochan", near a university campus. Minutes later, a second bomb detonated inside the coach of a train travelling to New Delhi. The third explosion took place almost simultaneously at the Cantonment railway station.

The blasts appeared to have been timed to inflict maximum damage, having taken place on a Tuesday, considered in India to be the most auspicious day of the week for prayer. The explosion on the train, known to be the most used, and the one at the crowded train station, which triggered a stampede, further suggest premeditation.



*Police hold vigil at public places across India as leaders appealed for calm in Uttar Pradesh, where people are protesting the bomb blasts. REUTERS/Pawan Kumar*

### **Government action**

The government reacted swiftly, deploying four senior police officials to the scene to restore law and order. Owing to the apparent communal motivation of the first explosion, they have been calls for strikes in Uttar Pradesh and emphasis is being put on the need for the government to prevent the situation from escalating into disorder between the communities at the affected areas.

The police are on a high alert in New Delhi, Bihar, Orissa and the whole of Uttar Pradesh.

The Union home minister and senior political leaders from the ruling party reached Varanasi in the early hours of the morning today to assess the situation and maintain calm in the communities.

The chief minister has announced an optional payment of INR 500,000 (CHF 14,745) for the families of the dead. The political parties have called for closure of all business establishments to symbolize grieving for the bombings.

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

The Indian Red Cross district branch in Varanasi alerted the national headquarters immediately after the blasts. A team of two doctors and a district branch representative were dispatched immediately to assess the situation and provide support to the affected population.

The team immediately visited the two private hospitals and one government hospital, where the injured were receiving immediate treatment. The team spoke to the injured and counselled them, also assisting with blood transfusion, patient referrals and medical advice.

Since the incident, an Indian Red Cross ambulance has been on continuous duty to transport the injured to the hospitals.

The district branch has also liaised with the Indian Medical Association blood bank to arrange for blood supplies in case of emergencies.

[\*Click here to return to the title page for contact information.\*](#)