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# India: Continue to expect heightened security, associated disruption following small explosion near Israeli embassy


## OVERVIEW

 **Level:**


**Notice**

 **Location:**

**India**

 **Category:**

Terror attack, Explosion, Transport disruption

 **Active:**

01 Feb 2021 - 08 Feb 2021

**Last Updated: 01 Feb 2021 18:37 (GMT)**

The table below shows the number of impacted and potentially impacted individuals and assets at the date/time the alert was issued. The counts include individuals within the impact radius of the alert and may not reflect the total number of people in each area listed.

Please log into [Tracker](#) for the latest information or [click here](#) for an up-to-date list of affected individuals and assets in the impacted area.

EXPOSURE IN IMPACTED AREA ONLY				
Location	There Now	There in next 24 hours	There in next 1-7 days	There while the alert is active
India (Medium Risk)	109	150	190	258
TOTAL	109	150	190	258

Heightened security and related travel disruption can be expected in the vicinity of Israeli and Jewish establishments in India. This follows a small explosion on 29 January near the [Israeli embassy](#) in the capital New Delhi. No casualties were reported in the blast, which damaged nearby vehicles. The authorities suspect the incident was a terrorist attack. Security has been stepped up at Israeli diplomatic missions and other Jewish and Israeli establishments. A high alert has also been issued at all transport hubs, including airports, and government offices in major urban centres. Employees travelling in the vicinity of such locations should follow official directives and allow additional journey time.

## MORE DETAIL

The explosion coincided with the 29th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Israel. It is the first terrorist attack to have occurred in the capital since February 2012, when a magnetic bomb was attached to an Israeli diplomatic car. It then detonated, injuring the Israeli defence attache's wife, her driver and two bystanders.

Reports indicate that a handwritten note found near the blast site on 29 January claimed the incident was a precursor to a larger attack meant to avenge the January 2020 killing of senior Iranian military commander Qasem Solemani in Baghdad (Iraq). Meanwhile, a previously unknown group called Jaish-ul-Hind was linked to the explosion via a social media post claiming responsibility. The provenance of this message is unclear.

India's Jewish communities are centred on Mumbai, Pune (both Maharashtra state), Kolkata (West Bengal state) and Kochi (Kerala state). However, Israeli expatriates and tourists are present across the country. An increased police presence, checkpoints and traffic restrictions can be anticipated around diplomatic missions, synagogues, Chabad houses (Jewish community centres), tourist sites and other places where Israeli nationals are known to congregate.

Security will also remain tight around other diplomatic offices, government buildings and transport hubs, particularly in New Delhi and the wider National Capital Region (NCR), Mumbai and major urban centres. This is standard protocol following a terrorist attack and takes account of the apparent threat found at the scene of the explosion.

## ASSESSMENT

The attack appears to have been primarily intended to communicate a threat targeting Israeli interests in the country, rather than inflict casualties. Preliminary forensic investigations have suggested that, while the bomb contained a military-grade explosive, it was intended to cause limited impact. While this is an indication of the perpetrator's potential capabilities, the note warning of a larger attack necessarily reduces the element of surprise and, in turn, the likelihood of a larger scale, more sophisticated terrorist incident as threatened. The risk is further mitigated by the country's enhanced counter-terrorism security and intelligence-gathering apparatus, complemented by international efforts to reduce terrorist threats in recent years.

However, there remains a persistent and credible risk of attacks on Israeli and Jewish targets by extremists harbouring anti-Western and anti-Jewish sentiments. Potential perpetrators include regional and transnational groups that maintain a presence in India. The risk is highlighted by previous attacks and disrupted plots, as well as the periodic dissemination of related security warnings by the Israeli government. Nevertheless, any incidents are most likely to be small-scale and unsophisticated in nature.

## WHAT WE ADVISED YOUR PEOPLE

Anticipate increased security around Israeli and other diplomatic missions, as well as at locations where Israeli nationals and Indian Jewish communities are known to congregate, including synagogues, Chabad Houses, and tourist spots.

Follow all official directives and allow additional time for journeys, due to the potential for associated disruption.

Remain alert to your surroundings and report any suspicious activity or packages to the authorities.

Limit the time spent in the vicinity of likely targets and consider the underlying risk of terrorism when choosing accommodation to minimise exposure.

Monitor our India alerts for updates.

## ASSISTANCE



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Call our medical and travel security specialists any time for advice and assistance before, during or after your trip. All 24-hour Assistance Centre phone numbers can be viewed [here](#).

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