

TODAY'S PAPER

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Symbols of inhumanity will be pursued: Congress

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Attacks bear the hallmark of a carefully planned terrorist strike: CPI(M)

NEW DELHI: Political parties on Wednesday expressed outrage and shock at the multiple terror attacks in Mumbai and saluted the brave officers of the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) who laid down their lives in defence of the values that India represents.

The Congress reiterated that the party's resolve to find and pursue symbols of inhumanity was "unshakeable" and that it would not rest till "we punish perpetrators of this ghastly crime."

Party spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi said an "unwavering message" should be sent that perpetrators of such acts should beware the wrath of a patient and compassionate nation. The party hoped there would be no politics of any kind on such an issue.

The attacks in Mumbai bore the hallmark of a carefully planned terrorist strike, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) said. The country expected the government and the security agencies to uncover the full scope of this nefarious attack and the forces behind it. "Given the recurring and widespread pattern of terrorist attacks occurring in the country, the Central government has to assure the people that concerted efforts are being made to tackle the problem," the party Polit Bureau said in a statement.

The CPI said the barbarism perpetrated had hardly any parallel. All this was intended to weaken and destabilise India and divide its people. "Terrorists will not succeed in their nefarious design. India stands valiantly united to fight the menacing terrorist attack which has unfortunately been mounting in the country." It said what was most intriguing was that such a well-planned attack did not attract the notice of the intelligence network. "It is a colossal failure."

Congress president Sonia Gandhi, in a statement, said the attacks caused her both distress and outrage. The incident was a challenge both to the country and the Indian society and everyone must face it as one.

"This is not just a question of India's security but its prestige [too]. Terrorists are enemies of the nation and we have to deal with them as such. No challenge can withstand a determined nation. I want to tell those who want to harm India through maniacal [acts] that we will rest only after eliminating terrorism," she said.

Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee said such acts of terrorism were inadmissible in all their manifestations and needed to be condemned in the strongest terms.

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