

# New Delhi car blast kills at least eight

## Cause of explosion near Indian capital's historic Red Fort remains unclear

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JYOTSNA SINGH — NEW DELHI

A car explosion killed at least eight people near the historic Red Fort in a crowded area of India capital New Delhi, yesterday, according to a senior local police officer.

It was not immediately clear what caused the powerful blast, which occurred near the 17th-century Mughal fort in Delhi's old city.

The site is visited by tourists throughout the year and used by the prime minister for his annual independence day address.

The officer, who declined to be named, said eight people were killed, three of them inside the moving car that exploded and five in other vehicles. He said about 20 people had been taken to nearby hospitals.

New Delhi police commissioner Satish Golcha told reporters an investigation was ongoing into the explosion, which occurred shortly before 7pm yesterday.

"Top agencies are investigating the incident with full intensity, and will go in depth into the incident," home minister Amit Shah said in a post on social media site X.

In an earlier brief televised address Shah had said authorities were "exploring all possibilities".

The blast sparked immediate speculation of a potential link to terrorism, a



Security personnel stand beside charred vehicles at the blast site

perennial concern in India, which has suffered numerous attacks in recent decades that include about half a dozen in Delhi since the mid-1990s.

Indian news agency ANI reported that several states including neighbouring Uttar Pradesh had announced security alerts after the explosion.

Earlier yesterday, police said they had arrested two people and seized a large cache of explosives and arms, including assault rifles, from an apartment in Faridabad in the southern outskirts of Delhi.

The seizure was reportedly one of the biggest involving weapons in the national capital region in recent years.

The office of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he had "taken stock of the situation in the wake of the blast in Delhi".

Modi posted on social media site X his condolences to "those who have lost their loved ones in the blast in Delhi earlier this evening. May the injured recover at the earliest."

Videos broadcast by local news organisations and shared on social media showed smoke billowing from burning cars and rickshaws at the site of the explosion.

The blast shattered the windows of vehicles parked several metres away. Officials said the flames had been doused by firefighting teams.

"When we arrived on the scene we saw four to five shattered bodies and body parts.

"Many vehicles around the one that had exploded had caught fire," Delhi ambulance driver Mohammad Asad told the PTI news agency.