

India Asks Pakistan to Act Against Terror Groups

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NEW DELHI, Oct. 31 - Two days after a deadly series of bombs tore through the Indian capital, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told [Pakistan's](#) president, [Pervez Musharraf](#), today that investigators had found signs that terror groups outside the country might have been involved, and that Pakistan must act to stifle terrorism against [India](#).

Mr. Singh made his remarks in a telephone conversation with General Musharraf, who had called to express condolences for estimated 60 people who were killed in the bombings. "The prime minister again drew the president's attention to Pakistan's commitment to ending cross-border terrorism and said that we continue to be disturbed and dismayed at indications of the external linkages of terrorist groups with the Oct. 29 bombing, and said India expects Pakistan to act against terrorism directed at India," India said in a statement to news organizations.

Although Mr. Singh did not name Pakistan in his reference to "external linkages," Reuters reported that Indian Foreign Ministry officials said that he was referring to Pakistan.

The high-level phone call came on the same days an Indian court sentenced a Pakistani and six Indians for an attack five years ago on the historic Red Fort in New Delhi. Officials said all the suspects have links to a militant group suspected of involvement in the attacks on Saturday.

In the long-awaited sentencing in the case, Ashfaq Rehman, a Pakistani, was sentenced to death in connection with the attack in which three people were killed. Mr. Rehman was described by prosecutors as a member of the Pakistan-based group Lashkar-e-Taiba who had fought against Indian rule in Kashmir, the disputed Himalayan province that both India and Pakistan claim.

The six Indians convicted in the December 2000 attacks drew sentences ranging from seven years to life in prison. Mr. Rehman's wife, Rehmana Farooqui, an Indian citizen, was sentenced to seven years in jail for harboring him. A defense lawyer, Aman Lekhi, said the convictions were based only on circumstantial evidence and that an appeal would be filed.

Lashkar-e-Taiba took responsibility for the attack on the Red Fort, in which the attackers engaged soldiers stationed at the fort in a gun battle.

The Red Fort, with its sandstone walls, is a major tourist attraction, dominating the eastern edge of the area known as Old Delhi. It was built by the Mogul emperor, Shah Jahan, in the 17th century.

While a little-known militant group took responsibility for the attacks on Saturday that hit two markets and a bus in New Delhi, police officials said it was linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba. The group has been outlawed in Pakistan but is believed to have continued operating under new guises.

There have been no arrests in the most recent attacks.