



Indian School Nizwa  
WORKSHEET - ENGLISH

Class: IX

**Reading Comprehension**

**Bombay Rises in Defiance from Bomb Carnage.**

India's financial capital emerged bloodied, battered but unbowed on Thursday, after terrorist bombs planted on trains killed 186 people and injured more than 700.

Less than 24 hours after the attacks, Bombay's residents emerged. They were cautious at first. However, by late morning the trains that form the transport lifeline of one of the world's most congested cities were again hustling. From the man in the street up to the highest figures in the land, the message to the bombers was the same: defiance. The resilience of Bombay, now known officially as Mumbai, was praised by Dr. Man Mohan Singh, the Indian prime minister.

Addressing the nation, he said: "This is living proof of our contempt for terrorism. No one can make India kneel. No one can come in the path of our progress." A taxi driver, Manjit Singh, was equally contemptuous of the bombers. 'Mumbai is not going to be cowed down,' he said. "Its inherent resilience will ensure that it bounces back. We are a billion people, how many bombs do they have?"

If the bombers had intended to derail the three-year Indo-Pakistan peace negotiations, they also appeared to have failed, as both Islamabad and New Delhi made clear that the talks would continue.

Sonia Gandhi, the president of India's Congress Party, flew to Bombay immediately after hearing of the blasts. Soon after midnight she was visiting hospitals and bomb-sites to offer her condolences to the bereaved.

The rush-hour attacks, designed to inflict maximum loss of life, were seen a deliberate strike at the heart of the city that symbolises India's economic expansion.

However, fears that Bombay's benchmark Sensex stock market would tumble in the wake of the bombings were unfounded as stocks rallied more than two per cent on the back of positive earnings reports from the Indian software giants, Infosys and Wipro. India's finance minister, P Chidambaram, also moved to reassure foreign investors that the nation's 7% growth would not be held back by terrorism." These cowardly and dastardly attacks cannot break our will or resolve," he said. "India's growth story is intact. No need to worry about the Indian economy."

Extra police were deployed throughout the city, particularly at Hindu temples and mosques, to prevent the kind of Hindu-Muslim sectarian backlash that has followed such attacks in the past. By late afternoon, the traffic was chaotic, as usual. Shops, supermarkets and cinemas were open. Pubs, restaurants, game kiosks and dance bars were crowded as usual. Children were playing in the parks as if nothing had happened. Incredible resilience!

However, for the bereaved it was impossible to return to any kind of normality. Outside the 31 hospitals, queues of dazed locals carrying pictures of the missing crowded around notice boards, poring over lists. India's railway ministry offered what material comfort it could, announcing compensation of US\$ 1800 and a job to next of kin for all those bereaved in the attacks. But in the overflowing and at times impersonal metropolis only 123 bodies had been identified. Remaining were too disfigured and charred

beyond recognition. Inside the Rajeev Gandhi Memorial Hospital it seemed as if there were more relatives than medical staff attending the injured who lay lifelessly on bloodstained sheets.

“We must kill the snake before it rears its ugly head once more,” said Vinayak Thiwari, a policeman injured in one of the trains.” If we do not deal with this threat it will recur again and again.”

*Courtesy: The Telegraph, London.*

1. Name the hospital that is mentioned in the passage.
2. Write two incidents mentioned in the passage to substantiate the resilience of Bombay.
3. How many bodies remain unidentified? Why?
4. Why did the terrorists choose rush hours to carry out the bomb blasts?
5. What was the amount offered as compensation to the bereaved?
6. Did the blasts have any negative impact on the Bombay Stock Market? Why?
7. Why extra police were deployed throughout the city in the wake of bomb blasts?
8. Why wouldn't the terrorists succeed in derailing the Indo-Pak peace negotiations?
9. Who thinks that terrorists do not have enough bombs for a billion people?

