

India: a continent in turmoil

Kashmir

120 people killed last week in battles between Muslim insurgents and security forces. Artillery fire between Indian and Pakistani troops

Uttar Pradesh

Wednesday: police open fire during clashes between Hindus and Muslims

Babri mosque at Ayodha

Baratiya Janata Party claim mosque was built on Hindu holy site. 30 Hindus killed during riots last autumn.

Assam

Counter insurgency operations

Delhi

Paramilitary forces and army on alert

Tamil Nadu

Wednesday: rioting reported

Sriperumpudur

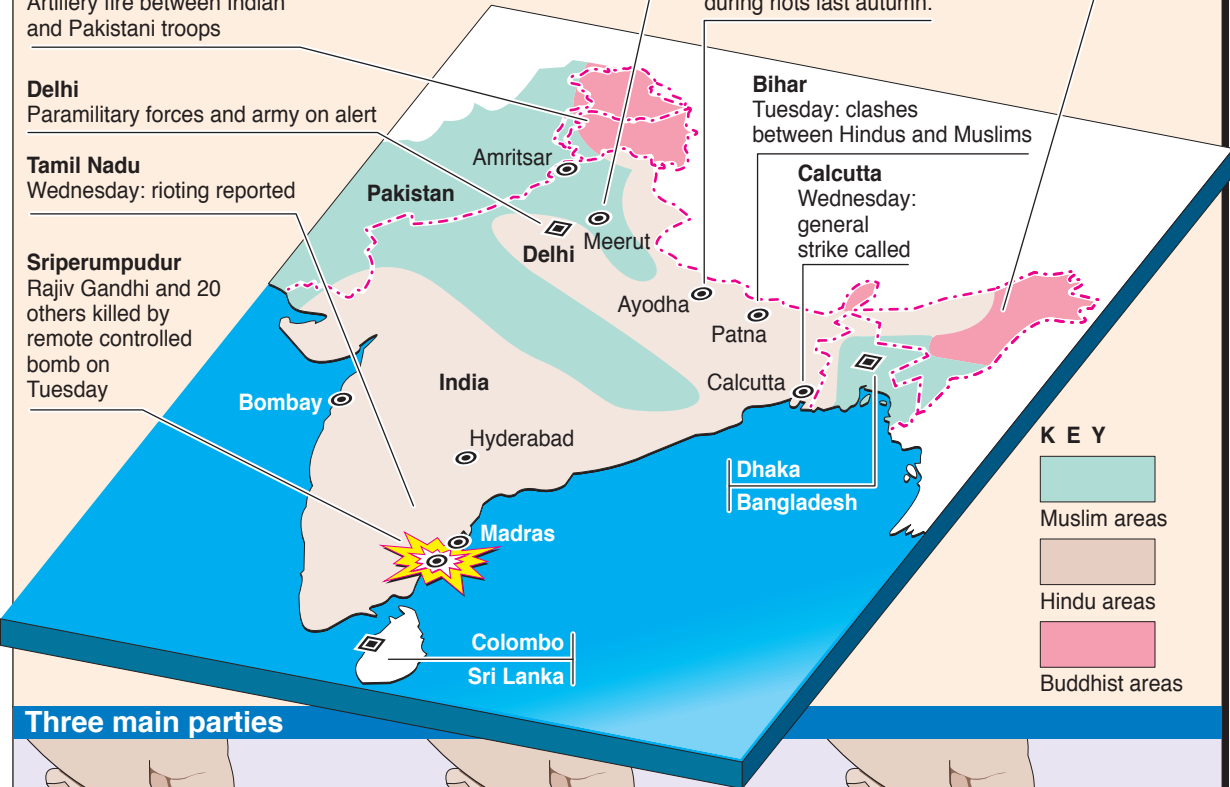
Rajiv Gandhi and 20 others killed by remote controlled bomb on Tuesday

Bihar

Tuesday: clashes between Hindus and Muslims

Calcutta

Wednesday: general strike called



KEY

Muslim areas

Hindu areas

Buddhist areas

Three main parties

Congress (I) Party

Dominant party since independence in 1947 but lost power in 1989. Congress (I) promises stability and economic reforms. No obvious new leader to replace Rajiv Gandhi. Could benefit from the sympathy vote following Gandhi's assassination

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)

Led by Lal Krishna Advani. The party represents India's 700 million Hindus and calls for the creation of a Hindu fundamentalist society. BJP wants open development of nuclear weapons and stronger Indian navy

Janata Dal Party (JDP)

Led by Vishwanath Pratap Singh. The party represents India's 550 million poor, lower castes and untouchables. JDP has attracted support of 110 million Muslims and wants 27 per cent of government jobs reserved for underprivileged groups