

## Citizens salute the city's spirit

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Mumbai: The people of Mumbai deserve to be richly praised for refusing to be provoked by the series of bomb blasts, including the two which took place on Monday. Several speakers at a meeting organised by Citizens Against Violence and Hate at the Indian Merchants Chamber noted that those behind the blasts wanted to provoke communal violence in the metropolis.

"Mumbaikars have not fallen for the bait. Instead, they have maintained normalcy with tremendous grit and determination. I salute this spirit of Mumbai," writer Hasan Kamal said. Actor Farooq Shaikh said, "There are certain things about Mumbai about which I have complained in the past. But after seeing the manner in which Mumbaikars upheld peace despite two bloody blasts, I have nothing but admiration for this city and its people."

All the speakers, including writer Javed Akhtar, journalist Sajid Rashid, activists Javed Anand and Ghulam Peshimam, said, "An overwhelming number of Muslims firmly disapproved of violence of any kind. Those who indulge in bomb blasts could not be called Muslims."