

HT-28/8/2003

Counter terror with terror, says Thackeray

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Mumbai, August 27

THE ONLY answer to violence is more violence. Or at least, that is what Shiv Sena supremo seemed to suggest in his reaction to Monday's twin blasts in Mumbai. Suspected terrorists must be gunned down in "encounters", he said.

Thackeray was addressing the media at Matoshree, his home in suburban Bandra on Wednesday afternoon. "Terrorism can be countered only by super terrorism. Some people may not agree with my views, but we need an organisation like the ISI so that such attacks can be retaliated. The government should also lift the ban on LTTE so that its members can spread terror in Pakistan," he said.

As in the past, Thackeray expressed faith in Mumbai police, saying the force was capable of tackling terrorism in the city. "The police can easily kill suspected terrorists in encounters. If there is no political interference in the police operations, there will be no terrorist attack," he said.

Meanwhile, prominent Muslims of Mumbai came forward under one banner, "Citizens Against Violence and Hate", on Wednesday and strongly condemned the twin blasts. They said Mumbai was witnessing a sea change among Muslim youth who are beginning to hate politics based on religion and mob violence. "The Indian Muslim is Enemy No. 1 for Pakistan," said lyricist Javed Akhtar.