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Security forces foiled a similar attempt earlier this month

Militants in Indian-administered Kashmir have made an attempt to storm the airport in the capital, Srinagar.

A heavily-armed suicide squad threw grenades at the main gates of the airport, which is located on the outskirts of Srinagar.

In the gun battle that followed, four militants and two civilians were killed and eight paramilitary troops injured.

The latest incident follows an attack on Srinagar's main telephone exchange last week and an earlier unsuccessful attempt to infiltrate the airport.

Security tightened

Unconfirmed reports say two of the injured paramilitary soldiers have also died.

Police sources told the BBC that the army has now taken over the security operations and surrounded the Srinagar airport.

Several passengers who were stranded at the airport during the gun battle have now been allowed to go home.

Airlines have resumed their normal operations.

The Lashkar-e-Toyeba militant group has issued a statement saying it carried out the attack.

"Six of our men broke the airport security cordon," a spokesman for the group told the AFP news

“ Six of our men broke the airport security cordon

Lashkar-e-Toyeba spokesman

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agency.

Earlier this month, five militants, dressed in police uniforms, were stopped as they drove up to the airport's main gate.

Since then, security has been stepped up outside the airport and other vital installations.

Ceasefire

The latest attack comes ahead of India's Republic Day on 26 January - a period in which militant groups often step up the level of violence.

It also comes despite a government ceasefire in Indian-administered Kashmir, which has been in place since the end of November.

It has raised hopes of possible peace in the troubled region.

But most militant groups have rejected the ceasefire and violent attacks have continued.

Indian Home Minister LK Advani said on Monday that a cabinet security committee would review the ceasefire on the face of the growing attacks.

"If such activities go on, then we will have to see how and in what manner the peace initiative by Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee will continue," the home minister said.

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