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Day 4: Stumps

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"There's blood and flesh everywhere"

TNN | Nov 28, 2008, 12.45AMIST

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MUMBAI: At 4 am on Thursday, exactly five hours after his shift ought to have ended, a senior chef at the Taj ran out along with other kitchen and restaurant staff from the entrance of the new building. His face was beaded with sweat. His voice quivered a little as he recounted, a little hesitantly at first, the unending and seamless terror that he witnessed inside. Here's his account.

I was at the main restaurant kitchen when I first heard gunshots and blasts at 10 pm. No one knew what was happening. Later we heard more gunshots. The terrorists had entered the Shamiana and fired indiscriminately.

There is blood and body flesh everywhere and even the pool is bloodied. The hotel lobby, too, is totally destroyed. They didn't even spare the sniffer dogs. They shot them dead and then shot the security guards who manned the dogs and the entrance. The guards were hardly equipped to retaliate. A young waiter was shot dead from the back. Some of my chefs, too, were shot. Guests were shot dead. I don't know how or where they are now. The terrorists were tall, well-built and some wore Pathan suits.

They appeared fair-skinned but I didn't see them from close quarters. Some of them even entered the provision room and entered from the back between the new and old buildings. It was the most horrifying sight. There was blood everywhere.

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