



# The Telegraph

calcutta, india



Today's Edition

| Thursday , November 27 , 2008 |

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## War on Mumbai

### Foreigners hostage, ATS chief killed

#### - Gunmen storm 5-star hotels in chain strikes, 80 feared dead

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, Nov. 26: Gunmen attacked Mumbai's landmark luxury hotels, its most famous railway station and at least five other places tonight, killing at least 80 people and taking several hostage.

At least 40 people, including several foreigners, have been taken hostage in the Oberoi at Nariman Point. Four bodies were taken out of the hotel at 2am.

Armed with an AK-47 gun and a rifle, two militants dressed in jeans and T-shirt barged into the restaurant of the Taj Hotel near Gateway of India tonight and looked for American and British passport holders and herded some of them to the hotel roof.

The terrorists took 15 people, half of them foreigners, hostage at the Taj, one of the hostages who managed to escape said.

Two youths in their 20s came to the restaurant, Rakesh Patel, a businessman from London who lives in Hong Kong, said.

"The two young boys came to the rest 18th floor from where we escaped," he

Replying to a question, Patel said the was carrying American or British pass

Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, formerly Mumbai, and the popular Leopold's re

Among the dead are some of the most against terrorism. The dead include H Vijay Salaskar, an encounter specialis

The global CEO of a consumer goods seminar are said to be in one of the tw and commandos were going on till late into the night, police said.

The police asked people to stay off the roads following reports that a group of terrorists had been going around the city in a vehicle snatched from security forces.

Two terrorists were gunned down by the police in Girgaum while they were on the run in a Skoda. The two were shot dead after the vehicle was intercepted by police following a chase. They may have been involved in the terror attack in the Oberoi, the police said.

Suhel Seth, **The Telegraph** columnist and adman, had checked into the Taj but was at a wedding when the attack began. "The hotel sent a text message warning us about the ongoing trouble. So I shifted to another hotel, though my clothes and bags are still at the Taj," Seth said tonight.



Guests and an employee leave the Oberoi hotel after the attack on Wednesday night. (Fotocorp)

[X]



PTI said three Taj employees were gunned down in the hotel. At 1am, a huge explosion, said to be a grenade blast, was heard from the terrace. The roof and the top floor of the hotel were on fire.

Maharashtra DGP A.N. Roy said the attack in “at least seven places” was a “terror strike.”

A British politician was among guests trapped in their hotels. Sajjad Karim, a Conservative politician, told The Times, London, by mobile phone from a barricaded basement room that he and others had fled from machine-gun fire.

“I was in the lobby of the hotel when gunmen came in and people started running,” he said. “Some of us split one way and some another. A gunman just stood there spraying bullets around, right next to me. I managed to turn away and I ran into the hotel kitchen and then we were shunted into a restaurant in the basement.

“We are now in the dark in this room and we’ve barricaded all the doors.”

Karim is part of a delegation of European politicians visiting Mumbai ahead of the forthcoming EU-India summit.

“The terrorists have used automatic weapons and in some places grenades have been lobbed,” Roy said.

“It was really scary. It was like the sound of loud crackers, not one but several, we just ran out of there,” said Janice Sequeira, a tourist who had been at a restaurant in the Taj Mahal Hotel.

At the Oberoi at Nariman Point, police officer P.I. Patil said shots had been fired inside and the hotel had been cordoned off. The lobby of the hotel was on fire.

Leopold’s restaurant was riddled with bullet holes and there were blood stains on the floor and shoes left by fleeing customers.

Some militants entered the passenger hall of the railway station and opened fire and threw grenades, Mumbai general railway police commissioner A.K. Sharma said.

The terror strike began around 10pm at the railway station. Ten people were killed on the premises of the station alone.

Firing was also reported at Cama Hospital in south Mumbai, the police said, adding that a blast was reported in a taxi under a flyover in Vile Parle.

The 54-year-old Karkare, who was probing the Malegaon blast case, was killed when he was leading an operation at the Taj. The 1982 batch IPS officer had returned to his state cadre after serving seven years in Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) in Austria.

Salaskar and another IPS officer, Ashok Marutirao Kamte, were killed while fighting terrorists at Metro Cinema.

#### WHERE THE TERRORISTS STRUCK



**Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus:** Two militants with assault rifles open fire. At least 10 killed and 30 injured

**The Taj:** Two armed men take people hostage at premier hotel opposite Gateway of India

**The Oberoi:** Two men armed with grenades attack hotel on Marine Drive. At least 3 grenade explosions inside hotel

**Gateway of India:** A bag and a boat anchored being probed

**Café Leopold, Colaba:** Two men fire at prominent pub frequented by foreigners

**Cama Hospital & GT Hospital:** Firing reported from the public hospitals near CST station



**Vile Parle:** Massive blast in a taxi on the highway leading to Mumbai airport. Vehicle destroyed  
**Dockyard Road, Mazgaon:** Blast reported in a taxi close to the Mazgaon docks  
**Napean Sea Road:** Two explosions in home to Mumbai's richest  
**Metro Adlabs, Bombay Hospital:** A multiplex and a hospital in south Mumbai. Armed men on foot open

fire, at least two explosions heard

- ATS chief Hemant Karkare was killed near the Taj and encounter specialist Vijay Salaskar as well as IPS officer Ashok Marutirao Kamte were killed near Metro cinema. At least seven policemen said to be among the dead
- Boat laden with explosives found near Gateway of India
- Terrorists said to be seeking out people with British and American passports



A policeman tends to an injured child at a hospital. Reuters

### At Oberoi

"I heard three bangs around 10.15pm when I was in the hotel's coffee shop. After that, the restaurant was closed and I was led into the basement. The delegation couldn't come in," said Spanish national Ignatio Larrea, who was waiting to receive a local government delegation from Madrid. He came out of the basement at 12.30am



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