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Ajmal Amir Kasab Trial: Eyewitness identifies Kasab but gives contradictory statement

An eyewitness in the 26/11 terrorist attacks case today identified the lone captured Pakistani gunman Ajmal Amir Kasab in the designated court, but made a contradictory statement that the Skoda car, hijacked by the terrorists, was red in colour and not silver.

Samit Ajgaokar, deposing before designated court judge M L Tahalyani, said Kasab was the person who had hijacked the Skoda car on that fateful night.

However, while being cross-examined by Abbas Kazmi, defence lawyer for Kasab, the eye witness said that the Skoda car passing through opposite direction of Nariman point was Red in colour.

Ajgaokar further said the Skoda car was red and not silver.

However, Sharan Ramesh Aras, son of the owner, hijacked car's earlier while deposing before the court in this case had said that the car was of silver colour.

Earlier, during examination-in-chief by Special Public Prosecutor Ujwal Nikam, the witness said that around 2240 hours he along with his wife was watching television, when he came to know that some terrorists have attacked Taj and Oberoi hotels.

He then called up his friend Uma Shankar, who was working as Sales Manager in hotel Oberoi, who informed that there was some firing in the hotel and that they have been shifted to nearby Inox mall.

Ajgaokar further told the court that Uma Shankar had requested him to rescue him from there, after which he called up Sharan Aras, a common friend.

Aras immediately came to Ajgaokar's residence at Mahim and rushed to Inox Mall.

The witness further said at about 0005 hours of November 27, he, his wife Meghna and Aras reached near Nariman point and saw a police vehicle coming from the opposite direction.

He said on hearing sounds of firing, Aras stopped the Skoda car and within seconds two armed persons, one tall and another short, came near the car and asked them to get down.

The taller one pulled Aras down from driver's seat and the shorter one, Kasab, asked Aras for the keys, he said adding that Aras gave the keys to Kasab.

Soon after, Kasab and his accomplice fled in the same car.

The trio then returned home in a taxi and at around 0200-0230 hours they registered a complaint with Mahim police station that two people have hijacked their car.

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