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## 'Largest reinforcement reached Cama on 26/11'

Sunando Sarkar, TNN Nov 29, 2009, 04.05am IST

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MUMBAI: Records sourced by TOI from city police log books show the largest quantum of armed reinforcements was sent to Cama

Hospital on the night of 26/11. The other terror-struck sites like the Taj, the Oberoi and Nariman House got less reinforcements.

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The type of assistance that senior officials sent to this spot on 26/11 has become the subject of a controversy following the publication of *To the Last Bullet*, a book written by Vinita Kamte, wife of slain additional commissioner Ashok Kamte. The book has indicated that the help that came for ATS chief [Hemant Karkare](#), Kamte and encounter specialist inspector [Vijay Salaskar](#) - who died at the hands of Ajmal Kasab and Abu Ismail in the lane beside St Xavier's College - was inadequate.

Police records, however, seem to contradict this theory. Exactly 24 teams were sent to Cama Hospital and its neighbourhood between 10.29 pm on 26/11 and 12.11 am on 27 November. That was far more than the number of teams sent to the vicinity of the Taj, the Oberoi or Nariman House, where gunbattles raged for more than a couple of days. The Taj, for instance, got only seven police teams in the same time and Nariman House got only nine teams of reinforcement; the Oberoi got a sizeable amount (20 teams) but even that was less than what the vicinity of Cama Hospital got.

The first police team that reached Cama Hospital was a unit from Azad Maidan police station; it was followed by 11 more teams till 11.11 pm.

The next 14 minutes, till 11.25 pm, did not see any more reinforcement at the spot but - between 11.25 pm on 26/11 and 12.11 am on the 27th - a dozen more teams were sent there in quick succession, making for a total of 24 assistance teams at Cama Hospital. Karkare, Kamte and Salaskar are believed to have died around 12.07 am on 27 November.

One of the 24 teams that were sent was an assault team diverted from the Mantralaya. "We diverted a unit from even the government headquarters despite reports coming in that the terrorists might be in the vicinity," said a senior police official involved in the operations that night, discounting the theory that the force left three of its officers to fend for themselves.

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