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Awaiting instructions,cops wasted 40 mins outside Cama hospital

Mumbai: Mumbai Police records may show that more than 150 policemen were sent to the Cama Hospital to smoke out two Pakistani terrorists (Ajmal Kasab and Ismail Khan) but reports from the ground indicate that the reinforcements sent out on instructions from the control spent more than 40 minutes outside the hospital campus,waiting for directions from their superiors to enter the compound.

Officials on Tuesday told TOI that the reinforcements continually pouring into the area wasted precious time chalking out strategy in a lane leading to the rear entrance of the hospital.

A senior police officer said things would have been different if a swift decision had been taken to get the reinforcements block both the front and rear gates of the hospital.From what we learnt,the officers were surveying the area before issuing orders to encircle the hospital when they were attacked.Even slain ATS chief Hemant Karkares six armed body guards were missing from action, he said.

These are some of the untold bitter truths about the events that happened near Cama.We did a post-mortem study of the lapses of the force that was sent for assistance but did not want to make it public, the officer added.

In the book,The Last Bullet, slain additional commissioner Ashok Kamtes wife,Vinita,Kamte has raised questions on the claims by joint commissioner Rakesh Maria that he sent reinforcements.TOI,in a report on Sunday,quoted extensively from the police logs that showed 24 different teams were sent to Cama and its vicinity from 10.29 pm on 26/11 to 12.11 am on November 27.

Vinita has also questioned the action of an additional commissioner who tried to tackle the terrorists from a building near Cama.A police officer said the IPS officer in question went to the terrace of Anjuman-e-Islam building hoping to pin down the terrorists who were on the Cama terrace.He met Karkare,Kamte,inspector Vijay Salaskar and other officers who were working on assisting additional commissioner Sadanand Date.Since two senior IPS officers were present,he went to the Anjuman hostel building and tried to locate the terrorists, another official said.TNN

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