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Senior cop wanted NSG taken off 26/11 ops: Gafoor

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MUMBAI: Even as the NSG operations were coming to an end in the 26/11 terror attack, there was a suggestion from a very senior police officer to call off the NSG as they were taking too much time to complete the operations.

This was disclosed by former [Mumbai](#) police commissioner Hasan Gafoor. Speaking to TOI, Gafoor — now director general of police (housing) — said there was a meeting of senior police officers with R R Patil (who was then state deputy chief minister in charge of home department) at the state police headquarters on November 28.

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"There was a suggestion from one officer that the NSG be withdrawn as they were taking a lot of time and the police must take over. But I said that it would not be proper to remove the NSG. After all, they are equipped to handle such situations and trained for it."

Praising NSG for doing a "great job" in eliminating the terrorists, Gafoor said that without them it would not have been possible to even map the terrorists' movement inside those built-up areas, let alone take them head on. NSG was called in for flushing out terrorists at Hotel Taj, Hotel Trident and Nariman House. The NSG operations were over on November 29.

Gafoor, who came in for severe criticism for his alleged poor leadership skills in the Ram Pradhan Committee report, however, denied that some IPS officers had shirked work while the city was under siege. In a recent interview to a magazine, Gafoor was quoted as saying that four senior IPS officers either refused or did not care to respond to the call of duty when terror struck.

"This is not true. All the officers were told to be on streets. And everyone was obeying my orders," Gafoor said. Gafoor said that each and every officer had done a great job but the sacrifice of Hemant Karkare and Ashok Kamte were supreme.

Gafoor said, "I was asked about how and why ATS chief Hemant Karkare and Ashok Kamte reached the spot before officers having jurisdiction over that zone. I said they must have been busy somewhere else as there was a series of attacks at different places in the city."

Gafoor came in for severe criticism from the Ram Pradhan Committee, which had observed that command and control was not properly exercised during the handling of the attacks.

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