

# Trying to make sense of gunshots, he walked to his death

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An innocent enquiry into the sound of gunshot that a shopkeeper heard when terrorists struck Mumbai, proved fatal for him. Two shops away from the small back-door entrance of Café Leopold, Subhash Vanmali Waghela stepped out of his photocopy shop to enquire about a sound that came from the end of the lane. Before he could take stock of the situation, Waghela was shot dead by one of the two terrorists who were moving down the street after they had opened fire at Café Leopold.

Vinesh Waghela, Subhash's nephew says, "He used to usually sit for the late shift from nine to twelve in the night. He had come to relieve me, since it was time for my dinner and I was inside the shop. He just stepped outside to check what was happening, when he was shot right in front of the shop."

The Waghelas, who live in a joint family in the building facing the shop, have been there for around eighty years. "We are among the few shops that are open till late in the night, along with Vrindavan hotel, a cyber café and Café Leopold," says Vinesh. "We were going to pull down the shutters when he was shot. We couldn't even get to his body, immediately after he was shot because the gunmen were firing

rounds at everyone. Only when they moved further down the road could we pick him up. By then it was too late," adds Vinesh. Subhash is survived by his wife and two sons, Alpesh at Wilson College and Lokesh, a student at Holy Name High School.

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