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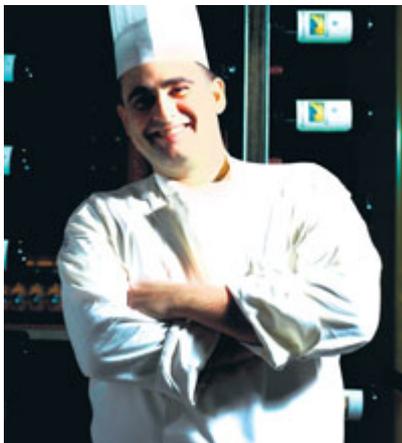
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Oberoi chef saved guests & family

Emanuele Lattanzi, Executive Chef of the Vetro first helped the guests exit, then re-entered to save his wife and child

By **Kiran Mehta**

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Chef Emanuele Lattanzi

The Vetro, Oberoi, was spared any casualties thanks to “emergency drills conducted approximately every two months at the hotel”, said Lattanzi, an Italian national employed with the hotel.

When the first shots were fired, the maître d’ immediately bolted shut the doors of the restaurant and ordered its approximately 25 guests and 15 employees to make their way to the kitchen. The staff of the hotel then led the guests safely through the kitchen to an emergency exit. Once outside, they made their way to the parking lot of the Inox from where they were assisted by the authorities.

This however did not solve a larger problem that Lattanzi was facing: His wife and 6-month-old baby girl were still at the Oberoi, and the terrorists were at large.

Initially in room No 1002, on the first floor, Lea Lattanzi, his wife, made her way to Room No 1025 on the same floor, to find strength with another staff member. Together they managed to keep the baby calm. Chef Lattanzi, extremely anxious about his baby daughter, requested the Indian authorities to allow him inside to deliver milk to the baby.

He said, “I know my daughter’s sleep patterns and knew that she would wake up at 7 am. I also knew that there was no milk and hence she was hungry from the night before. There was no way that my wife and baby were going to make their way outside as it was unsafe due to the random firing.”

With a commando leading the way, Lattanzi re-entered the Oberoi. “I was then ordered by the commando not to leave the room until they came for us.” Chef Lattanzi again exited the Trident at 11 am on Friday with his family safe in his arms. Continues Chef Lattanzi, “The Indian army and NSG forces have done a remarkable job. I am grateful to them for bringing us out of there alive.”

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