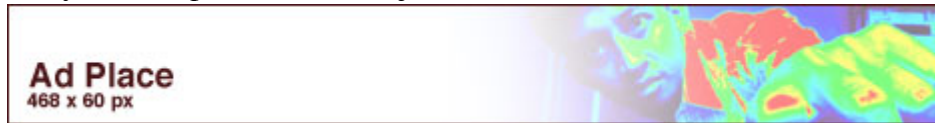


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Taj Update: Hostage Identifies Kasab in Jail

Mumbai: A railway employee today identified Ajmal Kasab in a special court and said how the Pakistani gunman and his associate Abu Ismael took him hostage at the Cama hospital on November 26 last year.

Pointing towards Kasab, Dinesh Chinnekar, told judge M L Tahaliyani, “This person and another gunman had asked three of us to raise our hands and face the wall of a ward in the hospital. My brother-in-law Thomas was also with me.

“We were scared and obeyed their commands. I saw on my right side the taller gunman (Ismael) was stabbing a man and later he fired a gunshot at the same person,” Chinnekar told special public prosecutor Ujjwal Nikam.

Chinnekar claimed Kasab then snatched mobile phones from him and Thomas and warned them “aawaz karega to tumhara bhi yeh hi hal karega” (If you raise an alarm you shall meet the same fate).

Kasab and Ismael took them to the washroom and bolted the door from outside. Some others were also held hostage there. For two hours they heard noise of firing and explosions. Police came later and released them, Chinnekar said.

Another witness, Dr Bhalachandra Chikalkar, an associate professor of forensic medicine at the Grant Medical College, said he had conducted the post mortem of slain police officers Hemant Karkare and Ashok Kamathe.

Two other witnesses identified the blood-soaked clothes of injured policeman Sadanand Date and victims.



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