

Market Watch	SENSEX	NIFTY	Gold (MCX) (Rs/10g.)	USD/INR
04:00 PM 25 Oct	20,683.52 ▼ -41.91	6,144.90 ▼ -19.45	30,722.0 ▲ 160.0	61.46 ▼ -0.02

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Taj hostage reliving the nightmare

ET Bureau Nov 30, 2008, 12:24am IST

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MUMBAI: Former chairman of Corporation Bank, 69-year-old KR Ramamoorthy, is one among the lucky ones rescued after being held hostage inside the Taj for nearly seven hours. And that too in one of the rooms used by the terrorists as a sort of control room during their vicious attack.

Mr Ramamoorthy, current chairman of a private bank, often comes to Mumbai on official duties and was in the city on November 26 to attend an official meet the next day. He was staying at the Heritage wing of Taj Hotel on 6th floor. He had dinner at around 9.15-9.30 pm post which he went for a stroll outside. As luck would have it he reentered the hotel not knowing the nightmare that he was in for. He went up to his room and called up room service for some water. He then decided to go to the business centre on 5th floor to check his email and attend to some other pending work.

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No sooner had he stepped out of his room, he saw five security personnel who motioned him to move back inside his room. Mr Ramamoorthy presumed something was amiss and went back into his room. He then got a call from the hotel room service who informed him there was some sort of an emergency in the hotel. He thereafter switched on the television and came to know that there was some problem at the Taj. He immediately called up his wife and informed her that he was safe and she need not panic.

Around 11.30 pm there was a knock on his door and the person on the other side identified himself as room service. Mr Ramamoorthy decided to play safe and did not open the door. Suddenly the scene changed and two terrorists — between 21-25 years of age — one medium size and other fairly tall shot the locks and stormed into the room. Mr Ramamoorthy took refuge in the washroom but they soon entered there as well.

Deploying grenades

They held a gun to his temple and asked him to undress and tied him up with his own clothes. They then asked him to keel down and then also hit him. Mr Ramamoorthy says both the terrorists were armed with assault rifles and had tote bags on their shoulder. The terrorists then began using his room as a control room.

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