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26/11 terror attack case: Chief investigating officer Ramesh Mahale resigns

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S Ahmed Ali, TNN May 24, 2013, 04:12AM IST

Tags: Suresh Walishetty | Ramesh Mahale | Ashok Duraffe | Abu Jundal (Ziabuddin Ansari)

MUMBAI: Chief investigating officer in the 26/11 terror attack case Ramesh Mahale resigned from the force on Thursday. Mahale, who was serving his three-month notice period, had put in his papers in February, citing work pressure as the reason. Thursday marked the completion of his three-month notice period.

The chief investigator, who still has two years before retirement, remained firm in his stand of quitting the force. He also deflected rumours of him joining a corporation as a legal consultant, as he is considered to one of the finest officer.

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"I am going on a vacation after Friday and will take a decision later," he said.

Sources said that Mahale did not want to do the rounds of the courts like some of his peers. "He cited instances of former officers like retired officers Suresh Walishetty and Ashok Duraffe, both of whom had retired three years ago but still attended court sessions.

Walishetty was part of the 1993 blasts probe, while Duraffe headed the investigation that led to the arrests of 21 IM members in 2008.

Additional buzz indicated that Mahale had resigned a day after the state government transferred the murder probe of Navi Mumbai builder Sunil Lahoria to his unit. "His resignation is a loss. He was meticulous in his investigations, did good deep investigations, very meticulous hard work, painstaking, and his integrity beyond doubt the department needs officer like him," said ATS chief Rakesh Maria, under whom Mahale had probed the 26/11 case.

Mahale, an officer of the 1983 batch of encounter specialist, will have to attend the court regularly in at least his three pending case. 26/11 accused Abu Jundal alias Ziabuddin Ansari case, One of Anti corruption Bureau and murders of matka king Suresh Bhagat and six others.

A senior officer told TOI Mahale's announcement had come as a shock. "He said he did not want to do the rounds of the courts after retirement. He cited instances of retired officers like Suresh Walishetty and Ashok Duraffe, who still have to attend court sessions for hearing of their pending cases.

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