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# Officials suspect Kuber was hired, not hijacked

Intelligence officials believe that Amar Singh, captain of the boat, was double-crossed by the fidayeens before he was killed

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Intelligence officials suspect that the M V Kuber boat was hired and not hijacked to carry the arms and ammunition to Mumbai. Investigations have indicated that Kuber set sail from Jakau port in Gujarat on November 14. Coast Guard officials ran a check on Kuber's route and found that the boat had sailed about 50 nautical miles off Sir Creek into Pakistani waters, where the consignment was transferred on to Kuber.



Instead of using a straight route to reach Mumbai, the M V Kuber went to Karachi from Gujarat because of the presence of several warships in the region. Ammunition was loaded on the boat in Karachi before it reached Mumbai. Graphic/Sameer Pawar

Amar Narayan, captain of the boat, was reportedly led to believe that the bags contained contraband for sale in Mumbai. All warships began conducting a search off the Gujarat coast after they got a tip-off on November 18 about a suspicious boat. Officials say it is impossible for any vessel to sail past an armada of 20 warships, aided by 18 aircraft from the Navy, Coast Guard and the Air Force.

"The Defence of Gujarat an annual exercise by naval coast guards conducted between November 2-22 is not a secret. The Pakistan Navy is aware of it. It is unlikely that a group of fidayeens would risk sailing with ammunition during the exercise," said a senior defence officer.

It is now suspected that the first group of 10 fidayeens was already in Mumbai before the attack. Some of them used an inflatable Gemini a small plastic boat to reach Kuber and bring the ammunition ashore. Coast Guard officials said the fidayeens would not set the Kuber adrift if they had plans to escape in the same vessel, which was found 20 nautical miles off the Colaba coast.

The terrorists reportedly left Narayan's body on the boat, fed the GPS system with fictitious data, and deliberately left a chart of the route behind to mislead investigators.

### Kuber captain in Pak jail for 6 months?

Initial investigations indicate Kuber captain Amar Narayan was in a Pakistani jail for over six months. Pakistani officials could have established close links with him before double-crossing him. Officials believe that it is impossible to carry out such a deadly attack minutes after sailing for six days.



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