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Bank officer from TN slain at Colaba

V Mayilvaganan | TNN

Nagapattinam (TN): He had a known preference for homemade food and seldom visited restaurants. However, when P K Gopalakrishnan chose to treat a group of friends from Bhopal at Café Leopold in Colaba, Mumbai, little did he know that his rare outing would cost him his life.

Gopalakrishnan, an assistant general manager in the State Bank of India's international banking section in Mumbai, hailed from Mayiladuthurai in Nagapattinam district, but had been a resident of Mumbai for the past four years.

Gopalakrishnan, along with three of his friends, had visited the restaurant at about 8.30 pm on Wednesday. Minutes later, there was a sudden blast, and heavy smoke filled the air.

As confusion reigned, the group lay flat on the floor to avoid being hit, as explosions continued. However, Gopalakrishnan lifted his head a little later to see what was going on completely unaware that two armed terrorists were standing at the entrance of the café to see if anyone was still alive. The next moment, a bullet pierced his head. Even as his friends watched in shock and disbelief, two more bullets were pumped into him.

"We tried to contact him at around 10.30 pm. His cell phone was picked up by a shopkeeper there who told us about the whole incident," said Suresh Manikoth, Gopalakrishnan's colleague, who is his neighbour in Santa Cruz. "He never goes to restaurants. Even on that night, we never expected him to go out for dinner," Suresh told The Times of India from Mumbai.

Gopalakrishnan's wife Lakshmi, who was unable to bear the grief, was put under sedatives. He is survived by a son, who is pursuing higher studies in the US, and a daughter studying in the 10th standard in a Mumbai school. Gopalakrishnan (50) was a very talented officer, a point that earned him a posting in the international banking section, said T R Ramesh, one of his friends.



P K Gopalakrishnan