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# 26/11 case: Policemen who played a major role

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Right from the day of the terror attacks on November 26, 2008, till Monday when the Bombay high court confirmed the death sentence awarded to Mohammed Ajmal Amir Kasab, officials from the Mumbai police have played a major role. *DNA* profiles a few police officers who made the difference.

**Arun Jadhav:** Constable Arun Jadhav witnessed the killings of top officers — ATS chief Hemant Karkare, additional commissioner Ashok Kamte and encounter specialist Vijay Salaskar. He was the one who sent a wireless message to the police control to inform that the three were killed and that the terrorists were heading towards Marine Drive. The information proved to be crucial, as Kasab and his associate were accosted near Girgaum Chowpatty.

#### **Bhaskar Kadam:**

Sub inspector Bhaskar Kadam was part of the team that killed Ismail Khan and arrested Kasab near Girgaum Chowpatty. While Khan was shot dead by assistant inspector Hemant Bavdhankar, Kadam was the one who ensured that Kasab remained alive.

#### **Ramesh Mahale:**

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Main investigating officer Ramesh Mahale has been the man behind the scenes. He worked hard to make the case watertight. He spent sleepless nights along with his men to record the statements of over 650 witnesses. A charge sheet of 11,350 pages was submitted within 90 days.

### **Deven Bharti:**

Additional commissioner, crime branch, Deven Bharti, supervised the collection of technical evidences and led the team that went to the US to meet officials of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to share information. He and his team gathered crucial information about the involvement of Pakistan-based LeT handlers. They also managed to pursue FBI officers to come and depose in court.

### **Arun Chavan:**

Inspector Arun Chavan gathered crucial evidence from the trawler, Kuber, used by the 10 terrorists. Most of the materials seized from it were used as evidence in court. Several articles had 'Made in Pakistan' written on them. He got Kasab's fingerprints on the trawler. He found a GPS device which had the sea route from Karachi to Mumbai marked. A diary containing text in Urdu was also seized. It also contained the sea route from Karachi to Mumbai.

### **Rakesh Maria:**

The then crime branch chief Rakesh Maria was the main person behind the investigation. On the day of the incident, he monitored the goings-on at the control room and directed

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the force to places where attacks were taking place. During investigations, Maria not only supervised the collection of evidence and the documentation of case papers but was also instrumental in interrogating Kasab in Punjabi. He also planned Kasab's security in jail and in hospital.

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