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Braveheart vendor Shabbir

Friday, November 26, 2010
By Santoshee Mishra

On the second anniversary of the 26/11 terror attack, meet a 'superhero' who had no weapon to tackle the terrorists Ajmal Kasab and Abu Ismail and their AK-47 rifles, but had more than the courage to save and help citizens at the CST.

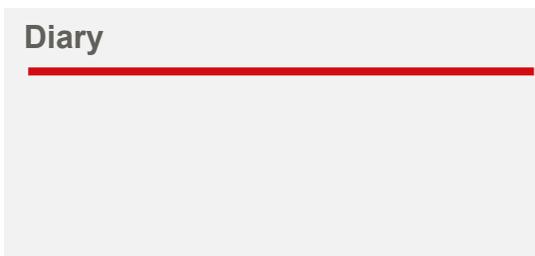
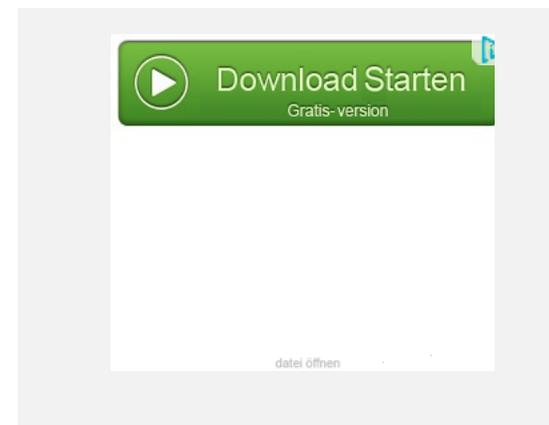
This brave heart was never awarded, but Mumbaikars see him as their "Superhero" and most members of his huge fan club make regular visits to him.

No bullet-proof jacket or helmet Surprisingly, the man who provided bullet proof jackets and helmets to the cops at the CST Railway station was himself in his plain clothes and did not wear any bullet proof jacket and helmet throughout the firing at the CST Railway station on 26/11.

Shabbir Shaikh (35) a vendor at CST station recalls that night and feels very good when people admire him for his guts for entering the station area and helping cops and citizens.

The attack

When Ajmal Kasab and Abu Ismail entered and started firing away with their AK-47s, Shabbir was sitting with his two of his friends, Rajesh Yadav (40) and Ganesh Pawar (30) in the lane of St. George Hospital. On hearing the noise, he rushed into the station to see what had gone wrong.



Shabbir recalls, "We thought some GRP or RPF guy has misfired or else some encounter was on between cops and gangster. We then got scared on seeing so many bodies lying on the floor of the railway station. Without giving a single thought we brought a 'hathgaadi' from nearby and started putting people on it and carting them to the hospital."

An RPF Braveheart officer arrives and adds One of Shabbir's friend has recorded all these incidents on his mobile phone where the three friends are not only helping citizens but also the cops in the station. Sandeep Khiratkar, police sub-inspector of RPF and Kirankumar Bhosale are seen in the video clip trying to stage a counter-attack against Kasab and Ismail.

Shabbir and his friends had guided many cops to the terrorists in the CST station. They had referred to Kasab as 'Nepali Chokra'. Khiratkar and other cops are seen clearly in the video clip firing from the main entrance of the CST and then moving in to tackle the duo from the main hall of the CST station.

Shabbir said, "The PSI, Khiratkar from RPF was continuously replying to the firings. He was bravely fighting with the terrorists. Looking at his guts, we three dared to enter into the main hall. I think because of Khirtakar's counter firing and ATS support these terrorists could not hang around in there at CST station after 10.40 pm."

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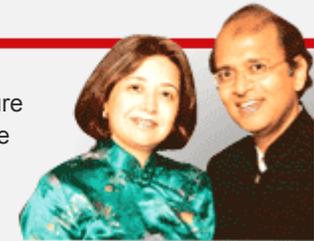
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