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Top professionals, businessmen killed in five-star carnage

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As the smoke cleared from the two south Mumbai hotels and the commandos secured these properties, friends and family were confronted with the painful task of identifying the dead. While the Taj hotel's casualty list is still not available, the names that emerged from the Oberoi confirmed people's worst fears. The list included well-known names from Mumbai's business and social circles.

Yes Bank's non-executive chairman and co-promoter Ashok Kapur, businessman Sunil Parekh, developer Pankaj Shah and solicitor Anand Bhattwre among those found dead at the Oberoi. Kapur's body was found on the 19th floor of the hotel on Friday evening. He had gone for dinner to the hotel with his wife Madhu, who managed to escape. Kapur owned a 34% stake in Yes Bank along with the bank's MD & CEO Rana Kapoor.

Sunil Parekh, a businessman with shipping interests, and his wife Reshma, were also among those killed at Tiffin, the coffee shop at The Oberoi. Uma Garg, wife of Ispat Industries' executive director (commercial) Vinod Garg, was found dead on the 19th floor. She had come for a dinner meet with her husband and a team of foreign clients. Vinod Garg, however, managed to escape on Thursday.

Shah and Bhatt were dining with another developer, Apoorva Parekh, at the Kandahar restaurant in the hotel. Parekh survived, but has been admitted to the Breach Candy hospital with several bullet injuries. Solicitor Bhatt, who was at the same dinner, is a senior partner with Mumbai-based law firm Wadia Gandhi. He was admired in legal circles for almost single-handedly, and quite democratically, bringing the law firm out of a slump.

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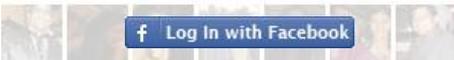
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