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### A sharp man, Kasab knew his fate: Brigadier who led NSG operation

Ashwani Sharma : Shimla, Fri Nov 23 2012, 06:17 hrs



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Memories of the 26/11 Mumbai attack and a successful NSG commando operation, which he led, are still fresh in his mind. For Brigadier (retd) Govind Singh Sisodia, a former DIG — who led the commando operation and was flown to Mumbai along with his jawans from New Delhi — catching Ajmal Kasab was the biggest achievement of the operation.

"If he was killed like the rest of the nine terrorists and not caught alive, India would not have been able to pin down Pakistan the way it did after so many innocent people died in Mumbai that day. Kasab's execution brings a closure to just one chapter of the Pakistan-perpetuated terrorism against India," said Sisodia, who hails from Chopal area of Shimla.

Sisodia, who also interrogated Kasab, recalled that he was "quite a sharp person". "He was very forthcoming on whatever I asked him, like how and why he came to Mumbai. I sat with him on the floor in the interrogation room and spoke in Punjabi. He replied with clarity," he added.

"He also knew his fate that he will die, yet he hoped to see his parents, whom he had apparently neglected. He told me 'agar bachh gaya tan maa piyo di sewa karunga (If I can escape death, I will take good care of my parents)," said Sisodia.

But the task of flushing out terrorists from Hotel Taj and Nariman Point was not easy, he recalled while remembering NGO commandos Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan and Gajender Singh who died in action.

"The sacrifice by these two commandos made a breakthrough in the operation. The terrorists were cornered and shot dead," said Sisodia.

"The biggest challenge in the way of successful accomplishment of the operation was to avoid the loss of innocent lives. At that time, feeling of nationalism was at its peak. This helped the NSG to achieve the task with the help of other agencies, including the Mumbai Police, which was extremely cooperative," he added.

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