



26/11 Mumbai Terror Attack

Taj Hotel Attack 2008

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MUMBAI

What Happened on 26/11?

On 26 November 2008, Mumbai faced coordinated terror attacks across multiple locations. Armed gunmen targeted iconic landmarks including the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, CST railway station, Oberoi Hotel, and Nariman House. The attacks lasted four days, leaving the city in shock and testing India's security apparatus.

Duration

26–29 November 2008

Key Locations

Taj Hotel, CST, Oberoi, Nariman House

Attackers

10 armed gunmen

Background of the Attack

Who Planned It?

Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), a Pakistan-based militant organisation, orchestrated the attacks with support from Pakistani handlers.

Purpose & Targets

The group aimed to create terror, destabilise India, and target symbolic locations representing India's prosperity and security infrastructure.



Timeline of Events

1

21:30 – 26 Nov

Attacks begin at CST railway station and Taj Hotel simultaneously

2

Evening – 26 Nov

Gunmen storm Oberoi Hotel; hostage situations develop

3

27–28 Nov

NSG commandos arrive; rescue operations intensify across locations

4

29 Nov

Final siege ends; all attackers neutralised or captured



Taj Hotel Attack Details

Gunmen entered through the sea-facing entrance, taking guests and staff hostage. Fires broke out on multiple floors, creating a catastrophic situation. The siege lasted 60 hours with intense rescue operations.

Entry & Hostages

Attackers infiltrated via sea route; approximately 100 hostages trapped inside

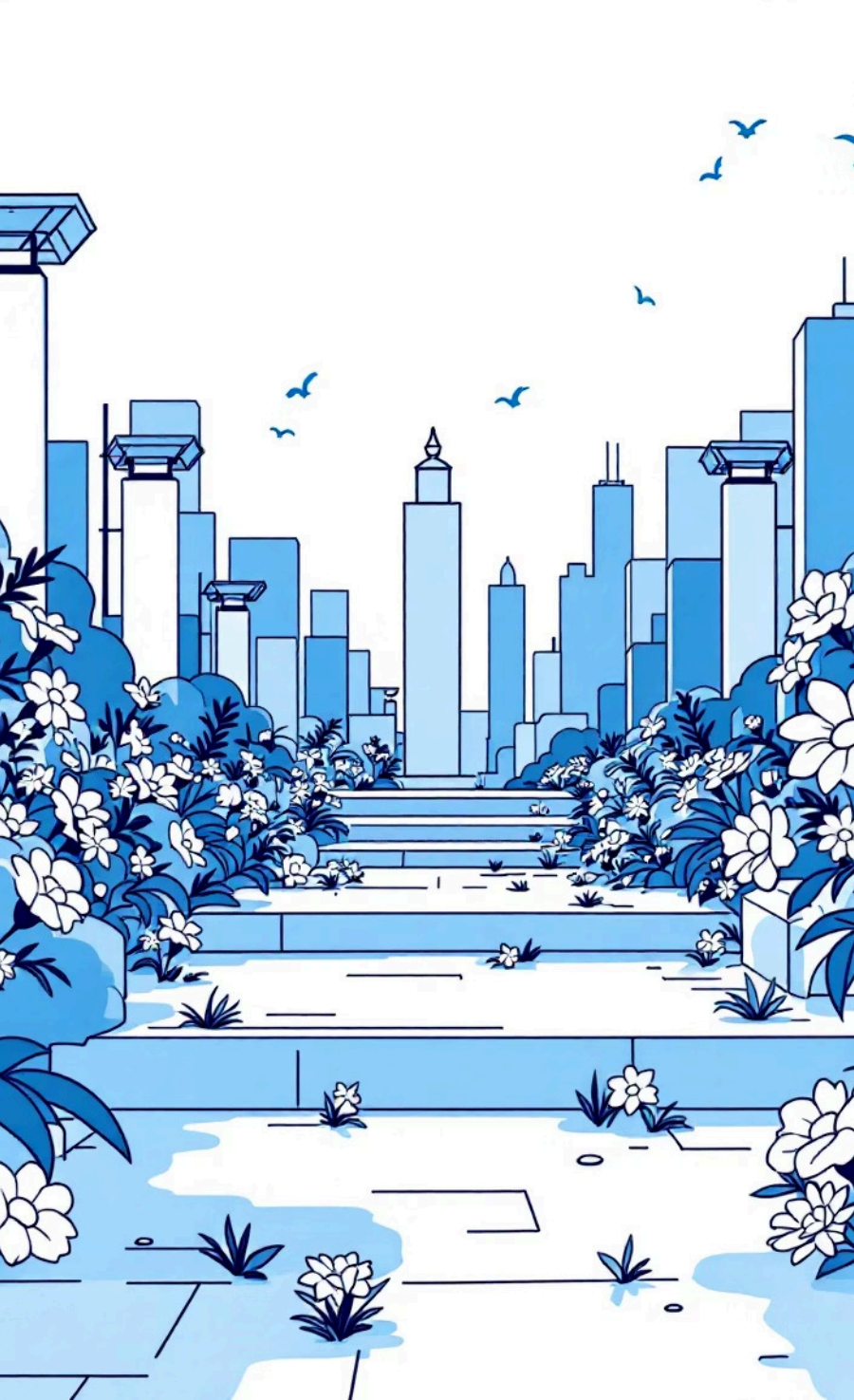
Fire & Destruction

Major fires engulfed the heritage hotel; significant structural damage occurred

Casualties

31 people killed at Taj Hotel; numerous injured during rescue operations





Heroes & Martyrs

Brave security personnel sacrificed their lives protecting citizens. Their courage and dedication became symbols of India's resilience.

Hemant Karkare

Senior police officer; killed while confronting attackers

Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan

NSG commando; died during Nariman House rescue operation

Ashok Kamte

Police officer; martyred alongside Karkare

Vijay Salaskar

Senior inspector; killed in line of duty

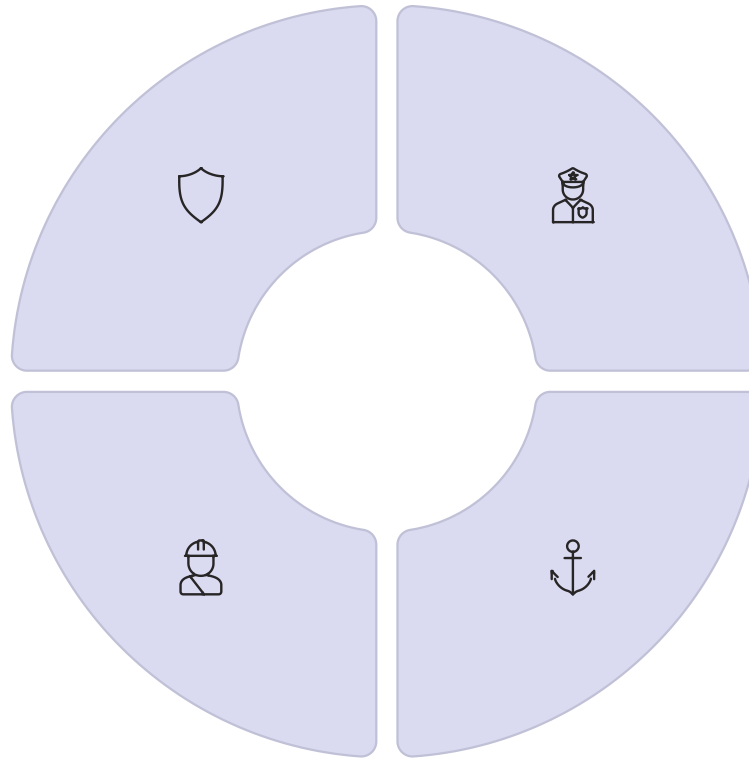
Role of Security Forces

NSG Commandos

Elite Black Cats unit deployed for hostage rescue and neutralising attackers across all locations

Coordination

Multi-agency response demonstrated improved inter-agency communication



Mumbai Police

First responders; established cordons and provided crucial ground-level support

MARCOS

Marine Commandos assisted in operations and provided tactical expertise



Casualties & Impact

166

Total Deaths

Including civilians,
police, and security
personnel

308

Injured

Many suffered severe
injuries requiring long-
term care

₹1B+

Property Damage

Taj Hotel and other
locations sustained
extensive damage

The attacks caused immense psychological trauma to the nation and exposed security vulnerabilities.



Aftermath & Investigation

Capture of Ajmal Kasab

The sole surviving attacker was arrested. He provided crucial intelligence about the attack's planning and Pakistani connections.

Legal & International Response

Kasab was tried and executed in 2012. India strengthened diplomatic pressure on Pakistan; international community condemned the attacks.

Lessons & Legacy

1 Enhanced Security Protocols

Improved coastal surveillance, airport security, and intelligence gathering mechanisms implemented nationwide

2 Inter-Agency Coordination

Better communication between police, NSG, and intelligence agencies established

3 Tribute & Unity

The attack united India in resilience. We honour the martyrs and commit to building a safer, more secure nation through collective strength and vigilance

