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## **A study on post literature: 26/11 Mumbai attack**

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**Abstract**--9/11 attack in the U.S. has procured worldwide heed towards it. The superpower nation was subjected to terror attacks and experienced the irreparable loss of innocent lives. The attack consequently ends up in an influx of literary works later it is entitled to be 9/11 Literature. Similarly, in India, the 2008 Mumbai attack (also known as the 26/11 attack) shattered the lives of the people. The entire nation collapsed out of the terror attack. The bomb blast and the shootout took place in nine renowned locations in Mumbai and devoured the lives of 174 people. Gradually literary works emerged to portray the cruelty of the 2008 Mumbai attack. The paper intends to list out the works of the different genres on the 26/11 attack. The focus falls on the analysis and the review of the post literature on the 26/11 attack. Further, the paper spotlights the effects of such works on society.

**Keywords**---post literature, Mumbai, terrorism, India.

**Introduction**

India faces the cross broader terrorism for the past few decades. It has the historic influence from the historical event of India -the Pakistan partition in the year 1947. From then onwards, geographical disputes lasted between the nations. The terror attack took place numerous times in Mumbai. The list of attacks: On the 12th mark of 1993, a bomb blast annihilated 13 locations in Mumbai, 28 August 1997 at Jama Masjid, 24 January 1998 at Malad, 27 February 1998 at Virar and in the years 2002, 2003, 2006, 2008 and 2011. Likewise, the terror attacks in Mumbai have been marking its cruelty for more than a decade. This

recurrent terror attack acts as a catalyst for fiction writers to represent it in their ways. The paper intends to review the works based on the 26/11 attack irrespective of the genre.

### **Brief History of the 2008 Mumbai attack**

On 26 November 2008, a sequential terror attack took place in Mumbai. The bomb blast and shootout devastated nine prime locations in the city. Ten terrorists who stealthily sneak into the city belong to the Pakistan based terror group Lashkar-e-Tayyiba. The onslaught lasted for four days, 26-29th, and killed 164 civilians. For the Mumbai mission, ten people were chosen at random. They were also taught to swim and sail and how to utilize high-tech weaponry and explosives under the supervision of LeT leaders.

According to a media source quoting an anonymous former U.S. Defense Department official, the U.S. intelligence services established that former commander from Pakistan's Army and Inter-Services Intelligence agency actively and constantly assisted in the training. Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, Oberoi Trident, Nariman House, and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus were all provided plans.



Fig.1 Depicts the locations attacked by the terrorist (Joshua Brustein)

Black Tornado is the narrative of the 26/11 Mumbai attack fascinatingly crafted by Sandeep Unnithan. The entire nation was shocked when terrorists took Mumbai with a heavy hand, and our frontline men came to redeem the hostages.

The black cat commandos, also known as the 'final intervention force,' were summoned from 1400 kilometres.' Operation Black Tornado' was launched by the NSG (National Security Guard) to release the captives and exterminate the terrorists. The book goes into great detail about how the police and MARCOS fought, focusing on the NSG's Operation. Our army's accomplished commandos NSG arrived and rescued the day, alongside Mumbai police, who fought hard against Al Qaeda fidayeen and knocked them down from Mumbai. Qasab is the only terrorist arrested alive out of ten. The story picturizes how the army treated the commandos. However, they rose to the occasion, and the role of the media, particularly Zee News, in nearly destroying the operation due to TRPs and nearly failing it, as well as the author's perception of the army life and problems, and how officers lose not only their families but many other things for the army.

Kasab, The Face of 26/11 is biographical nonfiction by Rommel Rodrigues, which traces the life of Kasab, the boy born in a poor Pakistani family. The plot proceeds to picture the family's struggle to establish themselves. The book is vividly engaging in engrossing the readers while experiencing the emotions of terrorists and police officers. It narrates every part of Kasab's life in the most intricate manner. The story unveils from his birth to his re-location to Lahore in search of a job, and then back to Faridkot, and the situation which throws him into the Pakistan based organization, Lashkar-e-Taiba to the finality of all horrors which took place in Mumbai. The story dramatically ends in Yerwada Central Jail, Maharashtra, India.

The horror is magnified, as is the menace, and this insider look will stoke the paranoia. The book ends abruptly, a bit like the journey of the principal character. This nifty piece of detective work gives Kasab a plausible back-story but fails to account for the forces at play that allowed them to fearlessly wander the streets of India unchallenged without triggering red flags all over. In about ten days, the perpetrator will be sentenced by Indian courts. The book is just one more nail in Kasab's pre-ordered coffin. (Afrah Jamal)

Hindustan Times came out with the compiled reports of three sustained terror attacks in various prime locations of Mumbai. Later it was stockpiled and published under 26/11: The Attack on Mumbai. The book encompasses commentaries, profiles, and columns published pre and post periods of the siege. The book is a powerful portrait of the victims, heroes, perpetrators of the assaults, and the nation's fury. The book goes into great depth into practically every part of the activities and the attack.

26/11 Stories of strength by Indian Express is a congregated report of Mumbai's terror survivors over ten years. These stories imbibe the ongoing pain of terror, irreplaceable loss, anger, fear and the longing for retribution. These poignant tales stand as a witness to narrate the horror of attack to the rest of the world. After the annihilation, every story is a shaft of light with the hope to proceed further in life. It encompasses the stories of single mothers attending night school for education and children who built big dreams over their parents' burial dome. The tormenting grief would be a persistent dweller in their hearts. These tales provide space to commemorate their suffering and understand their emotional healing and rejuvenation.

The Siege: the Attack on the Taj by Adrian Levy narrates the gripping moments of the 26/11 Mumbai attack. This nonfiction dramatizes the fear, struggle and suffering of the victims of the massacre. The in-depth meticulous narration and the sensational details of the horrifying moments grip the readers to the core. The book pictures the stories of guest staff, police and the National Security guard and inerratection between the terrorists and their handlers Line Kristin Woldbeck and her boyfriend Arne Stromme were injured at the shootout at Leopold Café, and their friend Asrani was killed cruelly.

The detailed narration of the characters' struggles creates a poignant feel for the readers. The siege places the readers amid the terror attack to envisage the bitter events on a dark day. *26/11 Braveheart: My Encounter with Terrorists that night* by Praveen Kumar Teotia is a memoir. We are well aware that the Indian army has made a significant contribution in executing and rescuing the hostages from the hotel, but we are entirely ignorant about the brave and sacrificing acts of such heroes. The memoir presents the experiences of Praveen Kumar Teotia before joining the Navy and posts 26/11 attack. His experiences after that cruel night have completely changed his perception of life, and he also realized the inadequacy of our security system. The valiant Praveen Kumar articulates his innermost feeling with the most extraordinary loyalty. The narration stands as a motivation to the mass of young lads to protect and serve the nation. He led the team to march inside the hotel to attack the terrorists, but unfortunately, they were attacked by the terrorist and badly wounded. He also registered that negligent media coverage helped the terrorists to coordinate the attack. Praveen's memoir is the story of determination, bravery and resurrection.

The influx of nonfictions exists to voice out the terrific horror to the world. Same way, a hand full of fiction are also available to merge the real and fictional worlds to make them more consumable for the thrill loving audience. Reviews of the fictional works are elaborated below. *Love in Times of Terror* (2017) by Aditi Mukherji is a riveting romantic thriller. Aditi has woven a web of events rich in tension, suspense, and mystery. The plot is divided into two halves, one dealing with India's post-independence period and the other with the 26/11 attack, commonly known as the 2008 Mumbai attack. Swathi, a Bengali brahmin, and Zubair, a Muslim, have fallen in love. The protagonists were caught up in the painful reality of the 'Babar Majeed' battle while they were young, and later in their adulthood, they were swept up in the 26/11 attack. From 1989 until 2008, the Hindu-Muslim conflict was chronicled in this historical fiction. The narrative hangs on to the unsolved issue of India's Hindu-Muslim strife. Ultimately Swathi and Zubair unified amidst the 26/11 chaos.

Manish Jaitly, a retired army officer, wrote the book "26/11 Unforgiven. The protagonist of this story is Vikrant Maheshwari, a Mumbai entrepreneur who, regrettably, is at the Taj on the evening of 11 September and loses his wife and daughter to terrorist bullets. Despite the odds, Vikrant originally felt that the government would take action to avenge his family's loss and that justice would be served. However, a few ruling party members work together to deflect criticism and protect the real criminals. Even when Ajmal Kasab claimed that the ten men who carried out the Mumbai terror attacks were Pakistani terrorists, certain leaders in the ruling elite referred to it as an "RSS conspiracy". Vikrant, whom the

legal system has wronged, decides to take matters into his own hands and plot his vengeance.

Hussain Zaidi is a renowned investigative journalist who wrote a trilogy based on the 26/11 Mumbai attack, including *Mumbai Avengers*, *Eleventh Hour*, and *The End Game*. *Mumbai Avengers* is a commercial thriller. The premise is deceptively simple: track down the perpetrators and architects of the 26/11 conspiracy, put them to justice, retaliate against the monster, and seek justice for the victims of the indiscriminate slaughter and mayhem in Mumbai, India, from 26 November to 30 November 2008. The work is single-mindedly focused on only one aspect: justice from beginning to end. There are no unnecessary subplots, twists and turns, or love triangles everywhere. The plot's brilliance; is a beautiful, crisp tale focused on its essential objective with no distractions. After receiving assurances from his friend that he will be of assistance in any way, including his choice of personnel from the forces and intelligence community, the General assembles a multi-disciplinary team of formidable experts. Commanded by General Ali, these individuals then set about providing justice, beginning with determining their current location, selecting how to deliver justice, and finally delivering justice. This is the meat of the story, as our heroes set out to do the unthinkable for the country and the victims.

The second novel *Eleventh Hour* opens with a jumble of parallel stories that is a little perplexing. The loose threads take about 125 pages to come together. A thrilling thriller follows in which the reader is thrown one twist after another till the very conclusion. The plot centers around two major terrorist assaults on Mumbai - the 26/11/2008 attack and the 1993 serial blasts - and the possibility of a third, more giant strike. There are rumors that enormous quantities of explosives left unused in 1993 are still strewn around the country.

The book begins with Vikrant Singh, a top police officer in the National Investigation Agency, hitting the Pakistan High Commissioner in the face, and is based on actual events such as the problematic relationship between India and Pakistan. This raises feathers in New Delhi's power circles, prompting a need for an investigation. Nevertheless, before his fate is decided, five Indian Mujahideen (IM) operatives who had been detained by Singh escape, and he is invited to function as a consultant on the case. Meanwhile, Somalian pirates kidnap a cruise ship on its way to Lakshadweep from Mumbai, demanding the safe transfer of the I.M. members to the ship. They also want possession of the island of Lakshadweep, and if they do not get it, they will assault Mumbai. The threats are carried live on television, causing terror in the city, and people begin fleeing in droves - when their automobiles clog the highways, they begin walking in desperation. Finally, the terrorists were knockout, hostages were rescued, and the peace was regained.

According to HarperCollins India, the book *The End Game* "gives readers a close-up of intricate political machinery at work, including state security, defense services, and intelligence organisations" - all building up to an explosive conclusion. "The Endgame," according to Zaidi, "explores the issues that a country's security faces from both within and without at the same time." It follows Shahwaz Ali Mirza and Vikrant Singh's mentor-protége duo from their previous

mission and puts them in a situation where the stakes are considerably higher than before. They must deal with internal opponents and a struggle among themselves, and he continues, in addition to the threat that looms over the country. Paraphraser "It is, essentially, the story of the human beings behind the uniforms, with all their strengths and flaws, showing how they are required to make sacrifices at a personal level because the job demands it," says the former journalist whose several books have been adapted into Bollywood films. The story begins three years after Mirza and Singh foiled dreaded terrorist Munafiq's attempt to leak State secrets from a naval server in Lakshadweep. The intelligence officers now have the task of providing security for a top paramilitary officer on his way to visit a former prime minister who is in hospital after a car accident.

However, the officer's convoy is attacked by terrorists. They manage to kill him before being gunned down themselves. "It's really the narrative of the people behind the uniforms, with all their flaws and qualities, illustrating how they are forced to make personal sacrifices because the work requires it," explains the former journalist, whose writings have been translated into Bollywood blockbusters. The tale picks up again three years after Mirza and Singh prevented notorious terrorist Munafiq's attempt to leak State secrets from a naval server in Lakshadweep. The intelligence officers are now in charge of providing security for a senior paramilitary officer who is on his way to see a former prime minister hospitalised following a vehicle accident. Terrorists assault the officer's convoy, in any case. They manage to assassinate him before getting gunned down. Mirza and Singh are assigned to investigate the case amid claims of intelligence failure and cries for vengeance. The trio follows a tip from a foreign agent to an apartment in Mumbra, where the critical suspect is hiding. He can flee, but Singh recognizes him as the brother of one of his long-term spies. Just when you think things cannot worsen, an army officer who is now engaged to the prime minister's daughter contacts and states that his would-be father-in-accident laws are more complicated than it appears. Vikrant and Mirza set out the crime but found out paramount participation of a political person, Singh, in the Bandra bomb blast and the car accident in Naidu.

## **Conclusion**

The various genres Out of the review presented audience would clearly understand the theme and storyline, and this would also infer how the real-life incident has been fictionalized to the audience. The paper has reviewed and analyzed diversified themes based on the 2008 Mumbai attack. This provides the information adequately available concerning the tragic attack, and this would be a reliable source for the students and teachers to know the works about 26/11.

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