

Saturday, April 22, 2006.

Misuse of small arms: A .32 bore Browning pistol – Mumbai Monitor

Pramod Mahajan, former Union minister and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) general secretary, was attacked at his home in the commercial city of Mumbai, on Saturday morning April 22, 2006. His brother Pravin Mahajan with a .32 bore Browning pistol shot him. Mahajan's brother shot him at his residence this morning and he has surrendered with his weapon and said he shot at his brother "in a fit of rage."

Dismissing Pravin's lawyer's claim that Pravin suffered from mental illness, Police Commissioner A N Roy said, "Pravin is normal. There is nothing to indicate that he was a man of unsound mind. He sounded normal and of sound mind when he was interrogated." The police commissioner added, "He was fairly well dressed and talked quite logically to police during sustained interrogation."

The weapon used by Pravin is believed to have been purchased and registered around 12 years ago, which will be investigated further. Pravin has been booked for attempted murder under Section 307 of the Indian Penal Code at the Worli police station. He will appear in court tomorrow.

Meanwhile, Pramod is battling for his life, at Hinduja hospital in Mumbai. Hospital authorities said Mahajan was hit by three bullets in his chest and abdomen and was in "critical" condition after emergency surgery to repair damage to vital organs and stem the severe loss of blood. Pramod Mahajan, a key backroom manager of the BJP, is regarded as close to its top leaders, former prime minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and former deputy Prime Minister Lal Krishna Advani and a possible future head of the Hindu nationalist party.

- Vijayam Raghu, Mumbai Monitor