

Firing outside Salman's residence: 2 men nabbed from Punjab sent to police custody till April 30

MUMBAI, APR 26: A Mumbai court on Friday remanded to police custody till April 30 two men arrested from Punjab in connection with the firing outside Bollywood superstar Salman Khan's residence in Bandra.

Subhash Chander (37) and Anuj Thapan (32) were produced before a magistrate's court.

The crime branch on Thursday arrested the duo, who had allegedly provided weapons and cartridges to the shooters, from Punjab.

The police informed the court that the accused were key persons in the crime and were arrested based on technical evidence.

They need to be interrogated to find out who supplied them with weapons and asked them to give the same to the two shooters arrested earlier, police said.



The police have alleged that Chander and Thapan had come to Panvel (in Raigad district near Mumbai) on March 15 to hand over two country-made pistols and 38 live rounds to the shooters Sagar Pal and Vicky Gupta.

The court on Thursday remanded Pal (21) and

Gupta (24) to police custody till April 29.

Besides these four accused, the police have declared jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi and his younger brother Anmol Bishnoi as wanted accused in the case.

Appearing for the accused, advocate Ajay

Dubey submitted that Chander and Thapan had not provided weapons to the other accused or visited Panvel, and they had no connection to the Bishnoi gang.

All charges against them are baseless, and they were falsely implicated in the case, he said.

Gupta and Pal allegedly fired outside 58-year-old Khan's house at the Galaxy Apartment in Bandra in the early hours of April 14 before fleeing the spot on a motorbike.

They were apprehended from Mata No Madh village in Gujarat's Kutch district on April 16.

The crime branch team later recovered two pistols, magazines and bullets from the Tapi river in Gujarat during a search operation to recover weapons allegedly used in the firing.

Indian-origin man in US shot and killed by San Antonio police while trying to arrest him during domestic violence

NEW YORK, APR 26:

A 42-year-old Indian-origin man in the US was shot and killed by police in San Antonio after he struck two officers with his vehicle as they were trying to arrest him in connection with an aggravated assault case against a woman.

Sachin Kumar Sahoo was pronounced deceased at the scene after police officer Tyler Turner shot at him on April 21 in San Antonio, a city in Texas.

The Bexar County Medical Examiner's Office said Sachin Kumar Sahoo died from multiple gunshot wounds during last weekend's altercation with police, the San Antonio Express-News reported.

Sahoo originally hailed from Uttar Pradesh. Sources said he could have been a naturalised US citizen.

According to a preliminary investigation, just before 6:30 pm on April 21, officers were dispatched to a home in Cheviot Heights in San Antonio for a report about Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon, the San Antonio Police Department said in a statement to



PTL.

Upon arrival, officers found a 51-year-old female who had been intentionally struck by a vehicle. The suspect, Sahoo, had fled the location. The victim was transported to a local hospital in critical condition. San Antonio Police Detectives issued a felony arrest warrant for Sahoo in that incident.

Several hours later, neighbours called the police to inform them that Sahoo had returned to the original location. Officers arrived and attempted to contact him when he struck two officers with his BMW SUV. One officer fired his weapon, striking Sahoo, who was "pro-

nounced deceased on scene."

One officer was transported to a local hospital for treatment of his injuries and the other officer was treated for his injuries on scene. Nobody else was injured during the incident. This investigation remains ongoing, police said.

Police Chief Bill McManus said that Sahoo had run over the woman, who was his roommate, with his vehicle. The woman was undergoing several surgeries and was in critical condition.

The police had issued an arrest warrant for Sahoo and a couple of officers had gone to his known location

on April 21 to see if they could find him and arrest him. "They did find him and he jumped in his car. He pulled out of his driveway" where the police officers blocked him with their vehicles but he was able to squeeze through them. Sahoo hit the officers with his vehicle. "The other officer that was with him fired to stop him and struck him," McManus said.

He said the police are yet to look at the bodycam footage to determine further facts.

A report in KENS5.Com quoted Sahoo's ex-wife Leah Goldstein as saying that Sahoo was diagnosed with bipolar disorder.

"He suffered the past ten years with bipolar disorder," Goldstein said. "He also had symptoms of schizophrenia." "He couldn't understand what was wrong with him," she said in the news report. "He would hear voices. And hallucinate and just hear voices and just get stuck in his own mind."

Goldstein described Sahoo as a great dad.

"I was a stay-at-home mom for many years," she said. "He provided for us."

LS polls phase 2: Polling across 13 states, UTs; Sitharaman, Dravid among early voters

NEW DELHI, APR 26:

Polling was underway on Friday in 88 constituencies spread across 13 states and union territories in the second phase of the Lok Sabha polls, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging people to cast their votes in record numbers.

Polling started at 7 am and will continue till 6 pm.

Asserting that their vote is their voice, Modi especially told the youth and women voters to turn up at the polling booths in great numbers, and said a high voter turnout strengthens democracy.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge also urged voters to come out and vote to protect democracy from the clutches of dictatorship.

He also said that the Constitution should reverberate in their hearts before they push to voting button.

In Kerala and Karnataka, long queues of voters were seen outside polling booths as soon as voting started.

However, there were reports of EVM breakdowns in various booths across Kerala, delaying the election process in those



places. Polling is on at 20 Lok Sabha seats in Kerala.

In Karnataka, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, software industry icon N R Narayana Murthy, his wife and Rajya Sabha member Sudha Murthy, former cricketer Rahul Dravid and actor Prakash Raj were among the early voters as polling got underway in 14 Lok Sabha constituencies.

Exhorting people to vote, Sitharaman told reporters, "Everyone should come out of their homes and cast their vote. Yes, it can be a hot day for Bengaluru but it is worth coming out. Choose your time, please come and do vote".

In the north, polling was going on for 13 Lok Sabha seats in Rajasthan, Jammu constituency in Jammu and Kashmir and eight seats in Uttar Pradesh.

Besides voting was underway in many seats in the east, including Tripura East Lok Sabha constituency, remaining part of the Outer Manipur parliamentary seat, five Lok Sabha seats in Assam, three constituencies in northern West Bengal and five Lok Sabha seats in Bihar

In Chhattisgarh, polling is underway in Naxal-affected Kanker, Rajnandgaon and Mahasamund Lok Sabha constituencies while in Ma-

harashtra, polling is going on in eight Lok Sabha constituencies.

Several senior BJP and opposition leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Shashi Tharoor of the Congress, and Union ministers Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Kailash Choudhary and Rajeev Chandrasekhar, are in the fray in the 88 seats where polling is underway.

In 2019, the BJP had won 52 and its existing allies 12 of these seats, including seven of eight in Uttar Pradesh, all 13, eight and seven in Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh respectively, and four of the five seats each in Assam and Bihar. The constituents of the now INDIA bloc had won 23 seats in the last general election.

Polling was held in 102 seats in the first phase polls on April 19.

The turnout in the first phase was recorded at 62.37 per cent which may still be revised upwards as votes are tallied. The voting percentage in the first phase in 2019 was 69.43 per cent when 91 seats went to the polls.

Lok Sabha polls: Sunita Kejriwal to campaign for AAP, to hold roadshow in East Delhi on April 27

NEW DELHI, APR 26:

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita Kejriwal will campaign for the AAP in the Lok Sabha polls, senior party leader Atishi announced on Friday. She will begin her campaign with a roadshow in East Delhi constituency on Saturday, she added.

Addressing a press conference, Atishi, who is also a minister in the Delhi government, said Sunita Kejriwal will seek votes and blessings for the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) from the people of Delhi. "She will campaign for the party in Delhi, Punjab, Gujarat and Haryana. She will hold



her first roadshow in East Delhi on Saturday and then another roadshow in West Delhi on Sunday," Atishi said. Sunita Kejriwal is slowly emerging out of the shadows to assume a bigger role to give a fillip to the

AAP's campaigning which has been affected by the chief minister's arrest in a money laundering case in March.

Arvind Kejriwal's judicial custody has been extended till May 7.

The AAP, which is contesting the Lok Sabha polls in alliance with the Congress in Delhi, has fielded its candidates in East Delhi, West Delhi, South Delhi and New Delhi seats. The Congress has fielded its candidates in North East Delhi, North West Delhi and Chandni Chowk seats.

Since the chief minister's arrest on March 21, Sunita Kejriwal has been acting as a channel of communication between her husband and the AAP and its MLAs.

She has so far held three digital media briefings mainly focused on communicating the chief minister's messages to the people and Delhi cabinet ministers.

BJP is anti-Dalit, not letting reserved category candidate become Delhi mayor: Sanjay Singh

NEW DELHI, APR 26:

The AAP on Friday called the BJP "anti-Dalit", saying it was trying to ensure that a candidate from reserved category does not become the mayor of Delhi.

Their allegations came a day after elections to the posts of mayor and deputy mayor of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi that were slated for April 26 were postponed on Thursday, with Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena citing "unprecedented" circumstances where the chief minister is under judicial custody and cannot discharge his constitutionally obligated functions.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) had fielded Mahesh Khichi for the post of mayor and Ravinder Bhardwaj for deputy mayor



of the MCD.

Addressing a press conference, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said, "The BJP through its representative LG ensured that a candidate from the Dalit community does not become the mayor. This shows the anti-Dalit face of the party." "The Constitution written by Babasaheb

Ambedkar says that a person from Dalit community will become the mayor of Delhi for one term. The BJP does not want it. The BJP wants to end reservation," Singh alleged.

The senior party leader said the reason for postponement stated by the LG is not tenable.

"The LG is saying that he

works on the aid and advice of the chief minister. But only last year, he had appointed BJP councillor Satya Sharma as the presiding officer of mayoral polls despite the chief minister saying that the senior-most councillor Mukesh Goel was eligible to become the presiding officer," he said.

"He (LG) had appointed 10 aldermen without considering the names sent by chief minister. The matter went to the Supreme Court," the MP added.

"Following the chief minister's arrest, the ministers have directly sent files to LG and he has approved them," he claimed.

There was no immediate reaction from the LG office or BJP to the Singh's charges.

VIJAYAPURA (KARNATAKA), APR 26:

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday took potshots at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his attack on the grand old party, saying he is scared and may even shed tears on the stage.

"You have heard the Prime Minister's speeches. He is scared. It's possible that he may shed tears on stage," Gandhi said addressing a public gathering in this district headquarters town in the party-governed State.

Modi has targeted the Congress on a variety of issues in recent campaign rallies, including "mangalsutra", "redistribution of wealth" and "inheritance tax" charges.

The former Congress chief accused Modi of 'diverting public attention' through various means.

"Modi tries to divert your attention. Sometimes he talks about China and Pakistan, and sometimes he will



make you beat plates and ask you to switch on the torch light of your mobile phones," Gandhi said.

He pointed out that there are three to four core issues in India including poverty, unemployment and price rise.

Gandhi claimed that only Congress can eradicate unemployment, contain price rise and give people their due share.

"Modi has only snatched money from poor people. He has made some billionaires. There are 22 people

who have wealth equivalent to the 70 crore people of the country. Just one per cent people are controlling 40 per cent of the wealth of the nation," he alleged.

Gandhi said in the present scheme of things, there is "no scope" for Dalits, OBCs, tribals, minorities and poor general category people.

"I will just tell you a clear thing in a simple one line. The wealth Modi has given to those billionaires, the same money we are going to give to the poor people of the country," he added.

The Congress leader also promised the youth that his party will scrap the 'Agniveer' scheme if it is voted to power.

He dubbed the 'Agniveer' scheme in the armed forces offering three years services to the youth from 18 years to 21 years as an insult to the Army and soldiers.

"Narendra Modi snatched the Army jobs from the youth of India. He brought the Agniveer scheme, which is an insult to the Indian Army and soldiers. We will scrap it," Gandhi said.

Gandhi charged Modi with imposing a faulty GST where he introduced five different types of tax, which are hefty. Alleging that the PM was doing injustice to Karnataka, he said the Congress will change the GST and rectify the injustice meted out to the people of the state. According to Gandhi, the ongoing Lok Sabha election was not general in nature.

BJP got its 'acche din' but where are the 'acche din' it promised, asks Mayawati

LUCKNOW, APR 26: The country's unemployed people, farmers, women and other deprived sections must consider that they have brought "acche din" (good times) to the BJP but "what happened to their much publicised promise to bring acche din to you", BSP chief Mayawati said on Friday. Like the Congress slogan of "Garibi Hatao", the BJP, too, has failed to keep its promises, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supreme added in her post on X as she urged voters to exercise their franchise on the polling day for second phase of

the Lok Sabha elections.

Polling in phase two is underway in 88 parliamentary seats in 13 states and Union territories.

In Uttar Pradesh, voting in the second phase is underway in Amroha, Meerut, Baghpat, Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddh Nagar, Bulandshahr, Aligarh and Mathura constituencies.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav also urged voters to exercise their democratic right in the Lok Sabha elections.

In a post in Hindi on X, Adityanath

said, "In the second phase of Lok Sabha Elections-2024 today, an appeal to the respected voters to vote for a 'Safe and developed India'." "Each of your vote is decisive in creating a golden future for the country. First voting, then refreshments!" the CM's post added.

Yadav, in his message to voters, said on X, "Your one vote is both a right and a responsibility given by the Constitution. Do vote and encourage those around you to vote as well!" In her X post in Hindi, Mayawati said, "Today is the second phase of voting

for the Lok Sabha polls in the country. The poor, unemployed, farmers, women and other deprived people must consider that you brought acche din to the BJP but what happened to their much publicised promise of bringing acche din for you? Rather (why) is their (party's) condition so troubled?" In a related post, she said, "Like Congress's 'Garibi Hatao' slogan, the BJP too has broken a big promise.

While the basic duty of the government is to run the country under the sacred humanitarian and welfare ob-

jectives of the Constitution and ensure the development of Bahujans, then why are the lives of crores of poor, SC, ST, OBC, minorities continuously helpless and miserable?" she asked.

"The interest of the country and its nearly 125 crore hardworking people lies in voting to bring 'acche din' that are free of poverty and unemployment, rather than voting for any particular person or party. Come forward to vote for a 'good government' that is pro-Bahujan. Hence, 'First vote then refreshments'," Mayawati added.

Earlier on Thursday, Uttar Pradesh Congress president Ajay Rai in a post on X said, "There is an appeal to the respected voters of Uttar Pradesh to play an important role in securing the country, Constitution and democracy by casting their invaluable vote to the candidates of the INDI Alliance. Your one vote can save the country from inflation, atrocities and corruption." There are more than 1.67 crore voters, 7,797 polling stations and 17,704 polling booths in the eight Lok Sabha constituencies where polling is underway on Friday.