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Arrest the rot

It is surprising that Kiran Bedi, India's first woman IPS officer and a Ramon Magsaysay Award winner, has been overlooked for the post of Delhi police commissioner ('Top cop mopes', August 5).

Bedi is an excellent leader, a good communicator, prolific writer and a person of integrity and forthrightness. I don't think it was gender bias that went against her. Rather, seniors were insecure, or even jeal-



Gender bias? Kiran Bedi

ous of Bedi's popularity and merit. They just wanted to boost their egos, get the 'yes sir, yes sir' replies, and someone to carry out their errands and take responsibility for it. Bedi did not fit the bill. So she failed the test.

The system—which prefers 'yes' men to confident, courageous and committed officers—should change. Sycophants and self-seekers should not be promoted. Bedi's case should be the turning point in reforming the system of promotions and placements, with due transparency.

Col R.D. Singh,
On email.