

## Kiran Bedi too 'radical' to be Delhi's top cop

In the race for the police commissioner's post, Bedi faces opposition from the Home Ministry for being outspoken

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**New Delhi:** Super cop Kiran Bedi's candidature for the post of Delhi police commissioner may face hurdles as bureaucrats in the Home Ministry are said to be opposing her "tooth and nail" on the grounds that she is outspoken and a "radical".

Bedi is a contender for the post along with special police commissioner Yudhvir Singh Dadwal. Sources say that bureaucratic opposition to Bedi has become more fierce in the last few days as Home Minister Shivraj Patil is about to take the decision on the successor to police commissioner K K Paul.

Paul, who is considered the longest-serving Delhi police commissioner, will retire on February 29, 2008. He has completed over three years in the post and may be made a member of the Union Public Service Commission.

Patil, according to Home Ministry sources, discussed the appointment of the new police commissioner with Home Secretary Madhukar Gupta on Tuesday and is expected to decide within this week.

Bedi, the first woman who joined the IPS in 1972, had a bitter confrontation with lawyers at Tis Hazari court complex in the past. Currently the director general of Home Guards, Bedi has also served as head of Tihar jail and Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D).

When contacted, Bedi said she would react to the opposition later. "Right now," she says, "I am down with viral [fever]. But I will definitely answer this later." Bedi is scheduled to retire in 2010.



Kiran Bedi is currently the director general of Home Guards