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wednesday 25th of July 2007

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Kiran Bedi Blames PM As Dadwal Is Delhi Police Chief

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(Nightlead)

WEDNESDAY 25TH OF JULY 2007

Kiran Bedi, one of India's most decorated police officers, Wednesday charged Prime Minister Manmohan Singh with committing 'injustice' by overlooking her and picking 'someone junior' as Delhi's new police chief.

'It's complete injustice to me and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has let me down. I am completely disappointed with the government and the bureaucracy,' an angry Bedi, winner of the prestigious Magsaysay Award, told IANS.

'The decision for selecting someone junior to me for the top city post is truly unfair. How can the prime minister simply disregard seniority when he has the final word in the cabinet?' asked a disappointed Bedi, who was expecting to be the capital's first woman police commissioner.

The developments happened on a day when India got its first woman president in Pratibha Patil.

Ending months of speculation, Special Commissioner (Administration) Yudhvir Singh Dadwal, a 1974-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, was named the new Delhi Police Commissioner. He will take over from K.K. Paul Thursday.

A combative Bedi, 58, said she was not going to take things lying down and would fight this 'injustice'.

As a first step, she said she had gone on leave from the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD), a police think-tank.

'Prime Minister was my last hope and he should have respected merit. He has not only let me down but the entire police system. It is also a rejection of the lieutenant governor of Delhi who had recommended my name for the post. It is also a rejection of the people of Delhi who wanted to see me as their first police commissioner,' Bedi fumed.

A 1972-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, Bedi is two years senior to Dadwal and was keen to take charge of Delhi Police that she has served in various capacities with distinction.

A law graduate from Delhi University, Bedi was the first woman to join IPS. She was also a former all-India and all-Asian tennis champion.

Bedi became a household name in the Indian capital when she took charge of Delhi Traffic Police in the 1980s, earning in the process the sobriquet 'Crane Bedi' because of her penchant for using cranes for removing vehicles parked illegally on roads.

She then went on to hold several posts, including as deputy inspector general of police in Mizoram, as inspector general of police in Chandigarh, director general of Narcotics Control Bureau, inspector general

of police at Tihar Jail, joint commissioner of police training and as special commissioner in charge of intelligence.

She then went on deputation to the United Nations. She won the Magsaysay Award for government service. She later became the director general of BPRD.

Outgoing commissioner Paul will move to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) as a member. He served as the national capital's police chief for over 40 months, the longest tenure for any police chief in Delhi.

Former commissioner Ajay Raj Sharma had served the city for the second longest period of three years.

Dadwal, a postgraduate in History, will be the 16th police commissioner since 1978, when Delhi Police started a new ranking system.

Born on Oct 14, 1951, he has been superintendent of police at Andaman and Nicobar Islands. In 1980, he got his first major assignment in the national capital when he was appointed as an additional deputy commissioner of police.

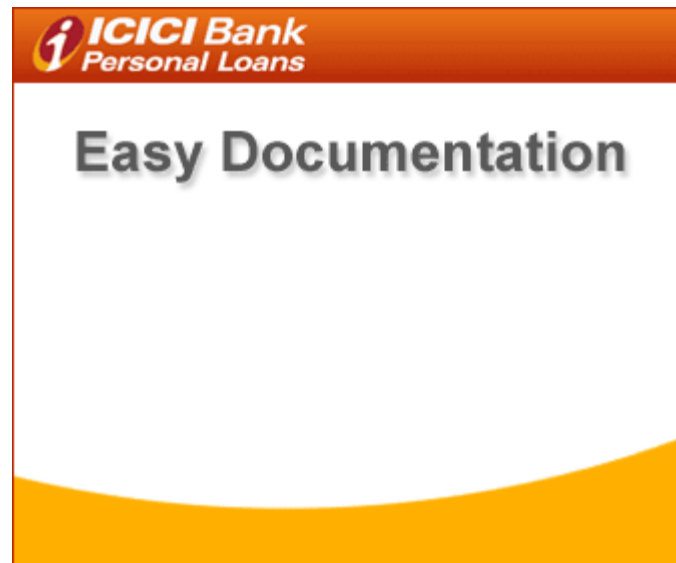
He was also the inspector general of police (IGP) of the union territory of Chandigarh during 1993-1995. Under his supervision, Chandigarh Police arrested two assailants of the then chief minister of Punjab Beant

Singh within five days of the tragedy.

He has been awarded the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Services, Police Medal for Meritorious Services and Kathin Sewa Medal on four occasions.

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