

Who'll be Delhi's next top cop?

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: With home ministry sources indicating that Delhi Police Commissioner K K Paul is all set to join the UPSC, the race for the job of the city's top cop is well and truly on. While there is no official word on it, sources maintain that the file comprising Paul's UPSC candidature has been sent to the President for final approval.

Despite the buzz about J&K DGP Gopal Sharma being in contention, there are strong pointers to suggest it may come down to a two-person race between Kiran Bedi, an IPS officer of the 1972 batch, and Yudhbir Singh Dadwal (1974 batch).

The last time an officer from outside the UT cadre became Delhi Police chief was in 1999 when Ajai Raj Sharma took over. Any move to bring an officer from outside the cadre as commissioner could cause much resentment:



CONTENDERS: Y S Dadwal (left) and Kiran Bedi

a factor the home ministry brass has to take into consideration.

Sharma, however, is considered to be a hot probable to succeed Bedi in the Bureau of Police Research and Development in case she gets the nod.

While Bedi is the senior of the two 'locals' in the fray, she has not been in active policing for almost 20 years. She has not served as joint commissioner of any range and was earlier DCP of only North Delhi. Bedi is acknowledged as a dynamic officer, with a reformist

attitude. Appointing her would also be politically correct as she would be the first woman to head the force. She is also said to be close to L-G Tejinder Khanna, with whom she has worked earlier. But many feel her reputation for being impulsive might be a disadvantage.

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