# OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE : DELHI.

No. /PRO/PHQ, dated, Delhi the /2011

To

Shri T. Venkattram Reddy
Editor-in-Chief,
The Asian Age,
New Delhi.

**Subject:-** **Regarding News report "Sharp increase in Rape & M.O. Women in Delhi".**

Sir,

This refers to the above mentioned report which appeared in your esteemed newspaper on 28.4.2011. Unfortunately the picture presented about the safety of women in the city is misleading and makes a wrong claim that the National Capital has witnessed a sharp rise in the number of Rape and Molestation incidents. The true picture is, in fact, to the contrary.

The fact is that the incidents of Rape & Molestation have fallen this year as compared to last year. This is the result of a number of proactive measures taken by Delhi Police for safety of women in the city. During 2011 (upto 15th April), 122 rape cases have been registered in Delhi, as against 159 cases last year. Out of these, as many as 91% cases have been worked out. It is also seen that the accused persons in 97% cases were known to the victims. Similarly, 171 cases have been registered under the head of molestation of women during 2011 (upto 15th April) as against 180 cases last year. Out of these 90% cases have been worked out. Again the accused persons were found to be known to the victims in most of these cases and first timers as well.

An analysis of the figures of last five years shows that while the estimated population of Delhi has increased from 149 lakhs in 2005 to 164 lakhs in 2010 (an increase of 10%), the incidents of rape and molestation of women have actually come

down in the city. While the figures were 658 cases of rape and 762 cases of molestation in the year 2005, the same stood at 507 and 601 respectively in 2010. The per lakh incidence of rape has come down from 4.42 in 2005 to 3.09 in 2010. Similarly the per lakh incidence under the head Molestation of Women has come down from 5.12 in 2005 to 3.67 in 2010.

It has also to be appreciated that police in not the only stake holder in preventing such crimes against women where the perpetrators are mostly known persons. It is, in fact, a problem in which there is a large role of the people themselves and the social fabric of a city. We have also been highlighting here, that in ensuring safety of women, the active cooperation of members of public is of paramount importance since police presence may not be available at each place of incident of eve-teasing or molestation. At the same time, however, police leaves no stone unturned to ensure safety and security of women which takes our high priority.

In the Dhaula Kuan rape case last year, for instance, the police had reacted very promptly and the case was solved within a short time through professional investigation and highly painstaking efforts.

In another case of R.K. Puram, a school girl went on her own with her boy friend who sexually assaulted her alongwith his two accomplices. The culprits were arrested promptly but needless to say that such cases are very difficult to prevent.

In the cited incident of Defence Colony in your report too, the main accused was known to the victim and the case was solved due to prompt investigation and quick reaction by the police.

In a growing metropolis like Delhi, there are major contributory factors like unplanned urbanization, over-population, lack of privacy, disparities in income, unemployment, growing consumerism/ materialism, loosening of social control/family discipline and psychological reasons behind the cases of crime against women. Added to this is the impact of mass media and the umpteen advertisements which sell a life style that many want but cannot afford leading to crimes of various forms.

A large number of preventive measures taken for ensuring safety of women in the city have been taken by Delhi Police are as under:-

- Setting up of Women Help-Desks in all Police Stations
- PCR Vans to help stranded women during night
- Deployment of women staff in beats and PCR Vans
- Posting of women as SDPO's and SHO's
- Issuing of order under section 144 Cr.PC directing BPOs, corporate and media houses for taking certain steps for the safety and security of women employees.
- Special measures for North-Eastern students.
- Surprise checks in buses, markets and cinemas
- 24x7 Women's Helpline (1091) and the Anti-Obscene Calls and Anti-Stalking Helpline (1096).

Delhi Police has also organized a number of gender sensitization and legal awareness programs for police personnel in association with reputed NGOs to create a 'Gender-friendly Environment' in the Police Stations. As a result the Delhi Police is always available and promptly responds to any call from a woman in distress and women in large numbers avail services of our help lines or approach PCR Vans/Police Station for a solution to their problems.

In view of the above stated facts, I would like to emphasize that it is unfair on the part of the media to project as if the crime against women in the city is increasing or that Delhi is unsafe for women. Such projection would only cause unnecessary insecurity among womenfolk in the capital. On the other hand, a story based on objective analysis and correct facts as enumerated above, would go a long way in educating the public and instilling further confidence in their minds. It is, therefore, requested that your reporters may be briefed that such sensitive issues need to be written carefully keeping ground realities in view so as to give a balanced view to the readers.

**(RANJIT NARAYAN)**
Special Commissioner of Police,
Crime, Delhi.