OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE : DELHI

No._____/PRO/PHQ dated, New Delhi, the _____/2008.

To

The Editor,
Pioneer,
Delhi.

Subject: - Rejoinder about news item "L-G revives I-card plan to counter terror".

Sir,

This refers to the above captioned news item appeared in the news paper Pioneer today dated 15-9-2008.

The heading of news item and related contents thereof are found to be out of context and misleading.

It is clarified that neither the Hon'ble L.G. Delhi has given any instruction to review the issue of carrying Identity cards by citizens nor was the Principal Secretary (Home), GNCT of Delhi, present in the meeting held in PHQ on 14/09/08.

In view of the above stated facts and circumstances, it is requested that the correct facts may please be published with the same prominence for your esteemed readers.

(RAJAN BHAGAT)
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER
DELHI POLICE

PIONEER

L-G revives I-card plan to counter terror

Rajesh Kumar | New Delhi

Having dismantled the anti-terror law, POTA, the Government has found a panacea to counter terror strikes- all citizens to carry identity proof.

Using the crisis as an opportunity, Lieutenant Governor Tejinder Khanna has reportedly revived his pet scheme of allowing only those to move around in Delhi, who carry a valid identity card.

The Lieutenant Governor on Sunday morning took stock of law and order situation at Delhi Police Headquarters, following the serial blasts in the Capital on Saturday evening claiming 29 lives and injuring over 100. A source said that Lieutenant Governor has instructed Principal Secretary (Home) of the Delhi Government to review the issue of carrying identity cards all the times and take it up with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). The Government is also considering an option to ask Centre to make it mandatory.

Earlier, on January 4 this year, Khanna had directed Delhi Police to begin random checks from January 15 and said it was one way to keep a check on terror suspects and anti-social elements. He had said that if any individual failed to produce proof of residence, adequate action would be taken against him or her. But his plan failed to find support among political parties. Finally, he did a U-turn on the controversial issue.

During the meeting, the L-G also directed Police Commissioner YS Dadwal to prepare a Master Plan for security of Delhi to counter terrorism in the city.

The L-G also instructed Dadwal to increase ground level security and intelligence and involve market associations, residents' welfare associations and other groups in the process. He also directed to prepare dos or don'ts list for market associations and residents' welfare associations.

During the meeting, Khanna also instructed police to install CCTVs and other modern gadgets in large numbers at vulnerable points of the city. He had instructed the Police Commissioner to increase surveillance in different parts of the Capital to screen persons arousing suspicion. He said the 'Ear and Eye' scheme of Delhi Police was also helpful as an alert shopkeeper intimated them about an unexploded bomb at Regal Building.

Senior officials, including the Police Commissioner, Special Commissioners, Joint Commissioners, and District Deputy Commissioners, attended the meeting, which lasted for about two hours.

During the meeting, the Police Commissioner briefed L-G about the security arrangements made by police and raids were carrying out at various places in the wake of a series of explosions in the city last evening.

Police officials informed Lieutenant Governor about the intensive checking that were being carried out at various places including railway and Metro stations, inter-State bus terminals, markets, malls and other crowded areas.

During the discussion and deliberation of the meeting Deputy Commissioners of Police opined that the parking in the busy market areas causes a greater security threat and some plan should be prepared to convert the busy markets into pedestrian areas as people have to walk to the market as it would be beneficial as terrorists would not be in a position to park a car with explosion in the parking area.

On the other hand, Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit has convened a high-level meeting with the Police Commissioner, Metro chief E Sreedharan, Chief Secretary Rakesh Mehta, Principal Secretary (Home) GS Patnaik, to review about the security in the Capital.