To

The Editor,
TIMES OF INDIA
New Delhi

Sir,

Kindly refer to the news item in TIMES OF INDIA dt. 5.2.2013 under the title “Woman attacked in Lodhi Garden”, the sub-title read “Was dragged towards bushes by a drunk, struggled to get help”.

Your attention is drawn to several inconsistencies and inaccuracies in the story which paints the police, as a public service, in a bad light. As per our records (transcript attached, Annexure-A), the victim, in question, was asked by the operator receiving the call as to where exactly in Lodhi Garden she was calling from and not as to where is Lodhi Garden as allegedly reported inaccurately in the news item. The transcript is self-explanatory. You would appreciate that in case the operator is unable to pinpoint the location of the victim with a possible landmark, there is bound to be delay in reaching the spot by the emergency vehicle which could adversely impact the victim’s circumstances.

It is incorrect to allege that the PCR van could reach her in Lodhi Garden only after 20 minutes of her calling on No.100. It is a matter of our record that the PCR van, on dispatch, had reached the site in 5 minutes, on receipt of the call. While it was alleged that the PCR operator was wasting time, struggling to understand the victim’s location, the conversation between victim and the PCR operator has only lasted for about 2 minutes as proved by our logs, which is a reasonable time to get the details from the perplexed victim.

It clarified that it was PCR van V-28, headed by HC Nand Kishore, who transported the accused in the emergency vehicle to the police station Tughlak Road. Further, in addition to the above, it is informed that PCR call was received at 1829hrs, and it was transferred to New Delhi Zone immediately after the call ended at 1831hrs. The concerned PCR Van V-28 was directed for necessary action at 1832hrs and the same reached the spot at 1837hrs.

It is regrettable that inaccurate and sensational reports are being published in a newspaper of your standing without even verifying the facts. It is a great disservice to the police and emergency services, as a whole. It would be in the fitness of things if appropriate corrective action is taken at your end so that in future, accuracy and facts are not sacrificed on the alter of sensationalism.

This rejoinder should be published with the same prominence as given to the 'Motivated reporting' on 5.2.2013. In fact the story published defies and transgresses all canons of journalism where one sided story has seeped to distort the public perception in general.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,

(DEEPAK MISHRA) IPS
SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF POLICE:
LAW & ORDER:DELHI.