OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, DELHI

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To

The Editor,
The Pioneer,
Link House, 2nd Floor,
3 Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
New Delhi

Sir,

Apropos the open letter to the Commissioner of Police from Shri Kirti Azad published in your esteemed daily dated Jan 10, 2013. A number of observations have been made by Shri Kirti Azad to support his opinion about the functioning of the Delhi Police. Without going into the merit of each and every observation made by Shri Kirti Azad, a few facts are placed on record to clarify any doubts in the minds of your readers.

Firstly, it is incorrect to say that the Delhi Police resorts to manipulation of crime figures, as alleged. On account of free registration, crimes under various heads have gone up which has been reported in different sections of the media. As against 50,979 IPC cases reported up to 15th December of 2011, in 2012 51,479 cases were registered during the corresponding period. In fact, Delhi's citizens, it is our experience, do not hesitate from approaching judicial and non-judicial statutory forums, if police refuse to register FIRs.

Further, it is incorrect to say that Delhi Police lacks accountability. A zero tolerance policy is followed in dealing with any misconduct. This is evident from the fact that during the year 2012 as many as 545 police officers of various ranks were awarded major penalties for a variety of misconduct and 1344 personnel were given minor punishments. No other government department can claim this quantum of disciplinary action against its employees. It may be added that the sweeping generalization about policemen-criminal nexus mentioned in Mr. Azad's letter is unwarranted as an overwhelming majority of police officers have been performing their duties with utmost dedication.

Since long the Delhi Police have been conscious of having a police service which has the right balance of 'brain and brawn'. Recruitment and training policies of Delhi Police have given it manpower where intellect has become the key feature of a policeman's personality. For instance, over 56% of the time during the basic training of a recruit constable is spent on indoor subjects. It may be added that all police constables are well educated, as the

minimum educational qualification prescribed for a constable is 10+2 and a number of selected candidates during the recent years (2009-2011) actually have higher qualifications 5427 are graduates, 305 post graduates and 29 have other professional degrees. Delhi Police follows a transparent and merit based recruitment process where physical test is only qualifying in nature and merit is determined solely on the basis of written examination.

Delhi Police has an excellent track record of handling peaceful protests. It, in fact, facilitates such demonstrations by making necessary traffic and law and order arrangements so that those protesting achieve their objective and do not come in conflict with ordinary people, whose day to day routine may be impacted by such protests. Even where protesters transgress the norms of peaceful demonstration, persuasion, diversions and temporary or symbolic detentions are the preferred tactics to deal with them. Force is rarely used and that too with great circumspection. During 2012 8,405 demonstrations, processions, rallies etc were held and use of force was barely on 4-5 occasions. Handling of Anna Hazare and Baba Ramdev agitations were as per the norms laid down under the law. Any opinion to the contrary, perhaps, is on account of inadequate appreciation of the legal position with regard to unlawful assemblies.

The Delhi Police share a constructive relationship with the community. A number of initiatives have been taken by us to instill a sense of security among people and to elicit their support for prevention and detection of crime and maintenance of law and order. Recent initiatives in this regard include Yuva, Jan Sampark Sabha, Apka Update, Pehchan and Thana Level Committees.

We appreciate Shri Azad's offer for help by sharing his experiences and remedies to the problems confronting the Delhi Police. We are open to suggestions, as well as healthy criticism, that augment our capacity to serve the people better.

Yours sincerely,

(RAJAN BHAGAT)
Public Relations Officer
Delhi Police, Delhi.