OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, DELHI.

No. 279 /PRO/PHQ dated Delhi, the 8.03.2019 .

To

The Editor,
Mail Today,
New Delhi.

Subject :- Rejoinder to the news-item i.e. "Manyfold rise in crime against women since the Nirbhaya case of 2012 leaves Capital red-faced. When will Delhi wake up? - **CITY REMAINS A WARZONE FOR WOMEN".**

Sir,

This is with reference to the above-mentioned byline news–item which appeared in your esteemed newspaper on 08.03.2019. It is felt that the headline and contents of the news-item are selective, subjective and do not portray the correct position.

In the aftermath of incident of 16th December 2012, there was a paradigm shift in dealing with crime against women cases. Free registration was followed which resulted in instant jump in registration of cases of crime against women. The survivors of sexual assault stood up and reported their cases, leading to an unprecedented increase in registration of rape & molestation cases. For instance, 850 rape and 1869 molestation cases were registered during the first six months of 2013 as against 327 rape and 279 molestation cases during the corresponding period in year 2012 leading to an increase of 160 % in rape and 570 % in molestation cases, respectively.

Delhi Police has been continuing its special efforts to ensure that women's grievances are registered immediately and they are treated with respect and sympathy. All complaints of women are recorded verbatim by police officials and FIRs are registered on all complaints disclosing cognizable offences by applying proper sections of law.

All field officers have been time and again directed to register the cases related to assault on women without creating any jurisdictional dispute. Awareness campaigns have been launched and training programs have been conducted regarding Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013 & 2018 and other laws dealing with sexual offences against women.

Delhi Police faces the challenge of ensuring women safety in an adverse socio-economic backdrop. However, proactive initiatives have contributed towards control on crime against women. In 2018, there has been reduction in cases pertaining to Molestation of Women by 3.16%, insult to the modesty of women by 6.41% and rape by 0.51%. Similarly during this year (upto 28.02.2019) there has been decrease in cases of rape by 10.94%, Molestation of Women by 2.56% and insult to the modesty of women by 32.97%. In about 97% of rape cases, the accused were known to the victim. Strangers were involved in only about 2.48% cases. Involvement of strangers in rape cases has shown a steady decline during last two years alongwith a marginal decline in overall cases of rapes reported.

Informing the Civic Agencies about dark patches in the city and directing BPOs to ensure safety of lady employees while dropping them back to their respective residences, have also helped in curbing crime against women. Owing to systematic and diligent work by each District and emphasis on the arrest of alleged accused in sexual assault cases, a high solving rate in rape cases (93.96%), molestation of women cases (84.85%) and insult to modesty of women (82.80%) could be achieved during the year 2018. Districts ensured concerted action against drinking in public places, which often acts as a precursor to crime against women. 35,938 persons were arrested for this offence during the year 2018.

Maximum attention is paid to solve the incidents of rape and other crimes against women. In such cases about 63% of the accused are arrested within first week. All out efforts are made to bring the perpetrators of such crimes to book. It is pertinent to mention that the percentage of worked out cases increases with the passage of time as absconding accused are arrested. Investigation in these cases is carried out in a highly professional manner so that the accused persons are properly linked to the Crime.

A study group was constituted by the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Delhi to study and analyse the root causes of offences in the city relating to Women's Safety in NCT of Delhi' in the year 2017. The Committee consisted eminent professors, experts in the area of women and transport, urbanization & infrastructure and psychologists to identify the underlying reasons for the increasing rate of Crime Against Women. The Committee identified good practices elsewhere in the country and

overseas and suggested the law enforcement agencies, civic agencies, community, school & college, mass media and other segments of Delhi to collectively combat the challenges posed by the incident of violence against women in Delhi public places. Further, the Hon'ble Lt. Governor constituted a 'Task Force' under his chairmanship to monitor the progress of implementation of steps taken by various stakeholders for the safety and security of Women in Delhi and has personally chaired 8 meetings so far.

Over the past few years, Delhi Police has been taking proactive measures constantly to strengthen women safety:

Sashakti: Self-defence training was initiated in the year-2002 by the Special Police Unit for Women and Children, with an object to empower women by way of demonstration and training in techniques of Martial Arts and educate them about the tactics self defence by using common things, which are generally in their possession like Dupatta, Pen & Handbags to protect themselves from attacks by anti social elements, chain or bag snatching, criminal assault etc. Such trainings develop the sense of self esteem and release them from the feeling that they are vulnerable. 208125 girls/women were imparted in 989 self defence training programmes in the year 2017 and 2,95,276 girls/women were imparted in 1451 self defence training programmes during the year 2018. Delhi Police has entered the "Limca Book of Records" by training over 9.8 Lakhs women so far in 5140 programs since 2002.

Nirbheek While a number of platforms are available with general public to seek help from the police in cases of sexual harassment, an urgent need was felt to create a specialized forum for the girl child victims in school/college going age groups to effectively report such crimes. Delhi Po lice officials pay regular visits to 'co-educational' as well as 'only for girls' schools and conduct interactive sessions with girl students. The aim of these sessions is to build up rapport with them, talk about various initiatives of Delhi Police to instill a sense of confidence in them and to sensitize them about basic precautions to be taken against sexual abuse. During the school visits in 2018, 3,21,336 students participated under this scheme.

Naazuk: Prevention of crime against children is one of the priority areas of Delhi Police. Feeling the necessity of a new initiative to make the

children and their parents aware and to help in prevention of incidents of child abuse, ***Naazuk*** has been launched as a pilot project from Bharat Nagar of North-West District which will soon be extended to other parts of Delhi. *Naazuk* is different from *Nirbheek* program, as in *Nirbheek* we address children in schools; while in *Naazuk*, we reach out to children and their parents in their residential areas and living places. The purpose behind *Naazuk* is to generate awareness about child sexual abuse particularly crimes against children of the smaller age group.

Apart from the above, other measures, inter-alia, include Emergency Helpline, Women Helpline 1091, Anti-stalking Service, revamping of *Himmat* Plus App, No Jurisdiction dispute, All-women PCR vans, Thana-level Women Safety Committee, Special Unit for Women & Children, Identifying & Securing Vulnerable Routes for Women, Security Audit of PG/Hostels, Instructions issued to BPOs, Expeditious Completion of Investigation & Speedy Trial of Rape cases, Exclusive Helpdesk for Women in all Police Stations and Public Facilitation Officers etc.

Delhi Police has pursued the listed measures with sustained rigour which has resulted not only in instilling confidence among the women at large, but also acted as deterrence for potential offenders.

In view of the above, it is clear that while reporting the comparison of today's crime against women figures from 2012 i.e. prior to 16th December 2012 incident, the reporter has not appreciated the change in law and efforts made by the police to proactively handling cases of crime against women to instil confidence among women in Delhi. The news-item in fact is far from the ground realities and thereby creates unnecessary fear in the minds of the esteemed readers of your newspaper.

Therefore, in view of the above, the contents published by your esteemed newspaper specific to the above issues need to be suitably clarified to the readers. It is requested that a rejoinder may kindly be published on behalf of Delhi Police in this connection.

(**ANIL KUMAR**)
Addl. Public Relations Officers,
Delhi Police.