

# Kiran Bedi On 'Towing Indira Gandhi's Car' And Other Snippets!

**BY PREETI THANDI**

Toronto: There's something about Kiran Bedi which immediately transfuses you. Her eyes emit an unfaltering enthusiasm and instantly you get an energetic vibe. Her words pack a high degree of optimism. To think that she is tough and had it tough is an understatement. She was famously named 'Crane Bedi' after she towed away Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's car from an illegal parking zone in 1982. This woman of power remains 'un-purchaseable' and undaunted. Kiran Bedi was at the 2008 Toronto International Film Festival with Megan Doneman's documentary on her life titled 'Yes Madam, Sir.' The film reveals how "Madam" Bedi became "Sir." Kiran Bedi speaks to Preeti Thandi for the Weekly Voice about being a woman in power:

Interview

**When you were towing away Mrs. Gandhi's car, did you know it was hers?**

I would do it any time again. Absolutely! Because that's the message one has to give. Always begin from the top and that's the reason I didn't get the Police commissionership of Delhi because they knew that they would be the first ones to get into the net.

**Do you think women police officers are viewed any differently after all these years since you joined the forces?**

They are not viewed differently but there's a higher expectation



from them.

**And that has changed because of you?**

No I wouldn't say that. I think that's a general perception from a woman in power. A woman in power enjoys greater positive perception unless she proves otherwise. And now the demands from the government officials are not brawns but it's brains with a heart. It's not just the muscle power that the people are looking for. The people are looking for the soft part, the caring and the sensitivity. They are looking for the qualities to go with a woman. So a woman in power is a man with a woman's heart. That's the ideal combination where a person in power is a kind man, an honest person and a better human being. It doesn't matter if it's a man

or a woman. They are looking for qualities and they are not looking at the gender anymore.

**Is it any easier now for women in the police force in Delhi?**

No, because, it's still led by men with closed minds. It's not easier still across the board because the forces are still being led by closed minds who almost feel threatened when a woman succeeds. There are very few men in police leadership who would like to see a woman go even ahead of them, there are very few.

**What do you think about the portrayal of women in Bollywood?**

I think they are meeting the sections of society across the board. They are representative of people's needs. And after all it's a business.

They have to sell what sells. It's not a non-profit venture.

**What are you working on currently?**

I am shooting for a television serial.

**The Judge Judy?**

Yes, that's a lot of hard work.

**What is it called, Judge Bedi?**

No (laughs) it is called 'Aapki Kacheri Kiran ke Saath'. It's a lot of work, lot of preparation and a lot of homework. It will be aired on Star Plus. The first show starts on September 29th.

**Have you already done any episodes?**

Yes I've done 20 episodes already and after I return I will go back to further episodes.

**How was that?**

It was an amazing experience. It's exhausting.

**Is it similar to how you gave orders?**

Not that simple. It's a world by itself when the camera zooms, the camera shoots and then it rolls. It's a different world. But I have learnt another skill.

**Are you planning to join politics?**

No my heart doesn't go there. By nature I will certainly continue to be with people. I am a people person but I am not a political person. By nature I am just not political.

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