

Dare to Do! For New Generation

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"The way of the superior person is threefold -virtuous, they are free from anxieties; wise, they are free from perplexities; and bold, they are free from fear"

- Confucius

Above mentioned quote aptly describes the first woman IPS officer who created history in the realm of Indian Police Service and dauntlessly exhibited these characteristics in every stage of her life through her conviction to do the things right.

This book is a real life story of India's first and highest ranked woman officer in the Indian Police Service-who pioneered a true leadership model of policing which is marked by utmost devotion to duty, innovation, compassion and above all, willpower.

This book presents a wide glance at Kiran's life where she fought off several challenges at various levels: be it professional, personal or political. The book starts with a graphic account of the Republic Day Parade at Rajpath, Delhi in 1975. Kiran Bedi as a young officer led the Delhi Police march past and the narrative, revealing its unabashed adoration of its subject, informs us that Prime Minister Indira Gandhi "virtually jumped out of her seat with a sense of personal pride and joy".

She worked in Delhi, Goa, Mizoram and Chandigarh .Everywhere she implemented her exemplary style of working which was solely guided by her will to do welfare of the citizens with grit and out of the world dauntlessness a true leader who took everyone along towards the journey of excellence and accomplishment.

In this book, Kiran Bedi enthuses, motivates and inspires today's young generation to clearly frame and achieve their goals and objectives without any fear and without getting carried away by circumstances, however insurmountable they may be. The book through her life story, portrays that the qualities such as honesty, dedication, diligence and commitment to one's profession are vital if one wants to succeed in life. The

saga of her entire life depicts the fact that there is no shortcut to success. Her biography (as depicted in this book) shows various phases of her life where she turned challenges into opportunities and narrates how fearlessly she refused to buckle under pressure from some of the most influential people in the corridors of power.

The journey through her challenging life has been unfolded by the author in 38 chapters along with two appendices wherein her acceptance speech of Raman Magsaysay award is quoted and other one showcases her profile.

The first chapter appropriately titled "Never say die: striding forward resolutely" opens with the narration of Republic day parade of year 1975 where the march past by the contingent of Delhi Police was being led by a woman, none other than Kiran Bedi, for the first time in the history of the organization. It also talks of her dare deed of dealing with the protestant Akalis right from the front with courage, sheer guts and with determination at Rajpath Role of family highlighting her parents efforts is elaborately discussed in making of The Kiran Bedi. Her parents were much ahead of the times. Against the preexisting family norms they sent all their four daughters to the best convent schools and encouraged them to participate in sports like tennis for their all-round development despite resistance from the elders in their family. Kiran won many awards and accolades in tennis. Some important lessons she learnt were time management and discipline. She always followed a fixed schedule and never wasted single moment. Being focused and dedicated was something she followed since a tender age.

The second and the third chapters delve into her college life showing how joining NCC instigated her interest in khaki dress. She was completely in-love with her uniform and took all pains to keep it neat and spotless. Also her tremendous urge to utilize every bit of her time to derive maximum benefit has been quoted (through

her mother).The chapter ends with letters written by Kiran's mother and father showing their utmost care and support towards her.

Subsequent chapter discusses about Kiran pursuing tennis during her college days and her continuous strive for excellence and ends with a self-explanatory inspiring note by her father sent to her when she performed low in the game. This chapter tries and highlights the role of tennis in teaching her the value of hard work and perseverance and leading the self towards mental and physical fitness.

Her tying the nuptial knot with Brij Bedi is mentioned in chapter four and has shown her unconventional way to solemnize it without any pomp and show or any makeup, a simple yet beautiful approach.

Succeeding chapters cover touchy moments in her life. Some of these moments are being hugged by Mother Teresa, a saintly and godly person; the towing away the car of the then Prime Minister during her tenure as the Traffic In-charge for Asian Games in 1982. Her pain has also been expressed as she was transferred to Goa despite her pleas to remain in Delhi for her ailing daughter just after the completion of the games.

Subsequent chapters explores her novel methods and her initiatives towards the welfare activities like those of curtailing bootlegging which was rampant then in Delhi. Her out-of-the-box approach helped her bring down crime rate. For effective interaction between the Police and the public a new system "beat boxes" was introduced of which she was given the charge.

Chapter nine discusses how she acted with conscience and gave rise to innovative and reformative policing into practice. Such approach helped her to bring down the grave problem of drug abuse. Later chapters talks of her strength in dealing with a serious problem of strike by the lawyer's community against her, insisting on her termination. As a trait she fought them back.

Subsequent chapters acquaint us with her approach toward creating a fearless environment which form the blue print for prison reforms. Before her taking the charge, the condition of the prison (Tihar Jail) was

absolutely pathetic, ailing with several problems and was in a complete state of anarchy. Her turnaround strategy for converting a virtual hellhole in to a much talked about jail paid well.

Separate chapters in the book discuss her ways of setting new standards in the management of the jail, correction of mindset of the prisoners through meditation and involving them in various creative activities which helped in restoring compassion and in changing Tihar prison in to a happening place.

One of the chapters is devoted towards describing the rampant corruption functional at the political scene and the unethical use of power by the leaders for their petty selfish interest.

Towards the end, one chapter talks about her feat of getting selected as Cop of the World by United Nations due to her exemplarily innovative and welfare oriented work in the realm of policing. Second last chapter talks about her disappointment at being deprived of post of the Commissioner, Delhi Police .This decision came from the higher authorities due to her transparent approach towards her work without any scope of corruption which made the people then in power feel endangered due to their tip-to-toe involvement in corrupt activities. But it did not stop her as she took voluntary retirement after a good toil and started contributing to welfare and anti-corruption endeavors in her own ways.

These are doubtlessly inspiring stories but sometimes flawed by self-promoting hagiographic approach. They would have been more effective if they had been rendered in a more matter-of-fact tone. This style of writing adds to the white noise of excessive self-regard and sometimes gives rise to ambivalence in the reader about their true worth. Kiran's life and career help us restore a sense of enhanced righteousness in the midst of countless challenges.

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