

India's first female police officer leaves

by UPI

NEW DELHI -- Kiran Bedi, India's first female police officer known for her toughness and prison reforms, is stepping down after 35 years on the job. She submitted her resignation but was awaiting word of its acceptance from India's Home Ministry, the BBC reported. Bedi, who once had former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's car towed because it was parked illegally, told the BBC she was leaving for personal reasons, although earlier this year she was passed over for the prestigious Delhi police commissioner's job, which went to a junior man. "It is a personal decision. I want to focus on two strong interests that I have, academic and social work," Bedi, 58, told the BBC. She said she also wants to complete her book. When she didn't get the Delhi job, she lashed out at the government, saying as a woman she didn't have enough "booze friends" like her male colleagues, the report said. As an officer, she held such tough jobs as deputy inspector general in the remote violence-ridden Mizoram region and head of India's narcotics control bureau. She is best known for reforms at Delhi's notorious Tihar Jail including detoxification programs, meditation and literacy classes for the inmates, the report said.

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