

'My aim: curb drink-and-drive menace'

Praveen Sood, the man in charge of the city traffic police, is confident that his department will be able to ease Bangalore's increasingly chaotic traffic scenario

PIC: S SHIV KUMAR

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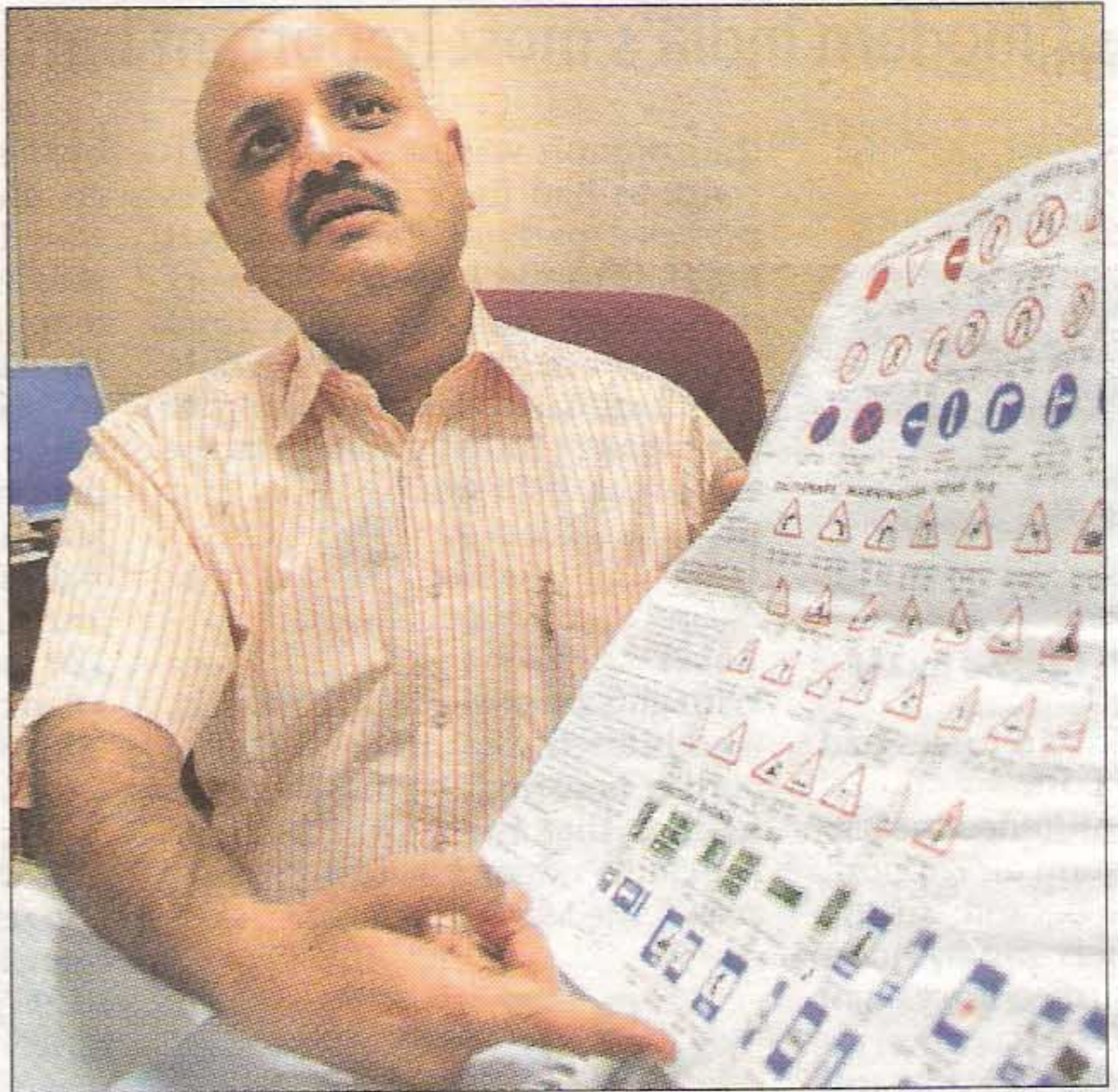
One of the youngest to join the Indian Police Service, Praveen Sood once headed the anti-rowdy squad in Karnataka and was invited by the government of Mauritius as police adviser. His academic qualifications are enviable — B.Tech from IIT, Delhi, and an MBA from IIM, Bangalore. Sood joined IPS in 1986 and has since served as Mysore police commissioner receiving several recognitions like Chief Minister's Gold Medal and also President's Police Medal for meritorious service.

Recently, he took over as the Additional Commissioner for Traffic & Security. In an exclusive interview with **Bangalore Mirror**, he speaks about the challenge and his goals as the chief of the traffic department.

Excerpts from the interview:

How can the police solve the uncontrollable traffic problem in Bangalore?

The police alone cannot solve the traffic problem. Yes, it is a big challenge but can be solved. There are quite a few civic agencies, which contribute in creating or solving the problem. Effective coordination and understanding between the agencies like BBMP, BDA, BMTC, BESCOM, BWSSB and Airport Authority and the traffic department can work wonders to ease the traffic situation.



What ails Bangalore traffic – narrow roads, improperly planned traffic and increasing traffic, says the head honcho of the traffic department

graded already and at least 210 additional signals will be installed. Work on T junctions have also been taken up, as these junctions are creating lot of chaos with their civil engineering problem.

How are you planning to enforce all the plans?

There are a few engineering issues which have to be addressed first. We are using technology in a big way in enforcement as well as in regulation. Around 40 surveillance

I have directed all my colleagues to focus on five basic issues apart from taking care of other problems too. My main focus is on totally curbing the drunk-and-drive menace. It will be dealt with severely and there will be no excuse for it. Others are: (a) Jumping red lights (b) Going against one-way (c) Driving while talking on the mobile (d) Reckless driving.

Are you also stressing on educating the road users?

It is going to be one of the