

CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN**Cops not taking it seriously: CoD DG**

Bangalore, Dec 8: CoD Director-General V V Bhaskar on Tuesday said a sizable number of the police constables were not taking seriously the cases of crime against women. This discouraged women from approaching the police, he said speaking at a discussion on Violence Against Women and Women's Rights at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, here.

"An ill-motivated head-constable can cause a great damage to the situation for he is the person who files the FIR", he remarked.

The DGP said Karnataka was the first State to have all-women police station and Bangalore was the first to have women counselling cells.

Additional Police Commissioner K S Suresh Babu said the

rise in crime rate on women was alarming. The number of suicides was 608 until Nov 30, as compared to 546 and 366 in 97 and 96 respectively. Molestation figure were always in double digits from Jan to Nov, he pointed out.

He said it was unfortunate that despite many laws to prevent violence against women, the crimes continued.

S Mariswamy, Secretary-II to Home department, NIAS director Rodham Narasimha and NIAS' fellow, Gender Studies Unit N Shantha Mohan also spoke.

HELP-LINE: The city will soon have a toll-free help line for women for counselling, Suresh Babu said. Stringent "Cyber Laws" to ban pornography and vulgarity on chat-line are also being thought of. •ENS