



Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy dropped in at a darga at Nidaghatta on his way to Mysore on Tuesday night. KPN photo

Deputy CM nips seed bill

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ownership of water resources in India.

Desai emphasized the idea of community ownership of the essential services. "The essential services and our daily bread are not just another commodity which can be left to market forces alone. Neither should it be governed by the policies which narrowly focus on protecting the interests of small groups of actors, as a political tool." He said that a balanced approach to the economies of food production, distribution and consumption is needed.

BANGALORE: Tomorrow is the first World Kidney Day. The International Society of Nephrology has decided to celebrate the second Thursday of every March as World Kidney Day, according to Dilip Rangaraj, chief nephrologist, NU Hospitals. He said that since not all sections of the population can afford treatments like dialysis, it is important to avoid kidney problems altogether.

The Daily Observer

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Anusha Jha
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'One in two cancer patients dies because she comes late to the doctor'

Observer Staff

BANGALORE, March 8: Fifty per cent of cancer patients die because they come to oncologists very late in the disease, said Dr Nalini Rao, Radiation Oncologist, Bangalore Institute of Oncology. The Institute has launched a month-long breast cancer campaign on the occasion of International Women's Day.

"In India, cancer is increasing," Dr Nalini said, adding that 50 to 65 per cent of cancers in India are breast and cervical. She said that the number of women affected in India is less than the number in the western world."

Dr B S Ajai Kumar, Chairman of Bangalore Institute of Oncology pointed out, "this is a disease that can certainly be cured if detected early." He added, "the incidence

of breast cancer is increasing in our country and more so in the urban regions." The motive of the month-long campaign was to create awareness so that "more women will come forward and take care of themselves"

He added that awareness of breast cancer is very low in rural areas. Shyness and social stigma holds back women from coming forward to discuss their problems, he said. Breast cancer has several causes, some being family history, environmental problems, lifestyle change and dietary habits.

Dr Nalini said that 70 per cent of cancers are lifestyle related. She said that elementary measures such as conducting self tests every month and a mammogram every year after the age of 40 can drastically reduce the chances of the occurrence of the disease.

Is it time for women in the Army?

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have a different outlook today and could join the army. However, he points out, there are other issues.

"Once women get married and want to have children, complications set in. These are issues that cannot be raised when there is a war." Men, according to him, have that advantage of being able to separate themselves from home during war. Lieutenant General (Retired) N. S. Narahari agrees. "While I have no objections to them being co-workers in any part of the army, once they get married, they have certain limitations that men don't."

Jija Madhavan Hari Singh, an IPS officer who has been in the thick of a few riots and some unruly situations agrees that being a police officer is a tough job. But, she adds, the army is tougher. As for women being in the line of fire, the first name that comes to her mind is Barkha Dutt. "If she can be there, why can't we?" But, she adds, it takes a lot of courage to be at the forefront. The choice, she says, should be left to the

women.

Bangalore Mayor Mumtaz Begum thinks that the question does not arise at all whether women should be in the army or not. "How else can we give the men strong competition?" she asks with a mischievous grin. On a more serious note, she adds. "We are capable and we should be at the front now."

Subedar Suresh Kumar, too, feels that the army would be a better place with women. They already work in the medical and administrative corps, as well as in the planning and preparation. "So, why shouldn't they be in battle?" he asks.

Munira Sen, who works with an NGO does not like the idea of war, in the first place. "War doesn't appeal to anyone for obvious reasons, yet when it comes to equality and women, women in uniform should be put on the front, if they choose to," she says, adding that putting women in the battle front is not only a question of equality but also of a woman's right to decide her interest and prove her capabilities.

IF I WERE PRIME MINISTER FOR A DAY

Why should men make all the big political decisions for women? On Women's Day, *The Daily Observer* asked a set of women, some known, many not so well known, just what they would do if they were plonked in the prime minister's gaddi for a day to make India a better country.

■ TRISHA KRISHNAN / actress / Hyderabad

To bring a change in one day would be impossible, yet I will make a determined attempt to help rape victims. The current laws are too harsh on them. I will make sure they are given the benefit of doubt without those embarrassing forensic procedures they have to undergo.

■ KIRAN MAZUMDAR-SHAW / entrepreneur / Bangalore

If I were PM for a day, the first thing I would do is take a long, deep, hard look at infrastructure and education. And I would encourage women to believe in themselves, not to listen to others and to follow their instincts. And I would push them to take up challenges and not run away from them.

■ JAYA RAMESH / copy writer / Chennai

I would like to become a dynamic agent of change to create a new world in which peace prevails and justice, fair play and equality in all realms, become facts of life. I believe that it is ignorance and lack of awareness that renders women incapable of maximizing the benefit of the superior biological strength endowed to us by nature. To correct this imbalance I shall embark on an education scheme that makes it mandatory for every girl child to be imparted an education on a holistic basis. An education that puts her at par with the best, to enhance her communication skills and bring about a radical change in her attitude and the way the world perceives her.

■ SUSHMA D / aggrieved woman / Bangalore

I would like to change the Indian Penal Code vis-a-vis dowry issues. I would remove the bottlenecks in the laws that give men a ready escape route for maligning women. I would consider serious measures to block that escape route that has caused thousands of women to whimper.

■ CHARITRA PARTHASARATHY / journalist / New Delhi

I would bring an amendment in the current bank policies to help women entrepreneurs. The policies do not give financial options to them. Further even if the woman has an entrepreneurial idea, there are no appropriate training centres where she can incubate it and allow it to materialise.

■ S.G. KALPANA / chartered accountant / Chennai

I would amend laws to bring young, educated, preferably professionally qualified people at all political levels. Minimum educational qualification should be prescribed. I strongly feel only educated people can lead us better. India has an intelligent mass, which is not willing to take up politics. I'll call upon all such people who I believe will make India a super power very soon.

■ HEMA DESHPANDE / counselor / Bangalore

I do not want to become the Prime Minister, there are changes that can be done without becoming the prime Minister. There can be no change that can be done or achieved in a single day. It is for the best of the citizens if changes happen gradually and unconsciously.

■ JAYASHREE S / executive assistant / Chennai

I will zero in on one area that is our good old public distribution system. And I will counter the black marketing and hoarding that has become an integral part of the system.

■ RAJESHWARI / domestic servant / Chennai

The prime minister does not seem to do anything. Anyway, as an ordinary person I can make a difference. I will look into health and sanitation in slums.

Interviews by JANANI SAMPATH