

International Women's Day

—Reports Received

BANGALORE

Manini, Vimochana, Women's Voice and Stree Jagruthi Samithi came together to form Mahila Sangharsha Okkota which organised international women's day celebrations. Women marched from Ulsoor to Shivajinagar. The rally focused on the drought conditions prevailing in Karnataka. Women shouted slogans like "We want water, not speeches" and "Let Karnataka not become another Ethiopia." Street corner meetings were held to discuss the same issue, and funds were collected to help drought victims.

—K. Sharada Bhat

DELHI

This year, to mark international women's day, several groups came together in a rally on March 7. March 8 coincided with Shivratri this year. Since many women fasted and participated in the celebration of the festival, the rally was shifted to March 7. The rally began at Shivaji Park, with slogans, songs and a street play entitled *Roshni* performed by women of Manushi.

The rally proceeded through Connaught Place to Boat Club. Processionists carried placards and banners and shouted slogans demanding the withdrawal of the Muslim Women's Divorce Bill, more jobs, fair wages and educational opportunities for women and against the price rise.

At Boat Club, representatives of different women's groups spoke, explaining the significance of the day, and emphasising the need for laws which would not discriminate against women. Saheli presented a short skit critiquing the recent bill which seeks to debar Muslim women from demanding maintenance from their husbands under section 125, Criminal Procedure Code. *Parivar Ki Gadi* was staged by a group of women from a resettlement colony. It focused on the maltreatment women suffer within the

family and showed how domestic violence against women occurs amongst the rich and the poor, educated and uneducated. Many songs were sung by different groups of women and the meeting ended with another performance of *Roshni*.

A memorandum on behalf of all the organisations present was handed over to the prime minister, demanding withdrawal of the Muslim Women's Divorce Bill.



In Delhi

TAMILNADU

An organisation called Village Women Liberation Movement of Arakkonam in north Arcot district, organised a long march and a public meeting at Periyar Thidal, Madras, on March 8. The organisation works in 55 villages. Resolutions were passed demanding that government ensure equal and adequate wages to landless labourer women, give land and house sites to poor widows and abandoned women in villages, provide roads, clean drinking water and medical

care in villages, provide job opportunities to women in rural areas, encourage self employment schemes for them, enforce prohibition, appoint women magistrates to deal with crimes against women, implement civil laws irrespective of religion, involve women in *panchayat* activities and take action against prostitution and obscene posters.

—Burnad Fatinia

BIHAR

On March 8, Chhatra Yuva. Sangharsh Vahini and Mahila Sangharsh Samiti held a demonstration in Patna and defaced obscene posters with black paint. A street play called "*Ab Hum Nahin Sahenge*", based on the recent incident of a minister

in Rajasthan trying to force his daughter to live with the man she was married to in childhood, was performed.

In Gaya, about 500 women held a rally. The majority were rural women from Bodhgaya. Obscene posters were blackened and pornographic books burnt. An 11 point memorandum was given to the district commissioner. The chief demand was for land in women's names. He agreed that land would be given in the joint names of husband and wife.

—Anuradha

(translated from Hindi)