

The Hindu 25-06-09

Kiran Bedi calls for police reforms

Staff Reporter

— Photo: Sampath Kumar G.P.



Needing change: Kiran Bedi, retired IPS officer, at the Institute of Finance and International Management convocation ceremony in Bangalore on Wednesday.

BANGALORE: Kiran Bedi, retired IPS officer, said India was in urgent need of police reforms, and the police system could no longer be governed by the Indian Police Act of 1861. She was interacting with presspersons before attending the convocation ceremony of the Institute of Finance and International Management (IFIM) here on Wednesday. In response to the issue of why the Bangalore Police did not take any action against the series of attacks on women in the city a few months ago, she said, "The police force is usually dependant on the party in power", and added that professional insulation was the key to police reform. However, she stressed that professional accountability must be simultaneously increased.

Ms. Bedi said another way in which the police system could respond to crimes against women was by creating more open and free systems through which people could report crimes. She said in addition to filing FIRs the police should also set up 24-hour help-lines in collaboration with non-governmental organisations, and a system by which people could file complaints online. Through this, it would be possible to "register, record, expose and analyse crimes".