

In 65th year now

INDIAN FEDERATION OF WORKING JOURNALISTS

(Founded on 28 October 1950 at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi and registered as trade union: 1992)

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President : **K. Vikram Rao**

Dated :17 May 2016

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Vice President : **Gopal Mishra**

Treasurer : **Shyambabu**

Secy. (HQ.) : **Vipin Dhuliya**

IFWJ Newsletter/2/May/2016

Chennai conference to prepare National action plan for journalist safety

Dear Friends

Many state unions have suggested that the issue of security of working journalists should be urgently discussed at our National Council session in Chennai (10-13 June). Our Bihar and Jharkhand units are ready with detailed reports as they have suffered the worst in recent weeks.

Therefore, the IFWJ president, Comrade K. Vikram Rao, has requested presidents and general secretaries of state unions and also members of the IFWJ working committee to come prepared to Chennai to formulate a national plan of action on journalist protection. Two important proposals received are: (a) Parliament in its monsoon session adopts a national legislation to protect free speech and personal safety of working journalists. This can even be done by amending the existing penal laws and code, and (b) Amending section 302 of I.P.C (culpable homicide amounting to murder) to ensure that the murder of a journalist is treated as “the rarest of rare crimes” entailing death punishment. Combined with this should be the issue of compensation to the family of the slain journalist and insurance cover.

These suggestions roughly will form the basis of a full-fledged discussion at the Chennai conference.

The discussion will be initiated by IFWJ vice-president S. Praveer Bhadesa of Chhattisgarh (Raipur). The BJP government of Dr. Raman Singh has come out with concrete action plan, as our Chhattisgarh union president Com. Arvind Awasthi tells us. Com. Awasthi will tell you all this at Chennai. Both the affected state unions, the

Jharkhand Journalists Association president Shahnawaz Hassan (Ranchi) and Com. Abhijit Pandey of Bihar (Patna), who are members of the IFWJ working committee, will present detailed reports before you. They have been agitating on these issues on the streets of Ranchi and Patna.

On 15 May the U.P. Working Journalists Union delegation, led by its president Com. Haseeb Siddiqi, along with IFWJ national convener on wage matters Com. Mudit Mathur, National Councilors Rajat Mishra and Aushutosh Srivastava and social media convener Vishwadev had presented in Lucknow a memorandum to Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar during his one-day visit for a kisan rally. It asked for CBI probe into the murder of journalist of Siwan Rajdev Ranjan and also Rs. 25 lakhs as compensation to his widow, apart from other safety measures. Within two hours of reaching Patna Nitish Kumar announced CBI inquiry.

Com. K. Vikram Rao desires that you should also depute one from your state to contribute to the discussion on both : (1) Journalism training and (2) journalists safety. The general secretaries should come with more copies of their annual reports for distribution among the National Councilors.

Please inform Ms. **R. Chandrika**, IFWJ secretary (south), mobile (9566057042), about your train and arrival time at Chennai station. Those coming by air should send the flight details. The Working Journalists Union of Tamil Nadu President **A.J. Sagayaraj** and his comrades are eagerly waiting for you at Chennai.

With warm greetings.

Yours fraternally

Ms. Namita Bora

Editor : **Suranjana** Asamiya journal

IFWJ Secretary (women matter)

Assam (Guwahati)

Welcome to South India

In the my home state of Kerala, which neighbor of Tamil Nadu, the monsoon is delayed by one week from 1 June. Rains may come here with your arrival in south on 10 June.

Sister Chandrika from Chennai informs that Tamil Nadu received this week heavy downpour and cloudy weather. Temperature has fallen to 31 degrees.

Fraternally yours

S. Sudheesan

Resident Editor : Malayalam daily the **Veekshanam**

I.F.W.J. Vice-President : (south) Kollam (Kerala)