

# INDIAN FEDERATION OF WORKING JOURNALISTS

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

Union Bhavan, 1 Garud Vihar, behind Shankar Market, Connaught Place, New Delhi: 110001.

President's address: 7 Gulistan Colony, Bandariabagh, Lucknow-226001, U.P., Phones: Res.- 0522-2238823/2235466

IFWJ Phone No.:011-2341-8871 Mob.: +91 94150-00909 / +91 9818627033/ +91 9880199099

E-mail : ifwj.media@gmail.com

Website : www.ifwj.in

President : K. Vikram Rao

Dated : 27 March 2016

Secretary General : H B Madan Gowda

Treasurer : Shyambabu

Secy. (HQ.): Vipin Dhuliya

## IFWJ raises five demands. Voices protest on Tibet and PoK

### 30<sup>th</sup> Plenary session in Karnataka "Historic"

Circ. No. 1/Secy.-NDLS/2016

To

All members of the Working Committee, Presidents and General Secretaries of State units and Special invitees

Dear *Friends/Comrades*

Hundreds of IFWJ delegates from different States and Union Territories at their 30<sup>th</sup> Plenum in Karnataka (2-5 March 2016), presided over by Com. **K Vikram Rao**, were agitated over persistent assaults on working journalists, doing professional duty. They urged Parliament to amend suitably the I.P.C. and the Cr.P.C. to make cognizable such offences. The IFWJ demanded from the Narendra Modi Government the formation of a National Commission to study the prevailing conditions in the media industry, both print and visual, and suggest improvements. The last Press Commission, chaired by Justice K.K. Mathew, was set up by the Indira Gandhi Government in April 1980. During the 35 years that passed, sea changes have occurred in the Media world. The IFWJ also repeated its plea for the reconstitution of the dubious and lifeless Press Council with a genuinely representative Media Council.

The IFWJ expressed deep anguish over the continued denial of wage rise to working journalists and newspaper workers, despite Parliament and the Supreme Court of India confirming the Majithia Wage Award.

The triennial plenary session deliberated, for four days the various media-related issues, including journalists working conditions. It was a very well attended gathering. Delegates came from as far as the frontier state of Manipur (Thotshang Shaiza and another) and from Holy Kedarnath, bordering Tibet. Sri Lanka Press Association sent a 25-member delegation, led by Muditha Kariyakarwana. The largest contingent of 109 came from Madhya Pradesh, led by Com.Salman Khan, followed closely by Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa. The final figure coincidentally was 786 delegates from 26 states and Union Territories. (Karnataka's 130 delegates are not counted in this). This numerical 786 in Islamic terms signifies Bismillah (beginning) in the name of Allah, the merciful. This was more significant as the conference venue was Adi Chunchunagiri, hallowed by Lord Kaala Bhairava, incarnation of God Shiva. The sylvan setting with verdant hillocks, forming the backdrop, around 150 kms from busy Bengaluru city, had provided journalists both action and rest. The renovated auditorium of the Institute of Medical Sciences, named after that great divine Bala Gangadhar Swamiji, could easily compete with New Delhi's Vigyan Bhavan in size and majesty.

After hectic deliberations and enjoyable Kannada cultural evenings, delegates took time off to visit India's cleanest town of Mysuru and the Vrindavan Gardens on the Kaveri riverside. Sultan Tipu's fort was another attraction.

The 30<sup>th</sup> plenum was strikingly different from the last 29 sessions. It was inaugurated (3<sup>rd</sup> March) by an eminent Editor Hari Prasad Konemane of daily *Vijayavani*. The Pontiff Swami Nirmalanathanandji blessed it. A topper from Chennai I.I.T. and an engineering graduate from Mysuru University (where U.P. CM Akhilesh Yadav was his classmate), Swamiji expected mediapersons to uphold truth always. Indeed a very tough job today. The seminar on *Freedom of Expression*, in association with the Human Rights Defence Council, was illuminating. Academicians from departments of mass communication of Bengaluru and Mysuru universities outlined imminent threats to media liberties. Dr. B.K. Ravi, journalism professor of Bengaluru University and advisor to the Chief Minister, underscored the importance of language media. The valedictory address (4<sup>th</sup> March) by another noted Editor Vishweshwara Bhatt of daily *Vishwavani*, was scintillating prose, an editorial spoken rapidly. Lawyer **Ashwani Kumar Dube**, an advocate on record in the Supreme Court who specially flew in from Delhi, addressed the session on legal remedies available to

victimized journalists. Advocate Dube, who is legal advisor to the IFWJ, pleaded for ethical media.

In his presidential address Com. K. Vikram Rao accused the pseudo-intellectuals of turning money-spinners, masquerading as “progressives”, but in reality utter reactionaries. He said media had been reduced to a branch of commerce, a handmaid of monopoly owners. Com. K. Vikram Rao sympathized with the defiant journalists of communist China, fighting for their basic press liberties. He wanted the Indian media to focus national attention on continuing human rights violation in Tibet by expansionist China. On Kashmir the IFWJ supported the resolution, adopted unanimously in the Lok Sabha under P.V. Narasimha Rao’s prime ministership on 22 February 1994, that “the only issue in the Himayan Valley now is the liberation of northern Kashmir from Islamic Pakistan’s occupation.” The IFWJ Chief deplored the traitorous clique of unpatriotic Indians who voice “Azadi” for the Frontier State, forgetting that it is the cornerstone of India’s secular edifice.

Congress Chief Minister Siddharamaiah, a veteran Lohia socialist once, was slated to address the plenum. He was busy presenting the budget to State Legislature on 3 March. Instead he invited IFWJ delegates for a get-together in Bengaluru. He recalled his flying last April to Haasan town to open the IFWJ’s Karnataka unit’s 32<sup>nd</sup> conference where Com. Vikram Rao was the chief guest.

A notable feature of the 30<sup>th</sup> plenum was that it was spread over to three adjoining districts. Delegates’ camp was at Shravanbelgola, famous for the biggest-ever statute of Jain Lord Gomateswara. The conference venue at Adi Chunchunagiri is in Mandya district, while delegates came from Yeshwantpur railway Station and Bengaluru’s Kempegowda airport. All a record of sorts.

In his welcome speech Com. **H.B. Madan Gowda**, who was renominated Secretary-General by the IFWJ President, pleaded for better deal for district journalists. This will be the chief issue for debate at the next session later this year. Andhra Pradesh unit president S.Veerbhadrarao invited a Working Committee meeting at the port town of Vishakhapatnam in December.

IFWJ members expressed their profound gratitude to Com. **N. Raju** and Com. **M.S. Mani**, president and general secretary of the Karnataka Union of Working Journalists (KUWJ). Raju and Mani with their team of bright youngsters worked hard for a month to make the plenum a most memorable media event.

The Central Returning Officer, Dr. Debashish Bose conducted ably the 24-member Working Committees election. There was an unusual interest among the 310 National Councillors. But only 16 States could get their candidates elected. However, the president will nominate five to the Working Committee, giving representation to the states which missed the poll.

The new team includes: Vice–Presidents : Com. Gopal Misra (Delhi), Com.S.Sudeeshan (Kollam) resident editor of the Congress daily the *Veekshanam* of Kerala, Com. Anil Dadheech of Rajasthan (Jaipur) and Com. Praveer Bidesha of Chattisgarh (Raipur). Com. Shyam Babu (Jhansi) was re-elected Treasurer. Among the six national zonewise secretaries were Com. Vipin Dhuliya (Delhi) Secretary (headquarters), Ms. R. Chandrika (Tamil Nadu), Secretary (South), Com. Prakash Chandra Mishra, (Orissa) Secretary (East), Dr. Meena Pandya (Gujarat) Secretary (West), Ms. Namita Bora (Assam) Secretary (Women Cell), and Com.Santosh Chaturvedi, Secretary (North – U.P.). The President has nominated Com. Vasindra Mishra (Zee 24-7 TV), Com. Ramdutt Tripathi (ex-BBC staffer), Com. Ms. Shanta Kumari (Karnataka), Com.Apoorva Kumar Das, *Ex-Assam Tribune* (Guwahati) and Com. P.N. Prassana Kumar (Kerala) , as special invitees to the Working Committee. Members elected to the IFWJ working committee. : Com. P. Parameswara Rao (Andhra Pradesh), Com. Brajesh Choubey (Chattishgarh), Com Ram P. Yadav (Delhi), Com.Shahnawaz Hassan (Jharkhand), Com.Mohammed Saleem (Kerala), Com. Hari Om Pandey (Madhya Pradesh), Com Dashrath V. Parekar (Maharashtra), Com. Prabhakar Shiromani (Orissa), Com.Upendera Singh Rathore (Rajasthan), Com. B. Pradheep Kumar (Tamil Nadu), Com.Abhijeet Pandey (Bihar), and Com. Sunil Thapaliyal (Uttarakhand). State Units which have not found representation may through their general secretaries write to the President for nomination.

The IFWJ president nominated Com C.R. Ramachandran (Kerala) as national convener of IFWJ committee on welfare legislations Com. S. Veerbhadra Rao, editor of *Vishakha Samachar* (Telugu and Hindi dailies) as national convener of IFWJ committee on Indian language media and Mudit Mathur as national convener of the IFWJ committee on wage matters. The plenary session elected Com. (Dr.) Debashish Bose (Madhepura, Bihar) as the chairman of the IFWJ Central Credentials Committee. Two other members will be co-opted at the Chennai session. Secretary General Com.Madan Gauda re-nominated K.Vishwadev Rao as the in-charge of “New Media”.

The IFWJ urged the Union Government to start a pension scheme for senior journalists, now retired. The resolution was moved by Com. C.R. Ramachandran, president of the Senior Journalists Forum of Kerala, and seconded by Com. Haridasan Palayil. An important resolution was moved in the session, demanding immediate amendment in the Working Journalists Act, 1955, to include the visual mediapersons also. It was moved by Com. Mudit Mathur and supported by Com. Pranshu Mishra (*Times Now* TV channel, Lucknow) and Com. Ramdutt Tripathi, former IFWJ secretary. Com. Hisamul Islam Siddiqui of U.P.W.J.U. outlined the problems of human rights of the minorities.

The President of the Working Journalists Union of Tamil Nadu, Com.A.B.Sagay Raj, announced that the WJUT has planned a public felicitation of all those mediapersons, both electronic and print, who had worked hard as rescue workers during last year's flood havoc in Tamil Nadu. Alongwith this public function, the first session of the IFWJ's new National Council will also be held in Chennai in the last week of June. A visit to Mahabalipuram and Kanchi Sankaracharya's ashram is also planned. The Treasurer Com. Shyam Babu presented last years' accounts of Delhi and Lucknow offices which were adopted. They have been filed with the Registrar of Trade Unions, New Delhi.

The Secretary General, Com H.B. Madan Gowda, has asked all state units to send the updated list of members up to 31 December 2015, alongwith their membership dues to the IFWJ headquarters soon.

With greetings for Holi.

Fraternally yours



**Vipin Dhuliya**  
Secretary, IFWJ (Headquarters)