

# Editorial

Imphal, Saturday, July 23, 2016

## July 23

Today, seven years back to the day, an audacious incident at the heart of the capital of Manipur rocked the nation, with reverberations reaching the highest echelons of human rights activists and organizations the world over. July 23, 2009 will go down the history of the state, and perhaps the nation as the day the scale tipped against the increasingly impudent state-sponsored spate of fake encounters systematically perpetrated by the state and central security forces against the public on the merest suspicion of being in connection with any of the mushrooming armed militant groups in the state. The incident also brought to the limelight the abject failure (read deliberate oversight) of the state government to rein in its security machinery nor keep the central forces under control, emboldened as they are with the Armed Forces Special Powers Act 1958 still continuing to shield them from any and every form of prosecution. The gruesome incident of July 23 of 2009 where an alleged member of an underground group was killed in an encounter at the heart of Imphal city in broad daylight also blotted out the life of a pregnant lady bystander, a collateral damage for the security forces and a small compensation for the state government - a minor irritant for being able to wash their hands off the sordid incident. The July 23 incident also sparked a slew of allegations and charges of fake encounters from several quarters of the public against the state and central security forces which were eventually forced to be legally reviewed. In 2013, the Santosh Hegde Commission, set up by the Supreme Court, probed six "sample cases of alleged fake encounters" in that year and found that every one of them "had not been an encounter" and had not been carried out by the security forces in self-defence. The commission further found that in all six cases, the perpetrators (in many cases a combined force of the Assam Rifles and the Manipuri Commandos) were also the investigators and that police officials involved in an encounter would lodge an FIR against the victim.

What comes as a shock is the reluctance of the state government to provide even the most basic assurances of security for the public while going out of its way to protect the perpetrators of these innumerable instances of state-sponsored terrorism. The unchecked and increasing cases of blatant abuse of power by the security forces triggered a psychological and emotional rift with the general public, and the increasing race for "Recommendations" and "Gallantry" rewards amongst the security personnel translating into promotions, financial incentives and favorable service options, generously doled out by the state government without even the perfunctory investigations have projected the public as a source of 'easy pickings' for the unscrupulous lot who are authorized to use deadly force as required. It is no surprise that confessions of the constable on the incident of July 23 have shook the very foundation of administration in the state, and the disgruntled public will not be forgetting the incident in a hurry, for when the protectors become perpetrators of crime, then the public is left with no other option but to work towards bringing a radical change. The naive and trusting public have been shortchanged once too often. Recent indications strongly suggest the situation is about to change, hopefully for the better.

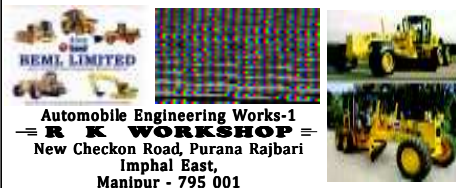
## Incessant rains inundate new areas in Assam

**Guwahati, July 23:** In Assam, new areas have been inundated on Saturday due to incessant rains. Nearly 500 villages are reeling under flood in the state. Thousand hectares of crop land, educational institutes, roads have been inundated due to flood. Four PWD roads submerged today in Morigaon district. More than half of the Kaziranga national park are reeling under the fury of flood. Park authority said that water level is increasing. Nearly 60 percent areas of Pobitara wildlife sanctuary has also been submerged. Relief camps have been set up at several districts and relief materials are being distributed.

Several ministers and legislators of the state are visiting flood hit areas. More than half of the Kaziranga national park are reeling under the fury of flood. Park authority said water level is increasing. Nearly 60 percent areas of Pobitara wildlife sanctuary has also been submerged. Relief camps have been set up at several districts and relief materials are being distributed.

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## National & International News

### Search continues for IAF plane that went missing with 29 onboard

**PTI New Delhi, Jul 23:** The search for the AN-32 aircraft that has been missing over the Bay of Bengal with 29 on board was today on in full swing even as Defence Minister

Manohar Parrikar left for Chennai to monitor the massive search operation. Defence sources said the search is in full swing and no detection has been made till now.

The transport plane of the Indian Air Force with 29 people on board, including four officers, went missing yesterday while flying from Chennai to Port Blair.

The AN-32 aircraft took off at 0830 hours from Tambaram in Chennai and the last contact with it was made 16 minutes later.

The aircraft can fly for up to four hours without refuelling. Parrikar will receive a detailed briefing on the entire operations, the sources said.

A massive search and rescue

operation has been launched by IAF, Navy and Coast Guard, deploying one submarine, eight aircraft and 13 ships for tracking the upgraded plane.

The 29 people on board the Air Force's workhorse for a long period included six crew members, two of them pilots and one navigator.

Besides, there were 11 personnel from the IAF including an officer, two from the Army, one from the Coast Guard and 9 from the navy which included some from its armament depot.

### Judith D'souza, Indian kidnapped in Kabul, to reach Delhi today evening

**New Delhi, July 23:** Judith D'Souza, the Indian social worker who was abducted in Kabul, has been rescued, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj informed on Saturday. In a tweet, Swaraj said, "I am happy to inform you that Judith D'souza has been rescued."

Swaraj later tweeted to inform that she had spoken to Judith and she will be reaching Delhi today evening, along with ambassador Manpreet Vohra.

D'Souza was abducted on June 9, earlier this year, from Kabul. She was believed to be held by one of the several organised crime cartels who have earned millions of dollars in ransom from kidnapping foreign nationals, intelligence and police sources had told The Indian Express earlier. The incident took place in the vicinity of Qala-e-

Fatullah area of the Kabul, where numerous kidnapping incidents have taken place in the past. The Indian Embassy was in touch with the Afghan security services, soon after reports of kidnapping emerged, and a massive effort to seek out Judith. D'Souza, a 40-year-old Kolkata resident, is a gender specialist with the Aga Khan Foundation — part of the Aga Khan Development Network, which has funneled almost \$750 million into the war-torn country's reconstruction. She has 15 years experience working in the social sector.

Indian professionals and aid workers are active in almost all of Afghanistan's provinces, working on a welter of development projects funded both by their home government and international non-governmental organisations.

### Contd. from yesterday issue

### Rising Attacks to Silence Journalists

#### Violence against Female Journalists

Today in India, female journalists are increasingly being attacked, harassed and teased for carrying out their professional duties. This trend has become more persistent with the rise of the social media. They are ferociously trolled on WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, and other social networking sites for their reports and news. It is also a fact that the male journalists are also not spared by trolls on social media, but the attacks on women are more severe as they include personal attacks apart from professional ones. 2 "There is no doubt that women are targeted in a way that men just are not," Barkha Dutt, the NDTV consulting editor, said in an interview. She also revealed about an abuse campaign that targeted her by mass-sharing her contact details and attacking her on social media with abuses of sexual nature. Furthermore, it is also a fact that many of these crimes and violence are not even reported because of the powerful cultural and professional blockades in our society.

In February 2016, the house of Malini Subramaniam, working in *Scroll.in*, was attacked with stones and then was forced to leave Jagdalpur. This happened to her for her critical reporting against the police's manhandling of journalists, social activists and the common people in Bastar.

In February 2016, Sindhu Sooryakumar, a news anchor in Kerala, received thousands of death threatening and harassing phone calls for hosting a discussion regarding the comments by a Kerala Minister on student protests related to the JNU issue. Her number was circulated on social media branding her as a sex worker. Sonal Mehrotra, an NDTV reporter, was among those journalists who were manhandled and threatened at the Patiala House Court premises by lawyers in February 2016. She told in an interview that "They can get very derogatory with a woman, like question their womanhood. They won't do that with the men." In January 2016, Revati Laul, a female journalist in Ahmedabad, was slapped and punched by Suresh for asking a question to a convict in a Gujarat riots case during an interview. She is writing a book on the convicts in the 2002 Naroda Patiya massacre case for which she

met Suresh Chhara in his house. In November 2015, V.P. Rajeeva, a sub-editor with *Madhyamam*, a Malayalam newspaper, received a series of abusive comments and threats on her Facebook page after she posted on the ongoing sexual abuses in "Madrasas". And later her Facebook account was blocked. In July 2015, Manashree Pathak, a reporter with the ABP Majha in Mumbai, was verbally harassed and then physically attacked by a group of men when she visited a slum area where a deadly fire took place. She confronted a person who threw a pebble at her and in return some other goons came to abuse and attack her.

It is significant to know that the online abuse of female journalists is not only a gender bias but an attack on freedom of the press to silence female journalists. It must be addressed as a top-priority issue by the society as well as by the government. (To be contd.....)

### Letter to the Editor

### Road leading to Shija Hospitals & NIT needs urgent repair

Dear Sir,

The road stretch from Lamphel Super Market to Meitei Langol is in a considerably deplorable condition which causes untold hardships to the commuters. This around 3-km stretch lying within the Uripok Assembly Constituency serves as an important passage, not only for the inhabitants of Meitei Langol in Imphal West district, but also for the emergency patients visiting the reputed Shija Hospitals and Research Institute (SHRI), and the students and faculties of the lone National Institute of Technology (NIT).

NIT, Langol is a newly established institute of repute under the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development, where hundreds of students from all over the country particularly the north eastern Indian states study in various courses. Officials from other states of India and abroad frequently visit the Institute for administrative purposes. So as to develop the NIT situated in this low-lying land upto the compatible standard in order to attract students from outside the state, and also to enhance its image in this country, the state government needs to maintain an accessible roadway.

On the other hand, as everyone knows the Shija Hospitals and Research Institute (SHRI) has been serving as an important healthcare institute in the north east India. Patients suffering from grave ailments, particularly of emergency nature are always referred to this Institute as a credible treatment centre. Patients not only from within the state, but also from other states and neighboring countries particularly Myanmar visit the SHRI for seeking healthcare services. Moreover, a large number of employees including Doctors and Nurses are working in this healthcare facility. It is feared that emergency patients plying on this uncared road are most likely to succumb before they reach the hospital premises.

Besides these, government employees and businessmen resident at Meitei Langol area use the road stretch from Langol leading to the heart of Imphal city on daily basis.

Considering all the aforesaid facts and circumstances, I would like to draw the attention of the state Public Works Department (PWD), Local MLA of the area, authorities of Shija Hospitals and the NIT at Langol to urgently look into the matter and make arrangements for necessary repair of the already dilapidated road from Lamphel Super Market to Meitei Langol. Neglect of developmental works on this highly significant road will be construed as total disregard of the health and education sector in the state, and also the residents of Meitei Langol by the state government and the local MLA. The dual institutes of Shija Hospitals and the NIT at Langol have a big responsibility to pursue the matter with the authority concerned. Hoped the matter would be resolved at the earliest.

With regards,  
Seram Neken

Singjamei Kshetri Leikai, Imphal

### REGIONAL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCE : IMPHAL – 795004 (An Autonomous Institute under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Govt of India) ADVERTISEMENT Imphal, the 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2016

No.124/IHNS/Comm. Med/RIMS-2016 : A "walk-in-interview" for appointment of the following posts for the project on "Improving health and nutritional status of vulnerable segment of population by implementing multi-component health and nutrition education intervention as a sustainable model of intervention" funded by Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi in the Department of Community Medicine, RIMS, Imphal on contractual basis will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 12 noon in the office chamber of the Director RIMS, Imphal. Interested candidates fulfilling the following required qualification, experience and age limit may come for attending the interview along with a copy neatly typed bio-data with a attested passport size colour photograph and attested copies of testimonials. The original certificates are to be produced before the selection committee on the day of interview. NoTA/DA will be admissible for attending the interview. Application should be submitted in the Office of the Director, RIMS, Imphal on or before 2pm of 25<sup>th</sup> July 2016 and the application received after 2.00 pm of 25<sup>th</sup> July 2016 will not be entertained. This advertisement is also available at the institute website: [www.rims.edu.in](http://www.rims.edu.in)

Sl.No.	Name of post	Salary	Essential Qualification	No. of post	Duration
1.	Field Assistant	16,188/-	Essential: BSc-preferably experience of atleast 1 year in the field. Age limit: 45 years.(Relaxable as per norms for S/ST/OBC), Govt. of India	2(two)	1(one) year extendible on available of fund
2.	Technician	15,123/-	Essential: 10+2 with DMLT – preferably experience of atleast 1(one) year in field. Age limit: 45 years. (Relaxable as per norms for SC/ST/OBC), Govt. of India.	2(two)	1(one) year extendible on available of fund

The Engagement is strictly on temporary basis, co-terminus with the Project and especially required for the above research project for the period mentioned against the post or till the project is completed, whichever is earlier. The engagement shall be made on finalization of a contract agreement after recommendation by the Selection Committee.

(Prof. Th Achouba Singh)  
Principal Investigator (IHNS),  
Department of Community Medicine  
RIMS, Imphal