

# AFSPA: 107 petitioners from unit whose CO is named in Manipur 'fake encounter' FIR

Agency Chandigarh Sept 2,

As many as 107 Army personnel from a unit being commanded by a Colonel booked by CBI at the end of July for a fake encounter in Manipur are among the signatories of a petition in the Supreme Court, which is challenging the alleged dilution of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA). These Army personnel, including four officers, 24 Junior Commissioned Officers and 79 Other Ranks, are part of the 26 Mechanised Infantry Battalion of which Colonel Vijay Singh Balhara is the Commanding Officer. Balhara and seven other personnel have been named in the FIR for the killing of 12-year-old Mohammad Azam Khan in Imphal on March 4, 2009 in an alleged fake encounter. Balhara was a Major at the time. The FIR against Col Balhara was registered following directions given by the Supreme Court on July 14 this year, based on the findings of the Justice Santosh Hegde Commission, which had inquired into the matter and submitted its report to the court. On August 13, 356 Army personnel moved the Supreme Court, stating that the "garb of protection of human rights should not be taken as a shield to protect the persons involved in the terrorist act". On Friday, another 383 Army personnel asked to be impleaded in the petition, taking the number of personnel who have moved the court to 739. The petition in the SC has specifically mentioned the case of Col Balhara and the FIR

registered against him. It states, "The officers and men are aggrieved by the manner updates are being taken by this court as the same is resulting in indirect influence to the investigating agencies. This is imperative to mention that the cases are very old and intention of the family member of the declared militant as a partisan witness may result in wrong conclusion of the investigating agencies. Thus, the direction and pressure resulted in the CBI filing an FIR in the name of an officer (Colonel Vijay Balhara) after the directions of the court on July 30, 2018." Other than personnel of the unit being commanded by the officer accused of the Manipur killing, the petitioners also include officers and Other Ranks from 58 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) whose personnel were booked for the killing of a cattle trader and injuring of another in the Ramban district of Jammu & Kashmir on August 5. "A Special Investigation Team (SIT) is inquiring into the circumstances of the incident," Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Showkat Aijaz Bhatt, said. Thirty-two personnel of 58 RR, including a Colonel, two Majors and a Captain, are petitioners in the case which has been filed by one Colonel Amit Kumar, an officer of Judge Advocate General branch of the Army posted in Nagrota in J&K. Thirty-three personnel from Kumar's parent regiment, Sikh Light Infantry, are also signatories to the petition. Lt Gen H S Panag (retd), former Northern Army Commander, told The Sunday Express that one would have to stretch one's

imagination to believe that the Army leadership had no knowledge about the personnel filing the petition. "It cannot be a coincidence that the Commanding Officer of the unit gets named in an FIR and the soldiers serving in his unit get motivated to file a petition. As it is, a mechanised unit does not have a major role in counter-insurgency except for the fact that personnel serving in it go on deputation to Rashtriya Rifles or Assam Rifles," he said. The "collective action" by over a 100 soldiers of the same unit who were "motivated" to file the petition was ominous, Lt Gen Panag said. When contacted, official sources at Army HQs said the Army had nothing to do with the petitions filed by soldiers in their individual capacity. "They have their unfettered rights under Article 32 of the Constitution to legal remedy and they have taken recourse to that," a senior officer said. Asked if "command influence" could be the reason for the soldiers of Col Balhara's battalion filing the petition, the officer said, "It can also be the case that the men of the unit signed the petition out of a sense of camaraderie with their CO." While Col Amit Kumar, the petitioner, refused to comment on the issue saying he was not authorised to speak to the media, his advocate, Aishwarya Bhatti, said there was nothing wrong in anybody from any unit filing the petition. "Though I do not know the men are from which unit individually, but even if a large number are from Col Balhara's unit it does not matter," she said.

# Mass tree plantation drive held at Kaina, Andro

DIPR Imphal, Sept 2,

Forest Department today organised a mass tree plantation program at the surroundings of the Kaina temple at Poiroukhongjin Yairipok, Andro Assembly Constituency, Imphal East. Addressing the media persons, Forest and Environment Minister Shri Thounaojam Shyamkumar said the Thoubal Forest Division has organised the mass tree plantation program ahead of the Krishna Janmashtami tomorrow at the

hillocks near the surroundings of the Kaina temple at Poiroukhongjin Yairipok. He maintained that the tree plantation program will help in maintaining the greenery thus adding to the scenic beauty of the religious and historical place. He said 1,600 people of the locality participated for the tree plantation drive. Two persons each from a family of the 800 households in the area, including women, youths and club members took part in the program, he added. The Thoubal Forest Division



Officials led by Divisional Forest Officer Shri N. Ganesh organised the tree plantation drive with an objective to boost the number of tourists, maintain scenic beauty and conserve the environment at the religious and historical site of the Kaina.

# Gave up your LPG subsidy? Now, pay highest-ever for a cylinder

Agency Mumbai Sep 2,

Fuel rates continued their upward spiral on Saturday as LPG prices were increased by a record Rs 30.5 per cylinder and petrol prices shot up by 16 paise, taking the rate to Rs 86.09 per litre. Petrol price in Mumbai could be at a record high on Sunday morning, sources in the oil marketing companies indicated as it is just 15 paise short of the highest ever of Rs 86.24 per litre on May 29. Diesel too touched yet another record in Mumbai of Rs 74.76 per litre on Saturday, leaving transporters fuming over the increasing operational costs of ferrying essential commodities. Now, a non-

subsidised consumer will have to shell out Rs 795, the highest ever for an LPG cylinder. In 2014, LPG rates hovered between Rs 887 to Rs 1,264 per cylinder, but as majority of customers in Mumbai availed of subsidy, the actual rates paid to gas dealers were less. In March 2015, the PM launched the 'give up subsidy' campaign under which more than a crore Indians gave up their concessions or it was withdrawn automatically by banks in cases of high-income individuals. Modiji, your silence is deafening... Is this the same BJP who were shouting when prices touched 75 few years back? Today petrol prices in the international market are much

less than few years ba... Read More Shail Kulk After March 2015, the rates of non-subsidised cylinder has remained between Rs 450 to Rs 764.5 (last month's price), a source said. Mumbai has a significant number of non-subsidised customers and they will end up paying more for a 14.2kg domestic gas cylinder. Sources said that the increase in LPG rates was primarily due to change in international price and foreign exchange fluctuations. Officials said that the subsidised rate of cylinder from September 1 in Mumbai will be Rs 497.36 and this will be applicable for low-income groups only. Uday Lodh of Federation of All Maharashtra Petrol Dealers Association

said that the government should give relief to citizens by bringing fuel prices under goods and services tax (GST) and reducing hefty taxes. "In Maharashtra, the rates are high due to value-added tax, additional cess, etc. It is a big jolt to national transporters as the cost of diesel is the highest in our state, especially Mumbai region," he said. Ravi Shinde of Petrol Dealers Association said that there has been no change in excise duties as well. "Petrol dealers had, in the past, petitioned the government requesting that fuel prices should be brought under GST so that the prices fall and the benefits are passed on to the common man," he added.

# Asian Games 2018 - Day 14

# 18th Asian Games to conclude today; India finishes with biggest ever medal tally of 69

## Asian Games 2018 Medal Tally

Sl. No.	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	132	92	65	289
2	Japan	75	56	74	205
3	Republic of Korea	49	58	70	177
4	Indonesia	31	24	43	98
5	Uzbekistan	21	24	25	70
6	IR Iran	20	20	22	62
7	Chinese Taipei	17	19	31	67
8	India	15	24	30	69
9	Kazakhstan	15	17	44	76
10	DPR Korea	12	12	13	37
11	Bahrain	12	7	7	26
12	Thailand	11	16	46	73
13	Hong Kong, China	8	18	20	46
14	Malaysia	7	13	16	36
15	Qatar	6	4	3	13
16	Mongolia	5	9	11	25
17	Vietnam	4	16	18	38
18	Singapore	4	4	14	22
19	Philippines	4	2	15	21
20	UAE	3	6	5	14
21	Kuwait	3	1	2	6
22	Kyrgyzstan	2	6	12	20
23	Jordan	2	1	9	12
24	Cambodia	2	0	1	3
25	Saudi Arabia	1	2	3	6
26	Macau, China	1	2	2	5
27	Iraq	1	2	0	3
28	Korea	1	1	2	4
28	Lebanon	1	1	2	4
30	Tajikistan	0	4	3	7
31	Lao PDR	0	2	3	5
32	Turkmenistan	0	1	2	3
33	Nepal	0	1	0	1
34	Pakistan	0	0	4	4
35	Afghanistan	0	0	2	2
35	Myanmar	0	0	2	2
37	Syria	0	0	1	1
Total		465	465	622	1552



Agency Jakarta, Sept 2,

The 18th Asian Games will come to a close today, with India achieving its best ever tally of 69 medals and equaling its best gold medal haul of 15 after 67 years. In the final few medal events on the 14th day yesterday, India added four medals to its kitty, two Gold, a silver and a bronze. So far India has won 69 medals making its ranking at 8 position among the Asian countries. China Still continue to corner in the top position with 289 medals. Japan followed with 225 medals While the republic of India managed in third position with a total of 177 medals. Boxer Amit Panghal, stunned the Olympic Champion Hasanboy Dusmatov to win India's only boxing gold. Closely followed the Indian men's bridge team winning gold for India. Women's squash team settled for silver as they lost the final to Hong Kong. The day ended with the men's hockey team getting the consolation bronze medal beating arch-rivals Pakistan.



Overall, Athletics proved to be the biggest contributor to India's medal tally. Nineteen of India's Sixty-nine medals were won by athletes which included seven Gold, ten Silver and two Bronze medals. Tajinder Singh Toor, Neeraj Chopra, Jinson Johnson, Manjit Singh, Arpinder Singh, Swapna Barman and Women's 4x400m Relay Team won the Gold medals in Athletics. Shooting turned out to be the second biggest contributor to India's medal tally. Two gold, four silver and three bronze came from this sport. Wonder boy 16-year-old Saurabh Chaudhary won the Gold in Men's 10m Air Pistol and Rahi Sarnobat won the gold in Women's 25m Pistol. Medals in Tennis, Badminton Wrestling and table tennis were on expected lines but surprise winnings came from Rowing, sailing, wushu, Kurash, Sepaktakraw and bridge. Apart from 15 gold, India picked up 24 silver and 30 bronze medals that helped them finish inside top-10 at eighth for the third consecutive time.

**ਲੇਮਨਾ ਠਾਮੁ**  
**LAMYANBA IRABOT NINGSING THABUM**  
 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. to 30<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2018  
**Lamyamba Irabot-ki Liklam-na Yaifare**  
**Manaba Khunnai Semlasi**



**Manipuri Proletariat Peoples Democratic Union - MPPDU**  
**Socialist Students Union of Manipur - SSUM**  
**Proletarian Feminist Movement, Manipur - PoFM**  
**Socialist Women Association - SWA Manipur**

