

General Council meeting of JAA in Guwahati

By Bhupen Goswami

General Council meeting of Journalist Association of Assam (JAA) was held in Guwahati on September 11. The meeting was presided over by JAA president Shri Jotindra Kumar Barguhain. General secretary Bhupen Goswami presented detail about the problems being faced by mediapersons in the state. The meeting condemned the divide and rule policy of the state government and announced an agitation against it.

Shri Goswami said the mediapersons in the entire Northeast region are working under acute pressure and there is very low return in terms of salary and other facilities. He pointed out that the trouble torn State has lost over 20 dedicated editor-journalists in the last two decades. The victims include Kamala Saikia, Deepak Swargiary, Kundarmal Agarwala, Manik Deuri, Prarag Kumar Das, Ratneswar Sarma Shastri, Nurul Haque, Jogesh

Uzir, Dineswar Brahma, Girija Das, Monikan Das, Ranbir Roy, Prahlad Gowala, Maslimuddin, Bodosa Narzary, Jagajit Saikia, Anil Majumder, etc. Surprisingly, not a single perpetrator has been punished till date.

He said the journalists have to work in most unsafe ambiances. They are denied their dues recommended by the statutory wage boards and even the relevant labour laws. As most of them work without proper appointment letters, they enjoy little job security. Today Guwahati witnesses the publication of more than 20 morning dailies and half of those are in the Assamese language. Most of the dailies are published from more than one centre, whereas three Assamese daily newspapers claim to enjoy around one lakh circulation. Lately, three satellite television news channels have emerged from the city, adding hundred more working journalists to the team of the sentinels. One can guess there are over 500 working



Different activities of Tripura Union of Working Journalists

The Tripura unit of National Union of Working Journalist-India soon after its formation on 11th September 2011 as Tripura Union of Working Journalist (TUWJ), took up the issue of payment of 8.33% puja bonus to the journalists and non journalists of different media units of the state to the state labour department. Labour minister's intervention was sought and a tripartite meeting was held at the civil secretariat to influence the newspaper owners to this effect. The TUWJ in fact forced the govt. to take a strong stand on this issue. Matter was raised to the law



dep't and also the owners of media houses. Eventually almost all the media houses paid puja bonus at 8.33 per cent rate to all its journalists and non journalists. That was the first successful move of the NUJ-I Tripura unit.

The TUWJ has recently took up to the Labour Minister the issue of implementing wage board awards in the state after issuing appointment letter to all the journalists and non journalist without further delay.

The TUWJ has written to the Minister of Information to give senior journalists of the state accreditation cards so that they can avail all state and union government facilities.

The TUWJ has decided to take up the issue of journalists wage board awards implementation to the Union Government so that necessary policy is framed to implement the wage board award implementation, a precondition for the release of advertisements from DAVP.