

# Editorial

Imphal, Tuesday, October 20, 2015

## Catch Them Campaign- a timely initiative

Amidst a teeming presence of social vigilantes and self-proclaimed protectors of the people of the state, incidences of vehicle thefts and snatching has been on the increase at an alarming rate. If the statistics mentioned in few reports proved true, then the problem has already become acute which calls for extraordinary measures. In 2014, there were reports of more than 750 vehicle thefts- more than two vehicles stolen daily on an average, the tiny city of Imphal being the main hunting ground. The continuing menace indicates a well-orchestrated machinery at work with a vast network and great reach and influence. While the state security forces have started acknowledging the situation and have evidently taken up steps to curb the crime, there is still a lot of work to be done to bring it under control and deter the auto-thieves. The present infrastructure and facilities being provided by the state government is not helping things much either, with its every initiative turning out to be an exercise in uncoordinated half-hearted measures. It is perplexing for anyone to try and fathom the reason as to the reluctance of state government to deploy force-multiplying measures such as closed circuit television cameras (CCTVs) in public places, the very sight of which will act as a major deterrent for the thieves, miscreants, vandals and every other enemies of the public. Safe and proper parking spaces are still a nascent concept that needs to be developed in the state.

Haphazard and makeshift arrangements along the sides of the road have been troubling the public no end, with no positive change to the present situation in sight. Such confusions and disorganized public parking system provides opportunities for the thieves. There also remains the very controversial and much criticized High Security Registration Plate (HSRP) which the state government has announced mandatory in the state, but in reality, a farce designed to make the public pay through their nose for a non-existent service with none of the security for the vehicles. The most dismal aspect of it all is the woeful track record of arrests and even lower rate of convictions. The most hi-tech gizmos or the most efficient system will count for nothing much unless the culprits are hunted down and are brought to book. They must be made to realize that it does not pay to steal or look for an easy way out in life. Exemplary penalties and punishments need to be meted out to these culprits without exceptions if there is to be any hope of curbing the menace. The Catch Them Campaign, an initiative taken up jointly by the Poknapham, People's Chronicle and Impact TV to raise awareness and force those entrusted with the resources and authority to address the worsening problem to shake off the lethargy and take proactive measures to curb it is a timely and much needed step in the right direction. Together, we can make a difference.

## 45 killed in Russian air strikes in Syria's Latakia: monitor

**AFP**  
**Beirut, Oct. 20:** At least 45 people have been killed in a wave of Russian air strikes in the north of the regime stronghold of Latakia province, a monitoring group said on Tuesday.  
"At least 45 people were killed in Russian air strikes on the Jabal al-Akrad region yesterday afternoon," said Rami Abdel Rahman, director of the British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.  
"Among them were civilians but we do not have a precise number," he added.  
He said a rebel commander and the families of rebel fighters were among the dead, adding that dozens of people were wounded and the toll was expected to rise because of the

number of those with serious wounds.  
Opposition forces including moderate and Islamist fighters have positions in the Jabal al-Akrad region, which is in the far north of coastal Latakia.  
The province is a regime stronghold and home to the ancestral village of President Bashar al-Assad.  
It has been a key target of Russian air strikes since Moscow began an air campaign in Syria on September 30.  
Russia says its strikes target the Islamic State group and other "terrorists", but rebels and their backers say Moscow has focused more on moderate and Islamist opposition forces than jihadists.

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# National & International

## Uber cab driver convicted of raping 25-year-old woman executive

**PTI**  
**New Delhi, Oct. 20:** An Uber cab driver was today held guilty by a Delhi court of raping and endangering life of a 25-year old woman executive in his taxi last year, and faces maximum punishment of life imprisonment. 32-year-old Shiv Kumar Yadav was convicted by Additional Sessions Judge Kaveri Baweja for all the offences he was charged with including endangering a woman's life while raping her, abducting with intent to compel her for marriage, criminally

intimidating and causing hurt under the IPC. "Shiv Kumar Yadav is convicted of all charges (framed against him). To come up for arguments on quantum of sentence on October 23," the judge said, pronouncing his verdict 11 months after the crime which had brought into focus the working of radio taxis. Yadav faces maximum punishment of life imprisonment for all the offences. The driver, who is in judicial custody, was present in the court room along with his wife, parents

and other family members. The court had on October 7 reserved its judgment in the case. According to the prosecution, the incident took place on the night of December 5 last year when the victim, a finance executive working in Gurgaon, was heading back to her house at Inderlok. The accused was arrested on December 7, 2014 from Mathura. The prosecution had produced 28 witnesses in the case. Yadav, however, had denied all the allegations levelled against him, terming them as "false".

## President Mukherjee greets nation on Durga Puja eve

**ANI**  
**New Delhi, Oct. 20:** President Pranab Mukherjee in his message on the eve of Durga Puja has said "On the joyous occasion of Durga Puja, I convey warm greetings and good wishes to all my fellow countrymen both in India and abroad."  
"Durga Puja represents the triumph of truth over untruth, good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance. May Goddess Durga guide us on to the path of justice, truth and wisdom. Let us pray to the Universal Mother to instill in us a spirit of brotherhood and love for all," said President Mukherjee.  
"May this festival strengthen the moral foundations of our society and turn us away from all that divides and destroys," President Mukherjee added.

## NHRC issues notice to sports ministry over ill-treatment to deaf, mute players

**ANI**  
**New Delhi, Oct. 20:** The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued a notice to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports over reports of ill-treatment meted out to deaf and mute players. The notice is based on a media report that said that passports of Indian players selected to participate in the Asia-Pacific Deaf Games were seized by authorities in Chinese Taipei due to non-payment of hotel bills.  
The NHRC has sought a report from the ministry within four weeks. It also said the incident, if true, indicates gross negligence on the part of the ministry and a clear violation of human rights of the disabled players.  
According to reports, the players also had a difficult time in Delhi when they allegedly spent a night on a footpath outside a gurdwara while waiting to get visas.

## 14 killed as bus falls into gorge in J&K

**PTI**  
**Jammu, Oct. 20:** Fourteen people were killed and 16 more injured when the bus they were travelling in fell into a deep gorge in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday morning. The overcrowded bus was on its way from Ghordi village to Ramnagar town when it skidded off the road at a spot about five kilometres from its destination. Police officials said 13 people succumbed to their injuries at a hospital in Ramnagar while one person died in the district hospital in Udhampur.



At least 10 people with serious injuries are being moved to the Government Medical College in Jammu, police said.  
"Rescue work is still going on and it is taking time as the accident has taken place in a remote area where there is lack of transportation," an official said.

Most of the people travelling in the bus were college students and government employees. The dead included eight men, five women and a child. Officials of the district administration said they feared the death toll could

rise. "Fourteen deaths have been reported so far but we fear more as some persons are still trapped and the rescue operation is still going on," deputy commissioner Shahid Iqbal Choudhary said.

## Pak develops nuclear weapons to combat possible war with India

**ANI**  
**Karachi, Oct. 20:** Pakistan Foreign Secretary Aizaz Chaudhry has said the country has made low-yield nuclear weapons to deal with India's cold start doctrine that Pakistan claims was developed by Indian military for use in a possible war with the neighbouring nation. It is the first time that a senior Pakistani official has given an

explanation of the country's decision to make tactical nuclear weapons, renaming it as the country's proactive strategy, the Dawn reported.  
Chaudhry also said that Pakistan would not sign any nuclear deal with the United States during Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's visit. Sharif will hold a meeting with U.S. President Barack Obama on

October 22. U.S. reports have said that the Obama administration is trying to persuade Pakistan to sign a nuclear deal, which will enable Islamabad to join the Nuclear Suppliers Group if it agrees to accept certain restrictions on its nuclear programme. Chaudhry said that Pakistan's nuclear programme was not for starting a war but for deterrence.

## Bangladesh criticises US for updated security alerts

**ANI**  
**Dhaka, Oct. 19:** The Bangladesh Government strongly criticized caution issued by the United States over security threats in the country and claimed that no

such situation prevails which require updated travel alerts. According to the Daily Star, top ministers strongly criticized the alert and assured that the overall situation in the country was "fully under control".  
Bangladesh Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, while addressing the media, said that stringent steps have been taken for the protection of foreign nationals in the country. There was no need for the US to update its travel for its

citizens as no such incident happened which threaten country's security, he added.  
Finance Minister AMA Muhiut condemned the update and said that the US policy in the last seven years has never been helpful for Bangladesh. The US embassy in Dhaka in its updated security message yesterday alerted the American citizens living in Bangladesh and stated that the terror threat against foreign nationals remains 'real and credible.'

## Three die after consuming spurious alcohol in UP

**PTI**  
**Kanpur, Oct. 20:** Three persons died allegedly after consuming spurious liquor in Ghatampur area, police said today.  
The deceased, identified as Dhanpal, Bijender and Gokul, were residents of Ghatampur village, they said. Dhanpal and Bijender were relatives, they added.  
The three men had gone to a feast organised after Panchayat polls here which ended on October 18. When they returned to their houses, they started vomiting. Superintendent of police (Rural), Surendra Tiwari said. Whether they consumed liquor at the feast or not or whether that liquor was poisonous or not, it will be clear only after postmortem reports, Tiwari said. Although, the locals and family members are claiming that the three persons died due to the consumption of alcohol. Dhanpal and Bijender died on their way to the hospital last night and Gokul died early today at a private hospital, police said. The bodies have been sent for postmortem, they added.

## Certificate lost

I lost my original certificate of passing Class XII Examination, 2007 conducted by the Council of Higher Secondary School, Imphal, bearing Roll No. 14201 on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015 while going to Thangal Bazar from Heirangoithong. Finders may please contact at the following address.  
Sd/-  
Moiringthem Deepak Singh  
Heirangoithong  
Ahongshangbam Leikai, Imphal

## Army personnel kills self

**PTI**  
**Jamshedpur, Oct. 20:** An Army personnel on duty at the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Seraikela-Kharswan district today shot himself dead, a senior police officer said.  
The deceased has been identified as Ramvilas Jarika, a resident of West Singhbhum district. He was apparently disturbed for the last few days. He shot himself with an Insas rifle,

district Superintendent of Police Indrajeet Mahatha said. Mahatha said that the senior officials of the district were busy in a meeting when Jarika committed suicide near the treasury office. The SP said that just before the incident, Jarika had asked his colleagues, who tried to persuade him not to take the extreme step, to stay at a distance, else he would shoot them.