

Editorial

Imphal Tuesday, April 18, 2017

Please be serious on road accident

The dead of a school going girl in road accident is a serious matter. Deaths of hundreds across the state in road accidents this month call for dealing with the issue on a war footing. The frequency of accidents in the state has become a cause of great concern. Traffic accidents are a significant cause of any disability, death and economic ruin for families in the state. If not every day he state witness people getting killed and maimed on our roads. It is a given fact that a number of people who go out of home for different reasons do so with the knowledge that some will never return because of traffic accidents. The main reasons for road accidents include poor vehicle condition, ignoring traffic rules and instruction marks on roads, signal breaking as well as speeding, use of mobile phone while driving, wrong overtaking, use of drug, wrong parking, overloading and bad road condition, etc. And above this insincerity of those government machineries in rendering their service.

It is unfortunate that 'the probe' order by the state government on the installation of CCTV and Electric Traffic signal has been extended for another month, when they could have completed within the given stipulated time. The number of traffic accidents can only be reduced if an attempt is made to understand their causes. First, there needs to be properly designed roads and even traffic signs. If either of these is not up to standard, it could be cause for a traffic accident. Of course, the primary reason for traffic accidents is fast and rash driving but that can be checked by vigilant policing. In addition to that, vehicles need to meet the necessary international fitness and road safety standards. Thought also needs to be given for protecting the infrastructure that one finds along roads, since it can be prone to accidents. Drivers should be punished on a system based on points where beyond a certain number of violations, they lose their licence to drive for a fixed period of time. As for the traffic police, they need to be trained better and should be efficient at not only managing the flow of traffic but also in fining those who break traffic laws. There is also a dire need for a system where there is prompt reporting of traffic accidents so that emergency services can reach in as short a time as possible.

Editor's choice: Pick from feedback

License to kill in Manipur

Merciless killing is frequent in Manipur. Those killers were never identified.

In case anybody is killed in cold blood, it is considered that he has been killed by so called patriots for this or that crime, no arrest has been made.

Even if he committed a crime, whether he had been judged by some eminent person who is entitled to give justice to an individual? Never.

Did anyone from the criminal's family called to defend his crime? Never.

No one is licensed to kill any other person. Under the law, the murderer must be punished.

Now, the time has come in Manipur to possess gun or any weapon to fight against these in human cannibals. Let us unite and fight and eliminate these dreadful creatures from our land as the law and order cannot be controlled by those corrupted security forces (POLICE).

Manipur is so much lacking behind other places in the South East Asia. Nobody bothers about

quality of construction of roads, they worry about percentage deduction. Who the hell in this state working for the people and the state? No one.

All go for profit. Why people are so selfish these days. All people like to have an RCC house, a car and enjoy life like some other people without any struggle. Everyone is corrupted. Anybody can be killed merciless for silly mistake or for the crime he committed due to circumstances. How many people have been killed by unidentified persons? How many of them have been punished for such crimes and who are those?

Manipur was called as the land of Gods by our ancestors. We, the people living here in this century, turn our Snailebak into the hell, a killing field and a land of corruption. Everybody is not bothering about such crimes. Only when this sort of crime is happened in each family then all will realise what is happening in this region.

-Mangangcha Heisnam

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National and International News

Trump to sign order that will make getting H1B visa harder for Indians

Reuters

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday will sign an executive order directing federal agencies to recommend changes to a temporary visa program used to bring foreign workers to the United States to fill high-skilled jobs.

Two senior Trump administration officials who briefed reporters at the White House said Trump will also use the "buy American and hire American" order to seek changes in government procurement practices to increase the purchase of American products in federal contracts.

Trump is to sign the order when he visits the world headquarters of Snap-On Inc, a tool manufacturer in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

The order is an attempt by Trump to carry out his "America First" campaign pledges to reform US immigration policies and encourage purchases of American products. As he nears the 100-day benchmark of his presidency, Trump has no major legislative achievements to tout but has used executive orders to seek regulatory

changes to help the US economy.

The order he will sign on Tuesday will call for "the strict enforcement of all laws governing entry into the United States of labor from abroad for the stated purpose of creating higher wages and higher employment rates for workers in the United States," one of the senior officials said.

It will call on the departments of Labor, Justice, Homeland Security and State to take action to crack down on what the official called "fraud and abuse" in the US immigration system to protect American workers.

The order will call on those four federal departments to propose reforms to ensure H-1B visas are awarded to the most skilled or highest paid applicant.

H-1B visas are intended for foreign nationals in "specialty" occupations that generally require higher education, which according to US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) includes, but is not limited to, scientists, engineers or computer programmers. The government uses a lottery to award

65,000 visas every year and randomly distributes another 20,000 to graduate student workers.

The number of applications for H-1B visas fell to 199,000 this year from 236,000 in 2016, according to US Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Companies say they use visas to recruit top talent. More than 15 per cent of Facebook Inc's US employees in 2016 used a temporary work visa, according to a Reuters analysis of US Labor Department filings.

But a majority of the visas are awarded to outsourcing firms, sparking criticism by skeptics who say those firms use visas to fill lower-level information technology jobs. Critics also say the lottery system benefits outsourcing firms that flood the system with mass applications.

The senior official said the end result of how the system currently works is that foreign workers are often brought in at less pay to replace American workers, "violating the principle of the

program."

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell, Democratic Senator Dick Durbin of Illinois, Republican Representative Darrell Issa of California and Democratic Representative Zoe Lofgren of California were not immediately available to comment.

Facebook, Microsoft Corp and Apple Inc were also not immediately available after normal business hours.

The order also asks federal agencies to look at how to get rid of loopholes in the government procurement process.

Specifically, the review will take into account whether waivers in free-trade agreements are leading to unfair trade by allowing foreign companies to undercut American companies in the global government procurement market.

"If it turns out America is a net loser because of those free-trade agreement waivers, which apply to almost 60 countries, these waivers may be promptly renegotiated or revoked," the second official said.

Congress seeks apology from Yogi Adityanath for 'anti-women' remarks

IANs

New Delhi: The Congress on Monday accused Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath of making 'disparaging, distasteful and dishonourable' remarks against country's women on his website and demanded an apology from him. The party also said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bharatiya Janata Party chief Amit Shah should ask Adityanath not to make such remarks in the future. Talking to reporters, Congress communications department incharge Randeep Singh Surjewala said that the mindset of the BJP was reflected in the latest article placed on the website of Adityanath in which Adityanath wrote that India's women always require protection. "He (Adityanath) further said that as energy cannot be left uncontrolled since it can be destructive, women also can never be left independent. This is shocking," he said. Citing the article, Surjewala said it states that women do not need independence but protection and channelisation. "He (Adityanath) does not end here. He also says a woman always need to be protected - be it by her father, by her husband or by her son - and goes on to say that a woman does not deserve independence or right

to decide for herself," he said. The Congress leader said the most shocking thing said by Adityanath was that if men get qualities of women then they turn divine but if women get qualities of men, then they become a "rakshas (demon)". "He says that if a woman become powerful, if a woman is brave, if a woman adopts shaurya then she becomes the devil," Surjewala said. Noting such remarks have never been made by any elected representative in the country's history, he said this was a "clear insult" not to women of India but of the entire population of the country. "It reflects BJP's anti-women mindset coming from none less than BJP's mascot Adityanath ji," Surjewala said, asking if BJP leaders had forgotten the tales of bravery associated with goddesses. Surjewala also said that there had been brave women freedom fighters including Indira Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi, Sushma Swaraj, Mayawati and Mamata Banerjee. "Yogi Adityanath should immediately apologise to women for his disparaging, distasteful and dishonourable remarks and forthwith withdraw this article from his website without any conditions," he said.

Australia abolishes visa programme popular with Indians

PTI

Melbourne, April 18: Australia today abolished a visa programme used by over 95,000 temporary foreign workers, majority of them Indians, to tackle the growing unemployment in the country. The programme known as 457 visa allows business to employ foreign workers for a period up to four years in skilled jobs where there is a shortage of Australian workers. "We are an immigration nation, but the fact remains: Australian workers must have priority for Australian jobs, so we are abolishing the 457 visa, the visa that brings temporary foreign workers into our country," said Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

The majority of the visa holders were from India followed by the UK and China.

"We will no longer allow 457 visa to be passports to jobs that could and

should go to Australians," he said. He said Australia will adopt a new 'Australians first' approach to skilled migration.

As of September 30, there were 95,757 workers in Australia on primary 457 visa programme, ABC reported.

The programme will be replaced by another visa programme, with new restrictions.

"It is important businesses still get access to the skills they need to grow and invest, so the 457 visa will be replaced by a new temporary visa, specifically designed to recruit the best and brightest in the national interest," Turnbull said.

Turnbull said the new programme will ensure that foreign workers are brought into Australia in order to fill critical skill gaps and not brought in because an employer finds it easier to recruit a foreign worker than go to the trouble of hiring an Australian.

Health Corner

Stop! Study shows salty snacks reduce thirst, increase hunger

Courtesy HT

Ever wondered, why you love those French fries with sprinkled salt and cannot keep your hands off?

In first of its kind, a study finds that salty food diminishes thirst and increases hunger, due to a higher need for energy.

The results, published in the journal of Clinical Investigation, showed something different: salt stayed in the urine, while water moved back into the kidney and body.

"It's not solely a waste product, as has been assumed," said one of the researcher Friedrich C Luft from Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine in Germany.

"Instead, it turns out to be a very important osmolyte — a compound that binds to water and helps transport it. Its function is to keep water in when our bodies get rid of salt. Nature has apparently found a way to conserve water that would otherwise be carried away into the urine by salt," Luft added.

The team carried out a simulated mission to Mars and an international group of scientists found exactly the opposite to be true, where Cosmonauts who ate more salt retained more water, weren't as

Excess salt in food is bad, we always knew, as it increases blood pressure. Now, a new study explains how — salty food reduces thirst and increases hunger, which can both be harmful.

thirsty, and needed more energy. They divided participants in two groups of 10 male volunteers sealed into a mock spaceship for two simulated flights to Mars and were examined for 105 days.

The second group was sent for over 205 days.

Both the groups had identical diets and later they were given three different levels of salt in their food.

The results confirmed that eating more salt led to a higher salt content in urine — no surprise there. Nor was there any surprise in a correlation between amounts of salt and overall quantity of urine.

The findings suggest that the increase was not due to more drinking — in fact, a salty diet caused the participants to drink less. Salt was triggering a mechanism to conserve water in the kidneys.

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