

an>

Title: Need to take steps to protect IT professionals in USA.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): The attacks on Indians in USA following the US President's immigration rhetoric are causing concern. Indian techie from Andhra Pradesh, Srinivas Kuchibhotla was shot dead and his friend, Alok Madassani seriously injured in Olathe, Kansas on 22nd February by an American shouting anti-immigrant slogans. Another Indian, Harnish Patel, a convenience store owner, who was killed as he was closing his shop at Lancaster, South Carolina. Again on 4th March, one more Indian was attacked, namely Deep Rai in Kent, Washington State. In spite of the Foreign Secretary's visit to the U S for discussing matters relating to H-1B visas; the US government has put clarity H-1B visas on hold. Top Indian officials tried to plead for viewing it as trade and service matter and not an immigration one. The US Government has drafted an executive order to overhaul the work-visa programmes and place restrictions on H-1 B visas. A separate bill has been introduced in the US Congress in this regard. I urge the government to take immediate steps to protect our IT companies and professionals by giving them full support and must take up the matter at the top most level so that the insecurity in the minds of Indian immigrants can be removed.