



Gujarat: Around 24 people died due to lightning strikes

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Chhagan Bhujbal demands stay on the Kunbi caste certificates issued to Marathas, scraps

Shinde committee formed over reservation



AV Team

Maharashtra cabinet minister Chhagan Bhujbal has demanded a stay on the Kunbi caste certificates issued to Marathas following their latest agitation for reservation and scrapping of the Justice (retired) Sandeep Shinde committee formed over the quota

Bhujbal also also said he was not against a separate reservation for Marathas, but was opposed to the "ongoing practice of obtaining Kunbi (caste) certificates by submitting fake or forged documents." The state government had set up the five-member panel headed by Justice Shinde to decide the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for giving

Kunbi certificates to members of the Maratha community who (or whose ancestors) were referred to as Kunbis in Nizam-era documents.

Kunbis (the community associated with agriculture) are grouped under the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category in Maharashtra. The state government on October 31 published an order asking

officials concerned to issue fresh Kunbi caste certificates to eligible Maratha community members, paving the way for them to avail reservation benefits under the OBC category. Bhujbal has said the existing reservation for the OBCs should not be curtailed while giving reservation to Marathas.

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Beggars are unconditional givers too

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

If we see and think from a broader perspective, we all—privileged and underprivileged—are beggars in our own way. Politicians beg for votes; we beg God for riches, well-being, and whatnot. People visit spiritual leaders to beg for solace and prosperity; beggars on the street beg for their basic needs. Remember, as you think, that God can fulfill your entire wish if you demand it. Similarly, beggars on the street see you as God because they know that when they ask, you have the capacity to give them something. Most of the time, we disregard our abilities and compassion by insulting and humiliating those who seek assistance. Mumbai has a history of having the richest beggars; they might have what you never thought of, but still they beg because they chose to do so. Mumbai appears to be the dream city for beggars, because here they somehow manage to meet their basic needs.

The majority of beggars in India are leading a pathetic life. Many are suffering from various diseases. Their outward appearance itself creates nausea in one's mind. Their tattered clothes, emaciated bodies, and unclean body frames, followed by equally unclean mangy dogs, are an eyesore. There was one beggar at Krishna Nagar, Borivali. He was my morning walk partner. He used to stay alone on the footpath of a bungalow. Later on, the landlords asked him to evict the pavement and shift to another side. The area was not fully developed, so he could hardly ask for some help. One day, I saw him sitting on the other side of the pavement. It was raining badly, and the man was so fragile that he could hardly call us. He just raised his hand to ask for assistance.

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Editoritis

Beggars are unconditional givers too

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By now I could understand him completely. During COVID, many NGOs in Mumbai made special efforts to reach beggars on the street. Mumbai might be a concrete jungle, but it has a lot of humanity and love for deprived people.

Let me cut the story short. In those days, the old beggar met me as I walked past that night; he was trying to say something by showing his bag.

Beggars Rehabilitation Centers should be established in all states where beggars can be assigned a task and given food, shelter, and income-generating skills so that, once released, they can easily make a living in the outside world.

I had both an umbrella and a raincoat, so I gave him an umbrella. He wanted something else, but I failed to understand his sign language. I returned home, but while going to the office, I saw someone give him food, but he did not eat it. The footpath was full of water, and he somehow adjusted himself in the corner with that umbrella. The very next day, I approached some BMC staff and asked them to help this old man. But they were not ready to encourage beggars by providing them a safe place to stay. I called my home help; she brought meters of poly sheets and created a small tent out of it. That tent became the home of that old man until his death.

From that day on, he became my street buddy. Every morning I used to give him some money for food and tea; gradually, people in the locality also started giving him food, water, and leftovers. Monsoon season approaches; every year, my organization distributes blankets to the people on the street. That year, I got two blankets for this old man too. His happiness knew no bounds. Looking at his happy face, I felt scared. In sign language, we conversed for ten minutes. Can you imagine him looking like the king of his small tent with new clothes and blankets? Some people gave him some bed sheets and a mattress too. His asset was a dirty bag that he always used to keep under his head.

By now I could understand him completely. During COVID, many NGOs in Mumbai made special efforts to reach beggars on the street. Mumbai might be a concrete jungle, but it has a lot of humanity and love for deprived people. Each one of them does something or other in their capacities. But an old beggar in a remote corner gets neglected. During those days, there was one young boy who started his catering start-up. I gave him his first job, providing two full meals to such beggars who were not part of the mainstream street population. Throughout his time in COVID, he served these people wholeheartedly. His start-up needed funds, but getting a bank loan was not possible for him, and meanwhile COVID had also financially broken everyone, so no one was ready to give him financial assistance. Still, he continued doing his job.

Let me cut the story short. In those days, the old beggar met me as I walked past that night; he was trying to say something by showing his bag. I was very busy with my own priorities; I just ignored him and, as usual, asked for his well-being before moving ahead. Next morning I came to know that he had passed away. I rushed to his hut; his body was taken away by BMC personnel. His stuff was also taken

into custody; to our surprise, when that bag was opened, there was a big amount in it. Well, the cops did charity work for other beggars with that money and made sure the small streetside eatery of that caterer got some funds for its makeover. Well, this was one of the rarest of the rare stories to tell, but we need government policies to make our country beggar-free.

In the whole of India, one may find a dozen rich beggars. Rich people may possess lakhs of rupees. Some may lend money to small traders at a reasonable monthly rate of interest. Even if they possess so much money, they cannot lead a decent life by buying or renting a house in a decent locality because the whole town would know them as beggars, and there is a fear of losing their clients. Despite having so much money, they are unable to abandon their begging profession because it pays well.

Most of the beggars are working for a gang that collects money from them every evening; worse still, they dress them to look like beggars. These normal people, fully capable of doing manual labor, are dressed and, yes, touched up to look poor. In this case, charity does not help; there are a number of children who are stolen from hospitals, homes, and streets. Worse, their poor parents sell them to these gangs to be used as beggars. Their limbs are operated upon, and they are made physically handicapped so that they can get alms. It is an endless chain, which is a vitiating circle; you give more money, the gangs want more, and they steal more children to create more beggars for society.

In order to improve their condition, successive governments have to formulate schemes in their favor. Beggars Rehabilitation Centers should be established in all states where beggars can be assigned a task and given food, shelter, and income-generating skills so that, once released, they can easily make a living in the outside world. However, the majority of those released continue to engage in the same illegal activity, are apprehended by Rehabilitation Center employees, and are returned to the center to repeat the process.



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Ray of hopes and aspirations when sun rays paint a picture at home



- C.K. Subramaniam

The visible spectrum consists of white light which is a combination of seven main colours called 'VIBGYOR' which stands for the colours Violet, Indigo, Blue, Green, Yellow, Orange and Red. These Colours, depending on the colour and intensity have deep psychological effects on a person's moods and hence have to be used sensibly for creating a good, positive environment. The effect of colours has been explained under Vastu Colours of a House.

In climatology, heat and light are intrinsically linked. Blind belief in looks and sometimes in light has led people to have big windows, resulting in heated-up interiors. Incidentally, one major shift in Indian buildings has been from small wooden windows to large sheet glass windows, without considering why small openings were provided for centuries, nearly all over India. During Covid19 time, we look for more fresh air and sufficient sunlight, which will one way provide much needed relief to break the pandemic barrier.

In the northern hemisphere, the sun is always to our south. That means that whichever wall is facing south will receive the most sunlight. To maximize the sun use, place the longest side of your house facing south. Typically, a south-facing home gets sun for most of the day, especially at the front of the house, and is therefore usually brighter and warmer.

In urban contexts, it may be easier to employ skylights with adequate hot air vents. However, among the best ways to get light without heat is the idea of an internal courtyard with minimal openings to outside – no glare, equal distribution of light and cross ventilation, all together. No wonder, our forefathers realised this and lived in courtyard houses. We need to modernise this concept for application today.

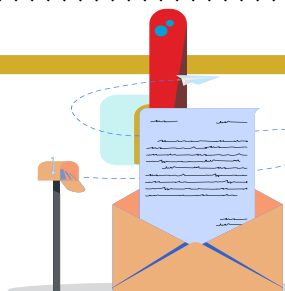
Verandahs, vegetation, designed roof overhangs and such others are necessary. Among the problem fronts is the western facade, which receives solar energy during afternoon hours, heats

up, conducts it inside and makes the indoor warm during the evening and night, just when we need to use them most. There are many ideas like tilting the building to best orientation, using materials with thermal mass or designing the type of opening which help in mitigating heat due to solar radiation.

On an average, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., there is maximum heat gain through roof conduction and oblique light penetration through the windows. During other times, light and heat enter through wall openings more directly. Appropriate shading of openings using khas khas, staggered walls, fins, roof overhangs and such others need to be employed. On a daily calculation, maximum heat gain comes from the roof; hence it should be properly designed and treated.

The invisible spectrum flanks the visible spectrum on either side and consists of the Ultra Violet (Chemical) Spectrum and the Infra-Red (Thermal Heat) Spectrum. The Ultra-Violet (UV) rays have a shorter wavelength than the visible light rays and are invisible. They kill bacteria and aid in the synthesis of Vitamin D in our bodies. The InfraRed rays have a longer wavelength than the visible light rays and are also invisible. They are the cause for the heat of the sunlight. Vastu Shastra has a scientific basis. It is therefore worthwhile to understand the importance of these Vastu factors, their positive and negative effects on Man and how the positive effects can be used to advantage in the design of his dwelling.

North- or north-east facing properties are considered the most desirable because they get the most direct sunlight through the day, especially in winter when the sun is at its lowest. In an urban area where sunlight is at a premium, this can make a world of difference. One of the most important energy efficiency factors in any home is its orientation. Believe it or not, how a house is oriented in relation to the sun can have a dramatic impact on heating and cooling – the largest energy contributor in most homes.



Letters to the Editor

Stampede tragedy

In a heart wrenching incident four youngsters died and many others got injured in a stampede that occurred at the CUSAT university auditorium in Kochi where a music concert was to be held in connection with the annual tech fest conducted by the university.

Whenever a stampede occurs a list of questions arise regarding the precautionary measures taken by the organisers, crowd management tactics arranged and the various tactics readied if such untoward incident occurs. Sad that these are not seriously taken before conducting the events where heavy crowds normally emerge. Be it music and dance shows, festivals and processions at worshipping sites, fairs and miscellaneous functions, the organisers and the programme conductors should definitely sketch a 'risk avoid' plan in case such mishaps happen.

Stampedes in the past too have

claimed so many lives in India and abroad. Most often it is due to human follies and flaws, in organising programmes and events that pull heavy crowds, that end up in heavy fatalities.

Meticulous crowd management schemes, smart and alert security and quick response action to be taken in case such incidents can avoid stampedes. It is high time measures on how to deal when caught in crowd situations be taught at the school level itself.

M Pradyu

Winning or losing is a part of a game!

After defeating India in world cup against Australia, Indian political leaders started to criticise each other, above all Assam CM Dr Sarma ji attacked Mr Rahul Gandhi said the reason of defeating is anniversary of Indira Gandhi who was the former PM of India from Congress

"That day India vs Australia World Cup match happened. We were winning

every game. Lost the final. Then I came and saw. What was that day? Why did we lose? We are Hindus and I go according to the day, etc. Then I saw the World Cup final was played on such a day which was also Indira Gandhi's birth anniversary," he said.

Sarma alleged that the opposition parties are "in cahoots" with those opposed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said he would like to tell the BCCI that it should ensure in the future that a final match is not organized on a day that coincides with the birthday of a Nehru-Gandhi family member.

The remarks came amid a political row that broke out on Tuesday with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi saying "PM means Panauti Modi", insinuating that Prime Minister Narendra Modi brings bad luck, with the BJP denouncing his comment as "shameful and disgraceful" and demanding an apology. PM Modi attended the World Cup final in Ahmedabad.

"Panauti... Panauti... Panauti... our

boys were well on their way to winning the world cup but Panauti made them lose... the people of this country know," Gandhi had said.

BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad criticized the Congress leader and questioned the usage of such a word for the Prime Minister of India and asked the Wayanad MP to apologize.

"What happened to you, Rahul Gandhi? You are using such words for the Prime Minister of the country. Our Prime Minister met the players and motivated them. Winning or losing is part of the game. Rahul Gandhi needs to apologize," said Prasad. After all winning and defeating is a part of a game. Human morality doesn't require any comments like this.

Md Mofidul Islam

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com

No postal letters will be entertained

(The views expressed are authors' own)

Police arrested two men for posing as IPS officers and duping a man of Rs 35.25 lakh for giving a job



The Mumbai police have arrested two men who allegedly posed as IPS officers and duped an employee of a nationalised bank and his friend of Rs 35.25 lakh by promising to provide a favourable posting, an official said on Monday. The crime branch's property cell on Sunday arrested the accused

Ganesh Shivaji Chavan (33) and Manoj Kupinder Pawar (43) from suburban Chembur and Vashi in Navi Mumbai respectively, the official said.

According to the police, the complainant met the accused through a friend. The duo posed as IPS officers and claimed they had contacts in the Central gov-

ernment departments. The accused demanded Rs 1 crore from the complainant and his friend for providing a favourable posting with the bank and accepted Rs 35.25 lakh through cash and bank transactions over the last four years, the official said.

The accused also provided a fake appointment letter, which they claimed was issued by the Union finance minister, he said, adding that when the complainant started demanding the money back, the duo threatened him. The police suspect that the accused may have similarly duped other people and are probing their antecedents, the official said. **PTI**

CM Eknath Shinde says, "Many industrialists are eager to set up plants in Gadchiroli" over new steel plant set up

Many industrialists are eager to set up plants in Gadchiroli, a place which once evoked fear due to the menace of Left Wing Extremism, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said on Monday. Speaking at the 'muhurat' of a film on his mentor Anand Dighe, the CM said one industrial house has set up a skill development centre in Gadchiroli and it will train around 5,000 people to create job opportunities.

Some 10,000 people are employed in the Surajgad mines project and his government has got a request for the setting up of a steel plant that will give jobs to at least 20,000 persons. "At least 10 to 12 industrialists are eager to set up plants in Gadchiroli. These



plans are in the pipeline," Shinde said. Referring to the Mumbai-Nagpur Samruddhi Expressway, which is operational between Vidarbha's largest city and Nashik, the CM said all efforts were being taken to make the route accident free. So far, more than 50 lakh vehicles have used the route, he added. **PTI**

30-year-old driver killed and another injured at attack incident in Navi Mumbai

A 30-year-old ambulance driver was killed and another was injured in an attack by unidentified persons in Navi Mumbai, police said on Monday. The attack occurred in the Nerul area around 8.15 pm on Sunday when four unidentified persons waylaid the ambulance near the gate of D Y Patil Hospital, an official said. Ambulance drivers Yuvraj Amrendra Singh and Dyaneshwar Nakade (28) were in the vehicle at the time of the incident, he said.

One of the accused pulled Singh out from the ambulance

and attacked him with a bamboo stick, while the other accused vandalised the vehicle, the official said. Nakade, who was injured, managed to escape by driving the ambulance past the hospital gate and informed the owner, he said. Singh was later found stabbed in the neck and was rushed to the hospital where doctors declared him dead, the official said. An offence under section 302 (murder) and other relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code and Mumbai Police Act has been registered and a hunt has been launched for the accused, he added. **PTI**

Mumbai: Crime branch arrest two including woman in child trafficking case, ten arrested so far

The Mumbai Crime Branch arrested two people on Monday involved in a child trafficking case, the crime branch said. The crime branch has arrested 10 people so far in the case, including these two people. Daya Nayak of the Crime Branch Mumbai said, "The Crime Branch has arrested a woman from Kherdi in the Chiplun district of Maha-

rashtra and a man from Virar in Palghar district on Monday in a child trafficking case."

The crime branch further said that they took them into custody and interrogated them, however, they have not been arrested yet. Those who were arrested by the Crime Branch were involved in the buying and selling of the child, the Crime Branch said. **ANI**

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Minister Chhagan Bhujbal demands stay on the Kunbi caste . . .

Speaking to reporters on Monday, Bhujbal, a prominent OBC leader, said Chief Minister Eknath Shinde had set up the committee to find out Kunbi lineage from the Nizam regime in the pre-independence period. "I have no issues with this process. I am opposed to people from other regions of the state who are making fake claims to obtain Kunbi certificates so that they can enjoy the existing benefits of reservation in education and government jobs," he said. "The Shinde committee found sufficient number of proofs in the Marathwada region. Eligible people from Marathwada should get the certificates. Its work is done, now it should be discontinued," said the minister.

Bhujbal made the similar demand on Sunday at a rally of OBC communities in Hingoli district. He also appealed to the communities to unite and fight for their rights. He said the Marathas will be given Kunbi caste certificates across the state, which means there will be no Maratha community left in the state. "There should be a stay on the Kunbi caste certificates which

have been issued in the past two months," he said at the rally.

Bhujbal said the number of records pertaining to Kunbi caste has been found to be on a rise. "The Shinde committee formed by the government should now be dissolved. The caste-wise backwardness should be checked through a survey of all communities along with the Maratha community and then the facilities should be given," he said.

A comparative study should be done of all communities, he added. "I don't oppose giving reservation to Marathas but they should be given reservation separately," the minister said. "Our (OBC) leader Prakash Shendge has shown some 7-8 documents to the chief minister where old certificates were tampered with a pen. Such fake claims should not be entertained and Kunbi certificates should not be given to people on the basis of such forged documents," he said.

One can draw a conclusion from such examples that how serious and rampant such practice would have been on the ground, Bhujbal said. Asked about he being portrayed as a strong op-

ponent of the Maratha quota demand, Bhujbal said the Supreme Court has already stated that Marathas cannot be categorised as OBC. "The Maratha community can avail a separate reservation. I am not opposed to it. My opposition is against the ongoing practice of obtaining Kunbi certificates by submitting fake or forged documents," the minister said.

"When the first list of OBCs came out after the Mandal Commission's report was accepted by the Union government, some 200 backward communities were identified. Later more communities were identified as OBCs and the number increased to more than 350. I never opposed such a change," he said.

On quota activist Manoj Jarange's recent remark that Marathas had to work under undeserving people, Bhujbal said, "But these were the people who worked with Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Many saints were also from the (OBC) community and now the new leader (Jarange) says that we are undeserving." Bhujbal said candidates from the OBC category were

Nation

Delhi: Police held sharpshooters of international terrorist Arshdeep Singh, alias Arsh Dala were plotting assassinate singer Elly Mangat

Delhi police apprehended two sharpshooters of international terrorist and gangster Arshdeep Singh, alias Arsh Dala, said police. According to the Police the gangsters were plotting to assassinate singer Elly Mangat. The police officials said that secret information was received regarding the two sharpshooters, following which the police, acting on the received input, arrested the accused individuals after a brief exchange of fire between the police and the accused.

During the exchange of fire, five rounds were fired by the accused persons, of which two rounds hit the bulletproof jacket of a policeman, said police officials, adding that in retaliation, the police team fired six rounds



at the accused. "The two shooters were given the task of assassinating a singer, Elly Mangat, by Arshdeep. They attempted the assassination in October 2023 in Bathinda but failed as the target was not found at home," said Delhi Special Commissioner of Police, HGS Dhaliwal. The ap-

prehended sharpshooters have been identified as Rajpreet Singh (25), alias Raja, who is a resident of Gill village in Firozpur district and Virender Singh (22), alias Vimmy, who is a resident of Mod Kalan village in Bathinda district.

During the exchange of fire, one of the accused, Viren-

der Singh, sustained a gunshot wound to his right leg. After the incident, both the accused persons were sent to Lal Bahadur Shastri (LBS) Hospital for treatment and were later arrested in the case. According to the information received from the police, one revolver (45 mm)

with six live cartridges and another (.30 mm) pistol with seven live cartridges, along with a hand grenade and a stolen bike, have been recovered from the possession of the accused persons.

Accordingly, a case has been registered into the matter under Sections 186, 353, 307 and 34 of the IPC, Sections 4 and 5 of the Explosive Substances Act, and Sections 25 and 27 of the Arms Act at the Police Station Special Cell (NDR). Further, on the basis of the disclosure of both the accused persons, a raid was conducted at Dairy Skaner in UP's Gautam Budh Nagar district and another associate, identified as Sachin Bhati, suspected of having a huge cache of arms, was apprehended. ANI

Gujarat: Around 24 people died due to lightning strikes



At least 24 people have died so far in rainfall "unseasonal rainfall that hit several parts of Gujarat over the weekend, which has also claimed the lives of 71 animals, an official from the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) said on Monday.

According to information, one person died in each of the districts of Ahmedabad, Amreli, Anand, Kheda, Devbhoomi Dwarka, Panchmahal, Patan, Botad, Mehsana, Sabarkantha,

Surat and Surendranagar. In Tapi district two people lost their lives due to a lightning strike.

Three people each were killed due to lightning strikes in the districts of Banaskantha and Bharuch and four persons died in Dahod district, the official said. As per information received, a total of 24 people have lost their lives due to the lightning strikes, while 23 people sustained injuries.

On Sunday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah expressed his grief over the loss of lives in

Gujarat. "I am deeply saddened by the news of the deaths of many people due to bad weather and lightning in various cities in Gujarat. I express my deepest condolences to those who lost their loved ones in this tragedy for their irreparable loss. The local administration is engaged in relief work, praying for the speedy recovery of the injured," read a post by Amit Shah on the microblogging site X.

Gujarat has been witnessing rainfall "unseasonal rainfall in many parts of the state since Sunday morning. Hailstones also fell in many places, accompanied by sporadic downpours. According to the State Emergency Operation Centre, Gandhinagar and Gir Somnath experienced 38 mm of rainfall from 6 am to 8 am on Sunday morning; Junagadh witnessed 35 mm of rainfall; Amreli witnessed 13 mm of rainfall; and Rajkot (6mm) on Sunday morning. The weather department had predicted rain three days in advance. Rain started with strong winds in many areas of South Gujarat, Saurashtra and North Gujarat. ANI

Uttarakhand tunnel incident: Expert Chris Cooper says, "All the debris of the auger machine removed, manual drilling to be started"

As operations to rescue the 41 trapped workers at the Silkyara Tunnel collapse site entered day 16, there was some positive news with Micro tunnelling expert Chris Cooper saying that all the debris of the auger machine has been removed and manual drilling to reach the trapped labourers will start in a few hours. "All the debris (of the Auger machine) removed. (Manual drilling) will probably start after 3 hours," Chris Cooper told ANI today.

Earlier today, the auger ma-

chine being used for horizontal drilling of the tunnel that got stuck inside the pipe was cut and removed using a plasma cutter. "We have 9 meters of hand tunnelling to do. It really depends on how the ground behaves. Could be quickly, could be a bit longer. If we hit some lattice girder. Then we've got to cut out the lattice girder, but we're confident we can get through. The Army is just supervising (the operation). 30 metres of (vertical drilling) has been done", he added. ANI

Naxalites set on fire 14 vehicles, machines engaged in construction work in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada

Suspected Naxals on Monday set on fire at least 14 vehicles and machines engaged in construction works in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district, police said.

The incident took place at around 1.30 am at Bangali camp under Bhansi police station limits, Additional Superintendent of Police, Dantewada, RK Burman said. "Four Hyvas, four pickups, one earth moving machine (JCB), one crane, 1 sifter truck, two water tankers, and one mixer vehicle

were torched by the Naxals," the police official said. "There were almost 25-30 naxals, most of them dressed as villagers. After setting the vehicles on fire all of them fled. Soon After receiving the information, the police force reached the spot and doused the fire " the Additional SP Burman said. He further said that no person was reported to be injured in the incident. "Police search continues in the area," the police official said. Further details are awaited. ANI

World

US: Amid ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, 3 Palestinian college students were shot, leaves them injured



Three Palestinian college students were shot in Burlington City, Vermont, US on Saturday evening, as reported by CNN. According to information, the students were walking on Prospect Street after visiting a relative in Burlington for the Thanksgiving holiday when "they were confronted by a white man with a handgun."

The victims, two of whom are US citizens and one a legal resident, were taken to the University of Vermont Medical

Center for medical care, according to a statement issued by the police on Sunday, as reported by CNN. "Two are stable, while one has sustained much more serious injuries," the police said in its release. "Without speaking, he discharged at least four rounds from the pistol and is believed to have fled on foot," police said. Notably, two of the students were wearing keffiyehs, traditional Palestinian scarves, they added. According to CNN, two students sustained injuries to the torso,

while the third suffered injuries to the "lower extremities."

Authorities said that "there is no additional information to suggest the suspect's motive." Moreover, detectives recovered ballistic evidence from the shooting, which will be submitted to a federal database, according to Burlington police. Reportedly, the FBI on Sunday said that it was "prepared to investigate" the incident.

According to CNN, the shooter or shooters have not been identified or apprehended yet and the police department is "at the earliest stages of investigating this crime." In a joint statement, the victims' families urged law enforcement to investigate the attack as a hate crime. "We will not be comfortable until the shooter is brought to justice," they said. "No family should ever have to endure this pain and agony. Our children are dedicated students who deserve to be able to focus on their studies and building their futures," they added. ANI

UK: PM Rishi Sunak announces world's leading investors have committed GBP 29.5 billion in new projects and capital as a "huge vote of confidence"



British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Monday announced that the world's leading investors have committed GBP 29.5 billion in new projects and capital as a "huge vote of confidence" in the UK economy. The British Indian leader, who welcomed CEOs of some of the world's leading businesses for a Global Investment Summit at Hampton Court Palace in London,

said that thousands of jobs will be created across the country, including tech, life sciences, renewables, housing and infrastructure. Blackstone, Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan Chase, Barclays, HSBC and Lloyds Bank are among those represented at the "British Ideas – Past, Present and Future" entitled summit, to be followed by a reception at Buckingham Palace hosted by King Charles III. PTI

Malaysia: PM announces 30-day free visa entry for visitors from India

Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim on Sunday announced that visitors from India and China will be granted 30-day visa-free entry into Malaysia from December 1, Malaysia-based Malay Mail reported. He said that the visa exemption is still subject to security screenings for past records of crime or violence. In his address at the 2023 People's Justice Party (PKR) National Congress, Anwar Ibrahim said, "Starting from December 1, we will give additional facilities of 30 days of visa exemption to the Arab countries, Turkey, Jordan, and citizens of China and India to come to Malaysia," Malay Mail reported.

He later clarified that Middle Eastern nations - Turkey and Jordan already enjoy the 30-day visa-free entry and added that

Afghanistan: Women journalists survey claimed, "unemployment is one of their biggest challenges"

The Afghanistan Women Journalist Association (AWJA) has conducted a survey about the situation of women journalists in Afghanistan within the past two years, wherein a majority of them said that "unemployment is one of their biggest challenges", as reported by TOLO News. Meena Habib, the head of AWJA said, "45 per cent of the participants said that unemployment is the biggest challenge ahead of women journalists."

"Five per cent of the participants are talking about the poverty of women journalists, while 10 per cent of the participants said lack of access to information is the biggest challenge for women journalists," she said. Moreover, some of the media-supporting organisations called on the Taliban to provide women journalists with all-out support, according to TOLO News. "We call on the Is-

lamic Emirate to help women as much as it can in the fields of education, work and facilities," Taj Mohammad Ahmadzada, one of the members of the AWJA, said.

The women journalists in Afghanistan also expressed their concerns about facing an uncertain future and emphasised that they are struggling with the working environment. "In many conferences, wherever women are invited, we go there but we face double standards. The security forces do not allow women to enter the conference," Hajar Jafari, a journalist, said. "Females are facing many challenges compared to males. Women cannot get access to proper information in press conferences," said Marriam Madadi, another journalist. Under the Taliban regime, at least 52 per cent of visual media outlets have ceased operations in Afghanistan over the past two years, Khaama Press reported. ANI



it was now extended to people from India and China. He noted that tourism within the ASEAN region was mostly from neighbouring nations like Singapore and Indonesia, according to Malay Mail report.

Malaysia's decision comes after a similar visa exemption announced by Sri Lanka and Thailand. Earlier in October, Sri Lanka's Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Sabry said that Sri Lanka will allow visa-free entry to visitors

from seven countries, including India, China and Russia, under a pilot project. Ali Sabry noted that the Sri Lankan cabinet had approved the decision. He said that the pilot project has begun with immediate effect and will continue until March 31, 2024. Taking to X, Ali Sabry stated, "Cabinet approves issuing of free visas to India, China, Russia, Malaysia, Japan, Indonesia & Thailand with immediate effect as a pilot project till 31 March." ANI

Expression

Why is the Music of Life Getting Lost?



Lalit Garg

Columnist

Life has no significance, unless the person living it chooses meaning for it. The value of human life increases only when you understand life, and you have a positive attitude towards life. Clearwater also said that every moment in your life you are re-born. Every moment can be a new beginning. This is a choice – your own choice. World history is full of many such examples. We just need to open the door of understanding. If you learn to live wisely, you can feel freshness, stress-free and happiness in every aspect of life. The stream of positivity towards life will automatically start flowing. The river of happiness will start flowing. Every moment of life will give a new perspective. You should recognize the secret of living life and by being sincerely self-helpful, fill every breath with a sense of meaning. Fill every particle with courage and by working patiently, fulfil every unfulfilled dream of yours.

Olga Ilyin has given a new turn to life by giving the gift of happiness. He has said that when you say to life very humbly and firmly, 'I believe in you, do only what you feel is right.' Life answers you in a supernatural way. Those who live a meaningful and useful life have always made their present joyful. Those who make good use of power have made the present strong, and the future brilliant. But the sad thing is that the one who misuses power and time can neither live happily in the present, nor can make his future bright.

A very valuable formula for success in life is – Ram in the mouth, work in the hand. Such a person will never let any bad thing come to his mind and will never leave his hands idle. Someone has rightly said – an empty mind is the devil's workshop. The principle of karma is very simple. Whatever you do, you will get the same result. Its calculation is done in this birth itself. A person who does good work always remains light and blooming like a flower. We also



believe that when a man unties the knots of attachment and hatred, and does not allow new knots to be tied, then he gets a chance to meet heaven on this earth itself. But doing so is not that simple. For this, it is necessary to make life fragrant with the fragrance of virtues. Whenever I go to a garden and the fragrance of flowers reaches me, I feel thrilled. I wonder, what is the relation of this fragrance with flowers? The answer is that it is the same relationship that qualities have with humans. Just as fragrance is the dignity of flowers, similarly virtue is the dignity of man. It is only because of his qualities that a man gets respect.

Virtue is related to the human being, since the time he stepped out of the era of barbarism and into the era of civilization. This relationship has become increasingly stronger and has now reached a stage when a person is identified only by his qualities. It can be said that a person who does not have qualities does not deserve to be called a human being. It is because of his qualities that a man is respected everywhere. Our ancient literature is full of such examples. History is witness to the fact that even kings used to bow their heads at the feet of saints seated on the throne of humanity and they used to receive the saint's guidance. Its examples

are found even in the present era. Gandhi, Vinoba, Acharya Tulsi, Acharya Mahapragya and many religious men are living examples of this kind. Such noble people are those who give utmost importance to values in life.

These qualities become worth worshipping, when there is coordination between thoughts and conduct in a person's life. For this, one has to practice hard. In fact, following a path mechanically is not spiritual practice. The people who blindly run after money, power and enjoyment are not less, their race cannot be called spiritual practice. Sadhana is always done for the achievement of higher ideals. Mahavir had done sadhana, Buddha had done sadhana. He gave up the attachment to the kingdom, abandoned his family and rejected all the glory, and tried to achieve the ultimate goal, after achieving which nothing else remains to be achieved. In the modern era, Swami Vivekananda, Acharya Tulsi did the same, who became non-entity willingly, and continued to walk on the path of spiritual practice with unwavering devotion and strength till the last moment of his life. Even today, remembering these spiritual pioneers, one bows one's head with reverence. Through his life he showed how values are established and how one's life is

shaped.

There is a mantra of Indian philosophy of life – 'Simple life, high thoughts'. It sounds very simple, but its practice is very difficult. Most of the evils in life happen due to disregard of this mantra. Simplicity and honesty go hand-in-hand. One who has the quality of simplicity can never be an evil person and such a person remains away from worldly attachments. Indian culture is a mother lode of qualities. Here, we have always emphasized that man should remain pure in every way. Live a balanced life. Brighten up your life with penance and sadhana. Lord Mahavira has even said that through hard meditation the soul can become God. Virtuous people embrace the essence and leave the shadow. Only one who has no difference between his words and actions becomes worthy of respect in the society. Hence the Arsh Vachan is – 'Gunaah Sarvatra Pujyante'. Guna is worshiped everywhere. In today's era, special attention is needed towards this statement. Today human values have declined and material values have become prevalent everywhere. This is the only reason why humans, society and nation have been affected by various types of deformities. Man's favourite soulful music is breaking. He is cut off from himself, his own people and nature. He is losing his personal

Entertainment

Kim Kardashian-starrer 'The Fifth Wheel' is all set for its release



Netflix has bagged the rights to stream Kim Kardashian-starrer "The Fifth Wheel" after a bidding war. According to Deadline, "The Fifth Wheel" is co-written by "Saturday Night Live" writer Paula Pell and Janine Brito and at least five companies were circling the comedy in the bidding war. Kardashian, Pell and Brito finally signed with Netflix. The story is under wraps but Kardashian stars alongside a female ensemble cast. **PTI**

51st International Emmy Awards: Ektaa Kapoor returns to India with the award



After making India proud at the 51st International Emmy Awards in New York, filmmaker Ektaa Kapoor returns to Mumbai with her prestigious trophy. In the videos captured by Mumbai-based paps, Ektaa can be seen smiling and posing for shutterbugs. She also proudly flaunted her award.

The proud feeling can clearly be seen in the 'Dream Girl 2' producer's big smile. Ektaa Kapoor was conferred with the Directorate Award at the 51st International Emmy Awards. Taking to Instagram, Ektaa shared a video of the prestigious award, which she captioned, "India I'm bringing home YOUR Emmy @iemmys." **ANI**

Star Willem Dafoe reveals the character played by him in 'Beetlejuice 2'



Hollywood star Willem Dafoe has revealed that he plays a police officer in the afterlife in Tim Burton's much-hyped sequel to the 80s classic Beetlejuice. The film will see Michael Keaton reprise his titular character. Winona Ryder and Catherine O'Hara are also returning in the movie. In an interview with Variety, Dafoe said he plays as an undead action star turned detective. "I haven't seen any footage yet, but it was fun to do," Dafoe said. "I play a police officer in the afterlife, so I'm a dead person. And in life I was a B-movie action star, but I had an accident and that's what sent me to the other side. Dafoe said because of his character's skill set, he becomes a detective in the afterlife but that new role is "colored by the fact of who I was (when I was alive): a B movie action star. The original Beetlejuice featured Alec Baldwin and Geena Davis as recently deceased newlyweds whose spirits remain stuck in their country residence. When a new insufferable couple (O'Hara, Jeffrey Jones) and their morose teenage daughter (Ryder) move into the house, self-proclaimed bio-exorcist Beetlejuice is summoned to help scare them away. Jenna Ortega and Justin Theroux also star in the movie, set to arrive in theaters on September 6, 2024. **PTI**

Actor Parvathy Thiruvothu, who made her Hindi film debut with actor Irrfan Khan in the romantic comedy 'Qarib Qarib Singlle', got candid about the experience working with the late actor during 54th International Film Festival in Goa. Speaking to mediapersons, Parvathy recalled, "I will always remember his one advice that he gave me ... and I repeat this everywhere. He always told me 'lines ko makhan bana do'. I have never forgotten this as an actor ...when you learn your lines you should be so diligent about it, you can be natural in acting and all but you can't get to a place unless you are so diligent and such a good student that you learn your lines so well that it's butter." **ANI**

Actor Parvathy Thiruvothu recalls memories of late actor Irrfan Khan, says "I will always remember his one advice.."

