



Urvashi Rautela Reveals What It Takes...

SHARE	
सेंसेक्स	: 73,847.15
निफ्टी	: 22,399.15

SARAFSA	
सोना	: 8,480
चांदी	: 102.00

(नोट : सोना 22 कैरेट प्रति ग्राम)

BRIEF NEWS

बंगाल में लागू नहीं होगा ववफ (संशोधन) अधिनियम : ममता बनर्जी

KOLKATA : बुधवार को पश्चिम बंगाल की मुख्यमंत्री ममता बनर्जी ने कहा कि राज्य में वक्फ (संशोधन) अधिनियम लागू नहीं किया जाएगा। कोलकाता में जैन समुदाय के एक कार्यक्रम को संबोधित करते हुए बनर्जी ने कहा कि वह अल्पसंख्यकों की और उनकी संपत्ति की रक्षा करेंगी। मुख्यमंत्री बनर्जी ने कहा, मैं जानती हूँ कि वक्फ अधिनियम के लागू होने से आप दुखी हैं। आप भरोसा रखें, बंगाल में ऐसा कुछ नहीं होगा जिससे कोई बांटकर राज कर सके। तुणमूल कांग्रेस की प्रमुख बनर्जी ने लोगों से उन लोगों की बातों पर ध्यान नहीं देने की अपील की जो उन्हें राजनीतिक आंदोलन शुरू करने के लिए उकसाते हैं।

सारनाथ में बांग्लादेशी नागरिक गिरफ्तार फर्जी कागजात बरामद

VARANASHI : यूपी-एटीएस ने मंगलवार देर रात सारनाथ चौक स्थित बरईपुर इलाके से एक बांग्लादेशी नागरिक को गिरफ्तार किया। वह फर्जी दस्तावेजों के आधार पर पिछले 15 वर्षों से भारत में रह रहा था। उसके पास से जाली पासपोर्ट, आधार, पैन कार्ड और अन्य दस्तावेज बरामद किए गए हैं। उसकी पहचान बांग्लादेश के बंदरवन जिले के नायककपारा रुमा निवासी होल मोंग सिंग मर्मा के रूप में हुई है, जो भारत में मोंग प्र.मो.ग के नाम से रह रहा था। यूपी-एटीएस की वाराणसी इकाई को सूचना मिली थी कि मोंग प्र.मो.ग नामक व्यक्ति बांग्लादेशी नागरिक है और वह फर्जी दस्तावेजों के जरिए वाराणसी में अवैध रूप से रह रहा है।

अयोध्या राम मंदिर में छह जून से श्रद्धालुओं के लिए खुलेगा राम दरबार

AGENCY LUCKNOW : अयोध्या में राम मंदिर में अगले महीने राम दरबार स्थापित किया जाएगा, जिसे श्रद्धालुओं के लिए छह जून से खोला जाएगा। हालांकि यह प्राण प्रतिष्ठा समारोह जैसा नहीं होगा। मंदिर निर्माण समिति के प्रमुख नृपेंद्र मिश्र ने यह जानकारी दी है। यह आयोजन 2020 में शुरू हुए मंदिर निर्माण के पूरा होने से भी जुड़ा है। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की अध्यक्षता में 2024 में राम लला की प्राण प्रतिष्ठा हुई थी। मिश्र ने बताया, राम लला की प्राण प्रतिष्ठा इस मंदिर के भूतल पर 2024 में हो चुकी है। अब राजा राम को प्रथम तल पर राम दरबार में विराजमान करने की बारी है। अनुमान है कि भगवान



प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की अध्यक्षता में 2024 में रामलला की हुई थी प्राण-प्रतिष्ठा

राम, उनके भाइयों और माता सीता की प्रतिमाएं अयोध्या पहुंचेंगी और 23 मई को मंदिर के प्रथम तल पर इन्हें स्थापित किया जाएगा।

गंभीर चिंता जैव विविधता व पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के लिए बड़े संकट के हालात

जागरूकता के अभाव में लगातार घट रही घरेलू गौरैया की तादाद

PHOTON NEWS @ RESEARCH DESK :

जीव वैज्ञानिकों के अनुसार, स्तनधारी प्राणियों के बाद जंतु जगत में पक्षी वर्ग के प्राणी ही सबसे विकसित होते हैं। जैव विविधता को संतुलित रखने के लिए पक्षियों की मौजूदगी अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है। विकास के नाम पर अंधाधुंध शहरीकरण की गतिविधियों ने तमाम पक्षियों के अस्तित्व पर संकट खड़ा कर दिया है। इन पक्षियों में हमारे समाज के सबसे करीबी गौरैया पक्षी आज हमारे बीच से एक तरह से गायब हो रहे हैं। यह अत्यंत चिंताजनक है। गौरैया को बचाने के लिए हर वर्ष 20 मार्च को विश्व गौरैया दिवस भी मनाया जाता है, लेकिन जागरूकता के अभाव में गौरैया की रक्षा नहीं हो पा रही है। इनकी संख्या शहरों में तो नहीं के बराबर है ही,अब ग्रामीण इलाकों में भी इनकी चहचहाहट गायब सी दिख रही है। मतलब साफ है कि देश में लगातार गौरैया की संख्या घट रही है। पक्षी विषयज्ञों के अनुसार, गौरैया सिर्फ एक चिड़िया नहीं, यह पर्यावरण का बैरोमीटर है। अगर ये गायब हो रही है, तो समाजिक कि प्रकृति के साथ कुछ गलत हो रहा है।

अंधाधुंध शहरीकरण की गतिविधियों ने पैदा की इस पक्षी के बेघर होने की स्थिति

भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान आइसीएआर की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, आंध्र प्रदेश में 88 फीसद कम हो गई घरेलू गौरैया

केरल, गुजरात और राजस्थान में भी लगभग 20% तक घट गई है इस पक्षी की आबादी

मोबाइल टावरों से निकलने वाले विकिरण व कीटनाशकों के प्रयोग से विकट बनी स्थिति

आधुनिक निर्माण शैली व पेड़ों की कटाई

इंटरनेशनल जर्नल ऑफ एग्रिकल्चरल साइंस के मुताबिक पंजाब, हरियाणा, पश्चिम बंगाल, बिहार, मध्य प्रदेश समेत कई राज्यों, शहरों और यहां तक की ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में पक्षी विज्ञानियों ने गौरैया की आबादी में बहुत तेजी से गिरावट देखी है। आईसीएआर के मुताबिक भारत के तटीय क्षेत्रों में गौरैया की आबादी 70 से 80 फीसदी घट गई है। इसका प्रमुख कारण है तेजी से बढ़ता शहरीकरण, आधुनिक निर्माण शैली और पेड़ों की कटाई के कारण गौरैया के लिए घोंसला बनाने की जगहें कम हो रही हैं।



जलवायु परिवर्तन के कारण उपयुक्त हवा, पानी व भोजन की कम हो रही उपलब्धता

रासायनिक कचरे से पहुंचा बड़ा नुकसान विशेष रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, मोबाइल टावरों से निकलने वाला विकिरण, बढ़ता प्रदूषण, कीटनाशकों का अत्यधिक उपयोग और अन्य बड़ी पक्षी प्रजातियों के साथ प्रतिस्पर्धा भी इसकी घटती संख्या के कारण है। इसके अलावा शहरी और अर्धशहरी क्षेत्रों में लैंडफिल के विषाक्त रासायनिक कचरे ने गौरैया सहित कई पक्षी प्रजातियों को बहुत नुकसान पहुंचाया है।

भावनात्मक जुड़ाव से होगा बचाव

गौरैया की घटती तादाद को देखते हुए कई संगठनों और पर्यावरणविदों ने इनके संरक्षण के लिए प्रयास किए हैं। बता दें कि सेव द स्पेरो अभियान की शुरुआत पर्यावरणविद जगत किशाबवाला ने की थी, जिसे 2017 में पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी का भी समर्थन मिला। कृदुगल ट्रस्ट (वेनई) की ओर से स्कूलों में बच्चों को घोंसला बनाने की ट्रेनिंग दी जाती है। इसके तहत 2020-24 के बीच 10,000 से अधिक घोंसले बनाए गए।

फ्रांस से 26 राफेल मरीन लड़ाकू विमान खरीदने को सरकार ने दी मंजूरी

इंडियन नेवी के फाइटिंग पावर में आणगी गुणात्मक मजबूती

अनुबंध के तहत 37 माह में पहला राफेल मरीन विमान देने की होगी बाध्यता

पिछले साल किया गया था परीक्षण

भारत की जरूरतों के लिहाज से फ्रांसीसी कंपनी ने परमाणु सक्षम एक 'राफेल मरीन' स्की-जंप करने की क्षमता का प्रदर्शन करने के लिए भारत भेजा था। विमानवाहक आईएनएस 'विक्रान्त' के लिए भारतीय नौसेना ने पिछले साल जनवरी में गोवा स्थित आईएनएस हंसा में समुद्री लड़ाकू विमान 'राफेल मरीन' का परीक्षण किया था। वायु सेना के राफेल जेट और समुद्री संस्करण 'राफेल मरीन' में एक अंडरकारेज और नोज व्हील, एक बड़ा अरेस्टर हुक, एक एकीकृत सीढ़ी जैसे कई अन्य मामूली अंतर हैं। 'राफेल मरीन' स्की टेक-ऑफ के लिए चार-पांच टन तक बाहरी भार (पूर्ण आंतरिक ईंधन के साथ) ले जा सकता है।

63 हजार करोड़ रुपये से अधिक के इस सरकारी सौदे पर जल्द ही किए जाएंगे हस्ताक्षर

ट्विन-सीटर विमान मिलेंगे। इससे भारतीय नौसेना की लड़ाकू ताकत और ज्यादा मजबूत होगी।

फ्रांस को अनुबंध के तहत सौदे पर हस्ताक्षर करने की तिथि से 37 महीनों के भीतर पहला राफेल मरीन विमान देने की बाध्यता होगी। भारतीय नौसेना ने स्वदेशी विमान वाहक पोत आईएनएस विक्रान्त के

लिए बोइंग एफ/ए-18 सुपर हॉर्नेट की जगह फ्रांसीसी राफेल मरीन को चुना है। भारत और फ्रांस के बीच इस बारे में लंबे समय से चल रही बातचीत पूरी हो चुकी है। पहले इस वित्तीय वर्ष में ही सौदे पर हस्ताक्षर करने की योजना थी, लेकिन संसद के बजट सत्र के कारण इसमें देरी

हुई है। भारतीय नौसेना के मल्टी-रोल कैरियर बोर्न फाइटर के लिए आपातकालीन खरीद नीति के तहत सरकार-से-सरकार सौदे के माध्यम से 26 एयरफ्रेम प्राप्त किए जाएंगे। पहले इस तरह के 57 विमान खरीदे जाने थे, लेकिन बाद में यह संख्या घटाकर 26 कर दी गई है।

युद्धपोत आईएनएस विक्रान्त के लिए उपयुक्त

राफेल बनाने वाली कंपनी डर्सील्ट एविएशन को भरोसा है कि राफेल एम भारतीय नौसेना के युद्धपोत आईएनएस विक्रान्त के लिए उपयुक्त होगा। राफेल एम का इस्तेमाल अभी भी ग्रीस, इंडोनेशिया और यूएई की सेनाएं कर रही हैं। भारतीय नौसेना का मानना है कि राफेल उसकी जरूरतों को काफी बेहतर तरीके से पूरा कर सकता है। भारतीय नौसेना 43 पुराने रूसी फाइटर जेट मिग-29के और मिग-29के रूबी को अपने बेड़े से हटाना चाहती है।

सीएम हेमंत सोरेन ने अधिकारियों के साथ की मैराथन बैठक, कहा-

समय पर सभी योजनाओं का दें क्वालिटी आउटपुट

PHOTON NEWS RANCHI :

बुधवार को मुख्यमंत्री हेमंत सोरेन की अध्यक्षता में राज्य के उच्च अधिकारियों और सभी जिलों के उपायुक्तों के साथ कई विभागों की योजनाओं की अद्यतन कार्य प्रगति की गहन समीक्षा की गई। इस मैराथन बैठक में मुख्यमंत्री ने स्पष्ट रूप से निर्देश दिया कि समय पर सभी योजनाओं का क्वालिटी आउटपुट दिखना चाहिए। बैठक में अनुसूचित जनजाति, अनुसूचित जाति, अल्पसंख्यक एवं पिछड़ा वर्ग कल्याण विभाग, महिला बाल विकास एवं सामाजिक सुरक्षा, स्वास्थ्य चिकित्सा शिक्षा एवं परिवार कल्याण, कृषि, ग्रामीण विकास एवं गृह विभाग द्वारा संचालित योजनाओं की अद्यतन कार्य प्रगति की समीक्षा की गई। मुख्यमंत्री ने विभागों द्वारा संचालित की जा रही महत्वाकांक्षी एवं जनकल्याणकारी विकास योजनाओं के संचालन में पूरी तत्परता, पारदर्शिता एवं प्रतिबद्धता के साथ तेजी लाने का निर्देश अधिकारियों को दिए। बैठक में

» गर्मी में पेयजल की समस्या उत्पन्न न हो, इस पर विशेष ध्यान रखें

» विद्यार्थियों की छात्रवृत्ति राशि का भुगतान करने में नहीं हो विलंब

» मुख्यमंत्री रोजगार सृजन योजना की परिसंपत्ति पर लगाया जाए लोगो

» जिला, अनुमंडल व प्रखंड स्तरीय अस्पतालों में हो बेहतर चिकित्सा व्यवस्था

» सभी मेडिकल कॉलेजों व देवघर स्थित एम्स अस्पताल में हेलीपैड बनाने की करें पहल



अधिकारियों के साथ बैठक करते मुख्यमंत्री हेमंत सोरेन

छात्रावासों की मरम्मत के लिए बनाएं डाटाबेस

मुख्यमंत्री ने अधिकारियों से कहा कि कल्याण विभाग के सभी छात्रावासों की मरम्मत के लिए जिला स्तर पर एक संयुक्त दल बनाकर एक कंप्रिहेंसिव डाटाबेस तैयार किया जाए। उपयुक्त छात्रावासों की मरम्मत को प्राथमिकता दें। वर्तमान में छात्रावास में जो विद्यार्थी रह रहे हैं उनके नामांकन इत्यादि की जांच कर ली जाए। मुख्यमंत्री रोजगार सृजन योजना के तहत प्राप्त ऋणों से शुरू हुए व्यवसाय के लिए शर्ड पार्टी डेवैल्यूएशन कराया जाए। मुख्यमंत्री रोजगार सृजन योजना की परिसंपत्ति पर लोगो लगाया जाए। इस योजना के आउटपुट पर फोकस करें ताकि युवाओं के स्थायी रोजगार की व्यवस्था हो सके।

मुख्य सचिव अलका तिवारी, अपर मुख्य सचिव अविनाश कुमार, अपर मुख्य सचिव अजय कुमार सिंह, प्रधान सचिव वंदना दादेल, सचिव कृपानंद झा, सचिव

के. श्रीनिवासन, सचिव अरवा राजकमल, सचिव मनोज कुमार, आदिवासी कल्याण आयुक्त अजय नाथ झा, मनरेगा आयुक्त मृत्युंजय बरनवाल, निदेशक कृषि कुमार

ताराचंद, एमडी, एनआरएचएम अबू इमरान तथा वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंसिंग के जरिए सभी जिलों के उपायुक्त एवं अन्य अधिकारी उपस्थित रहे।

कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष खड़गे ने पार्टी के अधिवेशन को किया संबोधित, कहा-

जिम्मेदारी नहीं निभाने वाले नेता हो जाएं रिटायर

AHMEDABAD @ PTI :

बुधवार को कांग्रेस के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे ने चुनावों में कथित जालसाजी के विषय को लेकर केंद्र सरकार पर तीखा हमला बोला और अपनी पार्टी में जवाबदेही सुनिश्चित करने की जरूरत पर जोर देते हुए कहा कि जिम्मेदारी नहीं निभाने वालों को रिटायर हो जाना चाहिए। उन्होंने पार्टी अधिवेशन को संबोधित करते हुए मतपत्र से चुनाव की पैरवी की और यह आरोप भी लगाया कि सत्तारूढ़ दल ने ऐसी



पार्टी में निष्पक्ष तरीके से होगी जिला अध्यक्षों की नियुक्ति

» चुनावी घांघली को रोकने के लिए मतपत्र से चुनाव कराने का किया समर्थन

» भाजपा पर लगाए गंभीर आरोप, लोकतंत्र को धीरे-धीरे किया जा रहा खत्म

कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष ने अधिवेशन को संबोधित करते हुए कहा कि जिला अध्यक्षों की नियुक्ति निष्पक्ष तरीके से होगी और चुनावों में उम्मीदवारों के चयन में उन्ही की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका रहेगी। खरगे ने कहा, संगठन निर्माण में जिला अध्यक्षों की भूमिका महत्वपूर्ण होने वाली है। इसलिए इनकी नियुक्ति कांग्रेस के दिशानिर्देशों के अनुसार निष्पक्षता से होगी है। उनके अनुसार, जिला अध्यक्ष को अपनी नियुक्ति के एक साल के अंदर बृह कमेट्री, मंडल कमेट्री, ब्लॉक कमेट्री और जिला कमेट्री बेहतरीन लोगों को जोड़ते हुए बनाता है और इसमें कोई पक्षपात नहीं होना चाहिए।

तकनीक विकसित कर ली है जिससे चुनावों में उसे फायदा और विपक्ष को नुकसान हो रहा है। खड़गे ने भारतीय जनता पार्टी पर निशाना साधते हुए कहा,

पिछले 11 वर्षों में सत्ताधारी दल संविधान पर लगातार चोट कर रहा है। हमारी संवैधानिक संस्थाओं पर लगातार हमले हो रहे हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि

लोकसभा में नेता प्रतिपक्ष राहुल गांधी का सदन में आसन से नाम लिया गया, लेकिन उन्हें बोलने नहीं दिया गया, जो लोकतंत्र के लिए लज्जा की बात है।

रूस ने विजय दिवस परेड के लिए प्रधानमंत्री मोदी को किया आमंत्रित

MOSCOW @ PTI : रूस ने प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी को द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध में जर्मनी पर विजय की 80वीं वर्षगांठ के अवसर पर नौ मई को आयोजित होने वाले समारोह में शामिल होने के लिए आमंत्रित किया है। उप विदेश मंत्री अद्री स्टैंको ने यह जानकारी दी। रूस को प्रधानमंत्री मोदी के नौ मई को परेड के लिए आने की उम्मीद है। रूसी समाचार एजेंसी 'तास' ने स्टैंको के हवाले से कहा कि निर्मंत्रण पहले ही भेजा जा चुका है और यात्रा की योजना बनाई जा रही है। रूस ने इस साल की विजय दिवस परेड में शामिल होने के लिए कई मित्र देशों के नेताओं को आमंत्रित किया है। जनवरी 1945 में सोवियत सेना ने जर्मनी के खिलाफ एक आक्रामक अभियान शुरू किया था।

एनआईए की टीम ने चिरकुंडा और कलियासोल में की छापेमारी

PHOTON NEWS DHANBAD : बुधवार को नेशनल इन्वेस्टिगेटिंग एजेंसी (एनआईए) की टीम ने चिरकुंडा के लायकडीह निवासी अमरजीत शर्मा के आवास और कलियासोल प्रखंड के बोरियो गांव स्थित गोदाम में रेड मारकर भारी मात्रा में जिलेटिन एवं विस्फोटक सामग्री बरामद की है। मामले की जानकारी होते ही गांव के ग्रामीण मौके पर पहुंचे। एनआईए की टीम अमरजीत के बड़े भाई संजय शर्मा को पकड़ कर उसे अमरजीत के गोदाम लाई और छापेमारी की। यहां से भारी मात्रा में विस्फोटक बरामद किए गए हैं। हालांकि इस संबंध में एनआईए की टीम कुछ भी बताने से परहेज कर रही है। जानकारी के अनुसार, अमरजीत उक्त गोदाम में पूर्व में मुर्गा फार्म



भारी मात्रा में जिलेटिन व विस्फोटक जब, एक को लिया गया हिरासत में

खुले हुए था। लगभग 5 वर्ष पूर्व आंधी-तूफान के दौरान एक्सप्लोसिव शिट उड़ गया था। उसके बाद से वह गोदाम में क्या काम करता था। ग्रामीणों को इसकी कोई जानकारी नहीं है। एनआईए टीम की छापेमारी के बाद ग्रामीण भींचक हैं। इधर बता चला है कि अमरजीत बंगाल में अवैध रूप से विस्फोटक की बिक्री करता है।



सभी इन्द्रियों को जीतने के कारण जितेन्द्रिय कहलाए स्वामी

जैन धर्म के चौबीसवें तीर्थंकर भगवान महावीर स्वामी माने जाते हैं। महावीर का जन्म चैत्र मास के शुक्ल पक्ष में त्रयोदशी तिथि को बिहार में लिच्छवी वंश के महाराज श्री सिद्धार्थ और माता त्रिशिला रानी देवी के यहां हुआ था। वर्धमान महावीर का जन्म एक क्षत्रिय राजकुमार के रूप में एक राज परिवार में हुआ था। उनका जन्म प्राचीन भारत के वैशाली राज्य के गांव कुंडग्राम में हुआ था। भगवान महावीर कई नामों से जाने जाते हैं जिनमें वर्धमान, महावीर, र्सम्मत और साहसी आदि मुख्य नाम थे। भगवान महावीर का जन्म एक साधारण बालक के रूप में हुआ था। इनकी कड़ी तपस्या की वजह से ही इनका जीवन अनूठा बन गया। ऐसा माना जाता है कि महावीर स्वामी का काफी अन्तर्मुखी स्वभाव के थे। शुरुआत से ही उन्हें संसार के भोगों में कोई रुचि नहीं थी लेकिन माता-पिता की इच्छा की वजह से उन्होंने वसंतपुर के महासामन्त समरवीर की पुत्री यशोदा के साथ परिणय सूत्र में बंध गए और जिससे उनकी एक पुत्री हुई जिसका नाम प्रियदर्शना रखा गया। तीस साल की उम्र में उन्होंने घर-बार छोड़ दिया और कठोर तपस्या की वजह से कैवल्य ज्ञान प्राप्त किया। महावीर ने पार्श्वनाथ के आरंभ किए तत्वज्ञान को परिभाषित करके जैन दर्शन को स्थाई आधार दिया। महावीर स्वामी ने श्रद्धा एवं विश्वास की



अहिंसा परमोधर्म

वर्तमान युग में महात्मा गाँधी ने सारी मनुष्य जाति को जिस महान आदर्श को अपनाने के लिए अहवाहन किया था, उसके महत्व पर सर्वप्रथम एवं सबसे अधिक जैन तीर्थंकर पार्श्व और महावीर ने ही दिया है। महावीर स्वामी से हमें यह शिक्षा मिलती है कि हमें हिंसा किसी भी रूप में नहीं करनी चाहिए। सदा सत्य बोलना चाहिए। निर्बल, निरीह और असहाय व्यक्तियों की ही नहीं बल्कि पशुओं को भी नहीं सताना चाहिए। मनुष्य को मन, वचन, कर्म से शुद्ध होना चाहिए। ब्रह्मचर्य का पालन करना चाहिए। मनुष्य को अपने जीवन काल में देशांतर अवश्य करना चाहिए इससे ज्ञानार्जन होता है। यह ज्ञानार्जन का सर्वश्रेष्ठ साधन है। चोरी कभी नहीं करनी चाहिए। चोरी भी मन, वचन एवम कर्म से होती है। अथवा किसी एक से भी करना, महापाप है। महावीर हमें जीवन के प्रत्येक क्षेत्र में मार्गदर्शन देते हैं। उनकी जयंती के दिन हमें यह प्रतिज्ञा करने चाहिए कि उनकी बताई शिक्षा में से किसी एक शिक्षा को अपनायें। इससे हमारे में नैतिक गुणों का विकास होगा, साथ ही साथ अच्छे कर्म भी होंगे। भगवान महावीर ने दुनिया को बहुत ही अच्छे संदेश दिए। उनका सबसे प्रिय संदेश था अहिंसा के मार्ग पर चलने का। भगवान महावीर के मूल मंत्र ‘जियो और जीने दो’ के सिद्धांत पर चलकर ही हम देश, दुनिया को बचा सकते हैं। भगवान महावीर की शिक्षाएं हमें करुणामय एवं निस्वार्थ सादगीपूर्ण जीवन की प्रेरणा देती हैं। यह त्योहार सच्चाई, अहिंसा तथा सौहार्द के प्रति सभी की प्रतिबद्धताओं को मजबूत करने का काम करे।



मानव समाज को अन्धकार से प्रकाश की ओर लाने वाले महापुरुष भगवान महावीर का जन्मचैत्र मास के शुक्ल पक्ष में त्रयोदशी तिथि को बिहार में लिच्छवी वंश के महाराज ‘श्री सिद्धार्थ’ और माता ‘त्रिशिला देवी’ के यहां हुआ था। जिस कारण इस दिन जैन श्रद्धालु इस पावन दिवस को ‘महावीर जयन्ती’ के रूप में परंपरागत तरीके से हर्षोल्लास और श्रद्धाभक्ति पूर्वक मनाते हैं। बचपन में भगवान महावीर का नाम वर्धमान था। जैन धर्मियों को मानना है कि वर्धमान ने कठोर तप द्वारा अपनी समस्त इन्द्रियों पर विजय प्राप्त कर जिन अर्थात विजेता कहलाए। उनका यह कठिन तप पराक्रम के सामान माना गया, जिस कारण उनको महावीर कहा गया और उनके अनुयायी जैन कहलाए।

महावीर का मार्ग पूर्णतः स्पष्ट और कैवल्य ज्ञान प्राप्त करने का मार्ग है। यह राजपथ है। उनके उपदेश हमारे जीवन में किसी भी तरह के विरोधाभास को नहीं रहने देते। जीवन में विरोधाभास या द्वंद है तो फिर आप कहीं भी नहीं पहुँच सकते। भगवान महावीर को समझने के लिए कैवल्य ज्ञान प्राप्त करना होगा। समुद्र को जानने के लिए समुद्र में डूबना होगा। महावीर की गहराई को फिर भी कोई छू नहीं सकता। धरती पर कुछ गिने-चुने ही महापुरुष हुए हैं। उनमें महावीर ध्यानियों में ऐसे हैं जैसे सागरों में प्रशांत महासागर। महावीर का जीवन, दर्शन या तप कुछ भी रहा हो इससे कोई फर्क नहीं पड़ता। मुख्य बात यह कि उन्होंने ‘कैवल्य ज्ञान’ की जिस ऊँचाई को छुआ था वह अवर्णीय है। वह अंतरिक्ष के उस सन्नाटे की तरह है जिसमें किसी भी पदार्थ की उपस्थिति नहीं हो सकती। जहाँ न ध्वनि है और न ही ऊर्जा। केवल शुद्ध आत्मतत्व। महावीर का जीवन : भगवान महावीर तीर्थंकरों की कड़ी के अंतिम तीर्थंकर हैं। उनका जन्म नाम वर्धमान है। राजकुमार वर्धमान के माता-पिता श्रमण धर्म के पार्श्वनाथ सम्प्रदाय से थे। महावीर से 250 वर्ष पूर्व 23वें तीर्थंकर पार्श्वनाथ हुए थे। भगवान महावीर का जन्म 599 ईपू. अर्थात 26.14 वर्ष पहले वैशाली गणतंत्र के कुंडलपुर के क्षत्रिय राजा सिद्धार्थ के यहाँ हुआ। उनकी माता त्रिशला लिच्छवि राजा चेटकी की पुत्र थीं। भगवान महावीर ने सिद्धार्थ-त्रिशला की तीसरी संतान के रूप में चैत्र शुक्ल की तेरस को जन्म लिया। महावीर की शिक्षा : वर्धमान के बड़े भाई का नाम

भगवान महावीर का जन्मोत्सव

महारानी त्रिशला का एक-एक क्षण बभ्रुकल से बीत रहा था। वे बेसब्री से शिशु-जन्म की प्रतीक्षा कर रही थीं। उनकी देखभाल के लिए देवराज इंद्र ने देव कन्याओं को नियुक्त कर रखा था। अतः उन्हें किसी प्रकार की शारीरिक पीड़ा नहीं होती थी। जैन मान्यता के अनुसार, तीर्थंकर के जन्म के समय उनकी माता को किसी प्रकार की पीड़ा नहीं होती थी और ना ही उनके शरीर का रूपांतरण होता था। अंततः वह घड़ी आ गई। चैत्र शुक्ल त्रयोदशी के दिन भगवान महावीर ने जन्म लिया। उनके जन्म के साथ ही तीनों लोकों में आनंद छा गया। देव लोक स्वयं वाद्य बजाकर मंगल ध्वनि करने लगे। इंद्र का सिंहासन डोलने लगा। वे समझ गए कि चौबीसवें तीर्थंकर महावीर ने जन्म ले लिया है। वे अपनी पत्नी शचि के साथ महावीर का जन्म कल्याणक मनाने आए। क्षीरसागर के अमृत जल से महावीर का जलाभिषेक किया गया। कुंडलपुर में दो सप्ताह तक उत्सव और सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमों का आयोजन कर महावीर का जन्मोत्सव मनाया गया। तदंतर ज्योतिषियों ने उनकी जन्मकुंडली बनाई और घोषित किया कि यह बालक या तो चक्रवर्ती राजा बनेगा या जगतगुरु।



प्राणी मात्र के कल्याण के लिए महावीर का संदेश

भगवान महावीर का संदेश प्राणी मात्र के कल्याण के लिए है। उन्होंने मनुष्य-मनुष्य के बीच भेदभाव की सभी दीवारों को ध्वस्त किया। उन्होंने जन्मना वर्ण व्यवस्था का विरोध किया। इस विश्व में न कोई प्राणी बड़ा है और न कोई छोटा। उन्होंने गुण-कर्म के आधार पर मनुष्य के महत्व का प्रतिपादन किया। ऊँच-नीच, उन्नत-अवनत, छोटे-बड़े सभी अपने कर्मों से बनते हैं। जातिवाद अताल्विक है। सभी समान हैं न कोई छोटा, न कोई बड़ा। भगवान की दृष्टि समभावी थी- सर्वत्र समता-भाव। वे सम्पूर्ण विश्व को समभाव से देखने वाले साधक थे, समता का आचरण करने वाले साधक थे। उनका प्रतिमान था- जो व्यक्ति अपने संस्कारों का निर्माण करता है, वही साधना का अधिकारी व्यक्ति की गई कि आत्मा आँखों से नहीं दिखाई देती तथा इस आधार पर आत्मा के अस्तित्व के सम्बन्ध में शंका व्यक्त की गई तो भगवान ने उत्तर दिया : ‘चरन के सब दरवाजे एवं खिड़कियाँ बन्द करने के बाद भी जब भवन के अन्दर संगीत की मधुर ध्वनि होती है तब आप उसे भवन के बाहर निकलते हुए नहीं देख पाते। आँखों से दिखाई न पड़ने के बावजूद संगीत की मधुर ध्वनि बाहर खड़े श्रोताओं को आच्छादित करती है। संगीत की ध्वनि पौदलिक (भौतिक द्रव्य) है। आत्मा अरूपी एवं अमूर्तिक है। आँखें अरूपी आत्मा को किस प्रकार देख सकती हैं? अमूर्तिक आत्मा का चन्द्रिय दर्शन नहीं होता, अनुभूति होती है। प्रत्येक आत्मा में परम ज्योति समाहित है। प्रत्येक चेतन में परम चेतन समाहित है। प्रत्येक व्यक्ति स्वयं में स्वतंत्र, मुक्त, निर्लेप एवं निर्विकार है। प्रत्येक आत्मा अपने पुरुषार्थ से परमात्मा बन सकती है। शुद्ध तात्त्विक दृष्टि से जो परमात्मा है वही मैं हूँ और जो मैं हूँ वही परमात्मा है। मनुष्य अपने सत्कर्म से उन्नत होता है।



महावीर स्वामी के जन्म से पहले माता त्रिशला ने देखे थे ये शुभ स्वप्न

प्राचीन जैन ग्रंथ ‘उत्तर पुराण’ में तीर्थंकरों का वर्णन मिलता है। इस ग्रंथ के अनुसार वैशाली के राजा चेटक के दस पुत्र और सात पुत्रियां थीं। राजा चेतक प्राचीन भारत के वैशाली लिच्छवि राजवंश मुखिया थे जो गौतम बुद्ध और महावीर स्वामी के समकालीन थे। राजा चेतक की रानी का नाम सुभद्रा था। इनके दस पुत्र हुए जिनके नाम धनदत्त, धनप्रभ, उपेन्द्र, आत्मा के अस्तित्व के प्रारंभ और इसकी स्थिति तथा प्रकार के बारे में खुलासा करता हो। महावीर का संघ : भगवान महावीर ने कैवल्य ज्ञान मार्ग को पुरुष करने हेतु अपने अनुयायियों को चार भागों में विभाजित किया- मुनि, आर्यिका, श्रावक और श्राविका। प्रथम दो वर्ग गृहस्थानी परिव्राजकों के लिए और अंतिम दो गृहस्थों के लिए। यही उनका चतुर्विध-संघ कहलाया। पंच महाव्रत : भगवान महावीर ने कैवल्य ज्ञान हेतु धर्म के मूल पाँच व्रत बताए- अहिंसा, अवीर्य, अमैथुन और अपरिग्रह। उक्त पंचमहाव्रतों का पालन मुनियों के लिए पूर्ण रूप से और गृहस्थों के लिए स्थूलरूप अर्थात अणुव्रत रूप से बताया गया है। हालाँकि महावीर का धर्म और दर्शन उक्त पंच महाव्रत से कहीं ज्यादा विस्तृत और गूह्य है। महावीर का निर्वाण : महावीर का निर्वाण काल विक्रम काल से 470 वर्ष पूर्व, शक काल से 605 वर्ष पूर्व और ईसवी काल से 527 वर्ष पूर्व 72 वर्ष की आयु में कार्तिक कृष्ण (अश्विन) अमावस्या को पावापुरी (बिहार) में हुआ था। निर्वाण दिवस पर घर-घर दीपक जलाकर दीपावली मनाई जाती है। महावीर के शिष्य : महावीर के हजारों शिष्य थे जिनमें राजा-महाराजा और अनेकानेक गणमान्य नागरिक थे। लेकिन कुछ प्रमुख शिष्य भी थे? जो हमेशा उनके साथ रहते थे। इसके अलावा भी जिन्होंने नायकत्व संभाला उनमें भी प्रमुख रूप से तीन थे। महावीर के निर्वाण के पश्चात जैन संघ का नायकत्व क्रमशः उनके तीन शिष्यों ने संभाला- गौतम, सुधर्म और जम्बू। इनका काल क्रमशः 12, 12, व 38 वर्ष अर्थात कुल 62 वर्ष तक रहा। इसके बाद ही आचार्य परम्परा में भेद हो गया। श्वेतांबर और दिगंबर पृथक-पृथक परंपराएँ हो गईं। दो हाथी। फल : देवलोक से देवगण आकर उस पुत्र का अभिषेक करेंगे। पांचवां स्वप्न : दो सुगंधित पुष्पमालाएं। फल : वह धर्म तीर्थ स्थापित करेगा और जन-जन द्वारा पूजित होगा। छठा स्वप्न : पूर्ण चन्द्रमा। फल : उसके जन्म से तीनों लोक आनंदित होंगे। सातवां स्वप्न : उदय होता सूर्य। फल : वह पुत्र सूर्य के समान तेजयुक्त और पापी प्राणियों का उद्धार करेगा। आठवां स्वप्न : कमल पत्रों से ढंके हुए दो स्वर्ण कलश। फल : वह पुत्र अनेक निधियों का स्वामी निधि पति होगा। नौवां स्वप्न : कमल सरोवर में क्रीड़ा करती दो मछलियाँ। फल : महाआनंद का दाता, दुःखहर्ता। दसवां स्वप्न : कमलों से भरा जलाशय। फल : एक हजार आठ शुभ लक्षणों से युक्त पुत्र। ग्यारहवां स्वप्न : नहरें उछलता समुद्र। फल : भूत-भविष्य-वर्तमान का ज्ञाता केवली पुत्र। बारहवां स्वप्न : क्षीरे-मोती और रत्नजड़ित स्वर्ण सिंहासन। फल : राज्य का स्वामी और प्रजा का हितचिंतक पुत्र। तेरहवां स्वप्न : स्वर्ग का विमान। फल : इस जन्म से पूर्व वह पुत्र स्वर्ग में देवता होगा। चौदहवां स्वप्न : पृथ्वी को भेद कर निकलता नागों के राजा नागेन्द्र का विमान। फल : जन्म से ही वह पुत्र त्रिकालदर्शी होगा। पन्द्रहवां स्वप्न : रत्नों का ढेर। फल : वह पुत्र अनंत गुणों से संपन्न होगा। सोलहवां स्वप्न : धुआंरहित अग्नि। वह पुत्र कर्मों का अंत करके मोक्ष (निर्वाण) प्राप्त करेगा। इस तरह महारानी त्रिशला ने अपने सोलह स्वप्न फलों का वर्णन महाराजा सिद्धार्थ से प्राप्त किया। राजा सिद्धार्थ स्वप्न-फल बताकर शांत हो गए थे कि उनके सामने कुछ दिव्य पुरुष प्रकट हुए। उनमें से एक ने अपना परिचय देते हुए कहा- ‘हे राजन! मैं देवराज इन्द्र अपने साथियों सहित आपको व महारानी को नमन करता हूँ। आप धन्य हैं, आपको तीनों लोकों के स्वामी का माता-पिता बनने का सौभाग्य मिला है। आपके यहां उत्पन्न होने वाला जीव-अंतिम तीर्थंकर महावीर के रूप में प्रसिद्ध होगा और पापियों का कल्याण करके स्वयं मोक्ष को प्राप्त करेगा। यह कहकर देवराज इन्द्र ने अपने साथी देवताओं सहित महारानी त्रिशला का अभिषेक किया, उन्हें दिव्य वस्त्र, रत्नाभूषण आदि प्रदान किए और महावीर का गर्भ कल्याणक मनाकर वापस स्वर्ग लौट गए। यह समाचार सुनकर महाराज सिद्धार्थ और महारानी त्रिशला की खुशियों का कोई ठिकाना नहीं रहा। पूरे राज्य में यह समाचार फैल गया। घर-घर में खुशियां मनाई जाने लगीं। चैत्र शुक्ल त्रयोदशी के दिन जैन धर्म के अंतिम तीर्थंकर भगवान महावीर का जन्म हुआ।

भौतिक चकाचौंध व सोशल मीडिया से बढ़ रहे रिश्तों के कत्ल



योगेन्द्र योगी

पिछले कुछ वक्त से देश के अलग-अलग हिस्सों से ऐसी खबरें आ रही हैं, जिनमें पति पत्नी का और पत्नी पति का कत्ल कर देती है। संयुक्त राष्ट्र मादक पदार्थ एवं अपराध कार्यालय की रिपोर्ट की एक रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक साल 2023 में दुनिया भर में कुल 51 हजार 100 महिलाओं और लड़कियों का कत्ल हुआ है। आखिर हमारा समाज किस दिशा में जा रहा है। क्या तत्कवी और स्वतंत्रता का यही पैमाना है? सामाजिक और पारिवारिक मूल्यों का क्षरण का सिलसिला आखिर कहां जाकर थमेगा। इस बारे में गहन-चिंतन मनन की जरूरत है।

विश्व को वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम की सीख देने वाले भारत जैसे आध्यत्म और शांति की धरा वाले देश में बढ़ती भौतिक विलासिता की चकाचौंध और सोशल मीडिया का ज़िन्दगी में बढ़ता दखल, पारिवारिक-सामाजिक ताने-बाने को छिन्न-भिन्न कर रहा है। संबंधों में तकरार और फिर नृशंस तरीके से हत्या जैसे मामलों ने देश को झकझोर कर रख दिया है। मेरठ की मुस्कान ने अपने प्रेमी साहिल के साथ मिलकर अपने पति सौरभ राजपुत की हत्या कर दी। ऐसे ही मुजफ्फरनगर की पिंकी ने अपने आशिक के लिए अपने पति अनुज को जहर पिलाकर मार दिया। रिश्तों में हत्या का ऐसा ही प्रकरण बेंगलुरु में देखने को मिला, वहां के हुलीमावु क्षेत्र में एक व्यक्ति ने अपनी पत्नी की हत्या करके उसकी बाँड़ी को सूटकेस में भर दिया। देश के अलग-अलग शहरों में हो रही ऐसी हत्याओं ने देश की जनता को पूरी तरह से हिलाकर रख दिया। आखिर ये सिलसिला कहाँ जाकर थमेगा? इन घटनाओं ने सोचने-समझने के लिए मजबूर कर दिया है कि आखिर यह देश किस दिशा में जा रहा है।

पिछले कुछ वक्त से देश के अलग-अलग हिस्सों से ऐसी खबरें आ रही हैं, जिनमें पति पत्नी का और पत्नी पति का कत्ल कर देती हैं। संयुक्त राष्ट्र मादक पदार्थ एवं अपराध कार्यालय की रिपोर्ट की एक रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक साल 2023 में दुनिया भर में कुल 51 हजार 100 महिलाओं और लड़कियों का कत्ल हुआ है। इनमें से 60 फीसदी के करीब कत्ल महिलाओं या लड़कियों के अपने पार्टनर, पति या फैमिली मेंबर ने किया। एक रिपोर्ट कहती है कि देश भर में हर साल औसतन 225 लोगों को उनकी पत्नियाँ कत्ल कर देती हैं और लगभग 275 पत्नियाँ अपने पति के हाथों मारी जाती हैं। संयुक्त राष्ट्र की एक रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक दुनिया भर में हर ग्यारह मिनट में एक महिला या लड़की का कत्ल होता है। इनमें से औसतन हर रोज 140 महिलाओं या लड़कियों का कत्ल उनके घर के अंदर होता है।

वर्कड हेल्थ ऑर्गेनाइजेशन और लंदन स्कूल ऑफ हाइजिन एंड ट्राॅपिकल मेडिसिन एंड साउथ एफ्रिकन मेडिकल रिसर्च काउंसिल की रिपोर्ट कहती है वर्ष 2022 में दुनिया भर में कुल 48 हजार 800 महिलाओं और लड़कियों के कत्ल हुए थे और इनमें से भी 60 फीसदी से ज्यादा कत्ल पार्टनर, पति या फैमिली मेंबर ने ही किए थे। वर्ष 2022 में ऐसे अपराधों के मामलों में अफ्रीका पहले नंबर पर था और एशिया दूसरे नंबर पर। ऐसे अपराधों में अब 2023 में



एशिया पहले नंबर पर है और अफ्रीका दूसरे नंबर पर है। आंकड़ा कहता है कि पार्टनर पति या रिलेशनशिप में दुनिया भर में जितने कत्ल होते हैं, उसकी 58 फीसदी शिकार महिलाएं या लड़कियां होती हैं। लेकिन चौंकाने वाला आंकड़ा ये भी है कि इसी पार्टनर और रिलेशनशिप की वजह से 42 फीसदी पुरुषों का भी कत्ल होता है। अर्थात यह अंतर ज्यादा नहीं है। ब्रिटिश मेडिकल जनरल लेनसेट में छपी एक रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक भारत में 60 फीसदी महिलाओं के कत्ल मौजूदा या फिर पूर्व पार्टनर की वजह से होती है। इस रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि दुनिया भर में महिलाओं के कत्ल का सबसे ज्यादा खतरा उन्हीं के मौजूदा या पूर्व पार्टनर से ही होता है। जबकि पूर्व या मौजूदा महिला पार्टनर के हाथों पुरुषों के कत्ल का प्रतिशत सिर्फ साढ़े 6 फीसदी है। नेशनल क्राइम रिकॉर्ड ब्यूरो (एनसीआरबी) के मुताबिक देश में हर साल कितने पति अपनी पत्नी का या पत्नी अपने पति का कत्ल करती हैं। एनसीआरबी के 2022 के आंकड़ों पर नजर डालें तो पता चलता है कि इश्क और रिश्तों में लोग अब जान नहीं देते बल्कि जान लेते हैं। भारत में जिन वजहों से सबसे ज्यादा कत्ल होते हैं। उनमें लव अफेयर और शादी के बाद संबंधों के मामलों में होने वाला कत्ल तीसरे और चौथे नंबर पर आता है। देश में होने वाले हर 10 में से औसतन एक कत्ल किसी ना किसी आशिक-

माशुक या पति-पत्नी के हाथ से ही होता है। आंकड़ों के मुताबिक पूरे देश में कुल 28 हजार 522 कत्ल के मामले सामने आए। ये तमाम कत्ल 19 अलग अलग वजहों से हुए। मसलन, निजी दुश्मनी, सांप्रदायिक और धार्मिक वजह, राजनीतिक वजह, डायन प्रथा, जातिवाद, विवाद, या लूट-डकैती। परेशान करने वाली बात यह है कि इन 19 वजहों में से तीसरी और चौथी नंबर पर कत्ल की जो वजह बनी वो इश्क, धोखा, फरेब और शादी के बाद के संबंध थे। 28 हजार 522 कत्ल के कुल मामलों में से कुल 2 हजार 821 कत्ल इसी वजह से हुए। ऐसा नहीं है कि इश्क में पहले कत्ल नहीं हुआ करते थे। पहले भी आशिकों ने हाथों में खंजर या तमंचे उठाए हैं। लेकिन 2010 के बाद से पति-पत्नी, इश्क, बेवफाई और अवैध संबंध की वजह से होने वाले कत्ल की तादाद तेजी से बढ़ी।

पिछले 15 सालों के आंकड़ों पर नजर दौड़ाएं तो साफ पता चलता है कि जैसे जैसे सोशल मीडिया का चलन बढ़ा पति पत्नी के रिश्ते, शादी के बाद के संबंध और इश्क और खूनी होता चला गया। आंकड़ों के हिसाब से 2010 से 2014 के दरम्यान लव अफेयर और संबंधों की वजह से होने वाले कत्ल का प्रतिशत 7 से 8 फीसदी था। लेकिन 2015 से 2022 के दरम्यान ये बढ़कर 10 से 11 फीसदी हो गया। ये

गिनती लगातार बढ़ती जा रही है। एनसीआरबी के डेटा के मुताबिक 2022 में देशभर में खुदकुशी के कुल 17 हजार 924 केस दर्ज हुए थे। जिनमें से अकेले शादी से जुड़े मामलों में 8 हजार 240 पति या पत्नी ने खुदकुशी की। जबकि इश्क के चलते 7 हजार 692 प्रेमी जोड़ों में से किसी एक ने खुदकुशी कर ली। इसके अलावा अवैध संबंधों की वजह से भी 855 लोगों ने खुदकुशी की। एनसीआरबी के अलावा नेशनल फैमिली हेल्थ सर्वे के एक आंकड़े के मुताबिक 4 फीसदी शादीशुदा महिलाओं ने ये माना है कि वो अपने पति को शारिरिक तौर पर चोट पहुंचाती है। इसी तरह स्टडी ऑफ इंटरनेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ पॉपुलेशन साइंस (आईआईपीएस) की एक रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक नौकरपेशा महिलाएं जो पैसे कमाती हैं और मोबाइल का इस्तेमाल करती हैं, अपने पति से ज्यादा झगड़ती हैं। रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक महिलाओं की जैसे जैसे उम्र बढ़ती जाती है वो अपने पति से ज्यादा झगड़? लगती हैं। जबकि पति के मामले में ये उल्टा है। पति की उम्र जैसे जैसे बढ़ती है वो बीवियों से झगड़ा कम करने लगते हैं। आईआईपीएस की ये रिपोर्ट ये भी कहती है कि एकल परिवार में पति पत्नी के बीच हिंसक लड़ाई ज्यादा होती है। इस रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक भारत में हर एक हजार पति में से 29 पति अपनी पत्नियों की हिंसा का शिकार होते हैं। जबकि एकल परिवार में यही आंकड़ा पत्नियों के लिए हर एक सामने आए। फिलहाल 2025 की तो अभी शुरुआत है। वर्ष 2024 का आंकड़ा एनसीआरबी ने अभी जारी नहीं किया है। लेकिन रिपोर्ट होने वाले आंकड़े डरावने हैं और इन्हीं आंकड़ों को सच करके जब मुस्कान, साहिल, प्रगति, राकेश रौशन ना जाने ऐसे कितने ही नाम और ऐसी कितनी ही तस्वीरें सामने आती हैं तो अहसास करा जाती है कि अब मुहब्बत उस अहसास का नाम नहीं रहा जो कभी हर दिल में रहा करता था। सवाल यही है कि आखिर हमारा समाज किस दिशा में जा रहा है। क्या तत्कवी और स्वतंत्रता का यही पैमाना है? सामाजिक और पारिवारिक मूल्यों का क्षरण का सिलसिला आखिर कहाँ जाकर थमेगा। इस बारे में गहन-चिंतन मनन की जरूरत है।

संपादकीय

महंगाई की दोहरी मार

दुनिया भर में शेयर बाजार के जबरदस्त तरीके से लुढ़कने के सदमे के दरम्यान ही सरकार ने जनता को घरेलू गैस सिलेंडर में पचास रुपये का इजाफा कर कराा झटका दिया। उपभोक्ताओं को इस वृद्धि के बाद प्रति सिलेंडर 853 या 879 रुपये देते होंगे जो अब तक क्रमशः दिल्ली में 803 रुपये या कोलकाता में 829 रुपये में मिल रहा था। उच्चवला योजना के तहत मिलने वाला 14.2 किग्रा. का सिलेंडर अब 553 रुपये में उपलब्ध होगा। पेट्रोलियम मंत्री हरदीप पुरी के अनुसार, आगे इस मूल्य वृद्धि की समीक्षा की जाएगी। अमेरिका-चीन के बीच छिड़े व्यापार युद्ध के चलते अप्रैल, 2021 के बाद कच्चे तेल की कीमतें सबसे निचले स्तर पर हैं। दरअसल, अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप के दुनिया के विभिन्न देशों पर लगाए गए रेंसिप्रोकल टैरिफ के बाद शेयर बाजार धड़ाम से गिरा है। निवेशकों में चीन समेत अन्य कई देशों के अमेरिका पर उठटा नये टैरिफ की घोषणा से टैरिफ वॉर के गंभीर रूप लेने का डर बैठ गया है। इसका सीधा असर भारतीय बाजार पर भी दिखा है, जहां भय और अनिश्चितता के चलते बिकवाली की गहरी मार पड़ी। निवेशकों की घबराहट के बावजूद बाजार के गिरने का सिलसिला मंगलवार को थोड़ा थमता नजर आया। मगर अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार के असर से घरेलू शेयर मार्केट का बचना नामुमकिन है। आर्थिक विशेषज्ञ इस ट्रेड वॉर को आर्थिक मंदी की आहट भी मान रहे हैं। बेरोजगारी और महंगाई की मार केवल भारतीय जनता ही नहीं झेल रही है, आम उपभोक्ता भी खासा परेशान है। ट्रंप के निर्णयों के बाद अमेरिका में विरोध-प्रदर्शनों का दौर चालू हो चुका है। हालांकि अपने यहां आपसी असहमतियों से बिखरा विपक्ष इस मौके का लाभ लेने में कतई चूक रहा है। पेट्रोल-डीजल के खुदरा मूल्य के न बढ़ने की दलीलों के बावजूद आम उपभोक्ता जल्प ही दाम बढ़ने को लेकर पूरी तरह आशंकित है। जैसे पूर्व में गैस सिलेंडर के दाम दस-दस रुपये बढ़ते रहे हैं। बड़ा तबका अपने सीमित बजट में आसानी से समन्वय कर लेता है। मगर पचास रुपये आम निम्न मध्यवर्गीय की जेब पर नकारने के कारण जीती पाजी हारते हैं। निराशा न किसी गिरे को ऊंचा उठने देती है और न प्रगति की किसी योजना को क्रियान्वित होने देती है। अस्तु, निराशा को छोटी बात न मानकर उसके निराकरण का हर क्षेत्र में प्रयत्न होता रहे। जहां भी निराशा का माहौल हो, उसके निराकरण का हर संभव उपाय करना चाहिए। इसका उपाचार यही है कि प्रतिरोध में समर्थ चिंतन और पुरुषार्थ के लिए जन-जन की विचारशक्ति को उत्तेजित किया जाए। उज्ज्वल भविष्य की संभावनाओं पर ध्यान देने और उन्हें समर्थ बनाने के लिए जिस मनोवृत्ति को उत्साहपूर्ण प्रयत्न मिलना चाहिए, उसके लिए आवश्यक पृष्ठभूमि तैयार की जाए।

चितन-मनन

निराशा से होती है हार

निर्यात प्रम के निरंतर उल्लंघन से प्रकृति का अदृश्य वातावरण भी इन दिनों कम दृषित नहीं हो रहा है। भूकम्प, तूफान, बाढ़, विद्रोह, अपराध, महामारियाँ आदि पर नियंत्रण पाना कैसे संभव होगा, समझ नहीं आता। किंकर्तव्यमूढ़ स्थिति में पहुंचा हटप्रभ व्यक्ति प्रमशः अधिक निराशा होता है। इतना साहस और पराक्रम तो विरलों में होता है, जो आंधी, तूफानों के बीच भी आशा का दीपक जलाए रह सके, गतिशीलता में कमी न आने दें। ऐसे व्यक्तियों को महामानव-देवदूत कहा जाता है पर वे यदाकदा ही प्रकट होते हैं। आज जनसाधारण का मानस ऐसे ही दलदल में फंसा है। होना तो चाहिए था कि अनौचित्य के स्थान पर औचित्य को प्रतिष्ठत करने के लिए साहसिक पुरुषार्थ जगता पर लोक मानस में उस स्तर का उच्च स्तरीय उत्साह नहीं उभर रहा है। इन परिस्थितियों में साधारण जनमानस का निराशा होना स्वाभाविक है। समझ लेना चाहिए कि निराशा हल्के दर्जे की बीमारी नहीं है, वह जहां भी जड़ जमाती है, घुन की तरह मजबूत शहतीर को भी खोखला करती जाती है। निराशा अपने साथ हार जैसे मान्यता संजोए रहती है। इतने दबावों से दबा आदमी स्वयं तो टूटता ही है, साथियों को भी तोड़ता है। इससे शक्ति का अपहरण होता है, जीवनी शक्ति जबाब दे जाती है, तनाव बढ़ते जाने से उद्धिग्नता बनी रहती है और ऐसे रचनात्मक उपाय नहीं दिखते, जिनके सहारे तेज बहाव वाली नाव खेकर जीत पाया जाता है। निराशा व्यक्ति जीत की संभावना नकारने के कारण जीती पाजी हारते हैं। निराशा न किसी गिरे को ऊंचा उठने देती है और न प्रगति की किसी योजना को क्रियान्वित होने देती है। अस्तु, निराशा को छोटी बात न मानकर उसके निराकरण का हर क्षेत्र में प्रयत्न होता रहे। जहां भी निराशा का माहौल हो, उसके निराकरण का हर संभव उपाय करना चाहिए। इसका उपाचार यही है कि प्रतिरोध में समर्थ चिंतन और पुरुषार्थ के लिए जन-जन की विचारशक्ति को उत्तेजित किया जाए। उज्ज्वल भविष्य की संभावनाओं पर ध्यान देने और उन्हें समर्थ बनाने के लिए जिस मनोवृत्ति को उत्साहपूर्ण प्रयत्न मिलना चाहिए, उसके लिए आवश्यक पृष्ठभूमि तैयार की जाए।



मुनि प्रमाणसागर जी

भारत की पुण्यभूमि ऋषियों, मुनियों और तपस्वियों की भूमि रही है। इस भूमि ने बार-बार ऐसे महानवों को जन्म दिया जिन्होंने मानवता को नई दिशा और ऊँचाई दी। इन्हीं महामानवों में भगवान महावीर का नाम सर्वोपरि है। उनका जीवन, उनके विचार और उनकी साधना न केवल जैन समाज बल्कि समस्त मानव जाति के लिए पथप्रदर्शक हैं। आज जब हम महावीर जयंती मना रहे हैं, यह केवल एक परंपरा का निर्वाह नहीं, बल्कि आत्ममंथन का अवसर है। यह दिन हमें याद दिलाता है कि केवल पूजा या उत्सव से नहीं, बल्कि उनके सिद्धांतों को जीवन में उतारने से ही सच्ची श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित होती है।

भगवान महावीर का जीवन: तप, त्याग और आत्मोन्नति का पथ

भगवान महावीर का जन्म लगभग ढाई हजार वर्ष पूर्व वैशाली के गणराज्य में क्षत्रियकुंड नामक स्थान पर हुआ था। उनके पिता राजा सिद्धार्थ और माता त्रिशला देवी थीं। उनका जीवन संन्यास से युक्त जीवन उन्हें कभी बाँध न सका। आत्मा की मुक्तिपथ की पुकार ने उन्हें 30 वर्ष की अवस्था में ही घर-परिवार, सुख-संसार सब कुछ त्यागने को प्रेरित किया। बारह वर्षों तक उन्होंने कठोर तप, ध्यान और मौन व्रत



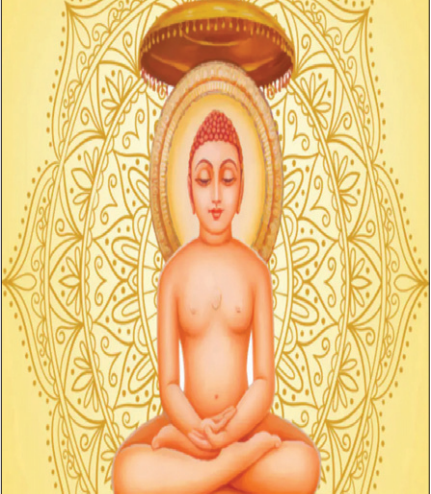
पंकज चतुर्वेदी

भारत के सबसे बड़े महानगरों में से एक मुंबई की प्यास बुझाने का दारोमदार जिन सात जलाशयों पर है, उनमें मार्च के चौथे हफ्ते में ही महज 37.67 प्रतिशत पानी बच रह गया। इन जलाशयों में फिलहाल 5 लाख 45 हजार 183 मिलियन लीटर पानी है। दावा है कि यह जल बमूश्किल मई महीने तक चल पाएगा। हर दिन 400 करोड़ लीटर पेयजल की मांग वाले इस महानगर में समय से पहली आई गर्मी ने पानी का गणित बिगाड़ दिया है। गर्मी के कारण जलाशयों में वाष्पीकरण तेज हो गया है। इसलिए जलस्तर तेजी से नीचे जा रहा है। देश के दूसरे संरक्षित जलाशयों के हालात भी मुंबई से बेहतर नहीं हैं। केंद्रीय जल आयोग (सीडब्ल्यूसी) की ताजा रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, देश के अधिकांश बड़े जलाशयों में पानी उनकी कुल क्षमता के मुकाबले 45% तक कम हो गया है। वहीं, मौसम विभाग ने मार्च से मई के बीच भीषण गर्मी की चेतावनी दी है, तीखी गर्मी यानी जमा जल का अधिक वाष्पीकरण। सीडब्ल्यूसी के अनुसार, देश के 155 प्रमुख जलाशयों में फिलहाल 8,070 करोड़ क्यूबिक मीटर



(वीसीएम) पानी बचा है, जबकि इनकी कुल क्षमता 18,080 करोड़ क्यूबिक मीटर है। जलाशय आरक्षित जल-कुंड हैं, जो खेती-किसानी की जान होते हैं। अभूत से कल-कारखाने भी इनके पानी पर निर्भर हैं। पेयजल तो है ही। यदि इन जलाशयों में पानी पर वाष्पीकरण की चोट यहरी हुई तो जान लें कि रबी और खरीफ के बीच तीसरी फसल लेने वाले खेत खाली ही रहेंगे। यदि जलाशय खाली, नदी सूखी तो बहुत सी जल विद्युत परियोजनाओं का ठप होना भी तय है। चिर्चलिचलाती गर्मी में बिजली की कमी बड़े स्तर पर हाहाकार का न्योता है। संकट अकेले जलाशयों का नहीं है, नदियां भी समय से पहले सूख रही हैं। नदियों का सूखना अकेले पानी की कमी ही नहीं होता, इससे समूचे पर्यावरणीय तंत्र का नुकसान होता है। जमीन की नमी कम होने से ले कर जल-जंगल के जीव तक इससे प्रभावित होते हैं, और यह समूचा तंत्र जंगलों के नुकसान का कारण बनता है। खून से लाल बस्तर की जीवन रेखा कहलाने वाली इंदवती नदी फरवरी के अंतिम हफ्ते में ही मैदान बन गई। बालाघाट की बावन थड़ी नदी हो या फिर

अम्बिकापुर की बांकी नदी या बदायूं की सोत नदी, हर जगह जलधर की जगह रेत का मैदान है और लगता है कि नदी वास्तव में पानी के लिए नहीं, बल्कि बालू के लिए होती है। यह बात सीडब्ल्यूसी कह रहा है कि देश की 20 नदी घाटियों में से 14 में मौजूदा जल भंडार उनकी क्षमता के मुकाबले आधे से भी कम है। इन नदी बेसिनों में से गंगा अपनी सक्रिय क्षमता के मुकाबले मात्र 50 फीसद पर है, जबकि गोदावरी में 48, नर्मदा में 47 और कृष्णा में 34 फीसद पानी ही शेष बचा है। यह परिदृश्य भूजल के लिए सबसे बड़ा खतरा है और हमारे देश की अधिकांश ग्रामीण जल योजनाएँ भूजल पर ही निर्भर हैं। बढ़ती गर्मी, घटती बरसात और जल संसाधनों की नैसर्गिकता से लगातार छेड़छाड़ का ही परिणाम है कि बिहार की 90 फीसद नदियों में पानी नहीं बचा। कुछ दशक पहले तक राज्य की बड़ी नदियाँ-कमला, बलान, फल्गू, घाघरा आदि-कई-कई धाराओं में बहती थीं जो आज नदारद हैं। झारखंड की 141 नदियों के गुम हो जाने की बात फाइलों में दर्ज हो चुकी है। राज्य की राजधानी रांची में करमा नदी देखते देखते अतिक्रमण के घेर में मर



मेरा यह आग्रह है कि महावीर जयंती केवल एक तिथि नहीं, बल्कि हर मनुष्य के जीवन में नई क्रांति का अवसर बने। निष्कर्ष महावीर जयंती हमें केवल भगवान महावीर के जन्म की याद नहीं दिलाती, यह हमें यह सोचने को विवश करता है कि हम उनके सिद्धांतों को किनावा जी पाए हैं। आज आवश्यकता है कि हम आर्डवर से हटकर आत्मोत्थान की ओर बढ़ें। यदि हम सत्य, अहिंसा, अपरिग्रह, ब्रह्मचर्य और अनेकानुवाद को जीवन में उतार लें, तो न केवल हमारा जीवन सुखी होगा, बल्कि सम्पूर्ण समाज में समरसता, शांति और सह-अस्तित्व की भावना भी पुष्ट होगी। आइए, इस महावीर जयंती पर हम संकल्प लें - हम केवल महावीर को पूजेंगे नहीं, महावीर को जिंएंगे

मुद्दा : बढ़ती गर्मी में घटता जल

गई। हरमू और जुमार नदियां नाला बना चुकी हैं। चतरा, देवघर, पाकुड़, पूर्वी सिंहभूम घने जंगल वाले जिले हैं, जहां कुछ ही सालों में सात से 12 नदियों की जल धारा मर गई। यह सवाल हमारे देश में लगभग हर तीसरे साल खड़ा हो जाता है कि द्वाऔसत से कमह पानी बरसा या बरसेगा, अब क्या होगा? देश के 13 राज्यों के 135 जिलों की कोई दो करोड़ हेक्टेयर कृषि भूमि प्रत्येक दस साल में चार बार पानी के लिए त्राहि-त्राहि करती है। अभी तक तो कम बरसात की आशंका होते ही दाल, सब्जी व अन्य उत्पादों के दाम बाजार में आसमानी हो जाते थे लेकिन अब बाजार पर सबसे अधिक असर गर्मी के आंकड़ों का है। इसके बावजूद बढ़ते तापमान के साथ पानी के इस्तेमाल की हमारी आदतें नहीं सुधर रहीं। असल में हमने पानी को ले कर अपनी आदतें खराब कीं। जब कुएं से रस्सी डाल कर पानी खींचना होता था या चापाकल चला कर पानी भरना होता था तो जितनी जरूरत होती थी, उतना ही जल उलींचा जाता था। घर में टैंटी वाले नल लगने और उसके बाद बिजली या डीजल पंप से चलने वाले ट्यूबवेल लगने के बाद तो एक गिलास पानी के लिए बटन दबाते ही दो बारटी पानी बर्बाद करने में भी हमारी आत्मा नहीं कांपती है। हमारी परंपरा पानी की हर बूंद को स्थानीय स्तर पर सहेजने, नदियों के प्राकृतिक मार्ग में बांध, रेत निकालने, मलवा डालने, कूड़ा मिलाने जैसी गतिविधियों से बच कर, पारंपरिक जल स्रोतों-तालाब, कुओं, बावड़ी आदि के हालात सुधार कर, एक महीने की वार्षिक के साथ साल भर के पानी की कमी से जूझने की रही है। हम भूल जाते हैं कि प्रकृति पानी हमें एक चक्र के रूप में प्रदान करती है, और इस चक्र को गतिमान बनाए रखना हमारी महती जिम्मेदारी है।

Market slump sums up global chaos

AS global markets slump and India sees the most calamitous fall in equities since the Covid-19 pandemic, it is clear that US President Donald Trump's tariff offensive has swept the global economy into a state of uncertainty. The trade war seems to be imminent as China and Canada have fired the first round of retaliatory tariffs. The European Union has threatened to join the battle, while other countries are voicing anger over America's new policies. The immediate effect is on stock markets around the world, including Nasdaq, which has moved into the bear territory, while Asian markets are following suit. Crude oil prices have also dipped to around \$64 in reaction to a gloomy economic forecast. The April 2 tariff rollout has wreaked havoc on the international economic system. In the midst of this crisis, India has maintained a low-key approach for the time being. The initial response was merely that the situation is being assessed in the backdrop of the bilateral trade pact talks. Meetings are also on the anvil with exporters to reassure them about the future outlook in relation to US trade. The relatively mild approach can be linked to several factors. A bilateral trade agreement is actually on the table, despite the hard negotiations needed to make it a reality. This is a positive as Indian trade diplomacy has been successful over the years in safeguarding the country's interests, especially in sensitive areas like the dairy sector and foodgrains. At the World Trade Organisation (WTO), for instance, India managed to wrest concessions for its agriculture sector, overriding vociferous complaints by most developed economies. Much depends on the political will, but it is likely that the bilateral treaty will end up being balanced rather than tilted towards US interests. The concept of balance, however, will have to undergo a change as the time has come to end blanket protection for even the so-called 'sensitive' sectors. Some farm experts are now arguing that there are areas even within agriculture where tariffs can be cut with minimal impact on producers. These include fruits and walnuts. Similarly, irrationally high tariffs on goods not made here can be easily acceded to and in return, the US should be asked to ease non-tariff barriers on processed food and marine products. Other issues relating to data localisation and intellectual property rights may not be resolved easily, but compromise formulas may save the day. Given that talks are already underway, unlike in the case of other countries facing the April 2 tariffs, any rigid public stance could reduce the room for flexibility in negotiations. Despite Trump's persistent criticism of India's protectionism, the trajectory of India-US strategic relations looks set to improve considerably under this administration. Deepening of defence ties is clearly on the cards.

Yet one cannot downplay the short-term impact of the new tariffs on some domestic industries. Gems and jewellery exports, for instance, will be hit hard. Out of the \$33 billion worth of exports in the 2023-24 financial year, as much as one-third went to the American market. The industry, primarily in the medium and small enterprises segment, employs as many as 50 lakh skilled and semi-skilled workers.

It virtually collapsed during Covid-19, with skilled artisans going back to rural areas. A dip in orders from the biggest market could worsen the job situation once again. Hopes are being pinned on the new trade deal, but that may be finalised only by September. So, there could be a crisis in the intervening months. It is a mixed bag, however, with tariffs in some areas like apparel actually becoming lower than in other countries, prompting bigger orders from American buyers. Reports from apparel export hub Tirupur (Tamil Nadu) say Indian goods will be cheaper than those from competitors; hence, buyers are rushing to book more orders. The caveat is that there should be a discount to relieve customers there of the higher price burden.

India's strategy to win the trade war

India is resisting Trumps tariffs on farm products, and it must, because its millions of small and poor farmers need higher prices for their products to improve their standard of living.

Trade wars are power wars. President Trump has landed the first big punch in his trade war against India to Make America Great Again. India cannot hope to win by landing a big punch back. The Indian economy is much smaller. India's responses must be strategic to strengthen its economy in the long run. Asking the US to play by global rules is not an option with Trump. GATT (General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs) was created in 1948 to nurture the growth of weaker economies, thereby enlarging the global economy. The GATT's principles are the foundations of the WTO, which replaced the GATT in 1995. Those principles acknowledge that smaller competitors must not be thrown into the ring with larger ones until they have grown stronger. Trump's salvo on 'Liberation Day' has imposed a 49 per cent 'reciprocal tariff' on Cambodia and 46 per cent on Bangladesh, two countries whose per capita incomes are 3 per cent of the USA's! Trump's gripe is that these small countries are exporting more to the US than importing from it. Though that is how international trade is expected to grow the global economy equitably, by enabling poorer countries to produce for richer ones, creating employment and incomes for their own citizens to progressively earn and buy more even from richer countries.

India is also in Trump's crosshairs. India's per capita GDP is less than Cambodia's and Bangladesh's, though its GDP is the fifth largest in the world. It has a long way to go to Viksit Bharat. The US emerged the global hegemon when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, with the largest economy, the largest military and control of the global financial system. The US always put its own economic interests, and those of US companies, above democratic values. The US claims it is the global champion of democracy. It led the 'free world' in the fight against 'non-democratic' communism. The US' definition of democracy is governance with a system of popularly elected leaders. Nevertheless, to maintain its control over petroleum trade, the US overthrew an elected government in a coup d'état in Iran in 1953 and installed the compliant Shah of Iran instead and keeps countries with unelected monarchs in West Asia on its side. India, the world's largest electoral democracy, has a difficult relationship with the US. The US expects India to be always on its side against any authoritarian country unwilling to toe the US' line. The US considers India immoral for remaining

neutral between the Soviet Union and the west in the cold war; it was angry when India was compelled to come closer to Russia when the US supported the Pakistan military dictatorship against India. Trump seems willing to make up with Russia now, but not with China, which has grown into the second largest economy in the world and caught up with the US in advanced technologies. The US and China are India's largest trading partners, with \$118-billion trade with each. Whereas India has a trade deficit of \$85 billion with China from where it imports large volumes of manufactured goods, India has a surplus of \$37 billion with the US, which is India's largest market



for software services. India must tread carefully not to annoy either the US or China. China straddles its northern borders, where tensions continue to simmer. It has become imperative for India to build its own industrial capability, despite Trump's pressure to abandon Make in India. In 1990, China and India were two equally poor large countries. China's economy and per capita GDP is five times larger now. China's manufacturing sector is seven times larger and its high-tech exports are 43 times higher than India's. The remarkable growth of China's manufacturing sector, and especially its high-tech exports, has alarmed the US. It is the provocation for Trump's campaign to Make America Great Again. India and China's manufacturing sectors were similar in 1990. India had even established better capabilities in the

production of machinery, electrical equipment, commercial vehicles and other capital goods. India-made trucks and power equipment were exported to many countries. In 1991, India had to turn to the IMF for financial assistance. With the IMF came the Washington formula: Open borders to trade; reduce tariffs drastically; let citizens enjoy products from around the world; dismantle the public sector; abandon industrial policies. China did not succumb to the US ideology; India complied more easily. Now India, like the US, is importing a large range of manufactured products from China, including high-tech ones.

Trump says India's import duties are too high and must be reduced across the board. India has reduced duties on Harley Davidson motorcycles. Trump wants India to reduce duties on all manufactured products and on agricultural products also to enable America's own, highly subsidised, corporate farmers to expand their markets in India. India is resisting, and it must, because its millions of small and poor farmers need higher prices for their products to improve their standard of living. Indo-US trade negotiations have begun with a declared aim to increase India-US trade to \$500 billion annually by 2030. India is being threatened to reduce barriers to imports of US agriculture and manufactured products. Plus, there are apprehensions of dampeners on Indian IT exports to the US. Thus, India-US trade can be increased only by a huge influx of imports from the US. This will reduce the growth of jobs and incomes in India and weaken its economy. Trump calls India's policies to Make in India 'protectionist' while he is raising trade barriers around the USA, even against tiny Pacific Island countries on whom he has announced reciprocal tariffs! Indian industries have been hoping that US restrictions on Chinese imports will result in openings for India, Vietnam and others to replace China in US supply chains. With Trump adding an additional 34 per cent duty on China, these countries fear that Chinese manufacturers will aggressively sell their products to them instead.

Indian businessmen are already pressing the government to make it easier for them to import Chinese products. To import and sell is easy. Learning to make in India is harder. The time has come for India's manufacturers and the Indian government to stand up against bullying by Trump and his corporate friends and to make India great.

Tariff bloodbath

Trade war looms as China confronts Trump



The onus will be on other nations to fall in line – how long they can hold out will depend on their ability to hit

back. Looking at the larger picture of India-US trade ties, Delhi has chosen negotiations over confrontation. However, investors' growing panic has added to the pressure on India to work out a reasonable deal sooner rather than later. There is a possibility that Trump may not be able to sustain his blitzkrieg if China and other nations up the ante. Ironically, the US President is creating a situation detrimental to his own country. According to an analysis by The Budget Lab at Yale University, retaliatory tariffs could cost the average American household up to \$4,200 annually. The spectre of recession and higher inflation is looming large in the US. Countries like India are hoping that international as well as domestic pressure will make Trump realise his monumental folly and stop him from triggering greater economic chaos.

Plastic in every sip: The toxic truth about bottled water

Recent studies reveal that bottled water often contains far more plastic contaminants than tap water, undermining its perceived superiority.

About 70 per cent of the human body is made up of water, which plays a vital role in delivering oxygen to the brain, transporting nutrients, aiding digestion and regulating body temperature. However, the very water we depend on may contain invisible threats —nanoplastics, plastic particles measuring less than 100 nanometres. Emerging research shows that these plastics have infiltrated our drinking water, raising serious health concerns. Recognising the importance of this resource, the UN declared safe drinking water a fundamental human right in 2010, as part of the Sustainable Development Goals, which aim to ensure universal access by 2030. Yet, as of 2022, around 2.2 billion people lacked access to this basic necessity. Of the primary drinking water sources, such as municipal water supplies, bottled water and household filtration systems, bottled water is the preferred choice for millions, widely perceived as safer and purer than tap water. However, recent studies reveal that bottled water often contains far more plastic contaminants than tap water, undermining its perceived superiority.

Plastic bottles, primarily made from polyethylene terephthalate (PET), contribute significantly to environmental pollution through their production, transportation and disposal. The discarded bottles persist in the environment for decades, breaking down into microplastics (under 5 mm) and nanoplastics. As a result, plastic pollution has escalated into a global crisis, contaminating oceans, rivers and even the most remote ecosystems. Studies

have detected microscopic plastics in marine life, soil and even human blood, raising concerns about their presence in the food chain and potential health



impacts. A 2018 study found that bottled water contained an average of 325 microplastic particles per litre, far exceeding the levels found in tap water. At that time, detection methods were limited to microplastics. However, in January 2024, scientists from Columbia and Rutgers universities introduced a powerful hyperspectral-stimulated Raman scattering optical imaging platform that is capable of detecting nanoplastics at the single-particle level with high sensitivity and specificity. Published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, this study detected nanoplastics in bottled water for the first time, with an average of 2,40,000 detectable

plastic particles per litre — about 90 per cent classified as nanoplastics. These numbers are 10 to 100 times higher than those reported in earlier studies that counted only microplastics.

These contaminants originate primarily from bottle materials, caps and filtration processes used in production. Repeated opening and closing of caps and exposure to heat and sunlight exacerbate the plastic particle release. The health risks of ingesting these plastic particles are concerning. The minuscule size of nanoplastics, invisible to the naked eye, allows them to enter the bloodstream and accumulate in vital organs. Scientists have identified three primary risks: direct toxicity, chemical leachates and microbial contamination. The toxicity of plastic particles can trigger inflammation and cellular damage. Chemical additives such as phthalates and bisphenols, commonly found in plastics, can disrupt hormones, leading to reproductive and metabolic disorders. Additionally, tiny plastics act as carriers for harmful pathogens, increasing infection risks.

Plastic particles have been detected in human blood, lungs, gastrointestinal tract and even placenta. Microplastics can infiltrate critical organs, while nanoplastics pose a greater risk as they can cross the blood-brain barrier, potentially contributing to neurotoxicity and cognitive decline. Prolonged exposure to plastic contaminants may increase oxidative stress, raising the risk of cancer, cardiovascular disorders and metabolic disruptions.

Research suggests nanoplastics can also alter gut microbiota, affecting immune responses and overall health. Long-term studies are needed to fully understand their effects. Given these risks, is bottled water the safer option? In urban areas, tap water is often a more sustainable and cost-effective alternative, undergoing rigorous treatment, including disinfection, filtration and contaminant-testing. While some municipal systems suffer from aging infrastructure and occasional contamination, tap water in many countries is subject to stricter regulations than bottled water.

A 2017 study by Orb Media found that while 83 per cent of global tap water samples contained microplastics, their concentration was significantly lower than in bottled water. The WHO has emphasised the need for improved regulatory frameworks to monitor and mitigate plastic contamination in drinking water.

To improve municipal water quality, governments must invest in modernising treatment plants, repairing pipelines and addressing contamination issues. Public awareness campaigns can rebuild trust in tap water and promote sustainable consumption habits. On an individual level, switching to reusable water bottles and using home filtration systems can significantly reduce plastic waste and exposure to tiny plastics. Filters used under current regulations generally remove particles larger than one micron, including most bacteria, parasites and some viruses, providing adequate protection against harmful contaminants in many public water sources. High-quality water filters, such as activated carbon or reverse osmosis systems, have been shown to reduce microplastic levels in drinking water. Community initiatives, such as public water fountains and refill stations, also play a vital role.

Equities resume selloff, experts predict 50% chance of US recession as Trump cranks up trade war

HONG KONG. Equities and oil plunged on Wednesday after Donald Trump ramped up his trade war by hitting China with tariffs of more than 100 percent as sweeping measures against the United States' dozens of partners came into effect.

After a brief respite Tuesday from the panic-selling at the start of the week, investors were once again scurrying for the hills amid fears that the US president's hammer blow to global commerce will plunge the economy into a recession. The two economic superpowers were headed for a vicious standoff after Trump said China would be hit with another 50 percent levy in response to its retaliation in kind to his initial 34 percent duty announced last week. With Beijing already subject to a 20 percent toll, its exporters are now facing tariffs of up to 104 percent. China has blasted what it called US blackmail and vowed to "fight it to the end", fanning worries the crisis could spiral out of control.

Forex traders were on edge—Beijing has allowed the yuan to weaken to a record low against the dollar, while the Indonesian rupiah was also at an all-time nadir. The South Korean won also hit its weakest since 2009 during the global financial crisis. A woman looks at an electronic board showing the Nikkei 225 index on the Tokyo Stock Exchange in Tokyo on April 8, 2025. Meanwhile, the European Union could unveil its response next week, with French President Emmanuel Macron calling for Washington to reconsider but adding that if the bloc was forced to respond "so be it".

In response to steel and aluminium levies that took effect last month, Brussels is planning measures of up to 25 percent on US goods ranging from soybeans to motorcycles, according to a document seen by AFP. Chinese Premier Li Qiang told EU chief Ursula von der Leyen that Beijing had the "tools" to handle headwinds, according to state news agency Xinhua.

On Wednesday, South Korea unveiled a \$2 billion emergency support package for its crucial export-focused carmakers, warning that Trump's 25 percent tariffs on the sector could deal it a terrible blow.

And the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) said it must "act boldly" to accelerate regional integration. The 10-member bloc—which counts the United States as their main export market—were among those slapped with the toughest levies by Trump.

Asian shares sink as US tariffs take effect

NEW YORK. Asian shares slipped on Wednesday as the latest set of US tariffs, including a massive 104% levy on Chinese imports, went into effect. Japan's Nikkei 225 index initially lost nearly 4% and other markets in the region also declined. The sharply higher tariffs kicked in after midnight Eastern time in the US, even as investors have no idea what to make of President Donald Trump's trade war. On Tuesday, the S&P 500 dropped 1.6% after wiping out an early gain of 4.1%. That took it nearly 19% below its record set in February. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 0.8%, while the Nasdaq composite lost 2.1%. Uncertainty is still high about what President Donald Trump will do with his trade war. More swings up and down for financial markets are expected given the uncertainty over how long Trump will keep the stiff tariffs on imports, which will raise prices for U.S. shoppers and slow the economy. If they last a long time, economists and investors expect them to cause a recession. If Trump lowers them through negotiations relatively quickly, the worst-case scenario might be avoided. Bangladesh manufacturers worried about losing market share in US Garment manufacturers and exporters in Bangladesh, the world's second largest after China, are worried about losing its share in the apparel market of the United States, which is imposing new tariffs of 37%.

The US is Bangladesh's largest market as a single destination where the country's nearly \$39 billion industry exported apparel goods worth \$7.34 billion in 2024.

iPhone shipments take Indian mobile phone exports past Rs 2 trillion in FY25

New Delhi. Mobile phone exports surpassed Rs 2 lakh crore in the 2024-25 financial year with iPhone shipments alone contributing about Rs 1.5 lakh crore, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Tuesday. The minister said that smartphone exports have seen a 54 per cent growth over the 2023-24 fiscal. "Smartphone exports crossed a new record of Rs 2 lakh crore in the financial year 2024-25. It is now among the top exported goods out of India. This is a 54 per cent growth over the previous fiscal. iPhone exports alone are worth about Rs 1.5 lakh crore," Vaishnaw said. He said that electronics manufacturing in the country has increased more than five times and exports by more than six times in the last 10 years. The minister also announced the rollout of the passive component manufacturing scheme and guidelines, which have provisions to give an incentive of Rs 22,919 crore that will create direct employment of around 1 lakh and enhance value addition in the finished products. "We have achieved value addition of about 20 per cent and aim to double it over the next five years," Vaishnaw said. He said that the ecosystem for electronics manufacturing, including component manufacturing, has substantially increased. "More than 400 production units are there, small and big, which manufacture a variety of components," Vaishnaw said. He said that the benefits under the Electronic Component Manufacturing Scheme will be provided for a period of six years starting April 1, but the six-year period also includes a year of gestation on an optional basis. Financial Year (FY) 2024-25 shall be treated as the base year for the computation of turnover-linked incentives under the scheme while the applicant may opt for a gestation period of one year, and in such cases, the base year would be FY 2025-26. "The electronic components supported under the scheme will go into consumer electronics, medical electronics, power electronics, automobiles and practically in every technological product," Vaishnaw said.

RBI MPC meeting: 5 key development reforms you must know

Currently, UPI payments are mostly capped at Rs 1 lakh for both P2P and P2M. The RBI has suggested that National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) may now review and revise these limits based on evolving user needs.

New Delhi. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra announced a 25 basis points cut in the repo rate, bringing it down from 6.25% to 6%. Alongside this, the central bank also introduced a series of developmental and

regulatory measures aimed at strengthening the financial system and encouraging innovation.

SECURITISATION OF STRESSED ASSETS

To help banks and lenders deal with bad loans more effectively, the RBI has proposed a new framework for securitising stressed assets. A draft version of the framework is being released for public feedback. It is expected to offer banks an alternative route for enabling securitisation of stressed assets through a market-based mechanism beyond the current methods under the SARFAESI Act, 2002. At present, co-lending rules apply only to partnerships between banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) for loans in priority sectors. Now, the RBI has decided to allow all Regulated Entities (Res) to co-lend under a generic regulatory framework. This move aims to widen access to credit by allowing more



flexible lending arrangements. A draft set of rules is being shared for comments.

GOLD LOAN RULES UNDER REVIEW

People often take loans by pledging gold jewellery. Different lenders currently follow different rules for such loans. To bring uniformity and address some concerns that have been observed, the RBI plans to introduce comprehensive regulations for such loans. The new guidelines will focus on both financial safety and fair practices.

UPI TRANSACTION LIMITS MAY CHANGE

Currently, UPI payments are mostly capped at Rs 1 lakh for both Person to Person (P2P) and Person to Merchant payments (P2M). The RBI has suggested that National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) may now review and revise these limits based on evolving user needs and suitable measures will be introduced to reduce potential risks arising from increased transaction limits. However, P2P transactions will still remain capped at Rs 1 lakh. Banks can decide their own internal limits within the cap set by NPCI.

MORE FLEXIBILITY IN REGULATORY SANDBOX

To boost fintech innovation, the RBI has proposed making its Regulatory Sandbox 'Theme Neutral' and 'On Tap'. This would enable continuous innovation in the ever evolving fintech space.

RBI changes stance from neutral to accommodative: What does it mean

NEW DELHI. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra has announced a cut in the repo rate by 25 basis points, bringing it down from 6.25% to 6%. This decision was taken by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) and was supported by all its members. The RBI has also shifted its policy stance from "neutral" to "accommodative". This means the central bank is open to taking supportive steps to boost growth, but the Governor made it clear that this should not be confused with any change in liquidity management. Sanjay Malhotra said, "Impeded by a challenging global environment, growth is still on a recovery path after an underwhelming performance in the first half of 2024-25, which is the last fiscal. In such challenging global economic conditions, the benign inflation

outlook, and the moderate growth demand that the MPC continues to support growth." Accordingly, the MPC unanimously voted to reduce the policy report rate by 25 basis points to 6%. Moreover, it also decided to



change the stock from neutral to accommodative," he added.

RATIONAL BEHIND ACCOMODATIVE STANCE

The central bank shifts to growth mode

despite global headwinds and tariff worries. Anirudh Garg, Partner and Fund Manager at Invasset PMS, stated, "The RBI's 25 basis point repo rate cut to 6.00%, coupled with a unanimous shift in stance to "accommodative," signals a decisive pivot towards growth. With inflation expectations anchored FY26 CPI forecast now revised lower to 4% the central bank has found room to support demand without risking macro stability."

"Governor Sanjay Malhotra's tone struck a balance: confident on domestic resilience, yet cautious of global headwinds. The US tariff escalations, weaker dollar, and volatile crude prices pose potential risks to India's exports and imported inflation. Yet, the RBI believes the domestic economy is well-positioned to weather these shocks," Garg said.

RBI downgrades 2025-26 GDP forecast to 6.5% from 6.7% amid global tariff war

NEW DELHI. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in its latest Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting held on Wednesday, reduced its growth forecast for the financial year 2025-26 to 6.5%. This is a cut of 20 basis points from its earlier estimate of 6.7% made in February. Along with this, the central bank also announced a 25 basis point cut in the key repo rate, bringing it down to 6%. This was the second address by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra since taking over the role in December 2024. The policy review was closely watched as global conditions remain uncertain, with rising trade tensions and changing market conditions.

GDP PROJECTION LOWERED DUE TO GLOBAL UNCERTAINTY

While sharing the new projections, Governor Malhotra said the downward revision of the GDP forecast was mainly due to growing risks in global trade and policy developments. He said uncertainties remain high due to the recent



increase in global market volatility. The RBI now expects real GDP for the year 2025-26 to grow at 6.5%. The quarterly breakdown is as follows: Governor Malhotra said these forecasts are based on current data and balanced risks. He added that the Indian economy is still on a stable growth path but cannot stay unaffected by global trade issues.

INFLATION EXPECTED TO REMAIN UNDER CONTROL

On inflation, the RBI said that retail inflation has moderated in recent months. A sharp fall in food prices helped lower overall price rise in January and February 2025. The RBI noted that the outlook for food inflation is now more stable. This is supported by better crop forecasts and the improved supply of key food items.

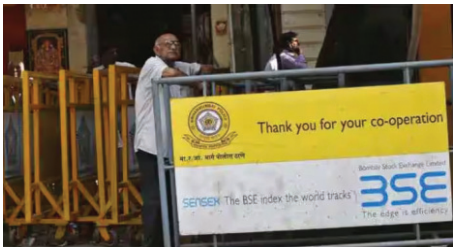
The central bank now expects inflation to remain within its comfort zone. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation for 2025-26 is projected at 4%, with the following quarterly estimates:

US Tariff Impact: Invest In THESE 4 Domestic-Oriented Sectors, Analyst Tells Indian Investors To Avoid Panic Selling

New Delhi. Stock markets across the globe tanked sharply on Monday, in the wake of fears that Trump's policies on reciprocal tariffs may lead to recession. On Monday, the market cap of BSE-listed firms fell sharply by Rs 14,09,225.71 crore to Rs 3,89,25,660.75 crore (USD 4.54 trillion) in a single day led by the carnage in global markets. Domestic markets however staged a strong comeback on Tuesday, with Investors' kitty swelling by Rs 7.32 lakh crore. Given the volatility in stock markets across the globe, should investors brace up for further rocky path or will there be calm anytime soon? Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited has said that India is well-positioned for outperformance in an exclusive chat with Reema Sharma of Zee News. Excerpts...

Stock markets have bounced back from the Maniac Monday (Tuesday opening), but is the fear still looming large? These are technical bounce backs from the knee-jerk sell-off as the Asian market improved today. Its sustenance will depend on the further

development of the trade war. Positivity triggered as news developed that many countries have approached the US to discuss a cut in tariffs for US exports. This is expected to ease the



trade war. And India holds an edge, being already in discussion with the US to deal a bilateral trade agreement and placed in the lower bracket of the reciprocal tariff list. There are fresh threats by the US to impose a punitive tariff against China. Will global market carnage continue? The future trend of the global market will depend on an ease in trade wars. Retaliation is expected to make the situation worse, as the US can impose further trade

sanctions. This is expected to impact the world economy, increasing the risk of recession in 2026. Improvement in bilateral agreements with the US & others and reduction in tariffs towards zero per cent will revoke the tantrum on the global stock market. How are Indian investors positioned amidst the heightened volatility in Global markets? Indian investors are advised to stay calm and avoid panic selling amidst global market volatility. Historically, India has shown resilience during global sell-offs, and in the current scenario, while the US and Japan markets are down by over 10%, India is down by only 4%. With a strong domestic economy, lower tariffs, and stable trade agreements, India is well-positioned for outperformance. The market valuation has corrected to its long-term average, making it an opportune time for long-term investments. Investors should maintain their portfolios, continue SIPs, and consider buying on dips, especially in domestic-oriented sectors like Finance, Consumption, Cement, and Infrastructure.

Cheaper home, auto loan EMIs after RBI rate cut. What it means for you

RBI reduces key lending rate to 6%. Lower interest rates are expected to make borrowing cheaper, which can help people buy homes or vehicles more easily.

New Delhi If you have been thinking about buying a house or a new car, there may be good news for you. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reduced the key lending rate—known as the repo rate—by 25 basis points, bringing it down from 6.25% to 6%. This move, announced after the latest Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting, could lead to lower interest rates on loans, including home and auto loans. This is the second time in a row that the RBI has cut the repo rate. The decision comes as inflation has started to ease and economic growth has slowed down. Lower interest rates are expected to make borrowing cheaper, which can help people buy homes or vehicles more easily.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR BORROWERS?

The repo rate is the rate at which the RBI lends money to commercial banks. When the repo rate comes down, banks can borrow funds from the RBI at a lower cost. If banks pass on this benefit to customers, then people taking home loans, auto loans, or other types of loans may get these at lower interest rates. This means smaller EMIs (Equated Monthly Instalments) and reduced financial pressure on borrowers.

The cut in repo rate is expected to help the housing sector, especially those planning to take home loans.

Manju Yagnik, Vice Chairperson of Nahar Group and Senior Vice President of NAREDCO Maharashtra, said, "The Reserve Bank of India's decision to cut key interest rates by 25 basis points to 6% is a welcome move for the housing sector. Lower interest rates will make home loans more affordable, giving more people the ability to buy homes and helping demand grow in the real estate market."

She also added that this cut in rates could help not only first-time buyers but also investors, and may especially boost the affordable housing segment, where cost



of borrowing matters the most.

Boman Irani, President of CREDAI National, said, "At a time when the global economy is facing problems due to rising tariffs and other issues, this decision shows a clear focus on growth. With inflation now under control and expected to stay around 4.5%, this rate cut could lift consumer confidence and increase people's ability to borrow, especially for buying homes." He added that this move could encourage more people in the mid-income and affordable housing categories

to buy property, as these groups are more sensitive to changes in interest rates.

WHAT ABOUT CAR LOANS?

Lower interest rates could also benefit people planning to buy cars. With car loan interest rates likely to go down, more people may consider buying vehicles, especially in the mid-to-high-end segments. The auto sector, which has seen mixed signals due to supply and demand issues, may get a push from cheaper loans and improved buyer sentiment.

MORE CUTS COULD COME

Upasna Bhardwaj, Chief Economist at Kotak Mahindra Bank, said, "The MPC's decision to cut the repo rate by 25 basis points and move to an accommodative stance was expected. With global problems increasing and signs of slowing growth in India, there may be a need for more rate cuts in the coming months."

She added that there could be an additional 75 to 100 basis points of rate cuts during the year, depending on how the global situation affects India.

Cyber fraud syndicate linked to digital arrest busted, four arrested in city

The victim, a woman transferred Rs 8.10 lakh under pressure and later approached the police after realising she had been duped.

NEW DELHI. The Delhi Police has busted a cyber fraud syndicate that extorted Rs 8.10 lakh from a 45-year-old woman using forged documents impersonating the CBI and ED. Four members of the gang have been arrested, officials said on Tuesday. The accused were identified as Raja Mandal (27) and Anup Kumar Tiwari (23), who acted as account holders, along with Tushar Thapa (23) and Saurabh Tiwari (23), who arranged the accounts used in the scam. A senior police officer said, "The woman lodged a complaint alleging that she received a call from an unknown number where the caller claimed to be from the Telecom Department and threatened her for using a fake SIM card in her name. Further, she received video calls from some unknown numbers claiming to be officials from the ED

and CBI departments." To convince her of the threat, the fraudsters sent forged legal documents bearing fake seals and logos of the Supreme Court, ED, and CBI,



accusing her of involvement in a money laundering case. "Further, she was subjected to digital arrest on a live video call for 48 hours at her house along with her daughter and elderly father, from March 5 to March 7," the officer added.

The woman transferred Rs 8.10 lakh under pressure and later approached the police after realising she had been duped. "During investigation, the locations of the accused were continuously traced and three accused were arrested on March 31. Interrogation revealed that Tiwari and Thapa used to find local people to open fake accounts in their names and lured them with good commissions for every transaction of received money," Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Raja Banthia said. Fake SIM cards were also arranged to access banking OTPs and SMS updates. Mandal, one of the account holders admitted that the account was opened under instructions from Tiwari and Thapa. "During interrogation, it was revealed that Raja Mandal's account was used for receiving the extorted amount and that it had been opened on the directions of Thapa and Tiwari," said the DCP.

DASS, DANICS cadres tussle over 217 posts

NEW DELHI. A tussle between the Delhi Administrative Sub-ordinate Services (DASS) and the Delhi, Andaman, and Nicobar Island Civil Services (DANICS) has escalated over the creation of 217 new posts for promoted DASS officers. In 2023, the Delhi High Court allowed the creation of these 217 posts for DASS officers, sparking an immediate challenge by DANICS officers. They moved to the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), arguing that the posts were meant for them. The review of the DASS cadre is supposed to take place every five years. However, DASS officers claim that no review has been conducted in the last five decades. The matter is now under consideration by the Union Home Ministry, with a resolution expected soon. In the administrative hierarchy of the Delhi government, the DANICS cadre ranks just below the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), followed by the DASS cadre. DASS officers, who have long been considered the backbone of the administrative structure, have consistently called for a review of their cadre in accordance with the rules. A delegation of DASS officers met with Chief Minister Rekha Gupta earlier this week to present their case. Sources say a similar delegation from the DANICS cadre has also approached the CM.

26/11 plotter Tahawwur Rana extradited from US, now on flight to India: Sources

NEW DELHI. Tahawwur Rana, accused of masterminding the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, has been extradited from the United States and is expected to arrive in India early tomorrow morning, accompanied by a special team of intelligence and investigative officials, sources told. A special plane is carrying Rana and will also take a halt in between at an undisclosed location before reaching New Delhi, sources added. In line with recommendations from a US court, discreet high-security arrangements have been put in place at two jails in Delhi and Mumbai. Top government sources have also informed that upon his arrival, Rana will be produced before a National Investigation Agency (NIA) court in New Delhi for custody. Mumbai Crime Branch will get his custody later, they added. The extradition operation is being closely overseen by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, alongside senior officials from the NIA and the Ministry of Home Affairs, sources added.

Mahua Moitra claims fish shops shut, traders threatened at Delhi market; BJP reacts

NEW DELHI. Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra on Tuesday claimed that fish and meat shops in southeast Delhi's Chittaranjan Park, a Bengali-dominated area, were shut. She also posted a video, alleging that "BJP goons" were "threatening" fish market traders for running their business next to a temple in the area. However, the BJP hit back and accused Moitra of posting a doctored video in an attempt to disturb communal harmony in the area. Responding to Moitra's claim, the Delhi Police said it did not receive any complaint, but the matter was under enquiry. In the clip posted by Moitra on X, a man dressed in a saffron t-shirt and jeans is heard saying it was wrong to set up a fish market next to a temple in Market No 1 of Chittaranjan Park, popularly known as CR Park, one of the poshest areas of Delhi. "The market is just adjoining the temple. This is wrong. It is hurting the sentiments of the Sanatanas. Sanatana Dharma says we should not kill anyone..." "This is pure fiction that fish and meat are offered to deities. There is no such proof in the 'shastras'. The entire country is watching this," the man said in the video. India Today TV cannot independently verify the authenticity of the clip. In the video, a shopkeeper is telling the man that the fish market was allotted by the DDA. To this, the man said, "Yes I know that. The DDA can't run away with its responsibility. We will fix their mistakes. CR Park is a posh area and foreigners come here."

Capital sizzles under early April heatwave

NEW DELHI. A severe heatwave continued to scorch the national capital on Tuesday, with maximum temperatures reaching beyond the 40-degree Celsius mark for the second consecutive day. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), key weather stations in Safdarjung and Ayanagar recorded maximum temperatures of 41°C and 40.4°C, respectively. The city woke up to an unusually warm morning, with the minimum temperature settling at 22.4°C, 2.4 degrees above the seasonal average. Monday marked the onset of the season's first heatwave



in Delhi, with the mercury touching 40.2°C. The IMD has forecast continued heatwave conditions in parts of the capital over the next few days. A yellow alert has been issued for the city, valid until April 9. The weather department noted that three major stations — Safdarjung, Ridge, and Ayanagar — met the criteria for a heatwave on Tuesday, officially marking the beginning of heatwave conditions this season. According to the IMD, heatwave conditions are declared when the maximum temperature touches or exceeds 40°C in the plains, 30°C in hilly regions, or when there is a departure from normal temperature by 4.5°C to 6.4°C. A yellow alert for heatwaves by IMD signals moderate but tolerable heat for most, with potential health risks for vulnerable groups like infants, the elderly, and those with chronic conditions. People are advised to avoid sun exposure, wear light cotton clothes and cover their heads when outdoors to avoid health-related risks, say experts.

Delhi hospitals gear up for heat stroke cases

NEW DELHI. With the onset of extreme summer temperatures and a heat wave alert issued for Delhi-NCR, hospitals across the capital are preparing to tackle the anticipated surge in heat stroke cases. Dr Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital, which had set up a dedicated heat stroke unit last year, has reactivated the facility in anticipation of rising admissions. Doctors at the hospital say heat stroke is becoming increasingly common in Delhi, and immediate intervention is crucial to avoid organ failure or death. The hospital has restarted a special ward within its emergency department, equipped with two large tubs filled with 50 kilograms of ice each. Patients suffering from severe heat stroke will be immersed in these tubs to rapidly reduce their body temperature, a critical step in preventing fatal complications. According to government estimates, 25 patients lost their lives to heat stroke in the national capital last year. However, independent organisations claim the actual toll was significantly higher, estimating around 300 deaths. While preparations are well underway at the RML Hospital, the situation at Lady Hardinge Medical College paints a different picture. Though a heat stroke unit has been set up in its emergency department, it remains non-functional. Doctors at the hospital cited technical reasons for the delay in launching the facility. Delhi government hospitals, which cater to thousands of patients daily, appear ill-equipped to handle the expected influx of heat stroke cases. Despite last year's deadly summer, most of these hospitals have only stocked up on ice packs, with no comprehensive system in place to deal with severe cases. From May to July, hospitals usually witness a spike in heat stroke cases, and health experts warn that the lack of proper facilities could once again put lives at risk. "Heatstroke occurs when the body temperature exceeds 104°F. The symptoms include confusion, dry and hot skin, rapid heartbeat and even seizures," said Dr Mukesh Mehra, senior director (Internal Medicine) at Max Super Speciality Hospital.

Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board seeks water, health check ups at shelter homes

NEW DELHI. The Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) has approached multiple civic bodies and government departments, urging them to ramp up essential services at shelter homes across the capital. The board has written to the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), and the Health and Welfare Department to ensure measures are in place to protect vulnerable residents from heat-related risks. DUSIB has requested the DJB and NDMC to ensure a consistent and adequate water supply, following concerns raised by Shelter Management Agencies (SMAs) over water shortages in several shelter

homes. The board noted that limited access to water during peak summer months



increases the risk of heat-related illnesses, such as heatstroke, among shelter residents. The Health and Welfare Department has been urged to conduct regular medical check-ups at shelter homes. In its communication, DUSIB stressed the

need to monitor and address heat-induced health issues, particularly among high-risk groups like children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers. The board underscored the importance of early identification and treatment of such cases to prevent complications. Simultaneously, DUSIB has asked the MCD to intensify sanitation efforts and vector control measures in and around shelter homes. The board emphasised the role of regular cleanliness drives, timely garbage removal, and fogging in maintaining hygiene and preventing the spread of infections. Highlighting the increased risk of mosquito-borne diseases during the summer, DUSIB also called for stronger fogging and anti-larval drives, especially in vulnerable zones.

Delhi L-G VK Saxena orders FIR and suspensions of DDA officials

NEW DELHI. In a crackdown on repeated land encroachments, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena has ordered the suspension of several Delhi Development Authority (DDA) officials and directed the filing of an FIR against those responsible for the re-encroachment of DDA land along Pusta Road, between Mayur Vihar Phase-I and NH-24. The suspended officials include Assistant Engineers (AEs) and Junior Engineers (JEs) associated with the Mayur Nature Park project site. Saxena also instructed that an FIR be lodged under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023—including Sections 198, 223, 316, and 318—as well as



Section 13 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. A departmental inquiry has also been initiated, alongside a criminal investigation to probe potential collusion between DDA staff and external parties. Emphasising accountability, the LG has

asked the Vice Chairman of DDA to submit a detailed report on the inquiry and actions taken within seven days. This move follows alarming reports of re-encroachment on land that had been cleared in a large-scale demolition drive in June 2024. That operation, conducted under the supervision of the Delhi High Court and National Green Tribunal (NGT), had reclaimed around 390 hectares of land. It involved the removal of nearly 6,000 illegal structures, four unauthorized nurseries, 250 hectares of encroached farmland, and around 40 illegal borewells. The encroachment occurred on land earmarked for the Mayur Nature Park.

Chaos in J&K Assembly as AAP MLA thrashed by BJP leaders over Hindu remark

The tensions flared after the BJP accused Mehraj Malik of making derogatory remarks against Hindus during media interactions. BJP MLA Vikram Randhawa lashed out at Malik, demanding strict action against him and even invoking the Public Safety Act (PSA).

NEW DELHI. A dramatic scuffle broke out outside the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on Saturday as Aam Aadmi Party MLA Mehraj Malik was assaulted by BJP legislators, videos of which have now gone viral on social media. The confrontation followed heated exchanges inside the House, where Malik clashed not

only with BJP MLAs but also with PDP legislator Waheed Para during a turbulent legislative session. The tensions flared after the BJP accused Malik of making derogatory remarks against Hindus during media interactions. BJP MLA Vikram Randhawa lashed out at Malik, demanding strict action against him and even invoking the Public Safety Act (PSA). "He has abused Hindus... We will not tolerate this... He said 'Hindu tilak laga ke rape karta hai'... We will give him an answer," Randhawa said, speaking to reporters outside the Assembly.

In the videos that surfaced, BJP MLAs were seen surrounding Mehraj Malik and assaulting him, with one clip showing attempts to slap the AAP legislator. Randhawa continued his tirade, stating, "It is our misfortune that we have people with a cheap mindset as MLAs. Even though they are from a particular community,

their attack is always on the BJP and the Hindu community. There are so many cases against him (Mehraj Malik)... He should undergo a NARCO test, and we will request the Speaker to suspend him from the Assembly. He speaks nonsense every day." In a particularly charged moment caught on camera, Randhawa



was heard saying, "A two-bit MLA Just because he became an MLA, he thinks he can abuse Hindus? We'll teach him a

lesson today." The chaos inside the Assembly spilt over as PDP workers in the visitors' gallery clashed with Malik over his past comments on former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed. The Assembly had to be adjourned for three hours due to the uproar, largely triggered by the government's refusal to allow an adjournment motion to discuss the Waqf Act. Meanwhile, BJP MLAs staged a sit-in protest outside the Assembly, accusing the state government of dodging critical discussions on unemployment and regularisation of daily wagers. Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma said, "The government is running away from discussion and trying to deviate from the issues. For the third day in a row, MLAs created a ruckus in the Assembly. They created an issue out of the Waqf Amendment Bill, which has now become an Act. They want to save land jihadis... The common masses have understood the real face of the NC."

NEWS BOX

3 killed, 3 injured in mass shooting at town house complex in US's Virginia

Spotsylvania County Three people were killed, and three others were injured in a shooting in northeastern Virginia on Tuesday evening, according to law enforcement.At about 5:30 pm, law enforcement received 911 calls about a shooting at a townhouse complex in Spotsylvania County, about 65 miles south-west of Washington, DC, said Major Elizabeth Scott, spokesperson for the Spotsylvania Sheriff's Office.She said they are urging the public to stay clear of the area as officials investigate the shooting. No arrests have been made."There are dozens upon dozens of officers out actively looking for suspects and preserving the crime scene," Scott said.The people injured in the mass shooting in the area of Olde Greenwich Circle have been taken to hospitals. Their condition is unknown. No additional information about the victims was immediately available.

Catholic priest in California arrested for sexually abusing a minor

world. A Catholic priest in Downey, California, was arrested for allegedly molesting a child. Officials say Father Jaime Arriaga, 41, is charged with five serious offences, including rape and other crimes against a child. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department confirmed that he was arrested after turning himself in last Thursday.

After the allegations surfaced, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles took him out of his position at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Downey."The archdiocese has a long history of commitment to protecting children and reporting and preventing abuse," said the archdiocese in a statement. It also said that Arriaga was reported to police as soon as the allegations were raised.The Archdiocese further stated that under its own strict "zero-tolerance policy," anyone who harms a minor is automatically removed from their job permanently. Arriaga was officially charged on Monday and is still in custody, NBC News reported.

CHILD ABUSE CASE MAY INVOLVE MORE VICTIMS

Police said the abuse involves one identified victim so far, but they suspect there may be others. Detectives from the Special Victims Unit are urging people with information to come forward.

One of the alleged attacks occurred on February 8, and three others the following day, according to court documents. The charges include assault with intent to commit a sexual act on a minor.The Archdiocese informed churchgoers at both locations about the situation during weekend masses. A statement was read at both churches, saying Arriaga had "been removed from ministry as a result of a recent report of alleged sexual misconduct involving a minor"

The Archdiocese has removed all online profiles and photos of Arriaga, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Pentagon chief vows to reclaim Panama Canal, China slams US blackmail

Panama City. The United States will not allow China to jeopardise the operations of the Panama Canal, US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth warned during a visit to the Central American nation on Tuesday.

Hegseth is the second senior US official to visit Panama since President Donald Trump took office in January, vowing to "take back" the US-built canal to counter what he sees as China's disproportionate influence over the waterway."Today, the Panama Canal faces ongoing threats," Hegseth said in a speech at a police station located at the entry to the shipping route.

The United States of America will not allow communist China or any other country to threaten the canal's operation or integrity," he added.The United States built the more than century-old canal and handed it over to Panama in 1999.

Hong Kong company called Panama Ports operates two ports at either end of the canal connecting the Atlantic and Pacific, through which five percent of all global shipping passes.

'WONDER OF THE WORLD'

The Trump administration has put immense pressure on Panama to reduce Chinese influence on the canal, which Washington sees as a threat to US national security."I want to be very clear. China did not build this canal. China does not operate this canal. And China will not weaponise this canal," Hegseth said, calling it a "wonder of the world."Speaking alongside Panama's President Jose Raul Mulino, Hegseth said the US and Panama together would "take back the Panama Canal from China's influence" and keep it open to all nations, using the "deterrent power of the strongest, most effective and most lethal fighting force in the world."He claimed that China's control of critical infrastructure in the canal area gave Beijing the power to conduct spying activities across Panama, making Panama and the United States "less secure, less prosperous and less sovereign."

The Chinese Embassy in Panama issued a statement refuting Hegseth's claim that Beijing interferes in the operations of the canal."China has never taken part in the management or operation of the Panama Canal, nor has it interfered in issues" concerning the waterway, the statement said, calling on Washington to halt "blackmail" and "plundering" of Panama and other countries of the region.It labelled Hegseth's comments "not at all responsible or founded" and said the United States "has orchestrated a sensationalist campaign based on the 'China threat theory' so as to undermine cooperation between China and Panama.

"China has always respected Panama's sovereignty with regard to the canal," the embassy said.The Panama Ports concession to operate Balboa port on the Pacific side of the canal and Cristobal port on the Atlantic side was first granted in 1997 and renewed for another 25 years in 2021.

Trump's tariff feud with US Senator turns personal: Smallest neck I've seen

Donald Trump's remarks come as Adam Schiff cements his role as one of Trump's most vocal and unrelenting critics on economic policy, warning that the administration's aggressive tariff strategy is steering the nation toward what he has ominously dubbed a looming "Trump recession".

world. In a moment that quickly went viral, President Donald Trump turned a political disagreement into a personal spectacle, delivering a bizarre and scathing attack on Democratic Senator Adam Schiff. With cameras rolling and supporters laughing, Trump mocked Schiff's physical appearance."Adam Schiff has the smallest neck I have ever seen and the biggest head

we call them watermelon head," Trump said, pointing to his index finger and wondering aloud how Schiff's "big fat face" could rest on such a thin neck. "It's a mystery, no one can understand," he said.The president's remarks come as Schiff cements his role as one of Trump's most vocal and unrelenting critics on economic policy, warning that the administration's aggressive tariff strategy is steering the nation toward what he has ominously dubbed a looming "Trump recession".But he is the most dishonest person I have ever seen, and how we can allow people like that to run an office is a shame."Responding to Trump's tirade, Schiff posted a video of the speech on X with a pointed caption. "The President of the United States seems oddly focused on me. Shouldn't he be focused on the economy he's crashing?"Schiff has been a consistent and outspoken critic of the administration's trade policy, warning that Trump's tariffs could plunge the US into a deep economic downturn."This is



uncoordinated, capricious and simply destructive. He's going to tank our economy, and he could tank much of the economy around the world," the California senator said, accusing Trump of isolating the United States on the global stage."The only nations that seem to be immune from his caprice are the dictatorships like Russia, Iran, and North Korea. He's treating countries like he's treating corporations,

like he's treating law firms, like he's treating members of the press It's part of the same caprice that you will often find with a dictator."In a recent appearance on NBC's Meet the Press, Schiff rejected Trump's assurances that the tariffs would spark an "economic revolution". "I don't agree with any part of that," he said bluntly.

"And unfortunately, he's wrecking our economy." Schiff added that if the US does enter a recession, it would bear the president's name. "I hope and pray we stay out of recession," he said.

"But if we head into a recession, it will be the Trump recession."The senator painted a stark picture of the economic fallout already being felt across the country. "I'm hearing from farmers who still haven't recovered market share from the tariffs during the first Trump administration. I'm hearing from people in the tourist industry. You have people from other countries now who don't want to come here, most particularly Canadians," he said.

Cut by mistake: Trump administration restores funding to UN food programmes

Washington The State Department said Tuesday that it had rolled back an undisclosed number of sweeping funding cuts to UN World Food Program emergency projects in 14 impoverished countries, saying it had terminated some of the contracts for life-saving aid by mistake."There were a few programs that were cut in other countries that were not meant to be cut, that have been rolled back and put into place," State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce told reporters.Bruce said she had no immediate information on which countries had US funding for food aid restored after a days-long cutoff. She gave no explanation for how some contracts came to be cancelled in error.The World Food Program didn't immediately respond to messages seeking comment.The Associated Press reported Monday that the Trump administration cut funding to WFP emergency programmes, helping keep millions alive in Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen and 11 other countries, many of them struggling with conflict, according to the



agency and officials who spoke to the AP.Secretary of State Marco Rubio and other administration officials have pledged to spare emergency food programs and other life-and-death aid even as the Trump administration and Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency dismantled the US Agency for International Development.All but several hundred of USAID's thousands of contracts for aid and development programs abroad have been eliminated. The new cuts have hit some of the last remaining humanitarian programs run by USAID.Notices sent over the last week said US funding for WFP emergency programs in 14 countries was amongst about 60 being cancelled in the Middle East, Africa, Central and South America and the Pacific Islands "for the convenience of the US Government."Those latest terminations were at the direction of Jeremy Lewin, a top DOGE lieutenant who was appointed to oversee the elimination of USAID programs, according to termination notices sent to partners and viewed by the AP.The WFP, the world's largest provider of food aid, publicly appealed to the US on Monday to reconsider cuts worth hundreds of millions of dollars for food programs.

Washington/Beijing The United States said on Tuesday that 104 per cent duties on imports from China will take effect shortly after midnight, even as the administration of President Donald Trump moved to quickly start talks with other trading partners targeted by sweeping tariffs.

US stocks dropped on Tuesday for a fourth straight trading day since Trump's tariffs announcement last week, with the S&P 500 closing below 5,000 for the first time in almost a year. The index is now 18.9 per cent below its most recent high on February 19, close to the 20 per cent decline that defines a bear market.S&P 500 companies have lost USD 5.8 trillion in stock market value since Trump's tariff announcement last Wednesday, the deepest four-day loss since the benchmark was created in the 1950s, according to LSEG data.Global markets had previously posted gains on hopes that Trump might be willing to negotiate down the array of country and product-specific trade barriers he is erecting around the world's largest consumer market.Japan's Nikkei saw a

broad sell-off on Wednesday morning and other Asian markets were braced for falls, hours before the tariffs were set to take effect.

The administration has scheduled talks



with South Korea and Japan, two close allies and major trading partners, and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni is due to visit next week.

"These are tailored, highly tailored deals," Trump said at a White House event, where he signed executive orders aimed at boosting coal production. "We've had talks with many, many countries, over 70, they all want to come in. Our problem is, can't see that many that fast."But the White House made clear that country-specific

Officer killed in knife attack at police station in Russia, suspect also dead



Moscow. A man wielding a knife was killed after attacking a police station in Chechnya on Tuesday, along with one of the station's officers in the Russian Caucasus region, officials said. Ramzan Kadyrov, Chechnya's leader and a fervent supporter of Kremlin leader Vladimir Putin, said the attacker was "liquidated" after the attack at the police station in Achkhoy-Martan, outside the region's main town, Grozny. Kadyrov sent Chechen men to fight

alongside Russian soldiers in the now more than three-year-old war in Ukraine that Russia started with a full-scale invasion on its smaller neighbour.In comments posted on Telegram on Tuesday, Kadyrov said it had been established the attacker was acting at the behest of a group under the direction of a Ukrainian national. He offered no evidence of Ukrainian involvement.Reuters could not independently verify the reports. There

- ➡Knife-wielding man attacks police station in Russia's Chechnya
- ➡Chechen leader claims attacker had links with Ukrainian national
- ➡Russia couldn't verify reports of attacker's link with Ukraine

was no immediate comment from Ukraine to Kadyrov's claims.

Russia fought two post-Soviet wars over mainly Muslim Chechnya and in the end put down a separatist rebellion, leaving the region largely in ruins and at the cost of many thousands of lives. Kadyrov has been the region's leader since 2007.Alexander Bastrykin, the head of Russia's Investigative Committee, which deals with serious crime, said in comments reported by Russian news agencies that a policeman had also died in the assault on the police station.

Philippine politician offers to sleep with 'single, fertile mothers'; faces flak

A congressional candidate running for a seat in Philippines' Pasig City is under scrutiny for misogynistic remarks made during a campaign rally where he offered to "sleep with" lonely, fertile single mothers.Christian Sia, a lawyer and accountant, is facing potential disqualification from the upcoming May elections after making controversial statements about single mothers and his assistant's physical appearance."Any lonely, single mother who is still having her period... let me be clear, she should still be having her period, I will sleep with her for one night," he said at a rally," the South China Morning Post quoted Sia's statement.Following the controversy, the Philippine Commission on Elections (Comelec) issued two separate show-cause notices to Sia, asking him to explain why his remarks should not lead to sanctions or removal from the ballot.The first notice was issued after a video surfaced showing Sia offering to "sleep with" lonely, fertile single mothers.Another notice was issued

by the Comelec after the congressional candidate allegedly made inappropriate comments about his assistant's weight and physical appearance during an April 3 speech.Although the assistant has not filed a formal complaint, Comelec's Task Force on Safeguarding Against Fear and Exclusion in Elections (SAFE) could pursue action, according to Comelec Chair George Erwin Garcia, news outlet Independent reported.

The comment, which was widely condemned by women's rights groups and the public, was dismissed by Sia as a poorly timed joke. He later apologised, claiming the remark was made to entertain the audience, and suggested that the backlash stemmed from an edited version of the video that excluded the audience's laughter.Despite the apology, many found that his explanation lacked sincerity.Women's rights group Gabriela expressed outrage over his comments, calling them an "attack against

the dignity of every woman" and an example of "misogyny and sexism," the Independent reported. They further called on the Philippines' Supreme Court to disbar



Sia, arguing that his behaviour undermined the struggle of single mothers and reflected a broader disrespect for women.Sia's critics have raised concerns that such attitudes could influence future legislation. Elizabeth Angsioco, chair of the Democratic Socialist Women of the

Philippines, warned that candidates with such views were more likely to oppose women policies or introduce misogynistic bills.The backlash against Sia has sparked resignations within his political camp. Pasig City councillor hopeful Shamcey Supsup-Lee distanced herself from Sia's team, announcing her resignation from the mayoral candidate Sarah Discaya's slate.

In a statement, Supsup-Lee emphasised that she could not tolerate any statements, whether in jest or earnest, that disrespect women.According to a report by the South China Morning Post, Sia is not the first candidate to fall under scrutiny for gender-based comments. Another candidate, Misamis Oriental governor Peter Unabia, also faced backlash last week after offering scholarships to "beautiful" female nursing students, claiming that unattractive nurses would worsen the condition of male patients.

NEWS BOX

PBKS vs CSK: BCCI punishes Glenn Maxwell for breaching IPL code of conduct

Punjab Kings all-rounder Glenn Maxwell has been penalised by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) after breaching the Indian Premier League's (IPL) Code of Conduct during the clash against Chennai Super Kings on April 8. Maxwell was fined 25 percent of his match fee and received one demerit point for his offence, becoming the sixth player this season to have been handed a fine. Although the BCCI did not specify the exact incident, it confirmed that Maxwell admitted to committing a Level 1 offence under Article 2.2 of the IPL Code of Conduct. The article pertains to "abuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings during a



Match." A similar offence earlier in the tournament saw Gujarat Titans pacer Ishant Sharma fined during a match against Sunrisers Hyderabad. [PBKS vs CSK, IPL 2025: Highlights]"Article 2.2 includes any action(s) outside the course of normal cricket actions, such as hitting or kicking the wickets and any action(s) which deliberately (i.e. intentionally), recklessly or negligently (in either case even if accidental) results in damage to the advertising boards, boundary fences, dressing room doors, mirrors, windows and other fixtures and fittings. For example, this offence may be committed, without limitation, when a Player swings his/her bat vigorously in frustration and causes damage to an advertising board," the article states. The incident occurred during a match that saw Punjab Kings claim a significant 18-run victory over CSK at Mullanpur, powered by a brilliant century from youngster Priyansh Arya. While Maxwell failed to make an impact with the bat—scoring just one run—he contributed with the ball, finishing with economical figures of 1/11.

Late Frattesi strike gives Inter Milan edge over Bayern in Champions League

MUNICH. An 88th-minute Davide Frattesi goal took Inter Milan to a 2-1 win at Bayern Munich on Tuesday, giving the Italians the edge after the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final. Undermanned Bayern, nursing a bulging casualty ward, set the tone in the first half-hour, with Michael Olise and Harry Kane narrowly failing to break through. Inter opened the scoring on the 38-minute mark when Marcus Thuram's clever back-heel found Lautaro Martinez who blasted home. The Italians maintained control until Bayern veteran Thomas Mueller, days after announcing a summer departure after 25 years at the club, scored the equaliser with a typical poacher's finish with five minutes remaining. Not content to be spectators to a Bayern fairytale ending, Inter broke on the counter just three minutes later, with Carlos Augusto finding Frattesi, who scored Inter's second. Inter, defeated in the final by Manchester City two seasons ago, have their noses in front in their bid to make the last four of the competition. Inter goalscorer Martinez toasted the



"complete performance", telling Amazon Prime his side showed "character, personality", adding "the boys showed what they were made of." The late goal consigned Bayern to their first home defeat in the Champions League since 2021, a run of 22 matches. Two-time Champions League winner Mueller lamented Inter's "stupid" late goal, saying "when we watch the footage, when we analyse it, we'll know we could have done better." It wasn't a brutal defeat. We've played the first half, the first leg – we imagined a different result but we know there's still something in it for us."

Injury-hit Bayern, Bastoni fit

Semi-finalists last season, Bayern's preparation for the game was hampered by an injury crisis. The German giants were particularly hard hit in defence, with England veteran Eric Dier and Kim Min-jae the only two fit centre-backs. Inter had their own injury woes in the rematch of the 2010 Champions League final but welcomed the news that Alessandro Bastoni, subbed off at halftime in Serie A on Saturday, was fit to start.

We batted a bit bitter, but it's been a frustrating season for CSK: Stephen Fleming

➡Fleming heaped praise on Punjab Kings' batter Priyansh Arya, who made a 42-ball 103 despite regular fall of wickets at the other end.

MULLANPUR. Head coach Stephen Fleming was satisfied to see Chennai Super Kings' top-order producing some runs, but, for him, the failure of his side to cross the line in the fourth consecutive Indian Premier League match this season remained a "frustrating" element. CSK batters gave a better account of themselves in pursuit of 220 set by Punjab Kings, but still fell short of the target by 18 runs here on Tuesday. "It (has been) a frustrating season so far," Fleming told the media after the match. "The catching has been poor, but it was poor from both sides. Whether it was something in the light, I'm not sure, but certainly for us that was an area of concern. If you want to pick up 20 runs, it's probably that and (the) drop catches," he said. Fleming had a point there because CSK



have so far dropped 11 catches in five matches, with three of them occurring against Punjab Kings. The Kiwi then touched upon CSK's improved batting effort as openers Devon Conway and Rachin Ravindra put on 69 runs, following which the former added another 89 runs for the third wicket with Shivam Dube (42). Well, positive-wise, we batted a bit better. We got some substance from the top order, which has been lacking so we were able to then construct the chase," Fleming said. "We just weren't able to keep the run rate at a good

level through the middle, and it just left too much towards the end. But we've been out of games, so to be in a game for a lot longer is a positive aspect. The game was really lost in the field," he added. Fleming heaped praise on Punjab Kings' batter Priyansh Arya, who made a 42-ball 103 despite regular fall of wickets at the other end. "Well, firstly, he had a day out, didn't he? He played very well right from the first ball. It's very brave when you come off a first ball dismissal to look to play a shot like that," Fleming said. "Our fault was we were too wide. The plan was to

bowl straight at the stumps and create some pressure that way. The first ball we bowled straight, we created a caught and bowled chance, and that changes the night quite drastically.

We were just a little bit sloppy. We were put under pressure, and the young man had some amazing shots. We succumbed a little bit to that pressure by putting the ball in areas that he was stronger in, and we just didn't adjust quick enough," he said.

Punjab Kings' Shashank Singh, who struck a 36-ball 52 and forged two vital partnerships to help his side recover from a perilous position of 83/5, said state-based T20 competitions are important to discover talents like Arya.

"I am really in favour of these leagues because you see today Priyansh Arya, then Digvesh Rathi in Lucknow (Super Giants)...the players who did well for the state league," he said. "These (competitions) are really good because obviously you get an opportunity to play under lights, play with Kookaburra ball and play in those pressure situations.

"You get to know the character of the player as well apart from skills, because skills obviously most of them have but the mental toughness, the character you get to see in the state leagues," Singh added.

Story of CSK in IPL 2025: Jaffer takes 'net-run rate' jibe at after PBKS loss

New Delhi Former India cricketer Wasim Jaffer took to social media to aim a subtle jibe at Indian Premier League franchise Chennai Super Kings (CSK), suggesting that the side has been more concerned with preserving their net run rate than actually winning matches this season. Jaffer, known for his witty takes online, shared a meme on X (formerly Twitter) after CSK's defeat to Punjab Kings (PBKS) on April 8, cheekily implying that net run rate has been CSK's only saving grace amid a disappointing campaign.

The five-time IPL champions slumped to their fourth consecutive loss, going down to PBKS by 18 runs. CSK's bowling was taken apart, largely due to a scintillating century from youngster Priyansh Arya, who powered Punjab to a daunting 218. In response, CSK's batting lineup once again failed to deliver, faltering under the pressure of a steep chase despite a bright start in the powerplay. When defeat looks certain so you try to save net run rate. Story of CSK so far," Jaffer's post read.

Jaffer's meme, which drew plenty of laughs from fans, hinted at how CSK's season has been more about damage control than



dominance — a stark contrast to their reputation as serial winners. The team managed 59 runs in the powerplay thanks to Devon Conway and Rachin Ravindra, but momentum faded quickly. Ravindra fell for 36, and shortly after, captain Ruturaj Gaikwad departed cheaply bringing in impact sub Shivam Dube. In a surprising move, Conway retired out early, bringing on fan favourite, MS Dhoni, who batted at number 5 for the first time this season. Although Dube and Dhoni tried to inject life into the chase, they couldn't match the required run rate, with the innings losing steam in the middle overs.

CSK's defeat sparked fresh concerns from fans and pundits, who questioned the side's approach and balance this season. With four losses on the trot, the franchise appears to be struggling to find answers — both with the bat and ball — leaving their playoff hopes hanging by a thread.

Real Madrid coach on comeback vs Arsenal: Stranger things have happened at Bernabeu

➡Ancelotti confident of comeback vs Arseneal in second leg at Bernabeu

➡Arsenal handed a stunning 3-0 defeat to Madrid

➡The two sides meet for the second leg on April 17

New Delhi. Real Madrid head coach Carlo Ancelotti remains confident that his side has what it takes to stage a comeback against Arsenal in the UEFA Champions League, as the quarter-final fixture moves to the Santiago Bernabu in Madrid. After suffering a 3-0 defeat in the first leg at the Emirates, Ancelotti insisted that everything is still to play for when the two teams meet again on 17 April. Goals from Declan Rice—who scored a brace—and Mikel Merino left Los Blancos stunned in London. However, speaking at the post-match press conference, Ancelotti pointed to Real Madrid's long-standing tradition of producing dramatic turnarounds at the Bernabu, suggesting that another against Arsenal is far from impossible. "We have to

do everything we can to try and recover. The chances are pretty slim but we have to try, and we'll try and do it any way we can. Let's see if we can pull it off. It feels as though there's no chance after tonight, but things always change in football. Nobody expected Arsenal to score two free-kicks, but anything can happen. It's very tough, but



stranger things have happened at the Bernabu," Ancelotti said. "It's a tough loss. We weren't expecting this. The team looked pretty good and well organised in the first half. Following the two set-piece goals, the team dropped off both mentally and physically. It was a difficult end to the game because we didn't see the reaction we're used to seeing from this team," he added.

Madrid's defensive frailties were on full display as the Gunners exploited the gaps with ease. The backline, featuring the likes of Antonio Rugiger, Raul Asencio, and David Alaba, lacked composure, which proved costly. Meanwhile, the attacking trio of Vinicius Jr, Kylian Mbapp and Rodrygo appeared disjointed, failing to find rhythm or threaten consistently. These are issues Ancelotti will be looking to address ahead of the crucial second leg.

The defeat only adds to Real Madrid's mounting pressure, following a recent loss to Valencia in LaLiga—a result that further dented their hopes of catching table-toppers FC Barcelona. With the return leg against Arsenal set for 17 April, the spotlight will once again fall on Ancelotti's ability to inspire his side under pressure. The Bernabu has witnessed some of the most iconic comebacks in Champions League history, and Madrid fans will be hoping for another chapter in that legacy. Whether Ancelotti can steady the ship and script yet another fairytale remains to be seen.

UEFA Champions League: Arsenal stun Real Madrid as Rice delivers free-kick masterclass

LONDON. Arsenal stormed to a stunning 3-0 win over Champions League holders Real Madrid as Declan Rice's free-kick masterclass left the Gunners within touching distance of a place in the semi-finals. Rice scored two majestic free-kicks in the second half of the quarter-final first leg at the Emirates Stadium. Mikel Merino added Arsenal's third goal before Real's Eduardo Camavinga was sent off for kicking the ball away in the closing minutes to leave the Spanish giants in disarray. The brilliance of Rice's brace cannot be understated, with even Real keeper Thibaut Courtois -- usually so inspired on Champions League nights -- unable to get anywhere near the England midfielder's thunderbolts.



Incredibly, Rice had never scored a free-kick in his career before the first of his missiles hit the back of the Real net. It was no more than Arsenal deserved for a mature performance that exposed injury-hit Real in ruthless style. Mikel Arteta's men will

travel to the Bernabeu for the second leg on April 16 as firm favourites to advance to a semi-final tie against Paris Saint-Germain or Aston Villa, who meet in their quarter-final first leg on Wednesday. The Gunners have not reached the Champions League semi-finals since 2009, but that target is now within their grasp after an evening that will go down as one of the most memorable in the club's storied history. Arteta had labelled the clash with Real as the "biggest night" of his career as he urged his players to write their own history by winning Arsenal's first Champions League crown. They rose to the challenge so successfully that even Arteta might have been surprised.

IPL 2025: Shashank Singh credits Brian Lara for confidence booster after 52 vs CSK

➡Shashank Singh scored 52 runs vs CSK

➡Shashank worked under Brian Lara at SRH

➡On Tuesday, PBKS beat CSK by 18 runs

New Delhi Shashank Singh thanked the legendary Brian Lara for giving him the confidence he needed for his batting. The right-handed batter played under the Caribbean great while playing for the Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025. After a

lacklustre season where he scored 69 runs at an average of 17.25, the Sunrisers released him. In 2024, Shashank joined the Punjab Kings (PBKS) and has been a key part of their setup since then. The 33-year-old was retained by PBKS for the ongoing season, and he hasn't let his team down. On Tuesday, Shashank scored 52 runs off 36 balls, laced with two fours and three sixes, helping the Kings beat the Chennai Super Kings (CSK) by 18 runs in Mullanpur.

Shashank said that Lara asked him to go by his natural instincts for batting in death overs, rather than imitating the likes of Andre Russell and Kieron Pollard. "So obviously, I will give credit to Mr. Brian Lara because when I played for SRH three years ago, he was someone who told me that at number 7 or 8, it's not always about power hitting. When you think about those positions, you usually think of players like

Russell or Pollard, not players who time the ball well. He told me that if you're batting at 6 or 7, you should back your instincts rather



than trying to be like someone else. That gave me confidence. I realised that if I'm not a power hitter, I need to focus on finding the right angles, which keeps me going," Shashank said in the post-match press conference. Shreyas Iyer is very

approachable' PBKS continued their impressive run of form after taking down CSK. They are currently placed fourth with a net run rate of +0.289 thanks to wins in three out of four games. Shashank praised skipper Shreyas Iyer for being 'approachable' and leading the team from the front. "From day one when we joined the camp, he's been very approachable. His doors are always open for anyone, not just me. I've known him for the last 12 years, but any youngster in the team can just go and have a word with him. He's someone who's always very positive. He always speaks positively—it's just part of his language. That's the best part, and it's great for the team," Shashank added. The Kings will next be up against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) on Saturday, April 12 at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium.

Urvashi Rautela

Reveals What It Takes To Be The Best Boyfriend: 'Just Say Sorry'

Actress Urvashi Rautela has shared her insights on what it takes to be the perfect partner in a relationship. According to her, the key to being the best boyfriend or husband is simple—just say sorry. Urvashi, who is busy promoting her next project, “Jaat,” highlighted the importance of keeping a partner happy and maintaining harmony in a relationship through small, meaningful gestures. While speaking about her song, ‘Touch Kiya,’ Rautela told IANS, “Thank you so much! It’s a simple thing—any girl in the world would love to make her boyfriend say sorry. And if you can make any girl happy just by saying sorry, it’s a win. The lyrics of the song are quite relatable. I’ll give you my heart, but first say sorry.” Many girls will connect with this sentiment.”

The ‘Sanam Re’ actress added, “If you want to be the best boyfriend and the best husband, just say sorry. Always keep your partner happy. I believe this song will really resonate with the youth because, deep down, every girl wants her partner to



say sorry, no matter what.”

Urvashi went on to state, “In Daku Maharaj, I had the role of a police officer, and I focused on acting in that. But honestly, in this song, I didn’t dance at all. There are no dance moves involved—I simply followed the character. I portrayed the role of a lioness, embodying that fierce, powerful energy. If you watch closely, just focus on my eyes, and you’ll see the persona of a lioness shining through. The song has a unique vibe because the composer, Thaman, incorporated various animal sounds—like the roar of a lion and the call of a lioness. The theme is distinctive. The lyrics, “I’ll give my heart to you, but first say sorry,” emphasize a strong, bold personality, like that of a lioness.”

On a related note, Urvashi Rautela sizzles in the high-energy dance track ‘Touch Kiya,’ where she shows off her impressive moves alongside the formidable villain duo of Randeep Hooda and Vineet Kumar Singh. “Jaat,” starring Sunny Deol in the lead role, is scheduled to hit theatres on April 10, 2025.



Selena Gomez's

Fiancé Benny Blanco REACTS To Oscars Mistaking Him For Bad Bunny: 'He's So Hot, I'll Take It'

Benny Blanco feels flattered to have been mistaken for Bad Bunny. The 37-year-old record producer was recently mistaken for the 31-year-old rap star by the official X account of the Oscars – but Benny feels flattered to have been confused for the ‘Mia’ hitmaker. During an appearance on ‘The Jennifer Hudson Show’, Benny was asked about the confusion and he replied: “They did? “I like that. What do you mean? He’s so hot! I’ll take it, I’ll take it. What do you mean? “Look at how pretty he is – are you kidding? Yeah, I’m Bad Bunny now.”

In March, the Academy posted a photo of Benny alongside Selena Gomez, his fiancée, but the snap was captioned: “Selena Gomez and Bad Bunny.” However, the post was quickly edited and the new caption read: “Selena Gomez and Benny Blanco x 97th #Oscars (sic)” Benny and Selena announced their engagement in 2024, and the actress recently revealed that she’s “so excited” about the prospect of having children. The brunette beauty – who previously revealed that she isn’t able to carry her own children – said on the ‘Jay Shetty Podcast’: “I don’t know what will happen, obviously, but I love children. I have an 11-year-old sister that I absolutely adore.”

love making [children] laugh; they’re just so sweet. So absolutely, when that day comes, I’m so excited for it.” Benny observed that Selena is the “ultimate level of shy”. However, the record producer noted that her demeanour changes when she’s around children. Benny – who recently recorded an album called ‘I Said I Love You First’ with Selena – said: “When she walks



into a room, her main goal is to disappear into the crowd. My mom is very similar, [she] and my mom are very similar.”

“They’ll wait and say like one thing throughout the night that winds up being the most poignant or funny thing of the night. But I’m gonna have diarrhoea of the mouth talking to everyone. “Whenever there’s kids at a place it’s the only time I see her do that. She immediately goes to the kids and has these conversations for hours with the kids.”

Karisma Kapoor Reviews The White Lotus Season 3, Praises Patrick Schwarzenegger



Karisma Kapoor recently weighed in on The White Lotus Season 3, which premiered in February and is set in scenic Thailand. The series, known for its sharp take on human behaviour and interpersonal drama at a luxury resort, clearly struck a chord with the Bollywood star. While many have already shared their reviews, Karisma added her own perspective—highlighting what she felt was the best moment from the season. Karisma Kapoor recently took to her Instagram Stories to share a powerful moment from The White Lotus Season 3 that left a lasting impression on her. Highlighting an emotional scene featuring Patrick Schwarzenegger, the actress praised his compelling performance, which resonated with many viewers. Sharing a collage of three stills capturing Patrick’s shifting emotions, Karisma wrote, “Best moment of #TheWhiteLotusSeason3 @patricksschwarzenegger @thewhitelotus.” Her heartfelt post reflected just how impactful the scene—and Patrick’s portrayal—was in the latest season.

Patrick Schwarzenegger, in the role of Saxon, the oldest son in the Ratliff family in The White Lotus season 3, is undeniably the most favourite character of the series. From incredible fitness moments to shirtless looks, the actor has wowed many. However, he had to gain almost about 12 to 15 pounds for the seven months of filming in Thailand. In an interview, the actor revealed that by the time they reached episode 3, fans were able to notice the change in his appearance. He explained to Men’s Health, “I’ve always loved working out. I change my workout regimens and my eating based on what the character is supposed to be like. I got this job, and within three to four weeks, we were filming. It was fast.” Not only his fans, but Patrick’s family was also overwhelmed with joy. In yet another interview, he explained how his family, who have been loyal fans of the show, always encouraged him for the audition. “Every time we would watch the show, season 1 and season 2, every time Theo James would come up or in the first season, Jake Lacey, my mom was always like, ‘Why haven’t you auditioned for this? Why didn’t you go out for this?’ And my sister’s like, ‘You need to call your agents right now. This is ridiculous that you’re not in on the show, that you didn’t even audition’,” he confessed to People.

Shahid Kapoor, Rashmika Mandanna And Kriti Sanon To Begin Shooting For Cocktail 2 Soon?



Saif Ali Khan, Deepika Padukone and Diana Penty’s starrer Cocktail was one of the big hits, and for a long time, it was reported that the makers were planning a sequel. Now, it is being reported that the filming of the much anticipated sequel will begin with a new cast ensemble. Shahid Kapoor will be the lead actor, along with Rashmika Mandanna and Kriti Sanon. Mid-day has mentioned that the trio will begin filming this summer for the spiritual sequel, which will see Shahid taking the franchise forward. Earlier, a report mentioned that ‘Cocktail 2’ will be an urban rom-com that explores love and friendship. Producer Dinesh Vijan wants to make an entertaining love story that resonates with the younger audiences. Shahid Kapoor will likely begin shooting for Cocktail 2 after wrapping up Vishal Bhardwaj’s action thriller, in which he will reportedly be seen playing the role of a gangster.

The 2012 film Cocktail marked Diana Penty’s acting debut. Apart from Saif Ali Khan, Deepika and Diana, the film also featured Dimple Kapadia, Boman Irani, Randeep Hooda, Tina Desai, Manoj Pahwa and others.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Shahid Kapoor’s Deva is currently streaming on Netflix. Next, he will be seen reuniting with Haider director Vishal Bhardwaj for Arjun Ustara.

Rashmika is currently seen in Sikandar with Salman Khan. As of Day 9, the film has raked in a solid Rs 104.25 crore despite it being a weekday. Sikandar also stars Rashmika Mandanna in the lead role. As per trade reports, Sikandar earned an estimated Rs 1.75 crore net on Monday in India, taking its total to Rs 104.25 crore. Meanwhile, L2: Empuraan matched the figure with Rs 1.75 crore on the same day, bringing its overall collection to Rs 100.10 crore net — putting it in close competition with Sikandar at the box office.

Kriti Sanon is also shooting for Tere Ishq Mein with Dhanush. Produced by Aanand L Rai, Himanshu Sharma, produced by Bhushan Kumar and Krishan Kumar, this film promises to take audiences on a rollercoaster of emotions, with a monumental soundtrack by the legendary A.R. Rahman and poetic lyrics by Irshad Kamil. Previously, Rai revealed that Tere Ishq Mein shares thematic roots with his 2013 masterpiece, Raanjhanaa. “It is from the world of Raanjhanaa, but... it’s an expansion rather than an extension. It enhances the emotional depth with a new narrative,” he explained.