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India Cuts

# **FUEL EXCISE DUTY**



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## CHIEF EDITOR DESK



Dear Readers,

*On behalf of National Awareness Times (India's National Weekly), the editorial board and the team of our journal would like to wish all the readers a wonderful week ahead to all.*

*India has announced a significant revision in its fuel taxation policy, marking a notable shift in the pricing structure of petroleum products the government has decided to sharply reduce excise duty on petrol by ₹3 per litre, while effectively bringing the excise duty on diesel to zero.*

*Nitish Kumar, the Chief Minister of Bihar, made headlines after resigning from the Legislative Council a move that has sparked widespread political discussion and speculation.*

*The Government of India has introduced a new rule requiring households in areas where Piped Natural Gas (PNG) is available to switch from LPG cylinders to pipeline gas.*

*Indian Railways has introduced a significant change in its ticket cancellation and refund policy, bringing stricter rules for passengers.*

**Deepak Singh,**  
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# INDIA CUTS FUEL EXCISE DUTY

By Editor – Gaurav Singh



India has announced a significant revision in its fuel taxation policy, marking a notable shift in the pricing structure of petroleum products. The government has decided to sharply reduce excise duty on petrol by ₹3 per litre, while effectively bringing the excise duty on diesel to zero. This move is expected to have wide-ranging implications for consumers, industries, and the overall economy, especially at a time when global energy markets remain volatile and domestic inflation continues to be a concern.

The reduction in excise duty on petrol comes as a relief for millions of citizens who have been dealing with fluctuating fuel prices over the past few years. Petrol is a primary fuel

for private vehicles and plays a crucial role in daily commuting for urban and semi-urban populations. A ₹3 per litre cut may seem modest at first glance, but when accumulated over time, it can significantly reduce monthly fuel expenses for households. For middle-class families, where fuel is a recurring cost, even a small reduction can ease financial pressure and improve disposable income.

The decision to eliminate excise duty on diesel is even more impactful. Diesel is the backbone of India's transportation and logistics sector, powering trucks, buses, railways, and agricultural machinery. By bringing excise duty on diesel to zero, the

government aims to reduce transportation costs, which in turn can lower the prices of essential goods such as food, construction materials, and daily-use items. Since logistics costs form a major part of the final retail price, this step has the potential to create a cascading effect across multiple sectors.

This policy change is also expected to benefit farmers across the country. Diesel is widely used in agricultural operations such as irrigation through pump sets, harvesting, and transportation of produce to markets. Lower diesel prices can directly reduce input costs for farmers, improving their margins and making agricultural activities more



sustainable. In a country where agriculture employs a significant portion of the population, such measures can strengthen rural economies and support income stability.

From an economic perspective, the reduction in fuel taxes reflects the government's attempt to balance revenue considerations with public welfare. Excise duty on fuel has traditionally been a major source of revenue. Cutting it, especially to zero in the case of diesel, indicates a willingness to absorb short-term revenue losses in favor of long-term economic stability and consumer relief. It also signals a proactive approach toward managing inflation and stimulating demand.

The move is likely to have a positive impact on inflation. Fuel prices directly influence the cost of goods and services across sectors. When fuel becomes cheaper, transportation and production costs decrease, which can help

bring down overall inflation. Lower inflation not only benefits consumers but also creates a more stable environment for businesses to operate and expand.

Industries such as logistics, manufacturing, and e-commerce are expected to gain significantly from this decision. Reduced fuel costs can improve operational efficiency, increase profit margins, and encourage expansion. Small and medium enterprises, which

are particularly sensitive to cost fluctuations, may find this relief crucial for sustaining and growing their businesses.

Another important aspect is the psychological impact on consumers. Fuel price reductions often boost consumer confidence, encouraging spending and economic activity. When people feel a reduction in everyday expenses, they are more likely to spend on other goods and services, thereby supporting economic growth.

However, the decision is not without its challenges. A reduction in excise duty means a decline in government revenue, which could affect public spending and fiscal planning. The government may need to explore alternative sources of revenue or adjust its budget priorities to maintain fiscal discipline. This could include increasing efficiency in tax collection, rationalizing subsidies, or focusing on economic growth to offset revenue losses.

Global crude oil prices continue to play a crucial role in determining domestic fuel





prices. If international prices rise sharply, the benefits of the excise duty cut may be limited. India, being heavily dependent on oil imports, remains vulnerable to global market fluctuations. Therefore, while the current move provides relief, it also highlights the need for long-term strategies such as diversification of energy sources and investment in renewable energy.

The policy also aligns with broader efforts to modernize the energy sector. By making fuel more affordable, the government aims to support economic momentum and ensure smooth functioning of key sectors. At the same time, it underscores the importance of transitioning toward cleaner and more sustainable energy alternatives in the future.

Public response to the announcement has been largely positive. Consumers, transporters, and businesses have welcomed the move, viewing it as a necessary step toward easing financial burdens. Many believe it will provide immediate relief and help stabilize prices of essential commodities. However, some experts have cautioned that the long-term impact will depend on how



effectively the government manages fiscal challenges and external factors.

In the broader context, this development reflects the evolving approach of India toward energy pricing and economic management. Balancing affordability, sustainability, and fiscal responsibility remains a complex task. While the current move focuses on immediate relief, it also raises important questions about the future of fuel taxation and energy policies in the country.

The decision may also influence state governments, which impose their own taxes on fuel. If states choose to reduce their taxes as well, the overall impact on fuel prices could be even more significant. This could further enhance the benefits for consumers and industries alike.

In conclusion, the sharp reduction in excise duty on petrol and the elimination of duty on diesel represent a major policy decision by India. It offers relief to consumers, supports key sectors like transportation and agriculture, and has the potential to ease inflationary pressures. While challenges related to revenue and global market fluctuations remain, the move demonstrates the government's commitment to addressing economic concerns and improving the financial well-being of its citizens. Over time, its true impact will depend on how it is complemented by broader economic and energy policies, but for now, it stands as a strong step toward providing much-needed relief in a challenging economic environment.

# EVENTS



*The Union Minister for Defence, Shri Rajnath Singh chaired the first meeting of the Informal Group of Ministers (IGoM) set-up to monitor the evolving situation in West Asia, and recommend proactive measures in response to the developments at Kartavya Bhawan-2, in New Delhi.*

*The Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat witnessing the Exchange of MoUs between Ministry of Culture and YouTube, in New Delhi.*



*PM at the inauguration ceremony of the Noida International Airport, in Uttar Pradesh.*



*The Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Shri Durgadas Uikey attends the Van Dhan Conclave, in New Delhi.*

*The officers of Central Power Engineering Service (CPES) and Indian Economic Service (IES) called on the President of India Smt Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi.*



*The Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan and the Minister of State for Science & Technology (Independent Charge), Earth Sciences (Independent Charge), Prime Minister's Office, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh attend Technology Transfer event of "Bio-Bitumen via Pyrolysis: From Farm Residue to Roads", in New Delhi.*

## NITISH KUMAR RESIGNS: A NEW POLITICAL TWIST IN BIHAR



**N**itish Kumar, the Chief Minister of Bihar, made headlines after resigning from the Legislative Council a move that has sparked widespread political discussion and speculation. Known for his long-standing presence in Bihar politics and his strategic decision-making, this development is being closely watched by political analysts and citizens alike.

Nitish Kumar, who has served multiple terms as Chief Minister, has often been at the center of shifting political alliances. His resignation from the Legislative Council is being seen as a significant step, possibly indicating a change in political strategy or administrative priorities. While the exact reasons behind the move have not been officially detailed, such decisions are rarely made without careful consideration in a state as politically dynamic as Bihar.

The Legislative Council, being

the upper house of the state legislature, plays an important role in reviewing and shaping laws. Nitish Kumar's membership in the Council allowed him to remain in power as Chief Minister without being a member of the Legislative Assembly. His resignation, therefore, raises questions about his next political move and whether he intends to contest elections from a different seat or shift his legislative base. This development has also led to reactions from various political parties. Supporters of Nitish Kumar view the move as a calculated decision aimed at strengthening his position, while critics argue that it reflects ongoing uncertainty within the state's political framework. Bihar has witnessed several political realignments in recent years, and this step adds another layer to the evolving scenario. Observers believe that the resignation could be linked to broader national or regional

political strategies. Nitish Kumar has often played a key role in coalition politics, both at the state and national levels. His decisions tend to have implications beyond Bihar, influencing alliances and political equations across the country. For the public, such developments often create a sense of curiosity as well as concern. People are keen to understand how this move will impact governance, policy decisions, and development initiatives in the state. Nitish Kumar has built a reputation for focusing on infrastructure, law and order, and social welfare schemes, and any political shift is expected to have an effect on these areas.

Despite the uncertainty, Nitish Kumar remains a dominant figure in Bihar politics. His experience and ability to navigate complex political situations have allowed him to stay relevant for decades. Whether this resignation marks the beginning of a new political phase or is simply a procedural adjustment will become clearer in the coming days.

In conclusion, the resignation of Nitish Kumar from the Legislative Council is a significant political event in Bihar. It has opened up discussions about future strategies, potential elections, and possible changes in the political landscape. As the situation unfolds, all eyes remain on Nitish Kumar and his next move, which could shape the direction of Bihar's politics in the near future.

## SWITCH TO PIPELINE GAS: GOVERNMENT'S BIG MOVE



**T**he Government of India has introduced a new rule requiring households in areas where Piped Natural Gas (PNG) is available to switch from LPG cylinders to pipeline gas. This decision marks a significant shift in the country's domestic energy usage and is aimed at promoting cleaner, safer, and more efficient fuel systems. Under this rule, residents living in PNG-enabled areas will be encouraged, and in some cases required, to transition to pipeline gas connections. The move is designed to reduce dependence on LPG cylinders, which involve regular refilling, transportation, and storage challenges. With PNG, gas is supplied directly through pipelines, ensuring a continuous and uninterrupted flow without the need for booking or waiting for deliveries. One of the biggest advantages of this transition is convenience. Households no longer need to worry about running out of gas unexpectedly or managing cylinder replacements. PNG

systems are connected directly to homes, and usage is typically billed monthly, similar to electricity or water. This makes it easier for consumers to manage and monitor their energy consumption. Safety is another important factor behind this decision. PNG systems are equipped with advanced monitoring and pressure control mechanisms, making them safer compared to LPG cylinders, which can pose risks if not handled properly. In case of leaks, PNG disperses quickly into the air due to its lighter nature, reducing the chances of accidents. The environmental impact of this shift is also significant. Natural gas is considered a cleaner fuel compared to LPG, producing fewer carbon emissions and pollutants. By promoting PNG, the government aims to contribute to better air quality and support long-term environmental sustainability goals. This step aligns with broader efforts to move toward

greener energy solutions in urban areas.

However, the implementation of this rule may come with certain challenges. Some households may face initial installation costs or infrastructural limitations, especially in older buildings where pipeline connectivity is not easily accessible. There may also be a lack of awareness among residents about the process of switching to PNG, which could slow down adoption. Despite these concerns, the government believes that the long-term benefits outweigh the initial difficulties. The transition is expected to improve overall efficiency in fuel distribution and reduce logistical burdens associated with LPG supply chains. It will also allow LPG resources to be redirected toward rural and remote areas where pipeline infrastructure is not yet available.

For consumers, this change highlights the importance of adapting to modern energy systems. Planning the switch in advance, understanding the installation process, and cooperating with local authorities can make the transition smoother. Over time, PNG is likely to become the preferred choice for urban households due to its reliability, safety, and environmental advantages. In conclusion, the new rule mandating the use of pipeline gas in PNG-enabled areas represents a forward-looking step in India's energy sector. While it may require adjustments from consumers, it promises a more convenient, efficient, and eco-friendly way of meeting everyday cooking needs.



# Sheila Dikshit

6<sup>th</sup> Chief Minister of Delhi

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# NO REFUND WITHIN 8 HOURS: INDIAN RAILWAYS TIGHTENS RULES



Indian Railways has introduced a significant change in its ticket cancellation and refund policy, bringing stricter rules for passengers. According to the revised guidelines, no refund will be provided if a ticket is cancelled within 8 hours of the scheduled departure time of the train. This move is aimed at streamlining operations, reducing last-minute cancellations, and improving seat availability for passengers on waiting lists. The new rule is expected to impact a large number of travelers, especially those who tend to cancel tickets at the last moment due to sudden changes in plans. Earlier, passengers could receive a partial refund even if they cancelled their tickets a few hours before departure. However, under the updated system, cancellations made within the 8-hour window will not be eligible for any refund, making it essential for passengers to plan their

journeys more carefully. This decision has been taken to address the issue of vacant seats despite high demand. Often, passengers holding confirmed tickets cancel at the last minute, leaving seats unused while many others remain on the waiting list. By enforcing a no-refund policy within the final hours, Indian Railways aims to discourage such practices and ensure better utilization of available seats. The rule also encourages passengers to make timely decisions regarding their travel plans. Those who are unsure about their journey are now more likely to cancel tickets well in advance, allowing others to benefit from the availability. This is particularly beneficial during peak travel seasons when demand for tickets is extremely high. However, the policy has sparked mixed reactions among passengers. While some believe it will improve efficiency and

reduce inconvenience for waitlisted travelers, others feel it is too strict and does not consider genuine emergencies. Situations such as sudden illness, family emergencies, or unexpected work commitments may force passengers to cancel at the last moment, and the absence of any refund in such cases can be financially burdensome. Despite the concerns, Indian Railways has emphasized that the rule is part of a broader effort to modernize and improve passenger services. The organization has been working towards digitization, better seat allocation systems, and enhanced customer experience. This change aligns with its goal of making the railway system more efficient and reliable. Passengers are advised to stay updated with the latest rules and plan their journeys accordingly. Booking tickets only when travel plans are confirmed and cancelling them well before the 8-hour window can help avoid losses. It is also recommended to check official notifications or consult railway authorities for any exceptions or additional guidelines. In conclusion, the revised refund policy marks a significant shift in how ticket cancellations are handled in Indian Railways. While it aims to improve seat utilization and reduce last-minute disruptions, it also places greater responsibility on passengers to manage their travel plans wisely. As with any policy change, its effectiveness will become clearer over time, depending on how well it balances operational efficiency with passenger convenience.

## RAMAYANA'S 'RAMA' ASSET IS 2 MINUTES AND 38 SECONDS LONG; PASSED BY THE CBFC WITH A 'U' CERTIFICATE



Ramayana is one of the most awaited film of 2026 and the makers are leaving no stone unturned to ensure that the film's awareness is at an all time high. After releasing the introduction video of the film way back on July 3, 2025, that is, more than 1 ½ years before it's release, the makers are now all set to come up with another unit this Thursday, April 2. Bollywood Hungama has learned that today, March 30, the asset was passed by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC).

The new asset of Ramayana is called 'Rama' and has secured a 'U' certificate. As per the censor certificate, it is 158 seconds long. In other words, it has a run time of 2 minutes and 38 seconds. Ramayana stars Ranbir Kapoor as Rama, Sai Pallavi as Sita, Yash as Ravana, Sunny Deol as Hanuman and Ravie

Dubey as Lakshman. It is directed by Nitesh Tiwari of Dangal (2016) fame and produced by Namit Malhotra. The music is composed by A R Rahman and Hans Zimmer. It's a two part saga with the first part releasing on Diwali 2026. As for the second part, it'll arrive on the big screen on Diwali 2027. The makers of Ramayana announced that the 'Rama' glimpse will be unveiled on April 2 to coincide with the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti.

## PAWAN SINGH, JONITA GANDHI AND ADIVI SESH BRING HIGH ENERGY DANCE TRACK TO LIFE



Ever since the makers of Dacoit announced 'Touch Buddy', a song featuring Pawan Singh, Adivi Sesh and Jonita Gandhi, fans knew they were in for a power-packed musical treat. The recently released teaser only amplified the buzz, adding a whole new level of hype to the high-energy track. Finally, the makers have dropped this banger, with Pawan Singh and Jonita lending their vocals to the much-awaited song. The song was shot in Telugu as well as Hindi.

Sung by the powerful duo Pawan Singh and Jonita Gandhi, the fiery lyrics are penned by Vayu Shrivastava, with music

composed by Bheems Ceciroleo. Adding a touch of his own signature swag. Adivi Sesh will be seen shaking a leg alongside Pawan Singh and Jonita Gandhi, with the trio lighting up the screen with their moves, making 'Touch Buddy' the dance number of the season.

Speaking about the song, Bhojpuri King Pawan Singh shared, "I love experimenting with my music, and when Adivi Sesh came to me with the idea, I instantly knew the kind of energy I wanted to bring to this intense and action-packed film. I'm really excited to collaborate with such incredible talents like Sesh and Jonita Gandhi. We thoroughly enjoyed shooting for the song, and I'm sure the audience will feel that same energy."

Jonita shared, "Recording 'Touch Buddy' in both Telugu and Hindi was a really enjoyable experience. It was exciting to collaborate with someone as iconic as Pawan Singh, and working with Adivi Sesh and the team made the entire process super special. I'm grateful to the whole team for making me feel so comfortable throughout. Stepping in front of the camera and dancing for the song - that's a first for me for any film so far. I hope the audience enjoys the song as much as we enjoyed creating it."

Marking Shaneil Deo's directorial debut, this ambitious project, which is shot in Hindi as well Telugu, is produced by Supriya Yarlagadda, co-produced by Suniel Narang, and presented by Annapurna Studios. Shot simultaneously in Hindi and Telugu, the film's story and screenplay have been jointly crafted by Adivi Sesh and Shaneil Deo. Dacoit is gearing up for a grand Pan-India theatrical release for April 10, 2026.

## VITAMIN B12 EXPLAINED: IMPORTANCE, SOURCES, AND CARE



**V**itamin B12 is an essential nutrient that plays a crucial role in maintaining overall health. It is particularly important for nerve function, red blood cell formation, and DNA synthesis. A deficiency of Vitamin B12 can lead to fatigue, weakness, memory problems, and even serious neurological issues. Since the body cannot produce this vitamin on its own, it is important to ensure an adequate intake through diet and proper care.

One of the most effective ways to maintain healthy Vitamin B12 levels is through a balanced diet. Vitamin B12 is naturally found in animal-based foods such as meat, fish, eggs, and dairy products. Foods like chicken, liver, tuna, milk, and cheese are rich sources of this essential nutrient. For individuals who consume a vegetarian diet, options such as fortified cereals, plant-based milk, and nutritional yeast can help provide B12. Including these foods regularly in daily meals can significantly reduce the risk of deficiency.

People who follow a strict vegan

diet are at a higher risk of developing Vitamin B12 deficiency because plant-based foods do not naturally contain this vitamin. In such cases, fortified foods and supplements become necessary. Taking Vitamin B12 supplements after consulting a healthcare professional can help maintain proper levels in the body. It is important not to self-medicate and to follow the correct dosage recommended by a doctor. Another important aspect of B12 care is proper absorption. Even if a person consumes enough Vitamin B12, the body may not absorb it effectively due to certain medical conditions. Disorders affecting the stomach or intestines, such as gastritis or intestinal diseases, can interfere with absorption. In older adults, reduced stomach acid production can also limit B12 absorption. In such situations, doctors may recommend injections or high-dose supplements to ensure the body receives enough of the vitamin.

Regular health check-ups are essential to monitor Vitamin B12 levels. A simple blood test can

determine whether a person has sufficient levels or is at risk of deficiency. Early detection can prevent complications and help in timely treatment. Symptoms such as constant tiredness, pale skin, tingling sensations in hands and feet, and difficulty concentrating should not be ignored, as they may indicate low B12 levels.

Lifestyle choices also play a role in maintaining healthy Vitamin B12 levels. Excessive alcohol consumption can interfere with the absorption and storage of the vitamin in the body. Maintaining a healthy lifestyle, including a balanced diet and moderate habits, supports overall nutrient absorption and well-being.

Pregnant and breastfeeding women need special attention when it comes to Vitamin B12 intake.

Adequate levels are essential for the healthy development of the baby's brain and nervous system. Doctors often recommend supplements during pregnancy to ensure both mother and child receive sufficient nutrition.

It is also important to understand that Vitamin B12 works closely with other nutrients such as folic acid. A balanced intake of vitamins and minerals helps the body function properly and supports overall health. Ignoring one nutrient can affect the balance of others, leading to multiple deficiencies.

In conclusion, taking care of Vitamin B12 involves a combination of proper diet, regular health monitoring, and awareness of one's nutritional needs. Whether through natural food sources, fortified products, or supplements, maintaining adequate B12 levels is essential for energy, brain function, and overall health. By adopting healthy habits and staying informed, individuals can prevent deficiency and lead a more active and healthy life.

# **PIC OF THE WEEK**



## **Kiara Advani**

**Mommy's home!  
and she brought chocolate**

Source: Instagram

26 March, 2026

## MAHAVIR JAYANTI: A CELEBRATION OF PEACE AND TRUTH



**M**ahavir Jayanti is one of the most important religious festivals celebrated by the Jain community. It marks the birth anniversary of Lord Mahavir, who was the 24th Tirthankara and a great spiritual teacher. His teachings of non-violence, truth, and compassion continue to guide millions of people even today. The festival is observed with great devotion and respect across India.

On this auspicious day, devotees visit Jain temples to offer prayers and seek blessings. Idols of Lord Mahavir are ceremonially bathed in a ritual known as Abhishek, followed by special prayers and recitations of sacred texts. Processions are also organized, where beautifully decorated chariots carry the idol of Lord Mahavir through the streets, accompanied by devotional songs and chants.

Mahavir Jayanti is not just about rituals but also about following the principles taught by Lord Mahavir. His message of Ahimsa (non-violence) encourages people to live peacefully and avoid harm to any living being. He also emphasized truthfulness, self-discipline, and simplicity, which are considered essential values for a meaningful life.

The festival is also marked by acts of kindness and charity. Many people engage in donating food, clothes, and essentials to the needy, reflecting the spirit of compassion and generosity. Followers often take pledges to practice forgiveness and lead a more ethical life.

Overall, Mahavir Jayanti is a celebration of peace, spirituality, and moral values. It reminds people to lead a life based on kindness, humility, and respect for all living beings, making the world a better place for everyone.

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