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**PETROL AND DIESEL PRICES HIKED BY
₹3 PER LITRE ACROSS INDIA**



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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 .

In a move that is expected to have a wide-ranging impact on households,

businesses, and transportation costs, fuel prices across India have been increased by ₹3 per litre nationwide.

In a significant moment for cultural heritage preservation, the Netherlands has returned a set of rare 11th-century Chola copper plates to India, marking another important step in the global effort to restore historically valuable artefacts to their country of origin.

Veteran politician N. Rangaswamy was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Puducherry for a record fifth term, marking another major milestone in his long political journey.

A major political controversy has emerged after reports claimed that lawmakers in Iran are reviewing a bill proposing a massive financial reward for the assassination of former US President Donald Trump..

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PETROL AND DIESEL PRICES HIKE BY ₹3 PER LITRE ACROSS INDIA

By Editor – Gaurav Singh



In a move that is expected to have a wide-ranging impact on households, businesses, and transportation costs, fuel prices across India have been increased by ₹3 per litre nationwide. The hike applies to both petrol and diesel and comes at a time when citizens are already dealing with rising living expenses and inflationary pressures. The revision in fuel prices has triggered widespread discussions among economists, industry experts, political leaders, and the general public due to its potential effect on the country's

economy and day-to-day life. The increase in petrol and diesel prices is expected to directly affect transportation expenses across India. Since fuel plays a central role in the movement of goods and people, any rise in fuel prices generally leads to higher operational costs for transporters, logistics companies, and public transportation services. Experts believe the latest increase could eventually influence the prices of essential commodities, including vegetables, food grains, milk,

and consumer goods, as transportation costs form a crucial part of the supply chain. In major metropolitan cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Kolkata, revised fuel prices have already come into effect at petrol pumps. Vehicle owners, daily commuters, and commercial drivers are expected to feel the immediate financial burden, especially those who rely heavily on personal transportation for work and business activities. Taxi operators, auto-rickshaw drivers, delivery services, and



small business owners are among the groups likely to face the strongest impact.

Government officials and oil companies have linked the increase to several international and domestic factors. Rising global crude oil prices, geopolitical tensions in oil-producing regions, fluctuations in currency exchange rates, and increasing import costs are often cited as key reasons behind fuel price revisions. India imports a significant portion of its crude oil requirements, making domestic fuel prices sensitive to changes in the international energy market.

Economic analysts note that even a small rise in fuel prices can create a ripple effect throughout the economy. Diesel, in particular, is widely used in commercial transportation, agriculture, railways, and industrial operations. As a result, higher diesel prices can increase farming expenses, freight charges, and manufacturing costs. Farmers may experience

increased operational expenses related to irrigation pumps, tractors, and transportation of agricultural produce, potentially affecting agricultural markets as well. The fuel price hike is also expected to influence inflation levels. Economists warn that higher transportation and logistics costs may contribute to a rise in retail prices across

several sectors. Inflation remains a major concern for middle-class families and low-income households, many of whom are already adjusting their spending patterns due to increasing prices of food, electricity, and daily essentials. Public reactions to the increase have been mixed. While some citizens expressed concern over the growing cost of living, others acknowledged that international market conditions and global oil prices often affect domestic fuel pricing.

Opposition political parties have criticised the move, arguing that frequent fuel price increases place additional financial pressure on ordinary citizens. Several leaders have called for reductions in fuel taxes or government intervention to provide relief to consumers.

On the other hand, financial experts argue that oil marketing companies must balance rising import costs and market realities. They point out that





global crude oil prices are influenced by multiple international developments, including conflicts in energy-producing regions, production cuts by oil-exporting countries, and changing global demand patterns. Any instability in international markets can quickly impact fuel-importing nations such as India.

The fuel hike may also affect public transportation fares in several states. Bus operators and transport departments may review ticket prices if operational costs continue to rise. Private transport services and app-based cab aggregators could also revise fare structures to compensate for higher fuel expenses. This, in turn, may affect daily commuters and working professionals who depend on such services.

Industries dependent on transportation and fuel-intensive operations are expected to monitor the situation closely. Sectors such as aviation, logistics, agriculture, e-commerce, and manufacturing often experience direct effects from fuel price changes. Increased logistics costs may impact product pricing and supply chains, particularly for businesses operating on narrow profit margins.

Environmental experts, however, believe rising fuel prices could encourage some consumers to adopt alternative transportation

options and cleaner energy solutions. The government has been promoting electric vehicles, ethanol blending, public transport expansion, and renewable energy initiatives to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels. Higher fuel prices may indirectly accelerate interest in electric mobility and fuel-efficient technologies among consumers.

Over the years, fuel pricing has remained one of the most politically and economically sensitive issues in India.

Changes in petrol and diesel prices often generate nationwide debate because of their impact on inflation, transportation, and household budgets. Consumers closely monitor fuel rates as they directly affect monthly expenses and economic planning.

Economists suggest that long-term solutions may include reducing dependence on imported crude oil, strengthening domestic energy production, investing in renewable energy, and improving public transportation infrastructure.

Expanding electric vehicle adoption and increasing the use of alternative fuels could also help reduce the country's vulnerability to international oil price fluctuations in the future. As the revised prices take effect nationwide, citizens, businesses, and policymakers will closely observe how the increase shapes economic activity and consumer spending in the coming weeks. For millions of Indians, the ₹3 per litre rise in petrol and diesel prices represents not just a fuel adjustment, but another challenge in managing everyday expenses amid an uncertain global economic environment.



EVENTS



The Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan with the Chief Minister of Punjab, Shri Bhagwant Singh Mann interacting with the media, in New Delhi.

The Union Minister for Defence, Shri Rajnath Singh visits an exhibition during the laying of foundation stone of the AMCA's Core Integration & Flight Testing Centre and Naval Systems Manufacturing Facility at Puttaparthi, in Andhra Pradesh.



Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah confers President's Colour Award to NDRF, as the Chief Guest in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.



The Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, Shri Sanjay Kumar briefing the media on CBSE-related OSM matters, in New Delhi.

The Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs (GULF), Mr. Aseem R. Mahajan addressing at the Inter- Ministerial Briefing on Recent Developments in West Asia at National Media Centre, in New Delhi.



The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla attends the Akhil Bhartiya Agrawal Sammelan on the occasion of the Oath Ceremony, in New Delhi.

NETHERLANDS RETURNS RARE 11TH CENTURY CHOLA COPPER PLATES TO INDIA



In a significant moment for cultural heritage preservation, the Netherlands has returned a set of rare 11th-century Chola copper plates to India, marking another important step in the global effort to restore historically valuable artefacts to their country of origin. The ancient copper plates, believed to belong to the powerful Chola dynasty of South India, hold immense historical, cultural, and archaeological significance. The returned artefacts are said to date back to the reign of the Chola Empire, one of the greatest dynasties in Indian history known for its contributions to art, architecture, administration, and maritime trade. The Cholas ruled large parts of southern India between the 9th and 13th centuries and played a major role in shaping the cultural identity of the region. Copper plates during the Chola period were commonly used for recording royal grants, administrative orders, land donations, and important historical events. These inscriptions provide

valuable insights into the governance system, social structure, language, religion, and economic conditions of ancient India. Historians consider such records extremely important because they help reconstruct the political and cultural history of the era. Officials stated that the returned plates were identified as Indian antiquities after detailed verification by experts and cultural authorities. The repatriation reflects growing international cooperation in protecting cultural heritage and combating the illegal trade of historical artefacts. Over the past few years, several countries and museums across the world have increasingly worked with India to return stolen or illegally exported antiquities. The return of the Chola copper plates has been widely welcomed by historians, archaeologists, and cultural organisations. Experts believe that restoring such artefacts helps preserve national identity and reconnects people with their

historical roots. Many scholars have also highlighted how the Chola Empire represented one of the high points of Indian civilisation, particularly in temple architecture, sculpture, literature, and governance.

India has been actively pursuing the recovery of lost artefacts from different parts of the world. In recent years, numerous idols, sculptures, manuscripts, and historical objects have been returned from countries including the United States, Australia, the United Kingdom, and Canada. The latest return from the Netherlands adds to this growing list of successful repatriations.

Cultural experts say the restoration of such objects is not only about recovering physical artefacts but also about reclaiming historical memory and civilisational heritage. Ancient inscriptions like the Chola copper plates carry stories of India's past and help future generations understand the richness of the country's traditions and administrative systems. The returned copper plates are expected to be preserved and displayed by Indian authorities for research and public education. Historians hope that detailed study of the inscriptions may reveal new information about the Chola administration, local governance, temple grants, and regional history during the medieval period. The development has once again highlighted the importance of safeguarding cultural treasures and strengthening global cooperation against the illegal trafficking of antiquities. As more nations recognise the importance of returning heritage objects to their rightful homes, the repatriation of the Chola copper plates stands as a powerful symbol of respect for history, identity, and shared cultural responsibility.

N. RANGASWAMY TAKES OATH AS PUDUCHERRY CM FOR RECORD FIFTH TERM



Veteran politician N. Rangaswamy was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Puducherry for a record fifth term, marking another major milestone in his long political journey. The swearing-in ceremony took place at Lok Nivas in Puducherry, where Lieutenant Governor K. Kailashnathan administered the oath of office and secrecy.

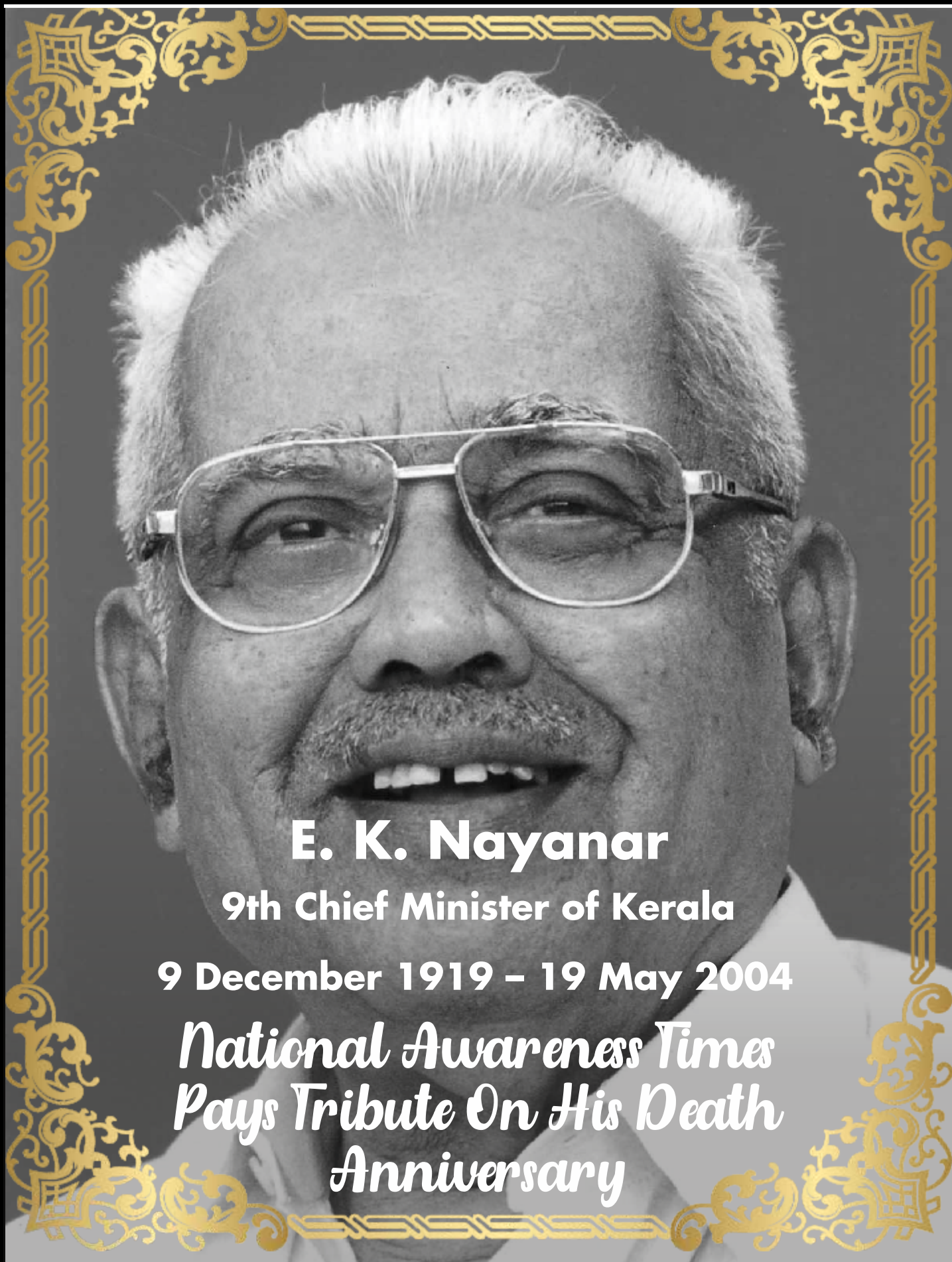
The ceremony witnessed the presence of political leaders, party workers, supporters, and senior officials from across the Union Territory. Along with Rangaswamy, several ministers from the new government also took oath, officially beginning the next term of the National Democratic Alliance administration in Puducherry. N. Rangaswamy remains one of the most prominent and respected political figures in Puducherry politics. Founder

of the All India NR Congress, he has enjoyed strong public support for many years due to his welfare-oriented governance and simple public image. His leadership style has often been appreciated for focusing on public welfare, education, healthcare, and infrastructure development. The latest electoral victory further strengthens Rangaswamy's political legacy. Political observers believe that his personal popularity, grassroots connection, and experience played a crucial role in helping the alliance retain power in the Union Territory. Over the years, he has built a reputation for implementing people-centric welfare schemes aimed at supporting economically weaker sections and improving public services. During his earlier tenures, the government introduced initiatives related to housing,

educational assistance, healthcare benefits, and civic development. His supporters frequently compare his governance style to that of former Tamil Nadu leader K. Kamaraj, earning him the popular nickname "Junior Kamaraj."

The new administration is expected to focus on accelerating development projects, boosting tourism, creating employment opportunities, and improving infrastructure across Puducherry. Strengthening public services and encouraging investment are also likely to remain key priorities for the government. The swearing-in comes at an important time for Puducherry as the Union Territory aims to enhance economic growth and administrative efficiency. With alliance support and a strong mandate, the government is expected to play a significant role in shaping the region's future in the coming years.

As N. Rangaswamy begins his historic fifth term as Chief Minister, citizens and political analysts alike will closely watch how the experienced leader balances welfare policies with economic development. His return to office once again highlights his enduring influence in Puducherry politics and the continued trust many voters place in his leadership.



E. K. Nayanar

9th Chief Minister of Kerala

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GLOBAL CONCERN GROWS OVER IRAN'S REPORTED TRUMP REWARD BILL



A major political controversy has emerged after reports claimed that lawmakers in Iran are reviewing a bill proposing a massive financial reward for the assassination of former US President Donald Trump. According to international reports, the proposed legislation would offer nearly €50 million, or around ₹450 crore, to any individual or group responsible for carrying out the act.

The proposal has reportedly surfaced amid rising tensions between Iran, the United States, and Israel following recent military confrontations and escalating political disputes in the region. Iranian lawmakers are said to have linked the proposal to retaliation for attacks that allegedly targeted senior Iranian officials and military leaders. Reports suggest that the proposed bill forms part of a broader strategy concerning national security and military response. Alongside Donald Trump, the legislation is also believed to mention Israeli Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu and several senior US military figures. However, officials have not yet confirmed whether the proposal will move forward as formal law. The development has attracted global attention because of the seriousness of the claims and the already fragile geopolitical situation in the Middle East. Political experts believe such statements could further strain diplomatic relations and increase

concerns about regional instability. This is not the first time Donald Trump has been associated with threats from Iran. Relations between the two countries sharply deteriorated after the 2020 US drone strike that killed Iranian military commander Qassem Soleimani. Since then, tensions between Washington and Tehran have remained high, with repeated accusations and warnings exchanged by both sides. The latest reports have also triggered widespread reactions across international political circles and social media platforms. Analysts warn that inflammatory rhetoric and retaliatory proposals could deepen hostilities at a time when global powers are already attempting to prevent further conflict in the region. While there has been no detailed official response from American authorities so far, the controversy continues to draw international scrutiny. Observers around the world are closely watching how the situation develops and whether the proposal will have any broader diplomatic or security consequences in the coming weeks.



ANANYA PANDAY BECOMES CHANEL FRAGRANCE & BEAUTY AMBASSADOR IN INDIA



Ananya Panday has added another milestone to her growing international fashion journey after being officially announced as the Fragrance & Beauty Ambassador for Chanel in India. The announcement strengthens her association with the iconic luxury label and highlights her increasing presence in the global fashion and beauty industry. Less than a year ago, Ananya made headlines by becoming Chanel's first-ever brand ambassador from India, marking a major collaboration between the luxury fashion house and an Indian celebrity. Her latest role further expands that partnership and places her among a select group of global personalities linked with the

brand. Over the years, Ananya has steadily built a strong image beyond films, emerging as one of the most recognisable young faces in fashion, beauty, and lifestyle campaigns. Her appearances at international fashion events, collaborations with luxury labels, and growing digital influence have contributed to her rising global profile. Industry experts have also pointed out how Indian celebrities are increasingly becoming part of global luxury campaigns, reflecting the growing importance of the Indian market in the international fashion and beauty sector. Ananya's continued collaboration with Chanel adds to this larger trend of Indian talent gaining visibility on international platforms. On the professional front, Ananya is preparing for the release of Chand Mera Dil alongside Lakshya, scheduled to release on May 21. She is also set to reprise her role as Bae in the upcoming season of Call Me Bae.

3 IDIOTS SEQUEL TO FEATURE TIME JUMP AND NEW STORYLINE TWIST; AAMIR KHAN BEGINS WORK



Aamir Khan has reportedly begun work on a sequel to the 2009 blockbuster 3 Idiots, one of the most successful and influential films in Hindi cinema. According to industry sources, the project is currently in the pre-production stage and is expected to reunite the original lead cast. Actors R. Madhavan and Sharman Joshi are reportedly likely to reprise their roles alongside Aamir Khan. The sequel is also expected to feature a major time leap, taking the story into a new phase of the characters' lives compared to the original film. While details about the plot remain undisclosed, insiders claim that the exact timeline of the story is being kept under wraps. It is still unclear

whether the sequel will continue after the events of the original film or explore a different period altogether. Reports suggest that only Aamir Khan currently knows the complete direction of the storyline. Filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani, who directed the original film, is also expected to return for the sequel. However, an official announcement regarding the cast, production schedule, and release date is yet to be made. Released in 2009, 3 Idiots was loosely based on Five Point Someone by Chetan Bhagat. The film explored themes of education, friendship, and societal pressure through the lives of three engineering students. It also starred Kareena Kapoor Khan, Boman Irani, and Mona Singh in key roles. Over the years, the film has remained a cult favourite among audiences worldwide.

HYDRATION: THE SECRET TO A HEALTHY LIFE



Water is one of the most essential elements for human survival.

Nearly every function in the body depends on proper hydration, making it important to drink enough water every day. Staying hydrated helps maintain body temperature, improves digestion, boosts energy levels, and keeps the mind fresh and active. In today's fast-paced lifestyle, many people often ignore the importance of drinking sufficient water, which can lead to dehydration and health problems.

The human body is made up of around 60 percent water. Water helps transport nutrients and oxygen to cells, supports healthy skin, lubricates joints, and removes toxins from the body. During hot weather or physical activity, the body loses water through sweat, making hydration even more necessary. If the lost fluids are not replaced, a person may feel tired, dizzy, or weak.

One of the easiest ways to stay healthy is by drinking enough water throughout the day.

Health experts generally recommend around 7–8 glasses of water daily, though the amount may vary depending on age, climate, and activity levels. Eating water-rich fruits and vegetables such as watermelon, cucumber, oranges, and tomatoes also helps maintain hydration. Dehydration can affect both

physical and mental performance. Lack of water may cause headaches, dry skin, muscle cramps, and difficulty concentrating. In severe cases, dehydration can lead to serious medical conditions. Children, elderly people, and those who work outdoors are especially at risk during summer months and heatwaves.

Simple habits can help people stay hydrated. Carrying a water bottle, drinking water before feeling thirsty, and reducing sugary or caffeinated drinks are effective steps. During exercise or travel, increasing fluid intake is important to maintain energy and prevent exhaustion.

Staying hydrated is not just about drinking water; it is about caring for the body and overall well-being. Proper hydration improves mood, supports better health, and keeps the body functioning efficiently. By making water a regular part of daily life, people can stay active, refreshed, and healthy in every season.



**PIC OF
THE WEEK**



Sonam Bajwa

Love was all I needed

Source: Instagram

15 May, 2026

SHANI JAYANTI: CELEBRATING THE LORD OF JUSTICE AND KARMA



Shani Jayanti is an important Hindu festival celebrated as the birth anniversary of Lord Shani, the deity associated with the planet Saturn. Devotees across India worship Shani Dev with great faith and devotion, seeking protection from difficulties and blessings for a balanced life. The festival is observed on the Amavasya, or new moon day, in the Hindu month of Jyeshtha. According to Hindu mythology, Lord Shani is the son of Surya Dev, the Sun God, and Chhaya. He is known as the god of justice who rewards or punishes people according to their deeds. Shani Dev symbolizes discipline, patience, honesty, and karma. Though many people fear his influence, Hindu beliefs describe him as a fair deity who teaches valuable life lessons through hardships and challenges.

On Shani Jayanti, devotees visit temples dedicated to Shani Dev and perform special prayers and rituals. Offerings such as mustard oil, black sesame seeds, black clothes, and flowers are made to seek divine blessings. Many people also observe fasting and chant sacred hymns dedicated to the deity. One of the most famous pilgrimage sites connected with Shani worship is Shani Shingnapur, where thousands of devotees gather during the festival.

The spiritual message of Shani Jayanti remains highly meaningful in modern times. The festival reminds people that every action has consequences and encourages them to live with honesty and responsibility. It teaches that patience and hard work eventually lead to success and peace. More than a religious celebration, Shani Jayanti is a day of self-reflection, charity, and faith. Devotees believe that sincere worship and good deeds on this auspicious occasion help bring positivity, strength, and spiritual growth into life.



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