

# THE BEACON

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## Fuel prices hiked again for the sixth time

**Sutapa Dhara**

In just a week's time, petrol and diesel prices have spiked again. On Monday, the rate of petrol was increased by 30 paise per litre and the diesel by 35 paise. The total hike since the last week is Rs 4-4.10 per litre.

This is the sixth price rise since the end of a four-and-a-half-month rate review break on March 22. Rates have been raised across the country and they differ from state to state based on the amount of taxation.

Prices were raised by 80 paise per litre on the first four instances, the largest single-day increase since the daily price revision began in June 2017.

On Sunday, the price of petrol increased by 50 paise per litre while the price of diesel increased by 55 paise per litre. The rate revision presumed to function on March 10, however, it was postponed for a few weeks.

"With the spike in gasoline prices, it is only a dream for us to afford a vehicle in cities like Bangalore, where the living cost is already expensive," said, Tanmoy Dey a vehicle owner from Bangalore.

## The Kashmir Files : Milking the tragedy for political propagandism is akin to insulting the Pandits

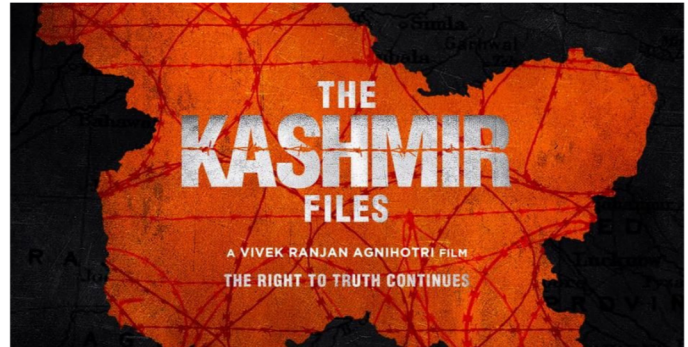
**Niharika Bajaj**

Political propagandism and cinema have been close allies. From Nazi Germany's Triumph of the Will, the traces can be seen in the present state of Indian cinema. The Kashmir Files released on 11 March completed over two weeks of theatrical run and is embroiled in controversies.

While showcasing the brutal exodus of Kashmiri Pandits during the militancy, the film simultaneously tries to loop the viewers into the propagandist narrative on why the abolition of article 370 was a necessity - a narrative that works very well with the ideology of the central government. The incidents in the movie

are true, as the atrocities on the Kashmiri Pandits did happen for real, but the film is a skewed perception of reality. While Kashmiri Pandits are 'relating' to the film because of unimaginable and horrific tragedies that they bore, the scary part is that some others are 'relating' to the film because it confirms their biases against the so-called 'others' they hate.

Communal disputes in the country are being fueled by the hate created by such portrayals in cinema. The film very evidently argues over the leftist political atmospheres in the universities, calling students brainwashed by educational institutes with



*Saffronising Kashmir*

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the agenda of separatism. The hyper-nationalism to sell a film is creating much more damage than any good. For instance, when you look at the movie's poster, an orange-clad Kashmir depicts the back-

ing of a tainted ideology. The movie struggles between the war of narratives and this is what makes it controversial. Ever since 2014, there has been an increase in Bollywood films glorifying

a pseudo-patriotic sense under the garb of bringing out the 'truth'. In effect, it's the medium of cinema now that is being meddled with to rewrite history in line with a political ideology.

## Rising prices of drugs worry traders and patients

**Bincy Joseph**

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has allowed a price hike of 10.7% for over 800 essential drugs which is the highest price hike sanctioned ever. The rise in prices has stunned pharmacists and patients alike in Bangalore.

Dr Krishna Prasad, (name changed) from NIMHANS hospital said to The Beacon that the prices of life-saving drugs including antibiotics and anti-in-

flamatory drugs have increased around 40% in the past four months.

The doctor further added that there is an increase in the prices of raw materials which goes into manufacturing drugs that are imported from various parts of Europe and China, however, this is not an excuse for pharmaceutical companies to increase the price of all medicines both essential and non-essential. The most affected by the price rise are patients



*When pain relievers increase pain*

[Creative commons](#)

with chronic diseases including cardiac and cancer patients.

Sahil, a salesperson at Apollo pharmacy said,

"The prices of pain killers and vitamin tablets have also gone up which have added the burden on patients."

## PV Sindhu wins Swiss Open Super 2022

**Arushi Srivastava**

Indian badminton player PV Sindhu defeats Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrungphan for women's singles at the Swiss Open Super 300 tournament on Monday. The gold medalist played for around 49 minutes to defeat Ongbamrungphan.

PV Sindhu played finals for two consecutive years in a row at the tournament picking up the trophy this time. Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to Twitter to congratulate her on her win. "Her accomplishment inspires the youth of India." "It was a wonderful feeling to watch PV Sindhu win the Gold Medal in the Swiss Open 2022! She defeated World Ranking 11, Busanan Ongbamrungphan in straight-set with ease, and I look forward to future tournaments in which I'm sure she'll bag more medals for the country" said Rishi Hazra, a National level badminton player.

## And the Oscar award goes to...

**Trupti Khillare**

The 94th Academy Awards ceremony was held in Los Angeles, the USA on Monday. Many celebrities attended the event at Dolby Theatre in Hollywood. Some notable winners in each category - CODA for the best picture, Jessica Chastain and Will Smith for King Richard won the title the Best Actress and Best Actor, respectively. Jane Campion bagged the

Best Director award for her film 'The Power of the Dog.'

Ms Parinitha, a movie enthusiast, and an assistant professor at the Institute of Communication and Media Studies at St. Joseph's College (Autonomous) said, "Oscars for me is a second-hand experience. There are controversial movies; people analyse them and also memefication is done

through social media." She thinks there is still a lack of diversity in the Oscars and they are still very much Hollywood centred. Some highlights of the Oscars were BTS joining the ceremony through a video message and showing their love for animated movies. Will Smith punches Chris Rock over a joke about his wife, which triggered an awkward silence among the attendees.

## All India General Strike kicks off

**Thanmaya Prakash**

Protesting against the Centre's 'anti-people policies' affecting the farmers, workers and the general public, trade unions across the country began the All India General Strike on Monday.

The unions have demanded the scrapping of four labour codes and scrapping of the National Monetisation Pipeline(NMP). They have also demanded an increase in the allocation of wages under MNREGA and vouched for the

regularisation of contract workers. The central trade unions part of this joint forum are AITUC, INTUC, HMS, CITU, AIUTUC, TUCC, AICCTU, LFP, SEWA, and UTUC.

"We have received a good response from the rural parts of Karnataka. Anganwadi workers, farmers, Mid-Day meal workers, Asha workers from the rural parts have been protesting at the Panchayat level," said K V Bhat, State Vice-President of AIUTUC.