

## Commercial LPG price hiked by Rs 993 per 19-kg cylinder

**NEW DELHI, MAY 1:** The price of commercial LPG was hiked by the steepest ever Rs 993 per 19-kg cylinder on Friday, marking the third straight monthly increase due to rising global energy prices linked to the West Asia conflict.

A 19-kg commercial LPG – used by establishments such as hotels and restaurants – now costs a record Rs 3,071.5 in Delhi as against Rs 2,078.50 previously.

Rates were last increased by 195.50 per cylinder on April 1. Prior to that, prices had gone up by Rs 114.5 per 19-kg cylinder on March 1.

In three increases, commercial LPG rates have gone up by Rs 1,303.

Prices of domestic cooking gas LPG – the one used in household



kitchens – remained unchanged. Domestic LPG rates were last hiked by Rs 60 per 14.2-kg cylinder on March 7. It costs Rs 913 per 14.2-kg cylinder in Delhi. State-owned Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum, and Hindus-

tan Petroleum revise ATF and LPG prices on the first day of every month based on international benchmarks and the exchange rate. Global oil prices have shot up almost 50 per cent after the war in West Asia disrupted energy supply

chains.

Petrol and diesel prices continue to remain frozen after a Rs 2 per-litre reduction in March last year; petrol currently costs Rs 94.72 per litre in Delhi and diesel Rs 87.62. (PTI)

## Roblox appoints former AWS senior executive Sunil Rao as MD for India

**NEW DELHI, Apr 30:** Gaming company Roblox has appointed former Amazon Web Services senior executive Sunil Rao as Managing Director for its India arm, the company said on Thursday.

Rao will serve as Roblox's senior representative and market lead in the country, overseeing day-to-day execution of Roblox India's strategy working with local teams and partners, the company said in a statement.

"Roblox announces the appointment of Sunil Rao as Managing Director, Roblox India. Rao will join Roblox India this May to help strengthen the com-

pany's local presence in the country, foster partnerships, support the creator ecosystem and align local market needs with global product and business priorities," the statement said.

Rao was previously part of the leadership team at Amazon Web Services (AWS), where he led strategy and corporate business development across the Asia-Pacific and Japan (APJ) region. Prior to AWS, Rao was a partner at Lightspeed Venture Partners, where he worked closely with founders and emerging companies. Earlier in his career, he has also played a pivotal role in

building and scaling developer ecosystems at Sym-bian, Nokia and Google.

"India is an important market for us globally and one with tremendous potential in terms of creator talent. Sunil brings deep expertise in building operations across diverse markets, and his passion for community-centric platforms makes him the ideal leader to drive our next chapter of growth in the country," Roblox, VP of International, Zhen Fang said.

At Roblox India, a core focus of Rao's role will be to champion India's growing community of Roblox developers and creators,

and to help local studios make use of Roblox's tools to scale and find commercial success, the statement said.

Roblox provides free tools that make coding, design, and entrepreneurship accessible.

"I am excited to build a vibrant and inclusive ecosystem that empowers developers and creators across the country. Ensuring child safety and aligning closely with India's regulatory framework will be among my top priorities, as we focus on building a trusted platform that enables responsible and sustainable growth in the region," Rao said. (PTI)

## JSW MG Motor India wholesales up 3 pc at 6,018 units in April

**NEW DELHI, MAY 1:** JSW MG Motor India on Friday reported a 3 per cent year-on-year growth in dispatches to dealers at 6,018 units in April 2026 compared to the same month last year.

The company sustained steady momentum across both its internal combustion engine (ICE) and new energy vehicle (NEV) portfolios, JSW MG Motor India said in a statement.

This growth comes despite the ongoing West Asia crisis, which has disrupted global supply chains and dampened consumer sentiment, leading to softer overall demand in the automotive market, it added.



## Skoda Auto India ties up with CSC Grameen eStore for booking of car models

**MUMBAI, MAY 01:** Czech auto maker Skoda Auto India on Wednesday said it has formed a strategic partnership with government-backed e-commerce platform Common Services Centre Grameen eStore to expand its footprint across non-metropolitan and semi-urban markets in the country.

As part of the collaboration, the company will make available its compact SUV Kylaq, subcompact crossover SUV Kushaq, and compact sedan Slavia through the CSC's digital-first non-metropolitan network.

This will facilitate product enquiries and purchase journeys, supported by Skoda Auto India's dealership network for fulfillment and delivery, it stated.

The collaboration, Skoda Auto India said, makes it among the few premium automotive brands to leverage CSC's extensive digital and physical network to offer its



car models to customers across multiple newer regions in the country.

The company aims to improve accessibility and build relevance across newer markets, said Ashish Gupta, Brand Director, Skoda Auto India.

This initiative will bring the company closer to customers, enabling them to experience our products and services more conveniently, regardless of their location, creating a more inclusive and accessible mobility ecosystem, he stated.

The CSC network, with its widespread presence across non-metropolitan cities in India, will serve as a critical touchpoint for customers who previously had limited access to automotive brand options, the company said. (PTI)

## NYC Mayor Mamdani says he would encourage King Charles to return Koh-i-Noor diamond

**NEW YORK, MAY 01:** New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani said he would encourage King Charles III to return the Koh-i-Noor diamond.

"If I was to speak to the King separately from that, I would probably encourage him to return the Koh-i-Noor diamond," Mamdani said at a press conference Wednesday before he met the British monarch in the city later in the day. Mamdani was asked what he would say to the King, who visited New York City on the second day of his State Visit to the US.

King Charles addressed a joint meeting of the US Congress Tuesday, as he and Queen Camilla were honoured at a state dinner hosted by President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump in the White House. King Charles and Queen Camilla visited the 9/11 Memorial in the city and paid their respects to the victims of the terror attack.

They also visited Harlem



Grown, a network of urban farms supporting children and families in Upper Manhattan. Mamdani met King Charles at the 9/11 memorial. The 105.6-carat Koh-i-Noor diamond was given to Queen Victoria in 1849 by Maharajah Duleep Singh. It was worn by the Queen Mother on her crown in 1937.

India has indicated that it will continue to explore ways to bring back the Koh-i-noor from the United Kingdom.

The country has been raising the matter from time to time with the UK government and said it will continue to explore ways and means for obtaining a "satisfactory resolution of the matter." The Koh-i-Noor dia-

mond is currently displayed at the Tower of London. The diamond, set within the Crown of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, has "many previous owners, including Mughal Emperors, Shahs of Iran, Emirs of Afghanistan, and Sikh Maharajas," according to the Historic Royal Palaces charity. (PTI)

## Shop at TRENDS, Win a Vacation!

**JAMMU, MAY 01:** TRENDS, one of India's largest and most loved fashion retail chains, has unveiled an exciting new consumer campaign, "This Holiday, Trend It", offering customers a unique opportunity to turn their shopping experience into an unforgettable vacation.

Blending fashion, creativity, and technology, the campaign invites shoppers across India to participate in a first-of-its-kind interactive contest

where style meets travel. Customers who shop for ₹1499 or more at any TRENDS store can enter the contest by scanning an in-store QR code, creating a personalised AI-generated holiday song, and submitting their entry on the dedicated campaign microsite.

The most creative and engaging entries will be rewarded with fully paid holiday experiences, giving shoppers the chance to celebrate their style with a dream

getaway. With 100+ winners set to be selected, the campaign promises to create excitement and delight for customers nationwide.

Running from 20th April to 17th May 2026, "This Holiday, Trend It" has been designed to celebrate self-expression, fashion-forward thinking, and storytelling in a fun and immersive way. By combining innovative AI-led experiences with rewarding travel prizes, TRENDS continue to redefine the retail

shopping journey for modern Indian consumers.

The campaign aims to strengthen customer engagement during the holiday season while reinforcing TRENDS's position as a destination for trend-led, affordable fashion for the entire family. With this campaign, TRENDS once again brings together value, style, and innovation-creating experiences that go beyond shopping and into memories that last a lifetime.

## Govt sector, BFSI and Pharma key business drivers: Qlik India MD

**NEW DELHI, MAY 1:** The major business growth drivers for data analytics and artificial intelligence player Qlik are the government sector, Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance (BFSI), and pharma, according to the US-based firm's Managing Director (India), Varun Babbar.

"We see a lot of initiatives by various state governments as well as central governments where they are revamping their whole data ecosystem and building the right data foundations to build AI-driven projects," Babbar told PTI.

Banking and financial services have been early adopters of technology, and they were the first ones to build data warehouses and data lakes, he said, adding that there is a lot of innovation being done by them.

Besides, he said, pharma is another vertical where a lot of traction is taking place.

On the government side, he said, the company is working with three states apart from various public sector companies, including Indian Oil Corporation.

"We see a lot of initiatives built by various state governments as well as various de-



partments of the central government where they are revamping their whole data ecosystem and building the right data foundations to build AI-driven projects," he said.

Going forward, engagement with the government sector is going to grow, and the company, with its partners are in talks with many state governments on various projects.

These engagements are at various stages, and definitely more wins would take place during the year, he said.

In addition, he said, a lot of

banks have come up with projects like revamping their whole data ecosystem and building something around it.

Talking about revenue flow, Babbar said both the public sector and BFSI together would be around 60 per cent.

"I would say both are equal businesses. Some year someone does better than the other," he said.

From a headcount perspective, he said, India is the third largest employer within the Qlik ecosystem after the US and Sweden.

India has around 400 employees, and the team is growing at a very fast pace across the segment, including research and development, marketing and sales.

Qlik senior vice president (APAC) Maurizio Garavello said India is the fastest-growing market because companies are increasingly adopting frontier technologies.

"We are happy with the India business... we made significant investment in technology and hired more people last year," Garavello said. (PTI)

## Tim Cook says he is 'over the moon' as Apple eyes massive growth in India

**NEW YORK, MAY 1:** Apple Chief Executive Officer Tim Cook has said he is "over the moon excited" about India, characterising the country's market as a "huge opportunity" for the tech giant.

"Yes, I think it's a huge opportunity for us. We've been focused on this for a while. It's the second largest smartphone market in the world and the third largest PC market," Cook said at Apple's second quarter 2026 earnings call on Thursday.

Cook's remarks came to a

question about his outlook on the Indian market and the overall opportunity it offers.

He also acknowledged that the tech giant still has a "modest share" in India despite doing "extremely well" in the country for quite some time.

Tim also discussed India's rising middle class, the potential it has and said since most customers across all our product lines are new to the brand, it's a perfect environment for us to grow.

"Net-net, I'm over the

moon excited about India," he added.

Apple saw its quarterly revenue climb 17 per cent to USD 111.2 billion. Cook noted that the company hit new March quarter records across both developed and emerging markets, with India being a standout among the regions seeing double-digit growth.

Cook said Apple was also "thrilled" to launch its sixth store in India, opening a new location in Borivali in February, the second store in Mumbai. Apple has stores in

New Delhi, Bengaluru, Pune and Noida.

"It has been wonderful to see how we've continued to grow in India in recent years, part of our larger efforts to connect with even more customers in emerging markets all over the world," Cook said.

Cook also said that for the iPhones, "we're seeing double-digit growth in the majority of the markets we track from the US to Latin America to Greater China to Western Europe, to India to Japan to Southeast Asia."