

India-China ties should be developed in dragon-elephant tango: Xi Jinping

Agency: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday said the bilateral relations should take the form of a 'dragon-elephant tango' - a dance between their emblematic animals. Xi's remarks assumed significance amid efforts by India and China to reset ties after over four years of freeze due to the eastern Ladakh military standoff in 2020. In a congratulatory message to President Droupadi Murmu on the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries, Xi said it was the right choice for India and China to be partners of mutual achievement as evidenced by the development of bilateral relations, according to a statement carried by state-run Xinhua News Agency. Xi said both countries should handle bilateral relations from a strategic height and long-term perspective and ensure peaceful coexistence, mutual trust, mutual benefit and common development to get along with each other. Both countries should jointly

promote a multipolar world and greater democracy in international relations, Xi added. "The development of China-India relations demonstrates that is the right choice for China and India to be partners of mutual achievement and realise the 'dragon-elephant tango', which fully serves the fundamental interests of both countries and their peoples," he said.

On the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties, Xi said he was ready to work with President Murmu to take the occasion as an opportunity to strengthen exchanges and cooperation in various fields, deepen communication and coordination in major international affairs and jointly safeguard peace and tranquility in the China-India border area. He also stressed that both countries should contribute to world peace and prosperity, Xinhua reported. Describing India and China as ancient civilisations, Xi said both countries were major developing countries and important members

of the Global South. He stated that the two nations were "at a critical stage of their respective modernisation efforts". On her part, President Murmu, according to Xinhua, called for a stable, predictable and friendly bilateral relationship that will benefit both countries and the world. "She proposed to take the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties as an opportunity to jointly promote the sound and steady development of India-China relations," the state-run agency reported.

Apart from Xi and President Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese Premier Li Qiang also exchanged congratulatory messages, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun told a media briefing in Beijing while answering a question. "Today marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and China," Guo said. In February, China said it was working with India for the joint implementation

of resolutions to end the standoff in eastern Ladakh, in the latest development of the India-China border de-escalation process. This came after India said it had reached an agreement with China on disengagement at the two friction points of Demchok and Dapsang in eastern Ladakh in October last year. The withdrawal of troops was an effort towards ending heightened tensions along the border since the Galwan clash in 2020. In a series of developments to reset bilateral ties, PM Modi and Xi met in Kazan, Russia, in October last year and agreed to revive various dialogue mechanisms. This was the first meeting between them in five years.

Subsequently, in December, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held the 23rd Special Representative dialogue in Beijing to further solidify the de-escalation process. On February 21 this year, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met Wang on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in South Africa's Johannesburg. Both leaders discussed focused on geopolitical challenges, multilateral cooperation and ongoing global conflicts. The Ministry of External Affairs sources have confirmed that the joint effort to implement the de-escalation plan was proceeding as per schedule.



Income Tax changes from April 1, 2025: From new income tax slabs to zero income tax up to Rs 12 lakh

Agency: April 1, 2025, signals the start of the fresh fiscal year. As the new financial year begins, several new income tax regulations come into effect, including a more rationalised new income tax regime, higher basic exemption limit and tax rates. Additionally, several changes in TDS, TCS rules also take effect. Understanding these new income tax rules is crucial, as they influence tax deductions from various income sources, including salary and interest earnings. Additionally, these changes will determine your tax liability for income earned in FY 2025-26.

1. The revised new tax regime introduces new income tax slabs and rates: Under the new income tax regime income above Rs 24 lakh will now attract a 30% tax rate as against Rs 15 lakh earlier. Also, the basic exemption limit has been raised from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 4 lakh.

2. Zero tax on income up to Rs 12 lakh - Rs 12.75 lakh for salaried individuals: With changes in the new income tax regime, individuals earning a taxable income up to Rs 12 lakh will now have to pay ZERO tax! This provision applies exclusively to individuals who select the new tax regime in FY 2025-26. However, this does not exempt one from filing an income tax return (ITR). The zero tax benefit is available through a tax rebate under Section 87A of the Income Tax Act, 1961. To access the tax rebate under Section 87A, individuals must submit their ITR. For salaried individuals earning up to Rs 12.75 lakh, there will be no tax with a Rs 75,000 standard deduction.

3. Changes in ULIP Taxation Structure: The Budget 2025 has introduced modifications to the taxation structure of specific ULIPs. The revised regulations specify that ULIP proceeds not qualifying for exemption under Section 10

(10D) shall be classified as capital assets and will be incorporated within the equity-oriented funds category, according to an ET report. Consequently, proceeds from ULIPs that do not qualify for Section 10 (10D) exemption will face capital gains taxation. A 20% tax rate applies to short-term gains, whilst long-term gains attract a 12.5% tax without the benefit of indexation.

Tax exemption under Section 10 (10D) continues to apply to ULIP proceeds where the annual premium remains below Rs 2.5 lakh. Tax experts note that previously, there existed no definitive taxation guidelines for ULIPs with premiums exceeding Rs 2.5 lakh. This ambiguity arose because ULIPs, unlike conventional policies, direct a substantial portion of premiums towards stock market investments, making traditional policy taxation frameworks unsuitable. These taxation revisions take effect from FY 2025-26.

4. TDS Rates and Thresholds Adjustments: The Budget 2025 has introduced modifications to TDS provisions, encompassing adjustments to rates and elevating thresholds for implementing these provisions.

Key TDS amendments include:

- a) Section 194LBC TDS rate adjustment:** This applies to income distributed by securitisation trust to resident investors. Currently, until March 31, 2025, individuals or Hindu Undivided families face 25% TDS, whilst others face 30%. Starting April 1, 2025, a uniform 10% TDS rate shall apply.

b) Threshold adjustments: Effective April 1, 2025, elevated thresholds will apply to sections 193, 194A, 194, 194K, 194B, 194BB, 194D, 194G, 194H, 194-I, 194J and 194LA, enabling taxpayers to retain more disposable income.

5. ITR Non-filers Relief from Enhanced TDS/ TCS: The government has eliminated provisions requiring increased TDS and

iQoo Neo 10R review: Affordable gaming and beyond

Agency: iQoo has built a reputation for producing smartphones that deliver solid performance while offering excellent value for money. The company's devices consistently demonstrate reliable performance and are well-priced to meet consumer expectations. The iQOO Neo 10R is the latest addition to iQOO's performance-focused lineup, aiming to deliver flagship-level features at a competitive price. Packed with the powerful Snapdragon 8 Gen 3 chipset, a high-refresh-rate AMOLED display, and a massive 6,400mAh battery, the Neo 10R is designed for gamers and power users alike. The iQoo Neo 10R aims to meet all the benchmarks of an ideal smartphone. After spending some time exploring this new mid-range device, here's our in-depth review.

The iQoo Neo 10R sports a sleek and ergonomic design, featuring a dual-tone finish that adds a sporty aesthetic. Available in Raging Blue and MoonKnight Titanium, the phone's lightweight build and flat edges make it comfortable to hold. The smartphone features a matte-finished plastic frame, complemented by a slightly curved back panel that

enhances grip. However, the rear panel tends to attract fingerprints, so keeping a cloth handy for cleaning is recommended. The front of the smartphone houses a flat display which is protected with a coating of Schott Xensation Up glass on top. A squarish rear camera module is positioned in the top-left corner, accommodating the dual rear camera setup and prominently featuring the Neo branding. The right side of the smartphone houses the volume rockers and the power button, whereas the SIM card tray and the USB Type C charging port are located at the bottom. The IP65 certification ensures resistance to dust and minor water splashes. The Neo 10R stands out among mid-range smartphones with its sleek design and attractive color options, giving it an aesthetic edge over its competitors. The iQoo Neo 10R features a vibrant and responsive display. The smartphone sports a 6.78-inch display with 1260x2800 pixel resolution. The 1.5K AMOLED display offers up to 144Hz refresh rate and up to 4500 nits peak brightness levels. The display is made scratch-resistant with a coating of Schott Xensation glass on top.

Elon Musk slams Netflix series *Adolescence*, co-writer replies 'not making a point'

Agency: Elon Musk responded to allegations of 'anti-white propaganda' in Netflix's *Adolescence* series. The claims, regarding race-swapped characters and a misleading narrative, were debunked by co-writer Jack Thorne, emphasizing the show is not based on a true story and focuses on issues of masculinity.

Elon Musk recently replied to an X post, alleging an "anti-white propaganda" theory in Netflix's *Adolescence* series. X user named Ian Miles Cheong @stillgray shared the post, stating the makers of the web series "Netflix has a show called *Adolescence* that's about a British knife killer who stabbed a girl to death on a bus and it's based on real life cases such as the Southport murderer. So guess what.

They race swapped the actual killer from a black man/migrant to a white boy and the story has it so he was radicalized online by the red pill movement. Just the absolute state of anti-white propaganda." The Tesla CEO responded to



the tweet with a "Wow". Another X user replied to the post, stating "None of this is true. There's no bus, it's not based on the Southport case in fact, it's not based on anyone individual case at all, but based on the wide ranging effects of Knife Crime in the UK as a whole. These claims have been debunked MANY times already."

Discussing the race swapping at a podcast recently, *Adolescence* co-writer Jack Thorne said that "nothing could

Pastor Bajinder Singh gets life term in 2018 rape case

Agency: A court in Punjab's Mohali on Tuesday sentenced self-styled pastor Bajinder Singh to life imprisonment in a 2018 rape case. The court of Additional District and Sessions Judge (AD SJ) Vikrant Kumar pronounced the verdict.

Bajinder was pronounced guilty on March 28 under sections 376 (rape), 323 (punishment for voluntary causing hurt) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code. Five other accused were acquitted in the case. The case was registered on a complaint filed by a woman at the Zirakpur police station in Mohali in 2018. The victim had accused him of rape under the pretext of sending her abroad. Additionally,



a separate case of sexual harassment involving a Kapurthala-based follower is yet to be presented in court. Tight security arrangements were made at the court complex before the pronouncement of the verdict on Tuesday. Bajinder Singh, widely known as the 'Yesu Yesu' pastor, gained popularity through viral videos of his sermons, frequently accompanied by the chant 'Mera Yesu Yesu.'

Shocks our conscience: Court raps UP over demolitions, orders Rs 10 lakh compensation

Agency: The Supreme Court on Tuesday came down heavily on the Yogi Adityanath government and directed the Prayagraj civic body to pay Rs 10 lakh in compensation to each petitioner whose house was demolished in 2021 under the false premise that the plot belonged to the late gangster-politician Atiq Ahmed.

Calling out the Prayagraj civic authorities for their "insensitivity," the top court observed,

"These cases shock our conscience."

The Supreme Court pointed out that the Uttar Pradesh government was being ordered to pay compensation,

considering the "inhuman and illegal manner" in which the demolitions



were carried out. "It's an unfortunate state of affairs where there is illegal demolition and persons involved don't have the capacity to construct," the court further observed. The court said that the act of demolition was not only illegal but also violative of the most important fundamental right -- right to shelter, which falls under the right to life. "Residential premises/ buildings have been high-handedly demolished," the Supreme Court stated in its ruling. Thus, the court ordered the state government to pay all appellants -- a lawyer, a professor, and two women whose residential structures, located in a compound in Lukerganj, Prayagraj, were demolished in 2021 -- Rs 10 lakh each.

Earlier, the apex court had slammed the Uttar Pradesh government for carrying out the



demolition without following due process. The bench criticised the manner in which the houses were demolished -- barely 24 hours after serving notice -- leaving no time to appeal or challenge the executive decision. According to the petitioners, their houses were razed on March 7, 2021, following a demolition order that was served to them on March 6 -- not giving them enough time to go to the appellate body to contest the executive overreach.

The appellants approached the Supreme Court after the Allahabad High Court had rejected their petition challenging the UP government's action.