

## New Income Tax clarifies online gaming taxation, differentiates it from gambling

The new income tax bill brings much needed clarity to the taxation of online gaming, distinguishing it from lotteries and gambling, unlike the Income Tax Act of 1961. According to tax experts, the new bill ensures that income from online gaming is taxed appropriately, removing ambiguities that led to interpretation challenges.

One of the key changes in the new bill is the explicit definition of an 'online game'. The bill defines it as a game offered on the internet and accessible through a computer resource, including any telecommunication device.

This distinction is a major

departure from the 1961 Act, which grouped online gaming with lotteries and gambling, creating uncertainty in taxation and compliance. The new classification acknowledges the rapid expansion of the gaming industry.

Under the previous tax law, winnings from online gaming were taxed at a flat 30 percent, with TDS applicable if winnings exceeded ₹10,000 per transaction. However, there was no clear definition of online gaming, leading to interpretational disputes.

Income Tax Bill, 2025, introduces the concept of net winnings, meaning the tax will be



levied after adjusting for entry fees or bets.

The bill retains the ₹10,000 threshold but specifies that TDS applies only to net winnings exceeding this amount in a single transaction. Losses

from online gaming cannot be set off against other sources of income, nor can they be carried forward to subsequent years. This ensures that all gaming winnings are fully taxed, regardless of prior losses.

## 'Poor governance standards': RBI supersedes New India operative Bank board for 12 months

**Mumbai:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday superseded the board of New India Co-operative Bank for a period of 12 months. This comes a day after the central bank imposed several restrictions on the lender. While the RBI has cited "poor governance standards observed in the bank", reports claimed that the action was in response to alleged misappropriation of funds.

A Moneycontrol report said the chief compliance officer of the co-operative bank may have filed a complaint with the Economic Offences Wing (EOW), alleging misappropriation of funds by some of the bank staff.

Following the RBI restrictions, a large number of the bank's customers had gathered at its branches on Friday. The banking regulator has barred the bank from issuing new loans and suspended deposit withdrawals for six months. The bank has 28 branches, which are mostly located in the Mumbai region.

The RBI on Friday said it has appointed



Shreekanth, a former chief general manager of SBI, as 'administrator' to manage the affairs of the bank. It has also appointed a 'committee of advisers' to assist the administrator in discharging his duties. The members of the committee are Ravindra Sapra (former general manager, SBI) and Abhijeet Deshmukh (chartered accountant). "The action is necessitated due to certain material concerns emanating from poor governance standards observed in the bank," it said.

## Open offer exemption for REL: Sebi says no to Danny Gaekwad, calls attempt 'frivolous'

**Mumbai:** The market regulator Sebi has refused to give any exemption to Digvijay Laxhamsinh Gaekwad (Danny Gaekwad Developments & Investments, Florida) to make a competing offer to the Burman Group's open offer for Religare Enterprises (REL) and termed his offer as frivolous. The regulator also noted that the applicant has failed to submit Rs 600 crore deposit, as directed by the Supreme Court.

Gaekwad submitted the applications seeking exemptions on January 24 and 26, and February 1, 2025. In an order issued by the Securities and Exchange Board (Sebi) on Friday, the regulator noted that Gaekwad has neither applied for regulatory approvals needed to make the open offer a success nor has demonstrated the ability to meet such a financial obligation and that the application itself is not bonafide and is frivolous. "As the applicant has sought to make a competing open offer for 55% of the outstanding share capital of the target company (REL), any such open offer can succeed only if required regulatory approvals are obtained by the applicant from various regulators, including Sebi and RBI.

"However, it is noted that the applicant is yet to apply for any of such approvals. Further, even if applications are made for such approvals, there is no certainty that the approvals would be granted in the first place. Further, it is noted that in case the applicant applies for various regulatory approvals, the pro-



cessing of such applications is likely to take time," Sebi said in the order.

The order further noted that "this (allowing exemption) would be prejudicial to the Burman Group which has already devoted considerable effort, time and resources to be able to make an open offer and to the shareholders who have tendered their shares to the Burman Group," the order said.

On the financial ability of the applicant, the order said, "It is noted that although the price offered by applicant in the open offer is Rs 275/share, (a premium of Rs 40/share over the offer made by the Burman Group), the applicant has failed to demonstrate his ability to meet the financial obligation for making the competing open offer. "As on today, the applicant has failed to deposit Rs 600 crore, as directed by the Supreme Court on February 7, 2025 read with order dated February 12, 2025, which would have shown the applicant's commitment towards making the open offer.

"In the absence of adequate proof of financial resources required for making the competing open offer, the application does not appear to be bonafide. It seems frivolous and aimed solely at hindering the open offer process," said the order.

## Refund rider in new income tax bill: Expert warns of 'critical ambiguity' in twin clauses

The new income tax bill has proposed that taxpayers will be eligible for a refund only if they file the original return on time. While filing a belated return is permitted there is a lack of clarity on whether the assessee will be able to claim a refund prompting tax experts to call for a correction of the anomaly before the bill is passed.

Clause 263(1)(a)(ix) of Income Tax Bill, 2025, which was tabled in Parliament on Thursday, stipulates that a person seeking a refund under Chapter XX must file their return of income within the prescribed due date. Additional-

ly, Clause 263(4) of the bill provides a mechanism for those who fail to meet this deadline, allowing them to file their return within nine months from the end of the tax year.

"While the overarching intent of the bill is to ensure simplicity, certain provisions, upon closer examination, currently appear to have interpretational ambiguities, which may get ironed out in the subsequent phases of passage of the bill," Jhunjhunwala said. Tax advocate Narayan Jain said that the current section 139 of The Income Tax Act, 1961 does not prescribe any such provision.

He suggested a review of the "harsh and unjust" provision and allow refund even in the case of furnishing belated returns. "This change is against the principles of natural justice and leads to unjust enrichment of the exchequer, as there is no reason to deny a genuine refund claim on the grounds of a procedural lapse. Hence, the government needs to relook at the proposed change," "The new income tax code introduces a significant requirement under Section 263(1)(ix), mandating that taxpayers file their incometax returns by the prescribed due date to be eligible for refunds.

"However, Section 433, which governs refunds, does not reference this due date. This creates a potential inconsistency, hence clarity in this regard would need to be watched out," said Vinita Krishnan of Khaitan & Co. "This is an anomaly and needs to be clarified, else genuine cases where returns are filed even a few days late, the refunds could be impacted," said Mehul Bheda, partner, Dhruva Advisors. "This is completely a new provision and is similar to a few other provisions such as allowability and carry forward of losses," said Punit Shah, partner, Dhruva Advisors.

## Concerns raised over potential data leak to China via BYD cars



**Seoul:** With the recent entry by China's BYD into South Korea's passenger electric vehicle (EV) market, concerns have been raised over potential personal data leaks to China through the vehicles manufactured by the company, industry observers said on Tuesday. The security risks of private data leaks to China emerged following BYD's official entry into the South Korean passenger vehicle market last month, reports Yonhap news agency.

BYD's first model launched here, the Atto 3, is equipped with connected car features, such as over-the-air (OTA) software update capability and navigation features, through which sensitive driver data could be transferred to China, according to the market watchers. "BYD must disclose exactly what types of data are collected and how they are processed," said Yom Heung-yeol, professor emeritus of cybersecurity at Soonchunhyang University.



## Nadir Godrej visits the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos

**Guwahati:** Nadir Godrej, Chairperson of the Godrej Industries Group, has visited the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos recently, where he offered his insights on a range of topics from Artificial Intelligence (AI) and agriculture to climate change. Mr. Godrej sounded an opti-

mistic note on AI technology, highlighting its potential to be used as a force for good. AI can be used in agriculture, he said, to catch disease and pest outbreaks early or analyse soil and crop conditions so farmers can better calibrate nutrient and fertiliser use.

AI can then be deployed to

study those photographs to determine early on whether there is an outbreak and what sort of outbreak it is, empowering farmers to take action before any disease or pest attack has had a chance to spread. AI can similarly help analyse soil and crop health, helping farmers gauge the timing and quanti-

ty of inputs like nutrients and fertilisers, avoiding overuse, which can be damaging. While bullish on AI's potential, Mr. Godrej sounded a note of caution, saying AI needed to be used ethically. He advocated for a system of checks and balances to guard against any misuse.

### 1st BIMSTEC Youth Summit creates a spirit of regional cooperation



**Guwahati:** The first BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Youth Summit has concluded in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. This three-day summit of young leaders from BIMSTEC focused on challenges and opportunities in various sectors, including entrepreneurship, technology, digital connectivity, sustainable development, and, most importantly, strengthening cross-border relations. The summit's theme was "Youth as a Bridge for Exchanges within BIMSTEC." More than 70 young representatives from the seven BIMSTEC member countries—Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand—participated in various sessions and shared their views.

The summit was inaugurated on Saturday by the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, and the Secretary (East) of the Ministry of External Affairs, Jaideep Mazumdar. The Ministry of External Affairs stated, "This initiative has further strengthened the bond of shared heritage in the region, reaffirming India's commitment to regional cooperation in line with the 'Neighbourhood First' policy, the 'Act East' policy, and the 'Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)' vision. This is expected to enhance youth-led participation and regional cooperation."

## Vi adds baggage protection to all postpaid international roaming packs

**Guwahati:** Vi, India's leading telecom operator, has enhanced its International Roaming offering by integrating baggage protection services on all its Postpaid International Roaming packs. Through its partnership with Blue Ribbon Bags, a leading US-based lost baggage concierge service, Vi Postpaid customers can now avail compensation of ₹19,800 per bag if their luggage is delayed or lost beyond 96 hours of filing a complaint. A 2024

SITA report found that over 36 million bags were mishandled worldwide, highlighting growing concerns over baggage security. The Baggage Protection service by Vi provides customers a safety net in the unfortunate event of lost or delayed baggage, making their travel experience worry-free.

Vi Postpaid customers can activate the baggage protection service while purchasing any international roaming pack. This optional benefit is

available at an additional cost of just Rs 99 and can be activated along with the pack. Vi's International Roaming plans are designed to offer comprehensive benefits, including unlimited data and calls across 29 countries, unlimited incoming calls in over 122 countries, and round-the-clock live agent support via WhatsApp, ensuring customers stay connected without worrying about high roaming charges and accessibility issues.

## Nissan Motor India commences exports of the LHD New Nissan Magnite

**Guwahati:** The New Nissan Magnite, the B-SUV launched by Nissan Motor India in October 2024 with a bold road presence and premium features, has now made its way to customers in global Left-Hand Drive (LHD) markets. Nissan Motor India flagged off the first shipment of close to 2,900 units of the LHD variant of the New Nissan Magnite from Chennai from the Kamarajar Port (KPL - Ennore), India in late January 2025 to select markets in the LATAM region. This underscores Nissan's 'One



Car One World' strategy and highlights the Nissan Motor India's commitment towards expanding its global footprint and transforming India into a global hub for exports.

In February 2025, Nissan Motor India will export over 7,100 units of the New Nissan Magnite in the second wave in February 2025 to markets in the Middle East, North Afri-

## Trending hair colours to shine this Valentine's Day



**Guwahati:** As Valentine's Day approaches, hair trends are taking a vibrant turn with bold colours and stylish transformations. ShaileshMoolya, National Technical Head at Godrej Professional, has curated 12 stunning hairstyle looks as part of the Surreal Collection, blending global trends with Indian aesthetics.

The trending shades include Tangerine Dream, a warm copper hue inspired by the Antelope Canyon, exuding sophistication and luxury. Roselet Bliss, a romantic blend of rose red and violet tones, captures the beauty of the Serrania de Hornocal mountain range. For those preferring deeper hues, Moffee Marvel offers mocha and coffee tones reminiscent of the Pyramid of Giza's timeless elegance. Meanwhile, Moonlit Mist, an ash-silver fusion, channels the ethereal beauty of the silver brunia flower, making a bold yet refined statement.

In Guwahati, professional hair colouring services is witnessing increased demand, especially during festive occasions like Valentine's Day. Salons and stylists are catering to the growing trend, with young consumers experimenting with vibrant hues to enhance their look. As beauty-conscious individuals seek customized styles, global hair trends are making a strong impact in the city's grooming industry.

### INDIAWOOD 2025: Celebrating 25 Years of Woodworking Innovation

**Guwahati:** Greater Noida, Delhi NCR: INDIWOOD 2025, the premier trade fair for woodworking and furniture manufacturing, will take place from March 6-9, 2025, at India Expo Mart & Centre. This landmark edition marks 25 years of industry evolution and highlights India's rise as a global manufacturing hub.

The event will showcase over 600 brands from more than 30 countries, spotlighting advancements in technology, sustainability, and design. Key highlights include specialized events such as 'Surface in Motion' and 'Wood+ in Architecture & Design', focusing on trends and innovations.

With the Indian furniture market projected to reach USD 37.18 billion by 2030, INDIWOOD continues to be a catalyst for growth, fostering international collaborations and knowledge exchange. Sivakumar Venugopal, Group Director of NurnbergMesse India, emphasized the fair's role in driving future-ready solutions and industry partnerships.

## JSW MG Motor India introduces Astor 2025 with panoramic sunroof under

**Guwahati:** JSW MG Motor has launched the MY 2025 editions of India's Most Advanced SUV in its class - MG Astor, introducing new features for its Shine and Select variants. The Shine variant of Astor 2025 comes with a panoramic sunroof and six speakers, providing a pleasur-

able driving experience. This makes MG Astor the only SUV in its segment to offer a panoramic sunroof under INR 12.5 lakh. The Select variant further elevates comfort and safety with the addition of six airbags and premium ivory leatherette seats. India's first SUV with AI inside will

be available in the variants - Sprint, Shine, Select, Sharp Pro and Savvy Pro, starting at an attractive price of INR 9.99 Lakh ex-showroom price.

The variants of MG Astor MY 25 offer a host of exciting features - Ventilated Seats in the front row, Wireless Charger, Wireless Android

Auto & Apple Car Play, and Auto-dimming IRVM for additional security and convenience, along with an updated i-SMART 2.0 with Advanced User Interface for a holistic driving experience. The MG Astor 2025 will be available with 1.5 L MT and CVT and 1.3 Turbo AT powertrains.



## Toyota Kirloskar Motor marks its participation at the India Energy Week 2025



**Shillong:** Reiterating its commitment to India's vision for Energy Independence by 2047 and Net Zero by 2070, Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) has marked its participation at the India Energy Week 2025, being held in Delhi during 11th–14th Feb 2025. The India Energy Week 2025 (IEW) serves as an im-

portant platform to showcase practical and scalable clean energy solutions to realize energy self-reliance and reduce carbon emissions. This event brings together global political leaders, policymakers, thought leaders, experts, and end-users to deliberate on energy scenario, technologies, industry trends, and policy outlook.

Given India's energy mix, its diversified consumer profile and needs, infrastructure readiness, and the Government's vision of 'Atma Nirbhar', TKM is striving to develop various clean technologies relevant for the country with a focus on 'Make in India'. Present at the event, Mr. Vikram Gulati, Country Head & Executive Vice President—Corporate Affairs and Governance, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, "India Energy Week plays a vital role in bringing energy, mobility, and technology players under one common platform, thereby creating awareness and helping to further the cause of clean energy and sustainable mobility."

## HCLTech's TechBee program opens to students across India

**Aizawl:** HCLTech, a leading global technology company, has announced that it is inviting applications for its TechBee program, allowing students the opportunity to start their careers after Class 12. The program is open to students from across India. Selected candidates undergo 12 months of training with HCLTech. Upon successful completion, they are offered full-time jobs with the company and can pursue part-time higher education from prestigious institutions like BITS Pilani, IIIT Kottayam, SASTRA University, and Amity University Online.

Students with a background in mathematics or business mathematics are eligible to apply for technology roles. Now in its eighth year, the TechBee program has successful students engaged in digital engineering, cloud, data science, and AI roles across the company. For

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more details on qualifying marks, financial aid, and counselling, visit: [www.hcltechbee.com](http://www.hcltechbee.com). "Since 2017, the TechBee program has trained thousands of students, offering them job skills and opportunities to work on projects for leading global brands while continuing their education," said Subbaraman Balasubramanyan, Senior Vice President at HCLTech. HCLTech has partnered with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and various state skill development corporations in India to ensure inclusivity and accessibility for students from under-represented backgrounds.

## NSDC expands skilling with 50 new future skill centres, eyes global job markets

**Guwahati:** The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has announced plans to establish 50 Future Skill Centres and 10 International Academies across India. NSDC CEO Ved Mani Tiwari shared that the new centres will offer over 300 industry-aligned programs, targeting the training of over 2 lakh candidates in emerging technologies like aerospace and automotive.

NSDC International has aggregated 88,924 overseas jobs across 22 countries and trained over 64,000 candidates for sectors like healthcare and construction. Additionally, international language labs will offer training in Russian, Italian, Korean, and French, aiming to enhance global employability. Partnerships with countries such as Israel, Germany, and Japan are driving further opportunities for healthcare workers.

In Guwahati, the expanding skilling network is expected to address rising demand for technology-trained candidates across key in-



dustries. NSDC's focus on tier 2 and 3 cities will help strengthen the job market by offering specialized training in digital technologies and creating new pathways to employment.

The Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) has reached 1.3 crore candidates and 42,000 training centres. NSDC's apprenticeship programs have engaged over 3.5 million apprentices and facilitated financial disbursements of over ₹100,250 million, ensuring a robust, inclusive skilling ecosystem nationwide.

## Essencemediacom secures media mandate for Godrej Consumer Products



**Guwahati:** Essencemediacom has been awarded the media mandate for Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL), one of India's largest FMCG companies. Starting April 2025, the agency will oversee GCPL's media strategy, planning, buying, and execution across traditional and digital platforms. The mandate was secured after a competitive four-month pitch, with Essencemediacom succeeding Madison World, GCPL's media partner for over 20 years.

Harshdeep Chhabra, Head of Global Media at GCPL, stated, "We are delighted to have Essencemediacom as our new media agency partner to drive innovation and expand our presence across new categories. Madison World has played a vital role in our growth journey, and we thank them for their contribution."

Essencemediacom's CEO for South Asia, Navin Khemka, expressed excitement about the partnership, saying, "We are privileged to partner with Godrej Consumer Products and look forward to delivering best-in-class media solutions through efficiency, effectiveness, and innovation."

In Guwahati, GCPL's expanded media strategy is expected to boost product visibility and consumer engagement across personal care and home care segments. Retailers anticipate that targeted campaigns will strengthen brand recognition and drive local sales in the growing FMCG market.

## NSDC International pushes ethical migration, expands global skilling opportunities

**Guwahati:** NSDC CEO and NSDC International MD Shri Ved Mani Tiwari has called on Indian youth to avoid illegal migration routes and instead enroll in NSDC International's skilling programs for ethical migration. Tiwari highlighted that NSDC International, in partnership with various governments, is creating structured pathways to meet global demand for skilled workers.

Israel has sought 5,000 healthcare workers and 20,000 construction workers, while Germany and Japan continue to require trained healthcare professionals. NSDC has established 100 skill assessment centers across India to certify candidates for work visas. "Skilled youth can build long-term careers abroad through proper certifications and ethi-

cal channels," Tiwari said.

NSDC International is also setting up 10 new academies for foreign languages and soft skills. The first academy, launched in Greater Noida, provides specialized language training and certifications like IELTS and JLPT.

In Guwahati, job seekers are encouraged to utilize these initiatives to gain certifications and skills in demand globally. Leveraging these opportunities could boost local employment and stimulate economic growth in the region.

Since October 2021, NSDC International has placed over 64,000 candidates across 22 countries and 19 industries, including construction, MEP, and facility management, ensuring a brighter future for India's skilled workforce.

## Bajaj Allianz General Insurance unveils 'HERizonCare'

**Guwahati:** Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, a leading private general insurer in India, has announced the launch of 'HERizonCare', a thoughtfully designed inclusive health insurance product that caters exclusively to women's evolving healthcare needs. This comprehensive policy addresses critical illnesses, maternal and reproductive health, wellness, and more, empowering women with financial security throughout their life stages. HERizon Care is the first health insurance plan in India that offers multiple specialized covers in a single policy, providing holistic protection tailored to women's unique needs.

HERizon Care offers two

comprehensive covers: Vita Shield and Cradle Care, along with a suite of optional covers to address specific healthcare needs. Speaking on the announcement, Mr. Tapan Singhel, MD & CEO, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, said, "Women are the backbone of our workplaces, our families, and our society, yet their health needs are often overlooked." HERizon Care offers flexible and affordable plans with premium discounts for HPV vaccination, early policy entry, loyalty, and long-term policies. The policy is available for women aged 18 to 80 years and children from day 90 to 35 years, with sum insured options ranging from INR 3 lakhs to INR 2 crores.

## Tezpur's Jogesh Thakur identifies as the Top 30 finalist in Godrej Professional Spotlight

**Tezpur:** Tezpur's very own Jogesh Thakur from Magic Fingers 7 (Kamarchuburi), has made the city proud by identifying as the top thirty finalist of Godrej Professional Spotlight, a platform that celebrates hairstylists on a national stage. Organized by Godrej Professional, a leading professional hair brand offering hair colour and hair care from the house of Godrej Consumer Products Ltd. (GCPL), Godrej Professional Spotlight aims to recognize exceptional hairstyling talent and support their professional growth.

This first-ever batch of 30 skilled professionals had the unique opportunity to attend master classes led by Gianni Tsapatori, Creative Direc-

tor—Hair at Godrej Professional, along with esteemed mentors Shailesh Moolya, National Technical Head, and Najeeb-Ur-Rehman, Technical Ambassador for Godrej Professional. Abhinav Grandhi, General Manager, Godrej Consumer Products Limited (GCPL), commented, "With over 6 million salons, India's salon industry is one of the fastest-growing sectors, yet it lacks platforms to truly showcase talented hair stylists." The esteemed jury panel included Gianni Tsapatori (Creative Director—Hair, Godrej Professional); Monica Bahl (CEO of Beauty & Wellness Sector Skill Council); along with special guest jury – actress Adaa Khan and Helly Shah.



# BCCI denies permission; families not allowed to travel with team India for Champions Trophy

**New Delhi:** After an embarrassing 3-1 defeat to Australia in the 2024-25 Border Gavaskar Trophy, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) officials issued new policies for all the players to follow. One such policy included that the families of the players are only allowed to travel with the Indian team in case a series or tournament lasts more than 45 days. In such a scenario, they are allowed for a maximum of two weeks.

During the press conference for the Champions Trophy, India captain Rohit Sharma was asked about the new policies but he refused to comment on the matter. However, one of his clips went viral when he was talking to Ajit Agarkar about visiting BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia to discuss the policies, particularly the

one concerning the involvement of families.

Since then, none of the parties commented on the matter. Ahead of the Champions Trophy 2025, it is now learned that the families will not be allowed to travel with the players for the marquee tournament. As per a senior BCCI source, one of the senior cricketers enquired on the matter but he was told that the policy will be followed for the tournament. "If anything changes then it is different but as of now, the players are unlikely to be accompanied by their wives or partners for this tour. One of the senior players had enquired about it and he was told that the policy decision will be followed," a senior BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"Since the tour is of less than one



month, families won't be accompanying the players. All the other policies are already in full effect. The players are not allowed to travel separately

and it was seen in the recent white-ball series against England. The players are also not allowed to carry personal staff during India duty.

## Bangladesh captain Nazmul Hussain made a big claim about the Champions Trophy,

**Dubai:** Bangladesh captain Nazmul Hussain has said that his team is capable of winning the Champions Trophy title. According to media reports, Shanto has warned the rival teams that his team will enter the field with the intention of winning the title in the upcoming tournament. Shanto believes that the confidence of the Bangladesh team is increasing and he is confident that his team can surprise everyone in the eight-team tournament to be held in Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from February 19. Shanto said, "We are going to become champions in the Champions Trophy. All eight teams in this tournament deserve to become champions. They are all excellent teams. I believe that our team also has this ability." He said, "Everyone really wants (to become champions) and believes in their abilities. We do not know what the Lord has written in our fate. We will work hard and do our best. I am confident that we can achieve our goal." He said, "I am very confident about the 15 players in the team. And any player has the ability to win the match on his own. He said that we have excellent fast and spin bowlers. We have a balanced team. If everyone performs their responsibility properly, then we can defeat any team at any time." It is worth mentioning that Bangladesh is in Group A of the Champions Trophy and it will face India in Dubai on February 20, after which it will play against New Zealand in Rawalpindi on February 24 and Pakistan on February 27.

## England legend analyses Virat Kohli's dismissal in third ENG ODI, draws comparison with Joe Root



**New Delhi:** Having missed the first ODI of the series against England, star India batter Virat Kohli made a comeback in the second game. However, much to the disappointment of his fans, Kohli failed to go big as he was sent packing to the pavilion for five runs.

Once again selected in the third ODI, Kohli this time managed to make a comeback and completed his half-century, amassing 52 runs in 55 deliveries. Looking set for a big knock, Kohli failed to convert his half-century into a ton as he was once again dismissed against Adil Rashid. It is worth noting that Kohli fell to Rashid for the 11th time across formats. A leg spin delivery, which drew him forward, Kohli aimed at defending the ball, but an outside edge saw the ball land straight into Phil Salt's hands as the 36-year-old departed. Witnessing his dismissal, former England cricketer Kevin Pietersen came forward and compared Kohli's technique to that of Joe Root. He opined that a player

of Kohli's calibre should never be getting out like that. "Look how far forward his bat is in front of his pad. This means he's got the length wrong, and he's too good a player to get out like that. He shouldn't be doing it. He shouldn't be giving Adil Rashid that chance to get his wicket. You watch Joe Root. He will never be overcommitted on the front foot like that. No way," Kevin Pietersen told Star Sports. RCB announce Rajat Patidar as new skipper for IPL 2025 RCB announce Rajat Patidar as new skipper for IPL 2025 "He shouldn't be getting out to that ball. He's a much better player than that. And he will be kicking himself. That ball is bowled slowly through the air. So he shouldn't have been over-committed on the front foot. He should have played back to it. He should have punched it into the off-side, and he would still have been batting, and he probably would have gone on to get a big score. That's where you can see where the ball has made contact with the bat," he added.

## Rajat Patidar becomes the new captain of RCB

**New Delhi:** Ahead of the start of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025, Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) on Thursday announced their new captain. The franchise has appointed young middle-order batsman Rajat Patidar as the new captain of the team. Before Patidar, South African player Faf du Plessis was leading the team. Du Plessis was released by RCB before the mega auction last year. He was the captain of the team from 2022 to 2024. 40-year-old Du Plessis will be seen playing for Delhi Capitals this season. The team's star player and former captain Virat Kohli congratulated and wished Rajat on becoming the captain. In a video posted by Royal Challengers Bangalore on social media X, Kohli said that I want to tell you all that Rajat Patidar will now be the new captain of RCB. Rajat, first of all I want to congratulate and wish you.

The way you have grown in the franchise and the way you have performed, you have really made a place in the hearts of all RCB fans across India. They get excited to watch

you play. Kohli further said that I and other members of the team will stand behind you and you will get our full support. Rajat Patidar was retained-Rajat Patidar was among the players (Virat Kohli and Yash Dayal) retained by RCB before the mega auction. Rajat was retained for Rs 11 crore. Rajat also has experience of leading his domestic team Madhya Pradesh in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy and Vijay Hazare Trophy. Patidar led Madhya Pradesh to the final of the Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2024/25 but the team lost the title match to Mumbai by 5 wickets. Became the 8th captain of RCB-Rajat Patidar has become the 8th captain of RCB. Earlier, Rahul Dravid, Kevin Pietersen, Anil Kumble, Daniel Vettori, Shane Watson, Virat Kohli and Faf du Plessis have taken over the captaincy. Played 27 matches in IPL. The 31-year-old batsman has played 27 matches in the IPL. In this, he has scored a total of 799 runs at an average of 34.74. During this, 7 half-centuries and a century have been seen from his bat.

## Indian coach Gautam Gambhir stressed on supporting young players

**Ahmedabad:** The Indian cricket team registered a spectacular 142-run win against England in the third ODI on Wednesday. Young batsman Shubman Gill's century played an important role in this victory. India's head coach Gautam Gambhir praised Gill after the match and stressed the need to give continued support to young players.

Gill's brilliant comeback Gill left behind the poor form of the Australia tour and made a tremendous comeback in the ODI series against England. He proved his usefulness by

performing brilliantly in three matches. Gill, who scored only 93 runs in five innings on the Australia tour, gave a befitting reply to the critics with his century in Ahmedabad. Praising Gill, Gambhir said, "He is still a young batsman and has the ability to succeed in all formats. Test cricket is difficult, but he has done well there too. Instead of evaluating a young player after every innings, we should give them continued support. If we do this, the future of Indian cricket will be very bright." Shreyas Iyer's contribution in the middle order

Shreyas Iyer also played important innings in the series against England. Regarding Iyer, who was included in the team for the first match due to the absence of Virat Kohli, Gambhir made it clear that he was sure to be given a chance throughout the tour.

Gambhir said, "Shreyas should not have been benched. We wanted to give Yashasvi Jaiswal a chance in the first match as he was in excellent form in Australia. But we knew that Shreyas would prove to be an important player for us in the middle order."

Bumrah's absence and bowling attack Team India suffered a major setback before the Champions Trophy when fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah was ruled out of the tournament due to a back injury. However, the Indian bowlers performed effectively against England. Gambhir said, "Harshit Rana and Arshdeep Singh bowled brilliantly. Bumrah will definitely be missed, but the team will benefit from the presence of an experienced bowler like Mohammed Shami. The absence of a player can be a big opportunity for new players."