





3  
**The Hindu**



1  
**PIB, PRS & Other newspaper**



2  
**The Indian Express**

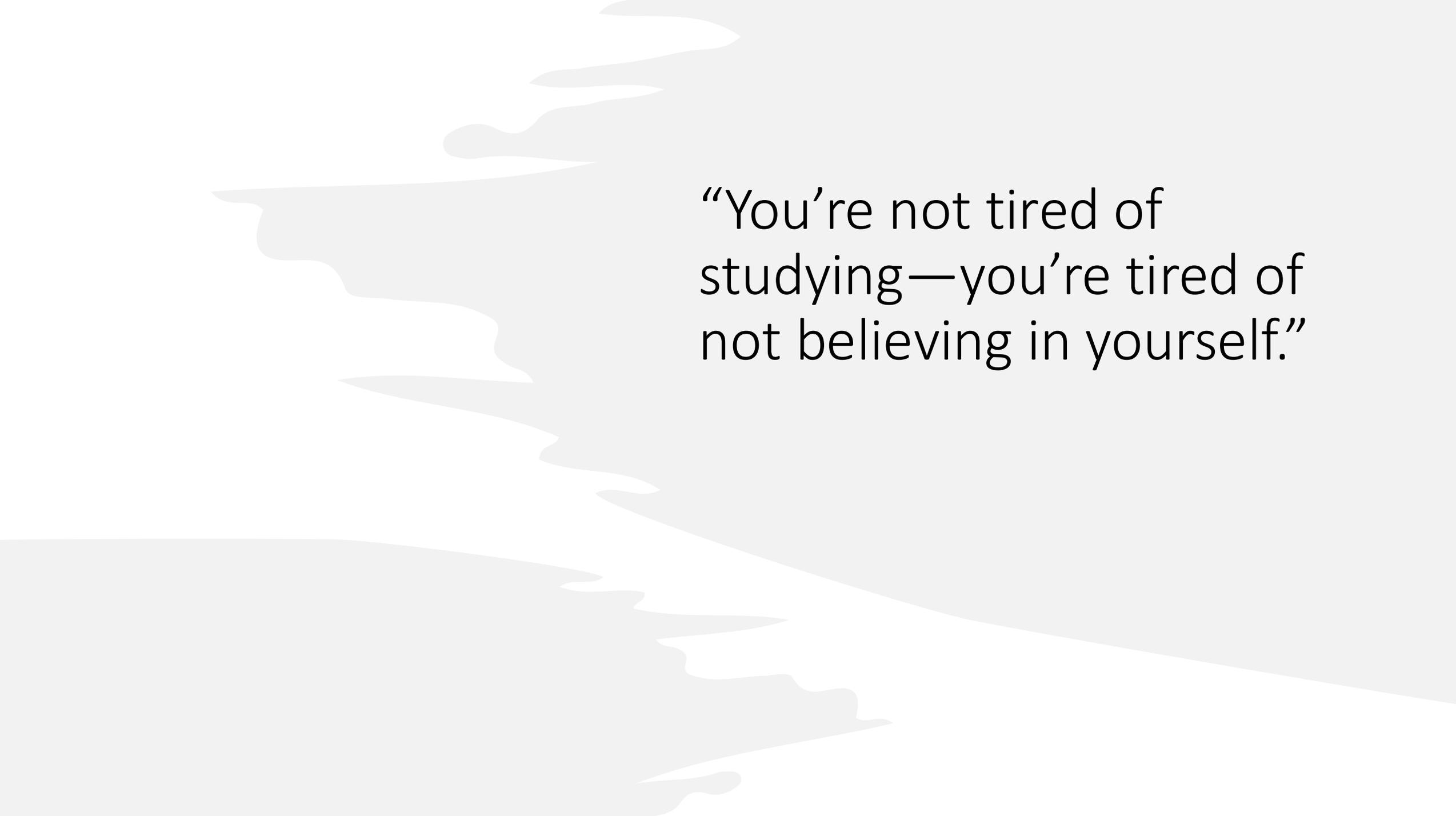


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**Jansatta**



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**Financial Express**





“You’re not tired of  
studying—you’re tired of  
not believing in yourself.”



# Israel won't hit Iran gas facility again: Trump

Trump distances U.S. from Israeli strike on South Pars gas field after Iran attacks on infrastructure

Tehran says it is ready to exercise restraint but warns of escalation if facilities are attacked again

The UAE's Habshan facility, Qatar's Ras Laffan, and Saudi Arabia's Samref refinery were hit

## Stanly Johnny

Distancing himself from an Israeli strike on Iran's South Pars gas field, U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday said Tel Aviv would not target the "extremely important and valuable" site again and warned Tehran against attacking Qatar's energy facilities.

His remarks came after Iran launched missile attacks at energy facilities in Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Israel, following Israeli air strikes that caused fire at South Pars in Iran's southern Bushehr province, one of the largest known gas fields in the world.

"Israel, out of anger for what has taken place in the Middle East, has violently lashed out at South Pars Gas Field in Iran. A relatively small section of the whole has been hit. The

United States knew nothing about this particular attack, and the country of Qatar was in no way, shape, or form, involved with it, nor did it have any idea that it was going to happen," Mr. Trump wrote in a social media post.

"Unfortunately, Iran did not know this, or any of the pertinent facts pertaining to the South Pars attack, and unjustifiably and unfairly attacked a portion of Qatar's LNG Gas facility," he added. "No more attacks will be made by Israel pertaining to this extremely important and valuable South Pars Field unless Iran unwisely decides to attack a very innocent, in this case, Qatar - In which instance the United States will massively blow up the entirety of the South Pars Gas Field."

American media quoted Israeli officials as saying that the U.S. was informed in advance about the South



Qatar's state-run energy firm said Ras Laffan Industrial City, one of the most critical energy hubs in the world which handles roughly 20% of the global LNG exports, came under attack. FILE PHOTO

Pars strike. South Pars is part of an offshore gas reservoir in the Persian Gulf shared by Qatar and Iran. The Qatari side calls it the North Field.

Iran on Wednesday evening said it targeted energy facilities in Qatar, the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Israel after several phases

at South Pars came under attack.

Qatar's state-run energy firm Qatar Energy said on Wednesday its Ras Laffan Industrial City, one of the most critical energy hubs in the world which handles roughly 20% of the global LNG exports, came under attack. On Thursday, it said

several of the company's LNG facilities were hit by Iranian missiles, causing "extensive damage".

The UAE suspended operations at Abu Dhabi's Habshan gas facility after authorities said debris of intercepted missiles fell on the site. The Bab oil field in the Emirate and a refinery

near the Saudi capital Riyadh were also targeted by Iranian projectiles. Saudi Arabia's Defence Ministry said a drone crashed into the Samref refinery in the Red Sea port of Yanbu. In Kuwait, drone attacks sparked fire Mina Abdullah and Mina Al-Ahmadi refineries.

Israeli media reported on Thursday that an oil refinery in the northern port city of Haifa was hit. Images of a thick plume of dark smoke rising from the area of the refinery also emerged on the social media.

Oil prices surged on Thursday, with the benchmark Brent crude topping \$115.

The Iranian attacks "constitute a dangerous escalation and a violation of international law", the UAE's Foreign Ministry said in a statement. "The UAE reserves its full right to take all necessary measures to

protect its sovereignty and national security, and to safeguard its national interests." The Foreign Ministry of Qatar declared "the military attaché and the security attaché at the [Iranian] embassy [in Doha], in addition to the staff of the two attaché offices 'persona non grata,' and asked them to leave the country within 24 hours.

Later in the day, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi signalled that Iran was ready for restraint but threatened to escalate if its energy facilities were attacked again.

"Our response to Israel's attack on our infrastructure employed fraction of our power. The only reason for restraint was respect for requested de-escalation," he wrote in a social media post. "Zero restraint if our infrastructures are struck again. Any end to this war must address damage to our civilian sites."

- The U.S. distanced itself from Israel's reported strike on Iran's South Pars gas field  
अमेरिका ने ईरान के साउथ पार्स गैस फील्ड पर इजराइल के हमले से खुद को अलग किया
  - Donald Trump stated Israel will not target the gas facility again  
डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने कहा कि इजराइल दोबारा गैस सुविधा पर हमला नहीं करेगा
  - Iran warned of escalation if its energy infrastructure is attacked again  
ईरान ने चेतावनी दी कि यदि उसकी ऊर्जा संरचना पर फिर हमला हुआ तो स्थिति और गंभीर होगी
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## ◆ 2. Background of Conflict / संघर्ष की पृष्ठभूमि

- Iran launched missile/drone attacks on energy facilities in Qatar, UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Israel  
ईरान ने कतर, यूएई, सऊदी अरब और इजराइल की ऊर्जा सुविधाओं पर हमले किए
- Israel retaliated by targeting Iran's South Pars gas field (Bushehr province)  
इजराइल ने जवाब में ईरान के साउथ पार्स गैस फील्ड को निशाना बनाया
- South Pars is one of the world's largest gas fields shared with Qatar  
साउथ पार्स विश्व का सबसे बड़ा गैस क्षेत्र है, जिसे कतर के साथ साझा किया जाता है

### ◆ 3. Strategic Importance of South Pars / साउथ पार्स का महत्व

- Located in Persian Gulf (shared between Iran & Qatar – Qatar calls it North Field)  
फारस की खाड़ी में स्थित (ईरान और कतर द्वारा साझा – कतर इसे नॉर्थ फील्ड कहता है)
  - Contains ~20% of global natural gas reserves  
विश्व के लगभग 20% प्राकृतिक गैस भंडार इसमें हैं
  - Critical for LNG exports, especially from Qatar  
कतर के LNG निर्यात के लिए अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण
- 

### ◆ 4. Regional Impact / क्षेत्रीय प्रभाव

- Energy hubs like Ras Laffan (Qatar), Habshan (UAE), Samref (Saudi Arabia) affected  
रास लफान (कतर), हबशान (यूएई), सैमरेफ (सऊदी अरब) जैसे ऊर्जा केंद्र प्रभावित
- UAE temporarily suspended operations at Habshan gas facility  
यूएई ने हबशान गैस सुविधा पर संचालन अस्थायी रूप से रोका
- Oil prices surged (Brent crude crossed ~\$115/barrel)  
तेल की कीमतों में तेजी (ब्रेंट क्रूड ~\$115 प्रति बैरल से ऊपर)

- U.S. denied prior knowledge and involvement  
अमेरिका ने पहले से जानकारी या भागीदारी से इनकार किया
  - Iran: Ready for restraint but warned of escalation  
ईरान: संयम के लिए तैयार लेकिन बढ़ते संघर्ष की चेतावनी
  - UAE: Called attacks violation of international law  
यूएई: इसे अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून का उल्लंघन बताया
  - Qatar expelled Iranian diplomatic staff in protest  
कतर ने विरोध में ईरानी अधिकारियों को निष्कासित किया
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#### ◆ 6. Economic Impact / आर्थिक प्रभाव

- Disruption in global LNG supply chains  
वैश्विक LNG आपूर्ति श्रृंखला में बाधा
  - Energy security concerns in Europe and Asia  
यूरोप और एशिया में ऊर्जा सुरक्षा चिंताएँ
  - Oil & gas price volatility affecting global inflation  
तेल और गैस की कीमतों में उतार-चढ़ाव से वैश्विक महंगाई प्रभावित
- 

#### ◆ 7. Geographical Facts / भौगोलिक तथ्य

- South Pars/North Field located in Persian Gulf  
साउथ पार्स/नॉर्थ फील्ड फारस की खाड़ी में स्थित है
- Bushehr province hosts major Iranian nuclear and gas facilities  
बुशहर प्रांत में ईरान की प्रमुख परमाणु और गैस सुविधाएँ हैं
- Strait of Hormuz nearby – key global chokepoint  
पास में होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य – वैश्विक व्यापार का महत्वपूर्ण मार्ग



- **Q. Consider the following statements:**
- South Pars gas field is located entirely within Iran.
- It is one of the largest gas reserves in the world.
- It is shared between Iran and Qatar.
- Which of the statements are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3



# Supreme Court reserves verdict on ambit of 'industry'

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

A nine-judge Bench of the Supreme Court reserved judgment on Thursday on whether educational institutions, hospitals, and sovereign functions of the government and its instrumentalities would fall within the definition of 'industrial activity' under the Industrial Disputes Act.

The Bench, headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, and comprising Justices B.V. Nagarathna, P.S. Narasimha, Dipankar Datta, Ujjal Bhuyan, Satish Chandra Sharma, Joymalya Bagchi, Alok Aradhe and Vipul M. Pan reserved its verdict on the third and final day of oral arguments.

The question of law before the proposed Bench concerns a 1978 judgment in *Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board vs. A. Rajappa*. The 1978 judgment had expanded the definition of 'industry' under Section 2(j) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The judgment had introduced a triple test and included hospitals, educational institutions and municipalities as industries. States like Uttar Pra-

desh, Maharashtra and Punjab, represented by Additional Solicitor General K.M. Nataraj and senior advocates Shekhar Naphade and Shadan Farasat, respectively, urged the apex court to relook the seven-judge Bench judgment. Senior advocates like Indira Jaising, C.U. Singh, and Gopal Sankaranarayan argued in favour of keeping the reasoning of the 1978 judgment intact.

Ms. Jaising had submitted that bringing enterprises under the definition of industry provide workmen with a remedy to ventilate their grievances in relation to fair wages, health and safety, occupational safety, security of employment and challenge unfair dismissals before a judicial authority.

The 1978 judgment had expanded the ambit of 'industry' to hold that any systematic activity (whether or not for profit), including charitable and government-run services, were an industry if they met the parameters of a triple test. The judgment was designed to benefit employees to claim the status and legal protection as industrial 'workers'.

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## ◆ 1. Key Issue / मुख्य मुद्दा

- Supreme Court (9-judge bench) reserved verdict on scope of "industry" under Industrial Disputes Act, 1947

सुप्रीम कोर्ट (9 जजों की पीठ) ने औद्योगिक विवाद अधिनियम, 1947 में "उद्योग" की परिभाषा पर फैसला सुरक्षित रखा

- Question: Should institutions like hospitals, educational institutions, municipalities be treated as industries?

प्रश्न: क्या अस्पताल, शैक्षणिक संस्थान, नगरपालिकाएं "उद्योग" मानी जाएं?

### ◆ 3. Background Case (1978) / ऐतिहासिक निर्णय (1978)

- Bangalore Water Supply & Sewerage Board vs A. Rajappa (1978)  
बैंगलोर वाटर सप्लाय केस (1978)
  - Expanded definition of "industry"  
"उद्योग" की परिभाषा का विस्तार किया
  - Introduced **Triple Test**  
"ट्रिपल टेस्ट" लागू किया
- 

### ◆ 4. Triple Test (Important for Exams) / ट्रिपल टेस्ट

1. Systematic activity  
व्यवस्थित गतिविधि
  2. Organized by cooperation between employer & employee  
नियोक्ता और कर्मचारी के सहयोग से संचालित
  3. Production/distribution of goods or services (not necessarily profit motive)  
वस्तुओं/सेवाओं का उत्पादन/वितरण (लाभ आवश्यक नहीं)
- 👉 If all satisfied → entity is an "industry"
- 👉 यदि तीनों शर्तें पूरी हों → "उद्योग" माना जाएगा
-

## ◆ 5. Why Case is Important Now / वर्तमान महत्व

- States (UP, Maharashtra, Punjab) want reconsideration of 1978 judgement  
राज्य (UP, महाराष्ट्र, पंजाब) 1978 के फैसले की पुनर्विचार चाहते हैं
  - Argument: Including hospitals & schools creates administrative burden  
तर्क: अस्पताल/स्कूल को शामिल करने से प्रशासनिक जटिलता
  - Counter argument: Workers need protection under labour laws  
विरोध तर्क: कर्मचारियों को श्रम कानून सुरक्षा मिलनी चाहिए
- 

## ◆ 6. Legal & Constitutional Angle / कानूनी दृष्टिकोण

- Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 → labour welfare legislation  
औद्योगिक विवाद अधिनियम → श्रमिक कल्याण कानून
- Linked to Fundamental Rights (Article 14, 21 – equality & dignity)  
अनुच्छेद 14, 21 से जुड़ा (समानता, गरिमा)
- Directive Principles (Article 39, 43 – worker welfare)  
नीति निर्देशक तत्व (श्रमिक कल्याण)

## ◆ 7. Economic & Governance Impact / आर्थिक प्रभाव

- If widened definition continues → more institutions under labour law compliance  
यदि व्यापक परिभाषा बनी रही → अधिक संस्थाएं श्रम कानून के तहत
  - Increased compliance cost for education & healthcare sector  
शिक्षा/स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र पर लागत बढ़ेगी
  - Better job security, wages, dispute redressal for workers  
कर्मचारियों के लिए बेहतर सुरक्षा, वेतन, न्याय
- 

## ◆ 8. Political & Policy Angle / राजनीतिक आयाम

- Debate between **welfare vs ease of doing business**  
बहस: कल्याण बनाम व्यापार सुगमता
  - States want flexibility in governance  
राज्य अधिक लचीलापन चाहते हैं
  - Trade unions support broader definition  
ट्रेड यूनियन व्यापक परिभाषा के पक्ष में
- 

## ▲ 9. Key Terms for Exams / परीक्षा के लिए महत्वपूर्ण शब्द

**Q. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Bangalore Water Supply case (1978) restricted the definition of industry.
2. The triple test includes cooperation between employer and employee.
3. Profit motive is essential to classify an activity as an industry.

Which of the statements are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

## ONE OF A KIND

Samson cannot be compared to anyone: Rovals skipper Parag



FILE PHOTO: SHYKAMAR PUSHPAKAR

Sanju Samson's game is unique; he cannot be compared to anyone. It is like asking, 'Who is Virat Kohli's replacement?' It simply isn't possible. However, every player plays to win, and everyone possesses different capabilities — RR skipper Rryan Parag and his team plans to fill the void left by Samson's departure to CSK.

## SHARED IDENTITY

DC unveils jersey in a campaign featuring Axar and Jemimah



SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Delhi Capitals unveiled its official jersey for IPL 2025 on Thursday. The campaign brings together captains from both the men's and women's teams, Axar Patel and Jemimah Rodrigues. The design draws inspiration from the fana flag spirit that defines both the team and the city it represents, stated a press release from DC.

## MOVING ON

Stirling steps down as Ireland T20I captain, will lead in ODIs



AFP

Ireland will begin its search for a new T20I captain after veteran batter Paul Stirling stepped down from the role as part of the team's long-term planning for the ICC T20 World Cup in 2026. Ireland failed to progress past the group stage in the month's showcase. The 35-year-old opener will continue to lead the ODI side.

## HOCKEY WORLD CUP

Indian men to meet Pakistan on Aug. 19; women take on China



FILE PHOTO: K. MURUGAN KUMAR

The Indian men's hockey coach Craig Fulton expressed confidence regarding the team's path after the World Cup draw, in which it was drawn in Pool 3. India's schedule: **Men:** Aug. 18 vs. Wales, Aug. 17 vs. England, Aug. 16 vs. Pakistan. **Women:** Aug. 16 vs. China, Aug. 18 vs. South Africa, Aug. 20 vs. England.

# Super Giants should strike a balance between aggression and recklessness

The Lucknow outfit has a fearsome batting unit that includes Pant; the addition of veteran pacer Shami lends assurance to the bowling attack

## TARUN SHAURYA

Lucknow Super Giants enters the 19th edition of the Indian Premier League not as a team in transition but with a clear vision and belief. It is a side that has confronted the difficult situations and, crucially, resisted the temptation to overcorrect.

For a franchise that has lingered on the edge of playoff contention in recent years, this season feels like a reset and more like a work in refinement.

At the centre of that identity is Rishabh Pant. His captaincy remains instinctive — bold, occasionally chaotic, but never tentative. Pant's influence extends beyond numbers; he dictates the tempo and shapes how his side tackles pressure. The challenge is to not curb that aggression but calibrate it.

The batting unit reflects a similar duality — depth tempered by vulnerability. Nicholas Pooran remains the most significant variable. Only a few players in the league possess the ability to alter a match as swiftly as he can, yet his inconsistency can leave the side exposed.

The balance Lucknow seeks lies in reducing the dependence on the West Indian — allowing Pooran to finish the innings rather than rebuild it.

**IPL-19 COUNTDOWN**

**Lucknow Super Giants**

**PLAYOFFS 2022, 2023**

BY OPONENT	W	L	T	NR
CSK	4	3	2	1
MI	1	1	1	1
GT	7	3	2	0
KKR	6	4	2	0
RR	8	6	2	0
SRH	6	3	2	1
DC	6	2	4	0
RR	6	2	4	0
SRH	6	4	2	0

**OVERALL RECORDS**

Winnings	58
Losses	30
Draws	27
No Result	1

**LSG'S 2024 LEAGUE CAMPAIGN\***

April 1 vs. CSK	Lucknow	7.30 p.m.
April 5 vs. SRH	Hyderabad	3.30 p.m.
April 9 vs. KKR	Kolkata	7.30 p.m.
April 12 vs. GT	Lucknow	3.30 p.m.

**THE SQUAD**

**Rishabh Pant** (Capt), **Aiden Markram**, Himmat Singh, **Matthew Brunt**, **Nishu Chahal**, **Ashutosh Singhwarrior**, **Josh Inglis**, **Nicholas Pooran**, **Michael Marsh**, **Abdul Samad**, **Shashank Mishra**, **Yashvardhan Chahal**, **Wanindu Hasaranga**, **Yash Bhatia**, **Mohammed Shami**, **Harshdeep Singh**, **Pravrajit Singh**, **Abhishek Sharma**, **Prince Yadav**, **Arjun Tendulkar**, **Amich Herje**, **Norvan Thapa**, **Riyank Yadav**, **Mohsin Khan**.

**MIRACLE MAN**

**Aiden Markram**

AIDEN MARKRAM is a crucial component of the Lucknow outfit. He is not the highest scorer, but the most stabilising. His value lies in adaptability — the ability to absorb pressure, rotate the strike, and accelerate when needed. His blend of aggressive batting, his composite hand, and his ability to control the game, he will allow Pant and Pooran to operate with freedom.

As the franchise enters the 19th edition of the IPL, the batting unit reflects a similar duality — depth tempered by vulnerability. Nicholas Pooran remains the most significant variable. Only a few players in the league possess the ability to alter a match as swiftly as he can, yet his inconsistency can leave the side exposed.

The balance Lucknow seeks lies in reducing the dependence on the West Indian — allowing Pooran to finish the innings rather than rebuild it. The bowling attack, however, may ultimately de-



HEAD OF THE HOUSE PANT WILL HOPE FOR A TURNAROUND AFTER A POOR SEASON WITH THE BALL LAST YEAR (GOWTHAM SURESH)

could disrupt continuity, and the depth in spin beyond Hasaranga and Iqbal Singh may be tested on slower surfaces.

The inclusion of Wanindu Hasaranga addresses a long-standing concern. A genuine wicket-taking option in the middle overs, Hasaranga provides balance in a phase that often dictates T20 contests.

Yes, for all the balance on paper, familiar issues persist. The batting unit can still unravel quickly, injuries to key all-rounders



NEW ZEALAND

Sporting Club Delhi's first home game of the 2025-26 Indian Super League (ISL) season against Jamshedpur FC produced a 1-1 draw at the Jawahar Nehru Stadium here on Thursday. SC Delhi forward Joseph Samy's 23rd-minute opener was nullified by Nikola Stojanovic's strike in the 89th minute for the visitors.

The first goal of the game came about after midfielder Abdul Hudu found Lungolen Semkhon on the right wing. The full-back evaded his marker with a clever pass to Sunny on his left. The 22-year-old forward from Kerala pounced on the opportunity with a smart finish past Gomes.

As the first half progressed, Jamshedpur had its share of chances. In the 34th minute, Stojanovic picked out Rei Tachikawa with a left-footed cross from the right. If Tachikawa had taken a shot with his first touch, he would have tested Delhi's defence. Instead, he ap-



STOJANOVIC, AGRICULTURE LEAGUE

peared to initially control the ball with his right thigh and waited precisely seconds in the process.

Amid a spell of heavy rain, the resumption saw Jamshedpur press keenly for an equaliser. Though the Owen Coyle-coached side shaded the possession in the second half, clear-cut chances were few and far between.

It was with just a minute of regulation time remaining that Stojanovic's effort helped by a slight deflection off defender Nathan Aheas, beat Nora Fernandez in the Delhi goal.

The week's Sporting Club Delhi I (Joseph Samy 21) drew with Jamshedpur FC I (Nishu Chahal 18).

Friday's matches:

At Coimbatore: NorthEast United FC vs Odisha FC, 5 p.m.

At Kolkata: Indian Super League Giants vs Mumbai City FC, 7.30 p.m.

## Jolt for Chennai Super Kings as a hamstring injury lays Ellis low

## S. DIPAK RAJAY

CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings suffered a big blow ahead of IPL 2025, with Nathan Ellis ruled out of the 19th edition of the tournament.

The 31-year-old Australian fast bowler, who was bought for ₹2 crore in the 2025 auction, has suffered a hamstring injury and won't recover in time.

"It is a big blow for us. Ellis is a crucial bowler, especially in the death overs. We are looking at replacements," said CSK CEO S.S. Viswanathan to The Hindu on Thursday during an event to announce Kaarey Hospital as an official partner of the team.

The hospital's medical director Dr. Jayagan Ponnusamy, Dr. Aravindan Selvaraj, co-founder and executive director, and Dr. S. Sivanan Kanna, clinical lead, are also said that foreign recruits will join the camp in the next few days.

He said that the recent West Asia crisis, which has affected major airline hubs in the UAE and Qatar, hasn't significantly affected



READY TO REAR: SAMSON WITH HIS CSK IDENTITY, NETWORK CONNECTIONS,

plans for the Banturali Galkwaled outfit. Since 2022, the team had relied on Mubeena Pathirana as the death-over specialist, but released the Sri Lankan pacer after a disappointing campaign last year.

Meanwhile, Viswanath-Dhanraj, have been training recruits will join the camp in the next few days.

He said that the recent West Asia crisis, which has affected major airline hubs in the UAE and Qatar, hasn't significantly affected



ELLIS, AP

pre-season camp. The five-time champion made one of the biggest trade deals in the IPL, when he traded in Samson from Rajasthan Royals for Ravindra Jadeja and Sam Curran.

The Super Kings, including their star player M.S. Dhoni, have been training in the city since March 1.

The players could be involved in an intra-squad game here on March 23.

## Abhay and Anahat make smooth starts

## Sports Bureau

MUMBAI

A mix of dominant performances, stunning comebacks and five-game unbeaten streaks featured day two of the JW Indian Open squash tournament on Thursday.

Egypt's Ibrahim Elkabani and Muhammad Sharaf prevailed in gripping contests.

The former pulled off the biggest upset, knocking out top seed Vicky El Mansoury 4/1, 1/8, 1/0, 6/1, 1/0 in a 66-minute battle. The Thai edged past Hong Kong's Chi Him Wong 10-12, 11-3, 9-11, 11-7.

India's Abhay Singh produced a clinical show to get past Matthew Lat of Hong Kong 11-5, 11-6, 11-6, 11-6. Despite a tight start, Abhay found his rhythm and dominated proceedings.

In the women's draw, Tarvi Khanna impressed with a composed display against Egypt's Nour Khafagy, winning 11-5, 11-9, 11-9. Top seed Anahat Singh registered a 11-6, 11-9, 11-5

win over Egypt's Farida Waid. Anahat blended precision and consistency to progress to the next round.

The results (Indian unless mentioned): Men (seven-game tournament) 11-4, 11-1, 11-9; Duncan Lee (Mal) 6/1; Farid (Mal) 11-4, 11-6, 11-6, 11-6; Ibrahim Elkabani (EGY) 11-4, 11-9, 11-6, 11-6; Sharaf (EGY) 11-4, 11-6, 11-6, 11-6; El Mansoury (EGY) 4-11, 11-12, 10-11, 11-9, 11-9, 11-9; El Mansoury (EGY) 11-12, 11-9, 11-9, 11-9, 11-9, 11-9; Chi Him Wong (HKG) 10-12, 11-3, 9-11, 11-7, 11-4; Veer Chaturvi (IND) 11-6, 11-6, 11-6, 11-6, 11-6, 11-6, 11-6, 11-6; Anahat Singh (IND) 11-5, 11-6, 11-6, 11-6, 11-6, 11-6, 11-6, 11-6; Matthew Lat (HKG) 11-5, 11-6, 11-6, 11-6, 11-6, 11-6, 11-6, 11-6; Chi Him Wong (HKG) 11-5, 11-6, 11-6, 11-6, 11-6, 11-6, 11-6, 11-6; Anahat Singh (IND) 11-5, 11-6, 11-6, 11-6, 11-6, 11-6, 11-6, 11-6; Nour Khafagy (EGY) 11-5, 11-9, 11-9, 11-9, 11-9, 11-9, 11-9, 11-9; Farida Waid (EGY) 11-6, 11-9, 11-9, 11-9, 11-9, 11-9, 11-9, 11-9; Vicky El Mansoury (EGY) 11-4, 11-11, 11-11, 11-11, 11-11, 11-11, 11-11, 11-11.

## Bhubaneswar to host World indoor athletics in 2028



PANTHATIC VENUE: THE KALINGA INDOOR STADIUM IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN INDIA. FILE PHOTO: SUBRAMANIAM BOSE

will be held at the Kalinga Indoor Stadium," confirmed Athletics Federation of India president Bhaiker Singh Sagoo. A two-member delegation from World Athletics, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) announced on Thursday.

The World Athletics Council allotted the event to India following its meeting in Torun, Poland, the venue of the 2026 edition starting on Friday. India had hosted a global athletics event, the World Half-Marathon, in Delhi in 2004.

"The global competition

# Bhubaneswar to host World indoor athletics in 2028



**Fantastic venue:** The Kalinga Indoor Stadium is the first of its kind in India. FILE PHOTO: BISWARANJAN ROUT

## **Sports Bureau**

The Kalinga Indoor Stadium in Bhubaneswar will host the 2028 World Athletics Indoor Championships, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) announced on Thursday.

The World Athletics Council allotted the event to India following its meeting in Torun, Poland, the venue of the 2026 edition starting on Friday. India last hosted a global athletics event, the World Half-Marathon, in Delhi in 2004.

“The global competition

will be held at the Kalinga Indoor Stadium,” confirmed Athletics Federation of India president Bahadur Singh Sagoo.

A two-member delegation from World Athletics had inspected the venue in January last. The stadium, which is the first of its kind in India, is set to host the inaugural National Indoors on March 24 and 25.

The venue is also the front-runner to host the Asian Indoor Championships in 2028. An Asian Athletics Association team had inspected the Kalinga Stadium last month.

- Bhubaneswar will host the **2028 World Athletics Indoor Championships**  
भुवनेश्वर 2028 विश्व इंडोर एथलेटिक्स चैंपियनशिप की मेजबानी करेगा
  - Venue: Kalinga Indoor Stadium (first of its kind in India)  
स्थल: कलिंगा इंडोर स्टेडियम (भारत का पहला ऐसा स्टेडियम)
  - Decision taken by World Athletics Council (meeting in Torun, Poland)  
निर्णय वर्ल्ड एथलेटिक्स काउंसिल द्वारा (टोरुन, पोलैंड में बैठक)
- 

## ◆ 2. Importance for India / भारत के लिए महत्व

- First time India hosting a global indoor athletics event  
पहली बार भारत वैश्विक इंडोर एथलेटिक्स आयोजन करेगा
  - Boost to India's global sports reputation  
भारत की वैश्विक खेल छवि को बढ़ावा
  - Strengthens India's bid for future mega events (Olympics, Commonwealth)  
भविष्य के बड़े आयोजनों (ओलंपिक आदि) के लिए दावेदारी मजबूत
-

### ◆ 3. About Kalinga Stadium / कलिंगा स्टेडियम

- Located in Bhubaneswar, Odisha  
भुवनेश्वर, ओडिशा में स्थित
  - World-class sports infrastructure developed by Odisha Govt  
ओडिशा सरकार द्वारा विकसित विश्वस्तरीय खेल ढांचा
  - Previously hosted: Hockey World Cup (2018, 2023)  
पहले आयोजित: हॉकी विश्व कप (2018, 2023)
- 

### ◆ 4. Related Events / संबंधित आयोजन

- Will also host **Asian Indoor Athletics Championships (2028)**  
2028 एशियाई इंडोर एथलेटिक्स चैंपियनशिप भी आयोजित होगी
  - National Indoor Athletics event scheduled (March 2026 approx.)  
राष्ट्रीय इंडोर एथलेटिक्स आयोजन भी प्रस्तावित
- 

### ◆ 5. Historical Context / ऐतिहासिक संदर्भ

- Last major global athletics event in India: World Half Marathon (Delhi, 2004)  
भारत में अंतिम बड़ा एथलेटिक्स आयोजन: वर्ल्ड हाफ मैराथन (दिल्ली, 2004)
- India traditionally stronger in outdoor athletics, not indoor  
भारत पारंपरिक रूप से आउटडोर एथलेटिक्स में मजबूत

## ◆ 6. Economic Impact / आर्थिक प्रभाव

- Tourism boost in Odisha  
ओडिशा में पर्यटन बढ़ेगा
  - Infrastructure investment & employment generation  
बुनियादी ढांचे में निवेश और रोजगार
  - Sponsorship, broadcasting revenue growth  
स्पोन्सरशिप और प्रसारण से आय
- 

## ◆ 7. Political & Governance Angle / राजनीतिक आयाम

- Odisha model of sports development gaining global recognition  
ओडिशा का खेल विकास मॉडल वैश्विक स्तर पर प्रसिद्ध
  - State-led sports promotion (unlike traditional central dominance)  
राज्य-आधारित खेल विकास मॉडल
- 

## ◆ 8. Geographical Angle / भौगोलिक पहलू

- Bhubaneswar = emerging sports capital of India  
भुवनेश्वर = भारत की उभरती खेल राजधानी
- Coastal city → connectivity via ports & tourism advantage  
तटीय शहर → बेहतर कनेक्टिविटी और पर्यटन



**Q. Consider the following statements:**

1. India will host the World Athletics Indoor Championships for the first time in 2028.
2. Kalinga Stadium has previously hosted the Hockey World Cup.
3. Indoor athletics tracks are typically 400 meters long.

Which of the statements are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
  - (b) 2 and 3 only
  - (c) 1 and 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3
- 

# 41 million kids overweight, India among top 3 globally

Anuja.Jaiswal@timesofindia.com

Getty/iStock

**New Delhi:** India is among the top three countries globally with the highest number of children affected by excess weight, with about 41 million aged 5-19 living with high body mass index (BMI), including nearly 14 million with obesity, a new global report has found.

The World Obesity Atlas 2026 shows India, along with China and the US, accounts for a large share of the global burden, showing the country now faces both undernutrition and rising obesity among children.

This comes amid a sharp global increase in childhood obesity, which has risen from about 4% in 1975 to nearly 20% in recent years. For the first time, more children worldwide are expected to be living with obesity than underweight, marking a major shift in health trends. It also warned that while many countries have introduced measures to tackle childhood obesity, progress is not keeping pace with the scale of the problem, calling for stronger action on food regulation, physical activity and access to care.

Experts said this is not just a matter of appearance, but a serious health concern. "Childhood obesity is rising due to an im-



## MAJOR SHIFT IN HEALTH TRENDS

balance between diet and physical activity, with children consuming more calories and moving less. It is not a cosmetic issue, but a disease with long-term risks such as diabetes, heart disease and other lifestyle conditions," said Dr Rajesh Khadgawat, professor at the AIIMS endocrinology department.

The rise is being driven by easy access to calorie-dense foods, sugary drinks and ultra-processed products, along with declining physical activity and increasing screen time. Urban lifestyles, reduced outdoor play spaces and growing dependence on digital devices are further worsening the trend.

The trend is also visible among younger children, with overweight rising even under five. Experts warned it often continues into adulthood, increasing long-term risks and adding to the future burden of non-communicable diseases.

- India among **top 3 countries globally** with highest number of overweight children  
भारत अधिक वजन वाले बच्चों की संख्या में विश्व के शीर्ष 3 देशों में शामिल
  - Around **41 million children (age 5–19)** affected  
लगभग **4.1 करोड़ बच्चे (5–19 वर्ष)** प्रभावित
  - Nearly **14 million children obese**  
लगभग **1.4 करोड़ बच्चे मोटापे से ग्रस्त**
  - Source: World Obesity Atlas 2026  
स्रोत: वर्ल्ड ओबेसिटी एटलस 2026
- 

## ◆ 2. Global Trend / वैश्विक प्रवृत्ति

- Childhood obesity increased from ~4% (1975) to ~20% (recent years)  
बचपन का मोटापा ~4% (1975) से बढ़कर ~20% हो गया
- For first time, **obesity > undernutrition globally**  
पहली बार मोटापा कुपोषण से अधिक हो गया
- India, China, USA → major contributors  
भारत, चीन, अमेरिका → प्रमुख योगदानकर्ता

### ◆ 3. Causes of Rising Obesity / कारण

- High intake of calorie-dense, ultra-processed foods  
अधिक कैलोरी और प्रोसेस्ड फूड का सेवन
  - Sugary drinks consumption  
मीठे पेय पदार्थों का बढ़ता उपयोग
  - Reduced physical activity  
शारीरिक गतिविधि में कमी
  - Increased screen time (mobiles, TV)  
स्क्रीन टाइम में वृद्धि
  - Urban lifestyle & lack of open spaces  
शहरी जीवनशैली और खेल के स्थानों की कमी
- 

### ◆ 4. Health Impacts / स्वास्थ्य प्रभाव

- Not just cosmetic → serious disease  
केवल दिखावट नहीं, गंभीर बीमारी
- Risk of:
  - Diabetes  
मधुमेह
  - Heart disease  
हृदय रोग
  - Hypertension  
उच्च रक्तचाप
  - Lifestyle diseases  
जीवनशैली रोग
- Early obesity continues into adulthood  
बचपन का मोटापा वयस्कता तक बना रहता है

### ◆ 5. Double Burden in India / भारत की दोहरी चुनौती

- Simultaneous presence of:
    - Undernutrition  
कुपोषण
    - Overnutrition (obesity)  
अधिक पोषण (मोटापा)
  - Reflects inequality in food access and lifestyle  
खाद्य असमानता और जीवनशैली अंतर दर्शाता है
- 

### ◆ 6. Economic & Social Impact / आर्थिक प्रभाव

- Increased healthcare burden  
स्वास्थ्य खर्च बढ़ता है
  - Reduced productivity in long term  
दीर्घकालिक उत्पादकता में कमी
  - Strain on public health systems  
सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य तंत्र पर दबाव
- 

### ◆ 7. Government & Policy Measures / नीतिगत उपाय

- POSHAN Abhiyaan (nutrition mission)  
पोषण अभियान
- Fit India Movement  
फिट इंडिया अभियान
- School health programs & awareness  
स्कूल स्वास्थ्य कार्यक्रम
- Need for stricter food regulation (junk food, ads)  
जंक फूड और विज्ञापनों पर नियंत्रण आवश्यक

- **Q. Consider the following statements:**
- India is among the top three countries globally in terms of overweight children.
- Childhood obesity has decreased globally since 1975.
- Increased screen time is one of the causes of obesity.
- Which of the statements are correct?
- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3



# India ranks 116th in World Happiness Report 2026, Finland retains top spot

India ranked 116th in the World Happiness Report 2026 published Thursday, two notches up from 118th position in 2024 and 126th in 2023, but behind Nepal and Pakistan. The World Happiness Report is released each year around March 20, coinciding with the International Day of Happiness, and combines well-being data from over 140 countries with analysis by world-leading researchers from a range of academic disciplines. This year's theme revolved around 'Happiness and Social Media.'

The annual report found that Finland is the happiest land in the world for the ninth year in a row, with other Nordic countries such as Iceland, Denmark, Sweden and Norway ranking among the top 10 countries.

While India ranked 116th overall, in terms of the overall 'Happiness ranking', in 2026, India ranked much better on several of the factors. For instance, it was 64th on perception of corruption (questions about prevalence of corrup-



JOY OF LIVING

tion); 78th on generosity (donation to charity); 61st on freedom (freedom to choose); 89th on GDP per capita (in terms of purchasing power parity); 95th on healthy life expectancy (based on data from WHO), and 123rd on social support (who one can count in need), the report showed.

Afghanistan is yet again ranked as the unhappiest country in the world, this year again 147th, same as for 2025, even below the 143rd rank in 2023. While Nepal with 99th rank (92 in 2025, 93 in 2024) and Pakistan with 104th rank (109 in 2025, 108 in 2024) remained ahead of India. Sri Lanka ranked 134th (134 in 2025, 128 in 2024) and Bangladesh 127th (127 in 2025, 129 in 2024). PTI

- India ranked **116th** in World Happiness Report 2026  
भारत 2026 की विश्व खुशी रिपोर्ट में **116वें स्थान** पर रहा
  - Improvement from:
    - 118th (2024)  
118वां (2024)
    - 126th (2023)  
126वां (2023)
  - Finland retained **1st position (9th consecutive year)**  
फिनलैंड लगातार **9वीं बार पहले स्थान** पर
- 

## ◆ 2. Top Countries / शीर्ष देश

- Finland, Denmark, Iceland, Sweden, Norway dominate top ranks  
फिनलैंड, डेनमार्क, आइसलैंड, स्वीडन, नॉर्वे शीर्ष पर
- Nordic model = strong welfare + social trust  
नॉर्डिक मॉडल = मजबूत कल्याण + सामाजिक विश्वास

### ◆ 3. India's Performance / भारत का प्रदर्शन

- Overall Rank: 116  
कुल रैंक: 116
  - Factor-wise ranking:
    - Corruption perception: 64  
भ्रष्टाचार धारणा: 64
    - Freedom: 61  
स्वतंत्रता: 61
    - Generosity: 78  
उदारता: 78
    - GDP per capita (PPP): 89  
प्रति व्यक्ति आय (PPP): 89
    - Healthy life expectancy: 95  
स्वस्थ जीवन प्रत्याशा: 95
    - Social support: 123  
सामाजिक समर्थन: 123
- 

### ◆ 4. Neighbour Comparison / पड़ोसी देशों से तुलना

- Nepal: 99  
नेपाल: 99
- Pakistan: 104  
पाकिस्तान: 104
- Sri Lanka: 134  
श्रीलंका: 134
- Bangladesh: 127  
बांग्लादेश: 127
- Afghanistan: 147 (lowest)  
अफगानिस्तान: 147 (सबसे कम)

## ◆ 5. Methodology / पद्धति

- Based on data from **140+ countries**  
140+ देशों के डेटा पर आधारित
  - Key indicators:
    - GDP per capita
    - Social support
    - Freedom
    - Corruption perception
    - Generosity
    - Healthy life expectancy
  - Released annually around **20 March (International Day of Happiness)**  
हर साल **20 मार्च (अंतरराष्ट्रीय खुशी दिवस)** के आसपास जारी
- 

## ◆ 6. Theme (2026) / थीम

- "Happiness and Social Media"  
"खुशी और सोशल मीडिया"
- Focus on impact of digital life on mental well-being  
डिजिटल जीवन का मानसिक स्वास्थ्य पर प्रभाव

## ◆ 7. Key Issues for India / भारत के लिए चुनौतियाँ

- Low social support ranking (123)  
सामाजिक समर्थन में कम रैंक
  - Income inequality  
आय असमानता
  - Urban stress & lifestyle issues  
शहरी तनाव और जीवनशैली
  - Mental health awareness gap  
मानसिक स्वास्थ्य जागरूकता की कमी
- 

## ◆ 8. Economic & Social Insights / सामाजिक-आर्थिक विश्लेषण

- Happiness linked to welfare policies, not just GDP  
खुशी केवल GDP नहीं, बल्कि कल्याण नीतियों से जुड़ी
  - Nordic countries → strong public services  
नॉर्डिक देशों में मजबूत सार्वजनिक सेवाएं
  - India → growth high but social indicators lag  
भारत → आर्थिक विकास तेज, सामाजिक सूचकांक पीछे
-

**Q. Consider the following statements:**

1. Finland has topped the World Happiness Report for multiple consecutive years.
2. India ranked above Nepal in the 2026 report.
3. Social support is one of the indicators used in the report.

Which of the statements are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3



# Krishi Sakhi Initiative



Topic	Details (English + Hindi)
Initiative Name	Krishi Sakhi Initiative / कृषि सखी पहल
Launched By	Agriculture Insurance Company of India (AIC) / एग्रीकल्चर इंश्योरेंस कंपनी ऑफ इंडिया
Year of Launch	2026 / वर्ष 2026
Global Context	Declared as International Year of Woman Farmer by FAO (UN) / FAO (संयुक्त राष्ट्र) द्वारा 2026 को महिला किसान वर्ष घोषित
Objective	Empower women farmers & increase participation in agriculture / महिला किसानों को सशक्त बनाना और कृषि में उनकी भागीदारी बढ़ाना
Core Focus	Crop insurance awareness & financial protection / फसल बीमा जागरूकता और वित्तीय सुरक्षा
Target Group	Women farmers, rural households / महिला किसान, ग्रामीण परिवार
Implementation Model	Awareness campaigns, workshops, outreach programmes / जागरूकता अभियान, कार्यशालाएं, आउटरीच कार्यक्रम
Key Theme	Inclusive growth in agriculture / कृषि में समावेशी विकास
Digital Outreach	Awareness via videos & social campaigns (#AIforHer) / डिजिटल माध्यम से जागरूकता अभियान
Grassroot Activities	Walkathons, workshops, rural campaigns / जमीनी स्तर पर कार्यक्रम



- **Q. Consider the following statements:**

- Krishi Sakhi Initiative is launched by Agriculture Insurance Company of India.
- It focuses on promoting crop insurance awareness among women farmers.
- It is directly implemented by NABARD.

- **Which of the statements are correct?**

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. All of the above



RISA: Timeless  
Tribal  
Source: PIB

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**Context:** The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched RISA: Timeless Tribal, a premium signature brand to promote [tribal crafts](#) and textiles.

The first phase of the RISA launch features a curated selection of some of India's most iconic weaves and crafts.

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Weaves/ embroidery</b>	<b>Communities Involved</b>	<b>State/UT</b>
1.	Eri silk	Bodo	Assam
2.	Santal cotton	Santal	Jharkhand
3.	Changpa Pashmina	Changpa	Ladakh
4.	Kotpad cotton	Mirgan	Odisha
5.	Muga silk	Miri (Mising)	Assam
6.	Dongria embroidery	Dongria Kondh	Odisha
7.	Toda embroidery	Toda	Tamil Nadu

## Key Features:

- Premium branding approach: Positions tribal products in high-end domestic and international markets.
- Cluster-based development: First phase covers 10 clusters including weaves, embroidery, and crafts across states.
- Design intervention: Introduction of modern designs and product innovation while retaining traditional essence.
- Capacity building: Skill training and upskilling of artisans to produce high-value, export-ready products.
- Infrastructure support: Development of weaving clusters and stitching units for integrated production.
- Sustainable packaging: Eco-friendly premium packaging developed by NID for [global market appeal](#).
- Strategic designer partnerships: Collaboration with leading designers to bridge tradition with contemporary fashion.
- Diverse craft inclusion: Covers iconic tribal products like:
  1. Eri silk (Assam)
  2. Pashmina (Ladakh)
  3. Dokhra art (Chhattisgarh)
  4. Toda embroidery (Tamil Nadu)

# Stockholm Water Prize 2026

- Kaveh Madani has been awarded the 2026 Stockholm Water Prize, the world's most prestigious water-related honour.
- He is the youngest laureate and first UN official to receive the award for linking water science with policy, diplomacy, and public outreach.



# About Stockholm Water Prize 2026:

- What it is?
- The Stockholm Water Prize is an internationally acclaimed award recognizing outstanding contributions to water conservation, management, and sustainability, often regarded as the Nobel Prize for Water.
- Origin: Established by the Stockholm Water Foundation Inspired by Stockholm's achievement in maintaining clean and sustainable water systems

- 
- 
- **History:**
  - First awarded in **1991**.
  - **First recipient:** David W. Schindler
  - Presented annually during **World Water Week in Stockholm** by the Swedish King

## Key Contributions:

### Concept of Water Bankruptcy:

- Highlighted long-term systemic water scarcity rather than short-term crises
- Shifted global discourse towards **sustainable water management**

### Science-policy integration:

- Bridged gap between **academic research and policymaking**
- Influenced global water governance and climate negotiations

Innovative research methods: Applied game theory and decision science to water conflict resolution.

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# Word of the day

## **Debilitate:**

make weak

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**Synonyms:** drain, enfeeble

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**Usage:** *Constant stress can debilitate your immune system.*

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## **Pronunciation:**

<https://newsth.live/zb24fs>

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## **International Phonetic**

**Alphabet:** /dɪˈbɪlɪteɪt/

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Thank you 😊