



## Why India ranks low on Happiness Index in the World, time to fix it & focus on factors

Despite strong economy, India has been termed a country of unhappy people & the last report that was released this year, also placed the country at 126th place.



The countries that are listed at the top, mostly include Scandinavian and other European countries.

Hardly any Asian nation, except Israel, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia, are in the top 30.

Finland has topped the list, followed by Denmark at second place, then, Iceland, Sweden and Israel.

Top ten countries include Netherlands, Norway and Luxembourg, followed by Switzerland and Australia.

Subsequently, New Zealand, Costa Rica, Kuwait, Austria, Canada, Belgium, Ireland, Czechia, Lithuania, United Kingdom, complete the list of twenty.

UAE is ranked 22, US at 23, followed by Germany [24], France at 27<sup>th</sup> rank, Saudi Arab 28<sup>th</sup> and Singapore 30<sup>th</sup>.

Japan at 51st place, South Korea at 52nd, Philippines at 53rd, Thailand 58th, Malaysia 59th, Bahrain 62nd, Indonesia 80th, Nepal at 93rd place and Turkey 98th.

The Central Asian countries are also, mostly, ahead of India. It was in the year 2011 that UN General Assembly had adopted a resolution--Happiness: Towards a Holistic Definition of Development and the first World Happiness Report came out in 2012.

### The Asian Tribune

India certainly needs to take a serious view of the Happiness Index report that repeatedly shows that country ranks too low in this annual UN listing. The biggest country in the entire world in terms of population, as per the latest estimates, was not even featured in the top 100. The list has 140 countries and India ranks far behind countries that have seen big

calamities and have even been through strife, wars and unrest. Dismissing the report is easy, but it's time that perception about India as unhappy, must go. A proper study and serious focus is required to find reasons that lead to the lack of satisfaction and contentment among citizens, despite a strong economy and the pace at which the country has been advancing in diverse sectors & multiple spheres. Experts say that reasons like unemployment, worries about

difficulties in future, lack of enough money to deal with emergency, health issues and children's education could be among the possible reasons for unhappiness. The feeling of lack of dignity that is an outcome of standing in society, due to caste or clan, poverty and stress, are among the likely causes. The United Nations' report is based on these factors--GDP per capita i.e. money, healthy life expectancy, feeling of having someone to count on, freedom to make life choices,

generosity and the freedom from corruption. The 126<sup>th</sup> rank for India amidst 140 is troubling and this aspect needs to be duly addressed. After India, the countries that figure in the list are Egypt, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and later, the countries that figure in the end include mostly African countries. It is no surprise that Afghanistan, which has been through wars and has suffered a lot for the last many decades, is at last spot--140.

## Two millions displaced in Gaza as Israel-Hamas war completes a year

### The Asian Tribune

As the ongoing attack on Palestine and the killings in Gaza continues, the war has almost completed a year.

Gaza has suffered irreparable damage. Schools, hospitals, institutions, homes, have been razed to the ground. Israel has been consistently

hitting the 'targets' and the result is that civilians are getting killed in large numbers.

As the world sits and watches, even Arab countries failing to intervene or stop escalation, Gaza has been ravaged. While it is suggested that over

42,000 people have been killed in Gaza in this attack, unofficial figures are indeed chilling.

The number of dead in Gaza could be over 1,00,000 so far, from October 2023. The situation is so horrific that it can be gauged

from other data, The figure of displacements, is huge.

Around 2 million people forced to relocate-90% population in Gaza.

### Middle East



## Iran launches missile attack on Israel after Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah's killing, Middle East on the edge

Alarms were sounded in Israel and people ran to hide in underground bunkers for safety.

### The Asian Tribune

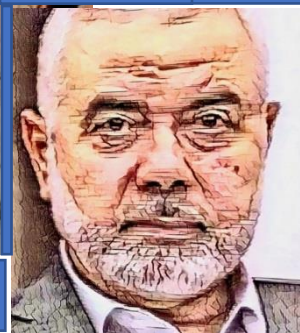
Eve as Israel continues the war and spread its operations--targeting Lebanon too, Iran rained missiles on Israel. All eyes were on Tehran, as Israel had eliminated the Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah who had earlier given a tough time to Israel for several decades. Finally, Iran responded and nearly hundred missiles attacked Israel. The strikes raised fears of escalation, once again in West Asia. Israel has, meanwhile, said that Iran will have to pay heavily for its missile attack. "It is a big mistake", said Netanyahu.

### The Asian Tribune



Hassan Nasrallah (above)

Ismail Haniyeh (below)



Gaza is witnessing deaths on a regular basis. The cycle of violence that has been going on for decades, has spilled over and went out of control in the past too. But, tensions again after recent killing of Ismail Haniyeh, the Hamas chief. His death had already brought pressure and spotlight on Iran. As Iran's reputation was hit due to the killings of Ismail Haniyeh and Hassan Nasrallah, the Supreme leader was also expected to respond. Iran's Axis of Resistance included Hamas, Hezbollah and the country's elite Revolutionary Guards. Index was down, slightly & the oil prices could be affected after the growing signs of a potential escalation of the situation.

### Asia

## Dissanayake emerges victorious in Sri Lanka, he wins amidst huge expectations in the island nation

### The Asian Tribune

Sri Lanka has got a new President.

The country that was in turmoil for long, elects Anura Dissanayake.

Dissanayake, the head of JVP i.e. Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna had earlier got less than 5% votes in the last presidential election in the year 2019.

However, he turned the tables & got the mandate.



Sri Lanka has faced huge economic crisis in the past.


After the win, Dissanayake said that he was not a magician. It signals that he is aware of the hopes.

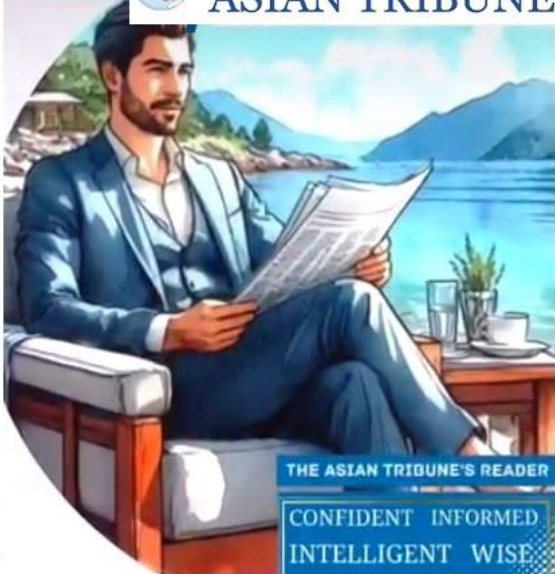
The last few years were bad for the Sri Lanka. Its economy was badly hit.

Corruption was a major issue. The leaders' Now, he prestige was down.

Internal security was in doldrums. The new president has to live up to the expectation.

Dissanayake faces real big challenge. All eyes will be on him, as how he treats minorities.

**READ**  **THE ASIAN TRIBUNE**



**THE ASIAN TRIBUNE'S READER**

**CONFIDENT INFORMED INTELLIGENT WISE**

- The Asian Tribune
- www.asiantribune.net
- @asiantribunenet

**THE ASIAN TRIBUNE**