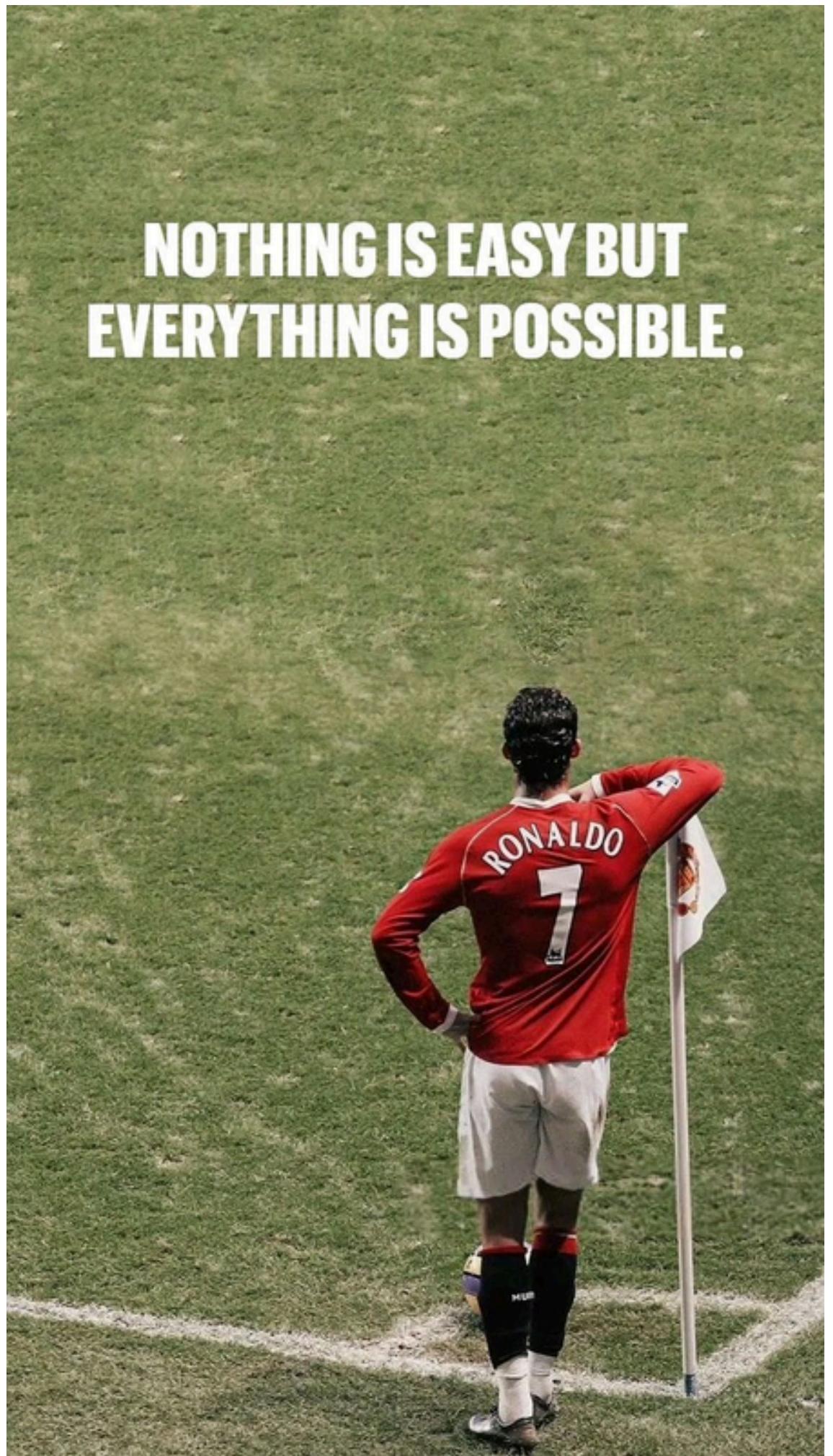




NOTHING IS EASY BUT
EVERYTHING IS
POSSIBLE



India: A Population of 1.44 Billion... But Can't Find 11 World-Class Players?

India – the most populous country on the planet. Home to 1.44 billion people. A land where dreams echo in every street, where cricket stars are born in slums, and athletes rise from dust. And yet, we struggle to find 11 footballers capable of taking us to the FIFA World Cup. In 2018, under Stephen Constantine, India hit its best FIFA ranking in recent history – #97 – and gave fans a glimmer of hope. By 2023, following the SAFF Championship victory, we touched #99, signaling a possible renaissance. But just two years later, in 2025, we've fallen back to #127 – losing to teams like Hong Kong (FIFA Rank 146) in Asian qualifiers.



What happened?

While countries with less population, fewer resources, and smaller landmass rise to global football prominence, India continues to spiral downward.

Let's break it down country by country:

2018



2025



Uzbekistan – From Shadows to the FIFA World Cup

- **Population:** ~35 million (25x smaller than India)
- **FIFA Rank (2018):** 95
- **FIFA Rank (2025):** 57
- Qualified for FIFA World Cup 2026 for the first time
- **Key Strengths:**
 1. Heavily invested in youth academies and coaching.
 2. Domestic league structured with player development in mind.
 3. Focused on long-term vision, not glamour.

Abbosbek Fayzullaev

Age: Born 2003, he's currently 21 years old

- Impact: MVP at youth tournaments, decorated at club level, and key scorer in senior matches.
- Historic role: Instrumental in helping Uzbekistan qualify for their first-ever FIFA World Cup.
- Legacy: Represents the face of a transformed, confident Uzbek football – one achieving youth success and now stepping onto the global stage.

Uzbekistan stuck to consistency, avoided politics, and believed in the power of structure.





"Failure isn't here to stop you it's here to make you stronger

Jordan – Punching Above Their Weight

- Population: ~11 million
- FIFA Rank (2018): 110
- FIFA Rank (2025): 62
- Qualified for World Cup 2026

Jordan doesn't boast of billion-dollar clubs or mega sponsorships. What they have is passion, unity, and a well-coordinated domestic setup. Their players are toughened by intense national leagues and international exposure.

A unified national approach beats fragmented riches.

Morocco – Giant Killers on the World Stage

- Population: ~3.37 crore
- FIFA Rank (April 2025): 12
- Best Rank: 10 (1998)
- 2022 World Cup: Reached Semi-Finals, first African nation to do so
- Despite a modest population, Morocco has:
- A well-funded grassroots system
- Collaboration with European clubs
- Strong diaspora contribution (players from France, Spain, Netherlands)

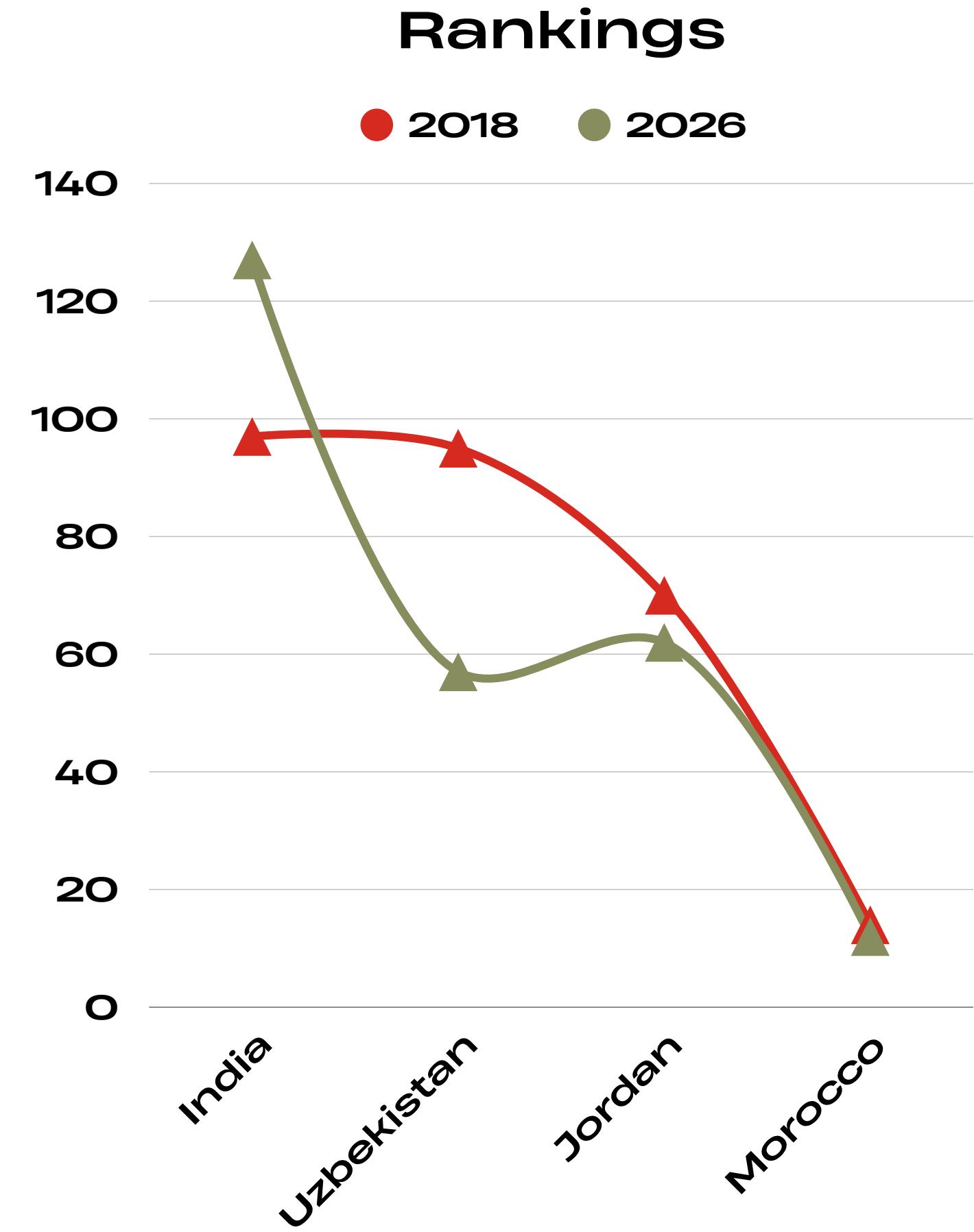
Invest in global scouting, player development, and bring the diaspora into play.

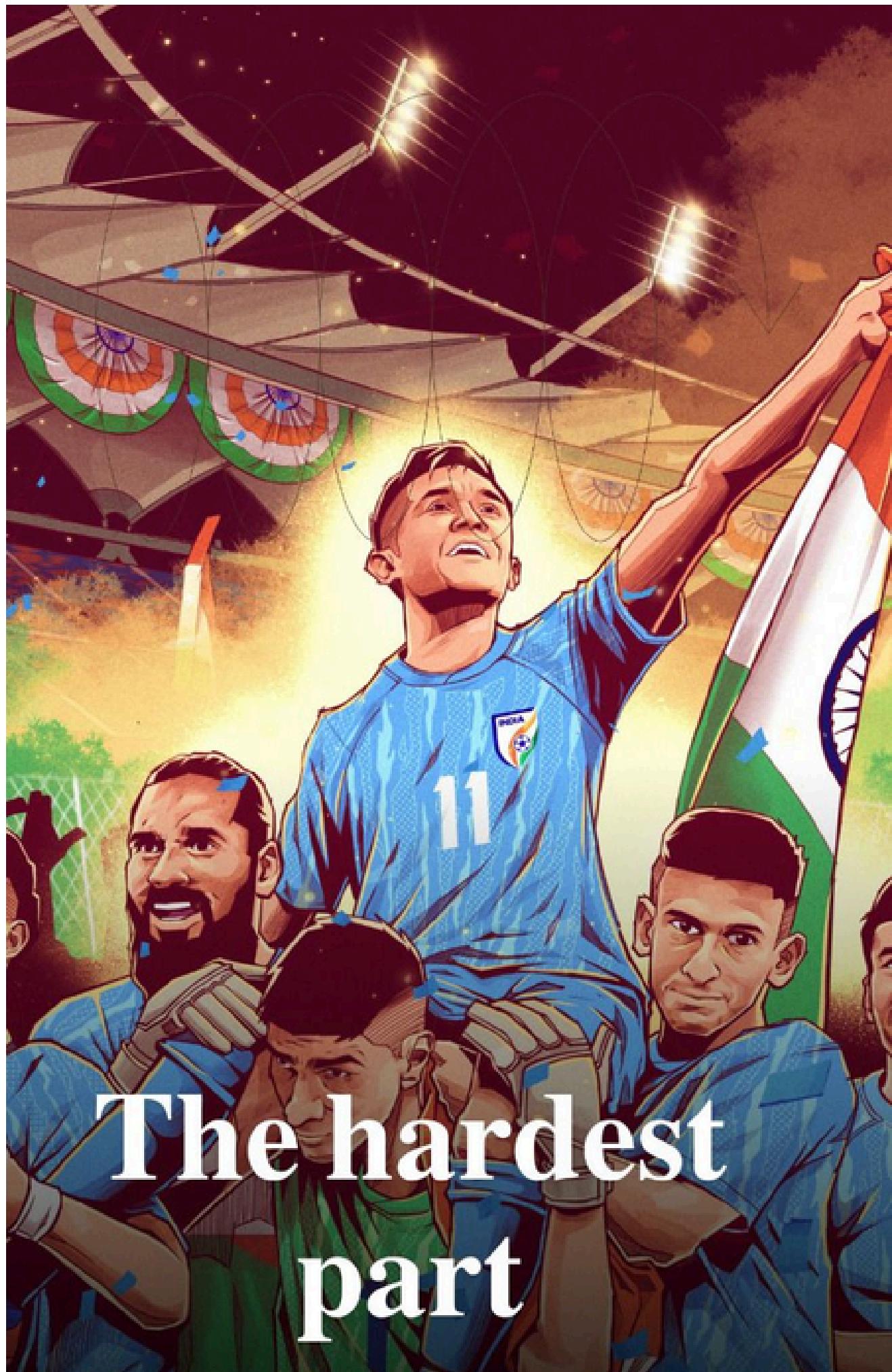


From 2018 to 2026 – FIFA Journey of India, Uzbekistan, Jordan & Morocco

IF YOU WANT IT, WORK FOR IT.

Country	2018 FIFA Ranking	2026 (Latest)
India	Year-end ~ 97 (range 96-102)	127 (June 2025)
Uzbekistan	Avg ~ 95, best ranking ~ 72 in 2018	57 (April 2025)
Jordan	Around ~ 68-70 end of 2018 (implied)	62 (April 2025)
Morocco	Consistently 13th - 14th in late 2018 (14th Dec '24 note)	Climbed to 12th (April 2025)

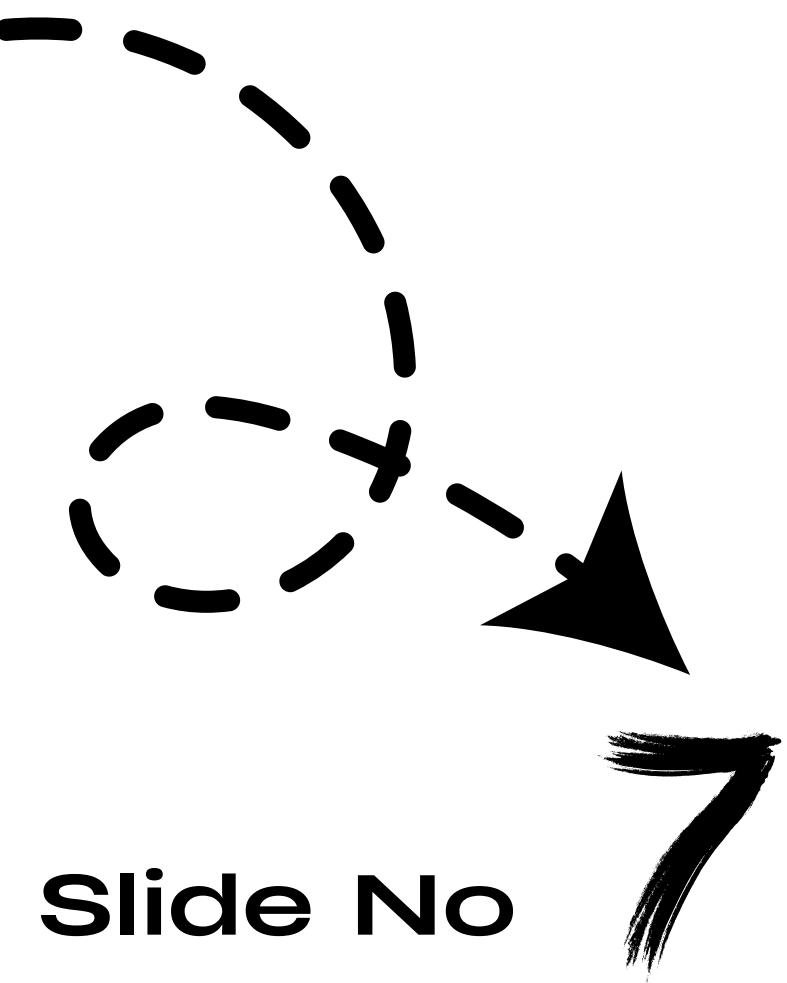




India – Too Big to Fail, Yet Constantly Failing

- FIFA Rank (2018): 97
- Best Rank (modern era): 96
- FIFA Rank (2025): 129
- 2023 SAFF Champions – Brief ray of hope
- ✗ Failed to qualify for Asian Cup playoffs
- ✗ Lost to lower-ranked teams like Hong Kong

What's Going Wrong? -----



1. Politics Over Passion

AIFF leadership has often been driven by political ambitions, with little understanding of the sport. Selection processes, tournament planning, and resource allocation are often influenced by connections, not competence.

2. Nepotism & Bribery

Selection at club and even national levels is allegedly riddled with favoritism. Talented players from rural and poor backgrounds get overlooked for those with "contacts..,"

3. Infrastructure is a Joke

While ISL matches happen in top-class stadiums, the average Indian footballer trains on dust fields, with no physiotherapists, no nutrition, and often, no shoes.

4. No Grassroots Development

India lacks a nationwide youth league with proper coaching. In contrast, even war-torn countries have structured age-group tournaments.

5. Glamour Over Game

ISL has focused more on branding, celebrity owners, and foreign signings than building local talent.

6. Cricket Overshadows Everything

While BCCI invests billions in cricketing infrastructure even at the district level, football struggles for sponsors, even at the national level.

The Harsh Truth

India's 1.44 billion people are not short of talent. They're short of opportunity, fair selection, and visionary leadership.

If Uzbekistan, Jordan, Morocco, and Croatia can rise with a fraction of India's population, the question is not "Can India reach the World Cup?" –

The question is: "Will we ever clean up the mess that's stopping us?"



Where Is Indian Football Failing? A Deep Dive Into the Systemic Rot

Politics, Power Games & AIFF Rot

- The All India Football Federation (AIFF), led by Kalyan Chaubey, is widely accused of being riddled with corruption, favouritism, and incompetence.
- Instead of reforming the system, AIFF spends more time in boardroom politics than building footballers. Promises are made for TV soundbites, not ground-level action.
- State Associations operate like local mafias – blocking talent from outside their zones and promoting their own people.
- Coaches, referees, and selectors are often nominated through political influence, not merit.

Result: *The best talents from small towns, tribal areas, and villages never get noticed.*

Bribery & Nepotism in Trials

STOP BRIBERY!



- National trials and major club trials are often pay-to-play events. Talent is secondary. Money talks.
- Deserving, underprivileged kids get ignored unless they “know someone,, or can bribe their way into selection.
- Coaches in academies and clubs demand money in return for spots on teams – sometimes openly, sometimes subtly.
- Many foreign coaches brought in are just for show – rarely involved in grassroots scouting or training.

Result: India's football dreams die every year, one bribe at a time.

TOI Sports Football Cricket Women's T20 World Cup 2024 IND VS BAN Paralympics 2024 ...

Watch: Match-fixing allegations rock Delhi football league match

A Delhi Football League match between Ahbab FC and Rangers FC has sparked allegations of match-fixing. The match ended with a 4-2 victory for Ahbab FC, raising eyebrows and causing an uproar within the football community. The controv... [Read More](#)



(Video grab)

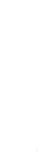


(Video grab)

NEW DELHI: Serious allegations of match-fixing have surfaced following a controversial Delhi Football League match between Ahbab FC and Rangers FC on Monday. The match concluded with a suspicious 4-2 victory in favor of Ahbab FC, raising eyebrows and sparking an uproar within the football community.

The controversy gained momentum on social media after videos of two dubious own goals by Ahbab FC emerged online.

**Press the link below
for more details**

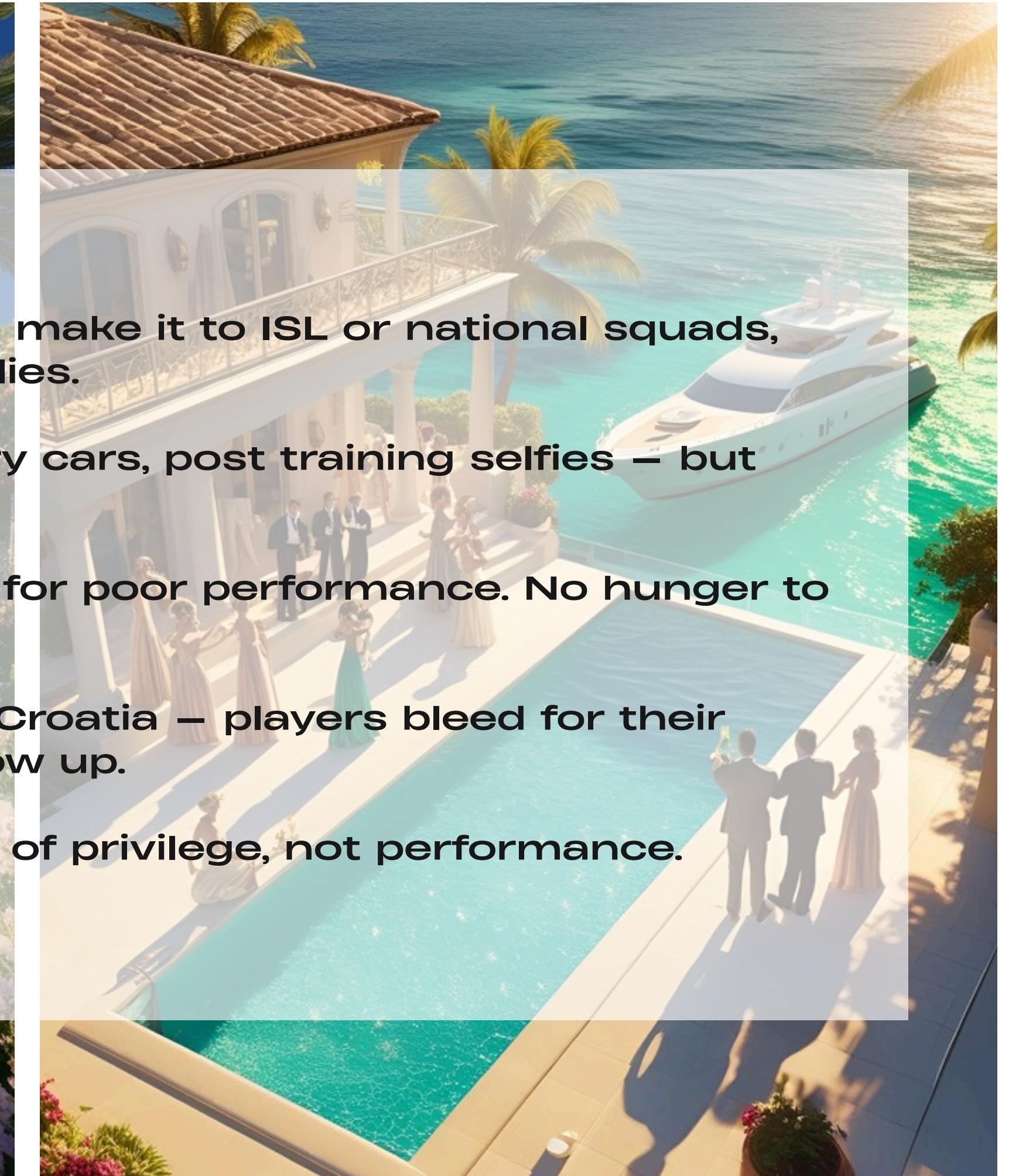


Article

The “Lavish Lifestyle,, of the Undeserving

- Several Indian players, especially those who make it to ISL or national squads, come from well-connected or wealthy families.
- Many earn in crores, live lavishly, drive luxury cars, post training selfies – but deliver nothing on the field.
- There's no accountability. No consequence for poor performance. No hunger to fight for the flag.
- Compare that to countries like Morocco or Croatia – players bleed for their badge, for their people. Ours... often just show up.

Result: Football is becoming a career of privilege, not performance.



Infrastructure: Built for Show, Not Growth

- Most Indian towns lack basic training grounds, forget high-performance centres or injury rehab facilities.
- Even in cities, football fields are badly maintained, uneven, or rented out for weddings and political rallies.
- ISL stadiums are glossy but inaccessible to common youth – it's elite football for elite players, not a national movement.

Result: Players learn on dust fields while AIFF officials attend seminars in 5-star hotels.

Broken Grassroots Pipeline

- There is no functioning nationwide youth league with age-group categorization and regular competition.
- School and college football is poorly supported – barely any government funding, and little scouting.
- Talented kids in rural India often drop out of football by age 15 due to lack of opportunity or financial burden.

Result: India has a massive underclass of talent no one is watching.

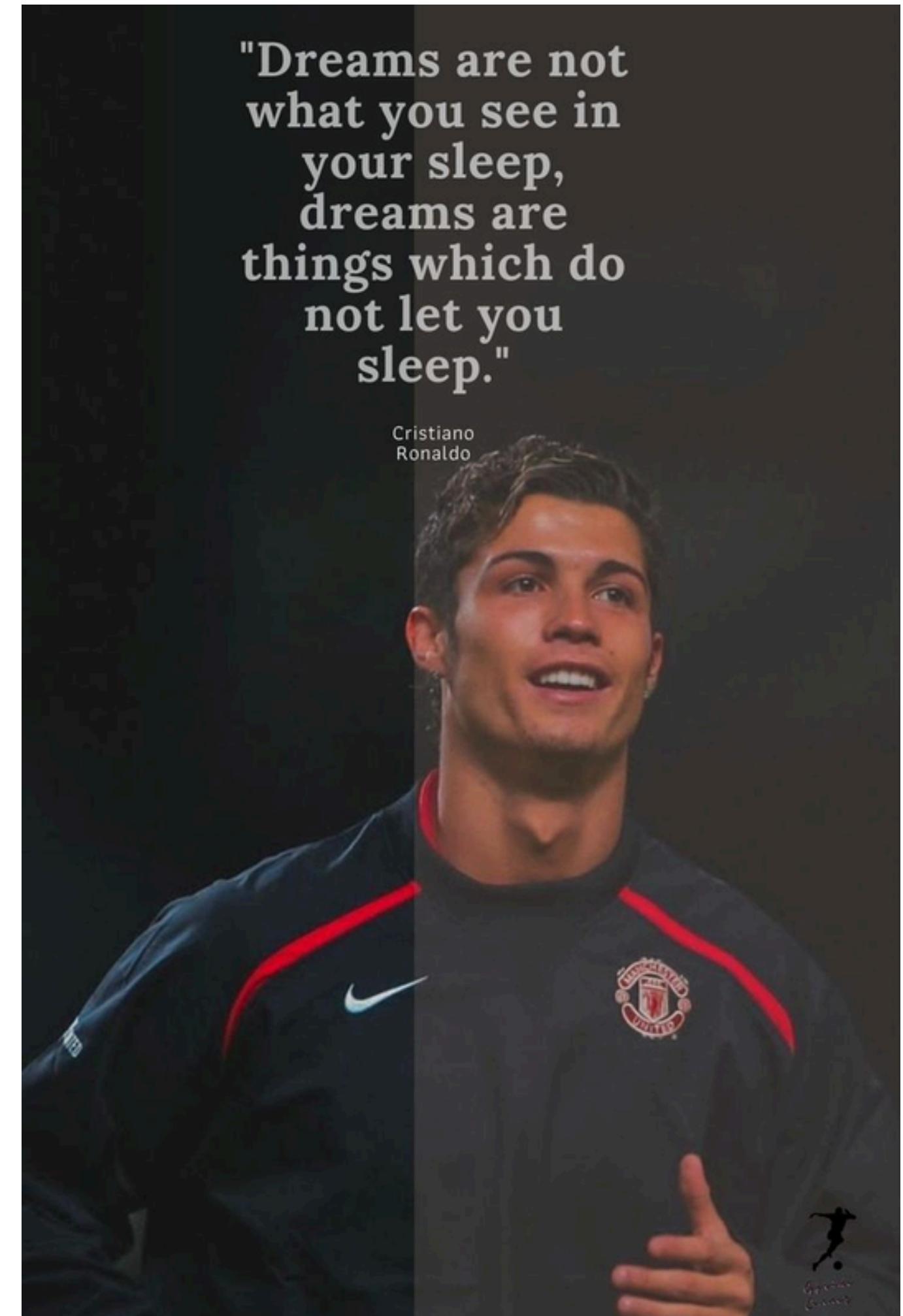
Coaching Crisis

- Most youth coaches are unlicensed, underpaid, or outdated in methods.
- Modern tactics, psychology, nutrition, and injury prevention are nonexistent at youth level.
- AIFF talks about coaching reforms, but licenses are hard to access, and many are passed with connections.

Result: Players are taught bad football from day one.

"Dreams are not what you see in your sleep, dreams are things which do not let you sleep."

Cristiano Ronaldo



"Dreams are not what you see in your sleep, dreams are things which do not let you sleep."

Cristiano Ronaldo



Obsession with Cricket & Celebrity Culture

- BCCI is a global superpower; Indian football doesn't even have basic sponsorship stability.
- Most fans watch football to follow European leagues, not Indian clubs.
- ISL is run like a TV show – more about celebrities, glitz, and media buzz than actual long-term football development.

Result: Football in India is entertainment, not identity.

Lack of Global Exposure

- Our national team rarely plays strong international teams. Most friendlies are against lower-ranked countries.
- Indian players are not pushed to play abroad in competitive leagues.
- Language barriers, poor agents, lack of mentorship – all stop our players from taking the big leap.

Result: They stay comfortable, not competitive.

No Accountability, No Vision

There is no roadmap, no accountability, and no national mission that binds AIFF, states, clubs, schools, and academies together.

India's so-called "Mission FIFA 2030" is nothing but a headline for optics. There's no policy to back it.



The Bottom Line

India doesn't lack players.
India lacks fairness, vision, and the will to clean up football's rotten structure.

Until:

- Coaches stop selling spots,
- Players are held accountable,
- Officials are removed for corruption (starting with Kalyan Chaubey, if allegations prove true),
- And talent from every village gets a fair shot,

Indian football will remain a story of what could've been.

When Talent Is Ignored, We Step In.— Samaarambh Foundation



What Samaarambh Foundation Can Do to Uplift Indian Football

1. Launch Grassroots Football Academies in Rural & Tribal Areas

Focus on the villages and districts where raw talent exists but no access to coaching or fields.

- Set up mobile training camps (seasonal or rotational).
- Provide free coaching, equipment, and nutrition support.
- Use existing school fields or panchayat land to host regular training.
- Create a "Football Yatra" model – traveling coaches visiting clusters.

Impact: Uncovers raw talent before it's lost to farming labor or poverty.

2. Organize Transparent, Free & Open Football Trials

Break the pay-to-play culture.

- Host zero-cost trials across districts in partnership with local clubs or schools.
- Invite independent selectors or foreign coaches to avoid bias.
- Use biometric IDs to ensure no impersonation or age fraud.
- Publish shortlisting criteria publicly.

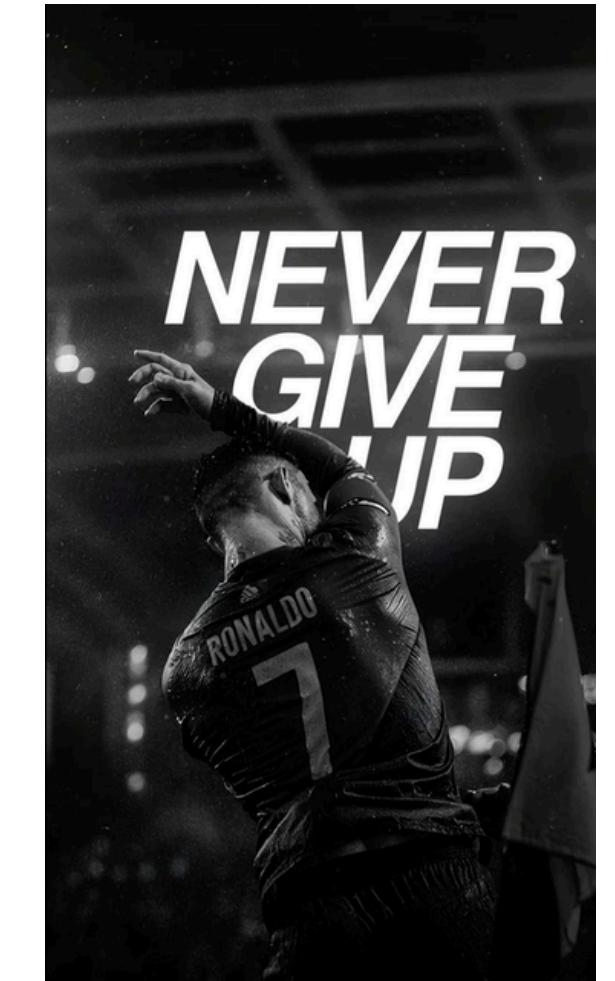
Impact: Restores faith in the system and gives every child a chance.

3. Train Coaches the Right Way

No progress without good teachers.

- Sponsor AIFF D-License and C-License courses for rural youth.
- Partner with ex-players, international coaches, or institutions for train-the-trainer programs.
- Build a "Coaching Fellowship," – select passionate young people, train them, and send them back to villages.

Impact: Multiplies long-term reach. One coach = hundreds of players.



When Talent Is Ignored, We Step In.— Samaarambh Foundation



What Samaarambh Foundation Can Do to Uplift Indian Football

4. Build Football-Skill Integrated Schools or Curriculum

Education + sport = sustainable careers

- Develop a football-focused school program in government schools.
- Integrate basic fitness, drills, and life skills into PE periods.
- Collaborate with physical education teachers for regular follow-ups.
- Identify high-potential players for scholarships.

Impact: Football becomes part of everyday learning, not a luxury.

5. Partner With Clubs, Scouts, & Leagues (I-League, ISL B-Teams)

Bridge the gap between village and visibility.

- Invite scouts to attend your grassroots tournaments.
- Create MOUs with I-League or ISL feeder clubs to trial your talent pipeline.
- Share player data and highlight reels on a national-level player database (could be a web portal managed by Samaarambh).

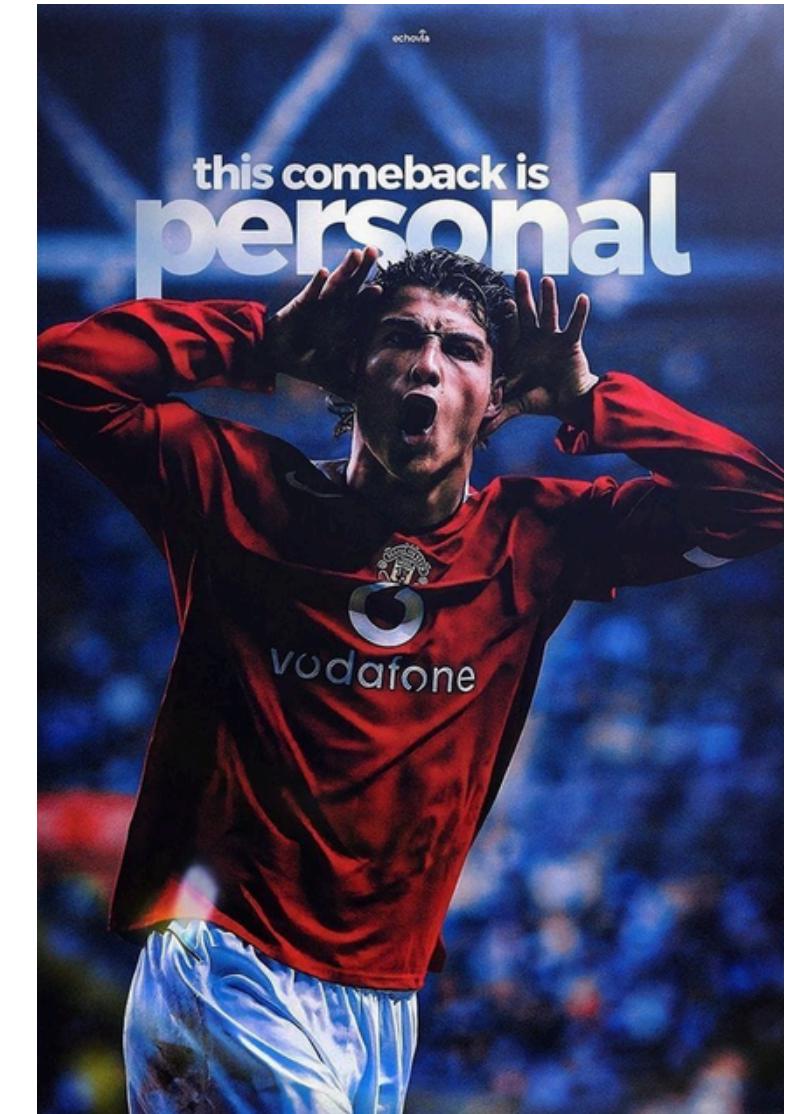
Impact: Transforms your academy into a recognized talent source.

6. Empower Girls in Football

Women's football is even more neglected than men's.

- Create exclusive football programs for girls in schools and villages.
- Train women coaches and mentors.
- Provide menstrual support, safety, and awareness alongside sports.

Impact: Unlocks 50% of India's untapped football potential.



When Talent Is Ignored, We Step In.— Samaarambh Foundation



What Samaarambh Foundation Can Do to Uplift Indian Football



7. Launch a “Real Stories of Talent,, Campaign

Make invisible players visible.

- Document short video stories of talented rural kids, their struggles, and passion.
- Share on Instagram, YouTube, and with news media.
- Tag clubs, celebrities, and federations.

Impact: Creates pressure and attention – which leads to support and accountability.

8. Create a National Football Dashboard (Open Access)

Where's the talent? Where's the funding going?

- Build a live map-based dashboard showing players trained, villages covered, coaches licensed, etc.
- Let data speak louder than promises.

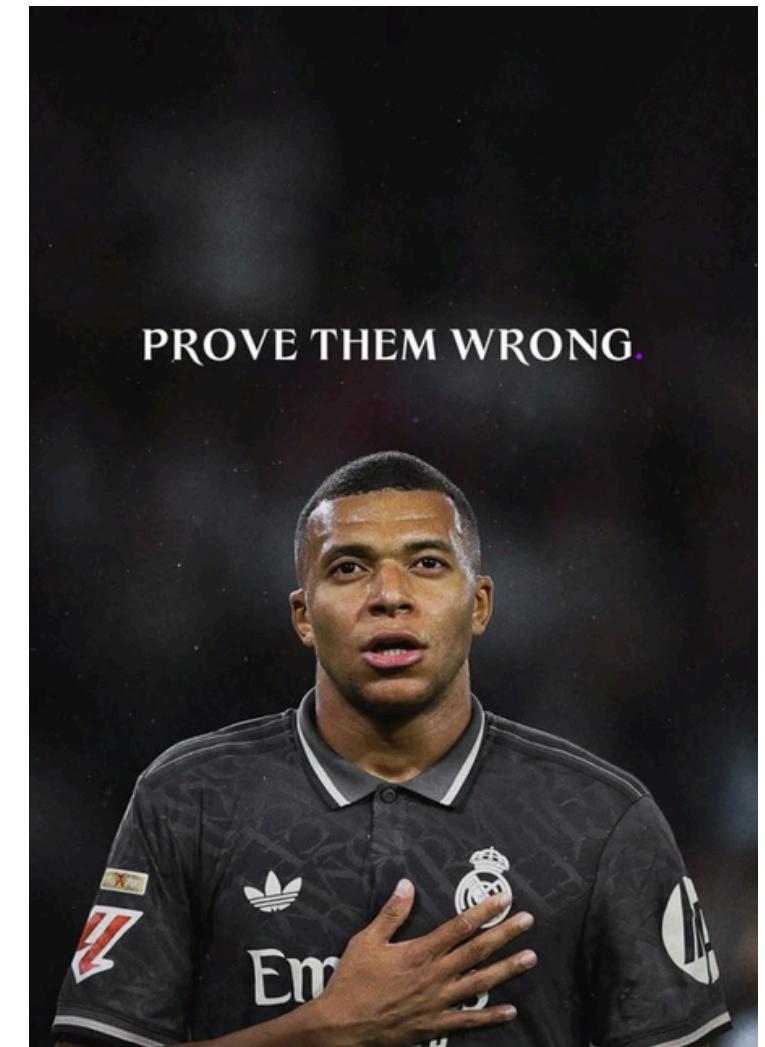
Impact: Helps attract CSR, track progress, and inspire replication.

9. Send Talented Players Abroad for Short-Term Training

Exposure is everything.

- Sponsor top 5–10 players annually for short stints in Dubai, Thailand, Europe, or even Bangladesh/Sri Lanka clubs.
- Use tie-ups with local Asian clubs or academies for cost-effective training.

Impact: Game-changing exposure + branding for Samaarambh Foundation.



PROVE THEM WRONG.

Idea	Description
Samaarambh Cup	An annual under-17 national-level rural football tournament.
Digital Football Talent App	Kids upload 1-min videos, basic info – scouts can browse by region.
Football-For-Peace Campaigns	Use sport to reduce youth involvement in drugs, crime, or conflict areas.
Football + Mental Health	Training sessions that also offer counseling, career guidance, and resilience building.

SAMAARAMBH FOUNDATION

Final Message

If the system is corrupt, build your own.

If AIFF fails, let Samaarambh Foundation succeed where they couldn't – with honesty, heart, and a grassroots revolution.

