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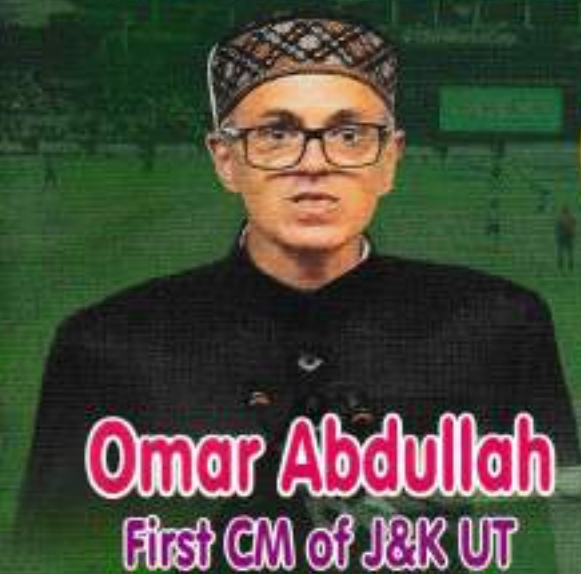


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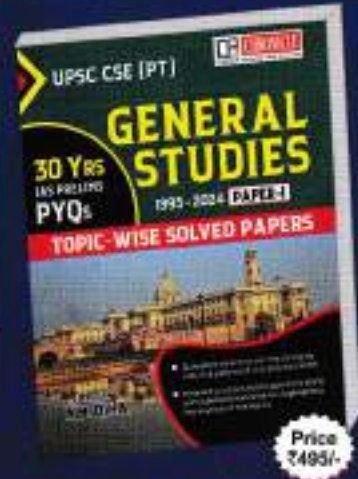


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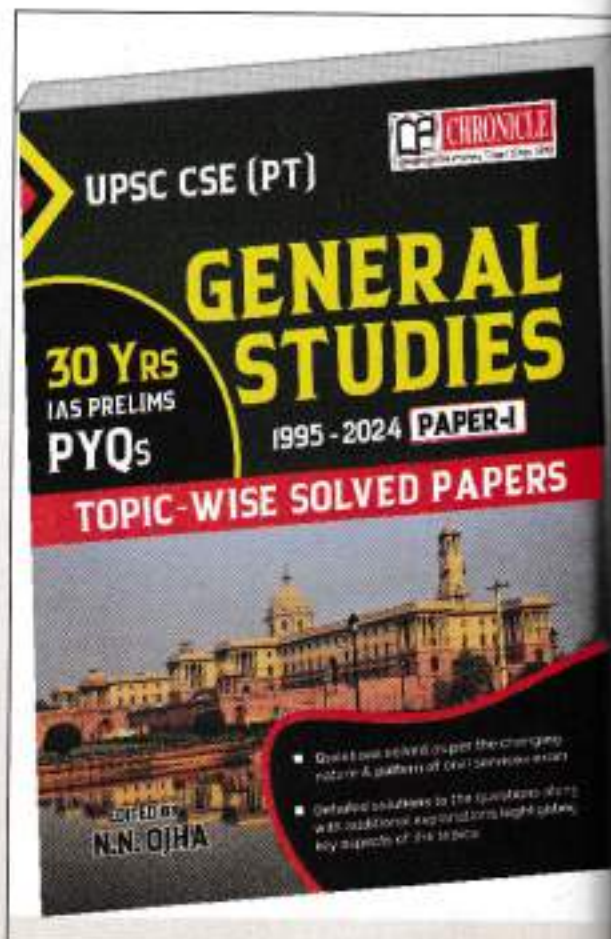
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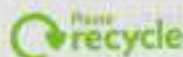
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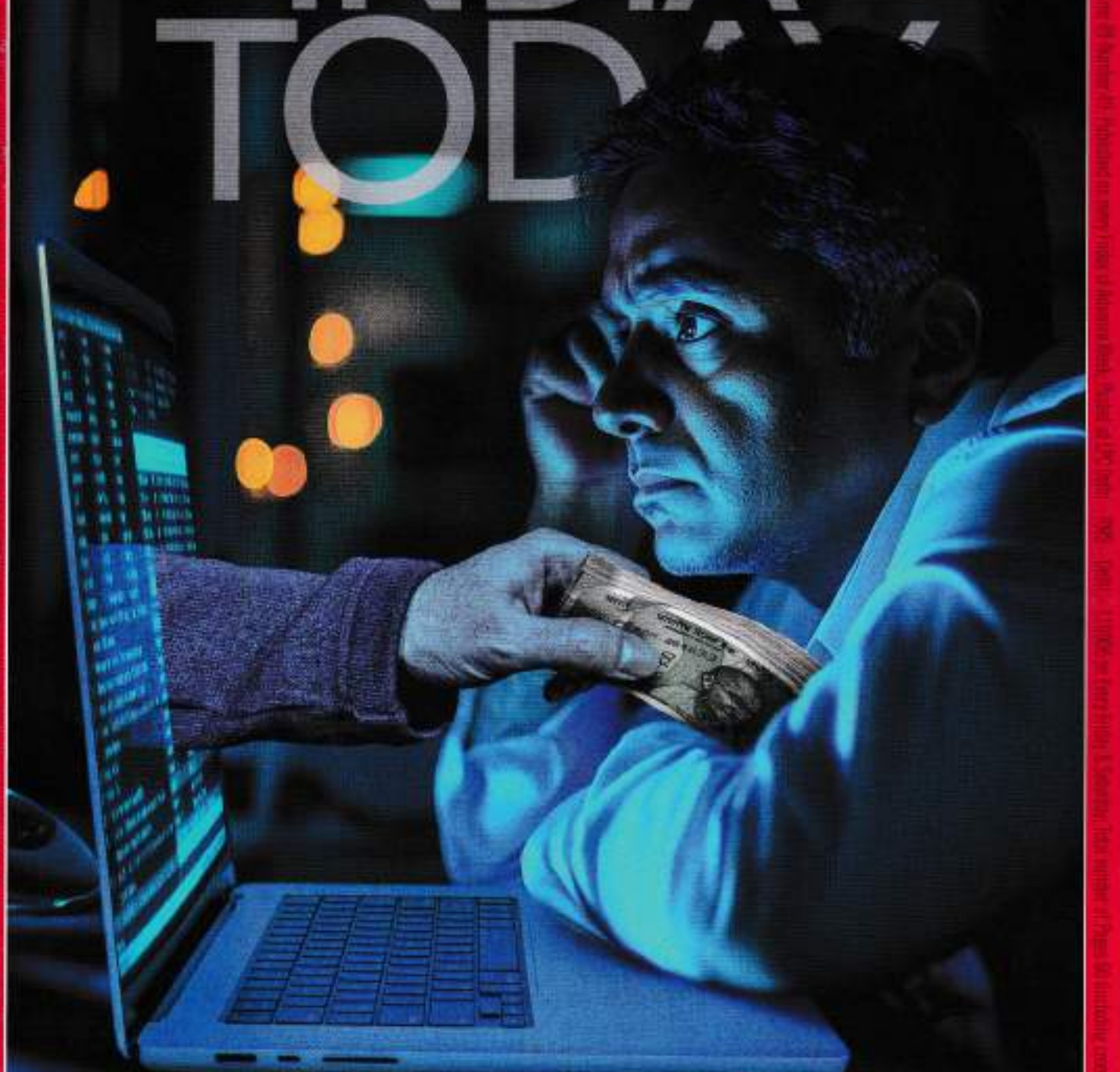
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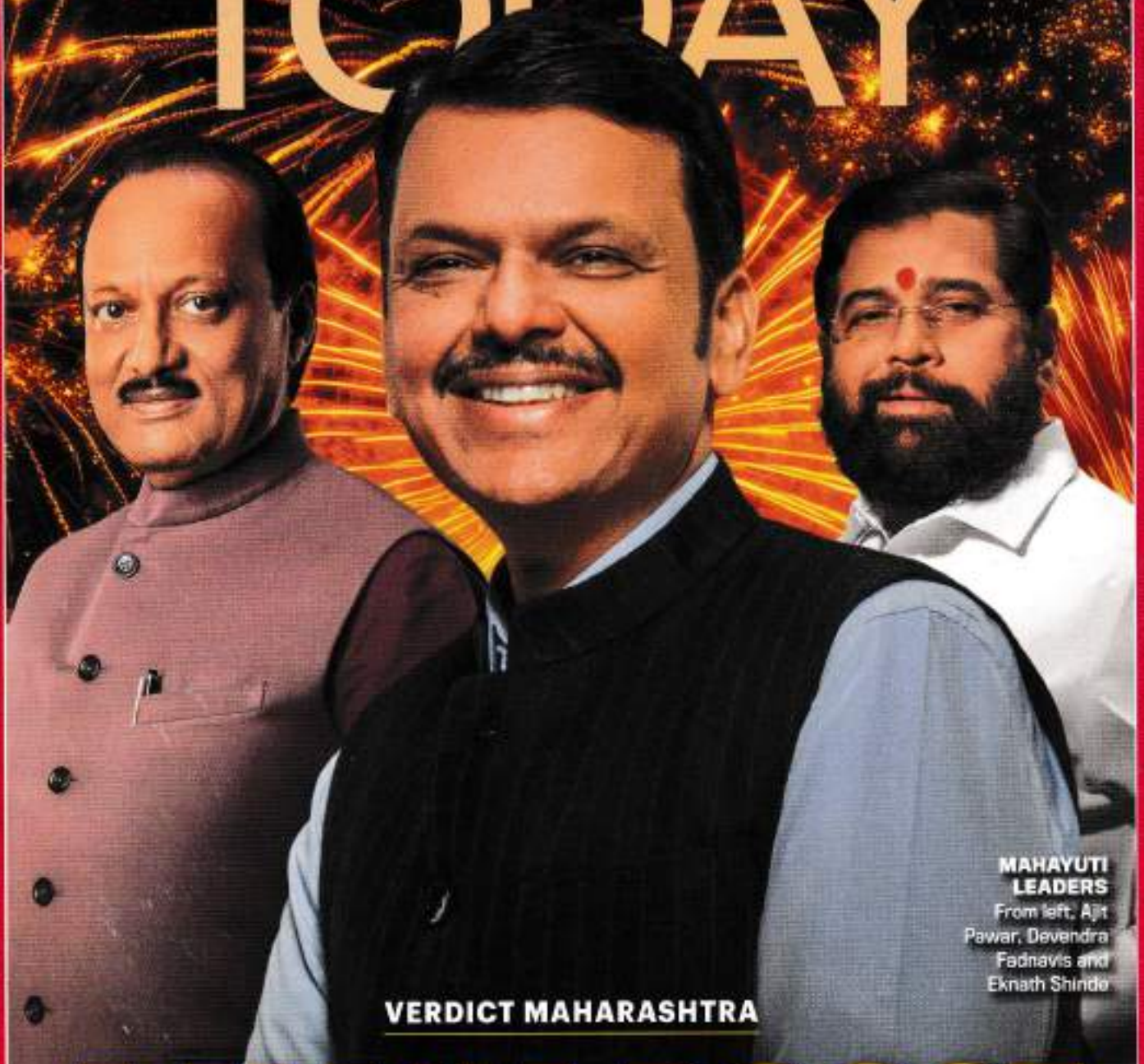
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# INDIA TODAY



**MAHAYUTI  
LEADERS**

From left, Ajit  
Pawar, Devendra  
Fadnis and  
Eknath Shinde

**VERDICT MAHARASHTRA**

# A MAHA BOOST

- A MANDATE FOR MODI 3.0
- MAHAYUTI'S BURDEN OF VICTORY
- BJP: THE NEW PLAYBOOK
- CONGRESS: THAT SHRINKING FEELING

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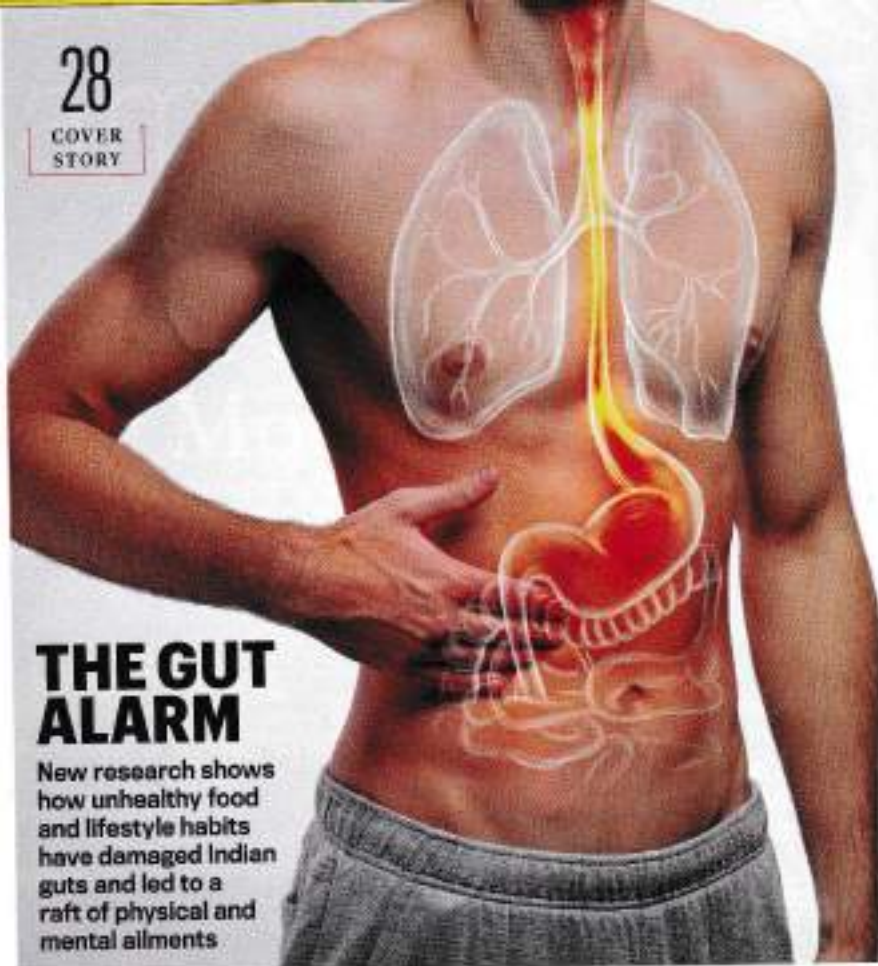
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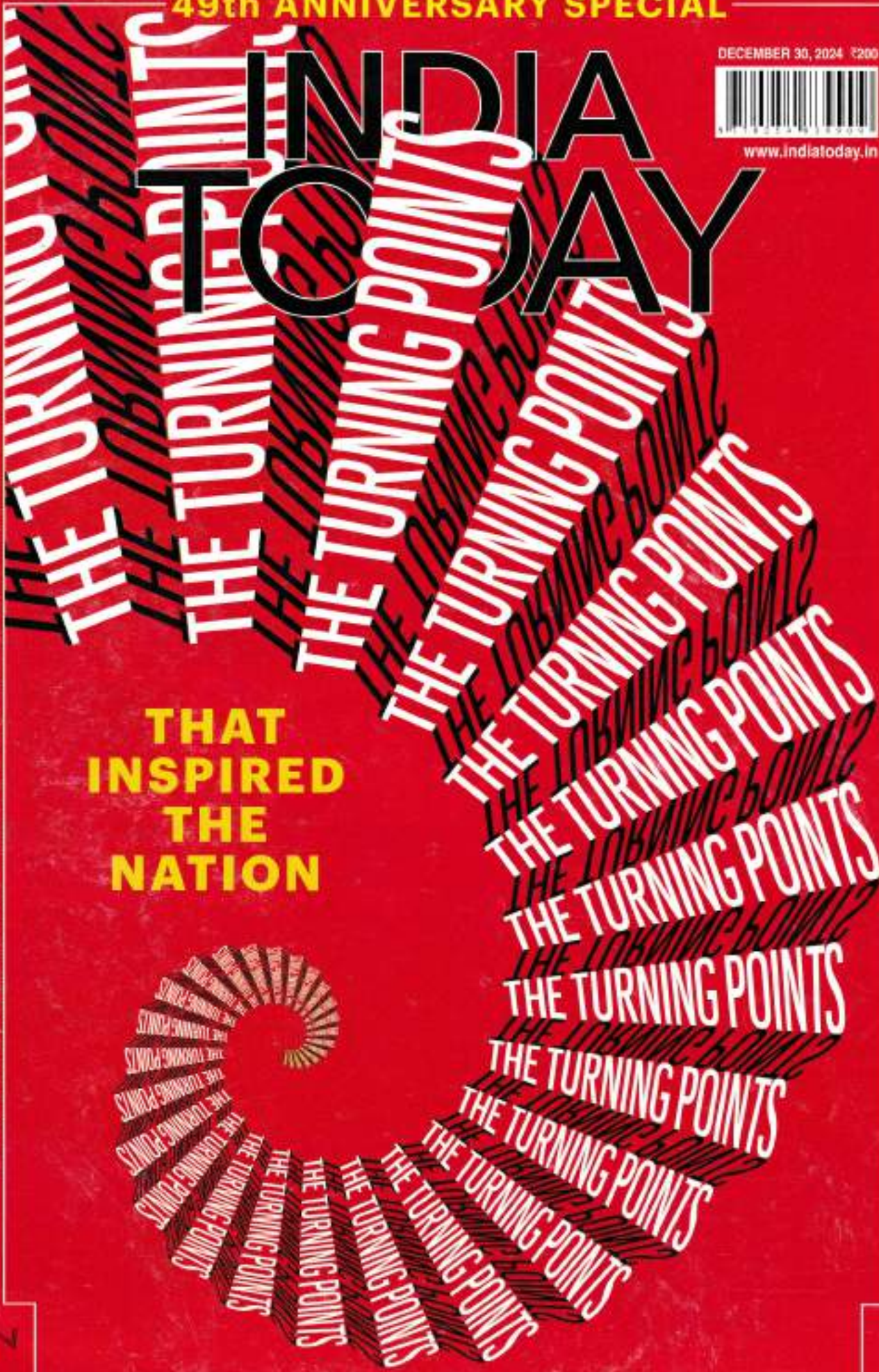
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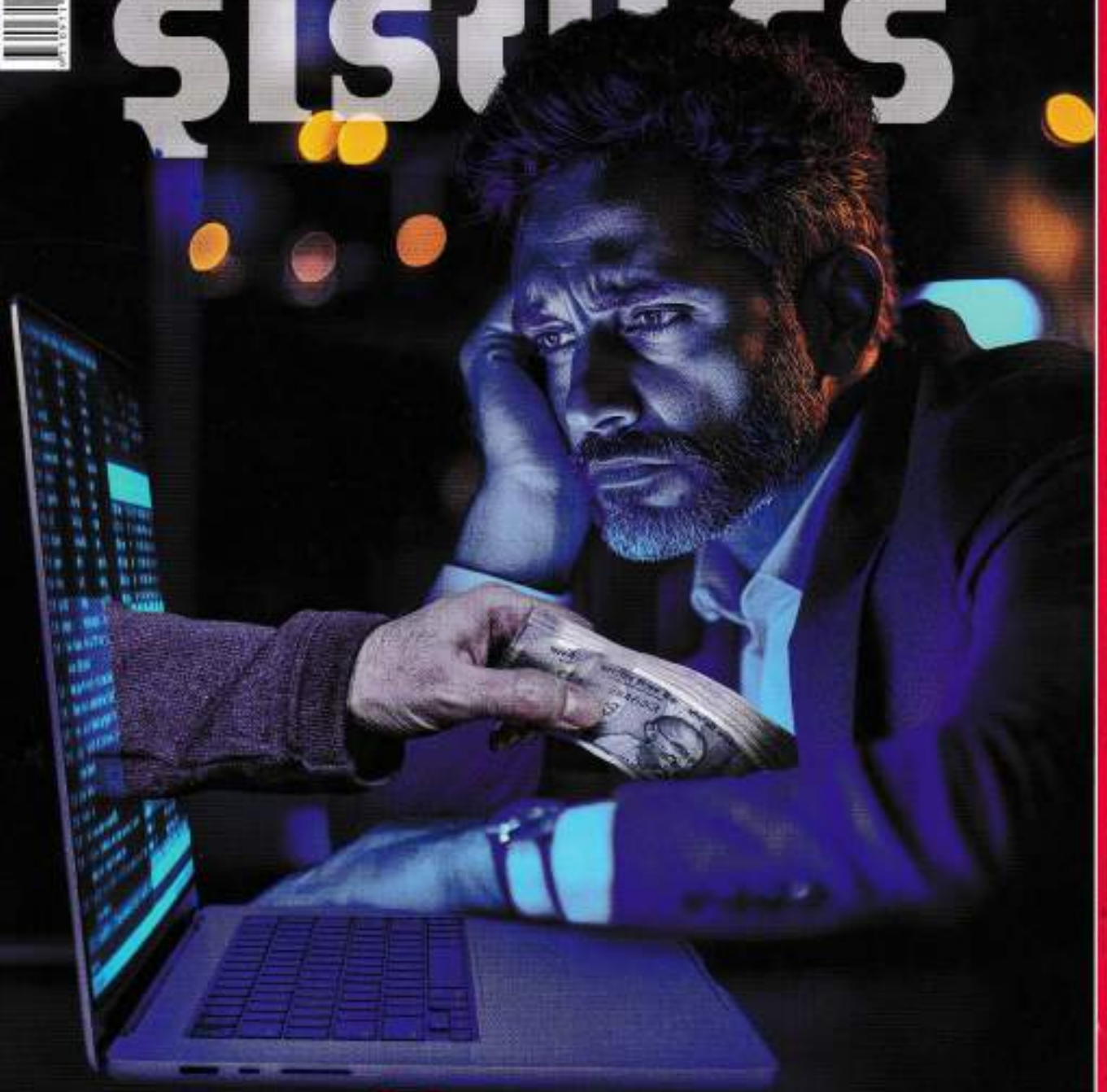
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क्विक कॉमर्स: चट  
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# THE WEEK

**MANU BHAKER**  
DOUBLE OLYMPIC  
BRONZE MEDALLIST

## WOMAN OF THE YEAR

**EXCLUSIVE  
INTERVIEW**

**The Gita can  
help you a lot in  
day-to-day life**

**PLUS**

**INTERVIEW  
JASPAL RANA, COACH  
Dirty politics  
got between us**



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In Ukraine, uncertainty looms large after Russia's aggressive push, Trump's re-election and exhausted soldiers on the frontline

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The killings in Jiribam in Manipur mark a grim milestone in the ongoing ethnic conflict

Interview

**Biren Singh has Amit Shah's support**, says Yumnam Joykumar Singh, former deputy CM and DGP



JAVED PARVESH

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32

A stalled India-Myanmar transit project could soon be revived, with India convincing the Myanmar military and the Arakan Army about its importance



An ageing side and recent humiliation at home have cast a shadow on India's hopes to win its third straight Test series in Australia

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## GOING GREAT GUNS

Manu Bhaker was just 13 when she picked up a gun for the first time, out of curiosity. It took years of dedication and some high-profile failures for her to climb the podium twice at the 2024 Paris Olympics. At 22, THE WEEK's Woman of the Year has only just begun writing her story, which is already biopic fodder and an inspiration to many

COVER DESIGN BINESH SREEDHARAN  
COVER PHOTO SALIL BERA  
MAKEUP GEETA MORYA  
TOP AND TROUSERS VAN HEUSEN  
CARDIGAN TED BAKER



**INTERVIEWS**

**There were times I really wanted to give up,**  
says Bhaker



**Manu has the right to flaunt her medals,**  
says coach Jaspal Rana



**LEISURE**



**FASHION**

**63**

The styling industry has exploded, with stylists being the **bridge** between fashion and celebrities

PHOTO: SALLI BERA, MAKE-UP: GEETA MORVA, COSTUME: TED BAKER

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Anuja Chauhan

Delhi's infrastructure is in such a deplorable state that even the tap water reaching people's homes is not immune to pollution.



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SRI LANKA'S DARING DUO  
ANURA AND HARINI GET GOING

OMAR'S PRIORITIES  
AND BALANCING ACT WITH DELHI

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DELHI'S NIGHTMARE  
POLLUTION IS ALSO  
A LOCALLY CREATED  
PROBLEM

Ms GEE & GEN Z  
ANUJA CHAUHAN AND  
DAUGHTER NAYANTARA  
IN CONVERSATION

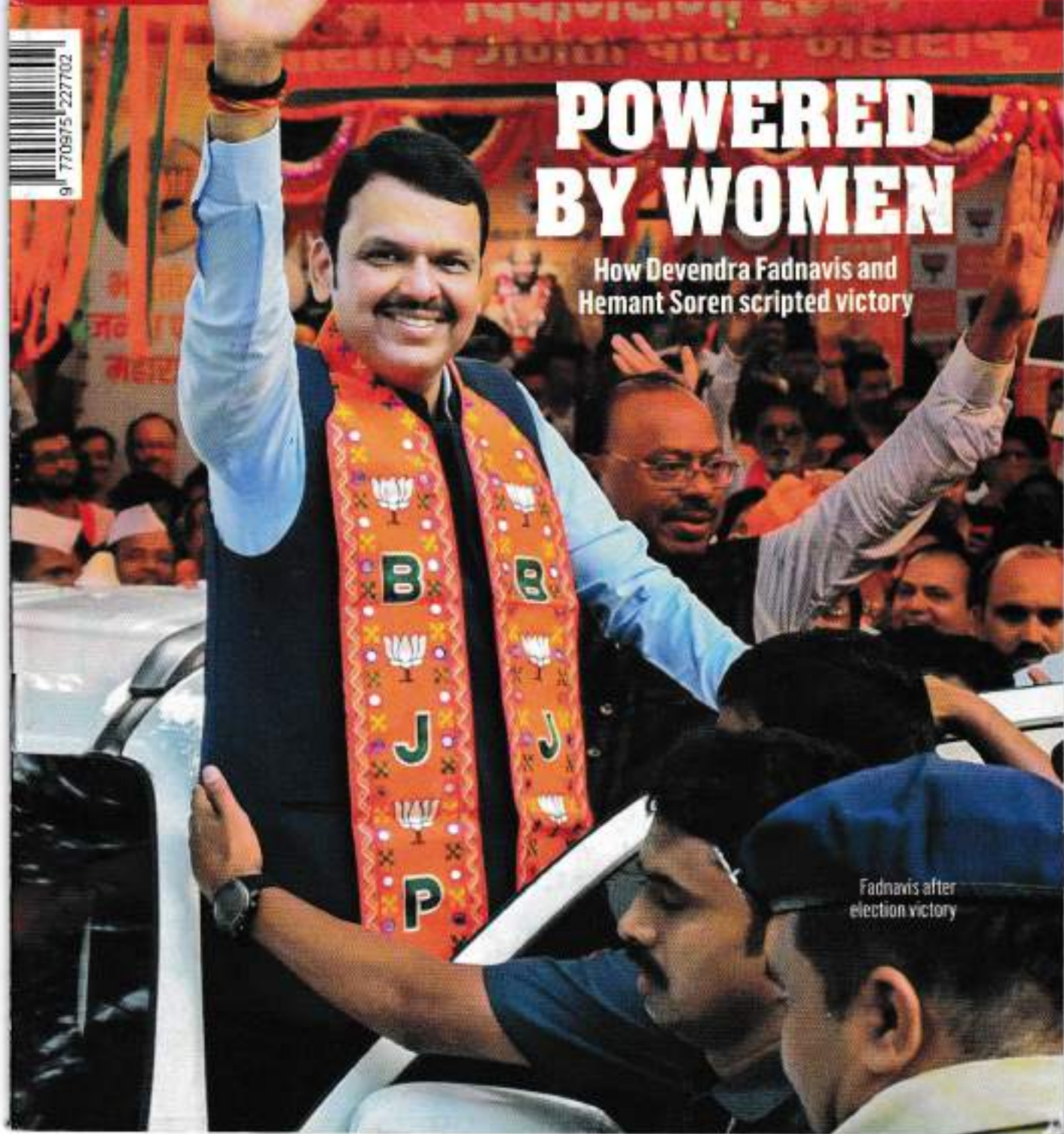
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# THE WEEK



## POWERED BY WOMEN

How Devendra Fadnavis and  
Hemant Soren scripted victory



Fadnavis after  
election victory

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## A WESTERLY SURPRISE

The elections in Maharashtra showcased a masterclass in political strategy, proving that no contest is not winnable with meticulous planning and efficient execution.

Buoyed by this success, the BJP will approach the upcoming elections in Delhi and Bihar with renewed confidence. Jharkhand, meanwhile, was a silver lining for the opposition.

### PLUS

The election has marked the rise of Devendra Fadnavis as arguably the most prominent leader in Maharashtra

The re-election of the BJP-led government in the state is expected to provide a significant boost to infrastructure projects in Mumbai and other parts of the state

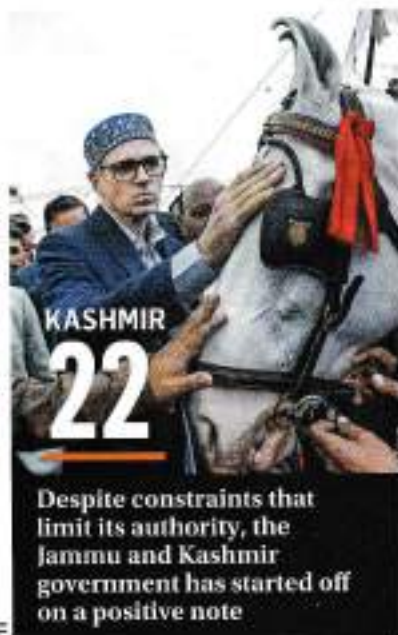
Mahayuti reaped huge electoral dividends from its direct benefit transfer scheme for women

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Despite constraints that limit its authority, the Jammu and Kashmir government has started off on a positive note



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What will it take to clean up Delhi air?



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There is now consensus that Jasprit Bumrah is the world's premier fast bowler

COVER PHOTO VISHNU V. NAIR  
COVER DESIGN BINESH SREEDHARAN

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Namrata Zakaria

**74** LAST WORD

Bajajant Panda



As the second Trump administration takes shape, and as it becomes clearer to what extent its policies will recede from decades of US policy, both domestic and globally, the response by modern liberals worldwide will be a factor worth watching.

MAYHEM IN BANGLADESH  
WHY INDIANS FEAR FOR THEIR LIVES

SOLUTIONS FOR POLLUTED DELHI  
COUPLE LOWERS AQI AT HOME TO 13

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# THE WEEK

BRYAN ADAMS  
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YEARS LATER



THE WEEK-HANSA RESEARCH SURVEY 2024



INDIA'S  
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PLUS

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BEST HOSPITALS

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THE WEEK delves into what's on your doctor's mind. Can you guess their top wish? Safety, especially in the wake of the increasing attacks on health care professionals

### PLUS

- ◆ Precision technology is revolutionising cancer care
- ◆ **Dr Jame Abraham and Dr Madhu Sasidhar** on their time together at the Cleveland Clinic
- ◆ There is a pressing need to marry technology and digital innovation with a deeply human context: **Sindoori Reddy**, director-strategy, Apollo Hospitals
- ◆ Why doctors need to upskill: **Dr Rahul Pandit**, chair, critical care and emergency medicine, Sir H.N. Reliance Foundation Hospital

SHUTTERSTOCK



**ADANI  
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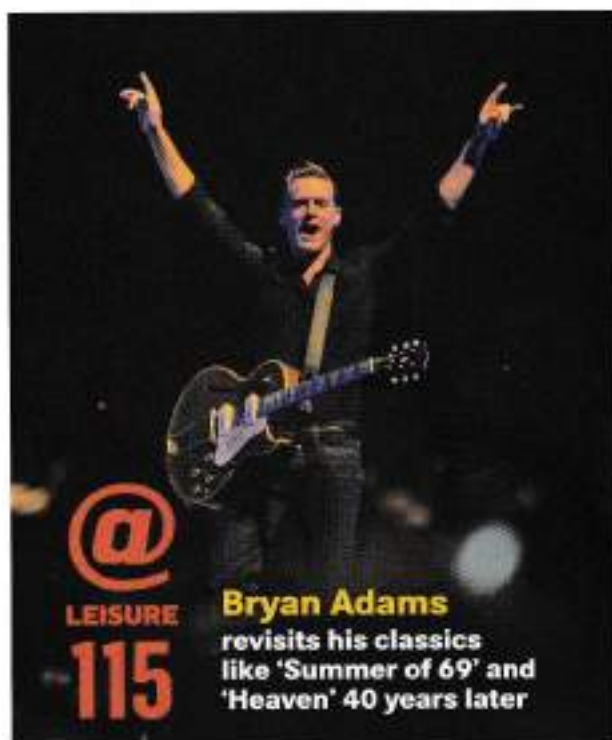
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The US cannot act as the global policeman for other countries' business practices: **Erik Solheim**, Norwegian diplomat

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The mission to gift each other a healthier world has given **Peter Singh**, 80, and wife **Neeno Kaur**, 70, have the best air, the cleanest water and the most nutritious food



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AMEY MANSABDAR

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Kochi-Muziris Biennale has not only enriched Kerala's cultural fabric but also positioned India as a significant player in the global contemporary art scene. **Its contributions continue to inspire and elevate the artistic community, making it a cornerstone of India's cultural identity**

COVER ILLUSTRATION **BINESH SREEDHARAN**

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**RUMBLE AND RAGE OF A REVOLUTION**


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**THE WEEK BEST  
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THE PURSUIT OF  
QUALITY

**WILLIAM DALRYMPLE**  
HOW ANCIENT INDIA  
WOODED THE WORLD

DECEMBER 27, 2014

# THE WEEK

A black and white photograph of two astronauts in full space suits floating in space. One astronaut is at the top, upside down, and the other is at the bottom, also upside down. They are both wearing helmets and carrying equipment. The background is a dark, starry space.

## MAKING OF AN ASTRONAUT

Challenges of living in  
space

—  
Smartly packaged home  
comforts

—  
The complicated return  
journey



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As India gears up for Gaganyaan, THE WEEK interviews a NASA astronaut and a Russian cosmonaut to gain an in-depth perspective on the journey of becoming a space traveller.

### PLUS

- Overcoming the challenges of prolonged space missions: from space sickness to elevated cancer risks
- The advancements in space food technology provide astronauts with a taste of home



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The fallout of alleged atrocities against Hindus and election of Trump as US president have upset Muhammad Yunus's plans

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The evolving dynamics in Syria carry significant implications for the Middle East



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We should not play Pakistan at all: **Mohinder Amarnath**, former cricketer



Mohinder Amarnath (right) with Surinder Amarnath (middle) and co-author Rajender Amarnath

**William Dalrymple's** new book traces ancient India's role in spreading ideas and religions across the world



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**THE WEEK BEST HOSPITALS AWARDS**

No matter how advanced health care becomes, its essence must always lie in its humanity, reiterated the medical fraternity

**TAKEAWAYS**

Hospitals are the places where lives are saved, where hope is restored: **Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka**, Telangana deputy chief minister



Corporate hospitals should show the human touch while treating poor patients: **C. Damodar Raja Narasimha**, Telangana health minister



Like THE WEEK, AIIMS also works with a human touch: **Dr M. Srinivas**, director, AIIMS, Delhi



It is very important that we are quality-driven and process-driven, rather than individual-driven: **Dr Sudarshan Ballal**, chairman, Manipal Hospitals



We maintain consistency through technology and continuous patient engagement: **Dr Santosh Shetty**, CEO, Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital and Medical Research Institute



Know what it is that your body requires: **Aditi Rao Hydari**, actor



Not just about high IQ or talent, it is about grit: **Shalini Saraswathi**, international athlete and blade runner



I emphasise healthy eating; less biryani, more millet-based and vegetarian diets: **C.V. Anand**, police commissioner, Hyderabad



COVER IMAGING: **BINESH BREEDHARAN**

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- 70 **CHIC MAGNET**  
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- 74 **LAST WORD**  
Suresh Narayanan



I certainly applaud our giving Sheikh Hasina refuge and refusing to extradite her. But having done our duty, should we not give the interim authorities in Dhaka the opportunity to settle down and hold elections when they are ready?

ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL DOUBLE ISSUE

RESTAURATEURS WHO CHANGE HOW INDIANS EAT, DRINK

REPORT FROM SYRIA  
HORRORS IN A HOSPITAL

MANI SHANKAR AIYAR  
CONGRESS NO LONGER  
NATURAL PARTY  
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USTAD ZAKIR HUSSAIN  
THE MAESTRO, MY MENTOR:  
RAKESH CHAURASIA

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# HARAPPA

## A NEW LOOK

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As the discovery of the Indus Valley Civilisation marks its centenary, many aspects of this ancient culture remain mysterious, including its script. While the theory of an Aryan invasion disrupting the civilisation has largely been discredited, debates over the ancestry of the Indus people and their contemporary links continue.

### PLUS

- ◆ When archaeologists discovered Harappa 100 years ago, they assumed it represented the polytheistic phase of Indian civilisation: **Devdutt Pattanalk**, mythologist and writer
- ◆ Any attempt to build a singular narrative around India's collective cultural history is fraught with danger: **R. Balakrishnan**, retired bureaucrat and researcher
- ◆ Harappan food was rich in fleshy delights: **Nayanjot Lahiri**, historian, archaeologist and author
- ◆ Pakistan needs to unlock the immense potential of archaeology: **Farzand Masih**, professor and head of department of history & Pakistan studies, Forman Christian College, Lahore



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We should abandon the beaten path for a more progressive approach to naval shipbuilding.

—Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta (retd)

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—Mani Shankar Aiyar

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Innovative entrepreneurs are reshaping the restaurant landscape, ushering in a fundamental transformation in the way Indians eat, drink and celebrate

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As president again, Donald Trump may reduce the nuclear threat from Russia, but increases it from Iran. The US is complicit, the UN toothless, regional Sunni powers, treacherous. Iran's allies are distracted, dismembered or destroyed.

#### ON THE COVER

ARTWORK MADE IN CLAY, MODELLED ON THE ORIGINAL HARAPPAN SEALS.  
BY BINESH SREEDHARAN  
PHOTO BY UJWAL P.P.



SCAN TO WATCH THE MAKING OF THE COVER

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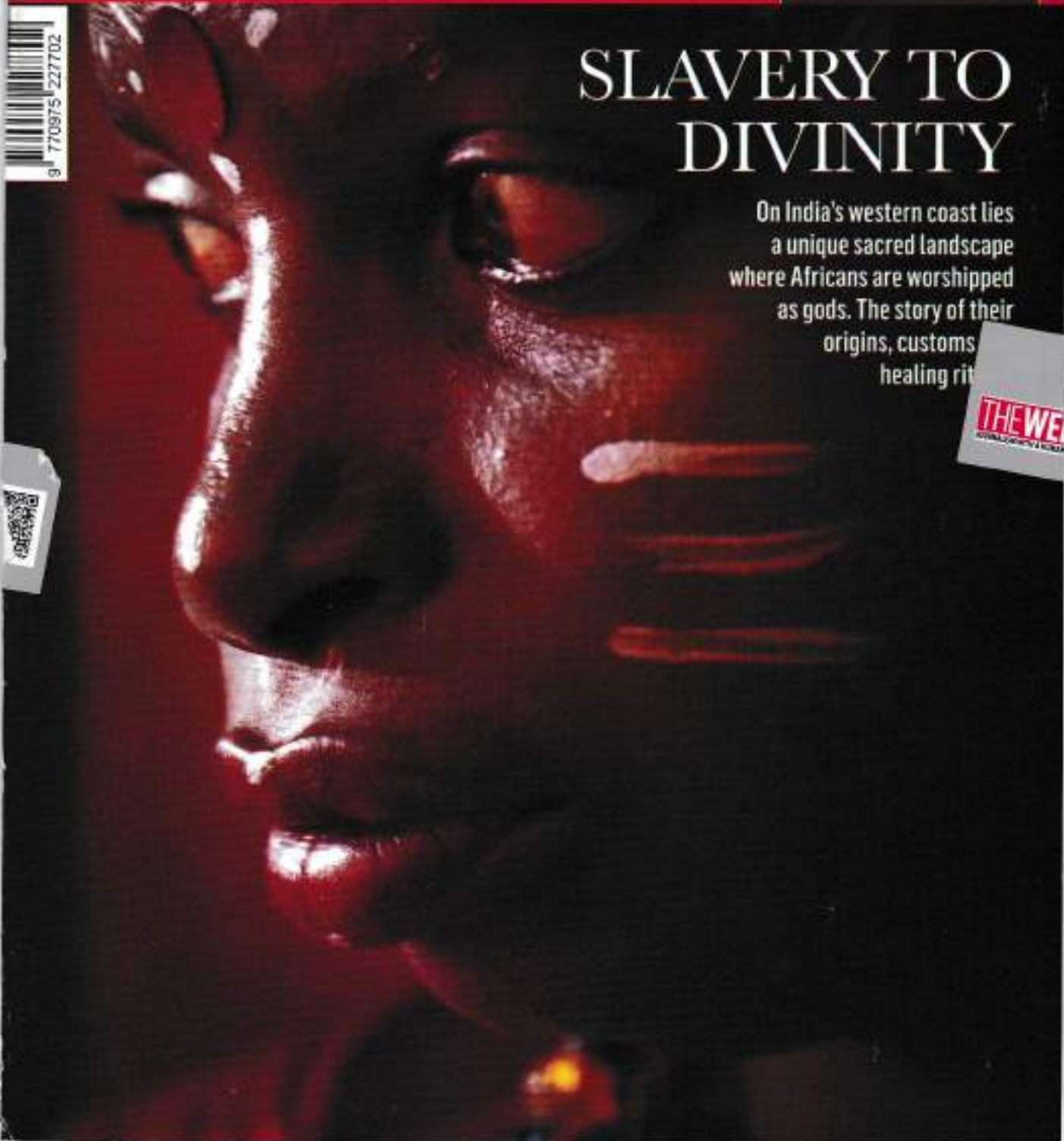
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## SLAVERY TO DIVINITY

On India's western coast lies  
a unique sacred landscape  
where Africans are worshipped  
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THE WEEK  
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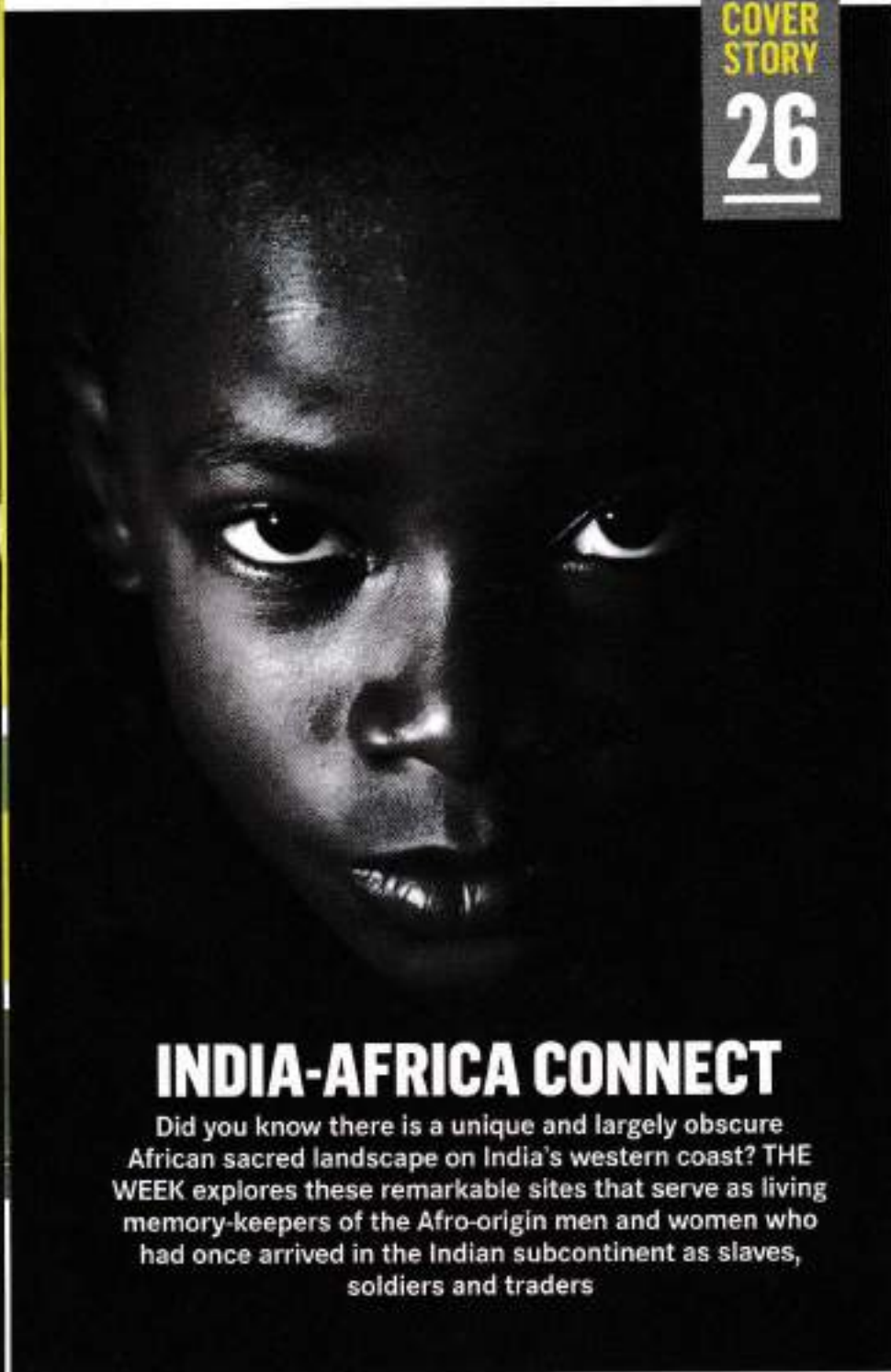


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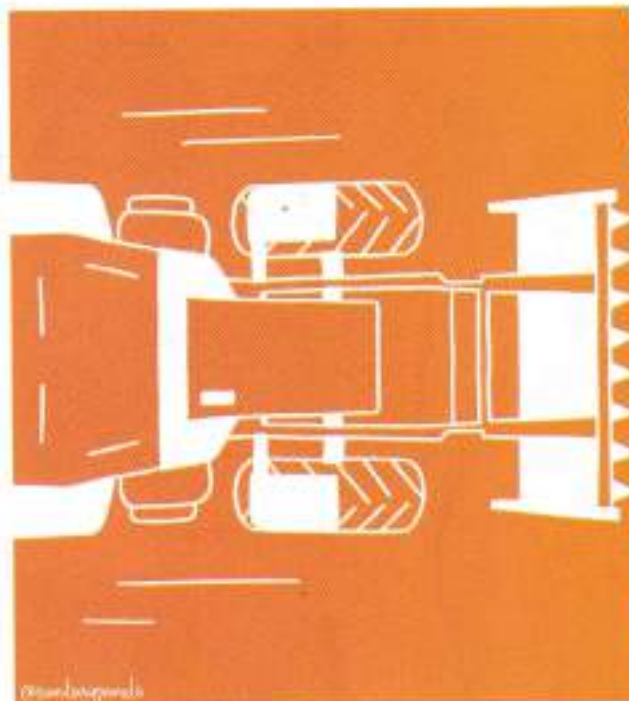


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SALIL BEERA

COVER PHOTO BHANU PRAKASH CHANDRA  
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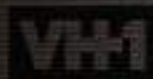


**UDAY SHANKAR**  
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RELIANCE-DISNEY  
MEDIA JV

**NITA AMBANI**  
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**THE  
IMPACT  
OF A  
TRUMP  
PRESIDENCY**

100 TV CHANNELS  
ACROSS GENRES



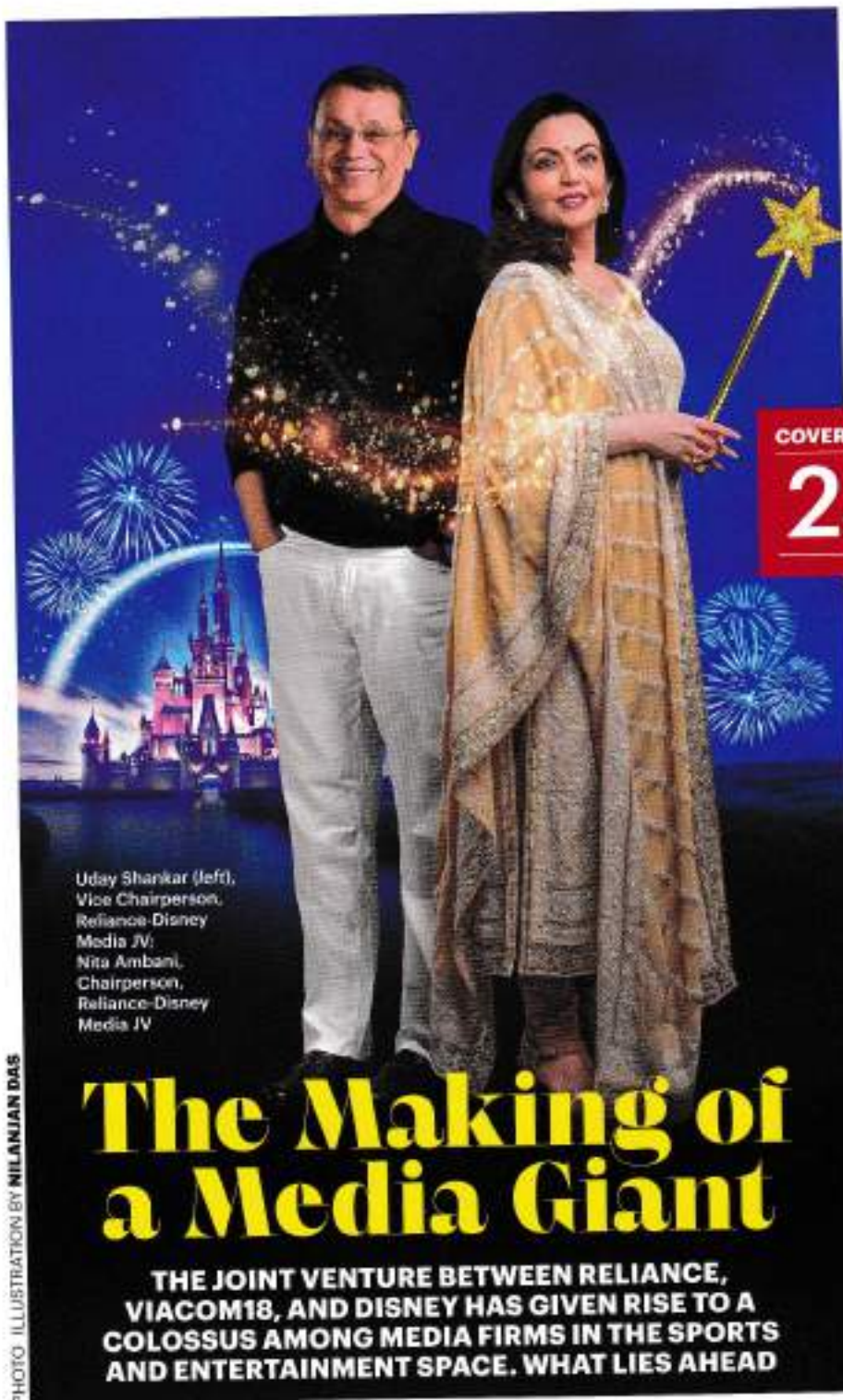
# The Making of a Media Giant

THE JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN RELIANCE, VIACOM18,  
AND DISNEY HAS GIVEN RISE TO A COLOSSUS AMONG MEDIA FIRMS IN  
THE SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT SPACE. WHAT LIES AHEAD

COVER PHOTO: ANAND K. SHARMA/REUTERS; STYLING: ANITA K. SHARMA/REUTERS; HAIR: ANITA K. SHARMA/REUTERS; MAKEUP: ANITA K. SHARMA/REUTERS

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Uday Shankar (left),  
Vice Chairperson,  
Reliance-Disney  
Media JV;  
Nita Ambani,  
Chairperson,  
Reliance-Disney  
Media JV

## The Making of a Media Giant

THE JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN RELIANCE,  
VIACOM18, AND DISNEY HAS GIVEN RISE TO A  
COLOSSUS AMONG MEDIA FIRMS IN THE SPORTS  
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**AMARJEET SINGH NAQI**; UDAY SHANKAR PHOTO BY **MANDAR DEODHAR**;  
NITA AMBANI PHOTO BY **BANDEEP SINGH**

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#### Serving it Hot

India's online food delivery market is set to reach ₹10 lakh crore by 2030. Take a look at the data

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#### The Big Squeeze

The retail inflation rate reached a 14-month high of 6.21%. Check what the data indicates

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#### Guarded Optimism

The BT-C Fore Business Confidence Index edged up to a hit a nine-year high in Q3

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#### Indictment and its Aftermath

An indictment against Gautam Adani and others in the US could hit the group's ambitious expansion plans



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#### "Trump's second stint will be transactional"

Investor and author Ruchir Sharma decodes what Trump's victory in the US means, and what India should do

33RD ANNUAL SPECIAL ISSUE

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# Business Today

December 22, 2024 ₹200

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bt

INDIA  
TODAY  
GROUP



bt 500

**INDIA'S MOST  
VALUABLE COMPANIES**

CLOCKWISE FROM FRONT ROW • **MUKESH AMBANI**, CHAIRMAN & MD, RELIANCE INDUSTRIES LTD  
• **SUNIL BHARTI MITTAL**, FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN, BHARTI ENTERPRISES • **SANDEEP BAKHSI**, MD & CEO,  
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• **N. CHANDRASEKARAN**, CHAIRMAN, TATA SONS

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ILLUSTRATION BY RAJ VERMA

COVER 1 BY NILANJAN DAS; PHOTOS OF MUKESH AMBANI, SUNIL BHARTI MITTAL BY BANDEEP SINGH; SANDEEP BAKSHI, SANJIV PURI, SASHIDHAR JAGDISHAN, AND N. CHANDRASEKARAN BY HARDIK CHHABRA; SALIL PAREKH BY SUDHIR DAMER

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### On a Strong Footing

The cumulative average m-cap of firms on the BT500 list surged by ₹102 lakh crore



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For the latest updates and analysis, log on to [businesstoday.in](https://www.businesstoday.in)



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Once dismissed as a risky bet, Zomato has defied expectations, and the new-age tech company has stormed into the Top 50 on the BT500 list



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### "For Ratan Tata, it was always nation first"

Thomas Matthew, former IAS officer, on his new biography of Ratan Tata, the late Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons

## FOCUS / an IMPACT Feature

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# FRONTLINE

DECEMBER 13, 2024 • LEADING THE DEBATE SINCE 1984 • WWW.FRONTLINE.THEHINDU.COM • ₹ 125

**Fresh bout of  
violence erupts in  
Manipur**

CONFLICT ▶ PAGE 33

**Secular socialists and  
Hindu nationalists... Israel's  
all-weather friends**

HISTORY ▶ PAGE 69

A close-up photograph of a cannabis plant with a gloved hand touching it. The plant is green with serrated leaves and a central stalk covered in small, light-colored flowers. A hand wearing a blue nitrile glove is visible, with the index finger pointing towards the plant. The background is blurred, showing more of the plant and some greenery.

## POISON OR PANACEA?

The chorus demanding decriminalisation of cannabis grows louder, with Himachal Pradesh passing a resolution to legalise its cultivation for medicinal use





## COVER STORY

# It's high time

10/ Despite its religious and cultural significance, and a tradition dating back to ancient times, cannabis continues to be vilified. In step with many other nations, perhaps we should revisit the taboos around the plant, recast its role as an intoxicant, healer, sacred offering, and many more, and present it as one of our cultural gifts to the world.

## RELATED STORIES

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**The US indictment  
of the Adams**

CONTROVERSY • 48

**Deconstructing  
Tulsi Gabbard**

WORLD AFFAIRS • 69

## HAS THE WOMAN VOTER ARRIVED?

More women are coming out to vote and more cash schemes are being offered by political parties. But does this translate into empowerment?



## COVER STORY

## The Mahila Mandate

10/ Incumbent governments have had a big electoral pay-off with their women-specific schemes. Although women seem to prioritise practical benefits over ideology, it remains unclear whether they vote as a unified bloc or along traditional caste and community lines.

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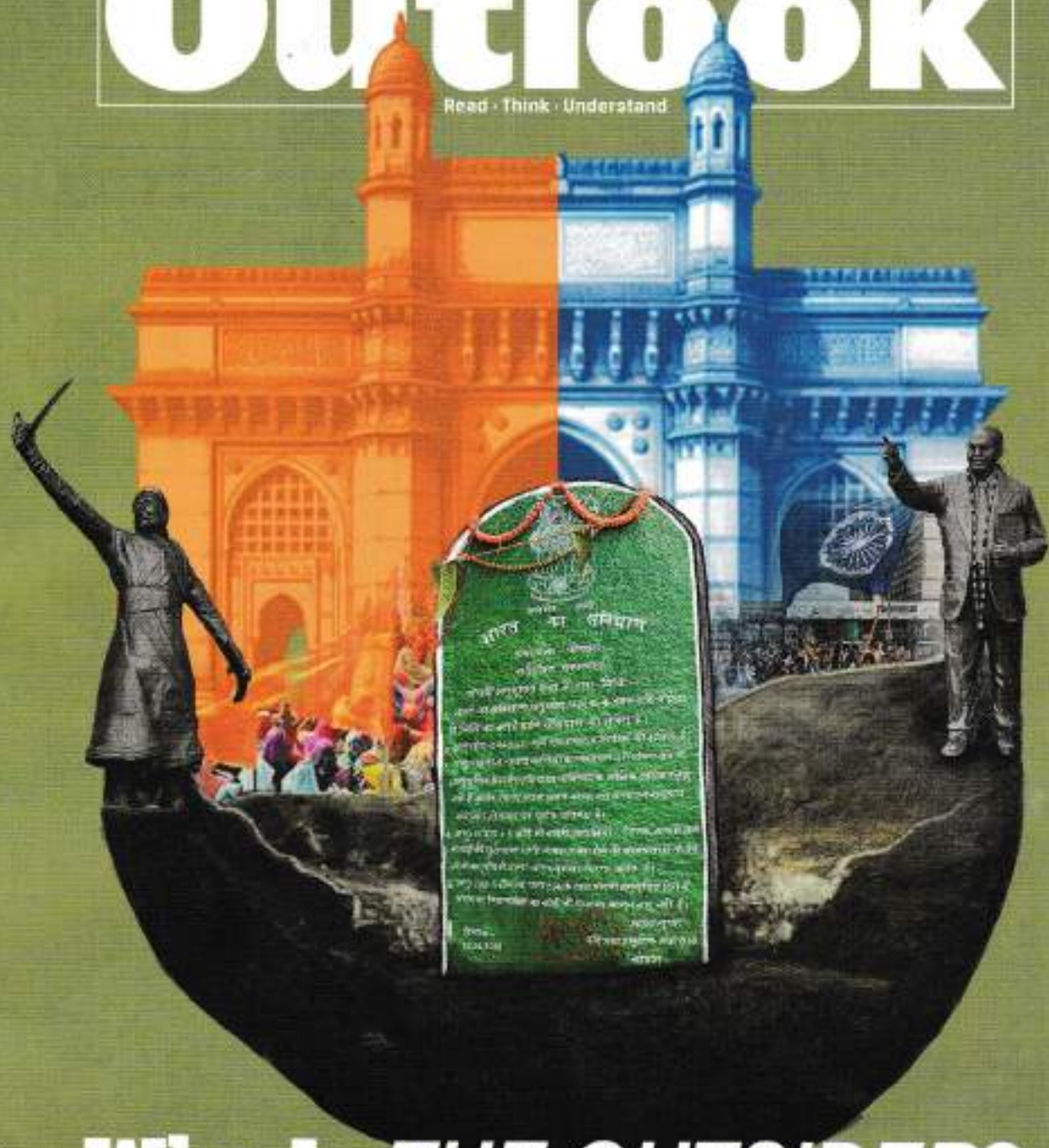
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# Outlook

Read · Think · Understand



## Who Is *THE OUTSIDER*?

One theme connects the recent elections in the United States to those in Maharashtra and Jharkhand—the rise of ultra-nationalism

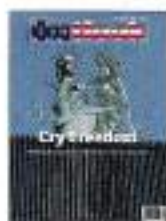
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The fragmented  
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Shashi Tharoor's book is a logophile's candy  
shop, full of fun, surprises and insights

COVER: Illustration by Vikas Thakur; Photograph by Anupam Prashant Minz

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# Outlook

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Understand

## मुंबई - नई दिल्ली - मुंबई MUMBAI - NEW DELHI - MUMBAI

One burns, the other drowns. One is history, the other now. One stalks, the other is stocks. One is circular, the other narrow. One is Sweety, the other Sandra. The old Delhi-Mumbai debate, again

Art collector and socialite Shalini Passi,  
who features in *Fabulous Lives vs Bollywood Wives* on Netflix

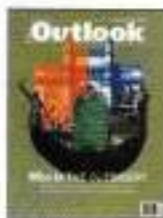


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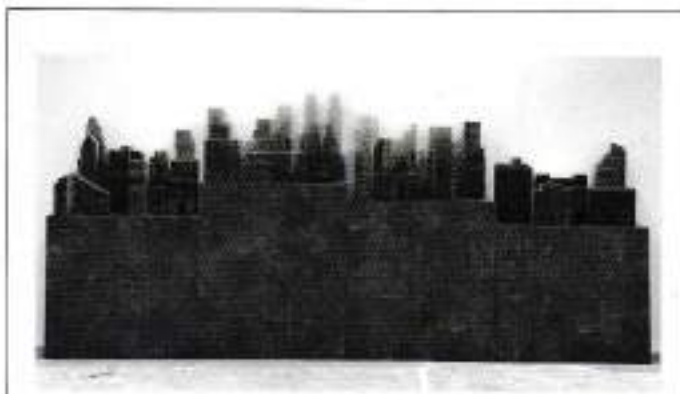
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**ON THE COVER:** 'Expansion Exposition', 2023;  
staple pins installation by **Pooja Iranna**

The artist creates manmade structures, talking of human beings, their presence, expressions, mind and emotions, without their physical existence. She often uses staple pins as a medium of expression to talk about cities growing towards the urban way of life, leaving cultural identities aside and enhancing as well as accepting a uniform identity.

Her work helps in experiencing pervasive changes in the topography of urban land globally, triggering a bond which looks almost clone-like. It draws our attention towards the rising attractive skyline, and at the same time, the ever-increasing desire for consumption.

**SHALINI PASSI'S OUTFIT:** Rajesh Pratap Singh (Inspired by Delhi-based artist Mithu Sen's artworks)

**COVER PHOTOGRAPH:** Vikram Sharma

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#### 70 | BJP TRUMPS THACKERAY'S SENA

The tables have turned on the original harbingers of communal politics in Maharashtra

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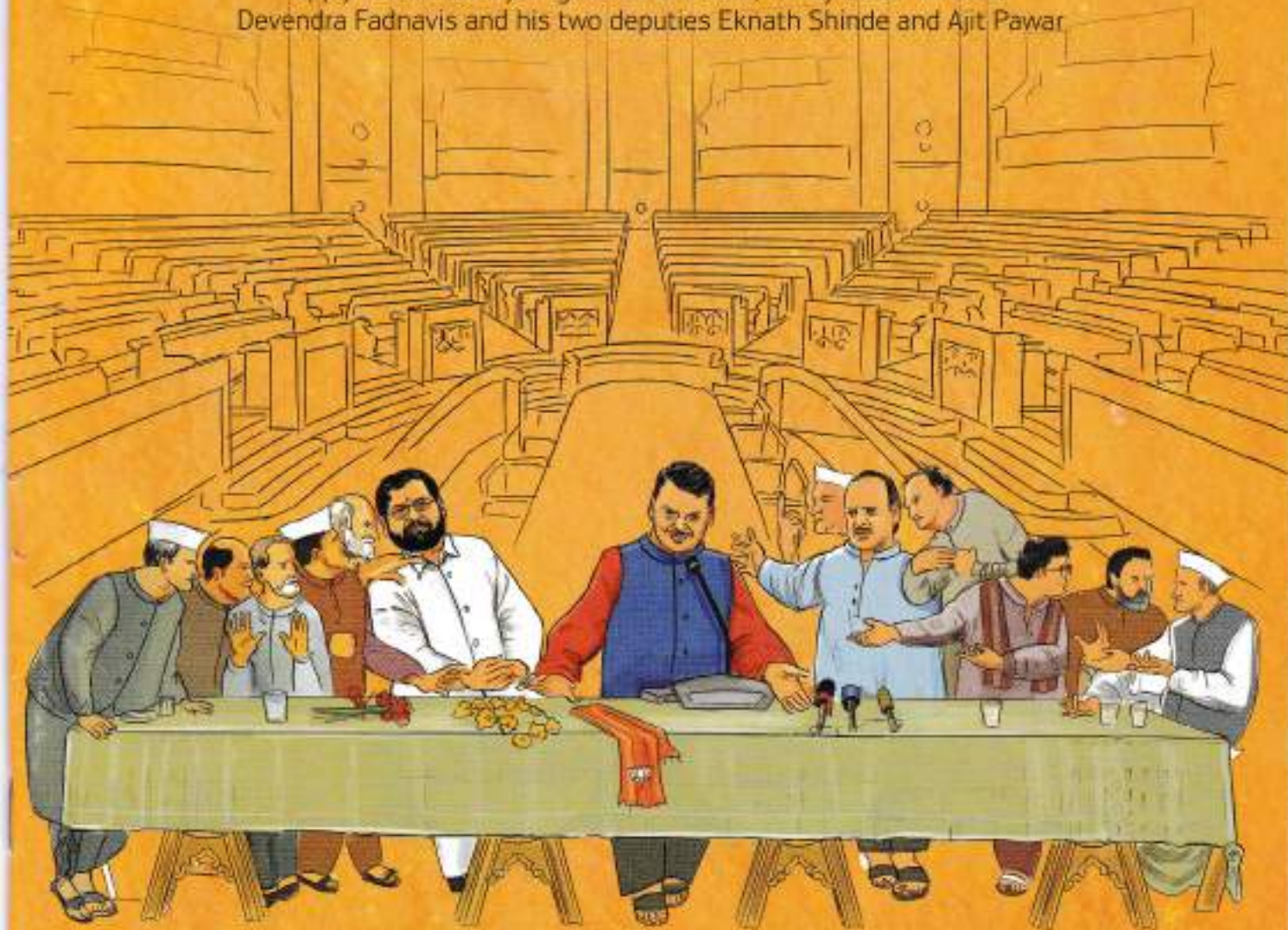


# Outlook

Read - Think - Understand

## An Uneasy Communion

The BJP's poll slogan *Ek Hain Toh Safe Hain* in Maharashtra may well apply to the Mahayuti government now, led by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and his two deputies Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar



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## RIVALRY RENEWED

A spot in the World Test Championship final hangs in balance as Rohit's men travel Down Under





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Highlights and intriguing moments from the fifth round of fixtures



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#### Border-Gavaskar Trophy

Irrespective of which way this five-test series swings, it will be the final one for many stalwarts across both teams

Cover: Pat Cummins & Rohit Sharma (Getty Images)

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Poster: Indian women's hockey team (R. V. Moorthy); Pages 43-50

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POSTER

RAFAEL NADAL

PHOTOLINE

India tames  
the Aussies  
in Perth



## DESI GAME, GLOBAL FAME

A decade into PKL, Indian kabaddi players are benefiting from a flourishing ecosystem



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**RAFAEL NADAL EXEMPLIFIED THE GREEK PHILOSOPHER HERACLITUS'S APHORISM – 'CHARACTER IS DESTINY'.**

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Poster: Rafael Nadal (Getty Images); Pages 43-50

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**Cover Story**  
**Pro Kabaddi League**

Stakeholders weigh in on the evolution and impact of PKL that has changed the face of kabaddi forever.

Cover Image (From left: Arjun Deshwal, Fazel Atrachal, Bholaraj Mazandani, Mohit Goyal and Sunil Kumar): **Shashi Shekhar Kashyap**

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# Reader's Digest

DECEMBER 2024

₹125



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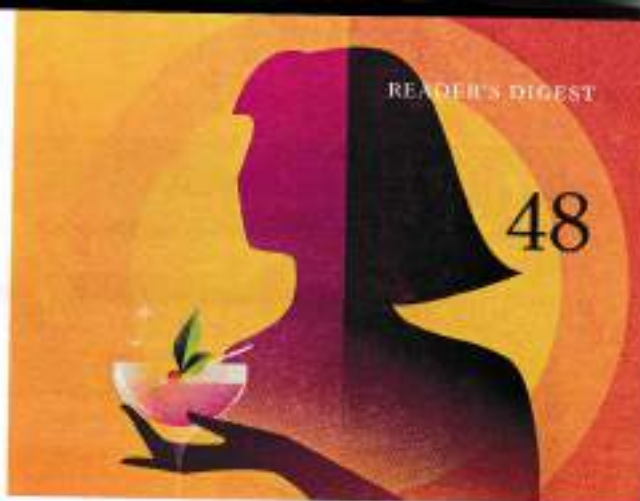
#### Buried in a Snow Tomb

The snowboarder fell headfirst into six feet of powder. Could a chance meeting change his fate?

BY TOM HALLMAN JR

OTHER PAGE ILLUSTRATIONS BY TSUCHI DABRINHO

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