

The Economist

Why China is the new OPEC

Taking Taiwan's democracy hostage

Silicon Valley's philanthropy

In praise of designer(-ish) babies

AUGUST 15TH-21ST 2026

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A REPORT ON
FIVE YEARS OF
TALIBAN RULE



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to take part in a never-ending contest between
intelligence, which presses forward,
and an ancestry, which ignorance
obstructing our progress."

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Leviathan bound: a British parable

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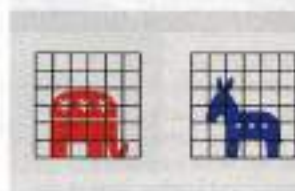
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THE TATA
TRANSITION

PRIVATE HOSPITAL BOOM

THE STORY BEHIND THE RISE OF THE DOCTORPRENEURS AND WHY
INVESTORS CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF INDIA'S HEALTHCARE PIE

- (CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT) • **ABHAY SOI** CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR, MAX HEALTHCARE
• **DR. RANJAN PAI** CHAIRMAN, MANIPAL EDUCATION AND MEDICAL GROUP
• **DR. ASHUTOSH RAGHUVANSHI** MANAGING DIRECTOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, FORTIS HEALTHCARE
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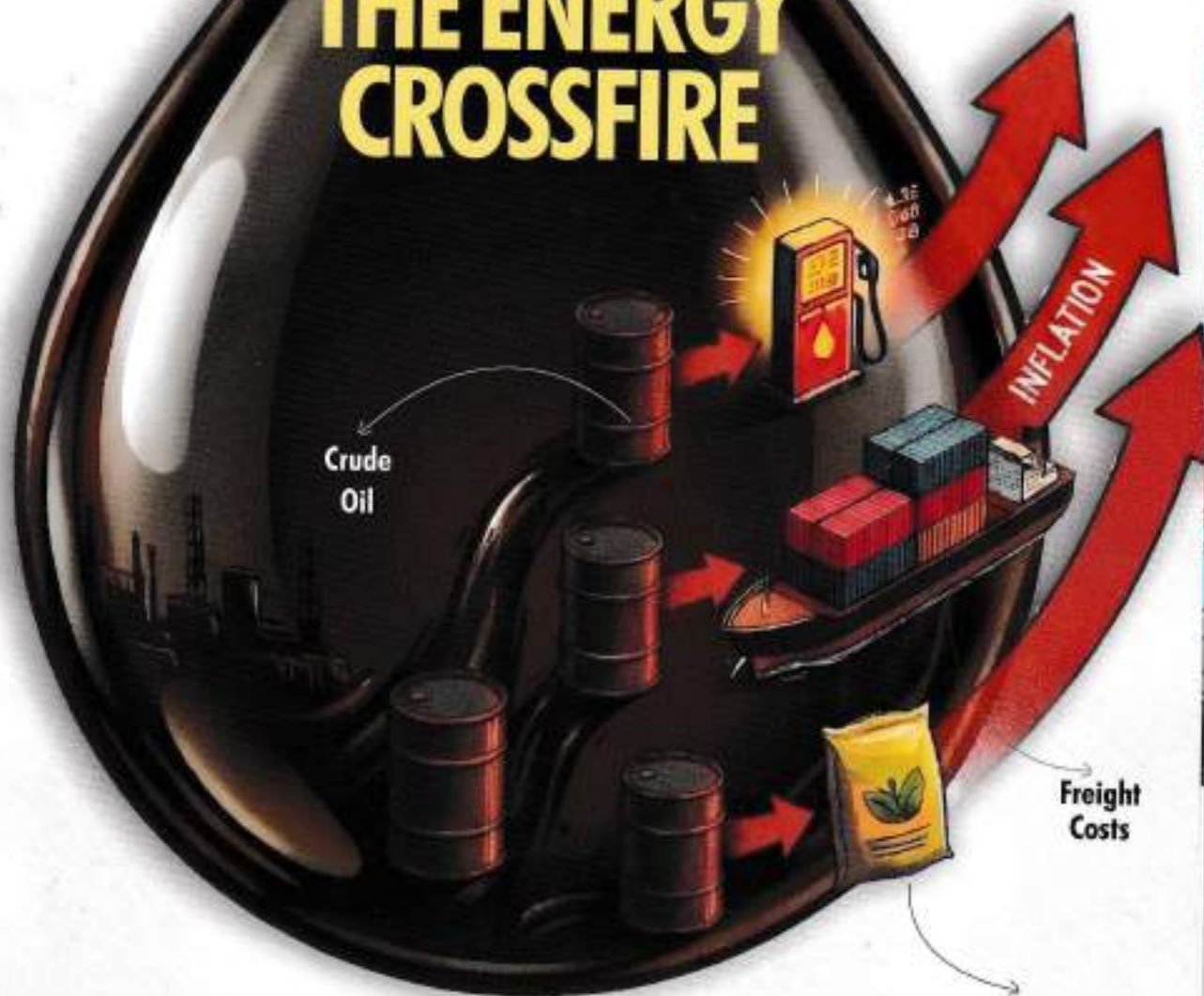
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CEOs



Resilient leadership turns market turbulence into sustained growth and profitability, revealing the true value of exceptional corporate stewardship



From top (L-R): Ramesh Gopalani, Sagility India; Jinal Mehta, Torrent Power; Shenu Agarwal, Ashok Leyland; Anil Sarbani, Adani Energy Solutions; Pavitra Shankar, BRIGADE Enterprises; Atul B Lal, Dixon Technologies; Puneet Chhatwal, IICL; Visha Padalkar, HDFC Life; Ajay Biji, PVR Inox

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Startup Bankin
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Zero Balance
Current Account
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INDEPENDENCE DAY SPECIAL

JOURNALISM WITH A HUMAN TOUCH

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THEWEEK

AUGUST 23, 2016

**FREEDOM FROM
CYBER CHEATS**

HOW TO STOP MULE BANK
ACCOUNTS & FAKE SIMS

MADE IN INDIA

PASSENGER PLANE

HOW CLOSE TO TAKE-OFF?



GREAT ESCAPE FROM SLAVERY

Stories of brutal bondage
and hard survival:
**freedom is still far away
for many families**



Santosh Rishidev, who lost his arm as a
bonded child labourer in Haryana

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COVER
STORY

INDIA'S HIDDEN SLAVES

Half a century after we outlawed bonded labour, the practice continues in factories, workshops and brick kilns. **THE WEEK** ventures into the hinterlands to uncover the hidden realities of modern-day slavery. Bonded labour exists where old hierarchies endure, and it ceases only when those hierarchies begin to rupture.

INTERVIEW

"Investigating bonded labour is not like investigating an ordinary crime."

—P.M. Nair, adviser, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, and former IPS officer

GRAPHICS

As per government data, between 1978 and March 2025, more than three lakh bonded labourers were identified and rescued



BHANU PRAKASH CHANDRA

People who worked as bonded labourers at a brick kiln, at Sarvodayapuri, Gaya district, Bihar, with proformas for release certificate

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EVENT

At THE WEEK Metabolic Health Summit in Mumbai, doctors and policymakers call for a shift from treating diabetes and obesity to preventing them early with better nutrition, stronger public-health systems and affordable access to care



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India can send rockets to the moon, but cannot make aeroplanes. Now, it wants to change that



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CYBER CRIME

A financial cyber crime study brings out gaps in system and makes 52 specific recommendations



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Kate Middleton may be admired as a royal, but she is loved because she feels like one of us



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Shashi Tharoor



India's heritage of diversity means that in the Kolkata neighbourhood where I lived

during my high school years, the wail of the muezzin calling the Islamic faithful to prayer routinely blended with the chant of mantras and the tinkling of bells at the local Shiva temple, accompanied by the Sikh gurdwara's reading of verses from the Guru Granth Sahib, with St. Paul's Cathedral just around the corner.

The Congress MP reflects on India's pluralism as he signs off with his final column

COVER DESIGN: BINESH SREEDHARAN; COVER PHOTO: BHANU PRAKASH CHANDRA

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* Focus/Infocus features are paid marketing/PR initiatives

**TATA PREPARES FOR CHANGE
NEW LEADER NEEDS MORE FUNDS**

**BANGLADESH ENVOY
WHY NO WARMTH WITH INDIA**

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**AMISH'S NEW BOOK
MAKING HISTORY COOL
FOR KIDS**

**DATING TRENDS
THE AGE OF
'MICRO-MANCE',
'GHOSTLIGHTING'
AND 'SOFT LAUNCH'**

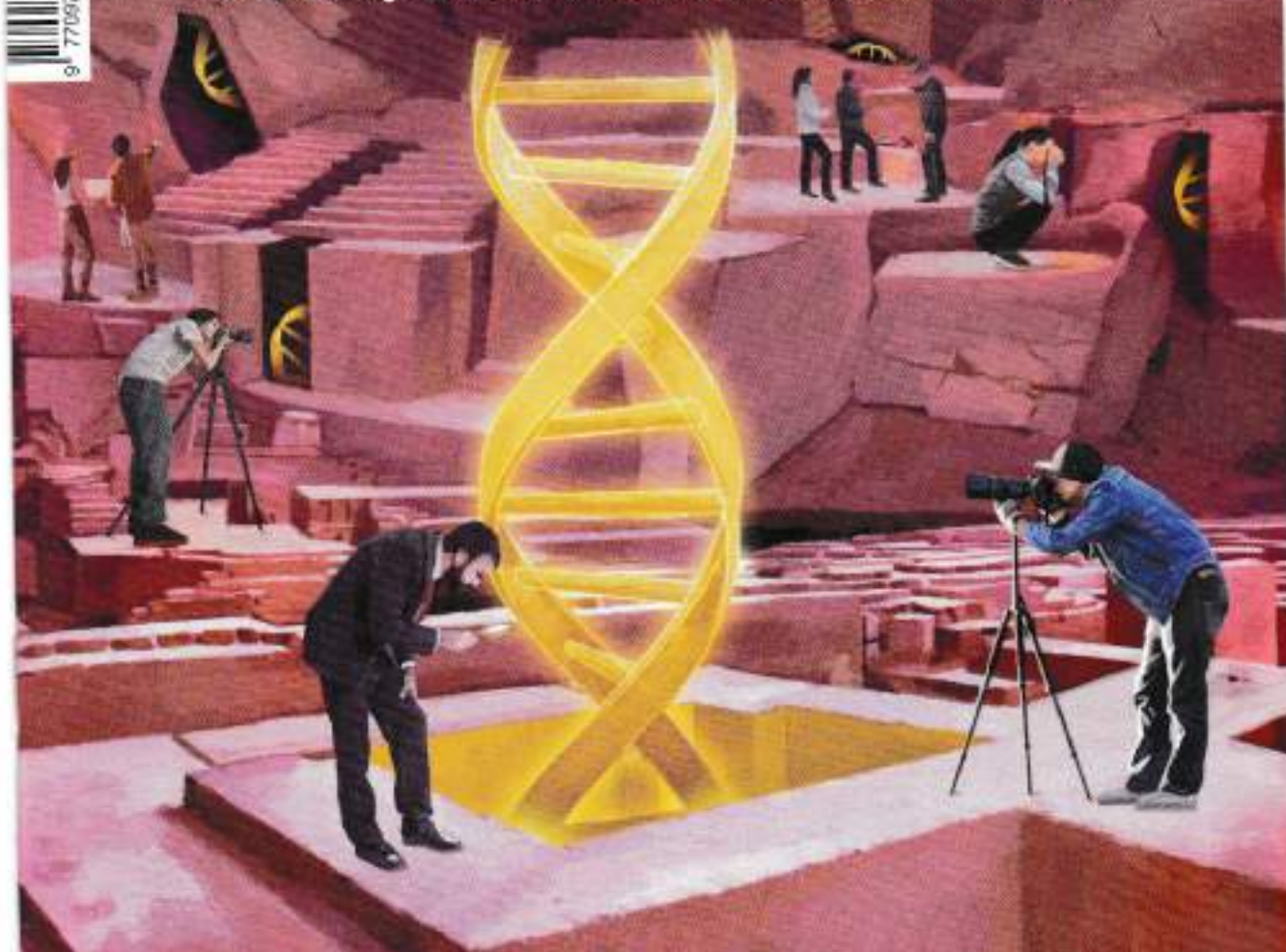
AUGUST 30, 2025

THE WEEK



DNA HUNTERS

How Indian scientists are using ancient DNA to trace our origins, explain disease risk and challenge what we thought we knew about caste, diet and migration



What did a bone in Goa reveal about a Georgian queen and saint? :: When did Roopkund fill with hundreds of skeletons? :: Are Brahmins genetically distinct from dalits? :: Should Indians drink milk? :: Why do youth suffer heart attacks?

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DIGGING UP OUR DNA

Indian scientists are using ancient DNA to trace our origins, unravel disease risk and challenge what we thought we knew about caste, diet and migration

INTERVIEWS

"Genetics can detect long-term endogamy."

—**Kumaraswamy Thangaraj**,
CSIR Bhatnagar Fellow, Centre
for Cellular & Molecular Biology,
Hyderabad

"If people continue to marry within their communities, genetic screening becomes even more important."

—**Niraj Rai**, group head, Ancient
DNA Laboratory, Birbal Sahni
Institute of Palaeosciences,
Lucknow

"We have not found the Genghis Khan Y chromosome in India."

—**Gyaneshwer Chaubey**,
professor, Gyan Lab, Cytogenetics
Unit, department of Zoology,
Banaras Hindu University

"Indian populations mixed relatively recently."

—**Priya Moorjani**, University of
California, Berkeley



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India supports devolution of power in Sri Lanka, but in private sets boundaries around Tamil political demands



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"Societal reflection shapes, and sometimes even dictates, the state of affairs in politics."

—M. Riaz Hamidullah,
Bangladesh's High
Commissioner to India



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CJP

Its strongest weapon is its knowledge of law



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India is seeing a major crackdown on food safety and standards violations. But why does the end of the tunnel still seem so distant?



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"Those who do not abide by law cannot do business"

—Tukaram
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What the explosion of dating terms reveals about modern relationships

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"History never repeats itself exactly, but it certainly rhymes"

—Amish, author



KRISHNA NAIK

COVER ILLUSTRATION BINESH SREEDHARAN

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"It is one of the least celebrated regions of the brain, tucked away on the inner surface of the frontal lobe. Most people have never heard of it, yet it performs one of the most remarkable tasks in human biology. It is where intention becomes action."

on the supplementary motor area

स्वाधीनता दिवस विशेषांक

26 जनार, 2026

75 रुपए



संझा सरे



(उपचयन ऊपर बाएँ से क्रमशः)
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वशिता विस, वीरु पादय,
अनारुत सिंह, यामिनी रेड्डी
और देवाफी लामारे (रेबल)

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100-45000

Defence: Booming Indian Arms Exports

BJP: REVAMPING THE PARTY

SPORTS: THE DESI SURFING WAVE

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INDIA TODAY



CJP national convener
Abhijeet Dipke (front)
with co-convener
Saurav Das (in black)
and Ashutosh Ranka

COCKROACH JANTA PARTY

CAN THEY MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

THE CJP EXPANDS ITS AGENDA AND OUTREACH, BUT CHALLENGES REMAIN BEFORE IT CAN EMERGE AS A MAJOR POLITICAL FORCE

ATImago

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UPFRONT: TATA SONS' SEARCH FOR A SUCCESSOR PG 71



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whose achievements can serve as a template for women
across India and a beacon of hope for the nation.

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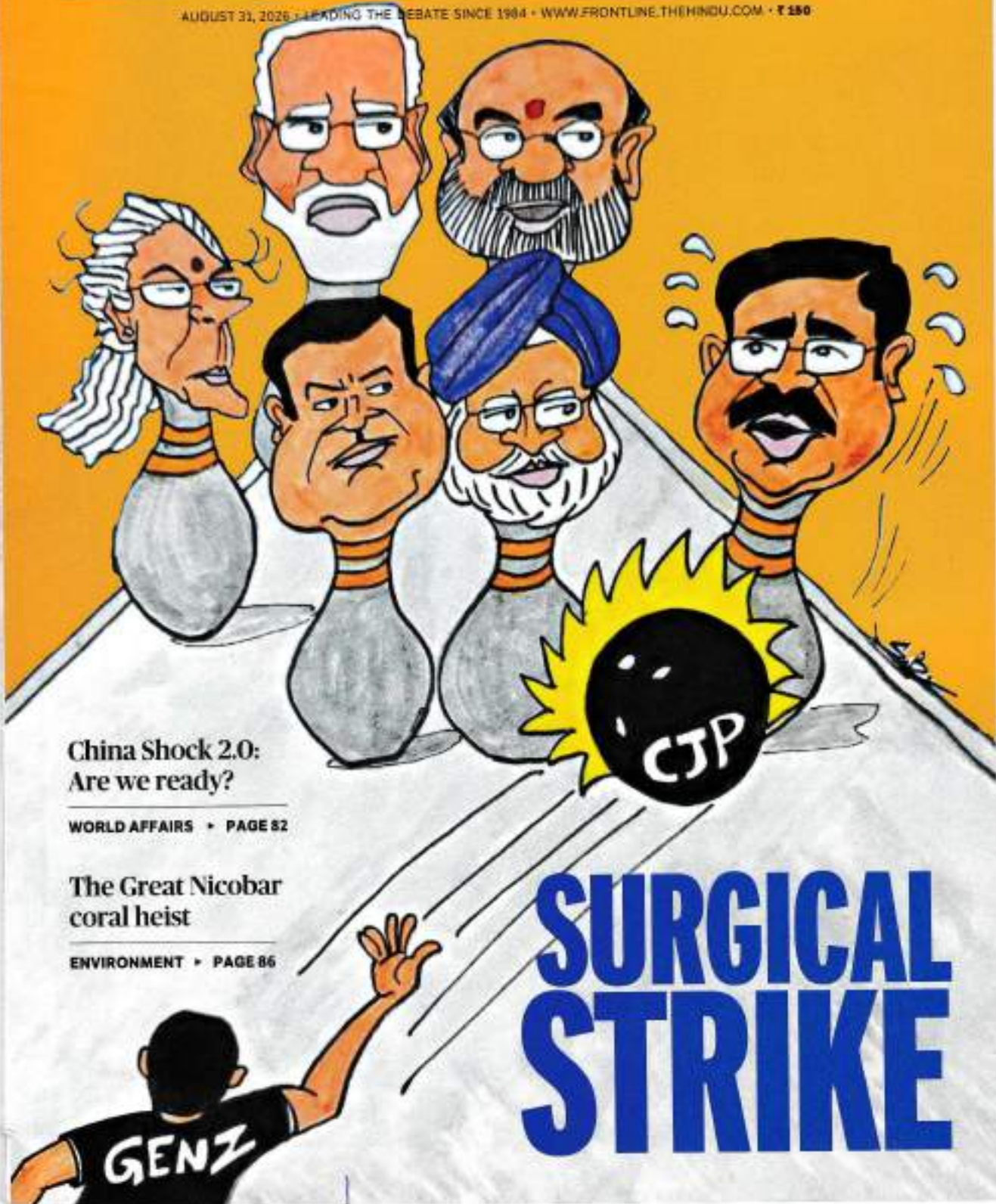
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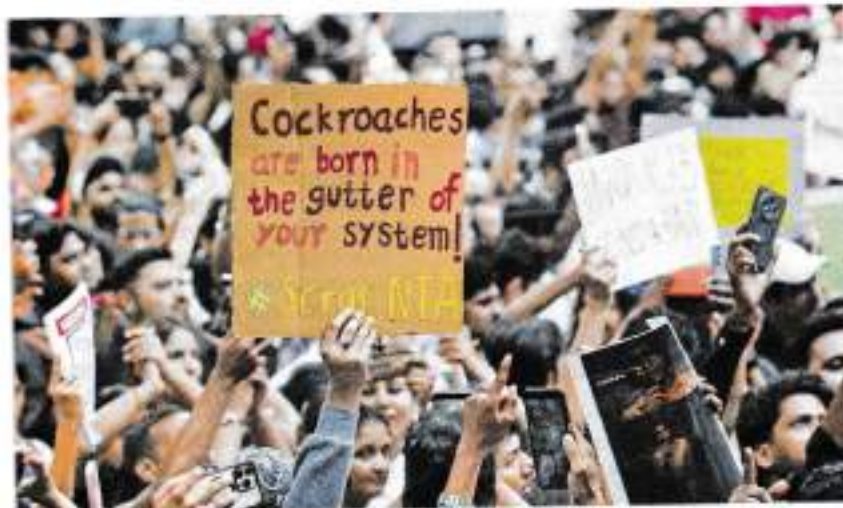
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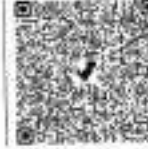
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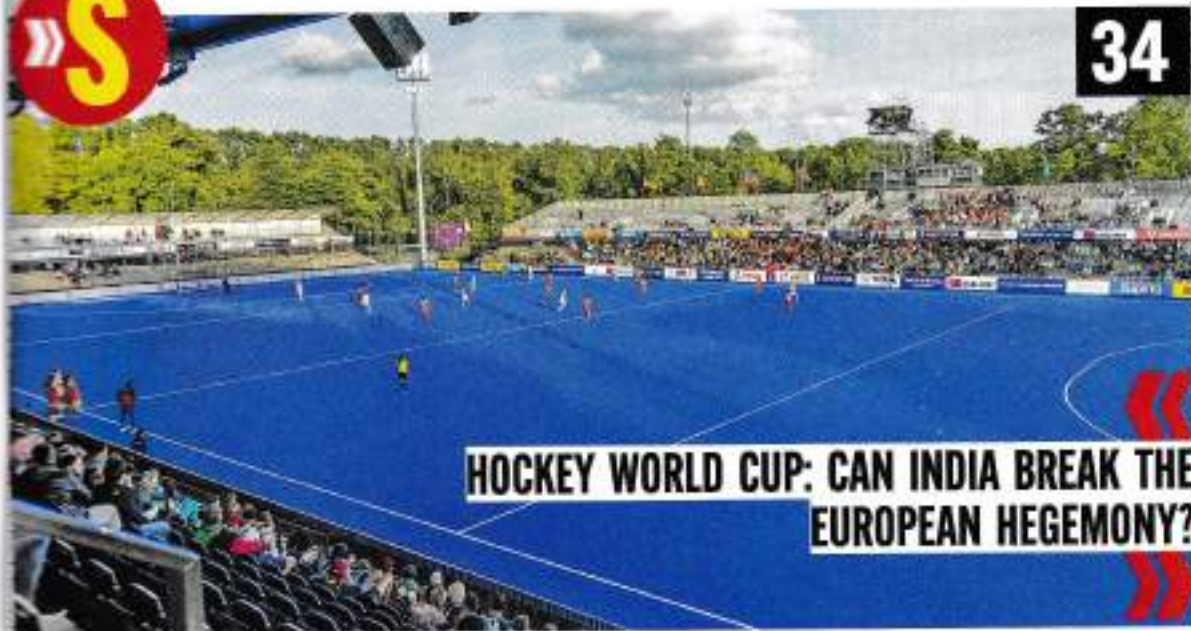
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**HOW THE FOUNDERS OF NINE NEXT-GEN COMPANIES
ARE BUILDING TOMORROW'S BUSINESSES**

From left: **Prateek Maheshwari** Physics Wallah, **Harshil Mathur** Razorpay, **Ruchi Kalra** OfBusiness

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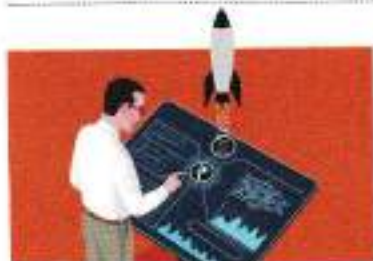
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**DONATION
THEFT AT
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TEMPLE**

**REVAMPING
EDUCATION
AND WINNING
BACK
GEN Z**

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

**BESIDES THE STORM OVER NEET, PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI
WILL BE TESTED ON KEY POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

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THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

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Urban Indian men are embracing jewellery beyond ceremonial wear, with celebrity adoption and dedicated product lines helping the segment grow to 10-15 per cent of the overall jewellery market



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Cover by NILANJAN DAS / AI

UNTOLD STORIES

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FOUNDED BY N. K. JHA

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NEP will destroy
public education

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"There was zero pressure on me from the government."

"Resignation is simply the diagnosis of a disorder—the treatment has to follow."

—Sonam Wangchuk,
educator and activist

PLUS

- For Sonam and wife, Gitanjali Angmo, the adjustments extended far beyond the landscape. Yet, the most profound change appears to have been political rather than cultural
- BJP is not expected to cave in easily. It is likely to respond with a cogent

strategy that is expected to unfold gradually

- CJP may not foray into electoral politics, for now

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"NEP seeks to destroy public education"

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Navtej Sarna



Ironically for a town that is host to the Forest Research Institute and the Wildlife Institute of India, many recent "development" projects—widening of roads, expressways, riverbed development, railway infrastructure—have been accompanied by the indiscriminate felling of thousands of mature trees. There is clear evidence, if any were needed, of development without planning, growth without sustainability.

on mindless development and unchecked felling of trees in Dehradun



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In India And I: A Hundred Memories, Not A Memoir, former chief election commissioner S.Y. Quraishi offers an intimate account of power, politics and public service

COVER DESIGN BINESH SREEDHARAN
COVER PHOTO SANJAY AHLAWAT

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BACK FROM THE BRINK,
BUT THERE ARE
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NOLAN'S *THE ODYSSEY*
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ANGER SPILLS OVER

Restless protesters insist on accountability

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The protests by the Cockroach Janta Party has exposed how political parties and their student wings failed to turn the NEET paper leak into a mass movement. The BJP's immediate challenge is to prevent discontent among young people from evolving into a broader political force. Winning over the youth will require a new language, fresh faces and a different political idiom.

■ EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS

"Request the opposition to support the cause of young people in a constructive manner befitting a democracy"

—Kiren Rijju,
Union minister

"Sonam and I will not leave Delhi"

—Gitanjali Angmo



A protester pleads with police to not take action at the CJP march in Delhi

■ PLUS

Rather than treating the entire gathering as hostile, police forces must be trained to identify and isolate the instigators

—Rakesh Asthana,
former police commissioner, Delhi

Protest should inform parliament, and parliament should respond to protest. When this relationship is restored, dissent becomes a source of renewal rather than instability

—Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir,
adviser to the prime minister of Bangladesh

REUTERS

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The anti-establishment position that catapulted Andy Burnham upward will become his most unforgiving test



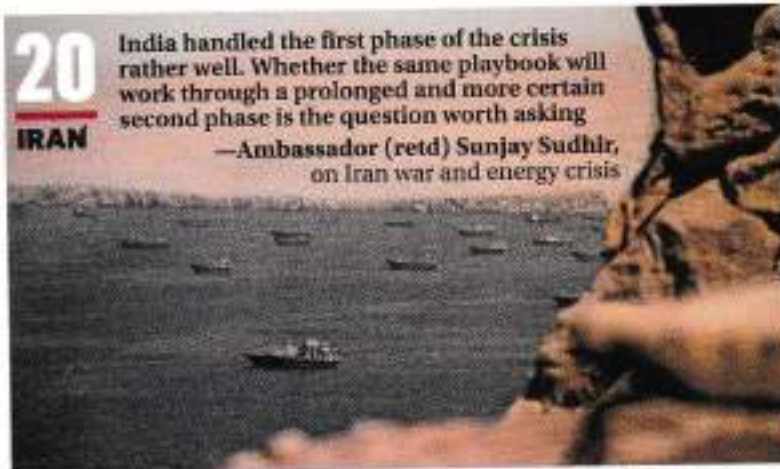
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India handled the first phase of the crisis rather well. Whether the same playbook will work through a prolonged and more certain second phase is the question worth asking

—Ambassador (ret'd) Sunjay Sudhir, on Iran war and energy crisis



REUTERS

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Namo Drone Didis are reshaping agriculture and their own lives



SANJAY AHLAWAT



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CONSERVATION

Saving the tiger was only the first step, India's task now is to protect the forests, corridors and communities sustaining this success

COVER DESIGN: BINESH BREEDHARAN
COVER PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

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Shyla Jovitha Abraham and Dr Jame Abraham



The implications for India are especially important. As the population ages and the burden of cancer grows, pancreatic cancer is emerging as a significant public health challenge. A treatment that improves survival and creates new therapeutic possibilities could eventually benefit thousands of Indian families.

On new therapies for pancreatic cancer

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The success of *The Odyssey* strengthens the appeal of a faulty, reliable hero



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THE DAIRY BOOM

INDIA, THE WORLD'S LARGEST MILK PRODUCER, IS BETTING BIG ON VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS TO DRIVE THE DAIRY SECTOR'S NEXT PHASE OF GROWTH

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INDIA, THE WORLD'S LARGEST MILK PRODUCER, IS BETTING BIG ON VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS TO DRIVE THE DAIRY SECTOR'S NEXT PHASE OF GROWTH

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"Future-ready executives must integrate AI into daily operations"

Business leader Rajiv Memani on business leaders being AI-ready



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LAST WORD



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**AVANI'S INDIA
RAGHU RAI'S DAUGHTER
SHOOTS FOR
PIRELLI CALENDAR**

LOVE IN JAIL

A couple under trial; 'Revolver Rani' and Kala Jathedi, has won their fight for the right to have a baby, forcing India to rethink conjugal rights of prisoners



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Anuradha Chaudhary
and Kala Jathedi at
their wedding

JAILBIRDS AND LOVEBIRDS

On June 30, 'Revolver Rani' Anuradha Chaudhary and husband, jailed gangster Sandeep alias Kala Jathedi, welcomed their daughters through a C-section in Gurugram. Chaudhary became a mother through IVF and after an exhausting legal and social battle. The couple is now at the centre of the debate around conjugal rights in Indian jails, with a special focus on their role in rehabilitation

■ PLUS

- Conjugal rights cannot be symbolic gestures or borrowed from international models, writes former Tihar Jail senior official Sunil Gupta
- Kala Jathedi's rise coincides with the emergence of a decentralised criminal ecosystem that enables transnational operations like the Bishnoi-Brar syndicate

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India's Gen Z, armed with degrees, find that the jobs meant to secure their future have morphed or melted away. And that is the real reason behind their angst

PLUS

- Jobs crisis is only a manifestation of the prosperity crisis, says economist Rathin Roy
- Universities should redesign how students learn and practise, says Rajya Sabha member and LPU chancellor Ashok Kumar Mittal



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National exams and state and institutional admission pathways serve different educational purposes and can work together, writes former UGC chairman Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar



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Marvel finally gets its multiverse right with *Spider-Man: Brand New Day*



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Air Chief Marshal (retd)
S. Krishnaswamy

"We used to play throwing knives on sandbags for fun, and, sometimes, I climbed hills along with the troops to get a feel of the terrain. At break with the troops, we had rum with water in sawed-off bottles (local cut-glass!), that was a part of the standard tableware at functions with troops. Rum was indispensable to beat off the cold. At 13,000 feet, the capacity to withstand liquor drastically reduced. Life was rough."

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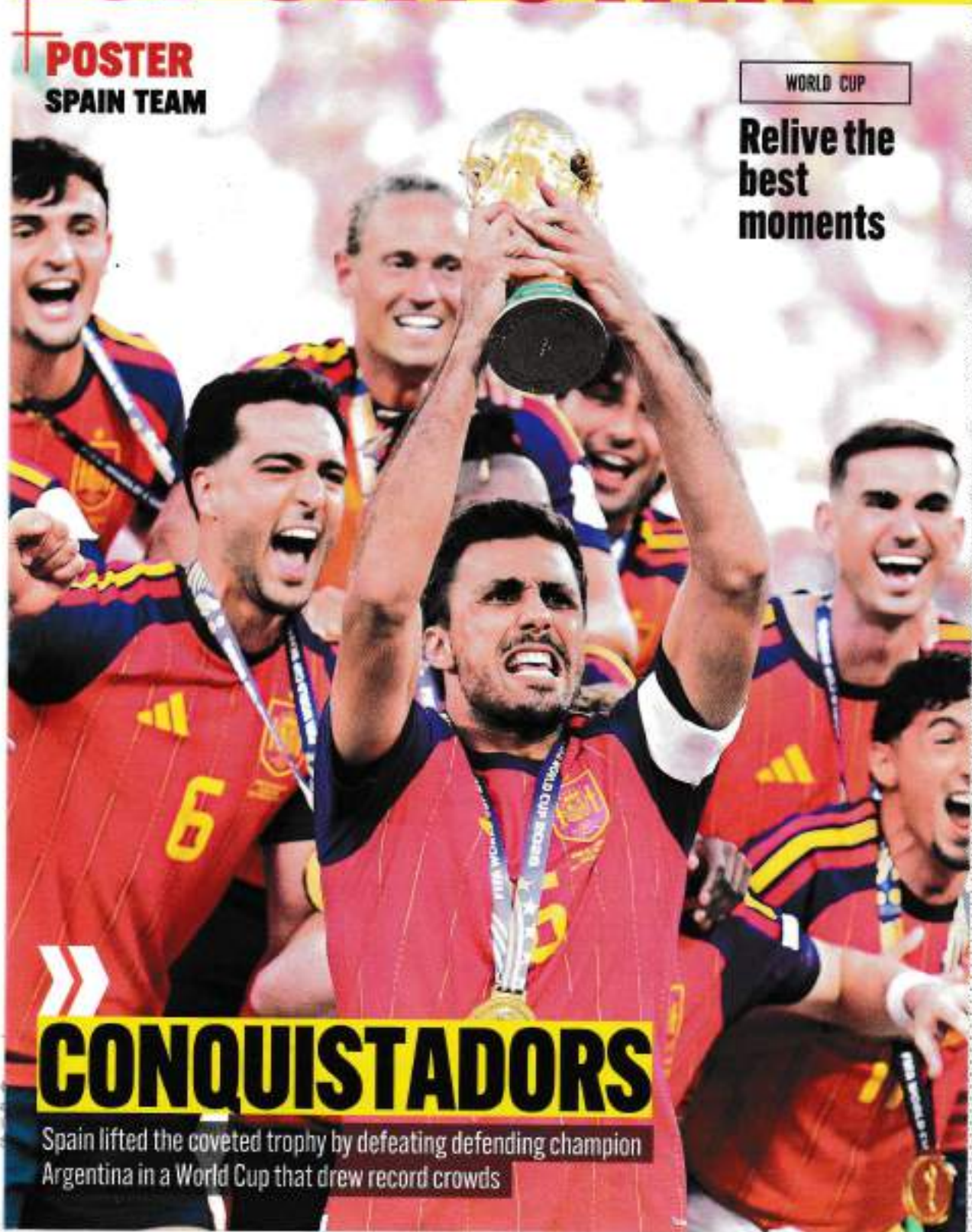
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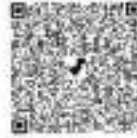
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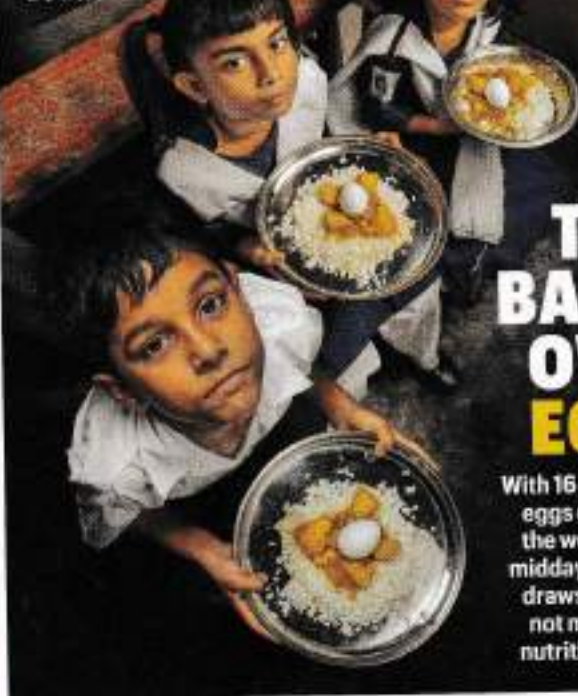
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THE BATTLE OVER EGGS

With 16 states keeping eggs off the menu, the world's largest midday meal scheme draws criticism for not meeting child nutrition standards

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UPSC Civil Services
Examination, 2025
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Emerging Demographic Concerns in India

Implications, Challenges and Policy Interventions

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We hope this special compilation strengthens your conceptual foundation, enhances your analytical perspective and equips you with the content and framework required to write well-structured, evidence-based and high-scoring answers in the **UPSC Civil Services (Mains) Examination 2026**.

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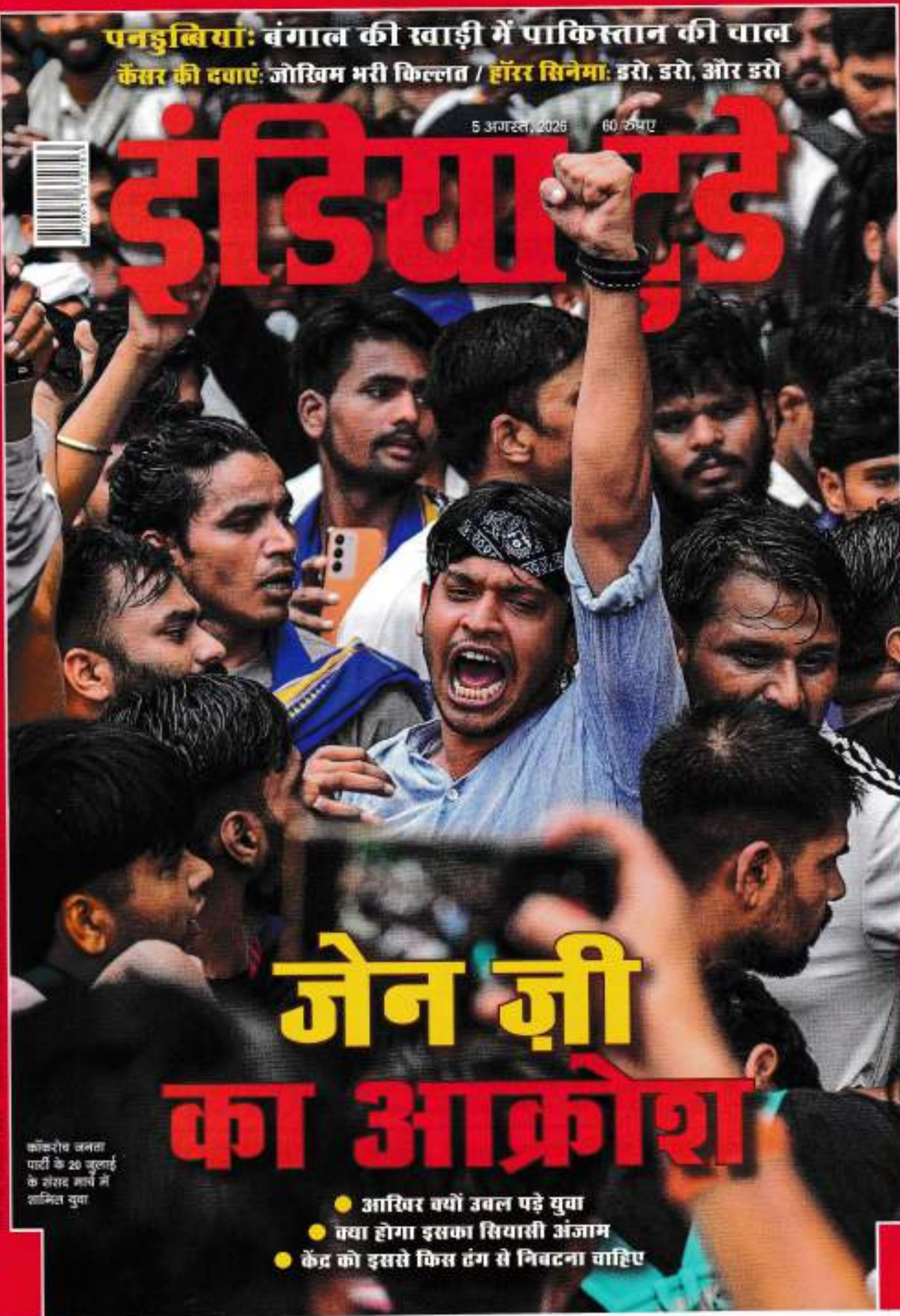
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के संसद मार्च में
शामिल युवा

- आखिर क्यों उबल पड़े युवा
- क्या होगा इसका सियासी अंजाम
- केंद्र को इससे किस हंग से निबटना चाहिए

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आवास: किफायती घर हैं कहां / अपराध: साइबर ठगों का डेरा अब लखनऊ में

12 अगस्त, 2026 60 रुपये



इंडिया डूडे

उत्तर प्रदेश
और दूसरे
राज्यों में चुनाव

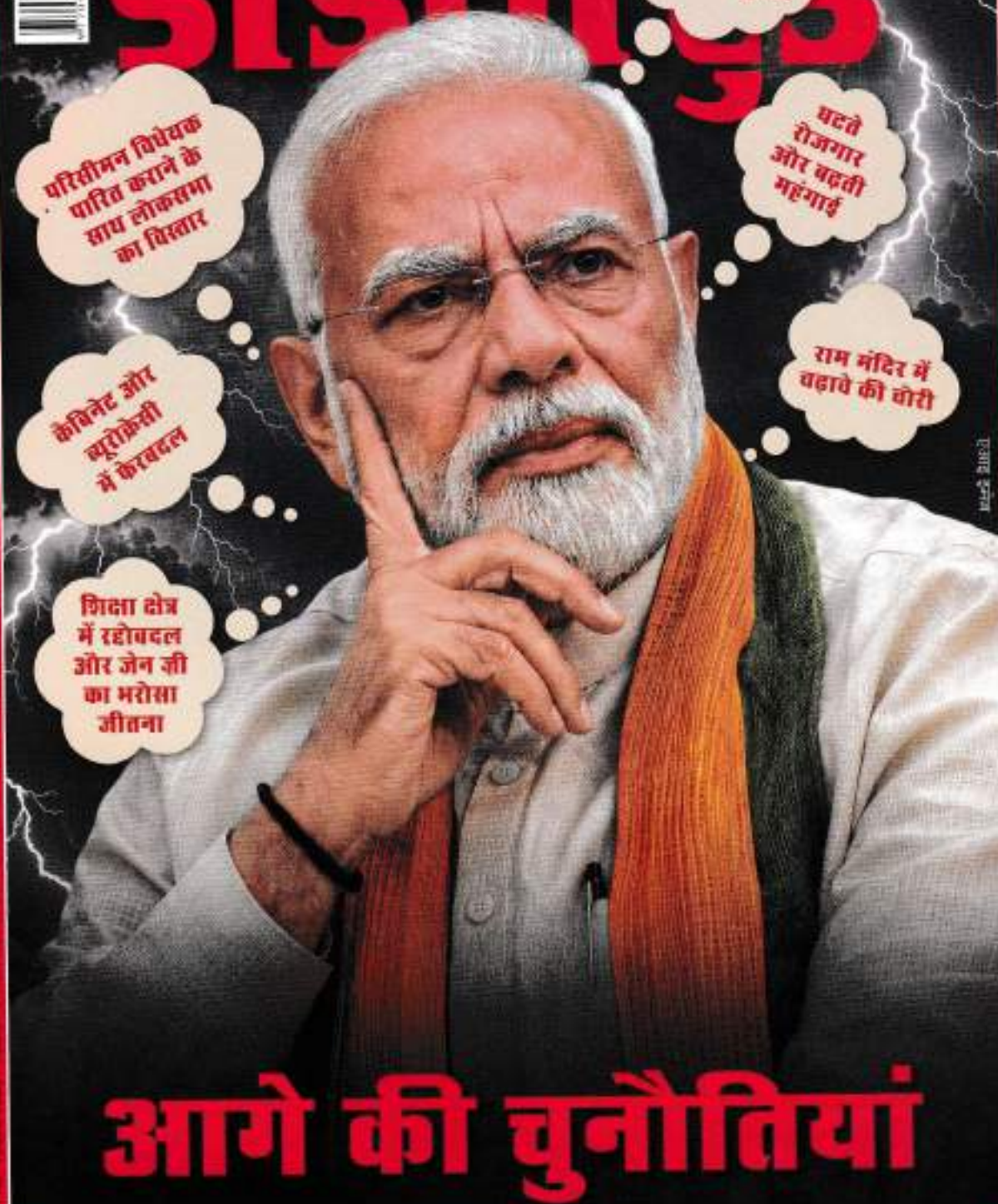
परिशीलन विधेयक
पारित कराने के
साथ लोकसभा
का विस्तार

कैबिनेट और
ब्यूरोक्रेसी
में फेरबदल

शिक्षा क्षेत्र
में रहोबदल
और जेन जी
का भरोसा
जीतना

घटते
रोजगार
और बढ़ती
महंगाई

राम मंदिर में
वहावे की चोरी



आगे की चुनौतियां

नीट पर उठे बवंडर के बाद प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी का अब अहम सियासी,
आर्थिक और प्रशासनिक मुद्दों पर होगा इम्तहान

इस सप्ताह

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आगे की चुनौतियां

नीट पर उठे बवंडर के बाद प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी का अब अहम सियासी, आर्थिक और प्रशासनिक मुद्दों पर होगा झूझना.

▶ असम

30 बिना चेतावनी, बस पानी

पड़ोसी राज्य म्यानमार में लेब बारिश से अचानक आई बाढ़ ने राज्य में इस कदर लबाही बढ़ाई कि आम तौर पर सुरक्षित माने जाने वाले ऊपरी असम के जिले भी पानी में डूब गए हैं. बहा करीब सात लाख लोग इस बाढ़ से प्रभावित हैं.



▶ उत्तर प्रदेश

32 साइबर ठगों का नया डेरा

एक मॉडर्न के भीतर चुपे की राजधानी बनकर ये तीन बड़े फर्नी इंटरनेशनल सर्वर सेंटर फंक्शन रहे. मल्ला इकाइयों, जल्दी हथ की पहचान और कमजोर स्थानीय निगरानी से बना साइबर डंगी का नया ऑपरेशन बेस.

▶ रिपन एस्टेट

48 किफायती घर अब कहाँ

बाहरी भारत में लगभग एक करोड़ घरेलू घरों की जरूरत होने के बावजूद प्राइवेट डेवलपर तेजी के साथ इस सेक्टर में बाहर निकलने जा रहे. सस्ते घर बनाने में अब उन्हें खाल फायदा नहीं दिखता, कम सरकरात्मक जिंके रहने की डिमांड नहीं मिल पा रहा.



आवरण: नीलाजन दास/एआइ

* www.indiatodaytintindi.com

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1000



- [illegible]

पराजनों को समझा दी जाती है कि किसका भी प्रजातीय किसी भी सेवा का व्यक्ति के विज्ञान और ज्ञान से संबंधित सामग्री से सम्बन्धितता कायम करने, जिस प्रेरणा या उत्साह करने से पहले प्रतीत जाह-जमाना जहाँ से, विज्ञानप्रदायकों के किसी भी खेले प्रजातियता हीनता दुर्लभ रूप का नहीं है, ऐसे किसी भी राष्ट्र के दायों को विज्ञानप्रदायक और जहाँ पूरा करता है तो इसका दुर्लभ रूप के इकायों के मुख्य, प्रकाशक, एडिटर-इन-चीफ और एडिटर इनके सारा विवेचनायी नहीं होते।

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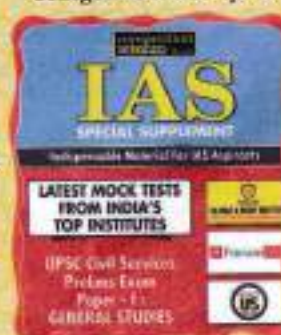
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19 अगस्त, 2026

60 रुपये



इंदिया टुडे



अंडे पर उबाल

सोलह राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों ने मिड-डे मील में अंडा परोसने से किया इनकार. ऐसे में देश की यह व्यापक योजना बच्चों की पोषण जरूरतें पूरी करने को लेकर विवादों में घिरी

वेबसाइट और प्रमुख संवादक अलग पूरी तरह सेटअप और कार्यकारी प्रमुख संवादक पूरी पूरी रूप से एक एग्जीक्यूटिव ऑफिसर विदेश अडिटर पूर्ण एग्जीक्यूटिव प्रोड्यूसर- राज बेंद्रेया
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कथा

अंडे पर खींचतान

सीलह राज्यों ने मिड-डे मील में अंडा परोसने से किया इनकार। ऐसे में देश की यह व्यापक योजना बच्चों की पोषण जरूरतें पूरी करने को लेकर विवादों में पड़ी।

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► उडुपट्टन | नई उडुपट्टन स्कीम

39 उडुपट्टन को लगे नए पंख

छोटे बहरी और पहली बार विमान बाबा करने बाने लोगो के लिए बसक भर पहले उडुपट्टन योजना के महत शुरू हुई थी लवाई बैक। अब उडुपट्टन को विकास बनाने के मकसद से दिया गया नया रूप।

► ओडिशा

42 आधी आबादी की नई राह

ओडिशा की सुनदा योजना पर अपने तरह के पहले अवधान में पैरा की उन्मादजनक लक्ष्य। हाथ में आई लकड़ राशि महिलाओं के लिए आर्थिक रूप से आत्मनिर्भर बनने में साक्षित हो रही मददगार।

आवरण: बंदीप सिंह



संवादक और प्रमुख संवादक अलग पूरी तरह सेटअप और कार्यकारी प्रमुख संवादक पूरी पूरी रूप से एक एग्जीक्यूटिव ऑफिसर विदेश अडिटर पूर्ण एग्जीक्यूटिव प्रोड्यूसर- राज बेंद्रेया