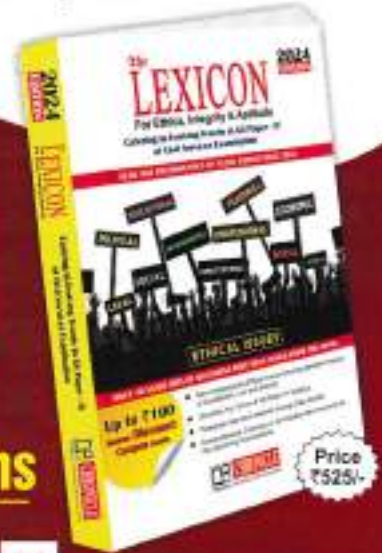


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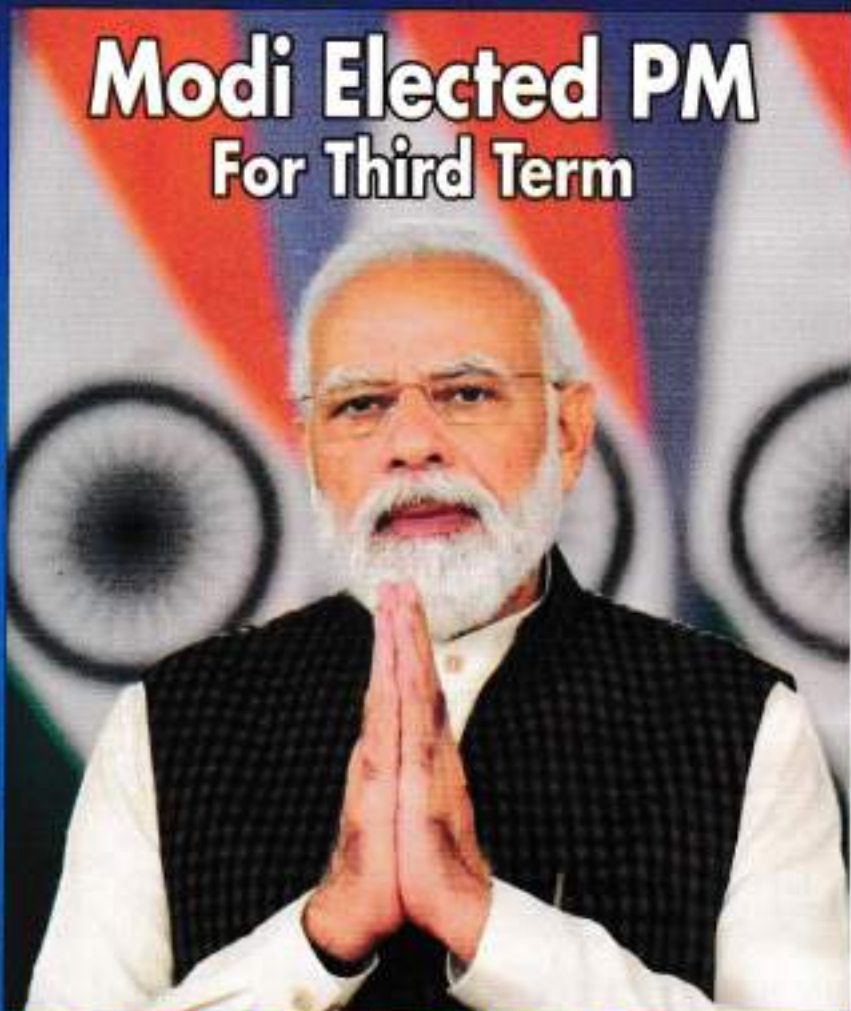
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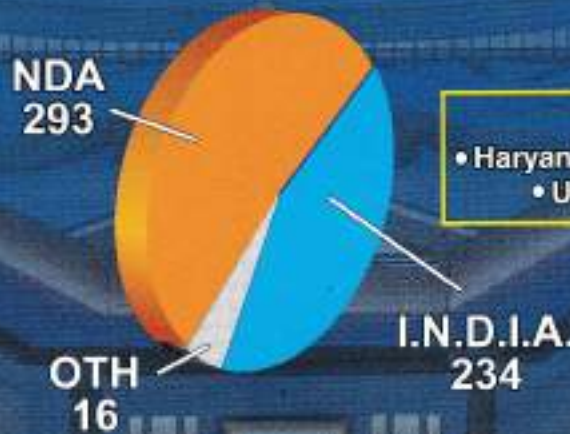
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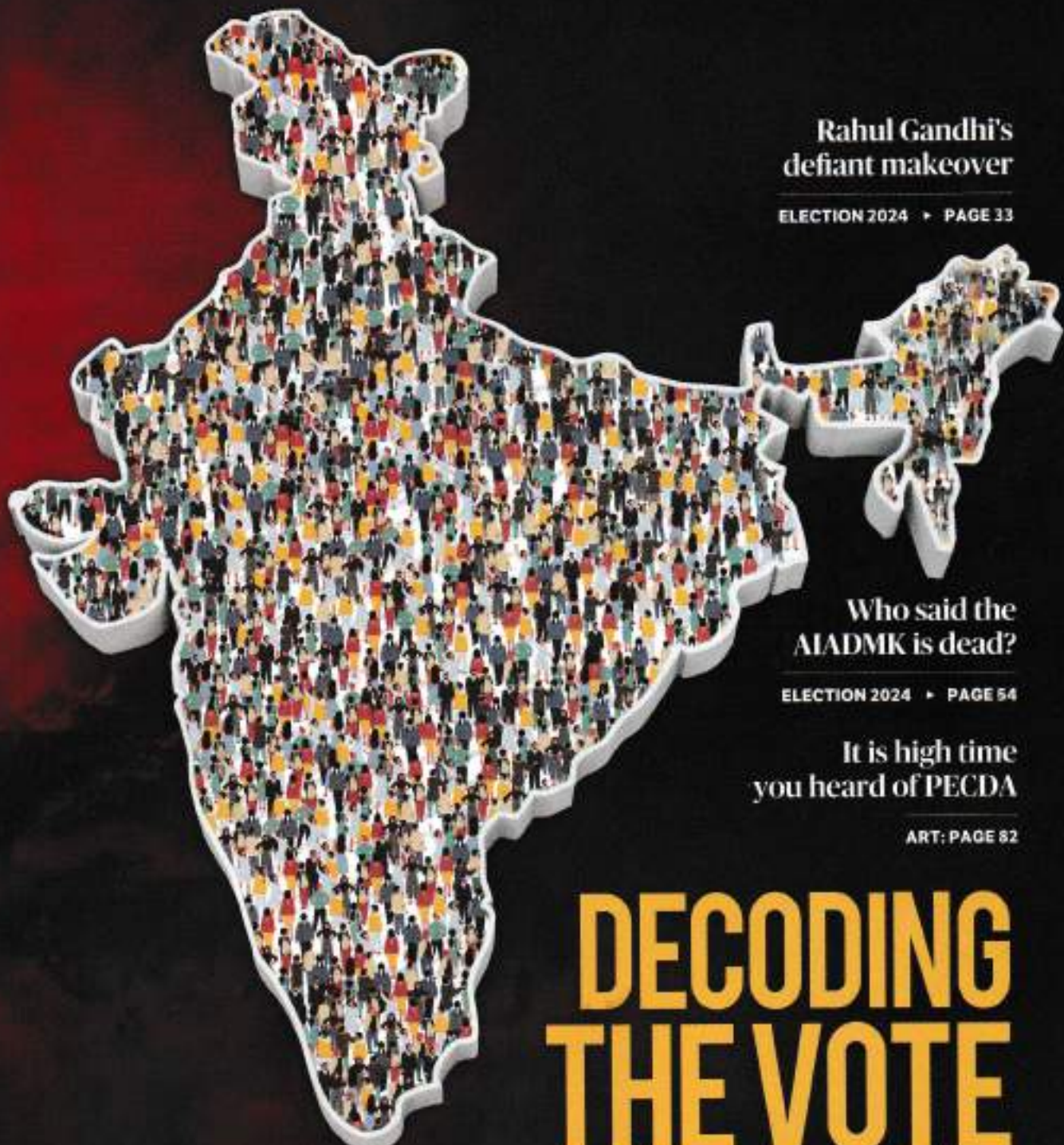
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defiant makeover**

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**It is high time
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DECODING THE VOTE

A deeper mining of data from
Election 2024 yields some interesting findings



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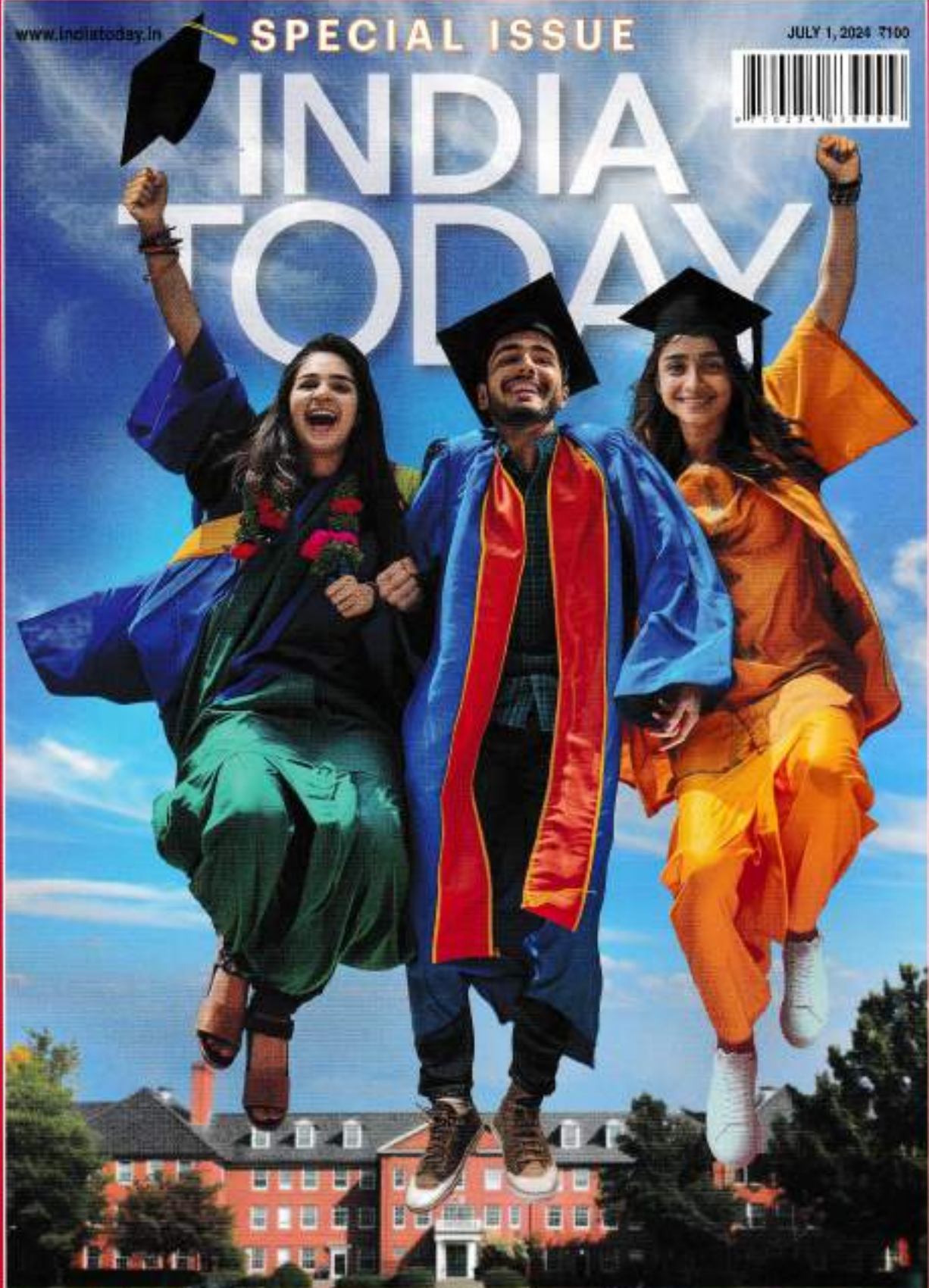
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Why a political storm erupted over expunctions from Rahul Gandhi's Lok Sabha speech

By Kaushik Deka

The leader of the Opposition has remained defiant, saying, 'In Modi's world, the truth can be expunged, but not in reality' <https://shorturl.at/0FX9B>

SPOTLIGHT: GUJARAT NARCOTICS

As narcotics hauls rise, is 'Vibrant Gujarat' turning into 'Uda Gujarat'?

By Jumana Shah

The Opposition Congress's charge in the face of seizures is being contested by the BJP government as a sign of effective policing <https://shorturl.at/396ps>



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SPOTLIGHT: NEW ARMY CHIEF

As army chief Gen. Upendra Dwivedi takes charge, what will be his top priorities?

By Pradip R. Sagar

Border tensions, force modernisation, inter-service jointness and revamp of the Agnipath recruitment scheme will be his critical challenges <https://shorturl.at/QC6jg>

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Why George Kurian is critical to BJP's grand Kerala design

By Jeemon Jacob

In an exclusive interaction, the Union minister tells INDIA TODAY why saffron ideology need not be anathema to the state's Christian minority <https://shorturl.at/FMPrp>

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Sachin Tendulkar: Guts and Glory

By Rohit Brjnnst and Peter Roebuck

Self-belief, will to win, respect for rivals—Tendulkar, who recently put out an emotional message for Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, has it all <https://shorturl.at/OlVrB>

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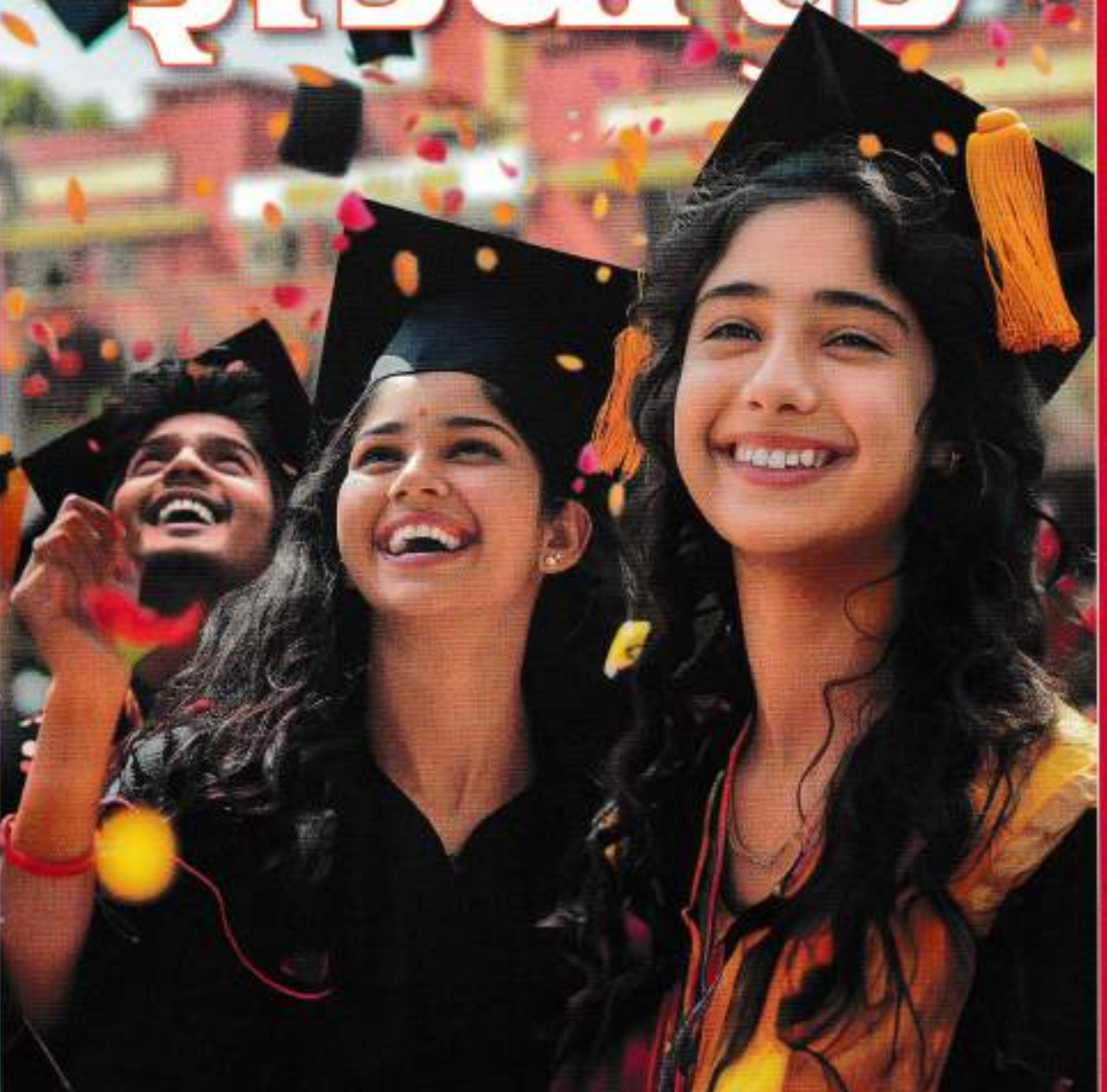
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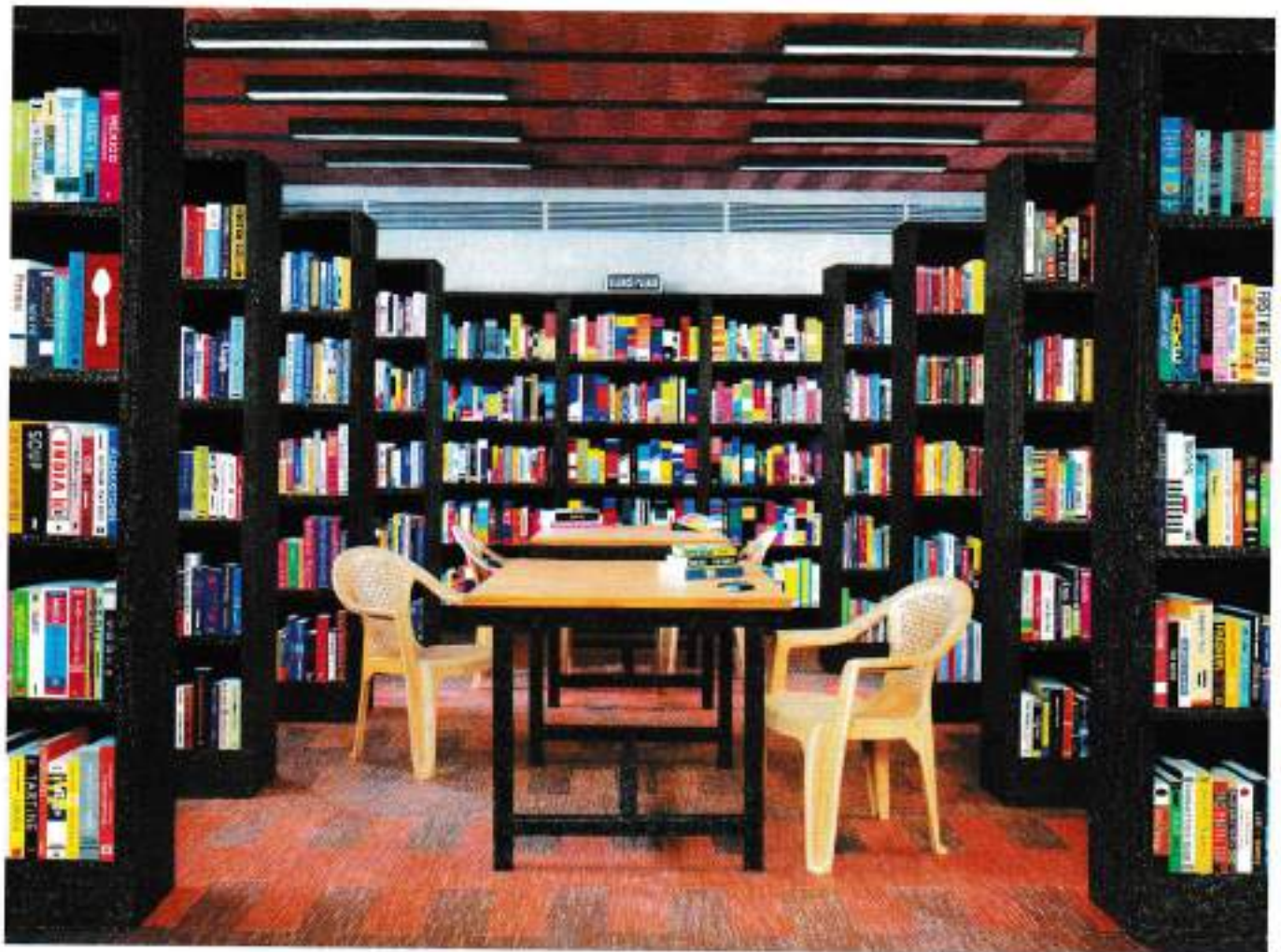
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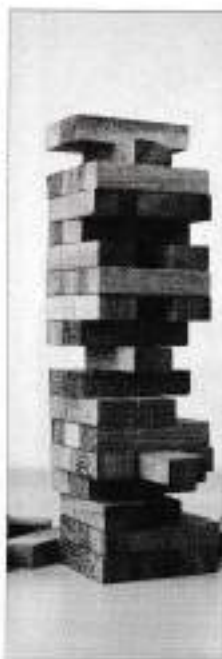
ON THE COVER

'Library' (2022) Artwork by Dia Mehhta Bhupal constructed in paper & cardboard, then photographed. In 'Library', Bhupal contemplates the deeper meanings of shared public spaces. A library, a supermarket, a gym, and a cinema are all familiar landscapes. Bhupal presents to us what we know to be real, but with a particular tension: spaces that brim with bodies, here, are left empty. This topography of absence instantly catches the viewer's attention. Bhupal extends the narrative by using hyper-real images, displayed as large, and almost indescendent, diasec prints. Courtesy: GALLERYSYSE

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Dia Mehhta Bhupal is an artist and photographer who combines sustainability with meticulously photographed 'constructed images'

During Election 2024, when asked about the various coalitions, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy told a group of journalists that ideology is for the library.



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The BJP has little scope to win allies from the INDIA bloc or those outside any alliance, making the party heavily dependent on the current NDA partners



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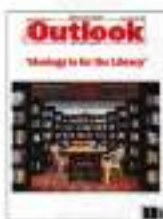


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ON THE COVER: 'Longing' (2023) by Prateek Drak

"Growing up as a Dalit was
 being taught to be wary
 of the outside world, of
 finding trust only within
 family. Growing up queer
 was learning to hide
 from family, repressing
 desire and identity,
 battling shame and fear.
 My chronic anxiety was
 a way of surviving that
 childhood, that double
 isolation. I eventually
 moved to big cities for
 education and work,
 leaving home in the hope
 of finding community and
 love, but realized that my
 anxiety itself had become
 a barrier to friendship and
 intimacy. This artwork
 expresses my longing for
 peace and companionship
 in the fleeting sunlight
 on the mountain tops of
 my home."

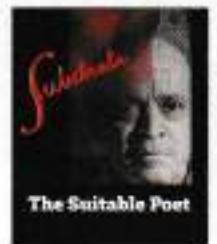
—Prateek Drak

Prateek Drak (he/they)
 is an artist, architect
 and urban designer
 from Shimla. Drak's
 work explores the
 intersection of urbanism,
 environment and social
 inclusivity. Drak also
 provides art direction for
 the Dalit Queer Project as
 a commitment to building
 spaces of support.



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How queerness in
 old Bollywood hid
 in plain sight



The Suitable Poet



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Transwomen are
 often bullied,
 underestimated and
 erased despite having
 contributed to some of
 the biggest inventions
 in modern history



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Renowned novelist and poet
 Vikram Seth talks about his
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ON THE COVER: 'Rhizome' (2015)
 by Ravi Agarwal

"The work refers to philosopher Gilles Deleuze and psychoanalyst Felix Guattari's use of the term 'rhizome', as a network of interconnections, where any point connects to any other point. It attempts to illustrate the fishing community's entangled relationship with the sea and the landscape. During my few years of engagement with them, when I asked what the sea meant to them, they replied in the words as depicted in the artwork. With a multitude of threats, in terms of rising waters, changing sand on their landing beaches owing to a new nearby port, new tourism and falling fish catches they are facing their relationship is complex, material, and immediate. It is a distant cry from any abstract and romantic notion of the sea as beautiful or evocative, but one of everyday survival."

—Ravi Agarwal

Ravi Agarwal has an interdisciplinary practice as an artist, writer, curator, and environmental campaigner. His work mediates between art and activism to address the entangled questions of nature and its future using photography, video, text, and installation.



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SWAMI RAMDEV HAS A PLAN**

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