



Volume LXVI, No. 3

EDITOR Chinki Sinha

MANAGING EDITOR Satish Prabhakar

FOREIGN EDITOR Geeta Guha

CREATIVE HEAD Manojit Barua

DIGITAL EDITOR Anshu Sharma

DEPUTY PHOTO EDITOR Trishwan Thakur

NEWS COORDINATORS Ananya Saxena,

Isha Ramamurthy

WRITERS Anshu Prasad, Ashish Mishra,

Jayant Sharma, Avanti Ka Murty, Debajyoti Das,

Pooja Kaur, Ishika Nandan,

Lalita Iyer, M.L. Jaghar Khosla, Mohanad Al,

N. K. Bhoopesh, Priyanka Topp, Sakshi Saini Chauhan

COPY DESK S. S. Jeevan, Sruati Subbada,

Vineetha Mokkil

PHOTOGRAPHERS Divyesh Pooj, Sandipan Chatterjee,

Suresh K. Pandey, Vikram Sharma, Anil Iqbal

RESEARCHERS Anand Chatterjee,

Anupam Prashant Mittal, Subhashree Rathi

DESIGN Chiranjit Bhattacharya,

Anupam Sai Balakrishna

ILLUSTRATORS Saanvi, Vikas Thakur

SOCIAL MEDIA Arvut Singh, Harshika Kulkarni,  
Sujana Kulkarni



Outlook Issue  
January 21, 2026

**BUSINESS OFFICE**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER Indrani Roy

PUBLISHER Sandip Kumar Ghosh

DIRECTOR BRAND & MARKETING Shrutika Dewan

VICE PRESIDENT Divan Singh Bhat

SR GENERAL MANAGERS Deveshwar Toppo,

Shalender Vohra

GENERAL MANAGER Shashank Dutt

CIRCULATION & SUBSCRIPTION Gagan Kulkarni

HEAD SALES OPERATIONS Manisha Mishra

**HEAD OFFICE**

A8-10, S.J. Enclave, New Delhi - 110 029

Customer Care: 9296655537 / 9296653036

Office Hours: 10 am to 6 pm

e-mail: yourhelpline@outlookindia.com

Printed and published by Indrani Roy or

her/his/its/their agent Outlook Publishing (India) Pvt. Ltd.

Editor: Chinki Sinha. Printed at MP Printers

(A Unit of DB Corp Ltd) B-226, Phase-II,

Noida 201305, Gautam Buddh Nagar (UP)

and published from A8-10, S.J. Enclave,

New Delhi-110 029

Published for the period of

January 22-February 1, 2026

Resealed on January 21, 2026

Total number of pages 36 including covers



**POINT AND SHARE**

Now, open Outlook magazine on your smartphone instantly. Point your phone's scanner on the code and align it in the frame. You will be guided instantly to our website, [www.outlookindia.com](http://www.outlookindia.com). This is useful to share our stories on social media or email them.

## ABOUT THE COVER

It is always a difficult task to make a cover for an issue like this. We came across an artwork, *Blind Curve*, by artist Felix Lucero, made at San Quentin State Prison as part of California's Arts-in-Corrections program on the internet and in an act of solidarity with expression of those who documented their prison life through their art, we decided to use it as an inspiration for our issue on voices from prison. This cover of a faceless person is for all those who wait for justice. Their names are scribbled as a tribute to their unyielding spirit and their relentless pursuit of freedom.



May 18, 2015 Outlook's cover story on G.N. Saibaba



Cell Alone Artwork by Arun Ferreira

## 8 | THE DETENTION LEGACY

Since independence, a number of laws have been enacted that allow preventive detention which have been widely used by all regimes against their political opponents

By Snigdhendu Bhattacharya

## 12 | IRON IN THE SOUL

"The operative word in mainstream media's discourse for me is no more 'anti-national', it's 'terrorist'"

—Umar Khalid

## 36 | THE STING OF THE BAR

India today has more than 4.3 lakh undertrial prisoners. A significant number of them are linked to political cases

By N.K. Bhoopesh

## 44 | "THIS COULD HAPPEN TO YOU"

The Bhima Koregaon case is not only about those who were imprisoned. It is also about the fate of democracy itself

By Alpa Shah



## 66 | THINK INK

In 2026—the 'year of analog'—how will our relationship with literary festivals evolve? By Vineetha Mokkil

## 70 | JOY WORDS CLUB

Lit fests are defined by their audience. Organisers, speakers, curators are all replaceable but not the readers, not the audience By Shinie Antony

## 74 | DIARY

COVER:  
Outlook Team

# Subscribe Now



INTRODUCING...  
CRIB SHEET: A NEW MOTHER'S WORLD

EYECARE  
CATARACT IN YOUNG INDIANS

WARRIOR IN WHITE  
DOCTOR vs FAKE ORS

THEWEEK

www.theweek.in

FEBRUARY 1, 2026

# health



## ANTIBIOTICS

Why we misuse. How we suffer



EK

# contents



SHUTTERSTOCK

24  
COVER  
STORY

## Pill-popping pandemic

Antimicrobial resistance is responsible for an estimated 1.3 million deaths annually worldwide. India, the world's largest consumer of antibiotics, sits at the epicentre of this crisis.

It is no longer just about overuse or resistance in theory, but about a reality where even last-resort drugs are failing. If there is one word doctors now use repeatedly to describe India's antibiotic problem, it is abuse.

Introducing

16

### CRIB SHEET

The importance of calcium intake for a breastfeeding mother

20

### EYE HEALTH

Prevalence of cataract in younger Indians in a growing concern

36

### CHILD SAFETY

How a paediatrician's long fight got fake DRS drinks banned

### REGULARS

4

LETTERS

6

QUICK SCAN

15

MEDTALK

42

YOGA MADE EASY

COVER IMAGING  
Binesh Sreedharan

LAYOUT  
Rajesh A.S., Sujesh K.,  
Job P.K., Ajeesh Kumar M.

The Week Supplement: Printed at Malayala Manorama Press, Kottayam, and published from Manorama Buildings, Panampilly Nagar, Kochi-682 036, by **Jacob Mathew**, on behalf of the Malayala Manorama Company Private Ltd., Kottayam-686 001. Editor: **Philip Mathew**. Focus/In focus features are marketing initiatives

REPUBLIC DAY SPECIAL

JOURNALISM WITH A HUMAN TOUCH

www.theweek.in

TheWeekMag

TheWeekLive

₹ 80

FEBRUARY 1, 2025

# THE WEEK



**FREE**  
44-PAGE  
SUPPLEMENT

**WHEN YOU  
MISUSE  
ANTIBIOTICS**

**MONKEY D. LUFFY**  
JAPANESE MANGA ICON  
FUELLING GEN-Z PROTESTS

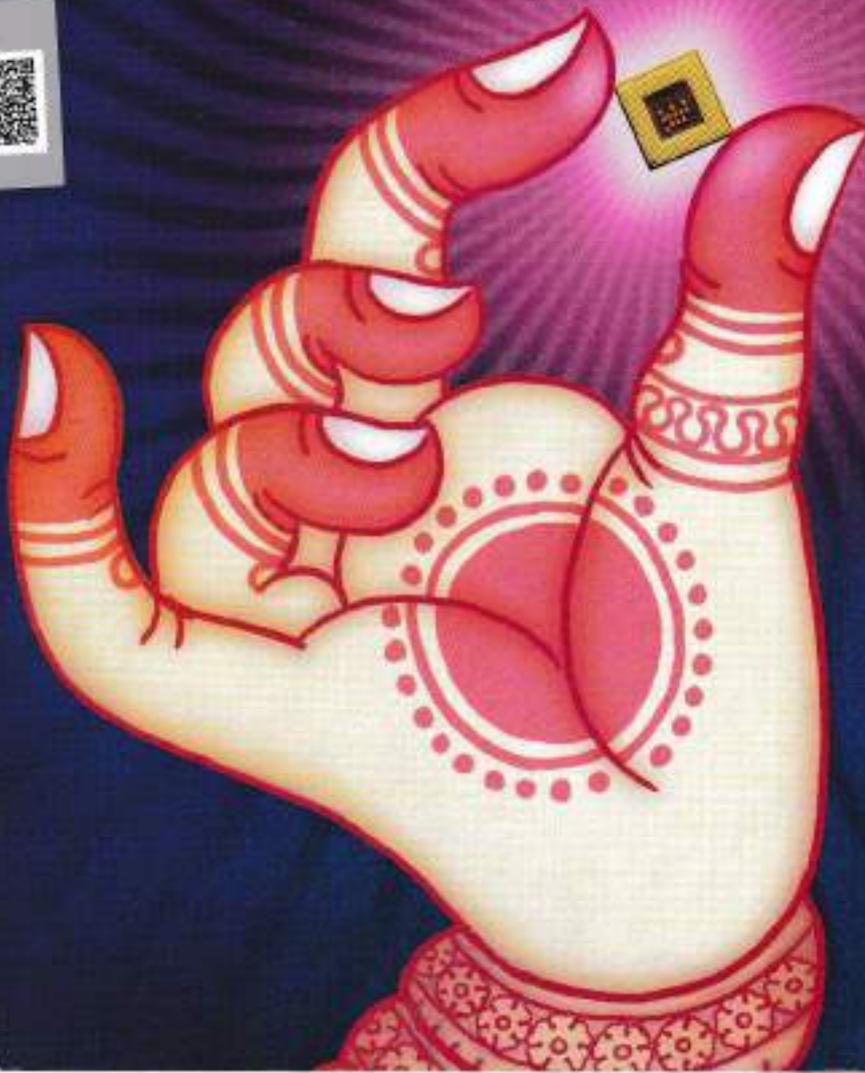
EXCLUSIVE

## SMALL CHIP, BIG WIN

Denied access to military-grade compound semiconductor technology,  
India cracked the code on its own to join a select group of six nations



THE WEEK  
JOURNALISM WITH A HUMAN TOUCH



# contents

VOL. 44 | NO. 5 | THE WEEK | FEBRUARY 1 | 2026 | FOR THE WEEK - JANUARY 26-FEBRUARY 1

## 34

### GAZA & INDIA

Trump's Board of Peace does not serve Indian interests, yet it offers an opportunity to develop a fresh Indian approach to the Middle East: P.R. Kumaraswamy, professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University

## 36

### GREENLAND

NATO's future looks diminished as Trump's Greenland obsession reveals deeper fractures within the bloc: K.P. Fabian, former Indian diplomat

## 40

### DIPLOMACY

Indo-Pacific states should anticipate greater Chinese assertiveness: Vijay Gokhale, former foreign secretary of India

## 18

### COVER STORY

# CHIP CHEER

Rejection is the mother of innovation. When foreign entities refused to share their compound chip technology, Indian scientists decided to do what they do best—make in India. The inside story of how India broke into an elite league of six nations

Compound semiconductors are custom-bred for extreme power, blazing frequency and scorching temperatures

**Suma Varughese** director general, Micro Electronic Devices and Computational Systems & Cyber Security, DRDO

Compound semiconductors are optimal for the Indian armed forces' requirements in conducting multidomain operations

**Lt Col Akshat Upadhyay**  
author of *Emerging Frontiers: Technology Absorption in the Indian Army*

From ultra-compact chargers in our pockets to next-gen radars, wide bandgap semiconductors are accelerating innovation

**Gaurav Pande**  
who works at imec Belgium, an independent nanoelectronics R&D hub

ILLUSTRATION: BINESH SREEDHARAN



## 44

### SPECIAL REPORT

How a Japanese manga icon became the symbol of Gen Z movements from Asia to Africa

## 50

### MAHARASHTRA

The municipal corporation results have shown that politics in the state, which revolved around the Pawars and Thackerays, will now be centred on Fadnavis and the BJP

## 60

### ECONOMY

As India stares at a new world order, the budget will determine whether it is ready for the party or not



BHARU PRAKASH CHANDRA

### NATURE

Why are we turning increasingly hostile to even the news of a wild animal living alongside us, asks Vivek Menon, chair, IUCN Species Survival Commission

COVER ILLUSTRATION BINESH SREEDHARAN

Printed at Malayala Manorama Press, Manorama Building, K.K. Road, Kottayam - 686 001, Kerala, and published from Manorama Building, K.K. Road, Kottayam - 686 001, Kerala, by Publisher and Printer **Jacob Mathew**, on behalf of the Malayala Manorama Company Private Ltd., Manorama Building, K.K. Road, Kottayam - 686 001, Kerala. Editor **Philip Mathew**, Manorama Buildings, Panampilly Nagar, Kochi - 682 036, Kerala. Place of Publication: Manorama Buildings, Panampilly Nagar, Kochi - 682036, Kerala.

• Focus/Infocus features are paid marketing/PR initiatives



SANJAY AHLAWAT

### COLUMNS

- 10 **POWERDRIVE**  
R. Prasanna
- 42 **INSIGHT EDGE**  
Baijayant 'Jay' Panda
- 64 **SCALPEN**  
Dr Mazda Turel
- 78 **OTHERWISE CRACKED**  
K.C. Verma
- 82 **LAST WORD**  
Mahua Moltra



The Election Commission is presiding over a grotesque circus, where untested software is testing genuine voters and risking mass disfranchisement

34TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL ISSUE

businessstoday.in

# Business Today

February 1, 2025 ₹200

On Stands | Online | On Air

bt

INDIA  
TODAY  
GROUP

+  
RUN-UP  
TO DAVOS



## THE NEW CONSUMPTION ENGINE

A FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND SURVEY DECODES WHAT GENERATION Z WANTS

# CONTENTS

February 1, 2026 | Volume 35 | Number 3



LEAD ESSAY

24

SCRIPTION ENGINE  
... GENERATION Z WANTS

URVEY

## Import Imb

Why the gap b  
exports and in  
is not narrowi  
enough



## 16 | BT INTERVIEW

### "We're at the start of India's coffee stor

Blue Tokai's SH  
Shahi on India's  
coffee boom

## 96 | CONSUMER MARKET

### Swipe, Sel but Spend Smart

Behind Gen Z's  
purchase beha



## 116 | HEALTH

### Healthy Priorities

Urban India's C  
are treating he  
a daily consid  
driven by acc  
information

## 126 | MANAGING M

### Decoding G Z's Wallet S

For Gen Zs, val  
for money take  
precedence ov  
brand loyalty

Alpene Parida 220

Smriti Irani 228

WILANJAN DAS/AI

February 1, 2026

REPUBLIC DAY SPECIAL

www.indiatoday.in



FEBRUARY 2, 2026 ₹100

# INDIA TODAY

## The **GEMS** of **INDIA**

SHINING EXAMPLES OF  
INDIVIDUALS AND  
INSTITUTIONS WHO ARE  
**TRANSFORMING LIVES**  
**ACROSS REMOTE VILLAGES,**  
STRESSED CITIES AND  
FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS

Solar didis  
being trained  
at the Barefoot  
College in Tilonia,  
Rajasthan



गणतंत्र दिवस विशेषांक

4 फरवरी, 2026 60 रुपए

# इंडिया



## भारत के रत्न

उन व्यक्तियों और संस्थाओं की  
बेहतरीन मिसालें जो दूरदराज के  
गांवों, कसमसाते शहरों और  
नाजुक इकोसिस्टम में जीते लोगों  
की जिंदगी बदल रहे

सोला टीटियां  
राजस्थान में तिलीनिया  
के बेयरफुट कॉलेज में  
ट्रेनिंग लेते हुए

www.indianexpress.com



INDIA-EU FTA SLICED & DICED

# BW BUSINESSWORLD

www.businessworld.in

ISSN NO. 3984781 | 07 FEBRUARY 2026



UNION BUDGET 2026-27

## EMPOWERING GROWTH

With Rs 53.5 lakh crore  
spending, Rs 12.2 lakh crore capex  
and a 4.3 per cent fiscal deficit,  
Budget signals stability

INSIDE: INDIA-US INTERIM DEAL LOWERS TARIFFS

# CONTENTS

VOLUME 45, ISSUE 08 ■ 07 FEBRUARY 2026



Photograph courtesy: PIB

## 12 Jottings

Central bank decides to give private sector-driven growth a chance; Did the lady shortchange women? The Indo-US trade tightrope: All the FM's silks, and more

## 14 Columns

Vikas Singh (p. 14); Amit Kapoor & Darshana Gauratra (p. 16); Srinath Sridharan (p. 18); Shailesh Haribhakti (p. 20)

## 22 FTA Decoded

Graphic representation of how India and the EU stand to gain from their landmark FTA that unlocks a \$24-trillion market comprising two billion people

## 26 Work in Progress

A scan of the fineprint of the India-US

interim trade deal that dramatically slashed tariffs on Indian exports

## 46 On the Move

With big-ticket capital expenditure, high-speed corridors and logistics reform, can India's transport backbone finally keep pace with ambition?

## 54 Prime Mover

How the Union Budget 2026-27 positions logistics as a core engine of India's manufacturing and trade competitiveness

## 64 A Long Play

How Budget 2026-27 shifts India decisively from policy ambition to execution, using semiconductors, AI, cloud and tax certainty to build long-term manufacturing and digital infrastructure at scale

30

## Relief, Resolve, Risk

The Union Budget 2026-27 balances targeted tax relief, big public expenditure and manufacturing ambition but leaves open questions on execution, fiscal credibility and resilience

Cover design: BINESHS BANDUNI

78 M

The Union announces places in enterprise India's g

90 G

From sk linked places India's ambitious

98 P

The em of attes which deliver transit

BUD

44 M

Kenw

50 S

Kam

\$2B

Grou

56 D

58 S

Nog

market

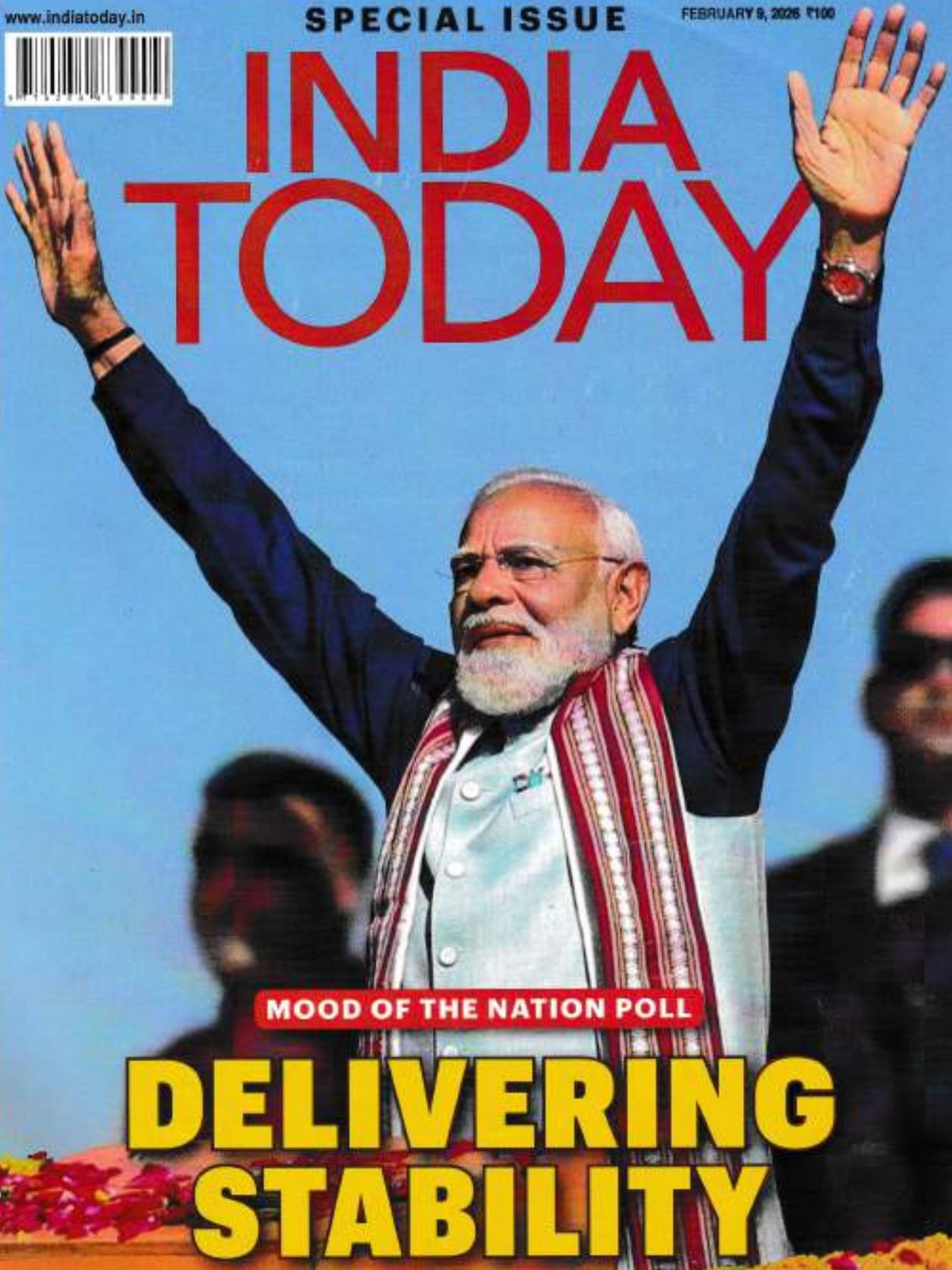
www.indiatoday.in



SPECIAL ISSUE

FEBRUARY 9, 2026 ₹100

# INDIA TODAY



**MOOD OF THE NATION POLL**

## DELIVERING STABILITY

**PM NARENDRA MODI GETS A RESOUNDING MANDATE  
FOR ENSURING POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC  
SECURITY IN THE FACE OF GLOBAL UNCERTAINTY**





# outlook

Read · Think · Understand



## No More A Gentleman's Game

From Wayanad in Kerala to Mallabagh in Kashmir, the roar of fans for women's cricket is deafening. These young sportswomen have broken many barriers to pitch their flag in what has always been a men's ballgame

HMI NO. 70441981



EDITOR Chinki Sinha  
MANAGING EDITOR Smita Padmanabhan  
FOREIGN EDITOR Seenu Gula  
CREATIVE HEAD Harpreet Kaur  
DIGITAL EDITOR Ashwath Sharma  
DEPUTY PHOTO EDITOR Vishwan Thari  
NEWS COORDINATORS Anurita Savana,  
Vijay Ramaswamy

WRITERS Agaldeo Ranjivpatil,  
Ipektra Priyadarshini, Arvin Mathew,  
Ashvini Sharma, Debanjan Dhar, Fota Ismail,  
Ishaj Nazeem, Lalita Iyer, Md. Aghar Khan,  
Mohammad Ali, Mrinalini Deyani, N. K. Bhoopesh,  
Prjanka Tane, Sakshi Saini Chavhan

COPY DESK S.S. Jeevan, Swati Subhadra,  
Vineetha Mohan

DESIGN COORDINATOR Vikas Thakur

PHOTOGRAPHERS Divyesh Parodi,  
Sandipan Chatterjee, Suresh K. Pandey,  
Varun Sharma, Yash Jigal

RESEARCHERS Anand Chakrabarti,  
Anupam Prashant Minc, Subhjitree Rath

DESIGN Anagom Sai Sathishika,  
Champak Bhattacharya

ILLUSTRATOR Saanvi

SOCIAL MEDIA Anviti Singh, Hanayun Kameen,  
Jagath Arava



Outlook issue  
February 1, 2026

#### BUSINESS OFFICE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER Indrani Ray  
PUBLISHER Sandip Kumar Shastri  
DIRECTOR BRAND & MARKETING Shrutika Dewan  
VICE PRESIDENT Divya Singh Bhat  
SR GENERAL MANAGERS Debajani Tagore,  
Shalender Verma  
GENERAL MANAGER Shaheen Dutt  
CIRCULATION & SUBSCRIPTION Gagan Kanti  
HEAD, SALES OPERATIONS Manisha Mittal

#### HEAD OFFICE

4B-10, S.J. Enclave, New Delhi - 110 029  
Customer Care: 926830637 / 926830638  
Office Hours: 10 am to 6 pm  
e-mail: yourhelp@outlookindia.com

Printed and published by Indrani Ray on  
behalf of Outlook Publishing Division Pvt. Ltd.  
Editor, Chinki Sinha. Printed at MP Printers  
(A Unit of DB Corp Ltd) B-220, Phase-II,  
Noida 201305, Gautam Buddha Nagar (UP)  
and published from 4B-10, S.J. Enclave,  
New Delhi-110 029

Published for the period of

February 2-11, 2026

Released on February 1, 2026

Total number of pages: 76 including covers



#### POINT AND SHARE

Now, open Outlook magazine on your  
smartphone instantly. Point your phone's  
scanner on the code and align it in the  
frame. You will be guided instantly to our  
website, [www.outlookindia.com](http://www.outlookindia.com) This is  
useful to share our stories on social  
media or email them.

**M**OST of the games in the ongoing Women's Premier League (WPL) are thrillers going down to the wire. Big venues like the D. Y. Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai are bursting with fans. Chants of 'Smriti, Smriti' run through the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru when the Royal Challengers Bengaluru's women's captain Smriti Mandhana comes out to bat, like it used to when Virat Kohli was at his peak. Fans, analysts and commentators pore over statistics of Harmanpreet Kaur, Jemimah Rodrigues and Deepti Sharma. The quality of women's cricket—towering sixes, tearaway pace, wily spin, fantastic catches and gravity-defying fielding—has undergone a complete transformation. The money in WPL is said to be more than many countries' men's T20 leagues. These young women have come from far and wide, from metros and small towns, fighting patriarchy, societal pressure and poor infrastructure to attain cricketing glory.

#### 4 | RACING AHEAD

For years, women were forced to support their passion for cricket with other paying jobs. But with well-paying playing contracts and opportunities in professional leagues, more women than ever are embracing the sport wholeheartedly  
**By Karunya Keshav**

#### 24 | GREEN SHOOTS OF SILIGURI

A photo feature on the rise of Richa Ghosh, the first Bengali cricketer to be part of a World Cup winning team  
**By Sandipan Chatterjee**

#### 32 | SPICE GIRLS

In the once nondescript villages of Wayanad, cricket is no longer just a sport. It has become a way to dream and to rise above the limits of geography, poverty and custom  
**By N.K. Bhoopesh**

#### 36 | BARMER BRADMAN

Almost three years after she first shot to viral fame, Mumal Meher has fallen out of the spotlight. The talented cricketer keeps practising, hoping to find sustained backing for her sporting journey  
**By Mrinalini Dhyani**



#### 56 | BARAMATI'S DADA

Ajit Pawar's sudden death leaves a power vacuum, but for people, especially from rural pockets in and around Baramati, who considered him a grassroots strongman, the loss is more profound  
**By Pritha Vashishth**

#### 70 | I WAS AT THE ELSEWHERE PARTY

Excerpt from an unpublished manuscript,  
*The Speculative City: A History of the Future* **By Vyjayanthi V. Rao**

COVER: Vikas Thakur

## Subscribe Now

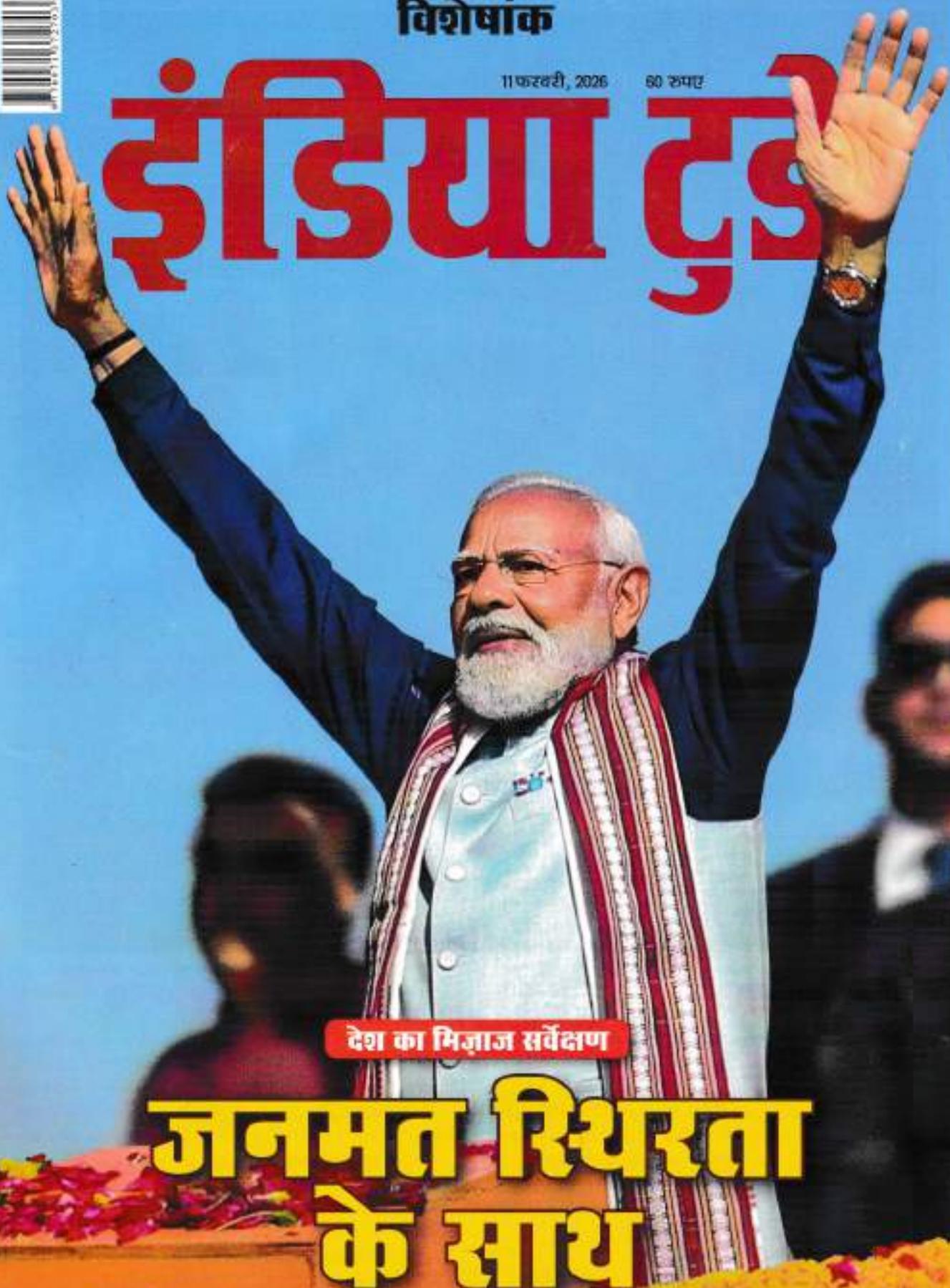


विशेषांक

11 फरवरी, 2026 80 रुपए



# इंडिया टुडे



देश का मिजाज सर्वेक्षण

## जनमत स्थिरता के साथ

विश्वव्यापी उथल-पुथल के बीच राजनैतिक और आर्थिक दृढ़ता बनाए रखने वाले प्रधानमंत्री के पक्ष में स्पष्ट जनादेश

REG. NO. 18823/1986 REGISTRATION NO. DURGAPUR/1986/1986-87 D. NO. 1/1986/1986/1986-87 U.P. NO. 1/1986/1986/1986-87 U.P. NO. 1/1986/1986/1986-87 U.P. NO. 1/1986/1986/1986-87

30



# SPORTSTAR

SATURDAY,  
FEBRUARY 14, 2026  
₹ 125

FOCUS  
FOLLOW US  
SPORTSTAR

POSTER

T20  
WORLD CUP  
SCHEDULE

2026

## FAST AND FURIOUS

From trends and memories to India's evolution in the shortest format, the T20 World Cup decoded



15



## HOW INDIA SHED ITS T20 INHIBITIONS TO BECOME THE FORMAT'S DEFINING FORCE

### T20 World Cup

- 31 **Messiahs of the minnows**  
A look at five players from Associate nations who promise to deliver in the tournament
- 43 **Group Previews**  
Twenty teams battle it out for the coveted trophy. A look into their strengths and weaknesses
- 55 **Battle of the best**  
A few group games will quietly decide who bends the tournament, and who is broken by it. Here's our pick



## 10 Cover Story T20 World Cup

Using matchup data and phase-wise scoring patterns, an analysis of India's ideal XI

Cover illustration: Sainath B

### Read more...

- 66 **Big Interview**  
BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia says the operations team has learned how to deliver successful tournaments
- 88 **Khelo India Beach Games**  
Offering visibility and belief to athletes and sports that rarely find space in the mainstream
- 90 **Spotlight**  
An Se-young continues to dominate, clinches India Open with ease

### Editorial Team

**Editor:** Ayon Sengupta  
**Convergence Editor:** V. V. Rajaekhorni Rao  
**Design:** R. Ravikannan  
**Editorial Consultant:** Vijay Lokapally  
**Sr. Assistant Editor:** Shayan Acharya  
**Assistant Editor:** Jonathan Selvaraj  
**Chief Sub-Editor:** Karan Pillai, Ayon Acharya, Kashin Prasad, Santadeep Dey, Lavanya Lakshmi Narayanan  
**Sr. Sub-Editor/Sr. Reporter:** Saikat Chakraborty, Dhruva Prasad, Neeladri Bhattacharjee, Anesh Dey, Pranay Rajiv, Nihit Sachdeva, Abhishek Saini  
**Sub-Editor/Reporter:** Nigamanth P, Anish P, Sahil Mathur, Joan Matthew Jacoby, Rajdeep Seha, Kavita Menon, Aditya Podinger  
**Senior Multimedia Producer:** Sivasilankar A

**For Subscription:**  
Email: [customerscare@thehindu.co.in](mailto:customerscare@thehindu.co.in)  
No: 18001021878

**For Advertisement**  
National Sales Head  
Satish K Mendon  
[Satishmendon@thehindu.co.in](mailto:Satishmendon@thehindu.co.in)  
**Region**

**Delhi** - Ansh Kumar Verma  
☎ +91 9818709519  
**Bengaluru** - Gurunatha Reddy  
☎ +91 9645520981  
**Chennai** - R. Ganesh  
☎ +91 9641200799

Poster: T20 World Cup schedule (Graphic News); Pages 35-42

[www.sportstar.thehindu.com](http://www.sportstar.thehindu.com)  
mail to: [sportstar@thehindu.co.in](mailto:sportstar@thehindu.co.in)

**Published by** Nirmala Lakshman, Kasturi Buildings, 859, 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600 002 and Printed by SDT Rao at Kala Jyothi Process Private Ltd, Plot no CPC-1&2, Survey No 1 R, E-City, SEZ & General Industrial Park, Ravivoyal & Srinagar (Milage), Maheswaram(M), R.R.Dist, Telangana - 501359 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600 002.

**Editor:** Ayon Sengupta (Editor responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).  
All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

**Disclaimer:** Readers are requested to verify & make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this magazine.  
THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this magazine, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this magazine/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this magazine.  
**Air Surcharge:**  
Colombo ₹ 15.00 | Port Blair ₹ 10.00

DECODING BUDGET 2026  
PM'S ADVISER WRITES

INDIA-US TRADE DEAL  
EXPECT BUMPS ON THE WAY

SUNETRA PAWAR  
HOW SHE BECAME  
FIRST WOMAN DEPUTY  
CM IN MAHARASHTRA

JOURNALISM WITH A HUMAN TOUCH

www.theweek.in

TheWeekMag

TheWeekLive

₹ 80

FEBRUARY 15, 2026

# THE WEEK

DAZZLERS IN RACE  
FOR THE OSCARS  
THREE FILMS DELIGHT  
WITH SCALE AND THEMES

CENSUS 2027

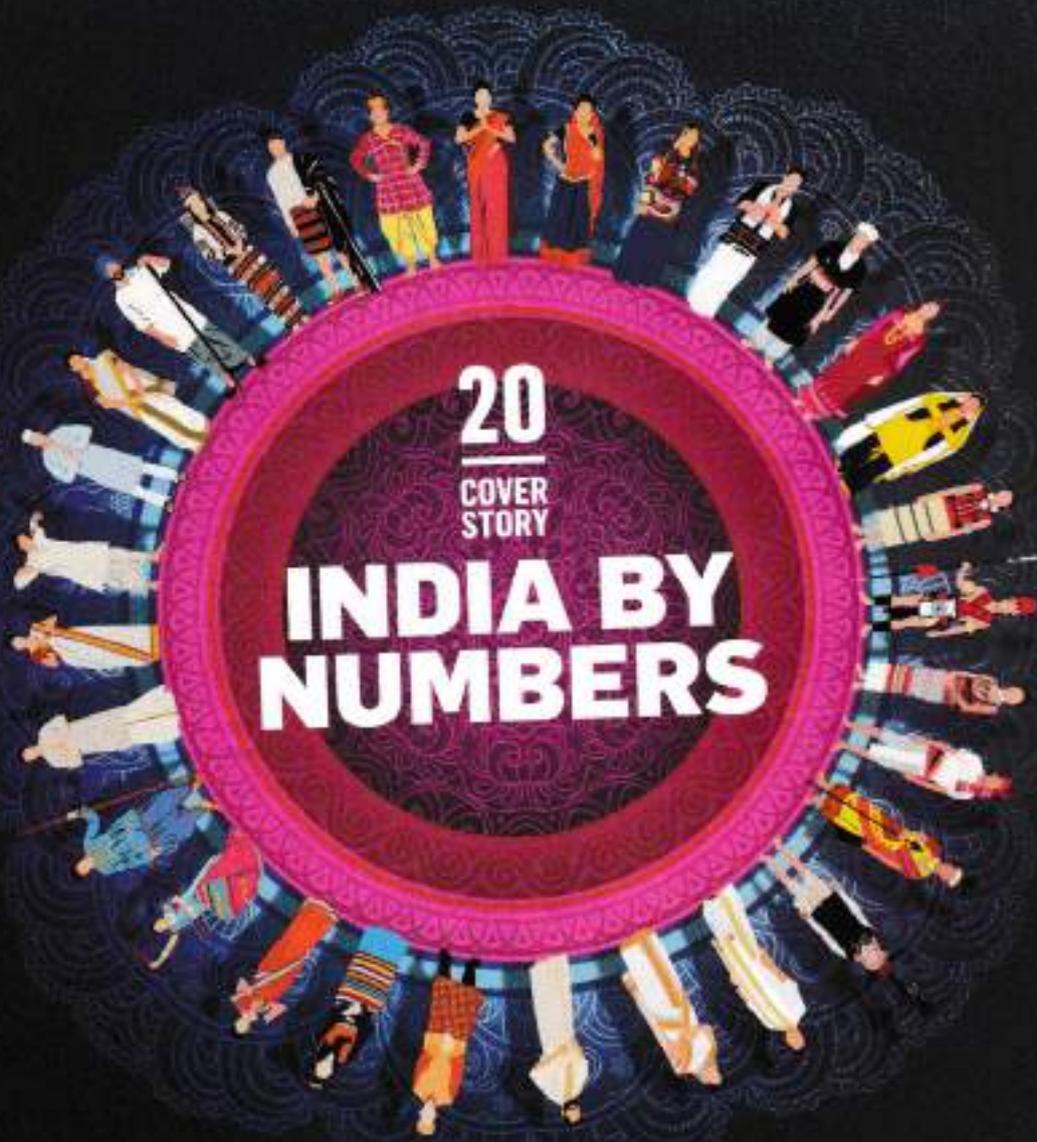
# REDEFINING INDIA

Momentous change through caste count, delimitation,  
women's quota and simultaneous polls



# contents

VOL. 44 | NO. 7 | THE WEEK - FEBRUARY 15, 2026 FOR THE WEEK - FEBRUARY 9 - FEBRUARY 15



20  
COVER  
STORY  
**INDIA BY  
NUMBERS**

Census 2027 is likely to trigger a cascade of consequential political decisions—ranging from caste enumeration and constituency delimitation to women’s reservation and simultaneous elections. Taken together, these measures have the potential to fundamentally reshape India’s electoral landscape, redistribute political power and compel every political party to recalibrate its strategies.

IMAGING: BINESH SREEDHARAN

## 38 CURRENT EVENTS

**Sunetra Pawar's** appointment as deputy chief minister of Maharashtra offers a fascinating peep into the workings of the both the NCP and the Pawar family

## 42 BUDGET



**Nirmala Sitharaman's** ninth budget was no spectacle, but it showed a long-term vision

### GUEST ARTICLE

While ensuring there is continuity in fiscal management, this year's budget has a clear focus on long-term priorities, building resilience and capacity and equipping the youth: **Sanjay Kumar Mishra**, member of the Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister Narendra Modi

## 48 INDO-US TRADE DEAL

India and the US appear to have settled on a pragmatic middle ground, but the fine print of the trade deal could still contain hidden catches

"Trump got the best deal that India has ever offered on tariffs": **Mark Linscott**, senior adviser, US-India Strategic Partnership Forum

## 52 INTERVIEW



"We hope India continues to use its contacts with Russia to help bring the war to an end": **Kimmo Lähdevirta**, ambassador of Finland to India

## 54 SPACE

NASA's Artemis II moon mission marks a shift from exploration to occupation

## 60 KERALA

The turnout at a Hindu revivalist gathering in a Muslim-majority district of Kerala has emboldened the BJP to seek political dividends



VISHNUDAS K.S.

COVER IMAGING **BINESH SREEDHARAN**

Printed at Manorama Building, K.K. Road, Kottayam - 686 001, Kerala, and M P Printers, Noida, and published from Manorama Building, K.K. Road, Kottayam - 686 001, Kerala, by **Jacob Mathew**, on behalf of the Malayala Manorama Company Private Ltd., Manorama Building, K.K. Road, Kottayam - 686 001, Kerala. Editor **Philip Mathew**, Manorama Buildings, Panampilly Nagar, Kochi - 682 036, Kerala. Place of Publication: Manorama Buildings, Panampilly Nagar, Kochi - 682036, Kerala.

\* Focus/Infocus features are paid marketing/PR initiatives

## @ 63 LEISURE

What three Oscar contenders reveal about Hollywood's fight over screens and spectacle

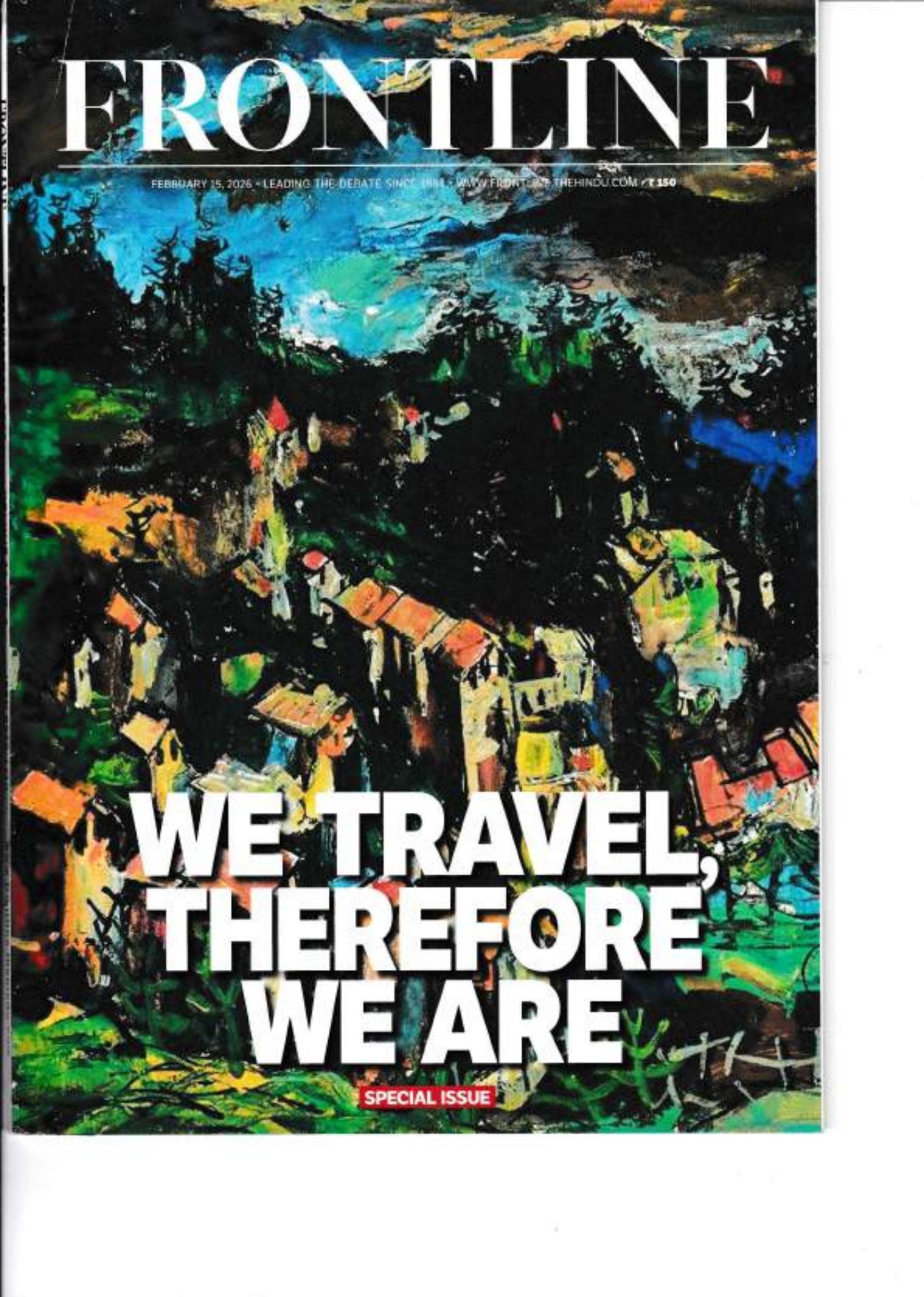


### COLUMNS

- 40 **POWERDRIVE**  
R. Prasanna
- 58 **SCALPEN**  
Dr Mazda Turel
- 70 **OTHERWISE CRACKED**  
K.C. Verma
- 74 **LAST WORD**  
Bansuri Swaraj



Budgets are often judged by what they announce or what they withhold, yet budget 2026-27 signals a quieter and more consequential ambition by reflecting a shift from declaring intent to consolidating capacity.



# FRONTLINE

FEBRUARY 15, 2026 • LEADING THE DEBATE SINCE 1984 • WWW.FRONTLINE.THEHINDU.COM • ₹ 150

**WE TRAVEL,  
THEREFORE  
WE ARE**

**SPECIAL ISSUE**



## COVER STORY

# When all the world's a stage

11/ The pulse of cities across the world beats in their theatres, in the silent communion between magnificent actors and halls full of intent spectators. **ADITYA SONDHI**

Cover image: Sayed Haider Razi, Kashmir; Gouache on paper 1988.  
Image copyright © The Razi Foundation, New Delhi.

## RELATED STORIES

19/ White sheets and white lies | **ANNIE ZAIDI**

25/ Searching for a land of gold | **ZAC O'YEAH**

35/ Annotating Istanbul | **ANIL MENON**

41/ Motorcycle diaries of a reluctant traveller | **ESHWAR SUNDARESAN**

49/ When a lady's gotta go | **MANJULA PADMANABHAN**

55/ The dream warriors | **REBECCA MATHAI**

69/ Of flat tyres and bumpy holidays | **TANUJ SOLANKI**

## WORLD AFFAIRS

78/ A trauma named Trump

## PHOTO ESSAY

84/ Byrnihat: A town poisoned by growth

## ART

92/ A home for banned art

## BOOKS

97/ In review

▼  
08/ The Fortnight

## SHORT STORY

109/ The moon pond

## COLUMN

76/ Mani Shankar Aiyar

06/ Letters

108/ On our bookshelf

112/ Staying in

113/ Stepping out

114/ Back Page

# FRONTLINE

LEADING THE DEBATE SINCE 1984

Editor Vaishna Roy

Managing Editor Varadh Srinivasan

## BUREAUS Chennai

**Sr Associate Editor** R.K. Radhakrishnan  
Bangwan Rajasekaran

**Bengaluru** Vikhar Ahmed Sayeed  
**Delhi** T.K. Rajalakshmi (Chief of Bureau)  
Arundhati Mishra (Political Editor)  
Goni Madna, Ashutosh Sharma

**Hyderabad** Ayesha Khinaz  
**Kolkata** Surind Sankar Chatteropadhyay  
**Mumbai** Anay Throdar

**DESK** Ramesh Chaleapani, Sorbit Sinha,  
Anusua Mukherjee, Annie Thomas,  
Abhinavi Srinam, Aarthi Muzali,  
Sathikala Asinatham

## DIGITAL

**Consulting Editor** Bindu Vasudevan  
**Digital Editor** Jincy Jose P.

Siddarth Muralidharan, Shiraz Polwel,  
Sathika Radhakrishna, Kavya Pradeep M,  
Ankita Vijayarajakumar

**DESIGNERS** B. Srinivasan, R. Inbaraj

Published by Nimala Lakshman,  
Kasturi Buildings, 889 & 890, Anna Salai,  
Chennai 600-002 and Printed by SGT Rao at  
Kala Jyothi Process Private Limited,  
Plot No. CFC-1&2, Sunney No. 28, E- City, 562  
& General Industrial Park, Ravinjal & Srinagar  
(Wilagel, Maheswarpet), R.R. Dist,  
Telangana - 502329 on behalf of THG  
PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600 002.

Editor: Vaishna Roy (Responsible for  
selection of news under the PRP Act)  
All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in  
part without written permission is prohibited.

frontline@thehindu.co.in  
frontline\_india  
frontlineindia  
frontline.magazine

Frontline is not responsible for  
the content of external internet sites.

### For subscription and delivery queries:

Pan India Toll Free 1800 102 1878  
customercare@thehindu.co.in

### For advertisement: National Sales Head

Satish K Mendon  
satish.mendon@thehindu.co.in

### Region

Delhi - Ansh Kumar Verma  
9818798519  
Bangalore - Gunanatha Reddy  
9845529981  
Chennai - R. Ganesh  
984290799

### Air Surcharge:

Colombo Rs. 20.00 | Port Blair Rs. 15.00

### POINT AND SHARE

Point your phone's scanner  
on the code and align it in the frame  
to get to [frontline.thehindu.com](http://frontline.thehindu.com).  
You can now share our stories on  
social media or email them.



**Aditya Sondhi**  
is a senior  
advocate at the  
Supreme Court of  
India, an author,  
playwright, and  
occasional  
travel writer.



**Annie Zaidi** writes  
across multiple  
genres, including  
fiction, non-fiction,  
plays, and  
poetry. *The  
Comeback* is her  
most recent novel.



**Zac O'Yeah's** latest  
book is *Digesting India*.  
Most recently, he  
scripted and lent his  
voice to an app that  
takes users on a self-  
guided journey through  
Bengaluru's literary and  
cultural hotspots.



**Anil Menon** is the  
chief editor of *The  
Bombay Literary  
Magazine* as well as  
a novelist. His most  
recent work is  
the novel  
*The Coincidence  
Plot*.



**Eshwar Sundaresan**  
lives a multi-  
dimensional life as an  
author, ghostwriter,  
and explorer.  
However, he is  
boring when  
exploring the world  
on his two-wheeler.



**Manjula  
Padmanabhan** is  
an author, play-  
wright, illustrator,  
and artist. She lives  
in the  
US, with a part-time  
home in New Delhi.



**Rebecca Mathal**  
is a writer who  
survives the grind  
in Delhi with her  
eyes on the next  
hike. She grew up  
in Delhi.



**Tanuj Solanki** is the  
author of four books  
of fiction. A new  
collection of  
stories,  
*Appropriation*, is  
due in 2026.

Disclaimer: Readers are requested to verify & make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this magazine. THG PUBLISHING PVT the Publisher & Owner of this magazine, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or adv or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Directors, Employees of this magazine/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever to claims and/or damages for advertisements in this magazine.

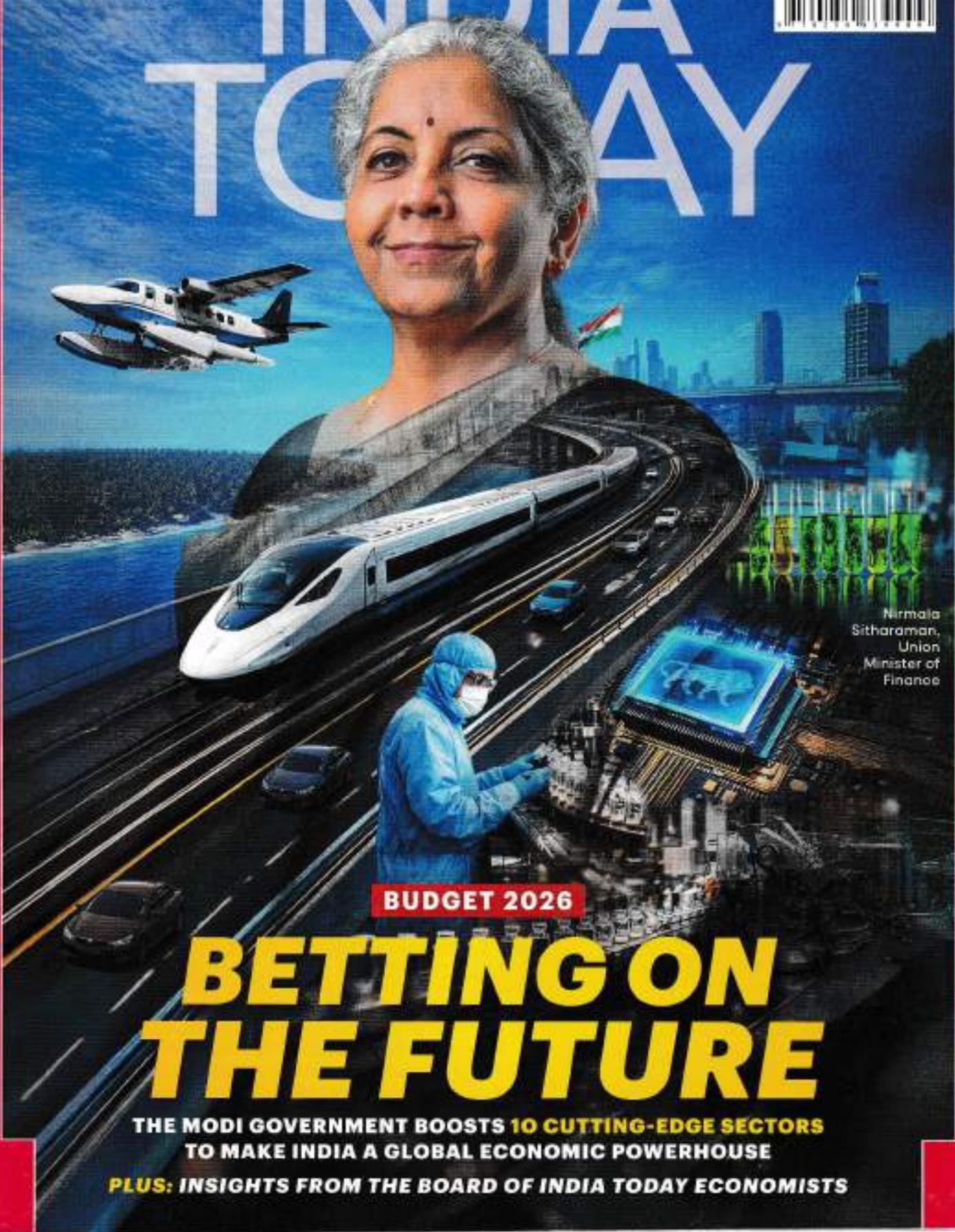
**Indo-US Trade: Father of All Deals**  
**MANIPUR: BIG CHALLENGES FOR THE NEW CM**

www.indiatoday.in

FEBRUARY 16, 2026 ₹100



# INDIA TODAY



Nirmala  
Sitharaman,  
Union  
Minister of  
Finance

**BUDGET 2026**

## **BETTING ON THE FUTURE**

**THE MODI GOVERNMENT BOOSTS 10 CUTTING-EDGE SECTORS  
TO MAKE INDIA A GLOBAL ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE**

**PLUS: INSIGHTS FROM THE BOARD OF INDIA TODAY ECONOMISTS**



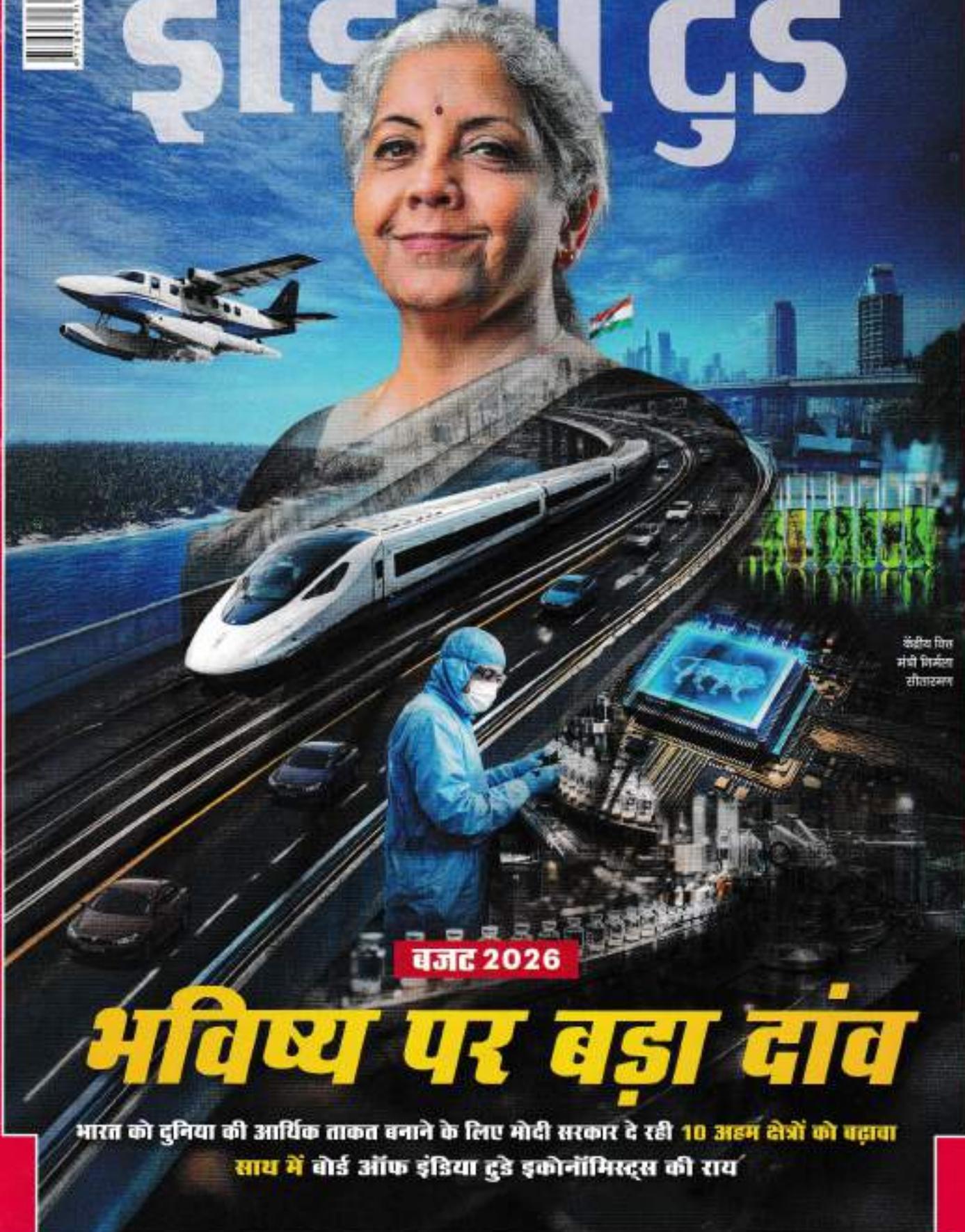
भारत-अमेरिका व्यापार: सबसे बड़ी डील  
यूपी: एसआइआर पर सपा की नजर / बिहार: नीतीश की तेज रफ्तार

18 फरवरी, 2026

60 रुपये



# इंडिया टुडे



केंद्रीय वित्त  
मंत्री निर्मला  
सीतारमण

बजट 2026

## भविष्य पर बड़ा दांव

भारत को दुनिया की आर्थिक ताकत बनाने के लिए मोदी सरकार दे रही 10 अहम क्षेत्रों को बढ़ावा  
साथ में बोर्ड ऑफ इंडिया टुडे इकोनॉमिस्ट्स की राय

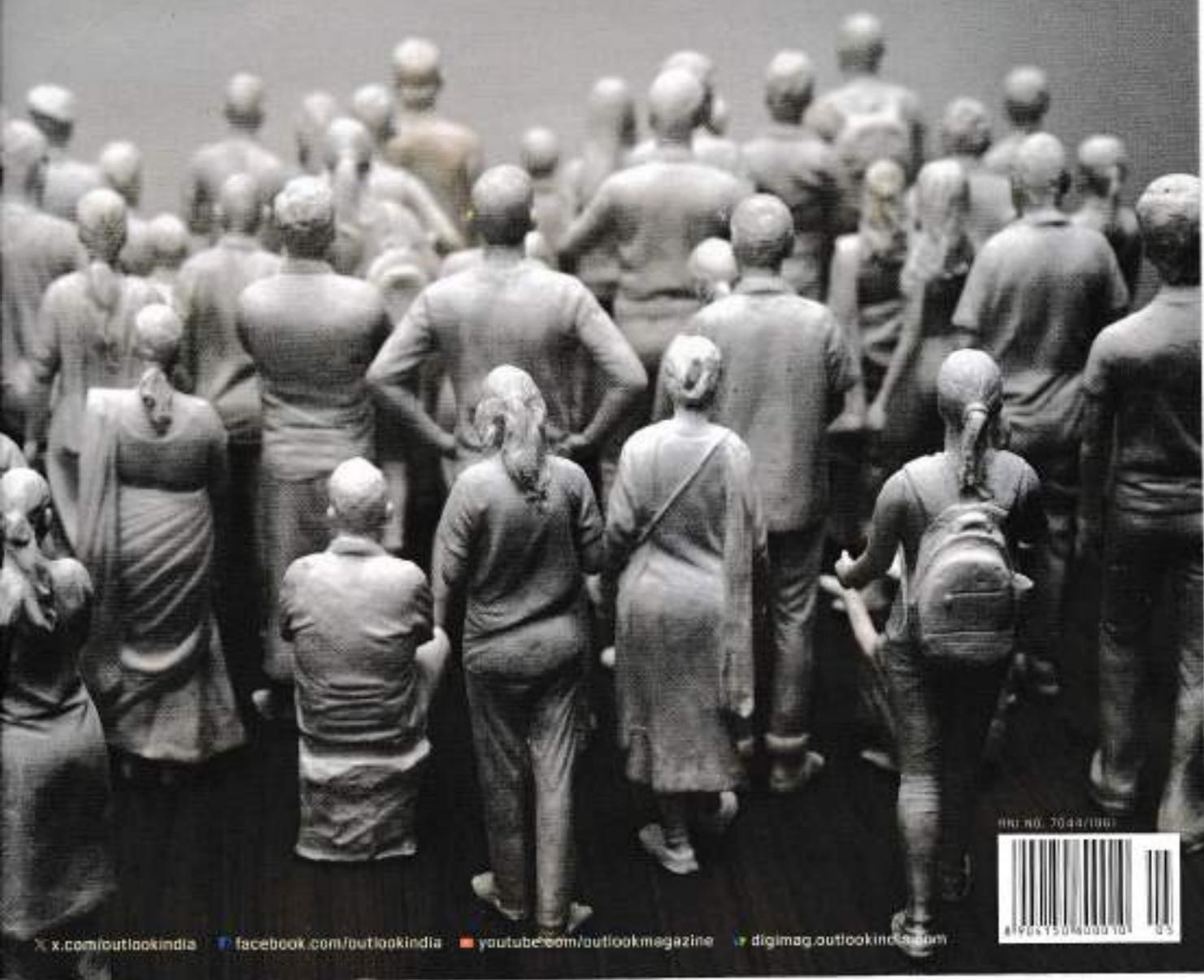


# Outlook

Read · Think · Understand

## Seeking Equity

The anti-reservation sentiment in higher education on the UGC's recommendations to end caste discrimination in university campuses, which the apex court has stayed, reflects a deep-seated insecurity on the part of the general category students, a decade after a Dalit student Rohith Vemula killed himself calling his birth his fatal accident



ISSN NO. 2044/1001



Volume LXXVI No. 5

EDITOR Chinki Sinha

MANAGING EDITOR Satish Pedrasabhan

FOREIGN EDITOR Seema Baha

DIGITAL EDITOR Anubhava Sharma

DEPUTY PHOTO EDITOR Tribhuvan Tiwari

NEWS COORDINATORS Anushka Saxena,  
Vidya Ramamurthy

WRITERS Agnideb Bandyopadhyay

Apeksha Prasadachari, Anshu Mathew,  
Ashwini Sharma, Debanshi Das, Fozia Khan,  
Ishfaq Masoom, Lalita Iyer, M. Angha Khan,  
Mohammed Ali, Minalini Dhyani, M. K. Bhoopesh,  
Priyanka Tupe, Sakshi Saini Chauhan

COPY DESK S.S. Jeevan, Swati Subhedar,  
Vivekta Malik

DESIGN COORDINATOR Vikas Thakur

PHOTOGRAPHERS Dinesh Parat,  
Sandipan Chatterjee, Suresh K. Pandey,  
Vishal Sharma, Yash Jopai

RESEARCHERS Aniruddh Chakrabarty,  
Anupam Prashant Mino, Subhanshu Rasth

DESIGN Ananya Jai Balasubramanian,  
Champak Bhattacharjee

ILLUSTRATOR Saahil

SOCIAL MEDIA Anviti Singh, Harman Kumar,  
Jagsha Arora



Outlook issue  
February 11, 2026

#### BUSINESS OFFICE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER Indrani Roy  
PUBLISHER Sandip Kumar Ghosh  
DIRECTOR BRAND & MARKETING Shrutika Datta  
VICE PRESIDENT Dinesh Singh Bhatt  
SR GENERAL MANAGERS Debanshi Tagore,  
Shubankar Vohra  
GENERAL MANAGER Shashank Dast  
CIRCULATION & SUBSCRIPTION Sagar Kohli  
HEAD, SALES OPERATIONS Manisha Mishra

#### HEAD OFFICE

A4-90, S.J. Enclave, New Delhi - 110 029  
Customer Care: 9288833637 / 9288833638  
Office hours: 10 am to 6 pm  
e-mail: yeshelp@outlookindia.com

Printed and published by Indrani Roy on  
behalf of Outlook Publishing (India) Pvt. Ltd.  
Editor: Chinki Sinha. Printed at MPT Printers  
(A Unit of DS Cony Ltd B-220, Phase-II,  
Nokla 202305, Gurukul Bach Nagar (UP)  
and published from A4-10, S.J. Enclave,  
New Delhi-110 029

Published for the period of  
February 22-21, 2026  
Released on February 11, 2026  
Total number of pages 68 including covers



#### POINT AND SHARE

Now, open Outlook magazine on your  
smartphone instantly. Point your phone's  
scanner on the code and align it in the  
frame. You will be guided instantly to our  
website, [www.outlookindia.com](http://www.outlookindia.com) This is  
useful to share our stories on social  
media or email them.



#### ON THE COVER

From the show 'A  
Breath Held Long'  
by Sudarshan Shetty

#### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Sudarshan Shetty  
explores the  
fundamental ontology  
of objects through  
sculpture, drawing,  
and installation. His  
practice engages with  
the poetics  
of impermanence,  
transition, and the  
layered meanings  
embedded within  
material culture.  
Drawing on both  
individual and  
collective memory,  
Shetty proposes  
multiple narratives  
that reflect on the  
cultural, emotional,  
and philosophical  
significance of  
structures and  
objects—revealing how  
fragmented histories  
and material residues  
can inhabit a shared  
space of meaning.



#### 6 | CLASS AND CASTE

From delayed  
degrees and stalled  
promotions to verbal  
abuse, professional  
isolation, and  
sometimes death,  
caste discrimination  
persists across  
campuses in India  
By Priyanka Tupe



#### 16 | HYDERABAD BLUES

Without sustained  
political will Rohith  
Vemula's legacy may  
remain symbolic  
rather than catalysing  
structural change in  
higher education  
By N.K. Bhoopesh



#### 44 | THE HIGHER, THE LOWER

What is clear is that  
the entrenched caste  
hierarchy feels  
that power is slipping  
out from their grasp  
By N. Sukumar



#### 58 | RAPIDS IN THE TEESTA

In the post-uprising polls,  
the Gen Zs in Bangladesh  
and Nepal are playing  
contrasting roles  
By Snigdhendru Bhattacharya

#### 66 | DIARY

COVER  
COURTESY:  
GALLERYSKE  
Photograph by  
Tribhuvan Tiwari

## Subscribe Now



MANIPUR'S DEPUTY CM NEMCHA KIPGEN  
I AM READY TO MAKE ANY SACRIFICE

JOURNALISM WITH A HUMAN TOUCH | www.theweek.in | TheWeekMag | TheWeekLive | ₹ 80

# THE WEEK

COLUMN BY  
**ANITA PRATAP**  
EPSTEIN AND THE CROWN  
PRINCESS OF NORWAY

WEALTH WATCH  
THE ALLURE OF GOLD,  
NOW A DIGITAL OPTION

9 770895 422702

# WHY WE DREAM

Dreams can shape our creativity, solve our problems,  
heal our mind and prep us for life



# contents

VOL. 11 | NO. 8 | THE WEEK FEBRUARY 22, 2026 | FOR THE WEEK FEBRUARY 16-FEBRUARY 22

**16**  
COVER STORY



## Sleep's secret laboratory

From marking nocturnal visions on clay tablets to journaling through apps, we have long been fascinated by dreams, and research suggests that the fascination is well-founded, as dreams may hold not just meanings, but answers, too

### PLUS

- Sleep is the quiet friend who repairs what life frays: Dr Mazda Turel
- New York-based photographer Nicolas Bruno turns his nightmares into art to spread awareness about sleep paralysis
- The art of selling dreams



IMAGING: BINESH SREECHAMAN

**38****CURRENT EVENTS**

The stage is now set for the next step in addressing the ethnic aspirations of the people of Manipur, but it remains to be seen whether the state is ready for engagement that moves beyond mere dialogue



**Interview**  
**"Unity is absolutely essential. I do not represent one community alone"**  
 —Nemcha Kipgen, Manipur's deputy chief minister

**45****BANGLADESH**

**"India-Bangladesh relations have reached their lowest point"**  
 —Mostafa Sarwar Farooki, filmmaker and cultural adviser, Bangladesh

**48****TRADE**

India and the Nordic countries are well positioned to unlock new partnerships by aligning sustainability, skills and innovation

**COLUMNS**

**10 POWERDRIVE**  
 R. Prasanna

**14 MEDICINE BEYOND BORDERS**  
 Shyla Jovitha Abraham & Dr Jame Abraham

**44 MEDI-SCENE**  
 Dr Preetha Reddy

**53 SOUNDBITE**  
 Anita Pratap

**62 SCHIZO-NATION**  
 Anuja Chauhan

**74 LAST WORD**  
 Navtej Sarna



The future of Indian health care will not be defined only by hospitals and technology, but by our ability to extend trust, compassion and clinical excellence beyond institutional walls

**50****DIPLOMACY**

The UAE's role as a long-term investor in India's growth story is now firmly established  
 —Sunjay Sudhir, former Indian ambassador to the UAE

**@****63****LEISURE**

Celebrating the many detours of artist Satish Gujral

**66****CINEMA**

Fiction, fantasies and full-bleed heroes

COVER ILLUSTRATION **BINESH BREEDHARAN**

Printed at Malayala Manorama Press, Manorama Building, K.K. Road, Kottayam - 686 001, Kerala, and published from Manorama Building, K.K. Road, Kottayam - 686 001, Kerala, by Publisher and Printer **Jacob Mathew**, on behalf of the Malayala Manorama Company Private Ltd., Manorama Building, K.K. Road, Kottayam - 686 001, Kerala. Editor **Philip Mathew**, Manorama Buildings, Panampilly Nagar, Kochi - 682 036, Kerala. Place of Publication: Manorama Buildings, Panampilly Nagar, Kochi - 682036, Kerala.  
 • Focus/Infocus features are paid marketing/PR initiatives

**CHAIRMAN AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:** Anon Puri  
**VICE CHAIRPERSON AND EXECUTIVE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:** Anil Puri  
**GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:** Deepak Shrivastava

**GROUP EDITORIAL DIRECTOR:** Raj Chhabra

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:** Manoj Sharma

**GROUP CREATIVE EDITOR & CHIEF OF ARTS:** Manoj Das **GROUP PHOTO EDITOR:** Sandeep Singh

**EDITOR (FEATURES):** Kai Jaisri Prasad

**MANAGING EDITORS:** Sunil Mehta, S. Sahaya Raju, Manisha Saroop, Raveesh Deka  
 Muzam, M.C. Arun

**SENIOR DEPUTY EDITORS:** Anish S. Mahajan, Sangram K. Patil, Saurabh

**DEPUTY EDITORS:** Pratik R. Sagar

Leena Rishi, Pankaj, Muskan, Subant Singh

**SENIOR EDITORS:** Sonali Acharya, Anshu Maheshwari, Sakshi Nigam

Priya Anand, Shweta B. Chak, Rohini Kulkarni

**SENIOR ASSOCIATE EDITORS:** Sonali Khattar

Muskan, Divya S., Kalki, Anwesha, Ananya Singh

**ASSOCIATE EDITOR:** Anshu S. Dasgupta, Vipul Grover, Divyanshu Ajay Sakamari

**ASSISTANT EDITOR:** Koushik Anand, Datta Majumdar

**PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENT:** Lakshmi Anand, Mahesh

**PHOTO DEPARTMENT:** Chandio Deep Kumar (Deputy Chief Photographer),

Anurag Kumar (Principal Photographer)

Muskan, Manish Sarosh Doodher (Chief Photographer)

**PHOTO RESEARCHERS:** Pratikhar Tiwari (Deputy Visual Research Editor),

Sahil, Nishu (Chief Photo-Researcher),

Joshi, Singh, Adhikari (Principal Photo-Researcher)

**GRAPHICS EDITOR:** Sameer Chakravarty

**ART DEPARTMENT:** Ganesh Pooja (Creative Editor),

Anshu Kumar, Dr. Sankar Anil, Director, Rajesh Kumar Anand, Bhoomesh Dut

Sharma (Associate Art Director), Santosh Kumar Sharma (Assistant Art

Director), Praveen Kumar, Sumant (Chief Designer),

Sachin, Jyoti (Chief Illustrator)

**PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT:** Harish Agarwal (Chief of Production),

Neelam Gupta (Chief Coordinator)

**CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER:**

Sapna Kumar

**IMPACT TEAM:**

Senior General Manager, Ananta Lal Mehta and Exec, Syed Naved (Chennai)

General Manager, Mohan Rishi (Bombay)

Deputy General Manager, Raghunandan P. Sengupta

**GROUP CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER:** Vivek Maheshwari

**SALES AND OPERATIONS:**

Deepak Bhatt, Assistant Vice President-Sales and Distribution

Rajesh Gandhi, General Manager (North)

Vijayesh Gokhale, Regional Sales Manager (West)

Manoj Hossain, Regional Sales Manager (East)

# CONTENTS

**UPFRONT: TEMPEST OVER A BOOK PG 6**

**STATESCAN: POLITICAL SLUGFEST IN ASSAM PG 18**

**COVER STORY 24**



Photo: Montage by HARDIK CHHABRA/AI

## THE GREAT OPENING UP

**A HOST OF NEW AGREEMENTS SIGNAL INDIA'S BOLD BUT RISKY GAMBIT TO JOIN THE BIG LEAGUE OF TRADING NATIONS**

**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW COMMERCE MINISTER PIYUSH GOYAL PG 38**

► **THE BIG STORY**

### 42 A New Rafale Deal

India's plan to acquire the latest Rafale fighter jets would help bolster its depleted fighter strength and counter the growing air capabilities of China and Pakistan

► **CONTROVERSY**

### 46 A Feuding Royalty

The Mewar royal family's dispute over ancestral properties in Udaipur has resurfaced a year after the death of its last 'custodian' king. The Delhi HC is set to rule on the matter

► **LEISURE**

### 51 The Interpreter of Tongues

Jhumpa Lahiri on writing in Italian and working on a new translation of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*

**Note to the reader**

From time to time, you will see pages titled 'An Impact Feature' or 'Focus' in new books. These are no different from advertisements, and the magazine's editorial staff is not involved in their creation in any way.

Cover by NILANJAN DAS / AI



Readers are recommended to make appropriate enquiries before sending money, incurring expenses or entering into commitments in relation to any advertisement appearing in this publication. The India Today Group does not vouch for any claims made by the advertisers of products and services. The printer, publisher, editor-in-chief and the editor of the India Today Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences in the event of such claims not being honoured by the advertisers.



SCAN HERE TO SUBSCRIBE

E-MAIL to: [letters.editor@intoday.com](mailto:letters.editor@intoday.com) or log on to [www.indiatoday.in](http://www.indiatoday.in)

FOR SUBSCRIPTION ASSISTANCE, CONTACT: [weare@intoday.com](mailto:weare@intoday.com) | Phone / Whatsapp: +91 8807 778 778 (Monday to Saturday, 9.30am - 5.30pm)



Volume 51-Number 7: For the week

February 07-23, 2020, published on every Friday

• Editorial/Corporate Office Living Media India Ltd., India Today Group

Moolgala, F-4 Sector-16A, Plot-C/2, Noida - 201301. Phone: 0120-4407100

• Subscriptions: For addresses, orders, email: [weare@intoday.com](mailto:weare@intoday.com)

Phone / Whatsapp: +91 8807 778 778 (Monday to Saturday, 9.30am - 5.30pm)

• Sales: Direct all trade enquiries to General Manager (Sales), Living Media India

Limited, C-4, Sector-16, Noida-201301 (C-7)

• Regd. Office: P-04, First Floor, Crosswath Place, New Delhi-110001

• Impact Office: 1501, 15th Floor, Tower 2 A, One Indiabulls Centre,

Chopra Mills, S.B. Marg, Lower Park (West), Mumbai-400032

Phone: 022-60155551; Fax: 022-6015552

• D-1, Ground Floor, Viharone Towers, Bandrawan Estate, New Delhi

• Door No: 413, 403A, 401, 3rd Floor, Block A, Imperial Chakrasa Building,

Ans Road, Yamunapet, Chennai, Tamilnadu-600018

• B-7, 6th (Subground) Towers, 3rd Floor, 11, Sakinaka Road,

Bangalore-560003. Phone: 082241444, 082241445, 082241446. Fax: 082241447

• 11, Anandnagar Noida Road, 4th Floor, Kalyani-201011. Phone: 0120-4242244

Fax: 0120-4242244; +91-8807778778. Bangalore: 082241444

Phone: 082241444 +91-8807778778. Bangalore: 082241444

Fax: 082241444 +91-8807778778. Bangalore: 082241444

• D-1, Ground Floor, Viharone Towers, Bandrawan Estate, New Delhi

• Door No: 413, 403A, 401, 3rd Floor, Block A, Imperial Chakrasa Building,

Ans Road, Yamunapet, Chennai, Tamilnadu-600018

• B-7, 6th (Subground) Towers, 3rd Floor, 11, Sakinaka Road,

Bangalore-560003. Phone: 082241444, 082241445, 082241446. Fax: 082241447

• 11, Anandnagar Noida Road, 4th Floor, Kalyani-201011. Phone: 0120-4242244

Fax: 0120-4242244; +91-8807778778. Bangalore: 082241444

Phone: 082241444 +91-8807778778. Bangalore: 082241444

Fax: 082241444 +91-8807778778. Bangalore: 082241444

• D-1, Ground Floor, Viharone Towers, Bandrawan Estate, New Delhi

• Door No: 413, 403A, 401, 3rd Floor, Block A, Imperial Chakrasa Building,

Ans Road, Yamunapet, Chennai, Tamilnadu-600018

• B-7, 6th (Subground) Towers, 3rd Floor, 11, Sakinaka Road,

Bangalore-560003. Phone: 082241444, 082241445, 082241446. Fax: 082241447

• 11, Anandnagar Noida Road, 4th Floor, Kalyani-201011. Phone: 0120-4242244

Fax: 0120-4242244; +91-8807778778. Bangalore: 082241444

Phone: 082241444 +91-8807778778. Bangalore: 082241444

Fax: 082241444 +91-8807778778. Bangalore: 082241444

• D-1, Ground Floor, Viharone Towers, Bandrawan Estate, New Delhi

• Door No: 413, 403A, 401, 3rd Floor, Block A, Imperial Chakrasa Building,

Ans Road, Yamunapet, Chennai, Tamilnadu-600018

• B-7, 6th (Subground) Towers, 3rd Floor, 11, Sakinaka Road,

Bangalore-560003. Phone: 082241444, 082241445, 082241446. Fax: 082241447

For reprint rights and syndication enquiries, contact [syndication@intoday.com](mailto:syndication@intoday.com) or call +91-8807778778

[www.syndicationtoday.in](http://www.syndicationtoday.in)

प्रतिरक्षा: साफल का नया चेड़ा

यूपी: दूरदर्शी और दीर्घकालिक बजट / राजस्थान: ताने-बाने में नया 'असंतुलन'

25 फरवरी, 2028

80 रुपये

# इंडिया टुडे



मोदी के व्यापार साझेदार: (बाएँ से)  
क्रिस्टोफर लॉरेंस (न्यूजीलैंड), वीर  
स्टार्मर (यूके), उर्सुला वॉन डेर लैयेन  
(ईएन), डोनाल्ड ट्रंप (अमेरिका),  
एथनी एडवामीता (ऑस्ट्रेलिया),  
हेसाम किब्र ताहिक (ओमान)

व्यापार समझौता

## सबका साथ सबसे व्यापार

भारत के अनेक देशों से हुए व्यापारिक समझौते इस बात का सबूत हैं कि वह खुद की दुनिया के  
बड़े कारोबारी देशों के बीच स्थापित करने का साहसी और जोरिबम भरा कदम उठा चुका है

स्वास बातचीत: वाणिज्य मंत्री पीयूष गोयल से

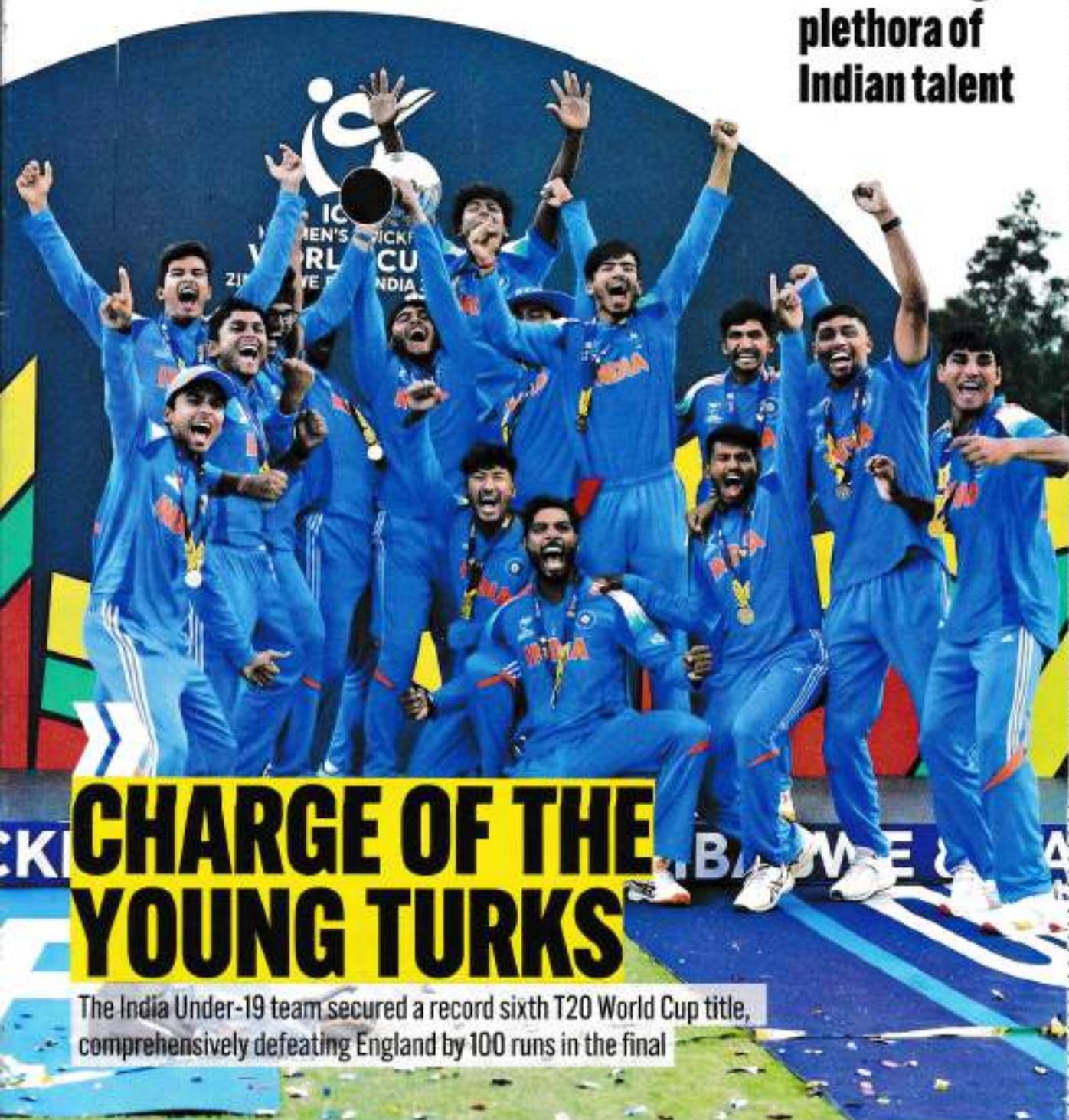
www.indiatoday.in



**POSTER**  
**CARLOS ALCARAZ**

WPL SEASON 4

**Unearthing a  
plethora of  
Indian talent**



## **CHARGE OF THE YOUNG TURKS**

The India Under-19 team secured a record sixth T20 World Cup title, comprehensively defeating England by 100 runs in the final



10

THE MAKING OF A WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE STAR

Cricket

- 15 **Gameplan**  
Toss at the WPL — is chasing an obviously better strategy?
- 25 **On the rise**  
Meet the stars of the Under-19 World Cup-winning team
- 38 **Through the lens**  
Early action from the Men's T20 World Cup



22  
Cover Story  
Under-19 World Cup

Victory, a launchpad for junior cricketers to take the step towards the big stage

Cover: India Under-19 team (AP)

Read more...

- 62 **Indian Super League**  
The comeback offers relief, not romance as there lies a warning about money, trust and the fragility of the system
- 66 **I-League**  
The rebranding of the tournament signals a bold attempt to restore relevance
- 76 **Australian Open**  
Carlos Alcaraz scripts history, youngest to complete career Grand Slam

Editorial Team

**Editor:** Ayon Sengupta  
**Convergence Editor:** V. V. Rajasekhara Rao  
**Design:** R. Ravikannan  
**Editorial Consultant:** Vijay Lokapally  
**Sr. Assistant Editor:** Shayan Acharya  
**Assistant Editor:** Jonathan Selvaraj  
**Chief Sub-Editor:** Karan Pillai, Ayon Acharya, Aashin Prasad, Santadeep Dey, Lavanya Lakshmi Narayanan  
**Sr. Sub-Editor/Sr. Reporter:** Dhruva Prasad, Neeladri Bhattacharjee, Aneesh Dey, Pranay Raju, Nihit Sachdeva, Abhishek Sami  
**Sub-Editor/Reporter:** Nigamanth P, Anish P, Sahil Mathur, Joan Mathew Jacob, Rajdeep Saha, Kavita Menon, Aditya Padinjat  
**Senior Multimedia Producer:** Sivasankar A

**For Subscription:**  
 Email: [customer@thehindu.co.in](mailto:customer@thehindu.co.in)  
 No: 18001021878

**For Advertisement:**  
 National Sales Head  
 Satish K Mendon  
[Satish.mendon@thehindu.co.in](mailto:Satish.mendon@thehindu.co.in)  
**Region**

**Delhi** — Ansh Kumar Verma  
 +91 9818798519  
**Bengaluru** — Gurunatha Reddy  
 +91 9845529981  
**Chennai** — R. Ganesh  
 +91 9841200799

Poster: Carlos Alcaraz (Getty Images); Pages 43-50

[www.sportstar.thehindu.com](http://www.sportstar.thehindu.com)  
 mail to: [sportstar@thehindu.co.in](mailto:sportstar@thehindu.co.in)

**Published by** Nirmla Lakshman, Kasturi Buildings, 859, 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600 002 and Printed by SDT Rao at Kala Jyothi Process Private Ltd, Plot no CFC-1&2, Survey No 18, E-City, SEZ & General Industrial Park, Raviryal & Srinagar (Village), Maheswaram(M), R.R.Dist, Telangana - 501359 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600 002.

**Editor:** Ayon Sengupta (Editor responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act). All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

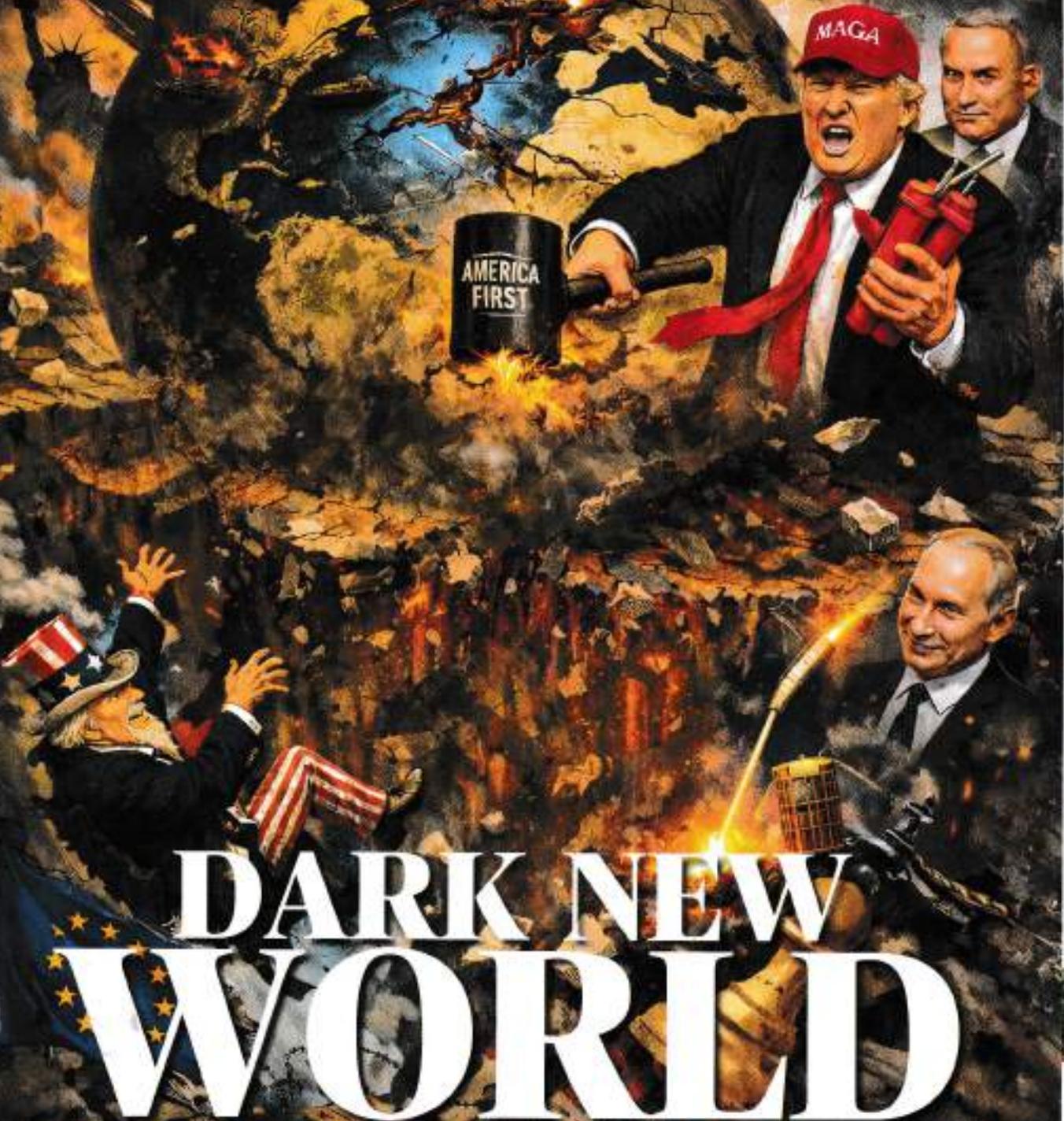
**Disclaimer:** Readers are requested to verify & make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this magazine.

THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this magazine, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this magazine/company be held responsible in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this magazine.

**Air Surcharges:**  
 Colombo ₹ 15.00 | Port Blair ₹ 10.00

# FRONTLINE

FEBRUARY 28, 2020 • LEADING THE DEBATE SINCE 1984 • WWW.FRONTLINE.THEHINDU.COM • 110



## DARK NEW WORLD

# FRONTLINE

Volume 43 - Number 3 - February 16-28, 2026 - ISSN 0970-1710 - [www.frontline.thehindu.com](http://www.frontline.thehindu.com) - 116 pages



## COVER STORY

# Power as ultimate truth

10/ US policy under Trump 2.0 marks a shift from strategic altruism to strategic impatience. In this more demanding world, middle powers like India will need sharper signalling, faster decision-making, and deeper investment in resilience.

## RELATED STORIES

- 18/ Reality bites
- 23/ Europe's new low in hypocrisy
- 27/ Old world, new realities

Cover: Image generated using AI

## INTERVIEW

- 34/ Om Prakash Rawat, former CEC, on SIR
- 72/ Akeel Bilgrami on secularism and multiculturalism

## POLITICS

- 40/ Royal mess
- 57/ The missing isms in Vijay's politics

## SPOTLIGHT

- 45/**Punjab:** Martial legacy on the wane

## CONTROVERSY

- 51/ Unholy fight over holy ritual

- 54/ From Velan to Murukan to Murugan

## ECONOMY

- 64/ Democracy damned by doctored data

## CULTURE

- 84/ The Kushans of Kashmir

## BOOKS

- 91/ **Essay:** Remembering Agatha Christie
- 95/ In review



- 08/ The Fortnight

## WHITE SPACE

- 109/ The art of asking

## COLUMNS

- 32/ Saba Naqvi
- 49/ Mani Shankar Aiyar
- 62/ C.P. Chandrasekhar
- 89/ Prathyush Parasuraman

- 07/ Letters

- 108/ On our bookshelf

- 112/ Staying in

- 113/ Stepping out

- 114/ Back Page



## TRENDING WEB EXCLUSIVES



### EDUCATION

On UGC's controversial "equity" rules



### PUNJAB POLITICS

Why the Akal Takht continues to matter



### SPORT

BOC weaponises cricket for BJP's divisive agenda



### CASE IN POINT

Court's dignity vs citizens' rights

# T

champion arm  
on until 1946  
Hitler invaded  
World War. No  
Nobel Peace P  
President Wood  
idea, but the U  
is considered a  
failure. Not to  
France proved  
and Mussolini

Now, 80 yes  
shocked at the  
the Second Wo  
destroy it with  
once again a U  
Prize, and onc  
Donald Trump  
Venezuelan Pr

At Davos this  
hypocrisies, w  
Carney said the  
collapsing, co  
"quiet part out  
quiet. In a Jama  
administration  
military streng  
like the rules-b  
"Cloud-castl  
From the Enl



# The Economist

America's ICE test

London: hub not hellhole

A deep dive into AI and jobs

In praise of power naps

JANUARY 23RD - FEBRUARY 6TH 2026

## Xi's purge

Why it should worry the world



Australia... A\$12.00	HK\$1.35	Malaysia... RM2.00	New Zealand... NZ\$2.00	Sri Lanka... Rs. 2700
Bangladesh... Tk 1900	India... ₹700	Malta... €0.20	Pakistan... PKR 200	Taiwan... NT\$400
Canada... C\$15.00	Indonesia... Rp 70,000	Myanmar... Ky 1,000	Philippines... ₱ 200	Thailand... ฿ 400
China... ¥12.00	Japan... ¥1,800 + tax	Nepal... NRs 100	Singapore... S\$2.00	USA... US\$6.00

## Contents

Contents

**On the cover**

Xi's risky purge. Why the removal of generals should worry the world: leader, page 7, and analysis, page 23

**America's ICE test** Is the president building his own paramilitary militia? Leader, page 8. Immigration agents have become Donald Trump's personal posse: briefing, page 16. A network of civil-rights activists is forming across America, page 29. Susan Collins has great authority at a critical moment: Lexington, page 34

**London: hub not hellhole** Labour should give it more love: leader, page 9. Its economy has suffered since 2008—but the capital has what it takes to rise again, page 49. Sadiq Khan is not an exciting mayor. But he knows his people, page 51. Contrary to social-media lore, London is one of the safest cities in the world, page 52

**A deep dive into AI and jobs** There is time to adapt. Use it wisely: leader, page 11, and briefing, page 62. How artificial intelligence will change office life, page 65. The threat to entry-level jobs: Bartleby, page 58

**In praise of power naps** You have to get the timing right, though: Well informed, page 75

→ Download *The Economist's* app for articles, podcasts, videos and more, published throughout the week.

**The world this week**

- 5 A summary of political and business news

**Leaders**

- 7 **Chinese politics**  
Xi Jinping's purge
- 8 **America**  
The ICE test
- 9 **Exchange rates**  
The symptom, not the cause
- 9 **London-spurning**  
The haters are wrong
- 10 **Nigeria and South Africa**  
Awake, sleeping giants
- 11 **Artificial intelligence**  
Don't panic, prepare

**Letters**

- 14 On the British state, central banks, marine conservation, a Supreme Court case, transporting ships, peace prizes

**By Invitation**

- 15 Nico Lange and Fabrice Pothier on how Europe can grow a spine

**Briefing**

- 16 **America's immigration paramilitaries**  
ICE rage



**Schumpeter** The battle between Elon Musk and Sam Altman reveals that AI bosses are regular capitalists after all, page 61

**Asia**

- 19 An interview with the KMT's new leader
- 20 Japan's lost pandas
- 21 Agriculture in India
- 21 Thailand's election
- 22 **Banyan** Takaichi Sanae

**China**

- 23 Purging generals
- 24 The corruption quagmire
- 26 Aircraft-carrier ambitions
- 28 **Chaguan** The changing human wave

**United States**

- 29 Inside the ICE protests
- 30 Minneapolis fallout
- 31 Congress and Greenland
- 32 Better public housing
- 33 Censoring universities
- 34 **Lexington** Susan Collins

**The Americas**

- 35 Venezuela's path to democracy
- 36 Carney's conundrum
- 38 Brazilian rare earths

**Middle East & Africa**

- 39 Optimism in South Africa...
- 40 ...and Nigeria
- 41 Congo's opposition
- 42 America and Iran
- 43 Hizbullah, humbled
- 43 Syria's IS prisons

**Europe**

- 44 Securing rare EURths
- 45 EU-India free-trade pact
- 46 A Russian city's war
- 46 Could Orban lose?
- 47 Paris's Metro marvel
- 48 **Charlemagne** Ghosts of empire



→ Contents continues overleaf

## Contents

### Britain

- 49 London's economy
- 51 The mayor it deserves
- 51 Labour's last bastion
- 52 The Londonistan myth
- 53 **Bagehot** The cost-of-living obsession



### International

- 54 **The Telegram** Europe-bashers united



### Business

- 55 The device wars
- 56 Ryanair's ascent
- 57 The future of porn
- 58 **Bartleby** The diamond-shaped firm
- 59 Gulf succession dramas
- 59 Coupang in crisis
- 60 IBM's stunning comeback
- 61 **Schumpeter** OpenAI's purpose



### Briefing

- 62 Avoiding the pitfalls of AI in the workplace



### Finance & economics

- 65 AI and office jobs
- 67 **Buttonwood** How debased is the dollar?
- 68 Russia's shadow fleet
- 69 The Big Mac index
- 70 How dangerous is Japan?
- 71 **Free exchange** A yen for trouble



### Science & technology

- 72 America's Moon shot
- 74 Refreezing the Arctic
- 75 **Well informed** The benefits of napping



### Culture

- 76 The Arctic
- 77 The legacy of Harry Reid
- 78 **Back Story** In flight at the Oscars
- 79 George Saunders
- 79 A viral Russian tune
- 80 Age gaps



### Economic & financial indicators

- 81 Statistics on 42 economies

### Obituary

- 82 Mark Tully, the BBC's "Voice of India"

#### Volume 458 Number 0464

Published since September 1843

To take part in 'a fierce contest between intelligence, which presses forward, and an unworthy, timid ignorance obstructing our progress.'

#### Editorial offices in London and also:

Amsterdam, Beijing, Berlin, Brussels, Cape Town, Chicago, Dubai, Lagos, Madrid/Mexico City, Montevideo, Mumbai, Nairobi, New Delhi, New York, Paris, San Francisco, São Paulo, Shanghai, Singapore, Taipei, Tokyo, Washington DC

#### Subscriber service

For our full range of subscription offers, including digital-only (print and digital bundled), visit [Economist.com/subscribe](http://Economist.com/subscribe)

If you are experiencing problems when trying to subscribe, please visit our Help pages at: [Economist.com/help](http://Economist.com/help) for troubleshooting advice.

To manage your account online, please visit [my.economist.com](http://my.economist.com) where you can also access our live chat service which is available 24/7. To call us, contact our dedicated service centre on:

Asia: 604800 7711 2711  
Singapore: +65 2955 75050



**PEFC certified**  
This copy of The Economist is printed on paper sourced from sustainably managed forests, recycled and controlled sources certified by PEFC.  
[www.pefc.org](http://www.pefc.org)

# The Econo

Dollar dangers

New Bangladesh, old problems

A new nuclear reality

Musk's AI in the sky

FEBRUARY 7TH-13TH 2026

# NOTHING TO SEE HERE

How  
crushing  
the press  
unleashes  
corruption



Australia	A\$19.99 (incl. GST)	Hong Kong	HK\$135	Korea	₩17,500	New Zealand	NZ\$22.00	Sri Lanka	Rs. 2700
Bangladesh	T\$1000	India	₹100	Malaysia	RM4.00	Pakistan	PKR2100	Taiwan	NT\$450
Cambodia	US\$14.00	Indonesia	Rp171,000	Myanmar	L\$810.00	Philippines	₱600.70	Thailand	฿440
China	RMB12.00	Japan	¥1,300 (incl. Tax)	Nepal	Nr1100	Singapore	S\$2.00 (incl. GST)	Vietnam	US\$10.00

# Contents



## On the cover

Curbs on press freedom are unleashing corruption around the world: leader, page 7. As democracies use autocratic tools to muzzle journalism, financial impropriety thrives: briefing, page 14

**Dollar dangers** Holders of American assets must get used to a weaker and more volatile currency: leader, page 8. Why the greenback may have much further to fall, page 58. There is a lot more to emerging markets than 'sell America': Buttonwood, page 63. Untangling the ideas of Donald Trump's Fed nominee: Free exchange, page 64

**New Bangladesh, old problems** Whoever wins its coming election has a lot to do: leader, page 10, and analysis, page 17

**A new nuclear reality** Mitigating the risks of proliferation: leader, page 9. A lapsed treaty with Russia may spur an American arms race with China, page 47. Can Europe do nuclear deterrence without America? Page 39

**Musk's AI in the sky** The world's richest man is betting the future of his business empire on artificial intelligence, page 51

→ Download The Economist's app for articles, podcasts, videos and more, published throughout the week.

## The world this week

- 5 A summary of political and business news

## Leaders

- 7 **Global journalism**  
Nothing to see here
- 8 **Financial markets**  
The dangerous dollar
- 9 **Nuclear deterrence**  
Opening Pandora's box
- 9 **Scientific research**  
The evolution of invertebrates
- 10 **The new Bangladesh**  
Only half-built

## Letters

- 12 AI and the brain, ICE in Minneapolis, AI and carmaking, the seven stages of grief, supermarkets

## By Invitation

- 13 Amir Hossein Ganjibakhsh on how to topple Iran's ayatollahs

## Briefing

- 14 **Press freedom**  
Grifters with gags



**Well Informed Tea** is good for you. Green is better than black, page 68



## Asia

- 17 Bangladesh votes
- 18 Japan's new parties
- 19 Australia and Israel
- 19 Gig labour in India
- 20 **Banyan America's** admiral in Asia



## China

- 21 A huge free-trade port
- 22 Graduates' exam choices
- 23 Inbound medical tourism
- 24 **Chaguan** Reviving Pekingology



## United States

- 25 The right to die
- 26 Golden State v golden geese
- 27 Justice, or just ICE?
- 28 Voting rights and wrongs
- 29 Claremonsters Inc
- 30 **Lexington** Thank God for Melania



## The Americas

- 31 Colombia's mercenaries
- 32 The parable of Panama
- 33 Haiti's sliver of hope



## Middle East & Africa

- 34 Iran v America
- 35 Iran and the region
- 36 Civil war in Iran?
- 36 Still stuck in Gaza
- 37 Conflict in Tigray
- 38 American aid to Africa
- 38 Mining deaths in Congo

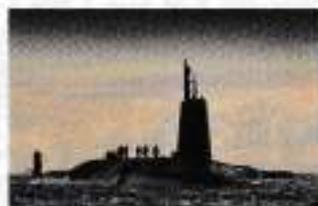


→ Contents continues overleaf

# Contents

## Europe

- 39 The need for nukes
- 40 Freezing Kyiv
- 41 A Slovak-Hungarian squabble
- 41 Rome's political angel
- 42 "Remigration" mania
- 43 Charlemagne Creating EU Inc



## Britain

- 44 Ready, steady, unionise!
- 45 The unions and AI
- 46 Bagehot The Mandelson scandal



## International

- 47 A new nuclear-arms race
- 49 The Telegram The politics of anger



## Business

- 51 Elon Musk's AI gamble
- 53 A software bloodbath
- 54 The Czech sphinx
- 54 Rise of the kidult
- 55 Disney's new boss
- 55 A social network for bots
- 56 Bartleby Management mantras
- 57 Schumpeter The ghost of Epstein



## Finance & economics

- 58 The dollar's descent
- 60 Hong Kong IPOs
- 60 Peak tariff
- 61 The next ad crash
- 62 US-India trade
- 63 Buttonwood The emerging-market bull run
- 64 Free exchange Warshonomics 101



## Science & technology

- 65 Science under Trump
- 66 Disappearing climate data
- 67 Preventable cancers
- 68 Well informed Green v black tea



## Culture

- 69 Health and the web
- 70 The rise of blouge wine
- 71 Back Story "Taxi Driver" at 50
- 72 Ukrainian literature
- 72 Hockey and sex
- 73 "The Doom Loop"



## Economic & financial indicators

- 77 Statistics on 42 economies

## Obituary

- 78 Georges Borchardt, a literary agent, who loved to read

### Volume 426 Number 0400

Published since September 1843 to take part in "a serene contest between Intelligence, which presses forward, and an adversary, that ignorance abstracting our progress."

### Editorial offices in London and also

Amsterdam, Beijing, Berlin, Brussels, Cape Town, Chicago, Dubai, Lagos, Madrid, Mexico City, Mumbai, New Delhi, New York, Paris, San Francisco, São Paulo, Shanghai, Singapore, Tokyo, Washington DC

### Subscription service

For our full range of subscription offers, including digital only or print and digital bundles, visit: [Economist.com/subscribe](http://Economist.com/subscribe)

If you are experiencing problems when trying to subscribe, please visit our help pages at: [Economist.com/help](http://Economist.com/help) for troubleshooting advice.

To manage your account online, please visit [my.economist.com](http://my.economist.com) where you can also access our live chat service which is available 24/7. To call us, contact our dedicated service centre on:

Asia: 001800 7711271  
Singapore: +65 2915 75009



**PEFC certified**  
This copy of The Economist is printed on paper sourced from sustainably managed forests, recycled and controlled sources certified by PEFC. [www.pefc.org](http://www.pefc.org)

# The Economist

Epstein's web: we analyse 1.4m emails

Social-media bans won't work

Inside the Starmer drama

Too few tenors: a choral conundrum

FEBRUARY 14TH-20TH 2026

## THE MOST POWERFUL WOMAN IN THE WORLD



Australia	A\$19.90 (inc GST)	Hong Kong	HK\$135	Korea	₩27,500	New Zealand	NZ\$24	Saudi Arabia	SAR 199
Belgium	€19.90	India	₹700	Malaysia	RM14.00	Pakistan	PKR 1200	Sri Lanka	LKR 3000
Canada	C\$24.95	Indonesia	Rp170,000	Myanmar	US\$35.00	Philippines	₱600	Taiwan	NT\$300
China	¥99.00	Japan	¥1,820+Tax	Nepal	NR1100	Singapore	S\$21.00 (inc GST)	Thailand	฿300

## Contents

**On the cover**

Japan's leader has a historic chance to change her country—if she is bold enough to take it: leader, page 7. Can Takaichi Sanae get Japan racing again? Page 17

**Epstein's web: we analyse 1.4m emails**

The files tell a story of justice denied: leader, page 9. What the emails reveal about America's most notorious sex offender, page 49

**Social-media bans won't work**

Barring teenagers from social media will do more harm than good: leader, page 8. More and more countries are trying: briefing, page 14

**Insider the Starmer drama**

Whether the prime minister stays or goes, the government will drift left: leader, page 11. The leadership crisis is about more than just Peter Mandelson, page 46. Eventually the improbable, the implausible or the once-impossible will become the inevitable: Bagehot, page 48

**Too few tenors: a choral conundrum**

Lots of people sing in choirs. Unfortunately, not enough of them are tenors: leader, page 10. A lack of men who can sing high affects choirs and music, page 77

**The world this week**

- 5 A summary of political and business news

**Leaders**

- 7 **Takaichi Sanae**  
The world's most powerful woman
- 8 **Children and the web**  
Let them scroll
- 9 **Epstein's associates**  
The 1.4m deadly sins
- 9 **The world economy**  
The parable of Brazil
- 10 **The tenor voice**  
A few good men
- 11 **Britain in crisis**  
It will get worse

**Letters**

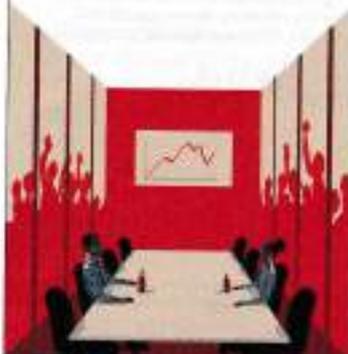
- 12 On education technology, refreezing the Arctic, child prodigies, relationships, song titles

**Briefing**

- 14 **Social-media bans**  
How to protect children



**Bartleby** The quest for a meeting room, page 63

**Asia**

- 17 Takaichi's triumph
- 18 Sri Lanka's recovery
- 20 Crypto in Asia
- 22 **Banyan** Weaponising cricket

**China**

- 23 Arctic advances
- 24 Traditional medicine
- 26 Booming concerts

**United States**

- 27 The Democrats and ICE
- 28 Peak Spanish
- 29 Transgender lawsuits
- 30 Single-earner homebuyers
- 31 Fixing urban schools
- 32 **Lexington** A year of RFK

**The Americas**

- 33 Brazil's economy
- 34 Cuba and Marco Rubio
- 35 Guatemalan traffic jams

**Middle East & Africa**

- 37 Africa's newest despot
- 38 Violence in Nigeria
- 39 Art and politics in Africa
- 39 Syria and Iraq's enmity
- 40 Saudi microeconomics

**Europe**

- 41 Disjointed fighters
- 42 Macron: buy European
- 43 German green shoots
- 43 Norway and Epstein
- 44 Occupied Ukraine
- 45 **Charlemagne** European Union



→ Download *The Economist's* app for articles, podcasts, videos and more, published throughout the week.

» Contents continues overleaf

## Contents

### Britain

- 46 Labour's near-mutiny
- 47 The king and Andrew
- 48 **Bagehot** The Labour alternatives



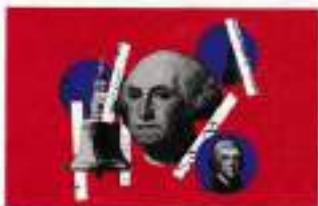
### International

- 49 Jeffrey's network
- 51 **The Telegram** The false allure of tyranny



### America at 250

- 53 A brief history
- 58 **By Invitation** Jon Meacham on the Declaration of Independence



### Business

- 59 Asia's capitalist revolution
- 60 A new strategy for Arm
- 61 China's idea thieves
- 62 America's hot grocer
- 63 **Bartleby** The quest for meeting rooms
- 64 **Schumpeter** Private equity's software problem



### Finance & economics

- 65 How to hedge a bubble
- 66 The art of the trade deal
- 67 American founders
- 68 Women's wages
- 68 Shoddy Chinese buildings
- 69 China's deflationary trap
- 70 **Buttonwood** The coldest crypto winter yet
- 71 **Free exchange** How to put a price on life



### Science & technology

- 72 "Flying" electric boats
- 73 Animal doctors
- 74 Improving robot vision
- 75 **Well informed** Medicalised births



### Culture

- 76 Romance's past and future
- 77 The tenor shortage
- 78 "Wuthering Heights"
- 79 "How Africa Works"
- 79 Corporate influencers
- 80 Rupert Murdoch



### Economic & financial indicators

- 81 Statistics on 42 economies

### Obituary

- 82 Virginia Oliver, lobster-boat skipper

#### Issue 488 Number 940E

Published since September 1843

To take part in 'a severe combat between intelligence, which presses forward, and an unwieldy, inert ignorance obstructing our progress.'

#### Editorial offices in London and also:

Amsterdam, Beijing, Berlin, Brussels, Cape Town, Chicago, Dubai, Lagos, Madrid, Mexico City, Moscow, Mumbai, Nairobi, New Delhi, New York, Paris, San Francisco, São Paulo, Shanghai, Singapore, Taipei, Tokyo, Washington DC

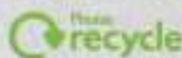
#### Subscription service

For our full range of subscription offers, including digital only or print and digital bundled, visit [economist.com/subscribe](http://economist.com/subscribe)

If you are experiencing problems when trying to subscribe, please visit our Help page at [economist.com/help](http://economist.com/help) for troubleshooting advice.

To manage your account online, please visit [my.economist.com](http://my.economist.com) where you can also access our live chat service which is available 24/7. To call us, contact our dedicated service centre on

Alex: 001800 771 277  
Singapore: +61 296 75060

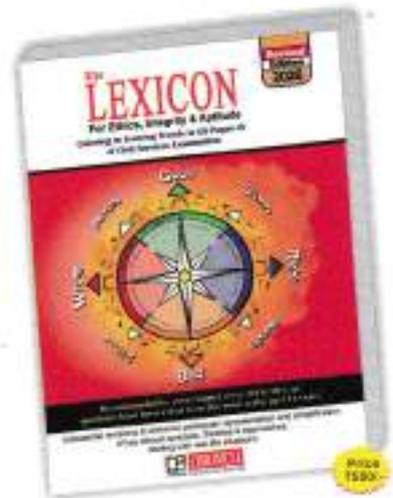


**PEFC certified**  
This copy of The Economist is printed on paper sourced from sustainably managed forests, recycled and controlled sources certified by PEFC  
[www.pefc.org](http://www.pefc.org)

Civil Services

# CHRONICLE

THE NO. 1 MAGAZINE FOR IAS ASPIRANTS SINCE 1990



Prelims Special

## India's Development Dynamics

A Ready Reckoner on Socio-economic Development



### ARTICLES

- India-Oman CEPA: A Strategic Reset in the Gulf
- Inhalable Microplastics: India's Emerging Health Threat
- Bioremediation: Answer to India's Solid Waste Challenge
- NFSI 2025-30: Accelerating Equitable Financial Prosperity
- Transforming India into a Leading Quantum-powered Economy
- From Solar Power to Solar Waste: India's Emerging Concern
- India's Biosecurity Imperatives: Securing Health and the Nation
- Decoding Regulations and Structural Gaps in India's Civil Aviation Sector
- Concentration of Exports in Developed States: Implications for Inclusive Growth
- Biodiversity Loss and Climate Change: Understanding the Feedback Loop



**India's Environmental Jurisprudence: Conservation vs. Development** ◀  
**Nuclear Energy for Transforming India** ◀

Quick Recall Special

85

# INDIA'S DEVELOPMENT DYNAMICS

- In this special section, we have presented a comprehensive compilation on 'India's Development Dynamics'.
- The content encapsulates relevant information related to key dimensions of India's development such as governance, human development, education, health, nutrition, agriculture, industry, services sector, infrastructure, and Digital India, etc. in a concise, factual, and easy-to-remember format.
- Keeping in view the dynamic nature of the UPSC Civil Services Preliminary Examination, the content has been prepared with a completely exam-oriented strategy.
- In the selection of topics, priority has been accorded to those aspects that are directly linked with current development trends and policy reforms. This will help the readers get a clear and comprehensive picture of India's development.

## Articles

### Big Issue

- India's Environmental Jurisprudence: Conservation vs. Development

### Spotlight

- Nuclear Energy for Transforming India

## Current Affairs In Focus

- NFSI 2025-30: Accelerating Equitable Financial Prosperity .....12
- Inhalable Microplastics: India's Emerging Health Threat .....13
- Transforming India into a Leading Quantum-Powered Economy .....14
- India-Oman CEPA: A Strategic Reset in the Gulf ...15
- From Solar Power to Solar Waste: India's Emerging Concern .....16
- India's Biosecurity Imperatives: Securing Health and the Nation .....17

- Decoding Regulations and Structural Gaps in India's Civil Aviation Sector .....18
- Bioremediation: Answer to India's Solid Waste Challenge .....19
- Concentration of Exports in Developed States: Implications for Inclusive Growth .....20
- Biodiversity Loss and Climate Change: Understanding the Feedback Loop .....21

## REGULAR COLUMNS

### India Watch

- Polity & Governance .....22
- Internal Security .....26
- Judiciary .....26
- News Snippets .....28

### Public Policy

- The Viksit Bharat - G RAM G Act 2025 .....29
- The Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India Act, 2025 .....30

- Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Act, 2025.....31
- National Blood Transfusion Bill, 2025.....33
- The Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025.....33

- Defence Technology.....66
- News Snippets.....66
- Terms in Vogue.....68

### Ecology & Environment

- Climate Change.....69
- Biodiversity.....70
- Pollution.....72
- Sustainable Development.....73
- Disaster Management.....74
- News Snippets.....74
- Fact Sheet.....75

### World Watch

- Bilateral Relations.....76
- International Organisations.....79
- Issues.....80
- Events.....81
- Other.....82

**S**  
**F**

on on  
dimensions  
education,  
structure, and  
format.  
Preliminary  
exam-oriented  
aspects that are  
reforms. This will  
of India's development.

**LIVE**  
Separate

## 6 Month Online Course

- ✓ Topicwise NCERT PDF
- ✓ Daily Class Notes
- ✓ Topicwise PYQs
- ✓ Daily Model MCQs

Register now on  
The Chronicle IAS App



Program Fee ₹35000  
EMI Facility Available

**Noida Center**  
A-1C, Sector-16, Noida, U.P. - 201301

(50 mtr. from Noida Sec. 16 Metro Station)

Regulations and Structural Gaps in In-  
novation Sector  
Answer to India's Solid Waste  
Management  
Opinion of Experts in Developed States on  
Addressing the Feedback Loop  
Diversity Loss and Climate Change Under  
the Feedback Loop

### REGULAR COLUMNS

**India Watch**  
• Polity & Governance.....22  
• Internal Security.....26  
• Judiciary.....28  
• News Snippets.....28

**Public Policy**  
• The Viksit Bharat - G-RAM G-Act 2025.....29  
• The Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement  
of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India Act  
2025.....30

**Emerging Health**  
.....17

**BI**  
**ISS**

India's  
the fi  
develo  
fore the S  
Aravalli H  
abeyance  
unregulat  
constitut  
highlights  
and preca  
irreversib  
dia's deve  
er co

evolu  
ects a p  
ented leg  
work shap  
environm  
provisions  
protection.

- The po  
Confer  
stitution  
which is  
environ  
and citi
- The Su  
environ  
include  
while in  
ment an
- The esta  
strength  
mental j

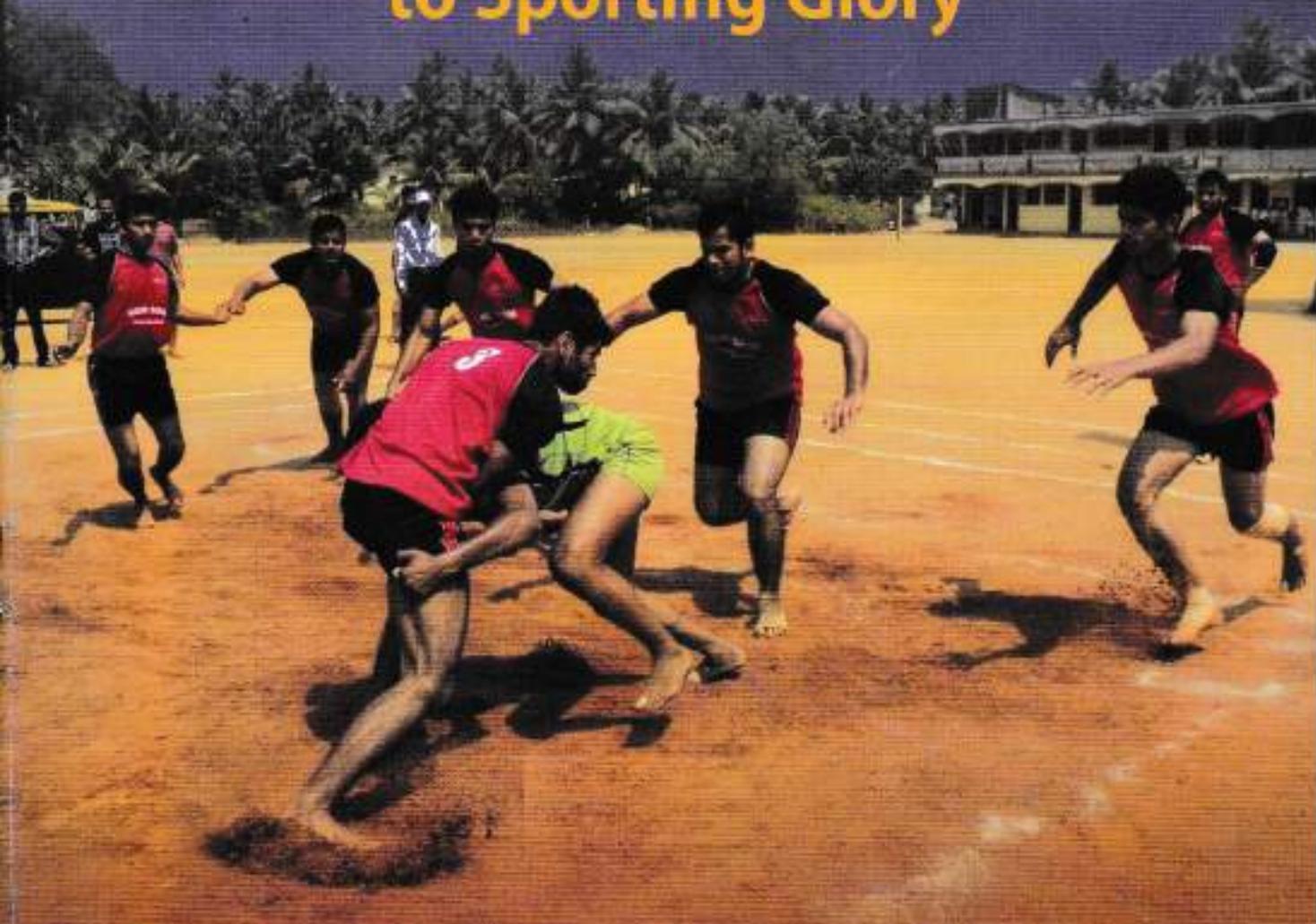
without  
wishers of  
but do not  
on. Readers  
ra acting upon  
ices Chronicle  
ations made by  
only  
Chronicle Publications  
New Delhi- 110016  
Packaging Limited, Plot  
Editor - N.N. Ojha



# Kurukshetra

A RURAL DEVELOPMENT MONTHLY SINCE 1952

## From Mud Grounds to Sporting Glory

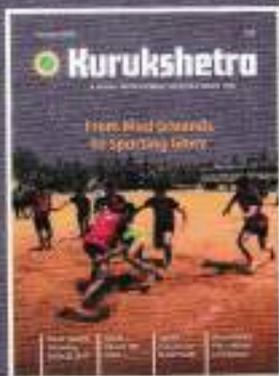


Rural Sports  
Powering  
India @ 2047

Khelo  
Bharat Niti  
2025

Sports  
Careers for  
Rural Youth

Rural India's  
Para Athlete  
Champions



# Kurukshetra

A Rural Development Monthly since 1952

Vol. 74 | No. 04 | Pages 52 | February 2026

## Contents

### CHIEF EDITOR

Lalita Khurana

### SENIOR EDITOR

Anirish B. Kishore

### SUB EDITOR

Deblina Baral

### PRODUCTION OFFICER

Mihir Kumar Basu

### COVER DESIGN

Rajender Kumar

### EDITORIAL OFFICE

Room No. 45,  
Publications Division,  
Soochna Bhawan, C.G.O. Complex,  
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003  
Phone : 011-24362859  
Email : kurukshetrajournal@gmail.com

For Subscription Enquiries,  
Grievances, Renewals and Agency  
Information, Please Contact:

### CIRCULATION UNIT

Publications Division, Room No. 779,  
Soochna Bhawan, C.G.O. Complex,  
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003

(Monday-Friday, 9:30 AM-6:00 PM)

Phone : 24367453

Email : soc-circulation-moi@digmail.com

Website : publicationsdivision.nic.in

@publicationsdivision

@DPO\_India

@dpl\_India

For Online Sale, please log on to  
bhartiikosh.gov.in/product, and for  
e-books, please visit Google Play or Amazon.

### SUBSCRIPTION

1 Year : ₹ 350

Kurukshetra seeks to carry the message of Rural Development to all people. It serves as a forum for free, frank and serious discussion on the problems of Rural Development with special focus on Rural Uplift.

The views expressed by the authors in the articles are their own. They do not necessarily reflect the views of the Government or the organisations they work for.

The readers are requested to verify the claims in the advertisements regarding career guidance books/institutions. Kurukshetra does not own responsibility. Maps used are for illustration & study purpose and may not strictly conform to the official map. Images, graphics and illustrations, wherever used, are mostly sourced from government channels and are indicative in nature. Final Editing rights will rest with Kurukshetra Team.

### Rural Sports Powering India@2047

Rakesh Thapliyal

### Rural Talent : The Bedrock of Indian Sports

Satyenadr Pal Singh

### Rural Women Redefining India's Sporting Glory

### Rural India's Para Athlete Champions

Satya Sindhu

### Khelo Bharat Niti 2025 Driving Holistic Development

### Revolutionising Sports Training with Technology

Irtif Lone

### The Sports Economy Rural Youth, Real Jobs

Narayan Singh

### Rural Sports for Community Well-Being

Dr. Madhubanti Dutta

### Sports, Rural Youth, and Economic Development

Urvashi Prasad, Ankeeta Maheshwari

### Rural Games on the Global Stage

### Viksit Bharat-G RAM G Act 2025 Reforming Rural Employment

5



8



12

16

21

24



28



31

35



41

45

**Sales Emporia :** • **Delhi** - BM (I/C), Publications Division, CGO Complex, Soochna Bhawan, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003 (011-24365699); Hall No. 196, Old Secretariat, Delhi-110054 (011-23890205) • **Kolkata** - 8, Esplanade East, Kolkata-700069 (033-22482576) • **Pune** - Ground Floor, Carrier building, Mahadaji Shinde BSNL TE Compound, Near Poona Club, Camp -411001 • **Chennai** - A/Wing, Rajaji Bhawan, Besant Nagar, Chennai - 600090 (044-24917673) • **Thiruvananthapuram** - Press Road, Near Govt. Press, Thiruvananthapuram - 695001 (0471-2330650) • **Hyderabad** - Room No. 204, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, C.G.O. Towers, Kavadiguda, Hyderabad-500080 (040-27535383) • **Bangaluru** - Floor, 1<sup>st</sup> Wing, Kendriya Sadan, Koramangala, Bengaluru - 560034 (080-25537244) • **Patna** - Bihar State Co-operative, Bank Building, Ashoka Rajpath, Patna-800004 (0612-2675823) • **Lucknow** - Hall No. 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Kendriya Bhawan, Sector - H, Aliganj, Lucknow - 226024 (0522-2325455) • **Ahmedabad** - Sales Unit, Publications Division, 4-C, Neptune Tower, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Near HP Petrol Pump, Nehru Bridge Corner, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad Gujarat - 380009 (079-26588669). • **Guwahati** - Assam Khadi & Village Industries Board Complex, PO-Silpukhuri, Chandman, Guwahati-781003 (0361-4083136)

# Competition Refresher

DIGITAL VERSION also available

THE COMPLETE Youth CAREER MAGAZINE

## 2025 AT A GLANCE

⇒ India ⇒ World ⇒ Economy



**Brazil hands over BRICS Presidency to India**

*Our Sponsors:*



**पावरग्रिड POWERGRID**  
A Maharatna Company

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited  
(A Govt. of India Undertaking) under the Ministry of Power

### SPORTS

Quiz Contest



**Cameron Green**  
Most Expensive Player of IPL 2025



**Andrej Babis**  
Czech Republic's New PM

### Lead Feature

**Lok Sabha Passes VB-G RAM-G Bill Replacing MGNREGA**

**Parliament Clears SHANTI Bill 2025**

Latest General Knowledge Practice Paper • Burning Topic

SHOBHIT UNIVERSITY | LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT, DELHI | Top Education Leaders in India

KIET GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS | HI-TECH INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY | THE EDUCATION GROUP GHAZIABAD | GREATER NOIDA | IMS GHAZIABAD

# CONTENTS

Vol. XLV No. 02 FEBRUARY 2026 PAGES 108 ₹ 120

<b>Editorial</b>	...04
<b>Quiz Contest</b>	...06
<b>Lead Feature : VB-G RAM G Act, 2025</b>	...07
<b>India</b>	...11
<b>Economy &amp; Finance</b>	...24
<b>World</b>	...33
<b>Sports</b>	...45
<b>Latest General Knowledge</b>	...49
<b>Science &amp; Technology</b>	...58
<b>Burning Topic: Aravalli Hills: Protecting Ecology and Ensuring Sustainable Development</b>	...59
<b>2025 At A Glance</b>	...61
<b>Practice Paper :</b>	
<b>RRB Group-D Recruitment Exam</b>	...99

₹ 30/-

# साहित्य अमृत

RNI No. 62112/95

फरवरी 2026 • साहित्य एवं संस्कृति का संवाहक • मासिक • पृष्ठ 84 • ISSN 2455-1171





# साहित्य अमृत

माघ-फाल्गुन संवत्-२०८२ ❖ फरवरी २०२६

मासिक

वर्ष-३१ ❖ अंक-०७ ❖ पृष्ठ ८४

यू.जी.सी.-केयर लिस्ट में उल्लिखित

RNI No. 62112/95

ISSN 2455-1171

संस्थापक संपादक  
पं. विद्यानिवास मिश्र

निवर्तमान संपादक

डॉ. लक्ष्मीमल्ल सिंघवी  
श्री त्रिलोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी

संस्थापक संपादक (प्रबंध)

श्री श्यामसुंदर

प्रबंध संपादक

पीयूष कुमार

संपादक

लक्ष्मी शंकर वाजपेयी

संयुक्त संपादक

डॉ. हेमंत कुकरेती

उप संपादक

उर्वशी अग्रवाल 'उर्वी'

कार्यालय

४/१९, आसफ अली रोड, नई दिल्ली-०२

फोन : ०११-२३२८९७७७

०८४४८६१२२६९

ई-मेल : sahytaamrit@gmail.com

शुल्क

एक अंक-₹ ३०

वार्षिक (व्यक्तियों के लिए)-₹ ३००

वार्षिक (संस्थाओं/पुस्तकालयों के लिए)-₹ ४००

विदेश में

एक अंक-चार यू.एस. डॉलर (US\$4)

वार्षिक-पैंतालीस यू.एस. डॉलर (US\$45)

भारतीय अक्षर के बैंक खाते का विवरण

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया

खाता सं. : 600120110001052

IFSC : BKID0006001

प्रकाशक, मुद्रक तथा स्वत्वाधिकारी पीयूष कुमार द्वारा

४/१९, आसफ अली रोड, नई दिल्ली-२

से प्रकाशित एवं न्यू प्रिंट इंडिया प्रा. लि., ८/४-बी, साहिबगंज

इंडस्ट्रियल एरिया, साइट-IV,

गावियाबाद-२०१०१० द्वारा मुद्रित।



इस अंक में

संपादकीय

जरूरी हैं किताबें

प्रबंध संपादकीय

पढ़ने की आदत : संस्कार या संघर्ष

प्रतिस्मृति

जार्ज पंचम की नाक/कमलेश्वर

कहानी

मेरा क्या कसूर/अखिलेश निगम 'अखिल' १०

आँसुओं के मोती/राकेश भ्रमर २६

टेमू लंके ही टरे/रेखा राजवंशी ३२

प्रतिरोध/दिलीप कुमार शर्मा 'अज्ञात' ६२

मन के खेल/विवेक मेहता ७२

लघुकथा

तीन लघुकथाएँ/बलराम अग्रवाल १८

चींव/दिनेश पाठक 'शशि' ३१

विधि है क्या ?/उणिक्कण्णन मनक्कल ३५

सर्दी की रात/बद्री प्रसाद वर्मा 'अनजान' ७७

आलेख

काइना के कान्हा से ब्रज के कान्हा तक/

कुलदीप चंद अग्निहोत्री १४

वेदों में युद्धकला/प्रमोद कुमार अग्रवाल ३०

विनोद कुमार शुक्ल : सुहृद् साहित्यकार/

दिविक रमेश ३६

महान् क्रांतिकारी

पं. मुंशीराम शर्मा 'सोम'/ऊषा निगम ४६

धूमिल : गैबई अनुभव और किसानी

संस्कार के कवि/राहुल ५३

भारतीय ज्ञान-परंपरा और साहित्यिक

परिवृष्ट्य/मनीषा शर्मा ६५

मातृभाषा और हमारा समाज/

शंभू शरण सत्याधी ७४

कविता

संप्रति कविता/प्रीति कच्छल ९

अंतस के स्वर/उर्वशी अग्रवाल 'उर्वी' २०

दो कविताएँ/योगेंद्र पांडेय २४

जय सोमनाथ, जय सोमनाथ/

श्रीधर द्विवेदी २५

चार कविताएँ/कविता मुकेश ३९

मैंने जीना सीख लिया है/बी.एस. जीहरी ४८

चार कविताएँ/संतोष कुमार झा ४९

दो कविताएँ/प्रीति अग्रवाल ७०

दो कविताएँ/स्वाति सिंह ७१

नाटक

खरटिबाज बीबी का इनसाफ/

गिरिराज शरण अग्रवाल २२

यात्रा-संस्मरण

यात्रा एक साहित्यिक कुंभ की/

प्रेमपाल शर्मा ४०

ललित-निबंध

मिट्टी : सृजन, संस्कृति और जीवन का

आधार/अमित मिश्रा ५०

साहित्य का भारतीय परिपार्श्व

साधारण आदमी/जीवनानंद दास ५६

खंग्य

नेताजी का सम्मान समारोह/

मुकेश असीमित ६०

साहित्य का विश्व परिपार्श्व

एक सौ लोग कुल मिलाकर/

लास्प्लो क्राम्नाहोरकाई ६८

बाल-संसार

बसंत पंचमी/संतोष 'ऋषा' ७६

पाठकों की प्रतिक्रियाएँ

वर्ग-फहलो ७९

साहित्यिक गतिविधियाँ ८०

साहित्य अमृत में प्रकाशित लेखों में व्यक्त विचार एवं दृष्टिकोण संबंधित लेखक के हैं। संपादक अथवा प्रकाशक का उनसे सहमत होना आवश्यक नहीं है।



Let noble thoughts come to us from all sides.  
Rig Veda

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
**PRATIMA VIRENDRA SINGH**

EDITOR  
**SHUCHITA CHATURVEDI**

SUB-EDITOR  
**KARTHIKA SURESH**

**OUR REPRESENTATIVES**

Ahmedabad: IS Patel, Bengaluru: Shriyash KS, Bhubaneswar: Manoj Kumar Jali, Chennai: Sanjay Ghosh, Guwahati: Maruf Alam, Hyderabad: Nagasai Suri Paravasthu, Jalandhar: Gagandeep Kaur Duggan, Kolkata: Sumita Chakraborty, Pune: Harshal Rajendra Akude, Thiruvananthapuram: Biju K. Mathew.

PRODUCTION OFFICER  
**MIHIR KUMAR BASU**  
COVER DESIGN  
**PAVANESH KUMAR BIND**

Yojana (English)-  
Room No. 647, Soachna Bhawan,  
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,  
New Delhi-110 003.  
E-mail (Editorial):  
yojanaenglish-dpd@gov.in

YOJANA, a development monthly published since 1957, is a periodical providing in-depth analyses and views on socio-economic issues in the broader framework of government policies.

**DISCLAIMER**

YOJANA does not own responsibility regarding the contents of the advertisements. The readers are requested to verify the claims made in the advertisements regarding courses, career-guidance books or institutions.

**SUBSCRIPTION/GRIEVANCES**

Email: sec-circulation-moib@gov.in  
Helpline No.: 011-24044000/01 to 09  
(Monday-Friday, 11:00 am - 5:00 pm)

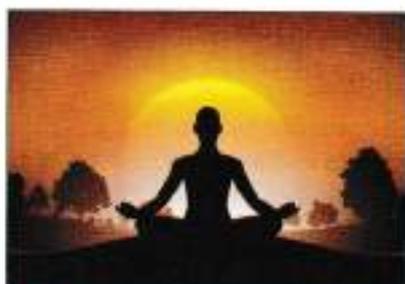
**Postal Address**

**Abhishek Chaturvedi**  
Circulation Unit, Publications Division,  
Room No. 779, Soachna Bhawan, CGO  
Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003.

Please note that it will take at least eight weeks to start your subscription. Kindly raise your queries/grievances about non receipt of the Periodical only after this period.

SUBSCRIPTION-RELATED DETAILS : Page 51

**IN THIS ISSUE**



**6** MAINSTREAMING AYUSH FOR HOLISTIC HEALTH ECOSYSTEM  
Dr A Raghua

**10** NATUROPATHY AND HOLISTIC WELLNESS  
Prof (Dr) Satya Lakshmi Komarraju

**13** MILLETS IN THE RIGHT CONTEXT  
Rujuta Diwekar

**17** YOGA AND WELLNESS  
Dr Nilima Patel

**22** NEXT-GEN NUTRITION STRATEGY FOR CHILD WELLNESS  
Dr Shweta Khandelwal

**28** INTERVIEW A LIFE GUIDED BY NATURE AND VALUE  
Peepal Baba

**32** LEVERAGING GRASSROOTS INNOVATIONS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH  
Poonam Singh



**36** MENTAL HEALTH IN THE DIGITAL AGE  
Dr Ruchi Shanker

**39** DIGITAL TOOLS THAT SIMPLIFY WELLNESS  
Balendu Sharma Dadhich

**44** WINNING THE INNER GAME FOR PEAK PERFORMANCE  
Nayani Bhardwaj

**47** BAPPI LAHIRI: A DIFFERENT MAESTRO  
Rajiv Vijayakar

**50** OUR BOOKS  
1. Quest for Good Health  
2. Yoga Illustrated



**UPCOMING ISSUE : UNION BUDGET 2026-27**

for *Inbox* | Readers may give their feedback & suggestions on email : yojanaenglish-dpd@gov.in

Number of pages: 52  
Details of the Sales Outlets of the Publications Division on Page 15

YOJANA is published in Assamese, Bengali, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odiya, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu.

# PRATIYOGITA DARPA



February 2026 Price ₹ 150.00



9770974640007

WHERE EXCELLENCE GUIDES THE SUCCESS

For e-magazine  
<http://emagazine.pdgroup.in>



## India Wins its Maiden Squash World Cup Title

### In-depth Coverage of Current Affairs

- ISRO's LVM3 Rocket Launches its Heaviest Payload from the Indian Soil
- Deepavali Enters UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List
- PM Narendra Modi's Visit to Jordan, Ethiopia and Oman
- Jakarta is now the World's Most Populous City
- Siliserh Lake and Kopra Jalashay Recognised as the Ramsar Sites

### FOCUS

- Four Labour Codes Notified : A Big Move Towards Labour Reforms
- Viksit Bharat — Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) : VB-GRAM G
- The SHANTI Act, 2025 : Decoding Liability Reforms and Private Sector Participation

### SEMI-ANNUAL Current Affairs Special-I

### SOLVED QUESTION PAPER

- UGC-NET/JRF Exam., 25

### ARTICLES

- The Microplastics Menace : The Invisible Environmental Hazard
- Over-reliance in India's External Trade Landscape
- COP-30 and India : A Turning Point for Climate Diplomacy and Policy  
*and many more....*

### SOLVED MODEL PAPER

- UPSC Civil Services (Pre.) Exam.

### JUDICIARY EXAM. NOTES

Important Supreme Court Judgements

**PRELIMS 2026  
Special Issue**

### PRELIMS POINTERS 2026

Economic and Social Development

### Regulars

- 5 Editorial
- 6 To Our Readers

### News and Events

- 7 Nation this Month



- 16 World this Month



- 25 National and International Updates
- 34 Sports World
- 38 Regional News

### Career News

- 42 Employment and Career News
- 42 Forthcoming Competitive Examinations

### Current Affairs

- 44 Memorable Points
- 46 Science & Technology
- 49 Economic Scenario
- 58 Environment, Ecology, Biodiversity and Climate Change

### FOCUS

- 62 (1) Four Labour Codes Notified : A Big Move Towards Labour Reforms
- 66 (2) Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) : VB-GRAMG
- 69 (3) The SHANTI Act, 2025 : Decoding Liability Reforms and Private Sector Participation

### INSPIRING YOUTH : INTERVIEWS

- 72 **Pragya Gandhi**  
Topper—Rajasthan Judicial Services Exam., 2025 (2nd Rank)



### Gist of Essential Magazines and Q & A

- 75 India on Fast Track (**Yojana**)
- Khadi : Innovations Crafting New Trends (**Kurukshetra**)
- Heavier Footprints : How Wealth Fuels Climate Inequality (**Down to Earth**)
- The Philosophy Behind Catalysts ! (**Science Reporter**)

### World Panorama

- 79 (i) India and Philippines : New Strategic Partnership
- 81 (ii) India and Russia : Time Tested Partnership
- 84 Important Supreme Court Judgements
- 87 UPSC CSE 2026 : Time to Align Your Preparation with UPSC's Expectations

## ARTICLES

### Environment Article

- 90 The Microplastics Menace : The Invisible Environmental Hazard

### External Trade Article

- 92 Over-reliance in India's External Trade Landscape



### Internal Security Article

- 94 Growing Threat of Digital Tradecraft in Terrorism

### Infrastructure Development Article

- 96 The Blue Cities Vision : Rethinking India's Maritime Future

### International Relations Article

- 98 From Aid to Development Partnership : Institutionalising India's Development Cooperation

### Indian Economy Article

- 100 India's Fisheries and Aquaculture : Charting a Hopeful Future



### Protection of Rights Article

- 102 Personality Rights in the Age of AI

### Climate Diplomacy Article

- 104 COP-30 and India : A Turning Point for Climate Diplomacy and Policy

### Artificial Intelligence Article

- 106 Inside BharatGen : India's Bold Bid to Lead the AI Race

- 109 Important Concepts in News

- 113 Compendium

- 116 Prominent Historical Personalities of India

- 118 Trade and Industry

- 124 Current Questionnaire

## SOLVED QUESTION PAPER

- 130 UGC-NET/JRF Examination : **Political Science**

## SOLVED MODEL PAPER

- 138 Forthcoming UPSC Civil Services (Pre.) Exam. : **General Studies**

- 152 Prelims Pointers 2026 : Economic and Social Development

## YOUR PAGES

- 154 Essay Contest

- 156 Debate Contest

- 159 Concentric Quiz

- 163 Results

- 164 Test Your Knowledge

- 167 Semi-Annual Current Affairs Special-I

The views and opinions expressed in Pratiyogita Darpan are those of the authors & contributors and don't necessarily reflect those of the publisher or the editor.

