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IS THE ECONOMY REALLY 'DEAD'?





COVER STORY

Gross Domestic Propaganda

10/ While the government- and media-driven narrative, centred on headline GDP figures and buoyant stock markets, paints the picture of an India on the cusp of superpower status, the reality is a fragile and uncompetitive economy that is driving both foreign and domestic investment abroad. Unless India urgently addresses its deep-rooted structural deficiencies, real and sustainable growth will remain elusive.

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POLITICS

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- 40/ A tale of two judges
- 43/ "Violence raj" back in Bihar
- 47/ Battle over Bengali "asmita"
- 57/ No autonomy in Prasar Bharati

ENVIRONMENT

- 51/ Perils of the Sharavathi project

FOCUS

- 61/ A great land grab in Maharashtra

CASTE

- 69/ Love in the time of caste

WORLD AFFAIRS

- 72/ Guest column: Iraj Elahi
- 74/ India-Pakistan: Amity to enmity

CONSERVATION

- 79/ The danger of "rationalising" Sariska boundaries

ART

- 84/ Interview with Sohrab Hura

BOOKS

- 91/ Essay: Memory of water
- 95/ In review



- 08/ The Fortnight

WHITE SPACE

- 109/ The emerald city

COLUMNS

- 34/ Saba Naqvi
- 66/ Mani Shankar Aiyar
- 89/ Prathyush Parasuraman

- 06/ Letters

- 108/ On our bookshelf
- 112/ Staying in
- 113/ Stepping out
- 114/ Back Page

"CINEMA IS IN A PRECARIOUS SITUATION" 42



Aamir Khan

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**LIGHTS.
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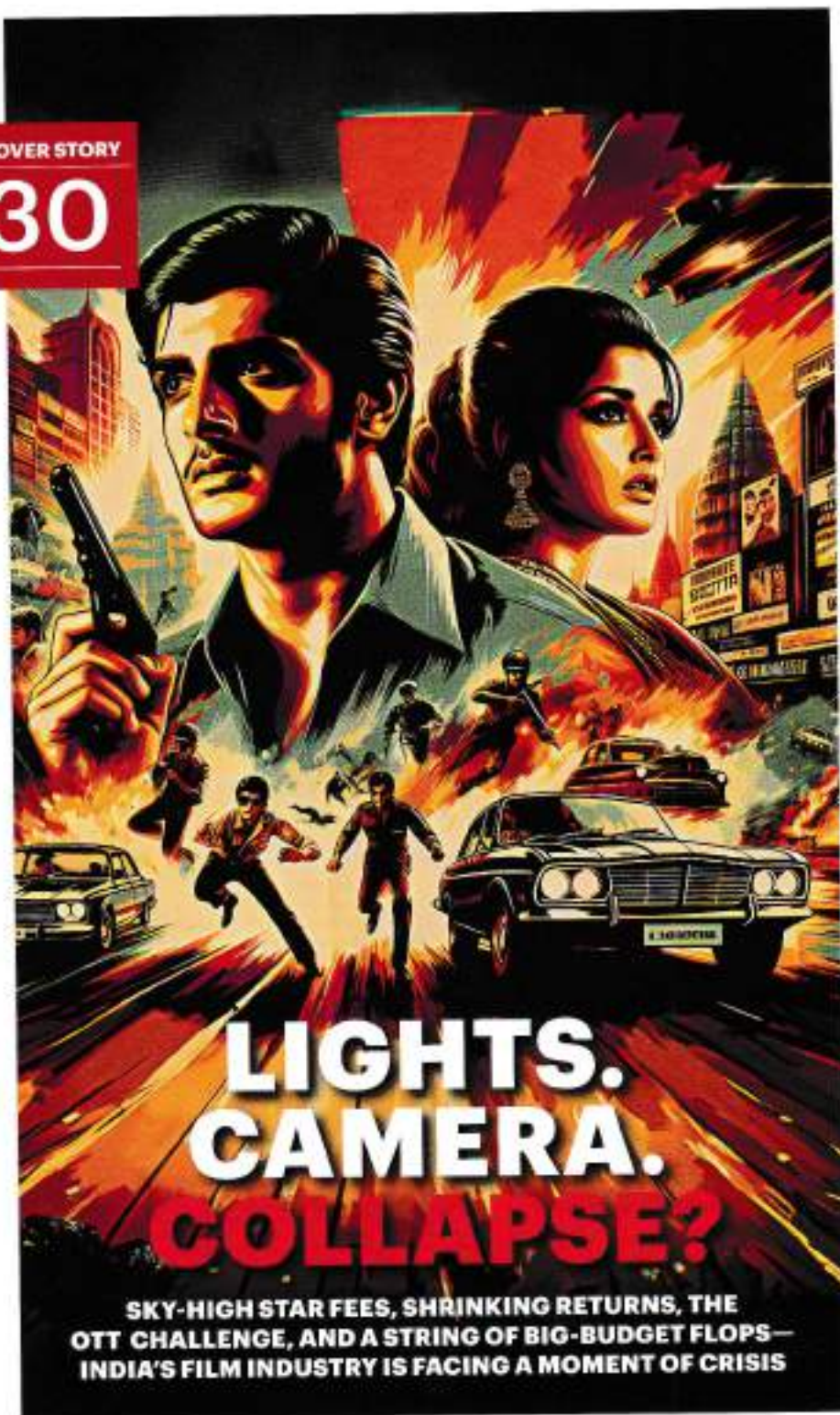
SKY-HIGH STAR FEES, SHRINKING RETURNS, OTT CHALLENGE, AND A STRING OF BIG-BUDGET FLOPS—INDIA'S FILM INDUSTRY IS FACING A MOMENT OF CRISIS

CONTENTS

August 3, 2025 | Volume 34 | Number 16

COVER STORY

30



LIGHTS. CAMERA. COLLAPSE?

SKY-HIGH STAR FEES, SHRINKING RETURNS, THE
OTT CHALLENGE, AND A STRING OF BIG-BUDGET FLOPS—
INDIA'S FILM INDUSTRY IS FACING A MOMENT OF CRISIS

COVER BY NILANJAN DAS

8 | THE POINT

The IPO Countdown

NSE is preparing to launch its long-awaited IPO in H2FY26. A quick overview of where the exchange stands

10 | THE BUZZ

Turbulence Ahead

The Tata Group has once again been ranked as India's top brand by Brand Finance. But it faces headwinds

12 | THE BUZZ

Rigging Returns

Sebi has barred Jane Street from the Indian market on charges of market manipulation



22 | THE BT INTERVIEW

"India's stock market is fairly valued"

Raamdeo Agrawal on the right approach to trading derivatives and why a market turnaround might be round the corner

Down

ICI Pru
is suitable

- Long Term
- An open

Investors s

It may be note
one made: The

Mutuo



48 |

GOVERNANCE

Rescuing The IBC

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code has brought much-needed financial discipline among borrowers. But is it time to revisit the legislation?

92 |

THE GOOD LIFE: TRENDS

The Wonder of Japan

The Land of the Rising Sun must be experienced in its everyday!



CORPORATE

62 |

The 10 Gritty Start-ups

Ten Indian deep-tech start-ups find a spot on the WEF's prestigious list of top 100 emerging companies for 2025. We bring you their stories



BANKING

76 |

New Bankers In Town

As banks and NBFCs pull back from mid-market lending, a new breed of private credit players is stepping in and rewriting the rules of finance



HEALTHCARE

82 |

Betting on Bharat

India's hospital chains are entering an aggressive phase of expansion in Tier II/III cities to meet the growing demand for quality care



INVESTING

88 |

Gold Rush

Gold prices have vaulted in India, climbing nearly 91% over the past three years, while silver has gained 79%. What's fuelling the boom?



98 |

BEST ADVICE

"Make space for passion and pragmatism"

R. Srikrishna of Hexaware Technologies on the best career advice he has received



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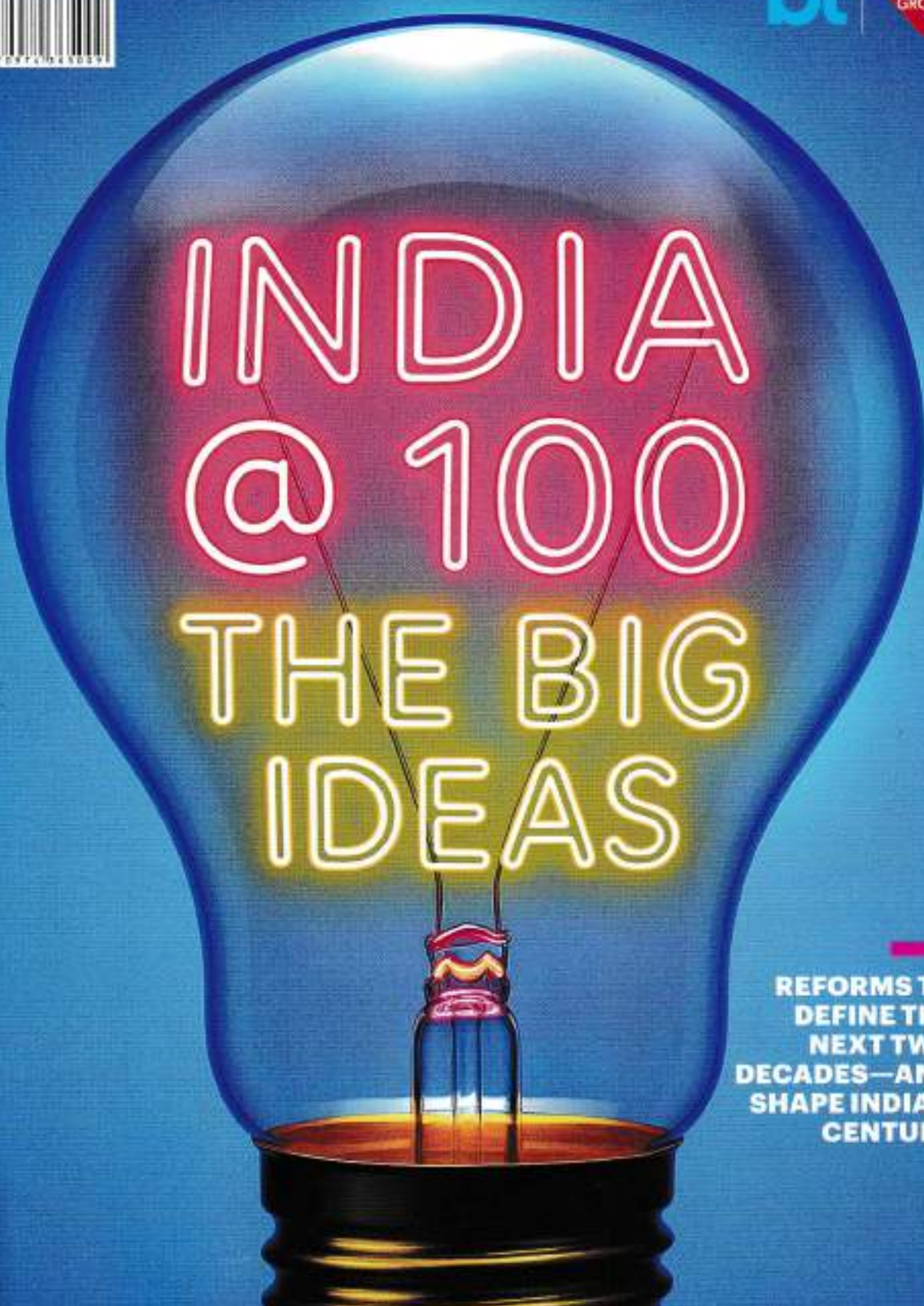
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INDIA @ 100 THE BIG IDEAS

REFORMS TO
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NEXT TWO
DECADES—AND
SHAPE INDIA'S
CENTURY

CONTENTS

August 17, 2025 | Volume 34 | Number 17

OPENER

14

INDIA @100 THE BIG IDEAS REFORMS TO DEFINE THE NEXT TWO DECADES—AND SHAPE INDIA'S CENTURY

ILLUSTRATION BY NILANJAN DAS



INDIA@100 • COLUMNS

- S. MAHENDRA DEV 64 • RAO INDERJIT SINGH 68
• AJAY SRIVASTAVA 72 • SANJEEV SANYAL 76 • HASEEB DRABU 90
• SURENDRA NATH TRIPATHI 98 • D. K. SRIVASTAVA 100
• MANAK CHAND SINGHI & R. GOPALAN 124 • SWAPNIL KOTHARI
& RUMKI MAJUMDAR 126 • MANISH SABHARWAL 132
• SUNIL MANI 140 • SINDHU GANGADHARAN 150
• CHAITANYA GUPTA 153 • KUNAL BAHL 156 • VIVEK RAGHAVAN 158
• MANI VEMBU 160 • SATYANARAYANAN CHAKRAVARTHY 172
• RAJAT DHAWAN 174 • RAJESH SHUKLA 176
• ROHIT SINGH 182 • RAVI LAMBAH 184 • PRAKASH LOUNGANI 190
• MANISH AGGARWAL 200 • SANDEEP NAILWAL 202

COVER BY NILANJAN DAS

10 | THE POINT

A Giant Leap

See some key figures of India's important sectors, which would make the country a global powerhouse by 2047



60 | BT INTERVIEW

"Cut through the jungle of controls"

Arvind Virmani, member of the NITI Aayog, on reforms and charging up India's growth

84 | GST

Good and Simple Tweaks

It's taken eight years to build consensus on rationalising GST rates. Will there be fewer rates and more stable revenues?



93 | Q&A

"Viksit Goa By 2037"

Goa CM Pramod Sawant on how to make the Goa 2037 vision a reality, why the GST system needs tweaks, and more



CORPORATE

104

The Made-in-India MNCs

Global headwinds and muted demand will test the resilience of Indian groups making a global splash



LABOUR REFORMS

128

The 2047 Labour Code

Why the next phase of labour reforms should aim to foster a more dynamic labour market

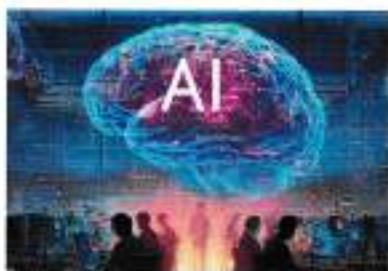


JAN VISHWAS

134

Earning Trust

India's regulatory framework is undergoing a significant reset. Can decriminalisation alone unlock growth?



TECH

144

Trillion Dreams

As India dreams of a \$1 trillion AI economy, can ambition overcome deep tech gaps and global rivals?



INFRA

166

A Bridge To Tomorrow

Financing remains a challenge in India's path to becoming a developed country by 2047



HEALTHCARE

178

Heal The World

India is aiming to become a health tourism destination by 2047. Can it achieve the target?

186

KYC

Building A Secure CKYC

Significant challenges remain in building the Central Know Your Customer model

192

CORPORATE

The Changing Landscape

Indian business groups need to look out for a changing geopolitical world order



197

INTERVIEW

"NDA 3.0 has been relatively quiet on reforms"

Economist Richard Rossow on what it would take for India to meet its 2047 goals

204

BEST ADVICE

India Inc's 2047 Vision

Corporate leaders on what will shape India in the next two decades



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OUTLOOK COLLECTOR'S EDITION

Outlook

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August 11, 2025



The MAN The VISION The MISSION

Shri Manohar Lal
Union Minister of Power,
Housing and Urban Affairs, GOI

An Outlook Brand Solution Initiative

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OUTLOOK COLLECTOR'S EDITION



- 4 Vision of a Viksit Bharat
- 5 The Man The Vision The Mission
- 6 A Decade of Excellence in Governance
- 7 Results Over Rhetoric
- 8 Empowering the Common Man
- 9 Key Achievements in India's Power Sector
- 10-14 Scaling New Heights
- 15 Power to the Nation
- 16 Central Electricity Authority Brainstorming Conclave
- 18-27 Together with States
- 28-29 Building Smart, Future-Ready Cities
- 30-32 Environmentally Sustainable Urban Planning
- 33 The Future of Urban Mobility
- 34-35 Swabhav Swachhata Sanskaar Swachhata (4S)
- 36-37 Green Planet, Green Buildings, Green Mobility
- 38 Outlook Sustainable Power Conclave
- 40-41 Exclusive Interview with Shri Manohar Lal
- 42 At a Glance

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Guilty Until Proven Innocent

The 12 accused in the Mumbai blast case of 2006 were acquitted after 19 years. Like them, 75% prisoners in India are undertrials, waiting for their truth to be heard



Shahid Mohd. Ali



Dr. Yaseen Ansari



Javed Ahmed



Khusham Baidya



Kamal Ansari



Sajid Ansari



Naved Hussain



Muzammil Ataur



Muhammad Majid



Mohammad Faisal



Asif Rashid Khan



Suhail Mehmood



THE 12 ACCUSED IN THE MUMBAI BLAST CASE OF 2006 WERE ACQUITTED AFTER 19 YEARS. LIKE THEM, 75% PRISONERS IN INDIA ARE UNDERTRIALS, WAITING FOR THEIR TRUTH TO BE HEARD

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THE MUMBAI BLASTS CASE



JUSTICE delayed is justice denied is a truism. That's from the victim's perspective in any legal case. But what about justice delayed to the accused? After 19 years in jail, 12 persons charged with masterminding the 7/11 Mumbai blasts were acquitted as the judges of the Bombay High Court tore into the police investigation. In this case, the judges did not succumb to the collective conscience of the people, as it has happened in the past. But the acquitted will not get any compensation for the prime of their lives they have lost. This is not an exception in India. An unimaginable 75 per cent of prisoners in the country are undertrials, awaiting redemption, one way or the other. Who should be held accountable?

6 | India's bloated system of justice has a silent, devastated majority: the undertrials
By Avantika Mehta

14 | The acquittal in the Mumbai blasts case shows that no amount of compensation can make up for the losses incurred. But courts must award compensation for wrongful prosecution
By Rebecca Gonsalves

22 | The night Mumbai bled and the wronged men who bled longer
By Pritha Vashishth and Jinit Parmar

OVERLAP



Those Suspected Citizens

106 | THOSE SUSPECTED CITIZENS

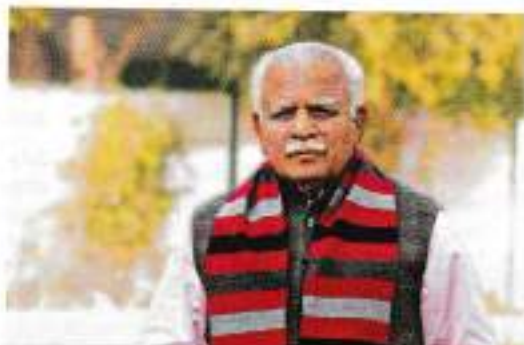
A year after the Citizenship Amendment Act, citizenship screening still scares Bengali Hindus, as evident from the panic over the 'anti-migrant drive' and voter list revision **By Snigdendu Bhattacharya**

138 | CARPET SAHIB & THE GHOSTS

Strange moving lights, the churail's scream from a deserted village, unseen terror... Jim Corbett did not encounter man-eaters alone; he also had a face-off with ghosts and supernatural powers **By Anjana Basu**

146 | DIARY

COVER
ILLUSTRATION:
Vikas Thakur



The MAN The VISION The MISSION

Shri Manohar Lal
Union Minister of Power,
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INDEPENDENCE DAY ISSUE
FREEDOM FROM THE STIGMA OF MENTAL ILLNESS

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Everyday I pray for Love



The 'Infinite Elephant' is by Isha, who lives with a mental illness. She found her freedom in love. The elephant, she says, represents hope and freedom. The cover headline, *Everyday I Pray for Love*, is the title of a book by the Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama who lives in a mental health facility, and paints her visions.

ISSN NO. 2044/1981



Content Warning

Some articles in the magazine may contain detailed accounts of suicide, trauma, self-harm, abuse, war and other potentially distressing topics. Reader discretion is advised.

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Why We Collaborated



Vandana Gopikumar,
Co-founder, The Banyan

Chinki Sinha
Editor, Outlook

This issue of *Outlook* is an exercise in empathy and courage. It was a tough issue to do simply because these were stories that broke our hearts and yet, we now know that freedom means we look at mental illness not as stigma but as a human condition. We remain grateful to The Banyan and others for their support and their dedication towards this issue. And for helping us understand that mental asylums don't have to be shelters only but can become places of refuge and healing, if care practices are improved, and personal attention and alternate

options to institutional care are prioritised.

We decided to collaborate because it is important to place our faith in collective action and to include everyone who believes in the right to dignity. I hope our readers will read these stories and some of the stigma around mental illness can be erased. I hope we can be free of shame and guilt and become more inclusive in our approach when we frame policies. In this issue, we have many with lived experiences who have written their own stories of living with mental illness. I hope their courage frees us.

GUJARAT'S ANGANWADIS
NEGLECTED, UNSAFE, NO TOILETS

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SUPPLEMENT

LIFE... AND DEATH
BY NOBEL LAUREATE
VENKI RAMAKRISHNAN

AUGUST 3, 2025

THE WEEK

I CRIED SO MUCH THAT BECAME LIND

Gul Hassan Shah's
son was killed by
terrorists. His
trauma mirrors the
agony of Kashmir's
terror victims

PLUS

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW
MANOJ SINHA
LT GOV, JAMMU & KASHMIR

Family members
of terror victims in
Jammu and Kashmir



THE WEEK

contents

VOL. 43 | NO. 31 | THE WEEK | AUGUST 3 | 2025 | FOR THE WEEK - JULY 28 - AUGUST 3

28 COVER
STORY

THE SILENCE BREAKERS

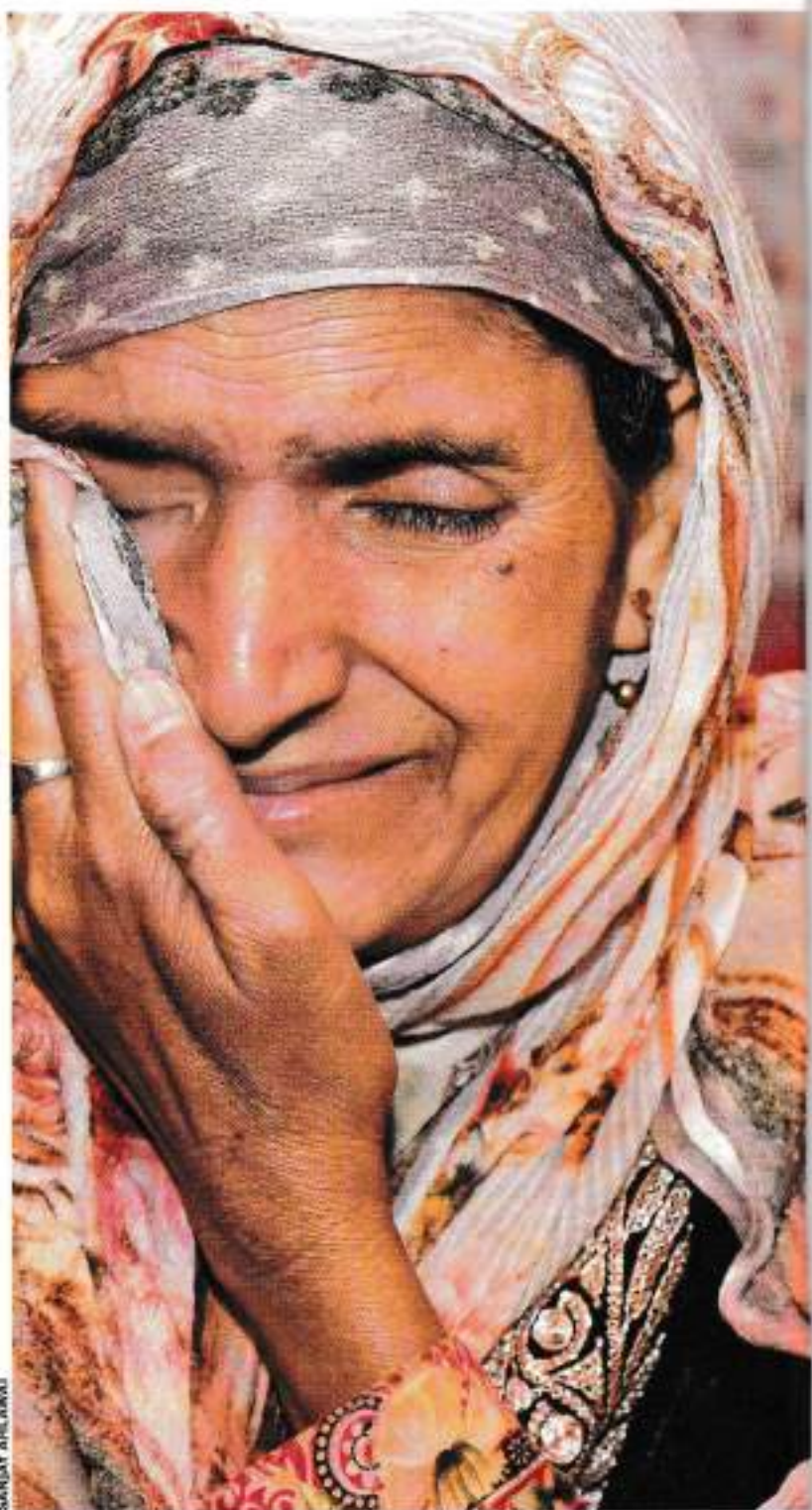
More than 12,000 civilians have lost their lives to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir since the 1990s, yet justice has remained elusive for many of them. Now, breaking decades of silence, the families of these victims are stepping forward to seek justice—spurred by the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's recent decision to ease rules and allow applications for relief and rehabilitation.



INTERVIEW

"Our goal is justice, jobs and dignity for those whose voices were never heard"

Manoj Sinha,
lieutenant governor,
Jammu and Kashmir



SANJAY AHLAWAT

14 GUJARAT

From social exclusion to broken buildings, Gujarat's anganwadis are letting down the state's most vulnerable children



SAM PANTHAKY



ANAGHA SUBHASH NAIR

50 RAILWAY CHILDREN

In 2024, close to 15,000 children were rescued from railway stations across the country, which is a threefold increase from 2020

INTERVIEW: We are not just protecting railway stations, we are protecting futures
Manoj Yadava, DG, RPF

56 SYRIA

In Daraa, the birthplace of the Syrian revolution, village women step up to uncover and clear landmines

60 NOSTALGIA

Remembering how Rita Mukherjee nurtured a radio station Indira Gandhi launched exclusively for and by the youth

COLUMNS

11 **POWERDRIVE**
R. Prasanna

20 **MEDI-SCENE**
Dr Preetha Reddy

22 **DETOUR**
Shobhaa De

62 **SCALPEN**
Dr Mazda Turel

68 **OTHERWISE CRACKED**
K.C. Verma

74 **LAST WORD**
Suresh Narayanan



Youth is a matter of perception.
Shashi Tharoor at 69 and M.K. Stalin at 72

may look more youthful than Amit Shah at 60 or Nitin Gadkari at 68, but all four are storehouses of ideas and powerhouses of energy in their own ways, as was Manny Shinwell sitting with a pucky smile in the British Parliament at 101, or Rishang Keishing in India's at 94.

@ LEISURE

63

How four friends made a film that failed at the box office, but ignited a wave of social change across the nation



COVER PHOTOS
SANJAY AHLAWAT

COVER IMAGING
BINESH SREEDHARAN

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IN APPOINTMENTS TO SUPREME COURT**

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ZAHAN AND AHAAN
HOW AUTHENTIC
ARE THEY?

AUGUST 10, 2025

THEWEEK

INDIAN VILLAGES THAT DRESS THE WORLD

Global celebrities embrace
Indian fashion

Hollywood actor Zendaya
in a sari embroidered in a West
Bengal village



contents

VOL. 43 | NO. 32 | THE WEEK | AUGUST 10 | 2025 | FOR THE WEEK - AUGUST 4 - AUGUST 10

50
COVER
STORY

(Top, from left) Zendaya,
Zohran Mamdani;
(bottom, from left)
Anita Chhila, Devika
Bulchandani, Jessel
Taank

IMAGING: BINESH SREEDHARAN

ROOT COUTURE

India is on the way to dressing the world once again. Here we present the story of five international outfits—worn by actor Zendaya, New York mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani, Ogilvy CEO Devika Bulchandani, Diet Paratha founder Anita Chhila and reality TV personality Jessel Taank—whose roots lie in Indian villages

16 WORLD

Ukraine's defiant youth has sparked a spontaneous grassroots movement that is testing President Volodymyr Zelensky's anti-corruption plank

20 JUDICIARY

Diversity and regional representation ignored in appointments to the Supreme Court

24 NEIGHBOURS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Maldives visit is a measured reset that marks a strategic gain for India

34 THAILAND-CAMBODIA DISPUTE

Two predominantly Buddhist countries war over a Hindu temple; the world takes note, but India stays silent

36 CONTROVERSY

The arrest of two Kerala nuns in Chhattisgarh over charges of conversion and human trafficking has put the BJP and the Catholic leadership in Kerala in a tight spot

40 DEEP TECH

A nation's global stature is defined by its technological prowess, and India is realising the need to get its deep tech act together

44 HERITAGE

A dozen forts of the Maratha empire became UNESCO world heritage sites this July. Inscribed in the list as Maratha Military Landscapes of India, they tell lasting stories of Shivaji's legacy

COLUMNS

- 11 **POWERDRIVE**
R. Prasanna
- 18 **SOUND BITE**
Anita Pratap
- 33 **RIGHT ANGLE**
Bansuri Swaraj
- 69 **SCHIZO-NATION**
Anuja Chauhan

74 LAST WORD Navtej Sarna



Foreign policy—it needs to

be clarified since the Honourable Bombay High Court would rather that citizens leave such matters to the foreign ministry—is not made in a vacuum, particularly in a democracy; domestic voices and concerns shape a country's stances on foreign affairs. Protests reflect political opinions, and they matter: our freedom movement was one long protest.



KRISHNA NAIR



LEISURE

63

Sam Dalrymple's debut book relooks at the history of the Indian empire and its partitions

COVER IMAGING
BINESH SREEDHARAN

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MAHARASHTRA TERROR CASES
VERDICTS RAISE MORE QUESTIONS

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THE WEEK

BIHAR ELECTIONS **WE WILL NEVER BE IN ANY ALLIANCE**

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Prashant Kishor

"Jan Suraj has
1.25 crore members;
BJP has only 70 lakh."

Fringe parties could
become disruptors

9 770975 227702



contents

VOL. 43 | NO. 33 | THE WEEK | AUGUST 17 | 2025 | FOR THE WEEK - AUGUST 11 - AUGUST 17

COVER
STORY
18

BIG BATTLE, SMALL SPOILERS

While the main contest in Bihar will be between the NDA and the Mahagathbandhan, smaller caste-based parties and Jan Suraj could pose unexpected challenges to both



INTERVIEW

“Jan Suraj has never been in an alliance, and it never will be, period
—Prashant Kishor
founder, Jan Suraj Party

“We will contest more seats than we did last time
—Akhtarul Iman
president, All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen

“Contest is clearly between the NDA and the Mahagathbandhan
—Uendra Kushwaha
founder, Rashtriya Lok Morcha

“BJP is trying to manipulate elections in Bihar as well
—Mukesh Sahni
founder, Vikassheel Insaan Party

40

BANGLADESH



SALIL SERA

A year after Sheikh Hasina's exit, what is the way ahead for Bangladesh?

—Shafiqul Alam, press secretary of Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus

—Dr Ziauddin Hyder, Bangladesh Nationalist Party

—Mohammad Ali Arafat, Awami League

46

CRICKET

Team India's report card after The Oval triumph



SALIL BERA

54

EVENT

THE WEEK Education Conclave 2025: To promote world-class education, India needs to harness the power of value-based learning and AI



SANJAY AHLAWAT

KEY TAKEAWAYS

India is no longer a seeker, but is being sought after, marking a pivotal shift in our education and innovation leadership

—Dr Jitendra Singh, Union minister

We are still pushing our best minds abroad

—Shashi Tharoor, MP and author

The key lies in building a high-quality ecosystem that adapts to emerging challenges

—Dr M. Srinivas, director, AIIMS Delhi

We are moving into an era where routine knowledge is no longer enough

—M. Jagadeesh Kumar, former chairperson, UGC

If society does not view an institution as high-quality, it will fail to attract both top students and top faculty

—S. Somanath, former ISRO chairman

Education today is no longer confined by geography

—John Varghese, principal, St. Stephen's College

COVER PHOTO SALIL BERA; COVER DESIGN BINESH SREEDHARAN

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COLUMNS

12 POWERDRIVE
R. Prasanna

17 MEDI-SCENE
Dr Preetha Reddy

49 DETOUR
Shobhaa De

64 SCALPEN
Dr Mazda Turel

OTHERWISE CRACKED
K.C. VERMA

74 LAST WORD
Baijayant Panda



Being thoroughly conflicted, I have temporarily withdrawn

from many social media groups. This has given me time to introspect and fine-tune my own teeny-weeny regimen for good health—a mix of exercise and diet.

a witty reflection by the former chief of R&AW on trusting social media in your golden years



LEISURE

65

More than just a game, pickleball has become a social movement



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THEWEEK

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RAHUL VS ELECTION COMMISSION
AFFIDAVIT DEMAND HAS NO LEGAL BASIS: EXPERT

UNIQUE STARTUP
RATAN TATA PROTÉGÉ HELPS LONELY ELDERS

BATTLE OF NEW EMPIRES

There are echoes of imperialism in the technological rivalry between the US and China. Can India, and the rest of the world, break free?



contents

VOL. 43 | NO. 34 | THE WEEK | AUGUST 24 | 2025 | FOR THE WEEK - AUGUST 18 - AUGUST 24

COVER
STORY
34

OLD CONFLICTS, NEW FRONTS

The technological rivalry between the US and China has reverberations of old imperialism and interventionism. Can India, and the rest of the world, chart an independent path?



IMAGING: BINESH SREEDHARAN

20 UNTOLD STORIES

India is growing older and lonelier—The Goodfellows bridge the gap by pairing young people with senior citizens for comfort, care and company

58 CURRENT EVENTS

The INDIA bloc may be able to turn the “vote theft” controversy into a wider public verdict on the EC’s credibility—a move that could have significant long-term implications

PLUS

“Rahul Gandhi is under no obligation to make any statement on oath before EC.”

—P.D.T. Achary, former secretary-general, Lok Sabha

72 IMPEACHMENT

Justice Yashwant Varma faces a rare judicial impeachment amid procedural disputes and political stakes

80 MAGAZINE CONGRESS

At the Indian Magazine Congress in Delhi, the mood was upbeat, with signs of a slow but steady turnaround after years of digital onslaught and social media’s blow to print, especially magazines

84 US TARIFFS

Surat’s diamond industry was already scrambling; the US tariff hike could now deal a big blow

92 CHESS

“I think aggression is what leads me to victories”: Divya Deshmukh, FIDE Women’s World Cup winner

96 MOBILITY

Flying taxis are a realistic, scalable solution to traffic woes

COLUMNS

14 **POWERDRIVE**
R. Prasanna

54 **RIGHT ANGLE**
Bansuri Swaraj



True protection is not about confining women within four walls while the world moves on without them. It is about giving them the confidence and freedom to step out, to lead, and to claim their rightful place in every sphere of life. And reciprocity demands that women, too, stand ready to safeguard the values, families and communities that sustain our civilisation.

66 **SCHIZO-NATION**
Anuja Chauhan

114 **LAST WORD**
Shashi Tharoor



LEISURE

A new generation of Indian women filmmakers is making a mark on the global festival circuit

103

110

UKRAINE

“Thinking of our soldiers in the trenches, and Russian missiles and drones targeting my country, I can’t relax even when I am away”

—Yuliya Musakovska,
poet, writer
and member of
NGO PEN Ukraine

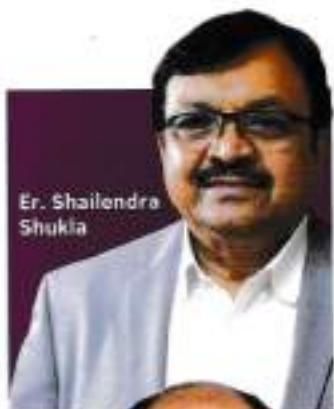
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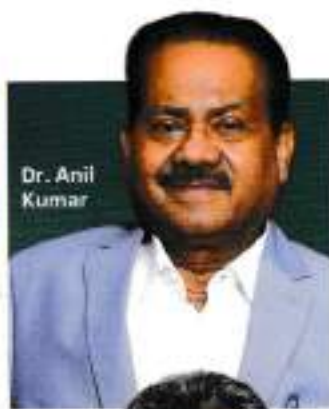
Er. Shailendra
Shukla



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Raja



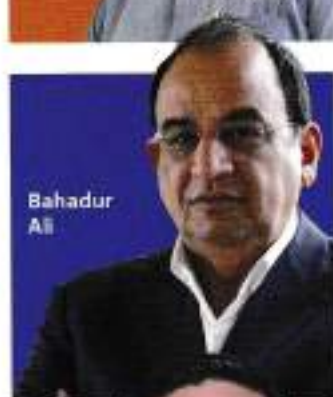
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Iqbal



Dr. Anil
Kumar



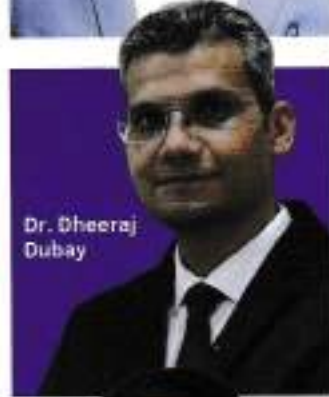
Rajesh
Doshi



Bahadur
Ali



Rajendra
Sethia



Dr. Dheeraj
Dubay



Col. Rajeev
Mannali



Samrat
Sengupta



Sourav
Ghosh



Deb
Mukherjee



Priya
Kumar



Shruti
Swaroop



Dr. Madhulika
Singh

BW*i*
BUSINESSWORLD
Media Presentation

**Game
Changers**

CONTENTS

GAME CHANGERS, 9 AUGUST 2025



02

Dr. Asif Iqbal
United Diplomatic Council



05

Dr. Madhulika Singh
Dr. KNS Memorial Group of
Hospitals & Institutions.



06

Rajendra Sethia
Western Carriers (India) Ltd.



08

Rajesh Doshi
Zebronics India Pvt. Ltd.



10

Dr. Anil Kumar
Ankita Group Of Companies



12

Sourav Ghosh
S. Jalan & Co.



12

Samrat Sengupta
S. Jalan & Co.



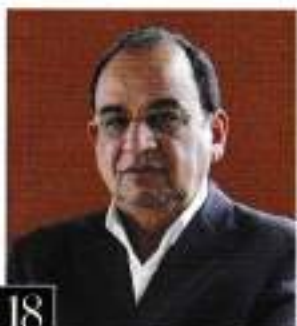
14

Dr. Shailendra Shukla
Jeon Solar-Eu Power
Technologies Pvt. Ltd.



16

K.T. Srinivasa Raja
Adyar Ananda Bhavan



18

Bahadur Ali
IB Group



20

Col. Rajeev Mannali
Sree Uthradam Thirumal (SUT)



22

Dr. Dheeraj Dubay
Senior Consultant in Joint
Replacement Surgery at Shalby
Multi-Specialty Hospitals



24

Deb Mukherjee
Wisdom Capital



26

Shruti Swaroop
Embrace and InehsiBuild LLC
IIA, ERTZ Academy Private
Limited



27

Prity Kumar
Alphard Maritime Group

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Tuhin Kanta
Pandey,
SEBI Chairman

RESTORING TRUST IN THE FACE OF SCANDAL

SEBI's **\$597-million** crackdown on
Jane Street shakes India's markets



CONTENTS

VOLUME 44, ISSUE 21 ■ 09 AUGUST 2025

Tuhin Kanta
Pandey,
SEBI Chairman



Photograph by Ashish Chawla

14 Jottings

Not all of India Inc. is dancing in the rain; Human cost of the IT reset; Will the India-US trade deal exclude agriculture? Tesla in India a decade too late, and more

18 Columns

Vikas Singh (p. 18); Prakash Iyer (p. 20); Krishan Kalra (p. 22); Amit Kapoor & Mukul Anand (p. 26); Srinath Sridharan (p. 28); Raghav Chandra (p. 30); Srinath Sridharan & Steve Correa (p. 34); Aparna Dubey (p. 36)

38 Impromptu

Nikhil Rao, CMD, Mars Wrigley, on premium plays, leveraging quick commerce's impulse advantage, brand clarity, and more

40 Standpoint

Peeyush Dubey, CMO, Tech Mahindra on how Agentic AI is revolutionising marketing while also challenging marketers to build trust, transparency and human-AI synergy

42 In Conversation

Shubhanshu Singh on leaving Tata Motors, adapting to mobile-first storytelling, the creator explosion, India's growing brand power, and more

44 Impromptu

Havas' Chairman and CEO Yannick Bolloré on the impact of going public, why India's creative ascent signals a larger opportunity for the network, and more

52

Taming Jane Street, Rebuilding Trust

In his first major media interaction, Sebi chief Tuhin Kanta Pandey shares with BW Businessworld Sebi's pressing concerns in the wake of the Jane Street scandal, his vision for the market regulator as well as plans for restoring trust in India's capital markets

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For more details

66 Best CFOs

The 2025 edition of the BW CFO Awards honours finance leaders for strategic foresight, resilience, and their role in shaping business growth



46 Interview

Agoda CTO Idan Zatzberg on artificial intelligence, job losses due to AI, the travel business, and more

48 The New Steel

India's aluminium sector is thriving, but it is vulnerable to import dumping in the absence of policy safeguards

60 The Rise of CFOs

How CFOs have evolved from being number crunchers to strategic co-pilots driving growth, governance, and resilience in their organisations

BW CFO AWARDS 2025: WINNERS

68 Nithya Balasubramanian, Inventurus Knowledge Solutions

69 Gandharv Tongia, Polycab India

70 Neha Rajvanshi, Serentica Renewable

71 Arbour Investments

72 BirlaSoft

73 Safex Chemicals

74 Abni Kant Jha, Saatvik Green Energy

75 Bhagat Singh, Ceigall India

76 Nagarajan Raghvan, Sri City

77 Narayan Saraf, JB Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals

78 Pankaj Kwatra, Stride Ventures

79 Priyanka Chaudhary, Jio Studios

80 Reckitt

81 Aster DM Healthcare

82 PNB Housing Finance

83 Tredence Analytics

84 Alka Saxena, Redcliffe Labs

85 Amit Nagpal, Blue Tokai Coffee

86 Basappa Manappa, Indic EMS Electronics

87 Mayank Jaju, HyFun Foods

88 Svetlana Boldina, Nestle India

89 Umesh Parikh, Zydus Wellness

92 In Conversation

Nayanta University's founding Chancellor Naushad Forbes, on higher education, innovation, private participation in higher education, and much more

98 In Conversation

Tina Ambani, Chairperson, MICA Foundation and Jaya Deshmukh, Director & CEO, MICA on their vision for the School of Applied Creativity in an AI-driven world



113

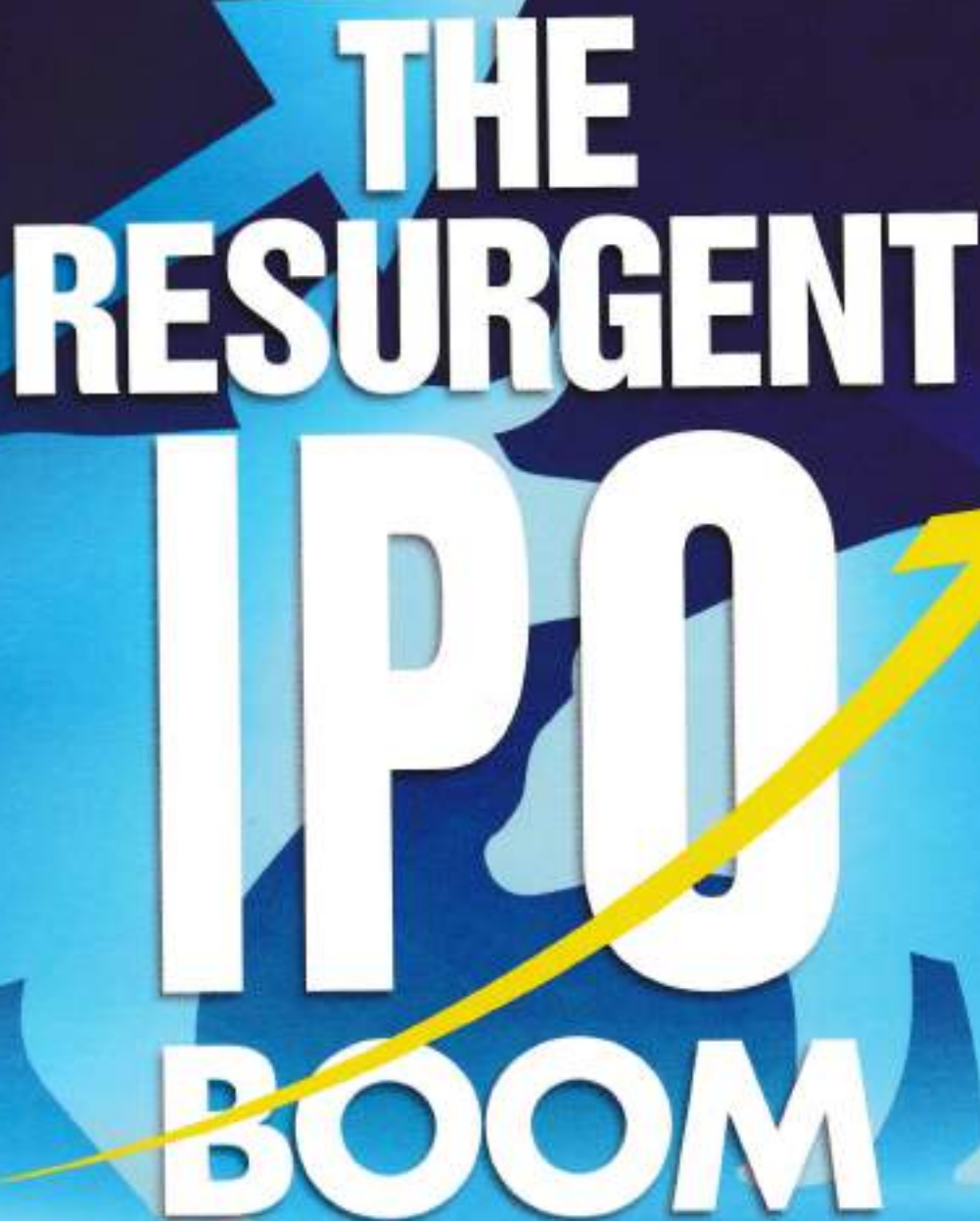
Last Word

Bharti Enterprises' Sunil Bharti Mittal, who is also Co-Chair of the India-UK CEO Forum, on the India-UK FTA, Indian industry's response to it, and more

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THE RESURGENT IPO BOOM



India's IPO market rebounds with
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FEATURING RECENT MARKET DEBUTS

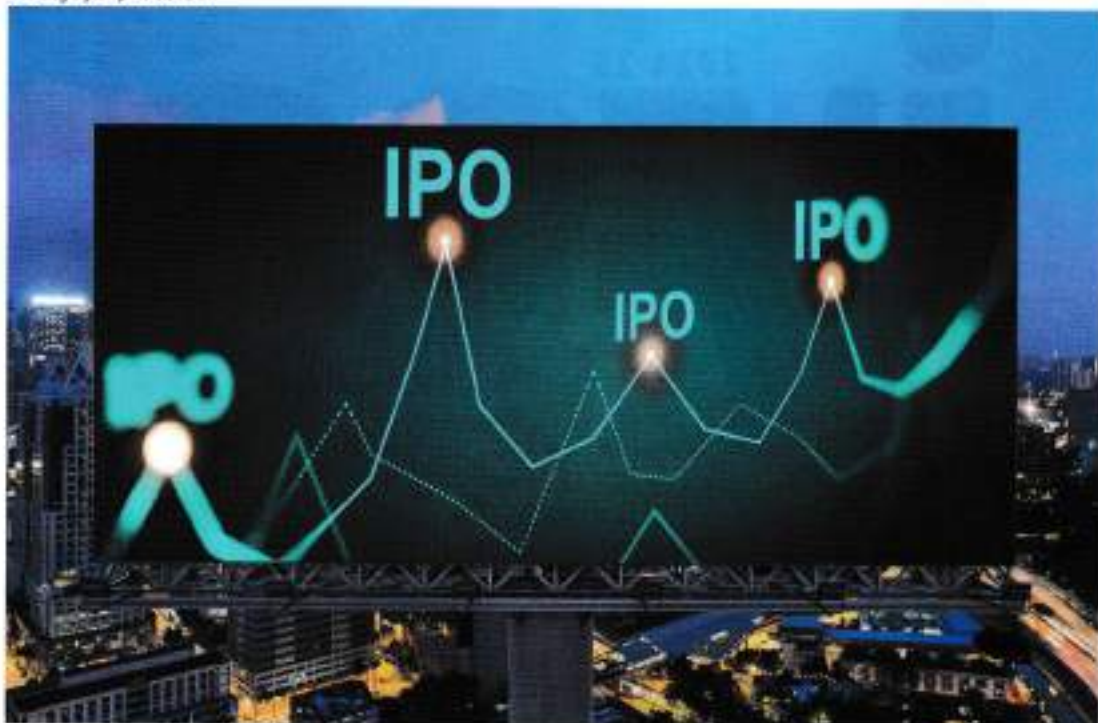
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Hexaware Technologies, IT Services; Anthem Biosciences, Pharma/Biotech;
CNG Electronics, Electronics; Smartworks Coworking, Real Estate/Leasing;
Knowledge Realty Trust (REIT), Real Estate; NSDL, Financial Infra;
Laxmi India Finance, NBFC Lending



CONTENTS

■ VOLUME 44, ISSUE 22 ■ 23 AUGUST 2025

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12 Jottings

RBI on watch made as spectre of US tariffs loom; Apple skirts chip tariffs; ICICI Bank's bid to woo premium customers may prove a worrisome trend; Data breach costs mount, and more

14 Columns

Vikas Singh (p. 14); Krishan Kalra (p. 16); Amit Kapoor & Anandita Datta (p. 18); Srinath Sridharan (p. 20); Prakash Iyer (p. 24); Srinath Sridharan & Steve Correa (p. 26); Kiran Karnik (p. 28)

30 A Paradox

Even as marketing budgets are increasing, marketers are under pressure to deliver more with constrained resources

34 Brand Bytes

Sujata Martis of Platinum Guild International on how evolving notions of love and commitment among millennials and Gen Z are influencing brand messaging, visual storytelling and tone

36 Transforming Media

Maya Culas of Hitachi Vantara on how AI, cloud & data analytics are powering real-time content creation, personalisation and cost efficiency

38 In Conversation

Tony Harradine, CEO, Omnicom Media Group APAC, on the pivotal role AI plays in fuelling the agency's growth

58

Bustle On The IPO Street Set To Intensify

The IPO frenzy, which began in May this year, is far from over, with Rs 2 lakh crore worth of fundraising expected in FY26, setting the stage for one of the biggest years ever for public equity markets

Cover design by DINESH S. BANDUNI

90 Road Queen

A review of the MG Cyberster, India's first electric roadster inspired by MG's iconic MGB, boasting 510 PS and a 3.2-second 0-100 sprint, among other things.



Photograph by Utkarsh Agarwal

FOUNDERS' LOUNGE

42 Rajesh Ramoiah,
Managing Partner, Trident
Growth Partners

44 Maxon Lewis, MD & CEO,
Magenta Mobility

**46 Ranjith Mukundan, Co-
founder & CEO, Stellapps
Technologies**

48 Towards Net Zero

How ITC is making strategic shifts across emissions, resilience, circularity and ESG leadership

50 Green Strategy

How the Mahindra Group is integrating environmental and social imperatives deeply into its businesses

52 Trade Tirades

With the India-US spat over tariffs showing no signs of abetting, the moot question is: Is a compromise still possible?

66 On Terra Firma

How JSW Cement is betting on organic expansion, green credentials, and group synergies to claim its place among India's heavyweights

70 Moment of Truth

How the startup IPO wave now faces the critical challenge of delivering long-term value beyond the debut day frenzy

76 In Conversation

Italian Ambassador to India, Antonio Enrico Bortoli, on the rapid advancement in ties across defence, space, trade, connectivity, and other areas

80 Interview

N S Boseraju, Karnataka's Minister for Science & Technology, Minor Irrigation, and District

98 Last Word

Vivek Lohia of Jupiter Wagons on the shift in India's rail freight and how it promises economic gains, sustainability, and logistics efficiency



In-charge Minister for Kodagu, on the state's bold push into quantum technology

82 Gadgets

Samsung's latest foldable, the Galaxy Z Fold 7, is being described as a masterpiece of engineering. Read the full review to understand why

85 Bookmark

Review of *Everything All at Once: India and the Six Simultaneous Global Transitions* by Dr Rajiv Kumar (former Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog) and Ishan Joshi

96 After Hours

Renowned Indian singer, composer and music director Sheykh Ravjani on his Global Schools Sheykh Ravjani School of Music, the relevance of music education in a tech-driven world, and much more

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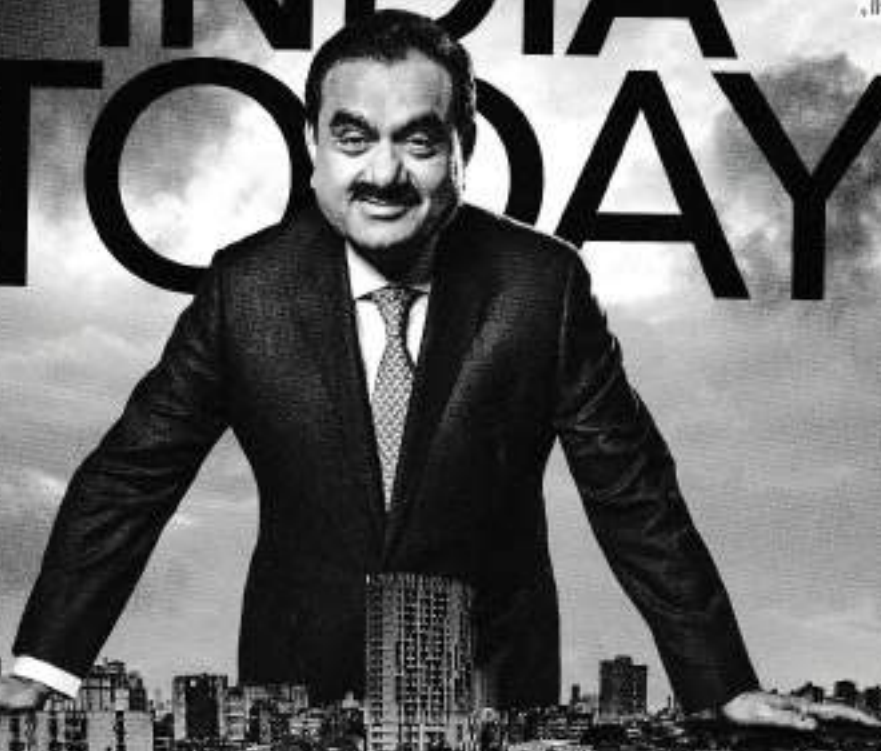
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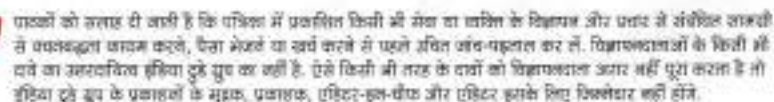


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अदाणी का बड़ा दांव

क्या यह दिग्गज कारोबारी एशिया की सबसे बड़ी झुग्गी बस्ती को नई शक्ल दे पाएगा?

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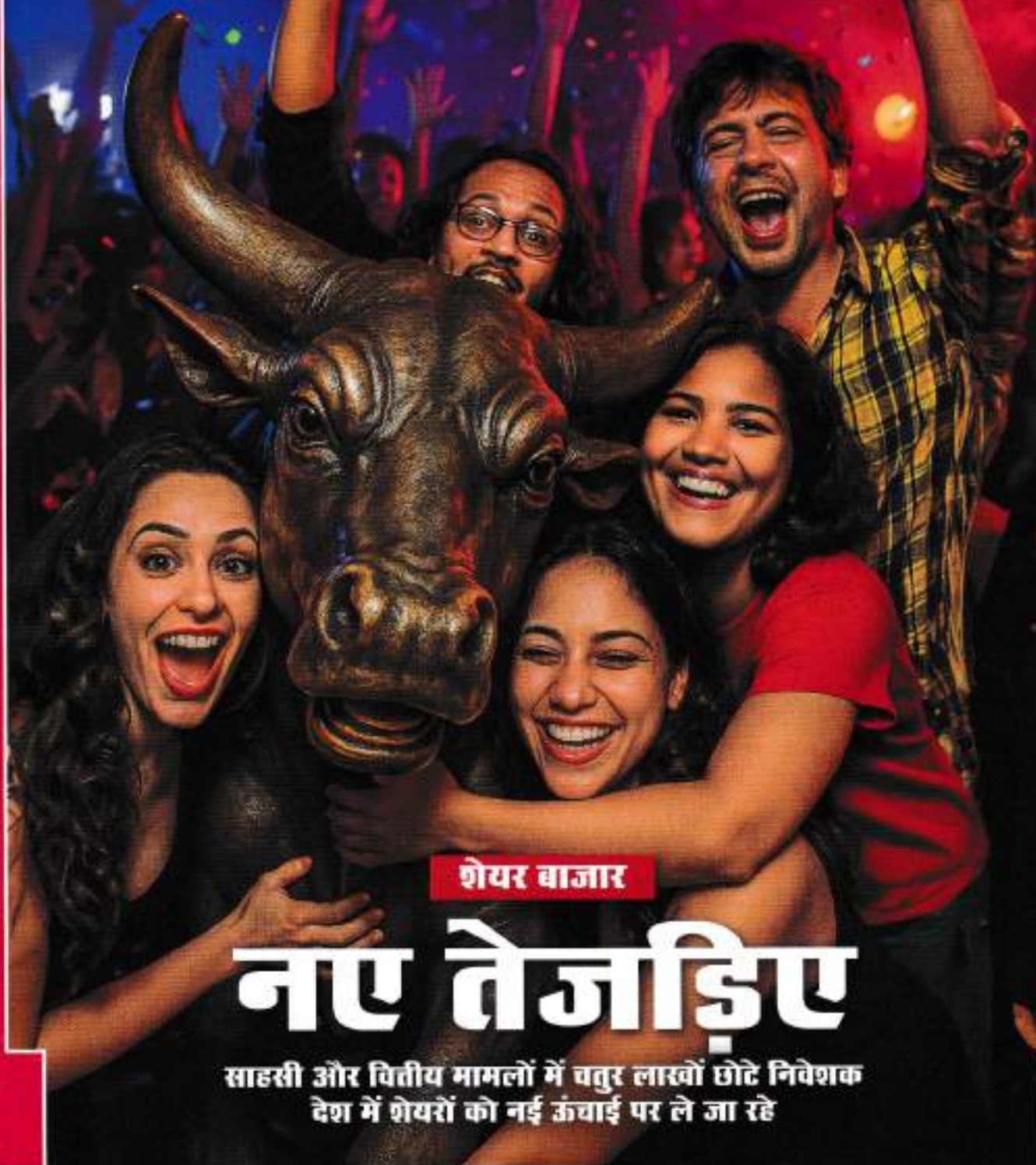
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13 अगस्त, 2025

60 रुपए



इंडिया टुडे



शेयर बाजार

नए तेजड़िए

साहसी और वित्तीय मामलों में चतुर लाखों छोटे निवेशक
देश में शेयरों को नई ऊंचाई पर ले जा रहे

► राजस्थान के स्कूल

42 जान बची तब तो पढ़ेंगे

मालूमों की जिनगी घर भारी पड़ रहा सरकारी इलाका। घटिया निर्माण, कम खर्च पर ठेके और देशभार की अनदेखी के कारण रोज मिर रही स्कूली इमारतें। राजस्थान में जबरन स्कूलों की पहचान।



► बिहार

46 तराई से गायब होती तरावट

कमी नदियों, लावाओं और अन्य जल स्रोतों के कारण जल संपन्नता का प्रतीक माने जाने वाले हिमालय की तराई का इलाका बीते दो-तीन साल से भीषण जल संकट का शिकार कर रहा।



► उत्तर प्रदेश/सिंध

50 संगीत साधना में घोटालों का राग

संयुक्त का भारतवर्ष संस्कृति विश्वविद्यालय विदेशी अनियमितता और मनमायी नियुक्तियों सरीखे आरोपों में घिरा। पहली बार जेल गए दो विभागाध्यक्ष, दो स्थायी शिक्षकों के आरोपे पूरा संस्थान।



► ब्राजिल

60 बेहतरीन संस्थान

इंडिया टुडे-यूएनडीआरए बेस्ट यूनिवर्सिटी सर्वेक्षण शिक्षा के पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र में एक नई गतिशीलता का संकेत दे रहा।

► जनरल (सरकारी)

66 नए दौर की ओर

दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय ने जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय को पीछे छोड़ते हुए भारत की पब्लिक हायर एजुकेशन की कमान संभाली।

► जनरल (प्राइवेट)

72 मेल शोध और नवाचार का

बेहतरीन परिसरों पर लगातार महारथों से ध्यान देकर एसआरएम तकनीकी शिक्षा का शक्तिकेंद्र बना। रैंकिंग ने इस पर लगाई मुहर।



► मेडिकल

78 जो शीर्ष से कभी हटा नहीं

एम्स दिल्ली अत्याधुनिक सुविधाओं, उत्कृष्ट फैकल्टी और मरीजों की आवाक से मिलने वाले अनुभव के कारण सबका पसंदीदा बना हुआ।

► टेक्निकल

84 नवाचार क्रांति का अंगुआ

जाइजाइटी दिल्ली अपने पाठ्यक्रम, लैब और बिजनेस को नया रूप देकर अगली टेक्नोलॉजी क्रांति की अंगुआई के लिए तैयार हो रहा।

► लॉ

90 कानून का मजबूत आधार

उम्मा टीम और इन्फोस्टुडनर के जुते नेशनल लॉ स्कूल और इंडिया यूनिवर्सिटी कानूनी शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में अंगुआ के रूप में कादम।

► यूसी

98 सर्वेक्षण के पूरे नतीजे

मेडिकल, टेक्निकल और लॉ विषयों समेत देश के सरकारी और प्राइवेट विश्वविद्यालयों की पूरी रैंकिंग।

► भाजपा



54 राजघरानों की वापसी

भाजपा अपने सिपाही मकसद की खातिर अतीत के राजघरानों को चुनाने में अब संकोच नहीं कर रही। राजघरानों के लिए भी वह उनकी सिपाही और सांस्कृतिक प्रभावशालिता फिर से हासिल करने का मौका।

► सवाल + जवाब

104 सदाबहार डिजाइनर

तीन दशक बाद फैशन सम्राट जे.जे. बनाया एक ऐसे कलेक्शन के साथ वापसी कर रहे जिसकी जड़ें इतिहास में समाई हैं।



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CONTENTS

UPFRONT: HOW TO TACKLE THE TRUMP SHOCKER PG 5

STATE SCAN: GOA, MAHA PREP FOR CONVERSION LAWS PG 16

► BIHAR

36 Ruckus over Voter Rolls

The ECI revising voter rolls through rare document proofs may disenfranchise millions

► BJP

41 Hunt for a New Head

With an eye to the future, BJP-RSS are in no hurry to choose the party president

► LEISURE

51 No Room to Pray

A new exhibition by artist Pushpamala N. boldly challenges mainstream ideas of folklore, religion and mythology



► WOMAN SUMMIT

44 Leading Ladies

Women icons from various fields deliberate on the new ground that they are breaking and nourishing

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20 अगस्त, 2025

60 रुपए



इंडिया टुडे



टेस्ट क्रिकेट

नई उम्र की नई फसल

धाकड़ शुभमन गिल की अगुआई में जुझारू नौजवानों की करामाती
जमात पूरी धमक के साथ नए जमाने की टीम के रूप में उभरी

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 मूल डिजिटल संस्करण: राज शर्मा
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[illegible]

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- [illegible]

नई उम्र की नई फसल

शुभचमन गिल की अमुभाई में जुझारू नौजवानों की करामाती जघान परी धमक के साथ नए जमाने की टीम के रूप में उभरी

अथर्वणं कथं



10. 10.10.10

इस सप्ताह

सुखिण्याः

इस ट्रेप का क्या करें **पेज 5**

राज्या दर्पणः

हमसुतकण काबून पर तब उर्यै भौहि रेज 18

► उत्तरकाशी में अन्धानक बाढ़

10 फिर वही कुदरत का कहार

इन हादसों ने प्राकृतिक आपदाओं की कतार बनती इसानी दमकभंडारियों को लेकर चिंता बढ़ाई।

► **विद्यार्थी सुभाष**

22 झंगामा है क्यों बरपा...

चुनाव आयोग के विशेष महान पुनरीक्षण और समीक्षा मतदाता सूचियों ने इस आरोप को जन्म दिया कि वास्तविक मतदाताधिकार से वंचित हो सकते हैं।

► **सुधी सपोर्ट्स कॉलेज**

40 खिलाड़ियों से ऐसा खेल!

अपर्याप्त बुनियादी ढांचे के कारण डूबते
झिल्लाहियों का स्पेडर्स कालेजों में उठा भरोसा

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▶ भाजपा

27 नए अध्ययन की तलाश

मोदी युग के बाद की तैयारी के लिए भाजपा-संघ पार्टी अखिल के स्तर पर पूरा समय ले रहे



▶ राजस्थान

42 गरीबों की हकमारी

राजस्थान में बाढ़ सुरक्षा योजना के तहत 52 लाख लोग उधार रहे थे गरीबी का निवारण।



► इडिया टूडे यमन समित

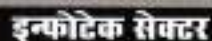
46 महिलाओं ने
ली क़त्माज

विभिन्न क्षेत्रों की अनुभा-
महिताओं ने दिखाया
कि विधवा किसी भी के
इंतजार में बैठी ताक नहीं
रही, बल्कि नए मौके बनाते
हुए उसे भी तय कर रही.



पठकों को सलाह दी जाती है कि परिवार में प्रभावित किसी भी सेवा या व्यक्ति के विज्ञापन और प्रचार से संकेचित सामग्री से परहेज करना। यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कि परिवार में प्रभावित किसी भी सेवा या व्यक्ति के विज्ञापन और प्रचार से संकेचित सामग्री से परहेज करना। यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कि परिवार में प्रभावित किसी भी सेवा या व्यक्ति के विज्ञापन और प्रचार से संकेचित सामग्री से परहेज करना।

80 रुपए



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champion in
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IN IGA'S ERA

Queen of Clay, Iga Swiatek, defeated Amanda Anisimova 6-0, 6-0 in the final to win her first Wimbledon and sixth Grand Slam





76



MAIDEN NC CLASSIC: NEERAJ CHOPRA'S STAR POWER FUELS BUZZ

Cricket

- 20 Through the lens**
On-field action from the Birmingham and Lord's Tests between India and England
- 29 Number crunching**
Indian batting evolving from running-intensive innings to a boundary-heavy, six-hitting approach
- 32 Big Interview**
Former England captain David Gower on the World Test Championship, what the longest format needs to survive and much more



10 Cover Story Wimbledon

Iga Swiatek and Jannik Sinner win maiden Wimbledon titles

Cover: Iga Swiatek (AP)

Read more...

- 62 Reality check**
Club World Cup highlights problems FIFA must urgently address before next World Cup
- 72 Indian football**
Indian women book a historic AFC Asian Cup spot
- 80 Gen-Next**
Meet Tanvi Sharma, the teenage badminton prodigy juggling schoolbooks and smash shots

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Manchester**



RAPID RISE

Divya Deshmukh's World Cup win reaffirms
India's soaring stature in global chess





A TWO-TIER TEST SYSTEM COULD BE THE FUTURE – MOEN ALI

Cricket

- 18 **England Tour Diary**
Remembering legends and mistaken celebrity sightings
- 28 **Analysis**
No. 3 batters are paying a heavy price
- 34 **Troubled times**
USA Cricket's existential challenges



10 Cover Story Chess

Divya Deshmukh beat Koneru Humpy in the final to win the Women's Chess World Cup and become India's 88th Grandmaster

Cover: Divya Deshmukh (PTI)

Read more...

- 66 **Women's EURO**
England defeats Spain on penalties in thrilling encounter
- 76 **Interview**
Bhavina Patel hopes for a para version of the Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) league
- 82 **Endurance sports**
India's growing appetite for triathlons and hybrid races signals a shift in fitness culture

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70



MANPREET SINGH – THE HEARTBEAT OF INDIAN MIDFIELD

Cricket

- 20 **Spotlight**
Mohammed Siraj cementing his place as more than just a workhorse
- 23 **Data Drive**
Where the seam once sang, silence now reigns
- 26 **Test of character**
The last bastion of will



10 Cover Story Tendulkar-Anderson Trophy

Shubman Gill and Co. defied doubts, adapting under pressure to secure a 2-2 series draw in England

Cover: Gill & Siraj (Getty Images)

Read more...

- 52 **U.S. Open Preview**
New York ready for its annual tennis carnival
- 60 **Deep Dive**
With Asian Games quotas secured, the Olympic dream edges closer for Indian surfing
- 78 **Athletics**
India makes its mark while hosting the World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze for the first time

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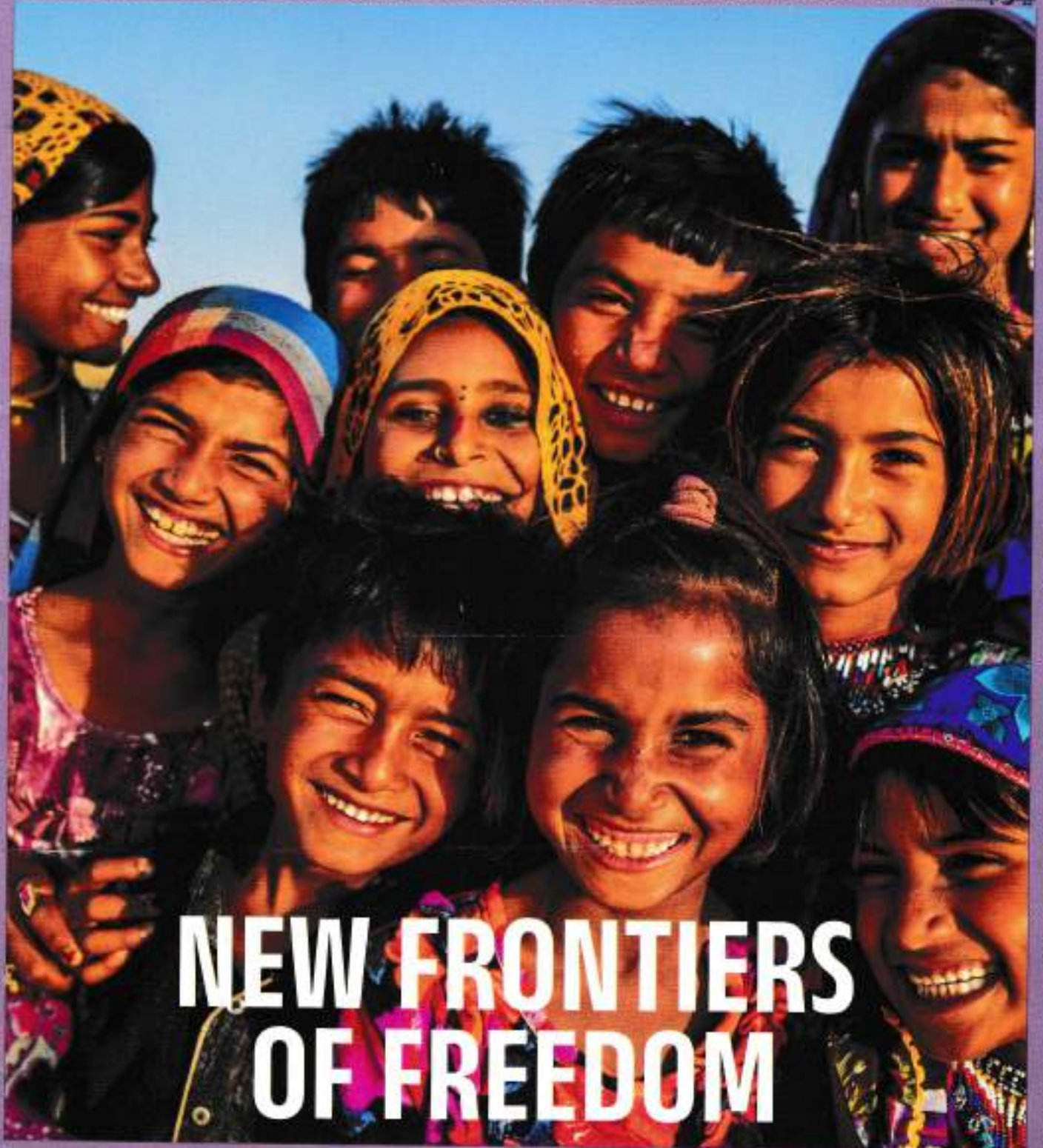
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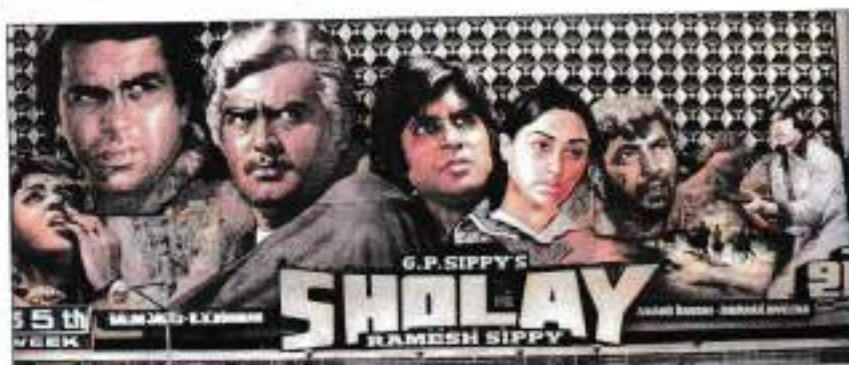
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SUBSCRIPTION-RELATED DETAILS : Page 46

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IN THIS ISSUE



7 50 YEARS OF SHOLAY
Tanuja Chaturvedi

NEW FRONTIERS

13 FREEDOM TO INNOVATE
Dr Arvind C Ranade

18 PEOPLE'S PADMA

20 INDIA'S WAR AGAINST
TERRORISM
Sameer Patil

34 FREEDOM OF GOOD HEALTH
Punya Salila Srivastava

39 EMPOWERING THE FARMERS
Devesh Chaturvedi

43 FREEDOM WITH A STEEL RESOLVE
Swapna Bhattacharya

WORLD SANSKRIT DAY

24 RELEVANCE
Dr Chandra Bhushan Jha

28 REVIVAL
Dr Siddhidatri Bhardwaj

29 SANSKRIT KAVYA : A TRIBUTE TO FREEDOM

SPECIAL COLUMNS

45 YOJANA FLASHBACK

47 OUR BOOKS

- WINGS TO OUR HOPES
- THE STORY OF INDIA'S PARTITION



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Details of the Sales Outlets of the Publications Division on Page 17

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Contents

Agriculture 4.0 Towards Agri-Tech Revolution

Dr. Neelam Patel
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Conservation Agriculture Practices and Perspectives

Dr. Jagdeep Saxena

Gene Editing Technology Transforming Agriculture

Dr. Harender Raj Gautam

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Dr. H. L. Sharma

Agri Startups

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Pankaj Kumar Ojha

Cooperative Path to the SDGs

Dr. Sagar Kisan Wadkar

5



11



16



24



31



39

45

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CONTENTS

Vol. XXIV No. 08

AUGUST 2025

PAGES 100

₹ 110

Editorial ...04

Burning Topic: PM Narendra Modi attends G7 Summit in Canada ...06

Lead Feature : Release of SDG publications on the occasion of 19th
Statistics Day ...09

India ...11

World ...27

Economy & Finance ...35

Sports ...46

Latest General Knowledge ...51

HALF YEARLY CURRENT AFFAIRS ...59

Practice Paper : SSC CGL Tier - I Exam ...91