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#### 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

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

—Umar Khalid

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COVER:  
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FEBRUARY 1, 2026

# health



## ANTIBIOTICS

Why we misuse. How we suffer



EK

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## 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.

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Binesh Sreedharan

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

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# THEWEEK



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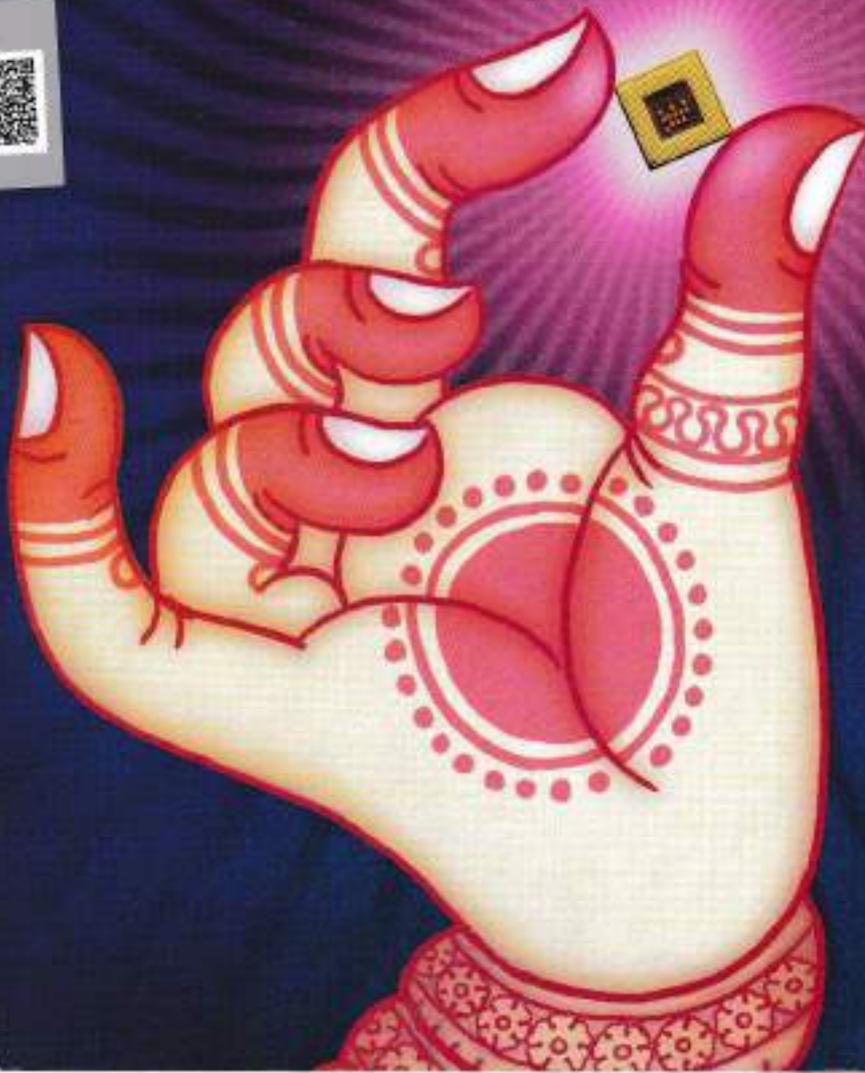
EXCLUSIVE

## 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



THEWEEK  
JOURNALISM WITH A HUMAN TOUCH



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# 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



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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

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SANJAY AHLAWAT

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## THE NEW CONSUMPTION ENGINE

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

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and a 4.3 per cent fiscal deficit,  
Budget signals stability

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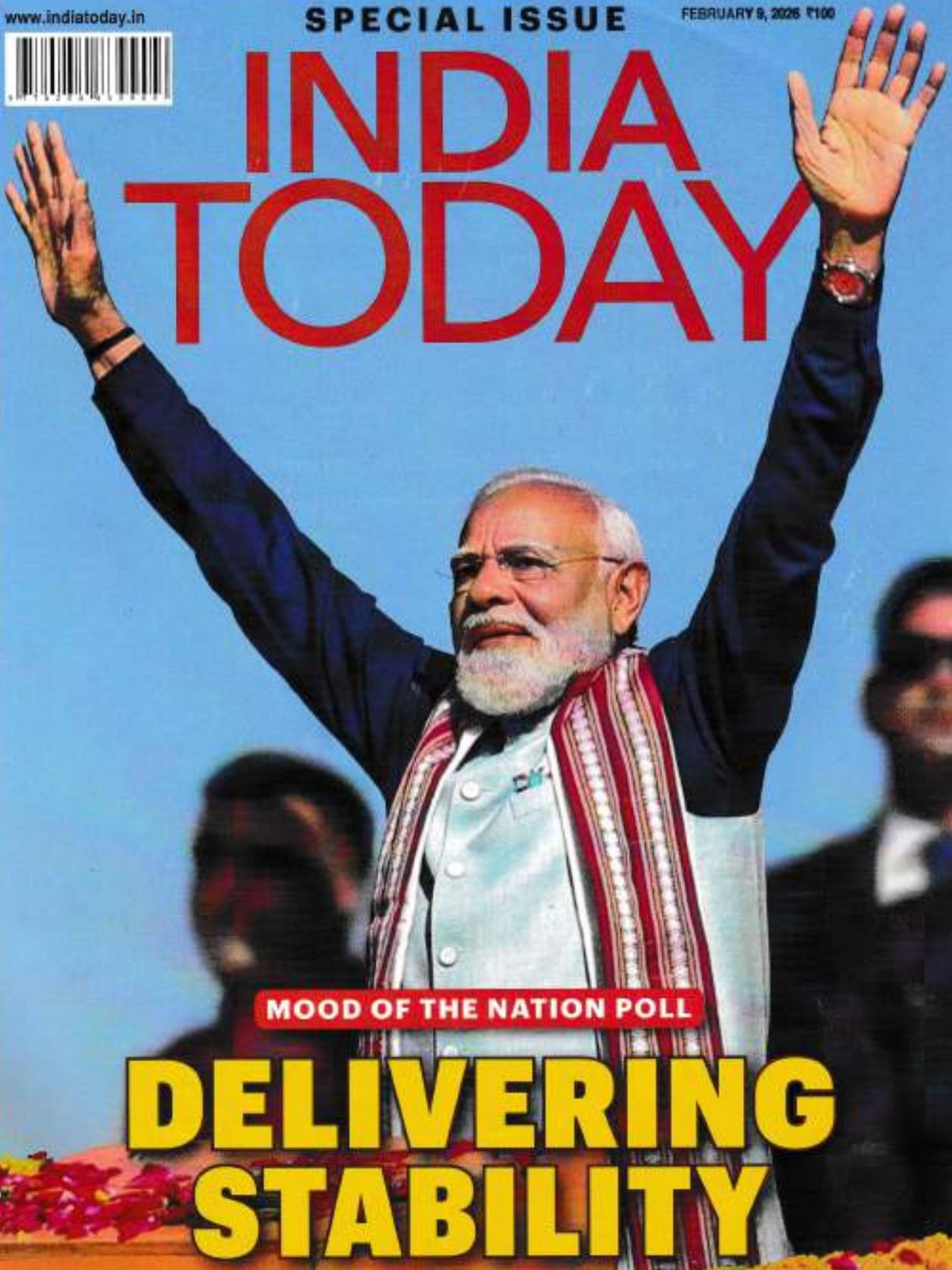
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FOR ENSURING POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC  
SECURITY IN THE FACE OF GLOBAL UNCERTAINTY**





# outlook

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## 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

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**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

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WORLD CUP  
SCHEDULE

2026

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



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A few group games will quietly decide who bends the tournament, and who is broken by it. Here's our pick



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Cover illustration: Sainath B

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FOR THE OSCARS  
THREE FILMS DELIGHT  
WITH SCALE AND THEMES

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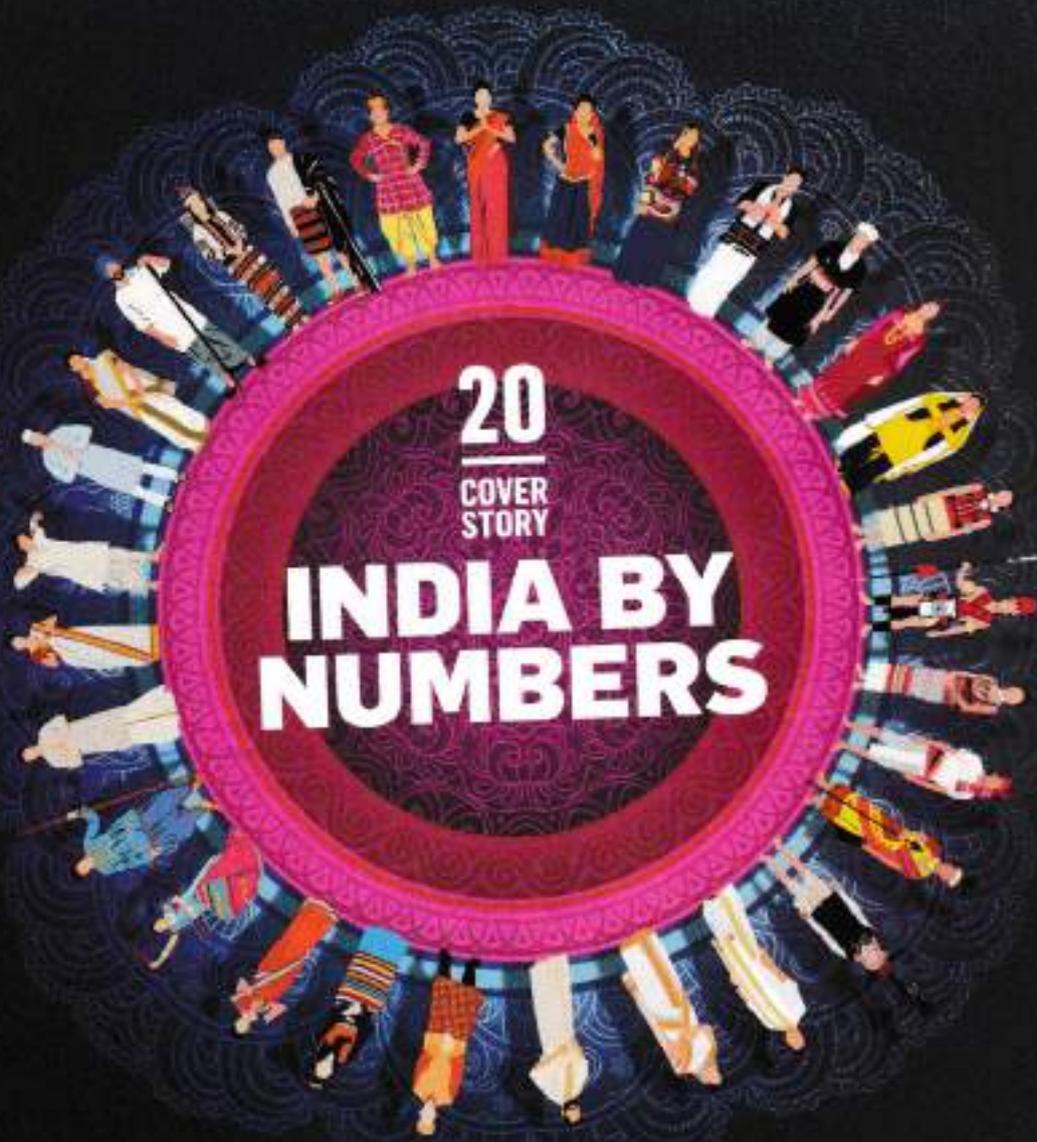
# REDEFINING INDIA

Momentous change through caste count, delimitation,  
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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

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VISHNUDAS K.S.

COVER IMAGING **BINESH SREEDHARAN**

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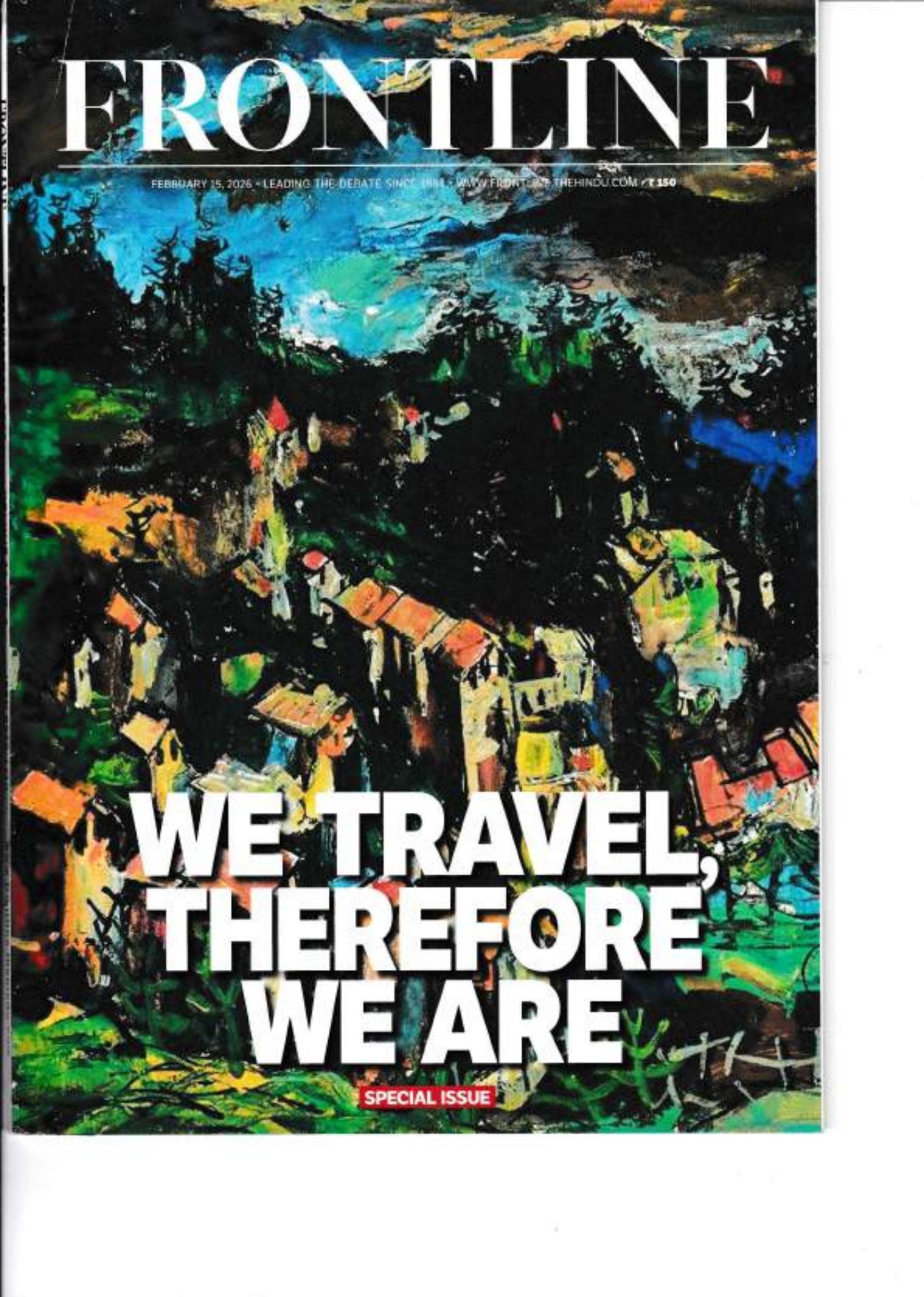


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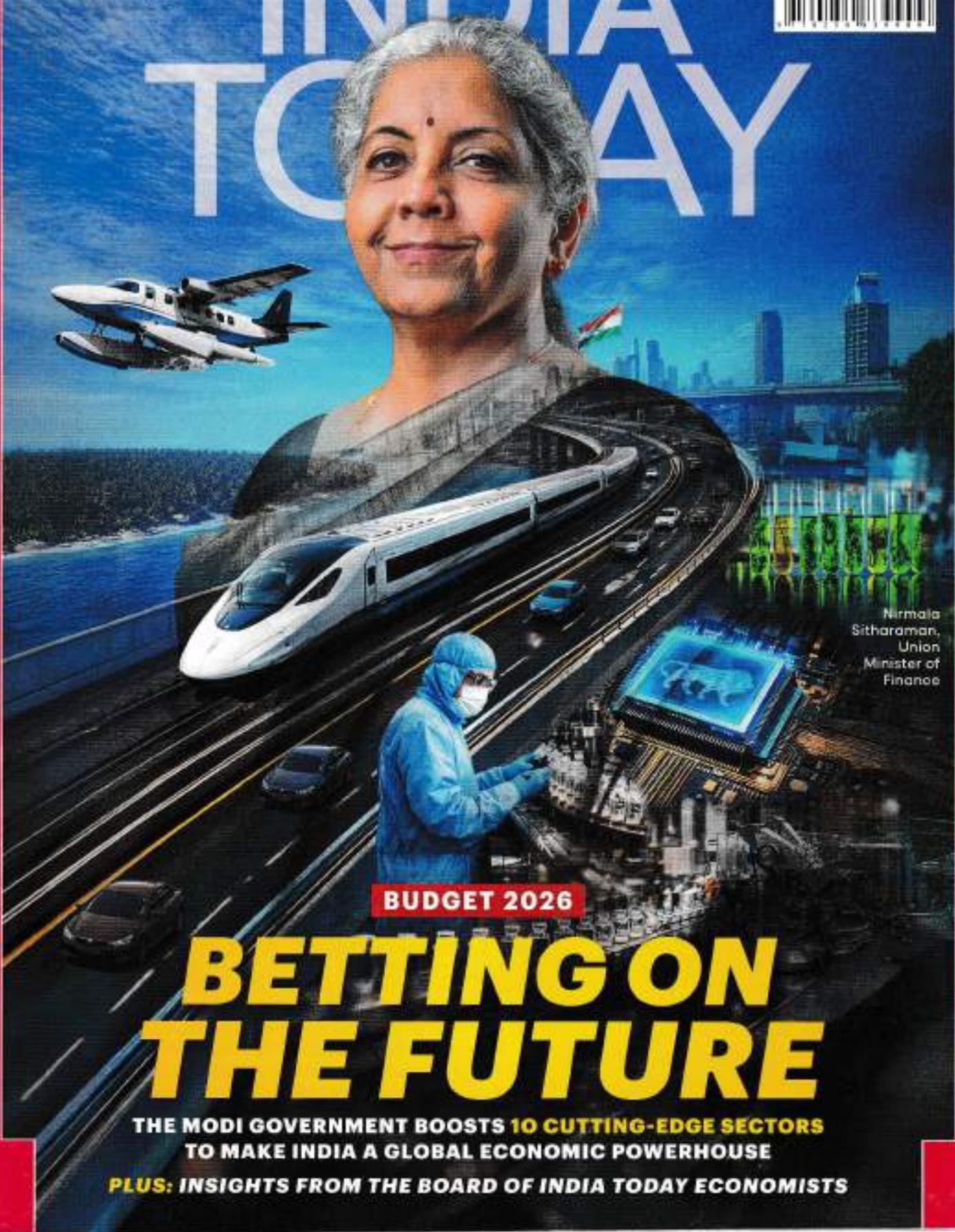
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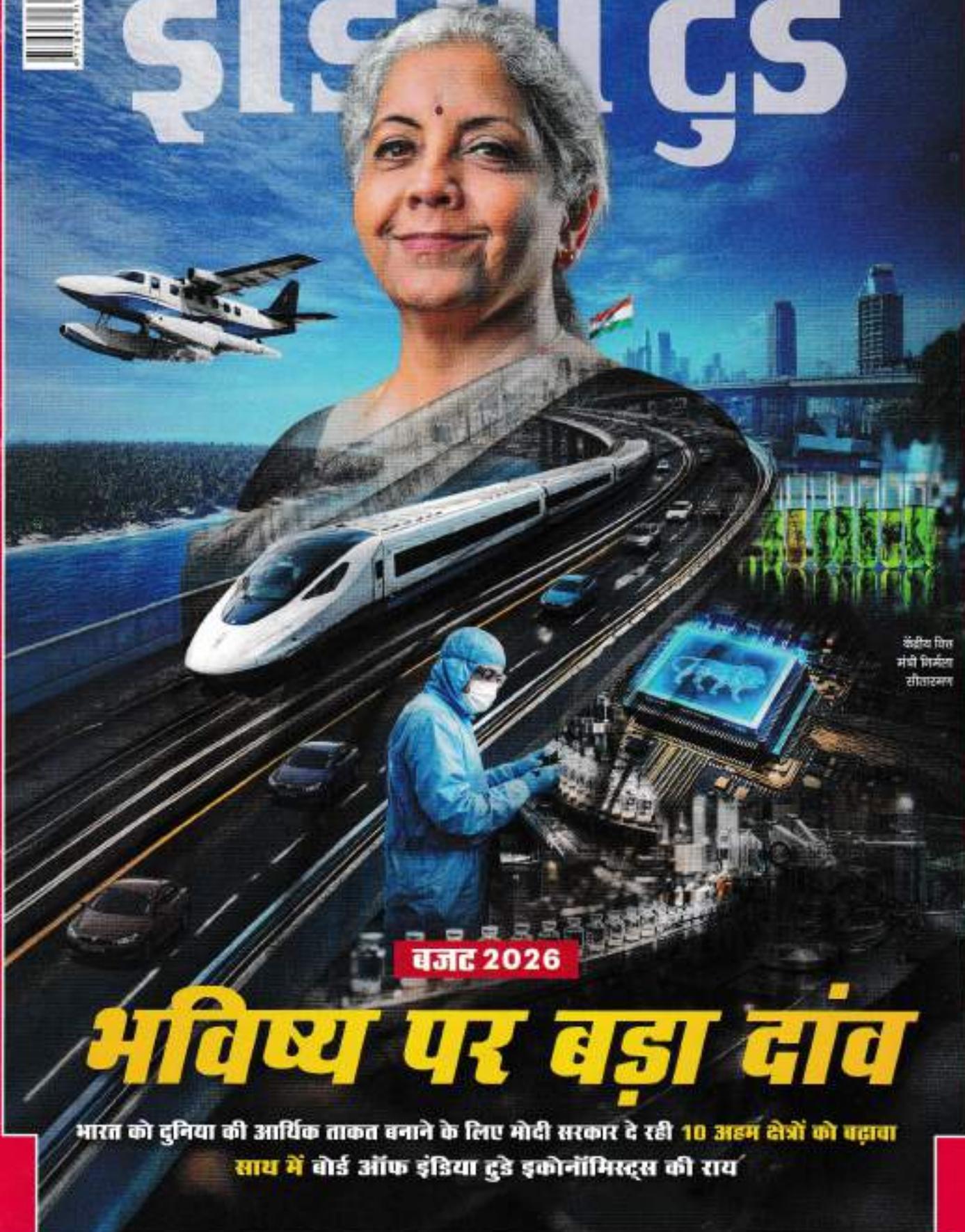
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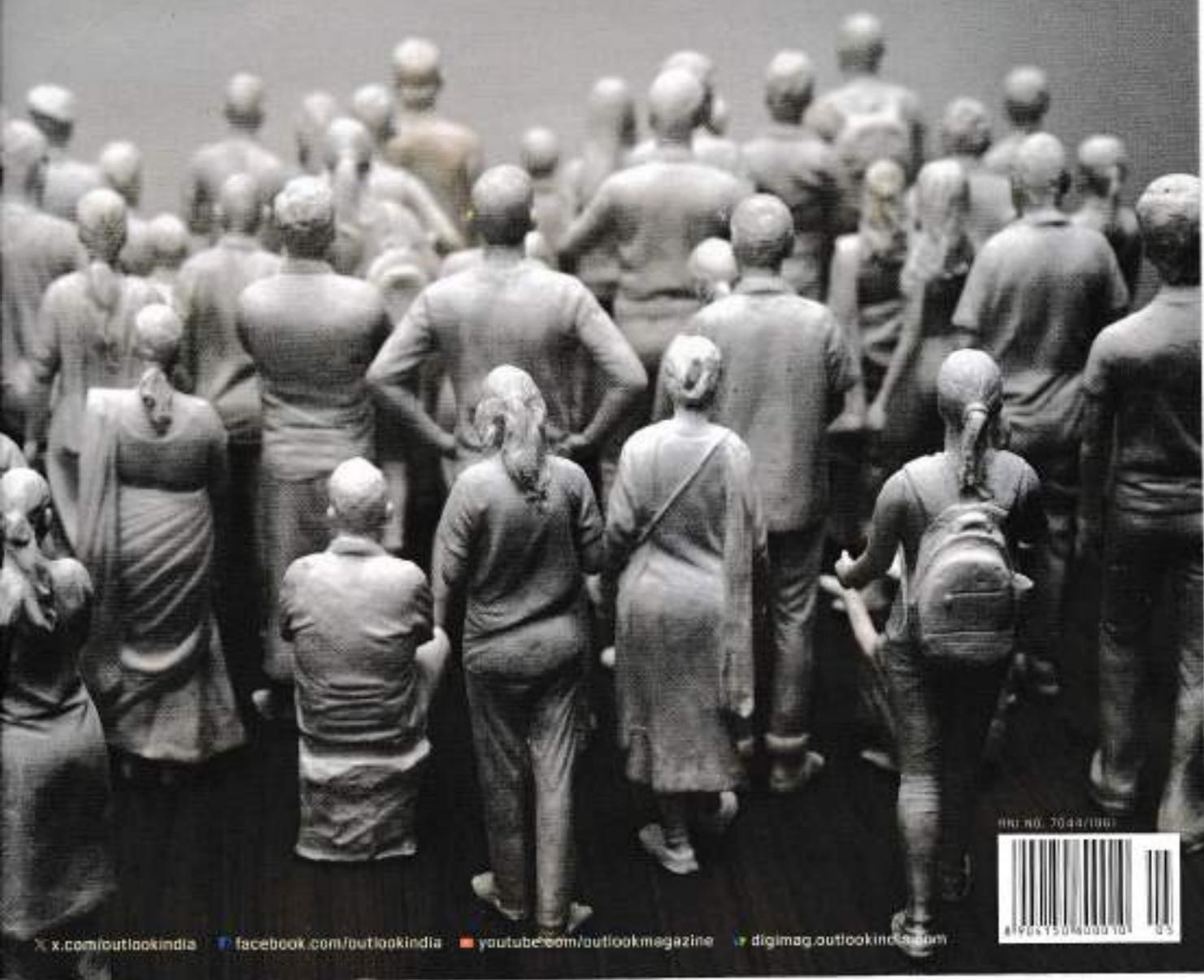


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From the show 'A  
Breath Held Long' by  
Sudarshan Shetty

#### 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  
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# WHY WE DREAM

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



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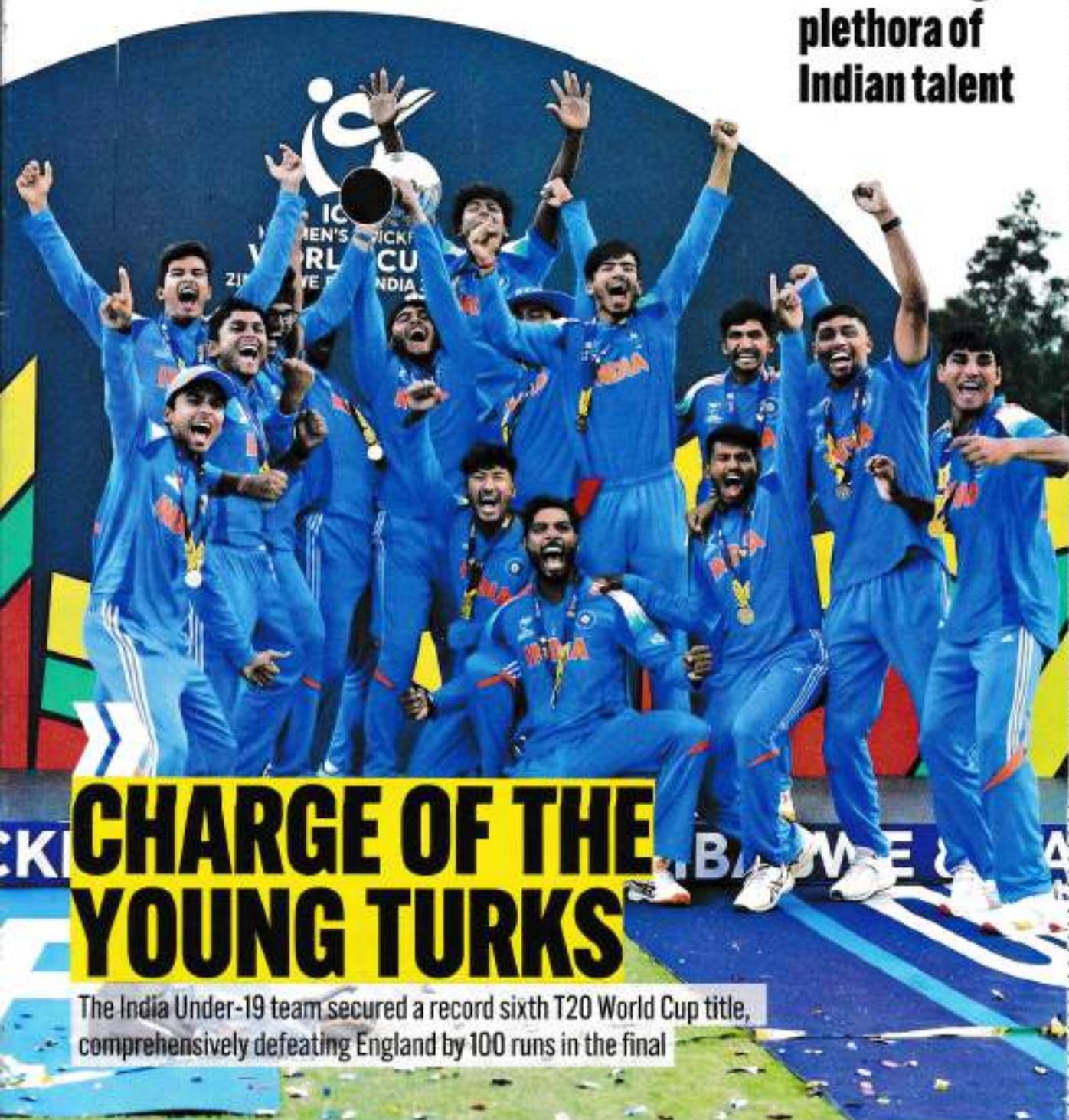
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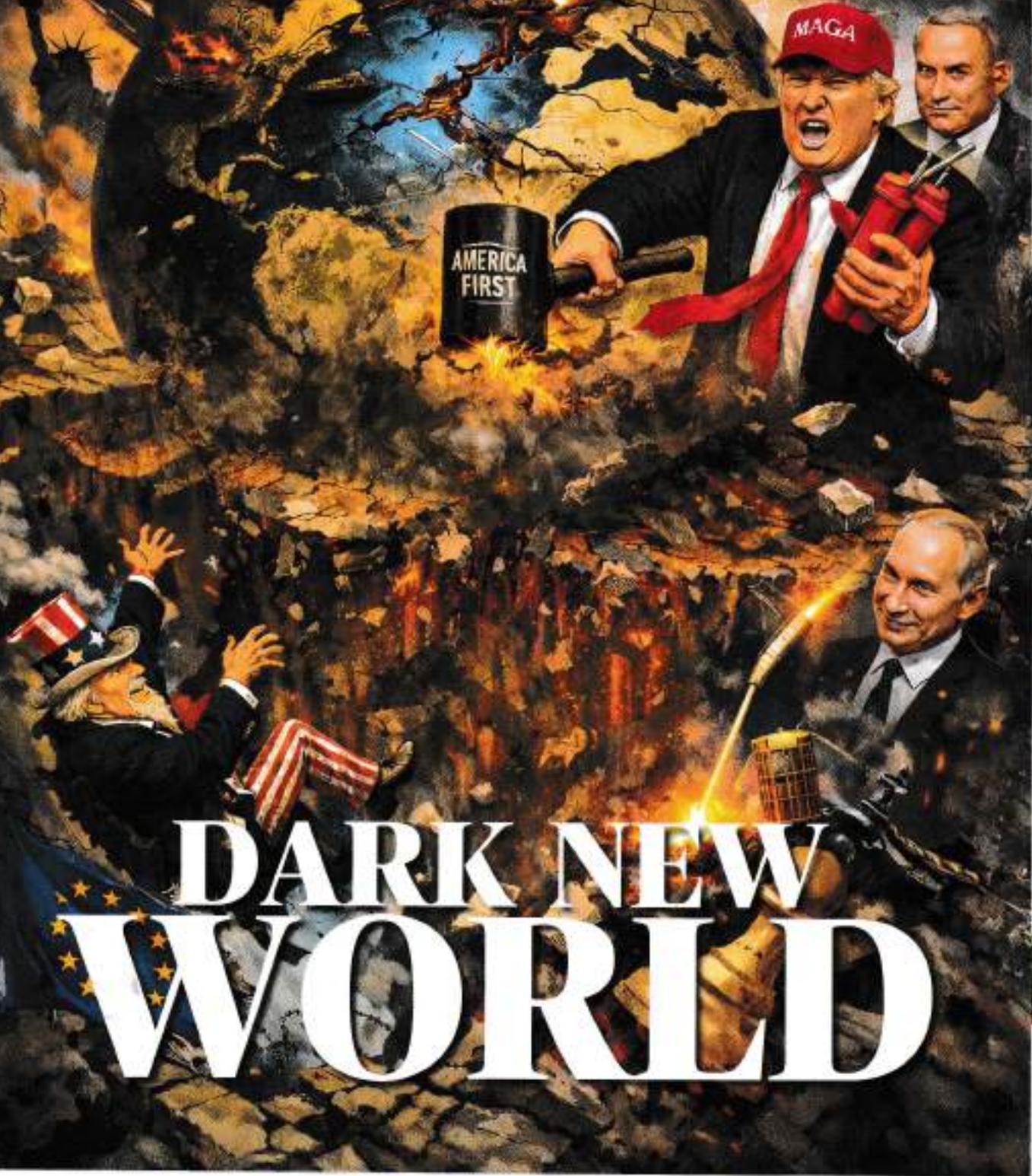
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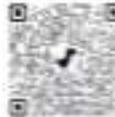
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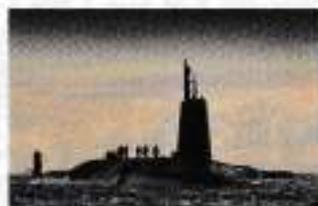


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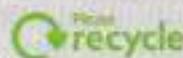
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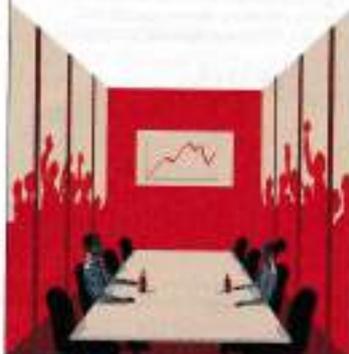
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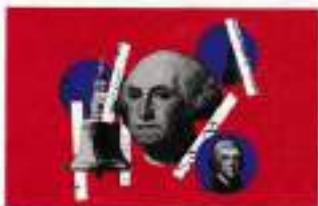
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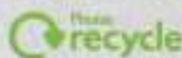
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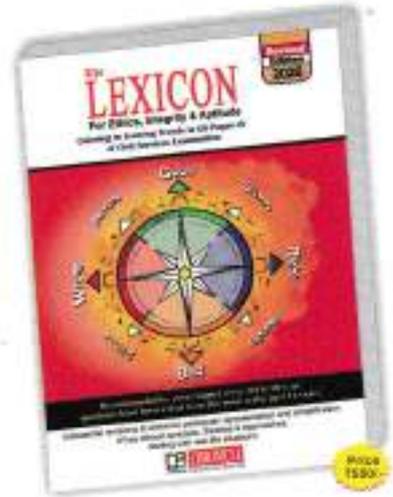


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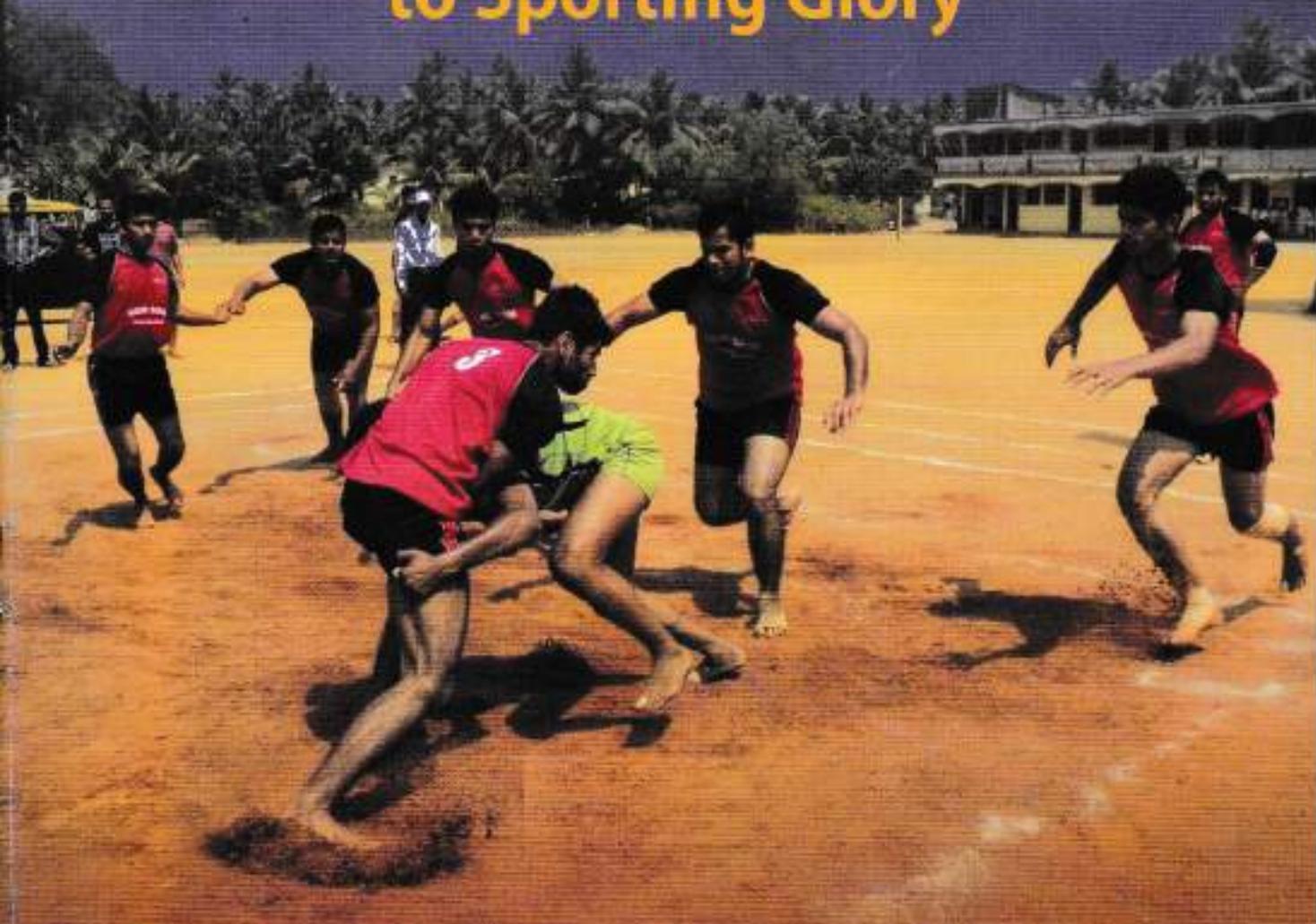
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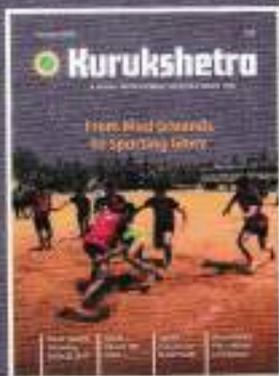


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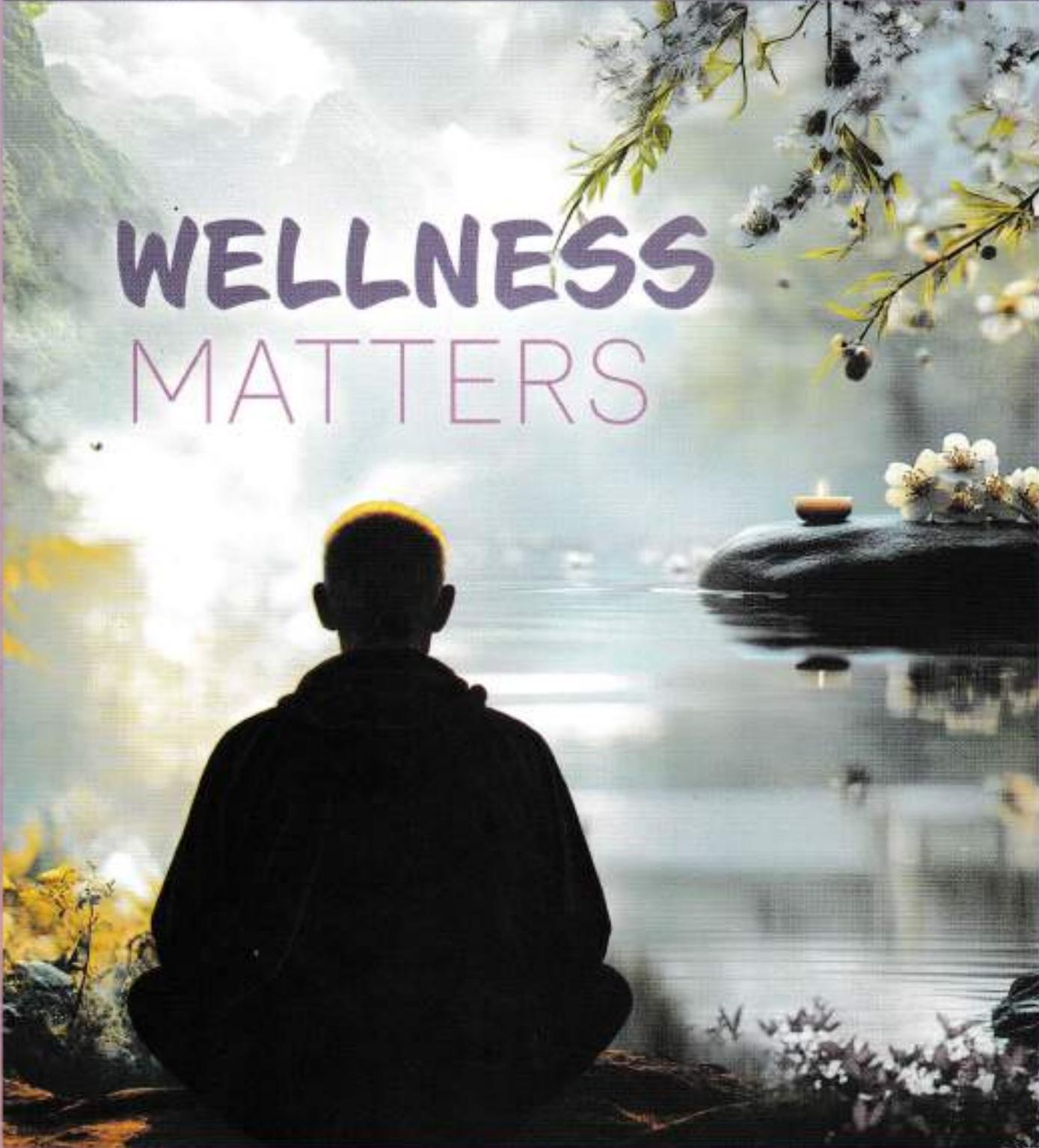
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Let noble thoughts come to us from all sides.  
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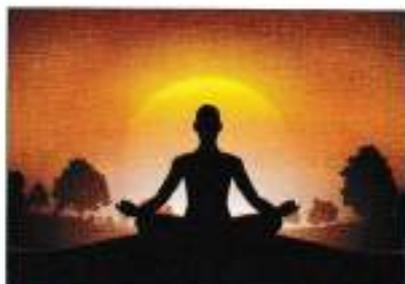
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