





ELECTIONS 2024

COVER STORY 16

OF WAR

In the last Lok Sabha elections, the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance swept through the Hindi heartland. This time, it has its work cut out: better the tally in Uttar Pradesh and maintain the high numbers in other states. The Ram Temple campaign might just be the perfect aid

INTERVIEWS

- 1 Vishnu Deo Sai Chhattisgarh chief minister
- 2 Akhilesh Yadav president, Samajwadi Party
- 3 Ashok Gehlot former Rajasthan chief minister
- 4 Govind Singh Dotasra
 Rajasthan Congress president
- 5 Samrat Choudhary Bihar deputy chief minister
- 6 **Jagada Nand Singh** Bihar RJD president

PLUS

UTTAR PRADESH

While the sociopolitical polarisation gives BJP the edge in Uttar Pradesh, the caste divide could help the opposition

RAJASTHAN

A united Congress eyes a few seats, hoping to exploit divisions within the BJP and discontent against its new government

CHHATTISGARH

Congress is once again relying on **Bhupesh Baghel** and his record as chief minister

BIHAR

In the complex caste calculus of Bihar, the NDA has the numbers. But the RJD's Tejashwi Yadav is ensuring that jobs remain a poll issue

ELECTIONS 2024 BATTLEGROUND

14 KARNATAKA

Congress guarantees have eaten into other development schemes

R.V. Vijavendra, Karnataka

B.Y. Vijayendra, Karnataka BJP president

50 CHESS

Patience and calmness are the hallmarks of Gukesh's game



Greatest accomplishment by any of the current Indian talents

Viswanathan Anand, five-time world champion

54 SPORTS



Want India to be in top 10 by 2032 Olympics P.T. Usha, president, Indian Olympic Association

56 UNTOLD STORIES

A temple in Karnataka has placed leaders of the independence struggle alongside divinity

60 EVENT

THE WEEK-Jaslok Hospital reader awareness seminar on Parkinson's disease stressed the need to personalise treatment

COLUMNS

- 9 POWERDRIVE R. Prasannan
- 29 SCHIZO-NATION Anuja Chauhan
- 62 SOUND BITE Anita Pratap
- 70 CHIC MAGNET Namrata Zakaria

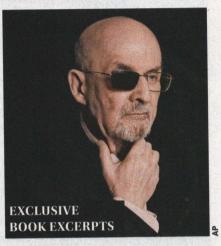
74 LAST WORD Shashi Tharoor



The BJP/RSS idea of a Hindu Rashtra is the mirror image of Pakistan—a state with a dominant majority religion that seeks to put its minorities in a subordinate place

63 LEISURE

In his new book, Knife—Meditations After an Attempted Murder, Salman Rushdie's pen is mightier than the knife



In my own memory, strangely, there's no record of pain



Amal Allana's biography of her father, Ebrahim Alkazi, is as much personal as it is historical

COVER ILLUSTRATION BINESH SREEDHARAN

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