

**RAE BARELI**  
**NO CAKEWALK FOR RAHUL GANDHI**

**WEST BENGAL COMMUNISTS**  
**PRESENTING YOUNG HOPEFULS**

g 770975 227702

JOURNALISM WITH A HUMAN TOUCH

www.theweek.in

TheWeekMag

TheWeekLive

₹ 80

SUBSCRIBER COPY NOT FOR SALE

MAY 19, 2024

# THEWEEK

**ADARSH GOURAV**  
MUSIC, MOVIES AND  
LESSONS FROM  
THE WHITE TIGER

**UNTOLD STORIES**  
INDIANS WHO  
REFUEL SATELLITES

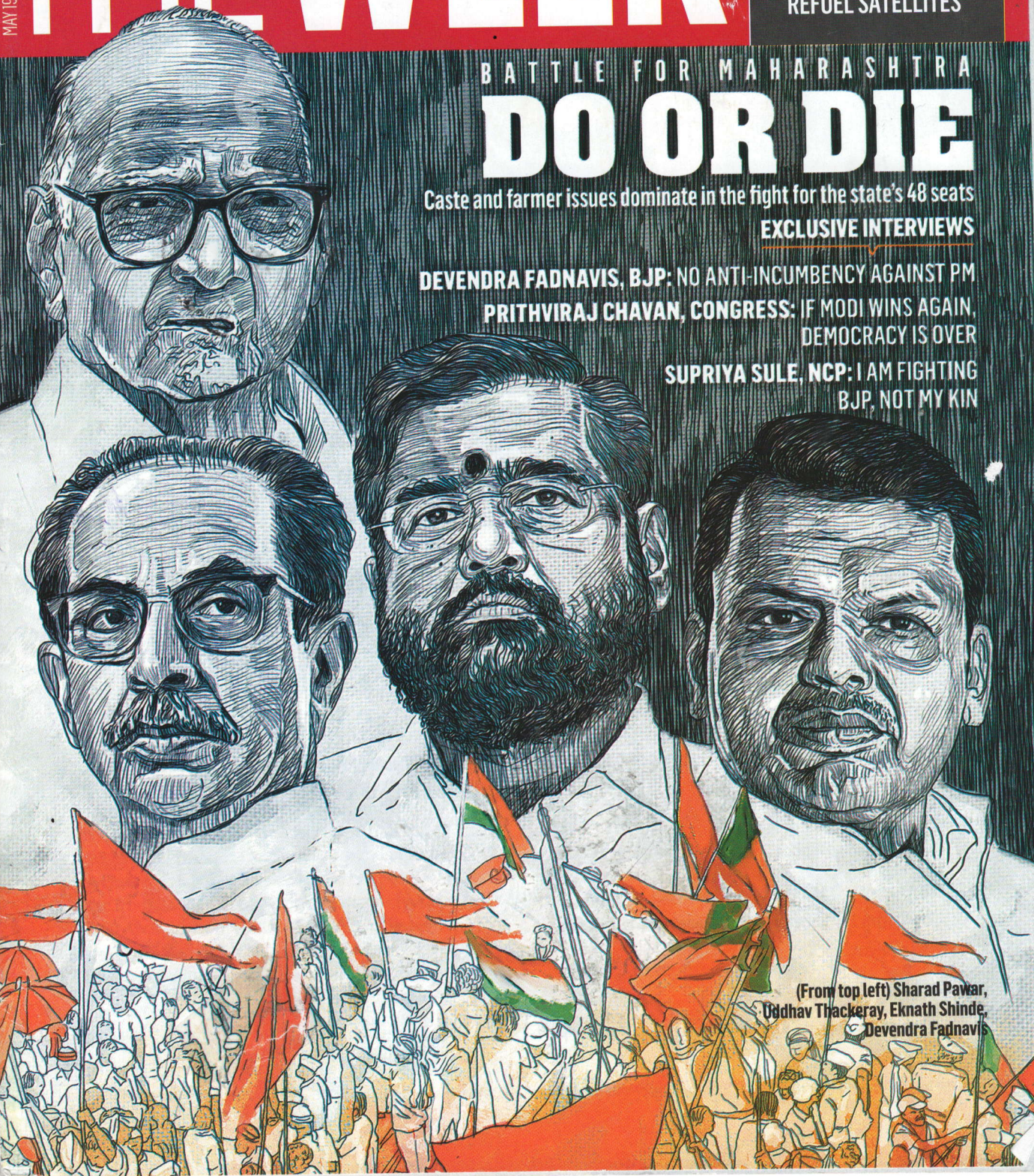
## BATTLE FOR MAHARASHTRA **DO OR DIE**

Caste and farmer issues dominate in the fight for the state's 48 seats

**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS**

**DEVENDRA FADNAVIS, BJP: NO ANTI-INCUMBENCY AGAINST PM**  
**PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN, CONGRESS: IF MODI WINS AGAIN,**  
**DEMOCRACY IS OVER**

**SUPRIYA SULE, NCP: I AM FIGHTING**  
**BJP, NOT MY KIN**



(From top left) Sharad Pawar,  
Uddhav Thackeray, Eknath Shinde,  
Devendra Fadnavis



# contents

FOR THE WEEK MAY 13 - MAY 19

COVER STORY 16

## THE MAHA CONFUSION

Voters in Maharashtra are unclear and disillusioned with all the rifts and splits—unimaginable scenarios are playing out across the state.

Will the NDA once again sweep the Lok Sabha polls in Maharashtra, or will the MVA have the last laugh?

PLUS

INTERVIEWS



We will win not less than 40 seats

—Devendra Fadnavis, deputy chief minister, Maharashtra



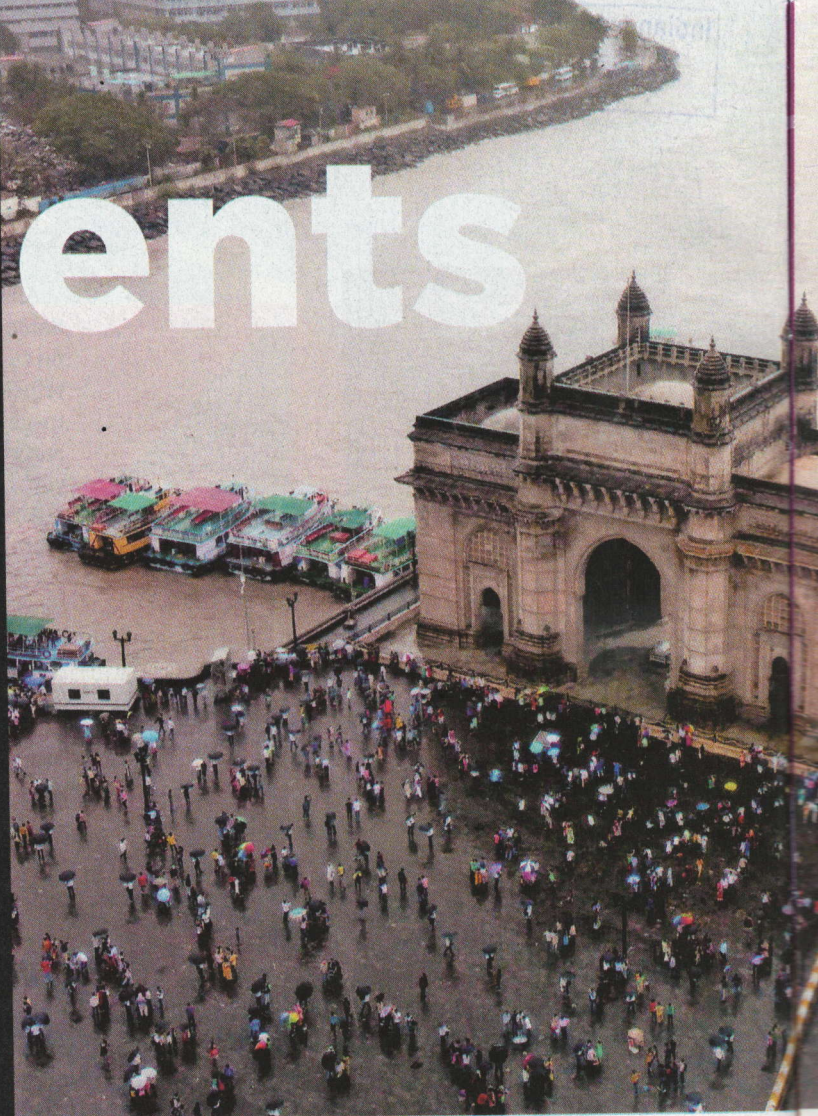
Today people are scared to talk against the [Union] government. It is a hostile environment

—Supriya Sule, NCP leader



Economy is not growing at the rate that it should be

—Prithviraj Chavan, Congress leader



## ELECTIONS 2024

RAE BARELI 42



The electoral match is not over till the last vote has been cast in the constituency which served defeat to Indira Gandhi in 1977 and was swept away by the BJP wave in 1996 and 1998

JAMMU & KASHMIR 50



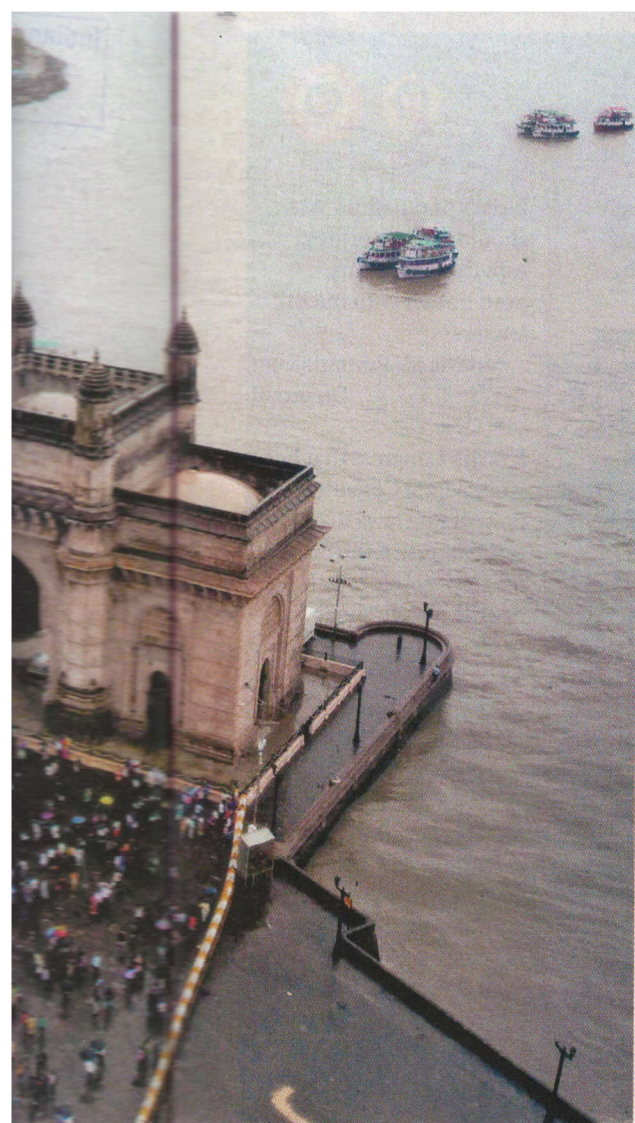
Contrasting narratives on the scrapping of Article 370 define the elections in Jammu and Kashmir

WEST BENGAL 52



CPI(M) bets on fresh faces





**UNITED STATES 54**

Members of the South Asian community in the US have widely differing opinions about the upcoming elections



BHANU PRAKASH CHANDRA

**UNTOLD STORY 58**

A Chennai company is making waves in the world of space tech startups

**LEISURE 63**



I have always been a keen observer and driven by curiosity.... drama school made a huge impression in my life

—Adarsh Gourav, actor

**BOOKS 68**

AI is a statistical predictive system so it is never going to be 100 per cent correct, says Madhumita Murgia, who, through her book, *Code Dependent*, gives voice to the voiceless multitudes impacted by AI

**C O L U M N S**

**10 POWERDRIVE**  
R. Prasannan

**SCHIZO-NATION**  
Anuja Chauhan

**62 SOUNDBITE**  
Anita Pratap

**71 CHIC MAGNET**  
Namrata Zakaria

**74 LAST WORD**  
Navtej Sarna

**41**



I am hoping that after playing Anu for so many years, Rupali

Ganguly has imbibed a little bit of the character's strength and sensibility. And that she will carry some Anu-ness into this next phase of her life.

COVER ILLUSTRATION BINESH SREEDHARAN

Printed at Malayala Manorama Press, Kottayam, and M P Printers, Noida, 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/Infocus features are paid marketing/PR initiatives