



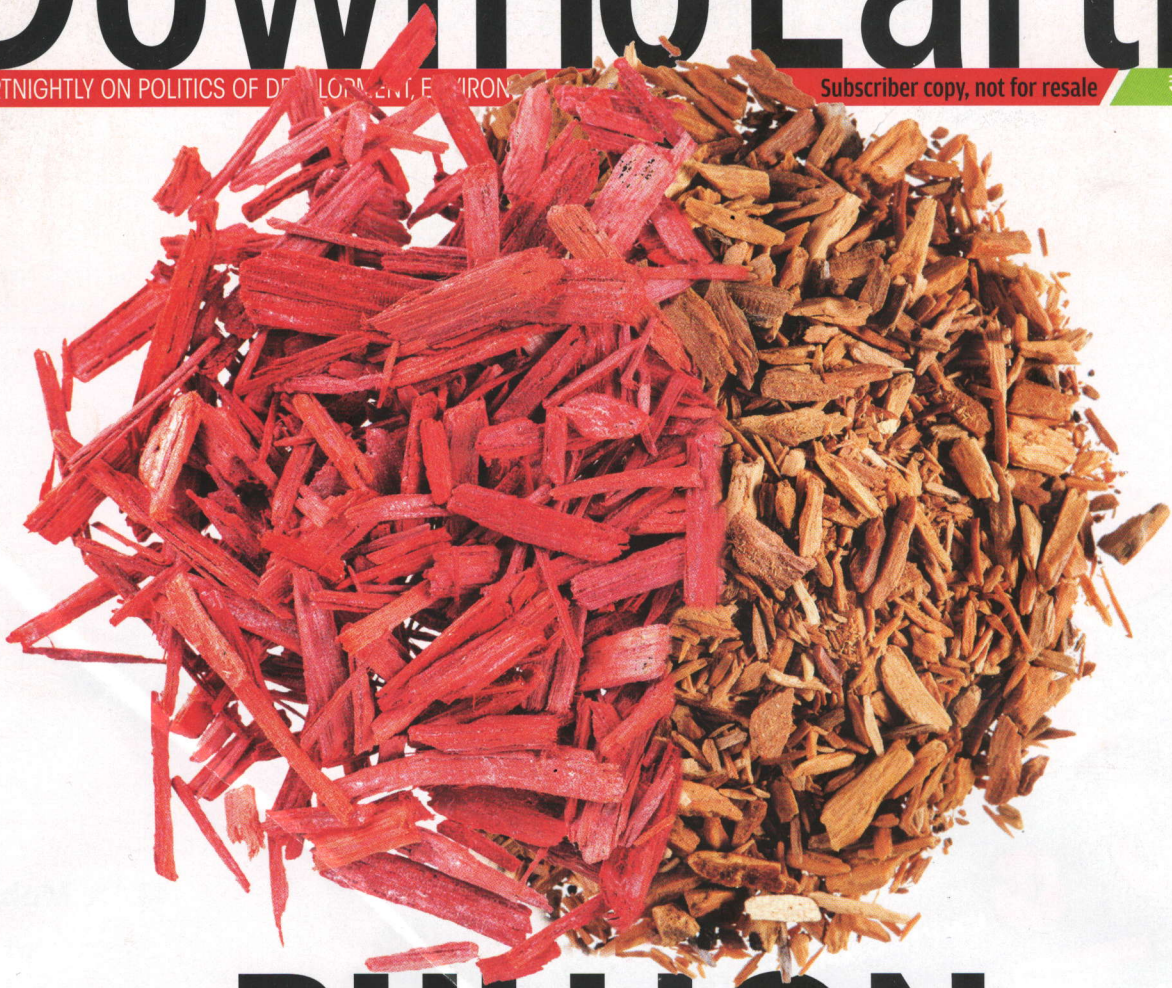
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Down To Earth

FORTNIGHTLY ON POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE, ENERGY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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BULLION GOES BUST

Negligible gains for farmers of sandalwood and red sanders after investing years into growing the highly prized timbers



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Reuse holds key to India's water security

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BENGALURU

Assess city geology before tunnelling

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TIME USE SURVEY

Indian women in grip of extreme time poverty

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1,000 WORDS VIKAS CHOUDHARY



The Indian spiny-tailed lizard (*Saara hardwickii*), the country's only herbivorous lizard, is poached for its meat and to extract an oil believed to have medicinal properties. Once distributed across northwestern India and Pakistan, the lizard has disappeared from several areas due to habitat loss, poaching and wildlife trafficking. In India, it is now mostly confined to the desert areas of Rajasthan and Gujarat, but its numbers continue to dwindle. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which classifies the species as "vulnerable", estimates a population decline of 30-35 per cent over the past three generations.

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