

MAHARASHTRA
SETBACK FOR FADNAVIS

MADHYA PRADESH CM MOHAN YADAV
WILL ENSURE MoUs TURN INTO INVESTMENTS

JOURNALISM WITH A HUMAN TOUCH

www.theweek.in

TheWeekMag

TheWeekLive

₹ 80

SUBSCRIBER COPY NOT FOR SALE

THE WEEK

MARCH 23, 2025

CHAMPIONS TROPHY
INDIA'S DADDY ARMY
SILENCES CRITICS

FASHION
MANISH MALHOTRA'S
₹1,000-CRORE DREAM

YOUNG INDIA TURNS SPIRITUAL

Faith is giving
solutions and solace in
a fast-changing world

PLUS

Devdutt
Pattanaik
dissects
the bhakti
boom

9 770975 227702



contents

VOL. 43 | NO. 12 | THE WEEK | MARCH 23 | 2025 | FOR THE WEEK - MARCH 17 - MARCH 23



AMEY MANSABDAR

PIT STOP FOR PRAYER

A young woman prays outside the Siddhivinayak Temple in Mumbai

COVER
STORY
48

BOUND BY FAITH

It is cool to be religious now, with **more and more young Indians turning to religion for solutions and solace in a fast-changing world.** And, they certainly seem to have a different take on religion than the ones who went before them—both in why they have taken to it and how they are taking to it

- ◆ Faith tech is changing the way people pray, and it is good business, too
- ◆ Devotional music will grow exponentially: **Kumar Taurani**, managing director, Tips Industries
- ◆ The theatre state has scaled up and nationalised what was being done in spiritual cults, writes **Devdutt Pattanaik**

COLUMNS

- 12 POWERDRIVE**
R. Prasannan
- 28 RIGHT ANGLE**
Bansuri Swaraj
- 39 SCHIZO-NATION**
Anuja Chauhan
- 62 SOUND BITE**
Anita Pratap
- 70 CHIC MAGNET**
Namrata Zakaria

74 LAST WORD
Navtej Sarna



You can lick a bully's double-soled boots and he can kick you in the teeth with the same gleaming toe-cap. The spat had nothing to do with the fundamental issues of the Russia-Ukraine conflict and everything to do with the 'deal'; **in a recent 27 second video clip, Trump used the word 'deal' seven times—yes, I counted.**

20

MAHARASHTRA



Just months into its tenure, the Fadnavis government suffers multiple blows, starting with the

resignation of Dhananjay Munde as minister over the Beed sarpanch murder case

◆ People expect immediate action, but a thorough inquiry takes time: **Sudhir Mungantiwar**, BJP leader

36

MADHYA PRADESH

If the enthusiasm at the Global Investors Summit is anything to go by, the state is poised to write a new chapter of development

◆ I want to transform Madhya Pradesh into a powerhouse of development: **Mohan Yadav**, chief minister



AMEY MANSABDAR



LEISURE

63

Manish Malhotra is easily India's most famous fashion designer, and also its most famous costume designer. He now wants his business to be at ₹1,000 crore, and he says he is not very far from it

COVER PHOTO **SALIL BERA**
COVER DESIGN **BINESH SREEDHARAN**

44

SPORTS



The Rohit Sharma-led veteran brigade might not be over the hill, but they will have to be on their toes as age and younger talent catch up

40

TAMIL NADU



It is not NEP 2020, it is RSS 2020:

Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, state minister of education

Printed at Manorama Building, K.K. Road, Kottayam - 686 001, Kerala, and M P Printers, Noida, and published from Manorama Building, K.K. Road, Kottayam - 686 001, Kerala, by **Jacob Mathew**, on behalf of the

Malayala Manorama Company Private Ltd., Manorama Building, K.K. Road, Kottayam - 686 001, Kerala. Editor **Philip Mathew**, Manorama Buildings, Panampilly Nagar, Kochi - 682 036, Kerala. Place of Publication: Manorama Buildings, Panampilly Nagar, Kochi - 682036, Kerala. • **Focus/Infocus features are paid marketing/PR initiatives**