

**ED RETURNING
THE BOOTY**

**IPL NEW STARS ON
THE HORIZON**

**WIDOWS GIVING BACK
THEIR DIGNITY**

www.indiatoday.in



MARCH 31, 2025 ₹100

INDIA TODAY



MAPPING INDIA'S GROSS DOMESTIC BEHAVIOUR

**A PIONEERING SURVEY REVEALS STARTLING
TRUTHS ABOUT THE CIVIC AND SOCIAL
ATTITUDES OF INDIANS**

DL (DS)-03/MP/2025-26-27; RNI NO. 28587/1975 REGISTERED NO. DL(ND)-11/6068/2024-25-26; LICENSED TO POST WPP NO. U(C)-88/2024-26; FARIDABAD/05/2023-25

Volume 50-Number 13; Published on every Friday of Advance Week; Posted at LFC Delhi - RMS - Delhi - 110006 on Every Friday & Saturday; Total number of Pages 84 (including cover pages)

CHAIRMAN AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Aroon Purie
VICE CHAIRPERSON AND EXECUTIVE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Kalli Purie
GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Dinesh Bhatia

GROUP EDITORIAL DIRECTOR: Raj Chengappa

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Manoj Sharma

GROUP CREATIVE EDITOR: Nilanjan Das; **GROUP PHOTO EDITOR:** Bandeep Singh
EDITOR (FEATURES): Kai Jabir Friese

MANAGING EDITORS: Sunil Menon, S. Sahaya Ranjith; **MUMBAI:** M.G. Arun

EXECUTIVE EDITORS: Manisha Saroop, Kaushik Deka

SENIOR DEPUTY EDITORS: Sangram K. Parhi, Sasi Nair;

HYDERABAD: Amarnath K. Menon

DEPUTY EDITORS: Anillesh S. Mahajan, Pradip R. Sagar;

JAMSHEDPUR: Rohit Parihar; **MUMBAI:** Suhani Singh

SENIOR EDITORS: Sonali Acharya, Ashish Mukherjee, Salkat Niyogi;

PATNA: Amitabh Srivastava

SENIOR ASSOCIATE EDITORS: Sonal Khetarpal; **MUMBAI:** Dhaval S. Kulkarni;

AHMEDABAD: Jumaana Shah; **BHOPAL:** Rahul Noronha

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Avishek G. Dastidar, Vipul Grover; **BENGALURU:** Ajay Sukumaran

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT: KOLKATA: Arkamoy Datta Majumdar

PHOTO DEPARTMENT: Chandra Deep Kumar, Rajwant Singh Rawat (Deputy Chief

Photographers); Arun Kumar (Principal Photographer);

MUMBAI: Mandar Suresh Doodhar (Chief Photographer)

PHOTO RESEARCHERS: Prabhakar Tiwari (Deputy Visual Research Editor),

Saloni Vaid (Chief Photo Researcher),

Jodha Singh Adhikari (Principal Photo Researcher)

CHIEF OF GRAPHICS: Tanmoy Chakraborty

ART DEPARTMENT: Sanjay Piplani (Creative Editor),

Angshuman De (Senior Art Director), Rajesh Kumar Angira, Bhoomesh Dutt

Sharma (Associate Art Directors), Santosh Kumar Sharma (Assistant Art

Director), Praveen Kumar Gummadi (Chief Designer),

Siddhant Junde (Chief Illustrator)

PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT: Harish Agarwal (Chief of Production),

Naveen Gupta (Chief Coordinator)

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Suparna Kumar

IMPACT TEAM

Senior General Managers: Jitendra Lad (West), Syed Naveed (Chennai)

GROUP CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER: Vivek Malhotra

SALES AND OPERATIONS

Deepak Bhatt, National Head (Distribution)

Rajiv Bagga, General Manager (Operations)

Vijay Gandhi, General Manager (North)

Yogesh Godhanlal Gautam, Regional Sales Manager (West)

UPFRONT

**BIHAR: TEJASWI'S
QUOTA OFFENSIVE PG 6**

MAHARASHTRA:

**FAULTLINES
RESURFACE PG 16**

INSIDE

LEISURE

**THE ART OF
FASHION PG 75**

**Q&A WITH
ABHISHEK
BACHCHAN PG 82**

24

COVER
STORY



MAPPING INDIA'S GROSS DOMESTIC BEHAVIOUR

A pioneering survey reveals startling truths about the civic and social attitudes of Indians

ED

56 RETURNING THE BOOTY

The Enforcement Directorate makes restitution a priority, ensuring victims of financial fraud get their money back



CRICKET

68 NEW STARS ON THE HORIZON

A look at some of the under-the-radar players who could set this IPL season on fire

MAHARASHTRA

64 WIPING OUT THE STIGMA

Villages in western Maharashtra stop ostracising widows and ensure a better future for them

Note to the reader : From time to time, you will see pages titled 'An Impact Feature' or 'Focus' in INDIA TODAY. These are no different from advertisements, and the magazine's editorial staff is not involved in their creation in any way

Volume 50-Number 13; For the week

March 25-31, 2025, published on every Friday

• Editorial/Corporate Office Living Media India Ltd., India Today Group

Mediaplex, FC-8, Sector-16A, Film City, Noida - 201301; Phone: 0120-4807100

• Subscriptions: For assistance contact, Customer Care, India Today Group,

C-9, Sector-10, Noida (UP) - 201301; email: wecare@intoday.com;

Phone / Whatsapp: +91 8597 778 778 (Monday to Friday, 10 am - 6pm).

• Sales: Direct all trade enquiries to General Manager (Sales), Living Media India

Limited, C-9, Sector-10, Noida-201301 (UP).

• Regd. Office: F-26, First Floor, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001.

• Impact Offices: 1201, 12th Floor, Tower 2 A, One Indiabulls Centre,

(Jupiter Mills), S.B. Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai-400013;

Phone: 022 69193355; Fax: 66063926

• E-1, Ground Floor, Videcon Towers, Jhandewalan Extn, New Delhi.

• Door No: 610, 610A, 612, 5th Floor, Block A, Imperial Chaitanya Building,

Anna Salai, Teynampet, Chennai, Tamilnadu-600018.

• 201-204 Richmond Towers, 2nd Floor, 12, Richmond Road,

Bangalore-560025; Phones: 22212448, 22213037, 22218343; Fax: 22218335;

• 52, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, 4th Floor, Kolkata-700071; Phones: 22825398;

Fax: 22827254; • 6-3-885/7/B, Somajiguda, Hyderabad-500082;

Phone: 23401657, 23400479, 23410100, 23402481, 23410982, 23411498;

Fax: 23403484 • 39/1045, Karakkatt Road, Kochi 682016; Phones: 2377057,

2377058; Fax: 2377059 • 2/C, 'Suryarath Bldg', 2nd Floor, Behind White

House, Panchwati, Office C.G. Road, Ahmedabad-380006; Phone: 26560399,

26560929; Fax: 26565298 • Copyright Living Media India Ltd. All rights

reserved throughout the world. Reproduction in any manner is prohibited.

Printed and published by Manoj Sharma on behalf of Living Media

India Limited. Printed at Thomson Press India Limited,

18-85 Milestone, Delhi Mathura Road, Faridabad-121007, (Haryana)

and at Rajhans Enterprises, 134, Industrial Town, 4th Main Road, Rajajinagar,

Bengaluru-560044, (Karnataka).

Published at F-26, First Floor, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001.

Editor: Raj Chengappa.

• INDIA TODAY does not take the responsibility for returning unsolicited publication material.

All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of

competent courts and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only

SYNDICATION
TODAY
INDIA DELIVERED

For reprint rights and syndication enquiries/contact

syndications@intoday.com or call +91-120-4078000

www.syndicationtoday.in

FOR SUBSCRIPTION ASSISTANCE, CONTACT: Customer Care,

India Today Group, C-9, Sector-10, Noida (UP) - 201301.

email: wecare@intoday.com | Phone / Whatsapp: +91 8597 778 778

(Monday to Friday, 10 am - 6pm)

E-MAIL to:

letters.editor@intoday.com or

log on to www.indiatoday.in



SCAN HERE TO
SUBSCRIBE

BJP: SEARCH FOR
A NEW BOSS
PG 9

PUNJAB: THE SIKH
CLERGY TURMOIL
PG 12

UPFRONT

MAHARASHTRA:
FAULTLINES
RESURFACE PG 16

J&K: A LIQUOR
UPROAR
PG 17

COUNTER-ATTACK
Tejaswi at a protest
rally in Patna, March 9



BIHAR

TEJASWI'S NEW POLL PLAYBOOK

By Amitabh Srivastava

When the odds don't favour you, change the playbook. Bihar's leader of the Opposition in the assembly, Tejaswi Yadav, is doing just that. On March 9, as Chief Minister Nitish Kumar presided over a carefully choreographed display of governance, distributing appointment letters to 51,000 newly recruited teachers at Patna's Gandhi Maidan, just three kilometres

away, Tejaswi offered a starkly different narrative. Seated in protest, he accused Nitish of political trickery, claiming the much-touted jobs had come at the expense of "stolen reservations". While Nitish cast himself as a champion of employment, Tejaswi reminded Bihar's voters of the unfulfilled promise of 65 per cent reservation—struck down by the Patna High Court last year—blaming both the National Democratic Alli-

ance (NDA) governments in Delhi and Patna for their inaction.

This marks a subtle but clear re-focusing of Tejaswi's electoral strategy—from a universalist line to one hewing close to caste. The weapon is the allegation that the government is systematically depriving the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs) of their rightful 15 per cent reservations in government