Indo-Pak: Battle For Air Superiority

BANGLADESH: THE ARMY PUSHBACK / SIKKIM@50: THE BIG VISION



A RISING WAVE OF DIGITAL STORYTELLERS AND INFLUENCERS ARE TURNING PASSION INTO PROFIT ACROSS ONLINE INDIA



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: Manoi Sharma

GROUP CREATIVE EDITOR: Nileman Das: GROUP PHOTO EDITOR: Bandeep Singh

EDITOR (FEATURES): Kai Jabir Friese

MANAGING EDITORS: Sunil Menon, S. Sahaya Ranjit; Mumbai: M.G. Arun

EXECUTIVE EDITORS: Manisha Saroop, Kaushik Deka

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

Hyperaвар: Amarnath K. Menon

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

JAIPUR: Rohit Parihar: Mumbai: Suhani Singh

SENIOR EDITORS: Sonali Acharjee, Ashish Mukherjee, Saikat Niyogi;

Patna: Amitabh Srlvastava

SENIOR ASSOCIATE EDITORS: Sonal Khetarpal; Mumbai: Dhaval. S., Kulkerni; Анмеравар: Jumana Shah; Внорац: Rahul Noronha

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Avishek G. Dastidar, Vipui Grover; Bengaluru; Alay Sukumaran

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT: KOLKATA: Arkamoy Datta Majumdar

PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENT: Lucknow: Avaneesh Mishra

PHOTO DEPARTMENT: Chandra Deep Kumar, Rajwant Singh Rawat (Deputy Chief Photographers), Arun Kumar (Principal Photographer):

Мимви: Mandar Suresh Deodhar (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 Jumde (Chief Illustrator)

PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT: Harish Agarwal (Chief of Production).

Naveen Gupta (Chief Coordinator)

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

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

General Manager: Arup Chaudhuri (Bangalore)

GROUP CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER: Vivek Malhotra

SALES AND OPERATIONS

Deepak Bhatt, National Head (Distribution) Rajeev Gandhi, General Manager (North) Yogesh Godhanlal Gautam, Regional Sales Manager (West)



Volume 50-Number 28: For the week June 3-9, 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-201901 (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 69193955; Fax: 66063226
- E-1, Ground Floor, Videocon 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; • 6-8-885/7/B, Somajiguda, Hyderabad-500082; Phone: 23401657, 23400479, 23410100, 23402481, 23410982, 23411498; Fax: 23403484 • 39/1045, Karakkatt Road, Kochi 682016; Phones: 2377057,

2977058; Fax: 2977059 • 2/C, "Suryarath Bldg", 2nd Floor, Behind White House, Panchwati, Office C.G. Road, Ahmedabad-980006; Phone: 26560399, 26560929; Fax: 26565293 • 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, 18-35 Milestone, Delhi Mathura Road, Faridabad-121007, (Haryana) and at Rajhans Enterprises, 124, 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



For reprint rights and syndication enquiries, contact syndications@intoday.com or call +91-120-4078000 www.syndicationstoday.ln

CONTENTS

UPFRONT: INDUSIND BANK UNDER A FRAUD CLOUD PG 8

STATE SCAN: THE GOGOL **GAMBIT IN ASSAM PG 18**





The New Creator Economy

A RISING WAVE OF DIGITAL STORYTELLERS AND INFLUENCERS ARE TURNING PASSION INTO PROFIT ACROSS ONLINE INDIA

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.

Cover by BANDEEP SINGH; Digital Imaging by AMARJEET SINGH NAGI Photographs by MANDAR DEODHAR, DEBAJYOTI CHAKRABORTY, BADUSHA P.T.



Readers are recommended to make appropriate enquiries before sending money, incurring expenses or entering into commitments in relation to any advertisement appearing in this publication. The India Today Group does not vouch for any claims made by the advertisers of products and services. The printer, publisher, editor-in-chief and the editor of the India Today Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences in the event of such claims not being honoured by the advertisers.



SCAN HERE TO SUBSCRIBE

FOR SUBSCRIPTION ASSISTANCE, CONTACT: Customer Care, India Today Group, C-9, Sector-10, Nolda (UP) - 201301. email: wecare@intoday.com | Phone / Whatsapp: +91 8597 778 778 (Monday to Friday, 10 am - 6pm)



letters.editor@intoday.com or log on 👆 to www.indiatoday.in



► INDIA-PAKISTAN

36 The Battle for Air Superiority

The four-day conflict showcased modern aerial combat in all its dimensions. The Rafale vs J-10C face-off remains inconclusive, but India's multi-layered air defence system was a clear winner



BANGLADESH

48

The Army Pushes Back

The army chief's call for an early election sparks fresh speculation on the interim government's fate



SIKKIM@50 CONCLAVE

51 A Small State with Big Vision

The India Today State of the States—Sikkim@50 conclave showcased the Himalayan state's transformative journey, bold ambitions and its model of sustainable, inclusive development



LEISURE

59

Muted Masterpiece

Filmmaker Dibakar Banerjee talks about his yet-unreleased film *Tees*



Presenting India Today Insight

For sharp analysis on topical issues by the editors of INDIA TODAY, log on to www.indiatoday.in/india-today-magazine-insight

SPOTLIGHT | NORTHEAST

How Modi's foreign policy on neighbours is rewiring Northeast geoeconomics

By Anilesh S. Mahaian

The upcoming Shiflong-Silchar-Sittwe-Kolkata corridor is one such strategic insurance against a volatile neighbourhood, but the bold gamble hinges on execution https://shorturl.at/Mofxv

DEFENCE | FIFTH-GENERATION FIGHTERS

Private giants to help India's stealth fighter jet take wing: Why this is big

By Pradip R. Sagar

India Today had reported in February how the AMCA plan hit hiccups over the indecision on whether staterun HAL or private players should build it https://shorturl.at/s48tC

SPORTS | CRICKET

.Why it'll be baptism by fire for 'Smoothman Gill'

By Amitabh Srivastava Shubman Gill's Test captaincy begins on a measured note—a silent confidence poised

to define his legacy in the post-Kohli-Sharma era https://shorturl.at/Hj1NY



CINEMA | NEW RELEASE

Why cinemagoers may be unforgiving of Rajkummar Rao's 'Bhool Chuk Maaf'

By Suhani Singh

The plot is ingenious but the Rao-Wamiqa Gabbi starrer falls into the predictable trap of trying to make the jokes work with loud delivery https://shorturl.at/7qKDM

FROM THE ARCHIVES (2011)

Jawaharlal Nehru: The inveterate democrat

By M.J. Akbar

His death anniversary on May 27 was a moment to reflect on the architect of modern India and colossal world figure that our first prime minister was https://shorturl.at/2IRNQ

