

Reader's Digest

MARCH 2024



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IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS**

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✓ 12.04.24

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH
Courtesy of Tashi and Nungshi Malik

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Monthly Magazine of The Institute of Marine Engineers (India)



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ELECTIONS
2024

NORTHEAST
BJP & Co HAVE THE EDGE

EX-JUDGE ABHIJIT GANGOPADHYAY
WHY I JOINED THE BJP IN BENGAL

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THE WEEK

APRIL 14, 2024



FREEDOM'S WARRIORS
UNIQUE FRIENDSHIP
OF THREE MEN AND
SAROJINI NAIDU

B.TECH PAANI PURI WALI
HITS THE STREET WITH A
LOFTY MISSION



TURNING POINT

Prisoner-CM Arvind Kejriwal:
Tainted crusader or political martyr?

EXCLUSIVE

Arrest will only benefit us
ATISHI, AAP LEADER

Amend money laundering act
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FOR THE WEEK APRIL 8 - APRIL 14



Only President's rule can bring down the AAP government."

—Atishi, AAP leader

COVER STORY 28

KEJRIWAL: PUSHED TO THE WALL

India's political history is replete with examples of leaders emerging stronger from their imprisonment. Will it be the same for Arvind Kejriwal? Or, will the party, in his absence, fall apart? From the face of anti-corruption movement to the first sitting CM in jail, Kejriwal's political voyage has come a full circle

PLUS

- ◆ Will Sunita Kejriwal rise up to the occasion?
- ◆ Amend PMLA: Madan Lokur, former Supreme Court judge



Kejriwal's goal was not the nation's development, but acquiring power and status."

—Anna Hazare, activist

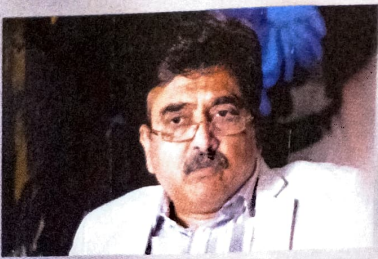
ELECTIONS BATTLEGROUND STATES 2024

NORTHEAST AND WEST BENGAL 16

The BJP and its allies have the edge in the perception war in the northeast.

Having said that, the Modi government, by implementing the CAA, has given INDIA bloc the opportunity of gaining new ground

"Bengal politics filled with substandard people," says Abhijit Gangopadhyay, former high court judge



SALIL BERA

MARKETS 51

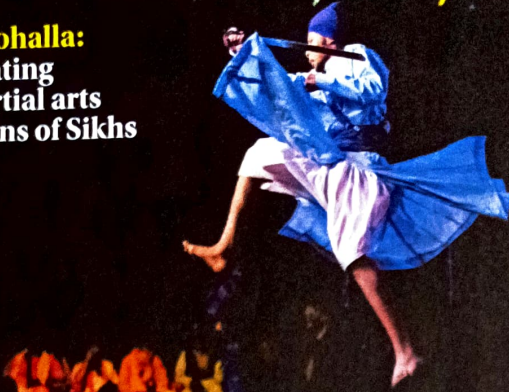
Recent initiatives by SEBI have made capital markets a better place for investors



PTI

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Hola Mohalla: Celebrating the martial arts traditions of Sikhs



SANJAY AHLAWAT

UNTOLD STORIES 58

Tapsi Upadhyay has turned heads with her nationwide B.Tech Paani Puri Wali business. "What is wrong if a girl stands on a street and serves people?"



KRITAJNA NAIK

LEISURE 63



At its first, **T.C.A. Raghavan's** book is about three men and their friendship with poet and freedom fighter **Sarojini Naidu**

ART 68

An exhibition of Bengal modernist **Gobardhan Ash's** artworks showcases his diverse range—in form, technique and themes



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Mani Shankar Aiyar

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74 LAST WORD
Barkha Dutt

In today's hyper-polarised media environment where if you do not confirm the existing bias of a political party you are characterised as the 'enemy', Manmohan Singh never closed the doors of the PMO to those who had critiqued him.

COVER DESIGN **BINESH SREEDHARAN**

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HOW IT COULD MAKE INDIA TB FREE

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ry
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you
take...

...could hit not
just your lungs,
but your
fertility, and
even your
mental health

health

by Meriya
no artist

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COVER STORY

28 Air scare

Despite increased awareness of its prevalence, air pollution remains a partially understood challenge. It is not limited to the winters, nor north India, and it is certainly not an urban curse. Moreover, it not only damages the lungs, but, alarmingly, is affecting fertility and mental health. As India becomes more polluted, the challenge is to understand the multilayered complexities of the impact of air pollution, and there can be no time too soon to tackle the issue.



PLUS

INTERVIEWS

Dr Ketan Patel/ophthalmologist, Bhailal Amin General Hospital
'Several eye conditions are directly linked to air pollution'

Dr Saurabh Mehrotra/Medanta
'Topic of climate change and mental health needs to be addressed'

Dr Vandana Yadav/dermatologist, Hind Institute of Medical Sciences
'Use sunscreen and indoor air purifiers'

Dr Gopi Chand Khilnani/PSRI Hospital
'Tackling air pollution is an emergency'

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GENOMICS

To eradicate TB by 2025, India will have to make rapid strides in using whole genome sequencing

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Busting common myths about cancer, a leading cause of death in India

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LAYOUT

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Deni Lal, Sumesh C.N., Sujesh K., Syam
Krishnan., Ajeesh Kumar M.

COVER DESIGN

Binesh Sreedharan

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**KEJRIWAL'S ARREST
AAP'S TOUGHEST CHALLENGE YET**

**TRIALS AND TRIUMPHS OF G.N. SAIBABA
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JUST YOUR
LUNGS**

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WING CMDR YOGESH SURI
HOW I TRAINED TO GO
TO SPACE**

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

**RAJNATH SINGH
DEFENCE MINISTER**



NEXT TARGET, SUPERPOWER

**We are
transforming
from
military
buyer
to builder**

**BJP does
not view
Ram Temple
through
the prism
of electoral
gains**

Rajnath Singh with a model of the
Indian-made helicopter Prachand

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Even as doubts persist, the Election Commission and former commissioners vouch for the credibility of electronic voting machines

Meet the team that conceptualised the EVM

GUEST COLUMNS



EVMs cannot lie, only humans can, says **T.S. Krishnamurthy**, former chief election commissioner



Misgivings about the EVMs have contributed to the erosion of confidence in the electoral system, says **Jagdeep S. Chhokar**, founder member of the Association for Democratic Reforms

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WE WILL NOT ALLOW ANY RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

In the past 10 years, Union Minister Rajnath Singh has cemented his legacy as one of the BJP's tallest leaders. In a warm and candid conversation, Singh speaks to **THE WEEK** on a range of issues—from governance feats, Ram Temple and Lok Sabha elections to polarisation fears, security challenges and defence modernisation.



SANJAY AHLAWAT



KERALA 25

Rahul Gandhi's record margin in Wayanad in 2019 could go down as the CPI's Annie Raja is poised to pull more votes than any previous left candidate



INTERVIEW: AICC reduced Rahul to a Kerala congressman, says Annie Raja

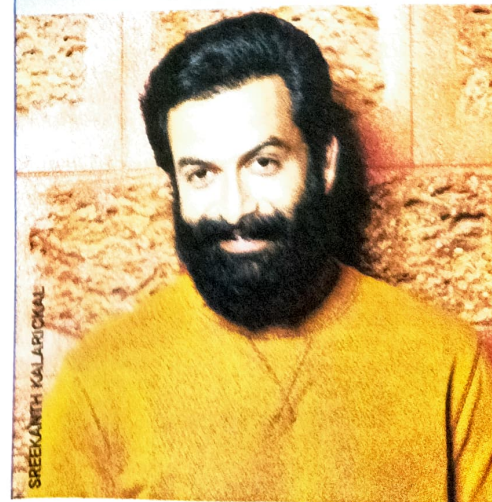
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Hard work is a universally acknowledged virtue, but for Indians, both at home and abroad, it is often a way of life.



COVER PHOTO SANJAY AHLAWAT
COVER DESIGN BINESH SREEDHARAN

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**THE OPPOSITION
GAME PLAN TO
BEAT THE ODDS
AND DEFEAT
THE BJP**

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The odds may be stacked against them, but a coherent narrative and smart seat sharing can help the Opposition limit the BJP's outsized ambitions

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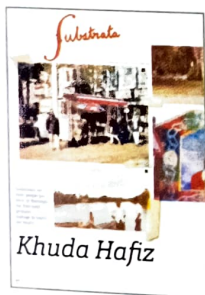
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"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair."

—Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*

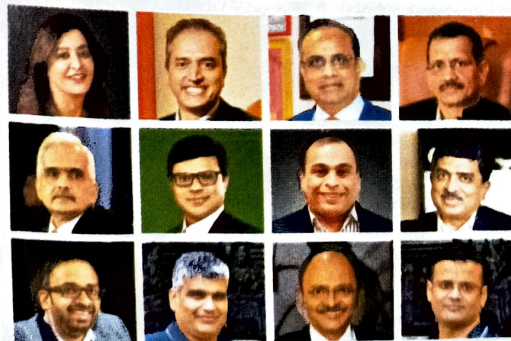


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Pillars of Viksit Bharat

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India swats
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Paltans
league of
dominance

POSTER
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ASHWIN

THE CUP OF DREAMS

IPL 2024 brings the razzmatazz of non-stop cricket to town, marking the start of the Men in Blue's T20 World Cup countdown



✓ 12.04.24



NON-STOP IPL ACTION IS AROUND THE CORNER. HERE IS A SWOT ANALYSIS OF THE 10 PARTICIPATING TEAMS

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Indian Premier League

Hardik Pandya and Rishabh Pant in the spotlight as T20 World Cup selection looms

Cover Design: Kannan Sundar

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COURSE CORRECTION

How large caps will be flavour of the year

WHAT NEXT?

Mid- and small-cap stocks are zooming through the roof. But the joyride might not last long



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15.04.24

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CAUGHT IN STOCK MARKET FRENZY

The ongoing bull run in the Indian markets is luring small-town investors to take risky bets. Disregarding the fundamentals of the companies, these investors are pursuing the fleeting 'froth', unaware that it will eventually dissipate, leaving them in a vulnerable financial situation

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COURSE CORRECTION

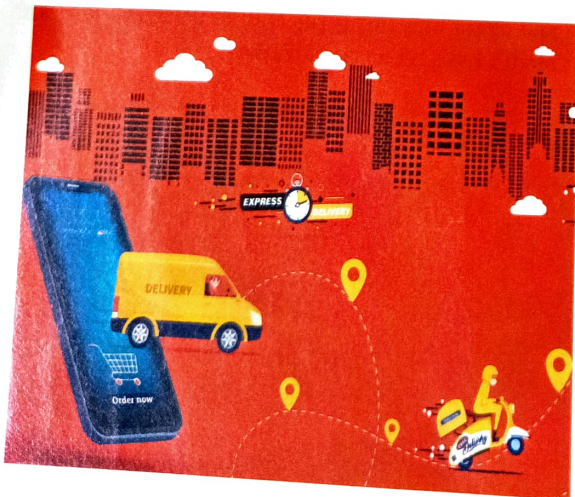
If last year was about small- and mid-cap companies, this year will be dominated by large caps, feels Sunil Koul, executive director for Asia Pacific portfolio strategy, global macro research at financial services company Goldman Sachs

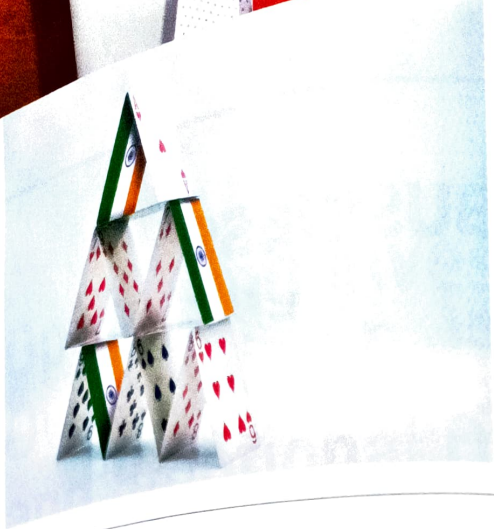


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RACING AHEAD OF THE GIANTS

New age start-ups such as Blinkit, Zepto and Instamart have surged ahead of behemoths like Amazon, Reliance and others in the quick-commerce segment. The giants aspire to catch up with these newcomers, but they will need to adapt and innovate their strategies to keep pace





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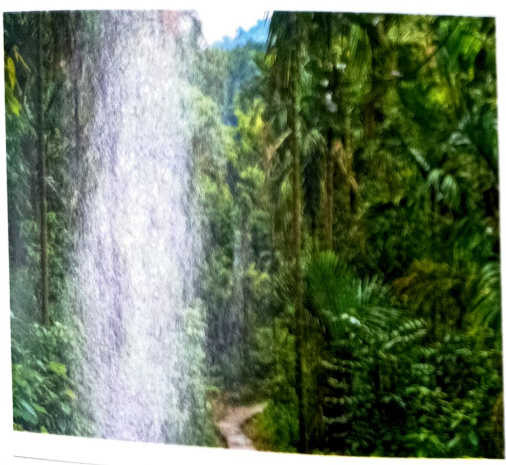
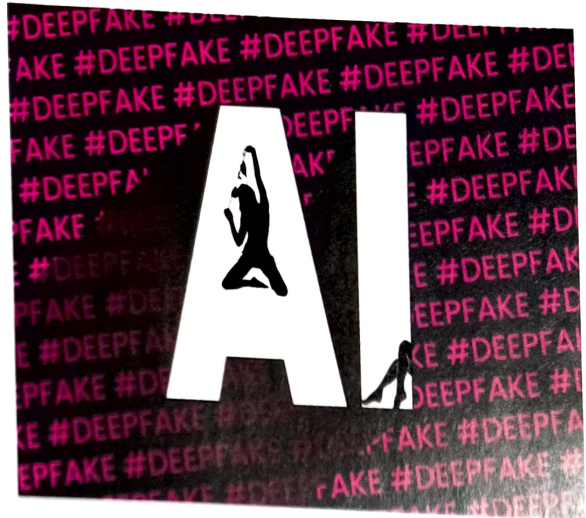
GAPS IN INDIA'S GROWTH STORY

India's robust GDP has surpassed all expectations. While the Centre celebrates the growth rate of 8.4% in the December quarter of 2024-25, there's a flaw in the 'all-is-well' narrative concerning the Indian economy

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Thanks to its ability to generate convincing images and videos of people, deepfake technology is being used to create pornographic content, often featuring celebrities and women. Loopholes in existing regulations make it tough to nail the guilty



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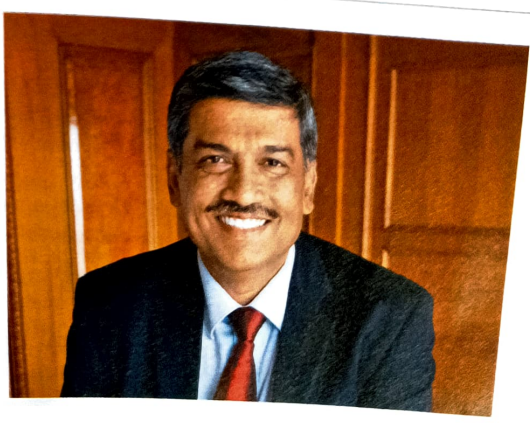
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Planting trees has become a trend among people and institutions looking to either give back to the planet, improve ESG compliance or simply gather carbon credits. Irrespective of the trigger, the trend is emerging as a business opportunity

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Partha DeSarkar, executive director and CEO of Hinduja Global Solutions, is always ready to make adjustments on almost every front. He is also a student for life, never wanting to stop learning



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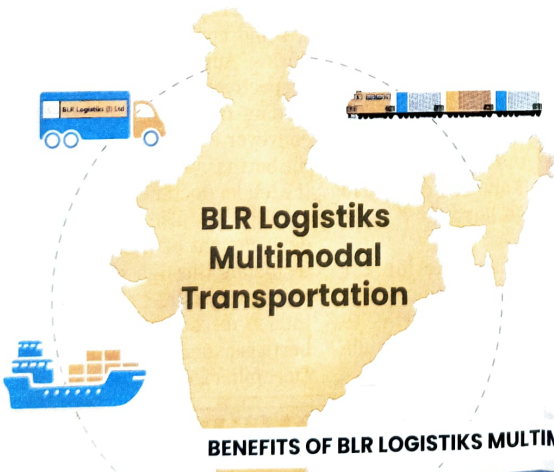
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