

FRONTLINE

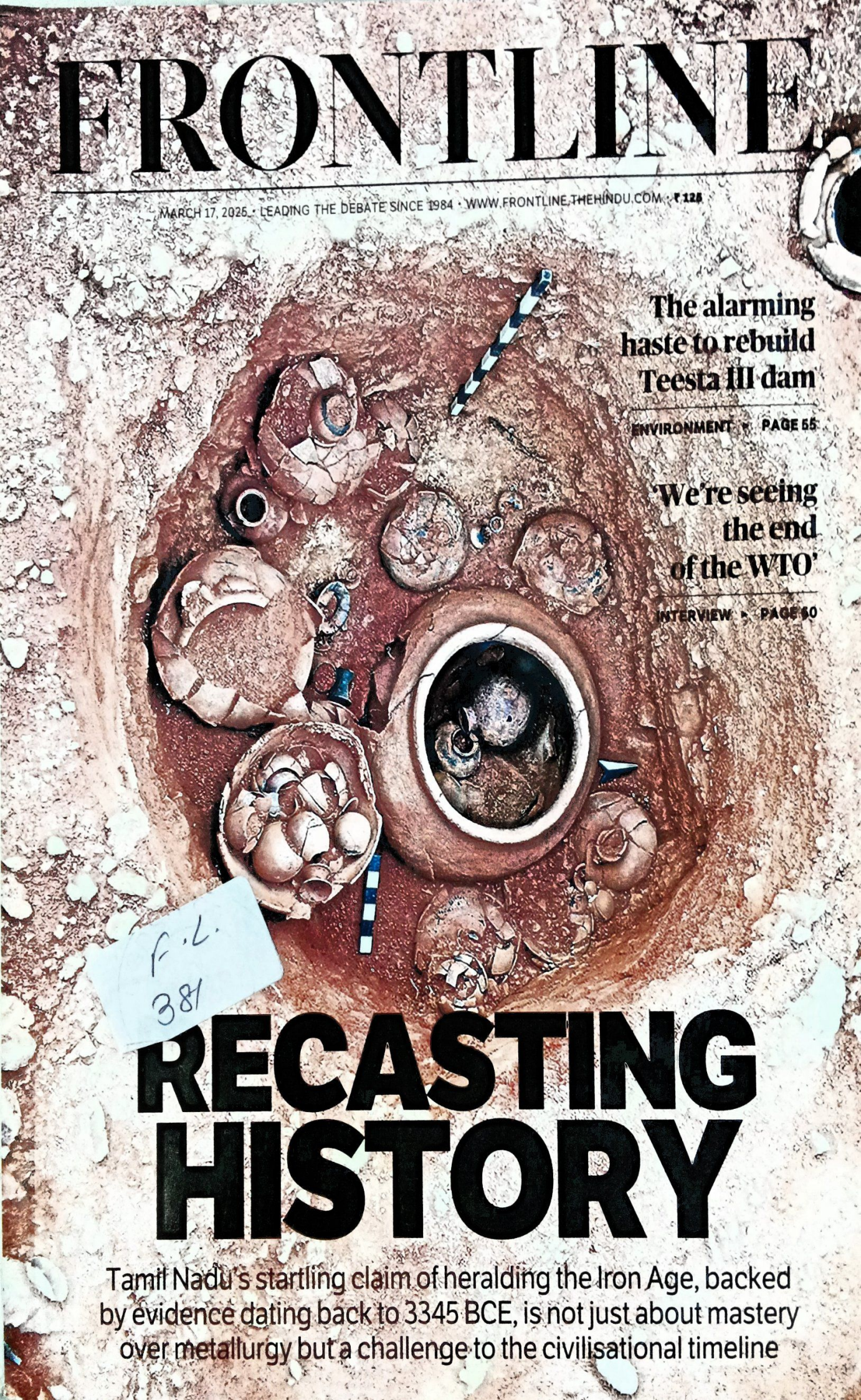
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**The alarming
haste to rebuild
Teesta III dam**

ENVIRONMENT • PAGE 55

**'We're seeing
the end
of the WTO'**

INTERVIEW • PAGE 60

A photograph of an archaeological excavation site. The ground is reddish-brown soil. In the center, there is a large, circular, shallow pit containing several broken pieces of pottery. To the left of the pit, there is a small, light-colored tag with the handwritten text "F.L. 381". Several blue and white striped measuring rods are placed around the pit to provide scale. The overall scene suggests an ancient site being unearthed.

RECASTING HISTORY

Tamil Nadu's startling claim of heralding the Iron Age, backed by evidence dating back to 3345 BCE, is not just about mastery over metallurgy but a challenge to the civilisational timeline



COVER STORY

The past reimagined

10/ Recent archaeological discoveries in Tamil Nadu indicate that iron smelting and usage in the region began as early as 3345 BCE. They also suggest the movement of both people and technology between southern Tamil Nadu and Harappan sites—a premise that could explain the region's leap despite the apparent absence of a distinct Chalcolithic period.

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