

# FRONTLINE

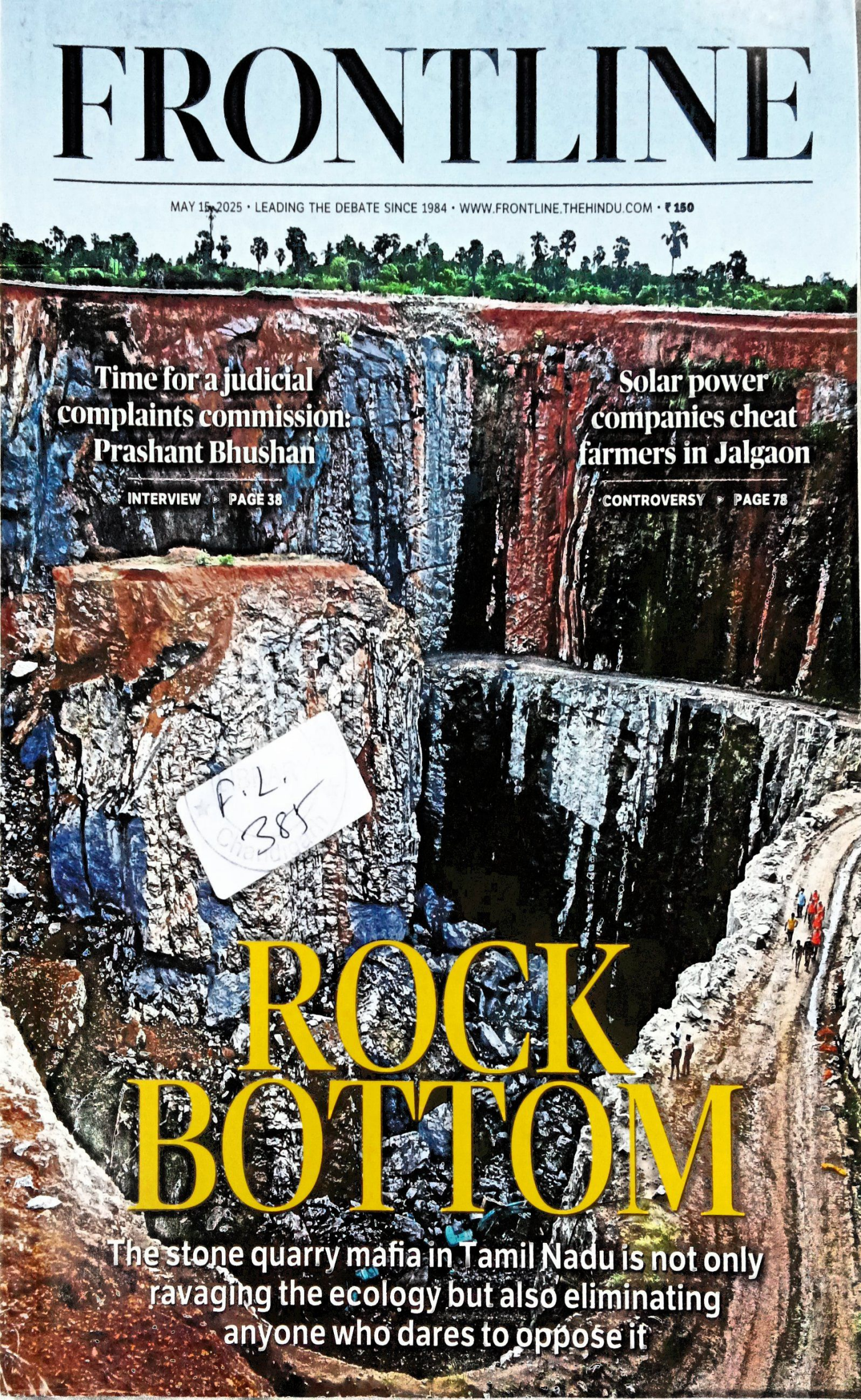
MAY 15, 2025 • LEADING THE DEBATE SINCE 1984 • WWW.FRONTLINE.THEHINDU.COM • ₹ 150

**Time for a judicial  
complaints commission:  
Prashant Bhushan**

INTERVIEW ▶ PAGE 38

**Solar power  
companies cheat  
farmers in Jalgaon**

CONTROVERSY ▶ PAGE 78



## ROCK BOTTOM

The stone quarry mafia in Tamil Nadu is not only ravaging the ecology but also eliminating anyone who dares to oppose it

# FRONTLINE

Volume 42 – Number 8 – May 1-15, 2025 – ISSN 0970-1710 – [www.frontline.thehindu.com](http://www.frontline.thehindu.com) – 116 pages



## COVER STORY

# Crushed by the cartel

10/ The brutal murder in Tamil Nadu of an activist who fought against illegal quarries has led to public outrage and some action, but the question remains: does the government have the political will to take on the entrenched mining mafia?

## RELATED STORIES

- 18/ Beyond the law
- 22/ Killed on civic duty
- 24/ Failed by the judiciary
- 25/ Creating a dust bowl

Cover Image: A stone quarry at Adaimithippaankulam near Tirunelveli.  
A. SHAIKMOHIDEEN

## POLITICS

- 30/ A. Raja's critique of Waqf Bill
- 34/ Communal violence in West Bengal
- 38/ **Interview:** Prashant Bhushan
- 42/ Congress prepares early for Gujarat election
- 46/ **CPI(M) congress:** Regaining lost ground
- 48/ **Interview:** M.A. Baby
- 57/ Can Nitish Kumar work his magic again?
- 60/ Odisha Congress seeks to revive fortunes

## LABOUR ISSUES

- 54/ Challenge before trade unions

## FOCUS

- 66/ On Ambedkar's decision to embrace Buddhism

## WORLD AFFAIRS

- 71/ Strange twists in Sri Lanka
- 73/ **Interview:** Bangladeshi economist Debapriya Bhattacharya

## CONTROVERSY

- 78/ Jalgaon farmers tricked by corporates

## ART

- 84/ Love in the graveyard
- 91/ Hashtag doth murder sleep

## BOOKS

- 95/ In review



- 08/ The Fortnight

## SHORT STORY

- 110/ Personal effects

## COLUMN

- 28/ Saba Naqvi
- 51/ **Guest column:** Justice K. Chandru
- 64/ C.P. Chandrasekhar
- 89/ Prathyush Parasuraman

## 06/ Letters

- 109/ On our bookshelf
- 112/ Staying in
- 113/ Stepping out
- 114/ Back Page



## TRENDING WEB EXCLUSIVES



**NETFLIX'S "ADOLESCENCE"**  
Surprising similarities to 1979 Bengali classic



**FAROOQ ABDULLAH**  
A life seen through the eyes of a spy



**COLOURS OF HOPE**  
A Frontline documentary on Patachitra artists