

PAK ARMY 'DESERTER' ON HOW ASIM MUNIR CONTROLS THE MILITARY'S BUSINESS EMPIRE

JOURNALISM WITH A HUMAN TOUCH | www.theweek.in | TheWeekMag | TheWeekLive | ₹ 80

DEALING WITH THE MAOISTS  
BIG GUN SILENCED,  
NOW WOO THE PEOPLE

BIHAR ELECTION  
NITISH BANKS ON  
CASTES AND WOMEN

JUNE 8, 2025

# THE WEEK

EXCLUSIVE

## FIRST BATCH OF WOMEN OFFICERS FROM NATIONAL DEFENCE ACADEMY

Their training, their day, their dream

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T-w.  
292

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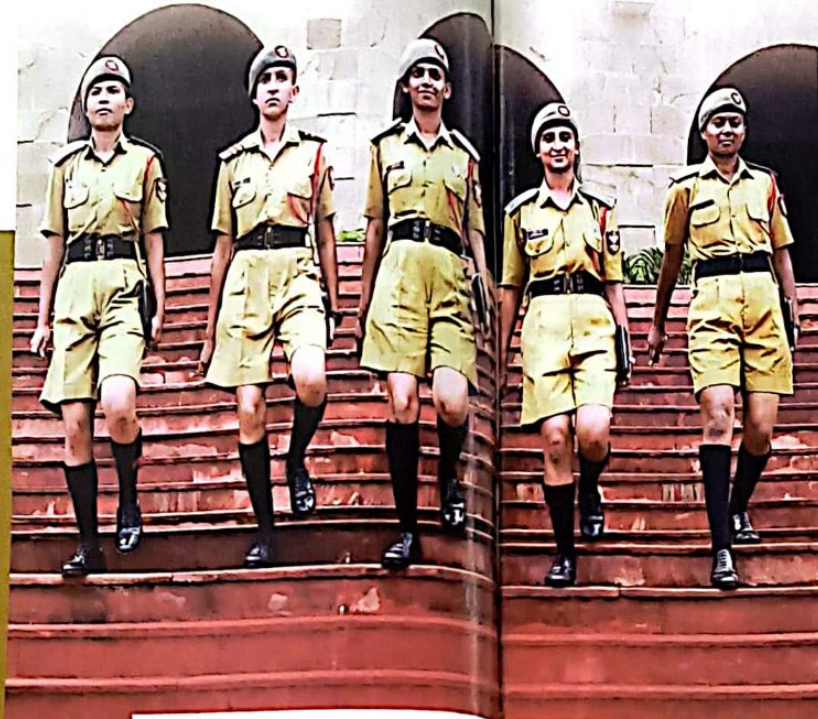
VOL. 43 | NO. 23 | THE WEEK | JUNE 01 2025 | FOR THE WEEK - JUNE 2 - JUNE 8

COVER STORY  
**40**

## MARCHING INTO HISTORY

For the first time in its 75-year legacy, the National Defence Academy (NDA) in Pune will see women cadets graduating alongside their male batchmates. **THE WEEK** sat down with these trailblazing cadets as they shared their journeys, aspirations, and how the NDA has transformed their world.

SANJOY GHOSH



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**Arzani National Memorial Museum**  
Iraqi Kurdistan offers a deeply personal glimpse into Kurdish resilience, memory and identity

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**BOOKS**  
Indian writers of today are exploring bold and diverse themes for their young readers



### COLUMNS

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Dr Mazda Turel

**60 DETOUR**  
Shobhaa De

**66 OTHERWISE CRACKED**  
K.C. Verma

**74 LAST WORD**  
Suresh Narayanan



"We need to relax and take Cannes in our stride and respect it for what it is—a film festival, not a fashion parade of tacky taste. Let our talented filmmakers shine and bring home the honours. And as for the flashy film-literate crowd hijacking the event—perhaps start with a crash course on world cinema before jumping on the Cannes bandwagon impudently flashing their bodies... and ignorance."

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### PAKISTAN



How Asim Munir has Pakistan in an economic and military stranglehold

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### CURRENT EVENTS

Tactical advancements by security forces and development initiatives by the government have led to a decline in recruitment among Maoist ranks

### INTERVIEWS

- No area is now safe for Naxals: **Vijay Sharma**, deputy chief minister, Chhattisgarh
- DRG, STF and CoBRA have set new benchmarks in the internal security architecture of the country: **G.P. Singh**, director general, CRPF

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### TRADE

It is no smooth sailing for the India-US trade talks, even as both the governments are pushing to meet the deadline

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