

MISSING JUDGES: DIVERSITY IGNORED  
IN APPOINTMENTS TO SUPREME COURT

DIPLOMACY: HOW MODI  
WON BACK MALDIVES' HAND

JOURNALISM WITH A HUMAN TOUCH

www.theweek.in

TheWeekMag

TheWeekLive

₹ 80

MARATHA FORTS  
STORIES OF HERITAGE  
AND VALOUR

NEPO STAR KIDS  
ZAHAN AND AHAAN  
HOW AUTHENTIC  
ARE THEY?

AUGUST 10, 2025

# THE WEEK

## INDIAN VILLAGES THAT DRESS THE WORLD

Global celebrities embrace  
Indian fashion



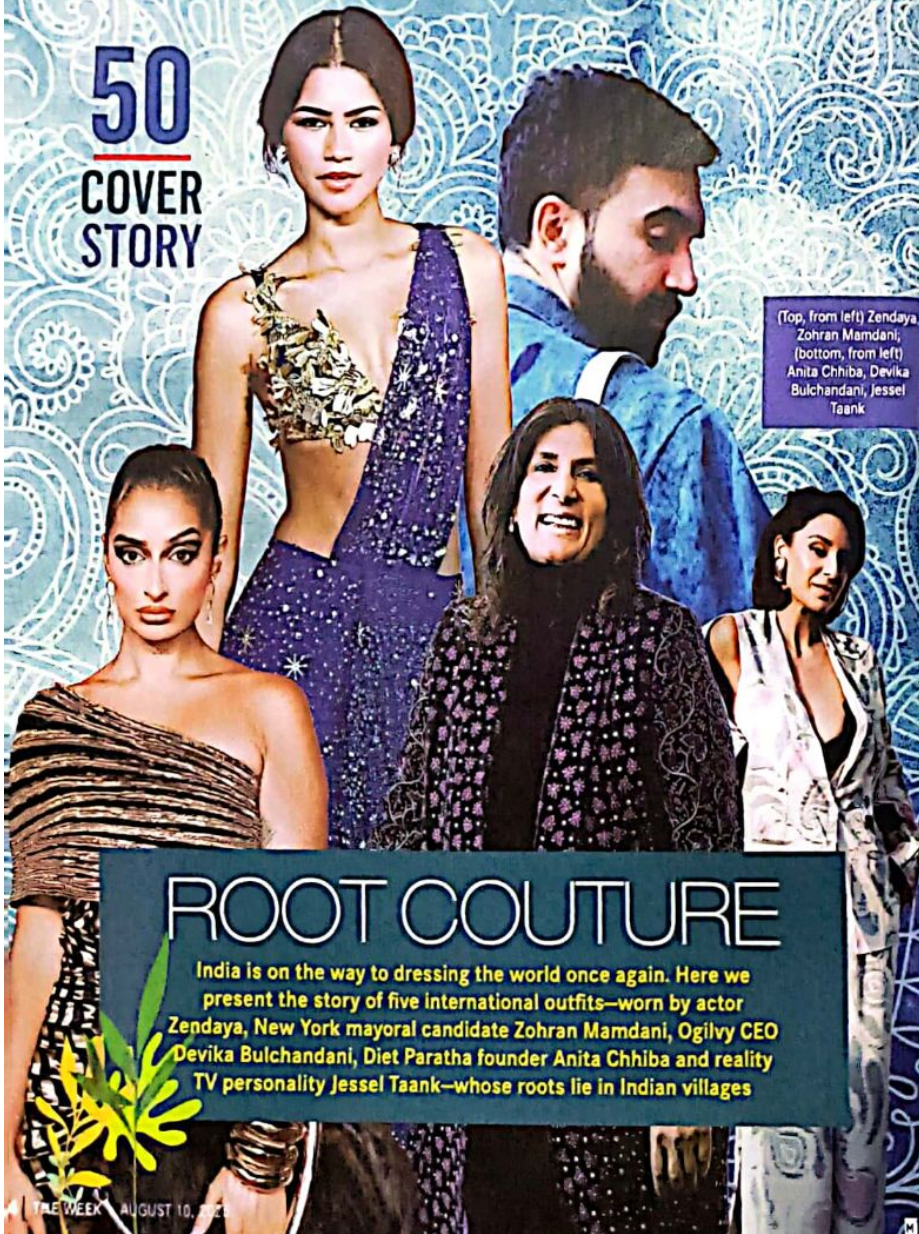
Handwritten text: 'The Week' and '30' on a white paper-like element.

Zendaya  
remoulded in a West  
Bengal village

# contents

VOL. 43 | NO. 32 | THE WEEK | AUGUST 10 | 2025 | FOR THE WEEK - AUGUST 4 - AUGUST 10

## 50 COVER STORY



(Top, from left) Zendaya, Zohran Mamdani, (bottom, from left) Anita Chhibba, Devika Bulchandani, Jessel Taank

## ROOT COUTURE

India is on the way to dressing the world once again. Here we present the story of five international outfits—worn by actor Zendaya, New York mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani, Ogilvy CEO Devika Bulchandani, Diet Paratha founder Anita Chhibba and reality TV personality Jessel Taank—whose roots lie in Indian villages

## 16 WORLD

Ukraine's defiant youth has sparked a spontaneous grassroots movement that is testing President Volodymyr Zelensky's anti-corruption plank

## 20 JUDICIARY

Diversity and regional representation ignored in appointments to the Supreme Court

## 24 NEIGHBOURS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Maldives visit is a measured reset that marks a strategic gain for India

## 34 THAILAND-CAMBODIA DISPUTE

Two predominantly Buddhist countries war over a Hindu temple; the world takes note, but India stays silent

## 36 CONTROVERSY

The arrest of two Kerala nuns in Chhattisgarh over charges of conversion and human trafficking has put the BJP and the Catholic leadership in Kerala in a tight spot

## 40 DEEP TECH

A nation's global stature is defined by its technological prowess, and India is realising the need to get its deep tech act together

## 44 HERITAGE

A dozen forts of the Maratha empire became UNESCO world heritage sites this July. Inscribed in the list as Maratha Military Landscapes of India, they tell lasting stories of Shivaji's legacy

## COLUMNS

11 **POWERDRIVE**  
R. Prasanna

18 **SOUND BITE**  
Anita Pratap

33 **RIGHT ANGLE**  
Bansuri Swaraj

69 **SCHIZO-NATION**  
Anuja Chauhan

74 **LAST WORD**  
Navtej Sarna



Foreign policy—it needs to

be clarified since the Honourable Bombay High Court would rather that citizens leave such matters to the foreign ministry—is not made in a vacuum, particularly in a democracy; domestic voices and concerns shape a country's stances on foreign affairs. Protests reflect political opinions, and they matter: our freedom movement was one long protest.

COVER IMAGING  
BINESH SREEDHARAN

Printed at Manorama Building, K.K. Road, Kottayam - 686 001, Kerala, and M P Printers, Noida, and published from Manorama Building, K.K. Road, Kottayam - 686 001, Kerala, by Jacob Mathew, on behalf of the Malayala Manorama Company Private Ltd., Manorama Building, K.K. Road, Kottayam - 686 001, Kerala

Editor Philip Mathew, Manorama Buildings, Panampilly Nagar, Kochi - 682 036, Kerala  
Place of Publication: Manorama Buildings, Panampilly Nagar, Kochi - 682036, Kerala  
• Focus/Infocus features are paid marketing/PR initiatives

AUGUST 10, 2025 • THE WEEK | 5



KRITANA NAIK

## @ LEISURE

## 63

Sam Dalrymple's debut book relooks at the history of the Indian empire and its partitions