

**INTERVIEW: M.J. AKBAR**  
**AURANGZEB TOTALLY TRUSTED HIS ASTROLOGERS**

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**UTTAR PRADESH**  
**YOGI'S CRUSADE TO**  
**ERASE CASTE FROM**  
**PUBLIC LIFE**

**AFGHAN WOMAN**  
**INTELLECTUAL**  
**157 EDICTS AGAINST**  
**WOMEN IN 4 YEARS!**

OCTOBER 26, 2025

# THE WEEK



## BULLDOZER DON

How Trump  
arm-twisted  
Netanyahu  
and forged  
a fragile truce



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### BUILDING PEACE THE TRUMP WAY

The Gaza truce was shaped by Donald Trump's commanding personality, business-minded approach and the negotiation skills of a seasoned real estate dealmaker. For Trump, the writing was on the wall. Securing a ceasefire would not only win him political credit at home and abroad, but would also reaffirm the US as the predominant power broker in the Middle East.

#### PLUS

The Trump plan has secured a fragile, temporary truce. But it faces significant long-term challenges centred on its requirement to disarm Hamas and create a terror-free zone in Gaza, raising questions about its durability

— P.R. Kumaraswamy, professor, JNU



#### INTERVIEWS

“ Israel has fulfilled its obligations so far, but unfortunately, Hamas is not delivering

—Reuven Azar, Israeli ambassador to India

“ India must play an active role, and not just be a symbolic presence at the table

—Raji Sourani, director, Palestinian Centre for Human Rights



## 36 NEIGHBOURS

“ We are losing ground in every sense, and the international community largely ignores this. Everyone talks, but talk is cheap

—Mahbouba Seraj, Afghan women's rights activist

## 42 UTTAR PRADESH

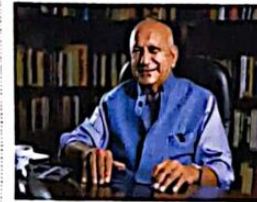
Selective enforcement of the new caste regulations would make it an instrument of political control rather than social transformation



## 46 THE TATAS

Discord among trustees marks a departure from Tata Trust's historically unified decision-making

## 58 HISTORY



“ For more than a hundred years before Aurangzeb, the post of the chief astrologer in the court was held always by a Brahmin from Banaras

—M.J. Akbar, author and former Union minister. His new book explores Mughal empire's astrological foundations

#### COLUMN

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R. Prasanna

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K.C. Verma

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Suresh Narayanan



Patients ask about tumours and clots, about memory and movement. But I often think the pia [mater] deserves its own chapter in the story. It is the silent witness to every thought, every dream, every seizure, every surgery. It is the first to be touched by blood, by infection, by tumour. And, yet, because it has no voice, we forget it is there.

#### @ LEISURE

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Action sequels, spin-offs and cinematic universes are being pumped out, but many miss the core ingredients—heart and soul



COVER IMAGING BINESH SREEDHARAN

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