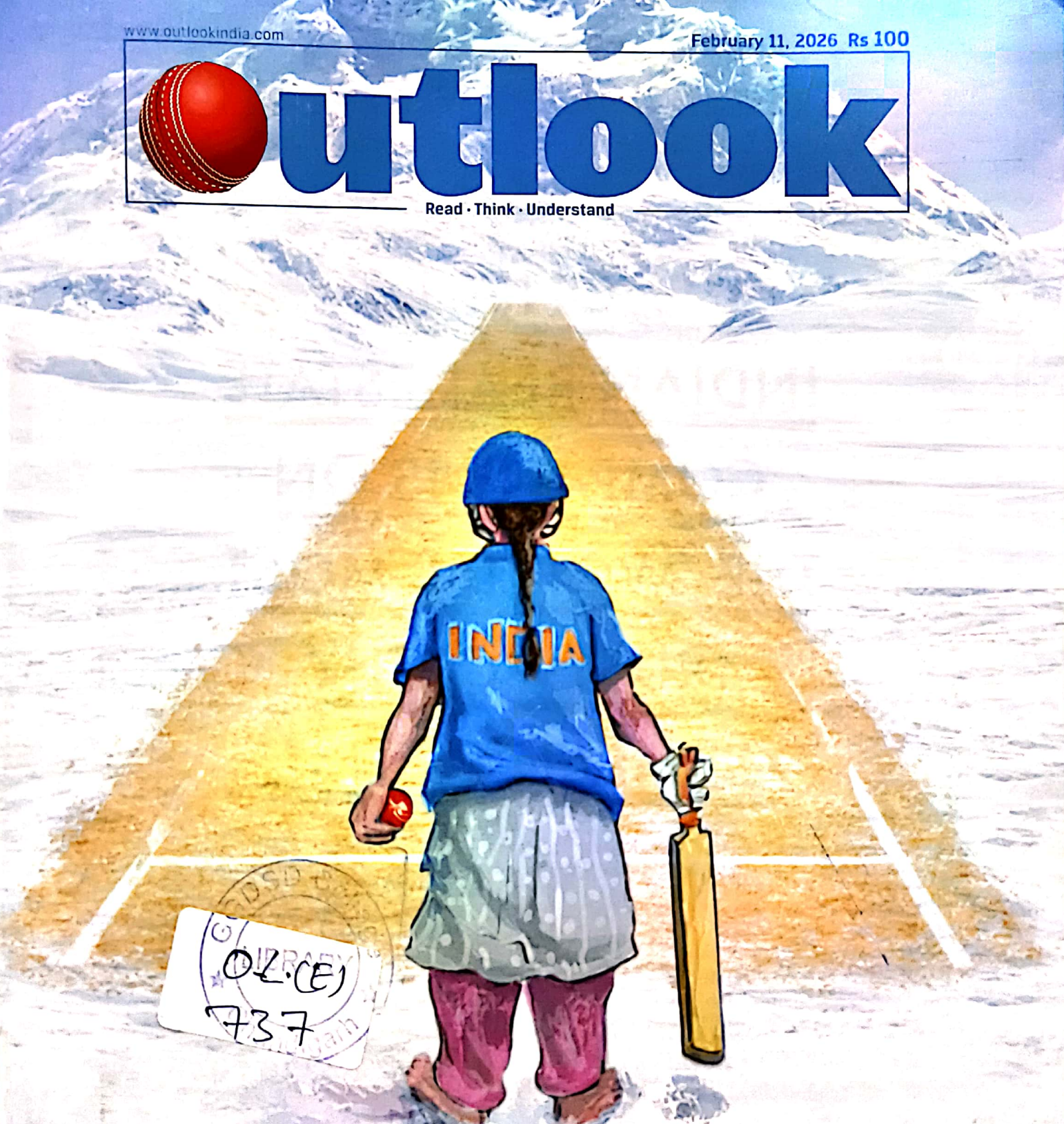


# outlook

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## No More A Gentleman's Game

From Wayanad in Kerala to Mallabagh in Kashmir, the roar of fans for women's cricket is deafening. These young sportswomen have broken many barriers to pitch their flag in what has always been a men's ballgame

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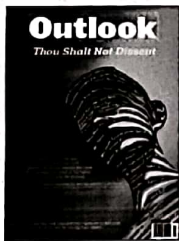
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**M**OST of the games in the ongoing Women's Premier League (WPL) are thrillers going down to the wire. Big venues like the D. Y. Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai are bursting with fans. Chants of 'Smriti, Smriti' run through the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru when the Royal Challengers Bengaluru's women's captain Smriti Mandhana comes out to bat, like it used to when Virat Kohli was at his peak. Fans, analysts and commentators pore over statistics of Harmanpreet Kaur, Jemimah Rodrigues and Deepti Sharma. The quality of women's cricket—towering sixes, tearaway pace, wily spin, fantastic catches and gravity-defying fielding—has undergone a complete transformation. The money in WPL is said to be more than many countries' men's T20 leagues. These young women have come from far and wide, from metros and small towns, fighting patriarchy, societal pressure and poor infrastructure to attain cricketing glory.

#### 4 | RACING AHEAD

For years, women were forced to support their passion for cricket with other paying jobs. But with well-paying playing contracts and opportunities in professional leagues, more women than ever are embracing the sport wholeheartedly  
**By Karunya Keshav**

#### 24 | GREEN SHOOTS OF SILIGURI

A photo feature on the rise of Richa Ghosh, the first Bengali cricketer to be part of a World Cup winning team  
**By Sandipan Chatterjee**

#### 32 | SPICE GIRLS

In the once nondescript villages of Wayanad, cricket is no longer just a sport. It has become a way to dream and to rise above the limits of geography, poverty and custom  
**By N.K. Bhoopesh**

#### 36 | BARMER BRADMAN

Almost three years after she first shot to viral fame, Mumal Meher has fallen out of the spotlight. The talented cricketer keeps practising, hoping to find sustained backing for her sporting journey  
**By Mrinalini Dhyani**



#### 56 | BARAMATI'S DADA

Ajit Pawar's sudden death leaves a power vacuum, but for people, especially from rural pockets in and around Baramati, who considered him a grassroots strongman, the loss is more profound  
**By Pritha Vashishth**

#### 70 | I WAS AT THE ELSEWHERE PARTY

Excerpt from an unpublished manuscript,  
*The Speculative City: A History of the Future* **By Vjayanthi V. Rao**

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