

THE MYTH OF HINDU TERROR THE TRUTH ABOUT CORPORATE JIHAD

ASSASSIN STRIKES US POLITICS WHY BOOK CLUBS ARE THRIVING



OPEN



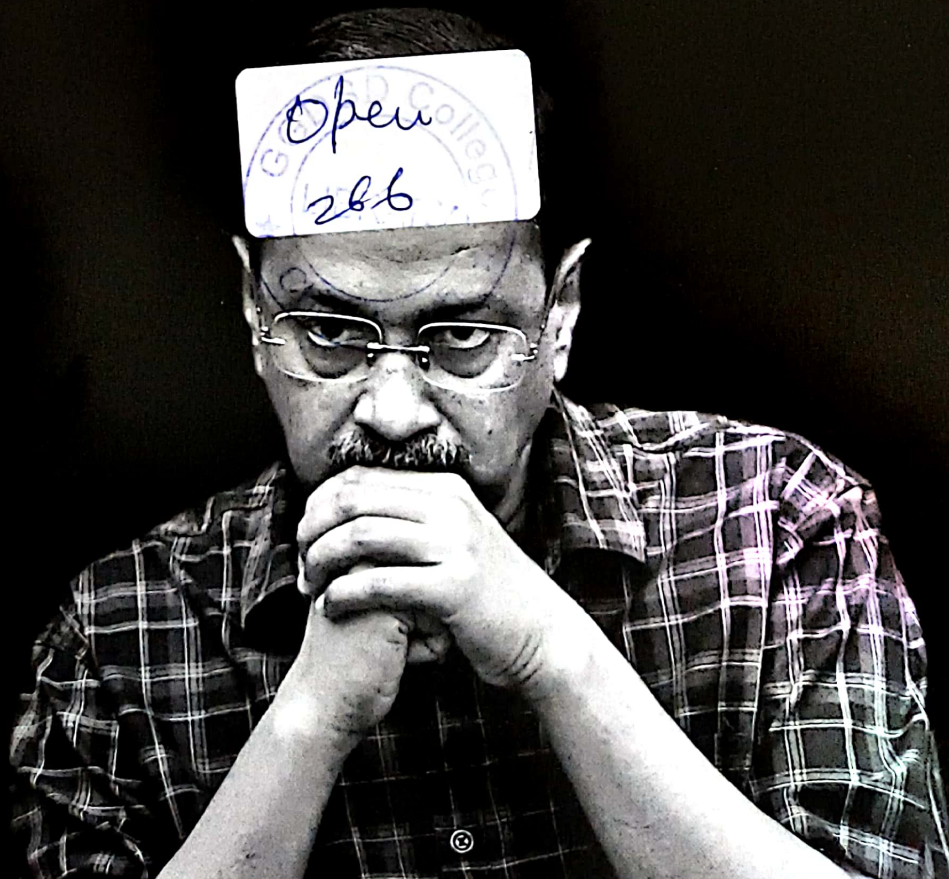
RNI CODE NO. HARENG/2023/89741
VOLUME 5 ISSUE 18 WEEKLY

11 MAY 2026 / ₹100

www.openthemagazine.com

THE ABANDONED

BRAIN DRAIN FROM AAP LEAVES ARVIND KEJRIWAL POLITICALLY ISOLATED



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Printed and published by Raas Taneja
 on behalf of Open Media Network Pvt Ltd
 Printed at Thomson Press India Ltd,
 18-35 Milestone, Delhi Mathura Road,
 Faridabad-121007 (Haryana) and
 Published in English from 1st Floor,
 Tower 3A, DLF Corporate Park,
 DLF City, Phase-III, MG Road, Gurugram,
 Haryana - 122002.
 Editor: S Prasannarajan

For subscription and other enquiries:
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 or call on our Landline no: (0124) 4561900
 or email at:
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Volume 5 Issue 18, Weekly, ₹100
 RNI Code No. HARENG/2023/89741
 For May 5-11, 2026
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LETTER OF THE WEEK

The Youth Issue made for encouraging reading ('Portraits of Icons and Achievers', May 4, 2026). The range of young Indians featured—across business, art, entertainment, and technology—reflects a generation that is ambitious, diverse, and operating well beyond the conventional career paths their parents would have recognised. That itself is worth acknowledging. It is an undeniable fact that today's youth, specifically Gen Z, have a crucial role in shaping politics, business, and culture. This was seen in the recent protests in Nepal and Bangladesh, their impressive impact as entrepreneurs, in the fields of art, sport, music, and also as style influencers. The achievements of the young from smaller cities and rural backgrounds should also be remembered. Talent is not concentrated in metropolitan India but opportunity largely is. A more complete picture of India's emerging generation would include those who built something meaningful without the advantages of urban institutions or inherited networks. Their stories should also have more visibility.



M Barati

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THE MYTH OF HINDU TERROR

By discharging four individuals accused in the 2006 Malegaon blasts case, the Bombay High Court has laid to rest a political lie created by the UPA

By **Rajeev Deshpande**

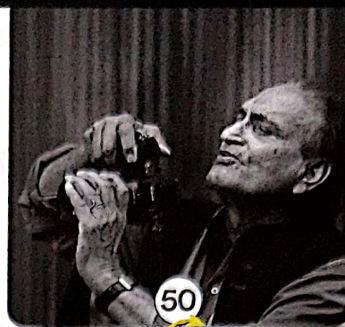


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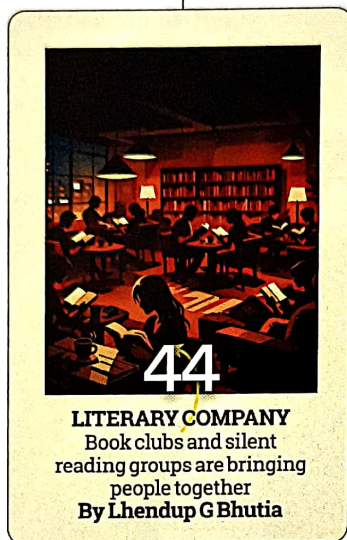
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[RAGHU RAI 1942-2026]

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STARGAZER

By **Kaveree Bamzai**

Cover by SAURABH SINGH

POLITICAL MISSTEP

The opposition's decision to vote against the Women's Reservation Bill might have felt tactically satisfying but it handed BJP a narrative advantage ('An Own Goal', May 4, 2026). It was a moment of political miscalculation. Congress prioritised political point-scoring over women's representation. That is a difficult position to defend in any subsequent election. While Rahul Gandhi said the Centre would use the Bill to cause disadvantages to certain states, he did not adequately defend his reasoning. Concerns about the Bill deserved better preparation and due process, such as a formal amendment proposal or a conditional abstention with a stated position. Outright opposition to women's reservation is an own goal that tends to outlast the session in which it was scored.

SM Jeeva

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CAUSE

The interview with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman offers a clear articulation of the government's position on women's reservation (May 4, 2026). Sitharaman's point that Congress made a political error by voting against the Bill is a fair comment. She made it clear that the opposition's actions had not surprised her, and noted that their criticism of the Bill was extremely short-sighted, and more out of a habit of objecting to whatever the Centre proposed. Sitharaman also emphasised that the failure of the Bill to go through was not a setback for the government; it was a setback for the women's cause. Moreover, the finance minister did well to add that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would always be a firm supporter of women.

Abbharna Barati

EUROPE'S FUTURE

The framing of Europe as caught between Washington and Moscow is stark but difficult to dispute ('A Friendless Continent' by Roderick Matthews, May 4, 2026). The erosion of trust in American security guarantees and the persistence of Russian revisionism have left European governments in a difficult position. It seems that Europe's best response is internal consolidation. Strengthening EU defence cooperation, reducing energy dependence, and resisting the fragmentation that insurgent parties actively seek are practical steps. External friendships cannot be legislated, but institutional coherence can be built. Hungary's election outcome, despite powerful external backing, suggests that democratic resilience remains a real force when citizens are given a genuine choice.

AMyilsami