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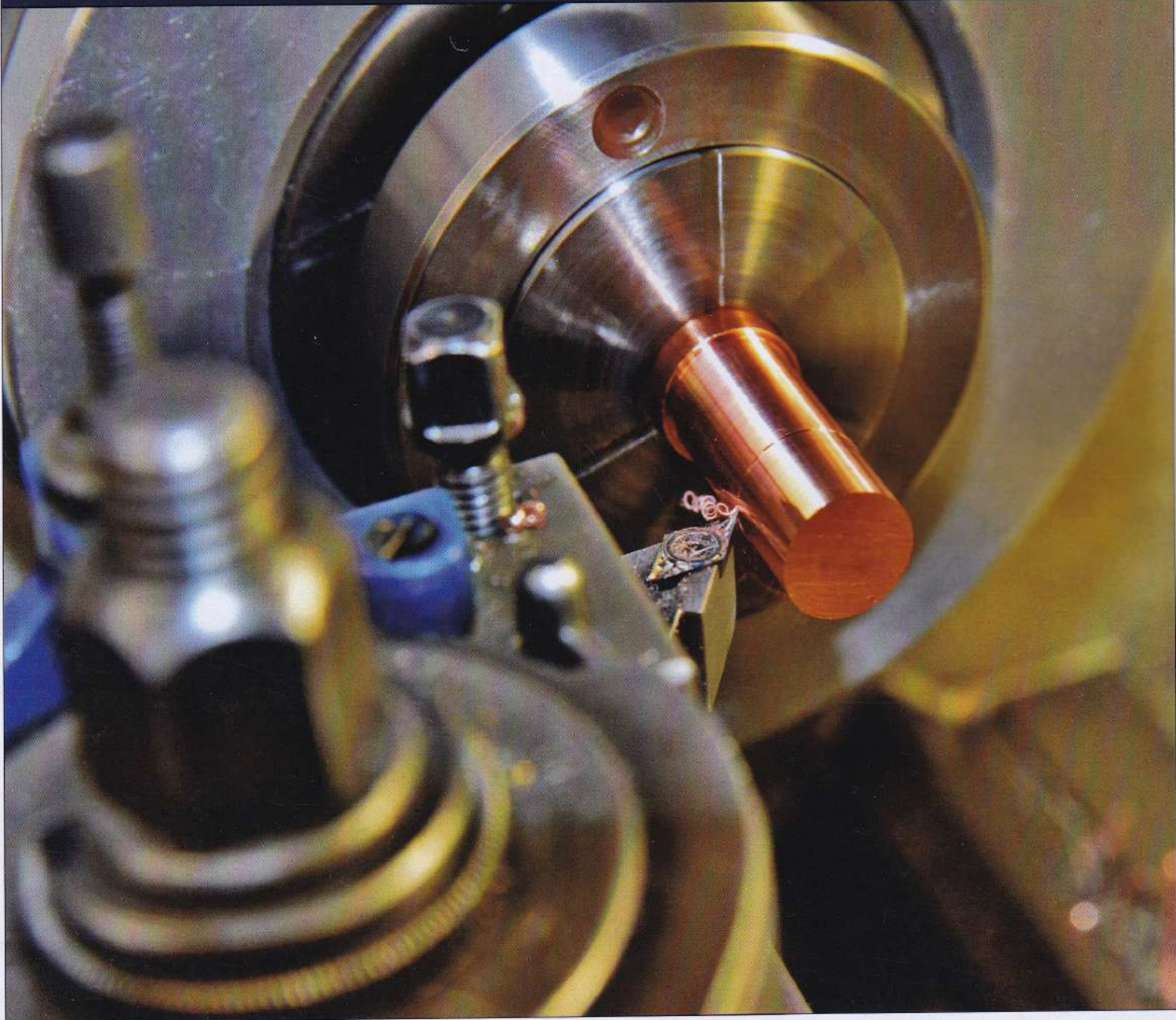
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September–December



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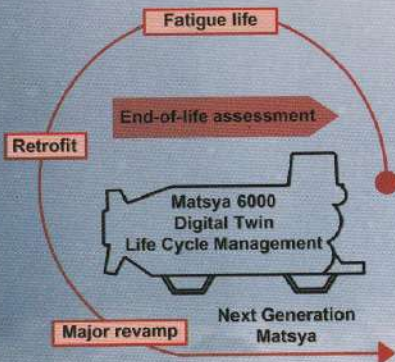
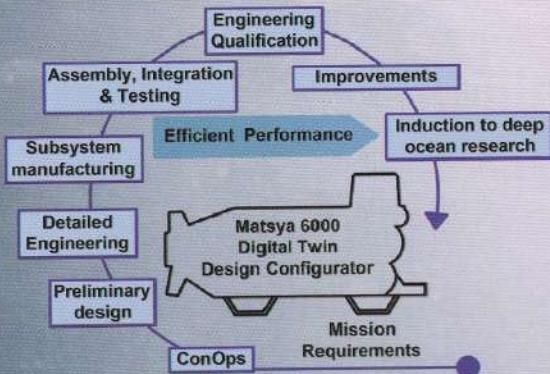
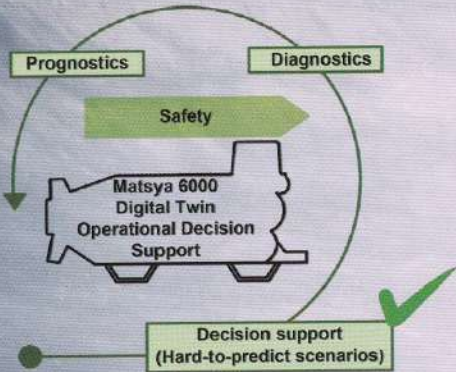
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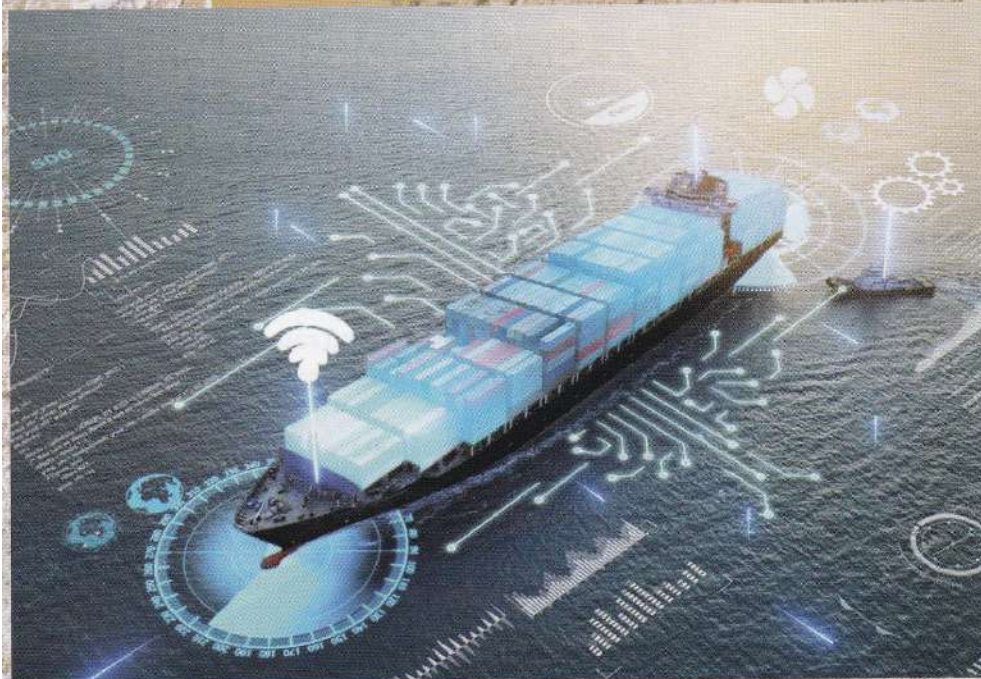
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INSIDE



Chasing Tech Sovereignty

India's aspiration to become a developed economy hinges on its ability to make critical technologies, but big challenges remain

• Interview with **Jyotiraditya Scindia**



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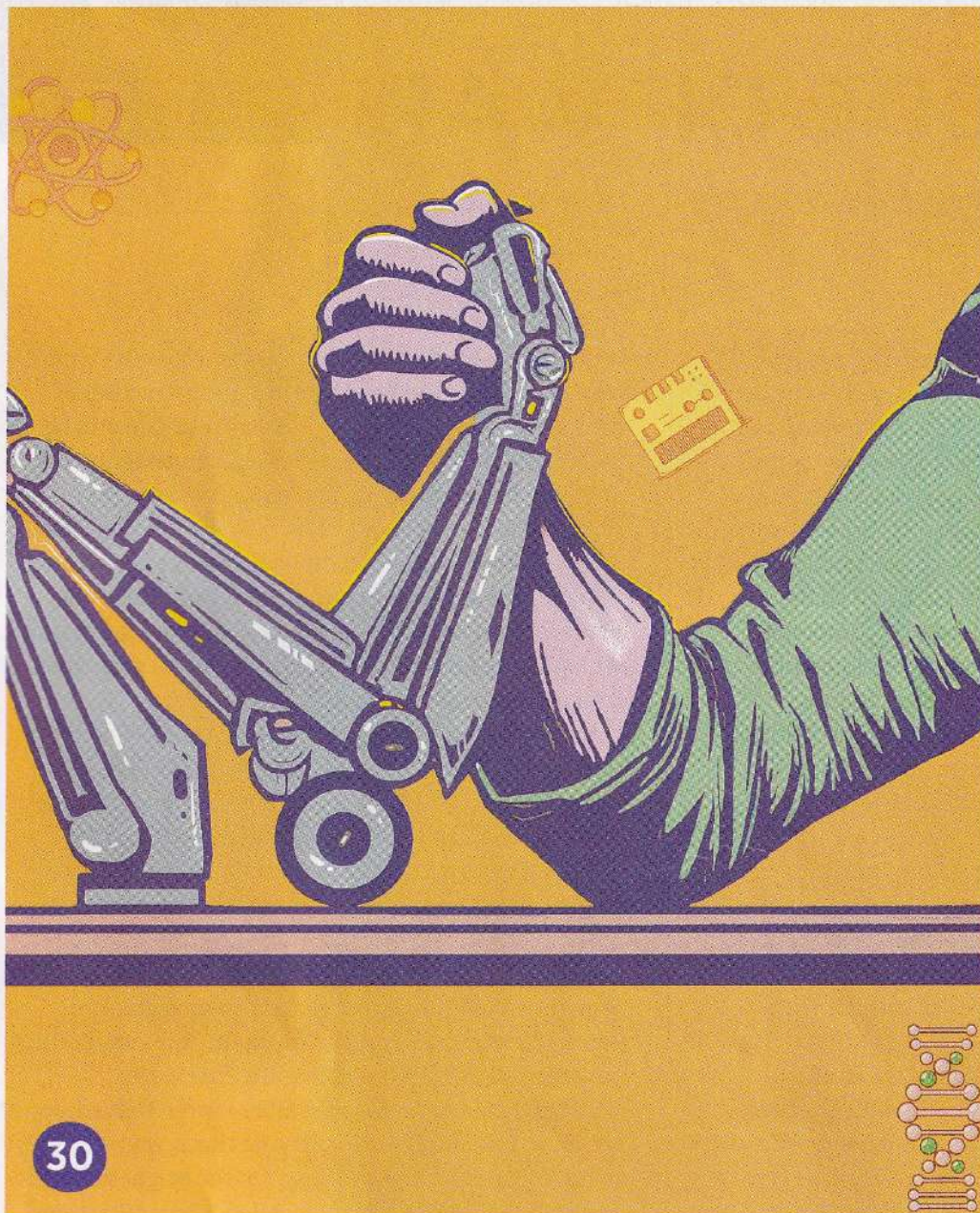
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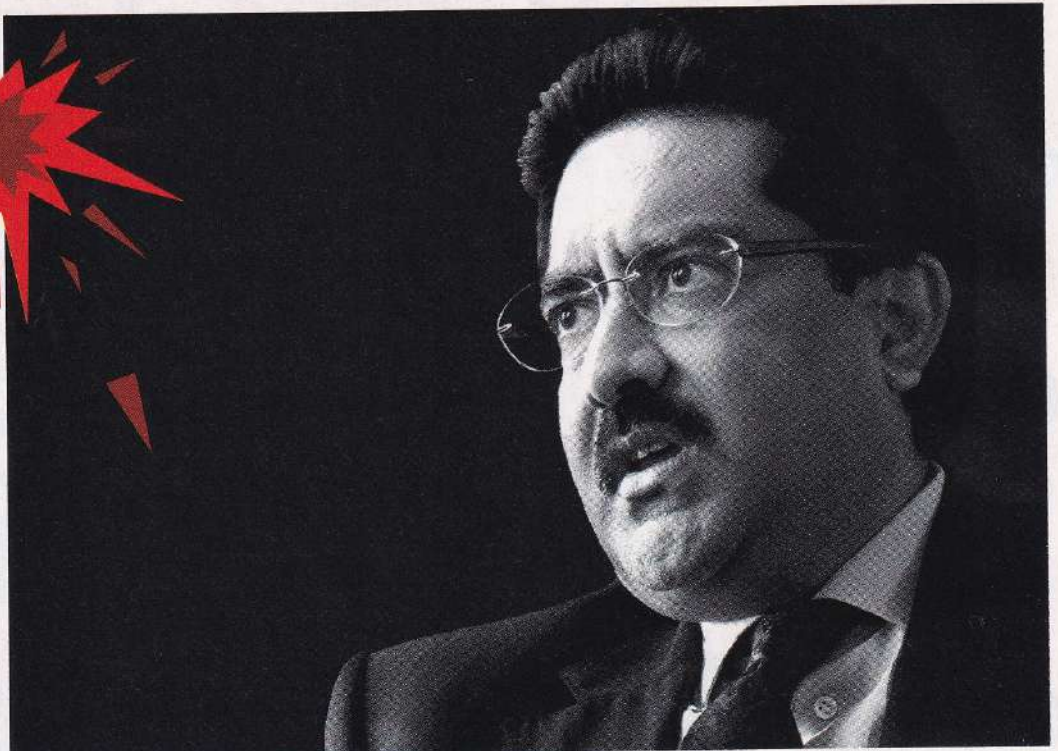
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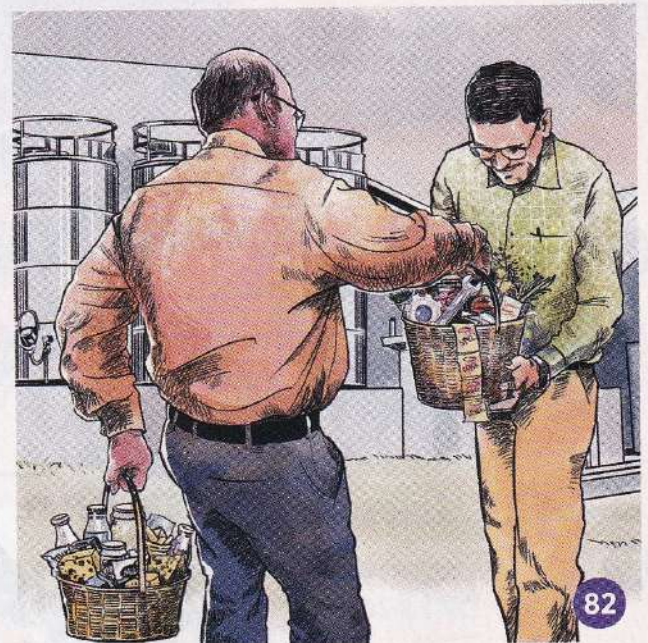
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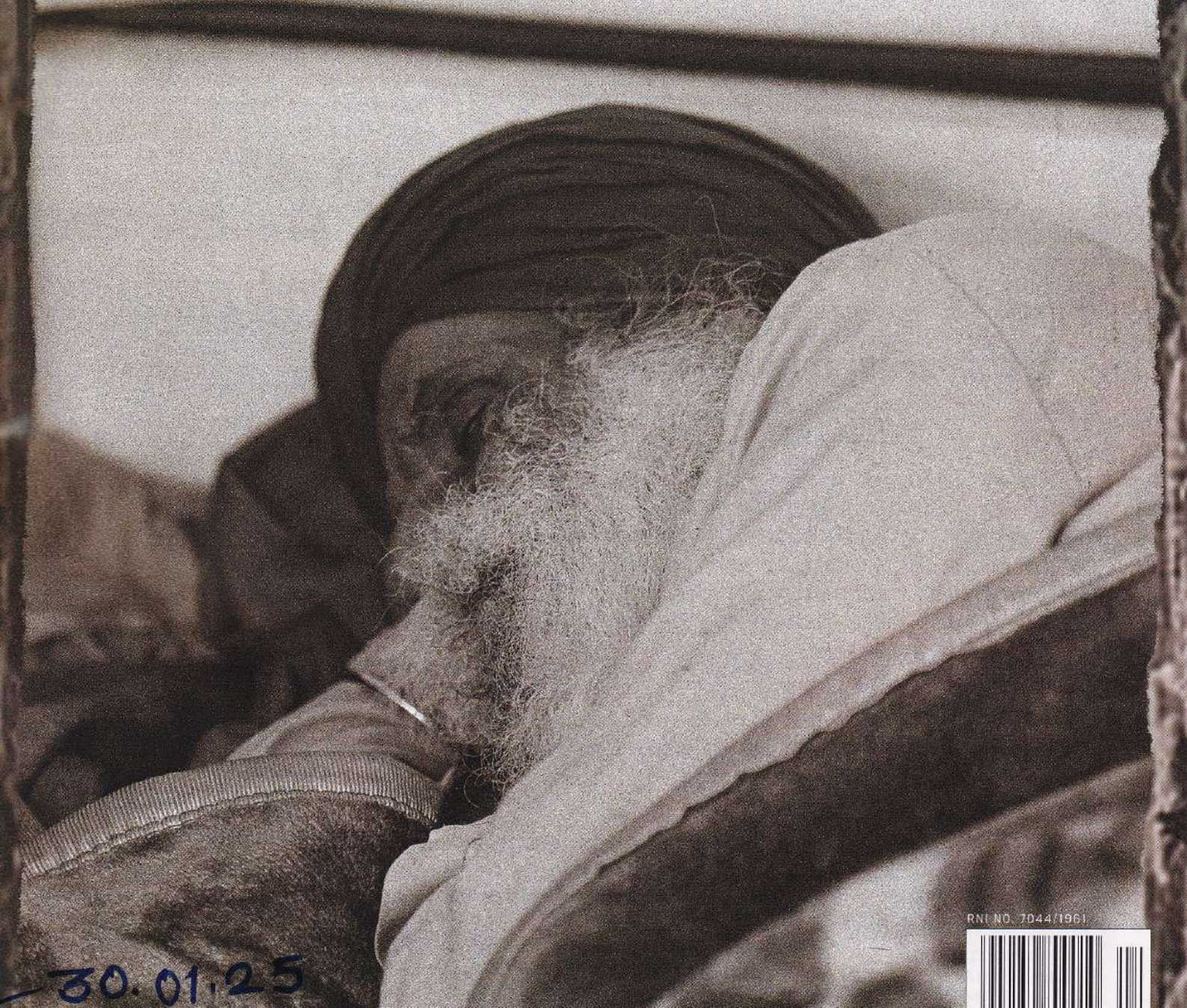
Outlook

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Farmers' Protest 2.0

Don't Let This Farmer Die

Punjab farmer Jagjit Singh Dallewal's fast-unto-death at Khanauri border to protest for a legally guaranteed Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all crops entered the 53rd day on January 17. In solidarity with Dallewal, 111 farmers have also started a hunger strike. On February 13, the farmers' protest on the borders of Punjab and Haryana will complete a year. How long before the central and state governments stir?



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NAVIGATOR

ABOUT THE COVER

While Shubhakaran Singh—a farmer from Bathinda district who was allegedly shot dead on February 21, 2024, during farmers' efforts to march from Khanauri towards Delhi—had initially become the poster child for the agitation, Jagjit Singh Dallewal has now joined him as the face of the movement amid his growing popularity. He has been on a fast-unto-death at the Khanauri border inside a tractor trailer—6.5 feet X 10.5 feet—lined with foam sheet to insulate him from the cold outside. His fast entered the 53rd day on January 17, 2025. The trailer where Dallewal has been living since the beginning of the protest in February 2024 has a white tarpaulin ceiling.

COVER PHOTOGRAPH:
Vikram Sharma



ON a cold November afternoon in 2021, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the government's decision to repeal the three farm laws, the protest site at Tikri Border had already become a place of resistance and gardens. The farmers from Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh had been at several sites at Delhi's border for more than a year by then. They had begun to grow flowers. To remind them of home. Back then, there were two protests—Shaheen Bagh and the farmers' agitation—that defined dissent in this country. One was uprooted. The other continues. But both were about

hope in our Orwellian present. Trenches had been dug, nails were laid out, there were water cannons and tear gas and batons and barricades.

In February 2024, farmers gathered to protest again in Punjab. Their march to Delhi was stopped. Two protests are on at Khanauri and Shambhu borders. A farmer is trying to defy the might of the state by fasting. Many others have joined him now. This issue is about the state and the farmers and the fate of a protest that has continued but has failed to register. Outlook's issue looks at the history of peasant protests in Punjab and the politics of such protests.

—Chinki Sinha

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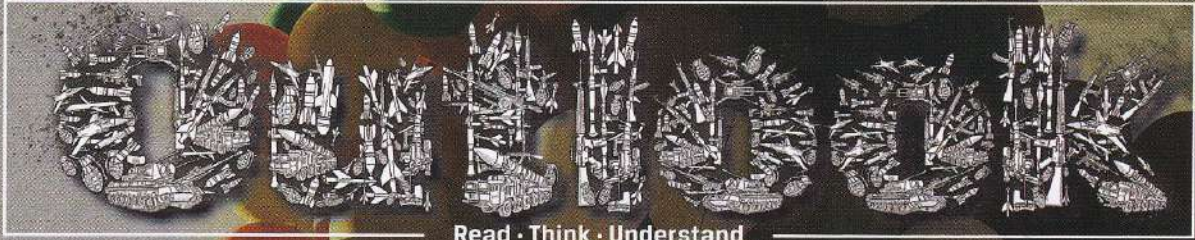
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WAR AND DEMOCRACY

"A barbaric era is upon us once again. An era of power. Democracy is in retreat. I think back to the '90s ... At that time, it seemed to all of us—to you, and to us—that we had entered a safe world. Today that all seems like a pretty fairytale. We are witnessing a new clash between good and evil. We are both witnesses and participants."

—**Svetlana Alexievich**, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature,
at the Nobel Banquet in 2015

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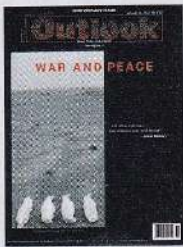


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ON THE COVER:

'Destruction Without Identity' by Tammam Azzam

"After the fall of the Assad regime in Syria, it became easier to witness the sheer scale of destruction that engulfed the country—how cities and villages were burned and obliterated entirely. The images we see today are not merely remnants of war, but testimonies to decades of oppression and tyranny that led Syria to this devastation.

In my early works, the scenes of destruction in Syria were powerfully present, almost like the seed that would later define entire series of works. These pieces reflected the immense tragedy and suffering endured by the people. However, they went beyond documenting the destruction of one nation to encompass the devastation that afflicts the entire world.

Destruction has no identity. The house brought down on its inhabitants in Syria is the same as the one destroyed in Palestine, Sudan, Yemen, Ukraine, or any other place around the globe. The pain is the same, the loss is the same, regardless of geography or causes. These scenes compel us to reflect on the magnitude of losses societies endure due to wars and conflicts that seem endless, as if destruction were a recurring human fate, repeating itself across time and space."

—Tammam Azzam

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Born in Damascus, Tammam Azzam lives and works in Berlin. Initially working in mixed media, Azzam found himself looking for new ways to create art and express his feelings about the loss of his home country. He began to focus on the depth and tragedy of the destroyed cityscape that used to be home to so many people.

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WAR AND PEACE



“For what can war,
but endless war, still breed?”

—John Milton

From 'Anaesthesia' by Valentina Abenavoli

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M.F. Husain's 'Yudha'

All the headlines of the articles in this issue are a tribute to the great books and movies on war. Some are well-known, like Ernest Hemingway's *For Whom The Bell Tolls* or Svetlana Alexievich's *The Unwomanly Face of War* or Terrence Malick's seminal war film, *The Thin Red Line*. But many others are not so popular. They are books and films which relate to the subjects the articles deal with, are written or made in war-torn countries like Palestine, Ukraine and Syria and relate to the pain and suffering of the people of the region. We hope that some of our readers will want to discover the works behind the titles they don't know.

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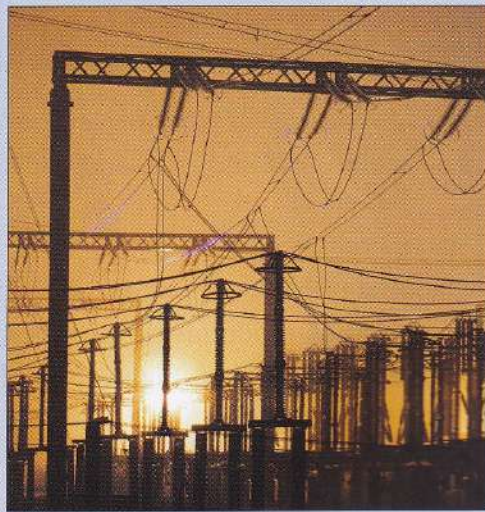
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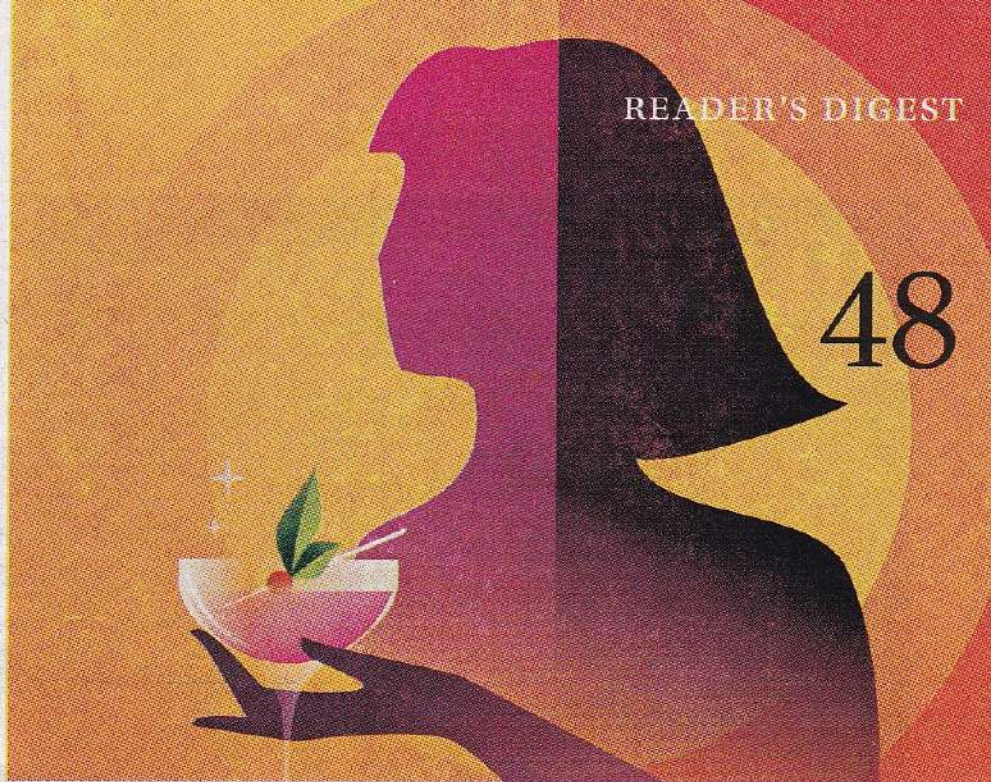
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When doctors told the McCoombes that spina bifida would severely limit their daughter's life, they refused to listen. So did the little girl.

BY SABRINA ROGERS-ANDERSON



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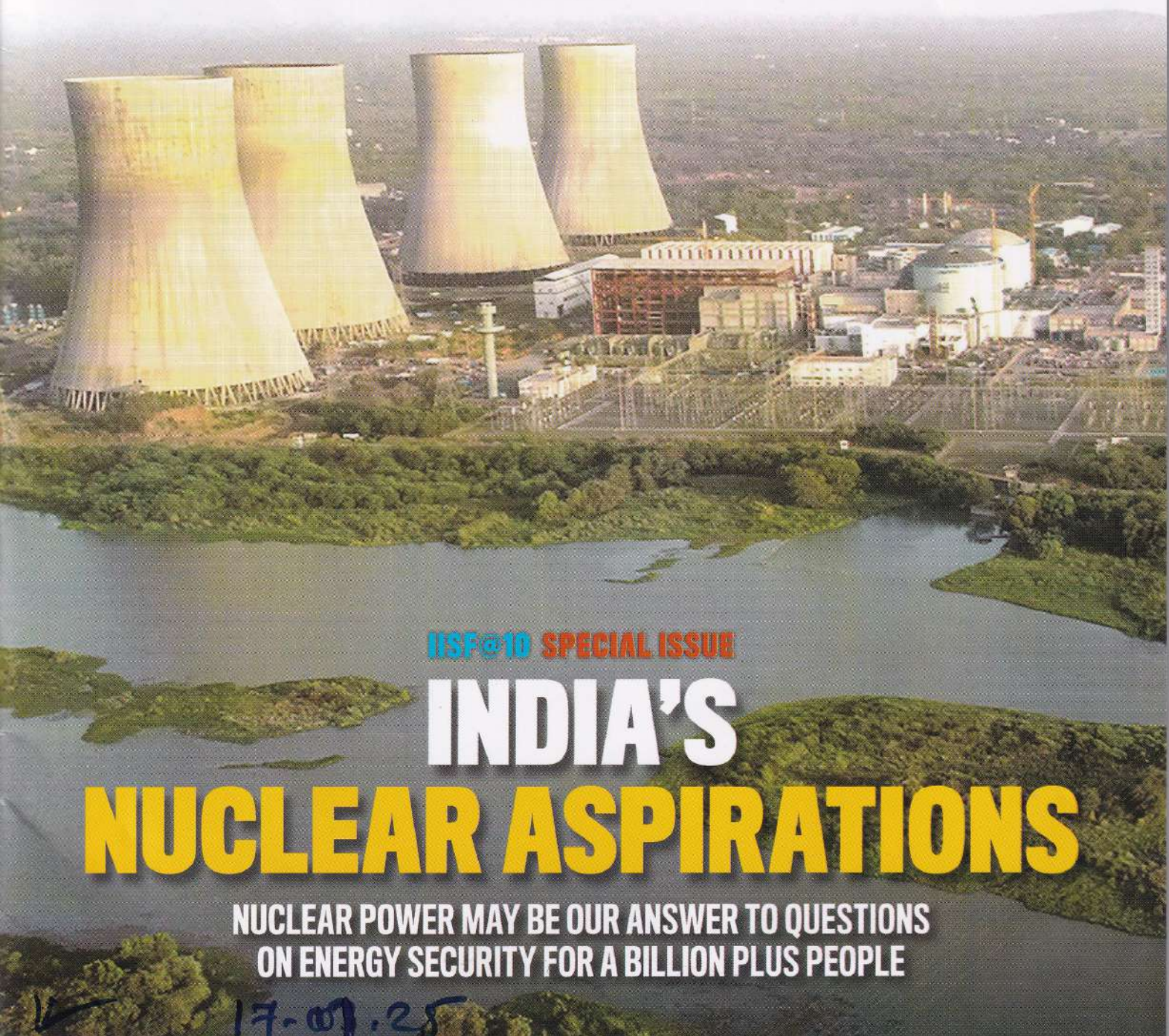
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