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**Current Awareness Service
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June 2022



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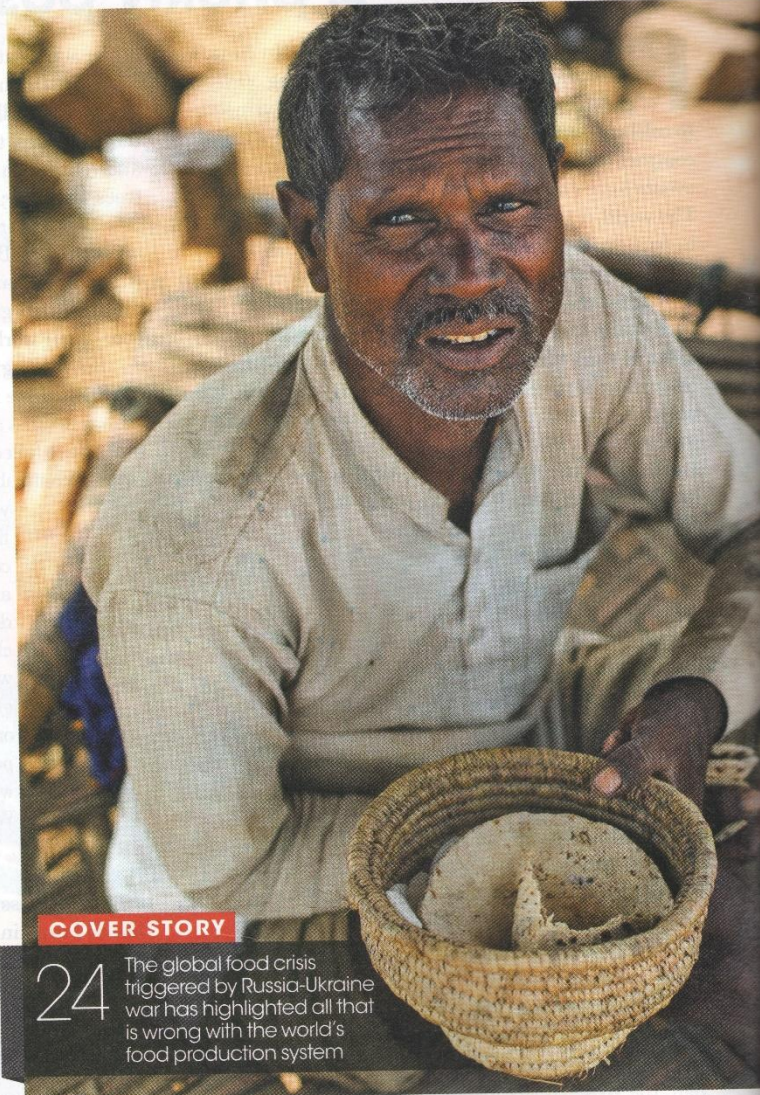
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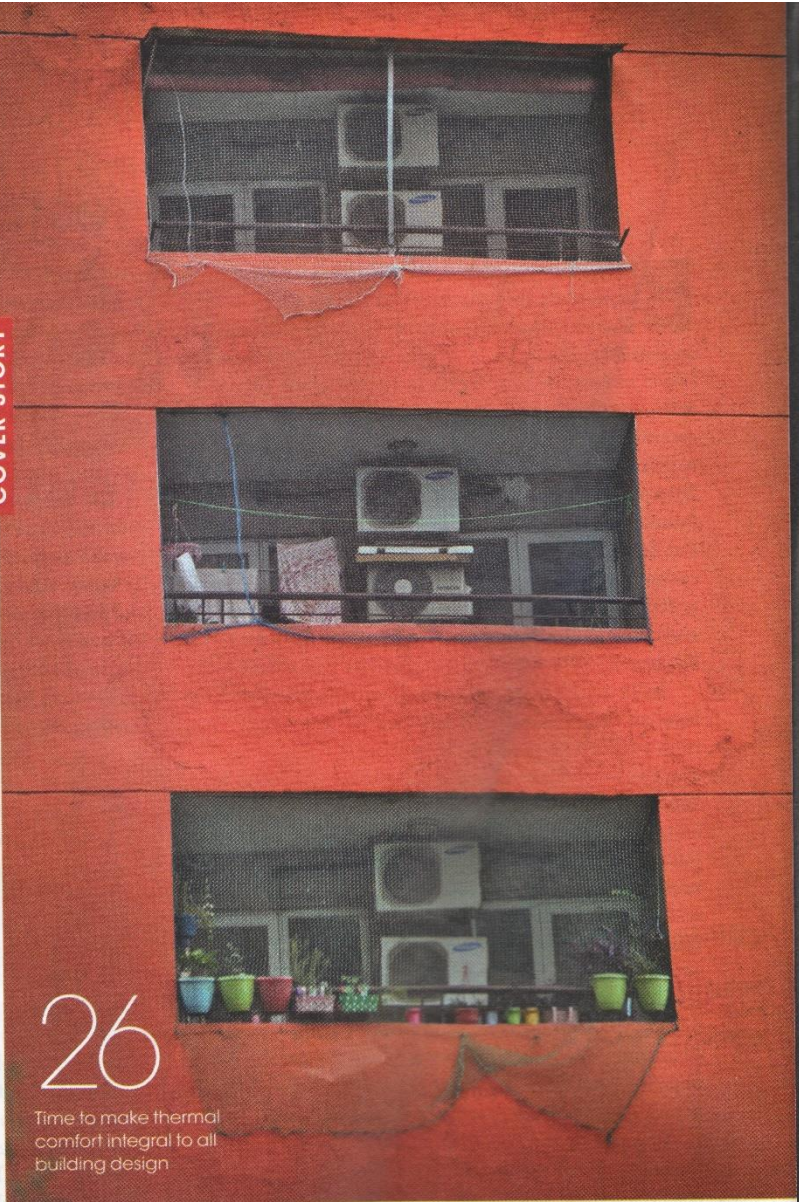
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COVER STORY



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Time to make thermal comfort integral to all building design

- 10 Digest
Chhattisgarh trains people to curb conflicts with elephants
- 14 Yet another price rise
Farmers abandon dairy and livestock due to fodder price hike
- 20 Rapid move
Monkeypox disease has spread to 34 countries in just one month
- 42 Up in flames
Unsafe battery cells and pack design lead to e-scooter fires
- 58 Civil Lines
Gram sabhas key to strengthening local governance in India

Economists as Optimists or Pessimists

10 Some classical economists who believe in a harmonious order of the society and envisioned a growth-based capitalism have been labelled as optimists. Others theorised a conflict-ridden society in capitalism and have been termed as pessimists. This article discusses the validity of these labels.

— *Satyaki Dasgupta*

Mid-day Meals in Karnataka

14 In the context of opposition to the introduction of eggs in the mid-day meals scheme in Karnataka, the article delves into how the nutritional policy in the state has been held hostage by dubious unscientific beliefs ascribed to by small but influential religious- and caste-based groups.

— *Siddharth Joshi, Sylvia Karpagam*

Governing Water to Foster Equity and Conservation

19 The water sector in India and vested interests in it have always been averse to change. We have now reached a point where difficult decisions must be taken if we are to avoid an increasing number of water-related conflicts.

— *Philippe Cullet*

The Public Sphere Rediscovered

22 This article aims to re-evaluate the influence the Greeks and especially Aristotle have had on Jürgen Habermas's thought via Hannah Arendt.

— *Muzaffar Ali*

The Impact of Improved Sanitation on Child Health Outcomes

34 In this article, the findings of selected observational studies are contrasted with that of randomised experiments conducted to estimate the impact of improved sanitation on child health in India.

— *Bharat Dahiya, Jitender Singh*

State and Health Markets in the Time of Pandemic

41 This paper attempts to explain three broad trends that underpinned the relationship between the state, market, and healthcare.

— *Purendra Prasad*

A Horse Race among the Alternative Taylor Rule Specifications

48 The paper estimates a slew of augmented Taylor rule specifications using call and treasury bill rates. After accounting for the break points, we calculate the output gap based on a single-index dynamic factor extracted from monthly high-frequency indicators that are representative of broad sectoral activity.

— *Soumya Bhadury, Saurabh Ghosh & Debojyoti Mazumder*

Conditions of Farmers in West Bengal

59 The income and poverty conditions of farmers' households in four sample districts of West Bengal are brought out in this paper. As per the poverty estimation based on the Rangarajan Expert Committee report, about 35% of the farmers' households may be regarded as poor in the study areas of West Bengal.

— *Rathindra Nath Pramanik*

The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act

66 The failure of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 to control excessive judicial intervention and undue delays in the arbitration proceedings are explained to establish the context for legislating the Arbitration Act, 2015.

— *Deva Prasad M, Suchithra Menon C*

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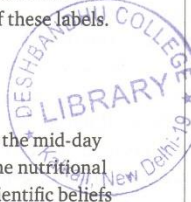
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Uttar Pradesh Elections

10 The people's mandate in favour of the Bharatiya Janata Party has consolidated the aggressive, masculine, and religious majoritarianism of the "new India" cherished by the Sangh Parivar. — *Manjur Ali*

Pro-poorness of Growth in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu

16 This article presents a comparative analysis of poverty reduction and pro-poorness of growth in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu during the post-reform period. — *Priyabrata Sahoo, D C Pathak*

Feminist Periscoping

22 In this article, the author lays out her decision to lean on "feminist periscoping," a methodological approach developed by feminist geographer Nancy Hiemstra, to conduct her field research in India. — *Annu Daftuar*

India's New FTA Strategy and Its Trade Policy

25 India's recalibrated free trade agreement strategy lacks appropriate coherence to its trade policy that vouches for domestically produced goods over imported goods. — *Surendar Singh, Suvajit Banerjee*

New-generation Malayalam Cinema

30 This article will attempt to scrutinise and identify major interventions in the new-generation Malayalam cinema through a close reading of a selection of films that have been hailed by critics, scholars, practitioners, and audiences. — *Kunal Ray, Mochish K S*

A Brief History of Blue Revolution 2.0

46 This paper shifts the liability to the multilateral consultancies and technical research institutions that were arbitrated by the postcolonial developmental state with the help of international aid under the guise of food security and alternate livelihoods while the shrimps were being exported. — *Jeffrey Immanuel J, N C Narayanan*

Success Factories

54 In recent years, India has become home to one of the fastest-growing test-preparation or coaching for "high-stakes examination" industries in the world. In this paper, we demonstrate its growth, explore the potential factors fuelling it, and argue that it contributes to the perpetuation of deeply ingrained inequalities in Indian society. — *Vinayak Kishore, Ankur Sarin*

A Quantitative Assessment of the EU-India FTA

62 Using the partial equilibrium model, the study reveals that the EU-India free trade agreement yields less positive trade and welfare gains in India after Brexit, specifically for consumer, industrial, and capital goods, whereas it would still be in India's interest towards the specific benign impact of an FTA in raw materials, intermediate goods, and agricultural goods. — *Vani Archana*

Postscript

70 *Ankita Apurva* on Alice Ekka's protagonists as strong Adivasi women who have agency, choices, and dreams; *Sujit Kumar Mishra* and *Soumya Vinayan* on forest communities in India and elsewhere as central to protecting forests; *Anisha Drall's* poem, "Live From Lok Kalyan Marg"; and Last Lines by *Ponnappa*.

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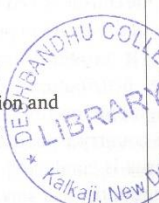
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A Fatal Blow to the Goods and Services Tax

10 The Supreme Court's judgment in the *Union of India v Mohit Minerals (P) Ltd* has weakened the governance framework of the goods and services tax.
— *Alok Prasanna Kumar*

Farmer Suicides in Punjab

13 The article is based on a primary survey carried out to ascertain the magnitude and determinants of deaths of farmers by suicide in six districts of Punjab.
— *Sukhpal Singh, Manjeet Kaur & H S Kingra*

In the Middle of Hope and Crisis

18 The fund allocations of the Union Budget 2022–23 to education are analysed in the context of the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
— *Pradeep Kumar Choudhury, Angrej Singh Gill & Amit Kumar*

Policy Change and Floor Space Index

23 This article explores the key features of the contemporary floor space index policy in Mumbai to contribute to the ongoing debates and provide the context for evaluating the proposed urban policy changes.
— *Sukriti Issar, Ishani Shukla*

Spectrum Price

26 The monopoly and missteps of civil servants regarding auction pricing are outlined in this article. It also argues for the professionalisation of the regulator and elimination of redundant bureaucracy. — *V Ranganathan*

On the Distinctiveness of Feminist Methodology

29 For feminist researchers, research is both an inquiry into social reality and a tool for the empowerment of women and transformation of a patriarchal social order. — *Anil S Sutar*

Linking Public Action

39 Kerala suffers less from clientelism, authoritarianism, and neo-liberalism than many other parts of the world, but it is affected by the universal dilemma of how to unify numerous actors and build democratic links between the local, the wider government, and the economy.
— *Olle Törnquist*

Vulnerability Levels of Sewerage Workers

113 The living and working conditions of sewerage workers in the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation are documented in this paper through a sample survey of 98 workers. The Other Backward Classes and Other Caste workers outnumbered those from the Scheduled Castes, refuting the caste-based view of this occupation even while reflecting the precarious employment situation of the unskilled in Andhra Pradesh. — *M Srinivasa Reddy, K Hanumantha Rao*

Political Stability in West Bengal

121 The conventional belief indicates that the gradual success of an incumbent party lies in the economic progression of the state and the well-being of the majority of voters. However, the recent growth of the incumbent party in West Bengal does not support this belief entirely. This paper unfolds evidence in support of such a strategy that helped maintain incumbency.
— *Debajit Jha, Sunetra Ghatak & Dibyendu Maiti*

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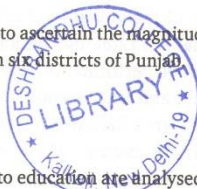
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Authoritarian Populism and the Making of an Economic Crisis

10 The Rajapaksa clan pushed Sri Lanka towards a grave economic crisis as well as illiberal democracy. — *Shweta Singh*

Revaluing Unpaid Work

14 This article analyses the recognition of women's unpaid domestic and care work through the promises of unconditional cash transfers. — *Prabha Kotiswaran*

Measuring Participation of Rural Men and Women in Indian Agriculture

20 The Time Use Survey 2019 was used to analyse the participation and contribution of men and women engaged in agriculture and allied sectors. — *Anil Kumar, Ananta Sarkar, Neetish Kumar, Tanuja S, P S Pandey*

Politics of Disinformation

25 The essentially political character of the disinformation problem cannot be resolved through regulation and technological fixes alone. — *Ruchi Gupta*

Denationalised Elites and Global Ranking of Higher Education Institutions

28 Denationalised elites' search for global ranking of higher educational institutions is devoid of moral and intellectual concerns for a national-popular collective will. — *Arun Kumar Patnaik, K Laxminarayana*

Religious Polarisation Outweighs Ethnic Mobilisation

31 The Assam assembly elections continued the trend towards the deepening of religious polarisation. — *Vikas Tripathi, Dhruva Pratim Sharma*

The Law of the Executive

43 The Supreme Court order on sedition is significant as it addresses the gap between the design of a law and its working by factoring in the instances of misuse as a ground for constitutional review. — *Anushka Singh*

OTT Platforms and the New Dalit Characters in Indian Cinema

48 Dalit representation in Indian cinema has arrived with nuanced attributes, distinct from the earlier cinematic portrayal that mostly depicted them as victims of caste atrocities. — *Harish S Wankhede*

Right to the City

55 This paper provides a historical analysis of the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014 and the subsequent amendment in 2016. — *Reeju Ray*

Fiscal Situation of India in the Time of COVID-19

62 Using data from a cross-section of countries, this paper estimates the relationship between fiscal spending and the spread of COVID-19, economic stringency, and macroeconomic factors. — *Anuragh Balajee, Shekhar Tomar & Gautham Udupa*

Export Performance of South Asia

69 South Asia's global market access from 1991 to 2017 is examined through empirical research using trade indexes and gravity econometric estimation. — *Mohd Hussain Kunroo, Imran Ahmad*

Macroeconomic Indicators and Sectoral Stock Price Behaviours

78 This paper attempts to identify the significant macroeconomic factors affecting prominent sectoral stock indices. — *Titto Varghese, T R Gurumoorthy*

Property and the Enduring State of Famines in Colonial India

85 A response to "Famines in India" (*EPW*, 26 June 2021) interrogates the character of the colonial state and its complicit role in engendering famine-like conditions. — *Vishal Singh Deo*

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88 *Sreedeep Bhattacharya* and *Sneha Roy Choudhury* on trends in Bengali poetry; *Rajlakshmi Kanjilal* on the intersectionality of animal and human rights in *Jallikattu*; *Rahul Singh* on their elegant toes; and *Last Lines* by *Ponnappa*.

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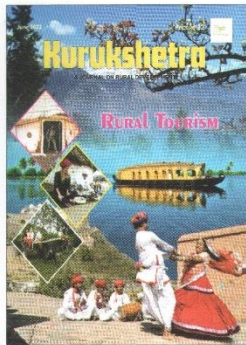
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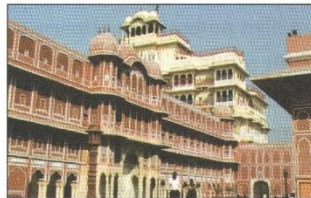
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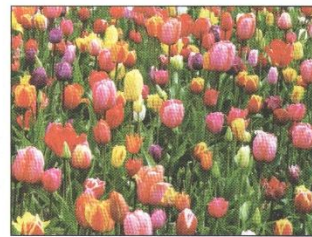


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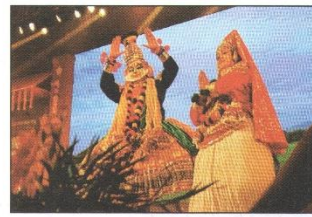
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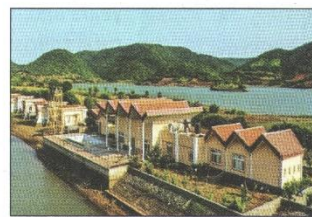
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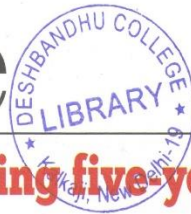
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a symposium on
domestic challenges and
external imperatives

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COVER STORY

Why BJP confident of bucking five-year myth

Padmo Devi is not alone praising the vaccination drive in Himachal Pradesh to achieve 100 per cent vaccination, much ahead of any state in the country—including union capital. To achieve this distinction, thousands of health workers, ASHA volunteers and Para-medics, braved hostile weather and walked on foot for miles to reach all eligible persons. Few of these were so committed to make Himachal No 1 that they gave vaccination jabs under torch lights at high altitude village of Lahaul-Spiti, a district en route Leh. Modi had already described Himachal Pradesh as a champion in India's biggest vaccination drive.



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The alienation rather hatred of the Balochis for Pakistan can be construed from the lack of any remorse at the loss of the Pakistani driver in suicide bombing. The strategic and geopolitical imperative of China for Pakistan, particularly the military is not shared by the Balochis, hence they do not want to be burdened by the economic and strategic weight of the CPEC. Also, while rest of Pakistan which includes the fundamentalists and Islamists, may view China with anti India and anti Hindu prism, the Balochis are not driven by this psychology.

GLOBAL WATCH
GRINDING WAR

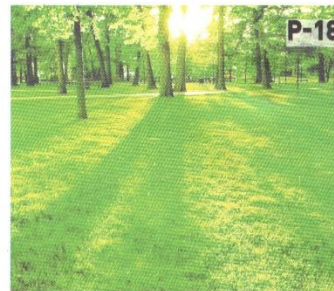
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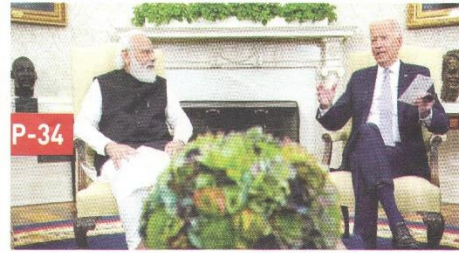
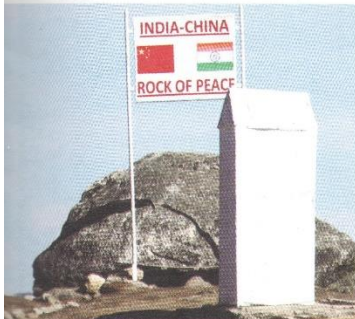
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योजना में प्रकाशित लेखों में व्यक्त विचार लेखकों के अपने और व्यक्तिगत हैं। ज़रूरी नहीं कि ये लेखक भारत सरकार के जिन मंत्रालयों, विभागों अथवा संगठनों से संबद्ध हैं, उनका भी यही दृष्टिकोण हो।

योजना में प्रकाशित विज्ञापनों की विषयवस्तु के लिए योजना उत्तरदायी नहीं है।

योजना में प्रकाशित आलेखों में प्रयुक्त मानचित्र व प्रतीक आधिकारिक नहीं है, बल्कि सांकेतिक हैं। ये मानचित्र या प्रतीक किसी भी देश का आधिकारिक प्रतिनिधित्व नहीं करते हैं।

योजना लेखकों द्वारा आलेखों के साथ अपने विश्वसनीय स्रोतों से एकत्र कर उपलब्ध कराए गए आंकड़ों/तालिकाओं/इन्फोग्राफिक्स के संबंध में उत्तरदायी नहीं है। योजना किसी भी लेख में केस स्टडी के रूप में प्रस्तुत किसी भी ब्रांड या निजी संस्थाओं का समर्थन या प्रचार नहीं करती है।

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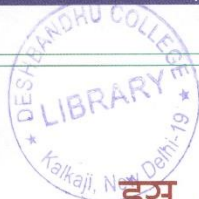
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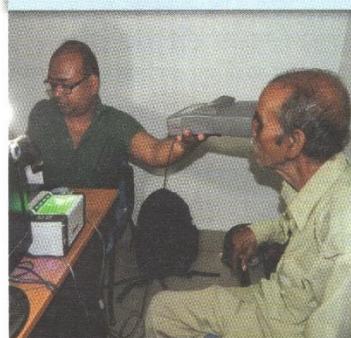
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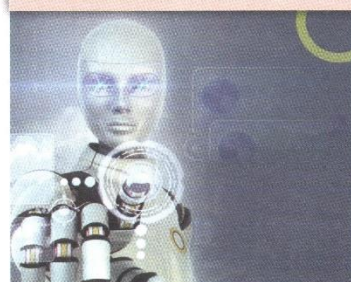
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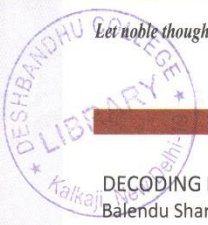
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Rig Veda



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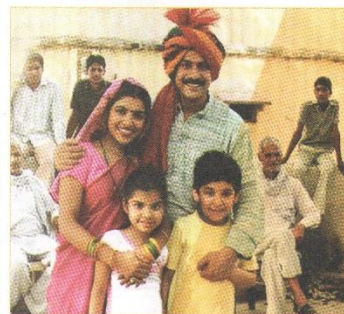
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