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JANUARY 2021  
A JOURNAL OF POLITICS  
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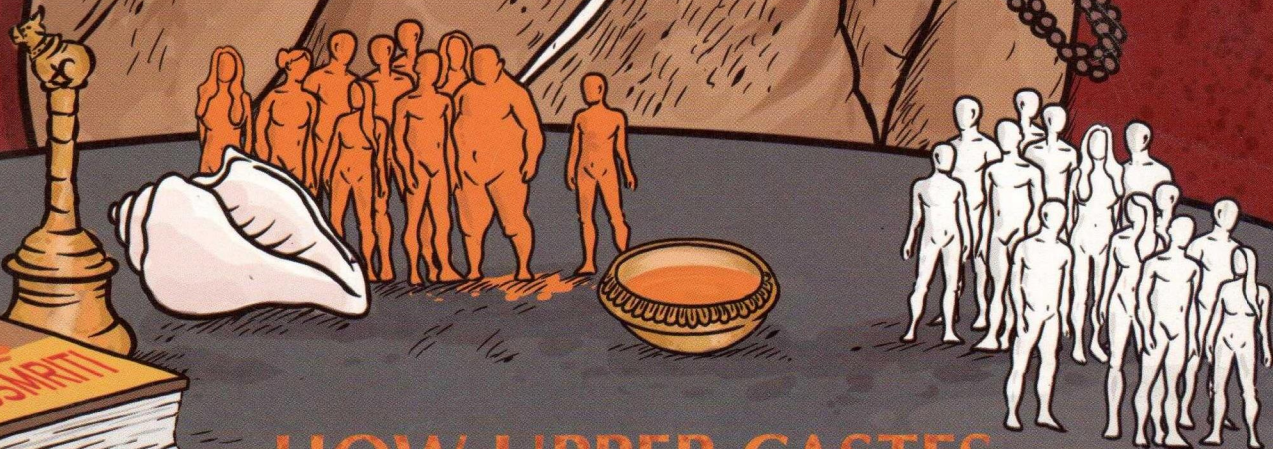
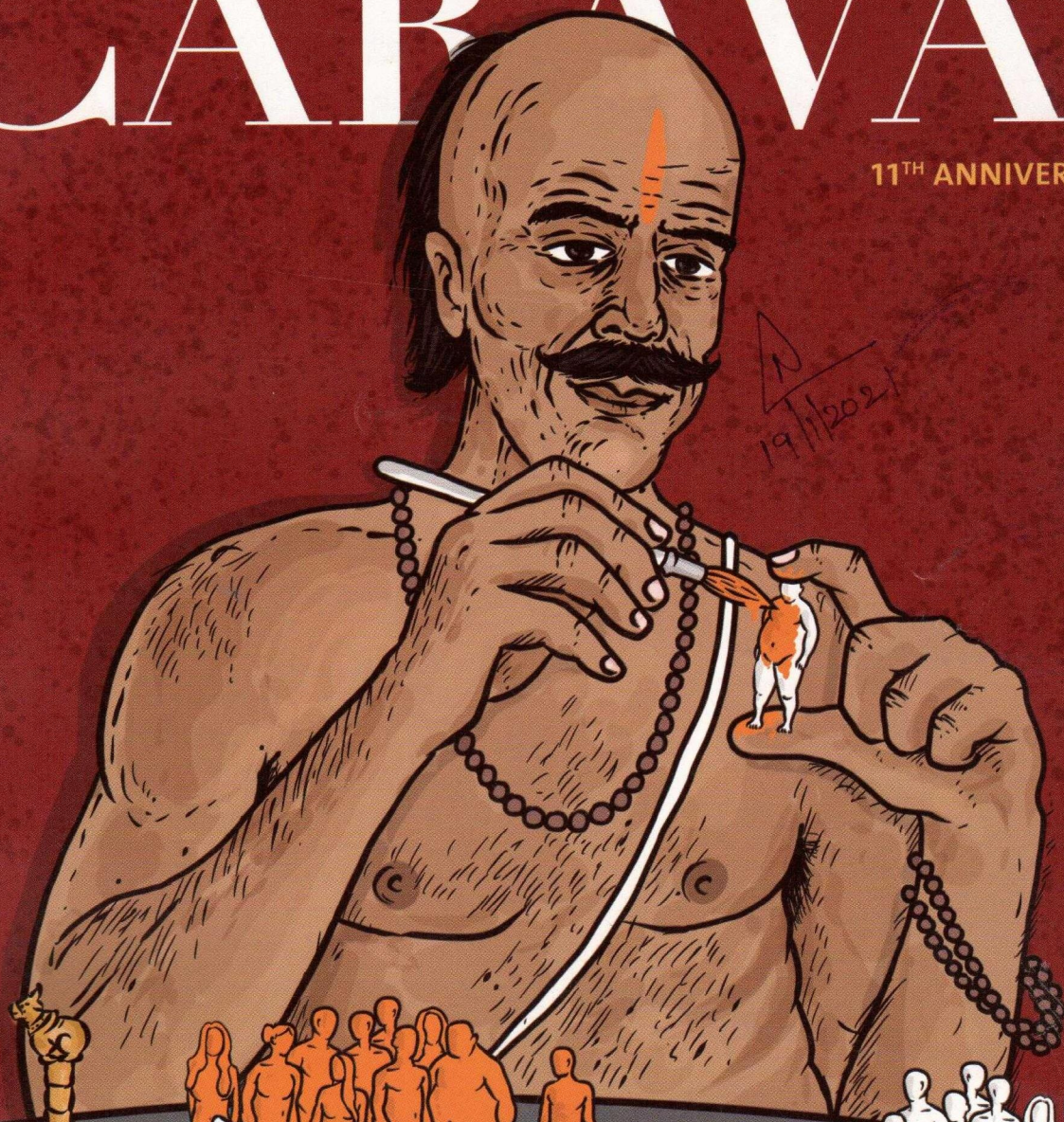
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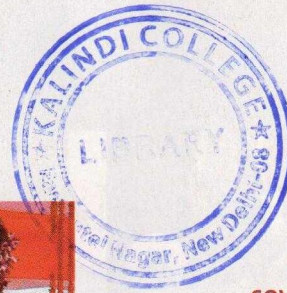
# THE CARAVAN

11<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



## HOW UPPER CASTES INVENTED A HINDU MAJORITY

An essay by Divya Dwivedi, Shaj Mohan and J Reghu



COVER STORY / HISTORY

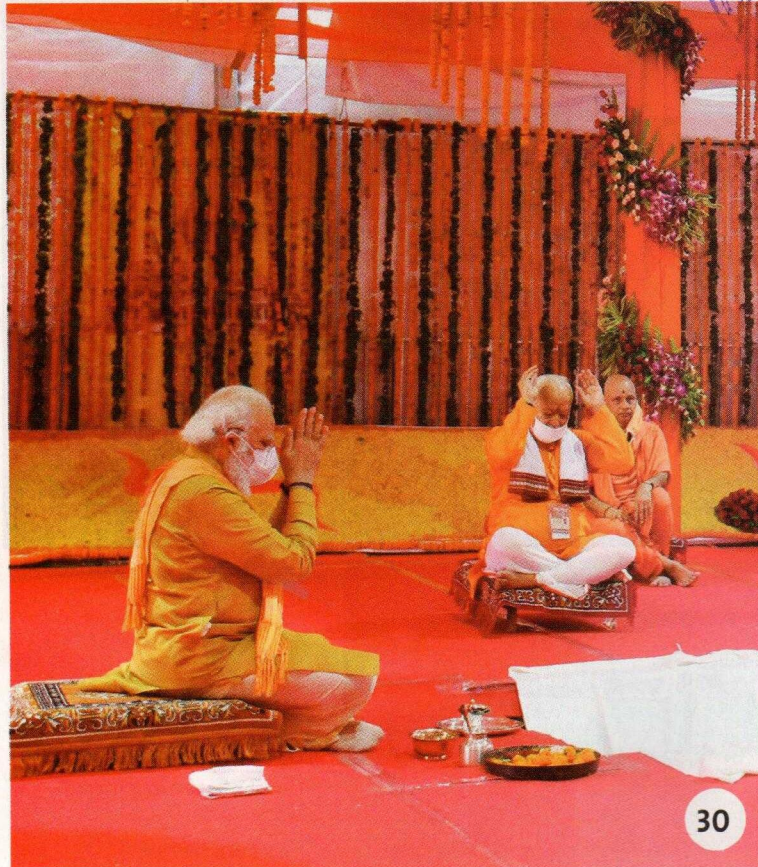
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## The Hindu Hoax

How the upper castes  
invented a Hindu majority

DIVYA DWIVEDI, SHAJ MOHAN  
AND J REGHU

As the supporters of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party increasingly demand that India be turned into a Hindu nation, it is important to understand what the term "Hindu" means. At various times, the word "Hindu" has carried geographic, ethnic or religious connotations. The religious identity, which Hindu nationalists claim has existed since ancient times, is in fact a fairly recent invention. Before the colonial era, the people of the subcontinent identified themselves and others by caste. Once the British Raj conceded to the demand for elected legislatures, numerical strength became a prerequisite for political power. It is in this context that prominent upper-caste leaders promoted the Hindu religious identity to corner a greater share of the pie. To this day, despite the fact that India is an electoral democracy, minority upper castes rule over the oppressed majority by getting votes through the means of the Hindu hoax.

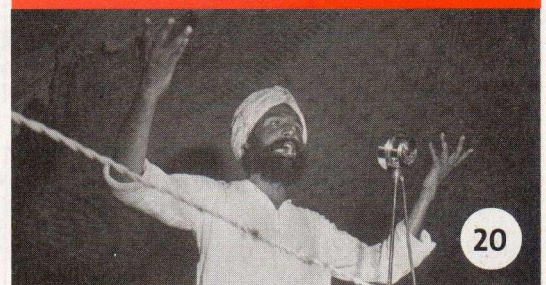


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PRAMOD MANDADE AND FIRDAUS SONI

# Kurukshetra

A JOURNAL ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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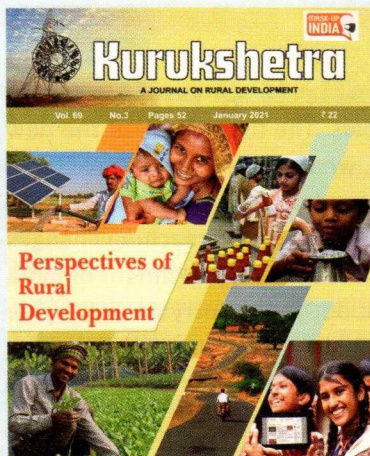
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## Perspectives of Rural Development





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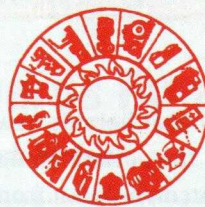
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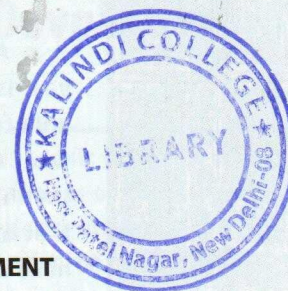


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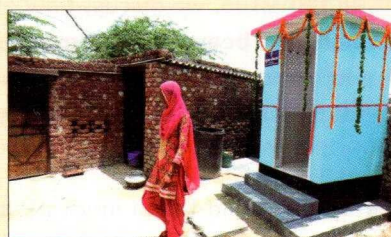
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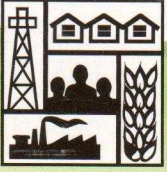


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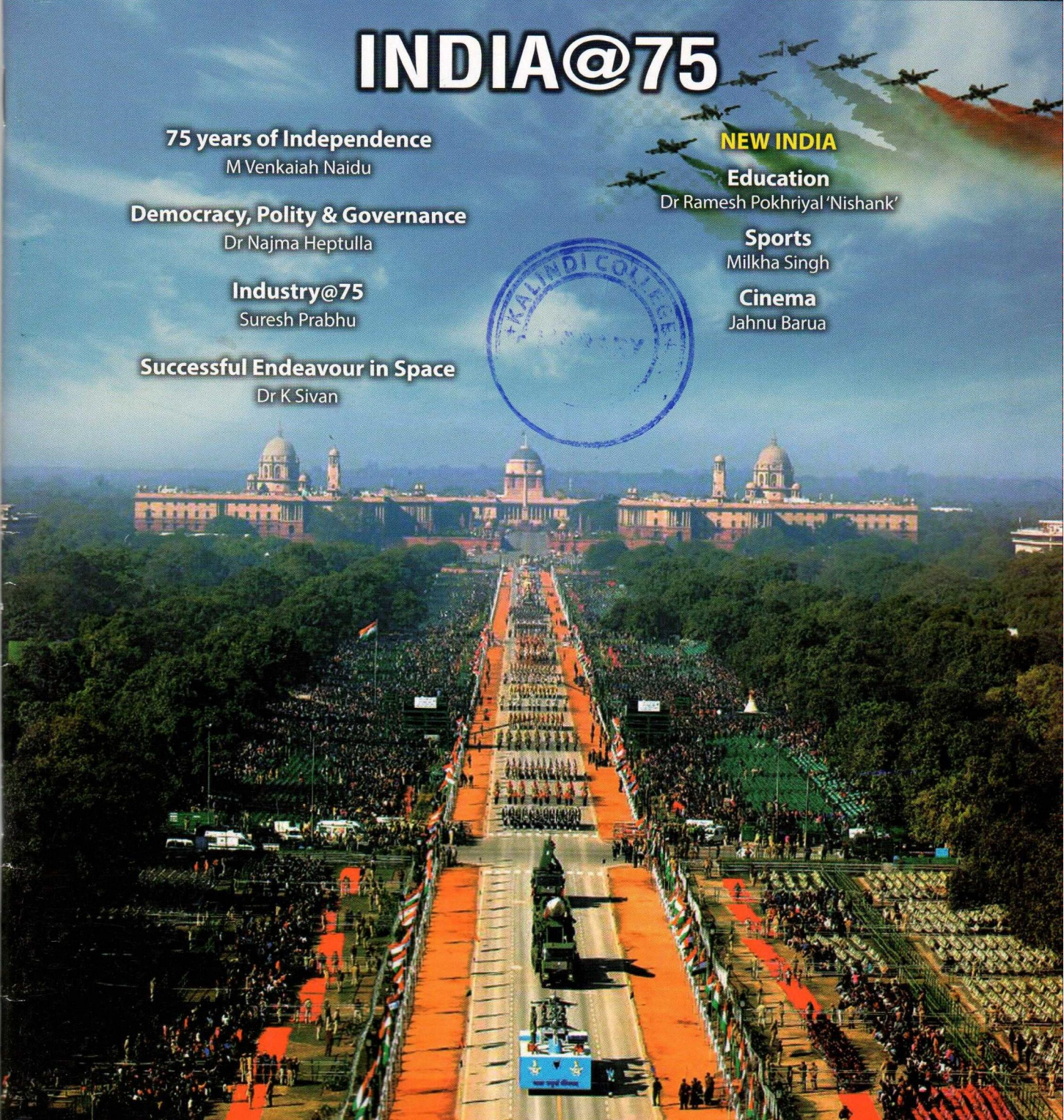
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*Let noble thoughts come to us from all sides  
Rig Veda*

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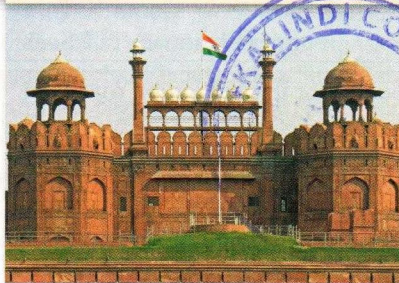
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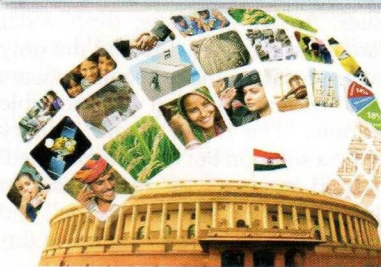
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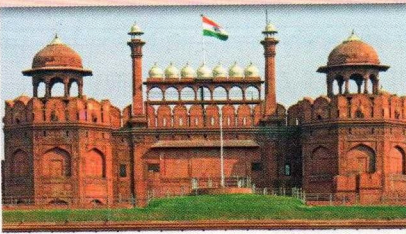
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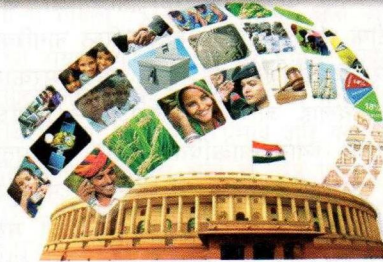
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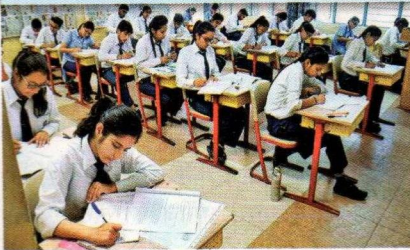
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