

**MYANMAR REFUGEES
INDIA'S DILEMMA**

**BOMBGATE
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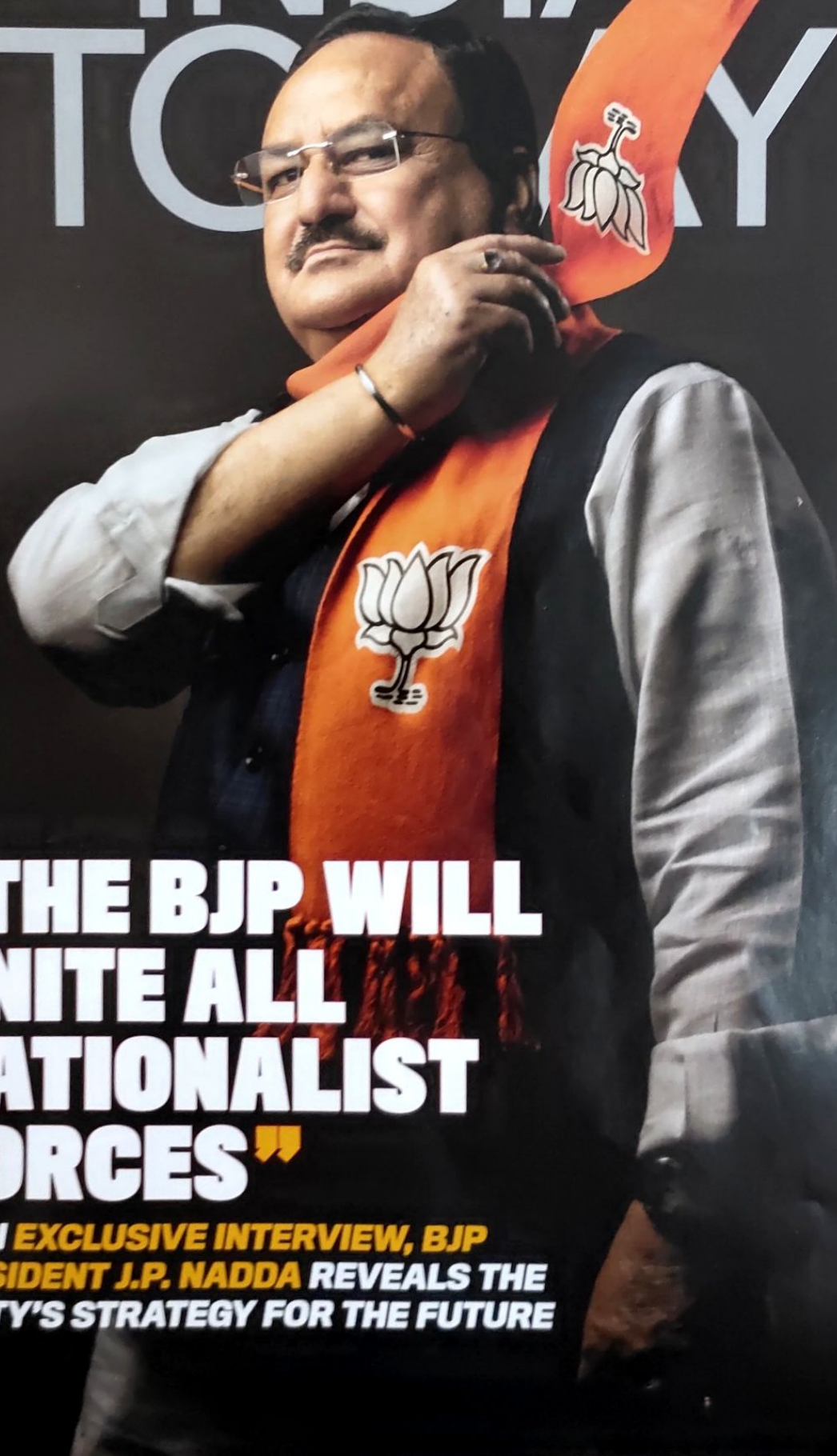
**CAN THE ECONOMY SURVIVE
ANOTHER LOCKDOWN?**

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**“THE BJP WILL
UNITE ALL
NATIONALIST
FORCES”**

**IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW, BJP
PRESIDENT J.P. NADDA REVEALS THE
PARTY'S STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE**

REGISTERED NO. DL (ND) 11/5068/2021-22-2023, LICENSED TO POST WPP NO. U(C)-88/2021-23, FARIDABAD/05/2020-22
ISSN NO. 2583/75

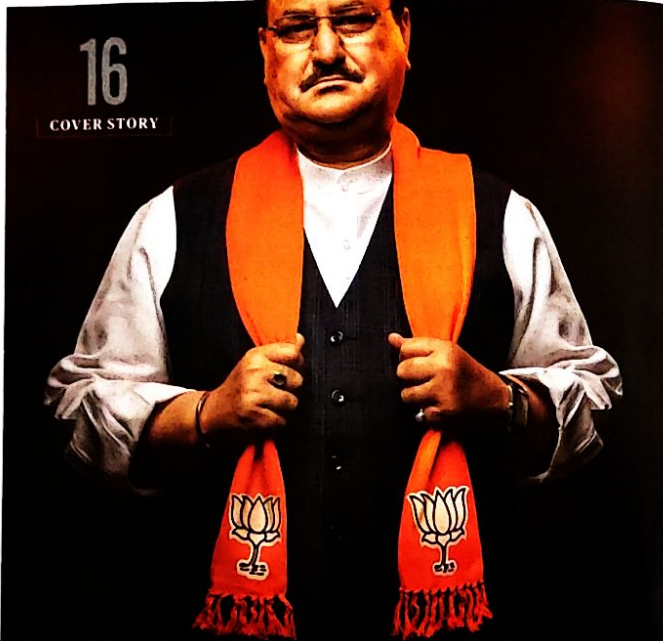
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UPFRONT
MYANMAR REFUGEES IN THE CROSSFIRE PG 5

INSIDE

LEISURE
THOMAS ZACHARIAS' INDIAN TAKEAWAY PG 57
Q&A WITH PAPON PG 66



16
COVER STORY

'THE BJP WILL UNITE ALL NATIONALIST FORCES'

In an exclusive interview, BJP president Jagat Prakash Nadda reveals the party's strategy for the future

BANDEEP SINGH



Volume XLVI Number 15; For the week April 6-12, 2021, published on every Friday

Editorial Corporate Office: Living Media India Ltd., India Today Group, Mediaplex, PG-4, Sector-16A, Film City, Noida, 201 013. Phone: 0120-4907100
Subscriptions: For assistance contact Customer Care India Today Group, C-9, Sector-10, Noida. 0120-2479900. Phone: Toll-free number: 1800-1800-1000 (toll-free). 95120-2479900 from Delhi and Faridabad, 0120-2479900 from Rest of India (Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.). Fax: 0120-4907080. Mumbai: 022-4906341/3412. Kolkata: 033-4022217. Chennai: 044-24303295. e-mail: enquiries@intoday.com

India Today Group's trade addresses to General Manager (Admin), Living Media India Limited, C-9, Sector-10, Noida-201301 (UP)
Regd. Office: C-9, Sector-10, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, New Delhi-110001
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Printed and published by Manoj Sharma on behalf of Living Media India Limited. Printed at Thomson Press India Limited, 18-35 Milestone, Delhi Mathura Road, Faridabad-121007, (Haryana).
Published at F-26, First Floor, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001.
Editor: Raj Chatterjee

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MUMBAI

30 THE 'T' COMPANY
Thane emerges as a crucial link in the Bombgate conspiracy

COVID-19

36 BRACE FOR IMPACT
Businesses will be severely tested as India battles a second wave of Covid

POLL PACKAGE

40 • West Bengal
• Assam
• Kerala
• Tamil Nadu
• Poll Diary

BOOK EXTRACT

52 CHARTING GREATNESS
A new book celebrates an epochal shift in India's evolution into a cricketing superpower

WATER ROUND TABLE

54 A WATERSHED SUMMIT
A virtual session brought together some of the country's best minds working to resolve India's water crisis

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CAPITAL AND CONTROL
PG 8

SHEKHAWAT'S FIR GAMBIT
PG 12

UPFRONT

THE KEN-BETWA BATTLEGROUND
PG 10

WHAT'S AILING THE BJP IN BIHAR?
PG 14



FUTURE TENSE
Myanmar refugees at an undisclosed location in Mizoram

AP PHOTO/ANUPAM NATH

MYANMAR REFUGEES

CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE

By Kaushik Deka

An unusual face-off between the Centre and the Mizoram government over refugees brought to the fore India's inconsistent stand on dealing with international refugees. Protests have raged across Myanmar since the military coup on February 1 overthrew a democratically elected government. The retaliatory crackdown by security forces has left scores dead and forced hundreds to take shelter in the Indian states bordering Myanmar. India and Myanmar share a 1,643 km border along Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.

Most refugees are police personnel who refused to obey the military junta's orders—to shoot and kill the protesters—with families in tow. They fled fearing persecution, possibly summary execution. Over 700 Myanmar nationals have reached Mizoram and Manipur. Unofficial estimates put their number at over 1,000. Mizoram, which has a 510 km border with Myanmar, is sheltering most of the refugees. They are camping in the districts of Champhai, Hnahthial, Serchhip and Siaha. The Centre has taken a tough stand against this influx in light of New Delhi's close ties with Tatmadaw,

Myanmar's powerful military, which has often supported Indian security forces in their crackdowns on insurgent groups in the Northeast. Many such groups have bases in Myanmar. Min Aung Hlaing, the military leader of Myanmar, has also been a vocal critic of China's support to a rebel group in his country, the Arakan Army. This was one of the reasons India maintained ties with the Myanmar military even when the country had a democratic government in power. India was among the eight countries that attended a military parade in Myanmar on March 27. On February 25, the Union ministry