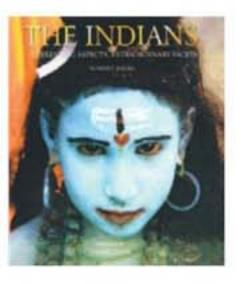
FREEZE FRAMES

## Spirit of India



Celebrating the richness, diversity and vibrancy of India. Those have been the facets many Indians have wanted to highlight, especially in recent years to the global citizen. A

limited edition book, The Indians: Interesting Aspects, Extraordinary Facets by Sumant Batra (Treepie, Rs 8,500) seeks to do the same through a few hundred photographs. It showcases the extraordinary spirit of the country, describing it as a life force that binds this country of more than billion people together. The photographs by Sonhal Nichani bring forth a range of customs, rituals, lifestyles of Indians. The accent is still on exotica, and the photos capture the landscapes of faith coexisting with skyscrapers, of street food and garam chai, dhobi ghats and kirana stores, paan and hookahs. Representatives of countless small towns and hamlets that dot the vast Indian countryside find place here in this colourful panorama of how India lives.







Fundamental faith: According to Hindu scriptures there are 330 million gods. Add shrines from other religions. Perhaps a reason why the Indian landcsape is densely dotted with places of worship!



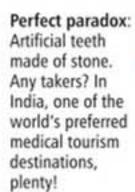
Games people
play: Kabbadi, gillidanda, kanche,
pithu, cricket and
even chess. Indians
have the sporting
spirit indeed

Mentor matrix: Gurushishya parampara is still an integral part of India's educational culture for some





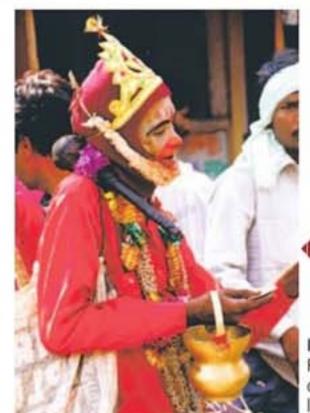
On the move: Street food is the perfect leveller age, caste, class, sex, no bar







Crease
chronicles: Any
urban neighbourhood is incomplete
without a
presswallah and
his customary
heavy iron with
burning coal



Chai garam: Most Indians can't do without their morning cuppa. And its taste is one thing they don't like to compromise with at any cost

