

# CONTENTS

## MIND SPACE

- 06 What is consciousness?
- 08 Define a genius
- 10 IQ's shortcomings
- 12 Does happiness ensure long life?
- 14 So-called brain boosters
- 16 Who's at risk of dementia?
- 18 Enigmatic Alzheimer's
- 21 Schizophrenia's 'talking' cure
- 23 Think and heal
- 25 Meditation's dark side

## BODY AND MEDICINE

- 28 Freeze now to live ever after
- 30 The debate over the needle
- 32 Science's fat flip-flop
- 34 Dangerous chemicals
- 36 Germs do boost immunity
- 38 Microbes will always beat antibiotics
- 42 Homeopathy's sterling growth
- 44 Who verifies medical research?
- 46 Clinical trial, and error
- 49 Trouble with preempting diseases

## LET'S TALK LANGUAGE

- 52 Is language inherited?
- 54 Sanskrit's vague antecedents
- 56 Language rewires the brain
- 58 Lost in translation
- 61 Animalspeak

## LEGALLY PUT

- 64 Juvenile justice, minor differences
- 66 Interrogating the interrogator
- 69 The human Ganga gimmick

## GENDER SPECTRUM

- 72 Labyrinths of female desire
- 74 Sharing love's labour
- 76 The delivery business
- 78 Sexual swings
- 80 Binary blunder
- 83 The gender straitjacket
- 85 A studied bias
- 87 The journey to monogamy

# CONTENTS

## WORLD OF PLANTS

- 90 Secret life of plants
- 92 Perils of high yield
- 94 Mythical aliens

## POLLUTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- 98 Put walkers ahead
- 101 The Hydra of plastic
- 104 No end in sight
- 106 Technology a double edged sword
- 108 The pee and poo pollution
- 110 Blame that climate change
- 112 Cure worse than the disease?

## SCIENTIFICALLY SPEAKING

- 116 Putting faith back in science
- 118 Science-politics affair
- 120 Get the priority right
- 122 No generalisations, please
- 124 Presumed ideals
- 126 Dichotomy of hope and fear

## DEBATABLES

- 130 The country that contributed zero
- 132 Is anyone out there?
- 134 DNA: History and sophistry
- 136 Public funds, private gains
- 138 The Malthusian muddle
- 141 The new-age truth machinery
- 143 Sinister sophists of Davos
- 145 Caged perspective
- 147 How to build a post-truth narrative
- 149 Historical methods
- 152 Cow's beef with exotics
- 154 Wannabe Noahs
- 156 Beauty in proportions
- 158 Rumours of breast and bottle
- 160 Statistical lies