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ART

1. Stephen Shore, Ryan McGinley's Xeroxes in "Hard Copy New Yorker". 16th March 2026. **All the pictures in "Hard Copy New York,"** a big two-floor show at the International Center of Photography (through May 4), were made with photocopy machines. They have that streaked, velvety, platinum-gray tone familiar from old Xeroxes, and they're pinned or stapled right to the wall. But there's nothing nostalgic or romantic about this throwback look. Instead, the work has the immediacy of a poster on a pole, and, even if some of the material documents old history, it feels like news. Alongside work by Thomas Ruff, Ryan McGinley, Zoë Ghertner, and Takashi Homma, Stephen Shore shows ninety-three grainy copies of his photographs from the Factory, many of which were published in the catalogue for Andy Warhol's 1968 Moderna Museet exhibition, in Stockholm—pictures of Andy, Nico, Edie Sedgwick, and Lou Reed just hanging out. At the other end of the size scale, John Divola's images of dogs running in the desert, each one made of nine huge panels, come at you fierce and frothing.

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/goings-on/stephen-shore-ryan-mcginleys-xeroxes-in-hard-copy-new-york>

2. A Las Vegas Steak House Tries Its Luck in New Yorker. 16th March 2026. When it comes to Las Vegas restaurants, the cultural exchange tends to flow inward, not out. At every level of dining, from cheap chain to ultra-luxe destination, the city has imported big-name brands from elsewhere—a Spago here, a Momofuku Noodle Bar there. There's an outpost of New Orleans's Turkey and the Wolf, and a branch of the downtown Manhattan pizzeria Scarr's; hell, there was even a Rao's, for a while, and it was actually pretty easy to get a table there. The city absorbs these establishments and then does what it does to everything: amplifies, simplifies, suspends in amber.

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/the-food-scene/a-las-vegas-steak-house-tries-its-luck-in-new-york>

3. The Sacred Vibes of Wunmi Mosaku. New Yorker. 16th March 2026. Getting nominated for an Oscar may be great for your career, but it's not exactly healing. Just ask Wunmi Mosaku, a Best Supporting Actress nominee for "Sinners," in which she plays Annie, a hoodoo healer whose knowledge of mysticism helps keep vampires at bay. The other day, Mosaku ordered chai at a coffee shop in Flatbush, feeling nauseated from the car ride over. On top of the exhaustion from the campaign trail—she was wearing a powder-pink trenchcoat and pants, chosen for a morning taping of "The Kelly Clarkson Show"—she is pregnant with her second child, a fact that she revealed on the red carpet of the Golden Globes.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/03/16/the-sacred-vibes-of-wunmi-mosaku>

4. Joe Vilardi Likes to Move It. New Yorker. 16th March 2026.

At a Gagosian gallery in Chelsea the other day, the master rigger Joe Vilardi, a gray-haired Long Islander in a hoodie that said “Budco Enterprises,” surveyed the final steps of the installation of Michael Heizer’s new exhibition, “Negative Sculpture.” The show features “Convoluting Line A” and “Convoluting Line B” (2024), two eighty-seven-and-a-half-foot curved steel troughs that wend through the gallery’s floor like a figure skater’s tracks on ice.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/03/16/joe-vilardi-likes-to-move-it>

5. The Zombie Regulator. New Yorker. 16th March 2026.

In the fall of 2019, Kashaye Traylor decided to buy a car. She was thirty years old, living in Rochester, New York, and raising a young son on her own. She worked full time at a nursing home and went to school in her off-hours, studying to earn a practical-nursing license. Her schedule was hectic, and often required her to cross town by bus, a time-sucking endeavor. “It’s hard to get around if you don’t have a vehicle,” she told me. She saved up her hourly pay and eventually went to a Kia dealership, where she picked out a black 2013 Optima. The cash price was about eleven thousand dollars; the price Traylor was quoted, after factoring in a loan and finance charges—at an annual percentage rate, or A.P.R., of 22.99 per cent—was twenty-four thousand. “I didn’t even know what an A.P.R. was,” she told me. She put down sixteen hundred and agreed to pay three hundred and forty-three dollars per month for the next five and a half years.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/03/16/the-zombie-regulator>

6. The Perverse, Tender Worlds of Paul Thomas Anderson. New Yorker. 16th March 2026.

What is the sound of a needle entering fabric? Something more significant, it seems, than the sound of one hand clapping. You hear a tiny pop followed by the rustle of violated muslin—a shudder in the silence of the universe. Scrupulous directors make sure that the sound of their movies is grossly efficient, so that the dramatic meaning of a scene is apparent even in the worst theatre or home system in the country. They also layer in, for those who care about such things, a secondary level of sound—think of the swishing skirts in Martin Scorsese’s adaptation of Edith Wharton’s “The Age of Innocence.” In “Phantom Thread” (2017)—the needle-and-fabric movie—the director, Paul Thomas Anderson, uses such details to build an exquisitely perceptible epic of minute events. The film is devoted to couture in mid-fifties London, a period of heavy, draped, self-conscious luxury. The style-setter in this milieu is Reynolds Woodcock (Daniel Day-Lewis), a designer of genius who is also an infantile narcissist.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/03/16/the-perverse-tender-worlds-of-paul-thomas-anderson>

7. A Wintry Utopia in Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom. New Yorker. 16th March 2026.

Around noon one recent Sunday, behind the wheel of a rented S.U.V. in dire need of snow tires, I barrelled down an icy dirt road in West Glover, Vermont, eyes peeled for a scrap of cardboard. I was on my way to meet Howie Cantor, one half of the couple behind the syrup-

making operation Deep Mountain Maple, whose house—and sugar bush, as a grove of sap-rich trees is known—is at the end of a long, unmarked driveway. For my visit, Cantor had promised to fashion a sign, which I imagined would be small, tucked into brush or a forked tree branch. I laughed when I saw it: a cardboard box that I'd have trouble wrapping my arms around, with a house number scrawled in huge print. At the end of the road, I found Cantor, a sprightly man in his late sixties, with expressive caterpillar brows and a bushy gray beard. “O.K., let's get you suited up!” he said, wasting no time before proffering fleeced-lined waterproof pants, warm boots, and a pair of snow shoes, which he strapped on my feet before securing his own.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/03/16/a-wintery-utopia-in-vermonts-northeast-kingdom>

8. Kochi-Muziris Biennale 2025-2026: Garden of earthly delights. Frontline. 31st March 2026.

I landed in Kochi for the biennale on February 10, the day its greatest international star, Marina Abramović, was to perform. If the excitement over her event was palpable among the organisers, for Kochi it was just another day. The young men at the reception of the hotel where I was staying glanced at my media pass and looked away, bored. When I asked them excitedly about transport to the Mattancherry ferry point from where I was supposed to board the Water Metro—the Abramović event was happening on Willingdon Island, recently connected to mainland Kochi by a chic public boat service, some of whose booking centres are also venues for the biennale—they mouthed “auto” before going back to doing whatever Kochiites do on a hot summer day.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/arts-and-culture/art/kochi-muziris-biennale-2025-review/article70666344.ece>

9. China's nationalist spy thriller has few girls and lots of government. Economist. 14th March 2026.

In the West, spy films have martinis, girls and guns. “Scare Out”, a Chinese spy thriller made in collaboration with the Ministry of State Security, has no alcohol, few girls, some guns and a hefty dose of government. In the film, an unnamed (but English-speaking) foreign power tries to steal military secrets with the help of an agent inside China's spy agency. Though the mole turns out to be a close friend, the protagonist, Yan Di, puts country first and hunts him down, ultimately driving the villain to suicide. It all ends with a favourite slogan of China's leader, Xi Jinping. “Never forget your original aspirations,” the spy chief tells Yan, as the screen cuts to black.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2026/03/12/chinas-nationalist-spy-thriller-has-few-girls-and-lots-of-government>

10. Women Issue 2026: Art: Equalising the Palette. Open Magazine. Vol.4. No-62. 13th March 2026.

- 11.** ART, ONCE CONSIDERED NICHE AND ESOTERIC, is today one of India’s most vibrant and exciting cultural sectors. Over the last couple of decades, public engagement programmes, fairs and exhibitions, galleries and initiatives have emerged in the country showcasing the works of artists from the region. On one hand, the works of the Modern Masters command record-breaking sales at auctions. Major cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Kolkata, and Chennai are hubs for galleries, biennales, art fairs and museums while events like India Art Fair (IAF) or the Kochi-Muziris Biennale have helped position India as a significant participant in the global art ecosystem. On the other hand, contemporary and emerging artists at various stages of their careers are finding place in private collections and showcasing opportunities at national and international events. Artists are experimenting with materials, themes and medium which reflect social realities, political narratives, identity and belonging. In this booming ecosystem, women have played a major role—as cutting-edge artists certainly, but also as gallerists and curators, as collectors and industry stakeholders dedicated to democratising the industry and expanding its appeal among the public.

<https://openthemagazine.com/india/women-issue-2026-art-equalising-the-palette>

BIOGRAPHY

- 12.** “Giant” Takes on Roald Dahl and His Antisemitism. *New Yorker*. 16th March 2026. Novelists never get to see readers applaud their works—or walk out of them—but playwrights do. The dramatist’s encounter with the audience, whether disappointing or exhilarating, is a unique, indelible experience. This thought occurred to me last August, as the director and playwright Mark Rosenblatt and I hightailed it from a restaurant in London’s Soho, down the red-lanterned alleys of Chinatown and through the blinking neon hubbub of Leicester Square, to the Harold Pinter Theatre, in order to second-act the penultimate night of Rosenblatt’s West End hit, “Giant.”

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/03/16/mark-rosenblatt-profile-theatre>

- 13.** André Bêteille (1934–2026). *Economic & Political Weekly*. Vol. 61. No-10. 7th March 2026. André Bêteille passed away quietly on 3 February 2026. His life was an unusual one from the very start. He was born in Chandannagar, a French colony on the banks of the river Hooghly, about 50 kilometres from Kolkata, to a Bengali mother and a French father. This explains his name and also his natural gift of being an outsider who was at home inside. He was a quintessential Bengali and yet a person who carried certain European sensibilities, which never stood out, but subtly informed many of his theoretical positions, particularly his ability to contextualise the particular with the general.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/commentary/andre-beteille-1934-2026.html>

BUSINESS

- 14.** Altman, Amodei and Musk fight dirty for the biggest prize in business. Economist. 14th March 2026.

IF there has been a common narrative around artificial intelligence this year, it is that advances in the technology are shaking up the vast—and hitherto cosy—world of software. In order to keep this blitzkrieg going, the labs at the forefront of AI need to raise enormous amounts of money. That has set the stage for three colossal initial public offerings (IPOs) in a single year: those of OpenAI, led by Sam Altman, Anthropic, under Dario Amodei, and SpaceX, run by Elon Musk, which has merged with xAI, his model-maker. Adding to the frisson, the trio hate each other.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/03/12/altman-amodei-and-musk-fight-dirty-for-the-biggest-prize-in-business>

- 15.** Dubai to Doha: Fear and Loathing in the Gulf. Open Magazine. Vol.4. No-62. 13th March 2026.

A TOP DUBAI-BASED Indian-origin businessman with investments in India is piqued that Republican Senator Lindsey Graham wants at least one of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, especially Saudi Arabia, to join the war against Iran. Launched on February 28 by the US and Israel, even as negotiations with Tehran were underway, the war has killed Ali Khamenei and scores of other key officials of the Islamic Republic.

<https://openthemagazine.com/world/dubai-to-doha-fear-and-loathing-in-the-gulf>

ECONOMICS

- 16.** India's poverty rate: 5 per cent or 24 per cent?. Frontline. 31st March 2026. Is the number of poor people in India closer to 75 million or 342 million? The difference, more than a quarter of a billion lives, depends on where the poverty line is drawn. Over the past year, this question has surfaced repeatedly in Parliament. Members from both Houses and across parties have asked the government whether India's official poverty benchmarks reflect current prices, consumption patterns, and economic realities (Rajya Sabha Unstarred Questions No. 950, July 2025; No. 784, February 2025). However, the government's replies have largely sidestepped the issue, offering standardised responses that fall short of Parliament's own requirements for accountability and transparency.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/the-nation/india-poverty-rate-debate-2026/article70670897.ece>

- 17.** Global South will pay for Trump and Netanyahu's war. Frontline. 31st March 2026.

As February ended, a stunned world tracked with disbelief the unwarranted war on Iran declared by the US under President Donald Trump and Israel under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Aimed at ensuring externally engineered regime change justified on grounds that do not stand up to even cursory scrutiny, the immediate fallout of the aggravated aggression violative of international law was civilian deaths, including that of innocent children, the assassination of the political and military leadership of Iran, the wanton destruction of property, the disruption of economic life in West Asia and elsewhere, and the threat of another damaging spike in the price of oil.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/columns/us-iran-war-global-south-economic-crisis/article70698184.ece>

18. New GDP Series. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61. No-10. 7th March 2026.

The new series of gross domestic product (GDP) estimates with base year 2022–23, along with the revised estimates of consumption expenditure, savings and capital expenditure (investments) released by the National Statistical Office, provides a more realistic picture of the growth and structural changes in the economy in recent years. However, the estimates indicate that the new series—despite the improved coverage of sunrise sectors and better estimation methodologies—has not boosted the overall size of the economy, as one might normally expect. Instead, the reverse appears to have happened.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/10/editorials/new-gdp-series.html>

19. The Illusion of Inclusion. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61. No-10. 7th March 2026.

The employment-linked incentive scheme reproduces existing labour market asymmetries by prioritising subsidies to firms over investment in workers. The ELI sidesteps the structural problems of skills mismatch, informality, and declining employment elasticity in manufacturing. By rewarding headcounts without ensuring job quality, it risks producing statistical illusions of employment rather than substantive work. Worker-centred alternatives focused on human capital, social security, and dignified employment are proposed.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/commentary/illusion-inclusion.html>

20. Disguised Unemployment. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61. No-10. 7th March 2026.

Despite impressive post-reform economic growth, India's labour-market outcomes were marked by jobless growth, stunted structural transformation, and declining female labour force participation (Basole 2022; Afridi et al 2023; Dasgupta and Basole 2023; Tejani 2016). Labour force growth lagged behind gross domestic product (GDP) and population growth, with low or negative employment elasticity. Although recent estimates show improvements, these trends require cautious interpretation (State of Working India 2023; Dhamija and Chawla 2023). Understanding the dynamics of change and its implications for structure, composition and labour productivity is essential.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/commentary/disguised-unemployment.html>

- 21.** Decoding the Surge in Rural Employment. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61. No-10. 7th March 2026.

The increase in the rural workforce during and after the lockdown was primarily driven by women entering self-employment in agriculture, where earnings remain significantly low. The movement from casual work to self-employment in the agricultural sector also underlines a larger shift in dynamics in rural areas, arguably exacerbated by the pandemic. The non-manufacturing sector, most importantly the construction sector, absorbed men in the post-pandemic situation, but the same shift is not observed among women.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/10/insight/decoding-surge-rural-employment.html>

- 22.** An attack on the world economy. Economist. 14th March 2026.

Having DISCOVERED the costs of tariffs, President Donald Trump has now discovered the costs of war. On March 9th he declared that his campaign against Iran would be over “very soon”, sending oil prices, which had peaked at nearly \$120 a barrel the day before, crashing to nearly \$80 (before the war they had been \$70). Iran’s de facto closure of the Strait of Hormuz has blocked roughly 15% of global oil supply. Mr Trump, facing midterm elections and voters weary of inflation, is signalling that he cannot bear those costs—just as he retreated from his trade war after markets buckled last spring.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/03/12/an-attack-on-the-world-economy>

- 23.** China is wrestling with a novel phenomenon: inherited wealth. Economist. 14th March 2026.

Chen Kai likens his work to promoting the use of condoms. People are starting to hear cautionary tales about what can go wrong and so are becoming interested in protecting themselves, he says. But there are cultural obstacles: writing a will, or indeed having much wealth to pass on in the first place, are novel concepts in modern China. Private enterprise and private wealth—eradicated in the early decades of Communist rule—have been possible again only for the past 40 years or so.

<https://www.economist.com/briefing/2026/03/12/china-is-wrestling-with-a-novel-phenomenon-inherited-wealth>

- 24.** The damage to the world economy from the Iran war will be severe, but uneven. Economist. 14th March 2026.

Big oil shocks, a generation of economists has been taught, are a relic of the distant past, when energy production was concentrated in the Middle East and the world economy was not so energy-efficient. Over the past two weeks, however, the old way of thinking has returned from the scrapheap. A big enough shock in the Gulf, it turns out, can still initiate a profound crisis. And the shock emanating now from the Strait of Hormuz is huge.

<https://www.economist.com/briefing/2026/03/12/the-damage-to-the-world-economy-from-the-iran-war-will-be-severe-but-uneven>

- 25.** Seoul's housing market is a huge political and economic headache. Economist. 14th March 2026.

IN FEBRUARY SOUTH KOREA's president, Lee Jae Myung, sold his flat in Seoul at a below-market price. He was making a point: homes are for living in, not investment. Mr Lee calls Seoul's white-hot property market "the fountainhead of all problems" for the country.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/03/12/seouls-housing-market-is-a-huge-political-and-economic-headache>

- 26.** Is India the fourth- or fifth-biggest economy? It does not matter. Economist. 14th March 2026.

INDIA'S GOVERNMENT has a soft spot for records. At an AI gabfest in Delhi last month the electronics minister accepted a Guinness World Records certificate for "the most pledges received for an AI-responsibility campaign in 24 hours" (250,946). This month local officials in Narendra Modi's constituency set a world record for the most saplings planted in less than an hour (251,446). And where records are hard to break, officials make do with a decent spot in the rankings. Every so often they brag that India is the world's seventh-largest services exporter. Yay!?

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/03/08/is-india-the-fourth-or-fifth-biggest-economy-it-does-not-matter>

- 27.** Some of China's officials are becoming social-media stars. Economist. 14th March 2026.

Communist Party officials are under pressure to perform. Ordinary Chinese people often complain that they are lazy and out of touch. Worse, so does Xi Jinping, China's leader, who has railed against bureaucratic sloth and demanded that underlings "roll up their sleeves and work". In recent years China's feared anti-graft watchdog, the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI), has widened its focus on corruption to investigate "laziness" and "formalism" (code for useless busywork). It is not enough to just deliver economic growth, build small-scale infrastructure and resolve disputes, local officials must be seen to be hard at work.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2026/03/12/some-of-chinas-officials-are-becoming-social-media-stars>

- 28.** Donald Trump's options to cool oil prices are sorely limited. Economist. 14th March 2026.

ON MARCH 11TH the 32 members of the International Energy Agency (IEA), a club of large oil-consuming countries, agreed to sell 400m barrels of crude from their emergency reserves. The release, equivalent to one-third of the group's combined strategic stash, is the biggest ever co-ordinated by the IEA, which was founded in 1974 after the first Arab oil embargo. Its historical significance failed to impress oil markets, which have been

shaken by the Middle Eastern crisis provoked by America and Israel's war on Iran. Brent crude, the global benchmark, rose by nearly 10% in the day after the IEA's announcement, back to \$100 or so a barrel (see chart 1).

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/03/10/donald-trumps-options-to-cool-oil-prices-are-sorely-limited>

- 29.** Liquefied natural gas: the overlooked economic chokepoint. Economist. 14th March 2026. "THIS WILL bring down the economies of the world," warned Saad al-Kaabi, Qatar's energy minister, on March 6th. It was not hyperbole. Days earlier QatarEnergy, which makes a fifth of the world's liquefied natural gas (LNG), shut down its production and export facilities after some were hit by Iranian strikes. Unable to extract, process and, because the Strait of Hormuz is blocked by the fighting, ship its LNG, the firm has declared force majeure on its contracts. The price of LNG has ballooned on world markets. Customers around the globe, who use it to generate electricity, heat homes and make things like fertiliser, are scrambling to respond.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/03/11/liquefied-natural-gas-the-overlooked-economic-chokepoint>

- 30.** Why investors won't know what to make of AI for a while. Economist. 14th March 2026. STOCKMARKETS ARE, in a literal sense, fortune-tellers: their job is to foresee which businesses will make money in the future and which won't. When things are not changing much, this is a matter of simple extrapolation. When change happens, it gets harder. This is obviously true in times of acute change, such as the fog of war currently enveloping the world. Yet it is also true of slower-moving but more profound disruption, like that being wrought by artificial intelligence.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/03/12/why-investors-wont-know-what-to-make-of-ai-for-a-while>

- 31.** Time to buy the most rubbish stocks you can find. Economist. 14th March 2026. FINANCE IS PEPPERED with jargon that doesn't make much sense: "investment-grade bonds" (unlike those other, uninvestible ones), "forward guidance" (as opposed to the backward kind), "convexity adjustments" (translation: your trader wants more money) and so on. Still, it can be exasperating to hear an investment adviser sagely recommend "quality" stocks, as if without their wisdom you would seek out dross.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/03/10/time-to-buy-the-most-rubbish-stocks-you-can-find>

- 32.** Would America be in recession without the super-rich?. Economist. 14th March 2026. ECONOMISTS LOVE their alphabet. They describe business cycles as L-shaped (down, then flat), U-shaped (gradually down, then up), V-shaped (the same but sharply) or W-shaped (a V with a hiccup). Since covid-19 some have latched on to another letter. The

post-pandemic recovery, economic pessimists feared, would resemble a K: up for some (the wealthy), down for others (the poor). Since then, especially in America, concerns about the “K-shaped economy”, where spending by the super-rich is all that is stopping today’s boom from turning to bust, have lingered.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/03/08/would-america-be-in-recession-without-the-super-rich>

- 33.** The Green Party’s economic plans are Corbynism on steroids. Economist. 14th March 2026.

Molly Scott Cato, the Green Party’s economy spokesperson, has long had a simple prescription for growth: stop pursuing it. In 2006 she published “Market Schmarket”, an ecological critique of capitalism that bemoaned the sacrifices made “at the altar of the growth fetish”. Amid tips to get an allotment and buy Fairtrade coffee, private-sector workers are encouraged to “cut [their] hours of work at least by half” to weaken the capitalist system.

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2026/03/12/the-green-partys-economic-plans-are-corbynism-on-steroids>

- 34.** Braving the Bad New World. Open Magazine. Vol.4. No-62. 13th March 2026.

THE CLOSE TO ONE CRORE INDIAN NATIONALS in the Middle East, many located in Gulf nations, have been at the centre of India’s diplomacy since the start of the latest war in the region. The Indian citizens include long-term residents living with families as well as short-term workers. Almost all of them are part of a burgeoning remittance economy that saw \$135 billion being sent to India in the financial year 2024-25. What began as a ‘postal order’ economy in the 1980s is now a major Indian presence with growing political and security cooperation. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) accounted for bilateral trade of \$178 billion in the same period and the relationship has acquired a strong strategic aspect with Prime Minister Narendra Modi building close ties with rulers of the Arab states and frequently meeting CEOs and business leaders.

<https://openthemagazine.com/india/braving-the-bad-new-world>

EDUCATION

- 35.** Frankie Focus, Attention-Grabber. New Yorker. 16th March 2026.

Classes were cancelled one recent morning at Brooklyn Science and Engineering Academy, in East Flatbush, so that everyone could attend the middle-school spelling bee. As a few hundred kids squirmed in their seats in the auditorium, a parent coördinator put on a fedora and acted as a d.j., spinning Rihanna. Fifteen jittery contestants were seated onstage, and a secret V.I.P. visitor waited just outside.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/03/16/frankie-focus-attention-grabber>

36. The Unmaking of the American University. New Yorker. 16th March 2026.

For Johns Hopkins, the first shot from the Trump Administration came on February 28, 2025. That day, a press release from the Department of Justice arrived, saying that the Federal Task Force to Combat Anti-Semitism would be visiting ten campuses, including Hopkins, to investigate potential violations of federal law. Nobody ever visited the university, but subsequent shots had far more severe consequences. The federal government terminated eight hundred million dollars in grants from the U.S. Agency for International Development, which Hopkins had been administering; this led the university to lay off more than two thousand employees. The slowdown and termination of scientific-research grants at Hopkins resulted in an additional financial hit of five hundred million dollars last year.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/03/16/the-unmaking-of-the-american-university>

37. A Day in the Pre-Internet World*. New Yorker. 16th March 2026.

You wake up to the sound of your clock radio. You grab it, along with your landline, camera, calculator, calendar, and fax machine, before heading out the door. Standing on the sidewalk, you yell, “Uber!,” as loud as you can. Wouldn’t you know it, one pulls up to take you to school about twenty minutes later. The front is reserved for Luddites who still carry their clocks and radios separately, so you wander to the back of the big yellow Uber. Without gadgets and screens to distract you, you use this opportunity to make meaningful friendships with every other student on board, except for the forty-five kids you bully relentlessly. Nothing can replace the benefits of real human contact.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/03/16/a-day-in-the-pre-internet-world>

38. The Institutional Unravelling of Urdu’s Liberal Ethos. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61. No-10. 7th March 2026.

Urdu literature—steeped in the Ganga–Jamuni Tehzeeb—is increasingly becoming a mode of religious instruction. This shift interrogated dogma and orthodoxy and departs from Urdu’s historical engagement with scepticism, ethical inquiry, and critique of authority. Since the 1980s, the entry of madrasa graduates into university Urdu departments has altered disciplinary norms, necessitating a reassessment of the academic mandate of Urdu studies.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/10/alternative-standpoint/institutional-unravelling-urdus-liberal-ethos.html>

39. The Right’s Academic Civil War. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-14. 13th March 2026.

If you are inclined to be skeptical of the reform movement — some would call it an assault — targeting higher education, much of it driven by political conservatives, a spate of recent

scandals in red states will seem to confirm your suspicions. At Texas A&M University, a philosophy professor was

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-rights-academic-civil-war>

- 40.** Public Colleges Are Finally Learning to Share. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-14. 13th March 2026.

Too many campuses and a dwindling number of students to populate them: That's a problem familiar to many public systems of higher education. Not long ago, state systems, like the ones in Georgia and Pennsylvania, attacked it by consolidating institutions. Others, like in Wisconsin, merged and later closed some campuses.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/public-colleges-are-finally-learning-to-share>

- 41.** Higher Ed Is at a Turning Point. 11 Scholars predict what's next. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-14. 13th March 2026.

American higher education is undergoing a period of genuinely historical transformation. For future historians, the period of 2023-26 will be seen as an era of major upheaval — there will be a before and an after. In short, we are living through an inflection point.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/higher-ed-is-at-a-turning-point-11-scholars-predict-whats-next>

- 42.** The Self-Flagellating President. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-14. 13th March 2026.

Late last year, with his university locked in a very public battle with the Trump administration over its threats to cut billions in research spending, Harvard's president made a striking concession. Higher education, he said, was partly to blame for its own predicament.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-self-flagellating-president>

- 43.** The Coming Dual-Enrollment Wars. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-14. 13th March 2026.

As the president of a small college in the Rust Belt, Jill Murray feels the crush of enrollment pressures. Her institution, Lackawanna College, has a plan to ease them: It's starting the pipeline earlier by tapping into Pennsylvania's 502 school districts.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-coming-dual-enrollment-wars>

- 44.** The Rise — and fall? — Of the AI Czar. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-14. 13th March 2026.

If there are few better windows into a university's soul than the senior-level positions it creates, the latest to emerge is particularly timely and telling: the chief AI officer. A small but growing number of institutions — the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and

the University of Washington are among the latest — have created new roles dedicated to driving strategy for using the technology across campus. The move signals a realization that artificial intelligence isn't just the latest tech fad that can be left to the IT team but, rather, has existential implications for colleges' operations and their core missions of teaching and research.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-rise-and-fall-of-the-ai-czar>

- 45.** The Lobbying Arms Race. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-14. 13th March 2026. The first year of the second Trump administration inspired a bonanza of federal lobbying across sectors. Higher education was no exception. Parts of the sector — including major research universities and some of the wealthiest liberal-arts colleges — increased their spending on outside lobbying firms by millions of dollars, in aggregate, between 2024 and 2025. Whether they were trying to fend off attacks on their own institutions or influence policies that affect large swaths of higher ed, it wasn't always clear what they got for their money.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-lobbying-arms-race>

- 46.** Fire First, Ask Questions Later. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-14. 13th March 2026. On the Friday night after Charlie Kirk's assassination, Kate Polak sat on her couch with a glass of boxed red wine and opened up her social-media feed. The more she scrolled, the more frustrated she became with what struck her as whitewashing of the conservative activist's legacy. She tapped out a post.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/fire-first-ask-questions-later>

- 47.** Think Workforce Pell Is a Jackpot? Think Again. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-14. 13th March 2026. Along-awaited policy change inked into last year's One Big Beautiful Bill Act will soon allow students to use federal financial aid for job-training programs that take just a couple of months to complete. The Workforce Pell Grant program, which goes into effect on July 1, expands the popular grants for low-income undergraduates into new territory, opening up eligibility to programs that are under 15 weeks. It's the most definitive signal yet from Congress that it wants higher education to play a greater role in work-force development and economic mobility, experts said. While many institutions, especially community colleges, have worked for years to align programming with labor-market needs, Pell Grants, which provide aid to students based on their level of need and full-time or part-time status, have historically been geared more toward learners pursuing traditional degrees.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/think-workforce-pell-is-a-jackpot-think-again>

- 48.** Legal Uncertainties of Equity in Higher Education. India Forum. 4th March 2026.

The University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2026 have become the subject of intense debate and criticism, and have also led to protests in some parts of the country. It appears that no one had foreseen that a regulation aimed at eradicating discrimination and promoting equity in higher educational institutions would attract so much criticism and backlash.

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/education/legal-uncertainties-equity-higher-education>

49.The VBSA Bill, 2025: A paradigm shift in Higher Education Governance in India. University News. Vol.64. No-10. Page No- 3-4. 15th March 2026.

The Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan (VBSA) Bill, 2025, represents a significant milestone in Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji's vision to reform and modernise India's higher education system. This historic reform promises to not only elevate academic standards but also to inspire a new era of innovation and inclusivity in the pursuit of knowledge across the nation.

50.SHERNI: Fostering inclusivity and excellence for women in Indian research. University News. Vol.64. No-10. Page No- 5-10. 15th March 2026.

Academic research has increased by 54% in India. INFLIBNET addresses this with SHERNI, the She Research Network, which was established on March 11, 2024. SHERNI provides a comprehensive online platform for networking, resource access, and cooperation for female researchers. There are 88,221 profiles with substantial research results on them. We have discussed the architecture of SHERNI in detail, including how the functions for managing profiles, project submissions, and resource access are easily integrated and have a user-friendly design. Despite significant advancements in women's access to higher education, teaching and leadership positions still do not fairly represent the diversity of these possibilities. Suggestions have been made to improve the benefits of SHERNI. The platform is preparing to stimulate research innovation in India.

51. Recruitment in Indian colleges and universities: is the process truly impartial?. University News. Vol.64. No-10. Page No- 11-14. 15th March 2026.

When the recruitment of teachers is compromised, society pays the highest price not immediately, but through the slow erosion of values, knowledge, and trust in its institutions. The long-term consequence of unfair teacher recruitment is the degradation of educational standards and ethical values, leading to a society where mediocrity replaces merit and compliance overshadows critical thought.

52.National Education Policy-2020: Considerations for curriculum planners. University News. Vol.64. No-10. Page No- 15-19. 15th March 2026.

Curriculum Development in higher education, keeping in mind the National Education Policy -2020 (NEP-2020), will be interesting and tough, as the policy envisages a revolutionary paradigm shift. Curriculum development will have to address different cohorts over the next few years. Assuming the NEP--2020 curriculum is implemented in schools starting around 2033, the first batch of those who have completed primary and secondary education under the new policy will enter HEI around 2042. From now to that

date, higher education institutions will have to offer different things at different times in keeping with the input students, regardless of the previous system or one that does not have prerequisites going back to primary and secondary education.

- 53.** Contemporary issues in education: challenges and opportunities in the 21st century. University News. Vol.64. No-10. Page No- 20-23 . 15th March 2026.

Education systems worldwide are experiencing rapid transformation in response to globalisation, technological innovation, demographic shifts, and rising social expectations. These developments have created a range of contemporary issues that influence how students learn, how teachers teach, and how institutions function. This paper examines major educational challenges, including technology integration, digital inequality, inclusive education, curriculum and assessment reforms, globalisation, teacher professional development, and student mental health. Each issue is explored in relation to both its opportunities and potential risks. The paper argues that high-quality education in the 21st century requires equity, innovation, flexibility, and strong collaboration between policymakers, institutions, teachers, families, and communities. The conclusion emphasises that continuous research and reflective practice are essential to ensuring that education remains responsive, ethical, and inclusive in a rapidly changing world

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

- 54.** Love in the Time of A.I. Companions. New Yorker. 16th March 2026.

drienne Brookins is, by her own account, an “old soul,” an “introvert,” and a “big nerd.” She is thirty-four years old, has a faint Texas accent and delicate features, and carries herself in a way that suggests she’s trying not to take up space. Brookins is a lifelong resident of San Antonio; her family has lived there since the nineteenth century. She was “born and raised in the Church,” a Baptist congregation where her mother helped start a day-care center and her father was an organist. “He would open up the pipes and just make the building shake,” she recalled recently. She met her husband in high school, and married him in 2011; the following year, they had a son. Throughout her twenties, Brookins worked multiple jobs, including one at her mother’s day care. The couple bought a house and began settling into family life. In 2016, Brookins became pregnant again, this time with a girl. The family was excited: Brookins had grown up with four brothers, and the baby would be the first granddaughter on either side. They decided to name her Desirae.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/03/16/love-in-the-time-of-ai-companions>

ENVIRONMENT

- 55.** Non-violent resistance is ordinary people's most potent tool: Chandi Prasad Bhatt. Frontline. 31st March 2026.

In the early 1970s, the quiet hills of Uttarakhand rumbled in unusual protest as residents chose to embrace trees in their struggle to shield them from the government's relentless axe. What began as a simple yet radical act of non-violent resistance against deforestation soon grew into one of the most iconic grassroots environmental movements in the world: the Chipko Andolan.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/interviews/chipko-nonviolent-resistance-india/article70674834.ece>

- 56.** Koi, climate, and the cow of fiction. Frontline. 31st March 2026.

After I read *The Shadow Lines*, Amitav Ghosh's 1988 novel, the familiar south Kolkata locality of Golpark started to feel slightly enchanted because Tridib, the narrator's enigmatic cousin, was said to have walked on its pavements. The unworldly, unpredictable Tridib inhabits a world of his own that is defined neither by the limits of morality nor of geography, but by a large awareness of the world, a generosity of being, and a tenderness and longing that, for me, was inseparable from the novel.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/books/amitav-ghosh-ghost-eye-review-critique/article70670313.ece>

- 57.** Smog and Silence. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61. No-10. 7th March 2026.

Delhi's recurrent winter smog is widely portrayed as a meteorological inevitability or the consequence of dispersed behavioural failures, obscuring the structural role of corporate actors in shaping the city's toxic airtape. Despite a decline in stubble burning, air quality continues to deteriorate, underscoring the dominance of urban-industrial emissions. Meaningful air-quality reform requires shifting from performative crisis management towards binding corporate obligations grounded in due-diligence norms, emission caps, transparent disclosures and the polluter-pays principle.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/commentary/smog-and-silence.html>

- 58.** Estimating Worker Population Exposed to Silica Dust in India. India Forum. 12th March 2026.

Silicosis is a respiratory disease where the lungs are left scarred over time due to the exposure to silica dust. It is an occupational disease because the scope for exposure to silica dust is mainly in occupational settings such as stone quarries, mining, and construction. Also, it depends on the type of job within these sectors—for instance, those directly involved in quarrying as labourers are more exposed.

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/economy/estimating-worker-population-exposed-silica-dust-india>

HEALTH

- 59.** Impact of Heat Stress on the Mental Health of Rural Workers in Rajasthan. *Economic & Political Weekly*. Vol. 61. No-10. 7th March 2026.

Extreme heat disproportionately affects those from marginalised socio-economic and occupational positions. This article examines the intersection of climate-induced heat stress and mental health among rural workers in Rajasthan through a lens of structural marginalisation. The psychosocial consequences of heat stress range from heightened anxiety, fatigue, and emotional distress to substance use and gender-based violence. The existing heat action plans and climate adaptation strategies largely overlook these mental health dimensions, particularly in rural settings. An inclusive, decentralised, and intersectional climate justice framework that addresses both physical and psychosocial well-being is much needed.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/commentary/impact-heat-stress-mental-health-rural-workers.html>

- 60.** What is your maximum heart rate?. *Economist*. 14th March 2026.

PRINTED ON TREADMILLS and exercise bikes in gyms around the world is a simple method for estimating the maximum rate at which your heart should safely beat, in beats per minute: 220 minus your age. This neat formula is endorsed by august bodies like the American Heart Association and the British Heart Foundation. By this calculation a 50-year-old should expect their upper limit to be 170 beats per minute. But studies have shown that people of the same age can have wildly varying maximum heart rates. No simple formula will cut it.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/03/06/what-is-your-maximum-heart-rate>

HISTORY

- 61.** How global Islam became a hollow ideal. *Frontline*. 31st March 2026.

Soon after the joint US-Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28, which eventually led to the killing of Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, US Congresswoman Ilhan Omar criticised the action on her X account, remarking that the US "apparently loves to strike Muslim countries during Ramadan".

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/books/analysisfaisal-devji-waning-crescent-global-islam-iran-khamenei/article70699095.ece>

- 62.** The great history divide. *Frontline*. 31st March 2026.

The accusation against professional historians that they do not reach out to the public has become grist to the mill of history enthusiasts and self-proclaimed pop historians. Included among the more serious ones within the latter category is Namit Arora, who has

apparently secured his standing by collaborating with one of the most well-known historians in the field.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/books/book-review-thapar-arora-academic-popular-history-tensions/article70684058.ece>

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

63.Where Is the Iran War Headed?. New Yorker. 16th March 2026.

Since 1979, Iran's revolutionary regime has been the nemesis of eight American Presidents. None could tame its political furies; its covert operations, which killed more than a thousand Americans in Lebanon, Iraq, and Afghanistan; or its expansion, through the creation of like-minded extremist movements, across the Middle East. The Islamic Republic considered its mini-realm a defensive buffer against U.S. and Israeli intervention. The U.S. and Israel viewed Iran as the most persistent threat in the world's most volatile region. President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have now set out to destroy the regime, militarily and politically, in a reckless war of choice with no visible or thoughtful endgame—and, in Trump's case, no advance approval by Congress or warning to American taxpayers.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/03/16/where-is-the-iran-war-headed>

64.The merchants of war. Frontline. 31st March 2026.

On February 28, at 9:40 am local time in Sohrevardi Street in Tehran, the first thing Shirin noticed was not the blast but the quiet that came after it. Tehran, a city that usually never stops talking, seemed to be holding its breath. As many as 200 US and Israeli jets had taken over the Iranian skies, raining bombs and missiles across the country, pounding more than 2,000 targets.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/world-affairs/us-israel-strikes-iran-west-asia-war-gulf/article70712028.ece>

65.The rules they broke. Frontline. 31st March 2026.

In the early hours of February 28, 2026, the United States and Israel launched what President Trump called a “massive and ongoing” military campaign against Iran—codenamed Operation Epic Fury by the Pentagon and Operation Roaring Lion by Israel. Trump posted an eight-minute video to Truth Social at 2:30 am Eastern time, describing the operation as an effort to eliminate what he called “imminent threats” from “a wicked, radical dictatorship”. He urged Iranian civilians to “take over your government”.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/world-affairs/us-israel-iran-strikes-legal-basis/article70691357.ece>

66.A theology of resistance in Tehran. Frontline. 31st March 2026.

There is a great mystery at the heart of Iran, a land rich in oil and civilisational wealth of language, culture, architecture. It is the kind of place where people think deeply, read widely, weave carpets and magical tales. In the modern age, they make beautiful films exploring the human condition. Since 1979, Iran has also come up with a political-theological doctrine that has driven them to take on the might of the US and Israel for nearly half a century, facing decades of economic blockades and serial wars, overt and covert.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/columns/iran-resistance-state-shiite-faith-war-ideology/article70702273.ece>

- 67.** With Iran under attack, Modi's Jerusalem visit will haunt India. Frontline. 31st March 2026.

As the loudspeakers of Al-Aqsa Mosque in old Jerusalem announced Iftar, the breaking of the Ramadan fast, on the evening of February 25, the Ansari family sat beneath the Indian tricolour in a nearby neighbourhood. They were glued to their television set, listening to Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he delivered a speech in the Israeli Knesset, barely a kilometre away.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/world-affairs/modi-israel-visit-2026-strategy-iran-attack/article70687391.ece>

- 68.** Imperialist–Zionist Aggression against Iran. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61. No-10. 7th March 2026.

The aggression against Iran by the United States (US)–Israel intensifies the imperialist–Zionist onslaught in West Asia. Strikes against Iran and the murder of its head of state, along with other political and military leaders, have yet again blown international law to smithereens. In any case, international law and the multilateral institutional architecture are buried under the “human debris” of Gaza, as the impunity with which the US–Israeli genocide of the Palestinians has continued is abetting the dastardly campaign of “death and destruction” against Iran.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/10/editorials/imperialist-zionist-aggression-against-iran.html>

- 69.** America's war on Iran may bring Bahrain to its knees. Economist. 14th March 2026.

What was once a glitzy petro-skyline now looks like a cautionary tale. The plate-glass skyscrapers of Manama, Bahrain's capital, are pocked with jagged holes from which singed girders gape. As America and Israel have rained bombs on Iran, Iran has rained retaliatory drones and missiles on this tiny Gulf Island of 1.6m. Refineries, factories, high-rise apartments and the headquarters of America's Fifth Fleet have all been hit.

<https://www.economist.com/briefing/2026/03/12/americas-war-on-iran-may-bring-bahrain-to-its-knees>

70. Why MAGA backs Donald Trump's war—for now. Economist. 14th March 2026.

AMERICAN PRESIDENTS often benefit politically when they lead the country into armed conflict. On the eve of the Gulf war in 1991 George H.W. Bush's approval rating stood at 64%. Within days of launching Operation Desert Storm it surged to 82%. His son did even better: after declaring a "war on terror" and making the case for invading Afghanistan in 2001, George W. Bush's approval rating leapt from 51% to 90%. It faded over the following year and a half, before jumping again to 75% at the start of the Iraq war.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2026/03/08/why-maga-backs-donald-trumps-war-for-now>

71. America's war aims may be diverging from Israel's. Economist. 14th March 2026.

GENERALS RARELY put themselves directly in the line of enemy fire but on March 6th Major-General Tomer Bar, the commander of the Israeli Air Force, flew an F-15 fighter jet on a strike mission in Iran. Not all his colleagues were enthusiastic about such a senior commander flying deep over hostile territory. "It's a bit of a stunt," said one air-force officer. "But I can understand him. We've been preparing for so many years for this war."

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2026/03/10/americas-war-aims-may-be-diverging-from-israels>

72. What data reveal about the war's progress. Economist. 14th March 2026.

The fog of war can be hard to dispel. But modern conflicts produce a lot of data. So, to build a picture of events, we have analysed details from 1,615 distinct attacks, 2,875 missile and drone launches, and abnormal "high-temperature events", such as fires, at 208 strategic sites.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2026/03/12/what-data-reveal-about-the-wars-progress>

73. War on Iran: Regime change was the goal. Regime hardening may be the result. Open Magazine. Vol.4. No-62. 13th March 2026.

Military interventions in the Middle East have long haunted American presidents. The failed 1980 rescue mission in Iran damaged the presidency of Jimmy Carter. Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan scarred the legacy of George W Bush. The regime-change war in Libya, which turned the country into an enduring failed state, cast a shadow over the foreign policy of Barack Obama, a serial interventionist who won a Nobel Peace Prize early in his presidency.

<https://openthemagazine.com/world/war-on-iran-regime-change-was-the-goal-regime-hardening-may-be-the-result>

74. Oil Tankers: Choked by Hormuz. Open Magazine. Vol.4. No-62. 13th March 2026.

THE SPATE OF attacks by Iran on ships in the Strait of Hormuz has set fire to more than metal. Soon after the attack on the Thailand-flagged *MV Mayuree Naree*, crude oil prices

resumed their upward march. One can sketch a neat graph between the march of events—from Donald Trump’s statement that war will be over “pretty quickly” on March 8 to the attack on multiple ships by Iran—and the wild gyrations in oil price movements.

<https://openthemagazine.com/world/oil-tankers-choked-by-hormuz>

LITERATURE

75. The City Is a Graveyard. New Yorker. 16th March 2026.

It is late August, at the time of day when the air in New Orleans is heavy, hard to take in and harder to let out. You press through your jog, feeling as though there’s a cloud in your chest. You run to clear your mind and to keep your perimenopausal ass from sagging to the backs of your knees—not that you feel it’s effective for either purpose. By weaving around the tourists on Decatur and into an alley, you are able to find a bit of relief from the heat and the crowd. A melody floats from Jackson Square, halting you in your tracks. You know the song, but, hindered by the urgency of the guitar and the singer’s complicated arrangement, you struggle to name it. Then you are hit by another song, booming from a new performer and accompanied by the sound of his shopping cart rattling over the cobblestone street.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/03/16/the-city-is-a-graveyard-fiction-addie-citchens>

76. Cole, Henri

Gold Street Barn. New Yorker. 16th March 2026.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/03/16/gold-street-barn-henri-cole-poem>

Hillman, Brenda

77. The Carbon Atoms of Saved Things. New Yorker. 16th March 2026.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/03/16/the-carbon-atoms-of-saved-things-brenda-hillman-poem>

MILITARY SCIENCE

78. India’s air force running out of sky and steam?. Frontline. 31st March 2026.

The Indian Air Force is facing a serious and immediate crisis. Its indigenous fighter jet, the Tejas Mk1, suffered an accident on February 7 at a frontline airbase, when the aircraft overshot the runway during a training sortie. The pilot ejected; the airframe sustained damage severe enough to be considered a write-off. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

described the event as a “minor technical incident on ground”—language carefully calibrated to distinguish it from an official crash. Whatever the terminology, the operational consequences have been significant: the Air Force has grounded approximately 30 of its Tejas Mk1 aircraft pending investigation. This is a major setback for a force already operating well below its sanctioned strength.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/the-nation/india-air-force-crisis-tejas-grounding-rafale-gap/article70683496.ece>

- 79.** There are no good options for Iran’s nuclear programme. Economist. 14th March 2026. MANY THINGS make the Iranian regime loathsome, but what causes it to be especially dangerous is its pursuit of nuclear weapons. Its promise not to build a bomb was belied by its determination to enrich uranium to weapons-grade. That has long underpinned the regime’s attempts to intimidate its neighbours and threaten Israel’s survival.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/03/12/there-are-no-good-options-for-irans-nuclear-programme>

- 80.** Taiwan’s bid to export drones free of Chinese parts is taking off. Economist. 14th March 2026.

BEFORE RUSSIA’S all-out invasion of Ukraine in 2022, David Liu never imagined making military drones. But when Taiwan, where he lives, launched a programme to build its own drone industry that year, he jumped at the chance. His firm, Kunway Technology, now exports two models to Ukraine via Poland, both “kamikaze” quadcopters. The bigger of them can carry bombs of up to 8kg and fly at 140kph. They are twice the price of equivalents from China, the world’s biggest drone-maker. But they have one key selling point: no Chinese components.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/03/12/taiwans-bid-to-export-drones-free-of-chinese-parts-is-taking-off>

- 81.** How America and Israel built vast military targeting machines. Economist. 14th March 2026.

The display of American and Israeli firepower in Iran has been more fast-paced and overwhelming than America showed off in either of the first two Persian Gulf wars. The two allies are thought to have conducted more offensive sorties on February 28th than America managed on the first day of serious fighting—with much larger deployed forces—in either 1991 or 2003 (around 1,300 in each). Five days later Pete Hegseth, America’s secretary of war, boasted that “Operation Epic Fury has delivered twice the air power of shock and awe of Iraq in 2003.”

<https://www.economist.com/international/2026/03/11/how-america-and-israel-built-vast-military-targeting-machines>

POLITICAL SCIENCE & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

82.Who's the real boss of INDIA bloc?. Frontline. 31st March 2026. With the campaigns for Assembly elections in Assam, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal gaining momentum even before polling dates are announced, the Congress, the largest party in the INDIA coalition, faces a reality check, with the strains within the alliance beginning to show.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/the-nation/india-bloc-leadership-question/article70694636.ece>

83.Vijay vs. Seeman: Inclusion vs. Exclusion. Frontline. 31st March 2026. Tamil Nadu's political landscape has been characterised by a bipolar dynamic, with the two Dravidian parties dominating it since 1967, when the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) emerged as an alternative to the Congress party that had ruled since Independence. From the late 1980s, the DMK and its offshoot, the All India Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), founded by the matinee idol M.G. Ramachandran (MGR) in 1972, have held power alternatively, leaving little room for other parties to come in. The reason for the Dravidian parties being able to hold Tamil Nadu for seven decades can be attributed to their brand of politics, a blend of social welfarism and infrastructure development supported by a strong ideological framework.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/politics/vijay-seeman-tamil-nadu-politics/article70706343.ece>

84. The right to recall and its political realities. Frontline. 31st March 2026. On January 19, 2026, voters in Deori municipality in Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh participated in a referendum to choose between a khali kursi (vacant chair) and a bhari kursi (occupied chair), symbols representing the removal or continuation of the incumbent Chairperson of the Deori Municipal Council, Neha Alkesh Jain. In what turned out to be a close contest, 7,282 of the 13,367 votes favoured Jain's continuation, while 6,085 sought her removal. The result amounted to a mid-term appraisal of her tenure.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/the-nation/right-to-recall-india-debate/article70695205.ece>

85.The disabled and the damned. Frontline. 31st March 2026. First, they were made to lie flat on the ground. Then their legs were wrapped in cloth. And finally, shots were fired, from barely 8 inches away. This is the shocking tale of the growing culture of "half encounters" in Uttar Pradesh. In February, inside Deoband Jail, young men stood in a line before a visiting magistrate, lifting their trousers one by one to reveal bullet wounds just below the knee. Some leaned on each other for balance. Others spoke in low voices, haltingly recounting how they were picked up by the police, subjected to electric shocks, forced to confess, and eventually

driven to secluded locations before being shot and presented as criminals injured in an “encounter”.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/the-nation/human-rights/judiciary-challenges-police-half-encounter-culture-uttar-pradesh/article70678930.ece>

86. M.K. Stalin must lead INDIA bloc to save India from Hindutva. Frontline. 31st March 2026.

On the eve of the 2024 general election the INDIA bloc was barely in existence. Rahul Gandhi did not attend the first meeting of the proposed anti-BJP alliance called by Nitish Kumar in Patna because he was in the US. A second meeting was convened in Mumbai and was a huge success because it was graced by Sonia Gandhi, a magnet who has a remarkable capacity to attract the iron shavings of a disparate opposition.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/columns/stalin-lead-india-bloc-secular-election-hindutva-bjp/article70670440.ece>

87. Modi Government's Ill-Conceived Policy on West Asia Jeopardises India's Interests and Credibility. India Forum. 7th March 2026.

Six days into the war on Iran, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has publicly spoken. Standing with the visiting president of Finland, he said on Thursday 5 March that both countries believed in the “rule of law, dialogue and diplomacy”, that no issue could be resolved “solely through military conflict”, and that they would support efforts for peace “in Ukraine or in West Asia”. Previously, at the outbreak of war, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had posted an official statement urging all sides to “exercise restraint, avoid escalation and prioritize safety of civilians” and advising “dialogue and diplomacy” to address underlying issues. The statement also averred that “Sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states must be respected.”

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/international-affairs/modi-governments-ill-conceived-policy-west-asia-jeopardises-indias-interests-and-credibility>

88. China's hereditary elite is taking shape. Economist. 14th March 2026.

OVER THE past half-century, China has conjured vast wealth out of widespread poverty. Now comes the vexing part: how to pass it on to the next generation. For China, this poses a new and underappreciated risk. On its current trajectory, the first great intergenerational transfer in China's modern history will widen inequality, cement privilege and breed resentment. The government, devoted to “common prosperity”, is shockingly insouciant about what that will mean.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/03/12/chinas-hereditary-elite-is-taking-shape>

89. How to teach Donald Trump a Latin lesson. Economist. 14th March 2026.

“Hispanics love Trump,” said Donald Trump in 2024. It was not just empty boasting. He won 48% of the Latino vote that year, more than any previous Republican presidential candidate. Like many others, Hispanics were feeling squeezed by inflation and largely blamed it on President Joe Biden. Many chafed at disorder on the border, where for a while a wide-open asylum system had attracted an influx of people from poorer countries. Mr Trump promised to cut the cost of living and kick out migrants who had committed crimes. Lots of Latinos took him at his word, and now feel buyers’ remorse.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/03/12/how-to-teach-donald-trump-a-latin-lesson>

90. Haiti needs order first, then elections. Economist. 14th March 2026.

Gangsters control most of Haiti’s capital, Port-au-Prince, extorting money from civilians at every turn. Pedestrians must pay a toll to enter a gang-ruled neighbourhood; traders must pay “taxes”, even on food. The result is ruin. Haitians are more likely to suffer from severe hunger than people in war-racked Sudan. Only 10% of clinics are fully operational. Some 1.4m people have been forced to flee from their homes—about as many as were displaced by a huge earthquake in 2010. But whereas that natural disaster prompted a swift humanitarian response, Haiti’s political collapse has driven donors to despair. A security mission backed by the UN has been running since 2024, but it has done little to improve public safety.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/03/12/haiti-needs-order-first-then-elections>

91. Nepal’s new prime minister is a 35-year-old former rapper. Economist. 14th March 2026.

IT IS AN arduous trip from Kathmandu, which sits in an expansive valley in the lap of the Himalayas, to Jhapa, a district in the south-eastern lowlands of Nepal. Even on a good day the 430km distance takes well over ten hours to cover by car. On a bad day, better to wonder if your journey is really necessary.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/03/12/nepals-new-prime-minister-is-a-35-year-old-former-rapper>

92. Islamists woo Bangladesh with everything but Islam. Economist. 14th March 2026.

PERHAPS THE biggest surprise to come out of Bangladesh’s “Gen Z” revolution of August 2024 has been an Islamist revival. The student-led uprising ousted Sheikh Hasina Wajed, a prime minister under whom Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh’s biggest Islamist party, had been banned. But few expected, in the election last month, that Jamaat would make history by becoming the country’s main opposition, with about a third of all votes.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/03/12/islamists-woo-bangladesh-with-everything-but-islam>

93. There are 56 ethnicities in China—and 55 are getting squashed. Economist. 14th March 2026.

CHINA'S PARLIAMENT is not known for its debates. Meeting for roughly ten days every March, it exists to approve, not to question. But what it lacks in disagreement, it makes up for in colourful dress. The Great Hall of the People, where it convenes, becomes a parade of elaborate costumes. On March 5th, its opening day, Chaguan first spotted a man in a black cape with fiery swirls. Next, a woman in a jangly silver crown twice as large as any worn by King Charles. Then more and more: flowing garments, dense embroidery, splashes of dark red, bright pink and deep blue.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2026/03/09/there-are-56-ethnicities-in-china-and-55-are-getting-squashed>

94.The view from Tehrangeles. Economist. 14th March 2026.

Roozbeh farahanipour was at his Greek taverna in Westwood when he heard reports that Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was dead. At first, Mr Farahanipour was suspicious. After leading a student uprising in 1999, he fled Iran and has spent decades in Los Angeles hoping that the supreme leader would one day get his comeuppance. Then President Donald Trump confirmed the killing on his social-media network. "I grab the bottle of champagne and open it and drink it out," recalls Mr Farahanipour. A crowd gathered nearby, waving Iranian, Israeli and American flags. "If anybody passed by, came to congratulate me, I poured the champagne for them."

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2026/03/09/the-view-from-tehrangeles>

95.Who is Iran's new leader?. Economist. 14th March 2026.

They did not even have to change his website, Khamenei.ir. Eight days after the death of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in a massive Israeli raid, the Assembly of Experts, a body of 88 clerics, anointed the supreme leader's son, Mojtaba, to succeed him. Fearful of air strikes, they met in secret. The candidate, too, was hidden from view. Officials say he was injured. Rumours still swirl of his death. If people knew, they would pour onto the streets, an Iranian fleeing abroad suggests. Preserving the image of an unbroken cult mattered. The faithful were called to city squares to proclaim allegiance, even as bombs fell around them. Acolytes had to make do with kissing a cardboard cut-out.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2026/03/12/who-is-irans-new-leader>

SCIENCE

96.Want to hack your body with peptides? If only the science agreed. Economist. 14th March 2026.

FIFTEEN YEARS ago, buying performance-enhancing drugs usually meant hanging around a bodybuilding gym until you met someone who knew someone. The deal could then be consummated in a quiet corner of the car park, in cash.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/03/11/want-to-hack-your-body-with-peptides-if-only-the-science-agreed>

97. AI is helping expand the frontier of theoretical physics. Economist. 14th March 2026.

IN 2025 A GROUP of theoretical physicists studying the behaviour of fundamental particles called gluons hit a brick wall in their calculations. In search of a fresh perspective, the physicists teamed up with OpenAI, an artificial-intelligence lab, to see whether an AI assistant might be able to help. Two preprints, published in early 2026, report the results of this collaboration. The AI's role was central, say the researchers, enabling them to complete in weeks what would have typically required months. The long-touted idea that AI could help with work at the frontiers of theoretical physics is now a reality.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/03/11/ai-is-helping-expand-the-frontier-of-theoretical-physics>

SOCIOLOGY

98. Comrade Nallakannu: A symbol of resistance, a beacon of hope. Frontline. 31st March 2026.

The year was 1995. Four villagers were brutally murdered in the erstwhile V.O. Chidambaranar district of Tamil Nadu, now Thoothukudi. One of them was Annasamy, 84, the father-in-law of R. Nallakannu, the then State secretary of the Communist Party of India (CPI). Annasamy was hacked to death when asleep in his home in Maruthanvalavu village. A senior policeman later told me the killer was a trusted farm worker from his fields. That was a time of intense caste violence in southern Tamil Nadu, the conflict mainly between the Pallar, a Scheduled Caste (SC) group, and the Marava, a land-owning backward caste group. It was a decade of violence and arson that saw nearly 400 people killed and properties worth crores of rupees destroyed, an era that remains a blot on Tamil Nadu's social justice credentials.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/other/obituary/r-nallakannu-tamilnadu-communist-party-india-legacy-2026/article70675373.ece>

99. In Meghalaya, rat-hole mining survives every ban and blast. Frontline. 31st March 2026.

An accident at a mine in Meghalaya on February 5 that killed 33 people has laid bare the failure of enforcement authorities in curbing illegal rat-hole mining. It has also exposed the Conrad Sangma-led State government's inability to map and dismantle the shadowy labour supply chain that sustains the illicit work, despite repeated tragedies claiming the lives of poor migrant workers.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/environment/meghalaya-rat-hole-mining-blast-thangsko-2026/article70651119.ece>

100. The collapse of our moral universe. Frontline. 31st March 2026.

No society is immune to phases in which its moral beliefs and practices come under strain, undergo erosion, or grow uncertain. Periodic moral crises are part of the human condition. But what we are witnessing today appears to go beyond such episodic breakdowns. It resembles, disturbingly, a more comprehensive collapse of the moral universe itself, one that is not confined to a particular region but seems global in scope.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/columns/moral-collapse-justice-gaza-global-politics/article70678978.ece>

101. Empathy without Illusions: André Béteille and Sociology as a Vocation. India Forum. 3rd March 2026.

Since André Béteille passed away, I have felt a lingering sadness that goes beyond the sorrow one might expect when a loved – and intellectually generous - teacher dies. Perhaps it is because Béteille represented a world that now seems to have vanished – where university faculty had time to think and read, where economists and sociologists at the Delhi School of Economics talked across disciplinary boundaries, where the small number of students meant that one could remember each as an individual, where wages were low compared to what we have now but it was scholarship and not salaries which mattered.

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/society/empathy-without-illusions-andre-beteille-and-sociology-vocation>

102. A Twist in the Love Story: The business of restoring offline romance. Open Magazine. Vol.4. No-62. 13th March 2026.

TUSHAR MATHUR found Wingy on Instagram and messaged it out of curiosity. Instead of being asked to fill out a profile, he was put on a call. The voice on the other end, an AI “wing woman”, as Wingy styles itself, asked questions that felt unusual for dating tech. What had he liked about his previous relationship? What hadn’t worked on his last date? What traits had mattered more than he realised at the time? The conversation lasted 15 to 20 minutes. “It made me think,” he says. That alone, he says, set it apart from most dating apps, where you are usually reduced to photos and prompts. After the call, Wingy suggested one match—not a stack of profiles—who, it said, fit his vibe. He was added to a WhatsApp group with his match, and introductions were made. Wingy followed up a week or so later, not to pressure, but to check in. That small act made Mathur feel, in his words, “accountable”. It reminded him of something almost old-fashioned: the way, in arranged setups, someone would ask how things were going.

<https://openthemagazine.com/india/a-twist-in-the-love-story-the-business-of-restoring-offline-romance>

SPORTS

103. Marketing Muck and Rahu Kalams — the Underbelly of the 2026 T20 World Cup. India Forum. 6th March 2026.

As far as the International Cricket Council (ICC) World Cups go, the Indian cricket team's T20 World Cup has gone to plan. At the time of writing, the team has made the finals on the back of electric performances in the final two rounds of knockout matches and New Zealand will find it very very hard to stop them on Sunday, March 8, in Ahmedabad. If are to assess this World Cup away from the team's on-field cricket and examine how it has panned out, we must first decide on what it should be called. Before you think 'Indian cricket's World Cup' works, it's good to remember these words by an Indian cricketer, “the BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) and Indian cricket aren't the same,” Indeed, so it is best to look at the event concluding on Sunday as the BCCI's 2026 ICC T20 World Cup and, other than limelights, highlights and match analysis, identify the markers it has left us with.

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/society/marketing-muck-and-rahu-kalams-underbelly-2026-t20-world-cup>

Annexure I- List of Journals and Magazines covered in this Issue.

S.No.	Title	Periodicity	Place of Publication
1	Chronicle of Higher Education	BW	US
2	Economist (A.M.)	W	London
3	Economic & Political Weekly	W	Mumbai
4	Frontline	F	India
5	India Forum	W	India
6	New Yorker	W	New York
7	Open Magazine	W	India
8	University News	W	India