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1. Saving the royal weave. *Frontline*. Vol 43. No-3. 28th Feb 2026.
On the banks of the sacred Narmada river, the ancient town of Maheshwar rises in sandstone and silence. The ghats are busy in the early morning light: devotees taking a dip in the holy waters, priests performing rituals, and the occasional sound of temple bells piercing the misty air. From 1765 to 1796, Queen Ahilyabai Holkar ruled the Malwa kingdom with a sense of justice, spirituality, and visionary leadership that few rulers—male or female—have matched. But beyond temples, forts, and welfare policies, she left behind something that has endured through time and textile: the Maheshwari sari.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/photo-essay/maheshwari-sari-indian-handloom-crisis/article70635231.ece>

2. Let Kerala Be. *Open Magazine*. Vol.4. No-60. 27th Feb 2026.
The contrived symbolism of a Hindu girl who resists being force-fed beef and converting to Islam has backfired in Kerala where *The Kerala Story 2* and its maker have become objects of laughter. Beef is consumed by a majority of Malayalis irrespective of their faith OCTOBER 2015. I had my first encounter with the then fledgling ‘hate economy’ over beef in Bishada village near Dadri town in Uttar Pradesh (UP) where a 50-year-old named Mohammad Akhlaq was lynched over rumours that he had slaughtered a cow, eaten its meat and stored some of it in his fridge. The second was on a tour of western UP in 2023 when Sudipto Sen’s film *The Kerala Story*, the first instalment, created ripples on messaging platforms, prompting a Thakur man in a dhaba to ask me whether I ate beef. His eyes were bloodshot hearing my response.

<https://openthemagazine.com/india/let-kerala-be>

3. Mitski’s Spellbinding Intensity. *New Yorker*. 2nd March 2026.
For more than a decade, the singer-songwriter **Mitski** has been a totem for yearners. The artist has described herself as a black hole where people can dump their feelings, but her music moves beyond ugly emotions toward catharsis. “Still, nobody wants me / And I know no one will save me, I’m just asking for a kiss / Give me one good movie kiss and I’ll be all right,” she sings on her 2018 nu-disco single “Nobody,” her voice at once covetous and wistful. There is a heightened intensity to her songs, even at their most muted—a simmering cauldron of woe in near-constant threat of bubbling over.

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/goings-on/mitskis-spellbinding-intensity>

4. Ian McKellen Swings from Shakespeare to Gandalf to Virtual Reality. *New Yorker*. 2nd March 2026.
How eerie: when you put on a headset to watch the film “An Ark,” at the Shed, you behold ghostly, real-seeming 3-D images, similar to holograms, of four actors, including Sir Ian McKellen. But, if you saw “An Ark” on a recent Tuesday, you might have noticed that one of the other headset-wearers in the audience was the flesh-and-blood McKellen, who was watching the film for the first time.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/03/02/ian-mckellen-swings-from-shakespeare-to-gandalf-to-virtual-reality>

5. Natasha Pickowicz, Hot-Pot Alchemist. New Yorker. 2nd March 2026.
Natasha Pickowicz is in possession of the key to personal fulfillment. Standing in front of an H Mart in Long Island City one recent afternoon, the chef and cookbook writer confided, “I feel like I’m sitting on this secret to happiness. And when people do it, when they experience it, I feel smug.”

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/03/02/natasha-pickowicz-hot-pot-chemist>

6. Jan Staller, Constructor of Image. New Yorker. 2nd March 2026.
Photograph construction sites,” Jan Staller says to security guards when they try to shoo him away. He doesn’t like to be told no, but some version of no is usually what he gets. So he shoots from outside the fence. In recent years, he has focussed on material held aloft by cranes. In isolation, against a white background that is actually overcast sky, a hook or a caisson or a sheaf of rebar appears sculptural, abstract, exquisite.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/03/02/jan-staller-creator-of-image>

7. Cash and Carry. New Yorker. 2nd March 2026.
The fitness center I go to in New York is thirty blocks from my apartment, and I was walking home from it one autumn afternoon when I came upon a woman who was attempting to carry a cabinet. It was waist-high and maybe five feet long—a metal frame with eight canvas drawers. I watched as she lifted it, took a few steps, and then set it back down with an expression that read as both *How badly do I really need this?* and *Why can’t we temporarily shrink things when getting them from place to place?*

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/03/02/cash-and-carry>

8. The Migrants in the Ancient Forest. New Yorker. 2nd March 2026.
Last August, Ahmed found himself in Belarus, at the Polish border, watching a smuggler lean a ladder against a very high wall as members of the Belarusian border guard looked on. Ahmed, a nineteen-year-old Somali, is tall and lanky, with close-cropped curly dark hair. At home, in Mogadishu, he liked to watch Manchester City football and TikTok videos. One day, members of the terror group Al Shabab came to his house to recruit his father in their fight to overthrow the government. When his father refused, they killed him. Soon, they came for Ahmed, too. His uncle had heard about a new route to immigrate to Europe; a travel agency in Mogadishu was advertising tickets. Ahmed’s family bought him a three-thousand-dollar package that included flights to Russia on a tourist visa and a taxi to neighboring Belarus, where a smuggler would help him cross to Poland. Now the smuggler, an Afghan man, urged Ahmed to climb the wall and jump.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/03/02/the-migrants-in-the-ancient-forest>

BIOGRAPHY

9. The silence and the symphony in Satish Gujral's art. Frontline. Vol 43. No-3. 28th Feb 2026.

Unlike Kafka's protagonist in *The Metamorphosis* who also woke up one morning to find that he was no longer what he had been, Satish Gujral had this realisation—poignantly, heartbreakingly—at the age of 8. As we enter “Satish Gujral 100”, the artist's centenary exhibition at the National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, we find ourselves immersed in the images and sound of gushing mountainous waters and hear him describing his life-changing childhood accident. He had slipped on a boulder and fallen into the river Lidder, badly damaging one of his legs, which resulted in an infection of the bones. He underwent excruciating operations. Botched treatment by a local hakim cost him his hearing, leaving him an isolated stranger in his own world.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/arts-and-culture/art/satish-gujral-national-gallery-of-modern-art-exhibition/article70631553.ece>

BUSINESS

10. Rejoice! Private equity is taking over America's small businesses. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

THE DAY starts in one of the loud, dark studios run by Solidcore, a Pilates-inspired fitness chain. Your correspondent, balancing on top of a sliding platform, dutifully performs plank holds and cross-legged lunges as her energetic instructor cheers her on. Having worked up an appetite, she heads to Maman, a chic, French-style eatery. Next comes a facial at HeyDey, where a beautician beams light across this correspondent's face in order to give her skin a more youthful glow.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/02/23/rejoice-private-equity-is-taking-over-americas-small-businesses>

ECONOMICS

11. India has accepted gross asymmetry: Biswajit Dhar. Frontline. Vol 43. No-3. 28th Feb 2026.

As India and the US move ahead to concretise their bilateral trade agreement (BTA), questions are being raised on whether India has conceded much more than the US, to the detriment of its own long-term interests. In this interview to Frontline, Professor Biswajit Dhar expresses concern for the country's food processing industry and food security and the deal's implications for India's sovereignty. He believes that India has agreed to a grossly unfair deal by conceding a sevenfold increase in tariff protection for the US while accepting lower protection in opening up its own market.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/interviews/unequal-india-us-trade-deal-raises-sovereignty-concerns/article70638132.ece>

- 12.** What Is the Size of India's Domestic Remittance Flows?. Frontline. Vol 43. No-3. 28th Feb 2026.

India's migration patterns differ in an important way from those historically seen in North America, Western Europe, and more recently East Asia. In many of those settings, the move away from agricultural employment went hand in hand with large-scale, permanent rural to urban migration. Entire households relocated to cities in search of higher productivity work.

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/economy/what-size-indias-domestic-remittance-flows>

- 13.** A Rereading of Railway Budget 2026–27. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61, No-8. 21st Feb 2026.

The Railway Budget 2026–27 presents an expansive vision of railway-led transformation in which transport infrastructure becomes a central instrument of regional development, technological modernisation and national integration. The scale and geographic spread of investment suggests that the state intends to reposition Indian Railways not merely as a carrier of passengers and freight but as a spatial architecture shaping economic geography. High-speed corridors, electrified routes, underground connectivity to the North East and dedicated freight networks together form a narrative of mobility-driven growth.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/8/editorials/rereading-railway-budget-2026-27.html>

- 14.** Cash and Cashless. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61, No-8. 21st Feb 2026.

While digital payments have surged in recent years, cash transactions continue to be important. Cash and digital payment trends are examined, and the factors that potentially drive payment method choices and the constraints faced by customers are explored. Transactional demand for currency is driven by personal choices, comfort, and trust, and may not stem from either education levels, income categories, technological awareness or age. Similarly, precautionary demand for currency is heightened in times of uncertainty. Keeping the nuances of currency use in mind is necessary before policy actions are taken on the circulation of currency.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/8/commentary/cash-and-cashless.html>

- 15.** Increasing Female Employment in India. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61, No-8. 21st Feb 2026.

The female workforce participation rate has been steadily increasing in India since 2017–18. Examining the reasons behind this trend, the findings indicate a worsening nature for female employment in India, where most women entered the workforce as unpaid or subsidiary workers. Real earnings for workers have generally been declining or stagnant since 2017–18. Additionally, there has been a decline in real household expenditure from 2017–18 to 2023–24. These findings suggest a distress-driven increase in female employment after 2017–18.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/8/special-articles/increasing-female-employment-india.html>

- 16.** America's dangerous pursuit of critical-mineral dominance. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

IN 1973 a club of Arab petrostates held the world to ransom by halting crude-oil exports to countries they accused of supporting Israel. Petrol prices soared; Western economies buckled. Today the danger is that China will use its grip on other natural resources to achieve its aims, such as seizing Taiwan. It has already shown its power by choking off exports of rare-earth metals last year. That is why America is staging its biggest intervention in commodity markets in decades.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/02/26/americas-dangerous-pursuit-of-critical-mineral-dominance>

- 17.** The right response to private-market dangers. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

The giants of private investment risk seeing a tantalising prize slip from their grasp. Three of the biggest—Apollo, Blackstone and KKR—collectively oversee assets that have ballooned to \$3trn, from \$200bn in 2008. So far, they have had to raise the lion's share of this from a select group of financial institutions and the über-rich. Now they and their competitors have the mass market in their sights. They have launched a wave of funds designed to entice retail savers to invest in unlisted assets such as private equity, property and private debt.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/02/25/the-right-response-to-private-market-dangers>

- 18.** America's states should beware of copying Europe too much. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

EUROPEAN economists spend a lot of time looking enviously across the Atlantic. Despite tariff chaos and a collapse in immigration, at the last count America's GDP per head was growing by 1.8% a year; the figure for the euro area was just 1%. Compared with America, Europe lacks a unified market for products and especially services, as well as cheap energy, low taxes and the flexibility to hire and fire workers easily. Technocrats know it. By our tally, Mario Draghi's landmark report on Europe's low growth draws unfavourable comparisons with America more than 70 times.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/02/26/americas-states-should-beware-of-copying-europe-too-much>

- 19.** Modernisation is making South-East Asia more Islamic. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

GOVERNMENTS IN South-East Asia once feared the rise of Islamist terrorism, and acted forcefully and successfully to suppress it. These days a different transformation has been taking hold in the region's two big Muslim-majority countries, Malaysia and Indonesia. Islam is asserting itself not through violence but peacefully through politics, laws, consumer culture and social pressure.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/02/25/modernisation-is-making-south-east-asia-more-islamic>

20. How to get rich in modern China. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

The year of the fire horse, which began on February 17th, is hardly galloping along for many Chinese. A property bust and chronic deflation have eroded people's assets, incomes and prospects. Residential property, where Chinese people store the bulk of their wealth, has lost a fifth of its value on average since 2021. Wage growth is weak. And youth unemployment is hovering around 17%. Some graduates find themselves forced into precarious employment in the gig economy. Others say they are choosing to "lie flat" rather than look for a grinding job.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2026/02/24/how-to-get-rich-in-modern-china>

21. Why one corner of Europe's car industry is still booming. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

ROBOTS OUTNUMBER the 150 employees by roughly two to one at Porsche's Smart Battery Shop, which opened in 2024 in Horna Streda, an hour's drive from Bratislava, Slovakia's capital. On a quiet factory floor small autonomous shuttles deliver parts to workstations, where yellow robot arms assemble them into modules. These are then turned into battery packs at another factory near Bratislava for Volkswagen Group, Porsche's parent company, before being fitted into electric Porsche Cayennes. Deliveries of the battery-powered SUV, made there alongside petrol and hybrid models, will begin later this year.

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2026/02/22/why-one-corner-of-europes-car-industry-is-still-booming>

22. Luxury goods are Europe's global tax on vanity. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

Europe's economy may be as flaccid as a damp baguette, but you wouldn't know it if you were window-shopping in the posher arrondissements of Paris. Say you are looking for a bone-shaped leather trunk designed to carry two bowls to dispense dog food, admittedly one of life's lesser essentials. Louis Vuitton happens to have just the thing, yours for a mere €15,000 (\$17,700). Those on a tighter budget might opt for a Hermès rocking horse, probably no more necessary but a far sight cheaper at just €4,600. Feeling a bit broke? Settle for Christian Dior flip-flops, a snip at just €410—each.

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2026/02/25/luxury-goods-are-europes-global-tax-on-vanity>

23. Heathrow's expansion is on track to be eye-wateringly expensive. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

When George Osborne was Britain's chancellor in the 2010s, he knew that the economy would not grow on a diet of spending cuts alone. It needed some pudding to go with the spinach: a totemic infrastructure project to show that the state was investing in the country's future. For Mr Osborne, championing High Speed 2 (HS2) was the perfect choice for a sweet treat. The proposed railway line between London, Birmingham and the north would "change the economic geography" of Britain, providing an "engine for growth".

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2026/02/24/heathrows-expansion-is-on-track-to-be-eye-wateringly-expensive>

24. Reform UK's economic plan looks a lot like Labour's. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

When Robert Jenrick was announced as Reform UK's pick for chancellor on February 17th, he swiftly attacked the mainstream parties. In a speech the next day, he depicted both Labour and the Conservatives (from which he defected in January) as representing a "30-year-long economic consensus that has failed". Nigel Farage's gang of right-wing populists, he insisted, would be different, providing a "new economic model" for Britain.

<http://economist.com/britain/2026/02/26/reform-uks-economic-plan-looks-a-lot-like-labours>

25. America's trade chaos is just beginning. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

The moment was historic. On February 20th America's Supreme Court struck down Donald Trump's signature policy. The president claimed the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) of 1977 let him slap any tariffs he wanted on anyone for any length of time. The justices ruled 6-3 that Congress did not hide in IEEPA "a delegation of its birth-right power to tax within the quotidian power to 'regulate'", as Chief Justice John Roberts wrote in the majority opinion.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/02/26/americas-trade-chaos-is-just-beginning>

EDUCATION

26. Higher Ed's Most Divisive Chancellor. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 72. No-13. 27th Feb 2026.

When the Brandenburg Gate reopened after the fall of the Berlin Wall, Daniel Diermeier was in the throng, celebrating and sipping sparkling wine. Diermeier had grown up in West Berlin, across the border from "barking dogs and minefields and automatic machine guns that kill you when you touch the fence." For the 24-year-old graduate student, the wall's fall — signaling the triumph of Western democracies over Soviet communism — brought into relief "what is possible with great leadership and when people seize a moment."

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/higher-eds-most-divisive-chancellor>

27. 'We're Part of the Problem'. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 72. No-13. 27th Feb 2026.

For more than two decades, David Brooks has been a fixture of The New York Times opinion page — "the kind of conservative writer that wouldn't make our readers shriek and throw the paper out the window," as one Times editor put it when Brooks was hired. A temperamental moderate with a knack for affectionately mocking the elite, Brooks trafficked in wry bemusement rather than moral prescription. In a classic 2001

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/were-part-of-the-problem>

- 28.**How Higher Ed Staved Off a Research-Funding Bloodbath — For Now. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 72. No-13. 27th Feb 2026.

The bills bar the Trump administration from enacting a policy that sparked a panic across the sector when it was proposed almost exactly a year ago. The nightmare, for now, has been averted: For the next fiscal year, federal agencies like the National Institutes of Health cannot lawfully change their system for determining what portion of research grants should go to “indirect costs.”

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/how-higher-ed-staved-off-a-research-funding-bloodbath-for-now>

- 29.**Higher Ed’s Future Is Managed Decline. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 72. No-13. 27th Feb 2026.

Bryan Alexander is perhaps higher education’s most prominent intellectual provocateur. He identifies emergent, often-existential, macro-level challenges and conjectures how colleges will confront them, whether that means adapting and thriving or else succumbing and perishing. As a futurist, he concedes that the scenarios he conjures are “informed speculation.” While some of his concocted futures are far-fetched or implausible, it would be foolishly short-sighted to render Alexander a modern Cassandra. His predictions have proved prescient in the past. Already in 2014, before the pandemic,

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/higher-eds-future-is-managed-decline>

- 30.** Oklahoma Is ‘Phasing Out’ Tenure. Will the Idea Catch On?. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 72. No-13. 27th Feb 2026.

Alexandra Doyle was scrolling through social media at a restaurant last week when she saw the news: The governor of Oklahoma had signed an executive order to “phase out tenure” at most of the state’s public institutions — including Northeastern State University, where Doyle is an assistant professor of clarinet.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/oklahoma-is-phasing-out-tenure-will-the-idea-catch-on>

- 31.** ‘A Moment of Reckoning’: After Epstein, Higher Ed Faces Hard Questions About Its Proximity to Power. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 72. No-13. 27th Feb 2026.

Nearly two weeks after the Justice Department released millions of pages of new documents detailing Jeffrey Epstein’s ties to academics and universities, the fallout is still piling up. A department chair has resigned. A trustee has stepped down. Conferences have been canceled and faculty profiles taken down. Students at several campuses have staged protests demanding accountability and transparency over connections to the convicted sex offender.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/a-moment-of-reckoning-after-epstein-higher-ed-faces-hard-questions-about-its-proximity-to-power>

- 32.**An AI Bot Is Making Podcasts With Scholars’ Research. Many of Them Aren’t Impressed. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 72. No-13. 27th Feb 2026.

Last summer, Bonnie Shucha, a librarian at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, sat in her office listening to an AI voice attempt to distill her 41-page research article on scholarship visibility into a five-minute podcast. So far, the new feature on the popular site

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/an-ai-bot-is-making-podcasts-with-users-research-these-scholars-arent-impressed>

- 33.** Assessment Is Ruining Teaching. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 72. No-13. 27th Feb 2026.

Several years ago, while teaching an undergraduate parasitology course, I was lecturing on visceral leishmaniasis, a devastating disease caused by a microscopic protozoan parasite. As part of a broader discussion of epidemiology, I mentioned in passing that reported cases had increased sharply in Syria over the past decade, largely as a consequence of civil war. Then, as planned, I moved on to the parasite's life cycle, immunology, and molecular biology. When I paused for questions, a student raised her hand.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/assessment-is-ruining-teaching>

- 34.** Does American Studies Have a Credibility Problem?. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 72. No-13. 27th Feb 2026.

Recently on X, a professor found herself the victim of the sort of pile-on social media is so good at provoking. John D. Sailer, director of higher-education policy at the Manhattan Institute, a conservative think tank, posted a screenshot of the acknowledgments page of the professor's book, with the following passage highlighted: "Like many people publishing in academia, I needed to write this book to theoretically keep my job. Although if we're being honest, this is hardly enough to 'keep' a job in a fascist-zionist, racist, transphobic, ableist career path in a glorified settler-colonial real estate hedge fund known as a university."

- 35.** Conservatives Want Colleges to Speak, Too. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 72. No-13. 27th Feb 2026.

After Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel reignited pro-Palestinian activism on college campuses, institutional neutrality didn't immediately become a rallying cry for pro-Israel and conservative constituencies within higher education. Quite the opposite: They wanted universities to respond with visibility and force equal to that of the protests themselves.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/conservatives-want-colleges-to-speak-too>

- 36.** Labour's handling of special educational needs offers hope. Economist. 28th Feb 2026. AS ANNOUNCEMENTS go, it was understated. Much of the white paper had already been trailed before the education secretary, Bridget Phillipson, set out her plans for England's schools on February 23rd. Even so, the launch—at a school assembly in Peterborough—marked a significant moment. The paper promises more use of AI in schools, increased funding for poorer pupils and reforms to how schools are run, but these barely featured in her speech. The defining question in English education today is how to support children with special educational needs and disabilities, or SEND. It

may also prove to be the one area of reform which shows how Labour should, and could, govern.

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2026/02/26/labours-handling-of-special-educational-needs-offers-hope>

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

37. Anthropic says China's AI tigers are copycats. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

AMERICA'S TOP artificial-intelligence labs have accused their Chinese rivals of being ruthless copycats. This month Anthropic and OpenAI each disclosed evidence that leading Chinese AI labs have illicitly used American models to train their own. The firms accuse Chinese researchers of aggressively "distilling" American chatbots—feeding them prompts in order to learn from and mimic their responses. "China is, in effect, stealing the weights of our best AI models," says Chris McGuire of the Council on Foreign Relations, an American think-tank. "These are among the most valuable assets on earth."

<https://www.economist.com/china/2026/02/25/anthropic-says-chinas-ai-tigers-are-copycats>

38. The AI productivity boom is not here (yet). Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

Artificial intelligence is advancing at startling speed. The latest models can now complete complex, time-eating tasks with little human supervision. This month one of OpenAI's models helped derive a new result in theoretical physics. No wonder an essay declaring that "Something Big is Happening" and, in recent days, a blog post of a similar tenor, have gone viral.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/02/22/the-ai-productivity-boom-is-not-here-yet>

ENVIRONMENT

39. Digital Platforms, Green Services and New Informal Work. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61, No-8. 21st Feb 2026.

India's low-carbon transition is driving the emergence of new forms of "green" work, including solar installation, energy-efficiency retrofits, recycling, and circular-economy services, many of which are now facilitated by digital platforms. These platforms promise efficiency, transparency, and scalable service delivery; yet, emerging research shows that they rarely transform the structural precarity faced by informal workers. Evidence from waste systems, renewable-energy labour markets and platform-work studies indicates that while platforms can improve visibility, price discovery and access to formal contracts, they often reproduce existing hierarchies, fragmented employment relations, and exclusionary onboarding requirements.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/8/commentary/digital-platforms-green-services-and-new-informal.html>

HISTORY

40. The Trials of Joan of Arc. History Today. Vol 76. No-3. March 2026.

As the sun rose on 21 February 1431 Joan of Arc appeared before a tribunal of 43 men tasked with questioning her on matters of faith. A little over four months later the court found her guilty of heresy. Joan submitted to the charges and signed an abjuration, but was nonetheless sentenced to life in prison. Officials visited her cell days later after learning that she had disobeyed a court order forbidding her from wearing men's clothing. Far more damning than her attire was her statement that she no longer stood by her abjuration, which she admitted to having accepted only out of a 'fear of the fire'. Her recantation made certain that that fear would become her fate. Two days later, on 30 May 1431, Joan stood before a large crowd at the Old Market in Rouen, where, declared a relapsed heretic, she was excommunicated. No longer responsible for her, the Church transferred her to secular authorities representing Henry VI, the declared king of France and England. She was condemned to death by fire.

<https://www.historytoday.com/archive/feature/trials-joan-arc>

41. Chivalry in Chains: Prisoners in the Crimean War. History Today. Vol 76. No-3. March 2026.

The Crimean War has been called 'the first modern war', a 'quagmire' due to its abominably vicious fighting, with casualties inflicted as much by disease, neglect, and appalling logistics as by munitions. Yet some Russian historians have also called it 'the last chivalrous war', and not just because of its unofficial truces, when English, French, and Russian soldiers exchanged cigarettes for rough Russian makhorka, or brandy for vodka, or when, on 13 July 1855, allied shelling paused at Sevastopol to allow the Russian admiral Pavel Nakhimov a dignified funeral. The 'chivalry' was also evidenced in the lack of hatred between its belligerents – the British, French, and Ottomans distrusted one another more than they disliked the Russians – and in the humane, even generous, treatment of prisoners of war.

<https://www.historytoday.com/archive/feature/chivalry-chains-prisoners-crimean-war>

42. Refusing Malaya: The Penang Secessionist Movement. History Today. Vol 76. No-3. March 2026.

It began with a killing. Dr Ong Chong Keng had been called from his practice at 10pm on 31 August 1948 to attend to a patient who was too sick to travel on the outskirts of George Town, Penang. The following day, Ong's body was found on the side of the road, having been shot three times in the head, a macabre demonstration to the people of Penang, and of Malaya more broadly, that the violence of the Malayan Emergency could reach anyone. Subsequent investigation revealed that the bedside summons had been a ruse by operatives of the Malayan Communist Party to lure Ong to an ambush. The doctor had been chosen as a target partly because of his vocal support for the colonial government's efforts to stamp out the insurgency. But more than simply striking at the heart of the colonial establishment, Ong's murder was also intended to send a message to those the communists perceived as being 'running dogs' of British

imperialism, particularly the doctor's own community, of which he was a leading voice: the Peranakan Chinese.

<https://www.historytoday.com/archive/feature/refusing-malaya-penang-secessionist-movement>

43. Edward Lee: Erasmus' English Foe. History Today. Vol 76. No-3. March 2026.

In early 1520 a small pamphlet was printed in Paris by a little-known English student. At first sight the book looked innocuous. The text offered a set of technical notes on a recent edition of the New Testament, a subject of growing interest to scholars in the period. By the end of the year, however, its author Edward Lee was one of the most reviled men in Renaissance Europe. Poems, letters, and dialogues were published across the Continent depicting him as a 'braggart' and a 'condemned dog' and threatening him with physical violence. How had Lee achieved such notoriety?

<https://www.historytoday.com/archive/feature/edward-lee-erasmus-english-foe>

44. The US Occupation of Greenland. History Today. Vol 76. No-3. March 2026.

In April 1941, as it moved closer to direct involvement in the Second World War, the United States began expanding its military presence in Greenland. It did so out of strategic necessity, rather than enthusiasm for territorial acquisition. Greenland, a Danish colony, was left dangerously exposed when Denmark was occupied by Germany on 9 April 1940. Exactly one year later, the US signed an agreement with Henrik Kauffmann, a Danish envoy in Washington, who acted alone and in defiance of his government. The 'Agreement Relating to the Defense of Greenland' allowed the US to set up a network of ports and bases on the world's largest island. Building began in July 1941.

<https://www.historytoday.com/archive/history-matters/us-occupation-greenland>

45. Defending the Tichborne Dole. History Today. Vol 76. No-3. March 2026.

In 1947 a small Hampshire village briefly became the focus of national attention. On Lady Day, 25 March, some 800 villagers were due to take part in the centuries-old annual custom of the Tichborne Dole, in which a gift of flour was distributed by the local landed family, the Tichbornes, to those living on their estates. However, with the introduction of bread and flour rationing in July 1946, the government had withdrawn permission for the 1947 Dole. The resulting exchanges between the Whitehall bureaucracy and the Tichborne family would have been a suitable subject for one of the Ealing comedies that were first filmed that year. The outcome of the tussle over what was to happen – or not happen – in the village of Tichborne would be determined by events beyond Britain's borders. The Dole posed a unique problem for the Labour government, elected on a landslide in 1945 but, two years on, grappling with a postwar settlement and a climate crisis that threatened starvation overseas and shortages at home.

<https://www.historytoday.com/archive/feature/defending-tichborne-dole>

46. The Cancelled Prime Minister' by Walter Reid review. History Today. Vol 76. No-3. March 2026.

In August 1931 Ramsay MacDonald, Labour's first prime minister, faced the greatest calamity of his political career. He survived it – and remained in 10 Downing Street for nearly four more years – but at a heavy cost. Expelled from the Labour Party, he now headed a so-called 'National Government' dominated by the Conservatives (and which also included Liberal ministers). In purely electoral terms, MacDonald was highly successful, securing a crushing victory over his former Labour colleagues. To the political establishment, he had rescued the nation from the threat of socialist profligacy and economic collapse. To the Labour movement he had once led, he was a traitor, whose gradualist approach to social and economic reform had been tested, and found desperately wanting. In this brisk and readable biography, Walter Reid offers a modest attempt at rehabilitation, placing the financial crisis that precipitated MacDonald's fateful choice within the broader context of this remarkable political pathbreaker's earlier career.

<https://www.historytoday.com/archive/review/cancelled-prime-minister-walter-reid-review>

- 47.** Peace Talks: Letter from America 80 Years On. History Today. Vol 76. No-3. March 2026.

On 1 March 1946 the RMS *Queen Mary* arrived in New York from Southampton. Among the 2,420 passengers were Mexican diplomats, hundreds of GI brides, and Alistair Cooke, a BBC journalist on a new assignment. In the first months of peacetime a mutual distrust between Britain and America, put to bed by the war, had re-emerged. British officials recognised that they would require American support, but there was a real fear that the US would return to isolation; the new prime minister, Clement Attlee, would remark in later life that only the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty in 1949 reassured him that the Americans were committed to Europe in the long term.

<https://www.historytoday.com/archive/history-matters/peace-talks-letter-america-80-years>

- 48.** 'Strikingly Similar' by Roger Kreuz review. History Today. Vol 76. No-3. March 2026.

During my first term teaching at a university, I was marking essays on *Romeo and Juliet* when I came across an unusually perceptive turn of phrase. The students were analysing the scene immediately after Juliet has been discovered 'dead' in which the Capulets' servant asks musicians to play a happy song. A student had described it as a 'caesura' in the play, a metrical break, since it pauses the action just as the tragedy begins to unfold. This suggested an insight into rhetorical and dramatic structure, I wrote in my feedback, which could be built on in the future. Pleased, I moved on to the next essay – and was confronted with precisely the same phrasing. It didn't take long to locate the source. It had come directly from the summary website SparkNotes.

<https://www.historytoday.com/archive/review/strikingly-similar-roger-kreuz-review>

- 49.** War and peace. Frontline. Vol 43. No-3. 28th Feb 2026.

This is the story of a Russian Jewish woman who made her home in Calcutta in the 1930s, and eventually in Santiniketan, with her Bengali husband and the family they founded together. It is a memoir, with a preface and afterword by the memoirist's granddaughter Chandana Dey, who traces the historical background of Jews of the

Russian Empire in the 19th and early 20th centuries and describes the kind of social milieu to which her grandmother had to adjust in her adopted country.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/books/russian-jewish-memoir-santiniketan-ketaki-sarkar/article70620364.ece>

- 50.** From 50 Years Ago: Nupi Lan: Manipur Women's Agitation, 1939. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61, No-8. 21st Feb 2026.

To apologists of the combined feudalistic-imperialist rule of the Maharaja of Manipur and his Political Agent, the outbreak of the *Nupi Lan* or the women's Agitation of 1939 in Manipur was merely an awkward situation which Gimson (Political Agent in Manipur, 1933-45), had to face; but to the people of Manipur it marked a dividing line between the oppressive economic and administrative policies followed by the Maharaja and the Political Agent, and the new Manipur which emerged out of the *Nupi Lan*. The event also showed that political consciousness had grown among the people of Manipur.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/8/50-years-ago/50-years-ago-nupi-lan-manipur-womens-agitation.html>

- 51.** Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor's Life in Pictures. New Yorker. 2nd March 2026.

When Queen Elizabeth II was delivered of a baby boy on February 19, 1960, the birth—the first to a reigning British monarch in more than a century—was marked by public celebration. The bells of Westminster Abbey pealed for an hour. The Royal Air Force performed a fighter-jet flyover of central London, as guns saluted from Hyde Park and the Tower. The ships in the Royal Navy fleet were notified of the arrival of a prince—his name, Andrew, had not yet been announced—with the injunction “Splice the mainbrace,” a euphemism for the distribution of a celebratory tot of rum.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/03/02/andrew-mountbatten-windsors-life-in-pictures>

- 52.** It's California's 250th birthday, too. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

“HI, EVERYONE, can we gather around this table here?” Mark Wilkinson, of the Santa Barbara County Trails Council, waves a group of 25 hikers towards a picnic area on a bluff overlooking the Pacific. The surf crashes gently on the beach below and, after a week of rain, tiny yellow flowers cover the cliffs. Over the next five miles the group will walk the same path that the Anza expedition traversed 250 years ago, when Spanish soldiers and settlers began the colonisation of what was then known as Alta California. “They camped right in this area,” says Mr Wilkinson, “maybe where the freeway is.”

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2026/02/24/its-californias-250th-birthday-too>

- 53.** Donald Trump's unworthy state of the union. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

At the beginning of his first term as president, Donald Trump used his address to a joint session of Congress to deliver “a message of unity and strength”, urging bipartisan action as he looked nine years ahead to America's celebration of the 250th anniversary

of its declaration of independence. “What will America look like as we reach our 250th year?” he wondered then.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2026/02/25/donald-trumps-unworthy-state-of-the-union>

- 54.** The killing of Mexico’s most powerful narco will please Donald Trump. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

Sunday february 22nd will go down in Mexican history. Early in the morning Mexican special forces captured a powerful drug lord in his home state of Jalisco. The government said that Nemesio Rubén “El Mencho” Oseguera Cervantes, the boss of Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG), one of the country’s two biggest gangs, subsequently died from wounds sustained during the shoot-out.

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2026/02/23/the-killing-of-mexicos-most-powerful-narco-will-please-donald-trump>

- 55.** Brazil’s high court is caught up in a vast scandal. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

It started with a banker who liked supermodels and private jets. Yet when Daniel Vorcaro was arrested and his bank, Banco Master, liquidated for practising fraud, he was not the only one quaking in his patent-leather shoes. Investigators revealed that Mr Vorcaro had ties with politicians of all stripes, but also with Brazil’s most senior judges. That revelation has ignited discussion about the conduct of members of the country’s highest judicial body, the Federal Supreme Court (STF).

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2026/02/24/brazils-high-court-is-caught-up-in-a-vast-scandal>

- 56.** Donald Trump’s oil embargo reveals a solar boom in Cuba. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

“Sons of bitches!” exclaims Juan, a tour guide in Old Havana, when asked what he thinks of the Americans. While he would happily see the back of Cuba’s government, which does “nothing for the people”, Donald Trump’s squeeze on the regime is making life harder than ever for him and other Cubans. Ideological concerns are a distant second to the struggles of daily life: getting children to school, enough petrol in the car, food on the table.

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2026/02/26/donald-trumps-oil-embargo-reveals-a-solar-boom-in-cuba>

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- 57.** In Washington’s shadow. Frontline. Vol 43. No-3. 28th Feb 2026.

On February 1, 1979, as Ruhollah Khomeini arrived in Tehran at the head of a popular revolution, much was to change for Iran’s relationships with other nations. This included India, the birthplace of Khomeini’s paternal grandfather, Syed Ahmad Musavi Hindi (Uttar Pradesh, specifically). This change was to be twofold: greater geopolitical alignment between India and Iran compared with a difficult relationship

during the rule of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, and a greater inhibiting influence of the US on India-Iran ties.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/world-affairs/us-shadow-india-iran-strategic-partnership-chabahar-port/article70642416.ece>

- 58.** Assam's Mising face a crisis of survival and representation. Frontline. Vol 43. No-3. 28th Feb 2026.

Shiva Taid was sitting among the crowd at the Mising Youth Festival in Assam when the speeches began. Around him were rows of people who had travelled from riverine villages and flood-affected settlements, drawn by what the festival had long promised: a space for celebration and collective presence. For Shiva, it was simply a day to watch and listen and be part of the largest cultural gathering of his community.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/the-nation/assam-mising-youth-migration-deaths-unemployment-bjp-polarisation/article70614824.ece>

- 59.** When Marina Abramovic's lecture was not her best performance. Frontline. Vol 43. No-3. 28th Feb 2026.

Watching the performance artist Marina Abramovic at work is, perhaps, the closest to ritual a godless world can come to. But I would not know exactly. I have not seen her perform elsewhere, and she did not perform at the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, either, where she instead lectured with slides where subtitles were missing from the videos— with a useful but unheeded edit note asking for subtitles to be added. The audio from her iconic performance titled AAA-AAA (1978), where she screamed into the mouth of her partner who screamed back, was also missing.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/columns/marina-abramovic-kochi-biennale-lecture-performance-critique-review/article70647274.ece>

- 60.** A Dying Revolution. Open Magazine. Vol.4. No-60. 27th Feb 2026.

REVOLUTIONS DIE IN THE BLOOD of the first dreamer. Or that is what we have seen in history's soiled pages of liberation. Between the origin and the finale, it is a long passage of power and euphoria, paranoia and pathology, fear and control—and of slogans that ridicule reality. Revolutions, always, need constant surveillance; the panopticon can never afford to be kind for the simple reason that the sovereignty of happiness is always under the threat of the counterrevolutionary. In the end, the street becomes one with the conscience; tanks and guns can't win the battle for a lie.

<https://openthemagazine.com/columns/a-dying-revolution>

- 61.** Trump's Tariffs: Trading In A Multiverse. Open Magazine. Vol.4. No-60. 27th Feb 2026.

ON FEBRUARY 20 US PRESIDENT Donald Trump signed a proclamation imposing a temporary duty to address what he said was a fundamental international payments problem and to also rebalance trade relations. A day later Trump doubled down on his tariffs plan and said he would raise the global tariff rate to 15 per cent. When the fresh tariffs became effective on February 24, the rate was 10 per cent and, despite US officials asserting that a hike to 15 per cent was not ruled out, that is where things stand.

And while this rate left some US trade pacts like the one with the UK unchanged, it brought down reciprocal tariffs on India from 25 per cent. After the February 2 breakthrough in India-US talks, the rate was to be reduced to 18 per cent and even if Trump raises tariffs to 15 per cent, Indian exporters would still be at an advantage compared to just a month ago.

<https://openthemagazine.com/india/trumps-tariffs-trading-in-a-multiverse>

- 62.** China piles pressure on Japan after Takaichi Sanae's triumph. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

CHINA and Japan have a long history of feuding. Four years passed between the arrest of a drunken Chinese fishing captain that sent relations into a tailspin in 2010 and the beginning of the reconciliation process. The neighbours are now locked in another stand-off that shows no signs of ending: on February 24th China announced new curbs on rare-earth exports to at least 20 Japanese firms, ratcheting up pressure on Japan's new Prime Minister, Takaichi Sanae (pictured).

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/02/26/china-piles-pressure-on-japan-after-takaichi-sanaes-triumph>

- 63.** Americans have no idea what Donald Trump wants from Iran. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

AFTER two months of presidential threats, amid the largest air and naval build-up in the Middle East since the 2003 invasion of Iraq, Americans might have expected Donald Trump to make the case for what may be an imminent conflict with Iran. Yet his state-of-the-union address on February 24th devoted just a few minutes to the subject. Not only that, he said Iran could avoid a fight if it simply uttered "those secret words: we will never have a nuclear weapon".

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2026/02/25/americans-have-no-idea-what-donald-trump-wants-from-iran>

- 64.** How the war in Ukraine affects Siberian Russia. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

In the pagan tradition of the Evenki, an indigenous people living in the Olenok district of Russia's far eastern Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), red and black symbolise life and death. So at the head of a recent funeral procession in the village of Kharliakh, people carried a two-metre-high cross with diagonal red and black stripes. Behind the small crowd came a truck with a coffin, topped with a military cap. Igor Ivanov, a reindeer-herder, was killed 4,500km away in Ukraine.

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2026/02/26/how-the-war-in-ukraine-affects-siberian-russia>

LAW

- 65.** When justice is branded as 'divisive'. Frontline. Vol 43. No-3. 28th Feb 2026.

When the University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2026, were announced, the response was immediate and ferocious. Mainstream media erupted, civil society members protested, and politicians across the ideological spectrum united in opposition. The regulations were branded

“draconian” and “divisive”. What made them so controversial? They had dared to name caste explicitly and create mechanisms to address discrimination against Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), and Other Backward Classes (OBC) students in higher education institutions.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/social-issues/social-justice/caste-equity-ugc-rules-supreme-court-backlash-india/article70642678.ece>

66. First among unequals. Frontline. Vol 43. No-3. 28th Feb 2026.

“All my adult life, I’ve been trying to bring my people into a system that proclaims every day that this is not our place,” said Professor (Dr) Sonajharia Minz, one of India’s first tribal Vice Chancellors. Minz is a professor at the School of Computer and Systems Sciences, JNU, New Delhi. She has been teaching since 1990 and has chaired various committees that focus on redress mechanisms. From caste-based discrimination to reserved seats lying vacant for years to promotions denied because of caste, she has seen and tried to repair much. “But I often ask myself, when a nation is being built, whose responsibility is it to ensure that every institution is equitable for everyone?”

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/social-issues/social-justice/india-educationugc-2026-regulations-caste-discrimination-supreme-court-stay/article70651830.ece>

67. Performative Doctrinal Compliance. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61, No-8. 21st Feb 2026.

Indian legal scholarship operates as a self-referential system where academic articles appear in merely 0.65% of the Supreme Court judgments. Simultaneously, 94% of judicial citations reference foreign journals, and 88% of university-recommended Indian journals are predatory. Institutional pressures reward publication volume over empirical rigour, which confines scholars to textual analysis, leaving systemic discrimination, registry manipulation, and bail disparities unexamined. The discipline requires immediate reorientation towards courtroom ethnography and quantitative methods.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/8/law-and-society/performative-doctrinal-compliance.html>

LITERATURE

68. Ukraine is scaling up interceptor drones. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

THEY CAN hardly believe it themselves. At a secret training range north of Kyiv, a group of volunteers are learning the basics of drone shootdowns. The experiment attempts to revive the improvisational spirit of the war’s first weeks. The part-time unit, which includes graphic designers, actors, lawyers and a neurologist, feels more Dad’s Army than praetorian guard. But they feel they have a duty to defend their homes. “We’re preparing while we can,” says new recruit Oleksandra Azarkina, a former deputy minister for infrastructure. “We don’t know what tomorrow brings.”

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2026/02/26/ukraine-is-scaling-up-interceptor-drones>

POLITICAL SCIENCE & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

69. UGC equity rules are a carefully curated political gesture: Anand Teltumbde. Frontline. Vol 43. No-3. 28th Feb 2026.

The furore over the University Grants Commission's (UGC) equity regulations aimed at addressing caste discrimination on educational campuses has once again exposed the fault lines that divide the country on the basis of caste. In a wide-ranging interview, the academic, writer, and civil rights activist Anand Teltumbde argues that while reservation has enabled students from marginalised communities to enter educational institutions, it has failed to address the disadvantages these students continue to face on campus. He also points to the dominance of historically privileged groups in university faculties and contends that the emphasis on rankings, publications, citation indices, and "global benchmarks" in higher education often reproduces structural disadvantages for scholars from marginalised caste backgrounds. Excerpts:

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/social-issues/social-justice/ugc-regulations-caste-politics-campus-social-justice/article70618720.ece>

70. Hate speech has moved from the margins to the mainstream of governance. Frontline. Vol 43. No-3. 28th Feb 2026.

Sankar–Ajan is intrinsic to Assam's identity. The phrase encompasses the syncretic cultural, spiritual, and social harmony that has long shaped the region, interweaving the ideals of the 15th century Vaishnavite reformer Srimanta Sankardeva and the 17th century Sufi mystic Ajan Fakir. Although separated by centuries, their doctrines of monotheism and social equality forged a shared spiritual terrain. Over time, the expression has come to signify Hindu–Muslim unity, peace, and the composite heritage at the heart of Assamese society. But in recent weeks, this unity has come under deliberate assault. More unsettling, the assault has been led by none other than the State's Chief Minister, Himanta Biswa Sarma.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/the-nation/india-hate-speech-governance-hindutva-2026/article70638320.ece>

71. Can the BJP wire Punjab by 2027 without the Akalis?. Frontline. Vol 43. No-3. 28th Feb 2026.

For more than three decades, the BJP survived on the margins of Punjab politics, electorally tagged along with the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), organisationally thin, and largely confined to urban Hindu pockets and foothill districts bordering Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. In India's only Sikh-majority State, the BJP functioned less as a political force than as a junior partner, surviving through alliance arithmetic rather than independent mobilisation.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/politics/bjp-punjab-assembly-solo-2027/article70641960.ece>

72. Taking Aim at Equal Citizenship. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61, No-8. 21st Feb 2026.

On 8 February, the official Twitter handle of the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Assam state unit posted an egregious AI-generated video where the Assam chief minister was shown to be pointing a gun and taking aim at individuals from the Muslim community, at a firing range. The video also contained hateful texts against the community with epithets such as "Bangladeshi" and "foreigner." Following the widespread outrage against this brazen incitement to violence, the video was taken down and some token action has been initiated against the person running the social media handle. However, the responsibility does not lie with that person alone, not even primarily, as this particular video is only a further intensification of the concerted campaign of hate targeted against the Muslim community in general and Bengali origin/Bengali-speaking Muslims—pejoratively called Miyas, though the term, of late, has also been reappropriated by the community itself—in particular. The campaign has been led by the chief minister himself who has been notorious for vile rhetoric against the "Miya" community. Prior to the appearance of this video, the chief minister had openly declared himself and his party and the government to be against the community, targeting them as foreigners and illegal immigrants. He had also exhorted the people to put an economic squeeze on the community by saying that if the rickshaw puller is a Miya and the rickshaw fare is ₹5, pay only ₹4. Not only do these remarks constitute incitement, as they come from a constitutional functionary, they amount to a blatant violation of the oath of that office to protect all citizens without fear or favour.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/8/editorials/taking-aim-equal-citizenship.html>

- 73.** Student Suicides and the Governance of Care in India. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61, No-8. 21st Feb 2026.

Student suicides in India have largely been addressed through individualised, psychocentric frameworks, despite their persistently high rates. This article examines how the Supreme Court's 2025 interventions reframed student suicides as a failure of institutional governance and protection rather than just individual vulnerability. Drawing on judicial orders, national data, policy frameworks, and field insights, it argues that judicial urgency exposes the limits of advisory prevention and underscores structural inequalities shaping institutional capacity to protect vulnerable children.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/8/commentary/student-suicides-and-governance-care-india.html>

- 74.** Politics of PRCs and the Morans in Arunachal Pradesh. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61, No-8. 21st Feb 2026.

The demand for permanent residential certificates by non-Arunachal Pradesh Scheduled Tribes, including the Morans, has been a long-standing issue in the internal governance of AP. An enquiry into these developments must look at both sides of the debate, the apprehensions of the APSTs and the assertions of the non-APSTs.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/8/commentary/politics-prcs-and-morans-arunachal-pradesh.html>

- 75.** Sexual Slander against Women Politicians. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61, No-8. 21st Feb 2026.

How does political masculinity respond to female presence in politics? The article seeks to answer this by unpacking the discourse surrounding sexual slandering against K K Shailaja, Kerala's previous health minister and electoral candidate of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) in the 2024 Parliament elections. The case shows how sexualised gender essentialisations position women within a moral spectrum of gendered roles that range from reproduction to fulfilment of male desirability. The normalisation of "feminine ableness" evolved against the masculine benchmark of "political ability" and is delegitimised by sexualising women's bodies through public reclamations of virile masculinity.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/8/insight/sexual-slander-against-women-politicians.html>

- 76.** The Colonial Impact on Chieftainship. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61, No-8. 21st Feb 2026.

Chieftainship, which has been central to the sociopolitical life of the Zo ethnic tribes in the Indo-Burma borderlands since precolonial times, features in all colonial writings on the Zo tribes, but there has been no major independent study of the institution. Analysing the impact of colonial rule on Zo chieftainship, the paper shows that colonial rule while hollowing out the core attributes of Zo chieftainship, entrenched landownership systems and economic power in favour of the chiefs within this system. This ultimately hastened the dissolution of the institution itself, in parts of the region, while further strengthening the hold of the chiefs on village lands in other places.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/8/special-articles/colonial-impact-chieftainship.html>

- 77.** Swadeshi as Congress Hegemony. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61, No-8. 21st Feb 2026.

The evolution of the concept of swadeshi from its origins during the protest against the partition of Bengal in 1905 to the Civil Disobedience Movement, 1930–34, focusing on the nationwide boycott of Binny's goods and the management's resistance, documented in its extensive correspondence with the government, is the focus of the paper. While resistance to colonial rule forms the substrate all through, in its original phase, swadeshi pitted Indianness against foreign imposition, whereas, during Civil Disobedience, swadeshi also embodied the hegemony of the Congress over determining what was in India's national interest.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/8/special-articles/swadeshi-congress-hegemony.html>

- 78.** Can Farmer Producer Organisations' Structure Be Anti-competitive?. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61, No-8. 21st Feb 2026.

While farmer producer organisations offer significant benefits, including improved market access, productivity, and income for member farmers, their structure raises concerns about potential anti-competitive implications, such as market control, exclusive agreements, collusive behaviour, and impacts on related markets. International frameworks offer insights into balancing collective bargaining with fair competition. Legislative intervention and a nuanced regulatory approach are

suggested to ensure that FPOs' operations do not undermine competition while achieving economic objectives for farmers.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/8/discussion/can-farmer-producer-organisations-structure-be.html>

79. Trump's War On Peace. Open Magazine. Vol.4. No-60. 27th Feb 2026.

Donald Trump's second presidency marks a decisive shift in US statecraft: foreign policy as personal theatre, multilateralism displaced by a doctrine of calculated disruption, and the institutional order recast through a narrowly transactional 'America First' realism.

<https://openthemagazine.com/world/trumps-war-on-peace>

80. We are in a delicate phase of restoring the India-US relationship and the deal has already got better for us, says Arvind Panagariya. Open Magazine. Vol.4. No-60. 27th Feb 2026.

After suffering a setback in the US Supreme Court, President Donald Trump has re-imposed tariffs at 10 per cent which might rise to 15 per cent. In these circumstances, what should be India's course of action? Should India wait for more clarity before pressing ahead with the deal which has not yet been signed? And does India have the leeway—legal and political—to renegotiate a better deal?

<https://openthemagazine.com/india/we-are-in-a-delicate-phase-of-restoring-the-india-us-relationship-and-the-deal-has-already-got-better-for-us-says-arvind-panagariya>

81. Hindu Consolidation: The Murmur In the Core. Open Magazine. Vol.4. No-60. 27th Feb 2026.

THE RISE OF THE BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY (BJP) has often been attributed to the ascent of a cadre-based movement shaped by upper castes. BJP led by Narendra Modi, though, is defined by mass arithmetic. The party's ideological project subsumed caste under a broader Hindu identity, a strategy derived from the learnings of the Mandal era. For nearly three decades after Mandal, the significant feature of Indian politics has been a movement towards assertion of backward castes, towards a vocabulary of social justice. Justice has remained mostly rhetoric, but Modi's social origins have been central to BJP's appeal among backward classes, especially in the Hindi heartland. The party has invested heavily in cultivating non-dominant Other Backward Classes (OBCs). These are smaller, often locally marginalised groups who felt excluded from the patronage networks of larger OBC blocs empowered by Mandal-era politics. Welfare schemes, calibrated candidate selection and a rhetoric of aspirational nationalism have underpinned this outreach.

<https://openthemagazine.com/india/hindu-consolidation-the-murmur-in-the-core>

82. National Guard: The home ministry unveils a forward-looking strategy against terrorism and insurgency. Open Magazine. Vol.4. No-60. 27th Feb 2026.

JUST AT THE time when Thippiri Tirupathi (Devji), one of the last surviving senior leaders of the Communist Party of India (Maoist), was surrendering to Telangana Police this week, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) headed by Home Minister Amit Shah released a document outlining the National Counter-Terrorism Policy and Strategy. The timing of the release is interesting as India is ending some of its long-running insurgencies and notching up much-needed internal security successes.

<https://openthemagazine.com/india/national-guard-the-home-ministry-unveils-a-forward-looking-strategy-against-terrorism-and-insurgency>

83. Infrastructure Projects: No to Stagnation. Open Magazine. Vol.4. No-60. 27th Feb 2026.

WHEN MAJOR-GENERAL Le Marquis de Bourbel, an engineer in the British army, compiled *Routes in Jammu and Kashmir* in the late 19th century, he was exploring a railway link connecting Punjab to Kashmir. Much water had flown in the Chenab, before almost a century later, a broad-gauge between Udhampur and Srinagar, found its way into the Union Budget, in 1994, under the PV Narasimha Rao regime. It was later extended to Baramulla, the gateway to the Kashmir Valley. In 2002, then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee declared the Kashmir rail link, connecting the valley with the rest of the country, a national project.

<https://openthemagazine.com/india/infrastructure-projects-no-to-stagnation>

84. Donald Trump is at risk of launching a war without purpose. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

EARNING A NAME for issuing empty threats can be devastating. Ask Barack Obama. Thirteen years ago, a dictator in the Middle East defied a warning from America's then-president not to cross a "red line" by using chemical weapons against his own people. The world held its breath, asking itself when Mr Obama would punish, or even topple, the tyrant for his war crime. Instead, Mr Obama did nothing. Syria's vile ruler held on for over a decade. Half a million people died. For many, from that moment, the president's credibility was shot.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/02/26/donald-trump-is-at-risk-of-launching-a-war-without-purpose>

85. Heathrow's third runway is turning into another infrastructure fiasco. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

In January 2025 Britain's Labour government threw its weight behind plans for a third runway at Heathrow airport. This was meant to signal its commitment to growth. But announcing grand infrastructure ambitions is easy; turning them into reality is hard. Since then the project to expand Europe's busiest airport has tripped one warning light after another.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/02/26/heathrows-third-runway-is-turning-into-another-infrastructure-fiasco>

86. The Supreme Court tariffs ruling reins in Donald Trump. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

THE DECISION by America's Supreme Court to strike down the Trump administration's Liberation Day tariffs is good news. By ruling out unchecked, discretionary authority by any president who simply declares a national emergency, the decision blocks Donald Trump's ability to impose tariffs on a whim. But those who hope that it will prevent the administration from threatening tariffs—and imposing them—in future will be sorely disappointed.

<https://www.economist.com/by-invitation/2026/02/20/the-supreme-court-tariffs-ruling-reins-in-donald-trump>

87. America's new era of state-sponsored mining. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

FOR MOST of the past 30 years Western firms have been leaving rather than investing in the Democratic Republic of Congo, says Guy-Robert Lukama. The former chair of Gécamines, the main state-owned miner, reckons Chinese entities have stakes in 90% of Congolese projects. But now the Americans are “pushing, pushing, pushing”. In December American firms secured the first crack at a trove of mines and exploration sites in Africa's most mineral-rich country. The US government also invested \$553m in the Lobito Corridor, a railway from Congo's copperbelt to Angola's Atlantic coast, for faster shipping to America. In February Orion CMC, a consortium that includes the American government, agreed to buy a 40% stake in the only Western-controlled copper and cobalt mines in Congo.

<https://www.economist.com/briefing/2026/02/26/americas-new-era-of-state-sponsored-mining>

88. Google Maps makes another pitch for better South Korean data. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

Google Maps wants to close its gaps. One of the biggest in the search giant's navigation app is South Korea. Nearly two decades after the service launched, even basic walking or driving directions there are unavailable. The South Korean government has long denied Google's requests for detailed cartographic data, citing national-security concerns. That stance has helped home-grown tech firms, such as Naver, the country's most-used search engine, remain South Korea's dominant digital-map providers.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/02/26/google-maps-makes-another-pitch-for-better-south-korean-data>

89. India's VIP culture is out of control. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

IT IS EASY for politicians to forget, amid the trappings of power, that they are public servants. But not for Narendra Modi. India's prime minister has always insisted that the government exists to serve. When he rose to national office in 2014, he declared that he was not the country's prime minister but its “chief servant”. Since then, “the Modi government has been synonymous with service, not power,” the home minister declared recently. The chief servant, he added, “works 24 hours a day, seven days a week for the people”.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/02/22/indias-vip-culture-is-out-of-control>

90. The Trump court? Not quite. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

APRESIDENT'S most lasting mark is the justices he appoints to the Supreme Court. But as Donald Trump learned anew on February 20th when two of his appointees voted to nullify sweeping tariffs he imposed last spring, presidents have no control over their nominees once they are confirmed. Mr Trump heaped insults on Justices Amy Coney Barrett and Neil Gorsuch, jurists he tapped in 2020 and 2017, for voting the wrong way in *Learning Resources v Trump*. Their judgments were an “embarrassment to their families”, he said. But Justice Brett Kavanaugh, Mr Trump’s pick in 2018, who voted to save the tariffs, received presidential kudos for his “genius”.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2026/02/26/the-trump-court-not-quite>

91. The battle to flip Texas. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

Donald Trump is not on the ballot in the midterms, but he hovers over every race. His unpopularity gives Democrats an excellent chance of winning the House of Representatives in November. Some Democrats even dream of capturing the Senate. A dramatic tussle in Texas shows how that might be possible.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2026/02/26/the-battle-to-flip-texas>

92. Ali Larijani is an increasingly plausible heir in Iran. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

Formally, Iran has a leadership council primed to act should the supreme leader, Ali Khamenei, be killed or incapacitated. Under Article 111 of the constitution, the president, the head of the judiciary and a senior cleric would form a caretaker committee. In practice, one man already seems to outrank them. Ali Larijani, secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, is shaping Iran’s strategy as the supreme leader slips in and out of view. “He’s replaced Qassem Suleimani,” says Lynette Nusbacher, a British former intelligence officer, referring to the regime’s leading commander whom America assassinated in 2020. “He’s Khamenei’s eminence grise.”

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2026/02/26/ali-larijani-is-an-increasingly-plausible-heir-in-iran>

93. Iran may insist Hizbullah fights on its behalf. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

Few things better illustrate the decline of Hizbullah, the Iran-backed militia in Lebanon, than the non-event that speeches by its leader, Naim Qassem, have become. Those of his predecessor, Hassan Nasrallah, would stop even Christians in northern Lebanon in their tracks. But when Mr Qassem held forth this month, Beirut’s barber shops did not bother to turn on their televisions and the radios of the capital’s buses kept playing pop music.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2026/02/26/iran-may-insist-hizbullah-fights-on-its-behalf>

94. Giorgia Meloni is taking on the courts in Italy. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

Italian governments have often been at odds with the country’s courts. But with a referendum on reforming the judiciary due on March 22nd and 23rd, the animosity has seldom been so high—perhaps not since the late Silvio Berlusconi was claiming to be the victim of a conspiracy by communist judges. Much of the ill will stems from

rulings against the hard-line immigration policies of Giorgia Meloni, the prime minister, and her populist-right government.

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2026/02/26/giorgia-meloni-is-taking-on-the-courts-in-italy>

- 95.** France's far left reckons with the murder of a far-right activist. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

THE FATAL beating of a 23-year-old nationalist in Lyon on February 12th is France's "Charlie Kirk moment", said Dominique de Villepin. France's far right, the former prime minister warned, would use the incident to portray itself as the victim of widespread violence, just as America's populist right did last year after the assassination of Kirk, a MAGA activist. The comparison is inexact. But the killing of Quentin Deranque looks set to damage the populist left and reinforce the populist right. Ahead of mayoral elections in March and a presidential vote in 2027, it also stirs fresh worries about political violence.

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2026/02/23/frances-far-left-reckons-with-the-murder-of-a-far-right-activist>

- 96.** Britain's civil service has a new leader. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

To understand what Sir Keir Starmer sees in Dame Antonia Romeo, his new cabinet secretary, take the 576-word memo she sent to Britain's senior civil servants on February 23rd. Written in the imperative mood, item one of four was "delivery and results". "Focus intensely on getting stuff done, taking the initiative, and achieving outcomes," she wrote. "Remove barriers, don't create them...Be clear on objectives, what success looks like, and relentless in scrutinising performance." For her part, she wrote: "I will back you when you take appropriate risks and make difficult calls. That is the deal."

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2026/02/26/britains-civil-service-has-a-new-leader>

SCIENCE

- 97.** When Research Is Invisible to Patients. Frontline. Vol 43. No-3. 28th Feb 2026.

As a scientist, I know clinical trials exist precisely for situations like this—where current treatments fall short and scientists are testing new ideas. So, it felt impossible to accept that the story simply ended with *there's not much we can do*. If not treatment, surely there was something—a trial testing a new molecule, a device, a rehabilitation protocol. Something, somewhere.

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/health/when-research-invisible-patients>

- 98.** AI tools are being prepared for the physical world. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

PROJECT GENIE, an experimental artificial-intelligence model released by Google in January, is a jaw-dropping technical achievement. Give the tool a prompt—an image,

say, or a brief snippet of text—and it will generate an interactive world for the user to explore. Type in a straightforward request, and the result is a realistic simulation. Start with a painting by Georges Seurat, by contrast, and you can wander through a Sunday in the park in perfect pointillist style.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/02/25/ai-tools-are-being-prepared-for-the-physical-world>

99. Marks left by Stone Age humans were surprisingly complex. *Economist*. 28th Feb 2026.

ASYSTEM OF caves in the Swabian Jura, a mountain range in what is now southwest Germany, offers archaeologists a window onto the life of the first anatomically modern Europeans. Between 43,000 and 34,000 years ago, the inhabitants of these caves created a cornucopia of artefacts: specialised tools and jewellery; figurative art; flutes whittled from bone and ivory; and miniature figurines of megafauna both real and imagined. Many of these artefacts are adorned with what archaeologists call “signs”—geometric markings such as dots, lines, crosses and stars—the meaning and purpose of which remain unknown.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/02/25/marks-left-by-stone-age-humans-were-surprisingly-complex>

SOCIOLOGY

100. Asymmetry, the elephant in the room. *Frontline*. Vol 43. No-3. 28th Feb 2026.

The decision of the Supreme Court of India to place the University Grants Commission’s (UGC) proposed regulations on caste discrimination in higher education in abeyance has reopened a familiar but unresolved question in Indian public discourse. Can equality be meaningfully pursued through uniform legal language in a context of deeply unequal social and institutional power?

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/columns/ugc-caste-discrimination-equality/article70614432.ece>

101. Find, lose, search again. *Frontline*. Vol 43. No-3. 28th Feb 2026.

“Do you remember, when we first met, you had asked me why the Adivasi women you saw sat on their haunches on the road? You were worried they’d get crushed by a vehicle,” says a character—a Maoist insurgent—in Rahul Pandita’s *Our Friends in Good Houses*.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/books/our-friends-good-houses-home-exile-review/article70599139.ece>

102. The Trial of Gisèle Pelicot’s Rapists United France and Fractured Her Family. *New Yorker*. 2nd March 2026.

Gisèle Pelicot was sitting by a tennis court in October, 2020, watching her granddaughter hit forehands, when she saw that she’d missed a call. When she called back, a police officer named Laurent Perret asked if she was aware that a few weeks

earlier her husband, Dominique, had been questioned by the police. A security worker at a supermarket had caught him filming under three women's skirts with his cellphone. Gisèle, feeling a small sense of victory, explained to Perret that she already knew. She had told Dominique, "What you did was ridiculous," and urged him to see a therapist and apologize to the women. "I forgave him, because I know it's not like him," she later told Perret. "I told him that we had to face this situation together."

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/03/02/the-trial-of-gisele-pelicots-rapists-united-france-and-fractured-her-family>

103. Each year tens of thousands of Americans accidentally kill. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

IN A GREEK myth Apollo accidentally kills the Spartan prince Hyacinthus with a discus. As the god mourns his lover, a flower blooms from the drops of Hyacinthus's blood. The story of hope after harm has inspired a club in America that nobody wants to belong to: the Hyacinth Fellowship. The fellowship is a support group for people who have accidentally killed somebody. "We are not the good guys in our stories," says one member, who at the age of 16 skidded off the road while driving at night and killed her friend in the passenger seat, the town's prom queen.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2026/02/26/each-year-tens-of-thousands-of-americans-accidentally-kill>

104. Iranians' angry defiance is growing once again. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

If Iran's rulers thought that their critics would be silenced by January's carnage, they have miscalculated. As soon as universities reopened on February 21st (they were closed on January 4th, amid the unrest, ostensibly because of the "cold"), campuses were filled with protests. For three consecutive days students, men and women alike, defied plainclothes bullyboys posing as classmates. Their courage has been matched by their radicalism. In Tehran University, a bastion of anti-monarchist sentiment ahead of the shah's overthrow in 1979, students chanted for the restoration of the monarchy and waved its old flag. "This massacre created a nation," says a doctoral student in Tehran. "People are more united than ever."

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2026/02/26/iranians-angry-defiance-is-growing-once-again>

SPORTS

105. If He Is Vice-Captain, Why Isn't He Playing?: Aakash Chopra Slams Axar Patel's Omission. Open Magazine. Vol.4. No-60. 27th Feb 2026.

Former Indian cricketer Aakash Chopra has questioned the Indian team's playing XI combination following their defeat to South Africa in their Super 8 fixture of the ongoing ICC Men's T20 World Cup on Sunday, pointing in particular to the omission of vice-captain Axar Patel from the lineup. India opted to field Washington Sundar in the clash against the Proteas, leaving Axar on the bench, a decision that Chopra felt raised serious questions about team clarity.

<https://openthemagazine.com/sports/if-he-is-vice-captain-why-isnt-he-playing-aakash-chopra-slams-axar-patels-omission>

- 106.** T20 World Cup: Suffers Snap India's Winning Streak. Open Magazine. Vol.4. No-60. 27th Feb 2026.

Aiden Markram, part-time off-spinner and full-time captain of South Africa, stood at the top of his mark at the very start of India's chase, waiting for the home openers to make their way to the crease at the Narendra Modi Stadium. Markram had earlier won the toss, stuck his side into bat, been a part of a collapse that once saw the South Africans reduced to 20/3, and yet end up with a total of 187 runs in their innings. Now, with the ball in hand, Markram took the shiny new ball to begin a defence of their hefty total.

<https://openthemagazine.com/sports/t20-world-cup-suffers-snap-indias-winning-streak>

- 107.** 'They are beatable': David Miller After India's 76-run Loss to South Africa. Open Magazine. Vol.4. No-60. 27th Feb 2026.

South Africa's veteran batter and finisher David Miller praised the Indian side after playing a key role with the bat in his team's 76-run victory at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. "That they are beatable, India come with as I mentioned an incredible team, But I think for us in a tournament like this, it's about making sure that we do, as I said, I keep going back to the simple things and making sure that we stay in our lane as a player and do the job and get the job done," Miller said after the match.

<https://openthemagazine.com/sports/they-are-beatable-david-miller-after-indias-76-run-loss-to-south-africa>

- 108.** T20 World Cup: Jacks helps Eng pull off a Houdini act –again. Open Magazine. Vol.4. No-60. 27th Feb 2026.

There are some players who just don't give up and their never-say-die attitude lifts the team. England's Will Jacks has hauled his team out of trouble repeatedly this world cup and its now time the rest rallied around. His 21 of 14 against Sri Lanka may seem a modest contribution but it came at a time when England looked like fading away. They finished with 146 which is not much but it had the semblance of a fighting total.

<https://openthemagazine.com/sports/jacks-helps-eng-pull-off-a-houdini-act-again>

TRAVEL DESCRIPTION

- 109.** SOS for India's Pink City. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

ON entering Jaipur's old town, you hear the staccato of a vintage printing press in one alley and in the next the clang of chisels against marble idols. Each lane of the walled city has its own soundscape, organised by traditional trade castes. But what about that bang? Probably one of its traditional townhouses, or havelis, being razed to the ground.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/02/26/sos-for-indias-pink-city>

110. South Sudan's decrepit regime is unravelling. Economist. 28th Feb 2026.

It is rarely a good sign for a country's international airport to run out of money. Yet that is what is happening in South Sudan. In January, the newly appointed director of civil aviation ripped up an agreement on overflight fees. He ordered all international airlines passing through South Sudanese airspace to pay a company said to be linked to the president's family. The airlines refused. Payments stopped. Now cash reserves at the airport in Juba, the capital, are dwindling. Fuel is scarce. Licensed air-traffic controllers have left.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2026/02/26/south-sudans-decrepit-regime-is-unravelling>

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	W	India
5	History Today		
6	India Forum	W	India
7	India's World	BM	India
8	New Yorker	W	New York
9	Open Magazine	W	India