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ART

1. Martin Parr's Eye for Human Folly. *New Yorker*. 23rd March 2026.

artin Parr, who died in December, at the age of seventy-three, had a specific paint color in mind for the first room of "Global Warning," a retrospective of his photographs that's currently on display at the Jeu de Paume, in Paris. The show's curator, Quentin Bajac, had suggested that they go with something classic—i.e., white—but Parr was very clear that he wanted a more exuberant hue. The one he chose might commonly be called bubblegum, but anyone who's visited the show may be inclined to think of it forever after as Parr Pink: the pink of a hibiscus on a garishly printed bikini bottom, of bootleg perfume bottles, of diaper packages and cookie icing; the pink of slack mouths and dangling uvulas and nostrils shown so close up that you can see every last busted blood vessel, suggesting a lifetime of excess in a world of overconsumption.

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/photo-booth/martin-parrs-eye-for-human-folly>

2. "Project Hail Mary": In Space, No One Should Hear Your Glib Jokes. *New Yorker*. 23rd March 2026.

In 2006, Ryan Gosling, then in his twenties, starred in a tough-minded, low-budget drama called "Half Nelson," in which he played a middle-school teacher hobbled by a crack addiction. Years later, the actor, now a fully-fledged star, blasted off into space; the film was the Neil Armstrong drama "First Man" (2018), and it climaxed with a weepy reconstruction of the 1969 moon landing. Now, in "Project Hail Mary," Gosling has come full circle: he is Ryland Grace, a middle-school teacher who blasts off into space. There are differences, to be sure. Grace's destination is the star Tau Ceti, roughly 11.9 light-years from Earth. No crack is smoked; an astronaut's life has enough highs. (There's also an onboard vodka stash that doesn't last long.) Weeping, though, you can count on. Gosling is a beautiful crier, and his character's journey seems destined to end in tears.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/03/23/project-hail-mary-movie-review>

3. What Egon Schiele Saw at the Hospital. *New Yorker*. 23rd March 2026.

How did Egon Schiele arrive at his particular vision of the human body? This has always puzzled me. If you go back and review his influences, such as Gustav Klimt and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, or survey the ambient intellectual milieu of fin-de-siècle Vienna—from Freud to the anatomist Josef Hyrtl—Schiele's wiry creatures, all bone and sinew, still seem to come out of nowhere. In drawings and paintings, he disfigured men, women, and children. Flesh often seems bruised. Limbs are weirdly bent or over-rotated. Faces have a regurgitated aspect. Sometimes Schiele randomly lopped off part of a leg, or used bloody coloring to imply a flayed corpse. All of this occurred to him before the carnage of the First World War and continued mostly unabated until he died, in 1918, at the age of twenty-eight. *New Yorker*. 23rd March 2026.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/03/23/what-egon-schiele-saw-at-the-hospital>

4. Russia should not be welcome at the world's top art show. Economist. 28th March 2026. You hop off the vaporetto or stroll along the embankment from St Mark's Square, away from the gondolas and the Bridge of Sighs. The pavilions of the Venice Biennale, the world's leading contemporary-art exhibition, are scattered across the lush, jasmine-scented gardens at the island's eastern tip. This is bliss, culture vultures may think. Yet even in this artistic Arcadia, death and politics intrude. As Vladimir Putin's war grinds on, a row has erupted in Venice about art, politics and violence.

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2026/03/26/russia-should-not-be-welcome-at-the-worlds-top-art-show>

BIOGRAPHY

5. Avtar Singh Bhasin (1935–2026): Indefatigable Chronicler of India's Diplomacy. India's World. Vol.2. No-3. March 2026.

Dr Avtar Singh Bhasin was a historian, scholar, and author who devoted his life to documenting the documentary history of India's foreign policy. Over the course of his long career, he quietly reshaped the field of diplomatic studies in India through the meticulous compilation and publication of one of the most substantial bodies of primary material on the country's post-independence external relations. He passed away in January 2026 at the age of 90.

<https://indiasworld.in/avtar-singh-bhasin-1935-2026-indefatigable-chronicler-of-indias-diplomacy/>

BUSINESS

6. How Chinese companies are reshaping Indonesia. Economist. 28th March 2026. When Donny Zhang first visited Indonesia from China as a venture capitalist in 2015, he was amazed by how curious regulators were about Alipay, one of China's most successful online-payment apps. In 2021 he co-founded Yup, a similar app for working-class Indonesians (who are often ill-served by local banks). Indonesia was an appealing place to start a business, says Mr Zhang. It is a big emerging market, it is not too far from China and almost everyone has a smartphone.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/03/26/how-chinese-companies-are-reshaping-indonesia>

7. Why Bangalore has India's best billionaires. Economist. 28th March 2026.
APART FROM its lovely weather and thriving tech startup scene, Bangalore offers little competition to India's great cities. The local food is top-notch, but the same can be said of Delhi. Its pubs are terrific, though so are Mumbai's. On the other side of the ledger is world-beating gridlock and insipid architecture. Yet there is a rarely noticed, little-appreciated measure on which Bangalore beats other cities hands down. That is the quality of its super-rich.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/03/22/why-bangalore-has-indias-best-billionaires>

8. In the current Gulf war, water may prove as decisive as oil. Economist. 28th March 2026.
Should the war over Iran grind on, water may become as crucial a commodity as oil. The arid Arab countries of the Gulf increasingly rely on desalination, which provides 90% or more of the drinking-water supply for Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar, and almost as much for Oman. For Saudi Arabia it is 70%, and roughly 40% in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2026/03/26/in-the-current-gulf-war-water-may-prove-as-decisive-as-oil>

ECONOMICS

9. Can Agricultural Growth Generate Higher Employment for Rural Women in India?. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61. No-12. 21st March 2026.
Periodic Labour Force Survey data indicate a sharp rise in female employment between 2017-18 and 2022-23, with the rural female labour force participation rate increasing from 24.6% to 41.5%. This paper questions the interpretation that this increase reflects agricultural growth or improved rural amenities. Examining trends in agricultural labour demand, employment status, and wages, it finds declining labour requirements in agriculture, rising unpaid family work, and stagnant real wages. These patterns suggest that the recent increase in the female labour force participation rate is more closely associated with rural distress than with improved economic opportunities. The paper thus highlights the limits of agriculture-led strategies for expanding women's employment.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/12/special-articles/can-agricultural-growth-generate-higher-employment.html>

- 10.** India's IP Surge: A Questionable Patent Filing Boom Obscures a Persistent Innovation Deficit. India Forum. 26th march 2026.

India's intellectual property (IP) landscape is experiencing a remarkable surge, as highlighted by Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal during his address at the National IP Awards and IP Conference in New Delhi on 9 March 2026. Goyal emphasised that patent filings in the country have grown by nearly 215% over the past decade, propelling India's global ranking in patent applications from 14th to 6th, a development he attributed to the innovative zeal among the nation's youth and a broader push towards strengthening the innovation ecosystem (Press Information Bureau 2026).

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/education/indias-ip-surge-patent-filing-boom-obscuring-persistent-innovation-deficit>

- 11.** Delhi's Rs.1.03 lakh crore Budget banks on borrowing and green promises. Frontline. 15th April 2026.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta's second Budget for Delhi, presented on March 24, pegged the total outlay for 2026-27 at Rs.1,03,700 crore—a 3.7 per cent increase over the Rs.1 lakh crore budget she presented in 2025-26, shortly after the BJP came to power. That first budget had itself been a 31.6 per cent jump over the last budget of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/news/rekha-gupta-bjp-delhi-budget-2026-analysis/article70784453.ece>

- 12.** Mexico's broken economy. Economist. 28th March 2026.

Mexico's president, Claudia Sheinbaum, says the economy is ticking along. In private she and her government are more concerned. Mexico's economy grew by 0.8% in 2025, Ms Sheinbaum's first full year in power. It was Mexico's worst growth rate since the pandemic, and the slowest growth of any large economy in Latin America. Mexico's monthly labour-market survey shows that formal employment contracted. Investment fell too.

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2026/03/26/mexicos-broken-economy>

- 13.** Brazil has a secret weapon against oil shocks. Economist. 28th March 2026.

Few countries were ready for the oil shock caused by Israel and America's war with Iran. Brazil was. During the past half-century, the agriculture giant has built the world's most sophisticated biofuels industry. It is the second-largest producer of ethanol, an alcohol that can be used to power cars, and the third-largest of biodiesel, which fuels heavy vehicles. They are mixed into petrol and diesel, with government-mandated blends of 30% and 15% respectively, among the highest globally. Three-quarters of Brazil's light vehicles contain technology enabling them to burn anything from pure petrol to the 100% ethanol delivered by ubiquitous álcool pumps.

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2026/03/26/brazil-has-a-secret-weapon-against-oil-shocks>

14. English farming is changing quickly, for the better. Economist. 28th March 2026.

One of the fields in James Bowditch's farm is a nuisance. It is oddly shaped, resembling a lower-case "r", and is on a slope. Mr Bowditch, who farms about 2,700 acres (1,100 hectares) in Dorset, in southern England, used to grow wheat on the whole thing. These days he grows wild flowers on the most awkward quarter of the field, for which he receives a government grant. If an ambitious environmental project is approved, he will soon start planting trees.

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2026/03/26/english-farming-is-changing-quickly-for-the-better>

15. The Bank of England's eyes and ears. Economist. 28th March 2026.

In a nondescript office in Birmingham, Graeme Chaplin nods as a manufacturer complains about increases to the minimum wage. These have not just made lower-skilled workers "unaffordable to employ", the industrialist says, but prompted senior staff to demand big pay rises. Seasoned employees' pride requires them to maintain a wage premium over the "young lad who sweeps the floor".

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2026/03/26/the-bank-of-englands-eyes-and-ears>

16. Britain's foreign aid morphs from open-handed to hard-headed. Economist. 28th March 2026.

"AID IS A peculiar thing," says Stefan Dercon, former chief economist at the Department for International Development (DfID). "You take some of your own money and spend it in the interest of people other than your own citizens that pay the taxes." But at its best it has helped achieve extraordinary progress. Foreign aid, or "official development assistance" (ODA), peaked in 2023 when \$240bn was provided globally, and has been a big contributor to the decline of deaths from AIDS, malaria and vaccine-preventable diseases. Britain has often been at the forefront, both in terms of spending levels and expertise—in particular since 1997 when DfID was born. In 2013 Britain became the first G7 country that met the UN's aid target of 0.7% of gross national income (GNI).

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2026/03/26/britains-foreign-aid-morphs-from-open-handed-to-hard-headed>

17. ByteDance is swallowing the internet—in China and beyond. Economist. 28th March 2026.

Since it was founded in 2012, ByteDance has grown to become the world's premier application factory. The Chinese giant, which began as a news aggregator, is these days best known as the company behind TikTok and its domestic equivalent, Douyin, which together are used monthly by close to 3bn people around the world. The company churns out so many other mobile apps that its employees struggle to keep track. Its portfolio now spans everything from video editing and workplace collaboration to chatbots.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/03/23/bytedance-is-swallowing-the-internet-in-china-and-beyond>

- 18.** Will the EU's new merger rules unleash a wave of dealmaking?. Economist. 28th March 2026.

How do you compete with Elon Musk? It is a question that the bosses of Airbus, Leonardo and Thales, three European aerospace firms, have been grappling with. Their satellite businesses have been crushed by Mr Musk's SpaceX and its rival Starlink system. In response, the trio announced in October that they would seek to merge their space divisions in the hope of creating a European champion.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/03/26/will-the-eus-new-merger-rules-unleash-a-wave-of-dealmaking>

- 19.** The war's biggest corporate winners and losers may surprise you. Economist. 28th March 2026.

FOR MANY businesses, a jump in fuel prices is a one-two punch. First comes the rise in input and operating costs, which compresses profit margins. Then, before bosses have got their bearings, the second jab lands: their customers start penny-pinching. Nearly all households in America own a car; most own two or more. When petrol prices rise from around \$3 a gallon to \$4 they end up spending over \$1,000 more per year on the fuel. For a typical household, that is an eighth of their discretionary spending—meaning money is diverted from things such as eating out, clothing and entertainment.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/03/26/the-wars-biggest-corporate-winners-and-losers-may-surprise-you>

- 20.** How much will America's oilmen benefit from the Iran war?. Economist. 28th March 2026.

MARKETS DO what markets do." So Chris Wright enlightened a Houston ballroom full of oilmen on March 23rd. America's energy secretary was the opening speaker at CERAWEEK, an industry jamboree, where he set an upbeat tone. War may be raging and oil markets gyrating; but in America's shale capital, good times were to be had.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/03/25/how-much-will-americas-oilmen-benefit-from-the-iran-war>

- 21.** How high could global inflation go?. Economist. 28th March 2026.

AFTER PEAKING at more than 10% in late 2022, because of post-pandemic supply-chain snarl-ups, over-generous stimulus cheques and, for good measure, an energy shock from Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, average inflation across the rich world fell. By the beginning of this year it was near 2% (see chart 1, top). Central bankers thought they had slain the inflationary beast.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/03/23/how-high-could-global-inflation-go>

- 22.** Even the best-case scenario for energy markets is disastrous. Economist. 28th March 2026.

The third Gulf war will soon be in its fifth week. Every day that Iran keeps the Strait of Hormuz shut, around a fifth of the world's output of oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) remains stranded. And every day, traders update how much supply is lost for the year. As their estimates rise, so do energy prices. Brent crude, at \$105 a barrel, is 45% dearer than before hostilities began. Gas prices in Europe are up by 65%.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/03/22/even-the-best-case-scenario-for-energy-markets-is-disastrous>

- 23.** China's new masterplan for its tech economy in 2030 and beyond. Economist. 28th March 2026.

CHINESE TECHNOCRATS spell out their vision of the future in impenetrable officialese. The 15th five-year plan for China's economic development, adopted in March, talks of "industrial upgrading", "new quality productive forces" and the like. Yet in plain language, it translates into Elon Musk's fever dream: skies dotted with flying taxis; fusion power fuelling factories manned by humanoid robots; unstoppable quantum computers; 6G mobile devices plugged directly into people's brains.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/03/24/chinas-new-masterplan-for-its-tech-economy-in-2030-and-beyond>

- 24.** Christine Lagarde's sober tone on the Gulf war energy shock. Economist. 28th March 2026.

THE RISKS from the Iran war, says Christine Lagarde, are being underestimated. Amid what the International Energy Agency calls the biggest energy shock ever, the president of the European Central Bank says expectations of a swift return to normal may be "overly optimistic". "We are facing a real shock...probably beyond what we can imagine at the moment."

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/03/26/christine-lagarde-sober-tone-on-the-gulf-war-energy-shock>

- 25.** Westerners are fleeing their countries in record numbers. Economist. 28th March 2026.

After stepping down as New Zealand's prime minister in 2023, Jacinda Ardern took up a role at Harvard University. Now she is based in Sydney. Ms Ardern's decision to live abroad has struck a nerve with Kiwis, who were already worried about high levels of emigration. Anxiety over the former prime minister's living arrangements hints at a wider trend across the West. Politicians focus on how many people migrate to their

country. Less noticed is that people are leaving in record numbers. The rise of the “expat economy” will have profound consequences.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/03/22/westerners-are-fleeing-their-countries-in-record-numbers>

- 26.** Markets are gripped by an alarming cognitive dissonance. Economist. 28th March 2026. Markets thrive on contradictions. Every buyer needs a seller—and each thinks they are making a good trade despite the likelihood that the other is at least as well-informed as they are. Investors know that markets are the best prediction engines out there, and try to beat them anyway. Perhaps the most useful piece of financial theory, the “no-arbitrage” principle, says that portfolios with the same pay-offs must have the same price. Yet if this were always true, the arbitrageurs who profit from enforcing it would go out of business and there would be no one left to do so.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/03/24/markets-are-gripped-by-an-alarming-cognitive-dissonance>

- 27.** The decline and fall of the Roman currency empire. Economist. 28th March 2026. In 1847 a few poor labourers living near Kottayam, a city in what is now the Indian state of Kerala, stumbled upon a hoard of gold coins. They exchanged these for a day’s worth of rice or a few rupees. The merchants who got the coins at knock-down prices melted them into jewellery or ornaments, oblivious that they were destroying 1,800-year-old Roman artefacts. Luckily for archaeologists, some of the stash survived. The coins have proved priceless for the study of economics, too, as an early example of a global currency. The same gold aurei have shown up in dig sites as far away as Scotland.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/03/26/the-decline-and-fall-of-the-roman-currency-empire>

EDUCATION

- 28.** Sian Beilock’s Star Turn. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 71. No-15. 27th March 2026. Sian L. Beilock seems to be everywhere. You’ll find Dartmouth College’s president in the pages of The Atlantic, sharing her plan for “Saving the Idea of the University.” And in The Wall Street Journal, asking whether a four-year degree is worth it.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/sian-beilocks-star-turn>

- 29.** Unmasking Academe’s Gilded Boys’ Club. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 71. No-15. 27th March 2026.

Within a trove of millions of pages of documents related to Jeffrey Epstein, a notorious sex offender whose wealth and connections proved alluring to academics in search of money, women in higher education are seeing evidence that supports a story they know all too well.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/unmasking-academes-gilded-boys-club>

30. Is AI Making Us Stupid? Cal Newport Is Worried. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 71. No-15. 27th March 2026.

Cal Newport has been described as the “man who never procrastinates,” so I expected him to be punctual for our interview. He didn’t disappoint. He logged onto Zoom from his podcast studio in Takoma Park, Md., fresh from recording the next episode of

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/is-ai-making-us-stupid-cal-newport-is-worried>

31. Why One Campus Told the Government It Has Ties With 1,200 Groups That ‘May’ Discriminate. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 71. No-15. 27th March 2026.

Last month, the Trump administration announced that 31 colleges had agreed to cancel their partnerships with the PhD Project, a nonprofit organization focused on increasing diversity among business-school faculty members. In those resolution agreements with the Education Department’s Office for Civil Rights was an unusual provision: that each campus provide a list of partner or membership organizations that “may” be violating federal antidiscrimination law.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/why-one-campus-told-the-government-it-has-ties-with-1-200-groups-that-may-discriminate>

32. Congrats on Your New Job, Professor. Good Luck Getting Paid. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 71. No-15. 27th March 2026.

Hunter Kincaid expects the paycheck from his job as an adjunct assistant professor at the City University of New York to arrive late about once a year. But over the past year, it’s been delayed three times — twice last summer and again in the fall.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/congrats-on-your-new-job-professor-good-luck-getting-paid>

33. The New School Will Reduce Faculty and Staff by 15% Amid a Financial Reorganization. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 71. No-15. 27th March 2026.

The New School, a progressive private university in New York City, has told employees it plans to reduce its work force about 15 percent by June 1, according to an email from the administration obtained by The Chronicle. It’s the latest cost-cutting measure administrators have taken in an effort to put the university on sustainable footing as it

confronts many of the same financial pressures that are squeezing higher-education institutions nationally.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-new-school-will-reduce-faculty-and-staff-by-15-amid-a-financial-reorganization>

34. Colleges Face Widespread Closures. So Why Are They Still Resisting Change?. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 71. No-15. 27th March 2026.

The state of higher education today could be summed up by a line from Hamlet: “When sorrows come, they come not single spies but in battalions.”

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/colleges-face-widespread-closures-so-why-are-they-still-resisting-change>

35. Actually, College Is Getting Cheaper. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 71. No-15. 27th March 2026.

Concerns about affordability are everywhere these days. Whether the topic is the high price of housing, child care, or electricity, many Americans believe that a middle-class lifestyle is becoming increasingly out of reach. But what item tops the list as the

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/actually-college-is-getting-cheaper>

36. Economic Diversity Is Ticking Up at Elite Colleges. Why?. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 71. No-15. 27th March 2026.

Economic diversity at selective institutions is ticking up slightly, and that’s a good thing. In December, analysis from the Associated Press found that, of 17 highly selective colleges, almost all saw increases in their share of Pell Grant-eligible students between 2023 and 2025. At Swarthmore College, the share rose from 17 percent to 26 percent. At Tufts University, it went from 11 percent to 16 percent.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/economic-diversity-is-ticking-up-at-elite-colleges-why>

37. Why the number of Islamic schools in Canada is soaring. Economist. 28th March 2026.

We all would fight and die for Canada,” declares Abraham Abougouche as snow pelts his office window. The “we” Mr Abougouche pledges are the staff and pupils of Edmonton Islamic Academy (EIA), the largest of its kind in the Americas. He is the principal. His office bears symbols of a dual identity: boxing gloves emblazoned with the Palestinian flag hang opposite a cabinet of ice-hockey memorabilia. That balance is tricky. “Assimilation”, he says, can be “dangerous if done blindly...You’re going to lose your own personal identity, your own connection with your ancestry.”

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2026/03/23/why-the-number-of-islamic-schools-in-canada-is-soaring>

- 38.** Watch The Neighbour Soar: Why China Is So Far Ahead in Higher Education. India's World. Vol.2. No-3. March 2026.

A key aspect of a country's national capability is its quality of education, particularly in the spheres of teaching, research, and talent development. This capacity is vital when it comes to determining the outcome of key geopolitical contests, whether it be China's challenge to Japan in the 20th century or India's challenge from China in the 21st.

<https://indiasworld.in/watch-the-neighbour-soar-why-china-is-so-far-ahead-in-higher/>

- 39.** Unveiling the invisible challenges in implementing NEP-2020. University News. Vol. 64. No-12. 29th March 2026. Page No. 3-10.

The National Education Policy-2020 (NEP-2020), launched by the Government of India after an extensive consultative process, represents a transformative vision to overhaul the country's education system by emphasising holistic, multidisciplinary, and skill-oriented learning. It seeks to align education with the demands of the 21st century while rooted in the Indian ethos. However, despite its ambitious framework, the implementation of NEP-2020 has encountered several deficiencies, including uneven readiness across states, inadequate funding, limited teacher training, and gaps in institutional capacity. Additionally, the lack of clear operational guidelines and monitoring mechanisms has led to inconsistencies in execution, highlighting the persistent divide between policy intent and ground realities.

- 40.** Fostering global citizenship education in India through multilingualism in higher education. University News. Vol. 64. No-12. 29th March 2026. Page No. 11-17.

Education in the 21st century is undergoing significant changes in response to the changing needs of students, technological advances, and the changing landscape of the global economy and social order. This paper explores the richness and global significance of Indian languages in promoting diversity, culture, peace and values. The objective of this paper is to explore the richness of Indian languages and their global outreach, and also to understand the importance of multilingualism in higher education, in addition to its harmony with the core dimensions of GCED. This paper underlines the necessity of preparing higher education learners with multilingual perspectives, enabling them to better understand the complexity and problems of society and the nation profoundly, and they can apply skills, knowledge, and values to create an inclusive environment. The paper also views multilingualism through the lens of the National Education Policy 2020.

- 41.** Spiritual revolution in higher education teaching. University News. Vol. 64. No-12. 29th March 2026. Page No. 18-21.

For centuries, a commitment to teaching and learning has been a hallmark of the academic profession throughout the world. The contribution a teacher can make in the life of student is truly remarkable and this is manifested in everything from employment opportunities to interpersonal relationships to child rearing. Teaching effectively,

That is enhancing and nurturing student learning is thus justifiably seen as the core function of higher education. In fact, most of the world's universities are mainly teaching institutions, and in developing countries virtually all are in this category (Altbach, 2003)

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

- 42.** China's government both drives and constrains the rise of AI. Economist. 28th March 2026.

It can seem as if artificial intelligence is suddenly everywhere in China. From banking to shopping and maps to ride-hailing, almost all major Chinese mobile apps now offer ai chatbots. Universities are creating courses in ai. To shop for a toilet seat is to learn of ai-enhanced options that monitor urine quality. To order yogurt from an upscale chain involves scanning your face so that its ai model can tailor its fermented product to your needs.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2026/03/24/chinas-government-both-drives-and-constrains-the-rise-of-ai>

- 43.** China is winning the AI talent race. Economist. 28th March 2026.

Is IT POSSIBLE that the United States falls behind China?" Jensen Huang, the boss of Nvidia, asked himself during a question-and-answer session about artificial intelligence late last year. "The answer is absolutely yes." That may seem surprising—for much of the past decade America has been comfortably ahead in the AI race, home to the most advanced companies producing frontier models. Its engineers have access to deep pools of capital as well as a regular supply of Nvidia's cutting-edge chips. But Mr Huang's concern related to an equally important ingredient of innovation: human talent.

<https://www.economist.com/interactive/science-and-technology/2026/03/25/china-is-winning-the-ai-talent-race>

HEALTH

- 44.** Fiscal Health Rankings of the States. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61. No-12. 21st March 2026.

The NITI Aayog recently released the Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2026 report using data sourced from the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. The report assesses the fiscal performance of the states in 2023–24 and also traces trends in the FHI over a 10-year period from 2014–15 to 2023–24. The authors claim that the report goes far beyond being merely a ranking exercise of state fiscal performance and attempts to provide a

clear framework to analyse fiscal outcomes, investigate vulnerabilities, and thereby help expand evidence-based policymaking.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/12/editorials/fiscal-health-rankings-states.html>

HISTORY

45. What Is the 'Idea of India'? India Forum. 20th March 2026.

On the evening of Republic Day this year, 2026, the back gate of our apartment block had a flag tied to it. A woman had gathered the children who normally play there, provided tiny decals of the India flag for them to stick on their cheeks, and had them all sing the national anthem. The children loved it and the event was a success.

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/history/what-idea-india>

46. Doctor Mike's Internet Medicine. New Yorker. 23rd March 2026.

A woman was wheeled into the E.R. with a hectic red rash on her leg, painful to the touch. Dr. Mikhail Varshavski looked it over. "If it continues to spread past the demarcation that we usually draw using a skin marker—we say Sharpie, but it's a skin marker—we say that this is spreading," he commented. Diagnosis: possible sepsis.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/03/23/dr-mikes-internet-medicine>

47. Engaging Across the Strait: Indian Parliamentarians and Taiwan Since 1949. India's World. Vol.2. No-3. March 2026.

It has been over 30 years since Taiwan and India set up representative offices in their capital cities to promote bilateral cooperation and exchanges. Trade between Taiwan and India reached a record of \$12.5 billion in 2025, an increase of 17.9% from the previous year. Taiwan's cumulative investment in India is worth \$6 billion, which covers sectors such as textiles, footwear, machinery, petrochemicals, ICT, electronics, automobile components and banking, and creates over 2 lakh job opportunities. In the education sector, Indian students' enrollment in Taiwan saw a significant rise in recent years, with over 3,000 students currently enrolled in higher education institutions.

<https://indiasworld.in/engaging-across-the-strait-indian-parliamentarians-and-taiwan-since-1949/>

48. Zhou Enlai's Charm Offensive at Bandung. India's World. Vol.2. No-3. March 2026.

The Bandung Conference of 1955 marked the People's Republic of China's (PRC) introduction to the Third World. In the early post-revolutionary years, the communist regime in China largely disregarded broader foreign relations and followed the Soviet line faithfully, focusing instead on consolidating communism at home. This attitude was conveyed best in Mao's aphorism that China would 'invite guests only after the house is

cleaned.’ Meanwhile, the wars across its borders in Korea and Indochina left little scope for manoeuvring toward an autonomous diplomatic space.

<https://indiasworld.in/zhou-enlais-charm-offensive-at-bandung/>

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

49. Advantage Iran. Economist. 28th March 2026

EVEN BY HIS chaotic standards, Donald Trump has just presided over an unusually wild week in his misguided war on Iran. The president had threatened imminent, punitive bombing of Iran’s civilian energy infrastructure. Though Iran didn’t quail, markets did. So a U-turn followed. Mr Trump said he had become aware of secret proposals for peace talks, and held off. The Pentagon then said it would send some of the 82nd Airborne Division. That suggests escalation is still a possibility. Amid such uncertainty, Iran’s regime seems unfazed. Remarkably, it now has a strategic advantage over its opponents.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/03/26/advantage-iran>

50. Europe should think twice before weakening its merger rules. Economist. 28th March 2026.

An air of gloom hangs over European companies. On the global stage, many are dwarfed by America’s tech titans and China’s industrial giants. The European Union is home to only three of the world’s top 50 tech firms, by market capitalisation; its largest bank ranks 16th globally. To dispel the misery, some think the bloc’s strict competition policy needs updating. The European Commission, which enforces antitrust rules, will soon publish draft guidelines that are expected to be more lenient. Encouraging firms to scale up is a laudable aim. Weaker competition policy would not achieve it.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/03/26/europe-should-think-twice-before-weakening-its-merger-rules>

51. Hormuz is not the only weak spot for global trade. Economist. 28th March 2026.

FIVE STRATEGIC keys lock up the world!” declared Sir Jacky Fisher, a Victorian admiral. He was talking about places that command critical waterways: Singapore, Cape Town, Alexandria, Gibraltar and Dover. Today you would definitely add to the list the tiny island of Hormuz and the strait that shares its name. Iran has turned the key on the narrow channel, the only sea passage out of the Gulf, locking up a fifth of the world’s oil and liquefied natural gas. Economies around the globe are shuddering. And Hormuz is not even the world’s most vital sea-lane by most measures. The old preoccupation with defending the flow of commerce is suddenly looking pertinent again.

<https://www.economist.com/briefing/2026/03/26/hormuz-is-not-the-only-weak-spot-for-global-trade>

- 52.** What a battle to reopen the Strait of Hormuz would look like. Economist. 28th March 2026.

Donald Trump says he is talking to Iran's leaders about ending his bombing campaign; Iran says he is not. But what he certainly is doing is preparing an alternative, should a negotiated end to hostilities prove elusive. Two amphibious units of US Marines are on their way to the Gulf, one from Japan and the other from California. An elite infantry division which specialises in parachute assault will reportedly soon be following. Their deployment suggests that America's president is contemplating an attempt to pry open the Strait of Hormuz by force. That is a daunting task.

<https://www.economist.com/briefing/2026/03/24/what-a-battle-to-reopen-the-strait-of-hormuz-would-look-like>

- 53.** Does the Iran war increase the risk of a Chinese attack on Taiwan?. Economist. 28th March 2026.

For a world shaken by war in Ukraine and the Middle East, there was a faintly reassuring line in the latest Annual Threat Assessment by America's intelligence agencies. "Chinese leaders do not currently plan to execute an invasion of Taiwan in 2027," said the report, released on March 18th. The new phrase was striking because American officials have warned for years that Xi Jinping, China's leader, has ordered his armed forces to be ready to attack Taiwan by 2027. And despite American clarifications that the deadline is for capability rather than actual invasion, it led to billions of dollars of spending in America and Taiwan to prepare for an attack by then.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2026/03/26/does-the-iran-war-increase-the-risk-of-a-chinese-attack-on-taiwan>

- 54.** Donald Trump says he is close to a deal with Iran. Economist. 28th March 2026.

WARS have long followed a rhythm dictated by the calendar, as when early Roman generals sought to finish campaigns before the harvest. For Donald Trump, the pace is a bit more frenetic. His window for announcing military operations begins at 4pm on Friday and lasts until the opening bell on Monday.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2026/03/26/donald-trump-says-he-is-close-to-a-deal-with-iran>

- 55.** The Revolutionary Guards are taking over Iran. Economist. 28th March 2026.

Listen to Donald Trump, and you might think little had changed in Iran's leadership since the war began. The Strait of Hormuz could be controlled by "me and the ayatollah", America's president suggested to reporters on March 23rd. But as Iran contemplates renewed talks, the question is who has the authority to strike and deliver a deal with America.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2026/03/25/the-revolutionary-guards-are-taking-over-iran>

56. Iran's regime walls off the internet. Economist. 28th March 2026.

Namdar Baghaei-Yazdi has rarely spoken to his relatives in Tehran this year. Last week a missile hit their street; for days he didn't know if they were still alive.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2026/03/26/irans-regime-walls-off-the-internet>

57. Russia wants to limit contact with the outside world. Economist. 28th March 2026.

BY MOST ACCOUNTS, Russia gains from the war on Iran. Soaring oil and gas prices relieve its previously strained budget. The Middle East conflict may reduce the flow of American arms to Ukraine. And a growing rift between America and its European allies may soften support for Ukraine's president. Yet Moscow is gripped by a new anxiety.

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2026/03/26/russia-wants-to-limit-contact-with-the-outside-world>

58. Ukraine's top drone commander wants to bleed Russia's army dry. Economist. 28th March 2026.

The road to the command point is rough, though the minivan's blacked-out windows hide the details. On arrival its doors slide open to reveal the entrance to a world buried deep underground. Inside, one corridor is lined with two decks of Japanese-style sleeping pods. Behind a second corridor lies a gym. Wall after wall of screens relay live data feeds: kill chains, missions, enemy losses. A gallery of famous Ukrainian paintings hangs among missiles and explosives. A snuff video of Russian soldiers in their last moments of life runs on a loop next to an expressionist stone sculpture of a man's face.

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2026/03/22/ukraines-top-drone-commander-wants-to-bleed-russias-army-dry>

59. 75 Years of India–China Relations: Key Milestones. India's World. Vol.2. No-3. March 2026.

India–China relations are historically rooted in deep civilisational ties that long predate the modern nation-state. For centuries, the two societies were connected through trade networks across the Himalayas and the Indian Ocean, as well as through the transmission of Buddhism, scholarship, and cultural exchange. Pilgrims, monks, merchants, and travellers sustained a relationship that was intellectual and spiritual as much as economic.

<https://indiaworld.in/75-years-of-india-china-relations-key-milestones/>

- 60.** Violation of Transgender Rights and Autonomy. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61. No-12. 21st March 2026.

The implications of the proposed changes in the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026 are far-reaching and significant. Two of the changes proposed in the bill would amend the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 by disenfranchising and eroding the rights of a mass of marginalised section already grappling with increasing precarisation, and by dismantling the hard-won rights of the queer movement in India and the decades-long struggles of the LGBTQIA+ persons and their allies. These are the drastic changes in the definition of who is a “transgender person,” and the complete deletion of Section 4.2 of the 2019 act. By implementing these two proposed changes, the scope of the existing act of 2019 can be outright upended, as the broader significance of these changes goes far beyond the stated technicalities.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/12/editorials/violation-transgender-rights-and-autonomy.html>

- 61.** Bail without Liberty. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61. No-12. 21st March 2026.

The recent judicial practices incorporating digitally mediated bail conditions reflect an emerging shift in how liberty is structured within criminal procedure. The growing reliance on surveillance-oriented conditions on bail suggests that release is no longer defined solely by freedom from physical custody but by compliance with technologically structured supervision. These developments call for closer scrutiny of how surveillance logics reshape the freedom of those awaiting trial without altering the formal doctrine of release.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/law-and-society/bail-without-liberty.html>

- 62.**Supriyo v Union of India (2023): Interpretive Failures and Limits of Anti-discrimination Guarantee in India. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61. No-12. 21st March 2026.

The Supreme Court of India, in *Supriyo v Union of India*¹ (2023)(hereafter *Supriyo*), rejected the writ petition of the queer persons’ right to marry through the route of allowing marriage for them under the Special Marriage Act (SMA), 1954. The bench unanimously held that the right to marry cannot be read as a fundamental right. The bench in a 3:2 division further refused to recognise the right of civil union as a substitute for marriage for queer persons. This judgment was a backsliding setback for the queer community, as it failed to consolidate on the gains made in *Navtej Johar v Union of India*² (2018)(hereafter *Navtej*) that decriminalised Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, which penalised consensual same-sex relationships.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/commentary/supriyo-v-union-india-2023.html>

- 63.** The case against energy bail-outs. Economist. 28th March 2026.

WHEN CRISES have struck in recent years, politicians in the rich world have been quick to turn to bail-outs. During the covid-19 pandemic and the energy crisis caused by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in 2022, governments opened their chequebooks and made

heavy-handed interventions as they sought to cushion the damage that was being inflicted on households and businesses.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/03/26/the-case-against-energy-bail-outs>

LITERATURE

64.Graham, Jorie.

Then. New Yorker. 23rd March 2026.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/03/23/then-jorie-graham-poem>

65.Gannana, Tova

Réservoir. New Yorker. 23rd March 2026.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/03/23/reservoir-tove-gannana-poem>

POLITICAL SCIENCE & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

66.From 25 Years Ago: Democratic Good Governance: A New Agenda for Change. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61. No-12. 21st March 2026.

If we examine the historical context of the current emphasis on reforms and good governance we will see that it represents yet one more stage in the thinking about the role of a developmental state. The globalisation of the economy has added a new dimension to the problems of developing countries and the reforms are intended to address them. In political science, theories about the requirements of a developmental state date back to the post-second world war period. Modernisation theories in the 1950s and 1960s advocated models of state-led development for developing countries. At this stage there was some ambiguity about whether or not democracy was a necessary pre-requisite for development or its desired consequence. Faster economic growth however was seen as a primary objective of development and the importance of social reforms, attitudinal changes and the building of infrastructure to generate growth were emphasised. The state was expected to take the lead in promoting development. But many newly independent countries lacked the governmental infrastructure to implement ambitious development goals. Donor governments and international agencies emphasised the need to reform the government apparatus and develop a professional and apolitical bureaucracy. If governments could not be made autonomous of social pressures, perhaps bureaucracies could be trained to work in a non-partisan and professional manner [Kuldeep Mathur 1999]. Not unexpectedly only very limited success was achieved.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/12/25-years-ago/25-years-ago-democratic-good-governance-new-agenda.html>

- 67.** From 50 Years Ago: American Policy Towards India: The Larger Framework. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61. No-12. 21st March 2026.

What kind of policies are open to a superpower in relation to middle powers? George Liska provides a useful typology in this regard, listing three different policies. Firstly, he suggests that “great powers can treat and have reason to treat individual middle powers as regional rivals, and be led to help still lesser states to contain them under the pretense of restraining, unilaterally or co-operatively, all Third World conflict”. This policy may quite accurately be referred to as *containment*. The second policy listed by Liska, which we may term *satellisation*, is one where great powers regard middle powers “as regional allies in contests with other great powers and proceed to reinforce them competitively, possibly as a means to reapportionment by way of reclientisation”. The final policy, which we may label *accommodation*, is one where great powers “proceed either unilaterally or jointly progressively to devolve regional responsibilities to apparently constructively disposed middle powers”. It would be appropriate to conceive of these policies not as exclusive categories, but rather as central tendencies in the foreign policy posture of a great power, which may incorporate one or more such tendencies at any given time in relation to middle powers.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/12/50-years-ago/50-years-ago-american-policy-towards-india-larger.html>

- 68.** Securitising Youth Dissent. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61. No-12. 21st March 2026.

The Indian mainstream media has increasingly framed youth-led protest in South Asia through a securitised lens, as seen in the cases of Nepal’s 2025 Gen Z uprising and agitation in Ladakh. Dissent, in both cases, was portrayed less as a democratic claim and more as a problem of instability, disruption and strategic risk. By contrast, international media situated both movements within a broader regional wave of generational mobilisation against shrinking civic space. The article argues that this divergence reflects a growing alignment between Indian mainstream media and state-centric notions of security, with significant consequences for how democratic dissent is publicly understood.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/commentary/securitising-youth-dissent.html>

- 69.** Are We Measuring the Same Thing?. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61. No-12. 21st March 2026.

There has been a debate over mismatches between different sources of data on sanitation and water access in India. This article looks at the survey instruments and data from two nationally representative sample surveys, the National Family Health Survey-5 and the 79th round of the National Sample Survey. The findings show that some of the data discrepancies could be attributed to the differences in definitions and indicators used by

different agencies. Integration in data collection tools and standardisation in reporting data across the different agencies could resolve this.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/commentary/are-we-measuring-same-thing.html>

70. The Question of Language that is Straining Indian Federalism. India Forum. 19th March 2026.

How many languages does India have? The answer depends on how the term “language” is defined—whether by phonology, grammar, syntax, vocabulary, script, mutual intelligibility, or administrative classification. Since different criteria produce different results, estimates of India’s linguistic diversity vary widely. Whichever method is used, the conclusion is clear: India is among the most linguistically diverse civilisations in the world.

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/essay/question-language-indian-federalism>

71. Beyond the Dravidian binary. Frontline. 15th April 2026.

The 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly election will be defined by a new “2G” connection: Gender and Gen Z. Women, who constitute 51 per cent of the electorate and outnumber men by over 10 lakh votes, are set to transform this election into a “pink ballot”. However, only women-centric announcements and populist schemes may not be enough for parties to win or retain power. An emotional connection between the female voter and the candidates is more likely to tilt the scales.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/news/politicstamil-nadu-election-2026-gender-gen-z-analysis/article70761684.ece>

72. Need credible alternative to take on DMK: Ramu Manivannan. Frontline. 15th April 2026.

The 2026 Assembly election in Tamil Nadu, scheduled for April 23, will be starkly different from the traditional bipolar politics that has dominated the State. In an unusual first, conspiracy theories and fake narratives are taking centre stage, overshadowing the usual campaign themes of welfare, social justice, and development. The actor turned politician Vijay’s entry has added an edge. Overall, there is an underlying sense of an unseen force manipulating events to alter the State’s affirmative political character.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/news/tamil-nadu-election-dmk-opposition/article70749897.ece>

73. On the cusp of a breakthrough in Puducherry. Frontline. 15th April 2026.

The BJP in Puducherry, which is made up of elements from the Congress and regional parties, is pulling out all the stops to become the major player post-election in the Union Territory for the first time. If it succeeds, it will be a big achievement for the party, which has been struggling to make inroads into Kerala and Tamil Nadu, and Puducherry itself, where it is part of a coalition arrangement with the All India N.R. Congress (AINRC). It

has also allied with a new political party launched three months ago by the lottery king Santiago Martin's son, Jose Charles Martin.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/news/puducherry-bjp-ainrc-rangasamy-assembly-election-coalition-politics/article70765523.ece>

74. A tight contest. Frontline. 15th April 2026.

There is no first-mover advantage for any political party in Kerala's Assembly election because the percentage of floating votes is very small. Majorities are won or lost on thin margins. But this election is unique, as there is no clarity on the future course of the war in West Asia and its aftermath.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/news/kerala-assembly-election-ldf-udf-bjp-gulf-analysis/article70765968.ece>

75. It's a do-or-die election battle for the Left in Kerala: M.G. Radhakrishnan. Frontline. 15th April 2026.

With the Kerala Assembly election on April 9, the Left faces a key test after its poor performance in the recent local body elections, while the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) is seeking a return to power after a decade. The BJP has made some inroads into Kerala despite perceptions that it has neglected the State. In this conversation with Frontline, the senior journalist and political analyst M.G. Radhakrishnan said Kerala is likely to vote along familiar communal and political lines, with leadership, organisation, and welfare delivery remaining decisive. Excerpts:

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/news/kerala-election-ldf-udf/article70739411.ece>

76. SIR: BJP's hope, Mamata's worry. Frontline. 15th April 2026.

Mamata Banerjee, the maverick and mercurial Chief Minister of West Bengal and one of the few political leaders in the country to have repeatedly stopped the BJP juggernaut, will face her toughest test ever in the upcoming Assembly election. Although her party's position remains strong, Mamata may have good reason to be more than a little worried. The main source of her concern, more than allegations of corruption and misrule, is the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the State. In this election, thus, the Trinamool's fight is not just against traditional political rivals but also a nameless, faceless opponent in the form of the SIR, which resulted in the deletion of 61.7 lakh names from the rolls. The names of more than 60 lakh citizens are "under adjudication".

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/news/bengal-election-voter-roll-revision-political-battleground/article70749336.ece>

77. Trump's Mass-Detention Campaign. New Yorker. 23rd March 2026.

For those in Donald Trump's orbit, great power often comes with great dispensability. Take Kristi Noem, who, as the head of the Department of Homeland Security, was in charge of the President's top domestic priority of carrying out mass deportations, until

she wasn't. She became the first Cabinet secretary to be fired in Trump's second term earlier this month, when he announced that he would replace her with Markwayne Mullin, an Oklahoma senator and a former mixed-martial-arts fighter. Noem, who'd been willing to do virtually anything in the role to boost her standing, was a product of the White House agenda, never a shaper of it. Stephen Miller is the architect of Trump's immigration policies, and there's little reason to think that Noem's ouster will change Miller's approach. It may even serve to embolden it, by giving him fresh cover. The department has temporarily paused large-scale arrest operations in the wake of a national outcry over abuses in Minnesota, and it is in the midst of a partial shutdown owing to opposition from congressional Democrats. The Administration's bigger ambitions show no signs of flagging, however. In fact, they are leading toward a new humanitarian and legal crisis.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/03/23/trumps-mass-detention-campaign>

78. The case against energy bail-outs. Economist. 28th March 2026.

WHEN CRISES have struck in recent years, politicians in the rich world have been quick to turn to bail-outs. During the covid-19 pandemic and the energy crisis caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, governments opened their chequebooks and made heavy-handed interventions as they sought to cushion the damage that was being inflicted on households and businesses.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/03/26/the-case-against-energy-bail-outs>

79. Mexico must unleash its private sector. Economist. 28th March 2026.

Mexico should be prospering. It benefits from tension between the United States and China: the "nearshoring" of supply chains on which American businesses rely means more factories are going up across North America. Mexico has become America's largest trading partner. It has been partly shielded from President Donald Trump's tariffs by the free-trade zone the two countries share with Canada. Trade in high-tech products is booming. Foreign direct investment grew last year even as it fell in other emerging markets.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/03/25/mexico-must-unleash-its-private-sector>

80. Europe's choice: Grow, or become a vassal. Economist. 28th March 2026.

AS BOMBS CONTINUE to fall in the Middle East and the Strait of Hormuz remains closed to most vessels, Europe finds itself once again in a position of helplessness. Energy prices are climbing, the continent's leaders are divided and its meagre growth prospects are likely to dissipate and turn into recession. Founded to rebuild a peaceful and prosperous continent, the European Union is too fragile to withstand a world in which its allies act as adversaries and it is powerless to protect its own supply chains. A stagnant Europe cannot dream of geopolitical sovereignty.

<https://www.economist.com/by-invitation/2026/03/24/europes-choice-grow-or-become-a-vassal>

- 81.** Iran's Revolutionary Guards won't defend the regime to the last man. *Economist*. 28th March 2026.

WITH THE Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps leading Iran's military efforts in the Middle East war, Iran's most powerful armed forces find themselves at the centre of attention—and the subject of many questions. Where did the IRGC come from? What is its current condition? Might it attempt a coup, or even turn its back on the very idea of an Islamic Republic? And, as the war stretches on, is it really the fearsome enemy it seems?

<https://www.economist.com/by-invitation/2026/03/20/irans-revolutionary-guards-wont-defend-the-regime-to-the-last-man>

- 82.** Global South Watch | March 2026. *India's World*. Vol.2. No-3. March 2026.

The Development: On 17 February 2026, Tarique Rahman was sworn in as Prime Minister of Bangladesh after the 12 February 2026 general election, in which the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) secured a landslide majority in the 13th Jatiya Sangsad, marking the end of an 18-month interim administration led by Muhammad Yunus. President Mohammed Shahabuddin administered the oath at the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban in Dhaka. Rahman's swearing-in formally ends the caretaker period following the student-led uprising that removed the previous government.

<https://indiasworld.in/global-south-watch-march-2026/>

- 83.** Takaichi's 2.0 Diplomacy: With China in Mind. *India's World*. Vol.2. No-3. March 2026.

Labelled as “the world's most powerful woman” by *The Economist*, Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, Japan's first female prime minister, appears fearless in undertaking whatever she has decided to do. Through an unorthodox snap election at the beginning of the regular Diet session in January, she won a two-thirds majority in the Lower House of the Diet. Public support remains high at 69% according to *The Nikkei*, and she has more than two years before the next election to the Upper House and is sure to retain the presidency of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) for a while. In fact, it was appropriate that the first thing she emphasised at the initial policy address as Prime Minister last October was the need for “political stability.”

<https://indiasworld.in/takaichis-2-0-diplomacy-with-china-in-mind/>

- 84.** The “Donroe Doctrine”. *India's World*. Vol.2. No-3. March 2026.

On December 2, 1823, America's 5th President, James Monroe, made a fateful statement of American policy concerning the Western Hemisphere. Many countries were in the process of gaining independence from their colonial masters in bloody

revolutions. There were fears that, if they faltered economically and politically, they might be re-colonised. In a key passage, addressed to the European Powers, Monroe said:

<https://indiasworld.in/the-donroe-doctrine/>

85. Power, Ambition and Future Thinking: Reading China Through Its Science Fiction. India's World. Vol.2. No-3. March 2026.

Once a taboo genre in China, Chinese science fiction (SF) is now heavily promoted by the Chinese government and is increasingly recognised as a window into China's strategic imagination. It reflects key dimensions of China's worldview, including technological determinism, collectivism, multipolarity and civilizational identity, as well as of its behaviour, such as long-horizon thinking. India is largely absent in Chinese SF, but even this absence reveals something about China's geopolitical priorities.

<https://indiasworld.in/power-ambition-and-future-thinking-reading-china-through-its-science-fiction/>

SCIENCE

86. NASA's Moon-base plans mark a rethinking of its future. Economist. 28th March 2026. THE UNITED STATES will never again give up the Moon." This line in a memo that NASA staff received from their boss, Jared Isaacman, on March 24th, sought to recast the stakes in America's race with China to put the next humans on the Moon. Since taking over NASA in December Mr Isaacman has added new realism to the timetable for Artemis, the late-running, over-budget and needlessly complex Moon programme. Nevertheless, the chances that its current target of boots on the lunar terrain by 2028 might slip again, and that China's more streamlined programme might deliver people there first, are real. Some rate them as high.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/03/25/nasas-moon-base-plans-mark-a-rethinking-of-its-future>

87. Autonomous swarms are the future of drone warfare. Economist. 28th March 2026. DRONES HAVE become a standard weapon of war. Small quadcopters currently inflict the majority of casualties on the battlefield in Ukraine, and in recent weeks Iran has rained thousands of larger drones on the cities, airfields and oil facilities of the Middle East.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/03/24/autonomous-swarms-are-the-future-of-drone-warfare>

88. Is playing music good for the brain? Economist. 28th March 2026.

THE MEN who raided Joseph Haydn's grave hoped that his genius would be written on his skull. A scan of the Austrian composer's decomposing brain might have been more enlightening. Musical talent does not, as those 19th-century phrenologists believed, leave bumps on the cranium. It does, however, seem to make a healthy impression on the brain.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/03/20/is-playing-music-good-for-the-brain>

SOCIOLOGY

89. India's migration governance is flying blind over the Gulf. *Frontline*. 15th April 2026. As the geopolitical conflict intensifies across West Asia, India's concerns extend beyond foreign policy balancing, energy and essential goods imports, trade, and the safety of Indian seafarers aboard merchant ships navigating Gulf maritime routes. Indians constitute one of the world's largest migrant populations, and the country is the top global recipient of remittances, with the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries hosting the largest concentration of its migrants, estimated at around 10 million. Smaller yet significant overseas Indian populations are estimated at around 10,765 in Iran and approximately 1,23,000 in Israel as of January 2025.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/world-affairs/india-migration-gulf-crisis/article70787370.ece>

90. "The Wild Party" Returns. *New Yorker*. 23rd March 2026.

A night of dancing, drinking, and crazed debauchery in N.Y.C.? No, not next Saturday at Knockdown Center—it's "**The Wild Party**," Michael John LaChiusa and George C. Wolfe's musicalization of a 1928 poem by Joseph Moncure March, revived this month in New York City Center's Encores! series (March 18-29). Set during the Roaring Twenties, the show takes place at the Manhattan apartment of Queenie (Jasmine Amy Rogers), a vaudeville bombshell, and her man of the moment, the comedian Burrs (Jordan Donica). Guests include a former prizefighter, a pair of piano-playing twins, an "ambisextrous" playboy, a stage diva past her prime, and someone's kid sister from Poughkeepsie. Oh, there's also Queenie's frenemy Kate (Adrienne Warren), who brings along a hunky plus-one with a roving eye (Jelani Alladin). (Fidelity is so nineteen-tens.)

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/goings-on/the-wild-party-returns>

91. Two Playwrights Tackle Father Figures. *New Yorker*. 23rd March 2026.

If you've been going to the theatre lately, you've seen plenty of what I've started to think of as "piñata plays." In this sort of story, a big family gets together and there are a lot of secrets. For most of the evening, the mood is darkly funny and a little ominous, as the siblings take undermining jabs and the in-laws roll their eyes. Then, in the final act, there's a hugely satisfying, usually drunken throwdown in which every single person gets to take a whack at the piñata. All the secrets pour out, the revelations of infidelity and addiction and so on, as the group gives vent to the stuff that's previously been unsayable—not to fix anything, mind you, since some things can't be fixed.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/03/23/you-got-older-theatre-review-what-we-did-before-our-moth-days>

- 92.** The world's most unaffordable housing is not where you think. Economist. 28th March 2026.

Across Asia, a great expansion is under way. Cities in developing countries such as India, Indonesia and the Philippines are gaining hundreds of millions of people. This urbanisation is only getting started. In South Asia, for example, barely 35% of the population is urban, compared with 80% in North America.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/03/25/the-worlds-most-unaffordable-housing-is-not-where-you-think>

- 93.** The end of the world's longest-running Maoist insurgency. Economist. 28th March 2026.

FORMER COMRADE ARAB would like to apologise. He is wearing a pink floral shirt and sitting under fluorescent lights at a centre for rehabilitated Maoist rebels in Chhattisgarh, a state in central India. The 35-year-old was once a commander for the rebels. During 19 years in the movement, he says, he ordered the execution of hundreds of people and led attacks that left thousands of families displaced.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/03/26/the-end-of-the-worlds-longest-running-maoist-insurgency>

- 94.** Everyone knows divorce is costly. But children pay most dearly. Economist. 28th March 2026.

But what is a child between injured parents?" wrote Edna O'Brien, an Irish novelist. "Only a weapon." The arsenal, by that definition, is vast. In America nearly a third of children will see their parents divorce before they turn 18. The share of American children living in single-parent divorced households is almost five times higher than it was in 1960. In Britain nearly a quarter of children live with single parents—though far fewer adults are divorced, because they are more likely to have children without marrying first (see charts).

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2026/03/26/everyone-knows-divorce-is-costly-but-children-pay-most-dearly>

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	India Forum	W	India
6	India's World	BM	India
7	New Yorker	W	New York
8	University News	W	Delhi