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1-15 August 2026

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# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

**1. Title: The case for overhauling American science**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/by-invitation/2026/08/13/the-case-for-overhauling-american-science>

AS THE Second World War drew to a close, President Franklin D. Roosevelt tasked his science adviser, Vannevar Bush, with reorganising America's scientific enterprise for a post-war order. Bush's answer, a report entitled "Science: The Endless Frontier", became the blueprint for American government support of basic science. In turn this led to the creation of the National Science Foundation (NSF), a federal agency that supports fundamental research, and shaped the triumphal attitude to science and technology that defined so much of the "American Century".

**2. Title: Silicon Valley's AI boom is remaking American charity**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/international/2026/08/13/silicon-valleys-ai-boom-is-remaking-american-charity>

EACH DOLLAR given to charity may soon do less good. In the coming years the marginal cost of saving a child's life from disease or starvation could jump from about \$5,000 to \$15,000, or more. This sounds worrying. In fact it is good news, argues Alexander Berger of Coefficient Giving, one of Silicon Valley's most influential grantmakers. Non-profits like his spend on cheap, scalable interventions first—say, by buying malaria nets before malaria vaccines. If an influx of donations pays for all the inexpensive ways of doing good, then the rest flows into costlier acts of altruism that can save yet more lives.

**3. Title: Can AI save tourists from the TikTok herd?**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/culture/2026/08/13/can-ai-save-tourists-from-the-tiktok-herd>

AS THE midday sun beats down in Rome, tourists realise with relief that it is time for a pizza. But which one? Lonely Planet, the best-selling [guidebook](#) series, recommends Antico Forno Roscioli's "delectable" slices. Tripadvisor's top pick is Da Cicero, near the Trevi fountain, with more than 2,000 five-star reviews. TikTok-famous spots include Piccolo Buco, identifiable by its long queue of hungry Gen Zs.

**4. Title: Artificial Intelligence and Future of India's IT Companies**

**Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61, Issue No. 33, 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:** <https://www.epw.in/engage/article/artificial-intelligence-and-future-indias-it>

For nearly three decades, Indian software companies have been among the most successful wealth creators in the stock market. Firms such as Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Infosys, HCLTech, Wipro and Tech Mahindra transformed India's comparative advantage in skilled labour into a globally competitive software-export industry. Their business model—delivering software services through large-scale deployment of

engineers—generated sustained revenue growth, strong profitability and premium stock market valuations.

## BUSINESS

**5. Title: British business has failed to make its voice heard**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/britain/2026/08/13/british-business-has-failed-to-make-its-voice-heard>

Business leaders can be naive when it comes to politics. It was a mistake for them to cheerlead for Labour before the most recent general election without thinking through the impact of the party's policies. For example, they seemed to assume that the Employment Rights Act, which gives workers much more protection against their bosses, would be heavily watered down despite its importance to Labour MPs and the trade unions. In talks on the details of the new law, representatives of the government and unions were shocked at business groups' poor negotiating skill.

**6. Title: The world's biggest fast-food chain is moving into pubs**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/08/13/the-worlds-biggest-fast-food-chain-is-moving-into-pubs>

Even in the most remote corner of China a frothy Fulujia beer is waiting for you. The company, whose name translates as "Lucky Deer", has opened more than 3,200 mini-pubs across the country since 2021, making it the world's largest bar chain. More impressive than its scale are its prices. A pint is poured for as little as 5.9 yuan (\$0.87), whether it is served in a big city or a border town.

**7. Title: Is the LA Lakers' sale a sign of sports investment gone mad?**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/08/13/is-the-la-lakers-sale-a-sign-of-sports-investment-gone-mad>

WHAT IS A worthy consolation prize for a billionaire investor whose attempt to buy a stake in fifa's football World Cup recently blew up in his face? Answer: pivot sharply and snap up one of America's most valuable basketball teams, the Los Angeles Lakers, instead.

**8. Title: AI agents lie, cheat and steal. That is putting off users**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/08/12/ai-agents-lie-cheat-and-steal-that-is-putting-off-users>

BARBED WIRE held a strange interest for the late Alan Greenspan, a lifelong urbanite. Sure, the former Federal Reserve chairman admired the railways, gold diggers and

“lonesome cowboys” that helped open the frontier at the dawn of American capitalism. But he also had a soft spot in his economist’s heart for barbed wire, which, he argued, boosted productivity by allowing the settlers who came in their wake to safeguard their properties.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

**9. Title: A big earthquake reveals two very different Colombias**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2026/08/12/a-big-earthquake-reveals-two-very-different-colombias>

“They pulled people out alive,” says Alberto, an onlooker, as a digger’s steel teeth smash into a heap of concrete. It is all that remains of a four-storey building in Quibdó, a city in the western state of Chocó that was near the epicentre of a 7.4-magnitude earthquake which struck Colombia on August 10th. Aftershocks brought down more buildings. Around the country, at least 265 people have died.

## CRIME

**10. Title: The parlous state of Britain’s prisons is Burnham’s first test**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/britain/2026/08/13/the-parlous-state-of-britains-prisons-is-burnhams-first-test>

ANDREW HARPER, a 28-year-old police constable (pc), had been married for just four weeks when he was killed in the line of duty in 2019. Attempting to prevent three teenagers from stealing a quad bike in Berkshire, he was caught by a tow-rope and dragged at ferocious speed by the perpetrators’ getaway car. The ghastly crime shocked the country and the culprits were convicted of manslaughter in 2020.

## CULTURE

**11. Title: Gen Z has rediscovered the joy of going to the movies**

**Title: The Taliban are vile. Democracies must still engage with them**

**Source:**<https://www.economist.com/culture/2026/08/11/gen-z-has-rediscovered-the-joy-of-going-to-the-movies>

IT HAS BEEN an action-packed year on cinema screens—and at the ticket counter. Five films have already grossed more than \$1bn at the global box office; three more have exceeded \$500m. Forthcoming blockbusters such as “Avengers: Doomsday” and “Dune:

Part Three” promise epic showdowns; crowds are sure to show up to cinemas to watch the battles unfold. Although overall ticket sales are still down from pre-covid levels, analysts predict that the global box office will take \$35bn this year, up 7% from 2025.

## ECONOMICS

**12. Title: China has wrested control of oil markets from OPEC**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/08/13/china-has-wrested-control-of-oil-markets-from-opec>

THE GREAT economic surprise of the Iran war has been that oil prices have stayed relatively contained even with the Strait of Hormuz mostly shut. Five months into the war Brent crude remains about \$40 below the \$126 per barrel intraday high it hit on April 30th; for a while there was even a “mini-glut” of crude oil. As a result motorists and oil importers have not yet faced a severe crunch. And—though it may seem difficult to believe—Iran has had less leverage over President Donald Trump than it might have done. For the reprieve, the world can thank China.

**13. Title: The yuan is more than a symptom of global imbalances**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/by-invitation/2026/08/10/the-yuan-is-more-than-a-symptom-of-global-imbalances>

In a recent essay for The Economist, Gita Gopinath, Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas and Hélène Rey argue that China’s persistent surpluses and America’s persistent deficits should not be blamed on an undervalued yuan. The exchange rate, they say, is an outcome of domestic savings and investment choices, not an independent lever for correcting them. The argument is sound as far as it goes: exchange rates do reflect domestic fundamentals over the long run.

**14. Title: China is now the world’s great oil power**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/08/09/china-is-now-the-worlds-great-oil-power>

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THE IRAN war has caused the largest supply shock in petroleum history. Yet even when fighting was most intense, [oil prices](#) never reached the \$150 a barrel many analysts had predicted at the start of the conflict. For this, thank a few governments. Soon after Iranian munitions made the [Strait of Hormuz](#) unpassable, trapping 14m barrels a day (b/d) of crude inside the Gulf, petro-monarchs in Abu Dhabi and Riyadh directed an extra 5m b/d through pipes bypassing the conduit. Ministers in Washington and Tokyo released a record 2m b/d of emergency stocks; state-led rationing in poorer countries shaved off a chunk of demand.

**15. Title: Is China's debt-bomb squad about to blow up?**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:** <https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/08/13/is-chinas-debt-bomb-squad-about-to-blow-up>

IN LATE JULY a court in China's eastern Anhui province signed off on an unusual restructuring proposal. It concerns Guohou Asset Management, a financial firm originally set up to defuse debt bombs by picking up bad loans from troubled lenders. Guohou is the first member of China's large debt-bomb squad to itself need defusing. It will not be the last.

**16. Title: Can Singapore ever build a proper stock market?**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:** [HTTPS://WWW.ECONOMIST.COM/FINANCE-AND-ECONOMICS/2026/08/13/CAN-SINGAPORE-EVER-BUILD-A-PROPER-STOCK-MARKET](https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/08/13/can-singapore-ever-build-a-proper-stock-market)

SINGAPORE'S FINANCIAL chops are formidable. It trails only Hong Kong and Switzerland as a bolthole for plutocrats' cross-border assets. It is the third-largest venue for foreign-exchange trades, behind America and Britain, a big one for physical commodities such as oil, a centre of trade and marine finance, and a hub for specialty insurance. What it lacks is a big bourse.

**17. Title: Hooray for index funds—just don't call them passive**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:** <https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/08/11/hooray-for-index-funds-just-dont-call-them-passive>

The launch of the Vanguard First Index Investment Trust, 50 years ago this month, could have gone better. Jack Bogle, Vanguard's founder, called it "an abject failure". He had hoped to raise somewhere between \$50m and \$150m, but got only a little over \$11m (\$65m today). As the first fund aiming to do no more than track a stock-market index—America's S&P 500—that was available to individual investors, it nevertheless raised hackles. "One conclusion, usually expressed with considerable feeling, is that index funds are a 'cop-out' and a fad that will soon disappear," sniffed an article in the *Financial Analysts Journal*, published later the same year.

**18. Title: When Japan buys yen, it unwinds a dangerous trade**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:** <https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/08/13/when-japan-buys-yen-it-unwinds-a-dangerous-trade>

AMERICA'S TREASURY secretary, Scott Bessent, is used to making audacious bets against central banks. He once worked for Soros Fund Management, the hedge fund famous for "breaking" the Bank of England during the sterling crisis of 1992. But in late July Mr Bessent bet the other way, lining up alongside a central bank in defence of its

currency. He dipped into America's foreign-exchange reserves to help the Bank of Japan (BoJ) buy yen, which had weakened past ¥163 to the dollar for the first time since 1986.

### **19. Title: Regulation of the Platform Economy**

**Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61, Issue No. 33, 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/33/editorials/regulation-platform-economy.html>

The 114th International Labour Conference, held in Geneva in June, adopted Convention No 193 on Decent Work in the Platform Economy, remarkable for extending essential labour protections beyond conventional employment relationships. Its goal is to accord platform workers basic rights, regardless of how national laws or contracts classify them. When technological innovation and new business models advance, so should workers' rights, fair competition, and sustainable growth.

### **20. Title: The Yen Signals a Fragile Recovery**

**Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61, Issue No. 33, 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/33/h-t-parekh-finance-column/yen-signals-fragile-recovery.html>

When policymakers in the United States (US) and Japan chose to tango in currency markets at the end of July, movements in the Japanese yen became the focus of attention. Authorities of the two countries jointly intervened to shore up the yen, which had depreciated from around 100 to the dollar in December 2020 to 164 in June 2026. This was a rare instance of coordinated yen purchases by the two allies using billions of dollars and occurs at a critical juncture in Japan's post-war history. After three decades of being stuck with deflation involving low growth and low inflation, Japan today is experiencing a peculiar recovery. Domestic income rose at 1% or more in each of the seven quarters ending with January to March 2026—not spectacular but significantly positive and consistently so, unlike previously.

### **21. Title: Samudra Manthan Explainer: India's ₹84,084 Crore Bet on Offshore Oil and Gas**

**Source: India's World. Vol. 2, Issue No.08, August 2026.**

**Link:**<https://indiasworld.in/samudra-manthan-explainer-indias-%e2%82%b984084-crore-bet-on-offshore-oil-and-gas/>

India's crude oil production has been declining for a decade, falling [from 36.9 million tonnes in 2015-16 to 28.7 million tonnes in 2024-25](#), while its dependence on imported crude has climbed to a record 88.7%. The country also imports [about half of the natural gas it consumes](#). In effect, nearly nine out of every ten barrels of oil India uses come from abroad, leaving its economy exposed to global prices and shipping routes beyond its control. To reduce that dependence, the Union Cabinet approved Samudra Manthan, [the National Offshore Exploration Scheme, on 31 July 2026](#). Backed by ₹84,084 crore and administered by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas until 2030-31, the programme aims to search for oil and gas in the deep waters off India's coasts. The scheme builds on an idea [first announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his](#)

[Independence Day address in 2025](#). Its name draws from the mythological *Samudra Manthan*, the churning of the ocean by the gods in search of hidden treasures.

## EDUCATION

**22. Title: The Academic Year's Main Stories, Told Through Data**

**Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol-72, No-23. 14<sup>th</sup> Aug 2026.**

**Link:** <https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-academic-years-main-stories-told-through-data>

As a new academic year gets underway, The Chronicle looked back at some of the biggest stories of 2025-26 — and found numbers to illustrate them. This is how funding uncertainties, faculty morale, the looming impact of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, effects of the end of race-conscious admissions, and the decline of international enrollment were distilled into data.

**23. Title: Compare the States**

**Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol-72, No-23. 14<sup>th</sup> Aug 2026.**

**Link:** <https://www.chronicle.com/article/almanac-states>

Explore the nine sortable tables below to discover how each of the states and the District of Columbia compare with one another and with the nation on demographics, state residents' highest level of education, faculty pay, college enrollment, diversity, graduation rates, tuition costs, state aid, and more.

**24. Title: How Much Are Public-College Presidents Paid?**

**Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol-72, No-23. 14<sup>th</sup> Aug 2026.**

**Link:** <https://www.chronicle.com/article/president-pay-public-colleges/>

Base pay, bonuses, and benefits for 180 chief executives at public doctoral universities and systems in 2024.

**25. Title: How the End of Race-Conscious Admissions Has Affected College Enrollment**

**Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol-72, No-23. 14<sup>th</sup> Aug 2026.**

**Link:** <https://www.chronicle.com/article/how-the-end-of-race-conscious-admissions-has-affected-college-enrollment>

The first full year of comprehensive enrollment information since the Supreme Court's 2023 decision in *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard* is now available in data collected by the federal government.

The Chronicle compared enrollment data for the fall of 2022 to the fall of 2024 at nearly 2,700 two- and four-year institutions and found the share of underrepresented minorities entering college has gradually increased, while the shares of white and Asian students have decreased. The number of students who choose not to disclose their race has also seen an increase. But this top-line dynamic obscures differences — within

states, among types of institutions, and at individual colleges. You can read more of our findings.

**26. Title: Race, Ethnicity, and Gender of Full-Time Faculty Members at 3,300 Institutions**

**Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol-72, No-23. 14<sup>th</sup> Aug 2026.**

**Link:** <https://www.chronicle.com/article/race-ethnicity-and-gender-of-full-time-faculty/>

The sortable table below shows the percentages of full-time faculty members who were members of specific racial and ethnic groups at degree-granting colleges and universities in November 2023.

**27. Title: How Diverse Are Student Populations on College Campuses in the U.S.?**

**Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol-72, No-23. 14<sup>th</sup> Aug 2026.**

**Link:** <https://www.chronicle.com/article/student-diversity/>

The table that follows shows the race, ethnicity, and gender of students at 3,833 colleges and universities in the fall of 2023, the latest year for which statistics are available from the U.S. Department of Education.

The figures are from the Education Department's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System. They include undergraduate, graduate, and professional-school students attending full time and part time in the 50 states and Washington, D.C. Only degree-granting institutions eligible to participate in Title IV are included.

**28. Title: What Are the Demographics of Noninstructional Staffs at Colleges?**

**Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol-72, No-23. 14<sup>th</sup> Aug 2026.**

**Link:** <https://www.chronicle.com/article/what-are-the-demographics-of-noninstructional-staff-at-colleges>

Statistical snapshots of the gender, race, and ethnicity of all noninstructional college staff members, including office and administrative support, business and financial operations, maintenance, and other positions in key sectors in 2018 and 2023.

**29. Title: Which Types of Colleges Have the Most Undergraduates with Disabilities?**

**Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol-72, No-23. 14<sup>th</sup> Aug 2026.**

**Link:** <https://www.chronicle.com/article/which-types-of-colleges-have-the-most-undergraduates-with-disabilities>

The number of institutions where at least one out of 10 undergraduates reported having a disability has risen 50 percent in the past five years. In 2019-20, 375 institutions had 10 percent or more of their students report a disability to the campus's office of disability services, or a similar office. In 2023-24, 562 colleges fit this description.

**30. Title: State Support for Public Colleges, 2002-23**

**Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol-72, No-23. 14<sup>th</sup> Aug 2026.**

**Link:** <https://www.chronicle.com/article/state-support-for-public-colleges>

Explore how state and federal support has declined as a share of overall revenue — putting a greater burden on students — at more than 1,500 public colleges and universities between 2002 and 2023.

**31. Title: Which Colleges Have Conferred the Most Bachelor's Degrees?**

**Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol-72, No-23. 14<sup>th</sup> Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.chronicle.com/article/which-colleges-have-conferred-the-most-bachelors-degrees>

Below are statistical snapshots of bachelor's degrees conferred by colleges in 32 disciplines over time, from 2018 to 2023. The degrees were awarded from July 1 to June 30 of each period. Only first majors were considered. Each discipline includes the top five institutions that granted bachelor's degrees in 2022-23, unless otherwise shown.

**32. Title: National Education Policy-2020 at Six: Transforming Indian Education**

**Source: University News. 17-23 August 2026.**

The National Education Policy-2020 (NEP-2020) completed six years on July 29, 2026, marking a significant milestone in India's voyage towards transforming its education system. More than a policy document, NEP 2020 represents a visionary strategy to build a vibrant, equitable, multidisciplinary, and globally competitive higher education (HE) ecosystem rooted in India's rich civilizational heritage. It aims to make learners not only employable but also leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs, and accountable citizens in an increasingly unified and technology-driven realm.

**33. Title: Knowledge-driven Higher Education for Atmanirbhar Bharat: Integrating Bhartiya Knowledge Systems, Artificial Intelligence, and Innovation**

**Source: University News. 17-23 August 2026.**

The emergence of the knowledge economy has redefined the role of higher education from a system of knowledge transmission to a dynamic ecosystem of research, innovation, entrepreneurship, and societal transformation. This chapter examines the potential of knowledge-driven higher education in realising the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat through the strategic integration of Bhartiya Knowledge Systems, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and innovation. It explores how the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 provides a transformative framework for developing multidisciplinary, research-oriented, technology-enabled, and ethically grounded educational institutions. The chapter highlights the complementary relationship between indigenous knowledge traditions and emerging technologies. Knowledge demonstrating how Bhartiya and Systems contributes holistic learning, ethical values, sustainability perspectives, and cultural rootedness, while Artificial Intelligence enhances personalised learning, digital transformation, research productivity, institutional governance. Further, it discusses the significance of innovation ecosystems, entrepreneurship, industry-academia partnerships, and responsible AI practices in strengthening self-reliance and global

competitiveness. The study also identifies key challenges, including digital disparities, faculty preparedness, research capacity, ethical concerns in AI adoption, and effective integration of indigenous knowledge systems. It argues that a balanced synthesis of traditional wisdom and contemporary technologies can create a resilient, inclusive, and globally competitive higher education ecosystem capable of nurturing knowledge creators, innovators, and Reimagining National Priorities: A Political Economy Assessment of Taxing IPL Profits for Higher Education Funding This research article critically examines provocative proposal by Professor Mayank Shrivastava to levy a 40% tax on Indian Premier League (IPL) profits and redirect the revenue to fund India's higher education and deep tech research Framed through the lens of political economy. the study interrogates the moral, structural, and symbolic dimensions of public finance and national priority-setting in a democracy Drawing on theoretical contributions from Jürgen Habermas, Antonio Gramsci, and Iris Marion Young the paper situates the proposal within broader debates. about democratic deliberation, cultural hegemony, and distributive justice.

### **34.Title: Striving for Success in the Face of Adversity**

**Source: University News. 17-23 August 2026.**

YSR Murthy, Pro Vice Chancellor, School of Law, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, KTR of Statistics. Madras University on 7th January 2026. He said. "Your education can never be over In Campus, Chennai, delivered the Prof. K. Suresh Chandra Endowment Lecture at the Department these days of technological advancement, artificial intelligence and many other disruptive innovations, you need to anticipate, be flexible and quickly adapt. Learn for the sake of learning, for the pure joy of learning. Whatever you do, you must be top in that profession. Strive for Excellence and perfection in whatever you do. Rest will follow."I wish to sincerely thank the Department of Statistics for asking me to deliver the Professor K. Suresh Chandra Endowment Lecture. I have spoken at many places in India and abroad, but this invitation is indeed a very special one for a couple of reasons. Professor Suresh Chandra had been my favourite teacher. I deem it a great honour and also a privilege to deliver this Endowment Lecture instituted in his honour by his students. He is an extraordinary teacher, an inspiring personality and a great stalwart. Second, Madras University is my Alma Mater Around 43 years back, I was a student here, sitting like all students here on the other side of the dais. I am what I am today because of the excellent education and foundation that I have received at the Loyola College, which is affiliated to the Madras University and later in the Department of Statistics, Madras University. I bow down with utmost respect to all the wonderful teachers who taught me at these institutions and express my deep gratitude

## HEALTH

### **35.Title: In praise of designer-ish babies**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/08/13/in-praise-of-designer-ish-babies>

Having transformed human life, Silicon Valley is now coming for birth. A spate of startups offer screening services that allow couples having children via in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) to assess embryos based on their genetic risk of diseases such as breast cancer and diabetes. Some venture further into science-fiction territory, providing scores for IQ and height, or even eye and hair colour.

**36. Title: In China, treatment for mental-health problems is a luxury**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:** <https://www.economist.com/china/2026/08/13/in-china-treatment-for-mental-health-problems-is-a-luxury>

HALF OF XIAO Yao's clients, who are mostly women aged between 20 and 40, do not tell their parents that they pay 500 yuan (\$75) for counselling sessions. The 33-year-old psychological counsellor says that older generations tend to take mental health less seriously and ask: "This is just unhappiness, isn't it? Aren't you overthinking things?"

**37. Title: Sexually transmitted infections are surging in Europe**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/europe/2026/08/09/sexually-transmitted-infections-are-surging-in-europe>

TRACKING sexually transmitted infections (STIs) is not easy. Many who carry them show no symptoms. Testing is patchy. And risky behaviour tends to go unnoticed, since sex (thankfully) is usually performed in private. But public-health authorities do their best, and in recent years they have reported a sharp increase in cases of STIs in Europe.

**38. Title: Andy Burnham's chance to reset Labour's relations with business**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/britain/2026/08/13/andy-burnhams-chance-to-reset-labours-relations-with-business>

THE MOST unlikely love affair in British politics recently was between big business and the Labour Party. Before the general election in 2024, the party launched what this newspaper called a "smoked-salmon offensive" to reassure bosses that it had sworn off socialism and would govern with economic growth as its "number-one mission". It held long, detailed talks with different sectors, asking for ideas on how to boost growth.

**39. Title: How to fix Scotland's drugs disaster**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/britain/2026/08/13/how-to-fix-scotlands-drugs-disaster>

FOR FOUR days David Rowat lay dying in his flat in East Kilbride. "Every rock bottom is a trap door," says the former heroin addict. "You need to be in the darkest, lowest place

to want change.” When his daughter discovered him in 2021, only a few hours of oxygen remained in his blood.

**40. Title: How much would you pay for a smarter baby?**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/08/10/how-much-would-you-pay-for-a-smarter-baby>

Late last year New Yorkers noticed a series of strange advertisements on the subway. “Have your best baby,” one promised. “IQ is 50% genetic,” noted another. Predictably, they stirred controversy. Yet Kian Sadeghi of Nucleus, the embryo-screening startup behind them, was pleased. “This is a mass-market product. What’s a better way of showing that it’s a mass-market product than the subway?”

**41. Title: Can you hack your gut microbiome?**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:** <https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/08/07/can-you-hack-your-gut-microbiome>

THE TRILLIONS of bugs in a human gut digest complex carbohydrates into fatty acids that provide about 10% of an individual’s calories. They synthesise vitamins, notably K (which regulates blood clotting) and various members of the B group. They help tune the immune system. They suppress the growth of pathogens. And they regulate production of signalling molecules, such as serotonin, involved in sending messages from the gut to the brain.

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**42. Title: A bill to punish Putin gives too much power to Donald Trump**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/08/13/a-bill-to-punish-putin-gives-too-much-power-to-donald-trump>

Vladimir Putin will not end his war on Ukraine until he believes the costs of fighting on exceed the costs of stopping. The costs to him, that is—Russia’s president cares nothing for the Ukrainian lives he is ruining, and precious little for all the Russian blood and treasure he is wasting in pursuit of a warped idea of personal glory. So Ukraine and its backers must somehow convince him that he will never win, and that continuing to try will only weaken him.

**43. Title: Why India triumphed at Venice and flopped in Osaka**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/08/09/why-india-triumphed-at-venice-and-flopped-in-osaka>

THE KINDEST thing that can be said about India's pavilion at the Osaka World Expo last year is that it was authentic. It opened more than two weeks late. It was chaotic. Its displays of ancient temples and ancient paintings looked like something from an ancient tourism-promotion advert. And, naturally, it included "inspiring talks and speeches" by Narendra Modi. As one Japanese visitor who lives in India put it, "The disorganised parts...were very Indian, so if you want to feel the vibe of India, I definitely recommend you go."

**44. Title: Donald Trump is getting a new tariff weapon against Russia**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2026/08/13/donald-trump-is-getting-a-new-tariff-weapon-against-russia>

"LOOK WHAT we've done here," remarked Lindsey Graham on learning in February that Donald Trump had launched America's war against Iran. "I almost cried." The Republican senator, who died last month, might have teared up again at the latest display of American muscle. On August 7th the Senate passed the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act by 86 votes to 11. The bill is yet to clear the House, but has the backing of Mr Trump.

**45. Title: Inside Venezuela's high-stakes political negotiations**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2026/08/13/inside-venezuelas-high-stakes-political-negotiations>

**Title: Donald Trump's bullying of Canada is endless**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2026/08/09/donald-trumps-bullying-of-canada-is-endless>

The Gordie Howe International Bridge is a 2.5km-long monument to the perils of appeasing Donald Trump. Canada footed the entire bill of C\$6.4bn (\$4.6bn) for the [gleaming new span](#) over the Detroit river to the United States. But America's president threatened for months to block its opening, relenting only when the United States got a cut of the toll revenues. Traffic at last began to flow in late July. Canadians cringed at Mark Carney's evasive explanation for the shakedown. Mr Trump then rewarded his compliance by announcing new tariffs of 50% on a range of goods imported into the United States from its northern neighbour.

**46. Title: Brazil is at last managing to build its own warships.**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2026/08/13/brazil-is-at-last-managing-to-build-its-own-warships>

Over the past few decades Brazil's naval shipbuilding efforts have mostly sunk without trace (literally, in the case of one aircraft-carrier, which was scuttled in an effort to hide its uselessness). Since the 1970s the country has launched and abandoned at least three warship programmes. But in April it commissioned a new frigate-class ship,

the *Tamandaré*, the first of four to be built entirely in Brazil. The construction of a second batch of four has been provisionally agreed. The vessel can detect submarines and fire missiles and torpedoes. A helicopter pad allows for wide areas to be patrolled without a fleet of costly destroyers. The craft would be a decent staple for any navy.

**47. Title: War in the Gulf has weakened two of America's Arab allies**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2026/08/10/war-in-the-gulf-has-weakened-two-of-americas-arab-allies>

NEARLY TWO years ago King Abdullah of Jordan told Abbas Araghchi, the Iranian foreign minister, that his own country would not be a “battleground for regional conflicts”. A decade earlier, while campaigning to be Egypt’s president, Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi made the opposite vow to Gulf states: should their security be threatened, Egypt would be “one step away”.

**48. Title: A liberal party is barred in Russia for implicitly opposing the war**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/europe/2026/08/13/a-liberal-party-is-barred-in-russia-for-implicitly-opposing-the-war>

ON August 10th several hundred mostly young people gathered in front of Russia’s Supreme Court. The pavement was covered in chalk messages: “For Yabloko, for peace”; Alexei Navalny’s slogan “Russia will be free”; and in Ukrainian, “We have no fear, we have love”. They listened on their smartphones to the court’s proceedings, as it decided whether to allow Yabloko (Apple), Russia’s oldest liberal party and the only openly anti-war one, to run in legislative elections set for September 20th. The party’s electoral manifesto consists of 43 words, the first two sentences in capital letters: FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM! FOR A LIFE WITHOUT FEAR!

**49. Title: Europe’s dry rivers are exposing mammoths and Nazi warships**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/europe/2026/08/13/europes-dry-rivers-are-exposing-mammoths-and-nazi-warships>

Western Europe is facing its fifth heatwave this year, and the waters of the Rhine and Danube rivers are the lowest since official records began in 1880. The gauge in Kaub, a medieval town in Rhineland-Palatinate, serves as the benchmark for the 1,230km-long river because it is near the Middle Rhine’s shallowest section. On August 12th it showed a maximum depth of 12cm. The previous record, during a drought in 2018, was 25cm. It could fall to single digits in the next few days, according to Germany’s association of inland shipping. That would cut the navigable Rhine in two.

**50. Title: Stories Cartoons Tell: A Dialogic Analysis of Israel–Palestine Conflict**

**Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61, Issue No. 33, 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:** <https://www.epw.in/engage/article/stories-cartoons-tell-dialogic-analysis-israel>

A narrative dialogic/visual analysis is adopted to understand whether cartooning helps to document and communicate “empathic expression” of war and conflict especially in the context of Israel and Palestine. The article addresses two research questions: first, it investigates how cartoons communicate individual and collective experiences during the conflict. Second, can the Israel–Palestine conflict phenomenon be creatively integrated in a participatory arts-based methodology? In-depth interviews with internationally established cartoonists along with representative images by means of purposive sampling (heterogeneous) were adopted to establish the critical role played by cartoons. As the questionnaire was semi-structured, there was scope for the respondents to express themselves and communicate their sentiments. The article provides a theoretical insight for the use of cartoons to document political happenings especially with regards to the Israel–Palestine conflict. The article argues that creative narratives are crucial for documentation and communications. It builds on academic discussions; however, an additional quantitative study is required.

**51. Title: The Mecca Joint Deterrence and Strategic Mutual Defence Agreements: The New Axes and India’s Concerns**

**Source: India’s World. Vol. 2, Issue No.08, August 2026.**

**Link:** <https://indiasworld.in/the-mecca-joint-deterrence-and-strategic-mutual-defence-agreements-the-new-axes-and-indias-concerns/>

On 7 August 2026, in Mecca, Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Türkiye’s President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and Pakistan’s Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif signed the [Mecca Joint Deterrence Agreement](#) (MJDA). This formal trilateralisation of a new security architecture builds directly on the [Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement](#) (SMDA) signed between Riyadh and Islamabad on 17 September 2025.

**52. Title: Why is Bangladesh Important?**

**Source: India’s World. Vol. 2, Issue No.08, August 2026.**

**Link:** <https://indiasworld.in/why-is-bangladesh-important/>

Aslew of recent developments involving Bangladesh have raised a fundamental question for Indian foreign policy. Is India really desperate to have Prime Minister Tarique Rahman visit New Delhi at the earliest? And, what makes the relationship so on the edge now when, in the early days of Rahman being sworn in, the bilateral relationship appeared to be getting back on track?

**53. Title: Last Mile of De-risking: India’s China Strategy Runs Through Its States**

**Source: India’s World. Vol. 2, Issue No.08, August 2026.**

**Link:** <https://indiasworld.in/last-mile-of-de-risking-indias-china-strategy-runs-through-its-states/>

On 10 March 2026, the Union Cabinet [amended Press Note 3](#), the 2020 rule that had subjected all foreign direct investment (FDI) from land-bordering countries, in practice China, to prior government approval. Codified as Press Note 2 of 2026, the revised

framework permits non-controlling beneficial ownership of up to 10% through the automatic route and offers a [60-day expedited clearance](#) for priority manufacturing such as electronic components and capital goods. Control transactions, Hong Kong-incorporated entities, and sensitive sectors remain fenced off. It is a calibrated reopening, consistent with the [managed interdependence](#) that now defines India's China posture.

**54. Title: Grand Strategy: India and the World**

**Source: India's World. Vol. 2, Issue No.08, August 2026.**

**Link: <https://indiasworld.in/grand-strategy-india-and-the-world/>**

For many years, there have been doubts in India's strategic community as to whether the term "grand strategy" is a recognised concept in the higher decision-making circles of the Indian armed forces, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), and the Indian National Security Council. Such doubts exist in other countries too. Against this backdrop, Happymon Jacob's paper is a welcome contribution.

**55. Title: Critical Minerals: Catalysing the India-US Partnership**

**Source: India's World. Vol. 2, Issue No.08, August 2026.**

**Link: <https://indiasworld.in/critical-minerals-catalysing-the-india-us-partnership/>**

The India-US relationship, long defined by strategic hedging, is steadily moving towards real-world outcomes. In the past, the India-US relationship has seen periods of episodic cooperation and constraint. However, in recent years, engagement across various sectors, including commercial, defence, economic, and technology, has seen steady progress. In June 2026, US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer [visited](#) New Delhi to finalise an interim trade deal, and the second [Pax Silica](#) summit was held in Washington. Engagement on critical minerals is one such avenue to further consolidate relations. In May, on the margins of the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the two countries [signed](#) a bilateral framework for critical minerals and rare earths.

**56. Title: How the Russia-Ukraine War Enabled Deeper India-EU Relations**

**Source: India's World. Vol. 2, Issue No.08, August 2026.**

**Link: <https://indiasworld.in/how-the-russia-ukraine-war-enabled-deeper-india-eu-relations/>**

After the Russian invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, India's refusal to [explicitly condemn](#) Russia caused friction with the EU. For example, in June 2022, during the Globsec forum in Slovakia, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said that "[Europe has](#) to grow out of the mindset that Europe's problems are the world's problems but the world's problems are not Europe's problems". Four years later, at the [Kultaranta Talks in Finland](#), Jaishankar criticised Europe's perceived hypocrisy while responding to a question on India's purchases of Russian oil.

**57. Title: Modi's Indo-Pacific Tour: The Deals that Matter**

**Source: India's World. Vol. 2, Issue No.08, August 2026.**

**Link: <https://indiasworld.in/modis-indo-pacific-tour-the-deals-that-matter/>**

The Indo-Pacific has entered a period of unusual strategic uncertainty. Donald Trump's decision to revert the name of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command to the U.S. Pacific

Command has reignited questions about Washington's long-term commitment to the region. Coming amid debates over American retrenchment, shifting alliance priorities and growing demands for allies to shoulder greater security responsibilities, the move has fuelled speculation that the United States may be recalibrating its Indo-Pacific strategy. Whether these concerns ultimately prove justified or not, they have reinforced a reality already shaping regional diplomacy: countries across the Indo-Pacific are increasingly looking to strengthen partnerships among themselves rather than relying exclusively on American leadership.

## LAW

**58. Title: Should every Indian follow the same rules?**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/08/12/should-every-indian-follow-the-same-rules>

AFTER RETURNING from sunset prayers in the mosque next door, Khursheed Ahmed shoos away his all-male entourage to talk to a female journalist. The 71-year-old community leader is glum. A law he spent months unsuccessfully campaigning against has put him in a quandary. How, he wonders, can a person be both a God-fearing Muslim and a law-abiding Indian? "If you don't follow sharia, you are not a Muslim," he says. But since January 2025 it has been illegal for Muslims in Mr Ahmed's home state of Uttarakhand to obey many of their customary family laws.

**59. Title: Clean Up Political Funding**

**Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61, Issue No. 33, 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/33/editorials/clean-political-funding.html>

The dismissal by a United States federal court of a case against India's Adani Group and its leaders has evoked a debate on crony capitalism in India. That is welcome any day. However, this discussion is on the periphery of the root problem that underlies the charges brought abroad against one of India's biggest industrial groups: the absence of a system of transparent funding of politics. Politics in India relies for its operational finance—regardless of party, save a few honourable exceptions—on funds taken from business. This sounds bloodless, and is true in many parts of the world. However, India's system of business funding politics has three distinctive features: much of the funding is involuntary, most of it escapes formal accounting both at the receiver's end and the giver's, and a lot of it goes to finance illicit acts ranging from building the personal fortunes of politicians to the purchase of votes at election time and of the political loyalty of elected representatives, after the elections. This system must change.

## MILITARY SCIENCE

**60. Title: Brazil is at last managing to build its own warships**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link: <https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2026/08/13/brazil-is-at-last-managing-to-build-its-own-warships>**

Over the past few decades Brazil's naval shipbuilding efforts have mostly sunk without trace (literally, in the case of one aircraft-carrier, which was scuttled in an effort to hide its uselessness). Since the 1970s the country has launched and abandoned at least three warship programmes. But in April it commissioned a new frigate-class ship, the Tamandaré, the first of four to be built entirely in Brazil. The construction of a second batch of four has been provisionally agreed. The vessel can detect submarines and fire missiles and torpedoes. A helicopter pad allows for wide areas to be patrolled without a fleet of costly destroyers. The craft would be a decent staple for any navy.

## POLITICAL SCIENCE & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

**61. Title: For Greater Unity on 80th Independence Day**

**Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61. No-35. 15<sup>th</sup> Aug 2026.**

**Link: <https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/33/editorials/greater-unity-80th-independence-day.html>**

Best wishes to our readers on the occasion of India's 80th Independence Day. As the country marks 79 years of independence, the meanings of nationhood and freedom remain sites of continuous—and fraught—contestation. India is a nation of extreme diversity, in terms of language, region, associated culture, including cuisine, religion, ethnicity, faith practices within the same religion, traditional social hierarchy, and political persuasion. Unity in diversity is as much a necessity for India's coherence as a nation as it is a talisman of our nation's multicultural coexistence, enabled by both civilisational genius and the political commitment built over the course of the freedom movement to forge a modern nation state built on the principles of democracy, equality, and dignity for all individuals and groups. Traditional India's caste hierarchy prescribed differential rights and even different yardsticks of morality and ethics for different social groups. It was necessary, therefore, to see independent India as a new nation, in which relations among individuals and groups, and between these and the state, are based on democracy, mediated by the social and political contract of the constitutional Republic, rather than past custom or cultural mores. The core idea of nationhood of the modern Indian Republic is, therefore, civic, rather than based on any religion, whether of the majority or any minority. It seeks to draw in and absorb

what is wholesome in the tradition and culture while rejecting what undermines the principles of democratic equality and inclusion. That is the ideal, but the practice has been far removed.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/33/editorials/greater-unity-80th-independence-day.html>

**62.Title: The Taliban are vile. Democracies must still engage with them**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/08/13/the-taliban-are-vile-democracies-must-still-engage-with-them>

Five years ago President Joe Biden pulled American troops out of Afghanistan. He was not forced to. America could have defended Afghanistan's flawed but democratically elected government indefinitely, but chose not to. Voters were weary of America's longest war, against the Taliban, a militia that controlled much of the countryside. Donald Trump set a timetable for pulling out; Mr Biden did so completely.

**63.Title: America really might restore democracy to Venezuela**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/08/12/america-really-might-restore-democracy-to-venezuela>

When President Donald Trump sent American Special Forces to snatch Venezuela's dictator, Nicolás Maduro, in January, it did not sound as though restoring democracy was his priority. He boasted endlessly about how he now controlled Venezuela's oil, while barely mentioning the country's political future. He installed as interim president Delcy Rodríguez, the deposed despot's dismal deputy. Many worried that without a strong American commitment to a democratic transition, the old, brutal kleptocracy would carry on.

**64.Title: South-East Asia braces for more smoke from Indonesia**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/08/13/south-east-asia-braces-for-more-smoke-from-indonesia>

In 2015, as South-East Asia was engulfed in toxic smog caused by fires in Indonesia, Jusuf Kalla, the country's vice-president at the time, suggested that his neighbours needed a change in perspective. "For 11 months they enjoyed nice air from Indonesia and they never thanked us," he said. South-East Asians flocked to a satirical website created to express gratitude to Indonesia. The site has registered more than 34m votes of sarcastic thanks.

**65.Title: Zhu Rongji's death is a reminder of how much has changed in China**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/china/2026/08/12/zhu-rongjis-death-is-a-reminder-of-how-much-has-changed-in-china>

Soon after becoming China's prime minister in 1998 Zhu Rongji famously declared that he had ordered 100 coffins — 99 for corrupt officials and one for himself. In his hatred of bureaucratic graft, the pioneer of market-opening reforms shared a trait with China's current leader, Xi Jinping. In many other ways, Mr Zhu, who died on August 12th, was the antithesis of China's current leadership. Pragmatic, plain-speaking and intellectually curious, he eschewed ideology in his quest to integrate China with the global economy. He also wielded enormous power in a collective leadership system that Mr Xi has dismantled.

**66.Title: For a different kind of Democratic insurgency, look to Iowa**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2026/08/13/for-a-different-kind-of-democratic-insurgency-look-to-iowa>

ROB SAND's campaign gimmicks, to the extent that he has them, are better suited for a Norman Rockwell painting than a TikTok feed. The Democratic candidate for governor of Iowa begins his town halls with a sing-a-long of "America the Beautiful". He invites Republicans in the crowd to reveal themselves; those who do are welcomed with applause. Yet the even-tempered Mr Sand, who serves as the state's auditor, does not shy away from declaring a disaster where he sees one. Iowa, he insisted recently, is in the throes of three: an "economic crisis and a cancer crisis and an education crisis". Many voters agree.

**67.Title: Mogadishu no longer deserves its deadly reputation**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2026/08/13/mogadishu-no-longer-deserves-its-deadly-reputation>

One evening six years ago Saakin Abdi, a young civil servant, enjoyed an ice-cream in central Mogadishu. Back then, residing in the Somali capital meant living with the knowledge that at any moment you could be the next victim of al-Shabab, al-Qaeda's richest and deadliest affiliate. The next evening, a friend of Ms Abdi's was in the same ice-cream parlour when a militant burst through the door and blew himself up. Her friend and six others were killed. They were among at least 320 people who died in al-Shabab attacks in the city in 2020.

**68. Title: Andy Burnham and the politics of accents**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/britain/2026/08/13/andy-burnham-and-the-politics-of-accents>

WATCH A VIDEO of Andy Burnham's remarks after being appointed prime minister, turn the automatic transcript on, and you might be in for a surprise: "I have just returned from Buckingham Palace," reads one. It is a seminal moment: none of his predecessors in the age of recording has pronounced "Buckingham" in a way a transcriber would render as "Bookingham". He is also the first English prime minister to rhyme words like "class" with "gas". In short, he sounds like a northerner, much

more so than anyone who has taken office at Number 10 Downing Street, says Geoff Lindsey of University College London.

**69. Title: Behold Gandhi the Hindu: How Sanatana Dharma Shaped India's Independence Movement and Nationalism**

**Source: Open. 14th Aug 2026. Vol 05, Issue 33**

**Link:** <https://openthemagazine.com/india/behold-gandhi-the-hindu-how-sanatana-dharma-shaped-indias-independence-movement-and-nationalism>

INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT in the 20th century was a fascinating saga. A very interesting and less talked about aspect of it is the Hindu cultural and religious influence on it. Adversaries like Jinnah openly challenged it describing the Indian National Congress as a "Hindu party". Fellow travellers like BR Ambedkar acknowledged it. And, finally, insiders like Jawaharlal Nehru abhorred it. But it remained an important undercurrent of the movement until the end.

**70. Title: Testament of a Radical Liberal**

**Source: Open. 14th Aug 2026. Vol 05, Issue 33**

**Link:** <https://openthemagazine.com/india/testament-of-a-radical-liberal>

THE EDITOR'S INVITATION TO USE THIS SPACE TO EXPOUND my own political beliefs, as India celebrates the 79th anniversary of its Independence, comes at an opportune time. If there was ever a time for an Indian writer to articulate a personal and expanded idea of an authentically Indian liberalism, it is now. The current legitimisation of illiberal alternatives and the erosion of trust in egalitarian democracy, the surrender of individual liberties to the hands of a ruling dispensation that has often exceeded its constitutional powers, the rampant undermining of institutions that were meant to check executive overreach, and the mainstreaming of bigoted and chauvinistic narratives that seek to 'otherise' entire communities, all point to an urgent need to offer a reimagined idea of liberalism to counter the systemic distortions that plague India's democracy. I am working on a book that aims to do just that, but this is an early opportunity to offer a curtain-raiser.

**71. The Capital of Mobilisation: Delhi and the unfinished argument of the Republic**

**Source: Open. 14th Aug 2026. Vol 05, Issue 33**

**Link:** <https://openthemagazine.com/india/the-capital-of-mobilisation-delhi-and-the-unfinished-argument-of-the-republic>

SOMETIMES IT IS TOUGH TO BELIEVE that the moral grandeur of India began with those famous words in Nehru's speech involving tryst and destiny. That midnight where we were supposed to awaken to life and freedom, something else was unfolding. It was a catastrophe involving the arrival in bewildered streams of refugees from Punjab and the Northwest Frontier Province—people who had seen unspeakable things, people who had abandoned homes, businesses, and the corpses of their family members. Makeshift camps spread across Delhi brought along a violent streak which led to the massacres of the Muslim populace around the time we were told the country

had turned a new leaf. It was so bad, as the scholar Rotem Geva notes in *Delhi Reborn*, that rioters entered bungalows of diplomats in New Delhi, looting, and killing Muslim domestic servants, leaving the government embarrassed.

**72. Title: In Search of an Opposition: The vacuum in the non-BJP political space**

**Source: Open. 14th Aug 2026. Vol 05, Issue 33**

**Link:** <https://openthemagazine.com/india/in-search-of-an-opposition-the-vacuum-in-the-non-bjp-political-space>

OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS, conversations in middle-class drawing rooms, while largely approving of the Modi government, almost certainly saw someone make the point: “But we need a good opposition, you know.” The question is coated with sanctimonious concern, a self-attestation of pluralism. “Yes, of course!” is the quick response with affirmative nods all around. The genuflection to democratic ideals complete, the small talk continues even as a few take the question more seriously, fretting about the perceived ills of a lopsided polity.

**73. Title: ‘INA achieved Netaji’s objective of creating conditions for ending British rule’**

**Source: Open. 14th Aug 2026. Vol 05, Issue 33**

**Link:** <https://openthemagazine.com/india/ina-achieved-netajis-objective-of-creating-conditions-for-ending-british-rule>

Noted political scientist and author Sumantra Bose, grandnephew of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, in an interview with Open, said that he believes that by the time of the Red Fort trials in 1945, the British colonial rulers were hopelessly out of sync with both the Indian people and the Indian armed forces. “But it was a chronicle of an imperialist disaster foretold,” says Bose, who is also the director of Netaji Research Bureau in Kolkata.

**74. Title: Always the Anthem: A new generation’s symbolic journey into the past**

**Source: Open. 14th Aug 2026. Vol 05, Issue 33**

**Link:** <https://openthemagazine.com/india/always-the-anthem-a-new-generations-symbolic-journey-into-the-past>

WHAT DOES INDEPENDENCE MEAN to a generation that has never known its absence? As a parent of school-going children, I often wondered what all those hallmark days of the Indian republic we celebrate signified to them.

**75. The Governor's Role in Centre-State Relations: A Balancing Act**

**Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61, Issue No. 33, 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:** <https://www.epw.in/engage/article/governors-role-centre-state-relations-balancing>

The role of the governor has become mired in political controversies in recent times. The core of the controversy revolves around the scope and extent of powers of the governor, which has become a subject of litigation as well, with states like Telangana, Tamil Nadu,

Kerala, and Punjab having petitioned the Supreme Court to request orders concerning their individual governors. It is felt by many state governments that the governors tend to display partisanship in their conduct, which hampers the democratic functioning of state politics. This is reflected in the recent contestations in the governors of some Indian states withholding assent to bills, proroguing the session of the house, and in the governor's recommendation of the President's rule, a pattern fraught with grave consequences for the country's federal future. Especially in [states](#) "where the ruling party at the union is only a marginal electoral political force, the Raj Bhavans rather than Vidhan Bhavans seem to have become the centres of political activity."

## SCIENCE

**76. Title: The brain may be about to have its Ozempic moment**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/08/11/the-brain-may-be-about-to-have-its-ozempic-moment>

ONE PEPTIDE has recently transformed medicine. Drugs based on glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1), a hormone released by the gut after a meal, began as treatments for diabetes before proving remarkably good at helping people shed weight. They have since shown benefits in the fields of heart disease, kidney disease, sleep apnoea and other ailments. Drugmakers are now betting that two other peptides, the orexins, could follow a similar path for a variety of brain-related ailments.

**77. Title: Maybe scientific progress isn't slowing, after all**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/08/12/maybe-scientific-progress-isnt-slowing-after-all>

That science's best days are behind it, and its rate of progress is slowing, is an old claim. And, since science itself is a perfectly good subject for scientists to investigate, many have looked into it.

**78. Title: NASA takes aim at fire storms**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/08/09/nasa-takes-aim-at-fire-storms>

MOST AIRCRAFT try to avoid bad weather. Not so a Gulfstream V that taxied onto the runway of Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport, in Colorado, on July 29th. Its flight path was set to take it directly into a rare and little-understood weather event—a pyrocumulonimbus (pyroCb)—in Oregon. Such towering, smoke-tinged storm clouds form above [wildfires](#) and generate weather that can multiply the damage of the fires that cause them.

# SOCIOLOGY

**79. Title: Under the Taliban, Afghanistan is, for once, peaceful**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:** <https://www.economist.com/briefing/2026/08/13/under-the-taliban-afghanistan-is-for-once-peaceful>

THE cafés on foreign-ministry road in the heart of Kabul's government district used to blare out Afghan pop to attract a gossip crowd of civil servants. No music comes from them now—or from anywhere else. It is banned. Men bustle along the street in traditional shalwar kameez, sporting long beards. Where a colourful mural used to be there is now a giant slogan in Dari, the local dialect of Persian: “There is no god but Allah”. Next to it a man in black fatigues lounges in the turret of a captured American Humvee, fondling a machinegun and keeping a lazy eye on the lunchtime traffic.

**80. Title: Rohingya refugees from Myanmar are living in fear in Malaysia**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:** <https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/08/13/rohingya-refugees-from-myanmar-are-living-in-fear-in-malaysia>

“IDON'T WANT to go out any more. I stay home most of the time, I want to leave Malaysia so badly.” So says Nur Sadek, a Rohingya refugee and community organiser who arrived in the country from Myanmar nearly five years ago. Mr Sadek shares messages from strangers threatening him with violence, some naming places where he can be found. One stranger sent him a video showing a rifle being fired.

**81. Title: China's officials are obsessed with safety theatre**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:** <https://www.economist.com/china/2026/08/10/chinas-officials-are-obsessed-with-safety-theatre>

TAKING THE escalator is full of danger at the new metro station in Jinan, a city in eastern China. Or so the warning sign suggests. It bars 14 actions in all, each illustrated with a red line through it: no walking on the escalator, no facing the wrong way and certainly no playing. There are also seven instructions, including to use the handrail, hold young children firmly and be careful in soft shoes.

**82. Title: A big earthquake reveals two very different Colombias**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:** <https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2026/08/12/a-big-earthquake-reveals-two-very-different-colombias>

“They pulled people out alive,” says Alberto, an onlooker, as a digger's steel teeth smash into a heap of concrete. It is all that remains of a four-storey building in Quibdó, a city in the western state of Chocó that was near the epicentre of a 7.4-magnitude earthquake which struck Colombia on August 10th. Aftershocks brought down more buildings. Around the country, at least 265 people have died.

**83. Title: Mogadishu no longer deserves its deadly reputation**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2026/08/12/a-big-earthquake-reveals-two-very-different-colombias>

HOW MANY kids would Xi Jinping shoot to take Taiwan? The island's youngsters have a record of staging mass protests when they feel betrayed by their rulers. Imagine a coercive Chinese takeover, brokered by pro-appeasement Taiwanese elites. Whose troops would clear the streets, and with what lethal force?

**84. Title: The Muslim Brotherhood is more divided and weaker than ever**

**Source: Economist. 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2026/08/11/the-muslim-brotherhood-is-more-divided-and-weaker-than-ever>

The heat inside Mornaguia prison, on the edge of Tunis, climbed past 50°C this summer. On July 17th Rachid Ghannouchi, the 85-year-old founder of Ennahda, the Tunisian political party inspired by the Muslim Brotherhood, passed out in his cell. His story seems destined to end like that of Muhammad Morsi, the Brotherhood figure elected as president of Egypt in 2012, only to die in prison in 2019.

**85. For Greater Unity on 80th Independence Day**

**Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61, Issue No. 33, 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/33/editorials/greater-unity-80th-independence-day.html>

Best wishes to our readers on the occasion of India's 80th Independence Day. As the country marks 79 years of independence, the meanings of nationhood and freedom remain sites of continuous—and fraught—contestation. India is a nation of extreme diversity, in terms of language, region, associated culture, including cuisine, religion, ethnicity, faith practices within the same religion, traditional social hierarchy, and political persuasion. Unity in diversity is as much a necessity for India's coherence as a nation as it is a talisman of our nation's multicultural coexistence, enabled by both civilisational genius and the political commitment built over the course of the freedom movement to forge a modern nation state built on the principles of democracy, equality, and dignity for all individuals and groups. Traditional India's caste hierarchy prescribed differential rights and even different yardsticks of morality and ethics for different social groups. It was necessary, therefore, to see independent India as a new nation, in which relations among individuals and groups, and between these and the state, are based on democracy, mediated by the social and political contract of the constitutional Republic, rather than past custom or cultural mores. The core idea of nationhood of the modern Indian Republic is, therefore, civic, rather than based on any religion, whether of the majority or any minority. It seeks to draw in and absorb what is wholesome in the tradition and culture while rejecting what undermines the principles of democratic equality and inclusion. That is the ideal, but the practice has been far removed.

**86. Title Steadfast and Strong: Chronicles of Palestinian Women's Resistance**

**Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61, Issue No. 33, 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/33/editorials/greater-unity-80th-independence-day.html>

Throughout world history, women have been subjected to various forms of violence during conflicts and wars. Besides enduring rape and violence during these times, displaced women and refugees often face greater hardships than men. Palestinian women have been experiencing this physical and psychological abuse for over seven decades. However, the history of Palestine over the past century is not only defined by oppression from colonial powers and the Zionist regime but also by resistance against such oppression. Palestinian women have played a significant role in this resistance, combating colonisation, Zionism, and male supremacy simultaneously (Holt 2013).

**87. Title: Enhancing Resilience of Indian Agriculture to Climate Shocks**

**Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61, Issue No. 33, 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/33/special-articles/enhancing-resilience-indian-agriculture-climate.html>

Indian agriculture has exhibited remarkable resilience to climate shocks, as reflected in the trend increase in foodgrain production, horticulture output, crop yields, and agriculture sector gross value added over the years. However, with climate shocks expected to become more frequent and intense, and given the adverse impact of declining annual rainfall and rising temperatures on farm output and yields, strengthening agricultural resilience will become increasingly important. Given limited resource availability for an accelerated green transition, an incremental approach incorporating multiple resilience-enhancing policy interventions, informed by the environmental Kuznets curve, appears well suited to India.

**88. Title: Urdu in Tonk**

**Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61, Issue No. 33, 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:** <https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/24/postscript/urdu-tonk.html>

Life takes us across different times, spaces, and people, creating personal stories of our own. Thousands of such personal narratives come together to form a shared history. When individual experience is connected to collective history, the canvas expands, and history is authenticated by real people as its characters. This movement from micro-history to shared history gives events enduring meaning and truth. Everything else—methods of connecting time, space and people—serves only as a means to attain this knowledge. Teaching public health and social work in Delhi brought me not only new responsibilities but also a few good friends, one of whom introduced me to Tonk, a town in Rajasthan, which intrigued me, compelling me to explore its history and cultural heritage.

**89. Title: Cultural Labour and the Afterlife of Folk Performance**

**Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61, Issue No. 33, 15th Aug 2026.**

**Link:**<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/24/postscript/cultural-labour-and-afterlife-folk-performance.html>

Folk performing arts in India have never been more visible, yet rarely have they been more insecure. From state-sponsored festivals and cultural tourism to digital platforms and international showcases, folk forms circulate widely as symbols of heritage and national culture. At the same time, the labour that sustains these practices remains largely invisible within debates on livelihood, cultural policy, and social protection. Chhau, practised in Seraikela, Mayurbhanj, and Purulia traditions across eastern India, offers a revealing lens through which to examine this condition. Widely celebrated for its visual power and ritual intensity, Chhau (depicted in the image) is most often framed as tradition or spectacle. Far less attention is paid to the embodied, skilled, and continuous labour through which the form is produced and sustained. Approaching Chhau as cultural labour, rather than cultural inheritance alone, opens up a different set of questions about value, precarity, and authority in India's folk performance economy.

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

| <b>S.No.</b> | <b>Title</b>                           | <b>Periodicity</b> | <b>Place of Publication</b> |
|--------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>1</b>     | <b>Chronicle of Higher Education</b>   | <b>M</b>           | <b>US</b>                   |
| <b>2</b>     | <b>Economist (A.M.)</b>                | <b>W</b>           | <b>London</b>               |
| <b>3</b>     | <b>Economic &amp; Political Weekly</b> | <b>W</b>           | <b>Mumbai</b>               |
| <b>4</b>     | <b>India's World</b>                   | <b>W</b>           | <b>India</b>                |
| <b>5</b>     | <b>Open Magazine</b>                   | <b>W</b>           | <b>Haryana</b>              |
| <b>6</b>     | <b>University News</b>                 | <b>W</b>           | <b>New Delhi</b>            |