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ART

1. Title: Widening the Canvas

Source: Open. 28th Aug 2026. Vol 05, Issue 35

Link: <https://openthemagazine.com/art-culture/widening-the-canvas>

THE GLOBAL BUZZ around Indian art is increasingly impossible to miss, particularly following the success of India's official pavilion at the Venice Biennale 2026. Recent exhibitions like Sediments of Becoming at Saint Petersburg's State Hermitage Museum and Kiran Nadar Museum of Art's The Meeting Ground in London, combined with the grand opening of the MF Husain Museum (Lawh Wa Qalam) in Doha last year have further hyped the 'India moment'. Indian galleries and artists routinely make waves at leading fairs like Art Basel, The Armory Show and Frieze. Against this backdrop, a quieter trend is gaining traction: the rise of diaspora-led galleries and collectives bridging the gap between India's creative heritage and global audiences.

2. Title: Babita Singh Reporting Review: The Silence of the Lamb

Source: Open. 28th Aug 2026. Vol 05, Issue 35

Link: <https://openthemagazine.com/entertainment/babita-singh-reporting-review-the-silence-of-the-lamb>

Her husband (Anshumaan Pushkar) is a performative supportive husband, who wants a medal merely because he married a woman outside his caste. Her mother-in-law and sister-in-law make passive-aggressive demands on her financially and emotionally. Her senior at work gets her to accept blame for a sensitive leak to the media in exchange for leave. She is ASI Babita Singh, played by Nimisha Sajayan, in Babita Singh Reporting. Babita has got the job, we are told, on compassionate grounds because her father, also a policeman, died in the line of duty. Add to that her in-laws and her husband giving her digs for her weight, and blaming her for not being able to conceive two years into her marriage.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

3. Title: Fears of AI-induced armageddon are overdone

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/by-invitation/2026/08/23/fears-of-ai-induced-armageddon-are-overdone>

On May 19th 1998, seven hackers from a group called Lopht walked into a Senate office building in Washington, DC. Granted pseudonymity, "Mudge", "Space Rogue", "Kingpin" and four others came in ill-fitting suits to warn a congressional committee that any one of them could make the internet unusable in 30 minutes. Fourteen years later Leon Panetta, then America's defence secretary, warned of a "cyber Pearl Harbour".

4. Title: Can AI make dysfunctional governments more effective?

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/08/27/can-ai-make-dysfunctional-governments-more-effective>

HOW MANY laws and regulations are needed to govern an archipelago, home to 287m people, spread across some 13,500 islands, and stretching more than 5,000km? For Indonesia, the answer is 251,232. Yet all too often this bureaucratic morass only worsens persistent problems, from rampant graft to sluggish growth.

5. Title: AI is changing religion and religions are trying to change AI

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/international/2026/08/27/ai-is-changing-religion-and-religions-are-trying-to-change-ai>

“WE HOPE POPE LEO will see us as his soldiers,” says Matthew Harvey Sanders, the boss of Longbeard, a Catholic startup. In a room near the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, the firm’s robots scan ancient books, manuscripts and codices. Scholars have long struggled to make accessible much of the “great wisdom sitting on shelves” of Catholic institutions, he says, but advances in AI mean “we can now understand the insights” of even the most worn, ancient texts. His firm then feeds this corpus into a more modern form of religious communication: Magisterium AI, a chatbot that draws on a curated library of Catholic doctrine and scholarship. According to Mr Sanders, it has millions of users across 190 countries, who use it to get “answers to profound questions”.

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

Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61, Issue No. 35, 29th 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

7. Title: China is training up thousands of humanoid robots

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/08/23/china-is-training-up-thousands-of-humanoid-robots>

China’s humanoid robots are sprinting ahead of their rivals—literally. On August 17th one of their number, called Superman, clocked up a running speed of 12.66 metres per

second, beating the previous record set by Usain Bolt, before crashing into a wall. The triumph only added to the buzz over Unitree, Superman's maker, which debuted its shares in Shanghai two days later. Their price leapt by 460%.

8. Title: How Shein came crashing down

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/business/2026/08/24/how-shein-came-crashing-down>

Only a few years ago Shein looked unstoppable. Its novel business model—using oodles of data and clever algorithms to spot fashion trends and generate new designs, which its network of Chinese suppliers stitch for a pittance—proved a hit in Western markets. Americans in particular spent endless hours scrolling through the \$3 blouses and \$5 khakis available on its app. In 2022, shortly after it moved its headquarters from Nanjing to Singapore, the company was valued by private investors, including America's General Atlantic, at \$100bn.

9. Title: The quality you should most wish for your children

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/business/2026/08/27/the-quality-you-should-most-wish-for-your-children>

If you could bestow any quality on your children, which one would you pick? Great intelligence? Empathy for humanity? Much greater respect for their parents? The ability to pass a fridge without opening it?

CLIMATE CHANGE

10. Title: Nepal flash floods

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/08/27/nepal-flash-floods>

Devastating flash floods struck an area on the border between Nepal and Tibet, apparently triggered by the fall of a huge chunk of ice that broke off a glacier. A destructive torrent tore down the valleys below. Hundreds were dead or missing, including many tourists.

ECONOMICS

11. Title: Mark Carney must beware an all-out trade war

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/08/25/mark-carney-must-beware-an-all-out-trade-war>

When Donald Trump first ordered tariffs on Canadian goods in February 2025, he said they were needed to force Canada to stop drugs and migrants crossing America's northern border. He soon dropped that justification only to spew out a litany of other grievances: the trade deficit, national security, Canada's dairy industry, a Canadian tax, a television advertisement, Canada's trade with China, wildfire smoke. He repeatedly mused, with a mob boss's ambiguity, about annexing Canada and making it America's "cherished" 51st state.

12. Title: The costs of defying Donald Trump are mounting for Canada

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2026/08/23/the-costs-of-defying-donald-trump-are-mounting-for-canada>

Mark Carney is governing through paradox. Canada's largest trading partner, the United States, is led by an unreliable man who uses trade barriers as a weapon. For Canada, the diversification of trade partners is wise, but takes time. Building infrastructure needed to serve new markets requires significant investment. And yet little would do more to get that investment flowing than a trade deal with the United States.

13. Title: Shrimpers are the latest group seeking protection from Washington

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/united-states/2026/08/27/shrimpers-are-the-latest-group-seeking-protection-from-washington>

"WE SHOULD BE excited, but we're not because we got a boatload of shrimp and it's worth no money," says Waylon Buras, watching his men unload a 40,000-pound haul onto the docks of the Louisiana bayou. The fisherman had just returned home after 13 days at sea, the longest trip of his career. Lifting a fistful of iridescent shrimp to the sun, he notes with frustration how perfect they are: "They look like glass." In May a pound sold for \$2.00, but today he will get just \$1.80.

14. Title: Iran will be able to shrug off America's financial threats

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2026/08/24/iran-will-be-able-to-shrug-off-americas-financial-threats>

WHEN DONALD TRUMP began Operation Epic Fury nearly six months ago he hoped that America's military might would crush Iran's regime. When its bombs failed, he bet on sweeteners. In June America offered Iran sanctions relief and billions of dollars in investment in the hope the country's leaders would open the Strait of Hormuz and renounce any nuclear ambitions. That approach failed, too. So Mr Trump has vowed to break the regime by smashing Iran economically. He said the effort would be an "economic D-Day". But when Scott Bessent, the treasury secretary, revealed the details on August 24th, his threats rang hollow.

15. Title: The quiet tycoons powering Africa's rise

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2026/08/23/the-quiet-tycoons-powering-africas-rise>

IN SOME WAYS Mo Dewji is an anomaly. The charismatic tycoon is currently the only billionaire in east Africa, and the youngest on the continent. By the reticent standards of Africa's corporate titans, the 51-year-old is comfortable in the limelight. Mr Dewji readily gives interviews, including recently to The Economist. He posts frequently to over 2m followers on X.

16. Title: Why smugglers are stealing Kenya's ants

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2026/08/26/why-smugglers-are-stealing-kenyas-ants>

IT WAS A smuggling operation to make your skin crawl. At Nairobi airport earlier this year, Kenyan authorities discovered more than 2,200 African harvester ants hidden in a man's luggage. Most were packed inside small plastic tubes plugged with damp cotton, designed to keep the ants alive for weeks while they made it to their recipients, collectors in China. In April the smuggler was sentenced to a year in prison. His conviction followed a series of similar cases, including the arrest last year of two Belgian teenagers carrying around 5,000 ants.

17. Title: British politicians want a manufacturing jobs boom

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/britain/2026/08/27/british-politicians-want-a-manufacturing-jobs-boom>

Andy Burnham's pronouncement in July at a train factory in Derby sounded like good common sense: "AI might be able to write an essay, draft a contract or make a slide deck," the prime minister said. "But it can't make a train." Yet it hides dodgy assumptions. The first is that AI, paired with robotics, may well make trains one day. And Britain is not very good at making them now. The Derby factory is a case in point: its flagship £1bn (\$1.4bn) order for trains to serve England's South West was a study in incompetence, running over four years late. The plant limps on only because the state insists on building in Britain.

18. Title: How Credible are India's New Manufacturing GDP Estimates?

Source: The India Forum: A Journal-Magazine on contemporary issues

Link:<https://www.theindiaforum.in/economy/how-credible-are-indias-new-manufacturing-gdp-estimates>

The National Statistical Office (NSO)'s new National Accounts Statistics (NAS) with the base year of 2022-23 replaces the earlier series with the base year 2011-12. The re-basing of the National Accounts is a routine yet mammoth statistical task that all national statistical offices undertake periodically to account for changes in relative prices and cover newer activities in the economy. Such a rebasing also offers scope for introducing newer and improved datasets and methods to better capture economic reality on the ground.

19. Title: Human Development Achievements and Challenges in West Bengal

Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61, Issue No. 35, 29th Aug 2026.

Link:<https://www.epw.in/journal/state-studies-west-bengal/human-development-achievements-and-challenges-west.html>

West Bengal is the fourth-largest state in India in terms of population, with 7.5% of the country's population, while sharing only 2.7% of the country's total land area, making it the second-most densely populated state in India. With a relatively low total fertility rate (TFR), low infant and child mortality rates, and higher-than-average life expectancy at birth, the state is increasingly facing the burden of old-age dependency¹ as well as chronic ailments.² The state appears to have been showing indications of vulnerability to these emerging challenges, particularly because of deficient infrastructure. Yet, they are conspicuous by their absence in political discourse and public policy agenda-setting. The popular attention instead is drawn to the sporadic incidents of alleged misgovernance, as evident from the horrific incident of a young doctor's brutal death under unusual circumstances in a government medical college hospital in Kolkata last year, and the large number of people, mostly belonging to the urban middle class, coming out on the streets in Kolkata to demand "justice." It was widely perceived as a consequence of huge corruption and malpractices committed with impunity in connivance with the then ruling political dispensation.

20. Title: West Bengal State Finances

Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61, Issue No. 35, 29th Aug 2026.

Link:<https://www.epw.in/journal/state-studies-west-bengal/west-bengal-state-finances.html>

Sub-national finances are generally discussed through the lens of intergovernmental fiscal relations in India. Often, we see fierce debates on Union–state fiscal relations. The periodic constitution of the finance commissions, their terms of reference and recommendations have always attracted the attention of scholars and are matters of policy debate. However, discussion on fiscal issues and challenges of individual state governments is limited. There are several reasons for that. The most critical one is the non-availability of comparable public finance management data at the state level on time. By the time the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) releases its annual study on state finances, considerable time has already passed since the state budgets were presented.

21. Title: Labour Market Trends and Migration Patterns in West Bengal

Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61, Issue No. 35, 29th Aug 2026.

Link:<https://www.epw.in/journal/state-studies-west-bengal/labour-market-trends-and-migration-patterns-west.html>

West Bengal presents a puzzle in India's labour market and migration landscape. Its employment rate exceeds the national average, yet this growth has been driven by a rising, market-facing informal sector with falling real earnings. Using data from the e-Shram registry as well as from the Periodic Labour Force Surveys, this paper examines how this labour market pattern shapes migration into and out of the state. Bengali

outmigrants in the unorganised sector are less educated than the national migrant pool and disproportionately concentrated in construction and capital goods manufacturing, travelling southward to Kerala and Karnataka through corridors shaped by both wage differentials and migrant networks. Male and female migration streams diverge sharply. Comparing in-migrants and outmigrants reveals a further asymmetry—West Bengal exports less-educated manufacturing and construction workers while receiving more-educated workers in transport and services. Taken together, these patterns point to a labour market reorganising itself around the absence of the industrial base it once had, with no alternative source of employment emerging within the state to take its place.

22.Title: Profitability, Productivity, and Organisation in West Bengal Agriculture

Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61, Issue No. 35, 29th Aug 2026.

Link: <https://www.epw.in/journal/state-studies-west-bengal/profitability-productivity-and-organisation-west.html>

West Bengal's agriculture presents a paradox: rice yields have consistently exceeded the national average, yet farming is unprofitable once family labour is valued at market wages, and a large share of the rural population remains attached to the land despite having little productive work to do there. Between 1980 and 2005, rice yields rose faster than the national average, driven by the expansion of Boro—a dry-season-irrigated variety—and reinforced by the productivity gains from Operation Barga. As Boro expansion stalled in the early 2000s, productivity growth could not keep up with the rest of India. A large portion of the agricultural labour became surplus but remained attached to the farm, and farm business income looks positive only because the imputed cost of this surplus family labour is treated as household income rather than cost. The organisational form sustaining this equilibrium is sharecropping, which dominates West Bengal's tenancy structure.

23.Title: West Bengal's Relative Economic Trajectory

Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61, Issue No. 35, 29th Aug 2026.

Link: <https://www.epw.in/journal/state-studies-west-bengal/west-bengals-relative-economic-trajectory.html>

West Bengal's economy is often described as one in steep decline. Using state-level data from 1961 to 2024, this paper shows that this depends on how performance is measured: nominal per capita net state domestic product fell relative to the rest of India, but this disappears after accounting for state-specific inflation, with real per capita NSDP matching the national average. Agriculture strengthened from the 1980s, helping it grow faster than the country from the mid-1990s to mid-2000s, while manufacturing underperformed, only partly offset by faster services growth. This is reflected in consumption and poverty: real rural per capita consumption stayed above the national average and grew faster, while urban areas were comparable until the early 2010s, then fell behind. Overall poverty stayed below the national average since the early 1990s: the rural rate fell in step from a lower base, while the urban rate, also slightly below it until the early 2010s, has since risen above. These trends hold across all political regimes, pointing to structural rather than government-specific constraints.

24.Title: Under-five Mortality in India

Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61, Issue No. 35, 29th Aug 2026.

Link:<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/34/special-articles/under-five-mortality-india.html>

Using five consecutive rounds of the National Family Health Survey data, the paper investigates the progress in under-five mortality rate at the national and sub-national levels in India and documents the country's progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals related to U5MR. Despite all the progress made in U5MR reduction, regional and socio-economic disparities remain a significant concern, suggesting the need for more localised policy responses to ensure equitable progress in reducing U5MR.

25.Title: India's Industrial Training Institutes

Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61, Issue No. 35, 29th Aug 2026.

Link:<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/34/special-articles/indias-industrial-training-institutes.html>

Industrial training institutes form the oldest and largest arm of India's formal skill training architecture, and their number has more than tripled since the mid-2000s. Drawing on the institute-level, trainee-level, and instructor-level records of the National Council for Vocational Training's Management Information System, along with the Periodic Labour Force Survey, the paper documents the character of this expansion. The post-2005 boom, driven overwhelmingly by private and rurally located institutes, coincided with a steady decline in institutional quality, a widening spatial disconnect between ITIs and the manufacturing economy, and a pattern of enrolment that channels historically disadvantaged groups into a training system positioned low in the educational hierarchy.

26.Title: A mammoth undertaking

Source: Frontline. Vol. 61, 15th September 2026.

Link:<https://frontline.thehindu.com/politics/india-census-2027-population-caste-survey/article71331764.ece>

Newly independent India required population statistics to conduct elections, plan the economy, and redistribute resources across tiers of the government. So, even before it adopted a constitution, the Constituent Assembly enacted the Census Act, 1948, to provide a stable legal framework for population censuses that offer critical inputs to processes that constitute and animate constitutional democracies. The Office of the Registrar General of India (ORGI) was made a permanent institution in the run-up to the 1961 Census. Colonial censuses had been governed by temporary legislation, and the ad hoc organisation constituted to conduct a census was often wound up even before all the reports were published.

27.Title: New census, old problems

Source: Frontline. Vol. 61, 15th September 2026.

Link:<https://frontline.thehindu.com/politics/india-census-2027-caste-data-trust-political-interference/article71336824.ece>

Modern statistics began as the eyes and ears of the state and facilitated the expansion of its tax base and conscription. Growing literacy and urbanisation associated with industrialisation in the 19th century, however, undermined the traditional foundations of legitimacy of states across Western Europe.

28.Title: Deepening the divide

Source: Frontline. Vol. 61, 15th September 2026.

Link:<https://frontline.thehindu.com/politics/india-census-2027-fiscal-federalism-north-south-divide/article71336891.ece>

India's ongoing census will be the most consequential enumeration of its people since Independence. The latest count has direct implications for the future of the Republic, given the impending delimitation exercise after a 50-year freeze and the debates over devolution of resources. Perhaps owing to the nature of these serious questions, or simply the digital era we inhabit, the state is transitioning to a technology-heavy operational plan with a significant methodological update.

29.Title: Why counting every migrant matters

Source: Frontline. Vol. 61, 15th September 2026.

Link:<https://frontline.thehindu.com/politics/india-census-2027-need-to-count-all-migrants/article71336874.ece>

After an unprecedented delay of six years, Census 2026–27 has kicked off, with the completion of the house-listing exercise and population enumeration scheduled for the first quarter of 2027. We will get new numbers about a country that has changed enormously since 2011.

30. Title: Caste, census, and the birth of 'data state'

Source: Frontline. Vol. 61, 15th September 2026.

Link: <https://frontline.thehindu.com/politics/caste-census-india-bjp-data-state-hindutva/article71336803.ece>

The BJP's sudden embrace of the caste census marks one of the most striking political reversals in recent Indian history. For over a decade, the party had vehemently opposed caste enumeration, dismissing it as "vote-bank politics", a "divisive agenda", and an "urban naxal idea". It refused to release the Socio-Economic and Caste Census of 2011 and described the data before the Supreme Court as "flawed". The ideological rationale seemed clear: Hindutva sought to subsume caste differences within a larger, unified Hindu identity, while a caste census threatened to expose the internal fractures that this project sought to transcend.

31. Title: South India is answering the wrong demographic question

Source: Frontline. Vol. 61, 15th September 2026.

Link:<https://frontline.thehindu.com/society/south-india-low-fertility-policy-demography/article71304393.ece>

On July 11, 2026, at a World Population Day programme in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu launched Pillale Sampada, or "Children are Wealth". The name announced a reversal: a State that once preached population control

now preaches population conservation. The government had earlier promised one-time payments of Rs.30, 000 for a third child and Rs.40, 000 for a fourth, and says the wider policy will follow public consultations.

32. Title: Unmade in India

Source: Frontline. Vol. 61, 15th September 2026.

Link: <https://frontline.thehindu.com/books/india-out-of-work-growth-story-mehrotra-parida-review/article71355239.ece>

India has to become rich before it becomes old. And if it has to achieve this, it cannot keep a large section of its population, especially the young, out of work. India's demographic dividend will end in 2040, that is, in another 14 years. From 2062 onwards, its population will begin to shrink as well. With an older population eventually outnumbering the younger, working-age population, India is unlikely to realise its dream of Viksit Bharat (Developed India) if its current economic thinking, policies, and priorities do not change.

EDUCATION

33. Title: The Pluralist President

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol-73, No-1. 04th September 2026.

Link: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-pluralist-president>

In 2019, Ronald J. Daniels had a front-row seat to a university in crisis. He traveled to Hungary as part of an accreditation team visiting Central European University. The George Soros-founded institution was locked in an existential battle with Viktor Orbán, then prime minister of Hungary. A law targeting CEU ultimately forced a move from Budapest to Vienna, a tragic coda for an institution inextricably linked to the rebirth of democracy in Central Europe after the fall of Communism.

34. Title: The Gen-Ed Revivalist

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol-73, No-1. 04th September 2026.

Link: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-gen-ed-revivalist>

The movement Roosevelt Montás intends to lead is both straightforward and breathtakingly ambitious. He wants to reform general education. In the process, he is asking universities to commit to a mission that puts human flourishing at its core.

35. Title: The Immigrant-Access Architect

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol-73, No-1. 04th September 2026.

Link: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-immigrant-access-architect>

Miriam Feldblum's father, the only member of his family to survive the Holocaust, first came to the United States on a college scholarship, then applied for asylum to stay. Education, he told Feldblum and her siblings, saved him. For Feldblum, who became an immigration scholar and then a college administrator, immigration and education have long been inextricably linked. It's the driving notion behind the Presidents' Alliance on

Higher Education and Immigration, a national advocacy organization she co-founded and now leads.

36. Title: The Union Agitator

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol-73, No-1. 04th September 2026.

Link: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-union-agitator>

Todd Wolfson is halfway through his four-year term as president of the American Association of University Professors, and he doesn't plan on slowing down. Wolfson has reinvigorated the traditionally staid membership organization with a progressive political fervor. Months into his tenure, he made headlines by calling JD Vance — then a vice-presidential candidate — a “fascist.” Since Vance arrived in Washington as part of President Trump's second administration, Wolfson has kept up his steadfast criticism of the White House, often raising eyebrows with what his detractors say is an overly pugilistic approach.

37. Title: The Purple-State President

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol-73, No-1. 04th September 2026.

Link: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-purple-state-president>

While it's difficult to lead a major public university in a red state, it doesn't seem much easier in a purple one. Just ask Neeli Bendapudi.

During her four years as president of Pennsylvania State University, Bendapudi hasn't been able to cash in on the enrollment bonanza experienced by many of its peers. In fact, she's had to preside over the retrenchment of its multiple campuses.

38. Title: The Chancellor of Belonging

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol-73, No-1. 04th September 2026.

Link: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-chancellor-of-belonging>

John B. King Jr. inherited a headache — 64 of them, to be exact. That's how many two- and four-year campuses he oversees as chancellor of the State University of New York, the nation's largest public comprehensive system.

39. Title: The Small-College Disruptor

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol-73, No-1. 04th September 2026.

Link: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-small-college-disruptor>

Hard times have fallen on small, tuition-dependent colleges in rural settings. How to fight back? Many institutions have pulled pages from a tried-and-true playbook of adding athletics programs, seeking merger partners, appealing to alumni donors, and cutting programs with low enrollment.

40. Title: The Last Liberal

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol-73, No-1. 04th September 2026.

Link: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-last-liberal>

That colleges need to embrace ideological and intellectual pluralism and rediscover the virtues of honest disagreement has become a common refrain in the last several years —

increasingly, just one of those things administrators say automatically, the way they used to say.

41. The AI Evangelists

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol-73, No-1. 04th September 2026.

Link: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-ai-evangelists>

As artificial intelligence takes over the classroom — upending assessments, spurring in-class tech bans, and making enforcement seem impossible — some professors are throwing their hands up. The technology has ushered some into early retirement and enraged others.

42. Title: The Pugilist President

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol-73, No-1. 04th September 2026.

Link: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-pugilist-president>

Michael Roth, president of Wesleyan University, isn't the kind of person to pull punches, not even when the Trump administration is lobbing a steady barrage of threats at higher education. It's unusual for a college president to be so outspoken: The role typically demands an obsessively diplomatic temperament and a near-complete inability to allow for any negativity. Campus leaders have become even more circumspect during Trump's current term in office, including at institutions like Harvard, which the administration has hit with numerous legal and financial penalties, charging that the university has done too little to protect its Jewish students and staff.

43. Title: Professors Were Singled Out for Using AI in Public Writing. Now They're Defending Themselves.

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol-73, No-1. 04th September 2026.

Link: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/professors-were-singled-out-for-using-ai-in-public-writing-now-theyre-defending-themselves>

Two professors recently admitted to using generative AI to assist them in writing opinion articles for major publications, igniting a debate over the standards faculty should be held to in their public writing.

44. Title: Some Colleges Don't Survive Exigency. This One Did — by Transforming Itself.

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol-73, No-1. 04th September 2026.

Link: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/some-colleges-dont-survive-exigency-this-one-did-by-transforming-itself>

In the closing months of 2024, William Jewell College was mired in a position familiar to many small liberal-arts colleges. The Missouri institution was struggling with low enrollment and a budget deficit, and its leaders saw a need for drastic action. So they declared financial exigency, a designation that allows institutions to cut expenses more quickly than they otherwise can.

45. Title: In Utah, Presidents Who Quit Early Must Pay

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol-73, No-1. 04th September 2026.

Link: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/in-utah-presidents-who-quit-early-must-pay>

It's tough to hang on to a good college president these days. That's why many institutions dangle lucrative deferred-compensation packages to entice their leaders to stay. Now, Utah is taking the opposite approach: It's asking public-college presidents to pay up if they leave early.

46. Title: AI Is Ruining Scholarship

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol-73, No-1. 04th September 2026.

Link: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/ai-is-ruining-scholarship>

Ask any journal editor today about the effects of generative AI on academic publishing, and you'll get an earful. It's not just that AI style is irritating (though it is). Beyond the syntactically flat, lexically precious, oily, and boring style of AI-generated writing, journal editors are receiving entire revise-and-resubmit requests miraculously executed in a single evening. And we are getting crushed with submissions. At recent academic conferences in applied linguistics and writing studies, academic-journal editors reported that their submission rates have doubled or even tripled in the last year. All those machine-written submissions must still be read and discussed on the chance that there might be something to them, and vetting all this slop takes editors' attention away from papers with authentic datasets and real human insights.

47. Title: Colleges Teach Gender and Race. They Ignore Class.

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol-73, No-1. 04th September 2026.

Link: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/colleges-teach-gender-and-race-they-ignore-class>

Colleges, especially selective ones, contribute to class segregation in America by cocooning students in residential campuses that are culturally much like the neighborhoods they'll one day occupy. That makes it all the more important that students take courses that expose them to the rich social-scientific literature on our growing class divide. Unfortunately, such educational encounters seem to be rare. Students need more opportunities to learn about their fellow citizens; otherwise, we fear that America will remain a mostly foreign country to the next generation of college graduates.

48. Title: Higher-Ed Pay Tracker

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol-73, No-1. 04th September 2026.

Link: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/higher-ed-pay-tracker>

This custom interactive tool is designed to give users an in-depth look at a decade's worth of executive compensation data for the leaders of more than 900 public and private colleges and systems. The tracker makes it easy to compare the base salary, bonuses, and other compensation that makes up the pay packages of more than 1,900 college presidents.

49.Title: Sumit Sarkar: Historian, Thinker, And Teacher

Source: The India Forum: A Journal-Magazine on contemporary issues

Link: <https://www.theindiaforum.in/history/sumit-sarkar-historian-thinker-and-teacher>

Sumit Sarkar's passing on 13 August 2026 made me reflect on the many ways in which his persona and his work have left its imprint on me. He was my teacher during my master's programme in Delhi University between 2000 and 2002, when I took both of his courses: 'Early Modern Europe' and 'Social History of Modern India'. His feedback on one of my assignments has stayed on with me: the distinction he drew between the authority of historians and their published works on one side, and evidence, rational and ethical evaluation of analysis of evidence, on the other.

50.Title: EXAM-NATION: Regulating Opportunity in an Unequal Society

Source: The India Forum: A Journal-Magazine on contemporary issues

Link: <https://www.theindiaforum.in/education/exam-nation-regulating-opportunity-unequal-society>

If we did not know it already, we know it now: The holiest institution in Bharat that is India is not the cow or even the newly built temple in Ayodhya – it is the examination. Veneration for our gau-mata does not prevent us from ill-treating, starving or abandoning her with impunity. And it seems that we can bear with relative equanimity the embezzlement of devotees' offerings at the Ayodhya temple. But the repeated desecration of our public examinations cannot be tolerated. The intense, nation-wide youth protests centred on entrance examinations have achieved what even the farmers' long agitation could not: they have extracted a token of accountability from the least accountable government of independent India.

51. Title: Hindutva by Other Means

Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61, Issue No. 35, 29th Aug 2026.

Link: <https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/34/special-articles/hindutva-other-means.html>

The saffronisation literature, in its state-centred orientation, has largely overlooked how religious-nationalist reproduction now operates through the market. The marketisation of urban Indian schooling has created landscapes in which the cultural-political preferences of dominant consumer groups, expressed through legitimate channels and processed by competitively pressured institutions, shape what schools teach, whom they hire, and whom they accommodate—in majoritarian directions, but without state direction. The paper terms this bottom-up Hindutva, and its mechanism, hyper-accountability: the condition in which marketised institutions become asymmetrically responsive to dominant-group preference. The vocabulary for ideological reproduction, it is argued, requires rethinking where the state has retreated.

52.Title: Higher Education in India: building the knowledge ecosystem for Viksit Bharat @2047

Source: University News. Vol.64.No.34. 24-30th Aug 2026.

The centrality of higher education to economic development, social progress, innovation and national competitiveness has become increasingly significant in the twenty-first century. In an increasingly knowledge-based global economy, universities are expected not only to provide advanced education but also to generate knowledge through research, foster innovation, inform public policy and contribute to sustainable development (El-Jardali et al., 2018; Gibbons, 1998; OECD, 2019). Consequently, the quality and performance of higher education systems have become important determinants of economic competitiveness, innovation capacity and a country's position within the global knowledge economy (Chatterji & Kiran, 2017; Hazelkorn & Gibson, 2017; Krstić et al., 2020; Sain & Bozkurt, 2023).

53. Title: Online Techpreneurship among students: a study of engineering students in India

Source: University News. Vol.64.No.34. 24-30th Aug 2026.

Digital technology has created opportunities for technologically qualified students to contribute to the market even before completing their courses, without compromising their classroom learning. In this context, a study was conducted among 818 engineering students during the first nine months of 2024 using a Google Form survey. The results of a Binary Logistic Regression Analysis indicate that the probability of having worked online or not is significantly influenced by gender, but not by the branch of engineering. One possible reason why the branch of engineering does not significantly affect the probability of the binary outcome is the recently adopted flexibility in the engineering education system. Even students from non-digital branches now have access to courses related to digital subjects. Additionally, several university electives are available to students irrespective of their branch of engineering. A large number of respondents reported involvement in activities such as web development, content writing, and app development. On the other hand, students who were not engaged in online work cited reasons such as "never explored," "did not get a chance," and "want to work more formally." One respondent highlighted concerns about scams in the industry, noting that "there are large numbers of scammers in this industry; they will try to convince you to deposit money."

54. Title: Building an innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem in Indian Universities: strategies for sustainable institutional development

Source: University News. Vol.64.No.34. 24-30th Aug 2026.

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are increasingly expected to act as catalysts for innovation, entrepreneurship, and socioeconomic development rather than just being places to educate and disseminate knowledge. Universities are essential to the creation of new ideas, the advancement of technology, the development of entrepreneurial talent, and the commercialization of research in the knowledge-driven economy of the twenty-first century. The idea of the entrepreneurial university, which emphasizes the combination of teaching, research, innovation, and industry partnership to meet current economic and societal concerns, has consequently gained global significance (Bui et al., 2024

ENVIRONMENT

55. Title: The problem with the world's oldest mummies

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2026/08/27/the-problem-with-the-worlds-oldest-mummies>

Running 600km along the coast of the Atacama Desert, from southern Peru to northern Chile, is a mass-burial site for the world's oldest mummies. The Chinchorro, who lived on the strip of coast from 7000BC to 1000bc, and survived by hunting and fishing, were meticulous preservers of their dead. Almost everyone who died could be mummified, with no regard for social status. This, combined with the dry environment of the Atacama, has led to an odd situation: the world's oldest deliberately preserved bodies are so numerous that they are creating problems.

HEALTH

56. Title: European countries are battling over rules on booze

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/europe/2026/08/27/european-countries-are-battling-over-rules-on-booze>

The World Cup was a bright moment both for Spain and for its drinks sales. On match days, profits in the country's bars were 25-30% higher than average. But despite the sunny, beery terraces, a storm was brewing for Spain's booze industry—and Europe's. Sales of beer and wine have been sliding for years. Now some countries want to tighten regulations on alcohol.

57. Title: Power Pill: The making of Lupin and homegrown pharma

Source: Open. 28th Aug 2026. Vol 05, Issue 35.

Link: <https://openthemagazine.com/books/power-pill-the-making-of-lupin-and-homegrown-pharma>

WHEN YOU WRITE about Lupin and its founder Desh Bandhu Gupta (DBG), less is more. His story does not need lavish praise. It is, after all, inextricably intertwined with the enterprise of a generation of Indian visionaries—their ambitions, their mistakes, and their determination to build an industry that has made India the world's pharmacy. Made in India: The Story of Desh Bandhu Gupta, Lupin and Indian Pharma captures that larger story with a fair measure of success.

58. Title: Stepping Up to the Plate: Will India finally manage to clean up its food?

Source: Open. 28th Aug 2026. Vol 05, Issue 35

Link: <https://openthemagazine.com/india/stepping-up-to-the-plate-will-india-finally-manage-to-clean-up-its-food>

THE RESTAURANT Noor Mohammadi Hotel is something of a cultural landmark in Mumbai. Started as a modest establishment consisting of little more than a kitchen and a counter in 1923 that later grew into a dhaba and then a full-fledged restaurant, it is today invariably the first stop at a Mohammad Ali Road food crawl, the establishment any visitor keen on Mughlai food is taken to in the city. Its patrons have ranged from MF Husain, whose gift—a sketch, made impromptu, of a rooster calling out to the restaurant's signature dish Nalli Nihari—still adorns the restaurant's wall, tabla maestro Zakir Hussain, actor Sanjay Dutt, who is credited with sharing the recipe of a popular dish (named 'Chicken Sanju Baba'), food celebrity Nigella Lawson, and many others.

59. Title: Healthcare, bought and sold

Source: Frontline. Vol. 61, 15th September 2026.

Link:<https://frontline.thehindu.com/books/silent-syndicate-ameer-shahul-private-equity-healthcare-india/article71340692.ece>

There is an inherent dichotomy in Indian healthcare. On the one hand, accessible, affordable, quality healthcare continues to elude many; on the other, a roll call of India's tallest business leaders will inevitably feature a large number of health-sector players: hospital and diagnostic chain promoters, C-suite occupants of pharmaceutical behemoths, and celebrity doctors with an entrepreneurial bent, to name just a few.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

60. Title: How the Houthis have become the most fearsome of Iran's allies

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2026/08/25/how-the-houthis-have-become-the-most-fearsome-of-irans-allies>

FOR FOUR years an uncomfortable truce in Yemen's long civil war has prevailed. But now open conflict is breaking out again. The Houthis, Iran-backed rebels, have accused Yemen's internationally recognised government and Saudi Arabia, its most important ally, of planning a big offensive. On July 30th their leader, Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, said his forces would "respond to their full-scale escalation with one of our own". Throughout August they have launched drone and missile attacks against government positions, killing dozens of soldiers and civilians. Yemen's regular army has struck back hard.

61. Title: The renewed threat to global grain supplies

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/europe/2026/08/24/the-renewed-threat-to-global-grain-supplies>

CLOSE TO A third of global wheat exports sail out of Russian and Ukrainian ports on the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. In 2022, when invading Russian forces attacked Ukrainian infrastructure in the region, the price of wheat and other grains spiked worldwide. It took

a Turkish-brokered deal and the establishment of a protected Ukrainian shipping corridor to bring them down. In recent weeks renewed fighting has again been disrupting exports—and this time it is not only Ukraine’s sales that are getting thumped. Analysts have started to ask if a second global grain crunch could be on the way.

62.Title: An Islamic NATO: The Mecca Mirage

Source: Open. 28th Aug 2026. Vol 05, Issue 35.

Link:<https://openthemagazine.com/world/an-islamic-nato-the-mecca-mirage>

Is the Mecca pact an oasis or a mirage? A mirage offers hope of life to those gasping for water because it mirrors an oasis, but illusion inevitably fails the reality check. A military alliance is ephemeral without a clearly defined enemy. You might advertise it as a defence pact but that does not change the focal question: Who is the enemy? It is a military pact, not a trade partnership. The Three Musketeers, bound by the oath of one-for-all-and-all-for-one, are coy about the visceral threat which has brought three geographically non-contiguous and historically disparate nations into a compact signed in the presence of God.

63.Standing Up to Trump

Source: Open. 28th Aug 2026. Vol 05, Issue 35

Link: <https://openthemagazine.com/world/standing-up-to-trump>

CANADA’S Finance and Revenue Minister François-Philippe Champagne has announced dollar-for-dollar and rate-for-rate tariff measures against American goods exported to his country. From September 8, Canada will impose counter-tariffs of up to 15, 25, or 50 percent on \$27.6 billion worth of imports from the U.S. The statement, issued on August 26, comes just a week after Canada withdrew its negotiators from the now defunct trade deal being thrashed out in Washington DC.

64.Ganga Treaty: Waters of Discord

Source: Open. 28th Aug 2026. Vol 05, Issue 35

Link: <https://openthemagazine.com/world/ganga-treaty-waters-of-discord>

THE TREATY BETWEEN India and Bangladesh on the sharing of Ganga waters is set to expire on December 12 this year, 30 years after it was signed. A storm of sorts is already brewing on the subject. In a recent oped, Sanjay Kumar Jha, an MP from Bihar and national working president of Janata Dal (United), questioned the logic of the treaty and said that it should be allowed to expire.

65.Title: Makkah defence pact: Should India be worried?

Source: Frontline. Vol. 61, 15th September 2026.

Link:<https://frontline.thehindu.com/world-affairs/saudi-pakistan-turkiye-defence-pact-west-asia/article71327395.ece>

On August 7, three countries—Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, and Pakistan—signed the “Makkah Joint Defence Agreement”, based on “the enduring bonds of brotherhood and Islamic solidarity that unite them” and on their interest in “building upon their shared strategic

interests and long-standing defence cooperation”. The agreement, the three nations said, was towards “further strengthening their collective security and... promoting peace, security, and stability in the region and beyond”.

LAW

66.Title: When obeying an American law means breaking a Chinese one

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/08/27/when-obeying-an-american-law-means-breaking-a-chinese-one>

FOR DECADES America has sought to impose its will on companies doing business around the world—using a long, powerful, extraterritorial arm. Indeed, that is the basis of its new economic war against Iran, launched this week. These days, however, international companies also have to worry about another long arm. This one belongs to China.

67.Title: The long arm of the Chinese state

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/china/2026/08/27/the-long-arm-of-the-chinese-state>

AMONG THE grievances the Communist Party has long nourished in its official telling of China’s story, the extraterritorial abuses of foreign powers loom especially large. In the 19th century it was colonial powers refusing to come under Chinese laws in the Chinese ports they controlled. In the 21st century it is America enforcing its will beyond its borders, through sanctions and export controls, against countries that displease it. All the more striking, then, that China now wants to play the extraterritorial game, waging lawfare with ever more gusto.

68. Title: Imagined Belonging: A Judicial Fiction in Three Parts

Source: The India Forum: A Journal-Magazine on contemporary issues.

Link:<https://www.theindiaforum.in/law/imagined-belonging-judicial-fiction-three-parts>

On 24 March 2026, the Supreme Court dismissed the appeal of Chinthada Anand, a Madiga pastor from Guntur (Madiga being a Scheduled Caste), who had lodged a case of being assaulted and abused by his caste name. Before the court weighed the gravity of the allegations, it set itself a different task, framed in its own words as deciding “the conditions under which a person, who has undergone religious conversion, may avail the statutory benefits granted to the members of the Scheduled Castes [SC] and Scheduled Tribes [ST]”. One question, asked of two categories—the SC and the ST—that the law does not treat as one.

69.Title: The other ethanol crisis

Source: Frontline. Vol. 61, 15th September 2026.

Link: <https://frontline.thehindu.com/the-nation/maharashtra-sugar-mills-ethanol-policy-economy-crisis/article71317029.ece>

As protesters left Jantar Mantar Road in New Delhi after weeks of demonstrations, many among the Gen Z crowd taunted the on-duty police, promising to return soon—this time to demand the resignation of Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari. Ethanol-blended petrol had, by then, become as urgent a grievance among the young as examination paper leaks. The Modi government's 2018 National Policy on Biofuels is now at the centre of a controversy over vehicle maintenance. It is straining middle-class budgets, and there is a growing expectation that the next big street protest will be over ethanol.

70. Title: The new extractivism

Source: Frontline. Vol. 61, 15th September 2026.

Link: <https://frontline.thehindu.com/columns/mmdr-amendment-act-federalism-new-extractivism/article71355173.ece>

Among the 11 Bills passed without discussion in the just concluded session of Parliament, the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Amendment Act, 2026, is facing serious pushback from opposition parties and State governments run by them. The Bill has been widely criticised for trampling on the rights and taxation powers of State governments in India's fast-eroding federal structure. But the Bill goes even further. It advances efforts to institute a neo-extractivist mining regime through a series of measures, including a previous amendment to the MMDR Act of 1957 passed in 2023.

MILITARY SCIENCE

71. Title: America's new sanctions are unlikely to topple Iran's regime

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/08/27/americas-new-sanctions-are-unlikely-to-topple-irans-regime>

THE WARNINGS were apocalyptic. An “economic D-Day” was looming for Iran, blustered Donald Trump. It would be “the single greatest financial offensive ever marshalled against an adversary”, declared Scott Bessent, America's treasury secretary. Having failed to fell the Iranian regime with military might, America was turning to economic weapons.

72. Title: Donald Trump's military expansion in Panama makes little sense

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2026/08/24/donald-trumps-military-expansion-in-panama-makes-little-sense>

SPEEDBOATS INTERCEPT a suspicious ship near the entrance to the Panama Canal. Troops board it and bundle the bad guys off. On the Caribbean coast, Special Forces launch an assault on a rebel base. On the outskirts of Panama City, the capital, Chinook and Black Hawk helicopters buzz overhead. From August 3rd to 13th, Panamanians witnessed a display of military prowess not seen in the country for almost two decades.

POLITICAL SCIENCE & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

73. Title: The Unwelcoming States of America

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/08/27/the-unwelcoming-states-of-america>

First, give Donald Trump some credit. He promised to restore order to the border, and he did. Granted, the slowdown in irregular border-crossings began under Joe Biden, who belatedly closed the loophole whereby nearly anyone could walk across, claim asylum and join the labour market. Mr Trump clamped down even harder. The southern frontier, which was visibly chaotic in the early Biden years, is now calm.

74. Title: America will regret Scott Bessent's bond-market misadventures

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/08/26/america-will-regret-scott-bessents-bond-market-misadventures>

The background music of Donald Trump's second term has been the sound of norms breaking. On economic policy alone, the president has used tariffs to usurp Congress's taxing powers and launched attack after attack on the independence of the Federal Reserve, which he accuses of keeping interest rates too high. A year and a half into Mr Trump's second administration, it is tempting to tune the noise out. However, the latest transgression deserves to echo far and wide.

75. Title: Donald Trump is delivering the deportations he promised

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/briefing/2026/08/27/donald-trump-is-delivering-the-deportations-he-promised>

IMMIGRATION IS Donald Trump's signature issue—and one that helps him win campaigns. During the 2024 presidential race he promised to carry out the largest deportation campaign in American history. It was a pledge as synonymous with his second presidential run as “build the wall” was with his first in 2016. Days before voters went to the polls, throngs at Madison Square Garden cheered Mr Trump as he boasted that he would round up migrants, whom he called “vicious and bloodthirsty criminals”, and “kick them the hell out of our country as fast as possible”.

76. Title: Australia builds a Pacific alliance system to keep China out

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/08/27/australia-builds-a-pacific-alliance-system-to-keep-china-out>

THE GRAND PACIFIC HOTEL is an old British colonial institution at the heart of Fiji's capital. Tropical breezes blow off the harbour and through its whitewashed verandas to parliament across the street. On July 6th Fiji's prime minister was hosting a banquet there for his Australian counterpart to celebrate a new mutual-defence pact between their two countries. They had just signed the treaty when word reached them that a Chinese submarine would shortly test-launch a ballistic missile into international waters north of Fiji. The test was only the second Chinese launch since 1980 of a ballistic missile into international waters. It spooked leaders of Pacific island countries, including Fiji, whose defence minister had unsuccessfully urged China to call it off, and some of whose soldiers are pictured above.

77. Title: A hundred days of BJP shock and awe in West Bengal

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/08/27/a-hundred-days-of-bjp-shock-and-awe-in-west-bengal>

FOR MANY years the Hindu nationalists' student group at Jadavpur University in Kolkata was so unpopular that it imported middle-aged activists to pad out its rallies. But in May the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the party led by Narendra Modi, the prime minister, won West Bengal, the state that has Kolkata as its capital. For days in August emboldened students assaulted leftist rivals and torched their flags and posters. A minister urged more such "surgical strikes". "They have the muscle power and the money power," complains a 19-year-old political-science major, "and now they will start controlling this campus."

78. Title: Indian cities should embrace skyscrapers

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/08/23/indian-cities-should-embrace-skyscrapers>

DONALD TRUMP'S popularity may be plummeting in America and around the world, yet India's appetite for buildings bearing his name remains undiminished. This month a local developer licensing the Trump name announced the details of the latest such project. Promising "every comfort, convenience and indulgence" and spread across two towers of 65 storeys each, it will be the country's largest Trump-branded property. But those who are expecting to find this monument to the tastes of India's new rich in high-rise Mumbai, brand-obsessed Delhi or tech-fuelled Bangalore will be disappointed. The home of the newest Trump towers is, surprisingly, Hyderabad.

79. Title: From battleships to catapults, Trump keeps messing with the navy

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2026/08/26/from-battleships-to-catapults-trump-keeps-messing-with-the-navy>

Presidents from George Washington to Franklin Roosevelt have built up America's navy, but few American leaders have taken so keen an interest in ship design as Donald Trump. He loves "Victory at Sea", a 1950s documentary about the American navy's exploits in the second world war, with battleships firing big guns and planes taking off from the pitching

decks of aircraft-carriers. During his speech at the Republican National Convention in 2024, the most important speech in his presidential campaign, he went off script to boast about his redesign of a warship's bow in his first term so they "look like yachts". The reaction in the shipyard, he claimed, was "This guy sort of knows what he's doing."

80. Title: Does Donald Trump deserve credit for a manufacturing revival?

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/united-states/2026/08/25/does-donald-trump-deserve-credit-for-a-manufacturing-revival>

ON THE CAMPAIGN trail in 2024, Donald Trump promised a tariff-fuelled revival of America's industrial towns. In Latrobe, Pennsylvania, he vowed to "bring back our manufacturing jobs, our energy jobs...and our dreams". In Detroit he talked about manufacturing jobs moving from Mexico to Michigan. The promise was not simply more American-made goods, but more Americans making them. Has the president delivered?

81. Title: The state that could shape the winning Democratic message

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/united-states/2026/08/27/the-state-that-could-shape-the-winning-democratic-message>

In these waning summer days of waxing Democratic optimism, of rising hope within the party that it will regain some power in Washington and start to overcome a national reputation for elitism and ineptitude, no state seems more pregnant with possibility than Ohio. Once a bellwether for national politics, Ohio has trended solidly Republican this century as the party gained ground with working-class voters. But polls suggest the Democrats have a chance at not only a Senate seat but also the governorship, which they have managed to hold only once, for one term, since 1991. They could even pick up a House seat or two.

82. Title: Giorgia Meloni is fusing populism and moderation

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/europe/2026/08/27/giorgia-meloni-is-fusing-populism-and-moderation>

On September 4th Giorgia Meloni will become Italy's longest continuously serving prime minister since Benito Mussolini. Her tenure is remarkable in a country where leaders tend to be as durable as gelato on a hot Rome day. Since taking office in October 2022 she has watched prime ministers in once-stable Britain, France and the Netherlands come and go. Having risen to power as a hard-right populist, she has reshaped Italian politics and put herself at its centre. For other populist-right leaders in Europe, her lesson seems clear: tacking to the middle pays off.

83. Title: Steelyard blues

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/britain/2026/08/27/steelyard-blues>

THERE CAN be few more romantic examples of heavy manufacturing than Tata Steel's hot rolled-strip mill at Port Talbot in south Wales. Red-hot bars pass through ancient

machines in an almost mile-long 1950s factory, to be turned into steel coils that are loaded onto old rail wagons. Scattered around the huge site are rusting steel plants, amid which a state-of-the-art electric arc furnace (EAF) is being built to catch up with competitors. It is an evocative spot to ponder the idea of reindustrialisation promoted by Andy Burnham, the newish prime minister.

84. Title: Trees are spreading in one of Europe's least forested countries

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/britain/2026/08/24/trees-are-spreading-in-one-of-europes-least-forested-countries>

Near Gloucester in western England, some 127,000 saplings are approaching the end of their first summer in their permanent home. Forestry England, a government agency, planted the trees last winter on an 88-hectare (217-acre) site that was recently a farm. Most of the trees are behind wire fences, which extend below ground to thwart wild boar. A deer bounds along, looking for a way in.

85. Title: As his presidency flounders, Trump is more dangerous than ever

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/international/2026/08/25/as-his-presidency-flounders-trump-is-more-dangerous-than-ever>

IS DONALD Trump becoming a lame duck? As his troubles multiply at home and abroad, the prospect of dealing with a hobbled American president is enough to make foes and friends swoon with relief.

86. Title: Towards a Command Society in West Bengal

Source: The India Forum: A Journal-Magazine on contemporary issues.

Link:<https://www.theindiaforum.in/politics/towards-command-society-west-bengal>

West Bengal has entered a distinctly new political moment. For the first time since independence, the state has elected a government that makes little effort to accommodate its nearly 30% Muslim population and has moved swiftly against the informal livelihoods of the poor.

87. Title: What Rahul Gandhi Wants

Source: Open. 28th Aug 2026. Vol 05, Issue 35.

Link: <https://openmagazine.com/politics/what-rahul-gandhi-wants>

ABOUT FIVE KILOMETRES FROM WHERE CONGRESS LEADER Rahul Gandhi addressed a 'Chhatron ki Goonj (Student Echoes)' event, urging a women-only audience to "smash patriarchy" and reject "Manusmriti", the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-aligned Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) rallied to celebrate patriotism and sing the full version of the national song 'Vande Mataram'. ABVP's 'Yuva ki Awaaz (Voice of the Youth)' event was intended to hold the mirror to Congress over its refusal to play the full six stanzas of 'Vande Mataram' as mandated by a law passed by Parliament during the recent Monsoon Session. The ABVP organisers could only have guessed

Rahul's likely theme, but the contrast was near-perfect. On the one hand, Rahul referred to a controversial text often used to attack Hindu orthodoxy and, on the other, ABVP zeroed in on a video purportedly showing Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's discomfiture over the rendition of the full version of 'Vande Mataram' at the party's Independence Day programme in Delhi.

88. Title: I.N.D.I.A. Bloc Parties: Allies in Anxiety

Source: Open. 28th Aug 2026. Vol 05, Issue 35

Link: <https://open themagazine.com/politics/india-bloc-parties-allies-in-anxiety>

IN KERALA, WHERE Congress' main rival is the Communist Party of India (Marxist), or CPM, evening TV debates, referred to as anthi charchchakal with a tinge of revulsion and humour in equal measure, often end up being a war of words that even descend into personal attacks between the representatives of these two parties. Although they both argue that their main opponent nationally is the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the loud pronouncements of hate between them make people wonder how true such assertions are.

89. Title: 'Vande Mataram': The Politics of the Missing Stanzas

Source: Open. 28th Aug 2026. Vol 05, Issue 35

Link: <https://open themagazine.com/india/vande-mataram-the-politics-of-the-missing-stanzas>

THERE COULD HAVE been better ways than how Congress handled the Sonia Gandhi episode of gesturing to stop the full rendition of 'Vande Mataram' at its headquarters on August 15. While initially the party said she had been asking for a chair for Mallikarjun Kharge, it later reaffirmed that she wanted to stick to the Congress tradition of singing only the first two stanzas.

90. Title: Intimations of a Reshuffle

Source: Open. 28th Aug 2026. Vol 05, Issue 35

Link: <https://open themagazine.com/politics/intimations-of-a-reshuffle>

Speculation is mounting about the expected reshuffle of the Union Council of Ministers now that a new team of BJP central office bearers has been announced. The point of interest is not only the likely changes in portfolios, entries and exits, but when the exercise will be carried out. There is no set time for the exercise but it is felt that the interval between the BRICS leaders summit slated for September 12-13 and the beginning of the "Shradh Paksha" on September 27 is the opportune window. As to who is in or out, this can prove to be a mug's game. The comprehensive revamp of the BJP team has raised expectations that the ministerial overhaul can be substantial. It is apparent though that Prime Minister Narendra Modi means business going by his interactions with BJP leaders and the series of meetings with secretaries to the Central government.

91. Title: Beef, BJP and Food Rights of People: Reading Kancha Ilaiah's 1996 Article

Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61, Issue No. 35, 29th Aug 2026.

Link: <https://www.epw.in/engage/article/beef-bjp-and-food-rights-people>

The Bharatiya Janata Party in its election manifesto told the nation that if it is voted to power it would impose a "complete ban on the slaughter of cows, calves, bulls and bullocks". In other words, it told the nation that it would impose a total ban on beef food of Indian people. Such a position of the BJP emanates from its selfconstructed notion that beef is the food of Muslims and Christians only, and beef food culture is an imposition of Islamic-Christian culture on the Indian people. The BJP realised that it can no longer brow-beat the minorities by setting up agendas of demolition of religious shrines, as such agendas were becoming counter-productive. It seems to have worked out a new agenda in banning beef food to brow-beat the minorities.

92.Title: The Cockroach Janta Party is building a political movement

Source: Frontline. Vol. 61, 15th September 2026.

Link:<https://frontline.thehindu.com/columns/cockroach-janta-party-listening-tour-cjp-school-infrastructure/article71359688.ece>

What happens when a young movement that has just shattered the political ceiling decides that listening to people is more important than asking for their votes? The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) will begin a listening tour, aptly named "Kya Bolti Public" (What the Public Says), starting September 1. For the next two to three months, CJP members will travel across India, meet young people and ordinary citizens to ask what their concerns and demands are. Their focus is on education, unemployment, and institutional accountability, but the cockroaches clearly have a sharp political edge. They seem to have decided to take on the Prime Minister directly and repeatedly, besides calling out the government's loyal media and keeping up the vigilance on the judiciary.

93.Title: A cautionary tale from Jharkhand

Source: Frontline. Vol. 61, 15th September 2026.

Link:<https://frontline.thehindu.com/politics/jharkhand-recruitment-exam-student-protest-cbi-probe/article71368345.ece>

The over-three-week-long protest of civil services aspirants of Jharkhand showed signs of coming to an end on August 17 when Devendra Nath Mahto, the most prominent face of the protests, broke his 16-day hunger strike after the State government finally announced its decision to cancel the Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission-Combined Graduate Level (JSSC-CGL) examination.

94.Title: A hundred days of disappointment

Source: Frontline. Vol. 61, 15th September 2026.

Link: <https://frontline.thehindu.com/politics/bengal-bjp-trinamoolisation-corruption-extortion-backlash/article71363516.ece>

Within months of coming to power with a massive mandate, West Bengal's BJP government faces growing discontent from different sections of society. The issues range from poor government policies, corruption, and unkept promises to welcoming allegedly corrupt and discredited Trinamool Congress leaders into its fold. With public

dissatisfaction rising and resentment mounting within a section of the BJP itself, the party's top leadership has its hands full trying to control the damage.

95. Title: Can India afford the cost of its cash transfer politics?

Source: Frontline. Vol. 61, 15th September 2026.

Link:<https://frontline.thehindu.com/the-nation/cash-transfers-women-india/article71356095.ece>

On August 1, when the Delhi government launched a cash transfer scheme under which eligible women in the national capital would get Rs.2,500 a month, it triggered a huge debate on the burden such schemes are placing on the already strained finances of States across the country.

96. Title: Confused by Gandhi in jeans

Source: Frontline. Vol. 61, 15th September 2026.

Link:<https://frontline.thehindu.com/columns/gen-z-youth-protests-bjp-modi-india-politics/article71328045.ece>

The thread of the BJP's hubris runs from Jantar Mantar to Bankipur. The last few weeks must count among the most unsettling the BJP has faced since it stormed to power in Delhi 12 years ago. The events have so shaken the saffron forces that their response has been unusually flat-footed. In consequence, where once the regime was viewed with admiration by its supporters and with awe by its opponents, both admiration and awe have diminished as the realisation dawns that the Narendra Modi regime is not forever.

97. Title: An unscripted revolution

Source: Frontline. Vol. 61, 15th September 2026.

Link:<https://frontline.thehindu.com/columns/delhi-protests-exam-grievance-citizens-movement/article71344420.ece>

We have just witnessed a mini-uprising, the first of its kind in independent India: spontaneous, virtually leaderless, and born of horizontal networks rather than political organisation. It had no ideological script and no experienced command. What it had was mobilisational speed: social media compressed coordination into hours, even as its strategic direction remained thin. What followed was incessant improvisation at every step by newly minted leaders who thought creatively on their feet under conditions of genuine uncertainty.

98. Title: UPending democracy

Source: Frontline. Vol. 61, 15th September 2026.

Link:<https://frontline.thehindu.com/books/booksjaved-gaya-heartland-rising-majoritarian-india-review/article71355521.ece>

Strength in numbers does not ensure rectitude. Democracies that function on the will of the majority are obliged to safeguard the rights of all. Liberal democracies recognise identity as a right but seek to confine it within the personal sphere. There is an unresolved

contradiction here since identity is often expressed in public ways, through group membership and the affirmation of intergroup differences.

SCIENCE

99. Title: The universe is peculiar. But it may soon become less so

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/08/25/the-universe-is-peculiar-but-it-may-soon-become-less-so>

NEVER SAY physicists have no sense of humour. A topic that can dub fundamental particles “strange”, “charm”, “truth” and “beauty”, and propose that such objects are stuck together with bits of sub-atomic adhesive called gluons, cannot be accused of taking itself too seriously. But the true masterpiece of quirky physics nomenclature is, perhaps, the “swampland”.

100. Title: How salmon evolved to cope with the ice age

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/08/26/how-salmon-evolved-to-cope-with-the-ice-age>

Some species thrived during the last ice age. Sabre-toothed cats, giant ground sloths, woolly mammoths and woolly rhinos all did pretty well. Others, however, were seriously inconvenienced—among them the chum salmon of north-western North America, which frequently found the rivers leading to and from their inland spawning grounds icebound.

101. Title: SpaceX plans to build the world’s biggest spaceport

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/08/26/spacex-plans-to-build-the-worlds-biggest-spaceport>

SPACEX, ELON MUSK’S rockets-and-satellites firm, is already the planet’s leading space power. Last year it flew four times as much mass into orbit as every other company and country combined. But that is only the beginning of the firm’s ambition.

102. Title: Ukrainian military balloons may spoil Russia’s party

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/08/26/ukrainian-military-balloons-may-spoil-russias-party>

Balloons were applied to warfare in Europe shortly after their invention in France in 1783. (Chinese “sky lanterns” are far older, but are not known to have carried people.)

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They were used as observation posts and later, in the guise of tethered “aerostats”, as anti-aircraft devices. Latterly, China has employed them to spy on Taiwan, and Israel to keep an eye on Lebanon. America’s armed forces are taking an interest, too. But perhaps the most active practitioner is Ukraine.

103. Title: It now seems possible to vaccinate against cancer

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/08/21/it-now-seems-possible-to-vaccinate-against-cancer>

First, pancreatic cancer. Now melanoma. A treatment for the former, announced in May, at the American Society of Clinical Oncology Annual Meeting, and which this column wrote about on June 12th, has been fast-tracked through America’s drug regulator and received approval on August 26th. Meanwhile, on August 19th, interim results of trials for a treatment for the latter—using mRNA technology developed for vaccination against infections—suggest that it is possible to vaccinate someone against their own cancer.

SOCIOLOGY

104. Title: Chinese women are falling behind in the office

Source: Economist. 29th Aug 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/china/2026/08/24/chinese-women-are-falling-behind-in-the-office>

For those unaccustomed to truth in advertising, employers in China can be astonishingly forthright in their help-wanted notices. Huangshi, a city in Hubei, recently sought investment-promotion officers under 35 years old, specifying “men preferred”. A high-speed rail operator in Lanzhou wanted women, but only so long as they were under 25, over 160cm tall and with a “good appearance”. A Suzhou packaging firm, by contrast, stretched to the geriatric reaches of 45 in its search for a sales representative, adding that female candidates should already be married with children—in other words, please no maternity leave.

105. Title: Rain and Shame: As Gurugram drowns every monsoon, the real problem is governance

Source: Open. 28th Aug 2026. Vol 05, Issue 35

Link: <https://openthemagazine.com/india/rain-and-shame-as-gurugram-drowns-every-monsoon-the-real-problem-is-governance>

EVERY YEAR AROUND this time, I write some version of this piece. And every year, I hope it would be the last. It never is. This week, once again, Gurugram drowned. Not metaphorically but literally. An IMD red alert, a few hours of determined monsoon rain, and the self-styled Millennium City folded like a cheap umbrella. Sector 47. Subhash

Chowk. Rail Vihar. All under knee-deep water. School buses, sent home early as a precaution, were still stuck in gridlock by evening.

106. Title: Before Delhi Chokes and Starts Blaming Farmers Again

Source: The India Forum: A Journal-Magazine on contemporary issues

Link: <https://www.theindiaforum.in/environment/delhi-chokes-and-starts-blaming-farmers-again>

August is that time of the year when Delhi experiences rain and relatively breathable air. On the outskirts of the city, farmers have finished sowing rice, which they will begin harvesting from mid-September onwards. Readers might consider this the proverbial lull before all hell breaks loose.

107. Title: What Meta won't explain about content moderation

Source: Frontline. Vol. 61, 15th September 2026.

Link: <https://frontline.thehindu.com/science-and-technology/meta-modi-video-takedown/article71327254.ece>

On July 23, Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted a selfie video to reassure young protesters that examination paper leaks would be punished. In the early hours of July 28, Facebook made the post inaccessible. It reappeared hours later. Meta said the content had been “removed in error and has since been restored”. What it has never said is what the error was.

108. Title: Our social media is highly politically controlled: Apar Gupta

Source: Frontline. Vol. 61, 15th September 2026.

Link: <https://frontline.thehindu.com/the-nation/social-media-censorship-surveillance-india-apar-gupta/article71363917.ece>

Members of Gen Z, whose protests captured the imagination of the country, made their voices heard loud and clear on social media, especially Instagram. But their activism was met with a clampdown on online content even as concerns about digital surveillance at the Jantar Mantar protest site grew.

109. Title: Selves of the nation

Source: Frontline. Vol. 61, 15th September 2026.

Link: <https://frontline.thehindu.com/arts-and-culture/art/swaraj-revisualising-india-political-history-exhibition-review/article71359231.ece>

A word of immense moral force and philosophical abundance, swaraj was never reducible to its literal English meaning, self-rule. Who is the swa (the self), and what does raj (sovereignty) signify beyond the sense of governance? What defines the sovereign subject and what enables them to flourish? No single investigation can fully answer these questions, but an exhibition as capacious as “SWARAJ: Revisualising India's Political History” (held at India Habitat Centre from August 12 to 16) offered several entry points. Presented by the Tuli Research Centre for India Studies and curated by Neville Tuli, the show was a packed medley of images, textual essays, and songs.

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

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