

## ARTICLE ALERT 1-15 AUGUST 2025

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## ART

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1. Why “Wednesday” is wickedly successful. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.  
WHEN YOU think of Netflix’s biggest English-language dramas, you probably imagine matchmaking, monsters or malignant young men. Seasons of “Bridgerton”, “Stranger Things” and “Adolescence” all rank in the platform’s top ten releases, having racked up hundreds of millions of views. But the streamer’s breakout hero is a gloomy girl who has long plaits, psychic visions and a knack for sarcasm.

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2025/08/05/why-wednesday-is-wickedly-successful>

2. Provence is not just a destination. It is a lifestyle brand. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

IN A hilltop village in Provence, clinging to a rocky ledge above the Luberon valley, is the hotel Airelles Gordes, La Bastide. It is a place of sun-blached stone, hanging gardens and quiet luxury—so picture-perfect that the producers of “Emily in Paris”, a glitzy Netflix series, picked it as the setting for a lunch featuring the titular character and a former fling. This year the hotel rebranded its fine-dining restaurant to lend it a more relaxed style. Under a new chef, La Table de La Bastide offers creative but less formal cuisine “celebrating the Provençal spirit”.

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2025/08/07/provence-is-not-just-a-destination-it-is-a-lifestyle-brand>

3. Staging the Revolution through Orality. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-33. 16th Aug 2025.

The phenomenon of contemporary theatre in Kerala, characterised by its activism, rejects the notion of “art for art’s sake” by reconsidering the alliance between form and content for propagandist and reformist use. This sociopolitical revolution was “staged,” particularly through the voices of Kathaprasangam artists such as V Sambasivan. Sambasivan’s performances of the “story-speech” were pedagogic and proved pivotal in democratising and lending a local idiom to “global” voices.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/33/commentary/staging-revolution-through-orality.html>

## BIOGRAPHY

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4. Nayib Bukele could now rule El Salvador for life. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

To those familiar with the autocrat’s playbook, Nayib Bukele’s latest move was not surprising. On July 31st El Salvador’s legislative assembly, dominated by his New Ideas party, voted to remove presidential term limits from the constitution. Mr Bukele can now seek re-election indefinitely. Aged just 44, he could rule El Salvador’s 6.3m people for decades. That a leader who is admired so widely across Latin America has secured a path to indefinite rule bodes ill for democracy in the region.

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2025/08/02/nayib-bukele-could-now-rule-el-salvador-for-life>

5. Fr Patrick Ryan, the “Devil’s Disciple”, improved IRA bomb-making. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

Tick, tick, tick. The sound as he stepped into the shop was overwhelming. There were simple clocks and fancy clocks, pocket clocks and—this was Switzerland, after all—cuckoo clocks. A cacophony of ticking. But Father Patrick Ryan wasn’t interested in cuckoo clocks. His eye had been caught by the small, round timers in the window. Locals used them to remind themselves when their parking meter was about to run out: set the timer going—tick, tick, tick—and when it went off, your time was up. He asked the shopkeeper for one. The shopkeeper laughed: what a cheap thing to choose. Father Ryan smiled. The world could laugh. In time, it would see that the joke was on it.

<https://www.economist.com/obituary/2025/08/07/fr-patrick-ryan-the-devils-disciple-improved-ira-bomb-making>

6. MILESTONES. TIME. 18th Aug 2025.

DIED Malcolm-Jamal Warner Beloved sitcom actor BY MYCHAL DENZEL SMITH The Loss of Malcolm-Jamal Warner, who died on July 20 at 54 in a drowning accident while vacationing with his family in Costa Rica, has been widely felt. The cultural impact of The Cosby Show, on which he played the family’s only son, Theo Huxtable, can’t be overstated. And Warner was an integral part of it; the show possibly doesn’t even work without him. For everything it sought to do in presenting a Black family that was not mired in trauma, its heart could be found in Warner’s portrayal of Theo trying his best to navigate the lofty expectations that come with such freedom, while also wanting simply to be a teenager. For eight seasons in the 1980s and early...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/august-18-2025-i672284/milestones-a8>

## BUSINESS

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7. How McKinsey lost its edge. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

“Business has been forced to adjust itself to staggering acceleration in the rate of change,” observed McKinsey, a consultancy, in a promotional pamphlet it published in 1940. “What period in history has ever presented more difficult problems for the executive?” Naturally, demand for McKinsey’s advice was soaring, it wrote.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/08/03/how-mckinsey-lost-its-edge>

8. How to greet people at work. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

Dear Max, At the start of virtual meetings, should I say hello to everyone? It seems to absorb a lot of time, but I don’t want to be unfriendly. Virtual calls put the hell in hello. Every greeting prompts

other participants to spend ages unmuting before saying “hello” back. Some people then ask “how is everyone?”, forcing everyone to unmute again and say something wildly insightful like “fine”. By the time that’s over, someone else has joined the call and the whole cycle starts again. Use the rule of three. If there are three or more other people already on the line, just wave.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/08/07/how-to-greet-people-at-work>

9. American businesses are running out of ways to avoid tariff pain. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

CoRPORATE America’s profit engine has been remarkably robust over the past few years, even amid stubborn inflation and elevated interest rates. Faced with Donald Trump’s assault on global trade, however, it is starting to sputter. Companies from General Motors, a carmaker, to Nike, a sportswear brand, have seen their profits plummet owing to Mr Trump’s levies on imports. Goldman Sachs, a bank, reckons that American businesses are absorbing around three-fifths of the cost of the duties.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/08/01/american-businesses-are-running-out-of-ways-to-avoid-tariff-pain>

10. The Elon Musk theory of pay. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

Delaware’s chancery court stands between Elon Musk and investors willingly offering him a fortune. In 2018, when Tesla was worth around \$50bn, the carmaker’s shareholders approved a plan to link Mr Musk’s pay to the value of the company. By January 2024, when the court ruled that the pay package was illegal, the carmaker and Mr Musk’s stock options were worth more than \$600bn and \$50bn respectively. Tesla’s board of directors had not been transparent about how Mr Musk’s pay was set, the judge said. That summer Tesla’s shareholders voted to reincorporate the company in Texas and reapprove the compensation package. The court killed it again in winter.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/08/07/the-elon-musk-theory-of-pay>

11. Uber is readying itself for the driverless age—again. . Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

“Always be hustlin’,” was the credo of Travis Kalanick, co-founder and former boss of Uber. That mindset helped turn the company into the world’s largest ride-hailing platform, with operations in more than 70 countries and 10,000 cities. Its name has now become a commonly used verb. But while Uber hustled, investors had to be patient. Although founded 16 years ago, it first turned an annual operating profit only in 2023. Disrupting personal transport while fighting legal battles over flouted regulations and weathering sexual-harassment scandals proved tremendously costly.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/08/07/uber-is-readying-itself-for-the-driverless-age-again>

12. South America is fast becoming the world's hottest oil patch. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

It was a rare day of good news for Britain's beleaguered oil giant. On August 5th BP not only announced a quarterly profit of \$2.4bn on its preferred measure, a third higher than analysts had expected. It also unveiled an enormous oil discovery, dubbed Bumerangue, some 400km off the coast of Rio de Janeiro. It is the company's largest find in 25 years.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/08/07/south-america-is-fast-becoming-the-worlds-hottest-oil-patch>

13. McDonald's secret sauce—plus a pickle or two. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

THE success of the Golden Arches rests on three simple, sturdy foundations: a menu of reliably decent grub, at a decent price, shored up by catchy marketing. Ever since it went public in 1965, McDonald's has done best whenever it stuck to this original blueprint. When one or more of these pillars crumbles, the fast-food fortress looks shaky. A quarter of a century ago this led to a near-collapse. Overly rapid expansion in the number of outlets and, at the same time, of products on offer made it harder for burger-flippers to keep up, hurting reliability. A price war with Burger King turned downright indecent. And the ads were stale, too. The result was acid reflux for investors. Between late 1999 and early 2003 the company shed two-thirds of its market value.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/08/07/mcdonalds-secret-sauce-plus-a-pickle-or-two>

## ECONOMICS

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14. Donald Trump's awful trade policy will outlast him. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

With every passing day, America's new trading order comes into sharper relief. In place of rules, stability and low tariffs is a system of imperial preference. Duties are not just higher, they are set by presidential whim. Canada and India have irritated Donald Trump, and so they could face tariffs of 35-50%. To ward off threats the eu, Japan and South Korea have all hurriedly made deals with America. Because Mr Trump regards deficits, bizarrely, as theft, he has imposed "reciprocal" tariffs ranging from 10% to 41% on tens of other trading partners, which went into effect on August 7th.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/08/01/donald-trumps-awful-trade-policy-will-outlast-him>

15. Buy now, pay later gets a bad rap. But it could be useful. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

New forms of credit are often met with suspicion. A century ago retailers selling furniture and cars realised they could reach more customers if they accepted payments in instalments. To detractors this was a sign of moral decay: "Beware of the slimy coils of the instalment evil," blared one advert in the Houston Chronicle in 1926. When in 1958 Bank of America started posting credit cards to



customers, it did not take long for opponents to worry about the consequences.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/08/07/buy-now-pay-later-gets-a-bad-rap-but-it-could-be-useful>

16. Narendra Modi and Donald Trump go head-to-head. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

On August 4th Donald Trump took to Truth Social, his social-media platform, to berate India: because the country's "massive" oil purchases fund "the Russian War Machine", he said, it would suffer substantially steeper tariffs than the 25% the president slapped on the country last week. Two days later he added a further 25% from August 27th—pushing the total tariff rate to 50%. In some ways the president is not wrong: Russia supplied a negligible 0.2% of India's oil imports before the war in Ukraine. Since then, it has become India's biggest supplier, providing between 35% and 40%. But Mr Trump's vendetta also marks an ugly end to his bromance with Narendra Modi, India's prime minister.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/08/05/narendra-modi-and-donald-trump-go-head-to-head>

17. Shanxi province is struggling to diversify away from coal. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

ON A MUGGY July morning the museum of coal in Taiyuan, capital of Shanxi province, is bursting with visitors. An exhibit boasts of the province's reserves of 650bn tonnes of coal. "Mining could last for over 200 years," it enthuses. Asked if coal would still be dug up in that distant future, a guide nods eagerly, seemingly unaware of China's green transition.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2025/08/07/shanxi-province-is-struggling-to-diversify-away-from-coal>

18. Why it's a pain to take a plane in Africa. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, is as far from Lagos, Nigeria's commercial hub, as Berlin is from Athens. But whereas a round-trip ticket for the three-hour flight from the German capital to the Greek one can be had for around €150 (\$173), getting from Lagos to Freetown took your correspondent two flights, a ferry and almost \$2,000. The trip included a seven-hour layover in Ghana and required changing from a Nigerian to a Togolese airline. The cheaper option, albeit longer by 20 hours, would have been to fly across the continent to Ethiopia before taking another plane west towards Sierra Leone.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/08/07/why-its-a-pain-to-take-a-plane-in-africa>

19. A tariff avalanche catches Switzerland unawares. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

THE FIREWORKS celebrating the Rütlichschwur, Switzerland's foundational oath on August 1st 1291, had just subsided when Donald Trump announced that Swiss exports to America would soon face tariffs of 39%. It was a shock to Europe's most stubbornly independent country. Karin Keller-Sutter, the president, flew to

Washington on August 5th. As The Economist went to press, she seemed to have come back empty-handed.

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2025/08/04/a-tariff-avalanche-catches-switzerland-unawares>

20. Do consultants make good CEOs?. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

There are few more frequent visitors to the executive suites of America's biggest companies than the strategy whisperers at McKinsey, BCG and Bain. It helps that the corner office is often occupied by one of their alumni. Among the chief executives of America's 500 most valuable companies, 36 spent time at one of the three elite consultancies, according to Altrata, a data provider, up from 25 in 2018. Household names from Alphabet and Coca-Cola to Citigroup and Visa are run by former consultants. But are they any good at the top job?

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/08/05/do-consultants-make-good-ceos>

21. How loyalty programmes are keeping America's airlines aloft. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

You might expect America's most valuable airline to earn its keep flying passengers. But you would be mistaken. Last year Delta Air Lines notched up an operating profit of \$6bn, comfortably ahead of its domestic rivals. Buried in the financial statements, however, was a more revealing point. Without the revenue from its loyalty programme, it would have operated at a loss.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/08/06/how-loyalty-programmes-are-keeping-americas-airlines-aloft>

22. Buy now, pay later is taking over the world. Good. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

BURRITOS ORDERED online, tickets to Coachella and Botox injections. These are not just must-haves for some American consumers—they can now all be bought using buy-now, pay-later financing. Such purchases are often the subject of derision. Paying for lunch in instalments is, to some, consumerism at its most ludicrous. Others see something darker: lending that skirts the edge of mainstream finance, preying on precarious borrowers.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/08/04/buy-now-pay-later-is-taking-over-the-world-good>

23. Xi Jinping's city of the future is coming to life. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

Xiongan, China's "city of the future" and a pet project of Xi Jinping, the country's supreme leader, has become a byword for costly vanity projects. Central-government and provincial planners have spent at least 835bn yuan (\$116bn) on the city since 2017, when they broke ground in what had been marshy farmland 125km south of Beijing. It has been touted as a solution to China's urban maladies, with residents promised short commutes through leafy parks instead of cough-inducing traffic jams. The city is part, officials say, of a "one-thousand-year plan" in civilisation-building. A book about Xiongan



from a state publisher lists its creation alongside the works of mythical emperors who supposedly lived 5,000 years ago.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/08/07/xi-jinpings-city-of-the-future-is-coming-to-life>

24. From 50 Years Ago: Class Struggles in Uganda. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-33. 16th Aug 2025.

An analysis of class-relations in “independent” Uganda must take the colonial period as its point of departure. This is not because classes did not form in the pre-colonial period. Far from it. The reason is another: an analysis of class formation is only possible if situated in a concrete understanding of the social process of production. The relation between classes, between those who labour and the few who appropriate, and the specific *form* it takes, can only be understood if we begin with social production, itself a historically determined process. The structures of the Ugandan economy have their origin in the colonial period: the history of colonialism is the history of the creation of the underdeveloped economy. It is also the history of the formation and the development of the appropriating classes that set the tone of politics after independence. We thus take the colonial period as the point of departure for our analysis.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/33/50-years-ago/50-years-ago-class-struggles-uganda.html>

25. Bridging Data Gaps in ASUSE to Address the Enterprise Formalisation Challenge. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-33. 16th Aug 2025.

The Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises, introduced by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, was designed to provide regular, structured data on India’s unincorporated non-agricultural enterprises across manufacturing, trade, and services. While the survey offers valuable operational metrics, its current framework is insufficient for understanding the key factors influencing enterprise outcomes, particularly in the context of ongoing digitalisation and formalisation drives.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/33/commentary/bridging-data-gaps-asuse-address-enterprise.html>

26. Economic Growth and Sustainable Energy in India and China. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-33. 16th Aug 2025.

The relationship between economic growth and sustainable energy in India and China is examined using the non-linear autoregressive distributed lag model. The empirical results show that economic growth emerged as an influential factor in affecting sustainable energy in both countries. In addition, the analysis of the outcome of NARDL reveals that China is in a better position to cope with any short-run fluctuation with respect to energy sustainability as compared to India.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/33/commentary/economic-growth-and-sustainable-energy-india-and.html>

27. Political Economy of Pakistan's Benazir Income Support Programme. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-33. 16th Aug 2025.

Pakistan's largest cash transfer programme, the Benazir Income Support Programme, has grown substantially since its launch in 2008. Through an analysis of official documents and interviews with key informants, the political economy of this growth is examined. The material interests of various stakeholders whose support has sustained the programme are looked into. The role of the International Monetary Fund is also examined. It is argued that in addition to political mileage and material gain for politicians and bureaucrats, the programme performs several latent functions, such as legitimising the Pakistani state and pacifying the surplus population, which have been crucial in sustaining support from key stakeholders, including the IMF.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/33/special-articles/political-economy-pakistans-benazir-income-support.html>

28. Expanding Access or Deepening the Divide?. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-33. 16th Aug 2025.

The Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore (IIM-B) has recently announced its plan to launch four-year undergraduate residential programmes in economics and data science from August 2026. While this marks a strategic and commendable expansion into undergraduate education by a premier institution, the proposed annual fee of ₹8.5 lakh raises important questions about equity and accessibility in Indian higher education. Even though IIM-B has stated that 20% of the intake will be supported through need-based financial aid, the scale of affordability concerns remains considerable.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/33/letters/expanding-access-or-deepening-divide.html>

## EDUCATION

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29. The novels conservatives want you to read. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

ON A RAINY summer's morning, eight students and a professor sat around a table at Thomas Aquinas College, a Catholic institution north-west of Los Angeles. They were formally dressed—the men wore ties—and they addressed each other as “Mr” and “Ms”. For hours the group debated “The Bear”, William Faulkner’s tale of a young hunter disillusioned with mankind’s efforts to subdue the land and its creatures. The scene would have delighted anyone who despairs that university students do not, will not and cannot read.

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2025/08/07/the-novels-conservatives-want-you-to-read>

30. America's barmy battle to ban bawdy books. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

“With one long claw, he shredded through silk and lace, and my undergarment fell away in pieces.” Sex with a shape-shifting fairy who is sometimes part-wolf, part-bear is not everyone’s cup of tea. But many teenagers and young adults love reading about such things. Sarah J. Maas, a leading writer of “romantasy” fiction, has sold more

than 75m novels. This horrifies those who think both witchcraft and fornication are detestable in the eyes of God. Which is why five of Ms Maas's works—including "A Court of Thorns and Roses", from which the quote above is taken—are among the most-banned books in American schools.

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2025/08/07/americas-barmy-battle-to-ban-bawdy-books>

31. A Walmart heir has opened a medical school. TIME. 18th Aug 2025. On July 14, 48 students walked through the doors of the Alice L. Walton School of Medicine in Bentonville, Ark., to become its inaugural class. Some came from neighboring cities, others from urban centers in Michigan and New York. Almost all had a choice in where they could become doctors but took a chance on the new school because of its unique approach to rethinking medical education. Named after its founder—the world's richest woman and an heir to the Walmart fortune—the school will train students over the next four years in a radically different way from the method most traditional medical schools use. Instead of drilling young physicians to chase symptom after symptom and perform test after test, Walton wants her school's graduates to keep patients healthy by practicing something...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/august-18-2025-i672284/a-walmart-heir-has-opened-a-medical-school-a9>

32. Navigating Educational and Skill Mismatches. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-33. 16th Aug 2025. The effect of educational and skill mismatch on wages and job satisfaction in the urban labour market of Assam is examined to show that educational and skill mismatches influence labour market outcomes. Educational mismatch, specifically overeducated workers, encounters a wage penalty compared to their adequately educated counterparts. In contrast, skill mismatches have a more pronounced impact on job satisfaction, where underutilisation of skills negatively affects job satisfaction. Persistent gender- and caste-based wage disparities are seen. Targeted policy interventions, such as region-specific skill development programmes and policies to establish linkages between educational institutions and industries, are recommended.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/special-articles/navigating-educational-and-skill-mismatches.html>

33. How much do noninstructional Employees Earn?. Chronicle of Higher Education. 15th August 2025. Here's a sector-by-sector look at changes in average annual pay for workers in selected noninstructional jobs from 2018-19 to 2023-24. These jobs include: business and financial operations; computer, engineering, and science; librarians, curators, archivists, and academic and other education services; management; and office and administrative support.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/how-much-do-noninstructional-employees-earn>

**34. Compare the States. Chronicle of Higher Education. 15th August 2025.**

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.

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

**35. How much are Public College Presidents Paid?. Chronicle of Higher Education. 15th August 2025.**

These data show the total compensation received by chief executives at public college and university systems in the 2023 calendar year. Parenthetical value shown next to total pay is the one-year change. If the president received pay from more than one institution in 2022, those values are combined to determine the percentage change.

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

**36. How First Year Enrollment by Race Has Changed Since 2010. Chronicle of Higher Education. 15th August 2025.**

The Supreme Court's 2023 decision in *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard* marked one of the latest salvos in a decades-long national dispute over the role of race in college admissions. Since 2010, first-year enrollment by race has shifted: The share of underrepresented minorities entering college has increased, as have the ranks of nonresident aliens (or international students) and of students who are of two or more races; meanwhile, the percentage of white students has decreased. But this top-line dynamic obscures differences — within states, among varying types of institutions, and at individual colleges and universities. Explore The Chronicle's interactive tool to find out more.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/how-first-year-enrollment-by-race-has-changed-since-2010>

**37. What are the Demographics of Noninstructional Staffs at Colleges? Chronicle of Higher Education. 15th August 2025.**

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 2022.

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

**38. The novels conservatives want you to read. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.**

ON A RAINY summer's morning, eight students and a professor sat around a table at Thomas Aquinas College, a Catholic institution north-west of Los Angeles. They were formally dressed—the men wore ties—and they addressed each other as “Mr” and “Ms”. For hours the group debated “The Bear”, William Faulkner's tale of a young hunter disillusioned with mankind's efforts to subdue the land and its creatures. The scene would have delighted anyone who despairs that university students do not, will not and cannot read.

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2025/08/07/the-novels-conservatives-want-you-to-read>

39. Which Type of Colleges Have the Most Undergraduates with Disabilities. Chronicle of Higher Education. 15th August 2025.  
The number of institutions where at least one out of 10 undergraduates reported having a disability has risen over 64 percent in the past five years. In 2018-19, 327 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 2022-23, 538 colleges fit this description.

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

40. Race, Ethnicity and Gender of Full Time Faculty Members at 3300 Institutions. Chronicle of Higher Education. 15th August 2025.  
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.

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

## EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

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41. McKinsey and its peers need a new strategy. And some humility. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.  
Since the birth of management consultancy at the turn of the 20th century, people have questioned its usefulness. Bosses of firms that hire consultants are paid lavishly to define a vision and corral their teams into achieving it. Why would they ask a bunch of jet-setting know-it-alls who have never run anything but a spreadsheet calculation how to do their job?

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/08/07/mckinsey-and-its-peers-need-a-new-strategy-and-some-humility>

42. Six months after DeepSeek's breakthrough, China speeds on with AI. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.  
THE MECCA for China's boom in artificial intelligence is Liangzhu, a leafy suburb of Hangzhou, the tech-heavy capital of Zhejiang province. The Communist Party has long touted Liangzhu's famous archaeological remains, dating back to 3300BC, as proof of the age of Chinese civilisation. Now Liangzhu, with its myriad AI startups, represents the future. Investors from all over China flock there to meet growing numbers of founders, app engineers and other AI developers and dreamers. It is six months since a barely known AI startup, DeepSeek, caused a huge stir by releasing an impressive open-source model trained for a sliver of the cost of fancier Western ones. Its founder studied at Zhejiang University, a tech mothership not far from Liangzhu. The area is at the heart of an AI ecosystem which China hopes will soon rival America's.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2025/08/05/six-months-after-deepseeks-breakthrough-china-speeds-on-with-ai>

**43. In the Loop. TIME. 18th Aug 2025.**

You can measure time in the world of AI by the cadence of new essays with provocative titles. Another one arrived in July from the team at Mechanize Work, a new startup that is trying to, er, automate all human labor. Its title? “Sweatshop data is over.” The essay points to a very real trend in AI research. To summarize: AI systems used to be relatively unintelligent. To teach them the difference between, say, a cat and a dog, you’d need to give them lots of different labeled examples of cats and dogs. The most cost-effective way to get those labels was from the Global South, where labor is cheap. ‘We don’t observe the workforce of data workers decreasing.’—MILAGROS MICELI But as AI systems have gotten smarter, they no longer...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/august-18-2025-i672284/in-the-loop-a16>

## ENVIRONMENT

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**44. The Rise of Green Wall Street. TIME. 18th Aug 2025.**

The Great Hall in the City of London’s Guildhall might seem like an odd place to anchor a climate summit. At a time when leading climate thinkers are increasingly calling for systemic change, it screams tradition. Built in 1411, the medieval auditorium is a homage to age-old British institutions and customs with stained glass windows honoring lord mayors and monarchs. The dissonance is only amplified by its surroundings: a square mile housing the world’s leading financial institutions, gleaming towers of banks and investment firms with proprietors historically far more focused on adding up their financial returns than on calculating progress toward net-zero emissions. And yet Guildhall—and the City, as the financial district is known—were the center of the action in June when 45,000 climate advocates from around the world descended on...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/august-18-2025-i672284/the-rise-of-green-wall-street-a21>

**45. The Birds Flocking Back to the Fresh Kills Dump. New Yorker. 25th August 2025.**

One humid afternoon in July, José Ramírez-Garofalo drove his large Toyota truck through the lush new hills, valleys, and meadows of Freshkills Park, a twenty-two-hundred-acre green space that the city is constructing on Staten Island. Ramírez-Garofalo, a young man with dark hair, large forearms, and the beginnings of a goatee, drove and talked fast. “It’s an impermeable geotextile membrane,” he said, referring to the thick plastic that was used, starting in the mid-nineties, to cap the four giant trash mounds of the old Fresh Kills landfill. “On top there is playground soil.”

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/08/25/the-birds-flocking-back-to-fresh-kills-dump>



## HEALTH

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**46. 5 surprising symptoms of Lyme disease. TIME. 18th Aug 2025.**

Nearly 500,000 people are diagnosed with Lyme disease each year in the U.S. For about 75% of them, the first sign will be a skin lesion that appears one to four weeks after being bitten by an infected deer tick. But it might not look how you'd imagine: only 20% of these lesions take on the classic bull's-eye appearance commonly associated with Lyme. Other early symptoms of Lyme disease mimic what you might experience with the flu: a fever, chills, muscle aches, and swollen lymph nodes. Within the first five to 10 days of Lyme disease infection, most people will experience only these relatively ordinary symptoms. If they're promptly diagnosed with and treated for Lyme—which generally means two to three weeks of the antibiotic doxycycline—the story often ends there. But...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/august-18-2025-i672284/5-surprising-symptoms-of-lyme-disease-a10>

**47. Health Matters. TIME. 18th Aug 2025.**

In a study published July 22 in Nature Communications, researchers report that living through the COVID-19 pandemic aged our brains—whether or not you were infected with COVID-19. Researchers looked at brain scans from 1,000 people during and before the pandemic. They compared these with brain scans from other people taken during “normal” times as a model for typical brain aging. The pandemic-era brains aged about 5.5 months faster compared with the brains of those studied before the pandemic. The accelerated aging was documented in people who had COVID-19 infections as well as those who didn't. Other studies have showed that the COVID-19 virus can change the brain for the worse, but “we found that participants who simply lived through the pandemic period, regardless of infection, also showed signs of slightly...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/august-18-2025-i672284/health-matters-a14>

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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**48. Why Israel must hold itself to account. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.**

ON MAY 14TH 1948, in its Declaration of Independence, Israel embraced universal human rights “irrespective of religion, race or sex”. This belief in individual human dignity is also enshrined in the Geneva Conventions, submitted to governments that same month. Today the founding vision of Israel and the laws of war are under attack in Gaza. In its bombed and barren landscape the fate of both lies in the balance.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/08/07/why-israel-must-hold-itself-to-account>

49. Israel on trial: can the country police its own war crimes?. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

Gali Baharav-Miara, Israel's attorney-general, has been duelling with Binyamin Netanyahu, the prime minister, since Mr Netanyahu's latest stint in office began in 2022. Appointed to a six-year term by the previous government, she loudly and publicly denounced the current one's plans to overhaul the judiciary in 2023. The cabinet set in motion plans for her dismissal, and on August 4th formally voted to sack her (the decision will be challenged in the Supreme Court). She is, in short, neither docile nor reticent.

<https://www.economist.com/briefing/2025/08/07/israel-on-trial-can-the-country-police-its-own-war-crimes>

50. Nuclear nightmares are back. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

The survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have had to live through several stages of trauma. First came the horrors of August 6th and August 9th 1945: the blinding flash, the ferocious force, the flesh-melting heat; plus the black rain, the flattened buildings, the charred corpses. "It was a real hell," recalls Tanaka Shigemitsu, who was just four years old in Nagasaki when the bomb dropped there. Then came decades of quiet suffering, as radiation ate away at victims' bodies and stigma at their souls. Finally there have been the frustrations of recent years, as the hope of a world without nuclear weapons has receded into the distance.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/08/06/nuclear-nightmares-are-back>

51. MAGA's disenchantment with Israel. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

When the Speaker of the House of Representatives went to the Western Wall in Jerusalem on August 3rd, placing a handwritten note to God in its cracks, he declared: "Our prayer is that America will always stand with Israel." Mike Johnson went on to visit the Jewish settlement of Ariel, and met the Israeli prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, in another settlement, Shiloh, which lies deep in the occupied West Bank. Using the biblical terms for the territory, he said that "the mountains of Judea and Samaria are the rightful property of the Jewish people," and promised to promote the use of the names in official American discourse.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/08/05/magas-disenchantment-with-israel>

52. Panama brings lawfare to the canal ports saga. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

"The ports are ours," declared Anel Flores, Panama's comptroller-general, on July 30th. His office, which manages public funds, had just filed two cases with Panama's Supreme Court, asking it to revoke the contract held by CK Hutchison (CKH), a conglomerate based in Hong Kong, for the operation of two ports at either end of the Panama Canal (see map). In doing so Mr Flores has opened a new front in the tug-of-war between China and the United States over the canal that has been going on since Donald Trump took office.

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2025/08/07/panama-brings-lawfare-to-the-canal-ports-saga>

53. A glimpse of Gaza's miserable future. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.  
FOR weeks the world has claimed it is working to end the widespread hunger in Gaza. The UN is pleading with Israel to allow more lorries of aid into the territory. Arab and Western states are airdropping food. On August 5th Donald Trump said America would take a larger role in distributing aid, though he was vague about the details. "I know Israel is going to help us with that in terms of distribution, and also money," he said.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/08/06/a-glimpse-of-gazas-miserable-future>

54. Israeli sentiment on the war in Gaza is shifting. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

During the annual fast for the sacking of Jerusalem on August 3rd, worshippers mourn the Jewish temple the Roman army destroyed nearly 2,000 years ago. This year Itamar Ben-Gvir, Israel's national-security minister, led thousands of Jews in prayer on Temple Mount and promised to rebuild the temple in place of the Dome of the Rock, a Muslim shrine. But on a rooftop on the other side of the city some Jews lament destruction past and present. "Gaza is desolate and laid ruin. We are the new Romans," a religious leader with the Faithful Left, a group that has flourished during the war, tells his flock.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/08/07/israeli-sentiment-on-the-war-in-gaza-is-shifting>

55. As the world focuses on Gaza, starvation also looms in Sudan. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

More than two years after it began in April 2023, the war in Sudan shows no sign of ending, with deadly consequences for the people of Africa's third-largest country. On August 5th the World Food Programme (WFP), a UN agency, said that residents of el-Fasher, in the western region of Darfur, faced starvation. It was a grim sign of the humanitarian toll of the war at a time when the locus of the conflict is shifting westwards, raising the prospect of a permanently fractured state.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/08/07/as-the-world-focuses-on-gaza-starvation-also-looms-in-sudan>

56. Why the laws of war are widely ignored. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.  
International courts have never been busier. Conflicts are more common than at any point since 1945. Ever more civilians are being bombed, starved and raped by men with guns. These are the curses that the laws of war were invented to prevent, and that international courts are meant to punish and deter.

<https://www.economist.com/international/2025/08/05/why-the-laws-of-war-are-widely-ignored>

57. How to write laws of war for a wicked world. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

WHEN lists are compiled of great military commanders, Gustavus Adolphus, Sweden's king from 1611 to 1632, is often near the top. Innovation and daring were his watchwords, and had to be. Aged 16 when he took the throne, he inherited a realm embroiled in three separate wars. Sweden has "no friends" and "all our neighbours are our enemies", the teenage king bleakly wrote.

<https://www.economist.com/international/2025/08/05/how-to-write-laws-of-war-for-a-wicked-world>

58. The Risk Report. TIME. 18th Aug 2025.

On July 28, President Donald Trump signaled growing impatience with Vladimir Putin by telling reporters in Scotland that Russia's President must halt the fighting in Ukraine within "10 or 12 days" to avoid sanctions and secondary tariffs, tightening a 50-day deadline he had set earlier in the month. But this latest threat is unlikely to change Putin's plans. From the outside, it's hard to see why the war continues. Putin, the one person who could bring it to an end, can see that Russia has paid a steep price over the past three years and five months to gain just 20% of Ukraine's land. By some estimates, Russia has suffered more than 1 million battlefield casualties, with a quarter-million killed. The war has strengthened NATO, which Putin says is Russia's...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/august-18-2025-i672284/the-risk-report-a12>

59. The Gaza Tragedy. TIME. 18th Aug 2025.

If any place had experience seeing civilians through war, it was the Gaza Strip. It's much of why the place exists. That stretch of Mediterranean coast was only even named while being demarcated as a refuge for Palestinians driven off their land by Jewish forces in the 1948 war that created Israel. Gaza's permanent status, like the fate of the Palestinians, was never decided, however. And as the decades churned on, so did the conflict. There was a devastating rhythm to it. Palestinian militants launched missiles into Israel from Gaza. Israel's military replied with airstrikes, at times with sustained campaigns dubbed wars. The longest lasted 50 days. In each round of fighting, civilians knew where to find safety: in the schools, clinics, and hospitals run by the U.N., which also...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/august-18-2025-i672284/the-gaza-tragedy-a17>

60. Stopping starvation in Gaza. TIME. 18th Aug 2025.

On July 29 The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)—the global gold-standard initiative charged with assessing hunger and food insecurity—released a devastating but predictable analysis: famine, the worst-case scenario humanitarian actors have been warning about for the past 21 months, is unfolding in Gaza. According to the IPC, a body that prides itself on technical expertise and is not given to hyperbole, two of the three thresholds required to classify famine in Gaza have been surpassed. Food consumption and acute malnutrition have reached catastrophic levels. The third threshold, mortality from starvation and related causes, remains unverified.

This is not because people are not dying. This is because the conditions on the ground—lack of humanitarian access, raging conflict, and the collapse of the health system—make data collection very hard. Why wait...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/august-18-2025-i672284/stopping-starvation-in-gaza-a18>

61. This crisis will outlast the war. TIME. 18th Aug 2025.

For the past eight of his 20 months of life, Enas Alwaheidi's toddler son, Taim, has weighed the same: 9 kg, or just short of 20 lb. "We don't have enough flour, so every day we make three pieces of bread," Alwaheidi tells TIME from Sheikh Redwan near Gaza City. Her husband eats one, she eats half, so their child can eat 1½ pieces a day. But their already meager supplies are dwindling. "Taim goes to sleep hungry," she says. "He still doesn't have enough milk." The ramifications could be long-lasting—for Taim and for Gazans at large, with experts cautioning that an entire generation could be permanently affected as a result of being deprived of enough food. According to data from the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, 1 in 5...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/august-18-2025-i672284/this-crisis-will-outlast-the-war-a19>

62. A Strategic Setback?. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-33. 16th Aug 2025.

The imposition of a punitive tariff, totalling 50% on India's merchandise exports by the United States (US), came as a surprise, given the way the India-US relationship had evolved in the past two and a half decades. It clearly belies all claims of a close strategic relationship between the two countries. However, the final impact of escalated tariffs on India's exports to the US will depend on the relative share of the US in India's exports in various sectors, the tariff imposed on other countries that are competitors of India in these sectors, and the extent of dominance of countries with duty-free access through most-favoured-nation agreements. Besides its evolving impact, the unilaterally imposed tariffs also signal the death of multilateralism presided by one of the biggest protagonists of free trade and global trade norms, that is, the US. Howsoever absurd it may appear, the disruption of the global trade, according to the dictates of the US establishment, has been deliberately done to define a new architecture of trade relations with the partner countries. The US government has now weaponised tariffs to restrict imports by coercing trade partner countries to open their markets for US goods, boost the sale of US military equipment, and also buy long-term treasury bonds with low or negative real yields to effectively subsidise the US treasury.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/33/editorials/strategic-setback.html>

## LAW

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63. Europe's top court nixes Italy's plan to expel migrants, for now. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

Italian politicians rarely agree on much, but they were unanimous in finding a ruling from the European Court of Justice (ECJ) on August 1st hugely important. They differed, however, as to whether it was good or bad. A “watershed”, declared an opposition deputy. A judgment that blocked the government from “combating illegal immigration and defending the nation’s borders”, thundered the office of the prime minister, Giorgia Meloni.

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2025/08/07/europes-top-court-nixes-italys-plan-to-expel-migrants-for-now>

## LITERATURE

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64. Sergio Garcia Sanchez and Lola Moral’s Artist in Training. New Yorker. 25th August 2025.

For many of us, spending time at the beach is one of the highlights of summer. The cover of the August 25, 2025, issue, by the artist Sergio García Sánchez and his wife, the colorist Lola Moral, is inspired by a different feeling. “As a child, I got very bored at the beach, so I spent the whole day inventing things to do to escape the tedium of lying around sunbathing,” García Sánchez said.

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/cover-story/cover-story-2025-08-25>

65. Fall Culture Review. New Yorker. 25th August 2025.

As you catch those last golden rays of summer, here’s something to look forward to: fall culture. Great art (and even not so great art) can soothe and buoy even the most beleaguered souls. Here’s hoping this season is no exception—our critics have gathered the most exciting cultural happenings in our fall preview. Several new TV shows take on the fight for truth in media—I’m especially excited about the “Office”-esque comedy “The Paper” and the new season of, I can’t help it, “The Morning Show”—and Vince Gilligan (“Breaking Bad”) is back with a new sci-fi project set in Albuquerque. In movies, I can’t wait to see Rose Byrne at the end of her rope in Mary Bronstein’s “If I Had Legs I’d Kick You,” and Richard Linklater’s take on Godard. In music, I’m eager to experience Park Avenue Armory’s sound storm of “11,000 Strings,” and indie rock is clearly having a moment (Mac DeMarco, Big Thief, Jeff Tweedy, the list goes on); Fall for Dance renews a love of all that the form can offer, and the city’s top ballet companies, New York City Ballet and American Theatre Ballet, both treat us to full seasons. The art world is having a feminist surge, if the shows of Ruth Asawa, June Leaf, and Vaginal Davis are any indication; Broadway gets Keanu Reeves waiting for Godot, Kristin Chenoweth reigning in “The Queen of Versailles,” and a transfer of Bess Wohl’s lovely, lived-in “Liberation.” Don’t miss it.

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/goings-on/fall-culture-preview-2025>

66. Suburban Divorcee. New Yorker. 25th August 2025.



<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/08/25/suburban-divorcee-cate-marvin-poem>

67. Highest 2 Lowest Marks A Conservative Pivot For Spike Lee. New Yorker. 25th August 2025.

It's fascinating when filmmakers make drastic late-career shifts, as Martin Scorsese did with "The Wolf of Wall Street" and Francis Ford Coppola recently did with "Megalopolis." Now it's Spike Lee's turn, and in his new drama, "Highest 2 Lowest," he shifts in a surprising way. The film is a remake of the Japanese director Akira Kurosawa's 1963 drama "High and Low," among the greatest police procedurals. Lee turns the story into what is one of his most personal films, both emotionally and intellectually. Often, directors' self-transformations involve changes in modes of production: Scorsese broke away from the studios and found independent financing; Coppola self-financed. Lee, who has had his own production company throughout his career, makes "Highest 2 Lowest" a film about his particular modes of production, one that focusses on the underlying notion of owning the means of production.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/08/25/highest-2-lowest-movie-review>

68. Something has to Fight. New Yorker. 25th August 2025.

I trust I'll be in Heaven when you read this, although God, in His wisdom, may have other things in store for me. Just yesterday afternoon Cor asked me if I had ever thought I'd live this long, and I said, No, not in a million years. What on earth am I doing here? It isn't necessary for all of your parents to read this, especially not Sandra. (But, Sandra, if you are reading this, please don't be angry with me. I love you very much. I think you know that.) I just wanted to tell you grandkids, in confidence, that all those school photos of you, of all of you, from all the years, all thirteen years from kindergarten to grade twelve—my goodness there are so many—are in a thick blue photo album in the top drawer of my bedside table. There's a Bible verse on the cover of the album, one from Psalms: "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made Heaven and Earth."

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/08/25/something-has-come-to-light-fiction-miriam-toews>

69. Adam Gopnik on Joseph Mitchell's Joe Goulds Secret. New Yorker. 25th August 2025.

Joseph Mitchell was at once the most lucid and the most mysterious of the great mid-century New Yorker writers. Lucid in its clean, limpid minimalism, Mitchell's prose was like a beautiful, clear river, its bottom not muddy but sparkling—sparkling with what might simply be gravel catching the light or, perhaps, diamonds worth diving for. Whichever it was, in each of his sentences there was always the mysterious sense of something more left unsaid.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/takes/adam-gopnik-on-joseph-mitchells-joe-goulds-secret>

## MILITARY SCIENCE

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70. Pakistan's army chief is cosyng up to Donald Trump. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

Field Marshal Asim Munir, Pakistan's army chief, could hardly have wished for more. For almost two years he had been under fire at home over his meddling in politics. Racked by debt and insurgent violence, his country had been sidelined in geopolitics as America and other rich countries courted India, Pakistan's arch-rival. And yet there he was, enjoying a private lunch with Donald Trump in the White House on June 18th, just over a month after Pakistan's brief conflict with India. Then, at the end of July, came further snubs for India: branding it a "dead economy", Mr Trump imposed tariffs of 25% while hailing a new trade deal with Pakistan. He then raised the tariff rate to 50% on August 6th.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/08/03/pakistans-army-chief-is-cosying-up-to-donald-trump>

## POLITICAL SCIENCE & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

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71. Ekrem Imamoglu on how Turkey can have peace at home and respect abroad. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

IN JULY SOME 30 members of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), an armed group designated as a terrorist organisation by the European Union and America, laid down their weapons in a symbolic ceremony in northern Iraq. The disarmament under way is welcome and marks a historic opportunity to break a cycle of violence that has long burdened the country's political system, slowed economic progress and deepened divisions. It also presents a golden opportunity for Turkey to reframe its regional role.

<https://www.economist.com/by-invitation/2025/08/07/ekrem-imamoglu-on-how-turkey-can-have-peace-at-home-and-respect-abroad>

72. Democrats are likely to lose the redistricting war. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

Colouring books for grown-ups have exploded in popularity in recent years. Befitting America's hyperpolarised era, political anoraks have put a partisan spin on the pastime. Dave's Redistricting is a web app developed by Dave Bradlee, a software engineer, that allows users to draw imagined electoral districts. Hobbyists can combine the relaxation of paint-by-numbers with the catharsis of destroying their political opponents in a fantasised redistricting process.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/08/05/democrats-are-likely-to-lose-the-redistricting-war>

73. Donald Trump escalates his war on numbers. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

JUST FOUR months ago Donald Trump was basking in the glow of the jobs report produced by the Bureau of Labour Statistics (BLS). “GREAT JOB NUMBERS, FAR BETTER THAN EXPECTED”, he posted on Truth Social, his social-media site. But on August 1st the BLS announced that employers had added fewer jobs than expected in July; it also revised down the employment data for the previous two months. This time Mr Trump turned on the messenger. Saying (without evidence) that the figures were “rigged”, he fired Erika McEntarfer, the BLS commissioner who was confirmed last year on a bipartisan basis.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/08/04/donald-trump-escalates-his-war-on-numbers>

74. Alligator Alcatraz: an exercise in performative cruelty. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

In the middle of the night the Everglades are loud. The soundtrack of Florida’s swamplands is a constant call of cicadas. But an hour from downtown Miami there are almost no people. The narrow offshoots of the main road take you deeper into the grasses, where snakes and alligators lie lazily in and around still water. One bend in the road, however, is busy. A blue sign for “Alligator Alcatraz” marks the turnoff where pickup trucks circle hours before dawn. When your correspondent approached the perimeter, a guard inside a car rolled down her window an inch. She couldn’t talk, she said: “the bugs are too bad.” She was right: if you reached out and grabbed a fistful of air you could catch dozens of mosquitoes.

<https://www.economist.com/interactive/united-states/2025/08/05/alligator-alcatraz-is-an-exercise-in-performative-cruelty>

75. How is Trump’s Brazil-bashing putting America first?. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

On July 17th the secretary of state, Marco Rubio, dispatched a memorandum to America’s diplomats stepping back from a decades-old priority, promoting democracy abroad. Henceforth, he wrote, diplomats should simply congratulate the winning candidate in any country’s election and refrain from “opining” on the fairness of the process, or even on “the democratic values of the country in question”. The change, he wrote, was in keeping with “the administration’s emphasis on national sovereignty”.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/08/07/how-is-trumps-brazil-bashing-putting-america-first>

76. Can Peronists, Argentina’s former masters, stop Javier Milei?. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

It has been a bumpy month for President Javier Milei of Argentina. Despite his success in cutting spending, pulling down inflation and even reducing poverty, his government is irritable.

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2025/07/28/can-peronists-argentinas-former-masters-stop-javier-milei>

77. If America goes after India's oil trade, China will benefit. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

WHEN WESTERN countries began boycotting Russian oil in 2022, India saw an opportunity. Some 2.6m barrels a day (b/d) of crude once destined for Europe were available—at a sweet discount. India, which bought next to no oil from Russia in 2021, pounced. It has remained one of Russia's biggest customers ever since. Today it imports nearly 2m b/d of Russian “sour”, heavy crude, representing 35-40% of its crude imports. This reduces India's import bill at a time when the world's fastest-growing big economy burns ever more petroleum. Local refiners make a killing by processing the stuff into fuels that they then export at full cost.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/08/06/if-america-goes-after-indias-oil-trade-china-will-benefit>

78. THE EPSTEIN SHADOW. TIME. 18th Aug 2025.

Donald Trump has openly flirted with nearly every major conspiracy theory of the past half-century, and championed one of the most reckless through his insistence without evidence that the 2020 election was stolen. But what's dominated the summer of 2025 is an intrigue he spent much of the previous year promising to crack if he returned to office—the truth about how registered sex offender and billionaire Jeffrey Epstein lived and died. Like so much else that grew into a headache for Trump, this started with pursuit of a quick headline without thinking through how it might end. Now, the Epstein saga has become a snowball racing down Mount MAGA that the President has lost the capacity to stop. To recap, Epstein was at the center of a network of superrich...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/august-18-2025-i672284/the-epstein-shadow-a2>

79. The D.C. Brief. TIME. 18th Aug 2025.

Over the third weekend of July, a lot of institutional Washington suddenly and enthusiastically discovered James Talarico, a seminary student and member of the Texas state house. The find came during an impressive outing for the 36-year-old Democrat on Joe Rogan's podcast, in which the aspiring preacher espoused the same brand of sharp sound bites that has earned him almost a million TikTok followers. Over more than two hours, Talarico explained why a Texas law requiring the posting of the Ten Commandments in public-school classrooms is “un-Christian,” how coming political fights won't be about left or right but rather the top and bottom of society, and how both parties get it wrong when they treat politicians like messianic figures. “James Talarico, you need to run for President,” Rogan said. “We...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/august-18-2025-i672284/the-dc-brief-a15>

80. How Mike Johnson Became Trump's Speaker. TIME. 18th Aug 2025.

“Don’t you ever want revenge?” Donald Trump asked Mike Johnson. It was late May, and the President was in the Speaker’s office venting about House Republicans who were standing in the way of his signature tax-and-spending legislation, the so-called One Big Beautiful Bill. Trump was half-kidding, but he expected allegiance, not agita. Johnson explained that seeking vengeance cut against his Christian faith. When the President gave him a stone-faced look, the Speaker offered a more practical reason: with a narrow majority, vendettas aren’t an option. “We don’t have the luxury,” he told Trump. Johnson became Speaker of the House in October 2023, emerging from relative obscurity to take what one of his Republican predecessors, John Boehner, calls “the toughest job in America.” It requires managing a conference that has for...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/august-18-2025-i672284/how-mike-johnson-became-trumps-speaker-a20>

81. The Nationalist. TIME. 18th Aug 2025.

It’s late afternoon on July 4 in Rome’s Palazzo Chigi, seat of the Italian government, and Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni is walking the marble-floored halls. She has spent the past hour answering questions about her personal history, rise to power, and record in office with disarming directness. But now, as the interview winds down, she has a question of her own. “You are an honest person,” she begins in the crisp English that she says she learned from Michael Jackson songs. “Is there something about Fascism that my experience reminds you of, about what I’m doing in government?” Fascism is a subject Meloni can’t escape. When she came to power in October 2022 atop a movement founded by Benito Mussolini’s last devoted followers, critics in Italy and across Europe said...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/august-18-2025-i672284/the-nationalist-a22>

82. Evasion Commission, Electoral Omissions. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-33. 16th Aug 2025.

Allegations raised by the leader of the opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha over the systemic flaws, discrepancies, and irregularities in the electoral rolls must be addressed by the Election Commission with due seriousness and sincerity. Although based on a detailed scrutiny of the electoral rolls of one assembly segment in a parliamentary constituency, the implications are far-reaching as they concern the sanctity and legitimacy of the overall electoral process. Anecdotal and investigative-journalistic reports suggest that the issues raised by the LoP in the Lok Sabha could have a wide prevalence. Flaws and discrepancies, such as duplication of voters, inordinately large numbers of voters registered at a single address, invalid addresses, invalid photographs, etc, would not only undermine the fundamental principle of one person, one vote but also put the institutional integrity of the Election Commission in doubt. To uphold its integrity and the fairness of the electoral process, the Election Commission must thoroughly and impartially investigate these allegations and come up with an action plan towards rectification if the grave errors are indeed found to be true.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/33/editorials/evasion-commission-electoral-omissions.html>

83. PPAs and Renewable Energy. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-33. 16th Aug 2025.

In 2019, the Andhra Pradesh government constituted a committee to renegotiate renewable energy tariff rates, and the matter escalated to the court. After intensive deliberations, the court ruled that power purchase agreements cannot be renegotiated owing to competitive bidding procedures. This action set a precedent for other states to renegotiate unprofitable renewable energy PPAs. This article explains issues in the Indian power sector, including the financial burden on distributing companies, inefficiencies in power transmission infrastructure, revenue realisation issues, integration of renewables, the rigidity of long-term contracts, and the legal and regulatory frameworks for tariff determination.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/insight/ppas-and-renewable-energy.html>

84. Examining the Rhetorics of Hindutva and Explaining Its Consolidation in Manipur. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-33. 16th Aug 2025.

The Bharatiya Janata Party's electoral victory in Manipur is linked to the state's complex political landscape and a perceived absence of a Hindutva state. This paper examines how the BJP and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh confronted these complexities to consolidate Hindutva through multiple rhetorics. This includes revisiting history, appropriation of local patriots, and tackling the diametrical ethnonationalism of the Meitei, Naga, and Kuki-Zo groups. It also discusses the syncretisation of "Sanatana Dharma" and the Meiteis' *Sanamahi* revivalism, aligning with the experimentation of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar's classification of "Hinduness" among Meiteis, intensifying politics on indigeneity and violence that manifests Hindutva politics. This reflects the consolidation of Hindutva in Manipur, despite its unfamiliarity.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/33/special-articles/examining-rhetorics-hindutva-and-explaining-its.html>

85. Ignoring the Holocaust in Gaza. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-33. 16th Aug 2025.

This letter is a response to the editorial, "Holocaust in Gaza: Everybody Watches, Nobody Acts" (EPW, 26 July 2025). Starting from the title itself, the editorial draws a comparison between the Holocaust and the genocide in Gaza. This is an important intervention as it breaks the myth of the Holocaust as a singular event in history, with no other historical parallel or equivalent. This myth not only portrays the Holocaust as an ahistorical event, but has also been foundational to the Zionist settler-colonial project and its justification of the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians. By disregarding the Holocaust as the apotheosis of the development of German imperialism and preceded by equally heinous events—like the genocide and ethnic cleansing of the Herero and Nama people by the German Empire in the early 20th century—the Holocaust has been framed in extremely narrow terms that have made slogans like "Never Again"



meaningless. Paraphrasing Aimé Césaire, fascism is but the violence of colonialism turned inward on to the metropole.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/33/letters/ignoring-holocaust-gaza.html>

86. Trump sends in the National Guard. New Yorker. 25th August 2025. Tourists who came to Washington, D.C., last week—tromping from one Smithsonian collection to another, eating ice cream on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial—witnessed a bit of history that they surely had not anticipated: the beginning of President Trump’s takeover of the District. At a press conference that Monday, Trump had vowed to bring order to a place that he said was beset by “total lawlessness,” and by “bloodshed, bedlam, and squalor.” Within days, D.C.’s police force had been federalized, the National Guard had been mobilized, and hundreds of troops had shown up, many in drab-colored Humvees.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/08/25/trump-sends-in-the-national-guard>

87. Pam Bondi’s Power Play. New Yorker. 25th August 2025. It is rare for an Attorney General of the United States to venture into the offices of the Justice Department’s National Security Division. Up two floors and down a hallway the length of a city block from the A.G.’s fifth-floor suite, the division is a high-security area; visitors must deposit their cellphones in a cabinet before they enter and are required to punch in a code at the door. At about 1 P.M. on February 10th, just a few days after she was sworn in as the nation’s eighty-seventh Attorney General, Pam Bondi arrived at the division, accompanied by her security detail. A secretary stepped into the office of the division’s acting chief, Devin DeBacker. “Were you expecting the Attorney General?” she asked. DeBacker hurried out and saw Bondi. She was holding framed portraits of leaders of the prior Administration—President Joe Biden, Vice-President Kamala Harris, and Bondi’s predecessor, Merrick Garland. For the past four years, the portraits had hung on the wall, and the facilities staff hadn’t yet got around to removing them. Bondi, furious, did the job herself. “Don’t you people realize who won the election?” she demanded. DeBacker had served in the White House counsel’s office during Donald Trump’s first Administration and was about to be named the senior deputy of the division. Instead, hours after Bondi’s appearance, he was informed that he was being demoted. The offending portraits were cited as the cause.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/08/25/pam-bondi-profile>

## SCIENCE

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88. Will an astronomical anomaly challenge the idea of scientific revolutions?. Economist. 9th Aug 2025. Before the revolution triggered by Nicolaus Copernicus, a 16th-century cleric, the Earth was the unmoving centre of the cosmos. Afterwards, it was one of a family of planets swinging through space. Before the work of Antoine Lavoisier, an 18th-century nobleman,

chemists had no notion of “oxygen”, “carbon” and the like; afterwards they could not understand the contents of their alembics without them.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/08/07/will-an-astronomical-anomaly-challenge-the-idea-of-scientific-revolutions>

89. How climate change could spread malaria. Economist. 9th Aug 2025. Southern Africa is suffering a malaria surge. Countries including Botswana, Eswatini, Namibia and Zimbabwe are experiencing outbreaks of the disease, which causes fevers and chills and kills 600,000 people worldwide every year. Zimbabwe has been particularly badly affected. By July it had reported nearly four times as many cases and more than six times as many deaths as over the same period in 2024.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/08/07/how-climate-change-could-spread-malaria>

90. Astronomers cannot agree on how fast the universe is expanding. Economist. 9th Aug 2025. IT IS ONE of the biggest mysteries in cosmology—and getting bigger all the time. Ever since Edwin Hubble, an American astronomer, published observations of distant galaxies in 1929, scientists have known that the universe is expanding. For almost 30 years they have known that the expansion is accelerating (that discovery, made in 1998, was honoured with a Nobel prize in 2011). What they cannot agree on, though, is how fast it is currently growing.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2025/08/06/astronomers-cannot-agree-on-how-fast-the-universe-is-expanding>

91. Fraudulent scientific papers are booming. Economist. 9th Aug 2025. SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS exist to do one thing: provide accurate, peer-reviewed reports of new research to an interested audience. But according to a paper published in PNAS on August 4th, that lofty goal is badly compromised. Scientific fraud, its authors conclude, happens on a massive scale and is growing quickly. In fact, though the number of scientific articles doubles every 15 years or so, the number thought to be fraudulent has doubled every 1.5 years since 2010 (see chart). If nothing is done, says Luís Nunes Amaral, a physicist at Northwestern University in Chicago and the study's senior author, “The scientific enterprise in its current form would be destroyed.”

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2025/08/06/fraudulent-scientific-papers-are-booming>

92. Microphones can spot radar-evading hypersonic missiles. Economist. 9th Aug 2025. For decades, the state of the art in long-distance warfare was the ballistic missile. Fast and capable of intercontinental ranges, it remains a mainstay of national arsenals. But the predictability of these weapons' high, arcing flightpaths makes them vulnerable to detection and interception. In recent years America, China and Russia have begun developing hypersonic missiles as an alternative. These fly inside Earth's atmosphere, below the coverage of long-

range radar, and can manoeuvre unpredictably. That makes them trickier to spot coming.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2025/08/06/microphones-can-spot-radar-evading-hypersonic-missiles>

93. Should you take collagen?. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

WOULD YOU pay £40 (\$53) for some powder made from the ground-up, chemically processed skin, bones and connective tissues of cows or fish? Marketed that way, perhaps not. But stick it in a bottle labelled supplementary collagen, and things might start to look more appealing. Collagen supplements are in vogue, taken both by athletes (who hope for stronger, more injury-resistant joints and ligaments) and the beauty-conscious (for its alleged ability to smooth wrinkled skin and restore lustre to hair). How much good they do, though, remains unclear.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2025/08/01/should-you-take-collagen>

94. The Family Fallout of DNA Surprises. New Yorker. 25th August 2025.

Lily Wood is forty-three years old but considers April 9, 2019, to be her “rebirth day.” That was the date she received her results from Ancestry, the direct-to-consumer DNA-testing company. A self-described biohacker, Wood had been curious to see whether she had a genetic predisposition to diseases like Alzheimer’s. “I wanted to get ahead of things,” she told me.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/08/25/the-family-fallout-of-dna-surprises>

## SOCIOLOGY

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95. Islamist parties are gaining ground in Malaysia. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

Videos of public brawls are depressingly popular online. Add in a dash of religious strife and you have all the algorithmic ingredients for a viral clip. That was the case on Malaysian social media earlier this year, when the video of an elderly Malay man berating and slapping a bewildered teenager across the face drew thousands of viewers. The teen’s wrongdoing? He had supposedly erred by eating in public during the holy month of Ramadan.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/08/07/islamist-parties-are-gaining-ground-in-malaysia>

96. Savvy staff are moving from China’s nurseries to its care homes. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

LESS THAN three years ago Ms Jiang was tidying away toys and singing rhymes as a teacher at a nursery in Beijing. She remembers parents knocking on the door in an effort to sign their children up. That gradually became rarer, until last year Ms Jiang found herself distributing promotional leaflets for the nursery in her lunchbreaks. She realised the writing was on the wall. Last May Ms Jiang moved into a sector with better growth prospects: care homes. “Caring for

the elderly is easier than caring for young children,” she says. And Ms Jiang’s abilities to teach handicrafts and play games come in useful.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2025/08/03/savvy-staff-are-moving-from-chinas-nurseries-to-its-care-homes>

97. America’s fertility crash reaches a new low. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

When a woman of child-bearing age in Salt Lake City was growing up, her parents were typically religious, had married before they turned 25 and would go on to stay together. Her life today is similar: Utah is even more religious; more children grow up in two-parent households than anywhere else in America. There is just one difference. Today’s mother would have grown up as one of three siblings, yet she has fewer than two children herself.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/08/05/americas-fertility-crash-reaches-a-new-low>

98. Swimming pools are cauldrons of envy, danger and lust. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

It culminates in homicide, by way of skinny-dipping, underwater handstands, erotic rivalry and lots of seafood. But the twisted drama of “A Bigger Splash”, a film starring Ralph Fiennes, opens with an inquiry familiar to many holiday-planners. Flying into an Italian island for a fateful reunion with an ex, Mr Fiennes’s character brings along his devious daughter (Dakota Johnson). She has a question: “Is there a pool?”

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2025/08/04/swimming-pools-are-cauldrons-of-envy-danger-and-lust>

99. Why can’t seniors afford long-term care?. TIME. 18th Aug 2025.

Aisha Adkins’ mother Rosetta was adamant that she wanted to age at home. So when Rosetta’s dementia started worsening at age 59, Aisha started looking around for options. She quickly found that round-the-clock at-home care was extremely costly, and that her mother didn’t qualify for government assistance because of her father’s income. Stuck in the middle, Aisha, who was 29 at the time, ended up quitting her job to take care of her mother herself until Rosetta qualified for Medicaid through a complicated process called spousal impoverishment protection, which allowed her father to keep some assets. “It was really a struggle,” says Adkins. She cared for her mother for a decade until Rosetta’s death in 2023. As the U.S. population ages, more families are facing the same challenges. Longterm care,...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/august-18-2025-i672284/why-cant-seniors-afford-long-term-care-a6>

100. BEACH NATION. TIME. 18th Aug 2025.

Growing up, my family skied. We hiked. While no one would ever have described us as mountaineers, our vacations nearly always involved verticality. What really made us mountain people, though, is that we weren’t beach people. On its face, what set us apart was elevation, but really the divide ran much deeper. In the mountains, you pick a

point and work hard to get there. If you're hiking or climbing, the goal is above you. If you're skiing, snowboarding, or mountain biking, the goal is below. Either way, in the mountains, a sense of satisfaction and wonder comes through hard work and achievement. You earn your views. Beach people, on the other hand—well, I didn't really get beach people. I understood beach activities: boogie-boarding, bodysurfing, fishing. But just hanging out...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/august-18-2025-i672284/beach-nation-a11>

**101. Women are meant to be strong. TIME. 18th Aug 2025.**

This Summer I'll step onstage to compete as a professional athlete for the first time—at 50. I'll wear a fuchsia bikini small enough to fit in a Ziploc bag, pose and flex in clear heels, and strike a smile while my muscles glisten under layers of spray tan. I'm a bodybuilder. This is my third season competing, but my first as a pro. I came to the sport six years ago after a string of losses—the death of my father, the end of my marriage, and a spiral into depression and alcohol. A spontaneous conversation with a woman in a hotel gym set me on a different path. Soon, I found a coach, a retired bodybuilder in Bowie, Md., named Tina Peratino, who flipped everything I thought I knew about...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/august-18-2025-i672284/women-are-meant-to-be-strong-a13>

**102. From 25 Years Ago: Church, State and Secular Spaces. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-33. 16th Aug 2025.**

The public debate is confined to issues of re-negotiating the power balance between the Church and the state. This has led to a presumption that in all other aspects the bill is progressive and pro-women. This lapse is glaring. In this final moment, when the bill is on the threshold of being transformed into an act, the initial goal with which the process of reforms was initiated by women's group cannot be lost sight of.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/33/25-years-ago/25-years-ago-church-state-and-secular-spaces.html?destination=/journal/2025/33/25-years-ago/25-years-ago-church-state-and-secular-spaces.html>

**103. Upskilling for Women. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-33. 16th Aug 2025.**

Skilling has emerged as a popular choice for corporate social responsibility funding. The evaluations of the skilling programmes have uncovered unique opportunities and learnings of gender biases within such initiatives. This article explores the ground realities of various evaluated programmes and sheds light on the challenges that women beneficiaries face. It highlights how funders can leverage contextual expertise, be aware of existing prejudices within a community, and understand market realities to create highly tailored and effective programmes that produce lasting impact.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/33/commentary/upskilling-women.html>

## TRAVEL DESCRIPTION

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104. The National Park Service is in disarray. Economist. 9th Aug 2025.

ON A HOT day in July, several visitors to Yosemite National Park, along the mountainous spine of California, go on a bear walk. No bears are spotted, but the group learns about what they eat (wild raspberries), where they frolic (lush meadows) and what to do if you encounter one on the trail (don't run!). In the busiest part of the park, tourists trek to waterfalls and queue for snacks and T-shirts at the visitor centre. The bathrooms are dirty, but no worse than when your correspondent visited last summer. All may seem well, yet there is trouble lurking.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/08/03/the-national-park-service-is-in-disarray>

105. Japan's matcha suppliers can't keep up with our demand. TIME. 18th Aug 2025.

The powdered Japanese green tea known as matcha has become such a cultural phenomenon in the West that its popularity has resulted in a global supply problem. Though Western consumers have thirsted for the drink and its perceived health benefits in recent years, the trend was boosted by social media—particularly TikTok. Meanwhile, Japan experienced a rise in tourism since the COVID-19 pandemic, welcoming a record-breaking 36.9 million international visitors last year, and also boosting demand for matcha. **SHORTAGES** In October, two wellknown matcha companies—Ippodo and Marukyu Koyamaen—limited or stopped selling certain kinds of matcha, citing short supplies. On July 18, Ippodo said that in the face of unprecedented demand, “supply constraints are likely to continue.” **UNIQUE PRODUCT** Matcha originates from China but has become closely associated and rooted in Japanese...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/august-18-2025-i672284/japans-matcha-suppliers-cant-keep-up-with-our-demand-a4>



### **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>
1	Chronicle of Higher Education	BW	US
2	Economic & Political Weekly	W	Mumbai
3	Economist (A.M.)	W	London
4	New Yorker	W	New York
5	Time	W	Chicago