

## ARTICLE ALERT 1-15 MAY 2025

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1. Mumbai wants to extinguish the charcoal tandoor. Economist. 3rd May 2025.  
Suhel Ahmed, the owner of Tower Tandoori, reckons he might have the last charcoal tandoor in London. The oven, traditionally cylindrical and made out of clay, has been imparting a smoky flavour to naans, chicken and chops at least since his grandfather opened the restaurant in 1978. Mr Ahmed estimates that the tandoor had already been running hot for a couple of decades under previous owners, meaning the oven would be only a little younger than an independent India.

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2025/04/28/mumbai-wants-to-extinguish-the-charcoal-tandoor>

2. From 50 Years Ago: Financing Indian Television System. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-18. 3rd May 2025.

If funds are lacking for producing TV programmes domestically, TV station managers resort to seeking taped programmes produced elsewhere. Often, these programmes are available *ex gratis* if the donor country wants to project its image abroad, so as to influence people of different climes and cultures. Lately, the TV stations in the US in particular and other Western countries in general have discovered an important source of revenue in exporting their TV tapes for screening abroad. Since the prices at which such programmes are offered are far below cost of producing TV software domestically, such taped programmes have become handy to TV station managers all over the world.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/18/50-years-ago/50-years-ago-financing-indian-television-system.html>

3. TIME100 Summit. TIME. 12th May 2025.

Past and present TIME100 honorees gathered on April 23 in New York City for the annual TIME100 Summit. Top, from left: TIME executive editor Nikhil Kumar and AI experts Demis Hassabis, Glenn Fogel, and Kate Crawford; actor Demi Moore with her dog Pilaf. Above, from left: actor Ryan Reynolds; TIME editor-in-chief Sam Jacobs, TIME CEO Jessica Sibley, Duke and Duchess of Sussex Meghan and Prince Harry; activist Yulia Navalnaya.

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/may-12-2025-i672278/time100-summit-a1>

4. THE SELFIE POPE AND MEME-ING THE FAITH. TIME. 12th May 2025.

Pope Francis knew how to preach in the social media era. He kept up with the latest apps, seeing them as opportunities to reach Catholics wherever they are. Though he stopped watching television in 1990, he joined Insta gram in 2016, setting a record with 1.4 million followers in less than 12 hours. In the final days of his life, he was on weekly WhatsApp and video calls with a parish in the war zone of Gaza.

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/may-12-2025-i672278/the-selfie-pope-and-meme-ing-the-faith-a11>

5. Disco Balls and Roller Skates, at Xanadu. New Yorker.12-19 May 2025.

New York City and roller-skating go way back. In 1863, a part-time inventor named James Leonard Plimpton, who ran a furniture store in the East Village, filed the first American patent for quad skates. Plimpton, who struggled with weak ankles, loved to skate but hated to wobble; his newfangled creation featured four squat, spread-out wheels, an innovation that allowed even novice skaters to conquer balance. Plimpton's skates were a sensation, and, as a result, he converted his store into one

of the city's first must-visit roller rinks. Many fashionable rinks have dotted the city since—Empire Roller Skating Center in Brooklyn, the Roxy in Manhattan, Skate Key in the Bronx—but most are now closed.

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/goings-on/disco-balls-and-roller-skates-at-xanadu>

6. Our Favorite “Only in New York” Spots. New Yorker.12-19 May 2025.  
“Only in New York” may be a cliché, but only because it’s so true. For Goings On, in our New York-themed centenary issue, we asked staff writers to share some of their favorite spots that can be found . . . only in New York. These are places that are indelibly charming in their specificity—places that you never knew you needed but once you discover you’d be sad if they were gone—often thanks, especially, to the fascinating characters who created them and to the dedicated people who keep them running. Many of these spots are decades in the making, vestiges of another time, insistent on bringing history into the present day; all represent a sense of community that wouldn’t exist without them.

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/goings-on/our-favorite-only-in-new-york-spots>

7. Kathy Hochul’s Turf War with a Reality-TV Star. New Yorker.12-19 May 2025.  
Kathy Hochul, New York’s awkward and publicity-shy governor, has recently found herself in a public beef with Sean Duffy, Donald Trump’s new Transportation Secretary. Duffy has been grandstanding over New York’s congestion-pricing program, which Trump has threatened to kill. In March, he showed up to call the subway a “shithole.” He announced that he was taking over the reconstruction of Penn Station. He has been making the rounds on the local morning shows to insist that, before congestion pricing, New Jerseyans could find a “roundabout way” into the city that avoided tolls, which would involve a five-hour detour through Albany. He also rode the B train two stops with Eric Adams and then taunted Hochul in the *Post*, saying, “She doesn’t ride the subway.” Hochul’s comeback, through a spokesperson: “Secretary Duffy has literally no idea what he’s talking about.”

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/05/12/kathy-hochuls-turf-war-with-a-reality-tv-star>

8. The Man to Call When You Need a Cimbalom. (A What?). New Yorker.12-19 May 2025.  
The rehearsal space for the Metropolitan Opera’s orchestra is three levels below a parking garage, amid a labyrinth of dingy hallways and exposed ceiling pipes. The room has the air of a high-school gym: scuffed wood floor, unyielding lights, and a big analog clock. One recent afternoon, something new and peculiar showed up there. Behind the bassoons and in front of the trumpets was an odd trapezoidal object, reminiscent of a baccarat table, its surface strung with strings like the innards of a piano laid bare.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/05/12/the-man-to-call-when-you-need-a-cimbalom-a-what>

9. How Lorna Simpson Broke the Frame. New Yorker.12-19 May 2025.  
Lorna Simpson found the meteorite on eBay. “It was for a great price,” she told me, declining to give the exact figure, though she later admitted that it had cost about six thousand dollars. The seller was “some guy upstate” who’d never listed anything comparable and provided no proof of its celestial provenance. But when it was finally delivered—to her airy studio in the Brooklyn Navy Yard, where I’d come to see her on a February afternoon—magnets clung to its dimpled surface. “I’ve got this idea—it’s meteorites!” she mimed telling her gallery, Hauser & Wirth, affecting the voice

of an exuberant naïf. Simpson knit her eyebrows: “They were, like, ‘O.K.’ ” She began screen-printing photos of meteorites onto fibreglass panels, then painted over them in silvery hues. Last November, she exhibited the results in a show called “Earth & Sky,” placing the meteorite itself in a corner of the gallery.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/05/12/lorna-simpson-profile>

10. Rachel Syme on Kennedy Fraser’s “As Gorgeous as It Gets”. New Yorker.12-19 May 2025.

*The New Yorker* is not, by any definition, a fashion magazine, but it is—and nearly always has been—a magazine concerned with fashion. The publication’s mascot, Eustace Tilley, is, after all, defined by accessories: his gleaming top hat, crisp white gloves, and dandyish monocle are all totems of both persnickety good taste and the febrile effort behind chasing it. He is equal parts fashion critic and fashion victim, squinting at the world through an eyepiece that was already passé by the time he was created. In other words: it is a very good joke, and one that set the enduring tone for the magazine’s dual-minded approach to writing about consumer goods. From the start, *The New Yorker*’s fashion-and-beauty reportage has walked the thin runway between seriousness and silliness, enthusiasm and exasperation, respect for lovely things and skepticism about how they’re sold.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/takes/rachel-syme-on-kennedy-frasers-as-gorgeous-as-it-gets>

11. “Caught by the Tides” Is a Gorgeous Vision of Loss and Renewal. New Yorker.12-19 May 2025.

Early on in Jia Zhangke’s “Caught by the Tides,” a woman in her twenties, Qiaoqiao (Zhao Tao), tries to escape her boyfriend, Guo Bin (Li Zhubin). Lord, how she tries. It’s 2001, and the two are alone on a bus, parked somewhere in Datong, a coal-mining city in northern China. Whenever Qiaoqiao tries to get up and bolt for the exit, Bin hurls her back down into her seat—up and down, up and down, eleven times in a row, until Qiaoqiao, in tears, finally breaks free on the twelfth attempt. You may wonder how the director and actors choreographed this wordless clash of wills: How many throwdowns would suffice? Did Jia, a master of on-the-fly realism, instruct Zhao and Li to improvise—to run through the action again and again, in take after exhausted take, until they were finally ready to get off that bus?

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/05/12/caught-by-the-tides-movie-review>

## BIOGRAPHY

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12. Martin Graham was determined to see his dream come true. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

Whenever the Graham family departed on holiday, young Martin Graham went through a particular procedure. First, he said a formal goodbye to the garden, the trees and the house. Next, he checked that his treasures were safely stowed. In a hole in a dry-stone wall he hid his secret phone, by means of which he arranged with the local pharmacist’s son to steal out at night to mix up gunpowder. He made sure, too, that his bicycle was locked up. Not until all this was done could he leave.

<https://www.economist.com/obituary/2025/05/01/martin-graham-was-determined-to-see-his-dream-come-true>



13. The Age of a Thinker. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-18. 3rd May 2025.  
Considering the multiple translations of the word *dukkha* in Mukta Salve's 1855 essay titled "Mang Maharanchya Dukkhavishayi Nibandh," this article makes the claim that the term *dukkha* ought to be translated as "suffering." Translating "dukkha" as "suffering" allows us to revisit the genealogy of Salve's essay. By focusing on this genealogy, one can recognise this essay as a pivotal point within an ongoing intellectual tradition that traces its inspiration back to the Buddha and beyond.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/18/commentary/age-thinker.html>

14. POPE FRANCIS 1936–2025. TIME. 12th May 2025.

The first, in fact, from anywhere but Europe. There had been 265 before him, but no one had taken his name from St. Francis of Assisi, famous for ministering to the poor. Until his death on April 21, at age 88, the first Pope Francis was known for his willingness to hear out different views on controversial issues—marriage, sexuality, the priesthood—that predecessors had been unwilling to debate. Though the church's corrosive, long-denied child-sex-abuse scandal had created a crisis of conscience, particularly among young Catholics, Francis exuded a level of empathy, humility, and mercy that people felt connected to in a way they said they had not with past Pontiffs. He served credibly as the world's conscience. After Russia invaded Ukraine, Francis urged Vladimir Putin to "stop this spiral of violence and death."

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/may-12-2025-i672278/pope-francis-19362025-a10>

15. Ed Helms Dives Into Disaster. New Yorker. 12-19 May 2025.

Meet up with the actor Ed Helms for a stroll through Central Park on a cloudless spring day, and he might let loose with some slightly dire news. "Walking over here, I was dripped on," he said, deadpan but with a hint of burgeoning hysteria. "I hope it was from an air-conditioner."

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/05/12/ed-helms-dives-into-disaster>

## BUSINESS

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16. Big tech has a big Trump problem. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

In the weeks after the re-election of Donald Trump, the bosses of America's tech champions worked hard to ingratiate themselves with the returning president, congratulating him publicly and dutifully turning up to his inauguration. Mark Zuckerberg, the boss of Meta, gushed that it was nice to have an administration that was "proud" of America's tech champions.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/04/29/big-tech-has-a-big-trump-problem>

17. Can Starbucks be turned around?. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

Investors cheered when Brian Niccol was named chief executive of Starbucks last August. Mr Niccol, then the boss of Chipotle Mexican Grill, a restaurant group, had earned an almost messianic reputation for turning around struggling hospitality businesses. The world's biggest coffee chain, increasingly derided for its tired stores, slow service and pricey brews, desperately needed such a saviour.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/04/30/can-starbucks-be-turned-around>

18. When can AI book my summer holiday?. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

HOWEVER YOU do it, booking holidays can be a hassle. It used to mean a visit to a travel agent. Online firms at least let you set up trips yourself, in your pajamas. Now they are promising to do the brainwork too, via artificial intelligence. Expedia has trialled Romie, its “AI-powered travel buddy”, Trip.com has brought out TripGenie and Booking.com has introduced the more prosaically named AI Trip Planner.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/05/01/when-can-ai-book-my-summer-holiday>

19. For media companies, news is becoming a toxic asset. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

The latest episode of “60 Minutes”, broadcast on CBS on April 27th, began with items on medical-research funding, Islamist terrorism and Japan’s population crisis. But its biggest story was delivered in the final 60 seconds. “Our parent company, Paramount, is trying to complete a merger,” the correspondent, Scott Pelley, explained to the show’s 7m or so viewers. “The Trump administration must approve it. Paramount began to supervise our content in new ways.”

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/05/01/for-media-companies-news-is-becoming-a-toxic-asset>

20. The trouble with MAGA’s manufacturing dream. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

In the late 1940s, as the industrial capacity of Europe and Japan lay in tatters, America accounted for over half of global manufacturing output, with much of the world heavily reliant on its wares. Last year it accounted for little over a tenth, and imported \$1.2trn more in merchandise than it exported—to the displeasure of its current president.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/04/28/the-trouble-with-magas-manufacturing-dream>

21. Your AI meeting notes are ready. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

Here is your AI recap of the monthly sales-team meeting held at 14:00 on May 1st 2025. There were ten attendees at the meeting, and 45 questions were asked. A total of 18 action items were detected. Main themes: sales results; sales pipelines; Optimate launch; “The Accountant 2”.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/05/01/your-ai-meeting-notes-are-ready>

## ECONOMICS

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22. Investors’ risky bet: they can shrug off the trade war. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

After a month of tumult, investors in American stocks are making peace with the trade war. The S&P 500 index is down by just 2.4% since Donald Trump issued his “Liberation Day” proclamation. Stocks are still about 10% below their all-time high in February, when investors expected the administration to do little except cut regulations and taxes. But they are not pricing in a recession, let alone a trade catastrophe. Analysts expect annual earnings growth of 12%; stocks are almost where they were before Mr Trump was elected.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/04/30/investors-risky-bet-they-can-shrug-off-the-trade-war>

23. Any Chinese curbs on Taiwan's trade would carry big economic costs. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

Chinese settlers, Portuguese explorers, Japanese colonialists, the Dutch East India Company—all of them first came to Taiwan to trade. And that trade, in turn, has always vexed the Chinese authorities. Mainlanders razed the main Dutch stronghold on the island, Fort Zeelandia, in 1662 and expelled the troublesome merchants. That did not stop the British demanding that nearby Kaohsiung (pictured) be opened to European ships some 200 years later. To this day it remains the island's biggest port, handling 57% of Taiwan's maritime trade. And to this day, fears endure that the Chinese authorities might once again seek to choke off international commerce.

<https://www.economist.com/briefing/2025/05/01/any-chinese-curbs-on-taiwans-trade-would-carry-big-economic-costs>

24. India's new chip fab rises from the dust. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

PART-HIDDEN by hoardings and overshadowed by cranes, the buildings that will host India's first commercial chip factory are slowly taking shape. The \$11bn project is a partnership between Tata Group, one of India's biggest conglomerates, and Powerchip, a Taiwanese manufacturer of semiconductors. The site they have chosen is in Gujarat, home state of Narendra Modi, the prime minister. Local politicians insist the factory—one of the first tenants of a mostly vacant industrial park two and a half hours south of the state capital—will eventually sit surrounded by suppliers and competitors; the plan, they promise, is to raise a “Semiconductor City” from the dirt. At a nearby visitor centre, an audio-visual show and a model town the size of a tennis court ram home that point.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/05/01/indias-new-chip-fab-rises-from-the-dust>

25. Trump, trade and troops: South Korea's nightmare. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

SOME targets of the American president's tariffs, such as China and the EU, are fighting back. South Korea and Japan feel they have to play nice. They are terrified that President Donald Trump will weaken or even withdraw the security guarantees that have kept them safe for over seven decades. So, as he insists on a “one-stop-shop” negotiation bundling trade and other economic issues with security, they are scrambling to offer him goodies. Han Duck-soo, South Korea's acting president, projected calm in an interview with The Economist on April 22nd. “Through co-operative negotiations with the United States, we will be able to find some win-win solutions,” he says.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/04/27/trump-trade-and-troops-south-koreas-nightmare>

26. Is China justified in still calling itself a developing country?. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

In a speech on April 23rd America's treasury secretary, Scott Bessent, laid out the Trump administration's vision for the global financial system. Rather than announcing that America was leaving the imf and World Bank, as some had feared, Mr Bessent's “blueprint to restore equilibrium” put the Bretton Woods institutions clearly at its centre. They are now to police abuses of the system, he said, including those committed by China.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2025/05/01/is-china-justified-in-still-calling-itself-a-developing-country>

27. Edible rats are China's latest live-streaming stars. Economist. 3rd May 2025.



Like millions of rural Chinese people before her, when Xing Jianli was younger she left her village and went to a big city, finding work in a clothes factory. But now the 38-year-old is back on the farm and making more money than she ever did at a sewing machine. She grows peonies—bright flouncy flowers that flourish in the countryside around the city of Heze, in her home province of Shandong in eastern China. To sell them, she live-streams from her fields to a virtual audience who pay for bouquets by tapping on their mobile phone. On a good day she can make 3,000 yuan (\$400), about a month's wages in a factory and an "impossible" sum in the days before e-commerce, she says.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2025/05/01/edible-rats-are-chinas-latest-live-streaming-stars>

**28. Africa's charcoal economy. Economist. 3rd May 2025.**

When Gibril Ali talks of "black gold", he does not mean oil. He buys it in sacks, not barrels. He sells it to his customers in Nairobi, Kenya's capital, from a metal shack. But in Kenya there is enough money in charcoal to make "big, big people" get rich by transporting it, he says.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/05/01/africas-charcoal-economy>

**29. Britain's Poles now earn more than the natives. Economist. 3rd May 2025.**

Pawel labaj moved from Poland to Britain in 2005, one year after the country opened its labour market to eastern Europeans. He found work as a cleaner, then in a warehouse. Today, after "a lot of sweat and commitment", he is a manager at Echo Personnel, which places workers in the sort of manual jobs that he used to do.

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2025/05/01/britains-poles-now-earn-more-than-the-natives>

**30. Scotland's outdated land laws threaten the future of rural towns. Economist. 3rd May 2025.**

Bealach na Bà, Gaelic for "Pass of the Cattle", is a series of chilling hairpin bends winding through the Applecross peninsula, in the Scottish Highlands. As the road descends to the coast, it passes sites of settlements dating back as far as 9,500 years. At sea level the sleepy community of Applecross spreads along the bay. Locals wander past a grand home with a walled garden. Along the high street—if it may be called that—stand a primary school, a doctor's surgery and several inns for tired drivers. But Applecross has a problem. Locals are leaving it. Despite the expansive countryside behind it, there is not enough land to build houses on.

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2025/05/01/scotlands-outdated-land-laws-threaten-the-future-of-rural-towns>

**31. Can Shein and Temu survive Trump's trade war?. Economist. 3rd May 2025.**

For Gen Z shoppers in America, their country's trade war with China is no longer just a headline. On April 25th Shein and Temu, two Chinese online emporiums popular among youngsters, announced they would be adjusting their prices in America. The cost of some goods sold by Shein subsequently shot up by more than 150%. Temu has added "import charges" that in some cases exceed the price of the item being purchased.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/04/30/can-shein-and-temu-survive-trumps-trade-war>

**32. Will the trade war capsize shipbuilders?. Economist. 3rd May 2025.**

ALL QUIET on the western waterfront. And the eastern one, too. Across littoral America, stevedores are twiddling their thumbs. They have President Donald Trump to thank for this unexpected breather. It is the foreseeable consequence of his unprovoked trade world war. Eastbound shipments from China, his biggest target and source of 40% of America's seaborne imports, are being cancelled. Some importers are switching to suppliers in places granted reprieve from his "reciprocal" tariffs. Many are just waiting out the storm. On April 29th the boss of the Port of Los Angeles, America's biggest, predicted that imports at the facility would fall by at least 10% in the second half of 2025.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/05/01/will-the-trade-war-capsize-shipbuilders>

33. Why China has the upper hand in its trade war with America. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

"HAVE YOU heard of the eye of the storm?" asks a video posted on April 29th by China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The centre of a tornado or cyclone can be deceptively calm. But it is actually a "deadly trap". The world is caught in a similar spot, the ministry argues, thanks to the "tariff storm" America has conjured up.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/05/01/why-china-has-the-upper-hand-in-its-trade-war-with-america>

34. Vladimir Putin's money machine is sputtering. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

FROM KALININGRAD to Vladivostok, something has changed. A high-frequency index produced by Goldman Sachs, a bank, suggests that, since the end of last year, Russia's annualised GDP growth has fallen from around 5% to about zero (see chart). VEB, the Russian development bank, finds similar trends in its estimate of monthly growth. A measure of business turnover compiled by Sberbank, Russia's largest lender, has dipped. Although more circumspect, the government acknowledges that something is up. In early April the central bank noted that recently "a number of sectors recorded lower output because of plummeting...demand".

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/04/27/vladimir-putins-money-machine-is-sputtering>

35. How a mortgage transforms your investment portfolio. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

As financial decisions go, borrowing several times your annual earnings to buy a risky asset is a pretty big one. Yet for many people, taking out a mortgage to buy a house is something of a no-brainer. It generally involves less agonising than, say, how much to save for retirement, or how to split your pot between cash, stocks and bonds.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/04/30/how-a-mortgage-transforms-your-investment-portfolio>

36. A takeover bid promises consolidation in Italian finance. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

THE PAPAL conclave is not the only powwow in Italy scheduled for May 7th. As the cardinal-electors process into the Sistine Chapel, the directors of Assicurazioni Generali, the country's biggest insurer, will gather in Milan. On their minds (but not the agenda) is a €6.3bn (\$7.2bn) offer for Banca Generali, a wealth manager of which the group owns half. The bid, made on April 28th by Mediobanca, Italy's pivotal investment bank, is the latest effort to consolidate a crowded financial sector.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/05/01/a-takeover-bid-promises-consolidation-in-italian-finance>

37. The risky world of private assets opens up to retail investors. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

This was supposed to be the year when initial public offerings (IPOs) came roaring back. Late in 2024 stockmarkets were hitting all-time highs and a cluster of privately owned superstars, with valuations in the tens or hundreds of billions of dollars, were preparing to go public. But now the market is frozen. As the world's trading system disintegrates before bosses' eyes, deals of all sorts, whether IPOs or mergers, have ground to a halt.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/05/01/the-risky-world-of-private-assets-opens-up-to-retail-investors>

38. Why economists should like booze. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

Sobriety is taking over the world. The amount of alcohol consumed globally is probably in decline for the first time in history. Across rich countries many members of Gen Z—born after the late 1990s—are shunning alcohol entirely: 30% of Americans in their 20s did not drink in the previous year. Even in France young professionals no longer have a pichet of wine with lunch.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/05/01/why-economists-should-like-booze>

39. Weighing Down on Growth. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-18. 3rd May 2025.

The *World Economic Outlook* of April 2025, a flagship publication of the International Monetary Fund, provides us with one of the first reports on the impact of the tariff wars on the global economy. According to the report, global output, which has remained stuck at 3.3% in the last two years, well below the long-time average of 3.7%, is now forecast to slow down by half a percentage point below the January 2025 estimate to 2.8% for the year 2025. Though growth will then marginally increase to 3% in 2026, it is clearly evident that the tariff wars will inevitably delay a global recovery, at least in the short term.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/18/editorials/weighing-down-growth.html>

40. The New Tax Regime. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-18. 3rd May 2025.

The article examines the new tax regime and the changes announced in the union budget 25-26 and its potential impact. The new regime is a declining tax rate regime. However, the relief to the individual taxpayer also comes at a cost to the coffers. It is going to be a tightrope walk for the finance ministry to balance low tax rates to achieve high tax revenues.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/18/commentary/new-tax-regime.html>

41. India's Agrarian Crisis in the Making of Farmers' Protests. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-18. 3rd May 2025.

Despite the expansion of the non-farm economy, high economic growth, and rapid urbanisation, the rural world and farmers continue to shape Indian society and politics as the ongoing farmers' protests underline. Farmers are not only demanding the minimum support price but also struggling for social, economic, and environmental justice by asserting the long Indian tradition of satyagraha and civil disobedience.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/18/insight/indias-agrarian-crisis-making-farmers-protests.html>

42. Issues before the Sixteenth Finance Commission. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-18. 3rd May 2025.

Since the share of devolution proposed by the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Finance Commissions covered aggregate revenue expenditures of states, their awards are not strictly comparable with the earlier finance commission awards. In the absence of a plan and non-plan distinction, the constitutional role of the Sixteenth Finance Commission is also to assess the vertical gap and recommend the transfer of resources to the states for the financing of the entire revenue expenditure. To avoid a situation of unfunded mandate at the state level, it is critical that the Sixteenth Finance Commission maintains the stability of the flow of untied fiscal resources to the states and ensures progressive distribution of transfers.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/18/sixteenth-finance-commission/issues-sixteenth-finance-commission.html>

43. Discipline and Efficiency in State Finances. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-18. 3rd May 2025.

The sharing of tax revenues between the union and state governments is discussed. The deficiencies in the current approach to the sharing of revenues are pointed out and an alternative that will introduce discipline and accountability to the expenditures undertaken by state governments is proposed. This alternate approach focuses on the ability of state governments to meet their development expenditures out of their own revenues, that is, before receiving any federal transfers.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/18/sixteenth-finance-commission/discipline-and-efficiency-state-finances.html>

44. Enhanced Devolution and Fiscal Space at the State Level. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-18. 3rd May 2025.

A significant increase in tax devolution by the Fourteenth Finance Commission was expected to provide greater fiscal autonomy to states. To accommodate this increase in tax devolution, the union government restructured the flow of grants to states. It is observed that between 2010–11 and 2022–23, the total transfers to states as a percentage of gross revenue receipts of the union government have remained largely unchanged while the share of unconditional transfers has considerably reduced due to the proliferation of cess and surcharges, discontinuation of certain grants, and enhanced matching contribution by states for centrally sponsored schemes.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/18/sixteenth-finance-commission/enhanced-devolution-and-fiscal-space-state-level.html>

45. Finance Commission Grants. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-18. 3rd May 2025.

Finance commissions recommend the sharing of taxes and grants-in-aid of revenues to states, predominantly in the nature of gap-filling grants. Over the years, although the number, scope, and coverage of the grants have increased, their share in finance commissions' transfers remained small. Utilisation of sector-specific grants is found to be low in some sectors and concentrated in select states, and they are small compared to states' expenditure on respective sectors to bring about any behavioural change in states. Additionally, the growing trend of attaching conditionalities to grants further reduces their utilisation.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/18/sixteenth-finance-commission/finance-commission-grants.html>

46. Browsing through 34 Years of State Finances in India. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-18. 3rd May 2025.

This paper examines the fiscal behaviour of the states for the period between the Ninth and Fifteenth Finance Commissions. An integrated approach is adopted, wherein fiscal consolidation on the revenue account, federal fiscal transfers, and the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act are analysed in a single framework. We argue that the Sixteenth Finance Commission takes an integrated approach and ensures that states revert to the desired fiscal behaviour.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/18/sixteenth-finance-commission/browsing-through-34-years-state-finances-india.html>

47. The Prosperity Paradox. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-18. 3rd May 2025.

Two key issues of concern for the Sixteenth Finance Commission are highlighted. The declining progressivity in devolution is evidenced by the downward trend in the share of lower-income states in the divisible pool and the paradox of declining fiscal capacity of states with rising per capita income. The paper calls for adjustments in the weights of the income distance criterion and the population to ensure that the performers are not penalised while progressivity is ensured.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/18/sixteenth-finance-commission/prosperity-paradox.html>

48. Fiscal Stress in Kerala?. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-18. 3rd May 2025.

Fiscal federalism has been evolving and has created uneven challenges across the states. Kerala has been facing the dual challenge of inadequate resource mobilisation through its own sources of revenue coupled with changes in the share of central taxes. The emergence of off-budget borrowings and contingent liabilities is the state's response to this fiscal situation. These liabilities have, however, been on the rise since 2018, raising concerns.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/18/sixteenth-finance-commission/fiscal-stress-kerala.html>

49. Operationalisation of Fiscal Rules. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-18. 3rd May 2025.

After the enactment of fiscal responsibility legislations at the state level, successive finance commissions have provided incentives to states in the form of grants or additional borrowing power to encourage compliance with fiscal rules. An analysis of the debt profile of major states is conducted, and the operationalisation of state-level fiscal rules is examined. The findings indicate that grants-based incentives have been more effective than expanding fiscal space through increased borrowing capacity. Furthermore, states, in aggregate, have adhered to the debt and deficit targets specified in the fiscal rules for most years.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/18/sixteenth-finance-commission/operationalisation-fiscal-rules.html>

50. Public Sector Borrowings of Select States. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-18. 3rd May 2025.

The study has been undertaken at the instance of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the Government of United Kingdom. The authors thank R Kavita Rao and Ajay N Jha for useful discussions and comments which greatly benefited the paper. The public sector borrowing requirements for select Indian states are ascertained, with the objective of deriving a realistic estimate. It is of the view that instead of focusing on a narrow definition of fiscal indicators like debt and



deficit, a broader definition encompassing activities of the public sector would be useful in making fiscal policy realistic and more effective.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/18/sixteenth-finance-commission/public-sector-borrowings-select-states.html>

51. Electricity Distribution Companies. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-18. 3rd May 2025.

The financial challenges of state-owned electricity distribution companies which supply about 80% of power in India are highlighted. It also presents the fiscal implications of rising losses and subsidies, especially given the magnitude of state government support provided to these companies. The main thrust of this paper is on how technological advancements and market structure changes will further adversely impact the business of the distribution companies unless timely actions are taken.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/18/sixteenth-finance-commission/electricity-distribution-companies.html>

52. An Alternative Approach for Projecting Own Tax Revenue of the Indian States. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-18. 3rd May 2025.

Finance commissions undertake an exercise in forecasting revenues and expenditures of states to assess their fiscal needs. In the past, commissions have used alternative assumptions regarding the buoyancy of tax revenues and tax-to-gross state domestic product ratio to differentiate between states and incentivise improvements in fiscal performance. An alternative approach to forecasting tax revenues of the states by using a time-invariant stochastic frontier model is proposed. Under different specifications of the model, the overall tax buoyancy of the states remains consistent, and the rank of the states in efficiency is stable, indicating that the results are robust.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/18/sixteenth-finance-commission/alternative-approach-projecting-own-tax-revenue.html>

53. Will a trade war with China bring back U.S. factory jobs?. TIME. 12th May 2025.

President Donald Trump has promised his tariffs will usher in a “new golden age” for American workers, harking back to an industrial past that has been lost to decades of globalization. The logic goes that by raising the price of foreign goods, businesses and consumers will be discouraged from importing and instead invest in U.S.-based manufacturing and American-made goods. But the irony, economists say, is that the trade deficits that he seeks to reverse are a sign of the U.S. economy’s relative dominance, not weakness.

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/may-12-2025-i672278/will-a-trade-war-with-china-bring-back-us-factory-jobs-a3>

## EDUCATION

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54. Reimagining Education with Data. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-18. 3rd May 2025.

The recently concluded Parliament session saw a renewed focus on the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and debates around the respective roles of the union and the states in shaping educational priorities. While these discussions often revolve around administrative control and funding responsibilities, the quality of education is a bigger question that warrants deliberation, and we need to seek policy advice based on the evidence, which in turn is based on data. The Annual Status of

Education Report (ASER) 2024 offers a timely perspective on this matter. The report highlights significant achievements, such as near-universal enrolment, with 98.1% of children aged 6–14 attending school and a steady increase in pre-primary enrolment with 77.4% of three-year-olds and 83.3% of four-year-olds now in early education programmes. Also, basic reading, writing, and math skills have gotten better. For example, the number of children in government schools in Class 3 who can read a text at Class 2 level rose from 16.3% in 2022 to 23.4% in 2024. Although commendable, these gains also set the stage for further progress, outcomes that hinge on how effectively we interpret and act upon the data. In this context, data must not be seen merely as a report card but as a compass, guiding us to understand, with dispassion and nuance, both the strengths and structural gaps in our education system. Only then can it meaningfully shape policy that enhances learning outcomes.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/18/letters/reimagining-education-data.html>

55. Science, Technology, Industrial revolutions and the future of Education. University News. Vol.63. No.8. 5-11 May 2025.

India celebrates National Science Day on February 28<sup>th</sup> annually to pay tribute to Sir C.V. Raman, the first person from India and Asia to receive the Nobel Prize in Science. Raman received the Nobel prize in the year 1930 at the age of 42 in recognition of his breakthrough research on the light scattering effect known as the Raman effect. Raman happened to announce this ground breaking discovery on February 28, 1928.

56. On Psychological Support to Ph. D. Scholars. University News. Vol.63. No.8. 5-11 May 2025.

Research is the best outcome of the combination of human intellect , dedication and hard work. In India, it is believed that those who proceed to the West, including US, for a Ph. D. are the best minds and high achievers. They dare to swim in uncharted waters, as invariably they have done exceptionally well and impressed everyone.

57. Navigating Data- driven Education for holistic expansion of disciplines and subjects. University News. Vol.63. No.8. 5-11 May 2025.

This article delves into the essence of data- driven education, elucidating how the meticulous collection , analysis, and interpretation of diverse datasets are steering instructional practices and decision- making process within educational institutions. Data- driven education refers to the use of data and analytics to inform and improve various aspects of the education system, including curriculum development, teaching strategies, student assessment, and administrative decision- making.

58. Reimagining Higher Education in India: opportunities and challenges of learning with Artificial Intelligence. University News. Vol.63. No.8. 5-11 May 2025.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is no longer a futuristic concept- it is a present- day reality that is rapidly transforming sectors across the globe, including healthcare, finance, manufacturing, and notably, education (Luckin, et.al.,2016). As nations prepare their systems for the fourth industrial revolution, education must evolve to equip learners not only with domain knowledge but also with digital and cognitive competencies. In this context, the integration of AI into higher education becomes both an opportunity and a necessity.

59. ‘It’s Punishment for the Sake of Punishment’. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol. 71, No-18. 9th May 2025.

On March 3, the Trump administration notified Columbia University that it had launched a “comprehensive review” of more than \$5 billion of the university’s federal grants and contracts in light of “ongoing investigations” into its alleged failure to police antisemitism.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/its-punishment-for-the-sake-of-punishment>

60. As Trump's Cuts Loom Large, Colleges Are Under Pressure to Punish Anti-Israel Speech. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol. 71, No-18. 9th May 2025.

Mounting political pressures are forcing colleges to try to answer a remarkably subjective question: whether criticism or conduct related to Israel qualifies as harassment under campus policies. In October, P., an undergraduate student at the University of California at Berkeley and a pro-Palestinian activist, was involved in a tense interaction. As P. was helping to set up a teach-in on the war in Gaza, another student standing a few feet away started filming. The other student reported to the police that P. knocked a cellphone out of his hand.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/as-trumps-cuts-loom-large-colleges-are-under-pressure-to-punish-anti-israel-speech>

61. Higher Ed Is Adrift. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol. 71, No-18. 9th May 2025.

As we near the first 100 days of Trump 2.0, what's the vibe of working in higher education? It's not great. As a professor, I'm going through the motions and getting my work done. That means meeting with my graduate students, grading assignments, attending various committee meetings, and responding to the mountain of emails. The familiar sights and sounds of university life are all in place: the pings of notifications, the soft glow of slide decks, the blinking cursor on Word documents, and the gentle reminders to colleagues on Zoom that they're still muted. In that sense, things remain relatively normal in the world of higher ed.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/higher-ed-is-adrift>

62. Is AI Enhancing Education or Replacing It?. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol. 71, No-18. 9th May 2025.

Since ChatGPT launched in late 2022, students have been among its most avid adopters. When the rapid growth in users stalled in the late spring of '23, it briefly looked like the AI bubble might be popping, but growth resumed that September; the cause of the decline was simply summer break. Even as other kinds of organizations struggle to use a tool that can be strikingly powerful and surprisingly inept in turn, AI's utility to students asked to produce 1,500 words on Hamlet or the Great Leap Forward was immediately obvious, and is the source of the current campaigns by OpenAI and others to offer student discounts, as a form of customer acquisition.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/is-ai-enhancing-education-or-replacing-it>

63. More Than 200 Higher-Ed Leaders Decry Trump Administration's 'Unprecedented Government Overreach'. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol. 71, No-18. 9th May 2025.

More than 200 academic leaders have signed on to a statement denouncing the Trump administration for its "unprecedented government overreach and political interference" in higher education. The statement, organized by the American Association of Colleges and Universities, and released Tuesday, is signed by presidents of Ivy League institutions, state flagships, and small liberal-arts colleges, among others, as well as the leaders of scholarly associations. It marks college presidents' largest collective rebuke of the White House's actions to date.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/more-than-200-higher-ed-leaders-decry-trump-administrations-unprecedented-government-overreach>

64. U. of Florida Calls Off Dean Search After DeSantis Intervenes. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol. 71, No-18. 9th May 2025.

This past week, the University of Florida was on the brink of hiring a new dean of its College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Then officials suddenly called off the search under pressure from Gov. Ron DeSantis's administration, which alleged that the candidates were not in alignment with the state's policies opposing diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/u-of-florida-calls-off-dean-search-after-desantis-intervenes>

65. New Carnegie Classification Aims to Shake Up How Higher Ed Sees Itself. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol. 71, No-18. 9th May 2025.

The latest Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education is here, and there's a new top category for colleges to strive for: "Opportunity Colleges and Universities." Carnegie analysts previously promised that this year's revision would be "the biggest update" ever, and had already rolled out one aspect of their overhaul: their research labels. In the full revision published on Thursday, colleges got new core classifications based on their size and the degrees they most commonly bestow.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/new-carnegie-classification-aims-to-shake-up-how-higher-ed-sees-itself>

66. Why Disruption in Washington Is Spooking Ed-Tech Investors. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol. 71, No-18. 9th May 2025.

The ASU+GSV Summit convened last week in San Diego, drawing 7,000 attendees — among them ed-tech entrepreneurs, major investment firms, brokers, consultants, PR shops, tech-curious college administrators, and journalists covering the work force, innovation, and higher ed. The event is an orgy of connections and dealmaking — one that draws a good deal of skepticism from some who see the event conjuring "some kind of fictional world where venture capital, public/private partnerships, and technological innovation is going to save higher ed," as one critic put it. Even regular, willing attendees have some misgivings about the vibe.

<https://www.chronicle.com/newsletter/the-edge/2025-04-16>

67. ICE Snatched a Georgetown Postdoc. I Visited Him in Jail. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol. 71, No-18. 9th May 2025.

In March, Badar Khan Suri, an Indian postdoctoral fellow at Georgetown University, was arrested by federal agents. The nature and circumstances of his detention parallel the cases of Mahmoud Khalil at Columbia University and Rumeysa Ozturk at Tufts University. I am the academic director of the center at Georgetown that hosted Badar Khan Suri as a postdoctoral fellow — the Alwaleed Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding. I recently went to visit him at the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention facility in Texas where he is being held. I flew to Dallas, rented a car, and then drove 50 minutes south to Alvarado. I was his first visitor since his arrest. We spoke through a glass window for over an hour. This is what he told me.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/ice-snatched-a-georgetown-postdoc-i-visited-him-in-jail>

68. Junot Díaz's Forced Disappearing Act. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol. 71, No-18. 9th May 2025.

During my first semester at my current institution, I was slated to teach a section of one of our general-education courses on world literature. As I was photocopying the syllabus, one of my notoriously inquisitive former senior colleagues picked up and

examined one of the copies. Seconds later, his eyes widened, and he exclaimed incredulously, “You’re teaching Díaz?” Knowing exactly why he was nonplussed, I launched into an explanation. Junot Díaz is a touchstone in American multiethnic literature, I protested, and has been cleared of the worst of his #MeToo-related charges. The colleague went on about his business, albeit grumblingly.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/junot-diazs-forced-disappearing-act>

69. A Start-Up Guide for New Leaders. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol. 71, No-18. 9th May 2025.

When I was a sophomore in high school, my civics teacher had us watch *The Candidate*, a 1972 movie starring Robert Redford. The film follows an idealistic young candidate, Bill McKay, who unexpectedly wins a Senate race. In the climactic moment, amid cheers and falling balloons, McKay turns to his consultant and asks, “What do we do now?” I had that same feeling in 2009, after being named president of a university in Oregon. Every newly minted leader experiences it — the weight of expectation settling in.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/a-start-up-guide-for-new-leaders>

70. Do language mismatches affect grade repetition?. India Development Review. 7th May 2025.

In December 2024, the Union Government amended the Right to Education (RTE) Act of 2009, allowing schools to detain students in classes 5 and 8 if they do not meet progression standards. This change follows years of inconsistent implementation of the RTE’s No Detention Policy across states and grade levels. Reports from the Central Advisory Board of Education Sub-Committee for Assessment and Implementation of Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation indicate that Goa, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Sikkim may have previously detained students after class 5—despite national guidelines recommending no detention up to class 8.

<https://idronline.org/article/education/do-language-mismatches-affect-grade-repetition/>

71. Bridging the gap in aftercare for India’s youth. India Development Review. 8th May 2025.

For most 17-year-olds growing up in a family, the prospect of turning 18 is filled with anticipation and excitement. Becoming an adult is not just a milestone; it is a gateway to independence and responsibilities. One looks forward to casting their vote for the first time, opening an independent bank account, getting a driving license, and most importantly, taking their first steps towards a career by applying for higher education or looking for a job. Throughout this journey, they have the much-needed support and guidance of their family.

<https://idronline.org/article/youth/how-indias-aftercare-programme-can-benefit-care-leavers/>

## EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

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72. NEW LAB PARTNER. TIME. 12th May 2025.

A new study claims that AI models like ChatGPT and Claude now outperform Ph.D.-level virologists in problem-solving in wet labs, where scientists analyze chemicals and biological material. This discovery is a double-edged sword, experts say. Ultra-



smart AI models could help researchers prevent the spread of infectious diseases. But nonexperts could also weaponize the models to create catastrophic bioweapons.

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/may-12-2025-i672278/new-lab-partner-a2>

73. Why building anything in London is so hard. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

THE SEVEN giant cast-iron gasholders were once a proud symbol of Victorian engineering. Now brambles cluster around them; the site's rusty gate has long been padlocked. Having once heated London's East End, the Bromley-by-Bow gasworks have a prized site: a stone's throw from Hackney Wick, the city's hipster frontier, and just over two miles from Canary Wharf, its modern financial district. Until recently it was going to seed.

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2025/05/01/why-building-anything-in-london-is-so-hard>

## FOOD

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74. The Caribbean Restaurant Reinventing the Momofuku Empire. New Yorker. 12-19 May 2025.

If you ever had the pleasure of eating at Momofuku Ko, the wonderful, ambitious, and sometimes sort of compellingly bizarre tasting-menu restaurant that closed in 2023, it can be a little disorienting to visit Kabawa, a new fine-dining Caribbean spot occupying Ko's former space in the East Village. The room, once decorated in severe tones of black and gray, has received a warm makeover, with bright paint and tropical mosaics. But the large open kitchen that takes up most of the room is the same—with cooks' stations encircling a central vent that's dramatically cantilevered, like the funnel of a cruise ship—as is the seating, much of it arranged around a sweeping U-shaped counter. One of the things I remember most clearly from Ko was the peculiar way that certain smells rolled around the boxy space like billiard balls—a cloud of sweet lychee in the air by a few window tables, or a whiff of Searzall butane hovering over the dead center of the dining counter. At Kabawa, the tumbling kittens of aroma include fresh yeast, green cucumber, and a perpetual bouquet of toasty curry leaves.

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/the-food-scene/the-caribbean-restaurant-reinventing-the-momofuku-empire>

## HEALTH

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75. Rates of bowel cancer are rising among young people. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

AT EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS across the world, patients are presenting with undiagnosed cancers at an advanced stage. Their tumours have gone unnoticed for so long because these individuals defy the picture of the typical cancer patient: they are young, seemingly healthy, and without any family history of the disease. Worryingly, their numbers are rising. Increased incidence of early-onset cancer, as the diagnosis is called for adults under 50, has been documented for more than a dozen cancers, including those of the breast, bowel, lung, ovaries and pancreas.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2025/04/30/rates-of-bowel-cancer-are-rising-among-young-people>

76. Can at-home brain stimulators make you feel better?. Economist. 3rd May 2025.  
FLOW NEUROSCIENCE, a Swedish company, advertises its headset as a way to “stop suffering from depression [and] feel alive again”. Nurosym, a British firm, promises that its earpiece is capable of “improving health without surgery or drugs”. Neurode, an Australian startup, says it is developing a headband that can “improve focus, impulse control and memory” in people with attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2025/04/25/can-at-home-brain-stimulators-make-you-feel-better>

77. The World Health Organization. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-18. 3rd May 2025.

Donald Trump’s decision to withdraw the United States from the World Health Organization is set to have far-reaching impacts on global health. With the global health agenda expanding in scope, member countries should ultimately realise that, though one member less, they are still 193 nations strong and should deliberate upon the kind of WHO they want for the future, charting a course for strengthening the global health architecture.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/18/commentary/world-health-organization.html>

78. 5 questions you should always ask at doctor’s appointments. TIME. 12th May 2025.

When you go to the doctor, you’re probably the one answering most of the questions. Yet it’s essential to make sure you’re asking plenty of your own. “We need to get someone to fund a bazillion-dollar PSA to tell people to be bolder when they talk to their doctors,” says Risa Arin, founder and CEO of XpertPatient, a patient-education platform. “I see this over and over again: people aren’t asking any questions, never mind the right ones.” We asked experts to share the questions you should ask your doctor to help you get well or stay that way.

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/may-12-2025-i672278/5-questions-you-should-always-ask-at-doctors-appointments-a4>

79. Health Matters. TIME. 12th May 2025.

Mere hours after birth, most newborns are tested for two things: whether they have signs of hearing loss and whether they have a range of rare conditions that could severely affect their health and their lives. If they test positive for either, they qualify for a number of interventions that can dramatically improve their prospects over their lifetime. But both tests could undergo dramatic changes under the Trump Administration because of drastic cutbacks at federal health agencies that public-health advocates say imperil applicable programs. These cutbacks could mean that certain states will not test for and respond to conditions that currently set services into motion.

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/may-12-2025-i672278/health-matters-a7>

## HISTORY

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80. How golden ages really start—and end. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

The way to start a “golden age” is to erect big, beautiful barriers to keep out foreign goods and people. That, at least, is the view of the most powerful man on the planet.

Johan Norberg, a Swedish historian, makes the opposite case. In “Peak Human”, Mr Norberg charts the rise and fall of golden ages around the world over the past three millennia, ranging from Athens to the Anglosphere via the Abbasid caliphate. He finds that the polities that outshone their peers did so because they were more open: to trade, to strangers and to ideas that discomfited the mighty. When they closed up again, they lost their shine.

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2025/05/01/how-golden-ages-really-start-and-end>

81. Did Hitler order the murder of Einstein's relative in Italy?. Economist. 3rd May 2025. By the summer of 1944, Rome had fallen and the Allies were pushing up through Italy. While withdrawing northwards, the Germans massacred civilians, partly out of a sense of betrayal by former friends—Italy had ended its alliance with Germany less than a year before—and partly as reprisals for attacks by partisans.

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2025/04/30/did-hitler-order-the-murder-of-einsteins-relative-in-italy>

82. The Battling Memoirs of The New Yorker. New Yorker. 12-19 May 2025.

In the beginning God created the Heaven and the Earth. Before doing so, however, he sat around with the boys in the bar and thrashed out what exactly he meant to create. The same is true, pretty much, of Harold Wallace Ross, who begat *The New Yorker*. Until the first issue was published, on February 21, 1925, the magazine was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. Yet the spirit of Ross, aided by his wife and co-begetter, Jane Grant, had been busy. A prospectus for their forthcoming project came out in the fall of 1924. It kicked off with a sturdy pronouncement: “The *New Yorker* will be a reflection in word and picture of metropolitan life. It will be human.” As opposed to what? Avian? Venusian? Microbial? Howlingly lupine?

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/05/12/the-battling-memoirs-of-the-new-yorker>

83. The unbearable self-indulgence of Europe. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

“For things to remain the same, everything must change.” The aphorism from “The Leopard”, Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa’s novel about 19th-century bluebloods trying to keep their privileged perch as Sicily boils with revolution, neatly encapsulates Europe’s 21st-century predicament. A peninsula dense with countries that once ruled vast swathes of the planet has watched uncomfortably as former colonies caught up or insolently forged ahead. It knows full well change is necessary. Yet Europe can seem as comfortable with adaptation to an evolving world as decadent Italian aristos of yesteryear. Give me the will to enact reforms, Lord, but can it be domani?

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2025/05/01/the-unbearable-self-indulgence-of-europe>

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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84. A superpower crunch over Taiwan is coming. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

Relations between America and China are at a low ebb. Tariffs of well over 100% on both sides have severed trade. Each is striving to dominate 21st-century technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI). A massive military build-up is under

way. In the previous cold war such rivalries came to a head over flashpoints like the Berlin airlift and the Cuban missile crisis. Today American resolve is likely to be tested over Taiwan—and sooner than many think.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/05/01/a-superpower-crunch-over-taiwan-is-coming>

85. Iran's leader hopes America can save his faltering regime. Economist. 3rd May 2025. Were they to come back to the embassy that Iran raided and expropriated over four decades ago, American diplomats would find it much as they left it. The telex machines, the shredders, the padded communications room and the undamaged great seal over the colonnaded portico all remain. The building has been preserved as a museum: "the den of espionage". But today, say Iranians walking past it, it is possible to imagine a star-spangled banner fluttering over it once again.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/05/01/irans-leader-hopes-america-can-save-his-faltering-regime>

86. Donald Trump's Syria policy is still a work in progress. Economist. 3rd May 2025. The two Republican congressmen strolling through the old city of Damascus were unlikely visitors to Syria. Cory Mills, who sported a pair of Ray-Bans and a snazzy blazer, is a decorated Iraq veteran and maga enthusiast from Florida. Marlin Stutzman of Indiana has applauded Donald Trump's tariffs. Few expected them to emerge as advocates for engagement with a country run by a man who was once a senior member of al-Qaeda.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/05/01/donald-trumps-syria-policy-is-still-a-work-in-progress>

87. What a wrecked ferry reveals about war in South Sudan. Economist. 3rd May 2025. Nobody is quite sure how the ferry sank. Ayuen Samuel, who manages the old shipyard in Juba, South Sudan's capital, thinks it ran aground on this treacherous stretch of the White Nile after snapping its mooring. Others say it was hit by a grenade during the two-decade independence war that ended in 2005. Whatever the reason, the ferry's husk still sits in the river near the city centre, a rusting symbol of the country's disappointing trajectory since independence from Sudan in 2011.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/05/01/what-a-wrecked-ferry-reveals-about-war-in-south-sudan>

88. 100 days of Trump: the growing dismay in Europe. Economist. 3rd May 2025. ASKED WHAT he thinks of America nowadays, 18-year-old Rafah grins: "Tariffs, man. Kind of fucked up." He and his buddy Chris are hanging out in a riverside park in the Dutch city of Arnhem, next to the bridge made famous by the film "A Bridge Too Far". In September 1944, in an ill-fated British and American operation here, America's 82nd airborne division suffered over 1,400 casualties; memorials to the fallen dot the countryside. Yet as Donald Trump marks his 100th day in office on April 29th America inspires not so much gratitude as wariness. "We were good allies, but Trump ditched Europe," says Chris. "It's like with a friend who screws you over. You stop trusting him, because he might do it again."

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2025/04/28/100-days-of-trump-the-growing-dismay-in-europe>

89. America and Ukraine agree on a minerals deal, a good omen for the peace process. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

DONALD TRUMP this week marked his first 100 days back in power without having ended the Ukrainian war, as he had once promised to do on his first day. But the American diplomatic dial remains turned to max. So far, talks have not squared the circle: reconciling Ukrainian insistence on its territorial integrity with a Russian desire for Ukraine to publicly capitulate. But those close to the table speak of a new momentum, which was given a significant boost when on April 30th America and Ukraine signed a deal that grants America access to Ukraine's valuable minerals in the shape of a new reconstruction investment fund the two countries will jointly manage.

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2025/04/29/america-and-ukraine-agree-on-a-minerals-deal-a-good-omen-for-the-peace-process>

90. Ukraine's fighters fear Russian attacks and America's ceasefire. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

"THE DARKEST moment of this war is now," says a Ukrainian intelligence officer. Along roads in the east, tank transporters lumber towards the front line while ambulances speed away from it. In the past few weeks the Russians have ramped up drone and missile attacks on Ukrainian cities and their soldiers are mounting a renewed offensive aimed at creating a breakthrough in the east even as Volodymyr Zelensky, Ukraine's president, is coming under intense American pressure to sign up to a peace plan that looks much more favourable to Russia than to Ukraine.

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2025/04/26/ukraines-fighters-fear-russian-attacks-and-americas-ceasefire>

91. A Trump executive order will unleash a global deep-sea mining boom. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

WHEN PRESIDENT Donald Trump signed an executive order on April 24th authorising seabed mining for critical minerals, he meant to free American companies from international constraints and license their roving hands to search for precious stones on the bottom of the deepest oceans—Earth's last mining frontier. The order was a bombshell. Though America has never ratified the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), under which the regulation of seabed mining sits, it had long accepted its provisions as customary international law. And the International Seabed Authority (ISA), created under UNCLOS, currently forbids mining.

<https://www.economist.com/international/2025/04/25/a-trump-executive-order-will-unleash-a-global-deep-sea-mining-boom>

92. The UN could run out of cash within months. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

THE UNITED NATIONS headquarters towers majestically over Manhattan's East River. Yet its escalators are often out of order, casualties of sweeping cost cuts by the secretary-general, António Guterres. He must hope that by forcing country representatives to climb up on foot he will save on maintenance and perhaps remind their governments to pay their bills.

<https://www.economist.com/international/2025/05/01/the-un-could-run-out-of-cash-within-months>

93. Donald Trump picks the wrong trade fight with China. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

EACH DAY President Donald Trump changes the terms of his trade war with the world. One constant, though, is his confidence that America can win a pain-infliction contest with China. The president's self-assurance reflects a cherished belief: that previous leaders through a mixture of naivety and greed allowed China to steal American jobs and industries. To hear Mr Trump tell it, as soon as tariffs on Chinese goods bite, trade flows will start to rebalance. Trump aides play down the sky-high



tariffs that China has imposed on American goods in retaliation. Leaders in Beijing will blink, the treasury secretary, Scott Bessent, recently predicted: “I believe it’s up to China to de-escalate because they sell five times more to us than we sell to them.”

<https://www.economist.com/international/2025/04/29/donald-trump-picks-the-wrong-trade-fight-with-china>

94. The Trump, Taiwan, and China puzzle. TIME. 12th May 2025.

Since the inaugurations of William Lai as Taiwan's President in May 2024 and Donald Trump as U.S. President in January, Beijing has been on edge. Will Lai take provocative actions that demand a response? And what is Trump's attitude toward Taiwan and its fight to remain outside China's orbit? The answers have proved complicated. In the early days of his presidency, Lai carefully avoided riling Beijing unnecessarily. The strength of Taiwan's economy last year appeared to relieve him of any political need to rally his nationalist base with fist-shaking actions or rhetoric toward the mainland. But his Democratic Progressive Party lacks a parliamentary majority, and he can't be sure the Trump Administration has his back. Whatever his political intent, Lai has become more strident on cross-Taiwan Strait questions in recent weeks.

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/may-12-2025-i672278/the-trump-taiwan-and-china-puzzle-a6>

## LAW

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95. How a judge's arrest fits into America's deportation drive. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

SIX FEDERAL agents arrived at a Milwaukee courthouse on April 18th. They intended to arrest Eduardo Flores-Ruiz, a Mexican man who had illegally re-entered the country after being deported. He was due in court that day to face domestic-violence charges. When Hannah Dugan, the judge in his case, heard the agents were after him she called off Mr Flores-Ruiz's hearing and allegedly led him away through a jury door. After a foot chase, Mr Flores-Ruiz was taken into custody. He wasn't the only one. On April 25th the FBI arrested Ms Dugan on two criminal charges: obstructing a federal proceeding and concealing an individual to prevent arrest. She could face up to six years in prison.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/04/30/how-a-judges-arrest-fits-into-americas-deportation-drive>

96. Why does America have birthright citizenship?. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

DONALD TRUMP's order “boggles the mind”, a district judge remarked during the president's first week back in the White House. He was referring to an executive order of January 20th directing that only children of citizens and permanent residents could be granted birthright citizenship. By excluding both undocumented immigrants and people temporarily working or studying in America, his directive was “blatantly unconstitutional”, said John Coughenour, who then blocked the order temporarily.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/05/01/why-does-america-have-birthright-citizenship>

97. Women win legal clarity—but Britain's gender wars intensify. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

IT WAS A landmark decision. On April 16th Britain's Supreme Court ruled that, for the purposes of the Equality Act of 2010, the country's main anti-discrimination law, “man” refers to a biological man and “woman” to a biological woman. The judgment

ended years of legal uncertainty about such matters. Since sex is a protected characteristic under the act, it means a space or service that excludes men, such as a women's bathroom, can also exclude all transgender women (biological males). The next day, the British Transport Police announced it would now conduct strip searches on the basis of biological sex, rather than how a person identifies.

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2025/05/01/women-win-legal-clarity-but-britains-gender-wars-intensify>

**98. A JUDGE'S WARNING. TIME. 12th May 2025.**

It is difficult in some cases to get to the very heart of the matter. But in this case, it is not hard at all. The government is asserting a right to stash away residents of this country in foreign prisons without the semblance of due process that is the foundation of our constitutional order. Further, it claims in essence that because it has rid itself of custody there is nothing that can be done.

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/may-12-2025-i672278/a-judges-warning-a5>

**99. Uttarakhand Uniform Civil Code: Excessive Bureaucracy, Few Rights. India Forum. 29th April 2025.**

The central concern regarding the Uttarakhand Uniform Civil Code is its potential violation of two fundamental rights: the right to privacy and the right to religious freedom. Its rules on registering relationships, conducting inquiries, and regulating personal choices could disproportionately harm vulnerable groups, especially women and inter-faith couples. The code's provisions on live-in relationships, marriage registration, and divorce point to excessive state intrusion and a lack of gender justice. Ultimately, civil society needs to question the necessity and consequences of the code because it will in all likelihood prioritise surveillance over the protection of rights.

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/law/uttarakhand-uniform-civil-code-excessive-bureaucracy-few-rights>

**100. The Illegality and Inhumanity of Women in Pre-trial Detention: Gulfisha's Poems. India Forum. 29th April 2025.**

Women prisoners embody the law's hallucinations as these cut deep into their bodies and souls year after time in captivity. Gulfisha Fatima defies these hallucinations of the law through her verses, by providing a language to capture the suffering inflicted on pre-trial prisoners, as they wait for their trials to begin and languish in prisons for years. Now in prison for five years, as the bail hearings in the Delhi High Court continue unfold over three years, Gulfisha's extraordinarily powerful poetry beckons us to bear witness as also to imbibe her courage. Gulfisha gives each one of us courage to speak truth to power.

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/law/illegality-and-inhumanity-women-pre-trial-detention-gulfishas-poems>

## LITERATURE

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**101. Travesty. New Yorker. 12-19 May 2025.**

When the conversation with Ruth finally came, Prima was not shocked. She'd had a consciousness, since that first day in Hamilton Hall, of becoming increasingly entangled in the universe, of her name no longer being the name of an innocent, of deliberation and responsibility, of laying down tracks that would determine the

direction of decades in her life. This she relished. There was a feeling among her classmates of wanting to remain clean—not sexually clean or physically clean but clean of commitments. The other students wanted to be well rounded; they wanted the freedom to choose, later on, from a variety of paths for which they had prepared; they wanted to have relationships that would ready them for an eventual mate but would not yet tie them permanently to anyone. They wanted more than anything to maintain their neutral goodness. They did not want to appear in articles online or in newspapers, unless they were cast in a glowing light.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/05/12/travesty-fiction-lillian-fishman>

102. Wright, C.D.  
her disquietude absorbed. New Yorker.12-19 May 2025.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/05/12/her-disquietude-absorbed-c-d-wright-poem>

103. Carson, Anne  
What Happened to New York. New Yorker.12-19 May 2025.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/05/12/what-happened-to-new-york-anne-carson-poem>

## MILITARY SCIENCE

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104. Chinese military exercises foreshadow a blockade of Taiwan. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

SOMETIMES THE only answer to China's frequent threats to invade Taiwan is dark humour. At the National Palace Museum in Taipei guides tell visitors that the collection of imperial treasures, taken from the mainland when the defeated Nationalist regime fled to Taiwan in 1949, makes it one of the safest places on the island. "China covets our collections so they would never bombard this place," says one.

<https://www.economist.com/briefing/2025/05/01/chinese-military-exercises-foreshadow-a-blockade-of-taiwan>

105. Can China sap a divided and isolated Taiwan of its will to resist?. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

One of the Communist Party's great victories in the Chinese civil war was its takeover of Beijing, then called Peiping, in 1949. After a month-long siege, the local Nationalist commander surrendered the city without a fight. Among party cadres "the Peiping model" has become code for a bloodless Chinese takeover of Taiwan. Chinese state media have invoked the Peiping model to explain military exercises to prepare for a future blockade of Taiwan.

<https://www.economist.com/briefing/2025/05/01/can-china-sap-a-divided-and-isolated-taiwan-of-its-will-to-resist>

106. India and Pakistan are bracing for a military clash. Economist. 3rd May 2025.  
During the last big military stand-off between India and Pakistan, in 2019, Mike Pompeo was woken by an urgent call at his hotel in Hanoi. Mr Pompeo, who was then America's secretary of state, described in a memoir being connected to an Indian minister who said Pakistan was preparing a nuclear strike on India. Mr

Pompeo quickly reached Pakistan's army chief, who denied it but accused India of readying its atomic weapons. It took several hours of intense diplomacy "to convince each side that the other was not preparing for nuclear war", wrote Mr Pompeo.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/05/01/india-and-pakistan-are-bracing-for-a-military-clash>

## POLITICAL SCIENCE & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

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107. India must prove Pakistan's complicity in the attack in Kashmir. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

After terrorists brutally killed 26 men in Jammu & Kashmir on April 22nd, Narendra Modi, India's prime minister, did not mince his words. Breaking into English—a rarity—he warned: "India will identify, track and punish every terrorist and their backers." The attack was the worst strike against tourists in Kashmir since an insurgency started in 1989 against Indian rule over the territory, which is claimed by both India and Pakistan. It was the deadliest in the Muslim-majority region since a suicide-bomb targeted paramilitary forces in 2019. This time the gunmen ensured that almost all their victims were Hindu by forcing them to give their names, and seeing if they could recite Islamic verses, before killing them.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/04/29/india-must-prove-pakistans-complicity-in-the-attack-in-kashmir>

108. Britain's social contract is fraying. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

Lodged incongruously on the metal cladding of an office block in the City of London, a blue plaque marks the birthplace of Thomas More. In 1516 he published "Utopia", sketching out a vision of free hospitals, compulsory schooling and full employment—a forerunner of sorts to the welfare state. Nearby, blue plaques of a different kind are spray-painted on the flagstones of London's pavement. A cack-handed publicity stunt by the local police, each commemorates a spot where a Londoner's phone was recently stolen.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/05/01/britains-social-contract-is-fraying>

109. Donald Trump is right to go after metals in the deep sea. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

Almost a league beneath the Pacific Ocean lies a treasure trove: 270m tonnes of nickel and 44m tonnes of cobalt. It got there particle by particle over millions of years, drifting down to form metallic lumps called nodules. These sit in a 4.5m-square-kilometre patch of seabed called the Clarion-Clipperton Zone (CCZ), 800km south-east of Hawaii, and can be collected using a robot that is part combine harvester and part vacuum cleaner. The metals could help meet long-term demand during the energy transition from fossil fuels, while reducing the human suffering and ecological damage that accompanies the mining of cobalt and nickel on land.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/05/01/donald-trump-is-right-to-go-after-metals-in-the-deep-sea>

110. Trump's revolution is the only way to save America, says the architect of Project 2025. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

WE MIGHT ALL be able to agree on one thing at least. The past 100 days have been the most consequential in modern American presidential history, save perhaps those of Franklin D. Roosevelt's first term. The very idea of 100 days as a presidential metric comes from Roosevelt's whirlwind enactment of New Deal legislation. The

first 100 days of President Donald Trump's second term are the appropriate coda to FDR's. Mr Trump closed the book on FDR's 90-year progressive era and ushered in the "Golden Age" of populism: out with New Deal and in with the Real Deal. What does it mean to get real? Simply putting America's interests first.

<https://www.economist.com/by-invitation/2025/04/29/trumps-revolution-is-the-only-way-to-save-america-says-the-architect-of-project-2025>

**111. Aussies are doing a political pivot. Economist. 3rd May 2025.**

Australia's election appeared to be heading towards a conservative coalition earlier this year. But since President Donald Trump returned to the White House, Australians have watched in horror as Mr Trump abandoned Ukraine, started a global trade war and purged tens of thousands of federal employees. This has given the incumbent social-democrat government, run by the Labor Party, a boost ahead of the election on May 3rd (see chart).

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/05/01/aussies-are-doing-a-political-pivot>

**112. Donald Trump is creating chaos at the IRS. Economist. 3rd May 2025.**

TO GET A sense of how bad things got in the recent past at the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), America's primary tax-collecting agency, consider a photo posted on Twitter by a Treasury advisor in 2022. It depicts the cafeteria at the organisation's offices in Austin. Nobody is eating. Rather the entire floor is engulfed in paper files. During the pandemic, with offices closed, returns filed by post—which still have to be manually transcribed into computers—piled up. By summer 2022 there were 21m unprocessed paper tax returns. The wait to speak to an IRS staff member on the phone rose to nearly 30 minutes—for the 20% able to get through. Erin Collins, the National Taxpayer Advocate, a watchdog, wrote at the time that "paper is the IRS's kryptonite, and the agency is still buried in it."

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/05/01/donald-trump-is-creating-chaos-at-the-irs>

**113. How one Ivy League university avoided the president's wrath. Economist. 3rd May 2025.**

There are all kinds of perks to being the boss, big and small. As George H.W. Bush once said: "I'm president of the United States. And I'm not going to eat any more broccoli!" To be the boss of an Ivy League institution, with its ample salary and cachet, would have seemed a crowning achievement for the aspiring meritocrats of America not long ago. Indeed, in the 20th century, two Ivy League presidents ascended to the White House (Woodrow Wilson led Princeton University and Dwight D. Eisenhower commanded Columbia University after winning the second world war).

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/05/01/how-one-ivy-league-university-avoided-the-presidents-wrath>

**114. Donald Trump could rescue John Roberts. Economist. 3rd May 2025.**

It would be a dull quest, but a difficult one, to find a 70-something white male conservative less like President Donald Trump than Chief Justice John Roberts. Mr Roberts is mild where the other is bombastic, endowed with impeccable establishment credentials where the other has credentialled himself, obsessed with consensus and continuity, not disruption. The chief justice never tweets; he has attained just one wife. And yet, as Mr Trump has been building a movement to remake America to suit himself, Mr Roberts, like the stewards of so many American institutions, has been failing at his job, at least by the standards he set when he became the chief 20 years ago.



<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/05/01/how-donald-trump-could-rescue-john-roberts>

**115. Mark Carney's plan for Canada. Economist. 3rd May 2025.**

Whatever his flaws as a politician turn out to be, Mark Carney does at least possess self-awareness. "You're supposed to campaign in poetry and govern in prose," he said in his final campaign speech on April 27th, on the eve of the election. "As the assembled media will tell you, I campaigned in prose. So I'm going to govern in econometrics."

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2025/05/01/mark-carneys-plan-for-canada>

**116. Canada's new Conservative movement resembles Donald Trump's. Economist. 3rd May 2025.**

On the surface, Canada's election on April 28th seemed to preserve the political status quo. As in the last election, in 2021, the ruling Liberal Party will form a minority government. The Conservatives, the main opposition party, slightly narrowed their deficit in Parliament—the Liberals now hold 25 more ridings (as constituencies are called in Canada) than the Conservatives do, down from a 41-seat gap. The Conservatives fared a bit worse in the popular vote, losing it by two percentage points after winning by one in 2021.

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2025/04/30/canadas-new-conservative-movement-resembles-donald-trumps>

**117. Ivory Coast is gearing up for an unfair election. Economist. 3rd May 2025.**

Elections in Ivory Coast have a tendency to turn bloody. Disputes over the result of the presidential election in 2000 were instrumental in sparking a five-year civil war in the west African country of 31m people. In the months after the vote in 2010, some 3,000 people died in another civil war after Laurent Gbagbo, then the president, refused to accept defeat. That election, which eventually brought to power Alassane Ouattara, the current president, was a deadly lesson in the costs of overstaying your welcome.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/05/01/ivory-coast-is-gearing-up-for-an-unfair-election>

**118. Broken windows and pockmarked roads. Economist. 3rd May 2025.**

Unprompted AND slightly sheepishly, Britain's local councillors confess surprisingly often to admire Rudy Giuliani. Paul Wells, a Conservative, plucks a beer can from an alleyway in Great Yarmouth, a seaside town, as he mentions the disgraced 1990s-era New York mayor. "Whatever you think about Rudy Giuliani...the reality is that the 'broken windows' theory is still fundamentally true. Litter is magnetic, isn't it?" Alan Connett, a Liberal Democrat in Devon, recalls attending a lecture given by Mr Giuliani 20 years ago. "If you deal with the small stuff, people see it and they notice: potholes, the physical realm in which people live, the tidiness of their community...[if not,] you allow people not to look after their own front door either."

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2025/05/01/broken-windows-and-pockmarked-roads>

**119. Pahalgam Attack and Strategic Response. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-18. 3rd May 2025.**

The dastardly terror attack in Pahalgam on 22 April, targeted against tourists, deserves an unequivocal condemnation. The heinous massacre of 28 individuals is one of the largest attacks targeting civilians in recent times as even amid the tumult

of conflict in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), instances of targeting tourists have been rare. The attack puts a question mark on the narrative of normalcy being established in J&K and could derail the democratic process in the region, reinitiated through the elections to the legislative assembly of the union territory. A sober analysis of the political and security situation prevailing in the region for the last four–five years has been pointing to the renewed rise of the militancy, its changed tactics, and portents of an ominous event such as the 22 April terror attack. The tragic loss of lives is too heavy a human cost to be paid for coming to terms with the sombre reality, which perhaps gets sidestepped through upbeat narratives.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/18/editorials/pahalgam-attack-and-strategic-response.html>

**120. The D.C. Brief. TIME. 12th May 2025.**

Elissa Slotkin knows something about strategy. The Michigan Senator worked for George W. Bush's National Security Council and Barack Obama's Departments of State and Defense before winning a Michigan congressional seat in 2018. After winning her Senate seat in a rare bright spot for Democrats, Slotkin is applying her strategic thinking to how her party can best fight Donald Trump.

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/may-12-2025-i672278/the-dc-brief-a8>

**121. Fear of the 'other' in a nation of immigrants. TIME. 12th May 2025.**

The U.S. has always had a tricky relationship with immigrants and refugees, even if part of the American mythology is that we are a land of newcomers. In this mythology, they—migrants—are a part of us. At the same time, the U.S. has also gone through periodic spasms of intense anti-immigrant feeling. So it is now, with the Trump Administration promoting a moral panic about strangers coming to our shores. When these people, including those who are also Americans, become seen as a threat to the nation, they are no longer a part of us. Instead, they become the "other" to our collective self as a country.

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/may-12-2025-i672278/fear-of-the-other-in-a-nation-of-immigrants-a9>

**122. ON TO THE CONCLAVE. TIME. 12th May 2025.**

As the world mourned Pope Francis and commemorated his legacy, the sede vacante, or "vacant seat," at the Vatican kick-started a leadership transition period known as the papal interregnum, when there is no Pope in place. For a span of weeks, ultimate power in the church will roil quietly among the College of Cardinals, who gather in Rome to secretly decide the next Pontiff.

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/may-12-2025-i672278/on-to-the-conclave-a12>

**123. Why Can't New York Have Nice Mayors?. New Yorker. 12-19 May 2025.**

On Easter Sunday, the choir at Calvary Baptist Church, in South Jamaica, Queens, was finishing warmups when Cara, Mariah, and Michaela Kennedy-Cuomo—the daughters of Andrew Cuomo, the former New York governor—walked into the sanctuary. The three young women, dressed in white, nodded serenely at the congregants, exchanging good-mornings with Black men and women in their Easter best. A few minutes later, Cuomo himself appeared, looking smaller and grayer than he did when he was in office. He was quickly enveloped in a swarm of church hats. For the next half hour, the ex-Governor clapped, sang along to hymns, and swayed his shoulders, framed by a banner that proclaimed, "HE IS RISEN INDEED."

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/05/12/why-cant-new-york-have-nice-mayors>

124. Why I Can't Quit the New York Post. New Yorker.12-19 May 2025.

Last fall at the Philharmonic, I was seated near a guy reading the New York Post. As often happens when I see the notorious tabloid in public, I tried to read it discreetly, out of the corner of my eye. The header said "Israel Under Attack." The two articles below—flagrantly contradicting the banner under which they appeared—were about Israeli air strikes on Lebanon and Iran. I squinted and tried to skim both pieces until the lights went down.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/05/12/why-i-cant-quit-the-new-york-post>

## SCIENCE

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125. A landmark study of gender medicine is caught in an ethics row. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

ONE REASON that transgender medicine is such a fraught topic is that there is little evidence behind the arguments. When Hilary Cass, a British paediatrician, reviewed the field for an influential report published in 2024, she noted that most of the science underlying the prescription of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones to teenagers (an approach called "gender-affirming care") was "remarkably weak".

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2025/04/30/a-landmark-study-of-gender-medicine-is-caught-in-an-ethics-row>

126. The great Iberian power cut need not spell disaster for renewables. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

SHORTLY AFTER noon on Monday April 28th, Spain's electricity grid suddenly and unexpectedly lost 15 gigawatts of power—equivalent to 60% of its national demand. The massive drop caused most of the country's electricity system to shut down, followed by much of neighbouring Portugal's. Trains and metros ground to a halt and 35,000 passengers across Spain had to be evacuated. Traffic lights stopped working; hospitals cancelled all non-essential operations; mobile-phone networks and the internet went dark.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2025/04/30/the-great-iberian-power-cut-need-not-spell-disaster-for-renewables>

## SOCIOLOGY

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127. Water sommeliers say the simplest drink is the future of luxury. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

SIX ESTEEMED sommeliers sit silently behind a judging table. A waiter tops up their glasses one by one and they appraise the stuff: sniff, hold it to the light, sometimes swirl, sip, swish between cheeks, dump the extras and give it a score. But the liquid is no Zinfandel or Syrah. Instead the bon viveurs are tasting high-end waters.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/04/27/water-sommeliers-say-the-simplest-drink-is-the-future-of-luxury>

128. Saunas are so hot right now. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

YOU COULD be forgiven for thinking that Othership is a nightclub. The venue, in Manhattan's Flatiron district, is bathed in golden light; techno music pulses throughout. It is, in fact, a trendy sauna. (A single visit will set you back at least \$45.) Some come to Othership to take part in guided meditation sessions. Others come to socialise in 85°C heat.

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2025/04/29/saunas-are-so-hot-right-now>

129. How "Putin's chef" built the world's most notorious private army. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

ON AUGUST 23RD 2023 a private jet crashed north-west of Moscow, killing everyone on board. Among the ten victims were senior members of the Wagner Group, a Russian mercenary firm, including its leader, Yevgeny Prigozhin (pictured). No one thought it was an accident. Prigozhin, once Vladimir Putin's favourite hired gun, had fallen out of favour by launching a mutiny against his boss. People who do such things rarely live long. The Kremlin denied involvement, but Mr Putin added ominously that Prigozhin had "made serious mistakes in life".

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2025/05/01/how-putins-chef-built-the-worlds-most-notorious-private-army>

130. From 25 Years Ago: Word as Censor. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-18. 3rd May 2025.

Some censorship is inherent in the use of language. Cultural hegemony declares some words to be decent, others indecent and goes on to control meaning and thought. In this paper I propose to examine how the power structure has changed over time, to make the graph of control more complex and subliminal. The weapon used is always the word. Starting from direct blotting out of certain words, it has gone on to reduce the shades of meaning a word could have, and finally a divorce of word from meaning.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/18/25-years-ago/25-years-ago-word-censor.html>

131. The Promise of New York. New Yorker. 12-19 May 2025.

April in Paris has nothing on May in New York. Spring happens to the city as everything happens here: not at all, then all at once. The forsythia skims the crosstown buses as they swerve through Central Park, and the daffodils dare dogs, from every tree bed, to do their worst. Magnolias unfurl their petals to flaunt their fancy two-toned manicures. Cherry trees blush all over town. On Park Avenue, the tulips are out, orderly and abundant, as they are at corner delis and bodegas, cooling their stems behind heavy plastic curtains. Long strands of pollen drift down from sidewalk oaks, dusting parked cars greenish gold. Birdsong, jackhammers, and sneezes, the sounds of the season.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/05/12/the-promise-of-new-york>

132. Why I Broke Up with New York. New Yorker. 12-19 May 2025.

I cannot tell you the moment that New York began for me, only that I began in New York. There are stories from the months before I was born, when I was still nestled inside my mother like a Yonah Schimmel knish to go. In September, during her first trimester, the city was overtaken by a heat wave so mighty that it made being inside without A.C. unbearable—you had to stay moving just to create a breeze. My mom remembers thinking that New York hadn't felt so unhinged since the Summer of Sam, that the heat lent an edge of hysteria to everyday interactions. Circling the block one day, she ran into an equally sweaty and disoriented friend on the corner of Broadway and Houston, who told her that the sculptor Carl Andre had been accused

of throwing his wife, the seminal Cuban-born artist Ana Mendieta, out a window the previous night. Despite the temperature, my mother turned toward home.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/05/12/why-i-broke-up-with-new-york>

133. Twelve Migrants Sharing a Queens Apartment. New Yorker.12-19 May 2025.

In my neighborhood, everyone knows the corners where migrants wait for work. I live in Jackson Heights, Queens, where you can't so much as step out the door without hearing a language other than English. Newcomers arrive in waves and settle like layers of sediment. On my block, there's a contingent of elderly Polish ladies who have been living in their century-old co-ops for decades. A few blocks over in one direction is Calle Colombia, the official nickname for a corner of Eighty-second Street since 2009; countless times, I've walked past a street vender guarding tall stalks of sugarcane that she feeds through a machine to make juice. A few blocks over the other way, Bangladeshi men, their beards dyed orange, hawk prayer rugs and other religious goods from overturned milk crates on the sidewalk.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/05/12/twelve-migrants-sharing-a-queens-apartment>

134. No-Parking Zone: The Perils of Finding a Spot in N.Y.C. New Yorker.12-19 May 2025.

One of the first jobs that George Bichikashvili had in America was securing some street-parking spaces in the Bronx for Con Edison, at ten dollars an hour. Bichikashvili, who is from Tbilisi, Georgia, didn't understand why anyone would pay for this. "You just take up four spots of parking and sit there until they tell you to leave," he said. But a job was a job. On the morning of November 18, 2022, Bichikashvili pulled a blue Chrysler minivan onto St. Theresa Avenue, in Pelham Bay. As directed, he parked atop a Con Ed manhole, set out some orange cones, and settled in. He wore a safety helmet and a neon work vest. The morning was beautiful. He watched the sunrise in the rearview mirror. Winter was creeping in. His breath fogged up the glass.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/05/12/no-parking-zone-the-perils-of-finding-a-spot-in-nyc>

135. Michael Schulman on Lillian Ross's "The Shit-Kickers of Madison Avenue". New Yorker.12-19 May 2025.

Lord knows what the gaggle of tenth graders chewing French fries and puffing Marlboro Lights made of the small septuagenarian woman who approached them at Jackson Hole, a burger joint on Ninety-first and Madison, claiming to be a magazine writer. Surely they knew nothing about Lillian Ross, the legend, who had written famous portraits of Ernest Hemingway and John Huston. (Who were they, anyway? Like, old guys?) Ross was fifty years into her career at *The New Yorker*, where she'd helped perfect the form of the Talk of the Town piece, with its cool, friendly eye and its limber, syncopated rhythms. For whatever reason, the Jackson Hole girls let her in on their chatter, as they planned their weekend and commiserated over a pop quiz in French class. "I was immediately fond of them, in their honesty and in their straightforwardness," Ross later wrote. "I was deeply touched by the way they accepted me, strangely enough, as one of them."

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/takes/michael-schulman-on-lillian-rosss-the-shit-kickers-of-madison-avenue>



## SPORTS

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136. The strange success of snooker. Economist. 3rd May 2025.

Snooker has been dying for decades. “It just feels boring,” said Ronnie O’Sullivan, the most talented man to play the game, in 2009—the equivalent of Roger Federer opening a press conference with “Tennis sucks.” The days of the 1980s, when one in three Britons would watch the final of its world championship, are gone. By the 2000s a cottage industry lamenting its demise had emerged. In 2010 the Guardian predicted snooker would be an amateur sport by 2020.

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2025/04/30/the-strange-success-of-snooker>

137. If the Mets Are No Longer Underdogs, Are They Still the Mets?. New Yorker.12-19 May 2025.

On a sunny day in late March, Michael Matteo, Jr., lounged on a grassy berm beyond the right-field fence at Clover Park, a minor-league stadium set amid the sprawling strip malls of Port St. Lucie, Florida, about an hour up the interstate from the tony confines of Palm Beach. On the field, a New York Mets split squad was comfortably beating the St. Louis Cardinals in a spring-training matchup. The temperature was in the low seventies, cool for South Florida; that morning, the stadium’s elevator attendant took comfort in knowing that at least the cold weather wouldn’t frizz her hair. Back in Brooklyn, where Matteo lives, it was “thirty-five degrees and raining,” he said, sounding pleased. In the bright Florida sky, a few contrails fluffed into clouds. Matteo, who wore shorts and a commemorative ’86 Mets jersey, had taken off his shoes.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/05/12/if-the-mets-are-no-longer-underdogs-are-they-still-the-mets>

## WILDLIFE

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138. Pity the Barefoot Pigeon. New Yorker.12-19 May 2025.

Ihate how pigeons get stuff stuck on their feet. I see this problem in New York all the time, and it exists in cities around the world. It does not obsess me—I don’t believe that people should become obsessed by things, in general—but, whenever I see it, it pains me. City pigeons have other foot problems, too. They get burns from landing on hot lighted signs, and injuries from close calls with vehicles and predators, and abrasions from jagged concrete, and diseases like bumblefoot, a bacterial infection that can cause their toes to curl up and fall off. Humans wear shoes, dogs sometimes sport booties on salt-covered winter sidewalks, N.Y.P.D. farriers replace the police horses’ shoes every four to six weeks, some pet stores even sell foot coverings for cats (which cats despise), but pigeons deal with the feet-unfriendly city barefoot.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/05/12/pity-the-barefoot-pigeon>

## TRAVEL DESCRIPTION

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139. My New York City Tour of Tours. New Yorker.12-19 May 2025.

I’m a sucker for guided tours. I love a CliffsNotes condensation of a place. All of Rome in ninety minutes gave me a Visigothic sense of accomplishment, untarnished even when my tour bus’s automated audio commentary got out of synch, implying that the Pope lived in the Trevi Fountain. I was once shepherded through Beijing’s Forbidden City by the voice of Roger Moore, coming from a stuttery tape recorder;

while visiting the Teotihuacán ruins, outside Mexico City, I was de-toured to a basilica housing the cloak of the Virgin of Guadalupe, which we viewed from a moving sidewalk. It looked like a dry-cleaned blouse still covered in plastic. I was fascinated to learn, therefore, that some consider Herodotus the father of the travel guide. His fifth-century-B.C. account of Egypt arguably invented the form, and it even included the obligatory section on public rest rooms: “[The Egyptians] established for themselves manners and customs in a way opposite to other men in almost all matters . . . the women make water standing up and the men crouching down.”

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/05/12/my-new-york-city-tour-of-tours>

### **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	Economist (A.M.)	W	London
3	Economic & Political Weekly	W	Mumbai
4	India Forum	W	India
5	India Development Review	W	Mumbai
6	New Yorker	W	New York
7	Time	W	Chicago
8	University News	W	Delhi