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1. Why Superman is the least relevant superhero. Economist. 19th July 2025.

Hollering for help, Lois Lane dangles overhead from a helicopter that has crashed atop a skyscraper. On the sidewalk below Clark Kent, briefcase in hand, squeezes through a panicked crowd, searching for a place to transform into the hero of “Superman: The Movie”, which came out in 1978. He pauses to size up a public payphone, but the booths that served him well in the comic books of the 1940s have themselves transformed, into transparent boxes on pedestals. In a gesture of gentle Kentian consternation, he purses his lips, then moves on. It’s a sly visual joke, in keeping with the buoyant spirit of the film: the world was changing, but he could not—at least, not easily. In retrospect, it prophesied Superman’s predicament in the 21st century, in the existential battle every comic-book hero must wage, the one for cultural relevance.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/07/17/why-superman-is-the-least-relevant-superhero>

2. Operation Rubific, the portrait of failure. Economist. 19th July 2025.

There are two kinds of British scandal. The old kind resemble the plays of Henrik Ibsen: studies of character failings and personal humiliation brought about by greed, desire and dishonesty. Think of the disgrace of John Profumo, Jeffrey Archer and Jonathan Aitken. The new owe more to Joseph Heller: portraits of institutional failure, in which the craven, the cynical and the helpless are trapped in crises they cannot control.

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2025/07/16/operation-rubific-the-portrait-of-failure>

3. Feather boas and bald caps: the wacky world of concert fashion. Economist. 19th July 2025.

LIKE MANY pop stars, Pitbull exudes sexual confidence. In his hit song of 2009, “I Know You Want Me (Calle Ocho)”, the American rapper repeats that phrase no fewer than 16 times. Yet Pitbull seems to have got it slightly wrong. His fans do not want him: they want to look like him.

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2025/07/15/feather-boas-and-bald-caps-the-wacky-world-of-concert-fashion>

4. The rise of AI art is spurring a revival of analogue media. Economist. 19th July 2025.

Walk into Torn Light Records, on Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago’s hipster corridor, and you may feel like you have stepped back in time. Jazz wafts through the speakers. On prominent display is a copy of “Remain in Light”, a cult album released by Talking Heads in 1980. Yet the shop opened last year, having relocated from Cincinnati. It is one of half a dozen record stores on the street, but competition is not a problem: sales have been brisk. “Having people being really interested in physical media again has been great,” says Daniel Buckley, the co-owner.

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2025/07/17/the-rise-of-ai-art-is-spurring-a-revival-of-analogue-media>

5. Erasure, Revival, and Commodification of Mithila Art. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol-60, No-29. 19th July 2025.

The revival of Mithila art has a curious history. It was mainly due to the work of colonial art historians that the artistic style drew the attention of the world. However, the historiography of the Madhubani tradition is riddled with problems. In the first place, there occurred a homogenisation of the unique artistic traditions within the “Madhubani” in which the distinctive traditions were subsumed by the generic nomenclature. This study analyses the revival of traditional Mithila art through the homogenisation of folk traditions into Madhubani art and interrogates how this revival, coupled with commodification, led to the erasure of its identity.

<https://www.epw.in/engage/article/erasure-revival-and-commodification-mithila-art>

6. The Sophisticated Kitsch of Blackpink. New Yorker. 28th July 2025.

In the mid-twenty-tens, the incandescent girl group Blackpink was, along with BTS, at the center of the K-pop revolution that finally popularized the genre in America, after nearly two decades of domination in its birthplace, South Korea. The K-pop model is built around entertainment agencies that turn teen-aged trainees into synchronized performance units via carefully choreographed songs, dance routines, and fashion styles, all echoing the youth movements in American pop, with the twist that it's performed in both Korean and English. A relentless, non-stop promotion cycle turns performers from rookies to “idols,” drawing devoted fans who closely follow their every move and treat the music as gospel. One such agency, YG Entertainment, having built the pioneering girl group 2NE1, in the late two-thousands, used the prototype to build a supercharged version in Blackpink, in 2016, choosing members who reflect the Korean diaspora—Rosé is Korean, born in New Zealand; Jennie is Korean, raised in New Zealand; Lisa is Thai; and Jisoo is Korean.

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/goings-on/the-sophisticated-kitsch-of-blackpink>

7. Sink or Swim. New Yorker. 28th July 2025.

Fifty years ago, a glitchy yet terrifying animatronic shark persuaded movie audiences never to go in the water again. Luckily—for the photographer Tod Papageorge, at least—it didn't keep people off the beaches. That same year, 1975, Papageorge was slowly making his way across the country, from New York City, where he'd become known for his 35-mm. street scenes, to Los Angeles, where he'd shoot throngs of sun-dazed, sweat-glazed beachgoers with a clunkier medium-format camera. He made four trips to L.A.'s beaches between 1975 and 1988, and a selection of the resulting black-and-white photographs—detail-rich, often dense, rapturous yet funny tableaux of stripped-down bodies engaged in sport or sprawled on the sand—will be on view at the Museum of Contemporary Art Connecticut through October 26th.

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/photo-booth/sink-or-swim>

8. Dining Sheds, Repotted. New Yorker. 28th July 2025.

The golden age of the shed—New York City’s outdoor-dining boom, circa summer, 2020—produced some impressive structures. At Carbone, the fancy Italian place, people ate rigatoni in a cabin made of navy-blue wood siding with red velvet curtains. Balthazar outfitted its shed with antique pendant lights, to make diners “feel like you’ve taken a train to Paris,” according to a restaurant spokesperson. Bookworms were covered, too. Three branches of the Brooklyn Public Library installed outdoor reading rooms, designed by the firm Aanda Architects. The Roadway Readeries, as they came to be called, were painted the bright blue of Yves Saint Laurent’s Jardin Majorelle, in Marrakech, with lyrical barrel-vault ceilings that evoked the breaking of a wave. They also had good Wi-Fi.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/07/28/dining-sheds-repotted>

9. The Sleazy, Unsettling Sounds of Mk.gee. New Yorker. 28th July 2025.

Earlier this summer, the singer and guitarist Mk.gee played two sold-out shows at the Stone Pony, a rock club just off the boardwalk in Asbury Park, New Jersey. The venue, which opened in 1974, is situated in a squat, salted building that previously housed Mrs. Jay’s, a restaurant with a rough-and-tumble beachside bar next door, where broiling bikers once flushed down hot dogs with sweating pitchers of beer. In the seventies and eighties, the local upstart Bruce Springsteen was a regular patron and occasional performer at the Stone Pony. “That’s where I spent my Fridays and Sundays and I had no interest in what was going on in New York City or L.A.,” Springsteen told Nick Corasaniti, the author of “I Don’t Want to Go Home: The Oral History of the Stone Pony.” “I always said, ‘No, no, no,’ This is interesting. This is interesting to me.” Mk.gee, whose name is Michael Gordon, was brought up farther south, in Linwood, but seemed to feel similarly about the place. (He has applauded what he calls the “deep, mad sincerity” of his home state.) The Stone Pony can accommodate around eight hundred and fifty people; a few days later, Mk.gee would play for some fifty thousand at Governors Ball, a festival in New York City.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/07/28/mk-gee-music-review>

10. The Trophy Abs and Soul Ties of “Love Island USA”. New Yorker. 28th July 2025.

One good way to enjoy the latest season of “Love Island USA”—the seventh, in which new episodes aired on Peacock almost every day for six weeks and just wrapped up—is to imagine that you have made the questionable choice to pursue a new relationship by appearing on the show. You’re flown to Fiji—nice clime, clear water. Suddenly, you’re no longer allowed to wear the usual sort of torso-obscuring shirt, unless it’s totally unbuttoned in order to display your trophy case of abs. (You wouldn’t be here if you didn’t spend some fascistic percentage of your waking hours in the gym.) Around your waist, you’re wearing a fanny pack full of recording gadgetry; hanging from a thick cord around your neck, like the statement gem on an avant-garde necklace, is a microphone covered in fuzz. You can’t hide the evidence of TV production and also be as naked as this particular production insists that you be, and so even as you walk around in your seemingly realistic way, kissing and telling and sleeping in a room full of couples squirming under the sheets, you are

also a perpetual visual reminder of our growing habit of surveilling while also being surveilled.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/07/28/love-island-usa-tv-review-peacock>

11. “Eddington” Is a Lethally Self-Satisfied COVID Satire. New Yorker. 28th July 2025.

“Eddington” is a slog, but a slog with ambitions—and its director and screenwriter, Ari Aster, is savvy enough to cultivate an air of mystery about what those ambitions are. His earlier chillers, “Hereditary” (2018) and “Midsommar” (2019), had their labyrinthine ambiguities, too, but they also had propulsive craft and cunning, plus a resolute commitment to scaring us stupid. Then came the ungainly “Beau Is Afraid” (2023), a cavalcade of Oedipal neuroses both showy and coy, in which Aster didn’t seem to lose focus so much as sacrifice it on the altar of auteurism. With “Eddington,” his high-minded unravelling continues. No longer a horror wunderkind, Aster, at thirty-nine, yearns to be an impish anatomist of the body politic. The times grow worse and worse; must his movies follow suit?

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/07/28/eddington-movie-review>

BIOGRAPHY

12. Muhammadu Buhari failed to build a better Nigeria, twice. Economist. 19th July 2025.

Stepping off the ferry in Liverpool, Muhammadu Buhari was struck by the city’s orderliness. People obeyed the rules, observed the 18-year-old, who had won a competition to spend the summer in Britain. The rules didn’t even have to be written; society just worked. Order was also paramount at military college in Nigeria and the English town of Aldershot. The austerity of officer training, the career of choice for bright young men from the newly independent country’s north, suited the former head boy. He thrived in the repetitive drills, the hikes across unknown terrain in the dead of night.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/07/14/muhammadu-buhari-failed-to-build-a-better-nigeria-twice>

13. Simon Groot scattered better plant seeds across the world. Economist. 19th July 2025.

What started him thinking was a cabbage. Not any old cabbage, but the variety, “Glory of Enkhuizen”, which his family company, Sluis and Groot, had produced in that town in North Holland in 1899. It was a beautiful cabbage, round, compact, with a light-green head framed in darker leaves. It could weigh as much as three kilograms, had a sweet flavour, and was easy to grow, as it did all over Europe.

<https://www.economist.com/obituary/2025/07/17/simon-groot-scattered-better-plant-seeds-across-the-world>

14. Stephen Colbert on Kenneth Tynan’s Profile of Johnny Carson. New Yorker. 28th July 2025.

When Mr. Remnick asked me to write a seven-hundred-and-twenty-five-word Take on Kenneth Tynan's 1978 Profile of Johnny Carson, I said, "My honor, *cher* David." (*New Yorker* editors love when you use foreign words. They're weak for anything italicized. *Anything*.) "I write a late-night show. I eat seven hundred words for breakfast." In actuality, I host a late-night show and have a low-glycemic smoothie for breakfast. My doctor says the words were clogging my carotid, and, after reading "Fifteen Years of the Salto Mortale," I need a statin.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/takes/stephen-colbert-on-kenneth-tynans-profile-of-johnny-carson>

BUSINESS

15. America throws big money at a small rare-earths mine. *Economist*. 19th July 2025.

Not since the First World War, when America's government nationalised the railroad system, has it made the kind of investment it announced on July 10th. For \$400m, the Department of Defence acquired a 15% stake in MP Materials, making it the largest shareholder in the country's sole producer of rare-earth metals. The money will allow the business, with operations including a mine in California and a factory in Texas, to dramatically increase production of the magnets needed for fighter jets, electric vehicles, smartphones and more. On July 15th Apple, the iPhone-maker, joined in with a \$500m deal to buy magnets from the company and help build a rare-earth recycling facility.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/07/17/america-throws-big-money-at-a-small-rare-earths-mine>

16. Kraft Heinz is not the only food giant in trouble. *Economist*. 19th July 2025.

When Warren Buffett, a venerable investor, and 3G Capital, a private-equity firm, merged Kraft and Heinz in 2015 to create a packaged-food heavyweight, consumers' appetite for its colourful condiments, sugary snacks and processed cheeses seemed insatiable. The deal now looks to have been a big fat flop. Kraft Heinz's market value, at \$32bn, is down by three-fifths since the tie-up. The company expects its operating profit to fall by 5-10% this year. It is now said to be exploring a break-up.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/07/17/kraft-heinz-is-not-the-only-food-giant-in-trouble>

17. Move over, Tim Cook. Jensen Huang is America Inc's new China envoy. *Economist*. 19th July 2025.

AS A TEENAGER in Oregon, Jensen Huang was one mean ping-pong player. In 1978 his mentor, Lou Bochenski, described him in a letter to *Sports Illustrated* as "perhaps the most promising junior ever to play table tennis" in the American north-west. Had he been a bit older, who knows, he might well have joined Bochenski's daughter, Judy, who toured China in 1971 as part of Richard Nixon's "ping-pong diplomacy" initiative to improve relations between the capitalist and communist worlds.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/07/17/move-over-tim-cook-jensen-huang-is-america-incs-new-china-envoy>

CONSERVATION

18. British bats are a conservation success story. Economist. 19th July 2025.
Soon after sunset, a furious clicking can be heard at Hanningfield Reservoir in Essex. Some clicks emanate from bat detectors, which convert the high-frequency sound waves emitted by flying bats into noises that humans can hear. Others come from thumb counters, held by volunteers who are trying to tally the bats that pour out of a building. The racket resembles electronic music of a challenging type.
<https://www.economist.com/britain/2025/07/11/british-bats-are-a-conservation-success-story>

ECONOMICS

19. Bit by bit, the world economy's resilience is being worn away. Economist. 19th July 2025.
As Donald Trump prosecutes his trade war and muses about sacking Jerome Powell, the chairman of the Federal Reserve, analysts are poring over the data—and they are seizing on the smallest dips in stockmarkets and rises in inflation as proof of harm. Take a step back, though, and what is striking is how calm it all is. Over the past decade the global order has been upended by populists, authoritarians and war. Yet, as we explain this week, the economy is powering on, unfazed. Aside from a brief contraction as covid-19 lockdowns went into effect, global gdp has grown at a respectable annual clip of about 3% since 2011. Across the rich world, unemployment is near a record low. Both America's S&P 500 and the global MSCI index of stocks are near record highs.
<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/07/17/bit-by-bit-the-world-economys-resilience-is-being-worn-away>
20. China's exporters shrug off the trade war—for now. Economist. 19th July 2025.
TRADE TENSIONS are hardly apparent in Qingdao, a bustling port city in eastern China. The roads leading to the port's terminals are crammed with lorries. A string of cargo vessels can be seen in the blue haze over the bay. China's other ports seem to be just as busy: on July 14th officials announced that the country's total exports grew by a healthy 5.8% year on year in June. In the first half of the year, exports grew at the same pace as they did in 2024, helping to keep China's GDP growth on track to meet its annual target. For now, China's exporters appear to have shrugged off trade tensions with America. But that might not last much longer.
<https://www.economist.com/china/2025/07/17/chinas-exporters-shrug-off-the-trade-war-for-now>
21. The meaning of Trumpcare. Economist. 19th July 2025.
SINCE IT WAS founded in 1866, St Barnabas Hospital in the Bronx has "changed millions of times", says David Perlstein, its president and a former paediatrician. "It used to be a rich person's hospital. We used to make money!" he exclaims. Those days seem far off. The former Home for Incurables, now more optimistically known as SBH Health System, is a safety-net hospital. Two-thirds of local residents are on Medicaid, the

health programme for the hard-up. In the hospital's congressional district, 100,000 are expected to lose their insurance in the wake of the One Big Beautiful Bill. Dr Perlstein predicts that the hospital will lose \$75m, 12% of its budget. "We don't have that kind of fat in our system. We just don't," he says. "If I lay folks off, I'm going to be closing services."

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/07/16/the-meaning-of-trumpcare>

22. Quantifying Trumpcare. Economist. 19th July 2025.

JUST READING the Big Beautiful Bill, with its 330 pages of provisions, is an intimidating undertaking. Working out its consequences is yet more challenging. Nevertheless, researchers at the University of Pennsylvania and the Yale School of Public Health tried to calculate how many more people would die as a result of the law. Analysing the House of Representatives' version of the bill, they came to 42,500 annually by 2034. That is more people than currently die of breast cancer. Adding in the impact of the end of the enhanced subsidies for people buying their own insurance, they reckoned there would be over 51,000 extra deaths a year. The White House has pushed back on the claims of deaths, calling them "egregious" and "deranged".

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/07/17/quantifying-trumpcare>

23. What if America's red states are about to lose their cheap-housing advantage?. Economist. 19th July 2025.

Why do so many Americans move from blue states to red ones? Ron DeSantis, Florida's governor, crows that "a collapse in the quality of life" in blue states is making residents flee. During a debate in 2023, he taunted California's governor, Gavin Newsom, for his state's street crime, woke schools and public defecation by homeless people—he even held up a "poop map" of San Francisco for the cameras. "They actually at one point ran out of u-Hauls in the state of California because so many people were leaving," he gloated.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/07/14/what-if-americas-red-states-are-about-to-lose-their-cheap-housing-advantage>

24. Mexico's handouts do a bit for the poor and lots for Morena. Economist. 19th July 2025.

Tania earns a decent wage working as a doctor's assistant in central Mexico City. But to make ends meet the 47-year-old relies on government handouts. She is paid for keeping her 14-year-old daughter, Regina, enrolled in school. Her 67-year-old mother, Teresa, gets a non-contributory pension. Tens of millions of Mexicans get these transfers. They are the mechanism favoured by Morena, Mexico's populist ruling party, for curbing the country's poverty and inequality, the subject of our ongoing series. And they have helped the party accrue extraordinary political power over the past seven years.

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2025/07/17/mexicos-handouts-do-a-bit-for-the-poor-and-lots-for-morena>

25. The dark side of Ethiopia's liberalization. Economist. 19th July 2025.
For the past couple of years much of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital, was reduced to rubble by demolitions. Now luxury apartments, parks and cycle lanes are rising from the ruins. Abiy Ahmed, Ethiopia's prime minister, believes the old city must make way for a cleaner, shinier one.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/07/17/the-dark-side-of-ethiopias-liberalisation>

26. Despite enormous challenges, the EU sticks with its puny budget. Economist. 19th July 2025.

What will the European Union look like in 2034? Only the most confident fortune-teller would venture a guess. Yet in Brussels a ritual even odder than staring at tea leaves or crystal balls is afoot: trying to craft a budget that will not come into effect for over two years, and will still be in force nearly a decade from today. A first cut of the EU financial blueprint covering the seven-year period from 2028 to 2034 was unveiled by the European Commission on July 16th. The extraordinary challenges the EU faces will have to be met with a very ordinary spending package.

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2025/07/17/despite-enormous-challenges-the-eu-sticks-with-its-puny-budget>

27. Britain has a rare opportunity to lure American talent. Economist. 19th July 2025.

AMERICANS tend to like Britain. Ask restless American graduates where they would most like to move to, and the land of cream tea and bad teeth often tops the list. So it is no surprise that, as Donald Trump's administration has attacked America's top universities and slashed funding for research, American interest in British-based science and tech jobs spiked. Britain has a rare opportunity to snap up disillusioned American boffins, as well as talent from around the world that might once have chosen America. Will it seize it?

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2025/07/15/britain-has-a-rare-opportunity-to-lure-american-talent>

28. The spectacular folly of Donald Trump's copper tariffs. Economist. 19th July 2025.

Nestled among the Oquirrh Mountains in Utah is the deepest open-pit copper mine on Earth. The Bingham Canyon mine, once owned by the Guggenheims and now run by Rio Tinto, has been in operation since 1903. Even now about 275,000 tonnes of the red metal are dug from it every year, nearly a quarter of America's annual production. Its rocks are sent down a five-mile conveyor belt to be crushed. The mineral is then separated out, smelted into liquid and refined into 99.99% pure copper plates. The vertically integrated mine is the last of its kind in America, which until the 1960s was the world's biggest producer of copper.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/07/17/the-spectacular-folly-of-donald-trumps-copper-tariffs>

29. War, geopolitics, energy crisis: how the economy evades every disaster. Economist. 19th July 2025.

After Adolf Hitler's troops rolled into France in 1940, many feared the imminent destruction of Europe and its economy. British investors did not. In the year following the invasion, London's stockmarket rose;

indeed, by the end of hostilities, British companies had delivered real returns to shareholders of 100%. The plucky investors must have seemed mad at the time, but they were proved right and made handsome profits.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/07/15/war-geopolitics-energy-crisis-how-the-economy-evades-every-disaster>

30. Trump's real threat: industry-specific tariffs. Economist. 19th July 2025.
When Donald Trump's tariffs are mentioned, you might recall his "Liberation Day" duties on uninhabited islands, his on-again, off-again threats against Canada, or the curt letters he has sent foreign leaders informing them of imminent rates. These country-level tariffs dominate attention. So it is easy to forget that the steepest tariffs Mr Trump has thus far implemented are on products, not countries. And by all indications more of these "sectoral" tariffs are coming soon.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/07/17/trumps-real-threat-industry-specific-tariffs>

31. Our Big Mac index will sadden America's burger-lovers. Economist. 19th July 2025.
America's import duties just keep rising. On August 1st levies on more than 20 countries, plus the European Union, will take effect unless they negotiate deals in the meantime. On July 14th President Donald Trump said that he would impose "secondary tariffs" of 100% on countries doing business with Russia, should it fail to reach a peace agreement with Ukraine in 50 days. Such threats should be taken with a heavy pinch of salt: Mr Trump has form for backing down if markets become turbulent. But the trend is clear. America's average effective tariff rate has already risen to 17%, from 2.5% last year.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/07/16/our-big-mac-index-will-sadden-americas-burger-lovers>

32. Americans can still get a 2% mortgage. Economist. 19th July 2025.
WHEN ADNAN SABIC began looking for a home in 2023, he was shocked. The hotel executive, whose wife had just given birth to twins, could not believe how mortgage rates had rocketed. Then he found a four-bedroom house listed for \$775,000 with a nice selling point. Rather than borrow at 6% and pay \$4,500 a month, Mr Sabic could "assume" the seller's mortgage, at 2.6%, and pay just \$3,100.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/07/17/americans-can-still-get-a-2-mortgage>

33. Stablecoins might cut America's debt payments. But at what cost?. Economist. 19th July 2025.
ATRILLION DOLLARS. That number may keep Scott Bessent, America's treasury secretary, up at night. Next year his government's net interest payments will break the 13-figure mark. The combination of a bulging deficit, now worth 7% of GDP, and the sharp increase in government-bond yields over the past four years makes America's budgetary mathematics increasingly ugly.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/07/16/stablecoins-might-cut-americas-debt-payments-but-at-what-cost>

34. Why is AI so slow to spread? Economics can explain. Economist. 19th July 2025.

Talk to executives and before long they will rhapsodise about all the wonderful ways in which their business is using artificial intelligence. Jamie Dimon of JPMorgan Chase recently said that his bank has 450 use cases for the technology. “AI will become the new operating system of restaurants,” according to Yum! Brands, which runs KFC and Taco Bell. AI will “play an important role in improving the traveller experience”, says the owner of Booking.com. In the first quarter of this year executives from 44% of S&P 500 companies discussed AI on earnings calls.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/07/17/why-is-ai-so-slow-to-spread-economics-can-explain>

35. The Jane Street Affair. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol-60, No-29. 19th July 2025.

On 3 July 2025, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the securities market regulator, barred the American quantitative trading firm, Jane Street, from operating in the Indian stock market, accusing it of making a windfall profit of over ₹36,000 crore by engineering a pump-and-dump scheme that left Indian retail investors bearing the losses. At its heart, the pump-and-dump was very simple: Jane Street bought 12 banking stocks that make up the Bank Nifty Index. This aggressive and large buying drove up the prices of these stocks. At the same time, the firm bought a lot of put options. Put options are financial derivatives that derive their value from stock prices. They make money when stock prices fall below a certain level.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/29/comment/jane-street-affair.html>

36. Income Tax Cuts and the Macroeconomy. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol-60, No-29. 19th July 2025.

Exploring the possible impact of income tax cuts on the macroeconomy, it is shown that it is a suboptimal policy as compared to government expenditure. Furthermore, the contradiction between tax cuts on personal income and tax cuts on corporate profits announced in 2019 is examined; a contradiction that has not been analysed by those praising the government’s recent budgetary policies.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/29/commentary/income-tax-cuts-and-macroeconomy.html>

37. Empowering Women in Marine Fisheries. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol-60, No-29. 19th July 2025.

The role of women in Kerala’s marine fisheries sector is looked into, highlighting their evolving roles amid techno-institutional developments such as mechanisation and digital marketing. Despite the techno-social advancements, women face numerous barriers to mainstreaming. New opportunities are constrained with unequal resource distribution, lack of access to resources and infrastructure bottlenecks limiting their active participation. The prime mover of upward mobility in fishing villages is

education. Acknowledging and supporting women fishers is crucial for a more inclusive and sustainable fisheries industry.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/special-articles/empowering-women-marine-fisheries.html>

38. Digital Developmentalism and Street Vending. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol-60, No-29. 19th July 2025.

While scholarly debates on street vending in India have focused on the rights-based developmentalism of the early 2000s, the past decade has seen a rise in digital developmentalism with biometric identification (Aadhaar) and digital payments (Unified Payments Interface). I argue that digitisation is not simply a change in the medium of exchange to the virtual sphere. Rather, digitisation changes the obligations of the state towards street vendors. This paper studies how digitisation impacts welfare, on-ground usage, harassment and the Street Vendors Act, 2014, e-Commerce, and worker protests.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/special-articles/digital-developmentalism-and-street-vending.html>

39. The Death of Multilateralism in Trade; the Extinction of the WTO. India Forum. 23rd July 2025.

Two disturbing, though unrelated, global developments have caused widespread anguish across the world in recent months. On one side, the unrelenting devastation in Gaza, Palestine, has reached a point that appears to surpass even post-Holocaust thresholds of ethnic cleansing and mass destruction. On the other, the Donald Trump administration's near-daily imposition of tariffs on the US's trading partners has undermined the multilateral trading system and left its guardian, the World Trade Organization (WTO), in disarray and at the risk of permanent irrelevance.

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/economy/death-multilateralism-extinction-wto>

EDUCATION

40. Britain's bankrupt universities are hunting for cheaper models. Economist. 19th July 2025.

As the academic year in Britain limps to a close, universities look more broke than a student after a summer of Interrailing. The Office for Students, a regulator, reckons that four in ten universities are running deficits. Half have closed courses to save money, according to a poll of 60 institutions by Universities UK (UUK), an industry group. Durham has shed 200 staff; Newcastle a similar number. Unions allege that a cost-saving plan announced by Lancaster could see close to one in five of its academics lose their job.

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2025/07/17/britains-bankrupt-universities-are-hunting-for-cheaper-models>

41. Understanding Employment Needs and Preferences in Indian Agricultural Higher Education: A Comprehensive Study of Students, Faculty, and Alumni. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol-60, No-29. 19th July 2025.

A comprehensive survey was conducted among students, faculty, and alumni in India's agricultural higher education to gather insights into their employment needs and curriculum suggestions aligned with industry trends and technological advancements. The study involved 6,505 undergraduate, postgraduate, and PhD students, 1,325 faculties, and 1,086 alumni from 76 agricultural universities under the National Agriculture Research and Education System overseen by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Data collected through computer-assisted personal interviews covered employment trends, factors influencing career decisions, perceptions of education delivery, and relevant skills acquired. Notably, 50% of students developed crucial skills including personality, core subject knowledge, communication, research, industry etiquette, and behaviour. Faculty preferences paralleled students' choices, with 50% aiming for higher studies or government positions and acknowledging a rise in private sector opportunities. Faculty recommended improvements such as industry exposure visits, enhanced communication training, and market-oriented pilot courses. Alumni revealed challenges with job placements (only 23% had immediate employment) and identified crucial lacking skills including information and technology, communication, negotiation, personality development, business analytics, and managerial skills. The study highlighted the significance of experiential learning, practical knowledge, communication skills, and industry exposure in securing better job placements for graduates, providing valuable insights for enhancing agricultural higher education and facilitating smoother transitions to the job market for students, faculty, and alumni.

<https://www.epw.in/engage/article/understanding-employment-needs-and-preferences>

42. The Politics of Microeconomics. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol-60, No-29. 19th July 2025.

The formal teaching of economics in modern universities began with Oxford's PPE course, where PPE refers to politics, philosophy and economics. In the preamble to the course, the stated aim of PPE is "to promote the study of the structure, and the philosophical, political, and economic principles, of modern society." While the PPE course continues to be offered in the United Kingdom and in some universities in India, the Bachelor of Arts (BA) in economics dominates economics education. The BA economics curriculum has rightly been criticised for lacking courses that provide a critical and contextual perspective; for example, courses such as history of economic thought, economic history, economics and ethics, and philosophy of economics.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/29/commentary/politics-microeconomics.html>

43. Telangana Education Commission 2025. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol-60, No-29. 19th July 2025.

Transformative reforms recommended by the Telangana Education Commission 2025 face challenges such as an overemphasis on performance metrics, bureaucratic governance led by non-educators, and a contentious push for English-medium instruction without robust teacher training or language acquisition strategies. The success of the reform hinges on addressing systemic inequities, empowering educators, and balancing accountability with authentic learning to achieve universal quality and equity.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/29/commentary/telangana-education-commission-2025.html>

44. Citius, altius, fortius: Advancing education, research, innovation and entrepreneurship for Viksit Bharat@ 2047-part-1#. University News. Vol.63, No.29. 21-27 July 2025. Page No.3-12.

India envisions itself as one of the most advanced and enlightened nations by 2047, with a USD 30 trillion economy supporting a population of about 1.67 billion, I want to witness India emerge as the world's second-or third-largest economic and technological powerhouse.

45. The Wrecking of American Research. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 71, No-21. 18th July 2025.

In 1976, Americans made a clean sweep of the Nobel Prizes. The year's honorees were recognized for pioneering research on infectious diseases and for the discovery of a new subatomic particle, which changed physicists' understanding of matter. The economist Milton Friedman won for his analysis of monetary policy and its effects. It was the first time a single country had won all the awards.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-wrecking-of-american-research>

46. Examination reforms at Central University of Kashmir: from rote to relevance. University News. Vol.63, No.29. 21-27 July 2025. Page No-13-14.

Before NEP 2020, the Indian higher education system was at a crossroads. On the one hand, it has faced the challenge of meeting national expectations, and on the other, it has been compelled to align with international academic standards and benchmarks.

47. A Lost Generation of Researchers. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 71, No-21. 18th July 2025.

Amiyah Buan was sure she'd be starting her Ph.D. this fall after applying to eight graduate programs in biochemistry. It was all part of a carefully considered plan, one she'd been working on since middle school. After graduating from Western Connecticut State University in 2024 with her bachelor's degree in biochemistry, Buan took a gap year, working three jobs to earn extra money while researching her Ph.D. options. She was hoping to build a career in academe, and maybe one day branch into industry.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/a-lost-generation-of-researchers>

48. Commerce with conscience: fusing Indian knowledge systems into contemporary educational frameworks. University News. Vol.63, No.29. 21-27 July 2025. Page No- 15-20.

Education is the foundation of society, shaping individuals and communities to think critically, innovate, and contribute to the world. As the world moves towards an interconnected future, it's crucial to rethink traditional educational systems, integrating diverse knowledge systems that offer a more holistic and inclusive approach.

49. What does it cost to run a lab? Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 71, No-21. 18th July 2025.

Ten years ago, biologists who wanted to figure out how cancers grow could measure the signaling inside cells, one protein at a time. Today,

they can measure 20,000 proteins at once. They do that with mass-spectrometry machines, two of which can be found at the University of Arizona. Each costs \$800,000.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/what-does-it-cost-to-run-a-lab>

50. The exodus of talent: understanding brain drain from India. University News. Vol.63, No.29. 21-27 July 2025. Page No- 21-22.

The existing mindset of the exodus from the motherland for learning and earning is somehow harming the growth of nations in terms of innovation and development. Brain drain is considered as migration of talented, educated, and skilled persons from their motherland to another country. India has been a significant contributor to global migration of skilled professionals, especially in the fields of information technology (IT), medicine, engineering, and management.

51. What Republicans' Sprawling Policy Bill Means for Higher Ed. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 71, No-21. 18th July 2025.

After a narrow party-line vote in the House Thursday, President Trump signed off on his signature legislation, a sprawling, expensive domestic-policy bill, by his self-imposed July 4 deadline. To fund the extension of roughly \$3.8 trillion in tax cuts made during Trump's first term, the bill will add \$3.3 trillion to the national debt over the next decade while making steep cuts to Medicaid and other social services. Low-income Americans will be especially hard-hit, analyses show.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/what-the-senates-sprawling-policy-bill-means-for-higher-ed>

52. Noncitizen Professors Testify About Chilling Effect of Others' Detentions. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 71, No-21. 18th July 2025.

Canceled research trips. Skipped conferences. Plans to revise a syllabus. On Monday, two professors who hold green cards testified about the ways that the detentions this spring of students and scholars who had voiced criticism of Israel had affected their work. They were the first two witnesses in a trial underway in a federal court in Boston over whether the free-speech rights of academics who are not American have been curtailed under the Trump administration.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/noncitizen-professors-testify-about-chilling-effect-of-others-detentions>

53. Under Trump, Colleges Wonder How to Do Without Federal Money. These Campuses Already Know. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 71, No-21. 18th July 2025.

When administrators at Boyce College start building a budget each year, they take a look at money flowing in from annual giving, auxiliary services, denominational support, and the endowment. Then they see how much more they need, and use that number to figure out tuition.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/under-trump-colleges-wonder-how-to-do-without-federal-money-these-campuses-already-know>

54. Jim Ryan's Resignation Is a Warning. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 71, No-21. 18th July 2025.

Last Friday, I received a message from James E. Ryan, president of the University of Virginia. At first, I thought it would be like countless other

emails I have received over the years — in 1989, I defended my Ph.D. dissertation at UVA on resistance and collaboration in Vichy France — from my alma mater.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/jim-ryans-resignation-is-a-warning>

55. Can a University Really Care for Its Employees?. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 71, No-21. 18th July 2025.

My quest to study the campus workplace began as I recovered from a serious case of burnout. May has always been my favorite time of year, watching students walk across the graduation stage, but during our virtual commencement in May of 2020, I was more interested in staring at the back of my eyelids. That was one of several moments that month when I said to myself, “Something’s wrong here.”

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/can-a-university-really-care-for-its-employees>

56. Meet Students Where They Are? Maybe Not. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 71, No-21. 18th July 2025.

Amoral injunction popular in today’s academy is to “meet students where they are.” The idea appears unimpeachable. If educators encounter students incapable of meeting the course expectations of prior years (exacerbated, perhaps, by pandemic learning loss), what sense does it make to teach over their heads? Aren’t we responsible for ensuring that all students at least learn something, even if that means adjusting our expectations? And would it not be patently unfair, not to mention elitist, to tailor instruction to a minority of bright students while the majority fall behind or fail?

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/meet-students-where-they-are-maybe-not>

57. Admin 101: How to Fix Our Cold, Inefficient Hiring. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 71, No-21. 18th July 2025.

The first time I served on a faculty-search committee, I felt awkward and unsure of my role. After all, we were looking to hire an assistant professor, and just two years earlier, I had been a candidate myself for the same type of position. What most stood out to me then — and still resonates all these years later — was a comment made by a senior professor on the committee: “Remember: If the candidates are good enough for us, then we have to show we’re good enough for them. This is wooing, not fraternity hazing.”

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/admin-101-how-to-fix-our-cold-inefficient-hiring>

58. Against Publication: The Case for Academics to Write Less. India Forum. 22nd July 2025.

Newly appointed as the editors of an academic journal, a colleague and I awaited a meeting with the head of the India branch of a major academic publisher to renew our publishing contract. We had modest ideas to improve the journal: proper fact-checking, peer review in earnest, and more time for revisions. To maintain rigour, we proposed that 16–20 articles per year would be best, rather than the 26-odd that had become the norm in the two previous years.

EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

59. To survive the AI age, the web needs a new business model. Economist. 19th July 2025.

This week Hollywood released details of a new film about Sam Altman and the rise of OpenAI, whose launch of ChatGPT in late 2022 has brought high drama to the tech world. One of the most important effects of artificial intelligence (AI) so far is surely on how information is spread online. Instead of typing their questions into search engines, people increasingly pose them to chatbots. Google, which a year ago started adding AI-generated summaries to its results, promises that users can “let Google do the Googling for you”.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/07/17/to-survive-the-ai-age-the-web-needs-a-new-business-model>

60. You don't have to be America or China to win in AI, says Rishi Sunak. Economist. 19th July 2025.

AMERICA AND China are sprinting to see who can push the frontiers of technology and develop artificial general intelligence (AGI) first. The competition for AGI—AI that surpasses humans at all cognitive tasks—is of fundamental geopolitical importance. Every democratic state should hope that America wins: a Chinese victory would tilt the balance of power in favour of an authoritarian superpower.

<https://www.economist.com/by-invitation/2025/07/16/you-dont-have-to-be-america-or-china-to-win-in-ai-says-rishi-sunak>

61. AI is killing the web. Can anything save it?. Economist. 19th July 2025.

Around the beginning of last year, Matthew Prince started receiving worried calls from the bosses of big media companies. They told Mr Prince, whose firm, Cloudflare, provides security infrastructure to about a fifth of the web, that they faced a grave new online threat. “I said, ‘What, is it the North Koreans?’,” he recalls. “And they said, ‘No. It’s AI’.”

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/07/14/ai-is-killing-the-web-can-anything-save-it>

62. Can Nvidia persuade governments to pay for “sovereign” AI?. Economist. 19th July 2025.

Late in 2023 Jensen Huang, boss of Nvidia, began peddling a new idea. Every country, he said, should have its own artificial-intelligence (AI) system, trained on domestic data, aligned with national values and built using local infrastructure. Appealing to policymakers’ fondness for manufacturing, the boss of the chip colossus described these systems as “AI factories”, ingesting data and churning out intelligence. He called it “sovereign AI”.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/07/13/can-nvidia-persuade-governments-to-pay-for-sovereign-ai>

63. Are superstars as good when they move jobs?. Economist. 19th July 2025.

The competition for the world's best AI talent is frenzied. Mark Zuckerberg, the boss of Meta, has personally taken charge of efforts to recruit for a "superintelligence" lab. The sums on offer are eye-watering: a rumoured \$200m-plus to prise away the head of Apple's AI models. OpenAI executives are said to be "recalibrating" compensation in order to ward off Mr Zuckerberg. But hiring hotshots makes sense only if you believe that talent is portable, and that superstars will continue to shine in their new organisations.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/07/17/are-superstars-as-good-when-they-move-jobs>

64. Will AI make you stupid?. Economist. 19th July 2025.

AS ANYBODY WHO has ever taken a standardised test will know, racing to answer an expansive essay question in 20 minutes or less takes serious brain power. Having unfettered access to artificial intelligence (AI) would certainly lighten the mental load. But as a recent study by researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) suggests, that help may come at a cost.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2025/07/16/will-ai-make-you-stupid>

65. How Pioneering Boards Are Using AI. Harvard Business Review. July-August 2025.

In 2014 Hong Kong-based Deep Knowledge Ventures formally appointed an algorithm to its board of directors, giving it voting power on the VC firm's investment decisions. At the time, the appointment was seen as a gimmick. The algorithm simply analyzed quantitative data according to parameters chosen by humans to produce a base recommendation that the board members could debate. It was useful because it was faster than a human data analyst, but few observers believed that virtual board members would become commonplace.

<https://hbr.org/2025/07/how-pioneering-boards-are-using-ai>

66. Don't Let an AI Failure Harm Your Brand. Harvard Business Review. July-August 2025.

In October 2023 an automated vehicle (AV) operated by Cruise, a robotaxi subsidiary of General Motors, was involved in a serious accident in San Francisco. A Nissan, driven by a human, struck a pedestrian, who was thrown into the AV's path. According to an independent engineering consultant's investigation of the accident, no prudent human driver under those circumstances would have been able to steer the AV to avert the crash. But Cruise's initial report to regulators omitted the fact that the pedestrian was then dragged underneath the AV for 20 feet. She suffered severe injuries but survived.

<https://hbr.org/2025/07/dont-let-an-ai-failure-harm-your-brand>

ENVIRONMENT

67. Sand, sun and stench. Economist. 19th July 2025.

The sea in front of the Ocean Frontiers dive shop on Grand Cayman is usually crystal clear. But recently sparkling blue has turned murky brown.

Like much of the Caribbean, the island has been engulfed by sargassum, a floating seaweed. Sometimes the algae stretches 30 metres (100 feet) out from the shore. It jams propellers and mars white beaches. Worst of all says Evan Verreault, the shop manager, it stinks. Decaying sargassum releases a stench of rotten eggs.

<https://www.economist.com/interactive/the-americas/2025/07/17/sand-sun-stench>

FOOD

68. Americans are catching on to the joys of British food. Yes, really. Economist. 19th July 2025.

Pilsen, a gentrifying neighbourhood on the South West Side of Chicago, is a regular spot for visitors hoping to eat interesting food. Until it was cancelled this year, the local mole festival, held each spring, drew hundreds of Mexican food fans (a mole is a sort of thick sauce). Chinese and Vietnamese restaurants have spilled over from nearby Chinatown. Another excellent place to eat is the Pleasant House Pub. At this spot patrons can order starters of Scotch eggs, Welsh rarebit, curry on chips or chicken balti pie. Dessert includes sticky toffee pudding. To wash it down there is a cask ale, brewed locally.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/07/15/americans-are-catching-on-to-the-joys-of-british-food-yes-really>

GEOLOGY

69. In an Age of Climate Change, How Do We Cope with Floods?. New Yorker. 28th July 2025.

On the evening of July 3rd, as the sun went down over Kerrville, Texas, a small city of some twenty-five thousand people and the seat of Kerr County, the water in the Guadalupe River was just four inches deep, according to the U.S. Geological Survey's stream gauge there. The area hadn't had any rain since mid-June. R.V. campers in the HTR TX Hill Country campground in Kerrville, some of whom had arrived at the sixty-five-acre facility only hours before, could barely hear the river, even though they were parked in premium spots next to it.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/07/28/in-an-age-of-climate-change-how-do-we-cope-with-floods>

HEALTH

70. The world is winning the war on cancer. Economist. 19th July 2025.

IN 1971 RICHARD NIXON, then America's president, announced a "war on cancer". Just two years earlier the Apollo programme had combined big science and big government to put astronauts on the Moon, so hopes were high. Some optimistic doctors talked of a cure for cancer within a few years. They were wrong. Today every adult has had cancer, knows someone who has, or both. Half of men and a third of women in rich

countries can expect to suffer from it at some point in their lives. In America, where it is the second-most-common cause of death, just behind heart disease, it kills around 600,000 people a year. Worldwide, it is responsible for about one in six of all deaths. If your criterion for success was a cure within a decade—or even two or three or four—then you might conclude that the war on cancer has been lost.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/07/17/the-world-is-winning-the-war-on-cancer>

71. The world is making impressive progress averting cancer. Economist. 19th July 2025.

IT IS ALREADY a frightening disease, and one that, on the face of things, is becoming ever deadlier. Cancer kills perhaps 10m people a year, a number that has been rising steadily over the decades. In rich countries, half of men and one in three women develop it at some point. In many countries, including Australia, Britain, Canada and Japan, people are more likely to die of cancer than of any other cause.

<https://www.economist.com/briefing/2025/07/17/the-world-is-making-impressive-progress-averting-cancer>

72. Semuels, Alana

Why are rural hospitals closing? TIME. Vol.206, No.3-4. 28th July 2025. Page No.8.

Thomasville regional medical center was supposed to be a game changer, situated in the U.S. congressional district with the worst health outcomes in the country, the hospital opened in 2020 with state-of-the-art equipment, including a 3D mammogram and an MRI scanner. But it closed less than five years later in September 2024.

73. Kluger, Jeffrey

Health Matters. Time. Vol.206. No.3-4. 28th July 2025. Page No 20.

In a Christmas carol, Ebenezer scrooge at first dismisses the ghosts that torment him as mere dietary disturbances: 'you may be an undigested bit of beef, a blot of mustard, a crumb of cheese, a fragment of an underdone potato,' he says to one special visitor.

HISTORY

74. Welcome to Asia's secret Silicon Island. Economist. 19th July 2025.

When Singaporeans want to travel back in time to the city-state's colonial days, they hop on a flight to Penang. The narrow streets of the Malaysian island's historic centre are lined with shophouses built by the British. Popular culinary institutions, in business for generations, serve noodles and curries and cater to tourists' nostalgia. Elderly hawkers sell sweets from their stalls on winding side streets.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/07/17/welcome-to-asias-secret-silicon-island>

75. India, the Soviet Union, and Allied Victory in World War II. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol-60, No-29. 19th July 2025.

The Western discourse on the Allied victory in World War II has underlined the role played by the United States (US) and the United

Kingdom (UK) in the campaigns on the Western Front and Italy between 1943 and 1945 in a war which was fought in various military theatres spread across the globe. The US discourse—which places an excessive emphasis on the Normandy Landings of 1944—also highlights the Pacific Theatre of the war in which Japan was the main Axis Enemy of the Allies. Since 1945, a carefully curated Western discourse emerged—especially in the context of the Cold War—the key features of which comprise books, articles, films, comics, and annual celebrations.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/29/commentary/india-soviet-union-and-allied-victory-world-war-ii.html>

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

76. Trump's U-turn on Russia is utterly cynical—and welcome. Economist. 19th July 2025.

Over the past six months President Donald Trump has been all over the place on Ukraine. He said he could end the war in 24 hours. Then, while negotiating with Russia, he threatened to cut off the supply of weapons to Ukraine. In the past week he has signalled a new enthusiasm for supporting Ukraine. His spectacular pivot involves ambiguity, theatre and cynicism. Yet it creates a pathway for Ukraine and its supporters to stabilise a weakening position. They must take it.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/07/16/trumps-u-turn-on-russia-is-utterly-cynical-and-welcome>

77. How did Pakistan shoot down India's fighter jets? Economist. 19th July 2025.

They were used to hearing fighter jets from a nearby airbase. But this noise was louder and less familiar: a roar punctuated by repeated explosions. Residents of Akalia Kalan, a village in northern India, leapt from their beds as it grew closer in the early hours of May 7th. Outside, they saw a ball of flames pass overhead and crash into a nearby field. The wreckage was clearly identifiable as a fighter. Two bystanders died, according to villagers. The two Indian pilots had ejected earlier and were found, injured, in fields nearby.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/07/16/how-did-pakistan-shoot-down-indias-fighter-jets>

78. A savage squabble between China and Europe. Economist. 19th July 2025.

IN THE EARLY months of America's trade war against the world, speculation mounted. Could the two other major trading powers, China and the European Union, collaborate to intensify their bilateral trade links so as to compensate for America's isolationism? A summit on July 24th in Beijing will show that the answer is emphatically "no". It was supposed to be a celebration of 50 years of diplomatic ties. Now it looks set to be a sputtering squib.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2025/07/15/a-savage-squabble-between-china-and-europe>

79. Why a fling with a foreigner insults China's "national dignity". Economist. 19th July 2025.

LIKE HIS Greek namesake, Danylo Teslenko, formerly a professional gamer known online as "Zeus", presents himself as a ladies' man. On a trip to China in December the Ukrainian had a tryst with a female student and, without permission, shared intimate, though not sexual, videos of her online in a fan group (one clip showed her sleeping). But it is she who has faced a storm over their encounter.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2025/07/17/why-a-fling-with-a-foreigner-insults-chinas-national-dignity>

80. As the Houthis sink two ships in one week, the world shrugs. Economist. 19th July 2025.

IT WAS a short-lived surrender. Earlier this year America carried out more than 1,000 strikes against the Houthis, an Iranian-backed militia in Yemen. The group had kept up a year-long series of attacks on commercial ships in the Red Sea, ostensibly to protest against Israel's ongoing war in Gaza. American bombing was meant to dissuade them from future mayhem. When Donald Trump unexpectedly announced a ceasefire on May 6th, he said the Houthis had agreed to just that: "They have capitulated," the president said. "They say they will not be blowing up ships anymore."

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/07/17/as-the-houthis-sink-two-ships-in-one-week-the-world-shrugs>

81. A first-hand look at Gaza's controversial food-distribution sites. Economist. 19th July 2025.

THOUSANDS STOOD in the sweltering sun, watched over by an Israeli tank, in a long queue snaking south from the second-largest city in the Gaza Strip. They had walked for miles to reach a food-distribution centre on the outskirts of Khan Younis. As the crowd grew, the American mercenaries who guarded the entrance to the compound fired into the air. They began handing out cardboard boxes, each containing flour, pasta, oil, and other dry goods calculated to last a family for a week. Those who had received their boxes quickly emptied them into white sacks and left.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/07/17/a-first-hand-look-at-gazas-controversial-food-distribution-sites>

82. Fed up with Putin, Trump offers Ukraine arms and tariffs. Economist. 19th July 2025.

AFTER HIS first post-election call with Vladimir Putin in February, Donald Trump gushed about the "great benefits" of a rapprochement with Russia. On July 14th he seemed to lose patience, announcing that America would resume supplies of Patriot air-defence missiles and other weapons, and threatening secondary tariffs of 100% on countries doing business with Russia if there was no peace deal within 50 days. "We're very unhappy with Russia," Mr Trump declared.

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2025/07/14/fed-up-with-putin-trump-offers-ukraine-arms-and-tariffs>

83. Ukrainian drones are killing ever more soldiers. Economist. 19th July 2025.

Colonel Yehor Derevyanko is getting impatient. Three Russian soldiers, seemingly oblivious to the fact that they are being watched, walk down a country road. "Kill them!" he snaps. Two loitering drones are despatched. The bunker beneath the eastern city of Kostiantynivka contains five screens showing drone feeds and three men using laptops. Suddenly one blurts out: "Fuck, we've lost them!"

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2025/07/17/ukrainian-drones-are-killing-ever-more-soldiers>

84. Germany's "memory culture" prevents it from coping with Gaza. Economist. 19th July 2025.

TO walk around Berlin is to experience something no other capital city offers: a physical landscape that forces one to dwell on the crimes of its former occupants. The haunting Monument to the Murdered Jews of Europe sits near the seats of German power in the Reichstag and chancellery. Every neighbourhood is littered with Stolpersteine, small brass plates bearing the names and fates of Holocaust victims set in the pavements outside their former homes. These and a thousand other memorials and rituals are expressions of Germany's Erinnerungskultur, a "memory culture" built up over decades.

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2025/07/17/germanys-memory-culture-prevents-it-from-coping-with-gaza>

85. Britain and Germany sign a historic treaty. Economist. 19th July 2025.

Civil servants given the task of event planning have had their work cut out this month. On July 8th they treated President Emmanuel Macron of France to the pageantry of a three-day state visit. On July 17th the new German chancellor, Friedrich Merz, was due to make his first official trip to Britain. Although his visit will lack the pomp of Mr Macron's, it is no less historic.

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2025/07/17/britain-and-germany-sign-a-historic-treaty>

86. Cynical realism won't save India from Donald Trump. Economist. 19th July 2025.

IT IS HARD to knock India's political and business elites off balance, but President Donald Trump is managing. In Delhi's book-lined studies and the glass-walled corporate towers of Mumbai, grandees are suffering from vertigo. Normally, Indian diplomats and strategists take pride in being unshockable, remaining coolly transactional whatever a wicked world throws at them. But since Mr Trump's return to office, elites are off-kilter.

<https://www.economist.com/international/2025/07/15/cynical-realism-wont-save-india-from-donald-trump>

87. India-China Relations. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol-60, No-29. 19th July 2025.

Soon after he first arrived in China, braving a severe cold climate, the 63-year-old poet-philosopher Rabindranath Tagore said these emotional words to his Chinese audience: "we will always stand by you." Tagore's genuine, selfless, and sincere desire a century ago for friendship and brotherhood for the two civilisational neighbours, unfortunately, has been lost in the long game of simmering tensions along the border.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/29/commentary/india-china-relations.html>

88. Trump's Iran shambles. Time. Vol.206. No.3-4. 28th July 2025. Page No 17-18.

The questions remaining over the damage to Iran's nuclear program include the fate of almost 900 lb. of highly enriched uranium, enough to make nine bombs. But we know that stockpile was accumulated after Donald Trump scrapped an agreement that had sidelined Iran's program, a pact that Tehran had been honoring. Trump's failed diplomacy got us into this mess.

89. Ukraine's lost children. Time. Vol.206. No.3-4. 28th July 2025. Page No.48-53.

They were printed in tiny letters, 339 in all, each representing a child abducted from the war zone in Ukraine and, according to authorities in Kyiv, forcibly taken to Russia. Putin had never been confronted with the list in public, and he showed no particular interest in reading it. It was June 4, a warm day in Moscow, exactly three years, three months, and 11 days since Putin ordered the invasion of Ukraine.

LAW

90. No Privacy in a Marriage. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol-60, No-29. 19th July 2025.

The Supreme Court's judgment in *Vibhor Garg v Neha* (2025) holding that a husband may produce non-consensually recorded phone calls as evidence in a matrimonial dispute seems to suggest that marriage puts an end to the right to privacy between spouses. The Court's broad, sweeping conclusions miss the nuance needed to address a complex legal question that called for balancing competing principles.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/law-and-society/no-privacy-marriage.html>

91. Access Denied. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol-60, No-29. 19th July 2025.

The Indian research community has been anxiously following court proceedings in a copyright infringement suit that seeks the blocking of two shadow libraries—Sci-Hub and LibGen. The Delhi High Court has allowed 21 interventions filed by various academicians underlining the importance of these pirate websites in India (*Elsevier Ltd & Ors v Alexandra Elbakyan* 2020). But more importantly, this overwhelming dependence highlights the non-existence of a framework that enables legitimate access to academic research material in India. Although the Indian Copyright Act, 1957 authorises the use of copyrighted work for research purposes, users can only take advantage of the authorisation once they have access to the copyrighted work. I refer to it as the “access gap” in the law, which is exacerbated by the social reality of lack of access to resources in third world countries. While India spends roughly \$200 million annually on subscriptions to various e-journals (Chakraborty et al 2020), the majority of Indian universities still cannot afford to access most journals leading to a “serials crisis” (Liang 2018). This

forces researchers to partake in what is colloquially known as “knowledge trafficking.”

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/29/commentary/access-denied.html>

92. Same-sex Marriage Advocacy. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol-60, No-29. 19th July 2025.

Marriage laws in India have been a subject of continuous debate and were also discussed in the Constituent Assembly debates. Within this historical context, arguments ranged from the broad-based formulation of a Uniform Civil Code to more specific proposals for the inclusion of the right to marry as a fundamental right. If such a fundamental right had to be resuscitated from the debates for their inclusion into the Constitution as it stands today, the implications for interfaith and same-sex marriages would have notably been different.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/29/perspectives/same-sex-marriage-advocacy.html>

LITERATURE

93. Awad, Mona

The Chartreuse. New Yorker. 28th July 2025.

The dress had come and gone and she'd missed it, apparently. “Sorry we missed you,” the FedEx tag on her door said. That was all they'd left her with, a tag. How could you have missed me? she thought, her heart thudding. I only just went down to throw the garbage away. She stared at her white front door, which was covered in rust spots. So many that it looked diseased.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/07/28/the-chartreuse-fiction-mona-awad>

94. Pinsky, Robert

Astounding Stories. New Yorker. 28th July 2025.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/07/28/astounding-stories-robert-pinsky-poem>

95. Sze, Arthur

Rift. New Yorker. 28th July 2025.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/07/28/rift-arthur-sze-poem>

POLITICAL SCIENCE & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

96. The British people have been kept in the dark for two years. Economist. 19th July 2025.

It is RARELY the sin that lands you in trouble; it is the cover-up. Britain is being reminded of this adage after a judge ruled on July 15th that a two-

year gagging order barring all reporting of a serious security-data breach, and its equally serious consequences, was no longer justified. As he lifted the first-ever super-injunction granted to the government, Sir Martin Chamberlain, a High Court judge, said that the evidence for maintaining the order had been “fundamentally undermined” and that there was “no tenable basis” for continuing it.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/07/17/the-british-people-have-been-kept-in-the-dark-for-two-years>

97. Climate change is a by-product of progress, not an existential crisis, says Trump’s energy czar. Economist. 19th July 2025.

Nearly every aspect of modern life depends upon energy. It fuels opportunity, lifts people out of poverty and saves lives. That is why, as a lifelong energy entrepreneur and as us Secretary of Energy, I am honoured to advance President Donald Trump’s policy of bettering lives through unleashing a golden age of energy dominance—both at home and around the world.

<https://www.economist.com/by-invitation/2025/07/14/climate-change-is-a-by-product-of-progress-not-an-existential-crisis-says-trumps-energy-czar>

98. Japan’s politics is entering a messy new era. Economist. 19th July 2025. THE DEBUT on TikTok by the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Japan’s long-time ruling party, lacked what young people might call “rizz”. Released last month, the 44-second video features Ishiba Shigeru, the 68-year-old prime minister, in a dark suit promising to lower petrol prices, while glancing down at paper notes. Prepare to be astounded: it was not a success.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/07/14/japans-politics-is-entering-a-messy-new-era>

99. Meet the most important voice in Australian foreign policy. Economist. 19th July 2025.

Penny Wong, Australia’s foreign minister, prefers to talk about her job, not herself. Asked what it was like to be in Washington on January 20th, listening to Donald Trump’s inaugural polemic against “woke” politics, the first gay person and first Asian-Australian to hold the office answers by drawing on a different identity. “I’m a parliamentarian,” she says, “so the peaceful transfer of power in the world’s superpower was quite a moving event.”

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/07/17/meet-the-most-important-voice-in-australian-foreign-policy>

100. Wyoming gets a MAGA makeover. Economist. 19th July 2025. IT WAS A busy morning on the ranch. Dan Zwonitzer freed a newborn yak from where it had got tangled in his fence. The white-and-black baby, which looked like a cross between a goat and a cow, was just a few days old. Its nose was still a rosy pink. Mr Zwonitzer is spending more time with the yaks on his ranch just outside Cheyenne, Wyoming’s capital, than he used to. He lost his Republican primary election last year and was ousted from the legislature after serving for 20 years in the state’s House of Representatives. Wyoming politics, he says, “just seems crazier than it ever has in my lifetime”.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/07/11/wyoming-gets-a-maga-makeover>

101. Justice for Haiti's murdered president is messy. Economist. 19th July 2025.

Four years after Haiti's last elected president, Jovenel Moïse, was assassinated, Haitians are still waiting for justice. It is advancing along two legal tracks in parallel, one in Port-au-Prince, the capital, and the other in Miami. Haiti's last elected official left his post in January 2023. The country has been overrun by gangs and half of all Haitians go hungry. So expectations of its justice system were probably low. Still, the lack of progress on the most important murder case in recent history is remarkable. Dozens of suspects have been thrown in jail, pending trial, including 17 Colombian mercenaries who were contracted by CTU, a security firm based in South Florida. But several key suspects escaped last year when armed gangs attacked prisons and seized control of much of Port-au-Prince. There is still no sign of a trial date.

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2025/07/17/justice-for-haitis-murdered-president-is-messy>

102. Switzerland is ticking towards a tighter deal with the EU. Economist. 19th July 2025.

Switzerland and Britain share two qualities: a fondness for cheese, and ambivalence towards the European Union. Lately both countries are contemplating drawing closer to the bloc. But while Britain has taken only a few tentative steps on youth travel and fish, the Swiss are moving towards resetting the entire relationship. At the end of 2024 they concluded negotiations on a deal that would synchronise their complex mechanism of treaties with the EU into a single coherent framework. The Swiss government presented it as a ringing triumph. But some of its citizens, who will eventually have the final say via a referendum, are getting a bit wound up.

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2025/07/17/switzerland-is-ticking-towards-a-tighter-deal-with-the-eu>

103. How to solve the backlog in England's courts. Economist. 19th July 2025.

A recent trial at Snaresbrook Crown Court, which serves Greater London, was adjourned for 43 months. When Judge Charles Falk was informed about the next available slot to try the defendant, who was charged with wielding a machete in public, his reaction was telling. "Wow," he said, "we will have to have a pre-trial review to ensure everyone is still alive."

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2025/07/17/how-to-solve-the-backlog-in-englands-courts>

104. What a football shirt can tell you about finance and geopolitics. Economist. 19th July 2025.

ON JULY 13TH Chelsea, a team in the English Premier League, put three goals past Paris Saint-Germain (PSG), of France's Ligue 1, to win the Club World Cup. As well as earning bragging rights—PSG were the tournament favourites—and a gargantuan gold trophy, Chelsea will take home around \$110m.

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2025/07/17/what-a-football-shirt-can-tell-you-about-finance-and-geopolitics>

105. 'If republicans were so proud of this one big, ugly bill, why did debate begin at 3:28 a.m.?'. TIME. Vol.206, No.3-4. 28th July 2025. Page No.6.

In the end, democrats were unable to stop republicans from getting their tax- cuts-and-spending plan across the finish line. But, in conversations with strategists close to democratic leaders, they had a credible consolation spin: this bill is the most hated piece of major legislation since at least 1990, and Republicans have no plan to fix that.

106. Intensive Revision of Universal Franchise. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol-60, No-29. 19th July 2025.

Mere months before the Bihar assembly elections, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has decided to dissolve the Bihar electorate. Every voter in Bihar has now been declared ineligible to vote unless they prove themselves eligible. On 24 June 2025, the ECI initiated the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Bihar, purportedly to ensure that all eligible voters are included and ineligible voters are excluded from the electoral rolls. Among the various reasons listed by the ECI that necessitated the conduct of this exercise at a short notice and at the eleventh hour were "... rapid urbanization, frequent migration, young citizens becoming eligible to vote, non-reporting of deaths and inclusion of the names of foreign illegal immigrants."

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/29/editorials/intensive-revision-universal-franchise.html>

107. From 25 Years Ago: Case for Multiculturalism in India. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol-60, No-29. 19th July 2025.

The term multiculturalism has become popular in the west over the past two decades. It reflects a concern to make the liberal democracies of the west more sensitive to the existence of cultural pluralism within the boundaries of the nation state, which had till then been considered to be culturally homogeneous. This assumption about the cultural homogeneity of the nation state was to seriously disadvantage the numerous minority communities that existed within them. It thus represents the extension of liberal principles to those sections of the society which had been disadvantaged and thereby excluded from the polity. It is a significant moment in the extension of liberal principles towards the end of the 20th century, and can be considered a further development after the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s in the US.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/25-years-ago/25-years-ago-case-multiculturalism-india.html>

108. From 50 Years Ago-Portugal: The Revolution in Peril. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol-60, No-29. 19th July 2025.

Last year's revolution in Portugal opened an exciting new chapter of modern European history; it would be a tragedy if it is now subverted in some manner or other. The people of Portugal succeeded in overthrowing a quasi-fascist authoritarian regime which had throttled their material standard of living as well as ideological aspirations for nearly half a

century. The underground of trade union militarists and peasant partisans won a great victory, but they were able to do so because they were joined and helped by the subterranean Armed Forces Movement, whose cadres sprung from the same proletarian roots as the working class and peasant agitators.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/50-years-ago/50-years-ago-portugal-revolution-peril.html>

109. Behind Trump's Jeffrey Epstein Problem. New Yorker. 28th July 2025.

Donald Trump's political allies have long insisted, with more than a little condescension, that the press should take the President seriously, but not literally. Yet the people who take Trump most literally are among his own supporters, who over the years have absorbed his most hyperbolic claims as if they were settled truth: that Hillary Clinton and various Bidens were guilty of high crimes, that the 2020 election was stolen, that the circumstances surrounding the death of the billionaire Jeffrey Epstein warranted "a full investigation" and might have involved Bill Clinton. Rarely do the diehards demand proof. So earlier this month, when the Department of Justice and the F.B.I. issued a statement asserting that there was, in fact, no deeper mystery behind Epstein's death—which occurred in a Manhattan jail cell in 2019, as he was facing trial for sex trafficking, and was determined to be suicide by hanging—the White House likely assumed that the magaverse would simply move on, as it had so many times before. The surprise—one that, two weeks in, Trump has still not been able to quell—is that it didn't.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/07/28/behind-trumps-jeffrey-epstein-problem>

110. ICE Agents Invade a Manhattan Little League Field. New Yorker. 28th July 2025.

Since President Trump took office, agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement have swarmed areas with immigrant populations, questioning people and making arrests. They've patrolled near schools and raided a homeless shelter. They arrested a four-year-old, two students of New York City public schools, and an Army veteran who happened to be Latino. Recently, masked and armed ICE agents descended on a baseball field in Riverside Park. They questioned a dozen or so eleven- to fourteen-year-olds who'd just finished batting practice, and left only after a confrontation with their coach, Youman Wilder, whom they threatened with arrest. He said, "I'm willing to die to make sure these kids can get home," he recounted afterward.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/07/28/ice-agents-invade-a-manhattan-little-league-field>

111. "Yes, And" for Downsized Federal Workers. New Yorker. 28th July 2025.

The Washington, D.C., air clung to the skin like a damp washcloth one Saturday not long ago. But inside the Mead Theatre it was almost cold enough to see your breath. A coltish woman tightened her shawl around her shoulders and watched as her fellow federal workers—some laid off, others still clinging to their jobs like passengers on a listing ship—improvised a scene.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/07/28/yes-and-for-downsized-federal-workers>

112. Donald Trump's Tariff Dealmaker-in-Chief. New Yorker. 28th July 2025.

When Howard Lutnick moved to Washington, earlier this year, to become the Secretary of Commerce, he painted one wall in his new living room gold. It was the only significant modification he made to the house, a château-style mansion purchased for twenty-five million dollars from the Fox News anchor Bret Baier. On a recent Sunday afternoon, Lutnick was in the living room, flipping through a commemorative coffee-table book designed by his family which pairs photographs of him with some of his favorite sayings. "It's between me and the mirror," one read. He turned the page: "You are either in or you are out." Lutnick's dog, a Havanese-poodle mix named Cali—three of his four children went to college in California—kept nosing her way through a gate to come sit with us. Lutnick was about to fly to London for a round of trade negotiations with China, whose restrictions on the sale of rare-earth metals were threatening to render parts of the American economy nonfunctional. Several suitcases were packed and waiting in the entryway, next to a gold Pop-art sculpture by Robert Indiana that spelled the word "LOVE." Later, Lutnick led me from room to room to point out a few more works from his personal collection: Rothko, Diebenkorn, Lichtenstein, de Kooning.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/07/28/donald-trumps-tariff-dealmaker-in-chief>

113. The Conflict-Intelligent Leader. Harvard Business Review. July-August 2025.

The past few years have been exhausting for many Western organizations. Civil strife seems to be widespread, with clashes over racial, gender, and income inequality; rising authoritarianism; immigration; climate change; and foreign wars deepening the divides in an increasingly polarized society.

<https://hbr.org/2025/07/the-conflict-intelligent-leader>

SCIENCE

114. Why do people sleep? A new study points to the brain. Economist. 19th July 2025.

IT IS HARD to overstate the importance of sleep. Regular hours of rest offer organisms of all sizes a chance to consolidate memories, repair cells and boost the health of their immune systems. But the source of the urge to sleep, known to scientists as sleep pressure (and everyone else as tiredness), has remained elusive.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2025/07/16/why-do-people-sleep-a-new-study-points-to-the-brain>

115. Should you take creatine?. Economist. 19th July 2025.

IF YOU are an athlete in search of a chemical boost your options are limited. Many of the drugs that are known to work—anabolic steroids to

make you stronger, say, or erythropoietin to boost your endurance—are banned and come with nasty side-effects. Many legal supplements, meanwhile, seem not to do anything useful.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2025/07/11/should-you-take-creatine>

116. The Scientists Who Got Ghosted by the NIH. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 71, No-21. 18th July 2025.

Belinda L. Needham submitted a grant application to the National Institutes of Health in October. Like clockwork, the agency informed her it would be reviewed at an upcoming meeting. But when President Trump took office, the meeting got taken off the calendar, and nine months after submitting, Needham still has no timeline for when her proposal will be evaluated. It hasn't been rejected — just siphoned out of the peer-review pipeline into an administrative no man's land.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-scientists-who-got-ghosted-by-the-nih>

SOCIOLOGY

117. Why did Israel strike Damascus?. Economist. 19th July 2025.

PLUMES OF SMOKE rose over Damascus on July 16th as Israeli warplanes struck Syria's capital. Targeting the presidential palace, the defence ministry and the army command, the attack killed at least one person and wounded several others. The strikes followed an outbreak of sectarian violence in the predominantly Druze province of Suwayda in Syria's south-west (see map). Hundreds of people have been killed in recent days in clashes between Bedouins, Druze militias and Syrian government forces and by Israeli air strikes. Israel says the purpose of the strikes, both in the south and in Damascus, was to end a Syrian government assault on the Druze. It also wants to enforce the demilitarised zone it had declared around Suwayda after the overthrow of Bashar al-Assad's regime in December.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/07/16/why-did-israel-strike-damascus>.

118. Uncovering the foibles of the KGB and the CIA. Economist. 19th July 2025.

TO BE AN intelligence officer is to make sacrifices: to wear a mask, to deceive even those close to you, to persuade others to betray their countries. When answering the call of duty, some have to make greater sacrifices than others. In the early 1970s Yuri Linov reported to a KGB clinic in Moscow, where he was circumcised. Mr Linov then headed for Israel, where he introduced himself as Karl-Bernd Motl, an Austrian Jew. The real Mr Motl was alive and well, living in East Germany. Mr Linov was a KGB "illegal"—an intelligence officer operating not only under a false name, but also a false nationality.

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2025/07/17/uncovering-the-foibles-of-the-kgb-and-the-cia>

119. China's child-snatching business. Economist. 19th July 2025.
China's one-child policy was not only cruel; it was a failure. Decades of shackling women to beds and forcing them to undergo abortions certainly reduced the birth rate. But it had been falling anyway; coercion may only have hastened a demographic crunch for which the country was ill-prepared.

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2025/07/17/chinas-child-snatching-business>

120. Water bottles, the accessory Gen Z is thirsting after. Economist. 19th July 2025.

IF YOU THOUGHT a reusable water bottle was a plain, boring receptacle—brought out of the cupboard only for long hikes—then you would be wrong. For Gen Z, a water bottle is both a necessity and a fashion statement. Social media are awash with videos of tumblers. The hashtag #WaterTok has 2.5bn views on TikTok.

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2025/07/14/water-bottles-the-accessory-gen-z-is-thirsting-after>

121. Myth of the Empowered Naga Women: A Reflection through Feminist and Postcolonial Perspective. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol-60, No-29. 19th July 2025.

This conceptual article delves into the intricate landscape of empowerment, focusing specifically on the experiences of Naga women. Despite the global discourse on empowerment, this article argues that the concept, when applied to Naga women, may function more as a myth than a tangible reality. Drawing on feminist and postcolonial perspectives, the article examines the complexities and nuances inherent in the purported empowerment of Naga women. It critiques prevailing narratives, identifies power structures, and explores the interplay between tradition, modernity, and external influences in shaping the empowerment discourse. Empowerment in the Naga society has, in recent years, become a terminology to overshadow the presence of women's active involvement in the public sphere; it is a limitation rather than a space for participation, agency, and choice.

<https://www.epw.in/engage/article/myth-empowered-naga-women-reflection-through>

122. Social Capital and Income Inequality. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol-60, No-29. 19th July 2025.

The relationship between income inequality and social capital is examined. Using the India Human Development Survey, which includes variables related to formal and informal social capital, income inequality is seen to adversely impact the formation of formal social capital while significantly contributing to the development of informal social capital in India. Further, evidence of a lower level of social capital among low-income individuals is observed. There is substantial inequality in income distribution that amplifies social capital inequality. Traditional income redistributive policies may prove ineffective when inequality becomes deeply ingrained in society.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/special-articles/social-capital-and-income-inequality.html>

123. The Case for Lunch. New Yorker. 28th July 2025.

In 1962, Roxane Debuissou, a Parisian housewife in her thirties, was walking down the Rue de Birague, in the Marais, when one of a pair of gilded iron balls—a traditional emblem of barbers—detached from its bracket and almost conked her on the head. The salon's proprietor, it turned out, planned to replace them with a neon sign. This was *les trente glorieuses*, the postwar years in which French society raced toward modernity, leaving the past in the dust of massive state-sponsored construction projects. Debuissou took the remaining orb home, thereby beginning an exceptional collection of Paris ephemera—previously commonplace objects that were disappearing before her eyes.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/07/28/the-case-for-lunch>

124. Mary Had Schizophrenia—Then Suddenly She Didn't. New Yorker. 28th July 2025.

When Christine was nine years old, her mother, Mary, said, "Come here. I want to tell you a secret." They sat on a brown couch in their living room, in Santa Ana, California. Mary, who was forty-three, said that a man she had known in medical school, a professor, was sending her messages about a plan to take her away and live in a mansion together. "I remember feeling really excited, because that fit with my sense of what should be happening," Christine said. "I was really into 'Harry Potter' and the idea that, if you are part of the select, you can see a bigger story happening out there."

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/07/28/mary-had-schizophrenia-then-suddenly-she-didnt>

125. Super-Fun Romantic Sexy Beach Read. New Yorker. 28th July 2025.

Thank you for your notes on the new manuscript. I certainly take your point that death, as a theme, isn't a traditional beach read. And I like your idea for "more lightness and fun, and less glioblastoma." I'm curious, though, if you're open to other types of deadly cancers. Also, will definitely "sex it up," but still think that could include crying or feelings of profound sadness and despair while on the beach on a summer vacation.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/07/28/super-fun-romantic-sexy-good-time-beach-read>

SPORTS

126. The rise and rise of women's sport. Economist. 19th July 2025.

Women's entry into organised sports has involved impressive acts of rebellion. Take the first European women's football championship in 1957. The four-team tournament took place in West Germany despite women being forbidden to play competitive football there. England's Football Association also deemed the sport "unsuitable for females". So when the English women won the tournament, forget any big celebrations at home—they were not even recognised.

<https://www.economist.com/international/2025/07/17/the-rise-and-rise-of-womens-sport>

TRAVEL DESCRIPTION

127. Albania's tourism boom is a boon for Jared Kushner. Economist. 19th July 2025.

"The Archers", a BBC radio soap opera about English rural life, gets more than 4m listeners in a typical week. This summer, the eponymous clan were considering a holiday in Albania. Until recently the country was considered edgy and dangerous. The Archers' possible trip reflects Albania's transformation into a mainstream tourist destination—with unexpected consequences.

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2025/07/17/albanias-tourism-boom-is-a-boon-for-jared-kushner>

128. The hottest new travel destination for hotel brands: India. Economist. 19th July 2025.

PATNA IS A day trip away from Bodh Gaya, where the Buddha is said to have attained enlightenment, and the ruins of Nalanda, an ancient monastery visited by the Chinese monk Xuanzang on his journey to the west. It is the capital of Bihar, a state of nearly 130m people, and a stopping point for pilgrims. Yet until recently it did not have a single premium hotel.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/07/17/the-hottest-new-travel-destination-for-hotel-brands-india>

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

S.No.	Title	Periodicity	Place of Publication
1	Chronicle of Higher Education	BW	US
2	Economic & Political Weekly	W	Mumbai
3	Economist (A.M.)	W	London
4	Harvard Business Review	M	Boston
5	India Forum	W	India
6	New Yorker	W	New York
7	Time	W	Chicago
8	University News	W	Delhi