

## ARTICLE ALERT 16-31 AUGUST 2025

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1. Flirty and thriving: how Sabrina Carpenter became a pop superstar. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

SABRINA CARPENTER's career is anything but wooden. Last August she released "Short n' Sweet", one of the albums of the summer, which topped the charts in 19 countries. Three songs from the record, "Espresso", "Please Please Please" and "Taste", were her first to rank in the top five of the Billboard Hot 100 and all charted simultaneously. Ms Carpenter became the first solo performer to achieve this feat; The Beatles are the only other act to have managed it.

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2025/08/28/flirty-and-thriving-how-sabrina-carpenter-became-a-pop-superstar>

2. "The Thursday Murder Club" and the resurgence of cosy crime. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

IN MOST CRIME stories, detectives worry about wily criminals, unreliable witnesses and meddling do-gooders. In Richard Osman's bestselling "Thursday Murder Club" (TMC) series, the investigators have to contend with a more relentless and unforgiving crowd: old folk who want a quiet place to do their jigsaw puzzles.

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2025/08/27/the-thursday-murder-club-and-the-resurgence-of-cosy-crime>

3. What gladiator shows were really like. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

Romans dreamed a lot about gladiators. Many imagined they were fighting themselves, down in the sandy arena, amid roaring crowds and trumpets. Such dreams in youth indicated what your future wife would be like. If you fought a provocator, with short, sharp sword and shield, she would be lovely but flirtatious. If you were matched against a retiarius, plodding with trident and net, she would be running round all over town. As for the gladiators, according to Artemidorus, a diviner, in his "Interpretation of Dreams", they dreamt of bears and lumps of iron.

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2025/08/28/what-gladiator-shows-were-really-like>

4. SUMMER OF OUR DISCONTENT. TIME. 8th Sep 2025.

In their 1980 song of the same name, the J. Geils Band sang, "Love stinks," and boy, they weren't kidding. In love, there are no guarantees. Infidelity, free-floating resentment, mutual loathing, garden-variety boredom: sometimes it seems there are more forces to drive couples apart than to hold them together. No wonder the romantic comedy, in which meant-to-be lovebirds find their way to a happy ending, is one of our most cherished genres. Sometimes, though, it feels good to look the beast of love-gone-wrong directly in the eye. A recent spate of darkly glittering comedies give us the opportunity to do just that. Forget the summer of love; this has been the summer of our grumbling discontent. Welcome to the age of the anti-romantic comedy. In writer-director Michael Shanks' horror-comedy Together,...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/september-8-2025-i672285/summer-of-our-discontent-a31>

5. A family in full. TIME. 8th Sep 2025.

The conventions of the animated family sitcom haven't changed much in the 36 years since The Simpsons set the template for shows like King of the Hill, Family Guy, and Bob's Burgers. True to the cartoon medium, the characters are outsize and their adventures over the top. And, in a custom that has been key to their longevity, time doesn't really pass from season to season. Unencumbered by the growing or deteriorating bodies of human actors, these series are set in an eternal quasi present, within which cultural references are constantly updated yet (with the exception of a recent Hill revival that fast-forwards eight years) everyone stays around the same age. In Netflix's Long Story Short, BoJack Horseman creator Raphael Bob-Waksberg uses the elasticity of animation to warp time in...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/september-8-2025-i672285/a-family-in-full-a33>

## BIOGRAPHY

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6. The boss of SAP on Europe's botched approach to digital sovereignty. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

The debate about digital sovereignty has seized Europe. In an era of geopolitical tension and technological rivalry, the desire to control one's own digital destiny is understandable and necessary. The question is not whether Europe should be sovereign, but how. Unfortunately, the continent's current answer—pouring billions of euros into building vast data centres and subsidising hardware investment—is a misguided solution to the wrong problem.

<https://www.economist.com/by-invitation/2025/08/25/the-boss-of-sap-on-europes-botched-approach-to-digital-sovereignty>

7. Sen Genshitsu spread peace through sipping. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

The little wooden gate stood open. From it a path snaked through the garden, past pines he had carefully positioned, planted and tended over the years. This was the “dewy ground”, like the track of a mountain stream, on which his guests now came walking, casting off the fire of worldly thoughts. Though they were in the city of Kyoto, the purpose of the tea ceremony they were attending was to enter into tranquil communion with Nature and with each other.

<https://www.economist.com/obituary/2025/08/28/sen-genshitsu-spread-peace-through-sipping>

8. Robert Louis Stevenson was adventurous, mercurial and fragile. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

Few writers have the genius to create a mythic story that each generation reimagines for itself. But Robert Louis Stevenson did so—twice. In “Treasure Island” he perfected the sort of thrilling high-seas yarn that movie studios still produce. As for “Strange Case

of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde” (his publishers added the “The”), every sinister tale of a violently divided mind stands in its long shadow.

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2025/08/28/robert-louis-stevenson-was-adventurous-mercurial-and-fragile>

## BUSINESS

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9. How China became an innovation powerhouse. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

Most STARTUPS need time to prove that they can be trusted with investors' money, let alone dangerous technologies. But not Fusion Energy Tech, a Chinese company based in the city of Hefei that was carved out two years ago from a nuclear-research lab. In July it announced that it would be commercialising a plasma technology derived from fusing the nuclei of atoms, which produces a reaction much hotter than the sun. It has already developed a security-screening device using related technology that is popping up in local metro stations. Commuters walk past them every day.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/08/25/how-china-became-an-innovation-powerhouse>

10. Service stations are getting a glow-up. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

The Tesla Diner, an electric-vehicle (EV) charging hub and roadside restaurant that opened in July in Los Angeles, is not your typical service station. The architecture is sleek and retro-futuristic. The menu offers traditional diner fare with a deluxe twist (including wagyu-beef chilli). Optimus, Tesla's humanoid robot, serves popcorn at an open-air cinema, which drivers can enjoy while their vehicles charge.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/08/28/service-stations-are-getting-a-glow-up>

11. Feuds, grudges and revenge. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

One of the more touching on-screen relationships is that between C-3PO and R2-D2, two robots who appear in the “Star Wars” films. The actors behind the droids got on less well. “He was in a box he couldn't do anything with,” Anthony Daniels dismissively said of Kenny Baker, the man who played the part of R2-D2. “Rude to everyone”, was Baker's verdict on his fellow actor.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/08/28/feuds-grudges-and-revenge>

12. How a power shortage could short-circuit Nvidia's rise. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

ON AUGUST 27TH Nvidia performed what has become a quarterly ritual beating of expectations. Analysts forecast that the chipmaker would sell \$46bn-worth of semiconductors in the three months to July. It made closer to \$47bn. Its latest Blackwell graphics-processing units (GPUs), whose unrivalled number-crunching prowess has won over artificial-intelligence modellers, are flying off the shelves. So are its GB-series AI superchips, which combine two Blackwells with a general-purpose processor. Nvidia probably sold over 600,000 Blackwells and nearly as many GBs, nearly 20% more than last quarter, accounting for almost 60% of total revenue. It is on track to sell 2.7m and 2.4m, respectively, this year.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/08/28/how-a-power-shortage-could-short-circuit-nvidias-rise>

**13. Where the Law Forgets the Maker. India Forum 20th Aug 2025.**

When Prada recently unveiled a pair of sandals that closely resembled the Kolhapuri chappal, it triggered a wave of disapproval across India. Though often sold at modest prices locally, these chappals are a result of multi-generational craftsmanship. This is in stark contrast to the exorbitant prices fetched by luxury brands like Prada, exposing a troubling undervaluation of traditional artisanship.

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/law/where-law-forgets-maker>

## ECONOMICS

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**14. Consumer Price Increases Hit a New Low. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-34, 23rd Aug 2025.**

The consumer price index (CPI) numbers declined to 1.6% in July 2025, the lowest since July 2017, which is about eight years ago. This was not entirely unexpected as consumer price inflation has been steadily falling from the previous peak of 6.2% in October 2024, a fall of close to 5 percentage points over the last nine months, which is almost declining by a percentage point every two months. The primary factor contributing to the decline in consumer prices is the fall in food prices, which has a 39.1% weightage in the overall CPI. The food prices fell by 12.6 percentage points to -1.8% between October 2024 and July 2025.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/34/editorials/consumer-price-increases-hit-new-low.html>

**15. From 50 Years Ago: India and the Colonial Mode of Production. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-34, 23rd Aug 2025.**

The Indian debate on the mode of production revolves around the question whether, in the last 15 or 20 years, there has been a decisive movement in Indian agriculture from a feudal mode of production to a capitalist mode of production. Similar questions have been raised elsewhere. In fact, a theoretical point of departure for the Indian debate is the well-known polemical exchange between A Gunder Frank and Ernesto Laclau about feudalism and capitalism in Latin America.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/34/50-years-ago/50-years-ago-india-and-colonial-mode-production.html>

**16. Sustainability and Macro-level Performance of India's Natural Rubber Sector. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-34, 23rd Aug 2025.**

As a strategic industrial raw material, natural rubber plays a crucial role in India's economy and the commodity has been recognised for its strong institutional framework and innovation system (Mani and Santhakumar 2011). However, the sector faces considerable challenges due to heightened price instability resulting from increased



global market integration, which disproportionately affects smallholders (Rangachary 2006; Anoopkumar 2011, 2014). Historically, the sector was dominated by large estate owners (Tharakan and George 1985), but, today, over 90% of cultivators are smallholders with holdings of less than 10 hectares (Joseph and George 2010; Rubber Board 2020). Consequently, the performance of the sector is closely tied to smallholders' ability to manage market fluctuations effectively.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/34/commentary/sustainability-and-macro-level-performance-indias.html>

17. Understanding the Economic Deceleration of Punjab. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-34, 23rd Aug 2025.

The splendid success story of the green revolution in Punjab not only helped the country achieve its much-needed food self-sufficiency but also put Punjab on a higher growth trajectory. With merely 1.53% of India's geographical area, Punjab accounted for 73% wheat and 45% rice in the central pool in 1980–81. The respective shares hovered between 58%–61% and 33%–41% during the next 20 years. In 2010–11, the share of wheat and paddy declined to 45% and 25%, respectively. In 2021–22, Punjab's contribution of wheat and paddy to the central pool further declined to 30.5% and 21.2%, respectively (GoP 2023).

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/34/commentary/understanding-economic-deceleration-punjab.html>

18. Should India Pursue Active De-dollarisation?. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-34, 23rd Aug 2025.

A global shift away from the United States (US) dollar is gaining momentum, born from a desire for economic resilience and a deep-seated unease with the dollar's decades-long dominance. For India, this presents a foundational strategic challenge. While the impulse to pursue a full-scale de-dollarisation—an active strategy to replace the dollar—is understandable, the wiser path is de-risking. This gradual, cautious approach acknowledges a core paradox of our time—countries must reduce their vulnerability to a dollar they see as increasingly fragile, while still relying on the stability it provides.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/34/commentary/should-india-pursue-active-de-dollarisation.html>

19. Will a harsher world accelerate India's reforms?. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

"WHEN WE grow and excel," Narendra Modi said in a speech on August 15th to mark the 78th anniversary of India's independence, "the world will acknowledge our worth." It was the Indian prime minister's first major public address since Donald Trump decided to punish the country for its use of Russian oil by doubling tariffs on various goods. He struck a defiant tone, insisting that India would take its seat at the top table by becoming stronger at home. "We have resolved to accelerate the journey of reform," he added.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/08/28/will-a-harsher-world-accelerate-indias-reforms>

20. Narendra Modi's secret weapon: the Indian consumer. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

WHEN IT RAINS it pours. In August some parts of India received as much precipitation in one week as they usually do all month. Delhi, India's capital, escaped the worst of the weather. But politically, it has been a stormy spell for Narendra Modi, the prime minister.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/08/28/narendra-modis-secret-weapon-the-indian-consumer>

21. A \$19bn industry is about to pay its workforce for the first time. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

Tucked away in a quaint university town in the Midwest sits the world's third-largest sports stadium. Known aptly as the Big House, the American-football stadium in Ann Arbor, home of the University of Michigan Wolverines, can pack in 115,000 fans. One of the world's most capacious, its gate receipts helped Michigan's football programme generate \$150m in revenue last year, including television rights. Yet the athletes on the field earned no salaries. In fact, for decades, no college athlete in America has been paid directly by their university. That is about to change.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/08/28/a-19bn-industry-is-about-to-pay-its-workforce-for-the-first-time>

22. Zohran Mamdani is promising lots of things he can't actually do. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

Like many politicians running for office, Zohran Mamdani, the 33-year-old New York Democratic mayoral candidate, is partly a fabulist. His story includes tax rises on the wealthy and businesses, free buses, free child care and a \$30 minimum wage by 2030. Whether or not these are good ideas, most have as little likelihood of becoming tangible as one of Italo Calvino's odd, enchanting, invisible cities.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/08/24/zohran-mamdani-is-promising-lots-of-things-he-cant-actually-do>

23. Have foreign tourists really avoided America this year?. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

AMERICA HAS rarely been out of the headlines this year. The world has watched as the Trump administration has slashed government departments, shaken alliances, increased deportations and sent the National Guard onto city streets. For the tourism industry, not all publicity is good publicity: our analysis of available data suggests that the number of international visitors in 2025 is sharply lower than in the same period in 2024.

<https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2025/08/26/have-foreign-tourists-really-avoided-america-this-year>

24. No one is satisfied with Egypt's role in Gaza. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

THE famine in Gaza was created by Israel, which has barred or limited deliveries of food since March. Rather than admit their culpability, though, Israel's defenders have spent weeks looking for someone else to blame. A favoured talking point is that Egypt could ease Gaza's misery if it simply allowed more aid into the territory. "Gaza has a border with Egypt," Eylon Levy, a former government spokesman, wrote on X, a social-media



site. "This simple fact seems to evade most people who pretend to care about humanitarian access to Gaza."

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/08/28/no-one-is-satisfied-with-egypts-role-in-gaza>

25. Why Poland is becoming less central European and more Baltic. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

AT OVER 260 metres in height, the wind turbines rising out of the Baltic Sea, north of Leba, a Polish resort town, are among the worlds biggest. Installed more than 20km from the coast, they are hardly an eyesore, unless you have a strong pair of binoculars or are named Donald Trump, or both. Beachgoers in Leba seem more bothered by the unseasonably cold weather.

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2025/08/28/why-poland-is-becoming-less-central-european-and-more-baltic>

26. Quietly, Britain is moving closer to EU rules. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

HOW TO LIVE with the giant on its doorstep is always a conundrum for post-Brexit Britain. Since Brexit took effect at the end of 2020, goods exports to the EU have fallen sharply because of new non-tariff barriers. One way to avoid these would be closer alignment with EU rules, as was proposed for food and energy in the deal that Sir Keir Starmer struck with EU leaders in May. This week Nick Thomas-Symonds, minister for EU relations, stoutly defended this deal against Nigel Farage's attacks, arguing that his promise to reverse it would cost the economy £9bn (\$12bn) and raise food prices.

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2025/08/27/quietly-britain-is-moving-closer-to-eu-rules>

27. Trump's interest-rate crusade will be self-defeating. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

There are two ways, the world's central bankers learned at this year's Jackson Hole conference, to tame a horse. You can break the animal with fear, but it will never forget the pain. The kinder way, shown to attendees one evening, is to set consistent boundaries with gentle consequences (noisy clapping). This, says Martins Kazaks of the Bank of Latvia, is like central banking. Although you can raise interest rates to crush inflation, causing a recession, it is better when everyone believes in the inflation target, so nobody raises prices and wages too much in the first place. If the boundaries are credible, the bank can be gentler.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/08/28/trumps-interest-rate-crusade-will-be-self-defeating>

28. Gambling or investing? In America, the line is increasingly blurred. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

Economists and financiers have compared stockmarkets to gambling since 1936, when Keynes warned of "the capital development of a country becom[ing] a by-product of the activities of a casino". In 1999 Jack Bogle of Vanguard decried the "Wall Street casino" where only croupiers got rich, and in 2023 Warren Buffett wrote that "markets now exhibit far more casino-like behaviour than...when I was young".

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/08/28/gambling-or-investing-in-america-the-line-is-increasingly-blurred>

29. Even as China's economy suffers, stocks soar. What's going on?. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

For Chinese investors, the grass is almost always greener elsewhere. The country's stockmarket chronically underperforms, meaning that local punters look to bourses in, say, America or Japan, and devise ways of getting cash around China's capital controls. But this year is different. The Shanghai composite, an index for mainland stocks, hit a ten-year high on August 25th. In dollar terms, it is up by 17% since the start of the year, ahead of both America's S&P 500 and global indices.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/08/27/even-as-chinas-economy-suffers-stocks-soar-whats-going-on>

30. Why you should buy your employer's shares. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

It is not hard to see why Jamie Dimon owns a lot of shares in JPMorgan Chase. He is the bank's boss and its shareholders want his interests to be aligned with theirs. Paying him mostly in stock, rather than cash, helps ensure that they are. An executive with a significant proportion of savings invested in their firm's shares has tied their future to the company's. This discourages them from doing things that might pad their wallets in the short term at the expense of shareholders' long-term returns, such as expanding the firm unsustainably fast. The incentives are stronger still if—as with Mr Dimon—the boss is promised shares for delivery some time hence, or if any sales prompt newspaper headlines.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/08/27/why-you-should-buy-your-employers-shares>

31. Fear the deficit-populism doom loop. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

You are a finance minister after a decade of meagre economic growth, shocks from a financial crisis, a pandemic and sky-high energy prices. Public debt is worth more than your country's gross domestic product, interest rates are at their highest in years and merely servicing outstanding debt is taking up an ever-greater share of tax revenue. Inflation is stubborn. America's profligacy is satisfying much of the world's appetite for government bonds, meaning your debt must pay more to attract investors. You lie awake worrying about how to make the numbers add up. Your fellow ministers, meanwhile, fret for their careers: populist parties are on the rampage. The economic context calls for fiscal consolidation; the political one warns against austerity. What do you do?

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/08/24/fear-the-deficit-populism-doom-loop>

32. How Trump's war on the Federal Reserve could do serious damage. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

Pity the bond trader without Truth Social on their phone. All it took was one after-dinner missive, fired off by the president on his social network, to turn the White House's tussle with the Federal Reserve into something more worrying. On August 25th Donald Trump

posted a letter saying he had fired Lisa Cook, a Fed governor, for alleged mortgage fraud.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/08/28/how-trumps-war-on-the-federal-reserve-could-do-serious-damage>

33. Donald Trump, friend of the EV?. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

Having once described Joe Biden's electric-vehicle (EV) policies as "lunacy", Donald Trump briefly seemed to be softening his opposition when he bought himself a Tesla in March. It was his way of helping Elon Musk, the carmaker's boss and Mr Trump's one-time pal. Yet after the pair fell out spectacularly a few months later, Mr Trump put his Tesla up for sale.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/08/26/donald-trump-friend-of-the-ev>

34. How much trouble is the world's biggest offshore-wind developer in?. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

Foul winds keep blowing Orsted's way. On August 22nd Donald Trump's administration ordered the offshore-wind developer to stop work on its \$4bn Revolution Wind project off the coast of New England. The development, which is part-owned by BlackRock, an American investment titan, is roughly four-fifths completed, with all licences and approvals in hand.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/08/28/how-much-trouble-is-the-worlds-biggest-offshore-wind-developer-in>

35. The market for startup shares is getting even weirder. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

"IT'S NOT fun being a public company," lamented David Solomon, the chief executive of Goldman Sachs, earlier this year. Firms should proceed with "great caution" before pursuing an initial public offering (IPO), he warned, owing to the additional burdens associated with being listed. Coming from the boss of an investment bank that makes its money partly by taking companies public, the comments carried a good deal of weight.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/08/28/the-market-for-startup-shares-is-getting-even-weirder>

36. What Lies Behind the World Bank's Estimates of Low Poverty and Inequality in India?. India Forum 20th Aug 2025.

The announcement in June by the Government of India's Press Information Bureau (PIB) that in new estimates by the World Bank (WB) poverty in India had dramatically fallen and India was now one of the most equal countries in the world caused much puzzlement and wonder. The Government of India and its supporters lost no opportunity to toot this progress in the war against poverty.

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/economy/what-lies-behind-world-banks-estimates-low-poverty-and-inequality-india>

# EDUCATION

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37. Unequal Schooling in India. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-34, 23rd Aug 2025. Educational archives unambiguously aver that elementary education remained neglected for decades following independence, notwithstanding the passing of the symbolic Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. It is, therefore, a major policy strength as well as a step forward that the third educational policy of independent India, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, coming 34 years after the second policy, bestows the much-needed attention upon school education. The NEP 2020's 66-page policy text dedicates 25 pages and eight subsections exclusively to school education. It ambitiously recognises the need for reconfiguring "the entire education system" (Gol 2020: 3) with the lofty ideal, reflecting a commitment to constitutional ideals of equality, social justice and inclusion, when it states:

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/34/commentary/unequal-schooling-india.html>

38. Introduction. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-34, 23rd Aug 2025.

This special issue aims to shed light on the theme of significant disparities in education prevalent in India, which are largely due to discrimination based on caste, class, gender, socio-economic status, religion, and region. These factors severely hinder access and equity in education and negatively impact educational outcomes for the marginalised groups in particular. To achieve inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all (Sustainable Development Goal 4), it is crucial to address and lessen these inequalities. This issue focuses on less-researched but critical areas of educational disparities within India's pluralistic society, emphasising the importance of equality and inclusivity.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/34/education/introduction.html>

39. Does a Mother's Education Matter for Childcare in India?. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-34, 23rd Aug 2025.

Using the National Statistical Office's Time Use Survey 2019, it is found that tertiary-educated mothers devote 159 more minutes weekly to childcare than non-literate mothers. While existing research highlights educated women's withdrawal from the labour market, it is found that higher maternal education correlates with increased childcare time, irrespective of employment status and family structures. Educated working mothers often exhibit more intensive parenting, particularly in multigenerational households. This suggests that education enhances caregiving responsibilities or household bargaining power, challenging the notion that higher education leads to employment-childcare trade-offs.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/34/education/does-mothers-education-matter-childcare-india.html>

40. Fuel Collection and Children's Educational Performance. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-34, 23rd Aug 2025.

In developing countries, rural households often rely on solid fuels for cooking, heating, and lighting, with women and children typically collecting these fuels from forests, their own land, and nearby areas. Using Indian households' survey data, children from fuel-

collecting households are seen to exhibit poorer learning outcomes in reading, writing, and mathematics skills, compared to those who do not collect fuel. Such children are likely to spend less time on homework and tuition, which potentially explains the lower learning levels. Additionally, large heterogeneity in learning levels along the lines of caste and land possession is observed, with mixed results concerning children's gender.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/34/education/fuel-collection-and-childrens-educational.html>

**41. Do Teachers Have In-group Bias on the Basis of Student's Caste and Socio-economic Status in India?. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-34, 23rd Aug 2025.**

This paper studies the extent of teacher's in-group bias in occupational expectations and grading on the basis of student's caste and socio-economic status. The paper adopts an experimental approach and draws on data generated from 122 teachers from 19 schools in Delhi. Student's caste and socio-economic status were randomly assigned to a set of essays written by students such that the assigned characteristics were not related to essay quality. The results show that high-caste teachers hold higher occupational expectations from their in-group category and are biased against the low-caste category. Given the ultra-competitive nature of schooling and the importance of grades in determining access to higher education in India, even a point disadvantage is substantial.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/34/education/do-teachers-have-group-bias-basis-students-caste.html>

**42. Does the Political Elite Influence Children's Learning Outcomes?. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-34, 23rd Aug 2025.**

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan aims to champion universal elementary education, ameliorating schooling infrastructure and provision of incentives. However, learning outcomes remain challenging. Could unfavourable learning outcomes be attributed to pervasive elite capture? The influence of the political elite on the learning outcomes of children aged 5–17 years is examined using the India Human Development Survey 2011–12 database. Children of politically connected households are found to have a better in-school experience, higher attendance, and improved learning outcomes. The impact of political elite capture on learning outcomes varies with gender, significantly affecting male students, but not their female counterparts.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/34/education/does-political-elite-influence-childrens-learning.html>

**43. Did the Pandemic Disrupt the Future?. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-34, 23rd Aug 2025.**

In 2021, the cancellation of India's Class 10 and 12 board examinations due to the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted long-standing meritocratic norms. While public debate focused on grading and admissions, this paper centres student voices in Odisha—a state marked by educational and digital inequalities—to understand how they navigated the disruption. Using data from 510 students, interviews, and institutional documents from four public universities, the paper constructs two indices: the capability deprivation index and the voice and agency index, capturing emotional, symbolic, and institutional dimensions of loss. Findings reveal that caste, gender, class, and geography

significantly shaped both the extent of deprivation and students' ability to respond. Applying Amartya Sen's capability approach, the paper shows that deprivation and agency were co-produced through institutional inaction and digital divides.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/34/education/did-pandemic-disrupt-future.html>

44. Trending Classrooms. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-34, 23rd Aug 2025.

Academic freedom has been discussed worldwide in the context of rising threats to the autonomy of modern universities. Similar discussions in the Indian context have focused on the state's role in censorship and control of higher education institutions. This paper, however, engages with the role of students and the character of studentship within the current sociopolitical environment. It reflects on two incidents that happened during the pandemic year to problematise the place of studentship in academic freedom.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/34/education/trending-classrooms.html>

45. Reforms in Higher Education: A case for establishing a National Examination Authority. University News. Vol. 63, No. 34. August 25-31, 2025.

The present Central Government, since its first term in has started implementing reforms in school and higher educ these got further momentum since the declaration of the Na Education Policy 2020. In the higher education sector, re included the revision of minimum standards for awarding de recruitment of faculty, curriculum designs and credit frame mode of learning, twinning programmes and dual de binary accreditation system, and internationalisation of education. Efforts towards digitising the systems and pro are also on the evil, encompassing academic bank of c digital valuation, online content delivery and evaluation.

46. Trump, Tariffs and Talent Migration: A Turning Point for India. University News. Vol. 63, No. 34. August 25-31, 2025.

American President Donald Trump stunned the world in April 2025 when he announced sweeping reciprocal tariffs against multiple nations, a move that sent shockwaves across global markets. Nobody understood the logic. His simultaneous feuds with prestigious universities, such as Harvard and Columbia, were equally perplexing. Although I refrain from commenting on their specifics, they point to a broader trend: the erosion of long-standing support for science, innovation, and international talent in the United States. This also provides a grand opportunity for India to revitalise its HEIs.

47. Leveraging Information Technology to Improve Work Culture in Indian Academia. University News. Vol. 63, No. 34. August 25-31, 2025.

In the last few decades, the quality of research in India has been perceived to be disappointing. Consequently, there have been many focused efforts to push scientific research in India. Former President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, appealed for building 'world-class' universities, specifically aiming to win the Nobel Prize for India. Prof. C V Raman is the only one who won a Nobel Prize while working in India, and that too was in 1930 during British colonial times. There is no question about the talent or hard work of the Indian origin people because even today, they are achieving excellence in other countries. The excellence in modern science is not only about individual excellence; it requires institutional support, as we can see that most of the Nobel Prizes are coming from select institutes only. These institutions are not only about their size and financial support, but the most important aspect is the value system that has



evolved in them. In our society as well, the scientific temperament may have taken a downturn.

48. Curricular and Pedagogical Implications of Integrating Indian Knowledge Systems in Education. University News. Vol. 63, No. 34. August 25-31, 2025.

It has become a practice of many Indian writers to recall Western figures such as Plato, Aristotle, Smith, and Hippocrates when discussing political science, mathematics, and medicine, concepts in education, economics, philosophy, often overlooking notable contributions from Indian scholars and philosophers. For example, Kautilya's Arthashastra is a classic in political economy, Charaka and Susruta made pioneering advancements in medicine, Aryabhata introduced the concept of zero and described planetary motion, Panini provided a scientific theory of phonetics and grammar through Astadhyayi in linguistics, and Bhaskaracharya noted the force of gravity. Indian scholars like Manu, Kautilya, Aryabhata, Varahamihira, Nagarjuna, and Bhaskaracharya made important contributions to math and science that are still relevant today. However, their work is often not included in school curricula. Albert Einstein appreciated ancient Indians for teaching the world how to count, which is essential for modern science. Moreover, J. Robert Oppenheimer was inspired by the Bhagavad Gita and ancient Sanskrit, demonstrating the worldwide influence of Indian philosophy and wisdom on famous leaders.

## EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

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49. AI is coming for culture. New Yorker. September 1 & 8, 2025.

I often wake up before dawn, ahead of my wife and kids, so that I can enjoy a little solitary time. I creep downstairs to the silent kitchen, drink a glass of water, and put in my AirPods. Then I choose some music, set up the coffee maker, and sit and listen while the coffee brews.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/09/01/ai-is-coming-for-culture>

50. The rise of beer made by AI. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

WHEN BECK'S, a storied German brewery founded in the city of Bremen in 1873, celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2023 it decided to bring in a new brewmaster to mark the occasion: ChatGPT, an artificial-intelligence (AI) chatbot. The company asked it to whip up a recipe using only hops, yeast, water, and malt. The result was "Beck's Autonomous", a lager with a subtle sweetness, a hoppy texture, and quite a head. One Daily Mail reporter considered it better than the brewery's standard lager.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2025/08/27/the-rise-of-beer-made-by-ai>

51. Donald Trump is waging war on woke AI. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

"The American people do not want woke Marxist lunacy in the AI models," proclaimed President Donald Trump in July just before signing a series of executive orders, including one apparently aimed at stopping artificial intelligence (AI) models from brainwashing users with left-wing propaganda. Those concerns may seem contrived. Yet Mr Trump is not alone in worrying that large language models (LLMs) such as OpenAI's ChatGPT and

Google's Gemini, which often sound like oracles of truth (even when they bluff profusely), have hidden biases.

<https://www.economist.com/international/2025/08/28/donald-trump-is-waging-war-on-woke-ai>

52. The people behind AI. TIME. 8th Sep. 2025.

The direction AI travels will be determined not by machines but by people Today we publish the third edition of the TIME100 AI, our annual look at the most influential people in artificial intelligence. We launched this list in 2023, in the wake of OpenAI's release of ChatGPT, the moment many became aware of AI's potential to compete with and exceed the capabilities of humans. Our aim was to show how the direction AI travels will be determined not by machines but by people—innovators, advocates, artists, and everyone with a stake in the future of this technology. Our aspiration for TIME is to be your trusted guide through this transformation. This year's list further confirms our focus on people. One of the dominant AI storylines of 2025 has been the...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/september-8-2025-i672285/the-people-behind-ai-a0>

53. Beyond human control. TIME. 8th Sep. 2025.

Under a crystal chandelier in a high-ceilinged anteroom in Paris, the moderator of Intelligence Rising is reprimanding his players. These 12 former government officials, academics, and artificial intelligence researchers are here to participate in a simulated exercise about AI's impact on geopolitics. But just an hour into the simulation, things have already begun to go south. The team representing the U.S. has decided to stymie Chinese AI development by blocking all chip exports to China. This has raised the odds, the moderator says, of a Chinese invasion of Taiwan: the U.S. ally that is home to the world's most advanced chip-manufacturing plants. It is 2026, and the simulated world is on the brink of a potentially devastating showdown between two nuclear superpowers. Why? Because each team is racing to create...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/september-8-2025-i672285/beyond-human-control-a23>

54. AI will reshape politics globally. TIME. 8th Sep. 2025.

Few political leaders realize the rate at which artificial intelligence is racing ahead. For decades, technological progress has been logged at a pace known as Moore's Law, named after Gordon Moore, the co-founder of Intel who observed that the number of transistors on a microchip doubles approximately every 18 to 24 months. Now, we are approaching Nadella's Law. "Just like Moore's Law, we saw the doubling in performance every 18 months with AI. We have now started to see that doubling every six months or so," said Satya Nadella, CEO of Microsoft, at the company's annual Ignite conference in 2024. As a result of this disruptive velocity, two significant consequences are on the immediate horizon. One is that we are quickly approaching a world in which AI agents can autonomously...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/september-8-2025-i672285/ai-will-reshape-politics-globally-a26>

55. The agentic age: a new frontier for AI and humans. TIME. 8th Sep. 2025.

For the past year, I've been running sales-force with a colleague who never sleeps, never takes vacations, and has read more than I could in 100 lifetimes. On a typical day, sitting with a few executives around the table, I'll ask it to evaluate a competitor's moves, refine a keynote draft, or surface strategic blind spots we might have missed. This colleague is my AI agent, and we work together constantly. Sometimes it surprises me. Sometimes it challenges me. Sometimes, like all of us, it makes a mistake. But always, it expands what I can see and do. We are at the beginning of the agentic era, the most significant transformation of work in history. For the first time, machines can perform not only repetitive tasks, but also cognitive work...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/september-8-2025-i672285/the-agentic-age-a-new-frontier-for-ai-and-humans-a27>

## ENVIRONMENT

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56. Reducing the Environmental Impact of the Public Distribution System. India Forum. 25th Aug 2025.

In 2024-25, the government procured 42.2% of the rice and 23.1% of the wheat produced in India. Most of this food grain was distributed to more than 800 million people through the public distribution system (PDS). While public procurement of food grains plays a crucial role in ensuring food security for millions of Indians, it has incentivised the production of rice and wheat at the expense of alternative crops, such as millets, pulses, and oilseeds, which have lower water and carbon footprints (Davis et al. 2018; Chakraborti et al. 2023). The negative environmental impact of the PDS is further exacerbated by the concentration of rice and wheat procurement in states with high water stress such as Punjab and Haryana (Bhattarai et al. 2021; Chatterjee et al. 2024).

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/public-policy/reducing-environmental-impact-public-distribution-system>

## ENTERTAINMENT

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57. Fred Armisen Goes Bang! Zip! Zoop! New Yorker. September 1 & 8, 2025.

The actor and comedian Fred Armisen phoned the front desk from his room at a midtown hotel the other day, and asked the clerk to call right back. "I'm not going to pick up," he explained. "I'll just let it ring for a little bit, if you don't mind." Moments later, the phone rang—a rattly landline brrring—and Armisen recorded it with a mike. "That's useful," he said, pleased.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/09/01/fred-armisen-goes-bang-zip-zoop>

58. Sweating and storytelling in a Williamsburg Sauna. New Yorker. September 1 & 8, 2025.

On the hottest day in New York City in a decade, nearly a hundred people crowded into a hundred-and-seventy-degree sauna in a converted brewery in Williamsburg for the first U.S. National Aufguss Competition. An Aufguss—from the German word for “infusion”—is a ritual sauna ceremony that lasts for twelve to fifteen minutes. A sauna master fills the room with carefully curated scents by dropping snowballs containing essential oils onto hot rocks—the Finnish word for the resulting plume of steam is *loily*—and waves a towel to distribute heat through the room. Alonzo Solórzano, the twenty-nine-year-old director of Aufguss at Bathhouse, where the competition took place, likes to say, “My job is to make the room very, very hot. And I like my job.”

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/09/01/sweating-and-storytelling-in-a-williamsburg-sauna>

## HEALTH

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59. Forget smelling flowers; now you can drink them. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

THE little brown nubs look like earwax-coloured pencil erasers. Anyone curious enough to try one would find it tastes a bit like a date. They are flowers of the mahua tree, indigenous to India. When distilled, they produce a strong liquor reminiscent of grappa or unaged whisky: floral and mildly sweet, with hints of apple and berry, and a long, clean finish. The spirit may be coming soon to a bar near you.

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2025/08/26/forget-smelling-flowers-now-you-can-drink-them>

60. Are saunas actually good for you?. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

Finland is the undisputed sauna capital of the world, with approximately one sauna for every 1.6 people. But voluntary sweating is starting to catch on elsewhere: according to the British Sauna Society, a not-for-profit group promoting sauna culture, the number of public saunas in Britain has more than doubled over the past year.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2025/08/22/are-saunas-actually-good-for-you>

61. The middle-aged are no longer the most miserable. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

FOR DECADES, surveys have suggested that middle age is the low point of life. While young and old generally reported high levels of life satisfaction, those in mid-life endured a slump. This “U-bend of happiness” or “hump of despair”, depending on your perspective, has been documented hundreds of times across many countries. The age of peak misery varied—the Swiss were saddest at 35, Ukrainians in their 60s—but the pattern was consistent.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2025/08/27/the-middle-aged-are-no-longer-the-most-miserable>

62. 5 ways to make small talk when you have social anxiety. TIME. 8th Aug 2025.

When you have social anxiety, walking into a room full of people can make you feel like every eyeball in the place is boring directly into your soul, and that nothing you say will possibly be smart or funny or coherent enough. That can trigger an array of physical, cognitive, and emotional symptoms. “For some people, it might mean a racing heart and dizziness and feeling flushed,” says Kirsten Hall-Baldwin, a licensed clinical professional counselor in Chicago. “Others might be in these thought spirals, or feel like their mind is going blank or freezing.” Hall-Baldwin coaches her anxious clients to create a coping plan: a proactive list of strategies and techniques that can help temper their unease. Here, she and other experts share tips on how to carry a conversation...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/september-8-2025-i672285/5-ways-to-make-small-talk-when-you-have-social-anxiety-a8>

63. Health Matters. TIME. 8th Aug 2025.

The idea of sleeping on a problem and seeing if you can get some clarity in the morning is a common one, but is it scientifically sound? A growing body of research says yes. The latest is a small study published in the Journal of Neuroscience. A group of 25 people did a memorization task while wired up so the researchers could monitor which portions of their brains lit up as they worked. Everyone then took an afternoon nap, with brain sensors still in place. The researchers were looking for bursts of activity that occur in the brain during a relatively light stage of sleep. It was especially high in the same areas of the brain that were used in the memorization task, and the greater the activity, the more...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/september-8-2025-i672285/health-matters-a12>

64. A New Era of Healthcare: Envisioning India @ 2047. University News. Vol. 63, No. 34. August 25-31, 2025.

At the outset, I would like to extend my congratulations and good wishes to the graduating doctors and awardees of the 2016 & 2017 batch of the North DMC Medical College. It is indeed a red-letter day for all present here, especially the parents and students. The profession of a doctor is one of the most sought-after professions globally. Though each year more than a million students apply for it, only a few make it through the other side.

## HISTORY

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65. What Birmingham Taught Muslim India. History Today. September 2025, Vol. 75, Issue 9.

In 1786 the East India Company placed an order for minting coins with the Birmingham industrialists Matthew Boulton and James Watt. Using the revolutionary steam engines at their Soho Works in the suburb of Smethwick, over the next few decades Boulton and Watt produced more than 220 million coins stamped with the elegant Persian script the East India Company had adopted from the Mughal Empire. When Shire horses began pulling barges full of bullion along the canal from Birmingham on the first stage of their

journey to Calcutta, it marked the start of the city's relationship with the Indian subcontinent that has continued to this day.

<https://www.historytoday.com/archive/feature/what-birmingham-taught-muslim-india>

66. After Hiroshima: the US Occupation of Japan. History Today. September 2025, Vol. 75, Issue 9.

The most famous image of the Allied Occupation of Japan, which ran from August 1945 to April 1952, shows General Douglas MacArthur looming over a diminutive Emperor Hirohito. The Japanese government at the time regarded the photo as a fiasco. In the past, only Imperial Household photographers had been allowed anywhere near the emperor with a camera, and even they had to stay at least 20 metres back and use telephoto lenses. Hirohito had a slight stoop, which meant that only his upper body was permitted to be photographed. Shots from sideways on were forbidden. Not only is MacArthur far more physically imposing in the photograph, but the emperor's suit appears not to fit him very well; as a manifest kami (god), the emperor could not be touched by his tailor.

<https://www.historytoday.com/archive/feature/after-hiroshima-us-occupation-japan>

67. New York is turning 400 and no one cares. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

It is a little sad, yet also somewhat inspiring, and in any event altogether fitting, that New York City is marking its 400th birthday this year and almost no one gives a damn. Last New Year's Eve the mayor, Eric Adams, promised a year-long celebration, but denizens would be forgiven for not having detected many events so far. "They're not doing squat," says Kenneth Jackson, an emeritus professor of history at Columbia University and the editor-in-chief of "The Encyclopedia of New York City".

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/08/28/new-york-is-turning-400-and-no-one-cares>

68. The world's oldest daily radio serial on England's new rural life. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

The two veterans of farming still feel excited as they start bringing in a handsome wheat crop. Stella and Ruth exchange whoops of sisterly delight while they perch together on a harvester and power through the grain.

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2025/08/24/the-worlds-oldest-daily-radio-serial-on-englands-new-rural-life>

69. A story of occupations, surveillance and exile in Albania. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

Two Albanian writers dominate the foreign-language section of the bookshop in Tirana's central square. One is Ismail Kadare, the country's grand man of letters, who died in 2024. The other is Lea Ypi, an academic and the author of "Free", a coming-of-age book published in 2021. Kadare dominates the space by virtue of the sheer number of books he wrote over the course of his long career (there are at least 80 novels, plays, essays and story collections). But, at least for the time being, Professor Ypi seems to have eclipsed him as the world's best-known Albanian writer.



<https://www.economist.com/culture/2025/08/28/a-story-of-occupations-surveillance-and-exile-in-albania>

70. The untold story of Bolsonaro's weird and wild coup attempt. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

In 1968 Oscar Niemeyer, Brazil's most celebrated architect and a communist, put his principles aside to design the headquarters of the armed forces, which had recently seized power in a coup. Today the modernist marvel hulks like a spaceship in the centre of Brasília. But in the first week of January 2023, its clean lines were disturbed by hundreds of tents haphazardly arranged outside the building. Was some kind of festival taking place? The camp was dotted with stalls handing out beer, grilled ribs and bowls of rice with salted beef, known as arroz carreteiro.

<https://www.economist.com/1843/2025/08/28/the-untold-story-of-bolsonaros-weird-and-wild-coup-attempt>

71. Behind the cover. TIME. 8th Sep 2025.

To create this year's TIME100 AI cover, artist Refik Anadol fine-tuned his studio's AI system on an archive containing each of TIME's more than 5,000 covers to date, spanning over 100 years. The resulting abstract visualization—featuring Anadol's signature flowing, molecular aesthetic—represents the AI “dreaming” about a century of TIME's visual history. Following the success of his 2022 MOMA exhibition, which attracted 3 million people, Anadol aims to offer a hopeful vision. “The future is not a fixed destination to be afraid of, but a fluid reality we can actually shape,” he tells TIME. TIME's Impact Leadership Forum and dinner TIME's Impact Leadership Forum took place on Aug. 7 on Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts. It opened with a discussion on intergenerational collaboration, featuring (above left, from left) panelists María Teresa Kumar of...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/september-8-2025-i672285/behind-the-cover-a1>

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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72. Israeli Plan of Annexing Gaza: Ethnic Cleansing with Impunity. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-34, 23rd Aug 2025.

The next step in Israel's diabolical plan of ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people is the military occupation of Gaza City, announced by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with support from his security cabinet (8 August 2025) and green-lighted by President Donald Trump. This implies forced displacement of Palestinian civilians from north Gaza into central camps—a move that violates international humanitarian law and escalates the ongoing genocide.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/34/comment/israeli-plan-annexing-gaza-ethnic-cleansing.html>

73. France's government is on the brink of collapse, again. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

When Europeans fret about profligate states destabilising their common currency, they usually have the continent's southern fringe in mind. Yet when on August 25th a European leader made dire warnings about his country's public finances, he was not speaking of Greece, Italy or Portugal. "Our country is in danger because we are on the brink of over-indebtedness," declared François Bayrou, France's prime minister. To start tackling a debt pile that stands at 114% of GDP he wants to make savings in next year's budget worth €44bn (\$51bn, or 2.6% of spending). But he runs a minority government faced with a bolshie opposition—egged on by populists on left and right—which will hear nothing of it. To try to break the impasse, Mr Bayrou stunned all parties this week by putting his government's survival on the line, recalling parliament for a vote of confidence on September 8th. If he is defeated, as seems likely, France will lose its third prime minister in little over a year—and Europe will gain a fiscal hazard.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/08/28/frances-government-is-on-the-brink-of-collapse-again>

74. Jair Bolsonaro's trial shows Brazil a way out from polarisation and stagnation. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

Brazil's chief justice, Luís Roberto Barroso, did not receive an official notice when his American visa and those of his children were apparently revoked on July 18th. Like most of his colleagues on Brazil's Federal Supreme Court, he learned the news from an online post by Marco Rubio, America's secretary of state, who cited the court's "persecution" of Brazil's hard-right former president, Jair Bolsonaro.

<https://www.economist.com/briefing/2025/08/28/jair-bolsonaros-trial-shows-brazil-a-way-out-from-polarisation-and-stagnation>

75. A defining test looms for India. Economist. 30th Aug 2025

SEVEN YEARS have passed since Narendra Modi last set foot in China. The clock resets on August 31st, when India's prime minister turns up in Tianjin, a port city about two hours from Beijing. Mr Modi will attend a meeting of the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO), a Eurasian security outfit whose members include Russia and Iran; there he is expected to meet Xi Jinping, China's president. The trip is a striking example of the improving ties between India and China, which entered a deep freeze in 2020 following a border clash. But Mr Modi's mind will also be on his country's bust-up with America and how India should respond.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/08/28/a-defining-test-looms-for-india>

76. Something is amiss in China's foreign-affairs leadership. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

CHINA'S DIPLOMATS are working hard. On August 31st more than 20 world leaders will join President Xi Jinping in the northern city of Tianjin for a two-day meeting of the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation, a security forum. Among them will be Russia's Vladimir Putin (a frequent visitor), India's Narendra Modi (a rare one) and North Korea's Kim Jong Un, who seldom goes abroad. In recent days Donald Trump said he would visit China "probably during this year or shortly thereafter". It would be the first such trip by an American president since 2017, when Mr Trump was last there. Great-power relations are in flux.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2025/08/28/something-is-amiss-in-chinas-foreign-affairs-leadership>

77. Donald Trump has purged one of the CIA's most senior Russia analysts. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

The cia officer had worked in American intelligence for more than 20 years. In 2016, as the country's top intelligence officer for Russia and Eurasia, she oversaw the production of a report, which described how Russia had meddled in that year's presidential election in favour of the Republican candidate, Donald Trump. A few years later she returned to the agency as a senior manager, overseeing the cia's operations and analysis relating to Russia and the former Soviet Union.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/08/21/donald-trump-has-purged-one-of-the-cias-most-senior-russia-analysts>

78. Israel's prevaricator-in-chief. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

On august 24th, six months after being selected as the new chief of staff of the Israel Defence Forces (idf), Lieutenant General Eyal Zamir broke publicly with his government's policy. On a visit to a naval base, he said the idf had, in its previous operations in Gaza, "created the conditions for the release of the hostages".

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/08/28/israels-prevaricator-in-chief>

79. Time for some Merz-Macron magic. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

WHEN THE French and German governments gather in the Mediterranean port of Toulon on August 29th, the meeting will be heavy in symbolism. It will be the two countries' 25th joint cabinet meeting, a marker of the importance both place on their mutual ties. Toulon is a naval base, a key strategic point for the European Union's only nuclear-armed power. At a crucial moment for Europe's security, the event reaffirms what is still the eu's indispensable bilateral relationship.

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2025/08/28/time-for-some-merz-macron-magic>

80. The choices facing Britain's next MI6 chief. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

IN THE EARLY 1990s, with the cold war over and the Russian threat seemingly gone, Sir Robert Fellowes, the private secretary to Queen Elizabeth II, was lunching with Sir Gerry Warner, the deputy chief of MI6. "What shall I tell Her Majesty her Secret Intelligence Service [SIS] is for?" he asked. "Please tell her", replied Sir Gerry, "it is the last penumbra of her Empire." Later that decade another MI6 officer described Britain's aspiration to global intelligence as "the itch after the amputation".

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2025/08/23/the-choices-facing-britains-next-mi6-chief>

81. The wrong way to end a war. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

IN THE opening months of the Korean war, one of the bloodiest conflicts fought between communist forces and the democratic West, China's leader, Mao Zedong, cabled his fellow tyrant, Josef Stalin, with thoughts about the deaths that each side needed to

suffer. My “overall strategy”, Mao wrote in March 1951, involves “consuming several hundred thousand American lives” in a war lasting years. Only then would the imperialists realise that, in the newly founded People’s Republic of China, they had met their match. Mao had already sent armies of “volunteers” to the Korean peninsula, where combat had raged since the previous summer, after a Soviet-sponsored regime in northern Korea invaded South Korea, ruled by an American ally. Coolly, Mao told Stalin that China expected to lose 300,000 more men to death or maiming.

<https://www.economist.com/international/2025/08/26/the-wrong-way-to-end-a-war>

#### 82. PUTIN'S BRUSH-OFF. TIME. 8th Sep 2025.

It was around midnight in Moscow when Vladimir Putin took a call from the White House. President Donald Trump had just spent several hours, on Aug. 18, in meetings with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and seven other leaders from Europe who had come along in a frantic effort to shore up U.S. support for the Ukrainian position. Now Trump was telling Putin about what he believed needed to be the next step: the leaders of the warring sides, Trump said, should meet in person and try to make progress toward peace. Putin seemed to have other plans. After the call, the Kremlin issued a mealymouthed statement, suggesting that it might be worth “exploring the possibility of raising the level of representatives” in future peace talks. Whatever that means, it seemed...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/september-8-2025-i672285/putins-brush-off-a2>

## LAW

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#### 83. Balancing Privacy and Accountability. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-34, 23rd Aug 2025.

In a recent press conference by the Election Commission of India (ECI), organised in the context of the “Special Intensive Revision” (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, a somewhat surprising claim was made. When asked why the ECI had not released the footage from the CCTV cameras installed in polling booths, chief election commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar argued that it would amount to a breach of privacy if they did so. “Should the Election Commission share CCTV videos of anyone’s mother, daughter-in-law, sister, or of anyone else?” (Chhabra 2025) he asked rhetorically, framing the question of privacy in a crude, patriarchal manner. This was not the only occasion where the right to privacy was invoked in that press conference. When asked why the ECI did not release electoral rolls and the SIR draft list in machine-readable formats, the CEC pointed to the Supreme Court’s judgment in *Kamal Nath v Election Commission of India* (2019),<sup>1</sup> which, it claimed, had said that privacy concerns would mean that the ECI would not be required to release machine-readable electoral rolls.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/34/law-and-society/balancing-privacy-and-accountability.html>

#### 84. Chinese courts can bar even those not accused of crimes from leaving the country. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

Gao Jia, a seven-year-old American from New York, might not start his second year at school this September. During a family visit to China last August, his father, a Chinese artist called Gao Zhen, was arrested for “slandering heroes and martyrs” (Mr Gao is the elder of the well-known “Gao Brothers”, whose sculptures often mock Chairman Mao). The boy has not been accused of wrongdoing; neither has his mother, Zhao Yaliang. But in China, family members can be punished for the alleged sins of a relative. Ms Zhao is under an “exit ban” that stops her from leaving the country. With both his parents stuck in China, Gao Jia is also unable to leave.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2025/08/25/chinese-courts-can-bar-even-those-not-accused-of-crimes-from-leaving-the-country>

## LITERATURE

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85. Anthony Roth Costanzo Channels Maria Callas in Galas. New Yorker. September 1 & 8, 2025.

Last summer’s season at Little Island scored a hit with Anthony Roth Costanzo’s glittering version of “The Marriage of Figaro,” in which the countertenor sang all the parts in Mozart’s masterpiece, from basso suitor to twittering soubrette. That show was, in its way, radically exposing: at one point, Costanzo swallowed a scoping camera so that the audience could see his vocal cords flexing as his voice changed registers. This summer, Costanzo becomes just one character: the histrionic diva at the center of “Galas,” Charles Ludlam’s camp melodrama from 1983, directed by Eric Ting, inspired by Maria Callas, whose operatic life rivalled the roles she played onstage. The part should fit the extravagantly gifted Costanzo like a long buttoned glove; his dark glamour recalls Callas’s mid-century fabulousness, and his extraordinary sound echoes her own smoky timbre, the resonance of a voice and a personality on fire.

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/goings-on/anthony-roth-costanzo-channels-maria-callas-in-galas>

86. Zohran Mamdani Talks Love and Deduce With Some New Friends. New Yorker. September 1 & 8, 2025.

If, as Mario Cuomo once said, you campaign in poetry and you govern in prose, then New York’s mayoral race has birthed some new kind of TikTokian free verse. Andrew Cuomo, the candidate for the Fight and Deliver Party, which was recently invented by Andrew Cuomo, said that Zohran Mamdani defeated him in the Democratic primary because of social media. Now Cuomo posts candid videos and replies to random users on X. Eric Adams, the candidate for the Safe & Affordable Party, which was recently invented by Eric Adams, has always campaigned, governed, and generally lived life in poetry, of a sort. (He once described New York as “a place where every day you wake up you could experience everything from a plane crashing into our Trade Center to a person who’s celebrating a new business.”) Yet even he has tried to copy Mamdani’s virality. “He was never a candidate,” Adams observed, of Mamdani. “He was a social-media influencer.”

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/09/01/zohran-mamdani-talks-love-and-deuce-with-some-new-friends>

87. We are the World January 06<sup>th</sup> Style. New Yorker. September 1 & 8, 2025.

Criteria Recording Studios, in North Miami, is where the Eagles laid down “Hotel California,” Bob Marley sang “Could You Be Loved,” and Lil Wayne mixed “Tha Carter III.” An unfamiliar name recently appeared on the studio schedule: the Real J6 LLC. “I just thought it was some band,” a session observer said the other day. On the first of the new client’s two days at Criteria, a young pianist came in and recorded the national anthem. Odd, the observer, a clean-shaven man, thought, but not remarkable. “Then this guy L.J. came up,” he recalled. “He started to talk about how he was close with Trump, and how he’s been working on this for a long time.” L.J. referred to an existing recording of the national anthem that “wasn’t good because some of the people singing were in jail,” the observer continued. “And that’s when everything started to connect in my head. I was, like, ‘Oh, I see what that is.’ ” (A group of about twenty men calling themselves the J6 Prison Choir had recorded the anthem over a prison phone in 2023; the resulting song was briefly No. 1 on iTunes.) L.J. said that a group would lay down new vocals two days later.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/09/01/we-are-the-world-january-6-style>

88. Ichthys. New Yorker. September 1 & 8, 2025.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/09/01/ichthys-jay-fielden-poem>

89. A Merry and Rambunctious “Twelfth Night” in Central Park. New Yorker. September 1 & 8, 2025.

On the Saturday evening that I saw “Twelfth Night, or What You Will,” the sole production of the Public Theatre’s Shakespeare in the Park summer season, a raccoon scurried furtively along the top of a wall at the Delacorte. “Twelfth Night” marks the exuberant reopening of the open-air venue, after an eighteen-month renovation that promised, in part, to solve the amphitheatre’s raccoon problem. Central Park’s wildness, though, shall not be denied. This “Twelfth Night,” directed by Saheem Ali, comes fully stocked with celebrities—including Lupita Nyong’o as Viola, Sandra Oh as Olivia, and Peter Dinklage as Malvolio. But, for a few moments, the raccoon was our star.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/09/01/twelfth-night-theatre-review>

90. Project. New Yorker. September 1 & 8, 2025.

A little while ago, I told the actor M that I was thinking of writing her autobiography. She liked the idea. She’s a good sport. Would you just make it up? she said.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/09/01/project-fiction-rachel-cusk>

91. Rachel Cusk on Muriel Sparks “The House of the Famous Poet”. New Yorker. September 1 & 8, 2025.

I never felt the influence of Muriel Spark, despite the fact that she was a substantial female figure in British literature. It’s a pity, because there was much to learn from her macabre, entirely unsentimental art and its account of the strange violence of living. It was only quite recently, when I came across a new volume of her collected letters (meticulously edited by Dan Gunn), that I first felt confronted by her persona. The letters invited an investigation into both the life and the work.



<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/takes/rachel-cusk-on-muriel-sparks-the-house-of-the-famous-poet>

## MILITARY SCIENCE

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92. On parade in China: Putin, the PLA and purges. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

Donald Trump's military parade astounded Chinese viewers in June. The sloppy marching, the corporate sponsorship, the paltry crowds: how could the world's greatest military power put on such a tawdry display? China's parades are minutely choreographed extravaganzas designed to inspire awe and respect. Expect no less when China holds its first in six years on September 3rd. But China's tattoo, like Mr Trump's, will reflect the insecurities of its leadership. Impressive though the display will be, it will mask turbulence in the high command.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2025/08/28/on-parade-in-china-putin-the-pla-and-purges>

93. Ukraine shows off a deadly new cruise missile. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

Earlier this month Ukraine unveiled a new cruise missile. With a declared range of 3,000km and a payload of over a tonne, the Flamingo packs a punch, on paper. If even half the claims hold, it has the potential to deal serious damage to targets almost anywhere in European Russia. Appearing in the middle of lumbering peace talks, the bird may help encourage Vladimir Putin to lay down arms. All the more striking, therefore, that the process of entering mass-production took just nine months, rather than the usual years or even decades, and was led by a management team that claims to have had no previous defence-industry experience. "I was very sceptical at first," says one of the officials overseeing it, "but when I saw the missiles, I was stunned."

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2025/08/27/ukraine-shows-off-a-deadly-new-cruise-missile>

## POLITICAL SCIENCE & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

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94. How a Billionaire Owner Brought Turmoil and Trouble to Sotheby's. New Yorker. September 1 & 8, 2025.

When Patrick Drahi, a fifty-five-year-old French Israeli telecommunications billionaire, agreed to buy Sotheby's, one of the world's two great auction houses, early in the summer of 2019, people in the art market had two questions: Who is Drahi? And what does he want?

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/09/01/how-a-billionaire-owner-brought-turmoil-and-trouble-to-sothebys>

95. Ghana against Political Science. History Today. September 2025, Vol. 75, Issue 9.

For the past 30 years Ghana has set an example for the durability of its democratic political system. Elections in December 2024 only reinforced that image, especially at

a time of military coups in some nearby countries, including Niger, Burkina Faso, and Guinea. Well before the final count, the incumbent New Patriotic Party (NPP) tactfully conceded defeat, allowing a smooth transition to a new government led by John Mahama.

<https://www.historytoday.com/archive/behind-times/ghana-against-corruption>

96. The Crowd. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-34, 23rd Aug 2025.

According to official figures, the estimated number of people who took a dip in the river at the Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj, which concluded on 26 February, is 66 crore. The Uttar Pradesh government displayed this number as a sign of its organisational powers and the ability of its chief minister to respond to the spiritual needs of the Hindus of the nation. The crowd that congregated for the holy dip was displayed as the spectacle of a nation unified and uniformised through a common religious identity and a shared religious fervour.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/34/postscript/crowd.html>

97. Humiliation, vindication—and a giant test for India. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

IT IS UNUSUAL to experience humiliation, vindication and a defining test all at the same time. But that is India's predicament today. President Donald Trump has undone 25 years of diplomacy by embracing Pakistan after its conflict with India in May, and now singling out India for even higher tariffs than China. He cannot have thought through how the world's most populous country and fifth-largest economy would react.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/08/27/humiliation-vindication-and-a-giant-test-for-india>

98. Brazil offers America a lesson in democratic maturity. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

IMAGINE A COUNTRY where a polarising president lost his bid for re-election and refused to accept the result. He declared the ballot rigged and used social media to urge his supporters to rise up. They did so in their thousands, attacking government buildings. Then the insurrection failed, the ex-president faced a criminal investigation and prosecutors put him on trial for plotting a coup.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/08/28/brazil-offers-america-a-lesson-in-democratic-maturity>

99. How much danger is America's central bank in?. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

IT IS the first time that an American president has tried to sack a governor on the board of the Federal Reserve. The credibility of the central bank is one of the underpinnings of America's world-beating economy. And yet, although dollar assets weakened a little on the news, financial markets are taking it all in their stride. Whatever is going on?

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/08/27/how-much-danger-is-americas-central-bank-in>

100. Don't forget the downsides of China's innovation push. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

Not so long ago, Westerners dismissed China as a copycat, a fast follower or a “fat tech dragon”, consuming vast amounts of money and manpower while rarely taking flight. But as China has triumphed in high-tech industries such as electric vehicles, clean energy and lean AI, the condescension is giving way to admiration, fear and even envy.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/08/28/dont-forget-the-downsides-of-chinas-innovation-push>

101. India’s government bans fantasy sports games. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.  
How quickly can you get rich in India? According to fans of fantasy-gaming platforms, such as Dream11, it is possible to do so in a matter of hours. Spend as little as eight rupees (ten American cents) ahead of a cricket match and a punter could win hundreds of thousands rupees if their virtual team ends up performing well on the pitch. The prospect, albeit unlikely, of such tantalising returns, combined with glitzy marketing campaigns featuring Bollywood stars, has lured 200m users to Dream11’s platform since it started in 2008—more than the number of India’s stockmarket investors.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/08/24/indias-government-bans-fantasy-sports-games>

102. The Democrat who calls Trump a child of God. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.  
PLANO, A SUBURB of Dallas, is not friendly territory for Democrats. But when James Talarico, a state representative, headlined a “Blue Texas” rally there last month more than 1,000 people showed up. After the two-storey bar rented for the event filled with people, they moved to a second one across the street where he delivered the same speech to a new crowd. The locals who came were not the “little old blue hairs”, as Mr Talarico lovingly calls the Democrats’ most-loyal demographic. “It was a bunch of bros, like guys named Landon,” he recalls. “I was like you are welcome Landon, come join.”

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/08/26/the-democrat-who-calls-trump-a-child-of-god>

103. A surprise US Navy surge in the Caribbean. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.  
IN THE SOUTHERN Caribbean just two or three American warships and Coast Guard cutters are normally found on patrol. Now an amphibious group centred on the USS Iwo Jima—three ships carrying 4,500 sailors and marines—is to be stationed there. A nuclear-powered attack submarine and reconnaissance planes are also being shifted.

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2025/08/26/a-surprise-us-navy-surge-in-the-caribbean>

104. Peru’s cartoonish presidential front-runner. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.  
Not many politicians would think it good for their brand to be compared to Porky Pig. But Rafael López Aliaga, the pugnacious conservative mayor of Lima, Peru’s capital, is not like many politicians. He plays up the resemblance, having deployed people in pig costumes to events and adopted a pet pig as his personal mascot. Peruvians simply call him Porky.

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2025/08/28/perus-cartoonish-presidential-front-runner>

105. The indecorous fight over a dead president's body. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.  
Who owns the body of a dead Zambian president? It is not a question that is asked very often. But it is vexing the southern African country run by Edgar Lungu from 2015 to 2021. His family has tried to have him buried in South Africa, where he died on June 5th. Zambia, led by his political rival, Hakainde Hichilema, wants him home for a state funeral, a wish endorsed by South Africa's highest court on August 26th. The episode underscores the political significance of funeral rites in Africa.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/08/28/the-indecorous-fight-over-a-dead-presidents-body>

106. After a year of chaos, the Dutch hope to return to real issues. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.  
ANYONE CAN quit a government, but it is a neat trick to quit one that has already quit. On August 22nd Caspar Veldkamp, the Dutch foreign minister, resigned after other cabinet members frustrated his modest efforts to toughen Dutch policy towards Israel. The four other ministers from his party, New Social Contract (NSC), left too. Yet technically they had already stepped down: the coalition fell on June 3rd, and elections are scheduled for October 29th. NSC was leaving the caretaker government meant to run the country until a new one is formed.

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2025/08/28/after-a-year-of-chaos-the-dutch-hope-to-return-to-real-issues>

107. Hansard shows what it takes to put democracy on the record. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.  
The chute, tucked behind an oak-panelled door, whisks messages down to the House of Commons. This is how Hansard staff, who record every sentence spoken publicly in Parliament, communicate with MPs during debates. In goes a scribbled note, asking for clarification on a word or phrase. An official creeps across the chamber to hand it to the MP. The answer is hastily sent back upstairs. Staff have minutes to file their account, with no mistakes.

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2025/08/28/hansard-shows-what-it-takes-to-put-democracy-on-the-record>

108. The polycrisis theory of Brexit. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.  
Parliament has lost interest, but Britons still devour books about Brexit. Those books tend to belong to one of two schools. One is the Great Man—or rather, inadequate boys—theory of history, exemplified by “All Out War”, by Tim Shipman. It argues that the divorce was propelled by the betrayals, blunders and petty feuds at the court of David Cameron, whose campaign was hopelessly focused on warning of economic disaster.

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2025/08/27/the-polycrisis-theory-of-brexit>

109. Donald Trump has purged one of the CIA's most senior Russia analysts. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.  
The cia officer had worked in American intelligence for more than 20 years. In 2016, as the country's top intelligence officer for Russia and Eurasia, she oversaw the production

of a report, which described how Russia had meddled in that year's presidential election in favour of the Republican candidate, Donald Trump. A few years later she returned to the agency as a senior manager, overseeing the cia's operations and analysis relating to Russia and the former Soviet Union.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/08/21/donald-trump-has-purged-one-of-the-cias-most-senior-russia-analysts>

**110. ICE 'Lone Star Lockup' mega detention facility opens. TIME. 8<sup>th</sup> Sep 2025.**

A detention center poised to become the largest of its kind in the U.S. opened on a military base in El Paso, Texas, on Aug. 17. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said it was an effort to “decompress ICE detention facilities in other regions.” More than \$1 billion will be invested in the Fort Bliss center to expand its current 1,000-bed capacity to 5,000. Dubbed Lone Star Lockup, its opening is part of the Trump Administration's effort to use U.S. military bases and personnel to enforce immigration rules. INFRASTRUCTURE BOOM A Washington Post report found that ICE plans to add more than 41,000 detention beds in 2025, nearly doubling its capacity from the start of the year, to “deliver on the American people's mandate for mass deportations,” Assistant Homeland Security...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/september-8-2025-i672285/ice-lone-star-lockup-mega-detention-facility-opens-a4>

**111. Boots on the ground. TIME. 8th Sep 2025.**

D.C. National Guard troops congregate near the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 17. President Donald Trump announced on Aug. 11 that the federal government was temporarily taking control of the city's police force, and that he was deploying the National Guard on the streets of the nation's capital. Trump cited violent crime as justification for the move—which is a rare and controversial exercise of presidential power—even though data show that violent crime is down in the city. ► For more of our best photography, visit [time.com/lightbox](https://time.com/lightbox) Photograph by Julia Demaree Nikhinson—AP...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/september-8-2025-i672285/boots-on-the-ground-a7>

**112. POOR VOTE, SWING VOTE. TIME. 8th Sep 2025.**

On the one hand, this is the worst of times: power is concentrated in the hands of people who pray at the opening of Congress, then prey on the people they swore an oath to serve. But a close look at voter demographics suggests that a small percentage of poor voters who understand what they are losing have the potential to upend American politics. Over the past four decades, as inequality has grown exponentially for all Americans, the number of poor and low-income white people—66 million in 2018—has swelled higher than any other demographic. This is one reason low-income, majority-white communities became susceptible to the “populist” appeal of the MAGA movement. If white people are hurting, the divide-and-conquer myth suggests, it must be because Black people or immigrants are taking...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/september-8-2025-i672285/poor-vote-swing-vote-a9>

113. In exile, I lost India but gained a home. TIME. 8th Sep 2025.

On Nov. 7, 2019, The Government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi revoked my Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI), effectively banning me from the country I grew up in. India was where my mother and grandmother lived. Where four out of my five books of fiction and nonfiction were set. Where I had returned after college in the U.S. with the aim of being “an Indian writer.” The government alleged I had concealed that my father was Pakistani. It was a surprising accusation. My first book—Stranger to History: A Son’s Journey Through Islamic Lands, which was published in 2009—dealt extensively with my relationship to my absent father and my rediscovery of him. I had written countless articles on the subject, not to mention that my father was a public figure. In...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/september-8-2025-i672285/in-exile-i-lost-india-but-gained-a-home-a11>

114. The D.C. Brief. TIME. 8th Sep 2025.

In normal times, the first Friday of the month brings a routine tranche of government data known as the monthly jobs report. The markets react, the politicians preen, and most Americans go about their day. But these are not normal times, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics is no longer in the safe zone of non-partisanship thanks to President Donald Trump’s decision to can its chief because he didn’t like the math. On Aug. 1, Trump summarily fired BLS commissioner Erika McEntarfer after her team of stats mavens revised downward the job numbers for May and June. Trump decided the revisions were an effort to embarrass him and stoked conspiracy theories of rigged spreadsheets. It was the equivalent of firing a National Weather Service meteorologist because he spotted a hurricane...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/september-8-2025-i672285/the-dc-brief-a13>

115. TIME CO2 Leadership Report. TIME. 8th Sep 2025.

It’s hard to think of a policy move that could more directly target the core of climate science than the Trump Administration’s July 29 decision to undo the Environmental Protection Agency’s Endangerment Finding. Reached by the EPA in 2009, it outlines how greenhouse-gas emissions threaten public health and welfare—thereby laying out the legal basis for the agency to regulate those pollutants. The finding is the linchpin of EPA climate regulation, affecting everything from automobiles to power plants. Successfully undoing it would help the Administration swiftly reverse a slew of climate rules. The Department of Energy also released an accompanying report launching a full frontal assault on the scientific consensus on climate change. The effect of an EPA rollback of climate rules is hard to predict In the hours that...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/september-8-2025-i672285/time-co2-leadership-report-a14>

116. MAN ON THE STREET. TIME. 8th Sep 2025.

It’s not easy to move around New York City as Zohran Mamdani anymore. Like when the 33-year-old Democratic nominee for mayor leaves a union meeting to walk to his Manhattan campaign office, as he did one Monday morning in July. Within a block, a phone-wielding crowd forms and follows. “Oh my God, hello,” someone blurts. People



clap. Cars honk. Traffic down Fifth Avenue comes to a standstill as a plumber's van stops and a guy hops out to shake Mamdani's hand. There is some heckling. "Antisemitic!" someone shouts. But mostly it is star treatment, in multiple languages and from all generations. All this is new: the adulation, the notoriety, the xenophobic death threats that have prompted an entourage of men with spaghetti earpieces. Before 2025, basically no one knew who...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/september-8-2025-i672285/man-on-the-street-a17>

## SCIENCE

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117. A Chinese lab starts to tackle a giant mystery in particle physics. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

At the foot of the thickly forested Dashi Hill, in southern China's Guangdong province, pre-approved visitors can take a ride aboard a unique yellow train. Rather than winding through the serene landscape, however, the train descends along a steeply-sloping track that disappears into the darkness under the mountainside. After ten minutes on the train and a few more on foot, visitors reach a vast chamber that has been gouged out of the Earth. Here, more than half a kilometre underground, is a 12-storey-high sphere made from steel and plexiglass—the Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory (JUNO).

<https://www.economist.com/interactive/science-and-technology/2025/08/26/a-chinese-lab-starts-to-tackle-a-giant-mystery-in-particle-physics>

## SOCIOLOGY

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118. 'No Lions, Only Cunning Foxes'. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-34, 23rd Aug 2025.

The recent auctioning of a part of the University of Hyderabad land has raised important questions about the limits of the anthropocentric rhetoric of rights when it comes to animals and the importance of extending such rights to the animals who inhabit these spaces. Behind this political theatre of land auctions lies a deeper story of ecological belonging and the unmaking of non-human communities through displacement from their habitats, and their inability to question this injustice through institutions such as the legislative assembly or the high court, where they find no voice. It was only when students agitated on their behalf that their presence entered the political conversation.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/34/postscript/no-lions-only-cunning-foxes.html>

119. The Vanishing Lifeworlds of Planthottachi. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-34, 23rd Aug 2025.

In the quiet hamlet of Dundoor in Attappady, Kerala, lives an Adivasi woman whose smile carries the weight of decades. At over 80 years old, she is known as Planthottachi—named for the jackfruit (*plavu*) tree that gave shade to her home. Her

life is a living archive of resilience and loss. When I met her, she greeted me with a gentle, haunting smile that held sorrow. That look demanded more than extraction from me as a researcher; it demanded witness. Sitting down with her, I wondered: Could my research honour her story, or would it just embalm her pain in academic jargon? As we spoke, her words flowed between Muduga and Malayalam, narrating a past of abundance and a present of dependence. It struck me that my presence as a researcher was not neutral, as I was stepping into the history of erasures, and her willingness demanded more than passive documentation.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/34/postscript/vanishing-lifeworlds-planthottachi.html>

120. Putin's botched African adventure. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

In early August more than 200 crates of manuscripts arrived in Timbuktu, the city in Mali famous for its ancient scholarship. The papers were squirrelled away in 2012 to protect them from jihadists. For the ruling junta, which took power in a coup in May 2021, and the Wagner Group, the Russian mercenary outfit that came a few months later, the manuscripts' return is proof of success. They claim the insecurity that has plagued Mali for more than a decade, and which the West ostensibly did too little to stop, is at last being tackled.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/08/27/putins-botched-african-adventure>

121. A haunting new view of Assad's brutality in Syria. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

At around four o'clock in the morning on December 8th last year, gunmen stormed Sednaya prison, north of Damascus. They shot open cell doors, telling inmates that they had been freed. Some cowered in place, fearing a final trick by a crumbling regime, designed to lure them to their deaths.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/08/28/a-haunting-new-view-of-assads-brutality-in-syria>

122. Ten years later, "Wir schaffen das" has proved a pyrrhic victory. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

It was the worst of policies, it was the best of policies; it may not even have been intended as a policy at all. In late summer 2015 as a tide of Syrians, Afghans and others marched towards Europe in search of refuge, Angela Merkel announced that Germany would, in effect, take them all in. The move startled the chancellor's critics and allies alike. By upending migration policy, had the methodical-to-the-point-of-obstructive leader revealed a rash streak on perhaps the most fraught topic in European politics? Mrs Merkel's answer to both fans and naysayers came in the form of a phrase that came to mark her 16 years as chancellor: Wir schaffen das, We can handle this. Over 1m migrants soon made Germany their home. A decade later Mrs Merkel has been proved right, but in a pyrrhic sort of way. Germany did manage, and better than anyone might have expected. But the costs of doing so have mightily strengthened her political opponents.

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2025/08/28/ten-years-later-wir-schaffen-das-has-proved-a-pyrrhic-victory>

123. Why are so many women leaving the workforce?. TIME. 8th Sep 2025.

212,000. That's how many women ages 20 and over have left the U.S. workforce since January, according to the most recent jobs numbers released Aug. 1 by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. (By contrast, 44,000 men of the same age have entered the workforce since January.) The numbers are especially stark for women with children. From January to June, the labor-force participation rate of women ages 25 to 44 living with a child under 5 fell nearly 3 percentage points, from 69.7% to 66.9%, says Misty Lee Heggeness, an associate professor of economics and public affairs at the University of Kansas. It's a big reversal. The participation of those women had soared in 2022, 2023, and 2024, peaking in January 2025, as flexible work policies helped women join the workforce...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/september-8-2025-i672285/why-are-so-many-women-leaving-the-workforce-a5>

124. 'I'm afraid'. TIME. 8th Sep 2025.

Over the past 12 years, the small family-health clinic in Melmastok, a remote mountainous community in Afghanistan's central Daikundi province, has withstood multiple upheavals—from a Taliban insurgency to the withdrawal of international troops and the collapse of the U.S.-backed government in Kabul in 2021. Ever since, as the Taliban returned to power, once again issuing edicts to suppress women and girls, the clinic and its 34-year-old midwife Atifa have continued to provide a lifeline for mothers and young children. Until this summer, that is. Come July, the clinic finally closed its doors. For Atifa, who identifies herself like many local women with only her first name, that means one thing: "Mothers and children will die." The reason? The wholesale slashing by Washington of U.S. humanitarian aid, until recently the single...

<http://timeasia.zinioapps.com/article/time-magazine-asia/september-8-2025-i672285/im-afraid-a16>

125. In some ways, rural Britain is changing faster than its cities. Economist. 30th Aug 2025.

Holidaymakers, including American vice-presidents, are drawn to rural Britain partly because it seems to change so little. The villages are thatched and quaint. The farm shops, if not their prices, can be old-fashioned. The landscape is "timelessly familiar", as the king put it in an essay for Country Life a decade ago.

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2025/08/24/in-some-ways-rural-britain-is-changing-faster-than-its-cities>

## WILDLIFE

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126. Why Kerala Needs Anthrotherology to Handle Human–Wildlife Conflict. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-34, 23rd Aug 2025.

Last year, in Mulli village, Attappadi, I sat with an Irula elder who recounted a harrowing memory from 2023. Sixty-year-old Nanchan from Kuppam Colony was trampled by an elephant, while gathering forest produce near the Tamil Nadu border. The elder

described the elephant as a “lost protector,” displaced by expanding tea estates. Her voice trembled as she said, “It wasn’t just death; it was betrayal.” To her and others in the community, the elephant was not a mere animal but a person with a soul, entangled in kinship with the community across generations. French anthropologist Philippe Descola, in *Beyond Nature and Culture* (2013), identifies such a world view as animism, a cosmology in which non-humans share an interiority with humans, differing only in bodily form (Descola 2013). When the elephant trampled Nanchan, it was not random violence; it was the rupture of a moral bond, a protector turned enemy due to the loss of its habitat. For animist communities, there is no ontological divide between humans and nature, only a continuum of beings. Through over a year of ethnographic fieldwork in Attappadi, I have witnessed how elephants exceed their zoological identity, functioning as agents within a shared world of meaning.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/34/commentary/why-kerala-needs-anthrotherology-handle-human.html#:~:text=Why%20Kerala%20Needs%20Anthrotherology%20to%20Handle%20Human%E2%80%93Wildlife%20Conflict,-Commentary&text=Human%E2%80%93wildlife%20conflicts%20must%20be,a%20breakdown%20of%20relational%20ethics.>

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

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Periodicity</b>	<b>Place of Publication</b>
1	Economic & Political Weekly	W	Mumbai
2	Economist (A.M.)	W	London
3	History Today	M	London
4	India Forum	W	New York
5	New Yorker	W	Chicago
6	Time	F	Chicago
7	University News	W	Delhi