

ARTICLE ALERT

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CONTENTS

Subjects Covered	Page Nos.
Art	03
Biography	03
Business	04
Climate Change	05
Economics	06
Education	09
Emerging Technologies	12
Environment	13
Health	13
History	14
International Relations	14
Law	17
Literature	18
Political Science & Public Administration	18
Science	23
Sociology	24
Wildlife	25
Annexure – I (List of Journals Covered)	26

ART

1. Richard Move Channels Martha Graham. New Yorker. 3rd Nov 2025.

One of the great pleasures of going to clubs in the nineteen-eighties and nineties—back when now defunct venues like the Clit Club and the Pyramid Club and Jackie 60 had live performance—was what you could find on a night out. Aside from a temporary love, or a new friend, you could easily stumble upon fabulous stage shows that were presented with such seriousness, often, that you wondered if—while watching the amazing Duelling Bankheads, for instance, or so many people who got up so brilliantly as Stevie Nicks on the Night of 1000 Stevies—you were high on the entertainment, or on dancing with your chosen community, or just amazed by what New York had to offer by way of creativity. Looking back, I can see that, for me at least, it was the combination of all three elements together that gave such hope about Manhattan's ability to foster noncommercial glamour, and to support young performers who were trying things out and seeing what stuck.

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/goings-on/richard-move-channels-martha-graham>

BIOGRAPHY

2. Rising antisemitism reflects wider social ills, says Britain's former counter-terrorism co-ordinator. Economist. 11th October 2025.

THE ATTACK on worshippers at the Heaton Park synagogue in Manchester on Yom Kippur, Judaism's holiest day, provided another grim reminder that the struggle with hate-fuelled extremism continues. Yes, within seven minutes armed police had arrived and shot the terrorist dead. But the potential damage to community confidence—and to the wider social fabric—lingers.

<https://www.economist.com/by-invitation/2025/10/05/rising-antisemitism-reflects-wider-social-ills-says-britains-former-counter-terrorism-co-ordinator>

3. Donald Trump is victorious at the southern border. Economist. 11th October 2025.

IN 1971 THE barrier that separated San Diego from Tijuana was a bit of chicken wire. Even that was too much for Pat Nixon, who was First Lady at the time. When she visited the beach at the very south-western edge of California she decided she wanted to meet the Mexicans queuing to greet her. So she asked the mayor of Tijuana to tear down the fence. "I do hope that this will be a common beach," she said. "Because we're such good friends with Mexico, I don't think we need a border."

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/10/05/donald-trump-is-victorious-at-the-southern-border>

4. Britain mourns its bonkbuster queen. Economist. 11th October 2025.

It became known as "The Great Bottom Controversy". It was 2015, a book called "Riders" had just been reprinted—and it was suddenly noticed that its cover had been

changed. Where once the cover had shown a man's hand clasping a girl's bottom, now his hand was, almost chastely, on her lower back. The change was small, the outcry was not. The removal of the "butttock-cupping hand" was called "prudish", "totally unsexy" and "a scandal".

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2025/10/08/britain-mourns-its-bonkbuster-queen>

BUSINESS

5. The sinister disappearance of China's bosses. Economist. 11th October 2025.

Until recently Yu Faxin was best known as a leading scientist and entrepreneur, specialising in advanced semiconductors for military applications. But on September 22nd he made headlines for another reason. His company, Shanghai-listed Great Microwave Technology, disclosed that Mr Yu had been taken away by China's anti-corruption agency. Mr Yu is in liuzhi, an extra-judicial form of detention in which increasing numbers of Chinese businessmen are being snared.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/10/08/the-sinister-disappearance-of-chinas-bosses>

6. Businesses are grappling with a wave of cybercrime. Economist. 11th October 2025.

On a recent evening in Bier Reise '98, a beer hall in Shimbashi, a lively district in Tokyo, Matsuo Kohei poured one of his last glasses of Maruefu. Unlike its sibling, Super Dry, the lager is rarely seen outside Japan. Thanks to a cyber-attack on Asahi, the brewer of both, Maruefu is becoming rare at home, too. Mr Matsuo said he would run out that night. Without a delivery, a drought of Super Dry would follow within days. The attack, confirmed by Asahi on September 29th, brought most of the company's 30 factories, as well as call centres and shipments, to a halt.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/10/09/businesses-are-grappling-with-a-wave-of-cybercrime>

7. Luxury goods are out, but luxury travel is in. Economist. 11th October 2025.

Outside Brown's Hotel in London, a doorman in a smart coat and top hat escorts guests to their taxis. Inside, the fanciest suite goes for over £6,000 (\$8,100) per night. The bar serves delicious cocktails for £26. Judging by the crowded lobby, there is no shortage of visitors happy to pay for that sort of pampering.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/10/06/luxury-goods-are-out-but-luxury-travel-is-in>

8. Bottled water is going upmarket. Economist. 11th October 2025.

Strolling through a villa in the south of France, Lily Collins sips from a sleek pastel can. Shot by Damien Chazelle, the director of "La La Land", this might be a trailer for a romantic comedy. It is, in fact, an ad for flavoured water.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/10/09/bottled-water-is-going-upmarket>

9. Bonfire of the middle managers. Economist. 11th October 2025.

Middle managers never have it easy. Subordinates resent them for climbing the corporate ladder. The top brass blame them when company strategy fails. In the popular mind they personify corporate bloat; they are the stuff of satire rather than respect. Stress and burn-out are their lot.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/10/05/bonfire-of-the-middle-managers>

10. A short guide to white-collar warfare. Economist. 11th October 2025.

Military types are familiar with the idea of gradually ratcheting up the intensity of a conflict. Herman Kahn, an American nuclear strategist of the 1960s, identified no fewer than 44 rungs on the escalation ladder. The lower rungs on Kahn's ladder include things like "Solemn and Formal Declarations"; the topmost is called "Spasm", which doesn't sound good at all.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/10/09/a-short-guide-to-white-collar-warfare>

11. What if OpenAI went belly-up?. Economist. 11th October 2025.

LOOK AROUND the world of artificial intelligence and OpenAI is everywhere. In early September ChatGPT's creator reportedly struck a deal to buy perhaps \$10bn-worth of custom AI chips from Broadcom. A fortnight later the startup revealed that Nvidia, Broadcom's larger rival, would invest up to \$100bn in it over several years while selling it graphics-processing units (GPUs) worth that amount. On October 6th OpenAI announced a deal with AMD, a third chipmaker, of similar size and circularity. This time it is OpenAI that may take a stake in AMD, which would sell it silicon worth an estimated \$90bn or so between 2026 and 2030.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/10/09/what-if-openai-went-belly-up>

CLIMATE CHANGE

12. Will this experiment fix India's Silicon Valley?. Economist. 11th October 2025.

BANGALORE HAS a good claim to be India's most pleasant city. The weather is agreeable nearly year-round. World-class restaurants, a huge variety of pubs and a rash of new coffee shops provide ample sustenance. New cultural institutions are coming up, funded by a first-generation billionaire class created by the city's tech boom. Rents are more affordable than in the megacities of Delhi and Mumbai.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/10/09/will-this-experiment-fix-indias-silicon-valley>

13. Agriculture faces a MAGA reckoning. Economist. 11th October 2025.

DRIVE DOWN any rural road around Augusta, a small town in western Illinois, on an evening in October, and it seems as if the fields are wrapped in a low mist. In fact, it is dust flung up by combine harvesters. October is harvest season and they are hauling in billions of bushels of maize and soyabeans. Yet all is not well. Sitting in the cab of his combine harvester, Brady Holst, a 32-year-old who farms soya and maize (corn to Americans) on 3,500 acres around Augusta, explains the problem. "It used to be that farmers had to worry about the weather," he says. "It seems like now it's more policies or global events. Things like that change quickly and make things tough."

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/10/07/agriculture-faces-a-maga-reckoning>

ECONOMICS

14. Donald Trump's fortress economy is starting to hurt America. Economist. 11th October 2025.

Brick by brick, President Donald Trump is building a wall around the world's largest economy. As America's tariff barriers on everyone else have gone up, so has the drawbridge, making it harder for migrants to enter the country. The president wants to turn America into a fortress that keeps out foreign incursions. In fact, he is cutting America off from the very goods and talent that helped make its economy the envy of the world. Already the damage is starting to show; once wreaked, it will not easily be reversed.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/10/09/donald-trumps-fortress-economy-is-starting-to-hurt-america>

15. Xi Jinping is personally involved in China's new five-year plan. Economist. 11th October 2025.

THE JINGXI hotel will contain all the intrigue, as usual. From October 20th to 23rd some 370 of the Communist Party's top officials will congregate in Beijing to map out the country's economic course to 2030. The five-year plan they eventually release in March will be the 15th since the party gained power in 1949. Titanic in size, as befits the world's second-largest economy, it will touch on everything from advanced manufacturing to green development and beyond. Xi Jinping, China's president, is helping to shape it himself.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2025/10/09/xi-jinping-is-personally-involved-in-chinas-new-five-year-plan>

16. China's industrial largesse may cost it \$370bn a year in lost output. Economist. 11th October 2025.

CHINA'S INDUSTRIAL policies have propelled it to the shiny edge of technological development. It boasts world-beating electric-vehicle (EV) production and top-notch robotics, and though it still lags behind in semiconductors, it is fast catching up. At a party plenum later this month officials will gather to discuss how to keep economic

momentum going through to 2030. Reports so far suggest that they will renew China's commitment to becoming a "science and technology powerhouse". But a new paper by researchers at the IMF suggests that the scale—and the associated costs—of related efforts are far bigger than previously estimated.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2025/10/09/chinas-industrial-largesse-may-cost-it-370bn-a-year-in-lost-output>

17. China's H-1B-visa alternative excites interest abroad—but fury at home. Economist. 11th October 2025.

ACCORDING TO THE last census in 2020, less than 0.1% of China's 1.4bn people are immigrants (in America the share is 15%). Historically the country has not welcomed many newcomers, but its leaders want to seize the geopolitical moment. This month China opened its doors to bright young things via a new visa—bold in vision but scant in detail—in a bid for global tech talent.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2025/10/09/chinas-h-1b-visa-alternative-excites-interest-abroad-but-fury-at-home>

18. Welcome to Zero Migration America. Economist. 11th October 2025.

Every year since the 1930s, more people have arrived in America than have left. Every year, that is, until quite possibly 2025. Net immigration was over 2.5m a year at the end of Joe Biden's presidency; this year that figure may fall to zero, or even turn negative (see chart 1).

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/10/07/welcome-to-zero-migration-america>

19. Why Donald Trump's tariffs are failing to break global trade. Economist. 11th October 2025.

On April 2nd President Donald Trump unveiled his "Liberation Day" tariffs, holding a board covered in figures showing just how unfairly the world treated America. The numbers were nonsense, but the message was clear: the age of free trade was over. Markets shuddered, America's allies fumed and economists predicted catastrophe. Torsten Slok of Apollo, a private-markets giant, put the odds of a tariff-driven recession in America at 90%.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/10/08/why-donald-trumps-tariffs-are-failing-to-break-global-trade>

20. Narendra Modi's paltry target for India's growth. Economist. 11th October 2025.

How rich must a country be to count as "developed"? The question is preoccupying India's government, which wants India to attain the status by 2047, the 100th anniversary of its independence from Britain. Narendra Modi recently suggested the government was aiming for a \$10trn economy by the centenary year. That was a retreat by the prime minister from earlier rhetoric. In 2022 Piyush Goyal, the commerce minister, aimed for a \$30trn economy, a goal echoed by NITI Aayog, the government's in-house think tank.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/10/09/narendra-modis-paltry-target-for-indias-growth>

21. Front-line economics: lessons from Russia's neighbours. Economist. 11th October 2025.

On a sunny afternoon aboard an icebreaker in Helsinki's harbour, it is possible to forget that the border of a warmongering dictatorship is just 150km away. The ships, powerful enough to provide electricity for a small town, are a potential high-tech export to America. They are also a sign of the strains on the Finnish economy. Ever since war in Ukraine broke out and Finland closed its border with Russia, it must trade via the Baltic Sea, hoping to eke out growth in icy conditions.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/10/09/front-line-economics-lessons-from-russias-neighbours>

22. The most dangerous corner of a balance-sheet. Economist. 11th October 2025.

Debt suffers from a bad reputation. In almost every culture, lending and borrowing are maligned, with unflattering idioms common. Yet credit is the lifeblood of capitalism: the ability to lend and borrow facilitates hundreds of billions of dollars of activity every day.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/10/08/the-most-dangerous-corner-of-a-balance-sheet>

23. The stockmarket is fuelling America's economy. Economist. 11th October 2025.

The stockmarket is not the economy, as the old investing cliché goes. That is obvious enough to anyone paying attention in America this year. President Donald Trump's tariff fervour has dented growth, even if not by as much as expected after "Liberation Day", and yet the stockmarket has soared: the S&P 500 index of large American companies is up by nearly 15% so far this year, comfortably ahead of the historical average.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/10/09/the-stockmarket-is-fuelling-americas-economy>

24. Global Trade Forecasts. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol, 60. No-42. 18th Oct 2025.

The theory of unintended consequences seems to be wreaking havoc with global merchandise trade forecasts. The most recent estimate made by the World Trade Organization (WTO) this October indicates that the growth in the volume of global trade in 2025 will pick up faster than expected in earlier estimates, which had predicted a sharp deceleration after the tariff hikes by the United States (US) government in April.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/42/editorials/global-trade-forecasts.html>

25. From 50 Years Ago: India and the Colonial Mode of Production: Comments. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol, 60. No-42. 18th Oct 2025.

We think no student of the Indian economy would differ from Alavi that during the colonial period the following two structural features characterised the "social formation" in Indian agriculture: (a) "deformed generalised commodity (production, inasmuch as the colonial economy is internally disarticulated and the circuit of commodity exchange

is completed only *via* the imperialist centre”; (b) “a deformed extended reproduction inasmuch as the surplus value is realised by and through metropolitan capital accumulation”. As a matter of fact, this understanding of an economy under imperialist economic domination constitutes the common understanding of economists of all shades from all developing centres who represent their respective countries in the forum of the UNCTAD. One does not have to be a Marxist to subscribe to this view.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/42/50-years-ago/50-years-ago-india-and-colonial-mode-production.html>

26. The Impact of Fintech and Financial Inclusion on SMEs’ Growth and Development. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol, 60. No-42. 18th Oct 2025.

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) play a pivotal role in the economic landscape of many countries, including India. They are crucial drivers of economic growth, innovation, and employment (Agyei 2018). Despite their importance, SMEs often face significant challenges, particularly in accessing financial resources and integrating advanced technologies into their operations (Beck and Demirguc-Kunt 2006). In India, where a substantial portion of the population is involved in SMEs, addressing these challenges is essential for fostering sustainable economic development. Therefore, understanding the dynamics of SMEs and their operational environment becomes imperative (Prêtet and Klang 2019; Sahu et al 2021).

<https://www.epw.in/journal/special-articles/impact-fintech-and-financial-inclusion-smes-growth.html>

27. Inside the Data Centers That Train A.I. and Drain the Electrical Grid. New Yorker. 3rd Nov 2025.

Drive in almost any direction from almost any American city, and soon enough you’ll arrive at a data center—a giant white box rising from graded earth, flanked by generators and fenced like a prison yard. Data centers for artificial intelligence are the new American factory. Packed with computing equipment, they absorb information and emit A.I. Since the launch of ChatGPT, in 2022, they have begun to multiply at an astonishing rate. “I do guess that a lot of the world gets covered in data centers over time,” Sam Altman, the C.E.O. of OpenAI, recently said.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/11/03/inside-the-data-centers-that-train-ai-and-drain-the-electrical-grid>

EDUCATION

28. Mun Choi’s Survival Strategy. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol. 72, No-4. 17th Oct 2025.

The Missouri Tigers had tied the Kansas Jayhawks going into the half. It was the first installment in 14 years of the “Border War,” a football rivalry that had fallen victim to reshuffling among athletic conferences. At a suite high up in Mizzou’s sold-out stadium, a crowd of state lawmakers, board members, and campus administrators milled about.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/mun-chois-survival-strategy>

29. The Trump-Supporting Congressman Turned College President. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol. 72, No-4. 17th Oct 2025.

Bill Johnson knew he was an unconventional choice to become Youngstown State University's next president. He'd had a 26-year career in the Air Force, rising to lieutenant colonel; led three tech companies; and spent more than a decade in Congress. On its face, that experience is unconventional but not unheard of.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-trump-supporting-congressman-turned-college-president>

30. Christopher Eisgruber's Red Lines. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol. 72, No-4. 17th Oct 2025.

Arguably not since the 1960s has the debate over free speech on college campuses felt quite this white hot. And that's just one reason that Christopher Eisgruber is such a compelling figure at this pivotal moment. As president of Princeton University and a scholar of constitutional law, Eisgruber has thought deeply about campus speech issues. And he's just released a book on the subject:

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/christopher-eisgrubers-red-lines>

31. College Presidents Have a Tough Job. Are They Being Trained Correctly?. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol. 72, No-4. 17th Oct 2025.

It's simple math. The higher Walter Iwanenko Jr. climbed on academe's career ladder, the fewer people on the same rung were on campus with him. At the faculty and even department-chair rungs, there were lots of folks he could tap for answers when he had questions. As he moved up, there were fewer deans on campus, but they still existed. Now, as president of Gannon University, there's no one else at his level.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/college-presidents-have-a-tough-job-are-they-being-trained-correctly>

32. Trump's Imperfect Compact Is a Perfect Opportunity. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol. 72, No-4. 17th Oct 2025.

Last week, the U.S. Department of Education sent a letter to nine leading universities proposing a new "Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education" between America and its universities. As soon as the details of the compact became public, higher ed erupted. The criticism was scathing: The compact is extortion; federal overreach; and proposes violations of the First Amendment, both rights of association and rights of expression.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/trumps-imperfect-compact-is-a-perfect-opportunity>

33. Can You Say 'Transgender' in a Texas Tech Classroom? The Answer Is Complicated. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol. 72, No-4. 17th Oct 2025.

The problem began with a vaguely worded memo. Last Thursday, Tedd L. Mitchell, chancellor of the Texas Tech University system, instructed the presidents of the five system campuses to ensure that their universities comply with current state and federal

laws that “recognize only two human sexes: male and female.” He asked them to review “course materials, curricula, syllabi, and other instructional documents,” then “make timely adjustments where needed.”

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/can-you-say-transgender-in-a-texas-tech-classroom-the-answer-is-complicated>

34. A Judge Ruled Trump Silenced Scholars. Will It Matter?. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol. 72, No-4. 17th Oct 2025.

The American Association of University Professors and other academic groups won a resounding victory on Tuesday when a judge ruled that the Trump administration had “chilled” their members’ rights to express their views. First Amendment lawyers praised the decision as a win for free speech.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/a-judge-ruled-trump-silenced-scholars-will-it-matter>

35. The U. of Utah Says Class-Schedule Changes Will Help Students. Faculty and Students Don’t Buy It. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol. 72, No-4. 17th Oct 2025.

The University of Utah is roiled by a controversy surrounding two of the more-contentious aspects of campus life: course scheduling and parking. Starting in the spring, fewer courses will be offered during what is considered prime time, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., as well as on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The proposed changes have sparked a petition and protest by students, and worries from faculty members who are concerned about how the new schedule might affect course enrollments and therefore the viability of programs under a new state law.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-u-of-utah-says-class-schedule-changes-will-help-students-faculty-and-students-dont-buy-it>

36. The Trump Administration’s ‘Compact’ Is a Trap. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol. 72, No-4. 17th Oct 2025.

Every few years, a new plan emerges claiming to “fix” American higher education. The just-announced Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education is the latest. Presented as a voluntary 10-point agreement, it was delivered to nine universities with the promise that they could maintain access to federal resources — student aid, research funding, contracts, visas, and tax benefits — if they agreed to an

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-trump-administrations-compact-is-a-trap>

37. A Princeton President’s Evasions. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol. 72, No-4. 17th Oct 2025.

In the summer of 2020, not long after the murder of George Floyd, the faculty and the president of Princeton University engaged in an especially long-winded instance of the political ritual common to the period. The president, Christopher L. Eisgruber,

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/a-princeton-presidents-evasions>

38. Professors Can Be Ignorant. That’s Why We Need Viewpoint Diversity. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol. 72, No-4. 17th Oct 2025.

It's hard to succeed as an educator when you don't know what you're talking about. And yet many professors of the humanities and social sciences — teaching and writing on topics such as capitalism, police reform, and sexuality — fail a simple, classic test. To understand your own position, you must be aware of, and be able to respond to, objections to that position. We need greater diversity of political and social views in academe not because diversity is a higher value than truth, but because academics' intellectual isolation has compromised their capacity to pursue truth.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/professors-can-be-ignorant-thats-why-we-need-viewpoint-diversity>

39. Should You Stay in Academe or Go?. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol. 72, No-4. 17th Oct 2025.

Each August, my team and I lead a Faculty Job Market Bootcamp, a weeklong virtual conference for graduate students and postdocs interested in applying for faculty positions. This year, we asked participants to share their biggest fear about the job search. What was clear:

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/should-you-stay-in-academe-or-go>

40. Contemporary Muslim Women Education: A Critical Appraisal of Asian Context. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol, 60. No-42. 18th Oct 2025.

This article seeks to understand major factors contributing to the gender gap as regards women education in Muslim societies. Eastern countries where Muslims are the dominant community still lag behind the much-developed world that is increasingly acknowledging universal education as a central feature in the process of human development. Muslim women have accepted the situation passively and therefore deprived of the opportunity to actualise their potential. Consequently, the notion that “Muslims consider woman intellectually inferior” has become an advanced discourse globally. A fundamental question that arises is how to justify societal investment in women's education when the society itself does not recognise usefulness of that education. Theories addressing the issue by some prominent scholars such as Asma Barlas and Zainab Alwani, who have suggested distinguishing Islam as a religion from the varied cultures wherein Islam is being practiced, have been elucidated to have a better comprehension of the issue.

<https://www.epw.in/engage/article/contemporary-muslim-women-education-critical>

EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

41. AI video: more than just “slop”. Economist. 11th October 2025.

SCROLLING THROUGH the feed on Sora, a new video app from chatbot developer OpenAI, is a hallucinatory experience. A woman in a judo jacket bows to an elephant before flipping it over her shoulder. A young figure-skater races across the rings of Saturn. Grainy security-camera footage captures Sam Altman, OpenAI's founder and boss, attempting to shoplift a graphics card.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2025/10/06/ai-video-more-than-just-slop>

ENVIRONMENT

42. To Solve North India's Air Crisis, Look Beyond Stubble and Fireworks. India Forum. 22nd Oct 2025.

The Indo-Gangetic plain has once again entered its annual season of choking smog. The brief reprieve offered by the monsoon has ended; the skies are turning hazy, and the air is beginning to feel heavy. Just a few weeks ago, in early September, the region had experienced a rare, beautiful calm—washed by late monsoon rains, the air was fresh and clean, sunlight soft, each breath light and invigorating. That fleeting moment now feels like a distant memory as the smog returns, and air quality is expected to further worsen in the coming weeks—a stark reminder of how relentless this crisis has become.

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/environment/solve-north-indias-air-crisis-look-beyond-stubble-and-fireworks-0>

HEALTH

43. Chinese officials boast a god's-eye view of towns from above. Economist. 11th October 2025.

A ONE-STOREY Communist Party office sits down a quiet street in a village of 15,000 people. Inside, a digital screen covers an entire wall as if every resident were a cell in a complex organism that must be tracked. The village is broken into a grid composed of a dozen different units. Within each, maps pinpoint individuals who need extra attention, including the destitute and the mentally ill. Another section shows known drug users: 58 in all.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2025/10/06/chinese-officials-boast-a-gods-eye-view-of-towns-from-above>

44. Is dark chocolate actually healthy?. Economist. 11th October 2025.

EVEN YOUNG children know that chocolate is a treat, to be savoured on special occasions. But the “dark” variety, which has more cocoa, is touted as healthier and even as a health-booster. Dark chocolate, it is suggested, can alleviate all manner of problems, from high blood pressure to depression, while improving mental acuity. Many studies, often paid for by Big Chocolate, hint this may be true. Sadly, the best research debunks the idea.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2025/10/03/is-dark-chocolate-actually-healthy>

HISTORY

45. Betsy Aidem, *Working Woman*. New Yorker. 3rd Nov 2025.

The sixty-eight-year-old theatre actress Betsy Aidem is a self-described “research junkie.” When she starred as Lady Bird Johnson in the 2014 Broadway play “All the Way,” about Lyndon B. Johnson’s efforts to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964, she read all four of Robert Caro’s Johnson biographies, each as dense as a poundcake. To prepare for her recent Tony-nominated role as a French Jewish matriarch in Joshua Harmon’s “A Prayer for the French Republic,” she flew to Paris just to see the building where Harmon’s grandparents had hidden during the Nazi occupation.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/11/03/betsy-aidem-working-woman>

46. Some People Can’t See Mental Images. The Consequences Are Profound. New Yorker. 3rd Nov 2025.

When Nick Watkins was a child, he pasted articles about space exploration into scrapbooks and drew annotated diagrams of rockets. He knew this because, years later, he still had the scrapbooks, and took them to be evidence that he had been a happy child, although he didn’t remember making them. When he was seven, in the summer of 1969, his father woke him up to watch the moon landing; it was the middle of the night where they lived, near Southampton, in England. He didn’t remember this, either, but he’d been told that it happened. That Christmas, he and his brother were given matching space helmets. He knew that on Christmas morning the helmets had been waiting in the kitchen and that, on discovering his, he felt joy, but this was not a memory, exactly. The knowledge seemed to him more personal than an ordinary fact, but he could not feel or picture what it had been like to be that boy in the kitchen.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/11/03/some-people-cant-see-mental-images-the-consequences-are-profound>

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

47. A new beginning for the Middle East. Economist. 11th October 2025.

PLENTY OF AMERICAN presidents have sought a breakthrough in the bitter conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. Now, two years after the atrocities of October 7th and after endless rounds of killing in Gaza, Donald Trump has joined the tiny list of those who have succeeded. The tentative agreement between Israel and Hamas to stop the shooting and release the hostages opens up a new vision for the Middle East. The path is narrow, but it is the best chance of creating lasting peace since the Oslo accords in 1993 and 1995.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/10/09/a-new-beginning-for-the-middle-east>

48. Africa’s leaders-for-life offer a warning to the world. Economist. 11th October 2025.

These are bad times for democracy. Strongmen, from Vladimir Putin in Russia to Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Turkey, are flexing their muscles. In America and India democratically

elected leaders are flirting with more personalised leadership, if not openly pursuing it. In Europe voters fed up with sluggish growth and social division are tempted by the promises of charismatic authoritarian populists.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/10/09/africas-leaders-for-life-offer-a-warning-to-the-world>

49. Israel and Hamas agree to the first phase of Donald Trump's peace plan. Economist. 11th October 2025.

IT WAS a surreal end to a horrific war. On October 8th, in the middle of a White House event about the supposed threat of left-wing radicals in America, Marco Rubio suddenly dashed over to his boss. The secretary of state gave Donald Trump a handwritten note, the text of which was visible to eagle-eyed photographers in the room. Negotiators in Egypt, it said, were "very close" to a ceasefire agreement to end the war in Gaza. Mr Trump was urgently needed in order to approve a social-media post that would announce the deal.

<https://www.economist.com/briefing/2025/10/09/israel-and-hamas-agree-to-the-first-phase-of-donald-trumps-peace-plan>

50. American soya farmers are miserable. Brazil's are ebullient. Economist. 11th October 2025.

They say no one wins a trade war. Certainly, there are few bigger losers than soyabean farmers in the United States. Since May China, by far their biggest customer, has refused to buy a single bushel in retaliation for Donald Trump's tariffs. The spat is ruining farmers in Illinois; Mr Trump is set to announce a \$10bn agricultural-relief package. It is also raising costs for crushers in China's Shandong province, who press beans into animal feed and cooking oil. But there has been one big winner: soyabean producers in Brazil. The rift between American farmers and their Chinese clients has let Brazil cement its place as the world's soyabean superpower.

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2025/10/09/american-soya-farmers-are-miserable-brazils-are-ebullient>

51. Ukraine's hellfire is intensifying the Kremlin's fuel crisis. Economist. 11th October 2025.

UKRAINE CONTINUES to inflict deadly damage on Russia's energy infrastructure, and the tempo is accelerating. The concerted drone attacks on oil refineries and other parts of Russia's fuel-distribution system began in August, and the number of strikes is rising from two or three a week to four or five. Soon they will be daily.

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2025/10/05/ukraines-hellfire-is-intensifying-the-kremlins-fuel-crisis>

52. Russia is torturing its Ukrainian captives. Economist. 11th October 2025.

VOLODYMYR MYKOLAYENKO is 65, but looks ten years older. A former mayor of the Ukrainian city of Kherson, he was detained by Russian forces during their eight-month occupation in 2022. Freed at the end of August, he is now giving interviews from a hospital in Kyiv. And that is refocusing attention on what the UN's human-rights mission in the capital calls Russia's "systematic and widespread" torture and ill-treatment of its prisoners.

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2025/10/09/russia-is-torturing-its-ukrainian-captives>

53. The comeback of Andrej Babis. Economist. 11th October 2025.

Andrej Babis is often called the Czech Donald Trump. Like the American president, he is a billionaire with a penchant for populist stunts: after Petr Fiala, the incumbent prime minister, complained that Nutella costs less in Germany, Mr Babis handed him a jar of the stuff during a televised debate. Like Mr Trump, he has been accused by prosecutors of financial wrongdoing, though he denies the charges. And like Mr Trump, he has now been re-elected to run his country again after a term out of power.

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2025/10/09/the-comeback-of-andrej-babis>

54. Forget EVs. Cycling is revolutionising transport. Economist. 11th October 2025.

TO UNDERSTAND WHY urban planners like bicycles, stand on a section of Saint Denis Street in Montreal and count the vehicles going by. On a sunny Thursday over a ten-minute period at rush hour, your correspondent counted 132 bicycles (at least a half dozen of which had children on the back) flowing one way. In the adjacent—and much wider—automobile lane 82 cars (almost all carrying just their driver) and one city bus moved by in a bumper-to-bumper crawl.

<https://www.economist.com/international/2025/10/09/forget-evs-cycling-is-revolutionising-transport>

55. Europe struggles to put homeland defence first. Economist. 11th October 2025.

NOT LONG ago, important Europeans would wave away questions about America's armed forces leaving the continent. The idea was too catastrophic and outlandish to merit discussion. Today, abandonment by America is a planning scenario.

<https://www.economist.com/international/2025/10/07/europe-struggles-to-put-homeland-defence-first>

56. A dangerous post-Brexit world. Economist. 11th October 2025.

THIS WEEK'S announcement that the European Union plans to impose harsh tariffs on steel imports was particularly painful for Britain. Donald Trump had already slapped 25% tariffs on British steel exports to America, despite earlier hopes that he might be persuaded to reduce the rate to zero. But the European market matters far more than the American one, accounting for as much as 80% of British steel exports. Nearly half of the 4m tonnes of steel produced in Britain every year goes to the bloc. If the EU sticks to its guns, it will cut its tariff-free quota of imports by half and impose a 50% tariff on the rest.

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2025/10/09/a-dangerous-post-brexit-world>

57. British Jews and police work closely together to prevent attacks. Economist. 11th October 2025.

“UN-BRITISH” is how Sir Keir Starmer, the prime minister, described protests in London and other cities on October 7th, the anniversary of Hamas’s murderous attack on Israel two years ago. Many British Jews see it as simply another sign of growing antisemitism in the country. More than 1,500 hate incidents against Jews—from verbal abuse on the street and online to red paint daubed on Jewish schools and businesses—were reported in the first six months of the year, fewer than over the same period last year but a three-fold increase in a decade.

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2025/10/07/british-jews-and-police-work-closely-together-to-prevent-attacks>

LAW

58. Cybercrime is afflicting big business. How to lessen the pain. Economist. 11th October 2025.

MORE THAN a month for Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), an Indian-owned carmaker. A week for Asahi, a Japanese brewing giant. Six weeks for Marks and Spencer (m&s), a British retailer. That is how long each of those firms has needed to recover after being hacked. For JLR, the disruption has extended far beyond the firm. Last month the government in Britain, where it is based, said it would underwrite a £1.5bn (\$2bn) loan in an attempt to keep the carmaker’s suppliers afloat.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/10/09/cybercrime-is-afflicting-big-business-how-to-lessen-the-pain>

59. Paradox of Care. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol, 60. No-42. 18th Oct 2025.

To ensure the quality of care for patients receiving free treatment under publicly funded health insurance schemes, the government has introduced patient empowerment tools, such as satisfaction surveys. These satisfaction surveys are designed based on the premise that there is a positive linear relationship between service satisfaction and service quality. However, our study finds that this positive relationship holds for patients who pay out-of-pocket (self-paid), but not for patients receiving free treatment under PFHIS. We explore the pathways that could explain these inconsistencies using structural equation modelling.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/special-articles/paradox-care.html>

60. Customary Laws and Courts. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol, 60. No-42. 18th Oct 2025.

Customary laws of Santals in Jharkhand limit the property rights of Adivasi women. These have been further constrained by shifting customs, weakened social support, and state interventions. The practice of *ghar jawae* marriage is the only Santal custom that grants daughters absolute property rights. Over the past few decades, this practice has not only become rare due to diminishing social support but is increasingly mired in legal conflicts, transforming one of the few avenues for women’s property rights into a contested space.

LITERATURE

61. Jennifer Lawrence Goes Dark. New Yorker. 3rd Nov 2025.

The novel “Die, My Love,” by the Argentinean writer Ariana Harwicz, is narrated by a wife and new mother who is living in rural France and seems to be losing her mind. Motherhood has inserted an immersion blender into her psyche: lust, repulsion, pleasure, and doom swirl into a single mess. She calls herself a “sodomising rodent” with “bullet-wounds for eyes,” and thinks, “When I masturbate I desecrate crypts, and when I rock my baby I say amen, and when I smile I unplug an iron lung.” One night, standing in the cold, staring at her family through a sliding door, she thinks, “I’ll stop trying to draw blood from a stone. I’ll contain my madness, I’ll use the bathroom. I’ll put my baby to sleep, jerk off my man and postpone my rebellion in favor of a better life.” She’s joking.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/11/03/jennifer-lawrence-profile>

62. Outcomes. New Yorker. 3rd Nov 2025.

On his first day back at Winslow College’s climbing wall after the long winter break, Nolan checks the belay sign-up sheet and sees that someone named Heidi Lane has written her name in the seven-o’clock slot every weeknight for the entire month of January.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/11/03/outcomes-fiction-nathan-blum>

63. Sorry for Existing. New Yorker. 3rd Nov 2025.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/11/03/sorry-for-existing-patricia-lockwood-poem>

64. The Fifties. New Yorker. 3rd Nov 2025.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/11/03/the-fifties-monica-ferrell-poem>

POLITICAL SCIENCE & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

65. Japanese politics enters its heavy-metal phase. Economist. 11th October 2025.

If Japanese politics had a soundtrack, it would long have been quiet, calm, ambient music. But with the selection of Takaichi Sanae as leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on October 4th, Japan has entered a heavy-metal phase. Ms Takaichi, a one-time drummer in a heavy-metal band, is poised to become prime minister next week. She will be the first woman to lead modern Japan. Brash, nationalistic and polarising, she fits the trend of politics globally.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/10/07/japanese-politics-enters-its-heavy-metal-phase>

66. Meet Japan's "Fireball", Takaichi Sanae, its polarising new leader. Economist. 11th October 2025.

AS A YOUNG woman, Takaichi Sanae played drums in a heavy-metal band. When she began working in politics, she kept drumsticks in her bag, taking breaks to play to let off steam. As she rose in Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), she turned to "Burn", by Deep Purple, a British rock band, to relieve stress. "The town's on fire, the woman's flames are reaching higher," goes one verse.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/10/09/meet-japans-fireball-takaichi-sanae-its-polarising-new-leader>

67. The global gold boom's \$150bn final frontier: Pakistan. Economist. 11th October 2025. In late September Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan's prime minister, and Field Marshal Asim Munir, its military head, had a meeting with President Donald Trump in the Oval Office. It was an unusual gathering. No media were present, nor was a statement issued. The only evidence are pictures released by the White House. In one, Field Marshal Munir shows a casket of mineral samples to the president. It was the latest sign of the unexpected bonhomie between Mr Trump and the field marshal. They also had a private lunch together at the White House in June, a month after a four-day military spat between Pakistan and India. But can a burgeoning relationship between the two leaders really rest on the promise of Pakistani minerals?

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/10/09/the-global-gold-booms-150bn-final-frontier-pakistan>

68. Blame, strategising and America's government shutdown. Economist. 11th October 2025.

"THIS IS LIKE a kamikaze attack. They have nothing to lose." Such was the exasperated way in which Donald Trump described the Democrats' approach to the government shutdown as it dragged into its second week. Democrats have repeatedly refused to back a short-term funding bill that would reopen the government until Republicans make concessions on funding tax credits that have expanded health-care coverage. Republicans are looking for new ways to cudgel them into caving. One weapon is Russell Vought, the director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). It is hard to know if Mr Trump is just using Mr Vought as a threat, or if Mr Vought is using Mr Trump as an opportunity. It may be both; either way the ideas are worth taking seriously.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/10/09/blame-strategising-and-americas-government-shutdown>

69. What American voters really think of the revenge agenda. Economist. 11th October 2025.

Most presidential hopefuls make hokey promises to fix the economy, heal divisions or restore America's promise. Donald Trump offered something different. "For those who have been wronged and betrayed, I am your retribution," he promised the crowd at the 2023 Conservative Political Action Conference. Since his inauguration in January that vengeance has come relentlessly.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/10/08/what-american-voters-really-think-of-the-revenge-agenda>

70. What a Chicago immigration raid says about Trumpism. Economist. 11th October 2025.
AT 7500 South Shore Drive, an apartment complex in Chicago, the front gate and door are wide open. Walk inside and you find an almost abandoned building. Though a few apartments have sturdy gates and double bolts, most lack doors and are closed by plywood. A few are open to the world. Inside one a bunch of balloons and a bouquet of roses suggest a recent celebration. A pushchair sits in one corner. A copy of the New Testament, in Spanish, lies on the floor. There is no sign of the occupants. Most likely they are in an immigration detention centre somewhere.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/10/06/what-a-chicago-immigration-raid-says-about-trumpism>

71. The Argentine peso, and Javier Milei, are in trouble. Economist. 11th October 2025.
On October 6th, in the middle of his most difficult period as president, Javier Milei donned a long leather jacket, strode into a packed arena in Buenos Aires and jumped around like a rock star, belting out Argentine rock classics. The idea was to revitalise his party's campaign for the midterms on October 26th and to remind his supporters, and perhaps himself, that his presidency was once exciting, even fun.

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2025/10/08/the-argentine-peso-and-javier-milei-are-in-trouble>

72. The new age of the African Big Man. Economist. 11th October 2025.
The first leaders of independent African countries were often known as fathers of their nations. Today Paul Biya, Cameroon's president, is old enough to be the great-great-grandfather of some voters heading to the polls on October 12th. At 92, he is the oldest head of state in the world and runs a country with a median age of 18. His 43 years in power put him second on the global list of longest-serving leaders (excluding monarchs), behind Equatorial Guinea's dictator, Teodoro Obiang. Africa accounts for seven in the top ten (see chart 1), including Uganda's Yoweri Museveni, who seeks re-election in January.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/10/09/the-new-age-of-the-african-big-man>

73. TotalEnergies leads the dash for Africa's new oil and gas. Economist. 11th October 2025.
To grasp the ambition behind Africa's new oil and gas exploration, consider three projects under way at TotalEnergies, a French supermajor. In Uganda it is building the world's longest heated pipeline. In Namibia it hopes to drill in waters 3km deep. And in Mozambique it is preparing to lift a declaration of force majeure on a gas project, four years after pausing work because of jihadist attacks. The \$20bn development, in which it owns a 26.5% stake, will be one of the largest foreign investments ever made on the continent.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/10/09/totalenergies-leads-the-dash-for-africas-new-oil-and-gas>

74. Macron seeks to buy time with a new prime minister. Economist. 11th October 2025.
France is no stranger to popular rebellion, street revolt or political theatre. But seldom in modern times has the country experienced a week of politics as chaotic, farcical and unseemly. In the space of 24 hours, from October 5th, France gained a new government, lost a new prime minister, lost a new defence minister, then found itself with the same prime minister back at work (in a caretaker role) trying to break the political deadlock in the country's divided parliament. Almost overnight, the messy politics of the past year morphed into a full-blown political crisis, unnerving markets and threatening to leave France without a budget for 2026.

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2025/10/09/macron-seeks-to-buy-time-with-a-new-prime-minister>

75. "Brussels" is the phantom menace Europe loves to blame. Economist. 11th October 2025.

If there's something strange in your polity, who you gonna blame? The long answer—perhaps very long indeed for anyone visiting Paris this week—might entail summoning the ghosts of national governments past, present and even future (if a new French one is ever formed). Or you could invoke the traditional spectre: "Brussels". The ritual scapegoating of the European Union, a foggy realm of incomprehensible acronyms, is the oldest trick in modern continental politics. Aren't "Brussels" the unaccountable lot who regulate industry into an early grave, badger governments about their debt levels, then give Trumpians whatever they want on trade? Treating the EU as a ghoulish bogeyman has been somewhat in abeyance ever since Britain overdosed on the idea, much to its cost. But the old spirit is haunting Europe once again. A look at the upcoming political agenda suggests that a lot more Brussels-bashing may soon be upon us. Boo!

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2025/10/09/brussels-is-the-phantom-menace-europe-loves-to-blame>

76. The stricken Tories reach for the chainsaw. Economist. 11th October 2025.

The MPs, ambitious activists and corporate lobbyists who normally pack out the Conservative Party's annual conference had stayed away, leaving the vast exhibition hall in Manchester half-empty. But one stall-holder, Hugh Beattie, an oil painter in tweeds selling portraits of Tory leaders, was on chipper form. Nestled between Kemi Badenoch, the current Tory leader, and Margaret Thatcher, a more successful predecessor, was a rendering—in Italian futurist style—of Javier Milei, Argentina's president, wielding a chainsaw. It was a hit with delegates, says Mr Beattie, who also sold packs of Milei postcards.

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2025/10/09/the-stricken-tories-reach-for-the-chainsaw>

77. Who might be Britain's next prime minister?. Economist. 11th October 2025.

Only 13% of Britons recently surveyed by Ipsos, a polling firm, said they were "satisfied" with Sir Keir Starmer—the lowest rating for any prime minister since it started asking the question in 1977. Sir Keir has a big majority in Parliament and a general election

does not need to take place until the summer of 2029 (though in theory he could call one sooner). But people are already placing bets on who might succeed him.

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2025/10/09/who-might-be-britains-next-prime-minister>

78. Meet the real opposition. Economist. 11th October 2025.

To see the loyal opposition in action, do not go to Parliament. Instead nip two miles north-east to a nondescript office in Clerkenwell in central London, which is home to Leigh Day, a law firm. The firm itself is not a household name, but its cases are. Birmingham City Council is near bankrupt due to a series of equal-pay claims led by Leigh Day, with courts deciding that cleaners should earn the same as binmen. It has harried the government over pollution in the River Wye and, when that failed, charged after the polluters instead, launching the biggest environmental class action in British history on October 8th. When ministers complain about legal challenges delaying infrastructure projects, such as a new nuclear-power station in Suffolk, they are often pointing the finger at Leigh Day.

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2025/10/08/meet-the-real-opposition>

79. Caste Supremacism versus Constitutional Egalitarianism. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol, 60. No-42. 18th Oct 2025.

Three separate incidents in October 2025 became the subjects of widespread debate and outrage: the brutal lynching of Hariom Valmiki on 2 October, the attack on Chief Justice B R Gavai on 6 October, and Haryana Indian Police Service officer Y Puran Kumar's death by suicide on 7 October. Two threads tie these three incidents together: first, a Dalit was on the receiving end in all three incidents, and second, of a concerted effort in the aftermath of all these events to downplay the role of caste by unearthing a constellation of unique factors and events that led to the unfolding of these events.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/42/editorials/caste-supremacism-versus-constitutional.html>

80. Unproven and Unmade Citizens. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol, 60. No-42. 18th Oct 2025.

The "Special Intensive Revision" of electoral rolls in Bihar diverges from India's long-standing inclusive practices of voter enrolment. The process bypasses due process safeguards and shifts the burden of proof to individual citizens. The Supreme Court largely deferred to the Election Commission of India, overlooking its own earlier precedent that recognised a presumption in favour of citizenship. By analysing the SIR's working, it is argued that the SIR represents a dereliction of the ECI's constitutional duty to make universal franchise meaningful. In doing so, it risks unmaking citizens by undermining the substantive universality of the vote.

<http://epw.in/journal/2025/42/law-and-society/unproven-and-unmade-citizens.html>

81. Why Trump Tore Down the East Wing. New Yorker. 3ed Nov 2025.

The surprise and shock that so many people have registered at the photographs of Donald Trump's destruction of the East Wing of the White House—soon to be replaced by his own ostentatious and overscaled ballroom—is itself, in a way, surprising and

shocking. On the long list of Trumpian depredations, the rushed demolition might seem a relatively minor offense. After months marked by corruption, violence, and the open perversion of law, to gasp in outrage at the loss of a few tons of masonry and mortar might seem oddly misjudged.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/11/03/why-trump-tore-down-the-east-wing>

82. Daniel Denvir Digs Zohran Mamdani. New Yorker. 3rd Nov 2025.

Afew days after Zohran Mamdani's upstart victory in the Democratic mayoral primary, in June, a podcast called "The Dig" released an episode titled "How Zohran Won." "Socialists are on the precipice of controlling one of the most powerful posts in the country," the host, Daniel Denvir, said. "And this isn't just about New York. Liberal voters are shifting left—and fast."

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/11/03/daniel-denvir-digs-zohran-mamdani>

83. Trump and the Presidency That Wouldn't Shut Up. New Yorker. 3rd Nov 2025.

The list of figures in American history with whom Donald J. Trump has been compared since he announced his bid for the Presidency a decade ago is longer than his trademark necktie, as red as a gash. It's taller than Trump Tower, gleaming like a blade. It has a higher turnover than his beleaguered first Cabinet. It includes even more goons, toadies, and peacocks than his current Administration. And yet the comparisons keep coming, in the daily papers, in the nightly podcasts, online, online, online. Is Trump more of a liar than Joseph McCarthy; is he slicker than Huey Long? Is he as mean-spirited as Father Charles Coughlin, more sinister than George Wallace? Is he as much of a fraud as P. T. Barnum, even more of an isolationist than Charles Lindbergh? He is trickier than Richard (Tricky Dick) Nixon, but to what degree?

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/11/03/how-the-president-talks-to-the-people>

SCIENCE

84. This year's Nobel laureates have now been announced. Economist. 11th October 2025.
KITAGAWA SUSUMU of Kyoto University, Richard Robson of the University of Melbourne and Omar Yaghi of the University of California, Berkeley will soon be enjoying a trip to Stockholm. They are this year's winners of the Nobel chemistry prize, chosen for their work on metal-organic frameworks (MOFs). These, said Heiner Linke, who chairs the chemistry-prize committee, are like hotels for chemicals. Or perhaps self-assembling houses, added Olof Ramstrom, another committee member. Or Hermione Granger's bottomless handbag in the "Harry Potter" books.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2025/10/08/this-years-nobel-laureates-have-now-been-announced>

85. Hover flies are long-distance travelers. Economist. 11th October 2025.

SAY “POLLINATORS” and most people will think “bees”. They are correct, for bees are the most important insects involved in pollinating flowers. Rather fewer, however, might guess that the second-most important group is probably hoverflies. Yet hoverflies, according to a study published in 2020, help fertilise 52% of the world’s crops and 70% of its animal-pollinated wildflowers.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2025/10/08/hover-flies-are-long-distance-travellers>

86. Why Genetically Modified Crops Need A Trait-based Naming Typology. India Forum. 20th October 2025.

GM-cotton, Bt-cotton, GM-Brinjal, GM-crops, and GM-Mustard are the usual names for genetically modified organisms (GMOs) we hear on the news. While it is uncertain how well the public understands GM technology, the passionate and often emotional tone of our media debates suggests that simply mentioning the term “GMO” is enough to spark a heated discussion. It is emotional, intense, and does not help anyone. In this article, I examine the history, types, successes, and failures of GMOs, and argue for a naming system that reflects the unique characteristics of GM crops rather than just their production process. I hope the proposed naming system will benefit farmers, regulators, and, most importantly, consumers.

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/environment/why-genetically-modified-crops-need-trait-based-naming-typology>

SOCIOLOGY

87. What rich Indians fear. Economist. 11th October 2025.

IT IS NOT just naive tourists who ask the question. It is common, too, among highly educated Indians who live in nice homes and employ maids, cooks and drivers. It goes something like this: how, in a country so transparently unequal, does social peace largely prevail? Why are India’s cities—where the gulf between rich and poor is most readily visible—not more like Rio de Janeiro or Johannesburg? Manu Joseph, a contrarian newspaper columnist, attempts some answers in a new book, “Why the Poor Don’t Kill Us”. It is the talk of living rooms across the country.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/10/09/what-rich-indians-fear>

88. The forgotten horror of Western Tigray. Economist. 11th October 2025.

The militiamen first arrived in Mehret’s hometown of Adi Goshu in Ethiopia’s Western Tigray region in late 2020. This was now Amhara land, they declared; Tigrayans would have to leave. Over the next few months many of the region’s Tigrayan men would be rounded up and massacred or deported. Tens of thousands of other Tigrayans fled. But many, including Ms Mehret and her five children, found themselves trapped. “They said anyone with Tigray blood should disappear, leave our land,” she recalls. “But if you tell them you are going to Tigray, they will kill you.”

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/10/09/the-forgotten-horror-of-western-tigray>

89. What J D Wetherspoon understands about the British pub. Economist. 11th October 2025.

Jd Wetherspoon is one of Britain's most popular pub chains. And with its solid, grained woodwork the Oxted Inn, in Surrey, is a typical Wetherspoon's pub. Even at lunchtime on a recent Monday it pulls in a crowd: pensioners enjoying an early pint and parents dragged in for a Pepsi. Like most "Spoons", it leans into local history. Above the bar is a row of clocks, each set to the time of a different world city: Oxted sits on the Greenwich meridian.

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2025/10/03/what-j-d-wetherspoon-understands-about-the-british-pub>

90. From 25 Years Ago: Moral Education in the Contemporary Moment. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol, 60. No-42. 18th Oct 2025.

The sociologist Emile Durkheim, in his classic work, Moral Education, outlined the contours of educating the young into a moral civilisation. The task of such an education lies with both the family and the school who are the main agents of the socialisation of the young into the norms, values and beliefs of society. Durkheim of course understood the significance of society, which encompasses the individual, for the maintenance of consensus and well-being. It is society into which we are born and which nourishes and sustains us as well as empowers us with the necessary tools and skills with which we can meet the challenges, dilemmas, and contradictions of everyday life.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/42/25-years-ago/25-years-ago-moral-education-contemporary-moment.html>

WILDLIFE

91. A data-rich look at New York's battle against rats. Economist. 11th October 2025.

For decades, New York sidewalks were awash in piled-up black plastic rubbish bags, some of which doubled as housing projects for the city's other inhabitants. "I've kicked bags of garbage in New York as part of a rat safari and you just watch rats go flying," says Kaylee Byers, an expert on urban rats at the University of British Columbia. "A rat runs across your foot. You think about it every time you're on the block for the rest of your life," says Joshua Goodman, a deputy commissioner of sanitation in New York. A study conducted in 2023 by MMPC, a pest-control company, suggested there were 3m rats in the city, up from 2m a decade earlier.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/10/09/a-data-rich-look-at-new-yorks-battle-against-rats>

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

S.No.	Title	Periodicity	Place of Publication
1	Chronicle of Higher Education	BW	US
2	Economic & Political Weekly	W	Mumbai
3	Economist (A.M.)	W	London
4	India Forum	W	India
5	New Yorker	W	New York