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ArticleConnect is a fortnightly publication from the India International Centre Library, New Delhi. It provides a comprehensive bibliography of recent scholarly articles from a wide range of journals and magazines held within the library's collection.

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1. Isa Genzken Finds Chaos in Order. New Yorker. 20th April 2026.

The brilliant seventy-seven-year old German-born artist **Isa Genzken** makes work that, like her near-contemporary David Hammons's, not only defines her epoch but shatters it. Assembling sculptures with a variety of materials, ranging from concrete and plastic children's toys to film and pantyhose, Genzken has, throughout her career, put together shows that are environments rather than installations—environments that destabilize the viewer by playing up the artist's love of schematic improvisation. To enter a Genzken show is to see that she has a plan, but there's no road map: her work is best viewed or, rather, understood when you accept the open-ended order she employs to create the elements of her pieces, resulting in a kind of Teutonic chaos.

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/goings-on/isa-genzken-finds-chaos-in-order>

2. What Wallace Shawn Did Before His "Moth Days". New Yorker. 20th April 2026.

On April 1st, in a cozy subterranean dressing room at Greenwich House Theatre, before curtain for Wallace Shawn's play "What We Did Before Our Moth Days," two understudies prepared for their débuts. The play has four characters: a husband (Josh Hamilton), a wife (Maria Dizzia), their son (John Early), and the husband's secret girlfriend (Hope Davis). That day, Dizzia and Davis had both tested positive for COVID, so Shawn, eighty-two, and his partner, Deborah Eisenberg, eighty, had agreed to fill in—Eisenberg as the wife and Shawn as the girlfriend. The switcheroo was particularly charged because "Moth Days" centers on an urbane Manhattan family with strong similarities to and differences from Shawn's own: Dick, the husband, is a happy-go-lucky novelist (the playwright's father, William Shawn, was the editor of this magazine for thirty-five years); Elaine, the mistress, is a pulp-fiction writer (William Shawn had a decades-long relationship with one of his star reporters, Lillian Ross); Tim, the son, is an articulate wastrel.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/04/20/what-wallace-shawn-did-before-his-moth-days>

3. Sandy Liang Puts a Bow on It. New Yorker. 20th April 2026.

The fashion designer Sandy Liang recently boarded a hundred-year-old wood-panelled elevator in the basement of the Frick Collection and rode it to the museum's first floor. There, she was ushered into the Cabinet Gallery for a private preview of "Ruffles & Ribbons," a new exhibition of two dozen fashion plates, the hand-colored engravings that preceded fashion magazines, from the time of Marie Antoinette.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/04/20/sandy-liang-puts-a-bow-on-it>

4. Ed Solomon's Family Portrait. New Yorker. 20th April 2026.

You know how sometimes you don't know what something is really about?" the London-based screenwriter Ed Solomon ("Men in Black," the "Bill & Ted" movies) cryptically asked the other day, in SoHo. "And, in fact, you block yourself emotionally from it completely?" The question was posed in a claustrophobe's nightmare of an unmarked elevator, entered from street level, which felt like it could lead anywhere—

perhaps to Socrates' Athens or the Mongol Empire. The destination, alas, was only the Tara Downs art gallery.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/04/20/ed-solomons-family-portrait>

5. Radu Jude, the Bard of Bucharest. New Yorker. 20th April 2026.

A visitor to Bucharest, Romania's capital, will notice that many of the city's buildings—which range from graceful Belle Époque mansions constructed in the late nineteenth century to unlovely apartment complexes thrown up during postwar urbanization—are marked with a bright-red disk. Unlike the blue plaques affixed to residences in London, which indicate where notable figures once lived, or the *Stolpersteine* (or stumbling stones) embedded in the sidewalks of German cities to mark the former homes of Holocaust victims, Bucharest's red disks are not commemorative but predictive. "It means that, in the next earthquake, this building could fall down," Radu Jude, the Romanian film director, explained to me recently, when I met him in the capital, his native city.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/04/20/radu-jude-the-bard-of-bucharest>

6. Zara Larsson Gets Her Flowers. New Yorker. 20th April 2026.

The twenty-eight-year-old singer Zara Larsson could be called a veteran pop star. She earns the label in part because she's been releasing sticky Euro dance pop for half her life, and also because there's an undertow of struggle to her glittering party-girl persona. I was working at MTV about a decade ago when Larsson, a Swedish child star, made her way onto American radio; the teen-age version of her, so likable and so formless, remains lodged in my memory—a closeted power vocalist dulling her instrument to fit catchy and anodyne tracks like "Lush Life" and "Never Forget You." Those songs, with their tinniness and their sentimentality, still had a visceral pull. I could sing the lyrics dumbly on the treadmill—"I will never forget you / You will always be by my side"—even if I strained to materialize the vocalist in my mind. The singles, international smashes, subsumed Larsson in a way that calls to mind Loleatta Holloway and Martha Wash, the engines of "Good Vibrations" and "Gonna Make You Sweat (Everybody Dance Now)"—women deployed as emotional flourish, propping up the groove.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/04/20/zara-larsson-music-review>

7. In a new biopic, Michael Jackson is an eccentric saint. Yuck. Economist. 25th April 2026.

Part of Michael Jackson's intergalactic appeal was the way he evoked yet dispelled danger. His androgynous looks and high-pitched voice took the edge off songs of lust. A spindly body made his spiky dance moves unthreatening. In music videos he breaks up brawls and rescues damsels in distress; the zombies who stalk the "Thriller" mini-movie are only a bad dream. As an artist, Jackson was a one-man fairy tale, sublimating pain and peril into joy.

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2026/04/21/in-a-new-biopic-michael-jackson-is-an-eccentric-saint-yuck>

BIOGRAPHY

- 8.** Mark Mobius dared to go where few others did. Economist. 25th April 2026.
For a fund manager's website, Mark Mobius's was bizarre. No dollar signs, or stock-tickers, or serious men at desks. Instead it was a gallery of globetrotting snaps. There he was at the gateway to a Japanese temple, or wrapped up warm in Greenland, or strolling among the cafés of Buenos Aires and the pyramids of Teotihuacan. Here he was on a terrace in sunny Italy, enjoying a fabulous view while musing on the world economy. Everywhere (except in Greenland, where he preferred fur), he shone out in his white baseball cap and sempiternal tan. Everywhere, too, he wore the same smile, not of a holidaymaker (he never took holidays), but of a keen-eyed hunter on the track of treasure.

<https://www.economist.com/obituary/2026/04/23/mark-mobius-dared-to-go-where-few-others-did>

BUSINESS

- 9.** Tim Cook wrote a winning recipe for Apple. Economist. 25th April 2026.
SOMETIMES A COMPANY encapsulates its times. Ford and its Model T captured the go-getting mood of the Roaring Twenties. IBM embodied the techno-optimism of the first computer era in the 1970s. General Electric epitomised the cutthroat capitalism of the 1990s. For much of this century the company of the moment has been Apple. The iPhone, a sleek gateway to the all-consuming app economy, has been as evocative of the zeitgeist as big hair was of the 1980s. So has Apple's embrace of globalisation and, especially, of China—as a place first to make gadgets, then to sell them.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/04/23/tim-cook-wrote-a-winning-recipe-for-apple>

- 10.** Apple's new boss needs to restore its magic for the AI era. Economist. 25th April 2026.
JOHN TERNUS, named by Apple on April 20th as its new chief executive, is known to share many of the defining characteristics of Tim Cook, the man he is replacing: likeable, unflappable, a company man to the core. But in the midst of what could be one of the biggest technological upheavals in history, that may not be enough. The question is, can he also invoke the mercurial magic of Mr Cook's even more illustrious forebear, Steve Jobs?

<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/04/23/apples-new-boss-needs-to-restore-its-magic-for-the-ai-era>

- 11.** Jeff Bezos is raising his game in space. Economist. 25th April 2026.
IT LOOKED LIKE a stunning success—until it didn't. On April 19th Blue Origin, a rocket firm owned by Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon, launched its New Glenn

rocket into the heavens for the third time. Ten minutes later, the rocket's first stage came roaring back, landing on an ocean-going barge, ready to go again.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/04/23/jeff-bezos-is-raising-his-game-in-space>

- 12.** Why your AI assistant is suddenly selling to you. Economist. 25th April 2026.
Chatbots are employed every day as teachers, counsellors, coders and escorts. Now they are taking on another role: salesmen. Advertisements are popping up ever more frequently in users' conversations with large language models, punctuating chats with promotions. Consumers' search queries, editing sessions and even intimate moments are increasingly at risk of interruption by sponsored messages.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/04/19/why-your-ai-assistant-is-suddenly-selling-to-you>

- 13.** From Allbirds to Glossier, millennial brands have lost their mojo. Economist. 25th April 2026.

THOSE STILL doubting that investors' exuberance for artificial intelligence is straying into the irrational received further evidence on April 15th when Allbirds, a wool-sneaker brand that took off among Silicon Valley millennials a decade or so ago, announced a plan to remake itself as a provider of AI computing infrastructure. The share price of the company—which will be renamed NewBird AI—briefly soared by more than 800%, and has since settled at roughly four times its pre-announcement level.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/04/21/from-allbirds-to-glossier-millennial-brands-have-lost-their-mojo>

- 14.** Donald Trump is giving psychedelic medicines a welcome boost. Economist. 25th April 2026.

It began with a text message from a podcaster to the president. Joe Rogan extolled the benefits of ibogaine, a psychedelic drug, for treating opioid addiction. "Sounds great," Donald Trump replied. "Do you want FDA approval? Let's do it." Within a week, on April 18th, Mr Trump signed an executive order that sent the share prices of psychedelics-makers soaring. Among other things, it promised new funding for research into the field and instructed the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to issue "priority vouchers" that will speed up the review of selected drugs.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/04/23/donald-trump-is-giving-psychedelic-medicines-a-welcome-boost>

- 15.** The curious rise of Chinese whisky. Economist. 25th April 2026.

The tasting room at YunTuo Distillery is nearly 30 metres tall and lined with 1,000 whisky barrels. Diageo, a British spirits-maker, spent \$120m building the facility in Eryuan, a quiet village in south-west China. Before long it is expected to start selling a Chinese single malt. It is not alone.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/04/22/the-curious-rise-of-chinese-whisky>

- 16.** America's descent into state capitalism is exaggerated. Economist. 25th April 2026. America under President Donald Trump sometimes looks like a command economy. Its elite talks effusively about doing business with the state: the great-power struggle will be lost to China unless America intervenes in commerce like its rival, runs the argument. Mr Trump routinely declares war on the prices of things, from mortgages to petrol to stocks. Yet for a system which is now often described as veering into state capitalism, the state has proved surprisingly ineffective at bending markets to its will. Mortgage rates are stubbornly high. So are petrol prices. The stockmarket has the whip hand over the White House, rather than the other way round.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/04/22/americas-descent-into-state-capitalism-is-exaggerated>

ECONOMICS

- 17.** PLFS 2025: Some Labour Market Perspectives. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61. No-16. 18th April 2026.

The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2025 offers a significantly improved view of India's labour market. The redesigned survey—featuring a monthly panel structure and a much larger sample of 2.72 lakh households, nearly three times that of earlier rounds—enables a more granular assessment of seasonal and spatial variations across states and union territories. By adopting districts as the primary sampling unit, the survey will now allow an analysis of the labour markets in the 800-odd jurisdictions. These gains in precision, however, come at the cost of comparability with earlier series.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/16/editorials/plfs-2025-some-labour-market-perspectives.html>

- 18.** India's Productivity Challenge. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61. No-16. 18th April 2026.

The Asian Productivity Organization's (APO) *Productivity Databook 2025* provides an opportunity to reassess the sources and sustainability of economic growth in Asia. While the region has emerged as a major driver of global growth, productivity improvements remain uneven and central to long-term convergence. For India, which is expected to play an increasingly prominent role in the global economy, the databook underscores a persistent challenge: sustaining growth will depend not merely on expanding output, but on improving productivity across sectors.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/16/editorials/indias-productivity-challenge.html>

- 19.** Consumption Inequality and Poverty in India. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61. No-16. 18th April 2026.

The Indian economy has been recording a robust real gross domestic product (GDP) growth consistently over the last two decades, as exhibited by an average growth of 6.9% between 2003–04 and 2013–14 and 6.2% from 2014–15 to 2024–25. India's per capita net national income surged from ₹23,203 in 2003–04 to ₹79,118 in 2013–14 and further to ₹2,05,324 in 2024–25. Consistent growth is expected to trickle down, improving consumption across the income spectrum, with relatively more for lower-income groups and reducing poverty headcounts in the country. As per the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) for 2023–24,¹ the monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) stood at ₹4,247 and ₹7,078, in rural and urban India, respectively, taking into account the values of items received free of cost by households through various social welfare programmes.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/16/commentary/consumption-inequality-and-poverty-india.html>

- 20.** Recent Manufacturing Growth in India. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61. No-16. 18th April 2026.

This recent patterns of industrial transformation are examined through the distribution of establishments by size, value added, sectoral growth, and price-cost margins. The evidence points to an increasing concentration of output and value added among larger, more capital-intensive establishments, alongside the continued employment significance of smaller units, suggesting an incomplete process of structural reallocation. Sectoral expansion appears to be driven primarily by capital- and technology-intensive industries, while labour-intensive segments exhibit slower growth and relatively tighter margins. Variations in price-cost margins indicate uneven value capture across industries, reflecting differences in scale, capabilities, and market structure. Overall, the findings point to selective diversification and consolidation, even as segmentation within the manufacturing system persists.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/16/indias-industrial-transformation/recent-manufacturing-growth-india.html>

- 21.** Unorganised Manufacturing Enterprises in India. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61. No-16. 18th April 2026.

The characteristics and performance of the unorganised manufacturing enterprises in India are examined using nationally representative unit-level data for 2010–11, 2015–16, and 2023–24. The constraints that these enterprises face and the implications for their performance are also examined. Falling demand stands out as the most severe constraint, followed by finance-related constraints, while labour, power, and raw material challenges are less prominent overall. Therefore, policy design must recognise the heterogeneity within the sector and the varied constraints faced by different groups of entrepreneurs.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/16/indias-industrial-transformation/unorganised-manufacturing-enterprises-india.html>

- 22.** Formal Credit and Persistent Constraints. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61. No-16. 18th April 2026.

Access to finance remains a central concern in developing economies, such as India, where resource gaps constrain economic activity. Using World Bank Enterprise Surveys (2014, 2022), this paper examines institutional credit access among Indian small and medium enterprises. Generalised estimating equations logit estimates show no significant improvement over time; firms in 2022 were about 12 percentage points less likely to access credit than in 2014. Female-managed firms, exporters, and SMEs exhibit higher access, while micro-firms remain excluded. Women-led firms report borrowing costs as a key constraint. The findings highlight a dual challenge: expanding credit access and reducing transaction and compliance burdens.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/16/indias-industrial-transformation/formal-credit-and-persistent-constraints.html>

23. India's Industrial Archipelago. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61. No-16. 18th April 2026.

India's economic structure reflects a persistent paradox: 46% of the workforce remains engaged in agriculture, which contributes about 9% to gross value added, while services account for around 55% of output, with less than 30% of the workforce. This asymmetry points to deeper structural imbalances in the process of transformation. The pattern is further marked by significant interstate variation, where some states have experienced relatively stronger industrial growth supported by policy interventions, while others exhibit tendencies of premature deindustrialisation. From the development of planned industrial estates in Uttarakhand to the persistence of a services-led structure in the north-eastern states, India's structural transformation has diverged from conventional trajectories. This pattern underscores the centrality of policy in shaping sectoral outcomes, rather than geography alone.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/16/indias-industrial-transformation/indias-industrial-archipelago.html>

24. Identification of Star Firms and Decoding Investment in Intangibles. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61. No-16. 18th April 2026.

The global economy has witnessed a new market phenomenon where a small subset of firms stands out as benchmark performers in their respective industries and sectors. Researchers regard those firms as "superstar firms.¹" For instance, the worldwide known superstar firms, such as Google, Apple, Microsoft, Facebook, Amazon and Tesla, have distinguished themselves with extraordinary performance in their respective industries and economy (Manyika et al 2018; Dorn 2021). Studying the industries in the United States (US), Autor et al (2020) attribute the growth of these firms to the use of automation and digital capital that generates unparalleled scale advantage. Exploring a step ahead, Ayyagari et al (2024) link the prevalence of such star firms² with rising intangible capital in the same US economy and suggest that the competitive advantages of intangible inputs enhance a firm's performance. But analysing European firms, Capello et al (2025) highlight the adverse impact of intangible investment on profit share in the initial year of investment. The authors argue that the increase in intangible investments leads to a decrease in the remuneration of the capital due to the fixed and bulky nature of outlay. These two contrasting arguments generate contextual ambiguity and pose an open question

about the gestation period, scale, and nature of intangible investments that enhance firm performance and further transform an ordinary firm into a star performer. Addressing this question would bring a new insight for both corporate decision-makers and policymakers in formulating strategies to foster firm growth and competitiveness, respectively.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/16/indias-industrial-transformation/identification-star-firms-and-decoding-investment.html>

- 25.** Does Competition Spur Investment?. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61. No-16. 18th April 2026.

Over the past decade, India's manufacturing sector has experienced a notable deceleration in investment activity despite a relatively stable macroeconomic environment and sustained policy efforts to promote industrial growth. The share of manufacturing in gross domestic product (GDP) has remained largely stagnant, around 15%–17%, while gross fixed capital formation has weakened since the early 2010s. This slowdown has persisted notwithstanding major policy initiatives such as "Make in India" (2014), production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes, and an improvement in ease of doing business indicators. The subdued investment response raises important questions regarding the structural determinants of investment behaviour and the evolving nature of market competition within Indian industry.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/16/indias-industrial-transformation/does-competition-spur-investment.html>

- 26.** Industrial Growth and Environmental Degradation. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61. No-16. 18th April 2026.

The primary objective of the study is to investigate the relationship between industrial growth and environmental degradation, with reference to the environmental Kuznets curve hypothesis, in the context of the Indian core industries. Both the traditional inverted U-shaped and the contemporary N-shaped industrial EKC have been empirically tested to understand the long-term environmental impact of the core industries' growth. The findings indicate that even though the core industries' growth is expected to help momentarily improve environmental quality for a duration, failing to emphasise the innovation of industrial products and processes can cause further ecological imbalance in the long run.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/16/indias-industrial-transformation/industrial-growth-and-environmental-degradation.html>

- 27.** Iran's insistence on controlling Hormuz is penny smart, dollar foolish. Economist. 25th April 2026.

THE US-IRAN conflict has revealed something that many outside observers—and perhaps even some within—had underestimated: Iran's strategic doctrine of resilience is not just rhetorical. For years, terms such as the "resistance economy", "distributed deterrence" and "self-reliance under pressure" were often dismissed, both abroad and domestically, as political language rather than strategic reality. Yet in the face of sustained confrontation with a vastly superior military and economic

power, these ideas have proved coherent in practice. The Iranian state did not fragment. The war did not paralyse the economy.

<https://www.economist.com/by-invitation/2026/04/20/irans-insistence-on-controlling-hormuz-is-penny-smart-dollar-foolish>

28. An anti-China protest lands Kazakhs in prison. Economist. 25th April 2026.

CHINA LIKES to portray itself to Central Asia as a benevolent ally bringing wealth and development to the five former Soviet countries to the west of its province of Xinjiang, where the Chinese government is accused of committing human-rights abuses against Muslim minorities. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are all heavily reliant on economic partnerships with their powerful neighbour, which demands little in exchange but loyalty, especially when it comes to keeping a lid on public expressions of solidarity with fellow Muslims.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/04/23/an-anti-china-protest-lands-kazakhs-in-prison>

29. Why China's exports will keep on rising. Economist. 25th April 2026.

DING LEI, a purchasing manager at a chip-trading company in Shenzhen, is having a good year. Among other kinds of semiconductors, his company is selling IGBTs, a type of transistor used to regulate electrical power. Customers include motorbike-makers in Spain, manufacturers in Romania and clients across South-East Asia. His optimism about sales prospects is understandable. In the first three months of 2026, China's exports of transistors jumped by 26% in dollar terms compared with the same period of 2025.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2026/04/21/why-chinas-exports-will-keep-on-rising>

30. The world wants Chinese tech. China is determined to keep it. Economist. 25th April 2026.

THEY USED to gripe about too much technology transfer in China. But in the past year or so, foreign business and political leaders have started to fret that too little is happening. No longer do they worry so much about Western tech landing in Chinese hands; rather, they fear that China is now too effective at preventing its best stuff from passing to foreigners. A former Chinese trade official reacts to the pivot with empathy rather than mockery. "It is a bit hypocritical but it's understandable," he says.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2026/04/20/the-world-wants-chinese-tech-china-is-determined-to-keep-it>

31. As Russia looks to slash budgets, a village fights to survive. Economist. 25th April 2026.

AMID THE ancient forests of the Archangel region, birthplace of Russia's northern fairytales, is the village of Nikolsk. Its solid wooden houses, interspersed with new-build blocks of flats, point to relative prosperity. It has a kindergarten, a school, a clinic and a folklore museum. Dmitry Brovin, the stocky 44-year-old owner of the farm that is Nikolsk's biggest employer, calls himself a "hereditary peasant": his

father and grandfather were farmhands. He now owns 600 cows and thousands of hectares of land.

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2026/04/20/as-russia-looks-to-slash-budgets-a-village-fights-to-survive>

32. How Europe regulated itself into American vassalage. Economist. 25th April 2026.

It wasn't long after blue jeans, Hollywood blockbusters and Big Macs crossed the Atlantic last century that some worrywarts started fretting about Europe falling prey to American dominance. What was once a concern about cultural hegemony has of late morphed into panic over commercial dependency. With some justification: the commanding heights of the modern European economy have quietly been captured by American firms. Apple and Google power the mobile phones used from Dublin to Dubrovnik. Other Silicon Valley titans have spawned cloud computers storing Europeans' data, and from which American artificial-intelligence models are being deployed deep inside the continent's businesses. Visa and MasterCard, two American firms, are often required for Europeans to pay other Europeans. Increasingly the continent's lights are being kept on by American liquefied gas, replacing an erstwhile reliance on Russian energy.

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2026/04/22/how-europe-regulated-itself-into-american-vassalage>

33. Xi Jinping wants a powerful currency. America's war has helped. Economist. 25th April 2026.

In a scary world, comfort food can be a source of solace. Tasty Congee & Noodle Wantun Shop, a restaurant in Hong Kong, offers soothing rice porridge topped with scallions to locals, visitors from mainland China and any foreigners who have acquired the taste. The bill can be paid in Hong Kong dollars or the mainland's currency, the yuan. The congee shop will even take the e-CNY, a digital currency issued by China's central bank (although the maître d' had never seen anyone use it before). Over 5,000 merchants in the city accept this novel form of money.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/04/23/xi-jinping-wants-a-powerful-currency-americas-war-has-helped>

34. Chinamaxxing is starting to catch on, in China. Economist. 25th April 2026.

Rongchang braised goose has been popular in a rural corner of south-west China since the Qing dynasty, but a year ago a Westerner turned it into a national sensation. In clips shared widely on both Chinese and foreign social media, a visiting American influencer is seen taking a large bite of the crispy, caramel-coloured dish. Suddenly Rongchang's goose restaurants were overwhelmed by local tourists. Economists in the region were shocked by the power of a foreign endorsement.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/04/23/chinamaxxing-is-starting-to-catch-on-in-china>

35. American corporate profits keep shrugging off global tumult. Economist. 25th April 2026.

IN MARKETS, NARRATIVES can matter as much as hard data. Investors make decisions based on the stories they tell one another. Over the past seven weeks the tales being swapped have been of war in Iran, its effect on global energy markets and presidential social-media activity. The S&P 500, America's benchmark index of stocks, has moved up and down with Donald Trump's estimates of the odds of an end to the conflict. It surged to an all-time high on April 17th as America and Iran agreed to let traffic resume in the Strait of Hormuz (see chart 1). It dipped on April 20th after the deal collapsed.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/04/20/american-corporate-profits-keep-shrugging-off-global-tumult>

- 36.** Global energy markets are on the verge of a disaster. Economist. 25th April 2026.
TRADERS OF OIL futures are a sunny bunch. On April 17th, after Iran's foreign minister declared the Strait of Hormuz "completely open", the price of Brent crude fell by 10%, to \$90 a barrel. Within hours Iran reversed course and attacked an Indian tanker. The next trading day the global benchmark rose by just 5%. It has gone back up above \$100 since but remains around \$15 below its high in late March, even though an American blockade has trapped even more oil in the Gulf.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/04/21/global-energy-markets-are-on-the-verge-of-a-disaster>

- 37.** Renewables are shining. The Iran war amplifies their appeal. Economist. 25th April 2026.
IT IS FASHIONABLE to proclaim that the big winner in energy markets from the new Gulf war will be coal. The sooty stuff is certainly getting a leg-up, especially in countries like India which sit on lots of it and also import lots of liquefied natural gas (LNG). Yet the closure of the Strait of Hormuz may offer an even bigger lift to clean energy, and especially solar power.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/04/23/renewables-are-shining-the-iran-war-amplifies-their-appeal>

- 38.** The stablecoin market has got too stable. Economist. 25th April 2026.
STABLECOINS ARE, to proponents, the respectable face of crypto. In contrast to volatile bitcoin, let alone speculative meme coins, they should be backed by holdings of Treasury bills or other dollar-denominated assets. On paper, this makes them a safer store of value than many fiat currencies and a more viable means of payment than other crypto monies, whose price can swing wildly day to day. They should also fuel demand for Treasuries, making it easier for America to finance its budget deficits.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/04/21/the-stablecoin-market-has-got-too-stable>

- 39.** Has the World Bank performed a U-turn on industrial policy?. Economist. 25th April 2026.
SINCE 1980 the World Bank and the IMF have stuck to a plan. When countries on the brink of financial collapse come to them, the institutions extend fresh loans and coax creditors to take haircuts in return for liberal reforms. In 1993 a report from the

bank titled “East Asian Miracle” grudgingly admitted that the growth of Japan and South Korea in preceding decades may have been aided by governments’ illiberal picking of industrial winners. But that was largely a matter of luck. For other countries, the report declared, “The promotion of specific industries holds little promise.” The “Washington Consensus” of free markets, sober fiscal policies and private enterprise would carry the day.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/04/23/has-the-world-bank-performed-a-u-turn-on-industrial-policy>

EDUCATION

- 40.** Between Assertion and Victimhood. *Economic & Political Weekly*. Vol. 61. No-16. 18th April 2026.

Focusing on the protests and debates against the recent University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2026, the article examines how upper-caste common sense manifests as both assertion and victimhood when caste-based policies challenge entrenched exclusions and hierarchies. Recent protests have displayed an unabashed upper-caste assertion in public space, not merely through claims of victimhood but also through open sloganeering such as *Brahmanvad Zindabad*. This marks a qualitative shift in upper-caste politics, one in which the earlier “cloaks of civility” appear to have been discarded.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/16/perspectives/between-assertion-and-victimhood.html>

- 41.** Can Danielle Allen Save Academe From Itself?. *Chronicle of Higher Education*. Vol 72. No-17. 24th April 2026.

On a Monday evening last May, Danielle S. Allen, a political theorist at Harvard, strode into the university’s Faculty Club wearing sneakers and a bright orange blazer. The occasion was a debate with the blogger Curtis Yarvin, alias Mencius Moldbug, organized by Passage Publishing — a boutique press, aimed at neo-reactionary highbrows, whose books serve up edgy views on race and paeans to masculine vitality, among other more exotic species of right-wing iconoclasm. “You’ve got Dark Enlightenment and Bright Enlightenment,” Allen said chipperly in her opening remarks, gesturing at her opponent’s black leather jacket. The debate’s subject: Which is better for America: democracy or concentrated executive power?

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/can-danielle-allen-save-academe-from-itself>

- 42.** The Erasure of Black Studies. *Chronicle of Higher Education*. Vol 72. No-17. 24th April 2026.

On the night of March 5, Columbia University’s Institute for Research in African American Studies co-hosted an emergency forum on what is happening to Black-studies departments across the country. Anthropologists Ted Gordon, the founding chair of the department of African and African diaspora studies, and Ashanté M.

Reese, an associate professor in the department, joined from Austin, where the University of Texas had just dissolved the department Gordon had spent years building into a prestigious national model. Michael Brandon McCormack, professor and chair of Pan-African Studies (PAS) and a professor of interdisciplinary and public humanities at the University of Louisville, joined from Kentucky.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-erasure-of-black-studies>

43. Why it's So Hard for Professors to Say Anything Good about Academe. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 72. No-17. 24th April 2026.

"It happened at Yale," reads the opening screen of *After the Hunt*, the recent campus drama directed by Luca Guadagnino. A philosophy Ph.D. student named Maggie (Ayo Edebiri) says a male professor "crossed the line" with her: "He kept going after I said no." She asks her mentor, Alma (Julia Roberts), whether she should press charges. Alma knows that this is a losing move and tells Maggie to drop it. Maggie drops Alma instead, and writes an editorial denouncing her one-time role model. Maggie says that she wants to do the "right thing," but by the film's end, we learn that integrity was never an option. Five years later, Alma is shown lounging in a wood-paneled office and giving orders to her personal secretary. Maggie also lands on her feet. After excavating her pain to applause from her fellow student activists, she gets engaged to a head curator at the Whitney Museum and sports a diamond engagement ring. This, according to the film, is the world of the elite university. Everyone is a material winner; everyone is a moral loser. In the words of Theodor W. Adorno, read out by Alma during an on-the-nose class session: "Wrong life cannot be lived rightly."

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/why-its-so-hard-for-professors-to-say-anything-good-about-academe>

44. Scott Galloway, Higher Education's Useful Irritant. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 72. No-17. 24th April 2026.

Scott Galloway is one of higher education's most acerbic critics. He's a marketing professor at New York University and a man of some nuanced contradictions. He's deeply skeptical of elite colleges but desperately committed to his son attending one. He is living proof of higher education's capacity to increase social mobility. But he's pessimistic about how much colleges can really change the lives of students.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/scott-galloway-higher-educations-useful-irritant>

45. Are College Presidents Now Political Appointees?. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 72. No-17. 24th April 2026.

Last week, two college presidents at big research universities abruptly left their jobs. In both cases, politicians from one party accused the other of ousting the president over political differences. In Virginia, U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine, a Democrat, suggested that the state's Republican-appointed Board of Visitors had forced out Virginia Tech's longtime president, Timothy D. Sands. And in Wisconsin, Republican state lawmakers accused the state's Board of Regents — all of whom were appointed or reappointed by a Democratic governor — of doing something similar to Jay O. Rothman, the president of the University of Wisconsin system.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/college-presidents-are-now-more-like-political-appointees>

- 46.** Professor Banned From Teaching Plato Excerpt to Leave Texas A&M: ‘It’s Getting Worse’. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 72. No-17. 24th April 2026.

Martin Peterson made headlines earlier this year when he was banned from teaching an excerpt from Plato’s Symposium in his introductory philosophy course at Texas A&M University at College Station. That censorship was the result of a 2025 policy by the A&M system’s Board of Regents

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/professor-banned-from-teaching-plato-excerpt-to-leave-texas-a-m-its-getting-worse>

- 47.** Is the No-Confidence Vote Bad for Everyone?. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 72. No-17. 24th April 2026.

No-confidence votes are in the news again. In recent weeks, leaders at the University of Kansas, Old Dominion University, and Central Washington University have faced them, as faculty members have seized upon an increasingly popular — and public — mode of expressing their dissatisfaction with administrators.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/is-the-no-confidence-vote-bad-for-everyone>

- 48.** Hate Your Job? You’re Probably Stuck With It. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 72. No-17. 24th April 2026.

It is remarkable how much the higher-education-employment landscape has changed during the last six years. When the pandemic first hit in March 2020, colleges, like many other industries, responded by freezing hiring, suspending pay raises, and laying off employees

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/hate-your-job-youre-probably-stuck-with-it>

- 49.** The Multibillion-Dollar Mistake Elite Universities Keep Making. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 72. No-17. 24th April 2026.

David F. Swensen was born in 1954 and grew up in River Falls, Wis. — population less than 5,000 at the time. His father was a chemistry professor at the University of Wisconsin at River Falls, and his mother became a Lutheran minister after her six children had grown up. It was an unlikely beginning to an unlikely career. After River Falls High School and UW-River Falls, Swensen enrolled in Yale’s graduate economics program, an enthusiastic small-town Midwesterner who sometimes wore bib overalls to class.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-multi-billion-dollar-mistake-elite-universities-keep-making>

- 50.** Big Tech Owes Scholars. It’s Time to Pay Up. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol 72. No-17. 24th April 2026.

In a landmark copyright settlement — believed to be the largest of its kind in history — the AI company Anthropic recently agreed to pay approximately \$1.5 billion to resolve claims that it illegally trained its chatbot Claude on roughly 500,000 books without first seeking permission from their authors or publishers. Call it progress; call it a down payment; but please don't call it a solution. It's not.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/big-tech-owes-scholars>

- 51.** Broadcasting the future: CEC's role in India's digital education revolution. University News. Vol.64. No-15. 13-19th April 2026. Page No-3-14.

India's higher education system ranks among the world's largest, with over 1,100 universities, more than 42,000 colleges, and a student body exceeding 40 million (AISHE, 2023). This vast and diverse ecosystem faces significant challenges: disparities in infrastructure, wide linguistic and cultural diversity, and ongoing shortages of qualified teachers in many regions. In this context, the "logic of scale" is crucial for developing sustainable solutions. Democratizing higher education in India demands not only quality assurance but also delivery models capable of reaching millions of learners—across both rural and urban landscapes—simultaneously.

- 52.** IGNOU @ 40: A revolution in open and distance learning. University News. Vol.64. No-15. 13-19th April 2026. Page No-15-17.

As Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) celebrates its 40th birth anniversary in 2025-26, it affirms its standing as a global leader in democratizing access to quality higher education. Established through an Act of Parliament on September 20, 1985, IGNOU was envisioned as an institution without walls, which reaches learners' doorsteps irrespective of geography, socio-economic background, or life circumstances. Today, IGNOU stands as the world's largest university by enrollment and a national treasure in India's educational system. It offers over 334 academic programs across disciplines through 21 Schools of Studies, supported by a vast network of 69 Regional Centres and nearly 2,500 Learner Support Centres in India.

- 53.** Linking NAAC accreditation with NEP-2020 implementation. University News. Vol.64. No-15. 13-19th April 2026. Page No-18-19.

Higher education in India is witnessing a profound transformation, driven by the nation's aspiration to establish a globally competitive and equitable educational ecosystem. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, a ground-breaking reform initiative, envisions restructuring the education system to emphasise multidisciplinary learning, innovation in research, and the integration of digital technologies. In a significant development, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has proposed a framework that links NAAC accreditation with the implementation of NEP 2020. This framework represents a paradigm shift, ensuring that the progress of educational institutions is evaluated based on measurable outcomes aligned with policy objectives.

54. In the AI propaganda war, Iran is winning. Economist. 25th April 2026.

In previous decades, propaganda for murderous Middle Eastern regimes tended to be unpersuasive. As American forces rolled into the Iraqi capital in 2003, Saddam Hussein's information minister, Muhammad Saeed al-Sahaf, stood on a roof and claimed that "Baghdad is safe...the infidels are committing suicide by the hundreds on the gates." He added that God was "grilling their stomachs in hell". Behind him, television audiences could see Iraqi soldiers fleeing for their lives.

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2026/04/17/in-the-ai-propaganda-war-iran-is-winning>

ENVIRONMENT

55. The Welfare Trap. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61. No-16. 18th April 2026.

"Farmers in our neighbouring villages receive money from the government because they have their land documents. If we have land documents, we will also get 2000 rupees in our account," explained an indigenous Rajwar woman elder from the remote Himalayan forests of Uttarakhand. This statement reveals a troubling paradox: indigenous communities or Adivasi peoples are pursuing land rights not to secure their traditional relationship with forests, but primarily to access cash transfers from India's welfare state.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/16/commentary/welfare-trap.html>

FOOD

56. A Malaysian Menu Laced with the Flavors of Brooklyn. New Yorker. 20th April 2026.

The best thing on the menu at Kelang, a Malaysian restaurant in Greenpoint that opened in December, is a puffy paratha on a bed of spiced red-lentil dal, topped with creamy Italian stracciatella cheese. Depending on who you are, where you're from, and how rigid you are in your notions of gastronomic interpolation, this will strike you as either an absurd concept or a brilliant one. Kelang is part of a new crop of restaurants that celebrate the cultural synthesis of many immigrant groups that coexist in tight proximity to one another, from the Southeast Asian-kissed Italian American joint JR & Son to the Southern-meets-Sichuan fried-chicken spot Pecking House. What these places are doing isn't "fusion" in the cynical sense, wherein a chef from one culture raids another for decorative elements. It's something more personal, less calculated. Kelang's paratha isn't a pizza, but it's not *not* a pizza; it's chewy, wheaty, savory, creamy, and fresh, with a bit of heat in the dal and a brightening zing of green from a tangle of herbs on top.

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/the-food-scene/a-malaysian-menu-laced-with-the-flavors-of-brooklyn>

HISTORY

57. The Orange Ship. Granta. No-174. Winter 2026.

Born in 1943, in Washington, D.C., Christopher Bollas grew up in Laguna Beach, California. He studied history at the University of California, Berkeley and received a PhD in English at the University at Buffalo, where he wrote his doctoral dissertation on Herman Melville. In 1973, he moved to London to train as an analyst in the British Psychoanalytical Society. He practiced there for thirty years, before returning to the United States.

<https://granta.com/the-orange-ship/>

58. The rhetoric of war has changed. Not for the better. Economist. 25th April 2026.

It is June 6th 1944. The second world war is in its fifth year. Millions are dead. Much of Europe lies in ruins. The fate of the war now hangs on a single stretch of water. In the English Channel 150,000 troops mass. The American president addresses his people. But despite the bloodshed, his mood is not bloodthirsty. Americans fight, he says, “not for the lust of conquest. They fight to end conquest.” His ally Winston Churchill will match this tone in his history, which he opens with a “moral”. “IN WAR: RESOLUTION. IN DEFEAT: DEFIANCE. IN VICTORY: MAGNANIMITY”.

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2026/04/23/the-rhetoric-of-war-has-changed-not-for-the-better>

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

59. Trump’s Strategic and Moral Failure in Iran. New Yorker. 20th April 2026.

Not many years ago, a ruthless man with an uneasy mind took power in his country and created a cult of personality. In the center of the capital, he erected a gold statue of himself that rotated with the sun. He stashed billions in a foreign bank. He closed the academy of sciences, the ballet, the philharmonic, the circus, and all provincial libraries. His autobiography became the nation’s spiritual guide. He banned dogs from the capital for their “unappealing odor.” He renamed the months: January for himself, April for his mother. He was fond of melons. The second Sunday of August became National Melon Day. Such was the world of Saparmurat Niyazov, Turkmenistan’s leader from 1985 until his death, by cardiac arrest, in 2006. For the Turkmen people, there was nothing comical about life under his dictatorship. He barred dissent and packed his jails with prisoners of conscience. The only consolation was that he could not impose his grandiosity on the globe.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/04/20/donald-trumps-strategic-failure-and-moral-calamity-in-iran>

60. India and Pakistan: Neighbours Who Do Not Talk to Each Other. India Forum. 10th April 2026.

Almost a year has passed since the terrorist massacre of tourists in Kashmir on 22 April 2025, and India's retaliation 16 days later with a military operation against Pakistan, which Delhi blamed for the attack. Operation Sindoor escalated into a war fought almost entirely in the skies. From the intervening night of 7 and 8 May 2025, when India bombed alleged terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Pakistan, until the afternoon of 11 May 2025, when both sides called a ceasefire, the hostilities lasted four days.

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/politics/india-and-pakistan-neighbours-who-do-not-talk-each-other>

61. Pomp and pageantry won't save Britain's alliance with America. Economist. 25th April 2026.

For preference, he talks to plants. But King Charles III must now stiffen his upper lip and get chummy with Donald Trump. The royal visit to Washington from April 27th to 30th is an attempt by Britain's government to win back the president's favour by indulging his love of pomp and bling.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/04/23/pomp-and-pageantry-wont-save-britains-alliance-with-america>

62. How Chinese satellites have boosted Iran's war effort. Economist. 25th April 2026.

China has proved careful in its support for Iran in recent weeks. On March 2nd its foreign ministry spokesperson said the American-Israeli strikes "violate international law". In recent days Xi Jinping, the country's leader, said he wanted the Strait of Hormuz open for vessels in a call with Saudi Arabia's crown prince. American intelligence is reported to have warned that China is preparing to send shoulder-fired rockets, the sort that could hit helicopters and low-flying planes. Yet China has offered little by way of serious economic, diplomatic or military aid. Its more indirect, and perhaps more important, contribution comes from space.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2026/04/19/how-chinese-satellites-have-boosted-irans-war-effort>

63. Can the Germans fight?. Economist. 25th April 2026.

ON A PLANE to Düsseldorf recently Carsten Breuer, the head of Germany's armed forces, met a passenger who wanted to thank him and his troops for their service. It is a scene he might once have imagined only in America, beams the general, demonstrating the new respect the Bundeswehr enjoys among Germans.

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2026/04/22/can-the-germans-fight>

64. Ukraine's quest for new friends takes it to Turkey and Syria. Economist. 25th April 2026.

Few foreign missions in Kyiv appear as dreary as Syria's embassy. It is squeezed into a squat apartment block in Lukyanivka, a neighbourhood repeatedly targeted by Russian attacks. The façade of the hotel next door has been torn open by a Russian drone. The embassy has been closed since 2018, when Ukraine ordered it shut in

response to war crimes committed by the regime of Bashar al-Assad, Syria's former dictator.

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2026/04/23/ukraines-quest-for-new-friends-takes-it-to-turkey-and-syria>

- 65.** Britain rethinks its “special relationship” with America. Economist. 25th April 2026. KING CHARLES III's trip to America on April 27th-30th is ostensibly to commemorate the 250th anniversary of America's independence from Britain. It is turning into a mission to help salvage the countries' “special relationship”, as Winston Churchill called it in 1946. At stake is Britain's place in the world: should it keep hugging America, or embrace Europe?

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2026/04/23/britain-rethinks-its-special-relationship-with-america>

- 66.** The international problem of weasel words. Economist. 25th April 2026. The problem for the British soldiers was English understatement. And, admittedly, the thousands of Chinese soldiers attacking them. It was 1951, it was the Korean war and 29 Brigade had been asked to defend a hill. Soon they were low on men, ammunition and hope. Things, their brigadier told his American allies, were “a bit sticky”. In British army-speak that meant “critical”. The Americans heard: we're fine. And left him to it.

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2026/04/23/the-international-problem-of-weasel-words>

- 67.** Anduril, Palantir and SpaceX are changing how America wages war. Economist. 25th April 2026. THE IRAN war may end up teaching America many lessons. One that it has learned the hard way is the woeful economics of using conventional weaponry against cheap Iranian drones. “The dynamics of the world have changed,” says Emil Michael, a former Silicon Valley executive who is now a senior official at the Pentagon. “You don't want to spend a \$1m missile to take out a \$50,000 drone.”

<https://www.economist.com/international/2026/04/20/anduril-palantir-and-spacex-are-changing-how-america-wages-war>

- 68.** A dangerous blind spot in Donald Trump's Iran war strategy. Economist. 25th April 2026.

THE AMERICAN president's tone was harsh, and the cause was not hard to identify. A war meant to last a few days had just passed the six-week mark. Addressing American troops, the president told them they were battling an “evil” foe whose “mad schemes” must be defeated. Though regime leaders are proving stubborn, “we are hitting them hard where it hurts,” he said. The president added a blast of cultural chauvinism. America's armed forces can do things that “no one else can”, he told assembled soldiers. You are in action far from home, to help remake a region that has never been united in peace. As you fight, you should “thank God” that you come from a society whose unity makes it strong.

<https://www.economist.com/international/2026/04/21/a-dangerous-blind-spot-in-donald-trumps-iran-war-strategy>

LAW

69. A Private View. New Yorker. 20th April 2026.

None of the men looked up as my mother came down the museum stairs. I felt sorry for her. I wished I could make them notice. When she reached the middle landing, she paused, and I could tell she was resisting the urge to go back up and give them a second chance to get a good look. I smiled as she began to descend the final set. She gave a little kick with each step so that her long coat parted and revealed a shapely leg.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/04/20/a-private-view-fiction-douglas-stuart>

70. Towards Restoring Justice. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61. No-16. 18th April 2026.

Violence, in the form of terror offences, has become a persistent threat to the security of the world today. The state in India has sought to devise laws that can effectively curb such threats. However, in pursuit of this objective, many who are falsely incarcerated not only suffer from long periods of confinement in prisons but also experience a long term, debilitating impact on their lives, making reintegration into society extremely difficult. The exceptional provisions in these laws as well as the lack of a solid blueprint on the rehabilitation of such prisoners, result in a travesty of justice and human suffering that is ignored. This article explores the ways in which the rehabilitation of vulnerable undertrials could be centred in the legal discourse and practice to restore some sense of justice and human rights in our society.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/16/law-and-society/towards-restoring-justice.html>

71. Artificial intelligence is creeping into American lawmaking. Economist. 25th April 2026.

KENT ROE is a busy man. In addition to his full-time job as a farmland appraiser, he sits on the board of a utility company and on the council of his local Lutheran church. If that wasn't enough already, for up to 40 days a year he serves as one of 70 lawmakers in South Dakota's House of Representatives. It is gruelling work, without much help. South Dakota has the smallest legislative staff in the country; roughly 60 staffers help lawmakers with research and drafting legislation.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2026/04/23/artificial-intelligence-is-creeping-into-american-lawmaking>

LITERATURE

72. Armantrout, Rae

Clarion. New Yorker. 20th April 2026.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/04/20/clarion-rae-armantrout-poem>

73. Gibson, Dobby

Apocalypso. New Yorker. 20th April 2026.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/04/20/apocalypso-dobby-gibson-poem>

74. Meaney, Thomas

The Animal Side of Life. Granta. No-174. Winter 2026.

‘There has been nothing like this since the spread of the potato and of maize,’ Ernest Gellner wrote of psychoanalysis, ‘and this diffusion was even faster and may have deeper implications.’ The worldwide dissemination of forms of therapy, many with their origins in Freud’s consulting room in fin-de-siècle Vienna, was the great underdog intellectual development of the last century. Within the space of three decades, the theories of a miniscule scientific sect overturned the mores of the middle classes. The result was a new climate of self-scrutiny, and a novel ritual of confession. The way individuals thought about their passions, deceptions, selves, and the trivia of their lives changed in ways that would have baffled previous generations. Ordinary people began to speak of their libidos, their egos, and their unconscious. They became antiquarians of themselves. Not long after Freud’s death, the US military was training psychotherapists at an industrial scale and offering free sessions to soldiers. Psychotherapy has saturated online China, where smartphone apps and chatbots answer the overwhelming demand for mental health professionals. In 2017, Pope Francis reported he had undergone weekly psychoanalysis in his forties. It is hard to imagine a better scalp for the therapeutic.

<https://granta.com/the-animal-side-of-life/>

75. Shapero, Natalie

Two Poems. Granta. No-174. Winter 2026.

<https://granta.com/two-poems-shapero-2/>

76. Kunkel, Benjamin

Whatever Creek Meadows. Granta. No-174. Winter 2026.

It’s important for purposes of this story, whose purpose of course I don’t know, otherwise I wouldn’t be telling it, I’d just say what I mean, to establish right away that I know the sound of my own voice, to be clear I’m not suggesting I know exactly what tones and implications lurk in my delivery at every moment, all I’m saying is that I can recognize the distinct timbre of my own speaking voice should I happen to hear a recording of it in the same way that almost anyone could be trusted to identify that of

a family member or close friend should the intimate in question somehow be overheard talking without being visible in some place you have no reason to expect to discover them, or else have left a voicemail, for instance, without giving their name and while calling from an unfamiliar number (an example that may in fact be outdated now that, according to news stories, people are getting scammed by convincing AI replicas of their loved ones' voices as these persuasive fakes plead for money in desperate but fictitious circumstances).

<https://granta.com/whatever-creek-meadows/>

77. Mother. Granta. No-174. Winter 2026.

Everybody should love me like my mama and, if possible, even much more. This, unfortunately, is not possible.

First, the person who just slipped out should tell me who on earth I am, and then, because of this special relation we established, that is how to put it, yes, that is how to put it, then he should tell me who he is, which I already don't like, and then he should love me, to boot. Well, I wouldn't want to underestimate all the repressed stuff my analyst drew my attention to, no, I don't want to make this mistake, my darling, my heart, so, no, the repressed shall return into the net, from where I get all my opportunities, but some cannot immediately free themselves out of the mesh, they need postage, can't run off fast enough, and that is where I come in. Please, free yourself, says the doctor, I don't say it this way, but I say it too. But who can get free if he does not have a stamp, if he does not first disentangle himself? If he does not resolutely unmoor himself and paddle in my direction, the gigantic net behind him there, where earlier the sun used to be, where earlier the moon used to be, this gigantic earth-girding opportunity to have fun, share joys, communicate suffering, of I-don't-know-what, this opportunity opens up wide behind him like a giant vulva, since everybody wants to have fun. Not I. I want mama and the opportunities of extreme love, which she offered me, an undoing, because such a thing I never received again, not even rudimentarily, even though I wanted more originally, why do you surge so strangely, my heart?

<https://granta.com/mother-jelinek/>

78. Franklin, Olive

Two Poems. Granta. No-174. Winter 2026.

<https://granta.com/two-poems-franklin/>

79. Mozart Balls. Granta. No-174. Winter 2026.

I am dismissed by some psychological associations as a madman, accused of creating a 'congested atmosphere which displays my hoarding compulsion', but my collection of things isn't musty or disorganised, it is a museum of my own making and design. For my entire career, I have argued against a sterile analyst's room: the abstract painting, a box of tissues, optimistic books with a zany font by sentimental fraudsters on an orange bookshelf. An object will act like a magnet to a matching object buried deep within a patient's psyche, and this requires the analyst to have a vast and varied collection of stuff. Every object in the world has a horrible memory in it belonging to someone.

<https://granta.com/mozart-balls/>

Heringer, Victor

80. Five Poems. Granta. No-174. Winter 2026.

<https://granta.com/five-poems-heringer/>

81. Judy Blume's radical honesty changed literature for ever. Economist. 25th April 2026.

LIKE MANY shy children, Judith Sussman spent a lot of time on her own, reading and inventing stories. It never occurred to her to become a novelist, though. In New Jersey in the 1940s and 1950s, many of her female classmates aspired to be secretaries, typing up other people's words rather than their own.

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2026/04/23/judy-blumes-radical-honesty-changed-literature-for-ever>

MILITARY SCIENCE

82. How to bolster the arsenal of democracy. Economist. 25th April 2026.

THE WORLD is rearming fast. Military spending has increased in real terms every year for the past decade. The leap in 2024 was the largest, in inflation-adjusted terms, since the cold war. European members of NATO, their bare armouries exposed by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, will spend an additional €300bn (\$353bn) per year by the end of the decade. China's military spending grows each year by an amount equivalent to Taiwan's entire annual defence budget, even as the rest of Asia scrambles to keep up. But it is arms, not budgets that deter. And producing those arms requires the right sort of defence industry, tailored to the wars of the future.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/04/22/how-to-bolster-the-arsenal-of-democracy>

83. The high price of forever wars. Economist. 25th April 2026.

NOT ALL wars are fought alike. One reason for the 78-year survival of Israel, a small democratic country in a mostly hostile region, is that its leaders long grasped that fact. They saw how big gains come from preventing wars but, when necessary, fighting them quickly, with clearly defined and realistic aims. Short conflicts, they believed, should be a prelude to something much more valuable: a flourishing civilian life. In times of peace a country may best grow, building up its economic and technological prowess. For these reasons, over decades, Israel's military doctrine wisely (if not always successfully) set out that wars should be limited and based on deterrence, early-warning and decisive action.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/04/23/the-high-price-of-forever-wars>

84. Why Japan is loosening restrictions on exports of lethal arms. Economist. 25th April 2026.

JAPAN'S PACIFIST shibboleths are falling one by one. A decades-long taboo against spending more than 1% of GDP on defence was abandoned in 2022; this year spending will reach nearly 2%. After long refraining from possessing weapons that could hit enemy territory, Japan deployed its first long-range "counter-strike" missiles last month. On April 21st Takaichi Sanae, Japan's hawkish new prime minister, announced another historic change, loosening long-standing restrictions on arms exports and significantly expanding the scope to sell lethal equipment overseas.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/04/23/why-japan-is-loosening-restrictions-on-exports-of-lethal-arms>

85. How a Sudanese militia built a military and economic empire. Economist. 25th April 2026.

After days of heavy fighting, in March the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) captured Kurmuk, a town in south-eastern Sudan on the border with Ethiopia. Like much of Sudan's civil war, the battle drew little notice abroad. Yet it could rank among the most consequential since the conflict began in April 2023. Besides turning Blue Nile, a state once remote from the fighting, into a pivotal battleground, it showed the effectiveness of the RSF's alliance-building: in seizing the town, the paramilitary group collaborated with local rebels. Most striking was the apparent involvement of Ethiopia. For the first time the RSF appears to have staged an offensive from deep within the territory of one of Sudan's neighbours.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2026/04/22/how-a-sudanese-militia-built-a-military-and-economic-empire>

86. British nukes are utterly reliant on America. Economist. 25th April 2026.

"I USED TO joke", says a former Pentagon official, "that the only thing British about British nuclear weapons is the fissile material. Everything else is American." That is an exaggeration. But not by much. There are few areas where America and Britain are entangled as deeply as in the nuclear domain. How long would it take Britain to produce a home-grown bomb?

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2026/04/23/british-nukes-are-utterly-reliant-on-america>

87. There is no better spur to military innovation than war. Economist. 25th April 2026.

THE Ratel H is no speedster—and no looker, either. The clunky six-wheeled vehicle, in essence an electric motor and batteries topped with a cargo tray, can pootle along no faster than 8km an hour. It resembles an oversize dolly. But it can perform small wonders. It rumbles undaunted over uneven ground, then brakes, having spotted danger overhead. It launches a net in the air, bringing an enemy drone crashing down.

<https://www.economist.com/international/2026/04/23/there-is-no-better-spur-to-military-innovation-than-war>

- 88.** Europe's defence startups face even bigger hurdles than America's. *Economist*. 25th April 2026.

"The time for unmanned systems is now," says Sven Kruck, co-CEO of Quantum Systems, a German firm which makes military drones. His is a view shared with growing certainty by defence planners around the world, as they watch waves of Iranian drones grind down Middle Eastern air defences and Russian and Ukrainian ones pin down troops in trenches. Although Europe is making strides in developing the technology, it lacks the capacity to build these weapons at scale. The future of warfare is approaching fast, and may catch the continent's armies exposed on the battlefield.

<https://www.economist.com/international/2026/04/23/europes-defence-startups-face-even-bigger-hurdles-than-americas>

POLITICAL SCIENCE & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

- 89.** Sam Wang, Politician-in-Training. *New Yorker*. 20th April 2026.

Veronica, a pug with a spiky pink collar, trudged alongside her sister Betty, a thirteen-year-old hound, in Princeton one recent wet morning. They were led by their owner, the neuroscientist and brand-new congressional candidate Sam Wang, who was out looking for voters. Wang, who is fifty-eight and wore rectangular glasses and a big blue campaign button, is still getting the hang of interacting with would-be constituents. A few weeks earlier, he had walked through a snowstorm to a pancake restaurant. "My wife said, 'If you're really serious about this, you will ask everybody in this diner for their signature,'" he recalled. "I said, 'My God, do I have to?'"

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/04/20/sam-wang-politician-in-training>

- 90.** From 25 Years Ago: Hannah Arendt and the Problem of Our Age. *Economic & Political Weekly*. Vol. 61. No-16. 18th April 2026.

Arendt is centrally concerned with writing as inscription, particularly when politics and truth have not always gone together. It is the moral injunction to write, to fix, to inscribe that becomes an act of justice, particularly when lies and forgetting are so easily managed "Facts and events are infinitely more fragile than axioms, discoveries, theories" because they are constantly changing [Arendt 1964:232]. They arouse in us the fear that Heraclitus felt when he stepped into the ever-changing river. Against truth we have error, ignorance, illusion, and in politics "organised lying". Since politics is about action, freedom of opinion will be a farce unless factual information is guaranteed [Arendt 1964:238]. Fascism involve the death of the other, and factual truth is often seen to be an anti-political attitude [Arendt 1964:239].

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/16/25-years-ago/25-years-ago-hannah-arendt-and-problem-our-age.html>

- 91.** What Does Intelligence Excuse?. *Economic & Political Weekly*. Vol. 61. No-16. 18th April 2026.

Noam Chomsky's repeated ties to Jeffrey Epstein challenge his moral authority. Chomsky's defence—which relies on legal formalism and a “clean slate”—contradicts his lifelong critique of systemic power. He fails to recognise the political nature of private predation due to a Cartesian rationalism that privileges abstract intellect over embodied suffering. The article proposes a “resource extraction” model for Chomsky's legacy: retain his analytical tools but reject the intellectual bewitchment shielding the powerful from accountability.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/16/commentary/what-does-intelligence-excuse.html>

92.Decoding the Amendments to India's IT Rules. India Forum. 23rd April 2026.

In late March 2026, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) introduced draft amendments to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (IT Rules 2021). These changes followed closely on the heels of earlier updates, including the regulation of synthetic content and significantly reducing the time for content takedown for intermediaries. The term intermediaries include social media platforms, messaging services, video-sharing websites, search services, internet service providers, and cloud service providers, as well as other services that host or transmit user-generated content.

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/law/decoding-indias-it-rules-amendments>

93.Why India Remains a Stable Democracy. India Forum. 22nd April 2026.

The suddenness and swiftness with which the Gen Z protests in Nepal last September took an extremely violent turn, blowing the lid off the political regime, surprised everyone. Recent similar upheavals in our neighbourhood include the overthrow of the Sheikh Hasina government in Bangladesh in 2024 and the meltdown of the regime in Sri Lanka in 2022. In 2021, a coup d'état replaced the democratically elected government with a military junta in Myanmar, and an insurgency and civil war ensued.

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/essay/why-india-remains-stable-democracy>

94.Who Really Benefits from Welfare Transfers?. India Forum. 17th April 2026.

Recently, the Supreme Court of India expressed concern over what it called the “unchecked culture of freebies”, suggesting that governments would do better to create employment than distribute benefits that resemble “appeasement”. The criticism echoes a familiar refrain in India's public discourse—that welfare transfers distort economic incentives, strain public finances, and reward political opportunism.

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/economy/who-really-benefits-welfare-transfers>

95.America is vulnerable to electoral vandalism. Economist. 25th April 2026.

Largely because Donald Trump is so unpopular, his party will be trounced in the midterm elections in November. That is what The Economist's new forecasting model currently says. Democrats are almost certain to win the House of

Representatives. They could even flip the Senate—a surprise for election nerds, because the map in this cycle strongly favours Republicans. Yet although the outlook for Democrats is good, for America’s democracy it is alarming.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/04/23/america-is-vulnerable-to-electoral-vandalism>

96. Might Donald Trump try to rig the midterms?. Economist. 25th April 2026.

“Basically we just sort of rack our brains,” says Joe Morelle. “What would happen if this happened? Usually the answer is, well, that’s never happened before—but this is what we would do.” Mr Morelle is the top-ranking Democrat on the House Committee on House Administration. In normal times his team oversees matters of great importance to Congress, such as who gets a parking permit in the House garage. This being an election year, he is preoccupied with an even more existential question. What if Donald Trump tries to steal the midterms?

<https://www.economist.com/briefing/2026/04/23/might-donald-trump-try-to-rig-the-midterms>

97. What do the geopolitical successes of Asim Munir mean for Pakistan?. Economist. 25th April 2026.

On April 21st, hours before a ceasefire between America and Iran was due to expire, and with the threat of renewed strikes imminent, Donald Trump announced that the truce would be extended indefinitely, at Pakistan’s request, to let negotiations continue. Whatever happens next, Pakistanis have some reason for feeling proud. For decades the country has been known mainly for endless IMF bail-outs and terrorist insurgencies. Now it has shown itself to be a deft handler of global power politics.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/04/23/what-do-the-geopolitical-successes-of-asim-munir-mean-for-pakistan>

98. What have the Mughals ever done for us?. Economist. 25th April 2026.

IN SPEECHES TO supporters, to parliament and to the nation, Narendra Modi has repeatedly invoked India’s centuries of slavery. Soon after taking power in 2014, he lamented that “the mentality of 1,200 years of slavery continues to haunt us. It is often a challenge for us to hold our heads high when speaking to someone of even slightly elevated stature.” The chief target of the grievance is the series of Muslim empires that came before British colonialism.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/04/19/what-have-the-mughals-ever-done-for-us>

99. Virginia’s redistricting may be the nail in Republicans’ coffin. Economist. 25th April 2026.

The sun rises in the east; the other queue always moves faster; and the president’s party loses the House of Representatives in the midterms. Starting with the Democrats’ blue wave in George W. Bush’s second term, this pattern has held firm every four years. Even Republicans’ weak performance in 2022, derided as a “red ripple”, ended Joe Biden’s trifecta.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2026/04/21/virginias-redistricting-may-be-the-nail-in-republicans-coffin>

100. Donald Trump's bold new deportation machine. Economist. 25th April 2026.

Teodoro ("Teddy") Obiang junior was once on America's naughty list. More than a decade ago prosecutors charged the son of the dictator of Equatorial Guinea, a small African petrostate, with extortion and embezzlement. They let him keep his ill-gotten Michael Jackson memorabilia (fedora, glove, "Thriller" jacket) but seized his Malibu mansion and Ferrari and restricted his ability to enter America. Until last year, when the Trump administration welcomed him back.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2026/04/22/donald-trumps-bold-new-deportation-machine>

101. Why Congress keeps getting dumber. Economist. 25th April 2026.

What is it about Thom Tillis of North Carolina that has turned him into a rare Republican legislator willing to defy President Donald Trump, and, maybe even more rare, a United States senator having some fun doing his job?

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2026/04/23/why-congress-keeps-getting-dumber>

102. As the World Cup approaches, North American relations are at a nadir. Economist. 25th April 2026.

When in 2018 Canada, Mexico and the United States won their bid to host this year's football World Cup jointly, the slogan was "United As One". Aspirational as slogans are, this one was not absurd. North America is home to more than 500m people, accounts for roughly a third of global GDP and enjoys several big advantages: democratic governments, peaceful borders and economies with different strengths that are now deeply integrated.

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2026/04/23/as-the-world-cup-approaches-north-american-relations-are-at-a-nadir>

103. Albertans find it harder than expected to break from Canada. Good. Economist. 25th April 2026.

A YEAR AGO Alberta's separatists were riding high. Support for independence rose when Mark Carney, the prime minister, won a fourth term for Canada's Liberal Party. In May 2025 one opinion poll found that 47% of Albertans backed "Wexit", as the western province's independence movement has been dubbed. In an attempt to please the province's aggrieved conservatives, Danielle Smith, Alberta's premier, lowered the number of signatures needed to trigger referendums. Since then, separatists have been busy gathering the 177,732 signatures required to trigger a vote on Albertan independence.

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2026/04/20/albertans-find-it-harder-than-expected-to-break-from-canada-good>

- 104.** A botched election adds to Peru's democratic dysfunction. Economist. 25th April 2026.

La fiesta democrática, as Election Day is known in Peru, is usually a well-run operation. But when people went to vote on April 12th, the fiesta became a fiasco. Delays in delivering election materials caused long queues outside polling stations in Lima, the capital.

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2026/04/23/a-botched-election-adds-to-perus-democratic-dysfunction>

- 105.** Israel's open-ended wars have eroded its security. Economist. 25th April 2026.

IN THE RUN-UP to Israel's independence day, the motorway between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv is always festooned with flags. But this year, between the blue-and-white Israeli pennants, hangs another kind of star-spangled banner: America's. Israel's government had hoped that Donald Trump would arrive on April 22nd to celebrate the 78th anniversary of its independence. He was to be the first non-Israeli to receive the Israel prize, a state honour.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2026/04/21/israels-open-ended-wars-have-eroded-its-security>

- 106.** Which Iran is America dealing with?. Economist. 25th April 2026.

Even before the first round of talks between America and Iran had begun, Iran-watchers sensed that something was askew. Delegations dispatched for talks with America are usually lean, disciplined and tightly briefed. The one in Islamabad, the Pakistani capital, was anything but. Some 80 Iranians joined the flight on April 10th, among them roughly 30 billed as decision-makers. They included diplomats who had helped write Iran's 2015 nuclear deal and a firebrand mp who denounced any deal with America. Rancour in their hotel was so ferocious that Pakistani mediators spent as much time refereeing the Iranians as engaging with the Americans.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2026/04/19/which-iran-is-america-dealing-with>

- 107.** Abiy Ahmed is throttling free expression in Ethiopia. Economist. 25th April 2026.

Not long ago Abiy Ahmed, Ethiopia's prime minister, won plaudits as a champion of free expression. He released dozens of journalists jailed by his predecessors, lifted bans on independent outlets and praised pluralism and democracy. Eight years after he first took office, Ethiopia is gearing up for an election in June. Mr Abiy says it will be the most open and democratic poll in the country's history.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2026/04/23/abiy-ahmed-is-throttling-free-expression-in-ethiopia>

RELIGION

- 108.** St. Paul Remade Human History. How Did He Do It?. New Yorker. 20th April 2026.

If Western civilization were asked, in the terms of the old *Reader's Digest* column, to name the Most Unforgettable Character It Ever Met, it would surely answer, with a single, sighing voice: Paul. Not Sir Paul the Beatle, blessed as he is in advanced age, but St. Paul the Apostle, who, in the first century C.E., soon after the founding of the Jesus cult, brought to the Gentile world its salvationist doctrines shorn of the complex legalisms, dietary laws, and minutiae of devotion that marked the Judaism from which it sprang. In this way, Paul turned the heresy of a tiny sect of Messianic Jews into the dominant religious and cultural architecture of the West for the next couple of thousand years.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/04/20/paul-within-paganism-alexander-chantziantoniou-paula-fredriksen-stephen-l-young-book-review>

SCIENCE

109. How to stop colour-blind grouse flying into ski lifts. *Economist*. 25th April 2026.
Nature has evolved an extensive range of visual codes to allow individuals of one species to pass important messages to those of another. Brightly coloured skin? Potentially poisonous—do not eat. Thorny leaves? Not worth the effort—stay away. The message “Do not collide with this chair lift” has, however, proven harder to communicate.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/04/22/how-to-stop-colour-blind-grouse-flying-into-ski-lifts>

110. Crypto-miners are quietly colonising computers. *Economist*. 25th April 2026.
MINING A CRYPTOCURRENCY can be an expensive business. Producing new coins, also known as tokens, can require computers to solve cryptographic puzzles, which takes large amounts of power. One way to keep costs down is to relocate mines to wherever electricity is cheapest. Cheaper still is having others foot the bill. An unsuspecting organisation's power can be hijacked by stacking computers in a crawlspace or storage room, for example. Such operations, however, are regularly discovered, and culprits risk penalties and confiscated kit.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/04/22/crypto-miners-are-quietly-colonising-computers>

111. Is bone broth good for you?. *Economist*. 25th April 2026.
BOIL AN animal's stripped carcass until the connective tissue disintegrates and the bones, leached to exhaustion, may crumble under light pressure. The result is bone broth, a pricey wellness drink. Yet the stuff is becoming increasingly popular, thanks in part to praise from celebrities. Enthusiasts claim it curbs overeating and is good for the skin, bones and gut. What, though, does the research say?

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/04/17/is-bone-broth-good-for-you>

SOCIOLOGY

112. Why I Wanted to Keep My Marriage a Secret. New Yorker. 20th April 2026.

There's a lunch place Hugh and I often take people to in Amsterdam. I like it because it's quick—no waiting around for menus or the check. You order and pay at the counter, and the food is good, which is to say that it's not too Dutch. At night, a leisurely meal is fine, but in a city where the stores open late and close relatively early, I can always feel the clock ticking, especially if one or more of my sisters is with me.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/04/20/why-i-wanted-to-keep-my-marriage-a-secret>

113. The Car-Crash Conspiracy. New Yorker. 20th April 2026.

On any given day, roughly three million tractor-trailers ferry goods along American highways, and it is only because of some perverse collective disavowal that any of us, in our dinky cars, agree to share the road with them. Large trucks account for five per cent of the vehicles in the United States but play a role in ten per cent of fatal accidents. A fully loaded eighteen-wheeler can weigh eighty thousand pounds. It takes time for such vehicles to accelerate to highway speeds, but, by the same physics, once they've achieved such velocity it takes time for them to stop. A big rig thundering along a freeway at sixty-five miles per hour is a juggernaut: even if the driver slams the brakes, the truck will advance the length of two football fields before finally coming to a halt.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/04/20/the-car-crash-conspiracy>

114. The Return of Family Detention. New Yorker. 20th April 2026.

In early February, Elora Mukherjee, who runs one of the country's leading immigrants'-rights clinics, at Columbia Law School, told me about a client of hers who was detained in South Texas. The client, Mukherjee explained, was in the midst of a life-threatening medical crisis. What's more, she was eighteen months old. Baby Amalia, as Mukherjee called her, had been sent to a San Antonio hospital with critically low oxygen levels. She'd spent more than a week in intensive care, where she and her mother were watched by ICE agents. After being discharged from the hospital, the toddler had been sent back to the place where she had nearly died: the Dilley Immigration Processing Center, where many children had severe respiratory illnesses. "The doctors prescribed Amalia a medication by nebulizer," Mukherjee told me, but, when the child and her mother returned to Dilley, "the officers took those meds." (A spokesperson for the Department of Homeland Security said that any claims that Amalia "did not receive her medication or proper medical treatment" are false.)

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/04/20/the-return-of-family-detention>

- 115.** Social Sector Spending on Health and Education in Haryana. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61. No-16. 18th April 2026.

The economic and social development in Haryana during 2012–13 to 2021–22 is examined, focusing on public expenditure in education and health. Despite a relatively high spending and performance on key social indicators, outcomes remain below those of comparable high-income states. Using expenditure ratios and per capita spending, the article shows that increased allocations have yielded modest improvements in human development. It suggests that structural inefficiencies, governance limitations, and inequitable resource allocation constrain outcomes, underscoring the need to enhance both the efficiency and effectiveness of social sector spending for inclusive development.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/16/insight/social-sector-spending-health-and-education.html>

- 116.** Good Medicine. Granta. No-174. Winter 2026.

Sometime during my forty-eighth year, I began to overhear myself saying, in conversation, ‘I don’t really need to live much longer,’ or, ‘If I died tomorrow, that would be fine.’ I felt uneasy, surprised and disturbed every time this came out of my mouth. One friend said, ‘That’s very wise, very enlightened of you,’ and I suppose it could have been. But in my case, it didn’t feel like wisdom. I felt like I knew who I was, and what my life was, and looking to the future, I saw only repetition. My work, my friendships, my relationship with my boyfriend were all good. I just didn’t see the value in decades more of living.

<https://granta.com/good-medicine/>

- 117.** Transference in the Afternoon. Granta. No-174. Winter 2026.

A friend sent me the newspaper story. nyc hedge funder says shrink ‘seduced’ him into office sex sessions – and charged \$250k in ‘mistress money’. The hedge funder, Michael Pollack, was suing his former therapist, Heidi Kling, for having sex with him nearly every week for ten years, all while accepting regular payments in cash.

<https://granta.com/transference-in-the-afternoon/>

- 118.** AI is the new Oracle of Delphi. That’s bad news. Economist. 25th April 2026.

Prediction is as old as intelligent life. In pre-industrial times, part of what made humans strong despite physical disadvantage was an ability to foresee the behaviour of other animals, which made it easier to hunt them. In the modern world prediction continues to confer an array of competitive advantages: if you run a company, for instance, everything from choosing what businesses to enter or exit to finding the right location for operations depends in part on forecasting.

<https://www.economist.com/by-invitation/2026/04/21/ai-is-the-new-oracle-of-delphi-thats-bad-news>

- 119.** Wealthy New Yorkers grumble as a new tax looms. Economist. 25th April 2026.

WHAT IS THE proper etiquette for a Democratic Socialist at a ball? The answer is less pressing than it might otherwise have been. On May 4th the glitterati will

assemble for the Met Gala, a glitzy fund-raiser for the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute. The museum's steps will be filled with celebrities. Usually, some of the city's politicians are there, too. Five years ago Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a stylish congresswoman affiliated with the Democratic Socialists of America, showed up in a white gown emblazoned with "Tax the Rich" in bold red letters. Some, however, called her a hypocrite for attending the lavish affair. Zohran Mamdani, the city's new Democratic Socialist mayor, may be trying to avoid such criticism. He is skipping the event entirely.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2026/04/23/wealthy-new-yorkers-grumble-as-a-new-tax-looms>

SPORTS

120. Runaway success: marathon organisers are seeing record demand. Economist. 25th April 2026.

ALANA RANSON hit the ground running in 2023. Her housemates were joggers, so she thought she'd "give it a go" too. By November 2025—a little over two years after she first laced up her trainers—Ms Ranson had completed the Abbott World Marathon Majors (wmm), a series of prestigious races in Berlin, Boston, Chicago, London, New York, Sydney and Tokyo.

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2026/04/23/runaway-success-marathon-organisers-are-seeing-record-demand>

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	Economist (A.M.)	W	London
3	Economic & Political Weekly	W	Mumbai
4	Granta	Q	UK
5	India Forum	W	Mumbai
6	New Yorker	W	New York
7	University News	W	India