

ARTICLE ALERT 1-15 OCTOBER 2025

Stay informed with timely research updates



INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE LIBRARY NEW DELHI

Article Alert 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.

CONTENTS

Subjects Covered	Page Nos.
Art	03
Business	03
Climate Change	04
Culture	05
Economics	05
Education	08
Emerging Technologies	13
Health	13
History	14
International Relations	15
Law	19
Literature	20
Military Science	22
Political Science & Public Administration	22
Science	26
Sociology	27
Sports	29
Annexure – I (List of Journals Covered)	30

ART

1. **Man Ray's Deadpan Wit on Display at the Met.** New Yorker. October 13, 2025.
"When Objects Dream," the sensational Man Ray show at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (through Feb. 1), is centered on the artist's refined experiments with the cameraless images he called rayographs: the shadowy impressions left on photographic paper by scattered objects after the paper has been exposed to light. It should come as no surprise that his first experiments in the form, published, in 1922, as a suite of twelve abstract images, are among his most accomplished. Ray had already channelled the antic, subversive spirit of Dada and Surrealism with a series of readymade sculptures that included a flatiron studded with a row of tacks. But, like Marcel Duchamp, Ray was a movement unto himself. No matter the medium—painting, sculpture, film, photography—he reimagined it with a focussed intelligence and a deadpan wit that still looks definitively avant-garde.

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/goings-on/man-rays-deadpan-wit-on-display-at-the-met>

BUSINESS

2. **Shifting Winds.** Time. October 13, 2025.
THIS SPRING, AS GLOBAL MARKETS GYRATED, SOME OF THE world's most influential investors and executives sat in a Scottsdale, Ariz., conference room engaged in deep discussion. But rather than President Donald Trump's tariffs, the 120 attendees were focused on the future of energy, climate, and sustainability. Across the conference ballroom were individuals representing a combined \$4.3 trillion in market capitalization and \$4.2 trillion in assets under management. At my table sat JPMorgan Chase & Co. CEO Jamie Dimon, Microsoft founder turned philanthropist Bill Gates, and Jim Farley, the CEO of the Ford Motor Co. Elsewhere in the room, I spotted an oil-and-gas CEO, a prominent clean-tech innovator, and some of the world's biggest asset managers. For all the financial might, there was hardly any hype or grandeur. There was little indication of the host or the purpose of the gathering convened at the Four Seasons Resort. A logo on the wall simply read SCOTTSDALE ACTION FORUM. But at the center of the room Dimon, the conference host, sat watching intently.

https://www.magzter.com/stories/news/TIME-Magazine/SHIFTING-WINDS?srsId=AfmBOoqRj-C_yEgzWQFqUcDmWblam9MAYuq8oAAIvi5F0irrKPZX5LHz

3. **Does big pharma gouge Americans?.** Economist. 04 October 2025.
TALK TO AMERICANS about their health-care system and many reach for Xanax. Together they spend around \$5trn a year on keeping themselves in good nick, 40% more than in 2010 after adjusting for inflation. That comes to \$13,400 per anxiety-ridden head, \$6,000 more on average than in other rich countries, without being any healthier for it. Politicians of all stripes have long railed against this injustice—and fingered big pharma as the main culprit. President Donald Trump is now demanding that drugmakers charge no more for medicines in America than they do in comparably well-off places.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/10/02/does-big-pharma-gouge-americans>

4. The murky economics of the data-centre investment boom. Economist. 04 October 2025.

THIS SPRING McKinsey made what seemed to be an extraordinarily bullish forecast of capital spending on the chips, data centres and energy to produce artificial intelligence (AI): \$5.2trn worldwide in the next five years. Less than six months on, the consultancy is considering upping that estimate. Announcements in America suggest investing in generative-AI infrastructure is reaching fever pitch.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/09/30/the-murky-economics-of-the-data-centre-investment-boom>

CLIMATE CHANGE

5. Tribal Self-governance for Sustainable Climate in Ladakh. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-39. 27th Sep 2025.

Autonomy in local self-governance under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution seems to have become the *raison d'être* for the people of Ladakh to survive climate change. A unique “climate fast” by the people of Ladakh in sub-zero temperatures in 2024 had caught the country’s attention regarding their demand for the right to self-govern the fragile ecology of their native habitat. The high Himalayan plateau in Ladakh is also home to the world’s biggest glaciers; these glaciers are one of the largest freshwater reserves in the world, besides being the only source of water for the local Ladakhis in the cold desert. On 6 March 2024, several indigenous tribes of Ladakh (including old women and men) had gathered under the leadership of an apex body of Leh and Kargil Democratic Alliance to participate in a 21-day fast to save their high-altitude pasturelands (and the glaciers around) from big business and industrial lobbies. The satyagraha by the people of Ladakh, first by holding a month-long climate fast under extreme winter conditions, and, later, by marching on foot to Delhi (the Ladakhi people’s march had reached Delhi on 2 October 2024) has indeed attracted global attention to the cause of indigenous self-governance of “life and climate sustaining” pristine ecologies of the world.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/39/commentary/tribal-self-governance-sustainable-climate-ladakh.html>

6. Geographic Remoteness and Livelihood Vulnerability. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-39. 27th Sep 2025.

Climate change increases the likelihood of disasters, jeopardising human lives and livelihoods (IPCC 2001, 2019, 2022) by extending their negative impacts on communities and socio-economic development (Jakariya et al 2020; Panda and Dhanapal 2014; Panthi et al 2015). Adapting to the vulnerabilities caused by floods and erosion makes it challenging for the inhabitants of char¹ to make a living along the river (Lahiri-Dutt 2014; Haque and Jakariya 2021). The assessment of char residents’ vulnerability to climate change and the identification of critical determinants are the main objectives of the article. While doing so, we considered the possibility that

variations in the geographical configurations of char areas and the varying degrees of vulnerability experienced by char residents are related.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/39/insight/geographic-remoteness-and-livelihood-vulnerability.html>

CULTURE

7. The Demand to Repeal the Bodh Gaya Temple Act, 1949. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-39. 27th Sep 2025.

On 12 February 2025, a group of Indian Buddhist monks, along with their supporters in Bodh Gaya, began an indefinite hunger strike, demanding reforms to the management of the Mahabodhi Temple. Organising under the banner of the Mahabodhi Mahavihara Mukti Andolan, they called for an end to state interference in Buddhist religious affairs and the full transfer of temple management to the Indian Buddhist community. Their protest specifically targets the Bodh Gaya Temple Act, 1949, which they argue upholds Brahminical dominance over the sacred Buddhist site and represents a long-standing injustice in its governance. Akash Lama, leader of the All India Buddhist Forum, has emerged as a prominent voice in the movement, stating:

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/39/commentary/demand-repeal-bodh-gaya-temple-act-1949.html>

ECONOMICS

8. From 25 Years Ago: France Shortens Work-Week: Sharing Scarce Jobs. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-39. 27th Sep 2025.

A recession and the associated unemployment usually stimulates two thought processes: how to relaunch growth to create employment and how to redistribute or share the jobs. Notably, French limitations of working hours have followed economic crises. Leon Blum instituted the 40-hour work-week ceiling in 1936. Francois Mitterrand reduced it to 39 hours in 1982, after the oil shock of the 1970s. However, French economists could not discern any employment increase from this marginal change in limiting the work-week by one hour.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/39/25-years-ago/25-years-ago-france-shortens-work-week-sharing.html>

9. Donald Trump's cure for drug prices is worse than the disease. Economist. 4th Oct 2025. Few things infuriate Americans as much as drug prices. Republicans and Democrats alike agree that poorly patients are being ripped off by greedy pharma firms. They point to the fact that America's list prices for branded drugs are, on average, more than four times those in other rich countries.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/10/02/donald-trumps-cure-for-drug-prices-is-worse-than-the-disease>

10. A Nobel laureate on why stablecoins may be nothing of the sort. Economist. 4th Oct 2025.

STABLECOINS HAVE entered the financial mainstream, thanks in no small part to the GENIUS Act. This American law, passed in July, creates a regulatory framework for these digital tokens, thereby lending them legitimacy, and opens the way for financial institutions to launch their own versions. One of the crypto-ventures backed by President Donald Trump and his family has issued a stablecoin, USD1. The value of the most popular stablecoin, issued by Tether, has leapt by 46% in the past 12 months, to \$174bn.

<https://www.economist.com/by-invitation/2025/09/29/a-nobel-laureate-on-why-stablecoins-may-be-nothing-of-the-sort>

11. Australia's post-China hangover. Economist. 4th Oct 2025.

For years Australia benefited from a booming Chinese economy. Ships full of iron ore and coal streamed out of the country. They not only earned Australia foreign exchange but also held up wages, swelled tax revenues and brought a run of budget surpluses. Yet now those good times are over. China's economy is slowing; commodity prices are falling. Australia looks punch drunk.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/10/02/australias-post-china-hangover>

12. South-East Asia is being swamped with Chinese goods. Economist. 4th Oct 2025.

Grand promises are standard fare for the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). The latest came after a meeting of the bloc's economic ministers last month in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's capital. It was a vow to build a "trade and investment ecosystem that is open, resilient and future-ready". This time, though, the lofty goal was rooted in a sense of real urgency.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/10/02/south-east-asia-is-being-swamped-with-chinese-goods>

13. Xi Jinping wants a spot in your inbox. Economist. 4th Oct 2025.

EVEN AS WESTERN news outlets struggle to gain access to China, a crop of worldly Chinese writers offers what many crave: original insight into the country from bright journalists in the know. The Economist has identified over a dozen writers on Substack who are employed by China's state media. Cumulatively, they have over 50,000 subscribers on the popular American online-blogging platform (which is home to thousands of writers and more than 5m paying readers). Some of its top newsletters contain interpretations of Chinese government decisions, translations of speeches and analysis for an elite audience—namely, Western diplomats, scholars and journalists.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2025/10/02/xi-jinping-wants-a-spot-in-your-inbox>

14. The Gold of county Tyrone shows Britain's barriers to development. Economist. 04 October 2025.

In the walls, floor and ceilings of squelching tunnels deep beneath a hill in County Tyrone lie minerals that may be worth more than \$20bn (£15bn). The hoard is mostly gold and silver but also antimony, bismuth, cobalt, copper and tellurium. Such are the riches that developers claim could be unearthed at Curraghinalt in rural Northern Ireland. Yet the

plan to extract them is so bogged down in government bureaucracy that the mine may never produce an ounce of gold.

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2025/09/30/the-gold-of-county-tyrone-shows-britains-barriers-to-development>

15. How the Trump administration learned to love foreign aid. Economist. 04 October 2025. Nobody expected President Donald Trump to save a country from financial crisis. Yet on October 14th he will meet Javier Milei, Argentina's president and an ideological ally, to discuss the details of a rescue package. America has already promised Argentina a swap line worth \$20bn—an amount representing half the South American country's foreign reserves—in order to address investors' fears about the durability of Mr Milei's currency reforms, which had sent the peso tumbling. Treasury officials are also considering a raid on the Exchange Stabilisation Fund, a stash of dollars that was last used to assist a foreign country in 2002.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/10/02/how-the-trump-administration-learned-to-love-foreign-aid>

16. Credit markets look increasingly dangerous. Economist. 04 October 2025. Mention 2007 to a group of professional investors, and watch them bristle. The year was a bad one. It marked the end of the great moderation—a long period of low inflation and steady economic growth that began in the 1980s—and the start of strains in credit markets which became the global financial crisis.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/10/02/credit-markets-look-increasingly-dangerous>

17. The economics of self-driving taxis. Economist. 04 October 2025. AUTONOMOUS TAXIS are taking over San Francisco. Waymo, which launched only in 2023, may now have over a fifth of the city's ride-share market. Wherever you look, one of the company's white Jaguars whooshes past. Tesla's robotaxis have joined them, though with a supervisor in the driver's seat. Before long Zoox, a firm owned by Amazon, will set its taxis free in the city.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/09/28/the-economics-of-self-driving-taxis>

18. China's stockmarket rally may hurt the economy. Economist. 04 October 2025. SOME CALL it 9/24 for short. On September 24th last year China's officials decided to engineer a rally in the stockmarket. The central bank cut interest rates and bank reserve requirements. It also enabled companies to buy back their shares and institutional investors to leverage their balance-sheets more easily. The markets took the hint. Buy "everything", advised an American hedge-fund manager.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/09/29/chinas-stockmarket-rally-may-hurt-the-economy>

19. The eccentric investment strategy that beats the rest. Economist. 04 October 2025.
One tendency veteran money-managers often share is a high tolerance for cognitive dissonance. This is because without it their job would be a nightmare. Clients know that outsize returns come from taking risks, and want them to do so, but then balk when they lose money. Research is essential for gaining an edge, but a good chunk of even the best analyst's ideas will fail to turn a profit. And of course, the most carefully built portfolio—with each position backed by a solid thesis and weights fine-tuned to the basis point—can be trounced by one that might have been slapped together in five minutes.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/10/01/the-eccentric-investment-strategy-that-beats-the-rest>

20. Don't tax wealth. Economist. 04 October 2025.

France is in a giant fiscal hole. This year the government will run a deficit, where its spending exceeds its revenues, of €160bn (\$190bn, or more than 5% of gdp). Investors in its bonds are nervous; politicians need to close the gap. Left-leaning economists, and a growing number of centrist ones, believe that a wealth tax is part of the answer. Gabriel Zucman of the Paris School of Economics, for instance, has proposed an annual levy of at least 2% on fortunes larger than €100m. Although the arguments of economists today.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/10/02/dont-tax-wealth>

EDUCATION

21. Chris Rufo Floats Calling in 'Troops'. Chronicle of Higher Education. 3rd Oct 2025.

Christopher F. Rufo, a conservative activist, is on what he might call a winning streak. Long before it was fashionable to do so, Rufo, a senior fellow at the right-leaning Manhattan Institute, was leading the charge against diversity, equity, and inclusion programs on college campuses. Now, many universities — by law or by choice — are ditching DEI programs as fast as they can. Beyond that, Rufo has waged numerous online pressure campaigns against college leaders, leading to the resignations or scuttled appointments of those who've extolled the virtues of DEI. His airing of plagiarism allegations against Claudine Gay, the former president of Harvard University, contributed to her leadership downfall in 2024. But what is really behind Rufo's philosophy? What would the "colorblind equality" he prescribes for colleges actually look like in practice? And how far does he think President Trump should go to upend higher education?

<https://www.chronicle.com/podcast/college-matters-from-the-chronicle/chris-rufo-floats-calling-in-troops>

22. Life after the Deal. Chronicle of Higher Education. 3rd Oct 2025.

The new school year at Columbia University was just a couple of hours old when the protests started. At 10 a.m. on the first day of classes, the Columbia chapter of the American Association of University Professors held a rally just outside the university's main gate, on Broadway and West 116th Street in Manhattan. The professors spoke out against "threats to academic freedom" posed by the federal government, and particularly by the deal it had struck with Columbia.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/life-after-the-deal>

23. A Crisis of Academic Leadership?. Chronicle of Higher Education. 3rd Oct 2025.

In a speech earlier this week at Hillsdale College, Secretary of Education Linda McMahon berated colleges for having tens of thousands of administrators and yet few “true leaders.” “The crisis of higher education is first and foremost a crisis of leadership,” as she put it. McMahon ends with a plea: “I hope my talk today will be watched or read critically by higher-education leaders.” With that in mind, we reached out to three college presidents to get their responses. Here’s what they told us.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/a-crisis-of-academic-leadership>

24. ‘Heartbreaking’ and ‘Cruel’: A Texas State Professor on His Firing and Why He’s Suing. Chronicle of Higher Education. 3rd Oct 2025.

The sun was low in the sky over his son’s soccer practice last Wednesday when Thomas Alter’s phone lit up with a message: A group chat of fellow community activists was calling for an emergency meeting in his defense.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/heartbreaking-and-cruel-a-texas-state-professor-on-his-firing-and-why-hes-suing>

25. Partisan Fury Got Him a Presidency. And Then It Took Him Down. Chronicle of Higher Education. 3rd Oct 2025.

With his resignation on Friday as president of Texas A&M University, Mark A. Welsh III signaled that the complicated politics that had defined his short tenure from the start had finally proved impossible to navigate. A retired four-star general who previously served as dean of the university’s Bush School of Government and Public Service, Welsh’s presidency came undone this week after videos of a student complaining about LGBT content in a children’s-literature course went viral on social media. What followed was a swift downfall for Welsh, whose presidency both began and ended in large part thanks to higher education’s polarizing culture wars.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/partisan-fury-got-him-a-presidency-and-then-it-took-him-down>

26. What Trump’s \$100,000 Fee for Skilled-Worker Visas Could Mean for Higher Ed. Chronicle of Higher Education. 3rd Oct 2025.

A Friday proclamation from President Trump has become the latest policy change to scramble colleges’ assumptions about international education and finance. The new rule will require employers to pay the government \$100,000 to sponsor a highly skilled employee from abroad with an H-1B visa. For higher education, this means added challenges — in hiring international talent that has long been a backbone for research universities, and more potential difficulty for students seeking visas for post-graduate employment.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/what-trumps-100-000-fee-for-skilled-worker-visas-could-mean-for-higher-ed>

27. The Path Forward After Political Murder. Chronicle of Higher Education. 3rd Oct 2025.
One week before the assassination of Charlie Kirk, Utah Valley University released a statement affirming its “commitment to free speech, intellectual inquiry, and constructive dialogue.” The statement went on to paint a vision of the intellectual environment the university strives to create: one in which “ideas — popular or controversial — can be exchanged freely, energetically, and civilly.”
- <https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-path-forward-after-political-murder>
28. When Universities Become Informants. Chronicle of Higher Education. 3rd Oct 2025.
On September 4, I received an email from the University of California at Berkeley’s chief legal counsel, David Robinson, informing me that my name has been handed over to the Trump administration in a file containing allegations of antisemitism. A few days later, I discovered that the university had sent a list of
- <https://www.chronicle.com/article/when-universities-become-informants>
29. AI Is Making the College Experience Lonelier. Chronicle of Higher Education. 3rd Oct 2025.
In the coffee shop on our campus, students gather around a blackboard. On the table lies an open copy of Lobachevsky’s Theory of Parallels. Each student holds a different color of chalk and marks a different element in the theorem they’re proving: blue for spherical triangles, orange for parallel lines, green for perpendiculars. Line by line, their multicolored diagram illuminates a stage of the theorem none of them had seen individually. They notice their mistakes, point them out, correct them; joke, laugh, groan in frustration; suddenly find the right line to draw to make everything clear. This is the real work at which our assignments aim: not the presentation of the theorems in class, important though that is, but the behind-the-scenes work students do with their peers. These hours in common study spaces, between classes, are when students absorb and process the material in their own way and time.
- <https://www.chronicle.com/article/ai-is-making-the-college-experience-lonelier>
30. Hiring Advice for Chairs: Do You Have a Roster or a Team?. Chronicle of Higher Education. 3rd Oct 2025.
As chair of a 40-member humanities department, I see faculty hiring as perhaps my most important duty. I’ve been fortunate to hire eight faculty members so far, while having five others turn down retention offers, and depart. What I’ve learned in the process: A department is more than just the sum of its (faculty) parts. To truly improve academic culture requires the chair to build a team, not just a roster.
- <https://www.chronicle.com/article/hiring-advice-for-chairs-do-you-have-a-roster-or-a-team>
31. Relevance of Gandhian Principles in the Contemporary World. University News, Vol.63, No.39, September 29-October 05, 2025.
The relevance of timeless wisdom sometimes gets lost in the fast-paced world. However, the principles for which Mahatma Gandhi stood continue to shine as guideposts of hope and wisdom in the 21st century. With non-violence, truthfulness, simplicity, self-reliance, and compassion at their core, Gandhian principles offer

valuable insights into addressing contemporary global challenges. We need to understand why these principles remain essential and how they can contribute to a more harmonious and sustainable world. The value-based principles stand tall even today. The essence of Gandhian principles needs to be absorbed by the youth for a peaceful world.

32. Open Access Publishing: Merits, Demerits, Present Status, and Future Perspectives. University News, Vol.63, No.38, September 22-28.

Open Access (OA) publishing is a scholarly publishing model in which research outputs such as journal articles, conference papers, books, and data are made freely available online to anyone, without financial, technical, or legal barriers. OA publishing is different from the traditional subscription-based publishing, where research articles are published in journals that require readers (or their institutions/libraries) to pay subscription fees to access the content. Access to subscription-based journals is restricted behind a paywall, i.e., paying subscribers can read the full text, while others may only see abstracts. This often restricts access to knowledge, especially for individuals who cannot afford expensive subscriptions or who are not affiliated with well-resourced institutions. The OA movement arose as a response to growing concerns about the limitations of restricted access to scholarly knowledge. With the rapid advancement of the internet and digital technologies, researchers and advocates began calling for a publishing model that is more inclusive and accessible. A major turning point came in December 2001 with the Budapest Open Access Initiative, which played a crucial role in formally establishing the core principles of OA. The OA makes scholarly articles freely accessible online and generally reusable under Creative Commons licenses. Over the past two decades, OA evolved from a marginal concept into a cornerstone of global international research policy.

33. Incommensurable Yet Illuminating: A Critical Re-examination of Ethical Encounters between Gandhi and Levinas. University News, Vol.63, No.38, September 22-28.

The intellectual proximity and shared ethical concerns of Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948) and Emmanuel Levinas (1906-1995) have opened a fertile ground for comparative philosophical inquiry. Despite their distinct geographical and cultural origins-Gandhi as an Indian spiritual and political leader rooted in Hinduism and activism, Levinas as a Lithuanian-born French phenomenologist steeped in Jewish tradition and Western philosophy-both thinkers offer profound critiques of violence and totalizing systems, advocating for a radical ethics that grounds political action in unwavering responsibility towards the Other. This significant convergence has naturally invited scholarly attention.

34. Greening the Learning: Leveraging Open and Distance Learning to Spread Environmental Education in the Digital Era. University News, Vol.63, No.38, September 22-28.

Open and Distance Learning (ODL) is instrumental in expanding the reach of Environmental Education to learners with varied backgrounds, diverse in age and living in the remotest locations in underserved areas. Despite the geographical, economic, and social restraints in accessing quality education in India, ODL serves as a powerful medium to promote the democratisation of Environmental education. Distance education provides education at the doorstep, where the learners can study at their own pace and time. This is altogether more important in the case of imparting Environmental

Education, where the environmental challenges directly impact the livelihoods, day-to-day activities and health of the people. The farmers, workers, tribals and those lacking formal education are unable to find solutions to the environmental problems in their immediate surroundings. Here, ODL emerges as an ideal learning mode for labourers, farmers, homemakers, the working class and others who have devised their own indigenous and innovative means to address the environmental issue but do not have any formal co training or education in the field. Open and Distance Learning helps them to fill the knowledge gaps and update their knowledge, skills and understanding of the trivial issues of climate change, ecosystem imbalance, pesticide use and marine pollution. The article highlights the importance of Environmental Education imparted through Open and Distance Learning and delves into the practical methods for delivering impactful environmental education. It also showcases the utilisation of digital technologies to spread environmental education among the learners.

35. Enlightenment and Equality in Education. University News, Vol.63, No.38, September 22-28.

It gives me immense pleasure to be here today on the 49th Annual Convocation of Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar. At the outset, I extend my heartiest congratulations and felicitations to all the graduates on reaching the cherished milestone of their lives. Fortunate are you to have an opportunity to graduate from an institution which has been spreading the light of knowledge since 1969. It is a university that has earned for itself a place of pride in the higher education landscape of the country. This university is named after the visionary saint Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, who preached equality and compassion and stands as a beacon of enlightenment in a world often shrouded in darkness.

36. How to create an educational elite. Spectator. October 04, 2025.

University term has started, and even more students are being taught in even larger classes. But to what end? Education was a subject that thinkers like Aristotle who argued that the aim of a state was 'the sharing by households and families in the good life, Le. a complete and self-sufficient life. This being of supreme importance: 'It is evident that there must be one and the same education for everyone, and the superintendence of this should be public and not private... Public matters should be publicly managed. But what was meant by 'the good life? Here Aristotle wavered: "There are no generally accepted assumptions about what the young should learn, either for virtue or the best life, nor is it clear whether education ought to be conducted with more concern for the intellect than for the character of the soul... for things useful in life, or those conducive to virtue or directed at exceptional achievements!

<https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/how-to-create-an-educational-elite/>

37. Learning to speak Latin and Ancient Greek can save civilization. Spectator. October 04, 2025.

Finally, some good news from Oxford. The university has recently been through a gloomy patch. It slipped from the top three in UK rankings for the first time since records began. The Oxford Union president-elect, George Abaraonye, also shamed the institution by gloating over the murder of Charlie Kirk.

<https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/learning-to-speak-latin-and-ancient-greek-can-save-civilisation/>

EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

38. A \$2bn AI unicorn tests London's nerve. Economist. 04 October 2025.

THIS SUMMER Sir Sadiq Khan, London's mayor, opened a new glass-fronted office block in the centre of the capital. Its tenant was Synthesia, a firm that turns written prompts into slick videos with digital avatars. Sir Sadiq joked that his aides would welcome an avatar of him—better dressed and reliably on script. On the subject of Synthesia, however, he was less modest. The firm, he said, was a great “London success story”.

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2025/10/02/a-2bn-ai-unicorn-tests-londons-nerve>

HEALTH

39. THE PRESIDENT PLAYS DOCTOR. Time. October 13, 2025.

In a recent press conference, President Donald Trump repeatedly claimed without new or compelling evidence that acetaminophen use in pregnancy is driving the rise in autism—and then ad-libbed his own guidance on childhood vaccines. It reminded me of the early days of the pandemic, when Trump suggested that injecting disinfectant might treat COVID-19. To me, though, this was far worse.

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/explore/trending/time-magazine-asia/october-13-2025-i672287/the-president-plays-doctor-a12>

40. Why are vegans so philosophically confused? Spectator. October 04, 2025.

The solar panel fitter was eating his fried breakfast when the talkative vegans came into the kitchen. They surveyed his plate of bacon, eggs, sausage and black pudding with a look of disgust before helping themselves to cereal, which they doused in the soya milk they had gone to the supermarket to buy, because I refuse to stock milk alternatives.

<https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/why-are-vegans-so-philosophically-confused/>

41. Nutrition is a bogus creed. Spectator. October 04, 2025.

Time to think about my diet. A test kit arrives from the NHS screening team who want to inspect a stool sample to see if a hostile cluster of cells is growing in my guts. What I eat horrifies everyone – except me. I live on Bran Flakes and Frosties straight from the box, and I enjoy chocolate bars or digestive biscuits coated with redcurrant jam (Lidl, 51p). Each year I spend about £600 on food – mostly processed pap full of fructose and additives. ‘Chemical rubbish,’ my mother called it. I avoid restaurants because I can do better at home. I like boiled rice or noodles smothered with sauces that glow like the core of a nuclear reactor.

<https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/nutrition-is-a-bogus-creed/>

HISTORY

42. The Double Life of History. Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-39. 27th Sep 2025.

It is not surprising that the public and the academic life of history should exist in tension. The proliferation of historical information through the internet and social media has made this tension moot, bringing to the fore questions about the reach and accessibility of historical scholarship. Are public or popular historians more successful in imparting or communicating historical knowledge to a general audience than academic historians who often write for their peers or a historically initiated audience? This article offers a new perspective on the double life of history by focusing on access to archives and the role of archives in historical scholarship. It argues that meaningful debates on the twin lives of history should address what an archive is, access to archives (archival democracy), and the impact of the changing nature of archives on history writing and the historical profession.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/39/commentary/double-life-history.html>

43. Witch Hunts, Autocracy, and the Age of Algorithmic Empires. India Forum. 29th Sep 2025.

As cyber empires tighten control, digital platforms spread unseen violence that colonises the mind. Yet counter-movements are emerging—decentralised tools restoring openness, autonomy, and resistance to censorship. Can people reclaim peace and freedom from the very digital cages that confine them.

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/society/witch-hunts-autocracy-and-age-algorithmic-empires>

44. Reclaiming Arjuna from a Century of Obedience. India Forum. 30th Sep 2025.

Savyam sthirāsthitaḥ! The command cracks through the humid air, not in Hindi or Marathi, but in Sanskrit. Rows of young men snap to attention. This is the daily shakha (training session) of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)—a flag, a field, and a century-old ritual for building a nation one obedient body at a time. The product is the swayamsevak (volunteer), the idealised citizen of the Hindutva project, embodying a specific certainty—the certainty of command, of belonging, and of the enemy.

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/society/reclaiming-arjuna-century-obedience>

45. Lessons of Khadi from a Century Ago. India Forum. 1st Oct 2025.

This year marks the centenaries of two organisations that are polar opposites in ideological terms: the Communist Party of India and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. We may also note the centenary of an organisation that represented a world-view distinctly different from either of them. In September 1925, Mahatma Gandhi founded the All-India Spinners Association, or Akhil Bharat Charkha Sangh, to carry out his agenda for khadi. Gandhi argued that the time had come for “a permanent organisation, unaffected and uncontrolled by politics, political changes or political bodies” (1925c)—that is, one that was independent of the Congress.

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/politics/lessons-khadi-century-ago>

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

46. Vladimir Putin is testing the West—and its unity. Economist. 4th Oct 2025.

DRONES OVER Poland; MiG fighters traversing Estonian airspace; telecom cables damaged deep beneath the Baltic Sea; airports paralysed by cyber-attacks and quadcopters; mysterious explosions and assassinations; bot swarms pumping out propaganda to disrupt elections: none of these on its own is a casus belli, but together they are adding up to something new and dangerous. Vladimir Putin is waging a grey-zone campaign against NATO: a cheap, deniable and calibrated effort to unsettle Europe that is carefully short of outright conflict. “We are not at war,” Germany’s chancellor, Friedrich Merz, said this week. “But we are no longer at peace, either.”

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/10/02/vladimir-putin-is-testing-the-west-and-its-unity>

47. The White House’s plan for Gaza deserves praise. Economist. 4th Oct 2025.

On September 29TH President Donald Trump stood with Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel’s prime minister, and set out a 20-point plan for “eternal peace” in Gaza. It is tempting to be dismissive. Although the hyperbole was exceptional, it is hardly the first peace plan since the war began in 2023. And while the talking continues, the horror in Gaza persists. Yet dismissal would be a mistake. This proposal is a milestone because it sets parameters for a way out of the nightmare and marks a change in the positions of America and Israel, and, just possibly, Hamas.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/10/01/the-white-houses-plan-for-gaza-deserves-praise>

48. Kosovo shows that Donald Trump’s Gaza plan can work, writes Petrit Selimi. Economist. 4th Oct 2025.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP’S plan to end the Gaza war offers something rare: a way forward for the people of both Gaza and Israel. The 20-point proposal will need fleshing out and further negotiations, but it addresses the short-term necessity of stopping the bombings and killings, the return of Israeli hostages and the release of Palestinian prisoners. Crucially, it also provides a medium-term formula for an interim administration that can usher in a new era of peace for both Palestinians and Israel.

<https://www.economist.com/by-invitation/2025/10/02/kosovo-shows-that-donald-trumps-gaza-plan-can-work-writes-petrit-selimi>

49. Why Russia’s micro-aggressions against Europe are proliferating. Economist. 4th Oct 2025.

THE DRONES that appeared late on September 25th over Schleswig-Holstein, Germany’s northernmost state, did not fly the usual erratic routes one might expect from a misguided hobbyist. They flew neat, parallel paths, according to an internal assessment seen by Der Spiegel, a German magazine, as if surveying what was below them. And what was below them was a treasure trove of critical infrastructure. They flew over a power plant and a refinery, a hospital, the state government’s headquarters and an arms factory owned by Thyssenkrupp, a conglomerate.

<https://www.economist.com/briefing/2025/10/02/why-russias-micro-aggressions-against-europe-are-proliferating>

50. Can India strike a deal on Russian oil to appease America?. Economist. 4th Oct 2025.
In recent days, Donald Trump has appeared across India. At mass celebrations for the festival of Durga Puja in the states of Bihar and West Bengal, the American president's effigy has been dressed up as a demon—and has then been slain by a female goddess. This mood of public defiance adds to a growing headache for Narendra Modi, India's prime minister, who needs to repair relations with Mr Trump.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/10/02/can-india-strike-a-deal-on-russian-oil-to-appease-america>

51. Is the U.S. at war with Venezuela? Time. October 13, 2025.

Hours after Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro said the U.S. was trying to provoke a "major war," President Donald Trump ordered a strike on Sept. 15 targeting a second Venezuelan vessel in international waters, alleging that it carried drugs. The strike killed three people.

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/explore/trending/time-magazine-asia/october-13-2025-i672287/is-the-us-at-war-with-venezuela-a8>

52. The Risk Report. Time. October 13, 2025.

In Donald Trump's first term and at the opening of his second, the U.S. President and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi looked to have a special relationship. Similar views on the value of strongman domestic politics and a common aim to check China's global ambitions made them well-aligned partners. Things have changed. Common interests remain the bedrock of relations between the U.S. and Modi's India, but the personal trust that helped build their relationship has now cooled significantly.

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/explore/trending/time-magazine-asia/october-13-2025-i672287/the-risk-report-a13>

53. The deal shielding Mexico and Canada from trade oblivion. Economist. 04 October 2025.

Mexico and Canada were the first countries that Donald Trump threatened with tariffs when he returned to the White House in January. Ten months later, both enjoy an estimated overall tariff rate of less than 10%, according to Capital Economics, a consultancy based in London—well below the global average of 17%. They have been protected by the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), a trade deal negotiated by Mr Trump during his first term to replace the similar, longstanding North American Free Trade Agreement. Most products covered by the USMCA have been excluded from tariffs. Without it, Mr Trump would have had freer rein to indulge his impulses.

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2025/10/02/the-deal-shielding-mexico-and-canada-from-trade-oblivion>

54. Jair Bolsonaro is running out of options. Economist. 04 October 2025.

Jair Bolsonaro is having a terrible few weeks. On September 29th Tarcísio de Freitas, the right-wing governor of São Paulo, announced that he would not run in next year's presidential race, and would instead seek a second term as governor. The right's leading candidate, Mr Freitas had said that if he won, he would pardon Mr Bolsonaro for the crime of plotting a coup, for which the hard-right former president was sentenced to 27 years imprisonment on September 11th. Several centrist governors are now jockeying to take Mr Freitas's place. None seems keen on a pardon.

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2025/10/02/jair-bolsonaro-is-running-out-of-options>

55. Donald Trump reaches for “eternal peace” in Gaza. Economist. 04 October 2025.

Speaking from the White House on September 29th, Donald Trump said it was “potentially one of the great days ever in civilisation”, a day which could lead to “eternal peace”. Even putting aside the braggadocio, a surprisingly substantial milestone towards ending the two-year war in Gaza has been reached. Mr Trump has at last got the prevaricating Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, to commit to a ceasefire plan that has been endorsed by the leaders of many Arab and Muslim countries. It offers a surprisingly nuanced approach to Gaza. The big questions now are whether Hamas will agree to a proposal that requires it to cede power and its weapons, whether Mr Netanyahu will face down his extremist allies, and whether Mr Trump, who would head Gaza's reconstruction board, is really ready to commit to the world's hardest turnaround.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/09/29/donald-trump-reaches-for-eternal-peace-in-gaza>

56. A big majority of Israelis support Donald Trump's Gaza peace plan. Economist. 04 October 2025.

THE PLAN presented on September 29th by Donald Trump to end the war in Gaza was received rapturously by the Israeli people. In the first opinion poll on it, 72% of those asked said they supported Mr Trump's proposal; only 8% opposed it (20% have yet to make up their minds). The deal was also greeted by rises in the Tel Aviv stockmarket and the shekel.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/09/30/a-big-majority-of-israelis-support-donald-trumps-gaza-peace-plan>

57. Violent hatred flares between Kurdish cousins. Economist. 04 October 2025.

Armed drones and tanks in the streets of Sulaymaniyah, the second city of Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish region, were a shocking sight in August in what was once the most stable part of Iraq. The Lalezar Hotel had been turned into a smouldering wreck. It was caught in the midst of a bitter power struggle between two cousins from one of Iraqi Kurdistan's top families. After the smoke had cleared, at least five were dead, Sulaymaniyah had been shaken to the core, and rancour within the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (puk), one of the region's two main parties, was more raw than ever.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/10/02/violent-hatred-flares-between-kurdish-cousins>

58. Africa's most secretive dictatorship faces an existential crisis. Economist. 04 October 2025.

If the past is a foreign country, its name is surely Eritrea. Residents of Asmara, its capital, pootle around in ancient Fiat 500s, wistfully gliding past art-deco cinemas, ornate villas and grand colonnades. These are (or were) the architectural triumphs of long-vanquished Italian colonists, whose peeling walls seem poetical in their decline. Equally anachronistic, if rather less endearing, is Isaias Afwerki, Eritrea's dictator since 1991. Soon to be 80, he still regularly denounces the "misguided policies" of John Foster Dulles, a former American secretary of state, as if Dwight Eisenhower were still president.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/10/02/africas-most-secretive-dictatorship-faces-an-existential-crisis>

59. Moldova defies Russia by re-electing its pro-European government. Economist. 04 October 2025.

THE KREMLIN spent tens of millions of dollars trying to subvert the elections held on September 28th in Moldova, a former Soviet republic of 2.4m people squeezed between Ukraine and Romania. Russia-friendly opposition parties promised cheap Russian gas and stoked fears that NATO would drag the country into a war with the country that long ruled it, or that the European Union would force it to recognise same-sex marriages. But in the end, the fear of being subjugated to Russia and of losing European support won Moldova's ruling Party of Action and Solidarity (PAS), led by President [Maia Sandu](#), a slim majority in parliament.

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2025/09/29/moldova-defies-russia-by-re-electing-its-pro-european-government>

60. The flashing red threat from Russia's dark fleet. Economist. 04 October 2025.

THE GREY-ZONE conflict between the West and Russia is escalating at sea as well as in the air. On September 19th, as Russian MiG-31 jets violated Estonian airspace, your correspondent was with Estonia's navy at its base in Tallinn, the NATO member's capital. Its naval force is on the front lines of a push to confront the world's shadow fleet—ships that conceal themselves or their identities. The number of such vessels has soared from 200 in 2022 to about a thousand today. Some are busting sanctions by smuggling Russian oil. Others are suspected of spying and sabotage across northern Europe.

<https://www.economist.com/international/2025/09/30/the-flashing-red-threat-from-russias-dark-fleet>

61. Can the West survive an age of brinkmanship? Economist. 04 October 2025.

DURING THE cold war, risk management was a life-or-death exercise for political and military leaders. To assist them, front-line troops in Europe and Asia were tasked with monitoring, in real time, how frightened the West should be of its adversaries.

<https://www.economist.com/international/2025/09/30/can-the-west-survive-an-age-of-brinkmanship>

62. Public Law and Social Exclusion of Indigenous People in the Fifth Schedule Areas of India. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-39. 27th Sep 2025.

The development of Scheduled Tribes (STs)/Indigenous People/Adivasis¹ has been one of the key agendas of the Indian state in the post-independence era. The constitutional provisions enshrined for them were to address the issues of protection and safeguarding their interest and identity as well as their development. Development was thought of in terms of overcoming the colonial problem of isolation that was considered to be at the root of their then perceived social backwardness. The Constitution entitled them equality before the law as citizens. Yet, equality before the law did not mean that they were equal in terms of socio-economic conditions and development. To address the problem of their development, special constitutional provisions were established to provide for their representation in Parliament and state legislatures, state employment, and higher education institutions in the form of reservations. In addition to it, other affirmative action programmes for social and economic development, through the Five-Year Plans, were adopted.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/39/special-articles/public-law-and-social-exclusion-indigenous-people.html>

63. The new SCOTUS term will reshape America's constitution. Economist. 4th Oct 2025.

THE PHRASE "checks and balances" does not appear anywhere in the United States constitution; and yet in a manual for Martians on how America governs itself it would be on page one. Those three words are a reminder that the country has an unwritten constitution, which resides in beliefs, behaviour and legal precedents, to go alongside its more celebrated written constitution. They describe how the branches of government compete for power—a contest where, the founding fathers wrote, "Ambition must be made to counteract ambition." The question for the Supreme Court's new term, which starts next week, is: how much ambition do the justices have?

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/10/02/the-new-scotus-term-will-reshape-americas-constitution>

64. Bitcoin and a Chinese fraudster in London. Economist. 4th Oct 2025.

BRITISH POLICE believe their seizure of 61,000 bitcoin from a Chinese citizen is the largest of cryptocurrency anywhere. At current prices, the stash is worth more than \$7bn. On September 29th the 47-year-old woman, Qian Zhimin, pleaded guilty in a court in London to possessing "criminal property". China's state media have called her the ringleader of a massive pyramid scheme that was busted in 2017. She will be sentenced in November.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2025/10/02/bitcoin-and-a-chinese-fraudster-in-london>

65. Jerome Cohen was China's most optimistic critic. Economist. 4th Oct 2025.

JEROME COHEN could not stay quiet. On a visit to China in 1972, his first of many, he was invited to dinner with Zhou Enlai, Mao Zedong's lieutenant, a rare honour for foreigners. Rather than stick to pleasantries, Mr Cohen pressed him on a range of

concerns. He urged Zhou to release his former college classmate, imprisoned for espionage two decades earlier, and to start sending students to America. A legal scholar, Mr Cohen also encouraged China to join the International Court of Justice.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2025/09/29/jerome-cohen-was-chinas-most-optimistic-critic>

66. A Year of Convulsions in New York's Prisons. New Yorker. October 13, 2025.

B. Nicholas runs a news website called The Free Lance from his home in upstate New York, and, near the end of last year, he started obsessively tracking one story: a man confined at a state prison outside of Utica had died in early December after an encounter with correction officers. Reporting on a prison death can be tricky, but, in this case, there was evidence that rarely exists—video footage.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/10/13/a-year-of-convulsions-in-new-yorks-prisons>

LITERATURE

67. Shapeshifter. New Yorker. October 13, 2025.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/10/13/shapeshifter-joy-harjo-poem>

68. Birdsong. New Yorker. October 13, 2025.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/10/13/bird-song-jose-antonio-rodriguez-poem>

69. "After the Hunt" is a pleurably Ludicrous House of Cards. New Yorker. October 13, 2025.

If there is a truth that holds firm beneath the wickedly slippery surfaces of [Luca Guadagnino](#)'s movies, it's that presentation counts. No sartorial decision is made lightly, and no design element is arrived at by accident. The opening titles of his new drama, "After the Hunt," should have you on high alert. They're elegantly rendered in what looks to be Windsor Light Condensed, widely recognizable as Woody Allen's onscreen typeface of choice. A Thad Jones jazz standard on the soundtrack more or less confirms that we're watching a borderline trollish act of homage. Are we about to enter an enclave of attractive, privileged, hopelessly self-involved intellectuals, as in so many Allen movies? Or will Guadagnino's art imitate Allen's life, with a tale of grim allegations, firm denials, and he-said-she-said dialectics?

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/10/13/after-the-hunt-movie-review>

70. Why does Taylor Swift Think She's Cursed? New Yorker. October 13, 2025.

Since Taylor Swift launched the record-breaking [Eras Tour](#), in 2023—a hundred and forty-nine dates, fifty-one cities, more than two billion dollars in ticket sales—she has been freakishly omnipresent in the cultural consciousness: a grinning lodestar in Louboutin

boots. The tour ended last December, but, rather than ceding the spotlight, Swift doubled down on her mega-celebrity, first with a wildly publicized engagement to Travis Kelce, a tight end for the Kansas City Chiefs, and then by releasing “The Life of a Showgirl,” her twelfth studio album, and her second in less than eighteen months. It’s a cocky, temperamental record about power and insecurity. “What could you possibly get for the girl who has everything and nothing all at once?” she sings on “Elizabeth Taylor,” one of the album’s best and heaviest tracks. That paradox is central to Swift’s gestalt. She is equal parts formidable (“I’ll be your father figure / I drink that brown liquor / I can make deals with the devil because my dick’s bigger,” she boasts on “Father Figure”) and bruised. “I have been afflicted by a terminal uniqueness / I’ve been dying just from trying to seem cool,” she sighs on “Eldest Daughter,” a doleful ballad. (“Terminal uniqueness” is a phrase used in A.A. or other recovery programs—a toxic belief in your own exceptionalism.)

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/10/13/why-does-taylor-swift-think-shes-cursed>

71. Coconut Flan. New Yorker. October 13, 2025.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/10/13/coconut-flan-fiction-catherine-lacey>

72. Andrew Yang Goes Off the World. New Yorker. October 13, 2025.

At a Chelsea night club one recent evening, under spinning disco balls and big screens flashing the command “LOG OFF,” [Andrew Yang](#) sheepishly slid his phone from his pocket. The former Presidential candidate was hosting the fifth in a series of “OFFLINE” parties, phoneless gatherings that he has organized for people to connect IRL. But this night’s event was celebrating the launch of Yang’s new phone plan, Noble Mobile, which is designed to reimburse users for their leftover data, and Yang needed to demonstrate. “I guess I shouldn’t bust my phone out and show you,” he said. “But I will.”

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/10/13/andrew-yang-goes-off-the-grid>

73. Before Kimmel, The Smothers Brothers Ate it. New Yorker. October 13, 2025.

An old letter from [President Lyndon Johnson](#) has been making the rounds on social media in the wake of ABC’s nervous-gulp [suspension](#) of “Jimmy Kimmel Live!” and CBS’s more definitive [cancellation](#) of “The Late Show with [Stephen Colbert](#)”—decisions noisily lobbied for by our current President, whose minions contributed some Paulie Walnuts-style arm-twisting. The Johnson letter was addressed to Tom and Dick Smothers, the comedians whose hit CBS variety show, “The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour,” took shots at the President’s stewardship of the [Vietnam War](#) in the late nineteen-sixties. L.B.J. offered magnanimity: “It is part of the price of leadership of this great and free nation to be the target of clever satirists,” he (or a secretary) wrote. “You have given the gift of laughter to our people. May we never grow so somber or self-important that we fail to appreciate the humor in our lives.”

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/10/13/before-kimmel-the-smothers-brothers-ate-it>

MILITARY SCIENCE

74. Europe's biggest military project could collapse. Economist. 04 October 2025.

WILL IT EVER get off the ground? It was never going to be easy for France and Germany, two big countries with wildly differing political and strategic cultures, to collaborate on one of the most complex weapons projects in European history. The Future Combat Air System (fcas)—comprising a “sixth-generation” fighter jet, a swarm of autonomous drones and a communications “combat cloud”—has repeatedly stumbled since its conception in 2017. But now, as a deadline looms to move fcas to its second phase, in which a prototype of the New Generation Fighter (ngf) jet must be built, many fear it may fall apart entirely. “We are not making any progress with this project,” sighed Friedrich Merz, Germany’s chancellor, recently. “Things cannot continue as they are.”

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2025/10/02/europes-biggest-military-project-could-collapse>

75. Armed forces are using 18th-century technology to spy on enemies. Economist. 04 October 2025.

SOLDIERS ON MANOEUVRES do relish a “sinking exercise”: the blowing up of a clapped-out warship as target practice. And during Valiant Shield 2024, a wargame in the Pacific, many witnessed a first-of-its-kind scuppering. A stratospheric balloon carrying what were described as “electromagnetic spectrum sensors” helped guide the American army’s new Precision Strike Missile into a moving vessel.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2025/09/29/armed-forces-are-using-18th-century-technology-to-spy-on-enemies>

POLITICAL SCIENCE & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

76. Demographic Challenges. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-39. 27th Sep 2025.

The Sample Registration System (SRS) Statistical Report 2023, published by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, offers a panoramic view of the most recent demographic trends at both national and state levels. The SRS, which covers a sample of 8.8 million people, is one of the largest demographic surveys in the world and has kept a close watch on population trends for more than half a century. The overall demographic trends are encouraging, with the nation catching up with the developed world in many important parameters. This is especially so since the achievements of some of the leading states wipe away the cobwebs of pessimism as they catch up or even surpass the benchmarks of the developed countries. However, though some of the laggard states are catching up with the achievers, the pace of improvement is still too slow for comfort.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/39/editorials/demographic-challenges.html>

77. Deflecting from a Political Solution in Manipur. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-39. 27th Sep 2025.

Development was the keyword of the Prime Minister's long-awaited visit to the state of Manipur. This almost five-hour-long visit to Manipur on 13 September came after more than 28 months of ethnic conflict between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei people. The Prime Minister made public addresses at Imphal and Churachandpur, where he enumerated the development projects that the union government had undertaken in Manipur and their cost to the state exchequer. He also announced several new development projects that would require investments from the union government of up to ₹8,500 crore. Reference to the ongoing conflict was incidental, as he appealed to the people of Manipur to ensure peace so that development would not be hindered.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/39/editorials/deflecting-political-solution-manipur.html>

78. At the Crossroads: Religion, Identity, and the Remaking of Tamil Nadu Politics. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-39. 27th Sep 2025.

There is an ongoing realignment of Tamil Nadu's politics before the 2026 assembly elections, with a particular emphasis on how religion, identity, and emerging political forces are redefining the state's electoral politics. Through the promotion of regional Hindutva, invocation of symbols like Murugan, and alliances with caste and linguistic groups, the Bharatiya Janata Party seeks to weaken the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's traditional support base. The DMK has reoriented its approach, swiftly organising events such as the "Global Murugan Conference" to shed its "anti-Hindu" image while positioning itself around the national themes of federalism and state autonomy for the elections.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/39/commentary/crossroads.html>

79. Japanese politics heats up. Economist. 4th Oct 2025.

"CHANGE, LDP!" runs the campaign slogan of a leadership race in Japan's ruling party, which concludes on October 4th. The message may sound a little desperate, but that reflects a crisis in the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which has dominated Japan's politics for seven decades. For the first time, it is governing with a minority in both chambers of the country's parliament. Two electoral drubbings forced Ishiba Shigeru, the prime minister, to step down in September, less than a year after he took office.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/10/02/japanese-politics-heats-up>

80. China is the GOAT of engineering. Right?. Economist. 4th Oct 2025.

CHINA'S RULING Communist Party will hold a giant conclave to review the country's next five-year plan from October 20th-23rd. That plan will span the rest of the decade and shape decision-making for far longer. About 370 members of the party's Central Committee will take part. They include ministers, provincial governors, generals, a historian and even a journalist. Of the 200 or so with voting rights, more than 50 have an engineering degree. They will have plenty to mull.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2025/10/02/china-is-the-goat-of-engineering-right>

81. The president's agenda looks safe at the Supreme Court—with a few exceptions. Economist. 4th Oct 2025.

TWENTY-TWO years before he became America's chief justice, John Roberts, then a junior lawyer in Ronald Reagan's White House, quipped that "the constitution is safe for the summer" during the Supreme Court's annual adjournment. No more. What was once a sleepy summer recess, punctuated by the odd execution appeal, is now thick with emergency petitions spurring on-the-fly judgments about core principles of American government.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/10/02/the-presidents-agenda-looks-safe-at-the-supreme-court-with-a-few-exceptions>

82. The president tries to enlist the top brass for "the war from within". Economist. 4th Oct 2025.

AMERICA'S GENERALS and admirals scrambled home from the four corners of the world, summoned at short notice to hear an urgent message from their leaders on September 30th that was both ludicrous and ominous. Absurdly, President Donald Trump complained about "ugly" modern warships designed for stealth, and called for the return of old-school battleships with big guns rather than missiles. Alarming, he said military forces should be deployed at home to help wage "the war from within" against migrants and leftists. He confirmed that the National Guard would soon be sent to Chicago, and he added a chilling note: "We should use some of these dangerous cities as training grounds" for military forces.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/09/30/the-president-tries-to-enlist-the-top-brass-for-the-war-from-within>

83. Donald Trump, Pete Hegseth, and the "War From Within" New Yorker. October 13, 2025. For someone openly campaigning to get a Nobel Peace Prize, Donald Trump has been going about it in an unusual way. Early last month, the President proclaimed in a press conference that the Department of Defense would thereafter be known as the Department of War. At the same briefing, the presumed new Secretary of War, Pete Hegseth, promised that the armed forces will deliver "maximum lethality" that won't be "politically correct." That was a few days after Trump had ordered the torpedoing of a small boat headed out of Venezuela, which he claimed was piloted by "narco-terrorists," killing all eleven people on board, rather than, for instance, having it stopped and inspected. After some military-law experts worried online that this seemed uncomfortably close to a war crime, Vice-President [J. D. Vance](#) posted, "Don't give a shit."

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/10/13/donald-trump-pete-hegseth-and-the-war-from-within>

84. Silencing the Critics. TIME. October 13th Sep 2025.

In his zeal to punish opponents, as in so much else, President Donald Trump has made no secret of being willing to defy norms. He crosses politics with justice—he has been open about having ordered the Sept. 25 federal indictment of former FBI director James Comey, despite reports that some Administration officials found the evidence thin—and has sought to clamp down on speech and protest from his detractors.

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/explore/trending/time-magazine-asia/october-13-2025-i672287/silencing-the-critics-a4>

85. War Games: How Ukraine turned drone combat into a competition. Time. October 13, 2025.

One afternoon this spring, Mykhailo Fedorov, a minister in the wartime government of Ukraine, turned up the volume on his laptop and played a video to illustrate his latest innovation. Its purpose, he explained, was to make the experience of combat feel more like a video game to Ukrainian troops—or as he put it, “to gamify” the war.

<https://time.com/7319847/7319847/>

86. ID cards are labour’s alibi for its failure. Spectator. October 04, 2025.

Questions of identity permeate our politics. What is it to be English, to be British? The Prime Minister sought to reclaim patriotism for the left in his conference speech, but his invocation of football stadium flag-waving and Oasis swagger was a remix of Britpop themes which were tinnily jarring two decades ago and beyond tired today. It was karaoke Cool Britannia.

<https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/id-cards-are-labours-alibi-for-its-failure/>

87. Portrait of the week: Keir vs Nigel, ID Cards and Trump’s Peace Deal. Spectator. October 04, 2025.

Sir Keir Starmer, the Prime Minister, addressed delegates at the Labour party conference in Liverpool who had been issued with little flags of the home nations to wave. He said Nigel Farage, the leader of Reform UK, ‘doesn’t like Britain, doesn’t believe in Britain’. He had earlier put forward the difficult argument that Farage’s party was ‘racist’ in its migrant policy while Reform supporters were not racist but ‘frustrated’. Asked seven times whether there would be VAT rises, he repeated that ‘the manifesto stands’. Rachel Reeves, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, promised to keep ‘taxes, inflation and interest rates as low as possible’. Ofgem raised the energy price cap by 2 per cent.

<https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/portrait-of-the-week-keir-vs-nigel-id-cards-and-trumps-peace-deal/>

88. How not to be spy. Spectator. October 04, 2025.

Like our former ambassador to the United States, Lord Mandelson, I was once vetted by the security services. My brush with the spooks started, as in a Cold War spy novel, with a meeting on a bench in St James’s Park after a distinguished foreign policy wonk of my acquaintance had suggested lunch.

<https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/how-not-to-be-a-spy/>

89. Moldova has been saved from Russian influence, but at what cost? Spectator. October 04, 2025.

The European Union, guardian and champion of democracy, rightly takes a dim view when ruling parties ban their opponents, refuse to open polling stations in areas likely to vote against them, censor opposition news channels and allow a large staff of foreign election monitors to police social media in the run-up. If Serbia, say, or Georgia tried

systematic election rigging of this kind, Brussels would be the first to call foul and disregard the result as illegitimate. But when it's the EU that's running the interference, as in Moldova this week, the rules are apparently quite different.

<https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/moldova-has-been-saved-from-russian-influence-but-at-what-cost/>

90. The unravelling of France's centrist project. Economist. 04 October 2025.

When Emmanuel Macron took to the stage at the United Nations in New York on September 22nd and 23rd he made one landmark speech to declare France's recognition of a Palestinian state, and another in defence of multilateralism. The first earned him warm applause; the second reminded his remaining supporters why they voted for him. "We have no right to cynicism. We have no right to fatigue. We have no right to the spirit of defeat," he declared. Mr Macron remains a vigorous figure in foreign affairs. Yet no amount of energetic diplomacy abroad can mask what is happening at home: the unravelling of his great centrist venture.

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2025/10/02/the-unravelling-of-frances-centrist-project>

91. Sir Keir Starmer declares a battle for the soul of Britain. Economist. 04 October 2025.

BRITAIN'S NEXT general election may have something of a French feel to it. The Labour Party, Sir Keir Starmer told its conference in Liverpool on September 30th, was locked in a "fight for the soul of the country". In the summer, thugs had twisted the Union flag into a symbol of intimidation, he said. Nigel Farage, the leader of Reform UK, a populist right-wing party, has promised to end "indefinite leave to remain" for immigrants with retroactive effect; Sir Keir termed it a racist scheme that would result in people's neighbours being deported. It would take patriots of left and right, even those who did not share Labour's worldview, to rally to the defence of their beautiful, tolerant, diverse country, he said. "In the end, we really are all in it together," the Labour leader declared.

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2025/10/01/sir-keir-starmer-declares-a-battle-for-the-soul-of-britain>

92. Labour has decided to stop punching its own voters. Economist. 04 October 2025.

Holding a Palestine flag above his head, a bald, bearded protester in a suit began shouting at Rachel Reeves, the chancellor, as she spoke at Labour's annual conference in Liverpool. "After two years of genocide, mass starvation of Palestinians", he bellowed, before Ms Reeves cut him off.

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2025/10/01/labour-has-decided-to-stop-punching-its-own-voters>

SCIENCE

93. A new technique can turn a woman's skin cells into eggs. Economist. 04 October 2025.

MANY COUPLES struggle to conceive. Some are helped by IVF (in-vitro fertilisation). But if the woman has no usable eggs to fertilise, they must either give up or use a donor. Researchers have thus worked for years to create eggs for women who lack them. So

far they have succeeded only in mice, but that could be about to change. In a paper just published in Nature Communications, a group of scientists report they have—albeit imperfectly—made fertilisable human eggs from skin cells.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2025/09/30/a-new-technique-can-turn-a-womans-skin-cells-into-eggs>

94. A portent of death may have helped create life. Economist. 04 October 2025.

THEY WERE flickering blue flames hovering in swamps. They were the spirits of those who had died in the murky waters, bent on leading others to the same fate. They were will-o'-the-wisps and they do exist. Yet, spirits they are not. They are actually caused by the sudden ignition of methane bubbling out of swamps. What remains unknown is how ignition occurs.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2025/10/01/a-portent-of-death-may-have-helped-create-life>

95. Are red-light face masks worth the hype? Economist. 04 October 2025.

HOLED UP AT home when no one else is looking, people indulge in their covert, sometimes embarrassing, self-care routines. One of the newest involves donning a mask that would make the greatest movie villains envious. Strap it around the face, switch it on and ominous coloured light starts to emanate from the eye and mouth holes. All in the name of eternal youth and vitality.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2025/09/26/are-red-light-face-masks-worth-the-hype>

SOCIOLOGY

96. From 50 Years Ago-Ethiopia: Passing of the Unholy Trinity. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-39. 27th Sep 2025.

The death of Haile Selassie on August 27 marked the passing of an era unmourned except by a hyper-privileged coterie in Nigeria and Selassie's foreign supporters. For more than eight years from my flat which overlooked capacious Jubilee Palace I his witnessed almost daily Selassie's bent and fragile figure slip into his giant Rolls limousine. In that giant compound were his countless pedigreed dogs and horses, his cheetahs, his aged lion and an equally countless retinue. The question had always been asked: "What will happen when he goes?" That question was, however, settled even before Selassie's death by a series of historical currents that shattered not merely the worm-eaten absolutist institutions scaffolded by the monarchy but also the entire social structure of the empire.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/39/50-years-ago/50-years-ago-ethiopia-passing-unholy-trinity.html>

97. Unleash the robotaxi revolution. Economist. 4th Oct 2025.

In San Francisco and Shenzhen, the future is already here. Between April and June Waymo, an American firm, conducted 2.2m robotaxi trips in California—five times as

many as in the same period in 2024. Over the same three months Baidu, a Chinese tech giant, provided 2.2m trips across 16 mostly Chinese cities—a two-fold increase.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/10/02/unleash-the-robotaxi-revolution>

98. What are the risks of first cousins having children? Spectator. October 04, 2025.

Locals were angered by the closing off of 1,500 acres of Windsor Great Park to create a secure area around Forest Lodge, the new home of the Prince and Princess of Wales. Medieval residents of Berkshire would have been in sympathy, as William I had the entire park closed off to the public under his Forest Laws. Large parts of the park were eventually opened to the public by William IV in the 1830s, though it wasn't good enough for some. In 1972 anti-monarchists set up what they called the People's Free Festival trying to reclaim the park for the public, claiming it had been illegally enclosed by George III. The festival was repeated for the following two years before being broken up by the police. The following year the government offered a nearby airfield for the event instead.

<https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/what-are-the-risks-of-first-cousins-having-children/>

99. Transgenderism proves people will believe anything. Spectator. October 04, 2025.

For years, the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) has wrapped itself in a guise of medical expertise, advising doctors, schools and corporations in America about how best to treat the hundreds of thousands of people who have mysteriously become confused about which sex they are (personally, I'd recommend a quick dart to the loo to pull down their pants). In truth, WPATH is an advocacy organisation whose storm troopers comprise manic men in dresses who hate women but also think they are women. Get your head round that.

<https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/transgenderism-proves-people-will-believe-anything/>

100. Italy's regions are creating a right to die. Economist. 04 October 2025.

ITALY'S REGIONS are fomenting a quiet rebellion on the contentious issue of the right to die. In September Sardinia became the second of them, after Tuscany, to approve a new regional law regulating medically assisted suicide. Umbria is expected to follow soon. The moves come after a ruling in 2019 by Italy's constitutional court that in effect legalised doctor-assisted suicide under certain conditions, but urged parliament to legislate on the issue. The hard-right national government is attempting to reassert control of the issue by introducing a bill, currently being debated in the Senate. A total of 11 people have been helped to commit suicide in Italy since the ruling, and polls suggest Italians generally support reform.

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2025/10/02/italys-regions-are-creating-a-right-to-die>

101. How Europe crushes innovation. Economist. 04 October 2025.

There are two ways for Western companies to sack lots of people. The American one involves the boss inviting hundreds of unsuspecting employees on a Zoom call, offering them a few months' wages as severance and insincerely wishing them luck in their

future endeavours (oh, and to have their desk cleared by lunchtime). The European method is more circuitous. Companies wanting to enact mass lay-offs typically start with consultations with unions, representatives of which sit on companies' boards in Germany. A plan social is drafted. Strikes inevitably ensue. Politicians get involved, and badger the employer into firing fewer people than it had originally planned, or to pay for its soon-to-be-ex staff to be retrained. The full cost of downsizing is only known once labour courts are called to rule on the matter, years later. Meanwhile the company in question often cannot hire more employees lest it be made to hire those who were just let go.

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2025/10/02/how-europe-crushes-innovation>

SPORTS

102. Women's cricket in India is taking off. Economist. 4th Oct 2025.

Eight years ago an Indian cricketer, Harmanpreet Kaur, played one of the best innings of all time. Ms Kaur scored an unbeaten 171 runs in the semi-final of the Cricket World Cup, helping India defeat Australia and reach the final for the second time. An estimated 126m people in India watched the final. Women's cricket was suddenly mainstream.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/10/02/womens-cricket-in-india-is-taking-off>

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
6	Spectator	W	London
7	Time	F	Chicago
8	University News	W	New Delhi