

ARTICLE ALERT 16-30 SEPTEMBER 2025

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ART

1. Robert Redford was a new kind of movie star. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.
"I'M ROY HOBBS—your new right-fielder." Standing in a baseball dugout, wearing a leather jacket over an Oxford shirt and a tie, Hobbs has crow's feet and a lined face. He looks a good decade or two older than the rest of the New York Knights, as the team's manager notices: "Fella, you don't start playing ball at your age. You retire." But when Hobbs changes into his kit, he is transformed. When he takes the field, his swing is fluid; he moves with efficient, feline grace.

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2025/09/16/robert-redford-was-a-new-kind-of-movie-star>

2. People are going pretty mad for "The Summer I Turned Pretty". Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.
ISABEL "BELLY" Conklin (Lola Tung) was in a tricky situation. Should she have married Jeremiah Fisher (Gavin Casalegno), her childhood best friend? Or should she have reunited with his brother, Conrad (Christopher Briney), whom she dated as a teenager? That was the plot of the third and final season of "The Summer I Turned Pretty" ("TSITP", pictured), a hit show on Amazon Prime Video. On September 17th fans found out which, if either, of the Fisher brothers Belly chose.

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2025/09/16/people-are-going-pretty-mad-for-the-summer-i-turned-pretty>

3. Should a controversial Russian soprano sing in London?. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.
Does it matter how good she was? Because Anna Netrebko was very good indeed. At the Royal Opera House in London on September 11th, the Russian-born soprano sang the title role in "Tosca"—Puccini's tale of a diva who becomes entangled with a cruel, faithless tyrant in a time of war. On stage, Ms Netrebko's voice was gloriously rich and delicate. Outside, a protester in a red-spattered robe held up a placard as another played dead at her feet: "While Netrebko sings, Ukraine bleeds."

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2025/09/12/should-a-controversial-russian-soprano-sing-in-london>

4. What naked emperors and Super Bowl ads have in common. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.
It is the ultimate feel-good democratic fable. An emperor buys a new suit of clothes from two conmen, who tell him it is invisible to fools. Not wanting to seem foolish, the emperor and his courtiers all praise its exquisite tailoring. When the emperor parades in the street, the crowds applaud his elegance. Until a little boy points out the obvious: the monarch is naked.

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2025/09/18/what-naked-emperors-and-super-bowl-ads-have-in-common>

5. The Art of the Impersonal Essay. New Yorker. 29th September 2025.

The first essay anybody writes is for school. Same here. But the only examples I remember are the ones I wrote at the end, in my A-level exams. One compared Hitler to Stalin. Another, Martin Luther King, Jr., to Malcolm X. I was proudest of the essay that considered whether the poet John Milton—pace William Blake—was “of the devil’s party without knowing it.” I did well on those standardized tests, but even passing was far from a foregone conclusion. I’d screwed up my mocks, the year before, smoking too much weed and studying rarely. Since then, I’d cleaned up my act—a bit—but was still overwhelmed by the task before me.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/09/29/the-art-of-the-impersonal-essay>

6. Brotherly love and loathing in a New York City thriller. TIME. 29th Sep 2025.

The Black Rabbit is the kind of Manhattan restaurant that invariably gets described as a clubhouse. Nestled in the armpit where the FDR Drive meets the Brooklyn Bridge, the fictional multistory establishment that gives the Netflix thriller Black Rabbit its title boasts a historic location, a killer menu, a celebrity co-owner, and a fashionable clientele. As its proprietor, the charismatic former rock front man Jake Friedken (executive producer Jude Law), explains to the crowd assembled there for a trunk show of high-end jewelry, this is “a place where the night could go anywhere.” Almost immediately, it does. A pair of masked thieves burst in, thrusting guns in people’s faces and demanding the jewels. After this energetic intro, Black Rabbit takes viewers back in time a month to trace the convoluted...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/explore/trending/time-magazine-asia/september-29-2025-i672286/brotherly-love-and-loathing-in-a-new-york-city-thriller-a29>

BIOGRAPHY

7. America calls Jair Bolsonaro’s conviction a “witch hunt”. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

On September 11th Brazil’s Federal Supreme Court (STF, by its Portuguese acronym) convicted the hard-right former president, Jair Bolsonaro, of attempting a coup d’état. The sentence, handed down by Justice Alexandre de Moraes after four out of a panel of five judges had chosen conviction, was more than 27 years’ confinement, mostly in prison. The 70-year-old Mr Bolsonaro was also barred from holding public office until 2060.

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2025/09/14/america-calls-jair-bolsonaros-conviction-a-witch-hunt>

8. Patrick McGovern was the maven of ancient tipples. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

The substance boiling on the hotplate in Patrick McGovern’s lab, as part of his Biomolecular Archaeology Project for Cuisine, Fermented Beverages and Health at the University of Pennsylvania Museum, looked vaguely like coffee. In fact it was a methanol and chloroform solvent mixed with ceramic powder scraped from the bottom of a vessel many thousands of years old. The professor intended to release from the specks any organic compounds that might show precisely what tipple was in the vessel before.

When he found out, he might well set about recreating it. And if it tasted good enough, he might get it into the glasses of modern-day Americans.

<https://www.economist.com/obituary/2025/09/18/patrick-mcgovern-was-the-maven-of-ancient-tipples>

9. A fighter reckons with his turbulent past. TIME. 29th Sep 2025.

The day before *The Smashing Machine* premieres at the Venice Film Festival in early September, Mark Kerr describes his emotional state as “vibrational.” It’s tough to pin down where jet lag ends and nerves begin, but not long before audiences will see Dwayne Johnson act out his life story, the 56-year-old former mixed martial arts fighter is just trying to roll with the absurdity of the moment. Entrusting your story to someone and putting it out there for public consumption is no small thing, even when you’ve lived out much of that story in the public eye. Kerr’s battle with painkiller addiction and a strained, volatile relationship pushed his fighting career, once on the cusp of historic achievement, to its breaking point. And the man Kerr entrusted it to is...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/explore/trending/time-magazine-asia/september-29-2025-i672286/a-fighter-reckons-with-his-turbulent-past-a28>

10. KID OF THE YEAR. TIME. 29th Sep 2025.

The unnamed cybercriminals trying to scam seniors out of their money got more than they bargained for when they targeted Tejasvi Manoj’s grandfather back in February 2024. Tejasvi, then a 16-year-old junior at Lebanon Trail High School in Frisco, Texas, was driving home from Scouting America camp with her father when he suddenly noticed five missed calls on his phone—all from his 85-year-old father. He called back, and the older man reported that he had received an urgent email from another relative, Tejasvi’s uncle, asking for \$2,000 to settle an unexpected debt. Given the apparent emergency, Tejasvi’s grandfather was prepared to transfer the funds—but her father urged him not to and the grandfather, at the suggestion of his wife, then called the uncle to see if the request was legitimate....

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/explore/trending/time-magazine-asia/september-29-2025-i672286/kid-of-the-year-a24>

11. MAN ON THE STREET. TIME. 29th Sep 2025.

It’s not easy to move around New York City as Zohran Mamdani anymore. Like when the 33-year-old Democratic nominee for mayor leaves a union meeting to walk to his Manhattan campaign office, as he did one Monday morning in July. Within a block, a phone-wielding crowd forms and follows. “Oh my God, hello,” someone blurts. People clap. Cars honk. Traffic down Fifth Avenue comes to a standstill as a plumber’s van stops and a guy hops out to shake Mamdani’s hand. There is some heckling. “Antisemitic!” someone shouts. But mostly it is star treatment, in multiple languages and from all generations. All this is new: the adulation, the notoriety, the xenophobic death threats that have prompted an entourage of men with spaghetti earpieces. Before 2025, basically no one knew who...

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

BUSINESS

12. The brutal fight to dominate Chinese carmaking. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

During Germany's big motor show in Munich, which ended on September 14th, the city's historic centre belonged to the country's own champions. In front of the neoclassical opera house, BMW showed off the new iX3, an electric SUV, atop a glittering plinth; at the Residenz, a renaissance palace, Mercedes-Benz built a vast design studio resembling a car grille to display a revamped GLC, another SUV. But at the main exhibition halls in the suburbs, history was forgotten. There, young Chinese car firms outnumbered and outdid the local old guard.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/09/15/the-brutal-fight-to-dominate-chinese-carmaking>

13. If quarterly-earnings rules were scrapped, would anyone notice?. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

Imagine two firms. Maximal Trust & Guarantee Co never reports its earnings. Shareholders trust that the dividends they receive reflect the best use of the firm's profits. Its inner workings are a mystery. Low Trust Society Supermarkets, by contrast, is perfectly transparent. Every shelf, every sale and every meeting is visible in real time. Managers would, of course, rather work at Maximal Trust. Investors would gravitate towards Low Trust: it would be less susceptible to executive fraud and its shares more liquid. But they would also ultimately bear the costs of its obsessive disclosure. The ideal degree of transparency lies between these poles, but where?

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/09/18/if-quarterly-earnings-rules-were-scrapped-would-anyone-notice>

14. How many reports should a manager have?. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

"It depends" is a weaselly phrase but it is often the only response that makes sense. Is Brad Pitt a good actor? It depends on the kind of film. Is it OK to lie? It depends on the context: the intelligence services should probably get a pass. Is it acceptable to clap when the plane lands? It depends if the pilot has ever flown before.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/09/18/how-many-reports-should-a-manager-have>

15. Despite presidential animus, America's solar industry is buzzing. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

THE SPHERE is a glittering example of American innovation and excess. It also uses, at peak times, as much electricity as 21,000 homes. The frontman for the Eagles, a veteran rock band that recently performed in the enormous Las Vegas arena, praised its 1,600 speakers as "better than any stadium". Inside, the light display is mind-bending. Outside, the Strip is treated to huge images lit by 50m LEDs. An energy executive staying at the neighbouring Venetian hotel complained: "I had my blackout curtain shut but that damn glowing eyeball still kept me up all night."

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/09/16/despite-presidential-animus-americas-solar-industry-is-buzzing>

16. Little to Lose: Exit Options and Attitudes towards Automation in Chinese Manufacturing. China Quarterly. No. 262. June 2025.

Recent discussions on the future of work emphasize the negative effects of labour-replacing technology on employment and wages. However, original surveys and field research show that Chinese manufacturing workers currently consider themselves the beneficiaries of technological upgrading. This paper presents quantitative and qualitative evidence from two original surveys of over 2,400 workers and 600 companies in the manufacturing sector, interviews with firm managers and workers from 76 companies, and 34 factory visits in 19 cities in southern China. It finds that insofar as labourers experience automation anxiety, local workers are more likely than internal migrant workers to worry about technological displacement and are more pessimistic about their prospects of securing comparable employment after displacement. Owing to the features and consequences of the household registration system, internal migrants have a larger set of acceptable exit options that are no worse than their status quo, contributing to their lower anxiety about automation compared to locals. These findings suggest that automation susceptibility does not directly translate into automation opposition as previously assumed; institutions can shape technological receptiveness among people who face similar threats of automation by altering their exit options.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/389626982_Little_to_Lose_Exit_Options_and_Attitudes_towards_Automation_in_Chinese_Manufacturing

CLIMATE CHANGE

17. Don't fret over China's new climate targets. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

It is a huge moment for the world's biggest polluter. China's steel mills, factories and coal-fired power stations pump out billions of tonnes of carbon dioxide each year. At the same time, massive spending on clean-energy technologies continues and China's emissions are starting to dip. Next week Li Qiang, the country's prime minister, is expected to announce China's new set of climate pledges at the UN General Assembly in New York. Momentum is building ahead of the COP30 climate talks in Brazil in November.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2025/09/18/dont-fret-over-chinas-new-climate-targets>

ECONOMICS

18. China's 200m gig workers are a warning for the world. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

The biggest workforce in the world has undergone an extraordinary transformation. China's farm labourers and industrial proletariat have been joined by an army of gig workers. Tens of millions now use tech platforms to find jobs for fleeting periods; fully 200m, or 40% of the urban labour force, depend on some kind of flexible work. The fortunes of these precarious workers, many of whom struggle to buy property and gain access to public services and benefits, will shape China's economy and society

for years to come. As technology remakes labour markets, China's gig workers offer lessons for countries everywhere.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/09/18/chinas-200m-gig-workers-are-a-warning-for-the-world>

19. America's monetary policy risks getting too loose. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

THE FEDERAL RESERVE is usually run by technocratic consensus. Today it has become a battleground. On September 17th the Fed cut interest rates for the first time since December, by a quarter of a percentage point, to 4-4.25%. One of its governors, Lisa Cook, could attend only because a court blocked President Donald Trump from sacking her. Another, Stephen Miran, was confirmed just before the meeting for a short stint, after which he says he will return to his job at the White House. It is an unseemly arrangement for a central bank that should be independent of politics. Mr Miran dissented in favour of a half-point rate cut. And he appears to have called for three such moves by the end of the year, twice what the next-most-doveish committee members suggested in their anonymous projections.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/09/17/americas-monetary-policy-risks-getting-too-loose>

20. The China–Pakistan Economic Corridor: Game Changer or Chinese Colonialism?

China Quarterly. No. 262. June 2025.

The China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a key component of China's Belt and Road Initiative, has the potential to transform Pakistan's economy through economic cooperation, large-scale infrastructure projects and other forms of investment. Many observers fear, however, that the CPEC will become the "New East India Company," effectively turning Pakistan into a Chinese client state. Through extensive interviews with key stakeholders in Pakistan as well as documentary research, we weigh the arguments on both sides of this debate. While the CPEC has the potential to become what many fashionably term a "game changer" for Pakistan, economic and social problems will likely prevent the country from fully realizing the CPEC's transformative potential. On the other hand, the CPEC seems likely to expand the China–Pakistan relationship beyond its historical military and security emphasis to bring substantial social and economic benefits to Pakistan, while the complexity of the Pakistan case makes comprehensive "colonization" unlikely.

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/china-quarterly/article/chinapakistan-economic-corridor-game-changer-or-chinese-colonialism/9328C87D8CEF7B0DCF17C05259580F2A>

21. Europe is not pulling its weight in paying for drug development, says Tomas Philipson. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

AFTER IMPOSING tariffs on European drug exports this summer, Donald Trump wrote to the heads of 17 big pharmaceutical firms, demanding that American prices be brought into line with the lower prices paid abroad. He pledged to use "every tool" to stop Americans from paying more than patients elsewhere.

<https://www.economist.com/by-invitation/2025/09/16/europe-is-not-pulling-its-weight-in-paying-for-drug-development-says-tomas-philipson>

22. From a forgotten country to an 11bn barrel petrostate. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.
Elections involving a few hundred thousand voters do not normally attract much attention. But when the former British colony of Guyana went to the polls on September 1st, it mattered: some 450,000 voters decided who will lead one of the world's fastest-growing economies over the next five years.

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2025/09/17/from-a-forgotten-country-to-an-11bn-barrel-petrostate>

23. Patagonia's idea of a global investment. TIME. 29th Sep 2025.
Earlier this year, a titanium mine was slated for construction on the edge of Georgia's Okefenokee Swamp, an unusually diverse ecosystem that is home to some of the country's most pristine wetlands. If built, the mine would likely have unleashed catastrophic pollution in the area. Then in June, the project was called off. In a stunning deal, the company behind the mine announced it had reached a \$60 million agreement to sell the site of the proposed project to a group of conservationists. There would be no titanium mining on the edge of the Okefenokee, after all. It was a hefty price to pay for a tract of backwater marshland, but the conservationists had deep-pocketed backers, including Patagonia, the outdoor-apparel brand founded by rock climber Yvon Chouinard. Two million dollars...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/explore/trending/time-magazine-asia/september-29-2025-i672286/patagonias-idea-of-a-global-investment-a18>

24. Demographic Challenges. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-39. 27 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.

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

25. The Crypto Puzzle. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-39. 27 Sep 2025.
The United States has passed three acts to clarify and strengthen the regulatory framework for cryptocurrencies and digital assets, including one prohibiting the issue of a central bank digital currency by the Federal Reserve. The framework does less to regulate the issue and trading of these digital "assets" and more to give them official recognition. Combined with the direct interest of the Trump family in the crypto business, which is likely to bias policy in favour of coins hitherto seen as mere speculative tokens, this has led to heightened interest in these instruments. The consequence has been a steep rise in the benchmark bitcoin price to new record highs.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/h-t-parekh-finance-column/crypto-puzzle.html>

26. Employer Social Security Benefits and Its Impact on Job Retention. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-39. 27 Sep 2025.

The impact of employer social security benefits on job retention by employees in the Indian labour market is investigated, using the propensity score matching technique. By analysing data from the Longitudinal Ageing Study in India 2017–18, the article assesses how these benefits influence job tenure and job-seeking behaviour. The results reveal that receiving employer benefits is associated with an increase in job tenure by approximately 2.6 years and a reduction in job-seeking likelihood by 2.8%.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/commentary/employer-social-security-benefits-and-its-impact.html>

27. Regulating Coaching Centres. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-39. 27 Sep 2025.

The Guidelines for Regulation of Coaching Center 2024 mark an assertive regulatory intervention into India's proliferating shadow education sector. While ostensibly aligned with the broad vision of the National Education Policy 2020, a critical reading reveals notable tensions and conceptual disjuncture between the guidelines' regulatory orientation and the NEP's transformative aspirations. This article attempts to decode the guidelines by examining their underlying sociopolitical assumptions, mechanisms of implementation, and ramifications for equity, access, and pedagogical transformation.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/37/commentary/regulating-coaching-centres.html>

28. Kulgam's Progressive Path. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-39. 27 Sep 2025.

The progressive governance and social justice efforts in Kulgam district, Jammu and Kashmir, should be seen in the context of historical endeavours to achieve fair land distribution, improve living conditions, and address local concerns. The region's resilience and optimism challenge conventional expectations. The article explores the lefts's contributions in resisting systemic injustice and advocating for marginalised communities.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/37/insight/kulgams-progressive-path.html>

29. Distributional Effects of GST in India. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-39. 27 Sep 2025.

The distributional impact of the goods and services tax is a central concern in public finance. Using data from the National Sample Survey (2022–23) on household consumption, this paper examines GST's progressivity across rural and urban India by fractile classes of monthly per capita expenditure. Four measures—the Progressive Vertical, Kakwani, Reynolds–Smolensky, and Musgrave–Thin indices—show GST to be progressive. In rural areas, the bottom 50% and middle 30% each bear 31% of the burden; the top 20% bear 37%. In urban areas, the shares are 29%, 30%, and 41%. GST modestly reduces post-tax consumption inequality.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/37/special-articles/distributional-effects-gst-india.html>

30. Floating in Space. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-39. 27 Sep 2025.

The transfer of development rights in Mumbai was introduced as a “realistic” approach to achieve public goods and a city without slums. The paper records of TDR generation in Mumbai from 1993 to 2021 and three projects that have produced a very large slum TDR footprint are reviewed. TDR policy has presented the city’s uneven geography as a lucrative opportunity for accumulation and facilitated income-segregated urban development. Mumbai’s TDR policy represents a regime of perverse incentives that has made urban inequality functional for real-estate speculation. Some semantic and legal aspects of development rights and TDR in Mumbai are also discussed.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/special-articles/floating-space.html>

31. The Dalit Movement in Uttar Pradesh and the Party- Politics Dilemma. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-39. 27 Sep 2025.

A study conducted during the 2024 general elections in the Avadh region of Uttar Pradesh reveals the dilemmas faced by two major jatis, Jatav-Chamars and Rawat-Pasis. Despite the diversity in positions adopted by Dalits on party and politics, and in grappling with the predicament of strategy versus tactics, the determination to defend the Constitution has provided a unifying thread among Dalits. This 2024 election marks the return of Dalit politics with a boom, albeit in a different form.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/special-articles/dalit-movement-uttar-pradesh-and-party-politics.html>

32. Reframing the Rythu Bandhu Scheme in Telangana. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-39. 27 Sep 2025.

According to the agricultural census, there has been a significant increase in marginal holdings (defined as holdings of less than 1 hectare) in Telangana. In 1970–71, marginal holdings constituted only 38.45% of the total agricultural holdings. By 2015–16, this rose to 64.56%. Correspondingly, the area operated by marginal farmers expanded from 5.53% in 1970–71 to 23.69% in 2015–16. Small and marginal holders have increasingly dominated the agrarian structure. In 1970–71, they accounted for 57.53% of total holdings, but only operated 14.46% of the agricultural area. This figure has witnessed a significant increase to 88.25% of holdings, with 61.67% of the area operated in 2015–16, thus maintaining their presence in agriculture rather than transitioning to other sectors. Small and marginal farmers (SMFs), including tenant farmers, now account for 92% of the holdings and operate one-third of the agricultural area in the state. This trend is not unique to Telangana; similar patterns have been observed across all states in India.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/special-articles/reframing-rythu-bandhu-scheme-telangana.html>

33. China’s future rests on 200m precarious workers. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

Chu Xin’s search for work has taken him on a journey this summer. First he travelled some 1,500km from his home in China’s deep south-west to Shenzhen, a bustling manufacturing hub across from Hong Kong. Next was a bus another 1,500km north to Kunshan, which churns out electronics, where he twisted tiny screws into phone parts for ten hours a day. That was mind-numbingly dull; by day five he had had enough. So he grabbed his few belongings and headed south—ready for the next stage in his odyssey.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/09/18/chinas-future-rests-on-200m-precarious-workers>

34. America's economy defies gloomy expectations. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

Only America's most confident economic bulls will have remained upbeat this far into 2025. Any flickerings of optimism that survived the tariff chaos of spring and this summer's growth slowdown will have taken another hit in early September, when employment figures came in weak for the second time in a row. America added less than 30,000 jobs on average in June, July and August, the Bureau of Labour Statistics (BLS) announced.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/09/14/americas-economy-defies-gloomy-expectations>

35. Ukraine faces a \$19bn budget black hole. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

Since Russia invaded, Ukraine has each year named a price. After setting the budget, the government publishes the sum by which its revenues are expected to fall short of spending. Then, friendly governments, aided by the IMF, cajole one another into filling the gap. This year they will stump up \$38bn, an amount equivalent to a fifth of Ukraine's GDP.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/09/17/ukraine-faces-a-19bn-budget-black-hole>

EDUCATION

36. A Mother's Many Roads. Chronicle of Higher Education. 19th September 2025.

Bridgette Ellis was driving home from work in August when her steering wheel tightened up. A terrible squeal arose from her gold Ford Focus just before the engine conked out. Ellis, a thoughtful 33-year-old with long black hair and a gentle way of speaking, coasted into a McDonald's parking lot in downtown San Antonio and rolled to a stop. She checked the time. "Oh my gosh," she said to herself. "I gotta get Aubrey!"

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/a-mothers-many-roads>

37. Bridging the Linguistic Gap in Higher Education through Collaboration: A case Study. University News, Vol.63, No.38, September 22-28.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasizes the importance of mother tongue-based education, particularly in foundational learning. NEP 2020 recognizes that language is more than just a communication tool; it is a vehicle for culture, identity, and knowledge. By delivering education in a learner's native language, NEP 2020 aims to deepen understanding, build confidence, and foster a more accessible and inclusive learning environment. The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), a global leader in distance education, has been a key player in implementing this vision. Through a strategic partnership with the government of Odisha, IGNOU is now making its high-quality educational content accessible to a wider audience in the Odia language.

38. Higher Education in Arunachal Pradesh: issues and Challenges. University News, Vol.63, No.38, September 22-28, 2025.

The Indian education system believes in such knowledge that liberates from material bondings. Indian educationists emphasized emotional and spiritual education. They understand that the young minds need proper nourishment, which can be done through a meticulous education system. They stressed the value education imparted to the generation and further had a dream for India that can exist in the world of reality through a transparent and empowered education system.

39. The Impact of Virtual and Augmented Reality on Experiential Learning. University News, Vol.63, No.38, September 22-28, 2025.

Research has consistently highlighted three essential components of experiential learning: reflection, critical analysis, and synthesis applied to problem-solving situations. Recent technological advancements and decreasing costs of devices have led to the adoption of Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR), hosted in fully immersive environments, to facilitate experiential learning. The integration of Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) technologies in education has revolutionized experiential learning by creating immersive, interactive, and engaging environments. These technologies bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application, allowing learners to visualize abstract concepts, conduct virtual experiments, and explore complex scenarios in a safe and controlled setting. This paper explores how VR and AR enhance student engagement, improve knowledge retention, and foster critical 21st-century skills such as problem-solving and collaboration. Furthermore, it examines case studies from secondary and higher education where VR/AR applications have positively impacted learning outcomes. Challenges related to accessibility, cost, and teacher training are also discussed, offering recommendations for effective implementation. The study concludes that VR and AR hold significant promise in transforming traditional pedagogical methods into dynamic, learner-centered approaches. Experiential learning is a process through which knowledge is generated via the transformation of experience.

40. Technological Innvoations for a sustainable Future: Need for concerned efforts. University News, Vol.63, No.38, September 22-28, 2025.

First of all, let me congratulate the toppers with Institute Medals and all the graduating students of 2025. You have reached the culmination of years of rigorous study, countless hours of experimentation, and sleepless nights of coding, designing, analysing, innovating, and aiming high. At IIT Delhi, you have mastered the principles of science and engineering and cultivated values like curiosity, resilience, and the courage that define a global technologist.

41. Campaign Problems: How a student-government election became all out war. Chronicle of Higher Education.19th September 2025.

No one would just let it go. Which is how 37 flyers discovered in a parking lot eventually capsized a student election at Ohio State University.

By the time the flyers appeared, in March, the candidates competing for student-body president had spent weeks engaged in the campus-quad equivalent of lawfare. They'd traded accusations of malfeasance, which members of the Judicial Panel.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/campaign-problems>

42. A Classroom Clash Over Course Content Went Viral. Texas A&M Fired the Instructor and Removed 2 Administrators. Chronicle of Higher Education.19th September 2025.

In the latest volley between a public college and a state legislature, the president of Texas A&M University at College Station fired a faculty member and removed a dean and department head from their administrative roles after an English course that included discussion of gender and sexuality drew fierce criticism from Republican lawmakers.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/a-classroom-clash-over-course-content-went-viral-texas-a-m-fired-the-instructor-and-removed-2-administrators>

43. Why Religious Studies Is in Trouble. Chronicle of Higher Education.19th September 2025.

On Wednesday afternoon, Russell T. McCutcheon had a Zoom call with the chair of a religious-studies department who wanted to get ahead of what has come to seem like an existential crisis in the field. The next day, he had another call planned with a chair whose department was already in its administration's crosshairs.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/why-religious-studies-is-in-trouble>

44. The Gaza Protests Are Still Haunting College Leaders. A Candid Interview With One President Shows How. Chronicle of Higher Education.19th September 2025.

As the beginnings of a pro-Palestinian encampment formed on Northwestern University's Deering Meadow in April 2024, then-President Michael H. Schill faced three choices: let the encampment continue; bring in the campus police to break it up; or negotiate with the student activists.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-gaza-protests-are-still-haunting-college-leaders-a-candid-interview-with-one-president-shows-how>

45. How to Get Through the Year, and Maybe Even Thrive. Chronicle of Higher Education.19th September 2025.

Higher education is in a state of liminality — norms are being disrupted, paths forward are hazy, and disorientation abounds. The present has clearly become the past, but no one is quite sure yet what even the immediate future holds. As a new academic year gets underway, plenty of chairs, deans, and other campus leaders — not to mention faculty members ourselves — are wondering how to shore up our individual and collective well-being. How do you proceed when the obstacles standing in the way to a brighter future for higher education seem too large to move?

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/how-to-get-through-the-year-and-maybe-even-thrive>

46. A College Accreditor Has Faced Years of Political Targeting. Now It's Angling for a Fresh Chapter. Chronicle of Higher Education.19th September 2025.

As dozens of colleges in the South weigh cutting ties with the accreditation organization that's traditionally served the region, its new leader is pushing for an overhaul.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/a-college-accreditor-has-faced-years-of-political-targeting-now-its-angling-for-a-fresh-chapter>

47. Bridging the Linguistic Gap in Higher Education through Collaboration: A Case Study. University News. Vol. 63, No.38, September 22-28, 2025.

EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

48. India could be a different kind of AI superpower. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is taking off in India. The country is now the second-largest market for OpenAI, whose ChatGPT service has 700m active users worldwide. Anthropic, another AI startup, also counts India as its second-largest market by usage. That reflects not just India's huge population but also its appetite for new technology. According to BCG, a consultancy, 92% of Indian office workers regularly use AI tools, compared with 64% in America. In contrast to rich countries, a large majority of Indians believe AI's benefits outweigh its risks.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/09/18/india-could-be-a-different-kind-of-ai-superpower>

49. AI is erupting in India. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

Sam Altman is bullish about India. The co-founder of OpenAI, the firm behind ChatGPT, says the country's adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) has been "unmatched anywhere in the world". India is already OpenAI's second-largest market by number of users and could soon be its biggest. In August OpenAI launched a cheaper version of its chatbot tailored for Indian users. It plans to open an office in New Delhi later this year. Mr Altman is himself due to visit India at the end of this month. According to Bloomberg, a news organisation, he may use the trip to unveil plans to open a mammoth data centre there.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/09/17/ai-is-erupting-in-india>

50. If A.I can Diagnose Patients, what are Doctors For?. New Yorker. 29th September 2025.

In 2017, Matthew Williams, a thirtysomething software engineer with an athletic build and a bald head, went for a long bike ride in the hills of San Francisco. Afterward, at dinner with some friends, he ordered a hamburger, fries, and a milkshake. Midway through the meal, he felt so full that he had to ask someone to drive him home. That night, Williams awoke with a sharp pain in his abdomen that he worried was appendicitis. He went to a nearby emergency clinic, where doctors told him that he was probably constipated. They gave him some laxatives and sent him on his way.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/09/29/if-ai-can-diagnose-patients-what-are-doctors-for>

51. AI is making the college Experience Lonelier. Chronicle of Higher Education. 19th September 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>

52. The Student Brain on AI. Chronicle of Higher Education. 19th September 2025.

What is generative AI doing to us? That's a question on everyone's minds, driven by the fear that the technology is damaging our ability to think. The internet exploded when researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology released a study in June, “

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-student-brain-on-ai>

53. Beyond human control. TIME. 29th Sep 2025.

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

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

54. A new AI model can forecast a person's risk of diseases across their life. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

MUCH OF THE art of medicine involves working out, through detailed questioning and physical examination, which disease a given patient has contracted. Far harder, but no less desirable, would be identifying which diseases a patient might develop in the future. This is what the team behind a new artificial-intelligence (AI) model, details of which were published in Nature on September 17th, claims to do.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2025/09/17/a-new-ai-model-can-forecast-a-persons-risk-of-diseases-across-their-life>

HEALTH

55. The health benefits of sunlight may outweigh the risk of skin cancer. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

SEPTEMBER 22nd marks the autumn equinox and, in the northern hemisphere at least, heralds the gloomy six-month period during which the nights will be longer the days. As

a result, millions of sun-starved northern Europeans will flee to the beaches of the Caribbean or north Africa in search of some winter rays.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2025/09/17/the-health-benefits-of-sunlight-may-outweigh-the-risk-of-skin-cancer>

HISTORY

56. Sri Lanka's mass graves need proper investigation. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

SRI LANKA has a problem with mass graves—and with decades of inaction about them. The country is littered with grisly evidence of its bloody recent past, including a civil war from 1983 to 2009 waged by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, fighting in vain for an independent homeland for the Tamil minority in the north and east of the island.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/09/18/sri-lankas-mass-graves-need-proper-investigation>

57. Zoroastrians in the Great Game. History Today Vol-75, No-10. October 2025.

At the turn of the 20th century members of the small Zoroastrian community of India, known as Parsis, debated the merits of establishing their own colony. The key proponent of this scheme was Khan Bahadur Burjorjee Patel, a wealthy Parsi who lived in the city of Quetta. According to the *Parsi* – 'The English Journal of the Parsis and a High Class Illustrated Monthly' – in 1905, Patel spent several months 'agitating' in the *Rast Goftar* (*The Truth Teller*), a Parsi-run Anglo-Gujarati newspaper, for 'the necessity of establishing a colony' for the community.

<https://www.historytoday.com/archive/feature/zoroastrians-great-game>

58. Slavery after Abolition: Revolt on the Amelia. History Today Vol-75, No-10. October 2025.

On the morning of 20 January 1811, somewhere off the west coast of Africa, the crew aboard the Amelia ordered the ship's captives onto the deck. Much like every other morning, they planned to impose a strict routine of exercise, meals, and then confinement back belowdecks. But that day, things would be different. As the captives clambered from their confines in the hull and into the morning sun, the crew looked on in horror: they were armed with wooden planks. By nightfall, the ship was under new captaincy and heading back to Africa.

<https://www.historytoday.com/archive/feature/slavery-after-abolition-revolt-amelia>

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

59. How Israel is losing America. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

ON SEPTEMBER 14TH, after showing Marco Rubio, America's secretary of state, the massive, 2,000-year-old blocks of the Western Wall at Jerusalem's holiest site,

Binyamin Netanyahu declared the alliance between their countries to be “as strong and as durable as the stones...we just touched”. Unfortunately, he is wrong.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/09/18/how-israel-is-losing-america>

60. America is falling out of love with Israel. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

“If America was being bombed day and night because of something horrific our government did, and many innocent Americans and American children were being killed and traumatically injured, and we begged for mercy, but the rest of the world said, ‘Americans voted for their government so they deserve it’...And our cities and homes were bombed and turned to rubble. And our infrastructure was destroyed, no farms, no grocery stores, no more organised society. And no one helped our injured and hungry children. How would you feel?”

<https://www.economist.com/briefing/2025/09/18/america-is-falling-out-of-love-with-israel>

61. Israelis do not like to think about estrangement from America. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

THE ISRAELI grandees who have made quick jaunts to Washington this month to check in with the great and the good have not had the reception they were hoping for. “We heard from usually pro-Israel Congress members and senators in the Democratic Party that from now on conditional aid to Israel would be the party’s default position,” said a senior Israeli politician. “But what was even more surprising was the criticism we were getting from the Republicans we met. They are also under pressure from their constituents when it comes to Israel.”

<https://www.economist.com/briefing/2025/09/18/israelis-do-not-like-to-think-about-estrangement-from-america>

62. Our new “wolf warrior” index on Chinese diplomacy. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

CHINA’S DIPLOMATS could hardly be more busy. More than 20 global leaders have descended on Beijing in recent weeks amid pomp and ceremony. An even greater show may be needed should President Donald Trump visit China next month. Talks between top Chinese and American officials in Spain in recent days suggest the idea is not an impossibility. Knowing exactly what to say, and in what tone, is critical amid all this excitement. Our new index shows that one diplomatic style, once favoured by Chinese bigwigs, will almost certainly be avoided: the “wolf warrior” posturing so prevalent in recent years.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2025/09/18/our-new-wolf-warrior-index-on-chinese-diplomacy>

63. Israel goes to the brink in Gaza city. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

ON THE NIGHT of September 15th the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) launched its long-expected attack on Gaza city. “Israel is at a decisive moment,” said Binyamin Netanyahu, its prime minister, the next day. Under the cover of air strikes and artillery fire, two divisions moved towards the city’s central neighbourhoods. Two more are being held in reserve. For now, most of the IDF’s troops remain on the city’s outskirts. They

have surrounded it on three sides, leaving open only the western exits, to the Mediterranean coastal road, for civilians fleeing south.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/09/16/israel-goes-to-the-brink-in-gaza-city>

64. Arab states respond to Israel's Doha strikes with angry bombast. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

DIPLOMACY REQUIRES a selective memory. On September 15th leaders of Arab and Muslim countries gathered in Doha to condemn Israel's recent attack on the Qatari capital. One of the attendees was Masoud Pezeshkian, the Iranian president. "Israel strikes wherever it wants and does whatever it wants," he said. Never mind that, three months earlier, Iran launched its own barrage of ballistic missiles at Qatar: violations of sovereignty are only bad when someone else commits them.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/09/15/arab-states-respond-to-israels-doha-strikes-with-angry-bombast>

65. REBOOTING SOUTH KOREA. TIME. 29th Sep 2025.

It was not how Lee Jae-Myung envisioned his first day on the job. Following his election as South Korea's President on June 3, Lee's staff arrived at their new offices in central Seoul the next morning to find rooms strewn with trash and desks equipped with monitors but bereft of computers, which had all been piled in a corner. It was a struggle to get doors unlocked and find even basic stationery. "It was a very busy and chaotic period," Lee, 61, tells TIME in his only Western media interview since taking office. "I thought that we had done much preparation in advance, but it was not sufficient." Behind the chaos was his disgraced predecessor, Yoon Suk-yeol, whose December declaration of martial law plunged the East Asian nation of 50...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/explore/trending/time-magazine-asia/september-29-2025-i672286/rebooting-south-korea-a19>

66. Crisis in the Shadows. TIME. 29th Sep 2025.

Invisible anguish is especially wretched. That has been Sudan's lot during two years of brutal civil war—slaughter that has claimed some 150,000 lives and forced almost a quarter of its population of 50 million to flee their homes. Yet this forgotten war has received scant attention from an international community preoccupied with carnage in Ukraine and Gaza, and rising tensions in East Asia. That Sudan's plight remains largely hidden is what struck Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Moises Saman when he spent almost two weeks in Darfur, and Sudanese refugee camps in neighboring Chad, in July and August. A veteran of covering conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, Egypt, Libya, and Syria, Saman hitched rides on U.N. planes and trudged along mud tracks to reach this arcane frontier at Africa's beating heart. By embedding...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/explore/trending/time-magazine-asia/september-29-2025-i672286/crisis-in-the-shadows-a21>

67. The Risk Report. TIME. 29th Sep 2025.

Just three months ago, Israel and Iran fought a 12-day war that shook the Middle East. Missiles and drones flew in both directions, but with a major assist from the U.S., Israel

established dominance of Iran's airspace, repeatedly struck nuclear and military targets across Iran, and killed 30 security commanders and 19 of Iran's nuclear scientists. Iran's retaliation accomplished little that might deter Israel in the future. A return to war is unlikely. Though Iran likely retains a stockpile of enriched uranium and the means to rebuild enrichment capability, the Israeli-American bombing campaign ensured it is now several years away from being able to produce a nuclear weapon. Israel has also essentially normalized direct strikes inside Iran's borders and demonstrated its ability to inflict significant damage to the regime. Israel...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/explore/trending/time-magazine-asia/september-29-2025-i672286/the-risk-report-a14>

68. The UN's grim future. Economist. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

THE UNITED NATIONS has known many crises since its founding in 1945, from the mysterious death in Congo of its secretary-general, Dag Hammarskjöld, in 1961, to Nikita Khrushchev's alleged shoe-banging in the cold war, the massacres of civilians under its protection in the 1990s, and America's invasion of Iraq in 2003. As leaders prepare to gather in New York next week for the UN's 80th birthday, veterans say none of those disasters feels as calamitous as this one. With President Donald Trump's return to the White House, there are many traumatic scenarios for the UN, but three stand out: going rogue, decay and turning Trumpian.

<https://www.economist.com/international/2025/09/18/the-uns-grim-future>

69. Cold war deterrence doesn't work any more. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

WHEN Russia flew nearly two dozen drones into Polish airspace on the night of September 9th-10th, the NATO alliance proved good at shooting bad things down. Forces from Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Poland jointly deployed fighter jets, helicopters, missile batteries and an advanced surveillance plane. Several lumbering, unmanned intruders were destroyed, with no casualties. It was one of the gravest incursions into NATO territory in the history of the alliance, and Europeans can be relieved that their defences worked. They should worry more, though, that Russia dared to test them in the first place.

<https://www.economist.com/international/2025/09/16/cold-war-deterrence-doesnt-work-any-more>

70. The education of Steve Witkoff. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

At the end of January 2025 Steve Witkoff, a 67-year-old property tycoon recently appointed as Donald Trump's envoy to the Middle East, flew to Tel Aviv on his Gulfstream jet to bask in a remarkable diplomatic achievement: a ceasefire and prisoner exchange between Israel and Hamas. Negotiations were already at an advanced stage under the Biden administration. But Witkoff produced a deal that his predecessors had been unable to close: the first pause in the Gaza war in more than a year. As a result, dozens of Israeli hostages seized in the attacks of October 7th 2023 would be coming home after more than 470 days in captivity.

<https://www.economist.com/1843/2025/09/18/the-education-of-steve-witkoff>

71. In Washington, the obvious thing is probably true. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

Three weeks after deploying the National Guard and federal agents to Washington, DC, the president took to social media to triumphantly declare the capital a “CRIME FREE ZONE”. To promote his crackdown, he made a show of dining publicly at an upscale seafood restaurant a block away from the White House, and urged Washingtonians to frolic in the newfound safety of their city. “We’re standing right in the middle of DC, which over the last year was a very unsafe place”, he remarked. “Now it’s got virtually no crime.”

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/09/18/in-washington-the-obvious-thing-is-probably-true>

72. The Harvard Lawsuit You Haven’t Heard Of. Chronicle of Higher Education. 19th September 2025.

Last Wednesday, a federal court issued a ruling confirming what has long been clear: The Trump administration’s attacks on Harvard University flagrantly violate the Constitution and the laws of the United States, and they cannot legally continue. The historic ruling by U.S. District Court Judge Allison D. Burroughs sends a powerful message to everyone concerned about the many attacks on our democracy coming from this White House: It is well worth standing up to such wanton abuses of federal power.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-harvard-lawsuit-you-havent-heard-of>

73. The Rise of the Chinese Judiciary and its Limits: Administrative Litigation in the Reform Period. China Quarterly. No. 262. June 2025.

This article analyses the performance of the Chinese judiciary in administrative litigation during the recent period of reform using a dataset of over 1.6 million judicial documents. Contrary to conventional wisdom, we find compelling evidence that the judiciary has become increasingly significant in checking the power of the government. Courts accepted 79 per cent more cases from 2014 to 2020, and plaintiffs’ win rate against the government rose from 33.2 per cent to 42.2 per cent. This increase is even more pronounced in cases with a strong impact on local government, such as those reviewing land expropriations and police penalties. Judicial authority has improved, with chief government officials attending more than 50 per cent of trials as defendants. Our findings illustrate a judiciary that is on the rise, but there are fundamental limits to its ascent. Courts remain silent on citizens’ political rights. Judges are reluctant to conduct substantive reviews of government actions beyond procedural matters. These findings support a tripartite theory for understanding the rule of law in China, where the law and the judiciary are instrumental in routine and even hard cases, but their power rapidly wanes in the face of politics.

<https://resolve.cambridge.org/core/journals/china-quarterly/article/rise-of-the-chinese-judiciary-and-its-limits-administrative-litigation-in-the-reform-period/02B80E54B4558C857B40CF3BA2E83CDE>

LITERATURE

74. The best recent novels to read this autumn. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

At the end of 2024 a survey by YouGov found that one of Americans' top resolutions for the coming year was to read more. By this point, however, most will have given up on that aspiration, along with their dreams of perfectly toned muscles or a completed list of DIY projects. But all is not lost as the end of the year draws closer. We have rounded up eight of our favourite novels published in recent months. Among our choices are a number of slim volumes: perfect for any determinedly bookish folk who still have an end-of-year reading target to hit.

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2025/09/15/the-best-recent-novels-to-read-this-autumn>

75. Black Walnuts. New Yorker. 29th September 2025.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/09/29/black-walnuts-seamus-heaney-poem>

76. The Exacting Magic of Film Restoration. New Yorker. 29th September 2025.

One of the blessings of Bologna, in northern Italy, is that it knows how to ride a heat wave. The city, which is the capital of the Emilia-Romagna region, is rich in porticoes—elegant arcaded structures that line the streets and allow the panting pedestrian, at any point, to flee the sunlight's blaze and seek shade. In all, according to Unesco, Bologna boasts more than thirty-eight miles of porticoes, and they promote a pleasing illusion that you are simultaneously inside and outside. A tip for anyone designing a metropolis from scratch: start with a portico, and take it from there.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/09/29/the-exacting-magic-of-film-restoration>

77. Mahmoud Khalil, Back Home. New Yorker. 29th September 2025.

Maqluba, in Arabic, means “upside down.” It's also the name of a pilaf dish popular in the Levant: a pot of rice, vegetables, meat, and potatoes, coagulated and flipped into a stout cylinder. Mahmoud Khalil, the Palestinian activist and recent Columbia graduate whom the Trump Administration has spent months trying to deport, makes it using his mother's recipe. “Hers just tastes, I don't know . . . better?” Khalil said the other day. “Every time I cook it, it tastes a little different.”

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/09/29/mahmoud-khalil-back-home>

MILITARY SCIENCE

78. The president is putting America's armed forces in a bind. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

THE TECHNICAL term for it is a military-presence patrol. The non-technical term is a political stunt. Since August, National Guard troops have been ambling around

landmarks in Washington, DC, including the Mall and the main train station. Donald Trump ostensibly sent them to fight crime. In reality they are not making arrests and these are some of the safer parts of America's capital. So they are collecting rubbish and spreading mulch in city parks. Tourists ask them for selfies; some locals tell them to get lost. Soon Mr Trump will deploy more troops in Memphis and possibly New Orleans.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/09/16/the-president-is-putting-americas-armed-forces-in-a-bind>

POLITICAL SCIENCE & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

79. What Elon Musk gets wrong about Europe's hard right. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

"You either fight back or you die," Elon Musk told a big crowd in London on September 13th at a rally organised by Tommy Robinson, a convicted criminal who preaches anti-Muslim bigotry. Mr Musk has cultivated ties with insurgent hard-right parties across Europe. The continent is being overrun by Muslims, he claims, and faces demographic disaster and oppression by corrupt elites. It can be saved only by disruptive, MAGA-like parties that represent the true voice of citizens (take it as read: white, Christian ones).

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/09/17/what-elon-musk-gets-wrong-about-europes-hard-right>

80. Meet Thailand's karaoke-crooning prime minister. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

How long will Thailand's latest prime minister manage to hang around? Anutin Charnvirakul's two predecessors lasted just a year each. He himself has promised to call an election within four months. Yet there are reasons to think that Mr Anutin, a construction tycoon who took office this month, might succeed in keeping his job rather longer than that.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/09/18/meet-thailands-karaoke-crooning-prime-minister>

81. Is the far left to blame for more political killings in America?. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

SINCE THE assassination on September 10th of Charlie Kirk, a right-wing activist, President Donald Trump has said that "most of the violence is on the left". Pam Bondi, the attorney-general, posted on X that "we've watched the radical left normalise threats, call for assassinations, and cheer on political violence". And J.D. Vance, the vice-president, claimed, while hosting Kirk's podcast in his stead, that supporting violence "is not a 'both-sides' problem", but rather one where the left has a "much bigger and malignant problem".

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/09/18/is-the-far-left-to-blame-for-more-political-killings-in-america>

82. Donald Trump targets progressive non-profits after Charlie Kirk's killing. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

Charlie Kirk's alleged killer may have been a left-winger. He appears to have acted alone. After the assassination of the MAGA activist, some on the left celebrated and suggested Kirk had it coming. This was callous and loony. Not to be outdone, MAGA-world has announced a campaign to take down a supposed leftist plot responsible for the murder.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/09/17/donald-trump-targets-progressive-non-profits-after-charlie-kirks-killing>

83. What this year's Ryder Cup says about America's duffers. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025. MANY OF THE world's best golfers will tee off on September 26th in suburban New York to compete for the Ryder Cup, a team event pitting Europe against America where the prize is not money but continental bragging rights and a shot at individual glory (or embarrassing failure) under intense pressure. The biennial competition has become a huge attraction, drawing raucous crowds unburdened by the sport's expectations of decorum.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/09/18/what-this-years-ryder-cup-says-about-americas-duffers>

84. The Donald Trump guide to DEI on campus. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

The agreement that the Trump administration struck with Columbia University in July makes one thing very clear: the university will henceforth treat everyone on its campus the same, regardless of characteristics such as race that the law recognises as potentially singling people out for discrimination. One provision declares that Columbia "will not provide benefits or advantages to individuals on the basis of protected characteristics in any school, component, division, department, foundation, association or element within the entire Columbia University system".

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/09/18/the-donald-trump-guide-to-dei-on-campus>

85. Colombia is using "coral IVF". Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

Colombian Waters are already the site of one coral success. In November 2020 a hurricane barrelled into a scatter of coral-ringed islands in the western Caribbean. Hurricane Iota devastated Providencia, a Colombian island, and destroyed most of its barrier reef. With government funds worth some \$3m, scientists and locals got to work restoring the storm-smashed corals. By 2023, 200 hectares of reef, an area equivalent to 280 football pitches, had been rebuilt along Colombia's coasts. "One million corals for Colombia" is one of the largest reef-restoration projects in the world to date.

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2025/09/18/colombia-is-using-coral-ivf>

86. The right to live. TIME. 29th Sep 2025.

I mourn for Charlie Kirk's family. I didn't agree with almost anything he said, but he had a right to speak. Just as he had a right to go on a work trip and return safely to his wife and two young children at home in the state we share, Arizona. Just as Melissa Hortman, former speaker of the Minnesota state legislature, deserved to be safe at home with

her husband and her dog. Instead they were all three shot dead together one night in June. Just as President Donald Trump had the right to campaign without fear of being assassinated, as two different people tried to do last summer. Just as I had the right to meet with my constituents safely on Jan. 6, 2011—the day when instead I,...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/explore/trending/time-magazine-asia/september-29-2025-i672286/the-right-to-live-a3>

87. Seeing Enemies Everywhere. New Yorker.29th September 2025.

Following the tragic death of the conservative activist Charlie Kirk, the line between eulogy and blame wore swiftly and predictably thin. By Monday afternoon, five days after Kirk's murder, it was threadbare. If the encouragement of political dissent is a part of Kirk's legacy, as his supporters have insisted, the actual practice of it isn't tolerated much at the moment. His podcast continued, on schedule, with a series of guest hosts. One was Vice-President J. D. Vance, who declared that national unity wasn't possible while people were "celebrating" Kirk's death. The available evidence suggests that Kirk's alleged killer, a twenty-two-year-old man from Utah without any clear political affiliation, acted alone. But Vance already had a unified theory of the case, and he brought on Stephen Miller, the White House's most fervent ideologue, to help him lay it out. The killing, in their telling, was the direct result of a coordinated and well-financed network of leftist organizations that "foments, facilitates, and engages in violence." Vance and Miller spoke as if this were a truism. It is now apparently up to members of the Trump Administration to decide who, in criticizing Kirk's lifework, might somehow be condoning his death.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/09/29/seeing-enemies-everywhere>

88. Trump's New Attack on Admissions Will Fail. Chronicle of Higher Education.19th September 2025.

The war over affirmative action in college admissions has entered a new phase. For decades, conservatives have campaigned against racial preferences while saying they favor race-neutral strategies for achieving racial diversity, such as giving a boost to economically disadvantaged students of all races. Now, however, the Trump administration is moving the goal posts. Their new stance is that class-based affirmative action is also illegal if it is aimed at promoting racial integration.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/trumps-new-attack-on-admissions-will-fail>

89. Deflecting from a Political Solution in Manipur. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-39. 27 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>

90. Latino Leaders. TIME. 29th Sep 2025.

Daniel Lubetzky Investing in change Daniel Lubetzky, the Mexican American businessman who turned Kind snack bars into a global powerhouse, started his first company right out of law school: a joint venture between Israelis, Palestinians, Jordanians, Egyptians, and Turks to produce and distribute a line of spreadable pastes. “Trade among peoples breaks stereo-types,” says Lubetzky, 57, who is now perhaps best known for being one of the Sharks on ABC’s Shark Tank. “It cements relations between people.” While the business did not survive, and did not lead to lasting peace in the region, Lubetzky has not given up on the benefits of bringing people together. These days he devotes more of his time and resources—he’s worth a reported \$2.3 billion—to an effort called Builders, focusing on media, education, and civic...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/explore/trending/time-magazine-asia/september-29-2025-i672286/latino-leaders-a23>

91. Gen-Z and Nepal’s Ongoing Struggle for Change. India Forum. 22nd Sep 2025.

A frequent remark in Nepal today is that it took the alliance of the Nepali Congress and the Communist Party of Nepal–Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML) nearly three decades to bring about the 1990 revolution. It took the Maoists under Prachanda a decade to achieve the revolution of 2006 (or nearly two decades, if you count the 2015 federal and republican constitution as their greatest accomplishment). In contrast, in 2025, it took the young people of Gen-Z just two days to bring about a huge political earthquake in Nepal.

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/politics/gen-z-and-nepals-ongoing-struggle-change>

92. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana: Real Welfare or Tokenism?. India Forum. 19th Sep 2025.

The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), a welfare scheme launched on 28 August 2014 as the biggest financial inclusion initiative in the world, created a Guinness Book of World Records record for the most bank accounts opened in a week—between 23 and 29 August 2014. Implemented on a mission mode with the existing financial infrastructure, a glance at its website reveals impressive numbers—around 560 million beneficiaries with a total balance of Rs. 2,640 million in their accounts at the end of 11 years. Indeed, worth applauding, but does it complete the story of financial inclusion?

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/public-policy/pradhan-mantri-jan-dhan-yojana-real-welfare-or-tokenism>

93. When Injustice Prevails. India Forum. 25th Sep 2025.

Justice is a multidimensional notion that roughly refers to the principle that individuals should be treated fairly and evenly in society. While there is no single, widely agreed-upon definition, the notion typically focuses on the concepts of fairness, equality, morality, and individual rights.

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/law/when-injustice-prevails>

94. Anti-corruption Efforts, Corruption Perception and Public Evaluation of Local Governments in China. *China Quarterly*. No. 262. June 2025.

China has taken significant steps to combat corruption since the 18th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). However, whether and how the anti-corruption efforts influence the public's evaluation of local government performance remain understudied. Using multiple data sources, including panel survey data taken from the China Family Panel Studies from 2010 to 2018, this research examines how anti-corruption efforts improve evaluations of local government performance by reducing public perception of existing corruption. Additional analysis reveals that anti-corruption efforts reduce perceived corruption primarily when the public trusts officials or has had positive experiences with them. The positive impact on local government evaluations has been more pronounced in provinces with high levels of pre-existing corruption and since the 18th CCP National Congress in 2012. Moreover, the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts has remained consistent across all time periods since 2012.

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/china-quarterly/article/anticorruption-efforts-corruption-perception-and-public-evaluation-of-local-governments-in-china/F8DC6411B2CB5C9F9EF68E1644F3C21A>

95. America the Failure? Critical Narratives of the United States in Chinese State Media. *China Quarterly*. No. 262. June 2025.

As relations between the United States and China have grown tenser, how has the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) portrayal of the United States changed? And what might portrayals of the United States tell us about domestic messaging in China? This study systematically investigates CCP messaging about the United States in the contemporary era. To do this, we hand code, categorize and analyse 1,761 editorials about the United States published between 2003 and 2022 in *People's Daily*, the Party's flagship newspaper. In addition to showing a sustained rise in critical portrayals since 2018, we identify and elaborate three distinct critical narratives about the United States: it is a dangerous hegemon abroad, it has poor values at home, and it is increasingly weak and in decline. These narratives appear both independently and in combination and are often framed to contrast with portrayals of China. We argue that these narratives are not just negative propaganda to discredit the United States but can also be a strategy to promote a positive vision of the CCP's virtues and governance at home. This study contributes empirically and theoretically to research on propaganda and legitimization in China.

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/china-quarterly/article/abs/america-the-failure-critical-narratives-of-the-united-states-in-chinese-state-media/1EF1EB0E38FA96A83667F7AB4E756CB6>

96. Celebrity Public Relations in China: Power, Politics and POP Propaganda. *China Quarterly*. No. 262. June 2025.

The article uses the scandal surrounding Jackson Yee, a state-endorsed celebrity and household name in China, as a case study to critically examine how the “government–industry–fan–platform” alliance co-conducts what we call “collaborative celebrity PR” to rescue co-opted stars from scandal. We find that the relationship between the four agents is symbiotic but that the government plays the most important “arbitrator” role.

We argue that the state-endorsed celebrities face an inherent dilemma of “power(lessness)” in which they have to dedicate more effort towards propaganda and behave in a moral and exemplary way to please the government to gain more political capital and power and minimize their own precarity. We also highlight the uncertainty and risks using celebrities in its pop propaganda can bring to the CCP: if a state-endorsed celebrity cannot be saved, the scandal can damage the legitimacy and reliability of the Party propaganda.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/388473688_Celebrity_Public_Relations_in_China_Power_Politics_and_Pop_Propaganda

SCIENCE

97. What nicotine does to your brain. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

BY SOME reckonings, nicotine is as addictive as cocaine. It has led legions to a slow death by cigarette. Increasingly, however, people consume nicotine on its own. Nicotine vapes and oral pouches have soared in popularity; the global vaping market is expected to grow to \$47.5bn in 2028, up from \$22.5bn in 2022. But is nicotine simply a compound on which people are hooked or does it offer some kind of benefit?

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2025/09/12/what-nicotine-does-to-your-brain>

SOCIOLOGY

98. Asian countries should prepare for a higher rate of twin births. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

ASIGN outside Kodinhi in southern India calls it “God’s own twin’s village”. No one is quite sure why its mothers appear to conceive twins vastly more often than those elsewhere in the country. Yet in the years to come, Kodinhi may end up looking a bit less like an outlier. A recent paper argues that the rate at which twins are born is going to rise in India, and across South Asia more widely. That risks making pregnancy and childbirth more dangerous, for mothers and babies alike.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/09/18/asian-countries-should-prepare-for-a-higher-rate-of-twin-births>

99. A rare ceremony revives debate over imperial succession. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

In early September a slim young man in a pale yellow robe entered a palace hall in Tokyo, trailed by a servant carrying the robe’s lengthy train. Prince Hisahito (pictured), the 19-year-old nephew of Emperor Naruhito, received a kanmuri (a silken crown), after which he changed into black clothes to signal his passage into adulthood. Then he boarded an ornate horse-drawn carriage to visit a shrine dedicated to Amaterasu, the sun goddess. What struck observers was not the ancient ritual itself, but how rare the

occasion has become. The coming-of-age ceremony, reserved for male royals, was the first in Japan for 40 years.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/09/18/a-rare-ceremony-revives-debate-over-imperial-succession>

100. The surprising nature of protest in China. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

QI HONG began using VPNs to browse the internet outside China's firewall during the pandemic. The 42-year-old electrician grew sick of the discrepancy between the nationalist propaganda in Chinese media and the daily examples of state repression he was seeing online. "I felt disgusted," he says. "Are they really serving the people?" Before leaving China last month, Mr Qi set up a projector in a hotel room in the southwestern city of Chongqing. Once he'd left the country, he turned it on remotely. It flashed slogans on a tower block across the street, calling for the fall of the Communist Party. He also set up cameras inside the hotel so he could film the police's response. He then sent those videos to an account on X, a social network, that he'd followed inside China, where they received more than 20m views.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2025/09/18/the-surprising-nature-of-protest-in-china>

101. The return of our China column. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

THE PACE of change is so rapid in China, it is often said, that the country can seem almost unrecognisable after a year or two away. Returning visitors find new highways, new trains, new buildings—sometimes entirely new cities. It can be a disorienting experience but also an exhilarating one. Socially, the transformation is just as wrenching, as hundreds of millions have moved from the countryside to urban areas in double time.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2025/09/15/the-return-of-our-china-column>

102. How stable are the gender identities of younger children?. Economist. 20th Sep. 2025.

WHEN KRISTINA OLSON began studying children who had transitioned from one gender to another in the early 2010s, there were not a lot of them. Social transition (living in a new gender, with no medical intervention) was still controversial for minors. A new understanding was taking hold, however: that trans children know who they are, and that there is therefore little reason to delay. An increasing number of parents followed suit and socially transitioned young children—in some cases, as young as three.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/09/18/how-stable-are-the-gender-identities-of-younger-children>

SPORTS

103. UNITED STATES OF FOOTBALL. TIME. 29th Sep 2025.

Being a pro football fan can be good for you and for those around you. As a new NFL season begins, you don't have to know the difference between a cover-four and a Tampa-2 defense to put on a hat, make a friend at the shop, and build a new family tradition. In an era marked by epidemics of loneliness and political distrust, sports fandom is one simple and universally accessible medicine. We've seen it firsthand. Todd once spotted someone in a Philadelphia Eagles hat at a local shop and instinctively shouted "Go Birds!" The reply came back instantly: "Go Birds!" A few minutes later, Todd had invited his new friend George and his son to his family's weekly watch parties. They showed up with cheesesteaks, and by the end...

<https://timeasia.zinioapps.com/explore/trending/time-magazine-asia/september-29-2025-i672286/united-states-of-football-a13>

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

S.No.	Title	Periodicity	Place of Publication
1	China Quarterly	Q	London
2	Chronicle of Higher Education	BW	US
3	Economic & Political Weekly	W	Mumbai
4	Economist (A.M.)	W	London
5	History Today	W	London
6	India Forum	W	India
7	New Yorker	W	New York
8	Time	F	Chicago
9	University News	W	New Delhi