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ART

1. Title: Satluj is a cry for justice

Source: Frontline. 31st July 2026.

Link:<https://frontline.thehindu.com/columns/satluj-film-review-honey-trehan/article71252981.ece>

Getting caught in the nets of censorship is the worst thing that can happen to a film. It might be the best thing, too. In the struggle, the film becomes a martyr to a cause it was not prepared to represent, turning into a rallying cry. Such is with Honey Trehan's Satluj, a cinematic rendering of the life and times of the human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra, who went out of his way to throw light on the state's excesses in the 1990s, when thousands of Punjab's youth were disappeared and murdered under the ruse of counter-insurgency operations. Khalra himself was sucked into the morass. He died for his cause, and Satluj is his resurrection.

2. Title: Julio Torres's Sea Wench, Qween Jean at Little Island

Source: New Yorker. 3rd Aug 2026

Link:<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/goings-on/julio-torress-sea-weench-qween-jean-at-little-island>

Can you really say that you've seen a summer show in New York City until you've sat through at least one performance in brain-liquefying humidity? There are plenty of opportunities: Shakespeare in the Park's second, and last, main production this season, "The Winter's Tale," starring Raúl Esparza and Lily Rabe, starts performances this weekend, and there's still time to catch "Othello" at Marcus Garvey Park, or "As You Like It" and "King Lear" at Hudson Valley Shakespeare.

3. Title: Johnny Knoxville, America's God of Mischief

Source: New Yorker. 3rd Aug 2026

Link:<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/08/03/johnny-knoxville-profile>

Johnny Knoxville doesn't keep track of how many bones he's broken. When asked for a number earlier this summer, he balked. The notion of accounting struck Knoxville, the star and co-creator of the "Jackass" franchise, as silly. "Double digits," he told me after a long pause. "My ankles three times apiece. Arms. Hands. Elbows. A lot.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

4. Title: Should you be afraid of Elon Musk?

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/07/23/should-you-be-afraid-of-elon-musk>

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE poses a double challenge to the human mind. Not only will the most advanced models soon be able to think better than people, but AI has consequences for humanity which are so uncertain, so potentially vast and are approaching at such a rapid pace that even the best brains flinch. An example is Elon Musk.

5. Title: Elon Musk is building a form of capitalism that Adam Smith would loathe

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/by-invitation/2026/07/12/elon-musk-is-building-a-form-of-capitalism-that-adam-smith-would-loathe>

Elon Musk's cocky claims about SpaceX come thick and fast: he now envisions the rocketry-and-AI firm becoming "worth more than the rest of Earth" if it meets its long-term goals. That prediction, made in response to a supporter who questioned SpaceX's AI-compute deal with Anthropic, a competitor, may or (more likely) may not come to pass. There is, however, much about SpaceX that Mr Musk can control—indeed, much more than the typical majority owner.

6. Title: Does SpaceX's plan for a data centre in space add up?

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/07/22/does-spacexs-plan-for-a-data-centre-in-space-add-up>

With every passing day, it seems like a slightly less crazy idea to put data centres into space. Progress in artificial intelligence (AI) is increasing demand for these facilities, but opposition to building them on Earth is growing.

7. Title: Why the OpenAI escape is the most worrying AI mishap yet

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/07/22/why-the-openai-escape-is-the-most-worrying-ai-mishap-yet>

IT SOUNDS like something out of a sci-fi film. On July 16th Hugging Face, an artificial-intelligence platform, announced it had notified law enforcement after an attacker had used an AI agent to breach its systems. On July 21st it emerged that there had been no human involved; the AI agent was the attacker.

BIOGRAPHY

8. Title: A Woman Lost Two Partners to Guns—Then the N.R.A. Came to Collect

Source: New Yorker. 3rd Aug 2026

Link: <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/08/03/a-woman-lost-two-partners-to-guns-then-the-nra-came-to-collect>

Stormy Kay was born in 1961, when her parents were young newlyweds, unprepared and thrust into adulthood. Stormy's mother cut meat at a grocery store and taught classes at a beauty school, and her father was a construction worker. They couldn't afford child care, so Stormy's father took her with him to job sites. "My dad would hide me in the trucks," Stormy told me. She spent a lot of time alone. "I was strange," she said. "I liked rocks. I was very spiritual. I talked to animals. I talked a lot to God." Every Sunday, her entire extended family attended church, and Stormy sang in the choir. Like many men in Frederick County, Maryland, where the family lived, Stormy's father owned guns and went hunting. Her mother had a firearm, too, and occasionally took Stormy target shooting. When Stormy finished high school, she began commuting to a job at an insurance company in Washington, D.C. She started in human resources, then became a legal secretary there. She wore her curly brown hair down to her shoulders, with bangs that framed her blue eyes.

CLIMATE CHANGE

9. Title: Uncertain pauses

Source: Frontline. 31st July 2026.

Link: <https://frontline.thehindu.com/photo-essay/climate-change-visual-archive-india-south-asia/article71237176.ece>

Over the past decade, I have been building a visual archive capturing the immediate aftermath of environmental disruptions across India and South Asia. It began in 2013 as a product of humanitarian fieldwork and then evolved into something more reflective: a sustained enquiry into what it means to live through recurring climate events. The archive now stands as a testament to both loss and survival, as the selection of images here proves.

ECONOMICS

10. Title: Monetary Policy Communication in an Era of Persistent Uncertainty

Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61. No-30. 25th July 2026.

Link: <https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/30/commentary/monetary-policy-communication-era-persistent.html>

Monetary policy communication has evolved from secrecy to a central instrument of policy in an era of persistent uncertainty. Drawing on global evidence and India's

experience under flexible inflation-targeting, this article shows how communication has enhanced effectiveness by anchoring expectations, strengthening transmission and sustaining credibility. In India, expanded and systematic communication, particularly during the pandemic and recent global shocks helped manage uncertainty and stabilise financial conditions. At the same time, communicating uncertainty introduces risks of misinterpretation, requiring a balance between clarity, flexibility and credibility within a data-dependent policy framework.

11. Title: Access to Liquefied Petroleum Gas in India

Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61. No-30. 25th July 2026.

Link:<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/30/commentary/access-liquefied-petroleum-gas-india.html>

Recent developments in West Asia have disrupted the supply chains of liquefied petroleum gas, leading to shipping delays and heightened supply uncertainties in India. In the event of a prolonged disruption, the government may need to prioritise the allocation of LPG across different categories of consumers. Against this backdrop, this article examines the extent of household dependence on LPG as the primary source of cooking fuel in India. Using data from the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2023–24, the study analyses patterns of access to and equity in LPG use across households.

12. Title: Structural Transformation in Agricultural Employment

Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61. No-30. 25th July 2026.

Link:<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/30/special-articles/structural-transformation-agricultural-employment.html>

After being relatively stable till the 1980s, India witnessed a significant structural shift during the post-reform period. Using annual time series data from 1991 to 2022, structural transformation in India is examined with a focus on gender disparities in employment transitions from the agriculture sector. The findings reveal that India witnessed a workforce movement—from agriculture to industry and services—a symbol of the country's economic progress. However, the process of change was not equal for men and women. Women continued to be disproportionately concentrated in agriculture, even though male employment in agriculture fell rapidly. The paper highlights the need for specific policies to support more inclusive and gender-equitable labour market outcomes of economic growth.

13. Title: Prediction markets need better rules

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/07/23/prediction-markets-need-better-rules>

Some call them “truth machines”. Prediction markets, in which punters can bet on anything from the outbreak of war to what celebrities will wear, reveal in their prices the closest thing to humanity's best guesses about the future. Such markets can provide both entertainment and economic benefit. If people and firms can discern risks and opportunities from market prices, they will make better decisions. Some might even

trade to hedge their exposure to events: one American bet big against the government forgiving his student debt, allowing him to pay some down whatever happened.

14. Title: Gulf countries are experts at air-conditioning

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2026/07/23/gulf-countries-are-experts-at-air-conditioning>

Back in the 1970s Gulf countries bet big on the idea that technology could make hot, arid places habitable. The gamble paid off. Abundant oil and gas fuelled construction, accelerated investment and powered round-the-clock cooling. The population of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), a club of six petro-monarchies, grew from 6.3m in 1970 to 63m today.

15. Title: The return of the African megaproject

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2026/07/23/the-return-of-the-african-megaproject>

For years Lamu, on the coast of northern Kenya, was a tantalising symbol of unrealised promise. The Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia-Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor, a colossalcheme estimated to cost \$25bn, is supposed to connect a deep-water Kenyan port with markets in Ethiopia and oilfields in South Sudan via a pipeline, railway and motorway. Launched in 2012, it was touted as Africa's most ambitious infrastructure undertaking. Yet 14 years later only the port near Lamu is operational—and for most of the time since the first ships docked there in 2021, just barely. “When it began it was very quiet,” concedes Abdulaziz Mzee, the port's manager.

16. Title: How African motorists are adapting to the fuel crunch

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2026/07/23/how-african-motorists-are-adapting-to-the-fuel-crunch>

Ethiopia trades in superlatives. It has Africa's largest dam, is building its largest airport and claims to be the continent's breadbasket (scepticism abounds). According to its transport ministry, the country has recently added another crowning achievement: following an (unevenly enforced) import ban on vehicles with internal-combustion engines in 2024, it is now the leader of Africa's electric-vehicle (EV) revolution. Some 115,000 EVs were zipping along its roads in 2025, says the ministry, accounting for nearly 8% of registered vehicles. If true, that would put it above the global average of around 5%.

17. Title: Why traditional career advice is failing Gen Z

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/culture/2026/07/23/why-traditional-career-advice-is-failing-gen-z>

Leaving the cosy confines of college for the tundra of the job market has always been bracing. Not every graduate hears a calling to a particular profession. Many want to do good but also need to pay off debt. AI is making the transition even bumpier, automating entry-level jobs and promising to make entire careers extinct; on July 13th more than 200 economists and tech luminaries warned that AI could cause “large-scale job displacement”. Finding your life’s work has never been so hard.

18. Title: Electric aviation is taking off

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/07/22/electric-aviation-is-taking-off>

TAXIING TOWARDS the runway, the propeller stops turning as your correspondent pulls the throttle back to await take-off. On a single-engine light aircraft, that is usually a worrying sign of engine failure. Yet this plane is powered by an electric motor and, just as when you come to a halt in a Tesla, the motor stops until it is needed again. On advancing the throttle the propeller springs back to life and the aircraft is soon briskly climbing, in an eerily quiet manner.

19. Title: The surprising benefits of red light

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/07/20/the-surprising-benefits-of-red-light>

Oozing mouth ulcers are one of the many possible side-effects of radiation and chemotherapy treatments for cancer. The ulcers make it hard for patients to eat, worsening their suffering. Some must be fed by tube. A new way of treating these ulcers could brighten the future, however: light-emitting diodes (LEDs) tuned to the red end of the spectrum and placed into a patient’s mouth improve symptoms in more than half of cases.

20. Title: How investors learned to live with inflation

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/07/21/how-investors-learned-to-live-with-inflation>

For a good portion of the early 2020s, just about every discussion of financial markets seemed to involve aviation metaphors. Rich-world inflation had surged and central bankers had belatedly ratcheted up interest rates in an attempt to cool their economies. The big question was whether they could accomplish this without crashing into recession. Overdo the monetary tightening, and productive activity would be squeezed out of the economy along with inflation: a “hard landing”. Those who got it just right would be rewarded with a “soft landing”, in which inflation faded but the economy avoided a downturn. History, alas, showed hard landings to be much more frequent than soft ones.

21. Title: The stubborn scarcity of female breadwinners

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/07/13/the-stubborn-scarcity-of-female-breadwinners>

TAYLOR SWIFT has accumulated many identities over her career: singer-songwriter, performer, pop mogul, millennial icon, cat lover. Her marriage this month to Travis Kelce, an American-football player, added wife to the list. It also gave her another, less traditional role: family breadwinner. Mr Kelce earns around \$50m a year from his salary, endorsements and podcasting. Yet in 2025 he contributed only perhaps a fifth of their combined income.

22. Title: The world's balance-sheet is out of kilter with its economy

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/07/23/the-worlds-balance-sheet-is-out-of-kilter-with-its-economy>

How rich is the world economy? The conventional answer is about \$120trn. That corresponds to global GDP, encompassing all the goods and services the world produced last year. It is, if you like, the planet's annual income.

23. Title: The Chinese economic experiment that failed

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/china/2026/07/23/the-chinese-economic-experiment-that-failed>

From the late 1970s, as China moved away from central planning, the Communist Party picked four cities on the coast to be test-beds for liberal economic policies. Known as "special economic zones" (sez), three of them, Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Xiamen, have been world-changing successes, showing the way for market reforms in the rest of the country. The other one is Shantou.

24. Title: The faltering effort to revive copper mining in Michigan

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2026/07/23/the-faltering-effort-to-revive-copper-mining-in-michigan>

Michigan's Upper Peninsula, known as the UP, touches three of America's Great Lakes. Wolves and moose roam the region's forests; it is home to more than 80% of Michigan's bears and less than 3% of its people. Nicknamed "Yoopers", so many residents claim Finnish origin that, until 2015, local TV programming included a show in Finnish. In summer anglers fish for walleye and smallmouth bass. In winter the UP can get nine metres of snow. But this remote peninsula also has a belt of native copper and was once home to a thriving mining industry. If proponents have their way, the UP will become part of a 21st-century boom.

25. Title: South America is eradicating hunger

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2026/07/21/south-america-is-eradicating-hunger>

The smell of grilled meat wafts through the shanty town of Guamá. Its riverside favelas are among Brazil's poorest, but on a recent weekday resident cooked steak and shrimp on their porches. "Life isn't easy," says Alex Lima, a shopkeeper who sells coxinha pasties from his wooden house on stilts in the coffee-coloured water. Yet it is improving, fast.

26.Title: Brazil's much-loved payments system has drawn Donald Trump's ire

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2026/07/19/brazils-much-loved-payments-system-has-drawn-donald-trumps-ire>

THE MACHINERY which moves money around is rarely inspiring. It is remarkable then that Pix, Brazil's digital-payments system, has become a source of national pride after being assaulted by Donald Trump. On July 15th the Trump administration imposed a 25% tariff on a range of Brazilian imports after concluding a year-long trade investigation into what it called Brazil's "unreasonable" practices.

27.Title: Why young Africans still listen to the radio

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2026/07/23/why-young-africans-still-listen-to-the-radio>

Kenya's communication authority is facing what may seem like an odd problem in the digital age: Nairobi's airwaves are clogged. Kenya has more than 250 FM radio stations and multiple aspiring stations. In big cities such as the capital, would-be radio stars complain that there is no room to license more.

28.Title: A surrogacy scandal throws Germany's conservatives into turmoil

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/europe/2026/07/23/a-surrogacy-scandal-throws-germanys-conservatives-into-turmoil>

Jens Spahn, until recently the parliamentary leader of Germany's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and the Christian Social Union (CSU), its sister party, is deficient in sharp political instincts. On July 15th Mr Spahn said on social media and in an interview with Bild, a tabloid, that he and his husband had had a baby boy via a surrogate in America. Unfortunately for him, that looked to voters like brazen hypocrisy. Surrogacy is illegal in Germany and Mr Spahn, a conservative former health minister, had argued that it should remain so. Three days later he resigned.

29.Title: Dismissing Europe as a museum is glib. Think of it as a theme park

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/europe/2026/07/23/dismissing-europe-as-a-museum-is-glib-think-of-it-as-a-theme-park>

How better to come under the spell of Mitteleuropa than to stroll across the Charles Bridge, admiring Prague's baroque skyline before reaching the glistening cobblestones of its old town? If Gallic charm is your thing, surely nothing can be so Parisian as whiling away an afternoon at the Café de Flore in Saint-Germain-des-Prés, where Jean-Paul

Sartre once puffed on Gitanes as he pondered being and nothingness. Or one might seek to discover the ancestral essence of Europe by basking in the old-money haunt of Capri, the whitewashed Aegean island of Santorini, or the honey-coloured streets of Dubrovnik. Pick among these destinations wisely and Europe offers the discerning traveller an unrivalled chance to commune with the continent's timeless soul.

30. Title: The geopolitics of air-conditioning

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/international/2026/07/23/the-geopolitics-of-air-conditioning>

On a sun-baked morning in early July, with temperatures set to soar above 40°C (104°F), a mob in Nanterre, a Paris suburb, heaved against the doors of a Lidl supermarket until they collapsed. The sweat-stained hooligans were desperate shoppers, pitted against each other for the last portable air-conditioning (AC) unit. In another Lidl across town two men came to blows. French politicians had a row of their own, over how much AC was too much.

31. Title: Andy Burnham's first decisions in office reveal a lot about him

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/britain/2026/07/23/andy-burnhams-first-decisions-in-office-reveal-a-lot-about-him>

In his first days as prime minister, Andy Burnham presented his amuse-bouches to the British public. He announced that VAT, a consumption tax, would be cut on electricity bills from 5% to 0% from October. The cap on most bus fares would be slashed from £3 (\$4) to £2 for all of 2027. From April, pubs and clubs in England will get a 20% business-rate cut. Mr Burnham's portion sizes are meagre: the electricity tax cut will save just £25 per household in this tax year, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies, a think-tank.

32. Title: The maverick scientist trying to save coffee from extinction

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/interactive/1843/2026/07/23/the-maverick-scientist-trying-to-save-coffee-from-extinction>

On a baking-hot afternoon in January, Aaron Davis climbed out of a white Toyota Land Cruiser that had arrived at a village of clay-walled huts. It was the peak of Sierra Leone's dry season. The ground was a rich ochre and dotted with deep, round shafts—mines which villagers had dug to prospect for gold and diamonds. But Davis had come in search of a different kind of treasure.

33. Title: The doctors keeping Cuba on life support

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/interactive/1843/2026/07/17/the-doctors-keeping-cuba-on-life-support>

Earlier this year a Cuban doctor named Jorge received a WhatsApp message from a health official offering him the chance to work in rural Mexico. If he wanted the position, the official said, he'd have just a few hours to pack his bags. Jorge agreed immediately.

34. Title: Elon Musk's vision of the future

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/07/23/elon-musks-vision-of-the-future>

ELON MUSK, in his telling, is a modern-day Cassandra—better than most at predicting the future, but doomed to be disbelieved. “People don’t realise that what I’m saying will come to pass,” he tells The Economist in a 90-minute interview for The Insider, held at a giant Tesla factory in Texas where electric cars drive themselves off the assembly line. That may be because his future-gazing ranges from the unsettling to the downright weird. Mr Musk predicts that, within five years, artificial-intelligence systems may surpass the sum of all human intelligence. Within ten years, robots in the workplace will help usher in an era of such “amazing abundance” that money will become meaningless. And within 20 years, Britain—a country that he has not visited for years—will be engulfed in civil war.

35. Title: China's mysterious new billionaires are conquering the world

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/07/19/chinas-mysterious-new-billionaires-are-conquering-the-world>

Early last year, when DeepSeek, a Chinese artificial-intelligence lab, was causing panic among its Western rivals, almost nothing was known about Liang Wenfeng, its founder. Mr Liang remains a mysterious figure, but at least one thing is clear. As DeepSeek closes a funding round valuing it at \$71bn, its founder’s personal wealth has soared to roughly \$38bn—making him far wealthier than Anthropic’s Dario Amodei or OpenAI’s Sam Altman.

36. Title: Investors cool on Europe's old-style defense firms

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/07/23/investors-cool-on-europes-old-style-defence-firms>

On July 22nd Rheinmetall, Germany’s defence champion, broke ground on an expansion to its gunpowder factory in Bavaria, one of the biggest such factories in Europe. In a show of German politicians’ newfound support for armsmaking, the ceremony was attended by bigwigs such as Markus Söder, Bavaria’s state premier. Armin Papperger, the firm’s boss, was in his element. He waxed lyrical about “Project Firepower”, the €350m (\$400m) investment that will help the company reach its target of producing 20,000 tonnes of gunpowder a year.

37. Title: America's AI labs are under threat from cheap Chinese rivals

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/07/21/americas-ai-labs-are-under-threat-from-cheap-chinese-rivals>

Spare a thought for America's leading developers of artificial intelligence. They pour blood, sweat and gazillions of dollars into each new release of a frontier model. Yet before they have time to catch their breath, their competitors have already caught up. It would be bad enough if rivals that charge for their technology were the only ones nipping at their heels. But the likes of Anthropic and OpenAI must also sprint to stay just a few steps ahead of labs that give their models away.

38. Title: Airplane-engine maintenance is now a money spinner

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/business/2026/07/23/airplane-engine-maintenance-is-now-a-money-spinner>

Among the eye-catching announcements at this week's Farnborough International Airshow, a biennial aerospace get-together, was a deal signed by IndiGo, a fast-growing Indian carrier. It will procure over 1,000 Leap jet engines from cfm, a joint venture between America's GE Aerospace and Safran of France. The engines will power a fleet of planes on order from Airbus. For CFM, the deal brought another prize: the company will help IndiGo establish a maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) operation to keep those engines running. Often overlooked, such MRO contracts are perhaps the most profitable corner of the aviation industry.

39. Title: Don't blame supermarkets for your expensive groceries

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/business/2026/07/20/dont-blame-supermarkets-for-your-expensive-groceries>

FOR MANY characters in fiction, grocery bills play a starring role in their story. Jean Valjean is imprisoned for stealing a loaf of bread; Mrs Lovett strikes an unholy alliance with Sweeney Todd for access to a source of free meat for her pie business. According to a recent survey of Americans, such drama has come for them too: almost two-thirds cite paying for groceries as a major source of financial stress, twice the share that mention housing or fuel.

40. Title: Capitalism's status hierarchy is being upturned

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/business/2026/07/22/capitalisms-status-hierarchy-is-being-upturned>

At a recent dinner party, Schumpeter got talking to a wildly successful young man who was downright miserable. He was on the very fast track at a very big hedge fund. His friends, however, were making even bigger bucks in artificial intelligence, a field which he was convinced would soon consume his own industry. Among the company he keeps, the bright lights of finance shine less brightly than they used to, causing his own star to dim. Our protagonist was experiencing one of capitalism's most powerful forces. He was in the throes of status death.

41. Title: The rise of the deserving rich

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/07/23/the-rise-of-the-deserving-rich>

BILLIONAIRES HAVE never exactly been popular, but today they are loathed. Politicians in America's Congress talk about them far more than ever before, usually to decry their ill-gotten gains or their malign influence on politics, or to insist that their wealth needs taxing (see chart 1). Fundraising emails from Democrats are three times as likely to mention billionaires—and almost always negatively—as they were in 2024, according to Andrew Hall of Stanford University. “Every billionaire is a policy failure” is a common cry from the left, linking members of the ten-figure club with a rigged economy and social decay.

42.Title: Can prediction markets win over Wall Street?

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/07/23/can-prediction-markets-win-over-wall-street>

It was on Wall Street that Luana Lopes Lara, the 30-year-old co-founder of Kalshi, was inspired to start a prediction-markets exchange. As an intern at hedge funds such as Five Rings Capital and Citadel Securities, she was baffled to find fund managers building elaborate portfolios to take positions on forthcoming elections and interest-rate decisions. Kalshi's users bet directly on events instead. “What we are building is a financial exchange where anyone from a Robin Hood trader to Goldman Sachs to someone in an MIT dorm could trade directly in what their thesis was about the future,” Ms Lopes Lara says.

43.Title: Can China dominate AI exports, too?

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/07/23/can-china-dominate-ai-exports-too>

When driverless taxis start cruising the cantons of eastern Switzerland early next year, the invisible driver will be Chinese. PostBus, a Swiss public-transport company, has teamed up with Apollo Go, a robotaxi operator owned by Baidu, a Chinese tech giant. The project is one of dozens that have popped up over the past two years where the passengers are Singaporean, Slovakian or Saudi, but the hardware and data behind the steering wheel come from China.

EDUCATION

44.Title: Universal Schooling Remains a Formidable Challenge

Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61. No-30. 25th July 2026.

Link:<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/30/editorials/universal-schooling-remains-formidable-challenge.html>

The Unified District Information System for Education Plus report for 2024–25, published by the Department of School Education and Literacy, reiterates the

formidable challenges confronting India's school education system. This, without addressing the challenge of revamping pedagogy and schooling to prepare our young for the age of artificial intelligence. Enrolment in this vast sector has declined after peaking at the beginning of the decade. The number of students fell from 26.5 crore in 2021–22—close to the present population of Indonesia—to 24.7 crore in 2024–25.

45. Title: The War for Sociology

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-22. 31st July 2026.

Link: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-war-for-sociology>

When Melissa J. Wilde, a sociology professor at the University of Pennsylvania, was nominated to run for president of her field's professional organization, her first reaction was surprise. Her second was to act like a sociologist. "I decided if I was going to lead the American Sociological Association," she said, "I needed to study the discipline."

46. Title: Why Scholarship Turns Into Activism

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-22. 31st July 2026.

Link: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/why-scholarship-turns-into-activism>

The recent report on the state of scholarship in the humanities and humanistic social sciences has renewed the debate over the internal politicization of academe. As one of its authors (speaking only for myself), I find the report relatively tepid. It offers the middle-of-the-road finding that, while there are reasons to be concerned, the baldest criticisms of the sector are unwarranted. Responses have ranged from slurring the project as

47. Title: CU Boulder's \$60-Million Pivot

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-22. 31st July 2026.

Link: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/cu-boulders-60-million-pivot>

Membership in the Association of American Universities is invitation-only, extended to a handful of the most prestigious public and private institutions. On its website, the AAU details requirements for admittance to this exclusive club. First on the list: prowess in winning competitions for federal research grants.

48. Title: The Research Cuts No One Is Talking About

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-22. 31st July 2026.

Link: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-research-cuts-no-one-is-talking-about>

Last year, eight more Hispanic-serving institutions and one new historically Black institution broke into the ranks of the Carnegie Foundation's list of top research universities, which Carnegie has been publishing since 1973. Dozens more worked to burnish their credentials, heartened that the door to this prestigious club seemed finally to be opening to them.

49. Title: The University After AI

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-22. 31st July 2026.

Link: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-university-after-ai>

When the University of California's president, Clark Kerr, delivered the Godkin Lectures at Harvard in 1963, published shortly thereafter as *The Uses of the University*, he was doing something unusual for an academic administrator: He was offering a sophisticated social theory, and doing so with wit. In these lectures, Kerr coined the term "multiversity" to describe what the postwar American research university had become. In Kerr's account, the modern university was no longer to be understood as a community of scholars united by a shared ideal of learning, but rather as a sprawling institutional conglomerate serving at once as a research engine, a job-training facility, a credentialing mechanism, a coming-of-age experience, and an incubator of the national technical elite. The University of California, which Kerr had just finished steering through a near decade of explosive growth, was his exemplar.

50. Title: The Government Tried to Cancel Colleges' Grants. Now It's Rewriting the Rules for Awarding Them.

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-22. 31st July 2026.

Link: <http://chronicle.com/article/the-government-tried-to-cancel-colleges-grants-now-its-rewriting-the-rules-for-awarding-them>

For a researcher seeking federal funding in the United States, the waiting game usually ends with final approval from a group of peer reviewers. Then, it's go time: hiring assistants, purchasing equipment, and embarking on a project — usually yearslong — with predictable support.

51. Title: How 'Chaos' Surrounding AI Can Sink a College Presidency

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-22. 31st July 2026.

Link: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/how-chaos-surrounding-ai-can-sink-a-college-presidency>

In February, several University of Wisconsin regents were so frustrated with the system's president during a presentation on artificial intelligence that they started texting one another.

"Pulling teeth to get him to get proactive with strategy and now this is what we get," one texted to another. The exchange, which surfaced in public records obtained this month by

52. Title: A Professor Argues His Tenure Was Denied Because the University Succumbed to Federal Pressure

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-22. 31st July 2026.

Link: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/a-professor-argues-his-tenure-was-denied-because-the-university-succumbed-to-federal-pressure>

A professor who was denied tenure last year is contesting the decision in an unusual way: by tying it directly to the Trump administration's crusade against higher education. Steven Thrasher, an assistant professor of journalism, alleged in a 30-page complaint filed last week that Northwestern took adverse action against him under scrutiny from the U.S. government, suing both the institution and a bevy of federal agencies. Thrasher drew attention in 2024 after he linked arms

53. Title: Is Your College Losing Money?

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-22. 31st July 2026.

Link: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/is-your-college-losing-money>

If you work in higher education, the state of your institution's finances is very likely deteriorating. To watch that play out in real time, look no further than The Chronicle's Finance Live Updates tracker. Clinton College, a private historically Black institution in South Carolina, appears to be having trouble making payroll. The University of Akron is selling off its property to raise revenue. Louisiana State University recently laid off 25 people, including the flagship's chief financial officer. Even elite institutions are not escaping unscathed: Moody's recently downgraded its financial outlook for Brown University.

54. Title: My Students Hate AI. But They Can't Stop Using It.

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-22. 31st July 2026.

Link: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/my-students-hate-ai-but-they-cant-stop-using-it>

I used to fool myself about generative AI. I knew AI-assisted cheating was on the rise: problem sets "solved" and research papers "written" by bots, oral presentations scripted by machines, in-class comments supplied by a technology the faux "thinking" of which neither teacher nor student could comprehend. But that wouldn't be a problem in my courses, I told myself. I teach creative writing, a subject that is neither required nor a node in any kind of pre-wealth-studies curriculum. If you

55. Title: When Identity Replaces Argument

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-22. 31st July 2026.

Link: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/when-identity-replaces-argument>

Kwame Anthony Appiah's report on literary studies, the first of the field-specific supplements to the Vanderbilt and Washington University in St. Louis "Report on the State of Scholarship in the Humanities and Humanistic Social Sciences," finds fault with its subject both topically and methodologically. Topically, literary subjects proper — the history of forms and genres, for example — have diminished in importance in comparison with interests drawn from the social sciences. Methodologically, literary study is marred by delusions of political efficacy, ad hominem arguments on identitarian grounds, and an unearned hostility to the very idea of the literary. These two lines of criticism are obviously intertwined.

HISTORY

56. Title: Get Yer Statue of Liberty Here!

Source: New Yorker. 3rd Aug 2026

Link: <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/08/03/get-yer-statue-of-liberty-here>

Here may not be a bridge in Brooklyn currently available to purchase, but, for would-be owners of a New York landmark, the Statue of Liberty can be had for the low, low price of one million dollars. Sure, it's not a hundred and fifty-one feet tall and doesn't weigh five hundred and sixty thousand pounds. This Lady Liberty (ten feet, twelve hundred pounds) is one of twelve replicas of the plaster scale model that Frédéric-Auguste Bartholdi made in 1878, recently cast in bronze with the aid of "3-D metrology." It is on offer by the British dealer Ray Waterhouse, who lugged it to the Hamptons Fine Art Fair earlier this month. Arnold Schwarzenegger owns another of the dozen.

HEALTH

57. Title: Should you microdose GLP-1 drugs for weight loss?

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/07/17/should-you-microdose-glp-1-drugs-for-weight-loss>

Few products have captured public interest as fast as GLP-1 receptor-agonist weight-loss drugs. But one unforeseen consequence of their popularity has been to create what is, in effect, one of the biggest off-label medical experiments ever. This is the rapid spread of "microdosing": in other words, of taking less than the recommended amount.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

58. Title: Lebanon has a chance to break free of Hizbullah

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/07/23/lebanon-has-a-chance-to-break-free-of-hizbullah>

EMPATHY IS NOT a quality usually associated with Donald Trump. But he sounded compassionate when he met Joseph Aoun, Lebanon's president, on July 21st. "Lebanon has been a very mistreated country," said President Trump. Indeed it has. Its modern history includes long occupations by both Israel and Syria, and political meddling from Iran, Saudi Arabia and others.

59. Title: Donald Trump's Saudi deal risks nuclear proliferation

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/07/23/donald-trumps-saudi-deal-risks-nuclear-proliferation>

WHEN AMERICA first made a nuclear co-operation deal with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in 2009, it insisted on strict conditions. The Emiratis had to forgo domestic uranium enrichment and reprocessing and sign up to the Additional Protocol, a follow-on to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which provides for tough inspections. The UAE agreed and now has four reactors supplying 25% of its electricity. American officials called it a “gold standard” agreement.

60. Title: China is gaining troubling military know-how from Russia

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/briefing/2026/07/23/china-is-gaining-troubling-military-know-how-from-russia>

The help China gives Russia in the war in Ukraine has long caused dismay in Western countries. Exports of ostensibly civilian components such as engines and electronics end up in drones and other weapons that kill Ukrainian soldiers and civilians, abetting Russia’s war of attrition. Yet recently it is the other end of this trade that has stirred alarm in Western capitals. China appears to be receiving training, intelligence and advanced military technology from Russia. That could give China an edge in a future war over Taiwan, tilting the balance of power at the opposite extreme of Eurasia.

61. Title: The Iran war is America’s least popular since polls began

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/united-states/2026/07/19/the-iran-war-is-americas-least-popular-since-polls-began>

NEAR Martin Luther King’s stone memorial in Washington is a big golden cup honouring Donald Trump. The “Iran War Participation Trophy”, erected by anonymous satirists, suggests that on the battlefield it is not the winning that counts but the taking part. “While some concern themselves with...measurable outcomes, President Trump demonstrated the courage to participate,” reads the inscription.

62. Title: The tariffs that just won’t die

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/united-states/2026/07/22/the-tariffs-that-just-wont-die>

Donald Trump’s tariffs have the persistence of a hydra. The Supreme Court struck down their main legal foundation in February, anxious markets have forced repeated retreats, and frustrated voters—two-thirds of whom say tariffs have raised consumer prices—have prompted exemptions for certain foods. Each setback forced Mr Trump to adjust tariffs. Yet they always returned.

63. Title: The Iran war is consuming the Trump presidency

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/international/2026/07/21/the-iran-war-is-consuming-the-trump-presidency>

HERE IS A thought to chill the blood of President Donald Trump. He would be in a far better place today if he had followed the foreign-policy advice of the predecessor he

loathes, Barack Obama. According to the Obama doctrine, as explained years ago to Jeffrey Goldberg, a journalist, an American president's first duty in world affairs is: "Don't do stupid shit."

64. Title: For Russians, the war feels closer than ever before

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/europe/2026/07/23/for-russians-the-war-feels-closer-than-ever-before>

Eight civilians lay dead. More than 80 were injured. Columns of black smoke billowed from the wreckage. On July 18th Ukrainian drones hit two giant warehouses belonging to Wildberries, Russia's largest online retailer, in Moscow and Tambov, some 475km south-east of the capital. The bombs are thought to have destroyed some 150bn roubles (\$1.9bn) worth of consumer goods. Four days later Ukraine bombed two more warehouses in south-west Russia. One woman was killed.

65. Title: Grey expectations

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/interactive/britain/2026/07/17/tours-of-british-post-war-housing-are-a-quiet-hit>

Langham house close is the sort of place often passed without a second look. A cluster of low apartment blocks of sandy brick and exposed concrete slabs, it is tucked behind a much grander Georgian mansion which gives it its name. But to the informed visitor, brought by their paper walking guide book to the suburb of Ham in south-west London, it reveals architectural genius. "Note the jutting concrete 'gargoyles', inspired by Le Corbusier's Maison Jaoul," the guide instructs, of the at-first-glance unremarkable gutter spouts. This was an early work of James Stirling and James Gowan, who would become stars of post-war architecture. Finished in 1958, its style became known as "new brutalism" and inspired a generation of British housing.

LAW

66. Title: Britons are increasingly tussling over inheritance

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/britain/2026/07/23/britons-are-increasingly-tussling-over-inheritance>

When there's a will, there's a war. Or so they say in the courts of England and Wales, which are growing busier with fights over the dead's estates. The number of probate claims listed at the High Court has grown by over 400% over the past decade, according to Solomonic, a legal-analytics company. The first three months of this year saw the highest number filed during any quarter on record. With most disputes over estates settled out of court, this is the tip of the iceberg.

LITERATURE

67. Title: A dark fragrance

Source: Frontline. 31st July 2026.

Link:<https://frontline.thehindu.com/books/ode-to-a-grieving-angel-review/article71188640.ece>

Ode to a Grieving Angel. The title evokes tradition. The Romantics. Keats. Shelley. “Ode to a Nightingale”. “Ode on a Grecian Urn”. “Ode to the West Wind”. Or, closer in time, Pablo Neruda: “Ode to My Socks”. Is that the intention, then? To insert this cycle of poems into a tradition of poetry? A casual peck on the keyboard tells us that most modern odes use “irregular or free verse, abandoning strict meters and fixed rhyme schemes while keeping a highly reverent tone”. Well, that rings true for this volume. And then there is the leitmotif of the mask. On the cover, Paul Klee’s Actor’s Mask (1924). The cover is designed by Sunandini Banerjee, Seagull Books’ in-house chief designer and the author’s colleague. An image chosen to be apposite, to speak to and of the work. The mask is a venerable motif that traces its history back centuries, in literature, theatre, dance, visual art, entertainment. Greek theatre, Chhau, Kathakali, balls, masquerades. The symbolism of masking and unmasking, of performance, of illusion, artifice, and revelation runs through these pages. Masks speak of disguise, playfulness, liberty, as much as of criminality and anonymity. Masks speak of ambiguity, liminality, flux. As do these poems.

68. Title: Fresh but flimsy: Reading

Source: Frontline. 31st July 2026.

Link:<https://frontline.thehindu.com/books/abha-purbey-gulabiya-review/article71177690.ece>

The promo for Gulabiya describes the novelette as being more than its story since it is written in a language “the Constitution won’t recognize”. We are told that Angika, the language of the original, is spoken by millions across Bihar, Jharkhand, and parts of Nepal but is not listed in the Eighth Schedule, and literary translations into English were “near-absent” until the present translation came about.

69. Title: Earthly Delights

Source: New Yorker. 3rd Aug 2026

Link:<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/08/03/earthly-delights-fiction-sheila-heti>

She had wanted only the simplest, smallest things: she kept a box of maxi pads hopefully in the back of her sock drawer for years before she ever got her first period. There were little squiggles on the packaging, teal and pink, in the flamboyant yet cool style of the day.

70. Shapero, Natalie

Title: Any Younger

Source: New Yorker. 3rd Aug 2026

Link: <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/08/03/any-younger-natalie-shapero-poem>

71. Dickman, Michael

Title: Tick Check

Source: New Yorker. 3rd Aug 2026

Link: <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/08/03/tick-check-michael-dickman-poem>

MILITARY SCIENCE

72. Title: Ukraine's new military commander aims to fight a more modern war

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/europe/2026/07/22/ukraines-new-military-commander-aims-to-fight-a-more-modern-war>

RENOWNED GENERALS from George Patton, who strutted about in cavalry boots and carried two ivory-handled pistols, to the ascetic Bernard Montgomery, understood that their troops' morale depends a lot on the image they project of themselves. Few will have taken the job with the legendary status of Mykhailo Drapaty (pictured), who was named the commander-in-chief of Ukraine's armed forces on July 21st, replacing Oleksandr Syrsky.

POLITICAL SCIENCE & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

73. Title: How Should the Government Respond to Protests?

Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61. No-30. 25th July 2026.

Link: <https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/30/editorials/how-should-government-respond-protests.html>

We condemn the violent police action in Delhi against the masses of young people demanding accountability for repeated bungling in national level tests, such as for eligibility for entrance to medical courses and even secondary school leaving examinations. Repression is not the response the nation expects from the government, when people seek accountability for serious lapses of governance that have frustrated months, if not years, of effort that students put into performing well in the tests that determine their future.

74. Title: A New Form of Caste Supremacy

Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61. No-30. 25th July 2026.

Link:<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/30/editorials/new-form-caste-supremacy.html>

A sinister caste politics of food is on display in West Bengal, whose Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government prepares to exclude eggs from the mid-day meals provided to schoolchildren. The government has entrusted the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)—a religious organisation—with meal preparation for schools in Kolkata, whose satvik food policy excludes all “non-vegetarian” food and even onion and garlic. This is a travesty in a state where 99.3% of the population, if they could afford to, would consume fish, meat or eggs, according to the National Family Health Survey 2019–21 data.

75. Title: SAD state of affairs

Source: Frontline. 31st July 2026.

Link:<https://frontline.thehindu.com/politics/punjab-election-2027-religion-politics-sad-aap-bjp/article71188535.ece>

As the Punjab Assembly election approaches, all parties have stepped up their campaigns in the usual predictable manner.

In a way, nothing unexpected is happening in the State, except for intense infighting within the Congress, which is showing visible signs of a possible split, and the fact that for the first time the BJP is planning to contest the election without any alliance after the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) left the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance during the 2020–21 farmers’ protest.

76. Title: Which Way Should the Democratic Party Go Now?

Source: New Yorker. 3rd Aug 2026

Link:<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/08/03/which-way-should-the-democratic-party-go-now>

At seven-fifteen in the morning on Monday, July 13th, when Democrats in Maine were in the midst of a hastily created process to find a replacement for Graham Platner, who had just withdrawn as their nominee for the U.S. Senate race, a security camera in the city of Biddeford captured a white Kia circling slowly through an intersection. The driver, a twenty-five-year-old immigrant from Colombia named Joan Sebastián Durán Guerrero, had been shot and killed by an ICE agent. This winter, after federal agents killed two people during an immigration crackdown in Minneapolis, Democrats were able to say that the mass protests they supported in response had forced ICE to retreat. Now, as the prospective candidates in Maine rushed to express their outrage at Guerrero’s death, it was obvious that the retreat had been temporary.

77. Title: How Netanyahu’s Top General Became His Strongest Challenger

Source: New Yorker. 3rd Aug 2026

Link:<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/08/03/how-netanyahus-top-general-became-his-strongest-challenger>

It’s a warm, buggy night in Kfar HaNagid, a coastal village named for Shmuel HaNagid, the eminent poet, scholar, warrior, and statesman of medieval al-Andalus. A mature

crowd of several hundred has gathered on the village green. They sit restively in white plastic chairs, awaiting the arrival of Gadi Eisenkot, a retired chief of the Israel Defense Forces who currently appears to have the best chance of unseating Benjamin Netanyahu, the longest-serving Prime Minister in the history of the state. The elections are scheduled for October 27th. Eisenkot is running late.

78. Title: Britain's troublingly nostalgic new prime minister

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/07/22/britains-troublingly-nostalgic-new-prime-minister>

IT feels AS if the world is accelerating. Remarkable artificial-intelligence models are released by the month. Medicine offers tantalising breakthroughs in everything from cancer to the common cold. And Britain, where self-driving taxis now prowl the streets in one of the first trials in Europe, is poised to reap the fruits of this revolution, so long as it remains open to the world and is quick to embrace change.

79. Title: When a president stops pretending that voters count, disaster beckons

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/07/21/when-a-president-stops-pretending-that-voters-count-disaster-beckons>

"Hypocrisy is the homage that vice pays to virtue," wrote François de la Rochefoucauld, a French moralist. This is especially true in politics. Autocrats usually put on a big show of holding elections. These may be phoney, as in Russia or Iran, but they allow rulers to claim to govern by popular consent, which lends them at least the appearance of legitimacy at home and abroad.

80. Title: Japan's popular prime minister is burning political capital fast

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/07/23/japans-popular-prime-minister-is-burning-political-capital-fast>

STANDING BEFORE an elaborate array of white flowers, Takaichi Sanae, Japan's prime minister, delivered a speech at a memorial this month in honour of Abe Shinzo, a former prime minister assassinated four years ago. Ms Takaichi, who positions herself as Abe's political heir, praised her mentor's fortitude. "I want to be a politician who fights like Mr Abe," she said.

81. Title: The Philippines war on drugs outlasts the Duterte presidency

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/07/23/the-philippines-war-on-drugs-outlasts-the-duterte-presidency>

CEbu, an island in the middle of the Philippines, is a cheap place to have someone killed. Three teenagers admitted to murdering a woman in May for 5,000 pesos (\$80) and three packs of the country's most popular narcotic, methamphetamine, locally known as shabu. More than 10,000km away in a detention centre near The Hague sits the man

who created the market for such work. On November 30th Rodrigo Duterte, the Philippines' 81-year-old former president, will stand trial at the International Criminal Court (ICC) for crimes against humanity in a "war on drugs" that killed up to 30,000 Filipinos.

82.Title: A gold-bar scandal pits Indonesia's army against its police

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/07/23/a-gold-bar-scandal-pits-indonesias-army-against-its-police>

THE GOLD coating the flame that sits on top of an obelisk known as the National Monument in the centre of Jakarta, the Indonesian capital, is said to weigh an impressive 50kg. So it came as a shock to Indonesians, not so much to learn that gold bars had been found stashed in seven suitcases at the swish home of Febrie Adriansyah, then the country's deputy attorney-general for special crimes, but that they weighed as much as 74kg. Mr Febrie, the country's most senior anti-corruption prosecutor, admits that the home, in a gated community alongside an upmarket golf course, is his. But he denies that the loot (including another \$20m in cash), which was seized on July 8th in a police raid, had anything to do with him.

83.Title: Narendra Modi's party discovers the limits of propaganda

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/07/23/narendra-modis-party-discovers-the-limits-of-propaganda>

A HUNGER STRIKE does not make for good content. Instagram recommends hooking viewers within three seconds, using trending songs and keeping videos under three minutes "to help your reels break through". Add to that the unwritten but universally understood rule that photogenic young women are reliable scroll-stoppers. So a middle-aged man lying around doing nothing for days on end was never going to go viral. Algorithms demand spectacle.

84. Title: China's shadowy maritime militia is worryingly active

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/interactive/china/2026/07/21/chinas-shadowy-maritime-militia-is-worryingly-active>

The bays of the Zhoushan archipelago are crammed with blue-hulled fishing boats, laid up after a busy season scouring the East China Sea for crabs and croaker. Some of the boats, though, have been doing more than just fishing. In December over 1,000 vessels from Zhoushan and other parts of China's eastern seaboard did something unprecedented. They lined up to form an L shape in the seas north of Taiwan, held the formation for more than 12 hours, then dispersed. Over the next few months Chinese fishing boats coalesced again in the East China Sea, on four more occasions.

85.Title: Why criticism of the Qing dynasty scares the Communist Party

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/china/2026/07/20/why-criticism-of-the-qing-dynasty-scares-the-communist-party>

Visitors to historic sites around China see not only palaces and pagodas, but also scores of men and women in period dress posing for photos. To the uninitiated, one flowing robe looks like any other. But for some donning the historical threads, they are a display with political undertones: a celebration of Han traditions and a rejection of the “foreign” Qing, China’s last imperial dynasty, whose final emperor abdicated in 1912. It is a view that has gained currency, to the alarm of the Communist Party.

86. Title: Donald Trump’s reassignment of military muscle is not going to plan
Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2026/07/23/donald-trumps-reassignment-of-military-muscle-is-not-going-to-plan>

IN HIS BOOK “Strategy of Denial”, published in 2021, Elbridge Colby argued that America’s armed forces were too stretched to deal with every enemy around the world. Mr Colby, then a think-tanker who had served in Donald Trump’s first administration, declared that China was the priority. America “should seek to avoid, reduce, or eliminate costly or demanding commitments in other parts of the world”, he maintained. “What is used for the Middle East”, he predicted, “will not be available for Asia.” That analysis is holding up, perhaps to Mr Colby’s dismay.

87. Title: Nicaragua’s President Daniel Ortega scraps elections

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2026/07/23/nicaraguas-president-daniel-ortega-scraps-elections>

Given Donald Trump’s campaign against Cuba, imitating the place may seem unwise. Yet on July 19th Daniel Ortega, Nicaragua’s 80-year-old dictator, vowed to make his country only the second in Latin America to renounce competitive elections. Opposition parties will “never again” be able to seek power through the ballot box, he declared. The former Marxist-Leninist guerrilla ruled from 1979 to 1990, then was elected president in 2006.

88. Title: Lebanon’s president wants to enlist Donald Trump in rebuilding the country

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2026/07/20/lebanons-president-wants-to-enlist-donald-trump-in-rebuilding-the-country>

In his office in downtown Beirut, Amer Bisat looks to the past to sketch a hopeful vision of the future. Lebanon was once the region’s premier entrepôt, a hub for banking, tourism and trade; perhaps it can be so again. “If reconstruction ever starts in Syria, for example, Lebanese ports might be part of that,” says the economy minister. He also hopes to woo Gulf states keen to lay pipelines and fibre-optic cables that bypass the Strait of Hormuz. “The region is being redrawn in many ways,” says Mr Bisat, “and Lebanon has a huge role to play.”

89. Title: Beware of new prime ministers bearing gifts

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/britain/2026/07/23/beware-of-new-prime-ministers-bearing-gifts>

Britain's new prime minister has inherited a country in a funk—and a Labour Party in a slump. On taking office on July 20th, Andy Burnham showed he could tap into the mood of a nation which needs a lift, and a party which needs a fresh start. Speaking in Downing Street, he declared: “Let us make this the moment when Britain starts to believe again.”

90. Title: If Andy Burnham is going to achieve big things, he has to act now

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/britain/2026/07/23/if-andy-burnham-is-going-to-achieve-big-things-he-has-to-act-now>

Changing prime minister has become an all too familiar ceremony. On July 20th Sir Keir Starmer bade farewell and zipped from Downing Street to Buckingham Palace, with helicopters hovering above. Andy Burnham, the new prime minister, followed in reverse, heading from Buckingham Palace to Downing Street, where friends, family, allies and apparatchiks listened to his hopes for Britain.

91. Title: How the American right came to hate empathy

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/united-states/2026/07/23/how-the-american-right-came-to-hate-empathy>

Of the qualities the American right has come to despise in the left, empathy is the most puzzling. Boy, do they hate it. A stream of books in recent years has supplemented constant podcast and social-media chatter about what is seen as nothing less than, well, a sin. In 2025 “Leadership and the Sin of Empathy”, by Joe Rigney, came hot on the heels of the previous year’s bestselling “Toxic Empathy”, by Allie Beth Stuckey. This May brought “Suicidal Empathy”, an instant and persistent bestseller by Gad Saad, a professor of marketing and a podcaster. Mr Saad’s sales have no doubt been boosted by the plug on his cover from Elon Musk, who warns that “Western civilisation is doomed” unless Mr Saad’s message is heeded and “actions are taken that are hard but necessary for survival”.

92. Title: How Britain’s new prime minister can revive Labour

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link: <https://www.economist.com/britain/2026/07/19/how-britains-new-prime-minister-can-revive-labour>

Labour MPs hope that by picking the former mayor of Greater Manchester to replace Sir Keir Starmer they can clean the slate after two troubled years in power. Opinion polls suggest they may be right—at least for now.

93. Title: Postcard from the Liz Truss festival of ideas

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/britain/2026/07/23/postcard-from-the-liz-truss-festival-of-ideas>

“Disappointing” and “shit” was how some attendees summarised the inaugural CPAC GB conference in Greenwich on July 16th-18th. The event, hosted by Liz Truss, Britain’s shortest-serving prime minister, was inspired by America’s influential Conservative Political Action Conference. Intended as a show of strength for the new right in Britain, it was an advert for its weakness.

94. Title: When the Youth Marched for Change and Turned Victorious

Source: India Forum. 28th July 2026

Link:<https://www.theindiaforum.in/society/when-marched-hope-and-turned-victorious>

They lifted a book and made a hole in the sky.

Remember the young woman in Mumbai who stood with her arms flung wide and brought a police van to a halt? Remember the young woman at Jantar Mantar, thin from many days without food, lifting the Constitution of India above her head, not in anger, but in the way one lifts a lamp.

SCIENCE

95. Title: What Would It Mean to See a New Color?

Source: New Yorker. 3rd Aug 2026

Link: <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/08/03/what-would-it-mean-to-see-a-new-color>

During his first year as a professor of computer science at the University of California, Berkeley, Ren Ng was hurriedly putting together a survey course on computer graphics. In the syllabus he had inherited, a full week had been devoted to the subject of color. Ng thought that was a bit much. “I’m, like, Come on. It’s R.G.B.,” he said, referring to the red, green, and blue subpixels that constitute anything you see on a screen—your

cluttered desktop, a Sahara-desert screen saver, the stream of the Netherlands-Japan World Cup game. Ng started gathering slides that would cover the wavelengths of light, the biology of the human eye—the basics—“Blah, blah, blah,” he said. A colleague shared a slide that he thought might be useful. It included a minutely detailed photograph of a patch of retina, seen through a microscope, which was attributed to Austin Roorda, a professor of vision science and optometry just across campus. Roorda’s lab had helped develop technology that could map the layout of individual cone cells—those primarily responsible for perceiving color—and that, furthermore, could target a single cone cell with light. Eyes are constantly moving; cone cells are extremely small; how color is translated from the millions of cone cells to the mind remains pretty mysterious; this was awesome work. Roorda’s lab was using the new technology to explore eye disease

and the mechanics of how we see. Ng had his own notion, though: he wondered if it could be used to see a color that had never been seen before.

SOCIOLOGY

96. Title: Socio-economic Conditions, Mental Well-being and Work-related Challenges of Gig Workers

Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61. No-30. 25th July 2026.

Link: <https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/30/special-articles/socio-economic-conditions-mental-well-being-and.html>

The socio-economic conditions, mental well-being and work-related challenges of gig workers in Rewari and Mahendragarh, Haryana are examined. Based on primary data collected from 400 gig workers through face-to-face interviews, the paper employs the independent samples t-test, one-way analysis of variance, and principal component analysis. The findings reveal limited awareness of legal rights and social security, with migration patterns shaped by educational and employment opportunities. Gender, occupation, and work patterns significantly influence worker satisfaction. The paper highlights the need to strengthen education, social security, health insurance, and legal awareness to improve the welfare of gig workers.

97. Title: Fries, fantasies, foreplay

Source: Frontline. 31st July 2026.

Link: <https://frontline.thehindu.com/books/book-review-happily-ever-after-kamal-trilok-singh/article71177693.ece>

We meet a woman at a bar called Bar-Bar; she is on her fifth, maybe sixth, drink of Old Monk. “I don’t know I don’t know I don’t know I don’t know.” She is fantasising about the men she has wanted to ruin. How she would sketch his mutilated face and dream of crushing it under her thumb. “Not a fantasy,” she clarifies, “Foreplay.”

98. Title: John Leguizamo Is a Noble Fellow

Source: Frontline. 31st July 2026.

Link: <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/08/03/john-leguizamo-is-a-noble-fellow>

Now that moviegoers have Odyssey fever, thanks to Christopher Nolan’s blockbuster, audiences are revisiting characters that they first encountered in English class: wily warriors, cool monsters, island temptresses. Be honest, though. Did you remember Eumaeus, Odysseus’ faithful swineherd, who waits in Ithaca for his master’s return? Neither did John Leguizamo, when Nolan took him out to lunch a while back, at the Odeon, and offered him the role. “I was trying not to eat, because I spit a lot,” Leguizamo recalled recently. “He said, ‘You’re going to play the most loyal character in Western literature.’ I was, like, Wow, that’s a big deal!”

99. Title: Who are the Bnei Menashe of Manipur, Mizoram, and Israel?

Source: India Forum. 24th July 2026

Link:<https://www.theindiaforum.in/politics/who-are-bnei-menashe-manipur-mizoram-and-israel>

“I had completely lost interest in politics. The MNF motto had been ‘For God and Country.’ Now there was only God” (Rey interview 2022: 84). This is how Vankhuma (b. 1940, or Vanlalkhuma, according to some sources), a former cadre of the Mizo National Front (MNF), describes how life changed for him in 1970. He gave up fighting in the Mizo insurgency (1966–1986) and turned all his attention to matters of faith and worship. Known as Gideon Rey, he is now a distinguished senior figure within the Bnei Menashe (Children of Menashe) community in Israel.

SPORTS

100. Title: Take Me Out to the Brainball Game

Source: New Yorker. 3rd Aug 2026

Link:<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/08/03/take-me-out-to-the-brainball-game>

There are roughly four thousand neurosurgeons in the United States, and some eight hundred of them were in Central Park, playing softball, the other day. “It’s not a good weekend to get a head injury somewhere other than New York,” Michael Rosner, the chair of the neurological-surgery department at George Washington University, said between games. Only two or three surgeons from Rosner’s department remained on duty. The rest were wearing pin-striped jerseys with nicknames printed on the back: Stinger, Night Hawk, Tex-Lif. For weeks, they’d been training by playing in a D.C. rec league (team name: Ducks on the Pond), capping off fourteen-hour shifts with slow-pitch under the lights. “It’s kind of a big deal,” Stinger, the second baseman, said. “And by ‘kind of,’ I mean it’s discussed every fucking day.”

101. Title: Spain’s team embodies footballing values FIFA has betrayed

Source: Economist. July 25, 2026- August 07, 2026.

Link:<https://www.economist.com/europe/2026/07/23/spains-team-embodies-footballing-values-fifa-has-betrayed>

Less than 24 hours after Spain’s victory over Argentina in the World Cup final, Madrid turned out to congratulate the team as they paraded in an open-top bus. “Champions of the World”, sang the crowds. The government reckoned 1.8m people (in a city of 3.5m) attended the celebration, many waiting hours in suffocating heat.

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

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