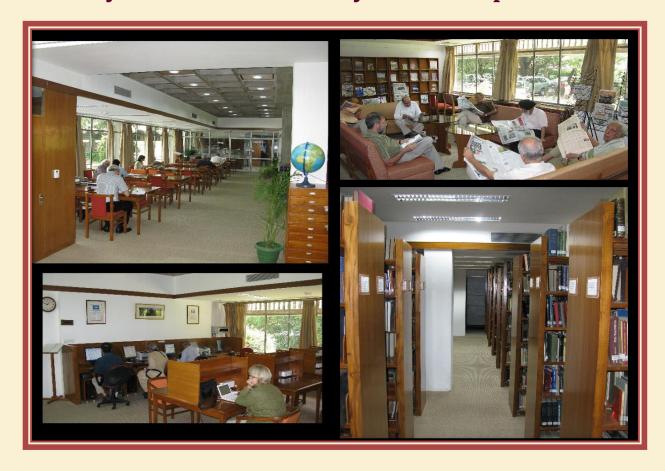


# ARTICLE ALERT 1-15 SEPTEMBER 2025

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

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#### **ART**

1. The Ministry of Joyce McDonald's Sculptures. New Yorker. 15th Sep 2025. The Reverend Joyce McDonald found sculpture around the same time that she rediscovered God. McDonald had grown up attending church services, but decades of addiction and abuse had waylaid her. She eventually got clean and returned to church; then, in 1995, she tested positive for H.I.V. Soon after, she began working with clay in an art-therapy program and the experience was transformative. "I started doing sculptures, and they unleashed the deepest, darkest secrets in my life," she has said.

https://www.newyorker.com/culture/goings-on/the-ministry-of-joyce-mcdonalds-sculptures

2. They'll Take You to the Candy Shop. New Yorker. 15th Sep 2025. Earlier this year, the identical twins Adeev and Ezra Potash, who are from Omaha, Nebraska, were named that state's first-ever Composer Laureates. As adolescents, Adeev (trumpet) and Ezra (trombone) caught the attention of Warren Buffett, who hired them to play at Berkshire Hathaway shareholder meetings; in high school, they were encouraged to apply to conservatories by Wynton Marsalis, with whom they have since performed. As adults, they've recorded and released three albums and written scores for "RuPaul's Drag Race." If there's anything they're more devoted to than music, it's candy. On a recent Tuesday afternoon, the brothers, wearing matching cherry-red-and-lime-green eyeglasses, browsed the pick-and-mix bins at Kändi, a Swedish-style sweets shop in Los Angeles. They were joined by the actor Martin Starr, the co-founder of their new candy company, Sweet Stash, and by Ellen Van Dusen, of the cult housewares line Dusen Dusen, who'd designed the brightly colored packaging for their first product: a bag of multi-flavored gummies in the shape of music notes, called Jams, which débuted this month.

https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/09/15/theyll-take-you-to-the-candy-shop

3. N.Y.U.'s Dumpster-to-Dorm Boutique. New Yorker. 15th Sep 2025. Each year, in late May, the custodial crew at N.Y.U. conducts a lightning sweep of the campus's twenty-three dorms in preparation for the abbreviated summer session. Everything must go: dumpsters' worth of power cords, curling irons, cutlery, scarves, and scales. It's an extraordinary amount of waste for an institution that serves a transient population, and this summer, for the first time, a group of student interns in the facilities department set about collating the abandoned material, sifting through the dross (a hoodie underneath a carton of melted ice cream, say) and the hidden treasure (black Louboutins, barely worn), with the idea that students, and incoming freshmen especially, could benefit from a hand-me-down exchange. Thus was born the inaugural N.Y.U. Swap Shop, run out of a vacant grocery store on Second Avenue, "where students can find FREE gently-used living essentials," as a poster advertised.

https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/09/15/nyus-dumpster-to-dorm-boutique

4. Anthony Roth Costanzo Finds His Diva. New Yorker. 15th Sep 2025. In a dressing room near the amphitheatre on Little Island, a makeup artist (James Kaliardos, standing) was pouring his attention and a wealth of beauty supplies onto a countertenor (Anthony Roth Costanzo, seated). "I chose a little of Lady Gaga's makeup, a little of Rihanna's," Kaliardos told Costanzo. "We have to bring the divas with us. From diva to diva." Costanzo replied, "It's communicable."

https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/09/15/anthony-roth-costanzo-finds-his-diva

#### **BIOGRAPHY**

5. What I Wanted, what I got. New Yorker. 15th Sep 2025.
My mother recently confessed to me that, when I was a child, my paternal grandmother periodically sent me new clothes from a department store in New York City, outfits that I never saw. My mother regularly intercepted the packages, returned the items, and used the money to buy food for our family. So many decades after the fact, we both laughed. My mother had guessed correctly that, rather than feeling betrayed, I'd be amused to learn belatedly of yet another example of her resourcefulness—along with the plywood furniture she built for us, the inventive meals she made for us using government cheese, the cookware she acquired by saving up Green Stamps—in the years when she and my father were just barely getting by.

https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/09/22/what-i-wanted-what-i-got

#### **BUSINESS**

6. Why investors are piling into niche sports. Economist. 13th Sep 2025. In an arena in London, the crowd counts down from 20. Two athletes crouch inside a maze of bars and ramps, waiting for the buzzer. One will chase, the other will try to escape. This is "World Chase Tag", a professional league that has turned a childhood pastime into a spectacle, complete with referees, sponsors and TV deals. It has attracted millions of viewers and struck broadcast agreements with ESPN in America and Channel 4 in Britain.

https://www.economist.com/business/2025/09/09/why-investors-are-piling-into-niche-sports

7. Can Nestle's third boss in little over a year turn thing round? Economist. 13th Sep 2025. Nestlé, the proud, Swiss tradition-steeped company, suddenly appears to be a madhouse," laments the Neue Zürcher Zeitung, a Swiss daily. Barely a year after ousting its previous chief executive, Mark Schneider, on September 1st the board of the world's biggest food firm sacked his successor, Laurent Freixe, for not disclosing a romantic relationship with a subordinate. The turbulence at the top is unprecedented in the 159-year history of the company.

https://www.economist.com/business/2025/09/11/can-nestles-third-boss-in-little-over-a-year-turn-things-round

#### **CLIMATE CHANGE**

8. Floods in Punjab and the Himalayan Region. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-37. 13 Sep 2025.

When Kavi Pradeep's lyrics, *Hum Laye Hain Toofan Se Kishti Nikal Ke, Is Desh Ko Rakhna Mere Bachcho Sambhal Ke* were replayed during periods of national remembrance, little would the creators have known that the metaphor would hold literal warnings for future generations. As the song has been replaced by sectarian and ethnonationalist evocations, reality has literally come crashing down as *treath* (cloud burst), *passi* (landslide) and *sehlaab* (flood) on parochial forms of existence.

 $\frac{https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/37/comment/floods-punjab-and-himalayan-region.html}{}$ 

#### **ECONOMICS**

9. The Crypto Puzzle. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-37. 13 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

10. Employer Social Security Benefits and Its Impact on Job Retention. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-37. 13 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

11. Tred's and India's Small-scale Enterprises. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-37. 13 Sep 2025.

The Trade Receivables Discounting System was introduced to ease working capital constraints for India's micro and small enterprises by enabling invoice discounting

based on buyer creditworthiness. While conceptually robust, actual usage trends reveal a gap between intent and outcomes. High-value invoices, limited buyer onboarding, and mid-sized sellers dominate the platform, while smaller firms remain under-represented. This commentary revisits common explanations for low MSE participation and highlights the role of institutional and compliance gaps. It proposes a set of regulatory and operational reforms aimed at restoring the platform's original purpose of improving financial inclusion for small enterprises.

https://www.epw.in/journal/commentary/treds-and-indias-small-scale-enterprises.html

12. Regulating Coaching Centres. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-37. 13 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/commentary/regulating-coaching-centres.html

13. Distributional Effects of GST in India. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-37. 13 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/special-articles/distributional-effects-gst-india.html

14. Floating in Space. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-37. 13 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

15. Don't panic about the global fertility crash. Economist. 13th Sep 2025.

In "The Population Bomb", published in 1968, Paul Ehrlich, a biologist, wrote that humans were breeding so fast that food would inevitably run out and "hundreds of millions" would soon starve to death. Having toyed with the idea of "interstellar transport for surplus people", he advocated strict birth control, "by compulsion if voluntary methods fail".

https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/09/11/dont-panic-about-the-global-fertility-crash

16. A finance minister on what Europe must do to please Mario Draghi. Economist. 13th Sep 2025.

IT HAS BEEN a year since Mario Draghi, a former Italian prime minister and European Central Bank governor, presented his report on European competitiveness—a landmark effort to chart a course for growth. His message then was clear: without bold reforms, Europe risked a "slow agony" of relative decline. One year on, the sense of urgency has only deepened, hence the continued ringing of alarm bells by Mr Draghi, including a recent speech in which he warned that Europe must make "massive investments...now, when we still have the power to shape our future".

https://www.economist.com/by-invitation/2025/09/10/a-finance-minister-on-whateurope-must-do-to-please-mario-draghi

17. A contracting population need not be a catastrophe. Economist. 13th Sep 2025.

According to Elon Musk, the world's richest man and the father of at least a dozen children, the greatest potential risk to the future of civilisation is population collapse. Taking a very long-term view, he is right. If the world's population declines indefinitely, humanity will eventually disappear. But just as population growth has not exhausted the world's resources and caused mass starvation, as catastrophists have confidently predicted for centuries, shrinkage is not a calamity on the timescales that normal people use.

https://www.economist.com/briefing/2025/09/11/a-contracting-population-need-not-be-a-catastrophe

18. "Dalifornication" grips China. Economist. 13th Sep 2025.

Few destinations in China are as laid-back as Dali, a south-western backpackers' haven that has been nicknamed Dalifornia. Frazzled types retreat to its lakeside old town for the summer. They often hang around for months on a shoestring. By several accounts from restaurateurs, hoteliers and travel operators, the city's tourist areas appeared busier this summer than ever before. One local merchant grumbles that too many visitors come only to bai piao, or freeload.

https://www.economist.com/china/2025/09/07/dalifornication-grips-china

19. Director Fang is laughing all the way to the bank. Economist. 13th Sep 2025.

THE CROWD contained more than 1,000 people: a mix of locals from Linyi, a city in the eastern province of Shandong, and those who, like The Economist, couldn't snag a seat in their own cities. In Beijing, Fang's shows sold out in seconds. She is one of China's most popular, and most unusual, comedians. The 50-year-old comes from a village close to central Linyi. Coy about her given name, she is nicknamed Fang

zhuren, Director Fang. She rose to acclaim this summer after appearing on a top comedy show. Ms Fang riffs on women's issues, and in particular the breakdown of her difficult marriage. "If you can't overcome the mountain of prejudice, then mock it! And earn money while mocking it," advises Ms Fang.

https://www.economist.com/china/2025/09/11/director-fang-is-laughing-all-theway-to-the-bank

20. Europe's economy at last shows signs of a recovery. Economist. 13th Sep 2025.

On the face of it, the European economy is in a grim situation. The IMF forecasts average growth of just 0.4% this year for the continent's three largest economies—Germany, France and Italy—rising to barely 1% in 2026. On September 8th the French government fell, owing to disputes about how to close the country's <u>outsize budget deficit</u>, prompting its benchmark bond yields to rise to the level of Italy's for the first time since the creation of the euro in 1999. President Donald Trump is levying tariffs, the war in Ukraine continues unabated and Chinese commercial competition is becoming only more fearsome.

https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/09/10/europes-economy-at-last-shows-signs-of-a-recovery

21. Why American bondholders are jumpy about inflation. Economist. 13th Sep 2025. For the first time since Donald Trump returned to the White House, it seems that the Federal Reserve will do what he wants. "Jerome 'too late' Powell must now lower the rate," wrote the president on August 12th after the latest release of consumer-price data, in his umpteenth variation on this theme. Ten days later Mr Powell, the Fed's chair, hinted strongly to an annual gathering of central bankers at Jackson Hole, Wyoming, that an interest-rate cut was indeed coming. Now traders think one is a racing certainty when the monetary-policy committee next meets on September 16th and 17th. The only debate is whether the Fed's rate, currently between 4.25% and 4.5%, will fall by 0.25 percentage points or 0.5.

https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/09/10/why-american-bondholders-are-jumpy-about-inflation

22. Chinese trade is thriving despite America's attacks. Economist. 13th Sep 2025. Since Donald Trump returned to office, one country has borne the brunt of his fury. "We've been ripped off by every country in the world," he declared in April, "but China is the...'chief-ripper-offer'". On September 6th the president came up with a new label: "deepest, darkest China".

https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/09/09/chinese-trade-is-thriving-despite-americas-attacks

#### **EDUCATION**

23. The Improbable Warrior. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72, No-1, 5th Sep 2025. When Los Angeles attorney Leo Terrell, a legal commentator, lifelong Democrat, and fiery fixture on Fox News, announced on the network's "Hannity" show that he was

voting for Donald Trump in 2020, the MAGA universe went wild. Oliver North hailed him on his Real American Heroes podcast. Fox News signed him on as a paid contributor, at a six-figure salary.

https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-improbable-warrior

24. The College That's Thriving Under Trump. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72, No-1, 5th Sep 2025.

As Linda McMahon was raising her right hand to be sworn in as education secretary, the majority of Arizona's congressional delegation was putting the finishing touches on a letter that would land on her desk two days later. In it, the group called on the U.S. Department of Education to reverse an earlier decision that refused to recognize one of the nation's largest private schools as a nonprofit organization. The letter carried a blunt message beyond technicalities and classifications: Take Grand Canyon University off the federal government's hit list.

https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-college-thats-thriving-under-trump

25. Josh Shapiro's Quiet Campaign of Influence at Penn. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72, No-1, 5th Sep 2025.

In the fall of 2023, as pressure was ramping up on the University of Pennsylvania over antisemitism concerns from students, donors, and politicians, Pennsylvania's governor, Josh Shapiro, spoke with the university's two most senior leaders. In a public appearance in December, Shapiro lambasted Penn's president, Liz Magill, for her handling of the crisis, claiming that he had given her and Scott Bok, chair of the Board of Trustees, "concrete recommendations" at the time on how to make students feel safe.

https://www.chronicle.com/article/josh-shapiros-quiet-campaign-of-influence-at-penn

26. When the Legislature Kills Your Department. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72, No-1, 5th Sep 2025.

Sweeping reviews of whether to keep or ditch smaller academic programs have become a staple of college operations in the last decade thanks to mounting financial pressures. But they've always been initiated by leaders at the campus, or maybe at the system, level as a reaction to strained budgets or a perceived need to shake up curricula. And they have always been deeply unpopular with many professors, who bear the brunt of their impact.

https://www.chronicle.com/special-projects/the-different-voices-of-student-success/becoming-a-student-centric-institution/when-the-legislature-kills-your-department

27. Diversity Training Is Out. Dialogue Workshops Are In. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72, No-1, 5th Sep 2025.

As colleges across the nation phase out diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, many have started to phase in programs with a new focus: "dialogue." It's unclear whether the new embrace was precipitated by colleges' abandonment of DEI amid state and federal scrutiny. But campuses that once touted the importance of inclusivity are now training students to talk through their differences.

https://www.chronicle.com/article/diversity-training-is-out-dialogue-workshops-are-in

28. Columbia Will Make Direct Payments to Jewish Employees. Not All of Them Are Happy About It. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72, No-1, 5th Sep 2025.

When Columbia University announced last month as part of its deal with the Trump administration that it would establish a \$21-million fund to compensate employees who have been victims of campus antisemitism, Bruce Robbins, a Columbia English professor, said his first reaction was shock. His second reaction, he said, was, "If that's really what they're doing, then what about me?"

https://www.chronicle.com/article/columbia-will-make-direct-payments-to-jewish-employees-not-all-of-them-are-happy-about-it

29. A 'Nightmare': Alums and Retirees Say the Loss of Their College Inboxes Feels Personal. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72, No-1, 5th Sep 2025.

When Russell Bryant was given his @temple.edu email address as a freshman in 2010, administrators assured him that he would have the account for life. So after graduation, he used the email for all sorts of things: Apple Pay, Spotify, his electricity bills, and more.

https://www.chronicle.com/article/a-nightmare-alums-and-retirees-say-the-loss-of-their-college-inboxes-feels-personal

30. The Rapid Rise — and Precarious Future — of the Medical University. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72, No-1, 5th Sep 2025.

Since January, American higher education's research enterprise has faced unexpected reductions in funding from federal agencies brought about by executive orders and other actions from the White House. Times of crisis are also times for stocktaking. How did we get here?

https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-rapid-rise-and-disastrous-fall-of-the-medical-university

31. They're Killing the Humanities On Purpose. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72, No-1, 5th Sep 2025.

University leaders in the United States are slashing the humanities left and right. If you take what they say at face value, it's because of their limited fiscal capacities. But there is growing evidence that this isn't the case — that it isn't a lack of capacity so much as a fundamental lack of will on the part of administrators and boards of trustees to support humanistic education and research. How have the priorities of these university leaders wandered so far away from the age-old value of humanistic education and the true purpose of the liberal arts?

https://www.chronicle.com/article/theyre-killing-the-humanities-on-purpose

32. Students Are Using ChatGPT to Write Their Personal Essays Now. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72, No-1, 5th Sep 2025.

lused to believe I taught the one genre that artificial intelligence couldn't touch. For 15 years, I've guided college students through the deeply human work of personal narrative, helping them excavate memories, locate their voice, and shape raw

experience into meaningful prose. Creative nonfiction always felt like sacred ground. How could a machine possibly replicate the messy authenticity of human experience or the hard-won wisdom that emerges from surviving something painful?

https://www.chronicle.com/article/students-are-using-chatgpt-to-write-their-personal-essays-now

33. What to Do When Career Planning Feels Impossible. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72, No-1, 5th Sep 2025.

For many academics, the flexibility of the summer schedule allows time for the sort of big-picture career planning that's difficult to do during the school year. At least that's what I observed when I coached faculty members last summer and the year before. What's different this summer? The No. 1 challenge I'm hearing, across all disciplines and career stages: It's impossible to plan for the future.

https://www.chronicle.com/article/what-to-do-when-career-planning-feels-impossible

34. Charlie Kirk's Killing Threatens Colleges' Ability to Fulfill an Age-Old Responsibility: Hosting Political Events. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72, No-1, 5th Sep 2025. When colleges cancel events featuring provocative public figures or contentious topics, officials often make vague references to "safety concerns." Sometimes, in their campuswide missives, they admit that they cannot ensure the security of all attendees.

https://www.chronicle.com/article/charlie-kirks-killing-threatens-colleges-ability-to-fulfill-an-age-old-responsibility-hosting-political-events

#### **EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES**

35. What if the \$3trn AI investment boom goes wrong? Economist. 13th Sep 2025. IT ALREADY RANKS among the biggest investment booms in modern history. This year America's large tech firms will spend nearly \$400bn on the infrastructure needed to run artificial-intelligence (ai) models. OpenAI and Anthropic, the world's leading model-makers, are raising billions every few months; their combined valuation is approaching half a trillion dollars. Analysts reckon that by the end of 2028 the sums spent worldwide on data centres will exceed \$3trn.

https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/09/11/what-if-the-3trn-ai-investment-boom-goes-wrong

36. Al agents are coming for your privacy, warns Meredith Whittaker. Economist. 13th Sep 2025.

SOON WE WILL all have robot butlers, an army of Al agents anticipating our needs and fulfilling our desires. At least, this is the tech promise of the moment. From booking a restaurant to asking your crush on a date, we'll be able to put our brain in a jar while a bundle of Al systems does our living for us. Why waste time on wooing when you can leave it to your botservant to turn on the charm? In pursuit of this future, the companies that dominate this market are busy injecting Al agents into the nervous system of the digital world. But as in fairy tales, so in life: relying on magical fixes leads to trouble.

https://www.economist.com/by-invitation/2025/09/09/ai-agents-are-coming-for-your-privacy-warns-meredith-whittaker

#### **HEALTH**

37. R.F.K., Jr., Brings More Chaos to COVID Policy and the C.D.C. New Yorker. 15th Sep 2025.

Last month, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., the Secretary of Health and Human Services, demanded that Susan Monarez, the newly confirmed director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, fire senior officials at her agency and accept wholesale the recommendations of a handpicked panel of vaccine advisers whom he had installed. Monarez refused, and Kennedy asked for her resignation, just weeks after saying that he had "full confidence" in her "unimpeachable scientific credentials." She appealed to G.O.P. lawmakers, including Senator Bill Cassidy, a physician who chairs the Senate health committee and who had cast a crucial vote in favor of Kennedy's confirmation after receiving what one can only imagine were extremely believable assurances that he wouldn't do what he is now doing. The White House resolved the standoff by showing Monarez the door. (A headline in "Intelligencer" captured Cassidy's posture: "Key Republican Almost Annoyed Enough at RFK Jr. to Act.")

https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/09/15/rfk-jr-brings-more-chaos-to-the-cdc-and-covid-policy

38. Nitazenes: another failure of drug prohibition. Economist. 13th Sep 2025.

According to Britain's National Crime Agency, there has never been a more dangerous time to take drugs. In a review of the British drug market in 2024, the agency reported a steep increase in the use of cocaine; an explosion in imported cannabis; and the spread of a new synthetic opioid.

 $\frac{https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/09/10/nitazenes-another-failure-of-drug-prohibition}{}$ 

39. Ebola returns to Congo. Economist. 13th Sep 2025.

Driving medicines from Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo, to the south-central province of Kasai takes almost three days. That is bad news for people there who have recently been diagnosed with Ebola, a severe virus that kills some 50-90% of those infected in a matter of days. Yet the remote location of the province, far from the Congo river, the central African country's main artery, should also help contain the outbreak. It marks the 16th time Ebola has been confirmed in Congo since it was discovered there in 1976.

https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/09/11/ebola-returns-to-congo

40. A Dangerous new class of synthetic opioid is spreading.

On a morning in November 2023 Eamon Keenan, a psychiatrist who runs addiction services at Ireland's state-funded health-care provider, received a worrying phone call.

"People in homeless accommodation and hospitals are collapsing," he recalls being told. It was the start of a bleak few weeks. In Dublin and Cork, the country's biggest cities, 77 people would end up overdosing. The initial suspect was dodgy heroin, but laboratory analysis revealed a dangerous new class of drugs—nitazenes. Since then, these have been detected everywhere from <a href="Freetown">Freetown</a> in Sierra Leone to Sydney in Australia.

https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2025/09/09/a-dangerous-new-class-of-synthetic-opioid-is-spreading

#### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

41. Israel's Qatarstrophic error. Economist. 13th Sep 2025.

After the massacres of October 7th 2023, Israel's prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, promised to hunt down the leaders of Hamas "wherever they are". Israel pursued them in Gaza, Iran, Lebanon and Syria. But Qatar, where Hamas's grandees have long enjoyed a comfy exile, seemed off-limits. On September 9th that changed. Israeli warplanes bombed a villa there that was said to be hosting Hamas officials. Six people were killed, though it is uncertain if any Hamas leaders were among them. The strikes may have had tacit American approval. They are a grave error, making it harder to end the Gaza war, harming America's position in the Gulf and undermining the Abraham accords, which offer the region a better future.

https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/09/11/israels-qatarstrophic-error

42. The Kremlin's plot to kill NATO's credibility. Economist. 13th Sep 2025.

RUSSIAN DRONES have hit NATO countries before. One, presumably destined for Ukraine, landed in a field in Poland just last month. But what happened early on September 10th was the most serious incursion into NATO territory since the alliance began in 1949. Nineteen drones were fired, largely from Belarus, a client state where Russian troops freely operate. They ended up deep in Polish airspace, where some were shot down. Others crashed, fortunately with no loss of life.

 $\frac{https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/09/10/the-kremlins-plot-to-kill-natos-credibility$ 

43. Humanity will shrink, far sooner than you think. Economist. 13th Sep 2025.

"In the past", says Furkan Kayabasoglu, an obstetrician in Istanbul, "I would deliver a couple's first baby and then their second or even a third." These days, however, "one and done" parents are becoming the norm. Out of every ten births Mr Kayabasoglu attends, only one is of a second child. "We can't even reach the number of births needed to train new doctors," he laments.

https://www.economist.com/interactive/briefing/2025/09/11/humanity-will-shrink-far-sooner-than-you-think

44. A giant "knife-fight" in the Pacific. Economist. 13th Sep 2025.

IN 1942 Guadalcanal saw hand-to-hand combat between American marines and Japanese soldiers. On September 10th the island hosted another geopolitical tussle—when leaders of Pacific-island countries as well as Australia and New Zealand met in Honiara, the capital of the Solomon Islands, for their annual summit.

https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/09/09/a-giant-knife-fight-in-the-pacific

45. China is ditching the dollar, fast. Economist. 13th Sep 2025.

CHINA'S LEADERS sense an epic opportunity. President Donald Trump's erratic trade policy, gaping fiscal deficits and threats to the independence of America's Federal Reserve risk badly hurting the dollar. It has slumped 7% on a trade-weighted basis since January, and had its worst start to a year since 1973. By contrast, China's tightly controlled currency, the yuan, has reached its highest level since Mr Trump was reelected in November. Foreign investors are piling in. So are many governments looking for dollar alternatives.

https://www.economist.com/china/2025/09/10/china-is-ditching-the-dollar-fast

46. Making the Americas grate again. Economist. 13th Sep 2025.

Not since the invasion of Panama in 1989 has the United States acted so aggressively in Latin America. On September 2nd American armed forces destroyed a speedboat in the southern Caribbean; Donald Trump said it was running drugs to the United States from Venezuela. Eleven people on board were killed. Hours later, as he left Florida for a visit to Mexico and Ecuador, Marco Rubio, his secretary of state, declared that Mr Trump would use the "full might of the United States to take on and eradicate these drug cartels". On September 8th, from the deck of a warship at anchor off Puerto Rico, Pete Hegseth, the recently renamed secretary of war, told marines that they were on the "front lines" of a critical counter-narcotics mission.

https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2025/09/11/making-the-americas-grateagain

47. America can't or won't protect its friends in the Gulf. Economist. 13th Sep 2025. In may this year Donald Trump stood in a hangar on the outskirts of Doha, the Qatari capital, and made a promise. Behind him as he spoke was a phalanx of American troops. To his left was an MQ-9 Reaper drone; to his right, an F-15 fighter jet. The martial imagery was meant to reinforce the president's words to allies. "I will never hesitate to

imagery was meant to reinforce the president's words to allies. "I will never hesitate to wield American power, if it's necessary, to defend the United States of America or our partners," he said. "And this is one of our great partners right here."

https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/09/10/america-cant-orwont-protect-its-friends-in-the-gulf

48. A high risk mega dam in Ethiopia. Economist. 13th Sep 2025.

Standing on the rim of the reservoir of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) on the Blue Nile, Abiy Ahmed, Ethiopia's prime minister, called it "the greatest achievement in the history of the black race". Yet farther downstream the official opening on September 9th of Africa's largest hydropower project was not met with celebrations. "Any misguided assumptions that Cairo might turn a blind eye to its existential interests in the Nile are mere delusions," Egypt's government said in a

statement addressed to the UN Security Council. It vowed to take all necessary measures "to defend the existential interests of its people".

https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/09/08/a-high-risk-megadam-in-ethiopia

49. What it takes to evacuate an injured child from Gaza. Economist. 13th Sep 2025. Last month Laura Loomer, a far-right activist in America, posted several videos on social media of injured Gazan children arriving at American airports. Some were in wheelchairs or had lost limbs. Others perched on suitcases, beaming as welcoming crowds ululated and waved Palestinian flags. Ms Loomer, who is close to Donald Trump, accused the children and their companions of being "Islamic invaders". Within a few days America's State Department announced it was halting visas from Gaza; since then, visas for all Palestinians have been blocked.

https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/09/11/what-it-takes-to-evacuate-an-injured-child-from-gaza

50. Putin's dangerous drone probe is a moment of truth for NATO. Economist. 13th Sep 2025.

IT was THE most serious incursion into NATO territory since the foundation of the alliance in 1949. Nineteen Russian drones breached Poland's airspace between 11.30pm on September 9th and 6.30am the next morning. Polish fighter jets, along with Dutch F-35s deployed to Poland earlier this month, shot down some of them. Others crashed. One fell 300km deep into Polish territory. Within hours Poland's government invoked NATO's Article 4, triggering immediate consultation with allies. The Polish army denounced it as an "act of aggression". Donald Tusk, the country's prime minister, noted that it was the first time Russian drones had been shot down over NATO territory. Poland, he said, was at its "closest to open conflict since the second world war".

https://www.economist.com/europe/2025/09/10/putins-dangerous-drone-probe-is-a-moment-of-truth-for-nato

51. Italy's coalition sends mixed messages on Ukraine and Russia. Economist. 13th Sep 2025.

Matteo Salvini, Italy's populist deputy prime minister, is again beating the drum for Vladimir Putin. At a meeting of the European Parliament in Strasbourg in 2015, the leader of the hard-right League party famously wore a T-shirt emblazoned with the Russian president's face. He also once said he would like to have Mr Putin as Italy's prime minister "tomorrow". But on joining Giorgia Meloni's avowedly pro-Ukrainian coalition government in 2022, eight months after the invasion, Mr Salvini had to tone down the hero-worship.

 $\frac{https://www.economist.com/europe/2025/09/11/italys-coalition-sends-mixed-messages-on-ukraine-and-russia}{messages-on-ukraine-and-russia}$ 

52. Europe has an urgency deficit. Economist. 13th Sep 2025.

Deficits are like chaeses; both come in many varieties are

Deficits are like cheeses: both come in many varieties, are something of a European speciality, and become problematic if left to fester too long. A deficit in government

spending, the hardy perennial of European politics, has a proven ability to topple governments from Athens to Paris at a single whiff. A demographic deficit in most European countries brings into question the long-term viability of its welfare system—a problem as hard as an aged comté to scrape away. There are sectoral trade deficits, for example in manufactured goods with China or tech services with America, both of which make for geopolitical dependencies that leave European politicians bluer in the face than a vein of gorgonzola mould. Critics of the European Union's institutions highlight the democratic deficit, whereby citizens across the continent have little idea what Eurocrats who are meant to be representing their interests in Brussels are churning on their behalf.

https://www.economist.com/europe/2025/09/11/europe-has-an-urgency-deficit

53. Meet the leader of Europe's anti-Trump resistance. Economist. 13th Sep 2025.

TO APPRECIATE THE loneliness of Spain's prime minister, <a href="Pedro Sánchez">Pedro Sánchez</a>, consider this. When he was left out of a White House summit on Ukraine on August 18th, it was only Spain's second-worst snub that day. To the added dismay of foreign-policy types in Madrid, a seat was found for the president of Finland, a country with a population less than an eighth the size of Spain's, alongside leaders from Britain, the European Commission, France, Germany, Italy, NATO and Ukraine.

https://www.economist.com/international/2025/09/09/meet-the-leader-of-europes-anti-trump-resistance

54. France gets a new Prime Minister. Economist. 13th Sep 2025.

French politics took an absurdist turn this week, after parliament voted on September 8th to bring down a government for the second time in nine months. This time the victim was the centrist François Bayrou, whose minority government collapsed after a crushing defeat at a vote of confidence over his unpopular deficit-cutting budget. Last December parliament also toppled his predecessor, the centre-right Michel Barnier, also over the budget. Undeterred, President Emmanuel Macron on September 9th named a close ally, the defence minister Sébastien Lecornu, as his next pick—his fifth prime minister since 2022. Mr Lecornu's task is to try to break the cycle of parliamentary deadlock that has thwarted almost all government business, and turned domestic politics into a sorry repetitive spectacle.

https://www.economist.com/europe/2025/09/11/france-gets-a-new-prime-minister

#### **LAW**

55. Rethinking the Age of Consent in India. India Forum. 9th Sep 2025.

In its written submissions to the Supreme Court in a public interest litigation (PIL) aimed at making the justice system more effective in dealing with sexual offences, the union government recently opposed lowering the statutory "age of consent" from 18 years. It also objected to Amicus Curiae Indira Jaising's suggestion to exempt "consensual sexual activity" between adolescents aged 16 to 18 from the scope of the Protection of

Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act), 2012 and related criminal law provisions.

https://www.theindiaforum.in/law/rethinking-age-consent-india

#### LITERATURE

56. The Pool. New Yorker. 15th Sep 2025.

We'd never had a pool before, but the house came with one, which was part of its appeal, at least in my eyes. We were in our early thirties then, with two children—Molly, four, and Jordan, two—and we were moving because we needed more space, not to mention a better neighborhood, with better schools. Lacey, who was pregnant with our third and final child, said she was worried about the kids drowning in the pool, though there was a standard six-foot wrought-iron fence around the entire thing, with two self-locking gates, one just off the patio and the other at the far end, where the diving board was. I could already picture myself afloat on a rubber raft, a tall gin-and-tonic balanced just over my navel while the birds harmonized in the trees and the sun ran a firm, hot hand down the length of my body. "The kids aren't going to drown," I said.

https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/09/22/the-pool-fiction-t-coraghessan-boyle

57. What to make of the Mother who made you. New Yorker. 15th Sep 2025.

It is hard to overstate the literary impact, in 1997, of Arundhati Roy's début novel, "The God of Small Things." A family drama set in a small town in Kerala, in southern India, it was evocatively specific in its narrative, centered on twins whose mother—an erratic, imperious woman of exceptional gifts and unsalvable injuries—had been scandalously married, and more scandalously divorced. At the same time, the book achieved universality in its themes: the entanglements of kinship, the restrictions imposed by class and gender, the hazards of star-crossed love. Lyrical, comic, and intricately wrought, the novel won the Booker Prize, earned Roy a fortune in advances and foreign rights, and went on to sell millions of copies in dozens of languages.

https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/09/22/what-to-make-of-the-mother-who-made-you

58. Above Plakias, Crete. New Yorker. 15th Sep 2025.

https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/09/22/above-plakias-crete-fred-marchant-poem

59. Our Elsewhere. New Yorker. 15th Sep 2025.

https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/09/22/our-elsewhere-maxine-scates-poem

#### POLITICAL SCIENCE & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

60. The Dalit Movement in Uttar Pradesh and the Party-Politics Dilemma. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60, No-37. 13 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

61. Is British politics broken? Its centre is cracking. Economist. 13th Sep 2025.

When Sir Keir Starmer was elected just over a year ago, Labour ministers warned that their government was Britain's last chance to see off populism. The political centre has sprung a leak even sooner than they feared. Just one in five voters now supports the government; Sir Keir's personal ratings as prime minister are dire. On September 5th Angela Rayner, his deputy, resigned over unpaid taxes, prompting a wide cabinet reshuffle.

https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/09/11/is-british-politics-broken-its-centre-is-cracking

62. Japan's new leadership struggle is far from business as usual. Economist. 13th Sep 2025.

IT TOOK ISHIBA SHIGERU 15 years and several attempts to become Japan's prime minister. It took him less than one year to lose the job. On September 7th Mr Ishiba said he was stepping down as president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which in turn means he will no longer lead the country. He will remain in office until the party elects a replacement on October 4th.

https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/09/07/japans-new-leadership-struggle-is-far-from-business-as-usual

63. Huge demonstrations bring down Nepal's government. Economist. 13th Sep 2025. NEPAL HAS churned through 14 governments since it junked its monarchy in 2008. Yet the chaos that unfolded this month in Kathmandu and other cities was unprecedented. On September 8th at least 19 youngsters taking part in demonstrations against government corruption were killed, apparently by security forces; the following day the prime minister, Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli, resigned. His departure did not immediately satisfy protesters who were outraged at the killings. A day of destruction followed.

https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/09/09/huge-demonstrations-bring-down-nepals-government

64. The world's most powerful volunteers. Economist. 13th Sep 2025.

TO MARK THE centenary of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Mohan Bhagwat, its leader, last month delivered a series of speeches. He recounted the long history of an organisation that claims to be the biggest volunteer group in the world. He defended its Hindu-first vision for India. By the standards of your average birthday party, the hourslong lectures were not fun. But for a movement that prizes discipline and obsesses about ideology, it seemed a fitting way to celebrate.

https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/09/11/the-worlds-most-powerful-volunteers

65. Charlie Kirk challenged liberals until the day he was murdered. Economist. 13th Sep 2025.

Charlie Kirk always contended that it was better to challenge bad ideas, as he saw them, than to swallow them. His professional life was devoted to this belief. At the age of 18 he dropped out of university to launch what would become America's most prominent conservative youth organisation, Turning Point USA (TPUSA). On September 10th Mr Kirk was shot dead at a college campus in Utah doing precisely what had brought him fame, purpose and, to MAGA supporters, great acclaim: debating liberals.

https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/09/11/charlie-kirk-challenged-liberals-until-the-day-he-was-murdered

66. The ICE raid at Hyundai was a massive own goal. Economist. 13th Sep 2025.

The president is fixated on America's Democratic cities. Going after places that welcome immigrants has become a favourite policy. Yet on September 4th his administration arrested 475 foreign workers at a Hyundai electric-car factory just outside Ellabell, Georgia, a sleepy rural town deep in Republican country. Over 400 agents fanned out across the plant, ordering workers to present their papers or be carted off. Most of the people detained were South Korean nationals with the wrong kind of visas. Homeland Security declared it the biggest worksite raid ever conducted in the department's two-decade history.

67. The pitfalls of being a non-profit that is beholden to government. Economist. 13th Sep 2025.

While Republicans in Washington have stalled on trying to ban abortion nationally, they are having success in cutting funding to America's largest abortion provider. The pressure campaign against Planned Parenthood offers a case study of how non-profits dependent on federal money and out of step with MAGA priorities can be as vulnerable as universities to financial upheaval.

https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/09/11/the-pitfalls-of-being-a-non-profit-that-is-beholden-to-government

68. The Sinister brilliance of Donald Trump's security theatre. Economist. 13th Sep 2025.

Alligator alcatraz may or may not survive legal challenge. In August a court ruled that Donald Trump's giant migrant cage in a Florida swamp violated environmental rules and would have to close. On September 4th another court reprieved it. Regardless of what happens to the grim detention centre, its name will live on. A video of Mr Trump visiting it remains on the White House website. The Florida Republican Party sells

"Alligator Alcatraz" shirts and beer coolers. Memes circulate of alligators in ice (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) caps performing "ice, ice, Baby", a rap parody. The underlying message resonates loudly: if you come to America illegally, expect cruelty.

https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/09/07/the-sinister-brilliance-of-donald-trumps-security-theatre

69. A budget battle offers Democrats a chance to show some backbone. Economist. 13th Sep 2025.

THE CLIFFHANGER is familiar. Funding for the federal government expires on September 30th: welcome to shutdown season. In theory, the president proposes a budget, Congress negotiates and legislation is signed into law ahead of the new fiscal year, which begins on October 1st. But this is Washington and so, with just three weeks to do a deal, prediction markets place the odds of a shutdown at around 50%.

https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/09/08/a-budget-battle-offers-democrats-a-chance-to-show-some-backbone

70. What Javier Milei's first defeat means for his future. Economist. 13th Sep 2025. Contrition is an odd fit for Javier Milei, the aggressive libertarian president of Argentina who swept to power in 2023 labelling his rivals "thieves" and "rats". Yet after his party lost legislative elections in the province of Buenos Aires on September 7th by 13 percentage points, he gave it a try. "We will correct all our errors," he intoned gravely. Still, shocked investors dumped Argentine bonds and sold off the peso, causing it to slump by 7% before recovering somewhat.

https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2025/09/11/what-javier-mileis-first-defeat-means-for-his-future

71. The new Battle for Britain. Economist. 13th Sep 2025.

Stevenage, a commuter town north of London, exemplified an era of British politics dominated by two parties. Its mix of rural lanes, smart suburbs and scruffy estates make it a microcosm of England, and an electoral bellwether. Since 1974, whichever party won this parliamentary constituency also won the keys to Downing Street. And victory, the old model dictated, lay in a tranche of voters swinging between the Conservatives and Labour like a pendulum. In 2024 Labour Together, a partisan think-tank, coined "Stevenage Woman" for a genus of practically minded suburbanites who disdain "grand abstractions and vague promises".

https://www.economist.com/britain/2025/09/11/the-new-battle-for-britain

72. Labour has become the party of Britain's rich. Economist. 13th Sep 2025. It still pays to have working-class credentials in the Labour Party. The father of Sir Keir Starmer, Britain's prime minister, was a toolmaker; Sir Sadiq Khan, London's mayor, had a father who drove a bus; and the party's former deputy leader, Angela Rayner, grew up on a council estate. But—in politics as in life—those loudest about their humble origins might just have something to prove.

https://www.economist.com/britain/2025/09/11/labour-has-become-the-party-of-britains-rich

73. America's constitution is too hard to change. Economist. 13th Sep 2025.

Donald Trump's administration has imprisoned immigrants for their political opinions and killed alleged drug smugglers without trial. The president has asserted: "I have the right to do anything I want to do." One thing he has not tried is to amend the constitution. Perhaps he recognises the long odds: almost 12,000 amendments have been proposed since the constitution replaced the Articles of Confederation in 1789 and only 27—less than 0.25%—have been ratified.

 $\underline{https://www.economist.com/culture/2025/09/11/americas-constitution-is-too-hard-to-change}$ 

#### SCIENCE

74. What if the AI stockmarket blows up? Economist. 13th Sep 2025.

Since the release of ChatGPT in 2022, the value of America's stockmarket has risen by \$21trn. Just ten firms—including Amazon, Broadcom and Nvidia—account for 55% of the rise. All are riding high on enthusiasm for artificial intelligence, and they are not the only ones. Larry Ellison briefly became the world's richest man, after Al enthusiasm prompted the share price of Oracle, his firm, to leap. In the first half of the year an IT investment boom accounted for all America's GDP growth; in the year to date a third of the West's venture-capital dollars have gone to Al firms.

 $\frac{https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/09/07/what-if-the-ai-stockmarket-blows-up}{}$ 

75. NASA has found a Martian rock with what may be sign of life. Economist. 13th Sep

As "The Martian", Sir Ridley Scott's film of Andy Weir's novel, reaches its climax the world watches attempts to save Mark Watney, a NASA astronaut stranded on Mars, with bated breath. All of humankind, it seems, is united in its concern for a single life; crowds in America, Europe and China pay rapt attention to news coverage of the efforts to bring him home.

 $\frac{https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2025/09/10/nasa-has-found-a-martian-rock-with-what-may-be-signs-of-life}{}$ 

76. How to build top table fusion reactors. Economist. 13th Sep 2025.

There is a widespread misapprehension that controlling nuclear fusion is hard. In fact so long as you are not hoping to use the process to produce electricity, controlling fusion is easy. Indeed, it is possible to build a fusion reactor on a bench top. The details were worked out in 1964 by Philo Farnsworth, better known as the inventor of electronic television. The basic design is so simple that Farnsworth fusors, as they are known, can be built by hobbyists. Even their inventor, though, could not coax them into generating power.

 $\frac{https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2025/09/10/how-to-build-table-top-fusion-reactors$ 

#### **SOCIOLOGY**

77. Africa's deadly ferries. Economist. 13th Sep 2025.

The derailing of a funicular in Lisbon, Portugal's capital, which killed 16 people on September 3rd, sparked days of news coverage in Western countries. A ferry accident in northern Nigeria, in which at least 60 people died a day earlier, received less attention.

https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/09/11/africas-deadly-ferries

#### WILDLIFE

78. Relocating Tigers, Displacing Tigers. India Forum. 11th Sep 2025.

During April, May, and June 2025, villagers in the Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh received calls from the forest department about social media reports of tiger pugmarks being spotted and the animal being captured in trap cameras. It had been more than two years since a tiger had last been spotted here, which explained the excitement of the forest officials. Udanti-Sitanadi is a low-density tiger zone. Tigers moving in naturally and choosing this region as their habitat implied the success of the vision to declare the area a tiger reserve.

https://www.theindiaforum.in/environment/relocating-tigers-displacing-tigers

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

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