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1. Burden of Lies in Majoritarian Hindi Cinema. India Forum. 12th May 2026.
Last year, I was travelling in Kutch with my friends Amrit Gangar (film historian), Riyas Komu (artist-curator), and M.R. Rajan (filmmaker). We went there to take part in an event, “Gandhi in Kutch”: a padayatra organised by a group of Gandhian activists who, along with a batch of school students, were retracing the journey across Kutch that M.K. Gandhi had undertaken a hundred years ago.

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/culture/burden-lies-majoritarian-hindi-cinema>
2. Hilsa Diplomacy: Where Rivers, Memory, and Power Converge. India’s World. Vol.5. No-2. May 2026.
In September 2025, I received a rather unexpected invitation from the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi to a Hilsa Lunch at the Chancery. Right at the entrance, a board welcomed guests; on it were the flags of the two countries and the words, “Celebrating Friendship.” The veranda that led to the hall where the lunch was hosted was adorned with photographs of Bangladeshi fishermen at work, harvesting hilsa.

<https://indiasworld.in/hilsa-diplomacy-where-rivers-memory-and-power-converge/>
3. Oneohtrix Point Never’s Sense of the Uncanny. New Yorker. 4th May 2026.
The year 2025 presented a full distillation of the Daniel Lopatin experience. The distinguished electronic artist, who performs as **Oneohtrix Point Never**, co-produced one of the biggest pop records of that year, the Weeknd’s dark finale, “Hurry Up Tomorrow”; scored Josh Safdie’s adrenalized Best Picture nominee, “Marty Supreme”; and released his own mutative album, “Tranquilizer,” an ambient archival project that mimes since-deleted nineties sample libraries that Lopatin discovered in the Internet Archive. His music has spanned genres and mediums, with the composer filling various roles, but its through line is its sense of the uncanny and Lopatin’s understanding of how warping sonic textures can tap into surreality. His process, which bridges the neoclassical, the avant-garde, and even the kitsch, has made him one of the defining trackmasters of the twenty-first century. “I’m an amateur musician. I’m a professional recordist,” he told the Creative Independent.

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/goings-on/oneohtrix-point-nevers-sense-of-the-uncanny>
4. Reverend Billy Takes On Norman Foster’s New Monolith. New Yorker. 4th May 2026.
A little after midnight on Earth Day, the street preacher Billy Talen dragged his pulpit to the new Norman Foster-designed global headquarters of JPMorgan Chase, on Madison. His self-ordained mission: deliver a twenty-four-hour sermon, calling attention to the bank’s ties to the fossil-fuel industry. Talen, who is seventy-five, held an umbrella above his white leisure suit and silver bouffant, eying a pair of bank security guards. “Blessings upon your souls, gentlemen,” he bellowed. Members of his activist ensemble, the Stop

Shopping Choir, were setting up a live stream in the rain. Savitri Durkee, who directs both the choir and Talen, who is her husband, clipped a mike to his lapel and checked her watch. “It’s go-time, Billy,” she said. “See you on the other side.”

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/05/04/reverend-billy-takes-on-norman-fosters-new-monolith>

5. Medallions, Movement, and Mamdani at MOMA PS1. New Yorker. 4th May 2026.
On Election Night, Mayor Zohran Mamdani proclaimed, from a stage, “My brother, we are in City Hall now!” The remark was directed at Richard Chow, a cabdriver from Myanmar whom Mamdani had joined in 2021 on a fifteen-day hunger strike, to demand relief for the taxi-medallion debt crisis. The crisis, in brief: the N.Y.C. Taxi and Limousine Commission sells permits (“medallions”) to operate yellow cabs; the medallion—till recently a near-million-dollar investment—had its bottom drop out, owing to predatory lending and the deregulation of rideshare services. The body of Chow’s brother, Kenny, who’d accrued enormous medallion-related debt, was found in the East River in 2018. Chow would later chauffeur Mamdani to Gracie Mansion.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/05/04/medallions-movement-and-mamdani-at-moma-ps-1>

6. The Many Forms of Marcel Duchamp. New Yorker. 4th May 2026.
Love isn’t a word, or a concept, that one usually associates with Marcel Duchamp, the modernist master of irony and distance, but love—love of the mind and what it can do, love of bodies and play, love of freedom, love of what art can be, love of women, queerdome, poetry, and chance—is what makes “Marcel Duchamp” (at the Museum of Modern Art, through August 22nd) such a wonder. Curated with a respect that’s never slavish by Matthew Affron, Michelle Kuo, and Ann Temkin, it’s the first retrospective of Duchamp’s work in North America since a 1973 exhibition, also shown at MoMA, mounted by the legendary curators Anne d’Harnoncourt and Kynaston McShine. As was the case back then, the curatorial team is a collaboration between institutions: Affron works at the Philadelphia Museum of Art (as did d’Harnoncourt), whose signature Duchamp collection the artist himself helped to install, while Kuo and Temkin are at MoMA (where McShine was a curator). The current show works because its curators, whose interests are wide-ranging, support Duchamp’s own wide-ranging interests, honoring the pieces not as relics but as possibilities.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/05/04/marcel-duchamp-art-review-moma>

7. The Sqirl Redemption Arc. New Yorker. 4th May 2026.
The origin story of the Los Angeles restaurant Sqirl is the stuff of a millennial fairy tale. In 2011, a woman named Jessica Koslow, just shy of thirty, ended a period of career indecision by starting a preserves company. (She’d oscillated between professional kitchens, mostly working in pastry, and TV production, including a stint at “American

Idol.”) Koslow made her name at farmers’ markets and specialty shops, selling jars of jam in whimsical flavors such as raspberry-vanilla-bean and kumquat-chamomile. After a year, she moved into a tiny storefront in Virgil Village, a working-class, mostly Latino micro-neighborhood on the border of Silver Lake and East Hollywood. By 2013, the “sort-of cafe,” as the late L.A. *Times* food critic Jonathan Gold described it in an early, glowing review, drew daily lines down the block.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/05/04/the-sqirl-redemption-arc>

8. How Long Can Martha Graham’s Dance Revolution Last?. *New Yorker*. 4th May 2026. The Martha Graham Dance Company recently celebrated its hundredth anniversary, a remarkable feat, considering how much it has been through since Graham’s death, in 1991—a flood, financial crises, repeated closures, and an ugly, years-long legal battle over the rights to her dances which was resolved in the company’s favor only in 2005. All this had left a doomed feeling that the work of Martha Graham, one of the most outstanding dance artists of the twentieth century, might vanish. The anniversary seemed an almost too sunny effort to banish those dark days, with a star-studded gala, a PBS documentary, a quick tour, and the launch of comprehensive video documentation of the Graham technique, culminating in five nights of performances at New York’s City Center.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/05/04/how-long-can-martha-grahams-dance-revolution-last>

9. “Half Man” Tests the Limits of Brotherly Love. *New Yorker*. 4th May 2026. The course of fifteen-year-old Niall Kennedy’s life changes the first day he walks to school with his almost-stepbrother, Ruben. It’s 1986 and, like so many boys with spindly physiques and a love of science fiction, Niall (Mitchell Robertson) is dogged by bullies—though, in his case, the harassment is also a result of his mom’s romantic involvement with a woman, Ruben’s scowling mother. Niall, closeted and cerebral, is terrified of Ruben (Stuart Campbell), an earthy, charismatic bruiser fresh from a juvenile-detention center, but he intuits that the older boy may be his best chance at survival. When Niall’s tormentors yell their usual slurs on that fateful morning, it’s Ruben who makes the next move. He shoves Niall into a wall and asks, with their faces inches apart, “Are these guys bothering you, Bambi?” They both know that Ruben is a pit bull, and that he’s asking for permission to be unleashed. When Niall finally cops to the obvious, Ruben pulls out a knife and urges him to head to class alone: “You’re not a witness if you don’t see what happens.”

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/05/04/half-man-tv-review-hbo>

10. “Companion podcasts” are the latest hit format. *Economist*. 16th May 2026. When you are not watching your new favourite TV show, you may be thinking about it. How did they come up with that plotline—and how did the lead actor feel when he read the script? Where did they shoot that memorable scene, and with how many retakes? How long did it take to make that bejewelled costume?

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2026/05/14/companion-podcasts-are-the-latest-hit-format>

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

11. Prepare for an AI jobs apocalypse. Economist. 16th May 2026.

The launch of ChatGPT in 2022 ignited the artificial-intelligence boom—and elicited a chorus of warnings from AI bosses of an impending jobs apocalypse. Never mind that they have reason to talk up the disruptiveness of their products, or that rich-world employment is near all-time highs—the dark message has landed. Seven in ten Americans think AI will make it harder for people to find work; nearly a third fear for their own jobs. A dearth of openings for college graduates—especially computer programmers—amplifies the dread.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/05/14/prepare-for-an-ai-jobs-apocalypse>

12. AI models are being used to predict conflict. Economist. 16th May 2026.

AS AN UNEASY truce holds between America and Iran, experts are struggling to predict what new phase the conflict may enter next. Might an artificial-intelligence model know any better? To find out, The Economist asked RAND, a think-tank, to see if its new AI forecasting system thought a popular uprising was in the offing in Iran. Integrated Strategic Forecasting (ISF), as the system is known, put the chance of regime collapse or replacement by the end of 2026 at 20%—higher than many experts would hazard.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/05/13/ai-models-are-being-used-to-predict-conflict>

BIOGRAPHY

13. Raghu Rai's whole canvas was India. Economist. 16th May 2026.

It was hard to walk down a street with Raghu Rai. One friend estimated that, in a ten-minute trot to tea, he had stopped at least 100 times. He had seen what others did not see. A shadow on a wall that dramatised a woman passing, and the way her sari fell. Three sleeping dogs composing the centre of a terrace. Two commuters at a railway station standing stock still, reading their newspapers, while the crowd surged past them. Two old men walking in opposite directions, one a well-suited businessman, the other a bent, ragged beggar. This was seeing that did not miss an inch of space; seeing, or darshan, that recognised the connection between all things. Through his camera he met his god.

<https://www.economist.com/obituary/2026/05/14/raghu-rai-whole-canvas-was-india>

- 14.** Jan Morris was a man, then a trans woman—but always a narcissist. Economist. 16th May 2026.

In July 1972 the man once known as “James Morris” walked into a clinic in Casablanca. Days later, after a brisk operation, Jan Morris walked out. “I really am me!” She felt instantly different. As a man her role had been to “push and initiate”; now it was to “yield and accept”. She felt closer to animals. She found herself “talking to the garden flowers, wishing them a Happy Easter”. Women are like that. You can barely move in London parks for women talking to flowers.

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2026/05/14/jan-morris-was-a-man-then-a-trans-woman-but-always-a-narcissist>

BUSINESS

- 15.** Can Mukesh Ambani pull off his biggest gamble yet?. Economist. 16th May 2026.

In the coming months Reliance Industries, an Indian corporate colossus, will spin off Jio Platforms, its telecoms arm, in what is set to be the largest initial public offering in its country’s history. The flotation, expected to value Jio at \$130bn-150bn and raise around \$3.5bn, comes after a decade of huge, capital-intensive bets that have turned Reliance from an oil-and-chemicals company into a business empire woven into much of life in India.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/05/10/can-mukesh-ambani-pull-off-his-biggest-gamble-yet>

- 16.** America faces another grocery-price shock. Economist. 16th May 2026.

AMERICANS ARE not famous for their love of vegetables. The staples of American cuisine are starchy, cheesy and heavy on meat. One exception, though, sneaks into everything: the tomato. Slices are tucked into burgers; canned ones become pizza sauce; further processing turns them into ketchup. After potatoes, Americans eat more tomatoes than any other vegetable. Yet shoppers reaching for one at their grocery store may be experiencing a sense of déjà vu. Tomato prices are almost 25% higher than they were a year ago. It is eggs all over again.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/05/10/america-faces-another-grocery-price-shock>

- 17.** The war between businesses and hackers enters a perilous new phase. Economist. 16th May 2026.

CYBER-SECURITY IN the age of artificial intelligence in some ways resembles modern warfare. It is asymmetric: small bands of attackers armed with the latest technology can penetrate the most powerful defences. And the weaponry is increasingly autonomous. As

Nikesh Arora, boss of Palo Alto Networks (PAN), a big cyber-security firm, puts it, “AI has to fight AI.” The good guys do not always win.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/05/13/the-war-between-businesses-and-hackers-enters-a-perilous-new-phase>

18. Samsung has staged a stunning comeback. Economist. 16th May 2026.

Not long ago Samsung Electronics was in the doldrums. In 2024 the South Korean giant apologised for failing to maintain “technological competitiveness” and “falling short of the market’s expectations”. It has no need for contrition these days. This month its market value, which has soared by 400% in the past year, hit \$1trn for the first time, propelled by furious spending on artificial-intelligence infrastructure. In the first quarter of 2026 its operating profit rose to 57trn won (\$38bn), more than eight times as much as a year before. Analysts expect profits to keep rising at a blistering pace, thanks in particular to the seemingly insatiable demand for its advanced memory chips.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/05/14/samsung-has-staged-a-stunning-comeback>

19. The strange Japanese companies minting money from AI. Economist. 16th May 2026.

Ajinomoto has spent well over a century supplying monosodium glutamate (MSG), a chemical that gives food an umami kick. Now another of the Japanese seasoning giant’s products is whetting investors’ appetites. Ajinomoto Build-up Film (ABF) is a material used to insulate artificial-intelligence processors from circuit boards. It was originally made from by-products of MSG manufacturing. Ajinomoto controls more than 95% of the market. Booming demand for AI chips has made the film scarce, pushing Ajinomoto’s share price up by 65% since the start of the year, around three times the gain in Japan’s benchmark Nikkei index.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/05/14/the-strange-japanese-companies-minting-money-from-ai>

20. Companies are making big bucks from immigration crackdowns. Economist. 16th May 2026.

The exhibition hall of the annual Border Security Expo (BSE), held this month in Phoenix, Arizona, looked more like the set of a dystopian science-fiction film. Surveillance towers flashed brightly. Drones buzzed overhead. One company demonstrated a robotic dog designed to patrol borders. Another showed off a thermal camera that can detect movement kilometres away. On stage Tom Homan, President Donald Trump’s “border czar”, praised the technology firms in attendance for helping to build “the most secure border in history”.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/05/14/companies-are-making-big-bucks-from-immigration-crackdowns>

21. Introducing “Velocity pivot”. Economist. 16th May 2026.

We are pleased to announce a modern alternative to the “Lorem ipsum” text. This much-loved piece of filler text, derived from Cicero’s “De finibus bonorum et malorum”, has been used for layout purposes for centuries, and remains available for anyone to use. But we believe that other, newer forms of meaningless babble are even better at taking up space, which is why we are thrilled to unveil “Velocity pivot”. For most forms of corporate communication, it is not necessary to change the text at all before you publish.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/05/14/introducing-velocity-pivot>

22. Big tech is sacrificing its cashflows to prop up the AI boom. Economist. 16th May 2026.

Achart is haunting Silicon Valley. The profits of big cloud-computing firms (Amazon, Google, Meta, Microsoft and Oracle) are rising inexorably. Yet the amount of cashflow they generate after capital spending is falling. Sketched together, these soaring profits and diving free cashflows, which until recently rose in unison, resemble the gasps of the world’s investors.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/05/13/big-tech-is-sacrificing-its-cashflows-to-prop-up-the-ai-boom>

CLIMATE CHANGE

23. India’s legendary hill towns are sinking. Economist. 16th May 2026.

WHEN THE temperature rises, Indians head upwards. In the scorching month of May, many venture to famous hill towns—none better known than Shimla, a resort in the foothills of the Himalayas which British colonial rulers used as their summer capital. Urbanites chase fairy-tale scenes of pine forest, snow-capped peaks and mischievous macaque monkeys.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/05/14/indias-legendary-hill-towns-are-sinking>

ECONOMICS

24. US–Iran War: Strategic Wins and Geoeconomic Compulsions. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61. No-19. 9th May 2026.

President Donald Trump declared that “Project Freedom,” by which the United States (US) Navy would “guide” ships through the Strait of Hormuz, is paused to give negotiations a chance. This US de-escalation signifies a strategic win for Iran in these battles, though the war is not over till peace is signed. The balance of power in West Asia has shifted. American global primacy is questioned. A changed global order is visible where smaller states can show agency and strategic choice if they have spine and resilience, as displayed by Iran.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/comment/us-iran-war-strategic-wins-and-geo-economic.html>

25. Market Access Challenges for India in its FTA with EU. India Forum. 11th May 2026.

Within a week in early 2026, the government of India performed a veritable miracle by agreeing to bilateral free trade agreements (FTAs) with the two largest economies, the United States and the European Union (EU). The two decisions have fundamentally altered India's trade policy, the implications of which can only be understood when their granular details are revealed after they are officially endorsed by the governments.

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/international-affairs/market-access-challenges-india-its-fta-eu>

26. World Economy Is Bipolar, Not Multipolar. India Forum. 6th May 2026.

There is much discussion on the world economy being multipolar. While the fall of the Berlin Wall ushered in a unipolar world of the US, that hegemony has clearly declined over the last decade or so. The rise of China is the key factor in ending unipolarity. But, is there, along with the rise of China, also a rise of other poles, such as of the other BRICS countries, in the world economy? In discussions in India, including in official discourse, it is almost taken for granted that the world is multipolar and, in a wishful manner, that India is one of those poles.

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/economy/world-economy-bipolar-not-multipolar>

27. Private Credit's Geopolitical Shadow: Why Regulators Are Behind the Curve. India's World. Vol.5. No-2. May 2026.

Imagine a debt-ridden port operator, data centre group, or power asset in an emerging market. Unlike publicly traded bonds or bank loans, this debt is extended by a private equity fund, negotiated behind closed doors, and consequently, its restructuring terms don't follow market standards. The ownership chain of the fund and its sources of capital are layered across multiple countries, making the ultimate lender obscure. If the borrower defaults, a strategic asset could fall into the hands of an obscure lender over which the State has no visibility or oversight. Importantly, if the lender itself is heavily leveraged—typically through bank borrowings—it could default, leaving banks' depositors to absorb the losses.

<https://indiasworld.in/private-credits-geopolitical-shadow-why-regulators-are-behind-the-curve/>

28. Donald Trump's Pardon Economy. New Yorker. 4th May 2026.

I have great respect for you," Donald Trump told Rod Blagojevich. "I have great respect for your tenacity, for the fact that you just don't give up. But, Rod, you're fired." It was April, 2010, week four of the third season of "The Celebrity Apprentice," and Blagojevich, the pugnacious former governor of Illinois, had bungled the assignment: to design a

promotional campaign for a new Harry Potter exhibit at Universal Studios. In truth, Blagojevich had bigger things to worry about. He was broke—hence the “Celebrity Apprentice” gig. More worrisome, he was about to stand trial on corruption charges, for, among other things, trying to profit from naming Barack Obama’s replacement in the Senate. Blagojevich was ultimately convicted and sentenced to fourteen years in prison.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/05/04/donald-trumps-pardon-economy>

29. Oil prices could soon rise convulsively. Economist. 16th May 2026.

THE LARGEST supply shock in petroleum history is getting larger fast. Some 2bn barrels, or 5% of the world’s yearly oil supply, have already been lost because the Strait of Hormuz is shut. Every day it remains closed the deficit grows by 14m barrels. Since peace talks between America and Iran have stalled, a reopening still seems many days away.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/05/14/oil-prices-could-soon-rise-convulsively>

30. India’s pricey private universities want to take on the Ivy League. Economist. 16th May 2026.

NINETY TYPES of tree sway in the arboretum at the heart of Ahmedabad University, in the western state of Gujarat. “Always be in Beta”, say motivational signs that hang in the institution’s wide halls. The university’s four thousand or so learners toil in smarter surroundings than the average Indian student—and that is not surprising. Each year of undergraduate study at this private non-profit costs around 500,000 rupees (\$5,300), well above a typical Indian’s annual wage.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/05/11/indias-pricey-private-universities-want-to-take-on-the-ivy-league>

31. The jobs apocalypse: a (very) short history. Economist. 16th May 2026.

AT NO TIME in polling history have Americans been less optimistic about their long-term employment prospects. The average person believes they have a 22% chance of losing their job in the next five years, according to one survey, a higher share than even during the global financial crisis of 2007-09. The cause of this gloom is artificial intelligence. Nearly one in five American workers recently told another pollster that AI or automation is “very” or “somewhat” likely to replace them.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/05/14/the-jobs-apocalypse-a-very-short-history>

32. Is AI putting graduates out of work already?. Economist. 16th May 2026.

“There’s no sign in the data that AI is costing anybody their job right now,” Kevin Hassett, a White House adviser, said on May 11th. Someone should tell America’s class of 2026. “It’s grim,” one professor says of the market for graduate jobs. Artificial

intelligence is the popular villain. At a recent commencement ceremony in Florida a speaker was booed for mentioning it. And not without reason: our analysis suggests AI may indeed be harming some graduates' job prospects.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/05/13/is-ai-putting-graduates-out-of-work-already>

33. China wants more robots but not fewer workers. Economist. 16th May 2026.

A year ago the city of Qingdao had just a handful of autonomous vehicles. Now it has more than almost anywhere else on Earth. One firm, Neolix, has put around 1,200 unmanned delivery vans on local roads; it hopes to have 4,000 by the end of the year. With several other autonomous taxi and food-delivery projects under way, Qingdao exemplifies how rapidly artificial intelligence is transforming China. It is also the front line of the clash between unmanned vehicles and drivers.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/05/11/china-wants-more-robots-but-not-fewer-workers>

34. America is experiencing a productivity miracle. Economist. 16th May 2026.

As with many a miracle, onlookers disbelieved their eyes at first. For a decade after the global financial crisis of 2007-09 rich-world productivity growth was, by historical standards, deadish. Since prosperity depends on the ability to produce more with the same labour, this consigned even America to eternal stagnation (and don't ask about Europe). The Congressional Budget Office, a fiscal watchdog which consistently overestimated productivity growth in the 2010s, has been consistently glum this decade (see charts 1 and 2). Partial data hinting otherwise were dismissed as false prophets.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/05/11/america-is-experiencing-a-productivity-miracle>

35. How the world has avoided an oil catastrophe so far. Economist. 16th May 2026.

Ten weeks into the Iran war, the mystery is deepening. Every day the Strait of Hormuz remains closed, nearly 14m barrels of oil—14% of global output—are lost. At least 2bn barrels will probably disappear from this year's total even if the strait reopens today. Yet Brent crude, at \$106 a barrel, fetches much less than the \$129 it hit in 2022, after Russia invaded Ukraine, and nowhere near the \$150-200 analysts predicted if the Iran war dragged on.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/05/12/how-the-world-has-avoided-an-oil-catastrophe-so-far>

36. Index rebalancing is now the biggest event in markets. Economist. 16th May 2026.

What do the Indonesian stockmarket, South Korean government bonds and Robinhood, an online broker, have in common? Not much, you might think. But over the past year

investors in all three have quivered before the same phenomenon: the awesome power of financial indices.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/05/12/index-rebalancing-is-now-the-biggest-event-in-markets>

37. How to share the AI windfall. Economist. 16th May 2026.

Should artificial intelligence cause mass unemployment, workers will not be thrilled. But neither will the taxman, even if he hasn't been automated. For most of the past century, rich countries have had simple rules for sharing prosperity: raise money mostly by taxing work and consumption, sprinkle in some borrowing and hand out the proceeds. That model may collapse if AI advances as quickly as its boosters suggest. Hence, many say, a new approach is needed, in which government makes its money primarily from the new technology.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/05/14/how-to-share-the-ai-windfall>

EDUCATION

38. What the University of the Future Will Look Like. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol. 72. No-18. 8th May 2026.

The comprehensive American university was one of the great achievements of the 20th century. It opened the doors of higher education to millions, produced world-changing research, and became a model that countries around the world tried to copy. It did more than deliver instruction. At its best, it helped shape minds, careers, character, and citizenship all at once.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-end-of-higher-eds-status-quo>

39. How Colleges Stopped Rewarding Curiosity. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol. 72. No-18. 8th May 2026.

Gianni Brescio needs to get something tangible out of his college education. He's going to Georgetown University on loans, and he doesn't have a lot of family wealth to fall back on. He's majoring in global business, in part for its job prospects. But a course far outside his major opened up new possibilities.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/how-colleges-stopped-rewarding-curiosity>

40. Higher Ed Has a Workload Problem. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol. 72. No-18. 8th May 2026.

Early in 2023, I interviewed an administrative professional at a regional public university in the Midwest who, for anonymity's sake, I call Mila. She started her career as a data-entry clerk in a career-services office, but over the next decade worked her way up to a

senior secretary. Because of tight budgets around the 2008 recession, her office never filled her prior position. That work didn't evaporate, of course, so Mila fulfilled the responsibilities for both roles. As she put it, "I was basically the office manager, with a side of full-time employment." Two jobs for the price of one.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/higher-ed-has-a-workload-problem>

- 41.** Why Pedagogy 'Experts' Are Wrong. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol. 72. No-18. 8th May 2026.

Imagine an unassuming medium-sized college, dotted with red brick buildings, situated at the outskirts of a small American town. It is staffed with an earnest and devoted faculty, committed to providing students with an education that will equip them to flourish both as citizens and as human beings. Its teachers belong to departments organized by discipline, within which curricular decisions are made collectively and pedagogical challenges are addressed together. They are imperfect, of course, and often disagree among themselves. Nevertheless, together they possess the kind of practical wisdom that comes with years spent in their specific disciplines, educating students.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/why-pedagogy-experts-are-wrong>

- 42.** Higher Ed Has a Trust Problem. Yale Thinks It Has Solutions. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol. 72. No-18. 8th May 2026.

Too often, academics have "resisted calls to critically examine our own institutions, professions, and modes of thought." But that modus operandi no longer suits: "As we move forward, we must be willing to admit where we have been wrong."

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/higher-ed-has-a-trust-problem-yale-thinks-it-has-solutions>

- 43.** Is Kentucky's Governor Trying to Push Out a Flagship President?. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol. 72. No-18. 8th May 2026.

Some institutions have had a hard time keeping their presidents for more than a couple years. That's not an issue at the University of Kentucky, where Eli Capilouto has been president since 2011.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/is-kentuckys-governor-trying-to-push-out-a-flagship-president>

- 44.** Professors Are Too Old. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol. 72. No-18. 8th May 2026.

There have always been old people. A psalm of the Bible says that, unless they die early for some reason, human beings get 70 years, 80 if they're lucky. Genesis mentions generations of superagers at the start of humanity — like Adam, Noah, and Methuselah, the latter of whom celebrated his 969th birthday. And elders have long been accorded preferences and priorities. Another biblical passage, this one from Proverbs, holds that "gray hair is a crown of glory." The "preference for age and seniority," the historian Keith

Thomas has remarked, has been “shared by all those corporate institutions which set a value on hierarchy, stability, and continuity.”

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/professors-are-too-old>

- 45.**The Hard Budget Conversation Colleges Should Have. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol. 72. No-18. 8th May 2026.

Ten percent, 15 percent, 20 percent, even 25 percent — those are the return assumptions I saw on slides over my two decades in institutional investing. In a business where basis points matter, the roundness of these numbers was a tell. They were aspirations that had survived long enough to feel like facts. Questioning them meant starting a conversation about spending less and promising less, and so, invariably, the numbers survived another year.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-hard-budget-conversation-colleges-should-have>

- 46.**Cowardice and the Closing of Hampshire College. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol. 72. No-18. 8th May 2026.

I am writing from the soon-to-be ruins of Hampshire College, where, on Tuesday, April 14, students, faculty, staff, and alumni were all informed that the college would close by December and that the majority of us would likely leave well before then, in May or June of this year. This is, by now, a familiar story — a small, New England-based liberal-arts college that relies overwhelmingly on tuition closes its doors — and I’m not here to rehash the basics. Instead, I urge small colleges like Hampshire to take a good, hard look at themselves. Specifically, I want to urge the Board of Trustees and the upper administration of these colleges to be honest with themselves and the communities they are responsible for.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/cowardice-and-the-closing-of-hampshire-college>

- 47.**Unlocking collective intelligence: the economic and social returns of embedding peer learning in educational policy. University News. Vol.64. No-19. 17th May 2026. Page No-3-15.

In the age of information abundance and AI-assisted cognition, the single most undervalued component of learning in formal education is peer learning. While conventional education systems prioritise individual performance, isolated assessment, and competition, the real-world calls for collaboration, co-creation, and collective problem-solving. Peer learning—especially when linked to formative and co-assessment practices—is central to building these capacities. This article argues that peer learning is not merely a pedagogical technique but a foundational element of heutagogy (self-determined learning), particularly when integrated with models like SPRINT, which aim for the highest levels of Bloom’s Taxonomy—Evaluate and Create.

- 48.** Inclusive higher education for transgender students in India: challenges and policy interventions. University News. Vol.64. No-19. 17th May 2026. Page No-16-18.

Education is a key instrument for social mobility and empowerment. However, the transgender community in India continues to experience systemic exclusion from educational institutions. Despite progressive legal frameworks such as the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) judgment (2014) and the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, access to education for transgender individuals remains limited. This paper examines the structural and social challenges faced by transgender students in India, particularly in higher education. It analyzes issues such as lack of primary education access, social stigma, economic barriers, and institutional discrimination. The paper also highlights emerging policy initiatives, including the free higher education tuition policy for transgender students in Maharashtra. Through a policy-oriented analysis, the study suggests interventions such as inclusive infrastructure, scholarship programs, sensitization training, and curriculum reforms to promote equitable participation of transgender students in higher education institutions.

- 49.** Agitations of visually impaired students in universities: cause, malpsychology and pathways for reflection. University News. Vol.64. No-19. 17th May 2026. Page No-19-28.

The increasing visibility of protests and agitations by visually impaired students in Indian universities has highlighted both the progress and persistent gaps in accessibility in higher education. Despite the legislative promise of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, which mandates inclusive infrastructure, reasonable accommodation, and equitable participation, systemic non-compliance remains widespread. Instances from institutions such as Panjab University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Banaras Hindu University, Jadavpur University, and Cotton University reveal recurring grievances regarding inaccessible study materials, lack of digital and physical accommodations, inadequate hostel facilities, and unsafe campus environments. At the same time, certain episodes reveal behavioural complexities—such as prolonged occupation of hostels, confrontational protests, and contested uses of the RPwD Act—raising questions about dependency, entitlement, and maladaptive coping responses among students.

ENVIRONMENT

- 50.** Can the E.P.A. Survive Lee Zeldin?. New Yorker. 4th May 2026.

Last summer, more than a hundred and fifty staff members at the Environmental Protection Agency sent a letter to the agency's head, Lee Zeldin, outlining their concerns about his leadership. Topping the list was Zeldin's naked partisanship. The administrator often used his official communications to trash Democrats. This "politicized messaging," the letter said, was undermining trust in the agency. So, too, were Zeldin's gutting of the E.P.A.'s research division and his tendency to ignore the findings of its scientists. The missive noted that it reflected the staffers' personal, rather than professional, opinions, and had been written on their own time. It ended by urging Zeldin to "correct course."

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/05/04/can-the-epa-survive-lee-zeldin>

51. New York looks set to lower a big barrier to building. Economist. 16th May 2026.

GETTING A NEW building project through New York's state environmental approvals can feel like a bureaucratic game of snakes and ladders. Even though projects are also signed off locally, the state process requires an analysis of their effects. After about two years of study, if a builder is lucky, he can hop up a ladder towards the end of the game. Others must go through a more-exacting report, moving one square for a public hearing and then another for each of the 20 technical analyses that must be done in New York City. This takes closer to three years. If the plan changes in that time, the builder lands on a snake (or a chute, in the American version) and goes back to the start. A lawsuit can create a whole second round.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2026/05/14/new-york-looks-set-to-lower-a-big-barrier-to-building>

HEALTH

52. Mothers who cannot breastfeed have been given terrible advice. Economist. 16th May 2026.

MEDICINE IS A neatly sorted discipline. From head to toe, all major parts of the body have a specialism: cardiology for the heart, urology for (male) genitals, neurology for the brain, even psychiatry for the embodied mind. All, that is, but one. Mammary glands, though possessed by one half of humanity and admired by the other, lack a dedicated field. Science, too, has neglected the body's milk-making function. This lack of "lactology" is bad for infants and mothers.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/05/14/mothers-who-cannot-breastfeed-have-been-given-terrible-advice>

53. The Gulf war will change Asia for good. Economist. 16th May 2026.

What Narendra Modi asks of Indians, he usually gets. During the pandemic India's prime minister exhorted them to stay inside and to bang pots and pans in support of health workers. The country obliged. On May 10th he asked Indians to replicate some of that covid-era discipline. He urged them to work from home where possible, and to cut back on foreign travel.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/05/14/the-gulf-war-will-change-asia-for-good>

54. Why many women cannot make enough breast milk. Economist. 16th May 2026.

THE STRUGGLE to breastfeed is a defining feature of early motherhood for many women. Of the approximately 90% of mothers in rich countries who start breastfeeding, a quarter give up within a few weeks, often because they fear they are not producing enough milk to feed their babies. For many years doctors have assumed that true cases of poor supply are rare, occurring in no more than 5% of mothers. The prevailing advice to worried parents from health authorities in places such as England and America has,

therefore, been to stimulate the release of milk by either putting the baby to the breast more often or using a breastpump.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/05/12/why-many-women-cannot-make-enough-breast-milk>

55. Do houseplants improve air quality?. Economist. 16th May 2026.

Clean air is important for health, yet many homes are rife with pollutants. Household products such as cleaning solvents, waxes, paints and varnishes often contain volatile organic compounds like benzene and toluene, which can cause skin irritation, eye damage, neurological disorders and cancer. Furnishings and carpets, for their part, can slowly release formaldehyde, another carcinogenic molecule.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/05/08/do-houseplants-improve-air-quality>

56. Why measles is returning to the Americas. Economist. 16th May 2026.

The elimination of measles from the Americas in 2016 was spectacular. No other region of the world had ever managed to go a year without sustained transmission of the disease, the UN World Health Organisation's bar for elimination. But it did not last long. In 2017 cases flared in patchily vaccinated Venezuela. Migrants fleeing hyperinflation and regime brutality carried measles over the border to Brazil. It tore through the deprived Amazon area before finding its way to the densely populated state of São Paulo. By the time covid-19 arrived three years later, with lockdowns and masks curbing transmission, measles had infected at least 30,000 people and killed more than a hundred, mostly young children or infants. It was the worst period for measles in the Americas for 22 years.

HISTORY

57. In the Shadows of 1971: The Rise and Decline of the SSB. India's World. Vol.5. No-2. May 2026.

As the night sky lit up faintly with blinking stars, the Mukti Bahini, the Bengali guerrilla resistance movement in then East Pakistan, were constantly trained by the Special Service Bureau (SSB) in an assortment of high-tech weapons, including rocket launchers and mortars. Though the jungles were dark and damp, dripping at places, the element of surprise in their training regime was complete. Fingers curled around the triggers of their weapons, the Mukti Bahini men waited with bated breath and pounding hearts.

<https://indiasworld.in/in-the-shadows-of-1971-the-rise-and-decline-of-the-ssb/>

58. U Nu and the Unquiet Birth of Burma. India's World. Vol.5. No-2. May 2026.

UNu's life ambitions seemed rarely ever in sync with their circumstances. Even while he served as Burma's first prime minister, this practising Buddhist would occasionally don the robes of a monk and retreat into meditation. He longed to be remembered as 'the

George Bernard Shaw of Burma', for his real talent was being a playwright. A political agitator of reputable standing in his younger days, his fervent leftist anti-colonialism could never cross over to its actual culmination, Marxism, because a practising Buddhist nationalist couldn't go full throttle with a religion-is-opium Marx. Most tragically perhaps, he was a deeply reluctant politician who was thrust onto the premiership by the force of catastrophic circumstances.

<https://indiasworld.in/u-nu-and-the-unquiet-birth-of-burma/>

- 59.** The Stilwell Road: A Story of War and Memory. India's World. Vol.5. No-2. May 2026. During World War II, the rapid advance of the Japanese army into Burma (now Myanmar), accompanied by relentless bombing of towns and cities, caused a complete breakdown of communication and led to the collapse of British administration in the region. As Allied forces retreated, they destroyed key infrastructure, strategic installations, oil refineries, and important bridges such as the Ava Bridge over the Irrawaddy River in an effort to slow the Japanese advance. Amid widespread panic, hundreds of thousands of non-Burmese residents, including Europeans, fled toward India using any available means of transport, while many others were forced to undertake perilous journeys on foot.

<https://indiasworld.in/the-stilwell-road-a-story-of-war-and-memory/>

- 60.** The Kohima War Cemetery: A Living Site beyond History and Remembrance. India's World. Vol.5. No-2. May 2026. As one approaches Kohima in Nagaland, the Kohima War Cemetery comes into view amid the hustle and bustle of the city, yet marked by a quiet sense of dignity and valour. Designed by Colin St. Clair Oakes, it stands firmly atop Garrison Hill, at the very heart of Kohima town. Alongside the Imphal War Cemetery, it points to a deeper political reality which marks the violent negotiations through which India's farthest eastern boundary with Burma was secured and defined.

<https://indiasworld.in/the-kohima-war-cemetery-a-living-site-beyond-history-and-remembrance/>

- 61.** The weird, wild story of humanity's obsession with gold. Economist. 16th May 2026. In the 1980s Lloyd Blankfein, the future boss of Goldman Sachs but then a rookie gold trader, bought a kilogram of the metal for himself. He describes this in "Streetwise", his memoir, as less an investment than a conversation piece—albeit one that cost around \$15,000 (\$50,000 today). When he handed it round at dinner parties, he found it better at prompting awe than speech. "People would become slightly mesmerised," he writes. "No one ever wanted to let go of it."

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2026/05/14/the-weird-wild-story-of-humanitys-obsession-with-gold>

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

62.The Last Form of Agency. India's World. Vol.5. No-2. May 2026.

For decades, European prosperity rested on two pillars: Germany built things the world wanted and sold them at a premium. France spent lavishly on strategic grandeur—giving Europe the posture of a continent still capable of projecting geopolitical weight it no longer carries. Together, they accounted for roughly 45% of the eurozone's economic output, providing the political ballast that kept the European project globally envied.

<https://indiasworld.in/the-last-form-of-agency/>

63.The Bay of Bengal in Japan's Strategic Calculus. India's World. Vol.5. No-2. May 2026.

For Tokyo, the Bay of Bengal is not just the entry point to the Indian Ocean; its strategic importance is undeniable for Japanese policy elites. It is located along the main Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs) to the Middle East, and most oil tankers transit through the Strait of Malacca to reach the Pacific Ocean. Instability in the region would pose a direct threat to Japan's economy, and Tokyo strongly supports the region's connectivity projects in the hope of facilitating stability through economic growth. The increased Chinese presence in the region, including naval and submarine activities as well as port building at Hambantota, Sri Lanka, has also attracted the attention of policymakers in Tokyo.

<https://indiasworld.in/the-bay-of-bengal-in-japans-strategic-calculus/>

64.Trade or Taiwan? Trump and Xi struggle to set the terms. Economist. 16th May 2026.

THE TEMPLE of Heaven in Beijing has long been a symbol of cosmological order and imperial authority. The complex, built in the 15th century, was designed to represent the relationship between the human and divine worlds, and the special role played in that by the Chinese emperor, as the "son of heaven". At least once a year, emperors would process from the Forbidden City to the temple with a vast entourage to perform ceremonies praying for a good harvest, benevolent weather and harmony across the realm.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2026/05/14/trade-or-taiwan-trump-and-xi-struggle-to-set-the-terms>

65.China's tea brands want to conquer America, Starbucks-style. Economist. 16th May 2026.

BACK IN CHINA Emily Chang's job was to promote Starbucks. "We were nurturing coffee culture in a country that knows centuries of tea," says the former chief marketing officer of the American firm in the People's Republic. Now Ms Chang works for Chagee, a tea chain little known outside China, and is doing the opposite. Her task is to champion the Chinese brand and tea-drinking habit in coffee-centric America (and to resist a tendency to mispronounce Chagee—the letter g is soft).

<https://www.economist.com/china/2026/05/14/chinas-tea-brands-want-to-conquer-america-starbucks-style>

LAW

- 66.** New Transgender Law, in Haste to Govern Efficiently, Trods over Recognising Rights. India Forum. 9th May 2026.

What is at stake for the transgender community after the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Act, 2026? Enacted with little consultation with the community and amidst protests from activists, the new law marks a decisive shift in how transgender identity is recognised and regulated in India. It moves away from the language of autonomy and dignity, and towards a framework that prioritises classification, verification, and control.

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/law/new-transgender-law-haste-govern-efficiently-trods-over-recognising-rights>

LITERATURE

- 67.** Process of Elimination. New Yorker. 4th May 2026.

Someone must have been telling lies about me because when I came in for my shift this morning, I found out I was going to be fired for stealing the tip jar.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/05/04/said-sayrafiezadeh-fiction-process-of-elimination>

- 68.** Walton, Anthony

Tompkins Square. New Yorker. 4th May 2026.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/05/04/tompkins-square-anthony-walton-poem>

- 69.** Doshi, Tishani

A Theory on the Origin of Language. New Yorker. 4th May 2026.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/05/04/a-theory-on-the-origin-of-language-tishani-doshi-poem>

MILITARY SCIENCE

70. The AI that transformed American warfare. Economist. 16th May 2026.

THE MAVEN Smart System is perhaps the most important weapon system you have never heard of. It has spotted Iranian missiles heading for Israel and rocket launchers in Yemen. It has detected migrants crossing America's southern border and drug boats in the Caribbean. On one day in 2022 it found more than 260 potential targets for Ukraine.

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2026/05/14/the-ai-that-transformed-american-warfare>

POLITICAL SCIENCE & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

71. Net Loss for Federalism and the Opposition. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61. No-19. 9th May 2026.

The recently concluded assembly elections in four states represent an advance for the ruling alliance, a setback for federalism, and further fracturing, rather than consolidation, of the national Opposition. It also signals the imperative to base Opposition to the ruling alliance and its ideology on a vision and programme of democratic empowerment and structuring of political power in a manner that braids greater vibrancy in the diverse regions that constitute India into enhanced collective power of the nation. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) now wields power in one more state, but could not gain much in Tamil Nadu (TN) and Kerala. The Congress now runs one more state, but the collective Opposition stands weakened. In theory, the Congress could advance at the expense of regional parties in decline, both in TN and West Bengal (WB). But it would have to shed its current style of arbitrary, centralised decision-making that makes regional leaders revolt and leave. The threat to federalism is highlighted by the TN governor's insistence that he, rather than the elected legislature, would determine which group commands a majority and forms the government. An even greater casualty is secularism, clearer nowhere than in WB and Assam.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/editorials/net-loss-federalism-and-opposition.html>

72. The President of Peace and His War of Choice. India's World. Vol.5. No-2. May 2026.

Our current strategy of regime change is a proven, absolute failure. We have created the vacuums that allow terrorism to grow and thrive," stated Donald J. Trump in August 2016, then the Republican nominee for the 45th President of the United States.

<https://indiasworld.in/the-president-of-peace-and-his-war-of-choice/>

73. Dominance and Leadership: The Idea of Hegemony. India's World. Vol.5. No-2. May 2026.

Concepts are key to systematic and gainful thinking. Expressed through words, they are ideas or abstractions that contain information about core features of phenomena found across different contexts. The concept of hegemony allows us to understand a form of power politics in which preponderant resources allow a state or a coalition of social forces

to lead or dominate others, ultimately towards self-serving ends. The concept has often featured in recent international discourse, especially in the context of the Trump Administration's policies and Israeli goals in West Asia.

<https://indiasworld.in/dominance-and-leadership-the-idea-of-hegemony/>

74. Moreh's New Role in a Changing Geopolitical Landscape. India's World. Vol.5. No-2. May 2026.

At the sixth edition of Kizuna, the annual India-Japan Intellectual Conclave, held in February 2026 in Shillong, a delegate from Kachin State in northern Myanmar made a telling remark: "In Myitkyina, we live and breathe the Belt and Road Initiative in our daily lives. It pervades everyday life in the upper Myanmar state bordering China." In contrast, the Act East Policy of India, aimed at deepening the country's relationship with ASEAN, has not pervaded the lives of people living in the border states sharing an international boundary with Myanmar, India's land gateway to Southeast Asia.

<https://indiasworld.in/morehs-new-role-in-a-changing-geopolitical-landscape/>

75. Donald Trump's Spring Cleaning. New Yorker. 4th May 2026.

In the midst of a war, Donald Trump has started to get rid of his senior officials. The exact reasons are often left vague, and the successors to be determined, but people are leaving. On March 5th, Trump fired Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem; on April 2nd, it was Attorney General Pam Bondi, and, on April 20th, Labor Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer stepped down under pressure—three Cabinet secretaries, all women, gone in less than two months. By last week, the F.B.I. director, Kash Patel, seemed to be headed for trouble, too.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/05/04/donald-trumps-spring-cleaning>

76. Sir Keir Starmer has failed abjectly. He should go. Economist. 16th May 2026.

LESS THAN two years ago Sir Keir Starmer was elected promising to save Britain from populism. As with Emmanuel Macron in France and Friedrich Merz in Germany, his mission was to show that the fruits of sober, competent policymaking are worth more than the empty promises of demagogues.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/05/14/sir-keir-starmer-has-failed-abjectly-he-should-go>

77. Indonesia, the biggest Muslim-majority country, is on a risky path. Economist. 16th May 2026.

Indonesia's president, Prabowo Subianto, has seen his country explode before. It was in 1998, during the Asian financial crisis. Then, an economic collapse led to mass protests and the toppling of Mr Prabowo's father-in-law, Suharto, a notoriously corrupt dictator. It also cast Mr Prabowo, who had hoped to succeed Suharto, into the political wilderness. It took him a quarter of a century to claw his way back, finally winning the top job in

2024. So you might think he would be extremely wary of another fiscal crisis. You would be wrong.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/05/14/indonesia-the-biggest-muslim-majority-country-is-on-a-risky-path>

78. Not all Donald Trump's peacemaking boasts are empty. Economist. 16th May 2026.

When Donald Trump boasts about all the wars he has supposedly ended, he often mentions one in central Africa. In December he brought together the leaders of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, whose on-again, off-again conflict has been one of the continent's bloodiest, and persuaded them to sign a peace deal called the Washington Accords. "They've spent a lot of time killing each other and they're going to spend a lot of time hugging," he said.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/05/14/not-all-donald-trumps-peacemaking-boasts-are-empty>

79. How Israeli terror begets Palestinian terror. Economist. 16th May 2026.

IN BIOLOGY CLASS we were taught that evolution takes generations. A genetic mutation, by contrast, can occur within a single generation. Last week, during a tour of the West Bank, I witnessed such a mutation taking shape. I saw a young Palestinian man—for his and his family's security, let us call him Ali—who had never concerned himself with politics, never joined any organisation, never demonstrated for national rights, never held a weapon. I saw a man wholly focused on earning a living and providing for his family, now on the verge of becoming a fighter, perhaps even a shahid (martyr).

<https://www.economist.com/by-invitation/2026/05/12/how-israeli-terror-begets-palestinian-terror>

80. Indonesia's president is jeopardising the economy and democracy. Economist. 16th May 2026.

From time to time Prabowo Subianto, Indonesia's president, evinces magnanimity towards his critics. "Am I really an authoritarian?" he asked last year. "I don't think so...Criticism is good. [We] must not be driven by anger or resentment." At other times a harsher side emerges. "Foreign powers", he fumed last June, "fund NGOs to sow discord among us. They claim to be upholders of democracy, human rights, freedom of the press, when in fact, those are their own versions." For a thuggish general who has refashioned himself as a cat-cuddling grandpa, a little ambiguity is inevitable. But Mr Prabowo's temperament is so mercurial that even his allies fear for Indonesia's macroeconomic stability and for its democracy.

<https://www.economist.com/briefing/2026/05/14/indonesias-president-is-jeopardising-the-economy-and-democracy>

- 81.** Meet Anno Takahiro, founder of Japan's hottest political party. Economist. 16th May 2026.

"CONTINUOUS INTEGRATION", a prizewinning science-fiction story published in 2019, is about a figure skater who applies software-development methods and AI to optimise athletic performance. Its author, Anno Takahiro, a software engineer and serial AI entrepreneur, has since founded the hottest political startup in Japan: Team Future (Mirai), a techno-optimist outfit that broke through in recent lower-house elections. Mr Anno hopes to bring the same engineering mindset to government.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/05/14/meet-anno-takahiro-founder-of-japans-hottest-political-party>

- 82.** Drama in the Philippines after the vice-president is impeached. Economist. 16th May 2026.

THE IMPEACHMENT of the vice-president of the Philippines, Sara Duterte, on May 11th marked the start of a dramatic week in Manila. The spectacle ramped up on May 13th when pro-Duterte senators holed up in the Senate building, claiming to be under violent siege by government law enforcers. The chaotic scenes, unusual even by the notorious standards of Philippine politics, speak to what is currently on the line: the kind of leadership that will take over the country from 2028.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/05/12/drama-in-the-philippines-after-the-vice-president-is-impeached>

- 83.** Donald Trump's midterm strategy: purge the Republican Party. Economist. 16th May 2026.

Ask a Republican in Washington behind closed doors what Donald Trump's midterm strategy is and they will probably give you a shrug. "When I hear it I'll let you know, but there doesn't appear to be one," a prominent party strategist told your correspondent. In the midst of a hugely unpopular war abroad and soaring grocery and petrol prices at home, Republicans have no positive message to take on the road as the summer campaign season heats up. Nor have they settled on how to attack the Democrats.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2026/05/13/donald-trumps-midterm-strategy-purge-the-republican-party>

- 84.** Lessons for Democrats from a candidate who sings and shoots. Economist. 16th May 2026.

Usually when a politician speaks to an auditorium full of children, neither party wants to be there: the kids can't vote, and listening to an adult drone on is boring. But when Bobby Pulido, the Democratic nominee for Congress in Texas's 15th district, showed up at Beethoven Elementary, the children cheered and held up his picture. The school's teachers, caretakers and lunch ladies filled out the sides of the auditorium and lined up for selfies after the speech. That was not because they were wonks or ardent Democrats.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2026/05/11/lessons-for-democrats-from-a-candidate-who-sings-and-shoots>

- 85.** A bombshell leak threatens Flávio Bolsonaro's election bid. *Economist*. 16th May 2026. On May 13th Intercept Brasil, a left-leaning investigative outlet, published messages exchanged between Flávio Bolsonaro, the leading presidential candidate of the Brazilian right going into the general election in October, and Daniel Vercaro, a disgraced banker at the centre of Brazil's largest-ever bank fraud. The messages show Flávio asking Mr Vercaro to complete payments related to the financing of a film about his father, Jair Bolsonaro, Brazil's right-wing populist former president, who is serving a 27-year prison sentence for attempting to mount a coup in 2022.

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2026/05/14/a-bombshell-leak-threatens-flavio-bolsonaros-election-bid>

SOCIOLOGY

- 86.** Patrick Ball's Path to Broadway and "Becky Shaw". *New Yorker*. 4th May 2026.

Two years ago, the actor Patrick Ball was thirty-four years old and working three jobs in the city, none of them glamorous. He was a server at the Fort Greene restaurant Evelina, a barista at the Chelsea café the Sleeping Cat, and a wardrobe production assistant for the HBO series "And Just Like That . . ." ("driving the costume shoppers around to pick up Carrie Bradshaw's outfits," as he described it). His acting career wasn't going as he had hoped. He'd earned his M.F.A. from Yale's drama school, in 2022, and had done regional theatre, but he'd had no luck with Broadway. His IMDb page listed just two credits: an episode of "Law & Order" and a straight-to-streaming sci-fi flick called "ReEntry" (as "Bartender"). When he told co-workers that he was still hoping to hit the big time, he recalled, "they'd say, 'Uh, sure. O.K., dude.' Then they'd ask me to make an almond-milk latte."

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/05/04/patrick-balls-path-to-broadway-and-becky-shaw>

- 87.** Ellen Burstyn's Inner Library. *New Yorker*. 4th May 2026.

The actress Ellen Burstyn has what she calls an "inner library" of poetry that she has memorized in the course of her long life. "I'm ninety-three now, so I probably have less in my head than I used to when it comes to poems," she said the other day. "But some have been there for years. Decades." Burstyn was in her Upper West Side apartment, which was festooned with books, plants, crystals, orbs, and statues of Shiva and Buddha and Guanyin ("the goddess of compassion," she noted). Meditative music piped in through the sound system. "I was getting a massage, so it's left over," she explained.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/05/04/ellen-burstyns-inner-library>

88. Signed, Sealed, Delivered. New Yorker. 4th May 2026.

Reiko Hiroyama lives on Ishigaki, a subtropical island in Japan. One morning, she went out to comb the beach near her house. Beachcombing conjures up a leisurely world of sand dollars and Daiquiris, but Hiroyama’s practice was actually about bringing in the trash. Over the years, she’d retrieved flip-flops, jerricans, hairbrushes, toothbrushes, fishing nets, and a seemingly endless array of bottles—jugs, flasks, milk bottles, beer bottles, water bottles, detergent bottles, baby bottles, motor-oil bottles. Yet that day a turquoise glass bottle caught her eye. Its neck was sticking out of the sand. There was a scroll-like object inside. “The sunlight shining on it gave it a strong presence,” Hiroyama recalled. “It seemed to say, ‘I’m here!’”

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/05/04/signed-sealed-delivered>

TRAVEL DESCRIPTION

89. Who wants to relax on holiday?. Economist. 16th May 2026.

“AVACATION IS having nothing to do and all day to do it in,” said Robert Orben, an American comedy writer. Summer holidays have long involved reclining on a far-flung beach. But more tourists are forgoing sun loungers in search of adrenalin-packed pursuits, such as canyoning (scrambling down gorges) and abseiling (descending rock faces). “Darecations” are a top tourism trend of 2026, according to Pinterest, a social-media firm. Around 14% of international travellers are keen on such pursuits, suggests the Adventure Travel Trade Association (ATTA), a trade group.

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2026/05/14/who-wants-to-relax-on-holiday>

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

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