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ART

1. Title: The Dance Legend Lucinda Childs’s “Momentary Reprise”

Source: New Yorker. 29th June 2026

Link:<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/goings-on/the-dance-legend-lucinda-childs-momentary-reprise>

The choreographer Lucinda Childs is having a moment. On June 26, the day she turns eighty-six, she’s opening a weekend run of “Momentary Reprise,” a program featuring new work, at **Bard SummerScape** (running at the Fisher Center, in Annandale-on-Hudson, N.Y., through June 28). She’s also performing in it. This comes amid a flurry of activity rare for an octogenarian. A few months ago, Childs had a retrospective show at the Guggenheim Museum; more remarkable is a five-year contract she recently signed to step in as resident choreographer of Gibney Dance, a repertory company of young movers. An hour-long première for the troupe is in the works.

2. Title: Alexandra Grant Brings Spirit Back

Source: New Yorker. 29th June 2026

Link:<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/06/29/alexandra-grant-brings-spirit-back>

The artist Alexandra Grant flew into Newark on a recent stormy Thursday, checked into a hotel, and zipped over to the Albertz Benda gallery, in Chelsea, just before the opening party for “Antigone 3000 (Anakainōsis),” her new show of paintings. “I woke up in Warsaw this morning,” she said; her upcoming work involves German and Polish writers. Grant, who is fifty-three and tall, lives in Germany, where she has a studio, and in Los Angeles, where she has another studio and an arts-supporting business, along with a publishing company she runs with her partner, Keanu Reeves. (In 2011, as part of an earlier publishing venture, the pair released the whimsically lugubrious “Ode to Happiness,” in which Grant illustrated original Reeves lines like “I draw a hot sorrow bath in my despair room / with a misery candle burning.”) Despite the travel mayhem, Grant appeared to be elegantly at ease: graceful swoop of gray hair; silver booties from Grandezza, a big-shoes boutique in Berlin; draped silk suit in an extraordinary blue hue. What color, exactly? “I would say . . . mermaid teal,” Grant said, looking pleased.

3. Title: Dan Mintz, Reanimated

Source: New Yorker. 29th June 2026

Link:<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/06/29/dan-mintz-reanimated>

Comedians can be control freaks. However freewheeling a standup set may seem, it’s usually the product of obsessive trial runs and rewrites. But every comic walks onstage along a precipice of potential disaster. Unless, that is, the set is fully animated, in which case every blink and cough can be endlessly tweaked. Dan Mintz’s new YouTube special, “Well Rounded Entertainer,” is this kind of routine: it is a cartoon.

4. Title: “The Invite” Is a Witty Relationship Comedy That Could Be Wilder

Source: New Yorker. 29th June 2026

Link: <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/06/29/the-invite-movie-review>

“The Invite” begins with an aphorism: “One should always be in love. That is the reason one should never marry.” The words are from Oscar Wilde, and the movie is from Olivia Wilde, née Olivia Jane Cockburn, who adopted the professional surname years ago, in honor of the many pseudonymous Irish writers in her family. Some might see hubris in her choice of namesake, and I wouldn’t disagree, though I also wouldn’t judge: Who’s to say who is or isn’t truly Wilde at heart? “The Invite,” her third feature as a filmmaker, has its own tart, unflattering view of matrimony. The script, by Will McCormack and Rashida Jones, takes the form of a chamber piece, its four bickersome characters confined to one location for the better part of two hours—as close to the Oscar-worthy tradition of drawing-room comedy as Olivia has come.

5. Title: Olivia Rodrigo’s Early-Twenties Lament

Source: New Yorker. 29th June 2026

Link: <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/06/29/olivia-rodrigo-music-review>

They say modern love’s a cruel endeavor,” Olivia Rodrigo sings on “u + me = <3,” a lush, desperate new song from her third album, “You Seem Pretty Sad for a Girl So in Love.” She adds, “And to that I say, ‘*Fuck it, whatever.*’” Insouciance has always been Rodrigo’s abiding philosophy when it comes to romance. If her discography has a single repeating theme, it’s that love is ruinous, a surefire path to acting like a ding-dong. Once again, Rodrigo shrugs off concern. What else would she do—stay home?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

6. Title: The AI backlash is only getting started

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link: <https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/06/25/the-ai-backlash-is-only-getting-started>

Advances in ARTIFICIAL intelligence have long terrified techies. Lately, voters are feeling the angst, too. AI is unpopular in the West and climbing up the political agenda. The fiercest fights so far have been in America, where protests against data centres have scuppered nearly \$100bn-worth of projects, warring AI megadonors have just dumped tens of millions into a Manhattan congressional race and around 40% of voters tell pollsters that they want AI banned from most industries. But spats are breaking out elsewhere: after chipmaking profits soared recently, workers at Samsung in South Korea threatened a strike to secure special payouts.

7. Title: AI models’ values are very different from most people’s

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link: <https://www.economist.com/briefing/2026/06/25/ai-models-values-are-very-different-from-most-people>

Imagine that you are having trouble with your in-laws, who are meddling in your marriage. You ask ChatGPT what to do. It tells you not to try to win them over. Keep a respectful distance and don't justify every decision to them. ("This is hard, but powerful.") Had you queried DeepSeek, a Chinese AI, however, you would have got quite different advice. "Seek compromise," it suggests, "Interference from in-laws may stem from genuine concern and affection." Ask Mistral, a French AI, and you get a third take. Conflict with the in-laws can be draining. Try journaling to process your frustration.

8. Title: Why big AI labs are hiring so many philosophers

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link: <https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/06/24/why-big-ai-labs-are-hiring-so-many-philosophers>

TEN YEARS ago, as the AI revolution was gathering pace, arts and humanities students were told that, if they wanted to make themselves employable, they should "learn to code". That may have been bad advice. These days, it is programmers who are nervous about AI taking their jobs.

9. Title: China is having another AI moment

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link: <https://www.economist.com/china/2026/06/21/china-is-having-another-ai-moment>

America's lead over China in artificial intelligence may be at its smallest in over a year. When China disrupted the ai race in January 2025 with the release of DeepSeek r1, it erased \$1trn from America's capital markets. Nvidia, a chip firm, briefly shed 17% of its value; the Nasdaq sank by 3.1% in a day. American investors were troubled not only because Chinese ai was good, but because it was being given away free. The uproar soon faded. Since then, market valuations everywhere have hinged ever more on the promise that AI will be both revolutionary and profitable.

10. Title: Smartphones and AI are remaking rural India

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link: <https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/06/23/smartphones-and-ai-are-remaking-rural-india>

IT IS a warm afternoon in Nagepur and Bahadur Kumar is working at the power loom. Opposite the workshop stands his two-storey, half-finished house. Outside it are five goats, a motorbike, his wife and his 22-year-old son, Karan, who explains that he is busy doing a science degree at a local university while preparing for exams for a government job. Asked how he studies, he whips out a phone to show The Economist his favourite YouTube coaching classes and long conversations with ChatGPT about questions he does not understand.

BIOGRAPHY

11. Title: Alan Greenspan was a maestro of monetary policy

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link: <https://www.economist.com/obituary/2026/06/22/alan-greenspan-was-a-maestro-of-monetary-policy>

THE NUMBERS were a guide, like the notes on sheet music. They were a guide in the 1930s, growing up in Washington Heights, at the northern tip of Manhattan, where Alan Greenspan tracked the statistics of his beloved New York Yankees. They were a guide in the 1990s, when as chairman of the Federal Reserve he presided over the then-longest American boom on record.

BUSINESS

12. Title: America’s data-centre backlash puts the AI boom at risk

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link: <https://www.economist.com/business/2026/06/23/americas-data-centre-backlash-puts-the-ai-boom-at-risk>

FROM THE top of the slide, which curves into a little backyard pool, the view as recently as April would have been of lush Ohio farmland, dense forest and pretty clapboard houses. Now it is of six giant weatherproof tents of the type used by the armed forces to house fighter jets or by aid organisers in disaster zones. These will soon contain perhaps \$30bn-worth of cutting-edge semiconductors. Along with a clutch of gas turbines to provide power, they occupy a site the size of an airport terminal. If Meta, the site’s owner, stays on track to bring its “Prometheus” data centre online in 2026, it will dedicate an entire gigawatt (GW) of power—the amount needed to power as many as 1m homes, or roughly the output of a large nuclear reactor—to artificial intelligence.

13. Title: Strange new EV-makers keep appearing in China

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link: <https://www.economist.com/business/2026/06/24/strange-new-ev-makers-keep-appearing-in-china>

Next year Dreame, a Chinese business better known for its robo-vacuums, plans to start selling sleek electric vehicles (EVs). It is not the only firm branching out from small household appliances to machines that can carry an entire household. Rox Motor, which started selling electric SUVs in 2023, was also founded by a vacuum tycoon. Xiaomi, which made its name producing cheap smartphones (and also makes vacuums, among other things), began selling sports cars a year later.

14. Title: Zombie unicorns are haunting Silicon Valley

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link: <https://www.economist.com/business/2026/06/21/zombie-unicorns-are-haunting-silicon-valley>

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FANTASTIC BEASTS roam Silicon Valley. Locals are familiar with the unicorn, a startup valued at more than \$1bn, the decacorn (\$10bn) and even the hectocorn (\$100bn). Lately, however, another creature has been stalking the land: the “zombie” unicorn, a firm once worth \$1bn-plus but now a mere shadow of its former self. Their spread is keeping venture capitalists (VCs) awake at night.

15. Title: UPS is losing ground to FedEx

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link: <https://www.economist.com/business/2026/06/25/ups-is-losing-ground-to-fedex>

For America’s biggest delivery companies, the pandemic brought a boom. To fulfil a torrent of orders from people stuck at home in lockdown, FedEx’s white lorries and UPS’s brown ones kept rumbling along America’s highways and their planes criss-crossed its skies.

16. Title: Why easyJet may be heading for a break-up

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link: <https://www.economist.com/business/2026/06/25/why-easyjet-may-be-heading-for-a-break-up>

Budget airline’s purpose is to offer cheap air travel. But snapping one up for a bargain is another matter. On June 22nd, after weeks of rumoured interest, Castlelake, an American investment firm, went public with its offer to buy easyJet, a European low-cost carrier (lcc), for £4.7bn (\$6.2bn), revealing that two lower offers had already been rebuffed. EasyJet accused Castlelake of trying to buy the airline “on the cheap”. It rejected the bid, and another, for £4.9bn, on June 25th. Yet it has said it will now start talks with its suitor.

17. Title: Teaching AI how people work is fraught with problems

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link: <https://www.economist.com/business/2026/06/25/teaching-ai-how-people-work-is-fraught-with-problems>

Artificial intelligence works best within companies when it knows the context in which it is operating. Some of that context is easy to codify upfront, in explicit rules and guidelines. Some of it can be captured by analysing raw data: Celonis, a German software firm, ingests information from enterprise systems to see how processes like invoices or procurement actually unfold within organisations.

CLIMATE CHANGE

18. Title: Global warming has made Europe’s heatwave 2-4°C worse

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link:<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/06/24/global-warming-has-made-europes-heatwave-2-4c-worse>

ON THE MORNING of June 24th the Shaw Library at the London School of Economics was meant to be full of people discussing the impacts of climate change as part of London Climate Action Week. It was not to be. Britain's Met Office had, for only the second time, issued a "red" warning about temperatures high enough to pose risks even to the fit and healthy. The organisers decided they could not proceed with their meeting—the subject of which was "Extreme heat: Improving governance and strengthening action".

ECONOMICS

19. Title: India's External Sector Woes

Source: India Forum. 19th June 2026

Link: <https://www.theindiaforum.in/economy/indias-external-sector-woes>

Amid the government's consistent claim that the Indian economy was performing better than most other major economies came Prime Minister Modi's unexpected call to citizens to exercise austerity while spending in foreign currency. He urged citizens to defer purchase of gold and unnecessary foreign travel, reduce consumption of essential items, including edible oil, petrol and diesel, and increase purchases of products produced domestically. The prime minister's alarm bell was not merely a reality check on the "Achhe Din" narrative that the government had built since it came to power in 2014, but it also triggered questions about the state of India's macroeconomy, even by those who had assiduously supported the government.

20. Title: Alternative Responses to India's Economic Difficulties

Source: India Forum. 25th June 2026

Link:<https://www.theindiaforum.in/economy/alternative-responses-indias-economic-difficulties>

The global economy is experiencing a major shock from the disruption of about 20% of its energy supplies, the severest according to the International Energy Agency (IEA), which is the result of Iran closing the Strait of Hormuz in retaliation to attacks by the United States and Israel. India imports about 90% of its oil and 60% of its gas. The price of crude oil was about \$65 a barrel before the attacks, and it is now trading at around \$95 a barrel.

21. Title: Andy Burnham promises hope. Britain needs more than that

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link:<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/06/25/andy-burnham-promises-hope-britain-needs-more-than-that>

LOOK AT THE many signs of Britain's decline. Growth is feeble and public debt has reached 95% of GDP. Public services are stuttering and the armed forces are depleted.

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The streets are grubby and the electorate is in a sulphurous mood. The BBC has even cancelled the “Doctor Who” Christmas special.

22. Title: Global imbalances have little to do with Europe’s industrial woes

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link: <https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/06/25/global-imbalances-have-little-to-do-with-europes-industrial-woes>

Everywhere you turn, European leaders are blaming the imbalanced global economy for their woes. Emmanuel Macron is trying to use France’s presidency of the G7 group of rich countries to raise the alarm. Friedrich Merz, Germany’s chancellor, complains about competing with those who invoice in undervalued currencies. “Some countries produce too much and do not consume enough, and vice versa,” moans Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission.

23. Title: To save Britain’s economy, Andy Burnham needs to be tougher

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link: <https://www.economist.com/britain/2026/06/24/to-save-britains-economy-andy-burnham-needs-to-be-tougher>

“I’m more of a spender than a saver. I would much prefer to say ‘yes’,” confessed Andy Burnham in 2024. This attitude suited him well as mayor of Greater Manchester; it was his job to wring as much cash from Westminster as possible. But after Sir Keir Starmer resigned on June 22nd, the newly elected MP for Macclesfield is now almost certain to become the next prime minister. He would be Britain’s seventh since 2016. Being in charge of doling out the dosh (and responsible for the nuclear codes to boot) is a much tougher gig than Mr Burnham is used to. For a start, he will have to begin saying “no”.

24. Title: Lessons from the childhood home of Britain’s probable next leader

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link: <https://www.economist.com/britain/2026/06/25/lessons-from-the-childhood-home-of-britains-probable-next-leader>

Andy Burnham has sailed into Westminster largely on the strength of his performance as mayor of Greater Manchester. As his accent suggests, though, Mr Burnham is not from Manchester. He grew up a few miles to the west, on the edge of a very different northern English town, which deserves to be better known.

25. Title: How to turn compute into a financial asset

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link: <https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/06/22/how-to-turn-compute-into-a-financial-asset>

IN 2014, AS cloud computing was taking off, a group of German technologists and financial-platform operators had an idea. They launched the Deutsche Börse Cloud Exchange, on which firms could buy and sell spare access to computing power.

26. Title: How stretched is the American consumer?

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link:<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/06/21/how-stretched-is-the-american-consumer>

The latest fashionable worry about America’s economy is that consumers are spending beyond their means. Personal consumption—its engine, accounting for two-thirds of gdp—has grown by a respectable 2% or so over the past year. But the personal-saving rate fell to 2.6% in April. It has been lower only once since early 2008, when Bear Stearns, a bank, became an early casualty of the global financial crisis. It is only a matter of time, the argument goes, before consumption cracks.

27. Title: Russia’s war economy has problems—but is not about to crash

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link:<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/06/22/russias-war-economy-has-problems-but-is-not-about-to-crash>

IS THIS IT, finally? After four years of sanctions-busting growth, a chorus of think-tank economists is calling time on Russia’s war economy. A new report from the Kiel Institute for the World Economy argues that Russia faces “structural exhaustion”. Charles Hecker of the Royal United Services Institute reckons it “is probably already in recession”. Nigel Gould-Davies of the International Institute for Strategic Studies talks of “the coming crisis in Russia’s political economy”. Even Russian official figures point to GDP shrinking by 0.2% in the first quarter, year on year.

28. Title: Why macro trading is hard

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link:<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/06/23/why-macro-trading-is-hard>

How much would you have paid ten years ago, as votes were counted for Britain’s Brexit referendum, to glimpse the next morning’s headlines and trade ahead of them? If you were betting on the pound, it would have helped a lot. The night of the poll £1 bought \$1.50; a fortnight later, less than \$1.30. But if you were trading stocks, a forewarning might have done more harm than good. Britain’s domestically focused FTSE 250 share index dropped at first, but only for two trading days. Then it began a bull market that lasted for a couple of years. Even the most fervent Brexiteer might not have predicted that.

EDUCATION

29. Title: The Exam Everyone Watches and the Sorting No One Measures

Source: India Forum. 17th June 2026

Link:<https://www.theindiaforum.in/education/exam-everyone-watches-and-sorting-no-one-measures>

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On 21 June 2026, more than two million young people will appear for the medical entrance examination for the second time in seven weeks. The first attempt, on 3 May 2026, was cancelled 11 days later after a question bank circulating on WhatsApp and Telegram in Sikar, Rajasthan, turned out to match scores of questions in the live paper.

30. Title: Dummy Schooling and Coaching

Source: India Forum. 16th June 2026

Link: <https://www.theindiaforum.in/education/dummy-schooling-and-coaching-1>

A biology teacher conducting Class 12 practical examinations at a senior secondary school encountered a telling pattern. In a batch of 25 students, seven or eight had not submitted their laboratory files. When called to perform the practical examination, most could not execute basic procedures. More strikingly, in the viva voce, they could not answer elementary questions about the experiment they were supposedly conducting. They had no grasp of the basics.

31. Title: University-for-all harms poor students the most

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link: <https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/06/25/university-for-all-harms-poor-students-the-most>

Academics have always moaned about their students. “Scholarly effort is in decline everywhere as never before,” complained Egbert of Liège, an 11th-century know-it-all, in an age when not even a tenth of humans could read. Recently there have been lots of new worries about standards in colleges and universities—especially in America, home to many of the world’s best. But this time, as our International section notes, the laxity is not just in lecturers’ heads.

FOOD

32. Title: What Marcel Is Selling

Source: New Yorker. 29th June 2026

Link: <https://www.newyorker.com/culture/the-food-scene/what-marcel-is-selling>

To descend the stairs into Marcel, the new French-continental restaurant on the lower level of the Breuer building, on Madison Avenue, is to watch a brutalist masterpiece surrender, with a kind of gracious compliance, to the softening influence of a great deal of money. The building, which now serves as Sotheby’s global headquarters, was partially landmarked last year, so Marcel Breuer’s original concrete columns and his grid of circular light fixtures remain. But the dining room has been upholstered, metaphorically and, at times, literally, into submission. The mohair-wrapped banquettes are the minky greige of cocoa powder and have the downy hand of a Max Mara wrap coat. The walls that aren’t subject to preservation are sheathed in vast Claro walnut panels of a sinuous,

almost figurative grain. A mirrored bar that anchors one end of the space is lined with Bauhaus-era leather stools, and Breuer-designed lighting sourced, naturally, at auction.

HISTORY

33. Title: End of the Gin Craze

Source: History Today Vol-76, No-6, June 2026

Link: <https://www.historytoday.com/archive/months-past/end-gin-craze>

The accession of the Protestant William of Orange lost England its two million annual gallons of brandy from Catholic France. Parliament liberalised the distilling laws to promote the new Dutch spirit ‘Madam Genever’.

34. Title: ‘The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere’ review

Source: History Today Vol-76, No-6, June 2026

Link: <https://www.historytoday.com/archive/review/structural-transformation-public-sphere-review>

Jürgen Habermas, the philosopher and theorist, died in Starnberg, Germany on 14 March 2026 aged 96. He was not a historian, but his work on society and communication have shaped the writing of history, particularly that of early modern Europe. This influence, a little unfairly, can mainly be attributed to a single book that fired the historical imagination, *Strukturwandel der Öffentlichkeit. Untersuchungen zu einer Kategorie der bürgerlichen Gesellschaft* (1962), or *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere: An Inquiry into a Category of Bourgeois Society* (1989). It had been his Habilitationsschrift, a post-doctoral thesis which is a requirement in the German system for obtaining a professorship. It remains the touchstone of his reputation among historians.

35. Title: ‘Love, War, and Diplomacy’ by Eric H. Cline review

Source: History Today Vol-76, No-6, June 2026

Link: <https://www.historytoday.com/archive/review/love-war-and-diplomacy-eric-h-cline-review>

The Amarna ‘letters’ – a collection of around 380 clay tablets – carry one side of the correspondence between the Egyptian pharaohs of the 14th century BC and rulers across the Eastern Mediterranean, Anatolia, and West Asia. They take their name from Tell el-Amarna, a large, sprawling site that contains the city of Akhetaten, founded by the pharaoh Akhenaten. He established this new capital with his wife Nefertiti, possibly around 1350 BC, to promote exclusive worship of the Aten, the sun disk. After the pharaoh’s death, this sun cult survived only briefly into the reign of his successor, Tutankhamun. The city was quickly abandoned, but knowledge of the site was preserved over the centuries, ready for the boom in Western interest in ancient Egypt that occurred in the late 18th century (particularly after Napoleon’s invasion in 1789), after which a steady flow of objects from sites such as Amarna passed from Egypt to the West. Today

most of the letters are in museums in Europe, the US, and Russia. Only 50 remain in Egypt.

36. Title: Cypriot Graffiti in Ancient Egypt

Source: History Today Vol-76, No-6, June 2026

Link:<https://www.historytoday.com/archive/history-matters/cypriot-graffiti-ancient-egypt>

In antiquity carving one's name on a monument was a common and culturally meaningful practice. The walls of Egyptian monuments – from the pyramids of Giza to the temples of Abydos and Karnak – are covered with graffiti left by visitors over the millennia. These inscriptions were made by travellers in their own languages and writing systems. Alongside familiar scripts such as Latin and alphabetic Greek there are rarer systems such as the Cypriot syllabary – a distinctive writing system that originated on the island of Cyprus in which each character is a syllable, rather than a sound. It is an Aegean script, probably related to Mycenaean Linear B.

37. Title: Henry the Young King is Crowned

Source: History Today Vol-76, No-6, June 2026

Link:<https://www.historytoday.com/archive/months-past/henry-young-king-crowned>

What better way for Henry II to secure the succession than to crown the next king while he himself still lived? The plan came to fruition on 14 June 1170, when his eldest surviving son, another Henry, was 15, in a ceremony performed by the archbishop of York. After the coronation, the king served his son at table. The archbishop marvelled at the sight, but young Henry was contemptuous. 'Why are you astonished?' he said. 'He is lower in rank than I, the son of a queen and a duke, while I come from royal blood on both sides.'

38. Title: Getting European Defence Projects off the Ground

Source: History Today Vol-76, No-6, June 2026

Link:<https://www.historytoday.com/archive/history-matters/getting-european-defence-projects-ground>

On 19 June 1967 Paris informed London that it was withdrawing from the Anglo-French Variable Geometry (AFVG) supersonic combat aircraft project. For the incumbent Labour government, the consequences were enormous. Both the Royal Air Force (RAF) and British industry had lost a vital combat aircraft. Three months later, British magazine *Flight International* declared that the Labour government's plan for a long-form defence-industrial relationship with France had 'suffered a wound that has failed to heal'.

39. Title: '1873' by Liaquat Ahamed review

Source: History Today Vol-76, No-6, June 2026

Link:<https://www.historytoday.com/archive/review/1873-liaquat-ahamed-review>

Financial panics are endlessly fascinating. From 'Tulip Mania' in the Netherlands in the 17th century to the global financial crisis of 2008, the regular booms and busts of market

economies have been analysed, celebrated, or regretted. They have always defied rational explanation, exactly because, in the words of Alan Greenspan of the US Federal Reserve Board, they demonstrate ‘irrational exuberance’. That accurately describes today’s boom in artificial intelligence, with far larger investment in data centres than can possibly be justified. We are in the midst of a boom and everyone is waiting for the bust. As always, the speculators hope that this time is different. It never is.

40. Title: Making a Martyr of Mary, Queen of Scots

Source: History Today Vol-76, No-6, June 2026

Link:<https://www.historytoday.com/archive/history-matters/making-martyr-mary-queen-scots>

In the early hours of the morning on 8 February 1587, Mary, Queen of Scots picked up the pen for the last time. She was sentenced to be executed later that day for plotting against her cousin and captor of 19 years, Elizabeth I. Among her last acts before she journeyed to the scaffold was to write a letter to her brother-in-law, Henry III of France, in which she painted her death sentence as persecution for her Catholic faith, rather than the charge of treason the Protestant English government had levied against her. The letter became a crucial part of Mary’s posthumous legacy of Catholic martyrdom which endures to this day – and that is exactly what she would have wanted.

41. Title: ‘The German-Russian Century’ by Stefan Kreuzberger review

Source: History Today Vol-76, No-6, June 2026

Link:<https://www.historytoday.com/archive/review/german-russian-century-stefan-kreuzberger-review>

On 27 February 2022, three days into Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Chancellor Olaf Scholz addressed the Bundestag and declared a *Zeitenwende* – a historic turning point. The term has since become shorthand for a dramatic shift in Germany’s Russia policy: increased military spending, decoupling from Russian energy, and a hesitant delivery of military aid to Ukraine. While some dismiss the *Zeitenwende* as an empty gesture, its potential implications are striking. Germany is no longer dependent on Russian energy. Soon it will be the most heavily armed state in Europe. By 2029 its projected military spending will be twice that of Britain and France; in raw numbers, it will outstrip Russia’s. If carried through to its fullest implications, the *Zeitenwende* will mark a significant shift in relations between the two states, with knock-on effects for the continent.

42. Title: The BBC switches off its oldest service

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link: <https://www.economist.com/britain/2026/06/25/the-bbc-switches-off-its-oldest-service>

BERLIN, LONDON, Paris, Droitwich. In the 1930s a Midlands town of barely 5,000 people stood out on the dials of British wireless sets, which used the places from which stations were transmitted to denote their frequencies. In 1934 the BBC switched on the corporation’s most powerful radio transmitter, near Droitwich. Two 700ft-high (213-metre) steel masts, at the time the tallest structures in the country, still send “long wave”

broadcasts across Britain and deep into Europe. During the second world war they transmitted nonsense messages (“The rabbit is going down his hole”) that were decoded by the French resistance. More recently they have carried baffling phrases understood only by cricket fans tuning into “Test Match Special”.

43. Title: Slipping up or down the class system is surprisingly bearable

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link:<https://www.economist.com/britain/2026/06/25/slipping-up-or-down-the-class-system-is-surprisingly-bearable>

“I wanted an Aston Martin, I wanted a three-guinea linen shirt, I wanted a girl with a Riviera suntan.” So Joe Lampton, the young working-class hero of “Room at the Top”, announced his desire to penetrate the professional middle class. John Braine’s novel of 1957 was one of many post-war books to feature cocky, headstrong social climbers. It ends tragically, with deception, heartbreak and death.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

44. Title: With Iran emboldened, its neighbours must put old divisions aside

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link:<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/06/25/with-iran-emboldened-its-neighbours-must-put-old-divisions-aside>

GULF RULERS are no strangers to disruption. The region’s petrostates prospered from an oil shock in 1973. The revolution in Iran, six years later, led most of them to seek American protection. The recent war against Iran was unsettling, too. But, as Donald Trump offers remarkably generous peace terms, the post-war dealmaking alarms them even more. The next months will see old certainties upended. How can the region cope?

45. Title: Israel will come to terms with Donald Trump’s Iran deal

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link:<https://www.economist.com/by-invitation/2026/06/22/israel-will-come-to-terms-with-donald-trumps-iran-deal>

THE MEMORANDUM of Understanding between America and Iran on ending their war had barely been signed when it faced its first test in Lebanon, as Israeli forces and Hizbullah continued attacking each other, lending weight to intelligence conclusions in Washington, DC that Israel would try to scuttle it. Such fears may, however, be misplaced.

46. Title: Students are doing worse than you think

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link:<https://www.economist.com/international/2026/06/25/students-are-doing-worse-than-you-think>

IN Recent weeks more than 1,800 maths and science lecturers at the University of California, one of America's largest and best public university systems, have signed an open letter detailing a tricky problem. First-year undergraduates, they say, are increasingly arriving without the basic skills they need to succeed. At the campus in Berkeley, they write, some 20-30% of students taking an early calculus course turn up displaying "severe preparation deficits". The challenge has become so great, they add, that instructors are having to reteach middle-school mathematics.

LITERATURE

47. Title: Domesticity

Source: New Yorker. 29th June 2026

Link: <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/06/29/domesticity-lindsay-turner-poem>

48. Title: On Form

Source: New Yorker. 29th June 2026

Link: <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/06/29/on-form-linda-gregerson-poem>

POLITICAL SCIENCE & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

49. Title: Iranian Kurdish Politics: Between Survival and Opportunity

Source: India Forum. 15th June 2026

Link: <https://www.theindiaforum.in/international-affairs/iranian-kurdish-politics-between-survival-and-opportunity>

Although the post-World War I territorial order incorporated Kurdistan into the modern states of Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Armenia, the newly demarcated borders failed to sever the historical, cultural, linguistic, and geographical continuities linking Kurdish society across the region. Instead, the sustained pursuit of common socio-political aspirations preserved enduring cross-border networks of solidarity and collective identification, fostering the emergence of a transnational Kurdish political consciousness while simultaneously reinforcing the interconnected and transregional character of Kurdish political mobilisation.

50. Title: Fraternity: The Constitutional Promise, the Constitutional Peril

Source: India Forum. 18th June 2026

Link:<https://www.theindiaforum.in/law/fraternity-constitutional-promise-constitutional-peril>

A recent order of the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court has drawn attention for an unusual reason. In *G. Rajesh v. State of Tamil Nadu*, a case involving the desecration of a poster of Dr B.R. Ambedkar, the court did not confine itself to the ordinary logic of criminal prosecution under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (SC/ST Act). Instead, it accepted a compromise between the parties, directed the accused to read Ambedkar's writings, subjected them to an oral examination in-camera (that is, in the judge's chambers rather than in open court). It went further: calling upon the state to strengthen the teaching of Ambedkar's ideas in school curricula from classes III to X, with a compliance report due in January 2027.

51. Title: Has the Demography of the Border Districts in Eastern India Changed?

Source: India Forum. 26th June 2026

Link:<https://www.theindiaforum.in/politics/has-demography-border-districts-eastern-india-changed>

Across the world, cross-border migration of people is an issue that has come to occupy an important place in public discourse and, naturally, in political decision-making. Terms such as “illegal migration” or, worse, “infiltration” are often used inappropriately for people seeking refuge from war, looking for better economic opportunities, or even fleeing climate change. These undocumented migrants have become targets of government action from the United States to West Europe to India to Australia and now even in South Africa.

52. Title: Latin America has turned Trampy. That creates opportunities

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link: <https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/06/25/latin-america-has-turned-trumpy-that-creates-opportunities>

In little more than a year, seven Latin American countries have held presidential elections—and right-wingers have won them all. Never has the regional pendulum swung so fast. Barring Brazil and Mexico, nearly every sizeable Latin country now has a leader who either courts Donald Trump or sounds like him. The latest is Abelardo de la Espriella, who was formally declared president-elect of Colombia on June 24th after a tight race. He calls himself El Tigre and promises to “hunt down” gangsters “in their burrows”.

53. Title: The Fed's chief must practise politics

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link:<https://www.economist.com/by-invitation/2026/06/24/the-feds-chief-must-practise-politics>

WHAT WERE the 1990s? On one side were the wry cynicism of “Friends”, “The Simpsons” and “Seinfeld”, the angst of Seattle grunge and a scandal-prone White House. On the other were a surging stock market, the internet boom and the first sustained

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federal budget surplus since the 1920s. The personification of these contradictions was not Kurt Cobain, Jerry Seinfeld or Bill Clinton. It was Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve.

54. Title: When will Andy Burnham peak?

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link: <https://www.economist.com/britain/2026/06/23/when-will-andy-burnham-peak>

“Rome is saved!” quipped an opposition MP as Andy Burnham entered the House of Commons on June 22nd. “Turn the water into wine,” said another, as the former Manchester mayor was sworn in as an MP. “He’s not the messiah,” another heckled. Mr Burnham, with his cheeky charm (and a quick-witted “Monty Python” reference), replied: “Naughty boy.”

55. Title: The shocking sexual-assault conviction of Sir Jeffrey Donaldson

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link: <https://www.economist.com/britain/2026/06/22/the-shocking-sexual-assault-conviction-of-sir-jeffrey-donaldson>

Nine years ago in 10 Downing Street, Sir Jeffrey Donaldson signed the deal that enabled Theresa May to continue as prime minister. Under the confidence-and-supply agreement the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) traded its ten MPs’ votes for £1bn (\$1.3bn) for Northern Ireland. In recent weeks the ex-MP has been in the dock of a criminal court in Newry, County Down. On June 22nd the jury unanimously found him guilty of all charges against him: one count of rape, four of gross indecency and 13 of indecent assault.

56. Title: Forget Andy. Forget Keir. It’s Ed’s Britain

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link: <https://www.economist.com/britain/2026/06/25/forget-andy-forget-keir-its-eds-britain>

On Monday morning, another bout of history happened. At a podium on Downing Street, a tearful Sir Keir Starmer became the latest prime minister to quit mid-term. On the West Coast Mainline, a train carrying Andy Burnham, Sir Keir Starmer’s inevitable replacement, hurtled from Manchester to London, like Lenin on an Avanti Pendolino. But inside Labour, the changes at 10 Downing Street provoked less chatter than who would occupy 11 Downing Street as chancellor. There are two candidates: Ed Miliband and Not Ed Miliband.

57. Title: China can be a useful bogeyman in American politics

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link: <https://www.economist.com/china/2026/06/22/china-can-be-a-useful-bogeyman-in-american-politics>

CHINA WANTS more sway over how the world thinks. The country’s latest five-year plan aims for a major leap in international influence. This often manifests on social media as cute videos of pandas or futuristic ones of high-speed trains. But China’s leaders see the

broader effort as crucial. It is needed, official statements say, to counter Western biases so as to win the “battle for global public opinion” and “safeguard national interests”.

SCIENCE

58. Title: Do high-tech “add-ons” increase the chance that IVF will work?

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link:<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/06/24/do-high-tech-add-ons-increase-the-chance-that-ivf-will-work>

TRYING TO conceive through in vitro fertilisation (IVF) leads to disappointment more often than not. About 60% of IVF attempts fail. Fertility clinics offer a long list of tests and procedures purported to boost their customers’ chances. But a review of the evidence, published on June 23rd in the Lancet Obstetrics, Gynaecology & Women’s Health, found no convincing evidence that most of these “IVF add-ons” are helpful. Worryingly, lots of the published evidence was dubious.

59. Title: Electronics can now be printed onto living tissues

Source: Economist. 27th June 2026

Link:<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/06/24/electronics-can-now-be-printed-onto-living-tissues>

IT BEGAN IN the 1980s as a way to quickly produce simple prototype models in plastic. These days 3D printing—or “additive manufacturing”, to give it its posher name—is used to make kitchen gadgets, jet-engine parts, dental implants and even some buildings.

SOCIOLOGY

60. Title: Reimagining Mothering and Motherhood in India

Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61, No-26-27, 27th June 2026

Link:<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/26-27/review-gender-studies/reimagining-mothering-and-motherhood-india.html>

This year’s Review of Gender Studies focuses on motherhood and mothering studies. This volume adds layered lived experiences of mothering from varied settings in India and broadens the body of work on motherhood and mothering in India. While one set of papers in the volume focuses on the embodied experiences that arise from women’s maternity experiences and discourses, they also, along with others, situate mothering within local community contexts and concerns, underlining the social and political dynamics and life-cycle changes. The papers represent intersectional views, emphasising

the diversity of moral reasoning among mothers and the ways that caste, religion, and modernity intersect to shape maternal practices and identities.

61. Title: Menopause and Transformations in Maternal Identities

Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61, No-26-27, 27th June 2026

Link:<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/26-27/review-gender-studies/menopause-and-transformations-maternal-identities.html>

Menopause is an important transition in a woman's life, transforming maternal identity beyond reproductive and domestic functions. Based on ethnographic fieldwork in central Kerala, it explores how post-menopausal women recalibrate maternal care, authority, and kinship through sensory, affective, and moral practices. Using sensory anthropology, care theory, and feminist life-course scholarship, it conceptualises how post-menopausal women establish covert modes of maternal presence, including taste, smell, ritual, and silence, as forms of authority and intimacy. These recalibrations coexist with refusals, as some women retreat or detach from maternal labour. Tracing these everyday negotiations, the paper contributes to an expanded sociology of motherhood.

62. Title: Dalit Motherhood

Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61, No-26-27, 27th June 2026

Link:<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/26-27/review-gender-studies/dalit-motherhood.html>

Despite the recognition of their economic and social contributions to the community amid poverty and deprivation and being symbolised as flagbearers of gender autonomy, Dalit women endure patriarchal domination both within and outside their communities. Scholarly attention to the multiple and interconnected identities of Dalit women, with respect to conjugal relationships, mothering practices, care work, and children's education, remains limited. The paper explores how Balmiki women navigate caste and patriarchal structures, marital disappointments, and care responsibilities through maternal logics within the conjugal relationship.

63. Title: Nurturers of Souls

Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61, No-26-27, 27th June 2026

Link:<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/26-27/review-gender-studies/nurturers-souls.html>

Individual and communal prayer is integral to the disciplining and self-formation of women as Catholic mothers in Kerala and, in a patriarchal set-up, may be their primary recourse in the absence of other capacities for effective action. This paper critically reconstitutes the notion of maternal care to encompass spiritual acts of prayer. The physical and emotional labour that Catholic mothers perform for their children has been researched through the lens of self-formation and piety. The paper examines prayer as a gendered act of care and an essential component of mothering, by placing it in its everyday practice as well as the larger social and political context of the society where it is practised.

64. Title: Political Construction of Naga Mothers' Organizations and Problems of Feminist Framings

Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61, No-26-27, 27th June 2026

Link: <https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/26-27/review-gender-studies/political-construction-naga-mothers-organisations.html>

Existing scholarship on political motherhood focuses on the role of mothers in resisting state oppression and violence in Nagaland. However, the Naga mothers' organisations are constitutive of conservative, traditional, progressive, religious and "moral mothers." Albeit constrained by multiple layers of patriarchy, it is argued here that the political activism of Naga mothers extends maternal politics in maintaining the moral order of society. The paper questions the assumptions that grassroots mothers always challenge patriarchy within the feminist framework, and critiques a straightforward reading of Naga mothers' organisation in the existing literature. Going beyond a strictly feminist lens, it examines how Naga mothers' organisations often subordinate the women's cause to protect tribal honour.

65. Title: Articulating the Maternal

Source: Economic & Political Weekly. Vol. 61, No-26-27, 27th June 2026

Link: <https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/26-27/review-gender-studies/articulating-maternal.html>

Blogs written by Indian mothers are important sources of understanding how motherhood and mothering are perceived and articulated in digital spaces. This paper analyses a sample survey of specific Indian mothers' blogs from 2000 to 2025. It investigates how mothers use the affordances of blogging to negotiate "motherhood" as a patriarchal institution, to navigate "mothering" as a demanding yet fulfilling experience and also, often, to conform to models of neo-liberal feminism. The paper also situates these digital narratives in the larger discourse of contemporary Indian maternity.

66. Title: Pencils Up! The Knicks on Broadway

Source: New Yorker. 29th June 2026

Link: <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/06/29/pencils-up-the-knicks-on-broadway>

In the spirit of New York's Regents exams, the standardized tests that public-school students have been taking in recent weeks, a multiple-choice question:

SPORTS

67. Title: The Difference between the Knicks and the White House Cage Fight

Source: New Yorker. 29th June 2026

Link: <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2026/06/29/the-difference-between-the-knicks-and-the-white-house-cage-fight>

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There are moments when a phrase, or a current of thought, that had seemed condemned to archival history is suddenly all anyone talks about. So it is right now with the chewy subject of breads, circuses, and cities. New York is alight with the joy of the Knickerbockers' doggedly pursued N.B.A. championship title with, in this summer of celebrating our gloriously hybrid Americanness, the pleasing anomaly that a team of mostly Black and brown Americans bears the name of the town's oldest, once most elite, and now obscure Dutch element. But the subject of bread and circuses arises out of the ancient observation—from the grouchy poet and satirist Juvenal, who witnessed it in first-century Rome—that, if people are supplied with food and entertainment by their oligarchs, they won't care or even notice if the government they live under is changing from some sort of a democracy to a dictatorship right before their eyes.

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

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