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ART

1. Bowing to online fury, China's censors ban a prizewinning film. *Economist*. 30th May 2026.

THE ROUTE to Chinese cinema screens is a rocky one for film-makers. Twitchy censors are quick to pounce on works that fail to promote "positive energy". To placate them, directors usually avoid plots dwelling on social maladies. But a movie that was due to be released at the end of May, "Her Heart Beats in its Cage", has met an unexpected hurdle: an explosion of online outrage demanding that it be banned. Officials who had greenlighted the docudrama about domestic abuse have scrambled to block it. Normally this kind of drastic censorship would reveal the Communist Party's anxieties. This time it says more about those of Chinese society.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2026/05/28/bowing-to-online-fury-chinas-censors-ban-a-prizewinning-film>

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

2. How should bosses talk about AI?. *Economist*. 30th May 2026.

If you are a bank boss and in the headlines, you are either Jamie Dimon or you have screwed up. Bill Winters, the chief executive of Standard Chartered, an emerging-markets bank headquartered in Britain, made waves recently when he talked about a planned 15% reduction in back-office jobs over the next four years. Four words in particular landed him in trouble: a reference to the replacement of "lower-value human capital" by financial capital invested in automation. The kerfuffle provides an instructive case study in a problem now faced by almost every manager: how to talk about the effect of artificial intelligence on jobs.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/05/28/how-should-bosses-talk-about-ai>

BIOGRAPHY

3. Reclaiming the Territory. *Granta* 173: India.

Salman Rushdie was among the foremost early writers for *Granta*, when it was still published out of a single room at the University of Cambridge. He has enjoyed a long association with the magazine, and has contributed fiction, reportage, poetry, memoir, and literary essays to its pages. This spring, the editor of *Granta* visited Rushdie at his place in Manhattan. They spoke for an hour about his dealings with the magazine, the course of Indian fiction, and his brushes with Indian politics. Part of their chat was recorded on the editor's phone, and has been lightly edited for clarity.

<https://granta.com/reclaiming-the-territory/>

4. The Ancient. Granta 173: India.

A woman most people called Ama came with the house. It was a package deal, evident from the start that if we wanted to live here, we would have to employ her as a housekeeper. It also became clear soon after that though we were her employers, she considered herself no one's employee. As the oldest woman on our shoulder of the hills, she was called either Ma-ji (mother) or Ama (grandmother), rather than by her name. In the early days, from the vantage point given her by fifty-odd years and several grandchildren, she surveyed me from a cold, impersonal distance – and found me wanting. For long months she would describe my domestic ineptitude aloud to nobody in particular – 'Now she's gone and burned the saucepan *again* . . .'

<https://granta.com/the-ancient/>

5. The imperial vision of Ethiopia's Abiy Ahmed. Economist. 30th May 2026.

Fortune has smiled on Abiy Ahmed. When Ethiopia's prime minister was a boy his mother prophesied that he would become a king. As a thrusting cadre of the ruling party, he told colleagues he would one day be their boss. They made him Africa's youngest leader in 2018. He promised allies that he would make peace with Eritrea, a country to the north that had been part of Ethiopia until 1993—and win a Nobel Prize for it. He was proved right within 18 months of taking office.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/05/28/the-imperial-vision-of-ethiopias-abiy-ahmed>

BUSINESS

6. Exploring the Power of Agency in Women's Non-farm Business Participation. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61. No-21. 23rd May 2026.

The relationship between rural women's agency and their non-farm self-employment is explored. Using a sequential explanatory design and nationally representative India Human Development Survey data, it is shown that agency outcomes, such as household decision-making, freedom of movement and group memberships, are crucial for women's participation and their roles in non-farm businesses. Additionally, personal in-depth interviews with self-employed women in rural West Bengal and Karnataka reveal how they navigate and negotiate within business environments despite existing constraints.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/21/perspectives/exploring-power-agency-womens-non-farm-business.html>

7. Why the world needs more franchises. Economist. 30th May 2026.

How do you get rich in today's America? Founding an artificial-intelligence startup may look tempting, but most fail. Getting an advanced degree and sloggng it out as a corporate lawyer or financier was once a reliable path to wealth, but now looks threatened by ai. Perhaps you should look instead to the company that has plausibly created more

millionaires than any other in history: McDonald's. Most of its outlets are franchises, run by independent firms that pay royalties to the brand—and often make a fortune. If fast food isn't your thing, do not fear: the franchising model can be found everywhere from hotels to Pilate's studios.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/05/28/why-the-world-needs-more-franchises>

8. Franchising has quietly made countless Americans rich. Economist. 30th May 2026.
WHEN GREG FLYNN graduated from Stanford Business School in 1994, with the dotcom boom in full swing, his friends chose the obvious career path. But while they “were all making PowerPoint presentations...becoming paper millionaires,” he went off to help a friend open a second restaurant. A few years later, spotting generous financing on offer for would-be franchisees, Mr Flynn bought eight Applebee's restaurants of his own. He now runs more than 3,000 franchise outlets across seven brands in three countries, and is reportedly worth over \$1bn, making him probably the first franchisee in the world to reach that milestone. On February 22nd the International Franchise Association, a lobbying group, inducted him into its Hall of Fame—an accolade once reserved for franchisors, the innovators on the other side of the business who established big chains, such as Ray Kroc of McDonald's or Colonel Harland Sanders of KFC.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/05/24/franchising-has-quietly-made-countless-americans-rich>

9. Everything is going right for India's richest man. Economist. 30th May 2026.
Gautam Adani, an Indian industrialist, has been called many things: a tycoon, a fraudster, a Bollygarch and worse. His close relationship with Narendra Modi, India's prime minister, has left him dogged by claims of cronyism. Admirers and critics might agree on one label, however: master escapist. In 1998 Mr Adani survived an alleged kidnapping attempt. A decade later he escaped a terrorist attack in Mumbai when gunmen stormed a luxury hotel he was visiting for a dinner. His latest Houdini-like feat has been to quietly settle a trio of legal cases brought by America's government that have cast a shadow over his conglomerate.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/05/28/everything-is-going-right-for-indias-richest-man>

10. The world's top condom-maker is getting squeezed. Economist. 30th May 2026.
Malaysia has long been one of the world's biggest rubber producers. The country no longer accounts for as high a share of global supply as it did under British colonial rule, but one consequence of around 150 years of experience working with the material is that the country is home to the world's largest condom-maker.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/05/27/the-worlds-top-condom-maker-is-getting-squeezed>

11. Ferrari's electric car: divisiveness is the point. Economist. 30th May 2026.

Carmakers usually talk up a new model. Yet Ferrari (whose biggest shareholder, Exor, part-owns The Economist's parent company) is not like other car firms. When the supercar brand unveiled its first electric vehicle (EV), called the Luce (Italian for "light"), on May 25th, its marketing chief described it as "polarising". Social media erupted with criticisms. Investors also gave it the thumbs down, though the motoring press was kinder. Yet divisiveness may be the point.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2026/05/27/ferraris-electric-car-divisiveness-is-the-point>

CLIMATE CHANGE

12. Heat: Degrees of Inequality and Indifference. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61. No-21. 23rd May 2026.

Extreme heat is beginning to take its annual toll on human lives. Heat action plans (HAPs) have to leave seminar rooms and government files and deploy on the ground, with immediate effect. It is necessary for HAPs not to remain guidelines and good intentions, and to have statutory and fiscal backing at different levels of the government. The media, at large, must spread the word about HAPs and the people's right to protective action of the kind that the state and the community can provide, in terms of regulating hours and conditions of work during extreme heat, the institution of cooling centres, and building greenery and distributed waterbodies. The urgency of saving lives now should not obscure the need for systematic, long-term action to make physical and social infrastructure prepared to deal with extreme heat events. HAPs in Gujarat, Odisha, Keralam, Andhra Pradesh, and Rajasthan offer reasonable models of regionally varied HAPs.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/editorials/heat-degrees-inequality-and-indifference.html>

ECONOMICS

13. What Telangana's Census-Scale Survey Reveals about Caste in Modern India. India Forum. 21st May 2026.

The assumption that economic growth, urbanisation, and modernisation would dissolve caste has deep roots in development theory (Deshpande and Darity 2016). But as Thorat and Newman (2007) have argued, caste-based discrimination is structurally embedded and "is not amenable to self-correction", even as markets expand. Using broad administrative categories of caste groups from the Bihar caste census, Guilhoto and Himanshu (2024) showed significant heterogeneities across and within communities. The Telangana data now provides the most granular empirical test of that claim (IEWG 2023a, 2023b).

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/caste/what-telanganas-census-scale-survey-reveals-about-caste-modern-india>

- 14.** Europe Should Resume Import of Piped Gas from Russia. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61. No-21. 23rd May 2026.

The United States (US)–Israel war on Iran and Iran’s response of blocking the Strait of Hormuz threaten the world with a shortage of fertiliser and natural gas in its liquefied form, liquefied natural gas (LNG). Gas is not just fuel but also feedstock for the production of the most widely used fertiliser, urea. The Persian Gulf accounts for up to 40% of urea exports. A shortage of fertiliser, particularly at the time of sowing, can, in turn, produce a shortage of food. India imports half the quantity of natural gas it uses annually, most of it from Qatar, whose LNG production facilities have been damaged in Iranian bombing attacks. Spiralling food and fuel prices would feed inflation, and push up interest rates, as monetary policy authorities struggle to hold the price line, adding a growth dampener in addition to higher energy prices. Hunger in Africa, in tandem with the likely El Niño phenomenon that produces droughts and sends herders across borders to trespass on lands claimed by settled communities, triggering conflict, could send another wave of migration to Europe. There is no magic solution to all these problems. But there is, indeed, one step that Europe is uniquely placed to take: reactivate the pipelines through which natural gas used to flow in from Russia prior to the Ukraine war, to free up LNG shipments for Asia, to be used as fuel and as feedstock for fertiliser production.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/editorials/europe-should-resume-import-piped-gas-russia.html>

- 15.** The Guarantee Bridge. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61. No-21. 23rd May 2026.

The expanding role of loan guarantees in financing India’s outward foreign direct investment is examined, arguing that they form an under-recognised pillar of corporate globalisation. In the context of persistent domestic savings–investment gaps, firms increasingly use guarantees to access global debt markets. Regulatory changes, notably the 2022 Overseas Investment framework, have eased their use. While enabling expansion without immediate fiscal costs, guarantees create contingent liabilities, concentrate OFDI, and shift risks to the financial system, raising concerns of transparency, equity, and systemic stability.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/21/commentary/guarantee-bridge.html>

- 16.** How East Asia should respond to its China shock. Economist. 30th May 2026.

AMERICA’S artificial-intelligence boom has put the rich economies of north-east Asia into overdrive. Taiwan’s output is growing at a blistering 14% annual pace, thanks to soaring sales of chips and servers for data centres. In the past year operating profits at South Korea’s makers of memory chips have risen by over 500%. Even sluggish Japan is benefiting—though it long ago lost its title as the world’s pre-eminent chipmaker. In 2025 all three countries enjoyed record exports and current-account surpluses.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/05/28/how-east-asia-should-respond-to-its-china-shock>

- 17.** A central banker's lessons from a fragmented decade. Economist. 30th May 2026.

WHEN I BECAME governor of the Banque de France in 2015, a friend predicted plain sailing. The decade that followed was anything but. For us central bankers—stability-lovers and devout internationalists—deeply held convictions were tested. These years could be viewed as purely chaotic and negative, with slowing economic growth, rising debt and surging populism. Yet beyond this bleak picture, I draw four vital lessons.

<https://www.economist.com/by-invitation/2026/05/25/a-central-bankers-lessons-from-a-fragmented-decade>

- 18.** Indonesia's erratic president grabs the country's commodity exports. Economist. 30th May 2026.

A presentation to parliament on fiscal policy might seem like a dry affair meant for bean-counters. Yet this year's address in Indonesia generated high drama. In an unprecedented intervention, Prabowo Subianto, the president, took to the podium. But instead of reassuring markets that his administration had heard their concerns—especially over the rupiah, now at an all-time low, he launched into a defiant broadside. "We no longer want to be a victim and endure unfair treatment of other countries to our nation," he bellowed. "I am here to say: it has to come to an end."

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/05/28/indonesias-erratic-president-grabs-the-countrys-commodity-exports>

- 19.** Narendra Modi gives India's elite a taste of the bad old days. Economist. 30th May 2026.

ON AT LEAST one day this month, Delhi's chief minister rode the metro, a high court judge in central India cycled to work, a politician in Kashmir hailed a horse-drawn carriage and the leader of Bihar walked the entire 500 or so metres to his office. The elected head of Maharashtra, India's richest state, made perhaps the biggest sacrifice of all. He flew economy.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/05/24/narendra-modi-gives-indias-elite-a-taste-of-the-bad-old-days>

- 20.** China's world-beating solar industry is in turmoil. Economist. 30th May 2026.

AS AMERICA'S WAR on Iran roils energy markets, China's clean-energy companies would be expected to be cashing in. The country makes over 80% of the world's solar panels, churning them out in vast quantities. Thanks to such efforts, renewable sources generated more electricity than coal last year around the world. Yet China's solar industry, though world-beating, is in trouble. And the boost from the war has not been enough to steady it.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2026/05/26/chinas-world-beating-solar-industry-is-in-turmoil>

- 21.** A coalmine explosion lays bare China's two-speed economy. Economist. 30th May 2026. IT WAS LIKE the bad old days. In China's worst mining accident since 2009, a gas explosion ripped through a coalmine in Shanxi province on May 22nd. Television showed scenes of injured coalminers in hospitals, and rescue efforts hampered by maps that omitted hidden tunnels. The blast at the Liushenyu mine killed 82 workers, injured 128 and left two missing. Stories of fathers and sons lost mining the coking coal used to make steel for the country's skyscrapers and cars were a reminder that even as China conquers new technologies, millions of its people still depend on older, more dangerous industries.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2026/05/28/a-coalmine-explosion-lays-bare-chinas-two-speed-economy>

- 22.** Could Donald Trump save Cuba's economy?. Economist. 30th May 2026. During the 1990s the boss of Sherritt International became known as "Fidel Castro's favourite capitalist". For 30 years the Canadian firm's nickel refineries were the only Western-run resource project in Cuba. Then, in March this year, Donald Trump's fuel blockade forced them to close. An extra set of sanctions made things worse. On May 15th Sherritt said it would exit Cuba permanently.

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2026/05/27/could-donald-trump-save-cubas-economy>

- 23.** Japan, South Korea and Taiwan are suffering industrial rot. Economist. 30th May 2026. The numbers look staggeringly good. Taiwan, a rich economy that in a good year might be expected to expand by 3-4%, is growing at 14%. That is thanks to an explosion in exports, which, even after adjusting for inflation, rose by over 40% last year. In a similar vein, operating profits at South Korea's biggest firms ballooned by 159% over the past year, thanks chiefly to its mighty exporters. Even usually sluggish Japan is seeing record corporate profits. Since the covid-19 pandemic its exports have grown four times faster than its economy. On the face of things, north-east Asia is in the midst of an export-led bonanza.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/05/27/japan-south-korea-and-taiwan-are-suffering-industrial-rot>

- 24.** Crackdowns on financial secrecy aren't hurting offshore finance. Economist. 30th May 2026. SINCE THE global financial crisis of 2007-09 the days of offshore finance have regularly looked numbered. In 2010 America passed the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act, which required foreign financial firms to disclose the assets of Americans. A year later Nicolas Sarkozy—who led both France and the G20 at the time—boldly declared that tax havens would face global ostracism. In 2016 investigative reporters unearthed the

“Panama papers”, a vast cache of documents that traced hundreds of thousands of tax-dodgers. The revelations led many rich-world governments to force offshore centres to create registers of beneficial ownership and share information with other jurisdictions on pain of sanctions.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/05/25/crackdowns-on-financial-secrecy-arent-hurting-offshore-finance>

25. How to tax businesses in orbit and beyond. Economist. 30th May 2026.

IN 1587 THE English jurist Sir Edward Coke popularised the legal principle that whoever owned a piece of land also owned the space above it “up to the heavens (and the stars) and down to hell”. Hell may yet be remote, but lately the stars have become more accessible. For much of the 20th century space exploration was a public affair handled by governments and directed toward scientific research. Increasingly it has become a private business filled with commercial aspirants.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/05/28/how-to-tax-businesses-in-orbit-and-beyond>

26. Kevin Warsh’s troublesome inflation in-tray. Economist. 30th May 2026.

KEVIN WARSH’S first day in his new job on May 22nd was instructive. For the first time in nearly 40 years, the chairman of the Federal Reserve was sworn in at the White House—an odd setting for the head of an institution that prides itself on political distance. Donald Trump nevertheless assured his hand-picked inflation dove that he should be “totally” independent. Hours later, at a rally in New York, the president sketched the boundaries of that independence. “I had a rotten head of the Fed, now I have a great head of the Fed,” he boasted, before predicting that interest rates would come down “very quickly”.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/05/27/kevin-warshs-troublesome-inflation-in-tray>

27. Giga-IPOs are a symptom of public markets’ giga-problem. Economist. 30th May 2026.

AMERICAN STOCK indices’ record highs mask a niggle: getting firms to list is getting harder. The number of initial public offerings (IPOs) fell from an annual average of over 400 in the 1990s to 115 in the past decade. This plus attrition and more firms going private has reduced the ranks of public companies in America from a peak of 8,000 in 1996 to 3,900 last year. Jamie Dimon, boss of JPMorgan Chase and Wall Street wise man, would like to see 15,000 or more. If companies steer clear of public markets, as so many now choose to, ordinary investors miss out on their dynamism.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/05/26/giga-ipos-are-a-symptom-of-public-markets-giga-problem>

28. Without fanfare, China is making rural migrants’ lives easier. Economist. 30th May 2026.

- 29.** AN IMPERTINENT SOUL once asked Paul Samuelson to name a social-scientific principle that was true but not trivial. The Nobel laureate's answer was comparative advantage, which explains why two countries can both benefit from trade even if one is better than the other at everything. That principle has sadly fallen out of fashion. So here is another one that is true, non-trivial and more germane to this age: China would face fewer trade wars with the rest of the world if its people were less thrifty.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2026/05/28/without-fanfare-china-is-making-rural-migrants-lives-easier>

EDUCATION

- 30.** How Bad Is Higher Ed's Budget Crunch?. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-19. 22nd May 2026.

A steady drumbeat of bad budgetary news has hit higher education: staff cuts, program eliminations, credit-rating downgrades, and buyout offers. One recent study found that a large number of colleges are "at risk" from a cash-flow perspective. Last fall, *The Chronicle* surveyed hundreds of administrators who work closely on college finances: Only 20 percent of them told us their institution's budgets were sufficient to achieve their mission.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/how-bad-is-higher-eds-budget-crunch>

- 31.** Higher Ed's New Crisis Managers. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-19. 22nd May 2026.

If your college isn't already feeling financial strain, it probably will be soon. The wealthiest and most-selective institutions may be insulated from the worst financial turbulence, but many colleges that must compete for a limited number of traditional-age students are falling short of enrollment and revenue goals.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/higher-eds-new-crisis-managers>

- 32.** How Colleges Cut. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-19. 22nd May 2026.

It is no secret that most of American higher education is facing financial headwinds. Nearly one in five public institutions and one in three private institutions ran budget deficits in fiscal year 2024, and that was before tightened state funding, an uptick in

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/how-colleges-cut>

- 33.** The Myth of the Faculty Summer. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-19. 22nd May 2026.

Like many faculty members, Kerry O'Grady, a senior lecturer of business communications at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, gets tired of hearing from friends and family that it must be so nice to have her summers off. "If you're doing

your job the way that you're supposed to, honestly, you have no time off," O'Grady said. "Period."

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/summers-off-hardly-academics-enter-the-season-of-ambient-pressure>

- 34.** A University President Apologized for a Professor's Graduation Speech. He Says He Did Nothing Wrong. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-19. 22nd May 2026. Students, faculty, and alumni at the University of Michigan are demanding that the flagship's president apologize for an apology he made over the weekend about a faculty member's commencement speech.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/a-university-president-apologized-for-a-professors-commencement-speech-he-says-he-did-nothing-wrong>

- 35.** A Professor Defended a Postdoc Who Was Deported. Now His Lab Has Been Suddenly Locked Down. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-19. 22nd May 2026. An Indiana University biology professor who has condemned the U.S. government's prosecution of Chinese scientists now finds himself locked out of his lab amid a federal investigation. The closure of the lab and other research space at the Bloomington campus marks the latest step in months of scrutiny of Chinese researchers and, by extension, American colleagues who have come to their defense.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/a-professor-defended-a-postdoc-who-was-deported-now-his-lab-has-been-suddenly-locked-down>

- 36.** A GOP Test to Measure Earnings Plagues Religious Colleges. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-19. 22nd May 2026. A new accountability scheme touted by congressional Republicans and the Trump administration could have unintended consequences for a small, usually conservative slice of higher ed. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act's earnings test has been touted by reformers as a simple measure to "do no harm": Undergraduate programs must show that their alumni earn more than a high-school graduate four years after completing their degrees. Around 95 percent of students are enrolled in programs that appear likely to pass.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/a-gop-test-to-measure-earnings-plagues-religious-colleges>

- 37.** Higher Ed's Enrollment Cliff Is Here. Now Meet the Graduate Glut. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-19. 22nd May 2026. Hello, demographic cliff: The decline in 18-year-old Americans, anticipated since birth rates dropped sharply during the Great Recession, is now here. The population contraction, forecast to stretch for the next decade and a half, could lead to institutional

belt-tightening and a surge in college closures as competition heats up for a smaller pool of students.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/higher-eds-enrollment-cliff-is-here-now-meet-the-graduate-glut>

- 38.** AI Will Make the Academic Article Obsolete. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-19. 22nd May 2026.

I finished my economics Ph.D. in the summer of 2022, a few months before ChatGPT was released. I did not know it at the time, but my cohort was the last to graduate under the old rules. The empirical toolkit I'd spent six years acquiring — reading the literature, cleaning datasets, drafting papers and revising them — was about to undergo a fundamental change. That work can now be done, and increasingly.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/ai-will-make-the-academic-article-obsolete>

- 39.** We Need an Audit of the Political Enthusiasms of the Last Decade. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-19. 22nd May 2026.

When Jill Lepore talked to The Chronicle last year about almost quitting her job over the punishing political environment she saw engulf Harvard University around 2014, she expressed a wish for reconciliation and forgiveness: “As a Catholic, I believe in confession and contrition and in making amends.”

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/we-need-an-audit-of-the-political-enthusiasms-of-the-last-decade>

- 40.** Urvashi Kuhad

Creating an Ecosystem for Research, Innovation and Quality Education. University News. Vol.64. No-21. 25th-31st May 2026. Page No-3-6.

Research and Development (R&D) initiatives enhance the exposure of students in academic institutions towards real-world problems and also create opportunities for working on the state-of-the-art R&D infrastructure. These initiatives bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical applications and help in building a very strong academia-industry ecosystem. R&D in academic institutions, hence, increases the exposure of students beyond the boundaries of our traditional education system and propels them to the forefront of global education. This equips them for cutting-edge research, interdisciplinary collaboration, intellectual contributions, and to meet the demands of a knowledge-driven society.

- 41.** Soumyabrata Chakraborty

Benefits of Internationalising Higher Education and Its Assessment Using Porter's Diamond Model. University News. Vol.64. No-21. 25th-31st May 2026. Page No-7-14.

The Internationalisation of Higher Education (IHE) has emerged as a strategic priority for India, driven by policy reforms, expanding global partnerships, and evolving academic frameworks. This paper evaluates India's preparedness for deeper global

engagement by demonstrating how Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) can apply Porter's Diamond Model (PDM) analysis as a complementary tool to assess and strengthen their internationalisation readiness. Through an assessment of demand conditions, factor conditions, institutional strategies, supporting industries, government initiatives, and global "chance" events, the paper highlights the opportunities and challenges that influence India's internationalisation trajectory. The analysis demonstrates that India is well-positioned to expand its global academic footprint, provided that HEIs adopt strategic, collaborative, and innovation-driven approaches. The paper also outlines actionable pathways for HEIs, including the University Cluster Pilot Study (UCPS), establishing Indian campuses of foreign universities, launching dual-degree programs, enhancing credit mapping, and upgrading academic and physical infrastructure.

42. Biju Dharmapalan

Netiquettes for Effective Online Classrooms. University News. Vol.64. No-21. 25th-31st May 2026. Page No-15-17.

Generation Alpha—children born after 2010—are the first generation to grow up completely immersed in the digital world. Tablets, smartphones, smart classrooms, artificial intelligence, and social media are not new technologies for them; they are simply part of everyday life. However, in spite of the fact that modern children have high levels of skill in using digital tools, there is no guarantee that such children are knowledgeable of the social conventions and codes of conduct that allow them to navigate the online space in a responsible way. Classrooms in the twenty-first century are no longer confined to four walls; today, learning is being conducted on screens, appliances, and electronic platforms. Generation Alpha spends a significant share of its time online, attending virtual classes, working on projects, watching educational videos, or playing with peers using social platforms. However, good knowledge of technology is not a sure way to responsible behaviour. Although most students are able to use the devices properly, not many are taught how to behave in the digital space.

43. Towards Responsible AI Integration in Education: Ethical Perspectives and Accountability Frameworks. University News. Vol.64. No-21. 25th-31st May 2026. Page No-18-23.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged in the education sector at a fast pace, facilitating personalisation, efficiency, and innovative learning and teaching approaches, but its implementation generates urgent ethical challenges. This research seeks to investigate how education's framing of AI is constituted in contemporary literature, determine dominant ethical issues, uncover potential for ethical use, and suggest guiding frameworks. Employing thematic analysis of peer-reviewed articles, policy reports, and institutional publications, the study mapped out on a systematic basis the dominating narratives regarding AI ethics. Five overarching themes appeared: academic honesty, data privacy and surveillance, bias and fairness in algorithms, tension between innovation and ethics, and the function of governance and policy structures. The results uncover that AI is invariably imagined as a two-edged sword, promising efficiency and

scalability while at the same time posing the threats of bias, inequity, and loss of human values.

44. Mehar Satsangi

AI Data Centre: A Nerve Centre to Redefine the Digital Transformation of India. University News. Vol.64. No-21. 25th-31st May 2026. Page No-30-31.

India has achieved the pinnacle of success due to its robust digitally data-driven digital infrastructures widely spread across every corner of our nation, and most importantly expanding vertical and horizontal horizons of frugal innovations in the field of semiconductor (Vikram 3201), quantum (Quantum Random Number Generator), space (Mission Drishti launched by Indian startup GalaxEye), recent historic fast breeder reactor making a big breakthrough in 3-stage nuclear program. These innovations show the capability of our home-grown innovations along big data generators, which could function as strong predictive models for next-generation technologies like the sixth industrial digital revolution. The rapid enhancement in the ranking of the Global Innovation Index position places our nation on the map of frugal innovations among the global leaders. The index shows the strength of emerging innovation clusters like Bengaluru and Maharashtra, and escalating Unicorns.

FOOD

45. What is Cooking?: Public Canteens in India. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61. No-21. 23rd May 2026.

Public canteens that provide subsidised meals have emerged as a critical food security measure in urban India. A survey of over 700 guests in Karnataka, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu finds that public canteens guarantee food security for vulnerable people, such as the elderly and destitute, as well as those without cooking facilities (single working men, students). One-fourth of the respondents consumed both meals daily at canteens and saved a third of their reported monthly earnings. Canteens have also created decent jobs, especially for women, reduced domestic work and fostered a sense of oneness and well-being in otherwise alienating urban environments.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/21/special-articles/what-cooking.html>

46. Japan's beloved Indian restaurants are under threat. Economist. 30th May 2026.

HIMALAYAN CARAVAN, a Nepalese-Indian restaurant in east Tokyo, has sat on its quiet street for two decades. Sanjay Sahani, its Nepalese owner, first came to Japan as a chef in 2006. His ¥850 (\$5) curry-and-naan set lunch draws a steady crowd, from office workers to pensioners. The neighbours and his regulars are like family, he says.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/05/28/japans-beloved-indian-restaurants-are-under-threat>

HEALTH

- 47.** Kerala's Health at a Crossroads. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61. No-21. 23rd May 2026.

Kerala's health system now confronts a paradox. Low mortality and increased longevity coexist with rising morbidity across age groups and genders, growing mental health burdens, rapid population ageing, and sharply increasing health expenditure, including high out-of-pocket costs for households. These trends have exposed the limitations of a health strategy centred on curative, hospital-based care. Kerala's current health crisis is not one of declining indicators but of an incomplete transition—from reducing deaths to reducing disease, disability, and financial vulnerability.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/21/commentary/keralas-health-crossroads.html>

HISTORY

- 48.** From 50 Years Ago: The Formative Ideology of Jawaharlal Nehru. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61. No-21. 23rd May 2026.

These views of Nehru on the importance of systems and of general world patterns were sharpened by the growing tension in Europe and East Asia in the thirties. Two vast forces seemed to him to be facing each other everywhere; fascism and imperialism, which were twin brothers, the products of a decaying capitalism, on the one hand, and the progressive forces, nationalist and socialist, on the other. The freedom struggle in India was part of this universal confrontation. The frontiers of our national movement lay in Spain and China, for freedom, like peace, was indivisible, and in the final analysis it did not matter much where fate had pitched one's tent.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/21/50-years-ago/50-years-ago-formative-ideology-jawaharlal-nehru.html>

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- 49.** When Proximity Is Not Enough. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61. No-21. 23rd May 2026.

India's efforts to maintain its primacy and remain a sole Vijigishu (a central power) in the South Asian Mandala, through its "Neighbourhood First Policy," have come under unprecedented strain as China's economic, strategic, and diplomatic influence increasingly permeates the region, eroding New Delhi's traditional advantages of proximity, historical and cultural ties. To reverse this trend, India must reimagine its regional strategy—delivering more competitive economic projects, pursuing respectful, egalitarian diplomacy, and revitalising its pluralistic soft power.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/21/commentary/when-proximity-not-enough.html>

50. Smart tech is making war a dumber choice. Economist. 30th May 2026.

Bullets and bombs killed nearly three-quarters of a million people in wars between 2021 and 2024. Many more died from the indirect effects of conflict, such as hunger and disease. Combat deaths in the past four years have been the highest since the end of the cold war. And for what purpose? Not even the leaders who started recent wars can be pleased with the results. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has become a humiliating quagmire for Vladimir Putin. President Donald Trump's war on Iran has gone badly awry. These two wars of choice exemplify two new battlefield truths. Technology has made it harder for any army to advance on the ground. It has also made it easier for weaker powers, when attacked by stronger ones, to cause havoc.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/05/28/smart-tech-is-making-war-a-dumber-choice>

LAW

51. India's Organ Donation System Fails Its Own Ideals. India Forum. 27th May 2026.

On 10 February 2026, Dr Thankam Subramonian, a consultant in foetal medicine and obstetrics and gynaecology at Manipal Hospital, Bengaluru, became the first anonymous kidney donor in Karnataka. Despite the dominant organ donation legislation in the country—the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994 (THOTA)—expressly allowing for unrelated (non-near relative) living organ donation, she underwent a long-drawn struggle to make a willing donation.

Her more than decade-long arduous journey is documented on her website. It included prolonged waits for approval from the relevant hospital authorisation committee, which kept deferring or rejecting her case due to unfamiliarity with anonymous living donation, and ultimately required her to seek legal recourse before her donation could proceed. Her case has brought forth, once again, the plethora of obstacles surrounding organ donation and its altruistic underpinnings in India.

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/health/indias-organ-donation-system-fails-its-own-ideals>

52. India's Uniform Civil Code Promises Equality, Delivers Surveillance. India Forum. 22nd May 2026.

The uniform civil code (UCC) has been written into law in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led states of Uttarakhand and Gujarat. These are the first two laws since India became a republic mandating a UCC. Today, amid the scorching winds of majoritarianism and unremitting state persecution of India's Muslims and Christians, they do not signal the advance of gender justice that the makers of India's Constitution had envisaged. Instead, they constitute one more triumph of the Hindutva state, one further eclipse of India's secular, democratic Constitution.

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/essay/indias-uniform-civil-code-promises-equality-delivers-surveillance>

53. Can a Caste Census Cause Attrition of Caste? India Forum. 20th May 2026.

Satish Deshpande—whom I hold in high regard as one of our finest academics, a fast-vanishing tribe today—has done me the honour of writing an extensive review of my book *Caste Con Censur*.

This article is not meant to indulge in sterile semantics, least of all to be a rejoinder to Deshpande’s review. It is to discuss an interesting point that he makes at the end to support his contention, albeit in, a speculative manner, that a caste census can unleash attrition which would lead to a weakening of castes::

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/caste/can-caste-census-cause-attrition-caste>

54. Grave Injustice in Public View. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61. No-21. 23rd May 2026.

In its 11 May judgment in *Girija Kumari and Others v State (NCT) of Delhi and Another*, a two-judge bench of the Supreme Court ruled that abusing or insulting with an intent to humiliate a member of a Scheduled Caste (SC) or Scheduled Tribe (ST) could not be recognised as an offence under the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) (PoA) Act, 1989 if it did not take place at “a place within public view.” This view undermines the spirit of the law to uphold it in letter. It has further reified a pernicious binary that judges the legality of acts based upon the location of their execution. Murder committed behind closed doors constitutes a crime most foul, but not caste-based abuse? Domestic violence happens mostly outside the public view, but remains a crime. Why this discrimination for crimes against oppressed people? Deeming caste-based abuse and other such acts meant to humiliate to be criminal offences only in places “within public view” gives, in effect, legal protection to such abuse, as long as it is carried out in private spaces outside “public view.”

<https://www.epw.in/journal/editorials/grave-injustice-public-view.html>

55. The ‘Misuse’ of Domestic Violence Law. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61. No-21. 23rd May 2026.

In recent years, a few cases of domestic violence in India have drawn the media’s attention to the alleged misuse of these laws by women. Specifically, these incidents that involved suicides by husbands attributed harassment by wives and their families by weaponising the anti-domestic violence laws (Pandey 2024; TOI 2025a, 2025b). Every such incident is followed by a keen interest and action from actors of the legal fraternity, news media, anti-feminist movement crusaders and men’s rights activists. The ecosystem spawned by these movements has generated, with some success, a discourse that demonises both the feminist movement and the laws that protect women from domestic violence. The influence of this discourse, which in itself is rooted in patriarchal cultural norms (Nigam 2022), has even painted perceptions of the judges, as is evident from the language used in some of their judgments, which vilify women

“misusing” anti-domestic violence laws as opportunists, “wolves,” and terming the misuse as “legal terrorism” (Singh 2021: 194). In effect, the law that was specifically constituted to protect women from harassment and violence has been repeatedly questioned, and numerous, powerful voices have asked for a complete revocation of the law.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/21/law-and-society/misuse-domestic-violence-law.html>

- 56.** Subcategorisation of Dalits in Haryana. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.61. No-21. 23rd May 2026.

Haryana became the first state to implement the subcategorisation of Scheduled Castes based on the recommendations of the Haryana State Commission for Scheduled Castes after the Supreme Court’s judgment. However, the justification behind Scheduled Caste sub-classification in Haryana remains shaky due to the HSCSC report’s limited scope, which relied solely on employment data without considering broader socio-economic and human development indicators.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2026/21/commentary/subcategorisation-dalits-haryana.html>

LITERATURE

- 57.** A Measure of Martyrdom. Granta 173: India.

My colleague Samir Sahu called in the afternoon to remind me that my wife and I were invited to his housewarming party that evening.

‘She may not be able to make it, but I will certainly be there,’ I said, deciding not to go. Sahu, who grew up in Calcutta, had moved to Bangalore for work. He’s a few years older, but my subordinate. I suspect he slights me behind my back. We may have something in common when it comes to how we try to transcend our corporate lives. I write. He is interested in painting and likes to associate with artistic types outside the office. He apparently used to be a member of the Communist Party, something he brings up every now and then. I have a way of startling him in conversation by adopting a leftist position fiercer than his: ‘Just wait,’ I might say, ‘there will come a day when we break the chains of corporate oppression.’ He looks at me warily, as if it might be a ploy on my part.

<https://granta.com/a-measure-for-martyrdom/>

- 58.** Malayalam. Granta 173: India.

In everyday Malayalam, the word *shraddha* means attention or care. You might hear it from a teacher who corrects your carelessness in class – *shraddikkoo!* (pay attention!). Or from a stranger warning you about a pothole hidden by the gushing rainwater of a monsoon – *shraddikkane!* (take care!). I still remember hearing the word as a child, when Kerala was lusher than it is today. The roads were surrounded by paddy fields back

then, and in every monsoon, water brought to life thousands of water lilies on the roadsides. We kids, mesmerised by the flowers, would forget about the water snakes and other creatures that loved the lilies too, and passers-by would have to call out to us – *shraddikeda kallappillaare!* (watch it, you scamps!).

<https://granta.com/malayalam/>

59. I Am My Mother's Older Brother. Granta 173: India.

For a long time it was my fervent wish that my parents would come live with me after their retirement. But my father died, and my mother refused. She insisted on living entirely on her own terms. Only when she became completely dependent, in every way, did my wish come true. I am my mother's eldest, the one who first gave her the experience of childbirth and of being a mother. All her ideas of how to raise children with care and a scientific temperament she put into practice on me. By the time my sister and brother came along, idealism had given way to practicality.

<https://granta.com/i-am-my-mothers-older-brother/>

60. Punjabi. Granta 173: India.

Each morning in my childhood home began the same way, with the lilting voice of the kirtan singer Bhai Tarlochan Singh reciting the 'Japji Sahib', the first hymn of the *Guru Granth Sahib*. The song flowed from my father's tape recorder – thirty-eight metred stanzas, composed by the founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak. I couldn't understand most of the words, yet I was carried away by the music. The Punjabi of the 'Japji Sahib' – formal, ancient, and yet familiar, like kinfolk pausing at a caravanserai – sounded very different from the Punjabi I spoke at home. Many words stirred me, but one in particular held me fast: *hukam*, the fulcrum of Guru Nanak's poetics.

<https://granta.com/punjabi/>

61. Come rain, come down. Granta 173: India.

I was visiting Bombay in late September 2005, well after the monsoon season gets over in the city, when some dark clouds occupied a small corner of the sky. Around me everyone began to panic. In the streets, people kept glancing up anxiously; pavement shops began to cover goods with plastic sheets; people got on their mobile phones, yelling shrill instructions to kith and kin to get home quickly. Inside homes, refrigerators were checked for supplies and windows were shut tight. The clouds passed after a while, perhaps there was light drizzle in some places, but it took until late evening for things to come back to normal.

<https://granta.com/come-rain-come-down/>

62. Gujarati. Granta 173: India.

The word *vyavhaar* – વ્યવહાર in Gujarati – exists in many Indian languages and has one basic meaning across them all: 'conduct' or 'behaviour'. This consensus is misleading; the

separate regions and their communities make certain words mean many – and sometimes different – things. Vyavhaar, in Gujarati, has absorbed the region's association with commerce and mercantilism, and the word now has multiple, untranslatable meanings that reflect Gujarat's world view.

<https://granta.com/gujarati/>

63. Meena Kandasamy

The Fence-Sitter as Friend of the Genocidal State. Granta 173: India.

<https://granta.com/the-fence-sitter-as-friend-of-the-genocidal-state/>

64. Tanuj Solanki

Appropriation. Granta 173: India.

The cricket stump that H___ hit Nazeer on the head with and which in the process broke into two pieces that still somehow clung on to each other through a thin layer of – what? – varnish? – had been in cricketing use for two years, though it remained anyone's guess if the velocity with which the stump travelled towards Nazeer's head was comparable to the velocity with which cricket balls usually hit the stump, and when later that evening H___ spared a thought for his useless stump, he figured that nothing could be said with confidence – because the number of direct strikes, which is to say clean-bowled and direct-hit run-out dismissals, was not very high in the matches that he played with his mates – but then he also realised the futility of such reasoning, reasoning which did nothing at all to reduce his feeling of being cheated, which was a strong feeling because he vividly remembered the sports-shop proprietor in Meerut using the words 'international quality' while selling him the kit, and if the stump was really international quality than it should have been able to withstand even Shoaib Akhtar's bowling, and given that that could not have happened, given that he could not have swung the stump at Nazeer's head at a speed greater than 100 miles per hour, those words were nothing but the whitest of lies and there was nothing that the proprietor could truthfully say to defend the thing now, unless he tried to cheat H___ again, unless he tried to say that a particularly hard part of Nazeer's skull had hit a particularly soft part of the stump, that such things happen all the time, that skulls and wood are not uniformly hard and sometimes an ill-fated collision can cause lasting damage, to which possibility H___, determined now to stand his ground for a replacement or a refund, decided to respond by saying: 'I don't care about all that.'

<https://granta.com/appropriation/>

65. The Bored Man. Granta 173: India.

It was an October evening, and the emptiness of the sky had descended, making the day disappear. People were coming and going, in rickshaws, on bicycles, and on scooters, but it all felt like a dream. He was coming back disappointed from his friend's house. His friend had been busy, and hadn't paid attention to him, even when he was replying to his questions. Parveen, his friend's wife, had been busy swinging their darling boy in a baby

swing, but he had thought the couple would ask him if he wanted tea, as they usually did, and he would sit there for a while. But instead they had ignored him.

<https://granta.com/the-bored-man/>

66.Progressives. Granta 173: India.

When Jogindar Singh's stories started to earn attention, the desire sprang up in his heart to invite famous writers and poets to his house for gatherings. He thought that this could only help his reputation grow. Jogindar Singh had an overactive imagination. After entertaining famous writers and poets at his house, he would sit down with his wife Amrat Kau. For a moment, he forgot that his job was sorting mail at the post office. He would take off his nine-foot-long yellow turban worn in the Patiala style, set it to the side, and feel as though beneath his long black hair, Progressive literature was buried deeply in the folds of his small head. This gave him a strange sort of courage, and he imagined that he had a glancing connection to all the world's story writers and novelists.

<https://granta.com/progressives/>

67.Amitava Kumar.

Children's Tales. Granta 173: India.

The guide at the Cellular Jail Museum in Port Blair first took us into the small room that had served as the gallows when the place was a working prison under British rule. The jail had been a part of the colonial penal settlement in the Andaman Islands. Situated more than a thousand kilometers from the Indian mainland, the Andamans are a remote archipelago made up of nearly two hundred islands, of which only a few are inhabited. There is evidence to suggest that the indigenous Andamanese tribes have lived on some of the islands since perhaps the end of the Last Glacial period. For much of my life, long before the Andamans became popular as a vacation site, they loomed large as a notorious penal settlement. Thousands of Indians, many of them nationalist rebels, died there. And this fact was confirmed during my visit to the prison-museum in Port Blair. Three nooses hung from the roof of the small room; the rope was new and so was the green paint on the wooden walls, but everything else had been preserved from the time when executions were still taking place. There was a door on the side and a short flight of steps leading to an underground chamber. A sunken rectangular area in the floor marked the space directly under the spot where a body would have dropped with the rope around the neck.

<https://granta.com/childrens-tales/>

68. Bhavika Govil

Folding Your Mother. Granta 173: India.

<https://granta.com/folding-your-mother/>

69.Vivek Shanbhag

Sudheer's Mother. Granta 173: India.

<https://granta.com/sudheers-mother/>

70. Duboree Das

Hoesamuis. Granta 173: India.

<https://granta.com/hoesamuis/>

MILITARY SCIENCE

71. Would American military action against Cuba work?. Economist. 30th May 2026.

Ever since the CIA organized anti-Castro Cubans to invade at the Bay of Pigs in 1961, the Cuban regime has both feared another attack by Uncle Sam and spun America's fiasco into a tale of national pride and resistance. Today the threat again looms large. Will Donald Trump attack Cuba? What would happen if he did?

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2026/05/27/would-american-military-action-against-cuba-work>

POLITICAL SCIENCE & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

72. Introduction. Granta 173: India.

I arrived in Delhi this year to find the city in the midst of a minor literary dust-up. Arvind Kejriwal, the former chief minister for Delhi from the Aam Aadmi Party, had made a passing reference at a campaign rally to how the evil king Ravana from the Ramayana had transformed into a golden deer to lure the princess Sita away from the hero Ram. For the next twenty-four hours on national television, ministers from the ruling far-right Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) lashed out at Kejriwal, saying he had disgraced the nation by getting a crucial detail of the epic wrong: of course it was the evil demon Maricha, Ravana's uncle, who had transformed into the deer at Ravana's instructions, not Ravana himself! Kejriwal was denounced as a 'Chunavi Hindu' – 'Election Hindu', with pundits speculating about how many prayers to Hanuman it would take to expiate his sin. Kejriwal said his critics were worse than Ravana, and was called Ravana in return.

<https://granta.com/india-introduction/>

73. Attacking Cuba would be a huge mistake. Economist. 30th May 2026.

Only hours after American Special Forces grabbed Venezuela's dictator from Caracas on January 3rd, Donald Trump said that Cuba was "going down" next. Since then he has leant on Venezuela's new ruler, who wishes to avoid being kidnapped like her predecessor, to cut off the supply of cheap oil to Cuba. As the island suffers blackouts, Mr Trump is urging its regime to make a deal with him "before it is too late".

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2026/05/27/attacking-cuba-would-be-a-huge-mistake>

74. Illiberal leaders in mainland South-East Asia revamp their regimes. Economist. 30th May 2026.

WHEN VIETNAM'S president, To Lam, steps up to the microphone in Singapore on May 29th, he will have a spring in his step. Mr Lam is giving the keynote address at the Shangri-La Dialogue, a gabfest of defence ministers, military commanders and spy chiefs that takes place in the hotel of that name on the island each year. He will do so as Vietnam's most powerful leader in nearly four decades.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/05/28/illiberal-leaders-in-mainland-south-east-asia-revamp-their-regimes>

75. China's diplomatic successes are broad but shallow. Economist. 30th May 2026.

THE LAST time Xi Jinping left China was in late October. Since then the world has come to him: a dozen heads of state have visited China. The foreign ministry's protocol department has handled it flawlessly, setting up grand receptions for its visitors, lining up soldiers and schoolchildren to greet them, and flying their national flags beside China's on important boulevards.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2026/05/25/chinas-diplomatic-successes-are-broad-but-shallow>

76. How the Supreme Court both checks and empowers Donald Trump. Economist. 30th May 2026.

One of Donald trump's most enduring legacies will be his imprint on the Supreme Court. In his first term he appointed three justices—Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett—creating a 6-3 conservative majority. The court has since delivered a series of landmark rulings cheered by the president and his supporters. The constitutional right to abortion is gone; affirmative action in university admissions has been curtailed; gun rights are more robust than ever before; and former presidents now enjoy broad immunity for acts undertaken in office. More recently the court has provisionally blessed Mr Trump's policies on spending, immigration and the restructuring of the executive branch. The president has made it clear he thinks the conservative justices' job is to advance his agenda; critics on the left accuse them of doing just that.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2026/05/24/how-the-supreme-court-both-checks-and-empowers-donald-trump>

77. Meet the Republicans defying Donald Trump. Economist. 30th May 2026.

REPUBLICANS ARE learning that, occasionally, you can say “no” to Donald Trump. On May 18th his administration announced a \$1.8bn fund to compensate victims of government “lawfare”—read, a slush fund for allies—provoking fury among some Republicans. “Utterly stupid, morally wrong” was how Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky described it. “I call it a payout pot for punks,” said Thom Tillis, a senator from North Carolina. The uproar has derailed progress on one of the president’s other priorities: a long-awaited \$70bn immigration-enforcement bill.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2026/05/28/meet-the-republicans-defying-donald-trump>

78. The Trump administration’s big move to limit legal immigration. Economist. 30th May 2026.

“GREEN CARD”, released in 1990, is one of the few romantic comedies built around immigration law. In the film Gérard Depardieu plays a French waiter living and working illegally in New York City. Andie MacDowell plays an environmentalist who marries him so that he can obtain a “green card”, as America’s permanent-residency permit is known. Alas, if President Donald Trump gets his way, the film’s premise may no longer work. In a move seemingly designed to slow legal migration—not just ruin mediocre films—the administration wants applicants to leave America before applying for a green card.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2026/05/26/the-trump-administrations-big-move-to-limit-legal-immigration>

79. The refugees Donald Trump wants are white and middle-class. Economist. 30th May 2026.

Some refugees flee from wars and end up in squalid tented camps. Others defy this stereotype. Consider the white HR executive from South Africa whose application for protection in America rested partly on her claim that she had not had a pay rise in nine years because of her skin colour. “It’s a different type of persecution, but it’s still persecution,” says this newly minted refugee, who now enjoys the sunshine and safety of Florida. Of the roughly 6,000 refugees admitted to America since October, nearly all are white South Africans.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2026/05/28/the-refugees-donald-trump-wants-are-white-and-middle-class>

80. Why can’t Elon Musk do for politics what he’s done for industry?. Economist. 30th May 2026.

Politics is NOT exactly rocket science. How interesting, then, that Elon Musk is so bad at it. Unlike the two or three industries—and still counting—where Mr Musk has done as

much or more than any other human this century to advance the species, politics does not require much technical sophistication or even rigour. The maths tend to be simple addition or division. Yet the calculations matter: the flourishing of the civilisation whose multiplanetary future preoccupies Mr Musk requires a healthy politics, much as his own companies, such as Tesla and SpaceX, counted on far-sighted government subsidies and contracts, not to mention the principled rule of law, to succeed. But unlike the other fields Mr Musk has shaped, his contribution to this bulwark of civilisation is to make it not more imaginative and optimistic but more atavistic and fearful, and just plain dumber.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2026/05/28/why-cant-elon-musk-do-for-politics-what-hes-done-for-industry>

- 81.** Colombia's pivotal, polarised election could not be tighter. Economist. 30th May 2026. The men dressed as tigers never stop screaming their support. On stage, framed by an inflatable claw and plumes of sparks, is Abelardo de la Espriella (pictured), the hard-right Colombian presidential candidate who dubs himself "El Tigre". Sporting a bulletproof vest and bouncing around behind bulletproof glass, he grins, salutes and bellows his catchphrase: "Firme por la patria" (strong for the homeland).

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2026/05/24/colombias-pivotal-polarised-election-could-not-be-tighter>

SCIENCE

- 82.** Tomorrow's medical sensors might come served with dinner. Economist. 30th May 2026. Swallowing electronics is not usually recommended. But researchers in Belgium and the Netherlands have worked out how to make eating components, from a wireless transmitter and microchips to a battery and a suite of chemical sensors, not just safe but useful.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/05/27/tomorrows-medical-sensors-might-come-served-with-dinner>

- 83.** Too much time with colleagues can sour social interaction. Economist. 30th May 2026. AFTER TEN days in space, Christina Koch described her Artemis II crew as "inescapably, beautifully, dutifully linked". Reid Wiseman, another of the NASA astronauts, said they were "bonded forever".

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/05/27/too-much-time-with-colleagues-can-sour-social-interaction>

- 84.** Mosquitoes seem to be getting over insect repellent. Economist. 30th May 2026. DEET is the gold standard for preventing mosquito bites. Although there is some debate over precisely how it works to ward off the insects, most researchers agree that a key part of its effectiveness is unpleasantness—the bugs just hate to be around it. Effective as it is,

however, some mosquitoes seem capable of getting over their revulsion. This has led to the speculation that the insects might be getting used to the chemical.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/05/28/mosquitoes-seem-to-be-getting-over-insect-repellent>

85. You probably don't need extra electrolytes. Economist. 30th May 2026.

IN 1965 SCIENTISTS at the University of Florida mixed an unusual cocktail of water, sugar and salt for the college's American football players. The drink tasted like urine, but the Florida Gators downed it anyway. With lemon juice added for flavour, Gatorade—as the drink was called—was designed to replenish the minerals lost through sweating during hard training sessions in the southern heat. The team reckoned it also boosted their stamina on game day.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2026/05/22/you-probably-dont-need-extra-electrolytes>

SOCIOLOGY

86. War has not deterred Asian Muslims from the hajj. Economist. 30th May 2026.

You “need a lifetime to prepare” for a “once-in-a-lifetime opportunity”, says Zahir Junid, a 57-year-old from Selangor, a state in western Malaysia. He has been saving money for decades. Recently he has been getting physically fitter, by running and playing pickleball, and keeping mentally sharp by attending talks at mosques. So when, a few months ago, he at last secured a spot on the hajj, he knew nothing would stop him from undertaking the Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca. Not even a war.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2026/05/24/war-has-not-deterred-asian-muslims-from-the-hajj>

87. Centrists crying “Wolf!”. Economist. 30th May 2026.

AN UNDEREXPLORED ASPECT of Aesop's fable, “The Shepherd's Boy and the Wolf”, is that there was a wolf. For moralists, this is a tale about lying. Three times a boy cries “Wolf!” and laughs at villagers who run to help. His screams are disbelieved when a real predator attacks his sheep. Woolly carnage ensues.

<https://www.economist.com/international/2026/05/26/centrists-crying-wolf>

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	Granta	Q	London
5	India Forum	W	India
6	University News	W	India