

## ARTICLE ALERT 16-31 DECEMBER 2025

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# ART

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1. Britons are becoming obsessed with pet photography. Economist. 20th Dec 2025.  
AT A STUDIO in east London, Storm, a Maltipoo in a Christmas collar, nearly topples off a backdrop roll. Luckily the shoot is over, and her owner is thrilled with one image: Storm nose-to-nose with a large rabbit. It will sit neatly on her Instagram profile.

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2025/12/13/britons-are-becoming-obsessed-with-pet-photography>

2. And 2025's winners are...Timothée Chalamet and Sydney Sweeney. Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

Who won 2025? In world affairs, this is a tricky question. But in Hollywood, the answer is simpler. The year's champions are Timothée Chalamet and Sydney Sweeney. Their victory matters, not just for them and their agents but for the idea of stardom, cinema's prospects and even, in a small way, the future of the human race. (Art)

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2025/12/16/and-2025s-winners-are-timothee-chalamet-and-sydney-sweeney>

3. The best podcasts of 2025. Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

This podcast about the history of clothes answers questions such as: Why do brides wear white? How does weaving connect to early computing? It is essential listening, even for the unstylish.

<https://www.economist.com/culture/2025/12/18/the-best-podcasts-of-2025>

4. Jim Jarmusch's Ironically Optimistic Family Movie. New Yorker. 5th Jan 2025.

**Jim Jarmusch, one of the heroes** of American independent filmmaking, is a longtime specialist in the tenuous relationships of free agents. With his new film, "**Father Mother Sister Brother**" (opening Dec. 24 at Film Forum and Film at Lincoln Center), he turns his attention to family bonds and finds them to be similarly uncertain—and perhaps all the more dubious owing to the pretense of their firmness. What's more, he makes his case ambitiously and inventively, by way of a three-part feature showing three families in different countries facing wildly disparate circumstances.

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/goings-on/jim-jarmuschs-ironically-optimistic-family-movie>

5. The Organists Improvising Soundtracks to Silent Films. New Yorker. 5th Jan 2025.

A hundred and three years on, F. W. Murnau's "Nosferatu: A Symphony of Horror" still haunts the moviegoing unconscious. Newcomers feel shudders of recognition on seeing Murnau's indelible evocations of a Transylvanian vampire on the prowl: a reverse-negative image of Nosferatu's carriage clattering through a forest; majestically disquieting sequences of a pestilential ship gliding across the frame; the vampire toting his coffin through the deserted streets of a German town; his shadow seeping along the wall of a stairwell, bony fingers outstretched. Film societies, symphony orchestras, and

alternative venues show “Nosferatu” on a regular basis, especially around Halloween. Remakes by Werner Herzog, in 1979, and Robert Eggers, in 2024, have further boosted the fame of the original, although neither matches its sinister lyricism. The appearance of the word “symphony” in the title highlights the revolutionary musicality of Murnau’s style, his way of turning images into silent song.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/12/29/the-organists-improvising-soundtracks-to-silent-films>

6. **What Zohran Mamdani Is Up Against?** New Yorker. 5th Jan 2025.

According to the New York City Department of Records and Information Services, Zohran Mamdani will not actually be the city’s hundred-and-eleventh mayor, as many people have assumed. A historian named Paul Hortenstine recently came across references to a previously unrecorded mayoral term served in 1674, by one Matthias Nicolls. Consequently, on New Year’s Day, after Mamdani places his right hand on the Quran and is sworn in at City Hall, he will become our hundred-and-twelfth mayor—or possibly even our hundred-and-thirty-third, based on the department’s best estimates. “The numbering of New York City ‘Mayors’ has been somewhat arbitrary and inconsistent,” a department official disclosed in a blog post this month. “There may even be other missing Mayors.”

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/12/29/what-zohran-mamdani-is-up-against>

7. **A Puppet Called Paddington.** New Yorker. 5th Jan 2025.

iven that the U.K.’s wolves and moose expired long ago, the country’s largest land predator today is, somewhat embarrassingly, the European badger. Other aggressive species include the horsefly, a venomous sand-burrowing fish, and the cherubic-looking pine marten, a kind of cute but angry weasel. (Be warned!) Fittingly, perhaps, England has adopted, as unofficial ambassador and strategic diplomatic envoy, a polite, anthropomorphic bear in a red hat and blue duffel coat. North America may have grizzlies; Britain has Paddington.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/12/29/a-puppet-called-paddington>

8. **The Re-Assemblage of Joseph Cornell.** New Yorker. 5th Jan 2025.

n a street in Paris, just off the Place Vendôme and around the corner from the Ritz, sits a small storefront that, the other day, a passing German tourist referred to as a *bordel*—literally, a bordello and, figuratively, a “massive mess.” The comment was overheard, and translated, by Jasper Sharp, a British-born curator and art historian, who is partly responsible for the massive mess in question—the latest installation in one of two galleries that the New York art dealer Larry Gagosian maintains in Paris. Five plate-glass windows offer a view into a re-creation of the cluttered basement studio in which the twentieth-century American assemblage artist Joseph Cornell once cobbled together the “shadow boxes” that he is best known for. The faux studio—part Santa’s workshop, part dank suburban toolshed, part hoarder’s paradise—may have appeared to need tidying up, but, Sharp said, “you have no idea how much work went into making it look like this.”

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/12/29/the-re-assemblage-of-joseph-cornell>

**9. Mona Fastvold Knows Her Way Around a Chair.** New Yorker. 5th Jan 2025.

Deep in the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, through an old bank façade, is Gallery 734, the Shaker Retiring Room. Inside, there's an austere bedstead, ladder-back chairs, a cast-iron stove, and a wooden pegboard running along the walls—all sourced from a village near Albany. A retiring room, according to the Shakers' "Millennial Laws," was a place to rest and reflect "in silence, for the space of half an hour, and labor for a sense of the gospel." On a recent visit to the gallery, the filmmaker Mona Fastvold said, "I feel like I'm inside my world now."

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/12/29/mona-fastvold-knows-her-way-around-a-chair>

**10. How Willie Nelson Sees America.** New Yorker. 5th Jan 2025.

hen Willie Nelson performs in and around New York, he parks his bus in Weehawken, New Jersey. While the band sleeps at a hotel in midtown Manhattan, he stays on board, playing dominoes, napping. Nelson keeps musician's hours. For exercise, he does sit-ups, arm rolls, and leg lifts. He jogs in place. "I'm in pretty good shape, physically, for ninety-two," he told me recently. "Woke up again this morning, so that's good."

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/12/29/willie-nelson-profile>

**11. Premeditated.** New Yorker. 5th Jan 2025.

Tipped for the Oscars, "Hamnet" was released on November 26th. When the movie showed at film festivals, the director, Chloé Zhao, invited the audience to join her in an act of collective meditation before the screening. Among her instructions: "Close your eyes," "Feel your own weight," "Take deep breaths with sound," "Sigh out loud," and "Gently say to yourself, 'This is my heart. These are our hearts.' "

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/12/29/premeditated>

**12. Matthew Broderick Stars as the Titular Grifter in "Tartuffe".** New Yorker. 5th Jan 2025.

Based on the sheer quantity of revivals and new translations flooding our venues, New York theatre has chosen its Person of the Year: Molière. The satirical god of the seventeenth-century French stage has taken his throne back after a decade of near-neglect. For most of 2025, we were either watching one of the playwright's comedies or bracing for one. In June, we had almost simultaneous productions: Taylor Mac's "Prosperous Fools" (an update of "Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme") and Jeffrey Hatcher's fizzy adaptation of "Le Malade Imaginaire." And, this fall, one version of the comedy "Tartuffe" (at the House of the Redeemer) had barely closed before New York Theatre Workshop premièred its own. This sumptuously produced, frequently amusing, occasionally inert staging of "Tartuffe," adapted by Lucas Hnath and directed by Sarah Benson, stars Matthew Broderick as the titular grifter and David Cross as Orgon, his easily buffalooed mark.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/12/29/tartuffe-theatre-review>

**13. "Marty Supreme" 's Megawatt Personality. New Yorker. 5th Jan 2025.**

Josh Safdie's hectic new film "Marty Supreme," set in 1952, mainly in New York, is, essentially, "Uncut Gems" but with a happy ending. That recklessly exuberant 2019 drama, which Safdie co-directed with his brother, Benny, stars Adam Sandler as a jewelry dealer in Manhattan and a compulsive gambler who takes thrilling risks to pay off his creditors and learns that the house always wins. With "Marty Supreme"—Safdie's first feature directed without Benny since 2008—the happy ending follows logically from a happy beginning, so to speak. The film's first scene features a tryst, in a back room of a shoe store, between the protagonist, a twenty-three-year-old salesman named Marty Mauser (Timothée Chalamet), and a young married woman named Rachel (Odessa A'zion).

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/12/29/marty-supreme-movie-review>

**14. THE YOUTUBE CEO HAS LED THE PLATFORM INTO A NEW ERA OF TV AND VIDEO DOMINATION. TIME. 29th Dec 2025.**

THE PILOT OF THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL distraction machine is surprisingly mellow. He's quiet-spoken, deliberative, hard to ruffle. He likes watching sports, going to his daughters' dance recitals, and open white shirts, just normal stuff. His favorite candy is the not-very-exciting Butterfinger. If you ask him to be in your YouTube video, he'll probably do it. He won't be great in it, but neither will he be horrible. In an era when tech titans are also sometimes trying to win medals in Brazilian jiu-jitsu or dismantle a government agency or take tourists into space, Neal Mohan is focused on one thing. He just runs YouTube.

<https://www.magzter.com/stories/news/Time/NEAL-MOHAN>

**15. WHAT STARTED AS A PASSION PROJECT BECAME A GLOBAL PHENOMENON. TIME. 29th Dec 2025.**

The high-pitched voices emerging from the violet-coiffed children sing softly at first, crescendoing as the animated character they're dressed as bares her soul: "No more hiding/ Now I'm shining/ Like I'm born to be!" But it's not just the kids whose attention is rapt. When the next song begins, a father announces, "This one's my favorite," and a few minutes later is telling his restless little one they can't leave yet. "No," he says, pointing at the animal sidekicks onscreen. "This is really funny."

<https://www.magzter.com/stories/news/Time/KPOP-DEMON-HUNTERS>

## BIOGRAPHY

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**16. Can Australia defend itself against jihadist murderers?. Economist. 20th Dec 2025.**

When gunmen opened fire on crowds attending a Hanukkah celebration at Bondi Beach in Sydney, Larisa Kleytman was among those who sought cover on the ground. Her husband of 57 years, Alex Kleytman, also dropped to the floor. Mr Kleytman, a retired civil engineer and a survivor of the Holocaust, died shielding his wife from the bullets. At 87, he is the oldest of 15 people who were murdered on December 14th in the

deadliest terrorist attack in Australian history. Matilda, the youngest victim to have been named, was aged only ten.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/12/18/can-australia-defend-itself-against-jihadist-murderers>

**17. HER FOURTH MVP AWARD. HER THIRD WNBA TITLE. IT WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR. TIME. 29<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025.**

A'JA WILSON IS A PICTURE OF SHEER JOY AND utter domination. As she approaches the vehicle that will drive her and her Las Vegas Aces teammates up the Strip for a parade feting the team's third WNBA title in four years, her right hand grips a cocktail glass containing a pink slushy adult beverage, a pink Stanley tumbler for hydration and libation, and a pink tambourine. As a child, Wilson would shake this instrument during sermons in her South Carolina Baptist church. Today she'll rock it on the bus while waving at delirious fans. Aces win. Again. Amen.

<https://library.magzter.com/stories/news/TIME-Magazine/AJA-WILSON>

**18. Was Mr Darcy the richest of all Jane Austen's characters?. Economist. 20th Dec 2025.**  
Mr Darcy is handsome, smouldering and rich. According to the 1995 television adaptation of "Pride and Prejudice", he is also an excellent swimmer. But in Austen's next novel, "Mansfield Park", she introduces a man in possession of even more money: Mr Rushworth. He is a clod, a "king" who appears "best in the background". But he is blessed with an estate spanning 700 acres (not counting the water meadows), one of the best houses on London's Wimpole Street and £12,000 a year to Darcy's mere £10,000.

<https://www.economist.com/christmas-specials/2025/12/12/was-mr-darcy-the-richest-of-all-jane-austens-characters>

## BUSINESS

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**19. The plan to rescue Novo Nordisk. Economist. 20th Dec 2025.**

When Novo Nordisk launched Wegovy, its pioneering weight-loss jab, in America in June 2021, it felt like it was "running into a dark tunnel", recalls Maziar Mike Doustdar, who took over as the Danish drugmaker's chief executive in August. Although it knew the opportunity was vast, the company had little way of telling how much demand there would be, or where it would come from. Novo, he says, suffered from the "curse of leadership".

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/12/15/the-plan-to-rescue-novo-nordisk>

**20. Retreating from EVs could be hazardous for Western carmakers. Economist. 20th Dec 2025.**

Safe motoring requires adjusting your speed to suit road conditions. Western carmakers know this well. Their customers are not embracing electric vehicles (EVs) as fast as once anticipated, and governments in America and Europe are pulling back on efforts to speed up the transition. On December 16th the EU dropped an earlier ban on the sale of petrol cars from 2035. The day before, Ford announced it would write down the value

of its assets by \$19.5bn, as it rethinks its EV strategy. But hitting the brakes on the transition away from petrol engines could also be dangerous for Western carmakers.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/12/17/retreating-from-evs-could-be-hazardous-for-western-carmakers>

**21. Job apocalypse? Not yet. AI is creating brand new occupations.** Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

Amock job advertisement that has done the rounds recently calls for a “killswitch engineer” for OpenAI, maker of ChatGPT. The description requires the successful applicant to stand by servers all day and unplug them “if this thing turns on us”. Useful skills include the ability to “throw a bucket of water on the servers, too. Just in case.”

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/12/14/job-apocalypse-not-yet-ai-is-creating-brand-new-occupations>

**22. Luxury handbags may be shoddier than you think.** Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

Those lucky enough to find designer wares under the Christmas tree this year will, for the most part, try hard to keep them in pristine condition. Yet an increasingly popular genre of online videos is dedicated to ripping them apart. Creators such as “Tanner Leatherstein” and “Fabricateurialist” show their audiences that even the priciest tier of clothes and accessories is rife with loose heel caps and shoddy stitching.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/12/18/luxury-handbags-may-be-shoddier-than-you-think>

**23. How to conduct a job interview.** Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

If you had to construct a really bad way to make an important decision, you might come up with something like the stereotypical job interview. You must intuit a complete stranger’s ability and character in a small window of time, before making a commitment that could last decades. Some candidates will be so tense that asking them how their journey was will cause them to have a nervous breakdown. Everyone will be pretending to be someone they are not.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/12/18/how-to-conduct-a-job-interview>

**24. SpaceX, OpenAI, Anthropic and their giga-IPO dreams.** Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

ADECADE OR so ago, before venture capitalists and buy-out barons began whipping out their chequebooks, going public was the obvious choice for ambitious businesses. A stockmarket listing offered startups both cash, courtesy of deep pools of capital, and cachet, conferred by a willingness to subject themselves to the scrutiny of millions of investors. It was possible to attain a \$100bn-plus valuation while staying out of the stockmarket spotlight: Lidl may have pulled it off with cheap groceries, Mars with confectionery, Cargill peddling the sort of stuff that goes into Mars bars, Gulf and Chinese natural-resource firms extracting less digestible commodities, Vitol and Trafigura trading these. But if it was explosive growth you were after, the real rocket fuel was to be found in public markets.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2025/12/16/spacex-openai-anthropic-and-their-giga-ipo-dreams>

**25. Scale Gives Way to Substance. Outlook. 1st Jan 2026.**

As India steps into 2026, the real estate sector stands at a decisive inflection point. The breakneck pace of post-pandemic recovery has matured into a more deliberate, value-driven growth cycle. Developers, investors and homebuyers are increasingly shifting focus from scale and speed to quality, governance, sustainability and long-term asset value. Across segments, 2026 marks a phase of consolidation, diversification and design-led growth, backed by urbanisation, infrastructure and rising incomes.

<https://www.magzter.com/stories/news/Outlook/SCALE-GIVES-WAY-TO-SUBSTANCE>

## CULTURE

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**26. The rise and fall and rebirth of lapsang souchong. Economist. 20th Dec 2025.**

Visiting the birthplace of black tea can be a challenge. China no longer guards the secrets of its production, as it did in imperial days. But the pine- and bamboo-covered Wuyi hills of northern Fujian are a UNESCO “world heritage site”, requiring protection of its cultural relics and flora- and fauna-rich forests. Visitors must be on an authorised trip. Officials get twitchy when a foreigner in a car approaches villages famed for their tea. Anxious minutes pass as they check whether permission has been secured, before waving the vehicle on up the winding road.

<https://www.economist.com/christmas-specials/2025/12/18/the-rise-and-fall-and-rebirth-of-lapsang-souchong>

## ECONOMICS

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**27. Urban Agglomerations. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60. No-51. 20th Dec 2025.**

The report on the *World Urbanisation Prospects 2025*, which uses a new framework to measure urban agglomerations, brings out some fresh insights into the process both globally and across nations. The new Degree of Urbanisation methodology used in this report, published by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, provides a rather detailed and more reliable analysis of the various segments of the geographical continuum, namely rural areas, towns, and cities.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/51/editorials/urban-agglomerations.html>

**28. From 25 Years Ago-Exodus of Gulf Emigrants: Return Emigrants of Varkala Town in Kerala. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60. No-51. 20th Dec 2025.**

During the last quarter of the last century, Gulf migration has been the single most dynamic factor which has given the biggest push to Kerala's economy. A study of the economic impacts of Gulf migration on Kerala's economy came to the conclusion that since the mid-1970s the factor which had the greatest impact on Kerala's economy especially on labour market, consumption, savings, investment, poverty, income distribution and economic growth, has been the Gulf migration and migrant remittances [Prakash 1998]. Another study on emigration and outmigration, based on a sample survey of 10,000 households covering all taluks of Kerala, arrived at the conclusion that migration has contributed more to poverty alleviation and reduction in unemployment

in Kerala than any other factor including agrarian reforms, trade union activities and social welfare legislation during the last quarter of the last century [Zachariah et al 1999].

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/51/25-years-ago/25-years-ago-exodus-gulf-emigrants-return.html>

**29. Rigidity in Small Savings Rates.** Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60. No-51. 20th Dec 2025.

A delay in revising small savings deposit rates widens the spread between them and banks' term deposit rates of comparable maturities, potentially including a substitution from bank deposits to small savings. Empirical estimates indicate that a 100-basis-point increase in this spread raises the share of small savings in total fresh term deposits—that is, the sum of bank term deposits and small savings deposits—by about 1.2 percentage points. This substitution effect contributes to sluggish transmission to banks' deposit rates, particularly during easing cycles, thereby impeding the monetary policy transmission.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/51/commentary/rigidity-small-savings-rates.html>

**30. Measuring Growth Where It Matters.** Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60. No-51. 20th Dec 2025.

India's growth is commonly assessed at the national and state levels, often overlooking districts as fundamental units of development. This paper proposes a bottom-up method for estimating district domestic product, addressing limitations of the prevailing top-down approach, which inadequately captures intra-state variation, informal sector activity, and local shocks. Using primary data from the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises and Labour Force Surveys, a pilot study in Uttar Pradesh finds that the top-down method underestimates unincorporated manufacturing gross value added by 57%–148%. The paper argues institutionalising bottom-up district domestic product estimation to inform local economic planning, support fiscal federalism, and promote equitable growth. By generating more granular insights into district economies, this shift can help bridge spatial disparities and advance the vision of *Viksit Bharat* 2047.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/51/special-articles/measuring-growth-where-it-matters.html>

**31. Dalit Entrepreneurship in Public Policy.** Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60. No-51. 20th Dec 2025.

Key public policy schemes, such as Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency, Stand-Up India, the Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes, and the 4% Public Procurement Policy, have attempted to foster Dalit and Adivasi entrepreneurship. However, empirical evidence reveals that SC and Scheduled Tribe entrepreneurs remain severely underrepresented in high-value credit categories and government procurement contracts. Neoclassical and new institutional economic frameworks that dominate policy thinking have failed to account for structural caste-based exclusion, which persists within formal credit institutions, undermining the efficacy of these schemes. Lived experiences illustrate how legal property rights and merit are often insufficient to secure institutional credit due to entrenched discrimination.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/51/special-articles/dalit-entrepreneurship-public-policy.html>

**32. Decoding State Growth.** Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60. No-51. 20th Dec 2025.

India aims to become a developed country by 2047. States have a pivotal role in the future economic reform agenda. Achieving Viksit Bharat @2047, thus, requires understanding how some states have managed to grow their per capita GDP at 6.5% per annum over the last 30 years, and some at just about 3%. Does it mean choosing between strengthening human or physical capital, or the quality of governance? Does it mean focusing on existing cities? Or creating Greenfield cities? Finally, is there a one-size-fits-all growth strategy for states?

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/51/special-articles/decoding-state-growth.html>

**33. The Economist's country of the year for 2025.** Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

Each Christmas the Economist names a country of the year. Not the happiest: that would nearly always be Scandinavian, making for a dull, predictable contest. Nor the most influential: that would always be a superpower. Rather, we try to identify the country that has improved the most, whether economically, politically or in any other way that matters.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/12/18/the-economists-country-of-the-year-for-2025>

**34. The Christmas-industrial complex centres on Yiwu.** Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

YIWU IN EASTERN China is the world's Christmas capital. The five main districts which contain its wholesale markets, each home to vast commercial buildings, stretch for miles on end. Masses of stalls are, for much of the year, dedicated to Christmas paraphernalia: trees, ornaments, hats, wreaths and candy canes. It hums in the summer months, when jolly fare is readied for elsewhere. By December each year it lies more quiet. The city's wares will have contributed to China's record \$1trn trade surplus in the first 11 months of 2025.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2025/12/18/the-christmas-industrial-complex-centres-on-yiwu>

**35. Will California try to block Hollywood's next megadeal?.** Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

CONSIDER IT a cautionary tale. In 2022 Kroger announced that it would buy Albertsons, a rival grocer, for nearly \$25bn. Then things went off the rails. The attorneys-general (AGs) for Washington and Colorado challenged the merger in their respective state courts, on the grounds that the impact on prices and labour would harm their constituents. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) brought its own suit in federal court soon after, and the avalanche of litigation torpedoed the deal. States may have been aligned with the FTC against the merger, but they didn't wait for the feds to act before jumping into the fray. "It's clear we are willing and able to litigate cases on our own," says Phil Weiser, Colorado's attorney-general.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/12/12/will-california-try-to-block-hollywoods-next-megadeal>

36. Toll roads are spreading in America. Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

Drive south out of Chicago and you can, for the reasonable fee of \$7.80, experience crossing the longest bridge in the midwestern United States. The Skyway traverses the Calumet river to connect the city to the Indiana border. The spanning highway is, in its own way, a marvel of engineering. Financial engineering, that is.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/12/18/toll-roads-are-spreading-in-america>

37. An oil boom where the Amazon meets the Atlantic. Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

Olápoque is a sleepy town on the edge of the Amazon basin in Brazil's northernmost tip. On weekdays fishermen haul their catch to the local market and indigenous people stream in from the rainforest to sell ground manioc and buy fuel. At the weekend, tourists from neighbouring French Guiana cross the border to buy cheap food and flirt with locals. But it is not hard to see that a transformation is afoot. Hotels are popping up along the main drag. One that is set to open next year will boast seven floors, practically a skyscraper in the impoverished region. A tiny airport on the outskirts of town has been recently renovated. The whir of helicopter blades is becoming more common.

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2025/12/15/an-oil-boom-where-the-amazon-meets-the-atlantic>

38. Javier Milei loosens his grip on the peso. Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

Quietly, in a jargon-filled statement on the Argentine central bank's website, President Javier Milei has made a crucial change. From January the Argentine peso—bloodied by markets and propped up by Donald Trump last year—will be allowed to float more freely.

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2025/12/17/javier-milei-loosens-his-grip-on-the-peso>

39. Where America's most prominent short-sellers are placing their bets. Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

"I have to giggle," says Jim Chanos, asked if investors have become overly optimistic about artificial intelligence. "We've got to the 'data-centres-in-space' stage of the cycle." Firms from SpaceX and Blue Origin to Alphabet plan to shrug off earthly constraints on the computing clusters that power AI, and launch them into orbit. To Mr Chanos, who is perhaps Wall Street's most experienced short-seller, such pharaonic ambitions immediately ring alarm bells. Yet even he hesitates to say definitively that share prices are in a bubble: "That's something we'll only be able to tell with hindsight."

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/12/16/where-americas-most-prominent-short-sellers-are-placing-their-bets>

40. Meet the American investors rushing into Congo. Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

NEAR ZAMBIA'S border with the Democratic Republic of Congo, Josh Goldman, the boss of an American mining firm, is discussing his next venture. KoBold Metals is gearing up to do business in Congo, where one of the world's biggest known lithium deposits is

folded between layers of granite. The country is also home to myriad conflicts. But KoBold has been unable to resist. “It’s the most mineral-rich place on earth,” says Mr Goldman.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/12/18/meet-the-american-investors-rushing-into-congo>

**41. This Christmas, raise a glass to concentrated market returns.** Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

Nineteen years is a long time to wait for almost anything. When it comes to a share-price recovery, it can feel like an eternity. Bank of America’s stock touched a new record on December 12th (and again on December 15th). That has at long last taken the world’s second-largest bank by market capitalisation back above its share-price peak in 2006, before the ravages of the global financial crisis.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/12/17/this-christmas-raise-a-glass-to-concentrated-market-returns>

**42. Crypto’s real threat to banks.** Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

“First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win.” That quote is often attributed to Mahatma Gandhi, though the Indian independence leader never said it. To the crypto industry, the apocryphal phrase is a popular mantra. Digital pioneers have endured snootiness, mockery and derision from Wall Street’s elites. Now, they are mightier than ever.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/12/15/cryptos-real-threat-to-banks>

**43. Watch who you’re calling childless.** Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

IMAGINE a colony of sentient lizards, living on a distant planet. It comprises 100 females and 100 males. Each lives for 100 years. There is only one male and one female of any age (eg, one 15-year-old female, one 74-year-old male). The planet is safe and peaceful: no lizards die from disease or violence. But every year the two 100-year-olds pass away. And every year two babies are born, the fruits of an unusual reproductive cycle. At age 24 every female produces a male baby; at 26, a female. She will never have any more. The population of Planet Lizard is thus fixed at 200.

<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2025/12/18/watch-who-youre-calling-childless>

**44. Socio-Economic Underbelly of ‘Telangana Rising’.** India Forum. 22nd Dec 2025.

The concept of “development” has evolved, even though gross domestic product (GDP) and per capita GDP still dominate official assessments. 1 A large body of literature has highlighted the limitations of per capita GDP as a measure of development.

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/economy/socio-economic-underbelly-telangana-rising>

## EDUCATION

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### 45. The Comeback College. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-8. 12th Dec 2025.

Daniel J. Allen remembers the first time he walked by the baseball field in the middle of La Salle University's campus. He saw weeds growing around the batting cages; the blue-and-gold backstop looked faded. "It felt desolate," says Allen, who became the institution's 30th president in 2022. "But I thought, 'This could be something really special.'"

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-comeback-college>

### 46. The College Search Is Broken. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-8. 12th Dec 2025.

In the summer of 1994, as an intern in Washington, D.C., I reported each weekday to a small, windowless room in the basement of a sleek office building on N Street. I stared at a monochrome computer monitor and made phone call after phone call to college campuses.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-college-search-is-broken>

### 47. The Southern College Boom. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-8. 12th Dec 2025.

There's a drumbeat of bad news for many colleges in the headlines every day — stiffer competition for students, faltering enrollments, budget holes, program cuts. Yet each fall for years now, proud pronouncements have rung out from flagship universities across the South: A new record freshman class has topped last year's record incoming class.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-southern-college-boom>

### 48. Has the Graduate-School Collapse Begun?. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-8. 12th Dec 2025.

When this fall's new doctoral and master's students were filling out their applications, there was little cause for concern about the near-term future of graduate education. That's changed. President Trump's return to the White House in January brought a cascade of new policy changes, including widespread termination of the grants that fund many doctoral students' work and proposed caps on how much their institutions could be reimbursed for research. Visa-policy changes and an uncertain political climate made international students leery about continuing their education in the United States.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/has-the-graduate-school-collapse-begun>

### 49. Rural America, Growth Area?. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-8. 12th Dec 2025.

On the surface, Louisiana State University at Alexandria might seem like an institution in trouble. It's a public regional campus in a rural swath of the state, located in a city of under 50,000 that hugs the Red River and is "surrounded by forest and farmland," says Adam Lord, a spokesperson for the university. Central Louisiana, according to Lord, is "defined by work-force shortages, growing health-care deserts, and limited access to

degree programs." Less than one-third of the city's adults have at least an associate degree, below both the state and national average.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/rural-america-growth-area>

50. A Conservative Student Got a Zero on Her Paper About Gender. Did She Deserve It?. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-8. 12th Dec 2025.

Did a student paper arguing for traditional gender roles and identities deserve its failing grade? Or was that mark proof of political bias, and of academe's hostility to religious conservatives? That debate is unspooling at the University of Oklahoma. There, Samantha Fulnecky was recently asked in a psychology course to respond to an academic article. In her short reaction paper, Fulnecky wrote that while the article "discussed peers using teasing as a way to enforce gender norms," she did "not necessarily see this as a problem," according to

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/a-conservative-student-got-a-zero-on-her-paper-about-gender-did-she-deserve-it>

51. A State Legislature Wants a University's Middle East Studies Syllabi. Faculty Don't Know Why. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-8. 12th Dec 2025.

Middle East studies at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville is facing scrutiny from the Arkansas Legislature — a development that's left faculty members worried another conservative state is angling to influence curriculum.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/a-state-legislature-wants-a-universitys-middle-east-studies-syllabi-faculty-dont-know-why>

52. Here's What's Next in UVa's Contentious Presidential Search. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-8. 12th Dec 2025.

The University of Virginia is pressing forward with the search for its next president amid a fierce dispute between the state's governor and governor-elect over board legitimacy, conflicting accounts of the previous president's departure, and internal disagreement over a deal with the U.S. Department of Justice. The choice UVa makes will signal the approach it plans to take to stay out of the Trump administration's line of fire.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/heres-whats-next-in-uvas-contentious-presidential-search>

53. Can Educators Counter 'Agentic AI'??. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-8. 12th Dec 2025.

Perplexity is giving away its AI-enabled Comet browser free to any student. The company's direct marketing to students — let Comet automatically complete your assignments, quizzes, and tests — is shocking. Certainly we've seen OpenAI, Google, and other major companies offer free AI trials to college students. But this move by Perplexity crosses the line: It marks one of the most blatant attempts by an AI developer to sell its product to students specifically for the purpose of cheating.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/can-educators-counter-agentic-ai>

**54. College Bankruptcies Are Coming. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-8. 12th Dec 2025.**

In October, I attended a dinner in Washington, D.C., organized by the Center for Economy and Society (SNF Agora) at the Johns Hopkins University and the Niskanen Center on the subject of what American business and government should do in response to the coming surge in university bankruptcies. Gathered around the table were leaders in higher education and housing and real estate (including the senior-living sector), as well as members of technology-focused think tanks and political advisers.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/college-bankruptcies-are-coming>

**55. Beware Bespoke Deals With Trump. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-8. 12th Dec 2025.**

In October, President Trump proposed a compact for higher education, a federal takeover of state and private institutions thinly disguised as an offer of preferential-funding consideration. Most of the initially targeted universities rightfully have rejected Trump's

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/beware-bespoke-deals-with-trump>

**56. How to Pivot to a Nonacademic Job Search. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-8. 12th Dec 2025.**

I'm often asked by doctoral students and new Ph.D.s how they can pursue a "dual" job search — applying for faculty and industry positions at the same time. My advice as an expert on Ph.D. career paths: you can't. Or at least not very well.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/how-to-pivot-to-a-nonacademic-job-search>

**57. The Campus Civility Collapse. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-8. 12th Dec 2025.**

The past two years have exposed a fundamental tension in higher education. Most universities are committed to both diversity and free speech, yet many are unable to cope with the social consequences of passionate disagreement. As protests over Israel and Gaza spread across campuses, administrators called for a return to civility, as though civility were a switch that could be flipped back on. But the confusion, anger, and institutional paralysis that followed suggest that universities aren't just struggling to maintain civility on campus; they have no consensus about what civility requires.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-campus-civility-collapse>

**58. Academic Politics at Their Most Counterproductive. Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-8. 12th Dec 2025.**

The annual meeting of the American Historical Association used to be a pretty staid affair. At the first one I attended, in Washington in 1987, I brought along my girlfriend then, a journalist, and I still remember her initial reaction: "I've never seen so many badly dressed middle-aged men together in the same place in my life." These men, mostly hired to tenure-track positions before the (first) collapse of the academic job market in the 1970s, treated the conference as a class reunion of sorts, jovially greeting old friends. A very different vibe came from the graduate students who were there for

first-round job interviews — often held in hotel bedrooms with candidates and search committees alike perched awkwardly on the edge of beds. Anxiety pulsed off them in waves.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/academic-politics-at-their-most-counterproductive>

**59. Are Bad Researchers Bad People?** Chronicle of Higher Education. Vol.72. No-8. 12th Dec 2025.

Charles Darwin set a “golden rule” for his study of nature. Whenever he encountered information that ran counter to his ideas, he would make a note of it “without fail and at once.” Why? Because, as Darwin wrote in his autobiography, “such facts and thoughts were far more apt to escape from the memory than favourable ones.” Turning his remarkable powers of observation on himself, Darwin discerned that he was more likely to remember confirmatory evidence than findings that refuted his ideas. His golden rule protected him against what we now call confirmation bias — a tendency to favor evidence that validates one’s preexisting beliefs.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/are-bad-researchers-bad-people>

**60. Informal Workers’ Capabilities and Recognition of Prior Learning.** Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60. No-51. 20th Dec 2025.

Recognition of Prior Learning, a key component of the Skill India Mission under the National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 2015, seeks to formalise the skills of India’s vast informal workforce, which accounts for over 91% of the total employment. While RPL can enhance employability, economic mobility, and workforce productivity, its implementation remains constrained by regulatory misalignment, limited industry participation, low stakeholder awareness and high costs. Predominantly certification-driven, it is weakly integrated with vocational training, reducing its developmental impact.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/51/perspectives/informal-workers-capabilities-and-recognition.html>

**61. How the young can make sense of the news.** Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

It is not normal to hear pupils groan when the bell rings at the end of a lesson. But Marc Ditomasso is not a normal teacher. He is the rare kind who can high-five pupils as he walks through the lunch room. In the classroom, he has an easy-going vibe, too—they call him by his nickname, “Mr Di”.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/12/18/how-the-young-can-make-sense-of-the-news>

**62. More schools in America are adopting a four-day week.** Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

ELDON, IOWA, rarely bustles. “We’re on top of a hill, in the middle of nowhere, surrounded by corn,” explains James Craig, the superintendent of the area’s school district, which has about 1,000 pupils. But on Mondays, the schools are particularly quiet. Only the teachers are at the primary school, learning a new maths curriculum. Since 2022 the district has worked on a four-day week schedule. “I couldn’t be happier,” Mr Craig says, “everyone is thriving.” Giving students Mondays off has led to better attendance, behaviour and mental health, he thinks.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/12/18/more-schools-in-america-are-adopting-a-four-day-week>

63. Ditch textbooks and learn how to use a wrench to AI-proof your job?. Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

JACOB PALMER knew little about skilled manual jobs growing up, save that they were “dirty, sweaty” and “definitely seemed like lowbrow”. But it took only a year of remote learning during the covid pandemic for Mr Palmer, who grew up in North Carolina, to realise that university wasn’t for him. He dropped out after his freshman year, spent the next two years training as an apprentice electrician, and started his own business in 2024. Though just 23 years old he now has a warehouse, a pickup truck and a YouTube channel with more than 33,000 subscribers who watch him fix devices ranging from smoke detectors to Tesla chargers. He expects to generate \$155,000 in revenue this year, of which 10% will come from YouTube. Mr Palmer lists the advantages of becoming an electrician: “You get paid pretty well to do it. You get paid to learn to do it.” And it creates “massive job security” at a time when many young university graduates are anxious about artificial intelligence (AI) replacing entry-level white-collar workers. Mr Palmer doesn’t worry about that: “I’ll be wiring those data centres, right?”

<https://www.economist.com/international/2025/12/18/ditch-textbooks-and-learn-how-to-use-a-wrench-to-ai-proof-your-job>

64. Dyslexia and the Reading Wars. New Yorker. 5th Jan 2025.

In 2024, my niece Caroline received a Ph.D. in gravitational-wave physics. Her research interests include “the impact of model inaccuracies on biases in parameters recovered from gravitational wave data” and “Petrov type, principal null directions, and Killing tensors of slowly rotating black holes in quadratic gravity.” I watched a little of her dissertation defense, on Zoom, and was lost as soon as she’d finished introducing herself. She and her husband now live in Italy, where she has a postdoctoral appointment.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/12/29/dyslexia-and-the-reading-wars>

65. Creating Green and Sustainable Campuses. University News. Vol.63. No-51. 22-28<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025. Page No 13-20.

A Green Campus is a place where environmental friendly practices and education combine to promote sustainability. The green campus concept offers an institution the opportunity to take the lead in redefining its environmental culture and developing new paradigms by creating sustainable solutions to environmental, social and economic needs of the mankind. Greening the campus is all about sweeping away wasteful inefficiencies, using conventional sources of energies for daily power needs, correct disposal handling, purchase of eco- friendly supplies and adopting effective recycling programmes. To transform universities into sustainable and environment friendly institution, Green Campus Initiative is designed by focusing on critical areas. This initiative aims to promote an environmentally conscious campus.

66. NavKul: Reimagining Indian Higher Education for the AI Era through Gurukul Principles. University News. Vol.63. No-51. 22-28<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025. Page No 21-33.

Civilisations rarely move forward in straight lines. Throughout history, the most profound transformations have emerged not from abandoning ancient wisdom but from reinterpreting it through the lens of contemporary challenges (Hase & Kenyon, 2007). India's earliest gurukuls, established millennia ago, nurtured inquiry, self-discipline, and community service- attributes that are now re-emerging as essential competencies as education confronts automation and the cognitive outsourcing facilitated by artificial intelligence.

67. Independent Plant Domestication and Early Agriculture in India: Reimagining Sustainability Models from the Past. University News. Vol.63. No-51. 22-28<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025. Page No 34-43.

India is predominantly a land of villages that has sustained a deeply rooted and diverse civilisation through its rural way of life. The majority of its population has long depended on agricultural production systems that evolved from protohistoric times, with their foundations traceable to prehistoric hunting and gathering traditions. This article aims to identify and critically review the empirical evidence for the early domestication of plants and the origins of agriculture in India as reflected in the archaeological record.

68. JSS University, Noida: Where Legacy Meets Innovation and Sustainable Growth. University News. Vol.63. No-51. 22-28<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025. Page No 44-50.

JSS University, Noida, is a young, dynamic Private University established under the Uttar Pradesh Act and nurtured by the illustrious 75-year-old JSS Mahavidyapeetha (JSSMVP). Guided by the values of His Holiness Jagadguru Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Mahaswamiji, the University blends deep-rooted Indian values with global educational standards. With more than 100 institutions in India, the USA, Mauritius and other countries, JSSMVP offers unparalleled academic governance, ethical leadership, and a strong culture of service. JSS University inherits this legacy while charting a modern, technology-driven, industry-aligned, sustainability-focused path for 21st-century education. Sustainability is deeply ingrained in the philosophy and operations of JSS University.

69. Harnessing the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act to Accelerate 2030 Agenda: Advancing Sustainable Development through Inclusive and Resilient Rural Transformation. University News. Vol.63. No-51. 22-28<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025. Page No 51-54.

The arrival of the 21st century has brought with it an era of global challenges that are connected to one another, such as chronic poverty and increased inequalities, and the heightened dangers of climate change and environmental degradation. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the world in 2015, offers a holistic plan to address these challenges, outlining 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that seek to attain a more equitable, just, and sustainable world. Underpinning the sweeping agenda is the core principle of 'leaving no one behind,' a pledge to make sure that progress reaches all sections of society, most of all the most vulnerable.

70. Cultivating Sustainability in Higher Education Institutions: A Needonomics Framework for Responsible Citizenship. University News. Vol.63. No-51. 22-28<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025. Page No 55-59.

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are not only centres of learning but ecosystems that shape the mindsets, values, and behaviours of future generations. As global challenges such as climate change, resource depletion, social inequity, and unsustainable consumption intensify, HEIs are expected to respond with vision and responsibility. The need of the hour is to cultivate sustainability not merely as an academic subject but as a lived practice embedded in institutional culture, pedagogy, governance, and daily life on campuses.

71. **Beyond Grants: Building a Sustainable, Industry-integrated Research Ecosystem for HEIs.** University News. Vol.63. No-51. 22-28<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025. Page No 60-62.

There is a perceptible gap in the higher education ecosystem in India for industry connect. The research output does not match the industry needs, and the industry is also shying away from academia. This limitation can hamper the growth of higher educational institutions. The author argues for the establishment of a national-level research organization to foster industry connect and promote research and development work. This organization would strengthen the academic ecosystem and make it self-sustaining, and its research output will benefit the industry. This initiative will help in creating sustainability in the HEIs. The author argues that this initiative will enable large-scale funding for the HEIs, which will transform their vision and output.

72. **Higher Education Not Only Has to Survive Today, But Also Get Ready for the Challenges of Tomorrow.** University News. Vol.63. No-51. 22-28<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025. Page No 63-65.

Aspirations and expectations of stakeholders, namely students, parents, employers and the general society, are changing over time. This is a global phenomenon. In order to make sure that higher education satisfies the hopes of stakeholders, since 1948, the government has constituted several commissions and committees seeking advice to bring about remedial measures and changes in policies for the then challenges, as well as insights for the future way forward. For instance, Radhakrishnan Commission (1948-1949), Mudaliar Commission (1952-1953), National Committee on Women's Education-Durgabai Deshmukh (1958), Kothari Commission (1964-1966), National Policy on Education (NPE) (1968, 1986, 1992), Acharya Ramamurti Committee (1990), Yashpal Committee (1993), National Knowledge Commission (2000) and National Education Policy (NEP) (2020) were in place to advise the policymakers on different domains of education, such as university-level education and its reorganization, teacher training, women's education, quality of education, reforms in higher education to improve learning outcomes, to create a new knowledge economy, comprehensive reforms across all levels of education, including higher education etc. In brief, the recommendations addressed issues like expansion of HE, to increase Gross enrollment ratio (GER), equity (access to different sections of the society), excellence (quality of education), empowerment of students and evolution of the ecosystem of higher education in response to the changing demands of society as well as for global requirements.

73. **Swadeshi and Techno-economic Self-reliance.** University News. Vol.63. No-51. 22-28<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025. Page No 66-67.

The clarion call given by the Prime Minister, Hon'ble Shri Narendra Modi, for Swadeshi, in the aftermath of the tariff war declared by the American President Donald Trump against our exports, can best be responded to by the twin endeavours of 'Economic Patriotism' and 'Techno-nationalism'. The arbitrary and anarchical levy of tariffs by the American President Donald Trump needs to be countered effectively by a nationwide

campaign for swadeshi, which would enable us to harness the nation's productive capabilities for the overall well-being and all-around self-reliance of the country.

74. AI-enabled Indian Knowledge Systems for Sustainable Urban Futures: From Evidence-based Planning to Practice-oriented Education. University News. Vol.63. No-51. 22-28<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025. Page No 68-77.

As India advances towards the mid-21st century, rapid urbanisation presents both an immense opportunity and a formidable challenge. Mainstream planning frameworks continue to rely heavily on Euro-American models that often fail to respond to India's climatic, cultural, social, and environmental realities. In contrast, India's civilizational knowledge- reflected in textual traditions such as *Vāstuśāstra*, *Śilpaśāstra*, *Arthaśāstra*, *Mānasāra*, and regional treatises-contains deep insights into climate-responsive design, water systems, settlement morphology, material use, and socio-spatial organisation. However, these knowledge systems remain underutilised due to fragmented translations, inconsistent interpretations, and a lack of scientific validation.

75. Sustainable Environmental Regeneration of Indian Central Himalaya: Think Beyond Science and Technology. University News. Vol.63. No-51. 22-28<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025. Page No 78-85.

The Indian Central Himalaya (ICH), represented by the State Uttarakhand (number of districts = 13 and Divisions = 02), and situated between the borders of Nepal and Himachal Pradesh, has unique geographical setting of mountainous belt of Garhwal and Kumaun divisions along with tarai near Gangetic plains (Fig. 1). The mountainous belt is constituted of East-West trending latitudinal zone of tectonics and lithostratigraphic sub-divisions of various geological formations. Magnesite, Talc-steatite, limestone and dolomite (building and roofing materials) are minerals of great abundance and commercial exploitation in the ICH.

76. Redefining Research Quality: Enhancing Institutional Metrics and Academic Excellence for Sustainable Higher Education. University News. Vol.63. No-51. 22-28<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025. Page No 86-90

The evolving research ecosystem in Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) necessitates a strategic reassessment of research contributions and evaluation metrics. Traditional approaches focusing on the number of publications are no longer sufficient to measure academic impact. This paper examines the current challenges in academic publishing, including NAAC accreditation changes, the removal of UGC CARE journals as an acceptable norm, lengthy publication timelines of reputed journals and the increasing prevalence of unethical publishing practices. By proposing a revised framework incorporating citation-based metrics, interdisciplinary collaboration, and alternative quality research contributions embracing h-index, g-index et al.

77. Manav Sthali School. Outlook.1st Jan 2025.

True to its belief in holistic development, Manav Sthali goes far beyond textbooks. Students shine in co-scholastic arenas, extracurricular domains, and diverse sporting activities. A shining example is International Table Tennis Champion Sudhanshu Maini, whose achievements have brought immense pride to both the institution and the nation.

<https://www.magzter.com/stories/news/Outlook/MANAV-STHALI-SCHOOL>

78. A School That Celebrates Every Child's Potential. Outlook.1st Jan 2025.

Doon Public School has established itself as a progressive and inclusive institution where excellence is defined not only by academic achievement, but by the growth, confidence, and well-being of every learner. What truly distinguishes the school is its child-centric philosophy—one that recognises diversity in learning styles, nurtures individual strengths, and prepares students to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

<https://www.magzter.com/stories/news/Outlook/A-SCHOOL-THAT-CELEBRATES-EVERY-CHILDS-POTENTIAL>

#### 79. JOHNSON GRAMMAR SCHOOL, HYDERABAD. Outlook. 1st Jan 2025.

Johnson Grammar School is a prestigious institution with over 45 years of excellence in academics and holistic development. Established in 1979 by Sri S.R.N. Mudiraj and currently led by Chairman Dr B. Chandra Sekhar, the school has been operating across three campuses-Habsiguda, Mallapur, and Kokapet. The schools offer CISCE, IB PYP, and IBDP curricula to approximately 8,000 students across Hyderabad. JGS has been ISO certified since 1998 and is recognised for strong emphasis on safety, quality education, and affordability. Our Chairman's vision includes support for a free school for the underprivileged, reflecting our commitment to accessibility and integrity for every Johnsonite, as they prepare to thrive in a rapidly changing global environment.

<https://www.magzter.com/stories/news/Outlook/JOHNSON-GRAMMAR-SCHOOL-HYDERABAD>

## EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

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#### 80. What Novo Nordisk, OpenAI and Pop Mart have in common. Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

Every chief executive dreams of it: a product so successful that it propels their company from obscurity to superstardom seemingly overnight. Among the lessons from 2025, however, is that runaway success is not all upside. As the experience of whizzy chatbots, weight-loss jabs and wacky dolls illustrates, it brings problems, too.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/12/18/what-novo-nordisk-openai-and-pop-mart-have-in-common>

#### 81. The race for an AI Jesus is on. Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

APASTOR'S job is to lead congregants towards a closer relationship with the divine. With Christmas approaching, many are writing sermons they hope will do just that. Yet surveys show that Americans' trust in clergy has hit a record low. More people now pray in their cars than in churches.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/12/16/the-race-for-an-ai-jesus-is-on>

## ENVIRONMENT

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#### 82. The fractured agenda. TIME. 29th Dec 2025.

BY THE TIME NEGOTIATORS FROM AROUND THE WORLD gathered in the Amazonian city of Belém in November to discuss the future of climate action, the world had already experienced an alarming year: near-record global temperatures, unprecedented heat

waves across continents, and extreme flooding that scientists say would have been virtually impossible without human-driven warming. The U.N. COP30 climate conference was supposed to signal a global recommitment to cut emissions of greenhouse gases. Since oil, gas, and coal produce most of these, a group of countries pushed a plan to phase out fossil fuels. But in the face of opposition from oil and gas producers, the words fossil fuels did not appear in the final text.

<https://www.magzter.com/stories/news/Time/THE-FRACTURED-AGENDA>

## FOOD

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83. From honeycomb curry to blood fry: India's "untouchable" cooking. *Economist*. 20th Dec 2025.

Smoke a hive of wild kagadi bees. They flee, leaving behind a honeycomb packed with eggs and larvae. Chopped, spiced and simmered, it makes a dish with a sweet and spicy kick.

<https://www.economist.com/christmas-specials/2025/12/18/from-honeycomb-curry-to-blood-fry-indias-untouchable-cooking>

84. At the New Babbo, It's Batali Minus Batali. *New Yorker*. 5th Jan 2025.

It's nearly impossible to eat a meal at Babbo, the recently revived Greenwich Village trattoria, without being pummelled by reminders of its past. This can be quite a pleasant experience. For nearly two decades, beginning in 1998, Babbo was one of the most coveted reservations in New York, reshaping how the city—and, arguably, the entire country—understood Italian cuisine and modern restaurant dining writ large. More to the point, it was just a marvellous place to be. It felt essential, intoxicating, urgent, the party-crowded bar area giving way to gracefully spacious dining rooms, the smell of rosemary and wine in the air, the honeyed lighting, the soigné service, the irreverent soundtrack of roaring classic rock. Babbo was the flagship restaurant of Mario Batali, and it became synonymous with his celebrity: charismatic, edgy, expansive, just on the edge of overwhelming. If you know any of this story, you know the rest of it. In late 2017, Batali—always a figure of larger-than-life appetites—was accused, by multiple women, of sexual misconduct.

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/the-food-scene/at-the-new-babbo-its-batali-minus-batali>

## HEALTH

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85. Your Well Informed guide to surviving Christmas. *Economist*. 20th Dec 2025.

Since the start of 2025 our Well Informed column has brought you evidence-based advice on health and well-being. After reading hundreds of studies on everything from the benefits of red-light masks to whether or not butter is good for you, what have we learned about how to cope with the perils of Yuletide feasting? Here is your guide.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/12/18/your-well-informed-guide-to-surviving-christmas>

**86. Are some types of sugar healthier than others?. Economist. 20th Dec 2025.**

This is the time of year for mulled wine, sweet brandy and puddings drenched in syrup. Some people may tell you that you can limit the damage by being picky about which type of sugar you eat. Avoid refined white sugar, they will say, and search out the healthier “natural” stuff instead, such as raw sugar or honey. Alas, the advice is misplaced—the type of sugar you eat won’t make any difference to your health. What could, though, is how you eat it.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2025/12/12/are-some-types-of-sugar-healthier-than-others>

**87. Unraveling progress. TIME. 29th Dec 2025.**

We expect breakthroughs to occur on a regular basis, and 2025 delivered; successful trials of gene therapies for diseases that have no treatments, for example, filled scientists and the public with hope. But bright spots like these were overshadowed by a series of political decisions in the U.S. that have already started to set public-health care back instead of pushing it forward.

<https://library.magzter.com/stories/news/TIME-Magazine/UNRAVELING-PROGRESS>

**88. Building India's Cell and Gene Therapy Ecosystem. India Forum. 19th Dec 2025.**

The “rare” in rare diseases can be quite a misleading term. Though individually rare, these disorders affect nearly 5% of the world’s population, causing severe physical and mental deformities in 300 million to 400 million people. Most of them have genetic causes associated with mutations or alterations in specific genes, and are thus collectively termed as rare genetic disorders or RGDs.

<https://www.theindiaforum.in/science-and-technology/building-indias-cell-and-gene-therapy-ecosystem>

**89. How Innovation Became the Serum Institute's Defining Legacy. TIME. 29th Dec 2025.**

Founded in 1966 by Cyrus Poonawalla and now led by his son Adar, the Serum Institute of India is the world’s largest vaccine manufacturer by volume, shipping doses to more than 170 countries with a focus on underprivileged communities in the Global South.

<https://www.magzter.com/stories/news/Time/HOW-INNOVATION-BECAME-THE-SERUM-INSTITUTES-DEFINING-LEGACY>

## **HISTORY**

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**90. A portrait of Britain's aristocrats. Economist. 20th Dec 2025.**

It looks at first sight like a common-or-garden trade fair: there are stalls, free glazed biscuits and glazed-looking people. Peer a little closer and it becomes clear that very little about this trade fair is common—particularly not its gardens. One stall offers statuary for stately piles; another can do the stonework for stately balustrades. The punters are similarly grand. There are ladies with high colour and higher breeding; there

are people with names like Araminta. They have come for the annual meeting of Historic Houses, an association that works to keep grand homes independent and in private ownership. Some call this the “AGM for aristocrats”.

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2025/12/18/a-portrait-of-britains-aristocrats>

**91. Adam Smith is misinterpreted and his influence overstated.** Economist. 20th Dec 2025.  
BEHIND ONLY Karl Marx, he is the best-known economist in history. As with Darwin or Newton in their fields, Adam Smith's ideas seem so foundational that attribution is often unnecessary. Marx inspired socialist revolutions across the world; Smith inspired liberal ones, including the turn to free-market economics in America and Britain in the 1980s. Javier Milei, Argentina's libertarian president, is a Smith devotee. Margaret Thatcher supposedly carried a copy of his most famous book in her equally famous handbag.

<https://www.economist.com/christmas-specials/2025/12/18/adam-smith-is-misinterpreted-and-his-influence-overstated>

**92. Two centuries ago, Russian revolutionaries tried to change the world.** Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

IT WAS A wintry night in St Petersburg and revolution was in the air. A piercing wind whipped off the frozen Neva river as, before dawn, the conspirators hurried to Senate Square, close to the Winter Palace. They drew up their troops beneath the stern stare of Peter the Great's bronze statue; the gilded spire of the Admiralty pierced the inky sky. Before long the imperial cavalry would arrive, and the cannons, and the tsar. “We are going to die, brothers!” exulted one of the rebels. “Oh, how gloriously we are going to die!”

<https://www.economist.com/christmas-specials/2025/12/18/two-centuries-ago-russian-revolutionaries-tried-to-change-the-world>

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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**93. China proved its strengths in 2025—and Donald Trump helped.** Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

THE BIG noise in 2025 has been President Donald Trump. Launching a barrage of executive orders, he directed his fire at target after target. With the aid of Elon Musk, he attempted to dismantle the federal bureaucracy. On “Liberation Day” he rewrote the rules of trade. Around the world he imposed peace and threatened war.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/12/18/china-proved-its-strengths-in-2025-and-donald-trump-helped>

**94. Donald Trump's peace plan is faltering in the chaos of Gaza.** Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

Rafah was once the third-largest city in the Gaza Strip. It was home to around 200,000 people. Today it is a desolate moonscape of rubble and twisted iron. The city and its suburbs were systematically destroyed by the Israel Defence Forces (idf) during the two-year war against Hamas. Rafah's population was forced to move to tents in squalid refugee camps on the coast which are now being battered and flooded by winter storms.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/12/17/donald-trumps-peace-plan-is-faltering-in-the-chaos-of-gaza>

95. Just 74 intensive-care beds remain in Gaza. Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

To grasp the magnitude of the task of rebuilding Gaza, look at its health-care system. From buildings to medics, it is shattered. Out of 35 hospitals and clinics in Gaza evaluated by the un, six have been flattened; 11 are out of commission; only parts of 18 can be used. Several hospitals are in the half of the strip controlled by Israel, out of reach for most Palestinians. Of the 18 partially functioning hospitals and clinics, 16 cannot dispose of infectious waste properly, 15 do not have dependable electricity, 13 lack decent toilets and sinks and 11 lack reliable clean water. In Gaza just 74 intensive-care beds and 215 emergency-room beds remain.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/12/18/just-74-intensive-care-beds-remain-in-gaza>

96. Ukraine scrabbles for handholds against Russia's massive assault. Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

ON DECEMBER 12TH situation maps around the key railway town of Kupiansk in Ukraine's north-east flipped from red to blue. DeepState, a war monitor, explained the change: a successful Ukrainian counter-attack had liberated most of the town, leaving pockets of Russians encircled. After midday came more drama, with Volodymyr Zelensky posting a selfie video from the town's edge. Barely 1km from enemy positions, and just weeks after Vladimir Putin had declared the town to be his, the Ukrainian president challenged Kremlin claims to be winning the war. "They talked a lot about Kupiansk. Now we see the truth for ourselves."

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2025/12/17/ukraine-scrabbles-for-handholds-against-russias-massive-assault>

97. Why German cities feel like war zones on New Year's Eve. Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

NEW YEAR traditions in Germany are not for the faint-hearted. eu regulations have killed off the old custom of divining one's future by dripping molten lead into cold water. But the devotion to seeing in the new year with a viewing of "Dinner for One", a British comedy from 1963 stuffed with the double entendres Germans adore, is undimmed. So is the commitment to waging street battles with fireworks so intense that in the hours around midnight on December 31st, parts of Berlin and other cities can resemble war zones.

<http://economist.com/europe/2025/12/18/why-german-cities-feel-like-war-zones-on-new-years-eve>

98. European nationalism is dead. Long live European gastronationalism. Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

Attacked by Russia, economically submerged by China and forsaken by America, Europe can still be trusted to focus on the things that matter. Like, say, the proper way to cook spaghetti carbonara. Upon discovering last month that a shop in the European Parliament in Brussels was selling jars of ready-made carbonara saus that apparently used the wrong ingredients, Francesco Lollobrigida, Italy's agriculture minister, reacted with the solemn intensity one might expect for matters of war and peace. How could a

carbonara containing cream—crema! Madonna mia!—and the incorrect cut of pork ever be worthy of the name? What next, pineapple on pizza? This was plainly unacceptable, fumed the populist minister, who happens to be a brother-in-law of Giorgia Meloni, the prime minister. An investigation was sternly demanded. Faced with existential threats, the continent has once again shown its talent for prioritising the non-negotiable.

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2025/12/18/european-nationalism-is-dead-long-live-european-gastronationalism>

99. America's fight back against China starts in Los Angeles—in flip-flops. Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

Brandon Chrisman is using a rag to polish his 1956 f100 Ford truck, even though the paintwork—"Ferrari blue"—could hardly shine brighter. The fifties resonate with Mr Chrisman. When he throws open the doors to his nearby factory, the patina of history is even more dazzling than the car. Inside are squat machines with cranks, gearsticks, shafts and handles that date back to 1958 when his grandfather started the firm. With his buzz-cut, rust-coloured hair and square jaw, Mr Chrisman looks like he was forged there.

<https://www.economist.com/christmas-specials/2025/12/18/americas-fight-back-against-china-starts-in-los-angeles-in-flip-flops>

## LAW

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100. Interstitial Legislation and DNA Evidence. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60. No-51. 20th Dec 2025.

The Supreme Court's judgment in Kattavellai @ Devakar v State of Tamil Nadu (2025) sets forth directions to bring about procedural uniformity in cases involving DNA evidence. The judiciary's plunge into the legislative domain reflects a constitutional obligation to create an "interim law" where statutory and executive silence imperils procedural fairness and individual rights. However, the directions fall short of prescriptive adequacy and leave unresolved the deeper challenge of evidentiary reliability. The transitory character of judicial legislation calls for a comprehensive statutory enactment to remedy systemic shortcomings in DNA evidence governance.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/51/law-and-society/interstitial-legislation-and-dna-evidence.html>

101. The Prison of Caste: Sukanya Shantha Judgment and the Anti-discrimination Discourse. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60. No-51. 20th Dec 2025.

The Supreme Court's judgment in Sukanya Shantha v Union of India is examined as a significant moment in exposing the caste-structured foundations of India's carceral system. Moving beyond the Court's condemnation of explicit caste-based practices in prison manuals, the analysis critiques the entrenched ideology of caste-blind reformism and highlights how caste shapes forced labour, hidden discriminatory practices, the criminalisation of denotified tribes, and the institutional structure of prison. Dismantling caste discrimination requires confronting structural casteism, not merely removing its visible markers.

## LITERATURE

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102. The Welfare State. New Yorker. 5th Jan 2025.

The world beyond the ridgeway was a wall of gray cloud. One could look down to the left or the right at a forty-five-degree angle and see only gray. From the mist came loud moos and the clatter of cowbells. The American was too frightened to move.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/12/29/the-welfare-state-fiction-nell-zink>

103. Is the Dictionary Done For?. New Yorker. 5th Jan 2025.

Once, every middle-class home had a piano and a dictionary. The purpose of the piano was to be able to listen to music before phonographs were available and affordable. Later on, it was to torture young persons by insisting that they learn to do something few people do well. The purpose of the dictionary was to settle intra-family disputes over the spelling of words like “camaraderie” and “sesquipedalian,” or over the correct pronunciation of “puttee.” (Dad wasn’t always right!) Also, it was sometimes useful for doing homework or playing Scrabble.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/12/29/unabridged-the-thrill-of-and-threat-to-the-modern-dictionary-stefan-fatsis-book-review>

104. Stone, Bianca

Memory Palace. New Yorker. 5th Jan 2025.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/12/29/memory-palace-bianca-stone-poem>

105. Bang, Mary Jo

It's Getting Lighter. New Yorker. 5th Jan 2025.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/12/29/its-getting-lighter-mary-jo-bang-poem>

## POLITICAL SCIENCE & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

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106. Politics of Opposition or Tilting at Windmills. Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60. No-51. 20th Dec 2025.

The relative decline of the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) seats in the 18th Lok Sabha gave a new wind to the opposition's sails. However, after consecutive drubbings in Maharashtra, Haryana, Delhi, and now Bihar, the opposition's sound and fury now appears to be winded. Gone are the perfunctory calls for introspection, and in their place, a plethora of stock excuses masking morbid symptoms now appear.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/51/editorials/politics-opposition-or-tilting-windmills.html>

107. **Opacity by Design: The Politics of Data in India's Platform State.** Economic & Political Weekly. Vol.60. No-51. 20th Dec 2025.

India's data regime has been shaped by fundamentally contradictory imaginaries — privacy as a right, data as a national asset, and consent as a governance fiction. The right to information and the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, despite appearing antagonistic, are unified by a deeper misdiagnosis: both treat privacy and information as juridical categories rather than as products of India's platformised governance architecture.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/51/commentary/opacity-design.html>

108. **Why has the border between the Koreas fallen silent?.** Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

KIM CHANG-HWAN used to need earplugs when he went to bed at his home in Daedong-ri, a South Korean village near the border with North Korea. Eighteen months ago South Korean authorities began blasting K-pop and news reports into North Korea from a network of loudspeakers rigged up along the frontier. North Korea responded in kind, broadcasting animal cries and spooky whistles from its own set of loudspeakers. Then, earlier this year, the border fell silent. Mr Kim rejoiced.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/12/15/why-has-the-border-between-the-koreas-fallen-silent>

109. **A vote against gerrymandering shows why political courage is rare.** Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

Politicians generally have good reasons, even moral ones, to talk themselves out of acts that history might judge as brave. As a senator in his first term, John F. Kennedy wrestled with this complexity in “Profiles in Courage”, the study of character in the Senate that earned him a Pulitzer Prize in 1957. The desire to get along with one's peers, a willingness to compromise, even the ambition to win re-election—such reasons to soften principles in the moment may help advance them in the long haul, he observed.

<https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/12/18/a-vote-against-gerrymandering-shows-why-political-courage-is-rare>

110. **Ethiopia wants to build Africa's biggest airport.** Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

Ethiopian airlines (ET) has come a long way since it started flying five small planes at the behest of Emperor Haile Selassie back in 1946. Four major wars, two revolutions and three constitutional overhauls later, it is the largest and most profitable airline in Africa (if not necessarily, judging by recent customer reports, the most comfortable).

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2025/12/16/ethiopia-wants-to-build-africas-biggest-airport>

111. **How to heal the trauma from Northern Ireland's killings.** Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

As a young man Martin McAllister risked his life to kill British soldiers. As an old man he risks the wrath of his former comrades to help find the body of a British soldier. When he joined the Irish Republican Army (IRA) he believed that he was part of a heroic struggle to drive the British out of Northern Ireland. But the IRA's slaughter of ten young Protestant civilians in the 1976 Kingsmill massacre shook his belief that the IRA was "romantic, chivalric, holy". After Mr McAllister was shot by British soldiers he was attacking, he had an epiphany when a Royal Marines medic saved his life. It was that man's actions which he now viewed as chivalric.

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2025/12/15/how-to-heal-the-trauma-from-northern-irelands-killings>

**112. The tariffs that nearly stole Christmas. Economist. 20th Dec 2025.**

For toymakers, Christmas starts early. As the world is grousing through dry January, toy firms are finalising festive designs and signing deals with factories. By the start of summer, containers packed with play-sets and dolls must be crossing the ocean, so that shelves in America can be stocked by autumn. Co-ordinating the global supply chain of childish delight is a delicate, intricate feat, like building a Death Star out of Lego. In 2025 it was disrupted by President Donald Trump's tariffs. Throughout the year, The Economist asked toymakers how they were coping.

<https://www.economist.com/christmas-specials/2025/12/18/the-tariffs-that-nearly-stole-christmas>

**113. Peter Navarro, Trump's Ultimate Yes-Man. New Yorker. 5th Jan 2025.**

In March, 2016, Peter Navarro introduced himself to students in Managing Geopolitical Risk in an Age of a Rising China, a new undergraduate course at the University of California, Irvine. Donald Trump was then a month away from becoming the presumptive Republican nominee for President. Navarro, who had tenure at the business school, was an academic oddity: he worked at a research university, but he'd done little serious research since finishing his doctorate in economics, at Harvard, thirty years earlier. And he didn't seem to enjoy contact with students. A former friend of his, an economist, recently said, "I don't think he liked teaching that much—he liked talking." Navarro had secured a life of privilege and frustration. He lived in a big house in Laguna Beach with an ocean view and a pool surrounded by statuary. But he plainly yearned to be somewhere, or someone, else.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/12/29/peter-navarro-profile>

**114. Lawrence Wright on A. J. Liebling's "The Great State". New Yorker. 5th Jan 2025.**

During the 1959 session of the Louisiana state legislature, Governor Earl Long, the less famous younger brother of Senator Huey Long, "went off his rocker," as the tickled writer A. J. Liebling recounted in this magazine, adding, "The papers reported that he had cursed and hollered at the legislators, saying things that so embarrassed his wife, Miz Blanche, and his relatives that they had packed him off to Texas in a National Guard plane to get his brains repaired in an asylum."

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/takes/lawrence-wright-on-a-j-lieblings-the-great-state>

**115. LAST YEAR'S PERSON OF THE YEAR SPENT 2025 TESTING THE LIMITS OF HIS OFFICE. TIME. 29th Dec 2025.**

“They came out of the gate like Man o’ War,” says Joseph Grogan, who served as director of Trump’s domestic policy council during the first term. “They set a blistering pace of administrative actions across all major agencies.” On his first day alone, he pulled the U.S. out of the Paris climate-change agreement, froze all foreign aid, suspended refugee admissions, and granted clemency to more than 1,500 people charged in the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol riot that tried to overturn his 2020 election loss. And he was just getting started. Within a month, he’d fired 17 inspectors general, allowed immigration agents to arrest people inside courthouses, taunted Denmark about handing over Greenland, announced steep tariffs on Canada and Mexico, and said the U.S. should “own” the Gaza Strip.

<https://www.magzter.com/stories/news/Time/TRUMP>

**116. SINCE 1801, AMERICAN LEADERS HAVE GATHERED in Washington, D.C., to attend the Inauguration of a new President. TIME. 29th Dec 2025.**

It is a day of great tradition, one that often brings together the most powerful people in the country. Prominent at Donald Trump’s return to office in January were the chiefs of U.S. technology companies, which long have led the world. But something unexpected was happening offstage: that same day, a little-known Chinese firm called DeepSeek released a new artificial-intelligence model that spooked markets and led to a rallying cry from Silicon Valley.

<https://www.magzter.com/stories/news/Time/PERSON-OF-THE-YEAR>

## RELIGION

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**117. The long, strange journey of a temple from profane to sacred. Economist. 20th Dec 2025.**

On the outskirts of Los Angeles, on a four-lane suburban street adorned with palm trees, laundrettes, Korean dentists and car-repair shops, stands the tan marble and limestone facade of the Jain Centre of Southern California. Step inside, and you encounter a magnificent wooden structure with a sanctum, sculptures of gods, and a shikhara, or spire, reaching to the heavens. It is an intricately carved replica of a Jain temple in India, and to Americans of the Jain faith in the here and now, it has profound significance.

<https://www.economist.com/christmas-specials/2025/12/18/the-long-strange-journey-of-a-temple-from-profaneto-sacred>

## SCIENCE

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**118. A debate is raging over the origins of an elusive cousin to modern humans. Economist. 20th Dec 2025.**

During the Japanese invasion of northern China in 1933, a man was hired to build a bridge across the Songhua river near the city of Harbin. As he was digging, he found a large, ancient cranium embedded in the muddy riverbank, which he hid in a well. It was not until his deathbed that he told his grandchildren about the fossil. Whether apocryphal or not, that was the story the skull came with when it was donated to the Geoscience Museum of Hebei in China a few years ago.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2025/12/17/a-debate-is-raging-over-the-origins-of-an-elusive-cousin-to-modern-humans>

119. Saudi Arabia wants to host the world's cheapest data centres. *Economist*. 20th Dec 2025.

Two hours south of Jeddah, on Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coast, the Al Shuaiba solar farm blankets 50 square kilometres of desert. The first phase of the project, started in 2024, produces 600 megawatts of electricity at just 3.9 Saudi halalas (just over a cent) per kilowatt-hour, nearly a twentieth of the cost of generation at Britain's planned Hinkley Point C nuclear power plant. Saudi Arabia's plan for all this cheap electricity is to power enormous data centres for artificial intelligence (AI).

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2025/12/17/saudi-arabia-wants-to-host-the-worlds-cheapest-data-centres>

## SOCIOLOGY

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120. From 50 Years Ago: Women: 'From the Masses, to the Masses'. *Economic & Political Weekly*. Vol.60. No-51. 20th Dec 2025.

But in taking part in "economic" struggles, the rural women inevitably found themselves confronting the entire array of discrimination and special problems that continue to characterise their sexual oppression. Women could be militant in actions, but to become leaders in the movement they had to deal not only with the problems of cultural tradition that saw them as inferior to men, but also with the simple time-consuming drudgery of housework and child care. The Shahada women, who had first participated in fights for land and wages, took up the struggle against *daru* (alcohol) not on simple moral grounds, not only because they themselves were beaten and deprived, but on the grounds that it sapped the strength of their men and was harmful to the building of their organisation.

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/51/50-years-ago/50-years-ago-women-masses-masses.html>

121. Visible Bodies, Silent Frames. *Economic & Political Weekly*. Vol.60. No-51. 20th Dec 2025.

India's persistent discomfort with the caste question is evident in the limited number of films that address it. This reluctance to engage with conversations around caste has been highlighted by the controversy surrounding two recent Hindi films, *Phule* (2025) and *Santosh* (2024). The state-imposed restrictions on these works reveal a deep-seated unease with directly confronting caste oppression. By tracing the history of caste

marginalisation in mainstream Hindi cinema and contrasting it with recent films that address caste and gender, this article argues that cultural gatekeeping continues to operate in tandem with political anxieties surrounding caste enumeration and affirmative action.

<https://www.epw.in/index.php/journal/2025/51/commentary/visible-bodies-silent-frames.html>

**122.** Two months in, the Gaza ceasefire is floundering. *Economist*. 20th Dec 2025. EVEN with a ceasefire in place, Gazans still fear death from the skies—but more from the weather now than Israeli jets. The winter storm that lashed the Palestinian territory in early December flooded thousands of tents, leaving families to endure long nights standing in frigid waters. At least four babies died of hypothermia.

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2025/12/18/two-months-in-the-gaza-ceasefire-is-floundering>

**123.** The botched response to a devastating storm infuriates Indonesians. *Economist*. 20th Dec 2025. Three weeks have passed since Cyclone Senyar ravaged Sumatra in western Indonesia, bringing enormous floods. But only in mid-December, as the waters have receded, has the scale of the destruction become clear. More than 1,000 people have been killed, around 150,000 homes damaged and nearly 1m people displaced. Scientists have described the storm as a once-in-70-year event.

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2025/12/18/the-botched-response-to-a-devastating-storm-infuriates-indonesians>

**124.** How dogs make teens feel less anxious. *Economist*. 20th Dec 2025. Dogs have been a part of human society for over 20,000 years. Whereas they first served people by supporting hunters, it did not take long before they became part of the home. Companion dogs may not help secure food, but for years evidence has mounted that they help diminish anxiety and improve sociality.

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2025/12/17/how-dogs-make-teens-feel-less-anxious>

**125.** How humankind's 10m-year love affair with booze might end. *Economist*. 20th Dec 2025. Whether it is champagne fizzing on the tongue, a hoppy beer coating the palate, or a plummy wine staining the lips, alcohol announces itself instantly. First there is a faint burning sensation, a little chemical spark, as the thin mouth membranes absorb a drop. If the stomach is empty, the booze starts to pass into the bloodstream within minutes—and then reaches almost every cell and tissue in the body.

<https://www.economist.com/christmas-specials/2025/12/18/how-humankinds-10m-year-love-affair-with-booze-might-end>

**126.** How wolves became dogs. *Economist*. 20th Dec 2025.

Who said it first, no one knows. But Frederick the Great, warrior ruler and enlightened despot of 18th-century Prussia, said it well. “The only, absolute and best friend a man has, in this selfish world, the only one that will not betray or deny him, is his dog.”

<https://www.economist.com/christmas-specials/2025/12/18/how-wolves-became-dogs>

127. The most friendless place on earth. Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

PRICKLY PEAR line the perimeters of brick-red fields. In a few there are crops, but in many the cactus is the only hint of green. Small children, who should be in school, herd Zebu cattle along dusty tracks. Women sell bags of charcoal outside flimsy wooden huts by the main road. It is the tail end of the dry season in southern Madagascar; locals are yearning for rain. They are short of cash and often hungry. They are also lonely.

<https://www.economist.com/christmas-specials/2025/12/18/the-most-friendless-place-on-earth>

128. Why Millennials Love Prenups. New Yorker. 5th Jan 2025.

Andrea Zevallos declared 2016 her “year of dating.” She was twenty-seven, working at Universal Studios Hollywood, the theme park, and determined to find love. She calculated it would take three dates a week. By December, she was losing hope. “It was exhausting,” she said. Then, while scrolling OkCupid, she noticed a “cute guy” with a “Hamilton” reference in his handle. His name was Alex Switzky, and like her he was a musical-theatre enthusiast and aspiring screenwriter. He was different from the other men she’d met. On their second date, he started planning a third. Zevallos “was used to L.A. guys cagey about any sort of calendar.” One day, Switzky called her. Accustomed to texts, she assumed that he was about to break up with her. “The most millennial response,” she recalled, laughing. At the time, Switzky was a tow-truck dispatcher. “I like the phone,” he said.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2025/12/29/why-millennials-love-prenups>

129. Love, Life, Laugh. Outlook. 1st Jan 2025.

ITS arrival was uneven. Cyber cafés became early gateways for urban, middle-class youth, followed by desktop broadband and rudimentary mobile data. Access was slow and limited, yet transformative. Even then, the idea of a parallel digital existence—often loosely described as virtual reality—began to take shape, enabling experimentation with identity and intimacy beyond physical space.

<https://www.magzter.com/stories/news/Outlook/LOVE-LIFE-LAUGH>

## SPORTS

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130. Italy is using the Winter Olympics to appeal to the ultra-wealthy. Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

On the outskirts of Milan lorries come and go from a site beside the railway tracks where the final touches are being put to six elegant beige and cream apartment blocks. At the end of January thousands of athletes will arrive and the site will become an Olympic Village. The 2026 Winter Games are due to start here on February 6th.

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2025/12/18/italy-is-using-the-winter-olympics-to-appeal-to-the-ultra-wealthy>

131. The battle to stop clever people betting. Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

Everyone loves a winner, goes the saying. Sports-betting firms don't. Indeed, they dislike winners so much that they deploy complex tools to stop them from wagering more than a pittance—as your correspondent discovered in 2018, when Ladbrokes, a British bookmaker, told him he couldn't bet more than £5 (\$6.50) on the winner of the National Basketball Association's Most Valuable Player award. For skilled players, or "sharps", such "stake restrictions" are common.

<https://www.economist.com/christmas-specials/2025/12/18/the-battle-to-stop-clever-people-betting>

## WILDLIFE

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132. Iain Douglas-Hamilton fought to save the beasts he loved. Economist. 20th Dec 2025.

FEW ANIMALS scare full-grown African elephants. But bees are among them. So it was to bees that Iain Douglas-Hamilton looked when he sought to draw a line between the pachyderms' domain and humanity's. The farmers of Samburu, the Kenyan county where his research was based, bore elephants no ill will as long as the beasts kept out of their smallholdings. But the elephants did not know that. Bee fences—hives established at regular intervals on a farm's perimeter—not only deterred the interlopers, they also yielded a mellifluous profit.

<https://www.economist.com/obituary/2025/12/18/iain-douglas-hamilton-fought-to-save-the-beasts-he-loved>

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

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