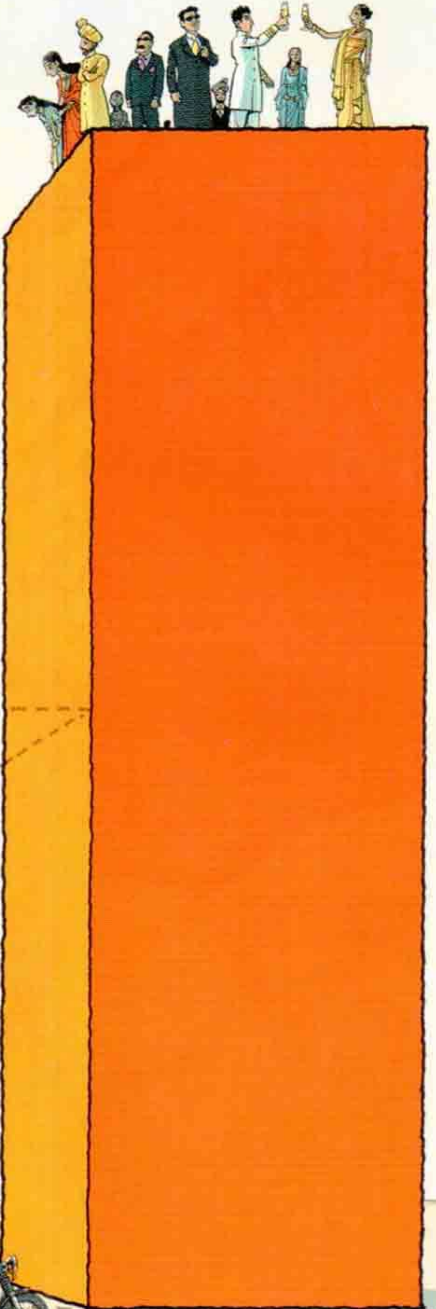


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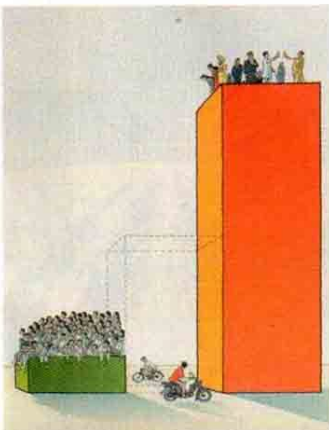
JANUARY 13TH-19TH 2018

America's one-year-old president
Teenagers: less alcohol, more angst
Who is the king of Wall Street?
The frustrations of physics

India's missing middle class



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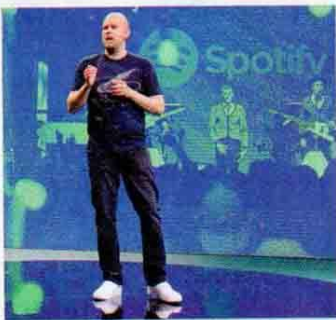
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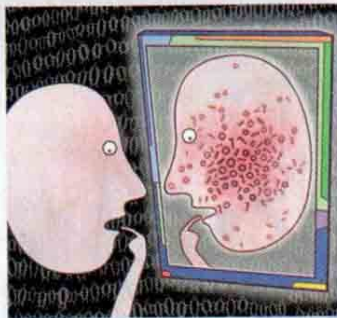
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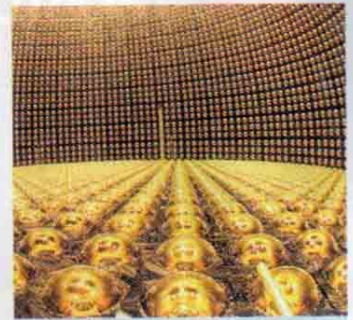
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Politics



Donald Trump reacted angrily to a fly-on-the-wall account of his first nine months in the White House. The president's lawyers tried, but failed, to stop publication of "Fire and Fury" (the book submits that some of Mr Trump's aides question his mental capacity). Stephen Bannon, Mr Trump's former right-hand man, in particular earned the president's wrath for divulging all to the book's author.

Mr Trump indicated a willingness to work with Democrats on **immigration** reform. His overtures came shortly before a judge blocked the president's attempt to end protections for immigrants who came to America illegally as young children. Meanwhile, the government revoked the special status afforded to 200,000 people from **El Salvador** that allows them to live and work in America.

At least 17 people were killed in southern **California** by mudslides that swept down hillsides stripped of bushes and trees by recent wildfires.

A federal court found that the boundaries of **North Carolina's** congressional districts were drawn to favour Republicans and ordered the legislature to come up with a new map for the midterm elections. It is the first time a court has declared as unconstitutional districts that have been gerrymandered along partisan, rather than racial, lines.

Joe Arpaio, "America's toughest sheriff", who received a pardon from Mr Trump for

contempt of court, decided to run for a Senate seat in **Arizona**.

No peace at any cost

Colombia's president, Juan Manuel Santos, suspended peace talks with the ELN, a guerrilla group that has been fighting the government since 1964. He recalled Colombia's negotiator after the ELN attacked an oil pipeline and a naval base. A ceasefire which began in September expired on January 9th. Colombia made peace with the FARC, a larger guerrilla army, in 2016.

In **Peru**, President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski reshuffled his cabinet after the furore caused by his decision to pardon Alberto Fujimori, a former president who was in jail for corruption and human-rights crimes. He swore nine ministers into a "cabinet of reconciliation".

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights ruled that signatories of the American Convention on Human Rights must recognise **same-sex marriages**. Bolivia, Cuba, Honduras and Peru are among the signatory countries that accept neither gay marriage nor civil unions.

Taxing times

More than 200 people were arrested and dozens injured in clashes between police and protesters in **Tunisia**, after people took to the streets against the government's austerity measures. Protests also broke out in **Sudan**, where a cut in government subsidies has led to a doubling of the price of bread.

Soldiers in **Ivory Coast** looted weapons and burned down

parts of an army base, continuing a string of mutinies over pay that have rocked the country since last year.

South Africa's currency soared upon news that Jacob Zuma had stepped down as president of the country well ahead of the end of his second term in office in 2019. Although many in the African National Congress would like him to resign to make way for Cyril Ramaphosa, the party's new leader, the report was false.

The Israeli government banned the leaders of 20 organisations that support a boycott of **Israel** from entering the country. The list includes an American Jewish group.

Let the games begin

In the first talks between the two **Koreas** in almost two years, the North agreed to send a team to the Winter Olympics in the South next month. The pair also agreed to more talks to defuse tensions, but the North refused to discuss curbing its nuclear programme.

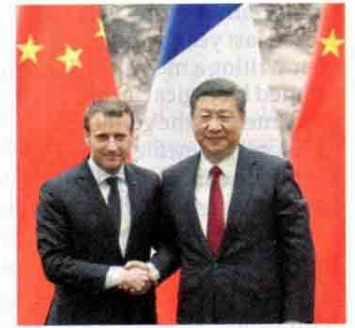
America cut off military assistance to **Pakistan**, on the ground that it was not doing enough to prevent militants based in the country from mounting attacks in neighbouring Afghanistan.

India's supreme court started a review of the part of the penal code that criminalises gay sex. An earlier ruling on Indians' right to privacy has stirred hopes among activists that the court may soon throw out the relevant clause.

An Indian newspaper revealed that it had obtained access to personal data about the 1.2bn Indians who have signed up for the government's **biometric identification scheme**. The agency that runs the scheme said it was strengthening the database's security.

An Iranian oil tanker collided with a cargo ship in the **East China Sea**. There were fears for the crew after the vessel caught fire. Bad weather hampered efforts to control the

blaze, raising concerns about an environmental catastrophe.



France's president, Emmanuel Macron, visited **China**. He gave his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, a horse called Vesuvius, and amused Chinese-speakers with a mangled attempt to say "Make our planet great again" in Mandarin in a public speech. Mr Macron said China planned to buy 184 Airbus A320 jetliners.

The path of least resistance

Theresa May, **Britain's** prime minister, carried out the first reshuffle of her cabinet since a general election last year. The rejig followed some high-profile departures in the past few months, including of her deputy. Reports had suggested up to a quarter of her ministers might go, but in the end few changes were made as senior ministers clung to their jobs. Like her misjudged timing of the election, the reshuffle appeared to undermine Mrs May's authority further.

Poland's new prime minister, Mateusz Morawiecki, sacked three members of his cabinet, in what was seen as an attempt to mend fences with Brussels. The European Commission has proposed sanctioning Poland for the government's attempt to increase its power over the judiciary.

A letter signed by 100 **French** female artists and academics, including Catherine Deneuve, a film star, criticised the wave of sexual-harassment allegations sweeping entertainment and politics, describing it as a "witch-hunt" and defending men's "freedom to pester". According to the letter's signatories the allegations are creating a new "puritanism".

Business

James Damore, who was sacked last year by **Google** after writing a memo that claimed biological factors accounted for the gender gap in Silicon Valley, filed a lawsuit alleging the company discriminates against white men. The suit, which incorporates complaints from another former employee, maintains that Google is obsessed with diversity and its workplace is hostile to conservatives. It accuses Google of operating illegal employment quotas based on race and gender. The case will be allowed to proceed if a judge decides that it is valid as a class-action lawsuit.

Calling the changes

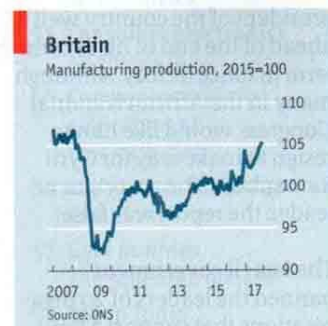
Altice announced a restructuring plan that it hopes will allay fears about the pile of debt it has accumulated through a series of audacious takeovers. The telecoms group intends to spin off its business in America and reorganise its European operations, creating a new unit for its assets in France, its biggest market. Patrick Drahi, the company's founder, will remain the largest shareholder.

A darling of Wall Street when it launched an IPO in 2014, **GoPro** decided to stop making drones, the market for which is saturated. It also faces stiffer competition for its Hero range of wearable action cameras from advances in smartphone technology. Its share price tanked.

An agreement reportedly fell apart through which **AT&T** would have sold phones made by **Huawei**, which is based in China. Huawei was counting on the deal to break into the American market. It has in effect been shut out of the country after Congress raised questions in 2012 about the company's links to the Chinese army, concerns that Huawei insists are ill-founded.

The euro zone's **unemployment rate** fell to 8.7% in November, the lowest since January 2009. As always, the

average rate masked big differences among countries. Germany's rate of 3.6% stood in contrast to Greece's 20.5%. In America the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 4.1% in December.



Britain's **manufacturing** sector looked better than at any time since early 2008, according to the latest data. The Office for National Statistics said there was strong broad-based growth across manufacturing, with the largest contribution coming from renewable-energy equipment. There was a negative note: construction output continued to struggle, despite a small uptick. It has contracted over the past half year.

Huntsville in Alabama was selected as the site for a new \$1.6bn factory that will make cars for Toyota and Mazda, creating 4,000 jobs. Home to

several other **carmaking** plants, Alabama will eventually become the second-biggest vehicle-producing state in America, after Michigan.

A revamp of its stores and improvements to its online service paid dividends for **Target** in the Christmas shopping season. The American retailer reported a solid rise in sales for November and December compared with the same two months in 2016. Other bricks-and-mortar retailers, including Macy's, also had a good Christmas. One big exception was Sears, which said sales in the two-month period slumped by 17%.

Byron, a British gourmet-burger chain, said it could close up to a third of its restaurants as part of a turnaround plan. The firm opened shop in 2007 and says its market has since "changed profoundly".

Mar-a-Lago keeps its view

The Trump administration's proposal to open up waters off almost the entire coast of the United States to **oil and gas drilling** prompted howls of protests from environmentalists. The geographical extent of the plan, which envisages 47 new sales of drilling leases, surprised observers, though

few think energy companies will operate in much of the area. Republican politicians have also pushed back against the scheme. The governor of Florida secured a commitment that exempts his state's coast.

Warren Buffett appointed Gregory Abel and Ajit Jain as vice-chairs to the board of **Berkshire Hathaway**, fuelling speculation that either one of them, or even both, will succeed the 87-year-old investor when he eventually steps down as chief executive and chairman of the holding company he leads.

A Kodak moment

In what is a good snapshot of the mania for crypto-currencies, **Kodak's** share price soared by 300% after it announced a new service based on blockchain technology to give photographers more control over the rights for their pictures. The once-storied company fell on hard times when it misjudged the shift from photographic film to digital imagery. It now hopes to get a boost from digital currencies by issuing a **KODAK-Coin** that photographers can be paid in.

Other economic data and news can be found on pages 76-77

