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Weekly Business Insights

from Top Ten Business Magazines

Extractive summaries & key take-aways from the articles carefully curated from TOP TEN BUSINESS MAGAZINES to foster business acumen

Since 2017 | Week 388 | February 14-20, 2025

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Shaping Section: Ideas and forces shaping economies and industries



How AI will divide the best from the rest

The Economist | February 13, 2025

Extractive Summary of the Article | [Read](#) | [Listen](#)

2 key takeaways from the article

1. At a summit in Paris on February 10th and 11th, tech bosses vied to issue the most grandiose claim about artificial intelligence. Mr Altman's prediction taps into an established school of thought. As large language models first gained popularity in the early 2020s, economists and bosses were hopeful that they, and other AI tools, would level the playing field, with lower-skilled workers benefiting most. Software capable of handling tasks such as protein-folding and poetry-writing would surely democratise opportunity.
2. More recent findings have cast doubt on this vision, however. They instead suggest a future in which high-flyers fly still higher—and the rest are left behind. In complex tasks such as research and management, new evidence indicates that high performers are best positioned to work with AI. Evaluating the output of models requires expertise and good judgment. Rather than narrowing disparities, AI is likely to widen workforce divides, much like past technological revolutions.

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Topics: **Technology & Humans, Artificial Intelligence, Job Market, Employment, Productivity, Highly Skilled Workers**



Davos 2025: CEOs are excited to go on offense

By Daniel Pachthod et al., | McKinsey & Company | February 6, 2025

Extractive Summary of the Article | [Read](#) | [Listen](#)

2 key takeaways from the article

1. What a week. The World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting is always a kind of Rorschach test of the world's hopes and concerns. This year's weeklong meeting overdelivered on both counts. On balance, we'd say the edge goes to the optimists.
2. The conversations focused heavily on how to find real, practical strategies for productivity, growth, and resilience in an uncertain world. Seven themes that were debated consistently throughout the week: Keeping tabs on changes in the United States, Harnessing gen AI, Catalyzing European growth and competitiveness, Creating 21st-century leaders today, Advancing the energy transition: Beyond the "why" to the "how", Accelerating progress and innovation in health, and Harnessing the cross-industry potential of space as a growth engine.

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Topics: **Global Business, Development, Employment, Europe, USA, Health, Human & Technology, Davos 2025**

Strategy & Business Model Section



Precedents Thinking

By Stefanos Zenios and Ken Favaro | Harvard Business Review Magazine | March–April 2025 Issue

Extractive Summary of the Article | [Read](#) | [Listen](#)

3 key takeaways from the article

1. Innovation can be daunting. Creating something entirely new feels intimidating. But that feeling misses a vital truth: Most great innovations are creative combinations of existing ideas. Examples abound.
2. Ford, Hastings, and Buffett achieved breakthroughs by creatively combining prior innovations. According to the author their experience of helping student-entrepreneurs launch startups and CEOs innovate their strategies, they have perfected a method of unlocking this powerful source of innovation: precedents thinking. It involves three steps. First, frame your challenge and its key elements. Next, search for previous innovations—precedents—relevant to each element. Finally, combine some or all of those precedents—in part or in whole—to generate your best ideas. This is what Albert Einstein called "combinatory play."
3. In practice each step can be revisited multiple times in light of learning from subsequent steps. You iterate through this process until your intuition tells you that you have a breakthrough that will work.

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Topics: **Strategy, Business Model, Innovation, Creativity**



How Leaders Champion Culture: Six Essential Lessons

By Donald Sull and Charles Sull | MIT Sloan Management Review | February 19, 2025

Extractive Summary of the Article | [Read](#) | [Listen](#)

2 key takeaways from the article

1. Core values are ubiquitous — but unfortunately, in most organizations, core values are also irrelevant. Only a handful of companies, which the authors call the Culture Champions, buck the trend and consistently walk the talk of their espoused core values, according to employee reviews.
2. Based on the authors' series of podcasts with leaders of several of these companies, including HubSpot, the Lego Group, Bain & Co., Hermès, and Cummins, to understand how the leaders embed core values and leadership expectations throughout the organization, the following six key insights have emerged on how organizations champion on core cultural values. These are: involve employees in articulating core values to ensure authenticity, enlist volunteers to embed culture throughout the organization, coordinate your people processes to reinforce cultural values, use core values as a framework to make key business trade-offs, provide basic skills training on how to have critical conversations, and when someone is a poor cultural fit, recognize it and address it.

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Topics: **Leadership, Culture, Teams, Core Values**

Personal Development, Leading & Managing Section



17 Coaches On How To Address Leadership Blind Spots

By Forbes Coaches Council | Forbes | February 12, 2025

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2 key takeaways from the article

1. Even the most accomplished leaders can have habits, assumptions or behaviors that limit their effectiveness without them even realizing it. As a leader, your ability to identify and address these blind spots can be the key to unlocking your next level of growth. But what exactly should you be looking for, and how can you confront these challenges?
2. 17 Forbes Coaches Council members share leadership blind spots and strategies for addressing them with clients. Dedicate time to personal development. Slow down and listen for true intent. Assign responsibilities for executing strategic plans. Remember to develop new strengths. Talk through tough situations. Recognize what makes you different. Seek feedback on how your actions affect others. Become aware of how you communicate. Watch how people react to your words. Ask for advice instead of feedback. Recognize and transcend your leadership 'bubble'. Have 360-degree interviews done with your inner circle. See every conversation as a leadership opportunity. Avoid overused strengths becoming toxic traits. Try new behaviors and test out new tools. Identify how your impact reflects your intent. Learn to trust your team and delegate effectively.

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Topics: **Leadership Blind Spots, Leadership Strengths**

Entrepreneurship Section



Insurance Horror Stories Abound! Here Are 7 Tips to Prevent Disaster, From Business Owners Who Learned the Hard Way

By Brian Contreras | Inc Magazine | February 14, 2025

Extractive Summary of the Article | [Read](#) | [Listen](#)

A key takeaway from the article

Insurance horror stories are far too common, with founders who thought they were secure left reeling when disaster actually strikes. Here's the advice that entrepreneurs have for dealing with the industry. Do your due diligence before signing. Know what's covered before you need it covered. Act like you're uninsured, even though you aren't. Have more than one layer of protection. Be wary of contractors. Get flood-ready. You paid for your insurance—so use it.

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Topics: **Entrepreneurship, Insurance, Disaster, Risk protection**



7 Signs of a Broken Cap Table That Could Jeopardize Your Startup's Success

By Dima Maslennikov | Edited by Chelsea Brown | Entrepreneur Magazine | February 19, 2025

Extractive Summary of the Article | [Read](#) | [Listen](#)

3 key takeaways from the article

1. When building a startup, founders often focus on product development, raising funds, and scaling their business. However, one critical factor that can silently undermine even the most promising venture is a broken cap table. This term refers to a situation where the equity structure of a company is misaligned, leaving founders with a dangerously low percentage of ownership.
2. Broken cap table could happen because of excessive dilution of founders' equity and it could lead to demotivation of founders, investor hesitation, startup's inability to attract top talent, governance problems, disproportionate influence of dead equity, and logistical challenges and inefficiencies.
3. A broken cap table can be the silent killer of even the most innovative startups. By maintaining sustainable founder ownership through each funding stage, startups can ensure their long-term viability. Planning strategically, negotiating wisely and staying vigilant are critical to protecting equity and fostering growth. Remember, your cap table is more than a spreadsheet — it's the foundation of your company's financial health and future potential.

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Topics: **Entrepreneurship, Startups, Broken Cap Table**

Note: 1) This newsletter is driven by a social motive. Purposes behind this newsletter are to promote reading habits and to foster business acumen leading to better decision-making.

2) There are many nuances in possibly every article which can't be covered in extractive summaries and key takeaways because of space limitations. For better understanding please read the full articles you find interesting in a weekly selection.

3) The views and opinions expressed in the contents published by the [Informed i](#) through its Weekly Business Insights are those of the authors and/or the respective magazines and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of [Informed i](#). Any mention of products, services, or organizations is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an endorsement.

Articles curated and summarized by M Arif Saleem. Enthusiastic teenagers are contributing voluntarily in the preparation of this e-weekly newsletter. These are my daughter Hamna, my sons Meeran & Minhaj.

Purpose behind this sharing is to contribute in the development of a culture of 'informed business decision-making'. You can also contribute in this 'greater good' by forwarding this e-weekly & podcast to your fellows/friends and others.

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Arif did PhD in Business from Bodo Graduate School of Business, University of Nordland, Norway and at present associated with the Faculty of Management Sciences, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan.

@ [in](#) [tel](#) +92 333 531 7334

[envelope](#) Room No. A 023 - Faculty of Management Sciences, Iln - e - Khaldoon Block, International Islamic University, H-10 Campus, 44000, Islamabad, Pakistan