

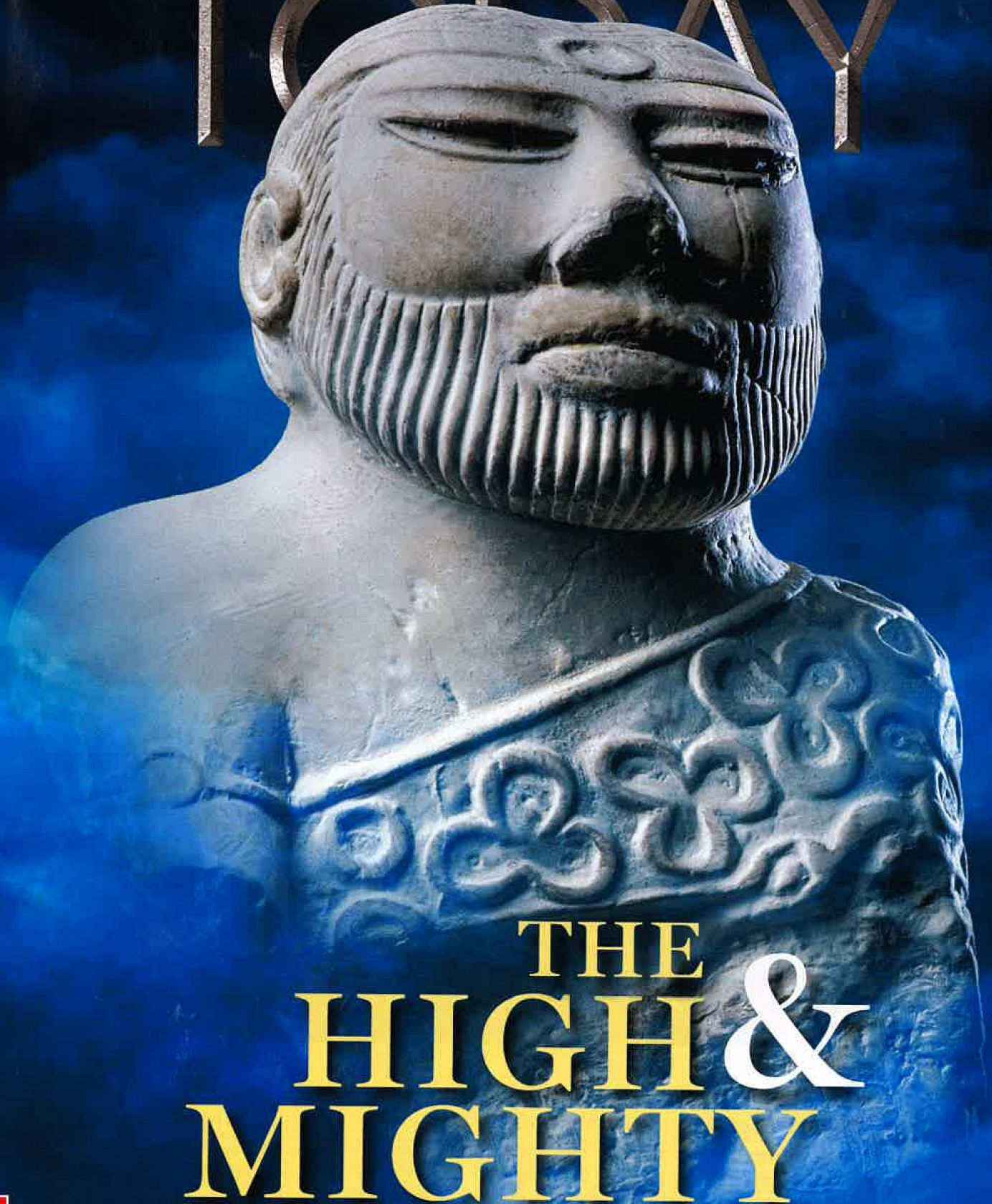
SPECIAL ISSUE

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INDIA TODAY



THE HIGH & MIGHTY

POWER LIST 2019

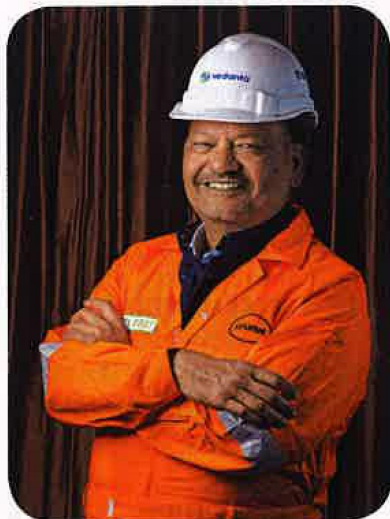
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THE RISE AND FALL

Whether you see it as a blessing or a curse, there is really no doubt anymore that we live in extremely interesting times. And if you think that's a cliché, well, we have plenty more for you: the old order changeth—and it remains *la même chose* too. After all, contradiction is our favourite national cliché.

In this 16th edition of the High & Mighty list, we give you a group portrait of the people who really count in this country of 1.3 billion today. Compare it to last year's list and what emerges is same-same—but different. The country, like much of the world, has been in the throes of the slow rolling surge of right-wing populism that now seems to have entrenched its own elite. 'Might makes right' ran that old cautionary cliché. It could be rewritten for our times as 'the Right makes might'. Perhaps the most dramatic manifestation of this is in our list of leading politicians who, for the first time, are a monochrome set of saffron. Our power list of movers and shakers is dominated as usual by businessmen, and marked by the rise of a new generation of start-up and digital entrepreneurs. Here too, there's no mistaking the growing importance of those with proximity to political power.

The saffron tide has also left its mark by sweeping away an unprecedented number of familiar faces—replaced by 16 new entrants to the High & Mighty list. That said, there's no shortage of perennials here. The High & Mighty list remains a record of the shifting fortunes of India's elite—not a revolution. We've used all our collective expertise and the algorithms of editorial discussion to compile this definitive list. The process is a little like Indian democracy: not everyone likes the results, but everyone is heard. ■



VIVAN MEHRA

14 ANIL AGARWAL

↓ 13

65, Exec. Chairman, Vedanta Resources

EARTH MOVER

Because he has steered Vedanta, which has a big presence in India in copper, zinc, iron ore and oil and gas, through a tough business environment, with group revenues reaching Rs 90,901 crore and Ebitda Rs 24,012 crore in 2018-19

Because the company plans total investments of Rs 55,000 crore over two to three years to increase production by about 50 per cent across businesses, and acquired Electrosteel Steels and UK mining firm Anglo-American Plc in 2018

Because Vedanta Cairn Oil and Gas recently won 53 new oil blocks under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy and discovered small field auction

GIFT OF GIVING

Has pledged 75 per cent of his wealth for social good