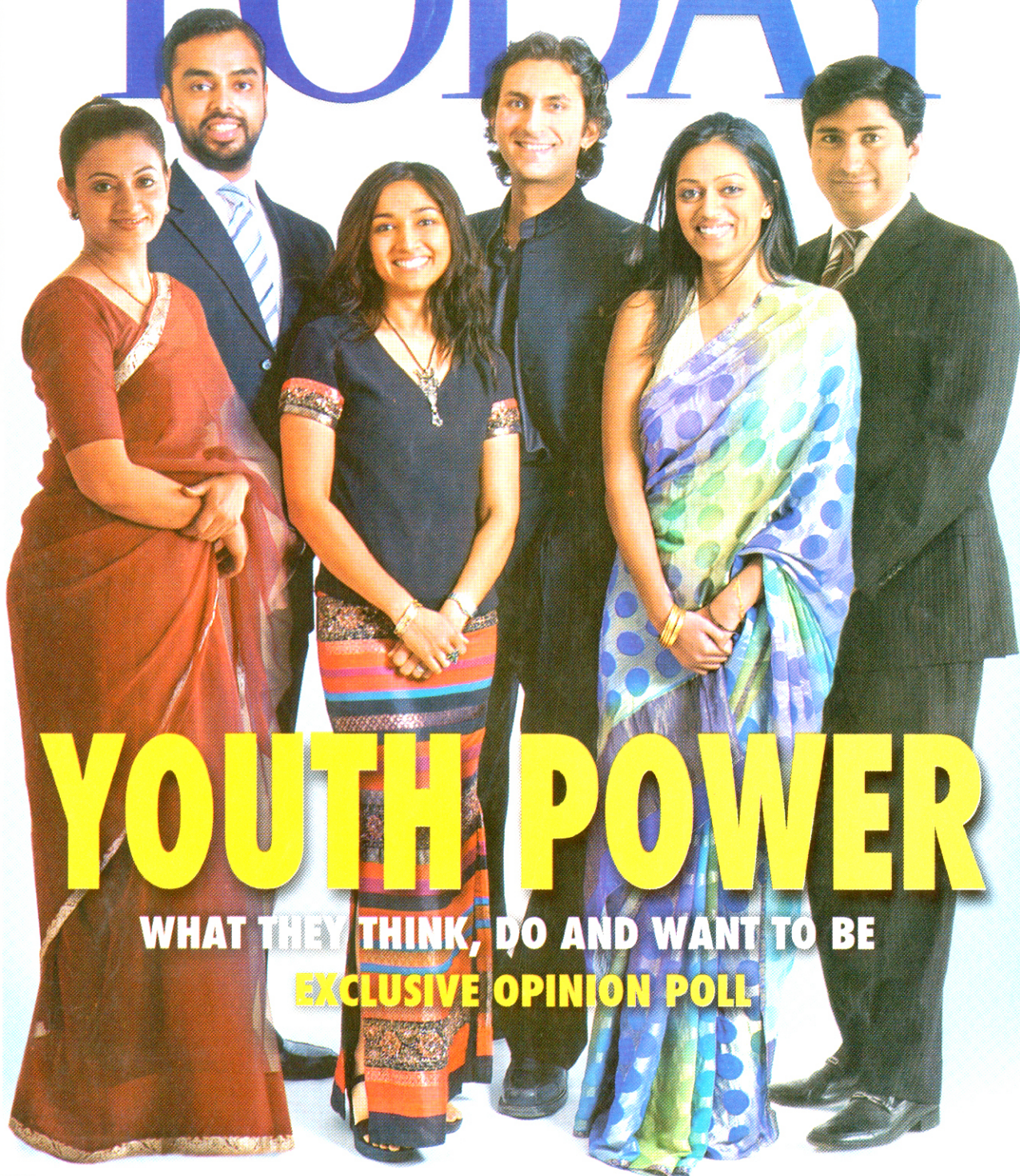


SPECIAL ISSUE

INDIA TODAY



YOUTH POWER

WHAT THEY THINK, DO AND WANT TO BE
EXCLUSIVE OPINION POLL

FROM LEFT: MEETA PANDIT Vocalist, MILIND DEORA Politician, DHURVI ACHARYA Painter,
RAHUL SHARMA Musician, POOJA SHETTY Multiplex entrepreneur, RATUL PURI Industrialist

YOUNG GUNS

the 50 on the fast track

They are the leaders of a generation marked by drive and dynamism. Their influence is undeniable today and it is everywhere—in politics, business, the arts, science and sport. Identifying the best and the brightest who represent the changing face of India.

RAHUL GANDHI, 34, & PRIYANKA VADRA, 32
Rahul is MP from Amethi and Priyanka is Congress' star campaigner

The Inheritors

Sphere of Influence: The entire Congress party. At least among Congressmen there is little doubt that the siblings are the rightful heirs to the Grand Old Party's political legacy. One of them, they say, will one day become prime minister.

Breakthrough: For Rahul: taking the plunge into politics. His great hurdle will be to win Uttar Pradesh back for the Congress. Despite the charm offensive, Priyanka's big moment is yet to come.

Inspirations: Their mother, father and grandmother, a pruned version of the family tree.

Ex-Gen Wisdom: "Rahul's handling of his constituency is an indicator of his mindset. Priyanka has appeal and her charm is evident." —Congress General Secretary Ambika Soni

The young Indians on these pages are important but that is not the only reason why they are here. They are skilful and intelligent and talented but that is not all that they are. They are all 35 or younger and have achievements to their name but this is not merely a list of young achievers.

What makes INDIA TODAY's 50 Young Guns different from their peers is the impact they make and their ability to be agents of change. They do not read from our ancient scripts: of an old country moving at an aged pace, of transformation being wrought over decades and not days. They respond to a fresh set of fundamentals: that dynamism has no handicaps and drive recognises no hurdles. Their ambition is made of sterner stuff.

Had INDIA TODAY made a list of this kind in its first year of publication, there would have been a crowd of firebrand environmentalists, radical

academics and even filmmakers from parallel cinema on it. But the pre-occupations and occupations of the under-35 today are markedly different. These 50 men and women are the reflection of a changed India. They come from a variety of backgrounds, some at the beginning of their careers, others neck-deep in its exhausting challenges. They exercise their influence in myriad ways—through political clout, business acumen, sporting talent, scientific genius and artistic creativity. But every one of them has already left an indelible impression and has been to his craft a new kind of craftsman.

These are the leaders of India's Gen Y and we asked experts and senior statesmen, distinguished members of Ex Gen, to pronounce their verdict on these 50 young guns.

"Youth," Confucius once said, "is to be regarded with respect. How do we know that his future will not be equal to our present?" Our 50 Young Guns featured are highly respected today. The future, it is clear, is already here.

LEADING THE PACK:
Rahul and Priyanka



SANDEEP KHOSLA, 34
Architect

Makeover Artist

Sphere of Influence: Turns dilapidated colonial structures into trendy urban hotspots. Made a 100-year-old building into Barista's flag ship coffee shop and revamped bungalows in Coorg and Chennai. Has designed Bush Betta, an ecofriendly resort in Bandipur, and buildings for biotech giant Biocon.

Breakthrough: Pushing through the use of local material in modern design and creating a contemporary architecture design vocabulary with an Indian soul.

Inspirations: The climate and the country he lives in.

Ex-Gen Wisdom: "Sandeep is a bold guy, and does things that are not run of the mill. In a world of mediocrity, his work stands out." —Jaisim, architect and founder of Fountainhead Architecture

