

DECEMBER 2024  
A JOURNAL OF POLITICS  
AND CULTURE

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ordeal in jail p.16

How politicians use  
influencers p.72

₹250

# THE CARAVAN



**Mukesh Ambani barter Network18  
for the PMO's blessing**

**Nita Ambani's play for the public eye**

COVER STORY

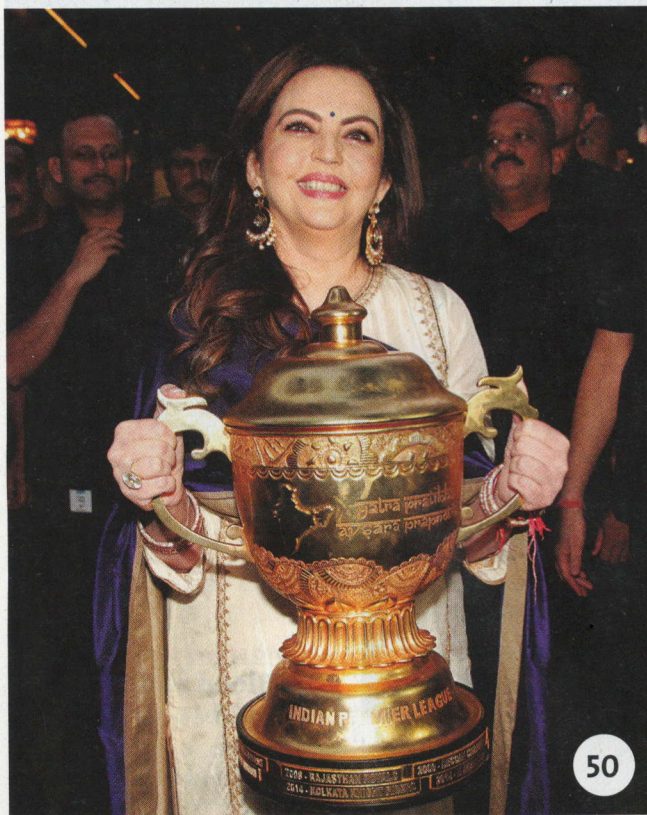
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## Unreliable News

How Reliance hollowed out  
Asia's largest media conglomerate

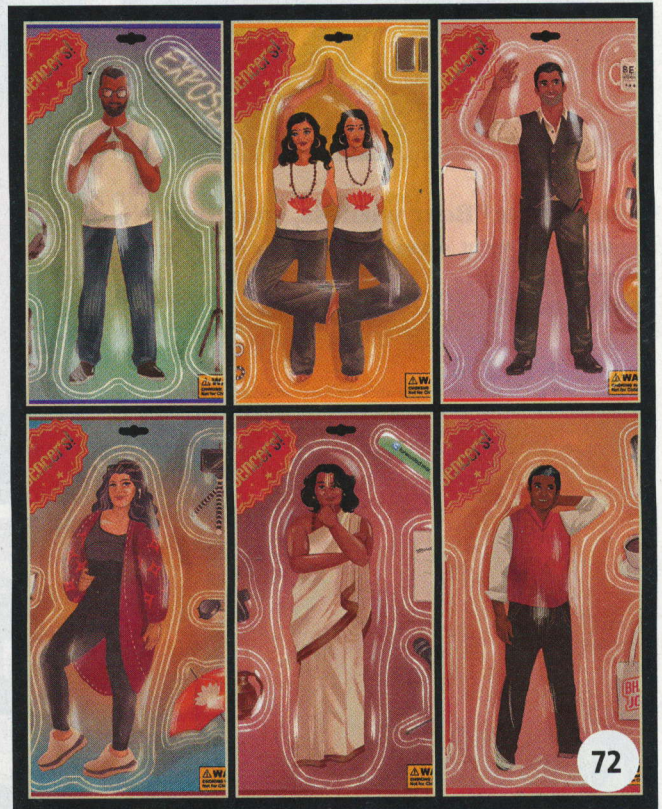
SAGAR

Since Mukesh Ambani took over Network18, the Reliance megaphone has been amplified by the media conglomerate's 21 television news channels in 14 languages—reaching an estimated 400 million viewers—four news websites, three magazines, 18 entertainment channels, 16 international beams and video-on-demand services. Post takeover, many Network18 former and current employees described an organisation whose editorial will had been systematically centralised and set to serve two agendas. Those of Reliance's other businesses and those of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his government and ideology. The full impact of this new regime lies somewhere between these three vertices: a subtle yet pervasive censorship, the amplification of right-wing narratives and the dismantling of editorial safeguards. The result is a defanged organisation, with its own staff among the greatest casualties of this transformation.



### 50 Crown Jewel

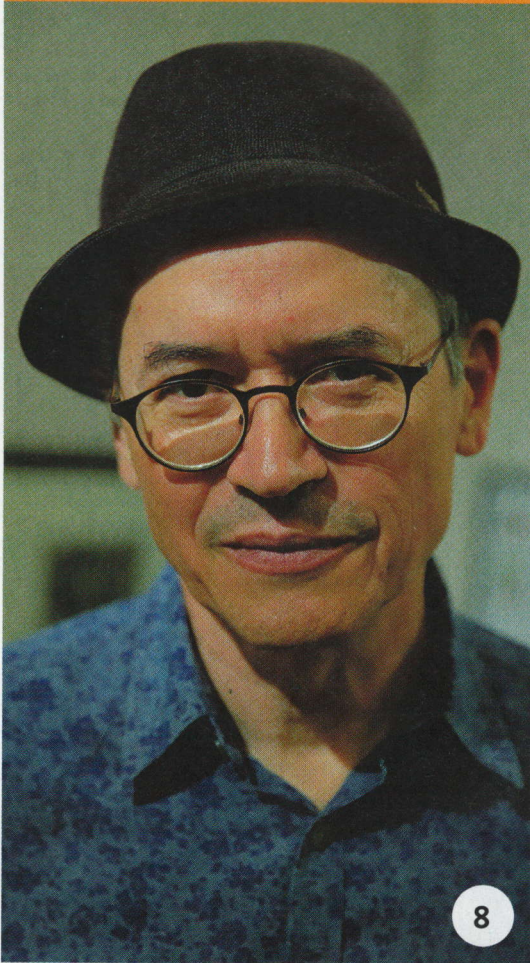
Nita Ambani's campaign to conquer the public eye  
AMRITA SINGH



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How politicians use influencers to escape accountability  
AATHIRA KONIKKARA

THE INTERVIEW

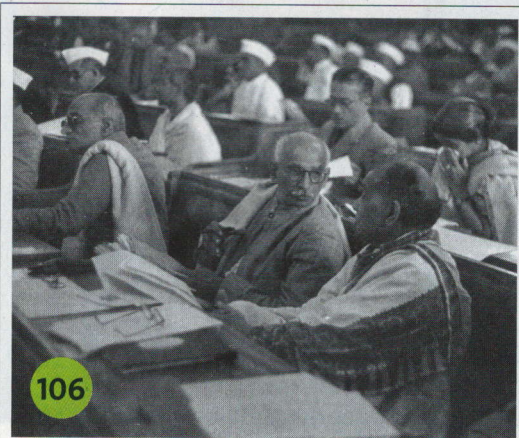


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# THE CARAVAN

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**EDITED, PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY** Paresh Nath on behalf of Delhi Press Patra Prakashan Pvt. Ltd. E-8, Jhandewalan Estate, New Delhi - 110055 and  
**PRINTED AT** PS PC Press Pvt. Ltd., DLF 50, Industrial Area, Faridabad, Haryana - 121003 and **PUBLISHED AT** Delhi Press Patra Prakashan Pvt. Ltd. E-8 Jhandewalan Estate, New Delhi - 110055

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Title *The Caravan* is registered with Govt. of India as trade mark.

ISSN 0971-0639

### Rates

**INLAND** One copy ₹250.

**INTERNATIONAL SUBSCRIPTION:**

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**PRINT + DIGITAL (ONE YEAR)** \$200

**DOMESTIC SUBSCRIPTION:**

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