



Most Iconic Leaders Making a Difference in 2026

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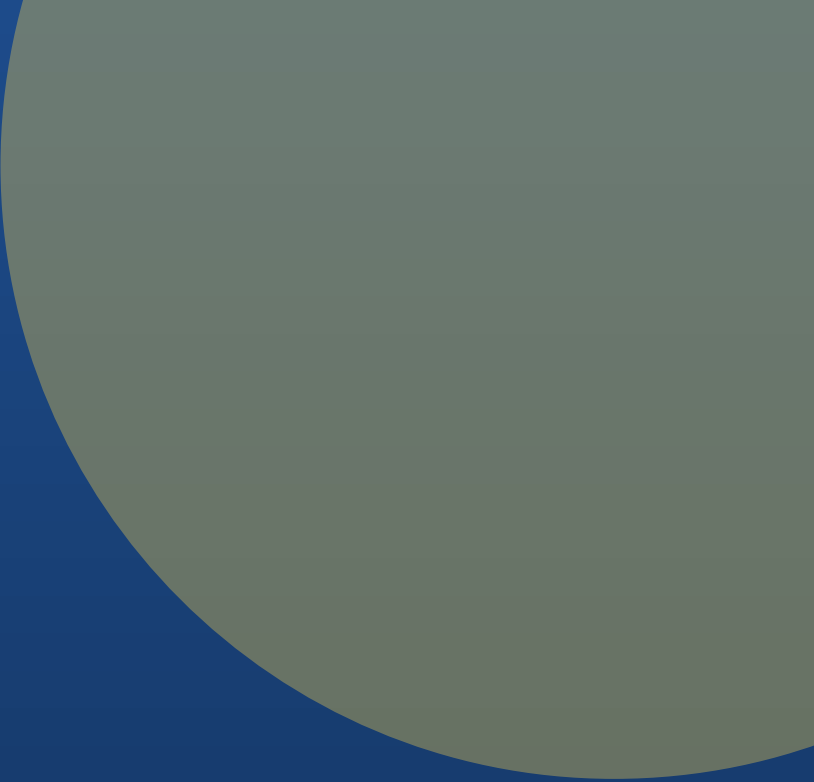
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Editor's note

Leaders across industries are rethinking how they hire, invest and communicate. The companies that stand out combine a clear purpose with disciplined execution, and they keep listening to customers as markets shift.

Looking ahead, the winners will be those who invest in talent, adopt technology responsibly and stay close to the communities they serve. Expect more partnerships, more transparency and faster decision cycles.

The Editorial Team



The founder who rewired supply chains

Aarav Mehta on building a logistics company that customers actually trust, and why he turned down his first three offers.

Building for the long run

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Advice for new founders

Leadership is the habit of making the people around you better.

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Why people-first workplaces win

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The numbers behind 2026 growth

38%

of surveyed firms now run hybrid teams by default

2.4x

faster hiring where managers are trained in coaching

71%

of founders plan to expand into a new region this year

Five questions on leadership

What is the first habit of a good leader?

Listening before deciding. Most problems get smaller once everyone is heard.

How do you hire?

For curiosity first, then skills. Skills can be taught.

What do you measure?

Customer trust, team retention and how fast we fix our own mistakes.

Leaders to watch



Meera Iyer

Founder, fintech for small shops



Daniel Okoro

CEO, clean-energy cooperatives



Sofia Lindqvist

Chief People Officer, retail group



Khalid Al-Rashid

Managing Director, logistics



Mei Tanaka

CTO, manufacturing automation

Column: the long view

Leaders across industries are rethinking how they hire, invest and communicate. The companies that stand out combine a clear purpose with disciplined execution, and they keep listening to customers as markets shift.

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