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# A RESOLUTE VISIONARY: HONORING SAVARKAR'S LEGACY IN MODERN INDIA





**COMING SOON** 

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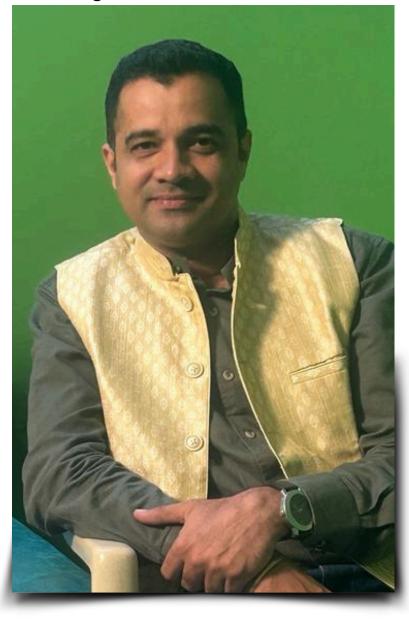
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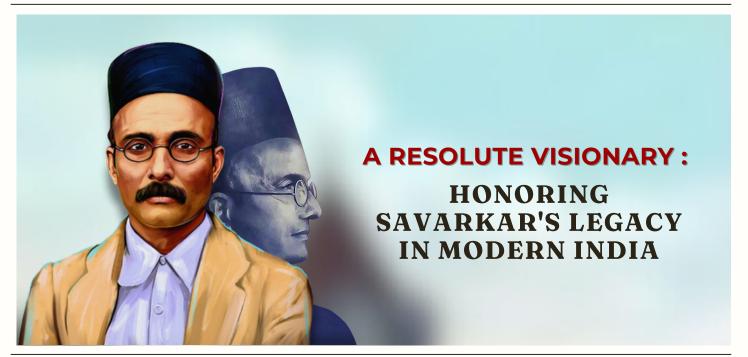
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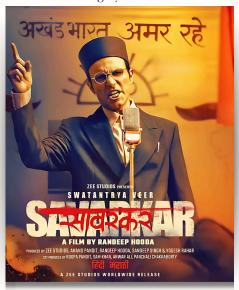


### A RESOLUTE VISIONARY: HONORING SAVARKAR'S LEGACY IN MODERN INDIA



Delve into the life and times of Veer Savarkar, a multifaceted figure whose ideas continue to shape Indian society. This cover story explores his profound impact on nationalism, social reform, and the quest for freedom, offering fresh insights into his enduring legacy.

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar's name struck fear into the hearts of the British colonial rulers, resonating prominently throughout the annals of the Indian freedom struggle. However, despite his significant role, certain leaders tarnished his reputation, branding him as communal and portraying him as a menace to the nation's integrity.



In recent times, Randeep Hooda's portrayal of 'swatantryaveer Savarkar' has sparked widespread discussion, leaving an enduring impression on society. The film meticulously unveils Savarkar's journey, from the inception of the clandestine society of Abhinav

Bharat to his involvement with India House. It delves into his steadfast adherence to the teachings of Bal Gangadhar Tilak, his ideological disagreements with Mahatma Gandhi, and his vehement opposition to tyranny and oppression.



By bringing Savarkar's life to the forefront, the film endeavors to restore the honor of this revolutionary figure, shedding light on his relentless campaign against untouchability and religious fanaticism. Savarkar's prophetic insights from the preindependence era reverberate with the sociopolitical landscape of modern-day India, igniting debates, challenging historical narratives, and reigniting interest in his multifaceted persona.

The journey of the young boy who migrated from his hometown, Bhagur, in Nashik district to Pune was arduous. A student at the esteemed Fergusson College in Pune, Savarkar received guidance from luminaries such as Lokamanya Tilak.



inciting like-minded individuals to protest by torching British goods and clothes marked a direct confrontation with the ruling British authorities. Subsequently, he pursued legal studies in England, where his efforts for Indian independence gained momentum. Savarkar, a visionary freedom fighter, demonstrated foresight in numerous political affairs of the country. His assertion non-violent Satvagraha movement would eventually culminate in armed struggle was prophetic. The formation of Netaji's Azad Hind Sena and the subsequent fissures within the British military during World War II attested to Savarkar's vision. His departure from the country left a void, underscoring the

During his college years, Savarkar's arrest for

significance of his vision for India's freedom

struggle.



## A RESOLUTE VISIONARY: HONORING SAVARKAR'S LEGACY IN MODERN INDIA



## Shivaji Maharaj: The inspiration

Shivaji Maharaj, the legendary Maratha warrior king, left an indelible mark on Indian history with his valor, strategic prowess, and commitment to justice. His vision of a strong, independent Maratha kingdom inspired countless individuals, including Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, better known as Veer Savarkar.

Veer Savarkar was deeply influenced by Shivaji Maharaj's principles of valor, self-respect, and nationalism. Savarkar hailed from the same soil as Shivaji and grew up amidst tales of the Maratha king's heroism, which shaped his worldview and aspirations.

One of the key aspects of Shivaji Maharaj's legacy that resonated with Savarkar was his defiance against foreign oppression. Shivaji Maharaj challenged the mighty Mughal Empire and established a sovereign Maratha state against all odds.

Similarly, Savarkar envisioned a free and united India, liberated from the shackles of colonial rule. He drew inspiration from Shivaji Maharaja's courage to stand up against tyranny and believed in the imperative of armed resistance for national liberation.

Both Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Veer Savarkar harboured an extraordinary resentment of slavery. They both dedicated themselves entirely to liberating the country from oppression. Even those who called out Shivaji Maharaj as misguided patriot, correct themselves stating 66

shivaji Maharaj is not only the savior of Maharashtra and India but also a beacon of hope for the world. Those who seek to fight for freedom will find inspiration and strength in the life of Shivaji Maharaj!

It is widely known that Shivaji Maharaj used to gather friends around him from a very young age. By endearing himself to people from all walks of life, he, along with his entourage, took the oath of independence before the Raireshwar Mahadeva.

Similarly, at a very young age, Savarkar took the oath of independence in front of the idol of deity Durga Bhavani at their home in Bhagur. But both got to see in their lifetime the freedom, the sovereign freedom, for which there was so much ridicule. Shivaji Maharaj was crowned on the golden throne, Savarkar had the good fortune to see India gain independence.

It must be said that the thoughts of Maharaj and Savarkar were on the same page when it comes to nation building. Both did a lot of work against anti-national stereotypes. During the Maharaja's time, it was believed that if one crossed the sea beyond ten miles, his religion would sink, it would be corrupted, it would be lost. This tradition was broken by Maharaj in such a reckless manner that even religious scholars did not have the sense to oppose him.

Maharaja's army consisted of people from all castes. They unitedly fought for Swarajya. Savarkar was eager to bring this sense of unity created by Maharaj very easily in the entire society, for this he did every activity. Patit Pawan temple built by Savarkar in Ratnagiri would be the first restaurant open to Harijans. Savarkar continued to work for unity among all castes in the society.

Savarkar's role model was Shivaji Maharaj who lived a brave life in all aspects. In fact, there was a gap of two hundred years between the two. But it must be said that Savarkar was an ideological heir of Shivaji Maharaj in terms of patriotism, talent, achievement, prowess and vision. Speaking about Savarkar at one place, Shivshahir Babasaheb Purandare said -

66

Shivaji Maharaj's Bhavani sword and Savarkar's pen, both had the same edge. Both had the same vow - परित्राणाय साधूनाम् विनाशायच दृष्कृताम्.



#### Savarkar and Gandhi

The comparison between Vinayak Damodar Savarkar and Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi is almost inevitable when examining India's struggle for independence. Despite their contrasting ideologies and methods, their profound impact on the course of Indian history ensures that their legacies remain intertwined. Comparing the roles of Savarkar and Gandhi reveals their shared commitment to India's independence, albeit with differing approaches and outcomes. While Gandhi's popularity and advocacy of Satyagraha garnered global acclaim, Savarkar's steadfast dedication to Hindutva throughout his life led to his political marginalization, particularly by his own community. The disparity in their reception raises questions about the perception of Hindutva in Indian society and the contrasting interpretations offered by Gandhi's spiritual ethos and Savarkar's political

Savarkar's Hindutva, focused on asserting Hindu political and civil rights, diverged from Gandhi's spiritual interpretation, emphasizing the supremacy of Hindu society. Despite his logical approach, Savarkar's ideas faced resistance, as society often favored emotional appeals over rational discourse. Gandhi's ability to connect with the masses through a blend of truth and empathy enabled him to resonate more deeply with the public compared to Savarkar's logical arguments, which often failed to sway popular opinion.

In essence, both Gandhi and Savarkar espoused truths aimed at empowering the Hindu community, yet their divergent methods and receptions underscore the complexities of societal engagement. While their messages of unity and dialogue echoed a shared vision, societal barriers hindered the widespread acceptance of their ideals, leaving a gap between aspiration and realization.



## A RESOLUTE VISIONARY: HONORING SAVARKAR'S LEGACY IN MODERN INDIA

#### Andaman and Savarkar

The Andaman Islands, a remote archipelago in the Bay of Bengal, hold a significant place in India's colonial history and the life of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, commonly known as Veer Savarkar. These islands, once a dreaded penal colony under British rule, witnessed the incarceration and struggles of countless freedom fighters, among whom Savarkar's story stands out as a testament to resilience and indomitable spirit. Savarkar's connection with the Andaman Islands began in 1910 when he was sentenced to life imprisonment for his revolutionary activities against British colonialism. Transported to the Cellular Jail, also known as Kala Pani, Savarkar endured years of harsh imprisonment, solitary confinement, and brutal treatment at the hands of his captors. Despite the unimaginable hardships, Savarkar remained steadfast in his commitment to India's freedom and continued to inspire fellow inmates with his courage and defiance.



#### Social Reformer Savarkar

For someone who is driven by the thought to reform the society should only be driven by the desire to do good and it should be stamped on their mind. Reformers who launch a scathing attack on any evil social custom, which means locking horns with any persistent yet baseless social belief of a major chunk of society are always at the receiving end and have to face herculean tasks. However, for the rationals, they are tagged to be the ones who 'disturb the social balance'.

Savarkar approached the institution of caste with a scientific lens, recognizing its historical significance in shaping Hindu society. In his reflections, he acknowledged the role of birth-based caste divisions in the cohesion and endurance of Hindu society under specific

circumstances.

However, he cautioned against solely attributing negative consequences to caste divisions without considering its historical context and complexities. Rejecting the notion that caste division was solely orchestrated by Brahmins or Brahmins and Kshatriyas, Savarkar emphasized collective responsibility across all castes for perpetuating caste-based discrimination. He argued that scripture-based caste divisions empowered even lower castes to assert dominance over others, thereby implicating all castes in its preservation and continuation. Savarkar rebelled against the notion of scripture-based caste division, likening it to a mental ailment that could be cured through the rejection of its acceptance. He challenged the idea that caste divisions were inherent to Hindu Dharma, asserting that they were merely social practices that could be dismantled without undermining the essence of Sanatana Dharma.

Regarding caste-based organizations, Savarkar adopted a pragmatic stance, advocating for their selective engagement to leverage their positive aspects in the pursuit of caste abolition. He cautioned against outright boycotts, recognizing the potential utility of these organizations in effecting broader social change. In summary, Savarkar's approach to caste was nuanced, acknowledging its historical roots while advocating for its abolition through collective responsibility and pragmatic engagement with existing social structures.

#### The final days

In September 1965, prior to the Indo-Pak war, Savarkar's health had deteriorated significantly, prompting newspapers to report on his declining condition daily. President Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan had expressed genuine concern and inquired about his well-being. During this time, Savarkar had handed out a leaflet expressing his desire that the government not retract any steps taken forward by India, demonstrating his unwavering commitment to the country even in illness.

The decision of fast unto death by Savarkar was not sudden; it was a gradual process. He began by gradually abstaining from food, starting with rice, then eliminating tea and coffee from his diet until he was subsisting solely on water. On the 2nd of February 1966, he formally commenced his fast unto death.

A few days prior to this decision, Dr Sathe, Savarkar's medical advisor, had assured that Savarkar's health would remain stable for at least another five years. Vishwas Savarkar recounted in an article that attempts were made by Dr. Godbole, Dr. Purandare, Dr. Kale, and others to dissuade Savarkar, including secretly administering saline to help him sleep. However, Savarkar vehemently refused any attempts to revive him, warning that he would bar doctors from entering his room if such attempts persisted.



On February 19, 1966, Savarkar's health took a turn for the worse. He confided in his son, stating, "Now my end is near." Though there seemed to be a brief improvement in his condition over the next two days, by February 22, his health had deteriorated once more.

Efforts to save him intensified on February 26, with doctors working diligently from 9 am onwards. Oxygen tubes were administered, and attempts were made to stimulate breathing by applying pressure to his heart. Ultimately, despite all efforts, Savarkar passed away at 11:00 am, expressing satisfaction that he had fulfilled all his duties.

In conclusion, the life and legacy of Savarkar stand as a testament to the unwavering spirit of resilience, courage, and patriotism. Through his indomitable resolve and relentless pursuit of freedom, he left an indelible mark on the pages of Indian history. His multifaceted contributions, spanning revolutionary writings to his sacrifices for the nation, continue to inspire generations. As we reflect on his journey, we are reminded of the enduring importance of his ideals in shaping the destiny of a nation and the boundless potential within each of us to strive for a brighter, more just future. Savarkar's legacy serves as a beacon of hope, guiding us towards a tomorrow built on the pillars of unity, integrity, and freedom for all.

## Authored by: ROHAN AMBIKE



### INTERVIEW WITH SATYAKI SAVARKAR: UNVEILING THE LEGACY OF VEER SAVARKAR



Satyaki Savarkar is the grandnephew of freedom fighter Veer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. He has been in the spotlight due to his legal battle against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over alleged defamatory remarks made during a function in London. Rohan Ambike interacts with Satyaki on his views about the recent film on Veer Savarkar, dealing with criticism and more..

Satyaki, thank you for joining us today. Let's delve into the heart of the matter. The film "Swatantra Veer Savarkar," directed by Randeep Hooda, has been a topic of much discussion. What are your thoughts on its portrayal of your great-uncle?

Thank you for having me. The film has certainly ignited curiosity and controversy. As a family member, I appreciate any attempt to illuminate Veer Savarkar's life and legacy. However, I find the movie's approach somewhat reductive. It paints Savarkar as an almost mythical figure, which doesn't capture the full spectrum of his personality. While Randeep Hooda's performance is commendable, the film's relentless vilification of contemporaries like Gandhi and Nehru detracts from its overall impact.

The growing interest in studying Savarkar is undeniable. How do you perceive this trend? Is it crucial for the younger generation to delve into his contributions?

Absolutely. Veer Savarkar played a pivotal role in India's struggle for independence. His ideas, writings, and activism continue to shape our nation's history. However, we must approach his legacy with nuance. It's essential to recognize both his strengths and flaws. By understanding the multifaceted nature of his journey, we gain insights into our past and learn valuable lessons for the future.

In what ways do you believe the study of Veer Savarkar's life can influence contemporary discourse and understanding of Indian history?

The study of Veer Savarkar's life is crucial for understanding the complexities of India's independence movement. His ideas on nationalism, social reform, and his role as a revolutionary thinker continue to be relevant today. By studying Savarkar's life, we can engage in meaningful discussions about the evolution of modern India and the ideological underpinnings of our nationhood.

Let's shift gears. Your legal battle against Rahul Gandhi has garnered attention. Could you elaborate on your perspective?

Certainly. Our legal pursuit stems from Gandhi's remarks about Savarkar. His questioning of Savarkar's role in India's freedom movement was not only factually inaccurate but also disrespectful. I filed a criminal defamation complaint against Rahul Gandhi, seeking justice for my great-uncle's honor.





## INTERVIEW WITH SATYAKI SAVARKAR: UNVEILING THE LEGACY OF VEER SAVARKAR

The case revolves around Gandhi's statements about Savarkar's involvement in an incident where he and his friends allegedly beat up a Muslim and felt delighted about it. A few friends of mine shared the video with me and when I saw the entire video, I felt it was essential that Gandhi should be pulled up leagally. He has been passing comments and remarks that are baseless, untrue and defaming Veer Savarkar. I have already provided all the proofs and even some well-known Savarkar researchers and scholars have provided their statements to the Pune Police. It is under legal process and even if there is any delay, I am committed to preserve his legacy and ensuring historical accuracy. As a family, we felt compelled to defend our ancestor's honor. Our fight isn't just about Savarkar; it's about preserving historical integrity. We owe it to our shared past to ensure that figures like Savarkar are portrayed accurately.



# How do you respond to criticisms or controversies surrounding Veer Savarkar's ideology, particularly regarding issues like Hindutva and his approach to nationalism?

Veer Savarkar was a thinker ahead of his time. His concept of Hindutva was not based on religious fundamentalism but on a cultural and civilizational ethos that emphasized unity and pride in India's heritage. His nationalism was inclusive, advocating for unity among all communities under the Indian identity. While criticisms are inevitable, a deeper study of Savarkar's writings reveals the depth and complexity of his vision for a united India.

## How do you think Veer Savarkar's vision for India resonates with contemporary challenges and aspirations?

Veer Savarkar's vision was rooted in a deep love for India and its people. His emphasis on self-reliance, cultural pride, and national unity remains relevant in today's context. As India navigates through various social, economic, and geopolitical challenges, Savarkar's ideas provide valuable insights and inspiration for shaping our nation's future.

# What message would you like to convey to the younger generation about the significance of studying figures like Veer Savarkar in shaping their understanding of India's history and identity?

I would encourage the younger generation to approach the study of Veer Savarkar's life with an open mind and a critical perspective. His story is not just about the past but offers valuable lessons for the present and future. By understanding the complexities of our history and the diverse ideologies that shaped it, we can contribute meaningfully to building a more enlightened and inclusive society.

## Lastly, what message would you like viewers to take away from "Swatantra Veer Savarkar"?

I hope viewers engage critically with the film. Savarkar's life was marked by courage, controversy, and conviction. Let's celebrate his contributions while acknowledging the complexities. Remember that history isn't black and white; it's a vibrant tapestry woven from diverse threads.





Uday Nirgudkar is an Indian journalist, news anchor, and media personality. He is known for his work in the field of journalism, particularly for his contributions to television news. In an exclusive interview with our Associate Editor, Rohan Ambike, Nirgudkar speaks about his views on the 2024 elections, public sentiment & the elections.

# What are the key issues that you believe will influence the voters in the 2024 general elections?

Narendra Modi has not kept the 2024 elections as it is. He has made a list of the plans for India in 2047 and its implementation. And there is no party which has come out with that kind of roadmap or vision. So, the advantage which BJP has is that they have created a competitive space which is not occupied by any opposition. If we look at the statistics, 96 crore people are eligible for voting, out of which 12 crore of them are firsttime voters. They are such voters, let's call it the Millennial crowd, that crowd has come to vote in large numbers. This crowd has not seen the life before 2000. They were not there back in 1991 when in between the elections, former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated. They were not there when the economic situation in this country was very bad. There was a time when one had to make an STD call from Pune just to talk to their family in Mumbai. The younger generation haven't seen anything of this. So, their issues are very different, their aspirations are very different, their concerns are very different. And to address them, social media influencers will be there, or people working on

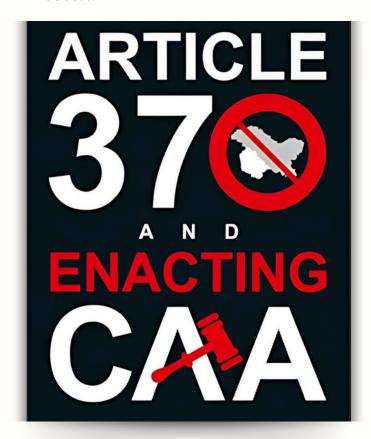
gaming theory will be there.

We are going to live in a world of such new millennials or artificial intelligence. To connect such people, the cleverness and maturity that Modi has shown, unfortunately none of the opposition leaders are close to this. The promise that Ram Mandir will be built, has been kept. And the flip-flop of Congress on this, I feel, is worrying. When the Supreme Court said, Mandir should be built, at that time, Congress said, yes, Mandir should be built. There exists another critical issue: the financial struggle faced by both unemployed individuals and those who have secured employment. Their annual income hovers around 2 to 2.5 lakhs. Moreover, day by day, their livelihood becomes increasingly challenging. The pressing question is how to uplift the income of this socioeconomic class. This challenge looms large over India. The implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) itself poses a formidable obstacle. Education holds the key to transformation. Without addressing educational disparities, the game-changing solution remains elusive. In a populous country like India, where youth constitute the youngest demographic in human history, education becomes the singular focus. It is a matter of utmost concern. Despite debates about democracy and the presence of dictators, one undeniable fact emerges: voter participation. Following the 1975 emergency, an astounding 52-55 crore people exercised their right to vote. Thus, the issue of voter engagement is not a concern at this juncture. Ultimately, the development of India stands as the paramount challenge before millennials and voters alike.



# How do you think the current political climate might affect the voting patterns in the upcoming elections?

When opposition parties assert that they will revisit contentious matters such as the Citizenship Amendment (CAA), the Agni Veer Yojana, and the reinstatement of Article 370, it appears misguided. Specifically, the notion of resurrecting Article 370 seems ill-advised. The current government has already passed Article 370, and it received widespread approval through democratic processes, transcending party lines. It wasn't merely the strength of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP); it was the collective voice of the people expressed through voting. There exists no substantive basis for revisiting Article 370.



The argument lacks merit and fails to resonate with the public. In my opinion, this proposal will not gain traction or resonate with the masses. It's met with absolute indifference from most people. These issues—whether related to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) implementation, the construction of the Ram Mandir, or Article 370—are part of our historical legacy. However, they were not created during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tenure. Instead, they were addressed and resolved during his leadership, prioritizing the nation's interests. In summary, revisiting Article 370 seems futile. India's focus should remain on addressing present challenges and building a prosperous future. Legacy issues, while important, should not hinder progress.

# What role do you think social media and digital campaigns will play in these elections?

In contemporary times, social media undeniably wields considerable influence, prompting every politician, political leader, and party to enlist a digital army. However, its impact hinges on its alignment with reality and genuine public sentiment; otherwise, reliance solely on social media propaganda can lead to adverse consequences. While social media accounts for 49% of the electoral landscape, the remaining 51% is shaped by the party's diligence, adherence to ideology, organizational strength, interpersonal connections, and integrity of its representatives. Despite the pivotal role of digital campaigns, traditional groundwork, and personal outreach remain indispensable, akin to the necessity of both an electric bulb and its corresponding power source. As we approach the elections, this dynamic is exceptionally significant, as voters scrutinize candidates with their careers and concerns hanging in the balance. Their discernment underscores the imperative for politicians to engage earnestly and substantively with the electorate beyond the realm of social media.





# What are your thoughts on the election forecast models? How accurate have they been historically?

Evaluating election forecast models isn't straightforward task in our context, unlike the more homogeneous landscape of America. Here, linguistic, and ideological diversity prevails, with each state and constituency serving as distinct case studies. Consequently, the clarity of research objectives and the integrity of methodology are paramount. Without transparent objectives and an unadulterated approach, doubts linger over the credibility of results and the legitimacy of opinion polls and forecasting techniques. It's akin to conducting a survey for a ticket without including the candidate's name-how can a fair assessment be made? Moreover, considerations such as sampling size and methodology are pivotal. A robust sample size of around 1.5 to 1.7 lakhs, coupled with diverse sampling techniques like stratified, random, or quota sampling, ensures reliability. Equally crucial is the formulation of the questionnaire, which should encompass deep, focused inquiries and varied response formats to elicit genuine responses. Ultimately, assessing forecast accuracy involves a nuanced examination, considering factors like exit polls-a definitive tool in forecasting methodologies. Relying on these polls, conducted as voters exit polling stations, provides invaluable insights into electoral outcomes. Thus, in navigating the intricacies of election forecasting, transparency, methodological rigor, and reliance on comprehensive tools like exit polls are indispensable.

## Can you comment on the importance of swing states in the 2024 elections?

As a political analyst, I'd highlight the crucial role swing states play in shaping the outcome of elections, particularly in a diverse and complex democracy like India. Swing states are those regions where the electoral outcome is uncertain, and political parties must compete vigorously to secure victory. The importance of swing states lies in their ability to tilt the electoral balance in favour of one party or another. Political parties keenly strategize their campaigns and policies to resonate with the concerns and aspirations of voters in these crucial regions. Furthermore, swing states often serve as bellwethers for broader trends in the electorate, providing insights into shifting political landscapes and emerging voter preferences. As such, they command the attention of political analysts and pundits seeking to decipher the pulse of the nation. In the lead-up to the

2024 elections, understanding the dynamics of swing states will be paramount for political parties seeking to secure a mandate. Factors such as regional issues, demographic composition, and historical voting patterns will all influence the electoral calculus in these pivotal battlegrounds.

# Lastly, what would be your advice to the voters as they prepare to vote in the 2024 general elections?

You must vote and vote fearlessly. Keep the freebies out of voting. Freebies dent the economy. The 2024 elections are crucial for India's future. Voters must recognize that their choices will impact policies, governance, and the nation's trajectory. Beyond party affiliations, delve into candidates' track records, competence, and vision. Scrutinize party manifestos for practical solutions, not just promises. Vote based on issues, not identity, and reject divisive narratives. Uphold the integrity of elections by avoiding inducements or bribes. Encourage eligible citizens to register and cast their ballots. Seek leaders who prioritize public welfare, transparency, and accountability. Remember that every vote matters, and collective action strengthens democracy. Wear your voter badge with pride, celebrate the democratic process, and stay informed beyond voting day. Let's approach the 2024 elections with a sense of responsibility, critical thinking, and hope. Our collective choices will define India's path ahead.







#### 3ioNetra: Temple Management Platform

#### What are the core objectives of 3ioNetra?

3ioNetra aims to facilitate the digitalization journey of religious entities. We empower temples and trusts with technological solutions such as websites for online donations and booking of sevas, ERP software for managing income and expenses, mobile apps to replace manual record-keeping, and communication platforms to stay connected with devotees through channels like WhatsApp, SMS, and email.

# In this digital age, why are many temples still managing their day-to-day operations using legacy software or manual books?

Many temples and trusts are now realizing that there are dedicated and curated digital solutions available for them. Despite the availability of numerous companies and startups in India, none have focused on temples and trusts until now. Recognizing the untapped potential of this market and its unique challenges is essential. As more companies develop products and engage in marketing efforts, the adoption of digital solutions within temples and trusts is expected to increase.



## How does 3ioNetra assist in compliance management for trusts/temples with 80G status?

3ioNetra has developed a system to ensure compliance. When receiving any donation, our system captures the PAN number and mandatory details of the donors. We assist temples in generating the 10BD form/excel file, which they can upload to the government website. Once uploaded, the government site provides 10BE certificates for every donation made to the temple. 3ioNetra facilitates the distribution of these certificates to all donors via WhatsApp and email.

## What is the core USP of 3ioNetra, and how does it differentiate itself from competitors?

The core USP of 3ioNetra is providing an integrated platform for temples and trusts. Our solution combines a website, ERP software, and a mobile app, all working seamlessly together. By utilizing the ERP software, temples can manage their entire technological infrastructure and generate consolidated reports necessary for day-to-day operations.





## How does 3ioNetra assist temples and trusts in reconciliation?

3ioNetra offers an integrated platform where payment gateways and bank reports are seamlessly integrated into the ERP software. All digital transactions, whether conducted through the website or in person via POS, are automatically ingested into the ERP software. This automation allows for the generation of consolidated transaction reports, settlement reports, and autoreconciliation reports for the temples.

## How does 3ioNetra help temples accept digital payments at their counters?

3ioNetra has partnered with payment gateways such as Razorpay and Worldline to provide POS solutions to temples. Dynamic QR code solutions or POS terminals are provided to accept payments via UPI and cards from devotees. These devices are integrated with the ERP, ensuring that transaction details are automatically captured, thus avoiding manual errors during data entry.

# Since many temples in South India base their seva bookings on the Panchangam, does 3ioNetra provide this feature?

Yes, 3ioNetra's ERP system includes a feature for temples to upload their Panchangam. Temples can upload an Excel file containing Tithi, Paksha, Masa, Nikshatra, and their corresponding English calendar dates. Based on this information, devotees can book sevas.

# Do temples with smaller counters for ladoo distribution, luggage, or chappal counters have a solution provided by 3ioNetra?

Yes, 3ioNetra offers a POS-based solution for temples with smaller counters. Recognizing the difficulty of deploying dedicated PCs or laptops due to increased management and setup costs, we have developed a handheld POS device solution. These POS devices are equipped with the 3ioNetra app, allowing counter personnel to enter the quantity and amount received from devotees. Receipts can be provided instantly, and these POS devices are integrated with the ERP, providing real-time reports to administrators and accounting teams.

## How does 3ioNetra help temples connect with devotees and donors?

At a fundamental level, 3ioNetra addresses two primary issues for temples, leading to improved donations and seva bookings:

Many devotees migrate from villages to cities for employment, making it difficult for them to visit temples or book sevas regularly. 3ioNetra empowers temples with websites to accept online donations and seva bookings, catering to devotees across India who are unable to physically visit the temple.

With the increasing trend of cashless transactions, many devotees prefer digital payment options. 3ioNetra enables temples with digital payment solutions, allowing them to accept more digital payments from devotees who do not carry cash.



FOUNDER: SHARAD KAMATH





## Wisdom of the Ages: Pune's Educational Legacy

## Tracing Pune's Pedagogic Roots:

From Gurukuls to Royal Patronage, Unveiling Medieval Education.



Nestled in the heart of Maharashtra, Pune boasts a storied past as an educational epicentre. From its inception as a centre of learning in the medieval era to its evolution into a modern hub of academic excellence, Pune's educational institutions have played a pivotal role in shaping the city's landscape and the intellectual fabric of India.



#### Education in the Medieval Era

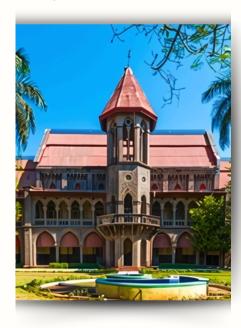
During the medieval era, Pune's educational landscape thrived as a vibrant centre of knowledge and scholarship under the patronage of Maratha rulers and local dynasties. The city attracted scholars, intellectuals, and students from far and wide, fostering a rich tradition of learning deeply rooted in traditional Indian knowledge systems.

Education in Pune during this period encompassed a wide range of disciplines, including Sanskrit literature, philosophy, astrology, and mathematics. Ved Pathashalas, supported by the Peshwas and local nobility, played a crucial role in imparting education based on Vedic principles and scriptures. These institutions received royal patronage, facilitating their growth and expansion.

Gurukuls, or traditional residential schools led by learned gurus, provided a holistic education beyond academic subjects, including moral, ethical, and spiritual teachings.

Alongside academic pursuits, martial training and physical education were integral components of education in medieval Pune. Shivaji Maharaj's emphasis on military prowess and bravery instilled a sense of discipline and martial spirit among the youth, shaping the ethos of Pune's educational institutions.

Pune's position as a cultural melting pot facilitated the exchange of ideas and knowledge among diverse communities and social groups. This cultural synthesis enriched Pune's educational landscape, fostering a pluralistic approach to learning and intellectual inquiry.





## WISDOM OF THE AGES: PUNE'S EDUCATIONAL LEGACY

#### **British Colonial Influence**

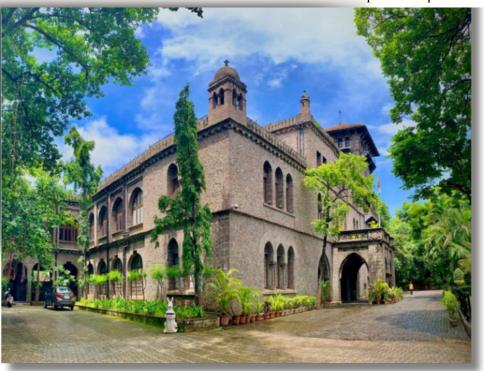
British colonial rule ushered in significant changes in Pune's educational landscape. Establishing missionary schools and introducing English-medium education differed from traditional learning methods. The prestigious Deccan College, founded in 1821, emerged as a pioneering institution for higher education, offering courses in arts, sciences, and Oriental studies

However, the colonial education system was criticized for emphasizing rote learning and neglecting indigenous knowledge. Visionaries like Mahatma Jyotirao Phule and Savitribai Phule challenged social norms by advocating for inclusive education and women's empowerment. Their pioneering efforts led to the establishment of the first school for girls in Pune, laying the foundation for progressive educational reforms.

became synonymous with academic excellence and intellectual freedom.

The founding of the University of Pune (now Savitribai Phule Pune University) in 1949 marked a milestone in Pune's journey towards becoming an educational hub. With its sprawling campus and wide range of academic disciplines, the university emerged as a beacon of higher learning in Western India.

The post-independence era also witnessed the establishment of specialized institutions in Pune, including the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) and the National Institute of Virology (NIV), contributing to advancements in medical research and public health. Furthermore, emergence as a centre for IT and technology spurred the development of premier engineering and management institutes like the College of Engineering, Pune (COEP), and the Symbiosis International University, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship.



#### The Modern Era and 20th Century

The 20th Century was a transformative period in Pune's educational landscape, characterized by the proliferation of schools, colleges, and universities catering to diverse fields of study. Institutions such as Fergusson College, established in 1885,

In recent years, Pune has continued to evolve as a knowledge hub, with the proliferation of international schools, vocational training centres, and research institutes catering to students' diverse needs. The city's educational ecosystem thrives on its dynamic blend of tradition and innovation, offering opportunities for holistic growth and intellectual exploration.



#### **Education in the 21st Century**

In 21st-century Pune, educational institutions are leading the charge in innovation and adaptation to cater to the evolving needs of students in an interconnected world. Today, classrooms have transformed into dynamic spaces where interactive whiteboards and virtual reality experiences enhance learning, fostering more profound understanding and retention.

Blended learning models blur the lines between traditional and online instruction, offering students flexibility and autonomy to engage with course materials at their own pace. Stemming from this shift, Pune is witnessing a resurgence in STEM education, equipping students with vital skills and real-world experience to thrive in the digital age.

Moreover, emphasis is placed on holistic skill development, nurturing critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration, which are essential for success in today's complex world. Ultimately, education in 21st-century Pune focuses on cultivating lifelong learners who are agile, adaptable, and prepared to drive innovation and change in a rapidly evolving global landscape.

#### Conclusion

As Pune mayes towards the future, its educational institutions are monuments to the enduring spirit of inquiry and enlightenment. From ancient seats of learning to modern centres of excellence, Pune's academic legacy serves as a testament to the transformative power of education in shaping societies and nurturing human potential.





### **Gaming Through Time Console Evolution**

#### Unveiling the Epic Journey of Video Game Consoles - A Peek into Gaming's **Evolution for Insider View** Readers

The history of video game consoles is a testament to humanity's relentless pursuit of innovation and creativity. From the humble beginnings of pixelated sprites to the immersive virtual worlds of today, gaming alongside technological evolved advancements, captivating players of all ages. In this article, we'll embark on a journey through the evolution of video game consoles, exploring the pivotal role of technology in shaping the gaming landscape. Furthermore, we'll delve into the exciting possibilities of the future with the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into gaming experiences.



#### The Early Days of Consoles

In the early 1970's, video game consoles emerged as novel entertainment devices, offering simple yet addictive gameplay experiences. Systems like the Magnavox Odyssey and the Atari 2600 introduced players to the world of interactive entertainment, albeit with rudimentary graphics and limited processing power. In an era where the digital world was but a whisper of what it is today, these pioneering devices stood as beacons of innovation, defying the limitations of their time. While their technological constraints may seem primitive by contemporary standards, they laid the very bedrock upon which the sprawling edifice of the gaming industry was erected. With every flicker of pixelated graphics and every beep of

> primitive sound, these consoles ignited the imaginations of players worldwide, sparking a fervent passion for interactive entertainment that continues to

Indeed, in an age where technology was still in its infancy, these early consoles were nothing short of revolutionary. Their humble origins and modest capabilities belied the seismic impact they would have on the trajectory of human leisure. Through their simplicity, they beckoned players into a world of endless possibility, laying the foundation for the dazzling array of gaming experiences that would follow in the decades to come.



In retrospect, their significance cannot be overstated, for they not only entertained, but also inspired generations of innovators to push the boundaries of what was thought possible in the digital realm.

#### The Rise of Technological **Titans**

The 1990's marked a watershed moment in the evolution of video game consoles, as technological advancements propelled gaming into the mainstream. Systems like the Sony PlayStation and the Nintendo 64 introduced 3D graphics, CD-ROM storage, advanced processing capabilities, revolutionizing the gaming experience. With each new generation of consoles, technological innovations pushed boundaries of what was possible in gaming, captivating players with immersive visuals and engaging gameplay mechanics.

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### GAMING THROUGH TIME CONSOLE EVOLUTION

#### **Embracing AI in Gaming**

As we look to the future of video game consoles, the integration of artificial intelligence promises to revolutionize gaming experiences in profound ways. AI technologies, such as machine learning and natural language processing, have the potential to transform game design, character interactions, and player experiences. Imagine playing a game where AI-controlled characters adapt to your playstyle, learning from your actions and responding in real-time to provide dynamic and personalized challenges.



AI-driven algorithms can also enhance game mechanics, from dynamic difficulty adjustments to procedural content generation. Developers are increasingly leveraging AI-powered tools to streamline game development, automate testing

processes, and create realistic graphics and animations. With AI at the forefront of innovation, the possibilities for future gaming experiences are limitless, offering unprecedented levels of immersion, interactivity, and engagement.

## The Future of Gaming with AI

As we peer into the horizon of gaming, the convergence of artificial intelligence (AI) with video game consoles heralds a transformative era of unparalleled immersion and interactivity. Virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) technologies, when coupled with AI-driven algorithms, hold the promise of transcending the boundaries between the digital and the tangible, whisking players away to realms of boundless imagination.

Picture yourself donning a VR headset and stepping into a meticulously crafted virtual world, where AI-powered non-playable characters (NPCs) await your every interaction. Gone are the days of scripted responses and predictable behaviors; instead, these digital denizens possess an uncanny ability to perceive and respond to your emotions in real-time. Whether it's a subtle change in your tone or a fleeting expression on your face, the AI algorithms behind these NPCs adapt on the fly, crafting a bespoke experience that resonates with your individual sensibilities. From empathetic allies to cunning adversaries, these AI-driven characters breathe life into the virtual landscape, blurring the line between fiction and reality with each nuanced interaction.

But the future of gaming extends beyond the confines of virtual realms, spilling out into the tangible world through the lens of augmented reality. Imagine strolling through your neighbourhood, vour surroundings transformed into a vibrant tapestry of digital delights through the magic of AR technology. From whimsical creatures frolicking in the park to hidden treasures awaiting discovery in your local coffee shop, every corner becomes a playground of interactive wonders. With AR games seamlessly blending digital content with the physical environment, the world around you becomes a canvas for exploration, adventure, and discovery. Whether you're embarking on a quest to save the world or simply engaging in friendly competition with fellow explorers, the possibilities are as limitless as your imagination.

Indeed, the future of gaming with AI is a tantalizing tapestry of innovation, where the boundaries between the virtual and the real dissolve in a symphony of immersive experiences. With each passing day, developers are pushing the envelope of what's possible, harnessing the full potential of AI to craft gaming experiences that are not only intelligent and interactive but also deeply personal and emotionally resonant. As we journey forth into this brave new world of gaming, one thing is abundantly clear: the adventure has only just begun.

#### Conclusion

As we reflect on the evolution of video game consoles, it's clear that technological advancements have played a pivotal role in shaping the gaming landscape. From humble beginnings to the cutting-edge experiences of today, video game consoles continue to push the boundaries of what's possible in With interactive entertainment. integration of AI, the future of gaming promises even more immersive, intelligent, and personalized experiences that will captivate players for generations to come. As technology continues to evolve, one thing is certain the future of video games is brighter than ever before.



### ESG REPORTING UNVEILED: HOW SMES CAN EMBRACE SUSTAINABILITY AND OVERCOME REPORTING CHALLENGES



## ESG Reporting Unveiled: How SMEs can embrace sustainability and overcome reporting challenges

In the contemporary business landscape, sustainability and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) factors have become crucial for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). It has emerged as a necessity and no longer a fad.



Small and medium businesses contribute significantly to the country's economic growth in India and globally. The increasing global participation of SMEs in trade is imperative to embracing sustainability for Environmental, growth. social, governance (ESG) reporting has become crucial, with SMEs acknowledging the need align operations with local and international laws. A survey by DBS and Bloomberg revealed that 92% of Indian SME business leaders consider ESG a vital requirement for their companies. It includes collaboration with vendors, suppliers, and customers, serving as a robust driver for increased ESG adoption.

#### Why is it important?

Adopting ESG reporting standards and sustainability practices enhances SMEs' reputation and brand value. Demonstrating a commitment to ethical business conduct, environmental stewardship, and social responsibility builds trust among stakeholders. Consumers also increasingly favour businesses with a positive environmental impact.



Investors, including big-ticket venture capitalists and private equity firms, are placing greater emphasis on ESG factors in decision-making. Financial institutions and funds are integrating ESG criteria into their lending and investment decisions. As consumers shop from environmentally and socially conscious businesses, SMEs aligned with these values can capture a growing customer base.

Proactive risk management contributes to long-term business resilience and can prevent financial losses. Implementation of sustainable practices often leads to increased operational efficiency and cost reduction. Notably, more markets and industries mandate adherence to specific ESG standards for access. By adopting ESG reporting, SMEs ensure compliance with regulatory requirements, positioning themselves for entry into markets with stringent sustainability criteria.

#### **Overcoming Challenges**

Despite the clear benefits, they are many challenges. SMEs grapple with restricted financial and human resources, posing a substantial challenge to investing in sustainable practices. It also hinders the implementation of environmentally friendly initiatives, creating a barrier to sustainable development.

SMEs frequently prioritise short-term gains over long-term sustainability objectives. The pressure to deliver immediate results can lead to a neglect of environmentally friendly practices.

Keeping pace with constantly evolving local and international regulations requires dedicated effort and resources. Failure to stay compliant can result in legal ramifications and reputational damage. They also face issues with efficient data collection and management. Limited resources may impede the establishment of robust systems, hindering the accurate gathering and organisation of data for comprehensive sustainability reporting. The costs involved in adopting reporting frameworks and implementing measures strain the financial resources of smaller businesses.



## ESG REPORTING UNVEILED: HOW SMES CAN EMBRACE SUSTAINABILITY AND OVERCOME REPORTING CHALLENGES

Many SMEs also need dedicated sustainability professionals within their workforce. The absence of expertise makes it tricky to navigate the complexities of sustainability reporting effectively and hinders the accurate measurement and reporting of sustainability metrics. The lack of standardised reporting frameworks poses a significant challenge.

#### Fixing the challenges

Many SMEs also need dedicated sustainability professionals within their workforce. The absence of expertise makes it tricky to navigate the complexities of sustainability reporting effectively and hinders the accurate measurement and reporting of sustainability metrics. The lack of standardised reporting frameworks poses a significant challenge.

Collaborative efforts are needed to fix this. Governments, industry associations, and nonprofit organisations can offer financial incentives, subsidies, or grants to SMEs adopting sustainable practices. Additionally, fostering partnerships between SMEs can allow for shared resources, creating a collective approach towards sustainability. Governments, industry associations, and environmental organisations should spearhead educational initiatives and awareness programs. Providing accessible and targeted training materials, workshops, and seminars can empower SMEs with the knowledge and understanding to recognise the benefits of sustainability and integrate environmentally friendly practices. Governments can provide tax incentives or regulatory frameworks reward sustainable practices. Industry associations can promote the long-term benefits sustainability, helping SMEs see the value beyond immediate financial returns.

Government bodies and industry associations should simplify and streamline sustainability regulations for SMEs. Support mechanisms, such as online resources, training programs, and consultation services, can assist SMEs in understanding and adhering to evolving sustainability regulations.

Standardised and user-friendly tools can be developed for data collection and management. Additionally, providing training programmes or subsidies for adopting data management systems can ease the challenges.



Collaborative efforts among industry associations to create shared reporting platforms or resources can mitigate individual reporting expenses. Tie-ups between educational institutions and industry associations can develop tailored training modules and certification programmers for SMEs.

Industry associations can work towards establishing clear and concise standardised reporting frameworks for SMEs. Providing guidance documents, workshops, and support channels can assist SMEs in navigating the complexities of reporting standards.

## The importance of accountants

It is crucial to highlight the pivotal role of professional accountants in navigating SMEs through the intricacies of sustainability reporting. Their expertise ensures high-quality integrated information, encompassing sustainability-related and financial aspects. The sustainability reporting cycle entails eight stages, commencing with allocating responsibilities within the organizations and

extending to establishing reporting frameworks, identifying material information, transparent data collection, reporting, external verification. governance iterative enhancement, and ongoing improvements.



A systematic roadmap ensures a comprehensive and accountable approach to sustainability reporting. It guides organisations in transparently communicating their environmental, social, and governance efforts while fostering continuous improvement and long-term value creation.

A holistic approach allows stakeholders to comprehensively assess an organisation's sustainability, facilitating the development of equitable business strategies and value creation. SMEs must embrace sustainability as guided by professional accountants through a well-structured reporting cycle.

Sustainability is now about building a resilient and responsible business model. A collective endeavour towards sustainability promises long-term benefits for businesses, society, and the planet, reinforcing the importance of SMEs in this global movement.

Authored by: **SUNDEEP JAKHAR** Head of Public Affairs – India, ACCA





sector.

#### Sundeep Jakhar, Head of Public Affairs – India, ACCA



Sundeep's experience also includes managerial roles with top global financial institutions such as MUFG Bank and American Express. In these roles, he demonstrated expertise in banking operations, risk management, compliance, and international trade. He began his career as an Associate with EY, where he gained rich experience in consulting while advising MNCs on tax and regulatory matters in India. Throughout his journey, Sundeep has been recognized for his proficiency in developing business strategies, fostering thought leadership, and driving growth. With a passion for advancing public policy and advocating for the financial sector, he continues to make significant contributions to the industry's success.

He holds an MBA in Finance and a Bachelor of Commerce with Honours from Delhi University. Furthermore, he has earned various certifications from prestigious institutions including Oxford University, The Wharton School, and Columbia Business School.





### LEADING FROM THE FRONT: INDIA'S GREEN CREDIT PROGRAM



#### Leading from the front: India's Green Credit Program

India's Green Credit Program holds the promise of fundamentally altering the landscape of environmental sustainability as it aligns economic incentives with ecological objectives, promoting societal unity and economic progress. This aggressively puts across India's approach towards sustainable development, which has always been spoken on international forums. India has always lead from the front on all environmental aspects and this is one of them, as its vast base of private segment and communities get exposed to this credit program. This program will further help in shaping environmental transformations and sustainability due to its inclusivity as well.

A standout feature of the Green Credit Program lies in its capability to transform sustainable behaviors into valuable economic assets. Participants accrue green credits for verified environmental initiatives such as afforestation, water conservation, waste management, and adopting renewable energy. These credits are exchangeable in a marketplace, offering financial incentives for their contributions. This market-driven approach directly translates sustainable actions into economic rewards, rendering environmental stewardship financially appealing.

The Green Credit Program's inclusivity is a pivotal factor that could redefine environmental efforts. By engaging individuals, communities, and businesses, the program cultivates a culture of sustainability on a widespread scale. Eco friendly activities that would be encouraged at several levels are reducing waste,

conserving water, planting trees. People can also come together forming partnerships to form urban green spaces, managing waste and demanding clean energy solutions. Entrepreneurs would also be suggested to to integrate sustainability into their operations, thereby reducing carbon footprints, promoting biodiversity, and investing in renewable energy sources. This broad participation ensures that environmental responsibility permeates all levels of society, magnifying program's the impact significantly.



To promote Green Credit program, it can be synergised with the CSR, which will help the company to embrace sustainable practices under this program. Acceptance of this will boost the use of practises which shall result in reductions in industrial pollution and carbon emissions, thereby contributing significantly to environmental preservation efforts.



The Green Credit Program is in harmony with the Indian government's plan to achieve the environmental objectives, which encompass commitments to the Paris Agreement and national sustainability targets. If proven effective, the Green Credit Program has the potential to become a blueprint for other nations grappling with comparable environmental dilemmas.

Authored by

PRATIK C. THAKUR

A Multifaceted
personality who
functions as a
Journalist,
Environmentalists
and an Entrepreneur!











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current for existing pools



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