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MAGAZINE

COMMITTED TO PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES OF WHAT'S POSSIBLE IN OUR CONNECTED WORLD

by Ninad Raje
Group CIO
Jaquar & Company

THE BOY FROM JHARSUGUDA WHO CODED HIS WAY TO GLOBAL INFLUENCE

by Nirakar Patel
Founder & CEO
Ideazin

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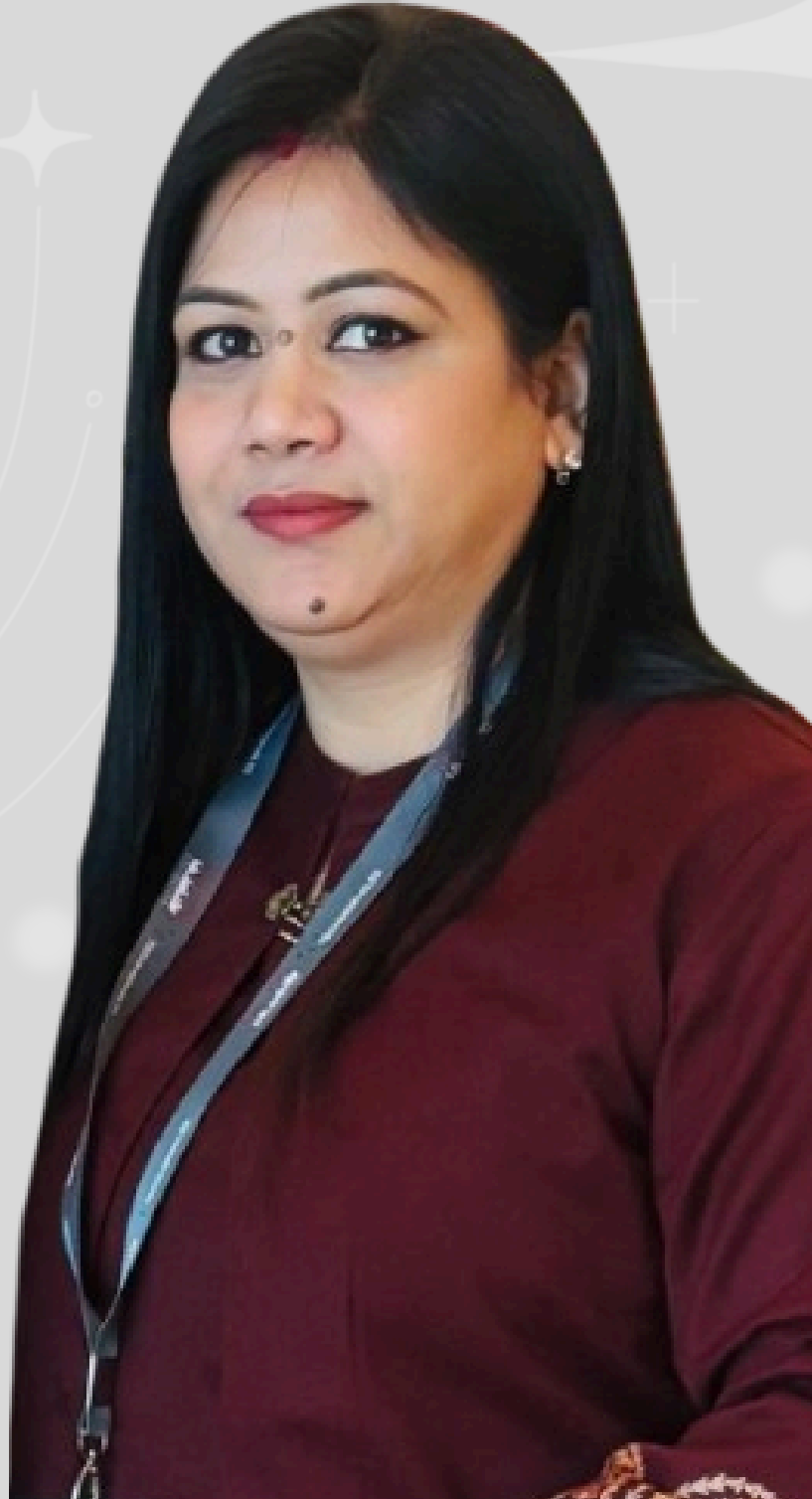**SPECIALIZE IN IMPLEMENTING**

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ARATI SINGH

Editor-in-Chief

In the ever-evolving corporate landscape, where leadership, innovation, and strategic vision shape the future, CXOWords stands as a platform that amplifies the voices of industry leaders. Our mission is to bring insightful narratives, transformative business strategies, and inspiring leadership journeys to the forefront, creating a knowledge-driven ecosystem for professionals across industries.

In this edition, we delve into the stories of visionaries who are redefining business excellence, embracing digital transformation, and leading with resilience in an increasingly complex world. From thought leadership articles to expert opinions and case studies, CXOWords curates content that empowers, educates, and inspires the next generation of corporate leaders

Ninad Raje

Group CIO, Jaquar & Company

Committed to pushing the boundaries of what's possible in our connected world

In the dynamic and often chaotic world of technology, a select few leaders stand out not just for their technical prowess, but for their ability to fuse strategic vision with tangible, high-octane impact. Ninad Raje is one such individual. As a Group CIO and Transformation Officer, he is a rare breed of executive—a professional who doesn't just manage technology but fundamentally reshapes businesses from the inside out. His philosophy is clear and uncompromising: to build cloud-first, AI-enabled, and secure enterprises that deliver speed, resilience, and measurable outcomes. With a career spanning over 28 years, Raje has

not simply witnessed the digital revolution; he has been a key driver of it, steering some of India's most prominent companies through profound, end-to-end transformations.

A proud alumnus of IIM Ahmedabad, Raje brings a unique blend of academic rigor and on-the-ground, global

experience across a diverse range of sectors, including Manufacturing, BFSI, Insurance, Media, Healthcare, and Technology. This cross-industry exposure has given him a panoramic view of business challenges and opportunities, enabling him to identify patterns and solutions that others might miss. He operates on the

principle that technology's sole purpose is to serve and move the business forward. This isn't about implementing the latest fad; it's about a deep, structural overhaul simplifying complex architectures, unlocking the power of data for smarter decisions, and securing the enterprise at its very core. Worked in the U.S. for several years.

Raje's impact is not just theoretical; it is etched into the success stories of several companies. He has been the leader and architect behind their journeys from nascent operations to becoming recognized as "Best Asian Brands." As an Executive Council member, his strategic insights have been instrumental in propelling companies to multi-million-dollar valuations, a testament to his ability to connect technology strategy directly to bottom-line results. He embodies a transformative mindset that is less about incremental improvement and more about radical, value-driven change.

Translating Vision into Reality: The Strategist's Playbook

What truly sets Ninad Raje apart, and what his peers and partners consistently laud, is his rare capacity to bridge the gap between high-level strategy and practical execution. A common pitfall in corporate strategy is the creation of a multi-year

roadmap that looks impressive on paper but never truly "ships." Raje's expertise lies in developing roadmaps that are not just ambitious but are meticulously planned for successful, on-time delivery. He has the intellectual honesty to ask the tough questions and the leadership skills to guide a team through the complexities of a long-term plan.

This is a leader who masterfully balances innovation with the realities of risk, cost, and regulatory requirements. In an environment where companies are under immense pressure to innovate at breakneck speed, Raje provides the steady hand that ensures new initiatives are not only pioneering but also secure, compliant, and fiscally responsible. He understands that genuine innovation is sustainable only when it is built on a foundation of trust and integrity.

Central to his success is his talent for building high-trust teams and

vendor ecosystems. Technology transformation is never a solo mission; it requires a collective effort of talent, both internal and external. Raje has a reputation for fostering environments where teams feel empowered and where vendor relationships are built on a foundation of mutual trust and shared goals, leading to superior and more efficient outcomes.

Perhaps his most valuable skill, however, is his ability to communicate with boards and business leaders in outcomes, not acronyms. In a world where IT leaders often speak in a language of technical jargon, Raje is a master translator. He articulates technology's value in the language of business—revenue growth, operational efficiency, market resilience, and competitive advantage. This powerful skill ensures that the technology function is never seen as a cost center, but as a strategic partner in driving the business forward.

Engineering a Future-Ready Foundation

The core of Ninad Raje's transformative work lies in building robust, future-ready technology foundations. He has a hands-on understanding of the critical pillars that support a modern enterprise, evidenced by his work in several key areas.

- **Cloud & Data:** Raje is a pioneer in building scalable and secure cloud and data foundations. He recognized early on that a cloud-first approach was essential for accelerating innovation and enabling faster, data-driven decisions. His work in this area has not just migrated systems but transformed the way companies operate, providing the agility needed to compete in a rapidly changing market.

- **SAP & Core Systems:** He has been a leader in simplifying complex global processes through the strategic implementation of core systems like SAP. By streamlining operations at scale, he has unlocked new levels of automation and efficiency, allowing businesses to focus on growth rather than administrative burdens.

- **AI & Analytics:** A firm believer in the power of intelligence, Raje has embedded AI and analytics across various business functions. Whether it's optimizing operations and supply chains or enhancing sales and service, he has leveraged data to deliver measurable growth and a clear return on investment.

- **Cybersecurity:** In an increasingly connected world, Raje has championed a Zero Trust, identity-first strategy to safeguard corporate assets. His proactive approach to cybersecurity ensures that businesses are not only compliant but also resilient against evolving threats.

- **Ways of Working:** He has redefined how technology teams operate by implementing modern methodologies such as product-based delivery, platform SRE (Site Reliability Engineering), and value-focused execution. This shift has maximized speed, agility, and ROI, making the technology function a true engine of business value.

The Legacy of a Transformation Leader

Raje's commitment to innovation is perhaps best demonstrated by his track record of pioneering six tech-enabled products, each of which achieved a billion-dollar valuation and a staggering one million active customers. This is a monumental Raje's commitment to innovation is perhaps best demonstrated by his track record of pioneering six tech-enabled products, each of which achieved a billion-dollar valuation and a staggering one million active customers. This is a monumental feat that underscores his ability to turn bold ideas into market-leading realities. His leadership is not confined to the boardroom; he has successfully led expansive matrixed teams on a global scale, navigating the complexities of organizational change and cultural shifts to execute intricate transformations.

His remarkable contributions have not gone unnoticed. Raje has received numerous honors and accolades, including being named **The CIO of the Year** in Europe and **Technocrat of the Year** amongst 6 SAARC Nations. Also, he has been honoured as **'The Most Intelligent CIO'** and included in India's **'Wall of Fame**.' These awards are a testament to his impact and the high regard in which he is held by his peers and the industry at large.

Nirakar Patel
Founder & CEO, Ideazin

The Boy from Jharsuguda Who Coded His Way to Global Influence

Born and brought up in the industrious yet humble town of Jharsuguda, Odisha, Nirakar Patel's story is not just one of talent, but of relentless passion, self-belief, and a desire to change the digital landscape. From early on, Nirakar demonstrated a curiosity about how things work—be it technology, people, or systems. With minimal access to advanced resources and mentorship, he began teaching himself coding, design, and digital skills using borrowed devices and internet cafes. What set him apart wasn't just his thirst for knowledge, but the vision to create impact beyond borders.

A Self-Made Technopreneur

Today, Nirakar Patel is known not only as a tech entrepreneur but also as a visionary in the realm of digital products, ethical hacking, content creation, and educational tech. He is the founder and CEO of IDEAZIN, a tech startup that provides innovative solutions in web development, generative AI tools, and digital infrastructure.

Through IDEAZIN, he has launched products like:

Futegpt – a generative AI chatbot Infinity Image Generator – an AI-powered image creation tool Vyantra – QR Code Generator. He also reimagined an earlier venture, unhouse.in, integrating it into unhouse.ideazin.com, merging community learning with digital real estate and creator economy innovation.

Luk: The Programming Language for the Future

One of his most visionary projects is Luk, an interpreted programming language he is building using Rust. Luk is designed to be as simple as Python but more intuitive for beginners and those entering the field of AI and data science. This project reflects Nirakar's belief that coding should be inclusive and accessible—especially for learners in small towns like his own.

Content Creator & Influencer

On Instagram and YouTube, Nirakar built a personal brand rooted in authenticity. He shares coding tips, startup stories, personal vlogs, and motivational content, all designed to inspire other small-town dreamers like him. His transparency, relatability, and depth have earned him not just followers, but a community.

He was also featured in Indigo's "No Filter Season 2", where he made it to the student ambassador leaderboard and National Geographic highlights, representing the voice of India's young creators from small towns.

Grounded in Values

Despite his rapid rise, Nirakar remains deeply connected to his roots. He often works amidst nature, combining his love for the outdoors with the clarity it brings to his work. He advocates for ethical tech practices, inclusive education, and the power of regional representation in global platforms.

His work has extended to school initiatives, public speaking, and even anchoring school programs like Teacher's Day and Sambalpuri Day, showcasing his belief that leadership begins at home.

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