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INDIA  
TODAY

# HOME

NOVEMBER 2019

## INSIDE

A CONTEMPORARY  
HYDERABAD HOME

## IN CONVERSATION

WITH CELEBRATED  
ARCHITECT  
VERENDRA WAKHLOO

# EARTHY ELEGANCE

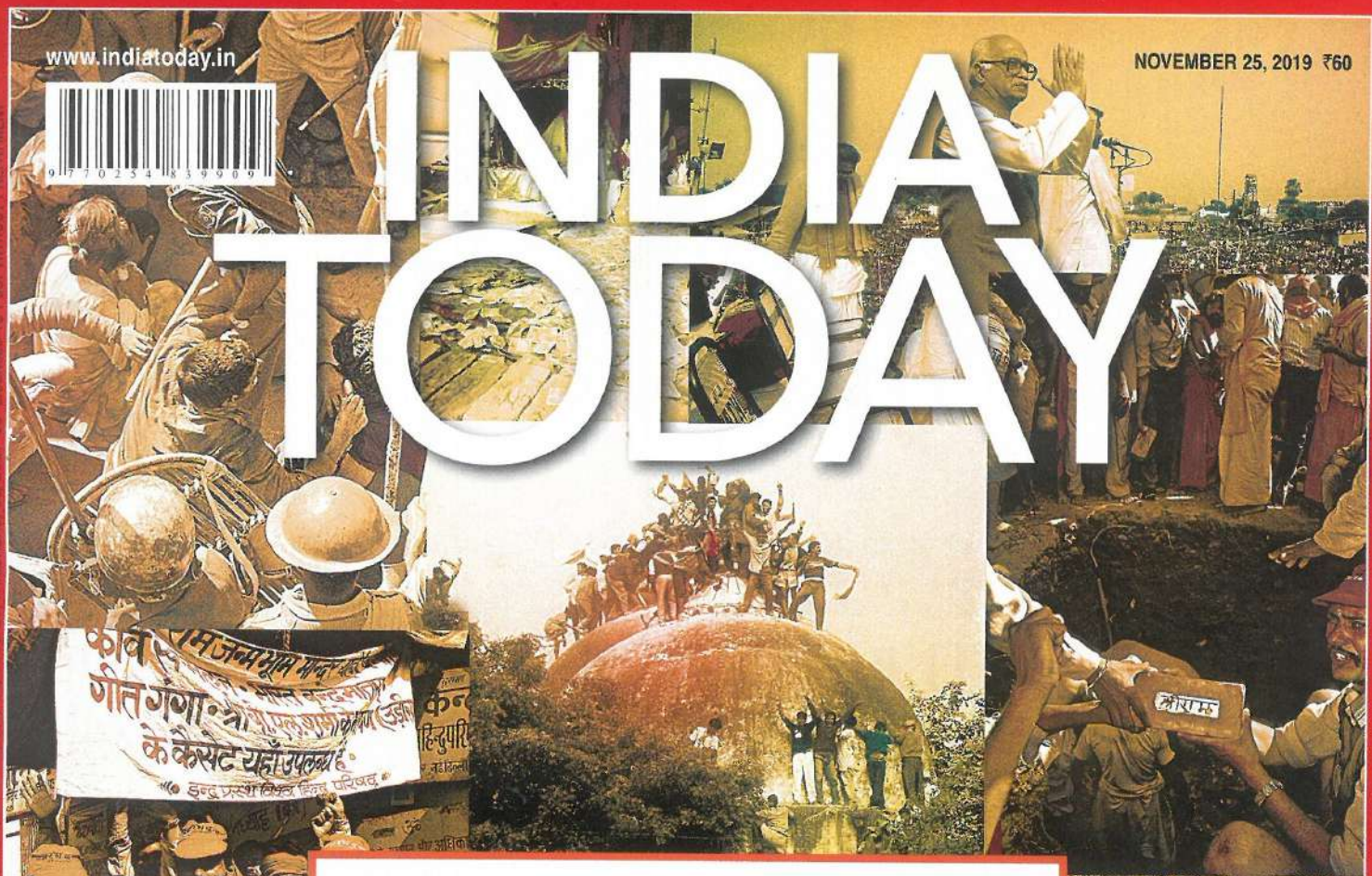
From potting plants and using air purifiers to top sustainable practices, make your space eco-friendly and healthy

Designed by green firm Footprints E.A.R.T.H, it is home to three generations of the Shahs in Vadodara





# INDIA TODAY

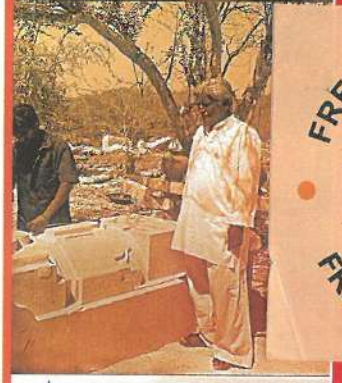


काव्य... मज्जिभूमि...  
गीतगंगा...  
के कसेट यहाँ उपलब्ध है...  
इन्द्र प्रस्था विद्युत् विद्युत् परिवर्तक

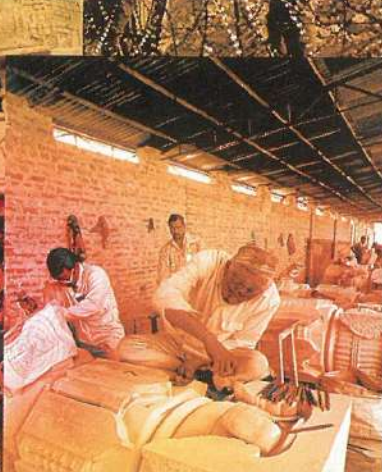
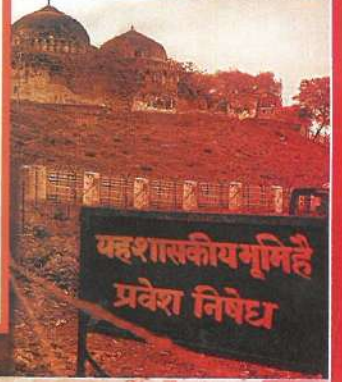
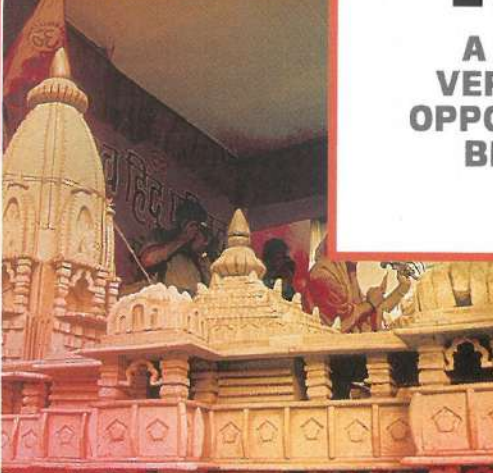


## AYODHYA TIME TO MOVE ON

A LANDMARK SUPREME COURT  
VERDICT GIVES INDIA THE UNIQUE  
OPPORTUNITY TO LEAVE BEHIND THE  
BITTERNESS OF THE PAST AND  
MAKE A NEW BEGINNING



FREE WI...  
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**SUSTAINABLE LIVING**  
The Taj Safaris, Panna National Park was design respecting the natural vegetation and contours (right and below, right); shared courtyard between two houses in Gurgaon (far, right); architect Sanjay Prakash (below, left)



## TWIST ON TRADITION

**WHO** Architect Sanjay Prakash, 61 is the principal consultant with Delhi-based SHiFT (Studio for Habitat Futures). "SHiFT works on the principles of respecting natural resources by working with them and not against them. Natural resources such as sun, daylight, rain, air and soil," says Prakash.

**WHEN** SHiFT is a successor to the past partnership firms of Prakash's architecture practice. It was started (in the 1990s) to demonstrate that design should not be for a future that is extrapolated from the past with high consumption and high waste but a future that is sufficient, regenerative and efficient.

**GREEN DESIGN** The firm uses low embodied energy to construct its buildings, by using bamboo, earth and stone or with lowered steel consumption. They use passive ventilation, heating and cooling as far as possible for the particular climate that the project is in, and reduce heating and cooling needs by judicious use of orientation, fenestration, daylight, shading, colour and insulation. They also use efficient air-conditioning and lighting where required to conserve energy. The practice conserves water by reducing wastage through water efficient fixtures, as well as recycling and reusing water in their projects. "We also make sure that we harvest rainwater as much as we can. This allows us to enhance the microclimate," adds Prakash. Also, by using almost no cement-based landscapes they not only harvest rainwater but also mitigate flood-like situations.



Photograph by NISHANT SHUKLA



Photograph by SHEKHAR GHOSH



**VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE** SHiFT not only uses vernacular architecture, they modernise it through current engineering processes. "We have realised that most vernacular techniques that are considered either slow or costly, are never executed with modern engineering practices. It is our endeavour therefore to make these more efficient," says Prakash.

**CURRENT PROJECTS** They are working on varied projects such as a hill residence in Kumaon, cultural centre for Jabalpur smart city, campus for a Bamboo Research and a training centre at Chandrapur (the largest bamboo and rammed earth project in India) and a low energy corporate office for a micro-credit company.

AT [www.shiftorg.in](http://www.shiftorg.in)