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Nandan Nilekani helped us get the right message out: Viral Shah, Julia Computing

By J Vignesh, ET Bureau | Updated: Aug 01, 2017, 08.45 AM IST

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In the run-up to the grand finale of the ET Startup Awards 2017, your favourite paper presents a special series on the lessons that some of India's most celebrated entrepreneurs have learnt from their mentors.

"He knows how to navigate things and get there. He kind of has both - he is very strategic and sees what is coming, and is tactical in how to get there."

I reach out to Nandan Nilekani quite often for various inputs. He has been very generous in helping us. Nandan thinks big. With Julia, we are trying to do something that is not run-off-the-mill. He can understand what we are trying to do.

He knows how to navigate things and get there. He kind of has both -he is very strategic and sees what is coming, and is tactical in how to get there. It is useful for us. We were selected as a part of five startups to present to Jeff Immelt, the then CEO of GE. We had a very technical presentation. Nandan helped us make it strategic -how can a company like GE benefit from open source technology and approach. That really resonated with them.

He helped us get the right message out. That is what you look for in a mentor. He continues to do that with us.

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He loves the fact that there is a huge Indian contribution in Julia. Also, IndiaStack member Pramod Verma has been very helpful.

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