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## SCIENCE FICTION: A STUDY OF HYWEL RICHARD PINTO

<p><b>Dr. Kalpana Agrawal<sup>1</sup></b> Professor of English Govt.T.R.S.(Auto) College Rewa(M.P.)</p>	<p><b>Bhagya Shree Mishra<sup>2</sup></b> Research Scholar in English Govt. T.R.S. (Auto) College Rewa(M.P.)</p>
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### Abstract:

The Indian science fiction writers in English language have initiated their work done by Henry Louis Vivian Desozio and Michael Madhusudan Dutt which was followed by Rabindranath Tagore and Aurahindo. The literary genre of science fiction is copious and varied and it is equally difficult to define. The question regarding its background is equally confusing. In India, science fiction is broadly accepted as a discourse on the effect of Science and technology on humanity. It is a literature of change which has come out by the advent of new scientific gadgets. Often Indian science fiction is related with a number of mythical elements.

Hywel Richard Pinto is an Indian Science Fiction writer of the current period. The concept of sci- fi writing is as old as the human's ability to imagine. Our two ancient epics-"The Ramayana" and "The Mahabharata" are full of scientific gadgets. In the modern era also several movies like "Koi Mil Gaya", "Krish" and "Krish-3" are also good examples of SF. With the advent of 20<sup>th</sup> century writers and film- makers have also wrote and produced the books and movies based on the themes of Science Fiction. In mid-eighties a SF television serial entitled "Star Wars" used to be telecasted in Doordarshan. H. R. Pinto is path-breaker writer in the field of SF writing.

**Key Words:** Indian novelist, Science Fiction, Gadgets, Hywel Richard Pinto, imaginative and futuristic concepts.

Hywel Richard Pinto is an Indian novelist of Science Fiction. He was born in Bombay and brought up in Mumbai. He has always been a big fan of mystery/suspense books. His books keep us enthralled right up to the end, hooking us to the characters and story line. He is really a weekened writer, crafting the story line over the week and putting it down in words over the



weekend. A couple of story ideas and the encouragement of his wife, Christina and his family led him to write his first story- "The Monday Murder" (2015).

His second book- "Ice Bound" (2015) was the first book to be self-published and is available in both paperback and digital versions. In 2017, he launched his biggest fiction thriller yet- "Europa". In 2021, he wrote "The Venus World" a sci-fi thriller. There are Six queens ruling the new world and one Man is planning to destroy them. In 2022, he wrote "The Monsters of Mithi" is a brilliant sci-fi and most importantly the dome-like nature of mankind. The real purpose of Science Fiction is to present philosophical insights into the event horizon between what is known and what is not.

Science fiction (sometimes shortened to sci-fi or SF) is a genre of speculative fiction that typically deals with imaginative and futuristic concepts such as advanced science and technology, space exploration, time travel, parallel universes, and extraterrestrial life. In India, Science Fiction is generally accepted as a study of the impact of Science and technology on humanity. It is a literature of change brought out by the advent of new Science gadgets or technological developments. Often, Indian SF is associated with a number of mythical elements. They are mainly, space, time, travel to the far off land, and the attempts made for the longevity of human beings.

Chaturshar Paryantham in Sanskrit defines the Space as a concept of the Earth extended primarily to the four seas which were supposed to have been surrounded by the Earth. According to the ancient mythology, there existed mainly three worlds namely, Athala, Suthala and Pathula. They are also described as Swarga (Paradise), Naraka (Hell), Bhoomi (Earth). We may search the origin of Science Fiction in India's great Epic- 'The Ramayana' and 'The Mahabharata'. The description in the Ramayana refers to 'Pushpaka Vimana' which could transport people to any loka (world) in a fraction of a second. In the Mahabharata the architectural excellence such as mansions, palaces, waxed floors blended with crystalline water and vice versa as well as real-time transmission of war episodes by telepathic device are all vividly described. The concept of air travel can be traced back to the depiction of 'Pushpaka Vimana' in legends that probably date back as far as 3500 BC. This is the earliest record of such travel in the history of mankind.

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In 1960, the film Paras Mani (a precious stone), the bead could bring back life and restore youth. To cite a few examples: the character of Hanuman in the Ramayana has a tail that extends to unlimited length at the court of Ravana in Shri Lanka. There are numerous other examples and even biotechnology of 'test tube babies' features in Mahabharata with the birth of Dronacharya. Conversely, with India's first true SF film, Koi Mil Gaya (August 2003), most of the questions or phenomena are explained as if scientifically.

The Indian Science fiction writing with all its problems has finally reached a place where critics and readers have a gense to Reckon with. Writers like Hywel Richard Pinto, Sanait Basu, Anil Menon, Vandana Singh, Manjula Padmanabhan, Rimi B. Chatterjee, Ruchir Joshi, Priya Chabria and others have finally done what many other Indian writers have attained after ages. The Indian SF writers have already created a niche for themselves and the genie of SF is becoming more and more popular day by day.

His first novel 'The Monday Murder' by Hywel Richard Pinto is a sci-fi thriller and murder mystery set in his home city of Mumbai. The story of this novel revolves around a bunch of eccentric characters living in a Mumbai high rise, each of whom could be a potential murderer. So what happens

when people with such diverse backgrounds become suspects in a Murder on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week the dreaded Monday? Deceit, lies, jealousy and suspence run high. The twist at the ending was fabulous. Monday, the most hated day of all and puzzle had to solve a murder on this hated day of the week in the city (Mumbai) that never sleeps in a swanky residential apartment where everyone has something to hide and their upper society acquaintances make it difficult to accuse anyone of their crime.

His second novel 'The Ice Bound' is based in the year 2034 on a post-apocalyptic Earth is mostly covered with snow. A group of New World residents led by James Cook are traversing the frozen lands in search of his father. But staying one step ahead of a diabolical army called the Vengers, led by megalomaniac hell bent on ruling the New World is only one of the group's concerns. The other is beating nature at her own game.



In ‘The Ice Bound’ novel Bunker 67 was the most important of all the Bunkers because here sat the actual decision makers, the ones who had power over all the other bunkers. And this thought is interesting- ‘Those plans were for a concept to reverse the freezing of the planet. They are just prototypes, which have never been tested. But if they do work then whoever holds those plans hold the future of the planet’

Hywel Richard Pinto's third novel 'Europa' is set in the future, which is in the year 2250. The book reveals the mystery in a most unexpected way and takes us by surprise. The story of the novel starts with a courtroom trial with Captain Richard Sparks, who leads Silver Star on a mission to Europa, one of Jupiter's moons to provide help to the crew of Silver Wind. During the mission, Captain Sparks and some of his crew members find themselves out of hibernation which was induced by medicine. He is deemed guilty for the mysterious death of a crew member which puts him in a tough spot. As the story proceeds, the captain and team realize that there is an infiltrator among them, but no one is sure who that is. All trials are not as simple as they seem- not when the accused has a story to tell and some people will go to great lengths to protect what actually happened on ‘Europa’.

His next novel 'The Venus World' is a suspense sci-fi thriller. Year 2025: A catastrophic biological terrorist attack leaves the future of the male population of the human race in danger of becoming extinct. Year 2100: Six Queens rule over the New World, asserting power over a dwindled population of healthy men, whose use now is only for reproduction or slave labor. The borders of the New World have changed and so have the rules. But life is not peaceful when the women reign. There is an uprising coming, fueled by the divide to create new and sustainable male life. And when the women are not united in their efforts, men will try and rise to power: Will the Queens ruling the Earth realize the danger before it's too late or will their egos be the foundation that men needed to diabolically put their plan of revolt into action? The World might never be the same again.



The latest novel by Pinto's is 'The Monsters of Mithi' is a outstanding science fiction. Bombay has transformed from seven sleepy islands to the bustling metropolis of Mumbai. Rivers that were once the lifeblood of the city have now turned into toxic dumps. The most infamous being - the Mithi River. Chocked with sewage and chemicals, it would seem that nothing could survive this stinking hell - but something did and have now awakened. Something so prehistoric and carnal that modern technology does not know how to stop it's rampage.

### **Conclusion**

The Vogue of Science fiction writing in English and in regional languages of our country has started with the impact of tremendous change and high advancement which began with the industrial revolution in England. But in Indian SF writing is as old as the writing of "The Ramayana" and "The Mahabharata". The concept of mind came was in the Aeroplane which of Wright Brothers extremely date in comparison to the depiction of "Pushpaka Vimana" in India.

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