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Context to the nugget

Jay discusses what a “Lambi race ka ghoda” looks like in Politics. He also talks about the role of circumstance playing a much bigger role in Politics than in other domains. He talks about how effective politicians stay relevant by appealing to different segments over time as the public sentiment shifts over time.

Transcription

Deepak Jayaraman (DJ): In professions if there are markers for long term potential, are there markers of long term potential when you at a budding politician are there one or two things you look for, for you to say this person could have an impactful career over the long term?

Baijayant Jay Panda (JP): Yes and No. Many high potential politicians have been failed by circumstances so I would point this out that circumstances have a much greater role to play in politics than they do in a other professions in other professions too also circumstances matter but one can adapt to them and change much more than one can in politics so I have seen many have potential politicians because he or she was just failed by circumstances now to overcome that you have seen politicians who are very agile in their stand in what they espouse not strictly on ideology but for what sells for the time being, so let me use this as an example in the world of music if you are a classical musician and you prefer to play you’re the kind of music that you always loved, now if that’s in fashion you will do very well if the public wants the different kind of music you may be out of it but there are musicians we all know who may have started out in the era of rock and roll and change to more pop kind of music and then changed to rap depending on what public wants and some people are capable of flipping genres or stepping across genres so the really long term “Lambi race ka ghoda” are those who are able to step across genres better than others.

DJ: And genres would be public sentiments?

JP: So the public sentiment can keep changing, today you might be appealing to the youth, tomorrow you may have to appeal to certain subsections of the population depending on the state you are contesting an election in or managing a campaign sometimes you might have to appeal to women’s issues and so on and so forth, another aspect is the ability to communicate obviously in politics the ability to communicate is the tremendous asset.

Reflections from Deepak Jayaraman

DJ: This segment of my conversation with Jay reminds me of an earlier chat with Nandan Nilekani, who was on this podcast earlier. We spoke about his various transitions and how he has re-invented himself across different contexts. He provided some context around why he contested the elections in Bengaluru and why he moved away from politics subsequently.

NN: *“it was an intellectual choice actually to get into politics but my experience was not very happy, and in that sense, I think that was one transition where I step too far in some sense, it was way out of my comfort zone, so after the election campaign and after that I realize that this was not where I want to be, that I didn’t have the leverage, I didn’t have competitive advantage in that area I didn’t think I would be very effective so I realize actually my effectiveness comes from being what I am good at which is a technology lead transformation agent and use my talents and abilities to solve large intractable problems and make that available to anybody who wants to use it, so that was my shift”*

DJ: I guess it is worth reflecting whether your source of energy and distinctive competitive advantage as a professional and align with the traits and attributes that are valued in the field you are getting into.

Thank you for listening. If you are new to the podcast and want to get a sense of the nature of content that is covered, you might want to go to YouTube and type “PlaytoPotential Highlights from 2017”. I have tried to capture the key takeaways from my various conversations last year with leaders across disciplines. From people such as Zia Mody, Nandan Nilekani, Viswanathan Anand, Vijay Amritraj, Amish Tripathi, Vinita Bali and the like. For more, please visit playtopotential.com where the content is organized by nuggets and they are tagged by themes so that you could get perspectives from multiple individuals on a topic that you care about. If you want to listen offline say during a car ride home or during airplane travel, you could also access the Podcast on iTunes, Stitcher, Saavn and several other podcast apps but that may not give you the flexibility to navigate across speakers by theme. If you find the content purposeful, please go to iTunes, rate the show and share a review. It will help others discover it.

End of nugget transcription

Nugget from Nandan Nilekani that is referenced: [Reflections from Politics as a Career](#).

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About Deepak Jayaraman

Deepak seeks to unlock human potential of senior executive's / leadership teams by working with them as an Executive Coach / Sounding Board / Transition Advisor. You can know more about his work [here](#).

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Podcast Transcript [26.02 Bajjayant Jay Panda - Markers of Long term Potential](#)

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