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Context to the nugget

Jay talks about what the bad days in politics look like. He talks about how easy it is for people to assign motives when you have none. He also talks about the good days when some of your ideas take hold and people see you as an individual who championed that change.

Transcription

Deepak Jayaraman (DJ): Double clicking on one of the things that you have mentioned, Resilience and Perseverance and thick skin what do the bad days look like?

Baijayant Jay Panda (JP): If you are my kind of politician who has got into politics for not the usual reasons, for the different set of reasons then there are quite a few bad days because you see the system operating the way it always does disruptions in parliament people looking for short term gain which may not be in the national interest, you can take them as demoralizing but if you have resolute approach to going through thick and thin so you look for the good days. On a bad day, so the bad day could be I would be arguing for certain reforms and suddenly I will get attacked for saying the exact same thing because some other party has said the same thing so for example I have been arguing for reforming the Rajya Sabha for a decade suddenly this government has also started arguing for reforming the Rajya Sabha and people at the opposition suddenly start throwing mud at me, that I am collaborating with the government and not recognizing that I have been taking this stand on principal, irrespective of who is in government so bad days can be getting attacked for really no fault of your own and that happens quite a lot. But the good days can be when one of your ideas begins to take hold and then you get acknowledge as being an early promoter of the idea, so for example I had been supporting idea that convicted legislators should lose their position either as an MP or an MLA they should get disqualified if they get convicted now there was tremendous resistance to this idea inside politics, certainly inside parliament there was no consensus that convicted MP should get disqualified but I championed that idea and I did face a lot of heat, but then Supreme court finally ruled on this and it is finally now a law. It is now the law of the land that if you get convicted you immediately lose your position as an MP or an MLA and so many people in public recognized that I had champion this idea earlier, this is a big idea let me give you a small idea. One of the small ideas I had championed and face a lot of flak was that the subsidy in the parliament canteen should be done away with because on the one hand we were asking for millions of Indian citizens especially in middle class categories to give up on government subsidies such as on cooking gas and asking them to pay market prices for petrol and things like that and at the same time for legislators to get subsidise food was unconscionable but I faced a lot of flak not just by legislators but by many journalist who also avail of this facilities in the parliament canteen but the public support was enormous and ultimately parliament had to make changes and do away with the large component of the subsidy in the parliament canteen, so although I had to face flack I get gratified by

the large members of public who had stopped me at Airports and at other places and compliment me for taking certain stand such as that one, so those are the good days.

Reflections from Deepak Jayaraman

DJ: It was interesting to hear Jay talk about the need for thick skin and the ability to deal with downs as a key attribute of a successful politician. If Resilience is a topic of interest, you might be interested in some of the other nuggets that are curated by this theme. Some of the nuggets include Vijay Amritraj speaking about how he would summon up courage when he was down match point. Avnish Bajaj speaking about entrepreneurial resilience. Dheeraj Pandey speaking about the notion of anti-fragility which is not just coping with failure but improving with it. Suresh Narayanan discussing about how he handled the Maggi crisis. Meher Pudumjee sharing about how she dealt with the loss of her father and brother in quick succession. You just have to go to playtopotential.com and type in Resilience in the Search bar.

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

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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 [26.03 Bajjayant Jay Panda - Resilience](#)

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