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Context to the nugget

Jay talks about how he has grown as a politician in all these years. He also talks about Track II dialogues where he is active. These are informal back-channels which can be tremendously helpful in improving the communication and improving one's understanding of the others' point of view.

Transcription

Deepak Jayaraman (DJ): Leadership development, as you reflect on yourself in what ways would you say you have grown as a leader, what are the muscles that you have built today that probably didn't exist when you started with the Rajya Sabha in 2000 or when you joined the Lok Sabha in 2009 how does that growth work?

Baijayant Jay Panda (JP): So I think it works differently for different people, I believe I have done the following, even as a student, even as a professional in the private sector I was always interested in global issues, I used to read newspapers and magazines from around the world but my depth on some of those issues has grown a lot so I spend a large amount of time on the few issues of, which I consider passions of mine this have to do with economic issues, these have to do with policies concerning health and education and foreign policy so for example on foreign policy I have involved in quite a number of track 2 dialogues and I chair many of these discussions with the US in South Korea, Japan etc. and as a result my depth on foreign policy, my understanding of nuances of where India is and where it ought to be and what are the foreign policy steps we ought to face these challenges is better and more nuance so that's the muscle that I have built. I have a better understanding of economics then I did 15 years ago although I did have the solid understanding of economics and commerce and the trade coming from the private sector but a much better understanding for example on one of these track to two discussions, I have had a detailed discussion with one of the sovereign credit rating agencies and it helped me to understand why the fiscal deficit is so important, why is this so crucial because that's the single most important parameter that these rating agencies chose to base their ratings of a country, there are many other factors but the deficit is perhaps the single biggest weightage in that.

DJ: Just to understand the language when you say track two could you expand on that for a minute?

JP: So the Track 2 is a group of people involved in policy making it could be members of parliament, either politicians it could be diplomats, especially retired diplomats and people from the arm forces, people from business, people from journalism, civil society organizations, who interact in meetings and visits to other countries where this is not an official group, we don't represent the government of our country but we all have some kind of connection with policy makers to give feedback and ideas and suggestions and can have free and frank discussions between our counter parts and us the

reason is when the government meet officially they have a lot of constraints within which to take positions and it is very difficult to come out with out of the box solutions. Out of the box solutions always come when back channels discussions first so it's sort of an informal back channel to help create out of the box ideas. Another channel where I have built that muscle, is with my transition to Lok Sabha nearly a decade ago and with my spending nearly two weeks of the every month in the constituency, I have built a branding in my constituency I have put in a lot of sweat into building my connect couple of million people and a certain branding and certain mind shift or mind space if you will among couple of million voters is the muscle that I have built.

Reflections from Deepak Jayaraman

DJ: The notion of Track II dialogues is really interesting and something that the business world could learn from. Very often in business negotiations, say between an investor and a company, there can be positions that can be taken by each side and that can be hard to shake. How do we configure and simulate a Track II dialogue where each other's point of view is well understood is indeed an interesting thought to mull over? An out of the box idea here is to see this as an opportunity for the High Potentials in each organization to engage and understand the context and co-create possible structural solutions. This needs to be fleshed out but the notion of simulating a Track II in a business context is an interesting opportunity indeed for the business world to learn from the world of politics.

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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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