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Context to the nugget

Jay talks about the criticality of creating the leverage as a leader to find a mechanism to process the volumes the data that comes to you to be thoughtful about your decisions. He goes on to talk about how he has to balance the need to go after legislative priorities with crises that might erupt in your constituency from time to time.

Transcription

Deepak Jayaraman (DJ): When you look at to multiple things land on your table that require attention and that required resources, how do you prioritise, how do you think about the impact?

Baijayant Jay Panda (JP): We have a fundamental problem, which goes back to the first question you asked and I answered about the remnants of the British Raj Parliamentary system where I said that we have many reforms to implement so one example is we are probably the only parliament in the world which does not provide for office and staff for members of parliament and every other parliament when you go to the US Senate or Congress or the UK parliament and Australia members of parliament are treated as professionals in their own field they get an office they get a staff in India we don't, we get many perks but just the pitons for having an office and staff where we can barely have a telephone operator let alone a team of researchers or assistants which you need every day we literally get 100s if not 1000s pages of documents we get 100s of reports all running into thousands of pages it is very hard to keep up with all that unless you have assistance so besides campaigning for that reform, I have been taking advantage of certain facilities that are available such as there are now volunteers who intern at a political office for getting experience but they are lawyers, they are young professionals and they are able to assist with dealing with vast information that lands on our table everyday plus there are organizations that have come up such as PRS legislatives such as SWANEETI and others who have got funded projects for providing fellowships these are like internships but they are paid or again young professionals they could be engineers or lawyers or social workers, management people who take time off and spend a few months or a year or so working in a politicians office or a political party so this helps, now in terms of prioritising apart from information the overload of information one always has to prioritise any crises and sadly we have many crisis I have crisis in the constituency so for example very often in the summer months we have fire and since we still have a large number or thatch huts with lakhs of population every time there is a fire many families lose their belongings, everything that they have so I have to reprioritise my schedule and make sure I reach there and make sure that the governmental assistance and assistance from charities and others are mobilize so that they can get their lives back in order now this may not sound like a legislative priority for an for an elected legislator but if I am not there to stand with my constituents in their time of trouble then I wouldn't be a legislator, there

wouldn't necessarily vote for me similarly in parliament priorities keep changing all the time it's not something that has a very rigid schedule so you have to role with the punches as they say.

Reflections from Deepak Jayaraman

DJ: The key takeaway here was the point Jay makes about solving for leverage when it comes to dealing with the volumes of data that hits you is a profound one. As a leader, if you want to make informed choices, you need to find a way of processing all the relevant data that comes your way, either by creating the bandwidth yourself or by getting the appropriate leverage. There is also something to be said about Executive Functioning, ensuring that you have the mind-space to make good decisions. I see too many leaders getting swamped by the tonnes of data that hit them leaving them with suboptimal mind-space to be thoughtful about the choices they make.

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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Bajjayant Jay Panda - Nuggets

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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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