

SCRIBBLE

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From My Desk

Share

In my life time, I have come to admire the grandeur and abundance of this world. I appreciate the good things in life and try and give back whatever little I can to this world. It may be through my work, my ventures, my exchanges with my friends and colleagues but it has always been the best.

I have often been lovingly referred to as "Poise Redefined" by my gracious friends. But I have gathered all that is there to poise from my surroundings, my family, my friends, my colleagues and everyone I come in contact with on a daily basis. And I take this opportunity to learn more about poise from you, my readers. This newsletter is my attempt to share my experiences with you and learn from you in turn.

This newsletter will be updated every quarter wherein I will share my experiences, my sentiments, my views on various topics ranging from technology advancements to the latest movies I have watched.

However, if I have missed something or fall short of your expectations, please feel free to mail me directly at chirag@chiragmehta.com.

Let's talk about Deepawali popularly known as Diwali

India is known for its diversity and the innumerable festivals it celebrates round the year. One of the biggest festivals celebrated across India, is the Hindu festival of Deepawali, popularly known as Diwali. Deepawali literally means "The festival of lights". Diwali is marked by fireworks, diyas, exchanging of gifts and visiting friends. On the third day, Lakshmi Puja is performed in the evening to seek divine blessings of Goddess of Wealth. Diwali holds great importance among the Hindus, as it signifies the victory of good over evil. The day is reckoned with Lord Rama's coronation ceremony as the King of Ayodhya after his return to the kingdom from 14 years of exile along with his wife Sita & brother Laxman after killing the demon, King Ravana. People celebrated this occasion by lighting diyas to drive away the darkness of Amavasya.

For this auspicious season few friends, my family and I took a small vacation to Bangalore and this special moment is what I would like to share with you.

Bangalore is little known as a vacation place and is more renowned as the silicon valley of India. However we did manage to find some surprises in and around Bangalore.

We stayed at The Leela Palace rated the best business hotel in the world. The palace is created amidst the exotic gardens where the age-old Indian tradition of "Atithi Devo Bhava" (Guest is God) is a way of life & where everyone is committed to taking guests to reverential heights. We selected the Royal premium rooms which were recently renovated. It included a fascinating idea; that of a pillow menu!!!! The pillow menu which had 8-10 items listed; horse hair pillow, pigeon feather pillow, goose hair to list a few. The romantic and cozy atmosphere attracted us to spend a lot of our available time in the hotel premises.

The local restaurants around Bangalore that you must visit and dig in are:

- Fiorano - An Italian Specialty restaurant
- Thank God its Friday - delicious nachos and potato shaves
- Sahib Sindh Sultan - Authentic North Indian Food and interesting décor of a posh railway train and platform
- Corner House - A small local Ice Cream parlor but "Death by Chocolate" flavor is simply unforgettable
- Frangipani - Pub famous for its fusion food and relaxing music
- Dakshin - at the legendary Windsor Manor is an authentic South Indian cuisine restaurant where you get to taste many things in a golden thali

Off Bangalore, 4 hours by road is Mysore, the palace city. While you are there do make it a point to visit Vrundavan Gardens and the Mysore Palace. The Palace gives a reminiscence of the glory of yester years through its well displayed paintings and artifacts. And when you visit Vrundavan Gardens do go around 5 pm, it gives you a glimpse of the beauty of Vrundavan, and also gives you an opportunity to see the gardens in the night lights if you stay a little longer.

However the highlight of my trip was my tour to campus of Infosys. A green city by itself, the campus was inspiring with world class infrastructure. Sitting on a golf cart we had a detailed visit of the campus, the food court, working areas, amphi-theater and sure enough every corner had a story to tell.

It was so touching to see the first building from where Infosys has risen to such heights, known as the heritage block. Today, after stepping down from the CEO position and assuming a role of Chief Mentor Mr Narayan Murthy has gone back to this very building and operates from there. A great learning from a humble genius; one must never forget where your beginnings lay. Hats off to this great gentleman.

BLUE OCEAN



A path breaking concept, the author is pondering on providing a systematic APPROACH TO MAKING THE COMPETITION IRRELEVANT. Blue ocean strategy highlights the six principles that every company can use to successfully formulate and execute

blue ocean strategies. These are how to reconstruct market boundaries, focus on the big picture, reach beyond existing demand, get the strategic sequence right, overcome organizational hurdles and build execution into strategy. The book is most relevant in 21st century where competition is so fierce. Book starts with case study of Cirque de Soliel created Blue Ocean for themselves and the book has numerous such case studies in the pages to come.

This book is undoubtedly a bold new path towards changing the future. I had the opportunity to meet the author Mr W. Chan Kim personally at IBM Universe Software 2007 in Mumbai. He is a tiny man with ocean of experience to share. With no slide shows or ppt presentations he could mesmerize the audience with his scintillating speech which dealt on intellectual meaningful points.

The core learning of his speech was to remember that Innovation is good, but if it does not have any commercial value attached to it, it can not make you win a noble prize either. It is important to make money out of your innovations. Secondly, give more time to focus on the big picture rather than on operational issues. Let the juniors in the pyramid focus on execution, your focus should entirely be on building strategies, being an entrepreneur/leader.

Recent Shopping



Cerruti spin gold watch limited edition is the sexiest thing which I come across in recent times.

Collection of cufflinks which I picked from Pune Central. To my surprise I had lot to my choice which is not commonly found especially for cufflinks



Creative Thinking

As children we all have enjoyed "Akbar & Birbal" stories, where Birbal outwitted his contenders with little effort. There are numerous short stories which enthralled us and have provided a deep insight into human behavior. Drawing these insights from these stories, I shall present one such story every quarter and help you understand how these insights can be used to succeed in today's corporate structure.



Problem:

One night, Emperor Akbar dreamt that he had lost all his teeth, except one, the next morning he invited all the astrologers of his kingdoms to interpret this dream.

After long discussions, the astrologers prophesied that all the Emperor's relatives would die before him.

Akbar was very upset by this interpretation and sent away all the astrologers without any reward. Later that day, Birbal entered the Court. Akbar related his dream and asked him to interpret it.

Birbal's Solution

After thinking for a while, Birbal replied that the Emperor would live a longer and more fulfilled life than any of his relatives.

Akbar was pleased with Birbal's explanation and rewarded him handsomely.

Management Moral

There is more than one way of expressing the truth. The worst shortcomings can be discussed with your subordinates without stepping on their corns or touching a raw nerve.

If it becomes necessary to resort to a bitter pill in the course of your duty as a manager, there is always the option of using a sugar coating to soften the harshness and it can turn out to be worthwhile!

What Birbal did is known as reframing. You form a judgement about certain situation depending on the context in which you see it. You may see yourself as unjustly treated if you are overlooked for a promotion. But if you see your plight in the context of those who don't even have a job, thug they are even more qualified then you, you will see yourself as lucky as and more justly treated by fate than all these less fortunate people. It is a matter of seeing a glass as half full or half empty. The facts are the same. Your perception or interpretation can vary.

Source: Solve Your problems - The Birbal Way by Luis S R Vas and Anita S R Vas

Technology

The Myth: Gujarat Missed the IT bus but the reality is ...

Gujarat as per me is the next destination for the IT circuit in India. With its infrastructure in place, Gujarat is now all set to focus on network & applications. With the government having set in place a CIO in each department and a nodal agency Gujarat Informatics (GIL) which coordinates between vendors and departments, a systematic growth plan has been laid out. Secondly special focus has been laid on attracting large IT and ITES companies through aggressive initiative towards creating IT parks, IT buildings & Special IT economic zones. A financial tech city (GIFT) between Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar has been set up as a hub for servicing the financial support needs of Mumbai city. The concerns of the required talent for IT growth in the state have been addressed by HRD initiative in partnership with TCS to develop and prepare engineering students. Other initiatives are also taken to bridge the gap with the help of Nasscom. The Gujarat State Wide Area Network (GSWAN) connects over 2800 offices in 26 districts and is the backbone of e-governance. Gujarat has also Web enable interface for every government department, board and corporation. Further more, the government has tied up with Airtel Bharti in providing broadband connectivity across 13693 village panchayats thus ushering in an IT revolution even in the smallest of towns in Gujarat. Based on all these steps, a lot of corporate's are stepping forward with commitments to invest in Gujarat, and it shall only increase multi-fold in the time to come. Overall It development seems to be very promising in years to come at Gujarat.

ભારત

લાગણીઓ ગાંડીતુર છે , મન ઉન્માદથી પ્રચૂર છે,
જગતમાં જયજયકાર છે , આ ભારત દેશની વાત છે.

વિશ્વની આંખોમાં આદર છે , બે અબજ આંખોમાં આશા છે,
મોલ છે , મેટ્રો રેલ છે , નાર્ડક છે , કોક છે , મજા છે.

આનંદ છે ? સુખ છે ? શાંતિ છે ? કૂરસદ છે ?
આંખાની ડાબે ઝૂલે છે ? તળાવની પાલે બેસે છે ?
મનને ઢંઢોલે છે ? ઢ્ઢયને ઢંઢોલે છે ? આત્માના અવાજને સાંભળે છે ?

આ દેશની માટીમાં ગાંધી છે , સરદાર છે , વિવેકાનંદ છે ,
રામ છે , કૃષ્ણ છે , તેથી આ દેશ મહાન છે.

એક નવા યુગનો ઉદય છે , આંખોમાં શમળાં આંજ્યા છે
અસ્મિતા છે , સંસ્કાર છે , એ રાખીને કરેલી પ્રગતિ નક્કર છે.

આ એક સ્વપ્ન છે , કે નક્કર વાસ્તવિકતા છે ,
દુનિયા આખી જેને નમે છે , એ ભારત દેશની આ વાત છે.

English translation of the poem

Feelings that are wrought in passion
A heart brimming with exultation
The world now doesn't cease to speak
Of such a country Bharat I wish to speak

With pride the world now observes
With hope in their eyes they witness
The Malls, Metro Rail, Nike in queue
Oh! There is coke and there is fun too.

The world queries, does it have happiness?
Peace, Prosperity and leisure does it give?
Does the soul stir to the swaying of
The mango tree, sitting here by the placid lake?

Is the mind at peace?
Is my heart awakened?
Do you hear you inner self, speak at such a place.
This country Bharat; the world interrogates.

Oh! My country soil has reaped
The likes of Gandhi, Sardar and Vivekanand
So did Ram and Krishna walk this
Place, A great country that is Bharat.

A new era rises on the horizon
As dreams line the kohl filled eyes
And pride bears gently on a culture sublime
Like foundations, our progress is cast in stone

Is this a dream or do I speak of reality
It is the story of a country
To whom the world bows in reverence
Of my country Bharat I speak.