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INNOVATIVE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES
AND CREATIVE THINKING

A JOURNAL FOR MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS



good bye april
hello may

Greetings from **IMPACT**



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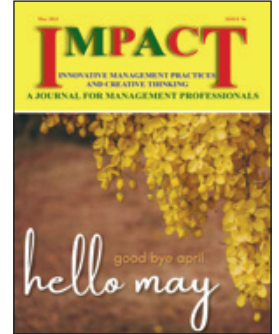
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Dear Readers,

India and other countries are silently watching the war at Ukraine which is raging over from Feb'2022 still going on, without any sign of a probable timeline to halt. Poor Ukrainian citizens are the worst hit without knowing when, where and how they would get their normal life back. Leaders and political parties barring a few, others have turned their heads towards other priorities.

India is forging ahead and firing in all cylinders after the covid slump. Manufacturing Industries have started in full steam and Service Industry is equally thriving.

On the whole, the world seems to be rosy in many fronts.

Let's enjoy!

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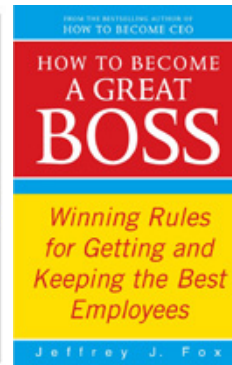
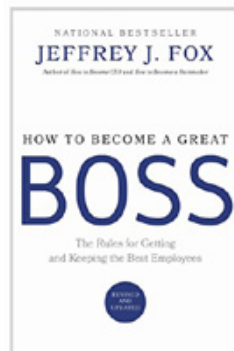
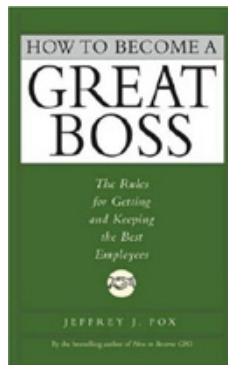
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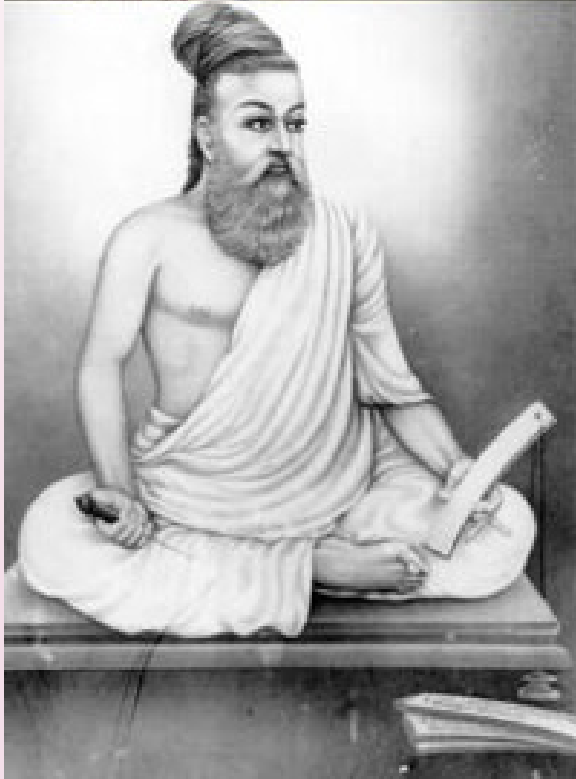
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A Unique Experience

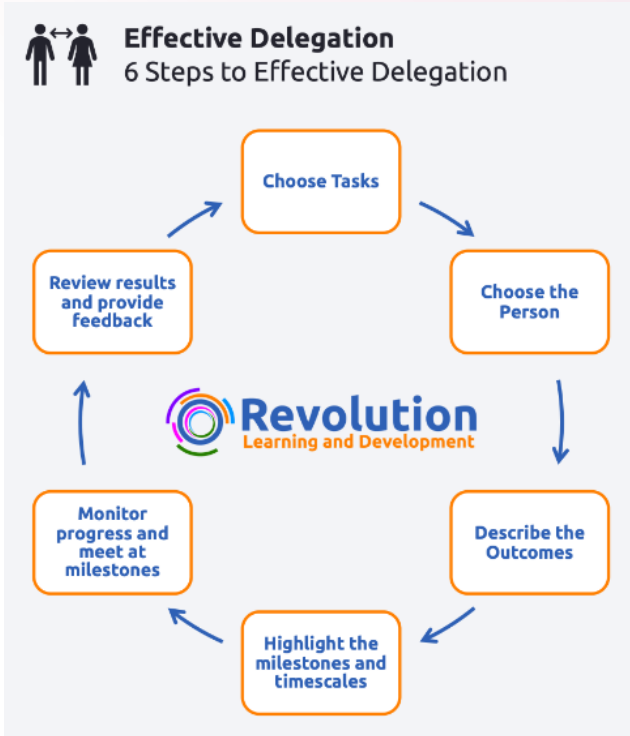
Several years ago, I was invited by my good old friend Mr. Jappier, the Chancellor of Sathyabhama Deemed University, to give the Valedictory address to the students who had completed their degree of Master of Business Administration (MBA).

While addressing them, I took up the subject, namely the hazards faced by me as a Health Minister during 1986 November, in safely

transporting an ailing Puratchi Thalaivar MGR to New York, in a special Aircraft which I had converted into practically a 'Flying Hospital'. After receiving applause from the students, I asked them "While, MBA is mainly about delegation of different tasks to differentiate persons and getting them done, can you please tell me the name of the person who had originally conceived the task of delegation?" No one among the audience was able to answer.



**RELEVANCE
OF
"THIRUKKURAL"
WITH MANAGERIAL
THOUGHTS.**



Delegation

இதனை இதனால்
இவன்முடிக்கும் என்றாய்ந்து
அதனை அவன்கண் விடல்

After having considered, this
man can accomplish this, by
these means, then let that man
do that work

Thiruvalluvar

Finally, I had to tell the MBA Graduates, it was none other than Saint Tiruvalluvar who had unfolded more than two thousand years ago, the entire concept of delegation (Which is practically the crux of MBA) in his inimitable style. “ithanai ithanaal ivanmudikkum enruaindhu

adhanai avankan vidal” (Kural 517) which meant, “Carefully examine whether a particular task can be successfully done by a particular person and then only assign the task to that person”. After I explained this, I received a standing ovation from the MBA Graduates assembled in the hall.

THREE ASPECTS OF DELEGATION

PLANNING – sit down and discuss with all involved

INITIATING – assign, set benchmarks, establish deadlines

CONTROLLING – regular checking, know where it's at
– control documents

There is no subject which was not touched by saint Tiruvalluvar, that too, more than two thousand years ago. No one else could have epitomised the entire gambit of ‘Master of Business Administration (MBA)’, so succinctly.

DELEGATION ATTITUDE

I am responsible for everything – good and bad

Be honest and fair

Delegate as much as possible

Give credit and cover blame

Dr. H.V. Hande

*Former Health Minister of
Government of Tamilnadu.
Founder & Director of
Hande Hospital.*

Famous Indian Kings and Emperors from History

The land of India has witnessed strong and valorous kings and emperors. Throughout history, we read about the dynasties that lifted their swords to conquer, defend, and expand. The story of Indian kings is interesting and worth listening to.

Here we have listed the most famous Indian Kings and Emperors across the history of India. So go ahead and read this informative blog.

1. Ajatasatru

Ajatasatru is a significant name among the kings of ancient India. He was a successor of King Bimbisara, who headed the Haryanka Dynasty. Ajatasatru was a valor king who once ruled a huge Kingdom, starting from India's northern tip to Bengal's eastern part. The kingdom was also expanded to Punjab and reached Nepal. The expansion was made through wars or marriage alliances like other Indian kings.

Reign Period-492-460 BCE

Dynasty- Haryanka Dynasty

Highlights-

- The name of Ajatashatru is mentioned in both Jaina and Buddhist literature.
- He defeated and conquered more than 36 neighboring states.
- He fought the battle for 15 years battling



KING AJATSHATRU

- against the Licchavi republic to win Nepal's Vajji region.
- Ajatashatru employed a new weapon, a catapult, which was a ballistic device.



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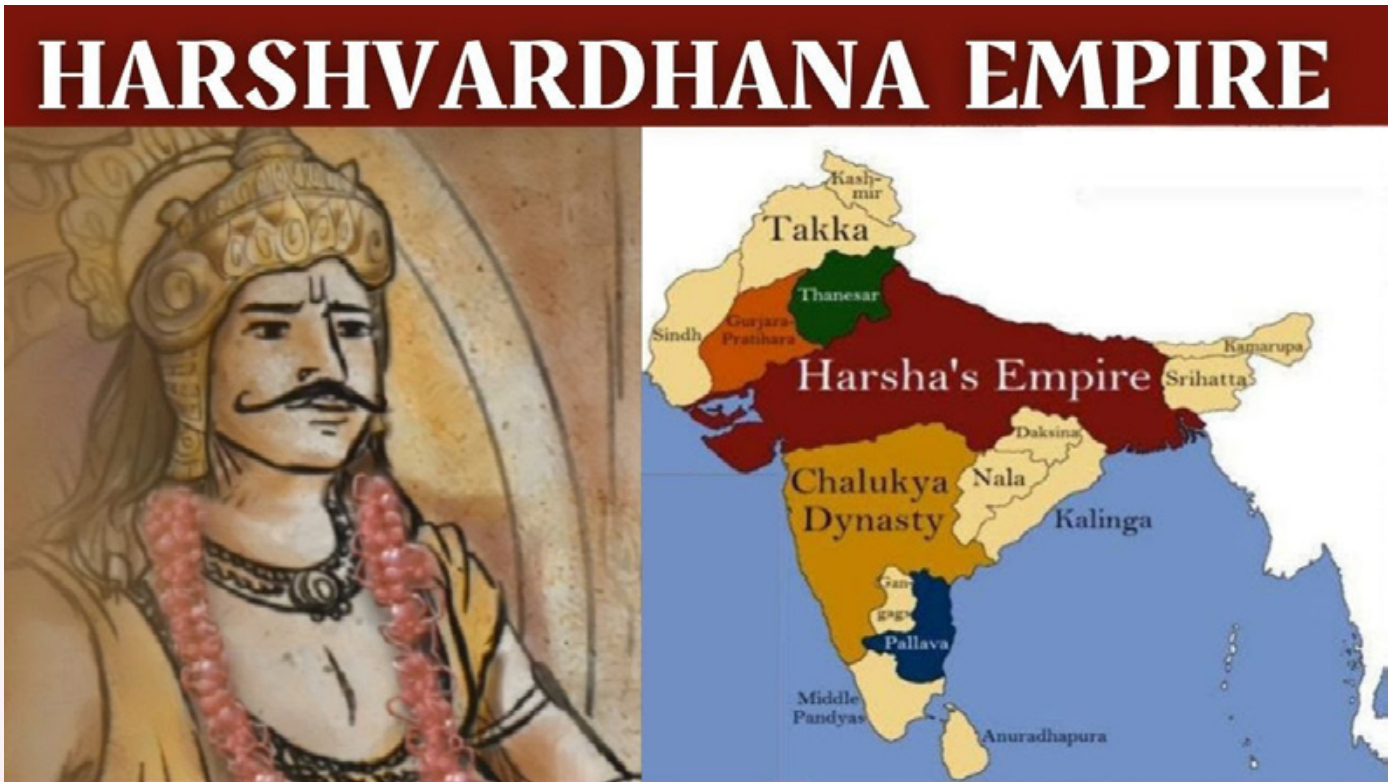
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- He also employed a covered chariot with a swinging mace similar to the tank we see today.

- Hiuen Tsang visited India during Harsha's reign. His book is a good source of knowledge about Harsha's kingdom, his generosity, and justice.
- His kingdom was divided into two types of

2. Harshavardhana (590-647 AD)



Harshavardhana or Harsha was a prominent Indian king's name of the Vardhan Dynasty in the 7th century AD. He was the successor of PrabhakarVardhana, who was the founder of the Pushyabhuti Dynasty or the Vardhana Dynasty. Harsh expanded his kingdom to North, Northwest, and South. He established the Kannauj as the capital of the kingdom.

Reign Period- 606 A.D to 647 A.D

Dynasty- Vardhana Dynasty

Highlights-

- He eventually turned to Buddhism.
- Chinese Buddhist traveler named Xuanzang mentioned Harsh's great deeds in his writings.

territories-Direct territories and Feudatories.

- Banabhatta was his court poet who composed the Harshacharita.

3. Chandragupta Maurya (340-298 BCE)

Chandragupta Maurya was the founder of the famous Mauryan Dynasty. He was one of the ancient kings of India yet a significant one. The policies of Chandragupta led him to occupy almost the whole of India under one control. This is why he is considered the greatest emperor of India.

Reign Period- 324-297 BC

Dynasty- Mauryan Dynasty

Highlights-



- The Greek ambassador, Megasthenes, was part of Chandragupta's court.
- Chanakya was the teacher of Chandragupta Maurya and the Chief Minister.
- He is found in Buddhist literary sources.

4. Ashoka (304-232 BCE)

The next one in the famous Indian king's name list, is Ashoka. He was India's greatest ruler known in the history of India. He succeeded after Chandragupta Maurya and considered to be the



crown of the Mauryan dynasty. The history of Ashoka's kingdom and his works is known by the pillar inscription planted across his kingdom.

Reign Period- 268-232 BC

Dynasty- Mauryan Dynasty

Highlights-

- The Kalinga war was a life-changing war in his life that he changed to Buddhism.
- Ashoka's Dhamma was the calling of Ashoka and he spread Buddhism in the neighboring countries.

5. Samudragupta (315-380)

Samudragupta was the son of Chandragupta I, who played a significant role in the expansion of



the kingdom. He was one of such Indian kings who conquered the North and South of India. The reason behind this is he was a military genius who added many territories.

Reign Period- 268-232 BC

Dynasty- Gupta Dynasty

Highlights-

- He is called 'Napoleon of India'
- His military campaigns are inscribed in Eran inscription.
- He also performed the Ashvamedha sacrifice to claim his sovereignty.

6. Pulakesi II (610-642)

Among the many rulers of India and famous Indian kings, Pulakesi II is a bright name of the



Chalukya dynasty. He was a valorous king who ruled from north to south India. He was the son of Mangalesha, and Adityavarman succeeded him.

Reign Period- 610-642 BC

Dynasty- Chalukya Dynasty

Highlights-

- He was a Vaishnavite but stayed in harmony with other faiths like Shaivism, Buddhism, and Jainism.
- The battle of ElapattuSimbige was a significant battle that led him to the throne.

7. Raja Raja I (947-1014)

Raja Raja I was one of the Indian kings who ruled over Tamil Nadu, Malabar Coast, and north Sri Lanka. He was one of the most significant rulers of the 3rd Century BC. There were many conflicts and conquest which he faced with courage.

Reign Period- 985-1014

Dynasty- Chola Dynasty

Highlights-

- The conquest of Sri Lanka showed his valor.
- The Chalukyas conflict of Karnataka made him visible in Rashtrakutas.
- He also had a good hold in a naval expedition.



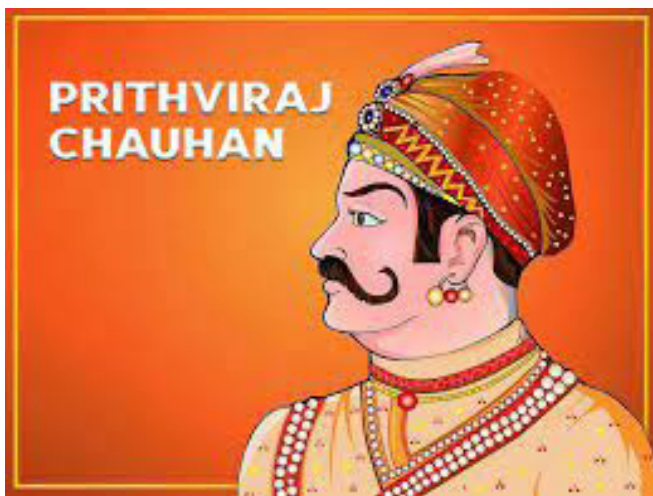
8. Prithviraj Chauhan (1166-1192)

Prithviraj Chauhan is one of the famous kings' names in India who ruled in the northern front of the land. He was the son of Someshvara, king of the Chahamana territory, which majorly includes present Rajasthan, Haryana, and Delhi.

Reign Period- 1178-1192

Dynasty- Chahamana or Chauhan Dynasty

Highlights-



Prithviraj achieved military successes

- He repelled the first few invasions by the furious invader, Muhammad of Ghor.
- The second battle of Tarain made Ghurids defeat Prithviraj.

9. Krishnadevaraya (1471-1529)

Krishnadevaraya is the son of one of the bravest Indian kings, Viranarasimha Raya. He rose his dynasty after the decline of the Delhi dynasty. During his reign, Portuguese travelers visited his kingdom. He expanded his rule towards the Deccan plateau. He is counted among the rulers of India who rose the dynasty to the heights of conquering the neighbors.

Reign Period- 1518-1529

Dynasty- Chahamana or Chauhan Dynasty

Highlights-

- He learned many languages and wrote literature.
- He respected all sects of Hinduism and built the famous Tirumala Venkateswara Temple.

10. Akbar (1542-1605)

Akhbar was the successor of Humayun. He was the most powerful king in Indian history. The reason behind this is that he respected diversity and tolerated all kinds of faith and views. Akbar was such Emperor of India who displayed valor on the battlefield, wisdom in the court, and love for his subjects. Therefore he ruled from north to south and from east to west. So he is undoubtedly one of the greatest kings in the world ever.

Reign Period- 1556-1605

Dynasty- Mughal Dynasty

Highlights-

- He was a military genius and a great administrator.
- Akbar introduced coins for trade and started trading from across the globe.



- He introduced Diwan-I-Aam and Diwan-E-Khas.

11. Shah Jahan (1592-1666)

The next Indian king's name is Shah Jahan. He was the son of Jahangir and a lover of architecture. During his reign, Mughal reached cultural glory and was counted among the rich country in the world. He constructed the famous Taj Mahal, which is a popular tourist destination in India. He is counted among few Indian kings who were fond of fine arts.



Reign Period- 1628-1658

Dynasty- Mughal Dynasty

Highlights-

- He was a sound administrator.
- He built Red Fort, Moti Masjid, Jama Masjid along with Taj Mahal.
- There was the use of gold, silver, and copper coins.
- He started a free kitchen in the Deccan famine of 1630.

12. Aurangzeb (1618-1707)

Aurangzeb was the sixth Mughal Emperor. He is known for being one of the reasons for the downfall of the dynasty. Unlike his successors, he was an



orthodox follower of Islam. He captivated Shah Jahan and mistreated his family and his subjects. Yet he was a warrior and skilled on the battlefield.

Reign Period- 1658-1707

Dynasty- Mughal Dynasty

Highlights-

- He established relationships with Muslim countries.
- Aurangzeb imposed a Hindu pilgrimage tax and made the taxation difficult.
- He fought against the rebels by Jat, Maratha, Satnami, Sikh, and Pashtun.

List of Famous Kings of India across History

13. Maharana Pratap (1540-1597)

The name Maharana Pratap comes at the top of the list when it comes to Hindu kings' name list.



He was born into a Rajput family. You can see a glimpse of him in the Zee TV serial JodhaAkhbar.

Reign Period- 1572-1597

Dynasty- Chahamana or Chauhan Dynasty

Highlights-

- Pratap won the famous battle of Haldighati against the huge army of Akbar.
- The interesting conquest of Mewar made MaharanaPratap a patron of the Hindu king against the Mughals. You can see these wars in 'Bharat Ka Veer Putra – MaharanaPratap', which is a Sony TV serial.

14. Sher Shah Suri (1486-1545)

Sher Shah Suri had a very short period of reign in India, yet he was an influential king. He came victorious over the Mughal dynasty and ruled a



huge kingdom from Bihar. He was known for system administration and planning.

Reign Period- 1538-1545

Dynasty- Sur Dynasty

Highlights-

- Sher Shah Suri built the grand Trunk Road as a concentration highway in medieval India.
- He started the use of currency called the Rupee, which is still in use.
- He also built Rohtas Fort and PuranaQuila.

15. ShivajiBhonsle (1630-1680)

Shivaji is one of the great Indian rulers who fought against the Mughals even if there was a huge difference in the resources. He was a valorous warrior who was crowned as Chhatrapati. He pioneered guerrilla warfare tactics. Even today, Mumbai Airport and Railway station are named after him.

Reign Period- 1674-1680

House- Bhonsle

Highlights-



- He pioneered Guerrilla war practices.
 - He fought a fierce battle with Afzal Khan.
 - Shivaji faced multiple conquests with the Mughals.

16. Hyder Ali (1720-1782)

Hyder Ali was the famous Indian ruler of the Kingdom of Mysore. He was mapped on the national politics when he raised the sword against British conquest. While the British were approaching to conquer Deccan, Hyder Ali was the toughest warrior king to defeat. He was among the courageous kings of India in Deccan.

Reign Period- 1761-1782

House- Sultan (Mysore)

Highlights-

- He participated in the Mughal-Maratha war and Carnatic wars.



- Hyder Ali fought the first and second Anglo-Mysore wars.
- He made Mysore a stronghold of a firm Indian kingdom.

17. Tipu Sultan (1750-1799)

Tipu Sultan was named Tiger of Mysore among other Indian kings. He was the son of Hyder Ali and grew strong than him. Tipu Sultan was credited for the excellent administration of the army and navy. He encouraged the coinage dating system. He fought with the Marathas and Mughals. So it is not wrong to say he was one of the greatest warriors in India.



Reign Period- 1782-1799

House- Sultan (Mysore)

Highlights-

- He contributed to planned road development.
- King emphasized the judicial system and moral administration.
- He maintained sober relationships with Hindu and Muslim subjects.

18. Rana Sanga(1482-1528)

MaharanaSangram Singh Sisodia is famously known as Rana Sanga. In the life span of 45 years, he achieved fame and victories, which many Indian



kings could not. He was born to a Rajput family and succeeded in becoming the ruler of Mewar. It is said that Sanga fought more than 100 battles and on the way lost one eye, one arm, and one leg still never succumbed to the enemies.

Reign Period- 1782-1799

House- Sisodia

Highlights-

- He was a military strategist and credible warrior.
- He fought with Ibrahim Lodi and the Mughals.
- His own chef apparently poisoned him.

19. Jahangir (1569-1627)

The fourth Mughal King was Jahangir, who is still known for his justice. He was one of those Indian kings who loved to take part in literature and art. He was counted as a weak and incapable ruler.

Reign Period- 1605-1627

House- Mughal

Highlights-

- Jahangir had good relations with foreign countries.



Jahangir

- He married Nur Jahan, who was known for incomparable beauty.

20. Maharaja Ranjit Singh (1780-1839)

Maharaja Ranjit Singh is called Sher-e-Punjab, and he is also the 1st Maharaja of the Sikh Empire. He



is listed as one of the few Indian kings who took the Sikh empire to heights. Maharaja took advantage of the vacuum created after the death of Aurangzeb. He expanded to the entire North India, especially Punjab.

Reign Period- 1801-1839

Dynasty- Sandhawalia

Highlights-

He was a secular king yet walked in the path of Sikhism.

The Khalsa army welcomed warriors outside his community.

Maharaja Ranjit Singh built the famous Golden Temple (Harmandir Sahib).

He encouraged skilled metal crafters.

Conclusion

The never-ending story of brave and skilled kings and warriors of India is extremely captivating. Since ancient India, till independence, we have seen significant monarch figures who changed the stream of history time and again. In this blog, we have a curated list of famous kings and emperors who influenced India's history even though they ruled for a short period. We hope you will enjoy the read. If you think we can add more to the Indian king names list, you can let us know.

FAQs Related Indian Kings

1. Who is the first king of India?

Chandragupta Maurya is considered to be the first king of India. He was also ruling a large, diverse area, so you can call him an Emperor too.

2. Who is the best King of India?

India was blessed with many courageous and wise kings. In this blog, we have listed famous and popular kings in India.

3. What is an Indian ruler called?

The Indian rulers were traditionally called Maharaja (Great King). With the coming of Islamic kings, the kings were also called Sultan.

4. Who was the worst king of India?

Aurangzeb is considered the worst king in Indian history because of his inhuman policies and heavy taxation.

5. Who ruled the largest Indian Empire?

According to the study, the Mauryan Empire ruled 152% of present India.

6. Who is the greatest Indian warrior?

Ashoka, Chandragupta Maurya, Prithviraj Chauhan, Tipu Sultan, and Rana Sanga are some of the greatest warriors in Indian history.

7. Which Indian kings died on the battlefield?

MaharanaPratap, ChatrapatiShivaji, Tipu Sultan, etc. died on the battlefield.

8. Did Indian kings rule other countries?

Ajatasatru, Ashoka, and a few other kings ruled over other neighboring countries.

9. Which Indian kings defeated the British?

Tipu Sultan defeated British power to save the Mysore Kingdom in the Deccan.

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4 Great Principles for Life

Success in life is something that we all want to attain. It's a station of life that we dream about. Success, if we observe keenly, can boil down to the principles that make your dreams a reality. It's important to note the definition of "success" may vary for each individual. That being said, here are 4 principles of life that may help you accomplish the goals you are striving for, according to experts.



1. Dream + Reality + Determination = Successful Life:

Success comes from knowing that you did your best to become the best that you are capable of becoming. For success, cannot be pursued; it must ensue, and it only does so as the unintended side-effect of one's personal dedication to a cause greater than oneself or as the by-product of one's surrender to a person other than oneself. You have to let it happen by not caring about it. There are no reasonable limits relating to what you can achieve, other than those that exist in your own mind. What you can have is up to YOU. Who you can be... is up to YOU. YOU are your only limit. No one else can

stop you from having anything or being anyone, you decide to be.

Joshua Klapow, Ph.D., clinical psychologist says, "Life has rules and structure; imagination doesn't. By combining dreams of success and the broadest use of our imagination, we can tap into a motivational reservoir." Don't get too caught up in dreaming and imagining without achieving, though.



It really is. If you TRULY are determined to succeed you will do so. Nothing beats determination. If you want something – really want something – and you are truly determined to get it – then you will be unstoppable.

2. Almost nothing can stop you from succeeding if you have a) Flexibility and b) self-accountability:

Take responsibility for where you are in life, and accept the challenge required to get where you

want to be. Successful people don't make excuses or blame others, they just focus on what they CAN DO. As Florence Nightingale once said: "I attribute my success to this: I never GAVE nor took any excuse". Any emotion, no matter how extreme can be changed, by learning how to change your focus, specifically to gratitude and perspective. If your life doesn't feel like a blessing, LEARN how to shift your focus – every day to the place where it does.

Unsuccessful people think about what they have to give up in order to achieve what they want. Successful people think about what they are going to get at the end of the process. They are happy to sacrifice NOW, knowing they will be rewarded LATER.



Self-accountability is an important aspect of any individual employee in any organization. During difficult times employees are likely to face challenges they may never have faced before. For this reason, leaders should also be flexible. They need to understand the issues their people are facing and help to resolve them. In some cases, it may mean thinking outside of the box.

What is Self-Accountability

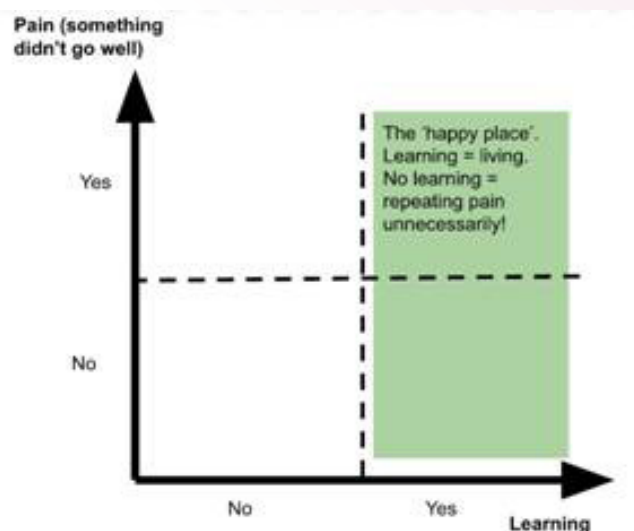
Self-Accountability, also known as Personal-Accountability, is when you hold yourself responsible for every action in your life. You don't blame others for what happened to you, whether it

was a success or a failure. In case of a failure, you consider it your fault and try to improvise it with time. Also, when you succeed, you acknowledge it as your hard work and celebrate with happiness.

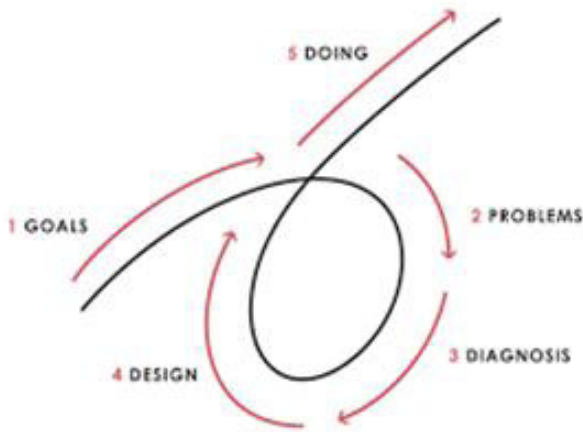
3. Pain + Reflection = Progress

Reflection is something one has to find increasingly so important over a period of time and how to really grow from those experiences. To become a highly technical minded as well as a goal-and action-oriented person one has to anticipate no shortage of the "Pain +" of the equation. Therefore, Pain+ Reflection + CHANGED ACTION=Progress.

Our most painful moments are also our most important. Rather than run from pain, we need to identify it, accept it, and learn how to use it to better ourselves. Our images of learning are filled with positive thoughts about how we learn from others.



There is no avoiding pain, especially if you're going after ambitious goals. Believe it or not, you are lucky to feel that kind of pain if you approach it correctly, because it is a signal that you need to find solutions so you can progress. If you can develop a reflexive reaction to psychical pain that causes you to reflect on it rather than avoid it, it will lead to your rapid learning/evolving.



5-STEP PROCESS FOR GETTING WHAT YOU WANT OUT OF LIFE

4. Maximise your potential

The world is full of opinions, none of them should influence where YOU want to be in life. Focus on your own path, and walk that path, regardless of others' opinions. You'll never be successful in life unless you are living the life YOU WANT TO LIVE. Don't wear masks to fit in to this world. Be brave enough to stand tall and WALK in the direction you really want. Be true to you. The key to a great life is GROWTH that comes from self-development. The PRIDE that comes from that GROWTH. The inner joy that comes from that PRIDE, knowing you are self-made. Knowing you made a great life, for yourself, and set the example for all those close to you. Feed your mind every day, always rising to a new level of consciousness, always seeking growth.

"The more you LEARN the more you will EARN" – Warren Buffett. The more you GROW the more you KNOW. The more you develop your SELF. No One will believe in You, Until YOU DO. If you want people to support you, lead by example: BACK YOURSELF. If you want people to believe in you: BELIEVE IN YOURSELF. Lacking belief? PROGRESS leads to BELIEF. GROWTH leads to BELIEF. Feed your mind, every day with self-development material, new knowledge, empowering your talk AND start taking action – once you start making PROGRESS, belief will come. Belief will grow.

"Always think bigger." It's important to keep in mind that unexpected curveballs can come your way, and although many things can be possible if you put your mind to them, things might not go according to plan. The key is establishing a happy medium when it comes to your mindset. Klapow, the clinical psychologist advises, "Dream and think big, but have a healthy dose of reality to counterbalance that."



Summary

Every person wants to fulfill something in his or her life. But success is coming to those people who are moving forward to implement some action instead of just thinking. Success is coming to those who think properly with proper and dedicated planning. Every person has infinite potential within him/her. These 4 principles are useful as how a person use his infinite potential to succeed in life.

Dr. S. Jeyachandran

He is basically a Concrete Technologist turned into a Construction Management professional by experience. He has had over 4 decades of experience in selling, Quality Control of Construction Materials, teaching in various institutes. Presently Vice President in Marutham Group, Chennai..



Fun and Interesting Facts About India That Might Surprise You

India is on the bucket list for many travelers, and it's no mystery why! The diverse landscape, colorful festivals, and spicy-hot cuisine are already reasons enough to pack your bags to visit Mumbai or Varanasi.

Whether you've been to India before or are just fascinated with this country, here are 40 interesting facts about India that might surprise you.

1. Cows are considered sacred

If hamburgers are a regular part of your diet, you'll need to make some adjustments before visiting India! Cows are protected by their own set of rules in the Constitution, making killing a cow a crime.

Even on crowded city streets, cows have the liberty to roam where they please without fear of being harassed by humans.

2. India is the wettest inhabited place on Earth

Meghalaya village has won the Guinness world record title for the wettest place on Earth, with about 11,873 milliliters of rain annually. The monsoon season lasts six months, so make sure you pack an umbrella!

3. India has over 300,000 mosques and over 2 million Hindu temples

Get ready to be awed and amazed by all the stunning architecture India has to offer. About 15% of India's population is Muslim.

The mosques across the country range from small village buildings to immense famous ones, like the Mecca Masjid in Hyderabad or the Jama Masjid in New Delhi.

The same can be said about India's Hindu temples, which surpass two million to serve the 79.8% of India's Hindu population.

Just the holy city of Varanasi has over 23,000 temples. It is safe to say India is the land of temples!



4. Chenab Bridge is the highest rail bridge in the world

Not all of India's famous monuments are religious. The jaw-dropping bridge spanning the Chenab

river in Jammu is 1,178 feet above the water. If you're afraid of heights, you might want to skip this one!

5. Rajasthan has a Temple of Rats

The animal wonders of India continue. Although rats might not be the first species you think of to worship, there is a temple in Rajasthan dedicated to rats.

Thousands of rats call the temple home, making it one of the country's most unique attractions.

Many pilgrims visit the temple every year on their own religious journeys, so make sure to be respectful of local customs when visiting.

6. Ranked the second-most populous country in the world

Second only to China, India has roughly 1.37 billion people... and the number keeps climbing. It's estimated that by the year 2050, India will have surpassed China to become the most populated country in the world.

7. India has one of the lowest percentage of population using the internet

Even though India also has the second largest number of internet users in the world, second only to China, the percentage of the population using the internet is among the lowest in the world, with only 48.7% of the population having access to it – well behind the world average of 64.4% (as of 2022).

The Internet has faced many roadblocks throughout its development and adoption in India, so using a VPN is recommended for a more secure browsing experience.

8. You can drive on the world's highest motorable road



At over 19,300 feet, the Ladakh road is the highest motorable road in the world. Make sure you pack a warm jacket on before embarking on this particular adventure!

9. Home of a mysterious skeleton lake

Located in the Himalayas at about 16,470 feet, the glacial Lake Roopkund has become famous for the human skeletons found in the lake and surrounding areas.

It is thought that the skeletons are the remains of people from the 9th century who perished during a severe hail storm.

10. The popular game “Snakes and Ladders” originated in India

Now sold across the world (sometimes adapted to “shoots and ladders”), this board game traces its roots back to India.

It was first created to teach morals and lessons about karma in a way that young children would understand and remember.

11. India was the first country to mine diamonds

From the 4th century BC for around 1,000 years, India was the only source of diamonds in the world.

The original diamonds were found in the Krishna River Delta.

In the 18th century, more diamond deposits were discovered in Brazil, and soon after, in South Africa, adding to the market of diamonds.



12. Hinduism is the oldest religion in the world, and it's not a true polytheism

With documents dating back as early as 5,500 BCE, Hinduism is considered the oldest religion in the world.

There is not a known founder of Hinduism, and no one cares to know who started Hinduism since Hinduism is a way of life.

Currently, Hinduism is the third largest religion in the world, serving more than 1 billion people.

Regarding gods, Hinduism is not a pure polytheism. Hindus believe in one god, Brahma, who is manifested in thousands of other gods.

Along with Brahma as the main god, two other gods make up The Trimurti. Brahma is the creator of the universe, Vishnu is the preserver of the universe, and Shiva destroys the world to recreate it.

It is up to each Hindu to decide which god they worship.

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And here's another fun fact about Hinduism; the number 108 is the most sacred number for Hindus.

It is the ratio of the Sun's distance from Earth to the Sun's diameter, as well as the ratio of the Moon's distance from Earth to the Moon's diameter.

13. India has 22 recognized languages

The numerous languages spoken across India include Santali, Kashmiri, Bengali, Tamil, and Urdu. However, the official languages are English and Hindi.

India also has the world's second-largest population of English speakers (first is the United States), since most Indians speak their own regional language as well as English for easier communication.

Sanskrit is considered the oldest language in the world, the "mother of all languages." Every Hindu book is written in Sanskrit, and it is said that Sanskrit is the language of the demi-Gods.



14. Most Indians eat with only their fingers

It's customary in India to eat food with your fingers, including rice, sauces, meats, and vegetables. Some people argue that to truly enjoy an authentic Indian curry, it's a requirement to eat the dish with your hands!

Don't be afraid to forgo the use of a fork, knife, and spoon while you're in India; just watch

how the locals do it and try finger food out for yourself.

15. A village with no locks and doors may be the safest on Earth

The village of Shani Shingnapur is famous for not having a door or lock on a single house. Beyond that, there has not been a recording of a criminal act for almost 400 years.

Many people think that the shared vulnerability has created a neighborly trust between the residents, which has formed a protection stronger than a deadbolt or heavy gate.



16. "Indian food" has become one of the most widespread cuisines in the world

From London to New York City, Indian food has spread across the world and continues to gain popularity. Many argue that authentic flavor and spice is lost in many of the restaurants outside of India itself.

If you're about to visit India and are starting your trip in Delhi, then this food tour is the best and safest way to introduce your palate to authentic Indian food!

17. India has the highest population of vegetarians

It's estimated that between 15% and 30% of India's population follow a strict vegetarian diet, while many others will only consume fish and no land animals.

Vegetarianism is so widely spread that even western food chains like KFC provide a vegetarian menu for restaurant patrons.

18. There are A LOT of holidays

In 2019, India recorded 26 official holidays, including Independence Day, Deepavali, Holi, and Christmas.

The wide range of celebrations comes from the fact that so many different cultural groups are blended in the Indian population, leading to a plethora of holidays and festivals.



19. Holi is much more than a colorful powder festival

Holi, also known as the festival of colors, is the popular Hindu spring festival celebrated across India and Nepal.

Holi's name comes from "Holika", the sister of demon King "Hiranyakashyap," and it signifies the victory of good over evil. It also marks the end of the winter season, welcoming the spring.

While the festival is well known for its colorful powders, water also is a big part of the event as many people use water balloons to engage in water fights with family and friends.

Beyond being a national festival in India, these days, Holi is celebrated by Hindus all over the world.

20. The world's largest sundial is located in India

The town of Jaipur is home to the largest sundial in the world, which is a towering 27 meters (90 feet) tall!

If that's not impressive enough, the sundial is constructed from beautiful polished stone to create an awe-inspiring work of architecture.

The sundial has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Every year, it attracts thousands of visitors, who come to witness the shadow moving at about six centimeters per minute.



21. The Taj Mahal is slowly changing color

Perhaps the most iconic landmark in India, the majestic white walls of the Taj Mahal are something almost every traveler dreams of seeing.

However, due to pollution and contaminants in the air, the marble walls are slowly transforming from white into a yellow color.

I highly recommend visiting the Taj Mahal on this private day trip from Delhi (which also includes the Agra Fort and Baby Taj).

22. During World War II, the Taj Mahal was disguised as a bamboo stockpile

Even if the color is changing, the Taj Mahal is still one of the most beloved and important monuments in the country.

To protect the building during World War II, the entire palace was covered with bamboo scaffolding, completely hiding the true structure from bomber planes flying overhead.

The trick seemed to work because the Taj Mahal was never struck during the war.



23. In some places in India, Coke and Pepsi are used as pesticides

In the Chattisgarh state of India, which is one of the world's largest rice-producing areas, farmers began to spray their fields with Coke and Pepsi products, since it was cheaper than traditional pesticides and seemed to work just as well.

On looking more closely at this method, it's thought that the sweet syrups attract ants to the field, which eat the eggs and larva of insects that commonly destroy crops.

24. North Sentinel Island is one of the last “untouched” places on Earth

The Indian government has prohibited anyone from going within three miles of North Sentinel Island, home of the Sentinelese people.

In 1991, the anthropologist Madhumala Chattopadhyay had several peaceful encounters with the Sentinelese, but in subsequent years, the people made it very clear (sometimes violently) that they did not want to be disturbed.

It is now considered one of the last places untouched by the outside world.

25. The KumbhMela is visible from space

The KumbhMela is an important festival and pilgrimage site, and the largest gathering on Earth. While a celebration takes place each year, there is a festival of greater significance at four-year and twelve-year intervals.

The number of people attending the festival is so large that the crowd is visible in satellite photos taken from space.



26. India has one of the lowest divorce rates in the world

According to statistics, the divorce rate in India is about 1 out of every 100 marriages, making it much lower than most countries.

This may be partly due to cultural customs and the fact that arranged marriages still occur in India.

27. Frogs Are Married Off

Speaking of marriage, frogs are married in India! Well, at least in Varanasi.

Varanasi goes back to its old traditional beliefs and rituals, so when the rains are delayed, the frogs there are caught and married to each other to please the rain gods.

28. The Hindu calendar has six seasons

Instead of the typical four-season cycle most countries recognize, India follows a six-season calendar, recognizing spring, summer, monsoon, autumn, prewinter, and winter.



29. Varanasi is the most ancient surviving city in the world

A few countries around the world claim they have the oldest living city in the world, and India is no exception.

The holy city of Varanasi, also known as Banaras or Kashi, is believed to be one of the oldest living cities in the world. In fact, it is believed that this place was once the home of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati.

As Mark Twain puts it, Varanasi is “older than history, older than tradition, older even than legend, and looks twice as old as all of them put together.”

This city’s connection with eternity doesn’t end here, for it is believed that the person who inhales his final breath here actually attains salvation.

This is why so many devout Hindus pilgrimage to Varanasi to spend their last days on Earth. At the same time, many other devotees flock to the city throughout the year to experience its divinity.

If you’re visiting the city for the first time, I highly recommend this private half day tour to immerse yourself into Varanasi’s culture, history, and (tourist-friendly) street food!

Also, Varanasi is a visually stunning city. From its architecture, its people, and rituals, every moment and every corner present a photo worthy capture. Make the most of this rich experience with this photo tour across the city.

30. The Origin of Ayurveda and Yoga

In addition to being well known as the holiest city in India, Varanasi is also known as the birth-place of Ayurveda and Yoga and their ancient healing systems.

31. India is divided into 29 states

Not many foreigners realize that India is subdivided into states. Some of these states – like Assam, Kashmir, and Goa – are more easily recognized thanks to products like Assam tea, Kashmir silk, or the popular tourist destinations in Goa.

32. Tea is the national beverage of India

It’s no secret that Indians love tea; the beverage is served throughout the day and with meals in every household. India is the second-largest



producer of tea in the world, following closely behind China.

33. Around 70% of the world's spices come from India

India is by far the largest producer of spices, which are shipped across continents to restaurants and kitchens worldwide. Some of the best-known spices are turmeric, cumin, saffron, and chili powders.



34. India has the current tallest statue in the world

Measuring 600ft (182m) in height, the Statue of Unity is currently the tallest statue in the world.

The statue, which is a tribute to the independence leader Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, is located in the western state of Gujarat, where Patel was born.

For comparison, this statue is almost twice as tall as the Statue of Liberty (305ft or 93m). It is made

with more than 12,000 bronze panels and weighs about 67,000 tonnes.

The easiest way to visit the statue is with this day tour from Ahmedabad.

35. The Amritsar Golden Temple serves free meals....for thousands

The Amritsar Golden Temple is one of the most dazzling architectural monuments in India, but it is also a site of generosity and compassion. This Sikh temple is open to people of all religions.

Every day, it serves a simple vegetarian meal, often to over fifty thousand people. What's even more impressive is that almost all the ingredients are donated.

This private day tour to the Amritsar Golden Temple and Wagan Border is one to not be missed.

36. India was the first country to refine and consume sugar

If you have a sweet tooth, you have India to thank for it. India was the first place where sugar was extracted, refined, and used in cooking – although once people got a taste of the delicious stuff, sugar production quickly spread around the world.

37. Shampoo originated in India

The word “shampoo” comes from the Sanskrit word “champu,” which means “to massage.”

Ground herbs mixed with water were the very first forms of shampoo. Not until later, when the idea caught on were commercial bottles produced.

38. India is Famous for its Iconic Step Wells

India's abandoned step-wells, known as vavs in Gujarat and baolis (or baoris) elsewhere in northern India, are an important part of its history and architecture.



While information about them is scarce, they're believed to have started appearing mostly between the 2nd and 4th centuries to supply water from the country's deep water tables – especially in the hot, dry states in northern India.

Beyond their primary use, they were often used to provide shade, as temples, community centers, and layovers on trade routes.

Among the most stunning step wells is the Rani ki Vav (the Queen's Step Well), which is undoubtedly India's most awe-inspiring step well.

It's crazy to think that this UNESCO World Heritage site was just recently discovered.

These step wells are best explored on a tour. Here are some of the best step well tours in the region.

39. The steel wires in the Bandra Worli Sealink could stretch around the world

Completed in 2010, the incredible Bandra Worli Sealink bridge required 90,000 tons of cement to build. To hold that all up, enormous steel cables – each with the ability to hold up 900 tons of weight – were put in place along the bridge.

If they were laid out end to end, the cables could reach around the circumference of the globe.

40. Gandhi is one of India's most famous icons

Revered the world over for his nonviolent philosophy of passive resistance, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was known to his many followers as Mahatma, or “the great-souled one.”

He was also commonly referred to as “Bapu,” which means father.

In the years following World War I, he became the leading figure in India's struggle to gain independence from Great Britain.

After Partition in 1947, he continued to work toward peace between Hindus and Muslims until his death, when he was fatally shot in Delhi in January 1948 by a Hindu fundamentalist.

Gandhi's face has appeared on all denominations of Indian Rupees printed since 1996.

41. There's a floating post office in India

Not only does India have the largest network of postal services in the world, but it also has some very unique post offices, including one that floats on the water.

Located in Dal Lake, Srinagar, the post office has begun to serve as a tourist destination for curious visitors who hope to photograph the unique site. Trust me, Srinagar is one of the most beautiful places in India!

These amazing facts about India are just the tip of the iceberg; this country has so many surprises in store for travelers!

There's nothing quite like real-life experience, so if these fun facts about India have piqued your curiosity, get ready to have your mind blown when you travel there in person!

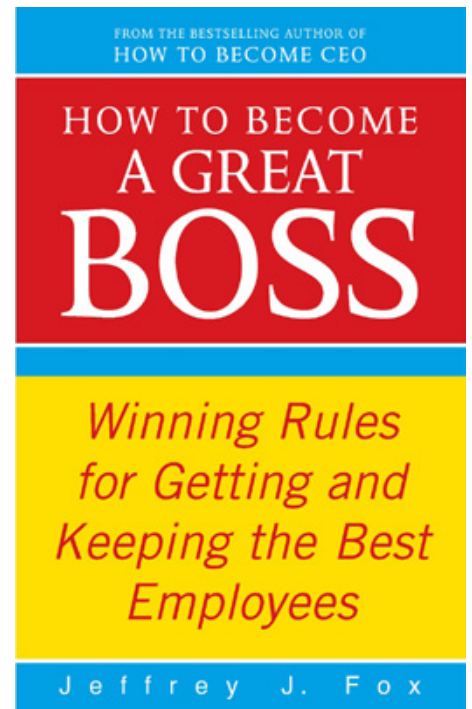
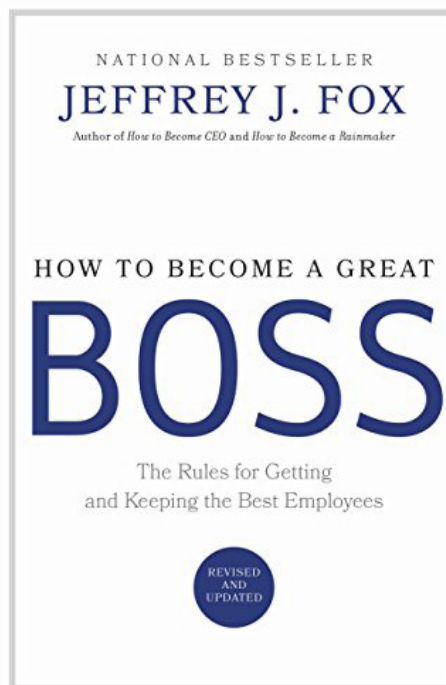
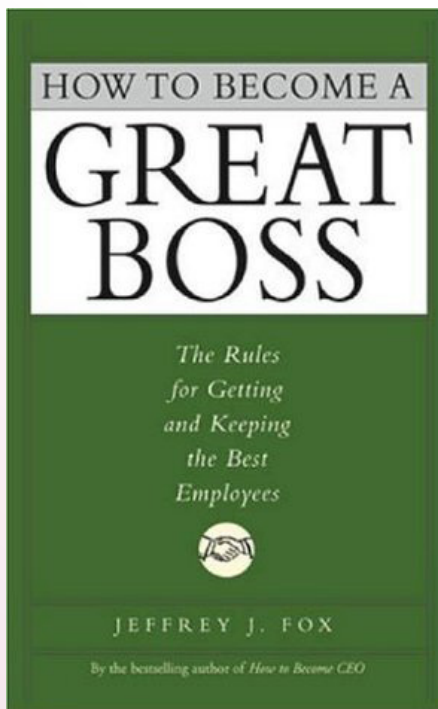
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Book Review

How to become a Great BOSS

By

Mr JEFFREY J. FOX



The author of the above book is Mr JEFFREY J. FOX who wrote the famous book- HOW TO BECOME A CEO.

He has in a nut shell tabulated the success formula for becoming a Great Boss:

Hire only top notch people

Put the right people in the right job

Weed out the wrong people.

Train the people

Listen to people and

Say 'Thank you' publicly and privately.

Tell the people what needs to be done.

Tell the people why it is needed.

Leave the job up to the people you have chosen to do it.



Remove frustration and barriers that fetter the people.

Inspect progress.

About the Author

Jeffrey J. Fox is the Founder of Fox & Co Inc., a Premier marketing consulting company in Connecticut serving over 60 industries. Fox is the subject of a Harvard Business School case study that is rated one of the top 100 case studies, and is thought to be the most widely taught marketing case in the world. He has won numerous awards from the business community, including Sales and Marketing Management magazine's Outstanding Marketer Award.

The Boss & the Workplace

If you are a Boss or hope to become one, this is the book that would change your career and your life.

The workplace is now smarter and more competitive than ever, so it pays for managers to be alert to the ways that good staff can be attracted and motivated. If you need useful advice on how to handle difficult

situations, the observations contained in this book will take you in the right direction.

You get what you inspect, not what you expect. Inspection is not simple. You can't just send a memo or an email and expect something to happen. Sometimes you have to go and see what's happening. Setting great expectations and getting great expectations are two different realities. Trust everyone, but cut the cards.

Great bosses are principled. They are honest, ethical, fair and concerned. They are champions for the organization and stand for what the organization stands for. They don't allow the company name to be sullied. They get great people to carry the flag. They manage people, not time clocks or calendars. Managing people requires common sense, not books of policies. After all, if there were a policy for every situation, there would be no need for bosses.

Great bosses don't make policy; they make performance possible. They protect their good people. They don't let their good people face the firing squad alone. They do not sacrifice someone to save themselves.

About the Publication

This book was published in the USA in 2002 by Hyperion.

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R. Venugopal

Mr. Venugopal has served in LIC of India from 1968 to 2006 for 38 years and retired as an Executive Director.



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