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Suresh Rao finds Australian Team strongest



Suresh Rao, CFO of Mindteck, finds Australian Team to have the right team balance for the Cricket World Cup 2011. They proved themselves three times in a row, so pressure seems to be low on the team to win the Cup for the fourth time.

1) Which team do you think will win the World Cup and why do you think so? Australia. They have the right team and the right balance. Considering other teams that are likely to make it to the knockout stage, I would say, pressure on Australia is much lesser, as no one is expecting that they would pull it off for the fourth consecutive time. As far as England is concerned, there

is too much pressure on them to win their first world cup and Pakistan looks far too disorganized to make a positive impact in the competition. India, being the host country, will definitely buckle under pressure from Indian dreams and expectations and South Africa are known to choke under pressure.

2) Can you kindly narrate an anecdote or some interesting personal experience that highlights your association with cricket? {It could be your cricket experience during school/college days}

In Class 11, we had a lesson in English Literature called the "The Village Cricket Match" which I can never forget. There was this little village in England, where people pursuing different occupations form a cricket team and decide to have a cricket match with the neighboring village. The lesson is about how different trades that these villagers pursue helps them in playing their role in the match. Most memorable of the characters is a bald-headed "Professor of Ballistics" who, when fielding on the ropes, does a quick calculation using all his mathematical skills, wind velocity and angle of elevation, arrives at the conclusion where the ball is going to drop and immediately presents himself at just the right spot. That was mighty hilarious and I cannot help bursting out in laughter whenever I imagine this character in the story.

3) At the organizational level, do you think Cricket helps connect with people in informal way and cut-across teams/divisions? {You could talk about cricket teams in your own company}

Recently we had an Inter-house cricket tournament and there was so much energy and enthusiasm that it drummed up amongst the teams. I could not help noticing how, if we could manage to get the same energy and enthusiasm replicated in the workplace, and provide them a platform where everyone wants to win together, the workplace could equally become a fun-place and bind all forces in a team together seamlessly. Again, there are several folks in the company with whom one does not interact with, given that your work does not require such interactions and yet when we play for the same team, we somehow get familiar and identify with one another in a way we would never do in the workplace. We cheer, we joke and share our opinions, contribute to what's happening on the field as if we have always known them personally. Amazing, how Cricket can create a common platform that is so much a binding force as well as vibrant and energetic, at the same time.

4) Who is your favourite player and why do you admire him? Any management lessons you would like to draw and build an analogy?

My favorite is MS Dhoni. He is the Perfect Leader. Extremely focused on the result, gets the team to bond like never before, places the team objective above all else, learns from his own failures and most importantly, never gives the team members the impression of panic/worry even under extreme pressure. The ultimate test of strength for a leader is how he reacts under pressure, be it in the workplace or in business. Dhoni's leadership is true leadership to me.