

2016 - The Good, Bad , Ugly and Funny.



This was a year of extremes.

This was the year I was completely at peace with my own self. I thoroughly enjoyed every single thing I did and was in the zone whenever I did something. Despite my obesity, I could feel a lighter self.

On the contrary, my life savings eroded in my Startup Experiment and turned out to be most expensive learning experience of my life. I never realized that self-discovery can turn out to be so damn costly.

The Good

- Came to know about the nuances of starting a company
- Airbus accepting the Startup idea into their Airbus Bizlab Season 1
- Broke my mental blocks when I completed the 50 kilometre walk and got the finisher medal
- Clocked more than 2000 kilometres of walking in the year. To give a perspective it is the distance between Bangalore and Delhi. A consistency of close to 5 KMS a day . I was surprised at my consistency as well.
- Attended a seven day silence program that put me onto a daily habit of meditation for minimum of thirty minutes
- Enjoyed the Maha Kumbh in Ujjain , thanks to my friend, witnessing millions of people gathering in sweltering heat. Always makes me wonder 'What is the binding force' ?
- Discovered many chinks in personal armoury especially in professional aspects
- Was not afraid to be vulnerable
- Liberating to find out anyone whom I reached out was still willing to help me
- Kept one of my promise that I made to myself last year. Read More, Wrote More, Listened More.

The Bad

- Shutdown the Startup Idea owing to lack of conviction when it mattered. Took the path of least resistance. I choose not to kindle the fighter in me. This was the MOST disappointing find of the year.
- Broke all business fundamentals when chasing the idea.
- Followed a corporate mindset when running a Startup.
- Relied more on softer aspects like trust and guts without necessary backing with data
- Did not follow what is right for the business. Instead did what is right for my conscious. In business of Startups, it is difficult to have both.

- Despite focusing on physical fitness, did not reach the fitness levels required to take on the Chadar Trek which I had originally planned to do in January of 2017. Now I have to wait a year more. This would have knocked out one more item of my bucket list. I am mostly done with my bucket list except for couple of things.

The Ugly

Somehow I am taking my eyes off the finishing line. A complete apathy towards time bound results. One thing I will fix starting 2017.

The Funny

- I spent more waking time at home last year than the last twenty years. I became such a eye sore to my family (Mother, Wife, Children) and they do a hip-hip-hooray when I take my bag in the morning and tell them, I will come late in the evening. I did not know I was such a bad company !. Well, familiarity breeds contempt.
- I got into this shameless and notorious habit of asking people to take me out for lunch and dinner on a periodic basis and everyone reluctantly gave in. They were gracious enough to throw me free lunches and dinner at will. I would have to pay back one day. I do not know how or when.
- Though fitness routines improved, weight remained as obstinate as me. I think the formula is simple. Anything else is baloney.

Weight Loss = Calories In - Calories Out

What I was doing is an accounting terms, adding a compensation factor to my "calories in" by means of increased intake to counter the increased "calories out" and thus weight did not budge. I somewhere read Weight Loss is a negative goal and focused on increased fitness which does seem to be a positively framed goal.

My daughter, who keeps me honest delivered the coup de grace. She said the following

*"Why are you wasting time with Amuz (which was the name for the Startup Idea). You prepare butter milk, curd rice and variety of milkshakes better than anyone. Why don't you set up a shop and sell these specialities? She did not stop there and added. Let Amma continue to work. You get out of your laptop and **become a House Husband**"*

Well, I am grappling for answers.

Generally I am known to do many crazy spontaneous things. Couple of days back , we went around circling the western ghats for one thousand kilometres for couple of days. Sometimes I wonder, how anyone can put up with my eccentricities!. So people ask me this question what are the resolutions for the new year.

This time I am just focused on three

1. Clock a half marathon in two hour twenty minutes. Currently I am somewhere in the range of three hour twenty minutes. I know it is a tall ask, but if I fail here I cannot do the 'Blame it on Rio' act!

2. Solve the case of [missing SMS](#). My folks are losing their patience. I am not producing and just consuming. They are not going to tolerate it for eternity. However I have negotiated with them for another 19 months and need to have an answer by end of 2017.
3. Fix the ugly side permanently.

I think that is all there is to it. Somehow, despite all the capital erosion and continued leak, I sense a high degree of contentment and I do not know if it is a good or bad thing.

As I mentioned previously in some of my blogs, I am perilously close to wanting nothing and I find it extremely discomfoting.

I find joy in reading, writing, travel , spending time with family despite their resistance, using my skills to solve something for others(without expecting anything in return). I find joy in their success.

My best buddy hit the nail on my head. "You do not seem to be talking the language of enterprise creator. Wake up buddy, we have a long way to go" is what he said.

Haven't I come a long way ? I wondered and asked him the same. He said 'Past is History. Time for you to step up and deliver as an enterprise creator'

I told him, we shall talk later. When the going gets tough, the tough get going. I evaded further discussion!

I do not know if I am equipped for that. "Enterprise Creation".

What is my MOJO or Sweet Spot?

Questions, Questions, Questions ?

Life would be boring without those questions aimed at my own self.

Isn't it ?

May be 2017 will help me towards that nailing down that sweet spot.

Enjoy Maadi (Have Fun)

Zunder