

Anniversary bonanza

Five new columns to mark 5th anniversary of Thursday

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Next Thursday

Cover Story

Survival of the fittest



Mind and Body

Doctors estimate that 80 per cent of us will experience back pain at some time in our lives



Greatest Love Stories

After years of being a Hollywood legend, he was now a lonely rebel



Take A Break

By Nadeem Yousaf

Corporate foxes

I HAVE read an article that termed hardworking people as "corporate donkeys". If there are donkeys in organisations, there are foxes as well. It might be interesting to know how corporate foxes behave and how they can be identified.

Who are corporate foxes?

Foxy behaviour is analogous to treacherous behaviour. Corporate foxes are very clever; they skilfully demonstrate cunning and shrewd behaviour at work. They lie with ease and proudly term it as 'communication or negotiation skill.' Consequently, they rise on the ladder of hierarchy faster.

In contrast to donkeys, foxes show more of their negotiation and socialisation skills whole day in the office than working hard. However, they have high expectations of great monetary rewards without being productive. They do not mind going an extra mile to make their bosses and influential people happy. Here is a test to see if you fall in the category of corporate foxes.

Self-diagnosis of fox behaviour

- You remain busy thinking about

demands of your wife and children even after coming to the office. Yes/No

- You have superseded your seniors and received an unexpected promotion and privileges without being productive. Yes/No
- You always try to design official tours in such a way that give you extra vacations. Yes/No
- You spend most of the time in reading newspapers, making social calls and completing home-tasks in the office. Yes/No
- You are a low work carrier in the office. Yes/No
- You give hypocritical smiles to everyone. Yes/No
- You don't let go any opportunity to flatter your superiors or influential people. Yes/No
- You have mediocre knowledge but you are good at rehashing basic terminologies of the subject to impress people. Yes/No
- You don't let any opportunity to boast of your insignificant achievements. Yes/No
- You always pretend that you are master of all though you are simply a jack. Yes/No

You Said It

Make them memorable

Thursday dwelt on the prevalent mood of *Festive fervour* (Thursday, November 11-17) and why not, for the ambience it creates is of great warmth, gaiety, joy and happiness.

Festivals are not just about performing the traditional customs — they mean much more — sharing with close friends, acquaintances and relatives.

In the present times of commercialisation and hectic life, when we see people making the effort to celebrate the festivals, it shows that they don't want to give them up.

It's a wee bit sad when we see our children getting scared of small sparklers, when at the same age we had played with dangerous crackers.

But then making the best of what

- You are scared of qualified people and always look for opportunities to pull their legs. Yes/No
- Monetary benefits are the only stimuli for you and you are ready to do anything to get them. Yes/No
- You are clever in making back door deals. Yes/No
- You don't mind being a sycophant even of your enemy if you know that you could get benefits out of him. Yes/No
- In your opinion, getting undue favour(s) is the result of your progressive attitude. Yes/No
- You consider manipulation of rules as your cleverness. Yes/No

If your answer is yes to five of the above points, you are a fox. The higher marks you obtain, the bigger fox you are. If you are a fox, you are not sincere to your organisation. You should reconsider your attitude and actions to be a productive team player.

What should donkeys do?

The corporate donkeys should redefine their roles without following in the footsteps of foxes. Here are some tips:

- Corporate donkeys should reveal and discuss the behaviour of foxes publicly.

- Refuse to share corporate foxes' load of work.
- The donkeys must report actions of corporate foxes to the superiors, informally or formally.
- Donkeys should learn how to stand for their rights without adopting foxes' behaviour.
- If you are a corporate donkey and heading the organisation/department, you should discourage corporate foxes.

Who is better: corporate foxes or donkeys?

Analysing efficiency of organisations in most of Asian countries, it might not be wrong to argue that it has been declining because corporate donkeys are becoming a scarce resource day by day. If some level of efficiency is left in Asian countries, it is by virtue of corporate donkeys. Only corporate donkeys can improve efficiency and productivity. Organisations and institutions can correct corporate foxes' behaviour by encouraging rule-orientation and evenly distributing workload among employees, and discouraging unnecessary socialisation and networking.

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