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# c'est la vie

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## MY FAVOURITE | ABHIMANYU SINGH, CEO, CONTILOR PICTURES

 I can watch *Gandhi* and *Sholay* anytime. The former is inspirational, and *Sholay* is just everyone's favourite, including mine.

 I haven't been able to read much post college. But Shakespeare's plays have stayed with me. It's interesting how each time you read the Bard's work, you are able to derive a new interpretation. It's also a great lesson in screenwriting.

 Like most Indians, I am a big fan of cricket, especially the T20 format. It's not just an entertainment extravaganza, but an evolved form of the game. I also enjoy playing golf.

 *Laal maas* and *gatte ki sabzi* make me a happy man. Barring European food, I enjoy most other cuisine, but the rustic Rajasthani food remains closest to my heart.

 Phuket tops my list. I have been there a number of times. They have a lovely beach, called Laguna, which has a secluded golf course. I also like visiting Dehradun, Mussorie when I can.

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SOUMIK KAR



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# Putt-ing things in perspective

CMS INFO SYSTEMS CEO, RAJIV KAUL ON HOW GOLF HELPS HIM DE-STRESS AND TEACHES HIM LIFE LESSONS AT THE SAME TIME

*Sonia Mariam Thomas*

**R**ajiv Kaul found golf by accident. His colleagues gifted him a golf set when he was moving from India to the US. This was around 10 years ago, when he was working for Microsoft. *“I had never tried the game before. I believe the message that came along with the first set of clubs was ‘Please get a life,’”* he laughs. Not knowing what to do with them, Kaul tried giving the clubs to his father, who had been playing the game for some years, but the clubs didn’t suit him. So Kaul says he was left with this white elephant in the house. Eventually, *“I signed up for some classes at the DLF course in Delhi and started playing sporadically.”* He though adds that he has become a regular in the last three to four years.

In the US, he was travelling a lot so he couldn’t play as often and indulged in the game only once in every three to four months. When he moved to London, he couldn’t putt much because of the weather. But the putting green would beckon him often post 2008, when he moved back to India. Says Kaul, *“When I joined CMS, it was a fairly intensive turnaround. We would work without a break for 15-20 days. So, I started playing golf to relax. When the turnaround efforts started bearing fruit, I realised I had time to play more golf than I used to.”* Kaul adds he soon noticed that he was playing to cool off as well. *“Whenever there was stress, I noticed I would end up on the golf course. It was either that or a need to work out.”*

Kaul says he enlisted his father to help him with his game in the initial days. Kaul says, *“He was very supportive of whatever I did on the course the first few times, and I think that sort of gives you*

*the confidence to figure out how to conduct yourself.”* His time on the course with his father is also something he replicates with his son. In fact, there are times when the three generations play together. While, my father is still the better player among the three of us, it feels nice to spend time with him and my son.”

Kaul says that he has been able to draw parallels between his professional life and his time on the course as well. *“How you conduct yourself on the golf course is how you conduct yourself in life. When you spend time with a person on the golf course, you can tell more about him than from any number of interviews or interactions.”* When it comes to his projects too, the game and its philosophy helps Kaul. *“Golf is one of the few sports where how you finish is more important than how you start. A lot of projects start off really well but slowly peter down. Also, there is no referee on the course. So, it needs a lot of honesty and discipline to play the game. While it is easy to cheat, as is the case with companies as well, keeping up with the proper norms and procedures is critical here,”* he finishes. 

