

# The Day I Was Born Twice

*Chapter Summaries & Learnings*

JAYANT MITRA

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## CHAPTER 1

### Childhood — Roots of Innocence and Play

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Jayant Mitra grew up in Bombay, shaped by his father's disciplined routines and a home marked by warmth and equality—evident even in the children calling their mother by her first name. Summers in Valsad and cricket in the Bombay compound gave him a deep sense of belonging and lifelong friendships.

His days were filled with small, ordinary moments—neighborly debates, compound evenings, casual play—that seemed unremarkable then but quietly built his character. It was an unassuming childhood whose simple routines ultimately proved formative.

**Learning:** *The most important foundations are laid before you are old enough to recognise them as foundations.*

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## CHAPTER 2

### School Days — Foundations of Learning

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School shaped Jayant's inner world as much as his mind—an early head starts in kindergarten, naming all nine planets in second standard, and teaching himself geography in eleventh standard when no teacher was available all revealed a boy who learned by absorption and self-reliance.

That same resourcefulness would define his professional life decades later. His school years also gave him enduring friendships, chess that taught him grace in losing, and the start of a physical discipline—swimming, walking, structure—that lasted six decades.

**Learning:** *Discipline introduced early becomes invisible over time — it simply becomes who you are.*

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## College Years — Bonds, Games, and Growth

College brought Jayant a quiet expansion beyond his familiar world, marked by his choice to study Physics—a path few others took, reflecting an early instinct toward harder, less-crowded roads. Daily rhythms of classes, carrot juice breaks, and chess tournaments taught him that losing gracefully is its own kind of intelligence.

Lasting friendships with Piyush, Yomesh, Rajesh and others were built on genuine respect rather than circumstance. More than shaping his career, college shaped his character—teaching patience, social ease, and quiet confidence.

**Learning:** *The friendships that form before ambition arrives are often the ones that outlast everything else.*

## The First Job — Where Curiosity Became Commitment

Jayant's entry into the professional world came unexpectedly—through cricket legend Vijay Merchant's introduction to Mr. Ganeshan, leading to a role that combined weekday data work with weekend social service in Pune.

Starting as a console operator on an IBM 1401 mainframe in 1979, he faced night shifts and demanding operational discipline, even sleeping on station platforms during early commutes, yet achieved 88% efficiency.

This grueling initiation taught him that meaningful work makes discomfort worthwhile. His subsequent COBOL training marked a turning point, cementing a lifelong belief that technology, applied with care, could genuinely serve people.

**Learning:** *Discomfort in early work is not a warning sign — it is the medium through which commitment is formed.*

## Entrepreneurship — Building Venus Computers

Venus Computers began in 1980 in a modest flat, built from little more than a few desks and a name chosen from curiosity and pride of ownership.

Over forty-one years, it weathered defining trials—the high-stakes 1982 Maharashtra census project completed against the odds, a direct confrontation with Shiv Nadar that recovered significant losses, a sprawling textile project across four cities, and the patient, respectful training of resistant Hindustan Petroleum operators.

Through it all, Venus earned a reputation for accuracy and reliability, and for taking on challenges others avoided. Employees like Madhuri exemplified this culture—staying late simply because the work mattered to them.

**Learning:** *The greatest obstacle to technological change is never technical — it is human. The person who respects the operator before explaining the machine will always succeed where the technical trainer fails.*

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## CHAPTER 6

### ACE Business Consultants — Twelve Remarkable Years

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ACE Business Consultants grew from a borrowed table into twelve of the most formative years of Jayant's career, marked by landmark projects: ACE Banker, digitizing case records for the 1993 Bombay Blast TADA trial with the CBI, building systems for the Mumbai Crime Branch, and receiving recognition from Ratan Tata.

He delivered India's first SaaS product in 2006, automated a system TCS had deemed too complex, and built an online filing system for Cotton Corporation of India that ran for eighteen years. Through it all, he reaffirmed a core belief—that the relationship around a technology matters more than the technology itself.

**Learning:** *When you accept what others decline, you build a reputation that no marketing budget can purchase.*

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## CHAPTER 7

### The Corporate Pinnacle — Glodyne Technoserve

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Glodyne, originally enabled by Jayant's quiet generosity toward Anand in 1997, grew into a publicly listed powerhouse leading ambitious government projects—from Bihar's NREGS biometric system, later studied for Aadhaar, to managing operations in Naxalite-affected Gadchiroli and stabilizing Maharashtra's Labour Department.

Jayant's personal integrity showed through his own financial sacrifice during the company's difficulties and his enduring reflection over unsold ESOP shares. He ultimately left in 2012, having recognized warning signs others overlooked.

**Learning:** *Acquire companies only after due diligence, and deploy oversight into every acquired entity — assumption at scale becomes a financial liability.*

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## CHAPTER 8

### The New Helm — Shifting Horizons in Leadership

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Just a day after leaving Glodyne, Jayant joined COMMEEX Technology, swiftly rising to Director while overseeing operations at NABARD-backed Universal Commodity Exchange and traveling to Dubai for strategic work. Alongside these responsibilities, he completed an MBA, studying during commutes and evenings, driven by his belief that learning never expires.

He also developed the Gold Coin ATM (GCATM) prototype, reflecting his instinct to build what didn't yet exist. The chapter captures a man at his professional peak—until October 2015, when everything he'd built faced an unexpected test.

**Learning:** *True leadership is knowing which doors to knock on when the system stalls — and having the credibility to be heard when you do.*

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CHAPTER 9

## 1st October 2015 — The Day I Was Born Twice

On October 1st, 2015, an ordinary morning walk ended when a motorcycle struck Jayant, leading to 86 days in the ICU, 15 surgeries, an amputation, and a prognosis of zero survival chance—yet his family's unwavering presence and devotion never wavered.

He woke on the 65th day, and his recovery, though fraught with setbacks, was ultimately shaped by unexpected breakthroughs, including his first steps guided by a student's fresh perspective. Today, Jayant studies Sanskrit, explores Vedic astrology, and builds software with his nephew—more fully alive than ever, having learned that nothing is ever guaranteed.

**Learning:** *The person who sees the problem differently is often not the most senior in the room — Krishna was a third-year student, and she changed everything.*

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