

SRIKANTH RAPAKA has been with the Tata group for the past 14 years. He is currently head of HR and administration at DIESL.

What I like about

my current job... the complexity, demanding internal customers and unpredictability.

My strategy in a crisis... buy time and do a lot of analysis to decide on the best way to manage the crisis.

What I wish I knew 10 years ago that I know now... the art of sensitive management.

My greatest high-five moment... difficult to choose; it can be any at personal and professional level.

The biggest risk I have taken... I am a Cancerian; I don't take any risk.

The best advice I have received... "Sthitaprajna" (keep a steady mind, free of conflicts) and that life is not black and white; do not always follow the rule of book.

I am inspired by... my colleagues (past and present) who have risen from dire situations during childhood to admirable positions at work.

A challenge I have enjoyed overcoming... all challenges in the area of industrial relations.

If I wasn't in my present job, I would be... a stage actor or possibly a mono actor.

I dislike... my impatience and over-enthusiasm.

My favourite city and why... Visakhapatnam (Vizag) — I lived there for 22 years before moving to Mumbai. The city offers great beaches, plenty of relaxation and old friends.

Some things that I always carry... my Blackberry which results in my family complaining that I am always working.

My stress-busters... early morning exercise and listening to Carnatic music.

The people I admire... my father for his quest for knowledge, and my former colleagues Satish Pradhan and Anil George for helping me change my outlook.

My mantra for success... work hard, with integrity; think things through and be humble.

Words of advice to a young colleague... stay focused and learn to handle pressure. ▲

