

Subject: Week 110 learnings - Mount Everest
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Dear All

I was in Kathmandu last week and the biggest brand of Kathmandu is Mount Everest. I tried to learn as much as possible from the people I met on Mount Everest. So, here are my learnings:

1. Mount Everest is at a height of 8848 meters or about 29029 feet. Most aircraft do not fly over Mount Everest to overcome any risk of engine failure or some technical problem.
2. This peak was named Mount Everest by Andrew Waugh, then the surveyor general of India in honor of his predecessor Sir George Everest despite objections from Sir Everest. This was in 1865.
3. In 1953, the summit was conquered by Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norwey.
4. Since 1953, about 4000 people have climbed Mount Everest in 67 years. That's about 60 a year.
5. The big challenge to climb Mount Everest is the winds which can be normally at 160 kmph and can go to a high of 280 kmph and Oxygen. Climbers wait for the best period in May when winds are down to climb the summit. Reinhold Messner climbed Everest in 1980 without oxygen.
6. It takes anything between \$ 40,000 to \$70,000 to climb Mount Everest depending on the choice of guide, choice of tour, choice of equipment etc.
7. Till a few years ago, serious climbers would try this adventure, but now all kinds of people try and do this without proper fitness. A climb typically takes 2 months.
8. Now helicopter technology has made it to the top of Mount Everest. However, most climbers do not consider it a climb if the person has taken a helicopter from base camp to camp 2 or 3.
9. I have personally heard Arjun Vajpai, Mark Inglis and Arunima Sinha talk about their climb to the top of Mount Everest. The expression I remember best is when Arjun Vajpai said " when I climbed the summit, I saw the sun below my feet"
10. Kavin Rita Sherpa has climbed Everest 24 times so far and holds the record.
11. There have been 5656 successful climbs so far and 223 people have lost their lives on the climb. So, about 4 % of people meet a fatal end . many of the dead bodies are still on the mountain.
12. While the thrill of the climb is there, the climb itself brings out the worst in people. People do not share either water or oxygen on the climb since giving something to someone in need means you will be deprived in a few hours and could die. So, many climbers report extreme selfishness in people when they climb Everest.

I am in awe every time I see Mount Everest. It is one of the most significant challenges for a person.

Enjoy
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