

**Yogesh Haribhau Kulkarni**

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AI Advisor (Helping organizations in their AI journeys) | PhD (Geometric Modeling) | Tech Colum...

21m • 🌐

🗣️ I've been giving public talks for a few years now. As a token of appreciation, organizers usually give some gifts and felicitate the speakers, which is really nice and well-meaning. But... I have an issue with the kind of gifts given.

As a typical pre-Diwali activity, while taking stock of such items, I realized there are far too many of them now, enough to last not just this lifetime, but probably a few next ones too 😊

So, a humble suggestion to organizers, institutes, and conference hosts (at least for me): please don't give the following anymore 🙅

- Water bottles, mugs, and the likes 🥤
- Bags, haversacks, and the likes 🧡
- Plaques, photo frames, certificates 🖼️
- Diaries, notebooks, and the likes 📖
- T-shirts, jackets, caps, and the likes 👕
- Bouquet, Sapling, small to medium size tree !!!

I honestly don't get excited receiving these anymore (probably tells my age 😅). Where do I even use them? And most of them have logos!

Instead, how about giving this, not just to me, but to any speaker:

- NOTHING (not the phone brand): just absolutely nothing is fine 🙏
- Publicity: share the speaker's work, talk, or profile across networks and social media (costs nothing) 💬
- Books: related to the topic, or even a good bestseller 📚
- Subscriptions/Gift-coupons: to newsletters, portals, LLMs, or copilots (if possible via coupons so that can be further gifted away) 💡
- Any other ideas? Do comment below ..

Yes, I know I'm writing this on the eve of Diwali 🎆 (when gifts of sweets and dry fruit boxes are inevitable and too many!) and ahead of the conference season, but maybe it's time to rethink the gifting

tradition.

[#PublicSpeaking](#) [#Conference](#) [#Speakers](#) [#Diwali](#) [#Gifts](#) [#Organizers](#) [#Oscars](#) [Autodesk](#)

(Pic below: its an old photo with fake Oscars in my hand. Wish I had the real one as a gift. Let's hope!!)

