

# GLIMPSE

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THE  
LEISURE OF  
E-SHOPPING

STYLISH  
SARDARS

GIRLS OF  
GAMING

SPRING  
SUMMER  
FASHION 2012

LUMINOUS  
PERSONALITIES  
OF PUNJAB MAKING IT BIG IN TINSEL TOWN

# DREAM & DREAM BIG DREAMS DO COME TRUE

After fulfilling his childhood dream of becoming a lawyer, Sumant Batra went ahead in life to pursue his other passion. Rather than living a life of a person lending legal and expert advice to clients he chose to reside in abode close to Himalayan foothills in Uttaranchal, where long time back as traveler he discovered the remarkable, enthralling beauty of nature.



**Sumant Batra: rated as No. 1 insolvency lawyer for 5th year in a row by Legal 500**

Sumant Batra, Chairman - Te Aroha

## Mandeep Puri

**G**rown up in Chandigarh, he did his graduation from DAV College and later went to Panjab University for pursuing law. Post studies, he started practicing in Chandigarh and then moved to Delhi to set up his own law firm. In the year 2009 his book named, 'The Indians' was released by the Governor of Haryana at Raj Bhawan, Chandigarh. This dignified personality is the Chairman of one of the most beautiful resorts in the country and also is the managing partner of Kesar Dass B. Associates (Kesar Dass), a New Delhi based Corporate and Commercial Law Firm.

He is also a Senior Consultant to the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the organization for Economic Cooperation & Development, Asian Development Bank for Asia in insolvency, corporate governance and other areas. He was recently rated as India's No. 1 insolvency lawyer for 5th year in a row by Legal 500. **Glimpse** talks to this dynamic personality to know more about him and his journey of life.

- How has been the journey so far?

Immensely fulfilling, however, the journey is still on.

- How difficult it was to set up your own Law firm, after you left practicing at Chandigarh before moving to Delhi?

The challenge was to adapt to the speed and life style of Delhi and break through the popular perception that to aspire client confidence a

lawyer must have salt and pepper head. After all I was only 29. But I turned the age itself into my biggest advantage. The economy had just opened. The MNCs and foreign law firms were more comfortable dealing with energetic, tech-savvy, corporate-style lawyers. I made the most of it.

- From a lawyer, to an author and then into hospitality. Why there was so much of diversifying?

• I follow my dreams. And dreams have no boundaries. They can be diverse and borderless. Every individual is capable of doing much more than he does. He just needs to gather the courage to step out of the comfort. I constantly re-discover and re-invent myself. I was always fond of writing so developing as an author was natural. I am a sensitive person so wrote poems even in my



school days. My first publication was a collection of poems two decades ago. I always dreamt of owning a hotel in the mountains. I travel globally living out of hotels. So the love for hospitality only grew stronger.

- There are people who always inspire you. Who has been your inspiration?

As a lawyer my senior J.L. Gupta, an eminent lawyer who retired as Chief Justice of Kerala High Court, has been my ideal. It won't be exaggerating if I were to say I walked, talked and lived like him as a lawyer. As a person, I have my own set of rules. I may sound highly immodest saying this but I think I inspire many.

- Religious or Spiritual?

Just try to think good and be good.

## Quick Takes

Education: BA LLM.

Rank according to significance: Luck, Smart Work and Hard Work, Luck. Also my faith in dreams..

Favourite brands: I believe in creating brands

Favourite Eating Joint: 360 Degrees, the Oberoi and Side Wok, Khan Market

Favourite holiday destination: Dhanachuli, London

Vehicle you drive: Mercedes C Class and Ford Endeavour

- As a person, how easily do you get bogged down by complications?

I am not afraid of challenges. The only complication I find difficult to deal with is dishonesty and inefficiency at work. People who don't stand by their commitments sadden me.

- What has been the turning point of your life?

I was a complexed student. Hailing from a small town has a number of inhibitions. I was poor in math. My teacher ridiculed me and killed my self esteem. I was good for nothing. I had to drop one year in matriculation as the school principal refused to let me sit in exam as I was poor in math.

I switched schools. On the first day itself, the principal handed me newspaper and asked me to read headlines to the assembly. I froze. She told me I can. I stood in front of hundreds of students. My voice trembled, my legs shook. That was the turning point in my life. Everything changed. There was no looking back after that



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“ I quit to start something new ”

• How would you determine your achievements?

I have achieved far more than I could ever contemplate. I have made it to the top in whatever I took up. My biggest achievement was to be the first Asian and the youngest President of INSOL International. At times it is difficult to comprehend. I have a complete sense of fulfillment. God has been very kind.

• Life's tide always brings its own share of high and low...How do you handle such situations in your professional life?

I have had my share of lows. But it has only taught me to perform best in adversities. Perhaps it is in the genes. My family migrated from what is now Pakistan in extremely difficult circumstances. It is amazing not only they survived but my father went on to hold one of the most prestigious offices in the country.

• How do you keep intact your personal and professional life?

It is the most difficult balance to maintain. I am not a party animal so whatever time I have from work is only for family.

• One quality of yours that you think has

been instrumental in your success...

Extremely honest, intense and passionate about whatever I do.

• Luxury to you is...

A state of mind

• What all is there in your wish-list?

To direct a movie

• What is your success mantra?

Believe in yourself

• Despite your hectic schedule, how do you take out time for leisure activities?

I enjoy what I do. I am in love with whatever I do. I cannot do it otherwise. So my work itself becomes my leisure.

• You define your lifestyle as...

I live two life styles simultaneously. One that is the demand of my profession, the other what I am a simple and humble human being.

• There is a thin line between passion and obsession...where does it begin and ends for you?

I am afraid the line is quite blurred for

me. I have to keep pausing and reminding myself not to cross the line.

• Has there ever been a time when you decided to call it quits?

Life has been a journey of quits and re-starts. Every time I reach the pinnacle of what I am doing, I quit to start something new. That is the story of my life. I have never been slave to my success or insecure about what I do or have achieved. I constantly re-invent myself. This can be risky too.

• What advice would you like to give to young entrepreneurs?

Do only what you are in love with

• Are you tech savvy?

To the extent that it is necessary

• What is your latest gadget buy?

Ipad 2

• Where do you see yourself five years down the line?

Will be doing something drastically different from the present. Even I don't know as yet what. *G*