

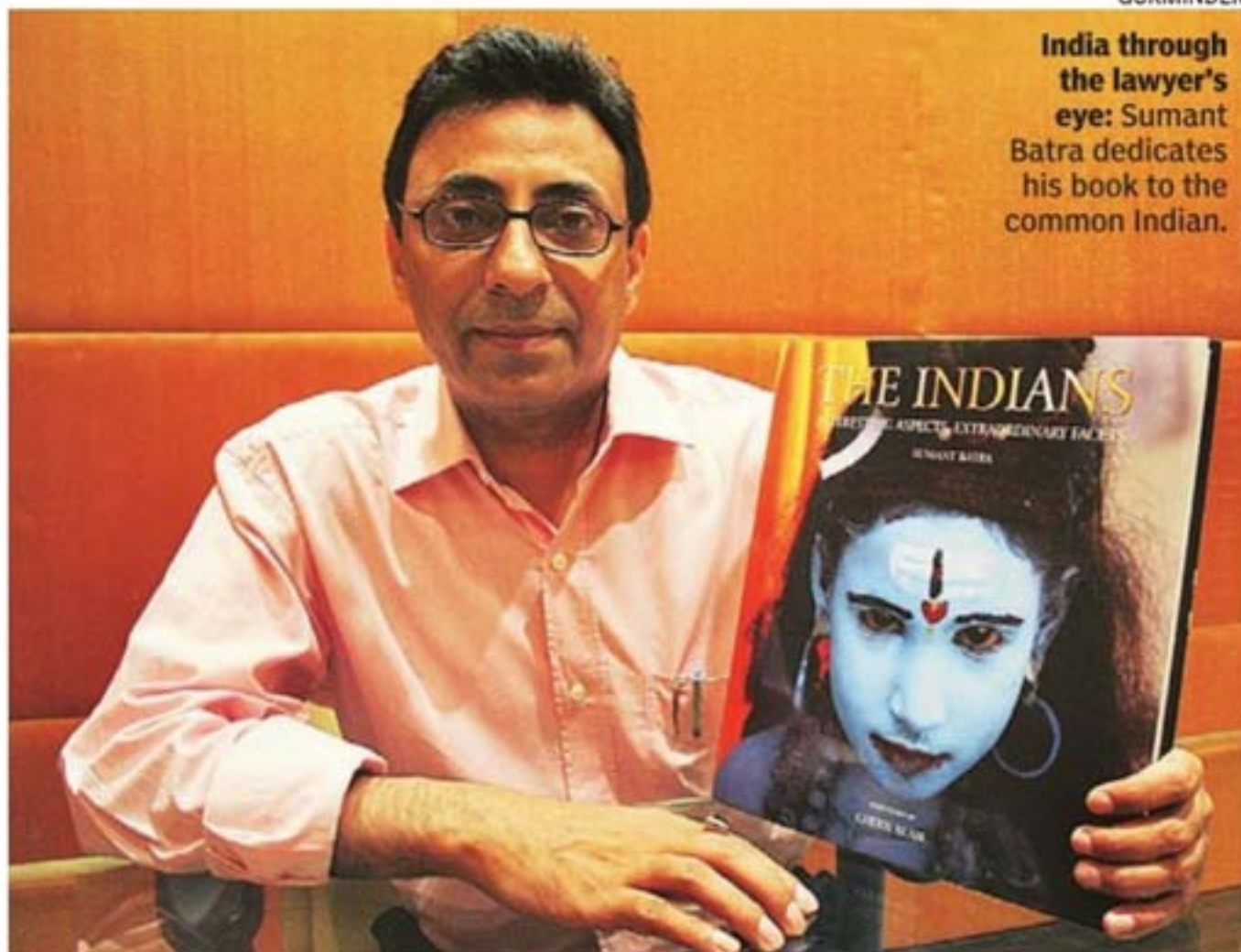
India encapsulated

The Indians takes one through the vastness of India and the little dreams of its commonfolk

Kamaljeet Kaur

Saluting the ordinary Indian, comes this debut coffee table book by renowned lawyer Sumant Batra. Sending across a serious message through rich visuals, the author brings forth the life of the common Indian masses, who make up what India is today — an economic powerhouse.

Far from the usual coffee table books on art, architecture, tourism, Bollywood or glamour, he attempts to demonstrate the philosophical belief of Indians. "To achieve the extraordinary, one tends to overlook the ordinary, which is so obvious. I wanted to bring out the ordinary aspect of India. The Tatas, Birlas and Reliance are the global face of India but the people that form the mass of India are the 'dhobis', 'chaiwalas', make-up men, camera men, 'press-walas', clerks and the like. There cannot be a better tribute to the ordinary people than to present them in a dignified way and compliment them," reflects the author.



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India through the lawyer's eye: Sumant Batra dedicates his book to the common Indian.

book was released by the Governor of Haryana, Dr A.R. Kidwai, at Haryana Raj Bhawan, and will be shortly released in London, Singapore and New York. The book's foreword is written by former UK first lady, Cherie Blair, who is associated with the Loomba Trust, which supports the cause of deprived widows. Profits from the sale of this book would go to this Trust.

Having studied at Government Model School-22, DAV College and the Law Department of Panjab University, it is bonding time with the City for Sumant. Presently running a law firm at New Delhi, Sumant has come out with 1,000 limited editions of his maiden venture with 500 already booked at launches and through website. Priced at Rs 8,500, he proudly states that 220 have already been sold.

Taking off with the couplet, "Saare jahan se achcha, Hindustan hamaara," Sumant shows the amazing spirit of the ordinary Indians in spite of not being acknowledged. Yet, they have aspirations for a better tomorrow and continue to hope for a better fate. In today's times, heritage is being pushed and not preserved, feels Sumant. The big steel and glass buildings are shoeing away the dark spots,

for instance the little shacks of washer men. We need to learn some management skills from these commonplace folk, who collect clothes from a hundred clients and still manage to deliver the right ones to the owner. Amazing memory! We need to optimise their skills and compliment their development by providing better facilities, support system and a decent coexistence.

Already out in Delhi, the