

# “I’m enjoying this role of bringing Shalimar back in the game”

**AFTER HOURS**  
**SAMEER NAGPAL**  
 Managing Director and CEO,  
 Shalimar Paints

**1 THE JOB:** What excites me in any assignment is the opportunity to make a difference to the life of the stakeholders. It could be employees, customers or shareholders. I, therefore, like challenging assignments which require change, either in the form of transformation or rapid growth. This is exactly what my current job is all about transforming Shalimar, a 100-year-old company and pioneer in the coatings and paints business that has conceded a lot of space to competition. I’m enjoying this role of bringing it back in the game through internal transformation and disruptive strategy focused on the unmet and evolving needs of the consumers. This requires a fresh perspective, new insights and

innovative thinking, all of which, I believe, this industry badly needs..

**2 THE WEEKDAYS:** My day begins with walking my kids to their school bus with mini conversations thrown in. This forces me to be an early riser. The early morning freshness usually motivates me to go for a brisk walk followed by a vigorous workout session. The days I skip this routine, I catch up on yoga beginning with *Suryanamaskars* and ending with *pranayam*. Once at work, I break my day into three parts. Clearing up the backlog of mails/ approvals/ reverts, followed by review sessions or meetings. The evenings are reserved for strategic discussions, brainstorming and coaching sessions. I find myself at my creative best during the late evenings. I try to wrap up the day by 8 pm by which time my family is waiting at the dinner table.

**3 THE WEEKEND:** Despite pressures of

work, I try to reserve my weekends for the family. Saturday begins with a basketball session with my daughters and ends with a cycling trip with them, with homework assistance in between. On Sundays, my wife and I try to catch up on a good movie, a play or a handicraft show depending on what’s trending that week..

**4 THE TOYS:** I continue to be a die hard Apple fan with iPhone5, iPad4 and Macbook Air being my constant companions and am waiting to add iWatch to the list. My latest toy is the Nokia 1520, my first brush with a phablet, and I am quite enjoying the experience.

**5 THE LOGOS:** Barring Apple products, I am not a brand loyalist. I like to explore and experiment with new brands. Currently, the only brand occupying my mind is Shalimar Paints.

—As told to Banasree Purkayastha

