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### **Mall-a-Mall**

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## **Former chief justice Y K Sabharwal's sons are in partnership with mall developers and multi-national companies which stand to benefit from the sealing drive launched under him**

New Delhi: Former chief justice of India, Y K Sabharwal, who unleashed a sealing drive against small-time neighbourhood shops in Delhi, has close links with leading mall developers.

One of the biggest mall builders of the country, Business Park Town Planners (BPTP), is a business partner of Sabharwal's sons Chetan and Nitin.

BPTP's promoter and chairman, Kabul Chawla, and his wife Anjali, are directors in Sabharwal's company Pawan Impex Pvt Ltd, which has its registered office at the ex-CJ's residence at 3/81, Punjabi Bagh, as reported by MiD DAY on May 2.

Pawan Impex, along with two other firms, earlier had its registered office at 6, Moti Lal Nehru Park, the official residence of Sabharwal when he was a Supreme Court judge.

While Kabul Chawla became a director in Pawan Impex on October 23, 2004, his wife Anjali was taken on board on February 12, 2005. Sabharwal joined the Supreme Court on January 28, 2000 and went on to become the chief justice of India on November 2, 2005.

### **Big player**

BPTP, with a paid up capital of Rs 232 crore, has developed landmark malls, including CTC at Najafgarh Road, CBD at Surajmal Vihar in East Delhi and Shop-in Park, Shalimar Bagh, besides commercial and residential complexes.

It is also coming up with malls and commercial complexes in Faridabad, Gurgaon and Noida. The company is headquartered at the DCM building at Barakhamba Road while its marketing office is in M-11 Middle Circle, in Connaught Place.

Curiously, the virtual who's who of multi-national companies are among the clients of BPTP. These include Mc Donald's, Levis, Lee, Adidas, Nike, Pepe Jeans, Woodland, Benetton, Lee Cooper and Biba. This makes the association between the ex-CJ's family and BPTP all the more significant.

### **MNCs blamed**

There had been charges from traders and political parties that MNCs and mall developers were behind the sealing drive as they wanted to consolidate their position in the Indian markets by wiping out neighbourhood shops and forcing the consumers to rely on their posh, and more expensive, outlets in malls.

Thousands of shops were sealed on Sabharwal's order, while the government squirmed at the prospect of traders turning against it. The Congress eventually faced a defeat in the MCD elections.