



Insured For Life

At work, Sonia Notani spends most of her time ideating, strategising and driving her team to achieve targets. After a busy day's work, she loves to unwind with her family or curl up with a book. A voracious reader, Ms Notani, the chief strategy officer of IndiaFirst Life Insurance, is also a self-confessed foodie.

Ms Sonia - an economics graduate from Mumbai's St Xavier's College with an MBA from Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies - started her career with the Aditya Birla Group. She has also worked at Citibank, Reliance and KPMG. A founder member of IndiaFirst Life, Ms Sonia has cross-functional expertise in the BFSI (banking, financial services and insurance) segment. **India Business Journal** chats up with Ms Notani and comes back impressed with the insurance officer's passion for life.

How do you define yourself?

A highly passionate individual who can ideate, drive and implement

A business leader you admire the most...

Richard Branson - he made something out of nothing at all.

What is your management mantra?

Believe in yourself and those around you. Your combined strength can overcome any individual weakness and move mountains.

What is your philosophy of life?

If you truly believe in your purpose, the universe conspires to make things happen.

What is your passion in life?

I am extremely passionate about anything I take on, be it at work or at home.

Your strength...

My family

Your weakness...

My family

Your kind of music...

Retro - English and Hindi - Bollywood and folk music

Your favourite holiday destination...

Goa

What is the last book you have read?

Just completed the entire Nordic crime series by Jo Nesbo and Hakan Nesser

Golf or Bridge or...

Reading

Formal suit or casual attire...

Casual attire

How do you de-stress?

Family time, reading and Yoga

You are a tough, serious boss or...

I am a zealous, demanding, yet compassionate boss.

What do you enjoy the most in life, generally?

There is a sense of holistic fulfilment that comes from the myriad roles assumed at home, work or with friends. I would not want to miss out on any of them. The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

Your mantra for success...

Success favours the prepared mind.

Your dream...

I would love to retire eventually with my family at a sea-facing home and write a book!

Send feedback to chand.sharmila@gmail.com