Hosting World’s Largest Aviary

Alternative Asset Classes in India: Exploring Thriving Private Markets

'I want to be normal before my fans, without any entourage'

Chill, This Dude Is Here To Thrill!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2023
Mohammed Shami created history during the India-New Zealand ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 semi-final clash at Mumbai's Wankhede stadium on November 15. Shami was India's destroyer in chief with the ball as he took a four-wicket haul amid New Zealand's brave attempt to chase down the total of 336. He created a history by recording 50 wickets in the history of the ODI World Cup. The star Indian pacer also set a massive World Cup record by becoming the fastest player in history to reach this milestone.

Nana Patekar Smacks a Fan Who Tried Taking Selfie with Him

A viral video captures actor Nana Patekar slapping a fan who attempted to take a selfie with him on the set of his film. This incident has raised backlash on social media, especially considering Patekar's past association with the MeToo movement. In the video, Nana Patekar, donned in a brown blazer and a hat, is seen shooting for his upcoming film Journey on a street leading to the Dadasaheb Phalke Ghat in Varanasi. As a boy approaches him from behind to take a selfie, Patekar swiftly smacks the back of his head upon realizing the fan's intention. A crew member standing nearby intervenes, grabbing the boy by the neck and escorting him off the set. The video has sparked criticism online, with many expressing disapproval of Patekar's actions.

The creators of the much-anticipated superhero film Hanuman have unveiled a superhero theme song called Superhero Hanuman. The song showcases Teja Sajja playing a superhero, who doesn't don a superhero suit, is dead at heart and is the most powerful superhero in the universe. Penned by Kumar of Jawari fame and set to tune by Arundep Dev, Superhero Hanuman is an catchy and fun anthem sung by children. The song shows a young man who discovers that he has been bestowed with brute strength by kids favourite Lord Hanuman. It mentions iconic global superheroes and shows how they pale in comparison to the Superhero with the local touch, Hanuman.

Piyal Rupali and Ajay Bhupathi have shivered down the audience's spine with their upcoming horror thriller, Mangalavaram, scheduled for a grand release on November 17, 2023. The dynamic duo, known for their impactful debut film RX100, have once again created a sensation with this film. Mangalavaram boasts an impressive ensemble cast, including Nanditha Swetha, Divya Pillai, Azmi, Ravindra Vijay, Krishna Chaitanya, and Ajay Goshi, with the musical brilliance of Ajanesh Lokanath. Produced in collaboration between Muttin Media Works and A Creative Works, Mangalavaram promises to deliver a thrilling cinematic experience that will leave audiences on the edge of their seats.

A wave of nostalgia has swept across social media as a snapshot of a restaurant's menu card from 2001 emerged, thrilling individuals who came of age in the 1990s into a contemplative journey reflecting on the strikingly disparate prices of once-affordable culinary delights. The shared menu, now making waves on Instagram, unveils prices that are jaw-droppingly lower than contemporary rates. Picture this: Chicken Biryani, commanding a mere Rs 30, Mutton Biryani at Rs 32. The creamy indulgence of Paneer Butter Masala priced at a modest Rs 24.
HOSTING WORLD’S LARGEST AVIARY

Is HMDA equipped to face global scrutiny?

As Hyderabad prepares to unveil the world’s largest aviary under the aegis of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA), there is no doubt whatsoever that the city’s tourism prospects are set to soar farther. This visionary project, alongside an expansive eco-park, is winning accolades for its innovative approach. But on the flip side, there are certain concerns over the project’s legal and conservation aspects. This week, TANISHA SAXENA presents the essence of conversations with experts and conservationists, shedding light on the intricacies and pitfalls of this grand endeavor.

Hyderabad is poised to enhance its tourist appeal manifold with the impending introduction of the HMDA’s expansive eco-park in Kothwalguda, featuring, inter alia, a groundbreaking walk-through aviary. Billed to be the world’s largest, it is scheduled for inauguration by March 2024. The eco-park complementing this aviary, spread across 5.5 acres and being built at an estimated cost of Rs 8 crore, will host India’s most extensive aquarium. Boasting cutting-edge amenities, the aviary is designed to accommodate 5,000 birds spanning 40 diverse species, according to officials.

The ecological park boasts a sprawling 2.5-kilometer boardwalk, averaging a width of 2.4 meters. Nested near the entrance, it is complemented by pathways, access roads, charming gazebos, and pergolas. An open-air amphitheater, butterfly havens, sensory parks, lush greenery, and carefully crafted landscaping add to its allure.

The HMDA envisions the integration of electric kiosks within the Eco-Hill Park, providing visitors with a convenient hop-on/hop-off option to swiftly access the enchanting aviary.

BEYOND ENCLOSURES FOR BIRDS

An aviary is a sprawling enclosure designed to house and care for birds, offering a departure from the confines of traditional cages. Its size and structure vary widely, ranging from small backyard installations to expansive zoo-scale habitats. Integrated to its design is the use of mesh or netting allowing for proper ventilation and sunlight exposure while preventing the birds from escaping.

Continued on Page 4...

The eco-park complementing this aviary, spread across 5.5 acres and being built at an estimated cost of Rs 8 crore, will host India’s most extensive aquarium. Boasting cutting-edge amenities, the aviary is designed to accommodate 5,000 birds spanning 40 diverse species.
The Success of Such a Venture hinges on Meticulous, Enduring Management, with the Generated Revenue Prioritising the Well-being of Resident Animals and Caretakers.

HUB OF LEARNING

Dhriti Banerjee, director of ZSL (The Zoological Survey of India), and Pratayush Mohapatra, share their insights. "Nowadays there is an increasing trend in people specifically, younger generation to have a pet at home as a true companion, and people are keeping exotic pets as they know that keeping wild animals of Indian origin is illegal as most of the species are protected under the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022. People also love to watch animals and interact with them, as they find pleasure and thrill in understanding and appreciating the intricate creations of nature. Over the last 5-6 years, huge quantities of exotic species have been imported into India, including some species (as those species are protected under the Appendices of CITES and now all the CITES are protected under Schedule IV of the WLPA). However, the initiative of FMDV to set up an avairy of exotic species of birds and other animals is a welcome step and can also be used as a hub of learning to educate the public on various species of animals and biodiversity. It should also spread a message to the public by deterring people from keeping exotic pets as they will be able to spend their leisure time interacting with animals in the avairy.

We asked experts about the roles avairies play in public education about rare species, particularly reptiles like iguanas and ball pythons, and their conservation needs.

The avairy will definitely be an informative institution for the public, and with all the clearances from the state and central government, the selection of species, husbandry, public education, etc., will be the authorities must have addressed some of the important components. Iguanas and ball pythons are not rare species but are exotic to India. Different groups of people have different choices. Some people love to watch birds, and some love reptiles. So, to cater to the needs of people, the authorities must have planned for a diverse array of species. Dr. Banerjee underscores.

BALANCING PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT and CONSERVATION

There are many such avairies around the globe that are popular destinations for huge public gatherings. But the real challenge will be handling the public, which FMDV must have thought of an agency that strictly adheres to the laws and has experience handling animals should be chosen with a team of experts such as veterinarians, biologists, and caretakers. It will lead to a boom in the tourism sector if it can be managed successfully. It can be a hub for learning about different animals. There are many interesting animals with fascinating behavior: be it territorial or courtship behavior or their feeding habits, everything is interesting for animal lovers, and therefore, executed well, the project can be a huge step,” observes doctor Pratayush Mohapatra, Senior FMDV and office in charge (Reptilian section) at The Zoological Survey of India.

From a conservationist's perspective, there must be certain measures to be implemented to strike a balance between promoting public engagement and ensuring the well-being of the animals within the avairy. Gopinath Manivasakam, Ph. D, Scientist F and Officer in Charge, Bird Section, shares “A threatened animal or a bird, be it exotic or native, both matter to any conservationist. But when your aim is to educate common people, especially children, it should be holistic and give more importance to local fauna (as you will not display any local fauna as such but educationally in India, underscores a strategic approach to environmental stewardship. The promotion of sponsored conservation projects targeting endangered species amplifies the facility’s significance, establishing a nexus between public engagement and wildlife preservation.

Koushik Prabhakar, Senior Scientist, FJSSAU, Hyderabad, points out in the face of industrial challenges surrounding Hyderabad, a robust strategy is essential. Prioritizing the conservation of endangered native bird species, such as sparrows, stands as a critical imperative. Simultaneously, a cautious approach to the erection of cell phone towers is paramount to avoid inadvertent environmental consequences. Beyond this, safeguarding the micro-environment within the park takes precedence, creating a harmonious balance between public engagement, wildlife preservation, and addressing the impacts of industrial activities. This comprehensive plan not only ensures the longevity of the avairy and eco-park venture but also establishes a model for responsible environmental stewardship in the region.

LEGAL and ETHICAL CONCERNS

Maneka Gandhi, a hybrid creature, an Indian politician, animal rights activist, and environmentalist, opines “This is not just a retrograde step; it is illegal. In order to make any enclosure for animals that is technically a zoo, no matter what it is called, permission has to be obtained from the Central Zoo Authority. This has not been asked for or given. No zoo can be set up without it. Secondly, keeping exotic species of birds is illegal because there is no CITES permission. Many of these birds are endangered species in their own countries. It is illegal to bring them into India. Most of them die in the cold. They are of no educational value, as people can now learn much more about endemics on the internet. They do not eat any local plants or trees. So, they have to be fed imported seed all the time, which will cost the taxpayer’s coffers. There is no trade in these birds. No one has been able to sustain them as their trees are not available in India and it is illegal to bring in foreign plants (that experiment was done with no exotic species, and it failed). All those have been extremely destructive for India.”

A similar avairy was started two years ago in Chandigarh, with the same species of birds. She continues “Over one crore rupees was spent on buying birds from illegal smugglers (which is how this government will be buying them as well as selling birds is illegal). Within one year, all the birds had died. The local officials did not feed them properly, and they were not capable of finding food. The same claim was made then in Chandigarh by the then Governor (from Rajasthan), whose pet project this was. Cases of rupees were spent. Now an inquiry has been set up against officials who encouraged him and made all sorts of non-legal claims. Here, too, you will have massive deaths very quickly. And then, in order to keep going, the government will be on a permanent cycle of buying illegal exotic birds to keep this illegal zoo going, spending the government’s money, and risking people’s lives with colds and other diseases come near them. If people spit, it is extremely dangerous. These birds have no protection in India.”

She also highlights that there are no bird doctors in India at all. So, when a bird falls sick, there is no treatment possible. If all of them get bird flu, which is very likely to happen, they will all die. "It is the most foolish and expensive idea, and the Telangana public is paying for this extravagance display of ego. Citizens have gone to court, and the only defense they have is that they will look after the birds. How can they when they are not trained? They are not equipped to deal with all the problems that are coming. Are there all foreign birds? Vets are not taught animal, food, sickness, etc. (except chickens) in any veterinary schools in the country. Are there all foreign birds? Vets are not taught animal, food, sickness, etc. (except chickens) in any veterinary school in the country. Are there all foreign birds? Vets are not taught animal, food, sickness, etc. (except chickens) in any veterinary school in the country. Are there all foreign birds? Vets are not taught animal, food, sickness, etc. (except chickens) in any veterinary school in the country. Are there all foreign birds? Vets are not taught animal, food, sickness, etc. (except chickens) in any veterinary school in the country. Are there all foreign birds? Vets are not taught animal, food, sickness, etc. (except chickens) in any veterinary school in the country.

In sum, the grand undertaking presents an intricate tapestry of potential benefits and challenges. Its success rests not only on a careful and holistic approach that addresses legal, conservation, and ethical considerations but also on the environmental awareness of the public. The environmental stewardship will determine the lasting impact of Hyderabad’s ambitious avairy project.
RUJKSHAAR DHILLON, one of the leading ladies of Spark Life, speaks with The Pioneer’s SHIKHA DUGGAL about her role and experience working with newbie Vikranth.

“I want to be normal before my fans, without any entourage”

After entertaining the Telugu audiences with Ashok Vaaranth Arjun Kelkar, Rukshsaar Dhillon is all set to strike a chord with fans, this time with a romantic actioner. There’s more to it, readers! Audiences are calling it a cinematic extravaganza already, and we were there with Rukshsaar early in the morning, hopping into up-close and personal life alongside some excerpts from the movie.

She gets down to her early years of life for us “I was a baddly behaved child, you know! My mom always addressed me as a canon on fire. I was like a whip-ppper-upper. I ended up becoming much more for my parents in a very entertaining way. More than being badly behaved, I would like to describe my personality as being rather carefree. I was okay being on my own. I never made best friends in school. During my childhood, the only thing that mattered to me was my food (she laughed out loud), fruits and milk! Then I joined karate and football, as I was growing up rapidly. I even dislocated my bone once! Nothing could stop me yet. I never cared if I had a fractured hand.”

A blend of so many cities, the ‘Run Away’ fame wanted over the place. It was healthier for us to have the leading lady describe the details herself; “once my parents got married, they moved to London for better job opportunities. They had their own business in GDR. We had extended relatives in Goa, so it was obvious that my father joined them. Then my mother wanted us to move too. The metropolis area for better opportunities, so she chose Bangalore.”

Corning to her latest release, we were curious to know the gladdening moment that led her to sign the script with a newbie instantaneously. She stated, “Vikranth saw my previous releases; perhaps that worked out for him. Then he wanted to work with an established actress. I have seen him hustling for this film to come out well. This time I wasn’t looking for my character arc; I was looking for the strong plot point. Mentioning a bit of hustle as a need what’s happening in the Telugu film industry, the actress suggested, “Some days in an actress’s life do get very exhausting. My profession demands a lot! Besides looking appealing, which, thank God, is diluting in the industry because we cannot always look prim and proper. I really want to be normal before my fans without any entourage.”

Talking more about the time limitations actor is given in the industry, she spills the beans: “My meaning of hard work is no longer attributed to sacrifices — not even skipping my meals. Skipping lunches by an actor is glamorous, but for me! I had my lunch on time because I have given most probably 16 precious days from my calendar for a shoot. These headlines punching leading to an actor shooting continuously need to stop being given prizes too. Do not deprive your body, otherwise, how will your best for the screen? We are crossing lines of hustle culture nowadays; there is no end to the chaos. I don’t have to incite my meals to come across the best handworking actress in the industry. So I have started integrating this off late. I do take a few days off just to rejuvenate and not to show the industry that I am on a starry vacation.”

How was it working with Mehran Kaur Punnadu? “Two heroines — always an exciting moment, even when there dull moments too, was our question to the actress! The London-born director, Mehran and I hardly had any combination scenes together. I am just the feeling that there is also a second lead in this film? Then Mehran and I got busy making Vikranth do a little bit of hawking. Then we shared some common friends too, so those were the conversations that were happening around us. The bubbly moment was that both of us could speak Punjabi, and that was our common language. We even included our actor and conversed a lot about how’s north and stuff like that.”

And no, she wasn’t apprehensive of working with actress Vikranth as a director, now knowing. “The industry is aware that there was a director on board, but due to creative issues, Vikranth took the lead since he has written the story. It was the need of the hour! The co-director also helped him a lot while he was doing his scenes, because who would give the clap then? And despite being his directorial debut, there was never any chaos on set! The director’s seat was never left empty by our leading star.”

Living by the title of her film, Rukshsaar narrated to us her spark moments from life, and that was, “My release should leave sparks in the sky. On a serious note, when I had my pet on board in my life, that was one of the most effervescen moments of my life. His name is Champ! My mother is always more concerned about him than we are. Another breezy moment that I can recall that actually leaves in a little teary-eyed is when I was busy doing commercials and my grandmother had visited a shoot show, and she spotted me on the floor. She took a pause, sat down, and broke down in tears. The crowd around her just couldn’t understand what’s happening, and she was unable to express that it’s my grandmotheron the hoardings.”

Her priceless memory? “These all were the chatter banter that makes her life worth living as an actress, and further in life, Rukshsaar will continue to feel your heart and soul with path-breaking performances.”
Do not question your existence if you belong to a ‘blended family’

Stepfamilies have become so important, right? Nowadays, it’s popularly known to be the ‘blended’ families in the woke culture that we live in. But have we ever thought of the challenges with the kind of circumstances one has to go through in these ‘blended’ families? Hardly anyone has had the time to reflect on it, and that made us rip into this juncture of trying to learn from experts about how parents and a child feel about it.

Dr. B. Sarathi Goud, a senior psychiatrist at Kamini Hospital, shared, “Building trust in stepfamilies is challenging due to the lingering effects of broken trust in the biological parents’ relationship. Additionally, managing complex dynamics among step-siblings, influenced by age differences and baggage from prior family experiences, can lead to conflicts. Co-parenting with an ex-partner also introduces difficulties arising from conflicting parenting styles and unresolved issues.”

She suggested that using family therapy for emotional support, involving children in decision-making processes, and establishing consistent routines can be proof for navigating the complexities of changing family dynamics. Fostering an environment where children can openly express their feelings without judgement promotes emotional well-being and effective communication. Additionally, emphasizing the unique qualities of each family member and celebrating their strengths contribute to a sense of unity and acceptance. “In blended families, children may test boundaries to understand their place and assess role consistency; some may cope through withdrawal or isolation, emphasizing the importance of promptly addressing signs of emotional distress to foster open communication and provide necessary support,” added the psychologist.

Relax; it takes time for a child or young person to adjust to all the changes that moving into a stepfamily brings. Mrs. Sarithi Sekhar, a mom blogger, also added her input by making a statement: “On the positive side, a supportive stepparent can provide stability, love, and a sense of security. Open communication and empathy are crucial for stepchildren to navigate these difficulties and ensure a positive impact on the child’s overall health. Children in stepfamilies also play a crucial role in fostering positive relationships with their stepparents, but not always vice versa.”

One way they can contribute is by expressing their needs and feelings openly, providing valuable insights into their emotional state. Offering patience to stepparents as they navigate the complexities of blending families is essential. Children can actively participate in family activities and create shared experiences to strengthen their bond with stepparents. Acknowledging the efforts of stepparents and showing appreciation reinforces a sense of belonging. Ultimately, mutual respect and understanding between children and stepparents form the foundation for a harmonious and supportive stepfamily dynamic.”

It seems like children act out their feelings through their behavior. They may not be able to talk about how they feel about their new situation, but they will show you through changes in their behavior. To corroborate this, we have a case study too. Dr. Sujatha Thyagarajan, from Aster JN Hospitals, had a patient aged 8 years admitted with severe abdominal pain to the wards for supportive care. The child was accompanied only by the mother, and she was told her father was out of town and working in another city. The child was investigated for severe abdominal pain, and all results, including USG abdomen, surgical review, and blood and urine tests, were normal. The pain did not settle with high-dose analgesics. The pattern of abdominal pain was felt to be functional. Upon inquiry with the child and mother, it was identified that both parents were in a very stressful relationship and contemplating divorce after a period of separation. The child and family were referred to counseling. The parents underwent an amicable divorce with supportive co-parenting and ongoing counseling over the next 2 years. The mother is now married again, and the readiness was assessed for both the child, the mother, and the new father (stepdad). At the onset of planning the new relationship, the child, who was 13 years old, had some episodes of deliberate self-harm with cut marks on the wrists. This required additional counseling and anti-depressants. It took a few months of family counseling, and now the mother is married, and the stepdad has maintained a friendly and stable relationship with the now-15-year-old girl.

This was an indicator of adjustment and well-being. Hence, always try to promote positive adjustment of stepchildren over time. Don’t try to be the ideal family but embrace the differences as all that we are trying to tell our readers from this week’s health talk.
Unmasking the hidden trauma of domestic violence

Despite global treaties, new legislation, and gender movement, women continue to face horrific abuse. Women’s safety is threatened or violated not only during war and crises, but it is a menace in both the public and private realms, particularly in stable democracies and during times of peace.

In fact, according to the latest report by the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) 26.3 percent married Indian women between the ages 18-49 have faced domestic and sexual violence, and 21 percent women have experienced physical violence during their pregnancy. That’s just a number of cases which have been reported. But what about the ones not reported? There could be a shocking number. Domestic violence victims may feel isolated and alienated, and their abusers may isolate them from friends and family. Victims may also be financially dependent on their abusers, making it harder for them to leave the violent situation.

These situations lead to a psychological trauma known as Batter Woman Syndrome. Batter woman syndrome (BWS) is a psychological trauma caused by chronic physical, psychological, and/or sexual abuse, most commonly by an intimate partner. This syndrome is seen in several illnesses known as Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), and it can cause depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and even physical health concerns. BWS can also lead to the formation of a “survival personality” in which the person acts out of fear in order to escape additional trauma. Batter woman syndrome (BWS) is at a turning point in the development of symptoms presented by a woman who has experienced recurrent intimate partner violence from her male partner, whether psychological, physical, or sexual.

To explain more about the Batter Woman Syndrome (BWS), The Pioneer connected to Dr. Purnima Nagrahi, Mental Health professional and therapist, Dhirubhai Wellness Clinic shares, “Most people are battered women, men, or someone today we have three generations. The women standing next to you might also get battered in their daily lives. The physical symptoms of battered women include bruises, swollen face, their hair might be pulled out, or a broken bone which are pure physical signs of abuse. These people are psychologically afraid, try to hide their illness, sometimes they are extra assertive and laugh a lot, and they try to portray themselves as a happy person. But, original they will have low self-esteem. They are unable to take minor decisions and there are many lot. And behaviourally these might develop things were they tend to seem confused, they might have memory lapses, dropping things, even were insecure they are some of the manifestations of a person is being abused.”

But today too, on a regular basis, we see many women staying in these abusive relationships. What could be the reason, we wondered? And so Purnima further continues, “People still tend to stay in these abusive relationships because there is no societal support. Society normalizes violence in an increasingly patriarchal world. There are many families that consider women being abused to be normal and woman is a man’s property if he wants to beat her up he can. Then the thing is that women don’t have financial support. Even if she is educated may be for years, she might not have worked. So that insecurity of what if I go away, how am I going to support my children? We always believe that children need two parents and that is the biggest failure of life. Completely endure that children need two parents but two parents fighting and subjecting each other and children to trauma. The child would grow up to be abusive or tends to have self-reported issues which will affect their life also.”

Several researches claim that children who have experienced or observed violence as a child are more prone to accept this type of violence as normal. Witnessing interparental violence, which can be either father-in-mother or mother-in-father, is a substantial predictor of later experiencing intimate partner violence (IPV). Importantly, in a male-dominated culture, the incidence of father-to-son maltreatment may be higher. And she agrees as she says, “These children have grown up with normalising the violence. When the man beats up the wife, she tries to act normal and covers up the whole story. They have a lot of suppressed anger for the person, but as they grow up they also tend to believe it’s normal and start hitting her siblings or hitting their friends and family.”

Whereas when a girl is subjected to this even she tend to normalise this but will echo to her mother’s depression and might face anxiety issues because battered women feel unsafe and people feel they are victimised and there is no way out for this. This is called victimised behaviour and when you are extremely depressed and not getting any kind of emotional support the sense of helplessness will also make you not take the right decision and that’s the reason why these all happen. Gaslighting where a woman is abused in such a way that she starts doubting themselves, that even if they are abuse they start thinking that it is nothing that happened to them, and a lot of don’t seek help. These things are happening in an abusive relationship. That Gaslighting makes them think staying in abusive relationship is completely normal. People who are battered can have many other personality disorders like narcissistic disorder or bipolar disorder etc.”

CASE STUDY
Purnima Nagrahi quotes a case study

A 32-year-old married woman from day one, the husband has been battering up. He couldn’t marry someone whom his loved initially and would tend to take out all his anger on this lady. For every small thing he would beat her and hurl her, until one day she decided to run away. She caught her and locked in a room without food after that she became an emotional abuse. She might even, if she goes to work and felt so helpless for her and her children that she couldn’t get support from anywhere. She didn’t have family support ultimately she attempted outside by hanging, but her family understood her mental health problems. But, while she was in pain and suffering, the family could have been her emotional support, but all the societal norms and even while her family asked to go back to her home. The mental health professional further highlights how establishing support, be it financial, legal, emotional or child support is important.

Treatment
So how do we help someone with BWS, or what could be the treatment for the same?

Zaibed Shai, Marriage and Family therapist highlights, “Treatment for BWS typically includes individual and group therapy, as well as support from family and friends. Treatment may focus on helping the victim to develop healthy coping mechanisms, identify triggers for abusive behavior, and build self-esteem.”

Legal support
Telangana State High Court Advocate K. Harini states that the victim or someone you know should approach the Protection Officer and file a complaint giving complete details of the abuse and the incident, and get relief of protection, maintenance, residential, and compensation under DV Act,

Legal assistance
“The abuse would be punished under Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, which also deals with the offense of domestic violence that provides for imprisonment, i.e. imprisonment of three years or fine or both. Thus, an FIR for an offense under section 498A can be registered in the local police station of your area against the husband/his relatives.”
PASSION FOR FILMMAKING

Right from my very young age, I have been passionate about photography and filmmaking. It was a dream to realize this passion through a camera and tell stories. I have always been fascinated by the way a camera captures the world around us and the way a film can convey emotions and thoughts. The magic of filmmaking has always been a part of my life, and I have always been drawn to it.

EXPLORES VARIOUS GENRES, LOVES DRAMA

If you have a good and clear idea of the filmmaker you want to portray, there are no limits to what you can achieve. I have always been fascinated by the way a camera captures the world around us and the way a film can convey emotions and thoughts. The magic of filmmaking has always been a part of my life, and I have always been drawn to it.

SAD MOMENT

Mom passed away five months after my debut film RGV. His passing is one of the saddest moments of my life.

HAPPY MOMENT

The news of my first film being selected for the national award by the CCLIP and the presence of many of my friends and family was one of the happiest moments of my life.

MARRIING CHILDHOOD FRIEND...

I was married to my childhood friend Srihita on 25 August 2018. It was a beautiful ceremony, and we had many friends and family members present.

HAVEN’T STUDIED ACTING

Acting is something that has always come naturally to me. I have never studied acting, and I believe that this has helped me in my acting career.

AFRICA’S LUV STORY

The story of an African family is one of the most beautiful stories I have come across. I believe that this story has the power to bring people together and inspire them.

DIRECTORS ARE VERY COMPETITIVE...

Without facing any challenges, it is hard to progress in the industry. Facing challenges makes us stronger and helps us grow as directors.

Chill, THIS DUDE IS HERE to thrill!

With a passion for filmmaking ignited in his years as a teen, Director Ajay Bhupati has secured a prominent place in Hollywood with his debut film RX 100. A lover of thrillers, he infuses his magical touch while weaving stories in different genres and never fails to astound the audience with his films.

Under the guidance of his favourite director-cum-mentor Ram Gopal Verma (RGV), his filmmaking journey became easier. RX 100 has not only made him a successful director on debut, but also brought him many successes in his personal life. A romantic at heart, the director shares his happiest moments of falling in love with a girl while in sixth grade to marrying his childhood friend Srihita. A self-proclaimed foodie, he loves Hyderabadi chicken biryani and considers Hyderabad his second home after Arthreyapuram. Despite facing many challenges during the beginning of his career, Ajay Bhupati secured the honours for the Best Debut Director in the 2018 SIIMA Awards. Director Ajay Bhupati shares with The Pioneer’s RASHMI BHUMI REDDY his filmmaking journey, high points of working with actors like Siddharth and Sharvanand, and his immediate goal to shoot a web series for the OTT platform.

GOALS

I want to direct more films and work on more web series in the future. I am currently working on my next project and I am excited to share more about it soon.

MANGALAVARAM IS NOT TELUGU KANTARA

Not everyone has heard of Mangalavaram, a Telugu film that has been making waves in recent times.

Q: What is your favorite thing about working on a film?
A: I love the sense of creativity and storytelling that filmmaking brings. It allows me to express my inner world and connect with others through the medium of film.

Q: What is your favorite memory from your acting career?
A: One of my favorite memories is working on the set of RX 100 with my childhood friend Srihita. It was a special experience for me.

Q: What advice would you give to aspiring filmmakers?
A: I would advise aspiring filmmakers to never give up on their dreams. Keep learning, keep practicing, and never stop trying to improve. Filmmaking is a craft that requires dedication, hard work, and passion.

QUICK BYTES

Favourite actor: Prabhas
Favourite actress: Deepika Padukone
Favourite movie: Baahubali
Favourite music: Classical music
Favourite food: Hyderabadi biryani
Favourite way to relax: Traveling

QUICK QUOTES

"I am working on my next project and I am excited to share more about it soon."
GLOBAL CAREER PROSPECTS

How early language skills enhance employability in India

In today's globally integrated world, language proficiency has become a valuable asset in the global employment market, India, with its diverse linguistic landscape, is no exception. Early language skills play a pivotal role in enhancing employability, and individuals who can communicate effectively in multiple languages have an evident advantage.

The multilingual advantage:
India is a linguistically diverse nation with hundreds of languages and dialects spoken across the country. However, when it comes to employability, knowing multiple languages, especially English, can be a game-changer. English is widely recognized as the global lingua franca, making it essential for Indians aiming for international job opportunities. Besides English, proficiency in languages such as Spanish, French, and Mandarin, amongst others, can be an added advantage when pursuing a global career.

Early language acquisition:
The foundation for strong language skills is laid in early childhood. Children are like sponges when it comes to language acquisition. Learning a language at a young age often leads to better pronunciation, comprehension, and fluency. The minds of young children are highly adaptable and receptive to different sounds and structures, making it easier for them to become multilingual. Hence, parents and the right educational institutions are crucial in promoting language learning from a tender age.

Improved cognitive abilities:
Early language skills are not just beneficial for communication but also for cognitive development. Multilingual individuals tend to have enhanced problem-solving abilities, better memory, and improved multitasking skills. These cognitive benefits can make a significant difference in the workplace. Employers often value individuals who can think critically, adapt quickly to new situations, and handle complex tasks, which can be associated with multilingualism.

Competitive edge in the job market:
In India, where the job culture is highly competitive, possessing early language skills can set you apart from other candidates. Multilingual candidates are in high demand, not only in international companies but also in industries that require communication with a diverse customer base. With the advent of technology, remote work, and globalization, companies are seeking employees who can communicate with a global clientele and navigate the complexities of international business.

Globalisation and international opportunities:
India's economic liberalization and the rise of the technology sector have made it a hub for international companies and start-ups. With the Indian economy booming, the demand for individuals who can work seamlessly across borders is on the rise. Early language skills give individuals the edge to work with international teams, handle overseas clients, and even pursue opportunities abroad. This globalization of the job market has opened up numerous avenues for those with multilingual capabilities.

Language skills in specific industries:
Many industries, such as tourism, hospitality, export-import, and customer service, place a premium on language skills. Knowing a language can be a ticket to better opportunities and higher-paying jobs in these sectors. For instance, proficiency in German can open doors in the automobile and engineering industry, while proficiency in Spanish can be a boon for people wanting to work in the USA or any other country where Spanish is widely spoken.

Early language skills have become indispensable for enhancing employability in India. The ability to communicate in multiple international languages opens doors to better career opportunities, improved cognitive abilities, and a competitive edge in the job market. To maximize the benefits of early language skills, it is crucial for parents, educators, and policymakers to emphasize language learning from a young age. By doing so, India can equip its vast workforce with the linguistic tools necessary to excel in the global job market and foster a new generation of international professionals.

(The authors: Subir Singh is the founder of Learning Lingo)
GOSHT MAKHMALI KEBAB

**WHAT YOU NEED**
- 2 kg Mutton Chunks
- Mutton Kidney Fat - 40 gms
- Onions 2 cups
- Ginger garlic paste 1 tsp
- Red chilli powder 2 tsp
- Roasted Chana Powder 2 tsp
- Saffron 2 to 3 strands
- Fennel powder 1/2 tsp
- Milk powder 1 tsp
- Salt to taste
- Desi Ghee for basting
- Coriander Roots 20 gms
- Split Green Chilies 10 gms
- Mint Leaves 20 gms
- Kebab masala
- Jeera 1/2 tsp
- Cinnamon stick 1 inch
- Cloves 4-5
- Green cardamom 4
- Nutmeg one pinch
- Black cardamom 2 to 3
- Bunch of raw garlic 1/4"
- Poppy seed (Kans Masala) 1 tsp
- Kebab Chini 1 tsp
- Bay Leaves 2
- For Dum
  - Coal 1
  - Cumin 3
  - Chilli 3

**HOW TO MAKE**

**Step 1.** Make caramelized onions
- Heat oil in a pan, and add onions. Then add salt followed by sugar. Let the onions cook and get caramelized, stir occasionally. Once done, keep them aside. Meanwhile, soak suflon in milk.

**Step 2.** Cook the mutton pieces
- In a heavy-bottomed pot, heat oil and add diced onions followed by mutton pieces into it. Cook till the raw smell of the mutton disappears. Take 1/4 of all the onion and add yogurt, ginger-garlic paste, garlic paste, turmeric powder, red chilli powder, cumin powder, and brygval masala. Mix everything well and then add this to the mutton pieces. Now add 2 cups of water and cook over low flame. It should be 3/4 cooked.

**Step 3.** Prepare rice
- To prepare the rice, bring eight cups of salted water to a boil and then add black cardamom and other whole spices. Now add soaked rice, and cook it 50% of time. The rice should be half cooked.

**Step 4.** Layer up the biryani
- In a pan, add some of the whole spices to the bottom followed by half of the rice. Top it with some soaked salted green cardamom and then add mutton pieces. Again add the remaining rice. Sprinkle little biryani masala and then add nol of the caramelized onions. Sprinkle rice water & kidney, water on the top and then cover the lid. Cook the lid with dough [Koof] for at least 30 min over low flame and keep an eye on the biryani.

**Step 5.** Your Awadhi Mutton Biryani is ready
- Garnish your biryani with the rest caramelized onions. Your Awadhi Mutton Biryani is ready to serve.

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DUN KA MURGH

**WHAT YOU NEED**
- 2-3 tbsp Ghee
- 2 Green Cardamom
- 6-8 Black Peppers
- 1 kg Chicken – cut into
- 1 tbsp Ginger-Garlic Paste
- 1 fresh Green Chilli – slit in half
- 3 tbsp Coriander Powder
- 2 tbsp Dehi Red Chilli Powder
- 1 tsp Turmeric Powder
- 1 tbsp Brown Onion Paste
- 2 tbsp Cashewnut Paste
- 1 Chiliego Powder
- 2 tbsp Coriander Leaves – chopped
- For Dum
  - Fresh Coriander Leaves
  - For Dum
  - Coal 1
  - Cumin 3
  - Chilli 3

**HOW TO MAKE**

**Step 1.** In a kadai heat ghee then add bay leaf, cloves, green cardamom, black pepper corns and let them crackle.

**Step 2.** Then add the chicken and salt for a minute then add salt, ginger-garlic paste, green chilli and continue sautéing until the chicken is light brown.

**Step 3.** Now add coriander powder, dehi red chilli powder and turmeric powder and cook them until fragrant.

**Step 4.** Then add the curry, brown onion paste, cashew & chiliego paste and mix it properly then add water, stir in ones and cover it with a lid and cook until the chicken is cooked completely.

**Step 5.** Remove the lid then add chopped coriander leaves and cover it again for a minute and switch off the flames. Heat a small piece of coal till it starts burning.

**Step 6.** Put it in a metal bowl and keep it in the center of the vessel containing of kichha.

**Step 7.** Add some ghee and put cloves and green cardamom in it. This will release pleasant aromatic flavor and flavored smoke into the masala.

**Step 8.** Quickly cover the vessel with meat and burning coal with a lid so that meat absorbs all the aromatic flavor of ghee and coal. Serve hot in a serving bowl and garnish with coriander leaves.
Alternative asset classes in India: 
EXPLORING THRIVING PRIVATE MARKETS

Ever since the real estate sector started to exhibit a continuous growth pattern, the investment horizon expanded across emerging asset classes or non-traditional forms of asset classes. As core sectors like office and residential continue to perform, driven by increasing demand, varied subsets of these segments emerge as high-performing alternate asset classes.

The office segment retained its most preferred asset class status by attracting almost 65% of the total quarterly PE flows, primarily driven by operational asset acquisitions across Delhi NCR, Mumbai, and Hyderabad. However, institutional investors, traditionally concentrated on core asset classes, have been diversifying into non-core assets.

Interestingly, alternative asset classes or non-traditional forms like senior living, co-living, co-working spaces, data centers, and warehousing are fast emerging as alternatives to the core real estate segment. These alternative asset classes not only attract the thriving private market but also provide newer markets and avenues to diversify portfolios while enhancing risk-adjusted returns.

So much so that the cumulative investments of around $2 billion flowed into India’s alternative assets over the past five years, with foreign investors taking the lead and high net-worth individuals displaying a greater interest in such holdings, stated a Colliers report. Foreign investments constituted 71% of the aggregate investments in this sector as investors persistently pursued newer markets and avenues to diversify their asset portfolios while enhancing risk-adjusted returns.

Macroeconomic drivers such as urban growth, the adoption of the Internet and smartphones, and an ageing population contribute to the need for these alternative assets. Additionally, various investment options in real estate for a private investor, both in the form of equity and debt investment perspectives through technology-led platforms, have made these asset classes more attractive.

In recent years, these asset classes have seen HNIs and UHNIs shift from traditional investment avenues to options that are high-yielding but also regulated and transparent. Alternative asset investments are offering these investors the right platform through which they can not only leverage their dollar-to-dollar value but can also expect robust returns in the long run through investments in alternative real estate like co-working, data centres, warehousing and logistics, co-living, and student living.

Further, accessibility via fractional ownership, structured debt, and thorough due diligence have made these asset classes more attractive to private investors. New investment structures like the proposed mini REITs for alternative assets through fractional ownership are also in a great spot for exploring new possibilities to diversify and attract private investment.

According to various industry estimates, the fractional ownership industry, which is expected to reach USD 8.9 billion by 2025, and to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 10.5%, comprising a portfolio of high-income-yielding alternative assets, is allowing retail investors to diversify their investments amidst a relatively volatile stock and commodities market.

According to the IMF, foreign investors maintained their confidence in the Indian real estate market, with the country being the fastest-growing economy globally, with a projected GDP growth of 6.8% in 2023. The business case for alternative investments will only strengthen in the coming years, with India’s economic outlook remaining sturdy amidst global challenges. The sub-segment of the core real estate sector is likely to allocate more private and institutional capital, enabling investors to enter new markets and achieve economies of scale.

(The author, Prabhat Reddy, is the founder and chief operating officer at Aastimaan.)
Change in the buying patterns of consumers based on technology in the real estate sector

In the realm of real estate, technology is orchestrating a transformative symphony. These technological marvels are altering the preferences of discerning consumers, ushering in a refined era of influence.

The most striking transformation is the digitization of the industry. Gone are the days of neighborhood strolls and heavy property catalogues. Instead, real estate aficionados luxuriate in the opportune experience of exploring digital listings. Online platforms, mobile apps, and meticulously designed real estate websites present a wealth of listings, adorned with high-definition photos, immersive virtual tours, and comprehensive information. This digital revolution has not only elevated the elegance of property searches but also captivated prospective buyers with the allure of limitless geographical exploration.

Amidst this technological ballet, artificial intelligence takes center stage. Smart algorithms, finely attuned to individual preferences, budgets, and lifestyles, attract buyers with personalized property recommendations. This algorithmic dance streamlines decision-making, orchestrating a harmonious crescendo of well-informed choices.

The advent of blockchain, a luminary in the world of innovation, adds an aura of trust to real estate transactions. Smart contracts, securely enshrined within the blockchain, ensure the automatic execution of agreements upon predetermined conditions. This mechanism liberates consumers from interminable delays, creating an ambiance of trust and security fit for royalty. Moreover, thanks to the seamless online capabilities afforded by blockchain, housing loans can now be orchestrated without the need for physical presence, further enhancing the convenience and accessibility of the entire process.

Further enriching this opulent tapestry is the Internet of Things (IoT). A constellation of devices adorns smart homes, ushering in an age of aristocratic living. Remote control over security, lighting, and climate settings weaves a narrative of convenience, perfectly suited to the tastes of modern aristocrats.

The COVID-19 pandemic, with its unique challenges, acted as a catalyst for innovation. Virtual tools, including exquisite video tours and remote consultations, unfurled their luxurious drapery, allowing buyers to embark on property explorations from the comfort of their regal abodes. This luxurious convenience has become a hallmark, a testament to the resilience of technology in meeting the discerning demands of the elite.

These tools have not only revolutionized the real estate industry but have also provided a clear window into the process of development. One can easily view how far development has reached just because of these tools. Through high-definition virtual tours and interactive consultations, potential buyers and investors can scrutinize every detail of a property, from the layout of the rooms to the quality of finishes, all without leaving their homes. This level of transparency and accessibility has become a defining feature of modern real estate, catering to the desires of those seeking the utmost in convenience and information.

In sumptuous conclusion, technology has not merely streamlined real estate but has bonded with the discerning consumer. From virtual odysseys and AI-infused recommendations to the regal security of blockchain and the opulence of IoT integration, technology has bestowed upon buyers an opulent mantle of access, information, and convenience. As the opulent symphony of technology continues to ascend, one can only anticipate further evolution in the buying patterns of these patrons of luxury, further elevating the resplendent real estate arena.

(The author, D. Kishore Reddy, is the founder and CMD of MANA Projects Private Limited)
Ancient wisdom that has survived the ravages of time

Nadi Astrology, a venerable branch of astrological knowledge, finds its origins deeply embedded in the cultural history of South India. Rooted in centuries of tradition and mysticism, this captivating practice revolves around the profound notion that each human being harbors within them a unique Nadi, a channel of energy that meanders through their physical form, intricately linking them to the celestial cosmos. It is this mystical connection that Nadi Astrology seeks to unveil, enabling individuals to gain profound insights into the intricacies of their lives and destinies.

In this blog, we will delve into the world of Nadi Astrology, exploring its types, fascinating history, and the intriguing process of making predictions.

**TYPES OF NADI ASTROLOGY**

- **Bhrigu Nadi:** Bhrigu Nadi, named after the venerable sage Bhrigu, is a profound system within Nadi Astrology that claims the predestination of an individual's life. It posits that the intricate details of one's existence, encompassing their past, present, and future, are encoded in their birth chart. Through careful examination of this celestial roadmap, Bhrigu Nadi astrologers unlock the secrets of a person's life, offering glimpses into their destiny.

- **Dhruva Nadi:** Dhruva Nadi, deriving its name from the celestial pole star, Dhruva, represents a distinctive facet of Nadi Astrology. This system meticulously weaves predictions about an individual's future by examining the positions of fixed stars in the night sky. It operates on the profound belief that the cosmic arrangement of these unchanging celestial luminaries at the moment of one's birth holds profound significance in shaping their life path.

- **Kashish Nadi:** Kashish Nadi, bearing the name of the legendary sage Kashish, dives into the profound secrets of Karma within Nadi Astrology. This unique system asserts that an individual's future is inextricably linked to the deeds and actions of their past lifetimes. It postulates that the consequences of one's past Karma shape their current circumstances and future trajectory. Kashish Nadi thus serves as a spiritual compass, guiding seekers towards understanding the intricate web of cause and effect that governs their life's journey, offering profound insights into the eternal cycle of reincarnation and cosmic justice.

- **Agastya Nadi:** Agastya Nadi, bearing the name of the venerable sage Agastya, stands as one of the earliest and most revered forms of Nadi Astrology. Rooted in the profound concept of Karma, it asserts that an individual's future is inextricably woven into the tapestry of their past actions. It firmly believes that one's present circumstances and future destiny are shaped by the repercussions of their past Karma, creating an intricate web of cause and effect. Agastya Nadi thus serves as a spiritual guide.

- **Shiva Nadi:** Shiva Nadi, steeped in profound philosophy, places Lord Shiva as the supreme astrolmage, possessing omniscient knowledge about every facet of a person's life. This unique approach, often referred to as the "Siva Nadi or "Book of Life," holds that Lord Shiva alone comprehends the intricate details of an individual's destiny. Seekers believe that through this divine connection with Lord Shiva, they can access unparalleled insights into their life's journey, making Shiva Nadi a spiritually enriching and deeply revered aspect of Nadi Astrology.

**The origin**

The origins of Nadi Astrology are deeply rooted in the mystical lands of Tamil Nadu, India, where it is believed to have flourished over millennia. According to ancient lore, the esteemed Hindu sage Agastya is credited as the author of the sacred Nadi Shastra predictions. Legend has it that Agastya possessed an elevated state of consciousness that allowed him to perceive not only the present but also the past and future of all human beings on Earth.

These profound insights into the destinies of individuals were meticulously recorded in Varaha, an ancient poetic Tamil language that served as the conduit for preserving this celestial wisdom. Initially, these precious predictions were safeguarded within the hallowed halls of the Thanjavur Sarawathi Mahal Library. However, the passing of time and the tumultuous era of British rule saw some of these invaluable leaves tragically lost to history. Yet, the legacy of Nadi Astrology endured, facilitated by astrologers in Vaitheeswaran Temple, who diligently compiled and preserved the remaining Nadi leaves, ensuring that this age-old wisdom would not fade away.

**Process of making Nadi Astrology predictions**

1. **Thumprint categorisation:** The journey begins with the seeker providing their thumbprint, a unique imprint that carries their spiritual identity. The thumbprint is then methodically categorized based on its distinct patterns.

2. **Matching with Nadi palm leaves:** Each category of thumprints corresponds to specific bundles of Nadi palm leaves, which are ancient manuscripts bearing the encoded destinies of countless individuals. An expert Nadi astrologer, often with years of training, carefully sifts through these bundles to find the one that precisely matches the seeker's thumbprint.

3. **Deciphering the Nadi leaves:** Once the correct bundle is identified, the Nadi reader embarks on the sacred task of leaf decipherment. Remarkably, the Nadi reader is typically provided with no prior introduction about the seeker. With divine guidance, they decode the intricate messages inscribed on the palm leaves, which may include details about the seeker's past, present, and future.

4. **Verification by the seeker:** As the Nadi reader unrolls the revelations contained within the leaves, the seeker plays a pivotal role. They are asked to verify the details presented on the leaf, such as their date of birth, parent's names, and other key life events. The seeker's responses are limited to a simple “Yes” or “No.”

5. **Confirmation or further search:** If the details on the leaf align perfectly with the seeker's life, it is considered a profound and deeply personal revelation, and the leaf is recognized as belonging to the seeker. However, if discrepancies arise or the leaf does not resonate, the search may extend to the main center in Tamil Nadu, where further investigations are conducted to ensure the seeker connects with their rightful Nadi.

This process forms the cornerstone of Nadi Astrology, providing seekers with a profound journey into the intricate tapestry of their life's purpose and destiny. It is a testament to the enduring mysticism and spiritual depth.

In conclusion, Nadi Astrology stands as a captivating and enlightened field that beckons seekers to explore the depths of their destinies. It is a process deeply rooted in tradition, with its origins tracing back to the mystical lands of Tamil Nadu, India. The belief in the existence of a unique Nadi, intricately connected to each individual's life journey, adds a layer of profound spirituality to this ancient art.
GLOBE TROT

Man orders 240 incense sticks to ‘Manifest’ India’s World Cup win

In the ICC Men’s Cricket World Cup 2023 semi-final, India defeated New Zealand on Wednesday by a score of 70 runs. The explosive game took place in Mumbai’s Wankhede Stadium. There were tearful moments for millions of spectators watching the match on television, even when India scored a high 397 to “confront” India’s victory, one of them, from Bhubaneswar, which is close to Ranchi, ordered 240 incense sticks. Swiggy posted the information on Twitter (formerly JetBlue), Swiggy operates a rapid delivery company called Instacart.

It’s interesting to note that the order placed acknowledged placing such a large order in response to Swiggy’s now-viral tweet.

US restaurant uses pizza boxes to promote a social cause

A restaurant in New York City has devised a novel method of matching adoptable animals from shelters with possible homes. Just Pizza & Wing Co., has been converting its pizza boxes into endurance wards of hope for cute puppies looking for loving homes since March.

The proprietor of Just Pizza & Wing Co., Mary Alley, was the creative force behind it. Ms. Alley was inspired by her experience helping at the Niagara SPICA, where she saw firsthand the difficulties in matching adoptive families for the animals in the shelter. According to CNN, Ms. Alley collaborated with SCPA event coordinator Kimberly Mistz to devise strategies for assisting more animals in shelters to find permanent homes.

She made the decision to support the animals in shelters by donating and using her pizza business as a platform.

Bengaluru man wears a paper bag as helmet

Bengaluru, India’s startup capital, has recently been the focus of a number of online memes that highlight unique events that could only occur in the city. The term “peak Bengaliuru moments” which refers to the eye-catching events occurring in Indian IT centers, is overflowing with incidents from this city. In a related occurrence, a man was observed sitting as the yellow rider on a bike in Bengaluru, with a paper bag covering his head in place of a helmet.

X user @RedEyeDude alerted the internet to the funny situation. As they wait to cross the street, the man, in the black t-shirt is seen in the photo sitting on the bike with a paper bag snugly covering his head.

“What’s your next shopping destination?”

Most of the topics I wrote about in this column were the result of synchronicity. So, when I found myself in a handicrafts bazaar in Annapurna with a friend, I knew what the next topic for the column would be: conscious shopping. No, it doesn't imply that one dresses modestly and does not splurge while buying. It means shopping with the intention of making value to the environment around us. For the last few months, I have been buying mostly from street carts to add my bit to keep their businesses going. I try to support the online shopping apps and opt for the local brands, the vegetable carts by the roadside. Lately, I have made it a point to pick fashion jewelry from these carts. There is at least one piece of jewelry in each cart that is so small like. The last time I gifted a finger ring that I bought from a cart to a family member, she thought I had brought it from a country abroad! Going a step further to keep street businesses running up and about, my online conscious store has included a section wherein staff curated from the streets is on display.

The bazaar I visited at in the opening paragraph was Dastkar bazaar, which had on display a delightful range of products, from hand-crafted cahiers decorated to colourfully painted kitchen ware, from eco-friendly leathers to local fabrics of various states, and more. It was after the longest time that I found the sight of objects in an Indian shopping arena much more pleasing. Recent years have seen me become a fan of all things western. I found our local stuff imperfect and boring, only to walk in to a hall full of vibrant colours and craftsmanship at its best. This new experience prompted me to visit other local bazaars in Hyderabad. Now buying from small businesses is no longer an act of trying to contribute; it’s to bring home some exotic stuff.

What’s your next shopping destination?

General Bazaar is a treasure trove of South Indian fabric and Indian fashion accessories. The store is known for the variety of handmade accessories and clothing, including sarees, lehengas, and suits. From traditional silk sarees to modern handbags, General Bazaar offers a wide range of options for those seeking unique and culturally rich fashion items.

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(The author, Subhankar Dey, runs an online conscious store.)