

Chai pe Charcha with BrandWagon

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Weekends are all about downtime. After a week full of work to meet deadlines, everybody needs some breather to relax and recuperate. From watching a favourite web series to planning a vacation, weekends are designated as family and me time. Hardika Shah, founder and CEO, Kinara Capital, talks to BrandWagon Online about her weekends, favourite vacation destination and more.

What is the one thing you like to do when not working?

When I am not in front of my devices, I enjoy the art of cooking. I find the process immensely relaxing and I am sort of a prolific vegetarian chef, so my recipes are inspired from my years of living around the world. I like making the basics from scratch such as all types of Indian dishes, pickles, homemade pasta, sourdough bread, falafels, pizza dough and more. And, if I may be not so humble for a moment, I make the perfect khandvi though my mother would likely disagree.

How do you spend your weekend?

Weekends are definitely time to relax and my husband and I like to binge-watch some OTT shows together. Apart from that, it is time to connect with friends & family, whether in person or via zoom/calls, and enjoy some quiet time with my hobbies of gardening, painting and cooking, along with taking care of our two rescue dogs, as well as supporting other rescues.

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What are your favourite gadgets?

I love my AirPods, especially on airplanes, so I can skip all the noise on my frequent travels and ease into a nap when the flight mode kicks in with Chopin playing softly in my ears and blocking out unnecessary sounds.

Given an option to choose another career, what would it be?

The ability to problem-solve enlivens me. So if it was a different career path, it would still be about helping others but in an altered setting. I love to connect with people of all backgrounds and the time that I had

spent mentoring budding social impact entrepreneurs was an immensely gratifying experience for me because I could help them bring their ideas into execution mode. Helping someone think through their business plan, or even create one, build projections, learn how to pitch to investors, etc – these are all the types of learnings that I enjoy sharing to help others. Anywhere in the world, entrepreneurs are the ones pushing the envelope to bring access to products and services in their communities and whether big or small, entrepreneurs are the ones that enable innovation. Yet, after so many years of working globally, I still see a gap when it comes to mentorship and guidance for entrepreneurs, especially for women entrepreneurs. So, this is the type of work I would have pursued and I still intend to spend time on this in the future, perhaps when I retire someday.

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What is your favourite vacation spot?

There are so many wonderful places in the world and I have had the fortune of visiting many of them. I suppose a place that feels easy and always like a vacation spot is the Northern California wine country region for its beautiful rolling hills, rustic charm and the relaxing weather, so I wouldn't tire of it easily.

A TV show, movie, and ad campaign that you highly recommend watching.

As a lifelong Bulls fan, I recommend the Last Dance documentary for its great life lessons from the legendary Jordan. My best takeaway is that while one person can start a revolution, you still need a team to win big! This documentary will inspire you faster than you can cook your cuppa noodles, so go watch it today.