



Life's journey *THEREAFTER*

GANASHREE KEDLAYA

DECCAN CHRONICLE

Money does not entice him, routine spells captivity and anything 'normal and regular' does not interest him – meet photographer Srikanth Kolari who relishes his freedom as much as he yearns to protect others'.

"I was pursuing my PG in Chennai, when I started assisting in industrial photography. But I got bored," says Srikanth, who spent the next two years doing fashion and a year doing wildlife photography.

Bored with the 'usual', Srikanth spent six months travelling, just to return to city life and 'normalcy'. He married a Croatian dancer and held a 'regular' job in a leading travel magazine. "I worked for two years and quit. I wanted to work on independent projects and on subjects that interest me," says Srikanth, who spent two years travelling across India.

His images narrate stories, scream 'emergency' and lay bare facts. The exhibition *Thereafter* documents the artist's journey to Jharia, Kashmir and the Tsunami coast. "I spent

time trying to establish familiarity with locals in Kashmir," he says. The pictures share untold incidents. "It was not easy speaking to victims," he says, explaining, "I met a rape victim, a girl who was raped when she was 12-years-old. I was not sure if her father would let me take her picture, but the man retaliated, 'Take her picture and show it to the world. We want 'them' to know reality.' He is not

back with pleasant memories. "I'm frustrated and angry. It made me realise that we're all lucky and blessed to have such luxurious lives," he says.

His hatred towards 'routine' always drives him closer. "Money has never coaxed me. I want to bring out 'hidden issues'. I'm a messenger, like a courier boy, just delivering a message."

A resident of Bengaluru, Srikanth likes the spirit of the city, which exists in the outskirts. "The real culture still resides in pockets outside the city. I love villages, I've always felt at home there," he says.

Srikanth wants to head back to Kashmir, to complete the 'story'. "And yes, given an opportunity, I would blindly agree to go to Africa," he concludes.



Srikanth Kolari



Where: The exhibition is on till April 20 at Tasveer Art Gallery