

In search of some sparkle

By Ashima Sehajpal / TNN

Chandigarh: Diamonds at one time were considered a good way to invest money and were kept locked in safes. But times have changed and the glittering stones are coming out and are being flaunted all over.

So, you shouldn't feel surprised if an expert from the field mentions that India is the third largest diamond consuming country in the world.

Amit Kapoor, resident gemology instructor from an international institute which opened its branch in Mumbai recently and Soli Sethi, a city-based jeweller, in a seminar on 'Quest for Gems' shared details about how people in India had fallen in love with gems and stones all over again. "It is not counted as an investment. Rather people now see sporting diamonds as a status symbol." It is vital to acknowledge the fact that besides Delhi, 'B' cities like Chandigarh, Ludhiana and Jalandhar are the next big centres for diamond trading in north India. To further substantiate his point, he added, "Fifty-five percent of the world's total diamond buying and selling takes place in India." The fetish for gemstones in India is also initiating another significant change, "More and more people are making their careers in jewellery designing, grading and even basic techniques like cutting and polishing diamonds."

After seeing emerging the trend and growing Indian markets, it is for people interested in the profession that a lab and institutes have opened in India too. "Ninetytwo percent of cutting and polishing of diamonds take place in India and demand for expert craftsmen is increasing just like the love for diamonds across the world," added Amit while revealing that 40% of people who have got themselves enrolled in the institutes were opting for these basic skills.

But also worth remembering is the fact that as trade flourishes, so do the chances of how people can mistake a fake stone for a real one. "People who indulge in a lot of diamond trading can undertake these courses. Also, anybody can walk into a lab to know about the authenticity of a stone." Also, Soli Sethi added two more Cs to the four parameters (cut, clarity, colour, carat) that are used to judge the authenticity of a diamond. "The other factors are cost and confidence in the jeweller. Cost depends on the origin of the stone. A sapphire from Kashmir and ruby from Burma will cost more than those from any other place due to their origin."



Amit Kapoor