

SPECIAL EDITION ON ASTRAL PHOTOGRAPHY

APRIL 2021

P S I

CLICK

DIGITAL MAGAZINE

ASTRAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Saurabh chatterjee shares his knowledge & work
on Astral Photography

Astral Photography as an Art Form by Dr. Hitesh Patel

Milky Way and Star trails by Rajas Chidrawar

VOLUME- 3



ESTD : 1937

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF INDIA

195, Saheb Building, Dr. D. N. Road, Fort Mumbai- 400001

Contact no.: 022-22664296 E-mail: 1937psi@gmail.com

Website: www.photographicsocietyofindia.com

Celebrating 84th Year

19TH PSI INTERNATIONAL SALON 2021

Hosted By

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF INDIA

Recognized by



FIAP 2021/237



PSA 2021-1294



ICS 2021/114



2021/FIP/014/2021



GPU L210081



PSI 2021-19

To register log on to :

<http://psi.fotosalons.in>

www.photographicsocietyofindia.com

SECTIONS

1. OPEN MONOCHROME
2. OPEN COLOUR
3. NATURE
4. PHOTO TRAVEL

TOTAL AWARDS : 88

BEST CLUB : 1

BEST ENTRANT: 1

SALON CALENDAR

- ★ **CLOSING DATE**
24th May 2021
- ★ **JUDGING DATE**
29th May to 2nd June 2021
- ★ **NOTIFICATION**
15th June 2021
- ★ **EXHIBITION**
25th June 2021

PANEL OF JUDGES



Barun Sinha
MFIAP, ESFIAP, ARPS, Hon. FIP



Rezvan Baleanu
EPSA, BPSA, AFIAP, Hon. FICS



Elena McTighe
Hon. PSA, MPSA, ESFIAP



Rohinton Mehta
Hon. FIP, Hon. PSI

MR. NARAYAN PANJE (Salon Chairman) : +91 9833685298

AWARD WINNING ENTRIES WILL BE PRINTED AND EXHIBITED AT PSI GALLERY

EXHIBITION VENUE

PSI PHOTO GALLERY, 195, SAHEB BUILDING, 5th FLOOR, DR. D. N. ROAD, MUMBAI -400001

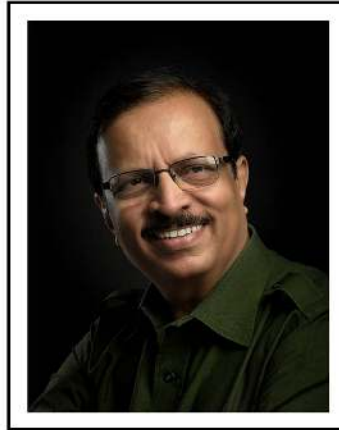


ESTD : 1937

CONTENTS

Editorial Team		
Chief Editor		Page
Rajendra Waghmare		
Sub Editor & Magazine Designer		
Shashank Narsale		
Creative Team		
Pradeepkumar Balgi		
Prasad Mantri		
PSI Committee		
Narayan Panje - President		
Desh Bhushan Jain - V. President		
Jt. Hon. Secretary		
Rajendra Waghmare		
Shashank Narsale		
Treasurer		
Nitin Bhoir		
Managing Committee Members		
Gajanan Dudhalkar		
Srinivas Akela		
Santosh Nimbalkar		
Sunil Vyas		
Jayesh Kanojia		
Office Assistant		
Shripat Shivgan		
Karishma Pawar		
Cover Photo		
Saurabh Chatterjee		
Office Address		
195, Saheb Bldg.,		
Dr. D.N. Road,		
Fort, Mumbai - 400001		
Email		
click.psi1937@gmail.com		
Contact Number		
022-49629987		
	Editorial	4
	Monthly Competition Result – March. 2021	5 - 13
	Success of Members	14
	Photography During Lockdown by Deepak Bartakke	15
	Astral Photography by Saurabh Chatterjee	16 - 20
	Artistic Astrophotography by Dr. Hitesh Patel	21 - 23
	Astro Photography by Rajas Chidrawar	24 - 25
	Sky through the Lens by Deepak Bartakke	26 - 27
	Magical Astro World by Milind Joshi	28 - 29
	PSI Photoshop Class Information	30
	PSI Photography Class Information	31
	Invitation to PSI Members	32

Disclaimer - The views and opinions expressed in the articles published in this magazine are those of the authors and are not necessarily of the editorial team, PSI or the Managing Committee.



EDITORIAL

"If we could just look up at the stars and see them make beautiful pictures, we would look at everything differently, looking for a picture." - Olivia Poland

We are fascinated by the stars since our childhood. May be from the moment we learn our first nursery rhyme 'Twinkle twinkle little star'. Some photographers carry this fascination till their adulthood and start Astral Photography. We are pleased to present this issue of 'Click' which is dedicated entirely to this genre of Photography.

Astral Photography is a very specialized subject. You have to learn many new things and do some research also. You have to travel far away from the city you are living to avoid light pollution. Search for a location with good foregrounds. Find out the location of the North Star. Take the help of some apps to anticipate where and when the Milky Way will appear. After doing all these things, the technicality of actually taking the pictures starts. Which lens to use? What aperture and shutter speed to set? What should be the ISO setting? etc. etc. Furthermore, you have to spend many sleepless nights under the sky to achieve great images.

Our member, Shri Saurabh Chatterjee has beautifully and simplistically explained the process of Astral Photography. Our guest Dr. Hitesh Patel from Surat has shared his passion of doing Astral Photography as an art form. Another guest Shri Rajas Chidrawar has also shared his knowledge. Our members Shri Deepak Bartakke and Shri Milind Joshi have shared their excellent images.

I am sure, after going through this issue, many of us who have not yet tried this genre will be inspired to do so.

Please send your feedback to enable us to further improve this magazine.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rajendra Waghmare".

Rajendra Waghmare
Chief Editor

RESULT OF MONTHLY COMPETITION : MARCH 2021

JUDGE - PRAKASH DUDHALKAR
MEMBERS (COLOUR)



2

WORKERS
AMOD KUMAR



3

MORNING RAYS
PRASAD MANTRI

MEMBERS (COLOUR)
ACCEPTED IMAGES



CARS
AMOD KUMAR



MOTHER
NIKHIL PANCHAL



DHOBI PACHAD
NIKHIL PANCHAL



MATHERAN
SAURABH BHATTACHARYA



POWAI
RAVI DEODHAR



SADHU
AMOD KUMAR

MEMBERS (MONOCHROME)



THREE IN ONE
PRASAD MANTRI



WHITE
PRASAD MANTRI



GREY MORNING
PRASAD MANTRI

**MEMBERS (MONOCHROME)
ACCEPTED IMAGES**



ARCH
NIKHIL PANCHAL



CHILDREN
AMOD KUMAR



BLACK LADY
NIKHIL PANCHAL



HAPPY GIRLS
NIKHIL PANCHAL



SHADOWS
AMOD KUMAR

OUTING

(Bhigwan Bird Sanctuary 17th and 18th February 2021)



2

POND HERON
RAVI DEODHAR



3

BHIGVAN
SAURABH BHATTACHARYA

**OUTING
ACCEPTED IMAGES**



**SAVE TREES
SAURABH BHATTACHARYA**



**OSPREY WITH KILL
RAVINDRA DEODHAR**



**COME TO ME
SAURABH BHATTACHARYA**



**YELLOW FLOWER
SAURABH BHATTACHARYA**



**THE POLITE LEADER
MANOJ AMBADKAR**

**THEMATIC
THEME - FACE MASK**



1

**LIGHT
AMOD KUMAR**



2

**DONT WORRY
AMOD KUMAR**



3

**HOPE
AMOD KUMAR**

**THEMATIC
ACCEPTED IMAGES**



HUG
AMOD KUMAR



NO SOLUTION FOR MASK
PRASAD MANTRI



MASK MEANS LIFE
PRASAD MANTRI

**BEGINNERS (COLOUR)
ACCEPTED IMAGES**



COMMON JEZBEL
ASHVINI KUMAR CHHABRA



MOODS OF LIFE
BABU PILLAI

SUCCESS OF MEMBERS



SAURABH BHATTACHARYA

PERIOD : 1st Feb 2021 - 31st March 2021.

AWARDS

Acceptance	: 81 Nos
Countries	: 10 Nos
Medal	: 3 Nos
HM	: 1 Nos
CM/ Diploma	: 3 Nos
International Honour	: 1. c* MoL from Master of Light, Canada 2. BPSA from PSA, USA



AMOD KUMAR

PERIOD : 1st Feb 2021 - 31st March 2021.

1. Andromeda (Turkey) International Salon 2021 – 1 IAAP Gold Medal, 1 Salon Bronze Medal, 1 PSA Honourable Mention & 1 IAAP Ribbon along-with 18 Acceptances.
2. Kicevo (North Macedonia) International Salon 2021- 1 IAAP Silver Medal alongwith 6 Acceptances.
3. One image has been 'Honourably Mentioned' and published in "Better Photography" magazine in March'2021 edition under theme 'Magic of Monochrome'.
4. International magazine Chiiz published three images in its 47 th volume.



Camera – NIKON-D7100 Lens – 50mm f 9, 1/60 ISO- 900

Lockdown started from 22nd of March 2020 and everything was restricted. Everyone was at home and the market was partially closed. So along with other grocery items, a dozen of eggs were brought to our home. During this time an idea came to my mind that I should do something with those eggs. My daughter in law did some sketching as I wanted. Then my photography work started. Soon I developed 'A Love Story in Lockdown'.



DEEPAK BARTAKKE

FPSI , FFIP , FIIPC , Hon.Fellow APF, AFIAP

ASTRAL PHOTOGRAPHY

by Saurabh Chatterjee



Shooting the Milky Way

It was about 10 years ago, during a high altitude Himalayan trek I woke up in the middle of the night and went outside of my tent. Being away from the city with no light pollution, I could see millions of stars. As I scanned from horizon to horizon, I saw this very bright band of stars. With colours ranging from turquoise to blue, green, red and orange. It looked so heavenly. Surprisingly, I could identify a dark horse with a very bright star near its mouth. With whatever knowledge I had, I took a shot. That was the first time I saw the Milky Way. There has been no looking back since then. This article is an introduction to shooting the Milky Way.

Location

The most important factor is to identify the location where I would find dark skies. If you want great Milky Way pictures, there has to be minimal light and air pollution. So basically, go out of the cities to places which have less or no habitation.

One of the best places to shoot the Milky way is the Himalayas where you get dark skies. I absolutely love shooting the night skies in Ladakh and Spiti Valley. They have some of the darkest skies in India.

I use darksitefinder.com to find the suitable locations. This website uses an overlay on Google Maps and with the use of colour codes, helps us identify the areas which are suitable to shoot. You can search for your city on the map and identify areas around where you can go.



When to go?

Once I identify the place, the next factor is when to go?

There are some times of the year when the Milky Way rises right after sunset and continues to be visible for a long time. For example, June and July are the best time of the year to shoot this in the Himalayas (or in most places in the Northern Hemisphere) when the Milky Way rises right after sunset and the visibility is there till early morning. Any kind of light can impair the visibility of the Milky Way. Even if you go to the darkest places, the light from the moon can affect the visibility of the Milky Way. You have to shoot when the moon is not visible, so either before moonrise or after moonset. You can go to timeanddate.com to find the moon calendar.

Composition

Composition is the most critical factor that can make or break your image. The Milky Way looks almost identical whenever you shoot. It's the foreground elements that make a difference. As Ansel Adams said - A good photograph is knowing where to stand. Every time, I want some new and interesting foreground. For this, we have to scout for the locations or take something different in the same location. This takes some effort. I rarely do the same composition that I have done before, so it becomes more challenging. Sometimes, you can make the foreground (like foliage) visible. I also use a torch to 'paint' it.

use an app called Photopills to help me plan my composition. It has an impressive feature of 'Augmented Reality' which helps find the time the Milky way will be visible in my compositions. Let me explain how it works. Suppose I want the Milky Way between two mountains to make a perfect composition. I want to know what time it will be positioned there. Using this app, when I point my camera to the mountains and move a slider representing the time, I will actually be able to see the Milky Way moving as an overlay over the mountains. This helps me plan my shot well, so I don't have to wait all night.

Motivation

In the Himalayas, the places where we go to shoot are located at high altitudes (about 14000 feet above sea level). Our body starves for oxygen at this altitude, so don't over-exert yourself. Also the low temperatures and wind makes it more challenging. So, you have to keep yourself motivated. Warm clothing is a must. You also have to keep yourself hydrated by drinking enough water.

Equipment

Camera - Any DSLR is capable enough to shoot the Milky Way, however having a full frame camera will help you get more details because of better noise performance.

Lens - To start with, you can use a 18-55mm lens. I suggest using a wide-angle lens like 14mm on a full-frame sensor to capture as much as possible.





Also, having a lens with an aperture of 2.8 or wider allows more light to come in, which helps to shoot at lower ISO.

Tripod

You definitely need a sturdy and stable tripod.

Other Important Accessories

Remote Release - I use a wired shutter release remote control, so I don't have to depend on batteries. Although it can be controlled using a phone, again battery can be an issue.

Head Torch - Always carry a head torch, so that it's easy to navigate in the dark. Having a torch with an infrared light helps a lot as it does not impair your night vision.

GPS - It is a must to find your orientation.
Cellphone - A phone will help you use applications that are very helpful to plan your shot.

Cellphone - A phone will help you use applications that are very helpful to plan your shot.

Aperture

Choose the widest open aperture (f/2.8 in this case) to allow maximum light to enter, which will allow to minimise the ISO. This also means that the depth of field reduces if you have some foreground element very close to the camera. The workaround is to take a separate picture for the foreground and blend it later in Photoshop.

Shutter Speed

Ideally, we would like to shoot at the lowest ISO, to get least noise, but there is a limit to the longest shutter speed we can use. This is very critical because beyond that, the stars will lose their shape and will start forming trails.

To find the right shutter speed you have to follow the rule of 500.

Your shutter speed = $500/\text{focal length}$

For example, if your focal length is 15mm, your shutter speed should be $500/15$ is 33.33 seconds.

If you are using a crop sensor camera, consider your crop factor and the effective focal length.

ISO

ISO can vary based on the location. I keep it between 2500 and 4500.

In the camera, I put my long exposure noise reduction set to 'Off' and High ISO Noise Reduction to 'Normal'.

A lot of people use image stacking for Noise Reduction. It requires taking several shots at lower ISOs and stack them to get less noise. You have to consider if it is worth the effort.

I do the noise reduction part in Lightroom and it works quite well.

White Balance

I generally keep the White Balance to Auto and tweak it later in post processing. Since I shoot in the RAW format, it's very easy to do so. For star trails, however, having a fixed manual WB is highly recommended.

Focusing

Manual Focus only.

Because of very less contrast, there is no way that the AF will work. So, the only choice is Manual Focus.

Some lenses have an Infinity symbol marking. I recommend it to put it to a little less than infinity. For lenses where infinity is not marked (like the 18-55 kit lens), for a Canon, you can rotate the focusing ring to a little less than the left most extreme. For a Nikon, it's a little less than the rightmost extreme. Sometimes you need to do a little trial and error. The other way to focus is to use the Live View, zoom in to maximum and focus manually on a bright star by adjusting the focus ring to get it perfect.

Creating a Panorama

Sometimes, I want to shoot much wider than the angle of view of my lens. In that case, I take several vertical shots and stitch them later. When you are doing a panorama, make sure you have roughly a 30% overlap between two frames. That will enable the software to make a seamless composition. Stitching panorama shots is very easy in Adobe Lightroom.



Image Stabilization / Vibration Reduction

If you are using a lens with IS/VR, remember to switch it off as this can cause shaky pictures.

Exposure Delay

Even the flipping up of the mirror can cause vibrations and can spoil the picture. I use Exposure Delay Mode in my Nikon cameras, so the mirror flips up before the actual exposure starts. This eliminates the chance of any vibration caused by the mirror movement.

Shooting in RAW

Shooting in RAW file format is very critical to get the most out of your picture.

Processing

I use Adobe Lightroom Classic and Adobe Photoshop to process my pictures. My first step is to identify the best shot and then put all my efforts to make the picture look great.

I process one picture first for the exposure, contrast, clarity and dehaze and then the Noise Reduction to reduce the noise. For creating a Panorama, select the pictures for the panorama in Lightroom and then Photo -> Photomerge -> Panorama. The software will do all the hard work and bring you the result. Finally, there was some tweaking to the final image to get this output. To get the optimum dynamic range, you can also take this processed image to Photoshop and work on the layers.

Bonus Tip

It can be extremely annoying when your shutter is open and someone switches on a torch and spoils the picture. To avoid doing this, do this exercise - I advise you to feel your camera like a blind person and change the settings. If you can do this, it will be really very helpful to change the settings without any torch.



About Saurabh A. Chatterjee

Saurabh is a travel and documentary photographer. His dream is to 'see India' and to make every camera-owner a great photographer.

Saurabh is the Founder and Chief Educator at SIA Photography. He organises Photography tours and Photowalks in different regions of India and around. Since 2011, he has trained more than 6000 people across the globe through his Photography Workshops, Photowalks and Photo-tours and online sessions. He has written over 200 travel articles for various magazines and newspapers.

Blog - <https://siaphotography.in/blog/>

Instagram - <https://instagram.com/saurabhchatterje>

Facebook - <https://facebook.com/saurabhchatterje>

ARTISTIC ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY



Dr. Hitesh Patel

M.D.(Int. Med.) Photographer

'Death or Transformation'

I am pursuing Astrophotography since 2012 with other genres like street, wildlife, nature, and landscape. I love to do Astrophotography as an art form.

I think no one has tried it like this up till now, as many people do nowadays with nature, wildlife and even the street as an art form. I tried to convey what I felt when I stood there, or I tried to weave stories what I heard, or sometimes I tried to convey my

I do all of these things only by changing the white balance to represent what I think. One major difference from other Astrophotographers is, I use the night sky as an object and not a subject. None of my photographs, I presented here are composite.

They are taken by due precision and pre-visualization like any other artist before it is revealed to others.

I consider the night sky as a black canvas and try to fill it with my



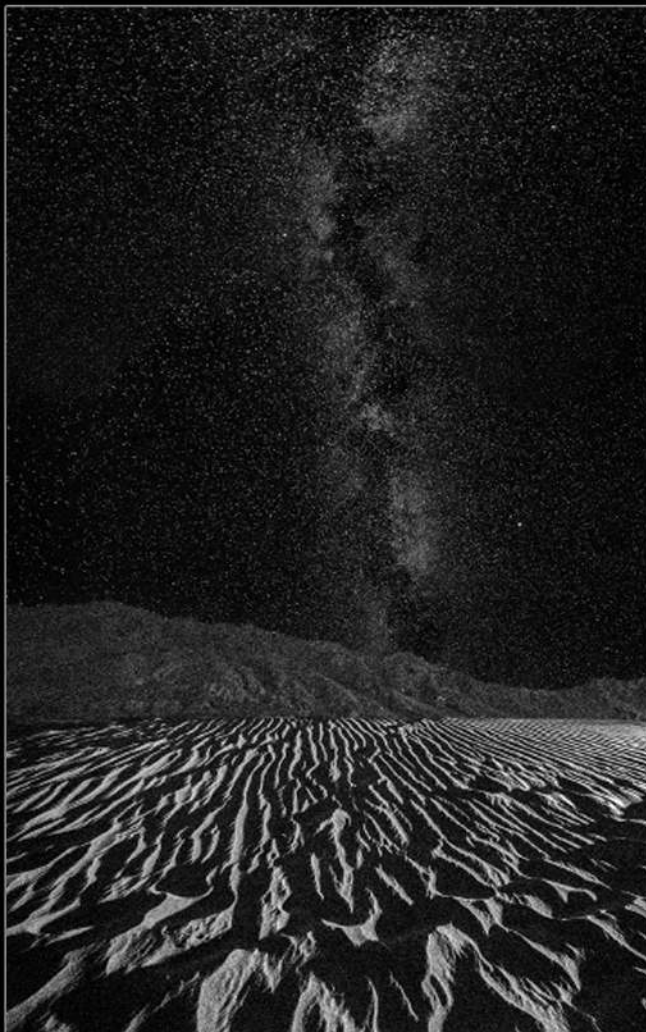
Today's requirement is
feeling of satiety



Actual GOD vs his abode



Jupiter and Saturn's great conjunction



Stardust everywhere



Shiva



The mighty chandelier



Sun (single star) dried or billions of stars dried fishes?



Pond of pearls in heaven



Nothing is everlasting

Dr. Patel is based in a small tribal town 'Vyara' in South Gujarat since 1997. He runs a hospital there. He conducts workshops on photography and Astrophotography. He is also a Fujifilm mentor.

He also hosts webinars every Wednesday at 9.00 pm to promote every genre of photo and videography by the name "Wow Wednesday", which has become exceedingly popular. At present, an average of 500 people see it regularly throughout India and a few from abroad.

Contact Number : 9427948000

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Dr.Hitesh.J.Patel>



Rajas Chidrawar

ASTRO PHOTOGRAPHY



Most of us are aware about the importance of light in Photography. We always try and light up our subject very well. While everyone is obsessed with light in Photography, I am obsessed with no light in Photography. Well that's Astrophotography!

Apart from the light coming from the stars located light years away, there shouldn't be any source of light while doing Astro photography. In simple terms, Astro photography is about photography of any heavenly body, like the sun, moon, stars, galaxies, nebulae etc. It tests the limits of your knowledge about Photography, equipments and post processing. Any camera that can click long exposures of at least 15-20 seconds, a wide angle lens and a good sturdy tripod is all you require to get you kick-started with wide angle Astrophotography like Milky Way and Star Trails. While pollution is a big challenge for humankind, one of its type, light pollution is a huge problem for Astrophotography.

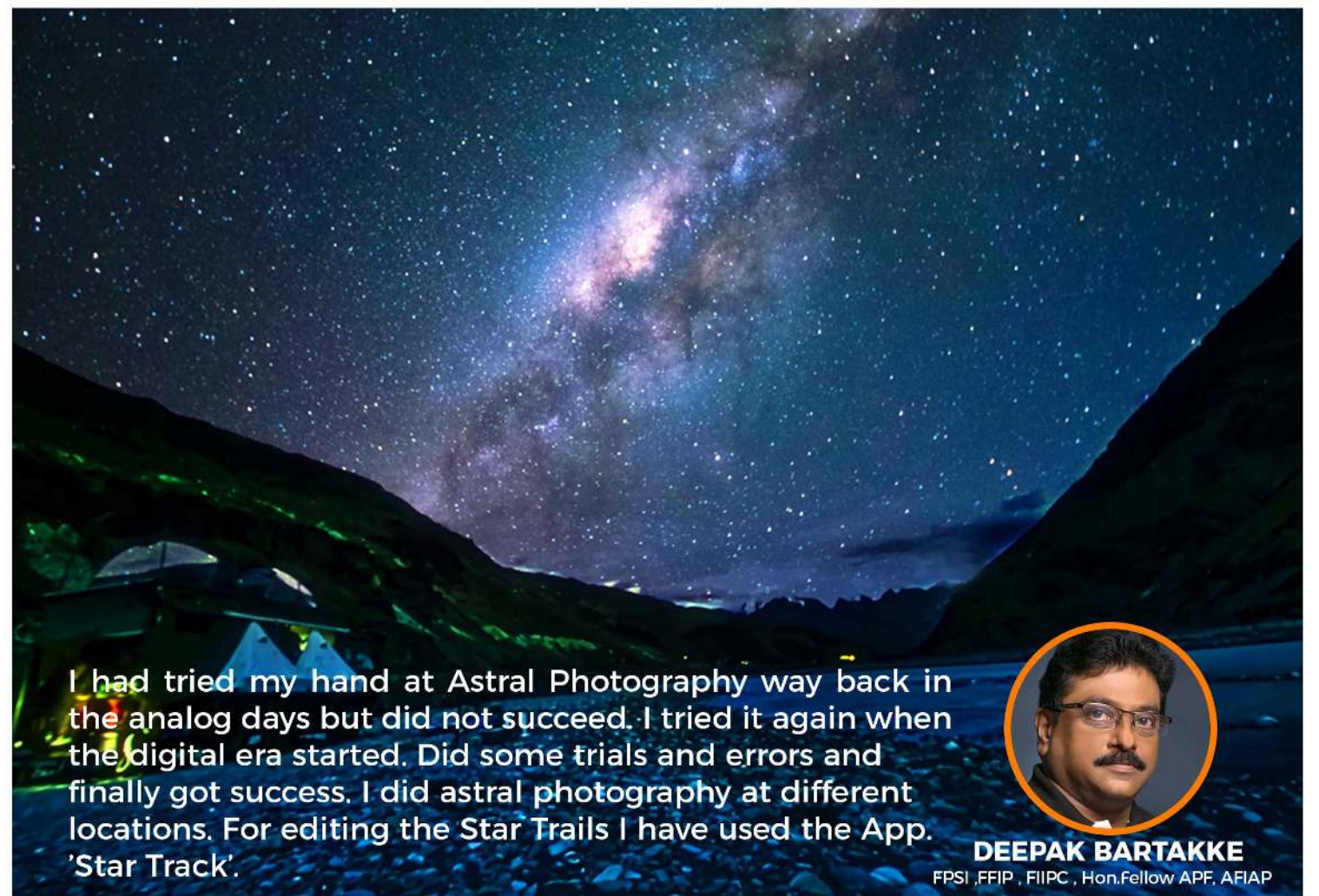
If you wish to click stars, first you need to get to a location where stars are visible. You might have noticed this, if you live in a city or suburbs, you witness very limited number of stars which you can literally count. On the contrary, when you visit a place where there is no human settlement or very limited one, the number of stars in the night sky are uncountable. This happens because of light pollution. Cities emit huge amounts of lights into the atmosphere blocking the incoming lights of stars, hence you have to be at least 100-150 kilometres away from any of the major cities in the vicinity. Rest assured your planning and execution, the knowledge of the subject and your skills will definitely pay off!



DEEPAK BARTAKKE

SKY THROUGH THE LENS





I had tried my hand at Astral Photography way back in the analog days but did not succeed. I tried it again when the digital era started. Did some trials and errors and finally got success. I did astral photography at different locations. For editing the Star Trails I have used the App. 'Star Track'.



DEEPAK BARTAKKE

FPSI , FFIP , FIIPC , Hon.Fellow APF, AFIAP

MILIND JOSHI

MAGICAL ASTRO WORLD



CAMERA : NIKON D-850
LENS : 14mm (Samyang)
F-STOP : f/2.8
ISO : 1/2500
EXPOSURE : 30 sec.



These are some of my photographs taken during the Kutch Night photography camp in March 2021.

We reached Ahmedabad on 13.03.2021 for an eight days tour. We drove more than 2700 kilometres through Kutch including adventurous drive across the remote areas of Rann of Kutch. It was a great experience. Night camping in Little rann of Kutch, Greater Rann off Kutch, Pingaleshwar Beach, Roha fort, Rock formation, Kotai Sun Temple. It was my first experience of night photography. I had never tried to shoot star trails or milky way. The tour was a little hectic, but there was lot to learn.

Every bit was enjoyed. Every moment taught me something. In the learning process, I could get some pictures of Star trails and Milky way during the tour.



MILIND JOSHI
Photographer



THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF INDIA

195, SAHEB BUILDING, DR. D. N. ROAD, FORT, MUMBAI : 400001.

✉ 1937psi@gmail.com  www.photographicsocietyofindia.com



Presents ONLINE ADOBE PHOTOSHOP WORKSHOP

FACULTY : BRENDAN DIAS

Professional Photographer and Trainer with
more than 25 years teaching experience



TOTAL 12 SESSIONS
(Each session is of 2 hours)

All second and fourth Saturdays
and all Sundays
(From 6.30 pm TO 8.30 pm)

Fees for Members : **4000/-**

Fees for Non Members : **4500/-**

**New Batch will start
on 8th May 2021
Register Now**

WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS :

- ✱ Edit like a pro with the finest image editing program - Adobe Photoshop CC
- ✱ Designed for photographers.
- ✱ Includes Camera Raw processing.
- ✱ Exercise images provided.

Requirments :

- ✱ Photoshop CC software installed in your laptop or PC

Registration & Contact :

PSI OFFICE : 8108604653 / 7208481737





**Promoting Photography since
1937**

**THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF INDIA
ANNOUNCES**

**A COMPREHENSIVE ONLINE COURSE IN
PHOTOGRAPHY**

Learn Photography from one of the most knowledgeable
and popular photography teacher



Mr. Rohinton Mehta

Next Batch Starts from : 17th May. 2021
14 sessions (Mon., Tue. & Thu. 6:30 to 8:30 pm)

FREE INTRODUCTION LECTURE
ON **10th MAY. 2021** at 6.30 p.m.
OPEN FOR ALL

Contact for Registration: 8108604653 / 7208481737



- Learn how to take great images with your Digital Camera.
- Understand Exposure, Lighting, Composition, Photo editing and much more.

Student should know the basic functions of a computer keyboard

195, SAHEB BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR, DR. D. N. ROAD, FORT, MUMBAI - 400001.

Contact : 022 - 22664296, E - mail : 1937psi@gmail.com, Website : www.photographicsocietyofindia.org

Invitation to PSI members to submit articles / images for "CLICK"

Cover Page

Members may submit their good quality images in vertical format. Images captured during PSI outings and national / international award winning images will be preferred.

Portfolio

A portfolio of four to six images can be submitted on any theme.
A brief write up about the images is optional.

Mobile Photography

We are going to start a column for Mobile Photography. Pictures / portfolios can be submitted for this column..

Photographer Speaks

Articles about any Photography topic or experience can be submitted with images.

Story behind the Picture

It is commonly said that 'A photograph speaks thousand words'. However sometimes there are interesting things which happen during the process of taking photographs. So share such stories with images.

Photography and editing tips

Short articles on these topics having educational value are welcome. We will continue with the theme 'Photography during lock down.' for future editions also.

The size of the images should be Horizontal - maximum: 1920 pixels
and Vertical - maximum: 1080 pixels.

File size maximum: 2 MB, DPI: 300.

The articles should be of maximum 200 words.

All articles and images sent for publication in Click should be the original work of the author. It will be the discretion of the editorial team to accept for publication, the articles and images and edit the articles if required. PSI or its managing committee shall not be held responsible for any copyright issues or any controversies arising out of the images or articles submitted by the members.

Mail ID For submissions - click.psi1937@gmail.com