

AUGUST 2022

CLICK

DIGITAL MAGAZINE



PHOTOGRAPHING "BIRD IN FLIGHT"

Bhaskar Athavale

LEGENDS OF PHOTOGRAPHY

LATE MR. SURENDRA PATEL - Anil Risal Singh



ESTD : 1937

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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

Recently we lost one of the finest exponents of pictorial photography, Shri Surendra Patel who was the President of 'Niharika Photography Club' of Gujrat. His art and achievements in Photography were extraordinary. Shri Anil Risal Singh ji, who was close to him writes about this legendary photographer of India.

Shri Suman Bhattacharyya, who visited PSI a few days back for judging our 20th PSI International Salon is a photographer with great dedication. His article, 'The Skull Hunters of Bengal' takes us on a journey to a remote part of Bengal where a very old tradition is being followed. Some may find the rituals very gruesome. The majority of us do not know that such traditions, which we generally attribute to African countries, are in existence in our own country.

Shri Bhaskar Athavale, our member and a fine bird and landscape photographer has contributed an informative article on how to shoot birds in flight. As you know, this is one of the most difficult genres of photography. Shri Athavale has given various tips in detail covering each and every aspect of photographing the birds in flight. This article is definitely going to help bird photography enthusiasts.

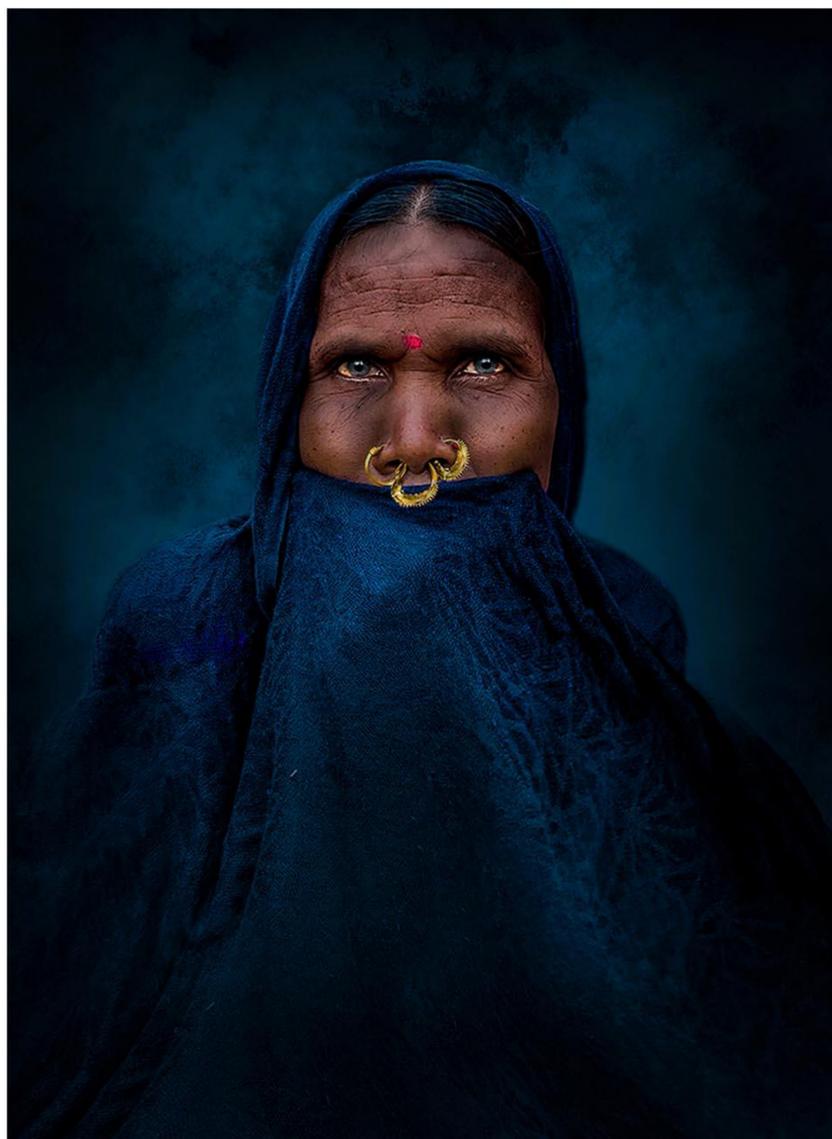
PSI has completed glorious 85 years on 29th August 2022. Our sincere gratitude goes to all past and present members, patrons, and well-wishers for supporting PSI during its long journey.

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Rajendra Waghmare". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Rajendra Waghmare
Chief Editor

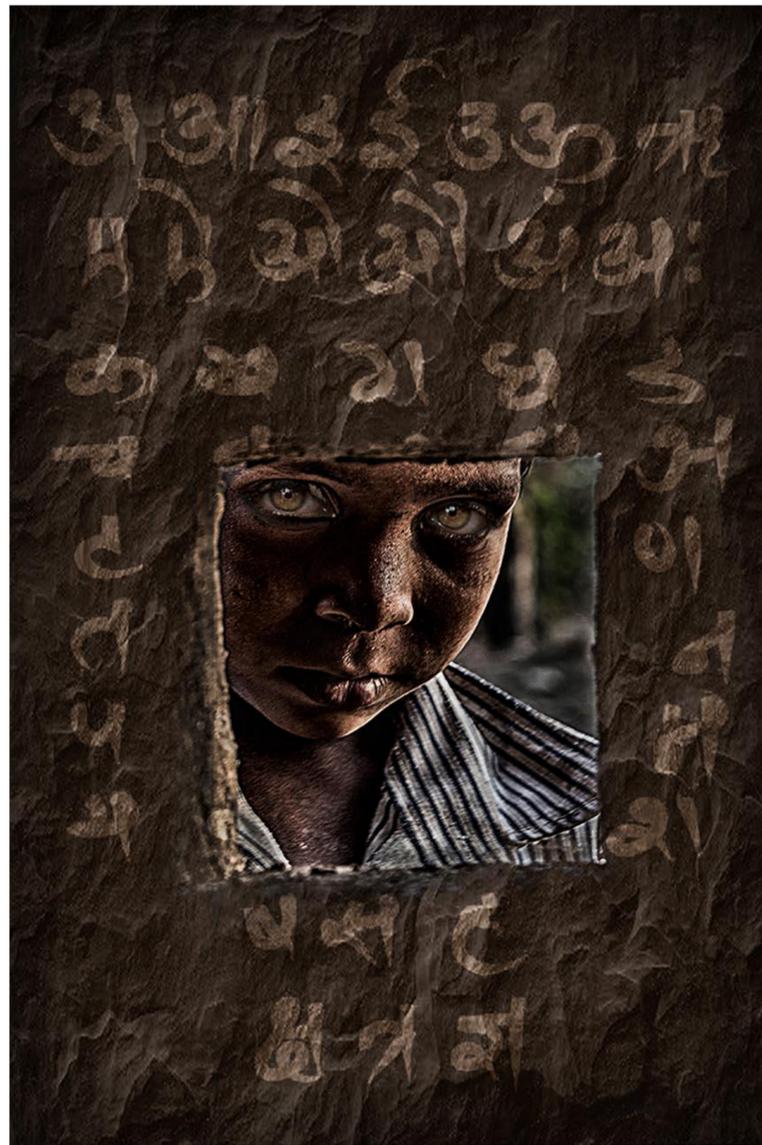
RESULT OF MONTHLY COMPETITION : JULY 2022
JUDGE : SHASHANK RANJIT
MEMBERS (COLOUR)


LIBERTY
SAMAR KHAN



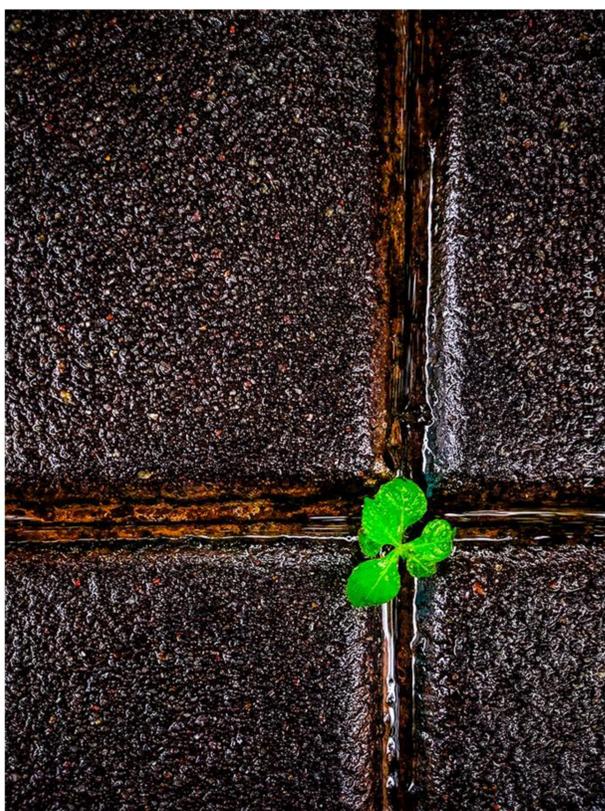

LADY
NIKHIL PANCHAL

RESULT OF MONTHLY COMPETITION : JULY 2022
MEMBERS (COLOUR)

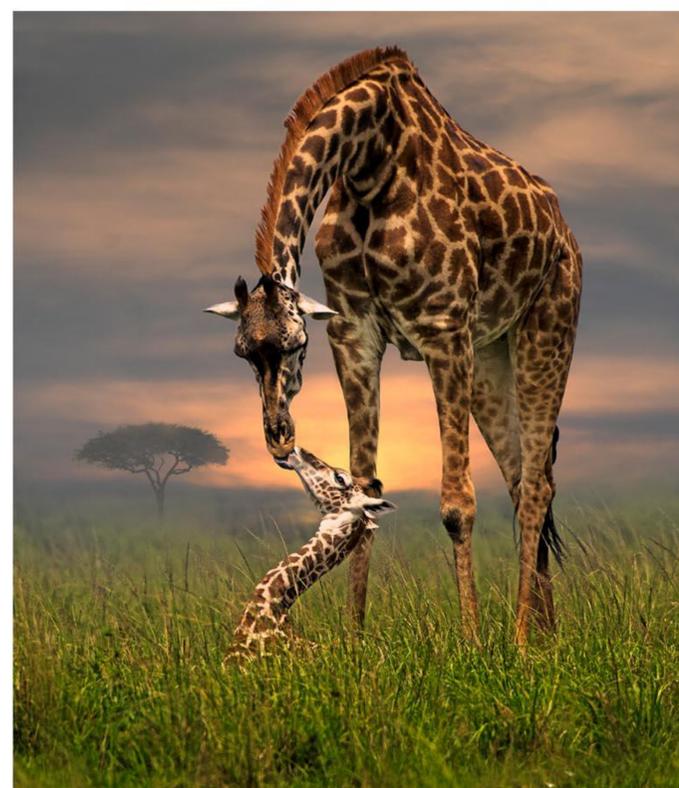


DARK FACE
NIKHIL PANCHAL

MEMBERS ACCEPTED ENTRIES (COLOUR)



LIFE AND HOPE
NIKHIL PANCHAL

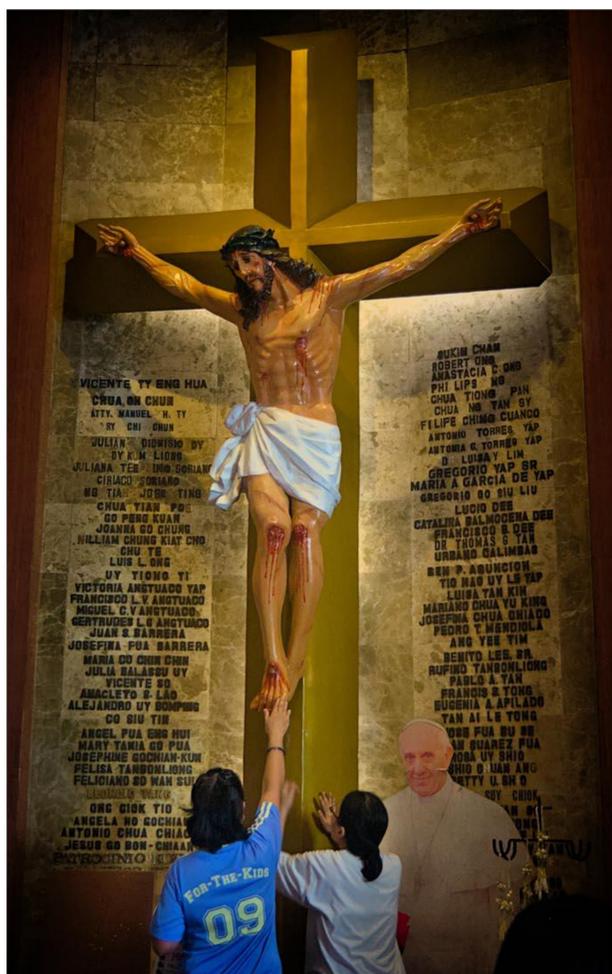


GIRAFFE WITH BABY
SURESH BANGERA

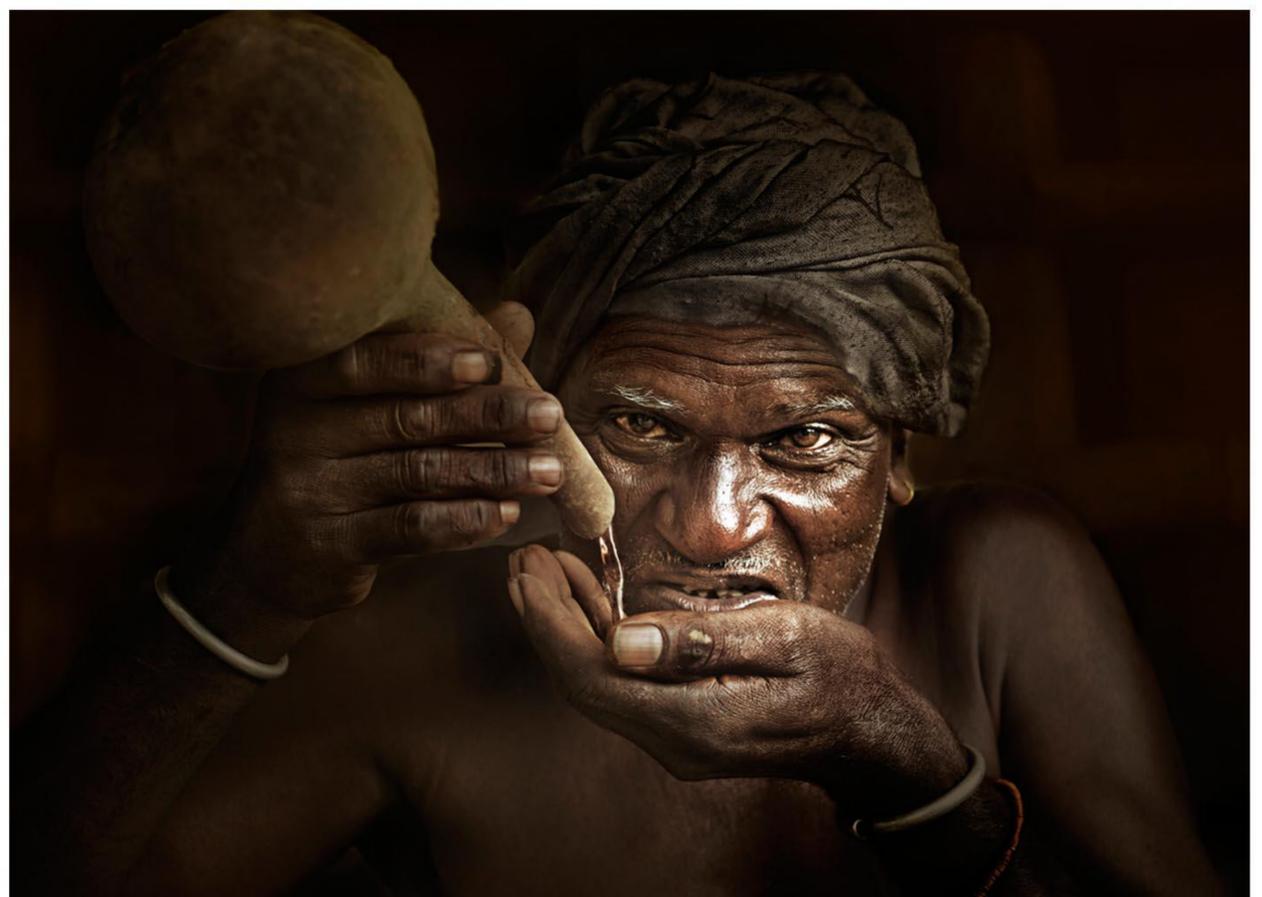
MEMBERS ACCEPTED ENTRIES (COLOUR)



**SILENT EVENING
NILESH GANTHADE**



**CHRIST CROSS
REJEEV DUDHALKAR**



**EVENING FRIEND
SURESH BANGERA**

MEMBERS (MONOCHROME)



**LOOK ME
MAHESH AMBARE**



**FOUNTAIN CST
NIKHIL PANCHAL**

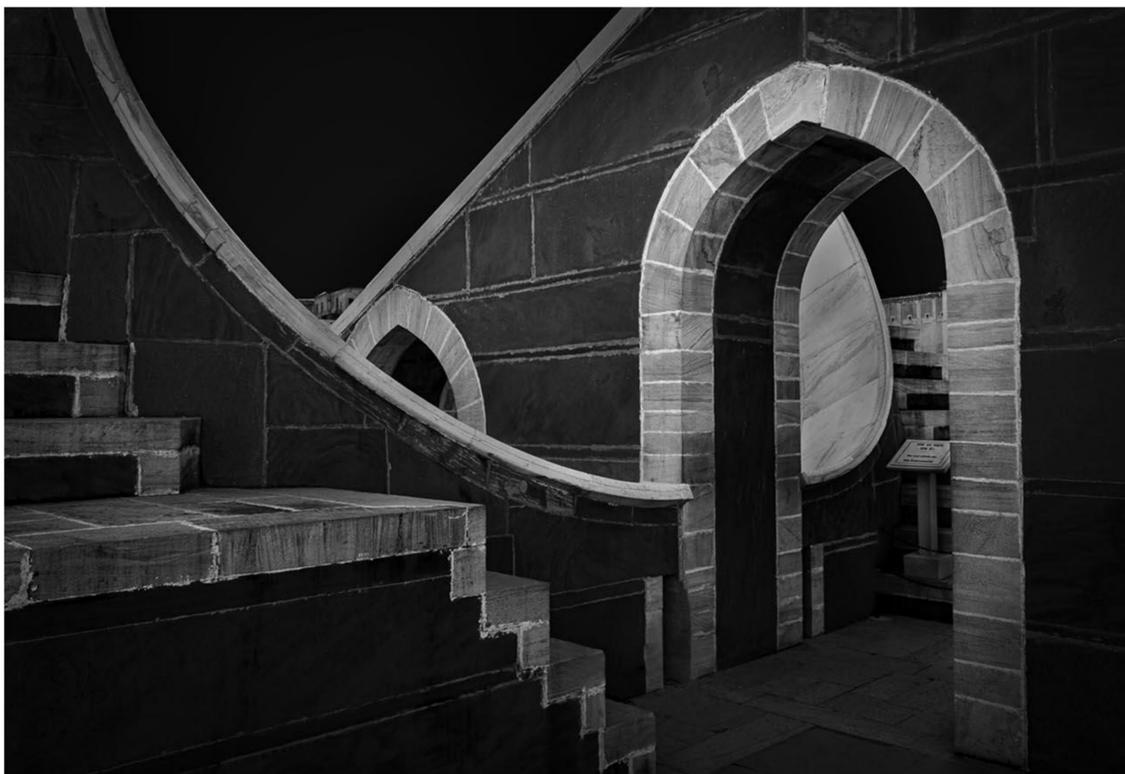


MEMBERS (MONOCHROME)



**ARCHITECTURE WINDOW
NIKHIL PANCHAL**

MEMBERS ACCEPTED ENTRIES (MONOCHROME)



**JANTAR MANTAR
NILESH GANTHADE**

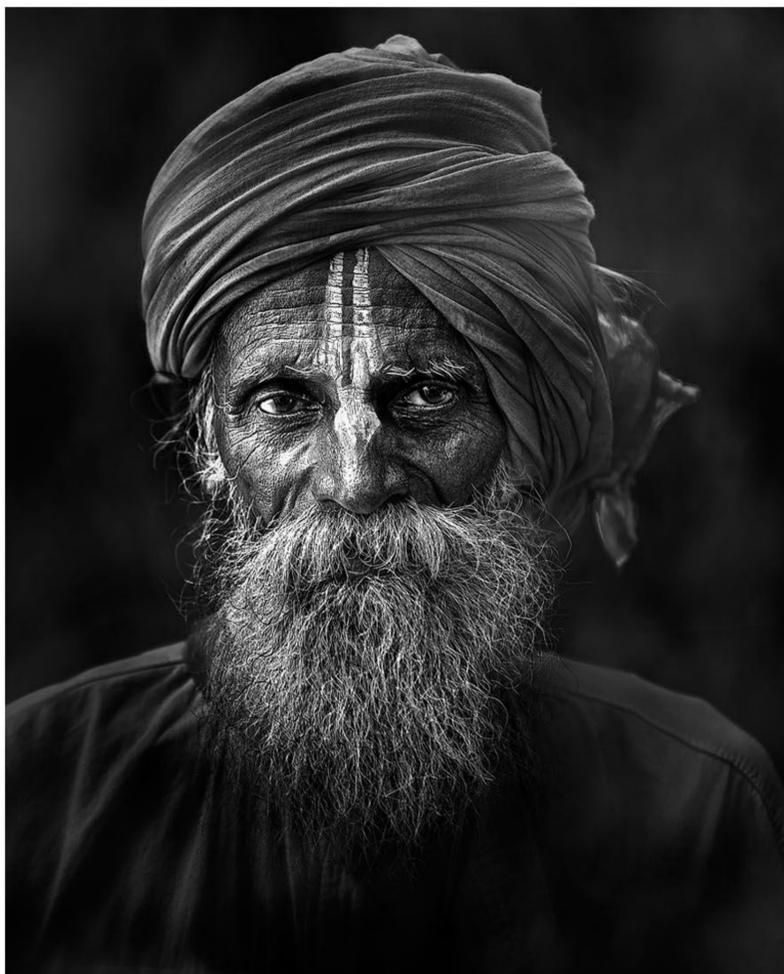


**SECURE HANDS OF FATHER
SURESH BANGERA**

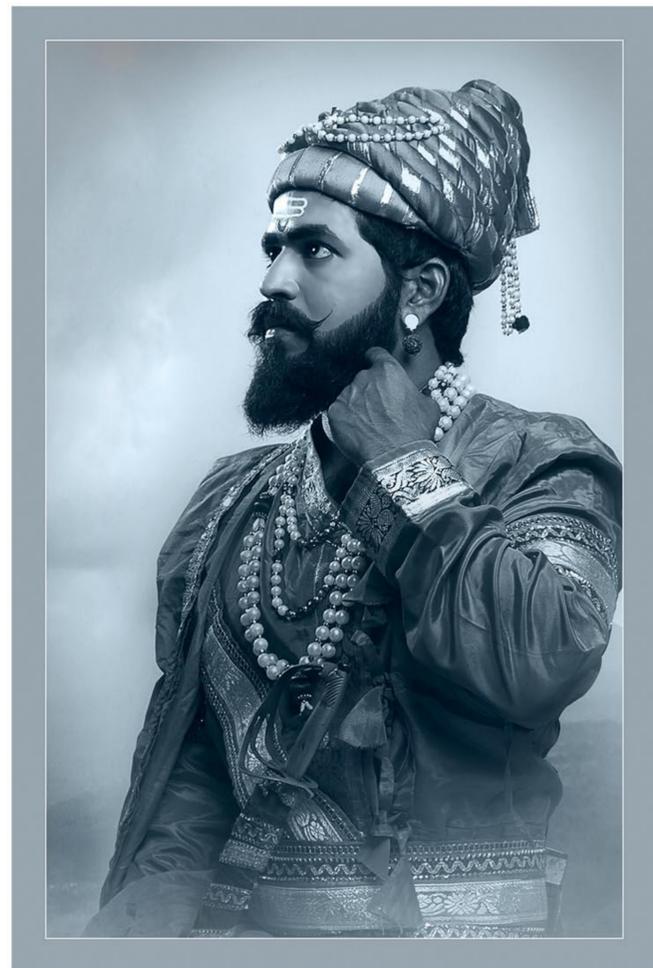
MEMBERS ACCEPTED ENTRIES (MONOCHROME)



**DANCE
RAVINDRA DEODHAR**



**SADHU
SURESH BANGERA**



**THE EMPEROR
SAMAR KHAN**

MEMBERS ACCEPTED ENTRIES (MONOCHROME)



**BANSURI OF LORD
NIKHIL PANCHAL**



**LOTUS TEMPLE
RAVINDRA DEODHAR**

BEGINNERS(COLOUR)

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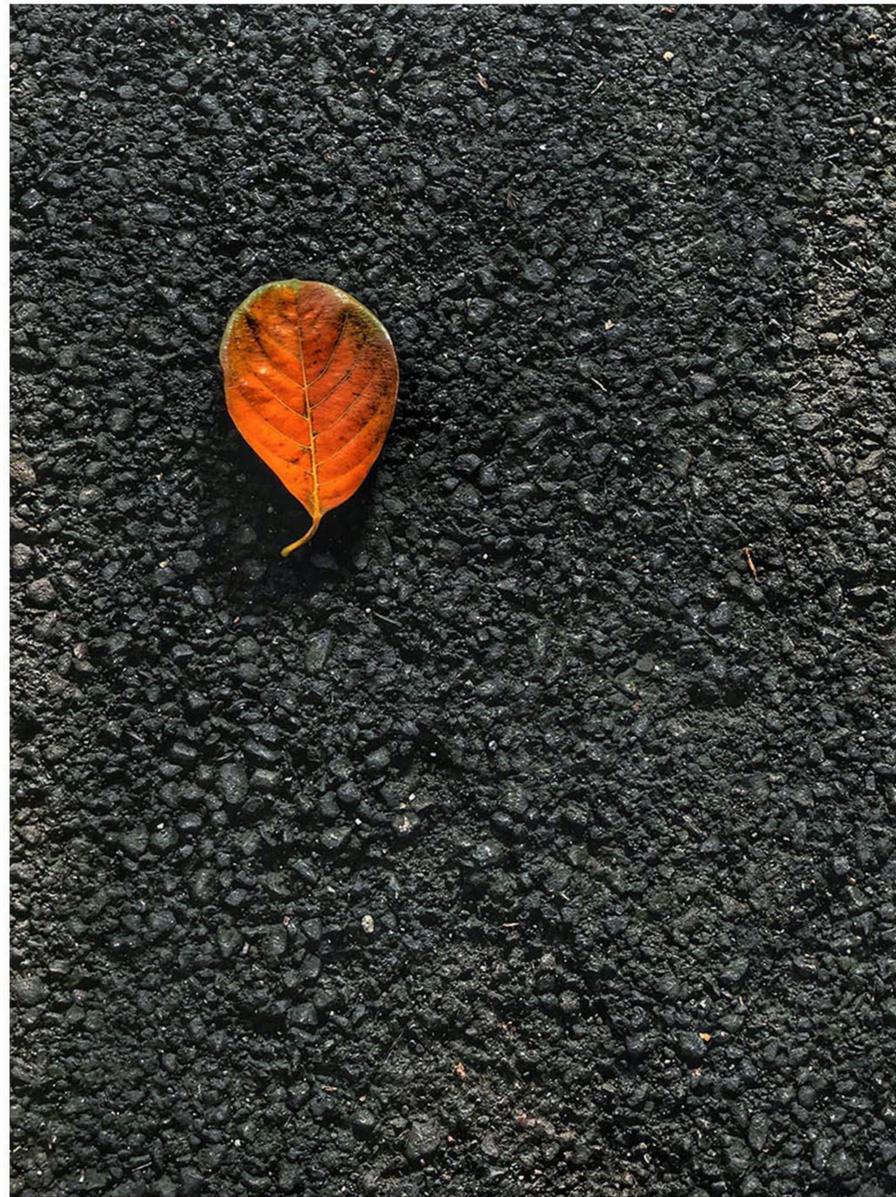
**ONE UMBRELLA
AJEETA CHAWAN**



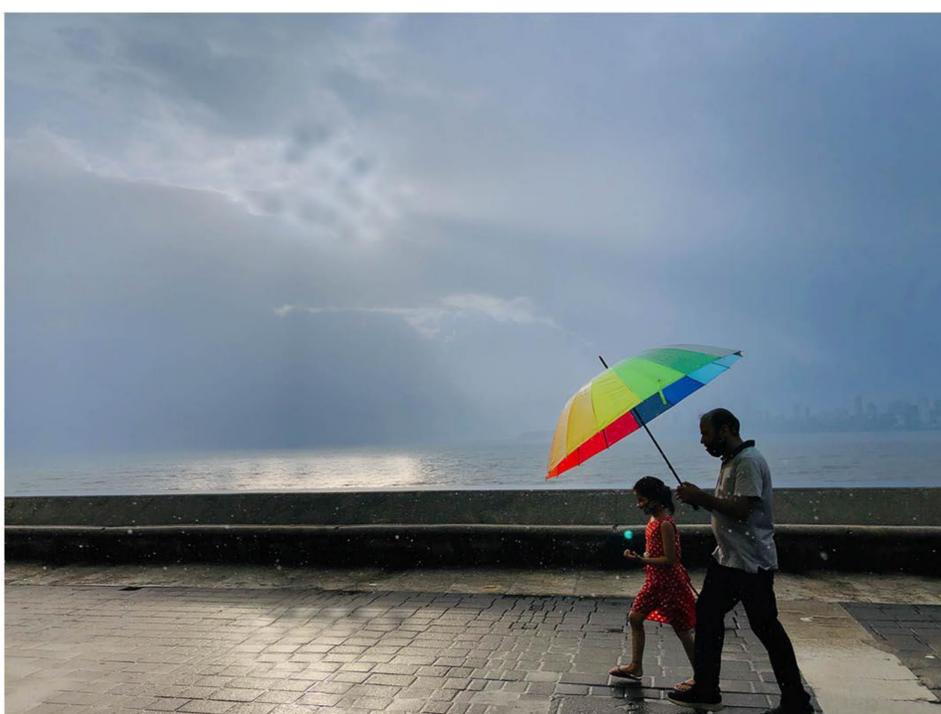
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**RED ADMIRAL
BUTTERFLY
ASHVINI K. CHHABRA**

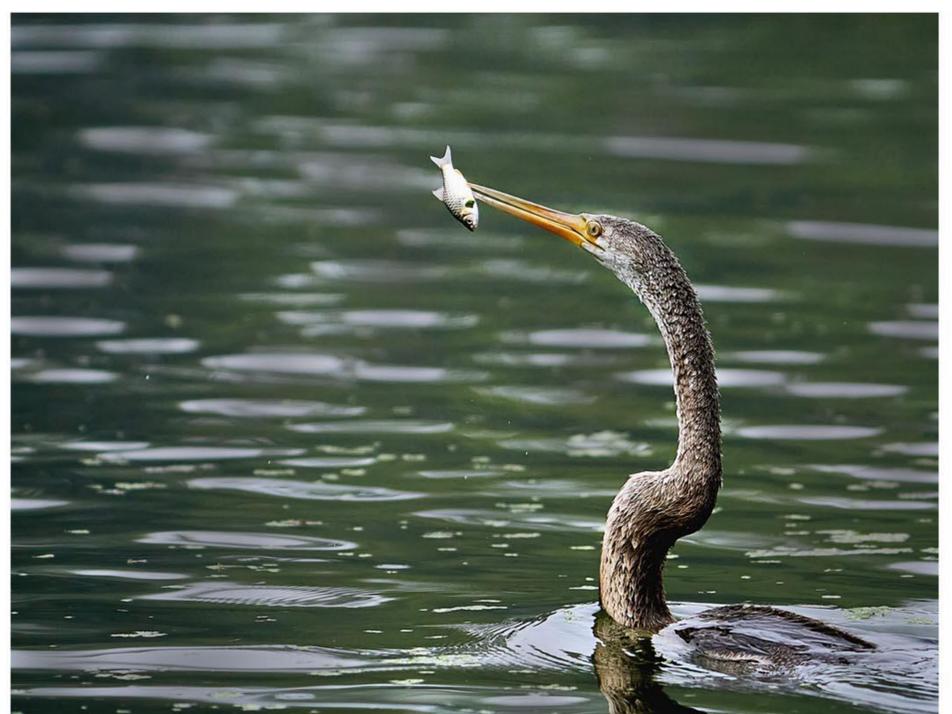
BEGINNERS ACCEPTED ENTRIES(COLOUR)



**LONELY LEAF
HARISH CHANDORKAR**



**FATHER HOLDS UMBRELLA
HARISH CHANDORKAR**



**DARTER WITH KILL
PRADIP PATIL**

BEGINNERS (MONOCHROME)



BIRD HERON
HARISH CHANDORKAR



BEGINNERS ACCEPTED ENTRIES (MONOCHROME)



LOUVRE FRANCE
HARISH CHANDORKAR



THIRSTY BIRD
AJEETA CHAWAN

PHOTOGRAPHING “Bird in Flight”



BHASKAR ATHAVALE
MPA, EFIAP/b, FFIP

Every Nature Photographer loves to shoot Birds in Flight. We have all missed plenty of shots trying to select the right camera settings. Sometimes shutter speed selected is slow, sometimes not able to focus in time, and sometimes the bird is too fast. By that time, we lift our camera it's gone. Thankfully, there are a few key settings and Camera Modes that will really improve your chances of getting good sharp images of birds in flight or



Basic Requirements for Bird photography:

- ★ The photographer shall have basic photography knowledge and shall be aware of the camera settings in his/her camera model in detail. Many times, in the field, photographers keep on searching for a particular setting in the camera menu. Even if the setting values are shared with them, they don't know how to change the same, resulting in losing the opportunity to shoot.
- ★ Photographers shall have a basic DSLR that is able to capture at least 5/6 frames per second. For a bird in action, one has to shoot at high shutter speeds and if the number of frames per second is high (in the range of 10/12), the chances of getting desired / sharp image from 10 to 12 shots are more than shooting 5 to 6 shots per second.
- ★ To carry the zoom / prime lens with the minimum focal length ranging from 400 mm and above (A higher focal length will have better reach).
- ★ Carry fully charged batteries, and enough cards for storage, along with you in the field (not in the camera Bag). Sometimes hand-held photography is not possible, then better to carry a sturdy Tripod (the head shall be able to hold the load of the camera and lens) on the trip.
- ★ When planning a birding trip, hiring a good local guide is always advantageous. Photographer's knowledge is limited compared to the local guide. Throughout the season they keep a watch on birding activities, they are aware of the latest incidents/arrival of new species/areas where you can get better opportunities to shoot, etc. Because of their rich knowledge of birds, they can anticipate the action in advance, which provides a window for photographers to be ready for the shot.

Studying Birds Behaviour / Habits:

Studying the birds' behavior, and habits will surely improve the chances of getting good images. Once you know birds, you can predict their movements. For instance, many birds, especially the larger species like herons or eagles, will relieve themselves just before they fly. Knowing this can give you a split-second warning to capture a beautiful takeoff shot.

A lot of this studying will happen, while you are out in the field photographing birds. Just by watching the birds, by identifying their behavioral habits, by seeing what they do and when they do it, you will accumulate plenty of knowledge.

For instance, the shorebirds tend to run down the beach in a particular direction, so if you want close-up shots of these small shorebirds, determine their direction, position yourself down the beach, get low on the ground, and wait for them to come to you.

Similarly, Terns (Whiskered/river Terns) are smart hunters but the Gulls are opportunistic, they do not have the ability to catch fish themselves. The moment a Tern makes its catch, a group of gulls attacks / starts chasing it furiously with the hope that the Tern will get afraid of and drop the fish. This is the opportunity for you to get a few flight/action shots.



Few Key points:

- ★ The key to a good bird-in-flight shot is to shoot with a fast shutter speed, else it is going to be a blurry mess. So, switch to higher shutter speeds (1/1000 to 1/2000 sec.) depending upon bird size and distance.

- ★ Birds against the sky usually come out under-exposed, so to overcome this, change the exposure compensation to perhaps +1/3 to +2/3 as a starting point. So as to get the details of the bird.
- ★ Set your focus mode to 'AI Servo' ('AF-C' 'continuous' for some cameras) so the camera is always updating/tracking the focus on the bird.
- ★ To Shoot with a single AF point for a bird in flight is very tricky. It may slip off onto the background, instead one can choose the center circle zone /middle five to 9 points as per your camera model. Selecting multiple points (42/65 points in some cameras) is also not advisable as the camera may choose to focus on the wings instead of the head of the bird.
- ★ Set your camera's 'drive mode' to 'continuous' (or even 'high speed continuous') so when you hold the shutter button down, the camera will just keep taking photos as fast as it can until you let go, giving you a whole set of different wing positions to choose from.



Basic Requirements for Bird photography:

As with most wildlife photography, the general rule (unless you are trying for something more specific) is almost always to have the eye of your subject sharp. The same is true for birds in flight also, however it is important to remember that one may not get enough depth of field if small f no (f2.8) is selected. Then you will end up with a partly sharp image, hence it is not recommended to shoot on larger apertures (f 2.8 to f 5.6)

A general rule of thumb, to get the maximum chance of getting a sharp image, is to shoot around f/8 or f/9 – provided there is enough light. Photographer can initially start panning on the subject & keeping the focus point as close to the bird's head. Once the photographer is confident about his technic/skill, the aperture can be dropped down to f 5.6 in low light conditions (with the risk of small DOF). I usually shoot on f/8 and above depending upon bird size and distance.

Camera Modes:

All DSLRs have “Aperture priority”, “Shutter Priority” & “Manual Mode” under Mode selection Dial. While shooting Bird in flight, the photographer can decide to shoot on any of these modes, which he is comfortable with. In these 3 priority modes out of 3 parameters (Aperture, Shutter speed, and ISO) a photographer has to decide on any 2 of the parameters to keep the 3rd one on Auto, so as to get correct exposure at desired settings.

Manual Mode - (M)

(Means Aperture (F no) and shutter speed is selected by the photographer and ISO is on AUTO).

Aperture Priority Mode - AV

(Means Aperture (F no) and ISO is selected by the photographer and Shutter Speed is on AUTO).

Shutter Priority Mode - TV

(Means Shutter Speed and ISO is selected by the photographer and Aperture (F no) is on Auto).

★ In Manual Mode, when ISO is on AUTO, the Camera may select higher ISO Value such as 8000, 10000, etc during Low light conditions. The NOISE gets introduced in these High ISO images. To avoid this, one has to set ISO limits (low & high values in the Camera Setting menu) so that ISO does not jump above the higher limit value.

During low light, after reaching the highest allowed ISO value, the camera sometimes demands more light (otherwise the picture will be under-exposed). So, in that situation, one has to drop down f no or lower the shutter speed.

★ In Aperture priority Mode, the shutter speed is left on Auto. In proper daylight, the camera may select the shutter speed value just required to get correct exposure (shutter speed may not be 1/1000 or so). In that case, one has to drop down f no or bump up the ISO to get desired shutter speed.

★ In shutter priority mode, the Aperture is left to Auto. The camera usually selects the lens's smallest f no (to have max light inside), In that case, the photo has a small Depth of Field resulting in only part of the bird being in focus and the rest is soft/blurry. One has to lift up the f no (for better DOF) and ISO so as to get the desired Shutter Speed.

★ Two additional modes, such as 'Program Mode' (P) & 'Auto Mode' (A) are available in Mode selection Dial. These modes are not to be used for bird photography. Why? Because as mentioned above, the photographer has to set his camera for specific settings, in 'P' or 'A' mode, the camera decides the f no / shutter speed, etc as per the outside light conditions and with the help of the Advance Algorithm (program) written in software. That is not suitable for 'Bird in flight Photography'.



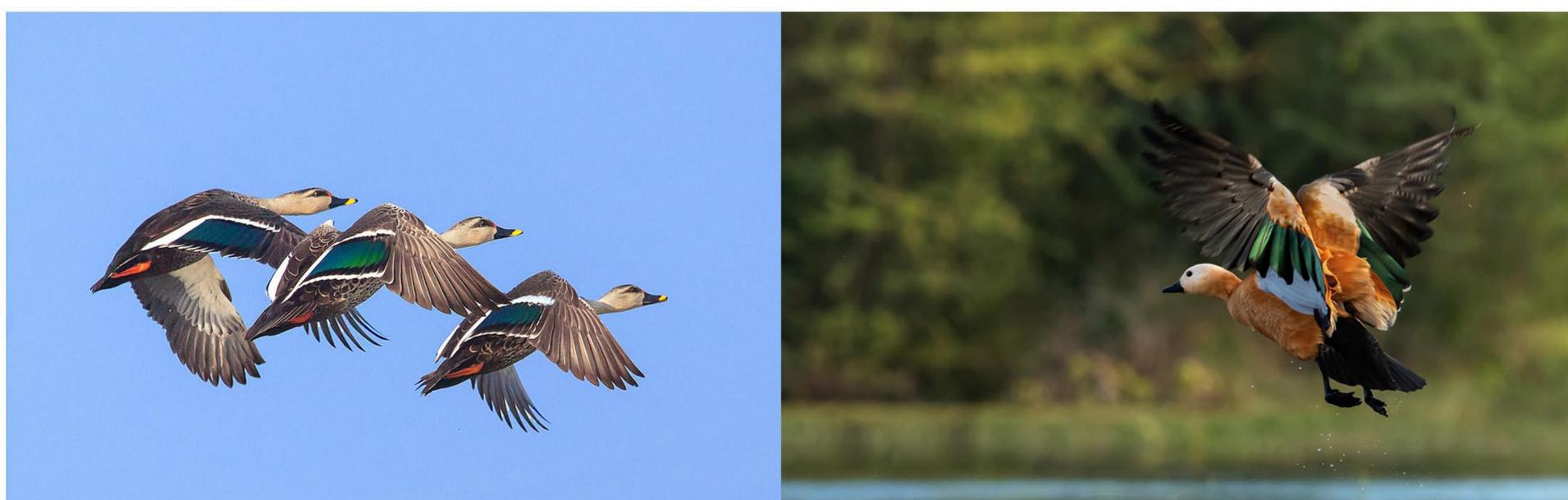
Studying Birds Behaviour / Habits:

When the shutter button is pressed, it does two functions, one is focusing and another is metering and then the picture is taken after a fraction of a second. This all happens simultaneously. Only the focusing function can be assigned to a different button (which is on the backside of the camera). It is called 'Back Button focusing'. One must refer to the camera instruction manual for the procedure to assign the focusing function to this button. In this method, you have to keep the shutter button half pressed by the first finger so metering is locked and press the back button for continuous focusing by thumb. The moment bird has turned its face towards you, fully press the shutter button and shoot immediately. With this method, there are fewer chances of missing the shots. This method needs practice, if you don't find this method comfortable, you can fall back to the default settings.

Custom / User Mode:

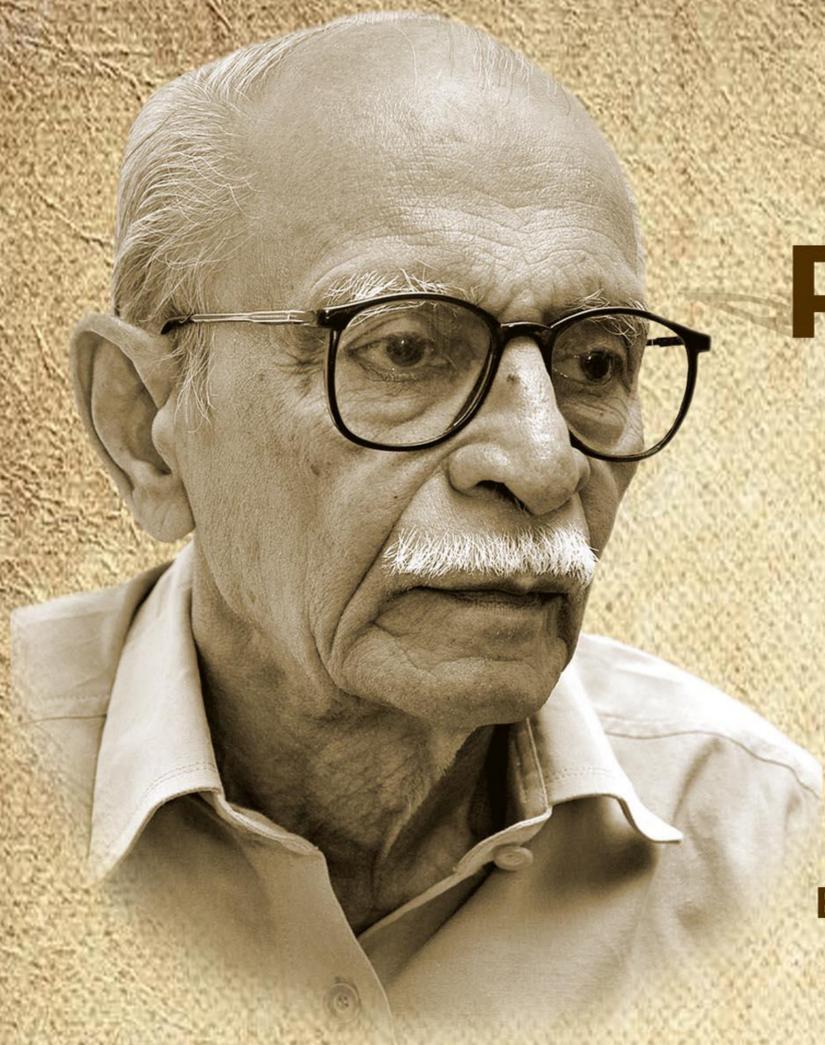
After going through the above points, the photographer shall be able to decide what kind of camera settings he/she is going to use for the bird in flight / Action shots. Select the mode and other settings required for the bird in flight as per your choice and then save them as one of the 'Custom modes' (if your camera has that facility). Believe me, this is very important and useful. Once you are through with settings, go into the camera menu and find 'Custom Shooting Mode' / 'User Settings' or similar and select 'Register', 'Store' or 'Save Settings'. (Generally, these custom modes are indicated by C1, C2, C3 on the mode dial in most of the cameras).

How useful it is? Let's take an example. A photographer is shooting a wide-angle shot (say landscape). Obviously, the camera settings are totally different from the settings required to shoot Bird in flight. Suddenly photographer realizes that there is a bird flying and going to cross him in the next 15/20 seconds. Now, in this time window, it is impossible to change all the settings required for the bird in flight and an opportunity is missed. 'Custom Shooting Mode' is the right solution in such cases. The moment the photographer realizes the bird is flying across, without shifting his eye from the viewfinder, he can change the Mode dial to the 'Custom Shooting Mode'-C1, C2, or C3 (whichever was selected/saved earlier) and the photographer is ready for the shot. The moment C1, C2, or C3 is selected, camera settings will jump to these 'Bird in flight' settings. If your camera lets you store multiple custom modes (such as 'C1', 'C2', etc.), use the last one, why? Because the photographer doesn't even need to watch whether the correct mode is selected, just turn the Mode dial until it stops. I am sure that the photographer can do the same in 5/10 seconds comfortably and be ready for the shot.



Summary:

The bottom line is practice, practice, and practice. Start off with something large and slow, and work your way down to smaller faster birds. Smooth panning will often be the key factor in increasing your success rates, so the more time you spend improving your ability to track birds in the viewfinder, the better your flight shots will be.

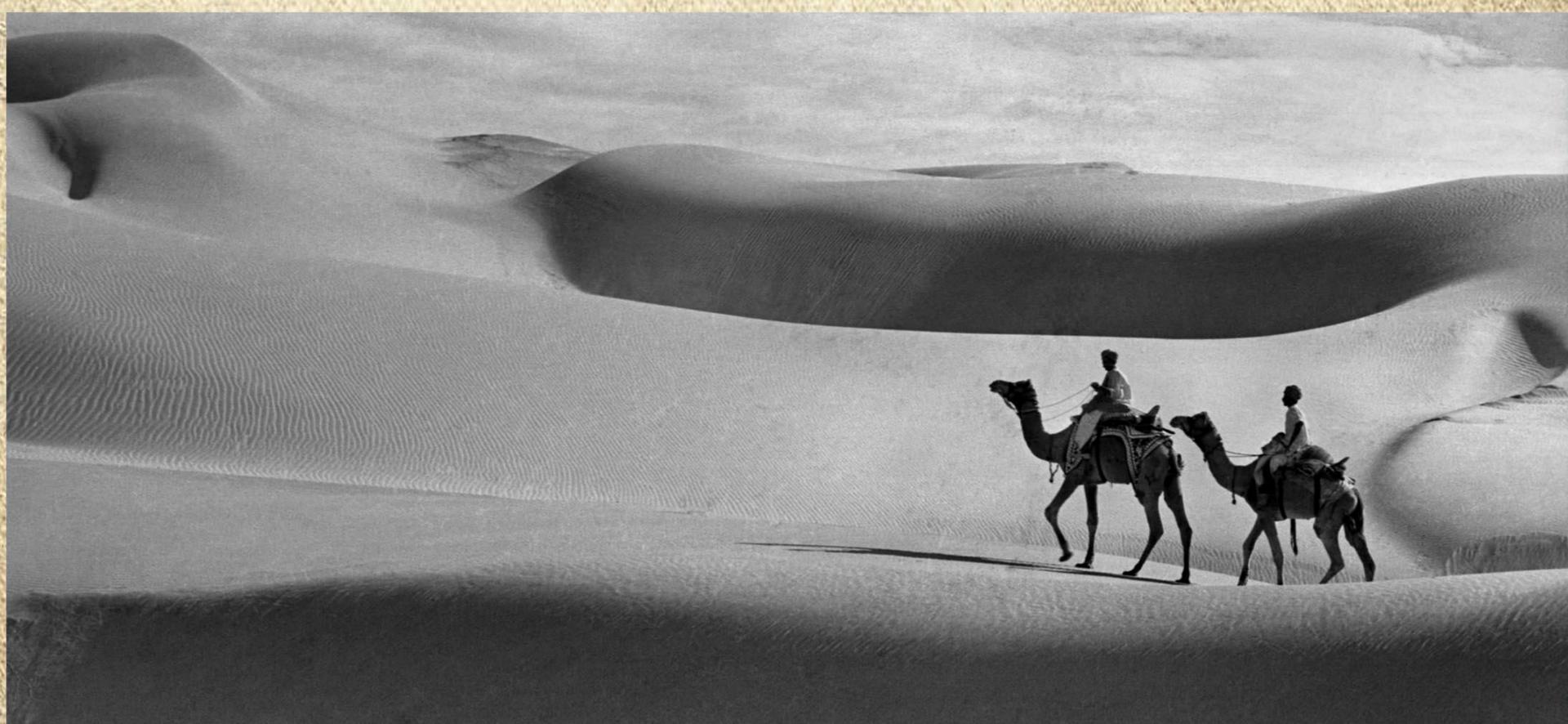


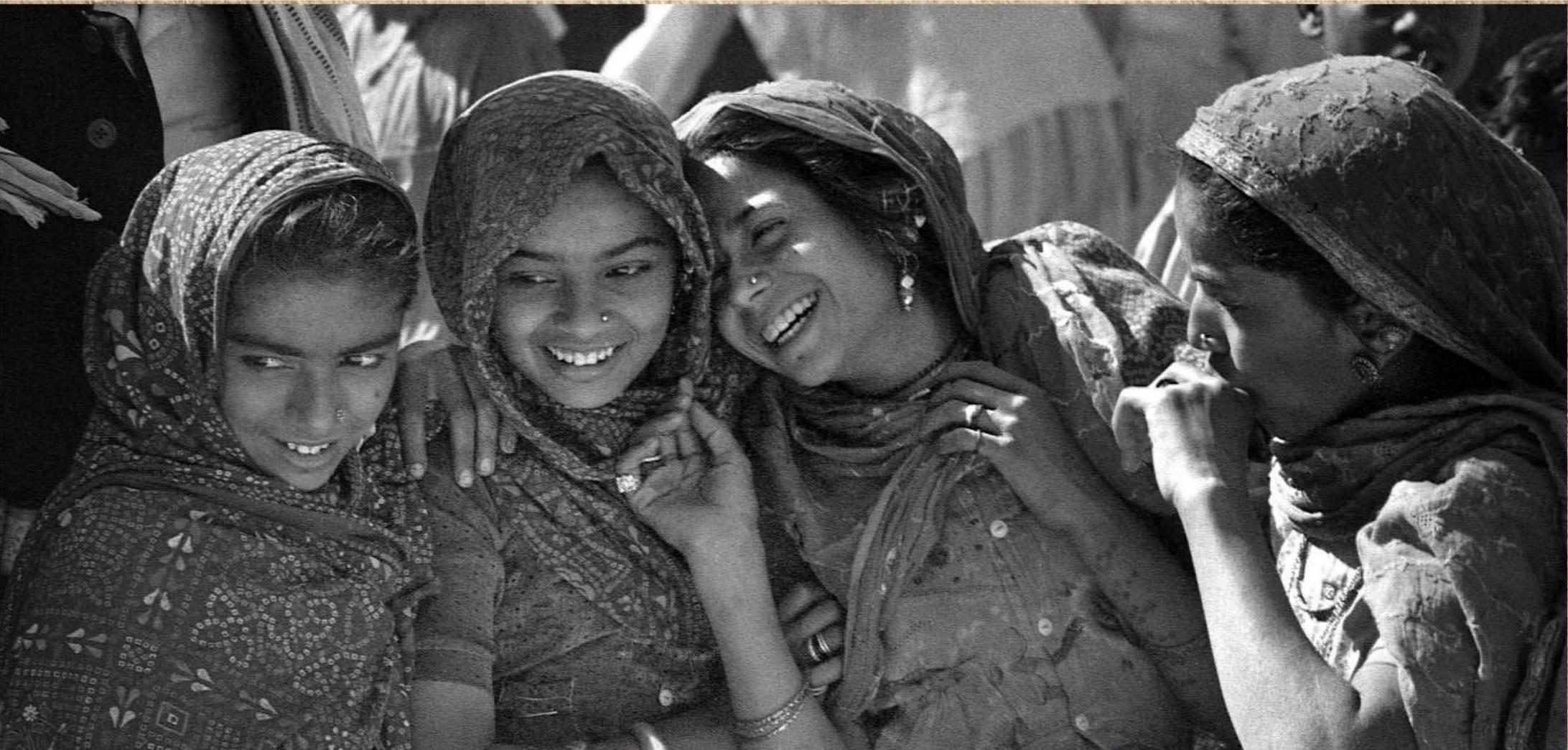
LEGENDS OF PHOTOGRAPHY



LATE MR. SURENDRA PATEL
EFIAP, AIIPC, FSIIPC, Hon. FIP, Hon. IIPC, Hon.
ECPA, Hon. FSoF, Hon. MLMG
(8th October 1927 -15th July 2022)

It is very sad and shocking to inform all photography lovers that Niharika, the Society of Gujarat Pictorialists has lost its President, a legendary photographer Shri Surendra R. Patel who took the path of heavenly abode on 15th July 2022. This month in the column of 'Legends of the past' publishing a small tribute to great legendary photographer late Surendra R. Patel Ji.

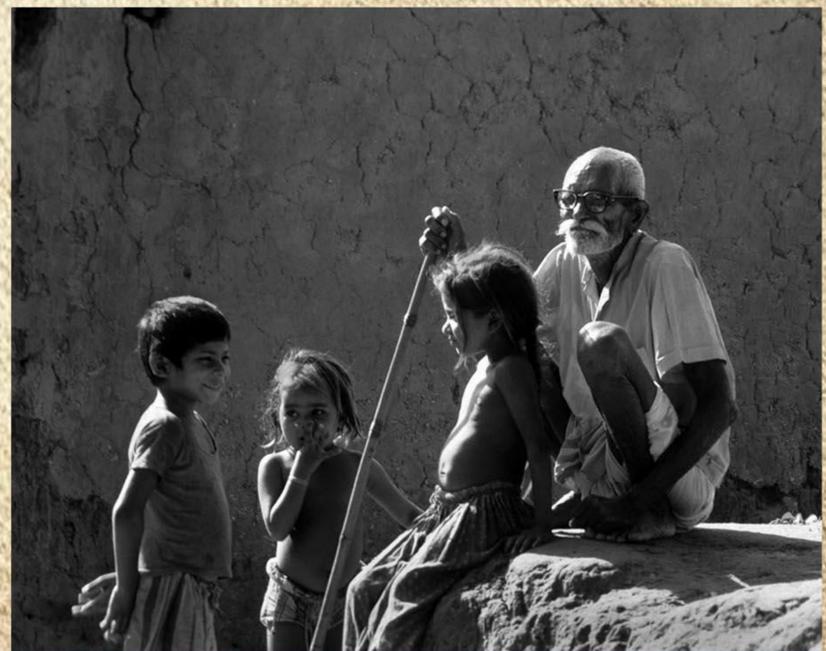
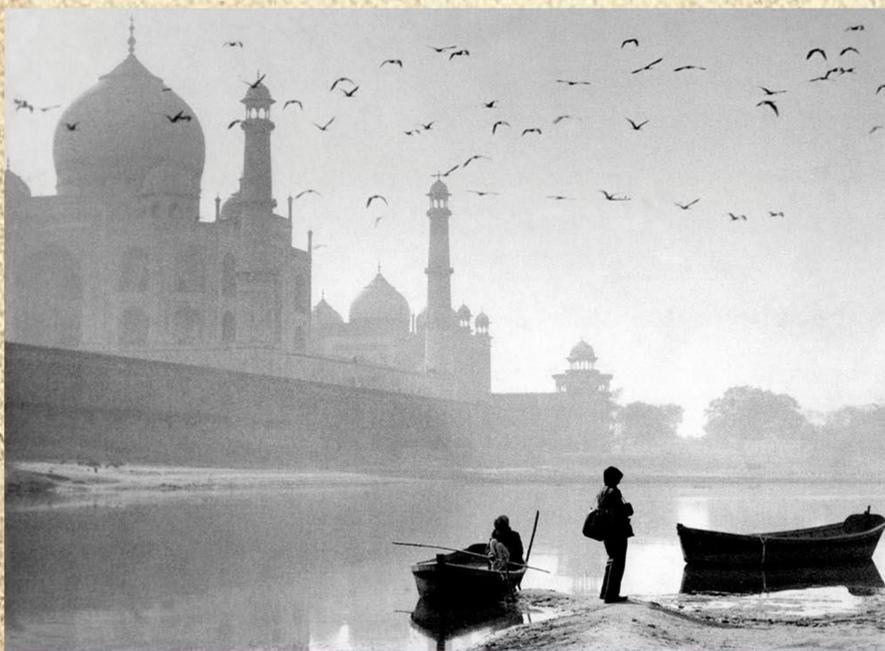




Surendra Patel Ji was the President of Niharika - The Society of Gujarat Pictorialists, Ahmedabad, and devoted his life to promote pictorial photography as an art. His demise is a great loss not only to the Niharika Society but to all art lovers of our country.

Surendra R. Patel (Born 1927) was a self-learned photographer. He served as a Museum Photographer at Sanskar Kendra Ahmedabad, from 1964 to 1989. This is the landmark museum Designed by Le Corbusier. He was also the former President of India International Photographic Council, New Delhi, and the former Chairperson of Colour Division, Federation of Indian Photography.

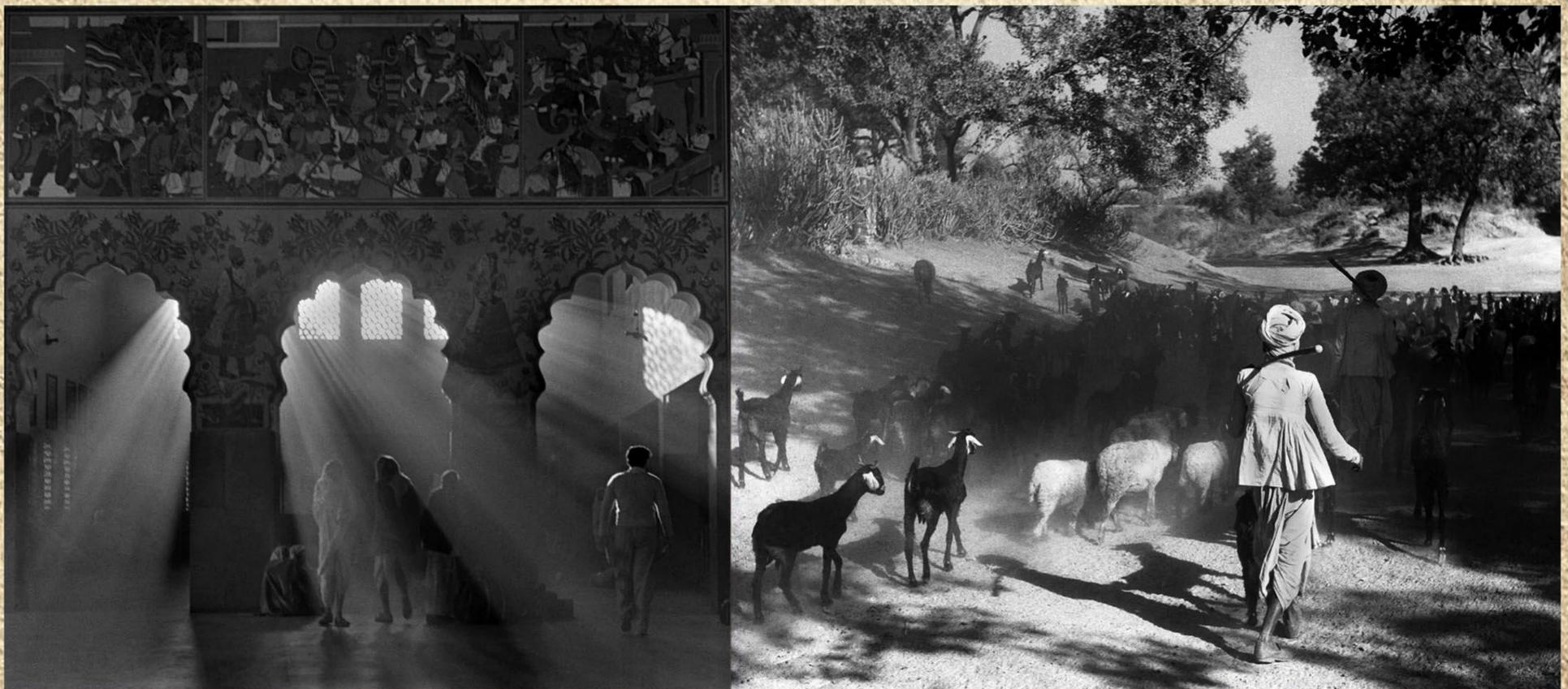
He has participated in many national and international exhibitions, Salons, and photography competitions since 1951, winning more than 200 awards and having over 2100 acceptance to his credit.



He has presented more than 100 slide shows on his KAILAS MANSORAVAR YATRA, which he performed in 1958 with a commentary slide show in different parts of India. He has also exhibited his photographs in one-man shows in Ahmedabad, Delhi, Mumbai, Jaipur, Jamnagar, Navsari, Surat, and Vadodara, among other cities in India. He was an Expert in B/W film developing, colour negative film developing, colour slide film processing, and specialized scanning. He has lectured, given a live demonstration, and conducted workshops covering subjects like Pictorial Printmaking, Bass Relief, solarization, Dye Bleach process, Slide Film Processing, Multiple Printing, Tone Separation, Lith film process, and other topics at national-level events. He has also organized several workshops, conferences, and exhibitions in various cities of India.

Surendra Patel Ji has judged more than 100 National and International Salons of Photography, and also Photo Contests in various cities of India. He has juried many Photography Honours for IIPC, FIP, and PSI.

Ahmedabad's Kite Museum was designed and established by him. He has been a major force in raising awareness about Pictorial Photography and mentoring new entrants to the world of Pictorialism. He also served the photography community through his studio which provided transparency processing facilities.



Surendra Patel Ji was always willing to help those seeking guidance in Photography and its related subjects. He has played a stellar role in encouraging many youngsters in the world of photography.

He received Photography Honors like AFIAP, EFIAP, AIIPC, FSIIPC, Hon. FIP, Hon. IIPC, Hon. ECPA, Hon. FSoF, etc. Conferred Life Time Achievement Award by Ministry of I & B, Govt. of India in 2015, I was the jury's Chairman that year. He also received Life Time Achievement Award from Andhra Pradesh Photography Academy.



Recently on 15th July 2022, he left for his heavenly abode, , we were very close with each other, Patel saheb always bestowed upon me his love, blessings, and Aashirwad. He visited Lucknow many a time as the jury member for All India Salons, organized by Lucknow Camera Club. Whenever I visited Ahmedabad, I used to visit Patel Saheb, his demise is a personal loss to me.

Patel Saheb was not only a great photographer but also a great human being, very soft-spoken and kind, his demise is a great loss to Indian photography. May his noble soul rest in eternal peace.



ANIL RISAL SINGH

MFIAP, ARPS, Hon.FIP, Hon.LCC, FFIP,AIIPC, Hon.FSOF, Hon.FPAC,
Hon.TPAS, Hon. FSAP, Hon.FICS, Hon.PSGSPC, Hon.FPSNJ,
Hon. FWPAl, Hon. FGCC, Hon. GA-PSGSPC,



THE SKULL HUNTERS OF BENGAL

by **Suman Bhattacharyya**



Mr. Suman Bhattacharyya
MPSA, ARPS/L, EFIAP/B

In Kurmun there are three religions flourishing side by side.

The skull dancers belong mostly to Hindus with occasional Muslim devotees participating too.

Before doing the famous skull dance they all paint themselves in body paint which is carried for two continuous days until the end of the Skull dance. The body painted Gajan Sanyasis are the devotees of the Lord Shiva. The entire village folk consider themselves as the followers of the Lord Shiva.

These Gajan Sanyasis are greatly revered as the carriers of the boon of the Lord Shiva and a green mango on top of their skull dance ritual weapon is considered pious and such if eaten with a believers heart will provide a male offspring to the couple deprived of a baby after their marriage.



★ Nayan, The Gajan Sanyasi, who is a young boy of just 12 years is Being prepared by the entire village while Children younger to him look with awe & respect. ★ In a few hours time Nayan would transcend from just a boy to the adulthood of Gajan Sanyasi brethren.



★ Nayan's mother gets him prepared and worships him As he is being deified.

★ Similar devotion to the young unmarried boys from their mothers can be seen.



★ The youngest of them all is respected most as the direct incarnation of the deity and is respected one and all. He is welcomed in the brethren by his seniors.
★ The weapon of the skull dancers is purified with coconut waters.



★ The paintings are from their face to toe.
★ The paintings are from their front and back.

★ The child no more a known person as if under the guise of a deity.



★ The procession of the gajan sanyasis through the village path. ★ The womenfolk are providing some respite from the arduous heat. ★ Day 2 begins with the placement of the severed skulls.



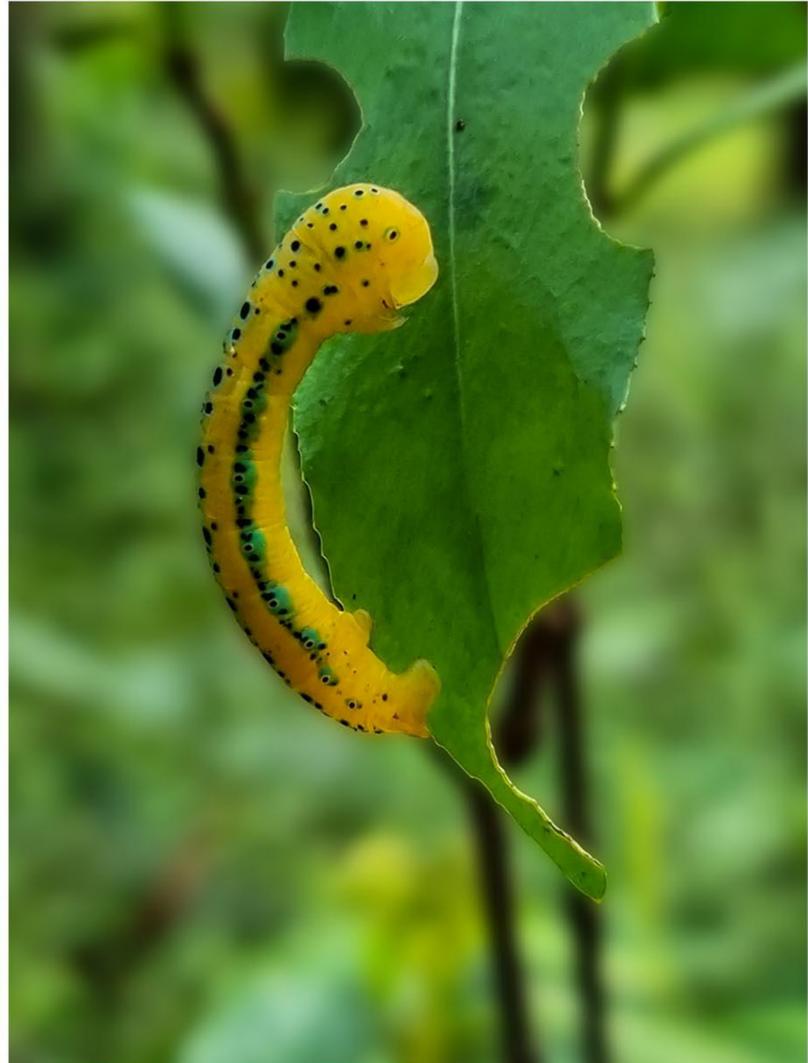
★ The dance of the Gajan Sanyasi starts with the break of the day with freshly excavated skulls.
★ The stench of the freshly dug skulls is evident from onlookers expression. ★ It is being handed over from one Sanyasi to another with the placement of the sacred iron made blade so as not to get cursed.



★ The march continues through the village path. ★ People freaking out in fear of getting touched by the head and therefore being cursed.

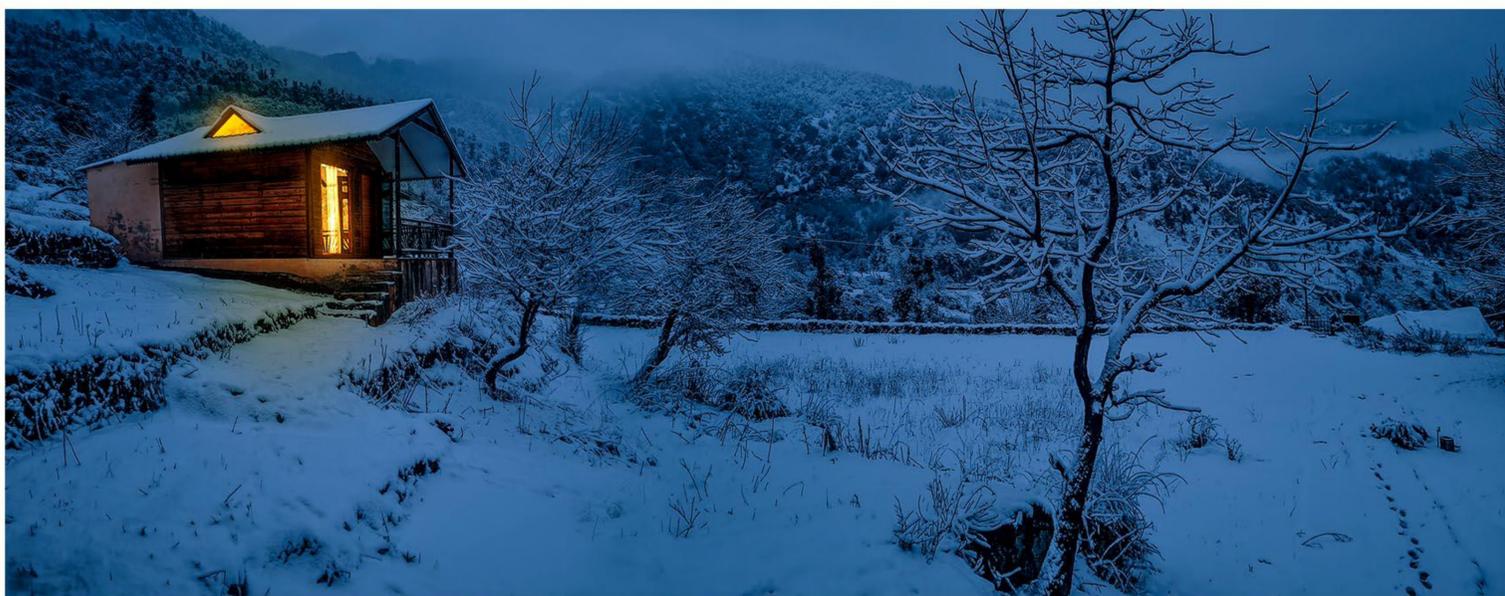
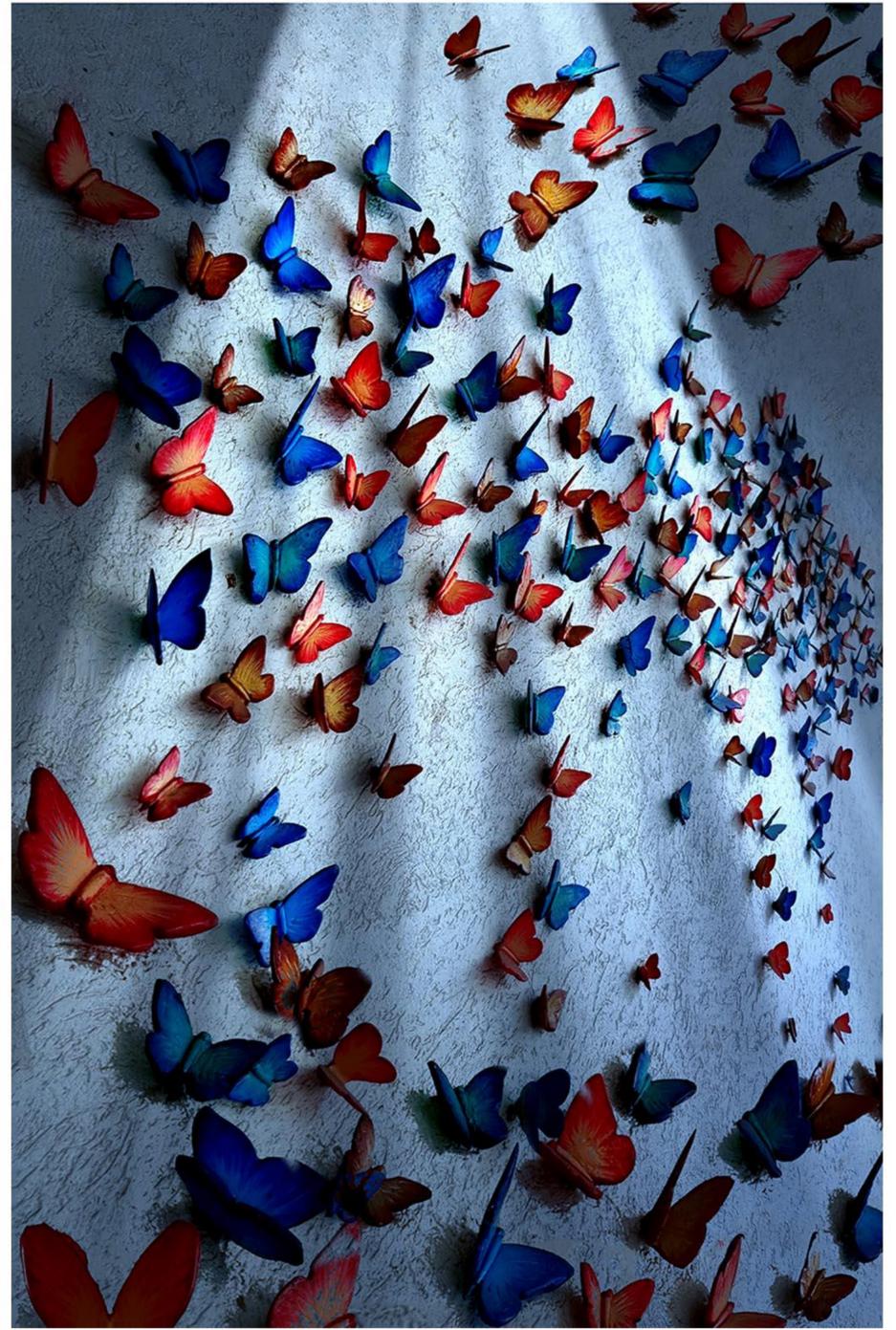
SHEKHAR MANGAONKAR

Mobile Photography



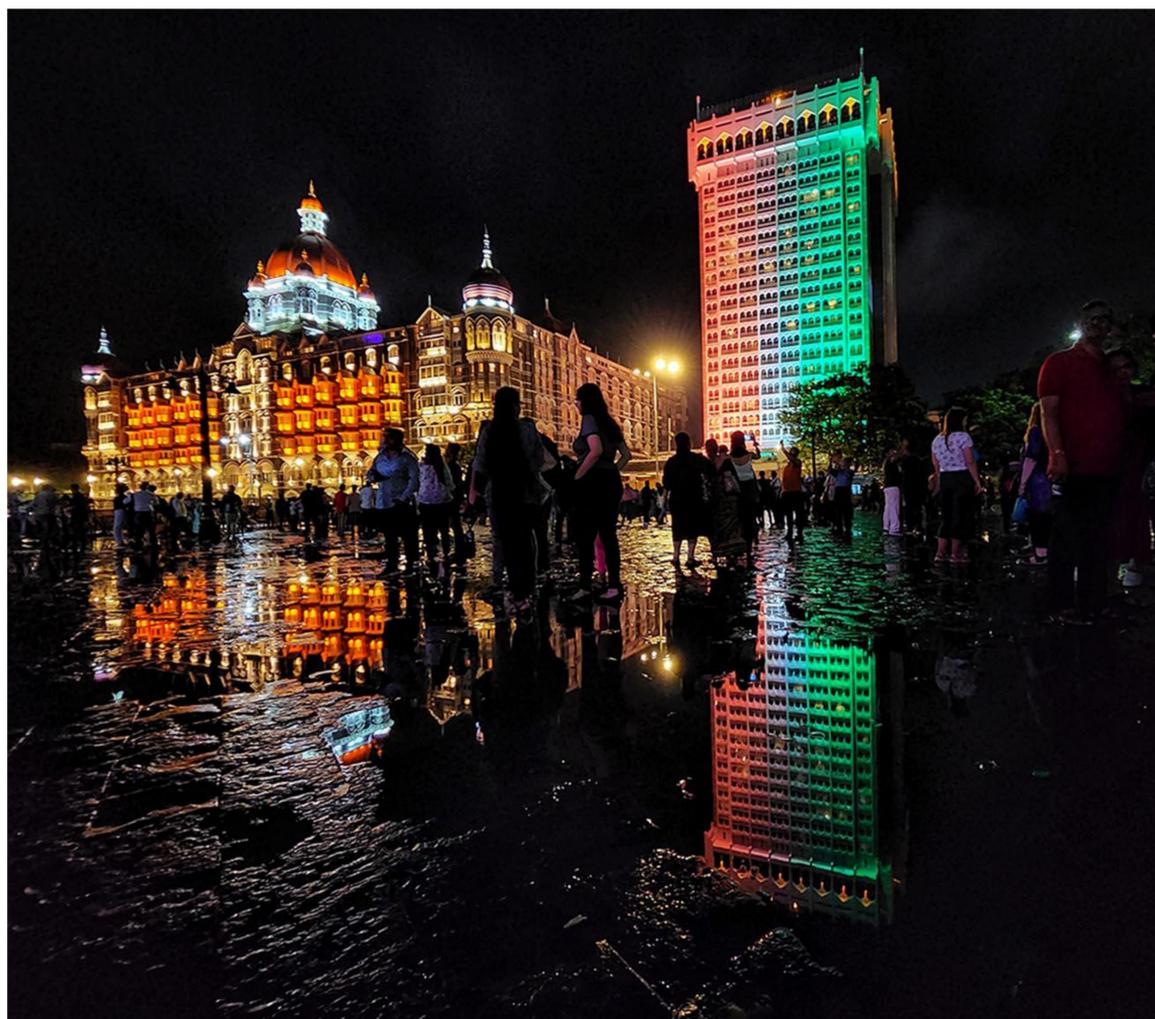
SHEKHAR MANGAONKAR

Mobile Photography



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Mobile Photography



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Mobile Photography





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