

WPAI NEWSLETTER

Exploring and updating the emerging trends of photography

April 2023



A BIG BIG THANK YOU!

Wildlife Photography Association of India thanks all photographers and well-wishers for your contribution, support and motivation behind the publication of the 9th Issue of WPAI Newsletter!



Wildlife Photography Association of India

WPAI Newsletter

April 2023

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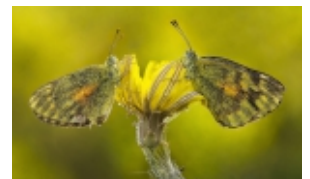
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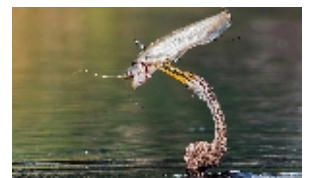
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Preface to the April 2023 issue

Greetings of the Spring!!!

Spring has sprung all across the globe and we are in the mood for festivals and merrymaking!! Amidst this bounty of Nature, we the photographers are busy capturing the vibrance and varieties of mother nature. The culture of this globe among different ethnic groups is also shaped by the advent of Spring. The Wildlife Society of India (WPAI) proudly presents their April 2023 issue for their contributors, readers and followers during this season of colours and fragrances. We hope that the articles in this issue rejuvenate your artistic souls and revive your spirit for capturing the beauty and varieties of this world just like the Spring does to Nature.

The April 2023 issue of the WPAI Newsletter features a series of aesthetically rich and scholarly insightful articles on popular and traditional genres of photography. Kailash Soni's series of lively monochrome photographs in his photo-feature article "Life in Monochrome" takes us to the core of Indian society, culture, and people. The photographs and the captions showcase the systematic application of monochrome photography to capture the vivid details of the life of humble, rustic and city people from different angles and points of view. The next article "The Big Cats" by Dr. Sanjoy Kumar Shukla illustrates the lives of 15 species of wild cats prevalent in different parts of India. This article brings vibrant photographs and describes unknown facts about different species of Tiger, Lion, Leopard and Cheetah in the Indian subcontinent.

Travel Photography is one of the most popular genres among contemporary photographers across the globe. A significant portion of the April 2023 issue of WPAI Newsletter deals with different aspects of the genre of Travel Photography. Gunther Riehle's "Photography in Antarctica" is a travel narrative from the lens and pen of a world-renowned nature photographer. The author shares his personal experience of photography, camping, and surviving amidst the cold and unfavourable weather in Antarctica. Riehle's article not only illustrates his memories of capturing the exotic landscape, and several rare species of seals and penguins, but it also gives insight into how people can reach Antarctica, explore its landscape and wildlife, and take splendid photographs using specific gadgets. Kusmi Majumdar's travel photo-narrative "Kagyed Chham of Sikkim" introduces us to the Khagyd Dance performed on the 28th and 29th day of the 10th month of the Tibetan calendar by the Bhutias, one of the Indian indigenous ethnic groups living in the lap of the Himalayas. The author shares her journey with her friend to the different monasteries of Sikkim where this vibrant mask dance is performed signifying the end of evil at the beginning of the new year of the Tibetan calendar.

The April 2023 issue of the WPAI Newsletter includes two brilliant articles on Nature Photography that might work as guidance to amateur as well as professional photographers. "Macro photographer" by Anish Karinga, an Indian diasporic photography artist living in the UAE, offers an insightful study of how one can bring perfection to the art of macro photography. He presents a series of his macro photographs of insects, reptiles, and plants, and shares his own experience of capturing those to exemplify the technic, skills and devices required for it. "Darter in Action" by Mrinal Sen, a maestro in Travel and Wildlife photography for more than a decade, is an article about photographing different moods and actions of the darter which is a common tropical water bird.

Apart from Monochrome, Colour, Travel and Nature, the Spring 2023 issue presents articles on different genres and sub-genres of contemporary photography like photojournalism, sports, festivals, wildlife, and portrait. Harish Raj Selvaraj captures different vibrant moments of the surfing festival at Kovalam or Covelong, a remote fishing village south of Chennai in his article "The Covelong Point Surfing Festival". Though surfing is quite an uncommon sport in India, the author shows how this coastal village in Tamil Nadu indulges in a festive mood and attracts tourists with the festival's colour, melody and action.

The next article "Black Leopard" By Sachin Matkar is an impressive article on wildlife photography. The author shares his thrilling experience of spotting and photographing a melancholic black leopard at Tadoba - Andhari National Park in Maharashtra. Matkar attaches a few action-ridden photographs in which the black leopard is busy catching his prey. "Facade Building", the last article of the Spring 2023 issue is penned by Romanian scholar and photographer Jakab Tibor. Tibor takes a scholarly approach to the history of portraiture and selfies and connects this art to the present day's exposure. The author opines how the development of selfies along with capturing the perfect human face owes much to the development of technology. He also shares his finding from an anthropological survey of selfie mania among different ethnic classes and nationalities across the globe.

We wish that WPAI Newsletter April 2023 issue connects photographers and photography enthusiasts from different locations of the world for aesthetic as well as scholarly discussion and interaction. We are grateful to our contributors, managing team, and readers for making WPAI Newsletter an exceptional knowledge-sharing platform for photographers.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Thanking you



CHITRANGAD KUMAR

Chief Editor

FPFA, MPFA, AFIP, FIF, SPFA, Hon. F. HKNPS, Hon. FBSPA, Hon. FICS, Hon. EFMPA, Hon. FSAP, Hon. E IUSF, Hon. PESGSPC, GPA. PESGSPC, A.ICS, Hon. FSWAN, Hon. WPG, Hon. FWPG, Hon. MWPG, Hon. MP. HKNPS, Hon. FWPAI, Hon. FGNG, ESUSPA, Hon. CPE, Hon. AvTVISO, Hon. PIPC Nefertiti, Hon. NVPC, GMSAP, AIIPC, IIPC URANIUM

Life in Monochrome

By Kailash Soni



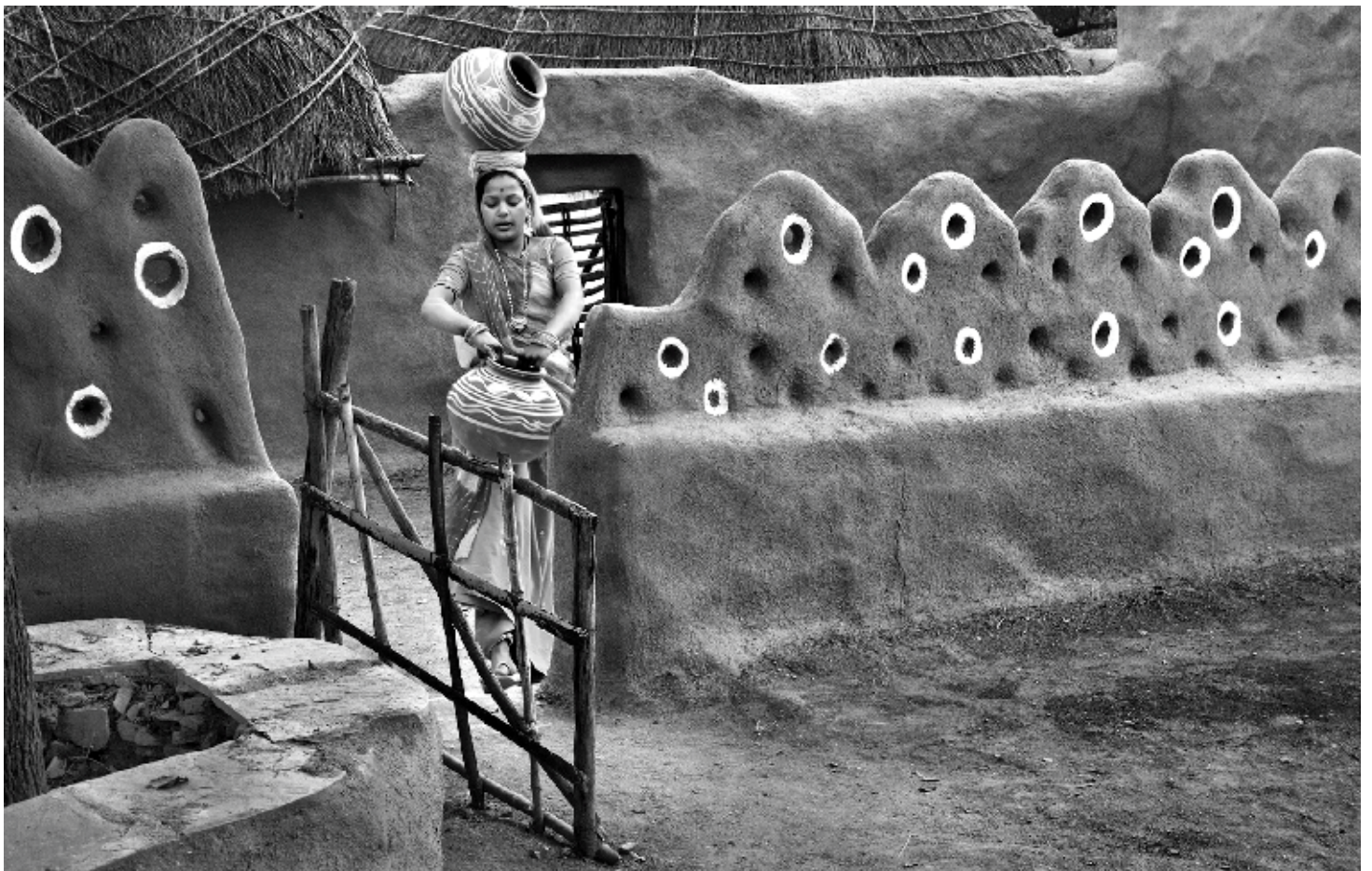
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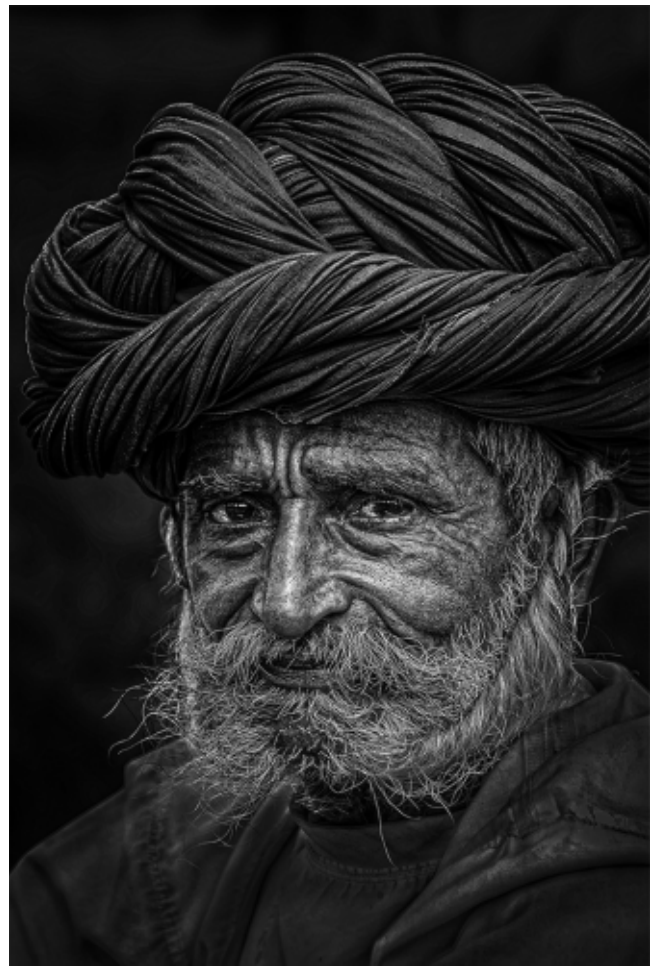
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DAILY CHROES



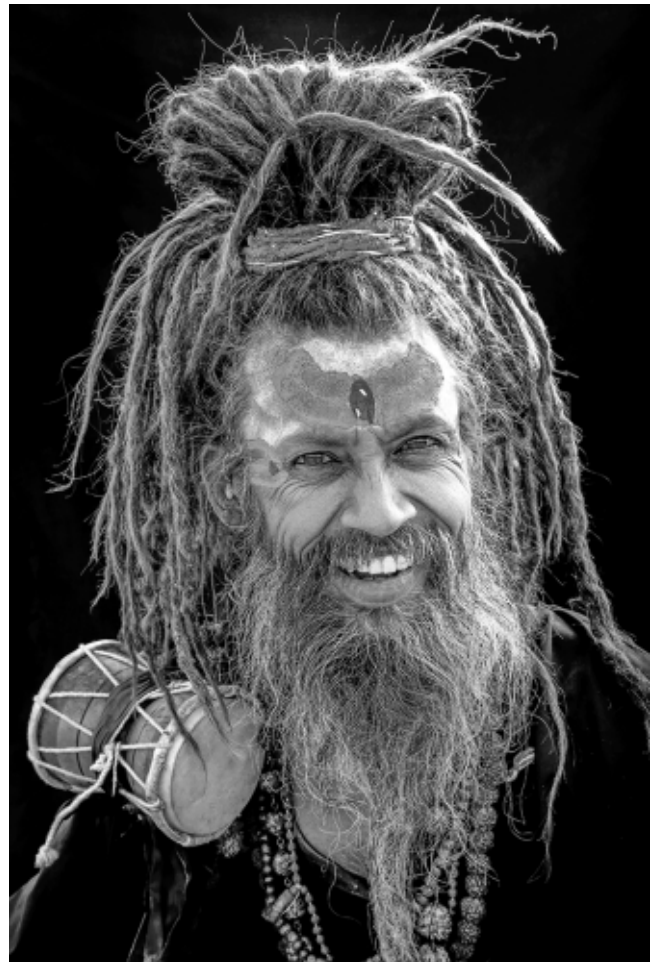
THE OLD MAN



FAITHFUL



FRIENDSHIP



AVDHOT



MOTHERHOOD



SUSTAINING LOVE



CHAK DE INDIA



WATER CRISIS IN CITY

The Big Cats

By Dr. Sanjay Kumar Shukla



The Indian subcontinent boasts of 15 species of wild cats - a number unmatched anywhere in the world. The diverse range of big cat species in India have long captivated the attention and imagination of people around the world. From the Tiger to the elusive Snow Leopard, these magnificent felids are not only a symbol of India's rich bio-diversity but also an integral part of the country's cultural heritage. They are identified as umbrella species. Ensuring the conservation of these top carnivores guarantees the well-being of forested ecosystems, the bio-diversity they represent as well as water and climate security.



TIGER



LION



LEOPARD



CHEETAH

Tiger

Panthera Tigris

SSP Tigris

The tiger is a powerful icon of India's cultural and natural heritage. *Panthera tigris* is listed as Endangered in the IUCN Red List for Threatened Species. In India, Tigers are widely distributed from the Himalayas to the rainforests of southern Western Ghats and from the dry forests of Rajasthan, to the moist forests of north-east India. Tigers are habitat generalists, and the tiger area in the country is primarily divided into five landscapes- Shivalik Hills and the Gangetic Plains; Central India and the Eastern Ghats; Western Ghats; North Eastern Hills; and Brahmaputra Flood Plains and the Sundarbans. As of 2020, the estimated Tiger numbers (excluding cubs) was at approximately 30001. Tigers need contiguous, largely undisturbed forested landscapes with ample prey to raise young and to maintain long-term genetic and demographic viability. In a country with an increasing demand for land by an ever-growing population, conservation demands innovative approaches to land use planning.



I was born in the city of Varanasi in India, one of the world's oldest continually inhabited cities. I was always fascinated by nature and wildlife and this love became my profession when I joined the Indian Forest Service in the year 1992. I have an extremely wide range of experience in different branches of forestry, including wildlife conservation. I also served as the Field Director of Kanha Tiger Reserve, one of the best-managed tiger reserves and national parks across the globe. Presently I live in New Delhi. I am heading a statutory national authority, Central Zoo Authority in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India as Member Secretary. This authority regulates all the zoos in India. I have been doing photography since my college days, but after joining the forest service, wildlife and conservation photography became my passion. I have many of my images printed in national and international publications. I started participating in national and international salons & circuits in Jan 2022 only and also became a member of FIAP (Fédération Internationale de l'Art Photographique), GPU (Global Photographic Union), and FIP (Federation of Indian Photography). In a short span of 9 months, I have received more than 250 awards/honours in national & international salons/circuits and have also achieved the distinctions of AFIP, GPU CR2, GPU VIP1, PPSA, Hon. PESGSPC, GPA, PESGSPC and Hon. WPAI.



Photography in Antarctica

By Gunther Riehle



MIDNIGHT SUN LANDSCAPE

Antarctica is a continent and home of the South Pole. Antarctica is the coldest and windiest continent on earth. It is 14 million km² big, almost 1.5 times bigger than China. In winter it doubles its size by freezing sea water. Antarctica is a protected continent, similar to a National Park. Animals living there are mainly whales, seals, penguins and some other birds like cormorants, gulls, snow petrels etc. Almost no plants can survive there.

Photography in Antarctica is theoretically easy. Due to no vegetation, there is normally no problem with disturbing foreground or distracting background. Pure, white snow cover or bluish ice together with black rocks creates a beautiful landscape. Animals living there have normally had no negative experience with humans (no hunting allowed), therefore are not really afraid of humans. The rule is that human beings must stay 5 m away from the animals. But the animals are curious, they often have never seen people before in their lives and know that on land they have no enemies, so often they come close towards human beings if these behave properly (lay on the ground, be silent, no quick movements).

Of course not everything is so perfect in Antarctica. The sun in summer time never sets, which creates - without cloud cover - very hard shadows. Best time then to photograph is at night, from 10 pm to 3 am. In winter time the sun never rises, it is black night 24 hours for several months. Then there are the already mentioned strong winds and very cold temperatures. Temperatures of minus 25 degrees Celsius plus a high wind chill factor are normal. This means, the photographers need to be well equipped with proper clothes. The "onion principle" is the method to choose, meaning wearing several layers of clothes on top of each other.

I use Nikon equipment and had never any problems with it in Antarctica because of cold weather. Also no need to have special under / overexposure settings. It looks like it is pretty easy to take good photos in Antarctica... Why are then not more photographers going there?... Here comes the biggest problem: Antarctica is so far remote from the next inhabited places. The biggest difficulty is to get there. It is de facto impossible to go there alone, it is always required to go there as a group. Easiest and quickest is going by ship, from south Argentina via the Drake Passage to the Antarctic Peninsula. This one way ship trip takes about 2.5-3 days.

Of course is also possible to take a ship from South Africa or Australia / New Zealand, but this takes much longer. To go to Antarctica (Antarctic Peninsula) nowadays is pretty easy, there are many ships going to Antarctica in Antarctic summer between November and February. Big ships with more than 400 passengers and small ships with just 50 passengers. The rule in Antarctica is that at one time only maximum 100 humans are allowed to go on shore / land. Therefore I recommend always to select ships with less than 100 passengers in order to have maximum time for the landings to photograph.

After having taken these kind of trips three times and having seen beautiful Antarctic landscapes, several seal species like for example Crabeater and Leopard seals plus many penguin species like Adelie / Gentoo / Chinstrap and King Penguin adults and chicks I however wanted to see Emperor penguin chicks.

And this is the ultimate destination in Antarctica. Emperor penguins are the craziest penguins. They breed not in the Antarctic summer, like every other bird there, but they breed in Antarctic winter, when temperatures drop well below minus 35 degrees C. The birds then form huddles in which the temperatures can reach up to 38 degrees C!

The breeding cycle begins in autumn (around April) when the sea ice reforms and gets thick enough to support the thousands of penguins. The birds return year after year to the same location. The female produces a single egg. There are no materials to build nests from. So the female gives the egg to her partner who carefully puts it first on his feet and then into his brood pouch. The females, exhausted from the egg production, leave the colony to return to sea for fishing. It takes 65–75 days for the eggs to hatch. When the females return to the colony in July, they take over the shortly before hatched chick or the egg and the males return to sea for fishing. Until September the parents take turns in caring for the chick and go fishing. Then the chicks can stay alone while both parents go fishing. When the little ones are left at the colony they form huddles, especially at night, to keep warm.



EMPEROR COLONY IN SNOW STORM



COLONY LIFE

Now is the time for visiting the emperor penguin rookeries.

There are two ways to reach emperor penguin rookeries:



TWO PLUS FOUR

(A) Take an icebreaker to Antarctica, with helicopters on board. The icebreaker goes as far as he can go and then the last miles need to be managed with the helicopters. But the helis can only fly during blue sky weather. This means photography opportunities are not very good due to the harsh sun light and shadows. Also you normally have maximum 4 hours / day to photograph the birds. (B) Fly 4.5 hours from Punta Arenas in South Chile with a chartered Ilyushin cargo plane to a base camp in Antarctica. From there fly via twin otter planes for another 4.5 hours including a refueling stop in the middle of nowhere to the Weddell Sea, where one tour operator has set up a camp for two weeks / year (around mid November). On 3 m thick frozen sea ice. This option allows to be near the emperor penguins for many more hours and therefore is the optimum. When I went there in November 2015 via Option B, we had to wait for one week in Punta Arenas until we had good enough weather to fly to the base camp. In the base camp then we had to wait for another week until the weather was good enough to fly to the emperor penguin rookery. Idea was to stay there for three days to photograph. But it took us over a week to return :)



EMPS CAMP

When we arrived in early afternoon with full sunshine we were told that during the next night a snowstorm would arrive. So I went out photographing immediately and only returned back to camp at 3 am. Around 10 pm the wind started to pick up and lots of ice crystals were flying through the air. I laid down to the ground and photographed the penguins backlit by the low sun with warm golden light and the ice crystals flying through the air. In the night the forecasted snow storm hit and we could not leave the tents for two days, as the wind speed was too high.

The sleeping bag was a threefold insulated bag. Very warm. In the tent the water was frozen, the toothpaste was frozen, the wet wipes were frozen, the shaving crème was frozen... Every few hours the accumulating snow in front of the tent needed to be removed otherwise we would have been buried in the snow by time. The wind was so strong the whole tent was shaking...



VISITORS



THREE EMP MINIS



CLASSIC

Gunther Riehle, engineer for food technology / nutritional sciences by profession, wildlife nature photographer by passion, with firmly integrated photography competition virus in his DNA double helix, successful participation in international competitions all over the world, Contest Director AC-FOTO german mega circuit, organizer of wildlife nature photography workshops, regular judge of nature photography competitions on all inhabited continents of our world, loves the summer, the sun and warmth, but travels for nature wildlife photography mainly to the cold Arctic, sub-Antarctic and Antarctic.

My favourite technique is photographing wildlife with a wide-angle lens: Showing the animals in their environment. Obviously you need cooperative wildlife for this.

Of course with shy animals you need big telephoto lenses. I never use a tripod. I am too impatient for that, and in wildlife action photography you need to be mega quick and mega flexible. With powerful cameras like my Nikon D4 and the Canon EOS 1DX, which both allow me to use high ISO settings without producing noise in the image, no tripod is necessary. It is possible to use very short shutter speeds at all light conditions ensuring maximum sharpness.

Photography is my passion. Since I started: I love to take images of things which I find beautiful. I love to record natural beauty. (For this reason, I am not so keen on over the top image-processing. I just use Adobe Lightroom, not Photoshop or any other plug-ins.)

I want to have people understand and realize how beautiful our world and nature is and that we need to protect it. NOW! I love to take images which touch peoples' hearts positively. I love to travel. I love competition photography.

I am sure, as a photographer, you walk more consciously through life as you are permanently open-minded, scanning the surroundings for good photo opportunities and "THE" shot! This way you see more, you experience more, you keep many moments more deeply and intensely in your memory. In addition, when looking at your images after the travel is done, you permanently refresh your memories.

Competition photography is then a very nice complement. It is mega fun being successful in competitions. When I started, I photographed everything; now I have really mutated to a more or less hard-core nature wildlife photographer. I love to travel to more and more remote locations everywhere in our beautiful world to experience wildlife photography at its best.

The trip to the emperor penguin rookery was a trip I was thinking of for 7 years. It was just so daring and special and both psychologically and physically stressful, but it was very well worth the effort and the waiting as it was a mega interesting and heart touching trip I will remember forever.



HUDDLE PLUS ONE

Kagyed Chham of Sikkim

By Kusmi Majumdar - *EFIAP EFIP Dip-In-Phot (PAD)*

India is a land of diversified art form of which ritualistic dance is quite popular among the local people as well as among the foreign travellers. Years back I have read in a suspense novel by Sri Satyajit Ray about a 'Lama Dance' in Rumtek Monastery, Sikkim and since then the eagerness to experience the extraordinary event persisted. Decades later I got the opportunity to quench the thirst when a likeminded friend also expressed the similar desire.

Researching on the event I found that there are few Sikkim Monasteries where this ritualistic dance called 'Kagyed Chham' is performed. Sikkim is a hilly state of India situated in the eastern part of the country and in the north of West Bengal. Sikkim has multidimensional culture and folklore as it has undergone many foreign invasions. The modern Sikkim population is primarily a combination of Lepchas, Bhutias and Nepalese. The oldest known ethnic inhabitants are Lepchas. The Bhutias migrated from Tibet in the 14th century. The Nepalese are in majority now. Each community has their own ethnic folk dances based on respective religious belief and also on harvesting time. Guru Padmasambhava, also known as Guru Rinpoche, while travelling through this land in 8th century introduced Buddhism. Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim is the largest city of the state.

Kagyed Chham is a traditional ritualistic 'Mask Dance' by Bhutias which is performed on the 28th and 29th day of 10th month of Tibetan calendar, that is, according to the English calendar the ceremony takes place in early part of December. Kagyed Chham is a Bhutia word where 'Ka' meaning oral transmission, 'Gyed' meaning 'eight' and 'Chham' meaning ritualistic dance. Kagyed Dance is performed by Buddhist monks and lamas to show their respect to the eight tantrik deities so that they protect the community from the evil of any form. Guru Padmasambhava, the founder of Tibetan Buddhism in Sikkim is said to have performed this dance to defeat a demon symbolically. Every year this dance is performed by Buddhist monks of few monasteries of Sikkim, especially in Tsuklakhang Palace, Old Rumtek Monastery, Phodong Monastery, Enchey monastery.

We were interested in the ceremonies in the Old Rumtek Monastery and the Enchey Monastery. As both the places are accessible from Gangtok city, we decided to stay overnight at Gangtok and travel to Rumtek by a car very early in the morning



OLD RUMTEK MONASTERY

and visit Enchey Monastery in the late afternoon the same day. The ceremony takes place two days before Losoong festival. Losoong festival marks the end of harvest season of Bhutias and commencement of Bhutia New Year. Farmers celebrate this traditional festival with community and family. Bhutia community visit the monasteries and offer prayers by lighting butter lamps and by offering cash and kinds.

The Old Rumtek monastery is approximately a two hours ride from Gangtok. The place is calm and stock-still. The spectacular monastery is at the lap of the Himalayas. From the main entrance a long rustic path leads towards the Monastery and the courtyard where the dance was about to be performed. At the sides of the path farmers were selling local foods and drinks of which we could recognise roasted sweet corn, sweet potatoes and local tubers of which we tasted some. People from nearby villages and towns rallied to see the dance performance, were also having these foods.

The first sight of the courtyard left us spellbound as there stood a huge effigy of a demon faced structure – the evil–to be burnt down at the end of the ceremony. It was very colourful and vibrant. The lush green courtyard is surrounded by the Himalayan Range. We quickly took our position for an unobstructed view and for taking pictures as there were local crowd and also visitors from abroad.

The dance started off with a group of monks who were moving systematically in a typical rhythm - moving forward and backward with occasional jumping and lifting one leg with accuracy and grace. This dance form is unique because of its colourful silk costumes and masks accompanied with loud but soothing to ears music with traditional indigenous instruments like yarkha, flutes, drums, trumpets, horns, cymbels etc. The monks were dressed in traditional gorgeous



THE EFFIGY OF THE EVIL



KAGYED CHHAM STARTS AT RUMTEK

costumes and vibrant colourful masks of animals and fake swords painted in vibrant colours symbolising destruction of all the evils and thereby restoring peace and prosperity. We experienced a very disciplined and effortless dance. The other lamas inside the monastery hall chanted while the dance was carried on and prayed to deities for good health and fortune of the common people. The dance narrates folklores of Buddhist mythology and miraculous activities of Guru Padmasambhava. Watching this spectacular ceremony is also considered to be auspicious, it brings health and wealth as they believe.



GORGEOUS COSTUME & VIBRANT COLOURED MASK



KAGYED DANCE AT RUMTEK



KAGYAT DANCE WITH MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS



KAGYAT DANCE WITH MASK OF ANIMAL FACES

Kagyed Chham is divided into few parts. At the commencement of day's dance Monks wear big round velvety hats with conical shaped domes and images of skulls painted on it. In this part they do not wear masks. The hat represents this mundane world, the dome the pivot of the world and the skull images denote the life span. Offerings are given eight times to the deities. Child monks also perform in this dance wearing skeletal costumes and masks. According to Tantra in Buddhism there are peaceful and wrathful deities. In Kagyed Dance, Shay-Tho deities are there where Shay is peaceful deity and Tho is the wrathful deity. There are 42 peaceful and 58 wrathful deities. The belief is that after death these deities lead the soul through true path to take rebirth. Solo dance of a high ranked lama was also performed. This dance requires much concentration, energy, discipline and practice.



WEARING BIG ROUND HAT WITH DOME AND SKULLS
PAINTED ON IT & OFFERING BUTTER LAMP TO THE EFFIGY



CHILDREN ARE DANCING IN COSTUMES OF SKELETONS AND MASKS



OFFERING CASH AND KIND TO THE EFFIGY OF THE EVIL

At the end of the ceremony the effigy of the evil face, which is made with flour and paper pulp on wooden structure, is burnt ushering healthy and wealthy New Year. Devotees offer prayers and money to that devil face before it is burnt down. Two-three people were enacting comic gestures in bizarre costumes to entertain audience as a relief to this solemn performance.



RIUAL OF LAMAS AND DIGNITARIES



SOLO DANCE OF A LAMA



LOCAL PEOPLE HAVE COME TO WATCH THE CEREMONY



Besides experiencing this marvellous event the hospitality of the officer-in-charge of the Rumtek Monastery will be remembered for long. He offered us lunch which is simple but very tasteful as the fresh vegetables are grown in the nearby fields. In Rumtek Monastery food is vegetarian. Chham in Enchey Monastery, which is just at the top of Gangtok city, was equally exciting though we missed out the first phase of it. Here also they offered us food, a little bit elaborate compared to that of Rumtek and it was non vegetarian food.

COMIC GESTURES



DANCE AT ENCHEY MONASTERY

Gangtok is well connected by road both from its nearest airport Bagdogra and railway station NJP. People of Sikkim are honest and friendly. The mysticism of Sikkim can never be explored in the fullest extent. Hence call of Sikkim will be there over and again.



DANCING IN THE LAP OF THE HIMALAYAS

Macro photographer

Anish Karingattil

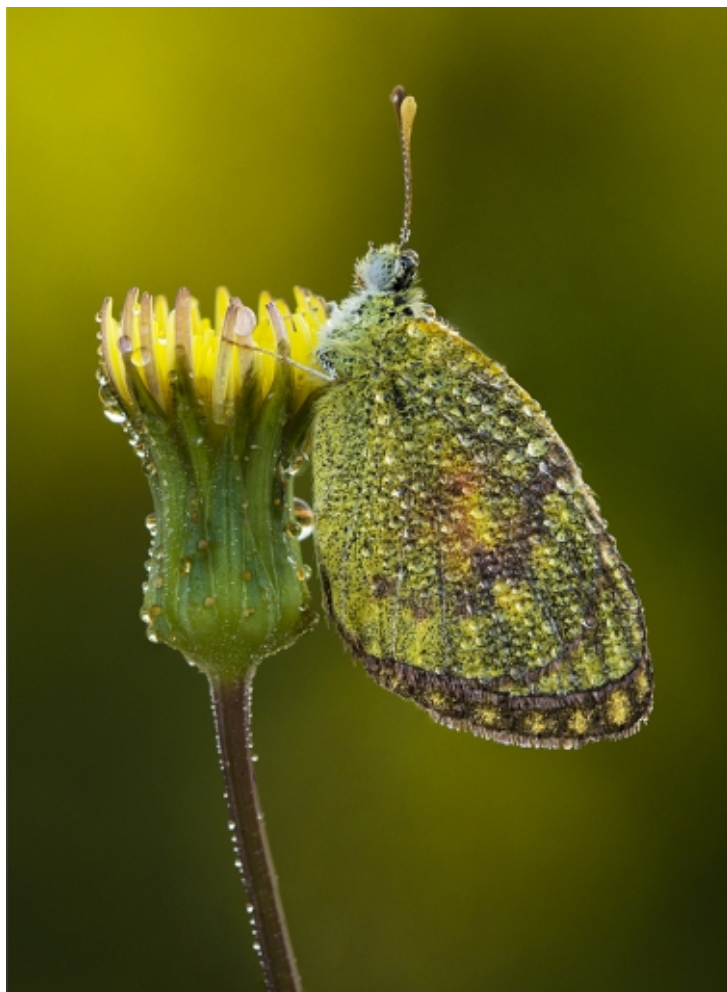
Has been based out of UAE for over 16 years, originally hailing from Thrissur, India. After his office hours as an interior designer, he has been devoting himself to the art of macro-photography since 2008. Using his DSLR camera and his keen eye for the minutist of details, he goes around capturing moments of the little unknown worlds that are hidden all around us.

Macro-photography is a form of close-up photography, originally developed for scientific research. The strictest definition of macro photography is that the subject is photographed at 1:1 magnification—in other words, the subject is life-sized in the photo. However, most people use the term “macro photography” to refer to any photograph that depicts a close-up and extremely detailed image of a small subject.

Macro photography requires a lot of hard work and patience to get better results. A good camera macro lens is the main thing a macro photographer needs, a tripod is optional. But most importantly would be the eye for the perfect angle and light source. And when approaching these little subjects of interest, you need to approach slowly and patiently without disturbing the subject, literally hunting like a natural predator, sneaking up to capture the ideal moment.

Anish's passion for capturing these little rearely experienced slices in time gets him up in early mornings on holidays and weekends between 4:30am to 5:00 am. At dusk, you'll find Anish enthusiastically scouring potential locations of interesting little hidden alien worlds. Armed with his Nikon Camera & Sigma 105mm Lens, Anish goes alone hunting for the perfect shot, but sometimes teams up with some friends for company.

His work in this field has earned him various awards and recognitions on both a local and a global level, with 3 international distinctions (AFIAP, AICS, and BPSA). He has been part of the Photographic Society of America (PSA) and his photographic



SMALL SALMON ARAB WITH DEWS



LUTHRODES PANDAVA

works have been displayed in exhibitions across the world. Anish, has also been a member of Shutterbugs Creative Forum since 2019, under the mentorship of Mr. Mohammed Arfan Asif. Excitingly, he has received several accolades for his photography!

Anish nurtures an ambitious plan to author and publish a book on Insects in UAE in the near future as well, along with building up an impressive portfolio of perfect shots. It is the photographer who conveys each of nature's little creatures, their habitat, their skin, color, behavior and response to their environment to inspire the common man and spark a feeling of awe in the little things. Anish aims to bring these little worlds to the light of our world. He has done it, and has the gotten the international recognition for his works. To achieve success and awards, you must have the passion, patience, and perseverance to work hard and stay focused on your goal.



VIPER



ARABIAN HORNED VIPER



SMALL SALMON ARAB BUTTERFLY PAIR



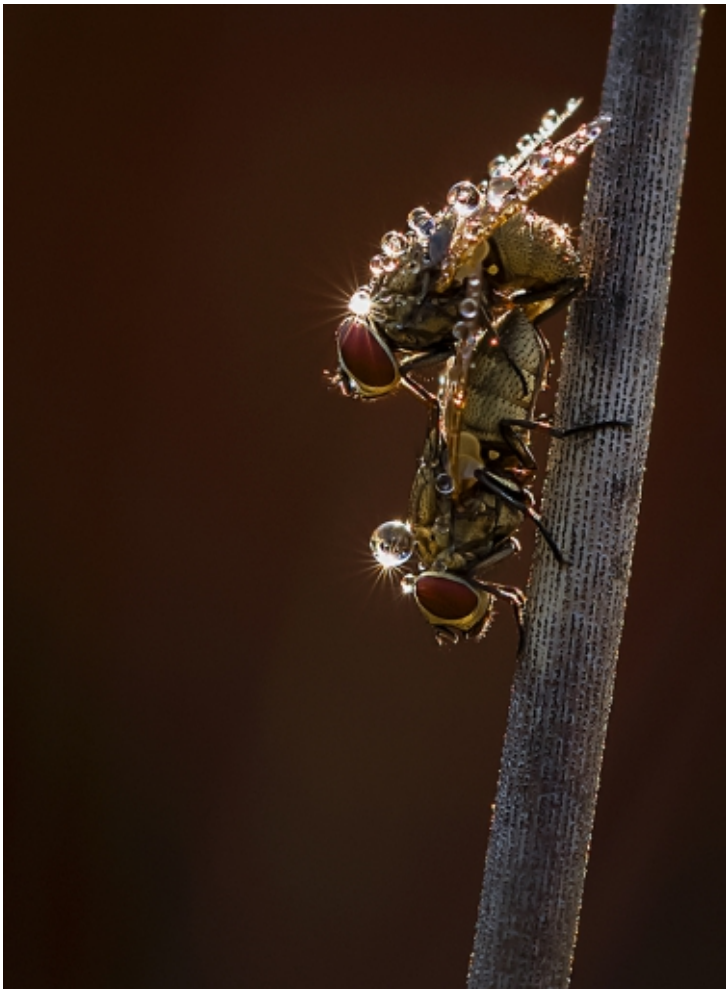
LEAFCUTTER BEES



AMMOPHILA RUBRIPES WASP



THISTLE MANTIS WITH BUTTERFLY



MATTING HOUSEFLY



WEB



THISTLE MANTIS WITH PREY



PHANEROPTERA FALCATA



UNICORN PRAYING MANTIS



BLACK AND YELLOW MUD DAUBER

Darters in action

By Mrinal Sen

I am a photographer with 10+ years of experience in Nature & Wildlife photography and outdoor photography like street, people, places, etc. Photography came to me naturally. I have visited many times to almost all the National Parks & Sanctuaries of India and many other places of wildlife importance. I have also visited many places to capture different festivals, celebrations, traditions, the activities of people with varied culture and also got many opportunities to photograph different tribes of India. I am competent in capturing good quality images. My love for nature, wildlife, people and my thirst for visiting new places has driven me towards photography.

I have won around 350+ awards in various national & international photography competitions.

I have achieved the following distinctions/degrees in photography

Description

"To photograph is to hold one's breath, when all faculties converge to capture fleeting reality. It's at that precise moment that mastering an image becomes a great physical and intellectual joy." ~Henri Cartier-Bresson.

According to me this quote is true in the case of clicking Oriental Darter photographs.

Life on earth is the sheer celebration of diversity! Hundreds of distinct life forms, different species of plants, animals, fungi, algae, bacteria and many others, coexist with us in the surroundings. They live in tune with the variations of topographies, soils, waters, air and climates. Together, such diversity of living and non-living entities make the nature around us. Human minds have evolved for millions of years in the cradle of such diversity of nature and got imprinted with deep cravings for them. Thus, nature is the source of our joy, it can cure a stressed out soul. Nature is also the original source of learning.

Nature lovers lament so deeply the loss of wildlife and wilderness or biodiversity in any form, cry for their conservation and participate in activities to restore them. Let us observe nature, let us observe biodiversity. Let us conserve them.



WINNING CATCH

The Oriental darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*) is a water bird of tropical South Asia and Southeast Asia. It has a long and slender neck with a straight, pointed bill and it hunts for fish while its body is submerged in water. It spears a fish underwater, bringing it above the surface, tossing and juggling it before swallowing the fish head first. All this happens in a fraction of a second like a lightning bolt. The body remains submerged as it swims, and the slender neck alone is visible above the water, which accounts for the colloquial name of snakebird. It has wettable feathers and it is often found perched on a rock or branch with its wings held open to dry. Its flight is amazing and is worth seeing. This bird is not only a sharp hunter but also a beautiful creature. Its hunts are really exotic. All these features of Oriental Darter really excite me to click its photos and force me to explore many national parks, bird sanctuaries and water bodies where Oriental Darters are found. Sometimes I have to wait for a very long time to get a good action shot of this gorgeous bird. I have waited hour after hour to click images of this bird.



ANGRY DARTER



DARTERS FIGHT

Motivation

What motivates me to click its photographs is the bird itself! It is not less than a beast in action. Oriental Darter is one of my favorite birds. Clicking Darter's photograph is itself a difficult task. I feel like climbing the highest and steepest mountain without any tools or guide.

I feel rejuvenated while watching, observing and photographing nature and wildlife. There are uncountable amazing and beautiful wildlife species which encourages me to go deep in the jungle or sit beside a water body to photograph the various wild creatures be it birds, mammals, insects and reptiles.

People get to appreciate Nature through pictures taken by amateurs and enthusiasts like me, and the fascination may egg one on to encourage the conservation and development of Nature & Wildlife.



ENTER THE DRAGON



WINNING TOSS



DEADLY FIGHT



STABBED



EYES OF LIFE AND DEATH



A BIG CATCH



FACE TO FACE

The Covelong Point Surfing Festival

By Harish Raj Selvaraj

What's Surfing?

In India for some people, the term surfing may be new but it's not totally new as there are many surfing locations like Varkala, Goa, Mangalore, etc.

As per Wikipedia, Surfing is a surface water sport in which an individual, a surfer (or two in tandem surfing), uses a board to ride on the forward section, or face of a moving wave of water, which usually carries the surfer towards the shore. Waves suitable for surfing are primarily found on ocean shores but can also be found in standing waves in the open ocean, in lakes, in rivers in the form of a tidal bore, or in wave pools.

In simple term surfing refers to a person riding a wave using a board, regardless of the stance.

Surfing in Chennai

Along the east coast of tamilnadu about 40 km south of Chennai there is a serene fishing village which was once a port town developed by the Nawab of Carnatic, Saadat Ali known as Kovalam or Covelong . The golden beach that borders this village is one of the few places where surfing takes place and the experience is simply out of the world, away from the throngs of tourists that flock to Chennai, the waves swell and crash in frothy curls that are perfect for a ride atop its peaks.

There are plenty of surfing schools available in Kovalam and you can also rent out surf boards or take part in courses at these schools.

Covelong Point Surfing Festival

The Covelong Point Surf Festival is an annual event that celebrates the culture, art, and sport of surfing that happens around august every year . It attracts surf enthusiasts from all over the world who gather to watch world-class surfers, participate in surf competitions, and enjoy live music, food, and drinks. The festival is a celebration of the ocean, its waves, and the thrill of riding them.

The festival began in 2013 as a way to turn Kovalam's fledgling surfing community and culture into something bigger. Starting off with a small group of enthusiasts, today the festival is an annual gathering of travelers, enthusiasts of music, yoga and adventure, families and like-minded individuals who come together to enjoy food, art, surfing, yoga and more. It is a now a regular fixture on the surfing community's map and gradually growing into one of India's most exciting cultural events.

The festival usually takes place over a weekend, and it features various activities such as surf competitions in various categories for men and women above 18 years and below. The surf competitions are the highlight of the festival, and they attract some of the best surfers from around the globe.

The surf festival also features live music, food stalls, and workshops on health and wellbeing, arts, dance and more. The live music usually features local bands and artists who perform throughout the day and into the night. The food trucks offer a variety of delicious dishes, including seafood, local Indian cuisine and healthy foods.

The Surf festival is not just about sports and entertainment. It is also an opportunity to raise awareness about environmental issues that affect the ocean and its waves. The festival often partners with environmental organizations to promote conservation efforts and encourage sustainable practices.

In conclusion, the surf festival is a celebration of the ocean, its waves, and the surf culture. It offers a variety of activities for surf enthusiasts of all levels and ages. From watching world-class surfers to learning the basics of surfing or enjoying live music and food, the surf festival has something for everyone. It is a must-attend event for anyone who loves the ocean and the thrill of riding its waves.

Like all the years before Covelong Point Surfing Festival 2022 was a great success with people from all age groups enjoyed the festival along the East coast filled with surfing, food, music and joy.

Below are some of the images from Covelong Point Surfing Festival 2022.If you are around Chennai during the festival time don't miss the opportunity to miss one of the unique experiences in India.



BEACH SIDE VIEW OF COVELONG POINT SURFING FESTIVAL 2022



SURFER MANEUVERING THE WAVES IN INTERNATIONAL MEN'S CATEGORY



WINNER OF INTERNATIONAL OPEN, UNDER-16 TITLE TEENAGER KISHORE GLIDING THROUGH THE WAVES



TEENAGE WOMEN SURFERS ENJOYING THE EVENT



BAND MEMBERS OF INDIE BAND "AINTHINAI" PERFORMING IN SURF FESTIVAL





LEAD SINGER OF DRIFTWOOD BAND PERFORMING IN THE FESTIVAL



CHENNAI LOCAL BAND "RDJ" PERFORMING IN SURF FESTIVAL



Black Leopard

By Sachin Matkar

The enigmatic black leopard of Tadoba. I felt extremely elated while seeing this fascinating scene A melancholic black leopard @ Tadoba-Andhari National Park (Maharashtra) was spotted during my very first visit to Tadoba. Melanistic leopards (very dark brown) are commonly called black leopard. However, there is no such animal. The dark color, called melanism, is due to a recessive gene. Melanistic cubs can be born to spotted parents. Although melanistic, the black leopard has the same pattern of spots as any other leopard.

Black leopards only differ from other leopards in the colour of their coat, a genetic variation that's recessive and known as “melanism”

In a jungle, fortune changes every moment. The black leopard caught the deer and started dragging in bamboo bushes & feeble cry of a dying animal got our attention in dense jungle, just before he disappeared in to the bushes, he stopped and turned around for few seconds to give us one last glimpse of his victorious catch of the day, within a few minutes, the jungle was silent and the denizens returned to their daily chores. prey and predator, life and death, Hope and fear. the cycle of life continues in the most primordial manner. I was truly mesmerized and hypnotized at the sighting but with a my camera in hand NikonD850 (lens-200-500mm) during first Tadoba trip.

Certain places or photos are so unique in the pleasure and inspiration they afford that they must be preserved without compromise as repositories of beauty-as Living museums.

Watching the eyes of the prey and predator together—'One victorious and other hunted' is definitely the best moment of our wildlife experiences.



THE BLACK LEOPARD



Facade Building

By Dr. Jakab Tibor PhD - University of Arts Targu Mures, ROMANIA

Abstract: *Facade Building, Selfies, Narcissistic Self-representation in New Media*

Representing the human face is not an easy task. Susan Sontag points out that one wants an idealized image of oneself: a photo that shows one's best side. It feels unfair not to be more beautiful in the picture than in reality. This, in turn, shows that most of the photographs are not honest.

In addition to the psychological aspect, there is also a sociological one: the construction of the facade, as described by Goffman in his work *Presenting the Self in Everyday Life*. He thinks building a facade is an identity-building strategy for the public, like Facebook.

New media has become part of everyday life. This is especially true for Facebook. Over the past decades, there have been major changes in technology that have affected the culture of image and vision. All of this allowed us to take self-photos at any time and publish them in digital media as soon as possible. A selfie (self-photograph) is a photograph that a photographer takes of himself. A selfie is usually a photograph taken with a cell phone and has distinctive features such as a mirror image. A narcissistic person can make many selfies and publish them on social media to seek constant approval. The narcissist can push selfish behavior to the extremes, to pathological boundaries. The most striking is that even serious people with significant social status make selfies.

It is worth circumventing the assumption that there are scientists who consider the selfie to be a mental illness.

The evolving technology encourages users of digital media interfaces to try to create an even more complex user profile of themselves. By enabling self-representation, new media is generating more and more knowledge.

The portrait photo

Depicting the human face is not an easy task. In photographing people, portraiture is the most popular photography practice, which poses a great challenge to the artist. Humans can be depicted in many ways: from photographing a crowd through a photograph of a single person to a photographic display of a human face. What does portrait mean as an artistic genre? One of its possible definitions could be: "the representation of a person with individual characteristics". Each portrait tells the most to those who know the subject. Therefore, it is not easy to make a really good portrait. We have to present a person's individuality, social status, and emotions in a picture in such a way as to introduce him to others. The customer's expectations are decisive: the image must represent the customer's idea of himself. An authentic portrait reproduces not only the physical features of the subject, but also the completeness, complexity and depth of his personality. One of the characteristics of portrait photography is that the photographer strives to depict the subject's external and internal qualities at the same time: in addition to his physical features, we must convey the distinguishing features of his individuality and being. The photographer wants to show the unique characteristics of this person in the photo. The famous photographer Robert Capa wrote the following about the portrait: "a good portrait conveys the personality behind the physical reality." So the better a portrait, the more we can get to know the subject through the photograph. While the portrait depicts a person, the portrait placed in the environment also reveals the environment. In addition to the subject's personality traits, the portrait placed in the environment also expresses the nature and atmosphere of the location. According to Susan Sontag, many people are anxious when someone wants to photograph them. The reason for this may be similar to the fear of primitive peoples who fear that the camera will deprive them of a part of their being. Modern people are more afraid of the revealing effect of the camera. People want an ideal image of themselves: a photo that shows their best side. It feels unfair if it is not more beautiful in the picture than in reality. According to Sontag, few people's appearance is truly photogenic, so the photographer uses make-up and favorable lighting to make the subject look better in the picture than in life. This, in turn, indicates that most of the photographs are not honest. The theatricality of the photos comes from the insincere behavior and role-playing of the subject. In addition to the psychological aspect, there is also a sociological aspect: image building. Erving Goffman addresses this in his book *Introducing the Self in Everyday Life*. According to him, building a personal facade or image is an identity construction strategy for the public - this is what most people do on social media these days. "The facade is therefore a set of expressions of a permanent nature, which the individual uses intentionally or unintentionally at the time of shaping" says Goffman. One part of the personal image is the environment, which refers to the scenic part of the set of expressions. This environment includes the furniture, the scenery, the background, and it forms the stage, the props, it forms the stage for human action. Most of the time, the environment is stationary and does not move with the actor, so those people for whom a specific environment is part of their performance can only start their work if they are in the right place, and as soon as they have left that place, they have to finish playing the role. Environment refers to the scenic part of the vocabulary. With the word "personal facade" we can refer to other elements of the set of expressions, those which we most closely identify with the role player, and which we naturally expect to follow the role player wherever he goes. The personal facade, as before discussed,

divides it into two elements: appearance and display. Less variable signal carriers, such as body size, external appearance, clothing, gender, age, and racial characteristics, as well as variable signal carriers, such as posture, facial expression, body movements, etc., can be considered parts of the personal facade. According to Goffman, in the case of the personal facade, the appearance informs about the actor's social position, and the display warns of the interactional role that the role player wants to play, role playing includes the officially accepted values of society. In conclusion, we can say that here the person also organizes himself, plays a role, changes his posture and facial expression.

Selfie

Many experts are of the opinion that selfies say what you are. In recent decades, the development of technology and changes in image and image culture have made it possible to take self-portraits. The advent of new media, social media, has made it possible to publish these selfies as soon as possible. But let's examine where the self-photo or better known as the selfie comes from. What is a selfie? The word selfie is an adaptation of the English word selfie, which refers to a self-portrait taken with a smartphone, webcam or digital camera and shared via social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram or Twitter. It was first used in English on an Australian forum in 2002. In 2013, the editorial board of the British Oxford dictionary chose selfie as the word of the year. The image has characteristic features, such as a mirror image. A selfie is usually used as a message, whether it's to get the attention of others, to show results or for fun. In general, the purpose of a selfie is to stand out at a special moment in one's life, through social networks or other digital platforms.

The story of selfie

For the sake of interest, I would like to touch on the history of the selfie very briefly. Self-portraits were already taken in the prehistoric age of photography. The first "selfie" was taken by the American photographer Robert Cornelius in the fall of 1839 in Philadelphia. He set up his camera behind his family's store on Chestnut Street. Holding his hands on his chest, he waited for the exposure time, which was not much more than a minute, with a somewhat gloomy face. This picture may have been Cornelius's first successful photograph, at least as indicated by the creator's note on the back of the quarter-size daguerreotype: "The very first photograph ever taken. 1839"

One of the first selfies was taken by Princess Anastasia Romanova in 1914, using the Kodak Brownie camera from the Kodak company. She was the first teenager to take such a photo for her friend.

Now everyone is "taking selfies", and the question arises: is selfie a disease or entertainment?

Is there a connection between taking self-portraits and mental disorders? Most experts are of the opinion that taking selfies is not a mental disorder. To a certain extent, the desire to be photographed does not have unpleasant consequences. This is a manifestation of love for appearances, a desire to please others. Nevertheless, psychology is interested in this type of behavior and infers that there are certain emotional problems or psychological disorders that can be associated with the excessive use of selfies. Some emotional problems or psychological disorders can be associated with the excessive use of selfies, experts believe. This includes low self-esteem, narcissism or a perfectionist personality. A narcissistic person



"THE VERY FIRST PHOTOGRAPH EVER TAKEN. 1839"



SELFIES TAKEN BY
PRINCESS ANASTASIA ROMANOVA IN 1914

person takes a lot of selfies and posts them on social media. He does this to seek constant approval and likes. A narcissistic person likes to look in the mirror often, and a selfie is a quick and easy way to get constant approval on social media. This encourages him to constantly post self-portraits to the extent that he pushes this behavior to pathological limits. Perfectionists can spend hours taking selfies in order to get the perfect picture of themselves.

It's okay to take a selfie once in a while, but if it becomes a daily habit, it could indicate a serious problem, according to experts. Extreme selfies are the most dangerous manifestation of the disease. Many people take extreme selfies, the goal is to scare off followers, a kind of competition to break records. This type of selfie already has its victims. The extreme self-portrait is terrifying and incredibly fascinating at the same time. But taken in dangerous conditions, selfies can be deadly. According to a study published by the Journal of Family Medicine and Primary Care, between 2011 and 2017, 259 people died while taking extreme selfies. These dangerous selfies are often taken while traveling, stepping on skyscrapers, rocks and bridges to capture a memory picture. Some people regularly take photos that they know are insecure; others posted a questionable shot or two, perhaps because they didn't fully understand the risks involved.



SELFIE TAKEN BY ANGELA NIKOLAU

The development of technology and the selfie

Furthermore, I examine the role of the development of technology in the spread of taking selfies. New media have become part of everyday life. This is especially true for Facebook. In the past decades, great changes have taken place in the field of technology, which have influenced the culture of images and visuals. All these allowed us to take selfies at any time and publish them on digital media as soon as possible. The changes that have occurred in recent decades have also changed our relationship with each other. We have the opportunity to connect with others and project a good image of ourselves thanks to social media. The responsible use of new technology becomes necessary. Developing technology encourages users of digital media interfaces to try to create an even more complex user profile of themselves. By enabling and facilitating self-presentation, new media create more and more knowledge.



The selfie addiction of different segments of the world's population

The most striking thing is that even serious people with significant social status take selfies. Presidents, the Pope, the Queen, famous actresses and actors, singers and singers - absolutely everyone can be seen on the selfie social portal. In the following, I present some selfies that have become famous.



At the Oscars in Los Angeles in March 2014, host and comedian Ellen DeGeneres posted the most shared selfie in Twitter history, with more than 3.4 million retweets and 2.4 million likes. Until recently, the selfie was also the most retweeted post on the platform. This is the second one! In the celebrity-filled photo (from left): Jared Leto, Jennifer Lawrence, Channing Tatum, Meryl Streep, Ellen DeGeneres, Julia Roberts, Kevin Spacey, Bradley Cooper (who physically took the photo), Brad Pitt, Lupita Nyong'o, Angelina Jolie.

Some politicians manage to pose for several selfies at the same time.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel took a stunning triple selfie when she visited a high school in Berlin.

Presidential candidate Joe Biden's first selfie was taken with Obama's friend in April 2014. "I found a friend to join my first selfie on Instagram. Thanks for following and stay tuned," he wrote at the time.



25 Jun 2014 - It's not every day you get the chance to see the Queen of England, so when you do, the pressure is on to find a way to remember her forever. A 14-year-old boy in Belfast, Ireland managed to take a selfie with the very unsuspecting Queen Elizabeth II.



Finally, I would like to present a personal selfie of mine. The picture shows me in the company of His Royal Highness Prince Edward of Kent and George, Earl of St. Andrews. I shared the picture on social media, where it got a very high number of likes and comments. As a result, several people contacted me to help me get closer to royal dignitaries. This is a testament to the power of the selfie and new media these days.

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*Please send your articles as early as possible to help us ensure WPAI Newsletter goes out on time.

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Try to keep articles to less than 1500 words.

Article must be typed in English language and provided in an electronic document that can be opened in Microsoft word.

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Maximum of 15 photos.

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A list of the image files must be provided with any applicable text that is to accompany each image, eg who and what is shown in photo. This list can either be at the bottom of the article or provided in a separate document.

Images must be of a good quality and edited for best presentation, eg colour, cropping etc.

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** Please understand that the images you send may not always all be included. Space, layout, suitability for all readers and quality will be considered.

** Articles for the "Recommendations From a Local Photographer" mini article section are to be a maximum of 400 words and two photos.

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If possible, please send all articles and accompanying images via WeTransfer or a similar file transfer system to the Editor of WPAI Newsletter Service.

Direct the file transfer to email address: officewpaidelhi@gmail.com / wpaidelhi@gmail.com

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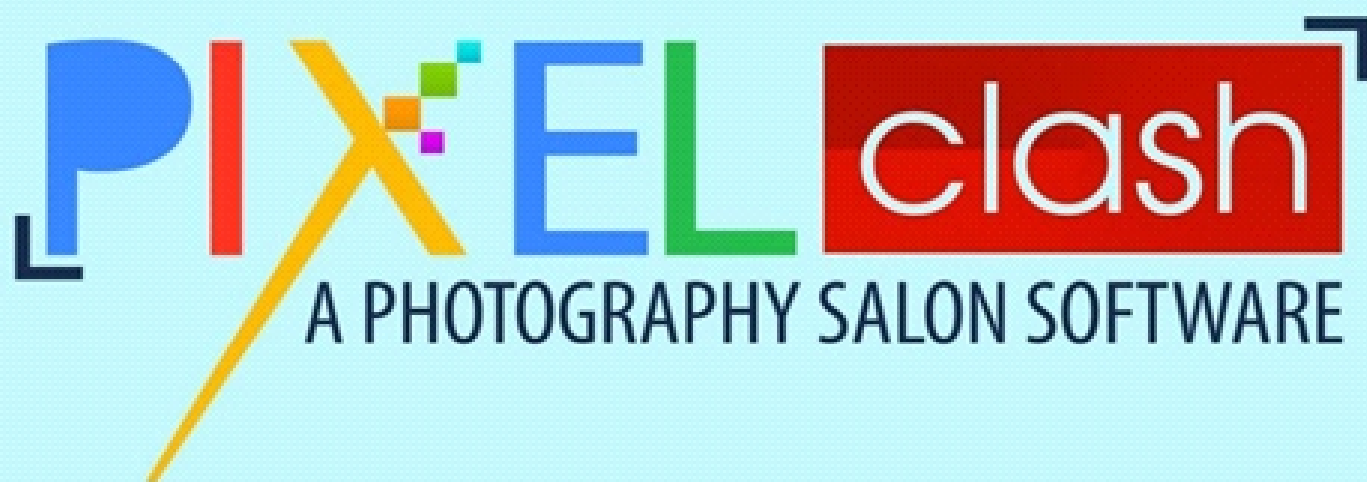
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