

# WPAI NEWSLETTER

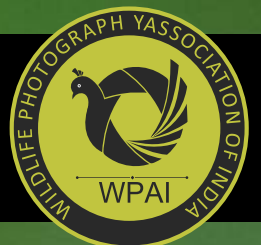
Exploring and updating the emerging trends of photography

July 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 10th Issue of WPAI Newsletter!



# Wildlife Photography Association of India

WPAI Newsletter

July 2023

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# Contents

<b>4</b>	<b>PREFACE</b>	
<b>5-9</b>	<b>TRIP TO RANTHAMBORE NATIONAL PARK</b> By Chitrangad Kumar.....	
<b>10-13</b>	<b>GAJON FESTIVAL 2023</b> By Aniket Pal.....	
<b>14-17</b>	<b>SHANGHAI STREETS THROUGH MY LENS</b> By Moumita Mondal.....	
<b>18-24</b>	<b>JOURNEY OF A WILDLIFE MACRO PHOTOGRAPHER &amp; AN ENTEMOPHILE USING A MOBILE HANDSET</b> By Susmita Ghosh .....	
<b>25-28</b>	<b>THE LEGEND OF SARIKIZ</b> By Özcan Şimşek.....	
<b>29-34</b>	<b>PHOTOGRAPHING RAPTORS IN THE LITTLE RAN OF KUTCH</b> By Dr. Manish Nagpal & Dr. Somdutt Prasad.....	
<b>35-49</b>	<b>FROM VIETNAM, CYPRUS, FRANCE AND INDIA WITH LOVE &amp; FRIENDSHIP</b> By Professor Biswatosh Sengupta.....	

# Preface to the July 2023 issue

Greetings of the Monsoon!!!

It is Monsoon in India, and we have brought to you fresh and invigorating ideas and experiences of photography in WPAI Newsletter July 2023 issue!! WPAI Newsletter July 2023 issue is imbued with scholarly and insightful narratives and feature articles on different genres of photography. We thank all the contributors to this issue who managed time from their busy schedules for engaging and insightful articles on photography.

Photography in a national park or wildlife sanctuary needs to go through many techniques and etiquette. Chitrangad Kumar, one of the wildlife photography experts in India and the chief editor of the WPAI Newsletter, has enlightened the readers with valuable information and challenges about visiting and photographing in a National Park by sharing his experience of a photo tour in Ranthambore National Park Rajasthan. His article "Trip to Ranthambore National Park" includes guided instruction and a series of vibrant photographs so that one can explore the flora and fauna of this park through a photographer's point of view.

Festivals and rituals of the mainstream, as well as indigenous culture, have become an important focus of Travel Photography. "Gajon Festival 2023" by Aniket Pal portrays the vibrant moments and description of Gajon festivals, an indigenous ritual among the people of the southern part of West Bengal. This article, with narratives and photographs, gives a vivid insight into the historical and etymological root of the Gajon festival celebrated at the end of the Bengali Year (Chaitra Sankranti).

Street Photography has become an emerging genre of photography in the era of high-tech and high-end photography devices. The next article "Shanghai Streets through My Lens" by Moumita Mondal presents every aspect and detail of Shanghai city that include the night cityscape, the bustle of city life, light and shadow in different hours, culture and community, architecture, tradition, books and what not!! Susmita Ghosh's "Journey Of A Wildlife Macro Photographer & An Entomophile Using a Mobile Handset" combines the two most popular genres of today, Macro Photography and Mobile Photography. When most photographers use high-end devices to capture vivid details of plants and animals in Macro Photography, Ghosh has perfectly explained the techniques of how we can bring perfection in Macro Photography just using our smart phone lens.

The July 2023 issue of the WPAI Newsletter presents a series of articles with diverse themes and genres. "The Legend of Sarikiz" by Özcan Şimşek gives you an insight into how photography could be a vital weapon to explore and reassess our history and mythology. Şimşek includes a few photographs of different locations of a town in Çanakkale Province in the Marmara region of Turkey. These locations and the architectural monuments are believed to be connected to the legendary girl named Sarikiz and her miraculous activities and mysterious disappearance before her father's eyes.

In "Photographing Raptors in the Little Ran of Kutch", Dr. Manish Nagpal & Dr. Somdu Prasad presents tempting photographs of birds of prey in action. The authors catch the rare moments of birds like Peregrine Falcon, Pallid Harrier, Raptor, etc while they fly, catch and hold their prey sometimes doing all these activities simultaneously. This article can be extremely useful to budding photographers who are engaged in travel, nature and wildlife photography.

Photography connects people, places, cultures, and practices across the world. Professor Biswatosh Sengupta's article explains how the visual culture is a vital medium for spreading love, compassion and awareness across different nations, cultural and ethnic groups across the world in his article "From Vietnam, Cyprus, France And India With Love & Friendship". Professor Sengupta, in this concluding article of WPAI Newsletter, has shed light on four aspects of this photographic relationship among four nations: 1) the Geographical, Demographic and a few Statistical Aspects, 2) Cultural Relationships, 3) Photographic Aspects in General, and 4) Specific comments on the Exhibited Photographs.

WPAI Newsletter July 2023 issue endeavours to open up new aspects and set new horizons to scholarly and interdisciplinary works on photography. We are proud to reach out to photography artists and photography enthusiasts in India and beyond during our short but productive journey. WPAI Newsletter team is thankful to writers and photographers who have voluntarily sent their photography and articles to us for sharing their ideas of photography with all. WPAI Newsletter is committed to exploring and updating the emerging trends of photography by connecting creative minds of photography from every remote corner of the earth.

Thanking you



**CHITRANGAD KUMAR**  
Chief Editor

FPSA, MPISA, AFIAP, FISE, SPSA, 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. AvTvlSo, Hon. PIPC Nefertiti, Hon. NVPC, GMSAP, AIIPC, IIPC URANIUM

# Trip to Ranthambore National Park

By Chitrangad Kumar

**R**anthambore National Park is one of the favorite wildlife destinations in India presently. Ranthambore National Park has an incredible yet exciting wealth of nature, wilderness, and heritage monuments in itself. One gets overwhelmed with feelings and emotions when one brings a trip down to the tracks of the Ranthambore National Park. While experiencing the Park, one can enjoy the nature around and explore its magnificence by enjoying a jeep safari, capturing the mesmerizing landscape and its beautiful denizens to cherish forever.

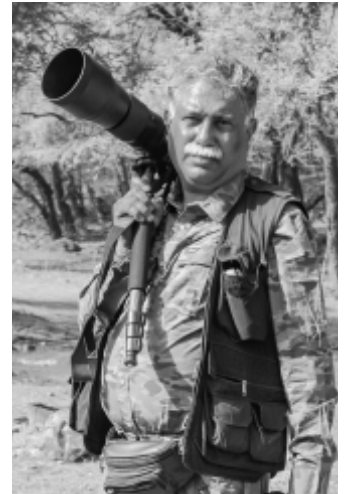
To visit Ranthambore one needs to reach a nearby town Sawai Madhopur which is situated close to New Delhi. Sawai Madhopur is on a train route so one can reach here by taking a train from Delhi or Jaipur and also by road. The nearest airports are New Delhi and Jaipur.

Fortunately, I got a chance to visit Ranthambore National Park. When I reached the beautiful city of Sawai Madhopur, I checked in to the hotel and got a little leisure as I reached there in the night.

Even though it is believed that Zones 1-5 are the best for spotting tigers, Zones 6-10 also offer sufficient opportunities for tiger sighting. Among these, Zone 2, dotted with numerous water holes, is the most important zone in the park where several animals are regularly spotted, including leopards.

Next morning, as the Park opens up thirty minutes after sunrise, I left for a jeep safari in Ranthambore National Park. There was no other spectacular experience than having a sunrise view in the Wilderness. As I entered the gate a huge gate wrapped by banyan tree welcomed us. As I entered into the Wild, I was greeted by a herd of spotted deer, Nilgai, Sambhar, Monkeys, a couple of Owls, and a small little cute hare who was having its breakfast near a beautiful water hole. I also came across one more beautiful lake where I saw a crocodile basking in the sun, birds were chirping around. I was disappointed not to see the Tiger in the morning safari and after I finished with Safari, came back to the hotel and had a sumptuous breakfast.

In the evening time, again I took jeep safari in hope to see a tiger in Ranthambore National Park. This time my driver was Mr. Lal Singh. And yes, I was lucky to see not only Tiger but his partner too, a Tigress along with him. They both were taking a rest, with a distance between them. Tiger (T-108, name – Jai) was resting in a lake and Tigress (T-99, name- Aishwarya) was taking a rest under a tree. It was an exciting moment for us. I started capturing these beautiful moments with my camera.



As the tigress was not clearly visible, it was difficult to take pictures of her. But to my surprise suddenly after half an hour tigress came out of the bushes and near to tiger and started teasing him. They both were playful. It was a moment that cannot be described in words. They both were enjoying each other company. I was lucky to capture those moment in my cameras.

After spending some time in foreplay both went to deep forest for mating. We (Me and my driver) waited for them to come back. And yes, they returned back again. They were in a playful mood. Tiger came near lake and sat down. Tigress follows him after a while and from there they came to a manmade pond where they drank water one by one. They both were so close (around 3 feet distance) to our jeep that there was no time left to change lenses on the camera and was too difficult to take pictures of both of them as it was a thrilling moment and a treat to my eyes. And now finally they both went in to the deep forest. We tried to follow them on the road but they were not visible anymore.

After that, our jeep driver took us to another small water hole for the sighting of the daughter of T-99. Unfortunately, she was sleeping under the shadow of a tree in the distance. And not seemed in the mood of showing herself.

Finally, we took our leave from the National Park and finished the safari and came back to the hotel to leave for Delhi the next day.

Would like to thank Forest Officials – Mr. Seduram Yadav (IFS) and Mr. Sandeep Chaudhary (DCF) and special Thanks to Dr. Sanjay Kumar Shukla (IFS, Member of Secretary Central Zoo Authority, Govt. of India) for all the support and without whom my safari to Ranthambore National Park would not have happened.









# Gajon festival 2023

By Aniket Pal

About 150-200 years ago in the flower garden of Zamindar Vasant Roy, his gardener was digging the soil to plant flowers. While digging the soil, he hit something and blood came out from that place, so the gardener ran away without telling anyone.

Later, Vasant got dream and dug the ground to drink this Shiva linga, since then this puja has been going on from generation to generation.

A week before the start of Gajan, the zamindars were invited and after the start of Gajan, Tagore's Bhog, Hridal, Cane Play, DhunoSeva, KantaBhanga, Neel Puja, Charak etc. were held.

As we all know India is a diverse land with many festivals. Every Year people eagerly wait for the arrival of festivals. Indian festivals reflect the culture and religious diversity. The atmosphere is filled with zeal and happiness. Festivals are divided as religious, national and seasonal.

Festival act as an interval from the mundane tasks and fill us with bliss and happiness. It invigorates us with new spirit and liveliness. Furthermore, it allows us to celebrate small and big things in our life. They can be religious or be events. Now we shall talk about the festivals of Bengal.

Bengal is known as the land of festivities where religious ceremonies over the number of months in the calendar and a proverb goes as baromaash e teroparbon (12 months constituting 13 festivals). And hearing the proverb every child in Bengal grows up. Today we'll be focussing on the festival CharakGajan.

The word Gajan is derived from the word Garjan or the sound made by the Sannyasis during a festival.



CharakGajan is considered to be the most idiosyncratic festival of Bengal. However there are two different types of ritual known as Charak and Gajan. But over time people consider as festival CharakGajan which is celebrated on the last few days of Bengali month of Chaitra just before the Bengali New Year. Bengali New Year or PoilaBoishakh which takes place on the mid week of April as per the Gregorian calendar and thus the festival is celebrated from 11th to 14th April every year.

## Origin and History of CharakGajan festival:

According to the religious veneration and devotion of West Bengal, it is divided into two portions—one which takes place before the agricultural epoch begins and post the agricultural season closure. The performances or actions in West Bengal, which takes place before the agricultural season are mostly related to fertility function and famous for the metamorphosis of Life and Land.

**O** rigin and History of CharakGajan festival. According to the religious veneration and devotion of West Bengal, it is divided into two portions-one which takes place before the agricultural epoch begins and post the agricultural season closure. The performances or actions in West Bengal, which takes place before the agricultural season are mostly related to fertility function and famous for the metamorphosis of Life and Land.

The gala of CharakGajan is associated to Buddhism expressly Tantric Buddhism. Basically the festival CharakGajan was started as a celebration by the Buddhist sect which was conversant as "DharmerGajan" and later when it was accepted in the Hindu community it became renowned as "ShiberGajan".

Essentially the festival CharakGajan is amalgamated to the agricultural society where the confluence crave to Lord Shiva for good production of harvest and shower (rain). The main aim of the festival is to bring back the fecundity (fertility) of the soil.

The people who follow the rituals of CharakGajan festival are mainly devotees of Lord Shiva and are respected in the society.

### **The festival consists of 3 parts(mainly)**

1. Charak Puja
2. Neel Puja
3. Gajan

TheGajan celebration is performed signifying the marriages of male forces of Shiva, Neel or Dharmaraj with their respective consorts. It basically signifies the union of Sun and Earth. The Gajan festival is considered one of the powerful festival. The festival brings prosperity and eliminates people from their sorrows and the sins committed at past.

The Gajansanyasis follow strict restrictions. They can't sit on bare ground. The Gajansanyasis can't cut their hair and nail and even shave and to follow an extremely simple appetite like fruits, milk and rice. They can't have flesh. They must live a life a life of discipline and penance . People dances as Shiva, Parvati, Kali, Krishna and other deities and perform various dances and acts depicting scenes from Hindu mythology. The Gajansanyasis moves from house to house to beg for food .However nowadays these scenes are found in villages. The most interesting part of CharakGajan festival is the Charak puja. The festival involves worshipping the Charak tree and the sanyasis perform several acts of penance during the Charak puja. The Charak tree is not any particular type of tree,the trunk of the tree measures approximately 20-30 feet and is completely straight and shouldn't have any leaves. The Charak tree is erected on the ground using bamboos. The Charak tree is considered as Ardhnarishwar i.e. the amalgamation of Lord Shiva and Parvati. The Gajansanyasis



pierces their tongue with long stainless steel rods most of the time, more than 5 or 6 as an act of penance. The Gajansanyasis also pierce their body with hooks. However the thick hooks do not injure them. The hooks are pierced on the back of the Gajansanyasis and they hang themselves with ropes on the Charak tree and moves in a circular motion by tying the rope to one end on the hook. In many places, you'll notice that many dreadful acts such as lying on the bed of nails and also some plays with skull of deads or semi decomposed body parts of human beings.

### The main rituals of Shiva Gajan are:

- 1) The day of fasting (Upabash in Bengali). When the Shiva Sannyasis don't drink a drop of water.
- 2) The day of Habishyi, when the sannyasis put on sacred thread.
- 3) Maha-habishyi, the day of fasting.
- 4) PhalaUtsav, the festival of fruits.
- 5) Neela puja, the day when Shiva is ceremonially married to his consort Nilavati.
- 6) Charak, the final day of Gajan.

**The popularity of ShiberGajan can be grasped from a short verse (rhyme) sung by the children's of Bengal:**

- Amradujon Bhai
- Shiber Gajangai
- Thakumagelo Gaya-Kashi
- Dugdugibajai

(We two brothers Sing Gajan songs for Lord Shiva Grandma has gone to Gaya-Kashi Let's play dugdugi (musical instrument) in joy). In conclusion, festivals make our life enthusiastic and passionate. It brings the people of different communities together irrespective of their caste differences. They symbolize victory over evil and spreads joy and mirthful energy across. It strengthens the bond and promotes harmony among the human race.





# Shanghai Streets Through My Lens

By Moumita Mondal

This article is about the street photography I did during my five-year stay in Shanghai, China's business capital. I am here to pictorially present how I saw the city through my lens. Being a bong girl, I was born and brought up in Kolkata, in an environment completely different from Shanghai. Professionally, I am a Microbiologist and completed my doctoral studies in India. Following tradition while all my seniors and friends were moving to the USA to pursue their postdoctoral studies, I decided to go to Shanghai for the same. While, all my well wishers were amazed by my decision and wondering if I could survive there considering the cultural difference, I was in awe of the place and enjoying every bit of my time.

I started developing an interest in photography in my collage days, but bought my first DSLR when I moved to China. I started exploring my photographic skills mainly at the beginning of 2020, when the pandemic hit the world. Many of my Indian friends in Shanghai couldn't return to China after Chinese New Year holidays due to entry restrictions, which made me apparently alone in Shanghai and I started using my free time to explore the streets of the city with my camera.



A city to enjoy with friends

Shanghai, the business capital of China, is a stimulating portrait of architectural treasures. The city holds an amalgamation of ultra modern avant-garde glass and steel structures and the traditional old and mortar historic buildings. On the east Bund along the Huangpu River, the soaring, high glass buildings have the charm to visually arrest anyone. The Oriental Pearl Tower is one of the signature buildings of modern architecture. When walking along the streets of Shanghai, one can see that many sections of the city have been replaced with modern high rises and green open spaces. Shanghai in the present day is well known for its ability to integrate ideas from the outer world into the



Night city scape

local culture. Some of Shanghai's modern buildings have allusions to Chinese architecture. For example, Shanghai Grand Theatre resembles a hypermodern transparent temple with a convex curved roof structure, which is a clear homage to the heavy roofs and upturned eaves of traditional Chinese palace architecture.

Shanghai, being a vibrant city, is always a paradise for the street photographers. Shanghai streets have plenty to offer to any amateur photographer like me or to professional photographers who have an interest in modern architecture and people photography. During my stay, I mostly captured pictures of lines and patterns, buildings embracing modern architecture, cityscapes and people.



The bustling city



The golden hour is perfect to capture some light and shadow play



At a local community place



A city with fitness concerned people



An old traditional chinese book store

# Journey Of A Wildlife Macro Photographer & An Entemophile Using A Mobile Handset

By Susmita Ghosh

It is a fact that a camera can be luxury for many and for few it's a device that is out of their comfort zone. I identify myself with the second category and being a first generation smart phone user my passion to frame moments got a new momentum after I had laid my hands on one of these devices.

## 1) Oriental Garden Lizard

I am a passionate macro wildlife photographer, I use Mobile handset as my primary device and with it I use various kinds of detachable macro lenses that are exclusively made for mobile phones.

## 2) Jamides Celeno sucking nectar from wild flower

The main focus of wildlife macro photography is to capture the close up images of small insects and other living creatures in their habitats. The main goal of such attempts is to reveal the intricate details and texture of these exquisite creatures that often goes unnoticed and remain hidden from our naked eyes. These observations provide an intimate and unique perspective on the natural world around us.

## 3. Common grass yellow resting in between a busy morning

Macro wildlife photography is certainly one of the most challenging genres of photography. It requires a combination of technical skill, creativity, and patience to capture stunning images of small creatures and details in nature and the least noticed objects specially the insects, the silent and indispensable contributor of our eco system.



ORIENTAL GARDEN LIZARD



JAMIDES CELENO SUCKING NECTAR  
FROM WILD FLOWER



COMMON GRASS YELLOW RESTING IN BETWEEN A BUSY MORNING



COROMANDEL MARSH DART AKA YELLOW WAXTAIL  
PREYING ON A DIFFERENT SPECIES



COROMANDEL MARSH DART AKA YELLOW WAXTAIL

#### 4. Coromandel Marsh Dart aka Yellow Waxtail preying on a different species

Unlike landscape or portrait photography, capturing close-up shots of small animals and insects in their natural habitats requires a lot of preparation, attention to detail, and the ability to adapt to the unpredictable behavior of wildlife.

#### 5. Coromandel Marsh Dart aka Yellow Waxtail

The game of light and shadow and the tiny world is intriguing and captivating. The locations and the cluttered background can actually make your task more difficult than it is already. In such situations it is really difficult to get the optimum light that can give proper exposure to the subject. Thus balancing the light and shadows in the frame and controlling the depth of field to isolate the subject can also be challenging



PLAIN TIGER CATERPILLAR FEASTING ON CROWN FLOWER



PLAIN TIGER BUTTERFLY



ORANGE TAILED MARSH DART  
ENJOYING THE FIRST RAYS OF SUN



INDIAN BEE SUCKING NECTAR  
FROM SANDALWOOD FLOWER

## 6. Plain Tiger Caterpillar feasting on Crown Flower

The biggest challenge is to get close enough to the subject without disturbing it, especially in the case of shy or fast-moving insects. Additionally, lighting conditions can vary drastically, and shooting in low-light conditions can be particularly challenging.

## 7. Plain Tiger Butterfly

Once you have acquired precision on the mentioned field now let's go to the next level i.e understanding and controlling depth of field which is crucial in macro photography. Due to the close proximity to the subject, depth of field becomes very shallow, and focusing on the right part of your subject is essential.

## 8. Orange Tailed Marsh Dart enjoying the first rays of sun

Like in most of the genre of photography macro photography also appreciates the use of diffusers. They are extremely essential to modify the light. Yet nothing can beat the natural light, if you know how to use it. Natural lights bring out the natural colors and also the details of the subject. I try to utilize the natural light whenever possible. The best time to shoot is during the golden hours (early morning or late).

## 9. Indian Bee sucking nectar from Sandalwood flower

Despite the difficulties, wildlife macro photography can be a very rewarding and satisfying experience, allowing you to capture the intricate details and beauty of the natural world in a way that is not visible to the naked eye.



A MEET BETWEEN LEMON EMIGRANT PUPA AND COMMON CASTOR CATERPILLAR



MATING OF SACROPHAGA UPON A WILD LEAF



LYNX SPIDER IS FEEDING ON A HANDMAIDEN MOTH



CASSIUS BLUE SUCKING NECTAR FROM A WILD FLOWER

#### 10. A meet between Lemon Emigrant Pupa and Common Castor Caterpillar

With practice, patience, and a willingness to learn, you can master the art of wildlife macro photography and capture stunning images of the world's smallest creatures

#### 11. Mating of *Sacrophaga* upon a wild leaf

As the genre of the photography suggests, macro photography allows you to highlight the intricate details of your subject. Thus it is crucial to pay attention on composition techniques such as the rule of thirds, leading lines, and negative space to create visually appealing and well-balanced images.

#### 12. Lynx Spider is feeding on a Handmaiden moth

Apart from patience and skills, knowledge of insects and their habitats is mandatory for a macro wildlife lover. I often wait for hours or chase a species of butterfly for an entire season waiting for that perfect moment and one perfect shot. Once accomplished it's worth the chase and wait.

#### 13. Cassius blue sucking nectar from a wild flower

What did I learn during my journey as a Macro Wildlife Photographer ?

#### 14. Plain Tiger Butterfly

I use a mobile handset to avoid tripods. Therefore developing a steady hand is extremely crucial to avoid blurred photos.

#### 15. Caterpillar stage of Plain Tiger Butterfly

Tiny creatures can be elusive and unpredictable. Thus I dedicate more time observing their behavior, anticipate their movements, and remain on my toes to capture the perfect moment.

#### 16. Premating stage of Coromondal Marsh Dart

Wildlife is can be unpredictable and therefore it's very important to learn how to be patient on the field. The scope of a re take or re shoot is out of the question . Thus I have learnt to be alert and patients are the basics of macro wildlife photography.



PLAIN TIGER BUTTERFLY



CATERPILLAR STAGE OF PLAIN TIGER BUTTERFLY

### 17. Wandering Glider warming up before the first flight of the day

This hobby had allowed me acquire a unique ability i.e. to locate subjects and their habitats. Insects apart from few prefer to avoid human intervention. Therefore their habitats are mostly at odd locations which can often come with hidden dangers like thorns, snakes and other poisonous insects. Insects are in constant motion and are extremely sensitive to the most minute movement. Therefore at times, given their size it becomes a real challenging job to get one perfect click even after pursuing them for hours.

### 18. Flashes Butterfly sitting on my finger

As a macro wildlife photographer I prefer to take photos of in situ composition or habitat shots. I am totally against removing the insects rather my subjects from their natural location.

### 19 . A busy morning for Dark Cerulean

When it comes to experimenting with the shots ,I try to play around with various angles and compositions until I find the best shot. One interesting tip is,try getting a low angle shot or even a close up shots of definite feature of your subject .

### 20. An almost perfect camouflage

Post-processing plays a crucial role in determining the final outcome of the photos that you have clicked . It is essential to get oneself familiarise with softwares like Snapseed, Photoshop and Adobe Lightroom. The final touches , fine tuning of photos and adjusting the brightness, contrast, and saturation to bring out the details and colors of your subject.

Finally before signing off remember, practice is key to honing your skills in macro wildlife photography. Experiment with different techniques, learn from your results, and keep exploring new subjects and locations to capture stunning close-up images of the natural world



PREMATING STAGE OF COROMONDAL MARSH DART



FLASHES BUTTERFLY SITTING ON MY FINGER



WANDERING GLIDER WARMING UP  
BEFORE THE FIRST FLIGHT OF THE DAY

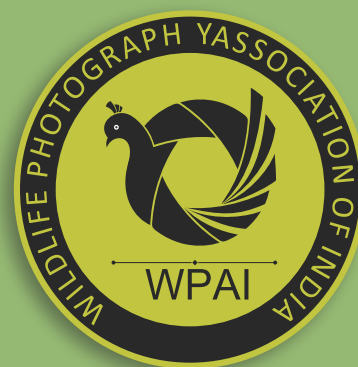


A BUSY MORNING FOR DARK CERULEAN



AN ALMOST PERFECT CAMOUFLAGE

# JOIN WPAI



IS ALL ABOUT PHOTOGRAPHY & EXPOSURE IT DESERVES

## WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

WPAI is an International Photography Society, whose aim is to encourage an appreciation of photography and to offer a platform for Interested Candidates - Amateurs as well as Professional - through participating in International Exhibitions conducted by WPAI and show their work worldwide.

Acceptances and Awards accumulated from WPAI and who take part in the exhibitions of WPAI Patronage; everyone no matter amateur or professional are credited towards the WPAI and affiliated Distinction such as B. WPAI, S. WPAI, G. WPAI, P. WPAI and U. WPAI

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# The Legend Of Sarıkız

By Özcan Şimşek

AFIAP, QPSA, HIUP, Hon. ASAP, Hon. FSAP, Hon. FCPA,  
Hon. F. Nobel / Platinum, Hon. VEDIC  
President of Edremit Photography and  
Cinema Art Association (EDFOD)



A city with fitness concerned people

**W**hile Sarıkız was living with her family in a village of Ayvacık in Çanakkale, her mother passed away at a young age. His father told the yellow girl, "You know, I loved your mother very much, she has so many memories here, it's hard for me to forget your mother. They come and settle in Kavurmacılar village, near the Güre town of Edremit district of Balıkesir, at the foot of the Kaz Mountains. Sarıkız grows up and becomes a beautiful girl. Her father also gets older. She always has the idea of going on a pilgrimage. She constantly begs Allah in her prayers to be able to go on pilgrimage. Sarıkız encourages her to fulfill this wish of her father. She says she has to go. Her father entrusts her daughter to her neighbor, she goes on a pilgrimage. Back then, going on pilgrimage was not like it is now, maybe six months, maybe more, on foot.

After his father went on a pilgrimage, the young men of the village aspire to Sarıkız. Sarıkız does not give a face to any of them. They also slander Sarıkız by spreading gossip.

When the father returns from the pilgrimage, no one looks at his face, they do not greet him. When he asks the reason why Sarıkız is handed over to his neighbor, he says that Sarıkız is on the wrong path. Dad thinks for days. He cannot do the good of hajj, which is customary. In order to live in the village, he has to clean his honor. But he cannot bear to kill his beloved daughter. With a few geese he took with him, he takes his daughter to the summit of Kazdag and leaves her there. He thinks there will be food for wild animals.

Years pass. They say that when the passengers coming from Bayramiç lost their way on the mountain, when they were in trouble, a yellow girl guided and helped them. They say that they have geese, and that they even descended to Bayramiç plain one day and damaged the crops of the farmers. The wall remains of this area, which is called the goose courtyard, can be seen even today.

Listening to these stories, the father thinks it might be Sarıkız. He takes the path of the mountain, Upon reaching the summit, he encounters a walled field of geese. He finds his daughter in a place called Sarıkız Tepe today. Sarıkız is happy to see her father. He respects and respects her. His father wants to make wudu to pray. Sarıkız pours water on her father's hand for him to perform ablution. His father says the water is salty. Sarıkız hastily says that she took it from the sea by mistake and extends her jug towards the valleys. He pours the newly filled water into his father's hand. When her father tastes the ice-cold water, he realizes that his daughter has melted. At that time, a black cloud covers the sky, Sarıkız disappears. Her father is convinced that her daughter has died, and that she has disappeared due to the revelation of her secret. He realizes that his daughter has been slandered and curses the villagers.



There was no one living in the village of Kavurmacılar, the headman handed over the seal of the village to the District Governor as there was no one left and the name of the village was deleted from the log. Since the landscape of the village affected many wealthy people, they reconstructed the old ruins in the village faithful to the original and started to use them as homes or boutique hotels..



While Sarıkız's father was wandering in the hills with sadness, he dies in a place called Baba Tepe today. Local people make graves for Sarıkız and her father by putting the flat stones of the mountain on top of each other. The hill where Sarıkız's grave is located is called Sarıkız Tepe, and the hill where her father is located Baba Tepe. Local people go here every year in August to commemorate Sarıkız and her father. For ten days, they set up camp in the area between Sarıkız Hill and Baba Hill, make their vows and make their wishes.





# Photographing Raptors In The Little Ran Of Kutch

By Dr. Manish Nagpal & Dr. Somdutt Prasad

**P**hotographing birds of prey in action is a very thrilling experience which gets the adrenaline flowing. With correct location, technique and a lot of patience they can provide some amazing images one can be proud of. A good location for pursuing this is in Dasada, situated in the Little Ran of Kutch in Gujarat. With its vast expanses of grasslands and wetlands, the region is home to a diverse range of bird species, including various raptors such as eagles, hawks, and falcons. Among these, the Peregrine Falcon stands out as a particularly majestic and elusive bird, making it a popular subject for avid bird photographers.

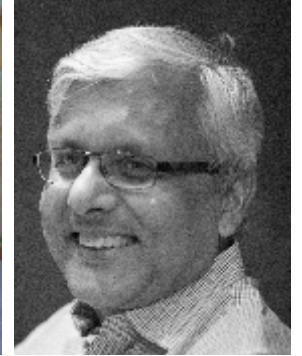
To capture stunning photographs of raptors, it is essential to know when and where to find them. In Dasada, the best time to photograph raptors is during the winter months, from November to March, when the weather is relatively dry and cool. During this time, the grasslands and wetlands of Dasada come alive with a variety of bird species, including raptors, who come to the region in search of prey to the Little Rann of Kutch, a vast salt marsh that stretches over thousands of square kilometres. Here one can find a diverse range of bird species, including various raptors such as the Short-toed Eagle, the Western Marsh Harrier, and the Montagu's Harrier. The region is also home to the Peregrine Falcon, a bird that is known for its speed and agility.

When photographing raptors, as with most wildlife photography it is essential to be patient and observant. Raptors are often elusive and can be challenging to spot, so it's important to keep your eyes peeled and look for signs of their presence, such as circling birds or prey animals on the ground.

Once you've spotted a raptor, it's important to approach slowly and quietly, so as not to startle the bird. When photographing raptors in flight, it's important to use a fast shutter speed to freeze the action and capture the bird's movement. A shutter speed of at least 1/1000th of a second is recommended, although faster speeds may be necessary depending on the bird's speed and the lighting conditions.



Dr. Manish Nagpal



Dr. Somdutt Prasad



Peregrine Falcon Portrait

The Peregrine Falcon is a particularly challenging bird to photograph, as it is known for its speed and agility. They fly at about 50 kmph in travelling flight reaching speeds over 100 kmph in direct pursuit of prey. They hunt small birds and mammals, often by diving at high speeds towards their prey from above. This technique, known as a stoop, is one of the most impressive displays of hunting skill in the animal kingdom. The bird is known to dive at speeds of up to 300 kmph during its spectacular hunting stoops as it dives towards its prey making it the fastest living creature on earth! So a good autofocus system and high shutter speeds are essential to get those prize images. To photograph them, it's important to visit areas where the bird is known to be present, so a local guide with knowledge of the area is invaluable.

It's also important to be patient and observe the bird's behaviour. Peregrine Falcons are known to hunt from high perches, so look for the bird perched on a tree or rock. Once you've spotted the bird, approach slowly and quietly, so as not to startle it. In the open grasslands often the best technique is to lie flat on the ground and slowly move towards the bird, camera ready all the time. If you're lucky, the bird may take off and dive towards its prey, giving you the opportunity to capture a stunning shot.

### *Conclusion*

Photographing raptors is a thrilling and rewarding experience for any wildlife photographer. To capture stunning shots of these majestic birds, it's important to know when and where to find them, as well as the equipment and techniques required to get the shot. The Peregrine Falcon is a particularly challenging bird to photograph, but with the right approach and a bit of luck, it's possible to capture some truly breath-taking shots of this magnificent bird.

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- Both the authors are established eye surgeons. Our fascination with the vision system naturally attracted us to photography. We have travelled and photographed together across the world for over a decade. Our photographs have been chosen for exhibitions in various venues. Manish has also authored a book on the bears of Kamchatka entitled "Precarious Balance- Brown bears of Kamchatka"



Peregrine Falcon in Flight



Harrier on Target



Falcon in Flight



Saker Falcon



Peregrine Falcon



Killer Look



Pallid Harrier with Prey



Raptor and Prey



The Victor

# From Vietnam, Cyprus, France And India With Love & Friendship

**By Professor Biswatosh Sengupta**

AFIAP, ESFIAP, Secretary of the Photographic Association of Dum Dum, India with assistance from Mrs. Kusmi Majumdar, Dip-in-Photo (PAD), EFIAP

## Introduction

The objective of any International event is to foster International fraternity amongst the nations and to provide opportunities to view, appreciate and enjoy the gala performance of the various activities like Olympic, World Cup Football, International summit and alike including International Photographic Exhibitions. Prof. Andreas L Andreou of Cyprus Photographic Society organised such an International exhibition titled "From Vietnam, Cyprus, France and India with Love and friendship" under the Auspices of FIAP( 2021/ 081)for creative unity among the various nations with the vision of fostering fraternity, peace, love and friendship and had an Online Exhibition in Image Sans Frontiere Website from 1st of June to 30th of June 2023.

Commenting on the photographic environments of the said countries based solely on the exhibits curated by the ISF president Sophie Pouillon, Prof. Andreas, and yourself presents inherent limitations. The realm of photography is extensive and diverse, making it virtually impossible for any individual to make a comprehensive selection that truly represents the entirety of the photographic world within each country. As a result, the exhibition in question should be regarded as a fragmented representation, offering only a glimpse into the photographic landscape of the four countries involved.

However, I have planned to dwell upon:

- 1) the Geographical, Demographic and few Statistical Aspects,
- 2) Cultural Relationships,
- 3) Photographic Aspects in General, and
- 4) Specific comments on the exhibited Photographs.

## Geographical, Demographic and Few other Statistical Aspects

Despite being geographically and demographically distant from each other, these countries share a common thread of cultural relations that have developed over centuries of interaction and exchange. But there is wide differential amongst the nations in respect of number of parameters. Thus, I would like to provide few statistical information in the following Table for ready reference for the convenience of the readers without going to any detailed analysis which itself may be a separate article.

	PARAMETER	COUNTRY			
		VIETNAM	CYPRUS	FRANCE	INDIA
1	Area (in Sq.Km.)	331690	9251	551695	3287000
2	Population (2021) in million	97.5	1.24	67.7	1407.06
3	Population Density	308	131	191	455
4	% of Literacy	94.5	99.2	99.0	74.4
5	% Urbanisation	38	66	82	35
6	Per capita GDP (US\$) 2020	38816	42321	6166	8206
7	No. of FIAP Salon 2018	0	1	13	134
8	No. of PSA Salon 2018	0	6	10	374
9	Acceptance /Total Points in FIAP World Cup 2022	8/383	5/368	44/2947	120/6008
10	Rank in Wpe Award in 2022	56	45	8	40
11	No. of Participants in Wpe	57	41	428	406
12	Entries in 61st Dum Dum Salon, 2018	46	16	8	705
13	ILFIAP Clubs	1	6	3	7

## Cultural Relationships

Vietnam, Cyprus, France, and India are four countries with unique cultural heritages that have interacted with each other in different ways over the time. The cultural relationship between these countries is complex and multifaceted, influenced by historical, social, and economic factors. Vietnam and France have a long and complicated history of cultural exchange. France colonized Vietnam in the late 19th century, and as a result, French influence can still be seen in many aspects of Vietnamese culture, from architecture to cuisine. Additionally, Vietnam has its own unique cultural traditions, including traditional folk music, dance, and art. In recent years, there has been an increased interest in Vietnamese culture in France, with Vietnamese restaurants and cultural events becoming more popular. Cyprus, a small island nation in the Mediterranean, has a rich cultural heritage that has been influenced by various civilizations throughout its history. The island has been inhabited by Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Venetians, and Ottomans, among others, each leaving their own mark on Cypriot culture. Cyprus also has a vibrant contemporary arts scene, with numerous galleries and museums showcasing local and international art.

India has a rich and diverse cultural heritage, with a long history of cultural exchange with other countries, including Vietnam, Cyprus, and France. Indian culture has been shaped by various religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Islam, and Christianity and importantly indigenous tribal religion which has reflected in art. Indian cuisine, music, dance and art are celebrated around the world, with Indian cinema being particularly popular in Southeast Asia. Ancient India was invaded multiple times by foreign powers, right from Persians, Greek, Mughals to French and then British, because of its wealth and excellence. Every time cultural osmosis took place, be it culinary or art or social system. While the cultural relationships between these four countries may seem disparate at first glance, there are common threads that connect them. For example, all four countries have been influenced by external cultures throughout their history, with each assimilating and adapting these influences in their own unique way. Additionally, all four countries have their own distinct cultural traditions that have been shaped by their historical and social contexts. Overall, the cultural relationship between Vietnam, Cyprus, France, and India is complex and multifaceted, reflecting the unique cultural heritages of each country and the various ways in which they have interacted with each other over time.

## Photographic Aspects in General

The photographic relationship between Vietnam, Cyprus, France, and India is a fascinating one that reflects the unique cultural heritage of each country. Photography has been a popular medium for artistic expression and documentation in each of these countries, and the exchange of photographic ideas and techniques has contributed to the development of the art form in each country.

Vietnam has a rich photographic tradition that dates back to the mid-19th century introduced by French and Chinese photographers though Photographic technology was introduced by photographers from Europe and Hong Kong. Photography has emerged in Vietnam as fine art photography, photojournalism and documentary photography, landscape photography. The development of such practices has been accelerated following economic reforms initiated in Vietnam in 1986 with the goal of creating a "socialist-oriented market economy" resulting in funding for artists and increased international exposure. Vietnamese photographers have documented the country's history, from the war years to the present day, and have captured the beauty of its landscapes and people. **Few notable photographers of Vietnam are:** [Octave de Bermond de Vaulx \(1831–95\)](#), [Jules-Félix Apollinaire Le Bas \(1834–75\)](#), [August Sachtler \(?–1874\)](#), [John Thomson](#), [Wilhelm Burger \(1844–1920\)](#), [Émile Gsell \(1837–1869\)](#)

Cyprus also has a vibrant photographic community, with photographers capturing the islands, natural beauty and rich history. Cypriot photographers have been influenced by the Mediterranean photographic tradition, and have also been inspired by the islands multi cultural heritage. The island of Aphrodite is full of authentic natural beauties! You should dive off the coast of the island with its crystal clear waters and golden sands. In the interior of the country there is the green beauty of the island with trees-vegetation of many years covering the mountain peaks and valleys as well as birds and animals that inhabit the mountains. In winter you will encounter the magic of the snowy landscape in Troodos.

Highlights include the Caledonian Falls, the Tombs of the Kings, a huge archeological underground burial site of high-ranking dignitaries brilliantly carved from solid stone.

Over 500 churches, monasteries and chapels some of which date back to 329 AD, religion has been and still is, deeply rooted in the local culture. Because Cyprus is geographically surrounded by 3 continents (Europe, Asia and Africa), there have been effects on the architectural character of the Dafor buildings.

In Nicosia, the Cypriot Museum (Archaeological Museum of Cyprus), Machiras National Forest Park, Holy Church of Faneromeni, Panagia tis Asinou, Famagusta Gate, Archbishop's Palace, Popular Neighborhood, Leventio Municipal Museum, Holy Temple of Aphrodite - Tamasos.dd ).

Highlights in Limassol include Limassol Marina, AkrotiriAspro Nature Trail, Foinikaria Nature Trail, Polemidion National Forest Park, Colosseum Medieval Castle, Kourio, Amathustos Archaeological Site, Apollo HylatisSanctuary,Municipal Folk Art Museum, Medieval Castle.

In Larnaca, Pieridis Museum and Hala Sultan Mosque stand out

"Kamares Aqueduct", Church of PanagiaAggeloktistis,

"Zinovia" Shipwreck, Larnaca Salt, Stavrovouni Monastery, Larnaca Marina, Port of Zygiou, Lake Oroklini, Archaeological Site of Choirokoitia, Finikoudes, Lefkara, Medieval Castle.

In Paphos, Avaka Gorge, Baths of Aphrodite, Petra touRomiou, Paphos Mosaics stand out

Medieval Castle of Paphos, Ecclesiastical Museum of the Holy Metropolis of Paphos, Tombs of the Kings, Akamas National Forest Park, Sanctuary of Aphrodite.

In Ayia Napa, VathiaGonia Beach - Blue Flag, KavoGreko National Forest Park, Stone Bridge at KavoGreko, Liopetriou River, AgioiAnargyri (Protaras), Ayia Napa Sculpture Park, Ocean Aquarium stand out.

In Protaras/Paralimni, Cape Greco National Forest Park, Sea Museum, Fig Tree Bay Beach, Agia Napa Monastery, Church of AgiaThekla, Prophet Elias (Protaras), Deryneia Folk Art Museum stand out.

In Famagusta District, Love Bridge - Ayia Napa, Church of PanagiaParalimniou, KavoGreko National Forest Park, AgioiAnargyri (Protaras), National Historical Museum of Agia Napa, Church of AgiaThekla stand out.

The mountain attractions Platy Valley, Church of PanagiaAsinou / PanagiaForviotissa, Mount Olympus, Troodos National Forest Park, etc. are also outstanding.

France being the citadel of Art & Culture France has a long and storied photographic history. France is country of the invention of Photography. JosephNicephoreNiepce of France made the effective synthesis of Chemical and Optical principles of Photography and was the pioneer of creating camera image in 1816. View from the Window at Le Grasa calotype made in 1826 by Niepce is considered as the world first photograph. Luis J M Daguerre made direct photography on silver copper plate in1935and presented his work at the French Academy of Science. On 19 August 1839, the French Government presented the invention as a gift from France "free to the world". In 1895 Lumiere brothers introduced Cinematography. Notedphotographers Henri Cartier-Bresson the father of decisive moment, Robert Doisneau, and Eugene Atget, among others are legend in revolutionizing the medium.French photographers have influenced photographic practice around the world, with their uniqueapproach in capturing the everyday moments of life.

In Nicosia, the Cypriot Museum (Archaeological Museum of Cyprus), Machiras National Forest Park,Holy Church of Faneromeni, Panagia tis Asinou, Famagusta Gate, Archbishop's Palace, Popular Neighborhood, Leventio Municipal Museum, Holy Temple of Aphrodite - Tamasos.dd ).

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India has a rich photographic traditionthat dates back to the 19th century, with the emergence of colonial photography. Indianphotographers have documented the country's rich cultural heritage, from its temples andpalaces to its people and landscapes. Indian photography has also been influenced by theWestern photographic tradition, particularly in the areas of portraiture and landscapephotography.Josiah Rowe, a surveyor from the then Calcutta, now Kolkata, was considered as 'the father of photography' in India. Photography in India was primarily confined among the Royal families. Maharaja Sawai Ram Singh(1834-1880), the King of Jaipur,was India's first known Royal Photographer.Raja LalaDeenDayal was one of the few most prolific Indian photographers of the 19th century. Sukumar Ray(father of Satyajit Ray) was first Fellow of Royal Photographic Society from India. There are many photographers to recon with but I will mention only a few legendary viz. J N.Unwalla who is considered as the father of Indian Pictorial Photography. He was one of the few Indian photographers in pre-independent India to receive international fame.Unwalla argued for the recognition of photography as an art form. He believed that a photographer must convey their feelings instead of mere documentation through photography.Dr.G.Thomas( founder Secretary General of FIP) reshaped Indian Photography with extensive International relations with the Photographic Society of America and with the Federation Internationale de l'ArtPhotographique. He was also known as a critic. BenuSen( former Secretary General FIP &fouder member of PAD) was the most versatile photographer who has contributed in all genresof Photography. He established the Photographic Association of DumDum.He took the initiative to set up a photography department in the Indian Museum Kolkata. He invented the 'BS4 formula', a fine grain developer; colour photogram and colour separation from Black & White Negatives in India.The Living legend of the recent time is PadmashreeRaghu Rai,an apprentice to Henri Cartier-Bressonwho appointed Rai to Magnum Photos in1977.Rai was world famous for his project on the chemical disaster at Bhopal in 1984, while working as a journalist.

The exchange of photographic ideas and techniques between these countries has led to a rich and diverse photographic landscape. Today, photographers from Vietnam, Cyprus, France, and India are continuing to push the boundaries of the medium, capturing the beauty and complexity of their respective cultures. The photographic relationship between these countries is expected to continue to grow in the future, contributing to the richness and diversity of the global photographic landscape.

### **Specific comments on a few exhibited Photographs**

Photographs express emotions and reflections of an individual, a particular event, and /or a particular space, or for that matter just about anything that touches a chord in the mind of photo artist. It is the latter group of individuals, pictorialists, who strive to convey their emotions and feeling through photographs. Their pictures are not mere record shots but visual statements that cry out the theme and story behind the photograph as will be evident from the following descriptions.

The selected photographs from **Vietnam** largely play upon the artistic depiction of man in the midst of nature, fighting for survival and livelihood.



### **Dan Nguyen\_VIETNAM**

In this image we can see six young men are out at sea. They are moving ahead towards the unknown overcoming obstacles just as we do in life. What awaits in front is not known to them but still they are determined to cross the waves and move forward towards infinity may be for adventure or maybe for earning a livelihood for their family. The picture is taken beautifully keeping the subject at the perfect centre thus breaking the grammar of photography though it has not interfered with the aesthetical value proving rules can be broken where needed.



**Dang QuangVinh\_VIETNAM**

Like the first rays of the sun on the earth, the first early morning activities of fishermen are captured. The highlights on the water have enhanced the magical effect which was already there with the overall shades of blue. The figures of fishermen with the nets look like dancing butterflies that are about to fly at any moment. A perfect timing and hard work of the author can be noticed in this creation. The hardships of life and aesthetics have gone hand in hand.



**Ha Van Dong\_VIETNAM**

The hardship of life starts with the first rays of sunlight falling on earth. The beauty of nature is captured through the author's lens. The fishing net lying on the seashore is acting as the leading line which is helping us to see the entire image. The golden cloud at the top right hand side of the frame is toppling the balance and making the right hand side heavier, this could be avoided by cropping the sky portion.



**Hoang TrungThuy\_VIETNAM**

The man is looking ahead, bewildered. He does not seem to be able to grasp what cosmic events are happening in front of him. He seems to have lost himself in the vast nature and tries to maintain his small existence with the help of the hurricane lamp. The use of illusive blue colour is appropriately balancing the brightness of the lightning, though the white patch could have been burnt down a little bit. The strong shadow of the hurricane lamp is also hindering the ambience.



**Huu Tri Tran\_VIETNAM**

The picture portrays the hardship of human life which is perfectly balanced with the contrast of nature's beauty.



**Le DucToai\_VIETNAM**

This is a beautiful picture capturing pattern, repetition and division of frame following the rule of third. The author has portrayed the daily life activity artistically.

The pictures from Cyprus are a kaleidoscope of life and nature in Cyprus. Aesthetically appealing, these photographs go a **long** way to provide us with a glimpse of the land.



**Constantinos Charalambous\_EFIAPg\_ESFIAP\_EHPS\_CYPRUS**

Beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder—the image that lies in front of us reminds us of Claude Monet and his impressionism. We all will opine unanimously that at the first sight of it, a wow factor comes to mind—a simple colourful piece of life. The vibrant red and green contrast balancing with a dull blue sky soothes the eyes of the viewer. A lone tree stands as if a guardian is watching over the children in the field of play. But the black border of the image was not needed as if the unbound view of nature is hindered.



**Elias Lambrou AFIAP\_CYPRUS**

The naturally coloured pebbles, white surf, various shades of blue and brown have created a magical feeling. Nature has blessed us with its abundance. Besides having an artistic eye it takes patience of a photographer to wait for such a moment when the waves rush inside the shore and form such splendid patterns. As the horizon divides the frame into two exact halves, the sky portion may be cropped to one-third to give more importance to the foreground.



**Loucas Paphites\_CYPRUS**

This is an abstract depiction of the togetherness of nature and culture. While the pristine blue on the right depicts the sea and nature, the chairs on the left on the white sand reflect upon human intervention upon nature and its transformation into culture. The blue color of the chairs provides a chromatic balance to the turquoise sea.



#### **Nicoletta Pantelide\_CYPRUS**

It is good to see that in the mechanised life of today's world goodness of mankind still persists. Mr. Pantelide has successfully captured the bonding between the human and the 'non-human'. Happiness of life prevails in these small acts of kindness.

#### **Panteliskranos - GM. ICS, EFIAP-d1, GM. HPS\_CYPRUS**

Fear of the unknown is the most basic emotion. Even today many things could not be revealed under the sea. In this picture, a child is standing on the sea bed with his face covered with his palm implies he is afraid thus, shunning the unknown. It seems the vastness and the unknown range of the bottom of the sea have made him afraid; his torn clothes signify as if he is standing there for an infinite time like the sea. Even in this morbid scene, a trace of life is shown with the presence of the sea diver to balance the opposites. The mystical ambiance is formed with the use of appropriate shades of blue-green.





#### Savvas Savvides\_CYPRUS

In this image, we can see a glimpse of morning life probably in a small town in Cyprus. The soft but bright sunlight, a newspaper, a cup of tea and old age is a perfect combination to portray a lazy morning.



**Thanasis Hadjipavlou - EFIAP/s\_EPSA\_EFIP\_CYPRUS**

A fascinating spectacle of a street event has been captured nicely by the author. The unique costume with suits of playing cards and smiling faces conveys happiness to the viewer as well.

France is noted for its celebration of beauty, aesthetics and exquisiteness. The selection of photographs from the land brings out the allure of nature and architecture.



**Alain Gaymard\_FRANCE**

This beautiful view is of a typical mountainscape but the difference with other such natural scenic beauty is the striking red and yellow colours of the trees in the front row. This is the point of interest that leads our eyes along the line to the curves at the right side and eventually moving the eyes up and never allows the eyes to leave the frame. The layers of mountain ranges give a feel of depth only to be lost at infinity.



**André Torres\_FRANCE**

The beauty of this picture lies in the artistic s-curve of the coastline. The two intermingled colours of the seashore and the water have formed a magic. The rays of sunlight falling on the castle shining in gold, has created an aura of charm. But a little cropping from the top will help to remove the bright clouds which are breaking the mystic ambiance that has been carefully created by the author. Also following the rule of third, positioning the subject in one of the golden points would make it even more interesting.

**Alain Gaymard\_FRANCE**

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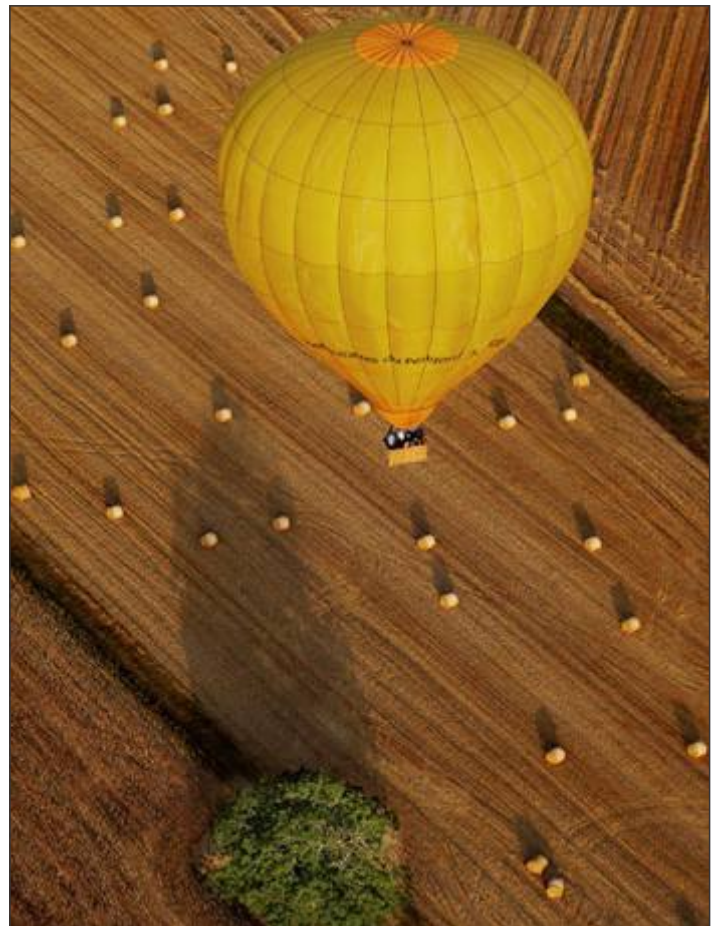


**Marie-Louise Bernard\_FRANCE**

This is an artistic depiction of the famous Jacques Chaban-Delmas Bridge and a perfect instance of architectural photography. The cloud and the reflection add to the beauty of a famous landmark that has been snapped often.

**Monique Corriol\_FRANCE**

This picture is a perfect shot for travel interests with an unconventional angle of view. The popularity of balloon festivals has always been there among photographers



**Samoyault Guy\_FRANCE**

Amidst the rustic wild nature, man has cultivated flower beds. The eyes of the spectator move smoothly along the curved lines of the flower beds only to appreciate the contrasting colour combination of the scene. Had the frame been a little wider with relief on top, the expansiveness of nature would have been cherished even more.

India has often been depicted as the land of mystery, philosophy and religion. The photographs representing India are experimental, profoundly psychological, and abstract in nature.



**Benu Sen\_MFIAP, Hon. EFIAP, FRPS\_INDIA**

In this image, the flawlessly round shaped pearls are symbols of purity and divinity. The perfect white pearls with beautiful lustre depict femininity and love but the ankle lock position signifies uncertainty and fear– negating the emotion of love and passion with the gesture of hands; trust is broken purity of relation is lost. The scattered and torn pearl string shows the exhaustion of emotion that leads to the path of wisdom and spirituality.



**Biswatosh Sengupta - AFIAP, ESFIAP, MICS\_INDIA**

The image depicts the multiple personalities of a person. The dilemma is shown by various shades using filter effect in the figure at the right hand. It may be surmised that one figure is interrogating the identity of the other. The figures supplement each other for a complete personality. Spectators can readily connect with the complicity of the character. The aesthetics of the creation has reached its desired height keeping the grammar intact.



**Kaushik Majumder - EFIAP\_INDIA**

Kaushik Majumdar's image is a typical scene of rural Bengal, an eastern state in India. After harvesting, crops are processed for the final product. Here the processing of paddy is done by local village women. The interesting point in this picture is the angle of view; it has been captured in backlight which has promoted the shot to a pictorial from a mere documentation.



#### **Kusmi Majumdar-EFIAP\_INDIA**

Many of us have experienced disaster in our life in the two morbid years of the pandemic. A time was such that no ray of hope could be seen but pleading to the evil, Covid-19, to let us live. The red and blue colours in the background—red implies danger and ailment due to the pandemic which gradually turns to blue, the colour of faith; the fictional character 'Spiderman' being the saviour contrasting with the dead tree trunk holding the poster. Children wearing masks are **the hope for the future.**

#### **Malay Basu-**

##### **EFIAP, FFIP, GPA.PESGSPC\_INDIA**

Rainy days have a pensive mood besides being pleasant and tranquil. The rain drops on the glass and the stormy trees form a misty romantic ambiance. The pensive mood of the weather is well signified by the depressed face of a girl. The expertise in delivering the mood is fascinating.



#### **Partha Sarathi Sarkar-**

##### **EFIAP, ARPS, Hon. EFMPA\_INDIA**

Landscapes are there in nature in abundance, but the unparalleled landscape imagined by the author here was only within him. The author has made us believe the nonexistent scene. He takes us to the illusive world of fantasy and makes us stroll there in the moonlit night. The super neatness and contrast in tones, opposites of subject choice create a delusion of reality and surreality. This image is a jewel in the crown.



#### **Conclusion**

Man has used various tools to create Art, be it the pen of the writer, the brush of the painter, the chisel of the sculptor, or more recently the camera of the photographer. Even though Photography is the youngest of the visual Arts, it has emerged as the most powerful avenue of satisfaction in recent time. It is expected that this article will provide a glimpse of Photography of the four countries viz. Vietnam, Cyprus, France and India. Let Photography flourish and increase happiness of the Society and go a long way to foster International fraternity through Photographic Art.

#### **Acknowledgements:**

I express my sincere gratitude to all those who directly or indirectly helped us to write this article, particularly to Prof. Andreas who requested me to write on it.

# Upcoming Salons / Circuits

## DEWAS CIRCUIT 2023

International Digital Circuit

Closing Date: 4th July 2023

Recognition no.: – PSA 2023-276, 2023/FIP/18-19-20/2023, FIAP 2023/237-239, WPAI 2023/021-23 & KKPC 004-006/2023

4 Sections – Monochrome- Open, Color- Open, Color Theme - People & Photo Travel

Website: <https://kalakumbhdewas.com/>

## UJJAIN SALON 2023

International Digital Salon

Closing Date: 8th July 2023

Recognition no. : 2023/FIP/32/2023, FIAP 2023/456, WPAI 2023/048

4 Sections – PIDM- Open, PIDC- Open, Nature & Photo Travel

Website: <https://ujjainphotoclub.com/>

## SAM CIRCUIT 2023

International Digital Circuit

Closing Date: 13th August 2023

Recognition no.: PSA 2023-265 & WPAI 2023/024-029

8 Sections – PIDM- Open, PIDM-Theme- City Life, PIDC- Open, PIDC-Theme- People, Nature, Wildlife, Photojournalism & Photo Travel

Website: <https://wpaidelhi.com/>

## JCM CIRCUIT 2023

International Digital Circuit

Closing Date: 21st August 2023

Recognition no. : – PSA 2023-324, WPAI 2023/030-035 & JCM 004-009/2023

8 Sections – PIDM- Open, PIDM-Theme- City Life, PIDC- Open, PIDC-Theme- People, Nature, Wildlife, Photojournalism & Photo Travel

Website: <https://jcmcircuits.com/>

## FOTOFLASH CIRCUIT 2023

International Digital Circuit

Closing Date: 15th September 2023

Recognition no. : – 2023/FIP/062-063-064/2023, FIAP 2023/390-392, GPU L230116-M1G, WPAI 2023/042- 044 & JCM 010-012/2023

5 Sections - Monochrome (PIDM), Monochrome - Theme - City Life (PID), Color (PIDC), Color - Theme - People (PIDC) & Photo Travel (PTD)

Website: <https://jcmcircuits.com/>

## NEW IMAGE CIRCUIT 2023

## International Digital Circuit

Closing Date: 1st September 2023

Recognition no. : – PSA 2023-XXX, WPAI 2023/036-041 & NIC 004-009/2023

5 Sections – Monochrome (PIDM), Monochrome – Theme - City Life (PID), Color (PIDC), Color – Theme - People (PIDC), Nature (ND), Wildlife(ND), Photojournalism (PJD) & Photo Travel (PTD)

Website: <https://newimageclub.org/>

## FOTOCULT CIRCUIT 2023

International Digital Circuit

Closing Date: 6th November 2023

Recognition no. : – PSA 2023-477, 2023/FIP/086-087-088, FIAP 2023-521-522-523 & WPAI 2023/048-050

4 Sections – Monochrome (PIDM), Monochrome – Theme - City Life (PID), Color (PIDC) & Color – Theme - People (PIDC)

Website: <https://wpaidelhi.com/>

## ITARSI SALON 2023

International Digital Salon

Closing Date: 20th November 2023

Recognition no. : – PSA 2023-XXX, NIC 005/2023, 2023/FIP/096/2023, FIAP 2023-524 & WPAI 2023/52

4 Sections – Open Monochrome (PIDM), Open Color (PIDC), Nature (ND) & Photo Travel (PTD)

Website: <https://newimageclub.org>

## WPAI SALON 2023

International Digital Salon

Closing Date: 10th December 2023

Recognition no. : – PSA 2023-XXX, 2023/FIP/092/2023, FIAP 2023-537 & WPAI 2023/51

4 Sections – PIDM- Open, PIDM-Theme- City Life, PIDC- Open, & PIDC- Theme- People

Website: <https://wpaidelhi.com/>

## LENS OF LIGHT SALON 2023

International Digital Salon

Closing Date: 20th December 2023

Recognition no. : – PSA 2023-XXX, 2023/FIP/097/2023, FIAP 2023-536, WPAI 2023/53 & UPC2023/001

4 Sections – PIDM- Open, PIDC- Open, Nature (ND) & Photo Travel

Website: <https://ujjainphotoclub.com/>

# Requirements for Articles Submitted to WPAI Newsletter

## WPAI Newsletter Timetable

July Edition - Closing date for articles 31st May

October Edition - Closing date for articles 31st August

January Edition - Closing date for articles 30th November

April Edition - Closing date for articles 28th February

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

## Criteria for Articles

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.

Do not send the articles in PDF format!

## Photos for Inclusion With Your Article

Maximum of 15 photos.

Must be 1024px on longest dimension, at 96ppi, regardless of photo orientation.

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.

If the position or order of the photos in your article is important, please put the file name in red text in your article and we will endeavour to place it there. Depending on page layout, be aware it may not always be possible to place the photo exactly where you would like it.

\*\* 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.

## Submission of Articles

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](mailto:officewpaidelhi@gmail.com) / [wpaidelhi@gmail.com](mailto:wpaidelhi@gmail.com)

Please do not email photos unless instructed to do so by the WPAI Newsletter Editor

## Permissions

It is a requirement that those submitting articles have acquired the necessary permissions to publish the images they are submitting to WPAI Newsletter. Authors of articles must ensure that the material they provide does not breach the copyright of any other party.

## Regulations

All those submitting items to WPAI Newsletter for possible publication must ensure they have read the Regulation for Publishing Articles in WPAI Newsletter. All articles submitted for possible publication must be accompanied by a "WPAI Newsletter Author's Agreement" form that has to be filled and signed by the author of the article. These documents are available on the WPAI website at: [www.wpaidelhi.com](http://www.wpaidelhi.com)

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