

# WPAI NEWSLETTER

Issue 23, October 2026

Exploring and updating the emerging trends of photography



## A Heartfelt Thank You!

The **Wildlife Photography Association of India (WPAI)** sincerely thanks all photographers, contributors, readers, and well-wishers whose unwavering support, encouragement, and trust have made the **23<sup>rd</sup> Issue of the WPAI Newsletter** possible. **This edition is a celebration of your passion, creativity, and our shared commitment to wildlife photography.**

# Wildlife Photography Association of India

## **WPAI Newsletter**

October 2026

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Cover Photo by – **Verreaux's sifaka (Propithecus verreauxi) by Dr. Sanjay Kumar Shukla**

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## Preface to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Issue

### From the Editor's Desk

Welcome to the **23rd Issue of the WPAI Newsletter**.

Each new edition of our newsletter represents another meaningful chapter in our collective journey — one shaped by creativity, exploration, and a shared passion for wildlife photography and nature conservation. As July brings fresh colours to the natural world and renewed enthusiasm, it inspires us to continue exploring, capturing, and safeguarding the incredible diversity of life on our planet.

This edition celebrates the accomplishments, experiences, and collective efforts of the WPAI community. From remarkable photographic achievements and inspiring conservation efforts to learning opportunities and engaging community initiatives, these pages highlight the dedication and enthusiasm that unite us in our mission.

Our newsletter is more than a collection of stories and photographs; it reflects our shared values, collaborative spirit, and commitment to learning from one another. It provides a platform to exchange ideas, showcase talent, and celebrate the contributions that make the WPAI family stronger.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all our contributors, volunteers, editorial team, and members for their continued encouragement and valuable support. Your time, creativity, and involvement are the driving forces behind this publication, helping it grow into a space for inspiration, meaningful connections, and shared experiences.

As you explore this edition, may you find inspiration in the achievements of fellow photographers, gain fresh insights, and discover new ways to express your passion for the natural world. Let us continue to harness the power of photography to raise awareness, encourage conservation, and preserve our planet's precious wildlife for future generations.

**Thank you for being an essential part of the WPAI community and for contributing to our shared vision.**

Wishing you an enjoyable reading experience and a month filled with creativity, discovery, and inspiring photographic opportunities!

This edition of the WPAI Newsletter brings together a diverse collection of photographic stories, each offering a unique perspective on our cultural heritage, natural world, and human experiences. Moving from one compelling feature to the next, we invite readers on a journey of discovery, reflection, and appreciation through the eyes of our talented contributors.

In this edition of the WPAI Newsletter, we begin our journey with **Chitrangad Kumar**, who takes us to the fascinating Kavi Kamboi Temple, a place where history, culture, and heritage come together. Through his discerning eye and photographic storytelling, he reveals the temple's distinctive character and the details that make it truly memorable. His work invites us to look beyond the visible and discover the stories etched into our cultural treasures, reminding us that every photograph can become a window into our past and a bridge to future generations.

From the timeless beauty of our cultural heritage, we turn our attention to the natural world and our responsibility towards it. In *Putting Nature First: Photography with Responsibility*, **Subhash Sapru** raises an important question: **How far should a photographer go to capture the perfect shot?** With a thoughtful emphasis on patience, ethical conduct, and respect for wildlife, he reminds us that no photograph is worth disturbing an animal or damaging its habitat. His message encourages us to look beyond the lens and understand that the true beauty of nature lies in allowing it to flourish undisturbed.

Moving from the wilderness to the lives of a remarkable community, **Dinesh Kothari** takes us on an evocative journey into the world of the Rebari people. Through his photographs, we follow their migratory journeys, encounter their enduring traditions, and discover the resilience that shapes their way of life. Each image offers a glimpse into a world where identity, belonging, and a deep connection with nature remain inseparable. More than a visual narrative, his work preserves the memories of a living culture and invites us to discover the human stories that deserve to be seen, understood, and remembered.

Our journey then takes us deep into the rainforests of Madagascar, where **Dr. Sanjay Kumar Shukla** introduces us to one of the animal kingdom's most captivating inhabitants—the lemurs. In *Eyes of the Rainforest: The Lemurs of Madagascar*, their expressive faces, curious behaviour, and fascinating presence come alive through his lens. But behind these enchanting encounters lies a fragile world facing the challenges of habitat loss and environmental change. This compelling photo essay offers both a celebration of extraordinary biodiversity and a timely reminder that protecting these unique creatures also means safeguarding the rainforests they call home.

From the exotic rainforests of Madagascar, we return to the diverse landscapes of Karnataka, where **K M Narayanaswamy** unveils the wonders of the state's rich wildlife heritage. Through his captivating photographs, forests, grasslands, and wetlands reveal a world filled with remarkable species, intriguing behaviour, and unexpected moments of natural beauty. Each frame reflects the patience and observation that wildlife photography demands, while offering readers an intimate glimpse into the lives of creatures that often remain hidden from view. His feature inspires us to celebrate Karnataka's natural wealth and recognise that its conservation is a responsibility we all share.

Bringing this photographic journey to a close, **Prof. Biswatosh Sengupta** invites us to explore a different dimension of photography—one where the human form becomes a canvas for artistic expression. In his feature on *Sensuality in Photography*, he examines the subtle interplay of light, shadow, form, and emotion through the sensitive portrayal of the female nude. Moving beyond conventional perceptions of beauty, he explores how elegance, vulnerability, confidence, and individuality can find expression through a carefully composed image. His perspective highlights the importance of artistic vision,

technical mastery, trust, and respect, demonstrating how sensual photography, when approached with sensitivity and integrity, can transcend mere representation and become an eloquent expression of art.

Together, these six features take us across temples and traditions, through untamed wilderness and distant rainforests, into the lives of communities, and finally into the realm of artistic expression. Each offers a different reason to pause, observe, and see the world with renewed curiosity. **That, perhaps, is the true power of photography—not simply to show us what is before our eyes, but to help us discover what might otherwise go unnoticed.** We invite you to turn the pages of this edition and experience these compelling stories through the eyes of our contributors.

Together, these features remind us that photography is much more than the act of capturing an image. It is a way of telling stories, preserving memories, celebrating diversity, and inspiring a deeper connection with our shared heritage and natural environment.

We invite you to turn the pages, explore each story, and experience the world through the distinctive lenses of our contributors. May this edition inspire you to observe more closely, appreciate more deeply, and photograph with greater sensitivity and purpose.

Thanking you  
Chitrangad Kumar  
(Chief Editor)  
WPAI Newsletter

# Kavi Kamboi Temple, Gujarat - A Photographer's Encounter with the Sea

Photo and text by Chitrangad Kumar

On 1 September 2026, I travelled to Ahmedabad with a special destination in mind: Stambheshwar Mahadev Temple at Kavi Kamboi, Gujarat. As a photographer, I am always drawn to places where nature, culture and faith come together to tell compelling stories. I had read casually about this extraordinary Shiva temple, which appears to disappear beneath the seawater and re-emerge as the tide recedes. However, I had not researched the tidal timings or the dates on which these changes could be best observed.

The thought of capturing this unusual phenomenon through my lens filled me with anticipation.



Coastal Temple Pilgrimage Pavilion



Saffron Temple Tower Beneath Blue Skies



Coastal Temple Under a Blue Sky



Sunlit Temple Corridor with Bell



Vivid Shiva Temple Ritual Scene



Vibrant Shiva Lingam Temple Ritual



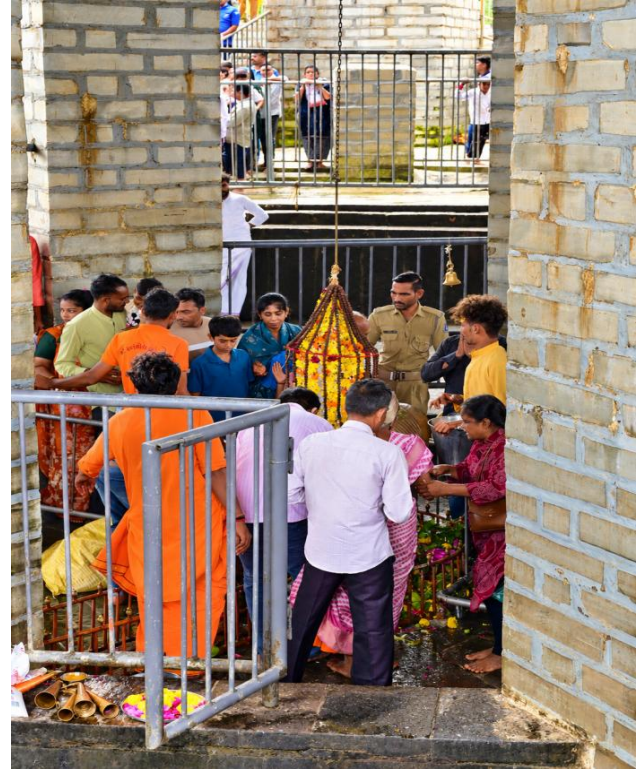
Devotees Gather at a Shiva Shrine



Ornate Brass Temple Trident Shrine



Temple Garland Water Offering



Temple Ritual Beneath a Floral Canopy



Nandi Brass Pourer Ritual



Vibrant Hindu Temple Shrine Ritual



Wet Hand Holding Ritual Brass Cup



Ceremonial Fish Sculpture with Marigolds



Colorful Fishing Boat on Tidal Flats



Vibrant Low-Tide Coastal Mudflat-2



Colorful Fishing Boat on Vast Mudflats



Sunlit Shiva Lingam Shrine



Illuminated Kavi Kamboi Temple Entrance at Night

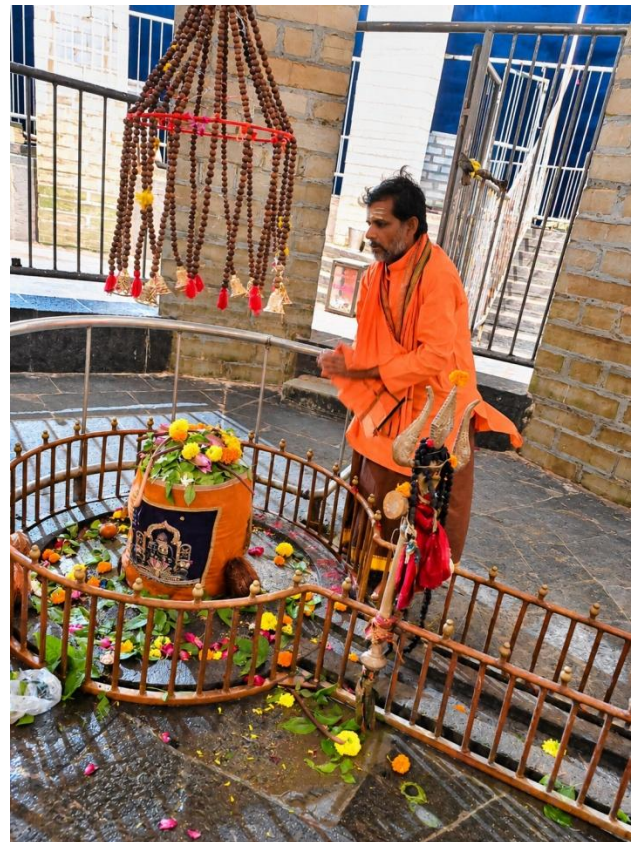
### Two Days, Two Different Experiences

I reached the temple relatively late on the first day. Although I had limited time to explore the surroundings, I managed to photograph the temple during the ebb, when the seawater was receding and the shrine was becoming visible. The experience was fascinating, but I soon realised that I needed more time to understand the rhythm of this remarkable place.

Curiosity prompted me to return early the following morning.



Saffron-Clad Priest Blessing Flower-Adorned Shrine



Temple Shrine with Floral Offerings and Worshipper



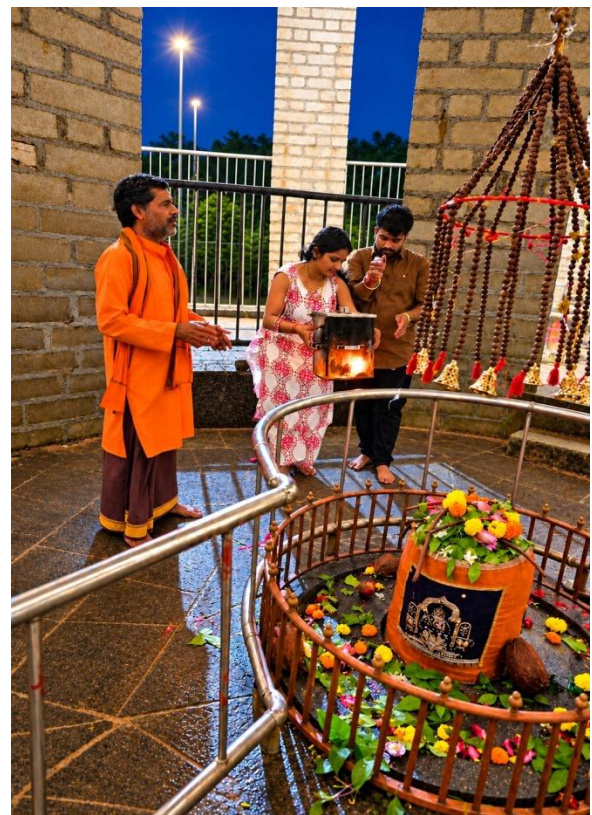
Temple Shrine Ritual with Offerings-1



Floral Hindu Shrine on Stone Floor-1



Child Holding Offering at Temple Shrine

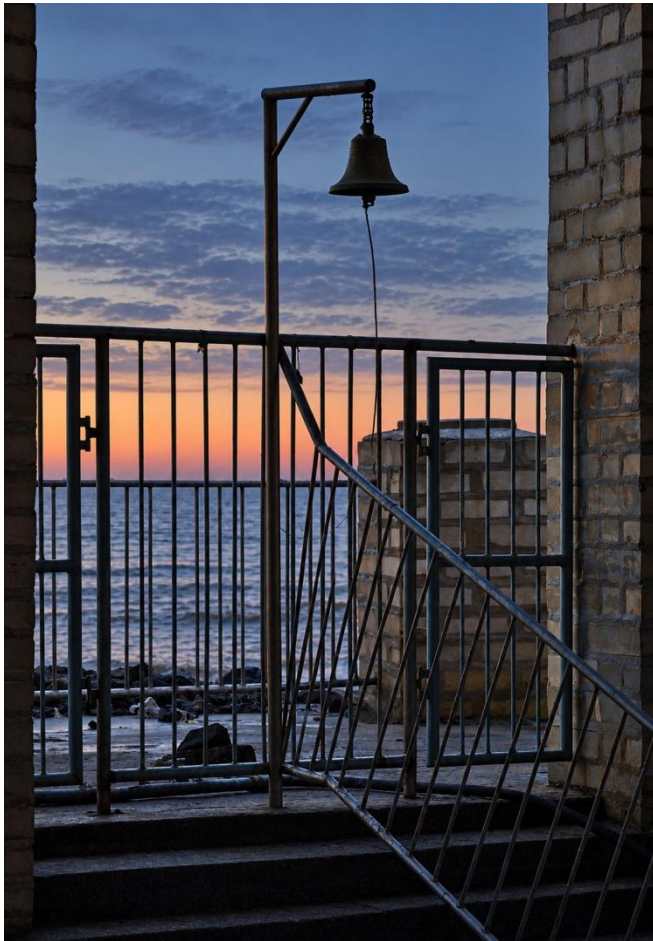


Couple Offers Aarti as Pandit ji Adorns the Shivling at Dawn

At around 5:30 a.m., I arrived to find the vast expanse of the sea illuminated by the soft light of dawn. The atmosphere was calm, and the gentle movement of the water created a sense of anticipation. This time, I witnessed and photographed the rising tide as the seawater advanced towards the shrine.

The contrast between the two visits was striking. On the first day, I photographed the ebb; on the second, I captured the incoming tide. Together, these experiences offered two different perspectives on the remarkable relationship between the temple and the sea.

As the water advanced, it gradually covered portions of the shrine, making access increasingly difficult. The changing reflections, moving waves and soft morning light provided fascinating photographic opportunities. I tried to capture not just the physical transformation of the temple but also the atmosphere surrounding this unusual place of worship.



Hindu Shrine Behind Iron Gate



Devotees offer prayers to the Shivling submerged by the rising tide



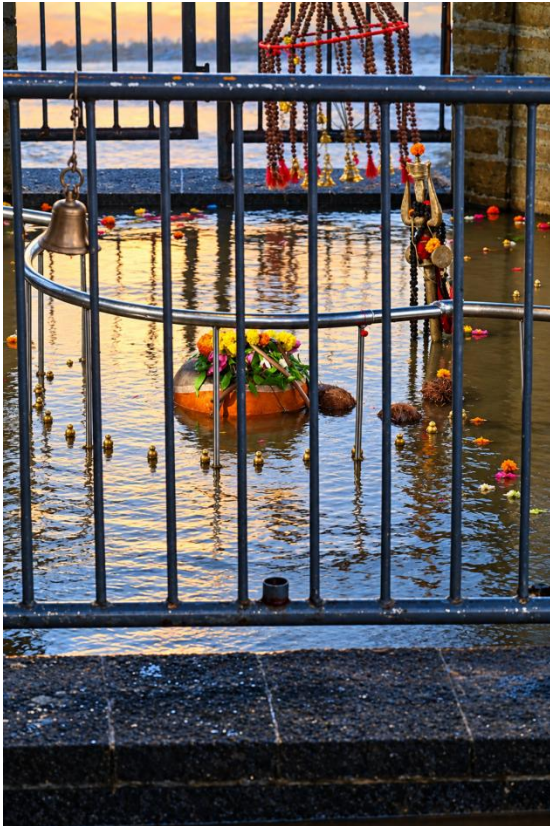
Mossy Shrine with Vibrant Floral Offerings



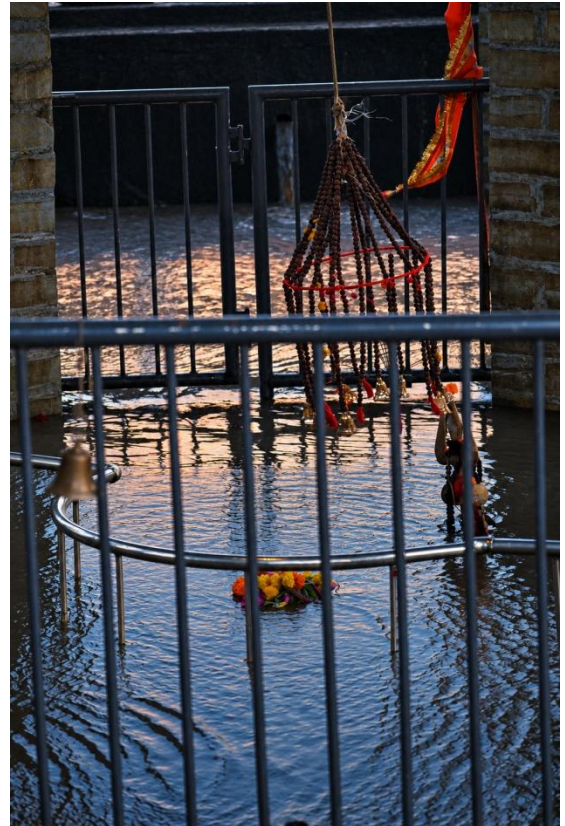
Water Shrine with Marigold Offerings



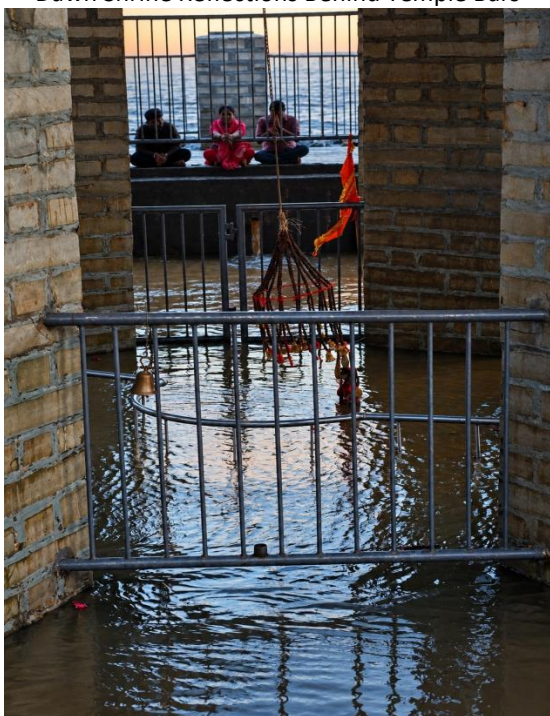
Coastal Temple at Golden Hour



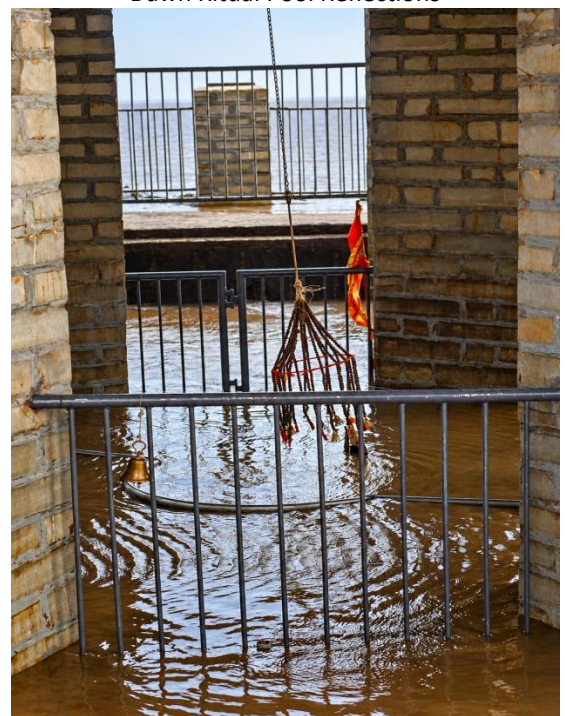
Dawn Shrine Reflections Behind Temple Bars



Dawn Ritual Pool Reflections



Blue-Hour Waterside Shrine Reflections



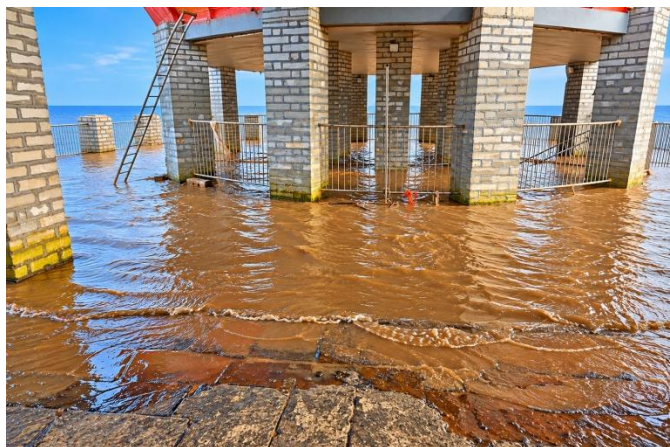
Flooded Riverside Shrine Pavilion



Dawn Shrine Beneath a Clouded Sky



Golden Spires Above the Cloudscape



Flooded Seaside Pavilion at High Tide



Flooded Coastal Pavilion Corridor



Riverside Temple Donation Gathering



Tribal Damru Tattoo on Forearm-2

### Where Faith Remains Unwavering

Among the many moments I witnessed, one left a particularly deep impression on me: the sight of the priest performing his rituals.



Colorful Fishing Boat Under Fluttering Flags



Moody Coastal Fishing Fleet



Red Seaside Temple at Golden Hour



Golden Rays Over Coastal Waters



Temple Entrance and Halwa Stall



Women at a Colorful Halwa Stall

As the tidal water advanced towards the temple, the priest remained on the shore, continuing his prayers from a safe distance. When the water receded sufficiently to permit access, he entered the shrine and performed pooja at the sacred Shivaling. Other devotees were also present, waiting patiently for their opportunity to offer prayers.

Through my camera, I tried to capture more than the movement of the sea. I wanted to document the devotion of the priest and the worshippers, whose faith remained at the heart of this extraordinary setting.

The sea was constantly changing, yet the devotion of the people remained steadfast. This contrast became the most compelling aspect of my visit. It was a rare meeting of nature and spirituality, reminding me that the significance of a sacred place lies not merely in its appearance but also in the beliefs and traditions it sustains.



Smiling Boy on a Golden Shoreline



Golden Coastal with Fishing Boats



Temple Pavilion



Sunrise Temple by the Sea

### The Legend of Stambheshwar Mahadev

Also known as Kavi Kamboi Temple, Stambheshwar Mahadev Temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and is located in Kavi Kamboi village, Jambusar taluka, Bharuch district, Gujarat. Situated along the Gulf of Khambhat, it is renowned for its unusual tidal phenomenon.

According to Hindu mythology, Kartikeya, the son of Lord Shiva, defeated the demon Tarakasura and established a Shivaling at the site. The Skanda Purana also refers to a sacred pillar known as Vishwanandak Stambh, associated with the Mahi Sagar Sangam Teerth Kshetra.

Architecturally, the temple is relatively simple. Its uniqueness lies in its location and the movement of the sea. During high tide, the seawater can submerge the shrine, while the receding tide gradually reveals it again, making the sacred Shivaling accessible to devotees.

This natural spectacle has earned the temple its popular reputation as the *disappearing Shiva temple*.

### A Lesson in Preparation

Local traditions often associate significant tidal variations with Amavasya (new moon) and Purnima (full moon). However, the actual timing and extent of submersion depend on local tidal conditions and can vary from day to day.

I must admit that I had only read casually about the temple before my visit. Although I knew about its disappearing phenomenon, I was unaware of the specific dates and tidal timings required to plan my photography around the complete cycle. I had not studied the local tide schedule carefully enough to anticipate precisely when the water would rise or recede.

Looking back, better preparation would have helped me understand the phenomenon more thoroughly and capture a more complete photographic sequence. For anyone planning a similar visit, checking the latest local tide information and confirming access conditions with the temple authorities beforehand would be worthwhile.

Nevertheless, the experience was far from disappointing. Photographing the ebb on the first day and the incoming tide on the second gave me a valuable opportunity to observe the sea's changing relationship with the shrine.

### Beyond the Frame

My journey to Stambheshwar Mahadev Temple became much more than a photographic excursion. It reminded me that photography is not simply about capturing a beautiful frame; it is also about patience, observation, research and understanding the story unfolding before us.

The sea follows its own rhythm, indifferent to our plans, while the faith of the devotees continues through its changing cycles. Standing there, watching the waters advance and recede, I felt privileged to witness this remarkable coexistence of nature and spirituality.

I returned with photographs of the temple, the changing tides and the devotion of its worshippers. More importantly, I carried home a deeper appreciation of the connection between nature and faith.

**Some destinations offer beautiful photographs, while others leave a lasting impression on the photographer. Stambheshwar Mahadev Temple did both, teaching me that the most meaningful images often emerge when we look beyond the frame and seek to understand the story behind it.**



Temple Sunrise with Saffron Flags

# Putting Nature First: Photography with Responsibility

Photo and text by Subhash Sapru



Nature photography is enjoying a surge in its popularity, attracting both emerging and seasoned photographers. Camera and lens manufacturers are racing to keep pace, equipping their gear with advanced features that make capturing birds in flight or fleeting natural moments easier than ever. Yet amid this technological progress, one truth remains: nature, which sustains our lives and inspires our art, deserves our care and respect.

At a recent webinar on *Putting Nature First*, Alyce Bender—Tamron Ambassador and Texas Region Nature First Ambassador—underscored the importance of responsible photography. She reminded

participants that the seven principles of “Nature First” apply equally to wildlife and landscape photography. “These guidelines are not there to limit us,” she said, “they are there to keep the landscapes we love safe for the next photographer who stands in our footsteps.”

Her warning was vivid: vegetation grows by the inch, but dies by the foot. Human trampling destroys fragile ecosystems, and careless behaviour can harm wildlife. To counter this, the Nature First principles urge photographers to:

- Prioritize nature’s well-being over photography
- Learn about the places they photograph
- Consider the impact of their actions
- Use discretion when sharing locations
- Follow rules and regulations
- Practice *Leave No Trace* and leave places better than found
- Promote and educate others about these principles

Quoting Mother Teresa—*“I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples”*—Bender highlighted the ripple effect of responsible choices.

The call for responsibility extends beyond individual photographers. Conservation organizations worldwide are educating communities about protecting birds, animals, and ecosystems. When we enter the wild, we are not just photographers; we are guardians. Every footprint, every tripod mark leaves a trace—our goal as photographers is to make sure our images outlast our impact.

What hurts most is improper disposal of waste at public lands, parks and natural ecosystems. She aptly drew attention of the people saying that with the internet at our fingertips and in the palm of our hand particularly 24/7, ignorance of rules and regulations is not a viable excuse for breaking them. Remember, a photograph must never come at the expense of the subject. Yet nature faces threats far greater than careless photography. Public lands are increasingly opened to extraction and development, protections for endangered species are being weakened, and climate policies reversed. The result is shrinking habitats, rising temperatures, and biodiversity loss at alarming rates. While some leaders advocate for conservation, too often short-term economic gains outweigh long-term ecological stability.

Bird clubs and conservation groups are stepping in, reminding members that they are not passive observers, but witnesses and interpreters of nature. Through images and words, photographers can show what is at stake, inspire awareness, and encourage action.

The reality is sobering: we may never again see Earth as it was just a few decades ago. But we are not powerless. Each camera is more than a tool—it is a means to preserve memory, stir emotion, and spark change.

To truly honour the landscapes and wildlife we cherish, photographers must embrace a deeper commitment: to always put nature first.

# **Project statement - Rebari community; Seasonal migration, struggle and enduring beauty**

Photo and text by Dinesh Kothari

Rebari also known as the Raika, are a traditional pastoral nomad community of western India, particularly rooted in Rajasthan,

For centuries their lives have been inseparable from camels, sheep and goats.

Making animal husbandry not just a livelihood but a cultural responsibility, This deep historical bond has shaped their identity, rituals, attire and migratory patterns.

Seasonal migration lies at the heart of rebari life, with the onset of drought, scarcity of fodder, entire families migrate across long distances,



Caravan Across the Horizon



Carrying a Way of Life



The Travelling Family



A Bond Beyond Words



Little Girl, Gentle Giants



Life Behind the Woven Walls



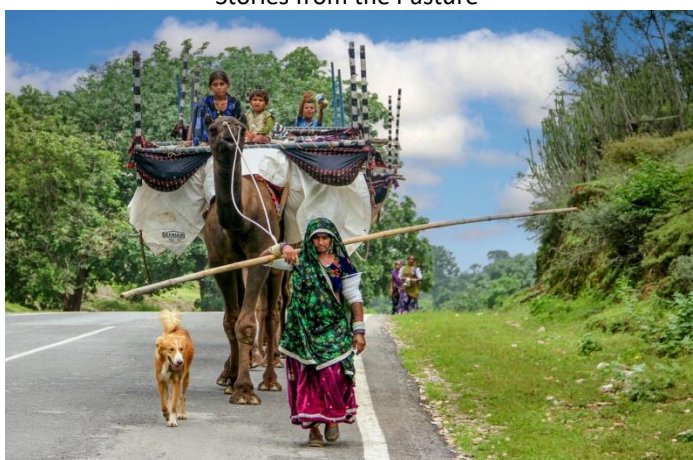
Pride Beneath the Turban



Stories from the Pasture



Tradition in Motion



The Caravan of Life



Carvan



Through Dust and Light



The Caravan Moves On



The Road of the Shepherd

Camels become moving homes-carrying children, utensils, bedding, while men guide herds and women manage daily survival, This migration is not a choice born of adventure, but of necessity, driven by climate uncertainty, shrinking grazing commons, and economic vulnerability.

The journey is filled with difficulty, harsh weather, exhaustion. Children grow up on the move, learning geography through footsteps rather than classroom. Yet, within this hardship exists resilience - an inherited strength passed down through generations.

Amid struggle, there is undeniable beauty. The rhythmic movement of camels at dawn. Vibrant textiles against arid landscapes, and the quite dignity of a community living in harmony with nature create powerful visual poetry, their migration is not merely physical, it is cultural continuity in motion, Each journey carries songs, stories, craftsmanship and knowledge of land and seasons that modern life is rapidly forgetting.

It is living testimony to resilience, tradition, and the timeless bond between humans, animals and land

# Eyes of the Rain forest : The Lemurs of Madagascar

Photo and text by Dr. Sanjay Kumar Shukla

A Photo Essay on Madagascar's Most Extraordinary Inhabitants

Madagascar is often called the “eighth continent,” a place so unique and isolated that life has evolved there in ways found nowhere else on Earth. Separated from mainland Africa for millions of years, the island is home to an astonishing variety of plants and animals, many of which exist nowhere else. Among its most iconic residents are the lemurs—engaging, intelligent, and remarkably diverse primates whose stories are deeply intertwined with the history and future of Madagascar itself.

My first trip to Madagascar was an unforgettable adventure and one of the most rewarding wildlife photography experiences I have ever had. From the moment I arrived, I was captivated by the island's extraordinary biodiversity, dramatic landscapes, and unique wildlife found nowhere else on Earth. The photographs that follow celebrate the wonder of Madagascar's lemurs—a world of curious eyes, agile movements, ancient forests, and enduring hope. They stand as a testament to nature's creativity and as a call to preserve one of Earth's most extraordinary biological treasures for generations to come.



Ring-tailed Lemur (*Lemur catta*)

The lemurs of Madagascar represent an evolutionary journey that began millions of years ago. Scientists believe that the ancestors of modern lemurs arrived on the island long before monkeys and apes became dominant elsewhere. In the absence of many competing primates and predators, these early settlers diversified into dozens of species, occupying habitats ranging from tropical rainforests to dry deciduous woodlands and spiny deserts. Today, this remarkable evolutionary experiment has produced animals of striking variety, each uniquely suited to its environment.

One of the highlights of my journey was visiting the **Berenty Reserve**, a renowned private reserve in southern Madagascar known for its unique dry forest ecosystem. Unlike the lush rainforests of eastern Madagascar, Berenty is characterized by a much drier landscape, dominated by tamarind trees, spiny vegetation, and open woodland. This distinctive habitat supports a remarkable variety of wildlife specially adapted to survive in challenging conditions.

Berenty offered some of my most memorable encounters with lemurs. The reserve is particularly famous for its large populations of **Verreaux's Sifakas**, and I was thrilled to observe these charismatic primates in their natural environment. Watching them move gracefully through the trees was fascinating, but their behavior on the ground was even more captivating. With their characteristic sideways hops and outstretched arms, the sifakas appeared to dance across the forest floor, a spectacle that fully justified their reputation as Madagascar's iconic "dancing lemurs."



Verreaux's sifaka (*Propithecus verreauxi*)

Of the three sifaka species I observed, the Verreaux's Sifaka left the strongest impression on me. Often celebrated as Madagascar's iconic "dancing lemur," it is renowned for its graceful sideways hops across the ground, a unique form of locomotion shared by sifakas but most famously associated with this species. Witnessing this behavior in the wild was both captivating and unforgettable, highlighting the remarkable adaptations that have evolved in Madagascar's isolated ecosystems.

Equally delightful were the **Ring-tailed Lemurs**, perhaps Madagascar's most recognizable wildlife ambassadors. Their distinctive black-and-white striped tails and highly social behavior made them a constant source of interest. Unlike many other lemur species that remain high in the canopy, ring-tailed lemurs are often seen foraging and resting on the ground, providing excellent opportunities for observation and photography. Watching family groups interact, groom one another, and bask in the morning sunlight offered wonderful insights into their social lives.



Ring-tailed Lemur (*Lemur catta*)

The contrast between the reserve's arid landscape and the abundance of wildlife made Berenty a truly remarkable destination. Experiencing both Verreaux's Sifakas and Ring-tailed Lemurs in this dry habitat provided a deeper appreciation of Madagascar's ecological diversity and the extraordinary ways its wildlife has adapted to survive in environments ranging from humid rainforests to semi-arid woodlands. My photographs from Berenty capture not only the beauty of these iconic lemurs but also the unique character of one of Madagascar's most celebrated wildlife sanctuaries.

My next destination in Madagascar was **Andasibe-Mantadia National Park**, one of the island's most celebrated protected areas. Located in the eastern part of Madagascar, this vast rainforest is a striking contrast to the dry forests of Berenty. With its dense vegetation, towering trees, lush ferns, and

constant chorus of birds and insects, the park offered an immersive experience in one of Madagascar's richest and most biodiverse ecosystems.

One of the most memorable aspects of visiting Andasibe-Mantadia was witnessing the incredible diversity of lemurs within a relatively small area. Every species seemed to occupy its own ecological niche, displaying unique behaviors, appearances, and adaptations to rainforest life. Whether observing family groups resting in the treetops, listening to calls echoing through the forest, or patiently waiting for the perfect photographic moment, each encounter deepened my appreciation for Madagascar's remarkable natural heritage. The rainforest environment itself added to the magic of the experience. Soft beams of sunlight filtering through the canopy, mist drifting between the trees, and the vibrant shades of green created a spectacular backdrop for wildlife photography.

In Andasibe-Mantadia, I was privileged to witness the **indri**, the largest living species of lemur, in its natural habitat. Unlike many other lemurs, the indri has only a short tail, giving it a distinctive appearance. Seeing these magnificent primates high in the rainforest canopy was a truly unforgettable experience.

What struck me most was their incredible agility and grace. With their powerful legs and long limbs, indri move effortlessly through the forest, leaping remarkable distances between trees as they navigate their arboreal world. Equally mesmerizing were their haunting, melodic calls, which echoed across the rainforest and created an atmosphere unlike anything I had ever experienced.



Indri (Indri indri)

Photographing an indri was far more than simply capturing an image of a rare animal. Every encounter offered a glimpse into the rich biodiversity of Madagascar and the intricate beauty of its rainforest ecosystems. Watching an indri poised among the treetops, listening to its calls resonate through the forest, felt like experiencing the very soul of Madagascar's wilderness.

The **ruffed lemurs** added yet another unforgettable dimension to my Andasibe-Mantadia experience. During my visit, I was fortunate to observe both the **Red Ruffed Lemur** and the **Black-and-White Ruffed Lemur**, two of the most visually striking primates found anywhere in the world. Their magnificent coats, bold color patterns, and lively personalities made them a delight to watch and photograph.



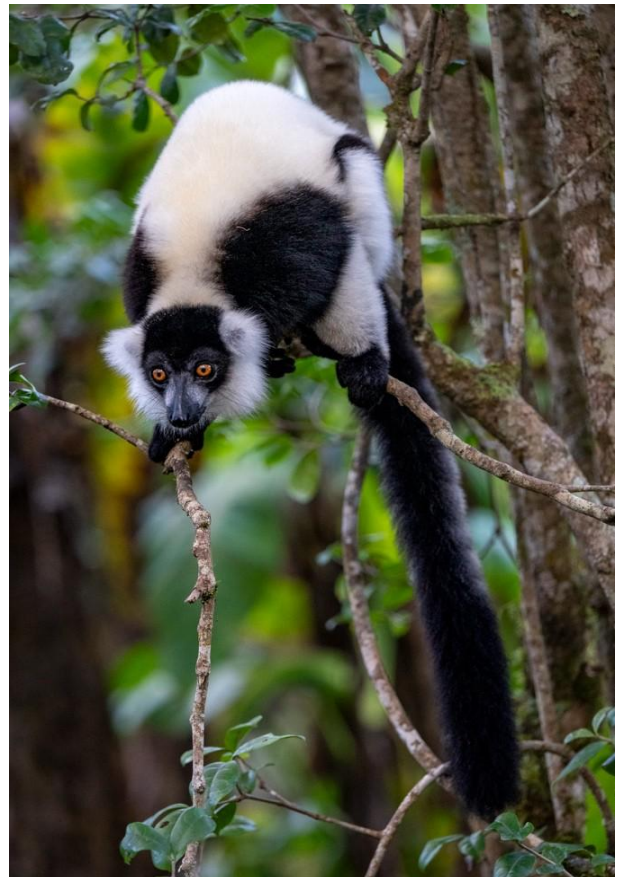
Red ruffed Lemur (*Varecia rubra*)

The **Red Ruffed Lemur**, with its rich chestnut-red fur contrasted by patches of black, stood out brilliantly against the lush green backdrop of the rainforest. Equally captivating was the **Black-and-White Ruffed Lemur**, whose striking monochrome coat created a dramatic and elegant presence high in the forest canopy. The contrast between these two species highlighted the remarkable diversity and beauty of Madagascar's unique wildlife.

Constantly on the move, these agile lemurs leapt effortlessly through the treetops, their long tails helping them maintain balance as they navigated the dense forest. Their energetic behavior, inquisitive nature, and social interactions provided countless memorable photographic opportunities. Sunlight filtering through the rainforest canopy illuminated their vibrant fur, creating stunning scenes that seemed almost too perfect to capture in a single frame.



Black and white ruffed lemur (*Varecia variegata*)



During my visit, I was fortunate to observe and photograph three remarkable sifaka species—**Verreaux's Sifaka**, **Coquerel's Sifaka**, and the **Diademed Sifaka**. Each species was unique in its appearance, behavior, and habitat, offering a fascinating insight into Madagascar's extraordinary biodiversity.



Coquerel's sifakas (*Propithecus coquereli*)



Diademed Sifaka (*Propithecus diadema*)

While these encounters were inspiring, they also served as a sobering reminder of the challenges facing these extraordinary primates. All three sifaka species I observed are classified as **critically endangered**, threatened by habitat loss, deforestation, and ongoing human pressures. Their survival depends on sustained conservation efforts, habitat protection, scientific research, and increased awareness of the importance of preserving Madagascar's unique wildlife.

I also had the opportunity to photograph several other fascinating lemur species, each of which highlighted a different aspect of Madagascar's extraordinary primate diversity. Among them were the **Bamboo Lemur**, the **Common Brown Lemur**, and the elusive **White-footed Sportive Lemur**.

The **Bamboo Lemur** was a particularly interesting species to observe. Adapted to a specialized diet that consists largely of bamboo, it demonstrates the remarkable evolutionary adaptations that have enabled Madagascar's wildlife to thrive in unique ecological niches.



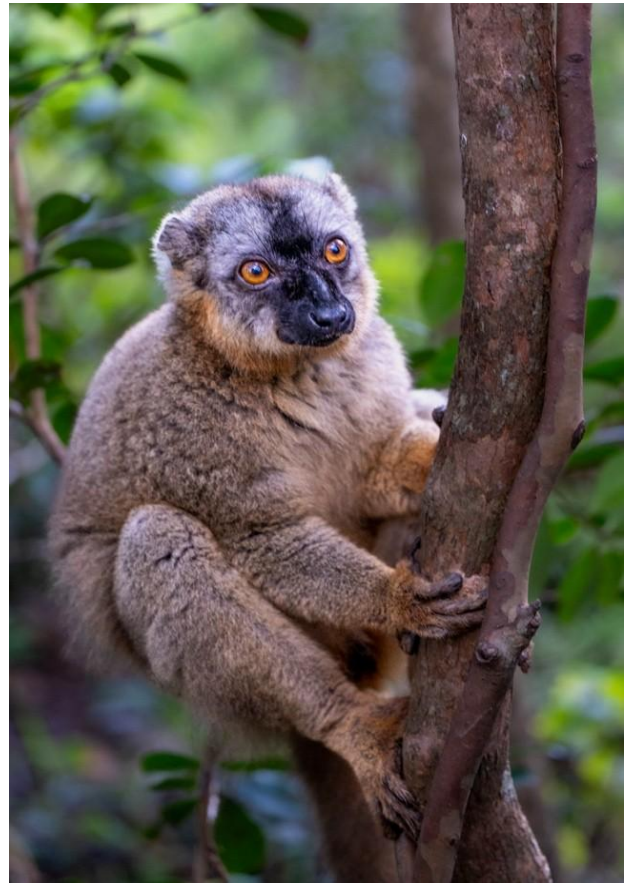
Bamboo Lemur (*Hapalemur griseus*)

The **Common Brown Lemur** brought a different energy to the forest. Highly adaptable and social, these lemurs were often active and curious, moving gracefully through the trees in search of food. Their expressive faces and engaging behavior provided wonderful photographic opportunities and offered a glimpse into the daily life of one of Madagascar's most widespread lemur species.

Equally memorable was the sighting of the **White-footed Sportive Lemur**, a nocturnal species that is seldom seen. Observing this secretive lemur after dark added a sense of adventure to the experience. Its large, reflective eyes, perfectly adapted for night vision, and its quiet, cautious movements through the forest created a magical atmosphere. Photographing a nocturnal animal in its natural environment was challenging, making the encounter all the more special.



White-footed Sportive Lemur (*Lepilemur leucopus*)



Common Brown Lemur (*Eulemur fulvus*)

Together, these species showcased the incredible diversity of Madagascar's lemurs—from specialized bamboo feeders and active social groups to elusive nighttime inhabitants. Each encounter deepened my appreciation for the island's unique ecosystems and reinforced the importance of conserving these remarkable primates and the habitats on which they depend.

One of the most exciting wildlife of Madagascar is **fossa**, the island's largest native predator and a truly unique species found nowhere else on Earth. Renowned for its elusive nature, the fossa is notoriously difficult to spot in the wild, making the sighting particularly special and rewarding.

With its slender body, powerful limbs, and cat-like agility, the fossa moves effortlessly through both the forest floor and the canopy. Watching this remarkable predator navigate its environment with stealth and precision was a fascinating experience. Despite being Madagascar's top carnivore, the fossa remains shy and secretive, often disappearing into the dense vegetation within moments.



Fossa (*Cryptoprocta ferox*)

Beyond the wildlife, Madagascar's unique ecosystems, rich natural beauty, and welcoming atmosphere made every day an adventure. As a photographer, the island offered endless opportunities to observe and capture rare species in extraordinary settings. My first visit to Madagascar exceeded all expectations, leaving me with incredible memories, a portfolio of wildlife images I am proud of, and a deep appreciation for this remarkable island and its unique biodiversity.

Yet the story of Madagascar's lemurs is not solely one of wonder and beauty. It is also a story of vulnerability. Over recent decades, habitat loss, deforestation, agricultural expansion, and other human pressures have dramatically reduced many lemur populations. Forests that once stretched continuously across large regions have become fragmented, leaving animals isolated in shrinking pockets of habitat.

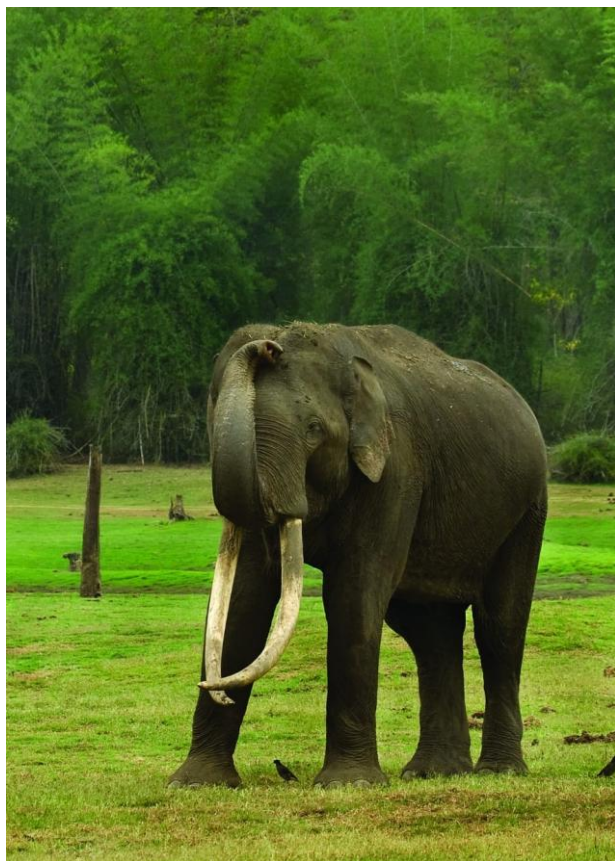
Conservation efforts across Madagascar offer reasons for hope. Local communities, scientists, conservation organizations, and government agencies are working together to protect critical habitats and promote sustainable development. Protected areas have become refuges for many species, while ecotourism has demonstrated the economic value of preserving natural ecosystems.

# Wildlife of Karnataka

Photo by K M Naranswamy









# Sensuality in Photography

text by Prof. Biswatosh Sengupta

*"And what barbarous judge is there that cannot understand that the foot of a man is more noble than his shoe? His skin than that of the sheep from which his clothes are made?"*

**Michelangelo Buonarroti**

## Introduction

The study and artistic representation of the human body has been a constant from the prehistoric times to the present day. Particularly, Nude is a common genre in the visual medium of Art, and Photography is no exception. The nude, often linked to eroticism, can also symbolize various themes, such as mythology, religion, anatomical study, and the pursuit of beauty. In Ancient Greece and Rome, it embodied the ideal of human perfection, reflecting cultural values of aesthetics and balance.

Nude figure, traditionally displayed in Western Art, has been used to depict the beauty and qualities of human body. Nudity in Greece and Rome was considered usual in public baths and during competition. The Greek word Gymnasium refers to a place to be naked. Again, nudity expands the vision of people beyond historical documentation with clothes and accessories and frees the mind to appreciate the human body as a piece of beauty. Unclothed body is transformed into an aesthetic object by the deft intervention of the artist as depicted in the classical paintings of Sandro Botticelli's "BIRTH of VENUS" (1480), Goya's 'La Maja Desnuda' (around 1800), Ingres's 'The VALPINCON BATHER' (1808) and in the famous sculpture 'DAVID' by Michelangelo (1501). [Pic 1 to 4]



Pic 1\_Birth of Venus by Sandro Botticelli



Pic 2\_La Maja Desnuda by Goya

The bare body may at once evoke sensuality and passion or may be a symbol of renunciation depending on the environment in which it is presented. [Pic 5&6] In many Eastern cultures the aim of life is abdication of all worldly possessions including clothing which stands as a barrier between the self and the God. The halo symbolizes reverence and holiness [Pic 7].



Pic 3\_The Valpincon Bather by Ingress



Pic 4\_David by Michelangelo



Pic 5\_Figure with Iris by Edward Steichen



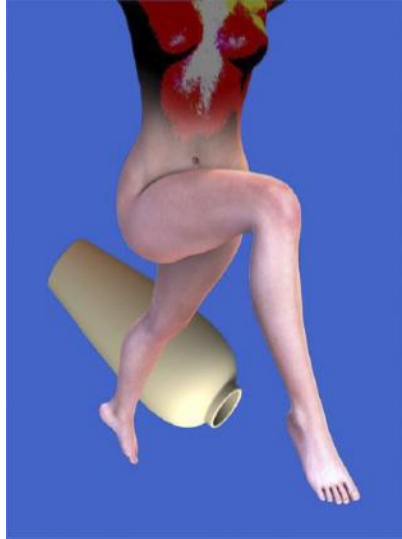
Pic 6\_Forest Fire by Mrinal Pal



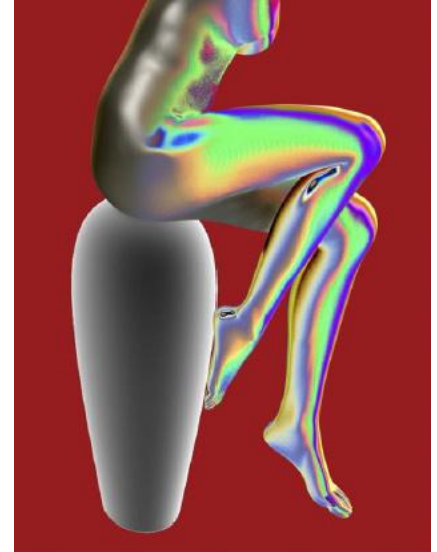
Pic 7\_Beauty by Biswatosh Sengupta



Pic 8\_Posture with Vase1 by Biswatosh Sengupta



Pic 9\_Posture with Vase2 by Biswatosh Sengupta



Pic 10\_Relaxed by Biswatosh Sengupta

The vase, generally represents the storehouse of flowers symbolizing the aspiration for beauty, in this series stands for the urn of life, thereby connecting the female body essentially with the theme of procreation. The journey towards spiritual sublimity must therefore, renounce this biological association, depicted by the escape from the vase. **[Pic 8, to 10]**

I have tried to portray the different moods, feelings and emotions of the subjects in study. It is an assortment of diverse forms of the human nude in classical and experimental postures. The colours used are both bold and subdued depending on the environments, depicting various moods and thoughts. These colours may have various emotional, psychological, aesthetic and spiritual connotations for the viewer depending upon their mental makeup. The study in forms and colours can lift us from the mundane reality towards a world of transcendental beauty.

I have considered the female nude in various forms, colors and postures. The objective is to portray the fulfilment of life through Sensuality at the initial stage and finally Sublimity, renunciation through spiritual enlightenment, i.e.” From Sensuality to Sublimity.”<sup>1</sup>

## Sensuality

Sensuality is the capacity to experience pleasure through the senses—sight, sound, touch, taste, and smell. While often associated with sexuality, sensuality encompasses a broader realm of human experience, extending to the enjoyment of nature, art, food, and personal connections.

The body plays a pivotal role in sensuality, as it is the instrument through which sensory experiences are felt and interpreted. Sensuality fosters a harmonious relationship with the body, where pleasure is not seen as something to be ashamed of but celebrated as a source of joy and vitality.

<sup>1</sup> Owing to restriction of number of words I have dwelt upon only ‘Sensuality in Photography’ in this article and ‘Sublimity in Photography’ will be discussed in another article.

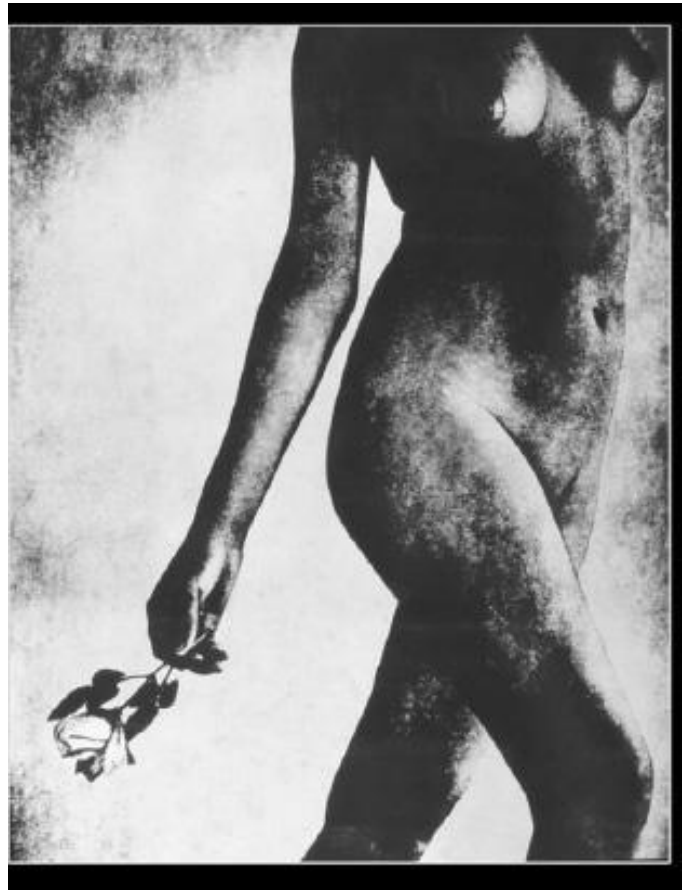
Although sensuality is often linked to sexuality, it is not limited to intimate or sexual contexts. Sensuality is about finding joy and richness in life's simple pleasures.

## Sensuality in Photography

Sensuality in photography is the art of capturing the essence of human emotion, physicality, and intimacy, often emphasizing the interplay between the subject, light, texture, and mood. It is not limited to sexual imagery, but extends to a broad range of experiences—touch, sight, sound, taste, and smell. Unlike overt sexuality, sensuality focuses on subtlety and suggestion, often blending aesthetics and emotion. [Pic 11&12]



Pic 11\_May Morning by Benu Sen



Pic 12\_The Rose by Benu Sen

### Key Elements of Sensual Photography

#### Lighting and Shadows:

Lighting plays a crucial role in evoking sensuality. Controlled light with proper planning is necessary to give stress on the beautiful form of the figure. A sharper light is essential for maintaining contour of the figure at the same time catching high-light; with this overall diffused light for general illumination. Soft, diffused lighting creates a gentle, intimate atmosphere, while strategic use of shadows adds mystery and

intrigue. Low-key lighting, where shadows dominate the frame, often enhances the depth and allure of an image. **[Pic 13]**



Pic 13\_Dream by Benu Sen

Pic 14\_Ivy by Benu Sen



Pic 15\_Dream by Tamal Goswami



Pic 17\_Shyness by Benu Sen



16\_Beauty Is Born by Biswatosh Sengupta

### **Texture and Detail:**

Close-ups of textures, such as skin, fabric, or natural elements, invite the viewer to experience a tactile quality through visual representation. Sensual photography often highlights details, like the curve of a body, the softness of hair, or the way light caresses the skin. **[Pic 14]**

### **Body Language:**

The pose and posture of the subject are central to conveying sensuality. Gestures that are soft, languid, or slightly ambiguous can evoke emotion and curiosity. Hands, in particular, can add layers of expression, whether gently resting or lightly touching. **[Pic 15 to 17]**

**Emotional Connection:**

Sensual photography transcends physicality by capturing the subject's inner world. A gaze, a smirk, or a moment of stillness can communicate vulnerability, confidence, or passion, drawing the viewer into the subject's emotional feelings. **[Pic 18&19]**



Pic 18\_Beauty Is Born by Benu Sen



Pic 19\_ Lost Horizon by Benu Sen



Pic 20\_Figure Study\_Expt\_1 by Biswatosh Sengupta

**Composition and Framing:**

Sensuality often lies in what is *not* shown. Strategic cropping and framing allow the imagination to fill in the gaps, creating a sense of mystery and allure. Negative space can amplify the focus on the subject while creating a harmonious composition. **[Pic 20]**

**Clothing and Styling:**

Wardrobe choices, or the lack thereof, contribute significantly to the mood. Delicate fabrics like silk or lace, loosely draped clothing, or an undone detail like a falling strap can suggest intimacy without being overt. **[Pic 21]**



Pic 21\_Sensual by Tamal Goswami



Pic 22\_Sun Rise by Tamal Goswami



Pic 23\_Sensual Beauty by Tamal Goswami

**Environment and Context:**

The setting can enhance the mood of sensuality. Whether it's a sunlit bedroom, a foggy forest, or a quiet beach, the backdrop often complements the tone and theme of the image, immersing the viewer in the scene's narrative. **[Pic 22&23]**

**Color and Tone:** Color plays a significant role in setting the mood of a sensual photograph. Warm tones like gold, red, or amber can evoke passion and intimacy. **[Pic 24&25]**



Pic 24\_Sensual by Biswatosh Sengupta



Pic 25\_Torso by Biswatosh Sengupta

## Conclusion

Some people view nudity in art as inappropriate or vulgar, overlooking its purpose. In reality, artistic nudity serves crucial roles—particularly in medical studies, where accurate depictions of the human body are essential for understanding anatomy, including bones and muscles.

Sensuality is an enriching and transformative aspect of human life, fostering deeper connections to the world around us and to our own bodies. Sensuality reminds us to savour pleasure, and to cultivate mindfulness in all of our experiences. By embracing our senses and depicting it through photography, we allow ourselves to experience the richness and beauty of life in a more intimate and profound way. True art lies in capturing beauty that is aesthetically pleasing, finally transgressing the limits of sensuality to move us into the realm of sublimity.

## Acknowledgements

I express my sincere gratitude to all the authors of the pictures and Wikipedia and also to those who directly or indirectly helped me to write this article.

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July Edition - Closing date for articles 31<sup>st</sup> May

October Edition - Closing date for articles 31<sup>st</sup> August

January Edition - Closing date for articles 30<sup>th</sup> November

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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.

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.

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Direct the file transfer to email address: [officewpaidelhi@gmail.com](mailto:officewpaidelhi@gmail.com) / [wpaidelhi@gmail.com](mailto:wpaidelhi@gmail.com)

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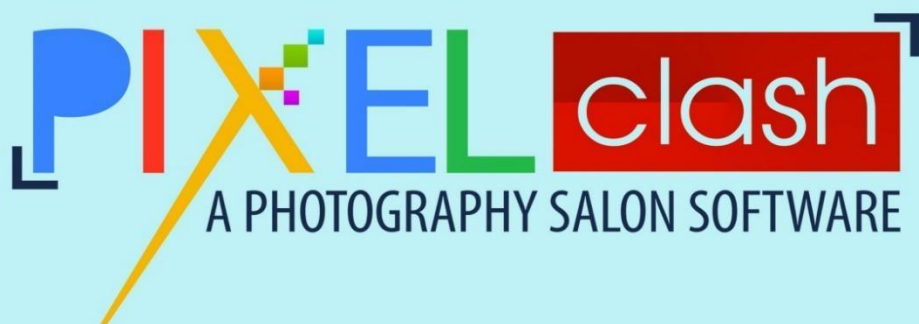
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