

JPC MAGAZINE

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CARAVAN-E-SATTAL The Birding Trip

MOM-ENT MAKERS

Celebrating Moms Behind the
Lens This Mother's Day

LAUGHTER

Photo Feature

UDTI KHABEREIN

APNI TOH

PAATHSHALA

Simple Video Editing at Your
Fingertips

CHITRA TAHAL

Street Faces, Sacred Shadows

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Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

May is a month for reflection – on service, discipline, and sacrifice. As we pursue our craft in safety, it is important to acknowledge those who make it possible. This month, we salute the Indian Defence Forces, who stand firm against terrorism and threats to our nation. Their courage and resolve allow us to capture the world around us in peace.

Photography is not just about art – it is about truth. As image-makers, we have a duty to document stories that matter. Don McCullin once said, "Photography for me is not looking, it is feeling." That feeling drives the most honest frames – especially when focused on those who serve.

In this issue of **JPC Magazine**, we celebrate Mother's Day by highlighting a few inspiring mom photographers who balance creativity and care, proving that strength and storytelling go hand in hand.

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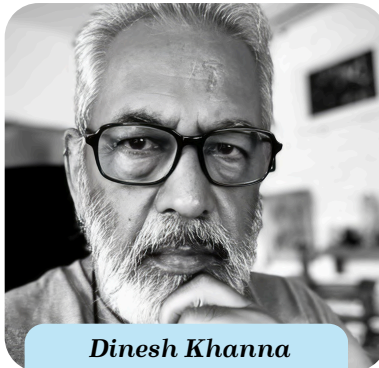
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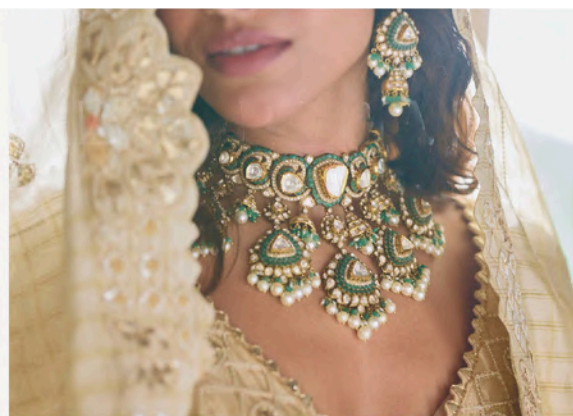
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MOTISONS
—JEWELLERS—

MOM-ENT MAKERS

Celebrating Moms Behind the Lens This **Mother's Day**



Photo: Nikhita Kulkarni

Being a mother is a full-time role. Being a photographer is a full-time passion. But when these two worlds meet—magic happens. For these incredible women, motherhood did not pause their dreams—it gave them a new lens to see the world.

This Mother's Day, we bring you stories of four amazing photographers who prove that with heart, hustle, and a camera—you can capture more than just moments. You can capture meaning.



Photo: Nikhita Kulkarni



Photo: Nikhita Kulkarni

NIKHITA KULKARNI | Bangalore



"Balancing photography and motherhood is a beautiful chaos. My one-and-a-half-year-old daughter inspires me every day, even as she keeps me on my toes. I have been a professional photographer for over nine years, specialising in candid weddings,

maternity, and newborn shoots. My journey began over a decade ago, capturing nature during college tours. Today, I focus on the quiet, emotional moments that often go unnoticed. Through my lens, I tell heartfelt stories - made even more meaningful by the magic of motherhood."

VAISHALI JADAWALA | Ahmedabad



"When my daughter moved abroad, I suddenly found myself with extra time... and a quiet house. I have always been curious about photography, and this felt like the right moment to finally give it a shot. I enrolled in a photography institute, and as I learned

about technical settings and creative framing, I felt something shift in me. I had found my passion. Today, every photo I take is a reminder that it is never too late to start something new especially when it comes from the heart."



Photo: Vaishali Jadawala



Photo: Sonali Kadam



Photo: Vaishali Jadawala

SONALI KADAM | Jaipur



"As a mom and a nature lover, photography helps me breathe. I find peace in the wild - be it sunsets, forests, or birds in flight. It is my time to reconnect with myself. Travelling with my camera is how I reset, recharge, and reflect. For me, photography is more than a hobby.

It is how I capture the emotions that words cannot express. It is where my identity as a woman and an artist comes alive, away from daily routines and responsibilities."



Photo: Sonali Kadam

MANISHA GUPTA | Jaipur



"My daughter was born during the lockdown, and I really wanted to do a newborn shoot for her. But with everything shut, I decided to try it myself. I watched hours of tutorials while juggling postpartum life. I started with a basic camera and a

₹10,000 setup and slowly, people noticed. Friends asked me to shoot their kids, and one session turned into many. The journey was not easy. There were doubts, struggles, and setbacks. But five years later, I am still going strong. Being a mom taught me patience, and photography taught me purpose."



Photo: Manisha Gupta

Apni Toh Paathshala

SIMPLE VIDEO EDITING AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

In today's digital age, video content is the king. Whether you are a budding influencer, a photographer, or simply someone who loves capturing life's little moments, the ability to edit videos is essential. But what if you do not have a hefty budget for expensive software? The good news is that you do not need it! There are plenty of free apps that will allow you to create professional-looking videos right from your phone.

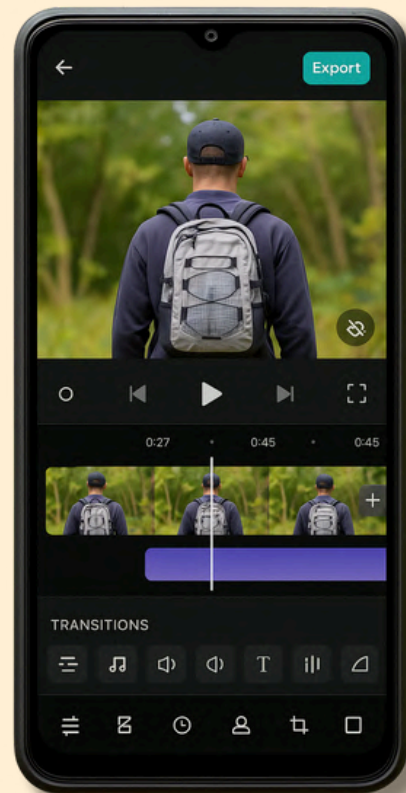


WHY VIDEO EDITING APPS ARE THE FUTURE?

Video editing has come a long way from bulky desktop software and steep learning curves. Today, mobile video editing applications have revolutionised the process, offering easy-to-use tools for anyone from students to travellers to small business owners. Your smartphone is now a complete editing studio in your pocket.

With just a few taps, you can trim footage, add music, apply filters, insert captions, and experiment with transitions no professional skills required. These applications are beginner-friendly, often free or with plenty of free features.

Whether you are editing a vlog, making a birthday video, or crafting social media reels, these applications let you create high-quality content without fancy equipment. Got clips ready to shine? Let us explore five fantastic free applications to turn your footage into share-worthy magic.



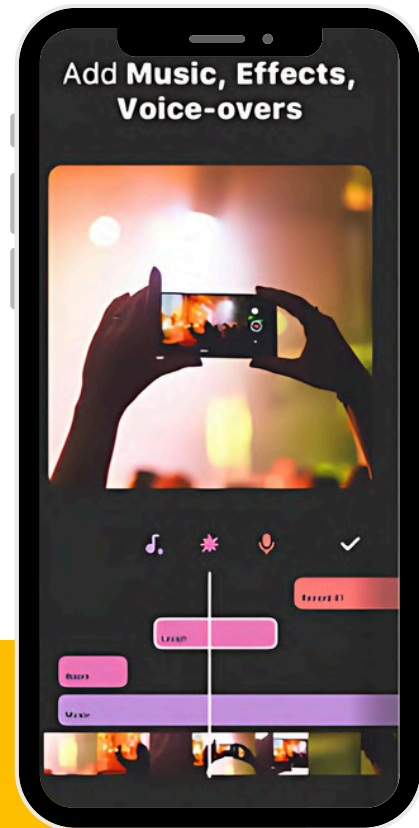
1. InShot

Key Features

- 1 Trim and cut videos with precision.
- 2 Add music, sound effects, and voiceovers.
- 3 Insert text, stickers, and emojis.
- 4 Adjust video speed and apply filters.

PRO TIP:

Use the “split” feature to cut your videos into smaller segments for easy editing, or add a cool text overlay for more impact.



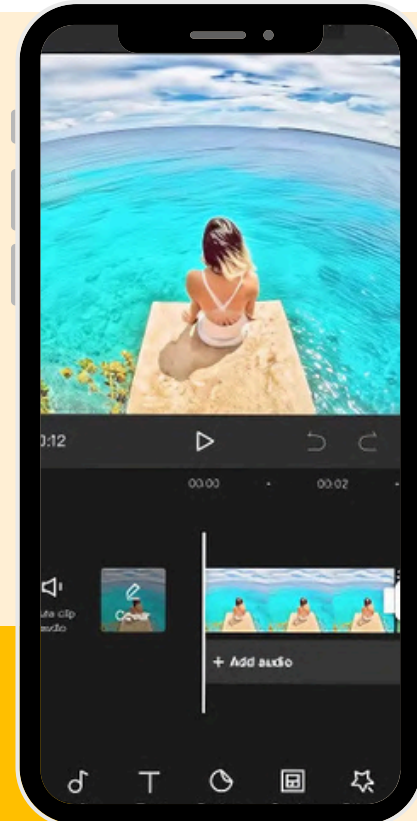
2. CapCut

Key Features

- 1 Tons of transitions and effects.
- 2 Multi-layer editing.
- 3 Add captions with automatic transcription.
- 4 Speed control and reverse video.

PRO TIP:

Use the app’s auto-caption feature to quickly add subtitles, making your content more accessible to a wider audience!



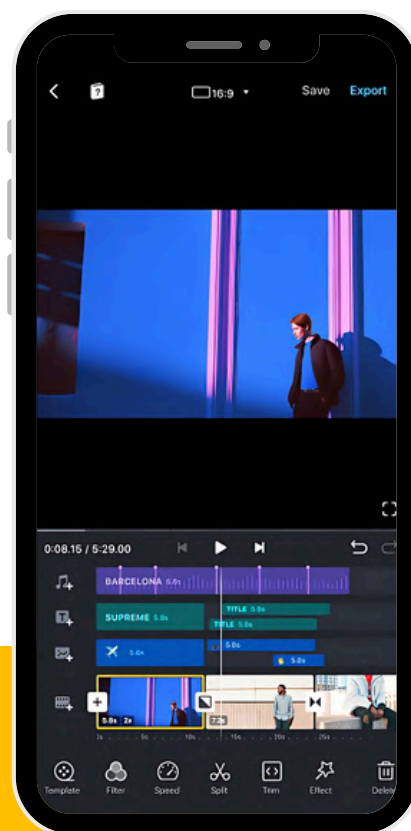
3. VN

Key Features

- 1 Clean and intuitive timeline-based editing.
- 2 Advanced controls for speed, filters, and colour grading.
- 3 Multi-layer support and curve shifting.
- 4 No watermark, no ads, totally free.

PRO TIP:

Use the “curve speed” tool to make cinematic speed ramps that turn basic clips into dramatic moments!



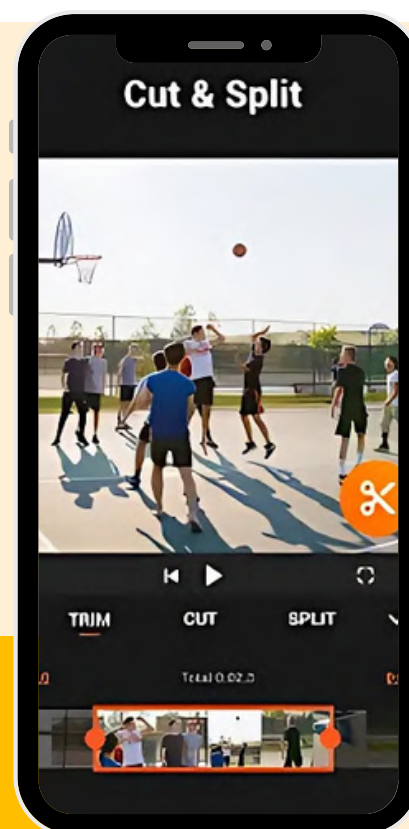
4. YouCut

Key Features

- 1 No watermark on exports.
- 2 Smooth transitions, filters, and video compressor.
- 3 Ready-to-use music library and voiceover option.
- 4 Aspect ratio adjustment for all platforms.

PRO TIP:

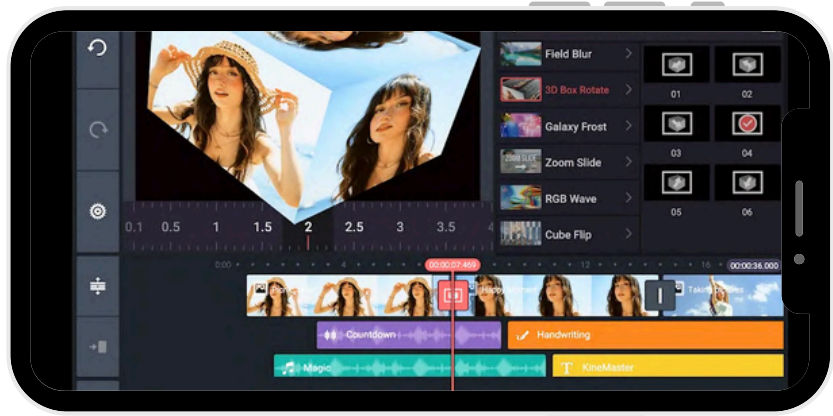
Explore the built-in stock music and voice recorder perfect for vlog narrations or reels with your own commentary.



5. Kinemaster

Key Features

- 1 Multi-layer video editing.
- 2 Chroma key for green-screen effects.
- 3 Hundreds of transitions & effects.
- 4 Support for 4K video editing.



PRO TIP:

Use Kinemaster's multi-layer feature to combine videos, images, and text for a more dynamic, engaging experience.

And There You Have It!

Five fantastic, free, and beginner-friendly video editing apps that bring professional power right to your fingertips—without costing a rupee! Whether you are a content creator in the making, a student with a passion project, a small business owner promoting your brand, or just someone who enjoys playing with visuals, these apps are designed to make video editing feel less like a chore and more like a creative playground.

From quick social media posts that grab attention in seconds, to full-length YouTube videos with layers, transitions, and voiceovers, these tools offer the flexibility and features to match your imagination. And the best part? You do not need any prior experience. With just a bit of curiosity and a few taps, you will be well on your way to making videos that are not only watch-worthy but truly 'you'.

So go ahead, pick one (or try them all!), experiment fearlessly, and start telling your stories the way you see them. After all, every great video begins with a simple idea and the right tools to bring it to life. And now, those tools are right in your pocket.

Challenge

Pick one of these apps and try editing your very first video. Do not forget to share your creation with us—we would love to feature the best edits in the next issue!



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Caravan-e-Sattal *the birding trip*

Bronzed Drongo, Photograph by: Ajay Nair



Caravan-e-Sattal *Five Days of Birding, Brotherhood, and Beautiful Sightings* *Words and Photographs by the Caravan Crew*

When five passionate photographers from Jaipur and Jodhpur loaded their cameras and binoculars into a car and set off for the hills of Uttarakhand, they were not merely embarking on a birdwatching trip, they were undertaking a journey of discovery, friendship, and photographic fulfilment. The destination: Sattal. The mission: to explore, to observe, and to capture some of the most exquisite avian life in India. They called it “*Caravan-e-Sattal*”- a five-day odyssey into one of the subcontinent’s richest birding havens.

Sattal: Where the Forests Sing

Nestled in the lower Kumaon Himalayas, near Nainital, **Sattal** (literally “Seven Lakes”) sits at an altitude of around 1,370 metres. The region is blanketed with dense oak and pine forests and is dotted with seven interconnected freshwater lakes. Its unique ecosystem, lying at the confluence of subtropical and temperate zones, makes it a biodiversity hotspot. It is no surprise that Sattal is regarded as one of the finest birding destinations in India.

With over **500 bird species** documented in the area, Sattal offers a rare confluence of accessibility and diversity. For bird photographers, it is an open-air studio where every turn of the trail might reveal a new subject-be it a gliding raptor, a perched songbird, or a flash of colour darting through the undergrowth.

Fifty Species, One Rare Mammal, and Countless Moments

Over five days of immersive exploration, the group spotted and photographed around 50 bird species. Each morning began early, with cameras ready and ears tuned to the rustle of wings and the call of the forest. Bird hides, jungle trails, and lakeside paths all became part of their moving basecamp.



Khaleej Pheasant Male, Photograph by: Pavnesh Arora

Among the standout sightings was the Long-tailed Broadbill, often referred to as the Helmet Bird due to its distinctive head shape and brilliant plumage. This vibrant and somewhat comical-looking bird is considered a rare find and for the group, it was a thrilling highlight.

In an unexpected twist, the photographers also caught a brief glimpse of a **Yellow-throated Marten**, a carnivorous mammal rarely seen in the open. Agile, elusive, and almost mythical in its rarity, the sighting of the Marten added a layer of excitement that few birding trips can claim.



Yellow Throated Marten



Himalayan Black-lored Tit , Photograph by: Pavnesh Arora



Khaleej Pheasant Female , Photograph by: Shibu Nair



Rusty Cheeked Scimitar Babbler, Photograph by: Shibu Nair

Other key species observed and photographed included:

- **Khalij Pheasant** (*Lophura leucomelanos*) - its iridescent black plumage shimmering in the forest light
- **Grey-headed Woodpecker**, **Rufous-bellied Woodpecker**, and **Himalayan Flameback** - representing the region's rich diversity of woodpeckers.
- **Common Kingfisher**, **White-throated Kingfisher**, and **Crested Kingfisher** - each a jewel beside the water
- **Oriental Turtle Dove**, and **Wedged Tailed Green Pigeon** - peaceful yet elusive in the foliage
- **Plum-headed Parakeet** and **Slaty-headed Parakeet** - their vibrant greens standing out against the forest canopy
- **Great Barbet**: loud, colourful, and distinctly photogenic
- **Oriental White-eye**, a tiny yellow passerine with a curious personality
- **Verditer Flycatcher**, **Red-billed Leiothrix**, **Green-tailed Sunbird**, and **Grey Bushchat** - smaller birds that brought joy in quieter, unexpected moments.



Yellow Naped Woodpecker, Photograph by: Shibu Nair

More than Birds

While the birds were the stars of the show, the camaraderie among the group was the heartbeat of the trip. Long hours in the wild were balanced by late-night conversations, laughter over meals, and shared stories of missed shots and lucky breaks. Gear was swapped, advice was shared, and every click of the shutter was celebrated.

Photography is often seen as a solitary pursuit. But here in Sattal, it became a shared ritual, made richer by company, coffee, and the sheer unpredictability of nature.



Indian White Eye , Photograph by: Pavnesh Arora



Rufous Chinned Laughing Thrush, Photograph by: Shibu Nair



Red Billed Leiothrix , Photograph by: Pavnesh Arora



Crested Laughing Thrush, Photograph by: Ajay Nair




A Trip to Remember

“Caravan-e-Sattal” was more than a name - it became a movement. A reminder of why photographers venture into the wild with heavy bags and hopeful eyes. The region delivered on its promise: diverse birdlife, majestic landscapes, and the thrill of the chase.

As the car wound its way back from the hills to the plains, the memory cards were full but so were the hearts.



Grey Headed Woodpecker, Photograph by: Ajay Nair

A young girl with dark, curly hair and a nose ring is smiling broadly, looking towards the camera. She is holding a large, dense bundle of colorful threads (red, yellow, orange, black, green, blue, purple) that hang down the right side of the frame. She is wearing a red shirt and a red bangle on her right wrist. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white.

**In a world of poses,
LAUGHTER
is the truest expression
we can capture.**

Photograph by: Pavnesh Arora

Unscripted Joy

It is that one moment when everything feels real-no filters, no poses, just pure joy. Whether it is a giggle between friends, a burst of street-side chuckles, or kids laughing mid-chase, these moments remind us why we love photography. Because smiles fade, but a laugh caught on camera? That stays.



Photograph by: Ajay Parikh



Photograph by: Amit Kanwar



Photograph by: Arvind Sahrma



Photograph by: Dr. Manoj Meena



Street Faces

CHITRA
TAHAL

Sacred Shadows



Moments Framed by JPC

In April and May 2025, the Jaipur Photographers' Club (JPC) orchestrated two evocative Chitra Tahal photo walks—"Street Faces" on 20 April and "Sacred Shadows (Mandir Ki Chaanv)" on 4 May—each offering a unique lens into the soul of Jaipur.

Street Faces: Capturing Urban Humanity

The "Street Faces" walk led participants into the heart of Jaipur's bustling streets, where every glance, wrinkle, and smile became a canvas of stories. Amidst the honking rickshaws, colourful shops, and chai stalls, photographers captured raw human moments - a vendor's tired yet warm smile, a child peeking curiously from behind a cart, an elder lost in thought by a temple gate.

These portraits weren't posed; they were spontaneous, full of emotion, and set against the ever-changing light and rhythm of the city. The contrast of tradition and modern life added depth, where turbans met traffic, and old havelis framed candid laughter. Through light, shadow, and expression, the walk reminded us that sometimes, the most powerful images are found in the most ordinary moments.



Photograph by: Dr. Kartik Samra



Mandir Ki Chaany : Sacred Shadows

“Sacred Shadows (Mandir Ki Chaany)” led photographers through Jaipur’s ancient temples, capturing the interplay of light and shadow in sacred spaces. The soft glow of oil lamps, intricate carvings bathed in dappled sunlight, and devotees in silent prayer created a serene atmosphere. Participants focused on the subtle nuances: the flicker of a diya, the gentle folds of a priest’s robe, the quiet corners where spirituality and solitude converge.



Community Engagement & Artistic Growth

These photo walks were more than just photographic excursions; they were communal experiences fostering learning and connection. Seasoned photographers mentored novices, sharing insights on composition, lighting, and storytelling. Discussions post-walk allowed participants to reflect on their experiences, critique each other’s work, and build lasting relationships within the photography community.

The Chitra Tahal series exemplifies JPC’s commitment to blending artistic exploration with community building.

Udti Khaberein

BEST BUDGET 35MM LENS FOR SONY E-MOUNT SHOOTERS



Image Credit: Sony

Sony's E-mount mirror system camera users sometimes find themselves hunting for a robust 35mm lens that features good performance combined with a fair price. There are numerous good lenses available today that appeal to professionals at premium prices, yet there are one or two in the budget group that stand tall. One is the Samyang AF 35mm f/1.8 FE.

The 35mm focal length is perhaps the most versatile available for everyday use. It closely replicates the natural angle of the human eye, making it perfect for a host of genres ranging from street and portrait work to travel and lifestyle photography.

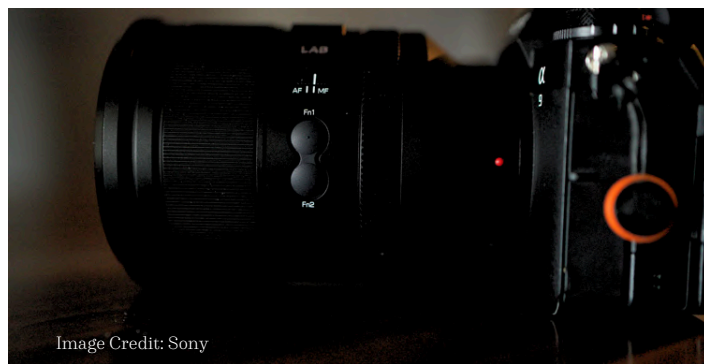


Image Credit: Sony

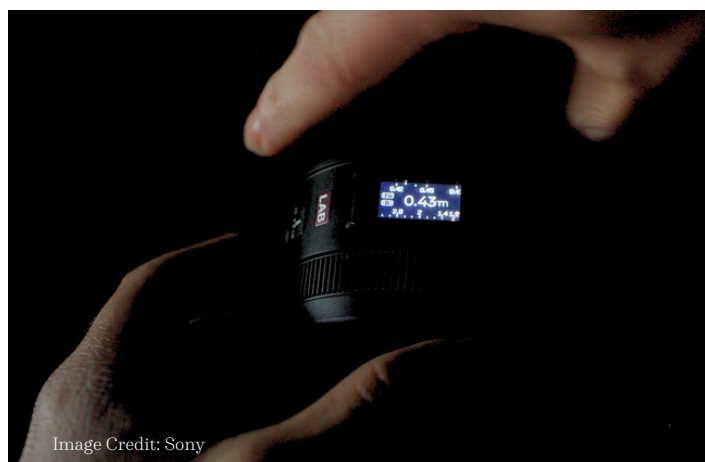


Image Credit: Sony

One of the major strengths of the Samyang 35mm f/1.8 is its autofocus mechanism. Driven by a stepping motor (STM), it provides speedy and nearly silent autofocus, which makes it a great lens not just for photographers but also for videographers. Tipping the scales at less than 200 grams, the lens is highly portable and balances well with Sony's small mirrorless bodies.

In summary, Samyang AF 35mm f/1.8 FE is a clever and affordable investment option for Sony E-mount shooters. It provides quick and sure autofocus, outstanding images, and compact, rugged build that's suitable for any occasion. For videographers looking to get the top value 35mm lens that does not break the bank yet still retains main features, then this lens has got to rank among the leaders in today's market.

HANDS-ON REVIEW: HOW THE CANON POWERSHOT V1 PERFORMS?



Image Credit: Canon



Image Credit: Canon

Canon's PowerShot V1 is an exciting mix of retro and high-tech, with retro compacto design fused with modern specifications for enthusiasts and professionals. While mirrorless cameras are the darlings of the market today, the V1 is for those who want the convenience of a model from yesteryear without compromising the very basics of image quality.

In its aesthetic, the V1 brings to mind an old-timey look at Canon's pre-2000s point-and-shoot range. Pocket-size and minimalist, the V1 is extremely easy to use for point-and-shooters. While it'll miss pro gear's interchangeable lenses and big sensors, the PowerShot V1 is intended to be simple, lightweight, and make-do-esque - a convenient on-the-run camera companion.

Internally, it has a extremely small sensor when it comes to volume but efficient as it were when it comes to working and delivers decent output in light. Natural colours and high-level detailing are adequate enough for a machine this small-sized. It's no performer low-light conditions though, but good enough for shooting on a regular basis.

The V1 is a master of simplicity. It has straightforward controls, and its menu system is neat - ideal for newcomers or shooters on the run from complicated setups. Autofocus is sufficiently fast for static subjects and rudimentary shooting conditions, and the included zoom lens provides ease of use when composing a mix of shots, ranging from street to family get-togethers.

One of the most, if not more, expected qualities of it is battery life. The V1 has a lot of life on one charge, so photographers can shoot their day without concern that they will have to be constantly running back and forth to the charger. There are video features included, but it is certainly more photographically biased in what it can do.

On balance, the Canon PowerShot V1 is not for the pixel-peeping aficionado, but that is hardly the point. It is for the ordinary chap who wants convenience, looks, and hassle-free shooting. Snapping holidays or sneaking on-the-spot portraits, the V1 provides a decent, vintage-style option that simply gets the job done and does not look half bad doing it.



Image Credit: Canon



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