

# JPG MAGAZINE

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Vol 3. Issue 1. September 2025

Spotlight  
**Suraj Garg**

Photographer's Profile  
**Rajkumar Koul**

Chitra Tahal  
**Closer to Nature**

Apni Toh Paathshala

**5** PHOTOGRAPHY  
*Truths*  
**No One Will Tell You**

**JPG** 20  
26  
**Calendar**

*Entries Open*

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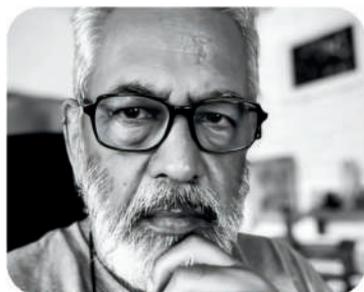
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# Editor's Note



*Dear Readers,*

As we proudly enter the *third year* we are delighted to share with you a *refreshed layout*, designed to make your reading experience more engaging and immersive. This edition brings together an inspiring collection of works: the grandeur of architecture, the vibrant energy of street photography, the craftsmanship of Ganpatti making and visarjan, and the delicate beauty captured in macro frames.

*“Your first 10,000 photographs are your worst,”* observed Henri Cartier-Bresson. These words remind us that photography is not merely about releasing the shutter, but about persistence, growth, and the joy of discovery. JPC Magazine embodies that journey celebrating both the art of photography and the spirit of our community.

We are delighted to share that *entries for the JPC Calendar 2026* are now open. In the words of Ansel Adams, *“You do not take a photograph, you make it.”* We warmly invite you to make yours, share your vision, and contribute to this creative showcase.

As we embrace another year, may this journey continue to inspire, educate, and honour the art of photography, while encouraging us all to push boundaries and explore new creative horizons.

*Anil Khubani*  
ANIL KHUBANI  
**Editor**

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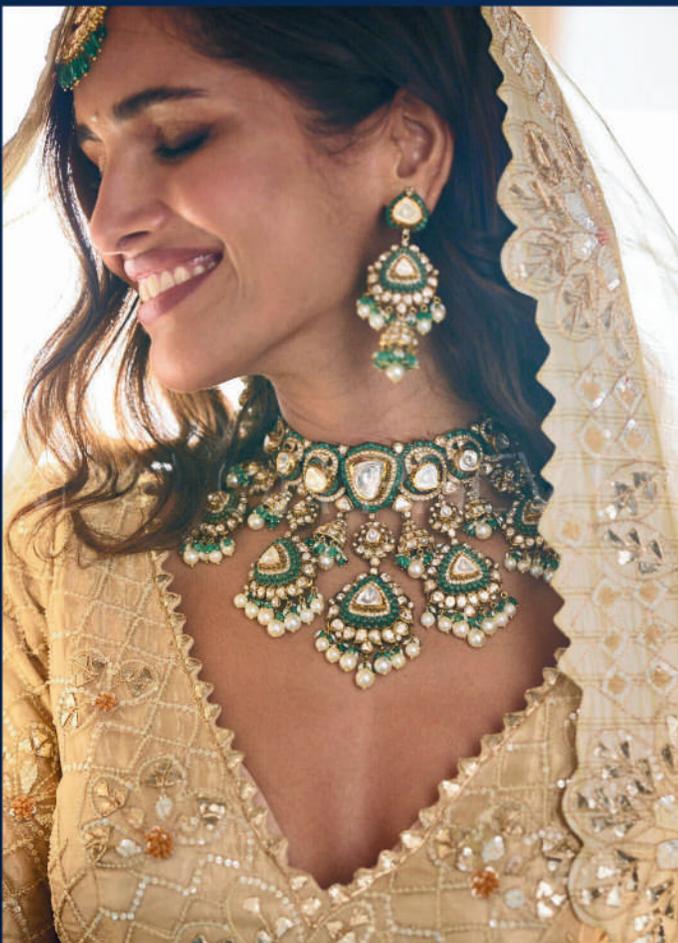
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*Shubh Prasang  
Sang Motisons*

**MOTISONS**  
—JEWELLERS—

## APNI TOH PAATHSHALA

# 5 Photography Truths No One Will Tell You

*But Every Pro Knows...*

In today's world, everyone is a photographer, from a teenager casually framing sunsets on a phone to a professional carrying a case full of lenses. Workshops, reels, and tutorials flood our feeds, promising quick fixes and shortcuts to mastery. But the real truths of photography are not taught in flashy courses. They are earned quietly, whispered in late-night studio sessions, learnt after failed assignments, and etched into memory when a fleeting moment slips by, never to return.

This month's *Apni Toh Pathshala* is about opening that hidden notebook, the one filled not with technical manuals, but with hard-won wisdom.

### 1. Your Camera Does Not Matter as Much as You Think

Every beginner, without fail, begins their journey with the same question: "Which camera should I buy?" The temptation is understandable. A shiny new camera feels like the gateway to better pictures, and in a way, it is. But professionals know a deeper truth: history has never remembered the camera; it remembers the photograph.

When Henri Cartier-Bresson framed *The Decisive Moment*, no one cared about the technical specifications of his Leica. When Raghu Rai captured the soul of India in its everyday chaos, nobody asked him about his lens. What people remembered was the vision the ability to see meaning in the ordinary.

Yes, gear matters when precision and technical flexibility are required. A sports photographer needs fast autofocus; a wildlife photographer may need long lenses; a fashion photographer relies on resolution. But none of that matters if the photographer has not trained their eye. A cheap phone in the hands of someone who sees deeply will often create a more powerful image than the most



expensive DSLR in the hands of someone who only knows how to operate it technically.

The hidden truth is that equipment is a crutch for insecurity. Professionals often speak of "seeing the picture before lifting the camera" that internal pre-visualisation which cannot be bought in any store. Train your eyes before you train your equipment. Notice the world how light filters through leaves, how a fleeting smile lights up a face, how stillness can tell a louder story than movement. Because ten years from now, no one will recall the megapixels; they will only remember the moment you froze forever.





## 2. Light is Free but Priceless

If there is one universal truth in photography, it is this: light is everything. Every subject you will ever shoot from mountains to faces, from food to fashion is defined by light. Professionals treat light the way poets treat words: it is both their raw material and their final masterpiece.

Think about this: you can buy the best lens money can offer, but you cannot buy the glow of dawn spilling over a city skyline. You cannot replicate the way twilight bathes streets in soft melancholy, or how golden hour makes even dust look like magic. These are gifts that exist freely in the world, but only the patient, observant photographer knows how to chase them.

This is why masters often return to the same locations again and again. They are not searching for a new subject, but for new light. A Paris café photographed at noon will never look the way it does at dawn. A temple corridor in Varanasi feels different when winter fog softens its arches compared to when summer light burns through them sharply.

Do this experiment: pick a simple subject say a chair. Photograph it at 7 a.m., 2 p.m., and 6 p.m. The chair remains the same, but the mood, the story, the emotion in the frame changes dramatically. That is the silent power of light.

Too often, beginners rush to filters and presets, hoping to simulate drama. But no preset can replicate the magic of a real sunset, the softness of candlelight, or the harsh honesty of midday sun. To understand light is to unlock photography's greatest secret because once you master it, every photograph begins to breathe with life.



### 3. Editing Can Make or Break Your Image

Here is a truth professionals accept without hesitation: every great photograph has been edited. Editing is not a betrayal of photography; it is its completion. A raw image is like a manuscript the story is there, but it needs shaping to be fully told.

The mistake many beginners make is confusing editing with transformation. They push saturation until the skies look artificial, crush shadows until detail disappears, or smooth skin until people look like mannequins. In doing so, they erase the humanity of the image.

Editing, when mastered, is subtle. It does not shout; it whispers. A slight curve adjustment to bring out contrast, a careful dodge and burn to guide the viewer's eye, a gentle desaturation to evoke mood these are the brushstrokes that elevate an image without overwhelming it.

But in today's world, there is an added complexity: AI editing. Generative tools now allow you to replace skies, erase distractions, or even fabricate entire scenes. While powerful, these tools blur the line between photography and illustration. A photograph has always carried with it an unspoken contract of truth the idea that the moment, as seen, existed. With AI, that contract is at risk.

Competitions around the world have already seen AI-generated images win prizes before being disqualified. This is not a rejection of technology it is a reminder that photography's essence is rooted in authenticity. AI should be used sparingly, as a tool to polish and enhance, never to deceive or invent.

The best photographers today are those who not only know how to edit but also know where to stop. Because restraint is the difference between enhancing reality and replacing it. And once reality is replaced, the photograph loses the very power that makes it timeless.

### 4. The Best Shots Happen Outside Comfort Zones

If you ask a experienced photographer about their most unforgettable shot, you will rarely hear about a meticulously planned studio session. More often, it will be about the time they stayed in the rain when everyone else packed up, or the unplanned trip that yielded an image they never expected.

Comfort zones are dangerous. They are safe, but they are also limiting. A portrait photographer who never ventures into street photography, a landscape photographer who never experiments with abstracts, or a colour photographer who never dares to shoot monochrome all of them risk stagnation. Growth begins where familiarity ends.

One of Steve McCurry's most famous photographs, *The Afghan Girl*, was not the result of a carefully staged shoot but a fleeting moment in a refugee camp. Raghu Rai often speaks of wandering aimlessly through India's streets, waiting not for a planned shot but for life to unfold before him. Their genius lies not in their comfort but in their willingness to surrender to unpredictability.

For amateurs, stepping outside the comfort zone might feel intimidating, but that is where the true joy lies. Try photographing in low light if you usually avoid it, or documenting chaos if you prefer symmetry. Sometimes, the discomfort of a new subject forces you to see differently and that difference may just be the key to your most extraordinary work. Because photography is not only about capturing life as it is; it is about living it in ways you never thought you would.



## 5. Networking is as Important as Shooting

Ask any working photographer about their most significant break, and the answer will rarely be, "Because I had the best portfolio in town." More often, it begins with a chance encounter, a recommendation, or a relationship that grew quietly over time. Photography, though deeply visual, is ultimately built on human connection.

The reality of the industry is that talent alone does not guarantee opportunity. There are countless gifted photographers whose work never sees the spotlight simply because they never built the right networks. On the other hand, many professionals who may not be the most technically brilliant sustain long careers because they know how to collaborate, communicate, and nurture relationships.

Think of how assignments are actually given. A magazine editor does not just look at photographs; they think about who can handle the pressure of a two-day shoot in a remote location. A fashion house does not only need someone who understands lighting; they need someone who can keep models comfortable and the team motivated. A wedding client does not only care about composition; they want someone who blends in with their family and understands their emotions. In all of these scenarios, your reputation as a person matters as much as your reputation as an artist.

Networking is often misunderstood as schmoozing at events or dropping business cards. But the deeper truth is this: it is about cultivating trust. That trust is built in countless small ways showing up on time, respecting deadlines, giving credit to assistants, paying attention to clients' concerns, or simply being kind on set. Over years, these gestures accumulate into a professional identity people remember.

For younger photographers, networking might feel secondary to "building the portfolio," but the truth is they are inseparable. Your images open the door; your character keeps it open. In time, the friendships you form with peers, mentors, editors, clients, and even your subjects will become the invisible scaffolding of your career.

Because your camera may capture moments, but your relationships create opportunities. And in an art form built on trust, that is often the difference between a fleeting hobby and a lifelong profession.

### Closing Thought

To speak of photography only in terms of gear and technique is to miss its essence. At its heart, photography is a way of seeing an outer journey of chasing light and fleeting moments, and an inner journey of patience, humility, and empathy. Both meet in every frame you capture.

The greatest lessons do not come from manuals but from life itself. Missing a shot teaches transience, waiting in poor light teaches resilience, photographing strangers teaches listening. Even failure blurred frames, wrong exposures, flawed edits sharpens your instincts more than success ever could.

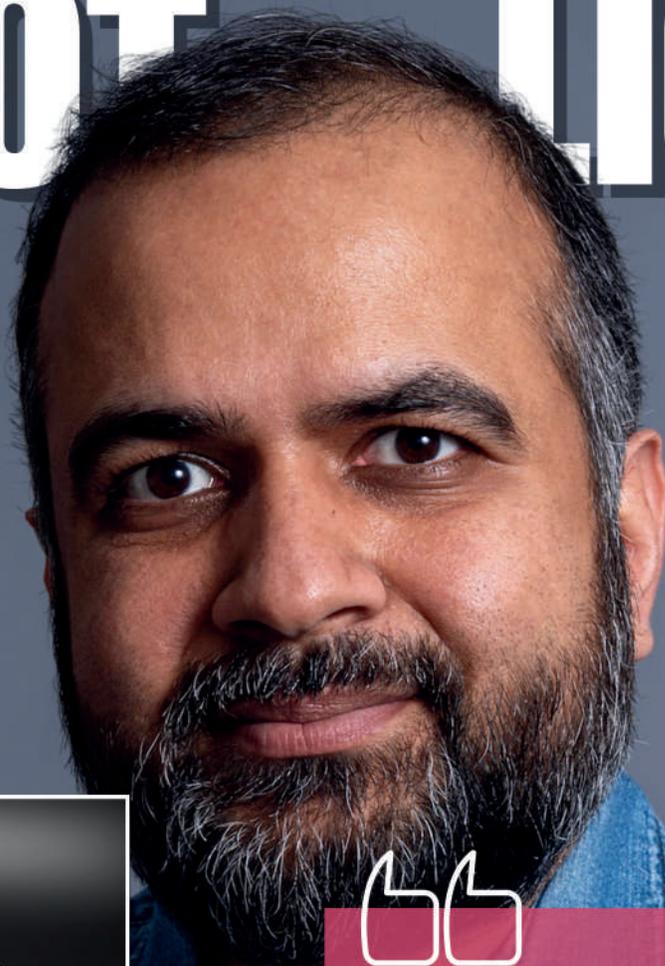
In an age of AI and instant filters, photography reminds us of something timeless: authenticity matters. A photo may be scrolled past today, but it can endure for decades. It will not carry your camera settings or software; it will carry only your vision.

So the next time you lift your camera, remember: it is not just a tool but a bridge to reality, to people, to time itself. What you choose to notice and preserve in that fraction of a second is your truest signature.

Gear may help, editing may polish, networking may sustain but photography, at its core, is about how deeply you are willing to see.



# SPOT LIGHT



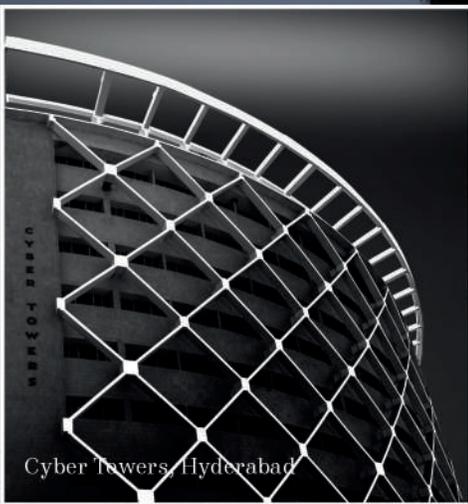
*Suraj Garg is a UK-based photographer with roots in Hyderabad, India. What began as a hobby with a point-and-shoot camera grew into a passion that has taken him across India and abroad, capturing people, places, and architecture with a unique eye.*

*Inspired by his father a talented photographer who even built an indigenous film camera during his college days, Suraj developed a deep appreciation for perspective and craft.*

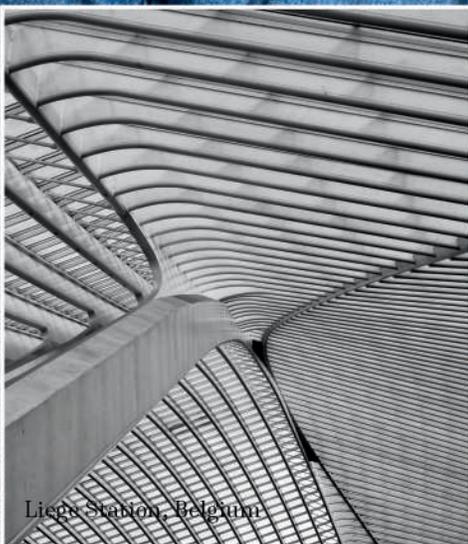
*Over time, his focus turned to architectural photography, especially fine art black & white, which has become his signature. His skill and vision earned him the Licentiate Distinction (LRPS) from the Royal Photographic Society.*

*His award-winning work has been recognised internationally, with recent honours at the iPhone Photography Awards 2025 and Architecture Photography Awards 2025.*

*Instagram: [surajgargclicks](#)*



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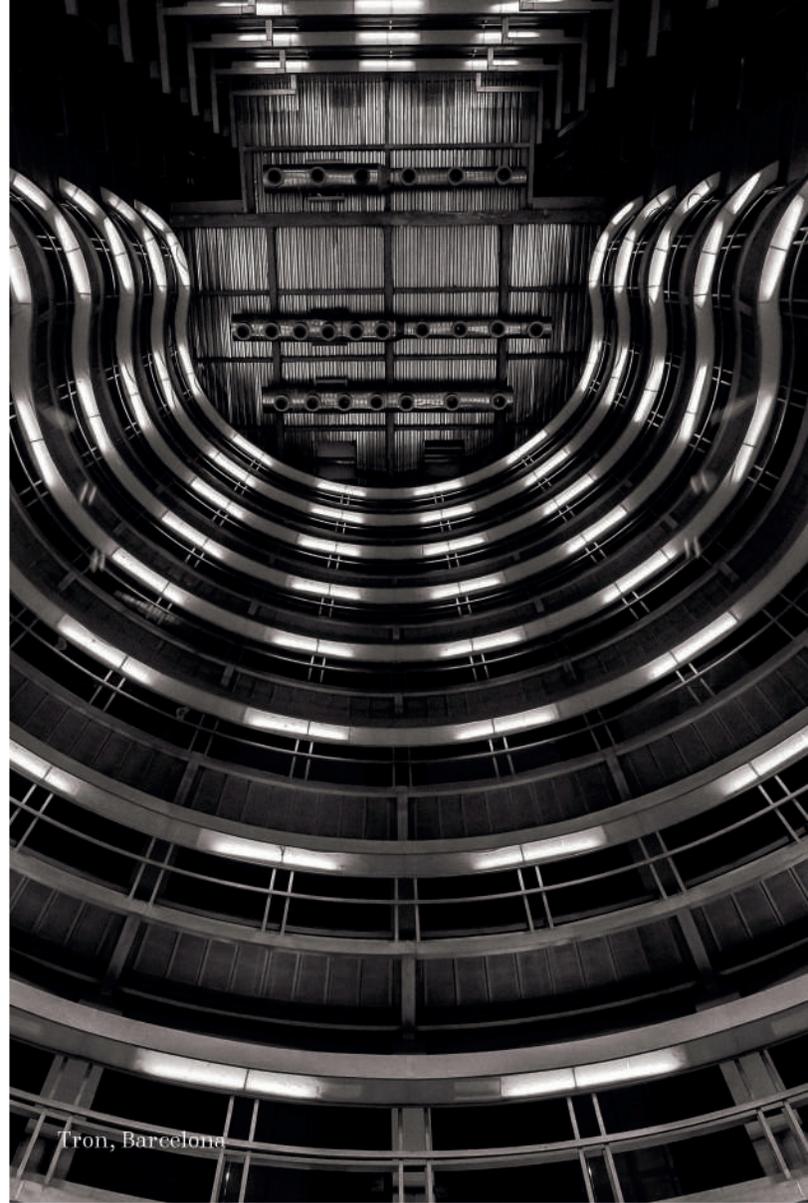
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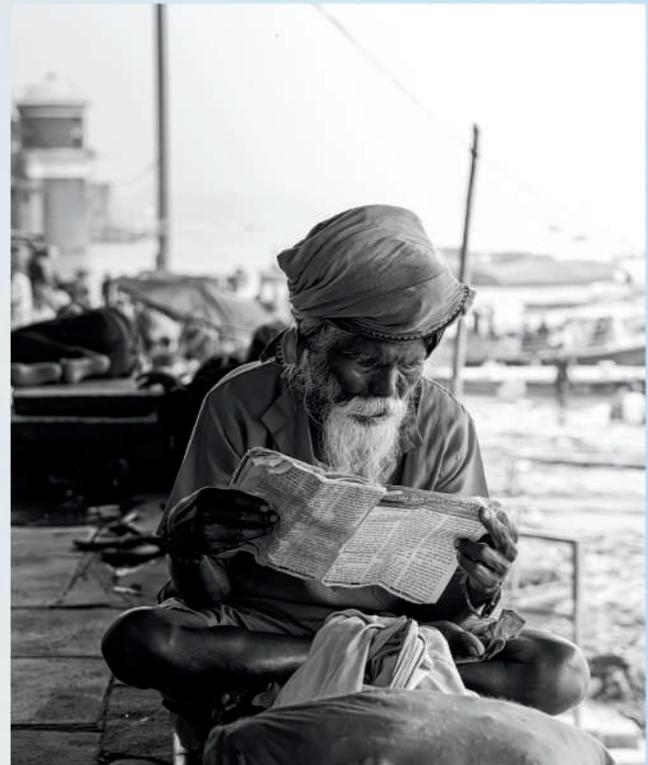
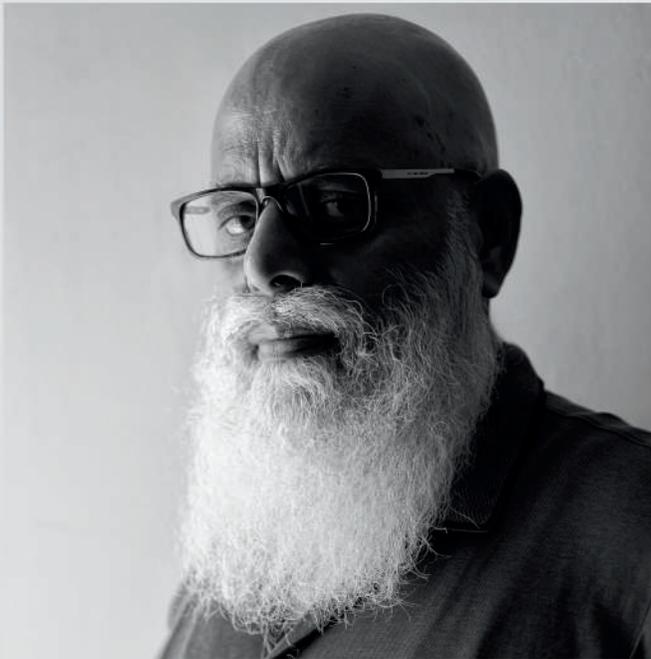
# PHOTOGRAPHER'S PROFILE

*Rajkumar Koul*

Mohali, Punjab

Instagram: the.street.rover

Retired banker turned self-taught hobbyist photographer chasing the perfect shot. Photography for him is a medium of documenting beautiful occurrences around. Clicking "*whatever catches his eye*" is his way of working. The sound of the shutter clicking gives him pleasure and satisfaction. He has been awarded on 1X.com, the world's biggest curated gallery online, The *Universe of Colour Photography* and *Club of Black & White Photography*. He was a finalist in the Macadam Street Photography Contest in 2025 and a winner in *JPC Foundation Day* contest.



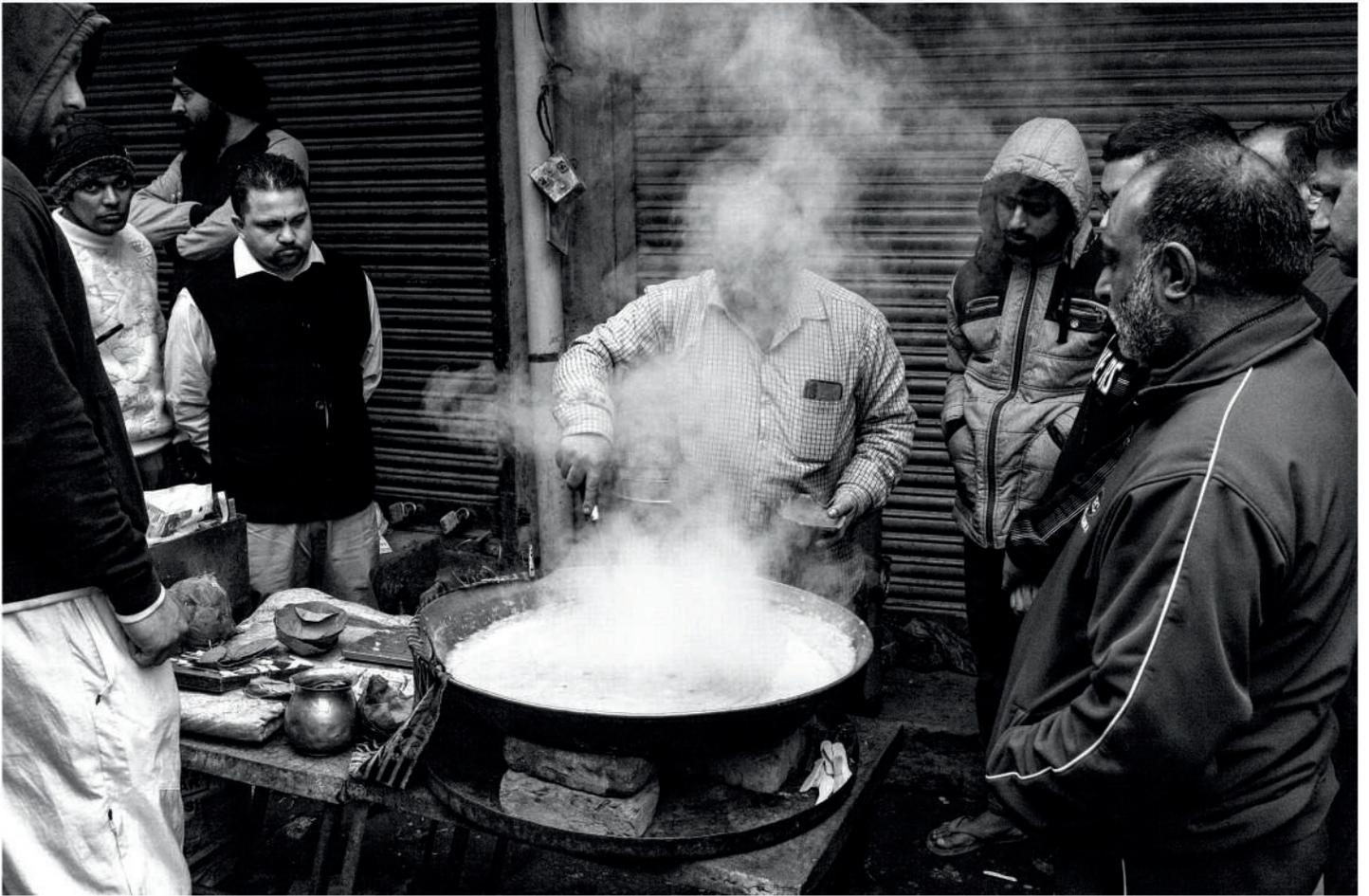






Photo: Souvik Adhikary



Photo: Soumyojit Sinha



Photo: Varun Pandey



Photo: Souvik Adhikary

# PHOTO FEATURE

*A Window into Creative Vision*

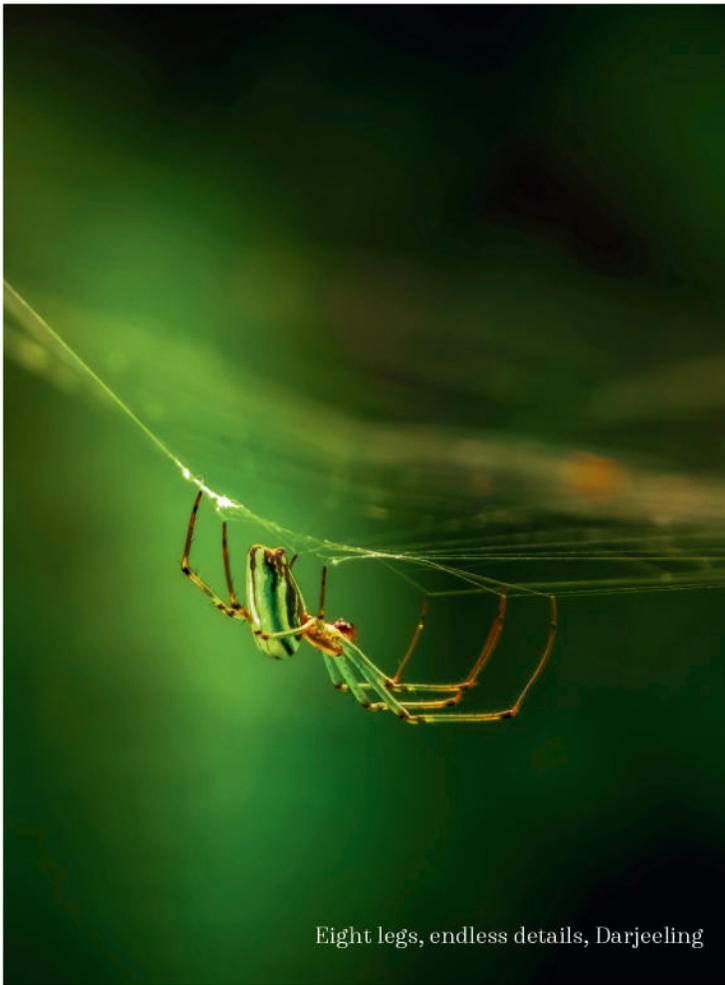
At its core, photography is an expression an art form that turns fleeting moments into timeless stories. The Photo Feature section is our dedicated space to honour this artistry, showcasing the unique voices and visions of photographers from across the globe.

Each image here goes beyond technical mastery; it embodies imagination, perspective, and passion. Through this collection, we hope to take readers on a visual journey while inspiring them to explore their own creative paths.

This platform welcomes photographers eager to share their work with a wider audience. If you would like to be part of our upcoming features, submit your photographs scan the QR and submit.



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Eight legs, endless details, Darjeeling



Where patience weaves beauty, Darjeeling



Soumyojit Sinha  
Kolkata, West Bengal  
Instagram: theblack\_hood



The Director



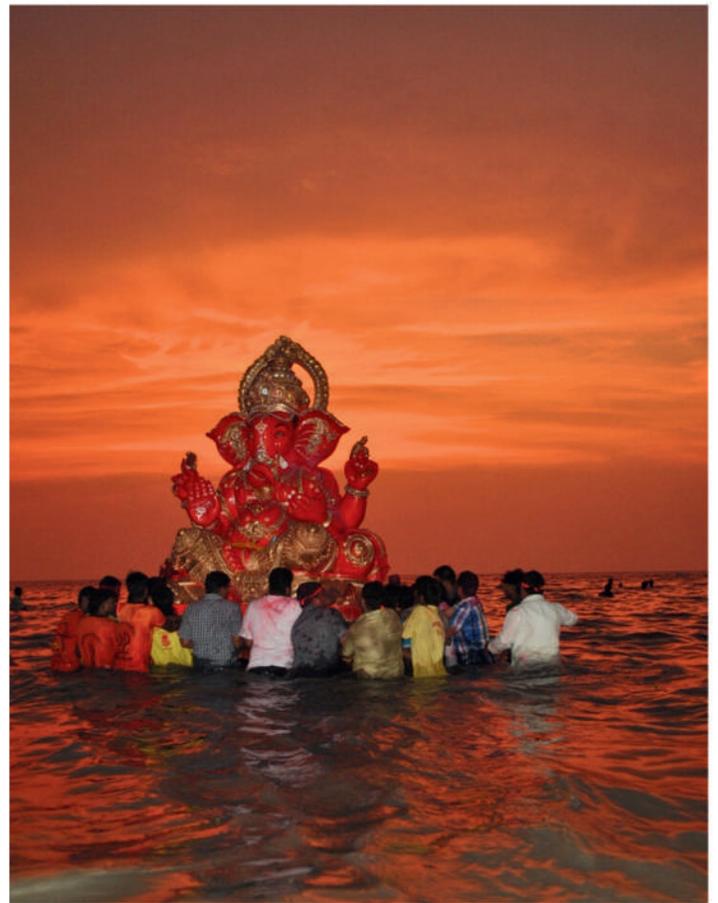
Suman Chakraborty  
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Childhood



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Kolkata, West Bengal  
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Photograph by: Dr. Manoj Meena

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