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Tribute to
RAGHU RAI
By Vimal Parmar

MOTHER TONGUE
Mother's Day Photo Feature

The Five Minute Edit

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Spotlight

Stefanie Waiblinger

Photo Story

Anindya Phani

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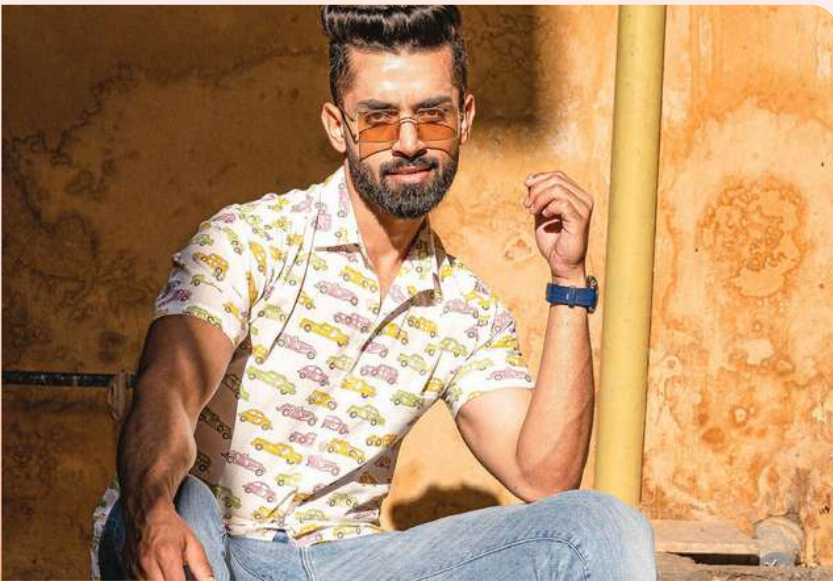
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Editor's Note



Dear Readers,

“The picture is good or not from the moment it was caught in the camera,” said **Raghu Rai**.

As we present the **May 2026** issue of **JPC Magazine**, we pause to honour a legend whose photographs shaped the visual memory of India with unmatched depth and sensitivity. His passing marks the end of an extraordinary era, yet his work will continue inspiring generations of photographers and visual storytellers across the world.

Raghu Rai was more than a photographer; he was a storyteller of India's soul. From the streets of Delhi to the tragedy of Bhopal, his images carried honesty, emotion, and humanity with extraordinary depth. Nominated to Magnum Photos by Henri Cartier-Bresson, Rai's work taught photographers to look beyond the obvious and discover meaning in ordinary moments. Jaipur Photographers' Club organised a photo walk in Tribute to the master.

This issue also celebrates the spirit of Women's Day, recognising photographers whose perspectives continue to enrich visual storytelling with sensitivity and strength. As we remember a master and celebrate creative voices shaping the future, may photography continue to unite, inspire, and encourage us to see the world with compassion, courage, grace, and deeper understanding every single day.

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ANIL KHUBANI
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Tribute

BY VIMAL PARMAR

RAGHU RAI THE EYE THAT TAUGHT INDIA TO SEE ITSELF



THE VISIONARY PHOTOGRAPHER WHO SHAPED INDIA'S VISUAL CONSCIOUSNESS



The passing of Raghu Rai marks the end of an era in Indian photography. For generations of photographers and visual storytellers, Rai was not merely an image maker but a quiet force who redefined how India could be seen, felt and understood through the lens. From his deeply human portrayal of the country to his association with Magnum Photos, his work shaped visual culture across continents.

I count myself among the millions who grew up deeply influenced by his work. From my school days in the late 1970s, his photographs had already begun shaping my visual sensibilities. There was something profoundly human in his frames. An ability to find poetry in chaos, dignity in despair, and rhythm in everyday life. His images did not shout; they lingered.

I had the privilege of meeting him on several occasions, beginning in the mid-1980s when he was associated with India Today and I was with Agfa-Gevaert. Later, during my years with TechNova Imaging Systems, our paths crossed again while introducing museum-grade fine art papers. One particularly memorable interaction was on World Photography Day in 2023 at the Dilip Piramal Art Gallery, where I was touched by his warmth and humility when he recalled our earlier meetings.

Raghu Rai became the first Indian photographer to be associated with Magnum Photos after being nominated by Henri Cartier-Bresson in 1977, a milestone that established his global stature. Over a remarkable career spanning more than five decades, Rai documented some of the most defining moments in modern Indian history, including the Bangladesh refugee crisis and the Bhopal gas tragedy.



With Raghu Rai on World Photography Day, 19 August 2023, at the Dilip Piramal Art Gallery, Mumbai. A moment with the master who shaped how millions see India.

His portraits of icons such as Indira Gandhi, Mother Teresa, and Dalai Lama revealed not only their personalities, but also the emotional depth behind their public lives.

Beyond assignments and exhibitions, Rai authored nearly twenty books that explored India's culture, people, and everyday realities with extraordinary sensitivity. His photo essays appeared in some of the world's most respected publications, while his contribution to photography extended further through his role on the juries of World Press Photo and UNESCO's International Photo Contest. Honoured with the Padma Shri and several international awards, Rai remained devoted to authenticity over spectacle. His work today stands as an unparalleled visual archive that helped India recognise and understand itself.

Vimal Parmar is an independent marketing consultant, a digital print evangelist, and an advisor to JPC Magazine

SPOTLIGHT

Stefanie Waiblinger



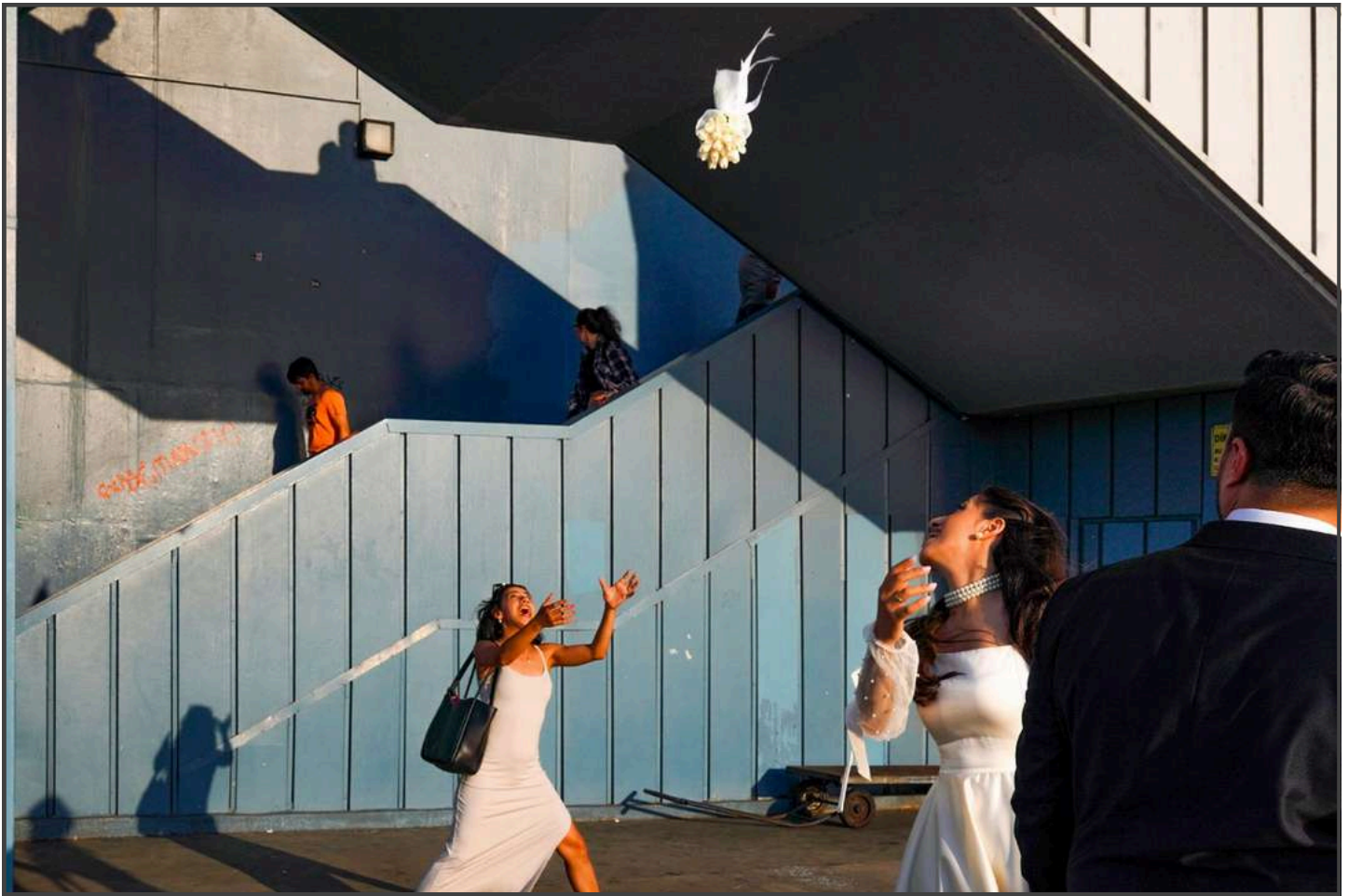
Stefanie Waiblinger

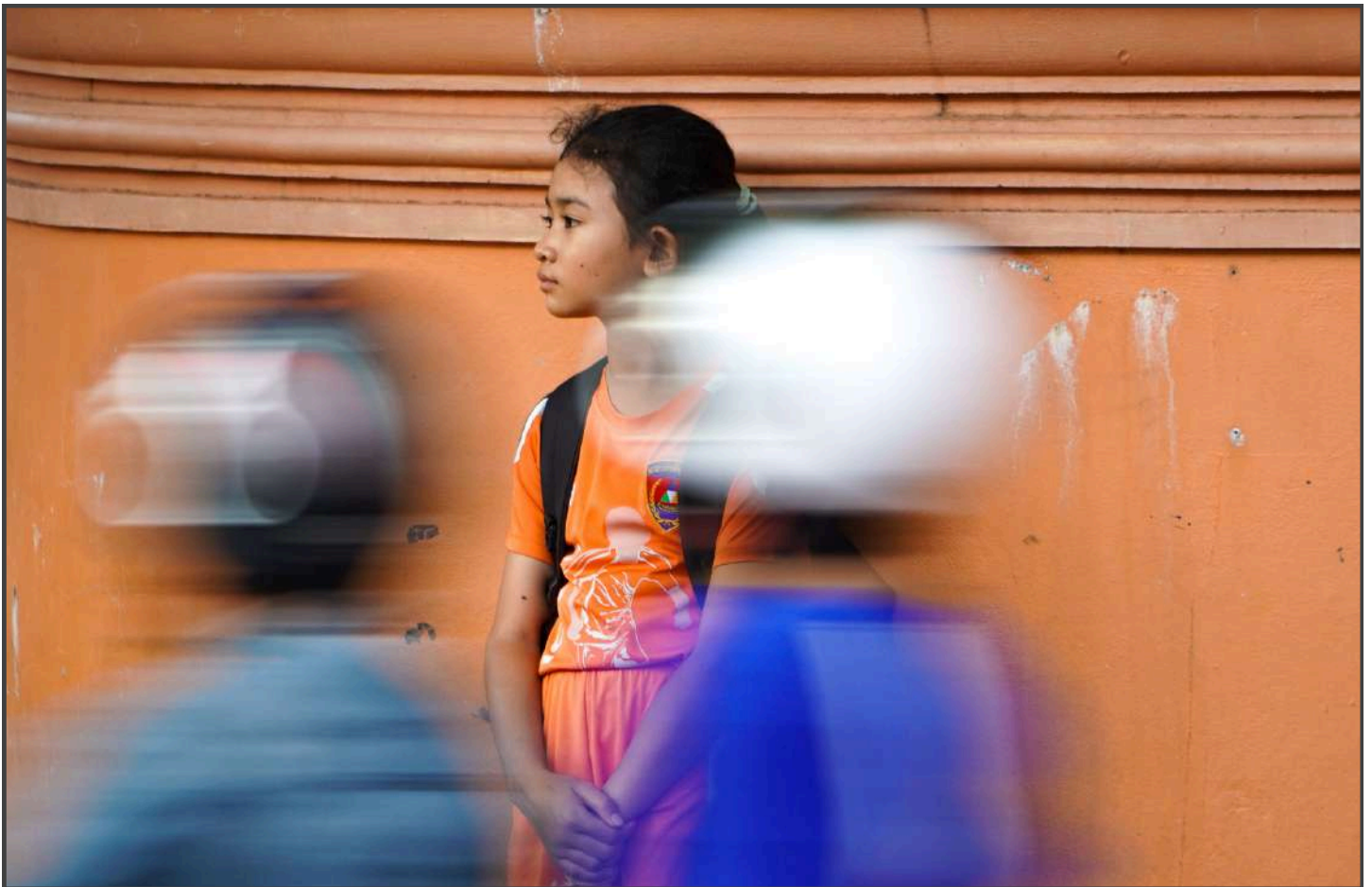
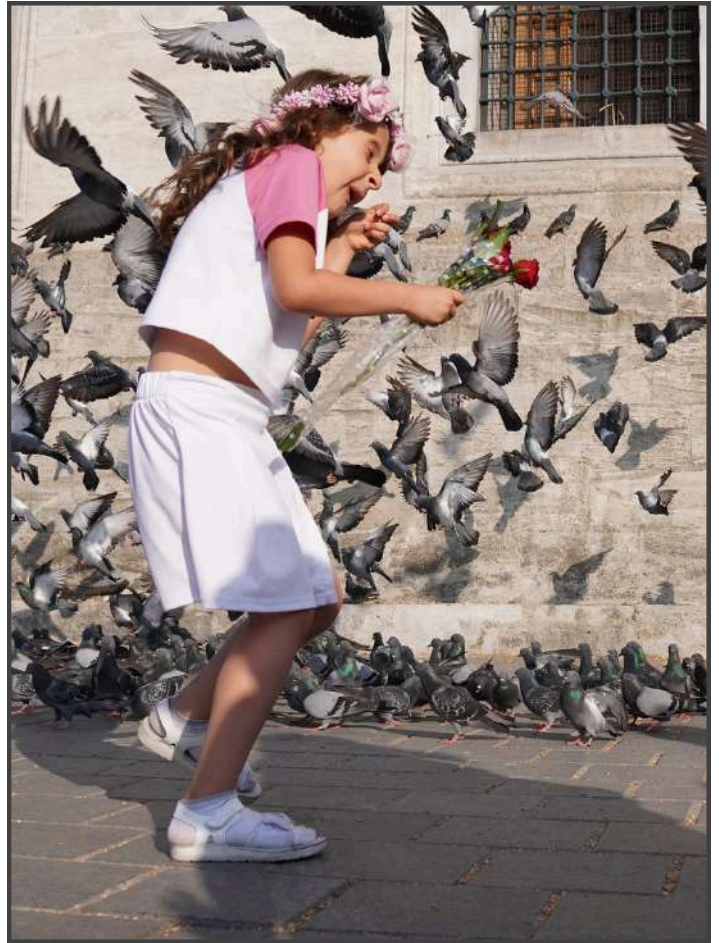
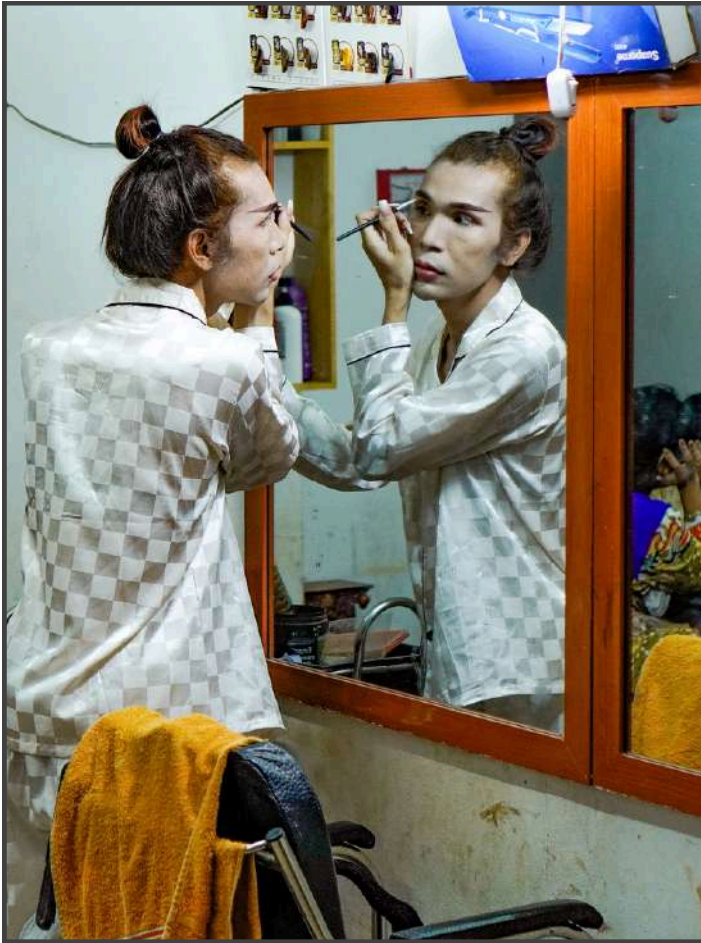
Stefanie Waiblinger a German photographer began her journey into street photography as a creative balance to her profession as an architect. What started as a personal pursuit soon became a powerful source of inspiration, reshaping the way she observes and connects with the world. Closely tied to her love for travel, her photography captures intimate, fleeting moments that reveal the poetry and emotion within everyday life.

Known for her striking use of colour and atmosphere, Waiblinger's work focuses on presence rather than perfection. Her images reflect patience, spontaneity, and an instinctive ability to recognise moments before they disappear into memory.

In 2025, she won the Grand Winner Prize at the Pure Street Photography Awards. Her work was also exhibited at India's first dedicated street photography exhibition at the iconic Jehangir Art Gallery in January 2026.

Her photographs have been showcased internationally, including exhibitions with Women Street Photographers in New York City and São Paulo, and published widely across magazines, books, and digital platforms.

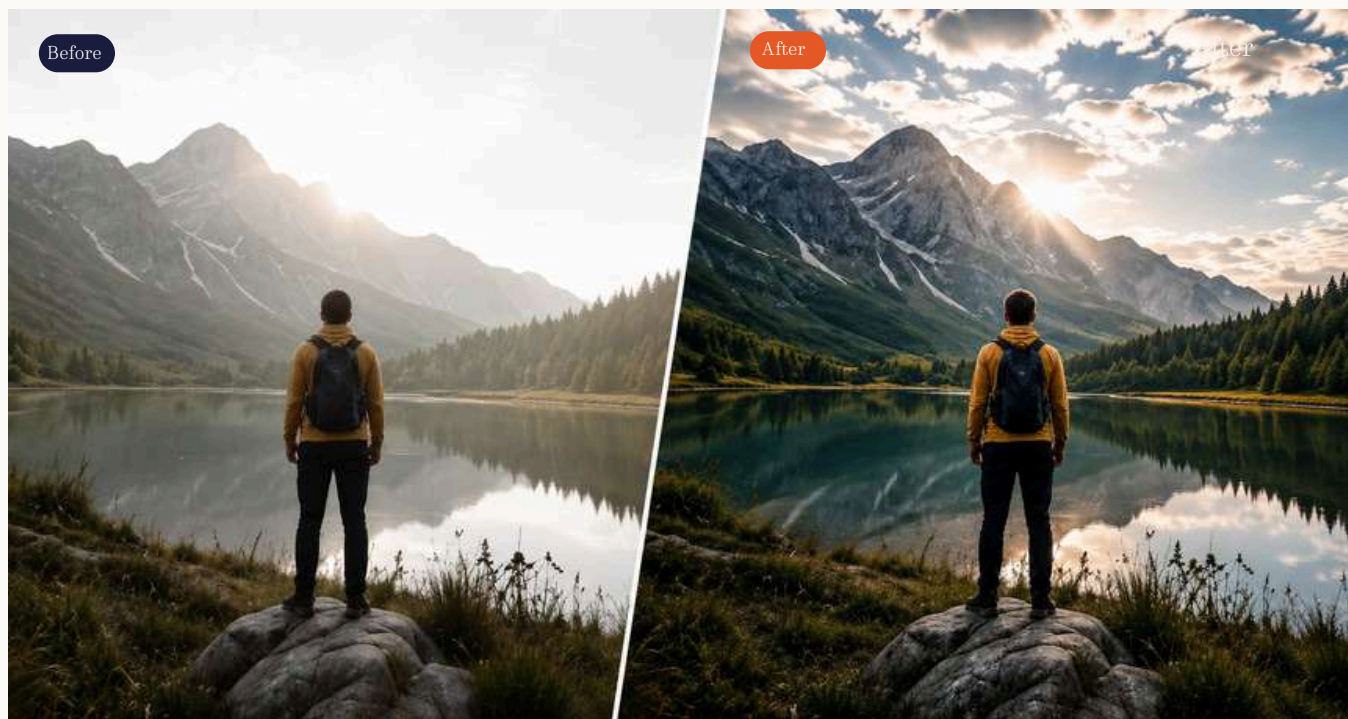






APNI TOH PAATHSHALA
by JPC Editorial Team

The Five-Minute Edit That Changes Everything



01 Exposure & Highlights

Getting the brightness bang on without blowing the sky.



02 Shadows & Blacks

Bringing back detail hidden in the darker corners.



03 White Balance

Making sure your colours look natural and warm.



04 Clarity & Texture

Adding depth without making things look over-sharpened.



05 HSL Colour Tweaks

Fine-tuning individual colours so they truly pop.

You have just returned home from a shoot. You are exhausted, there are 400 RAW files waiting impatiently on your memory card, and the sofa is calling your name louder than ever. Sound familiar?

The good news is that you do not need to spend the entire evening buried inside Lightroom to make your photographs truly stand out. With just five minutes and five simple adjustments, you can transform a flat, forgettable frame into an image that feels polished, expressive, and genuinely brilliant.

This tutorial works seamlessly in Adobe Lightroom Classic, Lightroom Mobile, and even the free version of Lightroom. Most of these techniques also translate beautifully to Capture One, Darktable, and even the Photos app on your phone. No prior editing experience required whatsoever. Honest.

Think of editing like seasoning a meal. Too much and you ruin it; too little and it's bland. These five adjustments work together like a flavour profile each one does a distinct job, and together they make everything taste just right.

STEP 1 Exposure & Highlights: The Foundation

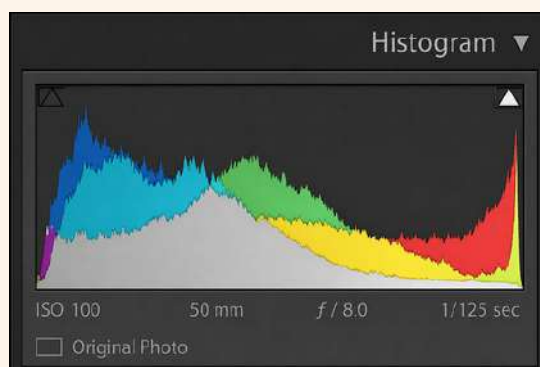
Open your image and head straight to the Basic panel. The very first thing to do is fix the overall brightness. Drag the **Exposure** slider until the main subject looks naturally lit not too bright, not murky. As a rough guide, skin tones should look like skin, not a ghost or a shadow.

Now here is where beginners often go wrong: they crank the **exposure** up and the whole image why they turn into a flat white sheet. The fix is dead simple pull the **Highlights** slider to the left (try -40 to -70). You'll be amazed how much cloud detail comes back from what looked like a blown-out mess.



Pro Tip: Use the Histogram

Keep an eye on the histogram whilst you adjust. If the graph is bunched up against the right edge, your highlights are clipping meaning you have lost detail forever. A healthy histogram sits in the middle with gentle slopes on each side. Think of it as your photo's vital signs monitor.

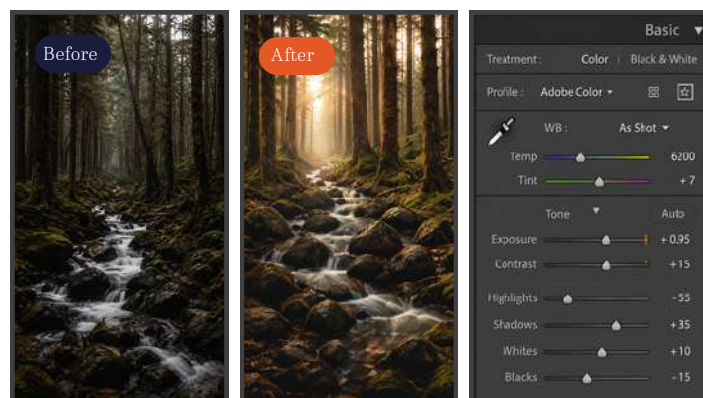


STEP 2 Shadows & Blacks: Bringing Out the Detail

Right, the sky is sorted. Now it is time to bring life back into the darker areas of your photograph. Start by lifting the **Shadows** slider to the right somewhere between +30 and +60 is usually an excellent starting point. This gently reveals hidden detail tucked away in the shade: the texture of old stone walls, subtle facial expressions beneath a hat, layers within a forest scene, or depth inside architectural interiors. Suddenly, the image begins to feel more open, balanced, and immersive.

The **Blacks** slider works a little differently. Rather than recovering detail, it controls the deepest tones in the frame the true blacks that anchor your contrast. A small adjustment to the left (around -10 to -25) adds richness and definition, preventing the image from appearing dull, washed out, or lifeless. It creates that satisfying sense of depth and visual weight that makes photographs feel polished and professional.

Used together, **Shadows** and **Blacks** create balance between detail and contrast. They help transform an image from flat and muddy into something with atmosphere, texture, and presence. Think of them as the quiet finishing touches that give your photographs strength, mood, and character without making the edit feel forced.



“Lifting your shadows is like switching on a lamp in a dark room suddenly everything is visible.”

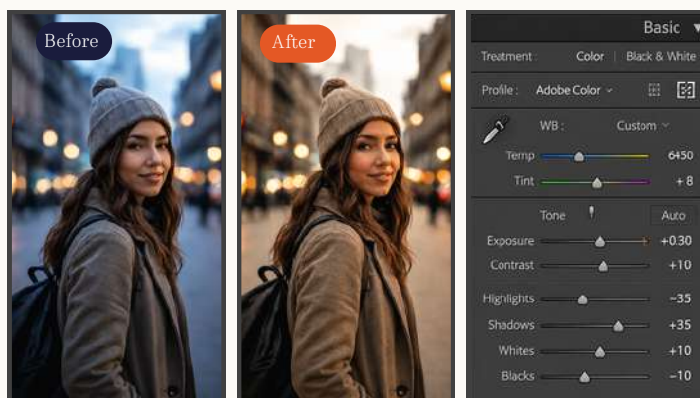


STEP 3 White Balance: Making Colours Feel Right

Many new photographers do not realise that automatic white balance rarely captures the exact mood you intended, even if it does a decent technical job.

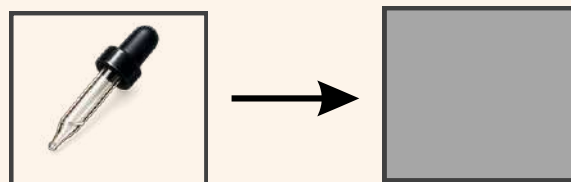
In Adobe Lightroom Classic, use the Temperature slider to adjust the feel of your image. Move it warmer for golden-hour shots and portraits, or cooler for moody landscapes and cinematic tones. Small adjustments of 200-500 Kelvin are usually enough.

The Tint slider is especially useful under artificial lighting. A slight move towards magenta (+5 to +15) often makes skin tones look far more natural and pleasing.



The Eyedropper Trick

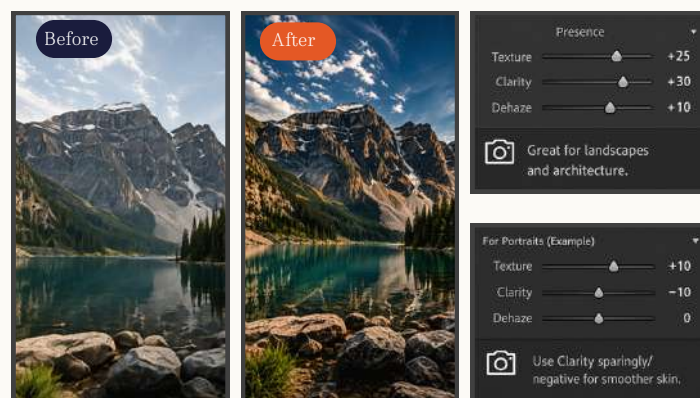
Click the eyedropper icon next to "WIB" and then click on something in your photo that should be pure white or neutral. A white shirt, grey pavement. Lightroom auto-correct the white balance based on that reference. It will not always be perfect, but it gets 80% of the way there in one click.



STEP 4 Clarity & Texture: Adding Depth Without Going Overboard

This is where a lot of beginners get into trouble and it is entirely understandable, because these sliders feel incredible at first. Clarity adds mid-tone contrast, making edges pop and giving landscapes and architecture that punchy, almost three-dimensional feel. Texture is a subtler version, working on fine surface detail without affecting the overall contrast.

The golden rule: **less is more**. Seriously. A Clarity value of +20 to +35 on a landscape is dramatic but tasteful. Pushing it to +80 makes your photo look like it was processed by a toddler with a grudge. For portraits, use Clarity sparingly (or even go slightly negative for silky smooth skin) and rely more on Texture instead.



Common Mistake: The Clarity Trap

It is very tempting to crank Clarity and Texture to 50+ because it looks impressive on screen. But print it, post it, or view it on another monitor and it often looks harsh and artificial. A good test: if you can immediately notice the editing, dial it back by 30%. The best edits are invisible.

“Texture is the spice of editing. A pinch transforms a dish. A handful ruins it.”

STEP 5 HSL Colour Tweaks: Make Those Colours Sing

Right then the last step, and possibly the most satisfying one. The HSL panel (Hue, Saturation, Luminance) lets you tweak individual colours in your photo without affecting anything else. Want a richer blue sky? Boost the blue saturation. Green grass looking a bit sickly? Shift the hue slightly towards yellow-green and lift the luminance.

For landscapes, the two most impactful moves are: increase the Blue Saturation and decrease the Blue Luminance to get dramatic skies; and shift Orange Hue slightly warmer to make golden-hour light feel even more golden. For portraits, try reducing the Red and Orange Saturation by just -5 to -10 to give skin tones a more flattering, editorial look.

One word of caution: do not go mental with the Saturation sliders. A global Vibrance lift of +15 to +25 in the Basic panel is usually far more natural-looking than maxing out individual colour channels in HSL.



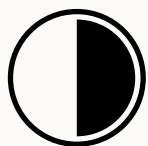
Your Five-Minute Cheat Sheet



01

Exposure

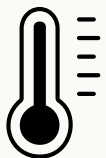
Fix overall brightness. Pull Highlights left to recover the sky, fix overall brightness. Pull them down to the sky.



02

Shadows & Blacks

Lift Shadows (+15 - 60) and deepen Blacks (-10 - 25).



03

White Balance

Warm up portraits, cool down moody landscapes.



04

Clarity & Texture

Add depth (+20 - 35). Go easy on portraits.



05

HSL Colour Tweaks

Enrich blues in skies, warm oranges, refine skin tones.

Summary

Here is the brilliant thing about this workflow: once you have done it a few times, five minutes genuinely is all it takes. Your fingers develop muscle memory for the sliders, your eye gets quicker at spotting what an image needs, and the whole process starts to feel less like a chore and more like play.

Do not obsess over achieving a perfect, definitive result every time. Photography is an art, not a maths exam. Some photos will respond brilliantly to this workflow; others will need a different approach. But these five steps give you a solid, reliable foundation to build from and that is worth its weight in gold.

Take It Further

Once you are comfortable with the Basic panel, explore these next steps:

- **Tone Curve:** for even finer control over contrast and mood
- **Colour Grading:** add subtle colour casts to shadows and highlights
- **Presets:** save your favourite settings as a one-click starting point
- **Local Adjustments:** dodge and burn specific areas with the Masking tool



PHOTO STORY

Anindya Phani





They left Tibet over 60 years ago carrying little except memory, loss, and the dream of freedom. Some lost loved ones along the journey, while others arrived with entire families, hoping to rebuild a life far from the land they once called home. In the Tibetan refugee settlements, they learnt to survive again, weaving wool, shaping wood, teaching their children a language that borders could not erase.

With time came citizenship, jobs, and lives scattered across different countries, yet the ache of exile never truly disappeared. Many who left the settlements eventually returned in old age, drawn back to the only place where their mother tongue still echoes through everyday life.

As I photographed them, I realised they were not only preserving traditions, but preserving memory itself. They dye wool in colours of a homeland some of the younger generation have never even seen, holding onto an idea of freedom that time could not take away. Their faces carry both resilience and longing, the quiet grief of people who may never return home, yet refuse to let home disappear within them.

**By profession,
I am a
chemistry
teacher.**

**At heart,
I am a
photographer.**





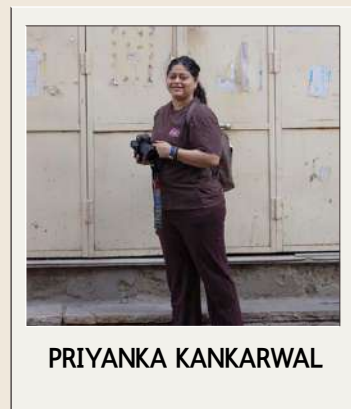
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...erwriter and Joint Bookrunner



MOTHER TONGUE

MOTHER'S DAY photo feature exploring the many quiet languages through which mothers are remembered, loved, and understood.



PRIYANKA KANKARWAL



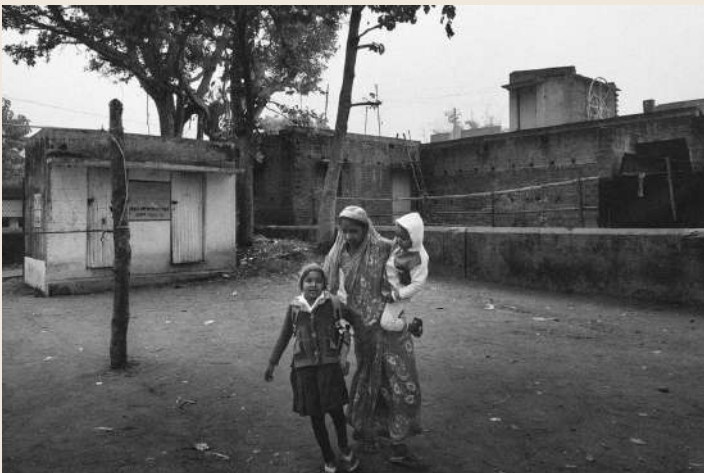
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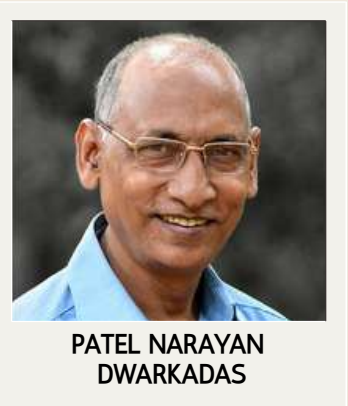


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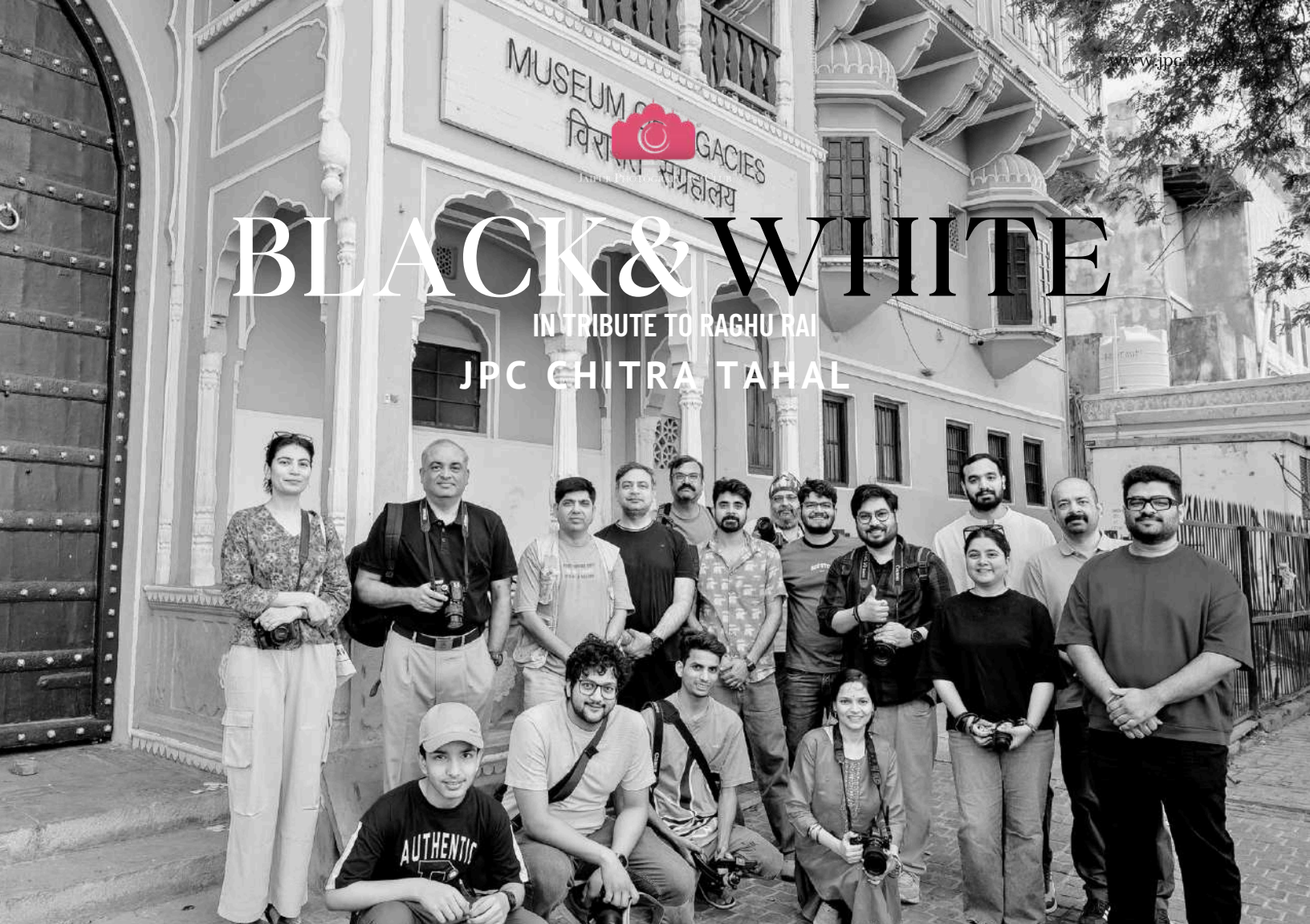
PATEL NARAYAN
DWARKADAS

“ ———
THE FIRST LANGUAGE WE LEARN IS LOVE.
THE LAST WE FORGET IS HERS.
————— ”

MUSEUM OF GASTRONOMY
किराना स्टोर्स
GASTRONOMY
संग्रहालय

BLACK & WHITE

IN TRIBUTE TO RAGHU RAI
JPC CHITRA TAHAL



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