



STREET PHOTOGRAPHY INDIA

100 UNTOLD STORIES

A CURATION
BY
STREET PHOTOGRAPHY INDIA

100 UNTOLD STORIES

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PREFACE

To leave its audience wondering is a prominent attribute of a good photograph. The knowledge shared in this book comes directly from renowned street photographers. Furthermore, the stories told and the feelings expressed here are based on their real accounts and experiences. This book is a compilation of separate brief narratives of hundred street photos, each expressing the distinct approach of its photographer. Just one similarity binds together all the photos of this collection. It is the underlying and instant connection the wonder struck members of the community formed with the photos.

It describes the immense efforts that go in the pursuit of one perfect shot, the right angle, the change in mode, the instinct to see wonders in the ordinary, and the working of street photography as a whole. This book presents the highly praised street photos along with what went behind the cameras with an intention of inspiring the beginners and encouraging anyone who is somewhere doubting his/her skills.

In the end, it is everything we wanted it to be.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The completion of this book required much more than words, it took a lot of assistance that came in from many directions. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the photographers who shared the stories behind their remarkable pieces of art and became the contributing authors of this work. Special thanks to everyone who encouraged the idea of this book and helped in the process of creating it, especially, the entire team who took the responsibility and worked together to present you with 100 Untold Stories.

Our deepest gratitude goes to you, the talented contributors and wonderful members of the Street Photography India community who stayed by our side since the beginning. You've supported us throughout this beautiful journey of learning and teaching, and above all, growing as a community.

STREET PHOTOGRAPHY INDIA



Let's Tell Your Stories

31/12/17

Best wishes
from team SPI

OUR STORY



2015

The first step is always the hardest. December 15th, 2015 It was midnight when, in hopes of inspiration, I decided to lookup street photography communities online. I was browsing through a media platform that was rapidly gaining popularity among photographers, Instagram. I was taken aback by the fact that there was not a single community emphasizing on street photography in our country. It made me anxious to see Instagram was no different in this case. Back then, Instagram was supposedly one of the best mediums to showcase photographs in the virtual world.

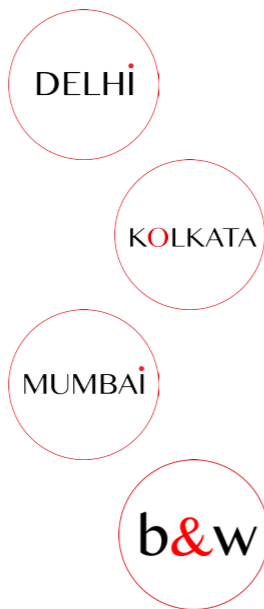


In the state of shock, one thought was enough to overcome this confusion, "What more could happen!" It was clear to me that a lot must be done to do what hadn't been done yet; to connect, and share. So, that midnight marked the origin of a community named Street Photography India.

2016

Dreams are as natural as breathing but turning them into reality is as challenging as facing your nightmares. It takes persistent will and never-dying courage for dreams to come to life.

April 4th, 2016 As a community, in merely 4 months from its beginning, Street Photography India expanded at a tremendous pace. Our members showed keenness towards street photography. They started believing in our features and were inspired by the selections. With this, one of the major purposes of our community was going accurately.



As days passed by, overwhelming responses started pouring in from different parts of the country, especially, 3 major cities - Delhi, Mumbai, and Kolkata exceeded our expectations. To display more photographs as features and present our members with more inspiration, 3 more communities were introduced: Street Photography Delhi, Street Photography Mumbai, and Street Photography Kolkata.

Art knows no boundaries. So, we aimed at every aspect of street photography. May 1st, 2016 There were very few pages supporting black and white street photography. Even on the existing street photography platforms, black and white photos were not a regular occurrence. We were well aware that many photographers choose to shoot in black and white for various reasons and it must not be neglected. On this account, Street Photography B&W was launched to showcase street photos from all over the world.

To learn is a necessity for self-improvement. However, sharing one's art is even better as it inspires many more to create. It opens doors for a new generation of artists.

June 5th, 2016 Through Street Photography India, we started to pass more and more precise information about street photography to our community members. After 6 months of hard work and learning about the genre of street photography, we achieved our first milestone. Our community reached 50,000 members.

September 18th, 2016 We always took this as a great responsibility of promoting the art of street photography in our country. We worked endlessly to reach as wide as we can. Most importantly, we made sure to never share incorrect knowledge with the members connected with us. As a result, Street Photography India reached 100,000 followers. From a midnight dream to one of the recognizable communities of street photography, it was no more related to one person. It was an emotional moment of mixed emotions, on one hand, we were delighted, on the other hand, we were determined to only progress from that point forward.



April 11th, 2017 Once again, we were getting a greater response. This time, it was from our first international community, even though it was limited to black and white. This led to the launch of our 6th community - Street Photography Worldwide. Thanks to the response and motivation we received from all our members of these 6 communities, we were able to reach out to more people and promote this art form.

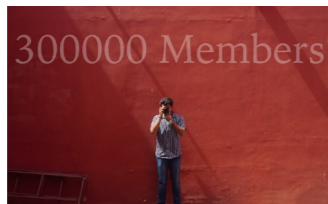
2017

May 19th, 2017 Street Photography India reached 2,00,000 members.

November 25th, 2017 Street Photography Mumbai reached 50,000 members.

2018

June 25th, 2018 Street Photography India reached 3,00,000 members. As a community, it was an extraordinary moment. The support from our members, their willingness to share stories, and eagerness to every announcement we made was our morale booster.



WWW.STREETPHOTOGRAPHYINDIA.IN

December 17th, 2018 Street Photography India finally introduced its official website to the community members. What began from social media was liked, supported, and motivated by our increasing members. The website became a medium for our members to share their stories with us and to share more than photos. At the same time, we were able to share our side of experience and information more effectively about street photos.

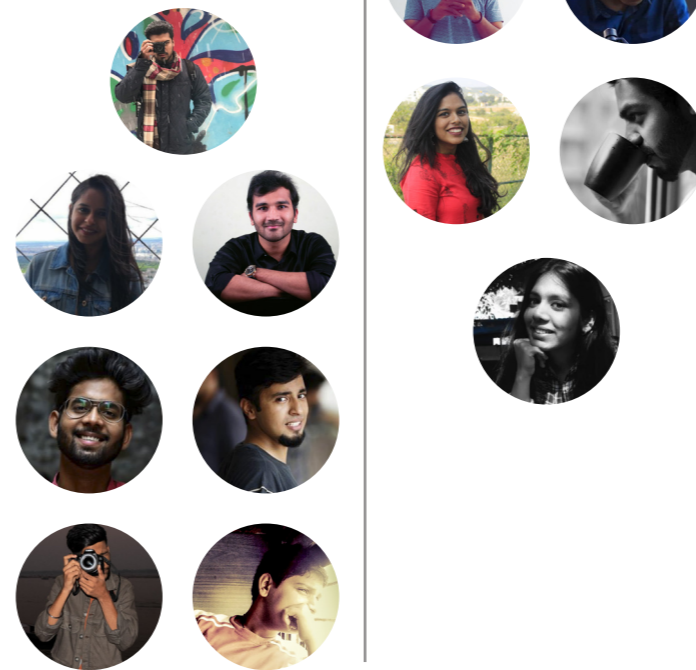
2019

April 21st, 2019 After continuously going strong on every platform, we began our Youtube Channel.



2020

April 1st, 2020 With 14 members on board, Team SPI was formed. This was a crucial step to expand the horizon of ideas. Team SPI soon became an integral part of this community. All the team members share a common perspective for SPI and work together to outreach our common goals.



PAPARAZZOS

November 21st, 2020 Moving forward persistently, next was the launch of Paparazzos, 'India's first photographer's portfolio website'. It will continue to grow as envisioned - a unique venture that allows photographers and videographers to create their portfolios and bridges the gap between them and people who seek their services.

December 15th, 2020 It has been 5 years since the journey of Street Photography India began. Over time, a one-man-dream has outgrown and is now shared by so many more. Above all, one dream of a storyteller still goes on and will continue to flourish... a vision to whole-heartedly narrate stories through photos.

100 UNTOLD STORIES



AARTI DHOPAWKAR

The leaves and the sky, the path and the doors, everything was completely blurred, but the moving subject. At times, a simple shift of technique can give wondrous results. It was the use of the panning technique which combined a slow shutter speed with camera motion to create a sense of speed around a moving object. As it occurred here, the use of correct light and shadow, patterns, and colors in the background, can take an every-other photo to the next level.





VIGNESH SNAPER

Kulasekarapatnam, a small town is mainly known for its 12-days carnival during the Navratri festival. The grand celebrations finally reach the highest at the Dasara festival. People believe it to be the day of auspicious new beginnings.

Millions of devotees assembled in the city to pray in the 300-years-old Mutharamman Temple. In the evening, hundreds of devotees were taking part in the rituals while the rest joined in the festivities. It was the final event not only of that day but also of the great Dasara festival.

ABIR CHOUDHURY

Eid festival was fast approaching when a frame was picked that visualized an illusion. The color tones were balanced with warm and cool to support a more dynamic feel. A pair of legs and a pair of girls correctly co-ordinated to convey the socio-economic imbalance towards girl child in the country. The two haze sections were not with subjects but without them, the dynamism and the mystery were impossible. When looked from the eyes of the creator, it was a moment of a perfect balance of subjects covering up the imbalance of society.





VIGNESH BHAT

Theyyam is a famous ritual and custom of dance worship that has maintained a prestigious place in the religious history of India for thousands of years. Even today, Karnataka and Kerala are known for this dance style worldwide. To witness it live was a blend of everything, be it the colors, the expressions, the faith, or even the chaos during the event. The ritual was a visual treat to the eyes and the shot was an attempt to capture the essence of it.



FURQAN AHMED

Before heavy rains could submerge half of Mumbai, several months of heated days burn the soil constantly. One of those sunny days was at its peak. The afternoon was long and hot, so, a group of people sat under the shade of a tree. He who was looking for a perfect shot stumbled across the scene and couldn't help but feel the greatness and selflessness of the beautiful creation called trees. He wondered if anyone could be a better host than the one who takes the blazing sun rays on itself and lets everyone rest in its shadow.

2017 | Madurai

BISWAJIT PRAMANIK

On a hot Sunday afternoon, a photographers' gathering took place in Kolkata Maidan to share knowledge and he was there to attend the same. He was taking portraits of a spicy-baked-peas vendor who seemed to be shy of looking straight at the camera. From a distance, a flock of birds was getting closer, and then he began to play with perspectives. From a lower angle, two distinct pieces were combined in one frame; the birds flying high in the sky and the vendor looking down. The drama it created was beyond expectation and he said, "there happened a miracle!"

2019 | Kolkata



TASHI TOBGYAL

Numerous automobile unions in conjunction were on a day-long strike. Auto rickshaw unions also stepped in and hundreds of autos were parked at the Ramlila Maidan in New Delhi. Auto rickshaws are an integral part of any metro city's transportation services. The strike caused inconvenience to passengers at railway stations and airports. From office goers to school children, everyone was affected. The story behind a photo can be many things, in this case, it became a reminder of two sides of every action; the firm standing of the unions and the troubles of the common population.





ACHINTYA DAS

One morning, a competitive exam was to be conducted. So, traffic on the roads that were linked to the exam center was bound to increase. On their way back homes, a majority of the exhausted examinees waited for the local transportation. All the seats on the bus were taken in less than one minute. Soon, it became so congested that passengers had to find someplace on the roof, which was again crowded. The bus had just started its journey when a motorcycle passed by and it turned out to be an accurate depiction of the commuter's cramped experience.

SUVADIP MAJUMDER

He was strolling on the beachside when a dog joined him on the way. So, he decided to click some photos of the stranger who became his companion for the walk. Keeping his partner in the center, he waited for a while to get it at the right time. The dog too sat patiently, more like he wanted to leave his memory behind. And it soon turned out to be an utterly balanced piece.





ADNAN AZMI

An early morning walk was a habit reserved only for the days he stayed in his hometown, a small and quiet place. After a cuppa tea, he was wandering alone, lazily picking up his camera for shots of insects and flowers. His eyes settled on a spot that seemed quite blank. At first, he beheld a stretch of mound against an orange kissed sky which soon became a backdrop to three children who emerged into view. They were quite excited and he, not far away, could sense joy and excitement in their laughter. Two young kids ran behind an older boy on a bicycle. The kids were keeping their promise to teach the boy how to ride the bicycle by supporting it. He picked up his camera and began to focus and waited for the unknown. And there it was... his unknown moment of victory as the local urchin balanced and rode on his own. The expression of joy as the boy landed on his knees to celebrate his accomplishment and the girl proud of their successful venture shouted, 'we made it'. Meanwhile, he saved this memory as a moment of triumph. To the viewers, it became a silhouette of three children. But to him, it was when he witnessed success and captured its ecstasy to make it forever memorable.

SUNHIL SIPPY

During the monsoon season in Mumbai when high tides hit the sea sides, people were gathered at Marine Drive to enjoy the sea spray. Well aware that his camera wasn't water-resistant in any way, he jumped right in the splashy site. To capture all the fun, he chose to be present in the thick of the action.

Even after causing some serious damage, the image wasn't short listed for some years. At first, he considered it way too abstract. It was only after his knowledge and experience increased that he appreciated the ambiguity in the image and its impressionistic painterly quality. Perhaps, some photographs can only be acknowledged with a refined perspective.





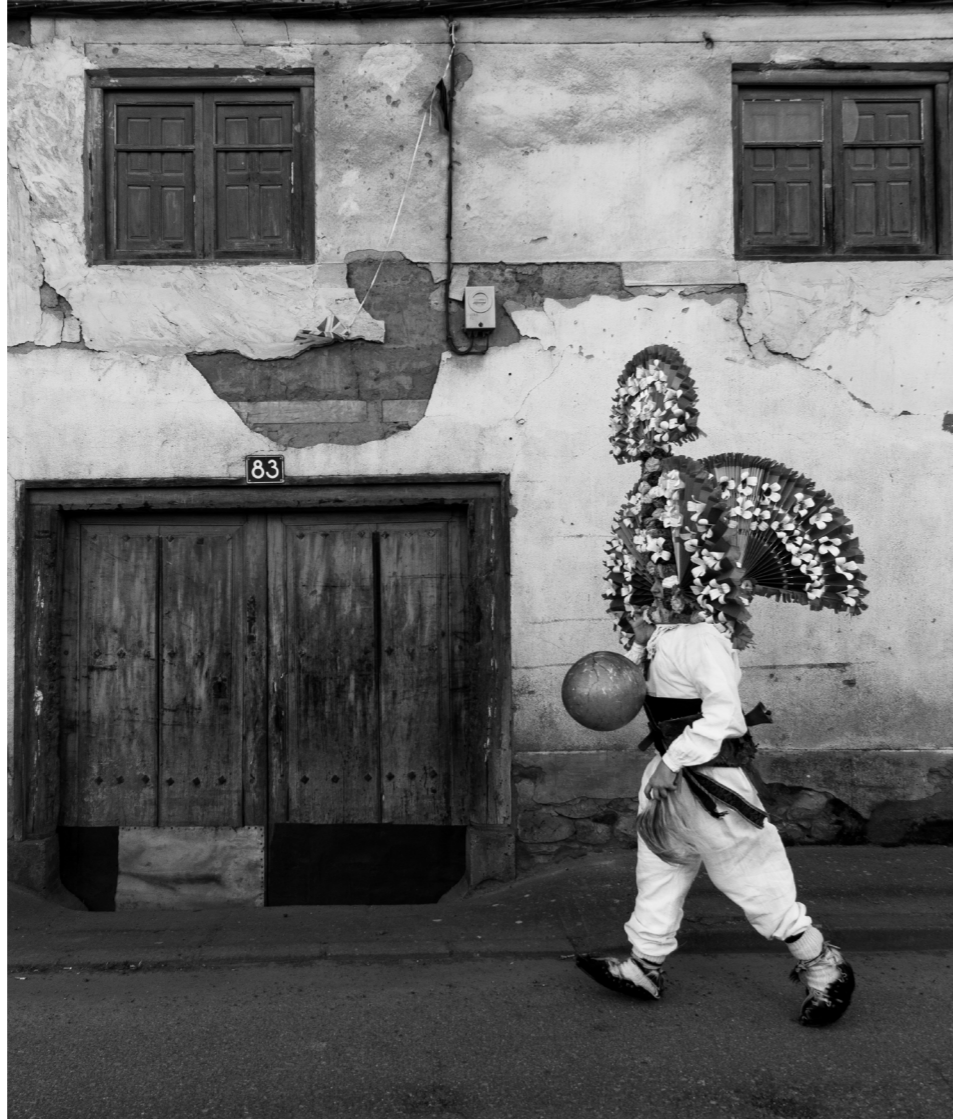
ANINDYA PAL

During a photo walk in Old Delhi, he was witnessing 'Kabootarbaji' in the house of a pigeon whisperer. All the pigeons were so well-trained that they flew strictly in a flock. Suddenly, a white pigeon with a pink mark on its feathers caught his attention. It was soaring in the opposite direction like it yearned to be free. To fly on its own will. As he picked his phone to capture it, a flock of pigeons appeared in the distance which seemed contrasting. To him, it signified finding one's unique way instead of being a part of the herd.

AINART AINHOA TEJERINA

In Llamas de la Ribera, León, nearly every citizen celebrates the traditional festival of 'Antruejo.' People wear costumes, and tie bells around their waists and turn into huge masked characters called Guirrios. This marks the beginning of the carnival. Guirrios run and jump through the town attempting to scare the public. As they continue the fun events, more people follow them along the way. Separated from the craze, a Guirrio hurried to join the group. The perfect photo was taken after a moment's wait when the backdrop had shifted to an old traditional style house.

2019 | León, Spain



RAJU GHOSH

The frenetic streets had too much going on. It might've been difficult to take it all in. However, the truest form of Indian streets was taken from the roadside. With everything aligned and beautifully dividing layers, even the shadows and the tiniest of details remained intact.

2015 | Uttarakhand



SUBHASHIS HALDER SERENE

Every year in the winter season, new shades appear in Maidan for a limited timeframe. Due to heavy fog, the place becomes hard to recognize in the early mornings. While roaming in the temporary setting of Maidan, he saw a white horse who was staring back at him. Amidst the dense fog, the horse stood unaware of its enchanting presence which made rest everything to disperse in the background. Kolkata seemed nothing like its typical self. The whole ambiance was dreamy, like, one step back, and it might all go away. Who knew it would become one of the safely stored moments.





ARPIT SAXENA

In the month of Ramadan, the streets surrounding Jama Masjid have a distinct scene at every turn. In one of the cramped lanes, a handicapped lady in burkha found herself a small spot. When his camera lens was moving in every direction, a guy who was holding a rope to which a goat was tied crossed the road. The color similarities and the placement of the subject just happened for less than a second. The scene was captured naturally without any second thoughts.

SOUHITTYO SINHA

Every Sunday, Shahid Minar offers a colorful ground of diverse and happening surroundings. A family of a mother and a father, most likely three of their daughters, and a baby arrived at the place. They were setting up the poles and ropes. It was going to be the staging ground for a performance by the elder daughter who was about to ropewalk. As the music started to play, the family began dancing and jumping to amuse everyone around. Something so simple for the viewers but their whole livelihood probably depended on those 2-3 hours of Sundays. It portrays the hardness of life, the diverse cultures, the hardships, and everything else on the line for the family.

2017 | Kolkata





AVIRUP BANERJEE

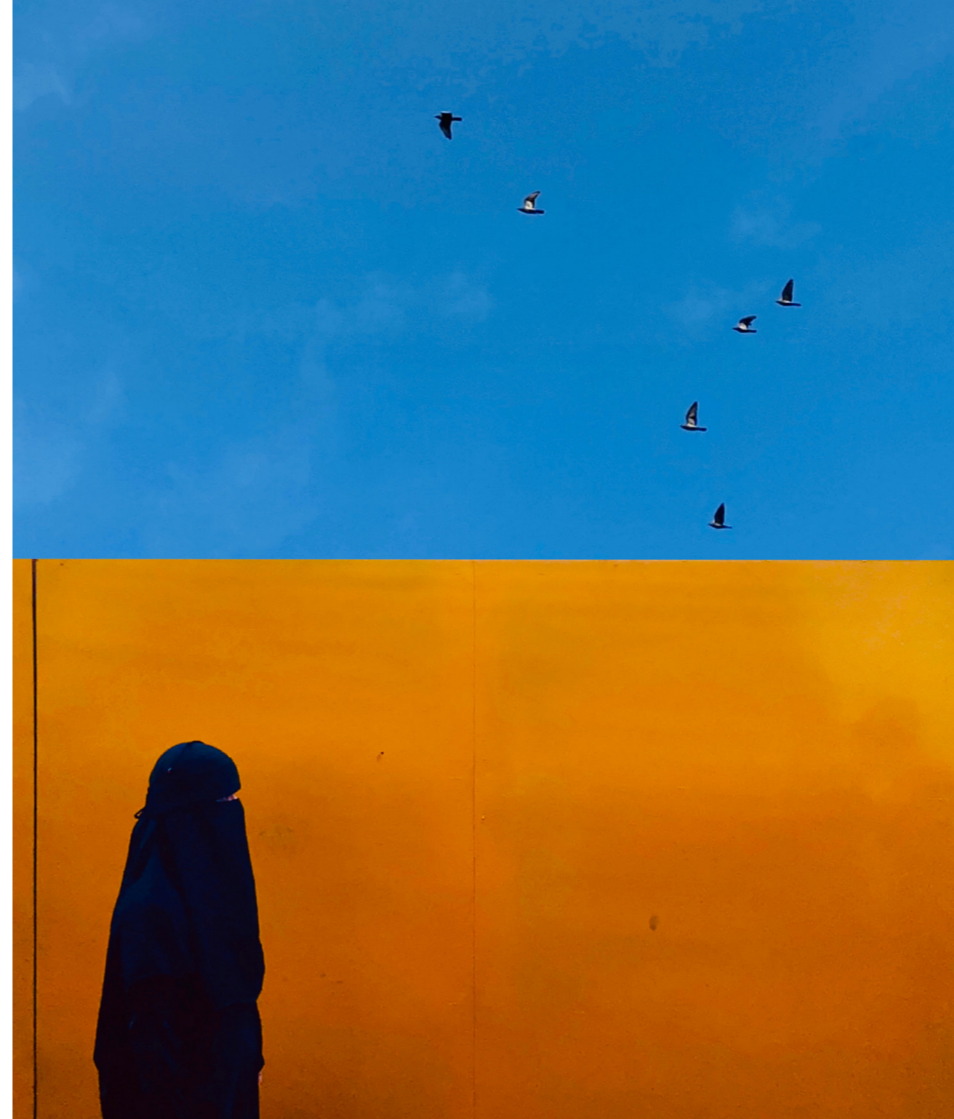
A devastating fire broke out due to a short-circuit in one of the famous shops of the city. The entire ground floor was destroyed. The fire workers were trying to clear out the vent, to prevent the fire from spreading inside the building, which was a residential complex. After a lot of effort, the authorities were able to bring the fire under control. There were no casualties but the financial loss was unfathomable. Captured in the sudden unrest was a photo, that practically everyone further inquires about.



RAHUL MACHIGAR

The monsoon can make anyone a Mumbaikar in one fell swoop. The water level rose, but differences of hearts couldn't rise above the grounds. All the marks of hatred drowned, and the fear survived. In the time of crisis, no one was Marathi, no one was Hindu, no one was Muslim. Left were mere humans clutching their umbrellas, still all soaked. Humans who asked for help, and humans who could protect them. Someday, the wool will fall, the rain will stop, and everything will be fine. When that day comes, just one thing must be done: preserve the moisture provided by rain.

2017 | Mumbai



SHOYEB FAROOQUI

During unlock 2.0, people were getting over the fear of the virus. Everyone was slowly beginning to step out as they did before the lockdown. One morning, after spending months in his home, he too went out to shoot. There was a yellow background sheet work in progress and people were walking through that footpath. All this while, it seemed incomplete. As soon as a woman in a black burqa appeared, all the pieces fitted perfectly together.

2020 | Mumbai

SOMESH CHOURASIYA

He was standing on a rooftop to capture a splendid shot of the sunrise. The view of the red bright sun was indeed magnificent but it was more soothing to see the white birds scatter in the sky as a man in the boat headed in their direction. So, he made a choice, and what a beautiful choice indeed.





AYANAVA SIL

Nakhoda Mosque is the principal mosque of Kolkata. A few days before Ramzan, he was shooting inside the mosque. It was late evening and he had been shooting there since afternoon. Hundreds of images and a couple of hours later, he was not at all happy with the output, the sense of satisfaction was still missing. He was about to leave but by then the evening Namaz had started. He thought of staying a bit more till the Namaz gets over and went upstairs to take a birds-eye view of the devotees praying downstairs. As he reached the third floor, to his surprise, he saw a young man indulged in evening prayer all alone on that floor. He felt blessed with great light due to the guy's standing position, the formation of the shadows was even. He positioned himself and took 3-4 shots. With the blue hour outside and the young man into his prayers inside, the moment was all still and peaceful.

SIBANGSHU MAITY

It was an immersion procession of goddess Kali after the day of Kali Puja and Diwali. Many people took part in the idol immersion procession at nearly midnight. A grand decorative firecracker show was the main attraction of the night. People were dancing in and within those firecrackers, without a care for the precautions about burning firecrackers. It was all about enjoyment and it seemed very easy to get carried away. The short-term happiness of the festival was given importance over necessities such as fresh air and safety. Forgetting all the struggles, problems of daily life, a few days of festivals were celebrated with temporary but overwhelming happiness.





DIMPY BHALOTIA

Photographers hold many photos close to their hearts. But each favorite has a different reason behind it: the story of composition or the message from it. Here, it is about what the photo represents; life, the most beautiful and intense phenomena... how humans are privileged to enjoy life and the beauty of the earth. It is a photo representing life, freedom, love, and hope.

SAURAV JAISWAL

On the way to college, he used to cross that skywalk almost every day. One day, he stopped there for a while to look around when he noticed how short scenes were occurring on every side. Like they were all hidden stories waiting to be read out loud. After many days of observation, he decided to wait on the skywalk and look for a minimal subject when a perfect example of minimalist photography was documented.

2019 | Mumbai



AVIK SAHA

The water level of river Matla was zero because of ebb-tide. Many local fishermen, along with their families were searching for fishes in the emptied river. A married couple from the nearby rural village was there to catch small fishes from the drenched sand. Although they were looking around together, the photo shows a structure of sand dividing them. They were walking side by side yet apart

2017 | West Bengal



SHUBHASHISH CHAKRABARTY

All-day long drizzle on a September day wasn't enough to stop the daily activities of people. From college-goers to traffic police, everyone followed their daily routines as the concept of rainy-day-offs was foreign to them. Nothing had changed, just the weather. It seemed like everything, and everyone was asking him to observe their reflections and capture them in a picture.





KULDEEP CHANDEL

Every year, the local Bengali community of Jaipur set up a pandal during Navratri for Durga Pooja. And every year he went there to document the rituals but had to return empty-handed, thanks to a point and shoot camera. Photographers have their share of struggles but those who endure, achieve what's worth learning; experience. After many failed attempts, he finally managed to take the shot from a DSLR... a photo that still revives all the memories of his efforts, failures, and success.

SHREYANSH RAJPAL

It was a beautiful day in July, the month with the most unpredictable monsoon weather. As always he tried to observe the different shades of the season and how every moment was characterized by a particular color, be it grey clouds before the rain or the light shades of the sky after the rain. It started to drizzle and people ran covering their heads, looking for shade. Mostly, people tend to hide their cameras and stay indoors during rain. Contrary to the majority, the arrival of clouds and rain made him pick up his phone and click a picture that had simplicity at its center and showed the originality of black and white photography. Even though the colors of the monsoon were pleasing, it made more sense when the image was in black and white.





MANISH KAWALIA

In the Pushkar fair, many things happened at once. Sometimes, even human eyes lost account of some of the fun. One of the activities was of a street performer. Far in one corner of the fair sat a monkey charmer, showing his games and tricks. Surprisingly, the monkeys weren't eager about the performance, they seemed rather bored. Quite clearly, they've been doing it for too long. When an attempt was made to capture their disinterest, a monkey didn't like it at all and gave a furious look. And suddenly, all the happenings that were overlooked by eyes, found the right places in one photo.

SANJEEV KUMAR

On a cold morning, Yamuna was slowly hiding underneath the spreading fog. A man closed his eyes to merge in the fading skylines behind him. The birds flew aimlessly, as they might have lost sight in the mist that was closing in around them. It was a regular winter story, and yet different. For, visit a place once, twice or thousand times, every time, it presents an untold story of unknown people.





MUSTAFA KARIZ

On the Konyaalti Street of Turkey, a couple was sitting on a bench withdrawn from the world. Not far from them, a man took a seat on the edge of another bench. Even the tree was bent towards the couple, perhaps supporting their togetherness. While the man sat there, all alone, lost in his thoughts. It is astonishing how one photo can speak of many stories. The human mind can be influenced by the simplest sights and it became one such photo of a moment that can affect one deeply.

SACHIN

Every weekend, a bunch of talented boys used to practice a style of Hip-Hop dance. Without access to any proper training centers, the passionate boys trained and enhanced their moves on the sandy soil near the Signature Bridge of Delhi. With moves close to flying and stunts quite extraordinary, the flying boys in action resonated with the guy documenting their skills from his camera. As a child, he idolized superheroes and dreamt of having superpowers. Seeing them full of hopes and energy, his nostalgic childhood days flashed from the past. All the recollections stayed in front of his eyes as he clicked the scenes of dance practice. Truth to be told, even from behind the camera, he became as much part of the photograph as the boys.





NAVIN VATSA

Some moments of silence speak many words but not everyone can hear them. Those who let this silence reach the innermost depths of their thoughts can understand the divine relationship between nature and spirituality. It can't be defined. Only a peaceful mind feels the connection when observing it closely. To showcase the same thought in a photograph, he reached the ghats of the river Yamuna at sunrise. It was during the winter season and the fog was slowly lifted with daybreak. A boatman was feeding the migratory birds and the two hanging bells symbolizing the spiritual connection of thought between humans and nature. It not only looked like an ideal moment but also felt the same.

ROHAN RAO

To honor his God, a man held the idol of Ganpati on his head and marched towards the strong waves of the sea. From way behind, the whole incident was recorded in almost 15-20 photographs. His eyes were set on the perfect shot, so much that he lost the lens caps of his camera. What he received in return was worth more than the loss. Neither the roar of the surf nor the darkness of rapidly-approaching clouds could take away what he truly meant to capture; the silhouette as well as contrast.





NILANJAN CHATTERJEE

Dhunuchi dance is a traditional dance ritual, performed during the farewell of Goddess Durga in the Hindu festival of Durga puja. The dhunuchi itself is a clay stem, filled with burning coal, coconut husk, and incense. An old heritage home became the core of celebrations for many close families. Everyone gathered in the veranda of the 200-years-old building to enjoy. The women were dancing and offering their performance to Goddess Durga. Everyone in the audience was cheering for the dancers. As safety measures, the older members of the family were spraying foam around the ladies to avoid any fire hazard. That's when a full festive mood with joy-laughter-clapping-happiness was captured.



SANTSHREE SINHA

All tourist trips to Delhi are incomplete until they have been to Rashtrapati Bhawan and India Gate. So, every day, with the rising sun, Rashtrapati Bhawan welcomes many visitors and photographers. He too wanted to take a photo of the same but an unintended outline of a perfect photo popped in his head when he saw some soldiers crossing the street. He had to wait the next hour for the soldiers to return. In the end, his outline idea became a clear picture.

2018 | New Delhi



KUNAL SHARMA

The hustles and hardships along with a tinge of composition have always been fascinating. The continuous downpour was making life a little troublesome in the city of joy. The bustling life at Kolkata and rainfall together made a memorable experience worth capturing. A photo became a reminder of how important commutation is for the common man because life never slowed down in the city that neither loses its touch of joy nor its pace of work.

2017 | Kolkata

PARAMITA BISHNU

Shantipur of Bardhaman district is a traditionally renowned center for the production of hand-woven fabrics sold throughout the country. It was around the time of the Dolyatra festival, the workers were coloring huge stacks of white thread and were drying them thereafter. They didn't feel disturbed and co-operated willfully. She was trying to capture the art and the love they put into the entire process of making such graceful sarees of tant and handlooms. The main purpose was to depict the labor that goes into making the traditional sarees... an attempt to reach out to a wider mass of people through pictures and bring the heritage of Bengal to their knowledge.





RANA PANDEY

During his initial days as a visual storyteller, he was wandering in the narrow lanes of Varanasi. He stopped next to a long queue of pilgrims who were waiting for their turn to enter the famous Kashi Vishwanath temple. It was a security zone where photography wasn't allowed by the military authorities. So, he walked in another direction. An hour later, he returned on the same route and the queue was still long. This time, he began to take some photographs while being careful of the military. Eventually, he was caught in the act and interrogated, then his credentials were checked. At long last, 15 minutes were granted to document the scene. The third time turned out to be a charm. Every once in a while, it is more than patience, persistence, accuracy, and keenness that go into a photograph.

RAJU GHOSH

Kolkata is known for many things, including its grand colonial architecture, Durga Pooja, cultural festivals, and most of all, rickshaws. After being an iconic part of Kolkata's conveyance circle for over a hundred-and-thirty years, the hand-pulled rickshaws' era is almost at its fading stage. On a rainy day in Kolkata, a magnificent scene with three heritage symbols of the 'City of Joy' was captured in the form of one photograph.





PRITAM SEN

In the age of technology, Bardhaman is one of the few places in India where rice grains are manually processed using the heat of the sun. He wished to capture it with his eyes as well as his camera. And after a lot of toiling, he finally found the exact place where such challenging processes were practiced. As patterns have always been his favorites, this shot was an instant treasure.

SAGNIK GHOSH

The early morning hustle and bustle of Kolkata streets is a sight to witness in real-time. To portray how the city wakes up was the main motive. Also, to highlight the old charm of British days, the colonial architecture, and the sandstone buildings, a combination only found in Kolkata. All of them, the constant reminders of the days gone by, were fitting right in the frame as they wanted to be remembered for a long time to come.

2017 | Kolkata





RAGHAV SETHI

Despite the proliferation of high-end malls, the local markets will always have their charm. Well aware of this fact, he made his way to the bustling streets of the Commercial Street market. Before the festival of Eid, the crowd thronged these streets for shopping. To give the impression of a captivating traffic wave and a tinge of dramatic effect, he tried long exposure. And it turned out to be a beautifully crumpled modern-age rainbow.

RAJ SINGH

There's a silent grace in the changing weather. It fades away quickly but its short stay is worth a pause from life to gaze at the sky. The clouds cleared after many days of on-and-off rain. At last, the blue sky was becoming visible in all its majestic glory. So much was the light, that not only the waves but also the drenched sand reflected the bright colors above.





HARSHAL ORAWALA

For devotees, any festival is about its defining ritual that praises the greatness of their deity. At the same time, from the eyes of a photographer, a festival is countless spiritual traditions beautifully weaved around the central event making it more than a celebration of the divine God; a celebration of life. Dev Deepali is no different, it is not a festival limited to burning diyas in darkness. Apart from its religious significance, every street of Varanasi city offers a glimpse into mankind's bearing on nature, God, and the universe.

At Dashashwamedh Ghat, a man took bath in the holy water of Ganga, and his faith silenced the surrounding chaos. Then the depth of the magical moment seemed greater than the depth of the sacred river itself.

JAYATI SAHA

During Vrindavan's Holi celebration, Dr. Bindeswar Pathak, the founder of Sulabh International adopted this widow home to return the life of dignity and inclusion to the ill-fated widows. The scriptures solemnly forbid widows from feeling anything but sorrow. Moreover, they are to atone for their so-called bad karma by trading every ounce of joy for lifeless existence. They become resolute in the belief that they are the sinners who must not budge from their chosen path of renunciation. Their lives turn into never-ending chains of rigid rules such as marking days, eating bland food, living in bleak surroundings, and thinking colorless thoughts of penance. But this moment was different and she could sense a hidden rainbow underneath all the white.

They kept their desire to commemorate life suppressed until the window of opportunity opened to taste happiness and experience childlike euphoria. Their severe struggle to stay alive for all these years and ever since fate meted out a severe blow, suddenly stopped making any sense. Hence, throwing caution to the wind, they took a leap of faith in trying to find a real meaning to staying alive happily. They fought the battle between spontaneity and scriptures. And eventually found a meaning to their otherwise bleak existence. The power within these women drove them to soar high as Phoenix from the ashes and allowed them to see a new life while discarding the struggles and come out victorious. Fate appeared weak before their will power to make a choice.

Everyone has a right to choose to be happy. ... So do the widows. This photo was the result of her attempt to freeze in time the sheer energy and hope she was witnessing in a home for widows.





JERIN JAMES

Time slowed down in the ice-capped boats floating on chillingly still water surrounded by snow-white branches of the trees. There was no need to look for any fancy frame at all when the splendor of the Dal Lake was in every direction. No adjustments were made before capturing this dreamlike place as nothing could make it better than it was already. Without any doubt, simplicity is a beautiful reality!



MANISH RAJPUT

In the Patri Wali Masjid, after the namaz (prayer) of the Ramadan festival people were greeting each other and wishing Eid Mubarak. In the middle of the cheerful crowd, a boy was waiting for his turn to exit the mosque and start celebrations of the auspicious day. He looked straight at the camera and at the same time the shutter was pressed.

2019 | Delhi

PRAVIN TAMANG

On a frequently walked street, stands a particular building of his special interest. To note how light reflects against it, he shot the same structure during different weathers. For someone who closely contemplates places and how they tend to appear differently in every season, one shot couldn't be enough. When monsoon was soon to be over, once more the same old structure was all set with an unusual aura. The slightly rough weather's ability to reflect people interacting with the mood in their environment was favoring the perfect shot. The misty day and the stark-concrete color were completed by the men with umbrellas who walked past it. Thus, even in the hazy weather, a crystal clear essence of the season was captured. A building he had taken in the frame several times before and may take many more times in the future... is now colored blue.

2019 | Darjeeling



“To me, photography is an art of observation. It’s about finding something interesting in an ordinary place... I’ve found it has little to do with the things you see and everything to do with the way you see them.”

Elliott Erwitt

ABHAY KANVINDE

Around 9 a.m., everyone on the streets was in a hurry to make it to their workplaces in time. This photo was clicked while waiting for the traffic signal to go green. When it comes to photography, indeed, even random observation can lead to unexpectedly beautiful outcomes.





VIPIN SINGH

At times, the best photos are captured for the least expected reasons... it turned out to be one of those times. Holi is undoubtedly one of the most colorful festivals our world has ever seen. Vrindavan and its neighboring cities and villages are the heart and soul of Holi. Like thousands of tourists from all across the world, he too was there for the first time witnessing the intoxicating sense of belongingness in spiritual gatherings. With the intension to shoot videos of this incredibly zestful festival, he traveled in parts of Vrindavan, several villages of Barsana and Nandgaon.

One late evening, while returning from a ghat, he stopped at the doorstep of Shri Radhavallabh temple. What made him divert from his path was a group of male devotees who were dressed as Gopis. They were dancing fascinatingly as part of rituals called 'Rasleela'. To the outer world, they seemed lost in the moment, but to themselves, they were mesmerized by the presence of Krishna. If it weren't for low lights that weren't suitable for shooting a video, this photo wouldn't be clicked. At last, to capture their motion as they went on rotating, several photos were clicked in slow shutter with flash.

AMLAN SANYAL

While traveling through a busy street of Siliguri, he came across an unexpectedly interesting scene at a roadside fast-food shop. The people on the street kept going on their ways and the people inside the shop continued working, no one noticed what his eyes saw. The way different objects appeared in individual windows of the shop along with the dramatic shadows created a sense of mystery to the entire composition. There was no way he could have missed the chance to photograph what made no sense to the rest but all the sense to him.





SURESH NAGANATHAN

To guess what may intrigue a photographer is an almost impossible task, and one time, a tree became the source of interest.

As a part of a 24-hour project wherein photographers were to document their cities for 24hours, he was recording scenes from different parts of Mumbai. Eight hours after the commencement of the project, it was time to shoot early morning beachside activities at Girgaon Chowpatty. Right before moving to another location, he stopped to take some shots of that rather unnoticeable tree that stood not-so-far from the waves but distant from the people around. At the same moment, a guy playing football began to go around it. Out of several shots, one turned out to be worth cherishing as the guy and the tree showed an uncanny resemblance of shape and posture. Not to mention the sense of calmness, especially compared to how crazy life can be in this megapolis.

ANINDITO MUKHERJEE

Traditionally in Hindu culture, widows are expected to renounce earthly pleasure. Therefore, they don't celebrate Holi, the festival of colors which heralds the beginning of spring. However, an NGO named Sulabh International organized a Holi celebration in a widows' ashram in Vrindavan. Women who were abandoned by their families took part in the festival open-heartedly as they let the colors of Holi fill their lives. A widow, daubed in colors, was dancing and throwing flower petals. She embraced the newness with both hands and a smile.





SAUMALYA GHOSH

It was like every year on the day of ISKCON Ratha Yatra, a festival that commemorates the journey of Lord Jagannath on a splendid chariot pulled by hundreds of devotees. Pilgrims followed the chariot, longing for a glimpse of their deity, hoping to touch the grand chariot, and the ropes pulling it. A belief that heaven opens for those who take part in this mystical pilgrimage was bringing more and more followers closer to the chariot.

Another belief came true with the rainfall - it always rains on the day of Ratha Yatra, even if it is not monsoon. Everyone's faith was strengthened when the misty bright clouds began to pour rain heavily. Among all, two high-spirited devotees danced barefooted on the wet streets. They danced, without a care for the world, like they knew it was coming. They danced like rainfall was part of the ritual and blessings were pouring from the sky in the form of rain.

HRISHIKESH

On a cloudy day, the stretch of the popular Marina beach was as vibrant as ever. Not even the sparkling rains could drop the spirits of those around. Just a look at the surroundings, in the changing weather, was enough to get a glimpse of various scattered tiny stories waiting to be spotted. Amid a lively setting, he was observing it all through his camera to pick one moment of ecstasy. And within minutes, two distant figures gazing at the majestic shades of blue from the cover of their umbrella were right in the frame. At last, a photograph that shared the same feeling of bliss on both sides of the lens was captured.

2019 | Chennai



SNEHA CHATTERJEE

She was strolling around College Street aimlessly in search of composition. Her search took her to a bookshop where books with covers of contrasting colors were piling up till the sealing of the store. The bookseller was lost in reading in one of his books. It was a beautiful frame, and the bookseller was fitting right in it. She Picked up her Canon Ixus 170, zoomed a little, and shot in program mode as her digicam couldn't support manual function. Yet, it became one of the most popular photos she clicked... Truly, the device at hand comes second to the sheer will of photographers.

2018 Kolkata



BIMO PRADITYO

There was nothing planned about it. For a split second, the scene occurred out of nowhere and before he could take another shot, it was gone. So, he had only one photo. However, this one street photo was enough to describe the true nature of street photography, ie, unpredictability.

2018 | Malaysia





RAJ SARKAR

He was in Mumbai for the first time, so, from Dhubhi Ghat to Veronica Street, it was all new to him, like every place was waiting to be explored. On a sunny day, when he reached Kabutarkhana, it became clear why the place was called so. A massive flock of pigeons(kabutars) was flying over the center of the road where a small place was barricaded by an iron grill. People were feeding thousands of pigeons out there. Even the slightest of noise caused the pigeons to fly cluelessly. As a first-timer, anyone was bound to get puzzled by the ambiance. Unsure of what to click and how to click, he shot at random but the search for a desired scene was far from over. Looking around the pavement, he laid eyes on a vehicle standing nearby. Its glass window was reflecting flying pigeons and its driver was sitting patiently as if he was waiting for something or someone. To get a new composition, he took a few shots. Still, not close to what he expected out of that situation. As soon as the aged driver leaned towards the steering wheel, the keen eyes looking for a new point of view noticed the reflection of this movement and the perfect juxtaposition it created. It looked like the driver was trying to catch the bird. The photo felt like it recorded the attempt of an old man to catch his childhood which is long gone.

With this, two believes were proved right. First, street photography demands practice which helps to create reflex action. Second, for a street photographer, patience with deep observation is the key to success.

INDRA JEET

Far from the laidback weekends, that Sunday morning was high on energy. Enthusiasm for a grand event was in the air of Mumbai city and nothing less was expected of the Annual Mumbai Marathon. After all, it has always been a sight to behold. During this vibrant occasion, he was taking a walk on Marine Drive in search of interesting stories when he spotted a couple of boys alongside the footpath. It was obvious from their eye-catching outfits and belongings that the pair had been cheering the participants warmly with drum beats since daybreak. In the bright daylight, both of them were fast asleep without a care in the world. The contrasting colors of their dresses and the deceptive appearance of sharing one head from a slight position change were instantly noticed. With not a second's delay, an illusion was photographed.





MANUJ MEHTA

A photograph can be many things: moments, memories, truth, perspective, and so on. This time, it became a tribute to the resilience of Kashmiris who bravely overcome the odds and look towards the new dawn of life after crossing difficult times. When time stood still and hopes froze in a snow blizzard, the journey became more important than the destination. A family's voyage through the Jhelum River vacillated between adventure and nightmare in shivering weather. As the snowflakes traveled hundreds of heavenly miles to brushed through the gleaming eyes, lips broke into a smile with memories of good times and souvenirs of successful journeys. The grandparent's eyes scanned through conflicting existence, while the child held his mother's hands and stayed as still as the trees. Too young to understand, the young boy was wearing the armor of hope as he waited for a new spring of life after crossing the disputes.

JANAK RATHOD

Spotting a crowded place might very well be one of the easiest things on the day of love. It was Valentine's day and lovers were eager to go out of their ordinary ways to express their affection. In a railway station, everyone's attempts to rush to their destinations were futile because of the overflowing crowd. Right then and there, an extraordinary picture of love in the city captured a moment that synchronized beautifully to the rhythm of the pace of the environment.





LUHUR ADI

Human mind and its infinite imaginations never cease to amaze. When looking around, the mind plays with imaginative skills. To others, a playful boy walking down the road barefoot seemed nothing extraordinary. It was the result of a creative outlook that saw beyond the ordinary. The pattern similarity between the boy's clothes and the whip was right away noticed because of what his imagination led him to see; a hybrid between a man and a snake popped into his thoughts.

VINOD KARKI

Distressed because of the expectations of adults, when kids are forced to act like grown-ups, they become confused souls filled with wishes but no path to follow. An unsettled girl with the feeling of missing out on the frisky childhood was busy with her daily chores. The drawing on the wall next to her seemed more cheerful than her. The picture of the girl swinging might have been the only ray of hope left, where she had an honest dream... of swinging like the girl someday, freely... free of all the burdens, to live her childhood again.





ABHISHEK PANDEY

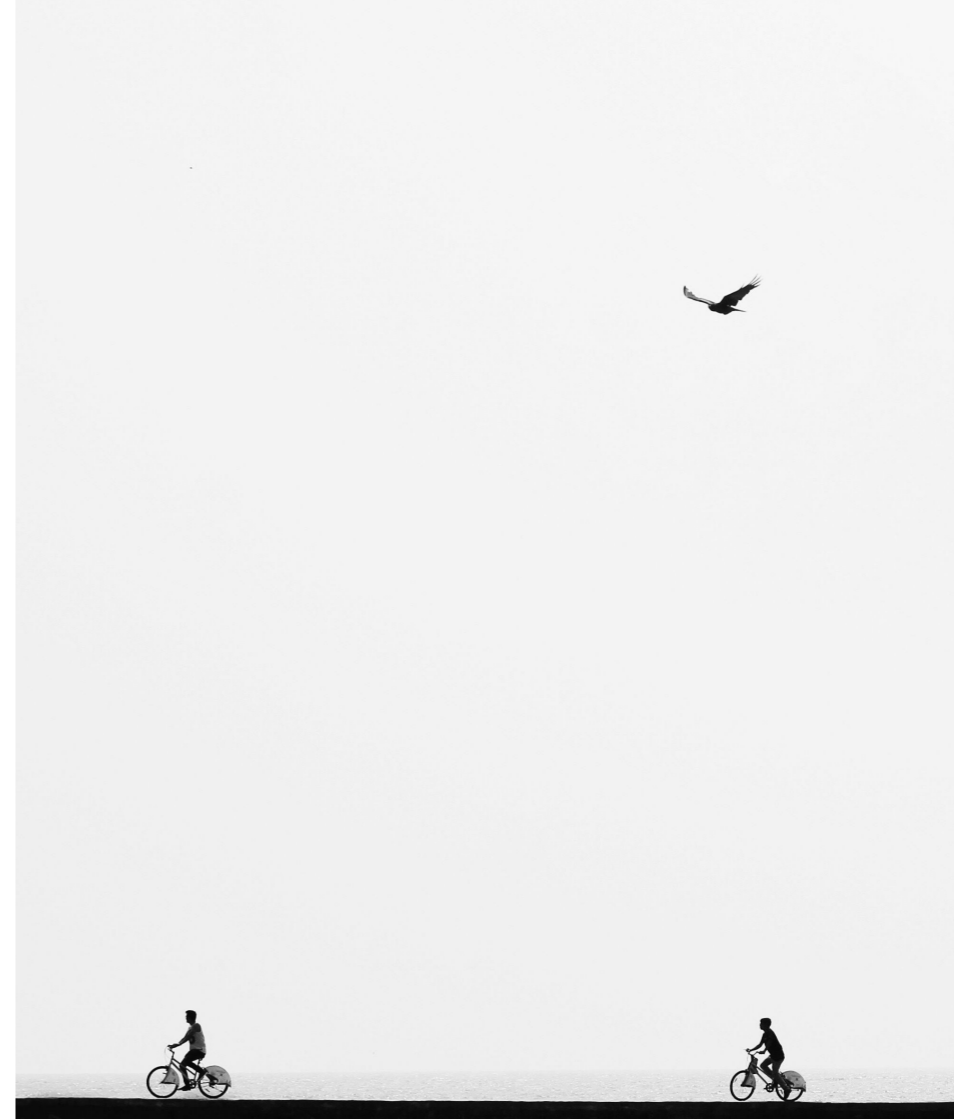
In the early phase of unlocking, he was shooting for a photographic assignment of college. There was a road at some distance which had no trees around it, just some electric poles and small bushes. Immediately, he had a very minimalistic image in his head, but a subject to compliment the scene was missing. The location was on the outskirts of the city and there was no one around. He almost gave up after 20 mins and had begun to think about the assignment again, when a boy appeared on a bicycle and passed through the frame within a fraction of seconds. He was able to click only two images, one of which turned out to be perfect. A minimal photo in the sense of composition, that upraised his amazement whenever he looked at it. The electric poles and the wires created some tension yet remained aesthetically pleasing. The boy on the bicycle, on the other hand, gave a sense of liberation and nostalgia. Compositions such as this motivate him to go out and shoot every day and reminds the value of patience and perseverance in the practice of street photography.



IQBAL FAROOZ

Living in the most scenic place isn't enough when the city is cursed with depression and helplessness. Kashmir may be considered a tourist place but there are no normal hangouts for the civilians. For so long, Kashmiris have lived far from normal lives. The fear of the future never leaves their side, not even in tranquility. He could feel the emptiness in the silence of mountains more than its beauty. Not sights but emotions drew his attention, and he expressed them all through a forever best friend; his camera.

2019 | Kashmir



ROHIT JACOB ROBERT

When one has a fixed perspective, it becomes easier to find a similar theme in the surroundings. Compared to the vast universe, human existence is tiny but not meaningless. In an attempt to visualize the same, a miniature subject in a grand frame was composed.

2017 | Kerala

SOUMYA SHANKAR GHOSAL

The lane in the backdrop of the image had religion-themed graffiti. It included all the major religions practiced in India – Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, and Sikhism. The wall by itself was wonderful to be documented but the lane was too narrow to be photographed even with a 17-50 mm lens. Coincidentally, it was Shab-e-Barat, a Muslim holiday that commemorates the entry of Muhammad into the city of Mecca. Since the entire scene could not be documented, he waited for a subject preferably a person practicing Islam faith to walk across the lane. After an hour's wait, with luck, he found a small boy wearing traditional clothes and a prayer cap coming towards the graffiti which helped him in getting the desired image depicting secularism in India.

2016 | Kolkata





MOHIT KUMAR

He was walking in the Swarna Jayanti Park when he stumbled across a completely drunk man who was about to trip over his own feet any moment. It happened in an instant leaving no time to think, only his hands moved rapidly for his camera. Right before the man fell, the shutter was pressed.

SELNUR OKUDAN

While looking for a suitable place for parking close to the seaside, a sudden texture of the drops on the window glass intrigued her. To keep an original frame, she opened the back door of the car and waited for a proper model with an umbrella to add more beauty to the already rainy vibes. At long last, a sight of the endless sea and the subject, all blurred by raindrops were fitting in the small frame of a car door.





DEBARCHAN CHATTERJEE

Dondi is a traditional custom where the females, and sometimes males of the family take a bath in the river Ganga and drag themselves through the streets, making a semi-circular pattern with their hands till they reach the temple of Goddess Sitala. For their families to be blessed with good health and fortune, devotees complete the ritual wholeheartedly. After observing their repeated movements, he decided to experiment with a multiple exposure shot of the ritual. Some failed executions eventually improved his practice and the result was quite satisfying. The picture became special to him as it was probably the first and last time he experimented with multiple exposures.

RISHI SONI

Like thousands of people, he too reached Barsana to play Holi. He had assumed it would be crowded but he never imagined it would become a challenge to enter the place famous for its Holi celebrations. Surprisingly, everyone was profoundly lost in the fun and colors. Packed in an overcrowded place didn't bother them at all. Covered in layers of colors, some were dancing and chanting the names of Radha and Krishna, some were singing and playing instruments, some were cheering everyone and some were trying to get clear photos in the blurred surroundings. Not even a single shot he took was planned. He was sitting on the floor close to a group of people who were dancing without pausing. Dry colors were in the air and people moved at an incredible speed. Therefore, most of his shots were fuzzy and weird. The odds weren't in his favor, yet he kept trying until one candid shot with which all his efforts paid off.





FORREST WALKER

While covering Mumbai for a large photo project focused on major cities, he woke up extra early one day to catch the sunrise and morning exercisers along Marine Drive, one of his favorite spots in the city. After walking the long promenade back and forth for a couple of hours, not as many interesting scenes had been out there that particular morning and the exercising activity had passed. Mostly quiet now, he was walking towards Marine Drive's end one final time of the morning. He noticed a nicely dressed man enjoying some relaxation by the sea, as he lay along with the promenade benching. This is a common sight, but as he walked by, he saw how the man's strange positioning created an illusion at a certain angle. Lining it up with his lens just right, it looked as if he was only legs and no upper half, cutting off perfectly at his belt. In addition to the illusion, there was the minimalistic look of the scene and the one color of cool blue above his black pants and shoes against the grey bench. It made the illusion focused, while visually appealing. He took a few shots to make sure the illusion was perfect and walked on looking for the next photo, while the other guy continued to catch his nap under the sun.

ANANTHU AJAYAN

'Karkidaka Vavu Bali' is a set of sacred rituals performed by Hindus in Kerala. Hundreds of families assemble on the beach for prayers. Many eminent priests of the ancient Janardhana temple further help people to complete the rituals. It is deemed necessary to liberate the souls of their ancestors and pray for their eternal peace and 'moksha'. One by one people were stepping forward on the shore to honor the afterlife. Everyone was standing in uniformity which created symmetry worth documenting. Black and white was an instant choice to express the contrast with utmost clarity.





SACHIT TRIPATHI

Watching a sunrise can raise one's spirit but watching a sunset can soothe the restless mind and soul. So there he was, on Digha beach, gazing aimlessly in the blue hour sky when he saw an old couple riding a bicycle, heading to their destination, slowly but steadily. Maybe it was the moment of awakening thoughts or maybe they were some ideal figures, but for some reason, he could relate to the importance of the journey over the destination. He didn't miss the picturesque moment in front of him because every good thing on the way must be appreciated while moving ahead in life.

RAVI CHOUDHARY

Photography is more than just pictures. It's about the story of the moment that is being captured and the essence of human emotions that get poured into a picture to leave an imprint in mind. Delhi drapes a blanket of fog as the mercury drops. One frame became a reminder of the artsy ambiance that the city offers to reflect every life of common people in a new light of winter. Indeed, beauty in ambiguity is a rare thing to be found.



2018 | Delhi

ROHAN TANDON

In an immensely quiet temple, a very old lady was sitting alone. She was chanting in a soft voice while rotating the rudraksha beads of the necklace in her hands. She didn't say much to anyone but her loneliness spoke of abandonment by her kin. A photo preserved her age that signified the experience and endurance in living.



2019 | Himachal Pradesh

PRASUN MITRA

The floating vegetable and flower market of the Kashmir valley is surrounded by serenity. The market opens pretty early, quite before dawn. So, every time he was in the city, he visited this market to watch the darkness melt away as light shined upon the valley. After finishing their business, two vegetable sellers were caught up in a discussion while taking the narrow water alleys of Dal Lake. They were heading to their respective homes when the day came completely alive in the backdrop. At that moment, it was the best place to be and the best shot to take.

2017 | Srinagar





KAUSHAL PARIKH

During a workshop conducted by him, the emphasis was on the value of layering images and the importance of focussing on the background as much as on the main subject and trying to connect the two in some way. At the southern tip of Nariman Point, a man was doing a handstand with spread legs. Camera to his eye, he positioned himself at the correct distance and started moving around the subject, to get something interesting in the background through the man's legs. As luck would have it another guy started doing handstands on the wall by the sea and he knew there was 'the image.' Took a couple of steps back, to push the image a bit further and include both dogs on the left and the man who had just sat down on the right. For a good street image, he said, "awareness, anticipation, patience and a whole lot of luck are musts."

ANTON BURMISTROV

On a wet, cold, and misty day, two boys were sharing a seat made of several old jute bags that were supported by needle-like fences. Despite sitting in close-quarters under one umbrella, the boys were laughing for some reason. A heartwarming feeling took over him as soon as he realized that in their smiles, he had just witnessed innocence in its purest form.





MANISH JAIN

He went to meet his favorite street photographer, Swarat Ghosh, with whom he always wanted to shoot or rather to see him photographing. Together they went to explore the narrow lanes around Char Minar, Begum Bazar, and other old parts of Hyderabad. Here, he saw a group of kids playing around. He always preferred to shoot wide where he could stage the main subject performing, and composing to include the overall character and compliment surrounding for the better conveyance of the story. And just as he had imagined, all the pieces appeared in a precise manner.

NAMAN SHRIVASTAVA

On a cold chilly morning of January, the rehearsals for Republic Day's parade were strictly on schedule in Delhi. A kid was intensely watching everything from the backseat window of a jeep. He noticed the eagerness in the boy's eyes but the background was empty. So, he decided to wait for the parade to fill the background. Meanwhile, wishing to witness the events from outside the jeep, the boy's eyes had stayed put. As soon the parade reached the right place, a clear shot of the boy and where he wanted to be were framed.





PRABHA JAYESH

On the streets, with every action, there comes a reaction and it engulfs photographers in a blanket of varied emotions. For her, motion and emotions go hand-in-hand. On a clear evening sky, she spotted an amazingly giant flock of birds and waited to capture an in-between shot, to create an enigma around the moment. The result was a rare picture that not only showcased the natural beauty but also an additional human touch.

2019 | Ahmedabad



HARSHIT VERMA

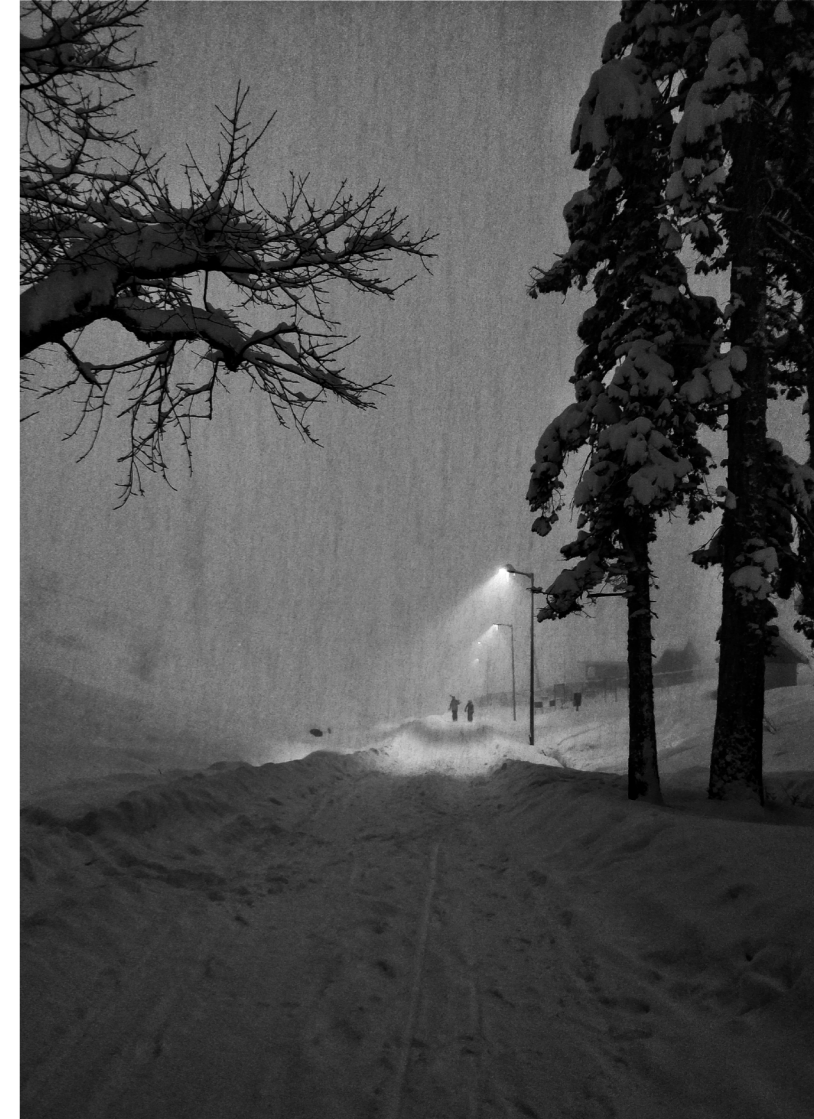
The foremost motive was to reflect the scenes of Pushkar city which were rarely captured by anyone. His search paid off when he found 'the well of death' at the Pushkar fair. After sharing the whole idea with the man behind all the thrilling stunts, the only thing left was to fix the GoPro on the car's bonnet, connect it with his phone and let the show begin. The crowd gasped in astonishment, jumped in fright, and cheered in excitement for the stuntmen who continued their high-risk performance. Standing among them, he continued shooting photos in burst mode to get what he imagined all along. At last, the long-awaited trip to Pushkar concluded with an awe-inspiring photograph that was pre-planned over and over, for a couple of years, before it was finally shot.

2018 | Pushkar

NAVEED HUSSAIN

Roads of Gulmarg were buried under white sheets of snow as it had been snowing heavily for quite some time. All the sound vanished in the falling snow and all he could hear was his footsteps. On his way back from a skiing session, he spotted two distant figures walking ahead of him. His camera lens wasn't weather-sealed, so, taking it out would have ruined it. Therefore, he resorted to his phone, randomly took the photo, and hurried back. It took him by surprise when he finally saw what he had clicked and made it a memorable one.

2019 | Gulmarg



DARSHAN MEHTA

One of his favorite elements to shoot are birds and their fearless flights. However, he decided to shift his composition after observing a man who was feeding the birds with one hand while his other hand was clutching an umbrella. At the same time, he was also protecting the birds from the nearby cats who had their eyes on them. This small gesture of kindness and caring nature gave him the idea to add a human element to complete the frame and give a meaning and a story. So, after spending some time in the surroundings and taking several angles, he ended up with a wonderful image.





YASH SHETH

Near Gorai beach, a kid was sitting in front of a short tree. The boy began to gawk at the sky. Not so far from him, one creative head noticed a funny angle in the boy's action. To him, it appeared like the kid was wearing a giant funky curly-haired wig on his head. Quickly, he captured one of the natural compilations that can only be seen through an imaginative view.

PRIYANSHU SINGH

On Holi, every city of India is covered with colors. At Manikarnika Ghat also known as the great burning ghat of India, a unique festival of Chita Bhasm Holi is celebrated with equal devotion and joy. Based on the legend of Lord Shiva, whose symbols are the trident, the damru, and the ashes. Unlike the rest of the world, people play Holi with pyre ash here and the same was documented.





SHAURYA YADAV

Two heritage sites of Delhi, India Gate, and Rashtrapati Bhawan are connected through a direct road named Rajpath. On a clear day, both structures are visible from any corner of the road. However, the scene changes drastically around November each year when thick smog spreads over every part of the city. A photo captured the severity of those tainted days by showing the invisible: the iconic India Gate lost in the dense smog.



SANJIB GHOSH

In a small district named Purulia, the means of transportation differs highly from the advanced moto-wheels of megacities. Cycles for land purposes and ferries for river crossings are the most common modes here. A man was waiting for a ferry boat to cross the river. The scattered clouds were turning into shades of flaming red and dusk was falling rapidly. After observing the ideal timing, he framed it in a way that the rider appeared all alone on a partly-submerged temporary bamboo dock.

2008 | Purulia



VIHANG RUKE

He didn't get his desired composition even after spending a long time at C.S.T. Next stop was Gateway of India where pigeons caught his eyes right away. He did manage to get some decent shots yet the photo he truly wanted wasn't one of them. A little disappointed, he took a small break. When he began again, his friend passed by him to take get a different angle. Suddenly, all the pigeons flew in front of his camera and he quickly captured it. Unexpectedly, it turned out to be a street photo of someone who was taking another street photo.

Mumbai

SHWETA MALHOTRA

Creating a photograph on street is coherent to directing a play on the stage or painting different elements on a blank canvas where all the characters or elements may have a direct or indirect correlation with each other and they weave a story together. The essence of a street photograph is mostly the correlation between the characters and the interpretation. A captivating scene from the streets of Chandi Chowk was composed of the same outlook.





UTKARSH AGARWAL

The coexistence of lights and shadows as independent elements in the frame molds a picture to give it meaning. After learning from experienced street photographers' works, he began his journey as a street photographer. During a photo walk, he composed his first street photo when he stopped in front of a shoe seller's stall. As he was approaching the stall, his shadow had fallen on the canvas, and the halves of two people completed a human form.

NEERAJ KUMAR

Every year, people from all parts of the country and the world gather in Varanasi to witness the magical sparkling night of a sacred festival, Dev Deepawali. The entire city is overfilled with curious tourists exploring its every corner. In a similar exploration, a peculiar photo was captured at the festival of lights. On the banks of the river Ganga, the crowd was as usual when a goat tried to come off a wall on the side. After a short while, one shot was taken at the exact timing and soon before the goat made it on the side pathway. The scene was over in the blink of an eye but this photo continues to be an amusing example of quick and creative thinking.

2019 | Varanasi



VARUN SUBBIAH

Jallikattu is a traditional bull-embracing sport practiced all across Tamil Nadu. It causes serious injuries and even deaths of the participants and the bulls forced into the sport. For many years, animal rights organizations have called for a ban on the event but people have protested strongly. As a result, the ban never lasted for long and the game still goes on. Participants had to hold on to a bull's hump for a certain period to win prizes - anywhere from kitchen utensils, toys to cash. Some of the participants escaped the bulls by jumping and holding on to the wooden poles supporting the platform. This, of course, made the platform shake violently. Both the onlookers and the participants held on for dear life. To show this chaos and excitement clearly, he set the frame from the point of view of a spectator. So, a photograph was taken on a precarious wooden platform on the verge of crashing into an arena full of raging bulls. The idea was a success as whoever sees it, gets a hint of the experience.

2017 | Tamil Nadu



ENGIN BASA

With many historical places and religious significance, the Turkish city, Konya holds the reputation of a cultural hub and pilgrimage destination for Sufis. During the summer season, the insides of one of the classic monuments, beams with sunlight. Patches of light enter through the holes creating a mystical atmosphere. A whirling dervish or Mevlevi indulged in the famous practice used as a medium to reach out to God by whirling. He went on rotating as though his movements were the instrument that called for a blessing upon humanity.

2017 | Sille, Turkey



DEEPESH AGARWAL

Beats of dhols were in every direction, yet chants of 'Ganpati Bappa Moriya' were loud and clear. Such was the charisma in the chaos. In the absence of vibrant colors, a photo stored all the energy of the occasion. Such was the magic of the moment. Some danced till their feet ached and some had moist eyes, yet they were held together by faith in one name, Ganesh. Thousands of souls bid adieu to their Lord Ganesh with a request to return next year. And he who was watching it all from behind his camera said he left a part of his soul there.





SOUNAK MAJUMDAR

During heavy rainfall in the Sundarbans, he saw a distant image that shook him to the core, he picked his camera and clicked with no thoughts. The daily means to commute for the people of Sundarbans are boats full of people with no space left to move or sit. A risk people would think twice before taking and say no to, even on a clear sunny day, is the only means of transport for those who live here. When worse comes to worst in the monsoon season, they still face the wrath of extreme weather. The fear of wild animals and the commutation poses a constant threat to their lives.



JAI THAKUR

Lathmar Holi is a local celebration in Barsana and Nandgaon. It takes place several days before the nationwide Holi celebrations. In Nand Baba Temple, the crowd was divided into two groups. The first group included ladies who were holding long and solid wooden sticks ready. The second group had men who were wearing turbans for their safety. The festivities began and women hurled sticks at men who were only allowed to shield themselves and not to fight back. They showed no mercy to men who threw colors and water to defend themselves. The fun went off the charts in no time and recreated the famous legend of Radha Krishna. It was a divine experience to photograph an event of such high energy and playfulness.

2018 | Uttar Pradesh

“Photography is a way of feeling, of touching, of loving. What you have caught on film is captured forever... It remembers little things, long after you have forgotten everything.”

Aaron Siskind

TEAM PHOTOGRAPHS



From the archives

RIBHU CHATTERJEE

Many times in Kolkata, priests, and workers come to bathe in the river after completing their daily work. It was a rainy day and the Shobabazar Ghat was lacking its usual hubbub. Still, some people had come to take a bath. The ghat is located close to Kumartuli, a traditional potters' colony. So, many loose frames lie here and there. He found a frame on the railing, and a priest was taking a bath behind it. Thus, some angle adjustments led him to an unusually good moment that was picked from daily life.





JOBIT GEORGE

A festival is more than mere traditions, it is a medium for different generations to know each other a little better. It is the time when curious kids ask for the reasons behind each custom and elders fascinate them with the legendary tales and morales. It is also the period of reunion for many families. On the auspicious day of Eid al-Fitr, a father and his son, dressed in traditional white clothing, were sitting at Jama Masjid. Under the blue sky, a photo showed a beautiful bond between two generations.



AMAN SINGH

It was early in the evening when he reached Dhurwa Dam to photograph. Everyone there was busy taking photographs of the waterside. Unlike the rest, he had no interest in the waterside, he was still searching for what could be worth capturing. After a while, he saw a higher place with a clean background. He found the frame he had been looking for. All that remained was to create something from it. Set with the frame, he just waited for the right time... which didn't take too long.

2019 | Jharkhand

PRATHAMESH SHINDE

For a long time, he was planning to capture birds in frames. He tried different locations, in the middle of trees, in between the clouds, in the middle of anything he could envision. Ultimately, one fine day he found an excellent frame at Marine Drive. The stage had been set, the next step was to wait for a bird to show up. Nearly two hours later, the perfect moment arrived. Lastly, a lone pigeon and a couple were captured in separate blocks.

2019 | Mumbai



AJAY KUMAR

Everyone is a photographer but not all photographers are passionate enough to put in their best. Many photojournalists were gathered at Rajpath with their big expensive equipment to cover full-dressed Republic Day's rehearsal. Back then, he didn't own a camera but watching so many gadgets with the latest features which he had only seen on the internet filled him with doubts. Everyone's cameras were zooming in on the flying jets and helicopters while he couldn't help but feel a little out of the place. Pulling himself out of the thoughts, he took advantage of what had felt like a drawback a minute ago. Thanks to his phone, he was able to move freely through the crowd. He shifted behind the people who were also taking pictures and clicked a photo of MiG-29, C-17 Globe, and Mi-17. The result was applauded on the internet and even today, he considers it as one of his biggest achievements in terms of photography. When people take a step above the level of their fears, they step into a whole new world of opportunities.

2019 | Delhi





PRACHI SHETTY

No other animal is considered as unlucky as a black cat, especially in India. At Asiatic Library, Mumbai, a peculiar method was used to observe people's reaction towards black kitties. Moreover, it was meant to be an attempt to reform the way these cats are treated by showing people how absurd it is to label any creature unlucky. As a part of the experiment, a group of more than 20 black cats was left on the staircase connecting to the main street. She was documenting it for Tyler Street Art and couldn't be more amazed by the great response of people. They were taking steps towards the cats without any hesitation. And once they did, it became clear that the cats weren't real!

ARCHIT MITTAL

“Experiencing the holi festival at the Gopinath Ji temple at Vrindavan was something that totally changed my perception of what holi meant to me. The beauty & love in that place is something I cannot describe in words. I still experience those moments in my mind. The way those devotees were lost in the faith for Lord Krishna was just divine.”



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