

WILDLIFE FEATURE | PHOTO CONTEST | PHOTO ALBUM

INDIAN

INTERVIEWS | DOCUMENTARIES | TRAVEL

PHOTO ARTS

June 2019



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Life-Olive Ridley Arribada p04**

**Kashmir - A Saga of Beauty and
Bullets p124**

**Interviews of ace
photographers Jassi Oberai
and Raj Sarkar p48 & p92**

A special interview of SAMMYA BRATA MULLICK on representing India at Canon Photo Marathon
Asia 2019 in Japan

PLITVICE LAKES NATIONAL PARK through the lenses of AVISHEK PATRA

Dear Readers

In this issue we bring to you a remarkable phenomenon from the natural world which witnesses the mass gathering of hundreds of thousands of female olive ridley turtles along the coast of Odisha for the sole purpose of laying their clutches of eggs - a mass gathering which is popularly known as "Arribada". This cover story is an in depth coverage of this remarkable event and how it stands out as a rare successful conservation story courtesy the hardwork of a few good people. This issue also highlights the remarkably beautiful Plitvice Lakes National Park in Croatia, the amazing beauty and romance that embrace every nook and corner of Paris and the unmatched beauty of Kashmir which sadly is under siege. In our special coverages we have highlighted the amazing achievements, passion and fearless determination of ace travel photographer Jassi Oberai and renowned street photographer and photography mentor Raj Sarkar. We have also spoken to ace photographer Sammya Brata Mullick on his remarkable achievement of representing India at the Canon Photo Marathon Asia 2019 held in Japan. In addition to all of this, this issue marks our second collaboration with the World Photographic Forum in which we conducted an online contest for the members on the theme "Summer". The ten winning entries based on this theme find a place in this issue. Find out all of these and much more in the June 2019 issue of Indian Photo Arts magazine. We hope, that we have been able to live up to your expectations, we would be looking forward to your valuable feedback, suggestions and criticisms which will only help us deliver better in our future endeavours.

Regards

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*cover page photograph by
Shreya Singharay*



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A female olive ridley turtle ventures out of the Bay of Bengal onto the coast of Odisha to lay eggs. Each year hundreds of thousands of gravid olive ridley turtles nest along the beaches of Odisha during the phenomenon that Arribada is.

Wildlife



The March of Life

by Shreya Singharay

Each year a quaint coastal fishing village in Odisha gears up to welcome its annual visitors - hundreds of thousands of Olive Ridley Sea Turtles, who throng these sandy shores to take part in arribada - a mass nesting event during which thousands of females lay eggs in the sandy burrows along the beach before returning to the sea.

TURTLE TATTLE

Somewhere in coastal Odisha, a small, quaint village is home to a few hundred fishermen most of who have migrated from the neighbouring state of Andhra Pradesh. The lives of the villagers here are simple, resembling the rather unspectacular way of most fishing communities across the country. Boats are lined up along the beach with the fishing nets stacked in them, men venture out to the sea twice daily to bring home the rich offerings from the depths of Bay of Bengal while the women are mostly engaged in ferrying the catches to the nearby markets and selling them. For the children the sandy stretches of the beach are their playgrounds with the moisture laden salty evening breeze keeping them company. However each year these calm and unassuming sandy stretches metamorphose into a bustling hub of activities when they play host to mother nature's one of the greatest events when the sea breeze resonates with the panting and gasping of millions of crawling visitors from the depths of the waters – the olive ridley turtles. The villagers too gear up to welcome their annual visitors and leave no stone unturned to ensure they enjoy a comfortable stay. All fishing related activities come to a halt as the villagers seamlessly dawn the cloak of conservationists and dedicate the following few weeks in protecting this endangered species which make the coastal lines around Podampeta, Gokhurkhura village

every year during Feb-March their homes for a few weeks. Each year during this time the lifeless beaches along these villages spring to life and the air is filled with the gentle monotone of flippers dragging over sand as hundreds of thousands of female Olive Ridley turtles come ashore in selected beaches of Odisha to lay eggs en-masse. This unique synchronised egg-laying phenomenon is known as “Arribada” – the Spanish for arrival.

THE NESTING SITES

Five species of sea turtles - the Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), Green (*Chelonia mydas*), Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) and Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) – inhabit the Indian coastal waters. Barring the loggerhead, all the species are known to nest in India. While all four species nest in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Olive Ridley is the most numerous on the mainland coasts of India. Although the Olive Ridley nests in low densities along the entire east coast of India, the most important nesting beaches can be found in the state of Odisha where the mass nesting occurs.

The 480 km long Odisha coast harbours three such mass nesting sites. These are the Gahirmatha rookery near the mouth of rivers Brahmini and Baitarani along the northern Odisha coast, the rookery near the mouth of river Devi, and the Rushikulya rookery, near the mouth of river Rushikulya along the southern Odisha

coast. A significant proportion of world's Olive Ridley population that migrate every winter to the Indian coastal waters nest at these three rookeries.

Among these, Gahirmatha rookery is the largest in Odisha and also in the world and Rushikulya is the second largest nesting site in the world. The loose sand is ideally suited for nesting. The females use their flippers to dig up the loose sand and lay their clutches of eggs in the burrows before covering them up with the dug up pile of sand. Among the nesting sites, Gahirmatha is out of bounds for anyone not belonging to the forest department or the concerned authorities and the local population; hence most of the documentations related to Arribada are conducted in and around Rushikulya.

OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLES

Olive Ridley is the second smallest of all sea turtles, weighing about 50 kg, and measuring about 60- 70 cm. The olive ridley gets its name from its olive coloured carapace, which is heart-shaped and rounded. Their diet consists mainly of jellyfish, prawns, crabs, sea urchins, fish and other marine creatures. In these waters and elsewhere these turtles play a crucial role in benefitting the fishing industry by preying on jellyfish which are responsible for devouring juvenile shrimps, thereby ensuring a steady supply of shrimp for the fishermen and the fishing industry in general. The IUCN Red List places these animals in the “Vulnerable” category, however there can be no denying the

alarming rate at which their numbers are declining, could soon see this species pushed into the infamous “Endangered” bracket – a fate suffered by hundreds of species across the planet.

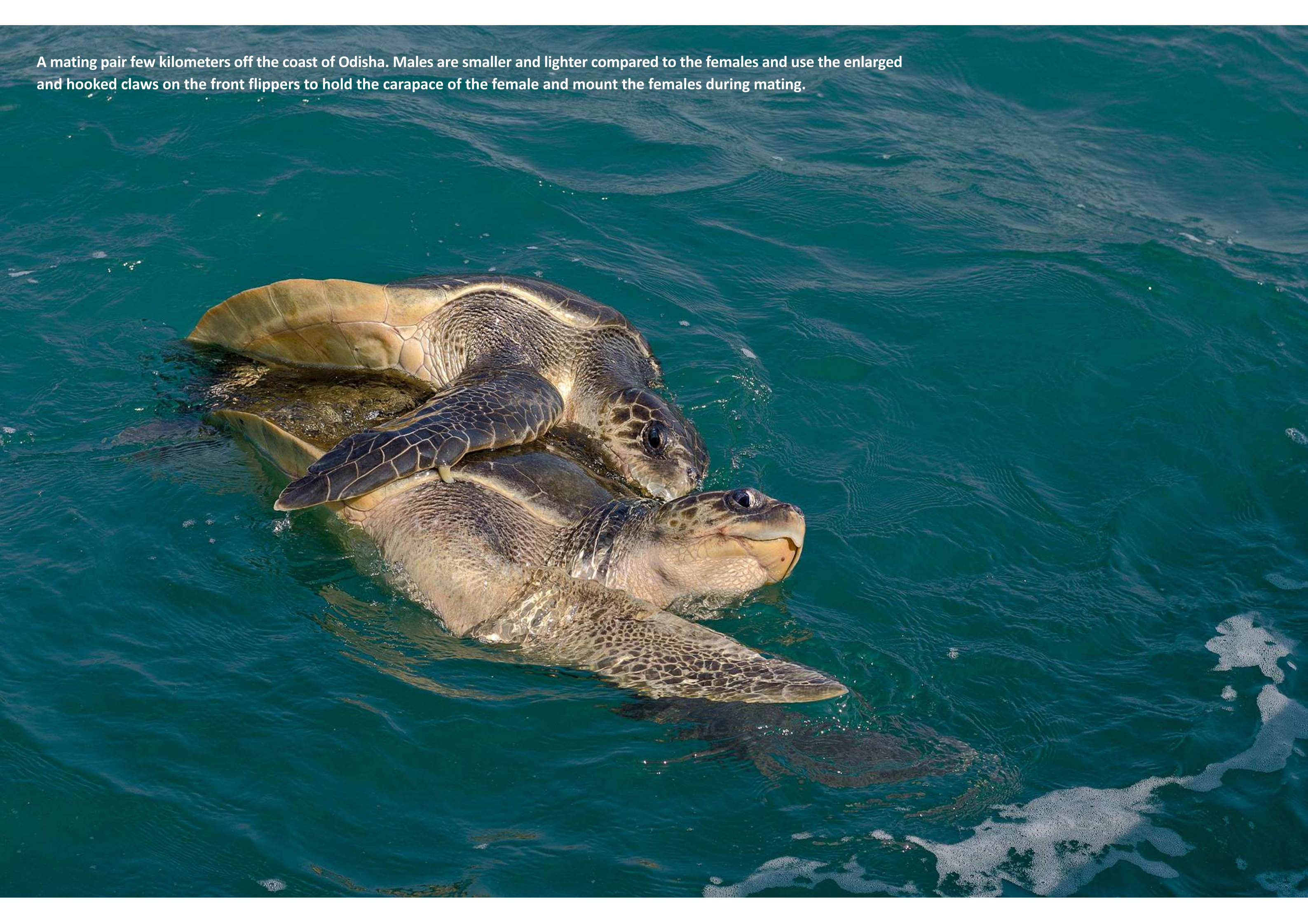
THE MATING

Before the Arribada, Olive Ridley turtles mate about 5-6 kms from the coastline in relatively shallow waters. Mating takes place in between November and January. During this period the shallow stretches of Bay of Bengal teem with copulating pairs of olive ridley turtles. The male, smaller in size and weight, holds the carapace of the female using the enlarged and hooked claws on the front flippers and mounts the female during the process of mating. Their concave plastrons also help them in mounting the females during the mating procedure.

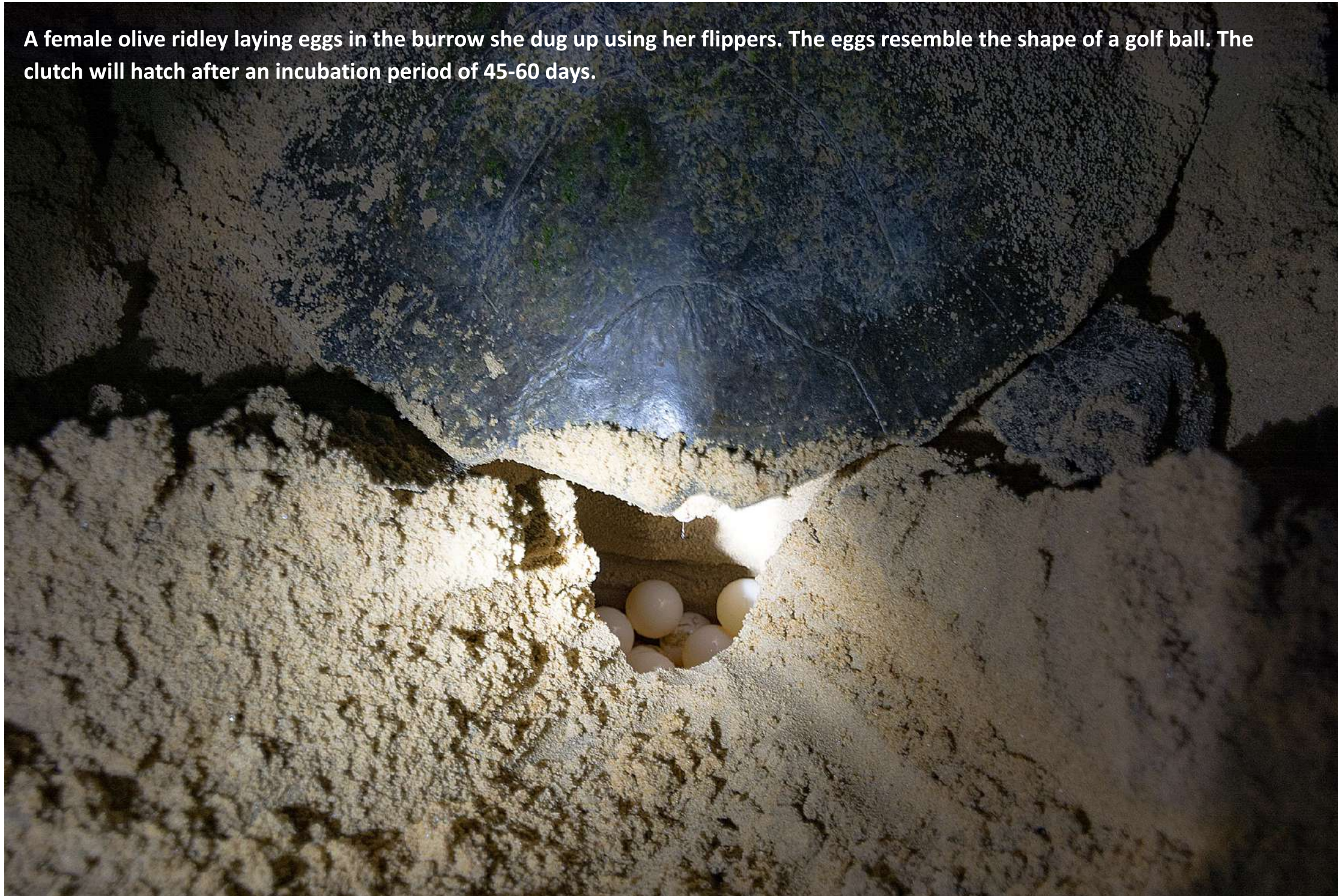
MASS NESTING or ARRIBADA

After about a month from the mating season, one of the most amazing and spectacular events in the natural world takes place on these beaches of Odisha. Hundreds of thousands of gravid female turtles come ashore to lay eggs. This synchronized mass nesting of olive ridley turtles is known as Arribada. As they rely on the Southerly wind and tide to reach the shore, the exact time of their arrival cannot be predicted. On one mid-February night I got a sudden call from my guide saying “they are arriving” and without wasting a single moment, with utter promptness and excitement I hustled to Podampeta village located at the coast of

A mating pair few kilometers off the coast of Odisha. Males are smaller and lighter compared to the females and use the enlarged and hooked claws on the front flippers to hold the carapace of the female and mount the females during mating.



A female olive ridley laying eggs in the burrow she dug up using her flippers. The eggs resemble the shape of a golf ball. The clutch will hatch after an incubation period of 45-60 days.



Rushikulya. It was afternoon and except for the sight of 3-4 olive ridley females which were among the firsts to come ashore, some pectens and jellyfish, the beach appeared rather lifeless. Gradually as the darkness of dusk descended upon the sandy shores, the canvass of the beach promptly changed and to my sheer marvel hundreds of olive ridley turtles continued

to emerge out of the dark watery depths of the sea. With each wave hundreds of female turtles washed up on the shore with hundreds more waiting in the waters for the opportune moment to land up on the shore.

Their arrival and the entire process of laying the clutches of eggs largely take place under the cover of darkness. The

entire phenomenon commences at dusk and reaches its peak between midnight and early morning. Photography is strictly prohibited at night. A consortium of patrolling light of the forest officials, broad torch lights of local volunteers were my company along with few forest guards. As time elapsed my eyes got acclimatized with ensnaring darkness. After a while I

found myself surrounded by turtles all around. In the giant beam of the broad oval searchlight I gaped at that army of female olive ridley turtles surfacing forward from the rolling waves with shiny jackets of phosphorus on their backs as phantoms. As soon as they found a spot for themselves, they were engaged in digging up a burrow to lay their clutches of eggs. The sheer number would push many of them to drag themselves all the way up to the peripheries of the villages. Some would even dig up a burrow in the backyard of a village hut. This certainly speaks volumes of the uncanny trust and affection which exist between the turtles and the villagers along the coast. The night air was dominated by the sound of the waves crashing and the dull thumping of flippers against the sand. I almost tripped over a turtle when I backtracked to make way for another and one just walked over my feet without being bothered of my presence. I was thrilled by the touch of those edgy flippers and I could not believe my eyes what I was witnessing!!

They females would assiduously dig up burrows at least 1-2 feet deep in the sand with the help of their strong flippers and hind legs. Once the hole was ready, they started to lay eggs. One female can lay an average of 100-150 eggs. The eggs are soft, white and round shaped-much like golf balls. After they lay their clutches the females cover up their eggs with sand and would return to their watery realms leaving the heat of the sand to incubate the clutches

of eggs. After an incubation period of 45-60 days the hatchlings would emerge. The gender of the newly born turtles depends upon the temperature of the burrow, if the temperature of the burrow exceeds a certain limit all the young ones would be females and if it stays below that limit the newly born will be all males.

I was allowed to enter the beach with cameras only after 5 am in the next

morning. As the sky showed the first light of the day, the beach unveiled its canvass and with utter amazement I saw the innumerable turtles here and there and everywhere. Most of them were returning to the sea, many of them were still in the process of laying eggs and the late arrivals were still emerging out of the crashing waves.

The sky became clearer and their

hurriedness to return to sea significantly increased as well as the number of predators in the form of house crow, ravens, brahminy kites and stray dogs also increased. Brahminy kites and ravens pose the biggest challenge for the conservationists. Stray dogs are easy to chase away but the kites and ravens were smart and annoyingly persistent. In quest of an easy meal the kites and ravens would

swoop in from above in an attempt to steal eggs as soon as they were laid by the turtles.

HATCHLINGS AND THEIR CHALLENGES

Nature never ceases to fascinate; nature never ceases to inspire. Starting from a microscopic organism to the biggest mammal on this planet, all have devised unique ways which are amazing beyond belief and compel us to re-think the tag



During Arribada the female olive ridley turtles turn up on these beaches in huge numbers and lay their clutches of eggs. Most of the activities take place in the dark of the night and at daybreak majority of them return to the sea after laying their eggs.

A tiny olive ridley turtle emerges out of the burrow moments after hatching. The short journey from the surface of the burrow to the sea is a perilous one for these little turtles and most perish in the clutches of predators or succumb to fatigue.



of “superior than others” which we flaunt with an utterly false sense of pride. Unlike crocodilians turtle mothers’ tryst with motherhood is restricted to leaving their covered up clutches of eggs soon after laying them. The young ones after hatching are left entirely at the mercy of the elements of nature which often are fierce and unforgiving. As harsh as it may appear this is nature’s ingenious way of ensuring only the fittest are eligible to

carry forward the mantle of their respective species. Deep down inside the sandy burrows the eggs are incubated, not by their mothers but by Mother Nature. Inside these burrows dug up by their mothers, the temperature is more than the upper crust, a perfect place ensuring both safety and proper environment for their babies’ emergence. After an incubation period of 45-60 days the shells of the eggs crack and baby turtles start to come out. The

very moment they emerge from the dark realms of their sandy burrows their struggles begin. However they are not as helpless as it seems. The young turtles are already blessed with superior senses to stave off the monumental challenges life throws at them from the very outset.

CHALLENGE TO EMERGE FROM THE BURROWS

These tiny turtles need to come up on the beach from the depths of their nests deep

enough for them. They jostle with each other while coming up. Using their flippers like hands they dig the sand and gradually make their way to the surface of the beach. Indeed, it’s a group effort as inside a hole one may find 20-35 hatchlings. It’s an arduous task for them. After much effort the teamwork finally pays off and the young ones are successful in carving their way to the surface where an entirely different world with vastly different sets



Ravens and brahminy kites pose the biggest challenge to these newly born turtles. For these birds the helpless young turtles scampering towards the sea are easy pickings and despite the best efforts of the volunteers many perish to these hungry beaks.

The crows and kites are opportunist predators and make the most of the huge congregation of turtles during Arribada. They repeatedly raid the nesting sites and often swoop in to steal away eggs as soon as the female olive ridley lays them.



their ways to the sea even in the dark of the night. The moment they start to run towards sea, the predators start swooping and springing in. When they reach the verge of the sea the crashing waves do the rest. They get rolled inside the wave and the sea water cradles them, bringing them to their watery world, which would be their home for the rest of their lives. Yet their challenges are far from over. The sea poses yet another wide array of challenges which the young ones will be forced to negotiate in the days to come with only the strongest few making it to adulthood. During the first few hours of their action packed journey from their burrows to the sea many perish, falling prey to predators, some get disoriented and lose their way, while many simply succumb to the rigours of the process, yet the grit and determination with which these tiny creatures take on the might of the entire world all on their own, is nothing short of nature's own miracle and is truly awe inspiring.

MANMADE CHALLENGES

During Arribada, some mother turtles venture too close to the villages located at the seashore, to lay eggs. Hatchlings emerging from these nests face a big problem in the form of the piled up fishing nets scattered across the villages. A lot of them get entangled in those nets and if not taken care of, die struggling to free themselves or end up losing a limb or two.

of challenges awaits them.

CHALLENGES POSED BY NATURAL PREDATORS

They need to rush up, they need to reach the sea as soon as possible, and in doing so they need to evade the prying eyes of hordes of predators who have already queued up for this moving feast. The journey to the sea may seem like a short

one but is laden with perils and there is no one to guide them and protect them. Up in the sky brahminy kites are waiting to pounce on them, on the perches raven crows are getting ready for feast. On the beaches stray dogs and jackals are waiting to welcome them in their intestines, crabs too are sharpening their claws with the hope of spearing a sumptuous meal. They

need to dodge all of them. The young turtles are all headed in the direction of the sea. In absence of their mothers to guide them it may seem these tiny creatures are running blind, however that is far from the truth. They follow the light produced by the photoluminescence of the sea water. The luminescence of the sea water along with the moonlight helps them navigate

These coastal villages are home to a number of fishing communities the members of which have been actively involved in safeguarding the future of olive ridley turtles and are instrumental in protecting the nests as well as the hatchlings.



A hatchling makes its way to the sea as an adult female lies dead in the background.



A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

In the early 1980s when scientists first discovered the nesting sites of olive ridley turtles along the coast of Odisha, their plight was horrible, there was little or no awareness amongst locals about them, very few eggs would hatch as many were sold and eaten by humans and other predators. From then on, till now numerous researches have been conducted and many are still going on, numerous camps are organized on a regular basis to aware the villagers and sensitize them about the turtles' behaviours and their significance in the eco-system and the need to conserve them.

This villages located ashore are predominantly fishing communities and during Arribada or hatching they suspend their fishing activities in lieu of minimal compensation. Not only that, they work as volunteers along with forest officials who patrol throughout the night to ensure the safety of the nests during Arribada and the entire incubation period. When eggs hatch, the hatchlings emerge and venture to the sea under watchful eyes of the villagers. Children help those hatchlings who are trapped in net and those who are disoriented. With buckets in their hands they collect the tiny ones and release them closer to the sea. With the participation of the entire community in protecting these



A brahminy kite feeds on an olive ridley turtle egg, a common scene during Arribada.

unique endangered species, olive ridley turtles' chances for survival have received a much needed and timely boost. Even after all the steps taken to ensure the safety of mother olive ridley turtles during Arribada, all the care taken to ensure the survival of the eggs and the tiny hatchlings- only 1 out of 1000 hatchlings reach the age of maturity. If it is a male, it won't visit the shore again but if it is a female it will certainly return to this very beach to lay its own clutch of eggs, the sand of which once bore the footprint of the very first step it took in the long journey of life. And thus, the life cycle of olive ridley turtles keeps rotating on and on, for generations after generations to come.

When eggs hatch, the hatchlings emerge and venture to the sea under watchful eyes of the villagers. Children help those hatchlings who are trapped in net and those who are disoriented. With buckets in their hands they collect the tiny ones and release them closer to the sea. With the participation of the entire community in protecting these unique endangered species olive ridley turtles' chances for survival have received a much needed and timely boost.



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About the Photographer

Shreya Singharay is a teacher of food & nutrition by profession and an amateur wildlife photographer/avid animal lover by passion. She started photography back in 2012 with a Fuji FinePix digital camera. Presently she is using a Nikon D7100 DSLR. She dreams of documenting the rare animals of her country and spread awareness about conserving the biodiversity we are blessed with. Besides being a keen wildlife photographer, she is a travel freak and loves travel photography. Her articles and photos have been published in NatGeo, Lonelyplanet, Saevus, Bhraman, long journey(bengali travel mag) and a number of leading newspapers. In 2017, she won the YesBank Natural Capital awards in trailblazer category and she was also a finalist of Saevus Youth4clicks in 2014.

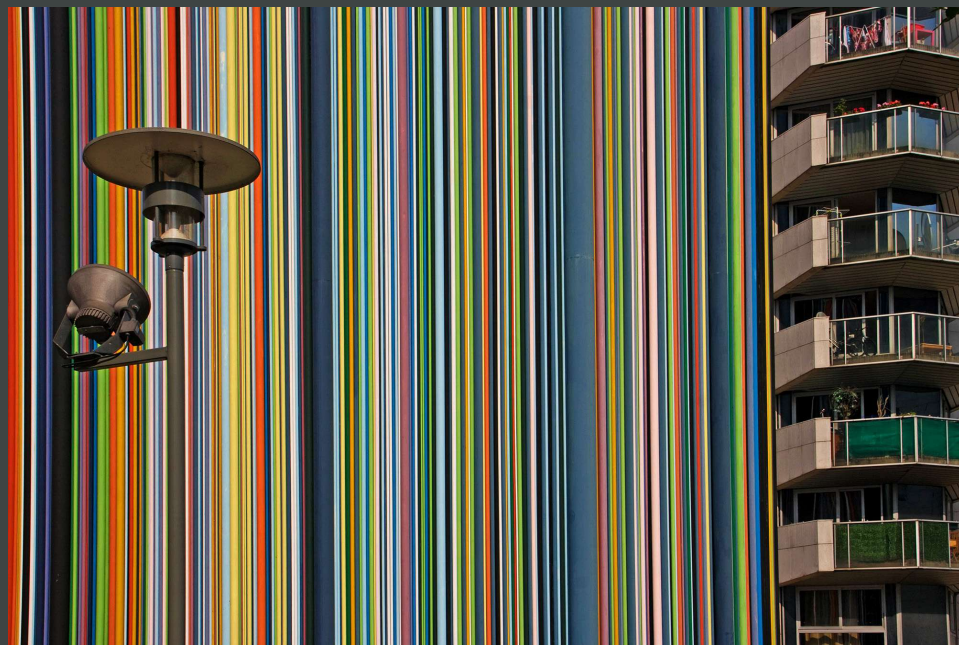
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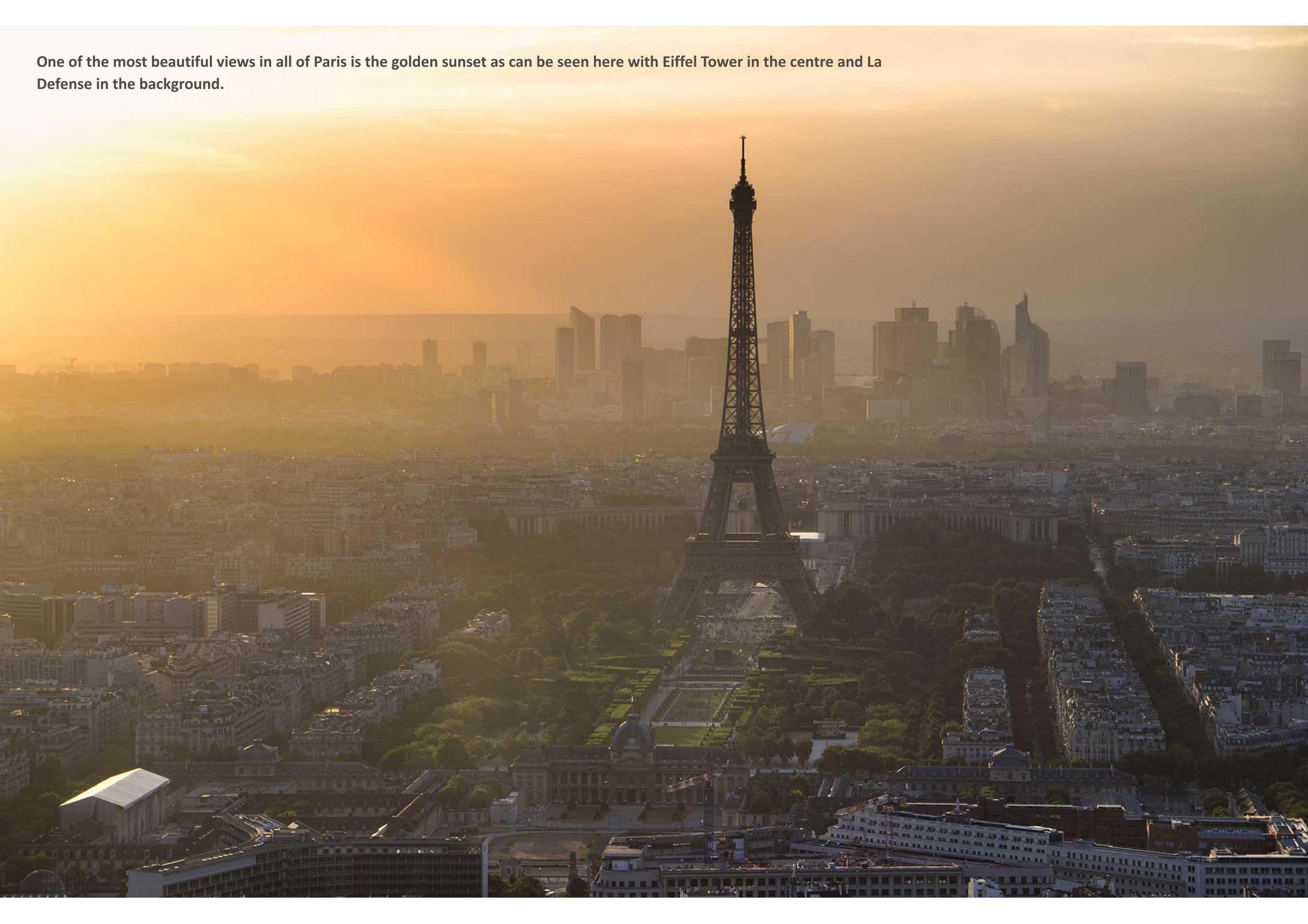
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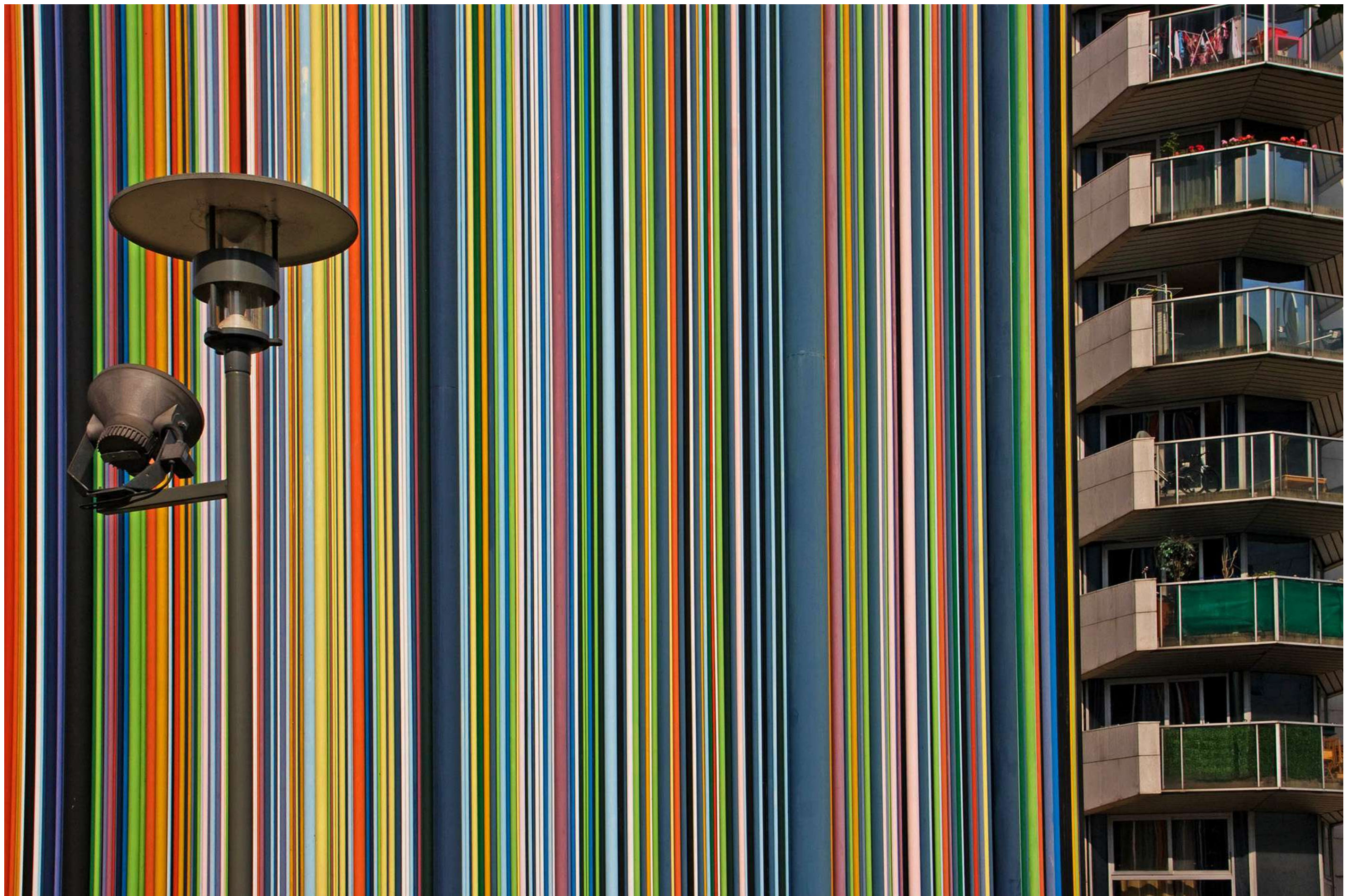
A Love Affair named Paris



Angshuman Chatterjee's longstanding love affair with the nooks and corners, the alleys and by-lanes of Paris comes to life through his photographs and his narrative on some of his most memorable encounters with the "City of Love".

One of the most beautiful views in all of Paris is the golden sunset as can be seen here with Eiffel Tower in the centre and La Defense in the background.





In the affluent district of La Défense in Paris one monument that stands out among the rest by dint of its curious and most incredibly colourful appearance is a brilliantly coloured structure known as Cheminée Moretti or simply as Le Moretti. The 32 meters high chimney is adorned with colourful strands of fibreglass. A total of 672 fibreglass tubes painted in 19 different colours adorn the exterior surface of the chimney.

A Parisian friend of mine had said- "You would be hard-pressed to find anyone worldwide who hasn't seen a film, read a book, listened to a song in which Paris featured heavily - let alone seen Parisian fashion and or eaten French cuisine,".

Paris for me is not a city, rather it is a feeling. This is a city which can enrich anyone's inner world leaving an indelible mark in the mind and heart. Paris had been always for me, rather synchronous to the idea of a dream. When I was young, one of the places I really wanted to visit someday was this capital city, which for me held an inexplicable charisma, beauty, lure and radiance. To think of it, most of us have always loved the very sound of the name of this romantic city. I went to Paris for the first time much before the days of internet; scouring through books and seeing television documentaries, it was difficult not to fantasize about the magnificence that it holds. And then, finally out for my first walk in Paris, standing by the Louvre and Jardin des Tuileries, the clear afternoon light glinting off the majestic buildings, I almost burst into tears of emotion. I was 27!

My numerous trips to Paris fuelled my quest of seeing & showing Paris differently, render well-known topics as fresh images....familiar landmarks from a not-so-common point of view. The Eiffel Tower or Tour Eiffel as the French call it, needs no introduction....but to show this famous Parisian 19th-century iron latticed

icon from a unique Point of View (POV) or angle is another thing. One of the most beautiful views in all of Paris is the golden sunset shown in the photo here with Eiffel Tower in the centre and La Defense in the background.

I call the other picture Paris, New York. Why New York? A closer look at the picture and you may be able to identify a famous icon, the Statue of Liberty. Indeed this very famous landmark is associated with New York, across the Atlantic in the USA, but did you know that there're several smaller replicas in Paris? This one is 22m high and faces west, towards its 'big sister' beyond the seas. The main Statue of Liberty was actually a gift to the Americans by the French on the occasion of the centenary of the American Independence of 1776.

In the night shot is the passerelle Debilly, often overshadowed by its flamboyant neighbour, the Eiffel Tower. But this passerelle had a sinister past being the meeting place for spies and particularly secret agents of the former East Germany. In 1989, a German diplomat working for the Secret Service of the Democratic Republic of Germany was found dead on this footbridge several days after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

The Paris we see today is the Haussmann Paris. Everything we love and hold dear about the City of Light today we owe to the singular brilliance of Baron Georges-Eugène Haussmann. No other major city has been demolished and transformed so

radically during peacetime as was Paris, and that's why the city is what it is today. One of the few Parisian icons that survived the Haussmann demolition were the 'Passages', last century's downtown version of malls - undercover shopping areas for city pedestrians. These Parisian arcades are time-warp galleries of vintage shops and brasseries and for me, it was like reliving the elegance and charm of romantic Paris; Walking through the Galerie Vivienne, surrounded by the romantic charm of Belle-Epoque Paris, it seemed as though time has stood still. This was one of the first shopping centres in Paris, as well as the most famous and well preserved of these iconic Parisian passages. The rediscovery of Pompeii inspired the neo-classical design and decorations of the Galerie, sculptures of goddesses and nymphs ornament the rotunda (picture), which opens onto the long glass-ceilinged passageway, while stunning mosaics created by Giandomenico Facchina embellish the floors, earning the Galerie Vivienne a reputation as one of the most beautiful of its kind in all of Paris. This was, as my local friends said the REAL Paris!

Definitely not a tourist locale, the 'out-of-bound-for-visitors' 19th century long vaulted reading room of Bibliotheque (library) Ste.-Genevieve in Paris is actually one of the greatest cultural buildings in Paris to use iron in a prominent, visible way. I first saw a picture of this library in a museum and did not even know where

it was located. All I knew was I had to see this place with my eyes. Little did I know that casual visitors are not allowed this library (and rightfully so...it is a college library) and I had to use all my Indian charm to get access inside. I was given a 15 minutes visit time, albeit in a restricted zone and was given strict do's and don'ts of photography inside the library...I was even accosted by a library staff to see I don't step off my mark. But then there it was, unfolding in front of my eyes (and camera) was the magnificent library building, personified in beauty with its iron arches and columns.

No article on Paris will be complete without mention and a picture of the world famous Louvre Museum. However, surprisingly (since the museum houses hundreds of precious and famous Renaissance and pre-Renaissance art pieces and sculptures), one of the main and most distinctive features of the museum is actually a very recent structure. Designed by famed architect I.M. Pei, and opened in March 1989, the then extremely controversial Pyramid is located right in the centre of the Museum complex, the Cour Napoléon. It serves as the entrance for the main exhibition hall of the museum. I composed this picture of Tony Cragg's sculpture "Versus" with the Pavilion Sully of the Museum as seen through the glass of the pyramid.

'Our Lady of Paris' is another Parisian icon mentioned in the same breath as Eiffel Tower. It is however more famously

known by its French name...the Notre Dame. Close to this cathedral, is a magnificent Royal chapel, which not many (Indians) visit. But then what's so great about Sainte Chapelle? Churches in Europe are a dime a dozen. They are everywhere! I enjoyed visiting them initially but soon got tired of them. They all started to look the same and blended together in my memories. But I decided to at least peek inside, after paying 7 Euros. I was in awe and Sainte-Chapelle, without a doubt, lived up to its nickname of the "jewel box" church. Almost the entire church is made out of stained-glass, the stone walls doing little more than serving as framework for the delicate glass. 15 stained glass windows, each 15 metres high, bathed the interior with mesmerizing light and colour. Pinks, purples and blues glisten beautifully as the sunlight shines through the intricate designs. The massive stained glass windows with all their magnificence seemed to project a sense of weightlessness.

Paris is not about Notre Dame, Eiffel tower, Louvre or Montmartre. There is so much more to Paris beyond these traditional tourist spots. I am fortunate enough to have visited this city many times over, but it was only during my 3 months stay, that I explored and discovered Paris, if I may say, even more than a Parisian. Almost always on foot, I used to walk around the streets imbibing the sights and sounds often walking 15 Km in a day. The public transportation in Paris is one of the



A closer look at the picture and you may be able to identify a famous icon, the Statue of Liberty. There are several smaller replicas of the Statue of Liberty in Paris. This one is 22m high and faces west, towards its 'big sister' beyond the seas. The main Statue of Liberty was actually a gift to the Americans by the French on the occasion of the centenary of the American Independence of 1776.

best in the world, yet it's a very walkable city. I discovered gems and treasures of Paris hidden beyond the oft travelled paths, beyond the touristic crowds, and walking around I realised that Paris is not a big

city at all, especially when I compare it with our Mumbai or Delhi. The River Seine doesn't just wind through the heart of Paris — it is in fact the very heart of the city. The shore is dotted not

only with places to dine, drink and play along the photogenic waterway, but with pit stops for art, shopping and simply gazing at the picturesque setting. In fact, Paris owes its life to the Seine. The city

The passerelle Debilly, is often overshadowed by its flamboyant neighbour, the Eiffel Tower. But this passerelle had a sinister past being the meeting place for spies and particularly secret agents of the former East Germany. In 1989, a German diplomat working for the Secret Service of the Democratic Republic of Germany was found dead on this footbridge several days after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

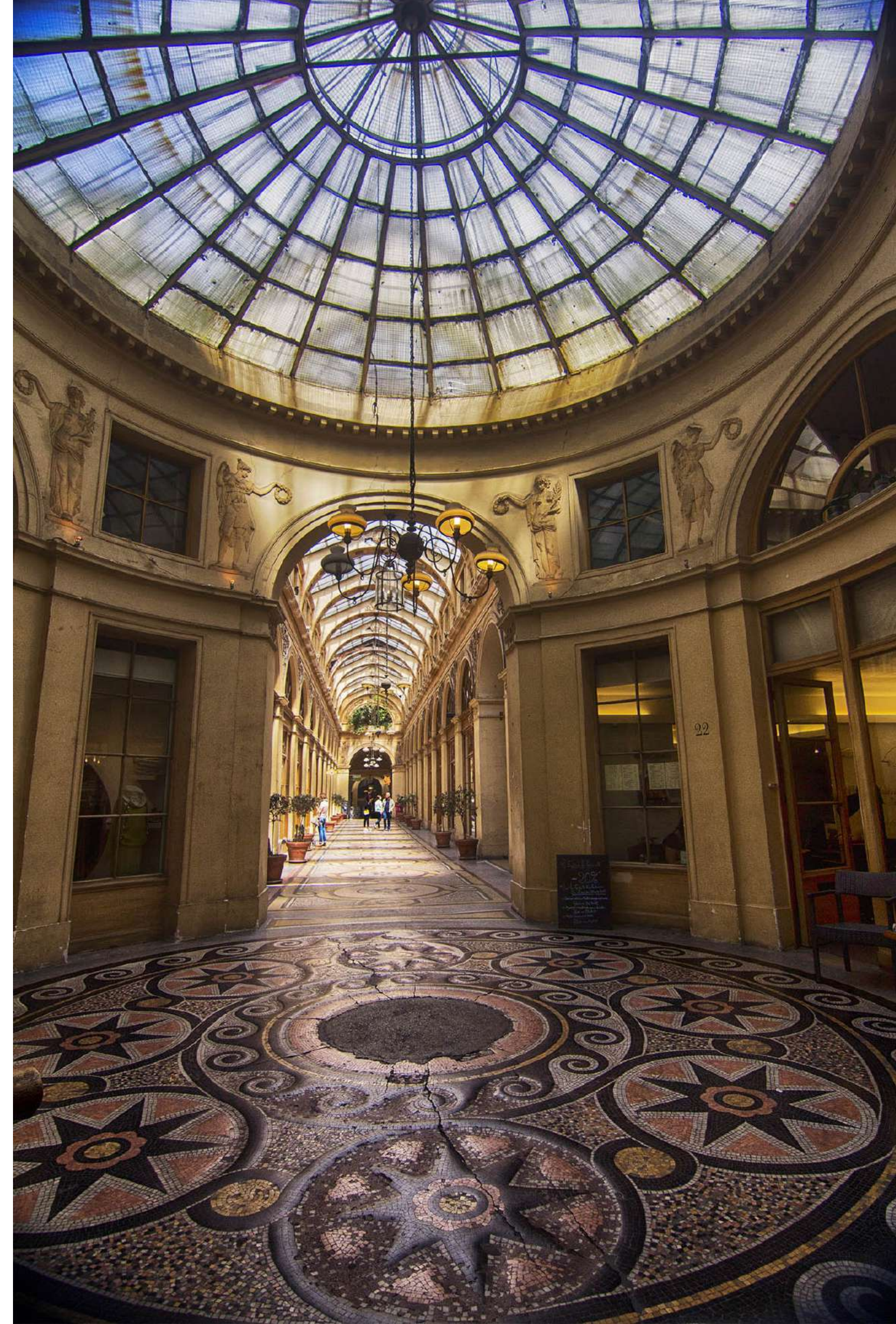


(photo) One of the few Parisian icons that survived the Haussmann demolition were the 'Passages', last century's downtown version of malls - undercover shopping areas for city pedestrians. This was one of the first shopping centres in Paris, as well as the most famous and well preserved of these iconic Parisian passages. The rediscovery of Pompeii inspired the neo-classical design and decorations of the Galerie, sculptures of goddesses and nymphs ornament the rotunda which opens onto the long glass-ceilinged passageway, while stunning mosaics created by Giandomenico Facchina embellish the floors, earning the Galerie Vivienne a reputation as one of the most beautiful of its kind in all of Paris.

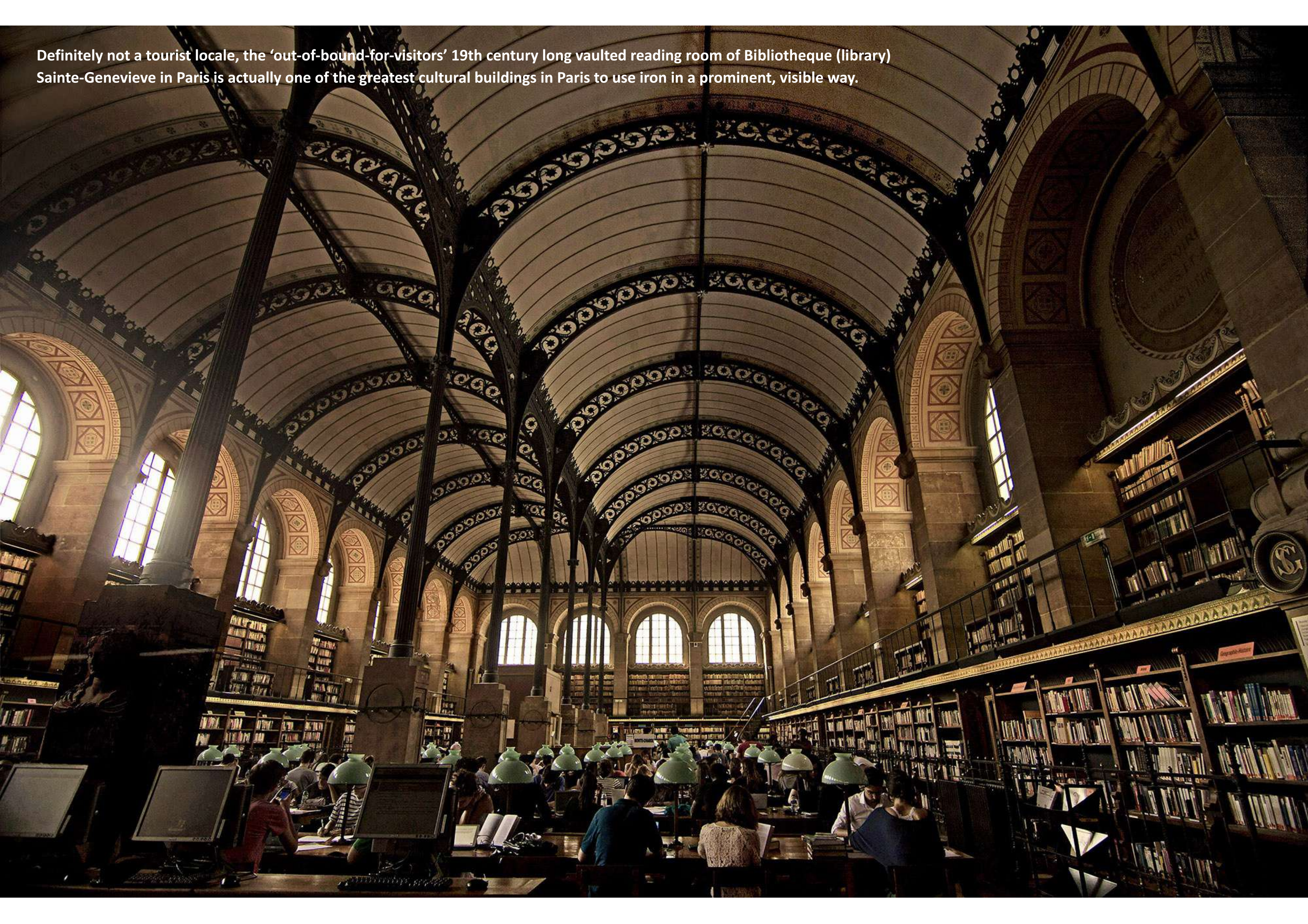
was born on one of its islands, the Île de la Cité, and today the river flows under 37 bridges as it makes its thirteen kilometre arc through the City of Light. These bridges and footbridges of Paris, are the links between its shores, its inhabitants and its historical monuments ... For me, these bridges were quite an original way of discovering Paris. Standing on Pont (bridge) D'Arcole one April evening, I watched the magnificent crepuscular rays of the sun behind the Conciergerie building, with its distinctive towers, behind the bridge 'Pont Notre Dame'. This edifice belonged to the Kings of France and preceded the Louvre as their royal residence.

It is difficult for me to describe Paris. All I can say is this chic, sexy capital has to be experienced and when we mix the picture-postcard icons with simple Parisian moments as I managed to do, you'll know why I have truly fallen in love with this city.

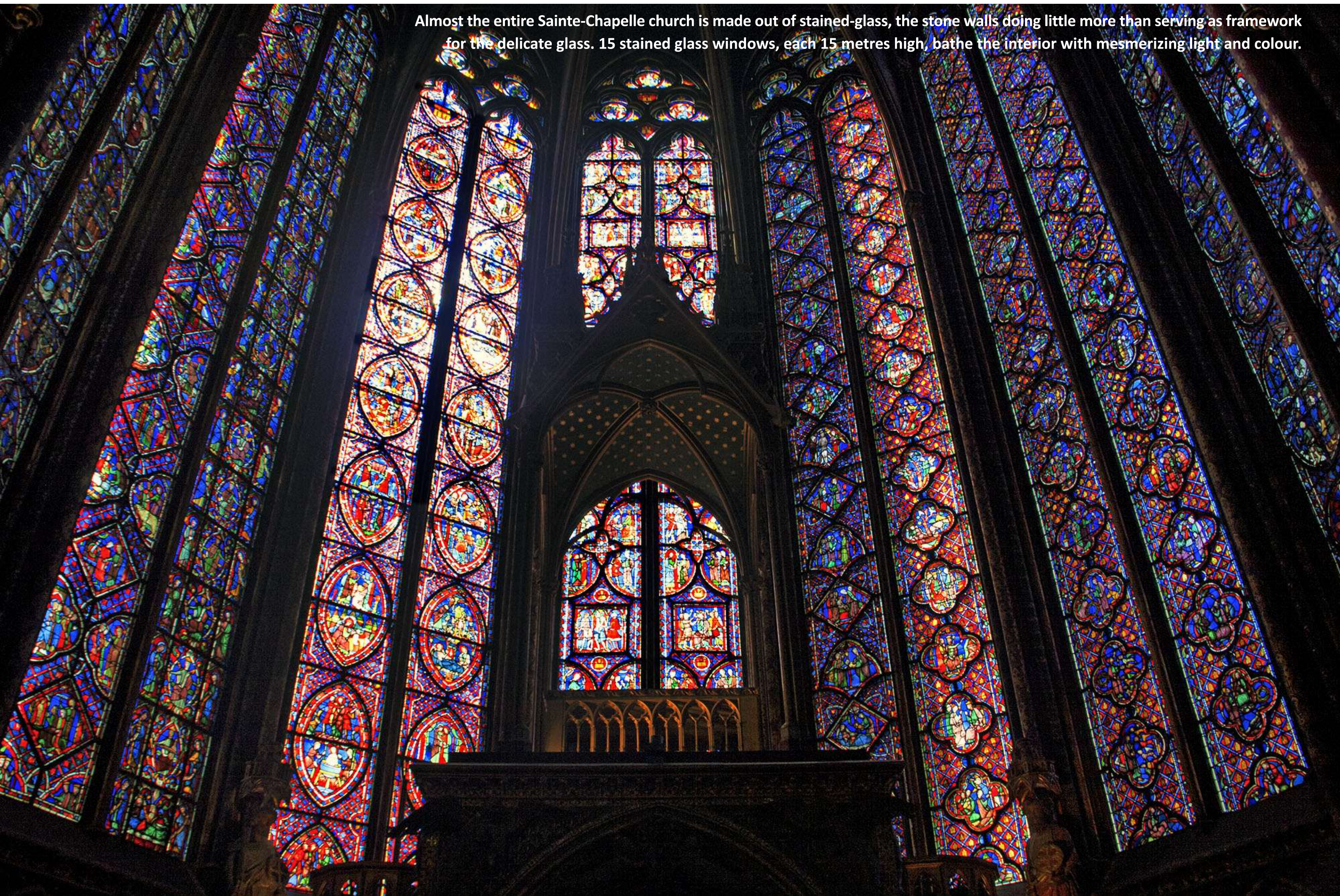
Paris is not about Notre Dame, Eiffel tower, Louvre or Montmartre. There is so much more to Paris beyond these traditional tourist spots. I am fortunate enough to have visited this city many times over, but it was only during my 3 months stay, that I explored and discovered Paris, if I may say, even more than a Parisian. Almost always on foot, I used to walk around the streets imbibing the sights and sounds often walking 15 Km in a day. The public transportation in Paris is one of the best in the world, yet it's a very walkable city. I discovered gems and treasures of Paris hidden beyond the oft travelled paths, beyond the touristic crowds...



Definitely not a tourist locale, the 'out-of-bound-for-visitors' 19th century long vaulted reading room of Bibliotheque (library) Sainte-Genevieve in Paris is actually one of the greatest cultural buildings in Paris to use iron in a prominent, visible way.



Almost the entire Sainte-Chapelle church is made out of stained-glass, the stone walls doing little more than serving as framework for the delicate glass. 15 stained glass windows, each 15 metres high, bathe the interior with mesmerizing light and colour.

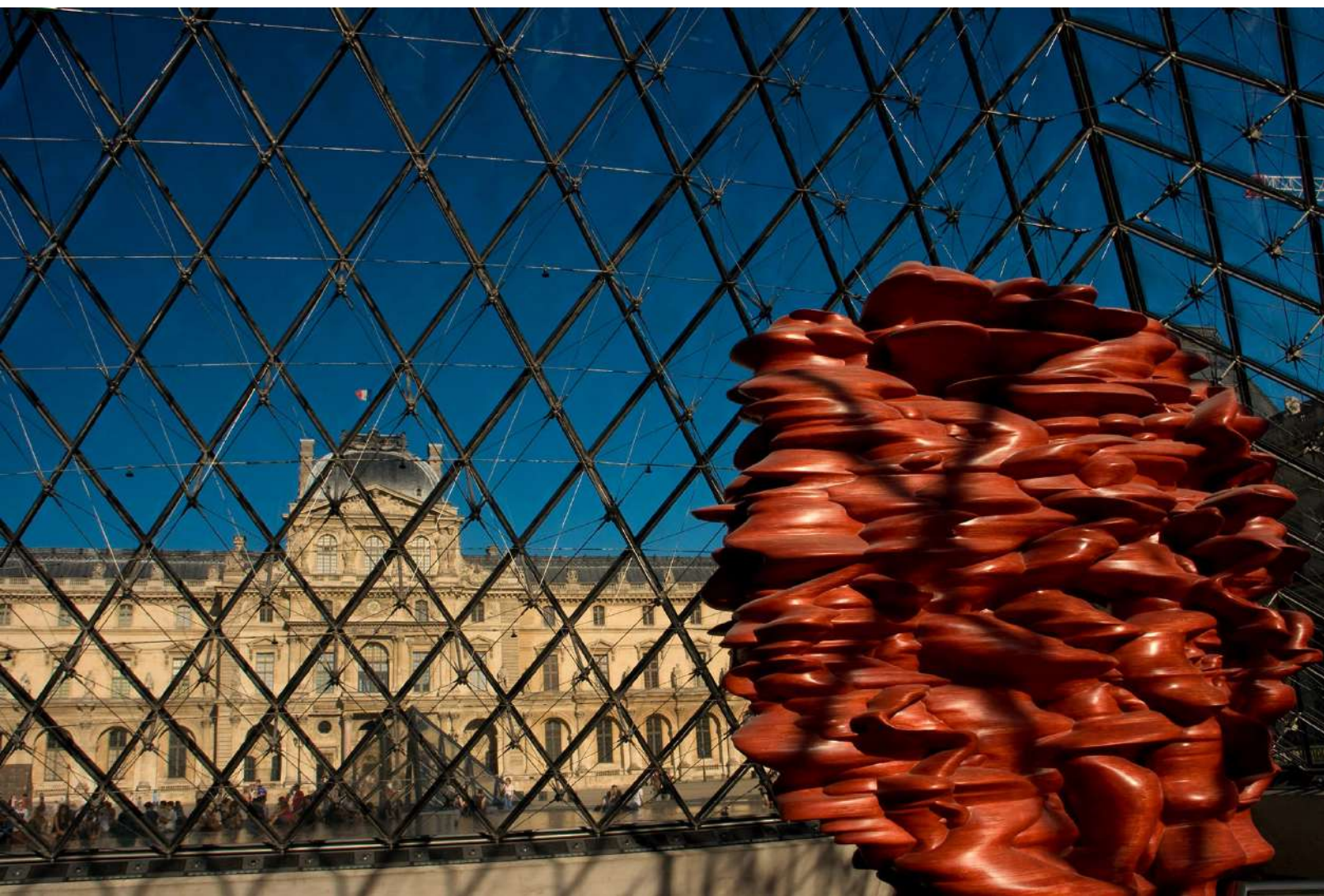


The bridges and footbridges of Paris, are the links between its shores, its inhabitants and its historical monuments. The Pont (bridge) D'Arcole on one April evening with the magnificent crepuscular rays of the sun behind the Conciergerie building, with its distinctive towers, behind the bridge 'Pont Notre Dame' as can be seen here. This edifice belonged to the Kings of France and preceded the Louvre as their royal residence.





The Pont Alexandre III bridge is one among the many bridges that span across the Siene. The bridge is known for the statues and sculptures adorning its structure. A group of sculptures known as the Nymphes de la Neva which in English translates to the Nymphs of Neva is one of the most recognised structures in Paris. The sculpture is located at the central summit of the arch of the bridge and is made of copper. Artist Georges Recipon is credited with the construction of this sculpture which has now turned into a major tourist attraction.



One of the main and the most distinctive features of Louvre Museum is actually a very recent structure. Designed by the famed architect I.M. Pei, and opened in March 1989, the then extremely controversial Pyramid is located right in the centre of the Museum complex, the Cour Napoléon. It serves as the entrance for the main exhibition hall of the museum. In the foreground of this photograph is Tony Cragg's sculpture "Versus" with the Pavilion Sully of the Museum as seen through the glass of the pyramid in the background.



About the Photographer

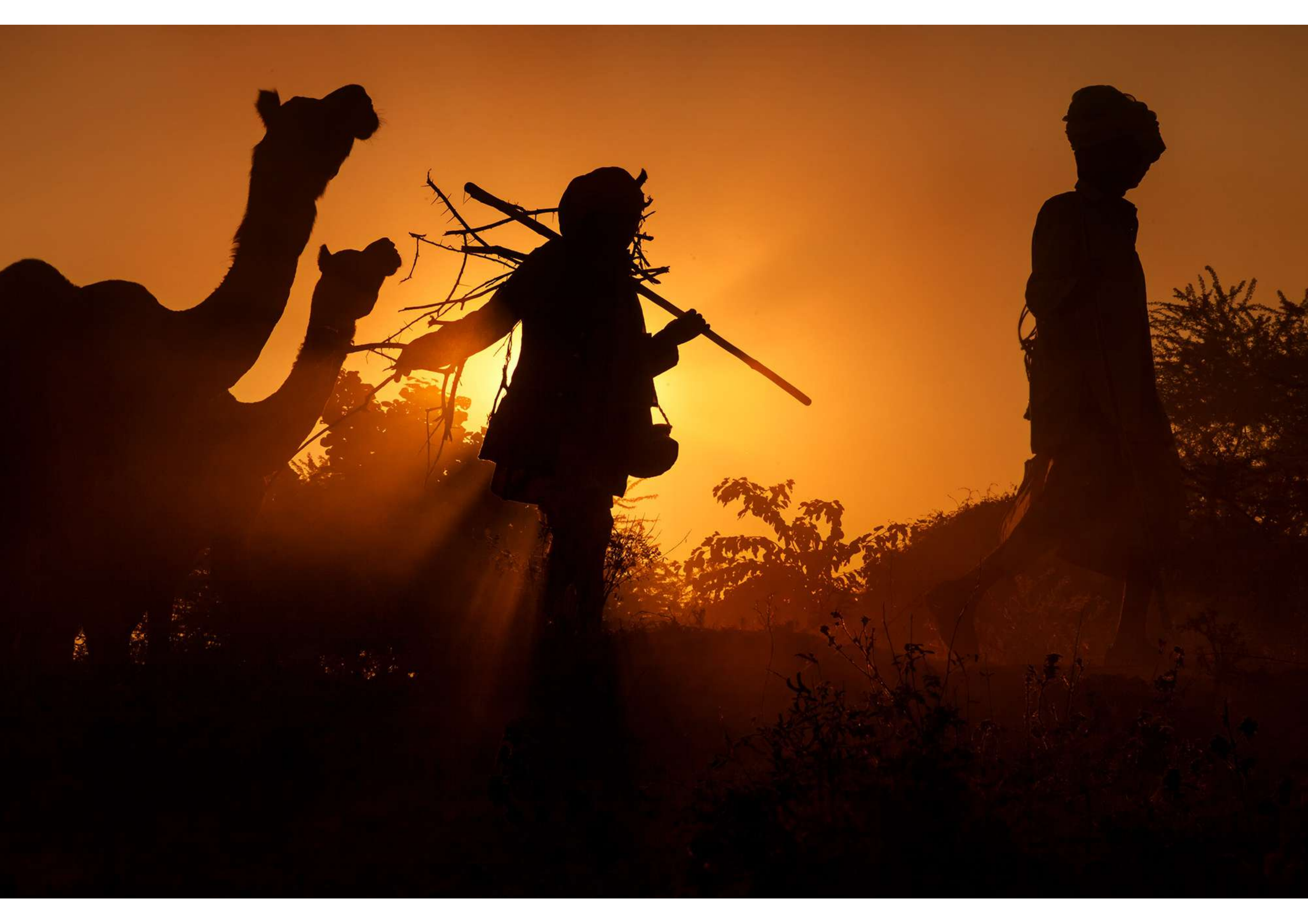
Angshuman Chatterjee is a banker by profession and has moved on the job across cities, presently residing in Mumbai. Passionate about travelling, he calls himself a 'man with a camera' not yet qualified to be called a photographer. One of his passions is to photograph and show places and landmarks in a unique way, with a twist as he says. His travel bucket list is long and he wishes to see and continue to share and show the world through his eyes. He considers making friends across the world through photography as one of the best bonuses of his life.

Website: <https://500px.com/Angshu>



■ *“Fortunately, technology cannot instil creativity into someone. For that one must work hard and strive to create something which is different and unique. And that I believe will always be the differentiator.”*

There are those who walk a different path, those who explore and learn each step of the way while creating glorious images. Jassi Oberai is one such person who has journeyed with his camera across the globe always looking for the magical light that shines on nature, one everyday life of human spectrum and capturing them. He combines his two passions photography and sharing to sprinkle nuggets of imagery to aspiring photographers through his workshops. One of the most acclaimed travel photographers of this era, Jassi Oberai speaks exclusively to us and shares his valuable insights and experiences as a travel photographer, bringing stories from different corners of the planet.





How did photography happen to you? Is there a specific reason which drew you towards travel photography?

Even when I was not doing photography, I was always keen to explore different cultures, people and most of all nature. I think it was a combination of all these interests which drew me towards travel photography.

Typically, how do you prepare yourself before you set out for your next project? Do you prepare yourself keeping in mind the specific features of the place you are visiting?

I conduct a thorough in-depth research on the place, people, culture and nature. I also spend a considerable amount of time studying photographs taken previously from there. This helps me being aware of the various facets of the place I am visiting.

As a travel photographer how challenging it is to showcase a popular and much visited destination in a completely new or different light?

The biggest challenge being a travel photographer is to capture the place and mood in a different light and that is what makes it exciting. I try and travel to the same place multiple times and every time I try to bring variations in my images.



When you push yourself to create something different, you actually push your creativity and end up learning a lot.

For someone as well travelled as you, is there any one particular place which left an indelible impression on you?

Yes, Turtuk a remote village in Ladakh always leaves me speechless. Despite being orthodox in their beliefs, they are rather progressive in their actions. They do not let their poverty, orthodox beliefs come in their way to educate kids even beyond primary education.

How much role does a prior knowledge of the place and the culture of its people play when you are on an assignment?

Very much. It makes my life much easier. I mean when I am aware of the cultural ethos and beliefs of people of a particular place, it becomes easier to interact with them and execute my plan.

If you have to name one particular place which is relatively lesser known to the rest of the world yet is a plethora of scenic beauty, which place would that be?

Faroe Islands without any hesitation. It is a relatively lesser known place but insanely beautiful. I wish it stays that way and does not get ruined by irresponsible tourism.







“Turtuk is a small Balti village on the border nearing Pakistan. Being orthodox Muslims, they were and may be still are extremely camera shy. I mean it was impossible to create images. Every time you pick up your camera, they will hide their face. It was then I decided to leave the camera and started interacting with the locals in an attempt to break the ice. When you genuinely show interest in other people they start trusting you and gradually I could click loads of their images with their permission.”

Travel photography as a genre involves multitudes of challenges, ranging from the political scenario of the place to the weather. Would you please share with our readers any such incident where you were faced with extreme challenges and how did you overcome them?

My first visit to Turtuk was almost 10 years ago. Turtuk is a small Balti village on the border nearing Pakistan. Being orthodox Muslims, they were and may be still are extremely camera shy. I mean it was impossible to create images. Every time you pick up your camera, they will hide their face. It was then I decided to leave the camera and started interacting with the locals in an attempt to break the ice. When you genuinely show interest in other people they start trusting you and gradually I could click loads of their images with their permission.

Do you feel the advancements in technology have made it any easier or when it comes to taking brilliant photographs it still boils down to one's dedication, commitment and skills?

When technology makes it easy, being creative becomes difficult. Yes, technology has made it easy and will make it even easier in times to come but that's just one part of photography. Fortunately, technology cannot instil creativity into someone. For that one must work hard and strive to create something which is different and unique. And that I believe will always be the differentiator.

Is there a particular photographer from the previous or the present era you are in awe of?

Without any hesitation the name Ansel Adams comes to my mind.





You conduct several photo tours throughout the year. What are the main aspects of photography you highlight to the participants?

I would say being responsible. Apart from the nuances of photography, being responsible as a photographer is one important aspect we try to practice and highlight.

Finally what would be your advice to young and upcoming photographers?

It takes time. Give time to photography, go through the phases and enjoy the process. You are not cooking 2 minutes Noodles. You are trying to create something which will last forever.



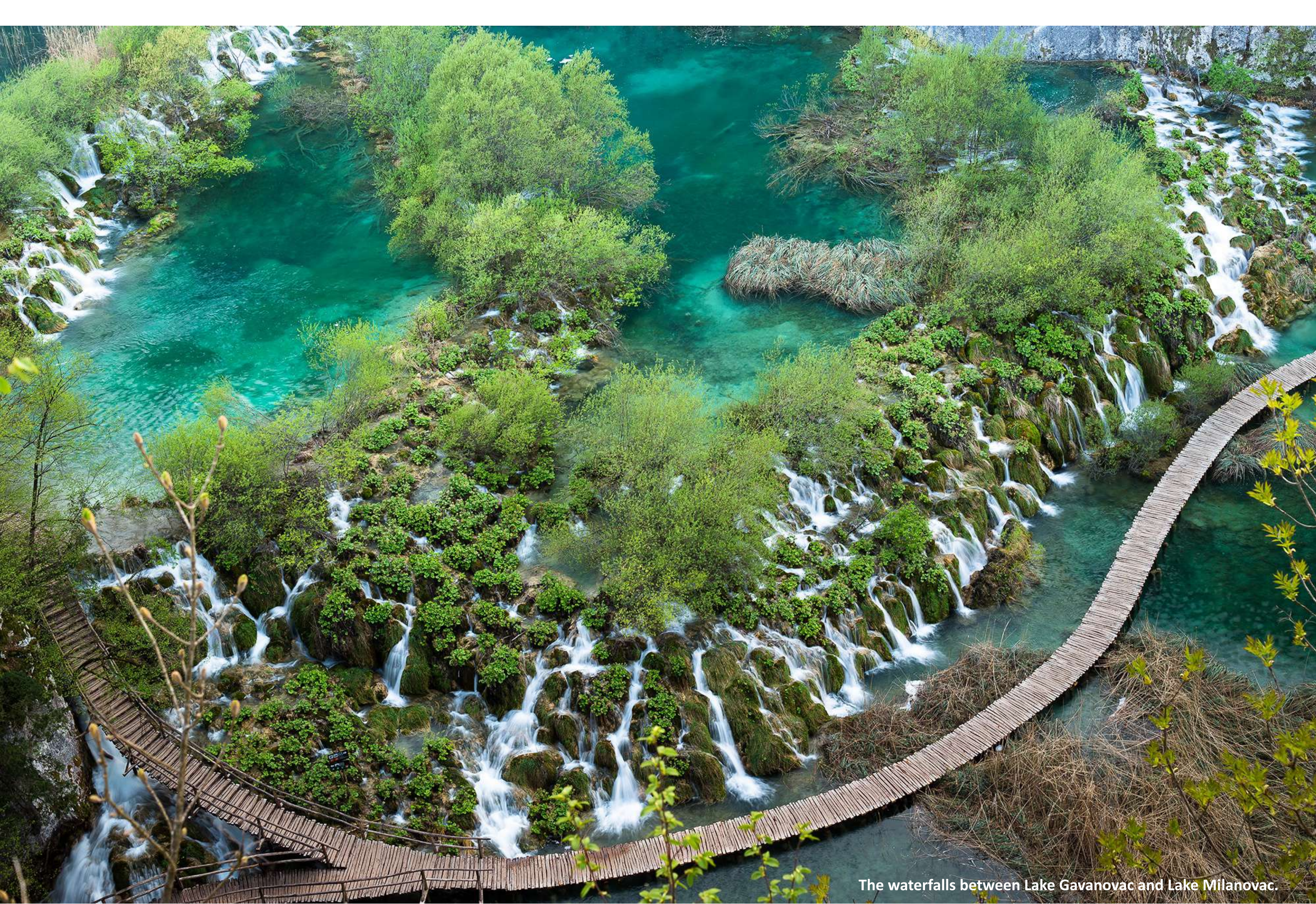


Plitvice Lakes National Park - a beautiful chapter from Croatia

Avid traveler and photographer [Avishek Patra](#) relives his journey across Plitvice Lakes National Park, one of the more stunning destinations in the picturesque land of Croatia.



Croatia, a country abundant in natural beauty and is rightly known as the Pearl of the Adriatic.



The waterfalls between Lake Gavanovac and Lake Milanovac.



Wide waterfalls between Lake Gavanovac, Lake Milanovac and Lake Kozjak. This photo was taken from the top of the eastern canyons adjacent to the lakes.

Croatia is often called the “Jewel of the Adriatic” - a country that is not yet prominent on the tourism map and a country that hides a plethora of natural and historic wonders. Being a travel and photography junkie, Croatia was on my radar for a very long time. A trip to the country was finally possible last autumn, when I undertook a road trip across Croatia, from Zadar in the north to the Plitvice Lakes National Park in the central part of the country and then down to the south to Dubrovnik. Of the seven days in this amazing country, my first encounter with the Plitvice Lakes National Park remains the highlight. In this article, I sketch out my one-day experience of walking and hiking through the maze of waterfalls and lakes of the Plitvice Lakes National Park – one of the amazing natural wonders you will ever see!

The day began early in Zadar – a relaxed city by the Adriatic Sea on the north-western shores of Croatia. After a quick home-made breakfast in my apartment in Zadar, I started the drive at around 9 am heading towards the east of the country. With blue sky and puffy little white clouds in the horizon, it was the perfect day for a drive. The highway from Zadar to Plitvice was a picturesque one, going around the rugged mountains and often piercing through their rocky realms via the tunnels running through them. The 120 kilometre drive through this incredibly beautiful landscape was a smooth and

relaxing one with a much needed pit stop for the famed “borek” proving to be the only interruption. Borek is a popular snack across Croatia, in fact this light snack which is known for its meat and cheese fillings is quite popular across the entire Balkan Peninsula. These are basically baked pastries with thin, flaky dough and meat and cheese fillings with origins in the Anatolian regions, the recipes of which flowed through to the Baltics during the Ottoman regime. A must try!

I was well aware of the fickle nature of the British weather, however to my surprise the Croat weather seemed to have a similar mind of its own! The bright sunny day with specks of fluffy white clouds in the blue sky which greeted my drive early in the day soon changed to a dull grey appearance accompanied by spells of rain. The rain certainly dampened my spirit, more so since I was feeling rather excited at the prospect of photographing the natural beauty all around against the backdrop of a clear blue sky. The rain continued even after I reached Plitvice Lakes National Park. In spite of waiting for half an hour in the car for the sky to clear up I decided to go ahead with my plans when the rain showed no signs of slowing down. Before I go ahead with my journey, here is some information on Plitvice Lakes National Park. At Plitvice, the National Park is centred on a group of sixteen lakes fed by small rivers and streams. The speciality of these lakes is that they are

cascaded back to back – like a staircase – and therefore, they result in these wide yet low waterfalls between the lakes. The whole setting is somewhat similar to the terraced paddy fields in the hilly regions in India. The stream of water descends for about 160 m from the topmost lake to the bottom one, where the water finally exits to the river Korana. As a result of this unique wonder of nature, there is a diversity of flora and fauna in this region. In fact, such is the uniqueness of Plitvice Lakes National Park that it was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1979.

At the National Park, there are two main entrances. Entrance 1 is in the north end of the park and is closer to the Lower Lakes, the lower end of the 16-lakes cascade, while Entrance 2 is somewhere in the middle of the cascade. Between the two entrances and beyond lies a hilly terrain that encompasses the lakes and other smaller water bodies. Hikers and nature lovers have the option to hike along several trails: some of which run from Entrance 1 to Entrance 2 and vice versa. At the Entrances of the National Park, one can find the detailed information about a dozen hiking routes with varying difficulties, length and approximate time of hike. Some of the wider lakes also have boats crossing them, and a few routes also include the option of cutting short the walk by choosing a short boat ride. One should most definitely take up one of these routes and hike around the park, passing through

the interesting and amazing features of nature. From my experience as a first-timer in the park, I would recommend that one chooses a route that includes a boat ride to experience Plitvice from both land and water.

Back to my travel: I had initially planned to hike along a route that traversed across the entire park – about a length of 9 kms which I expected would take about 7 hours – that also includes the time I would be spending taking photographs and shooting videos. However, since the weather was not conducive plus given that I were already an hour behind schedule (It was already 11:00 when I started the hike), I decided to go along a trail of 5 kms in length, which included a short boat ride across one of the larger lakes in the Park. Walking along this trail it took me about 5 hours to complete the route, during which I took enough time to stop and take photographs. Starting from the Lower Lakes, I got the first glimpse of the amazing place that I was about to explore... I could see a sea of lush green, yellow and orange autumn leaves, with several long white streaks of water incessantly crashing into shallow emerald green pools below.

As I started the walk, a huge waterfall crashing down to the rocks below at a distance came to my view. This is the tallest waterfall in the park and is aptly named as Veliki Slap or the Great Waterfall. As the water of Veliki Slap was

cascading down from the top, the water at the bottom was nearly lost in a veil of mist. It was a magnificent sight to behold, especially since one could see multiple colours of the trees on the hills around the waterfall. Within a few minutes of commencing my hike in the rain, the rain came to a halt – as if respecting my courage to go out and explore. I walked downhill along the narrow and stony winding paths on the eastern side of the lakes, all the while experiencing and enjoying the nature around. At the bottom, the stony trail transitioned into a wide path of wooden planks. The wooden path, as if they were floating on the water, led the hikers over a still lake of green water. This lake is the lowest of the 16 lakes and is called the Novakovica Brod (or Novakovic's Crossing). This lake was named after a peasant called Novakovic, who, the legend says, was thrown off his horse into this lake. Following the floating wooden path, I reached the Sasvatic, where the water from all the 16 lakes and the Veliki Slap join the other cascading streams to form the river Korana.

A short walk then brought me to the base of the Veliki Slap. Reaching the base of the waterfall, I spent quite some time admiring the view. The waterfall is fed by Plitvica River – the river from which the park draws its name. At the base, I also spent a significant amount of time getting acquainted with a local inhabitant, a bright yellow and brilliant black spotted Fire



The magnificent blue-green pools of water formed at the foot of the waterfalls. This brilliant hue of emerald green and blue form one of the most iconic sights in the region.

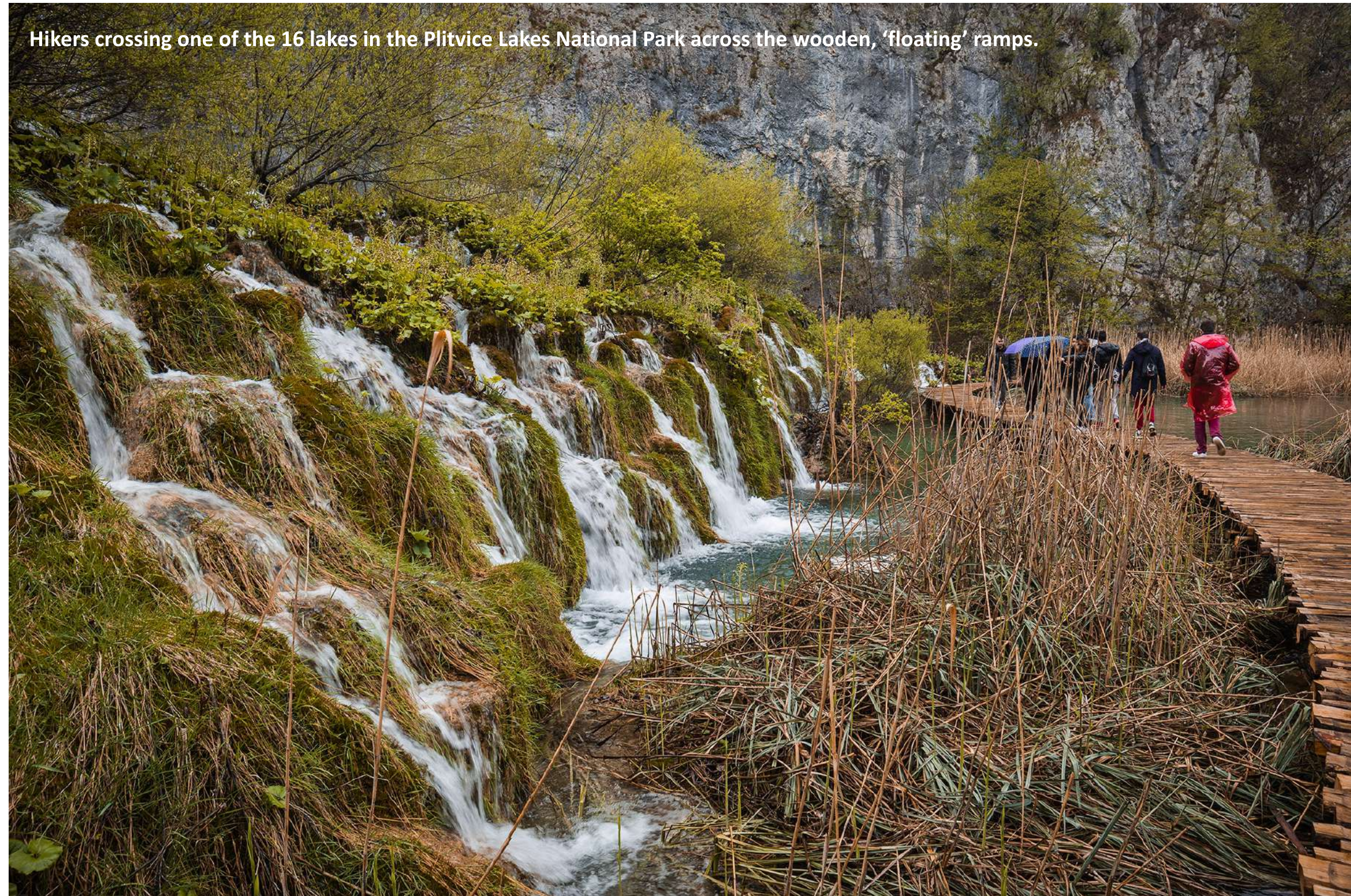


Wide, smooth flowing stream of clear blue water – something one cannot get enough of in the Plitvice lakes National Park. These cascading streams of water join forces to form the Korana River.

Salamander, a widely found amphibian in Southern Europe, which was lying on a moss covered rock, basking in the sun.

Walking onwards, I began climbing up the western side of the still green lakes, passing by the Novakovica Brod, and then walking past Lake Kaluderovac (the Hermit Lake), Lake Gavanovac (or Gavan's Lake), Lake Milanovac (Milan's Lake) and Lake Kozjak (the Goat Lake). Such interesting names for the lakes are results of the folklores which are associated with these names. For example, the Hermit Lake is named after a monk who lived in a cave nearby the lake, the Milan's Lake is named after farmer Mile, whose wife is said to have drowned in this lake, and the Kozjak's Lake is named after the story of those farmers who used the small island in the middle of the vast Lake Kozjak to protect their goats from the wolves in the surrounding forests.

Continuing the walk, I crossed two sets of wide waterfalls that spread across the entire width of the water bodies between the Gavanovac, the Milanovac and the Kozjak lakes. These two sets of wide waterfalls, with the flow of water slowed down due to the mossy growth on the rocks and the growing aquatic plants there, were amazing to experience and I look back at them as the highlights of my hike. As they were extremely wide and I was too close to them, I could not get a wide shot of these waterfalls, but then later in the day, while walking back, I was lucky



Hikers crossing one of the 16 lakes in the Plitvice Lakes National Park across the wooden, 'floating' ramps.

to see these amazing waterfalls from the top of the adjacent canyons on the east and could capture their beauty from a bird's eye view.

I continued walking by the Lake Kozjak to reach a pier for boats to cross the lake from its eastern side to the western side.

Each of these boats could accommodate about 50 to 60 people. The boat ride was really a serene one, and it took us about 15 minutes to cross the still dark green lake. On reaching the eastern side, I went to a small cafe to refresh myself and sit on the grass with the warm sun above to soak in the beauty. It was extremely

relaxing. After about half an hour, I walked up from the lake side to what was the Entrance 2 of the National Park. From Entrance 2, one can either walk back to Entrance 1 along the top of the eastern canyons or take a short public shuttle. I chose to take the bus as it was getting late and did not want to fend off wild bear or



The green-blue Lake Gavanovac and Lake Milanovac, as seen from the top of the eastern canyons.

wolves. Plus, I also wanted to get back to the vantage point on top of the eastern canyon from where I could photograph the wide waterfalls between the Gavanovac, the Milanovac and the Kozjak lakes. The public shuttle dropped the travellers back somewhere before the Entrance 1, which allowed us to walk along the top of the eastern canyons and see some of the most amazing views of the National Park– the wide waterfalls between the Gavanovac, the Milanovac and the Kozjak lakes from a bird’s eye view level.

Eventually, after some photographs, I walked back to the Entrance 1 to end the 5 hour hike. I was tired, hiking for 5 hours and lugging my camera bag of 10 kgs all along the way. But then, it was extremely satisfying and the memories made would last for a lifetime. I brought back a plethora of beautiful moments from this amazing place in the form of the photographs and the videos, which more than made up for all the hard work. A short walk back to the parking place, I started my drive back to Zadar that evening with a bagful of memories.



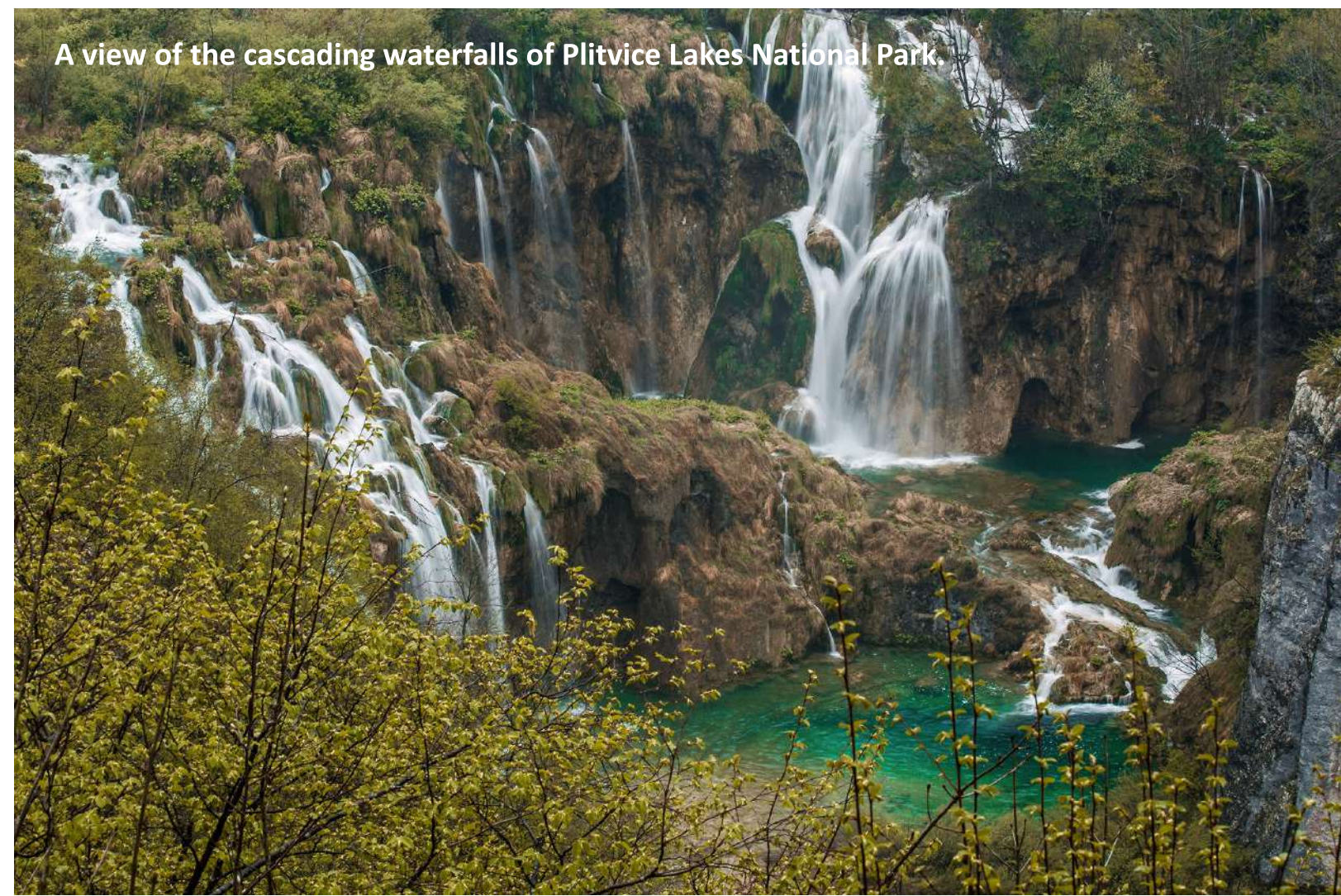
The waterfalls between Lake Kozjak and Lake Milanovac.



The *Veliki Slap* or the *Great Waterfall* crashing down to the rocks below.



A fire salamander, a local inhabitant of Plitvice Lakes National Park.



A view of the cascading waterfalls of Plitvice Lakes National Park.



Tourists walking along the shore of a pristine-green lake in Plitvice Lakes National Park. At Plitvice, the National Park is centred on a group of sixteen lakes fed by small rivers and streams. The speciality of these lakes is that they are cascaded back to back – like a staircase – and therefore, they result in these wide yet low waterfalls between the lakes. The whole setting is somewhat similar to the terraced paddy fields in the hilly regions in India. The stream of water descends for about 160 m from the topmost lake to the bottom one, where the water finally exits to the river Korana. As a result of this unique wonder of nature, there is a diversity of flora and fauna in this region. In fact, such is the uniqueness of Plitvice Lakes National Park that it was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1979.

About the Photographer



Avishek Patra is an avid traveler and photographer with a keen interest in landscapes and cityscapes. Inspired by his father at an early age, he has been a keen student of photography since his school days. Having traveled across India – from mountains of Ladakh to sandy beaches of Pondicherry with his parents – in his young days, he developed an insatiable appetite for travel. An

Automotive Consultant by profession, today he continues living in Germany, while traveling and photographing the world with his wife. The Wandering Chubbies – the name by which their social media followers know the couple – lead the lifestyle of ‘working nomads’, balancing their full time professions along with their immense traveling passion. Currently, Avishek is working on a series of

photo-articles – titled ‘30 under 30’ – to document his achievement of traveling across 30 countries by the age of 30. Having travelled to 36 countries across Europe, Asia and Americas by the middle of 2019, Avishek considers his travel experiences, and the photographs and videos from these travels as his greatest assets.

Website:

www.thewanderingchubbies.com

Instagram:

www.instagram.com/thewanderingchubbies

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/thewanderingchubbies



“Uniqueness has its own power to get recognised automatically. We don’t need a special power to detect that. We develop anxiety if we repeat same thing again and again. It is like a machine producing the same things over and over again and becomes cliché. I always try for the new things while on street.”

Ace street photographer Raj Sarkar speaks exclusively to us about his journey with the camera so far and how the works of genius photographers from the past helped him develop his craft. Primarily self-taught he emphasises on the need to be unique and ethical and embrace all the challenges involved in street photography without the expectations of winning accolades.

Raj Sarkar is a street photographer and educator. He holds an MBA Degree in Finance and Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Application. He is the curator of APF magazine Street Photography and co-founder of World Photographic Forum (the biggest group in Facebook- 265K members) .He loves exploring possibilities on street. His main object is to freeze the emotions and actions of people. He delivers lecture on photography in various colleges and institutions like IIM (Indian Institution of Management), Union Chapel School

among others. He also conducts countless workshops on street photography. He has curated various exhibitions and he has also been appointed as judge in numerous competitions. Raj is a recipient of various awards, recently he has won the International Puskar Mela Contest, Finalist of Garuda World Photo contest and HIPA and his work has been exhibited worldwide. He reviews various gadgets and cameras including the FujiX camera for Fujifilm. His article has been published in all renowned magazine and

websites in the world like Fujilove, Street Photography Magazine, USA, Viewfind, APF Magazine, Smart Photography, Better Photography, Asian Photography, Chiiz magazine, Saveus, 121 clicks, National Geographic, CNN London TV and more. His photographs and their compositions have been used as study materials. Raj is based in Kolkata, India. He is an avid traveler and keeps himself immersed in his photographic endeavors.





What made you so passionate about photography?

My desire to explore the unknown made me so passionate about photography.

Did you ever receive any formal training/education on photography or are you a self-taught photographer?

Apart from attending a two day workshop on street photography I never signed up for any formal training. I would say I am largely a self-taught photographer.

What is it about street photography that made it your most favoured genre?

In street photography everything is candid and impromptu; you never know what is going to happen next. The uncertainty and the un-staged nature of it made street photography my favourite genre where the possibilities of exploring things are limitless.

How does one notice interesting frame in an otherwise regular set up on the streets? Does it come with a lot of practice or is it some aesthetic sense a person is blessed with?

By practice and deep observation one can develop certain visions which help street photographers to see the unseen elements while on street. Dedication, love, respect towards the subject and practice go a long way in developing the aesthetic senses.





Which are the famous street photographers who have left a profound impact on you with their stellar works?

I have been largely influenced by the works of Henry Cartier Bresson, Ernst Haas and Sebastiao Salgado. The works of these three genius photographers have shown the world how and what we should click. These three geniuses have left a profound impact on the whole universe through their images.

If you are allowed to use only one lens-camera combination for the rest of your life, which combination would that be for street photography?

Any small mirrorless camera with a 23 mm (35 mm in FF) f2 lens would be good enough in my opinion.

These days there is a lot of controversy around street photographs being staged, wither for the sake of competitions or to garner positive reviews. What is your take on staged photographs? Do you consider it to be ethical or should be looked at as something which highlights the vision of a photographer?

Yes this is true. People are staging photographs and claiming those photographs as candid street photographs. Surprisingly the staged ones are receiving numerous accolades on multiple platforms. I feel ashamed to see those staged photographs winning in the street category. Anybody can submit anything but what are the judges doing?? Are the jury

members competent enough to judge the actual deserving street photographs? You cannot simply blame those submitting the staged shots only. Even during street photography workshops some mentors are teaching how to stage. People forget the metaphor. Overall it's the ethical aspect of the photographer which should matter the most. For me anything that is staged does not fall under the category of street photography. Awards will not make you a great photographer but a unique and decisive way of approaching your subjects will. Can you carry all awards and trophies with you all the time and keep telling I have won this and that. That would be an impossible task to achieve. Instead what you can carry is your observation, your techniques, your reflex action, experiences, and your ability to respond to certain moments and the camera of course. Freezing a decisive moment that is impossible to repeat even by the author himself is the biggest challenge. If it was your choice to be a street photographer then you should also face those challenges associated with this particular genre.

What are the unique sets of challenges which are associated with street photography and how do you manage to overcome them when you are faced with them?

To live life is a big challenge. In street photography we have to face various challenges like how to approach a couple who is sharing intimate moments or how





to approach a subject in a busy street or at an unknown and risky place. These are few examples but there are many such challenges you have to face while on the street. It is better to be ready for any situation rather than trying to predict what they could be because you never know what is next. Most of the time life and moments do not follow predictive guidelines or a set of rules. If you consider anything as a problem it will become your problem. Face it and learn. Deep observation is the key to everything.

We often see lines and patterns playing an important part in street photography composition. Are you a big fan of incorporating patterns or lines in your compositions?

Yes, lines and patterns play a big role to achieve an interesting street shot. I am a big fan of everything related to photography. Lines and pattern are very strong elements but human emotions overpower everything. If you can combine lines, patterns with human emotion that would create magic. As art is very subjective someone might discover emotions in lines and patterns more so since it is very difficult to predict how someone will feel connected to something.

Street photography is possibly the most widely practiced genre. In the face of hundreds of thousands of photographs how do you ensure your photographs stand out among the rest and are



different from the cliché street photographs?

Uniqueness has its own power to get recognised automatically. We don't need a special power to detect that. We develop anxiety if we repeat same thing again and again. It is like a machine producing the same things over and over again and becomes cliché. I always try for the new things while on street.

According to you what are those aspects which in perfect blend make a brilliant street photograph?

For me a strong decisive moment, good content and light are the key aspects for a brilliant street photograph.

Would you please share with our readers one of your most memorable moments from the streets while you were out there shooting?

All the moments frozen inside my photographs are memorable for me. I live with those moments and cherish them every day.

What would be your advice to our readers who aspire to carve a name for them in the genre of street photography?

Don't do anything with an expectation. Dedicate yourself and don't lust for the awards and the trophies. Spend time to explore new things and enjoy the philosophical journey called photography with deep observation.



Chaos in Woods

by Arindam Ghosh

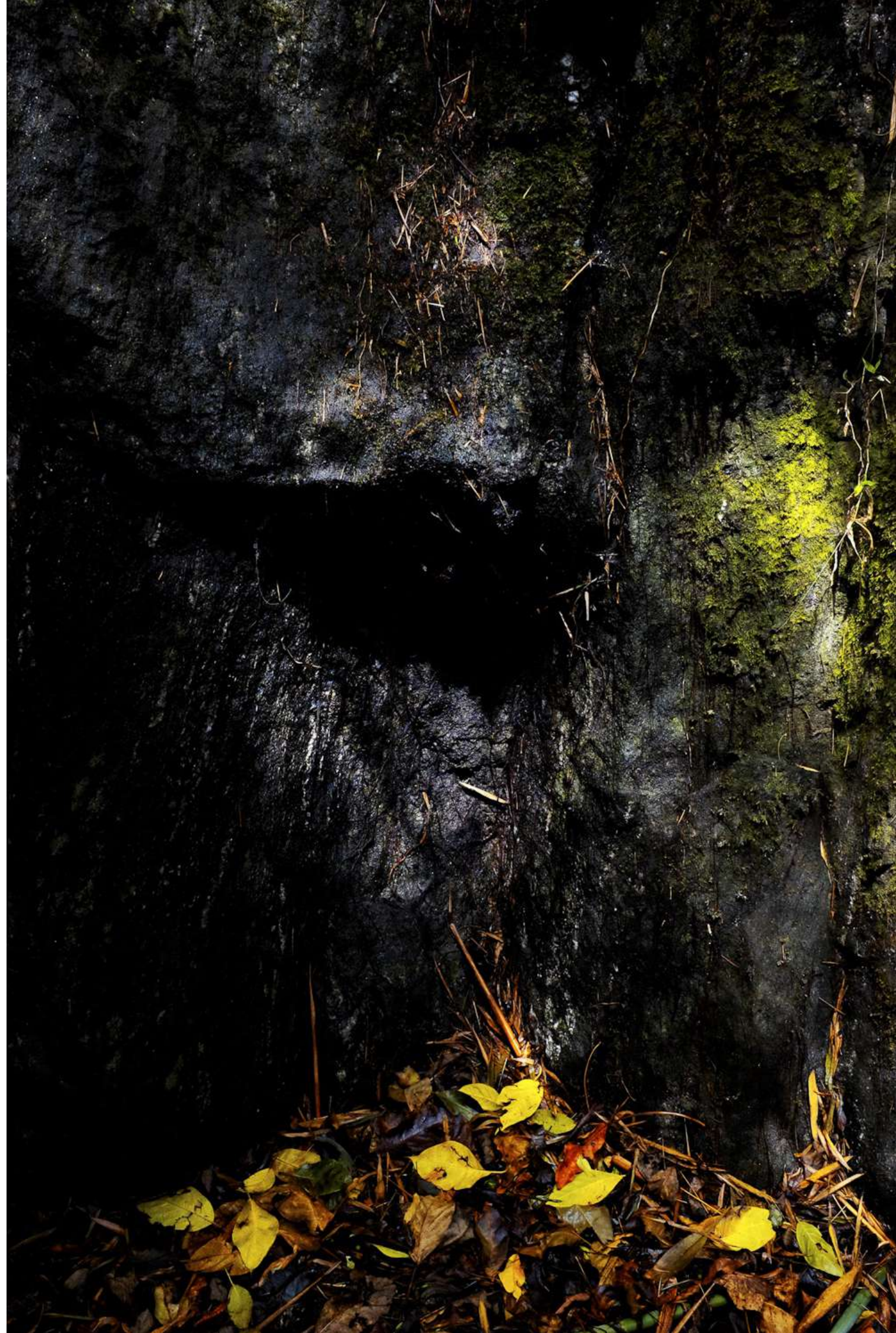
A photo album showcasing the photographs taken by a passionate landscape photographer who is engaged in a constant pursuit to develop his very own signature style while uncovering the spiritual and mysterious beauty of nature.



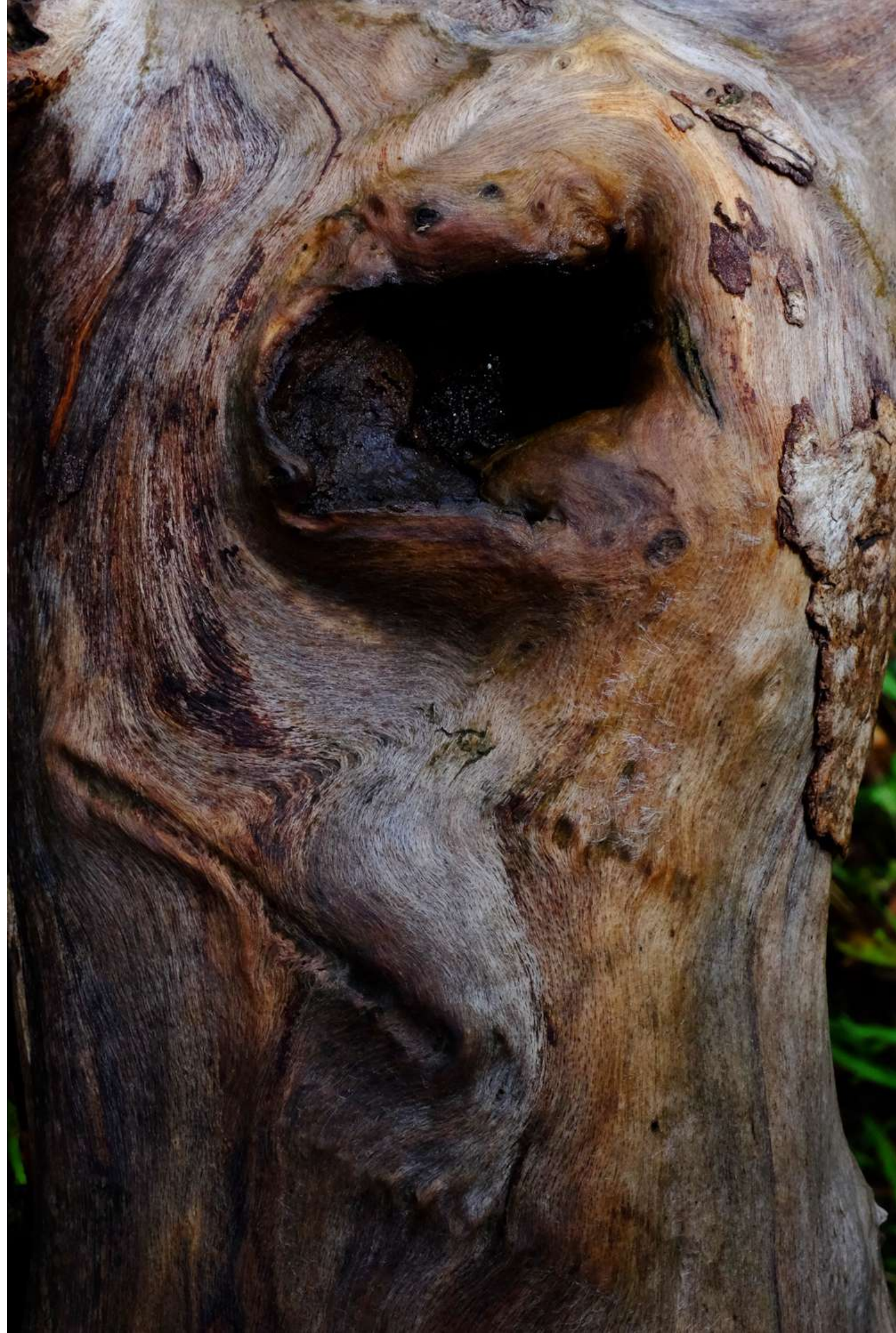
When I decided to take a nature walk alone at Dawaipani - a picturesque hamlet in the lap of the Himalayas bordering the much more famed tourist destination of Darjeeling, in the morning, I did not have any clear idea about the photographs I was going to take that day. It had rained heavily the previous day but on this morning the sky had cleared up offering a breathtaking panoramic view of Mt. Kanchenjunga. It was a sight to behold, as it was evident from the enthusiasm shared by my friends to freeze this beautiful view of the majestic snowcapped mountain peak with their cameras. The view was an incredible one and soon I joined them too. However after shooting a few frames I realized something was amiss. Being in the habit of using the film medium I am particularly choosy when it comes to pressing the shutter button. On this particular trip I was not carrying too many films, which made me all the more wary of pressing the shutter button at random. My own mood, coupled with the technical constraints compelled me to refrain from shooting Kanchenjunga in all its glory, in my heart I knew I was looking for something which was not so obvious, something which has carefully hidden itself away in obscurity, far removed from the public glare, only to reveal itself to those who truly seek for it. Armed with a full packet of cigarette and with my dearest buddy FujiFilm X100S I started my walk through the jungle lanes of this hill station. I believe landscape

photography is a quiet and contemplative activity. As a landscape photographer I like to slow down the process and enjoy the beauty of the Mother Nature. I look for the experience and seek to reveal the spiritual & mysterious aspects of the nature.

Places like Dawaipani which is near to Darjeeling is famous for its vista view of Mt. Kanchenjunga. Most of the landscape photographers look for the grand view only but that is not all about nature's beauty. Most certainly this kind of beauty is mesmerizing both by dint of its sheer magnitude as well as its opulence but among this vast frame there are several subjects which appear chaotic but can appear very orderly in a deeper sense independently. This process is very slow, is almost unnoticed and very intimate. I have sought my own way of seeing the nature. In this process I have discovered endless intimate details that reveal an essence of the nature I encountered. This has taught me valuable lessons in landscape photography which is to look for frames within the sweeping landscapes. The subjects of these photographs are chaotic or disorderly placed in the woods if you try to view them in a larger frame but appeared very orderly when I tried to arrange them in a much smaller and detailed scale. It is all about the intimacy with the nature; it is all about the tension between order and 'Chaos' in woods.











About the Photographer

Arindam Ghosh is a banker by profession and a landscape photographer by passion. His 13th birthday was the most memorable one for him since on that day his aunt gifted him an AGFA Click III. He grew up taking a lot of family photos and photographs during vacations. He purchased his first SLR - a second hand Nikon F50 in 1998 and started taking this hobby seriously in 2007 when he became a member of an orthodox photography club in Howrah with his first DSLR Nikon D80 in tow. It was here he learnt 'Pictorial' photography and participated regularly in FIAP & PSA salons. During this period he used to spend maximum time in front of his PC to create photographs than in the field. His works have been accepted in different national / international photography salons and also acclaimed by judges. In 2012 when he met one of the eminent landscape photographers Mr. Soumitra Datta, and saw his masterpieces he was really surprised to know that he does not spend much time using Photoshop rather creates wonders with his camera! He was highly impressed and inspired by this great photographer. He found his approach is totally different from the others in landscape photography. Since then he has been introduced to some greatest 'Intimate' landscape photographer's work by him. His idea of landscape photography completely changed since then. He considers himself to be one of the very few lucky persons who understood landscape photography from this artist who has a deep relation with nature. Mr. Soumitra Datta has taught him to see and sense nature's inner beauty. With every passing day he is learning and trying to capture that spiritual & mysterious beauty of the nature.



Kashmir ~ A Saga of Beauty and Bullets

Amidst the ever present threat of political unrest and violent clashes the beauty of Kashmir Valley reveals itself in full glory through the photographs of [Amruta Dhavale](#)





Nestled between the Pir Panjal in the south and the mighty Himalayas in the north lies the valley of Kashmir, the seductive beauty of which effortlessly soars over the mightiest of peaks and traverses millions of miles across the globe only to enamour each and everything on its path. The slopes of the mountains dawn a cloak of lush green, carefully stitched together by the familiar conical presences of oaks, cedars and pines. The fertile plains of the valley are home to dense orchards of apples and apricots, vibrant saffron fields, picturesque vineyards, woods of walnut and almond trees and lush green stretches of rice paddies. The beauty of this valley is seductive, the charm of it spread its tentacles far beyond the cloud piercing peaks of the Himalayas teasing its admirers for a glimpse more, plunging them into the tantalising web of obsession. The world's obsession with the beauty of Kashmir valley is older than time itself. In their obsessed quests to cherish this unparalleled beauty all by themselves the Mughals, the Afghans, the Europeans all embarked upon the arduous journey across the mighty mountains only to drown themselves in the seductive charm of the valley. Like a seasoned enchantress, well aware of the prowess of her charm, the valley too put her suitors under the sternest of tests. She flirted with her suitors along every precarious bends of her loyal and stoic guardians – the mountains, in a clever and well-orchestrated game of hide and

seek she would reveal herself for a fleeting moment only to hide behind the mighty walls of her guardians in the next, at times she would tease her relentless suitors with her remarkable indifference when she would dawn the bitterly cold cloak of grey and white during the winter months. Kashmir valley treasured her beauty and took pride in it, in doing so proudly wore the diadem of romance and desire. Yet for decades now the proverbial beauty of Kashmir has been under siege courtesy the geo-political tension which dates back to the independence of India resulting in the birth of the two separate nations of India and Pakistan. Needless to say this division did little to please the politicians on either side, with both India and Pakistan vying for the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir. This eventually led to three bitterly fought wars between the two countries and yet another armed conflict in 1999. The political tension along the international border spilled over into the valley resulting in decades of social unrest, violent protests, crackdowns by the security agencies and prolonged periods of insurgency in the valley. The state of Jammu and Kashmir is one of those rare places on this planet where the stark contrast between the surreal natural beauty and the ugly face of political and civil unrest is ever so deeply engraved in every nook and corner of the region. The ever present threat of strikes which brings life to a standstill, the presence of security personnel all around, the simmering





grievances of the local population regarding an array of issues, the palpable tension which grips every young mind are manifestations of the turbulent socio-political situation of the valley which unfortunately has dominated the proceedings since independence. Everyday occurrences of violence, law and order disruption, political unrest in the valley are the ones to make headlines in the media. The mass agitation which involves stone pelting at the security personnel after the Friday prayers and the use of pellet guns in retaliation by the security forces have unfortunately become a heart-breaking reality in downtown Srinagar. The local people are almost always caught in the crossfire and often are used as pawns by groups or agencies with vested interests to carry forward their warped narratives falsely aimed at addressing the issues of the local Kashmiris. Even when the valley witnesses a rare phase or relative calm and peace there is still a lingering sense of uneasiness in the air, akin to the lull before the storm. In spite of these turmoil the pride which the valley bestows upon its beauty has remained unscathed, which is possibly why for millions the Kashmir Valley in spite of its violent predisposition still dawns the mantle of “paradise on earth”. One look at the snow-capped mountains, the lush green valleys, the clear blue lakes, the never ending canopies of pine and chinar and it becomes evident why the twin threats of civil and political unrest are yet to sabotage the true identity

of Kashmir. Nature probably couldn't have unleashed all its glory at a better place in an attempt to salvage the pride and glory of a region under siege from never ending human conflicts aimed at laying claims to some of the remarkably beautiful elements of nature which transcend the barbed wires and fences along the line of control and the international border.

In recent times the political scenario in Kashmir has taken a turn for the worse as the Indian armed forces clamped down heavily on the militant outfits eliminating several prominent insurgent leaders in the process. These led to further retaliations by the militant outfits which often claimed the lives of armed personnel as well as civilians alike. It comes as little surprise that the tourism industry in Kashmir, which serves as the backbone of the economy of this region took a massive hit. Over the past few years there has been a sharp decline in the revenue generated by the tourism industry in Kashmir. In desperate attempts, the lucrative offers and travel packages shelled out by the hotels and various travel agencies failed to lure the tourists into the ethereally beautiful realm of the valley. The beauty of Kashmir still enchants millions across the globe, although very few among them are willing to walk into this magical, mythical yet volatile valley. As a result of which the number of tourists visiting the valley has plummeted to a mere trickle. In such tumultuous situation one can only hope the scourge of insurgency and political

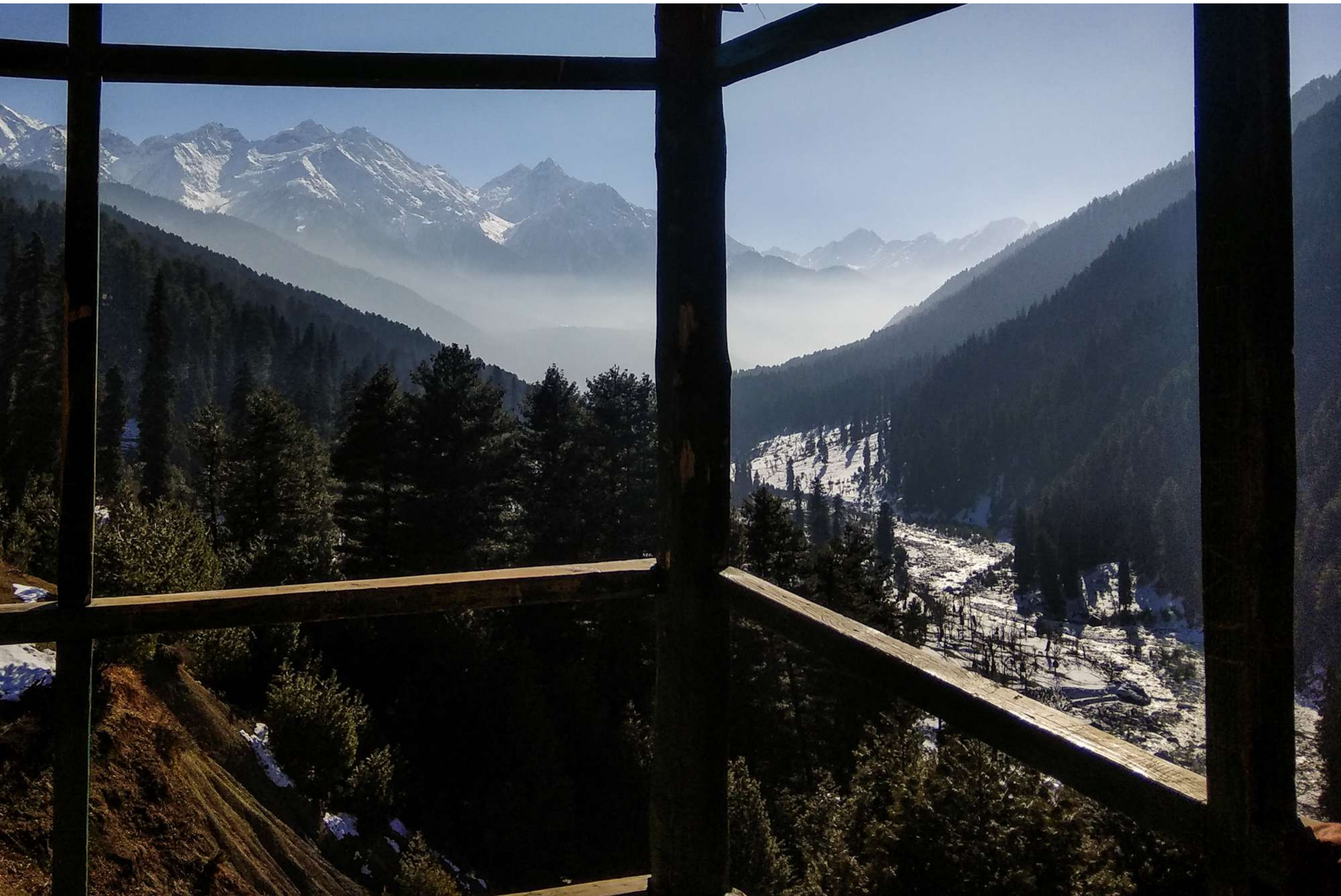


lethal game of cat and mouse between the security personnel and the insurgents instead will turn into bustling playgrounds for little kids, the clear waters of the Dal Lake and the shikras on them will be the meeting point of young lovers and the whole Kashmir valley will once again proudly flaunt the insignia of being the epicentre of romance and beauty. In this pristine land the lakes are surrounded by the green charming hills, the snow-capped mountains stand tall in the horizon like watchful sentinels as the lush green fields of paddy or the vibrant blossoming orchards of apple and apricot flow majestically along their foothills, and the rising and setting sun paints the entire valley in myriad surreal hues. The silvery moon and the twinkling stars bedeck the sky. One glimpse of the vast night sky dotted with the numerous celestial bodies goes a long way in bringing a semblance of peace during the troubled times in the valley. One can certainly hope these elements of nature will come together like never before and forge an alliance which will triumph over the political arm wrestling and the man made conflicts dominating the valley and will be the frontrunner in healing the Kashmir valley riddled with bullets and violence. .

upheaval will one day fade away from the valley, a day when gunshots, stone pelting, bitter political bickering will no longer dominate the narrative of this beautiful place on the planet. This feature is an ode

to the unmatched beauty of Kashmir, one which has enthralled millions for centuries, the menacing clouds of political unrest in the valley has done little to fade it, instead with every passing season the valley

unleashes its different avatars to the rest of the world in unparalleled glory. It is the hope of everyone that one day the guns will fall silent in the valley, the apple orchards will cease to be the site for a





Like a seasoned enchantress, well aware of the prowess of her charm, the valley too put her suitors under the sternest of tests. She flirted with her suitors along every precarious bends of her loyal and stoic guardians — the mountains, in a clever and well-orchestrated game of hide and seek she would reveal herself for a fleeting moment only to hide behind the mighty walls of her guardians in the next, at times she would tease her relentless suitors with her remarkable indifference when she would dawn the bitterly cold cloak of grey and white during the winter months. Kashmir valley treasured her beauty and took pride in it, in doing so proudly wore the diadem of romance and desire.



About the Photographer

As a child, while travelling to the most beautiful destinations in India, **Amruta Dhavale** felt like gathering an eyeful of the scenery and the people who adorned it! It was a feeling of trying to hold a fistful of sand and letting it slip away when she wondered whether she could capture them almost as beautifully as they were created. It led her to her passion – Photography! Although an MBA by profession, she unleashed the right side of her brain to capture priceless human emotions in their most precious moments to create memories of a lifetime. Amruta has covered various forms of photography namely, classical music shows featuring Ustad Zakir Hussain to Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, she has also covered food photography, weddings, portfolios. She has extensively covered classical singers and artists related to the music field. She has also received the Neel Dongre grant in the year 2018 and her portraits have been displayed at Serendipity Exhibition held in Goa. Amruta is always trying to find different and new ways of looking at things, she believes in having a different perspective towards this beautiful world of ours.

You can find her work on Instagram : [@amrutadhavale](https://www.instagram.com/amrutadhavale)



& Tales Frames from Japan

“Shooting in Japan at the Grand Finale of the Canon Photomathon Asia 2019 was an eye-opener for me in many respects. Though I didn’t manage to win the championship in the end, but those 10 days were perhaps the most productive in terms of my personal development as a photographer. It was the perfect platform to polish my skills.”

A journey which began in 2012 with a modest camera reached its pinnacle in Japan in 2019. Renowned landscape photographer Sammya Brata Mullick added yet another feather to his illustrious cap when he won the Canon Photo-Marathon India 2019 and earned the privilege of representing India at one of world photography's biggest stages in Japan. He represented India at the Grand Finale of Canon Photo-Marathon Asia 2019 held in Japan and shot extensively in the country of Japan. He speaks to us exclusively on this unique experience which he believes has further enhanced his skills as a photographer and remains one of the major highlights of his journey with his camera.





When did you start shooting? Was your genre clear to you since beginning or did you discover your interests midway?

Well, I don't remember this to be honest but I guess my love for photography got a kick-start during my stay at Meghalaya back in 2011. I was working with the Department of Commercial Taxes, Government of Meghalaya as a consultant when I got a chance to explore this picturesque state; I didn't have a camera back then, but what I saw with my naked eyes was nothing less than amazing. On my very first fly-back to Calcutta, I bought a Sony Cyber-shot and started exploring the beautiful landscapes of Meghalaya.

As I mentioned, I started shooting landscapes back in 2012 with a modest camera but gradually I started developing interest towards capturing stories through single frames. I guess, a trip to Mawlynnong changed my perception about photography completely, it was then that I realized that I have a strong inclination towards street photography. My hard disk has a 50-50 share of landscape and street photographs thereafter.

Was there someone who inspired you to take up Photography? What kept you going in the initial days?

Since Facebook or Instagram didn't have such a huge base and penetration back in 2011, I used to share images on Flickr. Infact Flickr still continues to be my favorite platform when it comes to photo



sharing or viewing. Steve McCurry has been my inspiration since those initial days, but then a lot of credit goes to Prasenjit, one of my Ex-colleagues who allowed me to use his DSLR back then. We are not in touch anymore but his frames use to inspire me a lot in those initial days. If I remember correctly, It helped me in choosing my first DSLR - Canon 550D when I came back to Calcutta in 2014.

When did you get your first DSLR? What was the kit that you were using in your initial days? Now having moved to a better body (specifically a full frame) how do you think has a better gear helped you in your journey?

I bought my first DSLR in 2014 which was incidentally redeemed from an online store using a voucher that I had won in a Photography competition. It is very interesting to note that I had actually won this contest by furnishing an image clicked in Meghalaya using a modest point and shoot camera. I continued my journey with the kit lens 18-55 mm for over a year before I bought the 50 mm f/1.8 prime lens for street portraits. I shifted to a full frame body in 2017 but to be very honest, I believe, things haven't changed much ever since. Infact, the fantastic ISO support of full frames has made me lazy to some extent, with the 550D, I had to strategize a lot of obtain crisp, grain-free images in low light conditions thereby enhancing my skill manifold.







A lot of pictures that make it to your feed are shot on mobile phones. What drives your passion towards mobile photography?

Yes, I love shooting on phone especially because they are compact and handy which is a key requirement in street photography. I think my love for mobile photography started with the Huawei P20 Pro Battle League where 20 of the best photographers of the country competed for the ultimate title by shooting purely on phone; the competition that had a number of challenging themes which tested the potential of a mobile phone to compete with sophisticated DSLRs under various light conditions. It was during this particular contest that I realized that even the front camera of mobile devices can be a very powerful tool on the street since one can strategically deceive their subjects and capture a perfect candid moment while pretending to take a selfie. Infact we even have smartphones with “flip cameras” these days that rotate intelligently to take a complicated shot or a panorama. I reckon, the smartphones with wide angle modes are extremely effective on the streets since we often tend to venture out into the narrow lanes in the quest for evocative frames.

Firstly Congratulations on winning the Canon Photo-Marathon India 2019. It’s certainly one of your biggest achievement. Can you tell us something about your experiences and struggles on

the day of the contest?

Thank you for the appreciation. Certainly one of the high points in my journey as a photography enthusiast since the format of selection itself was a huge challenge. On the event day, we were given two themes in consecutives halves of the day; we had to go out on the streets, capture images relevant to the themes and submit one best image without any sort of post processing in that limited time frame. It was not just about the skill but the clarity in thought process and decision making ability that were put to test. For once, I would say that my experience of working as a consultant helped immensely since one of my winning frames had a quirky reference to one of my past assignments. I must say that the format of this competition (i.e. the prelims and the mains) is amazing, it certainly prepares you for some of the toughest challenges that you might face as a professional photographer, going ahead.

You had the wonderful chance of representing INDIA in an international contest. How was the feeling when you got to wear the INDIA badge over your jacket?

Certainly one of the proudest moments of my life so far. Representing your country at such a stage is always a matter of pride; it certainly brings the best out of you.

Can you tell us about something that you got to learn while shooting in JAPAN?



How different is their approach to photography different from ours?

Shooting in Japan at the Grand Finale of the Canon Photomathon Asia 2019 was an eye-opener for me in many respects. Though I didn't manage to win the championship in the end, but those 10 days were perhaps the most productive in terms of my personal development as a photographer. It was the perfect platform to polish my skills. Three of my key take-aways from the trip would be-

- How to Capture an Impressive Shot of a Moving Train with Continuous Shooting – as discussed by the legendary train photographer Mr. Hirokazu Nagane,
- Professional Tips for Shooting with a Tripod with focus on use of a tripod for horizontal panning shots without the chance of vertical shake and improvement in success rate – as discussed by our beloved mentor of the entire trip, Mr. Goto Aki.
- Maintaining crisp focus is a mandate for all images – Our mentor, Mr. Goto Aki had mentioned in one of his recent interviews that one common mistake that he spotted in course of the entire trip was that many of the shots, though spectacular in composition, were not as sharply in focus as they could have been. This is one of the most critical aspects to look at since the photographs shot in the trip are not just meant for digital use but there will also be opportunities to showcase large prints of them. And when that happens, it will be very obvious that the image is off

-focus.

You are a regular Nikon User. But you had to use the Canon EOS RP during the course of the contest in JAPAN. Was the transition quite smooth or was it a bumpy ride?

No excuses there but I reckon, I was the only contestant of CPMC 2019 who is a regular Nikon user. As I arrived at Tokyo, everything seemed to be pretty much on track, until the briefing, where Evan, the CPMC coordinator from Canon Singapore, made an unexpected announcement – “All images were to be shot on the EOS R or EOS RP.” As we spent the rest of the evening tinkering with the cameras and familiarizing ourselves with the features, customizing the settings etc, one concern was lingering in my mind, this battle was going to be quite tricky. Thankfully, my initial experience of using the Canon 550D helped immensely in getting acquainted with the EOS RP and it was a smooth ride from there on.

Your feed tells us that you had to shoot images across various genres during the course of CPMC ASIA 2019. Not only streets, but also travel, landscapes and portraits as well. How difficult was it to move out of your comfort zone and explore different genres that too while participating in a contest?

As discussed, landscapes and travel photography are closely aligned to my interest; the landscapes in Japan were an

absolute treat to be honest. I certainly tried a lot of long exposures in course of the competition, which I believe was quite different from my usual style of photography. Making effective use of the ND Filter while shooting landscapes in broad daylight is something that I mastered in this period.

How was your overall experience of participating in CPMC ASIA 2019?

The experience of shooting in Japan was fabulous; the experience of shooting Shinkansen-and-Mount Fuji-partnership under various conditions was nothing less than spectacular. Special mention goes to the authentic and luscious Japanese food that absolutely stole the show. I personally loved our daily schedule which was defined by the underlying principle “Eat-Shoot-Sleep-Repeat” and mostly important made bonds for a life-time.

Being an employee at one of the big fours of Consulting, how difficult is it to manage time out of work to find time for your passion? What advice would you like to give to a young professional who is interested in Photography?

The journey hasn't been easy since balancing work and passion (especially a passion that demands a lot of time and energy to achieve excellence). I had to spend sleepless nights responding to RFPs, managing deliverables as well as working on structuring large scale exhibitions at the same time. I think the most challenging

assignment that I have worked upon was curating the Calcutta Art Confluence 2017, a culmination of at least 50 different forms of art under a single umbrella, while managing some critical deliverables as a part of the Bengal Global Business Summit. But then, life is not meant to be easy in the first place – I feel that a person delivers his best when he/she is pushed to his limit. We have enough room for improvement in our genre of interest even outside the 8 legitimate working hours. I would definitely like to thank all my team-members and my engagement managers in KPMG for encouraging me wholeheartedly right through this journey; this has been a key driving area for being able to meet both ends efficiently.

I reckon, my biggest leap was when I founded Calcutta's very first and the largest Instagram community “Calcutta Instagrammers” that has conducted hugely successful Instagram-walks, knowledge sharing sessions and large scale exhibitions & events in the city thereby getting featured in leading print media channels like The Telegraph / The Statesman/ Times of India and popular national and international magazines. Calcutta Instagrammers, that was formed 3 years back, now boasts over 80,000 active members on both Instagram and Facebook combined.

Do you look forward to take up photography full time in near future? If yes when is that expected to happen?





Well, the term “Sammya” denotes “Balance”, I believe I can continue to manage work and passion simultaneously going ahead at least for the next 5 years. I certainly have plans of taking Calcutta Instagrammers to the next level in the next couple of years and who knows, that could transform into my full time engagement in the near future.

“The experience of shooting in Japan was fabulous; the experience of shooting Shinkansen-and-Mount Fuji-partnership under various conditions was nothing less than spectacular. Special mention goes to the authentic and luscious Japanese food that absolutely stole the show. I personally loved our daily schedule which was defined by the underlying principle “Eat-Shoot-Sleep-Repeat”...”







Sammya Brata Mullick won the Cannon Photo Marathon India 2019 and earned the privilege of representing India at Canon Photo Marathon Asia Championship held in Japan in 2019.

Contest theme **SUMMER**

Featuring the 10 winning photographs from our previous online contest on the theme - “Summer” held in the month of April - June for the members of the facebook group - “World Photographic Forum”

Hearliest congratulations to all the 10 winners and a big round of applause for each and everyone who took time out of their busy schedules to take part in this contest. Summer scorches the earth, it saps the last ounce of energy from our bodies, it runs our rivers and ponds dry yet there is something liberating about summer. For the kids all over the world summer is the proverbial season of fun, for millions across the planet it is the season of beaches, ripe fruits, of never ending sunny days, summer in more

ways than one in spite of exerting a heavy toll on our bodies truly liberates our minds. This photo contest was aimed at bringing out that fun filled aspect along with the trying conditions summer often puts all of us through. This is our second collaboration with the members of World Photographic Forum and we will be looking forward to participations from the members in many more such contests and other events in the future. Stay tuned for further updates on upcoming contests and other events.

Photograph by Manvir Singh



Photograph by Ajit Majhi





Photograph by Aninda De

Photograph by Subhajit Naskar





Photograph by Pavan Sakaram

Photograph by Sunit Biswas





Photograph by Siba Prasad Das

Photograph by Debabrata Banerjee





Photograph by Ricky Patel

The Honour Board



Tejal Mewar



Sunit Biswas



Ricky Patel



Subrata Dey



Ajit Majhi



Debabrata
Bandyopadhyay



Pavan Sakaram



Subhajit Naskar



Siba Prasad Das



Aninda De

Our heartiest congratulations to everyone who got featured and a big thanks to everyone who participated in the contest. It was a pleasure going through all the submissions and an equally difficult task shortlisting the final images. Stay tuned for more contests and events in the future.

Send us your work at: submission.ipa@gmail.com

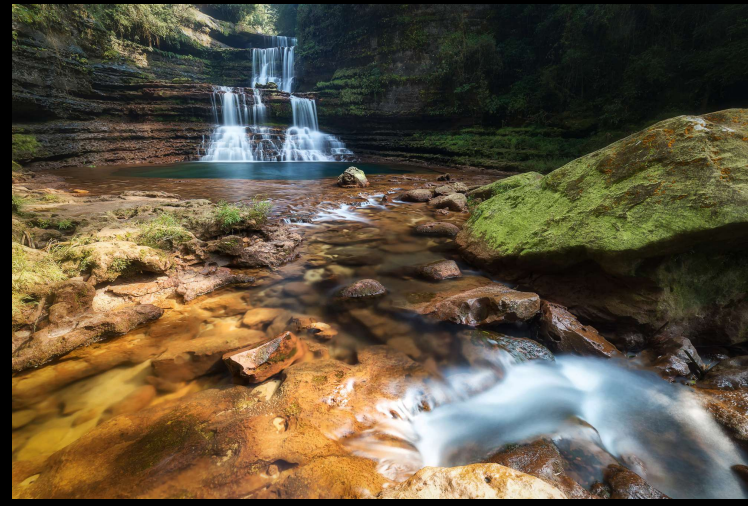
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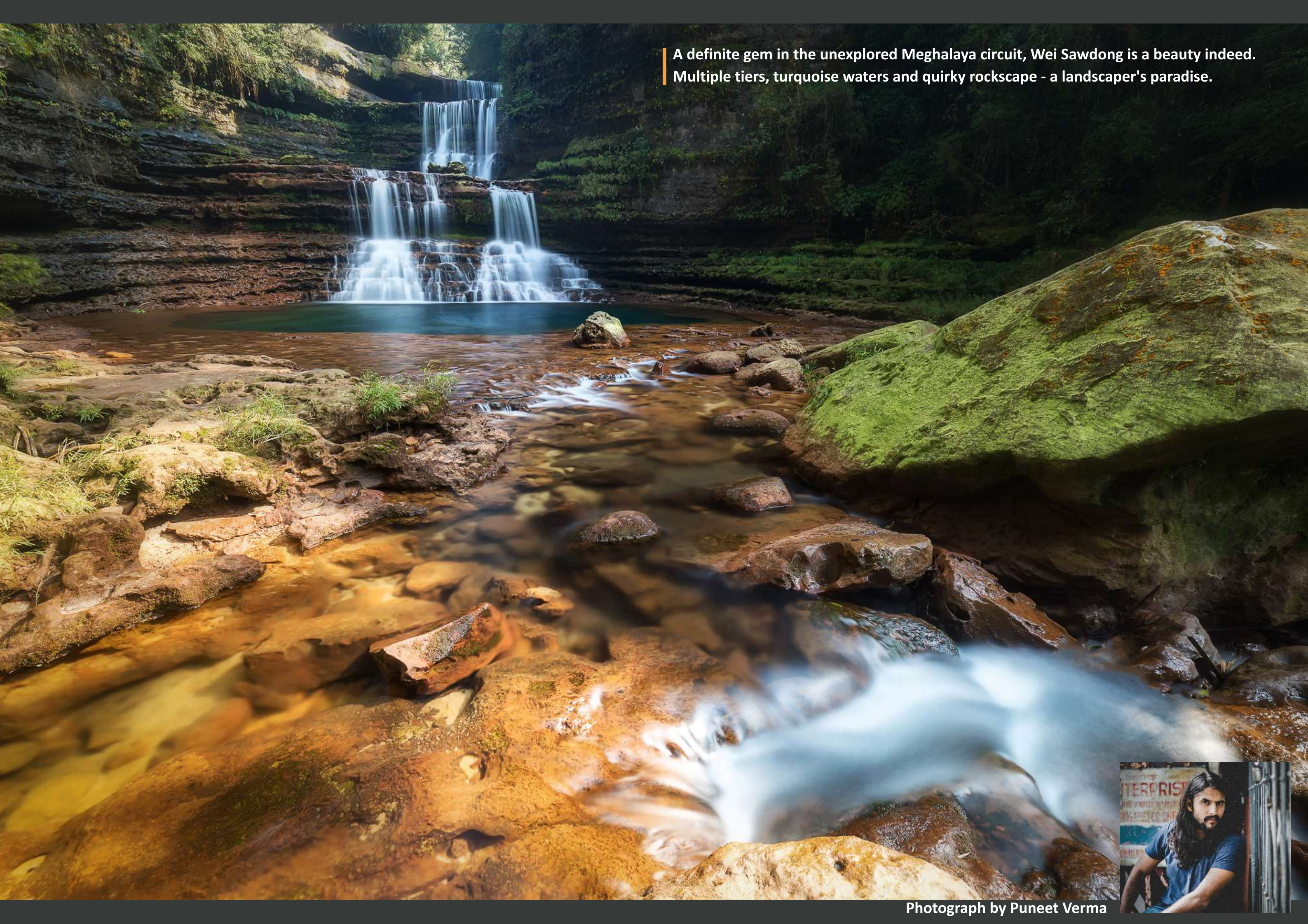
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A definite gem in the unexplored Meghalaya circuit, Wei Sawdong is a beauty indeed. Multiple tiers, turquoise waters and quirky rockscape - a landscaper's paradise.



Photograph by Puneet Verma

While the Wanaka Tree is the most famous willow tree in New Zealand and also the most photographed, I had always had the desire to click these four dead willow trees in Glenorchy. It was bitterly cold and due to a lot of rain the lake was overflowing and I had to go down into the icy cold water with my camera and gear. Braving the elements was completely worthwhile as the reward is a feast for the soul and eyes.



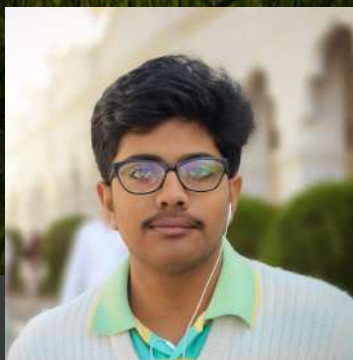
Photograph by Sanhita Banerjee



Photograph by Nilanjan Ghosh

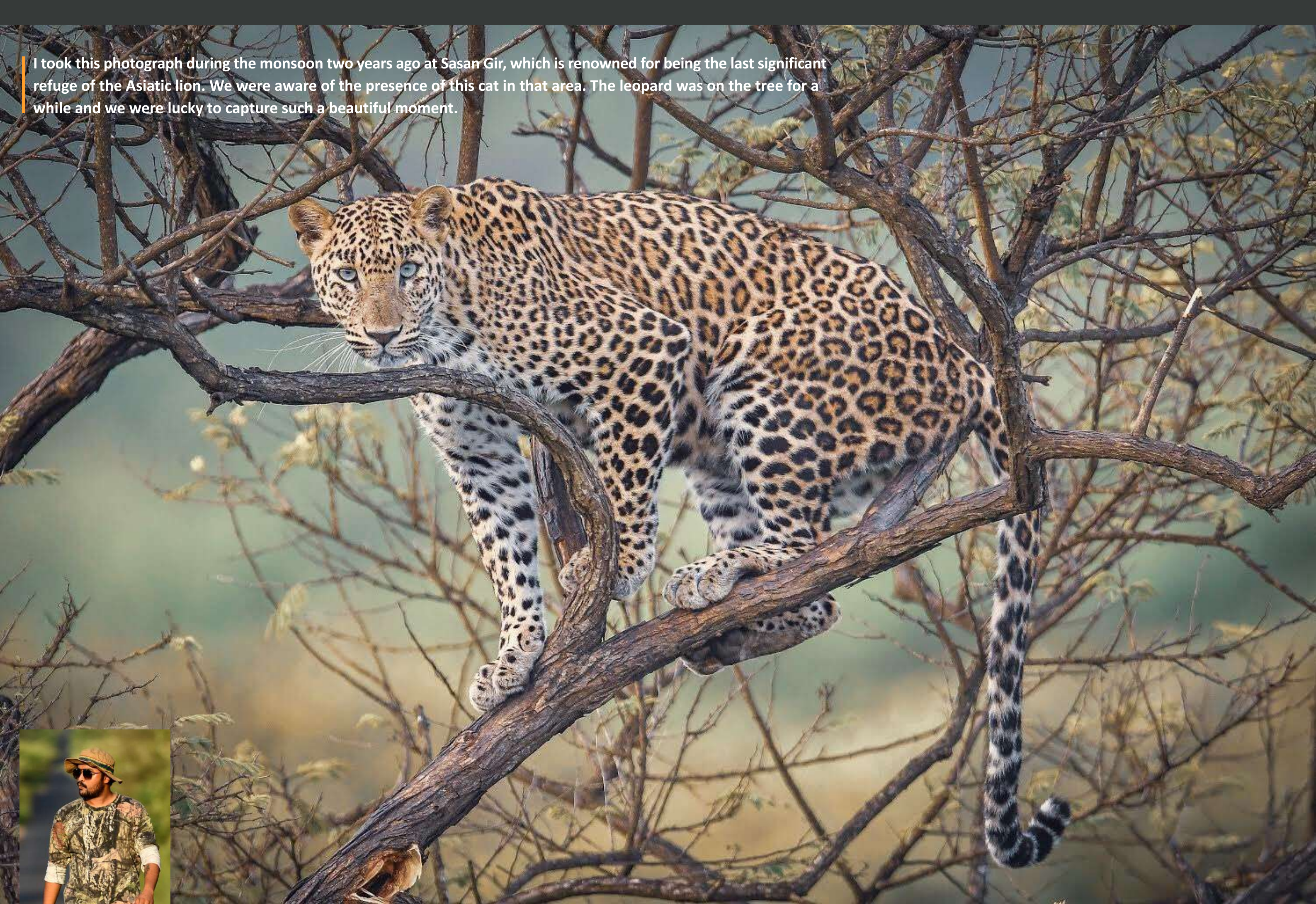
Worshippers offer their prayers inside the Nakhoda Masjid, Kolkata during the Ramadin month of 2018. The slow shutter speed combined with the kneeling motions of the worshippers in this scene where the motion blur played out perfectly to create this impactful image. The person waiting to kneel down is in sharp focus which further added to the drama.

Fodder is locally known as 'Vairan'. It could be any agricultural produce used specifically to feed domesticated livestock, such as cattle, rabbits, sheep, horses, chicken and pigs. Maize, corn, hay etc. are some of the best examples of fodder crops. I took this shot at Chikhli, Maharashtra in which a farmer is seen carrying fodder to his home after a day's hard work.



Photograph by Prajwal Chougule

I took this photograph during the monsoon two years ago at Sasan Gir, which is renowned for being the last significant refuge of the Asiatic lion. We were aware of the presence of this cat in that area. The leopard was on the tree for a while and we were lucky to capture such a beautiful moment.



Photograph by Urmil Jhaveri



While taking a walk one can come across so many interesting moments and places. This pretty lake in Dusseldorf was not something I expected when I was out for a walk. But then I was compelled to be around this place. I was sitting there, taking photos and just enjoying the peace away from the rush of the city centre before it started to rain. The swan stood up to flap its wings and it was gorgeous with its reflection in the water.

Photograph by Abhishek Dey





Sprawling valleys, lush green mountain slopes, a herder with his flock of sheep in tow, this image captures some of the most iconic sights in the beautiful state of Jammu and Kashmir.



Photograph by Payel Thakur



StreetEye Collective

StreetEye Collective is brought into existence to create and showcase a body of work that stands the test of time. The members of the collective have broken barriers of geographical limitations to come together for this wonderful photography journey of documenting today for the future generations. Each member has a very unique and distinct way of seeing and documenting life around them. The collective will promote the work of its members in particular and Street-n-Documentary Photography in general by way of exhibitions, photobooks, e-magazine etc. The collective members will take up both short term and long term projects of varied social relevance either to document life in general or to raise questions about the relevance. The collective is committed to Street & Documentary genre of photography and will also try and encourage young talents by way of workshops (digital/physical), photo tours, theme based competitions & assignments to deserving talents. The collective will also engage with photographers of national and international repute in its pursuit of creating a platform to share knowledge.

StreetEye Collective Photographers:

Navin Vasta- Delhi, India

Arek Rataj-Philippines

Rana Pandey-Kolkata, India

DK Pattnayak-Bhubaneswar, India

Debrani Das-Kolkata, India

Sashi B Das- Bhubaneswar/ Mumbai

SECProject

#SECProject is an initiative of StreetEye Collective. A team is selected from the collective's Facebook page members panning across the globe and would jointly work in a Project. The first ever #SECProject "Voice" was announced in the beginning and after a scrutiny of images posted by its members and their approach to photography, a team of 12 people have been selected under the guidance of guest mentor Mr. Raj Sarkar. The selected team will be working hand in hand with the SEC Founder members and would be briefed and reviewed at regular intervals so that this medium to long term project brings out some wonderful collective work that transcends the limitations of geography and language.

The following are the selected photographers.

Giedo Van Der Zwan, Hague (Netherlands), Ayanava Sil (Kolkata, India), Somnath Chakraborty (Kolkata, India), Max Sturgeon (Austin, Texas), Sreejith Ek (Kozhikode, India)

Sachin Chauhan (Gurugram, India), Ronnie Riyanto (Surabaya, Indonesia), Pritam Dutta (Kolkata, India), Neema Nick (Darjeeling, India), Gourab Guha (Kolkata, India)

Angelo G. Rodriguez Feliciano (Bangkok, Thailand) and Debarshi Dutta (Kolkata, India).

Founding Members of StreetEye Collective



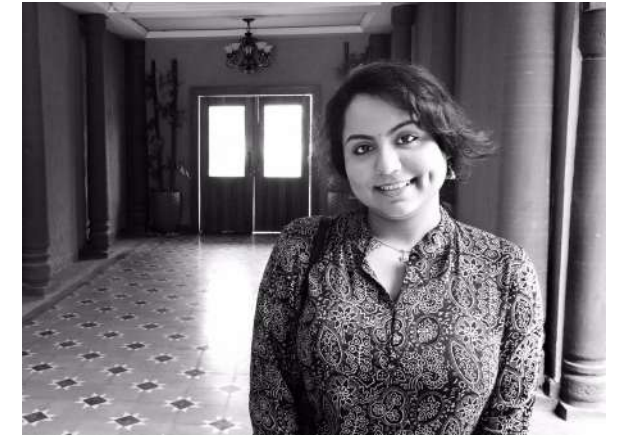
A self-taught photographer and an educator, **Mr. Navin Vatsa** is dedicated in capturing street and daily life. He has his Master's Degree in Computer Applications and taught computers to graduate and post graduate students for over 9 years. He has also served at Jagannath University, Jaipur as the Joint Registrar for 7 years, and since the last four years he has devoted his full time to his passion - photography. Photography is like a source of energy to him that he also tries to portray through his art work. He has received numerous accolades and recognitions from National Geographic, UNESCO, Sony World, Sony India, Creative Image Magazine, Heritage youth Foundation Delhi, Camarena Academy (Best photographer of the year 2016 and awarded by Sir Raghu Rai for the same). One of his photographs was published by Sony India in its "Annual Calendar 2016". His photograph has also received the award of "Best Photograph of the Year 2017" by Sony India again. He is one of the mentors and admins of one of the largest Facebook Photography groups in India, Camarena Academy.



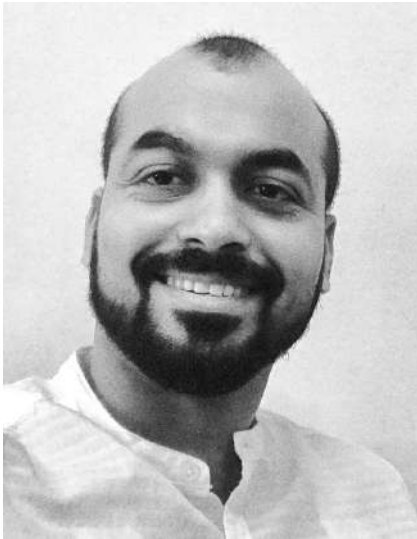
Arek Rataj is a China-based photographer, journalist and lecturer associated with the Zhengzhou University of Aeronautics. He was born in 1983 and grew up in a small industrial district in communist Poland under the Soviet Union totalitarianism. He turned 7 years old when the fall of the Berlin Wall ended 40 years of the Cold War. Despite the fact that gradually democratic changes came into play, among young people like him there was a lot of hopelessness and even despair. In midst of this human misery, political hypocrisy, environmental industrial dirt, and ugliness, he became particularly sensitive to all signs of beauty and transcendence.



DK Pattanayak is an internationally published and award winning photographer based in Odisha. As a Street and Travel Photographer most of his works depict visually compelling and well composed candid frames of everyday lifestyle around the streets that highlights humanity, culture and some decisive moments. When it comes to knowledge sharing, he is a keen learner as well as a mentor and a curator. His international publications - National Geographic, NatGeo Traveller India, Canon India, Smart Photography Magazine, Better Photography Magazine, Chiiz Magazine, Creative Image Magazine. Among his local publications - Times of India, Indian Express, OrissaPost, Odisha Tourism, BhubaneswarBuzz. His accolades include- (Top 35 Street Photographers) 35 Awards International Photography Awards 2018, featured in the TOP 15 "Great Outdoors" Natgeo Traveller India, National Geographic Yourshot Editor's Favorite / Published Assignments, Mentor's Choice in Camarena Academy Photography Awards, honoured by the Odisha Govt.



Debrani Das is a street photographer from Kolkata, India. She holds a B.Tech degree in electrical engineering. She loves being on the street and capturing those unseen and magical moments which are unpredictable and candid. She is one of the curators/admins of Facebook group "World Photographic Forum" and the curator of the Instagram handle #worldphotographicforum. She is also the guest curator for "womeninstreet" photography group for the thematic contest for October. Her works have featured in National Geographic, Chiiz magazine, and in many Instagram pages. Her photo series has been selected for a contest of Raghu Rai's Creativeimage magazine sponsored by Gionee mobile. She was selected as one of the top 100 photographers of 2017 by Indianshutterbugs. Her work was selected among the top 20 photographs of the year 2017 in World Photographic Forum. Recently her photo series got published in womeninstreet photography group and Eyeshot magazine. She was also a Finalist at StreetFotoSanFrancisco in the single image category.



Sashi Bhusan Das, a financier by profession and a street shooter by passion, hails from Bhubaneswar-Odisha, presently staying in Mumbai. Having worked with some of the leading banks and NBFCs in the Capacity of Head of the State, he has always been busy with the excel sheets. His journey began in the world of photography, when his wife prompted him to buy a decent camera for personal use. The machine that paints with light, winked at him and the creative person inside him ventured into capturing moments. Later he discovered street photography and completely committed himself to the genre. In his own words - “ the thrill and excitement of getting that One Oh My god Moment keeps me motivated enough to go back to the street, even though in street photography the success rate is way below one per cent.” His on-going series “Spirit of Football”, covering various locations of India, has been published in leading newspapers and photography websites. His recent work on cyclone “Fani” has also been recognized.



Rana Pandey, currently based in Kolkata, has been a practicing visual story teller for 5 years. His work includes street life and people from various socio-economic backgrounds focusing on their life in a more intimate form. In his words “Photography gives me an opportunity to express how I perceive the world around me, how I react to a particular situation and what things I find interesting.” His works have been published In National Geographic, Fuji Love Magazine and he has many more international publications to his credit.