



Smart Photography

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Volume 18 • Issue 01 • April 2022

17th
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**Smart
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Awards
2022**



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Prithviraj Banerjee

Profiles

**Reju Nair
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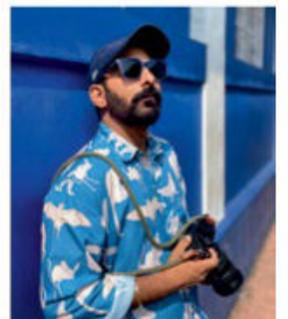
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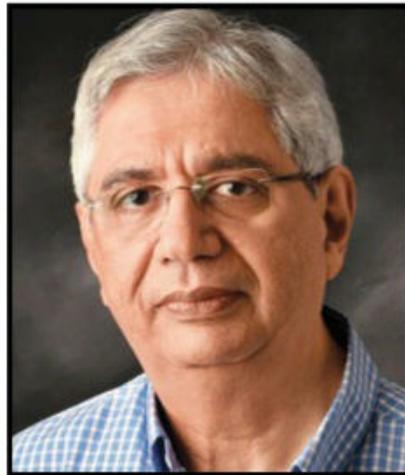
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SMART PHOTOGRAPHY enters its eighteenth year of publication with this issue. It has been quite a journey so far. In 2005, digital had just started replacing film. In 2022, the industry looks quite different with smartphones having captured a large chunk of the lower end of the imaging market. D-SLR cameras have been replaced by mirrorless cameras and camera makers have moved up market. Compact cameras are close to being history and medium format has just about survived. The last two years have been awful, both for the imaging industry and for publications focussed on the industry. Beating all doomsdayers, we have survived and so has the bulk of the imaging industry, albeit in a different form. Our digital readers are now a multiple of print readers. Having said that, print readers are showing immense loyalty, encouraged, perhaps by the additional credibility that print enjoys. A big 'thank you' is due to our loyal readers, advertisers and employees.

This issue also carries the much awaited Smart Photography Awards. In an otherwise challenging year, camera manufacturers responded magnificently to the demand for new products. The prestigious CAMERA OF THE YEAR AWARD was a hard fought contest between Nikon and Sony. Eventually, Nikon prevailed. Our heartiest congratulations to Nikon for winning this prestigious award for their excellent Z 9.

□ H. S. Billimoria

HERE'S WHAT MAKES US

#1

WE ARE GLUED TO THE GLOBAL IMAGING INDUSTRY

Our team is updated with all the benchmarks and road blocks that the field of photography and imaging across the globe experiences. This helps us record the changes in the global perspective, thus making us the first to predict which products will be a rage in the Indian markets.

WE'RE IMPARTIAL

Loyalty towards our readers is a given, and their best interests are always on our mind. Every verdict is honest and not influenced by advertisers or personal favourites. So when we say a product is a 'BEST BUY', then, it is just that!

OUR TESTS ARE CONDUCTED BY EXPERTS

All equipment go through a series of tests at the hands of our experts. Our reviewers are experts in the field of photography across the country and have many years of experience. That gives us the foresight to distinguish between a passing trend and a big change in the field of photography and imaging. And finally, our reviews are not extended to just fill up the pages!

WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU

There is no debate on why we are here. Our sole goal is to provide you options and better your judgement in product purchase while, sharing tips and tricks to improve your images. Our biggest joy is in building a bridge between you and your perfect picture!

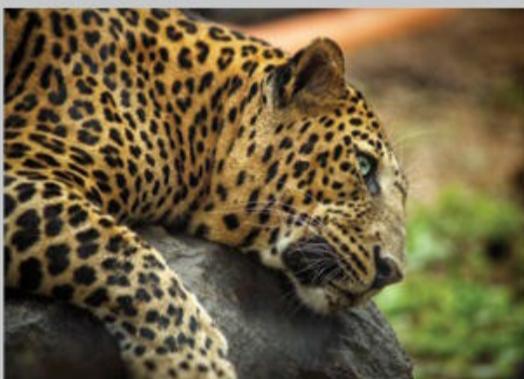
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Holding the Vision

Tanmoy Das Karmakar shares his photographic vision



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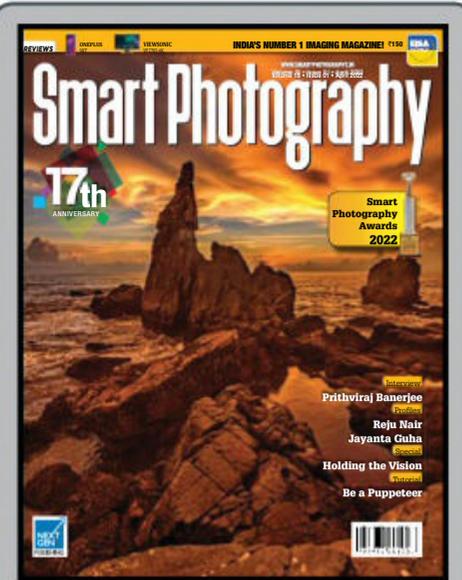
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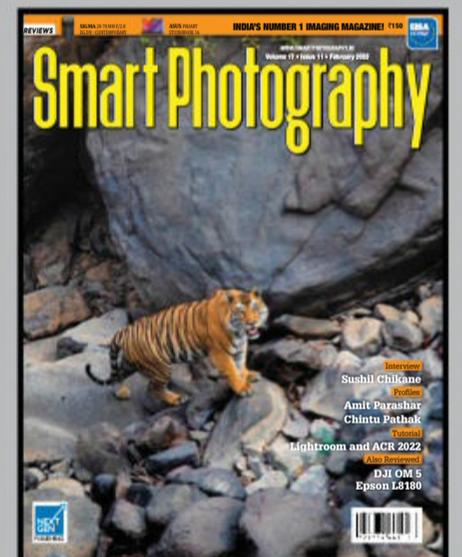
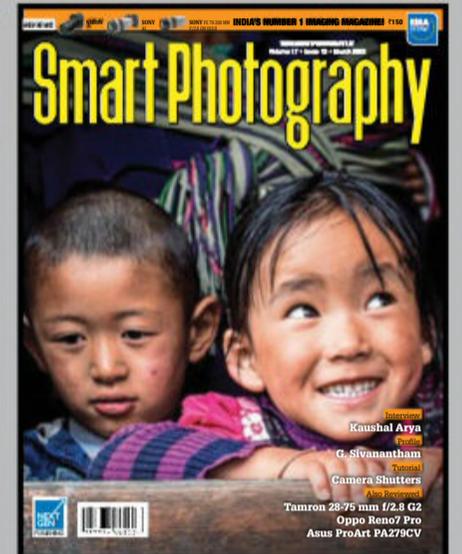
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An easy-to-set-up photography monitor with helpful presets and great colour reproduction

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Photographer: Prithviraj Banerjee



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PAGE 04

Z 9 | UNSTOPPABLE



Image Courtesy: Praveen Bhat

CAPTURE WITH UNPARELLELED CLARITY



The Z 9 embodies pretty much everything I wanted my camera to have, and more, and the results are nothing short of phenomenal. I'd say, it's a perfect 10 in my book.

- Praveen Bhat | Nikon Expertive

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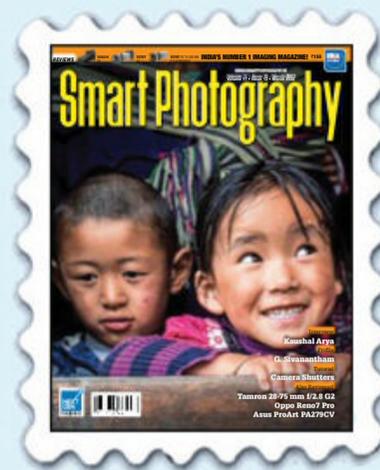


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Get the creative juices flowing

Dear Editor,

As you had rightly pointed out in the latest issue, the pandemic did a lot of damage to our physical and mental well-being. A lot of people have indeed been going through depression and this is perhaps the time to turn to your hobbies or learn new skills and get the creative juices flowing. We all look forward to leaving these difficult times behind us and embrace the beauty that life has to offer.

Regards,

Shweta Dahiya

Looking forward to the next issue

Dear SP,

The latest issue and the cover image were really beautiful. The picture of the two small kids smiling is enough in itself to make the magazine look inviting. The way their innocence and beauty were captured was breathtaking. It was a beautiful shot by the photographer. I look forward to the next issue.

Regards,

Namit Gupta

Corrigendum

There was an error in the quoted price of the Sony FE 70-200 mm f/2.8 GM OSS II in the last issue (March) of Smart Photography. The quoted MRP is INR 2,30,490 when it should have been INR 2,44,990. We sincerely apologise for the confusion or inconvenience it may have created.



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Cosina Reveals Manual Lens

Cosina has announced the release of its Voigtlander Nokton 23 mm f/1.2 manual lens for Fujifilm X-mount cameras. The lens' optical design incorporates 10 elements in 6 groups that include 1 double-sided aspherical element and 2 low-dispersion elements.

The lens features a clicked aperture ring, a 12-blade aperture diaphragm and an aperture range of f/1.2 – f/16. It has a 46 mm front filter thread, a minimum focussing distance of 18 cm, measures 59 mm in diameter, 44 mm in length and weighs 214 g. The Cosina Voigtlander Nokton 23 mm f/1.2 Aspherical lens will be available for purchase from April onwards at a price of JPY 90,000 (approx. INR 56,000).



Acer Kicks-off New Line of Memory Cards

Acer Storage has announced a new line of CFexpress Type-B memory cards with read and write speeds of up to 1,600 and 1,200MB/s, respectively.

The new Type-B storage cards are designed and manufactured by Biwin Storage Technology, which incorporates its own storage and DRAM memory modules, along with HP-branded hardware. The cards are available in 128GB, 256GB and 512GB capacities. While all variants of the storage cards support a maximum capacity of 1,600MB/s sequential read speeds, the 128GB and 256GB variants support a maximum capacity of 1,000MB/s sequential write speeds and



the 512GB variant supports a maximum of 1,200MB/s sequential write speeds. They use a PCIe Gen3x2 interface and offer compatibility with select cameras using XQD card slots. The cards are reported to be UB-guarded, magnet-proof, X-ray proof and anti-static. While they are rated for temperatures ranging between -20°C (-4°F) and 70°C (158°F),

they can be stored in temperatures as low/high as -40°C (-40°F) and 85°C (185°F), respectively.

The Acer Storage CFexpress Type-B cards will be available for purchase at prices starting from USD 130 (approx. INR

Yongnuo Releases Autofocus Lens for Nikon Z-mount Cameras

Yongnuo has announced the release of its 85 mm f/1.8 autofocus lens for Nikon Z-mount camera systems. The optical design of the lens constitutes 9 elements in 8 groups, with 1 low-dispersion element and 1 high-refractive element. It has a seven-blade aperture diaphragm, uses a 58 mm front filter thread and sports an aperture range of f/1.8 – f/22. The lens

has a minimum focussing distance of 80 cm and measures 58 mm in diameter, 89 mm in length and weighs about 405 g. The focus ring allows users to use it as a control ring for adjusting parameters such as ISO and aperture. The Yongnuo 85 mm f/1.8 lens is currently available (only in China) for purchase at a price of CNY 2,199 (approx. INR 26,524).

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Maestro Trophy

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€750 & EISA
Maestro Trophy



HOW TO ENTER

Entrants should provide 5-8 photographs on the theme of 'Joy'. All entries must be in digital format (camera or scanned film originals) and must be taken by you for the purposes of this competition. Existing portfolios are excluded.

All National Maestro winners will also be published on Facebook at the end of June for the EISA Public's Choice competition. Prize for the winner: €1000.

NATIONAL DEADLINE: MAY 1ST 2022

All entries must be received by this date. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes will be chosen by the editorial staff of Smart Photography and the National results will be published in the June issue.

INTERNATIONAL JUDGING: JUNE 2022

The winning entries from each of the 16 participating EISA countries will then be judged together at the Association's General Meeting in June 2022. The final results of the International Maestro contest will be revealed at the EISA Awards Gala on Sept 2nd 2022 or, if circumstances are less favourable, online alongside the EISA product Awards on Aug 15th 2022

The winning photographs will be published in the Sept/Oct issues of all 16 EISA photo magazines/websites. Circumstances permitting, winners will be invited to the EISA Awards ceremony in Berlin on Sept 2nd 2022



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Ricoh Displays Limited-edition Camera

Ricoh has announced a limited-edition version (termed 'Urban') of its GR IIIx kit. This package features the GR IIIx digital compact camera that comes in a metallic grey finish and navy-blue ring around the lens barrel. It also includes exclusive accessories such as a leather hand strap and a metallic hot shoe cover.

This camera debuts several functions that will also be available for standard GR IIIx models with firmware updates that will be released along with the availability of this limited-edition kit. The new functions include Snap Distance Priority mode, a new exposure setting (once the preferred distance for snapshots and the desired depth of field (DOF) are set in advance, the camera lets the user



to recall these settings), Auto Area AF (Centre) focus mode (instead of covering the entire image field, this mode operates only in nine focus zones around the center of the image field, preventing the camera from focussing on unintended elements), AF mode shutter-release capability (when the shutter-release button is pressed halfway down, the user can lock the AF system only, without locking the AE system), Snapshot mode (a distance setting of 11.5

feet (3.5 metres) has been added to the Snapshot mode) and an option to long press on the monitor during playback allowing users to instantly recall the playback function selection menu. The kit will be available in limited quantities from April, 2022, for a manufacturer's suggested retail price of USD 1,099.95. The body only version of the GR IIIx Urban Edition is scheduled to be available in the summer of 2022.



Leica Issues New Camera

Leica has released the 'Reporter' Edition of its Q2 Monochrome camera. While the camera retains all the internal functions of its predecessor, however, on the outside, the Reporter version sports an Army Green colour and Kevlar wrap on the front side.

According to Leica, the green paint contains 'abrasion-resistant' properties while the Kevlar fibres are expected to wear out over time, giving it a 'unique' look while also adding additional grip.

The camera has a full-frame 47MP sensor that can, reportedly, capture up to 13EV stops of dynamic range, which is 2 stops higher than its previous version that offered up to 11EV stops. It comes with a 28 mm f/1.7 ASPH lens.

The Q2 Monochrome 'Reporter' version is available for purchase via Leica retailers at a price of USD 6,295 (approx. INR 4.75 lakh).

Poco Exhibits New Devices

Poco has recently announced the launch of X4 Pro 5G and M4 Pro smartphones during the Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2022 annual trade show hosted by GSMA.

The X4 Pro 5G sports a 6.67-inch AMOLED DotDisplay screen with a 120 Hz refresh rate, displays the DCI-P3 colour space and has peak brightness of 1200 nits. The M4 Pro sports a 6.43-inch AMOLED DotDisplay screen with a 90 Hz refresh rate. The X4 Pro 5G has a 108 MP image sensor paired with an f/1.9



Blue and Poco Yellow. The smartphone will be available for prices starting at EUR 299 (approx. INR 25,175). The M4

Pro sports a triple camera system in the rear side, including a 64MP primary camera, an 8MP ultra-wide camera and a 2MP micro camera. The selfie camera is 16MP. The device weighs 179.5 g, has a thin frame of 8.09 mm and comes with a 5,000mAh battery that is reported to fully charge in an hour. It is powered by a MediaTek Helio G96 chipset.

Both devices come with optional 8GB of RAM with a special Dynamic RAM Expansion Technology. The M4 Pro will be available in similar versions of black, blue and yellow colours, with the same RAM and storage options. Pricing starts at EUR 219 (approx. INR 18,437).

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Canon Reveals Growth Strategy

Canon has published its growth strategy for the upcoming year in its Corporate Strategy Conference 2022 presentation materials, reporting the company's results for FY 2021 future growth strategy.

Reports suggest that the company aims to build a structure that generates high profits through structural reform and improvement in product mix via increase in mirrorless camera market share. Under strategy for 'New Imaging', Canon states that it



plans to develop new imaging business centred on optical technology by expanding scale, cultivating new users and developing new products. Under strategy for 'Cameras and Network Cameras', the company says that it plans to further enhance its line-up of EOS R system cameras and lenses, as well as develop and offer total solutions that combine network cameras with video management and video analytics software. By doing so, Canon says that it is targeting JPY 1 trillion in Imaging Group sales.

ViewSonic Opens Exp Zone

ViewSonic has announced the launch of its first Experience Zone in New Delhi. The Experience Zone aims to provide an engaging and immersive experience to enable users to access all its AV and IT products and solutions. With the launch of its first experience zone in India, ViewSonic has also entered a new segment of LED Video Wall and announced the launch of its All-In-One LD135-151 Direct View LED Display.



The company's initial experience zone is divided into three different product ranges and solutions, namely Corporate Zone, Hybrid Learning Classrooms and Entertainment Zone.

Eric Wei, General Manager, ViewSonic - Asia Pacific said, "We are extremely excited to launch our first-ever Experience Zone in India. Our futuristic zone will create an outstanding and compelling experience for our users, exhibiting all our products and solutions. We aim to offer our users

an experience of advanced technology, innovations and features embedded in our solutions. We are positive that the Experience Zone will help our target consumers make a sound purchase decision. We plan to launch more experience zones in other key Indian market and strengthen our position in the country in the coming year."

The corporate zone showcases all its professional products in one area. Entering a new segment, the newly released LD135-151 is available in 4 different sizes

(108", 135", 163 & 216"). Its large screen display is embedded with Gold Bonding Wire, boosts easy installation, operation and maintenance. The zone also included wireless presentation display ViewSonic CDE20 series.

The hybrid learning classrooms will display various products from edtech categories, which aim to help both teachers and students streamline and smoothen the teaching and learning methodology. It will show the new ViewSonic IFP52-A series, on which the teachers

will conduct lectures and the recording will be flashed on the student's device at home, using a PTZ Camera. Educators will also make extensive use of ViewSonic's proprietary and integrated software, myViewBoard.

The entertainment zone has an acoustic room with a recliner and a home theatre system. The site will also showcase their upcoming flagship model X1000-4K+ HDR Ultra Short Throw Smart LED Soundbar Projector along with the X100-4K+ Projector which is equipped with 4K UHD resolution and an integrated 40W Harman Kardon-customised soundbar. The experience zone will also showcase launches in monitor's segment such as ELITE XG270Q, a 27" IPS G-SYNC compatible gaming monitor. Additionally, ColorPro Series VP2468a Pantone Validated and touchscreen monitor TD1655 has been included. The zone also showcased other monitors such as VX3211-4K-MHD, used for both gaming and entertainment purpose.

Canon Unveils EOS R5 C Camera

Canon has announced the launch of the EOS R5 C, the newest addition to the company's Cinema EOS System of video production equipment.

Commenting on the flagship launch, Manabu Yamazaki, President and CEO, Canon India said, "We at Canon, have consistently aimed at introducing creative and most pioneering technologies for our users, enriching them with memorable photography and cinematography experience every single time. The launch today marks a special milestone for us, as we introduce high-quality and high-performance hybrid model that combines the video performance and high reliability of the Cinema EOS System and the still image performance of the EOS R5. With the introduction of EOS R5 C camera, we are confident that we will be able to consolidate our leadership position in the country." By switching modes via the ON/OFF dial on the camera body, the EOS R5 C can



be used either as a video camera or as a stills camera. C. Sukumaran, Senior Director-Consumer Systems Products and Imaging Communication Business, Canon India added, "We are witnessing a rise in demand for further innovation in the mirrorless camera segment among the professional segment of photographers and cinematographers. The perfect choice for professional consumers would be an extremely powerful imaging device that combines the best of still and video technologies. With that sentiment, we are delighted

to launch a hybrid imaging marvel, the new EOS R5 C in India. This is Canon's first camera to provide internal 8K 60P Cinema Raw Light recording. With the launch of this hybrid model, Canon is confident that this all-in-one solution will become the tool of choice for discerning content creators."

The EOS R5 C is equipped with Canon's proprietary full-frame CMOS sensor that boasts 45 million effective pixels and a DIGIC X image processor that produces an internal recording of 8K / 30P RAW video and 8K / 60P RAW video when using an external power supply. With full pixel readout from 8K pixels, the EOS R5 C can also perform oversampling to generate 4K / 4:2:2 / 10bit video. The camera employs the Cinema Raw Light recording format and videos can be recorded in CFexpress cards without the need for an external recording device. It supports Canon's XF-AVC format. The EOS R5 C will go on sale in April 2022 at a price of INR 3,99,900.

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Nikita Distributors Add to Portfolio

Nikita Distributors has recently announced a range of product releases, expanding their portfolio.

Their latest additions include Godox Parabolic Softbox Kit (68/88/128/158), Samyang 135 mm f/1.8 Sony Mount lens, Moza Aircross 3 Professional kit, Vanguard Vesta 8320M (monocular), Vanguard Vesta TB 204 AB/CB (tripod), Vanguard VEO HD2 (binocular), Vanguard VEO ED 1050 (binocular), Nisi Enhance ND 5-9 stops 77 mm (variable ND filter) and Viltrox EF Z2 (adapter).

The Godox Parabolic Softbox Kit comes in 3 different sizes (88/128/158) and incorporates a quick-release system for rapid setup and breakdown. Its key features include reflective silver interior, soft diffusers, fabric grid and compatibility with a range of products using the adapter.

The Samyang AF 135 mm f/1.8 FE telephoto lens delivers an 18.9° angle of view for full-frame and 12.5° for APS-C. Its optical design consists of 13 elements in 11 groups (1 U-ASP, 2 HR and 3 ED). Reportedly optimised for portraits, astrophotography, landscapes and video shooting, the lens'key features include

a focus lock button, custom switch, and focus range limiter switch.

The Moza Aircross 3 is a 3-axis handheld gimbal stabiliser embodied in a compact (folds down to the size of an A4 size paper) and lightweight design with a fast charging battery (integrated with Spark Power Supply System 3.0), OLED UI, a single start/stop/shutter button, metal construction, and manual control. It is reported to support cameras that weigh up to 7 lb, which can be set up in different configurations such as Classic mode, Sling mode and Dual-Handle mode. The VESTA 8320M is a lightweight and compact monocular, which comes with a PA-60 universal smartphone adaptor and Bluetooth remote control for digiscoping, while the Vanguard 1050 VEO ED is a binocular that features anti-reflection, fully multicoated, extra-low dispersion (ED) glass with phase-correcting coatings on the BAK4 roof prisms. The VESTA TB 204AB, VESTA TB 235CB is a lightweight and compact aluminium and Carbon fibre travel tripod kit that is designed for mirrorless and small D-SLR camera kits.

The NiSi Enhance ND-Vario 5-9 stops 77 mm is a variable neutral density filter that allows users to control depth of field.



The nano-coating on its glass surface helps to prevent reflections, glare and repel water and dust. It can be rotated using the side lever and sports a slim frame.

Lastly, the Viltrox EF-Z2 Speed Booster is an adapter that enables a Canon EF lens to be used on a Nikon Z camera body. It comes with a built-in 0.71x optical multiplier and the electronic contacts are gilded with copper. A USB port is provided for firmware upgrades, and a 1/4"-20 tripod socket on the bottom of the adapter allows for tripod mounting.

The above mentioned products are available with all leading photography equipment dealer shops and e-commerce websites, distributed by Nikita Distributors.

Sony Expands Service Network

Sony is expanding its Alpha Service Network across 11 cities in India including Mumbai, Coimbatore, Jaipur, Pune, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Trivandrum, Chennai, Indore, Bhubaneshwar and Guwahati. According to the company, this expansion of Alpha Camera body and lens repairs facilities adds to Sony's service network of after-sales support for Digital Imaging products with 8 service centers for lens repairs, 18 service centers for Alpha Camera Body repair, 40+ service centers offering



basic services like CCD Imager cleaning and firmware updates and 220+ collection centers pan India. The service centers are equipped with tools to repair Alpha camera body, camera lens, professional cameras and

other digital imaging products like digital still cameras and camcorders. Customers can also avail instant services for basic support like CCD Imager cleaning and getting the latest firmware update.

The service centers will provide support to customers for registering their in-warranty products on Sony Alpha Community portal to enable them to avail free of cost additional one year warranty on applicable products.

Canon Expands L-series Lenses

Canon has announced the launch of two new L-series super telephoto prime lenses viz. the RF 800 mm f/5.6L IS USM and the RF 1200 mm f/8L IS USM.

Both lenses feature a highly durable vibration and shock-proof structure, with dust- and drip-resistant weather sealing to prevent moisture from entering. They are compatible with the extenders RF 1.4x and the RF 2x. When the lenses and extenders are combined with the EOS R system's Dual Pixel CMOS AF, AF is possible over a wide coverage area. The lenses also support continuous shooting of up to 30 fps (electronic shutter). The 800 mm lens comes with a maximum aperture of f/5.6, a minimum focussing distance of 2.6 m and a maximum aperture of 0.34 x. It measures 163 mm in diameter, 432 mm in length and weighs approx. 3140 g. The 1200 mm lens comes with a maximum aperture of f/8, a minimum focussing distance



of 4.3 m and a maximum aperture of 0.29 x. It measures 168 mm in diameter, 537 mm in length and weighs approx. 3340 g. Both lenses are constructed from 26 elements in 18 groups, have a filter diameter of 52 mm and contain 9 aperture blades. The RF 800 mm f/5.6L IS USM will be available for purchase, starting May, 2022, at a price of INR 15,41,995 while the RF 1200 mm f/8L IS USM will be available at a price of INR 18,13,995.

Asus Unfurls ZenBook 14 Laptop

Asus has announced the 14-inch 2.8K OLED HDR display convertible laptop, Zenbook 14 Flip OLED, the latest addition to its ZenBook series.

The device features a 14-inch 2.8K OLED HDR 16:10 display with a 4-sided NanoEdge design with slim 2.9 mm side bezels and provides an 88% screen to body ratio. Its 360° ErgoLift hinge design allows the display to be flipped

to any position. It is powered by the latest AMD Ryzen 9 5900HX processor and its full-sized backlit keyboard achieves a 19.05 mm pitch. It features Asus AI Noise-Cancelling Audio and is equipped with a 63 Whr battery and 100W Type-C fast-charger. The product pricing starts from INR 91,990 and is now available for purchase across online (Asus e-shop/ Amazon/ Flipkart) and offline platforms.

Dr. Mukesh Batra Hosts 16th Photo Exhibition



The 16th photo exhibition by Dr. Mukesh Batra was held at the Piramal Art Gallery at the National Centre of Performing Arts (NCPA) in Mumbai from March 12 - March 18, 2022. The exhibition showcased a large number of beautiful architectural images of Dubai.

Dr. Mukesh Batra is a Padma Shri recipient (Homoeopathy) and the founder of Dr. Batra Group of Companies. Besides specialising in homoeopathy, he is a photographer with a philanthropic heart. The entire proceeds from the sale of his photographs go to charity. This time, the entire proceeds will, reportedly, be given to 'The Victoria Memorial School for the Blind'. The exhibition was powered by Nikon MEA.



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Apple Unmasks New Devices

Apple has announced a range of new products including the new iPhone SE, iPad Air, Mac Studio and Studio Display.

iPhone SE

The iPhone SE comes in a compact and durable design that incorporates a 4.7-inch display, aerospace-grade aluminium and glass along with IP67 rated water and dust resistance.

It features iOS 15 and has upgrades including the A15 Bionic chip packed with a 6-core CPU, which powers advanced camera capabilities such as photo editing, gaming and augmented reality. It also features a 12-megapixel *f*/1.8 aperture Wide camera that offers features such as Smart HDR 4, Photographic Styles, Deep Fusion and Portrait mode.

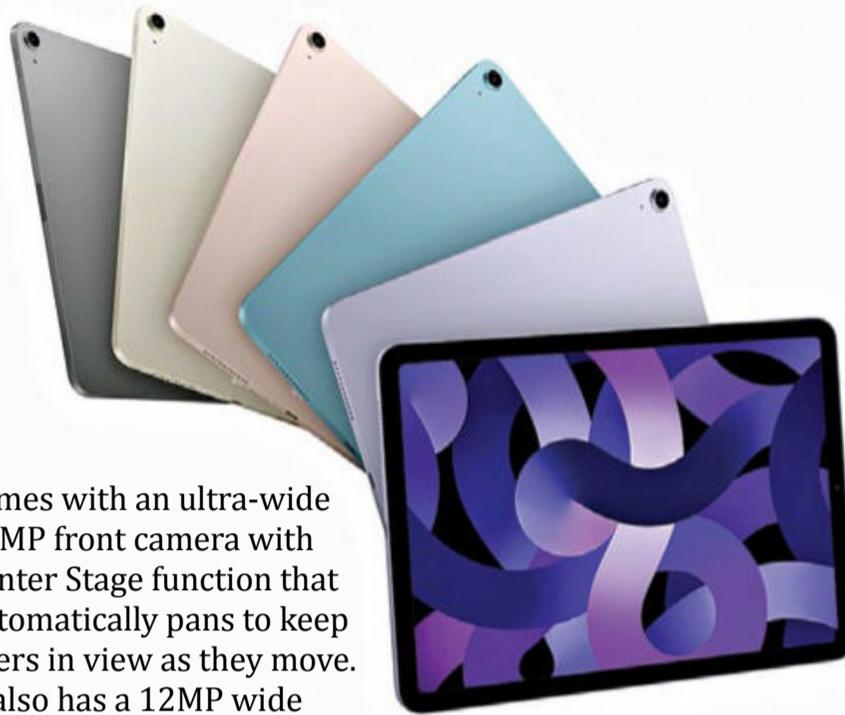
Along with 5G, the device comes in three colours i.e. Midnight, Starlight and (PRODUCT)RED.

The iPhone SE will be available from March 18 onwards, in 64GB, 128GB, and 256GB variants starting at INR 43,900.



iPad Air

The iPad Air features the M1 chip that comes combined with an 8-core CPU and an 8-core GPU, along with a 16-core Neural Engine. It



comes with an ultra-wide 12MP front camera with Center Stage function that automatically pans to keep users in view as they move. It also has a 12MP wide camera on the back for 4K video, scanning documents and AR functions. It comes with 5G and connectivity features include eSIM and Wi-Fi 6 support, along with a USB-C port, with data transfers up to 10Gbps. It has a thin and light design and comes in Space Grey, Starlight, Pink, Purple and Blue colours in 64GB and 256GB configurations. The device has a 10.9-inch Liquid Retina display and landscape stereo speakers. Accessories include the Apple pencil which comes with wireless charging and pairing. The iPad Air will be in stores from March 18, at a starting price of INR 54,900 (Wi-Fi) and INR 68,900 (Wi-Fi + Cellular).

Mac Studio

The Mac Studio is powered by M1 Max and the new M1 Ultra chips. The device is built from a single aluminium extrusion with a square footprint of 7.7 inches and a height of 3.7 inches. Its thermal design includes a system of double-sided blowers, precisely placed airflow channels to help cool the M1 Max and the M1 Ultra chips.

It features up to 64GB of unified memory on systems with M1 Max and up to 128GB of unified memory on systems with M1 Ultra. The SSD in Mac Studio delivers up to 7.4GB/s of performance and a capacity of up to 8TB. Connectivity options include four Thunderbolt 4 ports, a 10Gb Ethernet port, two USB-A ports, an HDMI port and a pro audio jack for high-impedance headphones or external amplified speakers. Wi-Fi 6 and Bluetooth 5.0 are built in as well.

Studio Display

The Studio Display features

a 27-inch 5K Retina screen with over 14.7 million pixels, 600 nits of brightness, P3 wide colour, and support for over one billion colours. Its design includes narrow borders and an all-aluminium enclosure with height-adjustable and tilt display (up to 30 degrees). It also comes with the A13 Bionic chip, along with the 12MP Ultra Wide camera with Center Stage feature. The device includes a three-microphone array with a low noise floor and features a six-speaker sound system and four force-cancelling woofers that support spatial audio for music and video with Dolby Atmos. Connectivity options include three USB-C ports (up to 10Gb/s) and a Thunderbolt port (connected using a single cable that can also deliver 96W of power to a Mac notebook).

The Mac Studio and Studio Display are available in select Apple Store locations and Apple authorised resellers from March 18. The price for Mac Studio starts at INR 1,89,900 while the Studio Display starts at INR 1,59,900.



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Realme Reveals C35 Entry-Level Phone

Realme has introduced a new addition to its entry-level C series family with the realme C35, an entry-level smartphone.

Commenting on the launch, Madhav Sheth, CEO Realme India, VP, Realme, and President, Realme International Business Group said, "We are thrilled to unveil the newest member of our C series smartphones as we continue our quest to become the world's most popular smartphone brand. Realme's entry-level C series has received a staggering response from our users and expanded to a family of 32 million users globally. Our newest member in the series is a new all-rounder in this segment, offering a remarkable combination of performance, camera and design in the entry-level segment, and we are confident that the Realme C35 will help us take this segment much further."

The device is equipped with a 50MP AI triple camera and includes a primary camera with a 50MP image sensor with a wide area and an f/1.8 large aperture,



a Macro Lens, a B&W lens and an 8MP Selfie camera with a Sony sensor. It features a new right-angle bezel design, is 8.1 mm thick and weighs 189 g. The smartphone is equipped with Unisoc T616 powerful processor, scoring 230,726 on AnTuTu benchmarks. It is an octa-core 12nm processor that clocks up to 2.0 GHz and adopts Cortex A75 structure. It also comes with a FHD 6.6-inches screen and a 5000 mAh battery which can be charged with an 18W Type-C Quick Charge that comes in the box. It also comes with an instant fingerprint sensor and TÜV Rheinland High-Reliability Certification. According to the company, this is the first smartphone in the C series to include Dynamic RAM Expansion(DRE) technology. The smartphone will be available in two storage variants, 4GB+64GB priced at INR 11,999 and 4GB+128GB priced at INR 12,999 and will be available in two colours, i.e. Glowing Black and Glowing Green. It is expected to go on sale starting March 12, on realme.com, Flipkart.com and mainline channels.

Maharashtra Photo Exhibition 2022

The Maharashtra Photo Exhibition 2022 has been announced recently, to be hosted from April 30, 2022 to May 6, 2022 at the Piramal Art Gallery N.C.P.A. in Nariman Point, Mumbai. Participants for the current year include Deepak Bartakke, Dr. Sudhir Gaikwad, Gajanan Dudhalkar, Gopal Bhodhe, Kedar Bhide, Kishor Nikam, Mukesh Parpiani, Prakash Dudhalkar, Rajendra Waghmare, Subhash Jirange, Sudhir Nazare and Vaibhav Jaguste.

The exhibition will be open for viewing from 12 noon to 8 pm (all 8 days).

महाराष्ट्र Photography Exhibition 2022

Venue : Piramal Art Gallery N.C.P.A., Nariman Point, Mumbai
Date : 30th April to 6th May 2022 | Time : 12noon to 8pm (All days)

PARTICIPANTS

Deepak Bartakke	Mukesh Parpiani
Dr. Sudhir Gaikwad	Prakash Dudhalkar
Gajanan Dudhalkar	Rajendra Waghmare
Gopal Bhodhe	Subhash Jirange
Kedar Bhide	Sudhir Nazare
Kishor Nikam	Vaibhav Jaguste

CURATOR : GAJANAN DUDHALKAR
Mo No. 982085852 Email: maharashtra.art10@gmail.com

Asus Begins Sale of 8Z

Asus has announced the sale of its smartphone 8Z.

The device is powered by the latest Qualcomm Snapdragon 888 5G mobile platform and features an ultra-clear 120 Hz AMOLED display. The device has a 4000 mAh battery and comes in Obsidian Black and Horizon Silver colours with a 5.9-inch FHD+ (2400 x

1080) Samsung E4 AMOLED display, protected by Corning Gorilla Glass Victus. It comes in with a memory and storage option of 8GB RAM + 128GB ROM. Connectivity options include Wi-Fi 6 (802.11a/b/g/n/ac/ax), 2x2 MIMO, Tri-band 2.4 GHz / 5 GHz / 6 GHz Wi-Fi and Bluetooth 5.2. Its pro-grade camera system consists of a 64 MP main camera with Sony IMX686 flagship

sensor, a 12 MP ultra-wide camera and 12 MP front camera with Sony IMX663 1/2.93-inch sensor. Other features include USB Type-C connectivity, dual sim slots and Android 11 with ZenUI 8 operating system. The device measures 148 x 68.5 x 8.9 mm and weighs 169 g.

The Asus 8Z is available for purchase at a price of INR 42,999 on Flipkart.



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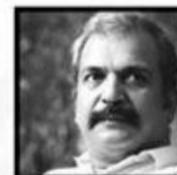
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Somadatta Nhwakar



Amit Bhandare

Looking Beyond all Alphas and Omegas

As told to Sujith Gopinath

*Sony has unveiled the latest in their full-frame cameras, the A7R IV, and the company has been upbeat about the prospects of this device. Here is **Mukesh Srivastava**, Head of Business, Digital Imaging, Sony India, in a chat with **Smart Photography**.*



Mukesh Srivastava

- **Mirrorless full-frame camera market has got crowded in the last few years, unlike in the past when Sony was the only player in this space. How do you look at this change from a manufacturer's perspective?**

Back in the days, it was said "Mirrorless is the future," and today that time is here. Sony has been the leader in the mirrorless segment with several breakthrough innovations over the years. With time, the contribution of D-SLR in the camera industry has been gradually reducing, and the market has been inclining towards mirrorless. The customers are always on the lookout for advanced and breakthrough technologies, and mirrorless has been the answer. As a brand, Sony has been leading this change and we are glad that our vision is coming true. Being the early

movers and understanding how the mirrorless cameras can change the photography dynamics, took a lot of research, and above all, constant innovation and advancements.

Sony as a brand has always been close to the customers, our efforts have been to understand their demands and come up with products which will help them fully utilise their creative abilities. Now that the mirrorless market dominates the camera industry, this further motivates us to innovate and reach newer heights.

Our latest mirrorless camera Alpha 7 IV, a hybrid model, is an example of innovation from Sony. The features are designed keeping in mind the customer demands of reproducing life like photos and videos. We at Sony are dedicated to meeting the ever-dynamic market demands with cameras that are embedded with artificial intelligence and powerful hardware.

- **Could you share some insights about Sony full-frame mirrorless cameras launched in 2021-22? Any pointers or roadmaps regarding future releases?**

This year we have launched cameras catering to different verticals. Alpha 1 is the flagship camera from Sony which is designed for top professionals across different genres. The camera can capture 50.1-megapixel images up to 30 frames/second without any blackout. It comes with 5-axis IBIS, 15-stop dynamic range, fast AF system and

silent shutter. The S-Cinetone colour profile and Creative Look have been included in the camera for cinematic feels. As for videos, the camera is capable of shooting 8K videos at up to 30p and 4k videos at 120p. It has received appreciation from all markets and has been established as a leader in its segment.

Sony also launched Alpha 7 IV which is designed as a hybrid camera. It brings together the best of Sony imaging technologies in both photo and video to deliver high-end experiences to a diverse range of customers. The camera comes with a full-frame 33-megapixel back-illuminated CMOS image sensor and is powered by a Bionz XR processor which handles quick image processing. It is also capable of shooting 4K with S-Cinetone colour grading as well as 10-bit 4:2:2 colour sampling. This gives creators a new level of freedom to capture, create and share in ways that they've never been able to before.

To leverage creators' growing creativity, Sony has introduced an interchangeable-lens camera, the Alpha ZV-E10. It is an amalgamation of versatility and excellence in the quality of an image. The camera offers user-friendly features, specifically designed for still and video, making it an ideal tool for creators looking to transition to a more advanced setup. Sony provides a complete ecosystem for consumers and is always focussed on their ever-changing needs. Innovation is at the core of Sony with

which we challenge the primitive ways and establish new milestones.

- **The pandemic days somewhat altered the dominant genres in photography due to the severe restrictions. But with public spaces and travel opening up, what changes have you observed in the behaviour of Indian photographers?**

The pandemic has had a major impact on the camera industry due to restrictions on travel, wedding and gatherings in general. The overall demand of photography from these genres was majorly affected. On the flipside, we also observed growing demands from different genres, such as vlogging and OTT. There has also been a prominent increase in demand for live streaming services too.

Currently, due to ease of restrictions, travel has resumed, and the number of weddings has also increased. Hence, we have now observed a significant surge in the need for cameras. The demand from content creators continues to remain strong, especially with the boom of short form videos and reels. Consumers are also inclined towards cameras which are compact and have good video capabilities. Post pandemic we have also observed a rise in the consumption of OTT content resulting in an increased demand of video-oriented cameras such as Cinema Line Series (Venice, FX9, FX3 and FX6) and the Alpha 7S III.

- **Video has always been a strong segment for Sony, and most of your cameras, even still-focussed ones, can be called 'hybrid' offerings because of the extensive video features. What are the latest Sony devices and innovations in this segment?**

With the advent of social media networking, storytelling comes naturally to the Indian audience. Consumers are getting confident of expressing themselves with the help of the visuals, resulting in the demand for hybrid cameras. Creators are investing in equipment that provides all formats such



as digital recording, lightweight, flexible and is also user-friendly.

Sony has always been strong in the hybrid segment with powerful tools like Alpha 7C, Alpha 7 III, Alpha 7R III, Alpha 7R IV and Alpha 1, where all these cameras have unmatched capabilities for both still and video. As the demand for shooting cinematic video, slow motion, still and online streaming is rocking the digital world, we at Sony are focussed on creating advanced cameras which are an upgrade from basic models.

The latest Alpha 7 IV is a powerful hybrid camera built with a newly developed 33MP sensor to achieve image resolution with rich movie expression and various features to support the growing demand of content creators. Digital creators, professionals and almost everyone related with visual creation is bound to fall in love with Alpha 7 IV as it offers more ease, flexibility and lets you challenge tough situations. The demand of producing candid, realistic and memorable visuals become easier by graduating to new technology.

- **Vlogging and compact action camera segments have seen much action in the last couple of years, especially with short-form video content like 'reels' becoming part of social media. Could you elaborate on Sony's efforts in this genre? Any further developments in RX0-type devices?**

Globally the trend of vlogging has been there for a few years. With the induced pandemic, the last two years saw a huge spike in video consumption among Indian audiences. The lockdown gave the content creators time to think out of

the box and create something new as well as to follow trends.

Since the focus started shifting towards vlogging, people began looking for the right equipment to make their job easy without a complex setup. Conventionally, the cameras used to be heavy, the entire setup needed guidance, and the autofocus was not very powerful. But with the compact, mirrorless cameras, the pattern started to change. These cameras have advanced autofocus feature, particularly when it comes to object-tracking and face recognition. After observing the trends and the needs of the consumer, Sony came up with a dedicated camera for vlogging which is ZV-1, which performed very well and was greatly appreciated at a global level.

ZV-1 is a compact, lightweight camera for vlogging and is equipped with the latest technology, designed especially for content creators. Some of the features include Vari-angle LCD, one push Bokeh button, product showcase setting and Real-time Eye AF for Video. This camera rightly understood and addressed the pain point of the content creators and made their workflow simpler. As a continued process of innovation, recently, Sony has launched ZV-E10 which is an Interchangeable-Lens Vlog Camera with all the key features of ZV-1 along with a larger sensor and the freedom to use any lens.

We at Sony believe in the constant pursuit of innovation and with such flexibilities and easy operations in our cameras, we strive to become a preferred choice amongst content creators. |SP





**Picture
of the
Month**

*Photograph by
Dipanjan
Pal*

We are sure that all of you have a few pictures that you think are prize worthy. It happens very often that you don't know where to send the image that could put a feather in your cap. If you have such images (we're sure you have many!), send us ONE such horizontal image. If it qualifies, we shall publish it as a double-spread.

- a. You have to guarantee that the picture was shot by you
- b. If there are people in the picture who can be identified, we'll need a model release
- c. The picture should not have been printed elsewhere (magazine, newspaper, or offered to any publication)
- d. Mark the entry as "Picture of the Month" and rename the file using your name
- e. You may send images via e-mail to: sphoto.india@gmail.com

A note to our readers

1. The picture has to be horizontal.
2. Kindly ensure that the shorter side measures at least 10 inches at 300 ppi (approximately 3000 pixels).
3. Low resolution images will not be accepted.
4. We do not check images on online galleries.
5. Kindly ensure complete contact/address details are provided.
6. Please make sure that your picture does not have your name/logo on it.

Camera: Canon EOS 1500D
Focal length: 250.0 mm
Aperture: f/5.6
Shutter Speed: 1/500 Sec
ISO: 3200

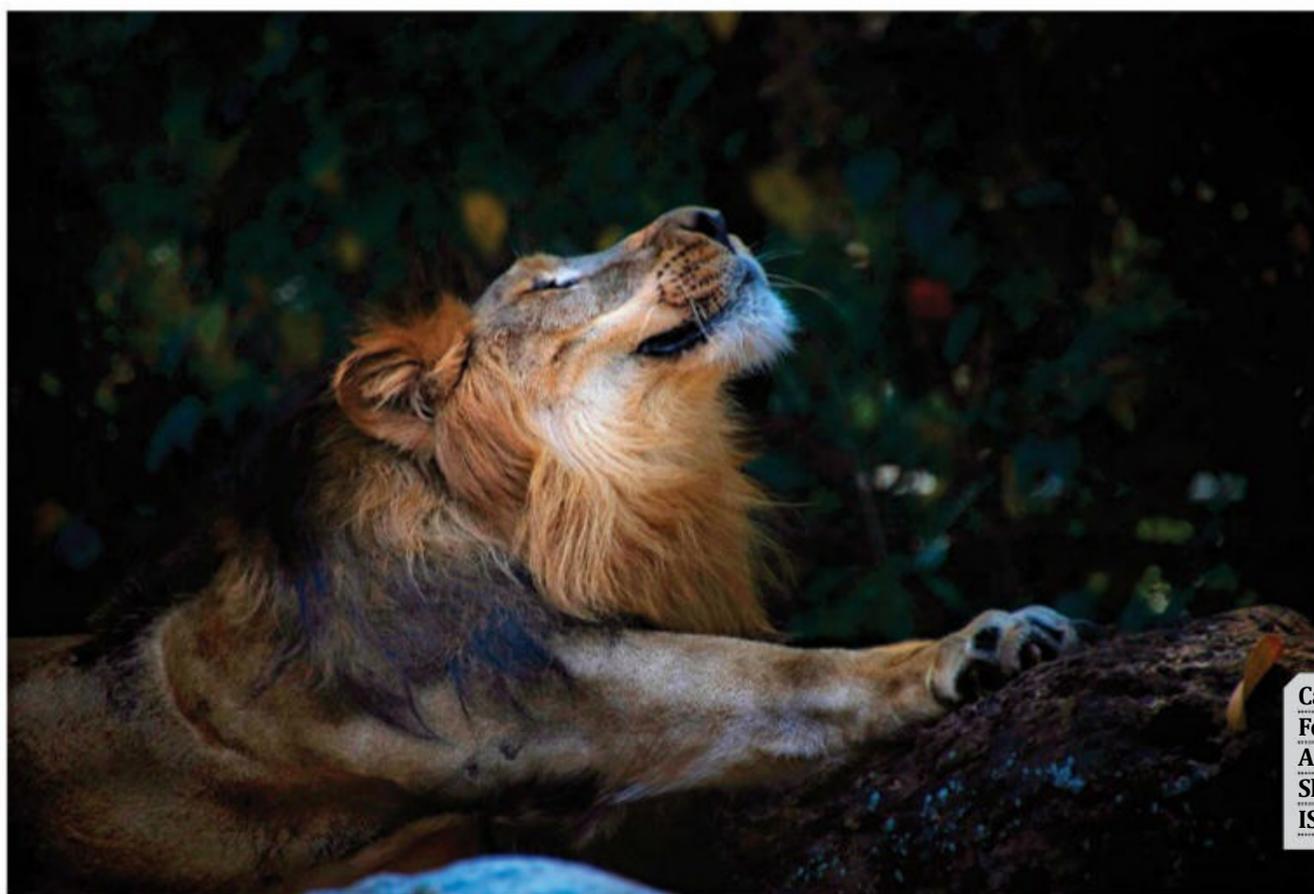


BEGINS WITH CREATIVITY



Kiran Navale

Kiran is a software engineer from Mysore with a passion for wildlife photography. He says “I started photography in the year 2020 with an unstoppable love towards wildlife. I enjoy the beauty of ‘mother nature’ and feel that wildlife is the greatest thing ever created by nature and I am thankful for that.”



Camera: Canon EOS 1500D
Focal length: 300.0 mm
Aperture: f/5.6
Shutter Speed: 1/90 Sec
ISO: 200



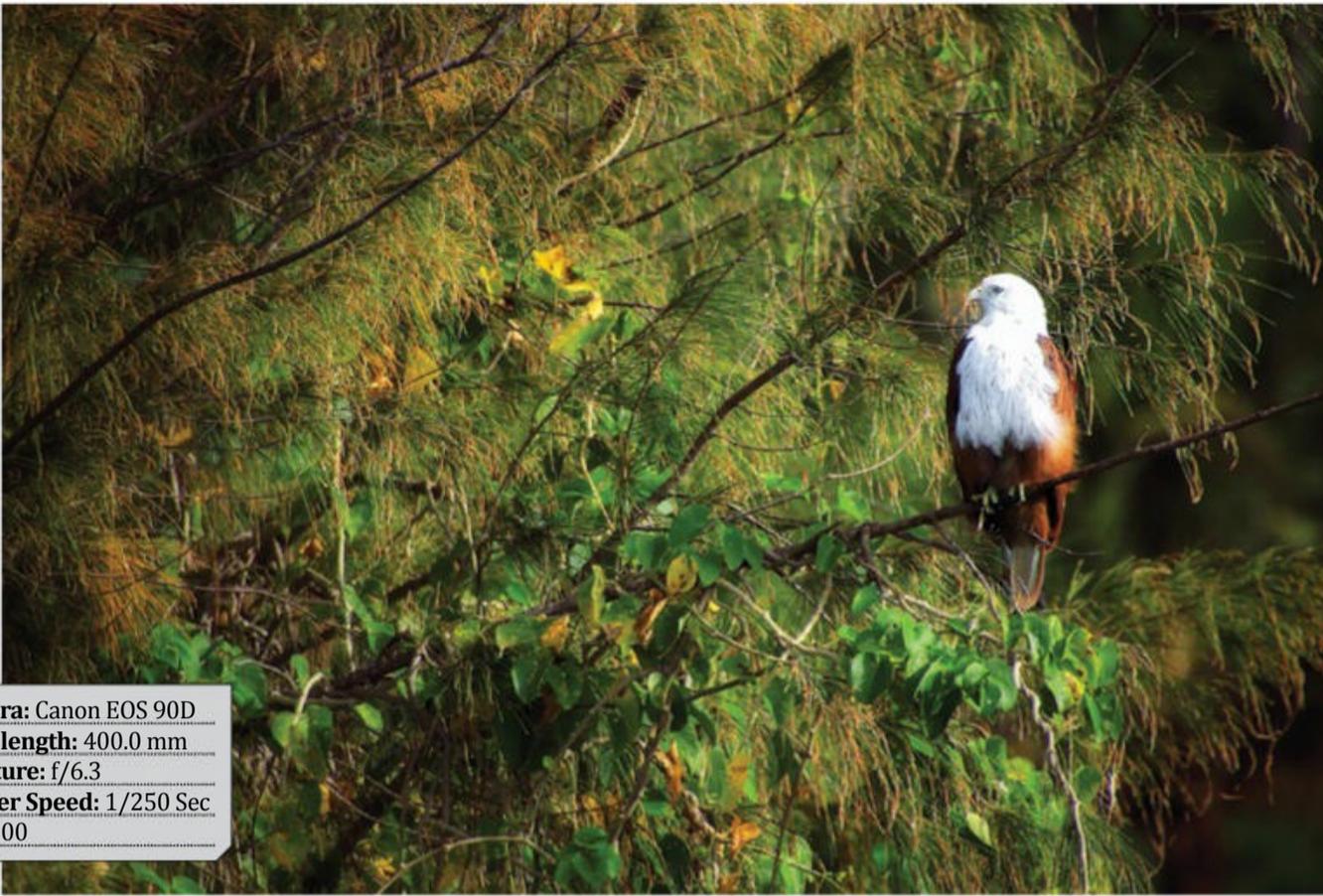
Camera: Canon EOS 90D
Focal length: 600.0 mm
Aperture: f/6.3
Shutter Speed: 1/1328 Sec
ISO: 100



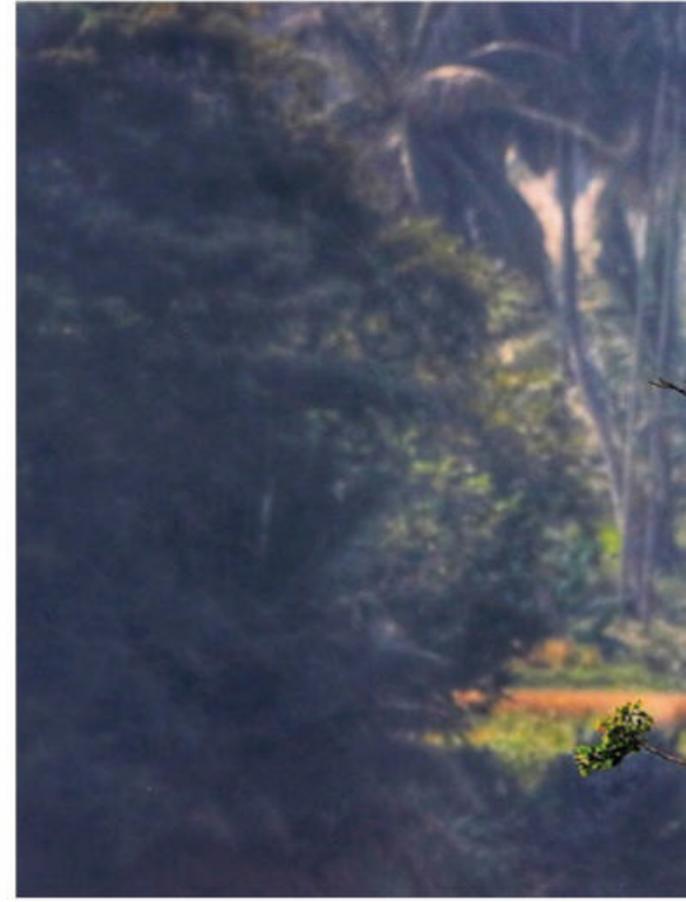
Camera: Canon EOS 90D
Focal length: 516.0 mm
Aperture: f/6.3
Shutter Speed: 1/250 Sec
ISO: 500



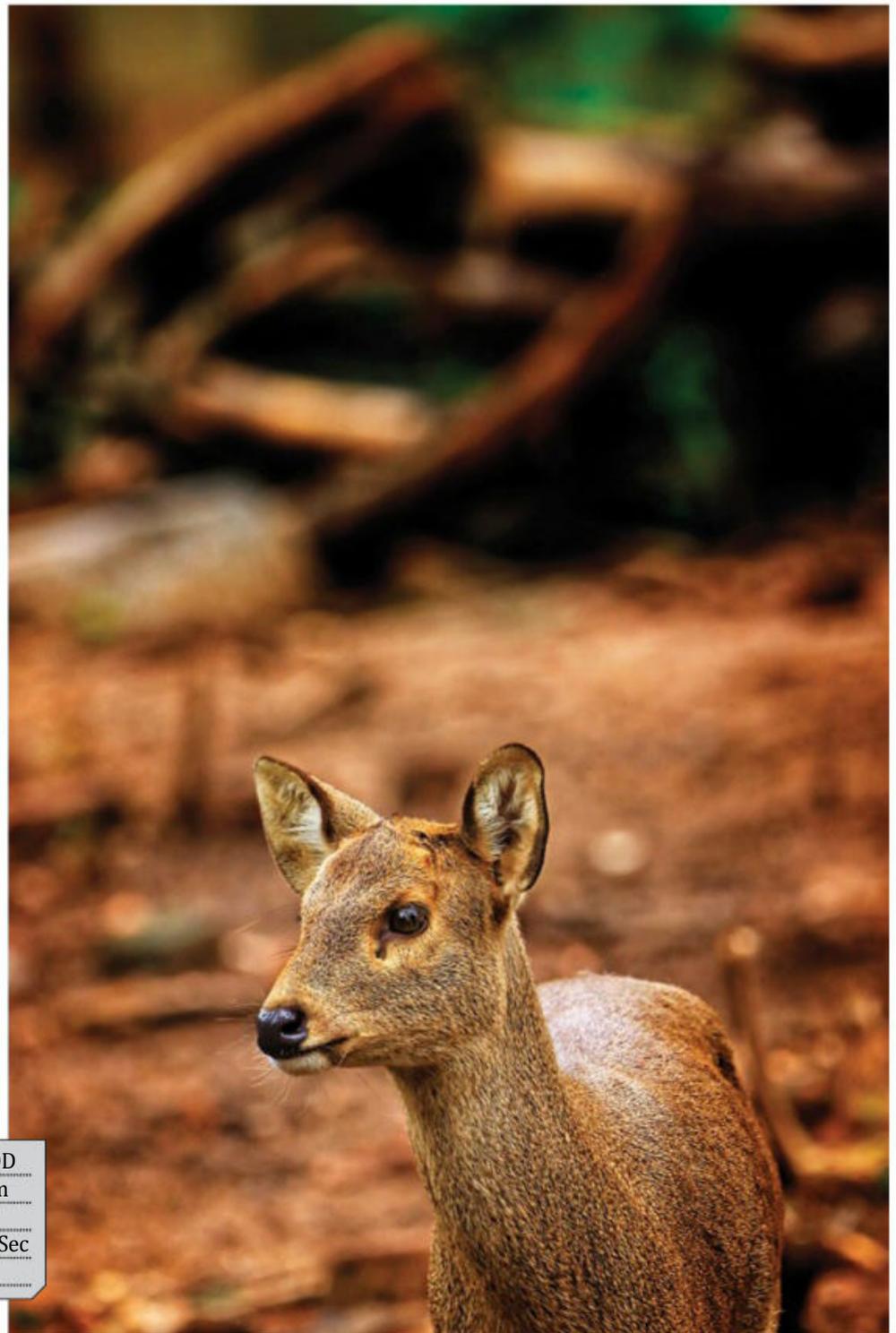
Camera: Canon EOS 1500D
Focal length: 208.0 mm
Aperture: f/5.6
Shutter Speed: 1/50 Sec
ISO: 200



Camera: Canon EOS 90D
Focal length: 400.0 mm
Aperture: f/6.3
Shutter Speed: 1/250 Sec
ISO: 100



Camera: Canon EOS 90D
Focal length: 374.0 mm
Aperture: f/6.3
Shutter Speed: 1/2656 Sec
ISO: 200



Camera: Canon EOS 90D
Focal length: 150.0 mm
Aperture: f/5.0
Shutter Speed: 1/250 Sec
ISO: 500

Camera: Canon EOS 90D
Focal length: 500.0 mm
Aperture: f/6.3
Shutter Speed: 1/250 Sec
ISO: 320

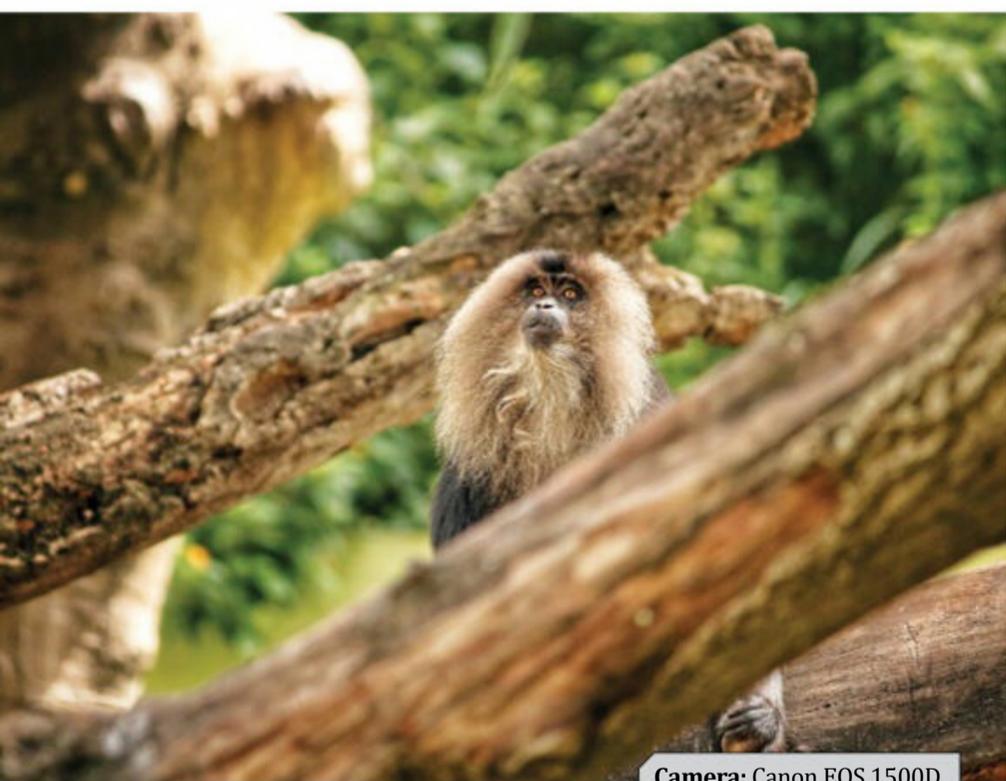


Camera: Canon EOS 1500D
Focal length: 150.0 mm
Aperture: f/4.5
Shutter Speed: 1/90 Sec
ISO: 800



Camera: Canon EOS 90D
Focal length: 600.0 mm
Aperture: f/11
Shutter Speed: 1/2656 Sec
ISO: 2000

Camera: Canon EOS 90D
Focal length: 600.0 mm
Aperture: f/11
Shutter Speed: 1/2656 Sec
ISO: 1600



Camera: Canon EOS 1500D
Focal length: 250.0 mm
Aperture: f/5.6
Shutter Speed: 1/400 Sec
ISO: 1250

THE GLOBE-RANGER

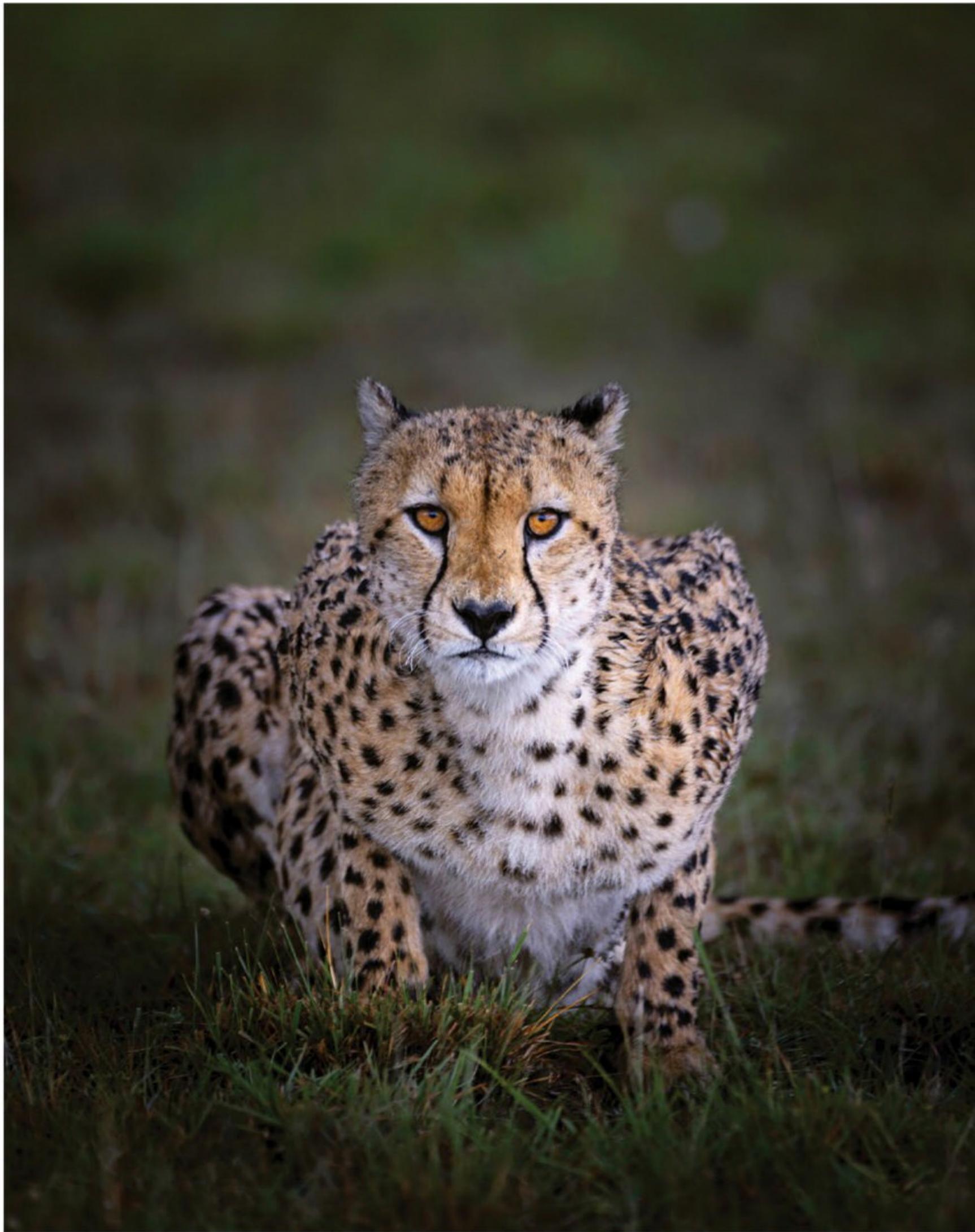


Reju Nair

Reju started his photography journey in 2021, and travelled extensively during the Covid period, following all safety protocols. In this short period, he got his images published in leading international publications like Natgeotravel, The Times, and Daily Express in addition to Canon, Lumix and various other platforms. The Masai Mara trip, the images of which have been published here, was his first trip to Kenya. "I am looking forward to exploring other African nations and would also like to capture Brown Bears in Kamchatka in Russia," says Reju. "My dream is to track and photograph Polar Bears in Svalbard."

A Quality Analyst by profession in the oil and gas industry, he is looking forward to going back as a freelancer consultant outside India and simultaneously travel on photography tours once the travel restrictions are over.

Instagram:
@capture_with_reju















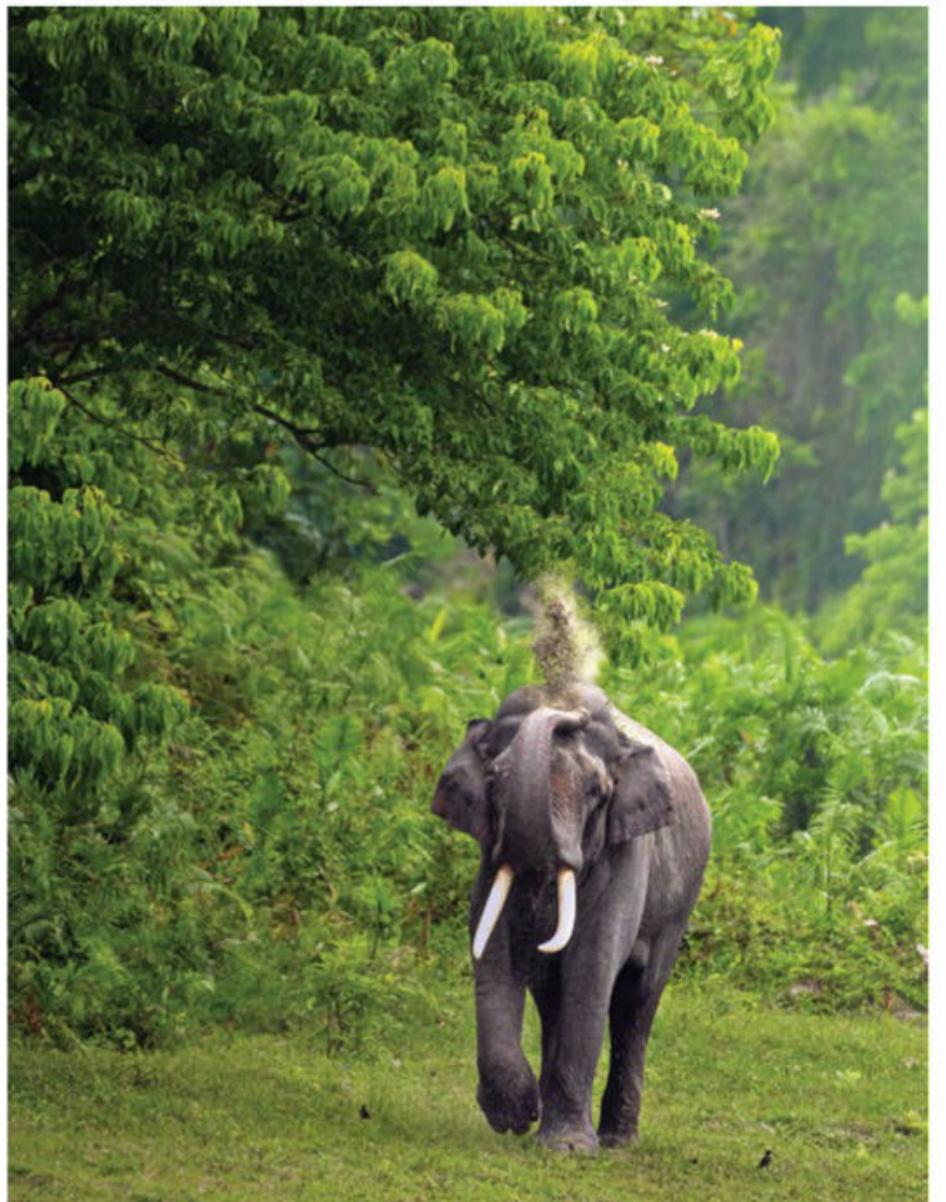
OBSERVING MOMENTS IN TIME

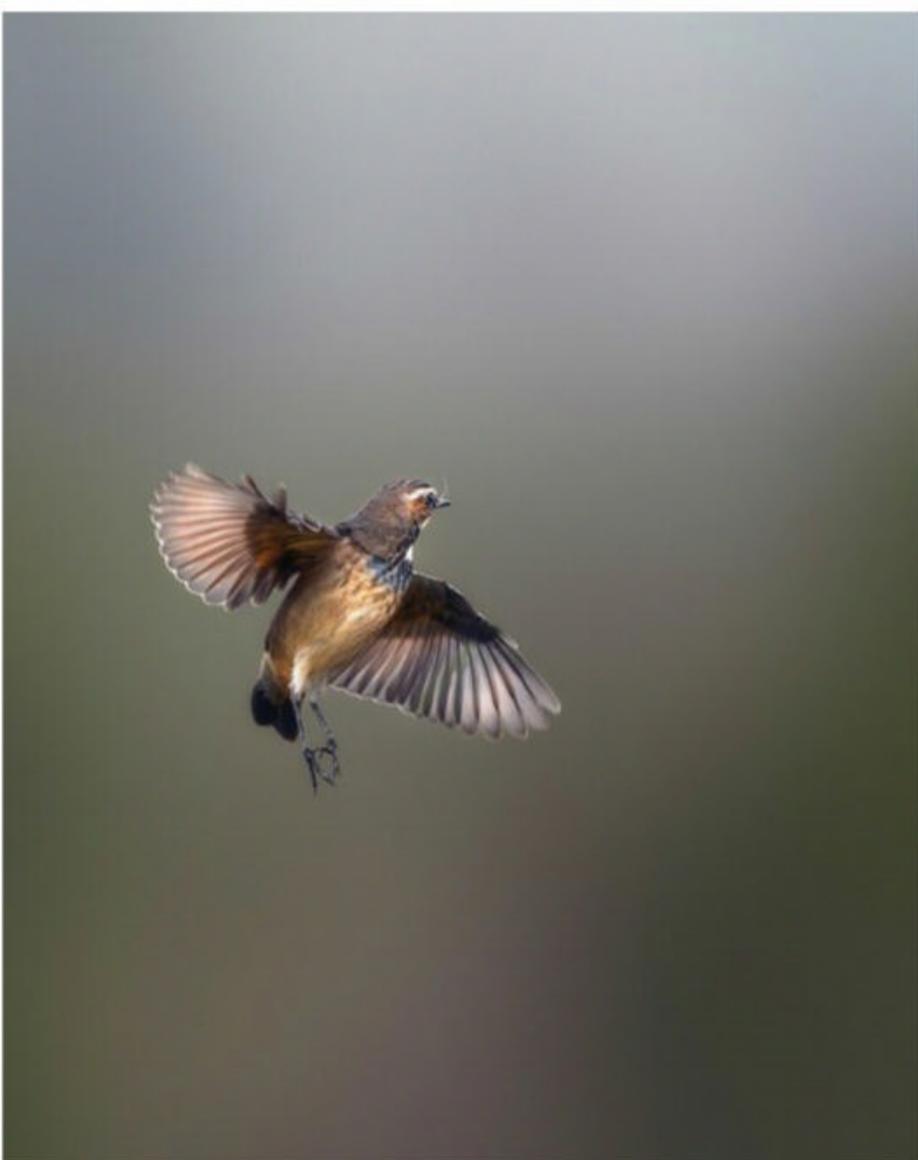
Jayanta is a wildlife photographer based in Kolkata. He says, "I started photography as a landscape photographer and then moved to wildlife photography in 2019. I tend to show the beauty of nature to those who don't get the opportunity to go into the wild. I love to observe wild animals, and I never get bored doing it. I get enthusiasm from nature. For me, capturing the moment, showing the habitat and creating a good frame are more important than a close-up portrait with a sharp/detailed image of an animal. My work has been featured in photography communities such as Discovery, Natgeo, Incredible India and more. Magazines such as Asian Photography, TOP Posters, Explore Wild India Magazine and ND Magazine have published my wildlife images and stories. I have also been the recipient of a few national and international awards such as honourable mention in Nature's Best Photography Asia 2021, 35Awards (Horned Animal-winner), Bronze Star Award of ND Awards 2021, Northeast India Photography Award 2021 (winner) and Village Vibe Photography Competition 2021 (winner)."



Jayanta Guha









THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

As Told to Sweta Baruah



**Prithviraj
Banerjee**

Prithviraj comes from an IT background and has a passion for photography and travel. Since childhood he has been fascinated with landscape and nature. His passion towards photography developed as a hobby and he has travelled across India and other countries in the world. He resides in Mumbai and loves to share his experience by mentoring new photographers through photo tours and workshops.

- **How did you venture into photography? Tell us your story.** Since childhood, I have loved to draw mountains, streams, waterfalls, etc. but it was only after my graduation that I realised that it is called landscape. Later, my wife gifted me a point and shoot Nikon P500 to start with. Gradually, I realised the limitations of a point and shoot and then moved to a D-SLR in the year 2015. All this while, I had been shooting only landscapes and waterfalls around Mumbai. With my D-SLR, my first tour was driving to Spiti Valley. This was when I took photography more seriously and was fortunate enough to travel to





Europe, US as well as many parts of India. I learnt a lot from fellow photographers too whose images have been published in Smart Photography. Some of them are Prasad Malgaokar, Pulak Nath, Sushil Chikane, etc. Slowly and gradually, I started to conduct workshops and mentored many new comers into the Landscape photography genre.

■ **What does photography mean to you? Is there a message you want to share through your photographs?**

To me, photography means everything. It makes me feel like I have captured and conquered something that cannot be repeated in nature and it makes me feel fresh. To me, an image needs to be simple but should be able to portray the magic of the environment, as if you are actually present at the location. When I capture an image, I try to showcase something that our naked eyes cannot see. Eg: The silk effect of a waterfall, the movement of clouds, the trail of the star, etc.

■ **How important, would you say, is location? What was the most recent place you visited for your shoot?**

Location and time of the year is extremely important. Waterfalls of Meghalaya and Maharashtra are at its best towards the end of monsoons. Similarly, the beauty of Ladakh and Spiti peaks around June and July and lastly, capturing the star trails and the milkyway is best with a clear sky. My last visit was to Satara and Malvan, where I photographed the magical sky of Malvan and the waterfalls of Satara.

■ **What is your preferred choice of gear? What goes into your regular kit?**

Once you have the frame in your mind, you can get wonderful results using the phone, point and shoot cameras, GoPro and other professional cameras. I have been using a Nikon D810 with Nikon 14-24 mm lens along with Nisi filter kit (CPL / 6 Stop ND). Now, I plan to switch to a mirrorless, considering its weight.











■ **How do you plan your photography tours? Do you usually travel alone?**

There are two parts to it. When I want to do serious photography, I prefer travelling alone, understanding the location and making a note of all the points of interest. I capture the images and then later, conduct a tour with others. While conducting a tour, it is very important that the

participants get more variety in their frames. That is the reason why it is important for them to spread-out and cover the entire location.

■ **Which of these is your favourite image? What is the story behind that click?**

Well it's a hard question to answer. All the images have one thing in common, which is water.

It represents life to me. At times, it is rough, and at times, it is calm. At times, it's a smooth flow through the rocks. If I have to pick one, then it is the picture of the 'golden' evening by the rocks, at Arambol beach, Goa. This place has never disappointed me, the calmness of the golden evening, along with the music of the sea and the environment makes me go there again and again.



■ **Other than travel and landscape, what other genre of photography do you indulge in?**

I have been learning how to take portraits. I am clicking portraits of people during festivals and while they are in their daily work. I have been fascinated with the emotions seen in their eyes and face. Capturing this is something that, I feel, connects us with the person through the photograph.

■ **What is your key takeaway from the years you've put into this art form?**

Photography has been the way I get close to nature and people. Travelling to places, meeting new people, understanding their culture and having food with them has created a connection with the place and people. Life is like the flow of water and this is a great journey. The phases of water, as seen in my images, have taught me how to be compassionate and make life beautiful as the journey continues. I will continue to follow my passion while I travel more and learn every day. | **SP**





Godox



SL100 D SL100 Bi SL Series Video Light

FEATURES:

- Monster Output
- Variable Color Temperature
- Quality Color Rendering
- Versatile Application
- Highly Compact
- Bowens Mount
- Intuitive User Interface
- Lighting FX
- Multiple Control Methods

SL SERIES VIDEO LIGHT

FEATURES:

- LED bulbs guarantee high light brightness
- High color rendering index to present the objects authentically
- Wirelessly adjust light brightness, wireless 433MHz grouping system (6 groups & 16 channels)
- Large-sized LCD panel. Settings auto saved
- With premium heatsink and built-in fan to prevent overheating

SL150// SL200//

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Godox



DP III PROFESSIONAL STUDIO FLASH

FEATURES:

- The newly added wireless ID(01-99) offers strong anti-interference ability
- Built-in Godox 2.4G wireless X system with outstanding functions
- Wireless power control & flash triggering
- 1s Quick recycle time
- 61 steps of flash output from 1/64 to 1/1
- Bowens mount adds various light shaping accessories
- Auto recover the adjusted settings after a restart
- 5600±200K color temperature and stable output

Godox

DP III Professional Studio Flash

DP600 III KIT



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FINANCE
No Cost EMI | No Processing Fees



Presents

INNOVATION!
TECHNOLOGY!
& IMAGING!
AWARDS 2022!

Powered by

Smart Photography

THE SMART PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS 2022

2022 turned out to be as tormenting a year as 2021. The Covid pandemic was a still unfolding saga impacting all segments of the world economy. Add to that supply chain issues, especially with regard to chips, and the picture is complete. In spite of all the negative factors, 2021 saw the launch of:

- 21 new cameras overall
- 1 new D-SLR (from Pentax)
- 1 new compact camera (from Ricoh)
- 2 medium format cameras
- 5 full-frame mirrorless cameras
- 4 APS-C mirrorless cameras
- 2 Micro Four Thirds mirrorless cameras

New lenses were launched at a feverish pace. Nearly 70 new lenses were announced in the mirrorless space. On the other hand, 60 D-SLR lenses were discontinued.

Sony said ‘ goodbye’ to Minolta’s Alpha mount and Canon announced that there would be no new D-SLRs from their stable. Meanwhile, the Minolta brand has been relaunched in the US through a licensing arrangement with Elite Brands Inc. Finally, OM Digital sprung a pleasant surprise by announcing the brand new OM-1.

As usual, the SP Awards are awarded only to products that have been reviewed

by the magazine and we are grateful to manufacturers for reaching out to us in difficult times. As in the previous year, the jury team was limited to the editorial team in view of the limitations posed by the pandemic.

Outlined below are winners of the awards in previous years from 2006 to 2020.

THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS CAMERA OF THE YEAR SO FAR	
Year	Winner
2006	Nikon D200
2007	Canon EOS 400D
2008	Nikon D300
2009	Panasonic Lumix DMC-G1
2010	Canon EOS 5D Mark II
2011	Canon EOS 60D
2012	Olympus PEN E-P3
2013	Nikon D600
2014	Olympus OM-D E-M1
2015	Sony Alpha 7
2016	Canon EOS 5Ds
2017	Canon EOS 5D Mark IV
2018	Sony Alpha 7 III
2019	Sony Alpha 7R IV
2020	Canon R6

ACCESSORY OF THE YEAR



AND THE
WINNER IS...

**SENNHEISER
MKE400**



This camera mounted shotgun microphone offers a clean sound pickup with a super cardioid pick-up pattern and simple noise cut off options.

N O M I N A T I O N S



DJI OM 5



Sennheiser XS Lav
USB-C Mobile Kit

PHOTOGRAPHY MONITOR OF THE YEAR



If your photography predominantly involves rendering for the web such as stock photography, this is certainly a great monitor to consider.



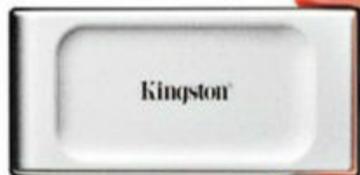
AND THE
WINNER IS...

**ASUS PROART
PA279CV**

STORAGE SOLUTION OF THE YEAR



Slightly larger than a flash drive, this external SSD is available in up to 2TB capacity and offers blazing fast data transfer and carries an IP55 rating



AND THE
WINNER IS...

**KINGSTON
XS2000
EXTERNAL SSD**



BEST CAMERA IN A BUDGET SMARTPHONE

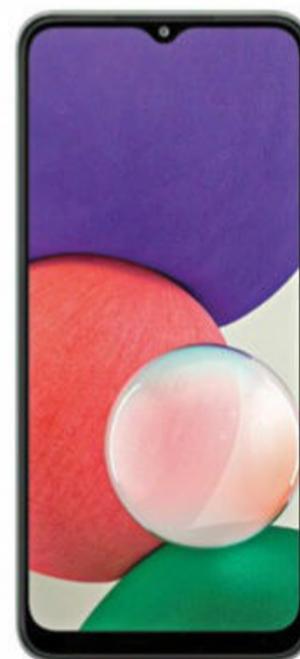
N O M I N A T I O N S



This under 20k smartphone exceeds the expectations with a capable camera and impressive performance.



Realme 8 5G



Samsung Galaxy A22 5G

AND THE WINNER IS...

REALME 8 PRO

BEST CAMERA IN A MID PRICED SMARTPHONE



Brilliant performance and excellent cameras make this device a winner among the devices we got to evaluate in 2021-22.

AND THE WINNER IS...

ONEPLUS 9

N O M I N A T I O N S



Realme GT



Samsung Galaxy M42



Oppo Reno 6 Pro



BEST CAMERA IN A PREMIUM SMARTPHONE



AND THE
WINNER IS...

**IPHONE 13
PRO MAX**



This year's Pro versions of iPhones are truly made for the professionals with cinematic mode, ProRAW and ProRes modes.



N O M I N A T I O N S



iPhone 13 Mini

LAPTOP OF THE YEAR



AND THE
WINNER IS...

**ASUS PROART
STUDIOBOOK
H5600**



Made for creative professionals, this laptop offers extensive shortcuts along with Asus Dial and is truly a complete digital studio on the move.

N O M I N A T I O N S



Dell XPS 13 9310



MSI Summit E15



TELEPHOTO ZOOM LENS OF THE YEAR



Both these lenses - the Canon RF 70-200 mm f/2.8L IS USM and the Sony FE 70-200 mm f/2.8 GM OSS II -- performed equally well, offering excellent image quality as well as build quality.



AND THE JOINT WINNERS ARE...

**CANON RF
70-200 MM F/2.8L
IS USM
&
SONY FE
70-200 MM F/2.8
GM OSS II**

PRIME LENS OF THE YEAR



AND THE
WINNER IS...

**SONY FE 50 MM
F/1.2 GM**



*A 'no compromise'
super fast lens with
super performance.*

N O M I N A T I O N S



Nikkor Z 50 mm f/1.2S



Nikkor Z MC 50 mm f/2.8



Sony FE 50 mm f/2.5G



WIDE-ANGLE LENS OF THE YEAR



AND THE
WINNER IS...

**FUJIFILM XF
18 MM F/1.4 R
LM WR**



A 'fast', lightweight, close focussing, sharp lens for landscapes, interiors, photojournalism and day-to-day general photography.

N O M I N A T I O N S



Sony FE 24 mm f/2.8G



Nikkor Z 28 mm f/2.8 SE

MACRO LENS OF THE YEAR



AND THE
WINNER IS...

**NIKKOR Z
MC 105 MM
F/2.8 VR S**

N O M I N A T I O N S



Sony 90 mm f/2.8 Macro G OSS



*A premium, well-built,
excellent performance
macro lens for the
Nikon Z-series cameras.*

STANDARD ZOOM LENS OF THE YEAR



AND THE
WINNER IS...

**CANON RF
24-70 MM
F/2.8L IS USM**



*Fast and quiet
autofocussing, weather
sealing and brilliant
performance make this
versatile lens our winner.*

N O M I N A T I O N S



Sigma 28-70 mm f/2.8
DG DN | Contemporary



Tamron 28-75 mm f/2.8
Di III VXD G2

SUPER TELEPHOTO ZOOM LENS OF THE YEAR



AND THE
WINNER IS...

**NIKKOR Z
100-400 MM
F/4.5-5.6 VR S**



The Nikkor Z 100-400 mm f/4.5-5.6 VR S sets the new benchmark for portability and performance at an affordable price, especially for sports and wildlife enthusiasts.

N O M I N A T I O N S



Tamron 150-500 mm f/5-6.7 Di III VC VXD



PHOTO PRINTER OF THE YEAR



AND THE
WINNER IS...

EPSON L8180



This A3+ size photo printer offers the brilliance and longevity of Epson's Claria ink with the advantage of an ink tank system and convenience of wireless connectivity

PHOTOGRAPHY SOFTWARE OF THE YEAR



AND THE
WINNER IS...

**PORTRAITPRO
21**



Unmatched in functionality, this AI-based portrait retouching software gets better and better with each upgrade.



FULL-FRAME MIRRORLESS CAMERA OF THE YEAR

AND THE
WINNER IS...

NIKON Z9



The Nikon Z9 is the top-of-the-line full-frame mirrorless interchangeable lens camera for photographers who want the best and are not willing to settle for anything less.

N O M I N A T I O N S



Sony A1



APS-C MIRRORLESS CAMERA OF THE YEAR



AND THE
WINNER IS...

NIKON Z FC



The Z fc is Nikon's 'retro-style' APS-C mirrorless interchangeable lens camera offering both style and performance in a compact body.

HYBRID CAMERA OF THE YEAR



AND THE
WINNER IS...

SONY ZV-E10



The mirrorless version of Sony's ZV-1 compact vlog camera, this device offers a complete package for serious vloggers along with the flexibility of changing lenses.



INNOVATION OF THE YEAR



AND THE
WINNER IS...

DJI ACTION 2



The Action 2 offers a versatile magnetic mount along with a tripod head with a reusable sticky base, which are the best innovations we have seen in an imaging device this year

N O M I N A T I O N S



Insta 360 One X2



Mechanical Shutter
Removal by Nikon



MOST PRESTIGIOUS CAMERA OF THE YEAR



AND THE
WINNER IS...

NIKON Z9



N O M I N A T I O N S



Sony A1

"In the end, it became a supreme dogfight between the Sony A1 and the Nikon Z 9. After long discussions, it finally was the Nikon Z 9. In the opinion of the jury, the Z 9 is perhaps the most impressive professional camera ever made! Praise indeed! The Z 9 boasts superb build quality, impressive speed and resolution and a clever subject recognition system. The absence of a physical shutter is not felt at all. The newly designed stacked CMOS sensor along with an autofocus system that recognises humans, animals and vehicles ensures brilliant images. Handling is improved by the tilt and swivel viewfinder, a first for a mirrorless Nikon. The icing on the cake is the price which is significantly lower than competition. Take a bow, Nikon!"



The Instagram Photo Feature is for all you photographers and photography enthusiasts on Instagram who caught our eye! Follow @spmagazineofficial on Instagram and tag us in your posts to get a chance to be featured in Smart Photography.

Sanchi is a photographer from New Delhi. She says "I have a degree in electronics and communication engineering. To channelise my creativity, I stepped into the world of photography in year 2012. I have travelled to four continents and more than 27 countries to capture life and nature in all its myriad hues and colours. I am a certified naturalist, first aider, travel expert, and have been assisting international photographers. My work has been published in various national and international media. My genres include street-life, portrait and wildlife."



Sanchi Aggarwal
@nomadic_eyes





Pranav Sp

@pranav_sp

Pranav is a travel photographer from Kerala. He says "As a photographer, I want to show the world the beauty of nature and people through my photographs. I want to show people new perspectives and ways of seeing the world. I love capturing portraits, landscapes and night photographs. I have travelled to many states in India to capture the incredible beauty of Indian landscapes. I've also explored several small villages to document portraits of people. My photographs have been featured in National Geographic India social handles and I have won several national and international photography awards for my photographs."



PHOTO OF THE WEEK **WINNERS**



1 **NOMADIC INDIAN**
Rumna Mukherjee
[@caughtinthe lens](#)



2 **THE CYCLE OF HAPPINESS**
Saurabh Sirohiya
[@saurabh_sirohiya_photography](#)



3 **CURIOS EYES**
Roshan Lal
[@macro_roshan](#)



4 **RAMP WALK**
Rumna Mukherjee
[@caughtinthe lens](#)

HOLDING THE VISION



**Tanmoy Das
Karmakar**

Tanmoy is a bird and wildlife photographer based in Kolkata. He says, "In 2014, my elder brother gifted me a Canon Powershot camera. Later on, my mother gave me a Canon 1200D. I started with street and product photography and then migrated to nature and wildlife photography. I learnt bird and wildlife photography from a reputed wildlife photographer - Sudhir Shivaram's online tutorials and that was the turning point of my journey. My accolades include first prize from Camarena Academy in 2019, Sanctuary Asia magazine, Photographer of the Month by Beyond Vision, feature in Natgeo India, feature in Daily Express newspaper (London based) and second prize from Fotorbit India and INW awards."



Blossom

I'm not into photography for gaining followers and likes. I'm into it simply because it gives me happiness. The reason I started taking photos is because of my love towards nature. I love being close to nature, observing every tiny detail about it

and capturing those moments with my camera.

The sound of the moving leaves, water drops and the flowing water gives me satisfaction. The feeling is very special. Being close to nature helps

me realise that life is going to be fine. It is like meditation. I believe that the photographer doesn't take an image, rather, the photographer makes an image. Photography is not only about taking good photos, it's about enjoying the process during the journey. | **SP**

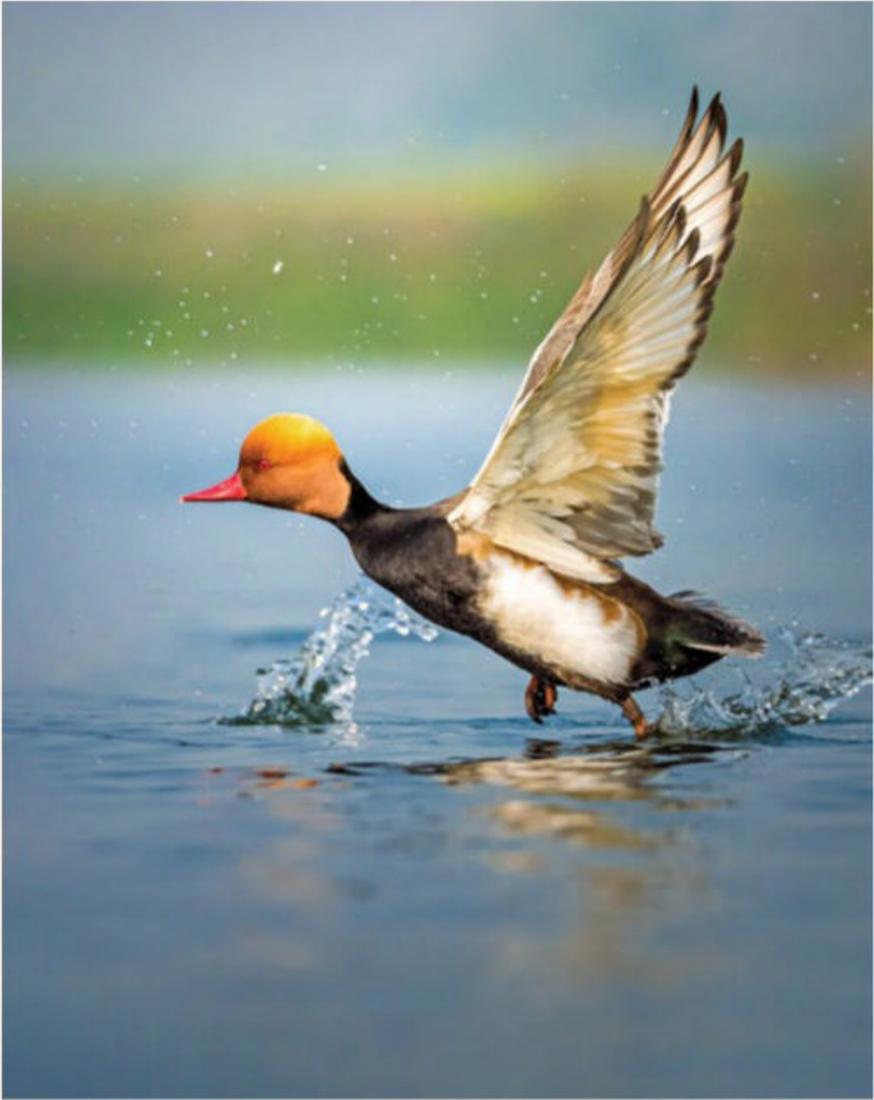
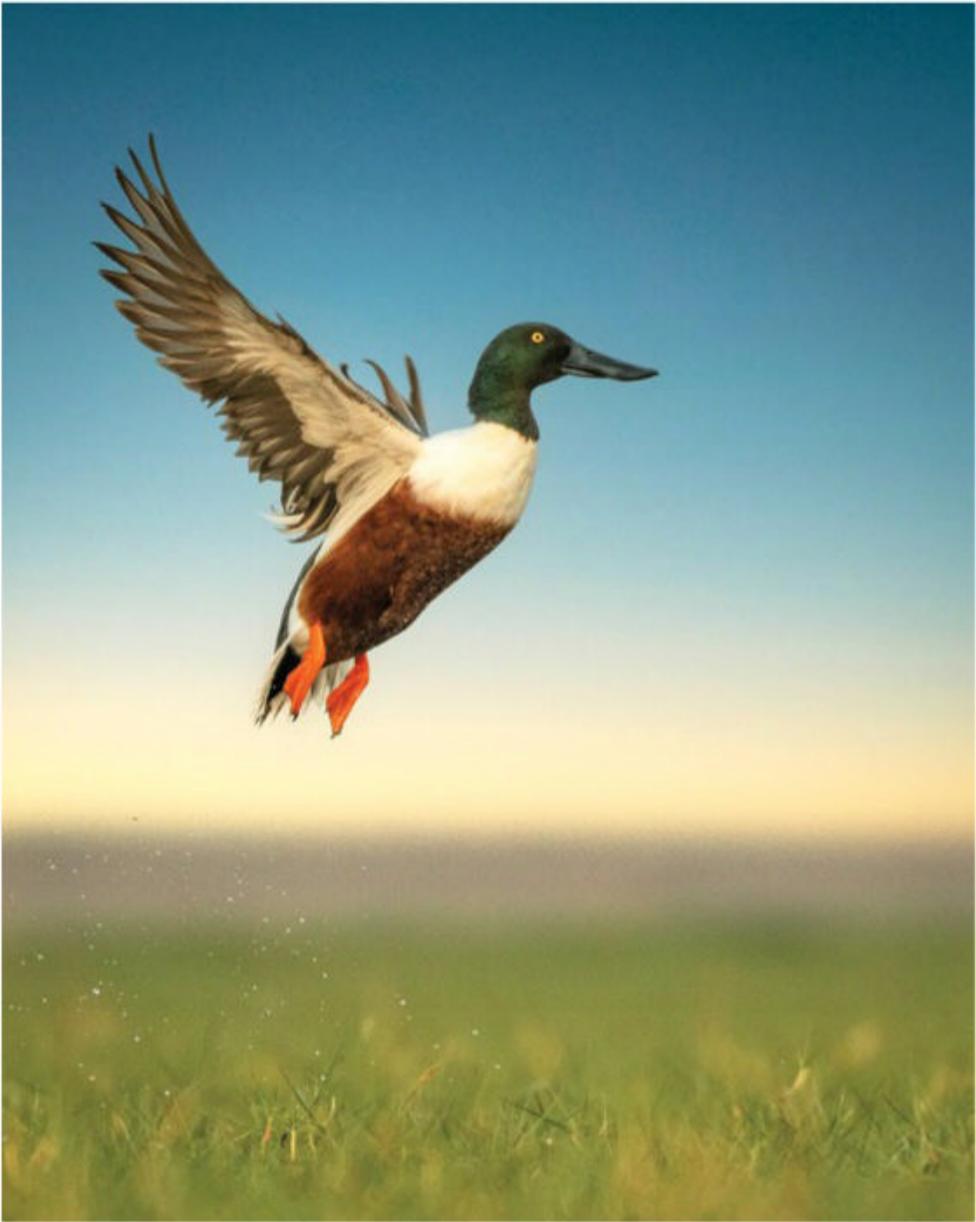








In a royal manner



Beyond imagination



The jaws of death



Conqueror kill



86%

TRUST

Advertising in traditional media continues to enjoy high trust amongst consumers, with 86%* expressing confidence in print – making it the most trusted medium.

* ASCI - ISA Report Findings





LEARNINGS

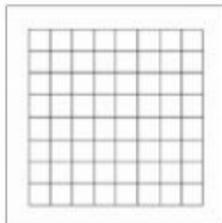
LEARNING

BE A PUPPETEER

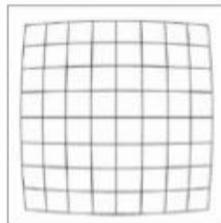
Ashok Kandimala has been in the photographic field for over three decades and has extensive experience in both film and digital photography. Being an electronics engineer by profession and a photographer, he possesses a unique and deep insight into the technical aspects of digital photography and equipment. He has published more than a 100 articles on photography and some of his writings have also been published in the well-known international magazine *Popular Photography*. An avid collector of photographic books and vintage cameras, Ashok has a keen interest in the history of photography and a passion for sharing his knowledge on photography through teaching and writing. He is the only Indian photographer to be featured on the Nikon Centenary website. He is presently working as a Management and Engineering consultant. He can be reached at kashokk@gmail.com.



Ashok Kandimala



Picture 1: Reproduction of a hypothetical distortion-less lens



Picture 2: Barrel distortion.

even without any user intervention. If you are using a lens whose profile is not available, then you can also manually correct the distortion with various tools. One such tool is the **Adaptive Wide Angle** filter in Photoshop.

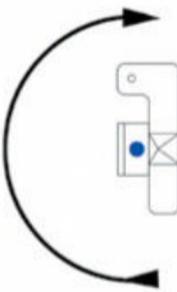
In this article, we will concentrate more on the distortion that arises when you create a panorama from multiple images. Let us look at this in more detail, starting

with a brief description of the steps needed to create a panorama.

1. Keep the camera in manual focus, manual exposure and fixed white balance. Do not change the focal length.
2. Keep the camera on the tripod, preferably in portrait mode. You can also shoot handheld.
3. Keep the camera level.

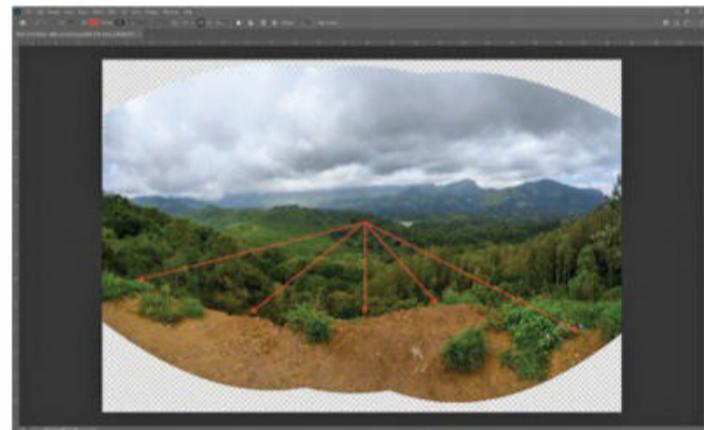
A rather unusual title, but rest assured that we have no intention of making you one. Rather, we want to show you how to solve a common photographic problem using a Photoshop tool. Let us see what the issue is and how Photoshop can be used to eliminate it.

Ideally, when you photograph a straight line, it should again be reproduced in your captured image as a straight line. If there is any curvature that was originally not there in the subject, then we say that the image exhibits distortion. There are a few types of this phenomenon, but here, we are concerned about barrel distortion in which the straight lines bulge outwards like a barrel (Pictures 1 and 2). This occurs in almost all wide-angle lenses, but of late, you are seeing less of it due to advances in software technology. Every modern lens supplies its characteristics through what is called a 'lens profile' and most software (including Lightroom and Photoshop) can read this profile and apply the needed correction in post-processing



Picture 3: Rotating about the entrance pupil (blue dot). This is a schematic and the exact position of the entrance pupil will vary depending on the lens you are using.

Note Point 4. For a proper parallax free panorama, you first need to locate the entrance pupil, which is the projection center of the lens for perspective imaging. Thereafter, you need to rotate the camera around the entrance pupil (Picture 3) when taking each picture. This operation needs a dedicated panorama head. In case you do not have this (most of us do not) or you are capturing handheld, you will most probably get a parallax error. This will be more severe if you have close foreground objects. When such images are stitched with panorama software, distortion will be introduced. This causes straight lines to look curved or crooked (Picture 4), making the whole panorama look very unnatural.



Picture 4: This is a panorama image created handheld. Consequently, the sides do not form a proper rectangle. This can be rectified simply by cropping. More troublesome is the curved edge of the land as shown by the arrow marks. Our aim is to rectify this.

4. Switch off IS/VR (whenever you mount the camera on a tripod).
5. Mount the camera such that it rotates around the entrance pupil for parallax-free images.
6. Set camera to single frame advance.
7. Do not alter the position of the camera by shifting your tripod or yourself.
8. Start from one side and take as many images as needed to complete the panorama.
9. **Very Important:** Ensure that there is at least a **35% overlap (50% preferable)** between successive images to help software while stitching them.
10. Compose loosely as the images will be repositioned (shifted and rotated) while merging.
11. Transfer the images captured to your computer and process using suitable stitching software (like Lightroom or Photoshop) to create the panorama.

This distortion is not due to the lens defects but comes about, as explained, due to the stitching of images that are not aligned properly, as it happens when you do not rotate the camera about the entrance pupil. Hence, this cannot be corrected by the lens profile in software.

There are several tools available to remove distortion. One such tool is the aforementioned **Adaptive Wide Angle**. This can also be used to correct panoramas but has some limitations. However, another Photoshop tool called **Puppet Warp** can do the job better. Though the name sounds comical, it can be used for serious work and has advanced technology behind it. A point to note. You will need the GPU (Graphics Processing Unit) hardware on your computer. If you are not able to choose the Puppet Warp tool as it is greyed out in the menu, then it means that your computer doesn't have the necessary hardware to execute it. Unfortunately,

there is no way out other than updating your hardware. For the rest of the article, we will see how this tool can be applied effectively.

Let us start with an image with a large amount of panorama distortion (Picture 4). The edge of the land at the bottom of the photo should be a straight line, but is not so, as shown by the arrows. Follow this procedure to do the needed correction.

Open the **Layers** palette and duplicate the background layer and name it '**for correction**' (Picture 5). This is a step that you must execute for safety. Next, convert this layer into a Smart Object by right-clicking on the layer and choosing

Convert to Smart Object

This will increase the file size but you will be able to do the correction non-destructively. This means that you

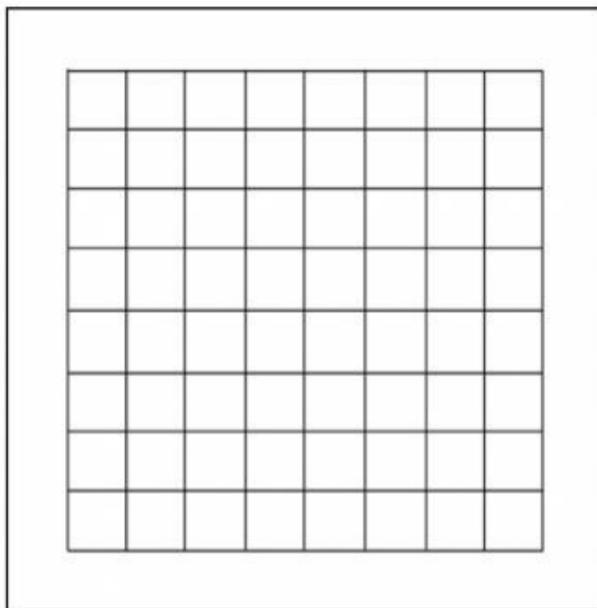
BE A PUPPETEER

Ashok Kandimalla has been in the photographic field for over three decades and has extensive experience in both film and digital photography. Being an electronics engineer by profession and a photographer, he

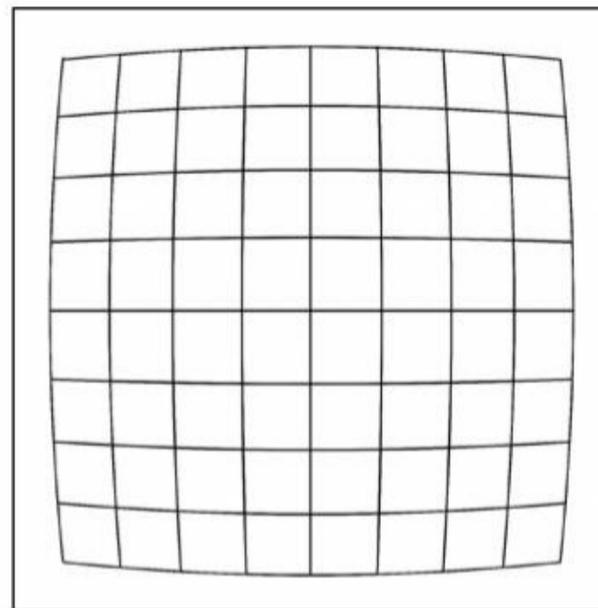


**Ashok
Kandimalla**

possesses a unique and deep insight into the technical aspects of digital photography and equipment. He has published more than a 100 articles on photography and some of his writings have also been published in the well-known international magazine *Popular Photography*. An avid collector of photographic books and vintage cameras, Ashok has a keen interest in the history of photography and a passion for sharing his knowledge on photography through teaching and writing. He is the only Indian photographer to be featured on the Nikon Centenary website. He is presently working as a Management and Engineering consultant. He can be reached at kashokk@gmail.com.



Picture 1: Reproduction of a hypothetical distortion-less lens



Picture 2: Barrel distortion.

even without any user intervention. If you are using a lens whose profile is not available, then you can also manually correct the distortion with various tools. One such tool is the **Adaptive Wide Angle** filter in Photoshop.

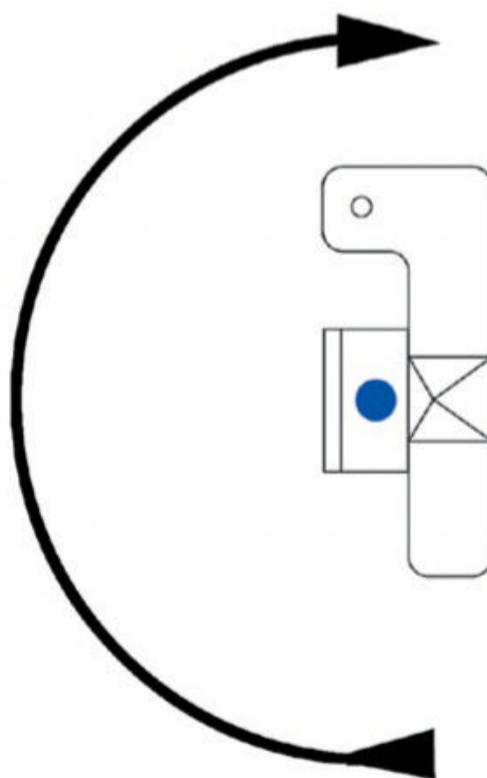
In this article, we will concentrate more on the distortion that arises when you create a panorama from multiple images. Let us look at this in more detail, starting

with a brief description of the steps needed to create a panorama.

1. Keep the camera in manual focus, manual exposure and fixed white balance. Do not change the focal length.
2. Keep the camera on the tripod, preferably in portrait mode. You can also shoot handheld.
3. Keep the camera level.

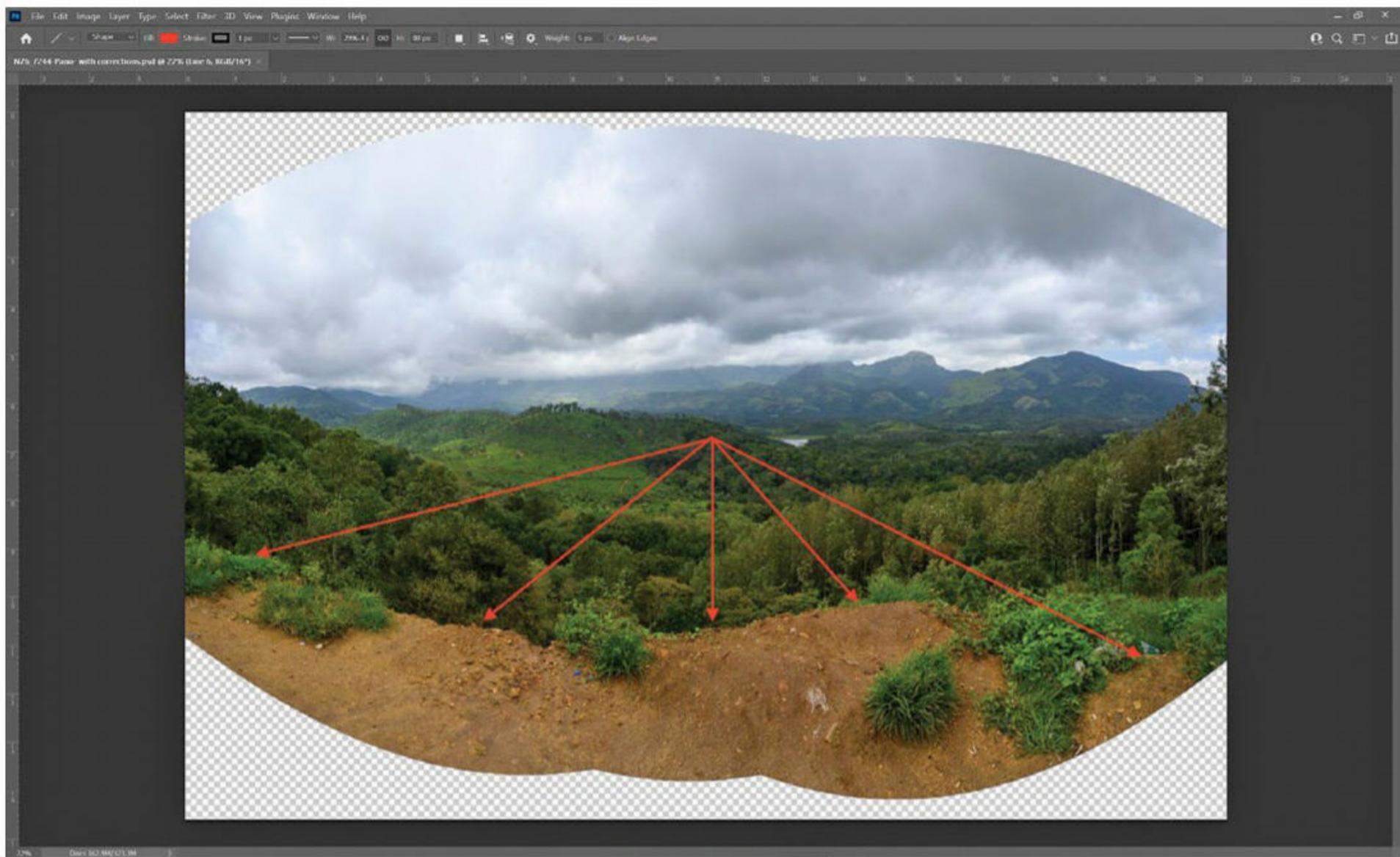
A rather unusual title, but rest assured that we have no intention of making you one. Rather, we want to show you how to solve a common photographic problem using a Photoshop tool. Let us see what the issue is and how Photoshop can be used to eliminate it.

Ideally, when you photograph a straight line, it should again be reproduced in your captured image as a straight line. If there is any curvature that was originally not there in the subject, then we say that the image exhibits distortion. There are a few types of this phenomenon, but here, we are concerned about barrel distortion in which the straight lines bulge outwards like a barrel (Pictures 1 and 2). This occurs in almost all wide-angle lenses, but of late, you are seeing less of it due to advances in software technology. Every modern lens supplies its characteristics through what is called a 'lens profile' and most software (including Lightroom and Photoshop) can read this profile and apply the needed correction in post-processing



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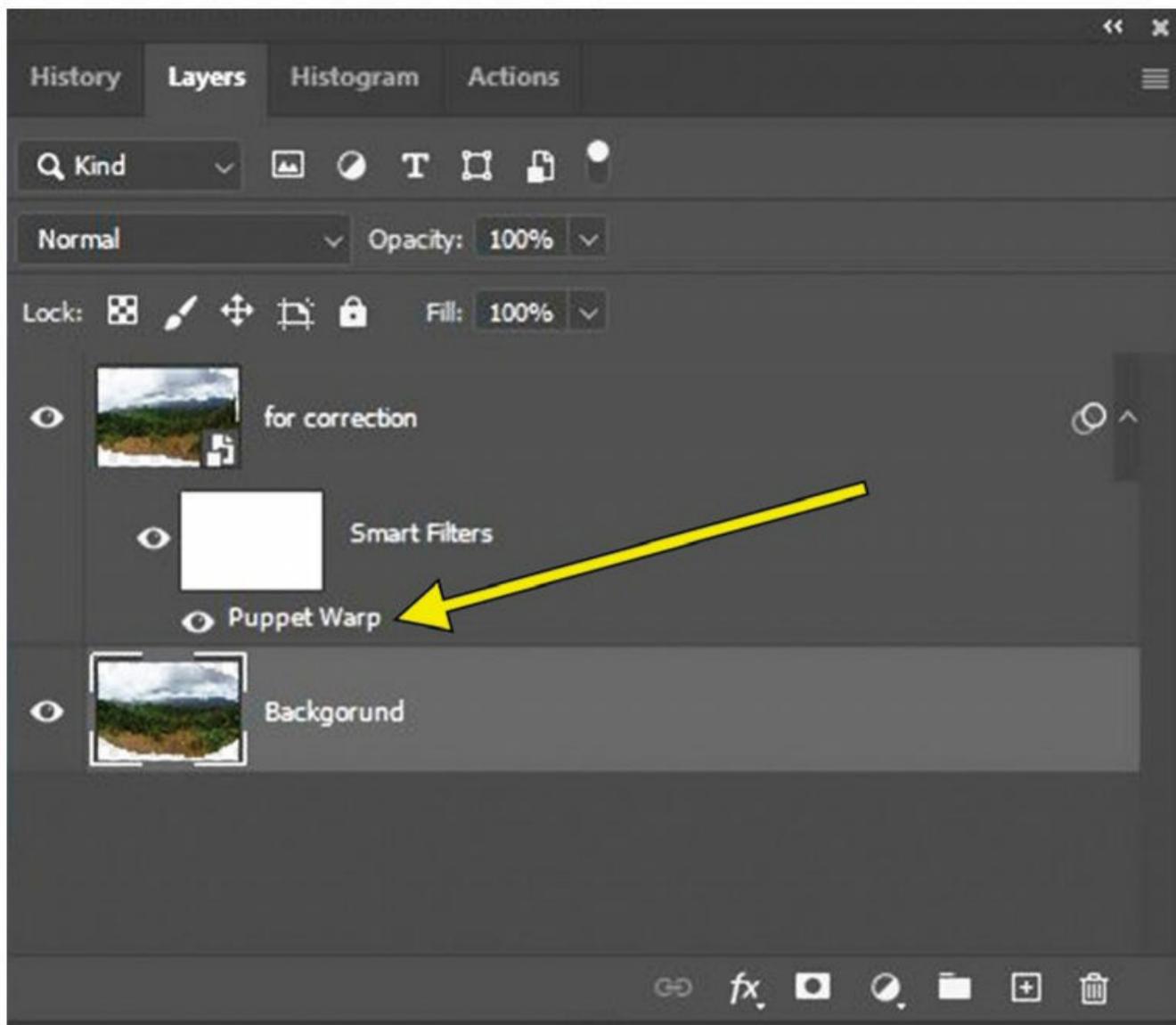
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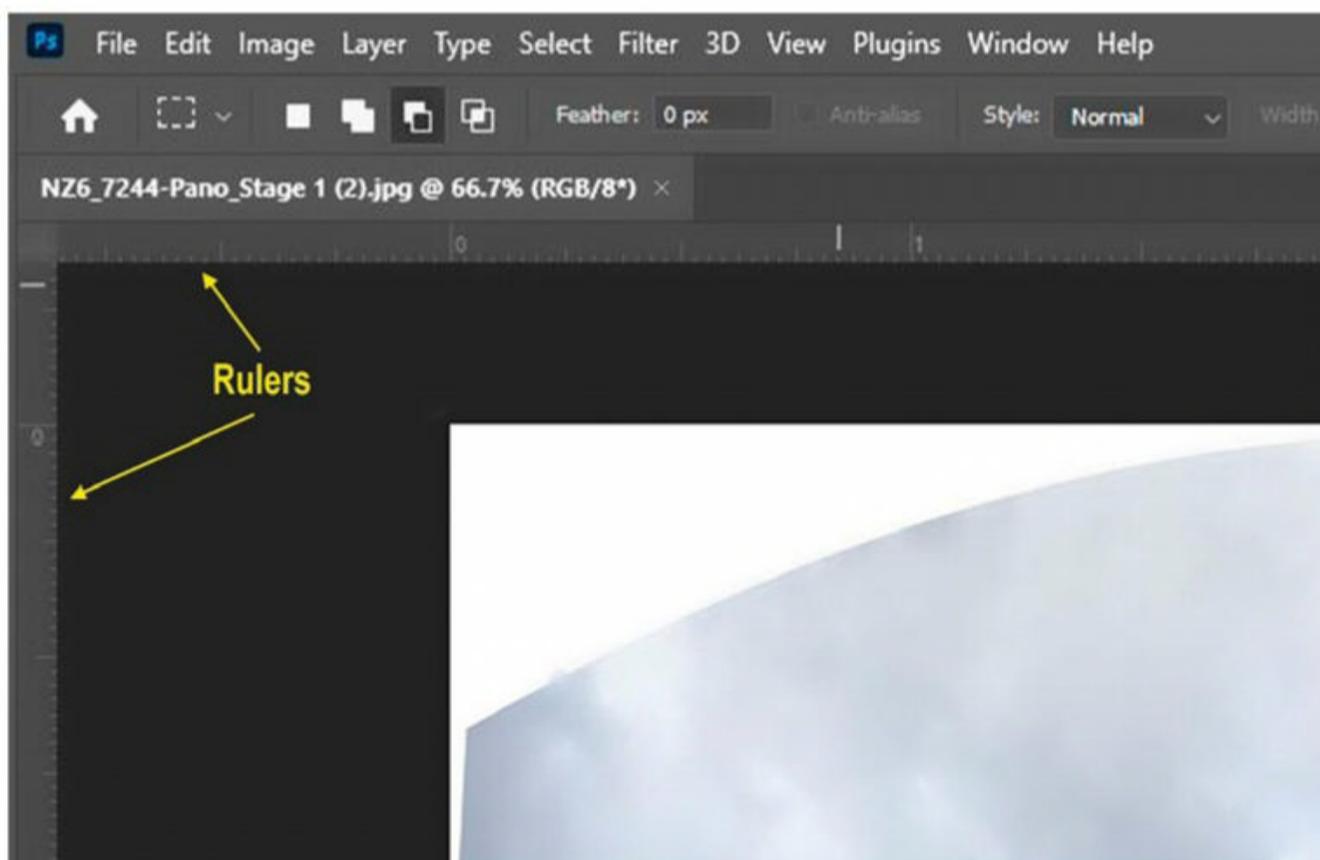
Open the **Layers** palette and duplicate the background layer and name it '**for correction**' (Picture 5). This is a step that you must execute for safety. Next, convert this layer into a Smart Object by right-clicking on the layer and choosing-

Convert to Smart Object

This will increase the file size but you will be able to do the correction non-destructively. This means that you



Picture 5: The Layer palette showing the smart object.



Picture 6: Rulers.

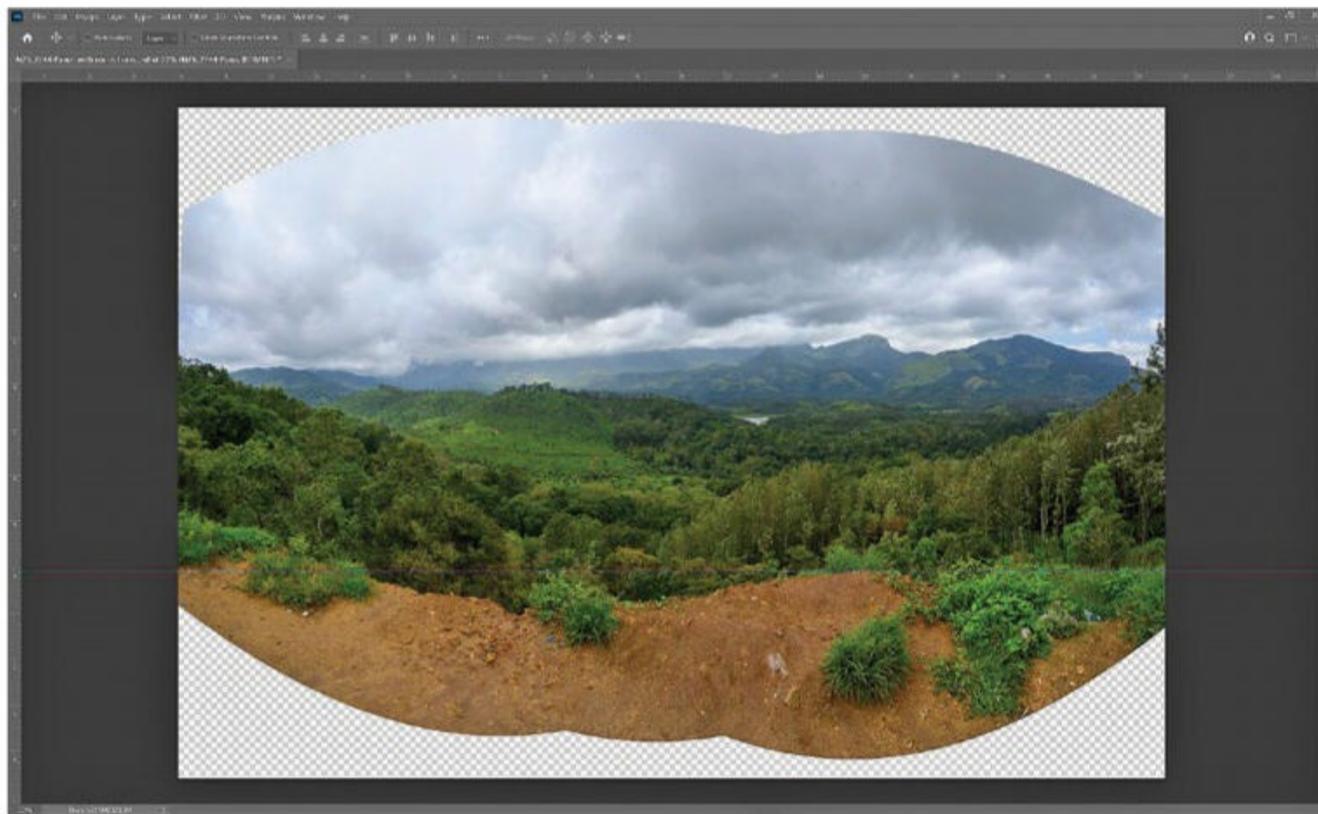
can revert and redo the distortion correction at any time, even after you save your work and exit Photoshop.

To correct the distortion, we need a reference. We can create one by using an imaginary line. Photoshop allows you to draw such a line called a **Guide**. This is only a visual aid and

you can see that it is not a part of the image. You need to first see the rulers on the Photoshop screen (Picture 6) to draw guides. In case you do not, go to the main menu of Photoshop and select -

View > Rulers or Press **Control+R** keys. This will display the rulers.

Click on the top of the top ruler and drag the mouse down to create a guide. While dragging down, you can position the guide where you want. In case you want to alter its position later, you can do so by selecting the **Move** tool from the Toolbar, hovering over the guide, clicking on it and then dragging it.



Picture 7: Photoshop screenshot showing the guide (the thin line across). You can see that this has been drawn in such a way that the contour we need to correct is above and below as explained.

In our case here, we will position the guide approximately midway through the distorted contour so that some part of it is above and some below the guide. Thus, we can minimise the amount of correction we need to do (Picture 7) to eliminate the distortion.

We are now ready to apply our magic with the Puppet Warp tool. To invoke this, go to the main menu of Photoshop and select -

Edit > Puppet Warp

The line below the main menu of Photoshop will now show Puppet Warp's context-sensitive options. Choose as follows -

Mode: This decides the elasticity or how easily you can change an image. There are three settings, viz., Rigid, Normal and Distort, with the first being most inflexible and the last being the most flexible. The last setting is the best for warping panorama images.

Density: There are three settings. The 'More Points' setting gives you more precision but will need more processing time. Use the setting **More Points**.

Show Mesh: Switch this off as it can be confusing in our application.

Leave the rest at their default values. As with most Photoshop operations, pressing **Control+Z** keys will undo the

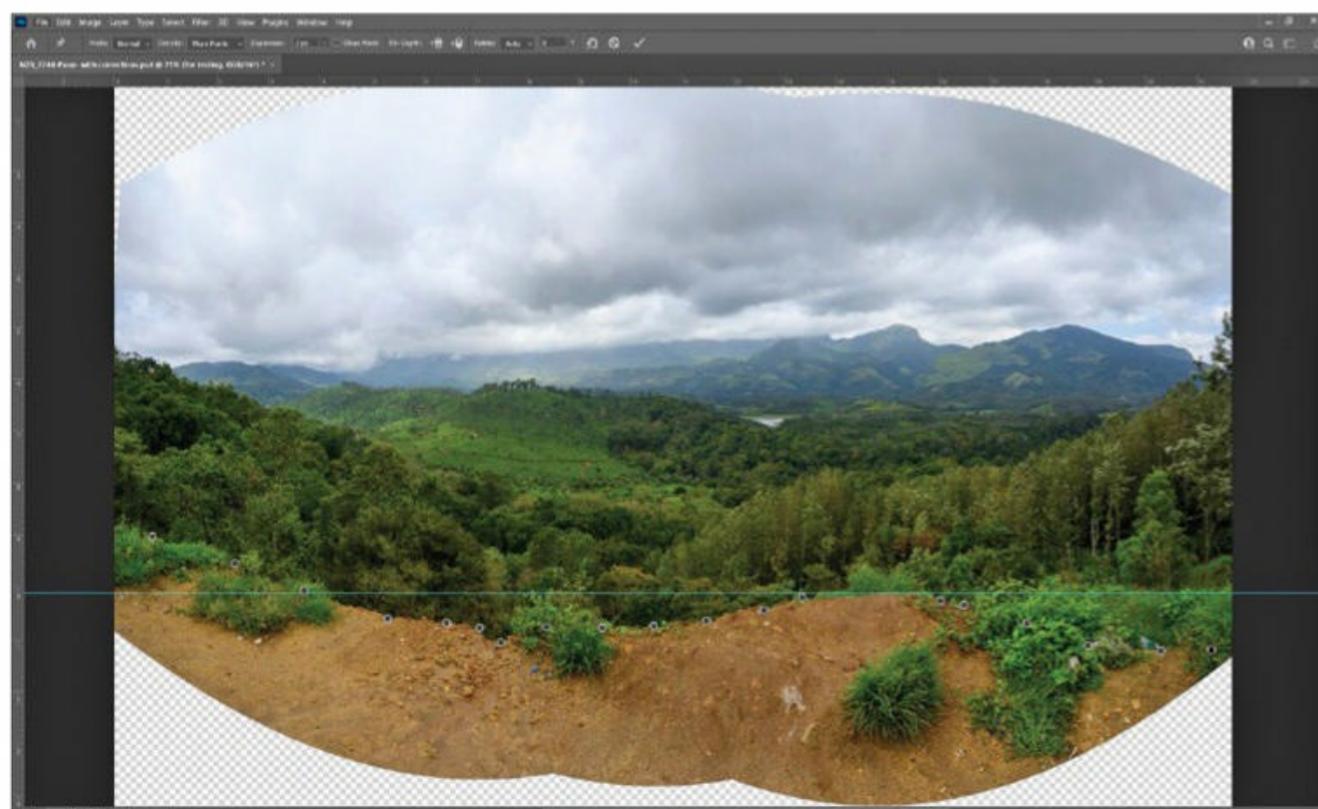
last operation and the **ESC** key will abort the operation.

Notice that, the cursor has now changed and looks like a pushpin (Picture 8).

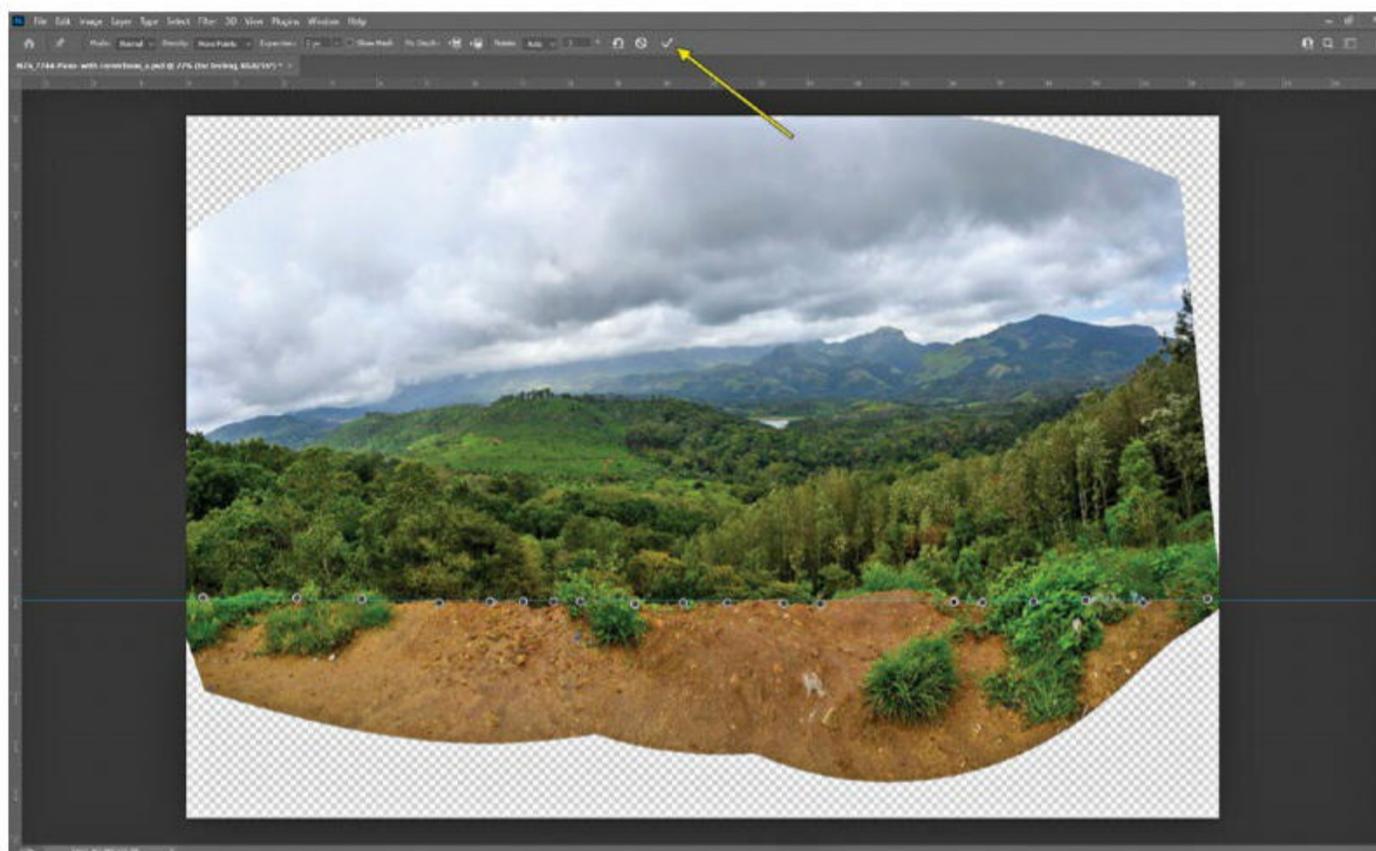
The next step is the most important one.

We need to move the 'push pin' (with your mouse) and click on the contour that we need to correct. Each click will create an adjustment pin and is shown as a black circle. Place these pins from left to right (Picture 9).

Picture 8: Pushpin.



Picture 9: Photoshop screenshot showing the adjustment pins placed along the contour that needs to be corrected.

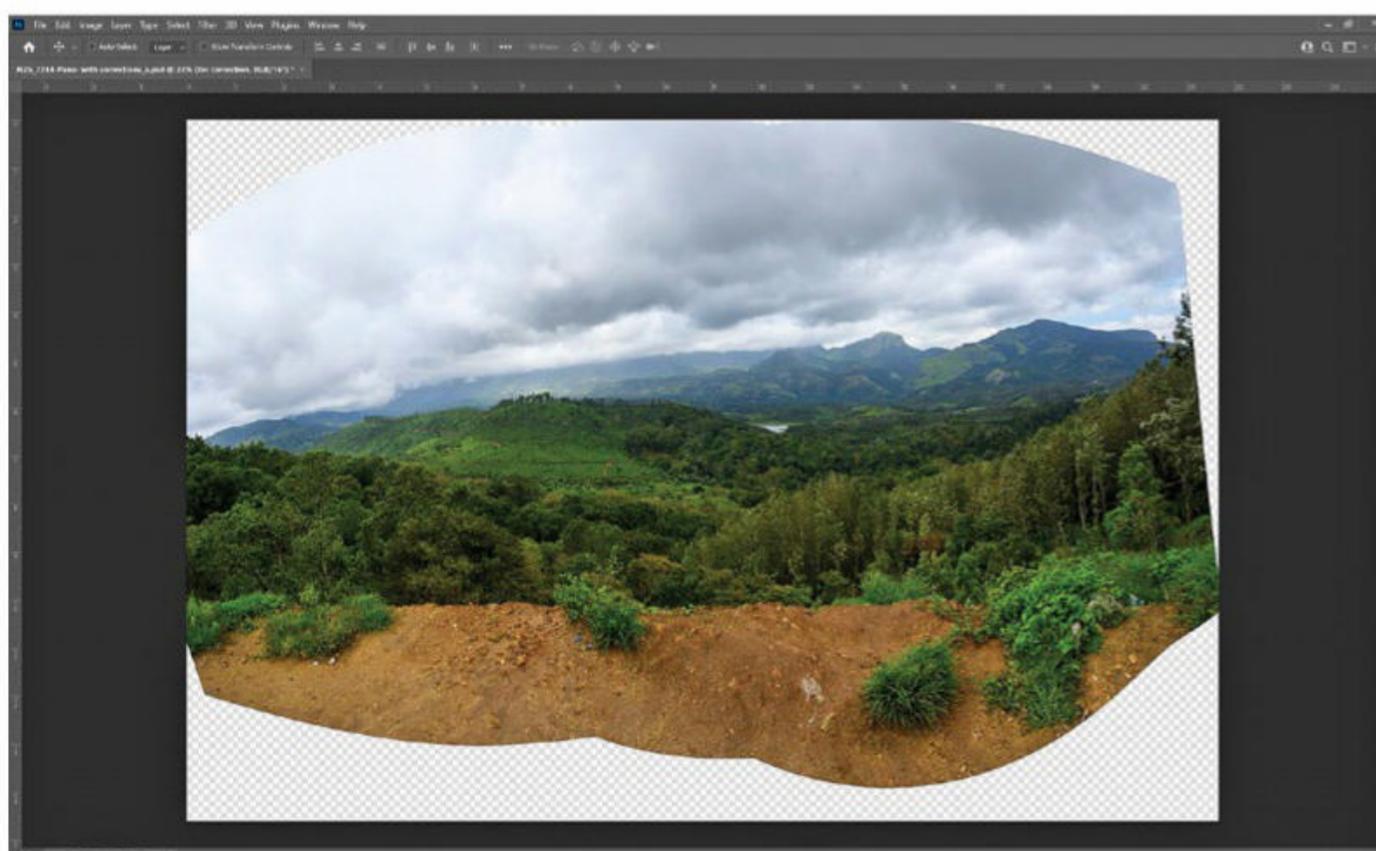


Picture 10: Photoshop screenshot showing the adjustment pins after dragging them to line up with the guide. After aligning, click on the tick mark (shown by the arrow) to complete the execution.

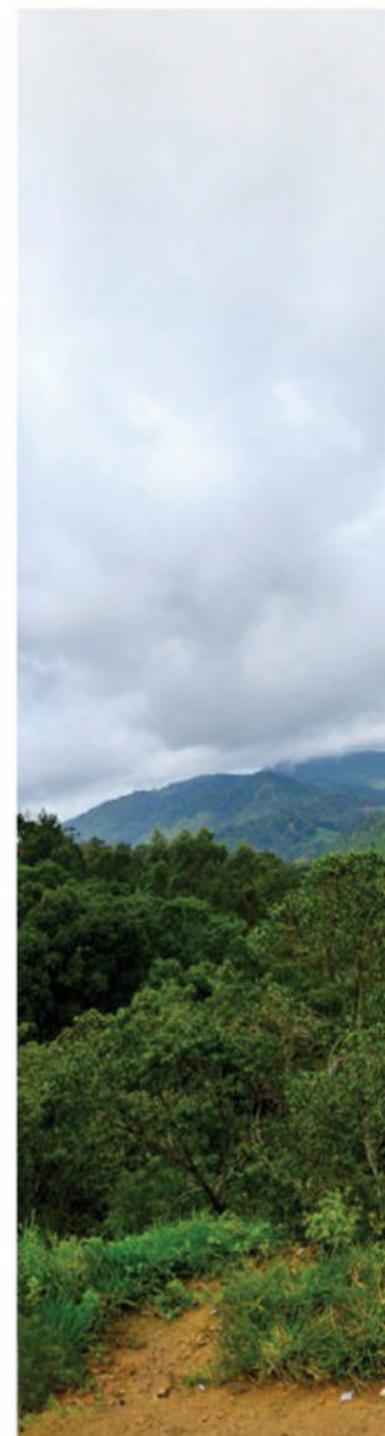
We can now do the corrections. Start with the left-most pin. Click on it and drag it so that the pin is exactly on the guide. As you drag, the contour and pixels around it will be warped and will be taken close or made to coincide with the guide (Picture 10). Repeat this for all pins one by one. If you have inserted a pin wrongly, click on it to select it and press the **Delete** key to remove it. After you are done with moving all the pins, click

on the tick mark (arrow, Picture 10).

Note that, we need not be very exact in this case as it is a landscape and the aim is to correct the distortion, but not the imperfections that might be naturally present. You can remove the guide by selecting the Move tool from the Toolbar, clicking on the guide, and dragging it back onto the rulers (Picture 11).



Picture 11: After corrections and removing the guide.



Picture 12: The final panorama. Compare this with Picture 4.



Important: Place all the pins in their correct positions first, before you do any adjustments. This is essential because, while a pin allows you to adjust the images, the other pins around it will not allow the adjustment to ripple across. Thus, the effect of each pin will be confined to the area around it. Otherwise, the whole picture will get altered when you adjust any pin.

The final picture will not be a proper rectangle (Picture 11). You can rectify this first by cropping so that the image is a proper

rectangle. You may still have areas that are blank as shown by the chequered board pattern. You can use a content-aware tool like **Content Aware Fill** to fill them. The final panorama after doing so is shown in Picture 12.

What if you want to change or refine the contour? Recall that we made a smart object of the duplicated layer. Open the Layer palette and double click on the Puppet Warp (see arrow Picture 5) and you will go back to the tool. The pins will be there at those positions where you had

left them when you last edited. Readjust them or delete or add new pins and repeat the process. | **SP**

CONCLUSION

As described in this article, the Puppet Warp is a highly sophisticated and versatile tool that is simple to use. While the article describes how distortion introduced in panorama creation can be eliminated, the tool can also be used to remove many types of distortion in any image.

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REVIEWS

FINAL RATING

The final ratings given in the reviews are not an indication of the performance or features of the reviewed device in isolation. It is a combination of all parameters including the price of the product.



94

Smartphone Review
OnePlus 9RT



96

Monitor Review
Viewsonic VP2785-4K



Inside the Box

- ✓ OnePlus 9RT 5G
- ✓ Warp Charge 65 Power Adapter
- ✓ Warp Charge Type-A to Type-C Cable
- ✓ Transparent phone case
- ✓ Screen protector
- ✓ SIM tray ejector



OS division with Oppo's ColorOS, you can see much similarity in the interface and camera features.

OnePlus always boasted the best displays in Android phones, and the 9RT is not different. It uses a 6.62-inch Samsung E4 AMOLED FHD+ (1080 x 2400) flat display, which provides up to 120Hz refresh rate and 300 Hz touch response rate. During gaming, the device uses Hyper Touch 2.0 technology to increase the response rate to 600 Hz. The display is capable of reproducing 100% DCI-P3 colour gamut. OnePlus claims that the display emits 15 percent less blue light and consumes 15 percent less power than the previous generation.

The phone uses the latest vapour chamber cooling technology of OnePlus to prevent the device from unnecessarily heating up. Like the Oppo Reno 7 Pro, this device also uses a dual cell design for battery, using two 2,250 mAh batteries. This helps in incredibly fast charging without generating too much of heat because both the cells charge simultaneously. Warp Charge 65T ensures that the battery tops up in under 30 minutes. With up to 33W PPS charging protocol, it facilitates fast charging even with third party charging cables.

The OnePlus 9RT houses a triple camera system with the main camera featuring a Sony IMX766 sensor. This 1/1.56-inch sensor is said to be one of the largest sensors ever used in a smartphone camera and hence believed to capture more light and greatly improve low-light photography capabilities. The sensor includes optical image stabilisation and Sony's DOL-HDR. The 50 MP main camera is supplemented by a 16 MP ultra-wide camera and a 2 MP Macro camera. The primary camera supports 108 MP high-res capture with pixel shift technology. The cameras offer all-pixel phase detection AF and contrast AF. 4K videos can be recorded at 30 or 60 fps, while Super Slow Motion and Time Lapse videos can be captured in Full HD. The front camera is a 16 MP module.

The device features a Tri-eSport Wi-Fi antenna to maximise reception and improve speed and network stability. The

OnePlus 9RT ₹42,999

More Options

by **Sujith Gopinath**

OnePlus has launched the fourth device in the OnePlus 9 series, and this launch comes when we have been keenly waiting for the OnePlus 10. The OnePlus 9RT features a few improvements over the OnePlus 9R including a new SoC.

Design & Build Quality

The OnePlus 9RT is available in Nano Silver and Hacker Black colours. While the Nano Silver has a metallic gradient, the Hacker Black uses a matte frosted glass to provide a glimmering texture. The back surfaces are resistant to sweat

and fingerprint. Other design elements are similar to all OnePlus devices. The camera array has a vertical layout. The screen is protected by a Corning Gorilla Glass panel. The phone does not include a dedicated audio jack.

Key Features

The OnePlus 9RT is powered by a 5nm Snapdragon 888 flagship processor, and this is the main difference from the OnePlus 9R, which uses a 7nm Snapdragon 870 SoC. The storage and RAM options remain the same—8GB/128GB and 12GB/256GB. The device works on OxygenOS 11, based in Android 11. Since OnePlus has merged its



Camera: OnePlus 9RT
 Aperture: f/1.8
 Shutter Speed: 1/100 sec
 Focal Length: 5.6 mm
 ISO: 199

FINAL SCORE



Sujith Gopinath

phone accepts dual nano-SIM, but there is no memory card slot.

Ergonomics

The OnePlus 9RT offers a nice grip and the matte finish makes it truly fingerprint-resistant. Both fingerprint and face unlock worked flawlessly. As mentioned earlier, the similarities between OxygenOS and ColorOS are much more pronounced now, and the UI is quite responsive. But this UI comes with far less unnecessary apps than the ColorOS, and that is quite a relief.

Performance

OnePlus devices have always offered best-in class performance, but the competition also caught up well in the last few years. This device also provides great experience with gaming, multimedia and most of the camera features. The cameras proved quite good, reproducing images that were sharp and punchy. Colour reproduction was also close to the original, under proper lighting. In low light, switching to Night mode rendered the images with better colours and reduced noise, delivering a 'clean' output. The High-res mode provided images with excellent details, fit to be used even for some professional work like street photography and product shots. Portrait mode appeared somewhat tame, leaving us wanting a shallower depth-of-field and better bokeh. The macro camera is just another addition rather than a decisive feature.

With a flagship processor and ample RAM, the device was a pleasure to use while gaming, and we did not notice any overheating or lag. Multimedia playback was also good with decent sound quality.

Value for Money

The OnePlus 9RT retails at an MRP of Rs. 42,999. This is very close to the OnePlus 9R, though this has a better processor and is probably the most affordable smartphone with a Snapdragon 888 processor. |SP

KEY SPECIFICATIONS

Operating System: OxygenOS based on Android 11
CPU: Qualcomm Snapdragon 888
GPU: Adreno 660
RAM: 8GB/12GB LPDDR5
Storage: 128GB/256GB UFS 3.1 2-LANE
Display: 6.6-inch FHD+ (1080 x 2400), 397 ppi AMOLED
Max. refresh rate: 120 Hz
Colour Support: sRGB, Display P3
Cover Glass: Corning Gorilla Glass
Main camera: 50 MP, OIS, EIS, f/1.8
Ultra-Wide camera: 16 MP, f/2.2
Macro camera: 2 MP
Autofocus: Multi Autofocus
Best video: 4K video at 30/60 fps
Super Slow Motion: 1080p video at 240 fps, 720p video at 480 fps
Time-Lapse: 1080p at 30fps
Front camera: 16 MP, Sony IMX471, EIS, f/2.4
Best video: 1080p video at 30 fps
Battery: 4,500 mAh (Dual-cell 2,250 mAh)
Dimensions: 162.2 x 74.6 x 8.29 mm
Weight: 198.5 g

Design and Build Quality



Key Features



Ergonomics



Performance



Value for Money



Grand Total



Plus

- Fast charging
- Good design
- Snapdragon 888 processor
- Capable cameras

Minus

- No declared IP rating
- No clear advantage over existing variants

VERDICT

We are not quite sure why OnePlus has this confusing line-up of the 9-series in place, all with the same features, give or take a couple of modules. In this device, the main differentiator is the combination of Snapdragon 888 processor and Macro camera.



Viewsonic VP2785-4K ₹1,14,300

Colour Wizard

■ **Sujith Gopinath**

Inside the Box

- ✓ Monitor
- ✓ AC/DC Adapter
- ✓ Power Cable (cable length :1.8M)
- ✓ Mini DP to DisplayPort Cable (cable length :1.8M)
- ✓ USB3.1 Gen 1 Type-C Cable(cable length :1.8M)
- ✓ USB3.0 Up Stream Cable(cable length :1.8M)
- ✓ Quick Start Guide

Viewsonic is one of the most popular specialist display manufacturers, and of late, they have been focussing on commercial and educational monitors in addition to

general and professional models. Their VP series of monitors are professional displays falling in Viewsonic's ColorPro line-up meant for colour-critical applications like photo, video editing and graphic design. The VP2785-4K is the 4K version of the earlier 2K monitor of the same designation.

Design & Build Quality

The VP2785-4K is sleek and lightweight by the standards of some 4K photography and design monitors. The device is lightweight, but unlike most other similar monitors, this one needs a screwdriver to mount it on the stand with four screws holding it. It is VESA 100 x 100 compatible for wall mounting. The stand has a simple design with a slot (a vertical slit, rather) for cable management. Viewsonic does not provide a shading hood, and the monitor does not have slots to install a hood. The anti-glare backlit display does not

require one, but it would have helped in managing ambient lighting better.

Key Features

The 27-inch VP2785 offers 4K UHD (3840 x 2160) resolution at a pixel density of 163 pixels per inch. The IPS TFT Active Matrix LCD offers a peak brightness of 350 cd/m² and contrast ratio of 1000:1. It supports a wide viewing angle of 178 degrees both ways, a standard refresh rate of 60 Hz and response time of 14 ms. The panel is stated to reproduce 100 percent Adobe RGB and 96 percent DCI-P3 gamut, making it ideal for professional photographers and graphic designers.

The monitor houses an extensive OSD menu that provides all preset modes a user is likely to need, from text and movies, to photography and animation. Apart from this, all the standard colour gamuts are pre-set. If you need further control over each of these, you can tweak various parameters like colour temperature, brightness and contrast, gamma, gain, hue/saturation, colour axes etc. These are helpful in profiling the monitor for professional purposes. You also get three custom calibration settings. The monitor supports

hardware calibration and is factory calibrated to deliver a colour accuracy of $\Delta E < 2$ while a 14-bit 3D LUT ensures a colour range of 4.39 trillion colours. Viewsonic provides an optional Colorbration+ software that allows you to calibrate the monitor easily for photography, graphic design, content creation, and other colour-critical applications. The software can be downloaded from the Viewsonic website and it supports popular colorimeters and spectrometers including X-Rite i1 Display Pro, i1 Studio, i1 Pro 2, Datacolor Spyder X Series and Spyder 5.

The monitor offers a full range of I/O ports including one DisplayPort 1.4 (HDR ready), one Mini DP 1.4 (HDR ready), two HDMI 2.0, one 3.5 mm audio mini jack, one USB 3.1 Gen 1 Type-C, one Type-B and three USB 3.1 Gen 1 Type-A port.

The monitor also features advanced features like ambient light sensor and presence sensor in addition to picture-by-picture (PBP), eye-care and auto pivot features. A uniformity correction feature balances luminance performance from edge to edge. The VP2785 measures 612.4 x 545.51 x 214.96 mm with stand and weighs 6.4 kg with stand.

Ergonomics

The VP2785 is quite easy to manage with smooth tilt, swivel, pivot and height adjustment functions. The shortcut buttons are easily accessible and the menu is less confusing than many we have seen. The monitor allows tilt of -5.0° in the forward direction and 21.0° in the backward direction. It can swivel 60° on both sides and pivoted up to 90 degrees both ways and the height can be adjusted up to 130 mm.

Performance

The Viewsonic ColorPro VP2785 is an excellent monitor for professional creative work like photo editing and graphic design. As mentioned before, the monitor offers an extended set of preset modes and colour space to suit everyone. We tested the gamut coverage using DisplayCal, and the results confirmed the claimed values. The monitor achieved 99.3 percent sRGB, 97.9 percent Adobe RGB and 85.7 percent DCI-P3 gamut

coverage (2D space), but exceeded 100 percent in gamut volume (considering luminance levels also), returning values 160.4 percent, 110.5 percent and 113.6 percent respectively, with ΔE averaging 0.44 (RMS). Overall, the device produced excellent colour consistency and we did not notice any drop in brightness from corner to corner.

The monitor does not have built-in speakers and refresh rate is limited to 60 Hz, and hence we would not recommend it for video editing unless you want to pair it with a set of good external speakers.

Value for Money

The VP2785-4K retails at an MRP of Rs. 1,14,300. At this price, this monitor is great value for money. Please note that the operating price is around Rs. 63,000, which makes it one of the best value-for-money devices in this segment. |SP

KEY SPECIFICATIONS

Monitor size: 27 inches
Panel technology: IPS Type, a-si TFT Active Matrix LCD
Resolution: UHD (3840 x 2160)
Display area: 596.74 x 335.66 mm
Brightness: 350 cd/m ² (Typ)
Contrast ratio: 1000:1 (Typ)
Viewing angle: 178 degrees / 178 degrees (Typ)
Refresh rate: 60 Hz
Response time GTG(AVG): 14 ms (Typ)
Backlight: WLED light bar
Colour gamut: 100% Adobe RGB, 97.08% NTSC, 100% sRGB, 100% REC709, 95.1% DCI-P3
Panel surface: Anti-glare type, Hard-coating (3H)
Connectors: DisplayPort 1.4 HDR ready x 1, Mini DP 1.4 HDR ready x 1, HDMI 2.0 x 2, 3.5 mm Mini Phone Jack Audio out x 1, USB3.1 Gen 1 Type-C x1 and Type-B x1, USB3.1 Gen 1 Type-A x 3
Power: 7.4 x 5.1 x 10 DC connector
Max. power consumption: 67W
Tilt: $-5.0^\circ \pm 2.0^\circ$ (forward), $21.0^\circ \pm 2.0^\circ$ (backward)
Swivel: Right: $60^\circ \pm 4^\circ$; Left: $60^\circ \pm 4^\circ$
Pivot: 0~90 degree (Clockwise and Counter Clockwise)
Height Adjustment: 0~130 mm \pm 5.0 mm
Special features: Eye-care, Auto pivot, HDR10 support
Wall mount: VESA: 100 mm x 100 mm
Dimensions (W x H x D): 612.4 x 545.51 x 214.96 mm (with stand)
Weight: 6.4 kg (Net with stand)

FINAL SCORE



Design and Build Quality



Key Features



Ergonomics



Performance



Value for Money



Grand Total



Plus

- Helpful presets for everyone
- Excellent colour reproduction
- Full suite of input/output options

Minus

- No tool-free set-up
- No built-in speakers
- No quick-access USB port (side or back)

VERDICT

The ColorPro VP2785-4K is a much capable monitor for photography and designing, delivering a high level of colour and luminance consistency. The device features extensive presets that make it easy even for an amateur to set up and get going immediately.

DID YOU KNOW?

■ H. S. Billimoria

Nikon finally seems to have hit the jackpot with the Z 9. Apart from rave reviews, Nikon is now flooded with orders. A two to three month delivery period is being quoted.

Panasonic has announced a new lens moulding technology that will halve the lens making costs. The new lenses will be made of chalcogenide glass which, according to Panasonic, has excellent far-infrared sensing characteristics.

With Canon announcing the stoppage of production of D-SLRs, expect some aggressive launches of mirrorless cameras at the lower and middle end of the market from Canon in 2022.

Hasselblad is now owned by DJI, the famous Chinese drone maker. Naturally, cameras for DJI drones are built by Hasselblad.

We all know that the heart of a digital camera is the sensor. Camera manufacturers source their sensors from different companies.

a) Leica sources its sensors from Cmosis, a Belgian manufacturer.

b) Nikon D-SLRs like the D7100 and the D5200 had sensors supplied by Toshiba.

c) Nikon's mirrorless cameras source custom made sensors from Sony.

d) Hasselblad's high-end cameras use sensors made by Sony.

e) Canon makes its own sensors but also use sensors made by Sony.

f) Panasonic has sold its last remaining semiconductor company and now rely on Sony sensors.

g) Pentax is known to have sourced its sensors from both Samsung and Sony.

h) In the past, Sony has outsourced sensor production to Fujitsu.

i) Sony also acquired the chip business of Toshiba.

j) Fujifilm X Series cameras use sensors developed by Fujifilm and made by Sony. This sensor uniquely used a 6 x 6 pattern of photosites.

Photography accounts for a small portion of Fujifilm's turnover. The company derives a large portion of its turnover from medical equipment, biotechnology and chemicals. Fujifilm is now 88 years old. Fujifilm lenses are optically superb. The reason is the superior lens coating system used by Fujifilm. Fujifilm uses Electric Beam Coating and applies multiple layers of this coating to achieve excellent imaging quality.

Four out of the top five printer companies are Japanese viz. Canon, Epson, Brother and Ricoh. HP, of course is American.

HP has entered an alliance with Canon whereby Canon printing products will, over a period of time, be sold under the HP brand name. In

a similar move, Ricoh has purchased Ikon, a US based corporation that offers professional quality print sales and services.

With components for consumer products like televisions being widely available, a number of Japanese companies have exited the television business. Hitachi, Mitsubishi and Toshiba have quit the television business. Panasonic is believed to be outsourcing its television manufacturing to TCL of China.

Similarly, the American brand White Westinghouse is no longer American. The brand was purchased by Electrolux of Sweden and is licensed out to manufacturers in different countries. Ditto for American brands RCA and Gibson. Electrolux also owns the Kelvinator brands.

Brand like Amana, Kitchen Aid and Gibson are owned by Whirlpool of the US.

The Philips brand for televisions has been licensed to Funai of Japan.

JVC TV is now Chinese owned, the brand having been acquired by Shenzhen MTC in 2020.

Onkyo and Pioneer Audio are now owned by Sound United of the US. Sound United also own the Marantz, Denon and B & W brands.

Both the Fujitsu and NEC brand for PCs were acquired by Lenovo of China.

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