

VIEWFINDER

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81st YEAR OF PUBLICATION



INSIDE :

**ANTARCTICA - THE 7th CONTINENT
THE MAJESTIC BLACK-MANED LIONS OF KALAHARI**

JUNE 2025

Vol. 81

No. 6

FIP INDIAN PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2025 (Contest 1)



1_LANDING WITH FOOD | ABHIJIT BANERJEE



5_MATING | ABHIJIT BANERJEE



Blue-tailed Bee-eaters perform mating activity, with males offering insects to females. Mating follows successful food exchange, often near nesting sites in sandy banks. Courtship generally found in summer.



3_EATING | ABHIJIT BANERJEE



4_MATING STANCE | ABHIJIT BANERJEE



VIEWFINDER

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Vol. 81 No. 6

CONTENTS

3	EDITORIAL
4	ANTARCTICA - THE 7th CONTINENT
11	THE MAJESTIC BLACK-MANED LIONS OF THE KALAHARI
15	RANTHAMBORE TOUR OF 24-27 APRIL 2025
18	PSA PHOTO GATHERING IN SRI LANKA 2025
23	FIP DISTINCTIONS - 2025 (RULES)
28	FIAP DISTINCTIONS - 2025 (RULES)
36	9th FIAP PHOTO MEETING – CHINA
39	NEW RULES FOR SALON DISCOUNTS, PATRONAGE AND TENURE OF CM
40	NEW SALON RECOGNITION FEE STRUCTURE
41	FIAP NATURE DEFINITION
43	FIAP PATRONAGE SERVICE
46	ALL SALON ORGANIZERS AND WEBMASTERS TO NOTE, NOTICE
47	THE 10 COMMANDMENTS
48	SALON RECOGNITION 2025 - FORM NO. 3 (VERSION IX)
55	FIP DEFINITION OF DIVISIONS AND SECTIONS
59	SALON SCORING SYSTEM TO BE FOLLOWED BY ALL FIP SALONS
62	GUIDELINES
63	JURY PRIVILEGE, GUIDELINES FOR NEW SALON ENTRANTS
64	ATTENTION, PRIVILEGE AND RIGHT
65	TO ALL THE WEBMASTERS
66	DISCIPLINE IN FIP
67	THE CURRENT RED LIST
74	SALONS

Cover Picture :

FIP INDIAN PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2025 (Contest 1)

1st WINNER - OFFERING FOOD | ABHIJIT BANERJEE

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*D*ear photo enthusiasts, We are at the peak of the summer and Indian summers have inspired many stories as well as cinemas. Think of the Indian summer and the phenomenon called “Luu” strikes your subconscious. The nearest English description to the Luu is heat waves. It is often said that best way to treat high altitude sickness is to bring the victim down as fast as possible. With some sorts of authority, I can say that the best way to treat heat wave victims or prevent heat waves taking its dreadful toll is to either avoid the waves or introduce monsoon. The God of weathers has been kind enough to bring the Monsoon early this year and with that the sky opens the possibilities of not hundred, but thousands of opportunities to create wonderful images. You are only limited by your own imagination.

Get your camera out of the dry box and start visiting the nearest rivers or sea sides and they will not disappoint you. Low shutter speed, tripods, polaroids, HD filters and so on and on. The possibilities are beyond the bounds of my pen.

China has always inspired we photographers for its surreal, uncommon images and here is what all of us have been waiting for. FIAP inspired Photo tour of China and Mongolia. The details are published in this volume of VF.

FIP with FIAP is doing its share of Salon encouragement for the photo lovers of all genres, irrespective of their age and genders.

Some commercial print makers, for the lust of easy money, are jumping with ill advised posters to bring untold miseries to the print exhibitors. FIP doesn't have policing powers but can only request such people to stop their illegal activities. They may be from India or its neighboring countries but the whispers of lovers of true art will be a death nail in your coffin

Guys when you add your distinctions/honours with your name, please follow the advice :

- 1. FIP/FIAP distinctions obtained on your photographic achievements should be mentioned first.**
- 2. All other distinctions from other photographic bodies on your photographic achievement will follow.**
- 3. All your distinctions for your service to photography like Hon. FIAP, ESFIAP, Hon. FIP and similar distinctions will follow.**

All Salon organizers must follow a transparent policy regarding discount to FIP Corporate Clubs. The stated entry fee in the COE should be uniform for all individual entrants as well as Corporate Clubs. No group entries and awards, other than from Corporate clubs are permissible.

ANTARCTICA - THE 7th CONTINENT

SIBANI MALLIK



APPROACHING ANTARCTICA



ANTARCTICA, THE FIRST GLIMPSE

1. Being the most untouched continent in the world, Antarctica is a vast landmass covered by almost 99% of ice. With an average thickness of 1.6 kilometres, it is the driest, coldest and windiest continent on the Earth. Yearly precipitation there is only 200mm near the sea and much less inland. The average temperature in the interior throughout the year is about -57 degree centigrade. During winter season, the temperature plunges to even -90 degree centigrade. The coastal areas are comparatively warmer and in summer the temperature varies between -2 degree centigrade and 8 degree centigrade. It is the fifth largest continent and about 40% larger than Europe and almost double the area of Australia.
2. Because of this extreme weather and the fact that it is so far, very few people have visited the place. Antarctica never had any indigenous population. There are though some research stations manned by different countries where at a time up to 5000 scientists live and

work during summer months. The number goes down drastically to about 1000 in winter months. The scientists get substituted periodically. Scientists study and investigate astronomy, astrophysics, glaciology, geology, geophysics, oceanography, ecology, biology etc. Thus, science is the most practised activity in the region. The data and insights provide new knowledge with global implications. It is the biggest natural laboratory on the Earth. Antarctica also acts as refrigerant for the planet. According to the Antarctic Treaty which have been signed by 46 countries so far, no military and mineral mining activities or nuclear explosions or nuclear waste disposal can be undertaken there.



SCIENCE STATION IN THE FOREGROUND

3. The continent is the home for abundant wildlife population which are mostly marine. In terms of diversity however, it is relatively less as compared to other parts of the world. As extreme weather conditions prevail in the interior of the continent, wildlife are found more in numbers on the coastal regions, where the weather is milder. To name a few are Penguins (about 18 varieties), Albatross, Whales, Seals, and Krill etc. All contribute to a unique food chain. The fact that there is practically no human beings on the landmass, the penguins have no fear of humans at all. So there is good chance of getting close to the penguins and have glimpse into their lives and breeding grounds. Thus, various activities can be photographed with ease. Penguins are the only Antarctic animal to breed during winter months. The father and mother

penguins continue to take turns looking after their chick while finding food. Chicks are born with fluffy grey feathers which they start shedding by approach of summer and by end of summer they develop waterproof, black and white feathers and also learn how to hunt. One can actually observe how these grey feathers get shed when strong wind blows. Whales migrate to Antarctica for food during summer time (December to March). They are intelligent creators and have complex social lives. They need to breathe like any other mammal which forces them to the surface of the water every 20 minutes or so. However, in a split second they again dive back inside water level. Spotting whale blow is an exciting phenomenon. If one is lucky, photographing whale activities is possible.



PENGUIN BABY



PENGUIN FLOCK



PROVING A POINT



PENGUIN COUPLE



PENGUINS SWIMMING



MOTHER AND CHILD



MORE FOOD PLEASE



MARCHING AHEAD



CALLING PARENTS



WAITING TO JUMP



PENGUIN HABITAT



PENGUIN HABITAT 2



WHALE COUPLE



ALBATROSS ON THE SHORE



ALBATROSS ON THE SEA



CAPE HORN FROM FAR



WHALE



WHALE DIVING



SEAL



CAPE HORN- HOME FOR ALBATROSS

4. Beside the wildlife in Antarctica, it is the destination for icebergs, mountains and glaciers. The number of glaciers is about 1600. Icebergs and glaciers are both enormous masses of snow which have been built over thousands of years through natural processes. Glaciers are formed by continual deposition of snow at a place where it does not melt. Icebergs are formed when a chunk of ice sheet breaks off and floats in the sea water. While glaciers are entirely above water level, icebergs float with only 10% above water level. These are sometimes even 200 feet high and so big that even a helicopter can land on them. Icebergs are seen floating all around Antarctica. Being very reflective, they soak up the colour of the light hitting the ice or of the sky. Thus, most common is the ones with blue tint. Other than that, green and red icebergs are also found which are coloured by algae. The shapes of the icebergs can be described as tabular, dome-shaped, pinnacle, blocky or tilted. These abstract shapes and sizes of icebergs with different hues are exciting subjects for photography. The lifespan of an iceberg, from the first snowfall on a glacier to final melting in the ocean can sometimes be as long as 300 years.
5. Sunrise, sunset and twilight are great times for iceberg photography.
5. For a polar expedition, the equipments are to be chosen properly. A photographer must wear proper clothing taking into consideration the extreme cold. Dressing up in layers is beneficial, so that some may be taken off if one feels warm. A good pair of shooting gloves can make much difference. If one gets to stand on the bow or bridge of a moving ship, the wind chill felt could be quite severe. If possible, two full frame cameras, one fitted with a wide angle lens and the other fitted with a telephoto lens is recommended. The reason is that while capturing the landscape or icebergs, one might suddenly find wildlife activity and wish to photograph both. Carrying extra batteries, chargers and fast memory cards are not to be forgotten.
6. One can reach Antarctica by ship or by flight. There are no scheduled flights available. To book charter flight is an option which are part of a package (ranging from 1 to 10 days) for Antarctic trip. Harsh and unpredictable weather can make the flights challenging. However, Antarctica's vast interior can be explored by only flights.
7. The other option is to reach by ship. There are many cruise liners which carry travellers during the summer months. By ship, most challenging is to cross Drake Passage which is situated between the southern tail of South America and the Antarctic Peninsula. In the passage, cold sea water from the south collide with relatively warm water from the north. If these get combined

with strong winds, the sea becomes too much rough. Average cruise ships take about 48 hours to cross the passage. Though it is not possible to explore inland by ship, many coastal areas can be accessed to where presence of wildlife and icebergs are more. Many cruise ships ply from various ports of Argentina including the capital Buenos Aires. Flying from Punta Arenas in

southern Chile to Antarctica takes only 2 hours. It is also possible to access Antarctica from New Zealand, Australia and South Africa. However, travel time required are much longer.

8. To summarise, I must say that a trip to Antarctica would be a wonderful, out of the ordinary and unforgettable trip especially for any photographer.



ICEBERGS 3



ICEBERG 2



ANTARCTIC GLACIER



ICEBERG 4



ICEBERG 6



ANTARCTIC MOUNTAIN



ANTARCTIC ROCK 2



ICEBERG 5



ICEBERG 7



ANTARCTIC ROCK 1



ICEBERG 1

The Majestic Black-Maned Lions of the Kalahari

Text and Photograph by **Dr SURANJAN MUKHERJEE**



The flight from Johannesburg to Upington arrived punctually, and upon disembarking, Johan from Kalahari Safaris was there to welcome the travellers. Having once soared through the skies as a helicopter pilot, Johan now dedicates his time to guiding and preparing meals for safari expeditions. The journey toward Twee Rivieren commenced swiftly, with the landscape unfolding as long, desolate roads bordered by vast expanses of red sands, punctuated only by sporadic patches of resilient vegetation. Above, the occasional pale chanting goshawk perched regally upon telephone poles, endearingly known as "Kalahari chickens" by the locals due to their abundant presence in this arid wilderness.

The name "Kgalagadi," meaning "land of great thirst," aptly captures the essence of this remarkable region, one of the world's

largest semi-arid expanses. Stretching from the Congo in the north to the Gariep River in South Africa, this arid domain is marked by scarcity of rainfall and a dearth of permanent water sources. Yet, within these unforgiving confines, a vibrant array of flora and fauna endures, a testament to nature's resilience. The Kalahari is home to one of the last remaining clans of the Bushman hunter-gatherers, their very existence a living relic of survival amidst harsh conditions.

Thanks to well-executed conservation initiatives, much of this land has been transformed into national parks, including the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (KTP), a joint conservation venture between Botswana's Kalahari National Park and South Africa's Gemsbok National Park. Spanning an impressive eight million hectares, the park is predominantly located in the southern Kalahari Desert, bordered by the parched riverbeds of Auob and Nossob. These ephemeral waterways are said to flow once in a century, yet underground aquifers sustain the ecosystem, nourishing both plant and animal life. Scattered across the park are numerous fabricated waterholes powered by solar and wind energy, offering unparalleled opportunities





for wildlife observation and photography. In addition to the majestic predators, the park also harbours an impressive array of herbivores such as blue wildebeest, eland, springbok, gemsbok, and red hartebeest, many of which are seasonal migrants. The park is also a haven for over 200 bird species, including the bataleur eagle, tawny eagle, southern white-faced owl, martial eagle, and a wealth of falcons.

At the first camp, Twee Rivieren (meaning "meeting of two rivers"), the group quickly refueled with a light lunch before embarking on the quest to find the elusive black-maned lions. The golden rays of the afternoon sun bathed the surroundings in a soft glow, yet despite hopes of encountering the resident leopard at the Samevloeïing waterhole, no such sightings materialized.

The next day commenced early at 5:30 AM. In Kgalagadi, the summer days stretch long,



with the sun rising at 5:15 AM and setting at 7:30 PM, affording ample opportunity for extended wildlife viewing. By mid-morning, the temperatures soared past 40°C, yet inside the air-conditioned Toyota Fortuner, comfort prevailed. Travelers are confined to their vehicles, with only designated picnic spots allowing them to step out. A beanbag, to support the heavy lenses, proved essential as four keen-eyed explorers scanned the vast, barren terrain in pursuit of the elusive lions.

Photographic strategy often revolves around moving from one waterhole to the next, for each offers unique opportunities depending on the sun's position. Key waterholes such as Cubitje Quap, Kij Kij, Polentswa, and Samevloeïing serve as prime locations for capturing unforgettable wildlife shots. These vital water sources, often powered by windmills and solar pumps, act as lifelines for the animals while providing a dramatic backdrop for photography.

The Kgalagadi landscape never ceased to astonish. Flocks of sandgrouse sipped from the waterholes, Lanner falcons descended from the skies in search of prey, grey-backed jackals lay in wait, and southern white-faced owls perched in the cool shadows. A serendipitous encounter with a leopard at the Montrose waterhole,

drinking serenely before vanishing behind the dunes, was an exhilarating surprise. By the evening, the group arrived at Mata Mata, the second camp, where Johan prepared a delicious beef steak on the braai. The day closed with quiet anticipation, hoping that the elusive lions might soon make their grand appearance.

The black-maned lions, the iconic pride of the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, are a subspecies believed to have originated from the Cape region of South Africa. These magnificent creatures are distinguished by their dark manes that cascade down to their chests and bellies, a striking feature in the vast desert landscape. Adapted for survival in the arid environment, they possess larger paws and leaner frames that enable them to traverse vast distances in search of prey. Unlike other lion prides, the Kgalagadi lions tend to form smaller, more dispersed groups.

The once abundant Cape lions, which roamed the grasslands and savannahs of the Eastern Cape, faced near extinction following the arrival of European settlers in the 17th century, due to habitat destruction, overhunting, and human conflict. Since 2005, however, the Kgalagadi region has been designated as a Lion Conservation Unit, offering sanctuary to these remarkable creatures.



A KALAHARI LANDSCAPE



For wildlife photographers, capturing the grandeur of these lions against the backdrop of the red dunes is an aspiration fulfilled. As a result, Kgalagadi is one of the most sought-after safari destinations, with bookings often made a year in advance, such is the allure of this magical land.

The following morning, the search for lions continued towards the Nossob camp, situated further north along the dry Nossob River. Nossob, known affectionately as "lion country," is renowned for its frequent lion sightings. The drive along the 35 km stretch of Dune Road offered breathtaking vistas of the red dunes, punctuated by sightings of gemsbok, raptors, and steenbok. Yet, the rest of the day yielded little in terms of game viewing, leaving hopes high for the evening.

The following morning, the deep roars of lions echoed from the vicinity of the Nossob waterhole, prompting an excited rush to the hide overlooking the water. While the lions



remained elusive at first, a thrilling sighting at Cubitje Quap later that morning provided a reward for the patient. An alpha male lion, accompanied by a female engaged in mating rituals, was an awe-inspiring sight. Nearby, his brother, a lone male, stood sentinel. The day stretched before the photographers, with ample opportunity to immortalize this moment in time. During mating, lions temporarily separate from their pride, engaging in copulations every 30-60 minutes. The female, once the mating ends, returns to her pride to give birth, selecting the strongest genes as her mate, while the male waits for his turn to ascend as the alpha.

Despite their relatively stable population, the Kalahari lions face numerous challenges within this harsh environment, including human-wildlife conflict and environmental pressures. The extreme temperature fluctuations, ranging from -15°C to over 40°C, further compound their struggle for survival. As long as these lions continue to thrive, they will remain a living symbol of the Kgalagadi, drawing wildlife enthusiasts and photographers from every corner of the world.

After two days of unforgettable encounters, the group made its way back to Mata Mata, eventually returning to Twee Rivieren, bidding farewell to the park as they journeyed back to Upington. As the park's gates disappeared into the distance, it became clear why so many return to Kgalagadi year after year, and why a trip to



this extraordinary park often requires a year of advance planning.

How to Get There:

Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park spans both South Africa and Botswana and straddles the border of Namibia in the west. The South African side is the most frequented, with a range of accommodations and facilities. Situated approximately 904 km (584 mi) from Johannesburg, visitors may either drive to the park or take a flight to Upington Airport (UTN). From Upington, the drive to Kgalagadi is about 250 km (124 mi), taking approximately 2.5 hours.

Two main entrances are available on the South African side: Twee Rivieren in the south and Mata Mata to the north, which can also be accessed from Namibia although technically, it's not a Namibian Park. For the sandy, dune-filled roads, a 4x4 vehicle is highly recommended for its higher clearance.

Where to Stay:

Within the park, accommodations range from luxury camps at Twee Rivieren, Mata Mata, and Nossob, offering amenities such as air conditioning, fully equipped kitchens, and swimming pools. Wilderness camps, powered by solar energy, provide a more rustic experience, with no charging facilities for camera batteries and unfenced surroundings.



RANTHAMBORE TOUR OF 24-27 APRIL 2025

by **CHITRA & AJIT JOSHI**

Thanks first of all to FIP to arrange via Wildsoul tour of Ranthambore in the month of April 2025. We were four in a gypsy and only four people attended the tour.



From Last Mr. Partha Banerjee, Ajit, Chitra Joshi and on the front seat Mrs. Banerjee

For Ranthambore the nearest railway station is Sawai Madhopur and Airport Jaipur.

Best months to visit Ranthambore is October to March, Google says. In April and May it is very hot but tiger sighting is good, it is worth to visit for tiger sighting.

FIP has made arrangement in home stay of which service, hospitality and food was really good. I feel like visiting one more time for food.

It is learnt that before becoming Ranthambore forest as a tourist spot it was King's residential Palace. Palace, entry doors you can see in the Images clicked. The more you can learn about this on Google. We are not going deep in this matter.



BANYAN TREE AND OLD GATE



REMAINS OF MAHAL



FAR LOOK AT PALACE



VIEW OF THE FORT

Ranthambore forest entry is divided into ten gates, numbered one to ten. First five are from core zone and next five from buffer zones.

Even tigers are named by numbers e.g. T2.

Sighting of tiger was done in two safaris out of seven.

We came across four tigers. One of them killed Sambar deer which we could observe killing but not photographing because of dried barks were in between Killer and us.



AMBUSH PREDITOR



MOTHER OF KILLAR

But we had gone to see the forest and its ambience.

The most common trees in this forest are Dhok tree, in regional language and its scientific name is *Anogeissus Pendula*. These trees give more essential fodder to deer, antelope etc. This is one of the reasons why deer population is more in this region. The Dhok tree becomes dry in summer season and becomes green as soon as water falls (rain showers) on it. It appears to be smoke and mist combination if viewed from far off in the forest but these are dry trees. The other main trees are Banyan, Neem, Pipal, Tendu and few Mahua trees. (common names of trees).

We could see many birds over forest area. Few are as follows, seven in numbers Honey Buzzard in a zone five, Kingfishers (four types), Parakeets, Grey Jungle fowl,

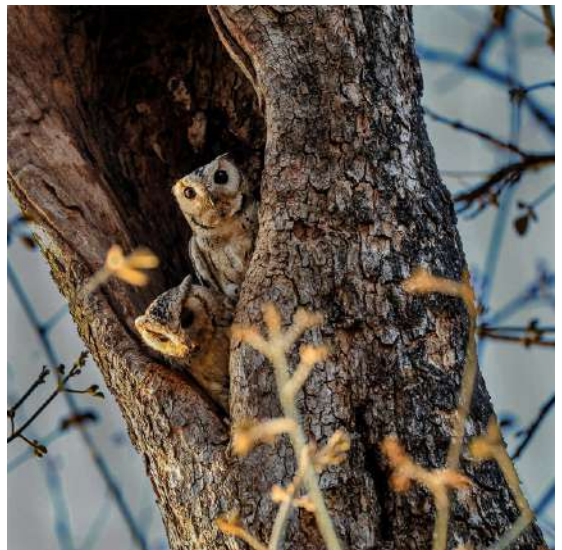
Jungle button quail, owls, Tree pie, Woolly Necked Stork, Painted Storks, Open bill Storks, Striated Heron, Grey Heron, Purple Heron, Eurasian Golden Oriole, Paradise fly catcher, Jungle Babblers, Chestnut shouldered Trogon, Cormorant, Sunbird, Redwattled Lapwing, Laughing Doves, Fantails, Bulbuls, Yellow Footed Green Pigeon, Green Shank, Bronze wing Jacana, Coucal, Lesser Whistling Ducks, Spot Bill Ducks, large quantities of Peacocks and Peahens.



RAIN DANCE BY PEACOCK

Tree Pie is a bird who comes close to human being and sits on Gypsy. Why?

It is not a shy bird, not a correct answer, because previous visitors had offered bird food like biscuits etc. Please do not offer bird our food like biscuits.



OWLS

Animals like sloth bear, monitor lizard, hairs, deer, sambar, crocodiles, mongoose, Hyaena and of course tigers.

The forest trip will make you to understand that forest does not mean only tigers, but other animals, birds, flora and fauna.



HEAD ON SHOT OF SLOTH BEAR

All photographs are clicked by Chitra Joshi and Ajit Joshi during Ranthambore tour.

PSA PHOTO GATHERING IN SRI LANKA 2025

By **VENKATESH B S**

EFIAP/S, GMPSA/S, GFIP, GPU CR4, Hon. APG

The 3rd PSA Photo Gathering was held in Sri Lanka from 7th- 14th February 2025. About 80 PSA members from over 20 countries participated in the wonderful event. Being my first visit to Sri Lanka, I was looking forward to visiting the island nation neighbouring India. Though being the only participant from India, I did not have any issues mingling with the friendly participants from worldwide, and felt very welcome by the hosts.

Day 1:

The flight took just over an hour to reach Colombo from Bangalore. A PSA booth had been arranged just outside the airport baggage counter, and it was about a 30-minute taxi ride to Negombo. February being a busy tourist season, we were put up in various hotels, just by Negombo beach. Received the welcome gift-pack distributed by the volunteers/hosts in our respective hotels. Met some friends in their hotels, and many of us spent the evening at the beach, watching the lovely sunset!

Day 2:

Negombo Fish Market:

Two buses picked up the delegates from their respective hotels for an early morning visit to Negombo Fish Market. For most part, fishing is done in traditional way, and fishermen return in small motor boats with fresh catch from the sea. Nice to see the art of separation of fish by shaking the nets, based on their size. Generally, the women folk do the task of drying the fish – both wet & dry types, and sometimes their whole family is involved in this. The wet fish of all sizes & breeds is also sold in the adjacent

fish market, which was buzzing with customers.

The fishing folks were very cooperative with the tourists, & we all clicked some wonderful pictures of various types of fish being dried, and especially the fresh catch gleaming in early sunrays!



Fishermen sorting fresh catch

Safari at Hurulu Eco Park:

We reached our resort at Sigiriya, located in woods & after lunch, went on a safari at Hurulu Forest Reserve, in which lots of elephants reside. Large herds of elephants were gently grazing, but mostly in the tall elephant-grass. After a couple of hours, we saw them in the open grasslands, and thus gave us good photo opportunities! In addition, we saw a few smaller mammals & also birds.



Elephant family crossing road

At dinner, we all assembled in the lawns, and had the official inauguration of the Photo Gathering, followed by lovely dance performance by local artists. Many of PSA delegates joined the dancing; it was fun all around!



Performance during inauguration ceremony

Day 3:

Dambulla Cave Temple:

The group reached Dambulla Cave Temple early morning. After a climb up the hills, reached the cave-temple. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Buddhist temples were built in 1st - 3rd Century BCE. Visited each of the multiple caves in batches; and we got opportunity to get photos of the monks meditating in front of the Buddhist statues. Among the numerous Buddhist & Hindu status, a 45-foot-long reclining Buddha is magnificent.



Prayers to feet of buddha 6615

Sigiriya Rock Fortress:

After breakfast, we reached Sigiriya fortress. We took a group picture with the

rockin the background. An ancient city built on a monolithic rock formation in 5th Century AD by King Kasyapa, we need to climb about 1200 steps to reach the ruins. A lovely view from the top, the entire lush green surrounding forests can be seen for miles away.

On the way down, we pass by cave having Buddhist frescos (unfortunately, photography is not allowed here) and mirrored wall. One is surely wonderstruck by the engineering skills needed to build all of these.



Sigiriya Hill

Fire Dance Performance:

Back at hotel lawns after dinner, we viewed a fantastic display of acrobatic fire dances. These traditional dances (with dancers wearing devil masks), called 'Devil Dances' are mainly done to please the evil spirits. A really thrilling performance!



Rings of fire games

Day 4:

Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage:

After an early breakfast, we packed & went towards Colombo, and stopping at Pinnawela. After lunch, had a fantastic sighting of over 60 elephants taken for a bath in the river. The care-taker uses a large hose pipe with jet spray to scrub their backs. The joy of watching the elephants of all ages playing in the water is really fascinating!

We walked across the road to the elephant orphanage, and saw the elephants being well taken care of. Also, the elephants returning from their bath in a long line, one behind the other is a sight to be seen!

We reaching Colombo late evening & checked in to the hotel, followed by dinner.



Jet spray for elephants

Day 5:

Visit to traditional village:

After breakfast at our hotel in Colombo, visited the traditional village of Ambalangoda. Here, the artists simulate the traditional rural life. Their activities included demonstrating a puppet show, pottery making, a blacksmith factory, an old village store, life & dresses of women folk as well as men etc. We all had lunch made by them, and overall had a good understanding of village life from centuries ago.



A blacksmith at work

Stilt fishing at sunset:

A unique style of fishing, localized to southwest Sri Lanka, the fishermen stand balancing on sticks in shallow sea water and patiently wait to catch fish using fishing rods. A dying art, but gives a wonderful photo opportunity, especially capturing Silhouettes at sunset.



Stilt Fishing at sunset

Visit to Galle Fort:

After dinner at Galle, walked around to capture street-life at night. A lovely high-street shopping area, there were plenty of tourists from worldwide. Visited the old light house& also stopped by at traditional churches. Returned back to our hotel in Colombo, with lots of memories & pictures!

Day 6:

Shopping in Colombo:

We were taken to a couple of shopping boutiques, where traditional Sri Lanka

clothes & souvenirs were sold. After shopping, had lunch at Colombo City Centre Mall. Some of us visited the lovely Buddhist temple across the mall. A traditional temple built on lakeside, surrounded by high-rise towers in neighbourhood.



Hand fans for monks

Navam Perahera Street Festival:

PSA delegates were given a special covered section to witness the annual Navam Perahera Colombo Street festival held from evening to night. People in large numbers had lined up on both sides of the street to watch the processions of dancers in colourful costumes, musicians, various drummers and also decorated elephants parade on streets.



Elephant in Navam Perahera street festival

Day 7:

Sinhalese Martial Arts:

After breakfast at hotel, group visited a village Pilikuttuwa where the ancient

Sinhalese Martial Arts Angampora was demonstrated by the Airforce wing of Sri Lanka military. This is supposed to be over 5000 years old sport, and it combines combat-techniques & self-defense.



Martial arts demo



Angampora in trees

Gala Dinner:

Late evening, at the Hotel we had the closing ceremony; highlights being speeches by PSA officials, awards distribution & cultural events. It was also wonderful to see the hosts dressed up in traditional Sri Lanka clothes. This was

followed by Gala Dinner & dancing by participants; everyone had a great time!



Lighting the lamp at closing ceremony

Day 8:

Early morning, a few of us did street photography. After breakfast, most of us checked out and left to Airport to return home. Some of the participants took the extension tour to visit Yala National Park, and few stayed back to do more sight-seeing of Colombo.



At Gala Dinner with host Pandula Bandara

Overall, it was a wonderful tour very well-organized by our Sri Lankan hosts, lots of diverse photo activities showcasing local culture, tradition, wildlife & historical sites. Surely will remember this for a long time to come!



3rd PSA PHOTO GATHERING, SRI LANKA 2025 - GROUP PHOTO



FIP Distinctions - 2025

1. General

Valid FIP members and valid member of FIP corporate clubs are invited to apply for AFIP, EFIP, GFIP, GFIP Levels EFIP/gold, EFIP/ platinum, MFIP, EFIP/gold (Nature), EFIP/platinum (Nature) and MFIP (Nature) distinctions. Overseas members are also entitled to apply for FIP distinctions.

Application must reach FIP within **31st July 2025** only through following email address:

AFIP/EFIP /GFIP/GFIP Levels: distinctions.fip@gmail.com

EFIP Levels/EFIP Nature Levels, MFIP, MFIP (Nature): distinctions.fipleve@gmail.com

A FIP recognized salon is a national salon as long as it has only FIP recognition. Participation by foreigners does not change the status of the salon. A successful candidate will receive a certificate, a medal, a pin, and a card.

FIP has established following four further distinctions to recognize photographic artists who, after receiving the EFIP distinction, continue to actively participate in the salons under FIP Patronage and, in doing so, help to promote photography.

- Genius FIP (GFIP)
- Genius FIP Pratham (GFIP/pt)
- Genius FIP Uttam (GFIP/ut)
- Genius FIP Sarvottam (GFIP/st)

Note: The application for GFIP distinction will be accepted till 30th September 2025

2. Criteria

Distinction	Member Type	Acceptances/Awards and Different Works	Other Requirements
Artist FIP (AFIP) Distinction	Indian Members	200 acceptances with 25 different works in national or international salons	At least 50 acceptances must be from FIP recognized national salons.
	Overseas Members	40 acceptances with 15 different works in international salons	10 Different international salons in at least 5 countries of which 5 must be Indian salons
See section 4 for further details.			Print: 2 Print Acceptances from National or International salons
			Submit digital versions of 5 photographic works with at least 3 salon acceptances each. 2 different works among these must have obtained at least one award in a salon.
Excellence FIP (EFIP) Distinction	Indian Members	400 acceptances with 50 different works in national or international salons	At least 100 acceptances must be from FIP recognized national salons.
	Overseas Members	150 acceptances with 30 different works in international salons	20 Different international salons in at least 15 countries of which 10 must be Indian salons
See section 4 for further details. Note: AFIP and EFIP distinctions criteria is cumulative and there have been no changes to these criteria compared to the previous years.			Print: 5 Print Acceptances from National or International salons
			Submit digital versions of 5 photographic works with at least 5 salon acceptances each. Each work must have at least one award in a salon. Works should not resemble those submitted for AFIP distinction.

Distinction	Member Type	Acceptances/Awards and Different Works	Other Requirements
Genius FIP (GFIP) Distinction	Indian Members	300 acceptances with 75 different works in national or international salons	At least 100 acceptances must be from FIP recognized national salons.
	Overseas Members	200 acceptances with 50 different works in international salons	30 Different international salons in at least 20 countries of which 20 must be Indian salons
See section 4 for further details. Note: For GFIP and GFIP levels, All acceptances, awards, and other requirements must be fulfilled starting from the year 2023 and onward salons/circuits. EFIP distinction is mandatory for applying GFIP			Submit digital versions of 5 photographic works with at least 5 salon acceptances each. Each work must have at least one award in a salon. Works should not resemble those submitted for AFIP/EFIP distinctions.
Genius FIP/pratham (GFIP/pt) Distinction	Indian Members	100 Awards with 50 different works in national or international salons	At least 25 awards must be from FIP recognized national salons.
	Overseas Members	50 awards with 30 different works in international salons	At least 10 different country international salons of which 5 must be Indian FIP recognized salons
See section 4 for further details.			Submit digital versions of 6 photographic works with at least 2 awards each. Works should not resemble those submitted for any of the previous distinctions.
Genius FIP/uttam (GFIP/ut) Distinction	Indian Members	200 Awards with 100 different works in national or international salons	At least 50 awards must be from FIP recognized national salons.
	Overseas Members	100 awards with 50 different works in international salons	At least 15 different country international salons of which 10 must be Indian FIP recognized salons
See section 4 for further details.			Submit digital versions of 7 photographic works with at least 2 awards each. Works should not resemble those submitted for any of the previous distinctions.
Genius FIP/sarvottam (GFIP/st) Distinction	Indian Members	300 Awards with 150 different works in national or international salons	At least 150 awards must be from FIP recognized national salons.
	Overseas Members	200 awards with 100 different works in international salons	At least 20 different country international salons of which 15 must be Indian FIP recognized salons
See section 4 for further details. Note: GFIP to GFIP/st, criteria of awards are cumulative.			Submit digital versions of 8 photographic works with at least 2 awards each. Works should not resemble those submitted for any of the previous distinctions.

Additional Notes:

- Each year only one distinction can be achieved. AFIP, EFIP, GFIP, GFIP/pt, GFIP/ut, GFIP/st must be achieved in the sequential order.
- EFIP Levels, GFIP or GFIP Levels and MFIP distinctions may be used concurrently with the name.
- The cumulative nature of EFIP levels and GFIP allows individuals to seek both distinctions within a single year.
- Titles/Images that have been previously accepted in salons and used for AFIP/EFIP are eligible to fulfill the criteria of GFIP or GFIP levels, but all acceptances and awards must be obtained from salons/circuits held in 2023 and beyond.
- When submitting photographs for each distinction, they must differ from any previous distinctions.
- International salons will only include salons and circuits that are recognized by FIAP and FIP or FIP.

3. Portfolio Distinctions

EFIP/Gold Distinction

One can apply after one year of obtaining EFIP/FFIP. No salon acceptances required. A member holding EFIAP distinction may directly apply for EFIP/g distinction.

Candidate must submit the following:

- A portfolio of 10 digital images with coherence.
- Viewing plan of the portfolio pictures.
- A statement of intent within 100 words.
- A duly filled Excel dossier in the format prescribed by FIP, which can be downloaded from the FIP website.

Note: Sequential images of an event is NOT coherence

See section 4 for further details.

EFIP/Platinum Distinction

One can apply after one year of obtaining EFIP/gold.

Candidate must submit the following:

- A portfolio of 15 digital images with coherence. These works must be different and not resemble or be similar to those submitted for the candidate's EFIP/gold distinction .
- Viewing plan of the portfolio pictures.
- A statement of intent with in 100 words.
- A duly filled Excel dossier in the format prescribed by FIP, which can be downloaded from the FIP website.

Note: Sequential images of an event is NOT coherence

See section 4 for further details.

EFIP/Gold (Nature) Distinction

One can apply after one year of obtaining EFIP or FFIP. No salon acceptances required. A member holding EFIAP distinction may directly apply for EFIP/g (Nature) distinction.

Candidate must submit the following:

- A portfolio of 10 nature digital images with coherence.
- Viewing plan of the portfolio pictures.
- A statement of intent within 100 words.
- A duly filled Excel dossier in the format prescribed by FIP, which can be downloaded from the FIP website

Note: Sequential images of an event is NOT coherence

See section 4 for further details.

EFIP/Platinum (Nature) Distinction

One can apply after one year of obtaining EFIP/g (Nature)

Candidate must submit the following:

- A portfolio of 15 new nature digital images with coherence. These works must be different and not resemble or be similar to those submitted for the candidate's EFIP/g (Nature) distinction.
- Viewing plan of the portfolio pictures.
- A statement of intent within 100 words.
- A duly filled Excel dossier in the format prescribed by FIP, which can be downloaded from the FIP website.

Note: Sequential images of an event is NOT coherence

See section 4 for further details.

Jury panel of 3 senior photographers will decide the outcome of EFIP/g (Nature), EFIP/p (Nature) portfolios. Jury will be looking for excellent technical quality, pictorial attribute, subject handling, and strong coherence in the portfolio.

MFIP Distinction

One can apply after three years of obtaining FFIP or EFIP distinction.

Candidate must submit:

- A portfolio of 20 digital images with coherence. These works must be different and not resemble or be similar to those submitted for the candidate's EFIP/g and/or EFIP/p distinction.
- Viewing plan of the portfolio pictures.
- A statement of intent with in 150 words.
- A duly filled Excel dossier in the format prescribed by FIP, which can be downloaded from the FIP website.

Note: Sequential images of an event is NOT coherence

See section 4 for further details.

MFIP (Nature) Distinction

One can apply for MFIP (Nature) distinction after three years of obtaining FFIP or EFIP distinction.

Candidate must submit:

- A portfolio of 20 digital images with coherence . These works must be different and not resemble or be similar to those submitted for his/her EFIP/g (Nature) and/or EFIP/p (Nature) distinction.
- Viewing plan of the portfolio pictures.
- A statement of intent within 150 words.
- A duly filled Excel dossier in the format prescribed by FIP, which can be downloaded from the FIP website.

Note: Sequential images of an event is NOT coherence.

See section 4 for further details.

Jury panel of 5 senior photographers will decide the outcome of MFIP/MFIP (Nature) portfolios. Jury will be looking for excellent technical quality, pictorial attribute, subject handling, and strong coherence in the portfolio.

ESFIP Distinction

Individuals who have distinguished themselves in service to FIP, rather than a specific club, are eligible for this distinction. A brief letter of contribution is requested, as well as a proposal seconded by two FIP life members. There is no fee and no handling charge.

ESFIPC Distinction

This is available to FIP Corporate clubs who have rendered distinguished services to FIP with uninterrupted membership for last 10 years. Proposed and seconded by two Corporate Clubs along with brief history and letter in support to be sent to Hon. Secretary General. There is no fee and no handling charge.

4. Application Requirements

- a) Duly filled dossier (Excel form), which can be downloaded from the FIP website

URL: <https://www.ip.org.in/ipwebT/public/downloads>

Dossier (Excel form) must be named in the following format:

FIP/Corporate membership number_First name_Last name_Distinction sought.

(Example: LM692_Barun_Sinha_AFIP)

- b) Images required as per the distinction criteria must comply to the following specifications: 2400 pixels on the longer side, 300 DPI, Below 2MB, RGB color space.

Each image file must be named in the following format:

FIP/Corporate membership number_First name_Last name_title of work

(Example : LM692_Barun_Sinha_Lion on Hillock)

- c. Self-portrait color photo (768px on the longer side, 300dpi) to be used for the identity card.
File Name must be in the following format:
FIP/Corporate membership number_First name_Last name (Example: LM692_Barun_Sinha)
- d. Distinction Fee payment details (Screen shot of transaction or Transaction ID and date of payment)
Note: EFIP and above applicants must provide proof of previous distinction if asked for verification.

5. Applicable Fees

Indian Members

For AFIP distinction: ₹ 4000/-
For EFIP/GFIP/GFIP Levels distinction: ₹ 5000/-
For EFIP/Gold EFIP/Gold Nature distinction: ₹ 7000/-
For EFIP/Platinum, EFIP/Platinum (nature) distinction : ₹ 7000/-
For MFIP/MFIP(Nature) distinction : ₹ 7500/-

Applicants who were not successful in achieving EFIP Levels, EFIP Nature Levels, MFIP, or MFIP Nature in 2022, 2023 and 2024 can reapply for the same distinction with a different portfolio at a reduced application fee.

EFIP Levels and EFIP Nature Levels: 1000/-

MFIP and MFIP (Nature): 1500/-

Payment should be made through Online transfer to the following account:

Beneficiary Name: Federation of Indian Photography
Bank: Indian Bank
Branch: Salt Lake GD Market Branch
Account Type: Savings
Account No: 50381789520
IFS Code: IDIB000S549
Branch Address: GD 377 and 378, Salt Lake Sector III Kolkata, West Bengal - 700106
MICR no: 70001928

Note: We do not accept cheque.

Overseas Members :

Membership Fee for 3 years: USD 50.00
For AFIP distinction: USD 80.00
For EFIP distinction: USD 80.00
For GFIP, GFIP Levels, EFIP/Gold, EFIP/Platinum, EFIP/g (Nature), EFIP/p (Nature), and MFIP distinction: USD 100.00 each.
Payment Method: PayPal (Please pay via PayPal only)
PayPal ID: federationofindianphotography@gmail.com

Please note that applications without the required fee will not be considered.

For more details contact:

Mr Digwas Bellemene EFIP/p, ESFIAP, EFIP, ESFIAP, EPSA, Hon MOL, In-charge, FIP Distinctions Services
Mobile/WhatsApp : +91-9449152121
Email : digwashegde@gmail.com

FIAP Distinctions - 2025

General

Valid FIP members and valid member of FIP corporate clubs are invited to apply for the AFIAP, EFIAP and EFIAP LEVELS distinctions.

AFIP is mandatory for AFIAP and EFIP or FFIP is mandatory for EFIAP.

The application should be submitted to FIP exclusively via email and must be received no later than **31st October 2025**.

Email ID: fiap.fipdistinctions@gmail.com

1. Basic Requirements

1.1. FIAP Photographers Card and FP (FIAP Photographer) Number

All FIAP Distinction applicants are required to have a myfiap login prior to applying for Distinctions. When setting up this login you will be allocated a FP number, which is your “FIAP Photographer” number. Your FP number is your user’s name for future login purposes. FIAP Distinctions applicants are also required to hold a FIAP Photographers Card prior to applying for Distinctions. This ID styled card identifies the photographer and includes a photo of them. Once a FP number and FIAP Photographers card are obtained, they are valid for life. Both the FP number and the FIAP card number are cited on applications for FIAP skill distinctions.

Procedure

- Photographers may access the profile creation page here:
<https://www.myfiap.net/user/register/fp>
- The creation of the profile is straightforward, and a tutorial video provided on top of the profile creation page (<https://youtu.be/imghsDi8UiQ>)
- The provided information will remain confidential and limited to FIAP use only, amongst others for the card generation and shipping
- Along with personal information, photographers also need to upload a recent high resolution portrait picture of themselves, to be used for FIAP life cards

IMPORTANT:

When creating their profile, photographers must indicate their current distinction(s):

- If they photographers and/or don’t have a distinction yet, they leave this part blank.
- If they already have distinctions, they enter them in their profile. Note that if they are in the process of applying for a new distinction, they must still enter their actual distinction(s) in their profile, before the upgrade.

After submitting their profile on myfiap.net:

- Photographers WITHOUT distinctions will be notified by email (check spam filter) that their account is active, they will also obtain their user name (FP-XXXXXXX) required for login, and will be prompted to set their password. They may then login at any time with the provided username (FP-XXXXXXX) and personal password on the myfiap.net login page (www.myfiap.net) and order a FIAP life card online. Online payment, card production and shipping will be processed via the myfiap.net platform.
- Photographers WITH distinctions will be notified by email (check spam filter) that their account is pending approval. After validation by the FIAP distinction service, they will be notified that the account is active, obtain their username and set their password. They may then login at any time with the provided username (FP-XXXXXXX) and personal password on the myfiap.net login page (www.myfiap.net) and order a FIAP life card with their actual distinction online. Online payment, card production and shipping will be processed via the myfiap.net platform.

1.2. How to order a FIAP Photographers Card

- To order a FIAP Photographers Card, you must first register/set up a myfiap login as per point 1.1. Having set up your login you can either proceed to order a FIAP Card straight away via the applicable menu tab or you can login in at any time via: <https://www.myfiap.net/>
- When applicants order a FIAP Photographer Card the myfiap system will provide the FIAP Card Number immediately. Record this number carefully. The FIAP Card number, must be placed on your Distinctions application form. As you are given this number immediately, you can place it on your Distinctions application immediately. You do not need to wait for the card itself to arrive in the post. Follow link for Video tutorial - <https://youtu.be/imghsDi8UiQ>

Note: FIP will receive all Photographer cards (Life Cards) and distribute them to individuals.

2. THE AFIAP DISTINCTION

The distinction “Artist FIAP” (AFIAP) is the first artistic distinction that can be obtained. It is awarded to photographic artists whose artistic qualities, technique and production of work have been acknowledged through their participation in international salons under FIAP Patronage

2.1. The candidate for this distinction must:

- a) Have taken part with success in international salons under FIAP Patronage for at least 1 year; i.e. his first FIAP - recognized acceptance must have occurred at least 1 year ago.
- b) Have taken part with success in at least 15 international salons under FIAP Patronage in at least 8 different countries. In this respect a Circuit is to be considered as a single salon.

- c) Have obtained at least 40 acceptances with at least 15 different works in international salons under FIAP Patronage.
- d) Include in his works a minimum of 4 different works, which have each received at least one acceptance in “Print” salons under FIAP Patronage.

2.2. Candidates for AFIAP distinction must submit:

- a) A completed application using forms prescribed by FIAP which is available on FIP/FIAP website.
- b) 5 photographic works of the candidate in form of a digital file. All the submitted works must have obtained 3 FIAP - recognized acceptances in different salons. In this respect a Circuit is considered to be a single salon.

See section 7 for further details.

3. THE EFIAP DISTINCTION

The distinction “Excellence FIAP” (EFIAP) is awarded to photographic artists who, apart from having excellent techniques, have significant numbers of their works often accepted in many international salons under FIAP Patronage

3.1 The candidate for this distinction must:

- a) Be the holder of the AFIAP distinction. An application for the EFIAP distinction can be made not less than 1 year after the award of the AFIAP distinction, based on the date of the diploma.
- b) Have taken part with success in at least 30 international salons under FIAP Patronage in at least 20 different countries. In this respect a Circuit is considered to be a single salon.
- c) Have obtained at least 250 acceptances with at least 50 different works in international salons under FIAP Patronage.
- d) Include in his works a minimum of 12 different works, which have each received at least one acceptance in “Print” salons under FIAP Patronage.

3.2 Candidates for EFIAP distinction must submit:

- a) A completed application using forms prescribed by FIAP which is available on FIP/FIAP website.
- b) 5 photographic works of the candidate in form of a digital file. These works must be different and not resemble or be similar to those submitted for his/her AFIAP distinction. All the submitted works must have obtained at least 3 FIAP-recognised acceptances in different salons and at least 2 works must have obtained an award. These 2 awards must be from different countries and a Circuit is considered to be a single salon.

See section 7 for further details.

4. THE EFIAP LEVELS

In order to honor photographic artists who, after having received the EFIAP distinction, continue to actively participate in international salons under FIAP Patronage and, by so doing, help to promote photography with their new artistic production, FIAP has instituted seven additional EFIAP levels.

4.1 The candidate for “EFIAP Levels” Distinctions must:

- a) Be the have been the holder of the EFIAP Distinction (or previous EFIAP Levels Distinction) for at least one year from the date of the diploma for that previous distinction.
- b) And since the date on the applicant’s diploma for the EFIAP Distinction have obtained in total at least in international salons under FIAP Patronage:

For the EFIAP/b 200 acceptances, with 50 different works in 5 different countries
For the EFIAP/s 300 acceptances, with 100 different works in 10 different countries
For the EFIAP/g 500 acceptances, with 150 different works in 15 different countries
For the EFIAP/p 700 acceptances, with 250 different works in 20 different countries

After the date of being award the EFIAP/p distinction or since 1st January 2015, whichever is the later, have obtained:

For the EFIAP/d1 50 awards with 15 different works in 5 different countries
For the EFIAP/d2 100 awards with 30 different works in 7 different countries
For the EFIAP/d3 200 awards with 50 different works in 10 different countries

4.2 The candidate for an “EFIAP Level” distinction must submit:

- a) A completed application using forms prescribed by FIAP which is available on FIP/FIAP website.
- b) A number of photographs, which have received awards after the date of the EFIAP distinction diploma, as indicated here under:

EFIAP Bronze: 4 photographs awarded in 4 different countries and different salons
EFIAP Silver: 5 photographs awarded in 5 different countries and different salons
EFIAP Gold: 6 photographs awarded in 6 different countries and different salons
EFIAP Platinum: 7 photographs awarded in 7 different countries and different salons
EFIAP Diamond 1: 5 photographs awarded in 5 different countries and different salons
EFIAP Diamond 2: 6 photographs awarded in 6 different countries and different salons
EFIAP Diamond 3: 7 photographs awarded in 7 different countries and different salons

These photographs must be different and not resemble or be similar to those submitted for other distinctions. In this respect a Circuit is considered to be a single salon.

- c) In each year only one EFIAP level can be applied for and each level - Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum, Diamond 1, Diamond 2 or Diamond 3 - must be achieved in this sequential order.
- d) Distinctions “EFIAP Levels” and MFIAP are cumulative. An author, who holds these two distinctions, can use the initials of both distinctions after his/her name.

See section 7 for further details.

5. THE ESFIAP DISTINCTION.

- a) The distinction “Excellence for Services Rendered” (ESFIAP) is awarded to those persons who have given exceptional service over a long period for the benefit of FIAP.
- b) Holders of the photographic distinctions AFIAP, EFIAP and MFIAP may also be nominated for the ESFIAP distinction if they fulfil the criteria.
- c) Applications for the ESFIAP distinction must comprise a completed dossier with a curriculum vitae and a detailed description of the services rendered by the candidate. The application should be made with the form prescribed by FIAP. The text must be written in one of the official FIAP languages. The application must be sent to the FIAP Distinction Service by electronic mail (fiapdistinctions@gmail.com).
- d) Applications for the ESFIAP distinction are handled free of charge.
- e) The applications for ESFIAP are examined by the FIAP Board of Directors at one of its ordinary meetings.

6. THE Hon. EFIAP DISTINCTION.

- a) The “Honorary Excellence FIAP” (Hon. EFIAP) distinction is the highest honour the International Federation of Photographic Art can award to the holder of the ESFIAP distinction. The number of living holders of this distinction is limited to a number set by the FIAP Board of Directors.
- b) The Hon. EFIAP distinction is awarded by the FIAP Board of Directors. A unanimous vote of the members of this Board is required.
- c) Any extraordinary contribution of an international nature to the development of photography or of photographic art will be taken into account as will be any exceptional service that has contributed to the progress of FIAP.
- d) The application for a Hon. EFIAP distinction should comprise a complete curriculum vitae and a full description of the services that justify the candidacy. A form prescribed by FIAP should be used. The application, written in one of the official FIAP languages, should be sent to the FIAP Distinction Service by electronic mail (fiapdistinctions@gmail.com).
- e) Applications for the Hon. EFIAP distinction are handled free of charge.

- f) The applications for Hon. EFIAP are examined by the FIAP Board of Directors at one of its ordinary meetings.

7. Preparation of Images & Files

- a) AFIAP, EFIAP, EFIAP Levels Images submitted to FIAP with these Distinctions applications are sent as Digital files.
- b) Image files must be sized to at least 3600 pixels on the longest dimension and must be JPEG, compression 10. Within 4mb

7.1 Name of the files.

- a) Images File naming:
UN Code of the Federation + underscore + Given name + underscore + Surname + underscore + Title of the work. Example: 356_Barun_Sinha_Sunrise
- b) Dossier File naming:
Distinction sought + underscore + UN Code of the Federation + underscore + Given name + underscore + Surname. Example: Efiapgold_356_Barun_Sinha
- c) PDF scan of the signed hard copy of Page B file naming:
UN Code of the Federation + underscore + Given name + underscore + Surname + underscore + Dossier B. Example: 356_Barun_Sinha_Dossier B
- d) FIP E form File Naming:
FIP Form E + underscore + Distinction sought + underscore + Given name + underscore + Surname. Example: FIP Form E_Efiapgold_Barun_Sinha.

7.2 List of files to be sent to FIP (AFIAP, EFIAP and EFIAP Levels).

- a) Soft copy Duly Filled FIAP Dossier.
Download on following link. <https://www.fip.org.in/fipweb/public/downloads>
- b) Digital Images as per distinction criteria. (3600px Longest Side, with in 4mb)
- c) Soft copy of duly filled FIP Form E (Available at FIP Website).
- d) Photo copy of last distinction (Both FIP & FIAP) File Size – 1024px longest size, within 1 MB.
- e) Hard copy of the FIAP Dossier Page A & B, with signature on the Page B. (See note below).
- f) Proof of Distinction Fee paid: screenshot or payment details with date.
- g) The high-resolution PDF scan of the signed hard copy of Page B excel file.

8. THE DISTINCTION FEE.

AFIAP, EFIAP, EFIAP Levels – ₹10,000/- inclusive of handling charges. Payment should be made through Online transfer to the following account:

Beneficiary Name: Federation of Indian Photography

Account No: 50381789520

IFS Code: IDIB000S549

Bank: Indian Bank, Salt Lake GD Market Branch, Kolkatta

Note: We do not accept Cheques/DD

The FIAP photographer's card (FIAP Life Card) order and postage are paid via PayPal on the myfiap platform directly to FIAP. This is distinct from the Distinctions fee, which is paid to the Federation of Indian Photography.

9. IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- AFIAP, EFIAP, and EFIAP Levels applications must not be sent directly to FIAP. As per FIAP document 011/2016E-8.6, national federations may set additional national requirements within reason.
- If a distinction application is rejected, the applicant must wait at least one year before submitting a new application. The application fees will not be refunded or carried forward.
- Prior to FIAP approval and FIP notification, a Distinction cannot be used.
- FIAP uses a computer program to validate your application spreadsheet against criteria like salon count, titles, and countries, and cross-checks with the FIAP Salon File Database. Precise and consistent details such as spelling, titles, country names, and patronage numbers are essential, as even small errors or special characters can lead to mismatches. Forms must be completed using Microsoft Excel, as third-party software may distort the formatting.
- Applicants for EFIAP Bronze and above cannot use recognition number results obtained before the EFIAP certificate date, which is December 31 for Indian applicants. For example, if EFIAP is awarded in 2024, any 2024 or earlier results with recognition numbers are ineligible for EFIAP Bronze or higher. The same rule applies to EFIAP Diamonds, based on the date of the EFIAP Platinum certificate.
- EFIAP & EFIAP Levels applicants Select images such that they are not similar in any way to those you submitted for previous FIAP distinction. Similarity is one of the major causes of rejection of distinction application.
- Images submitted (the photos you are sending to FIAP) must have the required, minimum number of results and awards that applies to the Distinction sought. Where an award is required for a submitted image, only list one award for that image, and the country in

which is was achieved on Dossier A. Choose an award that fulfills the requirements for the specific Distinction.

- Official salon names, FIAP Patronage numbers and Country name can be verified through the official FIAP Salon list at the following link: <https://www.myfiap.net/patronages>
- Given name and Surname in the Dossier page A and file name of the pictures and excel file should be the same.
- Complete name, Surname, given name On Page A - Administrative Dossier must be written in the Proper Case, but not in all capital or small letters.
- Complete the Dossier A page first. The other pages are coded to auto fill the same details on other pages. Do not attempt to alter these details on the other Dossier pages as it is the auto fill coding you will modify.
- Avoid modifying columns, rows, fonts, text color, or adding any formatting headings.
- Each judging/salon of a circuit has a different patronage number. Write the correct patron- age number for each judging of circuits. Don't club all patronage numbers.
- Do not add any text in the Patronage no (FIAP No) Column. The format of the patronage no is Year and No. (Example: 2024/001).
- Title of the works in the Dossier A & Dossier C must be in the Alphabetical order.
- We at FIP scrutinize applications according to FIAP guidelines. However, we will not match the acceptances with the salon file database and are not responsible for any discrepancies if applications are rejected during the FIAP validation process. In case of discrepancies, FIAP may request the published catalogue as proof.
- Do not send anything which is not asked for. (See section 7.2)
- Refer the specimen copy for more clarification (Available on the FIP Website)
- We usually reply within 72 hours. Repeat reminders not necessary.

Distinctions In-charge:

Digwas Bellemane, EFIAP/p, EsFIAP, EFIP, EsFIP, Hon MoL.

Mobile: +91-9449152121

Queries mail to:

fiap.fipdistinctions@gmail.com

digwashegde@gmail.com



9th FIAP Photo Meeting – China

Hunan & Inner Mongolia
Hosted by Hunan Silk Road Culture Exchange, LLC

Supervised by FIAP China Office

PROGRAM

22nd August–1th September 2025 (Hunan)
1st September – 7th September 2025 (Inner Mongolia)

REGISTRATION FORM

INFO 323 / 2025

All registration will be done online at
fiaphotomeetingcn@163.com

Association/Club Name :

Position :

FIAP Life card number :

Passport Number :
Date of Issue Expiry Date :

Visa number :

ID Number : (For Chinese only)

First Name :
Surname :
DD-MM-YYYY

Gender : ☐ M ☐ F ☐ Other Date of Birth :

Nationality : Country of residence :

Postal Address

Address Line - 1 :

Address Line - 2 :

Address Line - 3 : Zip code :

Email Address : Mobile No :

FIAP distinctions :

Emergency Contact

Name : Mobile No:
Emergency Whatsapp Number :

Food Type (Select one) : All Type ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Muslim ☐

Special Food Type :

Food allergy if any :

Any health remarks : Blood Group:

T Shirt Size (Select One) : Small ☐ Medium ☐ Large ☐ Extra Large ☐

Accommodation: : Double ☐ Single ☐

If double with whom : Mr. / Ms. / Mrs.

Group Name if any :

Preferred Language :

Invitation letter needed : Yes ☐ No ☐

Travel Details

Arrival to Changsha Huanghua International Airport (CSX)

Date:	:	DD	MM	YYYY	Time	:	HH	MM
	:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>		:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Flight No	:	<input type="text"/>			From	:	<input type="text"/>	
Train No	:	<input type="text"/>			From	:	<input type="text"/>	

Departure from Changsha Airport (CSX) or Xilinhot International Airport (XIL)

Date:	:	DD	MM	YYYY	Time	:	HH	MM
	:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>		:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Flight No	:	<input type="text"/>			From	:	<input type="text"/>	
Train No	:	<input type="text"/>			From	:	<input type="text"/>	

Payment Information:

After you complete the registration form completely and send it to fiapphotomeetingcn@163.com. We will send you a confirmation email with bank details for payment. The deadline of the payment is 15th june.

Please note that, registration Fee(Changsha) is 1700.00 Euro for single occupancy and 1400.00 Euro for double occupancy per person during Changsha. The registration Fee(Inner Monolia) is 1390.00 Euro for single occupancy and 1090.00 Euro for double occupancy per person during Xilinhote(Including the airfare from Changsha to Xilinhote airport). The registration includes your delegate kit, all meals, rooms with 4-5 star facility, all travel and entrance to all the designated monuments and welcome and farewell dinners. Doesn't include alcoholic beverages except on welcome and farewell dinners and your personal laundry and medical expenses.

By submitting to the International Federation of Photographic Art (FIAP) and Hunan Silk Road Culture Exchange LLC(HSRCE), my personal data and/or the data of my children (child's name)

(as parent or official legal guardian of them) for registration to the 9th FIAP Photo Meeting –

CHINA, I agree that FIAP/HSRCE may use the information in this form, to review and respond to my registration. It may also process these data for any purpose needed and related to the registration of the above Photomeeting. By registering to the 9th FIAP PHOTO MEETING – CHINA I consent to the publication of any pictures or videos representing me or my children (child's name)

(as parent or official legal guardian of them), eventually with the names of mine and/or of my children during the 9th FIAP PHOTO MEETING – CHINA and I hereby grant permission to FIAP for publishing any of these pictures or videos for non-commercial, educational, promotional or reporting purposes without any compensation, remuneration, royalties or any other payment to me or my children, including but not limited on FIAP's/HSRCE's websites, newsletters, social media and other electronic or printed promotional materials. When giving my permission I am aware that any information published on the internet is accessible to millions of users from all over the world, that it will be indexed by search engines and that it may be copied and used by any web user. This means that once the names of mine and/or of my children and/or any photographs that my children and I may be represented are published on the Internet, FIAP/HSRCE have no more control over their subsequent use and disclosure. It is my exclusive responsibility to inform FIAP/HSRCE whilst at the 9th FIAP PHOTO MEETING – CHINA and in a signed written form, if I do not wish for these pictures and/or the names of mine and/or of my children to be published.

I certify that I am 18 years old or older and that I have read and fully understand the contents herein and I accordingly consent to the above.

Date :

Signature :

Please attach your passport size image and scanned copy of your passport along with filled up form and send them to fiapphotomeetingcn@163.com

NEW RULES FOR SALON DISCOUNTS, PATRONAGE AND TENURE OF CM

New regulations concerning participation in

FIP Salons and Circuits effective from January 2025

1. There are no restrictions for individual entries irrespective of FIP membership to Salons/Circuits with FIP Patronage.
2. **Only FIP affiliated club members (Valid) can participate as group of members of that particular club.**
3. An individual can only participate in Salon/Circuit from one Corporate club. If anyone participates from another Corporate club, he/she have to obtain NOC from the previous club.
4. Member who participates from more than one club will face a salon and distinction embargo for 1 to 5 years with no rights to appeal.
5. Discounts mentioned in FIP SALON APPLICATION FORM will only be limited to corporate club.
6. **All Salon organizers must follow a transparent policy regarding discount to FIP Corporate Clubs. The stated entry fee in the COE should be uniform for all individual entrants as well as Corporate Clubs.**
7. **Groups, other than valid FIP corporate clubs will not be entitled for discount.**
8. Any Salon/Circuit organizing club providing discount to groups other than FIP Corporate Club or Individual will not be considered for FIP patronage in future.
9. Organizing clubs have the full liberty to seek patronage from any Indian or Foreign group or organization.
10. **FIP patronage will only be considered if FIP is the sole Indian Patronage granting body.**
11. **To encourage organizers of Print Salon the Salon fee for Prints have been reduced to 50 % of existing fee.**
12. **To encourage Corporate membership the tenure of all NEW corporate clubs or renewals of existing CMs will be valid for 5 years at the same fee of Rs. 5100/-. Presently it is 3 years only.**

New Rules for FIP membership and Patronage for Foreign Clubs.

1. Foreign clubs are welcome to seek FIP patronage and membership.
2. A new Form for membership and Patronage is available on our site.
3. By paying USD 50.00 the foreign club can get a non voting membership for one year and a salon Patronage for 4 sections. For Circuits the fee will be USD 75.00 (three Salons).
4. Medals will be available at an extra payment of USD 10.00 for a single medal with one ribbon including postage.
5. All payment must be paid by PayPal with transaction commission of USD 05.00 per transaction.
6. Salon patronage is not a Right but a privilege for any organizer. FIP can deny patronage without citing any reason.

NEW SALON RECOGNITION FEE STRUCTURE

	OFFLINE JUDGING	ONLINE JUDGING
NATIONAL (DIGITAL)	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 1500/-
INTERNATIONAL (DIGITAL)	Rs. 1500/-	Rs. 2500/-
NATIONAL (PRINT)	Rs. 250/-	
INTERNATIONAL (PRINT)	Rs. 750/-	

MEDAL CHARGES PER SECTION

(1 Medal + 4 Ribbons per section is mandatory)

National per section for 1 Medal + 4 Ribbons @ Rs. 1250/-

International per section for 1 Medal + 4 Ribbons @ Rs. 1500/-

MAXIMUM CHARGEABLE ENTRY FEE	NATIONAL	INTERNATIONAL
1. Single Salon for all sections	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 1000/-
2. Two Salon Circuit for all sections	Rs. 1000/-	Rs. 1500/-
3. Three Salon Circuit for all sections	Rs. 1500/-	Rs. 2000/-

Organizers are free to charge less but not more than the above charges.



FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE L'ART PHOTOGRAPHIQUE

The International Federation of Photographic Art

INFO 313 / 2025 E

The text provided below must be included in the salon rules of events organized under FIAP patronage which contain a "Nature" section.

The new definition which has been worked out together with officials of respective departments of PSA, takes effect immediately.

FIAP Nature definition

Content Guidelines

Nature photography records all branches of natural history except anthropology and archaeology. This includes all aspects of the physical world, both over water and underwater.

Nature images must convey the truth of the scene. A well-informed person should be able to identify the subject of the image and be satisfied that it has been presented honestly and that no unethical practices have been used to control the subject or capture the image. Images that directly or indirectly show any human activity threatening a living organism's life or welfare are not allowed.

The most important part of a Nature image is the nature story it tells. High technical standards are expected, and the image must look natural.

- Objects created by humans, and evidence of human activity, are allowed in Nature images only when they are a necessary part of the Nature story.
- Photographs of human-created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domesticated animals, human-created hybrid animals, and mounted or preserved zoological specimens are not allowed.
- Photographs made where the scene is natural and the animal is unharmed in a carefully managed environment, such as Zoo, rescue centers, and ethically managed natural environment farms are permitted.
- Attracting or controlling subjects through the use of food or sound for the purpose of photographing them is not allowed. Maintained situations such as provided supplemental food due to hardship caused by weather conditions or other conditions beyond the animal's control, where photography is incidental to the feeding of the animal does not fall under this provision.
- Controlling live subjects by chilling, anaesthetic, or any other method of restricting natural movement for a photograph is not allowed.
- Human-made elements shall be permitted under the following circumstances:
 - a) When they are an integral part of the nature story, such as a songbird singing atop a fence post a manmade object used as nest material, or a weather phenomenon destroying a man-made structure.
 - b) When they are a small but unavoidable part of the scene, such as an unobtrusive footprint or track in the background.
 - c) Scientific tags, collars, and bands are specifically allowed.

When photographing at a zoo, sanctuary, or rehabilitation centre, it would be construed that the photographer ensured that it's properly accredited and conforms to best practices.

Wildlife Photography

In addition to the restrictions on nature photography, to be eligible for any Wildlife award and acceptance, images must meet the following conditions:

- Zoological organisms must be living free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat of their own choosing.
- Images of zoological organisms that have been removed from their natural habitat, are in any form of captivity or are being controlled by humans for the purpose of photography are not allowed.
- Botanical organisms may not be removed from their natural environment for the purpose of photography.
- Images that have been staged for the purpose of photography are not allowed.

Editing Guidelines:

Processing or editing must be limited to making the image look as close to the original scene as possible, except that conversion to grayscale monochrome is allowed.

Allowed editing techniques:

- Cropping, straightening and perspective correction
- Removal or correction of elements added by the camera or lens, such as dust spots, noise, chromatic aberration and lens distortion
- Global and selective adjustments such as brightness, hue, saturation and contrast to restore the appearance of the original scene
- Complete conversion of colour images to grayscale monochrome
- Blending of multiple images of the same subject and combining them in camera or with software (exposure blending or focus stacking)
- Image stitching - combining multiple images with overlapping fields of view that are taken consecutively (panoramas).

Editing techniques that are not allowed:

- Removing, adding to, moving or changing any part of an image, except for cropping and straightening.
- Adding a vignette during processing
- Blurring parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene
- Darkening parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene
- All conversions other than to complete grayscale monochrome
- Conversion of parts of an image to monochrome, or partial toning, desaturation or over-saturation of colour

FIAP Patronage Service

By Romain Nero EFIAP/d1 HonEFIAP
Director of the FIAP Patronage Service

New FIAP Patronage Regulations

New FIAP Patronage Regulations

The new patronage regulations will be mailed out to affiliates soon. Due to some delays in finalizing some of the detail, this document could not be sent earlier in the year, and thus the new regulations will not take effect at the start of 2024 as previously planned. These new regulations will instead become effective for salons/exhibitions which have a closing date AFTER the 30th April 2024.

Some of the changes in the regulations have been implemented as a result of the ongoing collaborative work with the PSA. A new Memorandum of Understanding was recently signed by FIAP and PSA in October that further detailed the agreements being made by both organisations. An article, written by Joanne Stolte, who is both the FIAP Liaison Officer for the USA and the PSA International Partnerships Emissary, can be read in the Events section of this edition of FIAP News.

Here are the major amendments in the new FIAP Patronage regulations:

- a revised FIAP/PSA definition for Nature/Wildlife, that is still being finalised. Set subject definitions are an appendix to the main regulations. This appendix will be published soon.
- applications for new events that only have digital sections, that have not had FIAP Patronage previously, must submit their Patronage application at least 3 months before the event's closing date; if these events have previously been granted Patronage, then they must submit their Patronage application at least 2 months before their closing date;
- applications for any events with print sections must submit their Patronage application at least 4 months before the event's closing date and the salon's entry details and entry process must be available to entrants at least 3 months before the event's closing date; this is in order to give participants sufficient time to send in their works,
- FIAP recommends that organizers do not flood Facebook and other social media sites with marketing posts for their event;
- all judges engaged to judge a salon that is using online judging shall have a minimum of ten (10) days to score images before the award selection meeting;
- For the youth age categories in youth salons the older age category will be for entrants under the age of 25 before the closing date for entries;
- no salon FIAP Patronage fees will be charged for salons exclusively organised for youth and for each of these Youth salons, regardless of the number of sections offered in the Youth Salon; FIAP will also sponsor one set of 3 medals for each of the two age categories in a Youth Salon;

- the “Travel” section will no longer be an option for salons with FIAP Patronage and will be replaced by the option to have a “World in focus” section. The definition for this section is shown below;
- there is a new FIAP/PSA definition for Photojournalism; this is also shown below;
an author may not enter identical or similar photographs into the same salon; in such case the organiser has to filter these images out before the judging;
- each salon participant cannot receive more than one award per section in the same salon.
- awarded medals must either be engraved by the organiser or, at least, provided with a sticker that includes details such as the name of the participant and the title of the picture for which the award was given;
- pictures created by artificial intelligence are not allowed in any salon with FIAP Patronage! All parts of the image have to be photographed by the author who is holding the copyright of all works submitted. Offenders will be sanctioned for life!
one person cannot act more than fifteen times a year as member of a jury in a salon under FIAP patronage;
the text regarding online judging, FIAP INFO 172/2020, has been included in the Patronage Regulations document;
salons with a printed catalogue have previously needed to send a copy to the FIAP President, FIAP General Secretary, the Director of the Ethics Service and the FIAP Patronage Director; in addition to this, the catalogue must also be sent to the FIAP Salon File Department; please mark these parcels as “a gift, no commercial value”;
- in order to minimise the possibility of entrants being charged duties or taxes when receiving a parcel containing the awarded medals, ribbons or trophies, salon organisers are asked to indicate on any postal and customs declaration that the contents are a “Gift of an inscribed award. No commercial value.”; any place on the forms which require a value to be indicated, should be marked as zero (0) commercial value or the minimum possible if a value above zero is a mandatory requirement.
- the acceptance rates have to be limited to a maximum of 30% in each section.;

The New FIAP Definition for “World in Focus”

Just as with travel and tourism pictures, this section encompasses the full range of photographic genres from architecture, culture, events, food, landscape, portraits, etc. A “WORLD IN FOCUS” image expresses the spirit of an era, the essence of a place or of a culture whether it is shown in an authentic scene or whether it is arranged. Digital manipulation to optimize an image in terms of fine tuning of levels and colours is allowed as long as the image looks natural. The same applies for removal of dust or digital noise. Techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove any element of the original image, except by cropping, are not permitted.

The New FIAP/PSA “Photojournalism Definition”

Photojournalism entries are images with informative content and emotional impact, reflecting the human presence in our world.

Content Guidelines

- The journalistic (story-telling) value of the image should receive priority over pictorial quality.
- Images that misrepresent the truth, such as those from events or activities arranged specifically for photography, or of subjects directed or hired for photography, are not eligible.
- When Human Interest is specified, those images depict a person or persons in an interactive, emotional or unusual situation, excluding sports action.

Editing Guidelines

Processing or editing must be limited to making the image look as close to the original scene as possible.

Allowed editing techniques:

- Cropping, straightening and perspective correction.
- Removal or correction of elements added by the camera or lens, such as dust spots, noise, chromatic aberration and lens distortion.
- Global and selective adjustments such as brightness, hue, saturation and contrast to restore the appearance of the original scene.
- Complete conversion of color images to grayscale monochrome.
- Blending of multiple images of the same subject and combining them in camera or with software (exposure blending or focus stacking);
- Image stitching – combining multiple images with overlapping fields of view that are taken consecutively (panoramas);

Editing techniques that are not allowed:

- Removing, adding to, moving or changing any part of an image, except for cropping and straightening.
- Adding a vignette during processing.
- Blurring parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene.
- Darkening parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene.
- All conversions other than to complete grayscale monochrome.
- Conversion of parts of an image to monochrome, or partial toning, desaturation or over-saturation of color.

ALL SALON ORGANIZERS AND WEBMASTERS TO NOTE

Dear Salon Organizers/Webmasters,

Warm greetings from FIP, Patna, India.

Please be informed that FIAP DOC 033/2021 has been replaced with FIAP DOC 038/2023 E.

The amended undertaking by the entrant to all FIAP Salons will be

“I hereby expressly agree to FIAP document 040/2023 E «Conditions and regulations for FIAP Patronage » and FIAP document « Sanctions 038/2023 E for breaching FIAP regulations and the red list ». I am particularly aware of chapter II « Regulations for International photographic events under FIAP patronage » of FIAP document 040/2023 E, dealing under Section II.2 and II.3 with the FIAP participation rules, the sanctions for breaching FIAP regulations and the red list.”

FIAP documents 040/2023 E and 038/2023 E must be linked to this paragraph so that participants can consult it.

Please amend your Salon documents accordingly and urgently.

Thanks.

All new Salon Patronage Application must be accompanied by the draft of Salon Rules including Salon Fee. No Group can be considered as a club hence groups must not be given any award etc.

It has come to our notice that some Salon organizers are offering far too many PDF CMs. There must be a fair balance between acceptances, Medals and CMs including Ribbons. FIP has issued a new guideline. The Ratio between FIP Medal and CM/Ribbon must be 10 or below. 1 FIP Medal = 10 FIP Ribbon/CM.

**Starting from April 2023
FIP Salons/Circuits can be judged offline/online.
The period for online judging must be 10 days.
FIP/FIAP combined Salons/Circuits will be judged
offline/online as per FIP/FIAP approval.**

APPEAL TO ALL WEBMASTERS REGISTERED WITH FIP AND SALON ORGANIZERS

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

Dear Friends,

FIP is receiving far too many incomplete, wrongly filled up Patronage Forms. Some of the common mistakes are :

1. Genre of theme not mentioned.
2. SDAS details not furnished. If it is a circuit all the participating clubs' SDAS must have been furnished.
3. The current Patronage form is Version VIII available in 2024 issue of Viewfinder.
4. FIP membership status of all the jury members must be filled up.
5. Preliminary round of online judging should be completed within the 1st 10 days.
6. Online link for the Award round must be shared with the Team Salon Saathi. Salon Saathi members participating in the Salon will be relieved of this responsibility.
7. Screen Shots of Zoom/Google Award meeting showing all the Jury members preferably with Chairperson must be sent to Team Salon Saathi.
8. While the Salon organizers are free to fix their entry fees, I see exorbitantly high entry fee being levied by some of the reputed Salon organizers.
9. The Salon Patronage form has been changed. The current one is Version IX and printed in the current issue of Viewfinder. Please make sure that you do not use any other previous versions to avoid unnecessary communications and delays.
10. All Salon organizers are duty bound to have a formal exhibition of the Print/Digital work. They must formally send an invitation to FIP who will delegate a dignitary to represent FIP in the Inaugural function of the Exhibition.



FEDERATION OF INDIAN PHOTOGRAPHY

9A, Arya Kumar Road, Rajendra Nagar, Patna - 800016
M: 9835021092 / 9431063606 (Rajiv)
Email: barunks@hotmail.com / federationofindianphotography@gmail.com
www.fip.org.in

Space for FIP Office only:

FIP No.:	Date:	Paid:	Amount:
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Secretary General FIP/ Salon Overall Control

Information to be furnished by the Salon Organising Corporate Member:

1. Name of the Salon / Circuit						
2. National / International / Circuit Salon						
3. Postal address of the Organising Club / Association, including Email and Mobile/Landline Phone number						
	Mobile:		Email:			
4. Corporate Membership No. of the Organiser with Expiry date of its Membership *	CM		Expiry Date			
	Corporate Membership No.		DD		MM	YYYY
5. Whether the Mandatory information of SDAS sent for the immediately preceding Salon?	Last SADS	SADS Sent on	Last Catalog	Catalog Sent on	Exhibition Date	Exhibition Venue
6. Sections in the Salon / Circuit?	Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4	Section 5	Section 6
<i>Enter Theme Name (only if Theme option is selected)</i>						
7. If it is a Circuit, name the Participating Photographic Clubs	Club / Corporate Member				CM No.	Expiry Date
	1					
	2					
	3					
	4					
	5					
	6					
8. Salon recognition fee:- National digital Salon with Offline judging Rs. 500/-, Online judging Rs. 1500/-. International Digital Salon:- Offline judging Rs. 1500/-. Online judging Rs. 2500/-. 50% discount on above charges for on Print Salons.	Amount	Date	Transaction No.		Paid by	
	<i>Please attach a copy of the transaction receipt or payment proof to the application email</i>					
9. Whether Fee for Mandatory FIP Medal has been paid? (Section-wise: National @ Rs.1250/- & International @ Rs.1500/-)	Amount	Date	Transaction No.		Paid by	
	<i>Please attach a copy of the transaction receipt or payment proof to the application email</i>					
10. Required Medals	FIP Medal	0	FIP Ribbon	0		

The Corporate Membership should be valid at least ? If all the Prints, Medals & or Salon Catalogues etc are despatched to the Salon Participants & the FIP / FIAP
We hereby confirm that:

1. We have carefully studied the FIP Regulations for Salon Recognition and declare that we shall in our own interest and also in the interest of the Entrants to our Salon, strictly abide by these Regulations (including Para 9.3).
2. We submit herewith both the Salon Schedule and the Final Entry Form of our Salon.
3. We are aware that in case of any lapse on our part, our Salon Recognition is liable to be cancelled.
4. We agree to send a copy of our Salon Catalogue within a period of one month from the closure of our Exhibition to each of the following FIP Officials: (i) President (ii) Vice President (iii) Secretary General (iv) Treasurer and (v) Working Committee Members (and in case of FIAP Recognised Salon - also to the concerned FIAP Officials as per their Advice / Guidelines).
5. We also agree to send soft copies of the Lists of (a) Awards and (b) Acceptances in M. S. Word / Excel format, within a week after the announcement of our Salon Result to the FIP's Hony. Secretary General and the Chairman Who's Who Division.

Secretary's Signature

Chairperson's Signature

Secretary's Name	
Name of Corporate Member	
Mobile No.	
Email	

Chairperson's Name	
Name of Corporate Member	
Mobile No.	
Email	

<i>Please make sure that your Corporate Membership is active till the last Salon responsibility as per your Salon Calendar, if not, please get it renewed.</i>						
Important Dates of the Salon / Circuit (Salon / Circuit Calendar)	Closing		Exhibition			
	Judging		Catalog/Award			
	Result		SADS			
JURY: All the Members of Jury (including Alternate ones) must possess Distinctions from globally renowned Photographic Bodies such as FIP/FIAP/RPS/PSA etc. In case of a Circuit Salon, each leg (of salon) must have a separate set of Judges including an alternate Judge. No person should act as a Jury in two Salons of the same Circuit. I hereby confirm that Email consent has been obtained from the listed jury members with the following statement. I have read and understood the FIP rules and guidelines (July 2022) and I have agreed to follow in spirit and letter in the Salon judging. All your jury members must be either LM/IM (Valid) of FIP.						
Secretary's Signature			Chairperson's Signature			
Patronage or recognitions sought from other bodies	FIAP	PSA	RPS	GPU	APU	Other
IMPORTANT!!! Select Mode of Judging						
Jury Name & Distinctions (FIAP/FIP)	Sections	LM/IM No.	CM Name / No.	City & Country	Email	Mobile No.
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						
Name of Alternate Juries, if any, must be shared with FIP at the time of patronage application. (Please use separate piece of paper). Alternate Juries can only be used if 1 or more regular jury is not available.						
Secretary's Name			Chairperson's Name			

Complete Postal Address	
Mobile No.	
Email	

Webmaster's Name	
FIP Registered ?	Yes
Mobile No.	
Email	

Complete Postal Address	
Mobile No.	
Email	

Website	
Normal Fee	
Discounted Fee	
Club Discount	

Secretary's Signature



FEDERATION OF INDIAN PHOTOGRAPHY

9A, Arya Kumar Road, Rajendra Nagar, Patna - 800016
M: 9835021092, 9431063606 (Rajiv)
Email: barunks@hotmail.com
federationofindianphotography@gmail.com
www.fip.org.in

With reference to your application dated _____ seeking FIP recognition for your National / International Circuit / Salon we have pleasure in granting the Recognition to your Salon.

Please note this recognition is Provisional, and it may be cancelled, if any serious lapse is detected on your part in of the Regulations specified.

Date: _____

For the Federation of Indian Photography Salon Recognition: Overall Control

F. I. P. Recognition Reference No. **FIP/2025/**

(Please quote the FIP Salon Recognition Number on your Entry Form & Catalogue)



FEDERATION OF INDIAN PHOTOGRAPHY

(Uniform Practices Form No. 3) Salon Recognition
9A, Arya Kumar Road, Rajendra Nagar, Patna - 800 016

Regulations for Photographic Associations seeking FIP Recognition

1. Definition:

- 1.1 The Salon should be open to everyone from all the States in India, irrespective of their sex, age and status and in some cases to foreigners as well.

2. Exhibition:

- 2.1 Wherever possible the Salon Committee shall make arrangements with local Art Museums or other equally appropriate Institution which are regularly open to the Public for the display of the exhibits.

3. Jury:

- 3.1 The Jury should consist of either three or five Judges, carefully chosen as being capable of selecting Prints/Digital Images of salon quality.
- 3.2 All jury members must be either LM/IM (Valid) of FIP.
- 3.3 Jury members should represent a cross section of photo artists. Salon organising committee members will not participate as an entrant. FIP member clubs, organising a Salon may allow its members to participate in their own Salon provided majority (67%) of the jury members are from outside the club. All jury members from the same club is allowed provided the members of the club are not participating.

(N.B.: An adequate number of Nature workers should be included as the Jury for judging Nature Entries.) All the Judges must be distinction holders from globally renowned Photographic Bodies such as FIAP, RPS, PSA, FIP etc.

4. Website :

- 4.1 All entries must be invited using a software on a specific website which must be active 3 months before the closing date and one year following the publishing of the results.
- 4.2 Entries cannot be invited through Emails.
- 4.3 Webmaster MUST be registered with FIP and a member of FIP.
- 4.4 Webmasters of a salon can act neither as a jury member or an entrant in that Salon.

5. Number of Entries:

- 5.1 The following maximum number may not be exceeded in any Section:

S. No.	SECTIONS PRINTS (PPD)	CODE	MAXIMUM number
A)	Monochrome (Pictorial) Prints (Large or Small)	MP	4
B)	Colour (Pictorial) Prints (Large or Small)	CP	4
C)	Nature Print	NP	4
D)	Wild Life Print	WLP	4
E)	PJ Print	PJP	4
F)	Photo Travel Print	PTP	4
[DIGITAL / PROJECTED IMAGE]			
G)	Open Monochrome (PIDM)	M	4
H)	Open Color (PID C)	C	4
I)	Nature (ND)	N	4
J)	Wild Life (ND WL)	WL	4
K)	PJ (PJD)	PJ	4
L)	PT (PTD)	PT	4
M)	World in Focus (WIF)	WIF	4
M)	Theme, if any	TH	4

- 5.2 **N.B.:** Salon Organisers /Exhibitors will follow ONLY THIS CODE.
- 6. Presentation of entries for judging:**
- 6.1 All the entries without exception should be presented to the Jury for appraisal.
- 6.2 The room in which judging takes place should be well lighted. (**N.B.:** A reading of 15 to 20 foot candle power is considered adequate.)
- 6.3 The prints should be presented to the Jury in the order of their size (beginning with the smaller ones), so that they will be judged by size groups, at the most suitable viewing distance.
- 6.4 The Digital / Projected Images (PID) should be judged by projection only, assuring good screen brightness, either on a large screen (preferred) or on Laptops to Individual Jury members.
- 6.5 At no time shall an Individual entrant's entries be judged consecutively.
- 6.6 The Jury may examine only the Front view of Prints by holding them in hand for detecting further fineness or defects, if any.
- 7. Decision of the Jury:**
- 7.1 The decision of the Jury, whether numerical rating or otherwise, may be marked on an easily removable sticker on the back of the print.
- 7.2 After the judging is over, the participants should be notified of the Final Result (i.e. Award / Acceptance / Rejection),and if possible along with the individual Entry scores.
- 7.3 The decision of the Jury is final and binding to all. Even organisers cannot question or change the jury's decision, however a score of 1 may have to be explained to the author why it has been disqualified. Therefore the jury members are requested to score 1 only following proper scrutiny including review of RAW or Original JPEG file if in doubt.
- 8. Acceptance Labels:**
- 8.1 Each accepted entry should be awarded a distinctive sticker (label), which may however be NOT AFFIXED TO THEENTRY.
- 9. CATALOGUE AND ENTRY FORM:**
- 9.1 The Salon Organisers shall prepare Salon Catalogue(Printed / PDF / CD as the case may be) listing the Exhibitors & their Entry, strictly in the alphabetical order of their Surname. After the Author's name only the internationally recognised Distinctions such as those of FIAP, RPS, PSA and FIP may be mentioned.
- 9.2 Every entrant should receive an illustrated Catalogue in which the **FIP Message** (given on the last page of this Document) should be prominently published. Printed/PDF Catalogues are in order if that is the only from of Catalogue and mentioned so in the Entry Form.
- 9.3 The fact that the salon has received 'FIP recognition', should be mentioned both in the Catalogue and also on the Entry Form quoting the allotted 'FIP recognition number' along with the FIP emblem. The FIP Message given on the last page of this Document should be prominently printed in the Salon Catalogue.
- 10. Schedule:**
- 10.1 It is essential that the Entry Forms be mailed not later than sixty (60) days before the closing date. The closing date should be boldly marked at the bottom of the first page of the Entry Form.
- 10.2 The total time lapse between the closing date for receipt of entries and the closing date of the exhibition, in no case should exceed 70 days. (Salons scheduled for display / projection in more than one city, may have 15 days more for each additional showing).
- 10.3 The Notification cards shall be emailed / despatched strictly as per the announcement of Salon Schedule.
- 10.4 The posting of the Catalogue to the entrant should be not later than 70 days from the date of Closing for receipt of entries.
- 10.5 The awards won by the exhibitor shall be sent to him not later than the return of his or her entries.
- 11.** The language of the Entry Form, Notification and the Catalogue shall be English, even if regional languages are also used.
- 12. Return of Prints and Slides:**
- 12.1 Whereas the Print entries should be returned in their original packing, however, if it is found to be inadequate to ensure safe return, as a matter of courtesy to the entrant the Organisers should use fresh packing material.
- 12.2 Entries should be returned by '**Registered Post**' only.
- 13. Originality:**
- 13.1 All monochrome work should be the sole, unaided work of the entrant, except mounting.

14. Titles of the Entries:

- 14.1 It should be in English and should not be changed from salon to salon. N.B. Entries with 'No Titles' or with 'Numerical titles' may be rejected and in any case, will NOT be counted for 'Star Rating' or 'Who's who'.

15. General:

A salon Catalogue should be sent separately to the following:

- 15.1 The President - FIP
- 15.2 The Vice President - FIP
- 15.3 The Secretary General - FIP
- 15.4 The Treasurer - FIP
- 15.5 The Secretary, Indian Who's Who Division
- 15.6 The Secretary, Indian Star Rating Division
- 15.7 The Secretary, Salon Control Division
- 15.8 All the Working Committee members

(Their respective addresses are available in every issue of the VIEWFINDER).

(Please Note: It is fully within the competence and jurisdiction of the Secretary General of the F.I.P. to modify these regulations if and when found necessary.)

N.B.: The Salon Organisers may please keep these Regulations in their Records for reference in future.

16. Responsibility of FIP:

- 16.1 The grant of Recognition to any photographic event by the FIP does not imply that it is / will be liable or responsible for any faults or wrongdoings committed, if any, by the organizers towards participants and/or third parties. In such an eventuality the sole responsibility for such a fault shall lie with the Organisers of the Photographic event.

17. Copyright:

- 17.1 FIP shall not bear any responsibility either for copyright infringement of any element (image, audio, video) in the Printed /Digital catalogue or for unlawful/mis-representation of any person or place included or appearing in the submitted works.
18. In accordance with the best International practice, FIP disapproves inclusion of any specific Acceptance rate in the Salon Regulations, which can be defined only after the Judging is over but it should not be more than 30%.(Effective from 30th April 2024)

19. Salon Surveillance

A committee of senior FIP officials and webmasters will keep a close watch on all activities of all salons under FIP patronage. They will contact the organisers through email or cell number. Refusal to cooperate will be noted and scored against the organisers.

Salons in future will be given ranking based on these feedbacks and adherence to salon Calendar, specially posting of SDAS and awards will be very important.

FIP doesn't plan or wish to put road blocks on the path of salon organisers but we also have to look after the interest of all the entrants, the FIP and the FIAP.

- 20. INFO 260/2023 which is FIAP's latest advisory prohibiting "Pictures generated by AI" in Salons under FIAP Patronage.**

This message MUST be printed in the Salon Catalogue



FEDERATION OF INDIAN PHOTOGRAPHY

www.fip.org.in

The Central National body of Photography in India

Affiliated to

FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DEL'ART PHOTOGRAPHIQUE

By joining the **FIP**,
you are indirectly a member of FIAP,
getting all the advantages and facilities

FIP Photographer of the Year Contest, FIP Youth Photographer of the Year Contest

Colour & Monochrome Print Contest,

Colour PI Contest • Inter Club Competitions • Photographic Education,

Nature & Pictorial Divisions • Who's Who and Star Rating Division

Photographic Workshops and Demos,

National & International Salon Recognition

More than 250 Salons were recognised by FIP in the year 2019.

5 Different countries have sought and got FIP recognition for their Salons.

And more than this, only access to the FIAP's International Photographic

Honours such as:

AFIAP, EFIAP, EFIAP Levels, MFIAP, ESFIAP and Hon. EFIAP

National Honours like AFIP, EFIP, EFIP Gold, EFIP Platinum, MFIP, ESFIP, ESFIPC

EFIP Gold (Nature), EFIP Platinum (Nature), MFIP (Nature), Hon. MFIP (Nature), Hon. FIP

GFIP, GFIP/Pratham, GFIP/Uttam, GFIP/Sarvottam

Write to

DR. B.K. SINHA, MFIAP, EFIAP/p, GMPSA, ARPS, Hon. EFIAP, ESFIAP, Hon. FIP, Hon. MFIP (N), Hon. YPS

9A, ARYA KUMAR ROAD, RAJENDRA NAGAR, PATNA-800 016

barunks@hotmail.com; federationofindianphotography@gmail.com

Cell No. : 9835021092

Website : www.fip.org.in

FIP DEFINITION OF DIVISIONS AND SECTIONS

PID Colour

The subject matter is unrestricted for PID images in separate colour and monochrome section. There may be a theme specified for some PID Salons and the exhibition's definition of the theme should be consulted with the organizer.

In accordance with Para II.8 E of FIAP DOC 040/2023 E "Pictures created by artificial intelligence are not allowed in this salon! All parts of the image have to be photographed by the author who is holding the copyright of all works submitted. Offenders will be sanctioned for life!"

All elements of the image must have been shot by the author. All parts of the image including graphics have to be photographed by the author holding copyright of his submitted works. Use of some filters available on net is permissible.

Same images either colour or mono in two different section of the same Salon will result in disqualification for both the images.

Monochrome Definition:

An image is considered to be Monochrome only if it gives the impression of having no colour (i.e. contains only shades of grey which can include pure black and pure white) OR it gives the impression of being a greyscale image that has been toned in one colour across the entire image. (For example by Sepia, red, gold, etc.)

Nature Photography definition:

Nature Photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict all branches of natural history, except anthropology* and archaeology*, in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and certify its honest presentation. (Suggested*: An example will be helpful to the New Jury).

The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality while maintaining high technical quality.

1. Human elements must not be present, except where those human elements are integral parts of the nature story such as nature subjects, like barn owls or storks, adapted to an environment modified by humans, or where those human elements are in situations depicting natural forces, like hurricanes or tidal waves.
2. Scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals are permissible.
3. Photographs of human created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals, or mounted specimens are ineligible.
4. Techniques that add, relocate, replace or remove any element of the original image, except by cropping, are not permitted. Conversion to infrared, either by digital

technique or by original technique is not allowed. Stitching of two or more image is not permitted.

5. Complete conversion to grey scale Monochrome is allowed but without partial or complete toning.
6. It is perfectly legal to remove dust, flares or digital noise. Minor global colour / tone correction is OK as long as it is not selective and the final image looks natural but not dramatic. Dodge and Burn tool is for you only but use it judiciously. Selective darkening of background is prohibited. Techniques like panning, slow shutter speed or in-exposure zooming are part of your creativity. Use of filters like Polarizers and NDs are ok.
7. Drone Photography in the National Parks of India is illegal except with prior written permission from the concerned authorities. Drone images of Wild animals will be disqualified.
8. Welfare of the subject is extremely important. Use of live bait is totally prohibited. Relocated nest is a big NO and jury members should not award Nest images.

Images entered in Nature section meeting the Nature Photography Definition above can have landscapes, geologic formations, weather phenomena, and extant organisms as the primary subject matter. This includes images taken with subjects in controlled conditions, such as zoos, game farms, botanical gardens, aquariums and any enclosure where the subjects are totally dependent on man for food.

Wildlife

Where exhibitions or competitions have a Wildlife Section or are giving a Wildlife Medal the following applies:

Images entered in Wildlife Sections meeting the Nature Photography Definition above are further defined as one or more extant zoological or botanical organisms free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat.

Landscapes, geologic formations, photographs of zoo or game farm animals or of any extant zoological or botanical species taken under controlled conditions are not eligible in Wildlife sections.

Wildlife is not limited to mammals, birds and insects. Marine subjects and botanical subjects (including fungi and algae) taken in the wild are suitable wildlife subjects, as are carcasses of extant species.

NEW POLICY FOR FIP RECOGNIZED SALON ON PTD & WIF SECTION

1. Organisers only seeking FIP approval will be free to choose from PTD and or WIF and acceptances and awards received will be valid for FIP distinctions
2. Organisers seeking FIP and FIAP approval will only get approval for WIF

3. Organisers seeking FIP. FIAP as well as PSA can have approval of both sections but for FIAP only WIF will count.

Photo Travel guideline for FIP:

1. A travel image depicts features of a culture, place or people as found naturally, anywhere in the world.
2. Portraits, close-up shots, and images of groups or objects should contain contextual elements that reflect the surrounding environment or location ensuring that the image doesn't appear staged or artificially arranged.
3. The image should not be a SET UP image and it should not be a directed image.
4. It should not be from a PHOTO WORKSHOP where a troupe dances for the workshop organizer or HORSES are made to run in dust or water or an individual shows his acrobatics on payment of a fee.
5. Many monasteries have religious festivals with dances etc and it is perfectly legal to submit such images though you may have paid an entry fee. Same is true for ballet and other stage shows.
6. Images shot at fairs where the subject is obviously posing for you, with or without payment, is only good for pictorial section. On the other hand a candid image is good for PT section. 28 VIEWFINDER FEBRUARY, 2024
7. Techniques that add, relocate, replace or remove any element of the original image, except by cropping, are not permitted. Conversion to infrared, either by digital technique or by original technique is not allowed. Stitching of two or more image is not permitted.
8. Complete conversion to grey scale Monochrome is allowed but without partial or complete toning.
9. Digital correction of distortion is acceptable.
10. It is perfectly legal to remove dust, flares or digital noise. Minor global colour / tone correction is OK as long as it is not selective and the final image looks natural but not dramatic. Dodge and Burn tool is for you only but use it judiciously. Correction of perspective is perfectly legal. Techniques like panning, slow shutter speed or in exposure zooming are part of your creativity. Filters like Polarizers and NDs are ok but star effect or rainbow filters are illegal.
11. Drone photography is OK as long it is legally permissible in that part of the world. In India use of DJI Mavic Mini model of Drone is perfectly legal, except in areas where Drone Photography is prohibited by the authorities like National Parks etc.
12. Finally, be sensitive to the community or people whom you are shooting. Care for your subjects and care for your fellow photographers as well. If someone doesn't wish

to be photographed, please respect the person's feelings and greet her or him with a sweet smile before parting ways.

The New FIAP Definition for “World in Focus”

Just as with travel and tourism pictures, this section encompasses the full range of photographic genres from architecture, culture, events, food, landscape, portraits, etc. A “WORLD IN FOCUS” image expresses the spirit of an era, the essence of a place or of a culture whether it is shown in an **authentic scene or whether it is arranged**. Digital manipulation to optimize an image in terms of fine tuning of levels and colours is allowed as long as the image looks natural. The same applies for removal of dust or digital noise. Techniques that add, relocate, replace, or remove any element of the original image, except by cropping, are not permitted.

7. Techniques that add, relocate, replace or remove any element of the original image, except by cropping, are not permitted. Conversion to infrared, either by digital technique or by original technique is not allowed. Stitching of two or more image is not permitted.

Photojournalism Definition:

1. Photojournalism entries should be images with informative content and emotional impact, reflecting the human presence in our world. The journalistic (story-telling) value of the image shall receive priority over pictorial quality. In the interest of credibility, images that misrepresent the truth, such as those from events or activities specifically arranged for photography or of subjects directed or hired for photography, are not eligible.
2. Techniques that add, relocate, replace or remove any element of the original image, except by cropping, are not permitted. The only allowable modifications are removal of dust, scratches or digital noise, restoration of the existing appearance of the original scene, sharpening that is not obvious, and conversion to grey scale monochrome. Derivations, including infrared, are not eligible. All images must look natural.

Human Interest Definition:

Human Interest images depict a person or persons in an interactive, emotional, or unusual situation, excluding recreational or sports action.

Salon Scoring System to be followed by all FIP Salons

Primary and Award rounds

PRIMARY ROUND

1. Score of 1 is reserved only for images which transgress the barrier of the Section in which the image has been entered for or if there is a Water Mark on the image disclosing the ID of the Author even in a remote manner.
2. Score of 2 is marked when a Jury thinks the Image is not worth exhibiting in that Salon.
3. Score of 3 is marked when a jury thinks the image is good for exhibition as long as other jury members concur.
4. Score of 4 is marked when a jury thinks the image is definitely worth exhibiting and may even be considered for Award as well.
5. Score of 5 is marked when a jury recommends the image for Award in no uncertain way.

Jury members are well within their rights to consult among themselves during the primary round. For any suspicious image jury panel is free to ask the author for RAW/JPEG sequence files with a short note explaining the enquiry. If the time is short the Chairman can call the author. Sometimes the author may be traveling therefore the author may take 5 to 10 days for compliance.

AWARD ROUND

In India and FIP we generally follow the system of 16 (5) to 25 marks

1. During the Award round the number of selected images are generally three times the number of Awards. Maximum an Image can score is 75 and generally speaking there is no discussion if only one image has scored the highest mark.
2. In case of a tie-break, the jury members can discuss among themselves and with consensus they have the right to down score / upgrade the marks awarded to an Image to finalize the winner.
3. During the Award round the Images need to be scrutinised carefully for any violations of Salon and Section rules and infringements. Some violations are obvious and immediate actions are taken. For some, it is imperative to ask for the RAW or original serial JPEG files.
4. Till the Award round is over the author's name is not disclosed to anyone.

Role of the Organizer and Web Masters (Web Masters are part of the Organizing team)

1. It is the Organizers Solemn duty to safeguard the interests of the Entrants. Make no mistake, it is an Entrants' show.
2. Non jury members present during any Jury session should never prompt in any way.
3. The judging ambience should be as per the standards mentioned in the rule books. The rooms should be well lighted and standard facilities for men and women jury members should be made available.
4. Separate place for smokers is mandatory and so is regular supply of Soft Drinks/Tea etc.

5. Guests and club members are welcome to watch the scores being marked by the jury members without interfering in any way.
6. The Salon / Circuit Chairperson is the supreme authority and in any case of dispute he or she has the veto power but scores of 2-5 and awards cannot be challenged by the chair.
7. Before commencement of Jury Session, the Chairman shall provide each Jury Member a printed copy of the above scoring Guidelines and inform / remind them to award the Score 1 strictly as per the Guidelines.
8. In any FIP recognised Salon if an author has received a score of 1 on any of his/her Image, the Author may seek a clarification on the same from the Organizers and the latter shall have to provide the clarification in writing to the Author with copy to the FIP.
9. All Salon Organizers can have only 1 (one) 'Chairperson choice award' per Section. This Award MUST be selected from the Images selected in the AWARD ROUND only. This must be clearly mentioned in the Salon Rules.
10. DISCOUNTS are the integral part of Indian Society. All discounts must be clearly mentioned in Salon rules and regulations. FIP Salons provide 30 % discount to all Senior citizens, Female entrants and Disabled and youths as well by default. Group discount is also limited to 30% of the fee. Individual organizers are free to provide more or less discounts BUT it must be clearly mentioned in the Salon rules. Violations will attract sanctions lasting up to 3 years or even more. FIP "Salon Saathi" has a strong network and can smell murky deals easily. Remember, it was FIP which smelt the foul play in MPC Salon 3 years ago and alerted FIAP and PSA.
11. FIP will NEVER ask for your bank statement as we believe it is an infringement of your privacy and rights.
12. Over all Acceptance MUST NOT be more than 30% of total entries received in each section.
13. Any violations of Salon or Section Rules should be promptly referred to FIP with complete evidence.
14. FIP has an active Ethics and Disciplinary Committee in place. I reassure all concerned that this committee is NOT a TLT (Tooth Less Tiger) and we SHALL not hesitate from taking action against any one, if found guilty beyond reasonable doubt.
15. Members of the Organising Committee and Web Masters should NOT be the Jury member.
16. Organising club can have its members as Jury but members of the club cannot participate if more than one Jury members are from the same club.
17. Jury members cannot participate in the same Salon or a Circuit (Any leg of a Circuit).

18. All jury members must have proper qualification and appropriate experience with distinctions and honours from FIP/ FIAP/RPS and PSA
19. FIP (Form 3) is being redesigned to have Section wise names of the Jury members. Nature is the most technical section and hence Nature section MUST have at least two experienced Nature Jury members. Sooner than later, this requirement will change to three as FIP is planning for Accredited Nature Salon Jury members.
20. All potential jury members are here by reminded that they are entitled to be on the jury panel of 15 International FIP/FIAP patronage Salon. They are also entitled to 10 FIP National only patronage Salon.
21. All FIP patronage applications for National Salons must reach the FIP office 3 months before the closing date. For International Salons must apply 6 months (180 days) in advance before the proposed closing date and following Calendar schedule should be followed:
 - 1) Launching of Website 60 days before the Closing date.
 - 2) Jury meet within 15 days of the Closing date.
 - 3) Declaration of Results 15 days from Jury meeting.
 - 4) Individual score cards should be sent to the individual entrant's mailbox within 3-5 days of result.
 - 5) Following the Results the entrants can only request for minor changes in titles and names. Complete change of title or author's name is strictly forbidden, whatever may be the compulsion.
 - 6) SDAS 30 Days from Result.
 - 7) Exhibition and Awards within 70 days of Result.
 - 8) Salon Closure report to FIP within 75 days of the Result. This is not SDAS.
 - 9) Web site, e mail ID and cell numbers of the contacts should be valid for at least one year.
 - 10) Every Salon organizer must publish a catalogue, Printed or PDF, which should be either sent to all entrants or it should be available on Salon's website for atleast 1 year.
 - 11) Web site should have 'STATUS' tab on the front page.
 - 12) Calculation for the best Entrant Award for FIP Salons

	Points
Acceptance	1
CM	1
FIP and other patronizing bodies HM	2
Club Bronze Medals	3
Thematic cash Award	4
Bronze Medal by International Patronizing Body	4
Club Silver	4
Silver by International Patronizing Body	5
Club Gold	5
FIP Gold + Other International Patronizing Body Gold	6

GUIDELINES

All potential Salon organizers are hereby requested to send the **SOFT COPY** of the Salon Recognition Form on barunks@hotmail.com only. federationofindianphotography@gmail.com is NOT checked on daily basis.

A Salon held in India is a National Salon as long as it has only FIP recognition. Foreigners may participate but the status will remain National.

All FIP salons from now onwards are open to participation by foreigners. Salons accepting foreign entries will be treated as international for Salon Recognition fee. Already few foreigners have taken our distinctions. For them the acceptance criteria in National Salons is waved off. In the near future this waiver will be withdrawn and will benefit the National Salon Organisers.

FIP recognised photographic courses

FIP is always willing to help the clubs who run photographic courses. Since the clubs earn a decent money it is but logical that FIP gets a fair share of the earnings. FIP is aware that some clubs are indulging in all kind of tricks to avoid paying the full amount due to FIP. I wish to tell such clubs and their worthy officials that “**your club may become rich by denying few thousand bucks to FIP but believe me FIP will not become poor by your acts**” and your lost goodwill and credibility will be worth 100 times more the amount for which FIP was taken for a ride.

From April 2020 all new courses registered with FIP will be charged Rs. 10,000.00 as registration fee per batch upto 20 students. If the number of students are more than 20, Rs. 500 per student will be charged.

1) 25 students x Rs. 500.00 = 12,500.

2) 30 students x Rs. 500.00 = 15,000 and so on.

At the end of the course FIP will furnish certificates to all the registered students only. All the certificates will be printed by FIP in a similar design. FIP logo and the corresponding club's logo will be there with two signatures from the club and one from FIP.

Secretary General will NOT pen his signature on any other certificate.

FIP is fully aware that some clubs are using FIP logo on their course certificate illegally. I hope this unethical practice will stop in future.

JURY PRIVILEGE

All potential jury members are here by reminded that they are entitled to be on the jury panel of 15 International FIP/FIAP patronage Salon. They are also entitled to 10 FIP National only patronage Salon.

GUIDELINES FOR NEW SALON ENTRANTS

Salon Photography is one of the most rewarding form of photography and if followed seriously will lead to almost certain improvement in your photography. But pitfalls are there. With the lightroom, photoshop and other editing tools available so easily that a new comer starts using them for all genre of photography which leads to disciplinary action which is totally preventable.

FIP emphasizes and request all photographers, whether a new comer or a seasoned one to use the editing software with discretion.

Even the slightest manipulation (removing or adding any element) in Nature, Travel, World in Focus and Photojournalism sections are strictly forbidden. Global colour and tone correction, Judicious use of dodge and burn tool is allowed and so is removal of sensor dust and noise. Cropping is your right. Never use clone tool.

In the pictorial sections of colour and monochrome there are no such restrictions.

The bottom line is “you must have the RAW file or Serial JPEG file” before you contemplate to enter your image in a Salon.

Not knowing the rules and regulations is not an excuse.

Follow the above guidelines and enjoy your Salon photography.

Attention

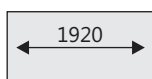
Payment received by FIP : All payment to FIP must be done online only. Our bank details are mentioned on the membership form.

FIP Salon organisers :- Please note that FIP office needs three signatures from Salon Secretary on the form (1st page, 2nd page and the last page for salon fee. Similarly Salon Chairman needs to sign at two place. 1st and 2nd page only. We must know what is the likely Salon fee.

FIP office must receive the hard Copy of Salon Recognition form before it can be processed.

All entrants must possess original RAW/ JPEG files entered. Failure to comply may result in cancellation of entries or worse being Red Listed.

All National and International salon entries must comply with the following file sizes



Maximum horizontal size is 1920 pixels. Maximum vertical size is 1080 pixels in 300 DPI. This has become mandatory from 1st April 2020 in all the FIP recognized Salons. Maximum file size 2 MB.

PRIVILEGE AND RIGHT

FIP wishes to underline that all the facilities provided by FIP like Workshop participation, Salon recognition to clubs and FIP distinctions and honours are a privilege NOT a Right. FIP office can deny any of the above without assigning any reason whatsoever.

All Indian FIP Salon jury members must be a direct member (IM/LM) of FIP.

All new or renewal of FIP membership must be accompanied by copy of a utility bill i.e. Electricity Bill, Telephone Bill, Gas Bill, Vehicle Registration Bill or Voter ID.

Same for the Secretary and President of a Corporate Club.

TO ALL THE WEBMASTERS

Dear friends, Warm greetings from FIP, Patna. You guys are doing a wonderful job as web masters for the salons being conducted under the patronage of FIP. There are certain new rulings which I thought I must share with you.

1. All Web masters must register with FIP by writing a letter to the undersigned with undertaking that they will cooperate with FIP in case of any dispute.
2. All web masters are duty bound to inform the FIP if they found any irregularity in the Salon judging or conduct.
3. The jury panel undertaking the judging must conform to the approved list as per FIP approval.
4. A written statement from all the jury members is mandatory. **"I have read and understood the FIP rules and guidelines (July 2022) and I have agreed to follow it in the letter and spirit in the Salon judging."**
4. All Web masters must cooperate for timely dispatch of SDAS and catalogues.
5. All Web masters must be a FIP member.
6. **All FIP Salon jury members must be a direct member (IM/LM) of FIP.**
6. No organiser is allowed to change the webmaster once the Salon has started.

Web masters are responsible from opening of the Salon till the SDAS. No Web master can be hired on partial basis.

7. **For continuity of information a Salon Must have the same Web master for 3 to 5 years.**
8. The judging platform (soft ware) must remain the same throughout the judging process
9. All entrants must receive their individual scorecards on their respective emails on the day of results simultaneously with the results being posted on the Salon Web site.
10. During the uploading dates entrants' " Status " must be shown on the Salon Web site.
11. All Print Salons MUST accept prints up to 18 " on longer side. Of course 8 x 12 " print can be accepted but larger prints cannot be refused.
12. A grading system for Indian Salons is in the pipe line depending on punctuality, entrant friendliness and discipline .

From the 1st of April 2020

1. Organizers are free to have their own entry fee structure. No more guide lines from FIP.
2. Salon recognition fee has been restructured. Please check the March issue of VF.
3. Mandatory purchase of Medals have been restructured. Please check the April issue of VF.

It has been reported that some webmasters are compressing the image while the file dimension remains 1920 x 1080 to enhance the image opening time. This is highly unethical and wrong. A team of experts from FIP is checking on this and suitable action will be taken against the webmasters who are involved in this.

DISCIPLINE IN FIP

FIP was constituted way back in 1953 with a view to bring more and more photographers under one umbrella to share their expertise, enjoy each other's company and learn from each other.

It has never been our endeavour to stop any person or a group of persons from getting involved in this art form. However, some discipline is important to maintain order in the society and that is why some people's name appear in the Red List.

We have now formalised the norms which will be followed in future

1. Violations of Salon sectional rules and guide lines like adding or removing elements from Travel or Nature or PJ image or use of clone tool : National Salon - 1 year suspension
2. Same offence in an International Salon – 2 years suspension and matter will be reported to FIAP
3. Partial or total copy of other author's image (Plagiarism) in a National Salon or Articles in Viewfinder with or without image without copyright permission – 2 years suspension
4. Same offence in an International salon – 3 years suspension and FIAP will be informed
5. Maligning FIP or any of its Chair publicly or on Social Media – 5 years suspension for any unsubstantiated charges
6. Healthy criticism is always welcome in a socially acceptable language.
7. Anti FIP-- activity 5 to 10 years suspension or dismissal from FIP.
8. Ethics and Disciplinary committee of FIP takes an educated decision on each individual case which is then ratified by the Working Committee .
9. **All major decision of Working Committee and disciplinary actions are discussed and ratified by the Governing Body of FIP as well during the FIP Convention.**

FIP is contemplating online registration of all Salons for FIP Patronage. This will also mean that all SDAS must be downloaded on FIP website. All repeat organizers will only get a FIP patronage number if they have complied with SDAS in past.

- **Any Jury member can judge 12 National Salons and 10 International salons with FIP/FIAP patronage.**
- **New born clubs must provide tangible evidence of photographic activities by their members for the first two years to qualify as a Salon organiser in the 3rd year. The following activities will count–**
 - A. Photo outing and workshops with prior intimation to FIP**
 - B. Members' exhibition and competition**
 - C. Members participation in National Salons and POY Contest. Club's participation in the FIP Interclub competition.**

THE CURRENT RED LIST

Individuals who are under suspension

1. Sudip Sahu – 7 Years November 2018 to October 2025
2. All Salon organizers to note that
Ms Mousumi Dutta is restrained from participating in any FIP Salon or distinction program till her case has been fully investigated by FIP/FIAP
3. **Debashis Ganguly - Red listed for life by FIAP (Plagiarism)**

Clubs banned till further notice

1. Midnapur Photo Circle, West Midnapur upto 2025.
2. MPC Salon 2018 acceptances and awards are invalid in FIP/FIAP.

FIP disciplinary committee in consultation with Salon Saathi has resolved to ban for life Foto Art Society along with the Salon Chairman– Mr. Abhijit Dey, 18, Kashi Mitra Ghat Street, Kolkata-700013, 9051092507, fotoartsociety2018@gmail.com and Salon Secretary– Ms Priyanka Das, 9831957343, pdas006113@gmail.com

In future all three will not be able to organize any FIP approved Salon.



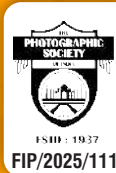
WOMEN POWER

UNLEASHING THE WOMEN POWER IN INDIAN PHOTOGRAPHY



Login : www.fip.org.in | Closing : 30th June 2025

9th FIP NATIONAL DIGITAL CIRCUIT 2025



FIP/2025/111



FIP/2025/112



FIP/2025/113

Sections : Colour, Monochrome, Nature, World in Focus
Theme : Women (Mono/Colour-Traditional)

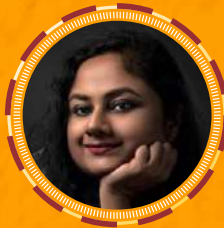
PROVISIONAL PANEL OF JURY



Manashi Chatterjee



Mukta Biswas



Nabanita Das



Aishwarya Mukherjee



Sharmistha De



Mousumi Sarkar



Trina Sanyal



Kabita Roy



Aruna Singh

JUDGING :
12th July 2025
RESULT :
20th July 2025



SHARMALI DAS
Circuit Chairperson

ENTRY FEES :
All sections
500 INR

BANK DETAILS :

Beneficiary Name: Federation of Indian Photography • Bank: Indian Bank • Branch: Salt Lake GD Market Branch
Account Type: Savings • Account No: 50381789520 • IFS Code: IDIB000S549
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11th - 14th (3 Nights/3 Days)
15th - 19th (4 Nights/4 Days)



SEPTEMBER

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19th - 23rd (4 Nights/4 Days)



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SALONS

CAPP INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL SALON 2025

FIP/2025/080 M,C,N & WIF Closes 02.06.2025
Chinmoy Dutta- 9831159522
saloncreativeart@gmail.com; https://cappexhibition.com

MORIIHUB INTERNATIONAL SALON 2025

FIP/2025/091 M,C,N & WIF Closes 03.06.2025
Dr. P. Thavabalan- 9952337331
dr.thavabalan@gmail.com; https://moriithub.fotosalons.in/

COLORBOOST INTERNATIONAL SALON 2025

FIP/2025/089 C,M,N & WIF Closes 04.06.2025
Abhijit Dey- 9433812930
deyabhij2@gmail.com; https://cb.fotosalons.com

SPARKLING INTERNATIONAL SALON 2025

FIP/2025/088 C,M,N & WIF Closes 08.06.2025
Manashi Chatterjee- 9903552998
chatterjeemanashi43@gmail.com; www.pmpclub.in

7th LENS AND VIEW INTERNATIONAL SALON 2025

FIP/2025/096 M,C,N & WIF Closes 09.06.2025
Samir Dutta- 9123316621
lensandview@gmail.com; https://lensandview.in/

COLORS OF INDIA 2025 (PRINT)

FIP/2025/099 MP, CP & NP Closes 09.06.2025
Anuka Ghosh- 91-7003716473
classicphotoshoot@gmail.com; www.colorofindia.in

PIXEL BUGS MYSORE 3rd NATIONAL SALON 2025

FIP/2025/092 M,C,N & WIF Closes 11.06.2025
Rajasekhar HS- 9845522794
hsr6758@gmail.com; www.mysorepixelbugs.in

3rd International Photo Salon Grand Eurasia Circuit

FIP/2025/068-069-070-071 Closes 15.06.2025
C,M,N & Theme: People
Club Eurasia, Russia - 068
Wirzenberg Photographic Society, South Africa - 069
Federation of Indian Photography, India - 070
Shangtut Image & Art Club, China - 071
Rashid Usmanov- +79128912232
usmanovR@yandex.ru; https://www.ap-eurasia.com/

INDIAN PHOTO FEST INTERNATIONAL SALON 2025

FIP/2025/097 M,C,N & WIF Closes 15.06.2025
Sourav Kanti Sahoo- 9734456704
photofestclub@yahoo.in; https://fotofest.co.in/

GIGAPIXEL NATIONAL SALON 2025

FIP/2025/104 M,C,N&Theme : People (C&M) Closes 15.06.2025
Joyraj Samanta- 9830124632
joy470@gmail.com; https://gigapixel.com

CLICKERZ NATIONAL CIRCUIT 2025

FIP/2025/106-107-108 Closing 15.06.2025
C, M, WIF & Theme : Portrait, Street
Clickerz Community - 106, Digital Eye Foundation - 107
Leading Lines Photographic Society - 108
Sumit Mukherjee- 9051023120
clickerz.community@gmail.com;
https://exhibition-clickerzcommunity.com/

1st BENGAL CLICKERS INTERNATIONAL SALON 2025

FIP/2025/042 M,C,N & WIF Closes 16.06.2025
Konark Basu- 8337085400
bengalclickers@gmail.com; https://bengalclickers.co.in

UJJAIN CIRCUIT 2025

FIP/2025/055-056-057 M,C,N & WIF Closes 20.06.2025
Kuldeep Kelwa- 9179127350
kuldeepkelwa1@gmail.com; https://ujjainphotoclub.com/

11th PFM INTERNATIONAL SALON 2025

FIP/2025/095 M,C,N & WIF Closes 29.06.2025
Anupam Sasmal- 9153027750, 9733707550
pfmsalon@yahoo.in; https://pfmclub.in

9th WOMEN POWER NATIONAL CIRCUIT 2025

FIP/2025/111-112-113 Closes 30.06.2025
M,C,N,WIF & Theme : Women
PSI, Mumbai - 111, PSM, Madras - 112, SOP, Howrah - 113
Sharmali Das- 7980485907
sharmali.das@gmail.com; www.fip.org.in

3rd FCS INTERNATIONAL SALON 2025

FIP/2025/076 Closes 30.06.2025
Print : CP, MP & Digital : C,M,N,
Theme : Street Life (Only Mobile Photo)
Ajay Parelkar- 9702585858
fcinternational21@gmail.com; https://fotocirclesociety.com/

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF MADRAS NATIONAL SALON 2025

FIP/2025/100 M,C,N & WIF Closes 04.07.2025
GV Balasubramanian- 9884349584
salon@photomadras.org; https://www.photomadras.org/

8th PICTURESQUE INTERNATIONAL SALON 2025

FIP/2025/105 M,C,N & WIF Closes 06.07.2025
Arindam Chatterjee- 7044026311
picturesquekolkata@gmail.com; https://picturesqueclub.org/

MALWA INTERNATIONAL SALON 2025

FIP/2025/110 M,C,N & WIF Closes 08.07.2025
Anurag Badoliya- 9893312307
anurag.badoliya@gmail.com; www.mpfi.in

BLUE EARTH CIRCUIT 2025

FIP/2025/028-029-030 M,C,N & WIF Closes 14.07.2025
PMP Salon Club - 028
Vzwfotokring Focus Geraardsbergen - 029, Photoclub West - 030
Manashi Chatterjee- 9903552998
chatterjeemanashi43@gmail.com; https://pmpclub.in

JSP INTERNATIONAL SALON 2025

FIP/2025/086 M,C,N & Theme : People Closes 14.07.2025
Joyraj Samanta- 9830124632
joy470@gmail.com; https://onlinejsp.com

ORA'D FAME CIRCUIT 2025

FIP/2025/065-066-067 M,C,N & WIF Closes 15.07.2025
ORA'D FAME CLUB - 065, NEW IMAGE CLUB - 066
KALAKUMBH PHOTOGRAPHY - 067
Kirti Kewaliya- 9784500270
jodhpurorad fame@gmail.com; www.orad fame.com

15th PHOTOLOVERS INTERNATIONAL CIRCUIT 2025

FIP/2025/101-102-103 M,C,N & WIF Closes 26.07.2025
Photolovers, Indore - 101, M.P. Photography Club, Bhopal - 102
Mahakaleshwar Photographic Society - 103
Pranav Pradhan- 741551118
photoloversindia@gmail.com; https://www.photolovers.org

YPS INTERNATIONAL SALON 2025

FIP/2025/109 Closes 27.07.2025
C,M,N & Theme : Heritage of the World
Manju Vikas Sastry Veedhuluri- 9945244055
sastry.vikas@gmail.com; https://salon.yps bengaluru.in

67th DUM DUM SALON 2025

FIP/2025/090 Print : MP & CP Closes 31.08.2025
Prof. Biswatosh Sengupta- 9830874135
biswatoshs@gmail.com; www.padonline.org.in

FIP INDIAN PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2025 (Contest 1)



1_ANTILOPE | VAIBHAV JAGUSTE



2_ANTILOPE | VAIBHAV JAGUSTE



3_ANTILOPE | VAIBHAV JAGUSTE

Bathed in ethereal light, Antelope Canyon in Utah reveals sculpted sandstone walls shaped by millennia of flash floods and wind. These narrow passageways showcase nature's quiet artistry. Photographing this wonder captures shifting light and shadow, where each curve reflects the canyon's timeless beauty in shades of gold and crimson.



4_ANTILOPE | VAIBHAV JAGUSTE



5_ANTILOPE | VAIBHAV JAGUSTE

FIP INDIAN PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2025 (Contest 1)



1_BALANCING TIME | SHELI MALICK



2_WAY TO NIRVANA | SHELI MALICK



3_IMPRISONED IN TIME | SHELI MALICK

The surreal series explores the human consciousness of the relentless passage of time. Each composition marries human forms, natural decay and timepieces to evoke confinement, longing and transcendence. From balancing moments to eternal waiting, these dreamlike tableaux confront mortality, memory and our relentless pursuit to comprehend time.



5_CRY OF THE TREES | SHELI MALICK



4_WAITING FOR ETERNITY | SHELI MALICK

