

Vol. 02 / March-April 2022

BasicsFoto.

everything about photography

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#BackToBasics

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EDITOR'S NOTE



A journey which started small and the first baby step that we took last month turned out to be a great milestone for us and you as well! I thank all the readers and photography lovers who came together and made the first issue of the BasicsFoto Magazine a successful one, with over 2,500 individual reads! That's a whopping number for a magazine that has just begun. But, we hope that we at BasicsFoto have kept our promise of keeping the old school charm of photography alive, with our magazine. And I sincerely believe that the first issue of the magazine was at par your expectations, if not exceeded.

Now, we are here with the second issue of the magazine! I have made sure to inculcate everything that we missed in the first magazine; along with few redesigns here and there to make the reading experience a phenomenal one. Though, the process always evolves and I am sure that you will see a greater impact of the BasicsFoto Magazine, as we evolve with time.

This time around, we chose the theme of the issue to be 'People of India' and therefore, the cover feature of Mr. Dheeraj Paul, one of the most eminent faces of Indian Photography involving people and places. I have also included the BasicsGyaan segment with the pro guide to capturing lives and people, beautifully curated by Mr. Shivang.

We have also included the BasicsWall with the photos from across India, a total of 16 photographers this time; out of 300+ entries that we received. Our team and curators had a hard time filtering out the best photographs, as all were so magnificent.

Also, don't forget to read the BasicsReviews section wherein our team has shared the in-house reviews and critique of the newly launched gears in the market.

I hope that this issue exceeds the previous one in all aspects, not just one and that the people, including the photographers and writers show love to the magazine like the last time. I present to you the BasicsFoto Magazine Vol. 02!

Santshree Sinha
(santshree@basicsfoto.com)

DHEERAJ PAUL

Story of The Photography Maestro : A Visual Storyteller!



Dheeraj Paul, born 1974 in Delhi, hails from a group of notable and talented expert photographers. He has been working for more than twenty years as an editorial and advertising photographic artist. His specialisations lie in people, travel, artistic work photography, food and engineering photography. He puts stock in catching minutes in ordinary circumstances. Other than outdoor photography, he is likewise a specialist in indoor lighting circumstances and studio lighting set-ups. He trains advanced photography to post graduate students at the AJK Mass Communication Research Center at Jamia Millia Islamia University, Delhi. What's more, he guides photography master classes and photography expeditions across South East Asia. He shares his beginnings and more about his journey, achievements and learnings, in an interview with BasicsFoto.

Team Basics: Please tell us about your beginnings in photography.

Dheeraj Paul: I have always been in the environment of art and creativity. Ever since I was a kid, I had this privilege of seeing the legendary S Paul Sahab, my father & Guru, working with a variety of analogue cameras; from 35mm to 4x5 inches large format and developing films & printing images in the darkroom. I was always inspired with all the hard work and passion my father used to put into his passion. Being a curious kid, I used to sit with my father during late nights, seeing him work without even blinking my eyes! People used to come to take guidance from my father and they used to get very fascinated seeing a young lad working flawlessly with the cameras and doing what even they could not!

Team Basics: What all has inspired you in your journey of becoming one of the pioneers of modern day photography in India?

Dheeraj Paul: My inspiration comes straight from my mentor and also from the great photographers visiting our home to meet and get teaching and critique from S.Paul saheb.

“Ever since I was a kid, I had this privilege of seeing the legendary S Paul Sahab, my father & Guru.”

Let me tell you a very interesting little story, if I may. When I was a little kid, this was during early 80s, I saw one day a well-dressed man with his cameras and images is coming to meet my father. He was none other than the legendary Raghubir Singh Sahab. He used to dress up very nicely and kept his fashion statement on point as he used to live in Paris. Whenever he was in Delhi, he never missed to meet S.Paul. Both legends often discussed the projects they were working on, sharing their photographic works in the form of Prints & Transparency films (Slides), photography in general and everything related to the craft. This was my first piece of inspiration that I had the privilege to draw directly from the legends in my backyard! I miss both very much!



“ It is all about practicing, learning, and challenging yourself to do better every other day.”

-DHEERAJ PAUL

Team Basics: How did you formally start your career into the field of photography?

Dheeraj Paul: As I was getting trained every day, knowingly or unknowingly at my home since my childhood, I had the strong fundamentals in my hand at a very early age. My first image published on the front page of national daily ‘The Statesman’ back in 1985 when I was just 11 years old. I grew with cameras, literally! At the age of 19, when I had just joined my college, I got my first commercial project. It was a food-book project for Hotel Maurya Sheraton, commissioned by Roli Books. I had to shoot 125 dishes of food which will publish for cookery book for the international market. Interestingly, I took around 5 recipes’ images on the very first test day’s shoot and I got 4 of them published in the final book itself! Gradually, I started directing chefs and guiding them in order to make the arrangement of food so that it would look more photogenic and artistic through my viewfinder. They were much older to me but even then, they used to gladly accept my vision. We started to work as a team; I, Chef and the assistants. We started getting much better photos, and eventually, I got many more such projects from different publishers, direct clients, restaurants and hotels. In total, I did more than 35 pictorial books on various subjects.

“My first image published on the front page of national daily ‘The Statesman’ back in 1985 when I was just 11 years old. I grew with cameras, literally!”

Team Basics: You are revered as one of the most prominent photographers in India and your photos have perfection. How do you achieve such perfection?

Dheeraj Paul: Well, it is all about practicing, learning, and challenging yourself to do better every other day. It is not a one-night miracle, I must say. My father taught me end-to-end about photography, from editorial works to assignments and much more. He was known as Walking Encyclopaedia of photography. I have learnt photography on the film camera system, so perfection was the only option we had. The films were limited and expensive. We had to do all the exposure settings and manual adjustments beforehand without even knowing what we were going to get. Slowly, with films, I learnt the art of exposure, dodging-burning, enlarging and such techniques of film which only improved my art holistically. So, I would reiterate to focus on your work and practice as much as possible!



Team Basics: Tell us something about how you became associated with Sony as one of their Brand Ambassadors?

Dheeraj Paul: My father has always taught me to embrace the new technology and advancements in the field. We have been using Mirrorless cameras since 2012-13. That time, there were only a few brands in this space like Olympus, Lumix but with small sized image sensors. We always used to discuss that there has to be a full frame camera in the mirrorless space. When Sony launched their first Sony Alpha 7 camera,

we were like, this is what we were waiting for! And when Sony was looking for someone in Delhi, they reached out to me and I gladly accepted the invite in 2014, that time very few professional photographers were working on mirrorless cameras. After that, I have been working along with Sony and have had many workshops for the photographers in various cities to educate them about the mirrorless systems and the benefits of it in professional segment. That's it!

“You should focus on creating a body of work and getting it published as it has real shelf life and gets you out there.”

Team Basics: Why do you think mirrorless cameras are better than their traditional counterparts, the DSLRs?

Dheeraj Paul: There are many factors which give mirrorless systems an upper hand when pitted against the DSLRs. When the mirrorless was coming out as a new tech, there used to be a debate about which system is better, but not anymore. Even the giants such as Canon and Nikon gave in eventually and decided to shift to the mirrorless tech. According to me there are three most important aspects which should be taken into consideration while making a photograph. Depth of Field, White Balance and Exposure. And the ability of EVF in a mirrorless camera to show the real time changes and its flexibility to give you an opportunity to adjust any of these settings even before clicking the photograph is what makes a mirrorless stand tall against any DSLR system. Even the phone cameras are having so much of modern tech that even phones can be used for reference images, stories for social media etc. It all comes down to your vision, content and framing in the end. The equipment is just a medium to make your vision a reality.

“According to me, there are three most important aspects which should be taken into consideration while making a photograph. Depth of Field, White Balance and Exposure.”



Team Basics: You talked about Social Media Stories. According to you, how much of an impact does social media presence make in any photographer's career?

Dheeraj Paul: Social media is important, we cannot deny that. It is one of your digital portfolios or platforms to showcase your work and a medium to connect with your viewership personally. With the advent of influencer culture, people with good social media presence can even get some assignments online. But the most important thing is your 'body of work'. It is never about likes and comments. You should focus on creating a body of work and getting it published as the biggest drawback of social media is the shelf life. Even the viral and good posts get buried in the sea of new posts ever so quickly.



Team Basics: If a photographer wants to get their work published outside social media, how can he/she begin? What are the first steps?

“Get yourself published in an emerging and dedicated magazine like BasicsFoto.”

Dheeraj Paul: Make use of social media. You need to be active and network more. Keep an eye on the exhibitions happening around. Get yourself exhibited. Get yourself published in an emerging and dedicated magazine like BasicsFoto Magazine. Getting published has immense value which benefits you in the long term as well. Focus on your work and excel!

Team Basics: What gears are you currently using? What is your favourite setup?

Dheeraj Paul: Honestly speaking, I am a Camera freak! Currently, I am using the Sony Alpha One, A9M2, A7RIV and the newly launched A7IV with variety of zoom and prime lenses. But if you ask about my fav setup or fav focal length, there aren't any! I love to shoot with all focal lengths, from 12mm to 600mm I use everything! But yes, I am a die hard fan of prime lenses because of its crisp output even in low light situations. Above all, one learns to from subjects better while using fixed focal prime lenses. Even then, one camera body always has a zoom lens attached to it for the added flexibility it provides, you can't afford to miss the moment...Every focal length has its own flavour!



“Keep an eye on the exhibitions happening around. Get yourself exhibited. Get yourself published in an emerging and dedicated magazine like BasicsFoto Magazine.”

Team Basics: What are your current/upcoming projects, if you can share with our readers?

Dheeraj Paul: Street, Nature, Fina Art and Travel are always in my heart. I am currently documenting changing phase of my incredible India. I love to capture culture, customs, beauty, and reality around streets during my travel assignments and photo expeditions. Its time to give back to the community. Mentorship is my primary focus now, I am mentoring Masterclass, Workshops, Photo Tours and Expeditions for Photo Enthusiasts under **Indian Photo Tours**, which was founded in the year 2012. We have taken Photography tours to various places across India and abroad (Nepal, Bhutan, Tanzania, Kenya and more).

I am also teaching advanced photography to students of PG Diploma in Still Photography & Visual Communication Course at Mass Communication & Research Center, Jamia Milia Islamia, Delhi.



“I am mentoring Masterclass, Workshops, Photo Tours and Expeditions for Photo Enthusiasts under Indian Photo Tours, which was founded in the year 2012.”



Q. Lastly, we would request you to share your suggestions and advice for the youngsters in the field of visual art and photography.

A. As I have already said, practice has no alternative. Your vision, content and perspective is what all matters. Don't fall for the likes/comments on social media and artist must develop a body of work. Focus should be on getting your work published and along with your photo credit.... Keep doing your work and develop new content every time. You need to keep rediscovering yourself to grow and stay relevant. As far as shooting is concerned, always wear your camera, and must leave your hesitation at home. On the streets, keep moving and be spontaneous. Don't wait too long at one place struggling with your camera settings as people would then start questioning. You should be sure about your technique and confident about your fundamentals to be quick and swift while shooting. Keep it real and don't over process your images. Try and achieve the right exposure in the camera itself and do not depend too much on the RAW file processing. Again, all this can only happen if you keep on practicing and evolving.



Best wishes!

Keep Clicking and keep posting your work with my weekend hashtag #artofseeingdp to get featured on my Instagram story.

BasicsFoto Holi Escapade 2.0

A fully guided experiential tour!

We have kicked off our escapes on a full fledged basis with the Vrindavan Holi Escape 2022! The Vrindavan Holi Escape 2022 was a fully guided experiential tour stretched over six days, where the participants lived in a fully owned separate villa! Additionally, the participants had a 14-seater



traveller to travel around different locations! The participants learnt, shared and made ever lasting connections on the tour! The tour was led by Mr. Mohd Danish, a travel photographer.



[SEE MORE](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Offbeat Sikkim Escapade

Escape with us to the most beautiful & unseen Sikkim on a fully guided experiential tour along with the creative and like minded people and discover your new self! Register early for a surprise!

The poster features a dark, atmospheric aerial photograph of a mountainous region in Sikkim, showing winding roads and small settlements. The text is overlaid in white and green. At the top left is the 'escapes by BasicsFoto' logo. At the top right, it says 'Tour Partner: Trek Higher' next to a circular logo with a mountain and the words 'TREK HIGHER'. The main title 'Sikkim' is in a large, white, cursive font, with 'Offbeat Experiential Tour' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it. On the left side, there are three circular icons: a calendar, a tag with a mountain, and a stopwatch. To the right of each icon is text: 'Booking open for 28-31 May 2022', 'Early Bird Offer* INR 7999/-', and 'Duration 04 Days/03 Nights'. At the bottom center is a large green button with the text 'REGISTER NOW'. At the bottom left is the website 'www.basicsfoto.com/escapes' and at the bottom right is 'See details' with a right-pointing arrow. A small vertical text on the right edge reads '*Early Bird Offer is valid for the first 03 registrations.'

escapes
by BasicsFoto

Tour Partner:
Trek Higher

Sikkim
Offbeat Experiential Tour

 **Booking open for**
28-31 May 2022

 **Early Bird Offer***
INR 7999/-

 **Duration**
04 Days/03 Nights

REGISTER NOW

www.basicsfoto.com/escapes

See details →

*Early Bird Offer is valid for the first 03 registrations.

Escape with us to the most beautiful & unseen Sikkim - Okhrey & Barsey on a fully guided experiential tour along with the creative and like minded people and discover your new self! Register early for a surprise!



Detailed Itinerary (New Jalpaiguri to New Jalpaiguri):

1. 28 May (Saturday) - Tour Begins. Meet at NJP Railway Station by 10 AM in the morning.
2. 28 May (Saturday) - Reach Okhrey by the evening. Rest. Bonfire. Chit-Chat. Food. Stargazing.
3. 29 May (Sunday) - Leave for Hilley by car (30 mins drive) by morning 9 am; and then walk to Barsey Guraskunj (45 mins trek through thick jungle full of rhododendrons, unseen flora and fauna! We will walk slower and

with least noise to spot varied birds and if lucky, animals too)!

4. 29 May (Night) - Tent stay on a mountain top at Guraskunj. Milky Way Gazing in the night.
5. 30 May (Monday) - Back to Okhrey in the morning. Afternoon can be spent to visit nearby villages, meeting locals and also the Okhrey Monastery along with the sighting of the evening prayer at 6pm.
5. 31 May (Tuesday) - Car to New Jalpaiguri in the morning.
6. 31 May (Tuesday) - Tour Concludes. Don't forget to be in the group photograph!



The tour includes the following:

1. Stay with the group - best way to learn and network!
2. Snacks & Beverages - enjoy best local street delicacies with us.
3. Fully Guided Experiential Tour - See and experience the places with an expert by your side!
4. Rewards and Certificates - Earn rewards and recognitions that you deserve!
5. Travel together - The excursions and travels to the local villages and spots are on us!

Exclusions:

1. Travel to and from New Jalpaiguri
2. Personal Expenses
3. Photography Gears
4. Other Equipments

NOTE: The seats are limited. Register now to confirm your seat.

For bookings and further queries, please reach out to us at support@basicsfoto.com or DM us on Instagram @[basicsfoto](#) and @[escapesbybasics](#)

A Pro Walkthrough Guide to Capture People

By Shivang Shekhar Singh

Mr. Shivang Shekhar Singh is a known name in the street photography, especially when it involves people and faces. He is known to create some of the stunning and captivating images out of daily life scenarios and common people. Here, he shares his expertise with the readers to capture people in an emphatic manner!

“Capturing people, faces, lifestyles and how a place is made by the people living there has been a true essence of photography across genres. Since this issues is dedicated towards the theme ‘People of India’, I am here to share some of my tips/techniques that I have honed over a period of time, while making my visual stories. Let’s begin!”

Be Curious.

Curiosity about people comes naturally to me. I am not curious about places. A place becomes important because of the natives. If you remove people from a place, it's all gone. So when I started clicking pictures in streets, it became about capturing the unadulterated lives of the inhabitants.



Face the Challenges.

The first challenge is how to interact with them & making them understand that you mean no harm. It's important for them to trust you so that they allow you in their personal space. Clicking the picture is just 10% of the process. The major chunk i.e. 90% is about making people comfortable around you.

Initially it was hard to get people on board for the picture. Other important aspects are the understanding of settings you need to keep plus the framing.

All this needs to be done in few minutes & that's the real challenge one might face initially.

Instincts vs Planned?

I, 100% go with my instincts. Practically you can't go in streets with a plan because you are having no control in proceedings around. It's all about

what's unfolding right in front of you and how you are able to convert it into a picture worth remembering.

Magic out of Daily Life

As a photographer, consistency has been the key for me. The training happens itself if you are consistent enough to go out and do the same thing every other day. I won't term it as practice because I don't believe in following a regime at-least in the art one pursues, but it's about being honest & consistent about your art. Being good in interaction with people has helped me a lot. As I had said earlier, 90% of the task is to get them on board, rest 10% follows. The people termed

normal in the question are actually not normal. We see hundreds of faces every single day when we go out, but remember only a few. Have you ever thought why it happens? It happens because these faces are special, they are able to tell their stories, you just need to give some time and observation to read those intriguing tales of their lives.

Getting Comfortable with Strangers

I do capture strangers only, reason being that there is no influence or manipulation in that moment. It might be the most honest interaction one can have if both the people, you and your subject don't fear judgement.

I usually go up to them in the most informal way possible and make them feel that I am not an outsider. I am one of them, maybe not place wise but as a human I am no different.

If you can share a joke with a stranger, that's a superpower. Develop it and use this superpower on people and you will never feel left out anywhere in the world.



Shoot Regularly

I go out at-least once a week. Sometimes it's 3-4 times a week too. Since I am full time in photography & tourism, I shoot regularly. Even if I am not deliberately out for clicking pictures, I always have camera in my bag so that I don't miss a frame. So I can say that shoot regularly.

Pro Tips

Tip 1 : The first and the foremost thing to learn should be framing. Manual settings can wait. Technicalities can wait too but framing can't.

Tip 2 : Keep your ego and fear of rejection aside when you go out with you camera.

Final Words

Honestly speaking, I don't want to give any further advice about photography. But I would like to share something which might help the beginners get going.

As an artist, there will be days when you will feel that you are heading nowhere, you are losing on your purpose, nothing might make sense. You might feel that you don't belong in this fast moving goal-oriented materialistic world. You might not be fitting in the society's definition of success.

But don't let it go. Hold upon your path. You are here to live, the way you want. The day you die, you will be replaced, faster than you can think or believe. That's a reason enough to be a bit selfish and live for yourself. Go & Get It.

And yes, keep your morals and basics correct. Your pictures will take you places.



Basics Reviews

Upcoming cameras and our take on it.

Panasonic Lumix GH6

Key specifications

- 25MP CMOS sensor with parallel readouts
- Built-in fan for unlimited recording
- UHD or DCI 4K in 10-bit 4:2:2 at up to 60p
- Slow-mo UHD or DCI 4K in 10-bit 4:2:0 at up to 120 fps
- 5.7K full-width capture at up to 60p
- 5.8K Full-sensor 'open gate'/anamorphic capture at up to 30p
- Full V-Log/V-Gamut shooting
- Range of capture formats including ProRes 422 and 422 HQ
- 1 x CF express Type B, 1 x UHS-II SD slot
- Stabilisation rated to 7.5EV, maintained at longer focal lengths with Dual IS 2 lenses
- Tilt-and-articulating screen from S1H
- Full-sized Type A HDMI socket
- 14 fps shooting with AF-S, 8 with AF-C (75 fps with e-shutter)

Since the start of mirrorless cameras the whole world focus has remained on them and we thought micro third formats will be forgotten. But GH series came and has made quite an impression. Talking about Panasonic Lumix GH6 it's small and lightweight but is packed with a remarkable set of video options and excellent image quality. The GH6 also contains superb handling and image stabilisation and perhaps the best contrast-based autofocus yet seen on a Panasonic camera.

Going through specifications the major turning points are the 25.2MP. GH6 fits a great sets of movie skills into its compact body. There's 5.7K video at 60fps and Apple ProRes 422 HQ recording, 7.5 stops of in-body image stabilisation, 4-channel XLR audio recording and a monitor that can be tilted in almost any direction.



Pros.

- +Huge range of video options
- +Unlimited recording times
- +Excellent image stabilization
- +Relatively affordable
- +Multi-angle tilt-and-swivel screen
- +Great handling

Cons.

- Autofocus still lags behind the best
- Larger and heavier than GH5 II
- Some features not available until firmware update

Our Take

If you're looking for a stills camera then there could be quite a bit of redundant technology here, but as soon as the video aspect becomes part of the equation then the whole concept and offering that the GH6 represents might just blow us away. The whole idea of shooting high quality, professional standard video is just an amazing new world for the photographer as more and more take up the mantle and become more videographers, for all sorts of reasons.

This is seriously good stuff, priced realistically and also, thanks to the internet, there are the means to meaningfully share the finished output.

This is not to say that there are no handling issues, and the placement of some dials and buttons can be unfortunate if our usual grip falls in the wrong places. It is, however, a learning curve and most things can be worked around with practice.

Nikon Z9

The Nikon Z9 is here and it's loaded with tons of good features. It's capable of capturing 30 fps in JPEG or 20 with Raw capture, and able to record 8K/30 video, with the promise of 12-bit Raw 8K/60 capture in a future firmware update. It's also one of relatively few cameras on the market with no mechanical shutter, a design decision made possible by the impressively fast read-out speed of the new sensor.

The Z9 becomes the first Nikon mirrorless camera to offer the company's 3D Tracking AF system, which can be combined with the camera's machine-learning trained subject recognition system. The autofocus system has been trained to recognise three sets of subjects, covering people, animals and vehicles. In 'Auto' mode the Z9 analyses the scene to detect subjects automatically, without you having to specify.

The Z9 adopts the dual-grip form factor of a D6-level DSLR. Though it's heavy but frankly fits better in hands than Sony where you have to struggle to put your 3rd finger. It has a pull-out 2.1M-dot touchscreen that hinges both vertically and horizontally, for portrait or landscape orientation shooting.

Pros:

- + Extraordinary continuous shooting ability
- + Excellent image quality in both JPEG and raw

- + Ground-breaking AI subject-detection autofocus
- + Robust build quality and pro-level handling
- + Superb viewfinder and screen
- + High-efficiency raw format takes up relatively little space

Cons:

- Large and heavy body
- Requires expensive memory cards
- LCD is movable but cannot be used for self portrait or recording yourself in vlog.

No doubt Nikon z9 is powerful and fulfils almost every expectations of photographer but still it has few areas to master it. We compared it with Sony A1 and found it struggles in extreme low light situation for autofocus compared to Sony A1. We also observed loss of details when exposure was exceeded to +1 to +3 situation compared to Sony A1. In low light situation it struggled in autofocus but did a little better in maintaining the shadow and highlights compared to Sony A1. Nikon will be releasing a firmware update lets see what we get. Tell us how you feel about this.



What should I look for when buying a camera for photography?

The main thing to look at when buying a camera is **sensor size**. Larger isn't always better, but it is a good guide to what kind of camera it is, how expensive the lenses will be, and who it's aimed at. In general, Micro Four Thirds and APS-C cameras are for both hobbyists and pros, while full-frame models tend to be strictly for advanced photographers with bigger budgets. Compact cameras with 1-inch sensors are for travel zooms and everyday photography.

Other features to look out for are **viewfinders** (electronic or optical), which are considered essential by most photographers, and **handling**. If you're likely to want to use longer lenses, then a good grip is essential. You should also consider which **lenses** you're likely to need for your favourite types of photography – for example, bright prime lenses are better for portraits and street shooting, while wide-angle zooms are more useful for landscapes. Deciding which camera system, including lenses, is the best for you is often better than choosing a camera in isolation.

Basics Wall

Beautifully curated submissions from across India.

Hey Reader!

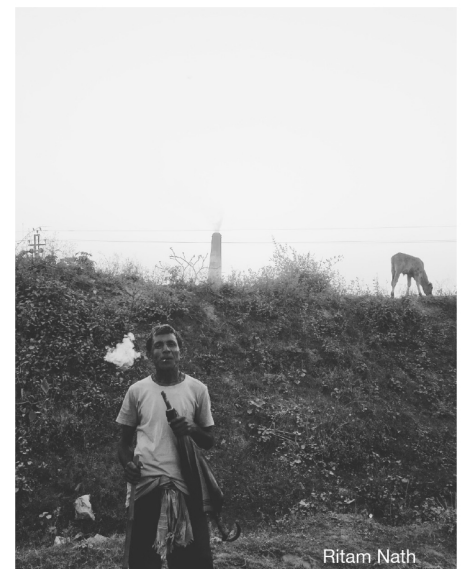
We at BasicsFoto are proud to present to you BasicsWall!

Basics Wall is the editor's brainchild so as to provide a generous platform to the budding artists and the seasoned photographers alike, to showcase their art and get the much deserved recognition in return. The theme of this issue is 'People of India' so as to showcase the diverse culture and traditions from across the country and the varied lifestyles of people around.

This issue of magazine has 16 photographers from across the country from the sea of 300+ entries that we received with their stunning entries to the Basics Wall, curated by Team Basics.

We hope you enjoy the below showcased photographs!







The entries for the next issue of BasicsWall are open and you can send your entries to hello@basicsfoto.com with the subject 'Submissions for #BasicsWall'