



VOLUME 4
APRIL 2026

PHOTOGRAPHY · VISUAL ART · MUSIC · FOLK-FUSION

IN THIS ISSUE

VISUAL ART
The Rotating Canvas

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY
Wildlife & Wanderlust

Every frame holds a story waiting to be told.

— ISSUE — APRIL 2026

CANVAS OF

the Everyday

www.wallmag.io
@wallmag.creators

\$9.99

PHOTOGRAPHY
Through the Lens of Kolkata

FOLK-FUSION MUSIC
Fearless Presence

PUBLISHED BY
WALLMAG GLOBAL PVT LTD

FEATURED ISSUE — APRIL 2026

Canvas of the Everyday

Every frame holds a story waiting to be told. In this issue of WallMag, we turn our lens toward the creators who find extraordinary meaning in the overlooked textures of daily life—muralists encoding ancient myths into kaleidoscopic walls, street photographers freezing the fleeting poetry of a passing glance, and musicians weaving centuries of tradition into a single unforgettable hook. From the fog-draped Nilgiri Hills to the crowded lanes of Kolkata, from dim classrooms where a first lyric took shape to grand stages where folk fuses with the contemporary—these voices remind us that art is never distant. It breathes, quietly and insistently, in the canvas of the everyday.

FEATURED CONVERSATIONS

VISUAL ART

The Rotating Canvas: Ramesh Aundhkar

One frame, four stories—a muralist who hides entire worlds inside a single rotation.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Through the Lens of Kolkata: Abhijit Dutta

From mobile snapshots to fashion frames—a self-taught eye shaped by the city's restless energy.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Framing Stories in the Silence: Arunima Shrivastava

Quiet instinct over technique—each frame a vessel for feelings that resist easy words.

STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

Quiet Poetry of the Streets: Pranay Pariyar

An IT professional who found his truest frames on lonely weekends abroad, and never looked back.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Cinematic Kolkata: Indrabir Chatterjee

From city lanes to Varanasi's ghats—where daily rhythm becomes cinematic narrative.

MUSIC

Soulful Melodies to Cinematic Pop: Yash Desai

Classical roots meet modern hooks—Indian devotion wrapped in a cinematic pop sensibility.

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

Wildlife & Wanderlust: Vishal.M in the Nilgiris

Raised in Coonoor's misty hills, his lens finds stillness in the wild as only a local can.

LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY

Chasing First Light: Amit Tewari

A nature lover who rises before dawn to find the one frame that makes others feel the cold.

DEVOTIONAL ART

Writing Devotion in Thirukural: Sri Jeyanth

A 15-foot portrait of Infant Jesus composed entirely of ancient Thirukural scripture—devotion as stroke.

FOLK-FUSION MUSIC

Fearless Presence: Aanya Khanna

Kathak, guitar, and folk-fusion—a stage presence forged long before the first lyric was sung.

MUSIC

Contemporary Soul: Rahul Mondal on Hindustani Roots

Where esraj textures meet Indi Pop—a classically grounded voice crossing into new soundscapes.

SONGWRITING

Quiet Rooms, Loud Stages: Prathmesh Singh

From handwritten verses in 8th grade to IIT Mandi's stage—finding a voice one lyric at a time.

SONGWRITING

Writing in Hindi-Bagdi: Abdul Kadir Ali

Rajasthan's memories set to song—a decade of mockery transformed into devotion to craft.

MUSIC PRODUCTION

Building Songs with Soul: D Jay (Jai Kumar)

One live performance changed everything—a spiritual bond with drums and guitar that made music inevitable.

Contents

VOLUME 4
April 2026

4 Own Your Sound, Own Your Story: Independent Music Creator Awards 2026

7 Six Strings and a Country to Play For: Guitar Player Awards 2026

10 Reimagining the Songs We Already Love: Cover Artist Awards 2026

13 The Pen, the Beat, the Country: Rap Awards 2026 Are Coming

16 Where Voices Become Movements: Vocalist Awards 2026 Are Coming

19 Stripping It Back to Light and Shadow: Black & White Photography Awards 2026

22 The Phone Was Always Enough: Mobile Photography Awards 2026

25 Where Indian Weddings Find Their Storytellers: Wedding Photography Awards 2026

28 A New Stage for India's Wildlife Storytellers: Wildlife Photography Awards 2026

32 Coming Soon: WallMag Creative Photography Awards 2026

34 The Rotating Canvas: An Interview with 4-Directional Artist Ramesh Aundhkar

38 Through the Lens of Kolkata: A Conversation with Fashion Photographer Abhijit Dutta

42 Framing Stories in the Silence: An Interview with Photographer Arunima Shrivastava

47 The Quiet Poetry of the Streets: A Conversation with Street Photographer Pranay Pariyar

51 Cinematic Kolkata: A Conversation with Photographer and Content Creator Indrabir Chatterjee

55 From Soulful Melodies to Cinematic Pop: A Conversation with Yash Desai

59 Wildlife and Wanderlust: A Photographic Journey Through the Nilgiris with Vishal.M

63 Chasing First Light: Street and Landscape Photography with Amit Tewari

67 Castle in the Making: Deekshith Dileep on "Do You Really Love Me?" and Creating Between Semesters

71 Writing Devotion in Thirukural: An Interview with Sri Jeyanth

75 On Finding Fearless Presence: Aanya Khanna on Folk-Fusion, Classical Training, and Full-Circle Stages

80 Contemporary Soul with a Classical Heart: Rahul Mondal on Hindustani Roots, Esraj Textures, and "Jeno Chole Jeyo"

84 Quiet Rooms, Loud Stages: Prathmesh Singh on Songwriting, IIT Mandi, and Finding His Voice

92 Writing in Hindi-Bagdi: Abdul Kadir Ali on Turning Rajasthan's Memories into Songs

97 Building Songs with Soul: An Interview with D Jay (Jai Kumar)

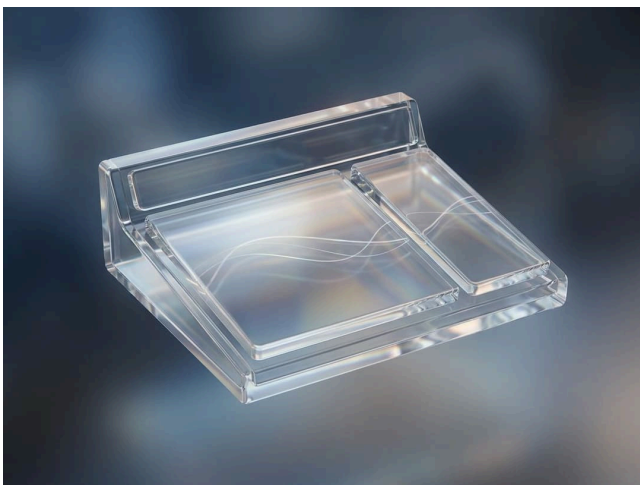
102 Finding My Voice: Maaz Ahmad on Hindi Soul, Covers, and Building a Sound of His Own

ANNOUNCEMENT

Own Your Sound, Own Your Story.

A pre-launch word on the WallMag Independent Music Creator Awards 2026 — a national stage built for the artists who write, record, produce, and release their own work without a label deciding what gets heard.

ARTICLE BY EDITORIAL TEAM AT WALLMAG | PUBLISHED IN WALLMAG



WallMag is preparing to unveil the WallMag Independent Music Creator Awards 2026, an upcoming national recognition built for the artists who write, record, produce, and release their own work without a label deciding what gets heard. This is an early word, not a launch. We want the musicians who care most about ownership, craft, and creative direction to have the runway to choose their material thoughtfully, finish what they have been sitting on, and arrive at submissions with their strongest catalogue.

WallMag Creator Magazine has always been a community-first publication, and our awards exist to put creators in the same room as the recognition, the readership, and the partner ecosystems they have already earned through years of self-funded sessions and patient release cycles.

The Independent Music Creator Awards 2026 will continue that tradition, lifting the country's most self-driven musicians into the conversation that the independent music story has clearly outgrown anything smaller.

ABOUT THE AWARD

The WallMag Independent Music Creator Awards 2026 celebrate India's most self-driven musicians, creators who write, record, produce, and release their own work without label backing. The award invites originals across pop, rock, indie, electronic, fusion, and beyond, judged on songwriting, production craft, and creative voice.

Entries will be evaluated through a curated industry jury working alongside an open community vote, recognising both originality and execution. Independent music is not a fallback. It is a deliberate choice to keep the writing, the masters, and the artistic decisions inside the artist's own hands.

“

Independent music is not a fallback. It is a deliberate choice to keep the writing, the masters, and the artistic decisions inside the artist's own hands.

— EDITORIAL TEAM, WALLMAG

We are listening for that authorship in every entry, the songwriting that holds up under repeat listens, the production that serves the song, and the creative voice that could not have come from anywhere else. Selected creators will earn national visibility, partner brand collaboration opportunities, and a place in WallMag's independent music legacy.

WHO IT'S FOR

If you have built your release schedule, your sound, and your career on your own terms, this award has been built with you in mind. We are thinking specifically of:

- Singer-songwriters releasing original work independently
- Bedroom producers and self-produced artists
- Bands without label backing distributing on Spotify, Apple Music, etc.
- Cross-genre experimentalists owning their masters

There are no genre, language, or platform restrictions inside independent music. Some of the most important records being made in India right now are coming out of bedrooms, home studios, and small collaborative rooms — distributed directly through DSPs and grown by artists who have learned to do every job themselves.

WHAT WE'RE EXCITED TO SEE

Up to five projects per creator will be welcome, each one a complete piece or a coherent set telling a single story. We are especially excited to receive original tracks you wrote, recorded, produced, and released, singles, EPs, or full albums, with full ownership of masters and rights.

THREE PRINCIPLES

- **Authentic ownership** — Each submission must be created and fully owned by the creator.
- **Maximum scope** — Up to five unique projects may be shared per creator.
- **Integrity first** — Plagiarism, stock content, or AI-generated work means immediate disqualification.

PRIZES & RECOGNITION

The recognition stack for this edition rests on three pillars: meaningful platform value, editorial visibility, and partner-led collaboration with the labels, distribution platforms, audio-production tool makers, and live-show partners shaping the country's independent music ecosystem.

Independent Music Creator of the Year 2026

- INR 5,000 worth of partner brand discounts & coupons
- Cover Story Feature in WallMag Creator Magazine — a full editorial spread
- Recognition Certificate as Creator of the Year 2026
- Brand collaboration opportunities with leading partners
- Hero showcase across WallMag's social handles

Independent Music Runner-Up 2026

- INR 5,000 worth of partner brand discounts & coupons
- Featured Interview in WallMag Creator Magazine
- Recognition Certificate as Runner-Up 2026
- Multi-slide carousel feature across WallMag's social handles

Second Runner-Up 2026

- INR 5,000 worth of partner brand discounts & coupons
- Spotlight Q&A in WallMag Creator Magazine
- Recognition Certificate as Second Runner-Up 2026
- Dedicated feature post across WallMag's social handles

Top 100 Finalists & All Participants

- Top 100 — INR 2,000 in partner discounts & certificate
- Mention in the Top 100 Independent Music Creators feature
- Participation Certificate from the Awards 2026
- Exclusive WallMag community benefits and early access

KEY DATES

- **6 May 2026** — Submissions open
- **3 July 2026** — Submissions close
- **6 July 2026** — Top 100 finalists shortlisted
- **13 July 2026** — Top 3 winners announced
- **20 July 2026** — Prize distribution begins

START PREPARING

The work begins now, on the songs you have been quietly tightening between releases. Re-listen to the demos. Finish the masters you set aside. Decide which five pieces, more than any other, represent who you are as an independent artist in 2026.

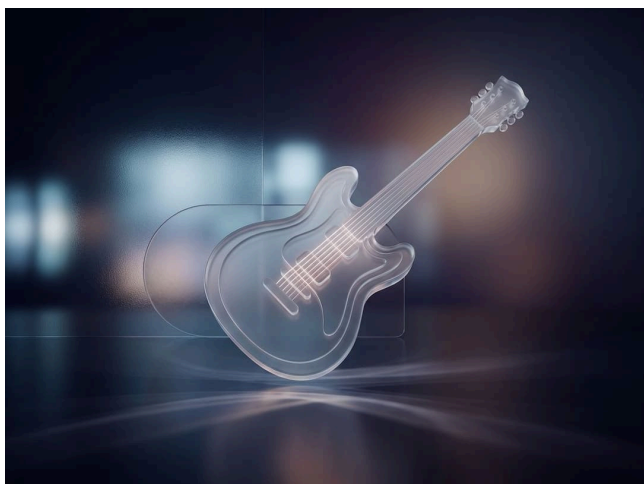
The best entries each year are not the newest. They are the ones the artist knows down to the breath, because they wrote them, played them, mixed them, and lived with them long enough to trust the work. India's independent music scene has been quietly turning into one of the most exciting in the world. We cannot wait to share what this generation has built when submissions open in May. ■

ANNOUNCEMENT

Six Strings and a Country to Play For

An upcoming national stage for India's guitarists — built for the players who have spent years living inside their instruments.

ARTICLE BY EDITORIAL TEAM AT WALLMAG | PUBLISHED IN WALLMAG



WallMag is preparing to unveil the **Guitar Player Awards 2026**, an upcoming national recognition built for the guitarists who have spent years living inside their instruments. This is an early word, not a launch. We want the players who care most about tone, phrasing, and feel to have the runway to write properly, record properly, and arrive at submissions with their strongest performances.

WallMag Creator Magazine has always been a community-first publication, and our awards exist to put creators in the same room as the recognition, the readership, and the partner ecosystems they have already earned through long, unglamorous hours of practice.

The Guitar Player Awards 2026 will continue that tradition, lifting the country's most expressive guitarists, in every form the instrument takes, into a national conversation that recognises the depth of work behind every clean line.

ABOUT THE AWARD

The WallMag Guitar Player Awards 2026 celebrate India's finest guitarists — acoustic, electric, classical, and bass — across rock, jazz, classical, folk, and experimental traditions. The award invites original solos, compositions, and reinterpretations that show off both technique and musicality.

Entries will be evaluated through a curated industry jury working alongside an open community vote, recognising tone, phrasing, and creative voice. ■

CHAPTER ONE — THE INVITATION

01

Speed without intention does not last. Tone without ideas does not move anyone. We are listening for the players who can do both at once — who choose every note as if it has to earn its place. Selected creators will earn national visibility, partner brand collaboration opportunities, and a place in WallMag's music legacy.



Six strings, limitless voice. That is the spirit we want this edition to carry.

— EDITORIAL TEAM, WALLMAG

WHO IT'S FOR

If your relationship with the guitar is the longest creative relationship in your life, this award has been built with you in mind. We are thinking specifically of:

- Lead and rhythm guitarists across rock, jazz, blues, and beyond
- Acoustic, classical, and fingerstyle guitarists
- Bassists and bass guitar specialists
- Indian classical and fusion guitarists

There are no genre, instrument-class, or experience restrictions inside guitar performance. The country has serious players in every tradition — from session-level jazz cats to fingerstyle composers, from Carnatic-fusion guitarists to bassists holding entire bands in place. That breadth is what we want this edition to honour.

KEY DATES

BLOCK THE STUDIO EARLY

06 May 2026

Submissions open

03 July 2026

Submissions close

06 July 2026

Top 100 finalists shortlisted

13 July 2026

Top 3 winners announced

20 July 2026

Prize distribution begins

WHAT WE'RE EXCITED TO SEE

Up to five projects per creator will be welcome — each one a complete piece or a coherent set telling a single story. We are especially excited to receive original guitar performances, solo or band, recorded audio or video, and original compositions or distinctive cover arrangements. ■

CHAPTER TWO — RECOGNITION

The recognition stack for this edition rests on three pillars — meaningful platform value, editorial visibility, and partner-led collaboration with the guitar makers, amp and pedal builders, audio brands, and retail partners shaping the country's music ecosystem. Final details will be confirmed at launch.

THREE PRINCIPLES

- **Authentic ownership.** Each submission must be created and fully owned by the creator.
- **Maximum scope.** Up to five unique projects may be shared.
- **Integrity first.** Plagiarism, stock content, or AI-generated work results in immediate disqualification.

GUITARIST OF THE YEAR 2026

- INR 5,000 in partner brand discounts & coupons
- Cover Story Feature in WallMag Creator Magazine
- Recognition Certificate as Guitarist of the Year
- Brand collaboration opportunities with industry partners
- Hero showcase across WallMag's social handles

RUNNER-UP & SECOND RUNNER-UP

- INR 5,000 in partner brand discounts & coupons
- Featured Interview & Spotlight Q&A in the magazine
- Recognition certificates and partner collaborations
- Multi-slide carousels and dedicated feature posts

TOP 100 FINALISTS

- INR 2,000 in partner brand discounts & coupons

- Top 100 mention in WallMag Creator Magazine
- Finalist recognition certificate



The strongest entries are the ones a player has lived with long enough to know exactly which take is the one.

— ON PREPARING YOUR SUBMISSION

START PREPARING

The work begins now, on the bench. Pull out the pieces you have been refining for months. Re-record the ones you never got around to capturing properly. Sit with the tone you actually want before reaching for another pedal. India's guitar landscape spans tradition, fusion, and experiment in ways very few countries can match. We cannot wait to share what this generation is playing when submissions open in May. ■

FOLLOW & GET NOTIFIED

The Guitar Player Awards 2026 will be hosted on the WallMag platform. Bookmark the award page now and return when entries go live.

wallmag.io/awards/wallmag-guitar-player-awards-2026

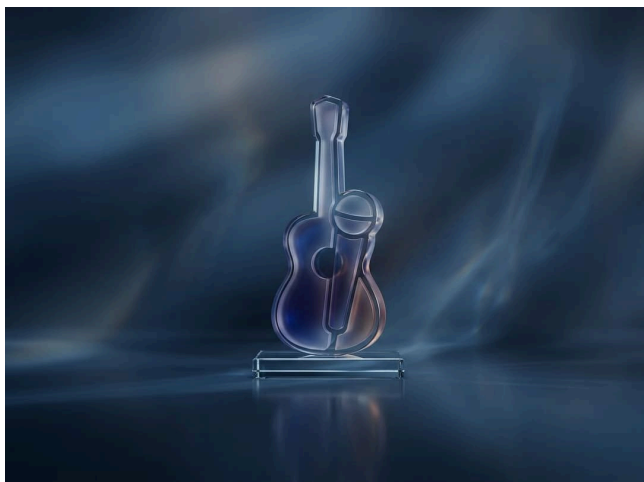


ANNOUNCEMENT · PRE-LAUNCH

Reimagining the Songs We Already Love

An upcoming national stage for India's cover musicians — built for the artists who keep familiar songs alive by making them entirely their own.

ARTICLE BY EDITORIAL TEAM AT WALLMAG | PUBLISHED IN WALLMAG



WallMag is preparing to unveil the WallMag Cover Artist Awards 2026, an upcoming national recognition built for the musicians who keep familiar songs alive by making them their own. This is an early word, not a launch. We want the artists who care most about arrangement, intention, and craft to have the runway to choose their material thoughtfully, record at the standard the song deserves, and arrive at submissions with their strongest interpretations.

WallMag Creator Magazine has always been a community-first publication, and our awards exist to put creators in the same room as the recognition, the readership, and the partner ecosystems they have already earned through years of patient practice and quiet performance. The Cover Artist Awards 2026 will continue that tradition, lifting the country's most inventive cover musicians into the conversation their craft has long deserved.

ABOUT THE AWARD

The WallMag Cover Artist Awards 2026 celebrate India's most inventive cover musicians — artists who reimagine well-loved songs across genres, languages, and instrumentations. The award invites original interpretations of existing works: vocals, instrumentals, mashups, and reinventions, judged on craft, originality of arrangement, and emotional fidelity.

Entries will be evaluated through a curated industry jury working alongside an open community vote, recognising both creative reimagining and technical performance. A great cover does not compete with the original. It enters the same room and offers a different chair. We are listening for that — the artist's eye for a song, the arrangement choices, and the small details that turn a familiar piece into something new without disrespecting where it came from.

Selected creators will earn national visibility, partner brand collaboration opportunities, and a place in WallMag's music legacy.



*A great cover does not compete with the original.
It enters the same room and offers a different chair.*

— EDITORIAL TEAM, WALLMAG

WHO IT'S FOR

If you have spent years interpreting other people's songs without ever feeling like a tribute artist, this award has been built with you in mind. We are thinking specifically of:

- Solo cover singers across languages and genres
- Acoustic and unplugged cover performers
- Instrumental cover artists — guitar, piano, sitar, flute and beyond
- Mashup and creative-arrangement musicians

There are no language, instrument, or experience restrictions inside the cover form. Some of the most inventive musicians in the country are working entirely with other people's songs, and finding new lives inside them every time. That depth of practice is exactly what we want to honour here.

WHAT WE'RE EXCITED TO SEE

Up to five projects per creator will be welcome, each one a complete piece or a coherent set telling a single story. We are especially excited to receive original cover performances — recorded audio or video — with proper credit to the original work and your own arrangement and recording.

SUBMISSION PRINCIPLES

Three rules that keep the bar high.

AUTHENTIC OWNERSHIP

Each submission must be created and fully owned by the creator.

MAXIMUM SCOPE

Up to 5 unique pieces may be shared per artist.

INTEGRITY FIRST

Plagiarism, stock content, or AI-generated work means immediate disqualification.

Always credit the original artist and writers, and submit only the recording, arrangement, and performance you own. A short note on what drew you to the song and what you wanted your version to add to it can take an entry much further than another caption ever could.

PRIZES & RECOGNITION

The recognition stack for this edition rests on three pillars: meaningful platform value, editorial visibility, and partner-led collaboration with the labels, instrument makers, audio brands, and live-show partners shaping the country's music ecosystem. Final details will be confirmed at launch — here is what creators can expect.

Cover Artist of the Year 2026

- INR 5,000 in Partner Brand Discounts & Coupons
- Cover Story Feature in WallMag Creator Magazine — a full editorial spread
- Recognition Certificate as Cover Artist of the Year 2026
- Brand Collaboration Opportunities with leading music-industry partners
- Hero Showcase across WallMag's social handles

Runner-Up & Second Runner-Up

- INR 5,000 in Partner Brand Discounts & Coupons
- Featured Interview or Spotlight Q&A in WallMag Creator Magazine
- Recognition Certificate of placement
- Brand collaboration opportunities with industry partners
- Multi-slide carousel or dedicated feature post on social

Top 100 Finalists

- INR 2,000 in Partner Brand Discounts & Coupons
- Recognition Certificate as Top 100 Cover Artist Finalist 2026
- Mention in WallMag's Top 100 Cover Artists feature

All Participants

- Participation Certificate from the Cover Artist Awards 2026
- Exclusive WallMag community benefits — early access, workshops, perks

KEY DATES

- **6 May 2026** — Submissions open
- **3 July 2026** — Submissions close
- **6 July 2026** — Top 100 finalists shortlisted
- **13 July 2026** — Top 3 winners announced
- **20 July 2026** — Prize and certificate distribution begins

Two months passes faster than expected when arrangement, instrumentation, and recording all need their own time. Plan the calendar early.

START PREPARING

The work begins now — in the songs you keep returning to and the arrangements you have been quietly working on between gigs. The strongest covers are rarely the most ornate. They are the ones with a clear point of view, where every choice in tempo, key, and instrumentation feels deliberate. India's cover artists are doing some of the most musically curious work in the country right now. We cannot wait to share that work with a wider audience when submissions open in May.

FOLLOW THE AWARD

View Award Details & Get Notified

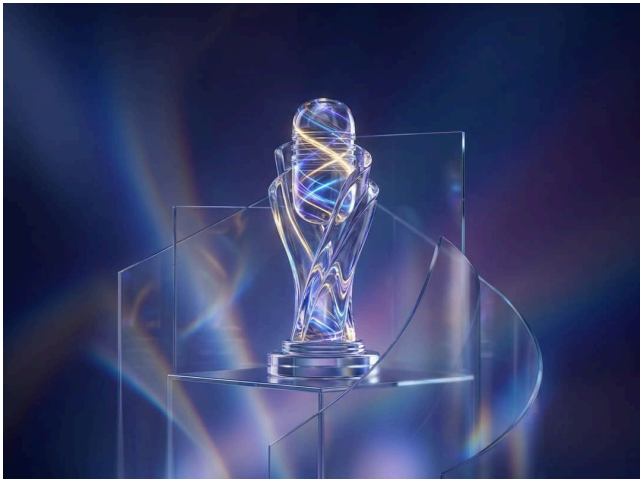
wallmag.io/awards/wallmag-cover-artist-awards-2026

ANNOUNCEMENT / AWARDS

The Pen, the Beat, the Country: Rap Awards 2026 Are Coming

A pre-launch word for India's sharpest MCs — a national stage built for the writers, the lyricists, and the live-room voices reshaping hip-hop in real time.

ARTICLE BY EDITORIAL TEAM AT WALLMAG | PUBLISHED IN WALLMAG



WallMag is preparing to unveil the **WallMag Rap Awards 2026**, an upcoming national recognition built for the rappers and lyricists who are reshaping the country's hip-hop conversation in real time. This is an early word, not a launch. We want the artists who care most about pen, flow, and presence to have the runway to write properly, record properly, and arrive at submissions with the strongest tracks they have made.

WallMag Creator Magazine has always been a community-first publication, and our awards exist to put creators in the same room as the recognition, the readership, and the partner ecosystems they have already earned through years of long writing sessions and unforgiving live rooms.

The Rap Awards 2026 will continue that tradition, lifting the country's sharpest MCs into a national conversation that recognises rap as the literary, performative, and cultural force it has clearly become.

ABOUT THE AWARD

The WallMag Rap Awards 2026 celebrate India's sharpest rappers and lyricists — voices shaping the country's hip-hop, drill, gully, conscious, and underground scenes. The award invites original tracks across regional languages and styles, from polished mixes to raw freestyles, judged on flow, lyricism, and presence.

Entries will be evaluated through a curated industry jury working alongside an open community vote, recognising both technical writing and stage-ready energy. We are listening for the writing first, the delivery second, and the production third. Hip-hop has always rewarded artists who can hold their own with a microphone and a verse, and that is the standard this award will hold itself to.

Selected creators will earn national visibility, partner brand collaboration opportunities, and a place in WallMag's hip-hop legacy.



Bars That Hit Different. That is the spirit we want this edition to carry.

— EDITORIAL TEAM, WALLMAG

WHO IT'S FOR

If hip-hop is the form you have built your voice around, this award has been built with you in mind. We are thinking specifically of:

- Independent rappers across regional and English-language hip-hop
- Drill, gully, and underground artists
- Conscious, political, and storytelling rappers
- Freestyle, battle-rap, and crossover MCs

There are no language, sub-genre, or experience restrictions inside rap. India's hip-hop story has been built from many cities at once, in many tongues at once — from gully circuits to college freestyles to the producers shaping new regional sounds.

KEY DATES · 2026

06 May — Submissions open

03 July — Submissions close

06 July — Top 100 finalists shortlisted

13 July — Top 3 winners announced

20 July — Prize distribution begins

WHAT WE'RE EXCITED TO SEE

Up to five projects per creator will be welcome, each one a complete piece or a coherent set telling a single story. We are especially excited to receive original rap tracks — recorded audio or video, across languages and sub-genres, with full original lyrics ownership.

To keep the bar high and the playing field level, three principles guide every submission:

- **Authentic ownership** — Each submission must be created and fully owned by the creator.
- **Maximum scope** — Up to 5 unique projects may be shared.
- **Integrity first** — Any plagiarism, copied work, stock content, or AI-generated content results in immediate disqualification.

Each entry can carry a short note from the artist. A line on what the verse is about, where you wrote it, and what you wanted the listener to walk away with can take the track much further than another caption ever could.

PRIZES & RECOGNITION

The recognition stack rests on three pillars: meaningful platform value, editorial visibility, and partner-led collaboration with the labels, apparel houses, headphone brands, and live-show partners that already shape India's hip-hop ecosystem.

Rapper of the Year 2026

- INR 5,000 in Partner Brand Discounts & Coupons
- Cover Story Feature in WallMag Creator Magazine
- Recognition Certificate as Rapper of the Year
- Brand Collaboration Opportunities with leading rap-industry partners
- Hero Showcase across WallMag's Social Handles

Rap Runner-Up 2026

- INR 5,000 in Partner Brand Discounts & Coupons
- Featured Interview in WallMag Creator Magazine
- Recognition Certificate as Rap Runner-Up
- Brand Collaboration Opportunities
- Multi-Slide Carousel Feature on Social Handles

Rap Second Runner-Up 2026

- INR 5,000 in Partner Brand Discounts & Coupons
- Spotlight Q&A in WallMag Creator Magazine

- Recognition Certificate as Second Runner-Up
- Brand Collaboration Opportunities
- Dedicated Feature Post across Social Handles

Top 100 Rap Finalist 2026

- INR 2,000 in Partner Brand Discounts & Coupons
- Recognition Certificate as Top 100 Rap Finalist
- Mention in WallMag's Top 100 Rappers feature

All Participants

- Participation Certificate from WallMag's Rap Awards 2026
- Exclusive WallMag Community Benefits — early access, workshops, and platform perks

START PREPARING

The work begins now. Pull the verses you have been sitting on. Re-read the bars you set aside because the beat was not right yet. Sit with what you have written and ask whether it still says what you wanted it to say. Studio time, beat selection, mix and master — every stage benefits from being started early.

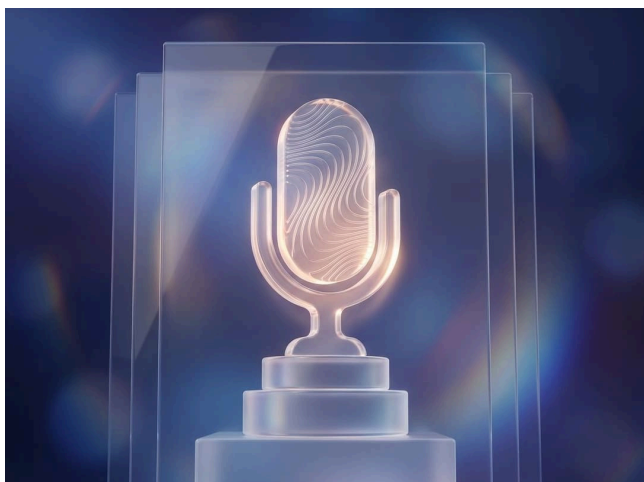
The strongest tracks at submission time are almost always the ones the artist has lived with long enough to trust the line. Indian rap has spent the last decade building itself into one of the most exciting scenes in the world. We cannot wait to share what this generation is writing when submissions open in May. 🇮🇳

ANNOUNCEMENT

Where Voices Become Movements

An upcoming national stage for India's singers — built for the artists who keep the human voice at the centre of their craft.

ARTICLE BY EDITORIAL TEAM AT WALLMAG | PUBLISHED IN WALLMAG



WallMag is preparing to unveil the WallMag Vocalist Awards 2026, an upcoming national recognition built for the singers who keep the human voice at the centre of their craft. This is an early word, not a launch. We want the vocalists who care most about tone, breath, and feeling to have the runway to choose their material carefully, record at the standard their voice deserves, and arrive at submissions with their strongest work.

WallMag Creator Magazine has always been a community-first publication, and our awards exist to put creators in the same room as the recognition, the readership, and the partner ecosystems they have already earned through years of practice and performance. The Vocalist Awards 2026 will continue that tradition, lifting the singers who can hold a room with a single line into a national conversation that recognises that gift for what it is.

ABOUT THE AWARD

The WallMag Vocalist Awards 2026 celebrate India's most emotive singers — voices that make a melody unforgettable, whether classical, contemporary, indie, playback, or experimental. The award invites solo vocal performances across languages, genres, and traditions, recordings that prove the human voice is still the most expressive instrument we have.

Entries will be evaluated through a curated industry jury working alongside an open community vote, recognising tone, technique, and emotional impact. We are listening for control and surrender in the same breath, for the singers who can sit inside a phrase without crowding it.

“

The best entries are rarely the loudest. They are the ones a singer has lived with long enough to know exactly which line carries the song.

— EDITORIAL TEAM, WALLMAG

WHO IT'S FOR

If you have spent years sharpening a voice that you trust to carry a song on its own, this award has been built with you in mind. We are thinking specifically of:

- Independent solo vocalists across languages and genres
- Classical and semi-classical vocalists
- Indie, contemporary, and playback singers
- Vocal experimentalists, beatboxers, and crossover artists

There are no language, tradition, or experience restrictions inside vocal music. Some of the most powerful voices in the country are working in regional languages and underground scenes that rarely make it onto a national platform. That breadth is exactly what we want this edition to surface.

WHAT WE'RE EXCITED TO SEE

Up to five projects per creator will be welcome, each one a complete piece or a coherent set telling a single story. We are especially excited to receive original solo vocal performances, recorded audio or video, across languages, genres, and traditions.

SUBMISSION PRINCIPLES

- **Authentic ownership.** Each submission must be created and fully owned by the creator.
- **Maximum scope.** Up to 5 unique projects may be shared.
- **Integrity first.** Plagiarism, stock content, or AI-generated work results in immediate disqualification.
- **Context counts.** A short note on song origin, interpretation, or intention deepens every entry.

To keep the bar high and the playing field level, those three principles guide every submission. Each entry can carry a short note from the singer — a line on the song's origin, the choices behind your interpretation, or what you wanted the listener to feel — that can take the recording further than another caption ever could.

RECOGNITION

PRIZES & RECOGNITION

The recognition stack for this edition rests on three pillars: meaningful platform value, editorial visibility, and partner-led collaboration with the labels, studios, audio brands, and live-show partners shaping the country's music ecosystem.

Vocalist of the Year 2026

- INR 5,000 in Partner Brand Discounts & Coupons
- Cover Story Feature in WallMag Creator Magazine
- Recognition Certificate as Vocalist of the Year
- Brand Collaboration Opportunities with industry partners
- Hero Showcase across WallMag's Social Handles

Vocalist Runner-Up 2026

- INR 5,000 in Partner Brand Discounts & Coupons
- Featured Interview in WallMag Creator Magazine
- Recognition Certificate as Vocalist Runner-Up
- Brand Collaboration Opportunities with industry partners
- Multi-Slide Carousel Feature on WallMag Socials

Vocalist Second Runner-Up 2026

- INR 5,000 in Partner Brand Discounts & Coupons
- Spotlight Q&A in WallMag Creator Magazine
- Recognition Certificate as Second Runner-Up
- Brand Collaboration Opportunities with industry partners
- Dedicated Feature Post on WallMag Socials

Top 100 Finalist & Participants

- INR 2,000 in Partner Brand Discounts for Finalists
- Top 100 Vocalist Finalist Recognition Certificate
- Mention in WallMag's Top 100 Vocalists feature
- Participation Certificate for all entrants
- Exclusive WallMag Community Benefits & perks

CALENDAR

KEY DATES TO WATCH**TIMELINE 2026**

- **6 May.** Submissions open
- **3 July.** Submissions close
- **6 July.** Top 100 finalists shortlisted
- **13 July.** Top 3 winners announced
- **20 July.** Prize and certificate distribution begins

A two-month window sounds generous, but recording vocal performances at submission standard takes time. Block out studio days early and leave room for honest re-takes.

WHERE TO FOLLOW

The Vocalist Awards 2026 will be hosted on the WallMag platform, where the country's singing community can sign in, follow the award page, and access full participation details once submissions are open. We invite every vocalist who feels called by this edition to bookmark the page now and return when entries go live.

[View Award Details & Get Notified](#)

START PREPARING

The work begins now, in the choices you make about repertoire, takes, and the room you record in. Pull out the songs you keep coming back to. Record them properly. Listen, rest, and listen again.

India's vocal landscape is one of the richest in the world, and we cannot wait to share what this generation is doing with that inheritance when submissions open in May.

— VOICES THAT MOVE US —

ANNOUNCEMENT

Stripping It Back to Light and Shadow

A pre-launch word on the WallMag Black & White Photography Awards 2026 — built for the photographers who choose, deliberately, to work without colour.

ARTICLE BY EDITORIAL TEAM AT WALLMAG | PUBLISHED IN WALLMAG



WallMag is preparing to unveil the WallMag Black & White Photography Awards 2026, an upcoming national recognition built for the photographers who choose, deliberately, to work without colour. This is an early word, not a launch. We want the creators who care most about the discipline of monochrome to have the runway to revisit their archives, refine their selections, and arrive at submissions with their strongest body of work.

WallMag Creator Magazine has always been community-first. Our awards exist to put creators in the same room as the recognition, the readership, and the partner ecosystems they have already earned through long, careful seasons of work. The Black & White Photography Awards 2026 will continue that tradition, lifting the photographers who treat shadow, contrast, and grain as a language of their own into the conversation they deserve.

ABOUT THE AWARD

The WallMag Black & White Photography Awards 2026 celebrate India's most disciplined monochrome photographers — those who turn light, shadow, and texture into pure emotional language. The award invites work across street, portrait, landscape, abstract, and documentary photography; frames that earn their colourlessness with composition, contrast, and intent.

Entries will be evaluated through a curated industry jury working alongside an open community vote, recognising both technical mastery and emotional weight. Black and white is the most honest of photographic conventions, and the most demanding. Without colour to lean on, every choice in framing, exposure, and tonal range becomes audible. That is exactly what this edition has been built to celebrate.

Selected creators will earn national visibility, partner brand collaboration opportunities, and a place in WallMag's monochrome legacy.



***Light, Shadow, and Soul in Monochrome —
that is the spirit we want this edition to carry.***

— EDITORIAL TEAM, WALLMAG

WHO IT'S FOR

If a black-and-white frame has ever felt to you like the only honest version of an image, this award has been built with you in mind. We are thinking specifically of:

- Photographers who work primarily in monochrome.
- Street and documentary creators with a B&W eye.
- Fine-art and gallery photographers in black and white.
- Analogue, film, and traditional darkroom practitioners.

There are no genre or experience restrictions inside black and white photography. Some of the most quietly important work in the country is being made by photographers who never publish in colour, who develop their own film, and who treat their archives like long-form essays. That depth of practice is exactly what we want to honour here.

SUBMISSION PRINCIPLES

Three rules that keep the bar high.

Authentic Ownership

Each submission must be created and fully owned by the creator.

Maximum Scope

Up to five unique projects may be shared per creator.

Integrity First

Plagiarism, stock or AI-generated content results in immediate disqualification.

WHAT WE'RE EXCITED TO SEE

Up to five projects per creator will be welcome — each a complete piece or a coherent set telling a single story. We are especially excited to see monochrome work across street, portrait, landscape, abstract, and documentary photography; frames that earn their lack of colour through light and intent.

Each entry can carry a short note from the creator. A line on what pulled you towards monochrome for this particular subject, or what you wanted the absence of colour to do, can take a frame much further than another caption ever could.

03

RECOGNITION STACK

Prizes, Partners & the Path to Print

The recognition stack rests on three pillars: meaningful platform value, editorial visibility, and partner-led collaboration with the camera, lens, print, and analogue partners shaping the country's monochrome ecosystem. Final details will be confirmed at launch — here is what creators can expect.

TOP HONOUR

Black & White Photographer of the Year 2026

- INR 5,000 in partner brand discounts & coupons.
- Cover Story feature — a full editorial spread of the winning work.
- Recognition Certificate as Photographer of the Year 2026.
- Brand collaboration opportunities with leading camera, lens, fine-art print and analogue partners.
- Hero showcase across WallMag's social handles.

RUNNER-UP

Black & White Photography Runner-Up 2026

- INR 5,000 in partner brand discounts & coupons.
- Featured Interview in WallMag Creator Magazine.
- Recognition Certificate as Runner-Up 2026.
- Multi-slide carousel feature across WallMag's social handles.

SECOND RUNNER-UP

Second Runner-Up 2026

- INR 5,000 in partner brand discounts & coupons.
- Spotlight Q&A on the winning portfolio.
- Recognition Certificate as Second Runner-Up 2026.
- Dedicated feature post across WallMag's social handles.

TOP 100 & BEYOND

Finalists & Participants

- INR 2,000 in partner brand discounts for Top 100 finalists.
- Mention in WallMag's Top 100 Black & White Photographers feature.
- Participation Certificate for every entrant.
- Exclusive WallMag community benefits and early access perks.

KEY DATES TO WATCH

04 May 2026	Submissions open
03 July 2026	Submissions close
06 July 2026	Top 100 finalists shortlisted
13 July 2026	Top 3 winners announced
20 July 2026	Prize & certificate distribution

Monochrome editing is unforgiving. The two-month window will pass faster than expected, and the strongest selections are usually the ones a photographer has lived with for a long time before submitting.

START PREPARING

Pull the negatives. Open the older folders. Look at the frames you converted to black and white years ago and never quite published — the ones that did not fit a feed but never lost their pull. Re-process them with the eye you have today. Sit with the contact sheets. Decide which five pieces speak most clearly to who you are as a monochrome photographer in 2026, and let that be the work you bring forward.

Black and white photography in India has a long, serious lineage — and we are excited to see how this generation extends it when submissions open in May. Bookmark the award page on WallMag and return when entries go live.

ANNOUNCEMENT · AWARDS

The Phone Was Always Enough.

An upcoming national recognition for the photographers shooting on what they already carry — built for creators who treat the phone in their pocket as their only camera, and still come back with frames that out-think most full-frame setups.

ARTICLE BY EDITORIAL TEAM AT WALLMAG | PUBLISHED IN WALLMAG



WallMag is preparing to unveil the WallMag Mobile Photography Awards 2026, a pre-launch announcement built for the creators who care most about this craft.

This is an early word, not a launch. We want photographers to have the runway to revisit their photo libraries, edit slowly, and arrive at submissions with their strongest mobile-native work.

WallMag Creator Magazine has always been a community-first publication, and our awards exist to put creators in the same room as the recognition, the readership, and the partner ecosystems they have already earned. The 2026 edition will continue that tradition — foregrounding the creators who prove that a smartphone, used well, is more than enough to make work that lasts.

The Awards celebrate India's smartphone-only photographers, creators who prove that the best camera really is the one you have with you. The award invites every genre shot exclusively on mobile: street, travel, portrait, abstract, and lifestyle photography, and the everyday observation that lives between those categories.

I · THE CRAFT

WHO IT'S FOR

If your phone has been the only camera in your bag for a long time, this award has been built with you in mind. Some of the most arresting frames being made in India this year are coming out of small towns and long commutes, captured by photographers who do not own a dedicated camera and have stopped feeling like that is a limitation.

- Smartphone photographers building portfolios on iOS and Android
- Street and documentary photographers shooting mobile-first
- Travel and lifestyle creators capturing the everyday
- Mobile editing artists experimenting with native workflows

There are no genre or experience restrictions inside mobile photography. What matters here is originality, intent, and craft.



Pocket lenses, cinematic stories. That is the spirit we want this edition to carry.

— EDITORIAL TEAM, WALLMAG

WHAT WE'RE EXCITED TO SEE

Up to five projects per creator will be welcome, each one a complete piece or a coherent set telling a single story. We are especially excited to see mobile-shot frames across street, travel, portrait, abstract, and lifestyle work — only original, owned, smartphone-native captures.

THREE PRINCIPLES

Authentic ownership

Each submission must be created and fully owned by the creator.

Maximum scope

Up to 5 unique projects may be shared.

Integrity first

Plagiarism, stock content, or AI-generated content results in immediate disqualification.

The jury reads every entry alongside a short note from the creator, so context is welcome. A line on what device you used, what app handled the edit, and what the moment carried for you can take a frame much further than another caption ever could.

II · RECOGNITION

MOBILE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2026

- INR 5,000 in Partner Brand Discounts & Coupons
- Cover Story Feature in WallMag Creator Magazine
- Recognition Certificate as Photographer of the Year
- Brand collaboration opportunities with leading mobile-imaging partners
- Hero showcase across WallMag's social handles

RUNNERS-UP & FINALISTS

The Runner-Up earns a featured interview in the magazine and a multi-slide carousel feature. The Second Runner-Up receives a Spotlight Q&A and a dedicated feature post. The Top 100 finalists each receive INR 2,000 in partner coupons, a recognition certificate, and a mention in WallMag's Top 100 feature.

Every participant receives a participation certificate and exclusive WallMag community benefits — early access to future awards, creator workshops, and platform perks.

III · THE CALENDAR

KEY DATES TO WATCH

- **4 May 2026** — Submissions open
- **3 July 2026** — Submissions close
- **6 July 2026** — Top 100 finalists shortlisted
- **13 July 2026** — Top 3 winners announced
- **20 July 2026** — Prize and certificate distribution begins

Two months sounds like plenty of time. It is not. Mobile libraries grow into the tens of thousands of frames in a year, and editing them down honestly takes longer than most photographers expect.

WHERE TO FOLLOW

The Mobile Photography Awards 2026 will be hosted on the WallMag platform, where the mobile photography community can sign in, follow the award page, and access full participation details once submissions are open. We invite every creator who feels called by this edition to bookmark the page now and return when entries go live.

START PREPARING

The work begins now, in the slow scroll back through your camera roll. Look at the frames you saved without explanation. Re-examine the small everyday observations you almost forgot you made.

Mobile photography rewards a particular kind of attention — the kind that does not require a tripod or a planned shoot, the kind that simply notices. The five projects you choose to bring forward should reflect that attention at its most honest.

India's mobile photographers are quietly producing some of the most original visual work in the country, and we cannot wait to share that work with a wider audience when submissions open in May.

VIEW AWARD DETAILS & GET NOTIFIED

Bookmark the WallMag Awards page to get the launch alert.

wallmag.io/awards/wallmag-mobile-photography-awards-2026

ANNOUNCEMENT · PRE-LAUNCH

Where Indian Weddings Find Their Storytellers

An upcoming celebration of the photographers who turn the most personal day in a family's life into something the family returns to for generations.

ARTICLE BY EDITORIAL TEAM AT WALLMAG | PUBLISHED IN WALLMAG CREATOR MAGAZINE



WallMag is preparing to unveil one of the year's most anticipated editorial honours: the WallMag Wedding Photography Awards 2026, an upcoming national recognition built for the photographers who turn the most personal day in a family's life into something the family returns to for generations. This is an early word, not a launch. We want the people who care most about this craft to have the runway to revisit their archives, refine their selections, and prepare the strongest body of work they have ever shown.

WallMag Creator Magazine has always been community-first. Our awards exist to put creators in the same room as the recognition, the readership, and the partner ecosystems they have already earned through long seasons of careful work. The Wedding Photography Awards 2026 will continue that tradition, lifting the storytellers behind India's most lyrical wedding frames into the kind of national conversation their work deserves.

ABOUT THE AWARD

The WallMag Wedding Photography Awards 2026 celebrate India's most lyrical wedding storytellers — photographers who turn ceremonies into cinema and candid frames into family heirlooms. The award invites work across candid, traditional, pre-wedding, destination, and bridal portraiture; frames that capture both intimacy and grandeur in a single visual language.



The great wedding photograph is rarely the loudest one. It is usually the quiet frame at the edge of the celebration.

— EDITORIAL TEAM, WALLMAG

Entries will be evaluated through a curated industry jury working alongside an open community vote, recognising both craft and emotional resonance. Selected creators will earn national visibility, partner brand collaboration opportunities, and a place in WallMag's wedding photography legacy.

Frame the Love That Lasts a Lifetime. That is the spirit we want this edition to carry.

WHO IT'S FOR

If your wedding work treats every couple like a story worth telling on its own terms, this award has been built with you in mind. We are thinking specifically of:

- Wedding photographers building signature visual styles
- Pre-wedding and engagement specialists
- Destination and intimate-wedding storytellers
- Bridal portrait and editorial wedding photographers

There are no genre or experience restrictions inside wedding photography. The Indian wedding has too many languages, traditions, and emotional registers for any single template, and that diversity is exactly what we want this award to honour. Whether you shoot a three-day Bengali ceremony, a quiet Mussoorie elopement, a 2,000-guest Punjabi celebration, or a small civil signing in your home city, your work belongs in this conversation.

KEY DATES 2026

Mark the calendar.

4 May 2026

Submissions open

3 July 2026

Submissions close

6 July 2026

Top 100 finalists shortlisted

13 July 2026

Top 3 winners announced

20 July 2026

Prize and certificate distribution begins

WHAT WE'RE EXCITED TO SEE

Up to five projects per creator will be welcome, each one a complete piece or a coherent set telling a single story. We are especially excited to see candid story frames, bridal portraits, traditional ceremonies, pre-wedding sets, and destination-wedding work that feels personal and unposed.

To keep the bar high and the playing field level, three principles guide every submission:

- **Authentic ownership** — Each submission must be created and fully owned by the creator.
- **Maximum scope** — Up to 5 unique projects may be shared.
- **Integrity first** — Any plagiarism, copied work, stock content, or AI-generated content results in immediate disqualification.

The jury reads every entry alongside a short note from the creator. A line about who the couple is, what the moment carried for them, or what you tried to protect in the edit can carry the work much further than another caption ever could.

PRIZES & RECOGNITION: AN EARLY PREVIEW

The recognition stack for this edition rests on three pillars: meaningful platform value, editorial visibility, and partner-led collaboration with the brands that already shape India's wedding industry. Final details will be confirmed at launch, but here is what creators can expect.

Wedding Photographer of the Year 2026

- INR 5,000 worth of Partner Brand Discounts & Coupons
- Cover Story Feature in WallMag Creator Magazine — a full editorial spread of your winning wedding photography
- Recognition Certificate as Wedding Photographer of the Year 2026
- Brand Collaboration Opportunities with leading wedding-industry partners — bridal, jewellery, decor, and wedding-planning brands
- Hero Showcase across WallMag's Social Handles — reaching India's wedding photography & creator community

Wedding Photography Runner-Up 2026

- INR 5,000 worth of Partner Brand Discounts & Coupons
- Featured Interview in WallMag Creator Magazine — your craft, journey, and signature wedding photography voice
- Recognition Certificate as Wedding Photography Runner-Up 2026
- Brand Collaboration Opportunities with leading wedding-industry partners
- Multi-Slide Carousel Feature spotlighting your top wedding photography work

Second Runner-Up 2026

- INR 5,000 worth of Partner Brand Discounts & Coupons
- Spotlight Q&A in WallMag Creator Magazine on your winning wedding photography portfolio
- Recognition Certificate as Wedding Photography Second Runner-Up 2026
- Brand Collaboration Opportunities with leading wedding-industry partners
- Dedicated Feature Post across WallMag's Social Handles

Top 100 Finalists 2026

- INR 2,000 worth of Partner Brand Discounts & Coupons
- Recognition Certificate as Top 100 Wedding Photography Finalist 2026

- Mention in WallMag Creator Magazine's Top 100 Wedding Photographers feature

All Participants

- Participation Certificate from WallMag's Wedding Photography Awards 2026
- Exclusive WallMag Community Benefits — early access to future awards, creator workshops, and platform perks

WHERE TO FOLLOW & GET UPDATES

The Wedding Photography Awards 2026 will be hosted on the WallMag platform, where the wedding photography community can sign in, follow the award page, and access full participation details once submissions are open. We invite every photographer who feels called by this edition to bookmark the page now and return when entries go live.



The best entries are almost always the ones revisited slowly, not the ones rushed onto the platform on closing day.

— EDITORIAL TEAM, WALLMAG

START PREPARING

The work begins now, in the quiet weeks before submissions open. Pull last season's catalogues. Re-sequence the weddings you covered between October and February. Look at the frames you set aside the first time around — the ones that did not fit a client gallery but stayed with you anyway.

India's wedding photographers are doing some of the most emotionally precise work in the country right now, and we cannot wait to share that work with the wider creator community when submissions open in May.

The two-month submission window will pass quickly. Wedding photographers know better than most how much an unhurried edit improves a final selection.

GET NOTIFIED · MAY 4, 2026

View Award Details & Get Notified

wallmag.io/awards/wallmag-wedding-photography-awards-2026

ANNOUNCEMENT / PRE-LAUNCH

A New Stage for India's Wildlife Storytellers

An early word on the WallMag Wildlife Photography Awards 2026 — built for the photographers who spend their lives waiting for one honest frame.

ARTICLE BY EDITORIAL TEAM AT WALLMAG | PUBLISHED IN WALLMAG



WallMag is preparing to unveil one of its most anticipated celebrations of the year: the WallMag Wildlife Photography Awards 2026, an upcoming national recognition built for the photographers who spend their lives waiting for one honest frame. This is not a launch, not yet. Consider this a quiet word in advance, an early signal so that the people who care most about this craft have the runway to prepare their strongest work.

WallMag Creator Magazine has always been a community-first publication. Our awards exist to put creators in the room with the recognition, the readership, and the partner ecosystems they have already earned through patience and craft. The Wildlife Photography Awards 2026 will continue that tradition, foregrounding storytelling that respects the subject and rewards the long, unglamorous hours behind every great wildlife frame.

ABOUT THE AWARD

The WallMag Wildlife Photography Awards 2026 celebrate India's most patient and observant wildlife photographers — the people who turn long hours in the field into images that genuinely move us. The award welcomes work across the full spectrum of the wild: mammals, birds, reptiles, marine life, and habitat photography, frames that honour their subjects and tell the larger story of the ecosystems they inhabit.

Entries will be evaluated through a curated industry jury working alongside an open community vote, a structure designed to recognise both technical mastery and conservation-grade storytelling. Selected creators will earn national visibility, partner brand collaboration opportunities, and a place in WallMag's growing wildlife photography legacy.



Witness the Wild Through Your Lens. That is the spirit we want this edition to embody.

— EDITORIAL TEAM, WALLMAG

WHO IT'S FOR

If your photography asks something of the viewer instead of merely decorating a feed, this award has been built with you in mind. We are thinking specifically of:

- Field photographers building patient bodies of wildlife work
- Travel and conservation photographers documenting habitats and species
- Bird and macro photographers chasing the small wonders
- Underwater and marine-life photographers

There are no genre or experience restrictions inside wildlife photography. Some of the most arresting frames each year come from creators with no formal training, working in their home forests with modest gear and an extraordinary eye. What matters here is originality, intent, and craft.

WHAT WE'RE EXCITED TO SEE

Up to five projects per creator will be welcome, each one a complete piece or a coherent sequence that tells a single story. We are especially excited to see fine field portraits, behaviour sequences, habitat frames, and conservation stories — work that is patient, honest, and original.

SUBMISSION PRINCIPLES

Three rules to keep the bar high

Authentic ownership. Each submission must be created and fully owned by the creator.

Maximum scope. Up to 5 unique projects may be shared.

Integrity first. Plagiarism, stock content, or AI-generated work results in immediate disqualification.

The jury reads each entry alongside a short note from the creator, so context matters. A line on what the moment was, how it was earned, or what you learned in the making can carry the work further than another caption ever could.

PRIZES & RECOGNITION

The recognition stack for this edition is built on three pillars: meaningful platform value, editorial visibility, and partner-led collaboration. Final details will be confirmed at launch, but here is what creators can expect.

01 / TOP HONOUR

Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2026

- INR 5,000 worth of Partner Brand Discounts & Coupons
- Cover Story Feature in WallMag Creator Magazine — a full editorial spread of your winning portfolio
- Recognition Certificate as Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2026
- Brand collaboration opportunities with leading wildlife optics, outdoor, expedition, and conservation partners
- Hero showcase across WallMag's social handles

02 / RUNNER-UP

Wildlife Photography Runner-Up

- INR 5,000 worth of Partner Brand Discounts & Coupons
- Featured Interview in WallMag Creator Magazine
- Recognition Certificate as Runner-Up 2026
- Multi-slide carousel feature across WallMag's social handles

03 / SECOND RUNNER-UP

Second Runner-Up

- INR 5,000 in Partner Brand Discounts & Coupons
- Spotlight Q&A in WallMag Creator Magazine
- Recognition Certificate; dedicated feature post on WallMag's social handles

04 / TOP 100 & ALL PARTICIPANTS

- **Top 100 Finalists:** INR 2,000 in partner discounts, finalist certificate, and a mention in the magazine's Top 100 feature.
- **All Participants:** Participation certificate, plus exclusive WallMag community benefits — early access to future awards, creator workshops, and platform perks.

KEY DATES TO WATCH

Mark these dates now. The two-month submission window passes quickly, and the strongest portfolios are usually the ones edited slowly.

CALENDAR 2026

From open call to recognition

4 May 2026. Submissions open.

3 July 2026. Submissions close.

6 July 2026. Top 100 finalists shortlisted.

13 July 2026. Top 3 winners announced.

20 July 2026. Prize and certificate distribution begins.

WHERE TO FOLLOW

The Wildlife Photography Awards 2026 will be hosted on the WallMag platform, where the wildlife photography community can sign in, follow the award page, and access full participation details once submissions are open. We encourage every creator who feels called by this edition to bookmark the page now and return when entries go live.

VIEW AWARD DETAILS

Get Notified at Launch

wallmag.io / awards / wildlife-photography-awards-2026

START PREPARING

There is still time, and that time matters. The strongest entries each year are not the ones shot on submission week. They are the ones revisited, re-sequenced, and edited down to the frames that carry the most weight.

Pull your archives. Look again at the projects you set aside. Sit with your contact sheets. Decide which five pieces speak most clearly to who you are as a wildlife photographer in 2026, and let that be the work you bring forward.

We are excited to see what India's field photographers have been quietly building — and even more excited to share that work with the country once submissions open in May.



ANNOUNCEMENT

Coming Soon: WallMag Creative Photography Awards 2026

A new recognition for India's most imaginative photographers — those who treat the lens as a brush, and the still image as a question worth asking.

ARTICLE BY EDITORIAL TEAM AT WALLMAG | PUBLISHED IN WALLMAG



WallMag is unveiling something special for the country's photography community — the **WallMag Creative Photography Awards 2026**. This isn't a celebration of pretty pictures; it's a recognition of vision. Of the photographers who treat the lens as a brush, who turn the ordinary into the unforgettable, and who are reshaping what a still image can mean in 2026.

Submissions open on **4 May 2026**. This is your early notice — start gathering your strongest, most personal work now.

01

ABOUT THE AWARD

The WallMag Creative Photography Awards 2026 are built for India's most imaginative photographers — those who push beyond documentation and into storytelling, art, and experimentation. We are here to recognise creators across *fine art*, *conceptual*, *surreal*, *abstract*, *mixed media*, and *editorial* photography — work that challenges convention and reveals new ways of seeing.

Entries are evaluated through a dual-track process: a curated industry jury alongside an open community vote. That combination ensures winners are recognised for both technical craft and the emotional resonance their images carry. Selected creators earn national visibility, partner brand collaboration opportunities, and a permanent place in WallMag's creative photography legacy.

02

WHO IT'S FOR

If your photographs ask questions instead of just answering them — this is for you. We welcome:

- Independent photographers building bodies of personal, conceptual work.
- Editorial and commercial photographers experimenting beyond their commissioned work.
- Emerging visual artists who use the camera as a primary medium.
- Multidisciplinary creators blending photography with mixed media, collage, or digital craft.

There are no genre or experience restrictions within creative photography. What matters is originality, intent, and craft.

03

WHAT WE'RE EXCITED TO SEE

Submit up to **5 of your strongest, original creative photography projects**. Each project may include a single hero image or a series telling a cohesive visual story. We are especially excited about work that pushes the boundaries of what a photograph can say — fine art, conceptual, surreal, abstract, mixed media, and editorial frames that linger.

Three submission principles guide every entry:

- **Authentic ownership** — each submission must be created and fully owned by the creator.
- **Maximum scope** — up to five unique projects may be shared.
- **Integrity first** — any plagiarism, copied work, stock content, or AI-generated content results in immediate disqualification.



Photography is the only language that can be understood anywhere in the world — and these Awards are an invitation to write your sentence in it.

— EDITORIAL TEAM, WALLMAG

04

PRIZES & RECOGNITION

The recognition is built on three pillars: meaningful platform value, editorial visibility, and partner-led collaboration. The Top 3 winners share the spotlight, while the Top 100 finalists are celebrated as a peer cohort.

Creative Photographer of the Year 2026. INR 5,000 worth of partner brand discounts and coupons; cover story feature in WallMag Creator Magazine; recognition certificate; brand collaboration opportunities with leading photography-industry partners — camera, lens, print, and creative-tools brands; hero showcase across WallMag's social handles.

Runner-Up. INR 5,000 worth of partner brand discounts and coupons; featured interview in WallMag Creator Magazine; recognition certificate; brand collaboration opportunities; multi-slide carousel feature across WallMag's social handles.

Second Runner-Up. INR 5,000 worth of partner brand discounts and coupons; spotlight Q&A in WallMag Creator Magazine; recognition certificate; brand collaboration opportunities; dedicated feature post across WallMag's social handles.

Top 100 Finalists. INR 2,000 worth of partner brand discounts and coupons; recognition certificate; mention in WallMag Creator Magazine's *Top 100 Creative Photographers* feature.

All Participants. Participation certificate from WallMag, plus exclusive WallMag community benefits — early access to future awards, creator workshops, and platform perks.

05

KEY DATES

The calendar is short and deliberate. Mark these milestones now — they shape the entire awards journey, from the first submission to the moment recognition lands in your inbox.

AWARDS CALENDAR 2026

— 4 May 2026

Submissions open across all creative photography categories.

— 3 July 2026

Submissions close. Final day to enter your strongest work.

— 6 July 2026

Top 100 Finalists shortlisted from jury and community votes.

— 13 July 2026

Top 3 Winners announced.

— 20 July 2026

Prize and certificate distribution begins.

06

COMMON QUESTIONS

Eligibility, judging, originality, prize distribution, and AI/stock policy — five plain answers will live on the official award page when submissions open. The short version: any photographer based in India over 18 can enter; jury and community both shape the result; original work only; partner brand coupons reach winners and finalists within seven days of the announcement; AI-generated and stock submissions will be disqualified without refund.

07

GET READY

Submissions open **4 May 2026**. Until then, revisit your archive, finish that project you've been sitting on, and prepare to share what you see — the way only you can see it.

OFFICIAL AWARD PAGE

**Write your sentence
in light.**

WALLMAG.IO / AWARDS / 2026 →



FEATURING CREATORS

The Rotating Canvas: An Interview with 4-Directional Artist Ramesh Aundhkar

A single canvas. Four orientations. Infinite stories. Inside the meditative geometry of an artist whose work transforms with every turn of the frame.

ARTICLE BY EDITORIAL TEAM AT WALLMAG

PUBLISHED IN WALLMAG



How would you describe your kaleidoscopic, four-directional mural style?

I often use the example of a kaleidoscope. Just as the patterns inside a kaleidoscope shift and transform with every turn, my four-directional artworks reveal entirely different stories and figures depending on their orientation. A single, two-dimensional frame can hold multiple narratives—a portrait might become a landscape, a deity might transform into birds or abstract forms.

The art isn't static; it's an interactive experience where the story changes based on the axis you view it from, creating a dynamic, kaleidoscopic vision within one piece.

“A portrait might become a landscape, a deity might transform into birds or abstract forms—it's an interactive experience where the story changes based on the axis you view it from.”

AT A GLANCE

Style: Four-directional kaleidoscopic painting

Foundation: Points, lines, shapes, color

Featured at: India Art Festival, Nehru Centre

Mediums: Acrylic, mixed media, murals

Open to: Commissions, installations, workshops

Could you walk us through the narrative of your signature artwork?

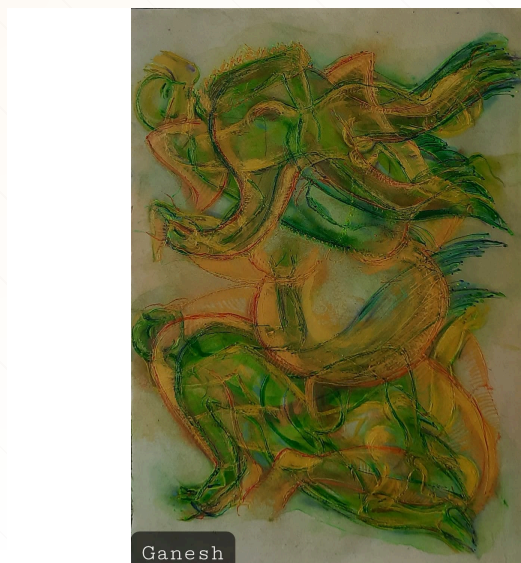
WATCH · SIGNATURE ARTWORK

VIDEO



Scan to play





This piece is a perfect example of the four narratives contained within one frame. In the portrait orientation, the viewer first sees Lord Ganesha. Rotate it to landscape, and two green figures emerge. Flip it to the reverse portrait, and the composition reveals two birds. Finally, in the reverse landscape orientation, two yellow figures come into view.

It's a single artwork that invites the viewer to physically engage with it, discovering new imagery with every 90-degree turn.



What story does this four-orientation set tell about the hunter?

This artwork, which sold in 2024, depicts a complete narrative cycle. In portrait mode, we see the hunter with his bow, poised and ready. The landscape orientation shows him preparing for the hunt, perhaps in a moment of focus or ritual.



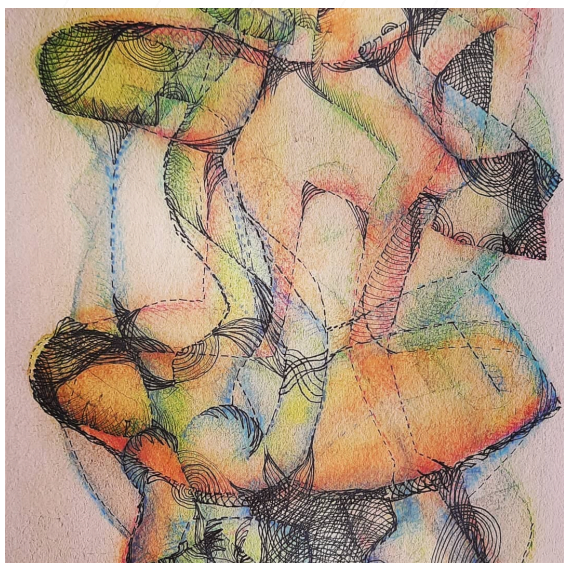
When rotated to the reverse portrait, the scene shifts to depict the hunter after the hunt, suggesting a moment of reflection or rest. Finally, the reverse landscape mode reveals the hunter's family waiting for his return.

“A poignant visual story about anticipation, action, consequence, and reunion—all contained within the rotation of a single canvas.”



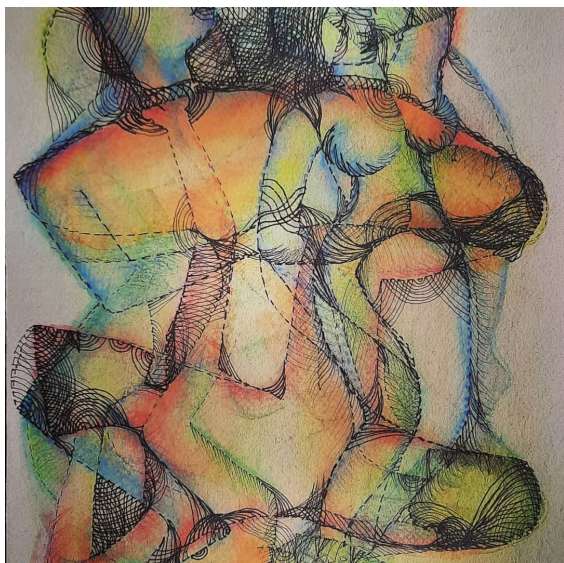
What can you tell us about the technique and detail in these close-ups?

My process is fundamentally architectural, built from the ground up. It all begins with points, which I then connect using various types of lines to discover identical shapes and forms.



Once these foundational elements are established, I add intricate textures and line patterns that are specific to the identity of each shape. The final layer is color, where I apply tones and shades that further define and enhance the forms discovered within the two-dimensional frame.

This meticulous, layered approach is what allows the artwork to maintain its integrity and reveal coherent, distinct images across all four orientations.



Could you describe your creative process from the first point to the final color?

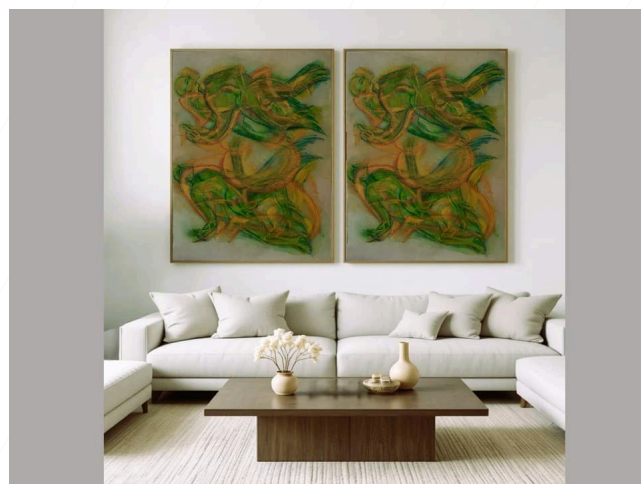
My creative process is a journey of discovery within a defined space. It always starts with simple points on the canvas. I then begin connecting these points with different lines—straight, curved, intersecting—which starts to reveal potential shapes and forms.

This is the most meditative and crucial stage, where I rotate the 2D frame mentally and physically, looking for identities in portrait, landscape, and their reverse modes. Once I lock in these four directional identities, I add more lines and patterns to solidify them.

“It always starts with simple points on the canvas. The most meditative stage is rotating the frame to look for identities in every direction.”

The final step is introducing color, tones, and shades, which are never arbitrary; they are applied strictly as required by the identity of the shapes and forms found in each orientation. This disciplined process ensures the kaleidoscopic vision is complete and balanced.

What was the vision for this proposed installation?



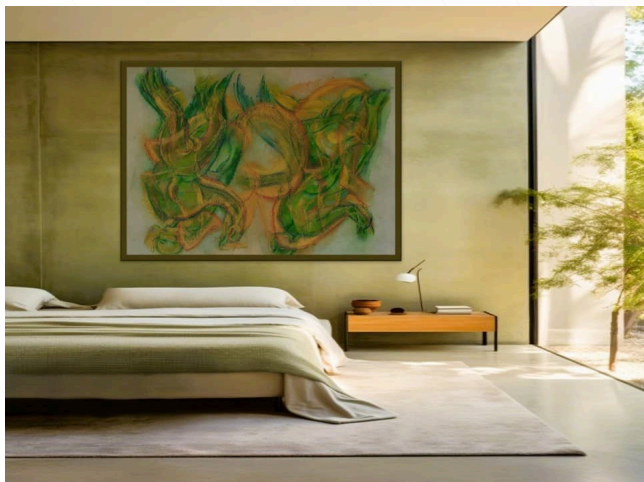
This is a concept for a future installation that has not yet been executed. The vision involves a series of murals at different scales to create an immersive environment. The proposed sizes are approximately 3x4 ft, 4x5 ft, 5x6 ft, and 3.5x4.5 ft.

The idea is to have these works interact within a space, allowing viewers to move around them and experience the shifting narratives from different angles, turning the entire room into a larger kaleidoscopic experience.



FINAL CHAPTER

How would you describe the mood and intention behind this color palette?



The primary mood I aim for is meditative. I want the colors to draw the viewer in and encourage contemplation as they explore the different orientations. However, I also design with high contrast in mind, specifically to make the artwork stand out against the interior of its location.

The palette needs to be both harmonious for introspection and bold enough to command attention and define its space.

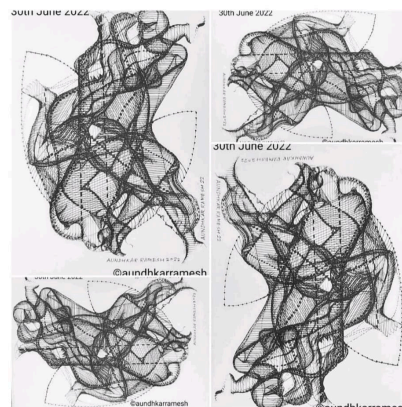
What role do these initial sketches and grids play in the kaleidoscopic effect?



These sketches are the essential blueprint for the entire piece. They are where I solve the core puzzle of my art form. On these pages, I work out how a single composition can logically and beautifully decompose into four distinct images across the different modes of a 2D frame.

By planning this rotation on paper first, much like plotting the mirrors in a kaleidoscope, I ensure that the final painting has a perfect, intentional kaleidoscopic vision. The grid helps me maintain symmetry and alignment, which is absolutely critical for the illusion to work seamlessly when the canvas is turned.

Can you tell us about your experience exhibiting at the India Art Festival?



67

It was a significant moment for my work to be featured at the India Art Festival, held at the Nehru Centre's Pavilion. I was fortunate to have a nine-panel booth sponsored by Mr. Rajendra Patil, the owner of the festival. Exhibiting there was incredibly rewarding, as it allowed a broad audience to physically interact with the rotational concept of my paintings.

What kinds of projects are you most excited to take on next?

I'm looking forward to large-scale murals that transform public spaces, and kinetic or rotating installations that physically embody my art's philosophy. Collaborations, workshops, and commissions—both private and commercial—are all on the horizon.

I'm particularly interested in projects that push material boundaries: multimedia, mixed media, and even art from recycled materials. The core of 4-Directional Art can be applied to so many forms, and I'm eager to explore them all.

CONTACT & FOLLOW

Email: rmsndhkr1953@gmail.com

Website: rameshaundhkar.in

Instagram: [@aundhkarramesh](https://www.instagram.com/aundhkarramesh)



FEATURING CREATORS

Through the Lens of Kolkata: A Conversation with Fashion Photographer Abhijit Dutta

From mobile snapshots to fully realised editorials, Abhijit Dutta speaks on craft, culture, and the quiet power of finding beauty in the everyday.

ARTICLE BY EDITORIAL TEAM AT WALLMAG | PUBLISHED IN
WALLMAG



How did your journey into photography begin?

My journey into photography started quite organically with my mobile phone. I began capturing the world around me, fascinated by how a simple device could frame moments and tell stories. That initial curiosity with mobile photography was the spark that ignited a deeper passion, leading me to explore more technical aspects and eventually transition into professional photography. It was a humble beginning that taught me to see beauty in the everyday.

When did you first realize fashion photography was your true calling?

My connection to fashion photography grew over time as I became more immersed in the genre. I've always been drawn to the interplay of style, personality, and narrative that fashion allows. There was a specific moment when I realized this was more than just an interest—it was a calling. I felt a deep resonance with the creative collaboration, the styling, and the power of an image to convey not just a look, but an entire attitude or emotion. That's when I knew I wanted to dedicate myself to this craft.

AT A GLANCE

- Began with mobile phone photography
- Professional since 2016
- Specialises in fashion editorials
- Based in Kolkata, India
- Known for vibrant, glamorous style
- Blends tradition with contemporary vision

How has your photographic style and experience evolved since you started in 2016?

Since beginning my professional journey in 2016, my style has undergone a significant and exciting evolution. Initially, my focus was on mastering technical skills and understanding light. Over the years, I've developed a more distinct voice—one that blends vibrant, glamorous aesthetics with a strong sense of emotion and cultural context. My experience has taught me to be more intentional with every element in the frame, from the model's expression to the smallest detail of the set.



CONTINUED

CONVERSATION

What does 'LENS' mean to you, both personally and professionally?

To me, a 'LENS' is far more than a piece of glass; it's a perspective, a worldview. Professionally, it's the tool through which I interpret and present my creative vision. Personally, it represents the unique way I see and experience the world—the specific angle, focus, and light that I choose to highlight. It's about showing people not just what I see, but how I feel about what I see. The lens is the bridge between my inner vision and the external reality I share with my audience.

“The lens is the bridge between my inner vision and the external reality I share with my audience.”

Could you walk us through the concept and mood of one of your favorite fashion editorials?



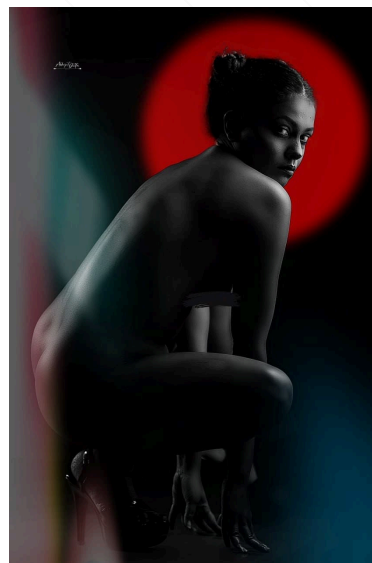
The concept for this shoot centered on the poignant emotion of anticipation—specifically, a woman waiting for her love. I wanted to capture that quiet, powerful moment of yearning and hope. The mood is introspective and tender, using soft light and a contemplative pose to convey a deep, personal narrative. It's about the story that happens in the stillness, the unspoken emotions that are often more powerful than any action.

Tell us about a memorable behind-the-scenes moment from a shoot.

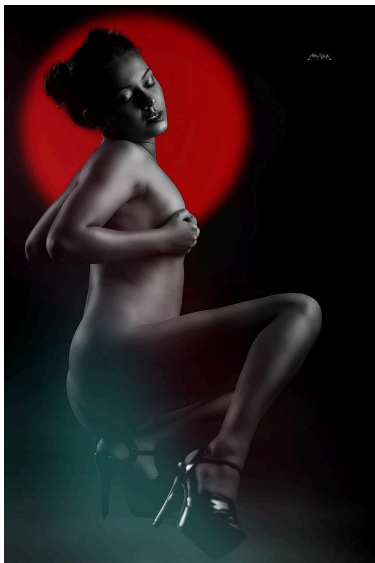


This behind-the-scenes moment was captured during a shoot infused with Bengali ritualistic elements. The atmosphere was incredibly friendly and collaborative, which is essential for getting authentic emotions. We were blending traditional cultural motifs with contemporary fashion, and there was a beautiful synergy on set. It was one of those days where the creative energy was palpable, and everyone was invested in bringing this unique fusion to life.

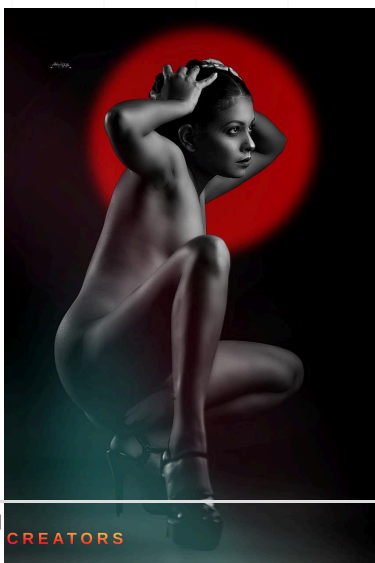
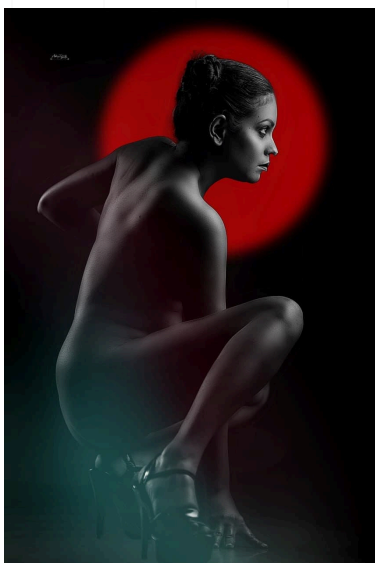
What story were you trying to tell with this conceptual portrait series?



This series was inspired by the complex inner lives of women. I wanted to explore the idea that women often harbor profound feelings and strengths that societal expectations may prevent them from fully expressing or performing.



Each portrait in this series is an attempt to visualize that internal landscape—the resilience, the quiet power, and the nuanced emotions that exist beneath the surface. It's a commentary on the space between one's inner self and the persona presented to the world.



What's the story behind capturing this memorable event moment?



This image is from a traditional Bengali event, and the story is all about capturing the genuine, friendly atmosphere steeped in ritual. My goal was to move beyond just documenting the event and instead capture the feeling of it—the warmth, the cultural significance, and the shared joy. I focused on a candid moment that embodied the spirit of the celebration, where the authenticity of the interaction and the rich cultural backdrop came together to tell a complete story.

How does the local culture of Kolkata shape your artistic perspective?

Kolkata has a profound influence on my work, though it sometimes presents a creative tension. The city is a tapestry of rich traditions, vibrant colors, and intense emotions. However, I sometimes feel that the prevailing cultural modeling or aesthetic expectations here don't always align with the contemporary or conceptual directions I wish to explore. This piece reflects that dialogue—it's my interpretation of local culture through my own lens, attempting to honor its essence while also framing it within my personal visual language.

“It's about finding a balance between heritage and innovation.”

What is the biggest challenge you face when bringing your concepts to life?

The most consistent challenge lies in perfectly aligning the technical execution with the creative vision. It often comes down to managing camera exposure, crafting the right lighting setup, and ensuring the colors match and enhance the initial concept. Light and color are the emotional backbone of an image, so getting them wrong can completely alter the story.

Why does this particular work hold such a special place for you?



This work is special because it represents a core philosophy of mine. Truthfully, I don't actively pursue brand or e-commerce shoots, but when I do take them on, I never approach them as mere commercial assignments. I treat them as personal projects that are in my blood. This mindset transforms the process; it removes the pressure of a 'job' and replaces it with the passion of a creator.

Every tough situation during such a shoot becomes a puzzle to solve creatively, and that approach consistently yields results I'm proud of. This image is a testament to that belief—it's commercial work that doesn't feel commercial because it was made with genuine artistic investment.

How do you approach capturing cultural essence and emotion?

Capturing cultural essence is about sensitivity and anticipation. It requires an understanding of the rituals and their significance, not just their visual appearance. For emotion, I strive to be an observer rather than a director, looking for those unguarded, truthful moments between people. My approach is to find the intersection of authentic tradition and genuine human emotion, capturing the feeling of the event in a way that is both respectful and fresh.

How does your equipment contribute to your signature vibrant style?

My equipment is crucial for executing my vision with precision. Achieving a glamorous and vibrant style is deeply technical. It hinges on controlling camera exposure to retain detail in highlights and shadows, and using lighting not just for illumination, but for sculpting and creating mood. The choice of lens affects the feel and compression, while color science—both in-camera and in post—is vital for achieving that signature vibrancy.

What mindset do you adopt for e-commerce versus editorial work?

My mindset doesn't fundamentally shift between e-commerce and editorial work, and that's intentional. I believe that compartmentalizing creativity leads to weaker results. Whether it's a brand shoot or a personal project, I immerse myself completely in the concept. I never think, 'This is just an e-commerce shoot.' This philosophy ensures even commercial work carries a distinctive emotional and visual weight.

CONTACT & FOLLOW

EMAIL

duttaabhijit1904@gmail.com

INSTAGRAM

@abhijitduttaofficial

PHOTOGRAPHY • FEATURING CREATORS

Framing Stories in the Silence

An interview with photographer Arunima Shrivastava — on patience, presence, and the quiet poetry of portrait, street, and wildlife frames.

ARTICLE BY
EDITORIAL TEAM AT WALLMAG
| PUBLISHED IN WALLMAG



01 — ORIGINS

How did your journey as a photographer begin?

My journey as a photographer began with a simple, personal curiosity—a desire to capture moments that felt quietly meaningful. What started as casually clicking pictures on my phone soon blossomed into a deep passion as I began to understand the profound power a single frame holds in telling a story, evoking an emotion, or preserving a fleeting truth. It was less about the technical aspects at first and more about the instinct to hold onto a feeling, which ultimately guided me into this craft.

02 — INSTINCT

What was the moment you realized you were drawn to portrait, street, and wildlife photography?

I was naturally drawn to portrait and wildlife photography because of the incredible depth of raw expression they offer. Whether it's the unguarded emotion in a human face or the untamed, unfiltered presence of an animal in its habitat, these moments feel powerfully authentic to frame. That magnetic connection to expression and genuine presence—the story in a glance or a stance—is what made me realize this wasn't just a hobby, but a way of seeing and connecting with the world.

AT A GLANCE

- Genres: Portrait, Street, Wildlife
- Approach: Observe first, capture second
- Philosophy: Honesty over staging
- Tools: Light, timing, patience
- Based in: India

03 — EVOLUTION

How has your creative vision evolved across your different photography styles over the years?

Over time, my creative vision has matured from primarily chasing aesthetic beauty to intentionally seeking out deeper, more resonant stories. I've become more experimental with styles and techniques, but paradoxically, also more minimalist in my approach. I now prioritize emotion, the interplay of light, and authentic moments over compositional complexity. It's about stripping away the unnecessary to reveal the core truth of the subject, whether it's a person on a street or a bird on the water.

04 — PHILOSOPHY

What personal philosophy guides your approach to capturing your subjects?

My guiding philosophy is to observe first and capture second—to approach every subject, whether a person or a wild animal, with respect and patience. I aim to let moments unfold naturally rather than forcing or staging a frame. For me, photography is about preserving honesty and genuine emotion; it's an act of witnessing. I believe the most powerful images arise from a place of quiet connection, not intrusion.

"

Photography is about preserving honesty and genuine emotion. The most powerful images arise from a place of quiet connection, not intrusion.

05 — ESSENCE

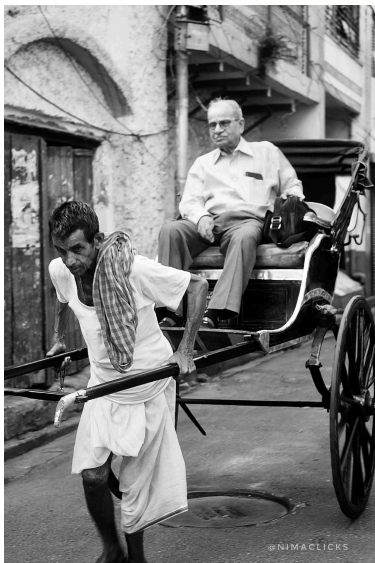
Which portrait from your work do you feel most deeply captures a subject's essence?**TITLE — "WHAT REMAINS WHEN WE HAVE NOTHING TO GIVE"**

The rain had already begun to thin the crowd when she approached me, her voice quiet but steady. She asked for money—not with desperation, but with the practiced tone of someone who had asked many times before. I hesitated, not out of indifference, but because I genuinely had nothing to offer her in that moment. "I'm sorry," I told her. There was a pause—not awkward, just real. Her child shifted in her arms, wide-eyed, observing everything with a kind of unfiltered curiosity that only children possess.

Then I asked, "I don't have money... but may I take your photograph?" She didn't answer immediately. Instead, she adjusted her hold on the child, her expression unreadable. And then, quietly, she nodded. No pose. No direction. Just presence. The camera didn't capture poverty; it captured a moment suspended between two lives that briefly intersected. Her face held layers: fatigue, resilience, and something deeper that refused to be simplified. This image is not about what I gave—it's about what I couldn't. And what, in that absence, was still shared.

06 — STREET

Tell us about a street photograph that tells a compelling story of everyday life.



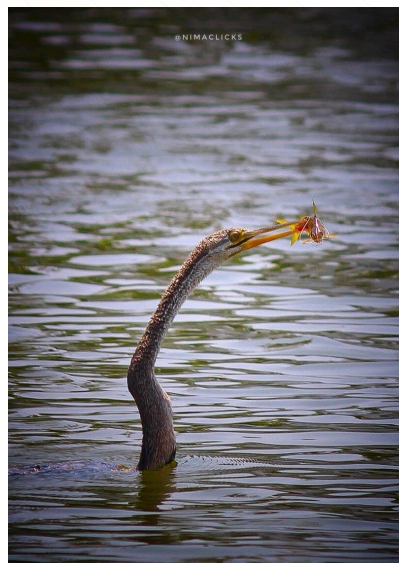
TITLE — "THE DISTANCE BETWEEN TWO SEATS"

They might have been born in the same year. Time has written itself on both their faces—lined skin, tired eyes, the slow weight of years carried without pause. But that is where the similarity begins and ends. One man sits. Pressed shirt. Polished shoes. A bag resting calmly beside him, as if the day ahead is predictable, manageable.

The other man pulls. Bare feet against rough streets. Muscles stretched thin with repetition. They move together, yet they live in entirely different directions. There is no conversation between them. No acknowledgment. Just a shared journey where one carries, and the other is carried. How can two lives, shaped by the same passing years, end up so far apart—separated not by distance, but by circumstance?

07 — WILDLIFE

Walk us through the experience of capturing your most impactful wildlife photograph.



TITLE — "TWO SIDES OF A SECOND"

This image represents the raw, dichotomous reality of nature. From the bird's perspective, it's a story of perfect, patient stillness followed by an instant, precise strike—a moment where hunger meets opportunity with lethal grace. For the fish, it's the sudden, catastrophic end of an ordinary moment in its watery world.

Capturing this required immense patience and a deep respect for the natural rhythm of the habitat. I had to become part of the environment, waiting silently for that split-second intersection of two lives, knowing it would be over in a blink. In nature, every second simultaneously tells two stories—one of survival, the other of surrender. It's a narrative of perfect, brutal balance, frozen in time.

"

Every second tells two stories — one of survival, the other of surrender. A narrative of perfect, brutal balance, frozen in time.

08 — POST-PROCESSING

Can you share a before-and-after edit to showcase your post-processing philosophy?



For this street scene, my editing goal was to guide the viewer's eye and amplify the inherent mood. I selectively muted most of the colors but kept the red of the subject's clothing vibrant to instantly pull focus. Then, I deepened the shadows and increased the contrast to sculpt the light and give the image a more cinematic, dramatic feel. The edit serves the story, not the other way around.

09 — TECHNIQUE

What was a significant technical challenge you faced, and how did you overcome it?



The primary challenge was managing the extreme dynamic range—balancing the bright, fiery sky with the darker landscape below. I shot multiple exposures as the light changed, then stitched them into precise vertical slices, meticulously blending each section to create a seamless, cinematic time-slice effect.

10 — WORKFLOW

What does your intuitive workflow look like during a spontaneous shoot?



My workflow is minimal and highly intuitive, driven by observation. I positioned myself to shoot against the light, intentionally creating a silhouette to emphasize shape and mood over detail. The entire process hinged on timing—patiently waiting for the right alignment of light, the subject's position, and a sense of movement.

11 — ADVICE

What's the most important piece of advice you'd give to an aspiring photographer today?



My foremost advice is to shift your focus from chasing technically perfect shots to pursuing authentically real moments. Cultivate patience and learn to observe deeply before you even lift your camera. Great photography is fundamentally about perception, not just equipment. Start with your heart and eyes; the camera is just the tool that follows.

CONTACT & FOLLOW

Email: arunima4233@gmail.com

Instagram: [@nimaclicks](https://www.instagram.com/nimaclicks)

FEATURING CREATORS · PHOTOGRAPHY

The Quiet Poetry of the Streets

A conversation with street photographer Pranay Pariyar — on Sikkim silences, Kolkata chaos, and the discipline of seeing.

ARTICLE BY EDITORIAL TEAM AT WALLMAG | PUBLISHED IN WALLMAG



How did your journey in street photography begin?

My interest in visual art started long before I picked up a camera. Since childhood, I've been drawn to painting and sketching, and I always felt I had a natural eye for compelling frames and composition. The actual photography journey began during my time working in IT. I was on an assignment abroad, found myself with a lot of free time and little social circle on weekends, and started experimenting with my mobile phone. When I saw that my frames were turning out well, it gave me the confidence to invest in my first DSLR. From that moment on, there was simply no looking back—the streets became my canvas and photography my chosen medium of expression. ■

ORIGINS

When was the first time you felt truly captivated by the 'quiet poetry' of the streets?

The real captivation happened when I moved back to India and chose Kolkata as my base. Coming from London, the transition was a complete game-changer for my perspective. Kolkata is an incredible cultural hub, bursting with vibrant colors, raw emotions, and year-round festivals. Suddenly, I was surrounded by a community of talented photographers, and the people on the streets here generally don't mind being photographed, which opened up a whole new world. The profound impact of this environment—the chaos, the beauty, the everyday stories—fundamentally altered how I began to see and capture the world through my lens.

How has your experience and artistic perspective grown from your early days to now?

My perspective has undergone a drastic and meaningful shift. In the beginning, I was primarily chasing aesthetically pleasing photographs—images that were simply beautiful to look at. Over time, my focus evolved toward seeking meaning, depth, and narrative. I started to see photography less as a technical craft and more as a powerful medium for expression and storytelling.



True satisfaction in your artistic journey comes from your own belief in your work. If you feel it's great and it expresses what you intend, then it is great.

— PRANAY PARIYAR

Another major change was in how I judge 'good' work. I used to think the work of renowned photographers was the ultimate yardstick, but I've learned that art is deeply subjective.

You balance a software job with photography. How do these two roles influence each other?

They influence each other in complementary ways that might seem surprising. My tech job provides a structured, logical, and disciplined framework to my week. This discipline directly translates to my photography, helping me plan shoots, manage my portfolio, and approach editing with a meticulous eye. Conversely, photography injects creativity, intuition, and a focus on human emotion into my life, which prevents my world from becoming purely analytical.

AT A GLANCE

Based in — Kolkata, India

Born in — Sikkim

Day craft — Software / IT

Foundations — Painting & sketching

Signature ground — Varanasi · Kolkata · Mumbai

Approach — Patient, candid, minimal edits

Being a Sikkim-born artist now based in Kolkata, how have these distinct cultural environments shaped your photographic eye?

These two homes have given me a unique dual lens. Sikkim, my birthplace, is a serene and breathtakingly beautiful hill state. Being raised there instilled in me a deep appreciation for natural beauty, patience, and the value of hard work—it taught me to see the picturesque in tranquility. Kolkata, in stark and wonderful contrast, is a roaring epicenter of culture and art. Together, they have given me a rich, layered perspective that seeks balance and story in every frame.

CRAFT & FRAME

What are some of your favorite photographs that represent your street photography style?

My work is fundamentally about noticing the subtle, interesting stories and moments in the streets that most people walk past without a second glance. The special part for me is the act of discovery—finding and capturing something intriguing, emotional, or beautifully composed in the most mundane and ordinary places. These images are less about grand events and more about the quiet poetry of everyday life.

**Could you walk us through your editing process by comparing an edited and unedited shot?**

My editing process is generally quite minimalist and intentional. The key steps involve careful cropping to strengthen the composition and eliminate distractions, followed by selectively bringing out details in the shadows and highlights to guide the viewer's eye. The goal is never to create something that wasn't there, but to enhance the mood, clarity, and narrative that I felt in the moment I took the shot.

**What was a pivotal moment from your first major trip to Varanasi?**

Varanasi was a profound turning point. Every photo walk there has been a masterclass in itself, but that first trip fundamentally refined my skills. It taught me to see human emotions with greater depth, to cultivate the patience to stop and observe the subtle connections between different elements within a chaotic frame, and most importantly, to truly vibe with my surroundings. Shooting in Varanasi isn't just about taking pictures; it's about immersing yourself in the flow of life, death, and spirituality, and learning to capture that essence with respect and sensitivity.

How does your background in painting and sketching manifest in your compositions?



My training in traditional art is the foundation of how I see. It directly influences my sense of geometry, balance, and color harmony. When I'm on the streets, I'm instinctively looking for lines, shapes, and frames within the frame, much like I would when sketching a scene. This background helps me impose a sense of order and aesthetics even within the most chaotic environments.

VISION & THE CITY

Tell us about a candid moment you captured that tells an extraordinary everyday story.

VIDEO



Scan to play

This clip captures a beautifully raw slice of life. I was simply waiting for a cab at a bus stop when this scene unfolded. A wife, visibly upset, was determined to board a bus—perhaps to her parents' place—while her husband employed every possible tactic to console her and bring her back home. The wife's resolute silence contrasted with the husband's growing exasperation was the story. What makes it special is how the painted artwork on the bus stop wall accidentally but perfectly complements the real-life drama, adding a layer of silent commentary to the entire interaction.

How does the discipline from your tech life influence your weekend photographic explorations?



This image visually represents that balance — a striking contrast between two worlds sharing the same space. The discipline from my weekday life helps me efficiently carve out and protect my shooting time, while the analytical side helps in planning and post-processing. But when I'm on the street, I strive to be fully present, observant, and open to the moment, leaving the weekday urgency behind.

What is your mindset when you're out capturing moments on the street?

My mindset is one of open, patient observation. I try to shed any preconceptions and just be present in the environment, allowing scenes to unfold naturally rather than forcing them. It's about becoming a part of the street's flow, not just an observer. It's a blend of technical awareness and emotional intuition—being ready to react in a fraction of a second while also having the patience to wait for the right moment to coalesce.

How does Kolkata itself inspire your street photography?

Kolkata doesn't just inspire my photography; it fundamentally shapes it. The city breathes art—it's in the air. The photography community here is incredibly vibrant and supportive. As a cultural melting pot, it erupts into festivals constantly, spilling unimaginable color and emotion onto the streets. The people are expressive and often welcoming, which makes candid storytelling feel natural. The city's unique blend of chaos, history, and warmth provides an inexhaustible well of inspiration. ■

CONTACT & FOLLOW

Email · pranaypariyar@gmail.com

Instagram · [@triggerha_pp](https://www.instagram.com/@triggerha_pp)

FEATURING CREATORS / PHOTOGRAPHY

Cinematic Kolkata

A conversation with photographer and content creator Indrabir Chatterjee — on rhythm, restraint, and learning to see his city through a filmmaker's lens.

ARTICLE BY EDITORIAL TEAM | PUBLISHED IN WALLMAG



I. ORIGINS

Q.01

How did your journey as a photographer and content creator begin?

It all started right here in Kolkata, with me simply capturing the everyday moments unfolding around me. I wasn't overthinking it; I just had this urge to document life as I saw it. That perspective began to shift as I started traveling more, especially to places like Varanasi, where the depth of stories felt different. Gradually, photography evolved from a hobby into my primary language for storytelling. That natural progression is what led me into content creation, where I now share not just beautiful locations, but the entire journey, the atmosphere, and the emotions behind them.

Q.02

When did you first realize you were developing the 'cinematic' style your handle suggests?

I've been fascinated by films since I was a child. The composition of frames, the play of colors, and the way light tells a story—all of that stayed with me. It wasn't until I first held a camera, around class 9 or 10, that I started actively experimenting, trying to recreate those evocative, cinematic feelings in my own surroundings. That's really where the seed was planted; my journey with intentional cinematic storytelling began in those early experiments, trying to see my world through a filmmaker's lens.

AT A GLANCE

Based in Kolkata, India

Handle @cjeematic

Genre Cinematic lifestyle, street, travel

Muses Kolkata · Varanasi

Method Observation over composition

Q.03

How has living and creating in Kolkata shaped your creative approach over the years?

Kolkata has been my most profound teacher. My approach has matured from simply capturing visuals to deeply understanding the nuances of light, mood, and narrative, especially through the city's vibrant streets and rich cultural tapestry. The city instills a unique sense of patience and keen observation. You learn to wait for the right moment, to watch how life unfolds. This is now reflected in my work, which feels far more intentional and emotionally driven.

II. CRAFT

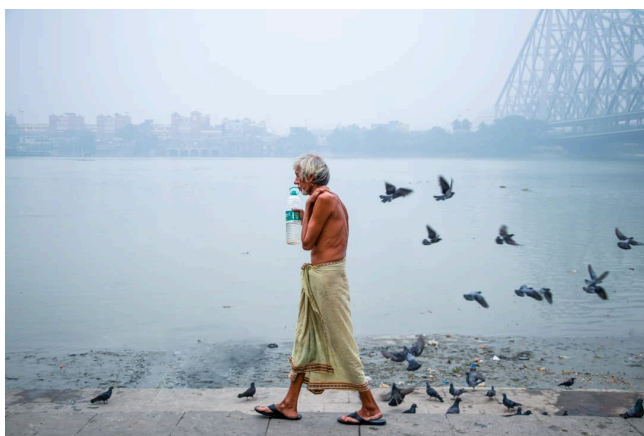
Q.04

Walk us through a typical day in your creative process.

My weekdays are dedicated to office work, so my creative time is concentrated on the weekends. I dedicate those days to exploring the city from morning until night. I often revisit the same places, spending hours just observing their unique rhythm and energy. My goal is to be present and ready. If a magical, fleeting moment happens—a perfect play of light, a candid interaction—I try to capture it authentically. If the day passes quietly, that's okay too. I'll head home, have dinner, and rest, knowing that the process is as much about the observation as it is about the capture.

Q.05

Which photograph best represents your 'Colourful Voyage' aesthetic, and what story does it tell?



This was taken on a quiet winter morning at Mullick Ghat Flower Market. The whole scene felt slow and hushed. I was simply observing the river, the lingering fog, and the gentle rhythm of the place. Then, in an instant, everything aligned: an old man walked past, a flock of birds lifted into the air, and all the elements moved in perfect, unplanned harmony. I didn't compose it; I just reacted. That single frame captured both profound stillness and graceful motion—a natural rhythm you don't create, but are privileged to witness and preserve.



I didn't compose it; I just reacted. A natural rhythm you don't create, but are privileged to witness and preserve.

— INDRABIR CHATTERJEE

Q.06

Could you share a behind-the-scenes look at creating one of your lifestyle Reels?

VIDEO



Scan to play

VIDEO



Scan to play

VIDEO



Scan to play

There wasn't a rigid, pre-planned concept for these moments. I was primarily drawn to the inherent rhythm of the scene—how even the most ordinary interactions can feel deeply cinematic when all the elements align for a split second. It's about recognizing and capturing that fleeting harmony.

Q.07

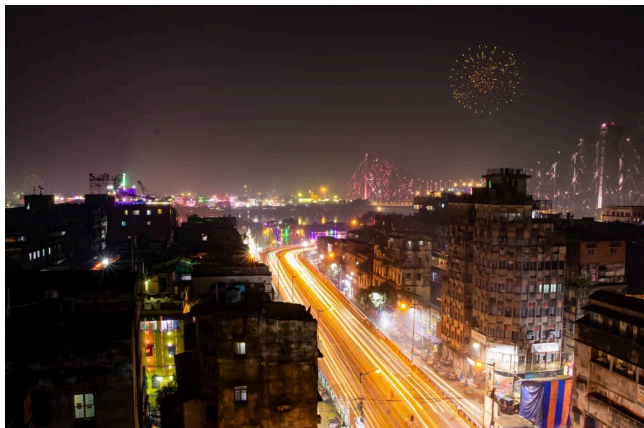
What inspires your most resonant Reels, and why do you think they connect with your audience?

The inspiration often comes from being present and attuned to a moment's natural rhythm. I believe my audience connects with that authenticity. They respond to seeing how an ordinary scene can be transformed into something cinematic—not through heavy production, but through perspective, timing, and emotion.

III. VISION

Q . 0 8

How does this image capture the spirit of Kolkata as your muse?



This frame is all about the city in motion—its constant flow, beautiful chaos, and the quiet dignity nestled within it. The light trails mirror Kolkata's relentless energy, while the historic architecture in the background holds onto its layered past. Then you have those celebratory bursts in the sky, a reminder that no matter how swiftly life moves here, the city always carves out moments for joy and vibrancy. For me, this delicate balance between chaotic energy and profound character is the very essence of what defines and inspires me about Kolkata.

Q . 0 9

Can you describe your editing philosophy, particularly for enhancing the mood of a piece?

VIDEO



Scan to play

My editing is fundamentally about serving the mood I experienced when I took the shot. It's not about applying arbitrary filters, but about using color grading and subtle adjustments to amplify the emotion and atmosphere that was already there. I ask myself, 'How did this moment feel?' Then, I work to ensure the final image or video conveys that same feeling to the audience, making the vibe tangible and immersive.

Q . 1 0

What story or emotion were you trying to capture in this travel photograph from Banaras?

VIDEO

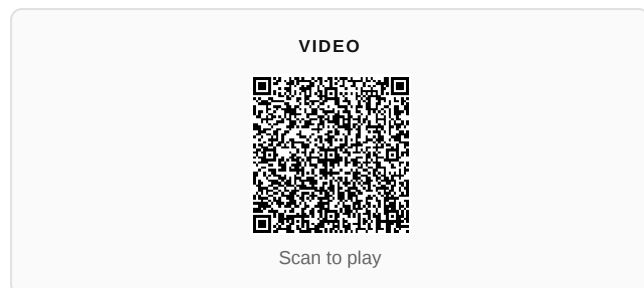


Scan to play

This isn't merely a travel photo for me; it's about what Banaras has done to me over time. On my first visit, I wasn't there to create content—I just wanted to absorb the place, to feel it. Slowly, it fundamentally changed how I see, not just frames, but life itself. Banaras teaches patience and shows how chaos and profound peace can coexist. I'm not showcasing something extraordinary—I'm trying to capture that internal feeling of stillness and surrender.

Q.11

What role does your gear and workspace play in your creative workflow?



For me, the setup is less about the equipment itself and more about enabling a seamless flow from observation to capture. I prioritize simplicity and flexibility above all, so I'm never bogged down by technicalities when a moment arises. This approach allows me to stay completely focused on the essential elements: the mood, the light, and the decisive timing. The gear is just a tool to facilitate that connection with the moment.



Banaras didn't just shape my photography; it shaped me. It taught me how to let go.

— INDRABIR CHATTERJEE

Q.12

What techniques do you use to infuse a still image with a cinematic storytelling quality?



In this instance, I wanted to strip the scene down to its most powerful elements: light and shadow. By choosing a low angle and working with high-contrast monochrome, I transformed a simple, everyday walk into a story told through silhouettes. It became less about the specific individuals and more about the universal themes of scale, journey, and nostalgia. The cinematic quality emerges from that deliberate simplification and the emotional weight it carries, much like a poignant film still.

Q.13

How do you translate cinematic principles into your content creation process?

I apply cinematic principles by constantly thinking about narrative and emotion, not just composition. It's about treating each piece of content—whether a photo or a reel—like a single frame from a larger story. I consider lighting as a key character, use color to evoke specific feelings, and pay close attention to pacing and rhythm in videos. Most importantly, I look for a subject's motivation or a scene's inherent drama, which is a core filmmaking technique. This mindset shifts the goal from capturing something that looks good to creating something that makes the viewer feel something.

CONTACT & FOLLOW

Email chatterjeeindra99@gmail.com
Instagram [@cjeematic](https://www.instagram.com/cjeematic)

END OF FEATURE · WALLMAG VOLUME 4

From Soulful Melodies to Cinematic Pop

A conversation with Yash Desai — the Ahmedabad-born vocalist blending classical roots with modern pop sensibility, one heartfelt track at a time.

ARTICLE BY EDITORIAL TEAM AT WALLMAG | PUBLISHED IN WALLMAG

4 MIN READ

ISSUE 04 / 2026



Yash Desai's voice arrives like a memory you didn't know you were carrying — equal parts devotion and design, anchored in classical training but shaped for the listener of today. In this conversation, the singer-songwriter unpacks the textures of his sound, the stories behind his originals, and the quiet moments that turned a passion into a vocation.

How would you describe your sound and what can listeners expect?

"My sound is a blend of soulful Indian melodies with a modern, cinematic pop sensibility. It's rooted in my classical training but crafted for today's listeners. At their core, my songs are about capturing deep emotion — whether it's love, longing, or devotion — and wrapping it in rich storytelling and memorable hooks that I hope will resonate with people on a personal level."

AT A GLANCE

Origin	Ahmedabad, India
Genre	Cinematic pop, devotional, soulful
Studio	Compass Box Studio, Ahmedabad
Originals	Barf · Namah Parvati Pataye · Aa Bhi Jaa
Breakthrough	Cover of "All of Me"

SECTION 01 · THE CRAFT

INSIDE THE STUDIO

Walk us through the behind-the-scenes clip from your recording session.

"This is a behind-the-scenes clip from the recording of my original song 'Barf.' It captures raw studio moments as the vocals come to life, shot during an intimate session where we were really focused on shaping the song's mood and emotion. It's a glimpse into the creative process behind the final track."

WATCH · BTS

Barf — Recording Scenes

A studio diary from World Music Day. Scan to view.

VIDEO



Scan to play

Tell us about your original track "Barf" — what inspired it?

"'Barf' is a romantic track that captures a profound sense of nostalgia. It's about how snowfall in the mountains can trigger powerful memories of a loved one. I was inspired by serene landscapes and those fleeting, beautiful moments in life. The song tries to blend the warmth of deep emotion with the quiet, reflective beauty of snow."

LISTEN · ORIGINAL

Barf — Master Mix

The finished track, mastered for release.

AUDIO



Scan to play

A simple natural scene, turned into a deeply personal and evocative experience for the listener.

— YASH DESAI

What drew you to cover 'All of Me,' and how did you make it your own?

"I chose to cover John Legend's 'All of Me' because it was the very first song I ever recorded, so it holds a special place as the starting point of my journey. In my version, I aimed for a softer, more emotive expression and infused subtle Indian melodic influences. This approach made the song feel more personal and rooted in my own artistic style, while still honoring the original's beautiful sentiment."

WATCH · COVER

All of Me — by Yash Desai

The track that began the journey.

VIDEO



Scan to play

SECTION 02 • DEVOTION

FROM VARANASI TO THE MIX

What does your typical recording setup look like?

"This was recorded at Compass Box Studio in Ahmedabad. The setup features a high-quality condenser microphone paired with a professional audio interface, all running through a DAW. This professional environment ensures clean, detailed vocal capture, which is crucial for my sound. It gives me the precision I need during recording and the flexibility during production to shape the music exactly as I envision it."

WATCH • STUDIO

Namah Parvati Pataye — Studio BTS

A MahaShivratri recording session at Compass Box Studio.

VIDEO



Scan to play

How did the initial idea for "Namah Parvati Pataye" evolve?

"This raw clip captures the initial spark of 'Namah Parvati Pataye,' which came to me on the ghats of Varanasi — it had a very organic, spiritual vibe right from the start. From that first idea to the final version, we refined the melody to make it more resonant. The arrangement became more layered and immersive, and we added subtle lyrical and musical enhancements. The goal was to elevate its devotional and cinematic feel while preserving the heartfelt emotion of that original moment."

LISTEN • VOICE MEMO

The First Spark — Friday, 3:17 PM

An unguarded sketch from the ghats of Varanasi.

AUDIO



Scan to play

What's the story behind the cover art for "Aa Bhi Jaa"?

"The cover art for 'Aa Bhi Jaa' was designed to reflect the song's emotional core — quiet longing and a heartfelt invitation. We wanted to capture a moment that felt both intimately personal and timeless. Visually, it mirrors the track's mood: soft, expressive, and touched with nostalgia. The idea is to draw the listener in, making them feel as if they're part of that moment of calling out to someone who lingers in your thoughts."



SECTION 03 · THE CONNECTION

VOICE, STAGE, LISTENER

What do you remember most from that live performance of "Ilaahi"?

"This clip was filmed during the semi-finals of a talent hunt where I performed 'Ilaahi.' What I remember most is the incredible mix of raw energy and nerves from being on stage at such a crucial point in the competition. But beyond the pressure, there was this electric excitement of truly connecting with the audience in real time. That performance was a pivotal moment where I felt I was discovering my authentic voice as a live performer."

WATCH · LIVE

Ilaahi — Live by Yash Desai

Captured during a national talent hunt semi-final.

VIDEO



Scan to play

How did your music journey begin in Ahmedabad?

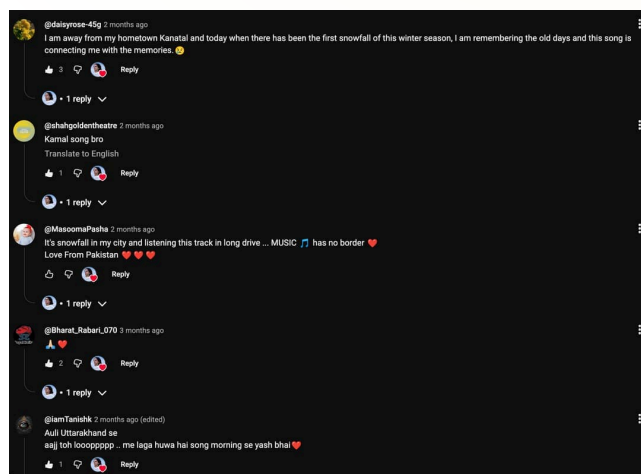
"My journey started right here in Ahmedabad with small cover performances and uploading videos online — it was simply about exploring my deep love for music. The real turning point came gradually, as I began to see people genuinely connect with my voice and my songs started reaching more listeners. That moment of realization, when I saw that my music could actually touch others, was when I felt this wasn't just a passion anymore; it was something I needed to build my life around."

It wasn't just a passion anymore — it was something I needed to build my life around.

— YASH DESAI

Why did one listener message about "Barf" matter so much?

"This message from a listener about the 'Barf' video really stayed with me because it showed, in such a direct way, how deeply someone connected with the emotion I was trying to convey. Moments like that are incredibly affirming — they remind me of the fundamental reason I make music in the first place. It directly motivated me to keep striving to create more honest and heartfelt songs."



CONTACT & FOLLOW

STAY WITH YASH DESAI

EMAIL

writeyashdesai@gmail.com

WEBSITE

yashdesai.in

SPOTIFY

artist/1TpR9SreKZirEcYCJkNOT

APPLE MUSIC

artist/yash-desai

YOUTUBE

youtube.com/yashdesai

INSTAGRAM

@yashdesaiofficial

FEATURING CREATORS / PHOTOGRAPHY

Wildlife and Wanderlust: A Photographic Journey Through the Nilgiris with Vishal.M

From the misty shola forests of Coonoor to the open scrublands of Mudumalai, a young photographer learns to read the wild — patiently, quietly, frame by frame.

ARTICLE BY EDITORIAL TEAM AT WALLMAG | PUBLISHED IN WALLMAG



How did your journey into wildlife and travel photography begin in the Nilgiris?

My journey into wildlife and travel photography began in the Nilgiris, a place where nature is not something distant; it is part of everyday life. Growing up surrounded by dense forests, misty mountains, and rich biodiversity naturally drew me closer to the wild. More specifically, it started in Coonoor, my hometown in the Nilgiri Hills, a place that naturally keeps me calm and connected to nature.

From a young age, I used to travel in and around the Nilgiris, exploring the forests and landscapes that make this region so unique. Living near the diverse ecosystems gave me the invaluable opportunity to observe wildlife in their natural habitats, which became the foundation for my passion and my craft.

Tell us about a time in the field when you felt you had truly captured a 'decisive moment' with wildlife.

I was in a safari jeep when a young elephant suddenly noticed me and charged toward the vehicle out of curiosity and excitement. Before the situation could escalate, the mother elephant calmly stepped in. She gently knocked the young one on its head, signaling it to stop, and guided it to stand beside her.

I · CRAFT & PATIENCE

Immediately, the herd responded by forming a protective circle, placing all the younger elephants safely within the group. Watching this moment unfold was incredible — it was so relatable. The protectiveness and the intelligence of the elephants were amazing to witness and capture, perfectly illustrating the complex social bonds within the herd.

Over the years, which skill has grown the most for you: composition, fieldcraft, or working with light?

My composition and fieldcraft have improved significantly over time. Learning to see things from different angles and perspectives has helped me develop a much stronger sense of composition in my photographs. At the same time, patience and field awareness have played a major role in honing my fieldcraft.

Spending extensive time in the wild has taught me how to read the environment, understand animal behavior, and anticipate moments before they happen. This combination of a creative eye and practical wilderness skills has been fundamental to my growth as a photographer.

“ ***Spending time in the wild has taught me how to read the environment and anticipate moments before they happen.*** ”

— VISHAL.M

What's one personal habit that helps you stay patient and observant while waiting for the perfect shot?

One personal habit that helps me stay patient and observant in the wild is spending time quietly observing the environment before even thinking about taking a photograph. I make a conscious effort to pay attention to the small details — the movement of leaves, distant sounds, bird calls, and subtle changes in light.

This practice of being calm, present, and ready for anything has helped me immensely. It allows me to connect with the scene, understand the rhythm of the wild, and be prepared to capture a moment when it naturally arises, rather than forcing it.

II · THE PORTFOLIO

Which photograph from your portfolio do you consider your strongest wildlife image, and what makes it special?



This photograph was taken in the serene Kodaikanal Pine Forest during a cold evening. The weather was chilly, and two monkeys were actively playing among the branches of the tall pine trees. As the temperature dropped, they began interacting closely, hugging and staying near each other to keep warm.

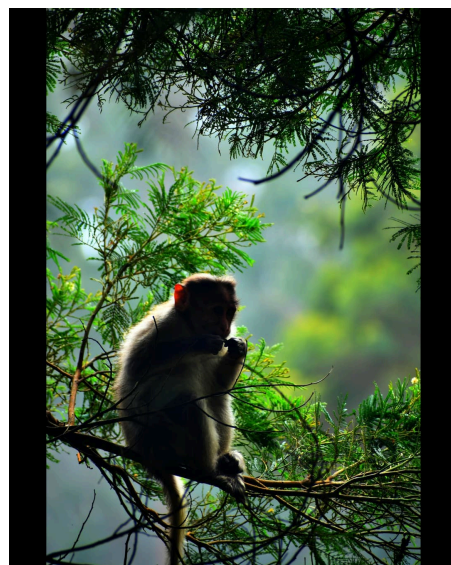
In this moment, one monkey gently held the other, creating a beautiful scene of warmth and friendship between them. It's a tender, spontaneous interaction that speaks to the social bonds in the animal kingdom, all set against the quiet, misty backdrop of the pine forest.

Could you share a travel photograph that best captures your sense of place and the experience of the journey?



This photograph captures the essence of a wildlife safari moving quietly through the forest of Mudumalai National Park. An open safari jeep travels slowly along a narrow dirt trail, surrounded by dense foliage. For me, this image conveys that travel is not just about reaching a destination; it's about the experience along the way.

Walk us through your editing process.



For this before-and-after pair, the top two edits were exposure and light. I adjusted the exposure to enhance the overall brightness and clarity of the image, ensuring the subject was properly lit without losing detail. These adjustments were crucial for transforming a flat, raw file into a vibrant final photograph that accurately reflects the atmosphere and energy I witnessed in the field.

III · FIELD & VISION

What does a challenging day in the field look like, and how do you adapt?

VIDEO

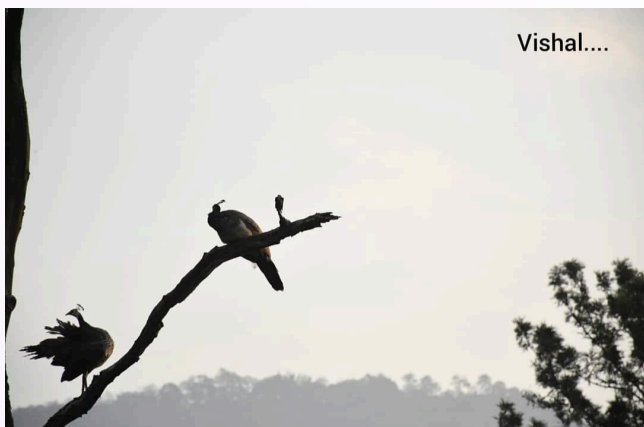


Scan to play

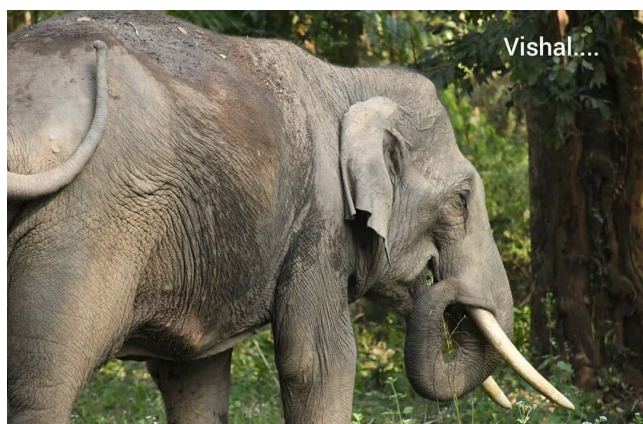
During a safari in Mudumalai National Park, I encountered a herd of elephants moving through the forest. The light was slightly harsh since it was during the daytime, and both the elephants and the safari jeep were constantly moving. To adapt, I had to work quickly — adjusting my shutter speed to freeze motion, carefully tracking the animals' movement, and waiting for moments when they paused.

What's in your bag for a typical safari or trek?

My top five essentials are a battery backup, a telephoto lens, a monopod, extra memory storage, and a water bottle. The telephoto lens allows me to capture wildlife from a respectful distance without disturbing them. The monopod provides essential stability for sharp shots, especially with heavy lenses.

Could you share an image where composition is the central strength?

I deliberately arranged the two peafowl along a diagonal tree branch that runs across the frame. This diagonal line naturally guides the viewer's eye from the lower left toward the upper right, creating a dynamic flow. I also consciously used the negative space around the birds to emphasize their elegance and isolation within the scene.

Two landscapes, one species — what should viewers notice?

Elephants in Mudumalai's open scrublands tend to be calmer and more visible around humans. In contrast, elephants in the dense, misty shola forests of the Nilgiri Hills are often more elusive due to thicker cover. The light also plays a role — softer and more diffused in the forest versus sharper, more direct light in the open grasslands.

CONTACT & FOLLOWEmail: vishalviahal7004@gmail.comPortfolio: [vdotphotography](https://www.vdotphotography.com)

FEATURING CREATORS · PHOTOGRAPHY

Chasing First Light

Street & Landscape with Amit Tewari.

A nature lover with a camera, Amit waits for the weather to do its work — then frames the calm, cinematic, almost-cinematic moment when light decides to arrive.

ARTICLE BY EDITORIAL TEAM AT WALLMAG | PUBLISHED IN WALLMAG · ISSUE 04 · APRIL 2026

Amit Tewari does not chase the sensational. He chases the brief, generous window when rain has just stopped, when a ridge is suddenly outlined in gold, when a street corner becomes a stage. In this conversation he traces the line between intention and patience — how a love of nature became a discipline, how editing taught him to listen to a scene before changing it, and why first light, more than any lens, is the gear he relies on most.

01

ORIGINS

THE REASON THE CAMERA COMES OUT

**How did your photography journey begin?**

I've always been a nature lover, and photography started as my way of holding on to those quiet, special moments outdoors. Over time, I realized I didn't just want to see a beautiful scene — I wanted to capture it in a way that others could feel it too. That love for nature is still the main reason I pick up my camera and go looking for light, weather, and atmosphere.

When did you first think, "this is the kind of photographer I want to become"?

I started taking photography more seriously when I was around 25, and that period really shaped my mindset. I began paying attention to what kind of images I was naturally drawn to — especially scenes that feel calm, cinematic, and real. That's when I felt clarity about the direction I wanted to grow in.

FIELD NOTES

The shape of a practice.

BASED

India · works in natural light

GENRES

Street · Travel · Landscape

TURNING POINT

Age 25 — clarity of direction

SIGNATURE MOOD

Luminous · serene · majestic

MOST-USED TOOL

Patience for first light

Which genres are you most drawn to shooting these days?

Right now, I'm enjoying street, travel, and landscapes the most. Street photography gives me real moments and unexpected stories, while travel pushes me into new places and new light. And landscapes are where I feel most connected — especially when the sky, weather, and colors come together at the right time.

What skill have you levelled up the most over the past year?

The biggest improvement for me has been editing and lighting. I've gotten more confident about controlling the overall mood of an image — especially through color balance and contrast. Even when I'm shooting with natural light, I'm much more aware now of how to expose and then refine the final look in post.

I'm always chasing natural moments where light and weather create something you can't plan.

— AMIT TEWARI

02

CRAFT

THE WORK BEHIND THE FRAME

If you had to choose one frame as your signature, which image would it be?



This sunset silhouette was taken just after rainfall, when the sky started opening up and the colors became incredibly rich. What I love about it is the balance of drama and calm — the rain-washed air, the deep tones, and the glow in the horizon. It represents me because I'm always chasing natural moments like this, where light and weather create something you can't plan.

What ties this mini-series together?

The theme is simple: amazing nature, and the different ways it shows up in light, color, and scale. I want viewers to notice the atmosphere first — those small details that make a place feel alive. Even when the compositions change, I'm trying to keep that sense of wonder consistent across the set.



What were the key edit adjustments?

The biggest changes were color grading and a bit of touch-up work. I focused on getting the tones to feel more intentional, so the mood of the scene comes through clearly. Then I refined smaller details to keep the image clean and balanced without losing the natural feel.

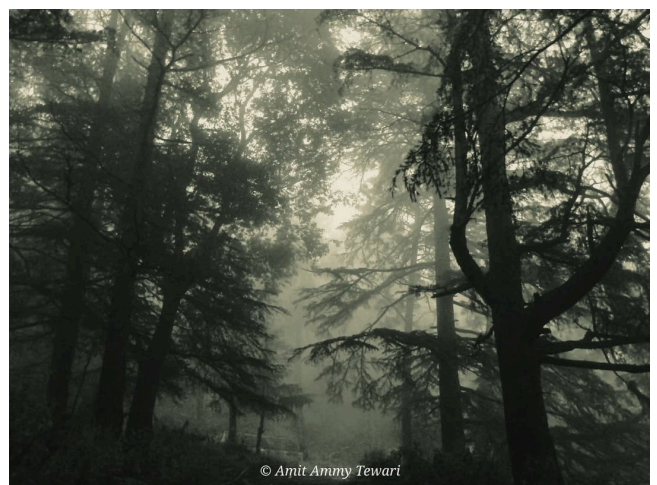
Behind the scenes — what mattered most?

My goal was simply to capture the scene in the best natural light available. In shoots like this, the most important "gear" is often timing and positioning, because the light changes fast. I pay close attention to where the highlights are falling and how the layers in the landscape can be framed for depth.



Which photo challenged you technically?

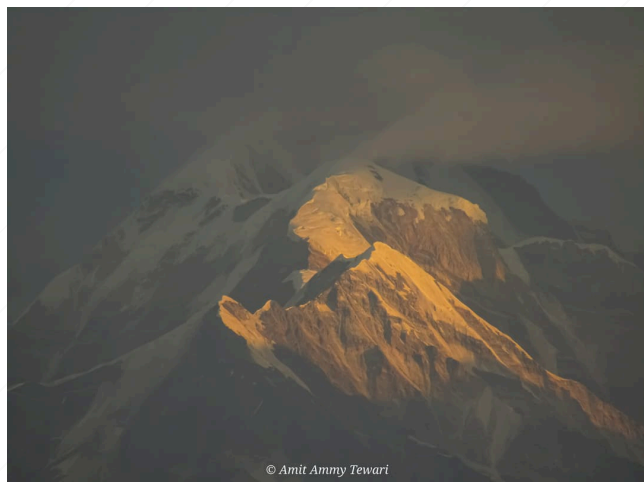
This image was challenging because the background was too dark, and it was difficult to keep detail without losing the overall mood. I worked through it by carefully balancing the exposure so the main scene still felt natural, then adjusted shadows and tones in editing to bring back clarity while keeping atmosphere.



03

VISION

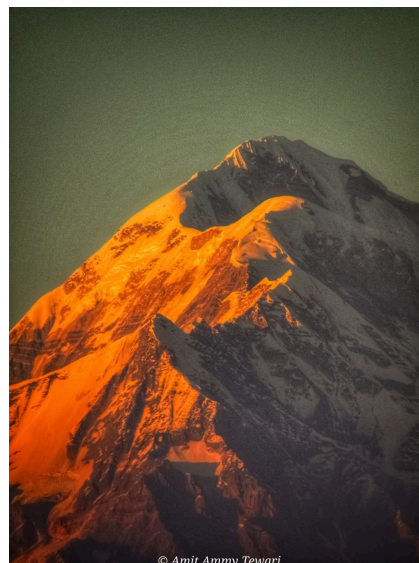
WHAT THE WORK POINTS TOWARD

How would you sum up your current visual style?

This image is about the first rays of light hitting Mount Trishul, and it was honestly an amazing experience to witness. If I had to sum up my current style, I'd call it luminous, serene, and majestic — especially when I'm working with mountains and early light. The technique that helps most is patience: waiting for the first light, and choosing a composition that lets the scene breathe.

Which recent shots are you most proud of?

I'm proud of these recent frames because each one came with different compositions and different challenges. Some pushed me to react quickly, while others rewarded me for slowing down and being more precise with framing. What I learned again is that variety makes you stronger — and because I genuinely love photography, I enjoy working through the difficult moments as much as capturing the final shot.

**CONTACT & FOLLOW**

NAME	Amit Tewari
EMAIL	amittewari52@gmail.com
INSTAGRAM	@amittewari_3007

FEATURING CREATORS · MUSIC

Castle in the Making

Deekshith Dileep on "Do You Really Love Me?", writing in dimly lit classrooms, and building a sound between semesters with three pillows for soundproofing.

ARTICLE BY EDITORIAL TEAM AT WALLMAG

PUBLISHED IN WALLMAG



Do you remember the exact moment you first took music seriously?

Honestly, it started in 11th grade. Before that, I didn't even want to be a music artist—I genuinely never imagined I'd do anything like this. But one day, in this dimly lit classroom, I wrote "Faketivity," and that felt like the first real door opening. Looking back, that's the moment my music journey actually began.

Walk us through that 11th-grade turning point—what made you realize you had real songwriting potential?

A friend reached out to me—let's call him Big Johann—and asked if I could help with a few lines he'd written. The funny part is, he didn't send a voice note or even type it out; he sent a WhatsApp photo of a piece of paper with the lyrics on it. I got curious and decided I'd just write a chorus to support what he had. Somewhere in that process, I stumbled onto a melody, and once the melody appeared, the words started demanding more structure.

“

I kept writing, and before I knew it, I wasn't just helping Johann anymore—I'd basically finished the entire song.

— DEEKSHITH DILEEP

That was the moment everything shifted for me, because I realized I could create a tune, build around it, and actually complete something that felt like a real track.

What does juggling engineering studies with writing, recording, and releasing music really look like for you right now?

I'm not going to lie—I don't have it perfectly balanced yet. I'm 18, and I'm still figuring out what's realistic with college, deadlines, and everything else. During my first semester, I was writing the song while trying to produce it too, but I eventually reached out to a producer because I didn't want the release to get stuck halfway.

Most days, I'd only give myself around 45 minutes at night to write before sleeping, and the rest of the day was usually studying and hitting the gym. I recorded on weekends—especially when my roommate was out—because that was the only time I could really focus. The music video took even more trial and error, and in second semester I spent a lot of weekends filming and editing, sometimes pushing both the gym and studying aside because I was obsessed with making the visuals feel real.

THE DAILY LOOP

WRITING WINDOW

~45 minutes nightly before sleep

RECORDING

Weekends only—when the roommate is out

STUDIO SETUP

Laptop, XLR, audio interface, Shure SM57

SOUNDPROOFING

Three pillows and a blanket

AGE

18, mid-engineering degree

When someone hits play on a Castle track, what do you want them to feel—and what do you hope they're

listening for?

First, I want them to be impressed—especially with the overall experience, including the visuals. But beyond that, I really want people to pay attention to the lyrics. "Do You Really Love Me?" is built to carry that feeling of emotional uncertainty—the quiet tension between love and doubt.

It's about that headspace where things look fine on the surface, but inside you're overthinking everything and craving reassurance. The production has a lightness to it, so it doesn't feel heavy, but there's still an emotional conflict running underneath. Ideally, the song makes people pause and think about a moment in their own life when they've asked the same question, even if they never said it out loud.

Take us back to a live moment that shows you at your strongest—what are we watching here?

VIDEO

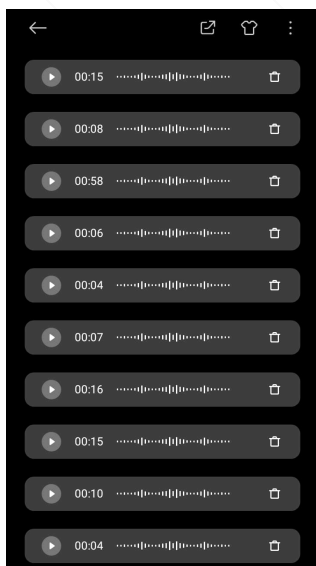


Scan to play

LIVE · VIBEE CAFE, KAKKANAD

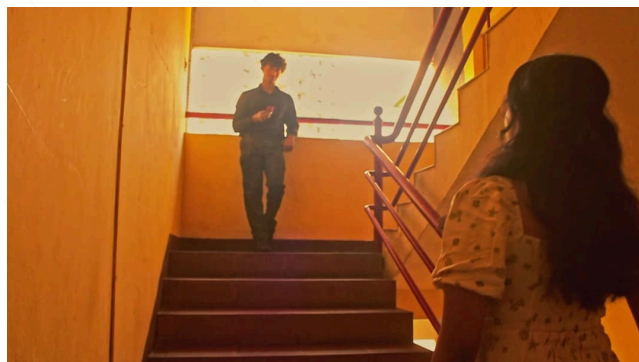
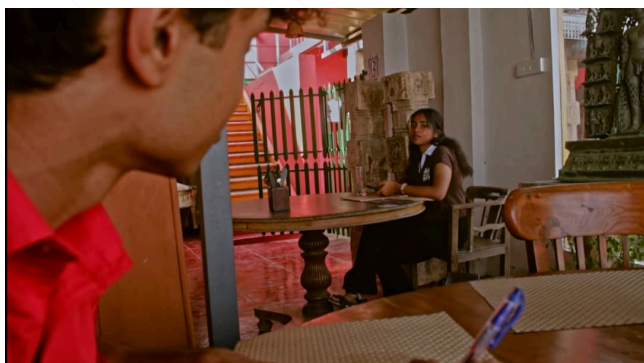
This clip is from Vibee Cafe in Kakkanad, Ernakulam, where they were giving people an open opportunity to perform live. I took it as the perfect moment to show what I could do, especially before the actual production of the song even started. It was recorded a few months before the track really began coming to life in the studio. I chose this specific clip because my college friends—who were still pretty new in my life at the time—cheered so loudly right after the performance. That support meant a lot, and it's a moment I'll always remember.

When an idea hits, what does your lyric-writing process actually look like in real life?



That image is literally my Notes app on my old Redmi phone—the same one I still use. Whenever a tune pops into my head, I try to document it immediately before it disappears. I'll jot down lines, rough hooks, and even little rhythm ideas as fast as I can. "Do You Really Love Me?" came together in this exact way. It starts as fragments—one thought, one melody, one phrase—and then I keep coming back to shape it into something that feels like a full song.

Those behind-the-scenes stills from "Do You Really Love Me?" feel cinematic—where were they shot, and what challenge tested you most during the video shoot?



The first shot was taken in Jew Town, the second was in Fort Kochi, and the third was at a friend's house. We had a bunch of real-world obstacles to deal with—strict hostel curfews for both guys and girls, people backing out at the last minute, and the constant challenge of getting permissions to film in public spaces.



A "revolutionary" idea fixed it: we filmed one location per day. Only the people needed for that scene, enough time to get the shots right.

— DEEKSHITH DILEEP

The biggest problem, though, was how we planned the shoot at the start. Alan and I thought we could finish everything in one weekend, so we called the whole cast on Saturday and assumed it would run smoothly. It didn't—people ended up waiting at locations we couldn't reach in time, and at a couple of places we got kicked out because we didn't have permission.

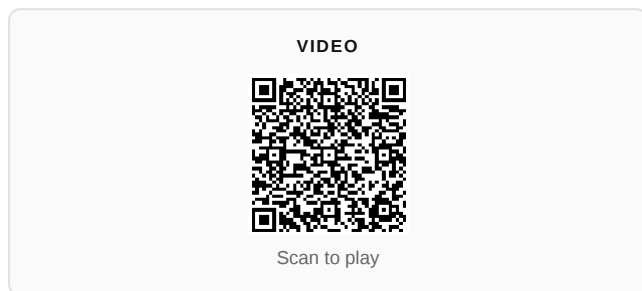
What were you trying to capture with the "Do You Really Love Me?" cover art, and how does it connect to the song's mood?



In the artwork, the figure walking forward represents me—moving toward the person I'm asking that question to. It's meant to capture that uncomfortable moment where you feel pulled toward someone, but you don't fully know what they feel back. You're taking steps, but you're not sure what you're stepping into.

The floating hearts in the sky symbolize emotion and affection, but also how fragile and unconfirmed those feelings can be. They're present, but they're almost weightless—like something you can't fully hold onto. Overall, it's not meant to be literal; it's more like an emotional landscape that sits between reality and imagination, which matches the constant questioning inside the song.

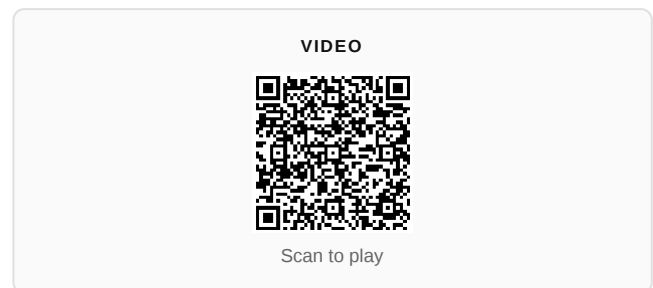
How do you show your range across pop and rap—and what tells you which lane a new idea belongs in?



VIDEO · POP & RAP RANGE

Most of the time, it comes down to my mood and what I feel like expressing that day. When I'm feeling brash, bold, and driven—like I need to prove something—that's usually when rap feels natural. It gives me room to speak with more grit and intensity. When I'm leaning into a more vulnerable side, that's when the ideas start getting more emotional, and the writing becomes softer and more personal. And the pop stuff is often me just wanting to write something that sounds great and feels fun to replay.

What does your current music-making setup look like, and what small upgrade has made the biggest difference so far?



VIDEO · STUDIO SETUP TOUR

My setup is simple and very bare-bones. I don't have the privilege of building some huge, aesthetic studio, but I'm grateful I have the essentials: a laptop, an XLR cable, an audio interface, a Shure SM57, and a mic stand/tripod thing that has two out of three legs. Soundproofing is the obvious issue, so I do what I can—three pillows and a blanket can actually help more than people think. The biggest difference has been having the audio interface and XLR mic in place, because it immediately made everything sound more serious and usable. One day I'll look back at this setup and smile, because it's where I started making things real.

CONTACT & FOLLOW

Name: Deekshith Dileep

Email: deekshithdileep2007@gmail.com

YouTube: @enterdcastle

Spotify: Castle (artist 40YsSfgRTXEblB1SBOZ32r)

Instagram: @enterdcastle · @boss_dk8384

FEATURING CREATORS

Writing Devotion in Thirukural

An interview with Sri Jeyanth — on patience, percussion, and a fifteen-foot portrait built from sacred verse.

ARTICLE BY EDITORIAL TEAM AT WALLMAG · PUBLISHED IN WALLMAG



Sri Jeyanth's creative practice begins where most artists rarely look — in the quiet repetition of ancient verse. Studying under Guinness World Record holder and Kentucky Colonel Dr. Abdul Halim, he has built a discipline that moves seamlessly between the Ghatam, the Parai, the drum kit and the brush. His most ambitious work to date is a fifteen-foot portrait of the Infant Jesus, composed entirely from the handwritten text of the Thirukural.

In this conversation, Jeyanth speaks about the early lessons that shaped him, the practice space where he refines his craft daily, and the public moments — from a school exhibition to a News7 Tamil feature — that have quietly carried his work to a wider audience. What emerges is a portrait of an artist who treats devotion and discipline as the same thing.

QUESTION 01

Take us into this behind-the-scenes moment — what were you working on, and where did your creative journey begin for you?



My creative journey really began with my guru — Guinness World Record holder and Kentucky Colonel Dr. Abdul Halim — who continues to inspire and guide me.

In this moment, I was working on a large portrait of Infant Jesus, created by writing the Thirukural text to build the image. The portrait is 15 feet tall and 10 feet wide, and alongside this work I'm also training in Parai, Ghatam, and drum kit under Dr. Abdul Halim.



The portrait is fifteen feet tall and ten feet wide — composed entirely by writing the Thirukural to build the image.

— SRI JEYANTH

QUESTION 02

Looking back at one of your earliest pieces you've held onto, when was it made — and what do you remember learning from it?



This comes from my early learning phase, when I was starting to understand rhythm and discipline through traditional practice.

Around that time, I began learning the Ghatam — an ancient percussion instrument — under my guru Dr. Abdul Halim, and it shaped how seriously I approached my craft. What I remember most is learning patience: improving step by step, listening carefully, and respecting the roots of the art before trying to make it my own.

QUESTION 03

What does your usual practice space look like, and which part of your routine pushes your growth the most?



This is the space where I usually focus, repeat, and refine my basics — especially during Ghatam practice.

The biggest thing that helps me improve is consistent daily practice, where I work on timing, clarity of sound, and stamina. Even small corrections and guidance from my guru make a huge difference, because they help me practice with purpose instead of just repetition.

QUESTION 04

What was it like displaying your portrait publicly at Balakrishna Matric Higher Secondary School, and who supported you most during that moment?

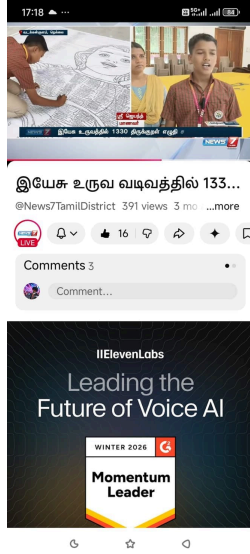


When the portrait was displayed publicly, the reaction felt very powerful — people were genuinely excited seeing it in person.

Many viewers told me it looked unique, and that kind of response made me feel proud and motivated to keep creating bigger work. Support from the school environment and the people around me mattered a lot, and I'm especially grateful for the guidance that helped me reach the stage where I could present work like this confidently.

QUESTION 05

When News7 Tamil featured your work, what did they highlight — and how did it feel seeing your art covered publicly?



This is a screenshot from the News7 Tamil coverage about my work, and it meant a lot to see the piece recognized publicly.

The feature helped bring attention to what I'm creating and the effort behind it, especially the uniqueness of building an image through Thirukural writing. Personally, it felt encouraging — like a reminder that consistent practice and dedication can reach people beyond my immediate circle.



Consistent practice and dedication can reach people beyond my immediate circle.

— SRI JEYANTH

CONTACT & FOLLOW

Name: Sri Jeyanth

Email: abdulhalimnhp@gmail.com

Link: youtu.be/6rJq3TzKy18

FEATURING CREATORS · MUSIC

On Finding Fearless Presence : Aanya Khanna on Folk-Fusion, Classical Training, and Full-Circle Stages

From Kathak floors to a sold-out Coke Studio Bharat stage in Delhi — the singer-songwriter on training her voice, trusting the messy first draft, and learning to perform like the room belongs to her.

ARTICLE BY EDITORIAL TEAM | PUBLISHED IN WALLMAG



Aanya Khanna does not arrive on stage so much as settle into it. Years of Kathak gave her a body that already knew the lights; seven to eight years of Hindustani classical training gave her a voice that knew exactly where it was going. What she has been chasing since is something quieter and harder — the fearless presence she first recognised, as a listener, in a Rashmeet Kaur set in Delhi, and which she now carries into her own folk-fusion songs.

Take us back to the beginning — how did performing first enter your life, and what's the earliest performance you still remember clearly?

My relationship with performing actually began through Kathak — I was dancing before I ever started singing, and being on stage that early made performing feel natural to me.

Later, I wanted to learn an instrument, so I picked up the guitar. That's where singing slowly started to come in, almost organically, as I spent more time with music.

One of the first performances I remember clearly is from school. I was nervous backstage, but the moment I stepped into the lights, something clicked — and that feeling of connection stayed with me.

You've spoken about seeing Rashmeet Kaur live in Delhi — what about that night shifted the way you think about being an artist on stage?

When I saw Rashmeet Kaur perform live in Delhi, it wasn't just her music that stayed with me — it was her presence. She had this powerful, grounded aura, like she belonged on that stage in the most effortless way.

What I took from that night was honesty. She wasn't performing to impress — she was simply in her element, owning who she is. Since then, I've wanted to bring that same fearless, real energy into my own music.

I · THE CRAFT

After 7–8 years of Hindustani classical training, what's changed most in how you sing and write today?

My training made me far more aware and intentional with my voice — now, I'm not just trying to hit notes, I'm trying to feel them and express what they're actually carrying.

It's also given me more control and clarity, especially in how I shape a phrase and sit inside a melody instead of rushing through it.

As a writer, it's helped me add depth and emotional precision, so what I create feels more grounded — both technically and honestly.

I'm not just trying to hit notes, I'm trying to feel them and express what they're actually carrying.

— AANYA KHANNA

When you tell yourself "Seekhna band te jeetna band," what's the real-life habit that keeps you learning even on off days?

The most practical habit for me is simply showing up every day, even if it's for a short amount of time. Some days it's vocal practice, other days it's writing a few lines, and sometimes it's just experimenting with a new sound or idea.

I've learned that every small effort adds up, even when it doesn't feel "perfect." That's how I live by Seekhna band te jeetna band — consistency over perfection, and growth over pressure.

FIELD NOTES

Trained in Kathak before ever singing on stage

7–8 years of Hindustani classical training

Picked up guitar to learn an instrument — singing followed

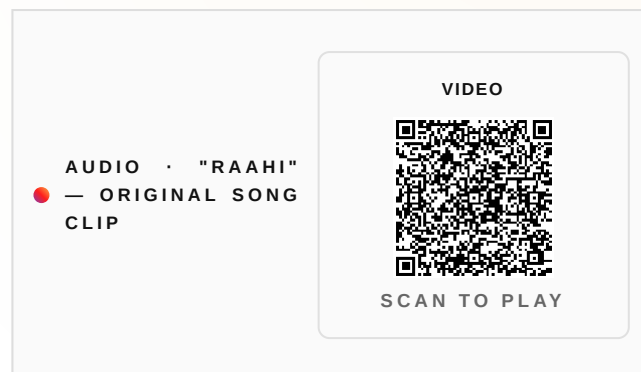
Mantra: *Seekhna band te jeetna band*

Latest single: *Thikana* on Spotify Fresh Finds India

Performs with collective Mystic Ragas

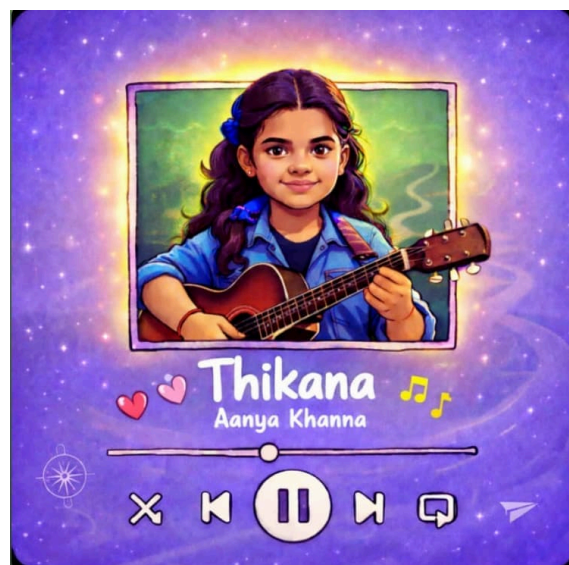
What's a 30–60 second clip from an original song that captures your sound right now, and what should listeners pay attention to?

This clip is from my song *Raahi*, recorded in a simple, raw setting so the focus stays on the music and the feeling.



I'd love for people to notice the vibe of the track — especially the experimental folk-fusion sound and the way it moves between textures. For me, it carries that sense of being on a journey — musically and emotionally — and I hope that comes through in the performance.

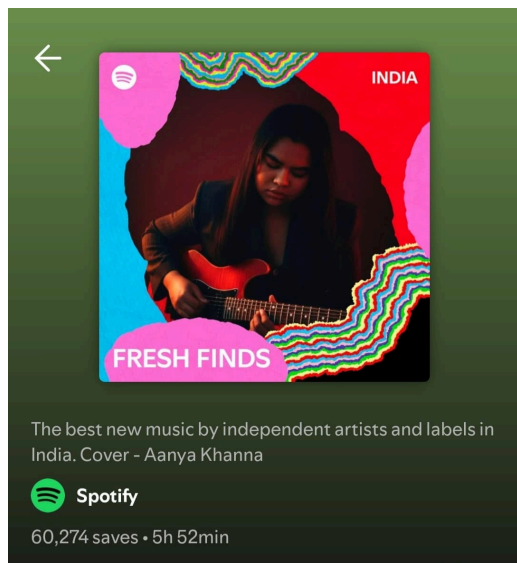
What does the key visual for your most recent release, *Thikana*, look like?



This is the cover art for *Thikana* — the visual entry point into the project, so I think of it as part of the storytelling, not just a graphic. Even before someone presses play, I want the artwork to set the tone for the world the song lives in.

II · THE STAGE

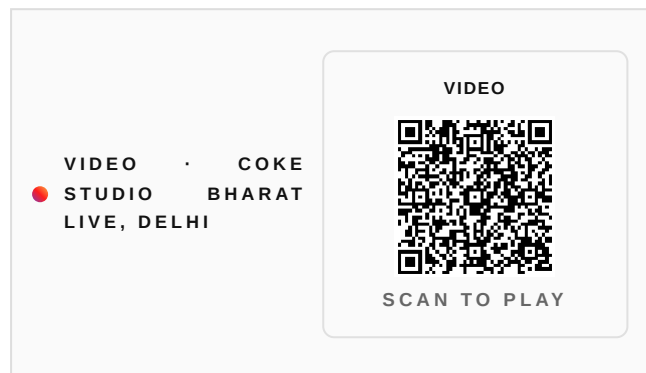
Do you have a snapshot of *Thikana* featured on Spotify Fresh Finds India?



Moments like this matter because playlists can be a real discovery point — especially for listeners who are actively looking for new voices and new sounds. It felt like a meaningful signal that the track was reaching beyond my immediate circle.

Walk us through a live-performance moment that really shows your stage presence — where was it, what were you performing, and why did it stay with you?

This clip is from Coke Studio Bharat Live in Delhi, where I got to perform alongside Rashmeet Kaur. The show was headlined by Shreya Ghoshal, and also featured Aditya Rikhari, Divyam, and Khwab — playing to a sold-out crowd of over 20,000 people.

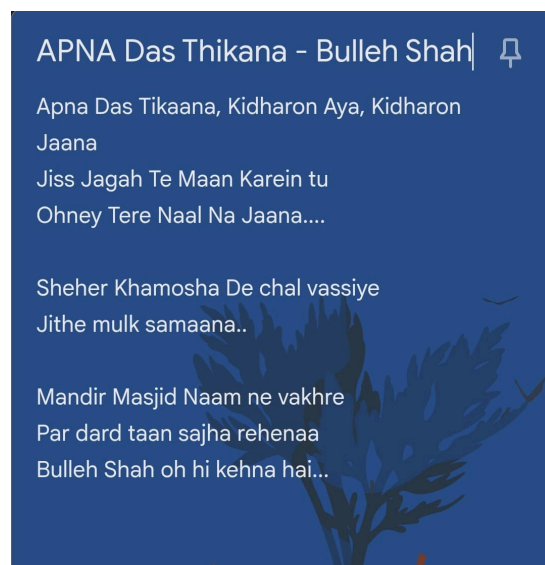


It honestly felt surreal. For a moment it didn't feel real, but once the performance began, everything settled in and I could just be present inside the song. What makes it unforgettable for me is the personal meaning — watching Rashmeet years ago to eventually sharing a stage with her felt like a true full-circle moment.

Watching Rashmeet years ago to eventually sharing a stage with her felt like a true full-circle moment.

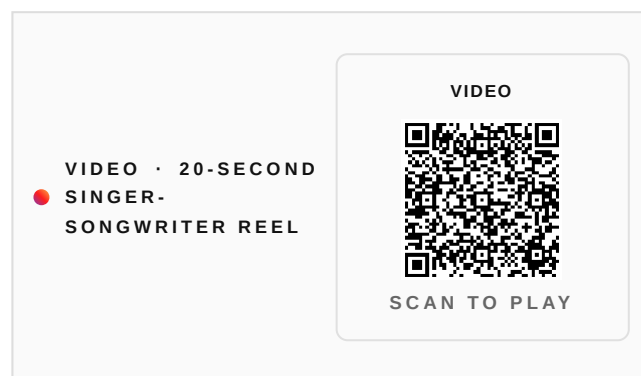
— AANYA KHANNA

When you're writing, what do your first drafts actually look like on the page?



This is a glimpse into my songwriting notes — an early draft stage where I'm catching phrases, ideas, and lyrical directions before anything feels finished. I like allowing the first version to be messy, because that's usually where the most honest lines show up.

If someone discovered you through a 20-second reel, which clip best captures your singer-songwriter vibe?



This short-form clip captures the vibe I naturally lean into as a singer-songwriter — direct, expressive, and rooted in melody. I like reels that feel like a real window into my energy, not something overly polished or distant.

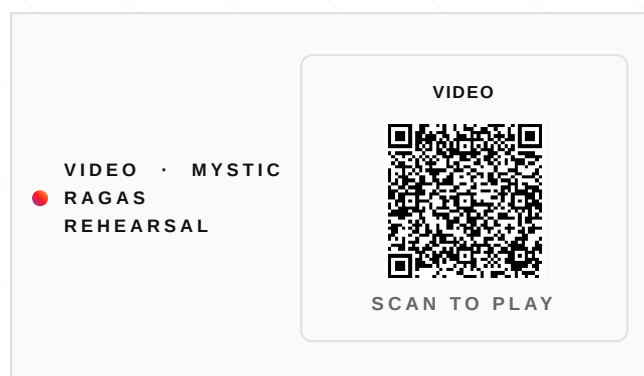
III · THE WORLD AROUND THE SONG

Which on-stage photo best captures your energy mid-performance?



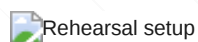
This is one of my strongest performance photos on stage — captured in the middle of the moment, where the emotion is still live. It holds the atmosphere of the night: the lights, the intensity, and that split-second connection with the crowd. It's a reminder of why I perform in the first place.

A rehearsal moment with Mystic Ragas that shows how you and the band lock in together?



This rehearsal clip with Mystic Ragas gives a quick feel of our shared energy — how the sound comes together in real time, even when it's just a phone-shot moment. That "locking in" happens in small moments — one cue, one groove, one section that suddenly feels alive.

Give us a peek into your performance world — what does your stage or rehearsal setup look like?



From mics and instruments to monitors and positioning, it's all part of how the music translates from practice into an actual show. I love documenting these behind-the-scenes visuals — they're a real snapshot of the world the songs live in.



A piece of text or poetry you've been revisiting with the idea of adapting it into music?

Apna das tikana

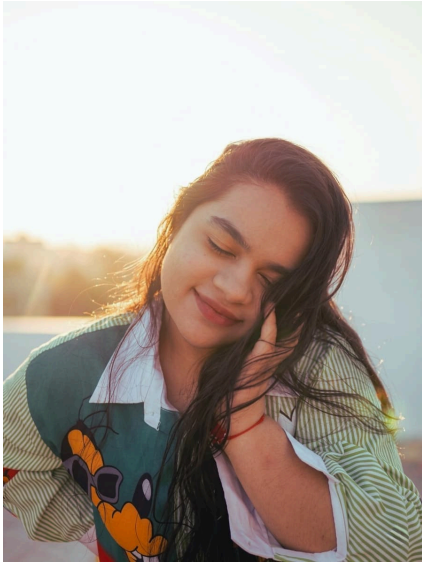
Apna das tikaana, kidhron aya, kidhar jana?

Jis thaane da maan karen tu
Ohne tere naal na jana
Zulm karen te lok satawein
Kasb pharryo lutt khana
Karlai chawarr chaar diharre
Aurrak toon utth jana
Shehar khamoshan de chal wassiye
Jithe mulk samana
Bhar bhar pur langhawe dahda
Mulk-ul-maut muhana
Ehna sabhnan theen hai Bullah
Ogenhar purana

Apna das tikana, kidhron aya, kidhar jana?

I'm drawn to writing that already carries emotion and rhythm, because it can open up new melodic possibilities. Even when the final lyric changes, a piece of text like this can be the spark that shapes the entire song's mood.

Which portrait would you like us to use as your main profile image?



This portrait feels closest to how I see myself as an artist right now — simple, clear, and current. I like visuals that feel like a real introduction, not a character.

CONTACT & FOLLOW

Name — Aanya Khanna

Email — k.aanya2008@gmail.com

Instagram — @aanyakhannaofficial

FEATURING CREATORS · MUSIC

Contemporary Soul with a Classical Heart

Rahul Mondal on Hindustani roots, esraj textures, and the emotional architecture behind “Jeno Chole Jeyo.”

ARTICLE BY EDITORIAL TEAM AT WALLMAG | PUBLISHED IN WALLMAG

Grounded in the disciplined silences of Hindustani classical music yet restless for the textures of contemporary Bengali pop, Rahul Mondal occupies a quietly singular space in India’s independent music landscape. His latest release, “Jeno Chole Jeyo,” is a study in restraint — a song where the warmth of

the esraj sits beside modern arrangement, and where every melodic phrase feels chosen rather than arranged.

In this conversation, the songwriter and composer walks us through the early on-camera memories that shaped him, the mentors who built his foundation, and the small, often unseen breakthroughs that turn a draft lyric into a finished record.



Q. Take us back to one of your earliest on-camera music memories — what are we seeing here, and why does it still feel important to your journey?

▶ WATCH / LISTEN

VIDEO



SCAN TO PLAY

That early moment connects directly to who I am as a multi-genre artist, songwriter, and composer — grounded in Hindustani Classical music, but always looking for ways to bridge into Indi Pop and contemporary Bengali soundscapes.

My music is shaped by a deep respect for melodic purity, and I'm especially drawn to acoustic resonance — textures like the esraj — woven into modern arrangements without losing the soul of the raga-inspired phrasing.

I often describe what I do as “Contemporary Soul with a Classical Heart.” Even when I'm writing a modern pop track, I'm still chasing evocative storytelling, vocal precision, and the atmospheric feel of West Bengal — something that can feel timeless and current at once.

Q. Who or what best represents your mentor and training phase — and what's one lesson from that time that still guides you today?



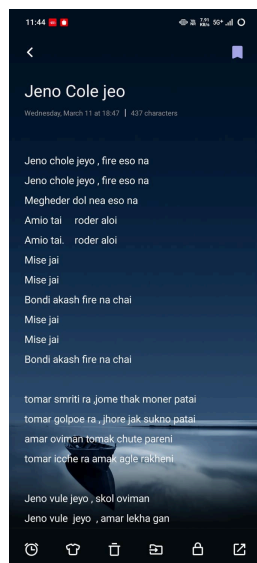
The first photo is from my first recording session in our studio, and it instantly takes me back to the excitement — and nerves — of hearing my voice and ideas take shape in a professional space.

The second photo is with my Guru, Soumyajit Das, along with Sourendra Mallik — people who represent a very formative phase of learning and discipline for me.

What I carried forward most from that period is the importance of consistent *riyaz* and focused listening — building a strong foundation first, so that experimentation later still feels honest and musical.

PART II · THE MAKING OF JENO CHOLE JEYO

Q. When you look at an early lyric draft or composition note, what does it reveal about where the song began — and what changed most by the time it became the final release?



This image captures the very first idea for my latest release — the seed of the song before it had a finished structure or polished production around it.

From draft to final, the biggest shift is usually clarity: the melodic phrases become more intentional, the lyrical flow gets refined, and the emotional arc becomes more focused.

I love keeping these early notes because they remind me that every “final” song starts as a simple feeling and a raw line — then grows through rewriting, rehearsal, and careful arrangement.

“

Even inside a modern production, I want at least one element that feels timeless and deeply expressive.

— RAHUL MONDAL

Q. What moment from “Jeno Chole Jeyo” are we watching here — and how were you personally involved in bringing the track to life?

▶ WATCH / LISTEN

VIDEO



SCAN TO PLAY

This clip is from the making of “Jeno Chole Jeyo,” and it captures the energy of the track while it was still coming together in real time.

For me, moments like this are about translating an inner emotion into something listenable — shaping the performance and overall feel so the story lands honestly.

It’s a reminder that the final song isn’t just the finished mix — it’s also the process, the decisions, and the small breakthroughs that happen while creating.

Q. How did you think about the visual world for the song — and what do you want listeners to feel when they see this artwork?



This is the poster artwork for “Jeno Chole Jeyo,” and I see it as an extension of the song’s emotional tone — something that sets the mood before the first note even plays.

PART III · TEXTURE & THE STAGE

I like visuals that feel simple but expressive, because they leave space for the listener's own memories to enter the story. The goal is always alignment: the artwork should match the feeling of the track and hint at the journey inside it, without over-explaining what the music is meant to evoke.

Q. What's special about the acoustic texture in this clip — and why does it feel so central to your sound?

▶ WATCH / LISTEN

VIDEO



SCAN TO PLAY

This clip features an esraj take by Shubhayu Sen Majumdar for “Jeno Chole Jeyo,” and that tone immediately brings a certain warmth and depth into the arrangement.

I'm drawn to acoustic instruments like this because they carry a natural emotional grain — something that feels rooted, human, and closely connected to classical sensibilities.

That's a big part of my “classical heart” approach: even inside a modern production, I want at least one element that feels timeless and deeply expressive.

Q. Walk us through this live-performance moment — where is it, what are you performing, and what did you feel stepping back on stage?

▶ WATCH / LISTEN

VIDEO



SCAN TO PLAY

This clip is from a live performance at Katwa Stadium, and it represents a really meaningful return to the stage for me.

Being back in front of a crowd brought a mix of adrenaline and relief — like reconnecting with the most direct, honest version of why I make music in the first place.

More than anything, I felt gratitude in that moment: for the audience energy, for the journey so far, and for the chance to keep growing through live performance.

CONTACT & FOLLOW

Name: Rahul Mondal

Email: rahulbolpur9@gmail.com

Instagram: @musically_yours_rahul

YouTube: @rahulmondaloriginals

Facebook: facebook.com/share/1AvKGqw5eF

FEATURING CREATORS · MUSIC

Quiet Rooms, Loud Stages.

Prathmesh Singh on songwriting from a hostel room at IIT Mandi, the ukulele that changed everything, and learning to turn private feeling into public sound.

ARTICLE BY EDITORIAL TEAM AT WALLMAG | PUBLISHED IN WALLMAG



Prathmesh Singh writes the way he speaks — softly, but with intent. Between problem sets and lectures at IIT Mandi, the second-year student has been quietly building a body of work that travels far beyond his hostel walls. From his first original "Tera Asar" to the recent "Khwabon Me Tujhe," his songs sit somewhere between confession and comfort, and listeners are noticing.

Q · 01 ORIGINS

Take us back to the beginning — how did music go from something casual to something you took seriously around 10th standard?

My journey with music started in a very casual way. As a kid, I even tried learning from local teachers in my hometown, but I couldn't quite find what I was looking for — so by around 5th grade, I stepped away from it.

Things began to shift in 8th grade when I started writing a few lines here and there, mostly as a way to express what I was feeling. Then in 9th, I wrote a full song about my mother, and that moment felt genuinely special — it gave me a quiet confidence that I could actually say something meaningful through music.

The real turning point came in 10th when my brother gifted me a ukulele. That's when my independent journey of singing and songwriting truly started again.

THE FILE**Prathmesh Singh****BASED**

IIT Mandi, Himachal Pradesh

YEAR

Second-year undergraduate

DEBUT

"Tera Asar" — Rising Star Award, Melo Works

LATEST

"Khwabon Me Tujhe" on Spotify

RECENT WIN

1st Prize, Originals — Exodia, IIT Mandi

01

Becoming An Artist.

On the first song that made it real, the doubt that came before, and what a "music week" actually looks like for a student who refuses to choose between the two halves of his life.

Q · 02 ARRIVAL

What was the first moment that made you think, "Okay, I'm really an independent artist now"?

The first real moment I felt confident calling myself an independent artist was when I released my first song, "Tera Asar." Before that, I carried a lot of self-doubt — wondering if I was good enough and whether anyone would truly connect with what I was trying to say.

When the song started reaching people and I began getting genuine reactions — messages, shares, and listeners telling me they felt something — it meant everything. Within the first two months of the release, I also received the Rising Star Award by Melo Works for the song.

It wasn't about numbers as much as it was about feeling seen and heard. That experience made it feel real to me — like I wasn't just trying anymore, I was actually doing it.

“

It wasn't about numbers. It was about feeling seen and heard — that's when it became real.

— PRATHMESH SINGH

Q · 03 RHYTHM

Balancing IIT Mandi and music can't be easy — what does a realistic "music week" look like for you?

Managing music alongside being a second-year student at IIT Mandi isn't always easy, so I try to keep my approach simple and consistent. Almost every day, I make sure I'm connected to music in some way — learning something new, practicing an instrument, or writing, even if it's just a small session.

Weekends are when I go deeper. That's usually when I create more seriously, or travel for music-related events and opportunities. In February and March, for example, almost every weekend I was in a different city attending conferences, music festivals, and concerts.

Because I don't have formal training, experiences like these become a huge part of my learning. I get to observe, understand the ecosystem better, and grow as an artist — and I'm especially grateful that some of these trips had my travel and stay fully sponsored.

Q · 04 INTENT

When someone finishes one of your songs, what do you hope they're left feeling?

It honestly depends on the song, because each one carries a different emotion and story. Some of my songs talk about love, some about longing, some about memories, and some are quieter reflections of feelings we don't always say out loud.

Overall, I want listeners to feel something real — comfort, warmth, nostalgia, or even just a sense of calm. I want my songs to feel like a small emotional space where someone can pause for a moment and connect with their own thoughts.

More than anything, I hope they walk away feeling understood — like the song managed to say something they couldn't quite put into words themselves.

Q · 05 FRAMES

These images capture different sides of you — where were they taken, and what do they reveal about your vibe as an artist?



These photos show two very different sides of my journey. Some are from my hostel room and music room — spaces where I'm quietly rehearsing, writing, and working on songs. Those moments can feel personal and even a little lonely, but they're the foundation of everything I do.



The other photos are from live performances, where I'm on stage, interacting with people, and singing my heart out. That's where I become the most extroverted version of myself.



Together, I think they capture who I am as an artist: an introvert in everyday life, but someone who transforms completely the moment it's time to express.



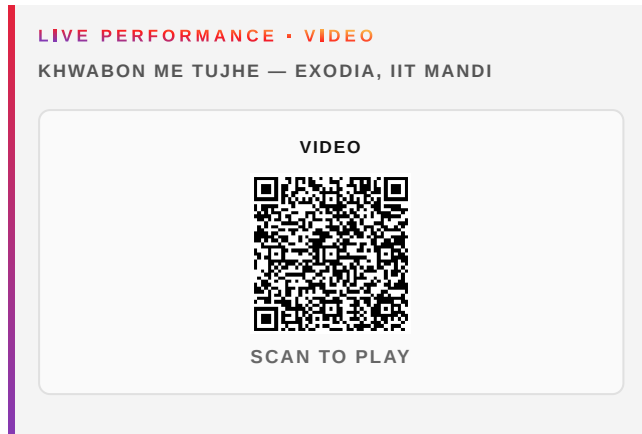
02

The Craft Up Close.

Raw vocals, second-last drafts and a hostel-room studio. A look at the texture of the work — the imperfections kept, the corrections made, and the gear that helps a song find its shape.

Q • 06 LIVE

Walk us through this live performance — what's the song, where was it filmed, and what story are you telling?

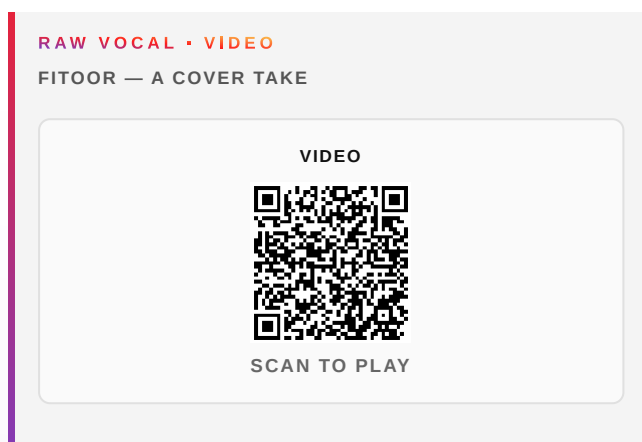


This is a live performance of my song "Khwabon Me Tujhe," which is also my latest original on Spotify. I performed it at Exodia, the annual cultural festival of IIT Mandi, and I was grateful to win first prize in the Originals category.

The song is about a very real and personal feeling — how someone can enter your life unexpectedly, become incredibly important, and then one day just leave. It holds that mix of love, attachment, and the emptiness that follows.

Q • 07 RAW

We love a raw vocal moment — what emotion were you trying to capture here, and what would you refine later?

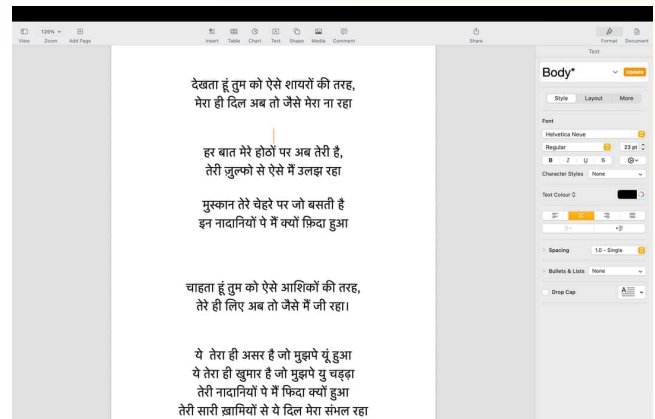


In this raw vocal take, I'm singing one of my favorite songs, "Fitoor," and I was mainly focused on capturing the feeling of passionate love that the song carries. I wasn't chasing perfection — I just wanted the emotion to come through honestly.

Because it's raw, there are a few moments where I go slightly off-note, but to me that imperfection also reflects what I was genuinely feeling in that moment. If I were polishing it later, I'd work on pitch control and consistency, while still trying to keep the same emotional intensity intact.

Q • 08 DRAFT

Looking at these songwriting notes, where was this song in the process — and what changed from your earliest draft?



These notes are from the second-last draft of my first song, "Tera Asar." At this point, the song was almost complete — it had taken shape both emotionally and lyrically, and I could finally see what it wanted to become.

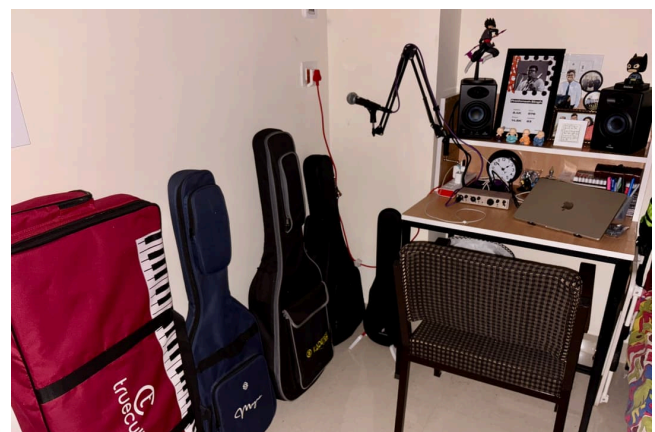
"It was less about changing the song's heart and more about polishing the feeling so it could connect more naturally."

— PRATHMESH SINGH

Compared to the first draft, I refined a lot of the writing rather than rewriting everything. Around 20% of the lyrics changed, mostly to make the expressions clearer, more relatable, and closer to what I truly wanted to say.

Q • 09 SETUP

Give us a tour of your current music corner — what gear do you rely on most, and what's your usual recording flow?



This setup is in my hostel room at IIT Mandi, and it's where most of my music comes to life. Over time, it's grown into a space that feels really personal — like a small creative home inside a busy student life.



The tools I use most are my MacBook Air M2, an Arturia Minifuse 2 audio interface, and a Shure SM58 dynamic mic. For instruments, I rotate between a Yamaha PSR-473 keyboard, a Kadence semi-acoustic guitar, an Enya travel-size transacoustic guitar, a Strydom electric guitar, and an Enya concert ukulele — the ukulele is actually where everything began for me.

My process is simple and self-learned: I usually start composing on guitar, add piano elements for depth, and do basic production on my own while I'm still learning. I record raw vocals in my room, then share the draft with my producer friend Shivang Sorout in Delhi, who handles detailed production and the final mix.

Q • 10 FIRST

This "Tera Asar" clip feels like an early chapter — where was it filmed, and why was this moment such a turning point for you?

LIVE SNIPPET • VIDEO
TERA ASAR — COLLEGE EVENT

VIDEO



SCAN TO PLAY

This "Tera Asar" snippet is from a college event where I performed the song live for the very first time, and that moment stays close to me. Since it was my first original release, it was already special — but performing it face-to-face in front of people brought a completely different kind of vulnerability.

It helped me overcome a lot of fear and self-doubt. Until then, I didn't know how people would react, and I wasn't sure if something so personal would translate outside my own head. Seeing the audience connect with it in real time gave me a new kind of confidence.

Q • 11 GROWTH

When you listen back to this "Khwabon Me Tujhe" snippet, what's one upgrade you hear in your writing or delivery compared to your earlier work?

STUDIO SNIPPET • VIDEO
KHWABON ME TUJHE — REFLECTION

VIDEO



SCAN TO PLAY

This "Khwabon Me Tujhe" snippet reflects a lot of growth for me. The clearest upgrade I notice is in storytelling — the emotions feel more structured and intentional, instead of being just flowing thoughts.

I've also learned how to say more with simplicity, which is something I've been consciously working on. On the vocal side, I feel more controlled and confident now because I understand my voice better and can carry emotion without losing myself technically.

Overall, this song feels closer to the artist I'm becoming: still soft and emotional at the core, but more refined and honest in the way it lands.

Q • 12 NEXT

This behind-the-scenes teaser hints at a new direction — what should listeners pay attention to in the mood or sound details?

BEHIND THE SCENES • VIDEO
BTS — SHIVANG'S HOME STUDIO, DELHI

VIDEO



SCAN TO PLAY

This BTS clip is from the time I was recording the final vocals at Shivang's home studio in Delhi. It's a very real, behind-the-scenes moment where you can feel the song coming together in a simple, honest way.

The theme is relatable — it's about how someone can become so important to you that you almost feel lost in them. It carries that "butterflies in the stomach" feeling, where everything feels light, exciting, and a little surreal.

The overall mood is soft, uplifting, and happy — not intense or heavy. I'd want listeners to tune into that sense of lightness in both the sound and emotion, like a gentle breeze that relaxes you while still making you feel something.

CONTACT & FOLLOW

NAME Prathmesh Singh
EMAIL prathmeshsingh19@gmail.com
LINKTREE linktr.ee/prathmeshsinghmusic
INSTAGRAM [@prathmeshsinghmusic](https://www.instagram.com/prathmeshsinghmusic)



FEATURING CREATORS · MUSIC

Writing in Hindi-Bagdi

Abdul Kadir Ali on turning Rajasthan's memories, friendships and silences into songs — and building Azmaish Beats from a laptop and a single, stubborn dream.

ARTICLE BY EDITORIAL TEAM AT WALLMAG | PUBLISHED IN WALLMAG



Q. Take us back to Rajasthan — when did songwriting first feel inevitable for you?

I'm Abdul Kadir Ali, and I'm from Rajasthan. I started writing songs when I was around 10 years old, mostly from my feelings and the things I was living through at the time. A lot of people — especially friends — made fun of me and didn't take the dream seriously. But instead of letting that stop me, I used that pain as motivation to keep going.

I didn't have big support around me. I just had my passion, my pen, and a belief that my story could become music. Even today, I'm still writing, still learning, and still chasing this dream — this is only the beginning for me.

Q. What do you remember most about putting your first original song, "Tera Pyaar," out into the world?

For me, the real beginning was 15 July 2025 — the day my first song, "Tera Pyaar," went live on my YouTube channel, Azmaish Beats. At that time I had zero audience, almost no support, and honestly no proof that anyone would even listen — yet I still believed in the dream.

The song was sung by Arif Khan, who isn't just a relative; he's like a real brother to me. When others didn't believe in me, he stood with me and gave his voice to my words, and I'll always respect him for that.

The reaction in the beginning wasn't easy — there was a lot more laughter and criticism than appreciation. But that experience taught me something important: big dreams often start in silence, without applause. "Tera Pyaar" wasn't just my first release — it was my first risk, and my first step forward.

I. CRAFT

Q. Looking back, which part of your craft has grown the most for you, and how did you build it?

The skill that has grown the most for me is songwriting — especially writing lyrics that carry real emotion. I don't try to write "just words"; I try to write feelings, because every lyric comes from my experiences and my truth.

Over the past few years, I've written many songs straight from the heart, and every song has taught me something new about structure, storytelling, and how to express pain or memories in a simple way. The more I write, the more I understand myself — and that naturally improves the work.

I don't try to write "just words"; I try to write feelings, because every lyric comes from my experiences and my truth.

— ABDUL KADIR ALI

Along with lyrics, I'm also practicing singing. My goal is to reach a point where I can sing my own songs too — so my words don't only live on paper, but in my own voice.

Q. What are you creating right now, and where is it at in the process today?

Right now I'm working on an emotional song called "Yaad Reh Gaye." It's a Hindi-Bagdi sad song inspired by old school life — those simple days, real friendships, and memories that don't fade even when time moves on.

AT A GLANCE

ORIGIN

Rajasthan, India

LABEL

Azmaish Beats (self-founded)

DEBUT

"Tera Pyaar" — 15 July 2025

LANGUAGE

Hindi-Bagdi

IN PROGRESS

"Yaad Reh Gaye" — single

SETUP

One laptop. Honest lyrics.

This song is very close to my heart because it comes from genuine memories — lost connections, innocent love, and the feeling that some parts of the past stay alive inside you. My focus is to make something people can truly feel, not just hear.

After I complete this one, I'll move into another big single. I'm putting my dedication and honesty into every step, and I'm also continuing vocal practice so that, in the coming time, I can present more songs in my own voice.

Q. Which visual clip best represents your current style, and what did you personally handle in it?

VIDEO · AZMAISH BEATS REEL I

azmaish_beats.mp4

VIDEO



Scan to play

VIDEO · AZMAISH BEATS REEL II

Azmaish_Beats_(7).mp4

VIDEO



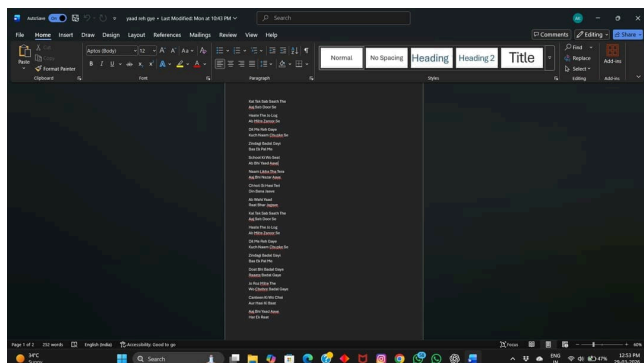
Scan to play

In these clips, I handled the lyrics and the composition. I chose them because they represent the emotional direction I'm building with Azmaish Beats — music that feels personal, rooted, and honest. Even in short visuals, I want people to hear my identity as a writer: simple lines, real feelings, and melodies that stay connected to where I come from.



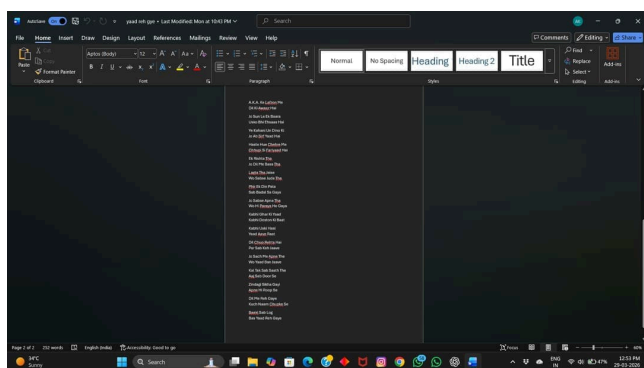
II. LANGUAGE

Q. Show us a page from your lyrics — and tell us why that language was the right fit for the emotion?



LYRIC PAGE · I

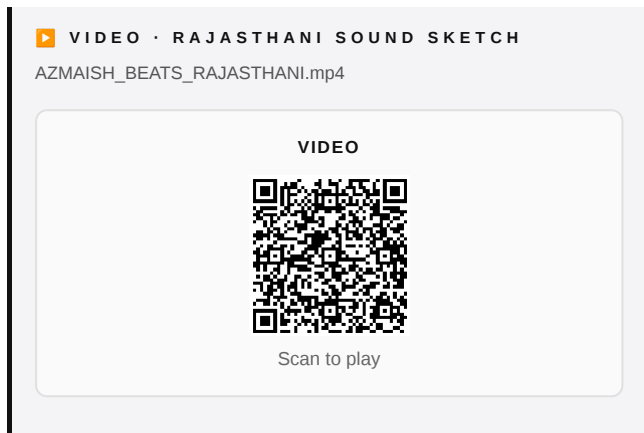
These lyrics are written in Hindi-Bagdi. I chose this language because it's the most natural way for me to express what I truly feel — especially when the emotion is deep or personal. Hindi-Bagdi also helps the story feel more real and closer to my roots.



LYRIC PAGE · II

And at the same time, it's a language mix that many listeners can still understand and emotionally connect with, even if they're from different places.

Q. Where does Rajasthan's folk flavor show up most clearly in your music, and how do you blend it with a modern pop feel?



I've always believed music is not just sound — it's identity. Being from Rajasthan, I've felt connected to our desi folk emotions since childhood, so I try to keep that regional soul present in my songs.

What I bring from folk is the raw feeling: small-town emotions, village simplicity, real friendships, the pain of love, and the beauty of memories. Then I blend that with a modern approach so the song still feels fresh and today's listeners can connect with it.

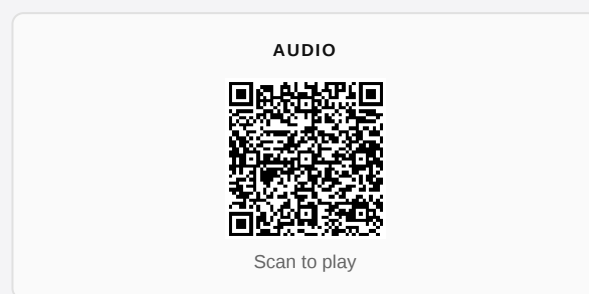
Music is not just sound — it's identity. Even artists from small places can create something meaningful if they stay true to their roots.

— ABDUL KADIR ALI

Q. Walk us through this behind-the-scenes moment — what are we hearing, and what were you building in that session?

AUDIO · RAW VOCAL TAKE

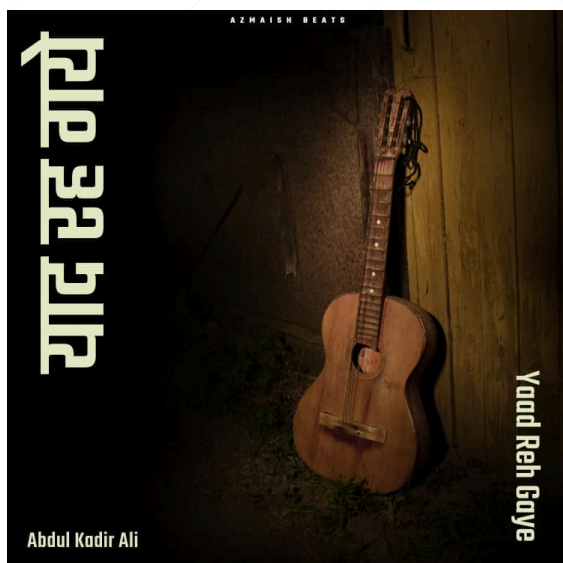
Yaad_Reh_Gaye_(Vocals).wav



This is a raw vocal take from my upcoming song. In that moment, I was focused on capturing the emotion and the correct feel of the melody before moving toward a more final version. I like listening back to raw vocals because they show me what's working emotionally and what needs improvement. First I lock the feeling — then I build everything else around it.

III. VISION

Q. When you think about your cover art, what mood are you trying to create before anyone even hits play?



COVER · YAAD REH GAYE

For me, cover art is the first emotion a listener feels — before the music even starts. I try to keep the visuals connected to the song's mood, so the audience can understand the feeling at a glance. These covers are meant to represent the emotional world of the songs — loneliness, lost love, silence, memories, and that kind of deep sadness that many people carry quietly.

Q. What does your recording setup look like right now, and what are the essentials you rely on most?

VIDEO · INSIDE THE SETUP

IMG_1838.mov

VIDEO



Scan to play

Right now my setup is very simple — I mainly have just my laptop. That's the one essential I rely on for everything: writing, composing, and building early demos. Because my tools are limited, I try to make my strength the songwriting itself — strong lyrics, clear emotion, and honest ideas. As I grow, I want to add more proper studio essentials, but at this stage I'm focused on creating consistently with what I have.

Q. Tell us about Azmaish Beats — what does this logo represent, and what pushed you to start your own label so early?



LOGO · AZMAISH BEATS

Starting my own label early came from a very real reason: other music labels weren't interested in releasing my songs because I was a new artist. So I decided to build my own platform instead of waiting for permission. Azmaish Beats is my way of keeping control of my work and giving my regional sound a home — especially music that comes from Rajasthan's culture and emotions. It's not just a label name. It's a promise that I'll keep releasing honest songs, keep improving, and keep representing my roots with pride.

CONTACT & FOLLOW

Name	Abdul Kadir Ali
Email	abdulkadirali550@gmail.com
Instagram	instagram.com/abdulkadirali.official
YouTube	youtube.com/channel/UCAXZKD26jFmGa7miFJuXhjA
Facebook	facebook.com/abdul.kadirali.1272010
IMDb	imdb.com/name/nm18148880

MUSIC · FEATURING CREATORS

Building Songs with Soul

An interview with D Jay — Jai Kumar — on the spiritual jolt of his first live band, building tracks from a single guitar phrase, and why patience matters more than theory.

ARTICLE BY EDITORIAL TEAM AT WALLMAG | PUBLISHED IN WALLMAG



Some artists arrive at music through training. D Jay arrived through a single, unforgettable evening — a college band performance that filled his eyes with tears and rewired his sense of what was possible. Trained as an architect, working freelance to protect his creative bandwidth, he now builds songs the way he once drafted plans: patiently, structurally, and with feeling at the core.

PART I · ORIGINS

Take us back to college — what sparked your music journey, and why did that first live band performance change everything for you?

Before I came to college, I had never seen a guitar or drums being played live — I'd only seen them in posters or on TV. So when I attended my first live band performance, I was completely mesmerized, because it was the first time those instruments felt real and present in front of me.

The moment I heard the drums and guitar together, I felt an instant spiritual connection. I actually had tears in my eyes, and that was the moment I realized I wanted to be a musician — and I wanted to be on that stage one day.

I started learning drums because they were available in the college band room. I used to attend every jamming session, and when everyone began packing up, I'd use those last 10–15 minutes to sit at the kit and practice. That's genuinely how my music journey began.

You're trained as an architect — how do you structure a typical week when you're juggling design work and music?

Music is the core thing for me, so I made a decision early on to keep my architecture work flexible. That's why I started freelancing and only take on a limited number of personal projects at a time — usually one or two max.

Right now, I'm about 80% focused on music and 20% on architecture. Working independently gives me the freedom to stay consistent with music, without completely stepping away from what I've studied and built professionally.

Architecture still matters to me, but keeping it in a smaller, controlled space helps me protect my creative energy. It lets me move forward as an artist while still staying connected to my design practice.

AT A GLANCE

Stage Name — D Jay (Jai Kumar)

Discipline — Songwriting, Guitar, Vocals, Production

Day Practice — Independent Architect

Split — 80% music · 20% architecture

Debut Track — "Laachari"

Latest Original — "Yaadein"

What was the first song you fully finished, and what did it teach you about songwriting?

"Laachari" was the first song I composed, and finishing it taught me patience more than anything. It took me a long time — around a year and a half — to properly record it and bring it to a point where I could say it was complete.

Once it was done, I realized something important: you don't need heavy technical knowledge to compose a song. You don't need to be lost in complex theories or strict structures to create something meaningful.

If your foundation is strong — basic music theory, a good ear, and determination — you can absolutely create your own songs. That belief really shaped the way I write today.



If your foundation is strong — basic theory, a good ear, and determination — you can absolutely create your own songs.

— D JAY (JAI KUMAR)

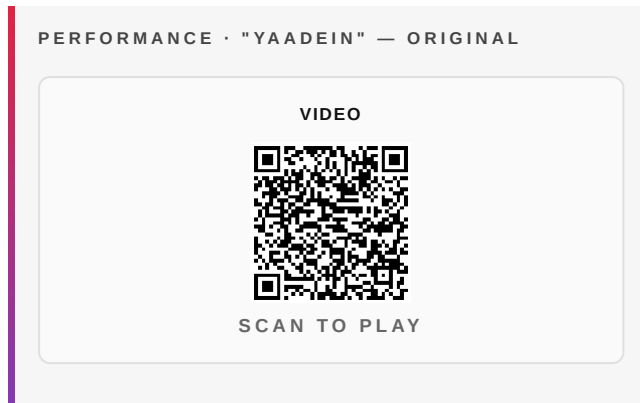
Walk us through how a new track comes together for you today, from the first idea to a rough demo?

Most of the time, it starts when I'm casually jamming on guitar and a tune catches my attention. As soon as I find something that feels attractive or fresh, I record it right away so I don't lose the mood or the melody.

After that, I decide where to go based on the feeling of the tune. Sometimes I'll pull ideas from my lyrics bank, and if nothing fits, I start writing lyrics while playing pieces of that tune on loop until the words naturally match the emotion.

For my first three songs, the process was different — I wrote the lyrics first because they were directly based on my real-life experiences. Because they were so personal and clear in my head, it didn't take me long to write them down.

When you play an original song straight through, what do you want people to feel?

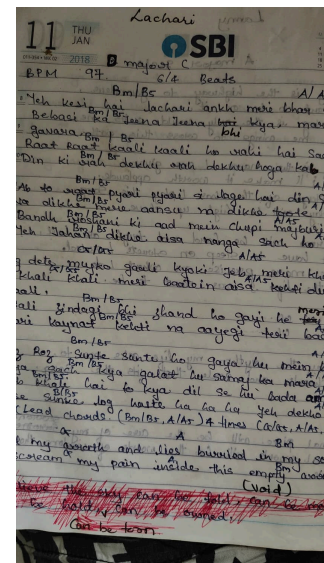
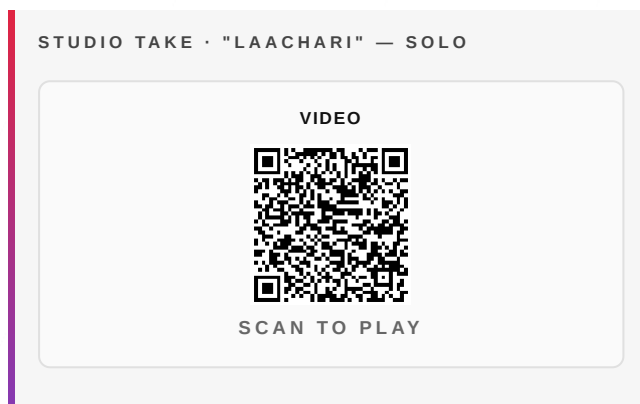


This performance is of my original song "Yaadein." It was the second song I composed, and I wrote it about a year ago.

The song is about holding on to the best, most beautiful memories with the person you love. It's really about reminding her how important she is in his life — and about not letting the relationship slip away.

Whenever I perform it, I want it to feel honest and emotional, like a direct conversation you're having with someone you can't afford to lose.

For your debut track "Laachari," what can you show us from the making of it — and which part of the process are you most proud of?

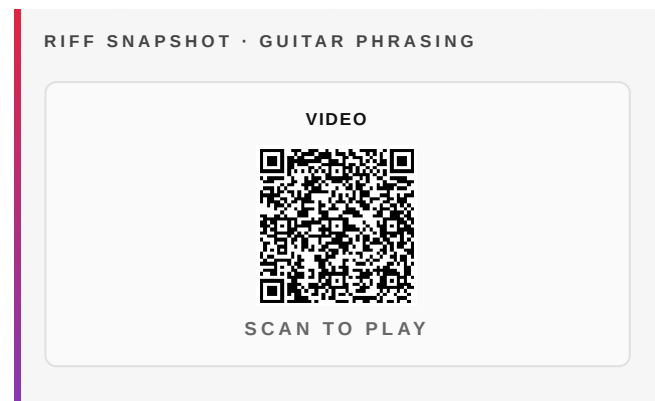


On "Laachari," I handled almost everything myself — lyrics, composition, arrangement, production, and even the drum beats. I like being involved in the full build because it helps me keep the emotion consistent from the first idea to the final version.

If I had to pick one detail I'm most proud of, it's the guitar solo. That section really feels like my signature on the song. It's one of those moments where the track lifts emotionally, and I feel like it says what words can't.

VOICE · GUITAR · LYRIC

If someone had 20 seconds to understand your guitar style, what would you play for them?



This close-up clip is a quick snapshot of the way I naturally riff and phrase on guitar.

What does your voice sound like in a raw, no-frills take — just you and the melody?

RAW VOCAL · PHONE TAKE

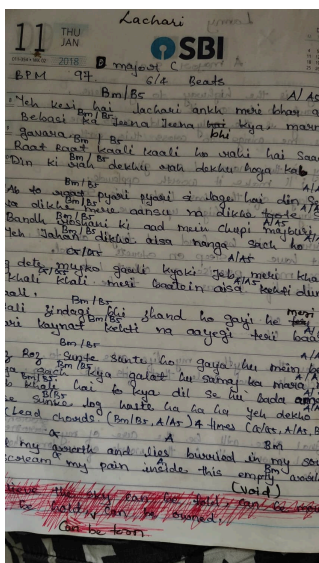
VIDEO



SCAN TO PLAY

This is a simple phone-recorded vocal take — kept raw so the natural tone comes through.

Tell us about a lyric draft that captures an original song in its earliest form?



Here's a look at a draft page where the song is still forming — before everything gets polished in the studio.

How do you weave an Indian classical touch into your Western pop/rock phrasing?

FUSION · MELODIC RUN

VIDEO



SCAN TO PLAY

This clip shows the kind of melodic run and phrasing I lean into when I'm blending those two worlds.

What's a live moment that captures your energy performing "Yaadein" or another original?

LIVE · PERFORMANCE ENERGY

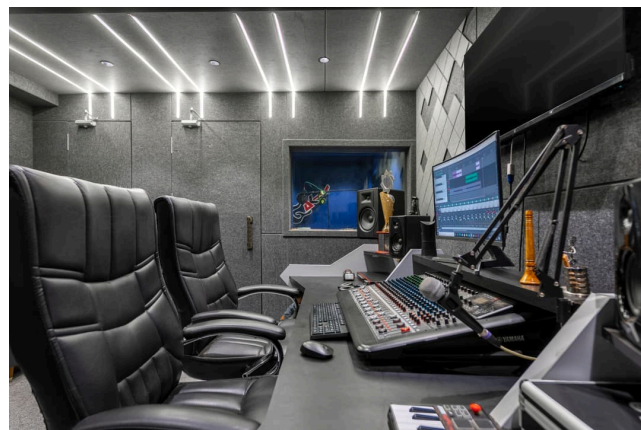
VIDEO



SCAN TO PLAY

This short clip is a live-style moment that reflects how I carry the song in a real performance setting.

Where do you do most of your recording right now, and what does that setup look like?



This is my current recording corner — the space where most of my writing and takes come together.

What does it look like behind the scenes when you're creating — mid-process, not polished?

BEHIND THE SCENES · IN PROCESS

VIDEO



SCAN TO PLAY

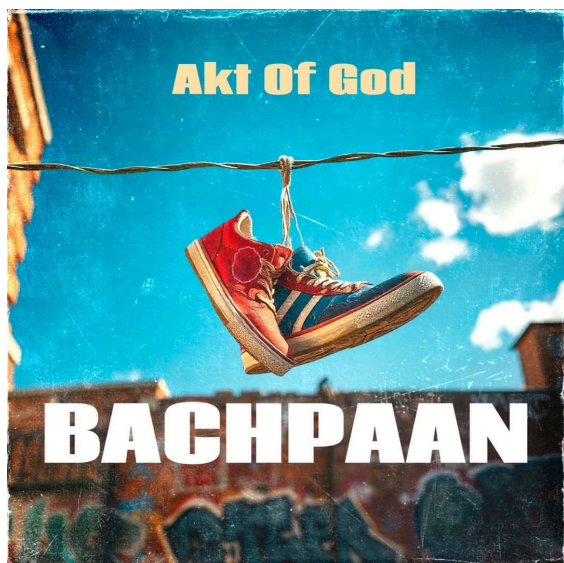
Here's a behind-the-scenes clip from the middle of the process — writing, arranging, and building things step by step.



The guitar solo is my signature on the song. It's the moment the track lifts and says what words can't.

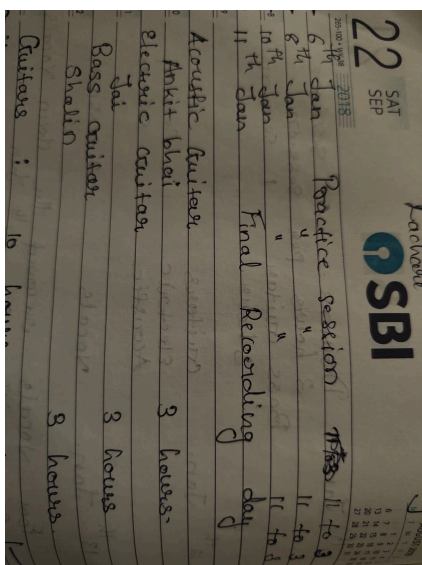
— D JAY (JAI KUMAR)

How do you think about visuals for your music — what cover art best matches one of your songs right now?



This is a cover image that connects with the mood and identity of one of my tracks.

When you're preparing to perform, what does your setlist or rehearsal notes usually look like?



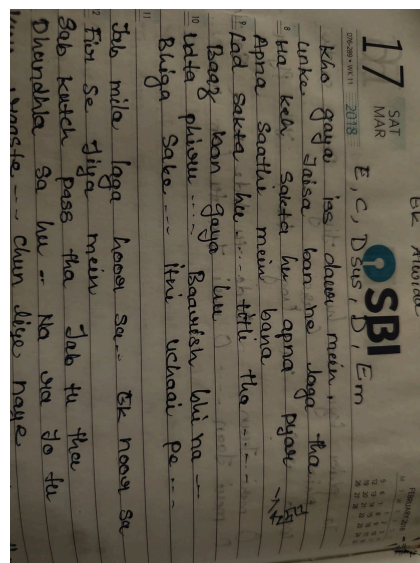
This is the kind of setlist/rehearsal reference I keep to stay organized during live prep.

What can you tease from the unreleased song you're currently working on?



Here's a quick peek at what I'm currently developing — still in progress, but heading somewhere exciting.

If you had to sum up your current sound with one lyric line, chord chart, or melody note, what would you point to?



This image captures a line/idea that feels closest to where my sound is right now.

CONTACT & FOLLOW

Name D Jay (Jai Kumar)
Email aktogod@gmail.com
YouTube [@aktogodband](https://www.youtube.com/@aktogodband)
Instagram [@djay28_sings](https://www.instagram.com/djay28_sings)
Facebook [/AktOfGod](https://www.facebook.com/AktOfGod)



FEATURING CREATORS · MUSIC

Finding My Voice: Maaz Ahmad on Hindi Soul, Covers, and Building a Sound of His Own

An emerging singer-composer from Delhi NCR shapes a six-year practice into something quieter, cleaner, and unmistakably his — one acoustic take at a time.

ARTICLE BY EDITORIAL TEAM AT WALLMAG | PUBLISHED IN WALLMAG



Q.01 · ORIGINS

Where did your music journey really begin, and what made you commit to it seriously?

I'm Maaz Ahmad — an emerging singer, composer, and performer based in Delhi NCR, and I've been shaping my sound for over six years now. What started as a genuine love for singing slowly turned into something I wanted to pursue with real discipline, especially once I began training and understanding how much growth comes from consistent practice.

Over time, I trained with the T-Series Stageworks Academy, which helped me take my vocals, pitch control, and performance confidence to a more professional level. I've also had a few milestones that pushed me to keep going — like becoming a finalist on India's Talent Fight Season 2, placing Top 5 in the Sing Dilse Cover Contest, and winning a 92.7 Big FM singing contest.

THE FILE

Based — Delhi NCR, India

Genre — Hindi soul, acoustic

Trained at — T-Series Stageworks Academy

Finalist — India's Talent Fight S2

Top 5 — Sing Dilse Cover Contest

Winner — 92.7 Big FM contest

Musically, I lean into Hindi soul and emotional melodies, and I love performing both originals and acoustic covers — whether it's for my audience online or on stage.

Q.02

What's the first moment you remember when someone reacted strongly to your voice?

I still remember this so clearly — I was in 6th standard, and it was the first time I ever sang in front of my whole school. Before that, I was genuinely shy and had major stage fear, so even stepping up felt like a huge risk for me.

But the moment I started singing, I saw the reactions on people's faces, and something shifted inside me. The applause and the energy in that room hit me in a way I had never felt before. That was the first time I thought, "Yes — this is something I'm made for," and it gave me the courage to keep choosing music, even when it felt scary.

“

That was the first time I thought, "Yes — this is something I'm made for," and it gave me the courage to keep choosing music, even when it felt scary.

— MAAZ AHMAD

Q.03

Since your first releases, what's the one skill you feel you've improved the most?

The biggest improvement for me has been my vocals — especially because I've started taking vocal training and daily practice much more seriously. When I look back at my voice around 2020, I can honestly say it was very different from what it is today.

With time, guidance, and repetition, I've understood how much control and consistency matter — breathwork, clarity, and holding notes cleanly without strain. I'm still learning, but the progress feels real. For me, the simple truth is: more practice makes my vocals work better, and it also builds confidence when I'm performing or recording.

Q.04

When you're balancing engineering and music, what does a "normal" day look like for you?

By education, yes — I'm an engineer. But by profession and by heart, I see myself as a full-time artist and musician. A normal day for me is usually about managing both responsibilities without losing my creative energy.

I try to keep my mind clear for music, even if I have other work happening alongside it. I actually enjoy the balance because it keeps me disciplined, and it reminds me that music isn't just a hobby for me — it's the center of what I want to build long-term.

||

CRAFT · MEMORY · IDENTITY

Q.05

Take us back to your early days — what are we seeing in this photo, and why does it still matter to you?



This photo is from when I was in 6th standard — the time I won my first singing award in my city, Aligarh. It represents the very first public "yes" I got from people, and it's a memory that still gives me confidence.

For me, that moment wasn't just about a prize — it was proof that my voice could connect with an audience. It's also the point where my journey started feeling real, not just something I did privately. Even today, whenever I feel doubt, I remember that early win and the feeling of stepping into my purpose.

Q . 0 6

Which cover visual best represents who you are right now, and what does it say about your identity?

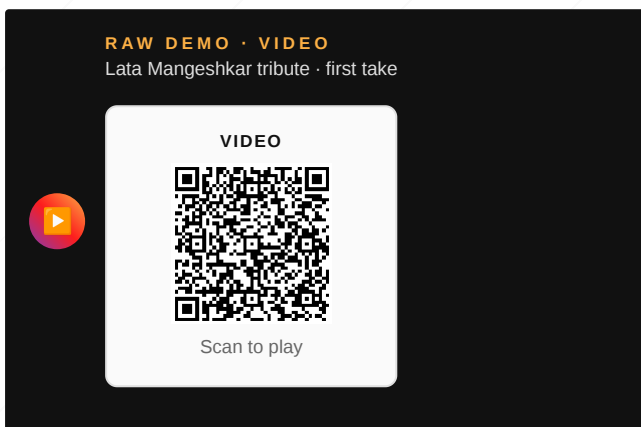


I chose this cover because it connects directly to where I am right now as an artist — this is my latest release, and it feels like an honest snapshot of my current sound. It's also one of my favorite acoustic pieces, originally sung by KK, and I've always been drawn to songs that carry emotion without needing heavy production.

This visual represents the side of me that's rooted in melody and feeling — simple, sincere, and focused on delivering the song in a way that touches people.

Q . 0 7

What are we hearing in this raw demo, and what do you still want to improve before calling it "final"?



This raw demo is based on a song originally sung by Lata Mangeshkar, and honestly, it's one of the toughest songs to sing. The pitch accuracy, the control, and the emotional steadiness required in the delivery are all very demanding. In a first take like this, I'm mainly focused on capturing the soul of the melody, even if everything isn't perfect yet.

Raw clips like these help me hear what's working — and what needs more refinement. Before I'd ever consider it "final," I'd want even cleaner transitions, stronger control in the difficult parts, and a vocal tone that stays consistent all the way through.

Q . 0 8

When you strip everything down to an acoustic take, what emotion comes through more clearly in this clip?



This song is one of my all-time favorites, and in an acoustic version, it honestly hits very different. Without layers or heavy production, the voice has nowhere to hide — and that makes the emotion feel more direct.

It's originally sung by my favorite singer, Arijit Singh, so there's also a personal connection for me when I perform it. I'm not trying to copy — my goal is to carry the feeling in my own tone. In this stripped-down take, the softness and sincerity come out more, and that's the kind of emotional honesty I want people to feel when they listen.

COLLABORATION · STUDIO · VISION

Q . 09

In this hip-hop collaboration clip, who are you working with, and what role did you take on in the track?



This is my original song in collaboration with RFI Studios. The idea was to blend my vocal style with a rap-influenced production space, while still keeping the melody strong. My role in the track is as the singer and performer — focused on delivering the vocal parts with clarity and emotion so they sit confidently alongside the beat.

Collabs like this excite me because they push me to adapt and experiment, without losing the soulful identity that's central to my sound.

Q . 10

When you're in the studio, what does your recording setup look like — and what's one habit that keeps your vocals clean and emotive?



These photos are from a recording session at RFI Studio, where I've been working in a focused environment that helps me perform at my best. Being in a proper studio setup makes a big difference — especially when you're trying to capture small emotional details in the voice.



One habit I always keep in mind while recording is to prioritize clean vocal capture — starting with a good-quality mic and making sure the tone stays clear and controlled. If the input is clean, the emotion translates better too.

For me, "emotive and clean" comes from preparation: warming up properly, staying relaxed between takes, and singing like I'm telling a story — not just hitting notes.

ARTIST Maaz Ahmad

EMAIL ahmadmaaz25@gmail.com

INSTAGRAM @maazahmad2520

We are not over yet.

The next issue is already in motion — richer stories, bolder voices, and a fresh wave of creators stepping into the recognition they deserve. Your work has a stage here. Stay close, stay inspired.

EMAIL

team@wallmag.io

INSTAGRAM

[@wallmag.creators](https://www.instagram.com/wallmag.creators)

WEB

www.wallmag.io

WALLMAG

CANVAS OF THE EVERYDAY