

# CHOLA'S GOT T★ALENT

## Behind The Lens

### *A Picturesque Journey*

Meet Arun RS, the photographer who views the world in a different dimension. Here in Chola, he is spearheading the Digital Innovations team in the Information Technology division. Recently, his photography skills have crossed our eyes, and we decided to sit with him and get to know his unique world behind the lens.

Here's how our interaction played out.

ARUN RS

## Can you tell us what drew you into photography?

Right from a young age, I was fascinated by photography. I suppose my enthusiasm for photography was strongly motivated by my interest in filmmaking which was my first love. Seeing my interest, my mom presented me with a Sony W550 camera phone which was a treasure for me. I believe that was my first phone and started to capture random stuff that caught my eye. And, that's how my love for photography blossomed.



## How would you describe your style of photography?

As I said earlier, I started snapping random stuff and then developed my interest in Macro Photography. Later on, I was hooked on capturing the emotions of people as they go about their daily activities.



## While starting out, what is the best piece of advice you got?

The advice I got during my earlier days is the same one I give to everyone who is starting their photography adventures. In simple words, "Spend Time". There can be days when you have to spend a great deal of time to get your desired shot. Along the way, you will also be presented with a million-dollar shot within an hour of starting your day. The key is, one has to be ready for the worst and that's when you'll embrace the challenges along the way.





## **We were truly awestruck by some of your pictures. Is there any process you follow religiously?**

Yes, I do. The key to capturing satisfying pictures is to step into the shoes of the subject. And for that, I start by stepping out of my shoes, literally. For example, if I'm going to meet a man in a small hut, I just can't visit him, flashing all my fancy shoes and car. I will go barefoot, simply dressed and that's when he will feel a connection with me. Then, I will strike up a conversation with him and once he feels comfortable around me, I will ask for a picture. I'm sure he will be happy to comply.

## **Since you said you travel a lot, are there any interesting people you've met along the way?**

There are lots, to be frank. But I will tell you about two stories that stand out to me. The first one is Andiappan who was a Fisherman. While having a conversation with him, he talked about how with ₹50 per day he runs his family. He also said, "If I waste a single rice, Mother Nature will curse me". After that meeting, I try my best not to waste even a single grain of rice.



There is another boy called Saravanan who was working in a Brick Kiln. To fund his studies, Saravanan was working on the weekends at his grandfather's place. Time spent with him taught me the importance of education and parenting.

Like this, every journey teaches me something. It is a moment of self-reflection and also, an opportunity to learn about their life & livelihood.



# Are there any challenges faced by you during your journeys?

Oh, there are plenty. I always have my spare clothes and camera kit in my car. I stay in my car at night and continue my journeys in daylight. During these times, it is quite tough to find the right amenities. And, I used to lie down in the mud under the scorching sun for hours to get the right shot. As far as challenges are concerned, I got used to it. It's all worth it for that one soul-filling photograph.



**Have you published your photographs anywhere?**

Yes, I do publish a few of my works. I run an Instagram page called "Artographies". Other than that, my works have been featured in the Chennai Express & DT Next newspapers. During the pandemic, I sold some of my pictures online and donated the money to the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Relief Fund.





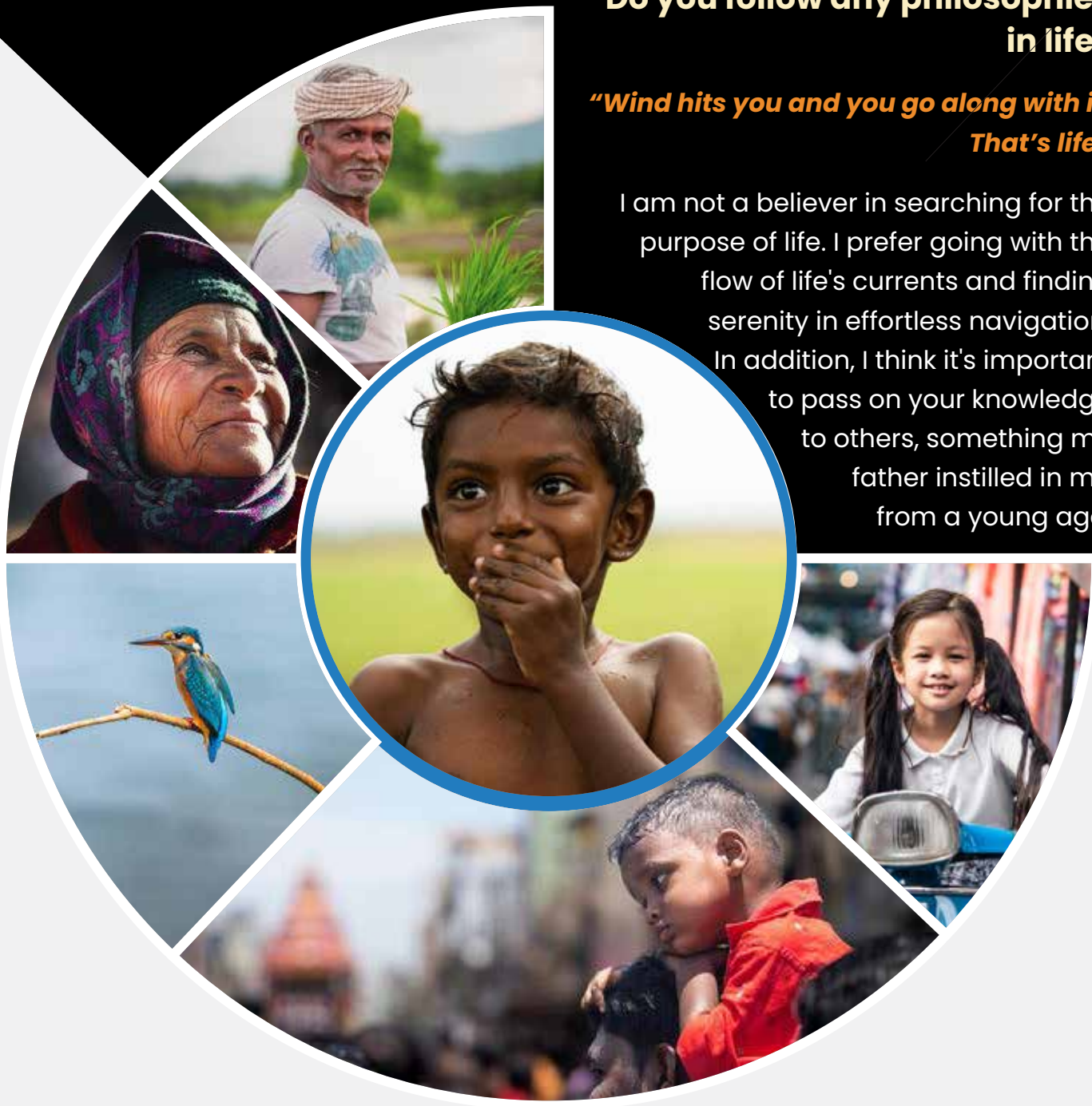
## Apart from photography, what are your other interests?

I had my eyes on cinema for a while. I used to make short films when I was young. I also had opportunities as an Assistant Director. Unfortunately, I couldn't capitalize on it since I was at a different phase in my career at the time. During my free time, I take free photography classes.

## Do you follow any philosophies in life?

*"Wind hits you and you go along with it. That's life"*

I am not a believer in searching for the purpose of life. I prefer going with the flow of life's currents and finding serenity in effortless navigation. In addition, I think it's important to pass on your knowledge to others, something my father instilled in me from a young age.



**As Arun continues his voyage in photography,  
Chola supports him all the way!**