

Through
THE LENS

A Conversation With **Santosh Munish**



CHOLA'S GOT
T★LENT

Volume 11

SANTOSH'S

JOURNEY THROUGH CINEMA, PHOTOGRAPHY & MORE



Meet Santosh Munish, a star both in front of and behind the camera. As an accomplished photographer, he captures breathtaking images of birds, landscapes, and much more. He has also shined on the media stage in terms of modelling, acting, ramp walks, etc. His heroics in the Tamil movie, **'Veeram'** is one of his best works. In his role as **Assistant General Manager of the Marketing & Corporate Communications team**, Santosh is known for his extensive knowledge across various fields, including automobiles and cameras. His unique personality and talents sparked a curiosity in us and we decided to sit with him for a coffee time chat thereby putting our queries to rest.

What drew you into photography?



My journey into photography began during my studies at Loyola College where I did my Visual Communication. I specialized in photography, and it quickly evolved from a subject of study into a true passion. During college, I interned at an ad agency where I was required to travel and photograph products. One memorable assignment took me to villages in southern India where I witnessed women learning to create and sell handicrafts. This experience was pivotal for me, as it taught me about natural and artificial lighting in photography, and allowed me to connect with diverse people and cultures.

HOW DID YOUR

passion
take shape later on?



Have you been part of any exhibitions?

In the early days, we did participate in some exhibitions. While they didn't bring significant financial rewards, they were driven by our love for photography. Back then, photography was a costly hobby, and I aimed to cover my own expenses. Despite the challenges, we gave it our all, and the experience itself was valuable.

After my internship, my friend and I embarked on a wildlife photography adventure. We visited reserves in Masinagudi, Koodalur, and Bandipur. While we didn't encounter the wild cats we hoped for, we were delighted to see elephants, peacocks, and Indian ghouls in their natural habitat. This journey deepened my love for wildlife photography.



Since you said you travelled a lot during your early days, was there any physical stress involved?

Physical stress is something that I was not worried about because I was extremely passionate, young, and full of energy. We would travel overnight by bus, arrive at our destination early in the morning, freshen up, and head straight out to capture the world through our lenses. Those were some of the most enjoyable times of my life.

Around that time, we created our brand called 'Envisage'. Shortly later, my friend chose a different career path in Australia and I got into cinema. Then, photography took a backseat in my life and my kit bag found a small corner of my home cupboard.



After a long break, what rekindled your passion for photography?

Without a doubt, it's my nephew. When he came into our lives, he also brought back in me my innate love for the camera. Capturing his growth and moments became a joyful activity. Later, my son also became a significant part of my photographic journey.

I would also take a moment to thank our HR team for the Advantage Club initiative which greatly helped me to cherish my love for bird photography.

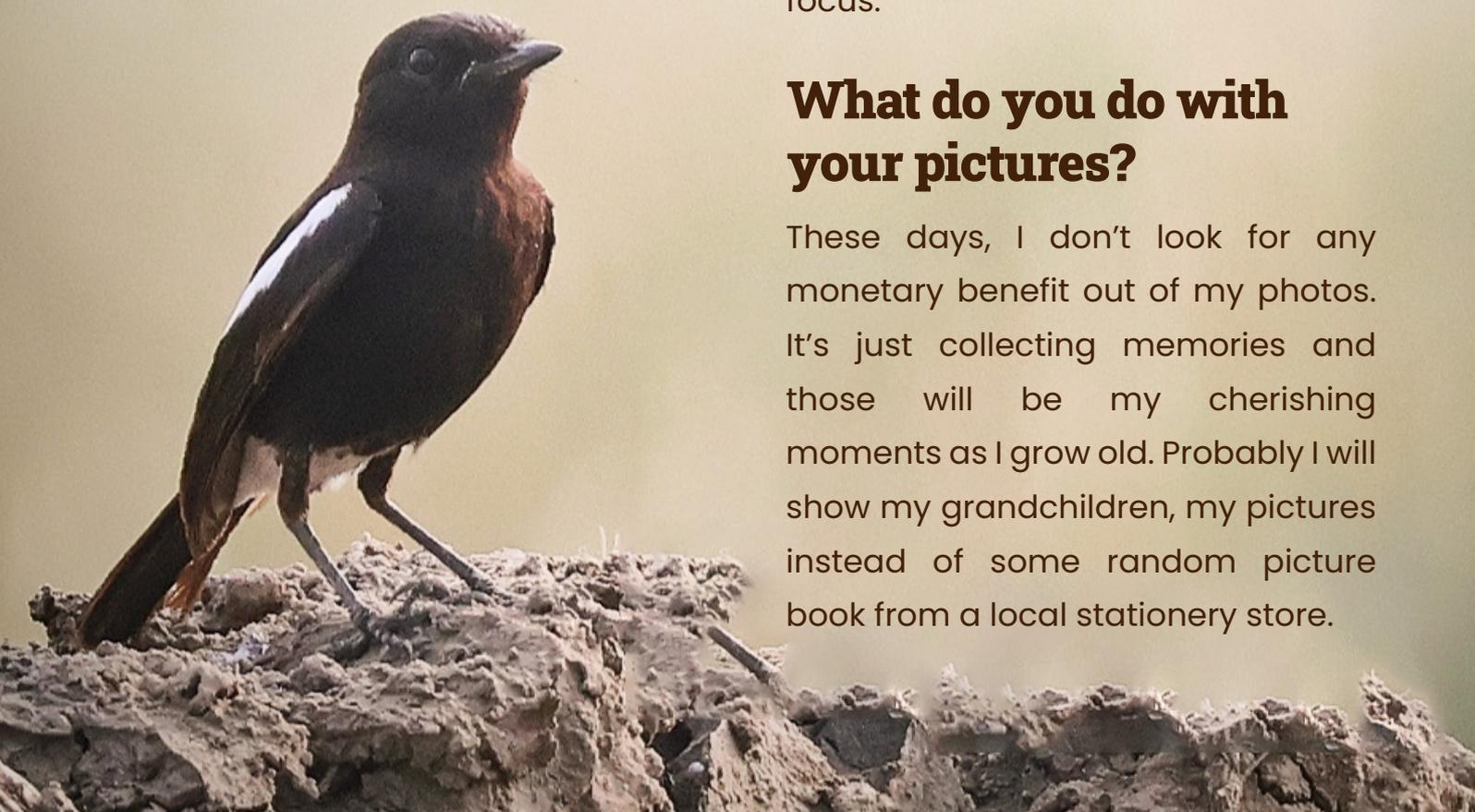
We have been to a few outings, and our Champion Ramanan Sir has been a great influence for me. His experience and wealth of knowledge in birds are extraordinary and his willingness to travel hundreds of kilometres to capture a single bird is something astonishing.

What do you do in your free time?

I believe in, "Better Late Than Never". Even though I started after a long gap, I indulge myself in small photography sessions now & then in the nearby parks and streets. Now the hobby that was out of my system is a part of my everyday life. It became my meditation. Watching birds interact with nature brings me immense joy and heightens my focus.

What do you do with your pictures?

These days, I don't look for any monetary benefit out of my photos. It's just collecting memories and those will be my cherishing moments as I grow old. Probably I will show my grandchildren, my pictures instead of some random picture book from a local stationery store.





Santosh Munnish

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST **ADVICE** YOU GOT?

My mentor, **VI Karthik**, once advised me to visualize the picture before capturing it which made me come up with my brand 'Envisage'. This practice of imagining the final shot has been incredibly helpful in my photography journey.

Are you personally attached to your kit?

I still have my Canon kit which I used back in 2006. It may not be in the best of its condition but I'm sure I will preserve it for years to come. In 2006, I bought the camera along with a kit lens, and for lights, I did some research, bought some lights from local electronic shops, put them together, and came up with a light setup.

Has photography taught you any life lessons?

Photography has taught me the importance of staying physically active. Laziness has gotten into my bloodstream of late. These days while I walk around looking for nice photographs, I start to gasp. Bird photography, in particular, requires patience and adaptability, as you need to position yourself for the best capture while the birds go about their natural behaviours.

What is the most annoying thing during your photography sessions?

Once upon a time, during my college days, me along with my friend were sitting in a local coffee shop and chatting and impulsively we decided to embark on a journey to some remote location to capture some wildlife. We got a bus and set off to the location and upon reaching there, we hired a motorcycle and reached a hilltop. To our disappointment, there were no birds available since it was migratory season.



As
SANTOSH'S

picturesque journey evolves & takes
shape, Chola wishes him all the best
for his future endeavors.



Keep up the good work, Santosh!

**CHOLA IS
PROUD OF YOU!**