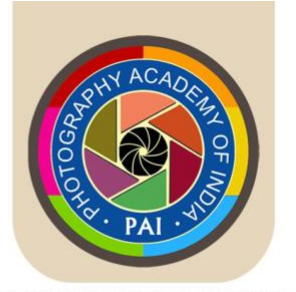


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PRESS NOTE *Vijayawada, 10 September 2026:*

Hearty Congratulations to All the Awardees of the National Photography Contest 2026

On the occasion of the 80th Independence Day celebrations of India, the Photography Academy of India (PAI), in association with the Andhra Pradesh State Creativity & Culture Commission, Government of Andhra Pradesh, and Acharya Nagarjuna University, jointly conducted the National Photography Contest 2026 with the theme: "My India: 80 Years of Democracy and Freedom" The contest received an enthusiastic response from photographers across India, with participants from 16 states submitting a total of 352 photographs by 182 photo artists. This unique national photography initiative was conceived as a meaningful photographic tribute to India, celebrating the country's democratic spirit, unity, culture, heritage, diversity, patriotism and aspirations through the creative vision of photographers from different parts of the nation. The contest was designed with a special purpose beyond conventional photography competitions, encouraging photographers to visually document the spirit of contemporary India.

The photographs were carefully evaluated by a distinguished panel of jury members: Mr. Bomma Reddy S.N. (BSN Reddy) – State Bureau Chief, Andhra Pradesh, Dainik Bhaskar Group of Publications , Dr. Kompalli H.S.S. Sundar, Social Historian, Development Activist & Freelance Journalist , Dr. S. Vijaykumar Reddy, Social Anthropologist & CEO, Poverty Learning Foundation, Hyderabad. The jury selected photographs for a total of 60 awards across four categories.

- Best Image of the Year Awards – 20, Cash Award of ₹5,000 each, along with Gold Medal and Certificate. Spirit of India Excellence Awards – 10 Cash Award of ₹3,000 each and Certificate. Indian Heritage & Patriotism Awards – 20 Cash Award of ₹2,500 each and Certificate. Pride of India Appreciation Awards – 10 Cash Award of ₹2,000 each and Certificate. The total cash awards announced by the Academy amount to ₹2,00,000. The award presentation ceremony will be held on 2 October 2026, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, at the University Auditorium, Nagarjuna nagar, Guntur . The organisers stated that Acharya Nagarjuna University will also encourage the award-winning photographers by honouring the awardees with University Gold Medals, as part of the recognition associated with the salon. Speaking on the occasion of the results announcement, Tamma Srinivasa Reddy FRPS, Chairman, Photography Academy of India and Contest Chairman, congratulated all the awardees and expressed his appreciation to every photographer who participated in the national contest. He said that the response from photographers across India demonstrated the enthusiasm and commitment of the photography community to documenting India's democratic journey, heritage and national spirit.

Mr. Reddy requested all awardees to attend the award presentation ceremony at Acharya Nagarjuna University and personally receive their awards. Please find a few award images.

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