



Photography Academy of India (PAI)

in Association with

Andhra Pradesh State Creativity &
Culture Commission, Govt. of A. P.



National Photography Contest 2026

Photo Exhibition & Award Presentation

theme
My India:
**80 years of Democracy
and Freedom**



The Photography Academy of India (PAI), in association with the Andhra Pradesh State Creativity & Culture Commission, Government of Andhra Pradesh, has announced the National Photography Contest 2026 under the theme "My India: 80 Years of Democracy and Freedom." This national initiative aims to create an authentic visual document of India's Independence Day celebrations in 2026. The contest highlights the nation's democratic spirit, cultural heritage, diversity, and patriotism through the vision of photographers across the country.

Key Contest Details:

Eligibility: Open to professional photographers, amateurs, photojournalists, students, photography club members, and independent visual storytellers residing in India.

Shooting Window: All photographs must be captured exclusively on **15 August 2026 between 6:00 AM and 6:00 PM.**

Technical Guidelines: Only colour photographs captured on professional cameras are eligible. Mobile camera shots, black-and-white photos, or images taken prior to **15 August 2026** will not be accepted.

Themes & Subjects: Flag hoisting ceremonies, patriotic events, cultural programs, institutional celebrations, police/military parades, village/urban festivities, and scenes reflecting everyday national pride.

Submission Limits & Deadline: Each participant may submit up to two digital JPEG images (minimum file size 4 MB, maximum 6 MB). Submissions must be uploaded on or before 25 August 2026 at <https://paiacademy.com>.

Prizes: Total cash awards of ₹ 2,00,000, alongside gold medals and certificates across sixty award categories. All participants will receive an official full-colour contest catalogue.

The final exhibition of selected photographs and the award presentation ceremony will take place
on 2 October 2026 (Gandhi Jayanti) at Vijayawada.

"We invite photographers, photojournalists, clubs, and enthusiasts nationwide to participate actively and help build a historic photo document of our nation's 80th year of freedom,"

For more detailed guidelines, registration, and image submission, visit <https://paiacademy.com>.

Contact

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