

ODOP-LC Newsletter

21st December, 2014

Volume 1 | Issue 3

ODOP - LC

WISHES ALL MEMBERS

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

A VERY HAPPY 2015.

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Dear Members,

The countdown already has begun and in about ten days, we would be stepping into yet another New Year with newer hopes & beliefs. This would be the third New Year celebration for ODOP as well.

December in Kolkata undoubtedly means festivity in the air. By the time you scroll through the pages of this issue of ODOP Newsletter, the preparation for the Christmas celebration would be on full swing. In about four days time Kolkata would be celebrating Christmas along with the entire world followed by the New Year celebration by the end of this month.

And if that was not enough, the office picnics, trade fairs, art exhibitions and many more events would keep a Kolkatan in the festive mood. That also reminds me to share with all ODOP'ians that the last week of December also brings one of **the oldest painting exhibitions in Kolkata**, organized by the **150 years old Government College of Art & Craft**.

I'm sure; the members would take this opportunity to scan through the various colorful frames of festive Kolkata and capture a few such for their personal collection.

So, what are we waiting for? Gear up and click through the next few weeks until we meet again in January. Till then wishing you all Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

With Regards,

Sutirtha Das

email: sdas.rdas@gmail.com

On behalf of ODOP-LC.



PUSHKAR 2014

by Mriganka Sekhar Halder

<https://www.facebook.com/MrigankaSekharHalder>

The Pushkar Fair is an annual Camel and Livestock fair held in Pushkar, Rajasthan, India. The fair is held around the Pushkar Lake. Also known as **Pushkar Ka Mela**, it is one of the **largest camel fairs in the world**. This Year it was held from 31st October to 6th November. In 2015, the fair would be held from 19th to 25th November. This year our member **Mriganka Sekhar Halder** visited the fair and here are a few clicks from him.

For the complete set of photos please visit:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/mrigankasekharhalder/sets/72157649213291171/>





ODOP-LC Photo-Lovers Day Out - 33 (Calcutta Chapter)

A Walk through Time Magazine's one of The Famous Landmark's of India (Best of Asia), COLLEGE STREET.

Venue: College Street.

Date: 3rd January, 2015 (Saturday).

Time: 1PM.

Meeting Point: Infront of Gate Number 1 of "The Central Metro Station".

Contacts:

Sutirtha Das: 9830643324, Sarasij Dasgupta: 9831192797, Tathagata Das: 9769615131, Rima Bhattacharjee: 9674084899, Ishani Barman: 9831194494.

ODOP-LC Photo-Lovers Day Out - 34 (Calcutta Chapter)

A Walk through KIDDERPORE.

Venue: Kidderpore (Khidirpur)

Date & Time: 26th January, 2015 (Monday), 2pm.

Meeting Point: Infront of the Main Gate of "St Thomas School" on Diamond Harbour Road.

Attractions: Hanging Bridge, Syed Peer Baba Mazar - Hastings, Bhukailash Twin Temple, Raja's old Rajbari, Hastings House, Warren Hasting's residence, Fancy Market, Hanging Place of Maharaja Nandakumar at Hastings, Shadman palace, Nawab Ali Park and many more.

Contacts:

Sutirtha Das: 9830643324, Sarasij Dasgupta: 9831192797, Rima Bhattacharjee: 9674084899, Ishani Barman: 9831194494, Arin Paul: 9836775551.

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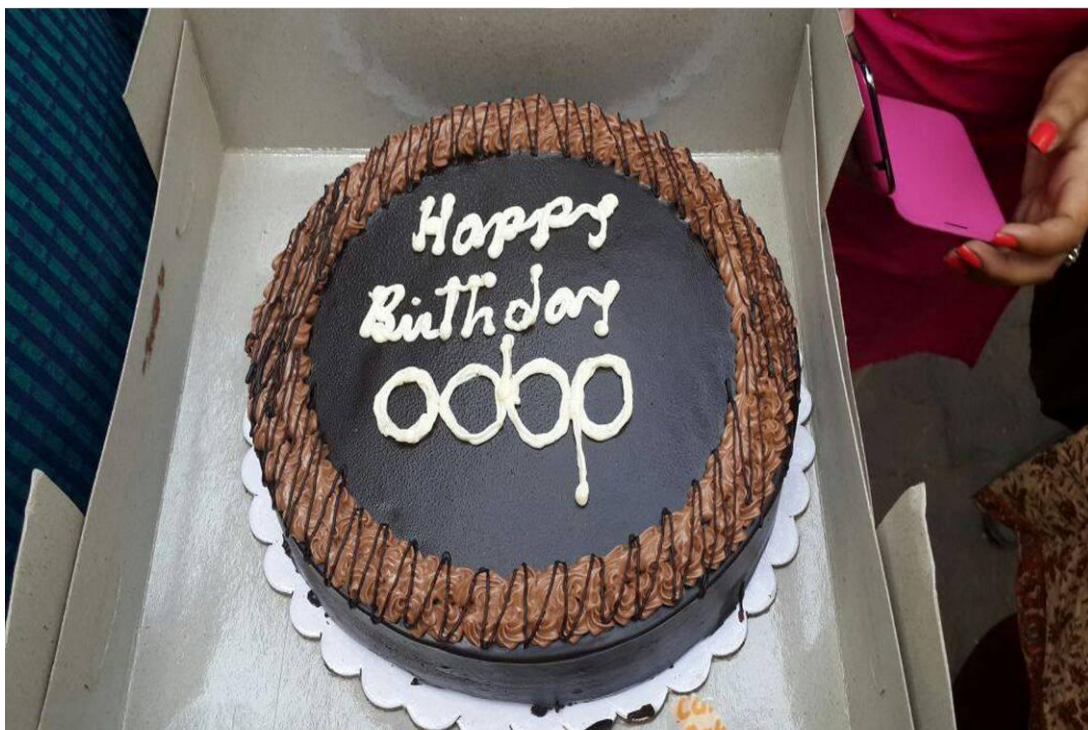
ODOP-LC BIRTHDAY BASH and PW

21st November, 2014.

ODOP-LC turned **Two** on 21st November, 2014 and the members in Calcutta turned up for the Birthday Bash at Rabindra Sarovar.

To View The Entire Set of Photos (**94 Pictures**):

Join <https://www.facebook.com/groups/odopletsclick/> and then click <http://goo.gl/KGLWqk>



A DAY IN AUTUMN 2014

In his **"Ode To Autumn," John Keats** associates the fall season with "gathering swallows twittering in the sky, "little would he have expected swallows in the 21st century to be twittering on the internet in all seasons. Though photography too glues us to the computer screen, it takes us into the world to experience it poetically. **William Wordsworth** considers poetry **"emotion recollected in tranquility, and for Chinese aestheticians the measure of a good poem is how well it achieves what they called emotion-scene fusion. Thus, in many definitions of poetry and poetic speech, the art of photography is deeply implicated. My interest in taking photos and in the process of transfer from camera to computer, selection, deletion, editing, and so forth is to experience "emotion recollected in tranquility."** It is not any live-wire emotion, but the satisfaction (even happiness) that comes from observing nature, streets, buildings, times of day, and seasons. **Susan Sontag** says **"to take a photograph is to participate in another person's (or thing's) mortality, vulnerability, and mutability."** That may be why some of ODOP's core photographers show the vulnerability of old people, street kids, tea sellers, and others. Seasons, when they begin, end, and reach their prime, are of particular interest to me, for things in nature are also ephemeral, vulnerable and mutable. As winter approaches, autumn leaves are wiped cleaned by rain, pressed down so hard by snows and freezes that yard cleaning in the spring shows them--if at all alive--flattened, blackened like what Gregor Samsa, in **Kafka's "Metamorphosis,"** becomes, because at some point in his mutation from human to insect, he stops eating. Death and resistance to death!

My **photo-walk** of this past Friday took me to **Mansfield Hollow State Park and Lake, Windham County and Tolland County, Connecticut, USA.** It is not a natural lake, but was made by army engineers in 1949 to 52 to reduce flooding in the area. It is now under the administration of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency. Ten or fifteen years ago the park was closed to public, may be for some repair and reconstruction. We are so little in touch with a place not four miles from where we live that we did not know till this past week that it is now, once again, open to public!! It is Friday afternoon and I am there.



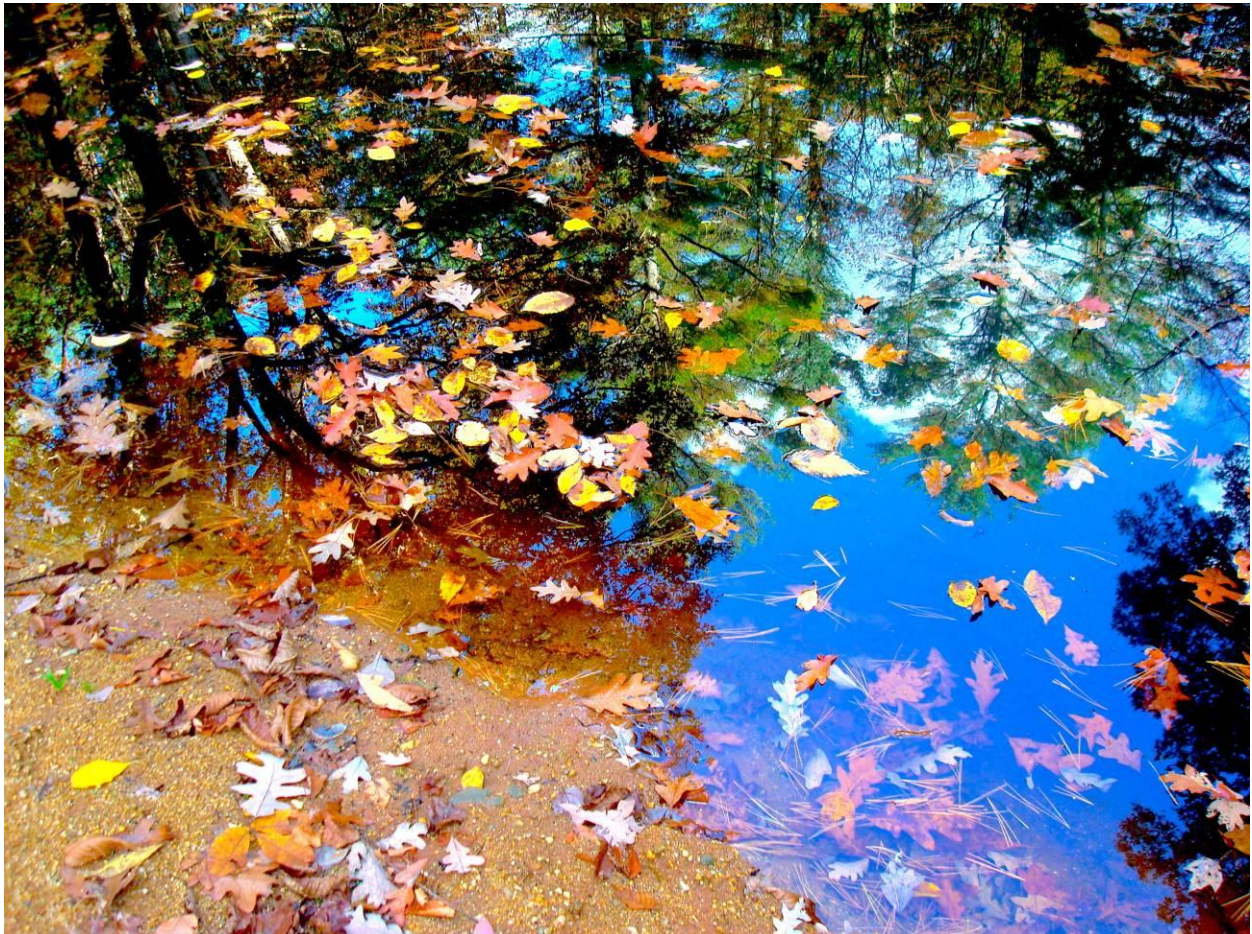
The
Kettle
Hole
Trail

Mansfield
Hollow
Dam



Mansfield
Hollow
Lake

I find that the hiking trail is a mysterious wooded hill with bifurcating paths everywhere, and I am amusedly reminded of Robert Frost's dilemma regarding the road not taken, as well as his euphoric "wood are lovely, dark and deep." In comic contrast, the Kettle trail is, indeed, shaped like a kettle: a domestic object. The direction markers creep up on you in no chronological order, just to say: "hey; you can't get lost. I am 7 and that sign over there might be 14, and not 8. But believe me you still won't be lost." Soon enough I come upon a tiny inlet of the lake that looks like a pond, encircled by pines, birch wood, maple and various other trees. It is a small body of water, not very deep, but the trees catch their reflection in it.



To me it seems like the ingathering of impressions of the outer world that give rise to a fuller consciousness: the *innenwelt* (inner world) and the *umwelt* (environment). The photo is indeed a simple one and cannot match up to that lofty idea, but these were my thoughts. Having completed the kettle-walk over pathways strewn with pine needles and beautiful leaves, I remembered one lone tree near another parking lot that had, weirdly, survived stormy rain and strong winds of last night. It had fully turned yellow and amber, with most of its leaves still intact.



Against the clear blue sky as it stood, reminded me of Chinar trees of Kashmir, the Persian maples with their flamboyant, outrageous autumn beauty.

As I neared the end of the trail with the distance/direction marker 16 showing up dutifully I was met by a huge pile of horse-excrement, “loaves of horseflop” as Guy Davenport might’ve called it. By some miracle I did not step into it, but was too bewildered to click a shot of this bounty in the woods. In his *Ground Beneath Her Feet*, Salman Rushdie says: “A photograph is a moral decision taken in one eighth of a second.” Sadly, I failed to take this moral decision and will forever regret. For all that this is my humble ode to autumn’s mutability.

Lalita Pandit Hogan (20th October, 2014).
Email: lhogan@uwlax.edu

ODOP-LC 32nd PW (Calcutta Chapter)

20th December, 2014.

ODOP-LC 32nd PW was held in B.B.D.Bagh in Calcutta, India.

To View The Entire Set of Photos:

Join <https://www.facebook.com/groups/odopletsclick/> and then click <http://goo.gl/bC5kuq>



REMEMBRANCE

Benu Sen, Legendary Indian Photographer

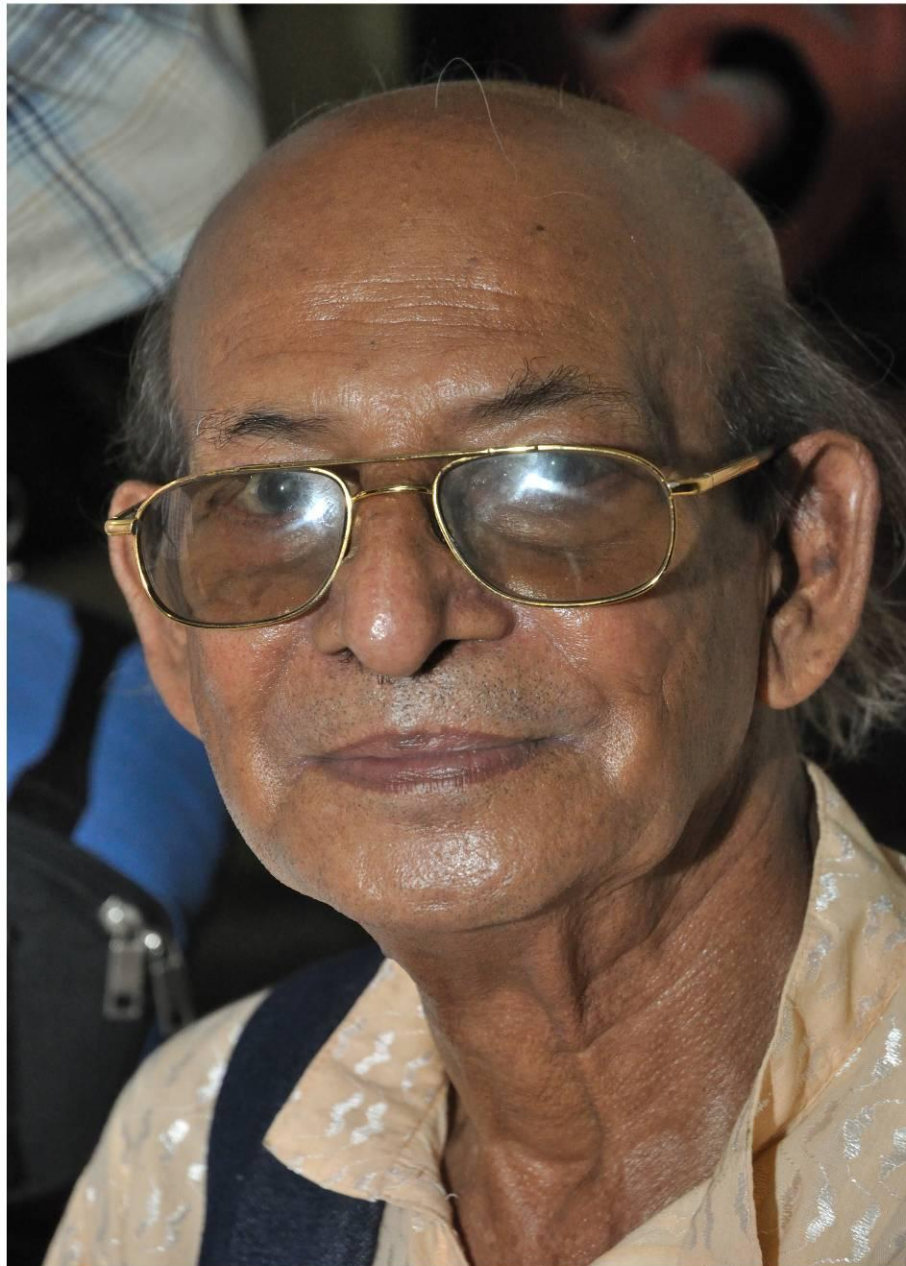


Photo: Biswarup Ganguly / Wikimedia Commons

Benu Sen (26/05/1932 – 17/05/2011) was a Famous Indian Photographer. An Author, A Photographer
Mr. Sen has won many National and International Awards. He was also the President of the
Photographic Association of Dum Dum.

Read More about Him: <http://www.padonline.org.in/benusen.php>

Unakoti, Tripura, India



Unakoti is situated at the Unakoti hill range between the city of Kailasahar and Dharmanagar, Unakoti District, Tripura, North-East India. Kailashahar was the ancient capital of the Tripuri kingdom. Unakoti means “one less a crore in Bengali”. It is a place for **Shiva pilgrimage** and dates back to maybe earlier than **7th century**. There are many **Hindu mythological** stories associated with the **stone carvings**.





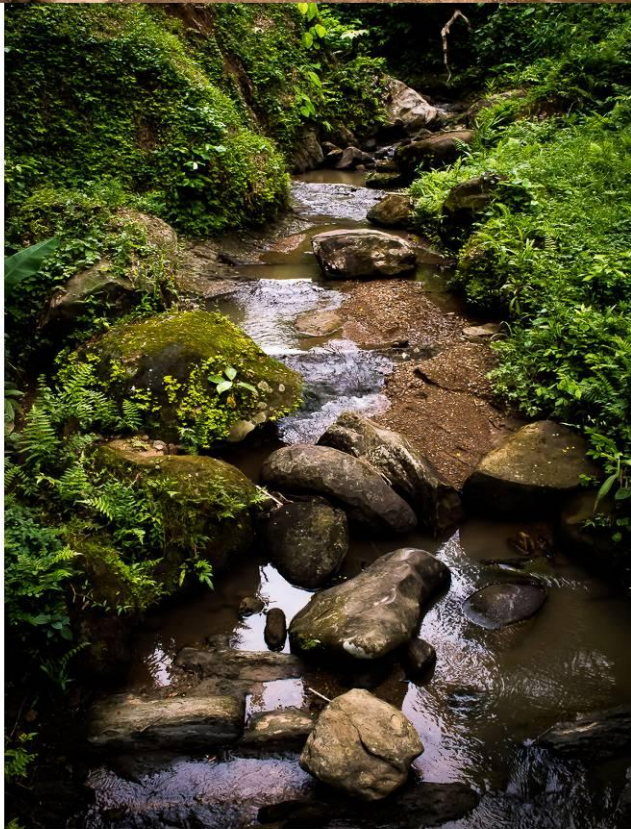
These carvings are located at a beautifully landscaped forest area with green vegetation all around which add the beauty of the carvings. The images found at the Unakoti are two types, namely rock-curved-figures and stone images. Among the rock cut carvings, the central Shiva head and gigantic Ganesha figures deserve special mention.



The central Shiva head known as '**Unakotiswara Kal Bhairava**' is about 30 feet high including an embroidered head-dress which itself is 10 feet high. On each side of the dress of the central Shiva, there are two full size female figures - one of Durga standing on a lion and another female figure on the other side. In addition three enormous images of **Nandi Bull** are found half buried in the ground.

A waterfall known as '**Sitakunda**' is flowing inside the carvings over the head of central Shiva believed to be a holy waters. There are various other stone as well as rock cut images at Unakoti. Every year a big fair popularly known as '**Ashokashtamai Mela**' is held in the month of **April** which is visited by thousands of pilgrims. The marvelous rock carvings, murals with their primitive beauty, waterfalls are remarkable things here.

Read More: <http://pib.nic.in/feature/feyr2001/fjul2001/f180720012.html>



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ODOP-LC Monthly Contest #2

Theme: SELFIE / GROUPFIE

Last Date of Submission: 15th January, 2015

Rules:

- 1.) E-mail only ONE photograph.
- 2.) No Watermarks, entries with watermarks shall be disqualified.
- 3.) Caption is a must and should describe the photo.
- 4.) High Dynamic Range (HDR) Photographs are NOT Acceptable.
- 5.) The photograph must not contain obscene, provocative, defamatory, sexually explicit, or otherwise objectionable or inappropriate content.
- 6.) Anyone can participate in the contest except ODOP-LC committee members.

Mail to odopletsclick@gmail.com with the subject "Contest #2".

Exciting Prizes to be won.

ODOP-LC "Name the Newsletter" Contest

We invite all members to get creative and name our newsletter. For example "Vision - the ODOP-LC Newsletter".

Last Date of Submission: 15th January, 2015

Rules:

- 1.) E-mail only **THREE** name suggestions.

Mail to odopletsclick@gmail.com with the subject "Name Contest".

Exciting Prizes to be won.



PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS

Some tips to make your pictures better during winter photography trips.

- Every time you are can't be lucky as others and sometime you are more lucky than others, so never complains about weather and respect it.
- Clear Sky, Clouds and sunrise are added advantages to for your photography and use it as soon as you find right moment.
- Clear sky and moon creates dramatic change in night photo-shot, grab that opportunity.
- Study the place before you start shooting.
- Froze lakes, semi frozen rivers and waterfalls are amazing gift of harsh winter and grab that opportunity.
- Shooting under snowfall is not so easy and mostly you see only white around, but take this as opportunity and do handwork you will have great rewards.

Photography Tips

Some tips to make your pictures better during winter photography trips.



PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS

Some tips to make your pictures better during winter photography trips.

- If time and budget permit, try to visit same place again and again, I am sure you will be surprised to see different photography opportunities for same place.
- Winter Street photography is amazing, push yourself hard to go out from cozy tent or room or sleeping bags.
- Don't disappoint your self by seeing others pictures, every moment is different and can't be created again. What all you capturing is unique in its own.
- Apply your mind before buy any expensive equipment, everyone has their now style of photographing objects, for example I love to shot landscape with telephoto lens than extra/ultra wide.



PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS

Some tips to make your pictures better during winter photography trips.

- Keep your camera lenses clean and possible clean equipments everyday once you are done with shooting.
- If possible keep a portable laptop to review your images everyday, that helps if you are doing some mistake. camera LCD is too small to judge right pictures.
- If this is your first trip to such highland and harsh winter, better to go with expert.
- Never try to push locals for anything extra as they are not superman, weather is harsh and tough for everyone.

Photography Tips

Some tips to make your pictures better during winter photography trips.



PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS

Some tips to make your pictures better during winter photography trips.

- Camera setting is not extra ordinary in winter and can be learn easily.
- Snow whiteness is proven to make your camera sensor / meter fool, some adjustment with exposure and white balance make your image wonder.
- ND, GND and CPL or PL filters are good to get details in snow.
- Use tripods during long exposure shots and possible use remote to fire your camera shutters. If you don't have remote, don't worry just set shutter time delay to avoid handshake.
- If you are making time-lapse or long exposure, make sure you cover camera proper so cold does not catch cold on equipments and damage.
- Some lenses may not autofocus properly in subzero temperature, use manual focus system.

Photography In Winter – Paint in ICE

Clicking wonderful highland during winter is a dream for any photographer and it's a tricky delight too. Winter landscapes are different during winter months when you compare same place with summer months. Same clouds, same sun, same place looks totally different during winter months and it gives feeling of fairy tales and you start believing that you are in wonderland for sure.

Hands up : Capturing winter fairy tales and wonderland is not so easy. Extreme cold weather, high altitude end up with bad dreams sometime if you are not prepared well. Extreme cold weather conditions are really not friendly for your camera equipments and yourself as well. This is not complete guidebook for winter photography but you can definitely use this as reference point for your winter trips in highland. This reference note I have created based on my decade travel & photographing ladakh & highland during winter months.

Read More: <http://www.slideshare.net/ManishLakhani1/photography-in-winter-paint-in-ice>



PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS

Some tips to make your pictures better during winter photography trips.

- For night and star trails photography a little knowledge of astrology will be helpful.
- For stars trail photography, north or south side is good to get right trails in pictures.
- Galaxy or Milky way is not rocket science to photograph, some study and homework make it easy.
- Add some reference point such as mountains or small house in picture.
- Moon light came be used creatively and understanding of lunar movement can help creating better pictures.

Manish Lakhani

email: manisholiday@gmail.com



A Portrait of Actress Sri Devi

by Tathagata Das



© Nilangraphy 2014

© Nilangraphy 2014

A Portrait of Actress Sudipta Chakraborty

by Nilanian Datta

EK-TARA

One of the most beautiful places of Santiniketan (West Bengal, India) is Sonajhuri! At Sonajhuri you can enjoy the lost charm of Shantiniketan with the winding village roads, untouched forests, Adivasi Villages, the Kopai River and the Khoai region. Sonajhuri is situated very near to the northern side of Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan. Those who do not like the crowded Visva Bharati area but want the peaceful Shantiniketan then Sonajhuri should be the choice. The area is between the Shyambati Canal and the Sonajhuri jungle. With plenty of greenery along with Santhali settlements, and the famous Khoai region (canyon created by water and wind erosion) this is an idle place to look out for peace that you otherwise miss in the busy city life.



Sonajhuri is well known for its “Baul Mela”. Every Saturday afternoon you can enjoy the folk songs and the peaceful environment here at sonajhuri. People who love folk songs this is the appropriate place for them! And maybe this is probably the cleanest forest area on earth. You can even let your kids stroll around safely. The Khowai region – canyons created by wind and water is worth experiencing here. The hanging trees and the view of the roots at the edges of these rifts within the forest area will make you fall in love with the region. **Not only for Indians this place is also a wonder for foreigners.**



How to reach Sonajhuri: Sonajhuri is very well connected by road and is some 165 km from Kolkata and 40 km from Siuri in Birbhum. You can easily hire a private car or avail buses that ply on this route. You can also reach Sonajhuri via train services. The nearest railway stations from this village are Bolpur and Prantik.



You can take Auto Rickshaws as well as manual rickshaws to reach Sonajhuri from the station. If you are travelling by car from Kolkata, the best way to reach Sonajhuri is to take the Durgapur Expressway and reach Nawabhaat, just after crossing the Bardhaman Bypass. Take the road towards Ghuskara keeping the 108 Shiv Mandir to your right to reach Sonajhuri via Bolpur Railway Station.





Best time to visit Sonajhuri: You can visit Sonajhuri during any time of the year. But if you want to attend the Basanta Utsav and Poush Mela at Shantineketan, then you must visit Sonajhuri during the months of March and December respectively. Poush Mela is from 7th Poush to 10th Poush (according to Bengali Calendar) and Basanta Utsav is held on the day of Holi. However, please remember that the Sonajhuri Haat is open only on Saturdays from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Also, take note that Vishwa Bharati stays half-closed on Tuesdays and full closed on Wednesdays. Basically this place is a little archive of indian local art and culture. If you love photography this place will surprize you as well. So if you are planning to stopover bolpur you should visit this place too.



Sayantani Basu

email: sayantani.basu1@gmail.com



‘Arin Paul Productions’ in association with **Shantanu Ghosh’s**
‘**Melancholy Productions**’ present ‘Et Tu Brute..?’ (Short Film).

Releasing Online 15th March, 2015.

Watch The Trailer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GntVU9aIEnA&feature=youtu.be>



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The Fourth Issue is to be released on 21st January, 2015. It shall have Photography News, Write-up's, Photo-Stories and lots more. Stay Tuned.

ODOP-LC Committee: (in alphabetical order) Arin Paul, Ishani Barman, Rima Bhattacharjee, Sarasij Dasgupta, Late Shantanu Ghosh, Shubhadro Das, Sutirtha Das, Tathagata Das.

ODOP-LC Newsletter Editor: Arin Paul.

**CONTEST #1 (Theme: Black & White) WINNERS
TO BE ANNOUNCED IN THE NEXT ISSUE.**



ODOP-LC BLOG: <http://odopletsclick.blogspot.in/>

Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/odopletsclick/>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/OneDayOnePhoto.LetsClick>

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