

## Myriad colours of mystic India

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In what could be seen as women's perspective into the world around us through their own eyes, Hungarian Information and Culture Centre (HICC) is hosting an exhibition titled "Eyes That Capture". The exhibition that will be on till May 3, features photographs of four women photographers from Hungary and Czech Republic, all living in Delhi.

The collection on display reflects the travels of the photographers through India, Bhutan and Africa. Though the photographs from Africa broadly capture wildlife, the ones from India and Bhutan are focused on the people, their lifestyle and their religious rituals.

While talking about the most fascinating thing about photography in India, all the photographers agreed it has to be colours.

"Colours, colours and more colours! People wear colours, they paint the buildings with colours and once every year they throw colours on each other. I just can't get enough of it," says Ibolya Jeszenszky, a Hungarian photographer. One of the key themes in her collection is older faces. Sharing her fascination with old people, Ibolya says, "In today's culture, we are told to put a lot of effort into staying young and this somehow devalues the appearance of aged wisdom. Through this collection, I am paying homage to those who have accepted the inevitable and have grown old gracefully."

Though the photographs capture the colours in Indian milieu, there are a few that are equally striking despite the absence of colours. Talking about some of her such work, Borbala Szij says, "Black and white photographs create a specific atmosphere even in such a colourful world as India. Thanks to digital photography techniques, there's a wide selection of tools that can best express the way I see things through the lens."

Katerina Svitilova from Czech Republic is really fascinated by the spiritual life of people in India, which is quite evident in her collection. "Spiritual life is an inseparable part of their (Indian's) lives and is not considered as a strictly private non-public issue as it is in our customs and traditions," she says. Melinda Ruck's collection highlights the religious rituals of Indians. "I have two photographs on display that involve fire rituals, which were taken during an evening puja in Varanasi. They capture a moment of mysticism along with a fascinating play of colours and lights. This was a new experience for me, and I tried to capture it as much as possible," she says.

Sharing her experiences in India and Africa as a female travel photographer, Melinda adds, "Being a female travel photographer poses challenges all over the world. What played an important role, in this context, is that we always travelled in a group."