

Udaipur, Rajasthan, India

Swaraj Jail University

When the whole nation was under Covid19 lockdown, There was photography workshop happening at Udaipur Central Jail with prisoners. The simple purpose was to introduce them photography as tool for expression as well as money earning source when they come out of jail. Swaraj Jail university is already made possible activities like Yoga, Music & computer education inside Jail. This was honest effort to emphasise beauty in “Seer & the seen” approach and hands on experience with DSLR camera





Before entering inside, I tried to keep many thought constructs outside but the fact that people are inside as punishment was frightening indeed. - *Pratik Padhye*
Photographer & film maker

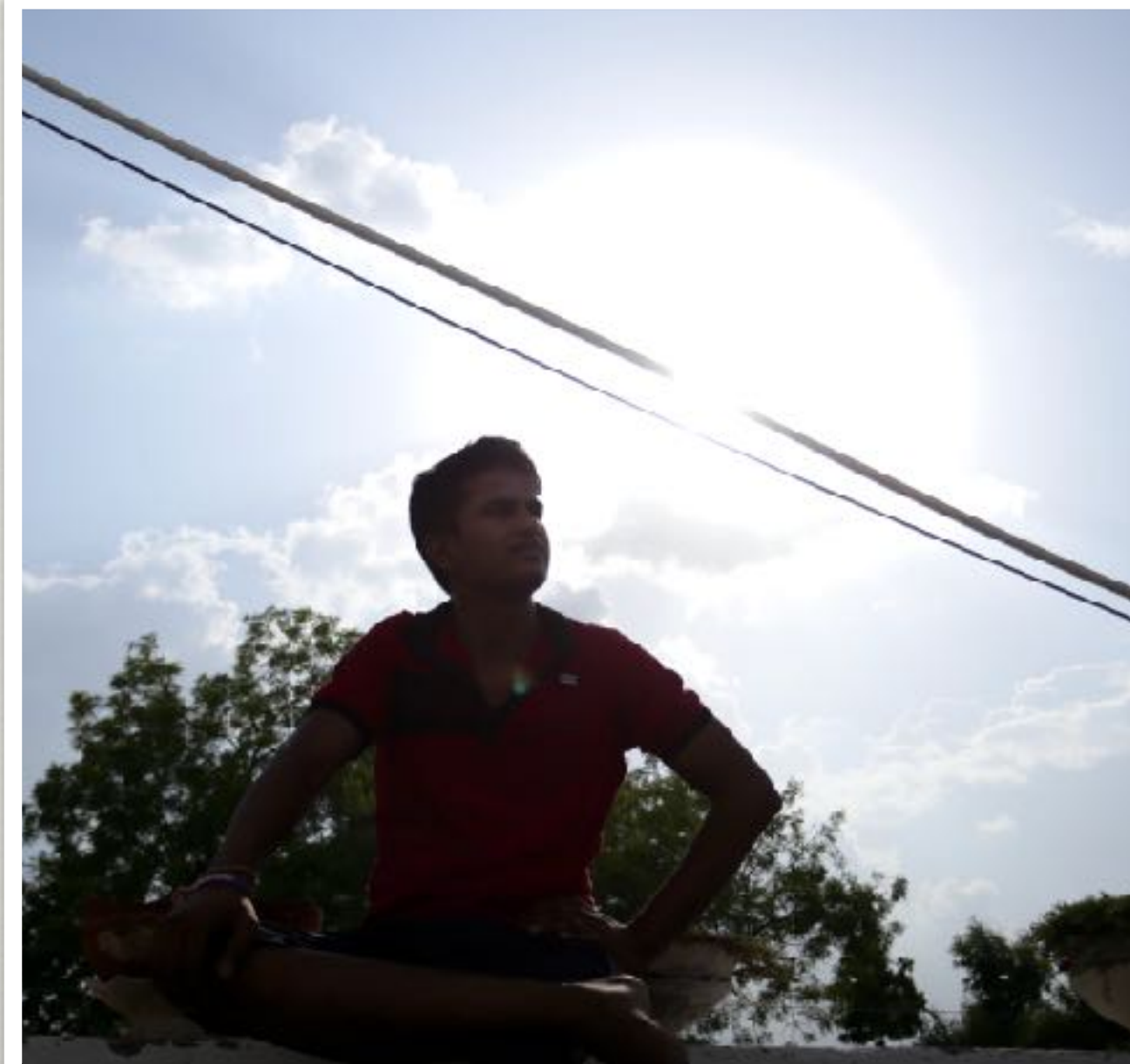
We could manage to gather few students who were interested in photography in their early life and some were there just out of curiosity.







Rule was simple .. be friend with them and the first question
from them was how long you will be coming here
They are always happy when someone comes from
Shikshantar

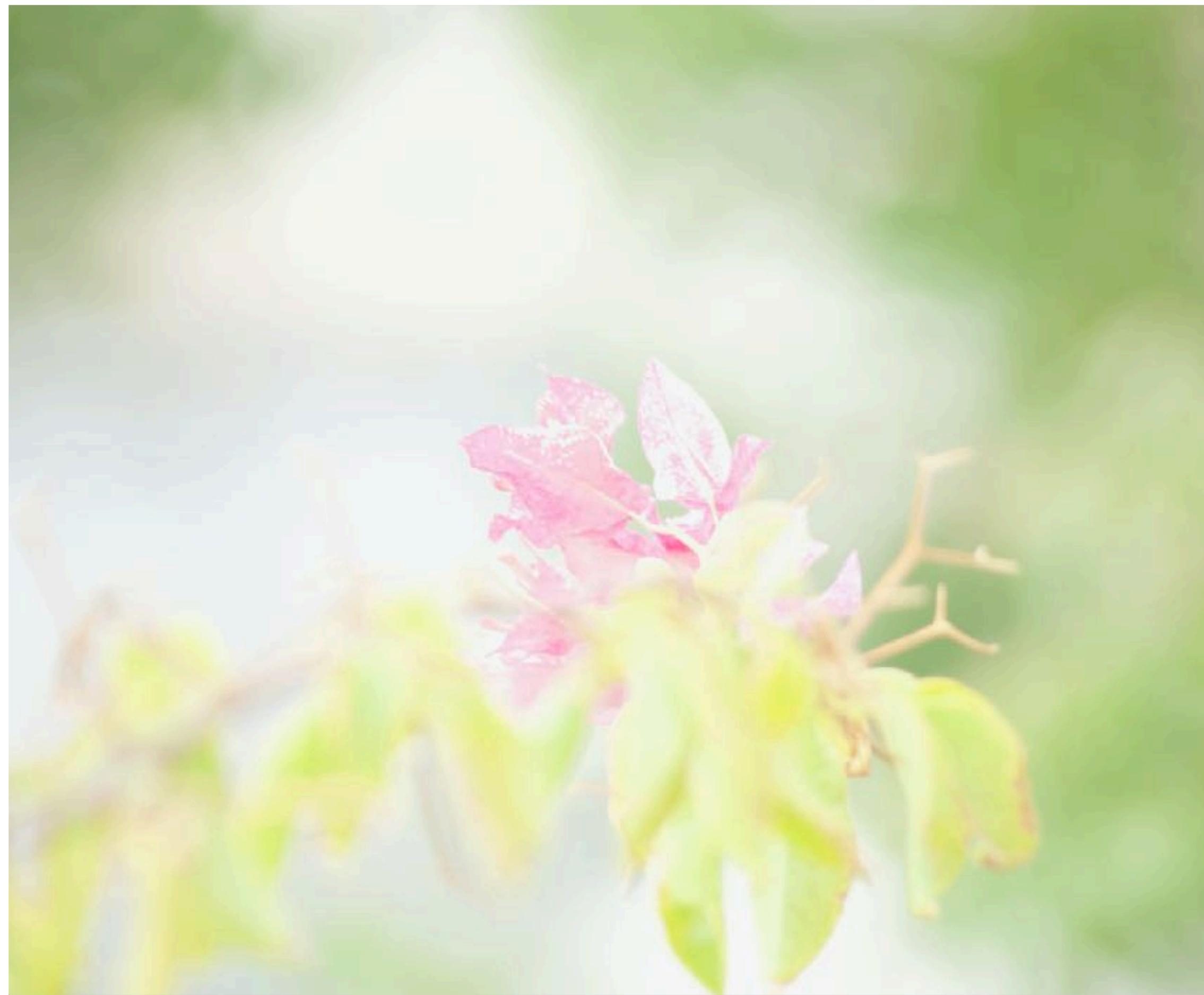


- ❖ Seeing & Focusing
- ❖ Human eyes, Animal eyes & Camera as an eye
- ❖ Memory Card

We had brief activity of closing eyes and remembering visuals down the memory line from past events

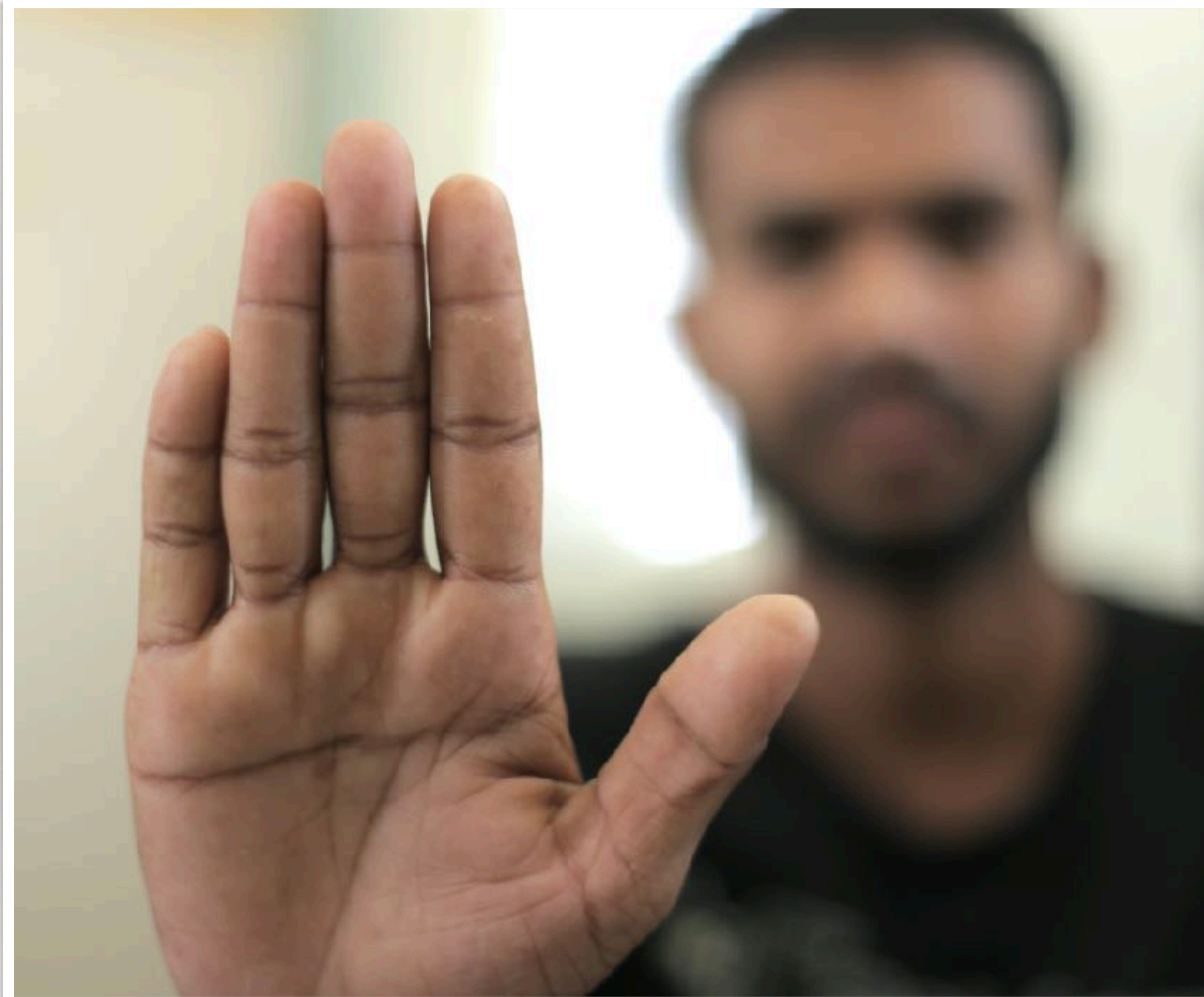
Light

What is exposure
What is over exposed
What is under exposed



We had wonderful conversation on being in limits !

Depth of field



Camera lenses explored while discussing “how do they do it” and “you can too”

Action



Shutter speed learning was most interesting session

Any conversation if too technical was resulting in loss of interest

And handling a DSLR was most interesting part for everyone !

Someone amongst them said “I learn from mistakes ! And that’s why im in prison !”

We slowly moved towards in depth learning

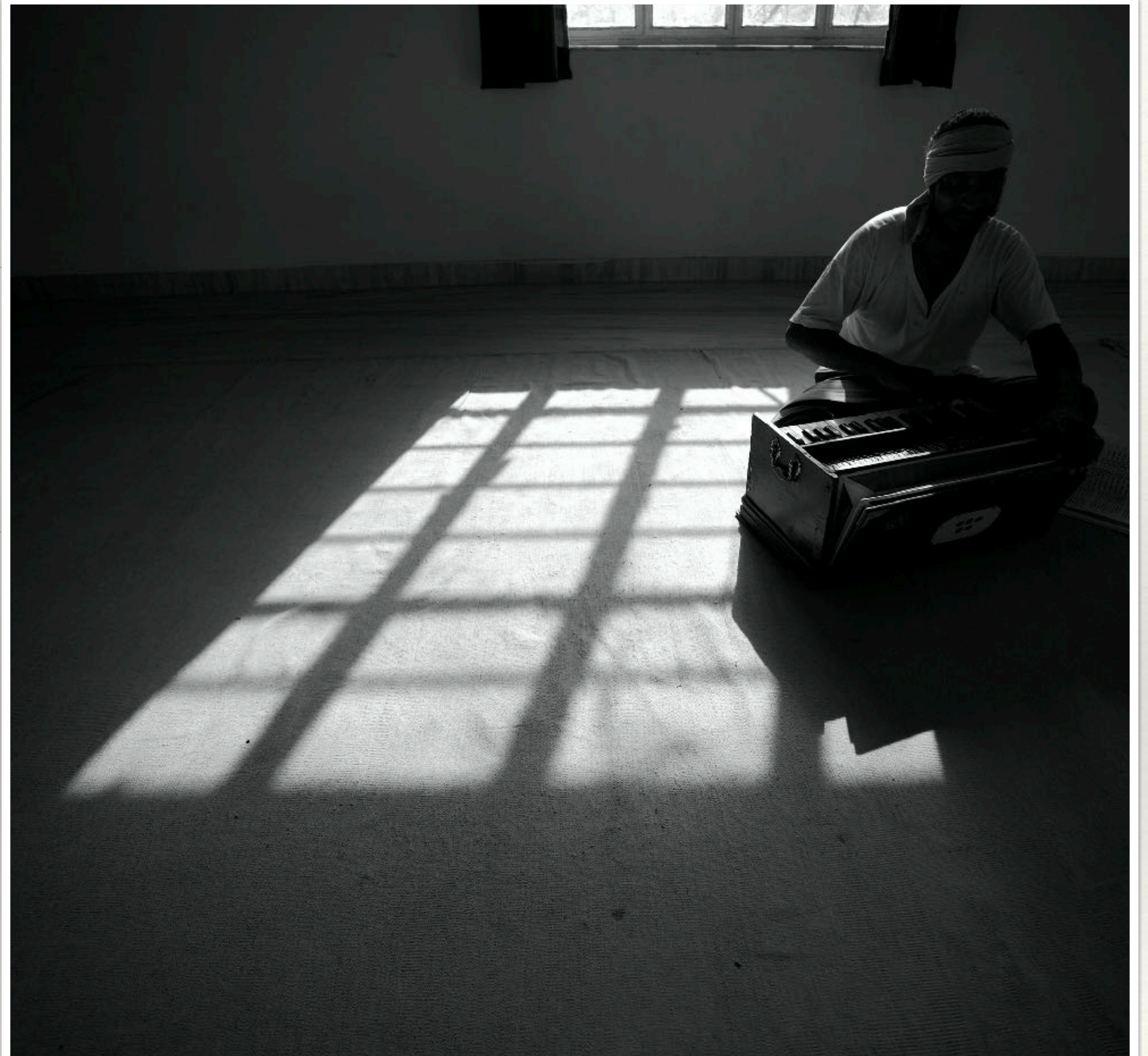
Light

Source & Direction of light

- What is Direct light
- What is Reflected light

What is ISO

We discussed about Sun, moonlight & windows
How Plants grow with sunlight
& even mood changing is experienced due to lights





ISO & Limitations of camera sensor while catching light.



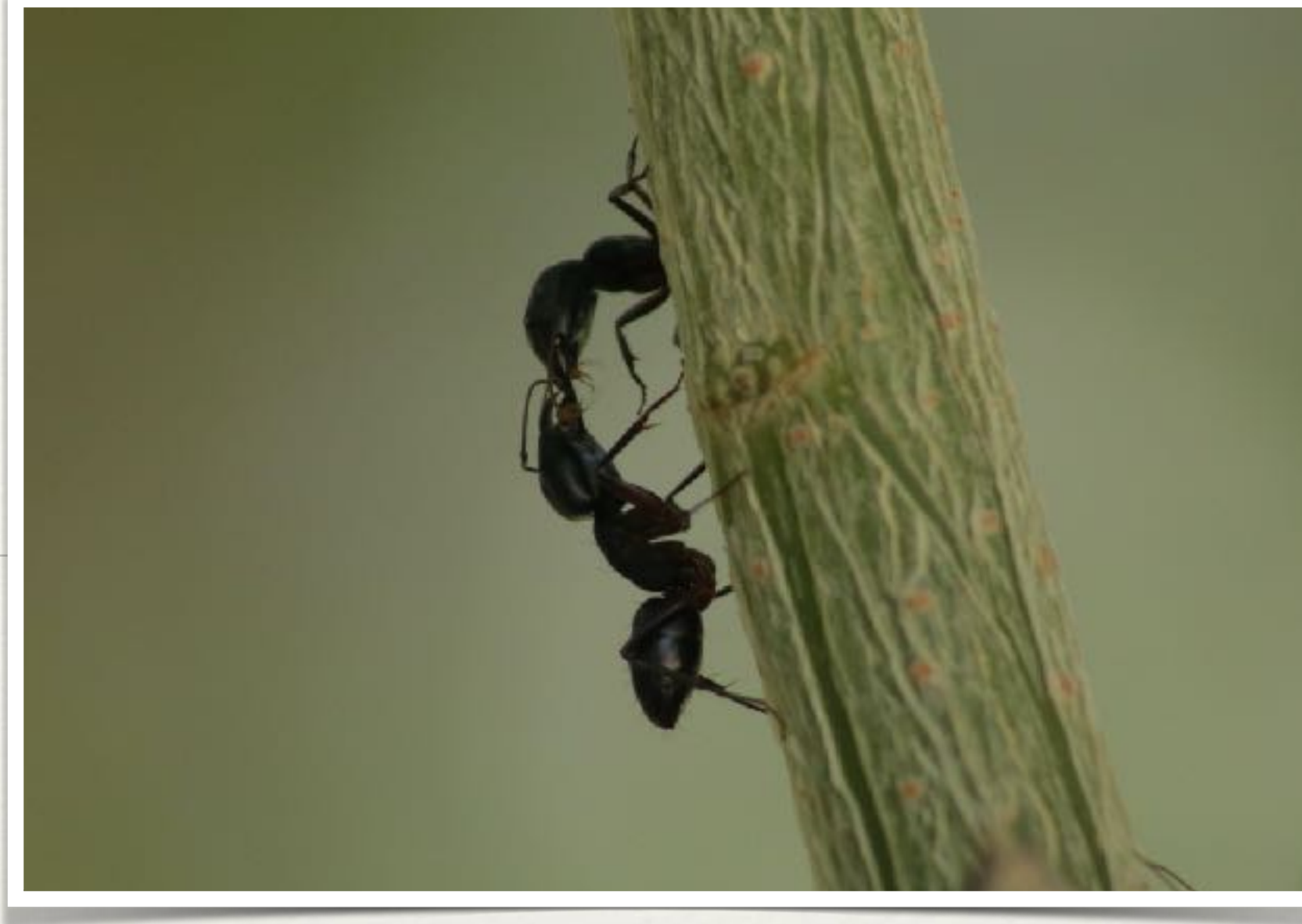
Basics of framing

Composition

Perspective
Rule of thirds
Golden points

Perception of light

Lense

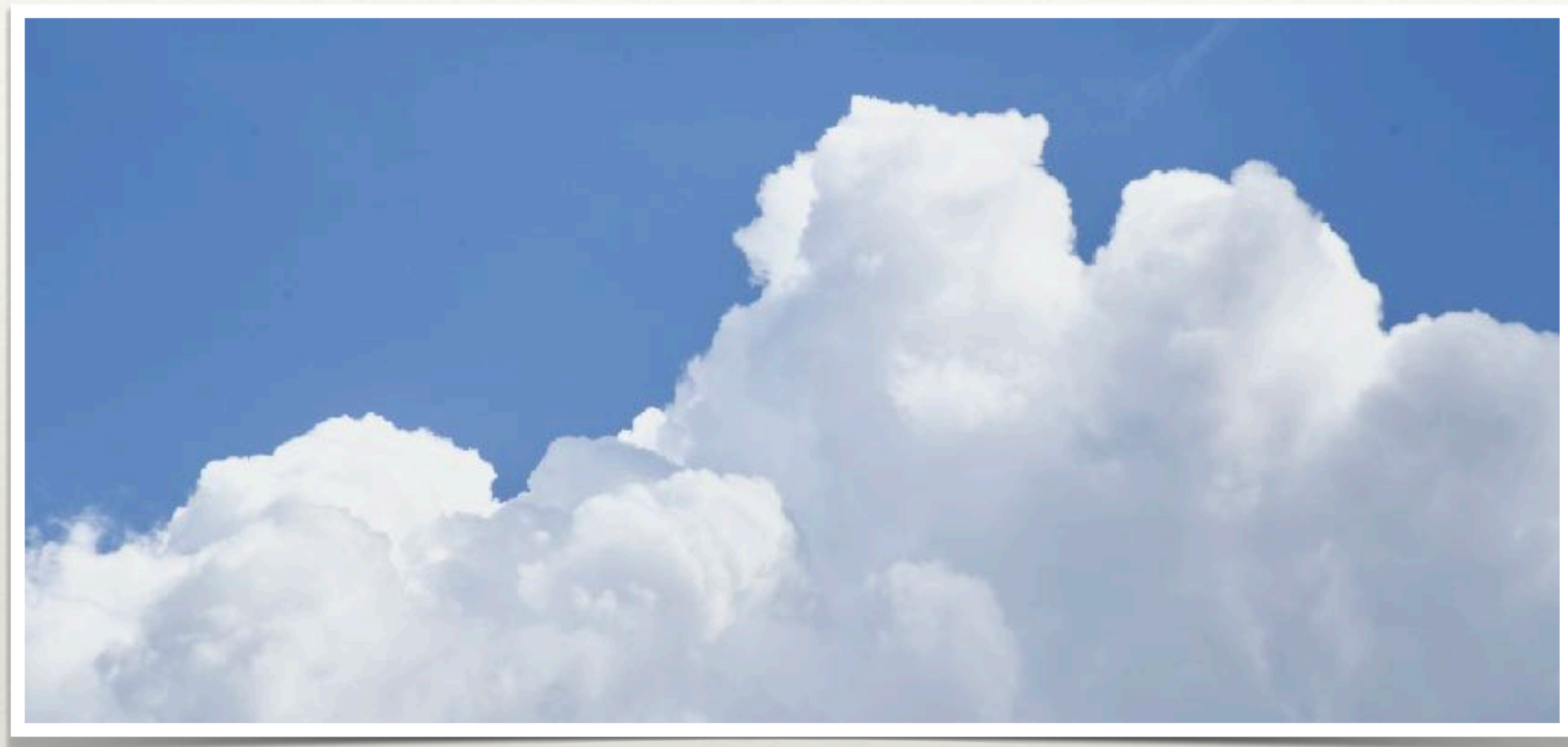


Macro
Zoom
Wide



First use of zoom lens was tried for spying on guards !



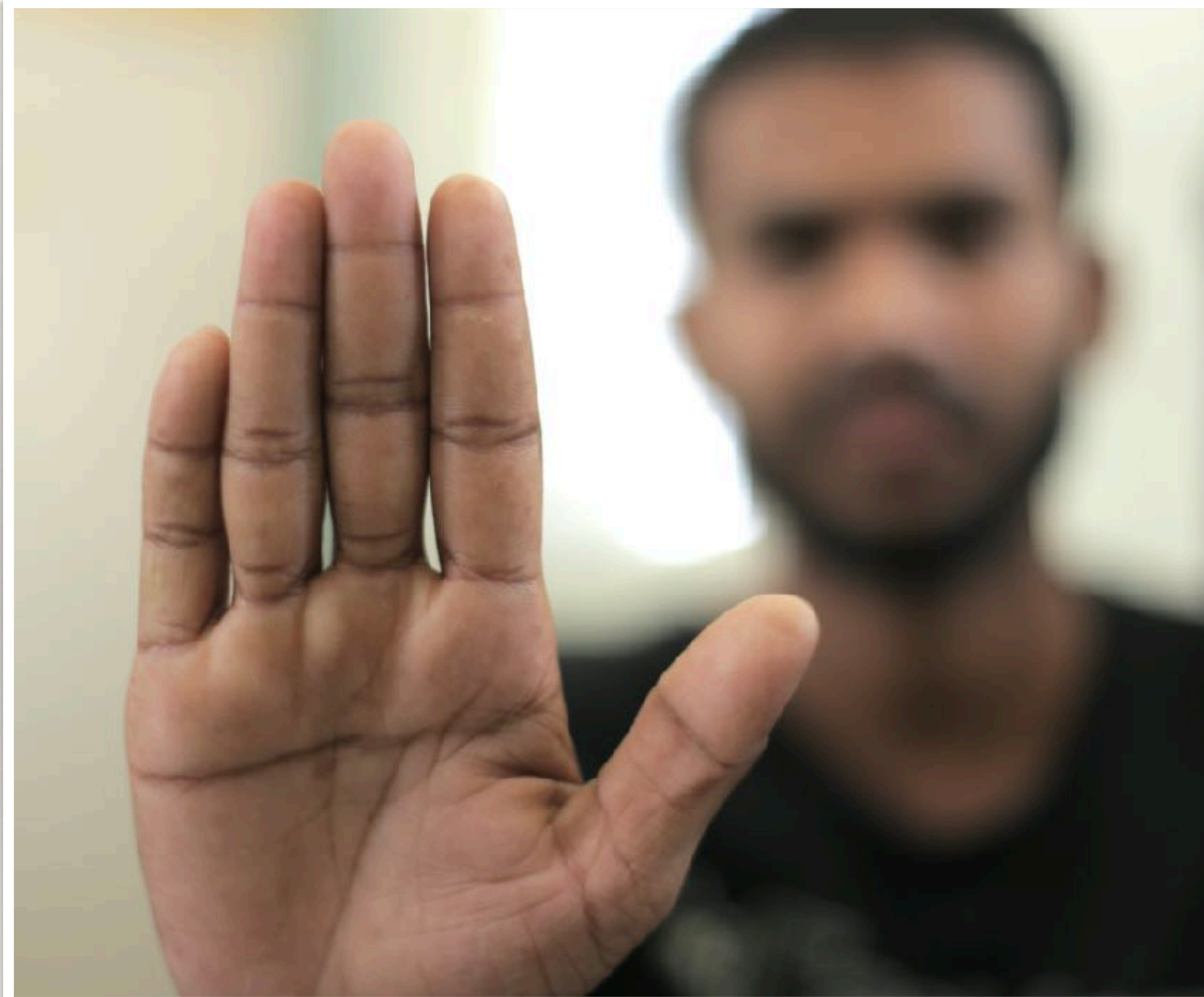


& to see some far away objects out of curiosity

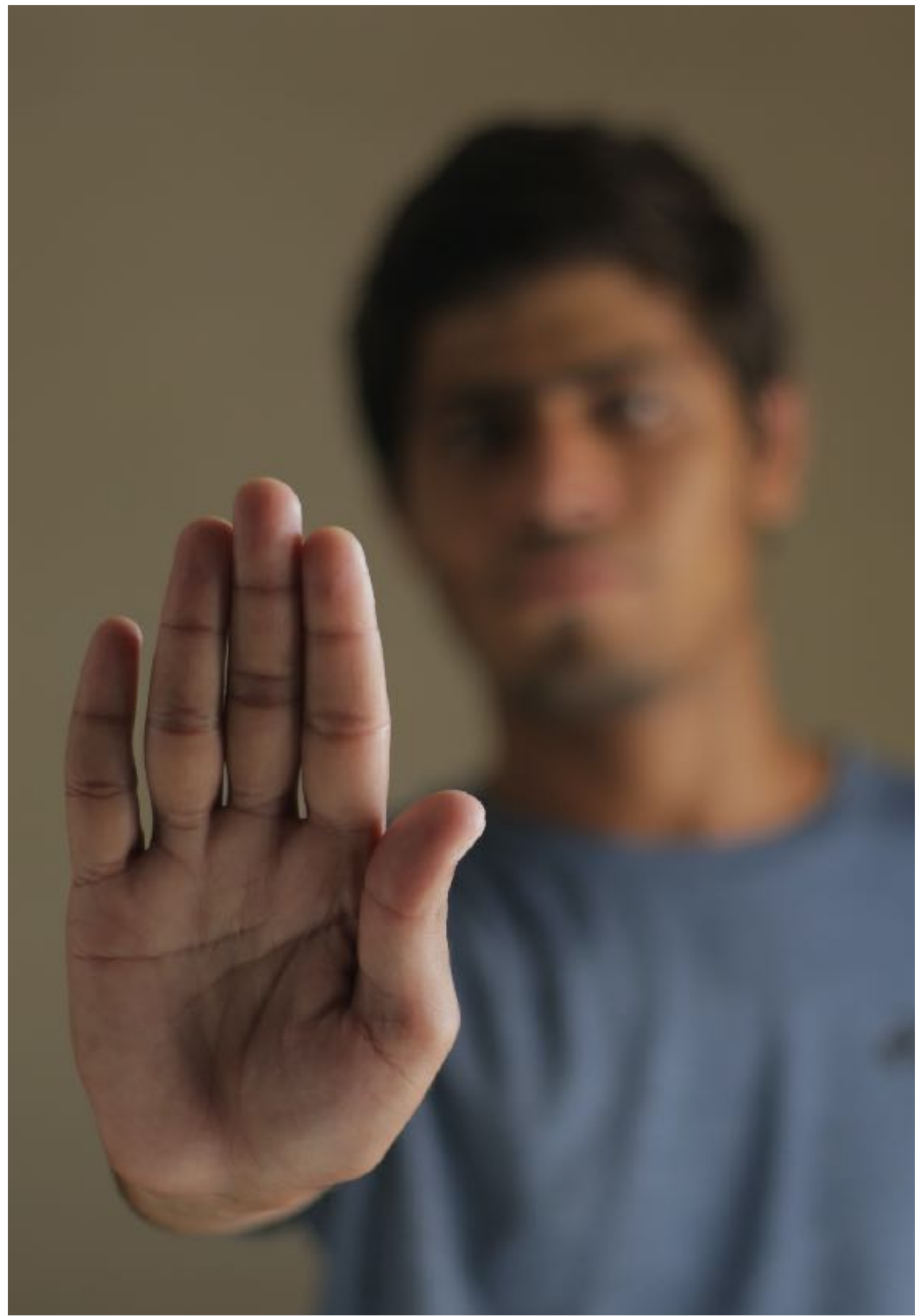


It was fun to handle camera for the first time for most of them

Depth of field - Aperture



Camera lenses explored while discussing "background blur" , "how do they do it" and "you can too"







Canon 50mm lens was favourite of everyone



Action - Shutter speed



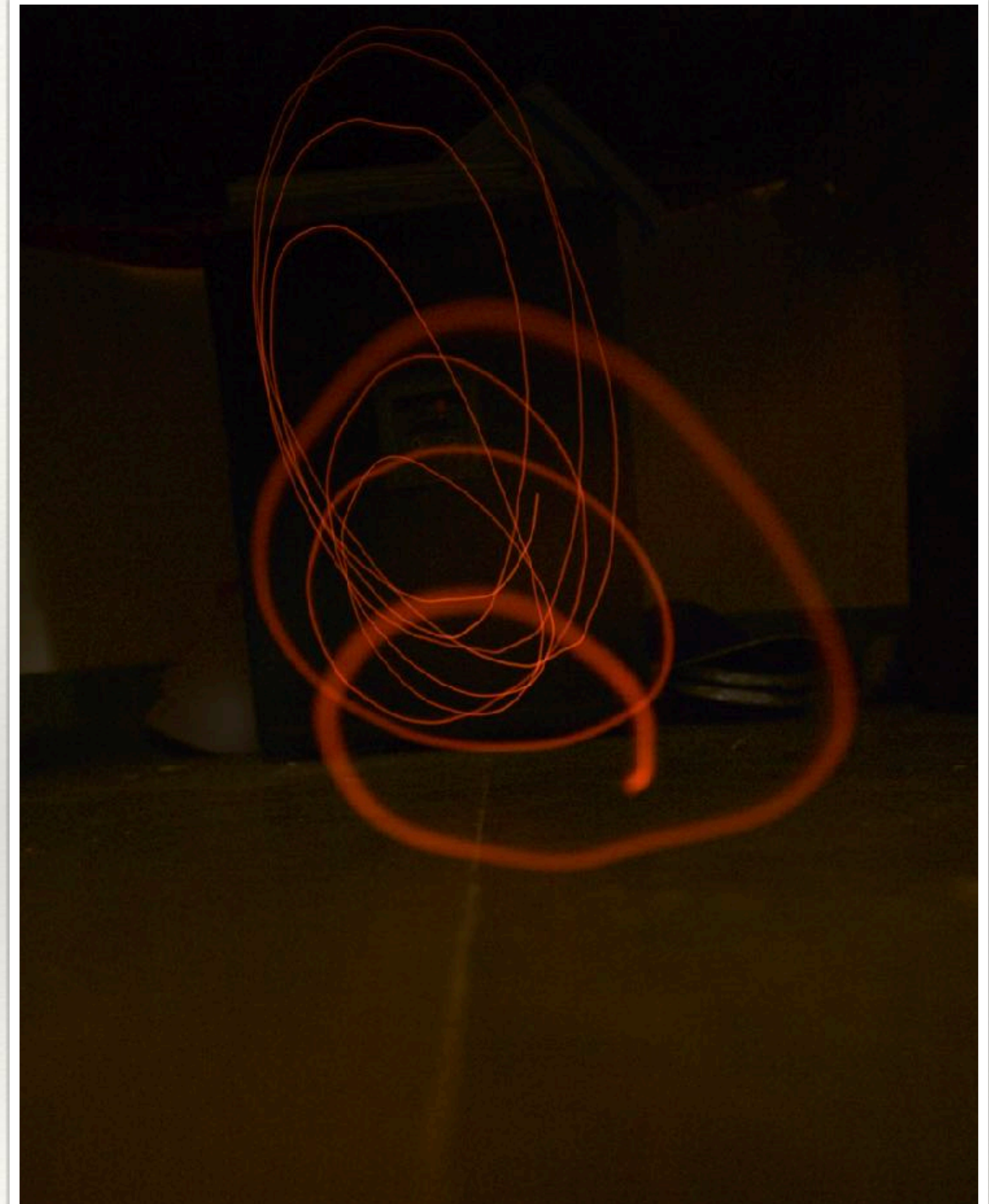
Shutter speed learning was most interesting session





Low light photography

Some one managed to get Fragrance Sticks to try slow shutter speed photography under the table to create dark room conditions.





Slow shutter in good day light & panning !





Everybody was ready to explore all the limits of camera,
we even tried multiple exposure

Photography as Expression & Photography as business

Aim was to setup a Photography studio

- ❖ Product Photography
- ❖ Portraits & modelling (Human)
- ❖ Event Photography
- ❖ Nature & wildlife





Every single time crossing prison gate was experience in itself

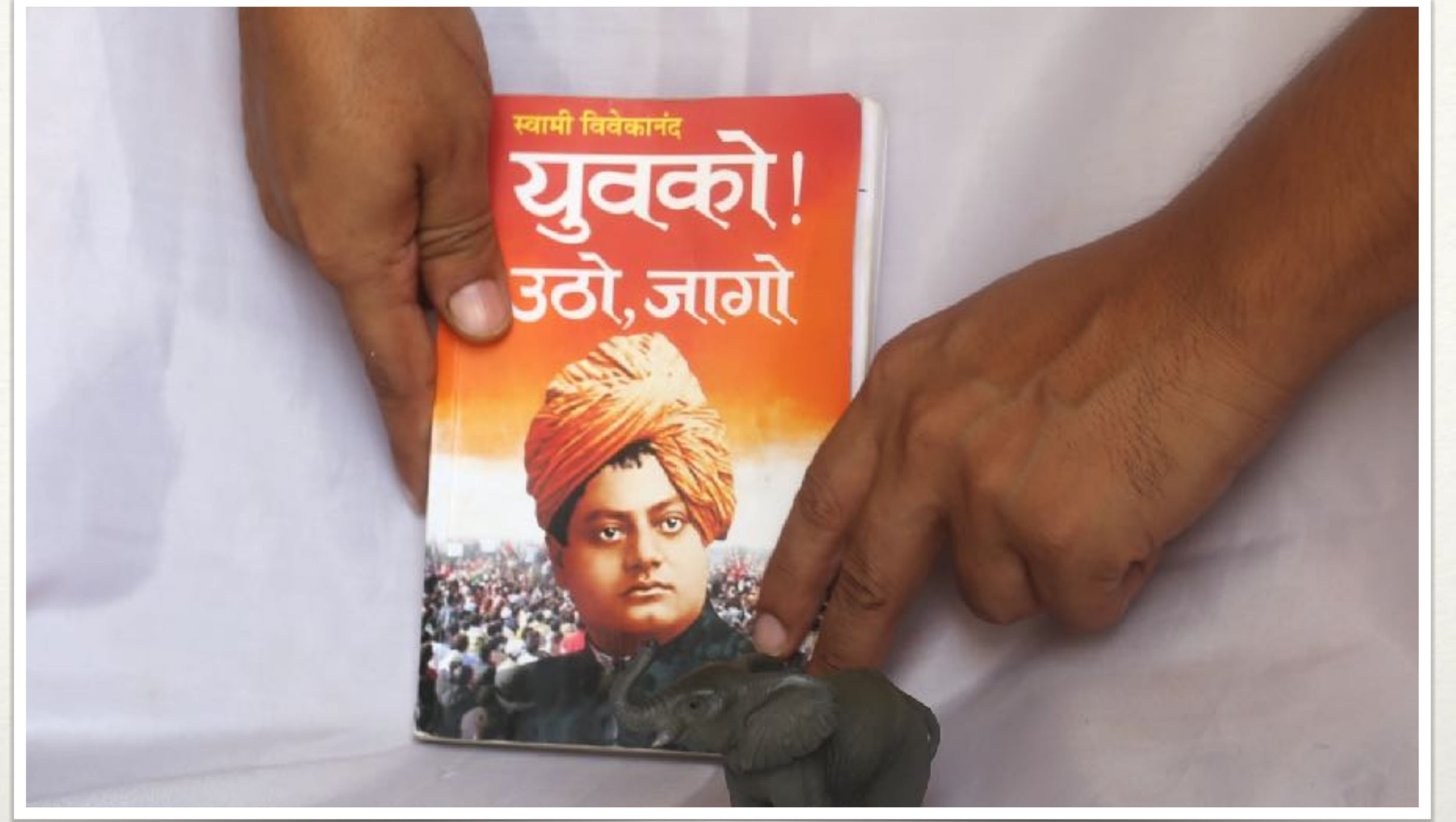
Product Photography

- ❖ Designing & decorating
- ❖ Lighting
- ❖ Composing frame





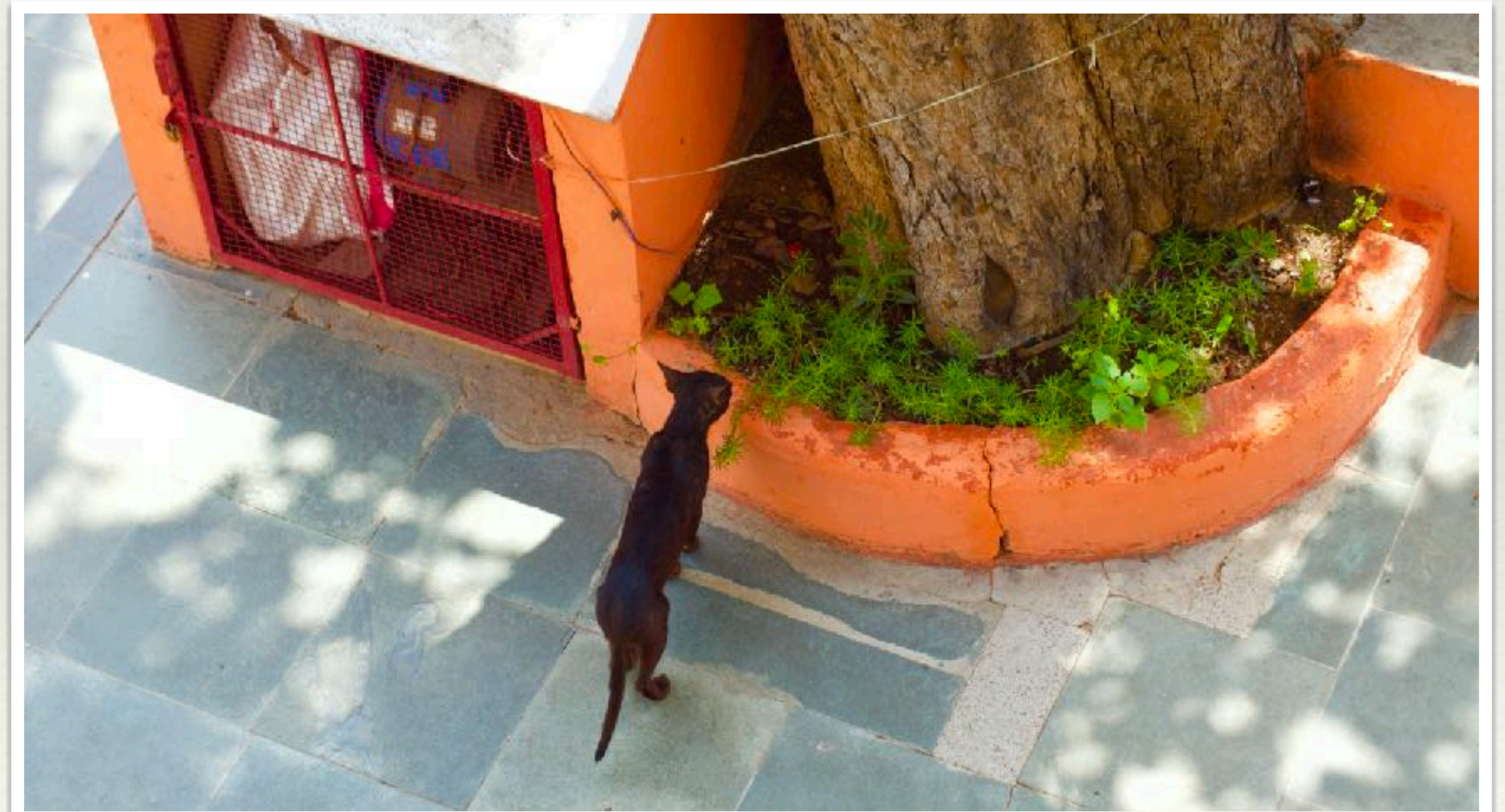
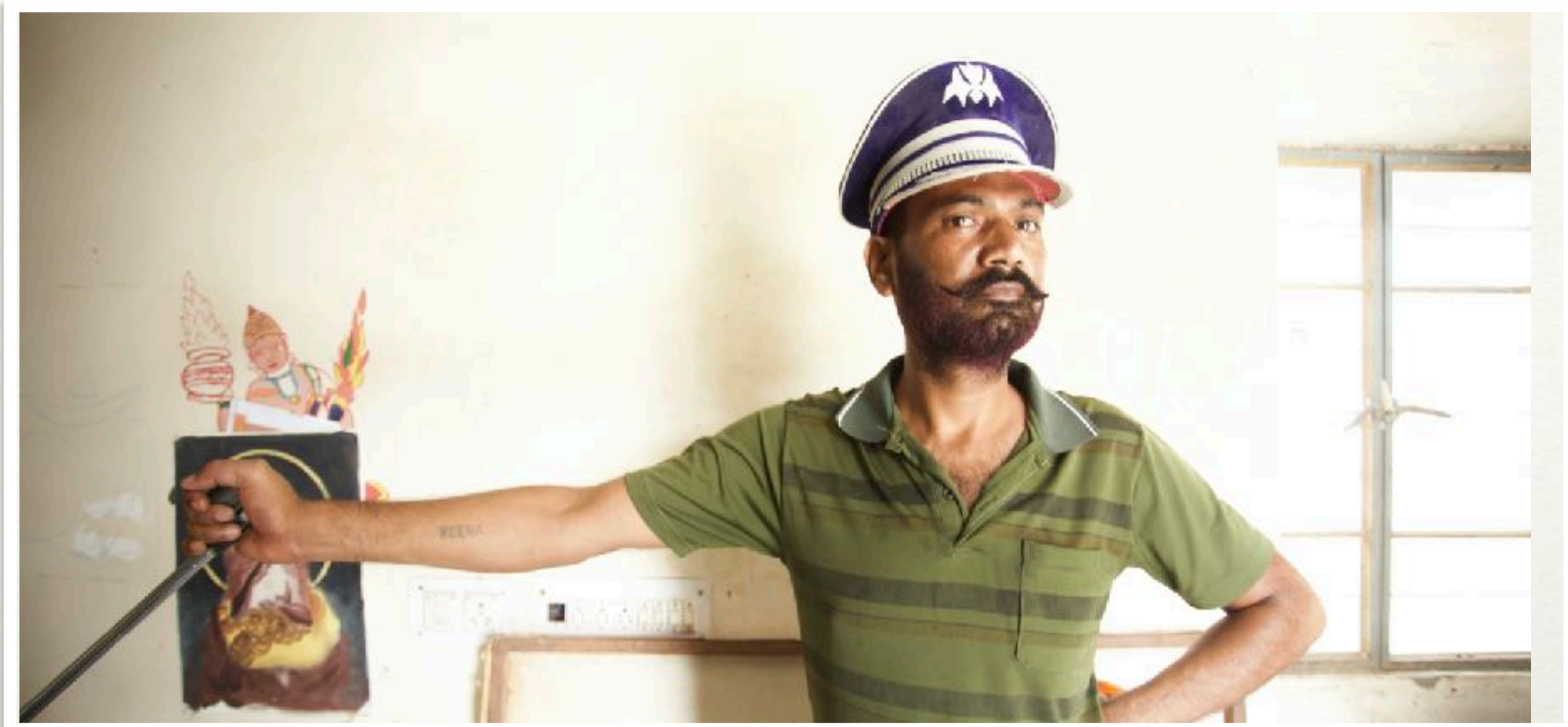








Using model with product



Sometimes they were allowed to use camera and just go around in allowed area.

Modeling

Young inmates were full of energy
for posing !







Angle matters !



moment of clicking matters !





Use of windows & doors to control light







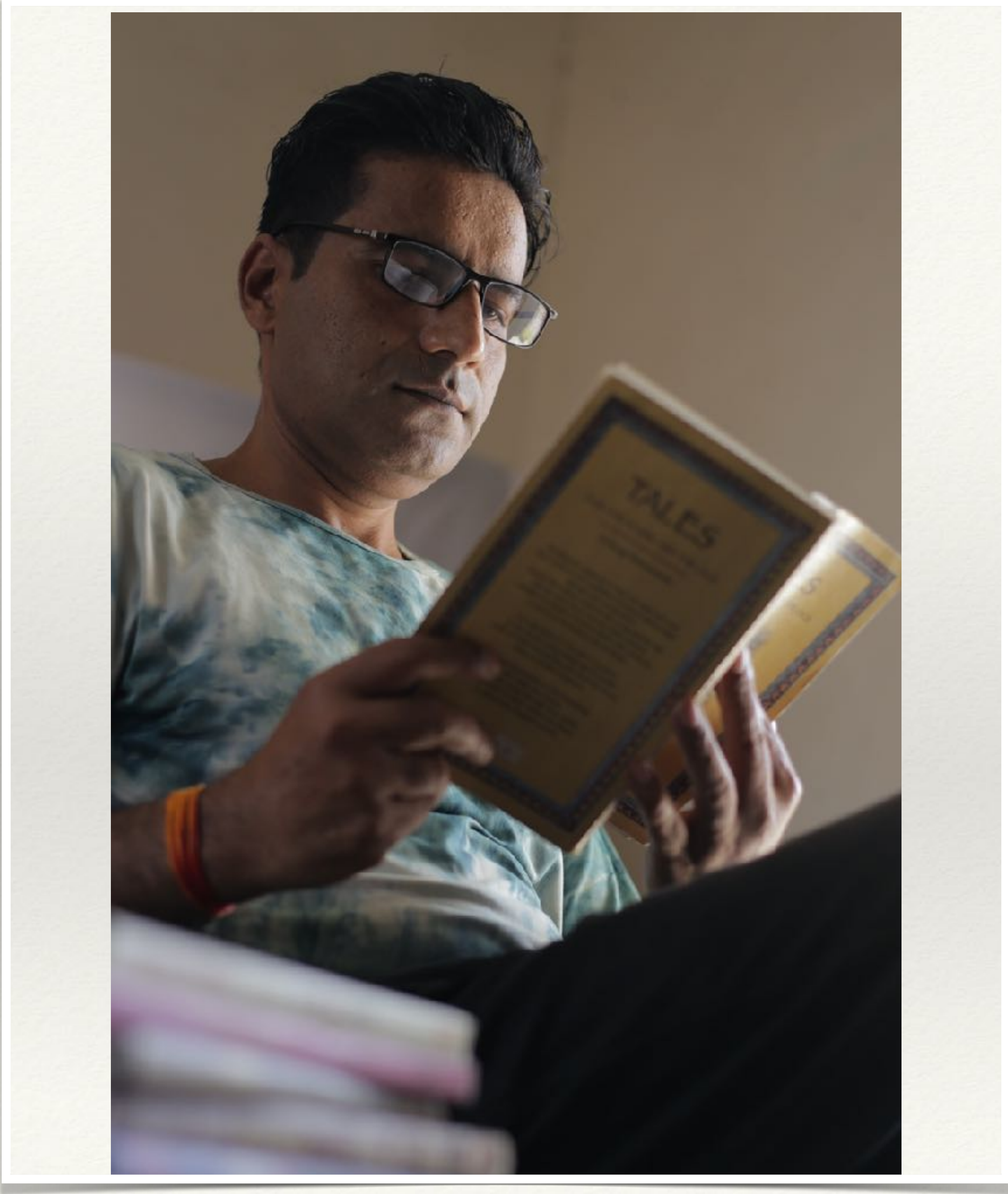




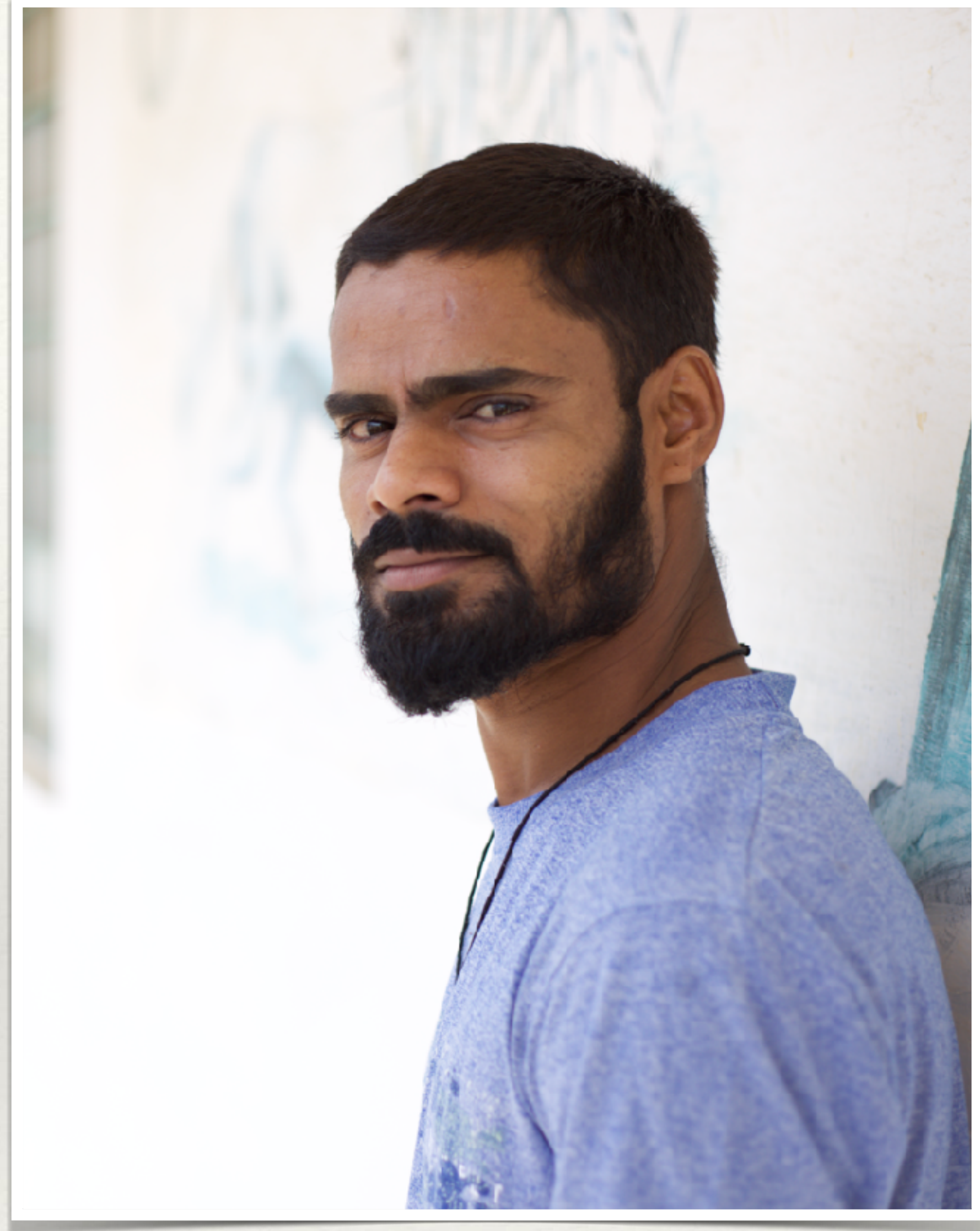












Events & group pictures









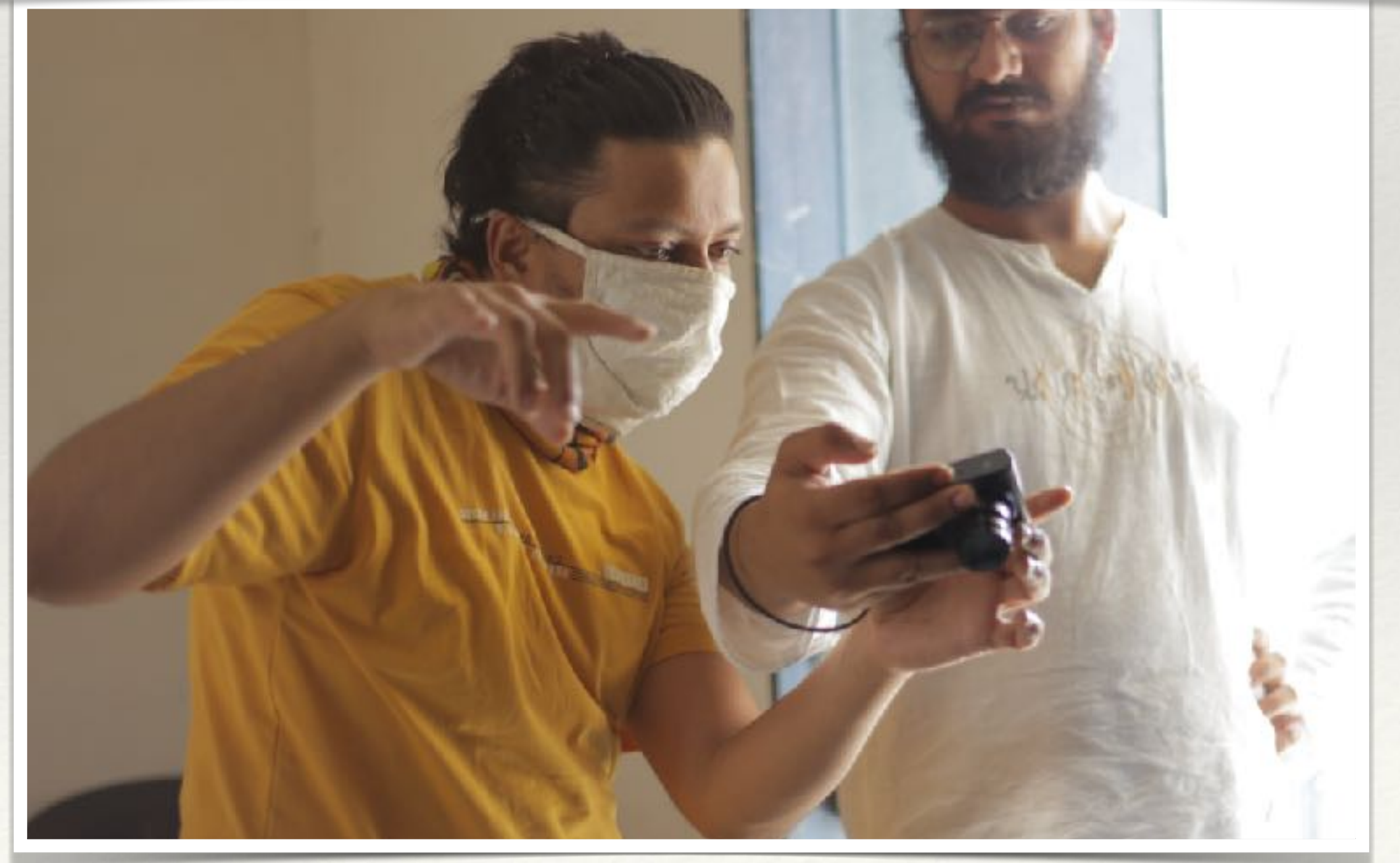














- ❖ We managed to teach 12 inmates basics of photography & “How to start a photography studio” they come up with unique names for their Studio
- ❖ Selecting camera equipments, framing , posing & post processing
- ❖ They have given some magazines and tutorial videos to stay inspired & revise.

Thanks to Swaraj Jail University, Shikshantar & Manish Jain for the great opportunity for me & Jail inmates !