

# Asian Photography AND IMAGING

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# The Industrial Paradise





**W**hen we speak about photography as a profession or an art the only mindset that most of us have is Fashion, Wildlife, Landscapes and so on. But there are fields that are a lot more different which not many people are aware of. Given this, it would suffice to say that Mr. B.P.S. Walia has a different eye for photography. His creative images not only deliver quality, but also give out

a passionate message towards his work. His eye for photography is unique. The source of the world's technology is the various industrial establishments that dot both urban and rural landscapes. Realising this, Walia made his career as an industrial photographer, and today is recognised for this all over the world, with projects assigned to him spread out across 23 countries. Talking to Walia and

seeing his work, we get a better idea about the nuances of industrial photography.

Walia was born in the year 1967 to a middle class family. His hard days as a beginner in photography has taught him well. Today he stands to be one of the best photographers in the industry with national and international assignments resting in confidence on his shoulders. Walia picked up his first camera,



B.P.S. Walia





which was the Pentax K1000, when he started his photography in 1984, working hard by assisting some big names in the field. He learnt the art of photography along with the art of patience. Moving on, he has even worked on travel photography from the year 1990.

### About Photography

To me, photography is equal to hard work. One needs to have the ability to withstand the pre-stages in learning the art. Experience comes slowly; this art makes you better with a step by step process in producing

technical skill. It's all about technical knowledge that keeps you ahead of the crowd. For me, photography fulfills whatever is missing within.

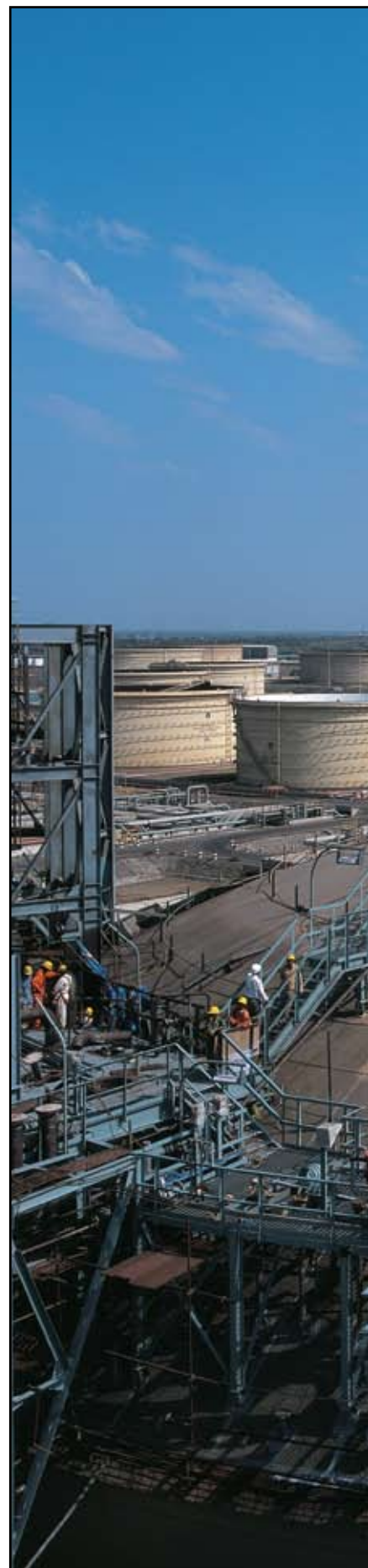
### What sets industrial photography apart?

The only difference that really stands out from the other genres of photography is that you need to know your job very well, you must have a proper understanding of the subjects that are to be shot as to have a clear idea of the machines' functioning parts. Framing and lighting play important roles but more than

that you need to give an idea as to how the machines function and their processes. For example if you are shooting a pipeline you need to show how thick the iron pipes are, then show how its being laid by side-boom machines.

### Before getting to the job

In industrial photography the 'before' process of getting the job done is important and a lot more different compared to the others. First you need to be fit for long hours of shoot in tough conditions. As we might venture into sea to shoot oil rigs, our













clients would not want any of us to fall sick during work. Because transport is expensive, they might need to arrange a chopper to get to the hospital and time is wasted too. So before work there is a medical check done and then we head to sea. My clients are more from the oil industry. I need to look after myself healthwise. I take along just one or two assistants. Safety gear is important. We carry our own safety gear. For example, we wear shoes that have a steel sole and a steel pointed nose to avoid nails or anything solid from injuring your feet. We carry extra gloves and other industrial apparel and accessories so during the shoot if the clients do not have a uniform we provide them, making a uniform shot, by doing this the client is very much pleased and even recognise the need of providing their employees with the needed accessories. By doing this I can develop a standard shot. Before heading out we study our



“Timing of the shoot really makes the difference, whether you’re on the ground or shooting aerial

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subject and plan according to the time of light.

### On the job

Stay calm and confident. At times we might be on the rough sea for more than 15 to 16 days. Here you need to be calm and composed. We deal more with the actions produced by the machines, thus the angle or the perspective counts. Timing of the shoot really makes the difference, whether you’re on the ground or shooting aerial. I keep my equipment up-to-date with the latest technological advancements in the field of photography. I carry along small and large format cameras, tripods that range from 1 to 24 feet with remote controlled heads. I bring along my own battery operated lights ranging from 50Ws to 1200Ws; these come in handy when I shoot in remote areas. And along with these, each member of our















team carries a walkie-talkie for communication, which helps us to follow up the plan of action.

### **Unforgettable moments**

There are few moments I can never forget, may it be a learning lesson or a light moment. I love wildlife and I was fortunate to get a stunning pose of the beast of India, the tiger. It was very much known that many photographers waited for many days for a shot of the tiger on that particular lush green tree branch. But to my luck I didn't have to wait for too long. The phenomenal pose of the tiger gave me a perfect frame and not only that, my image was featured in Govt. of India wildlife brochure and many other such publications.

### **The young generation**

Today most of the youth are blinded to do cool things. They all want to be fashion photographers, but you can't really blame them. The hype is such that they find it cool. I have seen many youngsters wanting to make a career in photography. But they don't really know that it is experience that counts. Experience comes slowly, it's a step-by-step process. In photography you need to have a lot of patience but many want to take shortcuts which might lead you to a confused state. I do understand with today's competitive world, it is difficult to get what you desire. But the only way is to be composed and know what you really want. It is important to be honest to yourself and give your best to what you like doing. Another thing that I noticed is that many youngsters rely on the camera they use, but it's just not the camera that counts. What really makes the difference is the technical skill and knowledge that you put into the camera and this comes with experience.

**- Text: Ajay Singh**