

The Sanctuary Wildlife Photography Awards 2025

About the contest

At Sanctuary, we combine still images and stirring words to sensitise human hearts and minds. We believe that powerful, evocative images have the power to draw out supportive human responses. Conservation photography is an art form that has helped protect wildernesses virtually from the time cameras were invented. It is a blend of technical skills, natural history knowledge, field experience, and an innate desire to protect wild nature. The Sanctuary Wildlife Photography Awards were instituted in the year 2000, to showcase the contributions of India's best wildlife photographers. Every year we receive a vast pool of stunning photographs, which reinforces the urgent need to conserve India's wildlife.

Judging

All entries go through a vigorous judging process, designed to distil the very best from thousands of hopefuls. Our panel of judges this year include Bittu Sahgal, Editor, Sanctuary Asia; Steve Winter, National Geographic conservation photographer; Dr. Anish Andheria, conservation photographer and President, Wildlife Conservation Trust; Nayan Khanolkar, educationist, naturalist and wildlife photographer; Dr. Parvish Pandya, Director, Science, Natural History and Photography, Sanctuary Asia and Lakshmy Raman, Executive Editor, Sanctuary Asia. The judges will be looking for originality, conservation value, technical quality, subject matter, aesthetics, rarity, mood and action. They reserve the right to shuffle images into appropriate categories. They would always place a premium on ethics.

Theme

Images taken in the wild that best depict Sanctuary's descriptor: **'Call of the Wild'** and are suitable for submission.

Pre-Qualification Criteria

1. Images taken in the wild that best depict Sanctuary's descriptor: 'Call of the Wild'.
2. The entrant must be the sole author and owner of the copyright for all photos entered. By entering the contest, the entrant certifies that the entries do not infringe on the copyright, trademark or intellectual property rights of any other person or organisation.
3. Images may be photographed anywhere on the Asian continent. Photographers of any nationality are eligible to participate. There is no age restriction on entrants.
4. A maximum of 5 images can be entered by each individual.

Contest Prizes

- 1st Prize: Rs. 1,50,000
- 2nd Prize: Rs. 75,000
- 3rd Prize: Rs. 25,000
- 5 Honourable Mentions: Rs. 2,500 each
- Certificate of Merit: One-year Sanctuary Asia subscription.

- Certificates will be presented to all winners, Honourable Mentions, as decided by the judges whose decision will be final and not subject to further discussion.
- The Winning, Honourable Mention images will get a chance to be featured in Sanctuary Asia magazine (December 2025 issue) and Sanctuary Asia CUB (curated for Young Naturalists, January 2026) respectively.

In case of any queries, please write to images@sanctuaryasia.com