A picture depicts thousand stories. It be marriage, child’s first walk, a visit to a special place or anything that goes down the memory lane of our life. Once these moments are captured, they become a memory of a lifetime. Getting clicked is something that almost everyone likes but there are many who believe in capturing love to capture those precious moments.

Photography is one of the fascinating interests it looked deep into - has a lot to explore than just what meets the eye.

It usually starts when you click the first snap of your life and it gets appreciated or you like it personally. Then you want to know more about it. Since the interest aroused I started reading books and searching web site on photography and that’s the way I learnt more technicalities,” explains Abhishek Denali, 22 year old advertising student and a photography lover. The more you explore the more you want to get into it and experiment further. “I had a normal camera (point and shoot) before with which I was unable to experiment more so due to my growing passion I bought an SLR camera worth Rs.20,000,” says Abhishek.

Similar is the case with 19 year old Niyati Bane, a student of commercial art in Sophia Polytechnique College who has both digital and SLR camera and also has two high quality lenses after pursuing a course in photography and workshops under professionals in this field. “This is more than a passion for me as I am not a professional but I practice this on daily basis. While practicing I basically try to experiment with lenses, lights and objects. Photography for me is a technological painting,” expresses Niyati.

“This is like an art, the more you practice the more you learn. Photography was formally announced as invented in France, Paris on 19th August 1839 and each year this day is celebrated as the World Photography Day,” says Shirish Barodia a 72 year old retired educationalist. Believe it or not, Mr. Barodia learnt this art on his own and now runs an organisation - Centre for life long learning, where he teaches photography to people of all age who are passionate about it and also heads a club called "Photography club of Mumbai". In his life he has seen a lot of changes in the technology. “With the arrival of technologies photography is getting more and more easier than what it used to be. No matter how much the technology advances the basic principle will always be the same,” explains Mr. Barodia.

If someone is interested in photography then basic, beginners or diploma courses are best for them which will help them in knowing the technology. These courses have proper module which includes theory and practical session. There are many institutes in Mumbai which provides different types of short courses, some them are - St. Xavier Institute of Communication, JJ college of Applied Arts, Photographic Society of India, National institute of photography and Centre for life long learning. The fee of the courses will cost anything between Rs.2000 to Rs.3000.

After the completion of the course they also provide degree with which one can participate in a photography competition where one gets a chance to show real talent. “Participating in competitions gives a lot of exposure, I have participated only once till now which gave me a boost and I plan to continue it in future,” says Niyati.

So if you have got that never ending itch in your index finger to click the shutter button then don’t underestimate it because for you know - You can be someone like Mr. Shirish Barodia in future!

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Small pieces of papers, required for mailing purposes, Postage stamps have more meanings then just to stick on envelopes

What do you do to increase your general knowledge - read books, watch quiz shows? Well, there is one thing that can enhance your knowledge about your country and events and also adds antique values to it. I am talking about stamps collecting.

Yes, those colourful and beautifully designed bits of papers which depict the history, culture, and nature of a country.

Sameer Sinha, a working professional in the city, has postage stamp collection as his hobby. His collection includes some of the street stamps and first day cover of India depicting pictures of national leaders, artists of different categories and sportsperson. Sameer, who has been into Philately for the last 15 years, has a good number of stamps ranging from pre independence to free India era. He claimed that he had a collection of 3000 stamps. Sameer’s inspiration was his father who had forwarded this legacy to him.

Stamp collection, also called Philately is considered as the king of hobbies, it helps one understand cultures, events of major countries of the world and increase knowledge about history, science, technology and nature. “Philately helps to know our motherland and also to productively use our spare time,” adds Nainik, a 19 year old; I used to remove postage stamps from letters mailed to my father and put them safely into a wooden box. The colours and beautiful pictures embedded on small piece of paper fascinated me and that made me to preserve them.”

One of the specialities of stamp collecting is that this hobby is the most democratic of all the hobbies. Nation, language, age, sex and colour do not constitute any barrier to stamp collection. Stamp collectors all over the world feel a sort of brotherhood towards each other,” feels Prashant Lal.

There are two ways of collecting, one is collecting used stamps and the other is to collect unused or mint stamps. To begin with, there is no harm in collecting used stamps. This might give you an initial shove in stamp collection and help you understand different types of stamps available from various countries. “A collection of mint stamp would have more money value as compared to used stamps but for an amateur stamp collector, philatelic of a variety of stamps would probably make more sense” adds Sameer.

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