

## VIEW FROM THE GALLERY



**MOHAMMED ARFAN ASIF**  
**on the life and work of**  
**Dr G Thomas (1907 - 1993),**  
**the great photographer of**  
**India who died ten years**  
**ago this month**

**I**T IS SUMMER AND THE LANDMARK GIVEN TO me was a house with a long alley and a post box, on a road named Sri Ram Mandir in Bangalore, India. It is referred to as the Headquarters of Indian Photography.

Two chestnut pups greet me with wagging tails and I am taken to a room with photographs, paintings, catalogues, files, trophies, cupboards, and books occupying every available inch. A small door on the left leads to yet another larger room: a humble physician's set up!

Seated behind a large teak table with files, books and an ageless manual typewriter is a bespectacled man in his early



G Thomas (left) with C Rajagopal (see *PME* February 2003).

80s. Discerning, electric and charismatic, Dr G Thomas defined Indian photography for over 40 years. An arbiter of good composition, he wove pictorial nuances in fine monochromes, most of which were landscapes and outdoor genre. His no-horizon-is-too-far-to-cross approach made him reach great heights.

Admired by top photographers for his achievements in his art, Thomas was conferred with the Honorary Fellowship of the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain and the Fellowship of Photographic Society of America, and he achieved no fewer than 520 acceptances from 100-odd pictures in international competitions and salons. And, apart from being a physician, painter, photography administrator, editor of photography journals, and author of books on photography, he also spent a lot of time on research.

April 17, 1993, marked the end of a glorious chapter. A decade has passed since. Fond memories of a personality, of an exemplary artist, of a relentless administrator, live on. Dear Doc, you continue to inspire. Thanks a million.

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