

# Rich pickings

## VISUAL ARTS

AVANTIKA  
PATHANIA

**T***ouching Light*, presented by Kolkata Centre for Creativity along with Museo Camera, aimed to trace two centuries of material practices and cultural legacy of analogue visual culture. Black-and-white photographs of celebrities by Pradeep Chandra were mysteriously placed, with Sanjay Dutt between Dilip Kumar and Pandit Ravi Shankar. Weightier material included scenes from railway stations, *dhobi ghat*, and exquisite shots of India's dacoits by Prashant Panjiar. Regrettably, there were only three women photographers in the exhibition.

The apex of the exhibition were analogue photographs by Kulwant Roy; the *Beauties of Lucknow* from the nineteenth century by Darogha Abbas Ali; portraits from the Oudh court and *carte de visite* by Bourne & Shepherd. Serena Chopra's *Dorji with her son by their Kitchen Hearth in Rukha Village* (picture) was quietly arresting. Prabir Purkayastha's work invited the most contemplation. While the execution did not match the ambition of the exhibition, the richness of the works certainly did.

