# India Wilds®

## Newsletter

Vol 14. Issue II Apr-June 2022 ISSN 2394 - 6946

Inside this issue:



Cover Page Photograph:

Sambar Deer v/s Dhole by Sabyasachi Patra

# A Long & Dangerous Journey:

In early part of last century when people realized that unrestrained hunting of wild life species has resulted in extinction of some species and local extermination of some others, the thought of regulating hunting and creating protected areas for wildlife species gained favour. Soon with better protection in the declared reserve forests, sanctuaries and National Parks, populations of some wildlife species started increasing. Till date we follow this model of Protected Area network of reserve forests, conservation reserves, wildlife sanctuaries and National Parks. With massive increase in human population most of the areas that had remained under forest cover as well as areas that were technically revenue land but had remained unused and hence had tree cover got cleared up for housing, schools, hospitals, industries and other uses. The concrete jungle kept increasing and soon the forests became like islands surrounded by various human habitations.

People expect wild animals to remain within the areas that have been declared as forests. They forget that wild animals need to move around in search of food. Humans too need to move around in an indirect way for getting food. We humans need to go to our place of work to earn money for food. Millions of people migrate from their villages to cities in search of work so that they can satiate their hunger. Even though cities don't grow their own food, there is a transportation system to get food grains from one place to other. Animal societies don't have a transportation system to get food from one city to another. If they need food, they have to move from one forest to another.

Some wildlife species have their requirements met within a patch of a forest. However, most

Wild Dogs with Hyenna Courtesy - Zambian Carnivore Programme

others need to wander from one forest to another in search of food and mate. Historically, naturalists and wildlife biologists knew about these animal movements. However, it was difficult to know how far different species travel. In one eye opening study by the Zambian Carnivore Program, an African wild dog *Lycaon pictus*, code named EWD 1355 was radio collared by Scott Creel of Montana State University. This 3 year old female wild dog along with 2 other female siblings broke free from the main group and travelled a humongous 1300 miles between October 2021 to June 2022. They moved from Luangwa Valley in Eastern Zambia and covered 3 countries, crossed dangerous roads, human habitations, croc infested rivers without getting killed by any other wildlife species, humans or machines. Swimming across 300-foot-wide swollen Luangwa river without getting caught by crocodiles is no mean feat. Their 1300-mile journey was more than twice the previous record. Scientists found that when these three wild dogs found scent of human habitations, they either avoided or ran through the area to quickly move away. This shows that wild dogs know how bad humans are. Unfortunately, a child may feel ashamed. However, we adults simply don't care what others feel about us.

In India during the sudden lockdown in the initial phase of Covid_19 pandemic in 2020, many people walked or pedaled on their bicycle for thousands of kilometers to reach their native place so that they could escape starvation. This epic journey of the three African wild dogs tells us that we may be a different living species, however it is tough to resist the pangs of hunger and dream to lead a better life.

The wild dogs have an interesting social hierarchy. Only the leading female of the pack has the right to mate. Others remain in subordinate roles and help in hunting as well as rearing up the pups. Unless wild dogs break away from their pack to start a pack of their own, they can't have the independence to procreate. When the three wild dog females broke free from their pack, they had to skirt carefully around other large wild dog packs so that they don't need to fight with them. Of course, in other packs if there are subordinate bachelor wild dogs willing to break free and start a life of their own, then the process becomes easier. If the three female wild dogs are not able to attract such males from other packs then they won't be able to procreate. And the pack size too remains small so that they can't effectively hunt and pull-down large prey. Safety is also in numbers. Other predators may not immediately engage with a large pack.

When these wild dogs are on the move a slight mistake in crossing a busy road would result in an accident and injury or death. These days the speeds of automobiles are all more than 100kmph. The sound of the automobile, vibrations along with the high speed makes it difficult for wildlife species to accurately judge when to run and cross the road. Death or injury to one of the members seriously undermines the ability of a small pack to hunt. And the emotional

blow of seeing a relative crushed to death is high, even though it currently remains unquantified by science. This epic journey shows us the massive risks that wildlife species take solely to move in a fragmented landscape and survive.

Wildlife were able to thrive till the hand of man completely destroyed and changed the landscape. The prey species were decimated by poaching, land use change and anthropogenic pressures ensured that there is less food available for the herbivores. If the number of herbivores go down, there is a direct impact on the carnivores that prey on them. Since man is the cause of misery to the wildlife species, it is a moral imperative that secure wildlife corridors are recreated to connect various wilderness areas. This would ensure wildlife species can safely disperse from one forest to another. Young carnivores can find a suitable space and establish their own territory. Even herbivores would move from one forest to another. This would lead to increased genetic diversity. There would be no more ill effects of inbreeding due to wild animals forced to remain within one forest area.

The current roads that cut across forests should be closed and alternate alignments skirting the forests be created. This will help reduce the noise pollution as well as ensure that the wild animals are able to move freely within their habitat. The wildlife kills due to accidents will be stopped. Many smaller mammals and herpetofauna will be able to now move to the other side of the road without being killed and this will help increase the genetic diversity.

Some people want flyovers to be created on the existing roads if alternate alignments cannot be created. If the entire stretch of the road be converted into flyover so that vehicles only ply on the flyover and not on the ground below then wildlife road kills will come down. This will ensure that our vehicles can drive much above the forests instead of fragmenting exiting wildlife habitat. Today we have the technology to construct flyovers using prefabricated components in much less time. However, it should be noted that flyovers will cause disturbance during the construction phase. Also, there will be sound pollution due to the vehicles. Ideally no roads or flyovers should pass through core forests. Also, vehicles plying on the night should definitely be stopped in critical forest areas to avoid disturbance. Nevertheless, the best solution is to simply skirt the existing forests and create alternate roads. In case of smaller wildlife corridors create flyovers so that the wildlife can safely pass without falling victim to speeding vehicles.

In India, wild animals are a part of our cultural ethos. They are worshipped as vehicle of our deities. If we recreate safe wildlife corridors between various wildlife sanctuaries, national parks and reserve forests then we too can proudly talk about stories of Wild dogs, leopards, tigers, elephants and other wildlife travelling thousands of kilometers without fear of being killed.

## Article -

# Comments on recent record of Indian Roofed Turtle (*Pangshura tecta*, Gray 1831) from Freshwater Inland Wetland, Gujarat, India by Chaudhari & Soni (2022)

**By Raju Vyas**

Apartment, BPC-Haveli Road, Nr. Splatter Studio,

Alakapuri, Vadodara – 390007, Gujarat, India.

E-mail: razoovyas@hotmail.com

The Kanewal Water Reserve is one of the water bodies, which is linked with Mahi irrigation canals, as other small and large water bodies of Kheda and Anand districts were drained by the irrigation canal network. In Gujarat, Narmada and Mahi irrigation canals networks provide the best waterways to some notable aquatic vertebrates, including Smooth coated otters (*Lutrogale perspicillata*) and large reptile-likes Marsh Crocodiles *Crocodylus palustris* (Vasava et al., 2015; Vyas et al., 2020).

Recently, Chaudhari & Soni (2022) published the occurence of turtle species belonging to a member of the Family: Geoemydidae from an inland water body of Kanewal Water Reserve, (22□.46'27.01"N: 72□.51'34.22"E), Anand District, Gujarat, India. The authors have claimed it to be a first record of the Indian roofed turtle (*Pangshura tecta*) from Gujarat. The claim of the first record is the outcome of an inadequate literature survey. A number of chronological records of the species from the State of Gujarat, India has been detailed here.

The Indian roofed turtle (*Pangshura tecta*) is small size omnivore freshwater turtle and prefers stagnant and slow running water bodies. This species is widely distributed in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan. In India, this species is reported in many states, including Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal (Rhodin et al., 2021). The species is legally protected under Wildlife Protection Act-1972 as a Schedule I species and considered Vulnerable (AUA4d) under IUCN Red List criteria (Ahmed et al., 2021)

This freshwater turtle species was first recorded by Moll & Vijaya (1986) from the inland water body of Chandola Lake, Ahmedabad, Gujarat on basis of two juveniles specimens collected (the specimens were deposited at Bombay Natural History Society Museum Registered Numbers: 1290 & 1291), later Vyas & Patel (1990) recorded the species from five locations

from two large perennial rivers, Mahi and Sabarmati. Vyas (1998) provides a list of reptiles of Gujarat State, including five species of freshwater turtles, and mentioned this species as occurring in water reservoirs of Kheda District (now the district is administratively split into two districts, Kheda and Anand), which were drained by Mahi irrigation canal networks.

Later, Gayen (1999), published a synopsis of the reptiles of Gujarat, the author has mentioned the species from Gujarat, and further subsequent followers' and researchers, Sharma (2000) mentioned the species being available in larger water bodies of Gujarat. However, the records of the Indian roofed turtle appears in various scientific works of literature (Vyas 2013, 2015, 2019) denoting the species being widely distributed in Central and North Gujarat State (Patel & Vyas 2019). Also, this species breeds well in captivity (Vyas & Patel, 1993; Vyas 1997, 2001), and finally, an experimental study indicates that the hatchlings of the Indian roofed turtle (*Pangshura tecta*) were predated by invasive turtle species Red-eared Turtle *Trachemys scripta elegans* (2021).

On the basis of the above, I conclude that the claim of first record of Indian Roofed turtle species by Chaudhari & Soni (2022), is a result of is an improper survey of published literature.

## References

Ahmed, M.F., Praschag, P. and Singh, S. 2021. *Pangshura tecta*. The IUCN Red List of

Threatened Species 2021: e.T46370A3005714.

Chaudhari, H.J. and H.B. Soni. 2022. Probable First Record of Indian Roofed Turtle (*Pangshura tecta*, Gray 1831) from Freshwater Inland Wetland, Gujarat, India. *India Wilds Newsletter* 14 (1): 6-10.

Gayen, N.C. 1999. A synopsis of the reptiles of Gujarat, western India. *Hamadryad* 24(1):1-22.

Moll, E.O., and J. Vijaya. 1986. Distributional records for some Indian turtles. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 83:57-62.

Patel, H., and R. Vyas. 2019. Reptiles of Gujarat, India: Updated Checklist, Distribution and Conservation Status. *Herpetology Notes,* 12: 765–777.

Rhodin, A.G.J., B. John, Iverson, R. Bour, U. Fritz, Georges A., H. Bradley Shaffer and P. Paul Ven. 2021. Turtles of the world: Annotated checklist and atlas of taxonomy, synonymy, distribution and conservation status (9th edition), (2021), TTWG (Turtle Taxonomy Working Group). 472 PP. ISBN: 978-0-9910368-3-7 (Online); 978-0-9910368-4-4.

Vasava, D., Patel, D., Vyas, R., Mistry, V., and M. Patel. 2015. Crocs of Charotar: Status, Distribution, and conservation of Mugger Crocodiles in Charotar region, Gujarat, India. Voluntary Nature Conservancy, Vallabh Vidyanagar, Gujarat, India. Technical Report, 6th June 2015. 66pp. (Published Report).

Vyas R. 1997. Notes on growth and maturity in the Indian roofed terrapin *(Kachuga tecta). Journal of The Bombay Natural History Society* 94:160-162.

Vyas R. 2001. Breeding of the Indian roofed turtle *Kachuga tecta* in captivity. *Zoos' Print Journal* 16 (10): 600- 603.http://dx.doi.org/10.11609/JoTT.ZPJ.16.10.600-3

Vyas, R. 2013. Survey of Vertebrate Fauna along the Select Segments of Some Rivers of Central Gujarat, India. *Jalaplavit* 4 (3):80-97.

Vyas, R. 2019. Distribution of Invasive Red-eared Sliders, *Trachemys scripta* (Testudines:

Emydidae) in the Wetlands of Gujarat State, India. *IRCF Reptiles & Amphibia* 26(2): 145-150.https://doi.org/10.17161/randa.v26i2.14389

Vyas, R. 2020. A Captive Study of Interactions between the Invasive Red-eared Slider, *Trachemys* scripta elegans (Wied 1838), and Native Indian Turtles. Reptiles & Amphibia 27(2):318-323. https://doi.org/10.17161/randa.v27i2.14487

Vyas, R. 2021. Invasive Red-eared Terrapin – A threat for the Native Freshwater Turtle Fauna of India. *Jalaplavit* 11(1): 10-30

Vyas, R., and B.H. Patel. 1990. A survey of fresh water turtles of Gujarat. *Journal of The Bombay Natural History Society* 87(1):152-155.

Vyas, R., and B.H. Patel. 1993. Captive breeding of the Indian roofed terrapin *Kachuga tecta* (Grey). *Journal of The Bombay Natural History Society* 90(1): 109-112.

Vyas, R., Vasava, A., and V. Mistry. 2020. Crocodile-vehicle collision: New threat to mugger crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*) at Gujarat, India. *CSG Newsletter* 39(1):15-19.

## Article -

# Ladakh : An Enchanting Landscape

**By Mrs. Shakti and Mr.AS Bishnoi**

Ladakh is India's highest plateau. Ladakh also refers to the Land of Passes due to the mountainous terrain. The Tibetan plateau is in the east and Lahaul and Spiti regions are in the south. The Kashmir and Jammu regions are on the west. Tibet came under Chinese control in 1950. After India and Pakistan got independence from British rule, the Baltistan area of Ladakh in the north west came under Pakistan's illegal occupation following a war.


Ladakh is also known as a cold desert. The biting cold is due to the high altitude. Most of Ladakh is above 3000 m altitude. Leh, the capital of Ladakh is situated at 3524 m. Ladakh is in the rain shadow region of the Himalayas and receives scant rainfall. Due to this Ladakh experiences dry climate and it is said that one can get sunstroke if you step out in the sun for prolonged period and can get frost bite from the chilling cold if you remain in shade without protection.

Apart from the mighty Indus or Sindhu river originating in Tibet region in Bokhar Chu glacier, the other important rivers are Shyok and Nubra.

Ladakh region used to be hub of trade and commerce to China. Post Independence wars between India and Pakistan and then the Sino-Indian war in 1962 put an end to remnants of the historical trade. The high-altitude regions are not conducive for farming and hence are inhabited by either nomadic pastoralists or agro pastoralists, e.g the Changpa nomads.

## Wildlife

As a transitional zone between Tibetan plateau and the Karakoram mountain range, Ladakh harbours species from both these regions. A few corners of Ladakh are still unexplored and inaccessible due to security considerations while a few others are facing excessive tourism. The Himalayan high-altitude wetlands, such as Pangong Tso, Tso Moriri and Tso Karare are unique ecosystems.


Eight wild species occur in these high elevation steppes and mountain regions of Ladakh, with six listed as endangered and protected. They are the blue sheep, Ladakh Urial, Asiatic ibex, Tibetan Wild ass or kiang, Tibetan gazelle, Tibetan Aantelope, Tibetan Argali and Wild Yak. Two species of hare, five species of Pika, three species of vole and two species of marmot complement the herbivore group. The snow leopard is the most iconic animal of the trans-Himalayan region, resulting in the creation of large protected areas for its conservation (e.g Hemis National Park). There are also smaller predators such as Red fox, Tibetan wolf, and Pallas cat, lynx and few more. These are the residents species well adapted to the cold and harsh environment of Ladakh.


Ladakh is also an important migratory route for birds between Central Asia and the Indian sub-continent. More than 310 types of birds and 20 mammalian herbivore species are recorded here. People often flock to Ladakh to sight some of these species like the Black-necked cranes.

## Our Journey in the Mystic Landscape

Ladakh is scarcely populated. As a result, the pristine beauty of this rugged mountainous landscape has mostly remained unmolested. Each hill appears to have a unique shade and travelers are often suggested by locals to look back as the view

behind can be entirely different.

Ladakh gives you feeling of being at home and in the lap of nature. We have been visiting this mystic land in search of elusive snow leopard for last three years without any luck. My daughter when she was just 3 years old, once said, our home is in Ladakh so what are we doing here in city? I could convince her by saying that being in Armed forces makes us move like a gypsy but our final destination will be this place. She has accompanied us on all our trips, irrespective of how arduous or inaccessible the terrain may be. She was in fact more comfortable than us in high altitudes of Ladakh.


Our first visit into this hinterland was to explore the monasteries and tourist locations which generally find pride of place in the tourist maps. It was a wonderful trip and we explored length and breadth of Ladakh. Our next visit was equally enchanting, but we had shifted focus to sighting the elusive snow leopard. We preferred home stay and headed for Rumbak.

It was 6 hours of trek, crossing rivulets, mountains, and one can feel like explorers. Our guide Tundup, a very energetic and ambitious young man, took us through the mighty Himalayas with ease and at several locations we saw pug marks and markings. That gave us feeling that we were very near to it. The Nomads of Himalayas say that when you want to meet the snow leopard, it does not appear. The stories of sighting narrated by Rumbak homestay was as if it is daily chore for them. However, the fact is that the entire world is dying to have glimpse of this elusive Snow Leopard. Such is the camouflage, stealth as well as difficulty in sighting a snow leopard that it is often called as The Ghost of the Mountain. We stayed for two days and enjoyed our stay with eyes fixed on peaks throughout the day, but to no avail.

Our hearts were filled with joy sighting other species like blue sheep, Ladakh Urial, Asiatic ibex. We also sighted some beautiful birds including some Tibetan species uncommon in other parts of the country like Golden eagle, Lammergeier and Himalayan Griffon vulture. Many other local species like Chukar, Tibetan Partridge, Tibetan Snowcock, Tibetan Snowfinch, Streaked Rosefinch, Robin Accentor were frequently sighted.

After two days we changed our plan and wanted to head for Ulley, the den of Norbu hoping for a sure shot sighting of the elusive cat. The route was full of adventure and frequent halts were memories to cherish till date.

## In Search of Snow Leopard-ULLEY

After driving from Leh on impeccable road for 50 Km, our Innova took a detour and imposing views of craggy and jagged mountains appeared closer, their greyish hues unfolding and started dominating the view. In a rare display of defiance, I see a speck of green here and a shrub there. As we zig-zag through the flat mud roads, native yaks playfully gather to feast

on these patches with great relish.


Piercing the silence of the valley, our car roars ahead with dust flying around, into the heart of Snow Leopard hinterlands. This is a physical and psychologically challenging trail. The vehicle bounced and swayed on the sharp bends, dangerously negotiating along the edge of deep gorges. After a nerve wrecking four-hour ride, our bones felt shaken. We reached our destination and jumped out of the vehicle to regain our composure. A sense of triumph prevailed that we were finally in Snow Leopard country.

These mountains offer a perfect place to find peace within. During winters the trek becomes tough and now a days due to rain, it is more dangerous as landslides have become frequent. Climate change is having its impact.


## Nurbu Residence

The view from the Nurbu's residence was panoramic and few scattered houses were offering the desired privacy and silence in the valley. The rugged appeal and the grey and black hues of the mountain covered with season's last snow is indescribable and was truly exhilarating. Here one can experience the Himalayas in its true grandeur. A sense of awe and reverence often fills the traveler.

The path traverses into what is called balcony walk, filled with perilous looking terraces and dilapidated mud houses made of locally available sources and stacked stones, giving a glimpse of those of who lived a life on the edge till a few decades ago. During the last day of our visit, unexpectedly it snowed heavier than usual. There were few foreigners sitting under umbrella gazing at the distant mountains with optimistic eyes. One moment's sighting of a snow leopard can fulfill lifelong dreams. We too were winding up our stay and to head towards Leh and we saw Nurbu frantically indicating snow leopard at the edge of hill. We aligned our eyes in the particular direction and saw with binoculars the elusive Ghost of the Mountains walking gracefully on the edge for at least 5 mins. The snow leopard then disappeared on the other side of hill. Even

though we were hopeful of getting a sighting, we knew there are many people who have never sighted a snow leopard despite visiting again and again. We were stunned as realization dawned on us as to how blessed we were to have our dreams come true.


## Growing Barley : A conscious movement in Ladakh

Barley is a staple food in Ladakh. For those people who grew up in Ladakh, growing barley and sustaining on barley, was a way of life. The old people would grow barley and pretty much survive on what they grew. If a family had a plot of barley, they were considered to be wealthy! As wonderful as barley is, it is important that it be relatively fresh, which means that it should be cultivated constantly. And through the history of Tibet, famine was avoided by releasing stored barley from the government granaries when the harvest was not good. Macro Pallis noted in his classic peaks and lamas, 1939 published "The inhabitants of these villages must surely be some of the happiest on the face of the earth".

Now nearly all the young people have moved to Leh, the capital city of Ladakh, Leh, and to the other Indian cities. The fields where, traditionally people had grown barley and other grains either remain uncultivated or are now being used to build houses for tourism purpose. The cows, goats, sheep and other animals that flourished all over Ladakh have almost disappeared, and people are eating exclusively food shipped from the lower parts of India. In Ladakh the food was grown organically. However, the food that comes from other cities of India to Ladakh are used using toxic synthetic fertilizers. These days more and more people are drawn towards experiential tourism. Unfortunately, with the traditional way of life in Ladakh disappearing, many such tourists will be disappointed and will stop coming.

In Ladakh, the villages should once again be providers of barley and other grains, fertilized organically in the traditional way with cows, goats, sheep and other animals. This would be a first step in the revival not only of ladakh economy and health, but of that of the entire Himalayan plateau, including Tibet, Nepal and Bhutan.

Ladakh should give this precious, healthy heritage, the ancient way of growing the most healthy of staples, to the people of the world, starting with their neighbours in the lower parts of the India, who would benefit greatly from this infusion of health and well-being. It would be pertinent to mention that Punjabi Sikhs eat organic barley, remembering that it is the blessing of guru Nanak, who according to a sikh tradition, visited Ladakh and left his body imprint on the stone on a desert roadside. Local people call this "lama Guru". So this practice of growing barley would be welcome.

These days when trucks come from rest of India making deliveries to Ladakh, they return empty. And if Barley is grown again, then trucks will-return carrying organic grain from Ladakhi villages to sustain all of India.

To accomplish this, which can also be a worldwide model for health, economics and sustainability, funding is needed. While government support would be marvelous, given the many bureaucratic hurdles in India, private funding is essential and we are seeking thoughtful people to help us start and sustain this worthy project to save Ladakh and its culture, to benefit the world.

Someone had rightly said "one decade from now, you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do, than by the ones you did". For all those who seek adventure and seek to experience nature at it's best, Ladakh should be top on your list of must visit places.

# Conservation News -

## Fourth batch of 'Bird Identification and Basic Ornithology' course completed

**16th June, 2022**

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), in line with the Skill India Mission of the Prime Minister, has taken forward the initiative for skill development in the environment and forest sector to enable India's youth to get gainful employment under the Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP). The programme endeavors to develop green skilled workers having technical knowledge and commitment to sustainable development for the attainment of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs), as well as Waste Management Rules (2016).

In the current financial year, i.e. 2022-2023, WWF ENVIS RP has conducted four batches of the GSDP Certificate Course in **"Bird Identification and Basic Ornithology".** The course gave an opportunity to students from across the country to gain an exposure about various aspects of ornithology. 30% of the students who attended the courses have been already placed in relevant sectors. The course is free of cost and fully funded by MoEF&CC.

## India and Sweden Host Industry Transition Dialogue in Stockholm

**1st June 2022**

India and Sweden hosted the Industry Transition Dialogue on 1st June in Stockholm, as a part of their joint initiative i.e. Leadership for Industry Transition (LeadIT). The LeadIT initiative lays specific focus on hard to abate sectors that are key stakeholders in the global climate action and require specific interventions.

This high level of dialogue has contributed to the UN Conference 'Stockholm+50': a healthy planet for the prosperity of all –our responsibility, our opportunity', taking place on 2 and 3 June 2022 and set the agenda for COP27.

The event was opened by address from Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India, Shri Bhupender Yadav and Minister for Climate and the Environment, Sweden, Ms. Annika Strandhäll.

In the opening address the Union Minister congratulated the world for the upcoming 50th anniversary of United Nations Conference on the Human Environment that took place in 1972 and put environmental issues at the forefront of the international concerns. He emphasized that it is the time to celebrate 50 years of collaborative action, at the same time to introspect on what has been achieved and what more is yet to be done. "The developing world needs not just an industrial 'transition', but an industrial renaissance – a flowering of industries that will create jobs and prosperity along with a clean environment. The developed nations, with their historical experiences, must take lead in the global transition towards net-zero & low carbon industry.", the minister stated.

Japan and South Africa, the latest members of the initiative were welcomed. This extends the total membership of LeadIT to 37 including countries and companies together. The minister also updated the audience about the progress made under

## Conservation News -


the initiative that includes the sectoral road mapping, workshops and industrial field visits to facilitate knowledge sharing and combined efforts.

During the event, India chaired the roundtable dialogues on Priorities for implementation 2022-23. The need for speed and scale in climate action was echoed by all the speakers. The countries and companies shared their initiatives, success stories and plans for future. Some very specific and valuable insights were shared by the participants. It was felt that the domestic actions if implemented and communicated well can be valuable inspiration at the international level. The efforts and exchanges through such platforms have the potential to lead the world in right direction. The commitments and pledges now must translate into action in mitigation and adaptation that rides on climate finance and technology transfer.

## Statement Made by India on Thematic Issues, Migration, Gender, Sand and Dust Storm at Cop15 UNCCD

**14th May, 2022**

Following is the statement made by India on thematic issues-Migration, Gender, Sand and Dust storms at the 15th Session of the Conference of Parties of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Cote d'Ivoire, today:

### Migration

Desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) act as one of the drivers that cause migration. Other factors include climate and environmental changes. Promotion of sustainable agriculture and its associated value chains offer promising

## Conservation News -

avenues to stop out-migration of rural population. Linking urban-rural communities and developmental actions to addresses migration was insisted in decision 22/COP.14. ICCD/COP(15)/18 concludes that in rural areas affected by DLDD, livelihood opportunities through land restoration activities should be ensured. Integrated land-use planning together with enhancing green and blue infrastructure for sustainable development should be prioritised. A stronger symbiotic urban-rural linkage targeting vulnerable groups that include women, rural youth, refugees, and internally displaced person be provided with on-farm and off-farm employment. Youth are most likely to face migration and engaging youth is vital to restoration efforts for resilient and sustainable food systems. Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner under Ministry of Home Affairs is the designated authority in India that compiles information on migration based on the data compiled during national census that usually takes place at a gap of ten years' time interval.

Reducing the extent of human migration is one of the pronounced achievements of watershed development programmes being implemented by Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India. About 60% of the amount spent in each watershed goes for labour component which generates substantial employment for the local landless, small and marginal farming community people. Use of machinery in watershed activities is kept to the minimum so that employment opportunities are kept intact which minimize human migration from the watershed project areas. Convergence with MGNREGS and other related schemes is an added advantage for watershed programmes to generate employment and minimize migration.

***Watershed Development Component*** – Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) has generated more than 37.73 Million man-days of employment which also contributed to the reduction in migration in the treated areas, especially, during pandemic period. It has further acted as an enabler of reverse migration, when labour force was reverted to their native places and engaged with the watershed workforce.

### Gender

The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Indian Constitution in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles. The Constitution not only grants equality to women, but also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women. Within the framework of a democratic polity, our laws, development policies, Plans and programmes have aimed at women's advancement in different spheres. From the Fifth Five Year Plan (1974-78) onwards has been a marked shift in the approach to women's issues from welfare to development. In recent years, the empowerment of women has been recognized as the central issue in determining the status of women. The National Commission for Women was set up by an Act of Parliament in 1990 to safeguard the rights and legal entitlements of women. The 73rd and 74th Amendments (1993) to the Constitution of India have provided for reservation of seats in the local bodies of Panchayats and Municipalities for women, laying a strong foundation for their participation in decision making at the local levels.

The goal of National Policy for the Empowerment of Women, 2001 is to bring about the advancement, development and empowerment of women.

## Conservation News -

Empowerment of women is an integral part of PMKSY in India. Representation of women has been envisioned in the Watershed Committees involved in planning, implementation and maintenance of watershed interventions. Women-based community organizations such as Self-Help Groups, User Groups and farmer producer organizations are formed and nurtured while implementing the watershed programs.

The issues pertaining to gender in India is addressed by two ministries, namely, Ministry of Women and Child Development, and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Gender equality is also a major sustainable development goal (SDG 5). In this context, India had proposed its National Action Plan to improve statistics on gender.

The SDG-5 and the basic premise for considering gender as a thematic area is directed towards phasing out gender discrimination from all sectors. The Government of India has taken steps to address this issue at the most fundamental level through the "*Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao*". The scheme allows a girl child to be self-sustainable with regard to her own education. To increase participation of women in scientific innovation, the Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI) programme has been initiated by the Department of Science Technology, Government of India.

Decision 12/COP.14 emphasized on raising awareness amongst women with regard to land degradation. With respect to this, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has been conducting knowledge exchange programs with women farmers residing in drought-prone areas. However, as far as SDG-5 is concerned, there is scope for ample progress to be made especially in the areas of women participation in labour.

### Sand and Dust storms

Sand and dust storms (in short SDS) are of common occurrence in arid and semi-arid regions both in Asia and Africa and affects 11 of the 17 SDGs. SDS adversely impact environment and quality of life. India highly appreciates that United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is supporting regional cooperation for issues related to SDS.

Decision 25/COP(14) requested UNCCD to finalise and publish Sand and Dust Storms Compendium to provide information and guidance on assessing and addressing the risks related to SDS.

| S. No. | Financial Year | Generation (Tonnes) |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | 2017-2018 | 7,08,445 |
| 2. | 2018-2019 | 7,71,215 |
| 3. | 2019-2020 | 10,14,961.2 |

India acknowledges and fully supports that the UNCCD secretariat has been assisting countries in regional planning and policy framework on combating SDS. Several pilot projects were implemented in central and northeast Asia including China, Korea and Russia to formulate national SDS plans.

## Conservation News -

In India, work on monitoring of SDS is primarily done by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD).

ICCD/COP(15)/16, para 23 highlights about major gaps in monitoring, risk assessment, impact assessment and emergency response measures while addressing issues related to the SDS.

| S.No. | Year | E-Waste collection Target (Weight) |
|---|---|---|
| (i) | 2017-2018 | 10% of the quantity of waste generation as indicated in Extended Producer Responsibility Plan. |
| (ii) | 2018-2019 | 20% of the quantity of waste generation as indicated in in Extended Producer Responsibility Plan. |
| (iii) | 2019-2020 | 30% of the quantity of waste generation as indicated in in Extended Producer Responsibility Plan. |
| (iv) | 2020-2021 | 40% of the quantity of waste generation as indicated in in Extended Producer Responsibility Plan. |
| (v) | 2021-2022 | 50% of the quantity of waste generation as indicated in in Extended Producer Responsibility Plan. |
| (vi) | 2022-2023 | 60% of the quantity of waste generation as indicated in in Extended Producer Responsibility Plan. |
| (vii) | 2023 onwards | 70% of the quantity of waste generation as indicated in in Extended Producer Responsibility Plan. |

Anthropogenic SDS source mitigation is lacking in most of the countries and there is a lack of required data and information to address SDS related issues.

Capacity building of parties to address SDS through SDS toolbox and decision support system was envisaged. The first SDS Toolbox will be made available by mid-2022. Usually, these Toolbox provide methodology to integrate available information in a scientific way to address envisaged problems at a coarser scale.

India can designate appropriate remote sensing agency (such as SAC/ NRSC) to develop GIS layers at finer scale to integrate indicator layers to test its applicability on ground for further improvement. This would address the issues in a more pragmatic way.

---

## Environment Minister addresses UNCCD Conference of Parties at its fifteenth session in Cote d'Ivoire

**10th May, 2022**

Stating that taking care of the land that sustains us can help the fight against global warming, the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, today pitched for promoting lifestyles for environment. The Union Minister was addressing the opening plenary of the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification**

## Conservation News -

**(UNCCD) Conference of Parties at its fifteenth session in Cote d'Ivoire.**

Noting strongly that despite the declining condition of land, the World continues to go on with consumerism driven life-styles and still expect our lands to keep giving, Shri Yadav said "It is imperative that we collectively move away from a consumption-oriented approach. The mindset of use and throw is deleterious for the planet".

Speaking on the effect of Global warming on land Shri Yadav stated that protecting both people and the planet will not be possible without the developed countries taking the lead in drastic emissions reduction, as their responsibility for global warming is the highest both historically and in the present.

Speaking on the effects of the COVID pandemic, the Indian Environment Minister stated that it has compounded the challenge of fighting global warming as economic pressures have delayed or slowed climate action across the world, but at the same pointed out the finding of the IPCC Report of the Third Working Group, about **the world exhausting its remaining carbon budget at a rapid pace, pushing us closer to the temperature limits of the Paris Agreement.**

Speaking on India's presidency of the COP since 2019, Shri Yadav informed that during the COP Presidency under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India has made significant progress in its commitment to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030, stating that major initiatives have been launched and existing programmes strengthened in meeting our Land Degradation Neutrality targets.

The Minister further stated that India has enhanced monitoring the health of its soils through the Soil Health Card Programme implemented throughout the country. "Over 229 million Soil Health Cards have been issued to farmers between 2015 and 2019 and this program has led to a decline of 8-10% in the use of chemical fertilizers and also raised productivity by 5-6%.", said Shri Yadav

Further informing about the significant actions done under India's presidency, Shri Yadav said that following the global call for the submission of nominations for World Restoration Flagships, the Government of India endorsed six restoration flagships that target the restoration of 12.5 million hectares of degraded lands.

"I would like to point out that India's rural livelihood programmes have an underlying ethos of natural resource conservation and restoration. In recovering from the pandemic, we have used our livelihood programmes extensively to work towards land restoration. Building forward better and greener communities, especially for vulnerable groups, will have to be at the heart of the restoration agenda.", stated the current COP president

Emphasizing that landscape restoration is more than planting trees, Shri Yadav said that it becomes essential that we recognize the power of local and indigenous knowledge with the close assistance of science and technology and must integrate community needs, priorities and expertise in all parts of the process.

Concluding the statement, Shri Yadav expressed hope that the collective commitments are transformed into action by all

## Conservation News -

countries, and public, private and civil society actors, significantly increasing resources to address the global challenge of containing land degradation, and assured India's continued support and readiness to contribute to the positive outcome of this conference.

The fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) at Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 9 to 20 May 2022, will bring together leaders from governments, the private sector, civil society and other key stakeholders from around the world to drive progress in the future sustainable management of land and will explore links between land and other key sustainability issues.

These issues will be discussed during the high-level segment, including a Heads of States Summit, high-level roundtables and interactive dialogue sessions, as well as numerous other special and side events.

Drought, land restoration, and related enablers such as land rights, gender equality and youth empowerment are among the top items on the Conference agenda. Through its decisions adopted by UNCCD's 197 Parties, COP15 is expected to galvanize sustainable solutions for land restoration and drought resilience, with a strong focus on future-proofing land use.

## Joint Declaration of Intent on Forest Landscape Restoration between India and Germany signed virtually

**2nd May, 2022**

The Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) on Forest Landscape Restoration between India and Germany was signed virtually between Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav and Her Excellency Ms. Steffi Lemke, Minister for Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection of the Federal Republic of Germany today. It is one of the deliverables of the 6th India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC).

During the event, Shri Bhupender Yadav stated that this JDI will provide the platform to further advance our partnership and support in areas like conservation and restoration, climate protection and conservation of biodiversity. This will also take our partnership to another significant step forward.

Shri Yadav further stated this Joint Declaration of Intent on Forest Landscape Restoration will also help in strengthening Indo-German Cooperation under the dynamic guidance of our Leaders.

The Union Environment Minister mentioned that the JDI will also enable us to successfully partner with each other and expand our bilateral cooperation in the areas of forest landscape restoration, environment and climate change.

Both countries looked forward to successful implementation of the JDI.

# Conservation News -

## Bio-Decomposer Technology for Stubble Burning

**7th April, 2022**

The bio-decomposer namely Pusa Decomposer developed by The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has been used by the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi to total of 978,713 acres (3,91,485 ha) equivalent to about 2.4 million tonnes of straw management in this year.

Also, to support the efforts of the Governments of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi to address air pollution and to subsidize machinery required for management of crop residue (Cropping System Model-CSM), a Central Sector Scheme on 'Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for In-Situ Management of Crop Residue in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi' is implemented from 2018-19. Under this scheme financial assistance @ 50% of the cost of machinery is provided to the farmers for purchase of identified crop residue management machinery and financial assistance @ 80% of the project cost is provided to the Cooperative Societies of Farmers, Farmers Producers Organization (FPOs), Registered Farmers Societies and Panchayats for establishment of Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) of identified crop residue management machinery.

The satellite-based monitoring indicated that a total 82533 paddy residue burning events were detected in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh in 2021 season which are 7.71% less than in 2020.As per the monitoring report, paddy residue events in Haryana increased from 4,202 in 2020 to 6,987 in 2021, while in Punjab events decreased from 83,002 in 2020 to 71,304 in 2021. Similarly, the satellite estimated paddy burnt area in Haryana increased from 216,000 ha in 2020 to 354,000 ha in 2021, while in Punjab the paddy burnt area decreased from 1.66 Million ha in 2020 to 1.59 Million ha in 2021.

During the period from 2018-19 to 2021-22, a total of more than 2.13 lakh crop residue management machines have been supplied to these established CHCs and to the individual farmers in these 4 States (Punjab- 85386 Nos., Haryana- 72237 Nos., Uttar Pradesh – 55711 Nos. and NCT of Delhi – 202 Nos) which also include more than 1889 balers (Punjab -264 Nos., Haryana -973 Nos. and Uttar Pradesh – 652 Nos.)

This information was given by the Minister of State for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey in a written reply in Rajya Sabha on 7th April 2022.

## Rules to Contain Environmental Damage Due to E-Waste Generation

**7th April, 2022**

The percentage of e-waste collected, dismantled & recycled/ disposed out of the total e-waste generated in the country from twenty-one (21) types of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) notified Under the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 during the last three years is given below:

## Conservation News -

| Financial Year | Generation | Quantity of e-waste collected, dismantled & recycled / disposed |
|---|---|---|
| | (Tonnes) | (Tonnes) |
| 2017-18 | 7,08,445.00 | 69,414.0 |
| 2018-19 | 7,71,215.00 | 1,64,663.0 |
| 2019-20 | 10,14,961.21 | 2,24,041.0 |

The input data of e-waste generated is collated on national level only.

Ministry has notified E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 which were further amended in 2018for management of electronic waste generated due to discarding of electronic equipment by the consumers. The rules came into force since 1st October, 2016and have the following specific objectives:

- Extended Responsibility to producers to manage a system of E-waste collection, storage, transportation and environmentally sound dismantling and recycling through EPR Authorization (EPRA).
- To promote and encourage establishment of an efficient e-waste collection mechanism.
- To promote environmentally safe and sound recycling through authorized dismantlers and recyclers of e-waste.
- To minimize illegal recycling / recovery operations.
- Reduce hazardous substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE).

The EEE after their useful life when they become e-waste, may not cause any harm to health and environment if it is stored safely. However, if un-scientific and crude methods are used for processing for retrieval of useful components or material or if the material is disposed in open, then it may cause health risks and damage to environment. Under the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016, collection and processing of e-waste can be carried out only by Producers or their authorised associates/ partners, authorised dismantlers, recyclers and authorised refurbisher. Non-compliance of the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 may lead to adverse impact on environment and human health. Following steps have been taken to curb informal collection and unscientific dismantling and recycling of e-waste:

- Under EPRA, a producer is required to get its e-waste managed only through an authorized dismantler or recycler of e-waste.
- Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) grants EPRA only to those producers who have set up a system of collection of e-waste through authorised entity as per the above said rules.
- An Action Plan for enforcement of E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016, across the country is in place since May, 2019. The action plan is to be implemented by all the States/UTs and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/ Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) are required to submit their quarterly progress reports to CPCB to review progress. In the said action plan, checking informal traders, dismantlers, recyclers of e-waste have been taken-up as one of the action points. Drives for identification of informal activities are to be done by all the SPCBs along with district

## Conservation News -

administration of the State. An e-waste management review portal has also been developed for uploading status & progress of e-waste action plan.

- Actions, such as, constitution of teams for carrying out drives, issuing of notices, closure of operation, seizing the E-Waste against the informal processing are being taken up by the SPCBs/PCCs. Seventeen SPCBs/ PCCs started the drive against informal recycling as per the aforesaid Action Plan during Financial Year 2020-2021.
- Under the aforesaid rules, provisions have been made for recognition and registering of workers involved in dismantling and recycling of E-Waste. Under Rule 12(1) of the said rules, State Government has been entrusted with the responsibility to ensure earmarking or allocation of industrial space or shed for E-Waste dismantling and recycling in the existing and upcoming industrial park, estate and industrial clusters.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey in a written reply in Rajya Sabha on 7th April, 2022.

## Equipment Discussions -

# Blackmagic Design announces new Pocket Cinema Camera 6K G2

Blackmagic has announced the new BMPCC 6K G2 cinema camera in Super-35 sensor size. In this G2 version, the sensor remains the same at 6K in S-35 format. The G2 version has nearly all the same specs as the previous but eliminates the internal ND filter. The LCD brightness has also been reduced.

The G2 version includes rest of the previous features of the BMPCC 6K Pro like 5 inch tilting touch screen LCD monitor, EVF, dual mini-XLRs, NP-F570 L series battery. The Davinci Resolve Studio free activation key is also included with the G2.


**Sensor size:** S-35 CMOS sensor – 6144x3456 pixels. Shoots upto 60fps in 6K. The sensor size is 23.1x12.99 mm.

**Dynamic range:** BMD Claims 13 stops of effective dynamic range.

**Dual native ISO:** It has ISO 400 and ISO 3200 as two native ISOs. One can shift between them as per need. The highest ISO is 25600. However, that high ISO comes with noise.

**Gen 5 Colour:** The G2 uses the same G5 colour science and hence files from the G2 can be easily intercut with the BMPCC 6K Pro and Ursa Mini 12K cameras.

**Active Canon EF Mount:** The inclusion of an active Canon EF mount helps in getting the lens to send aperture, autofocus information. So one can get the benefit of using AF lenses and get improved autofocus. Now one can use 100s of

## Equipment Discussions -

Canon EF and EF-S lenses with the BMPCC 6KG2 camera.

**Gyro sensor data:** The gyro sensor data can be recorded into the metadata and while editing in DaVinci Pro one can use the gyro sensor data to stabilize.

**Recording media selection:** One can select whether to record in the SD card or SSD media from the LCD screen.

**Focus assist slider:** There is a new focus assist intensity adjustment slider to fine tune based on need.

**ProRes or Raw:** You can record in ProRess 422 or Blackmagic Raw.

**Media:** Two media slots - SD/SDXC (UHS-II) and CFast 2.0 slots.
**External recording:** 4:2:2 10 bit over HDMI.

**Dimensions:** 7.08 inch x 4.84 inch x 4.4 inch
**Weight:** 1.2kg
**Price:** $1995 US Dollars

**B&H Link:** https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1713293-REG/blackmagic_design_pocket_cinema_camera_6k.html/BI/19990/KBID/13252

**PRESS RELEASE**

## Blackmagic Design Announces New Blackmagic Pocket Cinema Camera 6K G2

Blackmagic Design today announced the Blackmagic Pocket Cinema Camera 6K G2, a next generation model of the Blackmagic Pocket Cinema Camera 6K. The Blackmagic Pocket Cinema Camera 6K G2 includes an adjustable touchscreen screen for easier framing of shots, a larger battery for longer shooting without needing to charge or change batteries, as well as support for an optional electronic viewfinder. The Blackmagic Pocket Cinema Camera 6K G2 has the latest Blackmagic generation 5 color science and retains the popular cinematic Super 35 HDR image sensor with 13 stops of dynamic range, dual native ISO and EF lens mount from the previous model.

Blackmagic Pocket Cinema Camera 6K G2 is available immediately from Blackmagic Design resellers worldwide for US$1,995.

The elegant design of the Blackmagic Pocket Cinema Camera packs an incredible number of high end digital film features into a miniaturized, handheld design. Made from lightweight carbon fiber polycarbonate composite, the camera features a multifunction handgrip with all controls for recording, ISO, WB and shutter angle right at customers' fingertips. Because it's an advanced digital film camera, the sensor is designed to reduce thermal noise allowing cleaner shadows and higher

## Equipment Discussions -


ISO. Plus the large 5 inch LCD makes it possible to get perfect focus at 4K and 6K resolutions.

Featuring a larger 6144 x 3456 Super 35 sensor and EF lens mount, the Blackmagic Pocket Cinema Camera 6K G2 lets customers use larger EF photographic lenses to create cinematic images with shallower depth of field, allowing creative defocussed backgrounds and gorgeous bokeh effects.

With the advanced Blackmagic OS, customers get an intuitive and user friendly camera operating system based on the latest technology. The interface uses simple tap and swipe gestures to adjust settings, add metadata and view recording status. Customers also get full control over advanced camera features such as on screen focus and exposure tools, 3D LUTs, HDR, metadata entry, timecode, Blackmagic RAW settings and more.

Whether users are shooting in bright sunlight or in almost no light at all, the 13 stops of dynamic range with dual native ISO up to 25,600 provide stunning low noise images in all lighting conditions. Plus the 6K models feature a larger Super 35 sensor that allows shooting with a shallow depth of field and anamorphic lenses. All models let customers shoot up to 60 fps or 120 fps windowed. An amazing sensor combined with Blackmagic color science means customers get the same imaging technology as the most expensive digital film cameras.

Blackmagic Pocket Cinema Camera features a large, bright 5 inch touchscreen that makes it easy for customers to frame shots and accurately focus. On screen overlays show status and record parameters, histogram, focus peaking indicators, levels, frame guides and more. The Pocket Cinema Camera 6K G2 LCD monitor is a more advanced display that can be tilted up and down so it's easy to monitor a shot from any position.

## Equipment Discussions -

Featuring the same generation 5 color science as the high end URSA Mini Pro 12K, the new Pocket Cinema Camera 6K G2 delivers an even greater advancement in image quality with stunning, accurate skin tones and faithful color in every shot. Customers get a new dynamic 12-bit gamma curve designed to capture more color data in the highlights and shadows, for better looking images. The color science also handles some of the complex Blackmagic RAW image processing, so color and dynamic range data from the sensor is preserved via metadata which customers can use in post production.


The Pocket Cinema Camera 6K models support an optional viewfinder to make outdoors and handheld shooting accurate and easy. Customers get an integrated high quality 1280 x 960 color OLED display with built in proximity sensor, 4 element glass diopter for incredible accuracy with a wide -4 to +4 focus adjustment. A built in digital focus chart ensures customers get perfect viewfinder focus setup. Customers can also view critical status information such as frame guides. The Pocket Cinema Camera Pro EVF connects quickly via a single connector. The viewfinder has a 70 degree swivel range and comes with 4 different types of eyecups for both left and right eyes.

The Blackmagic Pocket Cinema Camera 6K models both now use larger NP-F570 batteries for longer shooting times without needing to change or charge batteries. A locking DC power connector is used so customers won't have to worry about losing power during a shoot. Plus the included AC plug pack can power the camera and charge the battery simultaneously. Even the USB-C expansion port can trickle charge the battery, so customers can use portable battery packs, mobile phone

## Equipment Discussions -

chargers or laptops. The optional battery grip lets customers add extra batteries to dramatically extend the power of the camera so customers can keep shooting all day.

All Pocket Cinema Camera models include a full version of DaVinci Resolve Studio, which is the same software used in Hollywood for creating high end feature films, episodic television shows, commercials and more. DaVinci Resolve features the new cut page with intelligent editing tools and innovative new features designed to help customers quickly find the footage customers want, edit it together and output it fast. In addition to the new cut page, customers also get DaVinci's legendary professional editing, advanced color correction, audio post and visual effects tools, all in a single software application.

"Since the release of the Blackmagic Pocket Cinema Camera 6K Pro, customers have been asking for some of the features to be added to the 6K model," said Grant Petty, Blackmagic Design CEO. "We've been able to achieve even greater manufacturing efficiencies which means that we are now able to release this new 6K model which adds an adjustable LCD touchscreen, larger longer battery life, support for the OLED viewfinder and improved on screen menus. We are excited to be offering these additional features that have been so popular with customers!"

- Blackmagic Pocket Cinema Camera 6K G2 features
- Designed from carbon fiber polycarbonate composite.
- 6144 x 3456 sensor with 13 stops and dual native ISO up to 25,600.
- Compatible with a wide range of popular EF lenses.
- Up to 25,600 ISO for incredible low light performance.
- Standard open file formats compatible with popular software.
- Adjustable LCD screen.
- Includes Blackmagic Generation 5 Color Science.
- Optional Blackmagic Pocket Cinema Camera Pro EVF.
- Professional mini XLR inputs with 48 volt phantom power.
- Larger NP-F570 battery, optional Blackmagic Pocket Camera Battery Pro Grip.
- Includes full DaVinci Resolve Studio for post production.

## Availability and Price

Blackmagic Pocket Cinema Camera 6K G2 is available now for **US$1,995** excluding local duties and taxes, from Blackmagic Design resellers worldwide.

## Equipment Discussions -

# Canon announces EOS R7 and EOS R10 APSC sensor cameras

Canon has announced the launch of its first APS-C sensor EOS R mirrorless cameras. The EOS R7 with its 32 MP sensor is ideal for general photography enthusiasts and people who want to create better quality photos and videos but don't need demanding features like professionals.


The EOS R7 camera has very good autofocus and the subject detection mode is same as the autofocus in EOS R3. The R7 can shoot photos upto 15 fps in mechanical shutter mode. It should be noted that earlier getting 10fps in DSLR cameras was a big thing. The R7 has dual memory card slots. It also has in-body image stabilization. It is dust and moisture resistant as well as. So it will hold up well in inclement weather. It can also shoot 4K video at 60fps using the full width of the sensor. According to Canon this is the first camera in its lineup to offer 7 stops of coordinated image stabilization. We will have to see how good this is in practice.

The EOS R10 with its 24 MP sensor is aimed at the entry level content creators and can shoot at upto 15fps in mechanical shutter mode. Like the EOS R7, the EOS R10 also don't have the 30 mins continuous shooting limit. Technically both these cameras can shoot 4K video at upto 30fps continuously for more than 30 minutes provided the card has memory and the temperature remains within acceptable limits.

For use with the EOS R7 and EOS R10, Canon has announced a series of budget lenses. Canon will release new RF-S lenses

## Equipment Discussions -


– a series of RF-mount lenses that are optimized for the smaller APS-C sensor size of the new EOS R camera system. Marked as the RF-S18-45mm F4.5-6.3 IS STM and RF-S18-150mm F3.5-6.3 IS STM lenses, these will be the standard zoom lenses for the EOS R7 and EOS R10 cameras. The RF-S 18-45mm provides an 18-45mm focal length, but users will experi-

## Equipment Discussions -

ence a field of view equivalent to 29-72mm lens coverage on a full-frame camera. The RF-S18-150mm lens is a longer-range standard zoom, equivalent to 29-240mm lens coverage on a full frame. While ideal for the new EOS R10 and EOS R7 APS-C sized sensor bodies, these lenses can be used for any R-series camera.

### Price & Availability

The Canon EOS R10 camera body will be available for an estimated retail price of **$979.99**. The Canon RF-S18-45mm F4.5 -6.3 IS STM lens with the EOS R10 will have an estimated retail price of **$1,099.00**. The Canon RF-S18-150mm F3.5-6.3 IS STM lens with the EOS R10 will have an estimated retail price of **$1,379.00**.

The Canon EOS R7 camera body will be available for an estimated retail price $1,499.00. The Canon RF-S18-150mm lens F3.5-6.3 IS STM with the EOS R7 will have an estimated retail price of **$1,899.00**.

The RF-S18-150mm F3.5-6.3 IS STM lens will be available for an estimated retail price **$499.99**, while the RF-S18-45mm F4.5-6.3 IS STM lens will have an estimated retail price of **$299.99**. All products will be available in late 2022.

# Natural History -

## COUNTRY NOTEBOOK: Goggle-Eyes : M.Krishnan:- 24-01-1954

**The Sunday Statesman (shared by Shri. Saktipada Panigrahi)**

" THROUGHOUT India and even far beyond, where the country is sufficiently dry, stony and scrub-jungly, you will find a brownish, much-streaked bird with enormous eyes trotting over pebbly riverbeds on long yellow legs, scuttling through the scrub, crouching low and merging instantly with the earth.It is a bird of many aliases, all of the descriptive and non-flattering.


It is the Stone-Curlew, the Thick-knee or the GOGGLE-EYED Plover, it is the "bastard-florican" of Anglo-Indian sportsman - I have even heard it called "bastard-florican". However it is ornithologists that have been least kind to it. Formerly it was termed 'Oedicnemus scolopax', but apparently it was felt that the second, specific part of the name was too easy; so now they call it 'Burhinus oedicnemus'!

Thick-kneed-goggle-eyed-bustard-plover-stone-curlew would be completely descriptive. The bird has the three-toed, yellow running legs of the bustards, and carries the body horizontally; when it runs, with quick, mincing steps, its head low, in a line with the body. By day it is inactive, especially when the sun is bright and cover scanty, but as the light fails it emerges singly and in pairs, moving on quick, silent feet through the scrub looking for insects.

The obliterative plumage is almost invisible in the dusk, but you may hear it, for with nightfall it grows vocal and often keeps calling till quite late, especially when the moon is bright. And listening to its wild, high, repeated "curlew, curlew", a call suggestive of desolate, wide wasteland, you know at once why it is called the Stone Curlew.

In places it is only less common on the night road than the nightjar. When caught in the beams of incoming car, it scuttles to the shelter of the nearest bush and stays put beneath it, only its big, black-and-yellow eyes betraying it- or else it flies swift and low for a short distance, the white bar in each wing clearly displayed, before touching ground again and scuttling away. It never flies high or far when disturbed, for it is a ground bird that trusts its thick-kneed legs, but I have heard a pair flying fairly high and calling to each other in the cold, clear moonlight.

Often a bird disturbed at night on the road will fly alongside the car or right over it, before turning away, somewhat in the manner of the nightjars. Once i caught one from an open lorry, putting up my hand as it came skimming over, and what impressed me was the way it went limp and yielding in the hand, and its surprising lightness. Most bird lack weight remarkably in the hand, but I think, the Stone-Curlew (it is definitely larger than the partridge) is exceptionally light, even for a bird.

I would like to know more about the courtship of this earth-loving bird, whether that is terrestrial. Does love inspire its wings at anytime or was it just the moonlight that exhilarated the birds I heard, more than once, flying high? Growing curious on this point I questioned a number of people who lived where these birds are common. They could tell me nothing, but directed to a gang-foreman whose knowledge of the fowl was said to be considerable. After missing a few opportunities, I met this expert at last, and this was what he told me, "Yes, they can fly, but that's not the point. Sometimes they fly a little, and sometimes a little further, but mostly they like to run. The point, however, is this: try them cold in a sandwich."

Unfortunately, I am a vegetarian and can add no personal recommendation, but that was the expert advice."

**- M. Krishnan**

# Wildlife Photography -

## Barking Deer via camera trap by Vipin Sharma

## Gaur and the Tiger by Shyamala Kumar

# Wildlife Photography -

## Wild Boar in Corbett by VS Shankar

## Savanna Nightjar by Vineet Shrivastava

# Wildlife Photography -

## Great Pied Hornbill by VS Shankar

## Orange Headed Thrush female by Samrat Sarkar

# Wildlife Photography -

## White capped water redstart by Vipin Sharma


## Mating of Himalayan Toad by Samrat Sarkar

# Wildlife Photography -

## Lobster Moth Caterpillar Prajwal Ullal

## The pride of the city by Prajwal Ullal

## Spare a Thought

The cover page image is a battle scene showing a sambar deer in water. A pack of dholes or wild dogs (Cuon alpinus) are racing around the water body in coordinated movements to cut off the escape route. For smaller prey like spotted deers the wild dogs readily jump into water and chase them to the deep end so that the deers have to swim to avoid drowning, in the process quickly expending energy leading to exhaustion. That makes it easy for the wild dogs to kill spotted deer. Sambar, being taller than the spotted deers, can stand in deeper water and wild dogs have to swim to reach the sambar. Hence it is not easier for the wild dogs to kill Sambars. if there are small fawns then the Sambar mother can't get into deeper water and hence it becomes easier for the wild dogs to attack. Nevertheless, the wild dogs try to distract the prey and find a weaker moment to attack from the flank.

These wild dogs don't have big weapons that other big predators like tiger and leopards possess to instantly overpower and kill off prey. The wild dogs are small in size with streamlined bodies built for speed. They can tear off chunks of flesh from their prey and soon due to loss of blood and exhaustion the prey collapses. The wild dogs intelligently coordinate among themselves and continually change tactics to suit the terrain and prey so that they can get success in hunting. These intelligent creatures are designed by God to maintain the balance in nature so that the herbivore population doesn't explode. Unfortunately these days most of our forests are isolated patches and these wild dogs are locally exterminated from most of our forests. Absence of wild dogs along with lack of other smaller carnivores like wolves and hyenas have resulted in an explosion of herbivores and hence farmers complain of loss of crops. Without solving the core issue, politicians are ready to declare Nilgais, wild boars etc. as vermin and pressurize the ministry to give culling orders.

We have to realise that if we hack away the pillars then the building will automatically collapse. The sooner we understand the ecological relationships in nature and mend our ways, the faster we will start living in harmony with nature and there will be Peace, Prosperity, Health and Progress.

### Touche.

I look forward to your inputs and support in preserving the last tracts of wilderness and wildlife of our beautiful country. For other interesting articles and images check - ***http://www.indiawilds.com/forums/*** To post in the IndiaWilds forums, you can register free of cost using your Full Name as user id at -

***http://www.indiawilds.com/forums/register.php***

If you are already a member of IndiaWilds and have forgotten you user id and/or password you can mail administrator@indiawilds.com

Regards,
**Sabyasachi Patra**

Profile | Contact | IndiaWilds Channel | Diary | Equipment reviews | Forums

**Publisher's address: -** **Plot No. 1, Akarpuri Colony,**
**Near Vaithal Temple, Old Town,**
**Bhbuaneshwar, 751002**
**Odisha Mobile - +919910900446**

---