

India Wilds®

Newsletter

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Give Chance to Nature to Recolonise

Human population has grown from 1.6 billion in 1900 to 7.79 billion today. This sudden expansion of human population is not without its impact. People had to seek food from not only from the forest in form of fruits and other non-timber forest produce, they had to also clear fell vegetation to convert the land into agricultural field. The need to have a roof on their heads lead to lot of constructions again at the cost of forests. Today our forests occupy just a fragment of the area they were in just a century ago.

The massive deforestation, dam building and other anthropogenic pressures has taken a toll on the Planet Earth and as a consequence global ambient temperatures have been rising every month for past 434 Months. February 2021 marked the 45th consecutive February and the 434th consecutive month with temperatures, at least nominally, above the 20th century average. <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/global/202102>

Climate change has been on us. The climate change induced heat waves, cyclones, landslides etc has become a regular feature. Desertification is another challenge staring us in our face.

India has 32 percent of land under degradation and 25% of land is undergoing desertification. (MoEF, <http://moef.gov.in/en/division/forest-divisions-2/desertification/introduction/>)

This has resulted in people and organisations thinking of giving a helping hand to the natural world to help and regenerate. Unfortunately, even though people are enthusiastic, there are lot of misconceptions plaguing these efforts.

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Cover Page Photograph:

Elephant in Corbett
by Sabyasachi Patra



Challenge in recreating forests:

There are challenges in recreating forests. There is a wise saying that you can plant trees but cannot create a forest. The reason for this saying is that we can choose and plant different species of trees in lands that had earlier been under occupation of people. However, in natural forests there is a complex web of ecological interrelationships between various species. Each tree is a mini ecosystem in itself with various species of microbes, insects, herpetofauna, birds etc colonizing them. Most of these complex interrelationships between species have not yet been completely deciphered by scientists. So even though people plant lot of different species of trees, however, recreating those complex interrelationships between species and achieving an ecological balance is not easy. There is always hope for human plantations as nature has its own ways of recolonizing spaces if given sufficient time and freedom.

Fish Dispersal to new water bodies:

Scientists have discovered that if you create a water body and then no fish is introduced, still after passage of sufficient time, fish can be found in these ponds. It was speculated that perhaps fish eggs somehow were able to get transported by getting attached to the feathers and feet of waterbirds. Birds often preen their feathers to keep it clean from any such entanglements else there is a chance of parasites growing. So how did these eggs get transported?

This mystery has been solved by scientists who thought the transport of fish to isolated water-bodies may be due to endozoochory ie. Eggs getting transported through the gut of the fish. It was believed that only highly resistant diapause eggs of killifish can survive the passage through the intestines of birds. However, scientists (**Experimental evidence of dispersal of invasive cyprinid eggs inside migratory waterfowl**, Adam Lovas-kiss et al, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Jul 2020, 117 (27) 15397-15399) have found that 0.2% eggs of invasive cyprinids could pass through the gut of mallards.

In an experiment they performed a controlled feeding, where “*developing eggs of two cosmopolitan, invasive cyprinids (common carp, Prussian carp) were fed to captive mallards. Live embryos of both species were retrieved from fresh feces and survived beyond hatching. Our study identifies an overlooked dispersal mechanism in fish, providing evidence for bird-mediated dispersal ability of soft-membraned eggs undergoing active development. Only 0.2% of ingested eggs survived gut passage, yet, given the abundance, diet, and movements of ducks in nature, our results have major implications for biodiversity conservation and invasion dynamics in freshwater ecosystems.*”

So if one creates a fresh water pond with tall trees that are suitable for nesting of birds and if there is no disturbance for nesting birds, then ducks and water birds are supposed to use it for

roosting and fish species would soon appear. Some species which would depend on fish would also line up in that freshwater body. Though how long this will take is anyone's guess.

Nature has a way of reclaiming places. A recent BBC report found that Chernobyl which faced nuclear disaster and hence was abandoned, has been taken over by wolf and other wild animals. (Chernobyl: The end of a three decade experiment; BBC, 14 Feb 2019, <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-47227767>) Old forts once abandoned by



people become taken over by large trees and with trees many species would start inhabiting there. However, recreating wilderness areas is not easy because it would not be easy to recreate the biodiversity of forests. Simply allowing an area to lie fallow and allowing nature to reclaim the land is easy. However, if the soil doesn't have any seeds of native species buried, then those plant and trees species would not appear. In those cases some helping hand would be required. Planting of native large fruit bearing trees is one easier aspect to tap into the nature's seed dispersal mechanism. Once large native trees start bearing fruits, birds would flock to eat the fruits. These birds would have fed fruits and seeds from some other spot and then the undigested seeds in their excreta would help germinate other native plants and trees.

There would be some helping hand required to remove invasive species from the land that remains unused by humans. Seeds of some native species of plants many be present in the soil but unless the environmental conditions are favourable they may not germinate. Some seasonal flowering plants germinate sensing the right conditions (**Memory in Plants**, IndiaWilds Newsletter Vol. 8

Issue V, May 2016, <https://www.indiawilds.com/diary/indiawilds-newsletter-vol-8-issue-v/>). Some species of plants germinate after several years. Neela kurinji flowers germinate once in 12 years. Till then their seeds remain dormant in the soil. So if original soil is present even in a small patch of the reclaimed area then it would be easier.

Disturbance free:

The other challenge of recreating the original biodiversity in man made plantations is that most of the times these plantations are not made inviolate or disturbance free. Too often these green areas are used by people for their morning walks, laughter clubs and for other such recreation. So these green spaces become inhospitable for wildlife. Snakes, mongoose, palm civets etc are often chased off and killed by people. So one major part of the area has to be cordoned off and made inviolate for these species.

Connectivity of these green areas with other larger forest patches would always help in various smaller species recolonizing and helping in the seed dispersals and growth of native forests. The way our towns and cities have grown in an unplanned haphazard manner, it would be very important to take look at the maps of entire cities to plan and recreate contiguous green areas which would help in combating the ill effects of climate change and act as lungs of our polluted human habitations.

Article -

Sacred Groves

By Mrs. Shakti & Mr. A S Bishnoi

"Our roots are deep in the woods,

Among the mosses, close to springs,

Our spirits soar high in the sky,

Among the birds and butterflies" - Madhav Gadgil

Sacred groves are a piece of natural vegetation that is protected by various communities due to religious reasons. Local communities take responsibility to protect and nurture the area. Sacred grove can be forest of single native plant or variety of native plants of that region.

India is a home to very diverse yet strong religious practices, and this has helped in retaining many sacred groves today. Even during the British rule, India had lot of forest cover and had lot of sacred groves in different parts of the country. It is believed that Sacred groves keep our body, mind and spirit healthy. As a result people lived a wonderful life.

Traditionally the sacred groves were a repository for various Ayurvedic medicines, fruits, deadwood and honey. People led a sustainable lifestyle. Our ancestors intelligently imbibed those practices as part our daily chores. Every household knew the uses of herbs needed for basic illnesses. Herbs were daily used in food for healthy life. Diets changed based on location and seasons.

Religious beliefs associated with Sacred Groves:

Indian sacred groves are often associated with temples, monasteries, shrines or with burial grounds. Our ancestors were very innovative in their ways to protect nature and enlighten us to live a meaningful life. We offered our prayers in temples located within sacred groves. People believe that they attain mukti (salvation) in the sacred grove burial grounds. Historically, sacred groves find their mentions in Hindu, Jain and Buddhist texts.

Numerous nature spirits and guardians are associated with Hindu, Jain and Buddhist deities. Such nature spirits are known as yakshas, Nagas (serpent guardians) and guardian tutelary deities (like *ayyanar* and *amman*). There is countless folklore on forest spirits, guardians and nagas which we Indians have grown up hearing during our childhood.

Planting and nurturing of trees has been a highly evolved practice in ancient India. People believe that if you plant native saplings and look after them, you not only clear your bad karma (past bad deeds) but also your ancestors karma. Your entire lineage will attain Moksh. So people without realising the scientific benefits used to plant trees.

The groves are often associated with ponds and streams, and meet water requirements of local communities. Trees hold the

Article -

top soil from being washed out and eroded. They help in percolation of the water into the soil. Trees give moisture to the air which results in rainfall.

Vrukshayurveda, the science of plant life, indicates how mystical beliefs and conservation of ecology was inter-connected. It is believed that if one plants kisirini, dadimi, rambha, priyala, and panasa, one experiences no affliction for seven births; that a person who has knowingly or unknowingly planted Ambu is respected as a recluse even while staying in the house. Every native plant has something to offer to the person who plants it in terms of fruit, shade, fodder, timber and medicinal properties. Only when a person lives with and observes the plants and trees, he/she is able to learn the beneficial properties. Tribals observe usage of plants, roots, orchids etc by birds and animals and realise their properties. Vanda an orchid that grows on trees is consumed by Crested Serpent Eagle. Scientists have found that it has anti venom properties. Even today many people flock to tribal healers who give medicines based on the bark, roots and other parts of plants and trees in forest which helps cure cancer and other deadly diseases.

Nakshatravana were routine activity for ashrams headed by highly qualified gurus. The Hindu tradition considers forests to be of three types - Tapovan, Mahavan and Sreevan. Tapovan are forests associated with penance (tapas), and are inhabited by saints and Rishis. Mahavan refers to the grand natural forests. Tapovan and Mahavan are considered to be a Raksha(sanctuary) for flora and fauna as ordinary human beings are not allowed to enter in these forests. Sreevan, which means, "forests of prosperity" consists of dense forests are open for normal humans with rules. Panchavati, or a cluster of five tree species are said to represent the five elements of Earth, Water, Fire, Air and Space. If we take a pause to observe our incredible diversity of flora species then slowly we are likely to gain knowledge and then everything will make sense.

Sacred groves are scattered all over our country, and are referred by different names in different parts of India. Eg. Kovil Kadu in Puducherry and Tamil Nadu, Gumpa Forest in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh, Sarna in Jharkhand and Chatisgarh and so on. Sacred groves occur in a variety of places – from scrub forest in the Thar Desert of Rajasthan maintained by the Bishnois, to rain forest in the Western Ghats of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala, Odisha in East as well as in North East states.

Shipin is the largest deodar grove in Himachal and contains trees that are hundreds of years old. It is believed by people that the energy in sacred grove is higher than a normal jungle and perceptive individuals can feel it. So being in sacred groves for sometime can help relax and rejuvenate a person.

Meghalaya: has some of the richest groves in the country, Khasi hills in Meghalaya have one grove called *law kyn-tangs* in almost every village. The popular myth dictates that anyone damaging the plants and trees of the grove will be killed by the forest spirit. This myth has kept people from destroying the area and thus, it is best preserved. Fear is the best medicine to discipline humans. Our ancestors were wise, because today we are witnessing results of deforestation. In the name of modernisation and progress, the businessmen, political leaders and Indian and state services officers are giving us slow poison. They have organic food which is our age old way of farming, but rest of the humans are given choice to select from the chemical infused foods. Of course we can do amends by creating our own kitchen garden.

History is replete with examples of people trying to protect sacred groves even at the cost of their lives. In 1973, women in Reni village of Uttarakhand hugged the trees to stop them from being cut, which later became popular as the Chipko movement and spread to other places. More than two hundred years ago, in September 1730, 363 Bishnois of khejarli village

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were killed by king's soldiers when they were trying to peacefully protect the trees of their village by holding the tree trunk. Women, children and elders of the village were slaughtered.

A Gurjjar settlement appears like a human-inhabited sacred grove because they plant neem trees for worshipping. Mangar Bani, the last surviving natural forest of Delhi is protected by Gurjars of nearby area.

Planting Sacred Grove in Pune:

Military Institute of Technology (MILIT) planted the first Sacred Grove of Pune City at Naval jetty of MILIT under the able guidance of Mr Raghunath Dhole who gives saplings for free to promote tree plantations and sacred grove creations in various parts of the country. He is working towards planting 75 sacred groves in our country this year, as we will complete 75 years of independence. It was his 33rd sacred grove plantation. Till now he has planted 35 sacred groves.



Plantation of Sacred Groves in MILIT Pune

What Every Individual Can do:

The future we create is every individual's responsibility. Every piece of land comes with responsibility. Sarpanch has a important role to play in the panchayati land of every village. One can create sacred groves, ghanavan, herbal garden in every village by approaching the district forest officer. We can make our village panchayat land useful for every villager by planting sacred groves and herbs. And if the land is with Govt of India in your custody it's all the more important for you to fulfil the responsibility even if you are in charge of that land for a month. Always ask yourself everyday "what can I give". And the best every land owner can do is do tree based farming. It will sustain your life, protect our soil, solve water problems, balance the environment. After first monsoon shower plant the saplings and they will thrive. It is important to note that one

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shouldn't plant invasive species or hybrids as they have no ecological value and are detrimental to the native species.

Requirements for Sacred Grove (deorai/devrai) Plantation:

Minimum 100 X 100 ft or 200 X 200 ft (ideal) land is needed. And you don't need to cut the existing tree of that area. You have to remove the invasive plants.

Urban forest or "Ghanvan" plantation:

Any piece of land in any shape or size is eligible for it. This is dense forest and secluded habitat for birds, Honey bees, butterflies and other insects.

People in ancient India lived in harmony with nature. Unfortunately over a period of time, our population has grown and we are exploiting nature at a rate which is more than its ability to regenerate. Though the deadly corona virus pandemic shook up the world and made people to contemplate for sometime, it soon has become business as usual with renewed efforts to sacrifice forests and wildlife to meet some short-term economic goals. Let us not forget that Nature is giving us a signal through climate change induced extreme weather events like cyclones, landslides, heat waves etc. The overall global ambient temperatures have been rising every month and many deadly viruses will surface after our negligence will melt permafrost. Unless we mend our ways, we have to increasingly face the vagaries of climate change and this can be the beginning of a new end. Let us rise and shine to give better tomorrow to the future generations. Earth has never been and will never be under threat. We are. So it is important that we the people focus on actions that can help us lead a more nature friendly way of life.

Over the years we have started leading an increasingly materialistic life which is divorced from nature. We think we exist on conditioned air, filter water, and packet foods. It is time to wake up and be enlightened. Enlightenment is attained by doing. And all the great yogis have been involved in doing something selflessly for bringing the balance on our planet. Yogis are in all forms, living amongst us, living within us. It is up to each one of us to be a yogi or a burden.

Conservation News -

Massive Forest Fires in Similipal Tiger National Park

Massive fires were reported in Similipal National Park in Odisha. The fires were reported from several zones. Given the dried leaves in summer it quickly spread to various parts and the inferno kept on raging in eight forest ranges for several weeks. On 3rd of March, the Odisha Government engaged over 1000 people which included 750 forest guards, fire tenders and blowers. Two teams of Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force were also deployed to put out the fire.

The opposition political parties attacked the inept handling of the forest fires by the State Government. The congress party demanded an apology from the State Government saying that the fire burnt precious medicinal plants and killed wildlife. The Odisha state BJP chief whip Mohan Majhi said that Similipal has been deliberately set on fire to erase the signs of massive deforestation.

On 10th March the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change(MoEF&CC) acting on the directions of the Union Environment Minister, constituted a team consisting of:

1. Dr. Amit Mallick, IGF, National Tiger Conservation Authority, New Delhi
2. Shri Subratt Mahapatra, DDG, MoEF&CC Regional Office, Bhubaneswar
3. Ms. Arti Chaudhary, Head, Silviculture –ICFRE (as fire expert)

The initial Terms of Reference for the team would be:

1. Assessment of the status of fire incidents in Odisha, Similipal Tiger Reserve / Biosphere Reserve in particular.
2. Expert and technical advice to the State for containment in control of fire in forest area.
3. Status of loss of forest and wildlife and its relationship with poaching, if any.

The team would be working till the State attains a normal situation with respect to fire incidents. Further, the Environment Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar informed that along with the team at MoEFCC he will himself be monitoring everyday map showing the forest fire detections in the entire State of Odisha and also a separate map showing fire detection in Similipal Tiger Reserve / Biosphere Reserve.

The Government of Odisha on 11th March announced that the forest fires have been controlled. The effort of the forest department was blessed by Nature Gods as there was a sudden rain in Similipal. That helped douse the forest fire.

Earlier the Government of Odisha had announced that it would constitute a Task Force to review forest fires in Odisha and suggest measures to strengthen the response to such forest fires. Retired Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Shri Sandeep Tripathi will head the nine member task force.

Similipal is one of the first forests to be included in the Project Tiger when it was launched. Similipal is spread of 2750 square kilometers and is a biodiversity hotspot. Similipal is the only place in India where melanistic tigers have been found.

Conservation News -

Unlike most other tiger reserves no major highways or railway lines pass through the forest to cause disturbance. However, there is a tradition of hunting called “Akhand Shikar” where all the tribals come together to hunt enmasse. The locals also engage in poaching. The Tribals put fire on a patch of forest and then wait for the animals to start moving towards them to avoid the fire. They then pick and choose animals and kill. In the last few years, the villages in the buffer area have increased in population and wide roads and multi-storied buildings have come up. The income from illegal woodcutting and poaching is a major cause of affluence of these villages. If Simlipal has to bounce back and reclaim its glory of being a leading Tiger Reserve, as it was during the time of the legendary Saroj Raj Choudhury, then it needs to be governed by strong officers and backed by political willpower.

MoU signed under National Clean Air Programme:

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed today by representatives of State Pollution Control Boards, Urban Local Bodies and Institutes of Repute for 132 identified cities for implementation of city specific action plans under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

The National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) is a long-term, time-bound, national level strategy to tackle air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner with targets to achieve 20% to 30% reduction in Particulate Matter concentrations by 2024 (with 2017 as base year).

The city action plans have been prepared to control specific air pollution sources through multidimensional actions by bringing several implementation agencies together. Expansion of ambient air quality network, source apportionment studies, public awareness, grievance redressal mechanism and sector specific action points are part of these action plans.

For successful implementation, there was a paramount need for cooperation and coordination among State agencies and technical supervision by expert Institutions of Repute. This MoU will facilitate smooth and binding execution of planned actions in time targeted manner. A National Knowledge Network comprising leading air quality specialists has also been constituted as a technical advisory group to support activities under NCAP and guide local Institutes of Repute (IoRs) in conducting air quality researches.

Speaking on the occasion Shri Javadekar said that concerted efforts are required by the State Governments and all concerned for improving air quality in the country towards realizing the vision of ‘Swachh Bharat, Swachh Vayu’ and exhorted all to work in mission mode.

"Today's initiative is in line with the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi of curbing air pollution by 20% in the next 4 years in over 100 cities... it is not an easy task but a tough challenge which we all need to achieve together." said the Union Environment Minister.

Conservation News -

The minister took the opportunity to urge the States to quickly procure e-buses for public transport purpose sanctioned under the FAME Scheme. Regretting that despite allocation of funds for 6000 e-buses to different cities across the country only 600 buses have been procured and are operational, he said if any city fails to utilise the funds sanctioned for procurement of e-buses the allocation will go to other cities.

e-book on Women Forest Officers launched on International Women's Day

Addressing the first ever conference of around 250 plus Women Indian Forest Service officers and nearly 5000 women frontline personnel, Union Environment Minister, Shri Prakash Javadekar expressed happiness over the consistent increase in number of women forest officers and frontline staff and stated that the women officers along with the women personnel down the ranks have been a formidable force to reckon with as they bring in their natural traits of effective communication, sincerity and dedication to the service in addition to the merit and requisite skills.

Shri Javadekar also released an e-book titled: “The Green Queens of India – A nation’s pride” at the virtual event which is a compilation of case studies, best practices and life experiences as shared by the woman officers themselves in what may truly be termed as a creative common collective. Shri Javadekar expressed hope that the e-book will help incentivize and further motivate the young brigade and also motivate scores of young women across the country who aspire to live and work with nature as a forest officer.

Women IFS officers have been making significant contribution in all sectors of forestry. This book is a fitting tribute to this small but strong cadre of Indian Forest Service women officers and the multifarious skills that they bring to the service has now been highlighted through this compilation of case studies.

From the time when the Imperial Forest Service was created way back in 1865, the Indian forest service has witnessed a sea change in its functioning and structure. One major milestone in this being the first induction of 3 women officers in the year 1980. Since then, there has been no turning back and the cadre strength of women IFS officers has grown from a mere handful to over 250 serving officers today.

The performance of women officers is exemplary as they face tough challenges in proving themselves through physically demanding and male dominated arena in forest service

The Green Queens of India: Nation's Pride <https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/userfiles/IFS2021.pdf>

Equipment Discussions -

SIGMA announces fp L 61 Megapixel Mirrorless Camera

SIGMA announces the “SIGMA fp L,” the world’s smallest and lightest* single-lens mirrorless camera with an approx. 61MP full-frame image sensor. The Sigma fp L has a Back-illuminated 35mm full frame sensor with hybrid phase and contrast detection auto focus.



Following are the specifications of the Sigma fp L mirrorless camera:

Sensor: Back illuminated full frame CMOS sensor (36 x24 mm)

Resolution: 61 Mega pixel (9520 x 6328)

Lens mount: L mount

Still image file format: Lossless compression RAW(DNG) data 12 bit,14 bit / JPEG(Exif2.3), RAW(DNG)+JPEG:recording is possible

Image Stabilisation: Digital in video mode

ISO: Auto, 100 to 25600, Extendable from ISO 6 to 102400

Shutter: 1/8000 to 30 seconds. In Bulb mode 0 to 300 seconds.

Continuous shooting: upto 10fps in full 61 MP resolution for 12 frames in Raw and 14 frames in JPEG mode.

Interval recording: Interval recording mode for timelapse use.

Video:

Raw video: UHD 4k upto 25p in 8 bit Raw. Full HD upto 60fps in 12 bit Raw, 60 fps Raw in 10 bit, 120 fps Raw in 8 bit.

Equipment Discussions -

H.264/Mov 4:2:2 in 8 bits: UHD upto 30p, Full HD upto 120p.



External video recording:

DCI 4k at 24 bits in 12 bit Raw, UHD 4k upto 30p in 12 bit Raw, Full HD upto 120p.

Monitor: 3.15 inch , 2100,000 dot, fixed touch screen type LCD monitor

Media: SD, SDHC, SDXC memory card (UHS-Ⅱ supported) , Portable SSD (USB 3.0 connection, USB bus power supported)

Size: 4.4 inch x 2.8 inch x 1.8 inch

Weight: 427 gms

Price: 2499 USD.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3CIt_SI3LUE

PRESS RELEASE

SIGMA Announces fp L 61-Megapixel Mirrorless Camera & EVF-II Electronic Viewfinder

SIGMA Corporation is pleased to announce the launch of the “SIGMA fp L,” a new member of the SIGMA fp series of the world’s smallest and lightest* full-frame digital single-lens mirrorless cameras, equipped with a full-frame Bayer sensor with approximately 61 effective megapixels. And thanks to this 61MP image sensor, the SIGMA fp L boasts outstanding resolving power, while remaining true to the SIGMA fp development concepts, namely the “world’s smallest and lightest

Equipment Discussions -

pocketable full-frame camera,” “seamless STILL / CINE switch,” and “excellent customizability and scalability.” With an excellent crop zoom that capitalizes on its ample megapixels, it offers users levels of image quality and creative range that are only possible with an ultra-high pixel camera. It also comes with an array of new features and accessories, which will make shooting more user friendly, including hybrid autofocus (AF) that combines contrast- and phase-detection, and USB charging while the camera is on. A new optional external electronic viewfinder EVF-11 will be available with the camera’s introduction.

1 | SIGMA fp development concepts and its three keys

Breaking down ideas of camera-centric hierarchies and categories, SIGMA makes a point of questioning what the genuine value of a camera is. What is essential to photographers? How can we make a camera that not merely meets the need, but makes your life more fulfilling and fun? By asking these questions, SIGMA has brought the SIGMA fp to life. Endlessly flexible and adaptable, a user-oriented camera for people who know what they want to shoot and what they want to create. Making a camera such as this a reality relies on three key concepts that represent the SIGMA fp series identity.

- *Pocketable Full-Frame* Small in size, big on quality. Perfect for carrying anywhere. The SIGMA fp: world’s smallest and lightest* full-frame mirrorless camera you can take with you anytime, anywhere.
- *Scalable* From vintage lenses to modern gadgets, up to professional movie setup. Creating your own style has never been so easy. Customize your fp just the way you want it, to suit what you want to do.
- *Seamless* Capturing your best moment. Photo or video? The choice is yours. Change shooting modes with just a flip of a switch. Capture the moment whether it’s video or stills, beyond the boundaries of style or genre.

2 | The new fp L makes the fp a family of two

The fp, the series’ concept model, is now joined by the fp L that takes full advantage of high-resolution, giving the world’s smallest and lightest “pocketable full-frame” lineup a boost.

- *fp L - A big canvas for big moments* Back-illuminated 35mm full size effective approx. 61 megapixels Bayer sensor Contrast detection autofocus + Phase detection autofocus Supports USB power supply
- *fp - A small camera for a big freedom* Back-illuminated 35mm full size effective approx. 24.6 megapixels Bayer sensor Contrast autofocus The original “World’s smallest and lightest full-frame mirrorless”

3 | Key features of the fp L

Four features newly available on the SIGMA fp L

[Accessories and new features common for the fp series]

Accessories and new features that will become available* on both the SIGMA fp L and the SIGMA fp

*Scheduled to be available on SIGMA fp via firmware update scheduled at a later date.

External Electronic Viewfinder -

EVF-11: An attachment you’ve been waiting for -

An external electronic viewfinder EVF-11 (optional) designed exclusively for use with the SIGMA fp series. With its 0.5 inch, approx. 3.68 M dots OLED panel, this high-resolution, high-luminance viewfinder will make you feel immersed in your photography experience more thoroughly than ever.

Equipment Discussions -

Save / Load Settings are easier than ever -

Share your work? Share your world.

With the fp L, you can now save a custom camera setting. Saved settings can be kept as QR code image data, so you can load many patterns of settings very quickly. This allows for a new, fun way for users to share custom settings they recommend with one another by exchanging QR codes with other users or sharing them on social media.

*QR Code is a registered trademark of Denso Wave Inc.

Powder Blue & Duotone

New colors. New adventures.

Powder Blue is a color mode with a bright and clear feel, featuring a refreshing blue color, while Duotone turns the colors of an image into a striking two-color gradient. With the addition of these two new modes to SIGMA's ample choice of color modes originally featured on the fp series, there are now a total of 15 color modes to choose from. It is sure to bring a greater range and freedom to your still and video image creation with the fp series.

[Key functions and features for different uses]

What is the situation like? Who is using it? The SIGMA fp L is flexible and adaptable to suit whatever the photographer wants. Here are what make it so.

A still camera for stunning pictures

Back-illuminated 35mm full-frame Bayer sensor with approx. 61 effective megapixels that supports image plane phase-detection AF

15 Color Modes to choose from: Two additional modes newly available*

Save / Load Settings*

Smooth autofocus: Hybrid AF

External Electronic Viewfinder EVF-11 (optional)*

*Scheduled to be available on SIGMA fp via firmware update scheduled at a later date.

Webcam for communication with quality image

Turn the SIGMA fp into a webcam with just a USB-C cable. The SIGMA fp series supports the USB video device class. Simply connect your camera to PC via USB and it sends audio and video to the PC, and works as a webcam.

Supports USB charging while the camera is on: Works as an audio and video input device while getting power supply from the PC*. Stream video for as long as you want.

*Dependent on the PC's supply capacity

Hybrid AF: Tracks your subject smoothly and keep them in focus even when streaming online

Save / Load Settings*: Loads a webcam setting fast using a QR code

Change camera settings even when connected: Exposure compensation; shutter speed; ISO sensitivity; Color Mode; white balance

15 Color Modes to choose from*: Create a streaming video look the way you like it

Equipment Discussions -

*Scheduled to be available on SIGMA fp via firmware update scheduled at a later date.

Cinema camera as a powerhouse in a shoot

Supports 3 RAW file formats

Supports camera control with a gimbal

Hybrid AF: Supports recording using a gimbal and one-person operation

Supports different frame rates*: Supports frame rates commonly used in filmmaking

Saving & Loading Settings*: Perfect for sharing camera settings in a multi-camera shoot

*Scheduled to be available on SIGMA fp via firmware update scheduled at a later date.

Director's viewfinder essential tool for a film director

Director's viewfinder*: Simulates shooting ranges of cinema cameras by major manufacturers

Frame guide*: Supports custom frame lines

Selection of external viewfinders*: Choice of electronic and optical viewfinders

Screenshot*: Capture what's on your screen in a single image

Saving & Loading Settings*: Batch save complicated settings using QR code to store or load them at will

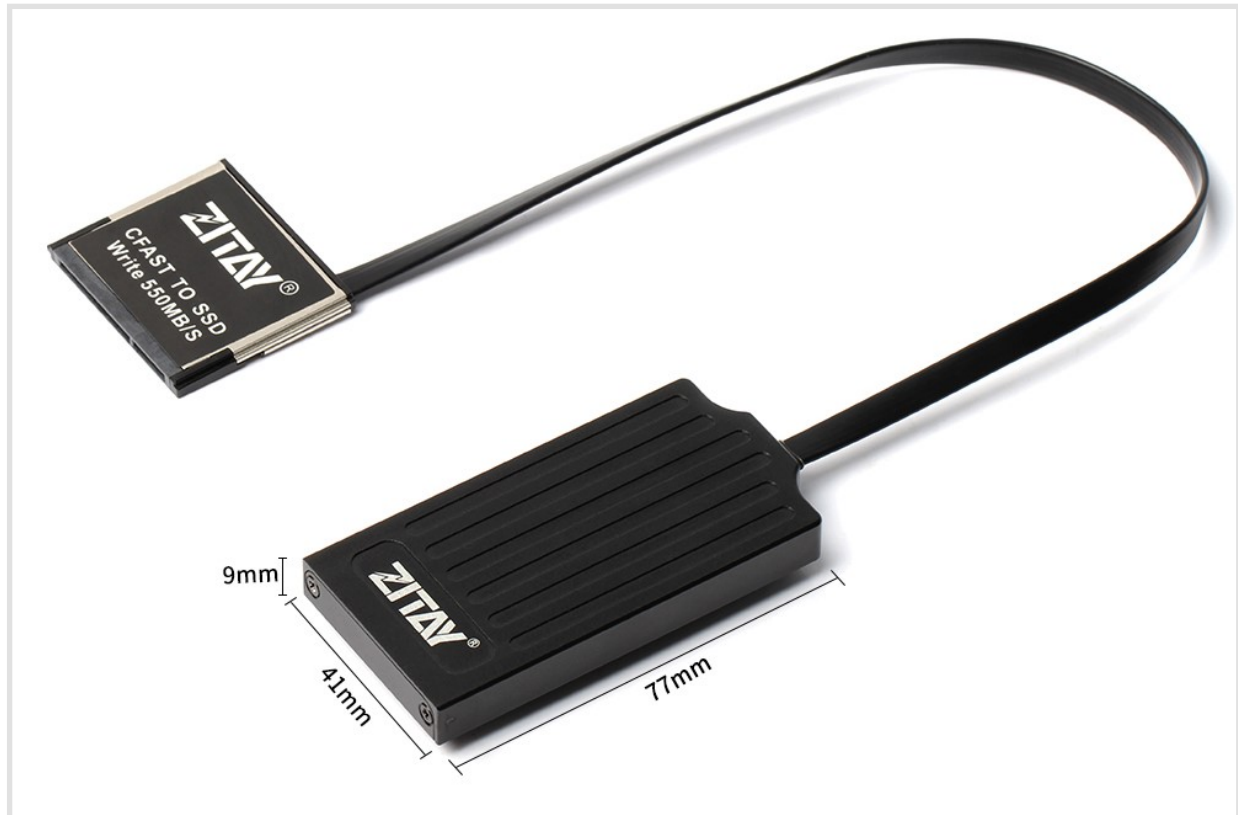
*Scheduled to be available on SIGMA fp via firmware update scheduled at a later date.

Equipment Discussions -

Zitay CFast 2.0 Dummy card to MSATA SSD adaptor

Couple of years ago when we were struggling with the high cost of the CFast 2.0 cards in the high end DSLR and video cameras, there were many thoughts of having a dummy CFast 2.0 card and connecting it to a SSD. Now Zitay has launched one such Dummy CFast 2.0 dummy card to MSATA SSD adaptor.

According to Zitay the write speed is 550 MB/S. Though it supports a variety of solid state drives, they have recommended to use Samsung 860 EVD SSDs as it can shoot 4K 60p raw without dropping a single frame.



Specifications:

Main Material: Aviation-grade 6061 Aluminum Alloy

- **Processing Way:** CNC Engraving
- **Surface Processing:** Anode Hard Oxidation Process
- **Fixing Methods:** Standard 1/4 Screws, 3/8 Screw
- **Input Voltage:** 7V-28V
- **Input Current:** <1A
- **Size:** 77x41x9mm
- **Weight:** 75g

Features:

1. can completely replace the expensive CFAST card;

Equipment Discussions -

2. it is safe and reliable, and the security of the data completely depends on SSD; once the data is written into the SSD, the security is independent of the converter;
3. the capacity can be determined automatically, the maximum capacity of a single channel is 1T, and the maximum of two channels is 2T (This listing is single channel)
4. the aviation grade aluminum alloy CNC processing, small size, easy to install;
5. copy data is convenient, no need to open the converter, just need CFAST card reader to copy data to the computer;
6. no external power supply, directly powered by the CFAST card slot .
7. Two 1/4" screw holes on the bottom , easy to fix, can be easily fixed to the shoe mount or any other plate with 1/4" screw mount

Cameras Supported:

Support Canon XC10, Canon C300 MARKII, Canon 1DX Mark II ,Canon C200

(special fit for Canon , no external power supply, can close the door)

Blackmagic URSA, Blackmagic URSA Mini, ARRI Amira, ARRI ALEXA MINI

BMPCC 4K ZCAM E2

How to Use It? –

Install the SSD: Use the standard Phillips screwdriver to remove the two screws at the rear of the converter. Insert the solid state drive into the converter (pay attention to the direction), insert it into the end, then cover the small cover and tighten the screws; - Fix the Adapter: There are 2 1/4 screw holes on the bottom of the converter. Secure to the appropriate position with the standard 1/4 screw or hot shoe screw;

- Insert the CFAST card into the CFAST card slot of the camera to be used normally (Note: For CANON cameras such as C200, C300, 1DX2 and other models, the CFAST card slot cover can be fully closed. Zitay says that one needs to consult customer service for specific methods, because the different models of the machine, the method is slightly different.

Copy Data: You can copy the data without opening the converter, just need to insert the converter's CFAST card into the CFAST card reader, connect to the computer.

Package Included: - 1 x CFAST To SSD Adapter - 1 x Adhesive Sticker - 2 x Mounting Accessories - 1 x Screwdriver

Equipment Discussions -

FilmConvert Nitrate problem with FCPx 10.5.2 on Apple Silicon Macs

I just got an email from the popular colour grading plugin FilmConvert that the FilmConvert Nitrate doesn't work with the new FCPx 10.5.2 update on the Macs running the new M1 Apple chips.

Following is the text:

Hi there, we wanted to let you know we're aware of an issue affecting FilmConvert Nitrate and the new Final Cut Pro 10.5.2 update on Apple M1 Silicon Macs and are working on a fix for it now.

The issue only affects the new Apple M1 Silicon-based Macbooks and Mac Mini - if you're on an Intel-based machine, you are not affected.

We don't have an ETA for the resolution at the moment, but we will let you know as soon as it's available.

If possible, we recommend not upgrading to FCP 10.5.2 for the time being to avoid disruption to your projects.

In the meantime, there is a workaround you can use to open your projects graded with the FilmConvert Nitrate plugin. Please see the instructions below:

Launch Final Cut Pro in compatibility mode by entering the following command in the Terminal.

```
screen -d -m arch -x86_64 /Applications/Final\ Cut\ Pro.app/Contents/MacOS/Final\ Cut\ Pro
```

We apologize for the inconvenience - we are working with Apple on a solution and hope to release an update soon.

Best regards,

The FilmConvert team

As Apple is completely moving into its own processors instead of the Intel processors, for sometime these kinds of compatibility issues are expected. Hopefully these will be sorted out soon.

Equipment Discussions -

Apple releases FCPx 10.5.2 update

Apple has released an update to FCPX on 4th March 2021. This version called as 10.5.2 is optimized for Apple Silicon which apple launched earlier in the Macbook Air, Macbook Pro and Mac Mini. There are some routine bug fixes as well. The following are the release notes.

New in Final Cut Pro 10.5.2

- Adds support for a new Universal RED plugin enabling native RED RAW decoding and playback on both Apple silicon and Intel-based Mac computers.
- Improves stability when playing back H.264 video files with corrupt data.
- Fixes an issue in which text could disappear when double clicking a value field in the inspector.
- Fixes an issue in which FCPXML files created from drop frame projects would import as non drop frame.
- Fixes an issue that may prevent custom Motion titles stored inside the library from appearing in the Titles browser.
- Improves stability when choosing the DPP/Editorial Services metadata view with MXF media.
- Improves stability when using AirPlay with Final Cut Pro on a Mac computer with Apple silicon.

As usual it is important to note that if you are in between editing big projects then it is better to wait before we hear of any bug fixes.

Natural History -

COUNTRY NOTEBOOK: Gay little Fox: M.Krishnan:- 09-12-1951

The Sunday Statesman (shared by Shri. Saktipada Panigrahi)

“Our fox is a true fox, as much as the English and Himalayan red foxes. Only it is grey, and much smaller, no bigger than a big domestic cat. In fact, from some distance and in the uncertain light that it likes, one could make it for a well-nourished, somewhat leggy cat-but whoever saw a cat with such a fluffy tail or which was so sprightly!



The little fox lives in open places, in flat country not overgrown by forest and scrub jungle. All day long it sleeps in its deep, cool earth in the sandy soil, secure from the heat and glare. And at dusk it comes out and is transformed at once from an inert burrow-dweller into a frisking, puckish thing with a rich, black brush as long as its body and feet that seemed to rebound from the air. Its high-pitched, quickly repeated call quivers through the darkening air, announcing its emergence. It takes a good look around, then begins the grim business of keeping its slim body and merry soul together, almost playfully.

It slinks along, crouches, pounces and dances around, chasing beetles, lizards or field-mice. Watching a fox at hunting, one is more impressed by lightness of its feet and amazing ability to turn at sharp angles at speed than by any serious purpose; but of course it hunts for its living. In a way, a fox is more dependent on its hunting skill than a jackal or wolf, for it does not smell out and feed on carrion or have the aid of pack-mates. However it is also true that its prey includes things that call for no great effort or cunning in their hunting, beetles, crickets, the teeming swarms of gauge-winged termites issuing from the earth after rains, even melons and other fruit.

It is when the fox is escaping from an enemy that you see how nimble it is on its feet and how masterfully it can jink. No other creature can turn aside from its course, when going all out, with the spontaneity and ease of the little fox, and this manoeuvre upsets the pursuer. Up goes the quarry's fluffy brush, as the chasing dog bounds in for the finish, and the fox

has turned at right angles and gained several yards while the dog is still trying to recover from the impetus of its rush. And thanks to its small size, the fox can dart into any burrow that lies handy, and squeeze through narrow gaps. It is rarely that a fox is overtaken and caught.



But however safe it is on its quick feet on the ground, a fox asleep in its earth can be dug out and bagged, literally, in a gunny bag and sometimes this sad fate overtakes it.....

One authority says," In its consistent destruction of rats and land crabs, it does real service to the farmer. and, besides these, it hunts a good many small creatures that do agriculture no good." I wish it were possible to get by some means, effective protection for this useful and delightful creature, but with wildlife preservation in the state in which it is now in our country, I can only wish."

- M. Krishnan

Wildlife Photography -

Tiger by Shyamala Kumar



Black Buck by Vineet Shrivastava



Wildlife Photography -

Coppersmith barbet by Prajwal Ullal



Godwits in Flight by Mrudul Godbole



Wildlife Photography -
Tiny grass Blue by Prajwal Ullal





This is the 147th issue of IndiaWilds Newsletter. A photo of a wild tusker adorns the cover page of this issue. This wild elephant is grazing in the Grasslands which was earlier a village. When the villagers vacated and shifted over to another place the barren patch turned into a nice grassland. Nature reclaims the lands that are vacated by humans. Nature turns its magic and starts its slow by continuous process of renewal.

Humans clear fell forests and convert those into agricultural fields and living quarters. When humans leave the place for some reason or other, nature comes back and takes it over. First grows grass and the vacant lands turn into fine meadows. Later, undigested seeds of trees are dispersed through the gut of elephant like the one in the cover page. There are many other animal and bird species who aid in the seed dispersal mechanism. Finally some of these seeds sprout and turn into big trees. Over many decades grasslands turn into forests and forests in turn get converted into grasslands. Nature continues with its intricate design. It is we humans who block the nature's processes as we still don't have the knowledge of nature's complex mechanism. If only we spend time and energy observing nature and conducting scientific studies then we will unravel the mysteries of nature. And in it lies the future well being of Man.

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 your user id and/or password you can mail administrator@indiawilds.com

Regards,

Sabyasachi Patra

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