

IndiaWilds®

Newsletter

Vol 13. Issue XI November 2021 ISSN 2394 - 6946





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Cover Page Photograph:

**Purple Heron by
Sabyasachi Patra**

Stealing the tomorrow of Future Generations :

Many years ago, on a warm summer evening, suddenly a few people came running to give the news of a great fire in the forest rapidly moving towards the village. They suggested that the fire can only be contained if all the able bodied men, women as well as children rush to fight the fire. Soon the village folk started offering different opinions.

The farmers said that since they don't venture into the forest, they are definitely not responsible for setting up the fire. And they had a hard day cultivating their crops, so they will go to sleep as it is nighttime and will think about the fire in the morning. The shepherds said that they only graze their livestock in the grasslands. It is the woodcutters who had indiscriminately cut trees and the logs have now dried up and will easily burn. So, the woodcutters are at fault and should immediately proceed to fight the fire. The shepherds will go early in the morning with their livestock and can help fight the fire at that time. A few youngsters said that instead of fighting the fire, they should abandon their homes and go somewhere else. Why to work so hard to save our home? Let's find a new home. They even offered their services to carry the luggage of others for a fee. Most of the villagers got divided into groups with each blaming the other and the debate continued for hours. A few realized the danger and decided to fight the fire, but they were too few to be effective. Suddenly the wind picked up and fanned the fire. Soon the fire reached the village and before anyone could respond the raging conflagration burnt down their houses in no time.

Unfortunately, this story is not known to the men and women leading various countries who had landed in Glasgow to participate in the COP26. These Leaders had congregated to discuss steps to save the Planet from climate change. However, they had arrived at Glasgow without some of the essential toolkits. The rich and developed nations had forgotten to carry their wallets. The developing countries asserted that they too have the right to taste the fruits of consumerism and high carbon lifestyle that the developed countries had enjoyed for so long. The island nations and poor countries cried out aloud that climate change is an existential threat and for no fault of theirs they would soon be wiped out. Among all this cacophony, no one could rise to the occasion and display statesmanship.

Two weeks of high-profile negotiations for supposedly urgent climate action passed and the world leaders participating in COP26 arrived at a compromise. There were cheers for achieving it. Unfortunately, what was lost to the leaders is that Compromise by definition is acceptance of standards that are lower than is desirable. The world leaders with their blinkered vision, turned a blind eye to the need of the hour and declared victory by saying that this compromise agreement has many positives and is the best possible.



The world leaders who were at COP26 were focused on their own needs and were not ready to budge an inch from their positions. The developing countries forcefully pointed out that the developed countries have not met their pledge of providing 100 billion dollars a year to help other countries cope up and fight climate change. It is difficult to accurately calculate the actual amount of funds made available by developed countries due to different manner of calculating, and also due to inclusion of efforts made by individuals and private organisations in the final tally.

The developed countries have led a high carbon lifestyle and account for the high amount of historical emission of greenhouse gases. Climate change is known to be caused by such human actions. Hence, the third world countries expect the developed countries to pick up a significant share of the cost of mitigating climate crisis. Unfortunately, the world as we know is not a fair place. In many cases, it is difficult to penalize the guilty as the countries either would not accept their guilt or would renege on their commitments. A case in the point was USA withdrawing from the climate deal when Donald Trump became President of USA. It would be pertinent to mention that the leaders are often a prisoner of their own politics. The previous president of USA belonged to the Republican party, which believes Climate Change is a hoax. The biggest backer of the Republican Party are the Koch brothers who have huge interests in fossil fuels. Thankfully, after a new president was sworn in, USA joined the Climate Agreement once again. Nevertheless, President Joe Biden with only 50 Senate members and a thin majority in the House, is struggling in his efforts to get budgets passed for huge infrastructure investments as well as for fighting the effects of climate change. So, one obviously can't expect much from USA towards climate change related funding and leadership.



Coal Mines

image courtesy - online media

While discussing the climate agreement draft, India and China stood against phasing out coal. The initial phrase of “phaseout of unabated coal and inefficient fossil fuel subsidies” was rephrased to “phase down”. The developing nations latched on to this proposal by India’s environment minister to portray India and China as the ones who put a spanner in achieving a meaningful climate agreement. The role of the developing countries got hidden.

Indian officials say that a hard switch away from coal is not possible without compromising on India’s energy needs. Nevertheless, cynical critics point out that one of the biggest backers of India’s ruling party has huge worldwide interest in coal. And the Chinese have their own sweet interest in holding on to coal. So no wonder, amidst all such conflicting push and pulls, COP26 agreement was perhaps the most tacit acceptance of the fact that the world at large is moving away from the Paris agreement of limiting Earth’s warming to below 1.5 degrees centigrade above preindustrial era levels.

The current extreme weather events like cyclones, floods, sea level rise, heat waves induced by Climate change is a deadly precursor to the apocalyptic turn of events due to higher temperature levels. Most of the world leaders are in their 70s. US President Joe Biden is 78. The President of France in his early 40s is among the youngest. Nevertheless, not many of the current world leaders are expected to be around in 2050, when the Earth’s temperature was earlier hoped to be contained within 1.5 degree celcius of preindustrial levels. These world leaders will not be alive to see the havoc caused by climate change.

If the world leaders care to tap onto the wisdom, then there are lots of wisdom in the ancient civilisations. In the film IP Man 3, the legendary Chinese Martial Arts teacher says

“Life isn’t fair. But that doesn’t mean we can just ignore right and wrong. The rulers may be strong. The subjects may be weak. But the future doesn’t belong to the rich. And it doesn’t belong to the powerful either. It belongs to our children. And perhaps the pure of heart. Have you thought of the children? All the things we do, our children learn from them. We sacrifice. It isn’t fun and it isn’t easy. It’s necessary. Not for Today, but for Tomorrow.”

Who is thinking about tomorrow?

Our generation is caught up in its own thoughts. We have no time for the next generation. Is it good to take away the well being of future generations for our own pleasure? In Vishnu Purana, King Jajati (also pronounced as Yayati) was cursed by Guru of Ashuras, Shukracharya that he will get premature old age. After lot of convincing, Shukracharya relented and said that King Jajati can exchange his old age with one of his sons. However, all the sons refused except the youngest son Puru who readily exchanged his youth with his father’s old age. King Jajati enjoyed all sensual pleasures till wisdom dawned on him about the futility of all this. He then took back his old age and gave back youth to his son. Unfortunately, we in India today don’t have the spiritual ability to turn back the clock and revert back the golden tomorrow that we are stealing from our next generation. We don’t have the sense of right and wrong to understand that stealing the wellbeing of the future generation is not right. If only we Indians look to our Vedas, Upanishads, Puranas and other scriptures; the Chinese tap onto the teachings of Buddha, Tao and others and the Americans the wisdom available with the native Indians, then the spectre of Climate Change can be averted and world can be a better place indeed.

Conservation News -

Air pollution despite 52% reduction in stubble burning shows systemic issues

To curb and abate air pollution from stubble burning, the Commission had prepared a detailed Framework and pursuant to that Action Plans have been finalized by Government of Punjab, NCR State Governments and GNCT of Delhi.

During the current paddy harvesting season, the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) has been actively monitoring paddy residue burning events for the last one and a half month i.e. from 15th September 2021 onwards in the states of Punjab, Haryana and NCR Districts of Uttar Pradesh & Rajasthan and NCT of Delhi.

Concerted efforts are being taken by the State Governments, Departments and various other Stakeholders towards better in-situ management of crop residue through the use of CRM machinery, PUSA bio-decomposers and facilitating various options for ex-situ utilization of paddy straw, besides large number of IEC activities, educational campaigns, awareness camps and publicity through print, electronic and social media.

As a result of the foregoing report and as per the reports based on the protocol framed by ISRO for the Commission, total active paddy residue burning events in Punjab, Haryana, NCR districts of U.P & Rajasthan and NCT of Delhi have come down from 43,918 in 2020 to 21,364 in 2021 during the period from 15th September to 02nd November i.e. a reduction of 51.35% in the current year compared to the corresponding period of last year.

The week 27th October up till 02nd November has witnessed only 12,853 active cases as against 23,628 cases in 2020, thus exhibiting a reduction of 10,775 cases (about 45.6%)

The major hotspots of paddy residue burning in the state of Punjab are Tarn Taran, Amritsar, Firozpur, Patiala, Ludhiana and Kapurthala. Similarly, the major hotspots in Haryana are Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Fatehabad, Ambala and Jind.

8,575 fields where stubble burning was reported, have so far been inspected by the state enforcement agencies and officials of the respective states and Environmental Compensation (EC) of about Rs. 58,05,000 has been imposed.

The Commission is regularly taking up with the State Governments of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to ensure strict implementation of the Action Plan and the Framework to curb paddy residue burning. Harvesting is on its peak and the State Governments are taking steps as per the Plan of Action to improve the efficacy of enforcement and implementation to effectively tackle the problem of stubble burning.

Stubble burning reduction has no perceptible impact on Air Quality:

Unfortunately, despite these efforts to reduce stubble burning, Delhi has witnessed one of the worst air quality ever in November. As a result, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has rightly said that problem lies elsewhere. There is no denying that the stubble burning is impacting the air quality in the National capital region. However, we have failed to look inwards. Though the Delhi state government a few years ago had done odd-even vehicle run in Delhi, the results were not up to expectations. Lots of vehicles including two wheelers and taxis were out of the ambit of that experiment.

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In 2020, the complete lockdown due to Covid 19 pandemic had ensured completely clear skies in Delhi during the winter. This clearly shows the impact of traffic movement, construction, industrial activities on the air quality. Everyday there is construction of houses all over NCR region. Single storied houses are converted to four storied. And there are also construction of apartments all around NCR region. People staying in Delhi are even buying apartments as far as 100 kms away from Delhi. The dust from the construction activities gives a massive boost to the smog in Delhi.

There are many small-scale industries all over Delhi. They contribute to the pollution and no systemic study is there to identify and quantify their impact.

Rethink, Reimagine and Reinvent Delhi

The only way smog can be cleaned up is by attacking the root cause of pollution. We need to take steps to decongest the city. Lack of jobs in the smaller towns and cities and lure of making it big in the Capital of India, makes people flock to Delhi. It is important that the Government has to systemically ask industries to move away from Delhi. All large corporates have to move away as well.

The Government of India is a big employer along with the big Public Sector units. There is no need for everyone to there in Delhi. With the advent of internet, lot of work is done online. So only skeletal staff has to remain in Delhi in the Government offices. For that the Government has immediately hire a consultant to reengineer and restructure its offices and mode of working. Unfortunately, the Ministers and the bureaucrats won't be too happy with that. Unless these steps are taking, Delhi will be a city of Death, as the smog is leading to massive health issues. Air pollution is bringing out genetic changes in kids and teenagers and it is resulting in Telomere shortening ie. ends of the DNA are getting truncated. An estimated 2 million people in India are dying due to air pollution every year. So it is very important that the Government has to wake up and take these steps. Else, Delhi will become a City of Death.

India says it speaks on climate change from a position of strength & responsibility

6th November, 2021

During the 11th Facilitative Sharing of Views (FSV) at the COP26 in Glasgow, India made a presentation on its third Biennial Update Report (BUR) that was submitted to UNFCCC in February 2021.

Making a statement on behalf of India, Dr. J R Bhatt, Scientist G (Adviser) in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, highlighted the fact that India represents 17% of the global population, its historical cumulative emissions are only 4%, while current annual GHG emissions are only about 5%.

Following is the full statement of India at FSV Session, 06th November 2021

- We welcome this opportunity to interact with the Parties in this valuable stage of the FSV process for India's Third

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BUR. India holds multilateral process in high esteem. India takes its responsibilities and commitments under the multilateral process with utmost seriousness. It is in this perspective that we have prepared an exhaustive BUR.

- BUR3 was particularly challenging as an important part of it was conducted and finalized during the COVID19 pandemic. Nevertheless, India held steady to its commitment on BUR3, as indeed it did for all its other commitments to climate change mitigation and adaptation actions.
- Despite having more than 17% of the global population, India's historical emissions (~ 4% over 1850 to 2017) and current annual GHG emissions (~ 5%) remain very low.
- India's per capita GHG emissions (including LULUCF) in 2016, based on the national inventory reported in Chapter 2, were 1.96 t CO₂e which is less than one third of the world's per capita GHG emissions (6.55 t CO₂e) (CAIT database, 2020) for the same year.
- We emphasize that India is particularly vulnerable to climate change, a point which many friends overlook in their eagerness to understand our mitigation efforts.
- To follow a sustainable path to development, India has taken several mitigation actions. There is no sector that has been left untouched while planning and implementing climate mitigation actions. They span across the entire economy and society.
- In the last 7 years, India's installed solar energy capacity has increased 17 times, and stands at about 46 GW as on date.
- India has progressively continued decoupling of economic growth from greenhouse gas emissions. India's emission intensity of gross domestic product (GDP) has reduced by 24 % between 2005 and 2016.
- India has also proactively contributed to multilateral efforts to combat climate change. Apart from resolutely addressing climate change domestically, for the world, we have created and continue to nurture International Solar Alliance (ISA) and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). We are also taking the lead with Sweden in innovation for hard to abate sectors with a view to promoting voluntary action for low carbon transition. We are consciously pursuing our National Hydrogen Mission. So, when India speaks on climate change, it does so from a position of strength and responsibility.
- India is a megadiverse country, supporting four biodiversity hotspots of the world, and our forests are providing all the four ecosystem services.
- India's 15% of total carbon dioxide emission in 2016 was removed from the atmosphere by the LULUCF. Between 2015 and 2019, the forest and tree cover increased by 13,031 km² and mangrove cover increased by 235 km². Populations of Asiatic lion, elephant, rhino increased many folds in last 5 to 6 years.
- India has been riding the tier ladder in inventory estimation and around 2/3rd of our emissions are estimated using higher tiers and also deploy 2006 guidelines.
- Our MRV system is evolving. The operational design of measurement, reporting and verification in India is implemented in a decentralized manner. Efforts are distributed at multiple levels of governance – This is an appropriate strategy for a vast and diverse nation. Many schemes are transparently tracked through online web-portals and digital dashboards.
- Capacity building needs remain a great challenge. India looks forward to climate finance and technology transfer for the expansion in scale and scope of its mitigation and adaptation activities.
- India received 58 questions from the team of technical experts in the ICA

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- process and 24 questions from seven countries through FSV portal during the window open for parties to ask written questions. All these had been duly replied and uploaded on FSV portal before the due date of 31st October 2021.

Thank you one and all for your patient hearing.

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY BASIC GROUP IN JOINT STOCKTAKE PLenary AT COP 26

8TH November 2021

India takes the floor on behalf of BASIC, comprising of Brazil, South Africa, India and China. We align ourselves with the Statement made by Guinea on behalf of G77 and China.

The BASIC nations thank you and the secretariat for convening this stocktake and the work done so far. We convey assurances of our constructive support for the remaining part of the work in this coming week. We want to flag a continuing challenge that requires your attention. Access to the venue remains challenging, and we feel that the SEC is the least accessible COP venues in recent memory. We request you and the secretariat to make strong efforts to facilitate better access to the venue for party delegates and all COP attendees.

We congratulate you on a very successful WLS. Nations have responded to the ambition gap in mitigation with enhanced NDCs and net zero targets. Pledges and renewed commitments are on the table. We would not like to see the enhanced mitigation ambition meet the same fate as the pre 2020 climate finance ambition. It has been over a decade since the annual USD 100 billion pledge, and the world is still waiting for its mobilization and delivery.

Trust in multilateralism and credibility of the process is at stake. Post 2020 mitigation ambition and net zero pledges require significantly enhanced climate finance. The exact magnitude of the new finance goal can be determined through a structured process, with clear timelines and milestones so that we have a new finance goal well before 2025. It is a simple ask from many developing country parties. Yet, what we are getting is more workshops and in session seminars to discuss the new goal. BASIC would like to warn that lack of a serious approach to **climate finance** will jeopardize the enhanced mitigation and adaptation ambition as well as net zero pledges of parties. In the interest of transparency and enhanced understanding, we also call for a mandate to SCF to work towards multilaterally agreed, operational definition of climate finance. BASIC nations would also like to stress that the responsibility for climate finance, as mentioned in the convention and PA, should be respected. The CF responsibility remains that of developed countries, towards developing countries.

We support strong, credible domestic mitigation actions by developed country parties without undue reliance on cheap offsets to maintain their high carbon, unsustainable lifestyles. Towards this end, we support markets that are credible and have high environmental integrity and strong non market approaches as well. We hope to achieve agreement on issues of smooth transition of CDM, corresponding adjustments and share of proceeds for adaptation fund.

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Adaptation discussions will benefit from operationalization of the Global Goal on Adaptation and the Santiago Network for L&D and finding ways of capitalizing the AF, in view of the importance of securing a predictable source of funding for adaptation.

On ETF, we want to flag that developing country parties require adequate, continued, and assured financial support from GEF, for reporting in the new tables and formats. The ETF discussions cannot be successful without a clear guidance from COP to GEF in this regard .

Finally, cover decisions of COP26 should remain within the confines of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement and be fully consistent with its guiding principles of equity and CBDR and RC. The planet will benefit from strong implementation of the PA , particularly in this critical decade . We can shift focus to implementation if we stop renegotiating elements of PA , such as who bears responsibility for providing resources, or how frequently parties need to review their NDCs. These are settled issues under the PA.

In the end, we thank you for sharing your approach to organization of work in week two. You have our support.

Thank You.

The United States of America becomes the 101st member country of the International Solar Alliance

In a big boost to accelerate global adoption of solar energy, John Kerry, U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate announced at the UNFCCC COP26 today that the United States of America (USA) has joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as a member country. U.S becomes the 101st country to sign the framework agreement of the ISA to catalyze global energy transition through a solar-led approach.

The ISA (International Solar Alliance) is an inter-governmental treaty-based international organization with a global mandate to catalyze global solar growth by helping to reduce the cost of financing and technology for solar. In fulfilling this mandate, the ISA is committed to establishing solar as a shared solution that simultaneously addresses climate, energy, and economic priorities across geographies, facilitating Energy Transition at a global level, Energy Security at national levels, while also ensuring Energy Access at the local level. The ISA is helping large nations scale global commitments, thereby serving the planet's needs for reduced carbon emissions, while also helping economically more vulnerable nations establish a self-sustaining energy alternative that reduces trade dependency and drives job creation. Universal, affordable, and reliable last- mile electricity connectivity across socio-economic strata is a crucial pillar and targeted, tangible outcome of these combined efforts towards facilitating economic development and environmental impact.

U.S.' endorsement of the ISA framework follows remarks by U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry at the

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Fourth General Assembly of ISA in October 2021, where he had said that ISA is critical to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and has an opportunity to accelerate Solar's growth with member countries blessed with the world's strongest sunlight. Stating that, "Solar energy is at the heart of the urgent climate action," Mr. Kerry urged nations to take dramatic action to keep the 1.5-degree Celsius temperature rise and mid-century net zero emissions targets within reach.

Signing the framework agreement, U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry, said, "It has long been coming, and we are happy to join the International Solar Alliance, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi took the lead in making. We worked out the details and this is a process we are pleased to be a part of. This will be an important contribution to more rapid deployment of solar globally. It will be particularly important for developing countries."

A country like USA joining the alliance gives a signal that this alliance is going to transition into a significant player in future.

India and France had announced the launch of the International Solar Alliance on 30th November 2015, at the 21st session of United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP-21) in Paris. The framework of ISA was first circulated seeking the support of other countries in 2016. The framework emphasizes delivering global relevance and local benefit to all countries through collaborations, with ISA's key interventions focusing on readiness & enabling activities, risk mitigation & innovative financing instruments to facilitate the promotion and deployment of solar technologies in target markets.

The approach and methods detailed in the framework have already started showing results, with ISA building a solar project pipeline of nearly 5 GW installed capacity. The approach detailed in this framework will culminate in a vision for inter-connected global grids, which was formalized and jointly launched as the 'Green Grids Initiative – One Sun One World One Grid' (GGI-OSOWOG), during the World Leaders Summit of the COP26 in Glasgow on 2nd November 2021 by the UK Presidency of COP26 and India Presidency of International Solar Alliance (ISA).

Earlier at COP26, the United States also joined the Steering Committee of the GGI-OSOWOG comprising of 5 members – USA, Australia, France, the United Kingdom, and India – and endorsed the One Sun Declaration along with 80 countries. United States of America's Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm had said that "the Grid-Sun combination will save the planet. The GGI-OSOWOG is focusing on the two most important pieces of the puzzle. We at the US Department of Energy are happy to be a partner with GGI-OSOWOG."

Equipment Discussions -

Sony Unveils 8.6K VENICE 2 Full Frame Cinema Camera

New VENICE 2 also Features Compact Body Design, Internal X-OCN Recording and ability to Interchange Sensors between Models to Further Enhance its Operability and Versatility



Sony Electronics' Flagship VENICE 2 Digital Cinema Camera

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 15, 2021 /PRNewswire/ --□Today, Sony Electronics Inc. introduces the VENICE 2, the new flagship model and latest addition to its lineup of high-end digital cinema cameras. The VENICE 2 builds upon the strength of the original VENICE with new features including a compact design, internal recording and the option for two different sensors: the newly developed full-frame 8.6K sensor or the original 6K VENICE sensor.□ The VENICE 2 also inherits popular features from the original VENICE including color science, Dual Base ISO and 8-stops of built-in ND filters.

Paired with a newly-developed 8.6 K (8640 x 5760) full-frame CMOS image sensor, the VENICE 2 offers excellent image quality with 16 stops of total latitude¹ to capture beautiful images with excellent color separation and shadow detail. The camera also inherits its color science from the original VENICE which is highly regarded for its natural skin tones. The VENICE 2 8K CineAlta camera has a unique dual base ISO of 800/3200 which allows filmmakers to capture incredibly clean, film-like images under a wide range of lighting conditions. It supports everything from full-frame, full-

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frame anamorphicⁱⁱ to Super35 all at a minimum of 4K resolution, resulting in an outstanding and versatile camera system for cinematographers and productions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6bfXjhr6QE>

To illustrate the strength of the VENICE 2 and its new 8.6K sensor, Sony worked with the industry's top cinematographers to test the camera's image quality on a few separate film shoots without using any professional movie lighting.

Award-winning cinematographer Robert McLachlan ASC, CSC, who has worked on highly acclaimed productions including Game of Thrones (for which he received two Emmy nominations), Westworld, and Lovecraft Country. McLachlan tested and filmed with the new 8.6K full-frame VENICE 2 in two countries and offered his reaction.

"I really wish we'd had a large format, 8.6K sensor like Sony VENICE 2 on my past work. It would have made it feel even more epic and, at the same time, more engaging, thanks to the increased resolution, richness, and dimensionality. The increased speed, cleaner highlights, and shadows together with the potential for super-shallow depth of field would have been a huge asset."

Academy Award winning cinematographerⁱⁱⁱ Claudio Miranda ASC, ACC used the original VENICE and tested the VENICE 2 against the original in the pitch darkness of the California desert. He offered this assessment:

"The 3200 ASA is incredible. I think how clean it is – is definitely a big deal," said Miranda. "In the film, there is still fidelity in the shadows, and the wide shots are pretty spectacular. There were no film lights on this shoot at all. There were just headlights of the car, the fire, and that was the point. It was to go to the middle of nowhere and put a big fire and see how far the new sensor could light up the mountain, without noise."

Rob Hardy, BSC, ASC, the British cinematographer known for his ground-breaking work on Mission Impossible: Fallout, Ex-Machina and DEVS and winner of the BAFTA for cinematography for Boy A, amongst others also commented:

"I'm used to using the original VENICE and I would say, I am a pretty much an advocate of that camera. The opportunity to use VENICE 2 is actually a really fantastic one. This is the first time I've ever used that larger sensor, the 8.6K and we were lucky enough to get some anamorphic lenses that really set for the full cinematic effect and really utilized the whole sensor. The ISOs have been bumped up so that enables me to shoot at a higher speed in the low light levels which is something that wasn't really an option before, and that's the big gain for me."

With the 8.6K sensor providing ample oversampling, images shot on VENICE 2 will benefit from less noise and enriched information in a 2K or 4K production. It also means the camera is well suited for VR, in camera VFX and Virtual Production setups, delivering an immersive experience and realistic images especially in combination with Sony's high-contrast and large-scale Crystal LED displays.

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The Success of the Original VENICE

Since its launch in 2017, VENICE has been used to shoot more than 300 theatrical, broadcast, cable, and streaming releases, including the Emmy award-winning series "The Crown". Regular firmware and hardware updates to meet the latest creative needs have been key to the wide adoption of VENICE.

"We are so pleased to have seen the success of the original VENICE over the last four years. Based on our conversations with cinematographers and production companies around the world, we recognized an opportunity to improve by leveraging many of our latest imaging and sensor technologies. By doing so, we are taking the VENICE image quality to a new level. We also made the camera smaller and are offering internal recording to enable more creative freedom: whether that means using the camera on drones, Steadicams, aerial gimbals- or underwater housings," said Neal Manowitz, President and COO, Sony Electronics Inc.

User-influenced Upgrades

The VENICE 2 maintains many of the features which made the original VENICE a success including Dual Base ISO, 8-stops of built-in ND filters, compatibility with a wide range of lenses, including all PL mount and Sony's native E-mount which enables adapters for a multitude of lenses.

Thanks to direct feedback from the production community, the VENICE 2 was designed with a smaller and more lightweight body than the original VENICE while keeping its intuitive operability. Despite being 44 mm smaller and approximately 10% lighter^{iv}, the VENICE 2 chassis allows internal recording of X-OCN and Apple 4K ProRes 4444 and 422 HQ without the AXS-R7 recorder, offering advanced usability in a compact and lightweight body.

8.6K	3:2	30FPS	Full-Frame
8.2K	17:9	60FPS	Full-Frame
5.8K	6:5 Anamorphic	48FPS	Super35
5.8K	17:9	90FPS	Super35

User-selectable capture resolution of the 8.6K image sensor allow shooting in various modes including: Interchangeable Sensor Design

For even more flexibility on-site, the VENICE 2 chassis adds the unique feature to interchange the image sensor block. The camera can be used with the 8.6K sensor as well as the original 6K sensor block. ^vThe camera body automatically recognizes the change and will start-up without any firmware exchanges or re-installs, adding more flexibility on-site. [□]The original 6K sensor will allow higher frame rates.

Enhanced Usability with Internal Recording and Smaller Size

Small and lightweight but solidly built, the VENICE 2 body leverages new high-speed 6.6 Gbps AXS card AXS-A1TS66 for 8K 60p recording. Existing AXS Memory Card Readers including AXS-AR3 via Thunderbolt™^{3vi} interface are

Equipment Discussions -

compatible with the new media.

Additionally, the VENICE 2 user interface is the same as the original VENICE but incorporates improvements to make it easier and even more intuitive to use. □ The camera offers an evolved product design while being compatible with almost all original VENICE accessories.

Other updates to the VENICE 2, based on the feedback from current VENICE users to enhance usability, include:

- 4K output with LUT applied
- Improved 3D LUT processing to improve picture quality
- EI changes directly applied to S-Log3 outputs
- LUT/ASC-CDL control via Ethernet/Wi-Fi
- Zoom to Fit (Full-Frame recording with 17:9/16:9 monitoring) operation
- Ethernet connector position changed to Camera Assistant side
- Lemo 2pin 12V output connector
- Internal microphone installed

Availability

The VENICE 2 camera with 8.6K image sensor is scheduled to start shipping in February 2022 and VENICE 2 camera with 6K image sensor in March 2022.

In addition, the VENICE 2 6K can be used with the existing VENICE Extension System and a next-generation Extension System for VENICE 2 8K is planned to be released by early 2023

Equipment Discussions -

DJI launches Mavic 3 drone with dual cameras

DJI has launched Mavic 3 - its latest iteration of its popular Mavic series of drones. The Mavic 3 drone has got dual cameras with a 3 axis gimbal for steady shots and omni directional obstacle sensing technology.



Hasselblad L2D-20c 24mm camera

One of the cameras is a Hasselblad L2D-20c wideangle 20MP camera from Hasselblad having 4/3" CMOS sensor. According to DJI, this sensor has been specifically developed by Hasselblad.

In this wideangle camera the 35mm equivalent focal length is 24mm. One can shoot 5.1K and it is also capable of shooting 4K at 120p. DJI claims a dynamic range of 12.8 stops. It also has an adjustable aperture of f2.8 to f11. DJI has added what it calls as Vision Detection Auto Focus technology (VDAF) for smooth autofocus of subjects.

Tele camera with 48x hybrid zoom:

The other camera is a 12 MP telephoto with 1/2" CMOS sensor and can shoot 4K video and also has a 28x hybrid zoom function which amounts to 162mm in 35mm equivalent. You have to activate the Explore mode to use the tele camera. This will help in recording from a distance without disturbing the subject. This would be suitable especially for wildlife who don't want a drone to hover too close to them or in situations where it is physically not possible to fly the drone close.

Mavic 3 not only records aerial videos at high resolutions and framerates, it also captures up to 1 billion colors with a 10-bit D-Log color profile. This delivers more natural gradations of sky coloring with more details retained for greater flexibility in post-production.

Omnidirectional Obstacle sensing:

Mavic 3 helps you to enjoy collision-free flight so you can focus on getting the best shots possible. Multiple wide-angle vision sensors work seamlessly with a high-performance vision computing engine to sense obstacles in all directions precisely and plan a safe flight route that avoids them. [4]

Mavic 3 comes with an advanced Return to Home (RTH) function so that in case of loss of link, it can determine the optimal route to come back to the original position.

Equipment Discussions -



Mavic 3 Omnidirectional Obstacle Avoidance

The Mavic 3 has a flight time of 46 minutes. It has a 15km video transmission range. Also, it livestreams the video to your phone at 108060p so that in case something happens to the drone, you still have the footage.

DJI has launched the Mavic 3 in three options. The Mavic 3 is \$2199 USD. It also comes in a Mavic 3 Fly more combo which has additional batteries, propellers and charging hub. It is priced at \$2999 US Dollars. At the top end sits the Mavic 3 Cine Premium Combo at \$4999 US Dollars.

The Mavic 3 Cine Premium Combo can record your footage in ProRes 422 HQ with a maximum data rate of 3772Mbps. It also supports a built-in 1TB SSD [3] and 10Gbps lightspeed data cable to further facilitate professional filming and creation. Even though modern computers can easily edit other codecs, ProRes still remains the go to codec for professionals. So this helps in retaining all the details as well as giving the flexibility for post processing for high end applications. Till the time 8K doesn't become the delivery codec, this drone should be of big use for professionals.

B&H Preorder link: <https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/buy/dji-mavic-3/ci/51812/BI/19990/KBID/13252>

Natural History -

COUNTRY NOTEBOOK: W-A-A-K: M.Krishnan:- 28-06-1953

The Sunday Statesman (shared by Shri. Saktipada Panigrahi)

"IN a story that I read recently, the climax is reached when the narrator, in his boyhood, has to cross a haunted pathway in the dark. The suspense mounts as he nears the place. Then, unable to face it, he turn away from the horror and walks backwards, his senses taut with apprehension. "My ears were pricked up, ready to listen to the slightest rustle. A leaf dropping, the NIGHT HERON darting into the still night with its shrill call 'tweet, tweet, tweet' would have seen me dropped on the ground."



Having done most things the hard way all my life, I fear I will have no easy death, but even I would get a pretty considerable jar were I hear a night heron rise into the obscure silence with a shrill "tweet, tweet, tweet!" But were its cry far more eerie, a sudden, raucous, floating "w-a-a-k!" from above, I wouldn't turn a hair, for that is the bird's call.

In many Indian languages, the night heron's name is onomatopoeic- in Tamil, for example,, it is called "Vakka". Perhaps it is most identifiable of the lesser herons and egrets, a dumpy heron with a black crown, nape and back. There is a silky crest of long black feathers drooping over the humped shoulders, but neither this nor the colour of the back is visible as one views the roosting bird from below or eye level, though the black crown is prominent. In fact, it is after sunset when the sky turns a neutral tint, that one usually sees night herons, and in that light it is a wholly dusky bird with even the characteristic white of the under parts a lighter shade of grey.

However, it is not by observing details of plumage that one knows this bird- the heavy, dark contours of head and beak, the blunt hollowed wings rowing a steady path through the dusk, and the hoarse, airborne "w-a-a-k!" are unmistakable.

Being nocturnal and crepuscular, night herons spend the day in heavy repose in their chosen roosts. But when they breed, they are day herons as well, for the ceaseless yickering of the young drives the parents to seek food for their insatiable brood throughout the night and day. Breeding is a wearing pastime with most birds- with night herons, it is positively exhausting of all concerned, including neighbours.

Usually the breeding sites and roosting trees are well away from human habitation, and often near water, but the birds do not hesitate to locate their nesting colony in a built-up area if other conditions suit them. In June 1946, a colony of some 150 night herons nested in mango trees in the backyard of a house in the heart of congested Madras- there was a tidal creek not far away and a sluggish canal right at the back, ample inducement to the hard-worked birds to pitch on the spot.

The sustained clamour of the young and continuous arrivals and departures of the adults rendered sleep almost impossible for the occupants of neighbouring houses. After futile private attempts to move the birds, the residents lodged a complaint at the local police station. Our unsung police force, which are capable of dark feats of public duty, rose nobly to the occasion. A constable with a shotgun visited the scene of the offence and fired a few rounds into the loud and thick trees, bringing down a number of birds, and the rest of the colony took wing in a hurry, never to return to the homestead.

In contrast to this feverish whole-time activity of the breeding night heron, I must add that occasionally the bird sleeps soundly through the night, in spite of its name- when the hunting has been good in the evening and early hours of darkness. One of the most vivid recollections of my youth is the capture of a slumbering night heron on the parapet wall of my house, around midnight.

It stood on one leg, its head lost in its huddled shoulders and fluffed plumage. It was so fast asleep that when I switched on my powerful terrace lamp, right above it, the sudden glare failed to get through to its drowsing senses. Only when I took it in my hands did it awaken with a loud croak of protest. I held it as one holds a pigeon, with its flanks and feet pinioned between my fingers so that it could not use them, but it got away by an undignified and smelly manoeuvre, being abruptly and fishily sick.

Best to let sleeping night herons sleep."

- M. Krishnan

Wildlife Photography -

Elephant from Corbett by Sabyasachi Patra



Leopards by Shyamala Kumar



Wildlife Photography - **Yellow-throated Marten by Samrat Sarkar**



Gaur by V S Sankar



Wildlife Photography - **Oriental-Darter by Mrudul Godbole**



Scaly-Thrush by Murugan Anantharaman



Wildlife Photography -

BiColoured Leafcutter by Prajwal Ullal



Spare a Thought



This is the 155th issue of IndiaWilds newsletter. An image of a purple heron adorns the cover page of this issue. There was a time when these purple herons were visible in our ponds and lakes adjoining our forests. Unfortunately, due to the explosion of human population we have converted most of our ponds, lakes and other water bodies to construct our houses and industries. There are also not many trees left around our ponds and lakes, so these large birds are hardly seen in and around our villages. Today we are forced to visit large lakes and protected areas to view these beautiful birds.

Apart from the pleasure that we used to derive watching these big and colourful birds, the vanishing ponds, lakes and other wetlands create a bigger problem for the human race. Our bogs and peats and other wetlands capture a lot of carbon. When we drain and dry those, a lot of carbon is released to our atmosphere and adds up to increase the intensity of Climate Change. Extreme weather events like cyclones, floods as well as heat waves and droughts are caused by Climate change. On one hand we are dumping debris on our fresh water bodies and converting those to concrete structures, we are also dumping sewage and industrial waste on our lakes and rivers. So we are polluting as well as depleting our fresh water sources without realising that civilisations have fallen due to lack of water. We humans simply can't live without water.

The day we understand that our well being is linked with our natural ecosystems remaining healthy, perhaps then we will start reversing the rapidly unfolding climate crisis. Hope we realise sooner, else it may be too late to heal the Planet Earth.

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

Regards,

Sabyasachi Patra

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