

India Wilds®

Newsletter

Vol 12. Issue X

October 2020

ISSN 2394 - 6946





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Cover Page Photograph:

Vernal hanging parrot
by Sabyasachi Patra

Climate Change: Time to take Corporates to task

Homo sapiens as a species have been causing irreversible change to the Earth's ecology and as a consequence devastating impacts of Climate Change is now shaking us up. Every month we see a record high global average ambient temperature. The vast permafrost covered landscape in the arctic is melting. This is giving rise to higher sea levels. It is also exposing viruses hidden deep below the ice which has the potential to get transmitted to people. Intense and prolonged heatwaves are giving rise to immense suffering and deaths. These heatwaves are also fueling forest fires. Other extreme weather events like storms, landslides, flooding have also become increasingly common. Except for certain lobbies who are purposefully denying Climate Change due to vested interests the world at large is now familiar with the fact that Climate Change is upon us.

Unfortunately, Governments as well as corporates are now using the words Climate Change as a mere jargon. They are using it simply as a good to talk about thing for the sake of corporate image. Not many corporates have actually gone ahead and taken steps to ensure that their actions don't harm the environment and ecology. They are justifying their lack of action by saying that it is impossible to immediately act as some of the actions can create immediate challenges for their business. <https://youtu.be/nJD7YoeFjPc>

Plastic Packaging:

The sight of plastic packaging everywhere is making people ask whether Corporates are serious about saving Planet Earth? We have already been numbed by thousands of visuals about our



Beer Can found in the 3780 meters deep at Enigma Seamount in Mariana Trench.
Photograph: NOAA office of Ocean Exploration



oceans being inundated with plastics. However, despite campaigns about banning plastics in general and single use plastics in particular, not much has happened on the ground. We still find corporates generating tons of plastics for their packaging. No action has been taken to replace the plastics or takeback the plastics from the consumer.

With most of the buying and selling going online The Covid19 induced lockdown has resulted in a lot of buying shifting from physical stores to online, with giants like amazon being the preferred choice. Unfortunately, consumers are saddled with lot of these plastic packaging and all of those are promptly thrown away. Given the abysmal state of garbage collection by the municipal authorities, most of these plastics find their way into dumping sites. The plastics disintegrate and become more lethal as less than 0.5mm sized plastic particles are easily ingested by smaller organisms and fish and they come into our blood stream. A study even found microplastics in salt and water and beer.

Designed to Fail:

Today we use many electronic gadgets like washing machines, TV, refrigerator apart from smaller sized items like mobiles and laptops. It appears that these items have been designed to fail soon as washing machines, mixers and TVs of old used to work for couple of decades. However, these days within a few years people find their new equipment malfunction. The cost of repair is very high and there is no guarantee of the repaired product working for long so people are forced to spend a bit more and buy a new one.

It also becomes very difficult for people to dispose off these big items due to their bulk. They end up being stripped by people who want to recycle some of the precious metals from these electronic items and the rest are dumped in the landfills. The amount of pollution this causes is huge. Unfortunately, despite years of discussions there is no functioning take back policy. Companies are not responsible enough to take back their items and safely dispose it off. So companies first create products that will fail soon and become waste. And then by not taking back the waste they ensure that the discard goes into landfill. This needs to stop.

Environmental cost:

A lot of corporates don't care about the environmental costs of their actions. It is well known that the Environmental Impact Assessment process in India is a joke. There are agencies who do the EIA without even visiting the place. People who have no idea about wildlife and ecology visit ecologically fragile places and certify that there is no wildlife in a place. Many areas are given to corporates to set up their facilities and once a company comes up many ancillary units follow suit and the entire place is transformed. Too often the authorities purposefully allow

diversion of forest land for corporates and list down some rudimentary conditions to be met by the project proponent. Unfortunately, even those conditions are never monitored and there is no monitoring by the authorities. Organisations don't care as they simply view this license process as a necessary evil and never take responsibility for the damage done to the environment. For most of the corporates cost is the first criteria and hence they don't want to voluntarily move away when the locals and environmental activists protest. Corporates generally don't care to shift even if any other suitable place is available.

Corporates look for tax breaks from different State Governments. So in the past we have seen various State Governments announce 10 year tax holidays to attract investment. In a hilly state, many manufacturing companies had moved in to setup factories to avail the tax holiday. The demand for power went up and the Government moved in to exploit hydropower as it is in major Himalayan river basin. Many tributaries of a Himalayan river was dammed. The construction phase resulted in severe ecological challenges. Debris were dumped in rivers and workers clear-felled vegetation in hills to setup houses. The ecologically fragile Himalayas saw rapid urbanization.

Corporates simply are not aware about these massive impacts of their action. While doing due diligence before setting up a factory, corporates ask Government if there is power and water. Often the Government promises power and sets up hydro power units or thermal power units. No corporate ever thinks if the power they are going to get is from a new polluting pow-



er unit.

The environmental cost of the hydropower units is huge and Governments never do an Environment Impact Assessment on a river basin level. So you find every 6-7 kms a hydropower unit in a river and the free flowing river is killed. Often corpo-

rates don't realise that they are setting up a chain reaction of events which are disastrous for the environment. Public memory is also short and no one asks why a corporate is buying power from a polluting unit.

It is very important to ask corporates about the source from where they are procuring power. Have you brought out a negative change in the landscape where you are operating? Force them to acknowledge that their actions have caused damage to the environment.

Ethics:

Government officers in their eagerness to help corporates at times allow some loopholes to be exploited. It is important for the corporates to say no to such exploitations of loopholes. However, that is only possible if the corporate as well as the individual who is taking the decision in the corporate has a strong value system. The prevailing lack of ethics in people is also a reflection of the society as too often people who have defrauded a system are celebrated for being rich.

In the past, many times I had been asked by European and American corporates about ethical challenges posed by Government officials. In some south east Asian countries there have been rampant demands for bribes. Many well known MNCs have fallen to it and had been investigated and got a bad name for succumbing to those unethical demands. So the way a corporate acts in situations is often guided by a few officials.

The challenge with corporates violating environmental norms and ethics is that corporates generally don't have any strongly defined guidelines regarding how not to react to environmental violations. It is not drilled down to every employee that our every action has to be positive for the environment. Companies know that they need to earn money. Their prime motive is to make profit. Nature, environment, wildlife doesn't figure in the priorities of corporates. Corporates don't draw a line that if an action is impacting the health of our environment and hence on Planet Earth, then that action shouldn't go ahead.

Today the earth is boiling due to Climate Crisis. Our planet earth is fast becoming uninhabitable. It is time to take action as we are fast reaching the tipping point and our actions can't be reversed later. Unfortunately, since the corporates won't undertake actions on their own even when the earth is facing a climate crisis of massive proportions, it is time to put pressure on the corporates to own up to their actions.

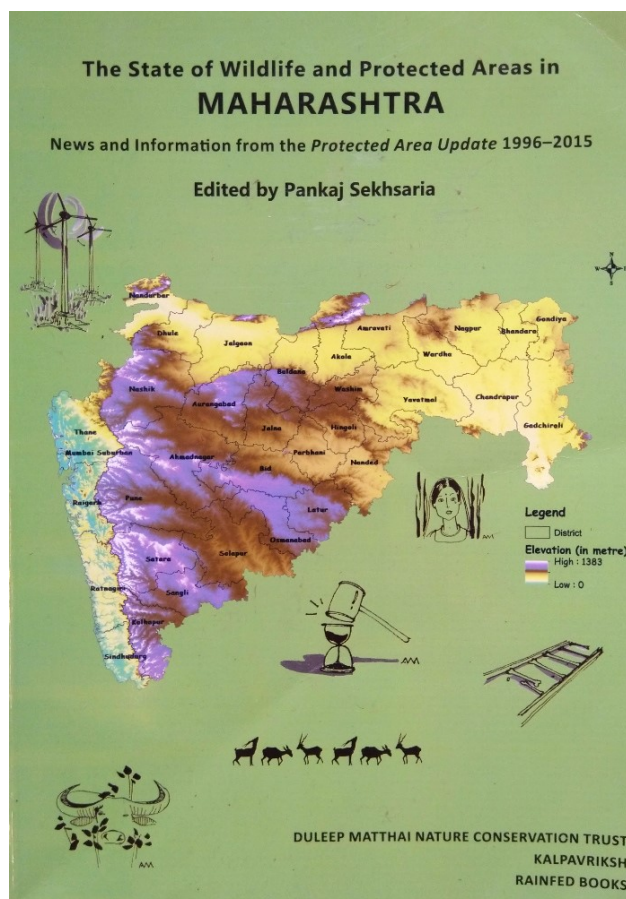
This can be done in two ways. If consumers are vigilant then they can put pressure on the companies. And one easier and faster path is by putting pressure on investors to take the environmental violations and sustainability issues more seriously. A case in the point is the actions of Rio Tinto officials who knew the importance of ancient caves in Pilbara, Western Australia and still went on to destroy those. The aboriginal traditional owners had opposed the destruction of the Juukan George rock shelters but Rio Tinto officials went ahead and blasted those. After massive criticism of investors Rio Tinto chief quit (<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-54112991>). This should give confidence that Corporates will think twice before committing environmental violation. The challenge is putting sustained pressure over a period of time. That can only happen if more and more people become aware about the massive impact of Climate Change on us. Hence, let's keep on spreading the word and raising awareness among people about the Climate Crisis.

Book Review-

The State of Wildlife and Protected Areas in Maharashtra: Edited by Pankaj Sekhsaria

Review By :Sabyasachi Patra

I have been trying to review the book “The State of Wildlife and Protected Areas in Maharashtra” edited by Pankaj Sekhsaria for the last few months but the Covid 19 had played spoilsport. Nevertheless, finally when I was able to turn the pages of the book, I found myself transported in time as this book contains news and information published in the PA updates from 1996 to 2015 in the first section.



Around 300 news items about various wildlife sanctuaries, conservation reserves, Tiger reserves and other protected areas of Maharashtra bunched under each protected area provides us a rare glimpse to a chronological evolution of the place. In most of the cases one can see how a wildlife sanctuary or tiger reserve has increasingly faced pulls and pressures from various challenges and lobbies and the resulting impact. In certain cases while reading these news items one can also get an idea or pinpoint the person who set in motion a chain of conservation challenges or who approved an ill-thought out idea resulting in environmental degradation.

Politicians often ignore wellbeing of forests and environment. In 2003, even though MoEF had refused to give clearance the then Chief Minister of Maharashtra Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde was keen to go ahead with four hydro-electric power projects in Chikhaldara in Amravati, Humbarli in Satara, Kardi-Bhogiv in Kolhapur and Malsej Ghat in Pune district. One also gets

Book Review-

to learn that political lobbying had obstructed the final declaration of Rajmachi and Tamhini Sudhagarh wildlife sanctuaries in the western ghats in Pune and Raigad districts. Though the proposal was given in principle approval by the State Wildlife Advisory Board in 1998-99, stiff pressures to protect luxurious farmhouses and weekend resorts of political and corporate headhonzos resulted in the obstruction.

This book also records the negative impact of politicians in Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve. In 2007 December Maharashtra Finance Minister Jayant Patil had violated rules and entered into the forest at the middle of the night. When a minister enters, he comes with a huge entourage and all those people including their security keep on moving and creating disturbance in the forest. At that time, I was told that this is one of the triggers for the forest department deciding to close the forest rest house to public. In another instance Maharashtra Govt. had clarified that in 2007 a tiger was killed in the name of getting rid of a maneater whereas a tigress seemed to have killed people. MLA of Chimur, Vijay Wadettiwar had wrote a letter serving an ultimatum to kill the maneater within 15 days. The forest department had got pressurized to kill a tiger, any tiger for that matter it seems. So when they found a tiger eating its kill they fired 39 bullets out of which 12 hit and felled the tiger.

The manpower problem faced by the forest department also gets highlighted showing that in one case a range officer post in Tadoba remained vacant for 9 months and in Moharli range RFO position remained vacant for 21 months. One news snippet talks about opposition to opening up of Kolara gate for tourists. There has been an allegation of forest officials and their relatives purchasing land near the Kolara gate and hope to make financial gains when a tourist entry point is created in that area. In India we have often seen such conflicts of interest which somehow get pushed under the carpet. These kinds of ethical challenges also make local people lose hope with the officials.

Various news items talk about the efforts to push through Adani coal mining project. In 2009 MoEF said that it was not aware that the coal mining projects of Adani Power Limited in Lohara and that of Maharashtra Coal Company in Agarzari were so close to the tiger corridor. A 2011 Greenpeace report talks about 2558 hectares of forestland diverted for coal mining in Chandrapur district since 2000. This is despite MoEF refusing clearance to Adani coal mining project in 2009. Coal mining devastates the forest corridors used by tigers to pass from Tadoba-Andhari Tiger reserve to Chaprala, Indravati, Bor and other forests.

If these challenges are not enough, one is reminded about tiger deaths in railway tracks and by professional poachers using traps, challenges of creating underpass in the NH-6, relocation of villages from within the reserve, impact of canals, lack of salaries to forest workers etc. These kind of information gives us a 360 degree view of the challenges faced by a tiger reserve and one can understand that all our protected areas would be facing similar problems. So this book will be of lot of help to researchers as well as policy makers who want to quickly get a short historical context of each protected area in Maharashtra.

Apart from the news and information about various wildlife sanctuaries, conservation reserves, Tiger reserves and other protected areas of Maharashtra contained in the first section of the book, the second section contains five interesting articles providing analysis. One of those is an analysis of the media reporting on protected areas in Maharashtra.

Book Review-

The role of media in disseminating information and shaping public opinion is very important. So the article analysing media reporting on PAs in Maharashtra is interesting. It talks about the implicit bias in the reporter about the wildlife issues. Also some protected areas get more coverage than others due to their proximity to a major city. It also talks about the role of land in conflicts “*With India’s PA network being a dynamic, evolving scene of negotiations, protests and legal interventions, land emerged as the second most important theme in our analysis*”. A very important question that this article asks is “why is there such a strong emphasis on socio-political dimension of conservation while science-based reporting is largely missing?”

In this TRP/eyeballs driven media, responding to sentiments rather than science is an easy choice. Furthermore, the understanding of scientific concepts and ecology to understand the issues and then explain it in media is difficult for untrained poorly paid journalists. The business of media is designed for earning money and influence and hence science-based reporting is not often on their radar. The second article regarding Coverage of Conservation and Wildlife in the Marathi Print Media points out that there are no journalists in this vernacular media dedicated to wildlife and environment. So there is a need for collaboration with experts, NGOs and other research agencies so that readers of Marathi media can be educated about wildlife and environment. Existing publications can also be translated into Marathi. A lot of human-animal conflict arises because people who have no idea about wildlife get tensed when they see an animal. Such collaborations can raise understanding about the underlying issues and help save lives. The article also talks about writing letters to editor to raise issues and force the vernacular media to take it up.

The article “Dividing Lines: Tribal Rights and Tiger Reserves” talks about the various challenges people face after relocation to a new site. We humans are creature of habit. After relocation people find a different environment, new neighbours, loss of identity and at times loss of livelihoods. Hence it is imperative that relocation of villages needs to be done with a lot of thought. There was a time when the human footprint of the forest dwellers was less. However, with exploding human population the impact of people on the wilderness and wildlife also can’t be rejected. I had personally seen villagers of Kolsa in Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve setting the forest on fire as they were angry that a tigress with small cubs killed a cow. Hundreds of hectares were burnt and that didn’t get covered in media. It would be very important that impartial NGOs and agencies act in understanding the overall issues of each protected area and help resolve the issues if any between the forest department and people.

This book also contains an interesting article on the rocky plateaus in the parts of western ghats in Maharashtra where upto 188 endemic plant species had been recorded. These plateaus are important landscapes to be protected not just from a biodiversity hot spot perspective but also for their importance to the local villagers as “they act as water towers, absorbing and then slowly releasing rainwater from the sides in the form of perennial springs”. It also details the various conservation challenges posed by mining, wind farms and tourism. The second section also has an article on various community conserved areas in Maharashtra.

Published by Duleep Mathai Nature Conservation Trust, Kalpavriksh and Rainfed Books, “The State of Wildlife and Protected Areas in Maharashtra” is 235 pages thick and is priced at Rs. 400/- . This is not a typical natural history or wildlife

Book Review-



Night in Kaas Plateau

conservation book. However, serious readers, researchers, conservationists as well as planners will find it useful. Even though this is not an exhaustive account of all the issues reported in media regarding PAs of Maharashtra, this book will help authorities to get a quick understanding of the underlying challenges or issues in some of the protected areas in Maharashtra. It will help as a good reference book and an invaluable tool for some.

The book is available in Amazon to buy.

Conservation News -

Government committed to landscape restoration for Snow Leopard Conservation

Snow leopards are a highly endangered species. In India, the geographical range of Snow leopards encompasses a large part of the western Himalayas including the states and UTs of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. Protection of the snow leopard and its habitat would ensure protection of the major Himalayan rivers that support the teeming millions downstream. It would also ensure that the ecological balance is maintained in these fragile ecosystems. So to protect snow leopards and their habitat Government of India had launched the Project Snow Leopard (PSL) in 2009. The Government of India has identified the snow leopard as a flagship species for the high-altitude Himalayas.

Speaking at the International Snow Leopard Day 2020 through a virtual meeting, India's Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Babul Supriyo said, Government is committed to landscape restoration for snow leopard habitat conservation, and implementing participatory landscape-based management plans involving local stakeholders. India has identified three large landscapes, namely, Hemis-Spiti across Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh; Nanda Devi – Gangotri in Uttarakhand; and Khangchendzonga – Tawang across Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh for snow leopards. Shri Supriyo emphasised that states together with Government of India should resolve to bring up the population of snow leopards in India in the next five years.

The Project Snow Leopard (PSL) also encourages the States and UTs to adopt innovative strategies to resolve issues related to multi-stakeholder landscape management, human-wildlife conflicts, wildlife crime and trade in wildlife parts and products, capacity building, climate-smart energy solutions etc.

India is also party to the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) Programme since 2013. This multi-lateral programme comprises of 12 snow leopard range countries and they have developed national priorities and identified large landscapes to support viable populations of snow leopards. During the virtual meet community volunteer programme “Himal Sanrakshak” was launched by Shri Supriyo followed by the release of origami notebook based on the theme of combatting illegal trade in wildlife.

The Centre hosted the 4th Steering Committee of the GSLEP program in October 2019 at New Delhi. This meeting resulted in the “New Delhi Statement” of strengthening the resolve of the snow leopard range countries towards conservation of the mountain ecosystems of Central and South Asia.

First National Protocol was also launched last year on Snow Leopard Population Assessment which has been very useful for monitoring populations. In line with other projects, this initiative exclusively focuses on developing landscape-based management plans, habitat restoration plans, livelihoods improvement, mitigation of wildlife crime and illegal trade in wildlife, human-wildlife conflict mitigation strategies, improving awareness and communications strategies.

Conservation News -

250 sq. kms around Radhanagri Wildlife sanctuary declared as ESZ

The Union Ministry for Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has notified 250.66 square kilometers around Radhanagri Wildlife Sanctuary as Eco-sensitive zone. The ESZ area is between 200m to 6 kms around the Radhanagri WLS. This ESZ declaration will help as the ESZ area will act as a buffer and stop mining projects, stone quarrying and crushing and industries which are classified as Red category are prohibited from this area. Organic farming, agriculture, small scale industries and minor infrastructure work are however permitted in the ESZ. According to the National Wildlife Action Plan 2002-2016 ecosensitive zones act as vital corridors to ensure wildlife movement and stop an area from being isolated.

Notified in 1985 as a wildlife Sanctuary, Radhanagri is spread over 351.16 square kilometer and helps in movement of various megafauna like tigers, elephants as well as other wildlife species between Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka in the western ghats. Around 41 villages in Kolhapur and Sindhudurg districts come under the Radhanagri ESZ.

Recently there had been a lot of stone crushing, mining of minor minerals and land conversion in the area. The ESZ declaration will help stop the decimation of this area. Strict enforcement will hopefully help in preserving this tract of land.

Often people fear that since industries can't come up in these areas, the locals won't benefit. However in many places it is seen that when a site is preserved the wildlife sightings improve and tourism activity brings in lot of revenue. It is of course another matter that in India, generally tourism revenue is cornered by few outsiders and local people don't get much of it. However, sustainable community based ecotourism can really help in most of these places.

Seven hazardous chemicals listed under Stockholm Convention banned

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister on 7th of October, 2020 ratified ban of seven Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP's) listed under Stockholm Convention.

The Stockholm Convention is a global treaty to protect human health and environment from POPs, which are identified chemical substances that persist in the environment, bio-accumulate in living organisms, adversely affect human health/environment and have the property of long-range environmental transport (LRET).

Exposure to POPs can lead to cancer, damage to central & peripheral nervous systems, diseases of immune system, reproductive disorders and interference with normal infant and child development. POPs are listed in various Annexes to the Stockholm Convention after thorough scientific research, deliberations and negotiations among member countries.

Considering its commitment towards providing safe environment and addressing human health risks, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) had notified the 'Regulation of Persistent Organic Pollutants Rules, on March 5, 2018 under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The regulation inter alia prohibited the manu-

Conservation News -

facture, trade, use, import and export seven chemicals namely (i) Chlordecone, (ii) Hexabromobiphenyl, (iii) Hexabromodiphenyl ether and Heptabromodiphenylether (Commercial octa-BDE), (iv) Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and Pentabromodiphenyl ether (Commercial penta-BDE), (v) Pentachlorobenzene, (vi) Hexabromocyclododecane, and (vii) Hexachlorobutadiene, which were already listed as POPs under Stockholm Convention.

The Cabinet's approval for ratification of POPs demonstrates India's commitment to meet its international obligations with regard to protection of environment and human health. It also indicates the resolve of the Government to take action on POPs by implementing control measures, develop and implement action plans for unintentionally produced chemicals, develop inventories of the chemicals' stockpiles and review as well as update its National Implementation Plan (NIP). The ratification process would enable India to access Global Environment Facility (GEF) financial resources in updating the NIP.

The Cabinet further delegated its powers to ratify chemicals under the Stockholm Convention to Union Ministers of External Affairs (MEA) and Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MEFCC) in respect of POPs already regulated under the domestic regulations thereby streamlining the procedure.

India had ratified the Stockholm Convention on January 13, 2006 as per Article 25(4), which enabled it to keep itself in a default "opt-out" position such that amendments in various Annexes of the convention cannot be enforced on it unless an instrument of ratification/ acceptance/ approval or accession is explicitly deposited with UN depositary.

Cabinet approves Memorandum of Understanding between Zoological Survey of India and International Barcode of Life, a Canadian not-for-profit corporation

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi was apprised of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in June, 2020 between Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), a subordinate organization under Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and International Barcode of Life (iBOL), a Canadian not-for-profit corporation.

ZSI and iBOL have come together for further efforts in DNA barcoding, a methodology for rapidly and accurately identifying species by sequencing a short segment of standardized gene regions and comparing individual sequences to a reference database. iBOL is a research alliance involving nations that have committed both human and financial resources to enable expansion of the global reference database, the development of informatics platforms, and/or the analytical protocols needed to use the reference library to inventory, assess, and describe biodiversity. The MoU will enable ZSI to participate at the Global level programmes like Bioscan and Planetary Biodiversity Mission.

Equipment Discussions -

Fujifilm launches X-S10 mirrorless camera

Fujifilm has launched the X-S10 mirrorless camera with 26.1 Megapixel still photo capability and 4K 30fps video. This is a nice lightweight camera for walk around as well as discrete shooting.



Salient features:

Here are the salient features of the Fujifilm XS10 camera

Sensor size: APS-C CMOS BSI sensor (23.5mm x 15.6mm)

Resolution: 26.1 MP stills and DCI 4K video

ISO: 160-12800 and in extended mode ISO 80-51200

Still burst shooting speed: 8 fps in mechanical shutter and 20fps electronic shutter. Can shoot stills at 30fps at 1.25x crop.

Processor: X-Processor 4. It has a quad-core CPU.

AF: 425 phase detection points, at -6 EV

Equipment Discussions -

Image stabilization: 5 stops in body sensor shift mechanism. 4 axis digital image stabilization can be used while shooting video.

EVF: 2.36m-dot electronic viewfinder with 0.62x magnification

LCD: 3.0" 1.04m-dot touchscreen LCD with vari-angle design

Video: DCI/UHD 4K recording at up to 30 fps. Full HD recording up to 240 fps.

External video recording: 10-bit 4:2:2 recording via Micro-HDMI port.

Audio: external audio recording via 3.5mm microphone

Film simulation modes: Fujifilm provides several film simulation modes to simulate the look and feel of the iconic Provia, Velvia, Astia and other film modes which we all loved during slide film days.

Memory card: There is a single SD memory card slot in UHS-I standard

Size: 5 inch x 3.4 inch x 2.6 inch

Weight: 465gms

Price: \$999 US Dollars

Equipment Discussions -

Panasonic releases Lumix BGH1 box style 4K Cinema camera

Panasonic has launched an interesting box style cinema camera. Lumix BGH1 Cinema 4K Box Camera has a miniature form factor which can be adapted for mounting in gimbals, drones, live streaming, vlogging etc. It doesn't have a built-in EVF.



Panasonic BGH1 box type cinema camera

Salient features of Lumix BGH1:

Sensor: 10.2 MP

Sensor size: 19mm x 13mm (M4/3rd) size

Dynamic range: 13 stops

Resolution: upto 4K 60

Recording mode: Raw in 10 bits in DCI 4K 23.98/24/25/29.97/50/59.94 fps at 100-400 Mb/s

It can also record in AVC-Intra/AVC-LongG/H.264 Long GOP/H.265/MOV 4:2:0 10-Bit. 4:2:0 8 bit is also possible.

60p with Vlog L and Cinelike gamma, 240fps in Full HD

Equipment Discussions -

ISO: 160 to 51200, Dual-native ISO. Expanded ISO 80 to 204,800

Video connectors: HDMI 2.0 and 3G-SDI video outputs

External recording: Record up to 4K60 10-bit 4:2:2 to SD cards or HDMI/3G-SDI outputs simultaneously

Raw output to HDMI, 1080p to SDI

Unlimited recording time

Input/Output:

USB 2.1 Gen 1 Type-C input for control with LUMIX Tether app

2.5mm LANC input for camera control

Gigabit Ethernet via RJ45 for remote control and PoE+ power support

Panasonic promises direct IP streaming with a future firmware update

Wi-Fi and Bluetooth support to control the camera using a smartphone or tablet

Internal mic: There is an internal stereo microphone as well as a 3.5mm input for microphones and a 3.5mm headphone output for monitoring audio.

XLR adapter: Panasonic offers an external DMW-XLR1 adapter as an optional accessory which can be connected to the hot shoe of the camera.

Media: Dual SD card slots

Genelock and timecode BNC inputs

Weight: 545 gms

Monitor: You have to use your own monitor or EVF as the camera doesn't have it

Price: \$1999.99 US Dollars

B&H Link: https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1597415-REG/panasonic_dc_bghl_panasonic_lumix_bghl_cinema.html/BI/19990/KBID/13252

Equipment Discussions -

PRESS RELEASE

A New Box-Style Mirrorless Cinema & Live Event Camera LUMIX BGH1 Featuring C4K/4K 60p and 10-bit Video Recording

Panasonic is proud to announce the release of the brand's first box-style LUMIX Digital Single Lens Mirrorless Camera DC-BGH1. Based on the Micro Four Thirds System standard, the new LUMIX BGH1 takes advantage of high mobility, an extensive interchangeable lens lineup, and even includes technologies Panasonic has acquired through the development of professional cinema cameras, camcorders and the LUMIX GH series. Against a background of increasing streaming opportunities in addition to traditional broadcasting, Panasonic offers the LUMIX BGH1, an easy-to-install camera with high expandability allowing multi-camera control. It can be used in a variety of ways from shooting on drones to IP remote control to live streaming and more.

1. Professional-level video quality achieved by high sensitivity and wide dynamic rangeThe new LUMIX BGH1 integrates a 10.2-megapixel Live MOS Sensor with Dual Native ISO technology and the Venus Engine. Dual Native ISO is a technology that seamlessly bridges two circuits of separate native ISO, which is used in Panasonic Varicam models for professionals. Normally, noise increases as sensitivity rises with a single native ISO image sensor. However, the image sensor with Dual Native ISO minimizes noise generation by choosing an optimal circuit to use according to the sensitivity before gain processing. As a result, it allows a maximum ISO 51,200 high sensitivity recording.

The LUMIX BGH1 enables 4:2:0 10-bit C4K/4K 60p or 4:2:2 10-bit All-I C4K/4K 30p internal video recording. The camera can record video with a designated gamma curve compatible with ITU-R BT.2100, and users can now choose Hybrid Log Gamma (HLG) in Photo Style. A low-bit-rate recording mode C4K/4K HEVC/H.265 for HLG is also available.

V-Log L now features log characteristics with 13 stops of wide dynamic range and is pre-installed. It is also capable of 4K 4:2:2 10-bit C4K/4K 60p output over HDMI.

The VFR (Variable Frame Rate) lets users record overcranked / undercranked video in C4K/4K (60 fps, maximum 2.5x slower in 24p) and FHD (240 fps, maximum 10x slower in 24p).* The minimum frame rate for quick motion video is 2 fps.

The LUMIX BGH1 also incorporates advanced deep learning technology that detects specific subjects like humans and fast-moving animals, including dogs, cats and birds. Notably for humans, in addition to the eye, face, and body, the head is separately recognized by real-time detection technology to provide even more precise focusing. The camera keeps tracking the subject even if they move quickly, turn their back to the camera, tilt their head or move far away from the camera.

* The angle of view is reduced when the frame rate is set to 201 fps.

1. High user convenience in film production scene and scalability with external devicesThe LUMIX BGH1 is a compact, light-weight box-style camera. Its body is composed of aluminum and magnesium alloy to ensure durability and light weight. The LUMIX BGH1 has a new heat dispersion structure to achieve unlimited video recording. It offers Power

Equipment Discussions -

over Ethernet+ (PoE+), simplifying installations by providing power, signal and control over ethernet. Control over a maximum of 12 LUMIX BGH1 cameras*1 is available from the Panasonic LUMIX Tether for Multicam*2 application. A future firmware update will support IP streaming over wired ethernet (RTP/RTSP).

The included ethernet port or the USB 3.1 Type-C, 3G-SDI and HDMI Type-A terminals can all be used for simultaneous output. Genlock IN and Timecode IN/OUT functions simplify multi-angle synchronized video recording and integrate into a scalable system with external monitors, rigs and gimbals supplied from other manufacturers.

The LUMIX BGH1 is equipped with Dual UHS-II SD Card slots for backup recording or relay recording.

3. Other practical features:

- Supporting anamorphic lenses (4:3)
- Desqueezed Anamorphic output over SDI/USB-C/Ethernet
- Tally lamps (front 1 and rear 1), a network connection lamp
- Φ 3.5 Audio (in/out) jack compatible with XLR microphone DMW-XLR1 (sold separately)
- Generic remote control unit ϕ 2.5mm
- 2.4GHz Wi-Fi connectivity and Bluetooth 4.2 (BLE)
- Bundled accessories include a Cable lock band, AC adapter and AC cable
- Remote camera control using application software (LUMIX Tether for Multicam*2 and LUMIX Sync)
- Tethered photo shooting with LUMIX Tether for Multicam*2 software
- A SDK*3 (Software Development Kit) for camera control via USB will be provided for free.

The LUMIX BGH1 will be available at valued channel partners in December for \$1999.99.

A launch live event will be broadcast at 12:00pm EDT on 10/13 at: <https://youtu.be/yOqzIMYvOMI>

*1 Operation may be unstable depending on the connection environment and performance of the connected PC.

*2 LUMIX Tether for Multicam will be released for windows and OSX when the BGH1 goes on sale.

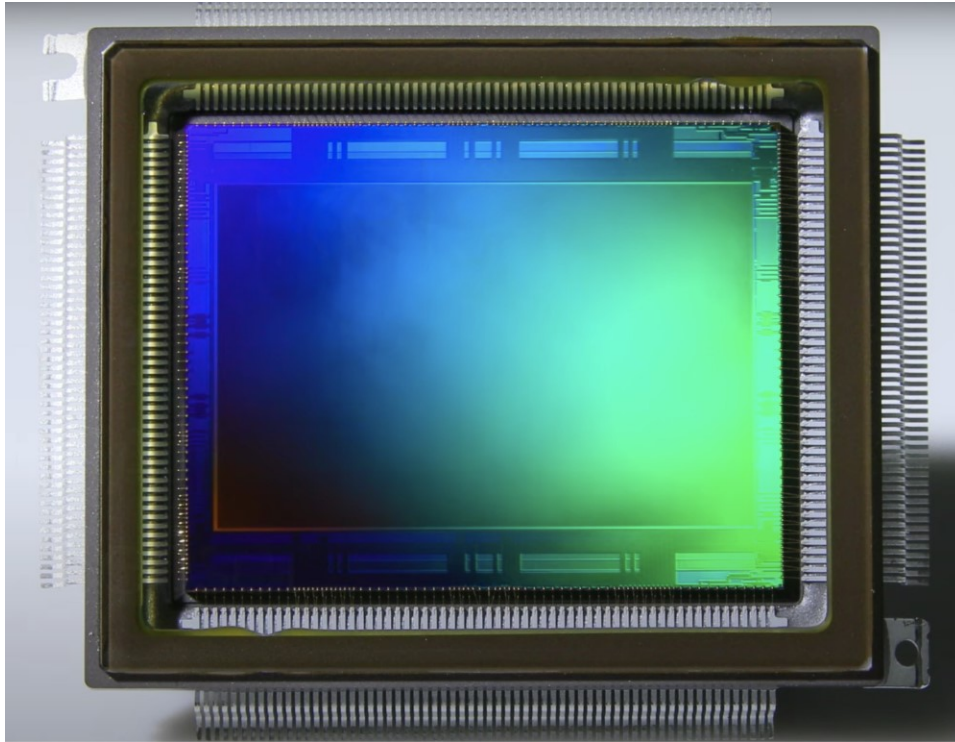
*3 The SDK will be released for the owners of compatible LUMIX cameras (BGH1, S1, S1R, S1H, S5, GH5S, GH5, G9) at following site <https://panasonic.jp/support/global/cs/soft/tool/sdk.html> on 14 October 2020.

Some accessories are not available in some countries.

Design and specifications are subject to change without notice.

Equipment Discussions - **Canon shows off 250 Megapixel sensor**

Canon has unveiled another 250 Megapixel sensor which is aimed at Industrial surveillance and some niche applications. This sensor is named as LI8020 CMOS sensor. The current 250 Megapixel sensor is an APS-H sized sensor, a size which used to be in Canon 1D Mark II/III/IV cameras.



This processor is capable of reading the entire sensor at 5 fps. The signal read out is an amazing 1.25 billion pixels per second and still do 5 fps. It can also selectively read from a part of the sensor which canon calls region of interest. It can read from an 8K portion of the sensor in 24 fps and 4K 30fps in 10bits. Line skipping to read from the full sensor is also possible at 3.1fps in 12 bits.

The pixel size is 1.5 μm by 1.5 μm .

The number of effective pixels are 19568 x 12588

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ND210j4EIM&feature>

Though this technology is not going to come to any of our consumer cameras, however, given the advancement in technology it is expected that some aspects of it can trickle down to our cameras in the near future.

Equipment Discussions-

Sachtler launches Aktiv fluid head

Sachtler has launched a new fluid head called aktiv. Sachtler brands it as a fluid head and tripod system which is built for speed. Sachtler's slogan is "When you have just one chance to capture the perfect shot, mount, level and lock the revolutionary aktiv™ fluid head in seconds."



Sachtler says that there are innovations filled in the aktiv fluid head. The unique SpeedLevel™ and SpeedSwap™ technologies in the aktiv fluid head delivers the fastest way to place and position your camera; adjust the level in an instant without ever taking your eye off the action; get closer to the ground than ever before for extreme low angle shots or swap between a tripod, slider, jib or even hand held without missing a beat. Capture the widest range of shots in the shortest time with aktiv.

There is a new hardware for mounting a ball level fluid head on the tripod or slide and Sachtler calls it SpeedLevel. Most of the us while using our fluid heads take time. Often while trying to get set the tripod and film a fast unfolding situation, we lose time in balancing. There have been times when we have got the level wrong and horizon skewed or missed the most important moment while leveling. This SpeedLevel is built into the SpeedSwap base which is integrated into the aktiv fluid head. Sachtler promises speed as well as security.

The aktiv fluid head is available as kits with Sachtler's flowtech tripod legs. It is available in 75mm as well as 100mm and in different variants with different loading systems like S and T. The S is the sideloading plate system and the T is the touch and

Equipment Discussions -

go plate on the fluid head. There are also spreader options like midlevel and ground level spreaders.

Our fluid heads have a tie-down screw at the bottom and we had to level and then tighten it from the bottom. So tripod legs can't go really flat as the bottom tie-down protrudes and will hit the ground. With the fluid head aktiv system Sachtler has made a clamp on the fluid head. This can be simply lifted and pressed to lock into the tripod legs. So the tripod can go flat in the ground and one can shoot low angle shots. Earlier, we used to shift the fluid head from the tripod to a high hat and place it on the ground to take low angle shots. It was a cumbersome process and we had to carry an extra item in the field. It used to be cumbersome and not easy for small crew shooting in the field especially in wildlife and documentaries. So the aktiv system promises a lot.

Following are the aktiv systems available as complete kits along with Sachtler flowtech legs.

The aktiv 6 and aktiv 8 options are in 75mm bowl. The aktiv 6 comes in 2 options of either mid-level spreader or ground spreader and can handle weight upto 8 kg and has only 3 drag settings. The aktiv 8 is branded as either aktiv 8 or 8T. with both having mid-level spreader and ground spreader options. The Aktiv 10 sports 100mm bowl and is meant for heavier camera systems.

Price:

Only Aktiv 6 fluid head: **\$1448.75** US Dollars

Only Aktiv 8 and aktiv 8T fluid heads cost: **\$1886.75** US Dollars

The Aktiv 6 with 75mm bowl flowtech legs cost **\$2517** and **\$2574** US dollars for midlevel and ground spreader respectively.

The Aktiv 8T system with 75mm bowl flowtech legs and bag costs **\$3040** US dollars.

Natural History -

COUNTRY NOTEBOOK: White Wings: M.Krishnan:- 01-03-1953

The Sunday Statesman (shared by Shri. Saktipada Panigrahi)

WHITE WINGS

"EVERY evening at half-past six, the CATTLE EGRETS fly southward over my roof to their roosting trees by the water. They go past in a broken string, five or six in a compressed Indian file, flying low, then a long break, then five or six again following the same diagonal course over the roof and trees, picking up threads of the flight that went before. Their flight is round-winged and leisurely, heads drawn in, yellow beaks pointing forward and black legs trailing behind: the full curved wings never stroked in vigorous flaps but moved in a unhurried rotary action, like boats rowed slowly with broad, bent oars.



Cattle Egret in flight

Photographed by - Mrudul Godbole

There is grace enough in their slow white flight against the slaty sky, and a steady aim, but no hint of power or speed. Twelve hours later, soon after sunshine, they are back in the sky again, flying no longer in a set direction but circling in small parties, for they are now seeking feeding grounds. Their flight seems even weaker now, as they row around indecisively on hollowed, dazzling wings, gliding occasionally before settling in some field. They look even more like curve-winged white birds of Japanese screens in the sun than they did at dusk.

Bird flight can be very deceptive. Butterfly-winged hoopoes are capable of steep speed when pursued and long-distance migrants, like wagtails, often have a weak-seeming dipping flight. But the lassitude of wings of cattle egrets is not illusory- they have not even fugitive speed.....

It is true that the cattle egret is far less dependent on frogs and fishes than its cousins. It belongs to the tribes of egrets and herons, professional anglers, and has the wading legs and dagger bill of extensive neck of the fraternity, but it lives mainly on the insects of green field. It is a pastoral bird, much given to following in the wake of grazing cattle; it is adept at seizing grasshoppers and other insects that their hooves scatter, and everyone has seen it picking ticks and flies off cattle. Still it has not lost its tribal love of water, as its nesting and roosting trees will show, and occasionally it reverts to angling for tadpoles and small fry at puddles.

One would think that the birds that seek their meat in the air, like the peregrine, would find this slow-winged egrets easy prey, but I believe it is not often that a cattle egret dies this way. The POND HERON, which flies faster and higher, sometimes meets this fate- the ancient Tamil curse, "May you fall headlong like the pond heron struck by shahin", is best on the fact. For one thing the cattle egret never flies far except going out to feed and when returning to the roost, and even at such times it flies low- the hunters of the air prefer prey that will seek escape in flight, providing a depth of air below to make giddy swooping safe. Moreover, when the air is cold and slow, early in the morning and late in the evening, that cattle egrets undertake their flights- birds of prey are rarely on the wing then, for they like plenty of light, and warm air currents for soaring.

I must make it clear that I make no suggestion of intelligent apprehension, or dominant motive, in saying this, but I have been watching peregrines lately, and it seems to me that cattle egrets choose their journey safely. There is no need to pre-suppose reasoning in a bird for development of a habit that is beneficial to it, but, of course, it is quite possible that the flight habits of cattle egrets have nothing to do with the habits of birds of prey."

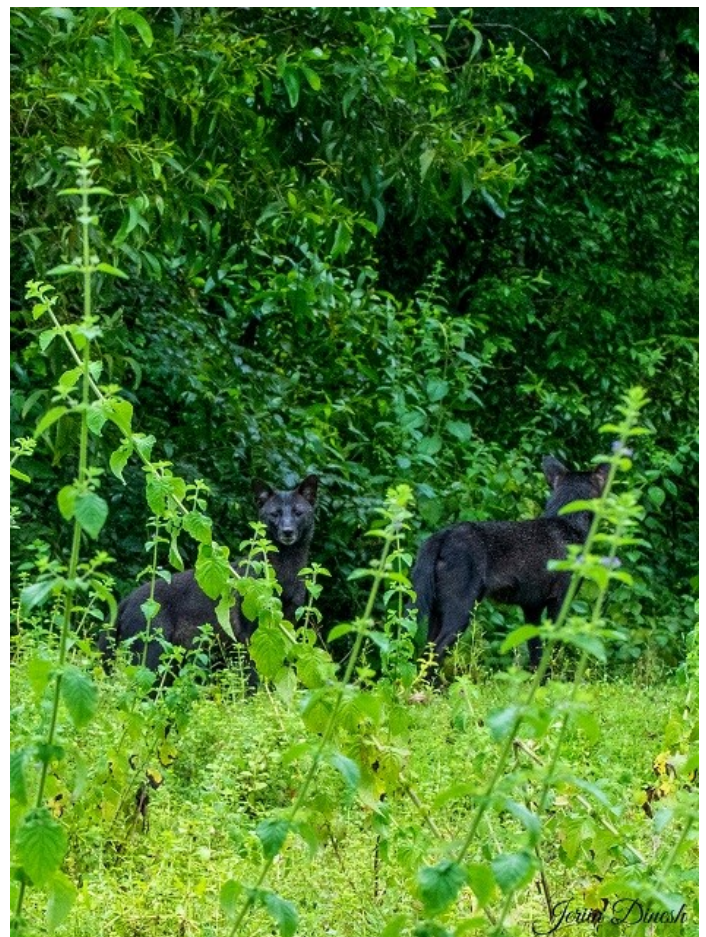
- M. Krishnan

This was published on 01-03-1953

Wildlife Photography - **Tiger Yoga by Sabyasachi Patra**



Black Jackal by Jerin Dinesh



Wildlife Photography - **Sloth Bear by Shyamala Kumar**



Barn-Owl by V S Sankar



Wildlife Photography -

Sunset by Mrudul Godbole



Rat Snake by Abhirup Dutta Gupta



Wildlife Photography -

Mugger close-up by Sabyasachi Patra



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Pumpkin Beetle by Prajwal Ullal





This is the **142nd** issue of IndiaWilds. The image of a Vernal hanging parrot adorns the cover page of this issue. The sight of these colourful parrots always fills us with joy. However, we don't realise that they are increasingly becoming homeless because of our thoughtless actions. These tall trees are their home. Our actions have been decimating these tall trees where they live and get their food. When we sacrifice forests for Industries, dams, canals and other linear projects we don't think twice about the impact of each tree on these birds. Apart from birds, each tree is home to many other species big, small and tiny. In fact each tree is a micro-ecosystem harbouring many species and facilitating and anchoring a chain of complex ecological relationships.

Trees also help in releasing moisture and aid in rainfall. With the loss of trees, the top soil easily gets washed away giving rise to desertification. Without the seed dispersers like these parrots and other birds like hornbills, it becomes very difficult for many tree species to propagate. A country, which once used to have famous artisans carving wood from toys to furniture and where wood was an integral part of our lifestyle with usage from cradle to grave, faces a short supply of wood. With loss of forests, we are also losing many medicinal species. Even before discovering potential benefits some trees and plant species are getting extinct. It is time that we realise that we need to allow trees to grow instead of concretisation of all of our lands. It is important to conserve our community lands as well as forests, so that they continue to act as carbon sinks and help contain the spread of Climate Change.

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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