

# 11. Basics of Photography

## Synopsis

This module provides an overview of the basics of photography..

## Lectures

- 11.1 Cameras
- 11.2 Aperture
- 11.3 Shutter Speed
- 11.4 Light
- 11.5 Composition
- 11.6 Creative Exercises

## 11.4 Light

### Light

An understanding of light is critical to photography. The novice for instance uses the flash indiscriminately, and there is nothing that kills a photograph as a mechanical use of the flash. What a flash achieves is that it ensures that everything in the frame is lit up and recorded clearly. What it destroys is the play of light and shade. An understanding of this play, that is very essential for creating a good photograph.

To understand light, the conditions that are encountered can be classified into five types:

- Direct and strong light that is typical of a bright day with plenty of sunshine.
- Indirect, diffused or reflected light that exists on a cloudy day or in the shade.
- Side light such as the light that comes in through a window.
- Silhouettes occur when an object is lit from the back.
- Rim light is a special condition in which light creates a halo around the object.

In reality the conditions encountered might be a combination of these basic types. It is important to develop a sensitivity to the quality of light conditions to decide what is appropriate for a good photograph.

In addition to these light conditions, which occur naturally, a photographer often recreates these within a studio with the help of artificial lighting.

Fig.11.4.01 to 04 show a few examples of how light plays a role in creating the “mood” in an image.



Fig. 11.4.01



Fig. 11.4.02



Fig. 11.4.03



Fig. 11.4.04

#### Assignment 4

### **Understanding Light and Shadow**

An understanding of light and shadow is critical for photography. The purpose of this assignment is to bring about an awareness of different light conditions. The words “available light” refer to natural light in order to distinguish it from artificial lights used for studio photography. For this assignment you are requested not to shoot with artificial light.

Five different light conditions have been mentioned below.

You are provided with half-a-roll (18 exposures) of 100 ASA B/W Film and 5 sheets of paper.

1. Take a photograph of a subject in Direct Light.
2. Take a photograph of a subject in Diffused Light.
3. Take a photograph of a subject with Side Light. (You may wish to use a reflector.)
4. Take a photograph of a subject as a Silhouette.
5. Take a photograph of a subject with Rim Lighting.