

An Hour of Celebrating Biodiversity

A GLIMPSE INTO INDIA'S BIODIVERSITY -
ITS FOUR EXTREMES:



Cartoon Credit: Rohan Chakravarty @[Green Humour](#)

Below follows a video series of amazing life forms. Magic just got real! There's science too, and we get to learn a thing or two about engineering feats made possible by biodiversity.

1. Before we begin, let us hear from the legendary, raspy voice what we are celebrating today and why we should be protecting it.

[What is Biodiversity?](#)

2. We start by diving into Earth's largest habitat - home to many marvels of life.

[Blue Planet II : The Prequel](#)

3. From the deep, blue waters, let's traverse toward more familiar ground. Our guide? A fish that walks on land!

[Mudskippers: The Fish That Walk on Land | Life | BBC Earth](#)

4. In the extraordinarily enriching ecosystem and ecology of the Amazon rainforests, meet a tiny lizard with its own superpower. A superpower indispensable for its survival in these swamps: it simply cannot sink.

[The Unsinkable Lizard | A Perfect Planet | BBC Earth](#)

5. In the mysterious jungles, deceptions galore. Amid the antics of a voracious caterpillar, watch out for an explosion which comes without any warning.

[Caterpillars Feeding on Exploding Seed Pods | BBC Earth](#)

6. Next, find out some cool construction techniques of an ancient bird.

[These Ancient Birds Have Been Around for 44 Million Years | Africa | BBC Earth](#)

7. Our next friends have their own peculiar skill up their sleeve: how to eat poison! Better still, get high on it!

[Lemurs get high | Spy in the Wild - BBC](#)

8. What follows is a gross but effective air conditioning adaptation in nature. Besides, learn about forest fires: they are a nightmare burning down forests into ashes. But, after all, are natural forest fires a bad thing? Not really! Find out how and why. And what role they play in sustaining biodiversity.

[Fire and Feast | A Perfect Planet | BBC Earth](#)

9. Next, meet perhaps the most efficient workers out there who don't quite break a sweat - even when the mercury hits 70 centigrade! Alas, heat isn't their only threat.

[Antlion Cone Death Trap | The Hunt | BBC Earth](#)

10. We love beaches and crave to visit them in spring, or any time of the year for that matter. Better still are faraway islands dotting the sea. But ever guessed who we should be thanking for the fine, soft beach sand? And for those inviting islands?

[Feeding Humphead Parrotfish | Blue Planet | BBC Earth](#)

11. Next, take stock of the lethal superpowers of a scheming spider.

[Spider With Three Super Powers | The Hunt | BBC Earth](#)

12. In the bizarre and brazen world of spiders, here's a tiny, talented male in his dangerous pursuit of the larger, ferocious female. Will he turn out her mate or her meal? [Or both?!]

[Spider Dances For His Life!! | Life Story | BBC](#)

13. Next, we fly to remote New Guinea to watch some of the most miraculous and mesmerizing performances there could ever be. You'll be spellbound by these magnificent flying magicians.

[Birds-of-Paradise Project Introduction](#)

14. Most of us have seen the classic V-formation of migratory birds. But not all birds display such discipline. Find out why.

[Why Don't All Birds Fly in V Shapes?](#)

15. The majestic orange coat with black stripes adorning our national animal is too conspicuous to be effective camouflage, we may think. But the tiger's prey are quite clueless. So, who comes to their rescue?

[Mother Nature has an incredible trick to help this tiger I BBC](#)

16. As pollinators, bees are our vital friends helping sustain our food availability; but back at our campus, it turns out, bees have become our immediate foes. While it is important to come up with some workable solution, for now let us learn a bit about these buzzing little creatures.

[Solitary bees: no honey, no hives, but important for biodiversity](#)

17. How is biodiversity inspiring and informing today's drone engineers? And what is this to do with animals having darker color shade on their back and lighter shade on their bottom?

[How Studying Animals Is Helping Us Make Better Drones](#)

18. As the silence and stillness of last year's lockdown returns to confine us within four walls, let us see who else are not fans of lockdowns and binding boundaries.

[Want to know more about India's wildlife? Look beyond national parks and sanctuaries](#)

[By the way, are there dinosaurs in our gardens? *Actually* yes! Birds.]

19. When we are fully immunized by the vaccines and when the Covid scare and lockdowns are eventually behind us for good, it'll be Bengaluru calling all over again. One wonders what might Karnataka hold in store for the biodiversity/wildlife enthusiasts among us.

Well, not without reason is it described as 'One State, Many Worlds'.

[Wild Karnataka - Official Trailer](#)

WE ALL KNOW OUR OWN HOMES
LIKE THE BACK OF OUR HANDS,
DON'T WE?



DURING THE COVID LOCKDOWN, I
DECIDED TO PUT THAT STATEMENT
TO TEST, SIMPLY BY OBSERVING
NATURE IN MY
BACKYARD. AND
BOY, HOW **WRONG**
I WAS!



OF COURSE, I KNEW THE
BIRDS & MAMMALS AROUND
HOME. EVEN MOST REPTILES
& AMPHIBIANS. BUT
INVERTEBRATES TURNED
OUT TO BE A NEW
BALLGAME!



IN A SPAN OF 2 MONTHS, WITH
SOME HELP FROM TWO PET
EXCAVATORS, I FOUND:



- 2 SPECIES OF GRASSHOPPERS
- 2 SPECIES OF BEES
- 4 SPECIES OF
DRAGONFLIES
- 15 BUTTERFLY SPECIES
- 8 MOTH SPECIES,
AMONG MANY MORE!



DID I SAY I KNEW
EVERY MAMMAL AROUND
ME?



WELL. A KELAART'S
PIPISTELLE, A BAT SPECIES
NEW TO ME, WAS FOUND
USING MY STAIRWAY
AS A ROOST!



MY LATEST FIND IS A HAIRY
JUMPING SPIDER CALLED THE
ZEBRA JUMPER. AND THE
SEARCH FOR UNDOCUMENTED
HOUSEMATES
CONTINUES.



THIS JUMPER IS PLEASED
TO KNOW THAT YOU'LL
NEVER JUMP TO
CONCLUSIONS
AGAIN!



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-Paww



22 MAY 2021
BIODIVERSITY DAY

We're part of the solution #ForNature