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The world's largest mammal, blue whale was spotted by a group of researchers nearly after 100 years in Maharashtra, 3km away from the Sindhudurg coast between March and May. The team also spotted four Bryde's whales during the same period.

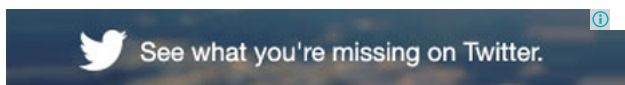
The team, on March 28 sighted a mother-calf pair of blue whales near Kunkeshwar, 2.7km offshore at a depth of 16 metres. Since then they have spotted a small pod of four Bryde's whales four times – April 11, 16, 30 and May 6, near Achra, Tarkarli, Talashil and Sarjekot at an average water depth of 15 metres.

According to N Vasudevan, chief conservator of forest, Maharashtra state mangrove cell, the last reported sighting of blue whale, was in 1914.


Under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project, the team was deployed along the Sindhudurg coast for the past six months.

The blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*) is a marine mammal belonging to the baleen whales (*Mysticeti*).

At 30 meters (98 feet) in length and 180 tonnes or more in weight, it is also the largest existing animal and the heaviest that has ever existed on earth.



About the Author

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