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- [Offbeat](#)
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- [Crime](#)
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Scientists spot Blue Whale off Indian coast after 100 years

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Mumbai: For the marine biologists in particular and aquatic life enthusiasts in general, report of spotting

of a mother-calf pair of blue whale in the Indian coastal waters is a thrilling sign.



Apart from it, the team had on March 28 sighted a mother-calf pair of blue whales near Kunkeshwar

Marine research scientists working off Sindhugarh coast in Maharashtra have claimed to have spotted a mother-calf pair of blue whales.

This mammoth sea creature was spotted off an Indian coast in between March and May and to be precise atleast after a century, claimed scientists.

Besides spotting a mother-calf pair of blue whale, the same team of scientists also spotted an another Cetacean (mammal), the Bryde's whales whose number was said to be four.

Apart from it, the team had on March 28 sighted a mother-calf pair of blue whales near Kunkeshwar, 2.7km offshore at a depth of 16 metres, reports said.

The last reported sighting of blue whale, the world's largest animal, was in 1914, said N Vasudevan, chief conservator of forest, Maharashtra state mangrove cell.

According to experts, the gigantic blue whale in its adulthood reaches a length of 30 metre and weighs around 180 tonnes . Its tongue is as heavy as an elephant and the size of its heart is that of a car.

This aquatic animal eats planktons and in search of food can dive to a depth of 500 metre.

These whales cruise at a speed of around 8 km/ per hour but can attain a speed of up to 30 km/ per hour, pointed out experts.

So ruthlessly were the whales hunted by the Whalers that they almost reached at the brink of extinction and before it could actually been declared extinct, a complete ban on their hunting came to force in 1966, added experts.

This marine giant is listed as Endangered in the Red Data Book of IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources).