

#BIODIVERSITY

Why Did All The Sharks Die!!

The biggest shark attack in history, 19 million years ago, did not involve humans!



A new study by Earth scientists from Yale and the College of the Atlantic has turned up a massive die-off of sharks roughly 19 million years ago. It came at a period in history when there were more than 10 times more sharks patrolling the world's oceans than there are today. For now, researchers don't know the cause of the shark die-off. "We happened upon this extinction almost by accident," said Elizabeth Sibert, a Hutchinson postdoctoral associate in Yale's Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences and the Yale Institute for Biospheric Studies. She is lead author of the new study, which appears in the journal *Science*. "I study microfossil fish teeth and shark scales in deep-sea sediments, and we decided to generate an 85-million-year-long record of fish and shark abundance, just to get a sense of what the normal variability of that population looked like in the long term," Sibert said. "What we found, though, was this sudden drop-off in shark abundance around 19 million years ago, and we knew we had to investigate further." How big was the drop-off? Sibert said that more than 70% of the world's sharks died off, with an even higher death toll for sharks in the open ocean, rather than coastal waters. It was twice the level of extinction that sharks experienced during the Cretaceous-Paleogene mass extinction event 66 million years ago, that wiped out three-quarters of the plant and animal species on Earth. Adding to the mystery is the fact that there is no known climate calamity or ecosystem disruption that occurred at the time of the steep drop in shark populations. "This interval isn't known for any

major changes in Earth's history," said Sibert, "yet, it completely transformed the nature of what it means to be a predator living in the open ocean." Co-author, Leah Rubin, an incoming doctoral student at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, was a student at the College of the Atlantic at the time of the research. "The current state of declining shark populations is certainly cause for concern and this paper helps put these declines in the context of shark populations through the last 40 million years," Rubin said. "This context is a vital first step in understanding what repercussions may follow dramatic declines in these top marine predators in modern times." The researchers noted that past discoveries of extinction events have led to waves of new research to learn the origins of the die-off and whether it signaled a larger, previously unknown, perturbation in global ecosystems. For example, further research might confirm whether the shark-off caused remaining shark populations to change their habitat preferences to avoid the open ocean, Sibert and Rubin said. Additional research might also help to explain why shark populations did not rebound after the die-off 19 million years ago. "This work could tip-off a race to understand this time period and its implications for not only the rise of modern ecosystems, but the causes of major collapses in shark diversity," said Pincelli Hull, an assistant professor of Earth and planetary science at Yale, who was not part of the study. "It represents a major change in ocean ecosystems at a time that was previously thought to be unremarkable."

Pedaling Through the Past

"Beta, no dahi bhalla today," declared guruji at the morning yog session. "Urad dal clashes with curd. Warm water only. Absolutely no ice cream." I nodded solemnly, trying not to think about the two Chocobars I sleepwalked through at midnight.



● Pushpendra Bhargava

There's no better way to rediscover Jaipur than on two wheels. Cycling forces you to slow down just enough to notice what cars rush past, the fading outlines of the Pink City's heritage, one pedal stroke at a time.

Morning Revelations on Prithviraj Road

The ride began from home and up Prithviraj Road, where even a cycle parking slot might be worth over 15 patti per square foot. (Patti means one lakh rupees, ask any local property dealer.) That's Jaipur for you: prime land where old-world grace now jostles with real estate speculation. At the bustling Central Park, during the mandatory 4 km walk, I exchanged morning greetings with Jennifer Dubey and Vivek Chatter, while Parakh's 78-year-old mama

offered his usual blend of wisdom and wit. But serenity was short-lived. Ultra-runners powered through their drills to the soundtrack of the laughing therapy group, whose giggles echoed louder than the birdsong. "Beta, no dahi bhalla today," declared guruji at the morning yog session. "Urad dal clashes with curd. Warm water only. Absolutely no ice cream." I nodded solemnly, trying not to think about the two Chocobars I sleepwalked through at midnight.



#JAIPUR



Restoring Balance at Indian Coffee House

Balance was restored at Indian Coffee House. A plate of fluffy idli, crisp vada, coconut chutney, and piping hot sambhar brought me back to life. A strong black coffee

sealed the deal, certified by last night's WhatsApp University as a miracle cure for fatty liver. And yes, the ICH headgear remains mandatory, part tradition, part statement.

Stories Carved in Stone

Pedaling into New Colony, I paused before a house that seemed to breathe history. "Shri Krishna Niwas - Est. 1967" was carved into its honey-coloured facade. Graceful Art Deco balconies extended over the street, jali screens filtered the morning sun into soft patterns, and the stone seemed to whisper stories. "Sahib, ye purane ghar ab koi nahi banana," said Ramesh ji, watering his tulsi. "No one

builds houses like this anymore. All glass and concrete now." His words lingered. Once, homes gave families their identity. "Haveli wale," "Kothi wale." "Today, name plates dazzle more than the buildings they adorn. I dream of giving our family's old homestay that carved house name and jali balcony, not for show, but to honour a way of living that understood grace, shade, proportion, and place.

Heritage Under Pressure

Cycling through town reveals more than you expect. A stepwell hidden behind plastic trash. An old pol (neighbourhood gate) stranded between two shops. Wooden balconies where once pigeons nested now cr-

dle electric wires. "Development zaruri hai, par heritage bhi bachana chahiye," said Meera aunty, sweeping her century-old doorstep. "Progress is necessary, but we must protect our past too."



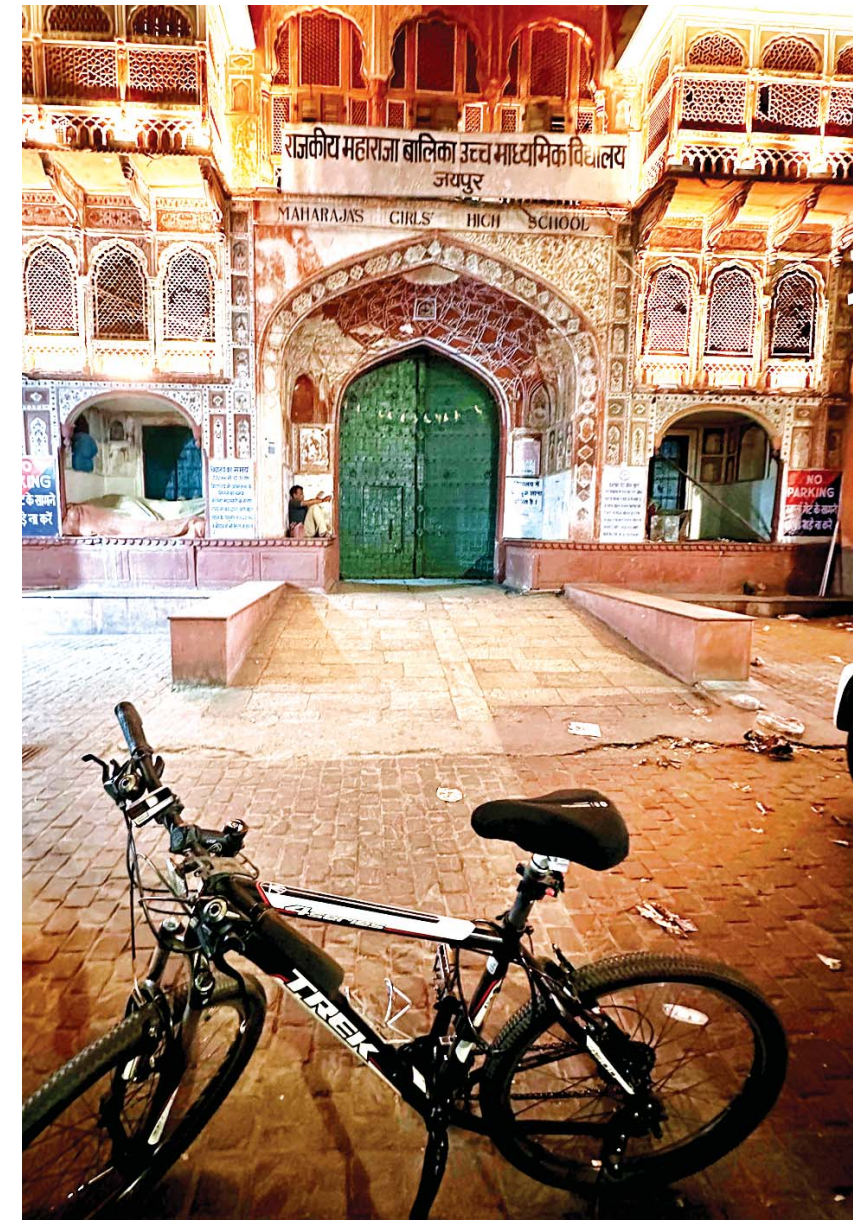
The Slow Revelation

At 15 km per hour, Jaipur opens up. From Chandpole's winding lanes to Civil Lines' wide vistas, patterns emerge: curved rooftops, carved brackets, shaded courtyards. This is virasat: not just old buildings, but a way of living that understood craft, climate, and community. Artisans worked without blueprints, guided by memory and feel. Their work breathes even now, if we slow down enough to see it.



Whit Monday is here

Also known as Pentecost Monday, Whit Monday is a public holiday in several countries that falls on the day after the Christian festival of Pentecost (also known as Whit Sunday), which commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles of Jesus Christ. In many countries, Whit Monday is observed on the 50th day after Easter, which falls on a Monday. The holiday is typically marked by church services, parades, and other celebrations, and is often seen as an opportunity for people to celebrate their faith. Look for local events in your area and see if you can participate.



Memory, Food, and Fire

Back home, the scent of ripe papaya and fresh apricots greeted me from the kitchen. "From the top of the oven, papita and apricots always work," says Pushpesh Pant ji, words that feel like poetry after a morning spent revisiting the city's past. Thank you, Kirti from Tara Niwas, for the generous offering. The old-world Magnet cooking range, lovingly restored by my

father-in-law, Tutu Dhawan, a renowned vintage car restorer, stood glowing in the corner. A well-thumbed Pant cookbook rested nearby, completing the scene. It took me back to my grandfather's home, and to childhood evenings when sizzlers, decades ahead of their time in Jaipur, were crafted with care, right there in our own kitchen. In those meals, as in these streets, memory lingers.

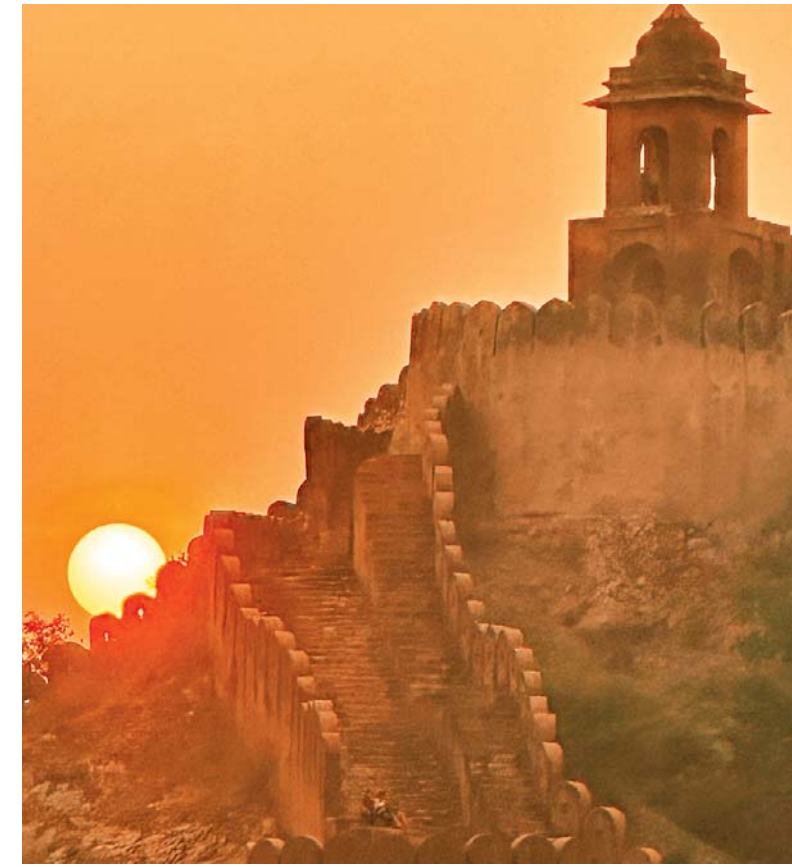
A Call to Pedal and Preserve

World Cycling Day isn't just about fitness or carbon footprints. It's about perspective. When we move slower, we see deeper. Jaipur's virasat survives in fragments, a jharokha here, a column

there. But each fragment holds a story. The bicycle, humble and human-paced, becomes a tool of remembrance. So, this June 3, take your cycle out. Let the city speak, one quiet turn of the wheel at a time.

Pull Quote

"The Pink City reveals its virasat best to those who move slowly enough to receive it."
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#DOGGYLOVE

Paw-De-Cure

Most dogs love having their hair brushed, whether they need it or not.



Grooming is actually an important part of compassionate canine care. And while some aspects of grooming probably fall into the 'discretionary' category, many others are clearly mandatory. It's likely that your pups have proba-

bly missed their last grooming appointment, but that doesn't mean they have to succumb to bad hair days while staying indoors and social distancing. Instead, now is the perfect time to invest in the best dog grooming tools and products to give your furry friend the perfect haircut

and paw-dicure! Today, we'll help you learn about the grooming needs of your dogs, the reasons some of these practices are important, and the tools you'll need to accomplish them. Your dog will feel better and remain healthier, and I bet you'll enjoy the end result more than you think!

The Furry Basics

Some dogs require only minimal grooming, while others require the whole nine yards. All dogs require:
● **Regular Nail Trimming:** Long tails are annoying, painful, and downright dangerous for your dog. Proper nail trimming is essential for all breeds!
● **Baths:** Not all dogs love baths, but they all do need a good cleaning from time to time.

While regular bathing is important, you also don't want to overdo it, as too much washing can be bad for your dog's coat and skin.
● **Brushing and Combing:** Most dogs love having their hair brushed, whether they need it or not, but frequent brushing and hair trimming are essential for some breeds and individual canines.

Slicker Brush



The Importance of Regular Grooming

There are a variety of ways that regular grooming will improve your dog's life, and it will also help to improve your life too. Some of the most important benefits include:
● **Get Dirt Off Your Dog:** Baths help remove dirt, dust, bacteria, fungi and viruses your dog collects on his fur, which will help you and your pup avoid illness. Regular doggie baths also help remove dead skin cells and shed hairs from your pet's coat.
● **Healthier Coat:** Baths also make your dog's coat smell better, as well as feel soft and appear glossy.
● **Prevent Mats:** Brushing your dog's hair on a consistent (even daily) basis can help eliminate small tangles before they turn into a big, matted mess.
● **Relax Your Pooch:** Most dogs love having their coat brushed, many even fall asleep during the process, as long as you're being gentle.

● **Stop Excessive Shedding:** Brushing your dog's hair removes shed hairs proactively, which will cut down on the amount of hair your dog sheds all over your house!
● **Alleviate Allergies:** Regular brushing also makes life easier for allergy sufferers. Reducing the amount of shed hair and dander in your home can help reduce the number of allergens present, as can bathing your dog regularly.
● **Improve Joint Health:** Proper nail trimming will not only help extend the life of your floors and furniture, it will help your pup avoid canine-arthritis and other joint-related maladies.
● **Bond With Your Buddy:** An under-appreciated benefit of regular grooming is that it provides a bonding opportunity for you and your pet. While some dogs don't like all aspects of the process, many learn to love the one-on-one time with mom or dad.

Dog Grooming Tools

Keep your pet's specific needs in mind while shopping. While you probably needn't purchase professional-calibre products to trim your Yorkie's nails, your Great Dane's claws demand

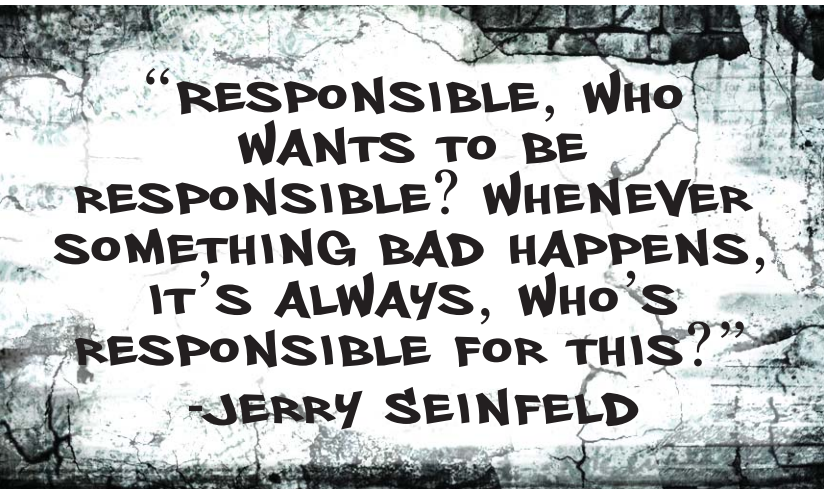
high-quality equipment. Similarly, you don't need a professional set of clippers to trim your short-haired Chihuahua, but it makes sense to invest in a quality set of clippers for your long-haired collie.



Bristle Brush

Bristle brushes are for removing loose hairs and skin cells from short-haired dogs like greyhounds. Bristle brushes are also great for general grooming on all dogs, as they help distribute your dog's natural oils to keep their coat shiny, soft, and healthy! They are available in a wide variety of styles, with varying bristle lengths and spacing. As a rule of thumb, use longer bristles for dogs with longer hair, and vice versa.

THE WALL



BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman