

Why evolution is central to both biology and our lives

Amitabh Joshi

IIT Palakkad's

Public Lecture Series

Abstract

Evolution is often considered a topic of only academic interest and few if any applications. It is also, unfortunately, a rather neglected field in India despite the fact that some of the most significant Indian contributions to the growth of biological knowledge have come from our small community of ecologists and evolutionary biologists. There is also a tendency in many quarters to dismiss evolutionary biology as "merely a theory" and fundamentally flawed. In this talk I will address some of these misconceptions about evolution and show that (a) evolutionary biology is a very well established and verified body of scientific knowledge, and (b) an evolutionary perspective is not just central to biology as a discipline, but is crucial to how we address many pressing societal problems. I will also mention some of the significant Indian contributions to the development of evolutionary thinking over the past three decades or so.

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Surya Resmi Convention Centre, Palakkad

About the Speaker

Amitabh Joshi, PhD, FASc, FNA, FNASc, is an Indian evolutionary biologist, geneticist and a professor at Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR). He heads the Evolutionary Biology Laboratory at JNCASR and is known for his studies on Genetics and Population ecology. In 2009, he was awarded the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology, one of the highest Indian science awards for his contributions to biological sciences.

Speaker's webpage:

<https://sites.google.com/view/ebl-jncasr>



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