

Flying snake found at Bhairabkunda



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Happy news for wildlife loving people of [Udalguri](#). A rare species of flying snake has been [found](#) at [Bhairabkunda](#) near Assam-[Arunachal](#)-Bhutan border on April 1. Members of man made forest known [as JFMC, Bhairabkunda](#) namely – Ismail Daimari, Alfred Daimari, Lenin Daimari and Bimal Daimari [found](#) the snake in their forest which was later identified [as](#) Chrysopelea Paradisi (Paradise Flying [Snake](#)). Its a very fast moving [snake](#) and hardly seen on ground. Flying snakes are actually gliders, using the speed of free fall and contortions of their bodies to catch the air and generate lift. Once thought to be more parachuter than gliders. Recent scientific studies have revealed intricate details about how these limbless, tube-shaped creatures turn plummeting into piloting. To prepare for take-off, a flying [snake](#) will slither to the end of a branch, and dangle in a J shape. It propels itself from the branch with the lower half of its body, forms quickly into an S, and flattens to about twice its [normal](#) width, giving its normally round body a concave C shape, which can trap air. By undulating back and forth, the snake can actually make turns. Flying snakes are technically better gliders than their more popular mammalian equivalents, the flying squirrels. There are five recognized species of flying snake, [found](#) from western [India](#) to the Indonesian archipelago. Knowledge of their behavior in the wild is limited, but they are thought to be highly arboreal, rarely descending from the canopy. The smallest species reach about [2](#) feet (61 centimeters) in length and the largest grow to 4 feet (1.[2](#) meters). Their diets are variable depending on their range, but they are known to eat rodents, lizards, frogs, birds, and bats. They are mildly venomous snakes, but their tiny, fixed rear fangs make them harmless to humans. Scientists [don't](#) know how often or exactly why flying snakes fly, but it's likely they use their aerobatics to escape predators, to move from tree to tree without having to descend to the forest floor, and possibly even to hunt prey. Members of [JFMC, Bhairabkunda](#) are happy to see new animals, birds, reptiles coming to their forest which carries new ray of hope to wildlife loving people. It needs mention that villagers of six

villages near Indo-Bhutan-[Arunachal](#) border have converted a plot of barren lands measuring 5500 bigha into a new [green](#) man made forest where they have already planted more than fourteen lakhs of saplings of various rare species. This has already been unofficially recognised [as](#) Indian record of human planting 14 lakhs plants. The plants have grown taller and bigger now attracting various species of animals, birds, insects and reptiles. After identification and photograph the snake was released in the forest without causing any harm to it.

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BY JAYANTA KUMAR DAS

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