

Planet Earth consists of abiotic and biotic components. Biotic components refer to living beings that coexist with us. There is an immense variety of living organisms that have been coexisting on Earth since time immemorial. A systematic study of these organisms is essential to understand the interrelations between living and non-living components as well as the interactions between two living beings or groups. Conservation involves slowing down, stopping, or reversing the loss of natural habitats of organisms. This approach is known as in-situ conservation. The collection of preserved plant and animal specimens are kept in museums. Museums play a crucial role in preserving the natural heritage of urban areas. Dr. S.P. Agarkar was born in November 1884 in Malvan, Maharashtra. He explored the biodiversity of the Western Ghats and discovered a species of freshwater jellyfish, which was only known to exist in Africa. The Agharkar Research Institute (ARI) in Pune has been named after him.

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