

NARRATOR: Two teams have made it to the largest desert in India... the Thar.

MELVIN: Crikey, some of them are big, aren't they?

BRIAN: Absolutely, yeah. Ideal.

TOM: I mean, the view now is absolutely beautiful.

CAROLINE: It's just beautiful.

TOM: Whooooa!

NARRATOR: Stretching for 200,000 square kilometres across the subcontinent...

TOM: Look!

CAROLINE: Thomas, this is amazing.

NARRATOR: It's a haven for biodiversity, including 141 species of bird and human settlements dating back tens of thousands of years. Today, with over 16 million inhabitants, it's the most densely populated desert in the world, home to the critically endangered Indian wild ass.

CAROLINE: How many do they think are left?

MAN: About 3,000 animals.

TOM: Is that true?

CAROLINE: Three thousand?

MAN: Yeah. And you will not see this animal anywhere in the world.

CAROLINE: Anywhere else?

MAN: And they can go over 70 kilometres an hour.

CAROLINE: Oh my golly!

MAN: They're extremely fast, much faster than a horse.

CAROLINE: Yes! A special moment. Magical. To think they're just truly, truly wild. And here we are in their life and it's just beautiful.

BRIAN: Hello! Aren't you beautiful!

MELVIN: It's an amazing sight, innit?

BRIAN: [whispers] Hello.

NARRATOR: Four hundred and thirty kilometres north of them, in the desert village of Rajpura...

MELVIN: Well, you don't get it any fresher than that, mate, do you?

NARRATOR: Brian and Melvin are on hand at a camel dairy farm.

MELVIN: Mmmm. Oh, that's lovely!

MELVIN: Pull-squeeze, pull-squeeze, yeah? Pull-squeeze.

BRIAN: Squeeze-pull.

MELVIN: No, pull-squeeze, I think.

BRIAN: I think you're getting me, Melv.

MELVIN: I'm not! I'm getting some in the pan. I'm not doing it as well as the other gentlemen but we're getting some.

NARRATOR: The region is home to a community of Raikas, nomadic herders who have been shepherding camels for centuries, a duty believed to have been assigned to them by the Hindu god Lord Shiva.

BRIAN: Come on! Come on! There you go, look. It's a technique.

MELVIN: Yeah, I got twice as much as you did.

BRIAN: Well, I don't think you did.

MELVIN: That's a big turban. Thank you, my friend.

BRIAN: That's good. That's good. Thank you.