



Peacock Soft-shelled Turtle

Why in News

Recently, **Peacock soft-shelled turtle** (a [turtle](#) of a **vulnerable species**) has been rescued from a fish market in **Assam's Silchar**.

Key Points

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- **Scientific Name:** *Nilssonina hurum*.

- **Features:**

- They have a **large head, downturned snout** with low and oval carapace of dark olive green to nearly black, sometimes with a yellow rim.
- The **head and limbs are olive green**; the **forehead has dark reticulations** and large **yellow or orange patches or spots**, especially behind the eyes and across the snout.
- **Males** possess **relatively longer and thicker tails** than females.

- **Habitat:**

- This species is confined to **India, Bangladesh and Pakistan**.
- In India, it is widespread in the northern and **central parts of the Indian subcontinent**.
- These are found in **rivers, streams, lakes and ponds with mud or sand bottoms**.

- **Major Threats:**

- The species is **heavily exploited for its meat and calipee** (the outer cartilaginous rim of the shell).
- Threats in the River Ganga to the species are those generic for all large river turtles, including **reduction of fish stock**, as a result of **overfishing, pollution, increase in river traffic, and sand-mining**, among others.

- **Conservation Status:**

- **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**: Schedule I
- **IUCN Red List**: Vulnerable
- **CITES**: Appendix I

Source:IE

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