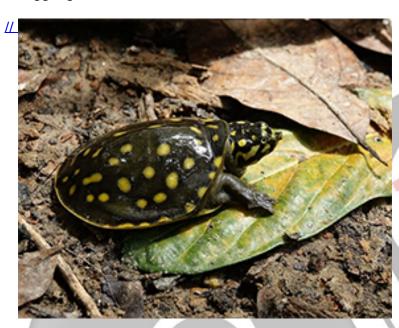


Indian Flapshell Turtles

Why in News

Recently, forest officials from Odisha found **40 Indian flapshell turtles** in baskets in an alleged smuggling racket.





Key Points

About:

- The Indian flapshell turtle is a freshwater species of turtle and is found in many states.
 - The **"flap-shelled"** name stems from the presence of femoral flaps located on the plastron. These flaps of skin cover the limbs when they retract into the shell.
 - It is a relatively small soft-shell turtle with a carapace length of up to 350 millimetres.
- Scientific Name: Lissemys punctata
- Distribution:
 - They are found in Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh (Indus and Ganges drainages), and Myanmar (Irrawaddy and Salween Rivers).
 - They live in the **shallow, quiet, often stagnant waters** of rivers, streams, marshes, ponds, lakes and irrigation canals, and tanks.
 - These turtles prefer waters with sand or mud bottoms because of their tendency to burrow.
- Conservation Status:

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

Threats:

- Turtles are smuggled and killed for their supposed aphrodisiac properties, livestock feed, to make leather from their skins, to make potions from their blood and to use as fishing bait.
- Turtles are also used for meat and medicines.
- Steps Taken for Conservation:
 - KURMA App:
 - It has a **built-in digital field guide** covering 29 species of freshwater turtles and tortoises of India.
 - It was developed by the **Indian Turtle Conservation Action Network (ITCAN)** in collaboration with the Turtle Survival Alliance-India and Wildlife Conservation Society-India.
 - World Turtle Day is observed every year on 23rd May.

Source: DTE

PDF Refernece URL: https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/indian-flapshell-turtles