



## Indian Star Tortoise

[Source: TH](#)

The [Indian star tortoise](#) (*Geochelone elegans*) faces severe threats from **habitat loss, illegal trade, and genetic disruption**, making its conservation a critical priority.

- **Appearance:** It has an **obsidian shell with striking Sun-yellow star patterns**.
- **Habitat:** It is native to the **Indian subcontinent** and is found in **northwestern India, South India, and Sri Lanka** in arid grasslands and savannahs.
- **Conservation Status:** Listed as **Vulnerable** under IUCN Red List, **Appendix I of CITES**.
- **Threat:** According to the [Wildlife Crime Control Bureau](#), **90%** of the trade of Star Tortoise occurs as part of the **international pet market**.
- **Genetic Study Insights:** Researchers identified two distinct groups of Indian star tortoises: **Northwestern (genetically stable)** and **Southern (genetically diverse)**.
  - **Microsatellite markers** were used to **track genetic relationships** and population changes.
  - Microsatellite markers are **short DNA sequences** that **repeat in a particular location** in the genome.

Read More: [Indian Star Tortoise](#)

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## Human Rights Day

[Source: IE](#)

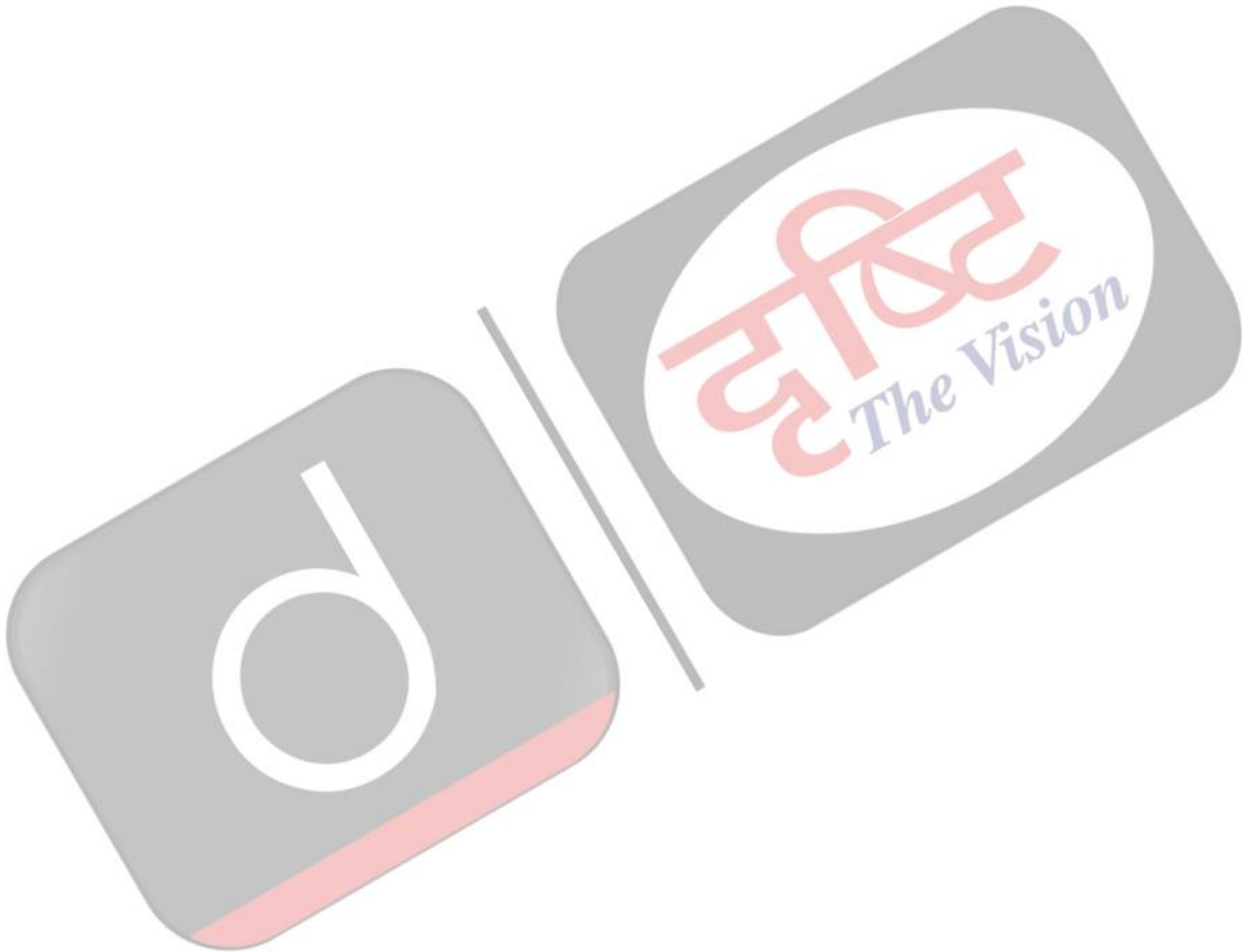
[Human Rights Day](#), observed every year on **10th December** highlights the importance of human rights as a foundation for justice, peace, and equality.

- **2024 Theme:** "**Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now**" emphasizes the relevance of human rights in shaping a peaceful and sustainable future.
- **Historical Significance:** Human Rights Day was established in 1950 to commemorate the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights \(UDHR\)](#), adopted by the United Nations on **10th December, 1948**, which outlined **fundamental human rights for all**.
  - The [UN Human Rights Council](#), established in 2006, promotes global human rights protection through its 47 member States (including India) and works on addressing violations and emergencies.
    - The Council's secretariat is the **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**, based in Geneva, **Switzerland**.
- **Advocacy and Action:** The day calls for collective action to counter [hate speech](#), [misinformation](#), and [human rights abuses](#), while promoting equality and non-discrimination.
- **Human Rights and India:** The Indian Constitution enshrines human rights through [Fundamental Rights \(Part III\)](#) and [Directive Principles of State Policy \(Part IV\)](#).
  - The Preamble's commitment to **justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity** reflects the

**spirit of the UDHR.**

- The [National Human Rights Commission \(NHRC\)](#), established in 1993 under the [Protection of Human Rights Act \(PHRA\)](#), oversees human rights adherence in India.

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# THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

## 1 Equality

Everyone is born free and equal in dignity and with rights.



## 2 Freedom from Discrimination

You should never be discriminated against for any reason.



## 3 Life, Liberty and Security

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and personal security.



## 4 Freedom from Slavery

No-one shall be held in slavery or servitude.



## 5 Freedom from Torture

No-one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel or degrading treatment.



## 6 Recognition as Person Before Law

You have the right to be treated as a person in the eyes of the law.



## 7 Equality Before the Law

You have the right to be treated by the law in the same way as everyone else



## 8 Remedy by Tribunal

You have the right to remedy by competent tribunal.



## 9 Freedom from arbitrary arrest

No-one shall be subject to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.



## 10 Fair Public Hearing

You have the right to a fair public hearing.



## 11 Innocent until Proven Guilty

You have the right to be considered innocent until proven guilty.



## 12 Privacy

No-one has the right to interfere with your privacy, family, or home.



## 13 Freedom of Movement

You have the right to freedom of movement in and out of the country.



## 14 Asylum

You have the right to seek asylum in other countries from persecution.



## 15 Nationality

You have the right to a nationality.



## 16 Marriage and Family

You have the right to marriage and to raise a family.



## 17 Property

You have the right to own property.



## 18 Freedom of Belief

You have the right to freedom of belief and religion.



## 19 Freedom of Opinion

You have the right to freedom of opinion and expression.



## 20 Freedom of Assembly

You have the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.



## 21 Take Part in Government

You have the right to take part in the government of your country.



## 22 Social Security

You have the right to social security.



## 23 Work

You have the right to desirable work and to join trade unions.



## 24 Rest and Leisure

You have the right to rest and leisure.



## 25 Adequate Living Standard

You have the right to a decent life, including food, clothing, housing, and medical care.



## 26 Education

You have the right to education



## 27 Participate in Cultural Life

You have the right to Participate in the Cultural Life of Community.



## 28 Social Order

You have the Right to a Social Order that Articulates this Document.



## 29 Mutual Responsibility

We all have a responsibility to the people around us and should protect their rights and freedoms.



## 30 Freedom from State or Personal Interference

There is nothing in this declaration that justifies any person or country taking away the rights to which we are all entitled.



**HRE USA**

Human Rights Educators USA

A national network dedicated to building a culture of human rights.

[hreusa.org](http://hreusa.org)

**HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION** is a lifelong process of teaching and learning that helps individuals develop the knowledge, skills, and values to fully exercise and protect the human rights of themselves and others; to fulfill their responsibilities in the context of internationally agreed upon human rights principles; and to achieve justice and peace in the world. **HRE USA** strives to promote human dignity, justice, and peace by cultivating an expansive, vibrant base of support for Human Rights Education (HRE) in the United States.

Read more: [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)

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## Armed Forces Flag Day

**Source: BS**

**Armed Forces Flag Day (AFFD)** has been held every year on **7th December since 1949** to honor the bravery and sacrifices of Indian Armed Forces personnel, especially veterans.

- The day recognizes not only the sacrifices of fallen soldiers but also the contributions of their families, especially the war-disabled soldiers and **War Widows (Veer Naris)**.
- **Support Initiatives:**
  - **AFFD Fund:** It was created by the **Ministry of Defence in 1949**. In 1993, it was unified with other welfare funds, including those for war victims and ex-servicemen, into a single fund.
    - The **Kendriya Sainik Board (KSB)** administers the **AFFD Fund (AFFDF)**.
      - KSB formulates and implements welfare and rehabilitation schemes for ex-servicemen and their families across India.
  - **Digital Solutions: SAMBANDH**, a WhatsApp-based chatbot, allows veterans to **easily report and resolve grievances**. The platform has helped address over 1,700 cases in less than a year.
  - **Skill Development for Women:** The **Nari Sashaktikaran** initiative focuses on empowering women, including widows of fallen soldiers, by providing job training and opportunities for economic independence.
  - **Project NAMAN:** It aims to **simplify pension services for veterans**, ensuring easier access to services such as life certificate submissions and pension disbursements.

**Read more:** [Advancing Defense Integration in India](#)

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