

Indian Flapshell Turtle

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Indian Flapshell Turtle Latest News

In a rare sighting, an albino Indian flapshell turtle with a striking yellow shell and skin was recently spotted in a freshwater lake at Chikodra village, Gujarat.

About Indian Flapshell Turtle

- It is a **freshwater turtle** commonly found in **tropical South Asian Countries**.
- Scientific Name: *Lissemys punctata*
- **Distribution:** They are mainly found in **Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh**, and **Myanmar**.
- **Habitat:**
 - 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**.

Indian Flapshell Turtle Features

- Its **identifiers** are the **femoral flaps** that **extend from the shell and cover the limbs when the turtle withdraws** into its shell.
- The **oval soft shell** of the flapshell turtle is an **evolutionary connection to hardshell turtles**.
- They can grow up to 370 mm in length and live for about 20 years.
- They are **omnivores**.
- They are **generally solitary** and **active during the day**.
- They are **highly adaptable** beings. They can **survive in extreme droughts** for about 120-160 days.

Indian Flapshell Turtle Conservation status

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

What is Albinism?

- Albinism is a **rare genetic condition** that **affects the level of melanin, or what pigments hair, skin, and eyes in mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish**.
- This is a mutation that is **passed from parent** to offspring.
- It is a recessive trait that occurs in every one out of 10,000 births.
- **Both of the parents of the offspring must carry the gene** in order for the animal to be albino.
- Some animals are full albino while others possess albino traits.
- **Partial albinism** is known as **leucism**. Animals that are leucistic might have white fur, scales, or skin, but their eyes will not be pink or red.

Source: **TOI**

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