



**DATE - 23 June 2021**

## **Black Softshell Turtle**

### **Context:**

Recently, the Assam forest department has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with two Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and adopted a Vision Document to raise at least 1,000 black softshell turtles by 2030.

### **About:**

**Black Softshell Turtle: (Scientific Name: Nilssonia nigricans)**

- **Features:** They look almost the same as the Indian peacock softshell turtle (*Nilssonia hurum*), which is classified as Endangered in the IUCN Red List.
- **Habitat:** A freshwater species and there are 29 species of freshwater turtles and tortoises found in India.  
They are found in ponds of temples in northeastern India and Bangladesh. Its distribution range also includes the Brahmaputra River and its tributaries.
- **Protection Status:** IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered
- CITES: Appendix I  
Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: No legal protection

- **Threats:**  
Consumption of turtle meat and eggs, silt mining, encroachment of wetlands and change in flooding pattern.

## **Sea Turtles of Indian Waters:**

- There are five species in Indian waters i.e. Olive Ridley, Green turtle, Loggerhead, Hawksbill, Leatherback.
- The Olive Ridley, Leatherback and Loggerhead are listed as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
- The Hawksbill turtle is listed as 'Critically Endangered' and Green Turtle is listed as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
- They are protected in Indian Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, under Schedule I.

## **Turtle Conservation:**

### **National Marine Turtle Action Plan:**

It contains ways and means to not only promote inter-sectoral action for conservation but also guide improved coordination amongst the government, civil society and all relevant stakeholders on the response to cases of stranding, entanglement, injury or mortality of marine mammals and also conservation of marine turtles.

### **Indian Ocean Sea Turtle Agreement (IOSEA):**

- India is a signatory to the Indian Ocean Sea Turtle Agreement (IOSEA) of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), a United Nations backed initiative.
- It puts in place a framework through which States of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asian region, as well as other concerned States, can work together to conserve and replenish depleted marine turtle populations for which they share responsibility.

### **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.

# Integrated Power Development Scheme

## Context:

A 50 kWp Solar rooftop in Solan, Himachal Pradesh was inaugurated under Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) of the Ministry of Power.

The project further reinforces the 'Go Green' Initiative of the government envisaged in the Urban Distribution scheme.

## Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS):

- **Launch:** December 2014.
- **Nodal Agency:** Power Finance Corporation Ltd. (PFC), a Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power.
- **Components:**
  - Strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution networks in the urban areas.
  - Metering of distribution transformers / feeders / consumers in the urban areas.
  - Schemes for Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and IT enablement of the distribution sector. ERP helps in integrating the important parts of a business.
  - Underground cabling to include additional demand of States and smart metering solution for performing UDAY States and Solar panels on Govt. buildings with net-metering are also permissible under the scheme.

## Objectives

- 24x7 Power supplies for consumers.
- Reduction of AT&C (aggregate technical and commercial) losses.
- Providing access to power to all households.
- **Eligibility:** All Power Distribution Companies (Discoms) are eligible for financial assistance under the scheme.
- **Funding Pattern:**  
GoI (Government of India) Grant: 60% (85% for special category States)
- **Additional Grant:** 15% (5% for special category States) – linked to achievement of milestones.

## Power Sector in India:

- India's power sector is one of the most diversified in the world. Sources of power generation range from conventional sources such as coal, lignite, natural gas, oil, hydro and nuclear power to viable non-conventional sources such as wind, solar, and agricultural and domestic waste.
- India is the third-largest producer and second-largest consumer of electricity in the world.
- Electricity is a concurrent subject (Seventh Schedule of the Constitution).
- The Ministry of Power is primarily responsible for the development of electrical energy in the country.
- It administers the Electricity Act, 2003 and the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
- The Government has released its roadmap to achieve 175 GW capacity in renewable energy by 2022, which includes 100 GW of solar power and 60 GW of wind power.
- The Government is preparing a 'rent a roof' policy for supporting its target of generating 40 gigawatts (GW) of power through solar rooftop projects by 2022.
- **The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** is the nodal Ministry for all matters relating to new and renewable energy.
- 100% FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) is permitted under automatic route in the power sector.