

Endangered turtles seized in Patna

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Tuesday, April 6, 2004 (Patna):

The police today seized 78 turtles in Patna from a gang smuggling them from Kanpur to West Bengal.

Each of the turtles had a hole drilled in their feet through which a rope was tied. They are now being treated for their injuries at the Patna Zoo.

"Today, 78 turtles have been brought to the Patna Zoo. Mokama police, with the help of the forest department, sent the turtles in this zoo so that those turtles who are injured can be treated," said Ranveer Singh, director, Patna Zoo.

Balancing act

These turtles, found in River Ganga, maintain the ecological balance by feeding on the dead bodies that are thrown into the river.

There have been four cases of turtle smuggling reported from Bihar in the last two years alone because of the increasing demand for turtle skin and soup.