



## Operation Olivia

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- Every year, the **Indian Coast Guard's** 'Operation Olivia', initiated in the early 1980s, **helps protect Olive Ridley turtles as they congregate along the Odisha coast** for breeding and nesting from November to December.
- Round-the-clock surveillance is conducted from November till May utilising Coast Guard assets such as fast patrol vessels, air cushion vessels, interceptor craft and Dornier aircraft to enforce laws near the rookeries. **The Orissa Marine Fisheries Act empowers the Coast Guard as one of its enforcement agencies.**
- Olive Ridley turtles are mainly found in the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans. **Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary in Odisha is the largest breeding and nesting place for sea turtles in the world.** These turtles travel thousands of kms for food and breeding. The Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) is listed as vulnerable under the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red list.
- **World Sea Turtle Day is celebrated on 16 June every year** to educate people on the need to conserve the world's Sea turtles and their habitats. Turtles are found in India, in the coastal states of Odisha, Chennai, and Maharashtra.
- All five species of sea turtles found in India are included in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and in the Appendix I of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora which prohibits trade in turtle products by signatory countries.

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