



## OLIVE RIDLEYS: ENVIRONMENT

**NEWS:** Carcasses of Olive Ridley turtles continue to wash ashore in Visakhapatnam

### WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?


Carcasses of Olive Ridley turtles are washing ashore along Visakhapatnam due to marine pollution and trawling, threatening their vulnerable population. Despite hatcheries and conservation efforts, accidental captures during breeding season remain a significant issue.

### Olive Ridley Turtles and Conservation Challenges

- **Species Details:** Olive Ridley turtles are the smallest and most abundant sea turtle species globally, known for their unique "arribadas" (mass nesting events).
- **Conservation Status:** Listed as 'Vulnerable' by the IUCN, they inhabit tropical and subtropical waters across the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans.
- **Diet:** They are omnivores, feeding on jellyfish, crabs, shrimp, snails, and algae.
- **Threats:** Major threats include entanglement in fishing nets, habitat destruction, marine pollution, and climate change.
- **Conservation Efforts:** Hatcheries and awareness programs are in place, but trawling and pollution during the breeding season near Visakhapatnam persist as significant challenges.

### WHY OLIVE RIDLEYS MATTER

- A critical species for the marine ecosystem. It travels to and from the deep ocean to ocean surface, transporting crucial small organisms that help maintain the health of coral reefs and seagrass
- Listed as 'vulnerable' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) conservation status
- A Schedule -1 species according to the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act
- **Major threats:** Ghost nets left behind after fishing, mechanised boats, trawlers, growing commercial and tourism activities on beach, growing stray dog population, sea water pollution near coast



**Source :** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Visakhapatnam/carcasses-of-olive-ridley-turtles-continue-to-wash-ashore-in-visakhapatnam/article68988976.ece#:~:text=Carcasses%20of%20Olive%20Ridley%20turtles>



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