



drishti

## Red Crowned Roofed Turtle

 [drishtiias.com/printpdf/red-crowned-roofed-turtle](https://drishtiias.com/printpdf/red-crowned-roofed-turtle)

- **Red Crowned Roofed Turtle** is **one of the 24 species endemic to India**, is characterised by the bright colours such as red, yellow, white and blue on the faces

and necks of the males.



- **Common Names:** Bengal roof turtle, Red-crowned roofed turtle.
- **Distribution:**
  - It is a freshwater turtle species found in **deep flowing rivers with terrestrial nesting sites.**
  - The Red-crowned roofed turtle is native to **India, Bangladesh and Nepal.**
  - Historically, the species was widespread in the **Ganga River**, both in India and Bangladesh. It also occurs in the **Brahmaputra basin.**
  - Currently in India, the **National Chambal River Gharial Sanctuary** is the only area with substantial population of the species, but even this **Protected Area** and habitat are under threat.

- **Major Threats:**
  - Loss or degradation of habitat due to **pollution** and **large scale development activities** like water extraction for human consumption and irrigation and irregular flow from the upstream dams and reservoirs.
  - **Sand mining** and growing of **seasonal crops** along Ganga River are majorly affecting the sandbars along the river that are used by the species for nesting.
  - Drowning by **illegal fishing nets**.
  - **Poaching and illegal trade**.
- **Conservation Status:**
  - **The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** : Critically Endangered
  - **Wildlife Protection Act (IWPA)** : Schedule I
  - **The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)** : Appendix II

Source : TH