



Operation Olivia

[Source: PIB](#)

[Indian Coast Guard \(ICG\)](#)'s annual operation, 'Operation Olivia' has achieved major **success** by protecting over 6.98 lakh Olive Ridley turtles nesting at the **Rushikulya river** mouth in Odisha.

Operation Olivia:

- It was launched in the early **1980s** to protect **Olive Ridley turtles** during their **breeding and nesting season** along the **Odisha coast**.
- It aims to ensure **safe nesting grounds** for these turtles, by **preventing unlawful trawling**, particularly at [Gahirmatha Beach](#) and nearby coastal area of Odisha.

Olive Ridley Turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*):

- **About:** It is the **smallest sea turtle species** in the family *Cheloniidae*, identified by its **olive** or **grayish-green color** and **heart-shaped carapace**.
- **Nesting:** They are **omnivorous** and known for the **mass nesting** event called **arribada**, where thousands of females nest together, migrating up to 9,000 km over [Pacific](#), [Indian](#), and [Atlantic Oceans](#).
 - Major nesting sites include [Gahirmatha](#), [Rushikulya](#) and **Devi River mouth** in **Odisha** and the **Andaman Islands**.
- **Threats:** It includes **bycatch, poaching, habitat loss, plastic pollution, and climate change** effects.
- **Protection Status:** Protected under the [Wildlife Protection Act, 1972](#) (Schedule 1), [IUCN Red List](#) (Vulnerable), and [CITES](#) (Appendix I).

OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLES



SCIENTIFIC CLASSIFICATION:

Scientific Name: *Lepidochelys olivacea*

Class: Reptilia

Family: Cheloniidae

PROTECTION STATUS:

Wildlife Protection Act.
1972. Schedule 1

IUCN Red List: Vulnerable

CITES: Appendix I

CONSERVATION INITIATIVES:

Operation Olivia protects nesting turtles;
Odisha mandates Turtle Excluder Devices
(TEDs): Tagging helps track and conserve
Olive Ridleys.



 Mass nesting beaches

 Sporadic nesting
beaches

Read More: [Mass Nesting of Olive Ridley Turtles](#)

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