



Red-Crowned Roofed Turtle

[Source: PIB](#)

The **Red-Crowned Roofed Turtle (Batagur kachuga)** has been **reintroduced into the Ganga River** after 30-years, marking a major success under the [Namami Gange Mission](#) and the [Turtle Survival Alliance India \(TSAFI\)](#) project.

- Turtles were released in the **Haiderpur Wetland**, a **Ramsar site** located near the **Bijnor Ganga Barrage** within the **Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary**, Uttar Pradesh.

Red Crowned Roofed Turtle:



- **About:** It is a **freshwater turtle** belonging to the **family Geoemydidae**. Also known as **Bengal Roof Turtle**, they are **one of the 24 species endemic** to India.
- **Key Characteristics:** The females grow up to **56 cm** and **25 kg**, while males are smaller and exhibit bright **red, yellow, white, and blue** markings on the face and neck.
 - The **carapace** (upper shell) is **strongly keeled**, particularly in juveniles and **plastron** (lower shell) is **laterally angulated** in younger individuals, giving them a **sharp-edged appearance**.
 - This **herbivorous** species feeds on **aquatic plants** and lays **11-30 eggs** during **March-April**.
- **Habitat & Distribution:** It was historically found in the river systems of **India, Nepal**, and **Bangladesh**, particularly in **large, deep rivers** like the **Ganga, Chambal**, and **Brahmaputra**.
 - Due to **habitat degradation, sand mining**, and **pollution**, it disappeared from the Ganga's main channel.
 - It has now been **reintroduced** into the **Haiderpur Wetland** in **Uttar Pradesh**, India, which connects to the Ganga and offers a suitable environment for its revival.
- **Major Threats:** **Habitat loss** due to **pollution, dam construction**, and **water**

extraction. Sand mining and **seasonal agriculture** destroy its nesting sandbars, **illegal fishing nets** cause drowning and **poaching** and the **illegal pet trade**.

■ **Protection Status:**

- [IUCN Red List](#) : Critically Endangered
- [Wildlife Protection Act \(WPA\), 1972](#): Schedule I
- [CITES](#) : Appendix II

Turtle Survival Alliance India (TSAFI)

- **TSAFI** is the Indian chapter of the global [Turtle Survival Alliance \(TSA\)](#), formed in **2001** under [IUCN](#) to protect freshwater turtles and tortoises from threats like **habitat loss, illegal trade**, and **climate change**, with the mission of **“Zero Turtle Extinctions in the 21st Century**.



Few Turtle Species

Loggerhead Sea Turtle

- Species of oceanic turtle
- Spend most of their life in saltwater and estuarine habitat
- IUCN status: **Vulnerable**

Leatherback Turtle

- The largest of the seven species of sea turtles
- Able to maintain high body temperature using metabolically generated heat
- IUCN status: **Critically Endangered**

Green Turtle

- Named after the greenish colour of their cartilage
- Found in tropical and subtropical waters
- IUCN Status: **Endangered**

Olive Ridley Turtle

- Smallest and most abundant of all sea turtles
- Carnivores
- They practice Unique Mass Nesting called Arribada
- IUCN Status: **Vulnerable**

Drishti IAS

#FewTurtleSpecies

Read More: [Red Crowned Roofed Turtle](#), [Olive Ridley Turtles in India](#)