

## Olive Ridley turtles

By IASToppers | 2023-10-06 15:30:00



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Two Olive Ridley turtles, **Bageshri** and **Guha**, fitted with **satellite transmitters**, have recently been tracked by researchers as they navigate the seas in search of **food** after **laying eggs** in **Maharashtra**.



[Ref - World Wildlife Fund]

### **About Olive Ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*):**

- Olive Ridley turtle is the **second-smallest** and **most abundant** of all **sea turtles** found in the world.
- It is also known as the **Pacific ridley sea turtle**.
- It is a species of turtle that belongs to the **family Cheloniidae**.
- They are predominantly **carnivorous**, especially in **immature** stages of its lifecycle.
- It is found in **warm** and **tropical waters**, primarily in the **Pacific** and **Indian Oceans**.
- It can also be found in the **warm waters** of the **Atlantic Ocean**.
- It has been **exploited** for food, bait, oil, leather, and fertilizer.
- This turtle and the related **Kemp's ridley turtle** are best known for their **unique** synchronized mass nesting's called **arribadas**.
  - **Arribadas**: Thousands of **female turtles** come together on the same beach to lay eggs.

### **Conservation status:**

- **IUCN Status**: Vulnerable
- **CITES**: Appendix I

### **Satellite Tracking of Olive Ridley Turtles:**

- A **satellite tracking** study of the nesting Olive Ridleys in the **west coast of India** was initiated in **2022**.
- In **2022**, 5 turtles were **deployed** with **tags** at nesting beaches to track them for a year.