

**Regarding need for a long-term plan for conservation of Olive Ridley Turtles along the coast of Karnataka- Laid**

**CAPTAIN BRIJESH CHOWTA (DAKSHINA KANNADA):** I wish to draw the attention of the House to the recent nesting of Olive Ridley turtles along Mangaluru's coastline after nearly 29 years, particularly on Tannirbhavi and Sasihithlu beaches. These endangered turtles, protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, are crucial for marine biodiversity. However, their survival is threatened by habitat destruction, pollution, and human activities. While local fishermen and forest officials have taken steps to protect the nests, there is an urgent need for structured Government intervention. I urge the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to develop a long-term conservation plan for Olive Ridley turtles along Karnataka's coast; allocate funds for community-driven conservation and awareness programs; regulate coastal development to protect nesting habitats; enhance enforcement against illegal fishing and activities endangering the turtles; and consider declaring key nesting beaches as protected areas. The return of Olive Ridley turtles to Mangaluru presents a rare conservation opportunity. I urge the Government to take proactive measures to ensure their long-term protection.