

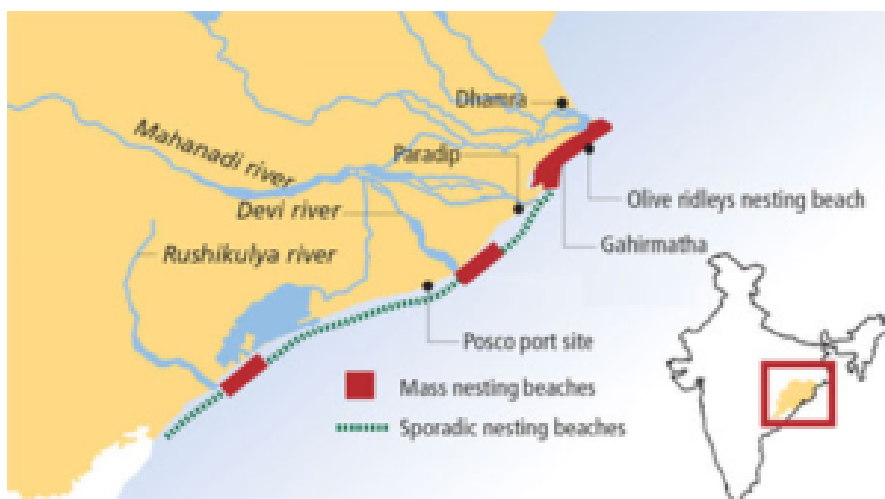
Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary

March 5, 2021

In news : Recently, the Orissa High Court has issued notice to the State government over allegations of large-scale Olive Ridley turtle deaths along the Gahirmatha marine sanctuary.

About Gahirmatha marine sanctuary

- The Gahirmatha Marine Wildlife Sanctuary is the only marine sanctuary of Orissa.
- In 1997 the Government of Orissa declared the area as Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary considering its ecological significance and diverse floral and faunal resources.
- Location: Kendrapara district, Odisha



- It is the world's largest nesting beach for Olive Ridley Turtles
- It extends from Dhamra River mouth in the north to Brahmani river mouth in the south. It is very famous for its nesting beach for olive ridley sea turtles.
- It has been observed that Olive Ridley Sea Turtles migrate from the Pacific Ocean through the coastal water of Sri Lanka in the Indian Ocean to the coastal water of Gahirmatha in the north.
- They usually mate between November and January and the breeding period is of eight months from October to May.

Olive Ridley Turtles

- The name for this sea turtle is tied to the colour of its shell—an olive green hue.
- The Olive ridley turtles are the most abundant of all sea turtles found in the world,
- **Habitat:** They inhabit warm waters of the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans
- Rushikulya rookery coast in the Ganjam district of Odisha, Gahirmatha beach (Bhitarkanika National park) and the mouth of the Debi River are the major nesting sites in Odisha.
- **IUCN status:** Vulnerable

CITES: Appendix I