

Red-Eared Slider Turtle

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Red-Eared Slider Turtle Latest News

Red-eared slider turtle, an invasive turtle species that got circulated across countries through pet trade poses a threat to water bodies in Coimbatore.

About Red-Eared Slider Turtle

- It is one of the world's most widely **introduced freshwater turtles**.
- **Habitat:** It is predominantly **aquatic, becoming terrestrial** only when expanding its range.
- **Distribution:** It now has an established **distribution across all continents** except Antarctica.
- **Appearance:** It is known for its **distinct red stripes behind each ear**.

Characteristics of Red-Eared Slider Turtle

- It is **highly adaptable** and can survive under sub-optimal temperature conditions.
- Its flexibility allows it to thrive in non-native environments.
- These **species exhibit aggressive hunting behaviour** during certain periods.

- One such **phase is during pregnancy**, when the turtle requires excess food and easily preys on native aquatic species.
- **Life Span:** In the wild, red sliders can **live from 20 to 50 years**.
- **Conservation Status:** IUCN: Least Concerned

Issues of Red-Eared Sliders Turtle

- They **breed quickly and expand unchecked** due to the absence of natural predators.
- The species **competes directly with India's native turtles** for basking sites, nesting grounds and food.
- It shows **aggressive behaviour** and higher consumption patterns also affect fish population, disturbing freshwater ecosystems

Source: TH

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