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Wild life expert's new book

Shekar Dattatri, wild-life film-maker and conservationist has written a book titled 'Riddle of the Ridley.' This has been brought out by Tulika Publishers. This is an informative and illustrated book

'Riddle of the Ridley' talks of the fascinating life history of these mysterious creatures, examines the problems that confront them and offers some solutions for their conservation.

The book also highlights the efforts of initiatives such as Chennai's Students' Sea Turtle Conservation Network, which conducts turtle walks every nesting season to protect the eggs from predators and poachers.

The book chronicles the saga of the Olive Ridley sea turtles that nest on the Indian coast between December and March every year.

The Olive Ridley is the smallest of the seven

species of sea turtles that exist today but its existence is threatened by rampant mechanized fishing in the sea and constructions and development on and near nesting beaches. During the



last 15 years, tens of thousands of these gentle reptiles have drowned in the nets of mechanized fishing boats.

The book's easy-to-follow layout helps easy un-

derstanding of a unique natural phenomenon and the issues revolving around it.

The book contains several photographs and includes pictures by sea turtle biologist, Dr B i v a s h Pandav and eminent conservationist B e l i n d a Wright, Executive Director of the Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI).

The Oriya version of the book has been made available free for the use of the WPSI in its awareness campaign among schoolchildren in Orissa's coastal region. The book is also available in English, Tamil and Hindi in leading bookstores and

online.

Shekar Dattatri is an award-winning wildlife filmmaker and conservationist who was so moved by the plight of the ridleys that he produced a poignant film about them called 'The Ridley's Last Stand,' which won the Golden Tree Award at the Vatavaran film festival in Delhi and an award for Conservation Advocacy at the International Wildlife Film Festival in Montana, USA.

His other book for Tulika is called *Lai-Lai the Baby Elephant*.

Riddle of the Ridley is priced at Rs.125/- for the English version and Rs.70/- for the Indian language versions.

Contact Tulika Publishers at 24981639. (www.tulikabooks.com)

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