



# Dehing Patkai and Raimona National Parks: Assam

## Why in News

Recently, the Assam government notified [Dehing Patkai](#) as the **7<sup>th</sup> National Park** of the state.

- It was **created shortly after Raimona reserve forest in western Assam's Kokrajhar district was upgraded to a national park (6<sup>th</sup>)** on the occasion of [World Environment Day \(5<sup>th</sup> June\)](#).

## National Park

- An area, whether within a sanctuary or not, can be notified by the state government to be constituted as a National Park, by reason of its ecological, faunal, floral, or zoological association or importance, needed to for the purpose of protecting & propagating or developing wildlife therein or its environment.
- No human activity is permitted inside the national park except for the ones permitted by the Chief Wildlife Warden of the state under the conditions given in [WPA \(Wildlife Protection Act\) 1972](#).
- Some human activities can be allowed inside a wildlife sanctuary, but no human activity is allowed in a national park.

## Key Points

### ▪ About Dehing Patkai National Park:

#### ◦ Location:

- It is located within the larger **Dehing Patkai [Elephant Reserve](#)**, which spreads across the **coal- and oil-rich** districts of **Upper Assam** (Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts).
- The **[oldest refinery of Asia in Digboi](#)** and 'open cast' coal mining at Lido are located near the sanctuary.
- The Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary is **also known as the Jeypore Rainforest**.

#### ◦ Naming:

- **Dehing** is the name of the **river that flows through this forest** and **Patkai is the hill at** the foot of which the sanctuary lies.

#### ◦ Flora:

- It is **believed to be the last remaining contiguous patch of lowland rainforest area** in Assam.

#### ◦ Fauna:

- Rare fauna found in the region include [Chinese pangolin](#), flying fox, wild pig, sambar, barking deer, [gaur](#), [serow](#) and [Malayan giant squirrels](#).

- It is the **only sanctuary in India which is home to seven different species of wild cats** - [tiger](#), [leopard](#), [clouded leopard](#), leopard cat, [golden cat](#), jungle cat and marbled cat.
- **Assamese macaque**, a primate found in the forest, is in the [red list of Near Threatened species](#).
- It has the **highest concentration of the rare endangered White Winged Wood Duck**.

#### ▪ **Raimona National Park:**

##### ◦ **Location:**

- The Raimona National Park is **within the Bodoland Territorial Region**.
- The area of the park **includes the northern part of the notified Ripu Reserve Forest**, which forms the **western-most buffer to the Manas National Park** that straddles the India-Bhutan border.

##### ◦ **Borders and Boundary:**

- It is **bounded on the west by the Sonkosh river** and the **Saralbhanga river on the east**.

- Both the rivers are **tributaries of Brahmaputra**.

- The **Pekua river** defines Raimona's **southern boundary**.

##### ◦ **Transboundary Conservation Landscape:**

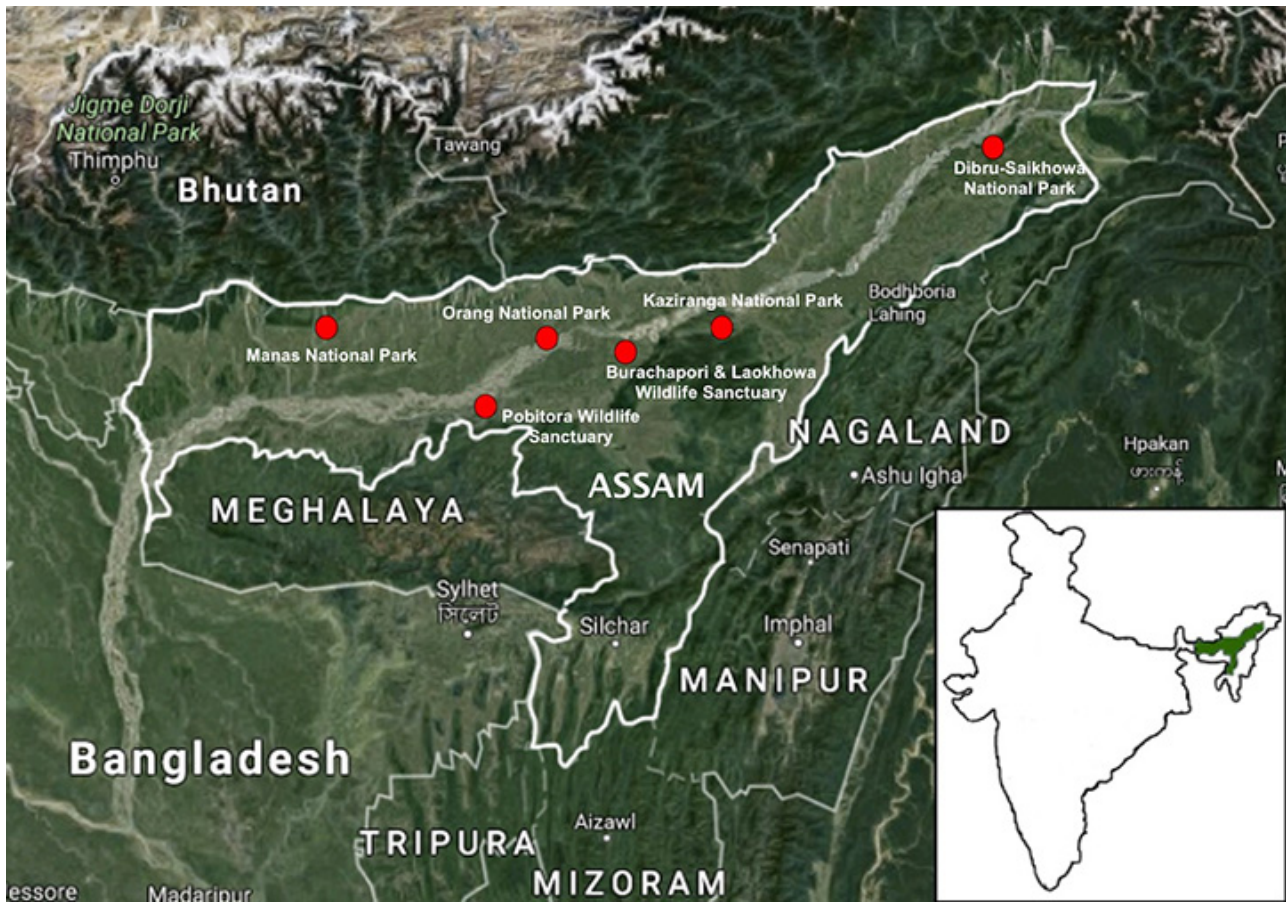
- It shares contiguous forest patches of **Phipsoo Wildlife Sanctuary and Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park of Bhutan** creating a transboundary conservation landscape of more than 2,400 sq km.

##### ◦ **Flora and Fauna:**

- It is **famous for Golden Langur**, an endemic species which has been named as the mascot of Bodoland region.
- It also has Asian elephant, Royal Bengal tiger, Clouded leopard, Indian gaur, Wild water buffalo, Spotted deer, Hornbill, more than 150 species of butterflies, 170 species of birds, 380 varieties of plants and orchids.

#### ▪ **National Parks in Assam:**

- **Assam** now has the **third most** National Parks after the **12 in Madhya Pradesh** and **nine in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands**.
- The **seven National Parks** in the State are **Dehing Patkai, Raimona, Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri, Orang, and Dibru-Saikhowa**.
- **Kaziranga and Manas** are [UNESCO World Heritage Sites](#). They are also tiger reserves along with Nameri and Orang.



**Source: TH**

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