



Greater One-Horned Rhino

Why in News?

Recently, a case of poaching of the world-famous one-horned rhino has been suspected inside the Kaziranga National Park in Assam.



7 NATIONAL PARKS IN ASSAM

- 6th : Raimona National Park (Notified in 2021)
- 7th : Dihing Patkai National Park (Notified in June 2021)

What are the Key Points related to One-Horned Rhino?

- About:

- There are **five species of rhino** – **white and black rhinos in Africa**, and the **greater one-horned, Javan and Sumatran rhino species in Asia**.



- **IUCN Red List** Status:

- **Black Rhino:** Critically endangered. Smaller of the two African species.
- **White Rhino:** Near Threatened. Researchers have created an embryo of the northern white rhino by using In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) process.
- **One-Horned Rhino:** Vulnerable
- **Javan:** Critically Endangered
- **Sumatran Rhino:** Critically Endangered. It has gone extinct in Malaysia.
- Only the Great One-Horned Rhino **is found in India**.
- Also known as Indian rhino, it is the largest of the rhino species.
- It is identified by a **single black horn and a grey-brown** hide with skin folds.
- They primarily graze, with a diet consisting almost entirely of grasses as well as leaves, branches of shrubs and trees, fruit, and aquatic plants.

- **Habitat:**

- The species is restricted to small habitats in Indo-Nepal terai and northern West Bengal and Assam.
- In India, rhinos are mainly found in Assam, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh.
- Assam has an estimated 2,640 rhinos in four protected areas, i.e. **Pabitora Wildlife Reserve**, Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park, Kaziranga National Park, and **Manas National Park**.

- About 2,400 of them are in the **Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR)**.

- **Protection Status:**

- **IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable.
- **CITES:** Appendix I (Threatened with extinction and CITES prohibits international trade in specimens of these species except when the purpose of the import is not commercial, for instance for scientific research).
- **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule I.

- **Threats:**

- Poaching for the horns
- Habitat loss
- Population density
- Decreasing Genetic diversity.

What are the Conservation Efforts?

- The **five rhino range nations** (India, Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia and Malaysia) have signed a declaration 'The New Delhi Declaration on Asian Rhinos 2019' for the conservation and protection of the species.
- Recently, the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has begun a project to create **DNA profiles of all rhinos** in the country.
- **National Rhino Conservation Strategy:** It was launched in 2019 to conserve the greater one-

horned rhinoceros.

- **Indian Rhino Vision 2020:** Launched in 2005, it was an ambitious effort to attain a wild population of at least 3,000 greater one-horned rhinos spread over seven protected areas in the Indian state of Assam by the year 2020.

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