



## White Rhino

### Why in News

Researchers have created an **embryo of the northern white rhino** by using **In vitro Fertilization (IVF) process**.

- Presently, there are **only two northern white rhinos** in the world.

### White Rhino



- White rhinos are the **second largest land mammal** after the elephant.
- White rhinos are also known as the **square-lipped rhinoceros** due to their square (not pointed) upper lip.
- **Two genetically different subspecies** exist, the **northern and southern white rhino** and are found in two different regions in Africa.
- The IUCN Status of **White Rhino is Near Threatened**. The IUCN status of its subspecies is as follows:
  - **Northern White Rhino: Critically Endangered**
  - **Southern White Rhino: Near Threatened**
- There is also the **black (or hook-lipped) rhinoceros in Africa**, which too, is fighting for survival, and at least three of whose subspecies are already extinct. It is **critically endangered** in the IUCN Red list.
- The **Indian rhinoceros** is different from its African cousins, most prominently in that it has only one horn. It is **vulnerable** in the IUCN Red list.
- There is also a **Javan rhino**, which too, has one horn, and a **Sumatran rhino** which, like the African rhinos, has two horns. Both Javan and Sumatran Rhino are **critically endangered** in the IUCN Red list.

### In vitro Fertilization

- IVF is one of the more widely known types of **Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART)**.
- **In vitro** comes from the **latin word 'in glass'**, i.e. studies are done in a test tube rather than in a human or animal.

- The **opposite to 'In-vitro' is 'In-vivo'**, which comes from the **latin word 'within the living'**. In vivo refers to experimentation being done in a living organism.
- In vitro means outside the body. Fertilization means the sperm has attached to and entered the egg.
- During IVF, mature eggs are collected (retrieved) from the ovaries and fertilized by sperm in a **lab**. Then the fertilized egg (embryo) or eggs (embryos) are transferred to a uterus.

**Source: IE**

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