



World Rhino Day

Why in News

World Rhino Day is observed on **22th September** to spread awareness for all five species of rhino and work being done to save them.



Key Points

- It was **first announced by the [World Wildlife Fund \(WWF\)](#) - South Africa in 2010**. The species of rhinoceros are on the verge of extinction due to persistent **poaching and habitat loss** over several decades.
- 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:**
 - **White Rhino:** Near Threatened.
 - **Black Rhino:** Critically endangered.
 - **Greater One Horned:** Vulnerable.
 - **Javan:** Critically Endangered
 - **Sumatran Rhino:** Critically Endangered
- **Theme 2021:** Keep the five Alive.
- **Objectives:** Strengthening protection, Expanding the distribution range, Research and monitoring, Adequate and sustained funding.

Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros

- **About:**
 - 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. **India is home to the largest number of Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros** in the world.

- They primarily graze, with a diet consisting almost entirely of grasses as well as leaves, branches of shrubs and trees, fruit, and aquatic plants.
- At present, **there are about 2,600 Indian rhinos in India**, with more than **90% of the population concentrated in Assam's Kaziranga National Park**.

▪ **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 [Kaziranga NP](#), [Pobitora WLS](#), Orang NP, Manas NP in Assam, Jaldapara NP and Gorumara NP in West Bengal and [Dudhwa TR](#) in Uttar Pradesh.

▪ **Threats:**

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

▪ **Protection Status:**

- [IUCN Red List](#): Vulnerable.
- **CITES**: Appendix-I
- [Wildlife Protection Act, 1972](#): Schedule I.

▪ **Conservation Efforts by India:**

- [New Delhi Declaration on Asian Rhinos 2017](#): India, Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia and Malaysia have signed a declaration for the conservation and protection of the species.
- [DNA profiles of all rhinos](#): The project will help in curbing poaching and gathering evidence in wildlife crimes involving rhinos.
- [National Rhino Conservation Strategy](#): It was launched in 2019 to conserve the greater one-horned rhinoceros.
- [Indian Rhino Vision 2020](#): 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.

[Source: IE](#)

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