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Important Facts For Prelims (28th May 2019)

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Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary

POBITORA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY harbors the **highest density** of Rhino in **the world** and **second highest concentration of Rhino in Assam** after Kaziranga National Park.

About Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary**, situated in the **flood plains of River Brahmaputra** in the district of Morigaon and about 45 kms from Guwahati, the capital of Assam, India.
- **90 plus rhinos are surviving on merely 16 square kilometre area of the park.** Pobitora has exceeded its rhino-bearing capacity and is overpopulated. Thus Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary harbors world's highest density of rhinoceros.
- Besides rhinoceros, the **other mammals found are Leopard, Leopard cat, Fishing cat, Jungle cat, Feral Buffalo, Wild pigs, Chinese pangolins etc.**
- In winter, **Pobitora becomes a birder's heaven**, with thousands of waterfowl thronging the wetlands.
- Pobitora can be divided into **three distinct categories: forest, grassland and water bodies or beels.**

Akash Mk1S

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully test fired AKASH-MK-1S missile from ITR, Chandipur, Odisha.

- Akash MK1S is an upgrade of existing AKASH missile with **indigenous Seeker**. It is a surface to air missile which can neutralize advanced aerial targets.
- The Akash weapon system has combination of both command guidance and active **terminal seeker guidance.**

- The missile was developed as part of **Integrated Guided-Missile Development Programme (IGMDP)** other than Nag, Agni, Trishul, and Prithvi missiles.
 - Akash missile is a medium range Surface to Air Missile with multi-target engagement capability.
 - The supersonic Akash missile has a range of around 25 km and altitude of 18,000m. The missile uses high-energy solid propellant for the booster and ramjet-rocket propulsion for the sustainer phase.

Indigenous seeker technology

- Indian-made seeker provides a designated trajectory to missile and hit the pre set target with pin-point accuracy.
- Mastering it is a significant milestone in missile technology and would reduce import dependence. Earlier India used to be dependent on Russia for seeker technology.