



DATE: 24 AUGUST 2026

1 Kaziranga National Park (Source: The Hindu)

- **Location:** Located between the Brahmaputra River and the Mikir Hills in Assam.
- **Status:** National Park, Tiger Reserve, Important Bird Area, and UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- **Famous For:** Largest population of Indian one-horned rhinoceros.
- **Biodiversity:** Home to tigers, elephants, swamp deer, and wild buffalo.
- **Vegetation:** A mix of eastern wet alluvial grasslands, semi-evergreen forests, and tropical moist deciduous forests.

National Parks in Assam





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2 Eco-Sensitive Zone (Source: The Hindu)

As per the National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016), issued by MoEFCC, land within 10 km of the boundaries of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries is to be notified as eco-fragile zones or Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ)

- They act as a transition zone from areas of high protection to areas involving lesser protection.
- It is notified under the **Environment Protection Act 1986** by the Ministry of Environment.

Regulation of Human Activities

- **Prohibited Activities:** Commercial mining, saw mills, commercial use of wood, etc., apart from regulated activities like felling of trees
- **Regulated Activities:** Felling of trees, establishment of hotels and resorts, commercial use of natural water, erection of electrical cables, drastic change of agricultural system, e.g., adoption of heavy technology, pesticides, etc, widening of roads.
- **Permitted Activities:** Ongoing agricultural or horticultural practices, rainwater harvesting, and organic farming, among others



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3 Shigellosis (Source: The Hindu)

*Shigellosis is an acute, highly contagious **bacterial infection** of the intestine caused by Shigella.*

- **Transmission:** Faeco-oral route through contaminated food, water, hands, surfaces, or direct person-to-person contact.
- **Incubation Period:** Usually 1–4 days.
- **High-risk Groups:** Children below five years, malnourished persons, elderly people and immunocompromised individuals.
- **Disease Type:** Food- and water-borne communicable disease.
- **Symptoms:** Diarrhoea, fever, abdominal cramps, nausea or vomiting and dehydration
- **Diagnosis:** Stool culture or molecular testing, along with clinical assessment.
- **Vaccine:** No widely available routine vaccine is currently used for shigellosis.
- **Prevention**
 - Safe drinking water and proper sanitation.
 - Handwashing with soap after defecation and before preparing or eating food.
 - Hygienic food handling and thorough cooking.
 - Safe disposal of faeces and proper care of infected children.
 - Rapid identification and reporting of outbreaks.