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Rhino Conservation in India (Source: PIB)



Rhino Conservation in India

Conserving a flagship species for a safer tomorrow

Stronger Rhinos
Healthier Ecosystems
A Balanced Future

Save Rhinos
Save Biodiversity

About

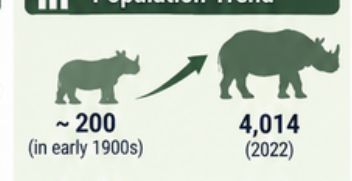
- Indian rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*), locally called the Great One-horned Rhino.
- Largest of the three Asian rhino species.
- Distinctive single horn and thick, armour-like skin folds.
- Primarily found in grasslands, floodplains and wetlands.
- Plays a key ecological role as a mega-herbivore in maintaining grassland ecosystems.

Distribution in India



Major Rhino-bearing states

Population Trend



- One of the greatest conservation success stories in India.
- Population has steadily increased due to strong protection measures.
- Still considered **Vulnerable** on the IUCN Red List.

Major Habitats in India

- Kaziranga National Park (Assam) – highest population
- Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary (Assam) – highest density
- Orang National Park (Assam)
- Manas National Park (Assam)
- Jaldapara National Park (West Bengal)
- Gorumara National Park (West Bengal)
- Dudhwa National Park (Uttar Pradesh)

Threats

- Poaching for horn (illegal wildlife trade)
- Habitat loss and fragmentation due to encroachment, agriculture and infrastructure
- Human-wildlife conflict
- Climate change and increasing floods
- Invasive species (e.g., *Mikania*)

Conservation Measures

- Strict anti-poaching patrols and surveillance
- Protected Areas (National Parks & Wildlife Sanctuaries)
- Involvement of local communities (e.g., eco-development committees)
- Habitat management (control of invasive species, grassland restoration)
- International cooperation to curb illegal trade (e.g., CITES)
- Use of technology (camera traps, drones, GIS monitoring)

Key Initiatives

- Indian Rhino Vision (IRV) 2020 – aim to achieve a population of 3,000 rhinos across seven Indian States by 2020 (target achieved early).
- Project Rhino (Assam).
- Special Rhino Protection Force (Assam).
- MoU under CITES to combat illegal trade.
- Translocation to new habitats (e.g., Dudhwa, Manas).

Way Forward

- Strengthen anti-poaching efforts and dismantle wildlife trafficking networks.
- Ensure habitat conservation and connectivity.
- Enhance community participation and benefit sharing.
- Build climate resilience in rhino habitats.
- Explore reintroduction in historical ranges.
- Sustained funding, research and international cooperation.

Protect the Rhino
Protect our Natural Heritage

Rhinos today, a wilder tomorrow



DATE: 23 SEPTEMBER 2026

2 Partners for Multilateralism” (P4M) Initiative (Source: The Hindu)

Partners for Multilateralism (P4M) is an international initiative launched to strengthen, safeguard, and reform the United Nations-based multilateral system.

- **Launch:** On the sidelines of the 81st UN General Assembly (UNGA) High-Level Week in New York.

Objectives

- Defend UN-based multilateralism and the principles of the UN Charter.
- Promote respect for international law, sovereign equality and territorial integrity.
- Support peaceful settlement of disputes and oppose the threat or use of force.
- Reform multilateral institutions to make them more effective, representative, inclusive and fit for purpose.
- Promote peace, stability, sustainable development and shared prosperity.
- Strengthen international cooperation on emerging global challenges

Members

- **Founding Initiators:** Leaders of the European Union (EU), Brazil, Canada, and Kenya.
- **Initial Co-Sponsors:** India, Australia, Barbados, Brazil, Canada, Kenya, and the European Union.



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3 Rajya Sabha (Source: The Hindu)

Composition of Rajya Sabha

- The maximum strength of the Rajya Sabha is fixed at 250, of which 238 represent the states and Union Territories, and 12 are nominated by the President.
 - The President nominates 12 members to the Rajya Sabha from people who have special knowledge or practical experience in art, literature, science and social service.
- The Fourth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the allocation of seats in the Rajya Sabha to the states and Union Territories

Fact To Know

- **Chairperson:** The Vice President of India is ex officio chairperson of the Rajya Sabha
 - Dr. S. Radhakrishnan presided over the inaugural session (1952) as India's first Vice-President and ex-officio Chairman of the House.

Duration of Rajya Sabha

- It is a continuing chamber even though it has a 6-year term
 - Every 2 years. $\frac{1}{3}$ members vacate their seats
 - In the beginning of the third year, elections and presidential nomination are carried out.
 - Members who vacate earlier can be re-elected.

Election To Rajya Sabha

- Members of the Rajya Sabha are elected through an indirect election system using proportional representation and a single transferable vote.
 - Electoral College Voters: Elected members of State Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) and electoral colleges for applicable Union Territories.
 - Exclusions: Nominated members and non-elected legislative members do not vote.