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**News:** Kaziranga wildlife rehab centre completes 20 years

- The Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC) at Panbari near the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve has completed 20 years of providing emergency care, treatment and rehabilitation to indigenous wild animals displaced due to various reasons.

## **Kaziranga National Park**

- Kaziranga National Park is located in **Assam**.
- The Kaziranga Protected Area was established in **1904** and is **located on the edge of the Eastern Himalayan Biodiversity Hotspot**.
- Kaziranga is a **World heritage Site, Tiger Reserve, Elephant reserve, and an Important Bird Area** under Birdlife International.
- The park area is circumscribed by the **Brahmaputra River, which forms the northern and eastern boundaries, and the Mora Diphlu, which forms the southern boundary**. Other notable rivers within the park are the Diphlu and Mora Dhansiri.
- Kaziranga is famous for Big 5 animals – **Greater one-horned Rhinoceros; Indian Elephant; Asiatic wild water buffalo, Royal Bengal Tiger, Swamp Deer**.

- Kaziranga has the largest population of the Wild water buffalo anywhere accounting for about 57% of the world population.
- Kaziranga has the highest Tiger density of 12.72 per 100 sq km in 2014.
- Kaziranga is also home to 9 of the 14 species of primates found in the Indian subcontinent.
- Shooting orders for poachers are waiting.
- Currently, an Invasive Alien Species (IAS) named Congress grass depletes the Elephant grass favourite food of Indian Rhinoceros.
- Recently, Assam government has approved the addition of 30.53 km<sup>2</sup> to the 884km<sup>2</sup> National Park.
- The additions are habitat corridors and would help provide connectivity to Orang and Nameri National Parks across river Brahmaputra.
- National Highway 37 (which connects Karimganj in Assam with Bhalia in Manipur) passes through Kaziranga.
- Recently, Kaziranga was accredited with Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS) for its excellence in Tiger conservation.
- Recently, Kaziranga became the first national park in India to have been equipped with satellite phone, which are generally used by the law enforcing agencies. The satellite phones will give an edge to the forest personnel over the poachers and also during emergencies like floods.

- The public is barred from using satellite phones in India.
- In the World Rhino Day 2021, The “world’s largest stockpile” of rhino horns was burned in the headquarters of the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, amid Vedic rituals, which was aimed at dispelling myths that have driven the illegal horn trade and the poaching of the animal.