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World Rhino Day — Project Rhino 2026



Why in news?

On **22 September 2026 (World Rhino Day)**, PM Narendra Modi announced **Project Rhino** to conserve the **Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros**.

Project Rhino- Key points

Aim: Financial + technical support to rhino-range states.

Focus:

Anti-poaching → Habitat management → Genetic diversity → Scientific population monitoring

Covers major rhino states including **Assam, West Bengal and Bihar**, with rhino reintroduction efforts also undertaken in Uttar Pradesh.

Greater One-Horned Rhino

- Scientific name: **Rhinoceros unicornis**
- **IUCN**: Vulnerable
- Found mainly in **India and Nepal**.
- Major Indian states**: Assam, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh.**
- Horn is made mainly of **keratin**.

Assam Specific:

- Assam has nearly **80%** of the **world's Greater One-Horned Rhino population.**
- **Kaziranga National Park** is a major rhino stronghold.
- Other Assam habitats: **Pobitora, Orang and Manas**.
- Major threats: **Poaching, habitat loss and human-wildlife conflict.**

Important protected areas

Assam: Kaziranga, Pobitora, Orang, Manas

West Bengal: Jaldapara, Gorumara

Uttar Pradesh: Dudhwa

Prelims Question

Q. Project Rhino primarily focuses on:

A. Tiger conservation

B. Greater One-Horned Rhino conservation

C. Marine conservation

D. Desertification control

Answer: B

Mains Question

“Discuss the significance of Project Rhino for conservation of the Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros, with special reference to Assam.”

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3. Crop diversification is constrained by the absence of assured markets and adequate processing infrastructure for alternative crops.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d)

Explanation: All three statements are correct. Water-intensive paddy cultivation, subsidised electricity and inadequate market infrastructure for alternative crops together reinforce Punjab's groundwater crisis.

Mains Question

Q. *"Punjab's groundwater crisis is not merely an ecological problem but also an emerging challenge of agrarian inequality."* Examine the causes and suggest measures for sustainable and equitable groundwater management. (150 words, 10 marks)

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