



## Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary

Recently, due to the anthrax, two Asiatic Water Buffaloes died in the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary.

### Asiatic Water Buffalo

- The Asiatic Wild Water Buffalo is scientifically known as **Bubalus Arnee** is known to be found **in the Central Indian Forests** and is mostly restricted to the states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
  - Recently, it was found in the forests of Maharashtra after which the Maharashtra Government declared the **Kolamarka forest area** as a conservation reserve for the Asiatic Wild Buffalo.
  - Asiatic buffalo has the **widest horn span** among all bovinds found globally.
  - The wild buffalo is mainly found in the alluvial grasslands, marshes, swamps and river valleys. They are generally found in areas that have plenty of water holes and resources.
- The Asiatic wild buffaloes are of enormous **economic significance** as they are the direct ancestors of all the breeds of the domestic buffaloes.
  - However, over time their **population** has **decreased** at an alarming rate because of various reasons such as poaching, loss of habitat and breeding with domestic buffaloes.



- **Protection Status:** [//](#)
  - It has been listed as an endangered species by the [International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)](#).
  - It is listed under Schedule-1 of the [Wild Life \(Protection\) Act, 1972](#).
  - It is included in [CITES Appendix-III](#) and is legally protected in Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Thailand.
  - Wild Water Buffalo is believed to be **extinct** in Bangladesh, Peninsular Malaysia, and on the islands of Sumatra, Java, and Borneo.

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- **Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary** has the **highest density** of **one-horned rhinos** in the world and **second highest concentration** in Assam after **Kaziranga National Park**.
  - It is often called '**Mini Kaziranga**' due to similar landscape and vegetation.
- The wildlife sanctuary is home to **endangered one-horned rhinoceros** and the other mammals such as **Leopard, Leopard cat, Fishing cat, Jungle cat, Feral Buffalo, Wild pigs, Chinese pangolins, etc.**
- About 72% of Pobitora Sanctuary consists of **wet savannah** of Arundo donax and Saccharum. The remaining area is covered by water bodies.
  - **Water hyacinth** (an invasive aquatic plant) is a major problem to the area especially to waterfowl, as it forms thick mats on the water surface.
- There are **5 national parks** in Assam namely,
  - Dibru-Saikhowa National Park,
  - Kaziranga National Park,
  - Manas National Park,
  - Nameri National Park,
  - Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park.

### **Anthrax**

- It is a serious **infectious disease** that is caused by a **bacteria** known as Bacillus anthracis.
- Although it is rare but it can sometimes become **fatal** for humans if they get infected with anthrax when they come in contact with infected animals or contaminated animal products.
- It is characterized by symptoms like blisters on the skin, chest pain, vomiting, diarrhea, and fever.

**Source: TH**

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