

Rhino conservation

April 5, 2020

Why in news?

India has collaborated with Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia and Malaysia to increase the population of three species of Asian rhinos.

More information:

- **India and four rhino range nations** recently signed the **'New Delhi Declaration on Asian Rhinos 2019'** at the **Second Asian Rhino Range Countries meeting**, held at New Delhi.
- It was organised by the MoEFCC in collaboration with the IUCN Asian Rhino Specialist Group, WWF- India and Aaranyak.
- The declaration was signed to **conserve and review the population of the Greater one-horned, Javan and Sumatran rhinos** every four years to reassess the need for joint actions to secure their future.
- A **twelve-point strategic action plan** was outlined.
- **The declaration includes:**
 - undertaking studies on health issues of the rhinos;
 - their potential diseases and taking necessary steps;
 - collaborating and strengthening wildlife forensics for the purpose of investigation;
- Strengthening of transboundary collaboration among India, Nepal and Bhutan for the conservation and protection of the Greater one-horned rhino.

Note:

- Three species of **Rhino – Black, Javan, and Sumatran** are **critically endangered**.
- Recently Sumatran rhinoceros has **become extinct in Malaysia**, after the death of the last rhino in the

country.

- It is the **smallest of all rhino species**.
- Now only **about 80 of them are left in Sumatra and Borneo in Indonesia**.
- A small population of Javan rhinos is found in only one national park on the northern tip of the Indonesian island of Java.
- In **Africa, Southern white rhinos**, once thought to be extinct, now thrive in protected sanctuaries and are classified as **near threatened**.
- They are also known as the **"Square-lipped rhino"** ('mowing-machines).
- **Black rhinos are the smaller of the two African species**.
- The **greater one-horned rhinoceros is the largest** of all rhino species (Habitat- India and Nepal).
- Successful conservation efforts have led to an increase in the number of **Greater One-horned or Indian rhinos** (around 3,700) and its IUCN status has improved from endangered to **vulnerable**.