

Satellite phones usage by Kaziranga National park

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In news- Kaziranga has become the first National Park in India to have been equipped with satellite phones.

Key updates

- The division aims to boost anti-poaching measures.
- These satellite phones will be used in pockets of the park's six ranges with no wireless or poor mobile connectivity.
- The satellite phones will give an edge to the forest personnel over the poachers and also during emergencies like floods.
- The Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) procured the ten satellite phones for the National Park at an estimated cost of Rs 16 lakh.
- The park authorities will bear the monthly expenses for the service provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.
- The public is barred from using satellite phones in India.

What is a satellite phone?

- Satellite phone or sat phone is a type of mobile phone that **connects to other phones or the telephone network by radio through orbiting satellites instead of terrestrial cell sites**, as cellphones do.
- The advantage of a sat phone is that **its use is not limited to areas covered by cell towers; it can be used in most or all geographic locations on the Earth's surface.**

Kaziranga National Park

- **Formed in 1908** on the recommendation of Mary Curzon, the park is located on the edge of the Eastern Himalayan biodiversity hotspot.
- The national park, spread over a massive 430 sq km area and divided into six ranges in upper Assam.
- In 1985, the park was declared as a **World Heritage Site** by UNESCO.
- It was declared a **Tiger Reserve** in 2006.
- Kaziranga National park is **home to more than 2200 Indian one-horned rhinoceros**, approximately 2/3rd of their total world population.
- It is also recognized as an **Important Bird Area** by Birdlife International for the conservation of avifaunal species.
- 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.