

AGENDA

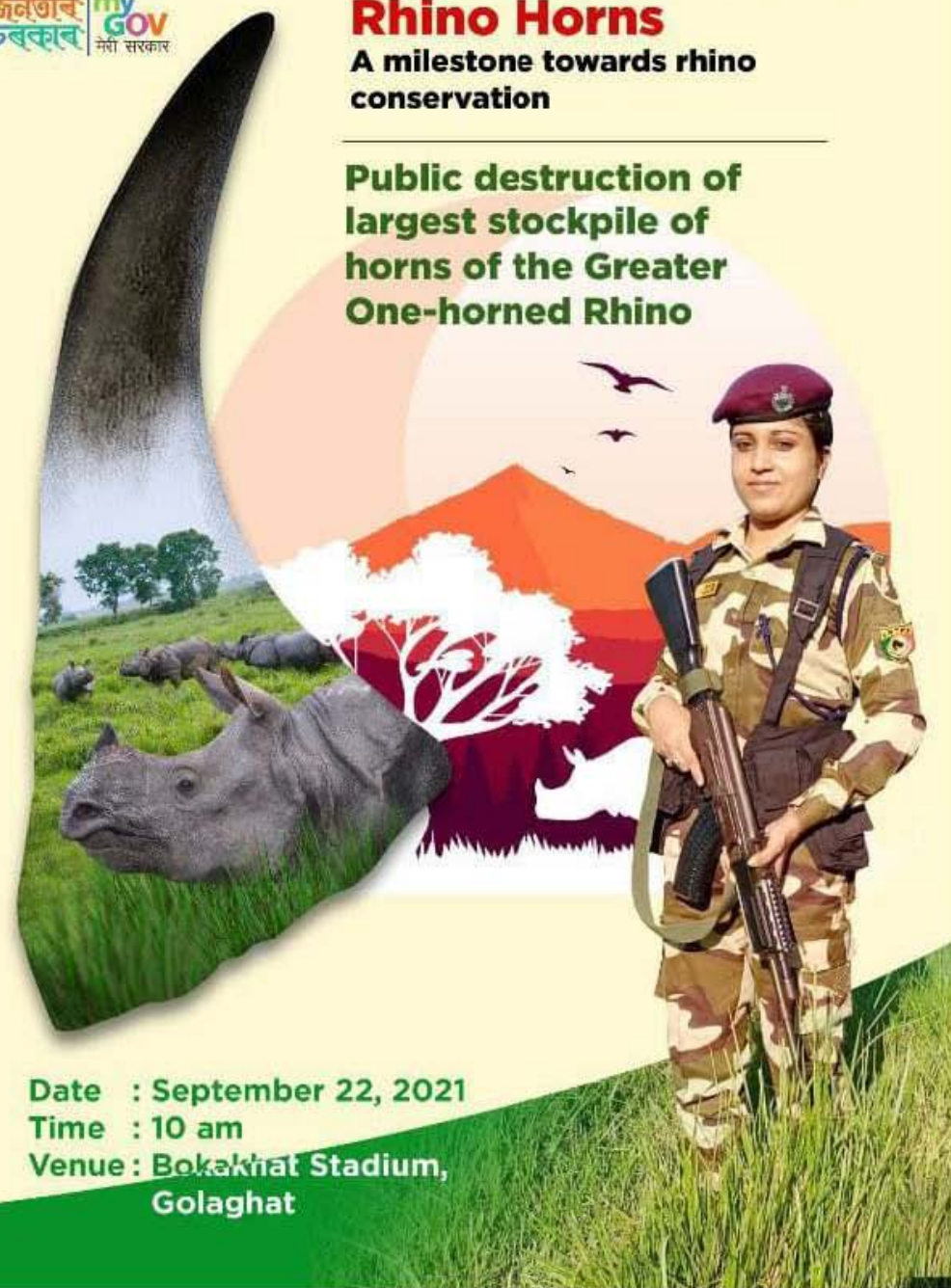
Time	Programme
07-30 hrs Onwards	Start of Rhino horns transportation from Bokakhat Treasury to Bokakhat Parade Ground
	Arrival of Rhino Horns at Bokakhat Parade Ground
	Morning prayers with recitation of <i>naam-kirtan</i>
	Hoisting of flags of the 4 Rhino bearing Protected Areas of Assam
	Boxes containing Rhino horns opened in public view and showcasing of the Preserved Rhino horns
	Display of horns to be for preservation on display tables
	Religious ceremony
09-30 hrs Onwards	Arrival of Chief Guest
	Recitation of State Anthem
	Felicitation of dignitaries on the dais
	Welcome address by Dr. Alka Bhargava, IFS, PCCF & HoFF, Assam
	Speech by dignitaries on the dais
	Speech by the Chief Guest
	Loading of trays with Rhino horns in 6 nos. of furnaces for destruction
	Inspection of Rhino horns by dignitaries
	Symbolic charging of the furnaces by the Chief Guest
	Video Display of speeches of International Conservationists
	Vote of thanks by Dr. Amit Sahai, IFS, PCCF (WL), Assam
	Continuation of burning of Rhino horns and casting of ashes till completion



Busting Myth about Rhino Horns

A milestone towards rhino conservation

Public destruction of largest stockpile of horns of the Greater One-horned Rhino



Date : September 22, 2021

Time : 10 am

Venue: Bokakhat Stadium,
Golaghat

**Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Assam
and**

Principal Secretary, Environment & Forests, Assam

Invite you on the solemn occasion of

Ceremonial Destruction of Rhinoceros Horns

On September 22, 2021

World Rhino Day

Stadium Ground, Bokakhat | 10 AM onwards

Honourable Chief Minister, Assam,

Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma

Chief Guest

Guests of Honour

Shri Parimal Suklabaidya

Hon'ble Minister, Environment and Forests, Fisheries and Excise

Shri Ranjit Kumar Dass

Hon'ble Minister, Panchayat & Rural Development, Public Health Engineering, Food & Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Secretariat Administration, General Administration

Shri Atul Bora

Hon'ble Minister, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary, Border Area Development, Implementation of Assam Accord, Co-operation

Shri Urkhao Gwra Brahma

Hon'ble Minister, Handloom & Textile, Soil Conservation, Welfare of Plain Tribes & Backward Classes (only BTC)

Shri Chandra Mohan Patowary

Hon'ble Minister, Transport, Industries & Commerce, Skill Development, Employment & Entrepreneurship,
Act East Policy Affairs, Welfare of Minorities

Shri Keshab Mahanta

Hon'ble Minister, Health & Family Welfare, Science & Technology, Information Technology

Shri Ashok Singhal

Hon'ble Minister, Guwahati Development, Urban Development, including Town & Country Planning, Irrigation

Shri Jogen Mohan

Hon'ble Minister, Revenue & Disaster Management, Hills Area Development, Mines & Minerals

Smt. Ajanta Neog

Hon'ble Minister, Finance, Social Welfare

Shri Pijush Hazarika

Hon'ble Water Resources, Information & Public Relations, Parliamentary Affairs

Tuliram Ronghang

Hon'ble Chief Executive Member, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council

Pramod Boro

Hon'ble Chief Executive Member, Bodoland Territorial Council

RSVP

Shri M.K. Yadava, IFS

Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam

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RHINOS IN ASSAM

Assam has the largest population of Greater One-horned Rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) in the world. With about 2,600 individuals, they are found in Kaziranga, Manas and Orang National Parks, besides Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary. They were earlier found in Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary and some other parts of the State from Goalpara in the west to Dibru-Saikhowa National Park in the east.

RHINO HORNS

Essentially a mass of compacted hair, rhino horn is made up of Keratin, a protein which also makes up our hair and fingernails. It continues to grow during the lifetime of an individual. Horns collected on death of rhinos or those naturally drop off are kept in custody of Forest Dept.

MYTH BEHIND RHINO HORNS

Ground rhino horn is used in traditional Chinese medicine to 'cure' a range of ailments, from cancer to hangovers and also as an aphrodisiac. In Vietnam, possessing a rhino horn is considered a status symbol. Due to demand in these countries, poaching pressure on rhinos is ever persistent against which one cannot let the guard down.

ABSTRACT OF RHINO HORN RECONCILIATION

1. Rhino horns reconciled	: 2623
2. Rhino horns marked for destruction	: 2479
3. Rhino horns marked for preservation	: 94
4. Horns implicated in Court Cases	: 29
a. Genuine	: 19
b. Fake	: 10
5. Fake Horns reconciled	: 21
6. African Horns reconciled	: 15
7. Longest horn recorded	: 57 cm anterior curvature; 42.5 cm standing height
8. Heaviest horn recorded	: 3.05 kgs.
9. Average standing height recorded	: 13.77 cms
10. Average weight of rhino horns	: 560 gms
11. Average basal circumference	: 43.47 cms
12. Weight of rhino horns for destruction	: 1305.25 kgs
13. Weight of rhino horns for preservation	: 131.05 kgs

RHINO HORN RECONCILIATION & DESTRUCTION

Legal Provision

The Wildlife Protection Act 1972, allows for destruction of Wildlife trophies (including Rhino horn) under Section 39 (3) (c) which states- "No person shall, without the previous permission in writing of the Chief Wildlife Warden or the authorised officer destroy or damage such Government property"

Enabling order

Through Govt. of Assam notification. No. FRM.25/2020/47 dtd. 29/07/2021; a committee was constituted under Chairmanship of the Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam for "Reconciling of the trophies, animal articles etc; derived from Scheduled animals and destruction of the same thereof".

The process

1. Opening and cleaning the rhino horn
2. Microscopy in case horn genuineness was doubtful
3. Labelling with unique barcode identity (Horns implicated in court cases were not barcoded)
4. Manual morphometry: Weight, Standing height, Anterior curvature, posterior curvature, basal circumference
5. Photographic morphometry
6. Sample for future genetic analysis obtained by drilling
7. Final Weighment
8. Packaging in cling film
9. Placing in designated boxes for Destruction, Preservation and samples

RHINO CONSERVATION IN ASSAM

The Government of Assam has successfully resisted poaching with tough measures and launched several conservation initiatives. The remarkable success of these initiatives has earned the Government accolades from across the world, and today the Greater One horned Rhino has moved up the conservation ladder from 'Endangered' to 'Vulnerable' tag under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

From arming Forest personnel with sophisticated weapons, to consolidating the land around Assam's rhino bearing areas, the Government has stepped up rhino conservation efforts through technological interventions such as Electronic Eye Surveillance, use of Drones, smart app-based patrolling, besides enhancing habitat management initiatives, infrastructure and instituting ration allowance at the rate of Rs. 2000 pm for forest personnel deployed in Protected Areas. Adopting smart green infrastructure is the Government of Assam's latest endeavour to ensure development and rhino conservation go hand in hand.

