

Combat poaching to save rhinos: Gen JJ

By Special Correspondent
ITANAGAR, Apr 04: Arunachal Pradesh Governor Gen (Retd) JJ Singh emphasized the need of a concerted effort to combat poaching and to preserve the flora and fauna of the North East region.

Antisocial activities such as destruction of forests and killing of wild animals, including the endangered Great Indian one-horned rhino, must be curbed in the region, Singh said during his visit to Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary in central Assam's Morigaon district today, according official sources.

He also urged the state government to open an ecotourism centre at Pobitora



for promotion of both the park and tourism here.

Pobitora, near Guwahati, has the highest density of rhino population at over five animals per sq km, totalling 92. This is the other home of the famed one-horned rhino after Kaziranga National Park in Upper Assam's Golaghat district.

The park normally loses 10 to 15 rhinos annually from natural causes and poaching. Rhinos live an average of 40 years, and in the last 10 years, 705 rhinos have died. Only 71 of them were lost to poachers (the rest died natural deaths). In fact, the poaching of rhinos has come down

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