

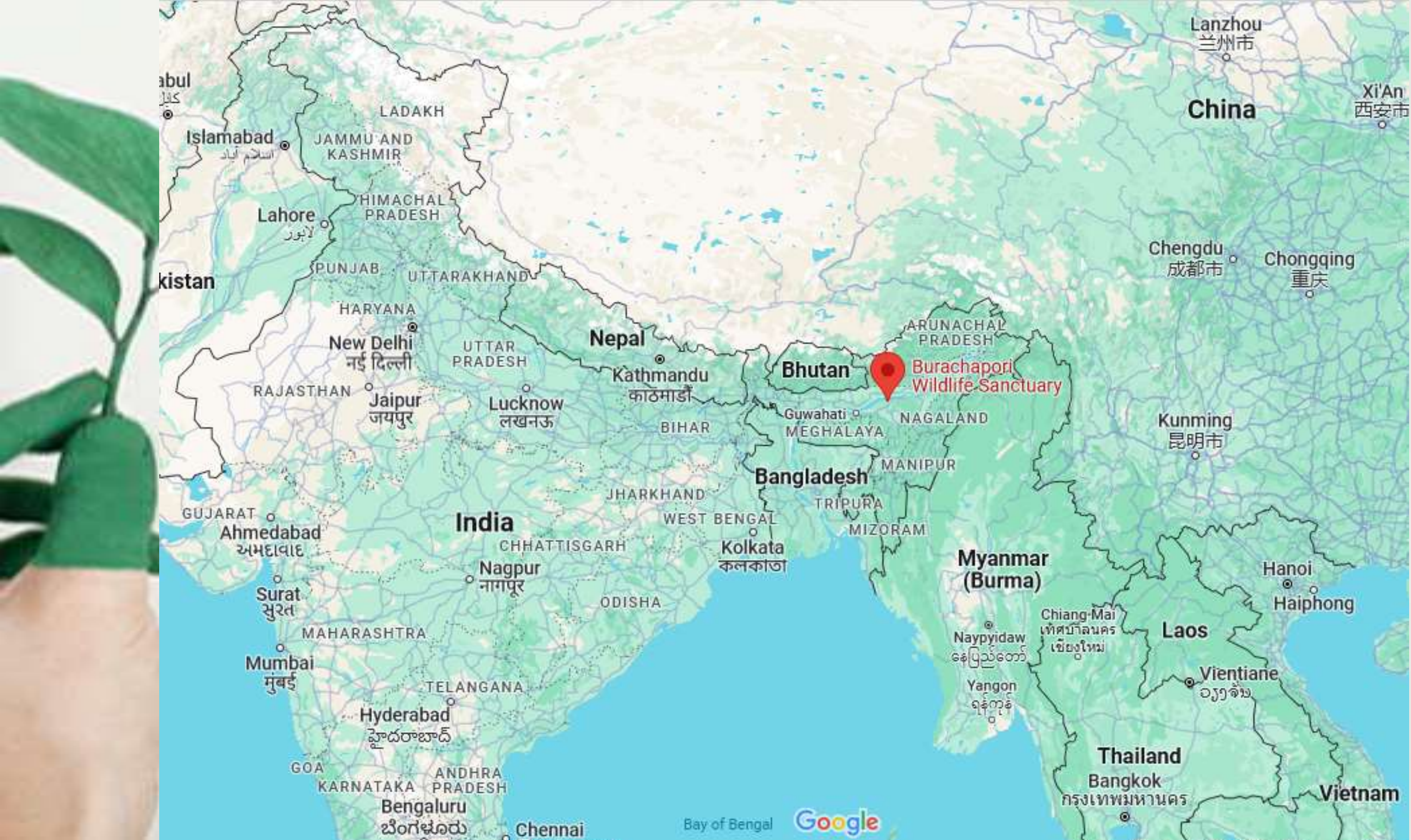
‘Impact of eviction’: Rhinos return Assam’s Burachapori wildlife after 40 years

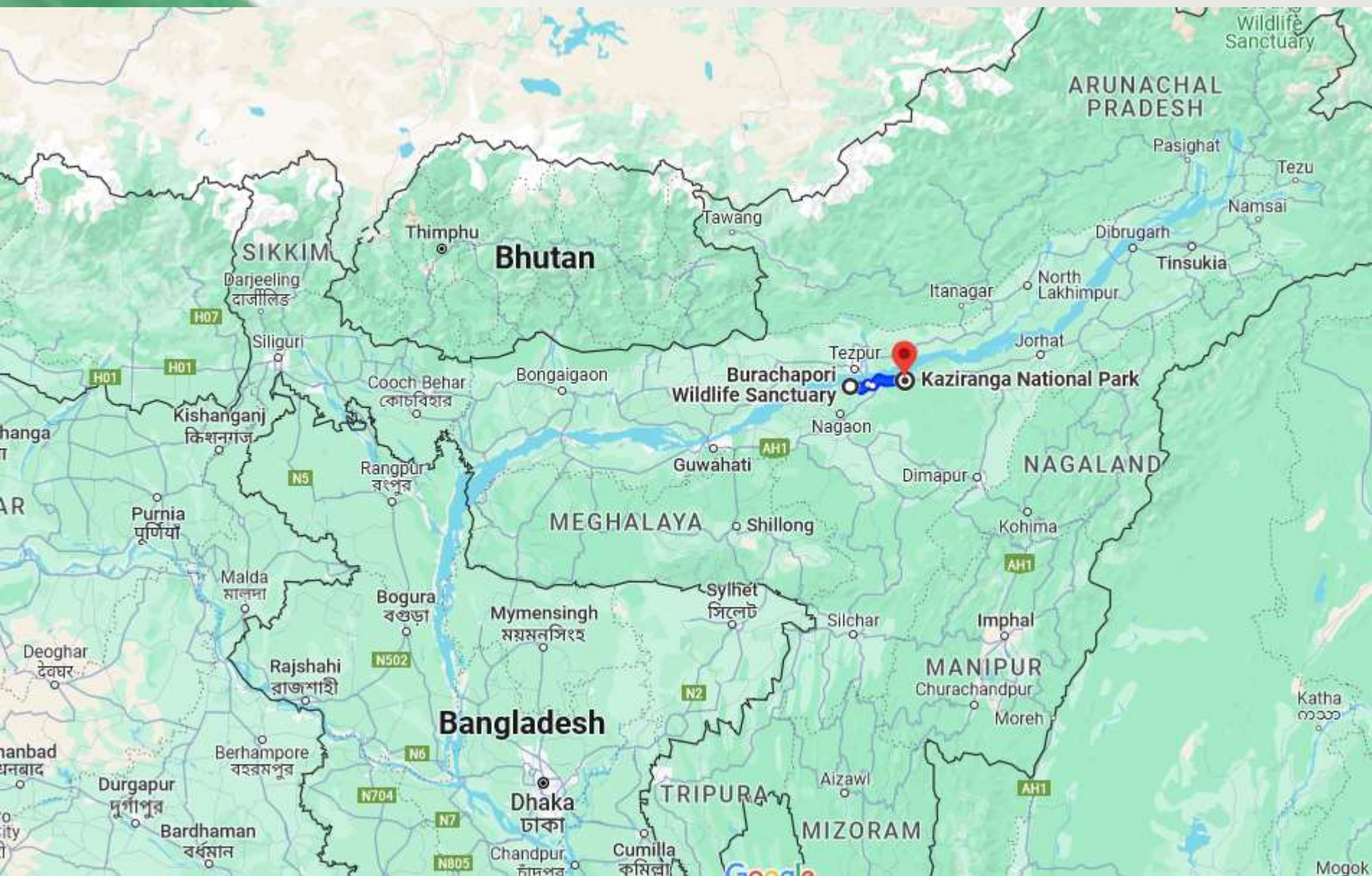
Large-scale encroachment in the 1980s led to the edging out of most animals from the Laokhowa-Burachapori Wildlife Sanctuary

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Representational file image of a one horned Rhino. | Photo Credit: RITU RAJ KONWAR





- Burachapori, which is part of the Kaziranga National Park (KNP), was once a heaven for the Rhinos and the population was more than 50
- But due to frequent poaching and illegal encroachment of land in the early 1980s, the rhino population went down to zero in 1983,
- Assam's Burachapori wildlife sanctuary has witnessed the presence of rhinoceros after 40 years, forest officials said.
- They said this happened because of successful eviction drives conducted by the state government last year.

About the Burachapori Wildlife Sanctuary:

Dimension	Details
Bura Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary is a protected area in Assam, on the south bank of the Brahmaputra River in Sonitpur district.	
Ecological Significance	It forms an integral part of the Laokhowa-Burachapori ecosystem and is a notified buffer of the Kaziranga Tiger Reserve.
Wildlife	Considered an ideal habitat for the Bengal Florican
Official Recognition	Declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1995
Threats	The sanctuary is facing illegal land encroachment. Approximately 16,000 bighas of land recovered from illegal encroachers



- The **Assam government** had **last year carried out a massive eviction** drive to remove encroachments in forest reserves.
- **51.7 sq km of forest cover** was **retrieved** from the evictions across the state in 2023.
- which led to a clearing of 1,282 hectares of forest land and **it allowed the rhinos to enter the protected forests easily.**



- “Since November 2023, rhinos were sighted at Burachapori and Laokhowa wildlife areas but they did not stay.
- Now two rhinos have started living here.
- They came from Orang National Park



How endangered are the world's rhino species

White (two sub-species)



Southern Population
19,666-21,085
Northern 2

Status
**NEAR
THREATENED**

Black (four sub-species, one declared extinct 2011)



Population
5,040-5,458

Status
**CRITICALLY
ENDANGERED**

Greater one-horned



Population
3,500+

Status
VULNERABLE

Sumatran



Population
100

Status
**CRITICALLY
ENDANGERED**

Javan



Population
67

Status
**CRITICALLY
ENDANGERED**

five species of rhino: Black, white, greater one-horned, Sumatran and Javan rhinos.

Kaziranga National Park- highest number of Rhino

- Located in the State of **Assam**.
- It was declared as a **National Park in 1974**.
- declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in **1985**.





➤ in Kaziranga, much of the focus of conservation efforts are focused on the 'big four' species—

rhino, elephant, Royal Bengal tiger and Asiatic water buffalo.

➤ Indian one-horned rhinoceros, are approximately 2/3rd of their total world population.

Mini Kaziranga



- Assam's **Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary** is also known as 'Mini Kaziranga'.
- It has the **highest density of one-horned rhinos in the world** and
- **second highest numbers of rhinos in Assam after Kaziranga National Park.**

Rhino Vision 2020 program for Translocations of Rhino

Translocations from Kaziranga NP and Pobitora WLS to populate Manas NP, Dibru Saikhowa WLS, Laokhowa WLS



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