

Rhino poaching on the rise



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Despite tight vigilance there has been steep rise in the rhino poaching cases in the Rajiv [Gandhi Orang National](#) Park(ONP). Heavy presence of forest [guards](#) has been failing to [stop](#) the entry of rhino poachers in to the famed abode of one horn rhinos. Very recently, police have received some stunning clues of the entire poaching network when they interrogated a few poachers from the vicinity of the national park during the last couple of months.

A growing market of rhino horn has been encouraging the nefarious network and it would no die down [as](#) long [as](#) the international market remains. Taking serious note on the poaching activities in ONP a [group](#) of wildlife loving people under the banner of "Anti-Forest Activities Protection Committee " has come forward led by Mushabirul Haque [as](#) [President](#) Joynel Abedin and Baharul Haque [as](#) Secretary the wildlife lovers held a anti-poaching and anti forest activities awareness camp at Bechimari village on Saturday located on the fringes of the national park.

The awareness programme was presided by Silbari Village panchayat president Abu Bakkar Siddique, Mangaldoi wildlife divisional forest officer Sunnydeo Choudhury Budhin Hazarika [Principal](#) Kharupetia College among others attended the programme. The programme where the strategies to [stop](#) the local youths from poaching activities was discussed was also attended by village headman, members of [VDP](#) and activists of Darrang AMSU.

Mushabirul Haque said, "The first and foremost responsibility to protect the resources of the national park lies on the hand of villagers. The villagers should protect the national park from the hands of poachers." It is to be mentioned that ONP, also known [as](#) mini [Kaziranga](#), lost its first rhino to poachers this year so far after the carcass with horn missing was recovered on June 30. The park recorded zero poaching last

year after several poaching attempts were foiled by the officials. In 2014 one rhino was poached in [Orang](#). The park spread [over](#) 79.28 sq km has 100-odd rhinos. [Orang as](#) a tiger habitat covers an area of 492.46 sq km.

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Recipient of The Annual Colosseum Awards 2014 & 2015 (by The Assam Tribune group), Shajid Khan is an Independent journalist based in Assam. He has contributed numerous political, socio-political stories for bountiful national, international as well as Assam based publications including The New York Times, Firstpost, The Telegraph. He also pens down analytic commentary on print and web based publications.

BY SHAJID KHAN

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