Context:

Anthrax has caused death of two Asiatic water buffaloes in central Assam’s Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary.

Pobitora Wildlife sanctuary:

- Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the state of Assam.
- It is located about 30 km east of Guwahati.
- The Sanctuary is mainly famous for its great Indian one-horned rhinoceros. Besides rhinoceros, the other animals are leopard, wild boar, Barking deer, wild buffalo.
- It has the highest density of Indian one horned Rhino in the world.

What is Anthrax?

- Anthrax is a serious infectious disease caused by gram-positive, rod-shaped bacteria known as Bacillus anthracis.
- Anthrax can be found naturally in soil and commonly affects domestic and wild animals around the world.
- Contact with anthrax can cause severe illness in both humans and animals.
- Anthrax is not contagious, which means you can’t catch it like the cold or flu.

How animals get infected?

Domestic and wild animals such as cattle, sheep, goats, antelope, and deer can become infected when they breathe in or ingest spores in contaminated soil, plants, or water.

How people are infected?

- Working with infected animals or animal products
- Eating raw or undercooked meat from infected animals
- Injecting heroin
- People get infected with anthrax when spores get into the body. When anthrax spores get inside the body, they can be activated.
- When they become active, the bacteria can multiply, spread out in the body,
produce toxins (poisons), and cause severe illness.

- This can happen when people breathe in spores, eat food or drink water that is contaminated with spores, or get spores in a cut or scrape in the skin.