



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Protect Pobitora at all costs

Sir, – Apropos your recent editorial on the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, despite its significance Pobitora faces numerous threats today. Rhinos require a variety of vegetation; different habitats are needed for them at different times, with grassland and water being crucial for their survival. Their grazing areas have now been reduced by invasive plants such as ipomea and parthenium (seasonal). The presence of thousands of cattle and buffalo directly impacts the rhinos. The sanctuary has also seen feral horses in recent times and their number is increasing. Horses share a phylogenetic relationship with rhinos (*Perissodactyla*), raising concerns about the negative impact of the latter's presence on the pachyderms.

Furthermore, land-use changes and en-

croachments from the surrounding areas are also posing significant threats to Pobitora.

This unique ecosystem requires constant monitoring and scientific intervention for its protection and preservation. The government must take swift action to resolve all land-related issues amicably without causing further harm to this valuable wildlife sanctuary. Yours etc., **Deba Kumar Dutta**, Guwahati.

Heat wave

Sir, – The prevailing heat wave has disrupted the normal activities of people, affecting in particular the elderly, pregnant women and children. A few steps may help us mitigate the problem to some extent. They are as follows:

(a) The school authorities should use cur-