# Hornbill Festival

***Prelims:*** *Current events of national and international importance | Culture*

## Why in News?

*Union Minister for Communications & Development of North Eastern Regions (DoNER) has participated in the recently held 26$^{th}$ edition of Hornbill Festival of Nagaland.*

> ***December 1*** *is Nagaland Statehood Day, thus the Hornbill Festival begins on that day and goes on for 10 days.*

- **Hornbill Festival –** It is a ***10-day annual celebration*** observed by the ***Tribes of Nagaland.***
- **Location –** Kisama Heritage Village, Nagaland.
  - Nagaland is also known as "***The Land of Festivals***".
- **Origin –** It began in 2000 and is named after hornbill, a bird that symbolizes beauty and grace in Naga folklore and ritual.
- **Aim –** To revive and protect the rich culture of Nagaland and display its extravaganza and traditions.
- It ***unites 16 Naga tribes of Nagaland*** to celebrate in colourful costumes, pulsating rhythm, and musical stories.
- **Organized by –** State Tourism and the Art & Culture Departments.

### Quick Fact

| Great Hornbill |
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• **Scientific name** – Buceros bicornis, also known as Great Pied Hornbill.



• **Appearance -** The great hornbill is a large, distinctive bird with a large yellow and black casque on its bill, contrasting black wings and tail with a white body, and bright yellow eyes.
• **Size -** It is a large bird, measuring approximately 95–130 cm in length and weighing 2–4 kg.
• **Habitat** - Hornbills prefer tall trees for their nests and has mutualism between them.
• **Range -** Found in the Himalayan foothills, the Northeast and the Western Ghats.
• **Diet** - It is predominantly a fruit-eater but also preys on small animals, has a heavy, loud flight.
• **Nesting** - It exhibits a unique nesting behavior where the female seals herself in a tree cavity during incubation.
• **Ecological significance** - They play a vital role in dispersing the seeds of about 80 rainforest trees.
• **Threats -** Illegal logging, hunting.
• **Conservation Status**
  - **IUCN** – Vulnerable.
  - **CITES** - Appendix I.
  - **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972** – Schedule I.

*The Great Indian Hornbill is the **State bird** of both Kerala and Arunachal Pradesh.*

### References


1. PIB | Hornbill Festival of Nagaland
2. NDTV | Hornbill Festival
3. Hornbill Festival | Hornbill Festival



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