

## 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<sup>th</sup> 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**

• **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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