



# Hornbill Festival

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## Why in News?

The Prime Minister of India has congratulated the people of Nagaland on the completion of 25 years of the [Hornbill Festival](#).

- **Nagaland is known as the land of festivals**, and the **Hornbill festival is referred to as the festival of festivals**.










## What is the Hornbill Festival?

- **About:** The Hornbill Festival, initiated in 2000, is Nagaland's premier cultural event, showcasing the heritage of its **17 Naga tribes**. Held from **1st December to 10th December**, it coincides with [Nagaland Statehood Day\(1st December\)](#).
  - Hornbill Festival is named after the [hornbill bird](#), a symbol of fidelity, beauty, and grace in Naga folklore.
- **Cultural Celebration:** Hornbill Festival serves as a platform for the Naga tribes to display their rich traditions through performances, dances, and exhibitions.
  - Warriors, dressed in full ceremonial attire, perform traditional dances and war cries that narrate stories of **victories, harvests, love, and tribal legends**.
    - Their distinctive attire features **hornbill feathers, boar tusks, and colorful woven sashes**, creating a striking display of Naga heritage and pride.
  - It serves as the state's largest tourist event, attracting over 1.5 lakh visitors in 2023, including international tourists.

## Hornbill

- The **Great Indian Hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*)**, also known as the **Concave-Casqued Hornbill**, is a large bird found in the **Indian subcontinent** and Southeast Asia.
  - It primarily inhabits evergreen and moist deciduous forests.
  - It thrives in the **canopy of tall trees** in the [Western Ghats](#), northeastern states, and the Himalayas.
  - It is the **state bird of Arunachal Pradesh and Kerala**. **India hosts nine hornbill species**, with the northeast having the highest diversity.

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India's 9 Hornbill Species			
<p><b>The Great Hornbill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Habitat:</b> Western Ghats and Himalayas. <b>Largest of all hornbills in India, state bird of Arunachal Pradesh and Kerala.</b></li> <li>▪ <b>IUCN Red List:</b> Vulnerable</li> <li>▪ <b>CITES:</b> Appendix I</li> <li>▪ <b>Wildlife Protection Act (WPA), 1972:</b> Schedule I</li> </ul> 	<p><b>Rufous-necked Hornbill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Habitat:</b> It has the Northernmost extent. Whole of North-East India to Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary in West Bengal.</li> <li>▪ <b>IUCN Red List:</b> Vulnerable</li> <li>▪ <b>CITES:</b> Appendix I</li> </ul> 	<p><b>Wreathed Hornbill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Habitat:</b> North-East India.</li> <li>▪ <b>IUCN Red List:</b> Vulnerable</li> <li>▪ <b>CITES:</b> Appendix II</li> </ul> 	
<p><b>Narcondam Hornbill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Habitat:</b> Endemic to the Indian island of Narcondam in Andamans.</li> <li>▪ <b>IUCN Red List:</b> Vulnerable</li> <li>▪ <b>CITES:</b> Appendix II</li> <li>▪ <b>WPA, 1972:</b> Schedule I</li> </ul> 	<p><b>Malabar Pied Hornbill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Habitat:</b> Evergreen and moist deciduous forests in India and Sri Lanka.</li> <li>▪ <b>IUCN Red List:</b> Near Threatened</li> <li>▪ <b>CITES:</b> Appendix II.</li> </ul> 	<p><b>Oriental Pied Hornbill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Habitat:</b> Subtropical or tropical moist lowland forests.</li> <li>▪ <b>IUCN Red List:</b> Least Concern</li> <li>▪ <b>CITES:</b> Appendix II</li> </ul> 	
<p><b>Austen's Brown Hornbill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Habitat:</b> Forests of North East India, majorly in Namdapha National Park, Arunachal Pradesh.</li> <li>▪ <b>IUCN Red List:</b> Near Threatened</li> <li>▪ <b>CITES:</b> N/A</li> </ul> 	<p><b>Malabar Grey Hornbill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Habitat:</b> Western Ghats.</li> <li>▪ <b>IUCN Red List:</b> Least Concern</li> <li>▪ <b>CITES:</b> N/A</li> </ul> 	<p><b>Indian Grey Hornbill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Habitat:</b> Foothills of Southern Himalayas.</li> <li>▪ <b>IUCN Red List:</b> Least Concern</li> <li>▪ <b>CITES:</b> N/A</li> </ul> 	

## What are the Key Facts About Nagaland?

- **Statehood:** Nagaland became the **16th state** of India on **1st December 1963**.
  - **Borders:** **Assam** (west and northwest), **Myanmar** (east), **Arunachal Pradesh** and **Manipur** (south).
- **State Symbols:** **Blyth's tragopan** (State Bird) and **Mithun** (State Animal of Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh).
  - The **mithun (*Bos frontalis*)** a **bovine species**, native to Northeast India, is now recognized by **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** as a 'food animal', enabling its commercial farming and meat processing.
- **GI Products:** **Naga tree tomato**, **Naga cucumber**, and **Naga Mircha** (chili).
- **Protected Areas:** Intanki National Park, Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary, Singphan Wildlife Sanctuary, and Pulie Badze Wildlife Sanctuary.
- **Tribes and Culture:** Home to **17 major tribes** and numerous sub-tribes, each with distinct customs, languages, and attire.

## Tribes of Nagaland

1. Angami	2. Ao	3. Chakhesang	4. Chang
5. Khiamniungan	6. Kuki	7. Konyak	8. Kachari
9. Lotha	10. Phom	11. Pochury	12. Rengma
13. Sumi	14. Sangtam	15. Tikhir	16. Yimkhiung
17. Zeliang			

## **Prelims**

**Q. In which of the following regions of India are you most likely to come across the 'Great Indian Hornbill' in its natural habitat? (2016)**

- (a) Sand deserts of northwest India
- (b) Higher Himalayas of Jammu and Kashmir
- (c) Salt marshes of western Gujarat
- (d) Western Ghats

**Ans: (d)**

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/hornbill-festival-1>

