

The Hornbill festival

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Why in news?

The hornbill festival is celebrated in Nagaland every year.

About it:

- To encourage inter-tribal interaction and to promote the cultural heritage of Nagaland, the Government of Nagaland organizes the Hornbill Festival **every year in the first week of December**.
- The **1st Hornbill Festival** was **inaugurated by the then President Dr. S Radhakrishnan on 1st December 1963**.
- It is **held at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama** which is about 12 km from Kohima.
- All the tribes of Nagaland take part in this festival.
- The **aim of the festival** is to revive and protect the rich culture of Nagaland and display its extravaganza and traditions.
- It is **also called the “Festival of Festivals”**.
- The **festival pays tribute to Hornbill**, the most revered bird for the Na

About Great Hornbill:

- The great hornbill (*Bucerosbicornis*) also known as the concave-casqued hornbill, great Indian hornbill or great pied hornbill, is one of the larger members of the hornbill family.
- They are found in the **forests of North eastern region of India, Bhutan, Nepal, Mainland Southeast Asia, Indonesian Island of Sumatra**.
- They are **also found in a few forest areas in the Western Ghats** and in the forests along the Himalayas.
- It is long-lived, living for nearly 50 years in captivity.

- It will prey on small mammals, reptiles and birds.
- IUCN status- **Vulnerable**
- *Note:* The **great hornbill** is the **state bird of Chin State in Myanmar, and of Kerala and Arunachal Pradesh in India. Blyth's tragopan is the state bird of Nagaland.**