



**KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY**  
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# Hornbill Festival

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**Why is in news?** Nagaland all set to host the 23rd Hornbill Festival 2022 at Naga Heritage Village Kisama

The Hornbill Festival is an annual festival celebrated from **1 to 10 of December** in the Northeastern Indian state of Nagaland.

The festival represents all ethnic groups of Nagaland for which it is also called the Festival of Festivals.

The state of Nagaland is home to several ethnic groups, which have their own distinct festivals.

More than 60% of the population of Nagaland depends on agriculture and therefore most of their festivals revolve around agriculture.

The Nagas consider their festivals sacred, so participation in these festivals is essential.

To **encourage inter-ethnic interaction** and to promote cultural heritage of Nagaland, the Government of Nagaland organizes the Hornbill Festival **every year** in the first week of December. The first festival was **held in December 2000**.

The festival is named after the **Indian hornbill**, the large and colourful forest bird which is displayed in the folklore of most of the state's ethnic groups.

Organized by the Department of State Tourism and Department of Art & Culture, the Hornbill Festival showcases a mélange of cultural displays under one roof.

The main venue of the Hornbill Festival is held at the **Kisama Heritage Village** located in the Southern Angami region of Kohima District which is about 12 km from Kohima.

**All the ethnic groups 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.

The week-long festival unites one and all in Nagaland and people enjoy the colourful performances, crafts, sports, food fairs, games and ceremonies.

Traditional arts which include paintings, wood carvings, and sculptures are also on display.

Festival highlights include the traditional **Naga Morungs** exhibition and the sale of arts and crafts, food stalls, herbal medicine stalls, flower shows and sales, cultural medley - songs and dances, fashion shows, the Miss Nagaland beauty contest, traditional archery, Naga wrestling, indigenous games and musical concerts.

**IUCN status** of Great Indian Hornbill is **Vulnerable**.

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