

2019



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**INDIAN CULTURE AND
HISTORICAL EVENTS**

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1. Sattriya Dance

Why in News?

Recently dance historian Dr. Sunil Kothari has been bestowed with the Madhabdev Award for popularising Sattriya dance.

Sattriya Dance

- The Sattriya dance form was introduced in the 15th century A.D by the Vaishnava saint Mahapurusha Sankaradeva in Assam for propagation of the Vaishnava faith.
- It consists of dhemali, drum playing, known as gayan bayan, where several men play drums, in various talas and also use hand gestures.
- Corpus of Sattriya dances consist of ankiya bhaona, dance-dramas in Brajabuli. It also consists of Ojapali dances in which the main singer sings and enacts abhinaya, telling stories and a group of dancers dance as back up dancers playing small cymbals.
- In its basic stance for male and female known as Purush Pak and Prakriti Pak. There are special mnemonic bols, typical Assamese music known as Borgeet, musical instruments like large cymbals, drums, colourful costumes.
- It is influenced by the Devadasi dance and Assamese folk dances namely Bihu, Bodos etc.
- Sattriya was given the status of a classical dance in the year 2000 by the Sangeet Natak Akademi.

2. Hornbill Festival

Why in News?

The Nagaland Hornbill Festival was recently celebrated at Naga Heritage Village at Kisama near Kohima in Nagaland.

About Hornbill Festival

- It is one of the largest **indigenous festivals** organised by the state government of Nagaland to promote tourism in the state.
- This festival is **celebrated annually** from 1st-10th December to revive, protect, sustain and promote the richness of the Naga heritage and traditions.
- It is also called the **Festival of Festivals**.
- The aim is to **encourage inter-tribal interaction** - all tribes of Nagaland take part in it.
- The festival pays tribute to Hornbill, the most admired and revered bird for the Nagas for its qualities of alertness and grandeur.

About Great Hornbill

- Hornbills are found in tropical and subtropical **Asia, Africa and Melanesia.**
- The bird is closely identified with the social and cultural life of the Nagas, as reflected in various tribal dances, songs and folklores.
- **IUCN status: Vulnerable** (uplisted from Near Threatened in 2018).
- It is also listed in **Appendix I** of the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).**
- The bird is the state bird of Kerala and Arunachal Pradesh.



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