



Nature and Wildlife Photography Club,IGNFA

# KYC

**KNOW YOUR CAMPUS**

ISSUE 1

11-04-2020

## About the initiative

The New Forest,- IFS training campus- which houses the FRI and its sister organisations including Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA) is also home to rich biodiversity. These flora and fauna become part of our neighbourhood while we are at campus. The campus is also adorned with heritage buildings, roads, museums, nurseries and beautiful landscape. This initiative is aimed at making you more aware about the campus and its constituents. The KYC (Know your Campus) initiative will bring out daily topics of interest from the campus.

To begin with.....we have today

## Oriental Pied Hornbill



This can easily be termed as “the darling bird” of our campus. Owing to its sheer size it becomes easily visible. It has 8 Hornbill cousins which are found in India.



The Oriental Pied Hornbill is majorly a frugivore. They are usually seen in the campus feasting on figs and other fruits. However it does also consume small insects and small birds. So the easiest way to find it in the campus is to browse through the ficus and other fruiting trees.

The branch less trees such as the one inside our IGNFA main gate become their favourite spots for sun bathing. The curious and bold bird often sits patiently and poses for photographs.

## Did you know?

Scientific Name-	Anthracoceros albirostris
Family	- Bucerotidae
Size	- Medium-size hornbill (55-60cm)
Voice	- Variety of loud, shrill, nasal squeals & raucous chucks
Habitat	- Open forest, groves and large fruit trees

### Distribution

Himalayan foothills,  
North-east and  
Eastern India



The other most peculiar thing is its harsh shrieking call. The high frequency yell can be easily identified and heard from quite a distance. These calls often get the credit of making calm hostel mornings noisy.



These birds nest in tree cavities. They prefer ready-made accommodation in trees rather than carving out cavities on their own. Thus presence of large cavitied trees in campus becomes crucial for its breeding and habitat expansion.



## INTERESTING FACT

Once the female enters the cavity to lay and hatch eggs the mouth of the cavity is sealed with a paste of mud, saliva etc. A small opening is kept for the male to bring food and feed its mate and chicks.

The nest remains sealed till the chicks are ready to take flight. Bombax Cieba, jamun, Sal are often chosen for nesting.

Hornbill males thus become one of the coolest dads in the bird kingdom.



The elegant bill & huge clumsy body make them easy yet attractive poaching targets. Thus conservation of the Hornbill, with all its cousins, has become important.

Having such a beautiful specie as our hostel buddy makes us indeed a privileged lot. So next time while walking on Trevor Road or near Pavilion do remember to search for these lovely birds.



Photograph & Design : Abhimanyu, IFS 2019  
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For feedback, collaboration and contribution to this initiative in form of ideas, photographs, design, info, etc do write to us: [kastusule@gmail.com](mailto:kastusule@gmail.com)