

Manipur Sangai Festival

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Manipur Sangai Festival:

- Every year the State of Manipur celebrates the “Manipur Sangai Festival” from 21st to 30th November.
- The objective is to showcase Manipur as a world class tourism destination.
- The ‘Festival’ is named after the **State animal, Sangai**, the brow-antlered deer found only in Manipur.
- It started in the year **2010**.
- The theme of this year’s Sangai festival is “**Festival of oneness**”.
- Every edition of the festival showcases the tourism potential of the state in the field of Arts & Culture, Handloom, Handicrafts, Indigenous Sports, Cuisine and Music of the state etc.

Sangai Deer:

- **Scientific Name:** Rucervus eldii.
- **Common Name:** Sangai, Brow antlered deer, Dancing Deer.
- **Population:** About 260 (acc. to a joint census conducted by the Forest Department in 2016).

- **Habitat and Distribution:** It is found only in **Keibul Lamjao National Park** – the largest single mass of phumdi is in the Loktak Lake – in Manipur's Bishnupur district.

Characteristics:

- Sangai is a medium-sized deer, with uniquely distinctive antlers, with extremely long brow tine, which form the main beam.
- The forward protruding beam appears to come out from the eyebrow, hence called the brow-antlered deer.
- It has a dark reddish-brown winter coat, which turns paler in summer.
- The deer walks on the hind surface of its pasterns with mincing hops over floating foliage, and is hence also called the **Dancing Deer**.

Status:

- State animal of **Manipur**.
- Schedule-1 of **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.
- **Endangered on IUCN Red List**.

Conservation Issues:

- Sangai faces threat from steadily degenerating habitat of phumdi as a result of continuous inundation and flooding caused due to artificial reservoir.
- There is also invasion of non-native plants like **Paragrass**.
- It also faces threats of diseases from the livestock, inbreeding depression and poaching.

Q1) What is the old name of Manipur?

Manipur was earlier known by different names such as Mitei-Leipak, Sanna-Leipak, Poirei-Lam, and Tilli-Koktong. Its capital Imphal was known by other different names such as Yumphal and Kangla.

Source: [PIB](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/manipur-sangai-festival/>

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