

Three held for killing protected hornbill in Tinsukia



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Three persons have been arrested in Tinsukia district for allegedly killing a rare Oriental Pied Hornbill, a species protected under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

The incident, reported from Inthem under the Margherita East Forest Range, has triggered outrage among wildlife enthusiasts and conservationists after a video of the alleged killing surfaced on social media.

Acting on the viral Facebook video, forest officials arrested Phatto Mura (22), Kanai Bhadra (45) and Binod Manjhi (21) under provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act. Further investigation is underway.

The Oriental Pied Hornbill, locally known as the Dhanesh bird, is one of Assam's iconic forest birds and plays a vital role in maintaining forest ecosystems by dispersing seeds over long distances.

Nature lovers expressed concern over the killing, pointing out that hornbills form lifelong breeding pairs. The loss of one bird can severely affect the survival of its mate, especially during the nesting season when the female depends entirely on the male for food.

Condemning the incident, Digboi-based environmentalist Devojit Moran demanded strict action against everyone involved in the killing.

"The killing of such a rare bird is not merely a violation of the law but a serious assault on our biodiversity," Moran said, urging the Forest Department and the state government to strengthen protection measures for endangered and protected wildlife.

The incident has once again highlighted the continuing threat of poaching and illegal hunting in parts of Upper Assam despite legal protection for several wildlife species. Conservationists say stronger enforcement, public awareness and community participation are essential to curb wildlife crimes in ecologically sensitive areas.

Mithun Baruah

Mithun Baruah reports from Margherita.

BY MITHUN BARUAH

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