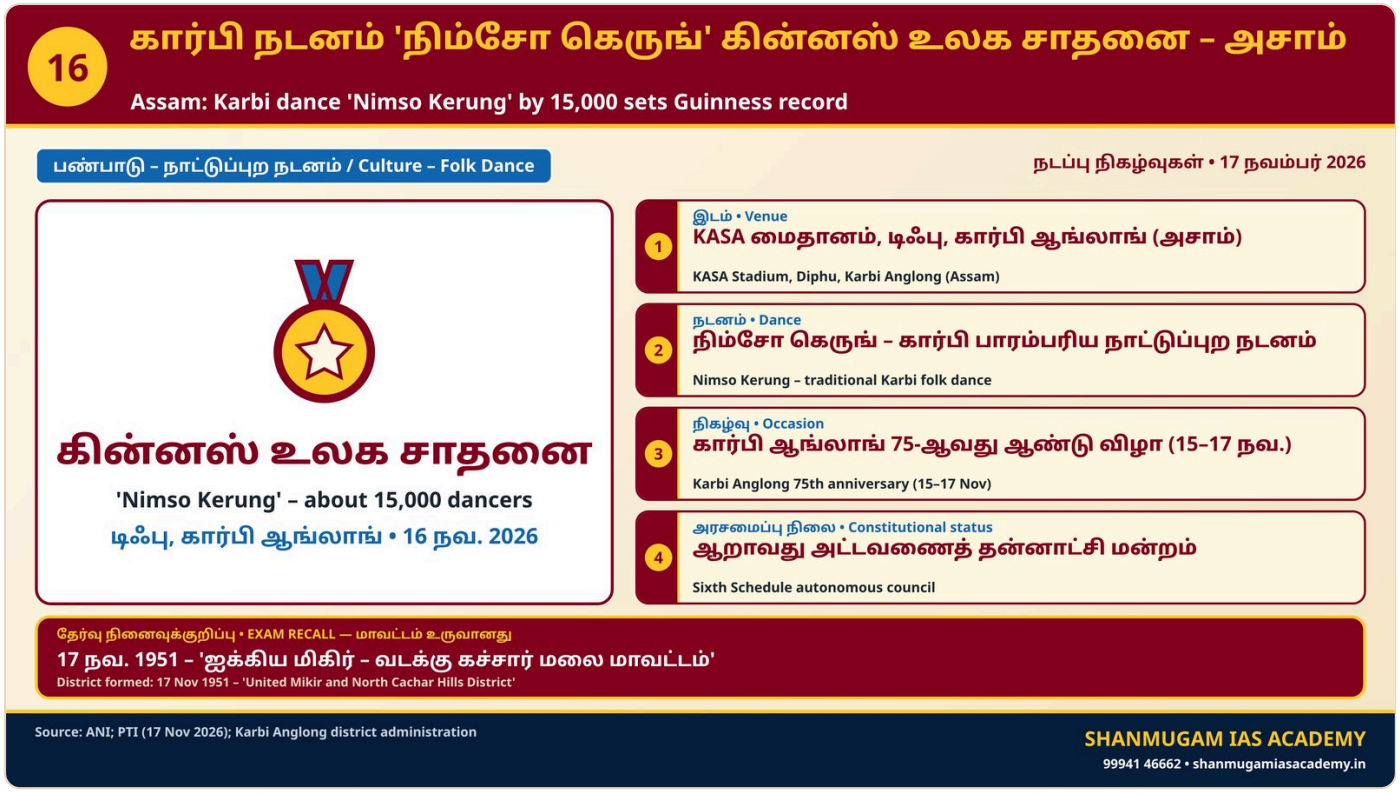
Assam: Karbi dance 'Nimso Kerung' by 15,000 sets Guinness record

Topics: Art & Culture · UPSC Prelims · TNPSC · SSC · Current Affairs



News

About 15,000 performers danced the 'Nimso Kerung', a traditional folk dance of the Karbi people, together at KASA Stadium in Diphu, headquarters of Karbi Anglong district in Assam, on 16 November 2026, setting a Guinness World Record. Reports say it was recorded as the largest Karbi folk dance performance. It was part of the 75th-anniversary celebrations of Karbi Anglong, a three-day event (15–17 November) organised by the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC). Youths from many tribes and communities took part. An official Guinness World Records adjudicator announced the record, and KAAC Chief Executive Member Tuliram Ronghang shared it on X.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Date	16 November 2026
Venue	KASA Stadium, Diphu, Karbi Anglong (Assam)
Participants	About 15,000 dancers
Dance	Nimso Kerung – traditional Karbi folk dance
Occasion	Karbi Anglong 75th anniversary (15–17 Nov)
Organiser	Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC)

Point	Details
District formed	17 Nov 1951 – 'United Mikir and North Cachar Hills District'
Renamed	Split 1970; Mikir Hills → Karbi Anglong in 1976
Constitutional status	Sixth Schedule autonomous council

Background

- History of Karbi Anglong: The 'United Mikir and North Cachar Hills District' was formed on 17 November 1951 and its district council on 23 June 1952. In 1970 it was split into Mikir Hills and North Cachar Hills (today's Dima Hasao); Mikir Hills was renamed 'Karbi Anglong' in 1976. West Karbi Anglong later became a separate district. Headquartered at Diphu and covering 7,399 sq km, it is Assam's largest district (district administration).
- Polity: KAAC is an autonomous council under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution (Articles 244(2) and 275(1)). The Sixth Schedule applies only to tribal areas of four States – Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. On 4 September 2021 a tripartite 'Karbi Anglong Agreement' was signed by the Centre, the Assam government and five Karbi armed groups.
- People and language: The Karbis (earlier called 'Mikirs') are a major hill tribe of Assam; their Karbi language belongs to the Tibeto-Burman branch of the Sino-Tibetan family. Most tribal languages of the North-East belong to this branch, while Meghalaya's Khasi is Austro-Asiatic.
- Arts of Assam: Assam's classical dance 'Sattriya' was created by the 15th–16th-century Vaishnava saint Srimanta Sankardeva in the Sattras (Vaishnava monasteries); the Sangeet Natak Akademi recognised it as a classical dance in 2000. The State's chief festival is Bihu; 'Bohag' (Rongali) Bihu in mid-April marks the Assamese New Year.

Tamil Nadu link: The Sixth Schedule does not apply to Tamil Nadu; TN tribes such as the Todas, Kotas and Irulas of the Nilgiris are protected through general laws and tribal welfare schemes. Tamil Nadu's folk dances include Karagattam (danced balancing a decorated pot on the head), Oyilattam (danced in a row waving kerchiefs), Kummi, Kolattam and Devarattam. Assam's harvest festival Magh (Bhogali) Bihu and Tamil Nadu's Pongal (Thai 1) both fall in mid-January, at Makar Sankranti, when the Sun enters Capricorn (Makara).

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

About 15,000 performers danced the 'Nimso Kerung', a traditional folk dance of the Karbi people, together at KASA Stadium in Diphu, headquarters of Karbi Anglong district in Assam, on 16 November 2026, setting a Guinness World Record.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Date: 16 November 2026; Venue: KASA Stadium, Diphu, Karbi Anglong (Assam); Participants: About 15,000 dancers; Dance: Nimso Kerung – traditional Karbi folk dance.

What is the background to this news?

History of Karbi Anglong: The 'United Mikir and North Cachar Hills District' was formed on 17 November 1951 and its district council on 23 June 1952.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Who created 'Sattriya', the classical dance of Assam, in the Vaishnava monasteries?

A) Lachit Borphukan

B) Bhupen Hazarika

C) Jyoti Prasad Agarwala

D) Srimanta Sankardeva

Answer: D – Explanation: Srimanta Sankardeva (15th–16th c.) – the Sangeet Natak Akademi recognised it as a classical dance in 2000.

2. The Karbi language, spoken by the people of the record dance, belongs to which language group?

A) Tibeto-Burman

B) Austro-Asiatic

C) Dravidian

D) Indo-Aryan

Answer: A – Explanation: Tibeto-Burman (Sino-Tibetan family). Meghalaya's Khasi and Jharkhand's Mundari are Austro-Asiatic.

3. The Karbis of Assam, to whom the Nimso Kerung dance belongs, were earlier known by which name?

A) Mikir

B) Kachari

C) Mising

D) Rabha

Answer: A – Explanation: Mikir – the 'United Mikir and North Cachar Hills District' was formed in 1951; Mikir Hills became 'Karbi Anglong' in 1976.

4. Which folk dance of Tamil Nadu is performed balancing a decorated pot on the head?

A) Oyilattam

B) Kummi

C) Devarattam

D) Karagattam

Answer: D – Explanation: Karagattam – linked to Mariamman worship. In Oyilattam dancers move in a row waving kerchiefs.

5. Assam's 'Magh (Bhogali) Bihu', a mid-January harvest festival, coincides with which Tamil Nadu festival?

A) Karthigai Deepam

B) Aadi Perukku

C) Pongal

D) Deepavali

Answer: C – Explanation: Pongal (Thai 1) – Makar Sankranti, when the Sun enters Capricorn. Bohag (Rongali) Bihu in April is the Assamese New Year.

Sources: ANI (17 Nov 2026); PTI (via The Hindu and Northeast Now, 17 Nov 2026); Karbi Anglong district administration – karbianglong.assam.gov.in (district history, area); Sangeet Natak Akademi – sangeetnatak.gov.in (Sattriya, 2000); MHA / PIB (Karbi Anglong Agreement, 4 Sept 2021). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.