



# Tokhu Emong Festival

## Why in News?

Nagaland is undertaking four-day **Tokhu Emong Bird Count (TEBC)**, the first avian documentation exercise to go beyond **Amur falcons**.

- The exercise has been **timed with the post-harvest Tokhu Emong festival of the Lothas**, the Naga community that dominates Wokha district of Nagaland.

## What is Tokhu Emong Festival?

- A perfect blend of religion, culture and entertainment, 'Tokhu Emong' is **widely celebrated in Wokha district**.
- **Celebrated on 7<sup>th</sup> November every year**, this color-filled festival stretches over to 9 days.
- **'Tokhu' means moving from house to house, collecting tokens and gifts** in form of natural resources and food. However, the meaning of **'Emong'** is to **put a halt for the appointed time**.
- Significant attraction of this festival includes **community songs, dances, feast, fun and frolic**.
- Through the commencement of this festival, **people relive the stories of their ancestors composed decades before**.
- During the festival, **gracious offerings are made to the 'Sky God' and 'Earth God' seeking for blessings**.

## What are Amur Falcons?



- Amur falcons, the **world's longest travelling raptors** start travelling with the onset of winters.
- The raptors **breed in southeastern Siberia and northern China**, and **migrate in millions across India** and **then over the Indian Ocean to southern Africa** before returning to Mongolia and Siberia.
  - Their 22,000-kilometre **migratory route is one of the longest** amongst all avian species.

- They get their **name from the Amur River** that forms the **border between Russia and China**.
- **Doyang Lake in Wokha, Nagaland** is better known as a **stopover for the Amur falcons during their annual migration from their breeding grounds to warmer South Africa**.
  - Thus, **Nagaland** (Pangti Village) is also known as the "**Falcon Capital of the World**".
- The birds are the **least concern** under the [International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\) Red List](#), but the species is **protected under the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and the Convention on Migratory Species**, to which India is a signatory (which means it is mandatory to protect the birds).

Source: [IH](#)

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