

CURRENT AFFAIRS

3 NOVEMBER 2022



TOPIC: WILDLIFE PROTECTION

Going beyond Amur falcons: Nagaland to celebrate avian diversity, undertake census

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Nagaland is undertaking the first avian documentation exercise going beyond the Amur falcons, the migratory raptor that put the State on the world birding map.

The four-day Tokhū Emong Bird Count (TEBC) from Friday has been timed with the post-harvest Tokhū Emong festival of the Lothas, the Naga community that dominates Wokha district, arguably the most preferred stopover of the Amur falcons while travelling from east Asia to southern Africa.

The event is a collaboration among the Wokha Forest Division, the Divisional Management Unit of the Nagaland Forest Management Project (NFMP) and Bird Count India.

“Amur falcons put Nagaland on the world birding map. However, the com-



High spirits: The four-day exercise coincides with Tokhū Emong festival. RITU RAJ KONWAR

munities here can do more than just Amur falcon conservation. This event is organised to make each one of us feel proud of the birdlife and nature that we have,” Chenibemo Odyuo of NFMP’s Foundation for Ecological Security, based in Phek, said.

“Nagaland is a State with diverse festivals and diverse birdlife. The TEBC is the first of initiatives where the community is encouraged to celebrate

the festival with birds,” Lansothung Lotha, Range Forest Officer of the Wokha Forest Division said.

“We expect more such festivals in the future where people connect with nature and also help in documenting the rich avifauna in a landscape that still remains to be explored and documented,” he added.

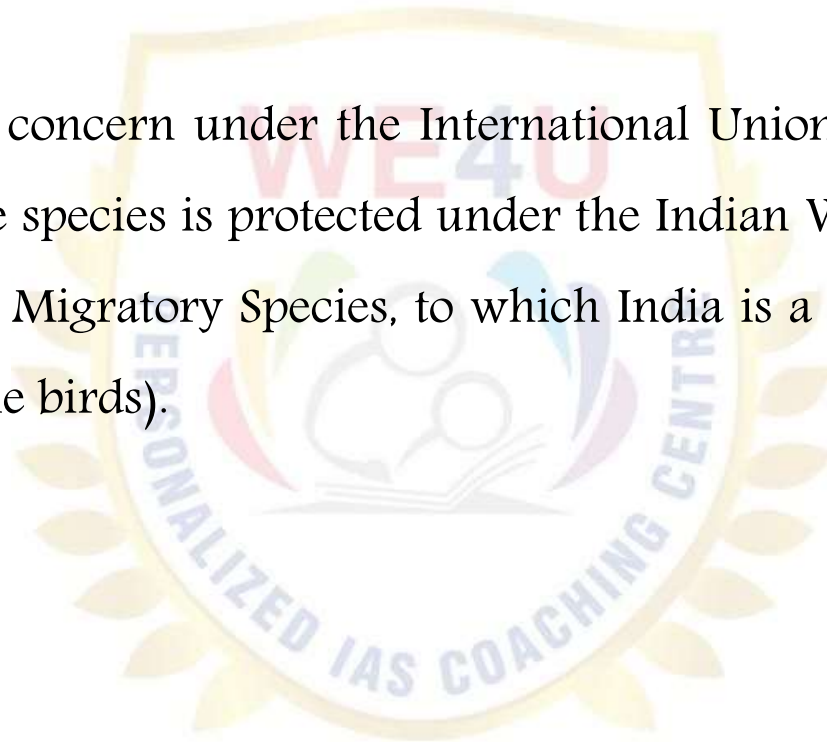
Pia Sethi of the Centre for Ecology, Development and Research said initiatives such as the TEBC are particularly important for the northeast, where rich bird diversity is threatened by habitat loss and hunting.

The exercise entails watching and counting birds on any or all days from November 4-7 from anywhere in Nagaland for at least 15 minutes and uploading the avian names on eBird (www.ebird.org/india), the bird recording platform.

AMUR FALCONS

- ✓ Amur falcons, the world's longest travelling raptors start travelling with the onset of winters.
- ✓ 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 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 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).



TOPIC: SPACE

RISAT-2 satellite makes re-entry into Earth's atmosphere

ISRO's RISAT-2 satellite, launched in 2009, has made an uncontrolled re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere.

RISAT (Radar Imaging Satellite) is a series of Indian radar imaging reconnaissance satellites built by ISRO. They provide all-weather surveillance.

The RISAT series are the first all-weather Earth observation satellites from ISRO. Previous Indian observation satellites relied primarily on optical and spectral sensors which were hampered by cloud cover.

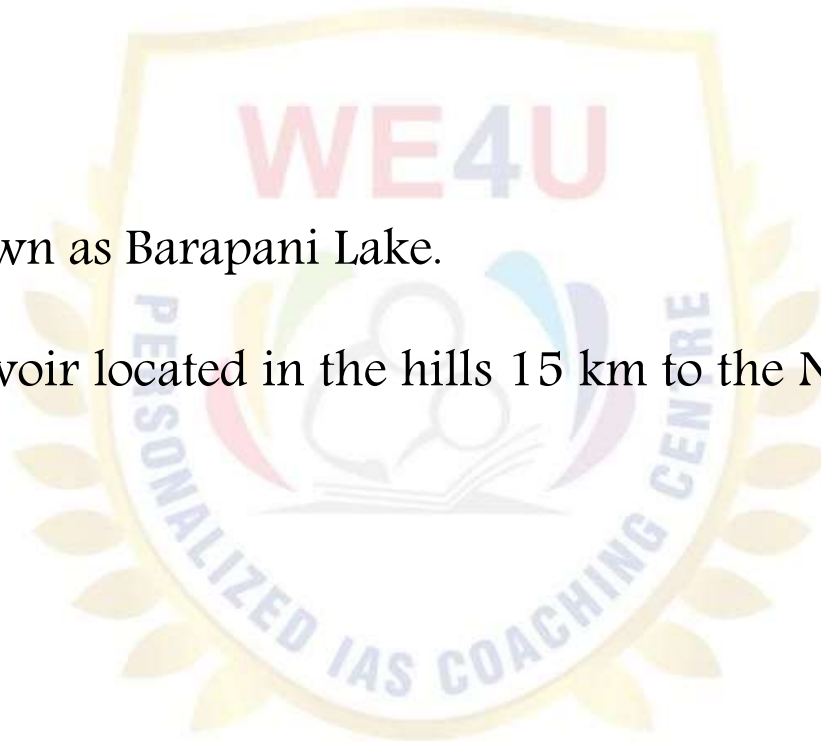
TOPIC: FESTIVAL



In sync: Members of the Garo tribal community perform Wangala dance on the occasion of 'The Rising Sun Water Fest-2022' on the banks of Umiam Lake in Meghalaya on Thursday. The event was organised by the Eastern Command Aquatics Node. RITU RAJ KONWAR

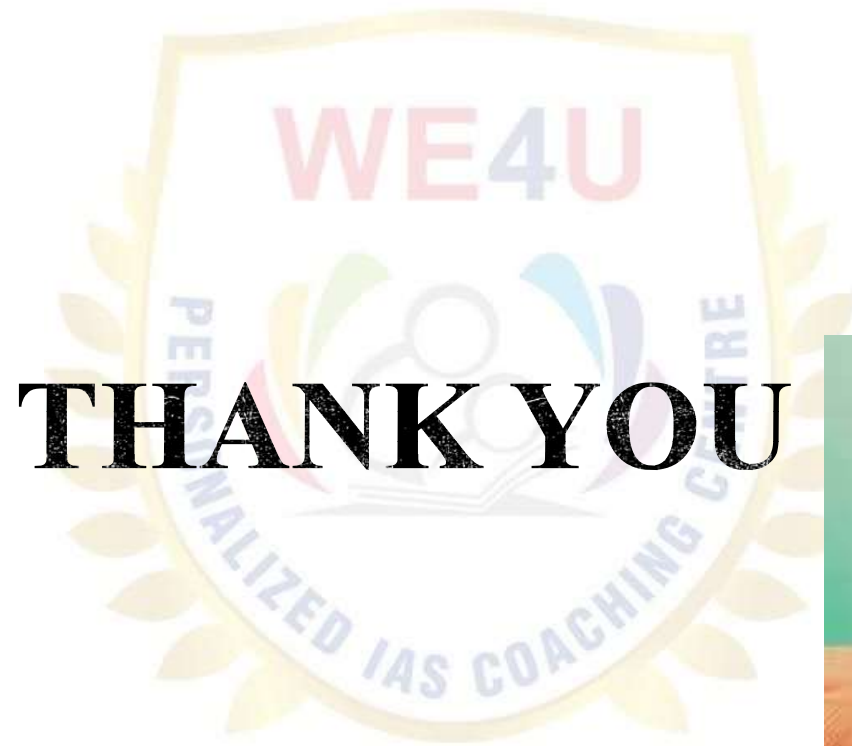
Umiam lake

- ✓ Umiam Lake, also known as Barapani Lake.
- ✓ Umiam Lake is a reservoir located in the hills 15 km to the North of Shillong in the state of Meghalaya, India.



The Wangala Festival

- ✓ Wangala — Meghalaya, Nagaland and Assam
- ✓ Also known as the ‘Hundred Drums Festival’, Wangala is celebrated by the people of the Garo tribe from Meghalaya, Nagaland and Assam. Various food items made from rice—a staple in this region—and rice beer (called chubitchi/chubok/chu) are consumed during the festivities.
- ✓ The date of the Wangala varies from village to village and it takes place between September and December.
- ✓ Typically, the celebrations are accompanied by dance and music, with people from across the village participating.



THANK YOU

