Amur Falcon Alang's Flight to Africa – From Manipur to Somalia

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Why in News?

*Alang, a satellite-tagged young **female Amur Falcon, flew non-stop from Manipur to Somalia**, about 5,700 km in 101 hours, reaching the Horn of Africa on November 21, 2026.*

- A second tagged bird, the male Apapang, also completed the crossing.

About Amur Falcon

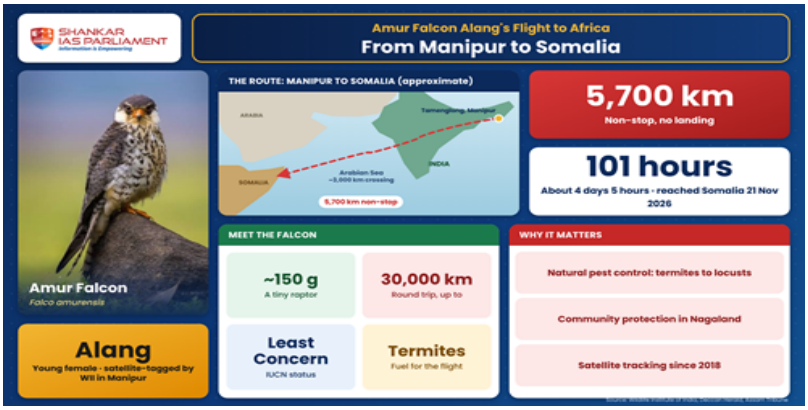
- **Scientific name** – Falco amurensis; a small raptor weighing about 150 g.
- **Breeding grounds** – South-eastern Siberia and northern China; winters in southern Africa.
- **Migration** – Among the longest of any raptor, with round trips of up to 30,000 km.
- **India stopover** – North-East India (Nagaland and Manipur) in October–November, where the birds feed on termites to build fat reserves.
- **Conservation status** – IUCN: Least Concern.
- **Ecological role** – Natural pest controllers: termites in India, locusts in Africa.

Alang's Journey

- **Tagging** – Fitted with a satellite transmitter on November 11, 2025 at Chiuluan, Tamenglong (Manipur), under Phase 2 of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and Manipur Forest Department project.
- **First cycle** – Returned to Manipur on October 22, 2026, 11 days after leaving north-eastern China.
- **Second cycle** – After about 25 days feeding on termites, flew over central India and a 3,000 km Arabian Sea crossing to Somalia without landing.
- **Third bird** – Ahu, an adult female, has stayed in the Horn of Africa since November 2025.
- **Research** – A 2026 study in Ibis found that wind patterns shape the falcons' routes and flight efficiency.

Conservation Significance

- Satellite tagging began in Tamenglong in 2018 and was repeated in 2020, 2022, 2024 and 2025.
- Tracking data help identify stopover sites and threats along the route.
- Community-led protection in Nagaland ended mass hunting of the falcons at their roosts.



Reference

[Deccan Herald | Manipur to Somalia non-stop: Tagged Amur falcons cover over 5,700 km]