Tagged Amur falcon 'Alang' flies about 5,700 km non-stop in 101 hours

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News

'Alang', a female Amur falcon fitted with a satellite tag in Manipur's Tamenglong district, flew about 5,700 km non-stop from India across the Arabian Sea in 101 hours and reached Somalia at 5.30 am on 21 November 2026. Dr Suresh Kumar of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, confirmed this. Another tagged bird, the male 'Apapang', had then covered 4,100 km in 95 hours; both had stayed about 25 days at the Chiuluan village roost and left for Africa on 17 November. They were tagged at Chiuluan, Tamenglong, on 11 November 2025, completed an annual cycle through 23 countries of Africa and Asia, and returned to the same roost on 22 October 2026. A third bird tagged in 2025, the female 'Ahu', lost contact in Somalia in 2025. ThePrint had reported that last year (2025) Apapang covered about 5,400 km in 5 days 15 hours; this year's 5,700 km is longer, but no official 'world record' has been declared. The Amur falcon is a pigeon-sized raptor that breeds in south-east Russia and north-east China and winters in southern Africa, making one of the longest migrations of any raptor.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Bird	Alang – female Amur falcon (Falco amurensis)
Flight	About 5,700 km, 101 hours, non-stop

Point	Details
Arrived	Somalia – 21 Nov 2026, 5.30 am
Tagged at	Chiuluan, Tamenglong district, Manipur (11.11.2025)
Tracked by	Dr Suresh Kumar, Wildlife Institute of India
Other bird	Apapang (male) – 4,100 km in 95 h (at the time)
2025 comparison	Apapang: about 5,400 km in 5 days 15 h
Protection	Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972

Background

- Amur falcons arrive in large numbers in Nagaland and Manipur in October, fatten on insects such as termites, cross the Arabian Sea to Africa in November and return north in April–May. The name comes from the Amur river region, the river forming the Russia–China border.
- Pangti village near the Doyang reservoir in Nagaland's Wokha district was once a site where thousands of falcons were hunted; after 2012, community conservation turned it into a safe roost. Nagaland is called the 'Falcon Capital of the World'.
- The UNEP treaty protecting migratory animals is the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS, the Bonn Convention, 1979). India hosted its 13th Conference of Parties (COP13) at Gandhinagar, Gujarat, in February 2020; its mascot was 'Gibi', the Great Indian Bustard.
- Somalia lies in the Horn of Africa, the continent's eastern tip; the falcons first land here after crossing the Arabian Sea and then move on to southern Africa. The Tamenglong Forest Division has been tagging and tracking these birds since November 2018.

Tamil Nadu link: This story has no direct Tamil Nadu link. Related Tamil Nadu fact: the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) is at Anaikatti near Coimbatore, and Tamil Nadu wetlands such as Point Calimere (Kodiakkarai) are key wintering grounds for migratory birds.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Bird: Alang – female Amur falcon (Falco amurensis); Flight: About 5,700 km, 101 hours, non-stop; Arrived: Somalia – 21 Nov 2026, 5.30 am; Tagged at: Chiuluan, Tamenglong district, Manipur (11.11.2025).

What is the background to this news?

Amur falcons arrive in large numbers in Nagaland and Manipur in October, fatten on insects such as termites, cross the Arabian Sea to Africa in November and return north in April–May.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Which Nagaland village near the Doyang reservoir, once known for falcon hunting, is now a model of Amur falcon conservation?

A) Pangti

B) Khonoma

C) Longwa

D) Touphema

Answer: A – Explanation: Pangti, Wokha district. Khonoma is India's first 'green village'; Longwa straddles the India–Myanmar border.

2. The 13th Conference of Parties of which global treaty on migratory animals was held at Gandhinagar in 2020?

A) CITES

B) Ramsar Convention

C) CBD

D) CMS (Bonn)

Answer: D – Explanation: CMS – Convention on Migratory Species (Bonn, 1979); COP13 in Feb 2020, mascot 'Gibi' (Great Indian Bustard). CITES covers wildlife trade; Ramsar wetlands.

3. The Amur river, which gives the bird its name, forms the border between which two countries?

A) Mongolia–China

B) Kazakhstan–Russia

C) Russia–China

D) North Korea–China

Answer: C – Explanation: Russia–China (Russian Far East – north-east China). The Yalu and Tumen rivers mark the North Korea–China border.

4. Where is the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), which tracks the tagged falcons, located?

A) Bhopal

B) Dehradun

C) Coimbatore

D) Kolkata

Answer: B – Explanation: Dehradun (Uttarakhand) – an autonomous institute of the Environment Ministry. SACON, the ornithology centre, is at Anaikatti, Coimbatore.

5. Somalia, where the falcon landed after crossing the Arabian Sea, lies in which geographical region of Africa?

A) Maghreb

B) Sahel

C) Horn of Africa

D) Cape region

Answer: C – Explanation: Horn of Africa – the eastern tip (Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti). The Maghreb is north-west; the Sahel is the Sahara's southern fringe.