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News: Amur Falcon

- Recently, the Tamenglong district administration in Manipur imposed an immediate ban on hunting, catching, killing, and selling Amur falcons (*Falco amurensis*) in preparation for their arrival.

Amur Falcon

- Amur falcons, also known as **Kahuaipuina in Manipur and Molulem in Nagaland** is one of the world's longest travelling raptors that start travelling with the onset of winters.
- Their distinctive features include **dark plumage, white wing linings, and reddish-orange eyes and feet.**
- 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 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”.
- They face threats from habitat loss, hunting, and illegal trapping.
- IUCN considers this bird as Least Concern (LC).
- It is also protected under Appendix II of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).
- The raptor is also included in the Schedule IV of Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Conservation Program

- In 2016, Manipur tagged Amur falcons with radio transmitters to monitor their migration routes.
- An annual ‘Amur Falcon Festival’ is held in Tamenglong district to raise awareness and celebrate these birds.