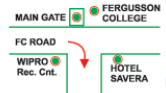


Conditions apply
PUNE MIRROR
 Reader's offer in Your CV
Wipro BPO
 Winning by Applying Thought

**AFTER RESULTS, IT'S TIME FOR A JOURNEY OF SUCCESS
 AT WIPRO BPO.**



Walk in: 13th to 16th July 2010, Tuesday to Friday | Contact Nos.: 020-39133642, 39133852.

MANCHAR TO MUMBAI IN 78 DAYS: A JOBA, THE LEOPARD'S AMBITIOUS TREK



Ajoba being rescued from the well in Takli Dhokeshwar village

BIG CAT'S BIG ADVENTURE

Ajoba was rescued from a well and a tracking device was fixed on his neck, before being released back into the wild. He turned out to be one adventurous cat, as he made his way to Mumbai over the Sahyadris: that is a cool 120 km. Manoj Bidkar and Siddharth Gadkari create a log book of this gutsy feline's amazing trek

**TURN TO
 PG 7**

TATA MOTORS

SHOWERING COOL OFFERS

SAVING OF UP TO Rs. 38,000/-

Offer valid until 25th July '10

Model	Assured Benefit* (Rs.)	Exchange Bonus (Rs.)	Total Benefit Guaranteed* (Rs.)
Vista TDI	Free Insurance	5,000	20,000
Vista Quadrajt	Free Insurance	10,000	27,000
Vista Safire	Free Insurance	22,000	38,000
Indigo CS/eCS Petrol	Free Insurance	7,500	24,500
Indigo CS/eCS Diesel	Free Insurance	7,500	24,500
Indigo XL / Marina	30,000	-	30,000

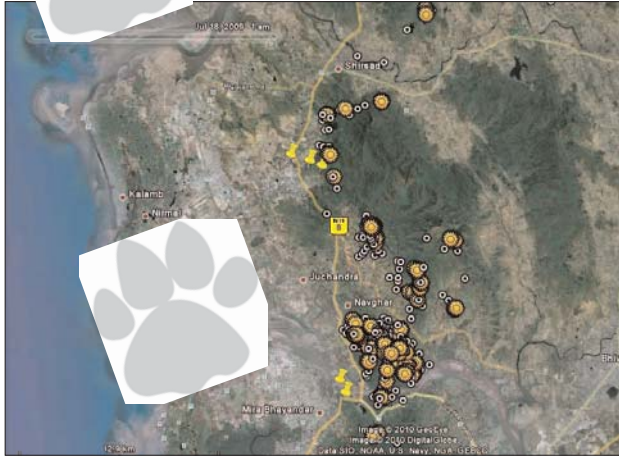
Pandit Automotive Pvt. Ltd. • Tilak Road Mob.: 9822592007 • PCMC: Tel: 020-27425738/9/40, 9623459850, 9922401149
 • Baramati: Mob.: 9011547007 • Manjri: Mob.: 9822661466 • Indapur: Mob.: 9881780989 B. U. Bhandari Auto Pvt. Ltd.
 • Pashan: Abhimanshi Soc. Pashan Road, Pune. Tel: 020-66858585 • Wakadewadi: Tel: 020-66050505, 9763712271

*Total savings include insurance @ Re. 1/- (Insurance value varies from city to city) and exchange bonus wherever applicable. Exchange bonus through Tata Motors Assured dealers only. Insurance value at list price. Offer from TATA MOTORS DEALERSHIPS. Terms and conditions apply. Accessories shown may not be a part of the standard equipment.

EXCHANGE TATA MOTORS ASSURED
FREE 24X7
 On Road Assistance from Tata Motors 24x7
 CALL 1800 209 7979

BIG CAT'S BIG ADVENTURE

Where Ajoba is, right now, is anybody's guess. *Mirror* puts together Ajoba's journey from the forests of Manchar to those of Mumbai, week by week, from May till July 2009. Transmitted at 152 MHz, here's the buzz from his radio collar



This Google Maps screenshot shows Ajoba's movements from Malshej Ghat to the Sanjay Gandhi National Park in Borivali, Mumbai

From April to July 2009, Vidya Athreya (43), a wildlife scientist and Observer with the National Centre for Science, has been tracking Ajoba, a male leopard that had strayed into human-populated areas in villages near densely forested parts of Ahmednagar district. Ajoba, who had come to Takli Dhokeshwar village in search of prey such as dogs, pigs and goats, had fallen into a well. He was rescued by Forest Department officers and fitted with a radio collar to track his movements.

What emerged at the end of three months of tracking was a

week-by-week movement pattern of Ajoba, last tracked to a riverbank near the Sanjay Gandhi National Park in Borivali, Mumbai on July 17, 2009. The almost pug-by-pug account of Ajoba's 78-day, 120-km journey by Athreya is a first-of-its-kind endeavour to track a leopard's movements in Maharashtra.

"Leopards usually don't attack humans. They stray into human-populated areas in search of easy prey, such as pigs, goats and dogs as well. They prefer to take cover in sugar cane

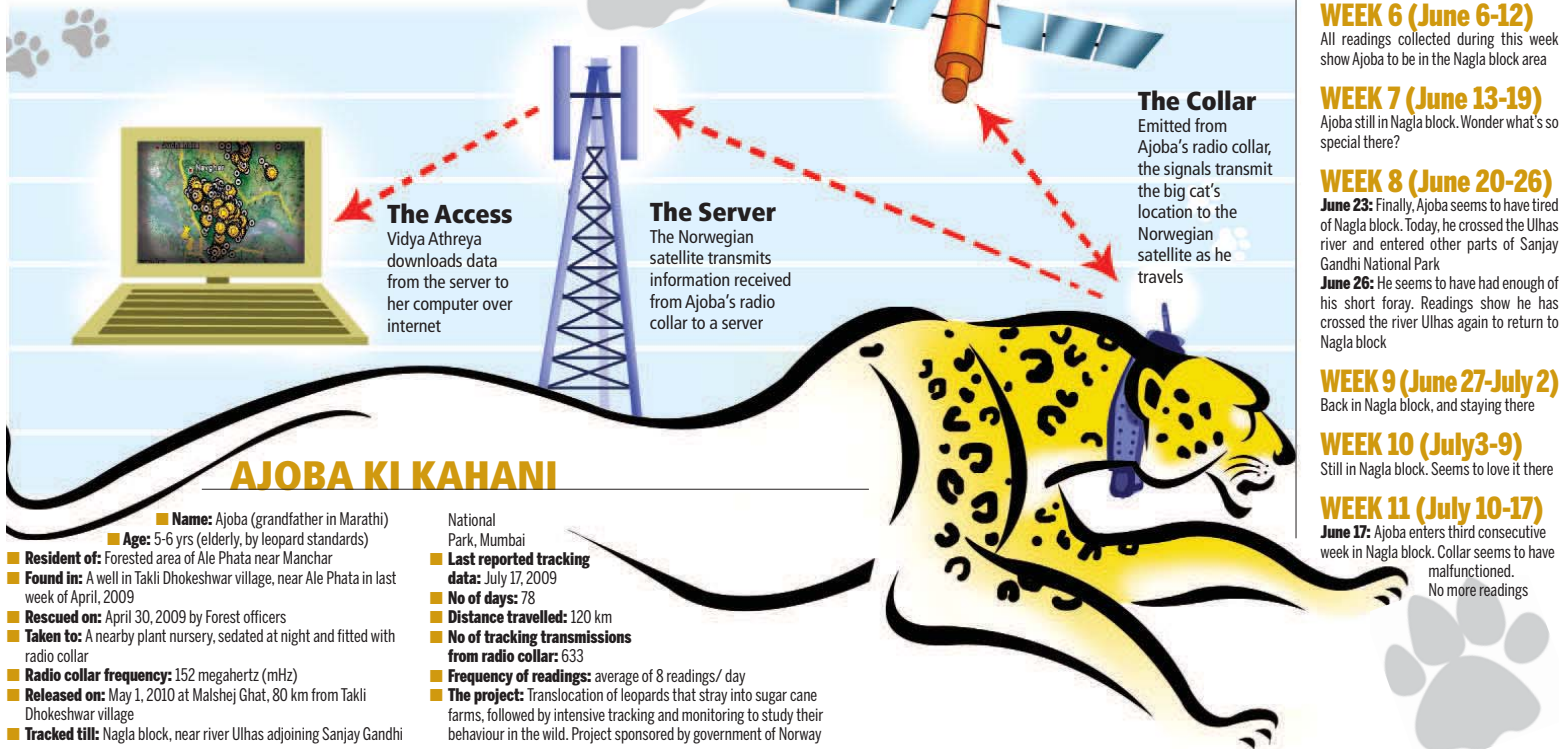


Vidya Athreya and her team fitting the radio collar on a sedated Ajoba at Takli Dhokeshwar village

farms in the region during daytime. Villagers often spot leopards at watering holes and river banks, but unless they provoke the animal, they are safe. I took up Ajoba's case on referral from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, which is doing a project on leopard-human conflict in collaboration with the Norwegian government. I had to apply for permission the State and Central wildlife authorities, which came through promptly," said Athreya.

Explaining Ajoba's movements, Athreya said the radio collar transmits

the big cat's location around eight times per day on an average. "Since it is a heavily forested area through which Ajoba travelled, radio signal is not always available. The radio collar is fitted with a chip that transmits locational data to a Norwegian satellite, which passes it on to its terrestrial server. We access the server using a password to collect information on Ajoba's movements. The collar falls off usually after 5,000 readings. However, we lost Ajoba after 633 readings. It could be due to a malfunction in the collar, or it may have been damaged during the cat's movements through water bodies."



Ajoba's log book

WEEK 1 (May 1-7)

May 1: Released at Malshej Ghat, around 80 km from where he had been found trapped in a well

May 7: Readings showed Ajoba was Still in the forested Malshej Ghat area

WEEK 2 (May 8-14)

May 12: Ajoba began moving up from the foothills. Readings showed he was climbing the hilly Ratangarh area

WEEK 3 (May 15-22)

May 15: No readings for three days, till now. Poor radio signal. Seems to have crossed the Mumbai-Agra Highway at a point not far from the Tanja Abhay Forest

May 19: Ajoba back on the monitor. He has crossed the rail tracks about one km from Kasara railway station and entered Tanja Abhay Forest, west of Kasara

May 20: Readings show Ajoba passed close to Wada village near Dahanu in Thane district, at a distance of approx 5-km. Suffered some anxious moments as the readings show him to be entering the Vasai industrial area in Thane

WEEK 4 (May 22-29)

May 24: Readings indicate a spot near Sirsadi village in Thane district

May 25: Ajoba is getting closer to Mumbai. Today's readings show he has entered the Tungreshwar Abhay Forest, 20 km from Bhiwandi, Mumbai, and has turned south from there

WEEK 5 (May 30-June 5)

May 31: Finally, readings from Ajoba's collar. It's been nearly a week. Seems to have entered Sanjay Gandhi National Park's Nagla block in Borivali

WEEK 6 (June 6-12)

All readings collected during this week show Ajoba to be in the Nagla block area

WEEK 7 (June 13-19)

Ajoba still in Nagla block. Wonder what's so special there?

WEEK 8 (June 20-26)

June 23: Finally, Ajoba seems to have tired of Nagla block. Today, he crossed the Ulhas river and entered other parts of Sanjay Gandhi National Park

June 26: He seems to have had enough of his short foray. Readings show he has crossed the river Ulhas again to return to Nagla block

WEEK 9 (June 27-July 2)

Back in Nagla block, and staying there

WEEK 10 (July 3-9)

Still in Nagla block. Seems to love it there

WEEK 11 (July 10-17)

July 17: Ajoba enters third consecutive week in Nagla block. Collar seems to have malfunctioned. No more readings