

January 2026

Maharashtra, India
www.resqct.org

RESQ NEWSLETTER

Helping animals, people and the places we call home, since 2007.

Monthly Newsletter

#219 pg. 01

RESQ Charitable Trust



Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) ©RESQ Charitable Trust

One thread can change a life forever...

During this kite-flying season, we responded to over 400 manja-related cases. Birds entangled in kite string suffered deep lacerations, wing injuries, and life-threatening trauma, often high in trees or urban structures. While kites themselves are not the issue, the widespread use of nylon manja has significantly increased both the frequency and severity of injuries, posing risks to wildlife and people alike. Safer choices such as using cotton manja, basic safety checks, and reporting illegal nylon manja sales can substantially reduce these incidents. With informed and responsible practices, festivals can be enjoyed without turning our skies into danger zones.



WHAT'S INSIDE

I.	Statistics: Efforts in Numbers	02
II.	Updates... RESQ CT Teams on Field	03
III.	From the Wildlife Centres	05
IV.	Community Outreach & Education	08
V.	Capacity Building & Training	09
VI.	Features & Articles	09
VII.	Volunteers at RESQ	10
VIII.	RESQ Star of the Month	10
IX.	Message from the Founder	10





Statistics

JANUARY 2026

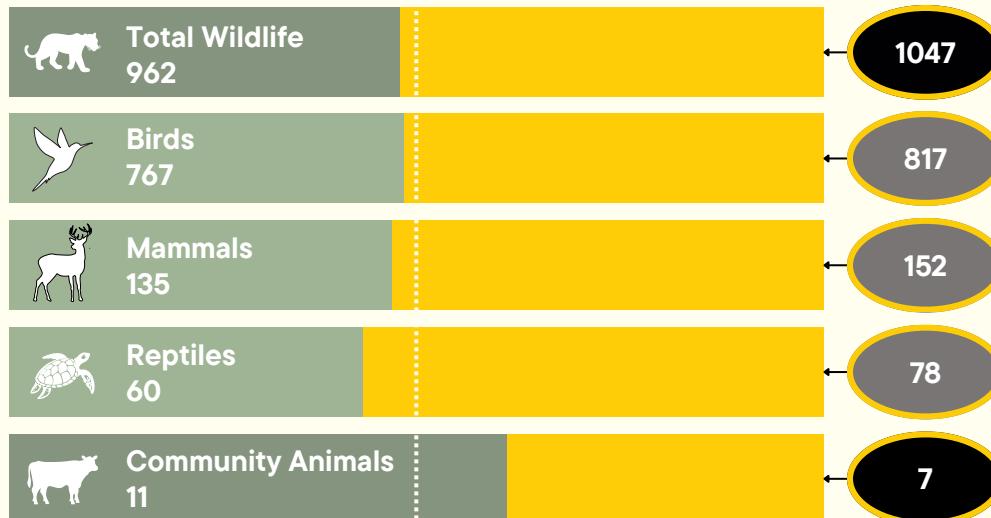
Efforts in numbers...

3,856
LIVES IMPACTED!

IMPACT
at **SCALE**

Last Year (2025)

Jan 2025

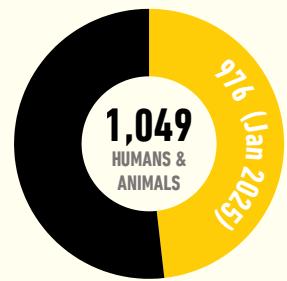


This Month (2026)

Jan 2026

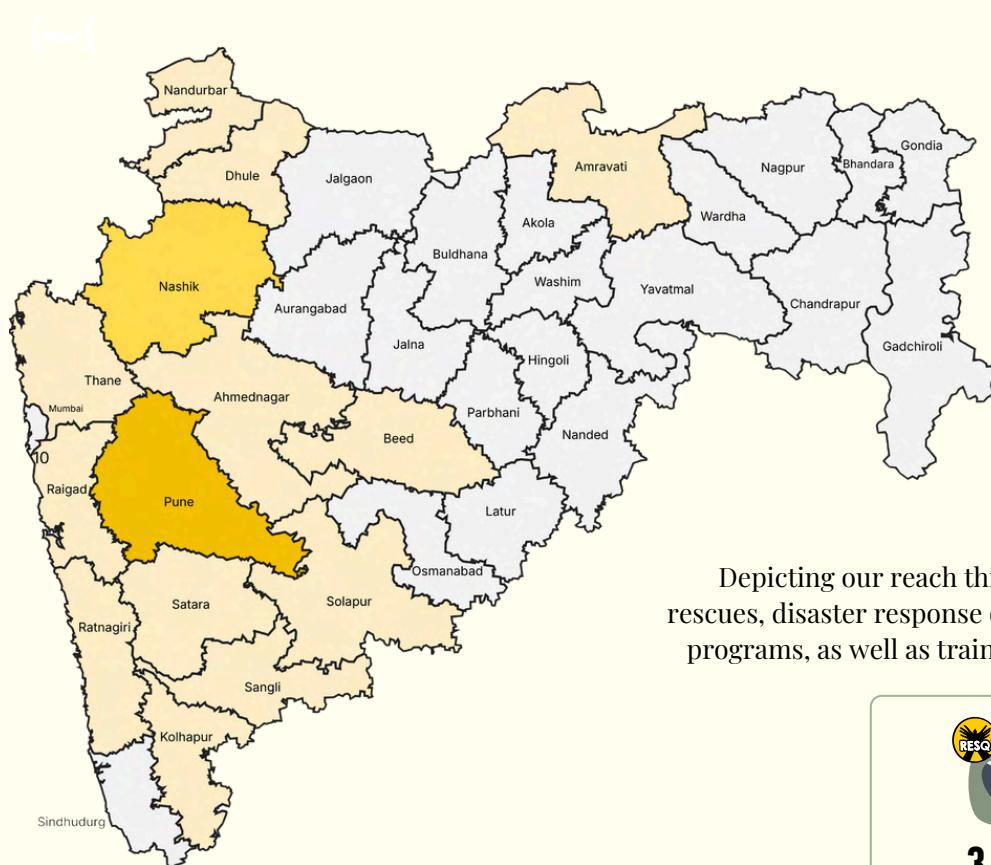
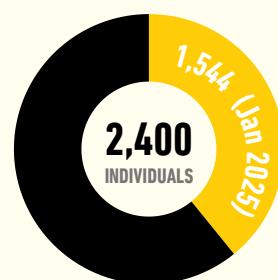
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

aid provided to



SAFETY, EDUCATION & TRAINING

PROGRAMS CONDUCTED FOR



Mapping our efforts.

Depicting our reach this month through emergency wildlife rescues, disaster response operations, education and awareness programs, as well as training and capacity-building initiatives.



3,338

HELPLINE CALLS ATTENDED
JAN 2025: 3,135 CALLS



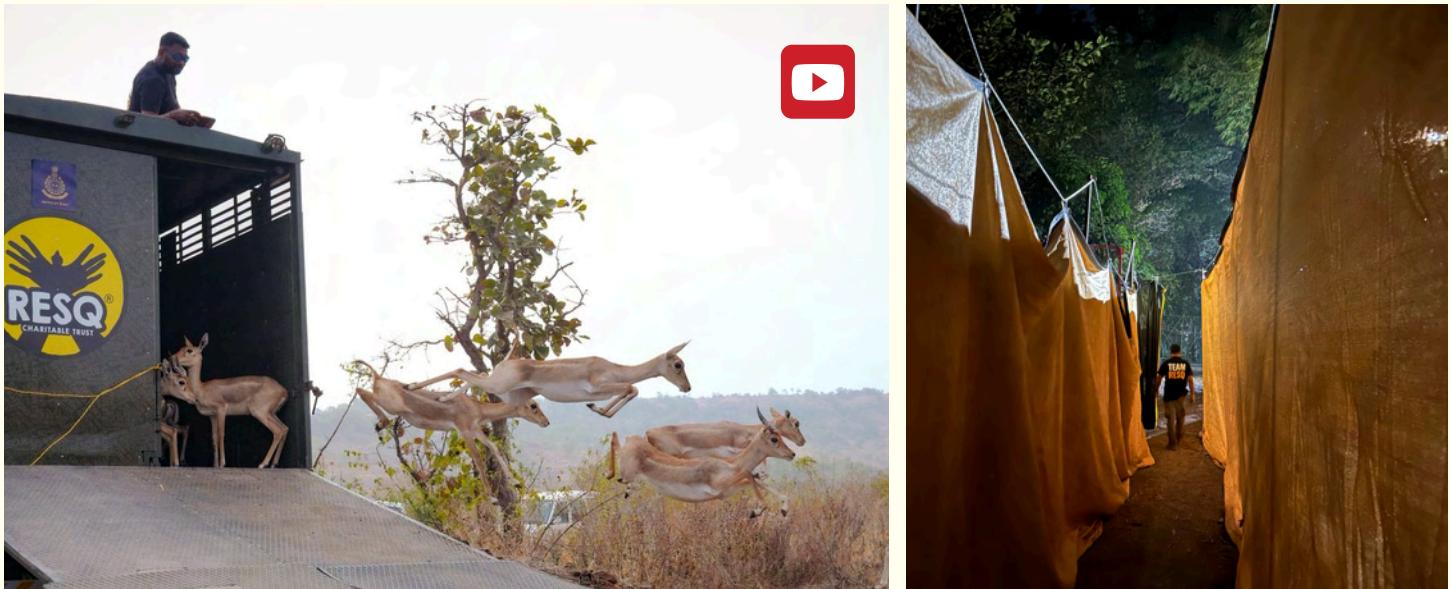
45,802

TOTAL KMS TRAVELED
JAN 2025: 42,852 KMS

Updates

RESQ CT team on field

Click  to view videos!



Wildlife Translocations: Coordinated Conservation Moves. Under the directions of the Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra Forest Department, coordinated multi-agency teams carried out two planned wildlife translocations during this period, involving species from two distinct ecosystems. These operations required detailed planning, veterinary oversight, and close coordination between departments to manage capture, transport, and monitoring, ensuring animal welfare and human safety throughout. Thirty-three blackbucks were translocated to the Ambajogai grasslands using the boma method, a low-stress capture technique designed to minimise injury and physiological stress. Their release coincided with the inauguration of the Kurunwadi Grassland Safari, supporting broader grassland conservation and habitat management efforts in Marathwada. In a separate operation, nine mugger crocodiles were translocated to the Wan Reservoir in Melghat Tiger Reserve. Given the size and risk associated with large crocodilians, the operation relied on experienced field teams, precise capture methods, and strict safety protocols. Effective wildlife translocation depends not only on movement, but on planning, collaboration, and prioritising animal welfare at every stage.

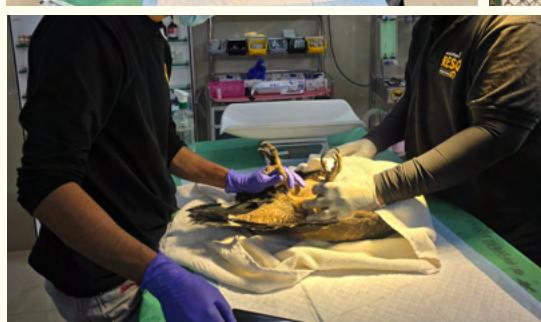




Spot v/s steel.. A leopard trapped in a metal fence was safely rescued by the RESQ Nashik team and handed over to the Forest Department.



Well rescued, well released. An Indian jackal that had fallen into a deep well was safely extracted by the RESQ Baramati team. It was immediately released back into the wild, as it was healthy and uninjured.



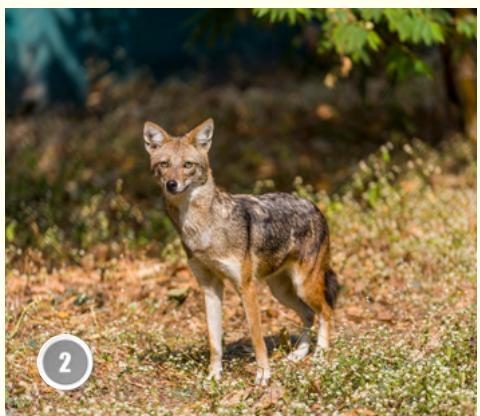
Cleared for take-off, talons first. Three eagles, two greater spotted and one crested serpent, were rescued by the RESQ Nashik team after being found recumbent and unable to fly. Following treatment and rehabilitation at the Wildlife TTC, Nashik, all three raptors made a successful return to the skies.

At the RESQ Centre

Click  to view videos!



Six cubs, managed with care. Six orphaned leopard cubs were admitted to the Wildlife TTCs in Pune and Nashik as their reunion attempts were unsuccessful due to sustained disturbance in the surrounding area. The cubs are being managed under intensive neonatal care protocols with 24-hour monitoring.



Four jackals, one second chance. This month, four Indian jackals were admitted to the Wildlife TTC in Pune, including a sub-adult rescued from illegal captivity and three pups from two locations where reunion attempts were unsuccessful. All are currently under care with the goal of recovery and release.



Gadwall on the mend. A gadwall was admitted to the Wildlife TTC in Pune with a wing injury. The bird is currently under intensive care and showing steady signs of recovery.



Swamphen's leg day, recovery edition! A grey-headed swamphen with a fractured leg is under care at the Pune Wildlife TTC. The injury was stabilized with splinting, and recovery is currently underway.

The thin line between joy and harm was sharply visible during the kite-flying season in January. As expected, reports of birds injured by kite string increased significantly this month, with RESQ teams **responding to over 400 such cases**, and many more likely remaining unreported. While some birds could be rescued and released promptly on site, several others sustained severe injuries requiring prolonged treatment and surgical intervention. From a peregrine falcon, the fastest bird on the planet, to large waders such as painted storks, and nocturnal raptors like Indian eagle owls, multiple species bore the brunt of manja-related injuries. Deep patagial lacerations, wing tears, and entanglement trauma necessitated specialised veterinary care and surgeries at the Wildlife TTCs in Pune and Nashik. These birds are now under rehabilitation, with the shared goal of restoring flight and returning them safely to the skies.





A surgical save. A russell's viper with major injury, rescued from an apartment parking area is recovering well at the Wildlife TTC in Pune following timely surgical intervention.



All swelled up, now settling down. An Indian rock python with head and mouth injury was admitted to the Wildlife TTC in Pune and is now showing steady signs of recovery.



Sanctuary NATURE FOUNDATION

MAGAZINE ARTICLES PROJECTS EVENTS CAMPAIGNS

Meet Neha Panchamiya

First published in Sanctuary Asia, Vol. 46 No. 2, February 2026

If a wild animal is in distress in Pune, Raigad, or the surrounding regions of western Maharashtra, whether it is a bird, reptile, or mammal ranging from owls and snakes to sambar or leopards, the instant and most reliable recommendation is RESQ Charitable Trust! The force behind RESQ is the incredible Neha

Towards informed human-wildlife coexistence. RESQ Charitable Trust participated in the Lecture Series organised by Nisargsevak, Pune. Representing RESQ, Kiran Rahalkar spoke on the organisation's role in mitigating human-wildlife conflict through on-ground response, community engagement, and coordination with the Forest Department. The panel, included Mihir Godbole (The Grasslands Trust), Chaitrali Chandorkar (Maharashtra Times), and Ashish Thakre, IFS, Conservator of Forests, Pune Circle

The Sanctuary Nature Foundation interview of Neha Panchamiya highlights the journey and work of our Founder and President, chronicling her evolution from early wildlife encounters to building RESQ into a science-led rescue and rehabilitation organisation. The article outlines her leadership in emergency response, collaboration with the Maharashtra Forest Department, and strategic efforts in human-wildlife coexistence, rehabilitation and conservation education across western Maharashtra.

Community Outreach & Education

Facts First, Fear Reduced. The year opened with focused outreach efforts aimed at strengthening wildlife awareness across urban and rural communities. RESQ teams engaged with residents, schools, and local stakeholders, emphasising safety and practical mitigation measures. By addressing misconceptions and reinforcing fact-based understanding, we promoted informed responses and peaceful coexistence.



coexist

LIVING SAFELY AROUND LEOPARDS

- KVN Naik College Nashik **250+**
- Samsonite South Asia, Pvt Ltd, Nashik **70+**
- Pachapur village, Pali **30+**
- Fujitsu Employees **250+**



LIVING SAFELY AROUND SNAKES

- KVN Naik College Nashik **250+**



LIVING SAFELY AROUND WILDLIFE IN HUMAN-DOMINATED LANDSCAPES

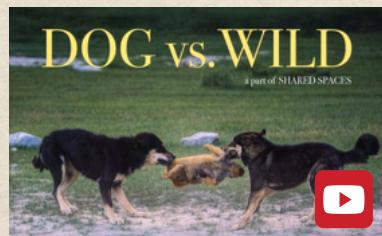
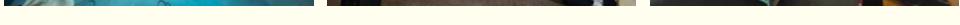
- Forest Trails, Bhugaon **50+**



AWARE INDIA

SCHOOL CURRICULUM SESSIONS

- PNP, Veshvi, Alibag **300+**
- Dr. Kakasaheb Deodhar English School, Nashik **800+**
- iTeach AVB, Pune **120+**
- VIBGYOR Balewadi, Pune **60+**



Shared Spaces: Dog vs Wild. January featured a screening of Dog vs Wild, a documentary by Vijay Bedi and Bahar Dutt that examines the growing impact of free-ranging dogs on India's wildlife. The film documents how expanding settlements, unmanaged waste, and blurred boundaries are reshaping landscapes and ecological interactions, placing added pressure on already vulnerable species. The screening was followed by a panel discussion directed towards solution finding, with Dr Ankush Parihar (Jt. Commissioner, Western Regional Disease Diagnosis Laboratory (WRDDL), AHD, Maharashtra), Shri Tushar Chavan, IFS (Field Director, Sahyadri Tiger Reserve), Mihir Godbole (The Grasslands Trust), Neha Panchamiya (RESQ Charitable Trust; State Wildlife Board Member), and Rushikesh Chavan (Head, The Habitats Trust).

Capacity Building & Training



Two training workshops were conducted at Ghodegaon for the field staff and ERU team members of the Junnar Forest Department. The first focused on Human-Leopard Conflict Management and the second on the use of UAVs in wildlife response, which included practical demonstrations. Both sessions were led by Nachiket Utpat, Kiran Rahalkar, Nachiket Awadhani, and Shreyas Kamble, training a total of 80 personnel in critical skills for effective field operations.



From Support to Solutions. At the Kirloskar Group CSR Conclave, founder Neha Panchamiya and trustee Fiyana Elavia presented “Partnerships for Purpose,” sharing how long-term collaborations like the one between RESQ CT and SLK Foundation can drive real conservation outcomes.

Features & Articles

Melghat Tiger Reserve welcomes new guardians as nine crocs enter core zone



66 This exercise is a part of a broader shift towards translocation for crocodile conservation. These relocations move animals to more favourable captive conditions and reintegrate them into protected ecosystems that support their survival, breeding, and ecological balance. The reservoir is a key habitat for crocodiles, and food availability will not be an issue. We will continue to monitor the animals.

- M Adarsh Reddy, MTR Field director



Polls and Issues: As leopard sightings cause fear and uncertainty, Pune residents demand clarity, coordination

A leopard was captured by the forest department from the Pune airport premises.

By: Express News Service 4 min read Pune Jan 13, 2026 08:55 PM IST



Click  to read!

LOKMAT  TIME

Melghat Tiger Reserve welcomes new guardians

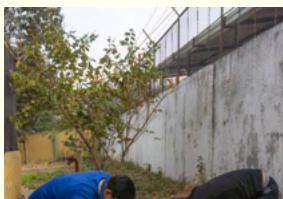
Contd from Pg-1
 reservoir offers an ideal ecosystem for crocodiles, with abundant water, prey availability and minimal human disturbance. Crucially, the entire water body lies within Melghat's inviolate core area, ensuring long-term protection. Forest officials said the translocation was conducted in accordance with prescribed government guidelines for wildlife relocation. As Melghat does not have specialised trained manpower for large reptile handling, technical support was provided by Pune-based RESQ Charitable Trust, a professional wildlife rescue organisation. "Large reptile translocations demand meticulous planning, scientific coordination, and a multisite translocation methodology. This operation stands out as a model of collaborative conservation. We thank the Maharashtra Forest Department and Solapur zoo authorities for their support throughout the process," said Tuhin Sarker, Director (Wildlife) of RESQ CT. The operation was carried out under clear safety and technical supervision by Dr Chandrakant Dhangar (MTR), Dr Ravikant Khoobragade (Tadoba), and Dr Sushrut Shirbhate (RESQ), ensuring animal welfare at every stage.

The translocation team was led by av-

Dedicated corporate volunteers lending a helping hand in fixing enclosures and making enrichments for the wildlife at TTC, Pune this month.



Accenture



Fujitsu



Fujitsu



Illinois University



Accenture



Illinois University



Manoj Waghmare
RESQ Wildlife Rehabilitator

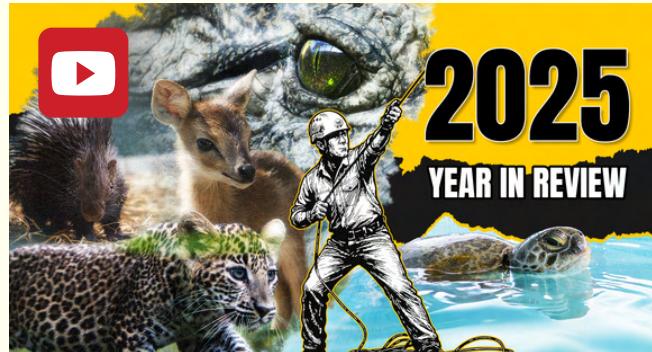


Performing at their maximum potential, lauded for their dedication, innovation and hard work, here's our.

RESQ Star for the month!

Thank you for being a RESQ Supporter!

If we share the same vision, there's so much we can do together. The RESQ team continues its work for animals with purpose and passion only because of your generous contributions and support - today, and everyday.



"We are happy to share our [Annual Report 2024-2025](#) which captures the work and activities done by the RESQ team during the last financial year. On behalf of all the team members of RESQ and its board of trustees, I express our deepest gratitude to our donors, supporters, partners and well-wishers for supporting our mission to rescue and rehabilitate animals, and to reach people in our endeavors to protect animals and their habitats. You can become a RESQ supporter and join us in working towards a shared vision of conservation and coexistence between wildlife, communities, and their animals. Becoming a member is easy, click on this link. Your annual contribution and belief in our vision helps us to provide medical treatment and care to thousands of animals every single year. Thank you!"

- Neha Panchamiya (Founder & President, RESQ CT)

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