



# COMPASSIONATE FRIEND

JOURNAL OF BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY INDIA



# Beauty Without Cruelty

INTERNATIONAL



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**Beauty Without Cruelty**  
is a way of life  
which causes no creature  
of land, sea or air,  
terror, torture or death.

AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS



# Product Research : A Problematic Affair

K S Satagopan  
BWC Director (Research)

Filling up the BWC Product Research Questionnaire should be a simple affair for the manufacturer and if filled up properly, our evaluation work to find whether a given product is lacto-vegetarian or vegan should also be simple. But such an ideal situation is not always the case.

If a problem is difficult that cannot itself be called a problem. But when a problem gets complicated due to extraneous reasons, even hard work cannot be of use since complications pose additional problems of different nature that are unrelated to the problem in hand. This is precisely the situation that we find ourselves in, in our product research.


To collect data for our BWC Vegetarian Shopper's Guide, a 12 page questionnaire has been mailed to manufacturers. It is a comprehensive questionnaire and at the same time simple to quickly fill in. It is mainly divided into four sections : -

*Section I* lists animal substances of various kinds like bones, nails, claws, animal oils, animal hair, animal proteins, animal skins, bird feathers, egg products, flesh/blood products, insect parts, internal organs/fluids/glands of animals, marine products, miscellaneous items of animal origin like animal/fish glue, Vitamin B12 and many others, animal fibres, bee products and dairy products.

*Section II* lists substances which can be of either animal or non-animal origin like biotin, calcium propionate, fortifying vitamins, glycerine, poly-sorbates and many others.

*Section III* lists additives/processing aids by the 'classes' to which they belong like acid bases, anti-oxidants, emulsifiers, enzymes, sequestering agents and many others.

*Section IV* is on the animal testing aspect which is as important as the vegetarian aspect.



This is a questionnaire meant to accommodate all consumables (edible as well as inedible) and hence not all sections/pages would apply to a given product.

The object of this article is to share with readers a few of the problems with illustrations. Take the harmless (supposedly so!) biscuit. A leading biscuit manufacturer declares his product to be 100% vegetarian but the questionnaires returned by him raise serious doubts about his claim. Some of the ingredients/processing aids which he has not named specifically could easily be of animal origin. E.g.: Proteolytic enzyme: some enzymes belonging to this class come directly from animals (rennin, trypsin, pepsin, etc). If the manufacturer has used only a proteolytic enzyme of vegetable origin, then he could have as well named the same in the questionnaire.

For another illustration, we can take a leading manufacturer of breakfast cereal. The product is claimed to be 100% vegetarian. But correspondence with the manufacturer on the origin of the vitamins used in his cereals (like folic acid of the B-Complex group) has not brought any convincing reply. Round-about answers cannot be of use when vegetarians want to be certain about...

These are not the only hurdles. There are many others like the manufacturer stating that he does not test his product(s) on animals and at the same time doing exactly the same in dubious ways. The ones illustrated above depict better the manufacturer's unwillingness to cooperate with our endeavour. And these warn the readers about the truth of the claims made by manufacturers.

But to be honest, a number of manufacturers are very cooperative too. The questionnaire forms returned by them have met our animal-free criteria fully and many products have been accepted for inclusion in the guide. In view of the fact that there are over 85 million vegetarians in India, we wish all manufacturers to cooperate with the project which would be in their interest too, apart from helping the vegetarian population of our country.

  
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# MASSACRE OF THE INNOCENTS

R. K. Chhabra

The roar of a majestic tiger, the clamorous call of a rhinoceros, trumpet of an elephant or the twitter of a hill myna – are all these in danger of being silenced forever?

Wanton poaching, lucrative prices, slack enforcement of laws and burgeoning international demands have caused an alarming spurt in illegal trade in animals and birds, pushing many of our endangered species to the brink of extinction.

The tiger, the king of Indian jungles, is a marked animal today, waiting to become an incongruous mixture of bones, skin and flesh to be smuggled from dingy alleys of Delhi and Bombay to underground markets in China and the Far East. In the North-East, the number of rhinoceros being killed for their valuable horn has increased manifold. Across the country, elephants are being decimated for tusks that find their way into Japan.

The list is long and lengthy. Musk deer are being mowed down for perfumed pods under their belly. Leopards of all types are being killed for fur trade, catering to East Europe. Snakes and lizards are being plundered for their skins for manufacturing

wallets, belts, shoes and other leather accessories. And falcons are being flown to the Gulf to meet the thriving pet trade there.

**Globally illicit trade in wildlife and its derivatives is estimated to be 6 billion US \$ annually. India, being a source country and a transit point for goods, has always been an important centre on the map.**

Perturbed over the revival of illegal trade in the past two decades, the Centre took several initiatives and passed a series of stringent laws aimed at conserving the bio-diversity of the country. It banned hunting of wild animals and trade in their parts.

Despite this, the clandestine commercial activity chugs on unthreatened thanks to an intricate nexus between poachers, traders, exporters, wildlife officials and the underworld.

Another reason for the boom in trade is the massive rise in profits for poachers are striking fortune with stunning force, setting alarm bells ringing in the conservation circles.

**India's tiger population is showing a dangerous downward trend from**

  
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over 4,300 in 1989 to a debatable 3,750 in 1993. Nearly 400 tigers are poached annually, each kill fetching a handsome Rs. 6,00,000 in black markets in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Vietnam.

"Unless the Centre declares an open war on poachers and illegal traders throwing all the resources at its command into the battle, Indian tigers will be virtually extinct by the turn of the century," warns Brigadier Ranjit Talwar, Administrator, Traffic India, the wildlife monitoring wing of the World Wide Fund for Nature, India.

Assam, abode of the one-horned rhino, has turned into an abattoir for the endangered pachyderm due to intense poaching.

A staggering number of 161 rhinos have fallen prey to illegal hunters in grassy swamps of Kaziranga and Manas wildlife parks between July 1992 and March 1994. Twenty-one others were butchered elsewhere in the state during the period.

Each rhino horn is worth about Rs. 2,00,000 to 3,00,000 in India. It sells for a phenomenal Rs. 1.3 million in China where it is used to make medicines, or in Yemen, where it is converted into shining dagger handles. It is also used in rings as a lucky stone and as an aphrodisiac, mistakenly, in India.

An average of 50 tuskers are killed

annually and the tusks are reportedly smuggled to Japan via Hong Kong. The elephant ivory is traded in two forms, raw and unworked ivory in the form of whole tusks or cut into two or three large pieces and worked ivory in the form of bangles, bracelets, carved tusks and chessboards etc.

Though the ivory trade is banned in India, tigers stealthily display ivory items at their premises in the hope of finding buyers among foreign tourists brought to their shops by the agents.

With musk of deer being priced at Rs. 50,000 per kg in Japan and Bear Bile at Rs. 22-25,000 per kg, the mammals, confined to the Himalayan region, are under a severe threat.

Frog legs are also part of the flourishing illegal trade in wildlife. These are smuggled to Bangladesh over the Eastern border and are often mixed with or declared as Chicken legs or Sea Food to avoid detection.

An indication that the trafficking is on the upswing is evident from the increasing seizures being made by the wildlife and customs authorities.

On March 31, this year in Delhi, wildlife officials seized two black bucks, considered to be rare species, a rhesus monkey and 2,000 birds.

Last year in April, 1,320 birds,

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including 150 Alexandrine parakeets, 50 hill mynas and 1,000 munias were confiscated at the New Delhi airport enroute to Pakistan. A consignment of 14,000 butterflies was seized from two German nationals in New Delhi in August 1994.

In the country's largest tiger haul, tiger bones and skins of leopards, otters, jackals and other animals worth Rs. 20 million were confiscated from two smugglers in Delhi in September 1993, 200 Indian Star tortoises worth nearly US\$ 80,000 were recovered in The Netherlands. They were bound for the United States.

**What is the modus operandi of traders involved in the unlawful business?**

Smuggling live wildlife or products by concealment is the most obvious and common trade malpractice, says Brigadier Talwar.

**False-bottomed crates to smuggle out live animals and reptiles, aluminium cannisters packed into a suitcase to smuggle out live birds and other such devices have turned the trade into a well-oiled smuggling business, says he.**

Tortoise inside a man's garments, Bear Bile in cheese tins and rare bird's eggs strapped to the abdomen of the courier are some of the examples of concealment.

To avoid confronting customs at the four metropolitan airports, the traders use Kathmandu and Dhaka as major exit points for exports. Poachers use land routes to reach Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh and then fly their goods from there.

**Dhaka is used to smuggle frog legs, turtle meat and live birds while Bhutan has become a transit centre for rhino horn trade.** The powerful cartel of smugglers and poachers cannot be broken by the police and wildlife departments alone. Moreover, an ill-equipped and demoralised forest staff cannot take the poachers challenge head-on. A high-level committee set up by the Union Environment Ministry under the chairmanship of Dr. S Subramaniam, former director-general of CRPF, for checking wildlife crime has recommended special armed and unarmed combat and intelligence gathering training for forest officials.

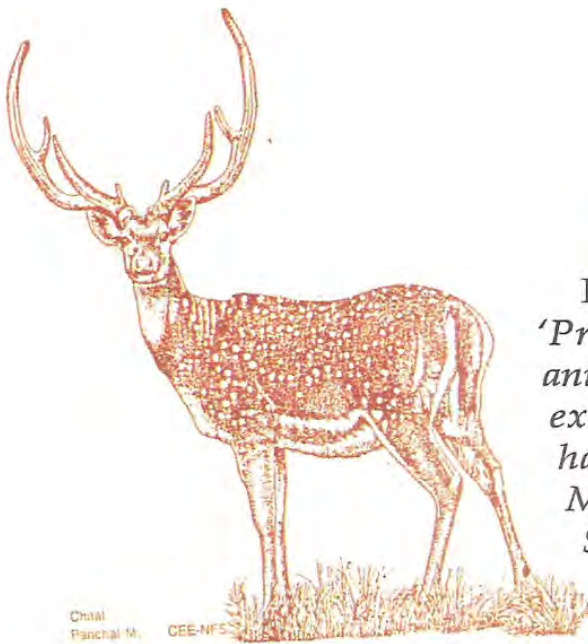
Apart from seeking superior firepower to counter poachers, the committee has urged agencies like the BSF, ITBP, Assam Rifles and Intelligence Bureau to chip in with information on illicit cross-border movement of wildlife products.

**But the battle against poaching cannot succeed without the cooperation of people inhabiting protected areas and buffer zones.**

*Courtesy : The Daily (May 1995)*

  
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Chital  
Panchal M. CEE-NFS

# Deer, o

From the current Negative List of Exports: *'Prohibited Items of all forms of wild animals including their parts and products except Peacock Tail Feathers including handicrafts made thereof and Manufactured Articles and Shavings of Shed Antlers of Chital and Sambhar...'*

This article should be read keeping in mind that even the collection of so called 'shed antlers' is prohibited in certain States.

On June 1, 1995, twenty-seven deer and a peacock were found dead under mysterious circumstances at the Raj Bhavan in Pune.

Local and national newspapers covered the killing. Opinions from individuals and organisations as to what could have occurred filled the newspapers for about a week. No one believed the story that dogs had killed the deer.

Beauty Without Cruelty wrote to Mr. P. C. Alexander, the Governor of Maharashtra requesting that the deer not be replaced. BWC then assisted Ms Sujata Sonik, the Addl. Collector of Pune in investigating the case for her report to the Governor by supplying information pertaining to similar killing incidents that had taken place in various zoos and parks over a period of 20 years.

BWC clearly pointed out that there is a flourishing export trade in deer antlers. Broken into pieces beyond recognition they are exported as 'shed antler waste' (shavings) to Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore for medicinal purposes. Some are converted into handles and buttons. Export of 'manufactured articles and shavings of shed antlers of cheetal and

  
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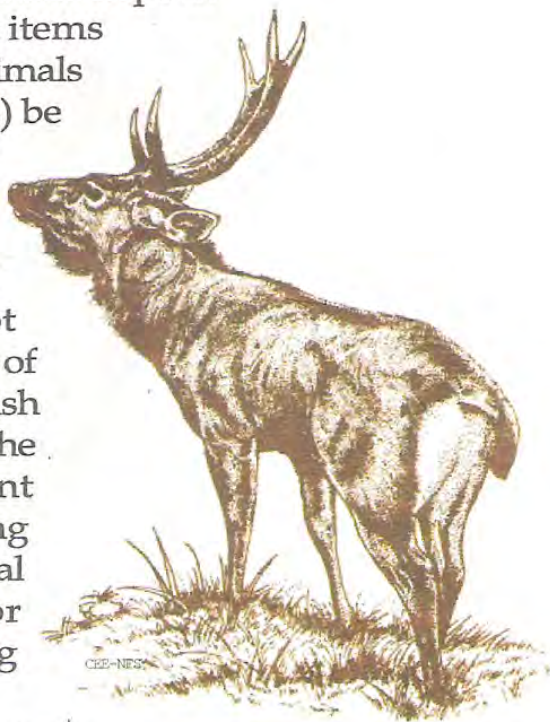


# h dear !

sambhars' is allowed by the Government of India, but it is difficult to obtain these in large quantities.

On June 7, 1995 the Maharashtra State Forest Department seized two tonnes of deer antlers. They had come into Bombay from Madhya Pradesh and were on their way to Nagpur, booked as railway parcels in fictitious names and marked 'buffalo horns'. These confiscated antlers will be auctioned; as will the skins and antlers of the 27 deer killed (and the peacock whose feathers are also stored) at the Raj Bhavan. Thus the traders can legally obtain deer antlers and mix them with the illegally obtained ones. Why else do captive deer with precious antlers always die mysteriously and in large numbers?

BWC strongly feels that if the Government is serious in wanting to protect its wildlife, particularly the animals kept in captivity, it is necessary that all wildlife items (whether confiscated or of dead/killed animals or even shed antlers of deer kept in zoos) be destroyed by burning, not auctioned and put back into circulation. (India doesn't auction seized drugs worth much more, then why its wildlife products?) If immediate orders for destruction are not issued and implemented, the vicious circle of demand and supply will continue to flourish with Government's obvious support and the very purpose of the laws which grant protection to our wildlife will go on being defeated. We therefore hope that Mr. Kamal Nath, the Union Minister of State for Environment & Forests will issue this long awaited directive soon.



  
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# Shadows over the forest

William Green

Over the past two weeks, as a guest of Government of India Tourist Office, I have visited four of India's best wildlife reserves. It is not my custom to repay hospitality with harsh words, but what I have seen and heard in recent days has shocked me. The distressing truth is that, in their present state, world famous parks like Kanha and Ranthambore scarcely deserve to remain on the tourist map.

Join me, if you will, with several Jeep loads of other visitors, outside the Mukki Gate of Kanha - jewel of the Maikhal hills, last refuge of the *barasingha* deer, vital Project Tiger reserve, and most celebrated of Madhya Pradesh's proud list of national parks and sanctuaries. It is 5.30 am. Indians have travelled hundreds of miles on bad roads to be here. Foreigners have crossed continents, at considerable personal expense, in hopes of seeing the king of the forest in this, the so-called Tiger State. Many are here

for the first time, and the morning air is full of eagerness.

Are you still with me? It is now 6 am, but we are still waiting at the gate. A park official is painstakingly noting the number of vehicles, the identities and nationalities of visitors, their length of stay, and (for all I know) their birthdays and the name of their favourite film star. On a busy morning, this tedious and entirely unnecessary signing-in process can delay entry for as

long as an hour. The time wasted can be agonising - for it is well known that tigers are most often spotted at dawn and at dusk.

We enter the reserve at last. My driver has a mind to drive up to Sonph, in the north of the park. But the forest guard who has joined us in the back of the Jeep says No. Orders have recently been made to close this road to tourist vehicles, but he does not know why. Nor does anyone else. This is a common occurrence at Kanha, where roads are closed without warning - no doubt for the best of conservationist reasons. These reasons, however, are seldom communicated to tourists or to the lodges where they stay,



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resulting in continual frictions and frustration. We drive instead through Kanha meadow, looking for pugmarks and listening for the alarm calls of monkeys and deer - tell-tale signs of a tiger's presence in the vicinity. An official Jeep roars past, belching fumes. Surely, I ask, noisy diesel vehicles have been banned from the park, because of their noxious effect on wildlife? Not so. Only the diesels of tourists are prohibited - official vehicles are exempt. We make a halt in the centre of the park, to visit the main interpretation centre. I am anxious to meet someone who can tell me about the place - the field director, naturalist, range officer, duty manager, anyone. No-one is about. This is entirely normal. The headquarters of Project Tiger Kanha is in fact in Mandla, two hours drive away.

Tourists joke that the rarest animal sighting in the park is that of a responsible official. I met two Americans who had seen a badly lame tiger, thin and in doubtful health, the previous evening. They shot a ten-minute video of the creature and then made a full report of the incident at the Kisli Gate. According to them, and to forest guards we spoke to, no action had been taken to follow and monitor the tiger, and no forest office had called to take their report, or thank them for their public-spirited action.

The sun is now high in the sky, and we return to Mukki. The visitors' centre there has been closed for a month because of electrical problems with the displays. Neither of the two elephants reserved for tourist joyrides is available, because their *howdahs* are broken and no-one will sign the form allowing six hundred rupees to be spent on

their repair. There are no trails laid, in or out of the park, for forest and river walks or for bird watching. The few viewing *machans* are derelict. There is no published map. The excellent guide to Kanha, written by its first great field director, H S Panwar, is not for sale anywhere.

You may have had enough by now, but accompany me for a moment to Ranthambhore, where the park opens too late and closes too early, and where many visitors are carted round a highly restricted circuit in the Forest Department's 'cattle truck', with no naturalist aboard to explain the history of the fort or the beauties of the Padam Talao, and where the only means of communication with the driver is a hearty thump on the roof of his cab. The privileged few pay injurious rates to trail around the same dismal obstacle course in private Gypsies, victims of whichever driver has bribed his way to the top of the roster, and obliged to pay for a 'guide' whether they use one or not. Here and in Bandhavgarh, the habitual movements of tigers and other wildlife have been completely disrupted for the past month, as road-gangs numbering hundreds march about 'repairing' perfectly adequate tracks.

I understand that much ink has been spilled over the recent banning of 'tiger shows' in Kanha and the neighbouring Bandhavgarh. I do not regret their demise. Through lax management and overuse, they had become a degrading spectacle where packs of hungry tourists fought by the roadside over their right to be next to mount a tired elephant for a short taxi ride into the long grass to glimpse a dozing tiger. Shady operators in Khajuraho could exploit the

  
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shows and confidently offer a 'guaranteed' tiger sighting to unwary tourists, in exchange for a 10,000 rupee fee.

But what have forest officials done to replace this activity? Where are the elephants for proper forest outings? Where are the bird hides? Why cannot the parks be opened one evening a week for nightspotting? Where are the trained naturalists to offer introductory talks at park entrances, and share their enthusiasm for the local ecology? Why, in fact, are visitors treated with such contempt and indifference, when they have travelled so far and so hard to enjoy and admire the wonders of India's wildlife?

It may be argued that the managers of India's national parks have better things to do than try to please tourists. That the first duty of forest officers is to the care and protection of wildlife, is indisputable. Rampant poaching and relentless habitat pressure have put the future of the parks under grave threat. But the tourist does not lay poisoned bait for tigers, or smuggle its bones to Taiwan. The tourist does not traffic in purloined timber, or dig mines, or lay waste the land with grazing goats. The tourist, as things stand, is a mere bystander - passive witness to the ongoing tragedy. But give them a minimum of encouragement and respect, and visitors might leave India's parks as new recruits to the wildlife cause, potential fund-raisers who are ready to lobby the world on behalf of these invaluable patches of wilderness and unspoiled nature.

India used to be admired for its commitment to Project Tiger, the boldest and most successful conservation project ever

undertaken. Where is that commitment now? There is precious little sign of it on the ground. I am told that assignment to a Project Tiger reserve is considered a 'punishment posting' by many forest officers, who would prefer a comfortable town billet where they can manage a distant teak forest to the better satisfaction of their own wallets. In the national parks, they must carry out disagreeable tasks like arresting poachers, smiling at tourists, and explaining themselves to inquisitive journalists like myself.

This has not been my first visit to Kanha, and its many sister national parks. I know that there are range officers, and forest guards who strive against the insurmountable odds to do their duty. What thanks do they get and who helps them in their struggle? I am told that Project Tiger is now installing an expensive computer system to link its 20 reserves on a modern information internet. Splendid. But how will this investment help the men on the front line? I spoke to a sturdy, ragged guard at a lonely, ill-equipped outpost on the Supka range at Kanha. He is expected to patrol his beat against organised poachers and all the other terrors of the night, armed only with a small torch. Its batteries, he says, are replaced once every two months.

This is what I shall have to report, with every regret, to my readers back in England. Situation - bleak. Prospects - dim. As I write, the Ministry in Delhi is reportedly drafting a new National Wildlife Tourism Policy. I hope that they will take firm action, and soon. Perhaps, when I next return, there will be a happier story to tell the world. No man would be happier than I to be able to tell it.

*Courtesy : Sunday Times*

  
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from *Beauty Without Cruelty* (India), August 1995

# FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS FOR ANIMALS

*An idea whose time has come ?*

*Raju Z. Moray*

Animal rights activists are handicapped by the fact that animal rights at present are not enforceable by making use of the quicker and more effective writ jurisdiction of the High Courts across the country and of the Supreme Court of India. The remedies presently available for redressal of grievances of animals are too ineffective and cumbersome and the punishments for violation of animal rights are too lenient to have any deterrent effect on the wrong doers. Any long-term and effective struggle for animal rights should therefore commence with the objective of empowerment through law of all living creatures ultimately but at least of animals to begin with. Once a constitutional, if not fundamental, right of animals, based upon the principles of natural justice, is recognized, half the battle of animal rights activists will be won. The other half would then involve enforcement of such newly recognized rights through appropriate administrative mechanisms.

In a democracy, those who agitate for rights which are natural and justifiable, sooner or later get them. No one spoke for animals in the Constituent Assembly, so there were no animal rights in the Constitution of India when it was framed and brought into force. Ideally, it is the Parliament which must rectify this wrong and add an Article 21-A in the Constitution of India by amending it. This proposed Article, at its bare minimum should stipulate as follows :-

“21-A: Right of living creatures: No living creature shall be deprived of life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.”

The time may not be ripe to get enough parliamentarians to agree to the amendment proposed above, but animal rights activists should keep this objective on their agenda for the future. Till then, the higher judiciary can and should be importuned to adopt an activist approach in this field.

According to me, if the courts can be persuaded to accept that an animal is a ‘person’ in the eyes of law, a landmark breakthrough would be achieved. The fundamental rights available to ‘persons’ under the Constitution of India, will then become available to animals also. And animal rights activists will be able to move the High Courts and the Supreme Court for enforcement of such rights and for quashing and staying all actions which are contrary to or inconsistent with such fundamental rights.


  
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The first step should, therefore, be to collect enough scientific and anthropological data from various sources to prove that animals too have distinct emotions, feelings and intelligence which imbues them with a distinct personality. In the West, there have been several studies in the field of anthropomorphism i.e. a study attributing human characteristics to non-human creatures. Although such studies proceed on an unscientific assumption that many human traits are portrayed in some relevant fashion in animals, they have led to the collection of voluminous scientific data. For example, Stephen Walker in his book *Animal Thought* (1983) argues that human thought is intimately connected with the activities of the human brain. Many other vertebrate animals have very complicated brains which in some cases appear to be physically very similar to human brains. What goes on in animal brains has a good deal in common with what goes on in human brains. Scientific data on these lines will assist greatly in establishing that animals are 'persons' for the purpose of legal rights. The Supreme Court of India while stating that neither God nor any supernatural being could be a person in law nevertheless held that a 'deity' can figure as a 'Legal Person' in an Income-tax case. The American Supreme Court has held that an unborn foetus is a 'person' after the first trimester of pregnancy. By means of legal fiction even inanimate firms and companies which exist only in documents are accepted as juristic persons having a separate and distinct legal identity. My contention is very simple: If something which is not yet fully alive and visible can be treated as 'a person' in the eyes of law, why can't animals who are fully alive, visible and natural be treated as such? If a legal fiction can come to the aid of inanimate companies, why can't a legal fact be used to assist animals?

I therefore, propose that a Writ Petition be filed directly in the Supreme Court of India, under Article 32 of the Constitution of India, in a representative capacity on behalf of the animals in India whose rights are regularly violated by so-called human beings. Such a petition should be filed by a co-ordinated apex body of animal rights activists and organizations from all over India by pooling in their resources. By doing so, data availability will be maximized and individual financial burden minimized. The objective should be to get recognition for all living creatures (or at least all animals) as 'persons' under the law of the land. The bottom line of such litigation should be the recognition by the Supreme Court of the right of all living creatures to personal dignity, to natural justice and to be spared the sight of the suffering of fellow creatures.

Although my idea may sound utopian, in my honest opinion it is achievable. But the right kind of people, the right kind of approach, the right kind of spirit and the right kind of judges are needed if this crusade has to meet with any success. I have based my arguments and my objectives upon existing legal provisions, but the Supreme Court, if convinced, has the power even to suggest amendment of existing legislation. In the Bhopal Gas Disaster case for instance, Justice Ranganathan suggested that the existing Fatal Accidents Act

  
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should be amended or fresh legislation enacted. He then proceeded to elaborate upon the scope of the suggested legislation. Where there is a will, there is always a way. The Supreme Court has held in M. C. Mehta's case that public health and ecology should have priority over other important state concerns such as unemployment and loss of revenue. In my view, this is a step in the right direction.

The Post-Emergency Supreme Court has often been criticized for its activism, but such criticism, overlooks the fact that the Court's activism was essentially based upon a steady expansion of the scope of enforceable fundamental rights with reference to the unenforceable directive principles which are nevertheless fundamental in the governance of our country. Just as there can be no remedy without a right, there can be no right without a duty. Nor can one interpret the Fundamental Rights in isolation and without reference to Fundamental Duties. If it is the duty of every citizen of India to have compassion for 'living creatures' (Art. 51-A(g)) it must follow that 'living creatures' have a 'right to compassion'. Compassion involves kindness, sympathy and mercy. We have got used to beg for mercy as mercy. Now we must learn to fight for mercy as a right.

I believe that it can be successfully canvassed that the fundamental right to equality before the law and equal protection of the laws applies to animals also. Article 48 directs the State to take steps to prohibit slaughter of cows, calves and other milch and draught cattle and for preserving and improving the breeds of such cattle. In my view, if animals as animals form one distinct class, there can be no intelligible differentia between 'cattle' and other animals because the fundamental guarantee of Article 14 involves equal protection of the laws which in turn means the right to equal treatment in similar circumstances. I also feel that the prohibition should not merely be restricted to 'slaughter' but must include all forms cruelty to all animals.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate that it is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India to abide by the Constitution (Art. 51-A (91)); to abjure violence (Art. 51-A(id)), and to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform. (Art.51-A(h)). If the judges of the Supreme Court and our parliamentarians take these fundamental duties as seriously as they take their fundamental rights, animal rights activists should have no problem in proving that all living creatures and especially animals are indeed 'persons' with the ability to experience pain and joy like us so-called 'human' beings. Victor Hugo once said that an invasion of armies can be halted but not an idea whose time has come. Fundamental Rights for animals is an idea whose time, according to me, has come.

**Editorial Note :** If the ideas stated in this article appeal to any animal rights group, they are invited to write to BWC.

  
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from Beauty Without Cruelty (India), August 1995

# AKHIL BHARATIYA KRISHI GOSEVA SANGH

Press Note of August 4th, 1995

The BJP-SS combine Government of Maharashtra has declared as one of its poll promises to enact a law in the State to provide protection to the entire cow family from slaughter.

Accordingly a Bill was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 4-7-95. After introduction of the Bill, the vested interests raised a hue and cry in the media and vehemently opposed the Bill. The animal welfare organisations, while welcoming the Bill felt that the provisions of the Bill did not do full justice in achieving the objects of the legislation and hence represented to the Government that the Bill may be made more comprehensive to include provisions for its better implementation and to provide teeth so that the violation of the Act is minimised.

On such representation, in order to present a more comprehensive legislation the Government withdrew the Bill in the Legislature on 3-8-95. It is reported that the revised Bill will be reintroduced.

The opponents of the Bill have been spreading a campaign of dis-information about the so-called adverse effects of imposing a total ban, which needs to be refuted.

Their first argument is that animals become useless after a certain age and it is not economical to maintain them thereafter. However, the fact is that no animal becomes useless until its last breath, by virtue of its single most important service of providing dung which is so important for obtaining organic manure, for being used as pesticides, fuel, for rural housing, in cleaning operations with the help of its ash and as a preservative of foodgrains. Dung also provides employment to lakhs of rural artisans. Merely on the dung yielding capacity the animal provides an income of Rs. 20,000/- p.a. to its owner as against its food expenses of around Rs. 4,000/- p.a. Many Agricultural Universities have certified that bovine cattle of any age is never useless.

The argument is that in the absence of any proper arrangement for looking after the so-called aged animals the State will be flooded with abandoned animals. Akhil Bhartiya Krishi Goseva Sangh and other animal welfare organisations have assured the Government in writing that they will take care of such animals provided a *Goseva Ayog* is created in the State and is entrusted with authority for proper implementation of the Act.

Similar bans on slaughter of the entire cow family exist in the neighbouring States of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat for the past four years and these States have not been flooded with the so-called useless animals.

The next argument is that in a water scarce hinterland of Maharashtra, it is not possible to provide water at the rate of 45 litres per day to each animal. These people forget that the abattoirs have to spend 30 litres of water for each kg. of beef produced and the Deonar abattoir at Bombay uses 54 lakhs litres of water everyday just to clean its floors.

Another argument is that the proposed ban will make the butchers, chamars and cobblers jobless. How many butchers are involved in slaughter activity? May be a few thousand; as against these, saved animals can provide employment to lakhs of farmers, cattle breeders, village artisans, poor women engaged in making of dung cakes, etc.

Thus it may be concluded that all the arguments of the opponents of the proposed legislation are misplaced, ill-motivated and to safeguard the vested interests. As far as the common man of the State and the State's economy is concerned, the proposed Bill is in the best interest of both.

  
**COMPASSIONATE FRIEND**

from *Beauty Without Cruelty* (India), August 1995

Arvind Parekh  
Secretary





## A Horrible Proposal

*This was a horrible proposal . . .*

*[that the eight-year-old Albert join a friend in killing birds with a sling] . . . but I dared not refuse for fear he would laugh at me. So we came to a tree which was still bare, and on which the birds were singing out gaily in the morning, without any fear of us. Then stooping over like an Indian on the hunt, my companion placed a pebble in the leather of his sling and stretched it. Obeying his peremptory glance I did the same, with frightful twinges of conscience, vowing firmly that I would shoot when he did.*

*At that very moment the church bells began to sound, mingling with the song of the birds in the sunshine. It was the warning bell that came a half-hour before the main bell. For me it was a voice from heaven. I threw the sling down, scaring the birds away, so that they were safe from my companion's sling, and fled home. And ever afterwards when the bells of Holy Week ring out amidst the leafless trees in the sunshine, I remember with moving gratitude how they rang into my heart at that time the commandment: 'Thou shalt not kill.'*

*(From Memoirs of Childhood and Youth,  
by Albert Schweitzer)*

Would you murder a child just because you liked its hair?

Photography : Atul Kasbekar Model : Rishabh Khosla Processing : Mitter Bodi

Then why murder an animal  
for its fur?

Murder is too high a price  
to pay for a fur rug.

The choice is yours.

**Be human. Let animals be.**

Beauty Without Cruelty

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