

Vol. 25 Nos. 1-2 Spring-Summer 2002

# COMPASSIONATE FRIEND

JOURNAL OF BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY INDIA

*Let the honey be(e)!*

Read About ...

- Honey ..... p 21
- India's 10th Five-year  
Plan ..... p 6

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# Beauty Without Cruelty

INDIA

An International Educational Charitable Trust for Animal Rights

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(All articles are available in electronic form at <http://members.tripod.com/~bwcindia/magazine.htm>)

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**Layout & Design** Sudarshan Grafix; **Beauty Without Cruelty**

**Sketches** Rajiv Eipe, Mumbai

**Printing** Sudarshan Art Printing Press Pvt. Ltd.

10, Wadala Udyog Bhavan, Naigaum X Rd., Dadar(E), Mumbai 400 031. Tel.: 418 3573/3538

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## Needed: the Vidur in every one of you

We bring out this issue with a single-point agenda: a campaign we are conducting now—to steer India out of the path upon which it is being taken in our upcoming, tenth, five-year plan—that needs the support of all of you with great urgency.

India's tenth five-year plan of development is under formulation now. The cause for alarm are the contents of the Meat Sector of the Plan, explained in the following pages but which in summary entail a march to the slaughterhouse for all of India's animals not already being so marched. The cause for urgency is that something has to be done before the cabinet ratifies this Plan and formalises it. The main article of this issue explains the situation, our stand on it, and our attempt and plan to counter it.

The plan to counter it involves *you*, the sailors on our ship. We ask for letters to the PM (copy to the press: most important) from all of you as individuals and also from other organisations (in a relevant field) of which you might be members. There are in all 6500 of you on our rolls so we are expecting all of 6500—not a single less—letters to arrive at our office and to the Times of India's office. This is an occasion where you as an Indian citizen (or a compassionate world citizen) have a stake in the campaign conducted because the policies being framed would dictate the animal-scape we will see around us (see page 8 "Consequences of the recommended policy"). And mind you, it will not be a pretty sight. Things will only grow worse from the present open, roadside butchery and the pathetic plight of animals in transport. So please do not procrastinate on writing it, leaving it for later. Remember, later is going to be too late; the time to protest is *now*. Once the cabinet ratifies these proposals, it becomes India's official policy document. Your opinion will never be invited—it is not the procedure; experts are appointed to do it


(read more about *them* ahead). It is only the alert interception of the document on the part of Viniyog Parivaar of Mumbai that has obtained us this chance and we have to rise to the occasion of registering our objection to the proposals.

Successive Governments over the years have left us with an ever-increasing burden of one animal-exploitative policy after another (domestic animals), without evoking more than a whimper from the citizenry. The poultry industry's rise to eminence and with it the transformation of the common man's perception of the hen from a living, feeling animal into something at the level of a brick is one of the best examples of government policy-driven and public apathy-aided desensitisation of India. With the current policy it is now the turn of the bullock and the buffalo to join the hen in the mortuary. And the goat and the sheep and the pig, none of whom are the common man's favourite animals.

It is bad enough that we do not have answers from our elder's generation about how they allowed India to build and run the animal concentration camps called abattoirs. Do we want to face our children's questions with similarly lowered gazes when they grow up and question us? Because we will all be answerable to our children when they ask us what we did to prevent policies being adopted that they would find themselves living under. Policies that encourage entrepreneurs to butcher our holiest animal and to export it for the appetites of Arabs in the Gulf countries. How, they will ask, does our country say it reveres the cow on the one hand and on the other invite businessmen to kill them, export their meat, and make a profit? They will also want to know whether we remained mute spectators or whether we raised our voices in protest? Were we too cynical, sceptical, or worse, lazy to even lift a pen and write a letter of protest? Let us hope the answer would be NO.



Let us strive to be like Vidur, the only person present on the scene of Draupadi's disrobing who dared to speak up and challenge the injustice he was witnessing to his horror. His concern was not whether his protests would be heeded or not, he was performing his duty to object. He was probably the only person who could go to sleep that

night with a lighter conscience than others even though his heart must have been heavy. 

*R.R. Konkar*

(Ranjit Konkar)

Editor

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## *Volunteers required for the BWC Stall at the NGO Mela*

**L**ike every year, this year too **BWC** is participating in the NGO Mela organised by The Concern India Foundation. The exposure we get to the interested population of Mumbai through this event is quite good. However, it is a great strain on our limited staff to man the stall for three days on end, on the weekend, from morning to night. So unless we get some help from our 2,500 members in Mumbai, it would not be possible to do justice to the stall. We make an urgent appeal for volunteers among you to help us on the exhibition days. It is very important for all of us to pitch in otherwise a few people end up with all the workload. The details of time and venue are as follows:

*Date:* 25–27 October 2002

*Venue:* CCI–East Lawn Grounds  
Churchgate  
Mumbai.

*Timings:* 11 A.M.–10.30 P.M.

Please do e-mail us at our [bwc@vsnl.com](mailto:bwc@vsnl.com) or call us at our Mumbai numbers: 272 2775–6 (10.30–6.30) to let us know how much of your time you can give us and in what specific way you can help us. This year we plan to have items like coffee mugs, T-shirts, stickers, **BWC** video on CD, our soon to be published Vegetarian Shopping Guide and many more things. So do visit our stall and pass on this message to as many friends and relatives as you can. Let us get together and make this event a success. 


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## **Thank you, Writer-Members!**

**W**e were thrilled with the overwhelming response received from all of you to our 'Writers Needed' notice in the last issue of *Compassionate Friend*. Thank you, all of you, thank you!

We got responses from lots of people on e-mail, by letter, by telephone. We have everyone's names on our list, so they may expect to be assigned writing tasks anytime. We have already gotten very important letters written by **Mr N Senthil**, Cambay; **Mr Santosh Rathod**, UAE; **Mr Udayan Belsare**, Pune; all of which have been sent to the concerned

authorities. **Mr Narendra Vachharajani**, Mumbai; **Ms Poonam Bothra**, Shirur; **Mr Shyam Sunder**, New Delhi; **Ms Vipa Shah**, Mumbai, have helped us with translations from English to Hindi/Gujarati.

We were delighted to see that so many of you possessed the skills, the style, the subject knowledge and above all the passion needed to produce effective prose, whether letters or articles, and we gratefully acknowledge your contribution to the cause. Thanks to you, some of our time is freed up for other pending items on our list of things to do. 

## Our Overflowing Mailbox



From: Vikas Chadha <starling@cal.vsnl.net.in>  
Sent: Tuesday, November 27, 2001  
Subject: Cruelty-free farming practices



Dear Sirs,

I understand that your organisation is involved in the development and propagation of cruelty-free farming practices.

*No, actually, we are not. We are an awareness-raising organisation that does research, information dissemination, and campaigning.*

I plan to start a dairy and poultry farm for milk and eggs. Can you send me details and information on the practices I should adopt for the welfare of my cows and chickens, and for draught cattle?

*First of all, we thank you very much for asking our advice on this. It is not every person who bothers to check about welfare issues when going in for animal husbandry occupations. Usually, people are concerned only about money and how to exploit the animals as much as possible to obtain the maximum from them.*

*Having said that, it is my duty to tell you that if you are not yet in the line, then please do not enter it. All animal husbandry is essentially exploitative in nature. The needs of animals to live freely from the imposition of man and the needs of business to make money in the most profitable manner possible clash with each other. Only in a sustenance setting where a family keeps animals for its own day to day needs is there a possibility of fairness towards the animal. In commercial business purposes, your decisions will always be in favour of the money and not the animal. Because the two clash, as we said. Here is how:*

*– The basic right of any creature is freedom. You cannot keep anybody in cages. If you plan to start a cage-style poultry farm (the infamous ‘battery’ system)*

*that is common, then no welfare measure is enough. It is like keeping a slave in chains and asking how to look after his welfare. So your welfare of hens must start at allowing them freedom to run around in the compound. For the number of hens that you must keep to make profits, can you assure that you will have enough land for all the hens to be freely moving around without crowding?*

*– How are you going to ensure non-fertilisation of the eggs? For if the eggs are fertilised, then they become life-bearing. Cases are known of recognisable body parts of a chicken coming out of eggs broken for making omelettes.*

*– In your dairy, what cows do you plan to use, Jersey or Indian? Please be aware that the Jersey cow is a genetically modified animal which is altered to produce excess milk, very uncomfortable to it. By using a Jersey cow, you would be supporting the use of such genetic manipulation. The Jersey cow is also known to be very sensitive to climatic conditions, not suitable for labour, has special feed requirements, needs more medicines than Indian cows. So your wise choice should be Indian cow. You will have to rest content with its lesser (but natural) yield of milk in return for all its other advantages.*

*– Also, if you use the Jersey cow, its male offspring would be useless to you. What do you plan to do with it? As a caring human being, you must keep it alive. That means, at a minimum, allowing it to drink its mother’s milk and later to feed it all its life. Which means you cannot not sell all the milk and have to spend on its maintenance.*

*– How do you plan to inseminate the cows? The animal’s urge to mate is strong and natural as in man. Would you deprive it of that and give it an injection? If not, it has to be let near the bull for mating to take*

place. Very inconvenient especially in urban settings.

– For a steady supply of milk, the cow would need to be pregnant very often. It is exhausting upon an animal's body to be made frequently pregnant.

– The calf needs to feed from the mother frequently during the day. You will have to let it. Will there be milk left for you to sell?

– The cow and the calf all like exercise and fresh air and sunlight. Just like we would not like to be deprived of these, so it is not right to deprive them. You would have to make arrangements for that.

Do you think you would have enough milk and eggs to sell profitably while performing your human duties towards the animals? We think not. No animal is made for the purpose of supplying others its produce. The milk is for the calf and the eggs are for hatching into chicks. We don't (or should not) enter the picture.

The domestication of animals is fundamentally exploitative.

So our advice to you is something you will not like: please find another line for earning your income. There are plenty of lines available which do not have the potential for exploitation of living creatures. Respect towards living beings is the highest dharma and therefore the first criterion which should be used for deciding right and wrong of any action. You have rightly questioned the steps to take. We now urge you to think about the wisdom of the basic decision itself.

If you are very strongly desirous of doing egg-poultry and dairy, let the following be guidelines:

Dairy:

- 100% Indian cow. No Jersey, no Holstein, no hybrids.
- No artificial insemination. No frequent pregnancies.
- Not tied up all the time. Enough opportunity for exercise and sunshine and fresh air
- Sanitation: the dung and urine should not accumulate

near the animal's resting place

– The calf is to be allowed to have all the milk it wants as many times as it wants, from birth onwards, especially the first sticky milk which is very rich in antibodies and immunities. Nature regulates the milk consumption and production automatically.

– Calf not to be tied away from mother. The mother likes to lick its calf and bond with it.

– Male calf not to be sold to brokers.

– After productive years are over, cow still to be cared for and not abandoned or sold.

Egg-poultry:

– Free-range pens in compound of natural setting with enough exposure to sunlight and air. Not in a metal cage. Complete freedom to move around.

– Only unfertilised eggs to be 'harvested'.

– After productive years are over, pens not to be sold for meat.

Also, I have a specific question : Instead of culling my cows or birds when they become "unproductive", I plan to keep the cows for their urine and dung (for biogas, composting and bio-pesticides), and the birds for natural pest control on my organic farm (besides their manure). Is this plan practicable?

Your intentions are very commendable. Whether it is practicable or not depends upon the income you expect out of the exercise. If you are heartless, then you will say that since a large part of the income (milk and eggs) has stopped, I will dispose of them (i.e, sell them to the butcher). If, however, you are a compassionate human being, you will recognise that after the years of service that your animals have given you (or rather you have taken from them), the least you owe them is care in their old age. So while you sustain them until their natural death, their urine, dung etc., will still fetch you some income. It is a bonus from the animal. Think about a human employee who has retired. He has to be still provided pension.

*But an animal employee gives you pension instead of taking from you.—Editor*

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,  
Vikas Chadha.



From: Sumi <sumi@vsnl.in>  
To: People For Animals <pfabgl-forum@yahoo.com>

Subject: more websites for information  
Date: Sunday, February 24, 2002 2:08 AM

I hope new members on this list are aware of the organisation Beauty Without Cruelty, based in Pune. Here is the web url : [www.bwcindia.org](http://www.bwcindia.org) Don't miss the short presentation movie on the 1st page.

I am a life member since sometime and they used to send these wonderful quarterly magazines (apart from stickers, posters, cds, books etc) which appear to have stopped. I hope it is not due to shortage of funds. I hope members will visit this site and show it to other friends and family they know as well. This organisation has been doing tremendous work in the animal welfare field and all of us ought to support it in full force. Their yearly calendar is something worth waiting the whole year for.

It is most fascinating and always interesting even if you've been an animal activist or well wisher for long and think you know everything there is to know or do. Some good ideas in there.

Sumi

*Thank you, Sumi, for your plug for our website. Glad*

*to know that you liked it. Our next issue is going to be the Website special, so everyone will come to know all about it.—Editor*



Dear Sir,



We have pleasure in informing you that the Management of the "Best Western The Emerald", the Deluxe Service Apartment-Suite Hotel situated at Juhu in Mumbai is consciously promoting the cause of vegetarianism amongst our Guests, who stay in our Hotel during their sojourn in Mumbai.

For this purpose, the Management of the Hotel has brought out an attractive publication on the subject of Vegetarianism titled "Vegetarian Diet & Health-The Natural Way to Optimum Health" and ensures that a copy thereof is kept in each Room/Suite, along with other useful material, so that the message of vegetarianism reaches all our guests staying in Hotel. We are enclosing a copy of the publication for your perusal.

We are happy to state that we have been eminently successful in spreading the message of vegetarianism among our guests as is evidenced by the fact that our guests make it a special point to pick up a copy of the booklet from their Rooms/Suite while checking out from the Hotel. We are enclosing a copy of the brochure on the Hotel for your perusal.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,

**Jashwant B. Mehta**  
Chairman  
Best Western The Emerald



## BWC film available on CD-ROM now

BWC's films are now available on CD also besides the regular VHS tapes. We have CDs of the films in both English and Hindi available at our Mumbai and Pune offices. These are available against a donation of Rs 175/- for life members and Rs 200/- for others.



The CD consists of three films viz. *What Price Beauty?* (20 min), *Ivory Poachers* (10 min), *Beauty Without Cruelty* (20 min). We encourage our members to display this to as wide an audience as possible.



## Will India survive its 10<sup>th</sup> Five-year plan?

The Planning Commission is in session, busy writing India's destiny. Its recommendations will translate into India's policies, cast in stone as the law of the land, under which you and I live. The tenth of India's Five-Year Plans will define the course on which our Government will try to steer the country's huge ship in the period 2002–2007.

Plans are made for every ministry's area. One sector of planning, under the Animal Husbandry division of the Agriculture Ministry is the Meat Sector. A sector that decides how many of India's animals live to see another day. Not a sector that anyone particularly likes to think about. Yet all of us,

without exception, when we put handkerchief to nose and lower our gazes as we walk through lanes that are infested with butcher shops are inadvertently yet clearly expressing our opinion on the business of meat production. Are our gazes lowered in part because we are aware of something wrong that we are doing to the Lord's non-human (but still sentient) creation?

India's plans for this sector are being watched very carefully by us at **Beauty Without Cruelty** to whom the unique identity of India is that of the creator of the notion of *ahimsa*. Not towards just man, but towards all living creatures. What a wonderful no-

Illustrator: Rajiv Eipe



India waiting to be prepared for 2002–2007.



tion! A country where no creature lives in terror of man. Where children grow up in harmony with nature and learn not to threaten anything that hasn't harmed them. Where love abounds among all the humans and animals. The twenty-sixth centennial of Bhagwaan Mahaveer seemed to be a very apt year to frame policies for India in keeping with her spiritual heritage. Instead what do we find? Here's a sample (see section on Proposal Excerpts for more details):

## The Plan proposals

- *Removal of ban on beef export*
- "Pragmatic" (read: lower) age limit for **slaughter of bullocks**
- Restriction on **slaughter of buffaloes** *to be removed*
- Setting up slaughterhouses *in rural areas*.
- Authority of local bodies to not sanction slaughterhouses *to be taken away* and given to the State Governments.
- 50 ongoing slaughterhouse projects to be completed. New slaughterhouses to be built: Abattoirs for 10 large cities @Rs. 20 crores each; for 50 towns @ Rs. 5 crores each; 500 improved slaughterhouses @ 50 lakh for smaller towns; slaughter facilities for 1000 villages @ Rs. 5 lakh each. Pig slaughter facilities at 50 towns in the North East @ Rs. 30 lakh each. 1000 chicken dressing centres @Rs. 12 lakh each
- ...many more such. See Plan Excerpts for exact wording of proposals.

The talk is chillingly only of more killing, more non-vegetarianism, more slaughterhouses.

## Our Objections

Something seems wrong at first sight, doesn't it? A cruel joke, almost. Which country's policy *is* this? It reads like that of a country that has not yet been exposed to the ideas of sanctity of all life. Shouldn't India's policy have been to *save* lives and not *take* them? One wouldn't expect even our non-vegetarian politicians to have thought up these proposals.

Well, so let us look at who *has* drafted the proposals.

## The composition of the advisory panel

A glance at the authors of the report of the Meat Sector reveals two names—Irfan Allana and Satish Sabharwal—which explain all the contents. These individuals own and run corporate empires—the Allana group and Hyderabad-based Al-Kabeer Exports Limited respectively—doing meat production and export! Is it little surprise then, that the report harps monotonously from cover to cover on the need to kill more, slaughter more, export more, remove restrictions on all this killing and exporting?

**Beauty Without Cruelty** rejects outright the entire proposal document for this reason that it is akin to placing the country's policy on smoking (for example) in the hands of a tobacco magnate or its alcohol policy in a liquor baron's hands. Can the Government not see that the only recommendations that would emanate from such people would be those that benefit them personally with no regard to the social and moral aspects?

## Trivialisation of animal killing

Our sensitivity on the matter arises precisely because there are social and moral aspects linked with this sector that distinguish it from other sectors. Entire communities in India abstain from meat on ethical grounds. No-one likes living close to an abattoir. Passing through a street full of butcher shops is a nightmare, even for non-vegetarians. And can we forget that many of our nation's saints—Acharya Vinoba Bhave as the most recent example—have lived and died for the cause? How can a matter of such import be quietly formulated and passed without considering public sentiment? How can Government so blithely overlook the fact that unlike the production of cars or something this is a highly sensitive matter for millions?

Do the policy-makers not know that producing meat is not a matter of turning lifeless minerals into useful objects for human use, like the motor-car but that it involves just the reverse: turning living creatures of God into corpses for scavenging by humans for our personal greed and lust?

## Insult over injury

Incredibly, one finds the Commission's advisors actually justifying the slaughter proposals on the grounds of better nutrition, lesser cruelty to animals, better *aesthetics, comfort* to animals, and improving cow economy!

To see the new ways of industrialised animal husbandry that the proposals ask us to accept, the reader is asked to cast a glance at the photograph below: that of a buffalo being manhandled into position—much against its wishes, naturally—for being beheaded at a private, mechanised slaughterhouse in Satara. Aesthetic indeed! Very comfortable. Not cruel. Just the way to use the cow for our

PETA, India



Buffalo being handled for slaughter at an ultra-modern, mechanised slaughterhouse in Satara, Maharashtra.

sagging economy. And what great nutrition compared to fresh fruit and vegetables. The harmless buffalo—that lumbers down the road, yielding litres of milk with which we feed our children—struggles to save its life from its many captors who want to somehow cast it on the table to take its life in cold blood. This is what the proposed Plan asks for more of.

## Flawed reasonings

### Foreign exchange

The favourite reason forwarded by the Government for meat export is our need for foreign exchange. Well, it would interest readers to know that our foreign exchange reserves at the moment stand at US 54 billion *dollars* i.e. Rs 27,000 crores. Are our cows now being killed for pocket money?

## Nutrition

The Planning Commission, sorry... Mrs. Allana and Sabharwal, would have us believe that low meat consumption is a *defect* in our eating habits, whereas modern nutritionists say that that is the single-most beneficial thing for the body. The Planning Commission also states that lack of animal protein in our diet is a deficiency to be corrected to avoid risk of malnutrition, while people the world over—including some of us at **Beauty Without Cruelty**—following a purely plant-based vegan diet live the most healthy lives without any animal products.

## Our representation to the PM

What we intend presenting to the PM in our planned meeting with him is a summarised version of the details given below:

## Consequences of accepting proposed recommendations

The people of the country should know that meat production is an activity which, besides possessing ethical and moral aspects, would also lead to the economic and environmental ruin of rural India. The effects are summarised below:

### 1. Cultural/Spiritual Impoverishment of India

- Desensitisation of our citizens to suffering of others, *including humans*. Consequent increase in the level of barbarism displayed in riots, quarrels.
- Discontent among vast majority of Indians towards blatant disregard of fate of animal most holy to them.
- Disappearance of the respect that we accord to all life, due to the view of living creatures as commodities for human use as has already happened with the hens as a result of the poultry industry. With each passing Plan, one more animal is consigned to the list of animals that we collectively are regarding as lifeless commodities. Goats, sheep, fish, pigs, poultry... A hen is no longer a living, feeling animal; it is a “broiler” or a “layer.”

- Replacement of healthy dietary habits with the fat-rich, unhealthy, disease-causing habit of non-vegetarian eating. Consequent increase in health costs.

The brutalisation of the mind, the desensitisation to others' suffering is the worst outcome of the activity of meat production.

## 2. Economic Impoverishment of India

**Living animals** are one of the pillars on which the rural economy stands. These are to be killed in the name of "pragmatism?" Killing them means killing the people that depend on cattle being *alive*.

Living cattle are the inexpensive or free providers of

- 🐄 food (milk),
- 🐄 fuel (dung cakes, bio-gas),
- 🐄 fertiliser (urine, dung),
- 🐄 pesticide (urine),
- 🐄 energy (draught power for carrying loads, tilling soil),
- 🐄 pharma products from urine, milk.

Except milk and draught power, they provide these to their *dying day*.

With **Killed animals** our needs would be met by expensive options like kerosene fuel, chemical fertilisers, chemical pesticides, petrol-driven tractors, and lab-synthesised medicines.

What is the logic in killing the source of free food, fuel, fertiliser, insecticide, draught energy, pharma products? Does anyone destroy the very source of their wealth?!

Please visit <http://members.tripod.com/~bwcindia/coweconomy.htm> for a detailed article on the relation of the cow on the rural economy.

## 3. Ecological/Environmental dangers

**Living animals** ⇒ **Organic** fertilisers, pesticides, pharmaceuticals : environmentally beneficial.

**Killed cattle** ⇒ dependence on **poisonous** fertilisers, pesticides, pharmaceuticals from **chemical sources** : environmentally harmful.

## 4. Quality of life of citizens

- **Increase in the number of butcher shops in our neighbourhoods**, in the spectacle of carcasses hanging from hooks on the roadside, in the unbearable sights and sounds and noxious



*A sight that promises to become daily fare for the eyes.*

smells of slaughter, in the sad sight of pathetic captivity, transport, and cruel manhandling on the roadside and countryside.

- **A vast increase in non-vegetarian hotels** all over the country because of the increased supply of meat. With it the often-accompanying evils of **pubs and permit rooms**.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Plan will define the pictures we will see around us walking home to office in the coming five years. One of the most unpleasant things that have become a standard feature of urban life today is the horrifying sight of chicken and mutton shops at every corner (the other is people squatting in the open for defecation). The country deserves much better than to be littered with butcher shops and chicken dressing centres.

Think about it: Why are real-estate prices rock bottom near Deonar more than anywhere else in Bombay? No family that pays importance to the environs in which its children are raised would agree to live there even if paid to. And pray why are the walls of Deonar so high? Why is there a policeman standing there preventing you from going in? There is no such policeman at the vegetable market. Why are cameras not allowed inside? Is there any top-

secret work happening there that must not be leaked out? No-one stops me from taking my camera into a vegetable market.

### 5. International image

- The loss of our unique identity and our proud place in world culture, as the birthplace of *ahimsa*. Condemnation to repeat the mistakes of the West and to subsequently rediscover our own virtues through the West.
- The ignominy of having scorn heaped on us for our own treatment of our holiest animal: butchering, exporting, and profiting from the sale of its body parts.

India's uniqueness can arguably be said to be that of the creator of the notion of *ahimsa*. Not towards just man, but towards all living creatures. All other ideals are to be found in most other civilisations. But the sanctity of life was preached by the thinkers of India and India alone. No other civilisation in the world can claim to have reached that advanced stage of thought. But the people in whose hands is given the task of charting the country's course—the Planning Commission—obviously ascribe no importance to this fact. It means nothing to them.

We keep standing out as the country with lots of knowledge but no wisdom. While the world is turning to vegetarianism, yoga, meditation, ayurveda—all the good things of *our* culture—we on the other hand are actively adopting policies at least fifty years behind the developed world and seem insistent on repeating their mistakes instead of learning from them.

### Questions to our legislators/planners:

- Will any one of the legislators who are encouraging meat production accept our invitation to spend a day at the slaughterhouse and personally witness the butchery of an animal?
- Will any one of them like to live in a flat next to a slaughterhouse?
- Can any of them say that they would like their

son to grow up to be a butcher?

**So if the sight and the act is so repulsive and shocking, with what right do they open the gates of mass murder of innocent animals with a stroke of their pen? Does the value of non-violence mean nothing to them?**

### We demand of our country's Government...

- To become aware and take note of the **discontent among the silent majority of the country towards the rampant spread of slaughter activity** (butchery, transport, captivity) on every street corner and countryside. *To realise that the limits of tolerance of this silent majority is being reached.*
- To recognise the **social harm of violence-based occupations like meat production**. The occupation of butchery forces a person to quell mercy, to harden his heart. Work of this nature often results in a reduced sensitivity to suffering even of humans, and makes violence in human conflicts a more common phenomenon. In the interests, therefore, of investing in the creation of populace that is less prone to violence, the Government should discourage rather than encourage activities like meat production that involve violence and encourage all habits (like vegetarianism) that promote peaceability in a person.
- **To not justify increased meat production by 'customer demand.'** Its own policies of promoting meat production and export has resulted in the present, artificially created demand for meat.
- **To plan economic progress not merely from more employment in just any occupation but from employment in the Right Occupation.** Can anyone who claims to have even a nominally sensitive nature and to feel the pain of others stand inside Deonar and say that that is what he wants our country to be? Has any father in civilised human history to date said to his son "Bete, when you grow up, I want you to be a butcher, just like your father," or has any child said "Papa, what

interesting work you do! When I grow up I want to be a butcher like you.”? Then what kind employment is this that we are generating for which the most desired quality is hardness of heart?

We Indians excel in many industrial occupations, both physical (engineering) and intellectual (e.g., Information Technology). There is no reason to involve ourselves in occupations like meat production that involve the sacrifice of kindness, mercy, compassion. Our policies should promote and not suppress these qualities in our citizens.

- **That it gives the country policies in keeping with our spiritual heritage.** Today countries like USA have banned activities like cock-fighting *on ethical grounds!* How much more fitting for India to enact laws and policies that promote the teachings of *ahimsa*.

### **Our version of the country's Meat Policy**

- **No new slaughterhouses**, large or small, rural or urban, buffalo or hen.
- **All unlicensed slaughter operations to be closed down.** No butcher shops without license.
- **Scrapping of licenses of slaughterhouses found employing children.** Brutalisation of children's minds not to go on.
- **Slaughterhouses to work under strict monitoring by Animal Welfare Officers.** Rigorous implementation of numerical restrictions on killing.
- **No Government subsidies to any meat production.** Let meat business survive on its own strength...why should citizens' taxes support it?
- **Complete halt of all meat export.** Why must our country fulfil the demand for meat of those abroad? Let them get their meat from elsewhere. Is it our self-chosen role in world affairs to place meat of our holiest animal on the plates of hungry Arabs (India's maximum meat export is to the Gulf countries)?
- **Complete halt of all meat import.** Meat is discouraged nutritionally and medically. There

is no need to import more of it.

- **No slaughterhouses in rural areas.** These lack fresh fruits and vegetables, not meat and eggs. Don't turn the farmer into a butcher.
- **Govansh slaughter to be banned.** Cow, bulls, bullocks, calves, buffalo are all too valuable alive for us to afford losing them by actively killing them ourselves.

### **Constructive plans**

The animal welfare community would like to see—and be happy to work on—schemes in the Meat Policy for the welfare of both humans and animals, like the following:

- ❖ **A 'Butcher-rehabilitation' scheme** for butchers who want themselves and their children to leave the occupation.
  - Placement/training in alternative employment
  - Subsidizing the primary education of butcher's children to make their dependence upon the profession unnecessary.
- ❖ **A National Cattle Insurance scheme** to take care of cattle during the summer months when the drought conditions force the farmer to sell his cattle.

*End of Representation to PM*

A country's policies reflect its character. India has to show the world that it is a nation of farmers, not butchers; that we fill our stomachs by tilling the soil, not by beheading animals. The country should put its money where its mouth is. It—as much as any individual—should walk its talk.

Lastly, no article on India's policies in this matter would be complete without respectful mention of those *shaanti-sevaks* of Acharya Vinoba Bhave who, *daily for the last twenty-five years*, have been courting and undergoing ritual arrest (and immediate subsequent release out of the law's respect for the law-abidingness of the Acharya's followers) as a *satyagrah* ordered by this most venerable saint of recent India. Sitting there day and night in turns, these forgotten soldiers of peace achieve the

valuable goal of staving death off cows by keeping a vigil over the trucks that go in three times a day to make sure that no cows are taken inside past corrupt policemen, thus combining scrupulous means with noble ends. In the gentle but firm and self-respectful manner characteristic only of the great Acharya, they remind the nation of its duty to these animals whose life we profess to value but for whom we are unable to spare an hour a week..

This plan would indeed be a sad way to commemorate Bhagwaan Mahaveer's twenty-sixth centennial. Would it have pleased Lord Krishna to see his cows or Shiva to see his bull Nandi or Lord Buddha to see the lambs being marched off to the butcher? People may dismiss this utopian imagery as naïve idealism. But isn't that what we should pass on to our next generations? A childlike niceness, an unspoilt and well-prepared canvas upon which to draw the country's future? Today, we present them with a canvas smudged with our own dirt and grime and we do not give them space to draw their picture of the world on it.

### Beauty Without Cruelty's stand

The country has seen, ever since independence, the repeated making and breaking of promises by its legislators on the issue of animal protection. Greed for the votes of a minority of people involved in the occupation of butchery have always managed to lure our politicians away from keeping their own election manifestos of saving animals. Now with slaughter businesses actually writing the country's policies **BWC** and some of the other organisations in Mumbai working for animals have decided that enough is enough and are taking up the matter with the Prime Minister (who chairs the Planning Commission) and the Agriculture Minister (under whom Animal Husbandry falls), and are determined not to let butchers dictate the country's agenda.

### Action plans

#### **BWC's strategy to counter this Plan**

*Done upto now:*

i) A meeting of all animals organisations of

Mumbai to acquaint others of this problem: March 17, 2002, and to solicit suggestions for addressing the problem, and to assign work to everyone.

- ii) The Plan of Action decided at the meeting was for a) all of us NGOs to write letters to the PM on our official letterheads, b) to contact luminaries in the country in various fields, impress upon them the importance of the matter and persuade them to write a letter of protest to the Prime Minister, keeping the Press informed at all times, and c) meeting the authorities in Delhi personally at a suitable date.
- iii) Luminaries from various fields were sent briefs on the matter and covering letters imploring them to write to the PM. Support was received from the following:
  - C. Dharmadhikari, former Chief Justice of Bombay High Court.
  - Swami Tejomayananda, Chinmaya Mission.
  - Radha Burnier, International President, The Theosophical Society.
  - Swami Sevanand from the Vatsalyadhama Ashram of Mudhol, Karnataka.
  - Baba Amte's moral support.
  - Shri Yash Birla
  - Dr. Vijaya Venkat, Nutritionist
  - Shri B K S Iyengar
  - Sant Gadge Maharaj Mission
  - Shri R. Venkataraman, former President
- iv) Upon learning from contacts in Delhi that the PM was going to be virtually impossible to meet given the security threat the nation faced at the time, we directed our efforts to meeting the Agriculture Minister, under whose Ministry this matter falls. Since he hails from UP, all **BWC** members in UP were contacted and asked whether they had any access to the AM. We received many replies in the affirmative and planning for meeting the AM was started.
- v) Meanwhile, taking personal interest in the matter, Shri R. Venkataraman, former President of India, recommended that we concentrate our

efforts on influencing the Prime Minister himself, not the Agriculture Minister, who only follows orders, he said. He suggested that a delegation of representatives of various organisations from Mumbai come to Delhi to meet the Prime Minister with a prepared representation. He promised to obtain the appointment for the meeting. Needless to say were very buoyed by the support of so eminent a public figure.

- vi) A memorandum requesting such a meeting was prepared and signatures obtained on it from a host of organisations and individuals. This was sent to Shri Venkataraman for being forwarded to the PM.
- vii) The first draft of the representation to make to the PM has been circulated to all the parties who have shown interest in the matter and have contributed in howsoever small a manner. We await their feedback.

*To be done:*

- viii) Once the feedback is obtained, it would be incorporated into a revised draft and that would be sent to Shri Venkataraman for his approval. His own suggestions would be incorporated and the final draft prepared and printed for presentation to the PM.
- ix) The trip to Delhi would be made for visiting the PM. On this trip the AM would also be met as well as others on the Planning Commission.

**BWC** would obviously prefer to see meat production abolished in the country. However, since such a suggestion might turn off the PM and the legislators and would besides be unacceptable to the people of India themselves, it

is going to be a challenge to present a modified proposal that would have a chance of being accepted.

- a. Since we only get an inch every time we ask for a foot, a yard is what we are going to ask (so that we do get the foot we wanted)!
- b. Some suggestions are made that seek to work towards root causes in the farmer and the butcher communities: it is hoped that they are taken note of.
- c. The ethical ground is stressed everywhere very strongly. However, the nutritional and the economic angles are also presented.

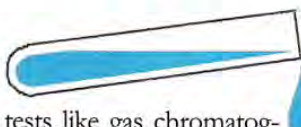
### Our appeal to you:

- I) Please sign our petition (<http://gopetition.com/info.php?petid=1296>) and forward it to as many people as you can.
- II) Please fax a personal letter to the Prime Minister—Chairman of the Planning Commission—Fax: (11) 301 6857, (11) 301 9545, copies to a) the Agriculture Minister (under whom this falls), b) the Planning Commission—Fax: (11) 371 7881, (11) 372 5491 c) the media *e.g.*, The Times of India—Fax: (22) 273 1144, email: [toeditorial@timesgroup.com](mailto:toeditorial@timesgroup.com)
- III) Arrange for signatures from your area on the signature sheet that appears as a pullout in this magazine and send it to the PM.

If we don't act fast and voice our protests, the Planning Commission's proposals will be accepted by the Cabinet and will become the country's official policy. **Neither the courts nor the police would come to our aid then.**

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## DO YOU HAVE ANY ACCESS TO CHEMICAL LABS?



As part of our research work we need to get samples of various consumer items tested for presence of animal ingredients *e.g.* soap for animal tallow, toothpaste for bone, *etc.* We would need to perform chemical tests like gas chromatography (GC) or high pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC) to detect the presence of such substances. If you have any access to chemical laboratories either commercial or tied to colleges where we can get these tests performed on products at discounted rates please let us know urgently at [bwc@vsnl.com](mailto:bwc@vsnl.com) or (22) 272 2775-6.



## Excerpts from the Meat Sector

Key:

Reader: Attention

Technical jargon, euphemisms, play of words, commodification

Rubbish, unsubstantiated

Page 1: Meat animal resources

“Culling and utilisation of surplus animals need to be recognised as an establishment norm for scientific animal production.”

“In view of the declining importance of bullock power due to mechanisation of agriculture it is time to consider improving cow economy through better utilisation of bullocks and excess males.”

Page 2: Buffalo

“A few states have made laws restricting slaughter of buffalo calves and productive buffaloes. There is a need to review whether these restrictions are relevant.”

“Meat production potential of buffaloes could be considerably increased under an ideal management and efficient production system.”

Page 2: Pork

“India could consider exporting pork products as potential markets exist in South-East Asian countries.”

Page 2: Poultry

“Improvements in small scale processing of poultry is required to process chicken under aesthetic conditions and ensure consumer demand. Emphasis on rural poultry is important both to increase consumption of poultry products in rural areas and to provide supplementary income.”

Page 3: Meat Production and Slaughter rate

“A serious effort is required to practise higher slaughter rates through better reproductive and productive aspects for increased meat production and sustaining the animal production enterprise.”

“Efficient utilization of livestock through effective culling is important to earn increased returns.”

Page 4: Meat consumption among weaker sections

“It is necessary that these people are provided adequate quantities of meat and by-products to ensure their nutrition in addition to improving their living standards through better earnings from the activities of meat sector.”

Page 5: Domestic Demand for meat

“The present availability of animal protein in an Indian diet is 10g, as against world average of 25g, and this needs to be increased at least two-fold, with special emphasis on maintaining the nutritional levels of growing children and nursing mothers.”

“It is reported that for National diets it is much simpler to assume that a diet which contains 30g per day of protein from animal sources (milk, eggs, meat, fish, etc.) will be of adequate quality regardless of the source of the remainder of the protein. An average of less than 30g per day may be of questionable quality...and less than 15g of animal protein per day poses almost the certainty of protein malnutrition for part of the population.”

Page 6: A case for defending Meat Sector

“To provide valuable food products and nutrient security.”

“To meet requirements of balanced nutrition with ease and convenience.”

## Snakeskin Belt Nothing to Hiss At

GLASGOW - An air passenger's snakeskin belt suddenly took on a life of its own in a Glasgow terminal last week. Customs officers routinely checking a young woman travelling between America and Holland, were astonished when the belt began moving. The belt was a live snake—harmless as it turned out—which had been chilled prior to the flight to keep it comatose but which had thawed out in the heat of the terminal. The reptile was confiscated and the woman warned before being sent on her way. Bizarrely enough, the worldwide illegal trade in wildlife is now second only to drugs in terms of international crime.



Illustrator: Rajiv Tipu



## recommendations to the Planning Commission

“To meet the demand for **nutrient dense** foods.”

“To meet food shortages in adverse situations.”

“To **prevent malnutrition** and nutrient (iron & B<sub>12</sub>) deficiencies in a section of the people.”

Page 9: Mechanised Slaughterhouses

“**Mechanised slaughterhouses are of social requirement** as they contribute to the following desirable functions: production of wholesome and hygienic meat, practice of meat inspection regulations, **prevention of cruelty to animals** by better handling and practice of humane slaughter, prevention of environmental pollution, better utilisation of by-product and **aesthetic appeal of slaughter** operations.”

Page 10: Animal Welfare and Mechanised Slaughterhouses

“Animal handling before slaughter is organised and **animals are made comfortable.**”

Page 12: Slaughterhouses and practices

“The above situation of lack of adequate slaughter facilities to meet the demand for meat production indicate the necessity of providing increased slaughter facilities by improving the existing slaughterhouses to accommodate higher capacities and also permit more number of slaughterhouses with adequate facilities.”

Page 15: Schemes for export abattoirs

“Concessions in the form of import duty reduction on machinery, sales tax and octroi exemption could be considered to encourage meat exporters for investments on infrastructure facilities.”

Page 16: A case for Rural abattoirs

“...it has become necessary to critically examine the

supply of meat to urban consumers. Production of meat in rural areas of animal availability and transport of meat to cities has been viewed as an alternative with many added advantages.”

Page 17: Whether subsidies for Meat sector development

“According to Article 47 it is the Duty of the State to raise the level of nutrition and the standards of living and to improve public health. Providing grants for hygienic meat production would very much **promote the spirit of Article 47.**”

Page 25: Policies and Regulations in Meat Sector

“Slaughter of animals which are in excess and not required to be retained for milch or draught purposes could be gainfully utilised...”

“Animal Preservation Acts of the states need to be reviewed so that constraints affecting livestock utilisation could be removed...”

“**Bullock utilisation** needs to be improved by prescribing **pragmatic age limit** for slaughter.”

“The **bias against beef export** needs to be removed...export of beef from the permitted animals for slaughter should be allowed.”

“The restrictions imposed on slaughter of buffaloes in some states could be deleted.”

“Livestock Importation Act need to be suitably amended to cover import of meat and by-products.”

Page: 27: Meat Production Enhancement Programs

“50 ongoing slaughterhouse projects to be completed at an estimated cost of Rs100 crores to be shared by GOI, Local bodies/Private entrepreneurs in the ratio of 50:50 basis.”

## Drop us an e-mail

**E**-mail is the cheapest and fastest mode of communication today. There are times when we want to send urgent messages to all of you (requests for getting urgent information, requests for help in particular situations, requests to assemble at short notice, notifying you of events like exhibitions in your city, etc.) and if we have your e-mail addresses the task becomes much easier. It saves lots of time as e-mails can be sent to the whole address book at one shot and is economical too as against printing and posting letters. So please send us an e-mail at [bwc@vsnl.com](mailto:bwc@vsnl.com) with your name, address, and **BWC** membership number right away so that we can put you on our mailing list.



## BWC Protests!

BWC spends a lot of its time supporting animal causes around the world by writing letters of support or protest, signing petitions, *etc.*, wherever called for. We feel that it is the least we can do for the animals cause: to support initiatives taken by others who do the major part of the work. Because if we don't help others out in their time of need, how can we expect them to come to our aid in our time of need? Here are some of the letters we have written for others and some we took the initiative in writing ourselves. We intend to follow up with these soon, and hope we have some positive news to convey by our next issue.

I. Financial Express, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2002

# McDonald's To Set Up Outlets At Mumbai, Jaipur Railway Stations

## OUR MARKETING BUREAU

**New Delhi**  
Quick service restaurant chain, McDonald's India plans to set up two outlets at Jaipur and Mumbai railway stations by the end of this year. This will be in addition to its tie-up with Delhi Metro for putting up a restaurant with an investment of Rs 3 crore each. Mr Vikram Bakshi, managing director, McDonald's India, told *The Financial Express* after announcing the winners of McDonald's - Tourism Malaysia joint promotion.

While the outlet at Mumbai station will be a 125-seater, the Jaipur railway station outlet will be a 50-seater restaurant. Both the restaurants will be part of the food courts being established by Indian Railways in a tie-up with hospitality services provider Radha Krishna Hospitality Services.

The Indian Railways decided to

rope in fast food majors for establishing food courts. A consortium of fast food companies including McDonald's had expressed interest in setting up several joints.

According to Mr Bakshi, McDonald's has shown interest in various other railway stations like New Delhi, Agra and Nizamuddin. However, so far, the company has got the go-ahead for Jaipur and Mumbai only.

Meanwhile, McDonald's which currently runs 34 restaurants is going ahead with its overall expansion plans to double its outlets to around 80 by 2003.

The company may also finally open an outlet in Bangalore soon. The MNC has been contemplating opening shop in Bangalore for over a year now through a franchisee arrangement rather than a joint venture but has cited infrastructure hurdles like proximity to the supply centre as one

reason for the delay. However, Mr Bakshi expressed optimism that the MNC would be in a position to make a foray in the south in the near future.

According to Mr Bakshi, McDonald's witnesses about 5,000 people walk-ins in each McDonald's outlet everyday and has been registering growth rates of 50 per cent in its revenues over the past two years.

High walk-ins notwithstanding, the fast food giant has still not been able to break-even in India largely on account of heavy investments in supply centres of international standards like Vista at Taloja. The facility which supplies chicken and vegetable range of products to McDonald's restaurants in the west has been set up at a cost of over Rs 30 crore with technical and financial support by the US-based OSI Industries Inc.

McDonald's India has thus far pumped in around Rs 450 crore into its India operations

Letter by BWC

(written by Mr. Santosh Rathod, UAE, edited by us)

5<sup>th</sup> June 2002

To: Mr A K Dutta

Additional Member Railway Board  
(Tourism & Catering Department)  
Room 501, Rail Bhavan, New Delhi 110 001

Dear Mr Dutta,

This is regarding approval to McDonalds by Indian Railways to open outlets at Mumbai and Jaipur railway stations. We wish to register our strong protest at the opening of McDonalds outlets at any railway station of India.

Your decision to allow McDonalds, which spe-

civilizes in non-vegetarian food, to operate on Indian Railway stations would not only have far-reaching impact in increasing the consumption of non-vegetarian food, it would also set a new trend of serving non-vegetarian foods on railway stations and similar other public places, and also induce other canteen operators and food contractors with Indian Railways to introduce more non-vegetarian items to cope with new competitions. All this would directly translate not only to more demand for meat and **more slaughter and cruelty to animals**, but also to inferior quality of nutrition for the passengers. At a time when the health benefits of vegetarianism are being openly acknowledged by nutritionists and even doctors, for Indian Railways to tread the path of non-vegetarianism is retrogressive.

As an organization working for animals, we strongly object to your decision to allow McDonalds to spread its wings on India's railway platforms. Discouraging the spread of non-vegetarian food forms an important part of preventing cruelty to animals and of preventing the spread of bad nutrition to people, and your encouragement of a multi-national chain like McDonalds whose scale of operations causes **industrial-scale killing of animals**, undoes all the work we do. Please understand that a large section of Indian society and population still practice a completely vegetarian lifestyle and abstain from consuming meat on religious/ethical reasons. Establishment of a non-vegetarian food chain at a major public place like a railway station would amount to ignoring the sentiments of these people.

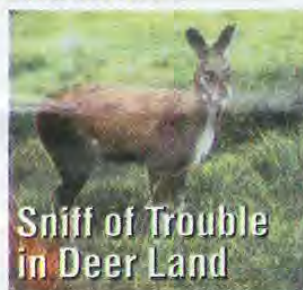
We request you, therefore, not to permit McDonalds to open non-vegetarian outlets at our railway stations. If the request is not heeded, we would be forced to raise the matter at all possible fora and demonstrate our public support to you. We understand that the Railways needs revenue; however, we feel that the means it chooses to earn the revenue should be in keeping with cultural values, public sentiment, and good nutrition. It should not actively promote vices in people: we are sure you would not plan to open beer bars or gambling centers at railway stations even though these would

earn you the most revenue. Please accord this matter the same importance. To help you understand the seriousness, the wrongness of meat production, we enclose a photograph of a goat-slaughter plant that would be where McDonalds' supply would come from. **India does not need more of these plants, it does not need more of its animals killed like this, it does not need a cultural invasion in its eating habits.** Please choose a revenue-earner in keeping with our culture.

Thank you.

## II. India Today–New Delhi, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2002

### SPOTLIGHT



WILDLIFE TRUST OF INDIA

**T**HE 6,000-ODD SURVIVING musk deer in the country are in for trouble—if Union Health Minister C.P. Thakur has his way. Musk, a gland in the abdominal

region of the male deer, is a vital ingredient in several traditional systems of medicine as it is said to cure cold, impotency, paralysis and cardiac diseases, among other ailments.

Thakur proposes to commercialise the farming of musk deer and has earmarked Jammu, Himachal Pradesh and certain areas of Uttaranchal to farm his herd. The Environment Ministry and wildlife activists are up in arms against this proposal, saying it provides a legitimate cover for poachers to trade in the costly musk. A similar project 20 years ago met with failure. This time around, it has, well, created a stink.

—Prerna Singh Bindra

### Letter by BWC

(written by Mr. Udayan Belsare, Pune, edited by us)

7<sup>th</sup> June 2002

To: **Dr C P Thakur**

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare  
Ministry for Health and Family Welfare  
Nirman Bhavan  
New Delhi 110 011

Dear Dr Thakur,

**Beauty Without Cruelty** is an international, charitable animal rights organisation. We came across a news item in 15<sup>th</sup> April 2002 edition of India Today, New Delhi, which stated that your ministry was planning to commercialise the farming of musk deer in the states of Jammu, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttaranchal with a view to capitalise on the

medicinal products obtained from its body.

**We wish to express our disbelief and shock at this proposed step.** Instead of outlawing trade in its musk and saving the deer from poachers, *you are institutionalising its exploitation by the Government itself?* A Schedule I animal? Can there be a greater ignominy for the country than to invite comparison to China which farms wildlife like bears? Even they had to finally close their farms in response to public pressure. Please do not put India in a position of having to be embarrassed in front of the world community.



*Musk deer cast on the ground, cruelly immobilised by three people holding it tightly by its ears and legs (front and hind) while one person reaches for the musk pod.*

In case you are unaware, we would like you to know that extraction of musk from the deer causes tremendous pain to the animal. Our organisation has from the beginning focussed on the issue of musk and revealed to the public, after first-hand research, how cruel the procedure for obtaining musk is for the deer. **Farming adds insult to the injury of captivity.** The night before the musk is to be extracted the male deer is deprived of food. The next day it is drugged to explore the genital organs and to find the musk pod. When that is located, a canula is pushed into the area so that the hardened musk granules stick to it when removed.

The other method commonly used for extraction is where the deer is forcibly caught and held down, genitals are explored for the musk, which is then painfully scraped out with a sharp knife.

To face this torture the musk deer—a wild animal whose nature is to leap and run around—is kept in captivity all its life. Many times these traumatised and confused animals injure their heads and necks while trying to jump and flee from their enclosures. **The musk deer is a wild animal and it should be allowed to live in the wild and not captured and tortured for our benefit on so called ‘farms.’**

At least **80 alternatives** to musk obtained from plant and mineral sources are now available. There is absolutely no justification to open a musk deer farm. We suggest that the Government spend the money planned for opening such farms on conservation of this animal in its natural habitat, instead, as it is on the verge of extinction. Farming in captivity in not conservation, it is slavery.

We are also aware, as you must be too, that such projects of breeding musk deer in captivity by Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha (CCRAS) at Kufri in Himachal Pradesh have failed in the past. You must have sufficient justification to re-spend money on a failed project.

In an age when all possible efforts internationally are in the direction of avoiding produce obtained from wildlife, it is a great embarrassment that we are planning to start a market for captive wildlife products. That too, from the meek, timid musk deer that doesn't harm anybody, but is the pride of our Himalayan hill-slopes. *Is this the care that the Union Government is taking of our precious wildlife?*

**We appeal to your better senses to not proceed with these plans.** We are spreading the word about this to all concerned. Please make sure that public opinion and sentiment are taken into account at the time of making your final decision.

Thank you.

### III. **Zambia Trying To Step Into The Ivory Trade**

From Cheryl Ross—[CRoss@hsus.org](mailto:CRoss@hsus.org)  
HUMANELines—Issue 197

Zambia has historically been one of the strongest opponents of the ivory trade in southern Africa. In 1992, it publicly burned its entire ivory stockpile—nine metric tons—as a gesture of support for the ivory trade ban. This November, however, in a shocking about-face, Zambia plans to push for a downgrading of protections for Zambian elephants—all so that it can profit from its current, 17-metric ton stockpile of confiscated ivory. In order to sell its stockpile of ivory on the international market, Zambia will ask the Parties at the upcoming Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to downlist elephants from Appendix I (the category of species that may not be traded internationally) to Appendix II (the category of species whose international trade is legal but “regulated”). Such a move would be disastrous for the elephants; when CITES attempted to control a “legal” ivory trade in the 1980s, the resultant, massive increase in poaching cut the number of African elephants in the wild from 1.2 million to 600,000. Only after the international ivory trade was banned in 1989 did poaching dramatically decrease. A subsequent decision by CITES in 1997 to allow Botswana, Na-

mibia, and Zimbabwe to sell their stockpiled ivory to Japan on a one-time “experimental basis” precipitated a similar increase in elephant poaching in both Asia and Africa so that today, it is estimated that only 30,000 wild elephants remain in Asia and about 500,000 remain in Africa.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. Contact the Zambian High Commission or Embassy and ask them to tell the Zambian government not to submit a proposal to downlist elephants at the next CITES meeting. Let them know that as a potential tourist, you’d rather see live elephants in Zambia than ivory necklaces in Tokyo. In the U.S., write to: The Embassy of the Republic of Zambia 2419 Massachusetts Ave., NW Washington, DC 20008
2. Send an e-mail to the High Commissioner, Mr. S.K. Mubukwanu (addressed as “Your Excellency”), by going to the Zambian High Commission-UK’s web page (<http://www.zhcl.org.uk>) and clicking on the guest book.
3. Sign the petition, which will be sent to the Zambian President: <http://gopetition.com/info.php?petid=1097>

#### Letter by BWC

(written by Mr. Santosh Rathod, UAE, edited by us)

17<sup>th</sup> June 2002

To: **Zambia High Commission**

F-8/22 Vasant Vihar

New Delhi 110 057

Tel: 687 7681, 687 7848

Respected Madam/Sir,

This has reference to your country’s decision to propose the downlisting of elephants from Appendix I to Appendix II in the forthcoming meeting of CITES to be held in November this year. People around the world who respect the rights of fellow animals are highly disturbed by this news; on their

behalf we wish to express our deep concern on this matter.

If the above proposal is accepted at CITES, the subsequent selling of ivory in the international market would mean a direct encouragement to poaching activities with the end result of mass slaughter of elephants. As evident in the past, whenever there has been an attempt to legalize ivory trade even at a regulated level, the population of elephants had declined to a level alarming close to extinction.

We do understand of various social and economics factors responsible for the above decision of your Government. However any policy that encourages poaching and bloodshed of animals cannot be justified in any case. Today people around

the world possess greater awareness about animal rights and are more informed about Government policies in these regards. Your decision to go ahead with the above proposal would certainly not go unnoticed and would in fact have a negative impact on inbound tourism and in other areas, overriding the short term gains desired by you.

We hope that Zambia will continue to provide a strong example as an opponent to ivory trade, as your Government did in 1992 by publicly burning its stockpile of ivory. We, with all our sincerity urge you not to go ahead with the above plan and save the lives of thousands of elephants in Zambia.

Thank you.

## Smuggled into Mumbai: Chopped up animals

Asian Age – Mumbai, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2002

# 4,000 kg of illegal meat seized

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

**Mumbai, April 16:** The Vashi police arrested fifteen people from the Animal Welfare Board, a non-governmental organisation, which seized 4,000 kilograms of illegal beef from Vashinaka early on Monday.

The activists were released on bail on Tuesday evening.

Meanwhile, officers from the vigilance department of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation destroyed the meat at the Deonar dumping grounds on Tuesday morning. Part of the meat sample has been sent to the veterinary

hospital in Parel for a test.

The activists were charged with "roaming around openly on the roads wielding lathi sticks in hands."

Board president Zeenat Qureshi said: "In fact, our board has conducted five raids at the same check-naka and once, we seized ten tons of illegal meat.

According to Ms Qureshi, the illegal meat was to be distributed to licenced shops, BMC-run food stalls on the pavements, in hotels and local joints in Mumbai and surrounding areas.

The NGO took the driver and the cleaner of the vehicle to the

police station, but they were let off on bail.

Ms Qureshi alleged: "The police is hand-in-glove with the meat suppliers and they definitely get a hefty *hafta* for turning a blind eye to these movements."

She added: "Since we had registered a complaint against the culprits, the police was forced to take action against them."

Ms Qureshi also added: "In fact, the main culprit in the case is the owner, Farid Kalu Qureshi. He threatened me with a revolver near the check naka. He warned of dire consequences and even threatened to kidnap my son."



Lorry intercepted on the highway by Shri Abraar Qureshi. Filled to the brim with the chopped up bodies of butchered animals, mostly cows and calves, this lorry is apparently only one of **thirty to forty** vehicles that bring illegally butchered meat into Mumbai every day.

BWC got a ringside view of the handling of this case by Abraar Qureshi and harassment he faced at the hand of the Mumbai police. Please await our detailed report in the next issue: we have lots to tell.—Editor



## Bitter truths behind the sweet honey!

The third animal-derived substance we cover in our column on Veganism is Honey: a substance made by that metaphor for industriousness, the bee. The taste of honey is so universally considered pleasurable that like its producer (the bee), the word honey is also used as a metaphor in the English language: for affectionately addressing a loved one. But as with most animal-derived substances, the use of honey by us for gustatory ends raises certain ethical issues, which it is the purpose of this article to address.

First, some facts about honey:

### What *is* honey?

Honey is an oral secretion of the bee, made from nectar that the bee sucks from flowers using its long, tubelike tongue like a straw. The nectar is regurgitated from the stomach of the bee after being processed by its digestive juices. This regurgitated liquid is stored in the hive's hexagonal cells and fanned by the bee using its wings until the water content has reduced to around 17% (Nectar is almost 80% water with some complex sugars) to convert it into the thicker honey. Sucrose (nectar) + invertase (bee enzyme) → fructose + glucose = honey.

Would we eat the regurgitated cud that the cow chews?—*Editor*

After feasting on the nectar of the flowers, the honeybees return to the hive and pass the nectar onto other worker bees. These bees suck the nectar from the honeybee's stomach through their

mouths. These 'house bees' "chew" the nectar for about half an hour. During this time, enzymes are breaking the complex sugars in the nectar into simple sugars so that it is both more digestible for the bees and less likely to be attacked by bacteria while it is stored within the hive. The bees then spread the nectar throughout the honeycomb where water evaporates from it, making it a thicker syrup. The bees make the nectar dry even faster by fanning it with their wings. Once the honey is gooey enough, the bees seal off the cell of the honeycomb with a plug of wax. The honey is stored until it is eaten. In one year, a colony of bees eats between 120 and

200 pounds of honey.

Bees have two stomachs, their honey stomach which they use like a nectar backpack and their regular stomach. The honey stomach holds almost 70 mg of nectar and when full, it weighs almost as much as the bee does. Honeybees must visit between 100 and 1500 flowers in order to fill their honey stomachs.

### Why do bees make honey?

Honey is the bees' food during winter. Bees produce honey as food stores for the hive during the long months of winter when flowers aren't blooming and therefore little or no nectar is available to them. Honeybees are special in that they tide over winter as a colony unlike wasps and bumblebees. The colony does not hibernate but stays active and clusters together to stay warm. This requires a lot of food stored from the summer before...honey.

### History

Honey is the world's oldest known sweetening substance. Nomadic peoples of Central Asia are most probably responsible for introducing the world to honey over 10,000 years ago. They collected honey by smoking bees from their nests. The popularity of this energy-rich substance spread rapidly due to its pleasantly sweet flavour and its ability to ferment readily. The 'domestication' (apiculture, as we now know it) of bees began in Egypt and in India around 2,500 B.C. to meet the growing demand for honey.

## The Bee community

There are three types of bees in the honeycomb: queen, drones and worker bees.



'Drones' refers to the male bees while worker bees are all female. The honey bees lead a very well-organised and disciplined life! They have various roles assigned to each member of their family. Division of labour among the three members of a bee colony is a remarkable feature of social living. A typical bee colony consists of one queen bee, 12,000–15,000 worker bees, and a few hundred drones.

A two-day-old larva is selected by the workers to be reared as the queen. She will emerge from her cell 11 days later to mate in flight with approximately 18 drone (male) bees. The queen is the only fertilised female: the workers are all sterile. During this mating, she receives several million sperm cells, which last her entire life span of nearly two years. The queen starts to lay eggs about 10 days after mating. A healthy queen bee lays 700–1000 eggs a day! The colony depends on her to do this. Drones are stout male bees that have no stingers. Drones do not collect food or pollen from flowers. Their sole purpose is to mate with the queen. If the colony is short on food, drones are often kicked out of the hive.

Collection of nectar and pollen, defending the colony, nursing, cleaning, comb-building, *etc.*, are the duties of the worker bees. The worker bee has to fly back and forth between the hive and flowers while gathering nectar. To collect nectar for just one teaspoon of honey the bees have to make about **1,000 trips** to the flowers (making it our 'busy bee' )!

During her lifetime, each worker bees flies approximately 3 to 5 miles from its hive. During the summer honey flow, June through August, the worker bees fly 55,000 miles to produce one pound of honey. That's roughly 12 round trips from Srinagar to Kanyakumari!

Once one worker bee locates a patch of flowers, she goes to the hive and performs a dance (round

dance and waggle dance) by which she communicates to the other bees where the source of nectar is (besides human beings, the only other example of a well-developed system of associating environmental stimuli in an arbitrary and symbolic manner is seen in the dance language of the bees). The bees then go to the flower patch and suck nectar with the help of long tubes present in their bodies. In the process the flowers' pollen gets attached to the wings and feet of the bees. When the same bee goes to another flower to collect nectar, the pollen gets deposited there and cross-pollination occurs. About 80% of crops depend on insects for their fertilization and bees are among the most effective pollinators.

## Types of Honey

In India honey is obtained from Forest/Rock Bees (*Apis dorsata*, *Apis florea*) or Domesticated Bees (*Apis indica*, *Apis mellifera*).

1. *Organic/Squeezed Honey*: This honey is collected from the honeycombs found in the wild. Fire is used to drive bees away from their hives. In the process hundreds of bees are burnt to death. Those which manage to escape become homeless but, separated from the Queen Bee, do not make a new home; instead die. Bees that cannot come out get crushed along with larvae and eggs when the honeycomb is squeezed to get the honey. This is not only cruel but also unhygienic as the squeezed honey contains dead bees, larvae, and eggs. It is then purified and used.
2. *Apiary Honey*: Like any other product obtained from animals, honey also is 'cultivated,' under the name of apiculture. In an apiary, bees are bred for the purpose of obtaining their honey. The honey is collected by lightly smoking the colonies to drive the bees away and then the honey portion is cut. The 'brood' portion (containing larvae and eggs) remains in its place. The bees usually return to the colony and carry out their normal activities, including rebuilding the cut portion of the comb. The cut portion of the hive containing honey is then attached to the honey extractor. This is a disc



which can hold the super frames containing honey fitted to a metal drum with a rotating device. When the disc is rotated the honey is thrown out against the inner wall of the drum by centrifugal force and collected at the bot-

tom. Apiary honey is unhealthy because it contains residues of insecticides used to protect the plants from which the nectar is collected. Apiculture in India often faces epidemics, that destroy entire colonies.

### What is wrong with having honey?

The million-dollar question. Ethical issues in the consumption of honey by humans range from debating our right over it to concern over the welfare of the bees. Here is the list of objections that vegans might take against consuming honey:

1. Honey is the food of bees, not us. It is the *sole* food of the bees during the winter months, it is what they live on at that time. They need it, not us. We can live without it, they cannot. By consuming it ourselves, we deprive its rightful owner of it. The so-called 'instant energy' of honey was intended for the bees, not for us. No doubt honey is wholesome but *only for the bees*—we need far more than sucrose to meet our bodies' needs. And the 70 kilo human body needs more than the energy food of the 10 gram bee.

Popular opinion is that the honey produced by the bees is far in excess of what they need. Bees are said to overproduce to be safe and not starve. Therefore, it is felt that using their honey is not necessarily deprivatory to them and could be excused as a minor imposition at worst. If true, then this puts honey in the category of milk: something which *can* be had in small quantities if care is taken at individual (hive) level *if* one knew the right amount to take away. But not knowing the future need of the bees, how can we decide how much is right to take away?

2. Obtaining honey in the wild is almost always an act of destruction: the bees are driven out of their hives by lighting fires under the hives. Many bees burn to death in the process. The ones that escape die from being separated from

the queen bee without whom they will not build another hive.

3. Those bees that cannot escape and remain trapped inside the hive get crushed to death when the hive is squeezed for extracting honey.
4. Even if care was taken not to kill a single bee, our helping ourselves to the honey collected by them represents the stealing of great labour on their part. To produce a teaspoonful of honey, a bee has to make a thousand trips to the flower! In doing so it poses no danger to us, does us no harm, does not cause *us* any deprivation. Our stealing its food with impunity is not something we would tolerate done to us: imagine a bully snatching away from a timid, weak child fruit that the latter has laboriously picked for himself after toiling for a great many hours. That is what we do to the bee also, when we eat honey.
5. Feeding apiary bees on sugar does prevent them from dying but it still is an act of stealing and substituting a grossly inadequate substance in its place. It is akin to feeding cattle artificial feed.
6. Killing off bees disturbs the pollination cycle in nature and adversely affects the propagation of the local flora.
7. In the bees' body, honey is akin to its sputum: something that it regurgitates from its stomach and 'spits' out after it has had time to be processed inside its alimentary tract. The sputum of insects is certainly not the source of nourishment intended by nature for human beings, who are built to eat fruits and vegetables.

## Ahimsak honey



Probably the only honey that can be ethically safe to have is any that might be found in abandoned hives in nature. Even there, one doesn't know if the colony of bees intends to return for it or not, but at least the process of taking out the honey is safe from harming

the bees. Such honey has been referred to as *ahimsak* honey. Needless to say, one would not expect to find such honey to be stocked on supermarket shelves or at the local grocery store at affordable prices: Nature's treasures are simultaneously elusive and abundant. Elusive when they require unethical predation to obtain, abundant when your right over it was intended by Nature. Fruits and vegetables are not kept out of our reach by Nature: they are our intended food. But milk, honey, wool, meat all require us to go out of our way to put someone else to great pain to obtain.

### By-products

**Royal Jelly:** This is the food on which the bee larvae feed. Royal jelly is a secretion from workers' glands. It is fed to the queen bee throughout her larval and adult life. It is also fed to larvae for the first two and a half days. It is a creamy milky-white color, strongly acidic, has a prudent odor and bitter taste. The queen eats only royal jelly, the worker bees eat some royal jelly and the drones eat the least amount. Royal jelly is high in protein and is rich in vitamins B, C, and D. It is found in health supplements and other products promoted for its youth-giving properties. Many magical properties are claimed of royal jelly; however, a skeptical view is probably the healthiest, especially as products sold in health shops can contain as little as 2% of the real thing. Royal jelly is used in many things such as in dietary supplements, additives in lotions, cosmetics, and creams.

**Beeswax:** Beeswax is a secretion from four glands

on the underside of a worker bees' abdomen. This is the material the honeycomb is made of. The youngest bees cluster in large numbers to raise their body temperature. Wax producing glands under their abdomen slowly excrete slivers of wax about the size of a pinhead. Other worker bees 'harvest' these wax scales and take them to the part of the hive requiring the new wax. Bees use about 6lb of honey to produce 1lb of wax. When the cells of the honeycomb are filled completely with honey they are sealed with the help of the wax. Some major uses of beeswax are cosmetics and candle making. Some minor uses are lotions, cold creams, ointments, salves, lipsticks, rouges, pill coatings, waterproofing, coatings for electrical apparatus, floor and furniture polishes, leather polishes, arts and crafts items, adhesives, crayons, inks, basketball molding, grafting wax, ski wax and ironing wax. Most of the world's beeswax comes from Africa.

### Where the 'Organic' label is to be avoided

Honey is one of those products whose 'Organic' versions are obtained at a higher—moral, if not environmental—price than its 'Inorganic' version, the Apiary honey. Readers should be aware that the Organic label on honey represents nothing more than violence on bees in nature. We do not support the destruction of the environment, but we support the taking of life even less. So to save both the environment and the bee's life, avoid honey altogether. Go and have a banana.

**Propolis:** This is collected by the bees from plants and trees and is used for a kind of glue to seal cracks and crevices in the hive to make it less drafty when it is cold and to coat the inside of the beehive and the honeycomb cells with an antiseptic layer. It is a resinous substance and is often used in creams, tinctures, cosmetics, tablets. Propolis is sticky when it is warm and it is difficult to deal with when it is hard. Propolis is also an effective dressing for wounds and was used during the Boer War.

**Bee Pollen:** This is collected by the bees from flowers and used for the protein part of their diet.

Pollen is used to help people build up resistance to allergens by gradually increasing their intake and thereby decreasing the sensitivity.

**Bee Venom:** This is the sting of the bee. The bee dies after stinging. It is used in making medicines. Bee venom (apitoxin) has prophylactic and curative action against rheumatism.

**Related Products: Mead: Honey can ferment if its moisture content is too high (watered down honey). This fermentation process, when carefully controlled, makes a sweet wine spirit called Mead.**

### Applications

Watch out for honey in ice-creams, desserts, cakes, sweets, chocolates and biscuits. Your Ayurvedic

doctor may prescribe it too. Honey as well as its by-products are found in cosmetics like creams, soaps, face packs, lipsticks, etc.

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## Wanted Photographers!



One of our frequent needs is for photographers. Wherever possible, we try to go for existing pictures from people's collections but every so often the need for taking pictures on site crops up. It could be pictures of leather items for our upcoming leaflet on leather, for example, or could be pictures needed to be taken for our calendar. Commercial rates for photographers is very high, copyrights even more expensive, so we would very much appreciate the services of a skilled photographer who also possesses good equipment (SLR camera with flash and zoom and tripod) for our work. All processing and consumables cost would be paid by **BWC**, we just want your time. Please contact us immediately if you meet the requirements and are in a position to do us the favour.

### Form IV (See Rule 8)

Statement about ownership for particulars about the newspapers entitled COMPASSIONATE FRIEND as required to be published in the first issue every year after the last day of February.

1. Place of Publication: **BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY**  
4 Prince of Wales' Drive, Wanowrie, Pune 411 040.
2. Periodicity of Publication: Quarterly
3. Printer's Name: Sudarshan Art Printing Press Pvt. Ltd.  
Nationality: Indian  
Address: 10, Wadala Udyog Bhavan, Naigaum Cross Rd., Dadar (E), Mumbai 400 031.
4. Publisher's Name: Diana Ratnagar, Chairperson, **BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY (India Branch)**  
Nationality: Indian  
Address: 4 Prince of Wales' Drive, Wanowrie, Pune 411 040.
5. Editor's Name: Ranjit Konkar  
Nationality: Indian  
Address: 4 Prince of Wales' Drive, Wanowrie, Pune 411 040.
6. Names and Address of individuals who own the newspaper and partners or shareholders holding more than 1% of the total capital:  
Chairperson, **BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY (India Branch)**,  
4 Prince of Wales' Drive, Wanowrie, Pune 411 040.

I, Diana Ratnagar, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated 1st March, 2002.

sd/- Diana Ratnagar  
Signature of Publisher

## Why are guinea pigs called so?



Guinea pigs are small mammals found in South America and a domesticated form of the wild cavy. Guinea pigs are really not pigs but are rodents. They measure 25 to 40 cm in length and weigh about a kg. They have a large head, small ears and short legs. Guinea pigs are used in research in the field of behaviour, heredity, nutrition and development of drugs. They have also been hunted for food for hundreds of years. The Dutch traders brought them from Guinea to Europe and hence are named Guinea Pigs.

Source: Sunday Times of India, 6 August 2000

## What is the difference between salt water fish and fresh water fish?



Both fresh water and salt water fish have more or less the same amount of dissolved salts in their body fluids. However, the difference lies in the way, the fish absorb water or lose water through the process of osmosis which states that water from a weak salt solution will flow into a strong salt solution. On account of this, the salt water fish constantly lose water from their body fluid into the stronger salt solution of the sea. To make up the water shortage, they drink a lot of water. But as the sea water contains lot of salt, they pass out the extra salt through their gills and digestive tract. On the other hand, fresh water fish have the opposite problem with osmosis. Their body fluids being saltier than fresh wa-

ter, they absorb a lot of water from the surroundings and do not need to drink any water.

Source: Sunday Times of India, 6 August 2000

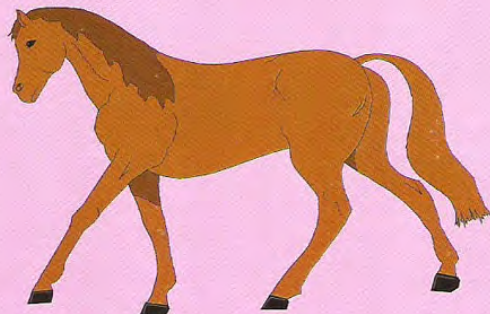


## How is anti-venom serum made?

The serum which is used to neutralise the venom is called anti-venom serum. It is made by immunising horses. The highly-diluted venom is injected into the horses in gradually increasing doses. When the horses reach a particular level of immunity some of its blood is drawn. The serum is nothing but the fluid part of the blood taken, freeze-dried, tested and packed.

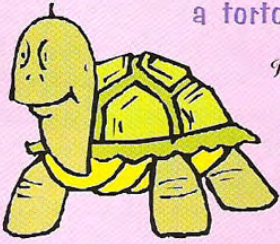


For snake venom, anti-venom is made out of a mixture of the venom of the Big Four (cobra, common krait, Russell's Viper and saw-scaled viper) common dangerous snakes of India. Anti-venom serum for poisons other than that of snakes are made out of respective venom of the creature in similar procedure.



Source: Sunday Times of India, 9 December 2001

## What is the difference between a tortoise and a turtle?



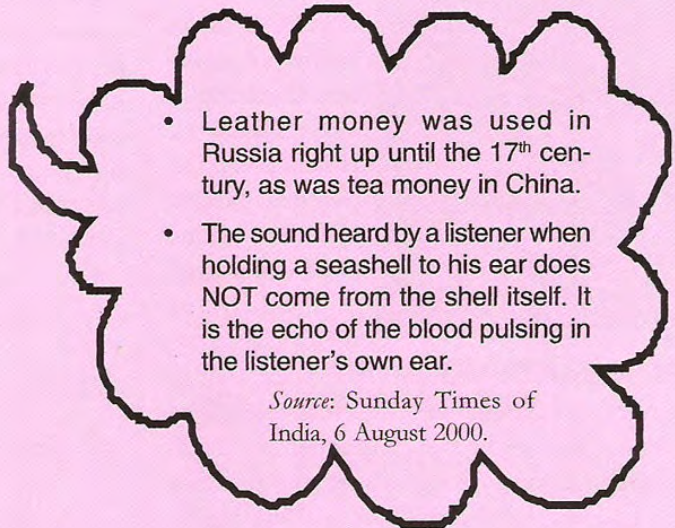
*While the former are land reptiles, the latter are aquatic reptiles. As a consequence, the limbs of turtles have over centuries modified into paddles adapting to their habitat. Also, tortoises are generally bigger than turtles. The*

*former, at places like the Galapagos Islands, often reach sizes exceeding 1.5 meters, which no turtle can ever match.*

*former, at places like the Galapagos Islands, often reach sizes exceeding 1.5 meters, which no turtle can ever match.*



Source: Sunday Times of India, 13 August 2000



- Leather money was used in Russia right up until the 17<sup>th</sup> century, as was tea money in China.
- The sound heard by a listener when holding a seashell to his ear does NOT come from the shell itself. It is the echo of the blood pulsing in the listener's own ear.

Source: Sunday Times of India, 6 August 2000.



## Ideas and theme for calendar design required

We are halfway through 2002 and it is now time to start thinking about the 2003 BWC calendar. We require your suggestions for the theme and design of our calendar. So put your creative minds to work and send us your ideas at [bwc@vsnl.com](mailto:bwc@vsnl.com). It goes without saying that the theme has to be animal-related. The design may be based on photographs/sketches/paintings but the implementation of your ideas will depend crucially upon finding a person to do the art work. Send us your ideas at the earliest—we will freeze input for ideas around 31 August, 2002.





## Punjab Board bans animal dissections

May 2: This session onwards, students in schools affiliated to the Punjab School Education Board will not have to go through the harrowing experience of cutting open animals in their laboratories. The Board has decided to omit animal dissections from the syllabus of science students of Classes XI and XII.



PSEB vice-chairman Dr Gurudev Singh Sidhu confirmed that the decision, taken by the Educational Department in view of a drive against cruelty to animals initiated by an NGO engaged in

welfare of animals, has been conveyed to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (Animal Welfare Division) by Punjab Additional Secretary (Education) S. S. Johal through a written communication. In his letter, Johal says: "Punjab Board has decided to delete all experiments relating to dissection of animals in biology practical of Classes XI and XII from the academic session beginning April 1." It may be mentioned here that CBSE stopped animal dissections a couple of years ago.

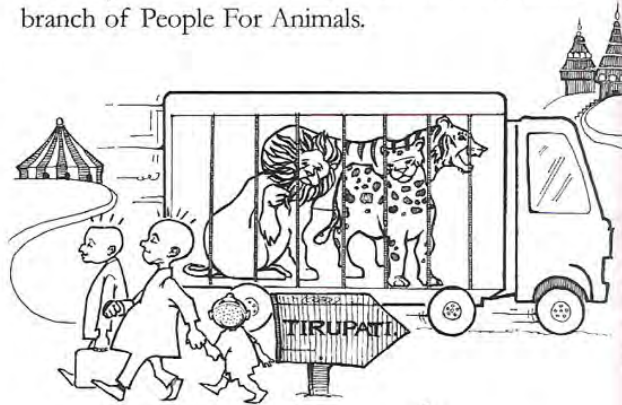
*Source:* Hindustan Times, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2002.

## 14 rescued from cage called circus stage

March 30: For two lions and twelve tigers it was Hakuna Matata, the title song from The Lion King which means Don't Worry, Be Happy. The Thane forest department rescued them from Grand National Circus at Bhiwandi yesterday. A 1998 government notification prohibits use of the lion, tiger, leopard, monkey and bear for performing acts in the circus. Now, as trucks with their cages speed

away towards a rescue centre in Tirupati, the journey of over 48 hours is more than welcome considering what they have left behind. A life lived in dirty cages smaller than the mandatory size, as a police inquiry found out.

Thane forest officer G. M. Anarse said that after they received information that these animals at the Grand National Circus, they had to wait for the cancellation of the animal ownership certificate. "The certificate had to be cancelled by the chief of the Wildlife Warden, Bangalore, who had issued the document in the first place. The cancellation came on 27 March and we asked the circus owners to hand over the animals. Yesterday, forest department took possession of the animals." A case was filed on March 11 against the circus authorities in Bhiwandi Court by Dharmesh Solanki, trustee of the Mumbai branch of People For Animals.



Solanki said, "We came to know of this circus in February when it was showing in Nalla Sopara. The animals were not being treated well: those freed were a little handicapped; food and water was not sufficient and the conditions of the cages was really bad. But nothing could be done till the ownership certificate was cancelled. We also arranged for funds for their transportation from the animal welfare division welfare division of ministry." After the case was filed, the court ordered an inquiry. The police submitted report confirming that cruelty was inflicted, Solanki informed.

*Source:* Indian Express, Mumbai, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2002.

## Tonga race banned for cruelty to animals

March 28: The Government has banned the annual tonga racing at Lingtangwadi in Sinnar tehsil. The races held every year on the occasion of Holi have been banned to prevent cruelty to animals.

The district collector, Kishor Gajbhaiye visited Lingtangwadi and addressed a meeting of villagers to explain the situation. The decision to prohibit the races was taken on the basis of orders from the Union government. Lingtangwadi is famous for its tonga races, drawing crowds from Nashik, Dhule, Jalgaon, and Ahmednagar districts. A horse and a bull is yoked to every tonga participating in the race.

Many animals made to participate in the race are administered alcohol, whipped, and pricked with an awl to win the race. A fair is held in the village every year to celebrate Holi with tonga-racing being the main highlight. During the meeting with the collector, local leaders attempted to justify the practice on grounds that it was an ancient tradition of the region. However, they were told that under orders from the Central government, such races were

banned. Additional police personnel have been posted at Lingtangwadi and Sinnar to prevent the event. Police officials have been asked to resort to "nakabandi" to prevent participants from reaching the village.

Credit for this must go to Shri Anil Kataria of Ahmednagar and Nilesh Bhanage of Dombivli, activists whose work BWC has come to be familiar with in the recent past, for mobilising public opinion against the event and moving the authorities in the Central Government to take action against the event.—Editor

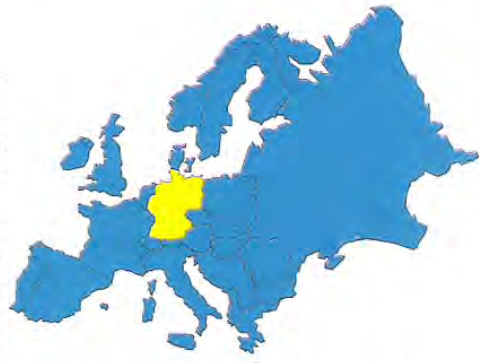
Source: Indian Express, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2002.

## Germany first European nation to guarantee animal rights

May 19: Germany became the first European nation to guarantee animal rights in its constitution with a majority of lawmakers voting to add "and animals" to a clause that obliges the state to respect

and project the dignity of humans, reports AP. After a decade of debate on Friday, 543 lawmakers in Germany's lower house

of parliament voted in favour of giving animals constitutional rights. Nineteen voted against it and fifteen abstained. Animals in Germany already enjoyed protection through legislation defining the conditions in which they could be held in captivity, but activists claimed it did not go far enough to prevent the use of animals in research beyond what animal-rights groups believe is necessary.



Fifty years after Hitler, Germany advances to according rights to animals. Fifty years after Gandhi, India advances to the pulling out of all stops to animal slaughter.—Editor

Source: The Free Press Journal, Mumbai, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2002

## No More Leather Basketballs for NCAA



INDIANAPOLIS (AP), May 14: The leather basketballs used in NCAA tournaments have been permanently

benched. The organization said it would make the switch next season to balls made of synthetic materials. The decision comes after animal-rights activists complained about the use of leather. The new basketballs will be used in the championship tournaments at each divisional level beginning in 2003. The men used 232 balls and the women 344 in all of last year's tournaments, NCAA spokeswoman Jane Jankowski said Tuesday. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals asked the NCAA in November to scrap the leather balls in favor of synthetic ones, already in use by most major colleges and universities. "We're always looking for new ways to prevent animal cruelty," said PETA's Sports Campaign coordinator Dan Shannon. "We know now not to use fur anymore. We've moved on to leather.

Wearing leather isn't a lot different than wearing fur." Jankowski said she didn't know if the new balls were cheaper, but Shannon said it was hard to put a price on a cow's life. "The production is much simpler and it doesn't involve raising animals which is a very costly procedure," he said. The request came around the same time the NCAA switched to Wilson as the official basketball manufacturer. "They did bring it up with their supplier and Wilson told them you can get the same performance out of a composite," Shannon said. "I think that was pretty key in their decision. They were very receptive." The NCAA rules and championship committees unanimously approved the change at their annual rules meeting earlier this month. Shannon said the animal-rights group has begun talks with the NBA about switching its basketballs. "They've been telling me all along the reason they're using leather is that the NCAA is also," he said. "They want to use the same ball throughout. We expect the NBA to (change) pretty quickly." The WNBA already uses a ball made from pleather, a synthetic leather. Shannon said PETA also has contacted major league baseball and the NFL about switching the compositions of baseballs and footballs to a synthetic substance. PETA sent the NCAA a package of vegan chocolate basketballs as a thank you, along with a note saying, "Thank you for moving away from leather!"

Source: Dan Gelston, Associated Press Writer.

### Red meat gene linked with prostate cancer



April 22: A gene involved in digesting red meat is highly active in cells taken from prostate cancer tumours, a finding that could lead to new dietary and

chemical treatments to prevent the disease, researchers said. Cells removed from prostate tumours showed a nine-fold increase in activity by a gene called AMACR as compared to healthy

How about the treatment of not eating red meat? But why adopt simple, inexpensive even money-saving, effective remedies when expensive, complicated, side-effects-ridden futuristic treatments costing millions of dollars are round the corner? —Editor

cells, a team of researchers at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore found. The AMACR fatty acid molecule is found in high levels in dairy and beef products. The gene of the same name produces an enzyme that helps break down the fatty acid. Previous studies have shown that diets high in red meat are linked with an increased risk of prostate cancer. The researchers cautioned that it was too early to establish a link between eating beef and dairy products and prostate cancer, but said the findings offer a way for scientists to study the association.

Source: Economic Times, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2002

### God is an endangered species

Indian conservationists are saving endangered turtles by telling poachers that the animals are the reincarnation of Lord Vishnu. The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Visakhapatnam claims it is successfully saving Olive Ridley turtles. It says it has had particular success in the coastal village of Pudi Madaka where poachers have worked for several years. Locals are said to believe turtle spleen can help women conceive and improve elderly men's sexual performance.

A victory for the resplendent imagery of the Hindu religion: cowing people into respecting animals by making these the vehicles or forms of God. Now if only our city-bred lab scientists could see Hanumaan in the rhesus monkeys they experiment upon. Or if Veerappan could see Lord Ganesha in every elephant he kills! —Editor

Society officials say there has been a dramatic change in people's attitudes. They say fishermen have stopped killing turtles when they inadvertently catch them. They now release them into sea after worshipping them with flowers and vermilion powder, they add. "Religion has proved to be a very useful tool in the save the turtle campaign. It has proved to be more effective than the fear of criminal prosecution. There has been a huge reduction in poaching," Pradeep Nath, spokesman for the SPCA says.

Source: Business Line, Chennai, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2002.





## Pop icons sing against South Korea

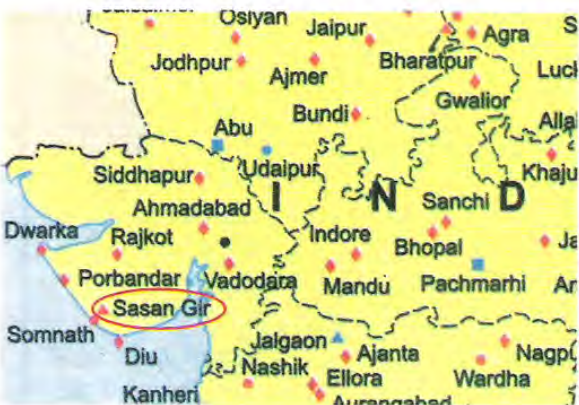
April 11: Rockers George Michael, Janet Jackson, Ozzy Osbourne, Christina Aguilera, and Bryan Adams are singing the blues about Korean cat and dog torture. The pop icons join a growing list of celebrities who have signed PeTA's petition imploring South Korea to put an end to the hanging, beating, burning, and electrocution of dogs and the boiling of cats before they are slaughtered and eaten. PeTA has sent the petition to President Kim Dae-Jung, and all eyes are on South Korea as the World Cup draws near. Before

dogs are eaten, they are often strung up and beaten, and the pain, and fear resulting from this torture causes an adrenaline flow that some claim increases male virility. Cats are often tossed alive into boiling water to extract a 'juice' for use in tonics.

*Source: Asian Age, Mumbai, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2002.*

## New wells pose threat to Gir lions, leopards

AHMEDABAD, May 10: Thousands of wells dug in the periphery of Gir forest by drought-hit villagers are fast emerging as a major threat to nearly 600 endangered 'big cats'—300 odd Asiatic lions and less than 300 leopards in the forest.



Compelled by the continuing spells of drought, population pressures and human activity, people living inside and around Gir are digging hundreds of wells every year to find precious water. As the ground-water table is dropping fast in the area, the number of wells is shooting up notwithstanding the fact that a large number of them fail to yield water.

Recent estimates of the number of wells without parapets in the periphery of Gir forest is shocking. There are over 6,000 such wells in the periphery of the Gir (east), while those in the Gir (west) are even higher. Official statistics show that four lions and one leopard have died in these wells during 2001–2002. While four lions who fell into these wells died, 10 out of 11 leopards were rescued from these wells.

However, as a large number of wells do not yield water, they are abandoned, without either filling them or covering them. Some of them which yield insufficient water also meet the same fate. Only those with sufficient water are usually attended to, but most of the times even such wells are left without parapet walls.

“Big cats generally move around in the dark so it is difficult for them to see wells that have been dug up in their habitat. Besides, when lions and leopards are chasing animals like chittal (spotted deer), they run at speeds above 50 km per hour and they easily fall into such holes. Besides, as lions travel 20 to 40 km every night, they are more vulnerable. Sometimes both the game and the animal are found inside,” observed a senior forest official.

Forest officials and villagers are successful in rescuing such animals many a times, if they hear the calls of the animals, or are informed about it, but most of the times they die trapped inside, due to injuries, shock, or drowning. However, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Sanat Chavan says, “It is not a major threat to the animals nor is it such

a serious problem. Animals can see clearer than us in the night. So such errors are not really common.”

Though he does not perceive it as a major threat to the animals, he agrees that there is a need to deal with this problem. “We are thinking about it. As there are no funds now, we are unable to build parapets or cover them. Once we have funds, we can do something. But we are still trying to manage with whatever we can,” he says.

The forest department has been undertaking a large number of rescue operations every year to save lions and leopards using *kbaatla* which are tied-up and lowered in the wells and help animals climb out.



Source: Times of India, Mumbai, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2002.

### Protected bird species are gourmet's delight in hotels

March 11: If you are interested in having novel dishes you have to visit Chandrapur, known for its rich forest and National Tiger Project, to enjoy the rich Bustard Quail commonly known as Bater or lava.

These small birds, which are a protected species under Schedule IV of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, are sold in many restaurants here with impunity. What you need to do is to just put an order in normal tone. The dish normally costs between Rs. 30 and Rs. 40. And if you like to cook it yourself, purchase a pair of these birds at the Shree Talkies square where they are being sold openly for as low as Rs. 15.

The tiny bird though resembling the sparrow is somewhat bigger in size than the sparrow and



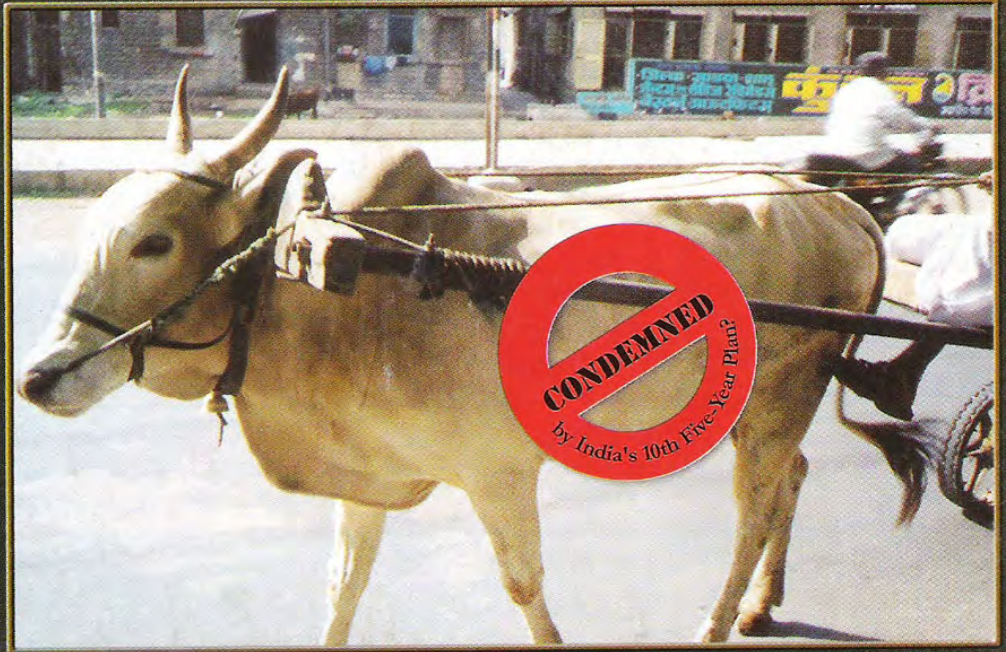
found in large numbers in the forests adjoining Chandrapur. There are four varieties of these birds. One of the hybrid variety is reared in poultry farms for sale in restaurants. Such sale is legal. But the sale of wild Bustard Quail is prohibited. However, it is difficult for the untrained eye to differentiate between the hybrid and the wild variety.

The restaurants owners exploit this fact to the hilt and take help from the hunter community, locally known as ‘Pardhi’, to trade in the wild variety whose flesh is tastier. Though the wild variety of the bird is served openly in many restaurants. However, the owner keeps a purchase licence from the Nagpur based poultry farms. A woman from the community selling the bird agreed that sale of these birds was not permitted. But points out that the community has no other option to earn its bread and butter.

According to a forest official, sale of wild variety of birds is prohibited, as it is a protected species. But he says that is not easy even for a forest official to differentiate between the wild and the hybrid variety.

Whatever may be the reason the fact is that the Bustard Quail continues to be hunted, sold, and eaten in Chandrapur for the many years now and no action has been initiated so far.

Source: Hindustan Times, Delhi, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2002.



... to be turned into dead meat?

Live animals ...



*Not if you speak up  
against it ...p 6*



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