

Vol. XXXV No. 2
Summer 2012

COMPASSIONATE FRIEND



Journal of Beauty Without Cruelty - India
An International Educational Charitable Trust for Animal Rights



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Beef exports stalled Animal Sacrifice Bee-hives Silk

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Cover:

Bull. *Photo courtesy:* Yogesh Khanage.



This issue of
COMPASSIONATE FRIEND
 is in memory of
 the late **Kusum Lata Tiwary**
 a **Beauty Without Cruelty** member
 who remembered us in her will.

Donations, big or small, to Beauty Without Cruelty are exempted under section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.



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

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 Designer: Yogesh Khanage
 Printer: Mudra
 383 Narayan Peth, Pune 411 030

Compassionate Friend is printed on paper free of animal substances and published every spring (February), summer (May), monsoon (August) and winter (November).

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Editorials

Animal sacrifices

Through the ages, people who believe in God have hoped to win his favour by offering him something dear to them. This may be the life of a loved one, such as a family member. One of a married couple may sacrifice an opportunity to commit adultery – but the spouse may still divorce for other reasons. A Hindu may sacrifice his life by throwing himself under the chariot wheels at a Jagannath festival, or a soldier for his platoon in battle. On the other hand, one may sacrifice the life of an animal which is, presumably, valuable to the sacrificer. Most such sacrificers tend to be from the poorer sections of society and, despite repeated sacrifices, observers are unable to discern any significant changes in their fortunes. Yet hope springs eternal, so the killing of animals and birds in the name of religion continues in India. Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Puducherry are the only states with a law against the sacrifice of animals and birds.

In 2002, a news item said that the late Vinod Chandra Pande, then the Bihar and Jharkhand Governor, had directed the governments of the two states to ban the animal sacrifices in temples, because such killings were punishable under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

Good news, no doubt, but BWC has not been able to get animal sacrifices stopped in other states like Maharashtra, though a 2008 news item stated that in Washim District, members of the Banjara Dal non-violently protested against their community's traditional superstitions and goat sacrifices.

In 2002, then Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalitha enforced the Tamil Nadu Animal & Bird Sacrifice Prohibition Act, 1950, calling it a cruel custom. However, the repeal of the Act a year later was, we understand, aimed at wooing Dalits and other communities who sacrifice animals, before the forthcoming elections. Apparently, the chief minister chose to sacrifice animals and birds at the altar of political expediency. Only in her case may there have been a discernible payoff from God.

Breakthrough for animals, not vegetarians

The futuristic 1973 science fiction film, "Soylent Green," ends when Charlton Heston discovers that the only food keeping millions of humans alive in a dystopian world suffering from pollution, poverty, dying

oceans, the greenhouse effect, overpopulation and depleted resources, is made of people. Something like that may yet come to pass, since *in vitro* meat is being developed, which may be made of human stem cells as well as animal.

In vitro meat, also known as cultured meat or shmeat, is an animal-flesh product that has never been part of a complete,



Meat being prepared in the laboratory.
Photo courtesy: www.bbc.co.uk

living animal. Alternative names include hydroponic meat, test-tube meat, vat-grown meat, victimless meat and *vitro* meat.

Scientists in the Netherlands, hoping to create a more efficient alternative to rearing animals, have used stem cells to create beef strips recently: the world could get its first lab-grown burger soon. The strips may be mixed with blood and artificially-grown fat to produce a hamburger by next year.

The stem cells in this experiment were harvested from by-products of slaughtered animals but, in the future, they could be taken cruelly from a live animal through biopsy.

Synthetic meat could be a great moral advance. Not having a nervous system, *in vitro* meat cannot feel pain, say scientists. Considering that millions of animals are slaughtered for food every day, it may be a step toward a less violent world if *in vitro* meat cannot feel pain. It will help reduce land pressures as well. Anything that stops more wild land being converted to agricultural land may be viewed positively. We're already reaching a critical point in the availability of arable land.

Lab-grown meat could become more efficient. Currently, 100 gms. of vegetable protein has to be fed to pigs or cows to produce 15 gms. of animal protein, an efficiency of 15 percent. Synthetic meat may be produced with an equivalent energy efficiency of 50 percent.

However, it will not be suitable for vegetarians because it still originates from meat by-products. Just because the meat has been grown artificially doesn't mean it is vegetarian.

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Beef exports nixed after agitation

By R.K. Joshi

The Central Government was moving to permit beef exports, disallowed by Indian Import-Export Policy for the past 65 years.

As soon as *Viniyog Parivar* came to know of the proposal, it raised an alarm on 16 February 2012. The news spread to lakhs of Indians via e-mail. They protested to the Planning Commission. This yielded the desired result when the Planning Commission issued a Press release, on 16 March 2012, withdrawing the ill-conceived proposal.

Enterprising sub-group

The 12th Five-year Plan (2012-17) is being formulated. Ministries appointed working groups and sub-groups to submit proposals for inclusion in the Plan. The working group appointed in the Agriculture Ministry's Animal Husbandry and Dairying Department appointed a sub-group to deal with the Meat and Abattoir sector.

This sub-group's recommendations included an aggressive thrust to increase slaughter rates; the modernization of existing slaughterhouses; setting up more mechanized slaughterhouses; the removal

of impediments to the export of meat; and, most horrifying, removal of the ban on beef exports.

The industry uses a certain nomenclature. Beef is the flesh of oxen. Meat is the flesh of buffaloes, mutton the flesh of sheep and goats. Meat and mutton, together with poultry meat and sea food, are already exported big-time.

Beef exports, if ever permitted, will doom our cattle-based agro-economy. The skewed policy of mechanization in



Living cattle impede beef exports.
Photo courtesy: Central Road Research Institute.

the agriculture sector has already rendered it dependent on factors such as chemical fertilizers; pesticides; the mechanisation of farm operations; the use of hybrid seeds; genetically modified crops; changes in cropping patterns; and the growing emphasis on commercial crops. The costs of these are beyond the average farmer's means. An *Onlooker* article by Arundhati Roy said 250,000 debt-ridden farmers have already killed themselves in recent times.

Bullocks vital to agriculture

Destroying bullocks would be the final blow to our agricultural economy. Cattle yield organic manure for our farms. This source will end. Bullocks provide draught agricultural power to a greater extent than other power sources. This draught agricultural power would also be destroyed.

The Government may claim that cows are protected under the Constitution and various States' laws, hence they would not be killed. But who would prevent clandestine cow-slaughter for the lucrative beef trade, and how? Once slaughtered, there is no way of knowing whether the beef is from the female or male of the species. Implementing agencies work, quite openly, in favour of beef traders and exporters.

Most intriguing and objectionable was that the convener of the "Meat and Abattoirs" sub-group was a director of one of the largest meat-exporting companies in the country. Another member was known to be a supporter of aggressive meat exports; he has been on the sub-group for the last three Plans. There has been no representation of NGOs, farmers or animal welfare groups.

Digging deeper reveals that policies in the agriculture and animal husbandry sector are framed by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), an organ of the United Nations; third-world countries are obliged to accept the imposition of these policies. Powerful international interests know that high levels of cattle wealth are the biggest obstacles to their designs of imposing perpetual neo-colonial economic slavery on India; they are trying to destroy that wealth. People with the interests of this nation at heart need to guard against these ruthless, cunning vested interests' designs to ensure that such recommendations do not see the light of the day.

Persistent efforts

In the 10th Plan as well, the Planning Commission had proposed setting up more than 5,000 slaughterhouses. It took a sustained, aggressive, year-long campaign by the *Viniyog Parivar* Trust, Beauty Without Cruelty, and several other organisations, to persuade the government to drop the proposal.

On one hand the Government spends more than ₹1,00,000 crores per annum on chemical fertilizer subsidies; on the other, it is hell-bent on destroying our cattle, the source of freely available organic manure. Even a layman can see the folly involved. However, the supposedly learned economists and consultants involved

are unable — or unwilling — to appreciate the point.

Our animals, particularly cattle, are a natural resource, owned socially. Like other natural resources, they cannot be destroyed for the personal profit of meat/beef exporters. This step is bound to jeopardize the food security of our nation. The non-availability of free organic manure and resultant compulsion to use costly chemical fertilizers are one of the causes of farmers' heavy debt burdens. Study after study has failed to set alarm bells ringing in our Agriculture Ministry's ears.



An appetizing sight for many.

One should consider the impact of such moves on the availability of milk as well. The legal protection of cows may be trumpeted by the government in defence of such moves. However, the continuous incidence of poverty on farmers due to faulty policies may compel them to sell their cattle, including cows, for slaughter.

The Planning Commission had the audacity to describe the recommendation to commence beef exports as “an inadvertent clerical mistake.” God help this country if such

inadvertent clerical mistakes can creep in at the level of the Planning Commission, headed by no less a personage than the Prime Minister. It may have been more truthful for the Planning Commission to just say that it had not accepted the sub-group's recommendation.

More to come

Be that as it may, thanks and congratulations, friends, on your successful campaign but beware! Human greed being infinite, the meat lobby will not leave off so easily. It is bound to try every trick in the book whenever the opportunity presents itself, so we need to be vigilant. Since the government has lakhs of clerks, lakhs of “inadvertent clerical errors” may rear their ugly heads with each successive plan.



R.K. Joshi is a Viniyog Parivar Trust trustee, and joint secretary of the Akhil Bharat Krishi Goseva Sangh, Both are animal welfare organisations. Joshi is also convener of the Committee to Monitor Animal Welfare Laws in Maharashtra.

BWC also opposed the working group report on animal husbandry and dairying, submitted to the Planning Commission for the 12th Five-year Plan, which included a recommendation to raise the existing ban on beef exports. The enclosed MEAT=MURDER stickers in Hindi and English are an extension of our campaign.

Sacrifices at Ekvira Temple, Karla

By Dr. Kalyan Gangwal

Every year, a *jatra* (pilgrims' procession) takes place at the Ekvira Temple at Karla near Lonavala, Maharashtra, during which thousands of goats and chickens are sacrificed by devotees of Ekvira, their mother Goddess.

People sacrifice birds and animals in the vain hope of improving their lives. This is religion-based superstition. In fact, Hindu religious literature does not support this activity, but it is nevertheless done as a mindless ritual.

Just before this year's *jatra*, the Marathi newspaper *Sakal* carried an article stating that killing on the hill during the Ekvira Devi *jatra*, to take place on March 29, 30 and 31, would not be allowed by the police.

I agreed to visit the site on behalf of my organisation, the *Sarvajeev Mangal Pratishtan*, as well as Beauty Without Cruelty.

A team of workers led by Dr. Ranjit Konkar

of BWC and myself had also visited the place in 2008. We had organised a blood donation camp at the foot of the hill on which the Ekvira Temple stands, and appealed to people not to sacrifice

The day before my visit to Karla, I got pamphlets printed in Marathi humbly appealing to devotees not to sacrifice animals and birds. The appeal warned that sacrifices on the hill were criminal offences.

I requested the *Gramin* Police Chief, Mr. Mohan Jadhav, and other officers to help. They assured me that they would try their best to stop sacrifices on the hill and would not allow alcoholic beverages to be consumed in the Ekvira Temple vicinity.

I went from Pune to Karla on the morning of March 29 and 30 as well, with four friends. We spent those days in Karla, observing that every vehicle and person was being checked, and not being allowed to proceed with chickens, goats or bottles of alcohol. We walked up to the Ekvira Temple, persuading a large number of devotees to stop sacrifices. We held several corner-meetings, where I delivered short speeches urging people not to buy animals and kill them. We distributed 15,000 pamphlets during these three days.

Many young persons read the pamphlets



The sacrifices may fill the pots for many a feast, rendering them a sacrifice to the gut, not the Goddess. Photo courtesy: Studio Amir.

animals but instead donate their own blood, which may save other human lives. We explained that the Goddess Ekvira did not want the blood of animals, but wanted love and devotion. Unfortunately, few people could donate blood because of widespread alcohol consumption. (See *Compassionate Friend*, Summer and Monsoon 2008 issues.)



Above the packed and unhygienic pen, death looked down. Photo courtesy: Studio Amir.

with interest. A group of about 30 college boys from Navi Mumbai discussed religion-sponsored superstition with me, convinced the practice was wrong and should be discontinued. They agreed that sacrificing animals is not only brutal, but against the environment and highly unhygienic. They showed interest in our activities and assured me that they would help us at next year's *jatra*.

A group of roughly 20 Koli Women had a long argument with me. They began by saying that I was working against their religion. They also asked me whether I was going to stop Muslims from sacrificing goats on *Bakri Id*. After a long discussion, I convinced them that the sacrifice was purely a superstition, and that the Goddess Ekvira would not bless them if they continued to sacrifice animals. Eventually the leader of this group, an 80-year old woman, who said she had been participating in the *jatra* since she was five, conveyed her decision to me: that group would not sacrifice chickens that day.

The Jain and Marwari communities, who own shops around the Ekvira Temple, helped create awareness too.

Unfortunately, a couple of days earlier, live chickens

and goats had been taken to the butchers' shops and were awaiting sale. So I decided to distribute pamphlets in front of these shops. Many, on reading them, turned away and did



The writer argues with Koli women, led by the octogenarian seated third from the left.

Photo courtesy: Studio Amir.

not buy a chicken or goat. This angered one of the butchers, but his aggressive feelings passed. Later I got to know that about 70 per cent of the animals remained unsold.



BWC's hoarding featuring the Goddess translates:
"I want love, not blood
I want good deeds, not sacrifice"

I estimate that our efforts may have saved 7,000 to 8,000 lives. This number may increase every year if we continue to create, and spread, a higher awareness. The work could start a month earlier, and the support and involvement of the local *sarpanch* and rural leaders may be sought. Banners highlighting our message may be displayed.

We need not give up hope. This practice of sacrificing animals and birds in front of a Goddess can be reduced, the more so with the help of the law that has already banned killing on that hill.



Kalyan Gangwal, M.D., is founder-president of Sarvajeev Mangal Pratishthan, Pune.

In early March 2012, BWC drew the attention of the Union Ministry of Tourism, again, to the increasing incidence of animal slaughter at tourist locations, citing the examples of the Karla Caves and Ekvira Temple. We requested the Government to prohibit the killing of animals in the vicinities of all places of tourist interest.

Fact, not fancy

Silk

By Nirmal Nishchit

Those who do not wear, or crave to wear, “soft, smooth, shimmering silk” need not read further. Approximately 1,500 chrysalises are killed to produce a hundred grams of pure silk.

According to Silk Association of India estimates at the end of 2011, exports had fallen 50 percent in the last three years, and silk shipments are likely to miss their 11th Plan target. Beauty Without Cruelty would like to believe this is because people aren't buying as much silk as before, since it is *hinsak*.

The good news is that people are opting for synthetic and embroidered saris instead of traditional ones like *Ikat* tie-and-dye saris, for special occasions. For example, the market for Andhra Pradesh's hand-woven Pochampaly silk saris has come down by as much as 40 per cent over the last few years.

Man-made materials that look somewhat like silk are known as artificial silk (art silk). Of these, rayon (viscose) is of vegetable origin, whereas nylon and polyester (terene) are petroleum products.

The filament of silk is what a silkworm spins its cocoon of, constructed as a shell to protect itself during its evolution from caterpillar to chrysalis to moth.

The making of silk

The female moth lays about 400-600 eggs. The eggs hatch in about 10 days and the larvae (one-twelfth of an inch in length) emerge. They are fed mulberry leaves for about 20-27 days, till they are fully grown (3 to 3 ½ inches in length). A fully-grown



It dies so we may look sharp.
Photo: Rohan Bhate Shah.

caterpillar emits a gummy substance from its mouth and wraps itself in layers of this filament to form a cocoon in two to four days. The caterpillar develops into a moth in about 15 days. It has to cut through the cocoon to emerge — thereby ruining the filament of the cocoon.

Hence, to save the filament from being damaged, the chrysalises are either

immersed in boiling water, passed through hot air or exposed to the scorching sun, to kill their contents. The long, filament of the cocoons is then unreeled.

Some chrysalises are kept aside to allow the moths to emerge and mate. After the female moth lays eggs, she is *always* mercilessly crushed to check for diseases. If she appears diseased, the eggs laid by her are also immediately destroyed.

Generation after generation of inbreeding has eliminated the moth's capacity to fly. After mating, male moths are dumped into a basket and thrown out. It is a common sight to see crows pecking at them outside silk manufacturing centres.

Varieties of silk

India is the only country that commercially produces four varieties of silk obtained from four types of moths. These are known as Mulberry, Tussar, Eri and Muga.

The Tussar silk is often produced by the caterpillar of a wild silk moth found in rain forests. These caterpillars are rarely cultivated successfully in captivity, so the cocoons are sometimes gathered from the wilds. However, it is not

commercially viable to collect Tussar silk cocoons from jungles. Jungle *Ghicha* silk and *Kosa* silk (mainly produced in Chattisgarh from a worm similar to the silkworm) are marketing gimmicks. *Ghicha* or *Khewa* are names given to yarns that are not dyed when Tussar silk is reeled.

Zari

Woven into the fabric or used as patchwork, *Zari* (gold, silver or copper brocade yarn or thread) is traditionally used to embellish saris and materials. There are three types of *zari*: real, imitation and plastic.

Real *zari* is a flat silver wire electroplated with gold. For real/pure gold *zari*, silk yarn is always used.

Imitation *zari* is made from copper wire. Caution needs to be taken with regard to *zari* because the yarn used for this can be silk or polyester.

Plastic *zari* is produced from chemically-coloured metallic yarn. It is much cheaper than imitation *zari* and is made of polyester film coated with aluminium; but that does not necessarily mean the yarn utilised is also of polyester and not silk.

Lurex (a brand name) is a type of yarn or thread with a metallic appearance, used mainly for knitting and weaving. The twine is usually a synthetic fibre onto which an aluminium layer has been vaporised.

Many 100 percent polyester saris also look like silk, particularly if they are in traditional designs and deep colours like purple, green or magenta. The first polyester brocade (*zari*) sari in silky finish, woven in 1978 on a handloom by Varanasi weavers, was the result of four years' research by Beauty Without Cruelty. In spite of this know-how being available, due to the reluctance on the part of weavers and insufficient public demand, the saris are not available commercially.

Silk content test

In 2004, the Central Silk Board (under the Ministry of Textiles) sponsored the Silk Mark Organisation of India, which has been advising manufacturers producing 100 percent natural or pure silk fabrics in India to use this logo/label. It comprises a line-drawing of a silk moth, below which the words "silk mark" appear. However, as all silk items do not carry this logo since registration for its use is needed, those of us who wish to be certain as to whether or not a material contains silk need to check it ourselves.

Remember, it is totally wrong to think that, if a material is cheap, it has no pure silk in it. It is advisable to check for oneself, and not rely on a shopkeeper's

word. If you would like to know what yarn is used in a particular material, use the flame test. As shopkeepers do not generally allow the burning silk test on their premises, a few threads could be asked for and burnt at home.

It is important that a few threads from the warp, a few from the weft and the *zari* thread, stripped off the metal, are individually checked by burning. Since human hair also burns like silk, it would be easier to learn by burning some fallen hairs. Hold a strand with tweezers, and burn it. Observe how it burns. When it stops burning, a tiny ball of ash, the size of a pin-head, will be left. Rub the ash between your fingers and smell it. The smells of burnt hair, silk, wool and leather are identical; the slow way in which they burn, forming ash balls, is also the same. If the fibre is cotton or rayon, it will flare up quickly, not forming an ash ball; and it will not smell like burnt hair. If the yarn tested is a petroleum product like nylon or polyester, it will burn to form a tiny, hard, glass-like bead.

To know more about silk, see <http://www.bwcindia.org/Webforms/LearnAbout/Silk.html> and to know more about so-called "Ahimsa Silk," go to: <http://www.bwcindia.org/Webforms/LearnAbout/SocalledAhimsaSilk.html>

FYI

Wasp- or bee-hive removal

Wasps/hornets are attracted by wood and warmth when choosing locations for their hives. Wild honeybees' hives are also found in unexpected places. If disturbed, or if they perceive their hives to be threatened, they defend them by attacking in droves.

This may prove deadly for those who are allergic to the melittin which constitutes wasp/bee venom. For such persons, who may experience a fatal anaphylactic shock, rubbing an onion – cut in two – vigorously on the stung spot will get the sting out, but that is not enough; medical first-aid is essential.

Wasps do not die upon stinging, but honeybees do.

Certain death

Removal of hives in the conventional manner – by smoking the occupants out – results in their death. If the smoke is controlled, and the hive has not been set alight, they may not die immediately. But die they will, if their queen did not migrate, but died.

Having been hounded out of their hives or homes they have nowhere to go and, without the support of their

colony, will suffer and eventually die.

The following method to make an entire hive relocate without killing its occupants works with wasps, but not always with honeybees.

First, it is important to decide on and clear an escape route the bees may use without endangering humans. Depending on whether the beehive is indoors or outdoors, keep windows and doors shut or wide open.



Our pollinating friends.
Photo courtesy: www.roashina.wordpress.com

Next, one needs to cover oneself fully before going near a hive so that the chances of being stung are eliminated.

Soak a rag in kerosene and hang it as close as possible to the hive. It could be attached to the end of a long stick or rod, but should not touch the hive. Leave the area immediately.

An insect will not die as long as kerosene is not poured directly over it, but the strong smell of kerosene will repel it. Camphor also works, but do not use mothballs, since

they are highly toxic, and their vapour kills larvae and insects.

Mothballs may even cause acute respiratory problems in humans if used in closed rooms.

Water

Wasps may also leave a hive if salt water is sprinkled on it at night; the hive should be approached in the dark.

If the beehive is on a tree, at a distance, it is best left as it is. The onset of the monsoons will result in a natural relocation. Bees have also been known to vacate their hives due to the presence of ants.

Bees need a source of water. Getting rid of the water nearby, perhaps by drying out a pond temporarily, will probably make them look for another location near a new source of water.

Make sure, through keen observation, that a hive is empty before considering it abandoned and taking it down – as a precaution, be fully covered. Carefully remove the hive, with gloves on, and place it in a suitable predetermined spot in the hope that it gets re-occupied by the same colony or another one.

Go back to the original spot, and rub kerosene on the area around the vacated hive immediately, before another colony of wasps or bees is attracted to the cavity. Cover up, or fill, that area.

Scramble

1 HAVKR

- beaten between ox-guts
- veg alternative available but origin cannot be ascertained after application on *mithai*

2 CNELHIIT

- can be of egg or soya origin
- used as an antioxidant and emulsifier in processed foods like chocolate

3 ELYLJ

- commonly made of gelatine derived from animal bones, horns and hooves
- the vegetarian version is made from vegetable gum and marked “veg”

4 AFCL

- deprived of mother’s milk
- dairy industry discards males

5 HURSESB

- hairs from pigs, hogs, sables, mongooses, kolinskys, cow’s ears, goats and squirrels are used for their manufacture
- non-animal ones are just as good

6 KISL

- 1,500 cocoons are boiled alive to produce 100 grams of this fibre
- saris made of other fibres are as good, if not better

7 JNAAM

- razor-sharp string used to fly kites; maims and kills birds
- kite-flying can be enjoyed without it

8 KTYEUSR

- specially bred and fattened to be killed
- traditionally eaten at Thanksgiving and Christmas

9 OSZO

- places where wildlife is jailed
- promotes faulty education, conservation and research

10 RGAABITT

- lit during prayers
- may contain animal ingredients

11 KECCITR

- a popular sport
- the balls are usually made of leather from cows or bulls

12 SCUIRC

- animals are subjected to hunger, torture and fear to amuse us
- performances without animals are becoming popular

13 LSACEM

- ships of the desert
- exploited by humans for joyrides

14 TTIAARBO

- place where animals are killed
- conversion of murdered animals into meat and leather

15 ISFH

- cannot live out of water
- their flesh cannot be considered part of a vegetarian diet

16 AELSLHC

- derived from lac insects
- an ingredient of confectionery as well as sealing wax

17 GOSD

- man’s best friends
- used in cruel greyhound racing

18 KSMU

- a fixative in some perfumes
- deer are killed for it

19 GSSALISINS

- derived from fish bladders
- a clarifying agent in some beers and wines

20 SRAPEL

- produced through intense pain and years of suffering, ending in oysters’ deaths
- moonstones are a humane alternative

21 CHENKCI

- loved dead, but not alive
- that which came before the egg?

22 QRMUAAI

- underwater jail
- cruel exhibition of aquatic creatures

23 SIRBD

- often deprived of freedom
- they are kept captive in cages

24 GGANINL

- akin to hunting
- a blood sport

25 LPTTAAUC

- toy given to boys
- its use kills various creatures

26 HEELART

- skin of animals
- akin to meat

27 OOWL

- not a by-product of mutton
- alternative fibres are better

28 CCSIRREEFKRA

- they scare animals and birds
- result in noise and air pollution

29 OYHNE

- for 1 teaspoon bees make 10,000 trips to a flower
- it can never be *ahinsak*

30 OSENB

- obtained from slaughterhouses
- used in marble and wood inlay work

Answers overleaf

Readers write

Ray of sunshine

BWC does awe-inspiring work. The investment guide has always fascinated me, and I was both sad and happy to see the Wish List: sad to think about the suffering of all the animals listed, to satisfy human greed, and happy because you thought of putting things in perspective.

Amrita Dutta
Bengaluru

No choice

Iwould point out that, when patrons of cruelty-free products buy wrist-watches, the salesperson's focus may be on the watch's features. The strap may be relegated to the background. Many leading brands offer only leather watch-straps. These may be from calves, crocodiles, or other innocent species.

If the buyer wants a non-leather alternative, he or she may have to buy a strap separately, reluctantly paying for a slaughterhouse product. I have written to some manufacturers about this, but have not had the courtesy of a reply.

By way of this letter, I hope to bring the matter to the attention of consumers, and inform manufacturers about the market segment for alternative watch straps.

The same applies to leather upholstery for automobiles.

Hiren N. Kara
Mumbai

Marketers need to understand that vegetarians not only don't eat meat but also don't use leather; they will not use a leather strap with a wristwatch, even if they get one free. Neither will they use leather-upholstered cars.

Fifteen, 20 or 25 square feet of hide may be obtained from a cow or bull, depending on its size. A calf may yield 12 square feet. Consequently, at least four animal hides or skins may be used in the upholstery of a single passenger car. Some vehicles use leather-vinyl-fabric blends, usually called "leather seat inserts" or "leather-trimmed seats". Hides may be from anywhere in the world, but are hailed as high-quality if said to be "Italian leather."

The skins of snakes, pythons, crocodiles, monitor lizards, and also endangered species' feathers and furs, enter the marketplace as finished goods consisting of footwear and handbags costing lakhs of Rupees. They may be fashioned into expensive watchstraps, or cases for spectacles, and even for mobile phones. BWC has repeatedly asked the Ministry of Environment & Forests to warn outlets against the importation and promotion of these miserable items; we have also requested the Customs authorities to be on the lookout for importers of such illegal items, and to take action against them. – Ed.

Form IV (See Rule 8)

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

Place of Publication:
Beauty Without Cruelty (India)
4 Prince of Wales Drive, Wanowrie,
Pune 411 040.

Periodicity of Publication: quarterly

Printer's Name: S. J. Patwardhan
Nationality: Indian
Address: Mudra, 383 Narayan Peth,
Pune 411 030.

Publisher's Name: Diana Ratnagar, Chairperson,
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I, Diana Ratnagar, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed
Diana Ratnagar
(Publisher)

Dated: 1st March, 2012

Scramble answers

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. Varkh | 16. Shellac |
| 2. Lecithin | 17. Dogs |
| 3. Jelly | 18. Musk |
| 4. Calf | 19. Issinglass |
| 5. Brushes | 20. Pearls |
| 6. Silk | 21. Chicken |
| 7. Manja | 22. Aquarium |
| 8. Turkeys | 23. Birds |
| 9. Zoos | 24. Angling |
| 10. Agarbatti | 25. Catapult |
| 11. Cricket | 26. Leather |
| 12. Circus | 27. Wool |
| 13. Camels | 28. Firecrackers |
| 14. Abattoir | 29. Honey |
| 15. Fish | 30. Bones |

Vegan recipes

The Canadian Centre for Agri-food Research in Health and Medicine says that a regular diet which includes dried beans promotes digestive health and may even help prevent colon cancer. A single serving (½ cup) contains of about 80 calories with zero cholesterol, lots of complex carbohydrates and little fat; it is rich in minerals such as iron, selenium, magnesium and calcium; and a good source of B vitamins, potassium and fibre.

Kidney beans (*Rajma*)

(Serves four)

Ingredients:

500 grams *Rajma*
(not soaked overnight)
2 tablespoons oil
1 teaspoon red chilli powder
200 grams onions, sliced
200 grams tomatoes, chopped
salt



Preparation:

Pressure-cook *rajma* for 6-7 steams. Heat oil, sauté chilli powder and onions; add tomatoes.

Purée to a fine paste and pour over cooked *rajma*. Add hot water to form desired quantity of gravy.

Pressure-cook for another 6-7 steams, or simmer for over half an hour in covered pan.

Serve with *kesar chawal*. See: www.bwcindia.org/Web/Recipes/KesarChawal.html

Butter beans

(Serves four)

Ingredients:

250 grams large butter beans
(soaked overnight)
1 teaspoon mixed dried herbs (oregano, basil, celery, parsley, rosemary, thyme, etc.)
½ teaspoon ground pepper
1 teaspoon minced garlic (optional)
salt
3 tablespoons olive oil
½ cup pitted and halved green olives
2 roasted red or orange capsicums, thinly sliced, or diced



Preparation:

Pressure-cook beans. Drain and dry thoroughly.

Mix herbs, pepper, garlic and salt and oil.

Pour oil mixture on beans so they are well coated.

Transfer to serving bowl and mix with olives and capsicums.

Serve as an appetizer.

Go to www.bwcindia.org/Webforms/Recipes/VeganFood.html for an assortment of Beauty Without Cruelty's tested and tasted, healthy and delicious vegan recipes.

BWC news & views

Spread the word... lethal catapults



Severe, even fatal injuries are inflicted by boys who aim catapults at birds, squirrels, cats and dogs thoughtlessly. Humans have also got hurt.

Since the government hasn't yet included catapults in the definition of "weapon" under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, or taken preventive steps to ban the manufacture, sale or importation of catapults, BWC requests readers to create an awareness of the unimaginably cruel outcomes of children playing with catapults aimlessly.

For further information see <http://www.bwcindia.info/Web/Awareness/Campaigns/Lethalcatapults.html>

BWC India websites

Do have a look – we now have three identical websites:

www.bwcindia.org

www.bwcindia.info

www.beautywithoutcruelty.in

Sea World

The Government of Maharashtra planned to set up a "Sea World" project in Konkan, where dolphins and other species from polar regions, like seals and penguins, would be housed. The Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation, with the help of the Science & Technology Park, conducted a feasibility and viability study, following which, in October 2011, the Chief Minister gave an in-principle approval to this ₹510 crores project along 720 kms of coastline.

Beauty Without Cruelty wrote to the Industries Minister, who is also the Guardian Minister of Sindhurdurg, against setting the Sea World up. The blueprint had a giant aquarium, a dolphin park and stadium, a facility to train dolphins, guest houses, a theatre and theme restaurants.

The government had initially planned to set it up in the sea, but changed its plans to occupy 200 acres of land instead, stating that the required water would be drawn from the sea. Animal activists' inquiries revealed that marine life, including dolphins from Indian waters within a large fenced area in the sea, would be displayed and no creatures would be imported.

In December 2011 the Union Ministry for Environment & Forests asked the state government of Maharashtra

"not to entertain the proposal of construction of Dolphinarium/ Water Parks at Sindhurdurg through Private Public Partnership (PPP), which is meant for commercial purpose, and not permitted under Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972." BWC had appealed to the Ministry to cease dolphin performances in India. However, in early 2012, the Maharashtra Tourism Minister asked the Science & Technology Park to come up with a detailed project report again, and plan how to go about it.



Then, in April 2012, an article appeared in the *Hindustan Times* detailing plans for a "seaworld oceanarium with dolphin shows" at Thane. A tender inviting construction had also been floated. BWC alerted the Ministry of Environment & Forests, requesting that they nip the project in the bud.

Realising cetaceans cannot adapt to life in captivity, Costa Rica, Chile and Cyprus have banned dolphinariums. Citing this, BWC has approached the government to add dolphins to the list of species not allowed to be exhibited or trained as performing animals, and thus forestall their abuse.

Veg Symbol

The number of presentations given by Beauty Without Cruelty to groups, including schoolchildren of Gujarat, is increasing. The happy outcome is that hundreds are pledging to buy and use only products marked with the green “veg” symbol.

If packaged foods and other products like soaps, cosmetics, medicines and *agarbatti* do not feature this symbol, they contain animal substances.

Suggestions submitted to the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

In March 2012, Beauty Without Cruelty submitted detailed suggestions to the Standards Review Cell of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for inclusion in the Food Products Standards & Food Additives Regulations, 2011.

To begin with, BWC requested that the definition of non-vegetarian food include *varkh* beaten between ox-guts; *choona* from shells; and insects like honey-bees and lac.

We also asked that all ingredients (however minute), catalysts, processing aids, etc. be listed on labels, and finished products be accordingly categorised and marked with the green/brown symbols.



BWC further recommended that, in view of many ingredients being of dual (animal/non-animal) origin, it should also be mandatory for the green/brown symbols to be affixed on the following items even if they are marked with E Numbers:

- All substances, additives and industrial derivatives used as ingredients in foods
- Dietary supplements, vitamins, tonics, and energy products
- Liquids like soft drinks, juices, colas, and alcoholic beverages
- Food and drink displayed for sale
- All products put in the mouth or on the lips
- Items in advertisements and restaurant menus
- Imported ingredients, and packaged food and drink

Manufacturers/importers who break the law should be penalised heavily and not allowed to continue dealing in those products.

Our suggestions to FSSAI, with supporting information, may be read at

<http://bwcindia.org/Web/Info&Action/Legislation/Suggestions%20submitted%20to%20FSSAI%20by%20BWC.pdf>

Veg @ Lent



This year, Beauty Without Cruelty printed 52,000 Veg@Lent recipe leaflets for Christians who do not consume non-veg food during Lent. We sent them to 177 Catholic Bishops of Indian Churches for free distribution in their dioceses.

The Veg@Lent campaign was started by BWC in 2009. All four years' leaflets may be downloaded from our website <http://www.bwcindia.org/Web/Recipes/veg@lent/veg@lent.html>

Job Vacancy at BWC

Investigator

S/he will be required to travel to various parts of India.

Journalistic background preferred.

Apply to jobs@bwcindia.info stating experience and expected remuneration.

Non-vegetarians should not apply.

IS OUR **CONSCIENCE**
DEAD?

क्या हमारी **अंतरात्मा** मर गई है?



Suhani Maheshwari

Sacrifice your bad deeds, not living beings.

अपने बुरे कर्मों की बलि चढ़ायें, न कि जीवित प्राणियों की।

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