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COMPASSIONATE FRIEND

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

Bunny Rabbit Murder

In this Issue:

Travails of Quails

"Unwanted" Furs

Bees save Elephants

***Veg or Non-Veg,
our Right to Know***

Camels





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is a way of life which causes
no creature of land, sea or air
terror, torture or death

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From my Desk...

Sacrifice of Camels

For the third consecutive year Beauty Without Cruelty appealed to the Prime Minister, and Chief Ministers as well as to the Directors General of Police of a number of states, requesting them to be vigilant and not allow any camels to be sold or slaughtered for *Bakri Eid* 2021. We again sent them a copy of the Madras High Court judgement banning camel slaughter for religious purposes and the Animal Welfare Board of India circular reiterating it.

BWC is pleased to inform readers that to the best of our knowledge due to the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister's order again this year no camels or cows were sacrificed in the state.

However, despite efforts and with favourable court judgements in hand, animal activists of Earth Quotient South India were unable to stop camels from being killed in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Unfortunately 11 "escaped" before 19 were rescued of which 4 died en route.

On 15 July 2021 the Govt of J&K issued a letter regarding

the “stoppage of illegal killing/sacrifices of cows/calves, camels and other animals & taking action against the offenders for violation of transport of animals rules on the occasion of *Bakra Eid*” but following an uproar, a senior government official declared that there was no ban on sacrificing animals. Sheep, goats, cattle and camels were sold for sacrifice in the Kashmir valley.

Note: By buying or “saving” goats from being killed one is actually supporting butchers who purchase more animals from the money they receive and sell them for sacrifice.

Indian National Pledge

India is my country.

All Indians are my brothers and sisters.

**I love my country and I am proud
of its rich and varied heritage.**

I shall always strive to be worthy of it.

**I shall pay respect to my parents,
teachers and all elders, and treat
everyone with courtesy.**

**To my country and my people,
I pledge my devotion.**

**In their well being and prosperity
alone, lies my happiness.**

Jai Hind!

In July 2021 BWC wrote to the new Union Minister of Law and Justice suggesting that the Government of India add the following sentence to the above stated Indian National Pledge which is taken by school children and others, since the suggested sentence has been drawn from Article 51-A (g) Fundamental Duties:

I shall show compassion to all living creatures and strive to protect the environment.

No More Blood Shed

www.youtube.com/watch?v=w6mb7b--llk

The 15 minute documentary on the Ramakrishna Dakshineswar Kali Temple where NO animal sacrifice is allowed, a link to which can be found on our BWC website www.bwcindia.org is now being viewed by a thousand persons a month and has over 735 likes and just 41 dislikes.

A recent comment about the film and our trustee Rajeev Sethi’s reply to it is reproduced below: Apocalypse: “The goat which is sacrificed before the goddess Kali, it gets immediately a human body which would have taken so many years, millions of years to come to this, but because it is being sacrificed, that is the Vedic mantra. But this man who is killing, he has to become goat to be sacrificed by this goat having taken birth as human being. Therefore it is called *karma-bandha*. *Yajnarthe karmanah anyatra karma-bandhanah.*”

Rajeev Sethi: “How many animal sacrificers are aware of this GREAT Karmic effect?”

In addition Soumya Gupta wrote: “Divine mother who controls the whole universe and the cosmos doesn’t need an animal sacrifice to keep her happy. She’s the one who’ll bestow you with blessings, even by small acts of the devotee. Just close your eyes and chant her name with full devotion and love. Only that’s sufficient for her.”

Another interesting comment by one of our BWC members, Romula D’Silva: “Thank you for the enlightening movie. Most spiritual masters advise their disciples to sacrifice their lower qualities/habits instead of slaughtering innocent and defenceless animals which are a part of God’s creation. It certainly can be called a “sacrifice” that pleases God or the Goddess!!”



Diana Ratnagar
Chairperson

Bunny Rabbit Murder

Quite often it's not even blood money that flows into the coffers of breeders - it's no money at all says Khurshid Bhathena

Traditional symbols of fertility, vitality, rebirth and good luck, 25th September is International Rabbit Day when special attention is drawn to the exploitation of rabbits for their fur, meat, wool and manure.

Cruel Cuniculture

The rabbit was the first animal farmed in India for its fur. At the Central Sheep & Wool Research Institute (CSWRI) at Garsa in Kulu District of Himachal Pradesh (an Indian Council for Agricultural Research establishment) after slaughter and removal of their fur, instead of disposing off the carcasses, rabbit meat was touted in the area by putting up roadside advertising boards.

Since then cruel cuniculture (breeding rabbits as livestock) began to spread – albeit illegally – in different parts of India. Added to which several government and private institutions began endorsing, teaching to breed and kill, and some even provided loans for the purpose.

Breeding-Raising-Killing

Imported breeds were promoted under the aegis of the CSWRI as well as other organisations and associations in different parts of India. They discreetly hid the fact that rabbit rearing was actually rabbit killing. They convinced people to breed cute bunny rabbits as pets in their backyards or even inside their apartments or on their terraces, assuring them of a market (to make quick money) by saying “you sell the rabbits to us



Caged and reared to be killed. Photo: © Oleksandr Rado at dreamstime.com

and do not ask what happens to them”. In other words, the breeders would strongly suspect, but were never cent percent sure that they were sending their loveable 3 month old pet rabbit kits to be beheaded.

Instead of taking steps to stop illegal rabbit breeding-raising-killing, in response to a representation from Kerala’s livestock farmers to make cuniculture legal, through a 2017 notification the FSSAI included domestic rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) in the Food Safety & Standards Regulation under Meat and Meat products.

Thus rabbit farming began being classified as agriculture, animal husbandry and even social or rural projects.

Blood Money or No Money

Rabbit production is encouraged in most states with some recommending they be fed mulberry leaves. Alas, growing mulberry doesn’t only aid cruel silk production.

Quite often it's not even blood money that flows into the coffers of breeders – it's no money at all, and in fact their investment has to be written off! Meanwhile the rabbits treated as commodities, continue to suffer.

Although raising rabbits has been touted as a money-making proposition just because they multiply fast, it has not turned out to be as lucrative for many who have learnt the hard way. Rabbits trapped in an unending cycle of breeding for sale in confined areas have been found dead, very sick, and are often abandoned – they have been found in sacks, disposed off in garbage bins.

The diseases rabbits commonly get are scabies, blue breast, ear canker, hemorrhagic septicaemia, coccidiosis, pasteurellosis, enteritis, wry neck, mastitis, snuffles, mange, sore feet and fungal infection. And salmonella, listeria, pseudo-tuberculosis and ringworm, can be easily passed from rabbits to humans.

Bunny Rabbit Murder can be halted...

Meat

However cute they may look do not get conned into purchasing or keep rabbits as pets. They multiply fast so how many will you be able to house? And if you sell them, they will be killed for their flesh. Surely you do not want to be responsible for murdering innocent creatures?

Fur

Do not buy rabbit fur mufflers, hats, caps, coats, garments, gloves, footwear, handbags, bags, purses, trimmings, cushions covers, rugs, plushies/soft toys, ornaments, knickknacks, etc. The industry also produces various novelty items such as the "lucky" rabbit's foot charm and other trinkets. It is unfortunate for the rabbit that its ears, teeth, tails and even rumps are made into



ornaments, garnishments and toys. Such items are commonly seen displayed by shops in hill stations.

Wool

The fur or hair taken off from the pelts of slaughtered Angora rabbits is mixed with other animal wool and used in the making of Angora wool items. So do not use some thing marked "Angora wool" because it could very well be rabbit fur, not wool of the rabbit. Often blankets/kambals are also made from hair pulled off the raw hides of sheep and rabbits that have been slaughtered.

Entertainment

Do not attend magic shows where white rabbits are pulled out by magicians. Do not attend greyhound or dog races because hungry hounds have been taught to run after living small animals often rabbits, and having tasted blood chase the mechanical rabbit made from actual rabbit fur on the race track. During visits to hill stations do not get yourself photographed holding a rabbit – by doing so you are indirectly supporting them being bred for slaughter.



Khurshid Bhatena is a Trustee and Honorary Secretary of BWC-India

Travails of Quails

There is no difference between farmed quails and those poached from the wild says Nirmal Nischit

Way back in 1974 the Union Ministry of Agriculture's Central Avian Research Institute (CARI) started popularising Japanese quail farming, rearing them like poultry: broilers for meat and layers for eggs, as a rural development activity.

Years later in 1997, realising that Japanese quails (*Coturnix japonica*) were protected under the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972 (WLP Act), the Ministry of Agriculture requested the Ministry of Environment & Forests to delete the specie from the purview of the WLP Act. Although they refused to do so because the birds were found in the wild in North-East India, atrociously bending laws in the interest of quail farming, the two Ministries decided to delegate the power of issuing licences for Japanese quail hatcheries to an Officer of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Government of India, under the WLP Act.

Quails are Quails

There was no difference between these farmed quails and those poached from the wild listed as an endangered species. It was shocking that, despite quails being protected under the WLP Act, Bihari politicians were at that time breeding and selling them. In fact, more people had started going in for quail, turkey and fish farming in Bihar.

Since it was difficult for an untrained person to differentiate between hybrid and wild bustard quail/*bater/lava*, almost all Chandrapur restaurants began serving the so-called tastier flesh of the small, "protected" wild bird, hunted and supplied by the Pardhi community of Maharashtra. These birds could also be purchased at the Shree Talkies Square. The hybrid variety, which came from the poultry farms of Nagpur were legally sold,



Japanese Quail. Photo courtesy: kellyandroger on flickr.org

so, if questioned by the Forest Department, restaurateurs said the birds they were serving were not from the wild. Moreover, after the birds were killed and cooked no one could, looking at the flesh, ascertain if they were farmed or poached from the forests.

Poachers still kill migratory birds such as black-winged stilts and teals from the Pallikaranai Marsh to sell them to restaurateurs in Chennai who pass them off as quail meat.

Temporary Respite

In September 2011, BWC was very happy to know that the Union Ministry of Environment & Forests issued a circular to the Forest Secretaries and Chief Wildlife Wardens of all States and Union Territories pointing out prohibition on farming of Japanese Quails (*Coturnix japonica*) as the specie was listed in Schedule IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and that such animals/birds (both wild as well as captive

bred) can not be killed/hunted or captured, in view of which, no new licence for farming or permission for expansion or augmentation of existing farming facilities, was to be granted.

BWC immediately wrote to the Ministry of Environment & Forests appreciating its stand, but at the same time asked that they further declare quail farming as totally illegal because quail meat was eaten and served in different parts of India. Furthermore, since farming quails was a definite cover up for poaching them from the wild, by permitting farming of the protected specie to exist, poaching could never be stopped. Immediate steps needed to be taken to uphold the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

In October 2011 BWC also wrote to NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development) to withdraw their scheme promoting farming of Quails under Animal Husbandry, Model Bankable Projects. The reply received from the Deputy General Manager stated that they “have noted the contents and taken suitable action on the matter.”

Unfortunately, the Union Ministry of Environment & Forests’ issued a directive to totally ban quail farming and close down all quail farms, particularly in Madhya Pradesh, but it did not happen.

Ironical

As the saying goes, the left hand knew not what the right hand was doing because the Animal Husbandry Departments under the Union Ministry of Agriculture were on one hand promoting Japanese quail farming, whereas on the other hand the Union Ministry of Environment had imposed a ban on it.

Consequently, in February 2012 the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court, in response to an NGO challenging the Union Ministry of Environment & Forests’ above mentioned circular order, restrained the Ministry from interfering in the business of quail farming since the Japanese quail germplasm was being supplied to farmers by the CARI and quail

farming was being promoted by NABARD and ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) for commercial production.

Eventually, in December 2013 a Notification was issued by the Union Ministry of Environment & Forests making an exception regarding quails as listed under Schedule IV of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, so that entry No 57 read “Quails (*Rhasiandae*) – except *Coturnix japonica* (Japanese Quails) of farm bred variety.”

Bred for Slaughter

As a result of this permission, rearing of Japanese Quails, locally called *kamju pitta* in places like Khamman district of Telangana and Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh, has since flourished and continues to expand as backyard farms of villages from where quails’ eggs and meat are supplied to traders and restaurants. In fact, a number of outlets sell live quail birds, frozen quail meat and quail eggs.

Similarly, a number of quail farms have sprung up in and around Bengaluru. Quails are known here as *gowjala hakki*.

It is unfortunate that due to management practices taught by various private and government institutions such as the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) to new and existing quail farmers in India, entrepreneurs have made blood money (as from poultry farming) by breeding, rearing, slaughtering and marketing of quail eggs & carcasses, so much so that in addition to sales within India, they have also begun exporting quail meat.

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (under the Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India) states quails are a “source of meat, egg and for sport”. The Quail Survey (2018) from the Life Sciences Publications has among many other things stated that quails are one of the 35 species that “have been introduced to locations outside their natural range for purposes as diverse as ornamental collections, recreations, sport and production of meat.”

News & Views

Why Import “unwanted” Furs?

In January 2017 the Directorate of Foreign Trade (DGFT) issued an amendment to the Import Policy prohibiting reptile skins, and mink, fox and chinchilla fur. In view of Covid-19, one would have imagined that not only a few more species would have been added, but a blanket ban on all animal furs would have materialised, but shockingly the Policy was reversed from “Prohibited” to “Free” vide Notification No 55/2015-2020 dated 7th January 2021. As an animal rights organisation BWC wonders why this was done and if any connivance was involved.

In addition to cruelty and killing of animals involved for the luxury trades, since the current trend worldwide is to avoid products of animal origin, we requested the Prime Minister and Union Minister of Commerce & Industry to instruct DGFT to issue a fresh Notification without any delay so that the 7th January 2021 Notification is reversed and the items are placed under the “Prohibited” policy again. We also sent them an article entitled “Covid-19 vs. Fur Farms” (reproduced alongside) and drew the attention of the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare.

COVID-19 vs. FUR FARMS

Large fashion houses such as Ralph Lauren, Giorgio Armani, Chanel, and Versace already eliminated or pledged to drop animal fur, while Macy's and Bloomingdale's are closing their fur salons. California has joined nations such as Britain, Belgium, and Germany in banning fur. The coronavirus wreaking havoc in our society has highlighted the role of animal captivity in such outbreaks. Factory farming and slaughterhouses have received extra attention and condemnation, and the fur industry is suffering a major blow.

The pandemic has accelerated that trend by turning a harsh spotlight onto mink coats. In November, Denmark “culled” millions of mink across the country after twelve people were reportedly infected with a strain of COVID-19. The worry was that coronavirus from minks could be a vaccine-resistant mutation. Denmark's largest fur auction house shut down. And in a horrific real-life metaphor, the hastily buried “problem” animals rose from the ground “like zombies” as their carcasses decomposed.

It wasn't just a Danish problem. In late November, a mink farm in Oregon also found mink catching the disease. The entire farm and its employees were forced to quarantine, but during that period at least one COVID-infected animal escaped.

At year's end, *The New York Times* asked, “Is This the End of the Mink Coat?” In an in-depth look at the state of the industry, one celebrity stylist is quoted as opining that “mink coats have become obsolete.” The column features people trying to get rid of unwanted “gifts” from aging relatives and people wearing hidden fur to avoid public shame. However, it never delves into what might be objectionable about fur. The answers are in the millions, and they're refusing to stay buried.

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Grey Chinchilla in a cage.

Photo: © Aigars Jansons at dreamstime.com



European Mink on a fur farm in Lithuania.

Photo: © Algimantas Barzdzius | dreamstimes.com



A chinchilla being electrocuted. *Photo courtesy: peta.org*

In June 2021 Israel banned fur. In fact, over 15 countries have already taken legislative action to ban or phase-out furs: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Croatia Estonia, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Proposals to prohibit fur production are presently being considered in Poland, Ireland, Lithuania, Bulgaria and Ukraine.

Denmark, the world's largest producer of mink fur of which 40% is exported to China and Hong Kong, after a variant form of COVID-19 was found to be transmitted by to and from mink, ordered in November 2020 that all its 17 million farmed animals be killed. The rushed culling backfired as cadavers of the mammals rose from their graves. However, it was not till

months later that the government undertook the task of exhuming the carcasses and incinerated them. More than 10 million minks were also culled in the Scandinavian countries. Experts said humans had spread the virus to the 10,000 minks that died at a US farm. Research has warned that mink farms represent a serious unrecognized animal reservoir of the corona virus and it may signal the end of fur farms.

To make just one fur coat as many as 50-60 minks, 150-300 chinchillas and 15-40 foxes are bred and raised only to be gassed or electrocuted to death. If ever you see some one wearing fur boldly tell the person that s/he is guilty of a heinous crime.



Buzzing of Bees Saves Elephants!

For over a decade BWC has been periodically giving suggestions to the Union Ministry of Railways to avoid forest elephants getting injured or killed on railway tracks. Therefore, we congratulated them again on "Plan Bee" thanks to which a considerable number of elephants had been saved by the North Frontier Railway.

However, according to the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change the number of train hits resulting in elephant deaths (not injuries) from 2009-10 till end of 2020 were:

Assam 62	West Bengal 57	Odisha 27	Uttarakhand 14
Kerala 9	Jharkhand 7	Tamil Nadu 5	Karnataka 3
Tripura 1	Uttar Pradesh 1		

BWC has therefore appealed to the Chairman of the Railway Board to urgently install thousands of amplifying speaker systems which emit the sound of buzzing bees that keep away elephants in forest areas of every state through which trains run. The only positive response was from the East Central Railway saying that the installation of the buzzing bee device was under consideration in consultation with the Forest Dept, Govt of Jharkhand in the Dhanbad division.



A male wild elephant was severely injured on its head and laid five meter away from the track, after being hit by a train near Navakkarai coming under the Madukkarai forest range in Coimbatore in the wee hours. The incident happened, when the animal was returning to the forest after quenching it's thirst at Walayar river located on Tamil Nadu-Kerala border and was hit by Chennai bound Trivandrum Express (Train no 02696) train coming from Kerala near 506/A-9 track in Solakkarai forest in Madukkarai forest range at 1.30 am on 15 March 2021. Photo courtesy: EPS



Honey bee sound system sign on railway tracks. Speakers play the buzzing of bees. Photo courtesy: allthatsinteresting.com (left), news18.com (right)

Corals are Hinsak

Due to warming seas and acidification, coral reefs are bleaching and eroding all over the world and the reefs at Lakshadweep atolls are no exception. However, corals can recover in these lagoons – if allowed to. This means that NITI Aayog’s proposed construction projects including floating villas to attract tourists would need to be reconsidered. As it is, dugongs (sea cows) are already extinct in the Lakshadweep islands.

Coral reefs, atolls, lagoons and sea-grass beds are home to thousands of species of sea creatures like dugongs and seahorses.

A living coral reef is unimaginably beautiful. It is made up of polyps having soft sac-like bodies that secrete cup-like calcareous skeletons in which they live. Multiplying thus, an intricate structure is continuously but extremely slowly formed because the reef can only grow from the level to which air and light penetrate. Therefore, under the new growing coral, the dead coral gets compacted.

Wanting to save and simply talking about coral reefs and habitats of sea creatures is not good enough. Each one of us needs to pledge never to use coral in any form like coral jewellery ever.

Red coral/*moonga* is also known as *vidram*, *angaarak mani*, *mirjaan*, *marjaan*, *pravaal*, *parvara* and *praval*; and in Ayurveda red coral ingredients are *pravala*, *pravala pishti* and *moonga*.

Red coral can easily be substituted with red jasper/*lal akik/aqeeq* in jewellery because it looks like it and has similar properties although to a lesser degree.



Red coral necklace (left) vs. Red Jasper necklace (right)
 Photos courtesy: abrandtandson.com (left), bead3.com (right)

Readers Write

Vāhanas of Hindu Deities

In the Summer 2021 issue of *Compassionate Friend* there's a list of Hindu deities with their *vāhanas*. See if you can correlate the qualities associated with the *vāhanas* to one or some of the qualities the deity represents.

The depiction of Hindu deities using animals as *vāhanas* should not be a reason to justify using animals for the purpose of travelling. The cruelty meted out to animals in the name of commutation is, however, unjustified. This depiction itself may be symbolic rather than factual. After all, why would omnipresent God need to use vehicles (*vāhanas*) to travel around? She/He can appear in Her/His form anywhere without needing to use a vehicle.

Symbolically speaking, the animals depicted as being ridden by Hindu deities represent the qualities that the particular deity has mastered. So, for example, Goddess Durga who is often portrayed riding a lion, mastered her anger or ferociousness such that She can use it at will to effect good.

The pot bellied Lord Ganesha mastered stealth. The good looking Lord Kartikeya can not be ruled by pride and arrogance. Goddess Pārvatī and Lord Śiva mastered indolence that is an obstacle to remaining in a meditative state of being. Lord Bhairava mastered death. Seeing dogs in dreams is symbolic of something dying within oneself.

Ritambhari M., BWC life member

It is our Right to Know if Items are Veg or Non-Veg

It is unfair and unethical for consumers to be denied the right to make an informed choice just to avoid burden on manufacturers says Aayushi Jain

Before purchasing packaged food, the first thing most vegetarians look for is the green dot symbol. Manufacturers of 'packaged food articles' are legally bound to affix either a green dot in square (vegetarian) or brown dot – now triangle in square (non-vegetarian including eggs) on the label.

However for 'cosmetic products and toiletries', it is not mandatory for the manufacturers to affix veg/non-veg symbols. Few manufacturers voluntarily affix them, but the majority do not. The green symbol increases sales and instills consumer confidence, so those manufacturers who do not use any animal ingredients, proudly affix it. There are very high chances that the products with no symbol have animal ingredients.

Consumers have a right to choose between products containing animal and non-animal ingredients. Not providing this choice is unfair to conscientious consumers who object to the use of "whole or part of any animal including birds, fresh water or marine animals or eggs or product of any animal origin, but not including milk or milk products, as an ingredient" (criteria reference veg/non-veg labelling law). It amounts to disrespecting their sentiments and stopping them from living a cruelty free life on religious, health and ethical grounds.

Background

In 1999 a proposal was made before the Drug Technical Advisory Board (a Committee constituted under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940) to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, to include the requirement of

mentioning words such as "V (vegetarian) and NV (non vegetarian)" on the labels of drugs/ cosmetics. However, the said proposal was rejected by the Board.

In 2001 a Public Interest Litigation was filed before the High Court of Delhi (Ozair Husain vs. Union of India (Delhi High Court, 2002)) seeking directions against the manufacturers/packers of 'cosmetics' or 'food' or 'drugs' to declare the ingredients made or derived from animals and affix symbols indicating use of animal-based ingredients. The High Court, citing Article 19(1)(a) - the right to know, Article 21 - the right to life and Article 25 - the freedom of conscience and the right to profess a religion, of the Indian Constitution, held that manufacturers and packers of cosmetics, drugs and articles of food are required to make complete and full disclosure of the ingredients of their products and should bear an easily identifiable symbol conveying that it has an animal origin ingredient. Apart from red and green symbols, the High Court had also directed a declaration in writing on the package indicating the nature of the origin of raw materials in the products.

Against this judgment of Delhi High Court, an appeal was filed before the Supreme Court (Indian Soaps & Toiletries Makers & Ors vs. Ozair Husain (Supreme Court, 2013)). The Supreme Court on 7 March, 2013 invalidated the Delhi High Court judgment stating that the Court cannot give direction to the Government on law-making and such a law can be made only by Central Government in consultation with the Drug Technical Advisory board (DTAB).

Veg Consumer Power

Pledge

not to purchase or use
soaps, toothpastes,
cosmetics, perfumes,
detergents, cleaners,
disinfectants, air freshners,
agarbattis, candles,
adhesives, brushes,
crockery and
all other products
that do not carry the
green Veg Symbol
because they can contain
hidden animal ingredients.



Beauty Without Cruelty

www.bwcindia.org

In 2014, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs introduced an amendment to the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011, vide its notification dated June 16, 2014, wherein as per Rule 6 sub-rule 8 (Declarations to be made on every package), product packages containing soaps, shampoos, toothpastes and other cosmetics and toiletries, were required to mention on their display panel a green dot indicating vegetarian origin, or a red/brown dot indicating non-vegetarian origin.

The amendment was subsequently challenged in the Bombay High Court (IBHA vs. UOI (Bombay HC)) by Indian Beauty and Hygiene Association (IBHA). The Bombay High Court followed the Supreme Court decision of 2013 and stayed the amendment on the ground that the power to amend the provision with respect to declarations of labels of cosmetics or drugs, rested with the Centre under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 in consultation with the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) only.

In 2018, the Drug Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) approved the proposal for the necessary amendment in this regard in its 79th Meeting of Drugs Technical Advisory Board held on 16 May, 2018. The relevant paragraph from the minutes of the 79th meeting is reproduced here:

"The DTAB deliberated the matter and agreed to the proposal for mandating the indication of green or red/brown dot on every package of soaps, shampoos, tooth paste & other cosmetics & toiletries for vegetarian/non-vegetarian respectively in the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules. However, opinion from stakeholders and public may be obtained before taking action in the matter."

No Notification was issued and the matter was on hold until the recent meeting of DTAB held on 13 April, 2021.

Unfortunately, the DTAB changed its stance on the issue and stated that: *"There is no clarity and system to certify vegetarian and non-vegetarian ingredients in the country. Hence, the Board did not agree for mandating the indication of green or red/brown dot on every package of Cosmetics, as it may complicate the regulation and add regulatory burden on stakeholders."*

No further reasons were provided by DTAB for rejection of the proposal. The exact details regarding lack of clarity in the system of certifying vegetarian and non-vegetarian ingredients were not provided. There is already a system in place for certifying ingredients of 'food products' which is well functional. The justification that it will add regulatory burden on the manufacturers (who are mostly big multinational companies) is absolutely unacceptable because it is unfair and unethical for consumers to be denied the right to make an informed choice just to avoid burden on manufacturers. India being a welfare state, should give utmost priority to the basic rights of its citizens and make suitable changes in the law for mandating the indication of green or red/brown symbols on packages of 'cosmetics and toiletries'. The apathetic attitude of DTAB as well as the Government on this issue is deplorable.

Readers are requested to raise this issue with the Member of Parliament of their constituency as well as with the Ministers (if any) from their region, alongside making representation to the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (Government of India) as well as DTAB.

Inputs/ideas/suggestions as well as support in any form on this issue will be highly appreciated.

Aayushi Jain, a final year law-student, has been working on this important issue on behalf of Jain Milan (Kolaras Branch) and can be reached at aayushij389@gmail.com

Vegan Recipe Tomato

Tomato increases in Vitamin C as it ripens so it is better to eat when fully ripe. And, eating just one such tomato provides 40% of a person's daily requirement of Vitamin C.

Tomatoes also contain other nutrients and antioxidants that help fight diseases and maintain good health. They are good for digestion, preventing both constipation and diarrhea, and among several other benefits effectively remove toxins from the body.

High in Vitamin A, they improve vision. Since they contain lycopene (even those that are not deep red) they effectively lower the risk of lung, stomach and prostate cancers and protect against cardiovascular diseases.

Two raw tomatoes or one-third cup of juice contains 7 mg lycopene, the suggested quantity that could be taken daily by heart patients so that over a period of time the functioning of the tissue lining the heart's blood vessels becomes as good as in a healthy person's

Tomato Chutney

Ingredients

- 6 tbsps oil
- 1 tsp mustard seeds/*rai*
- 1 tsp cumin/*jeera*
- 1 tbsp red sesame/*til*
- 1 tsp *dhaniya* seeds
- ½ tsp *methi* seeds
- 2 pinches of asafoetida/*hing*
- 6 dried red chillies
- 250 grams tomatoes, chopped
- ½ tsp turmeric/*haldi*
- 1 bowl coriander/*dhaniya* leaves, chopped
- Salt to taste
- ½ tsp *urad* and *channa* dals
- 1 sprig *curry-patta*

Note: *The red variety of sesame seeds/til and jeera makes the chutney high in iron and tomato aids in its absorption.*



Preparation

Heat 1 tbsp oil.

Add *rai* and let them splutter followed by *jeera*, *red til*, *dhaniya* and *methi* seeds, *hing* and dried red chillies.

In another pan heat 3 tbsp oil. Add the tomatoes and cook till mushy. Add *haldi*. Cool.

Blend the two along with chopped coriander leaves. Add salt.

Heat the remaining 2 tbsps oil. Add *rai*, *urad* and *chana dal*, *hing* and *curry-patta*. Temper chutney with this.

Serve with Corn *Pakodas*. You will find the recipe in *Karuna-Mitra* Monsoon 2021.

Do visit www.bwcindia.org/Web/Recipes/Recipesindex.html for an assortment of Beauty Without Cruelty's tested and tasted, healthy and delicious vegan recipes.

Human Hypocrisy

Protected Wildlife



Hare



Common Quail

Bred–Raised–Killed to be Eaten



Rabbits



Japanese Quails

All Life is Sacred



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