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# COMPASSIONATE FRIEND

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



## Animal Bones



**In this Issue:**  
**Non-Silk Weavers**  
**Indians are 90% Vegetarian**  
**Wild Life Act Amendments**

# From my Desk...

## Draft FSSAI (Genetically Modified or Engineered Foods) Regulations, 2021

With reference to these draft regulations, within the permitted 60 day period BWC submitted suggestions for inclusion.

We requested that the definitions of the following should be clarified with regard to animals, that none of them should be used on any living animals, birds, eggs, fish or insects:

- Genetically Engineering (GE)
- Genetically Modified (GM) or Engineered Food
- Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)
- Genetically Engineering Organisms (GEO)
- Living Modified Organisms (LMO)

Moreover, there should be no breaching of species barriers by inserting any animal, bird, fish, insect or even human gene into plants.

As regards GM Food Labelling, even if the GE ingredient is less than 1%, it should be labelled as containing it.



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## Beauty Without Cruelty

is grateful to

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for his munificent bequest enabling one issue of

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### Beauty Without Cruelty

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

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## Surrender of Air Guns



**Air guns surrendered during a Airgun Surrender Abhiyan programme in Yingkiang, Arunachal Pradesh.**

*Photo courtesy: MyGovArunachal on Twitter*

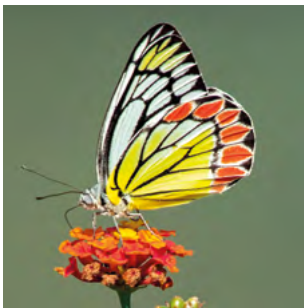
In December 2021 the Prime Minister lauded Arunachal Pradesh in *Maan Ki Baat* saying that the state was home to more than 500 species of birds and to protect them a campaign to surrender air guns was underway with more than 1,600 guns having been surrendered. The Forest Department had taken this initiative after they realized the growing grave threat to wild birds due to such weapons being easily accessible online.

BWC hopes that the Government of India will stop online sales of weapons because it attracts the provisions of the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972 and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

## Unethical turned Ethical

We received an e-mail from a naïve person asking for support to “ethically source butterfly wings from beautiful creatures that have passed away from natural reasons” in order to encase them in resin and “feel honoured to keep these beautiful insects alive forever”.

We replied her in no uncertain terms that even if she claimed to use



**Butterfly.**

*Photo courtesy: Neeraj Mishra*

butterflies that had died naturally, the fact remained that she could never ever be sure; over and above which there was no doubt that she was indirectly encouraging cruelty and killing of countless beautiful lives.

We asked her to think deeply, give up the idea of entombing butterfly carcasses and choose to do some thing that is actually ethical and truly kind that in no way exploits any creature in life and after death.

We were therefore thrilled to receive her immediate response saying that it was a perspective that she had not previously thought about and that she would stick to flowers and artificial elements.

## Growth of Veganism in India

60 to 65% of people in India are lactose intolerant which means they are allergic to milk and milk products, but many don't even realise it.

The 2020 data from Google AdWords states that vegan-related searches shot up by 47%.

As per the UN FAO study conducted in 2020, India can boast of having 5 million Vegans.

The good news is that their numbers are growing fantastically fast with many young persons and others who have realised the importance of a healthy diet, free from any animal derived substances, whether meat or milk, eggs or fish, are turning vegan overnight.

It is a fallacy that milk is the best source of calcium when in reality it is way down the list that has items such as sesame seeds, curry patta, drumstick leaves, millet (ragi), beans (rajma), containing more than twice to over 12 times more calcium than found in cow's milk.



**Diana Ratnagar**

*Chairperson*

# More than 90% of Indians are Vegetarian

**Several surveys falsely declare that a very small percentage of Indians are vegetarian says CA CR Luniya**

Since there are no statistics available with the Census authorities and the Government of India to authenticate the number of vegetarians/non-vegetarians, surveys have been privately conducted for the benefit of sponsors by drafting and asking misleading questions to a chosen sample section of the population.

If someone eats non-veg once in a while, or has had non-veg even once in his/her life time, the survey agencies have labelled him/her as a non-vegetarian. Unfortunately, the media has been publishing such biased statistics without checking facts. The questionnaires used are never made available to the public, nor are the sponsors of the surveys known.

First and foremost, if there were so many more non-vegetarians than vegetarians in India, we would have found an equally large number of meat shops in the country. Many more persons other than livestock agriculturists would have been butchers and meat sellers. There would have been no pure-veg restaurants or caterers. In reality, you will find many "only vegetarian" restaurants/hotels in India but you will never find any only non-veg restaurant anywhere since those that serve non-veg foods also serve veg foods.

Every thing considered, it is a known fact that in India most of the people who eat meat, eat it occasionally: at the most once a week, or

once a fortnight, or rarely. They don't eat non-veg during festivals or on auspicious occasions. Moreover, the meal in which they eat non-veg is not entirely non-veg, but only one dish is, the rest of the meal remains vegetarian only.

So if a so called non-vegetarian person eats 1 meal in a week which is non-veg, it is just 1 of 21 meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner: 3 meals x 7 days). Secondly, since s/he has only 1 non-veg dish during that 1 meal a week, non-veg comprises of only one-third of that 1 meal. In other words, out of 63 (21 meals x 3 portions per meal) s/he is eating 62 vegetarian portions a week. Thus s/he is basically a vegetarian as main choice of food and could be labelled an occasional non-veg person.

Based on food habits of Indians as explained above, we can conveniently and correctly conclude that more than 90% Indians are vegetarian.



CA CR Luniya has singlehanded spearheaded a successful campaign thanks to which the Vegetarian Degree option in Hotel Management is available in 74 IHM of Central Government all over India to students.

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Support his mission VegDegree on [tinyurl.com/VegDegree](http://tinyurl.com/VegDegree)



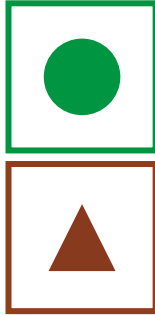


# News & Views

## Accurate Labelling of Food Articles

In December 2021 the Delhi High Court in response to an NGO's petition seeking formulation of guidelines to make it mandatory for manufacturers to label all consumable items according to the ingredients used in them, directed the Government to ensure the exact specifications of the source and ingredients of food articles in simple, layman's terms is disclosed. The Court noted that for example Di-sodium inosinate or E631, an food additive ingredient found in instant noodles, potato chips, and a variety of other snacks, was commercially prepared from meat and fish and sourced from pig fat. But the products that contained this food additive had the green veg symbol affixed on them. The Court Bench said: "Even though their usage may constitute a miniscule percentage, the use of non-vegetarian ingredients would render such food articles non-vegetarian, and would offend the religious and cultural sensibilities/sentiments of strict vegetarians, and would interfere in their right to freely profess, practice and propagate their religion and belief. Every person has a right to know as to what he/she is consuming, and nothing can be offered to the person on a platter by resort to deceit or camouflage.

"We therefore direct the respondents to ensure that there should be full and complete disclosure of all the ingredients which go into the manufacture of any food article, not only by their code names but also by disclosing as to whether they originate from plant, or animal source, or whether they are manufactured in a laboratory, irrespective of their percentage in the food article. It should be fairly disclosed as to what is the plant source, or animal source – as the case may be, in respect of all the ingredients in whatever measure they are used. The Food



Business Operators are directed to ensure full and strict compliance of Regulation 2.2.2(4) on the basis that the use of any ingredient – in whatever measure or percentage, which is sourced from animals, would render the food article as Non-Vegetarian."

The Court directed FSSAI to file a compliance report in the matter by January 31, 2022, the date listed for the next hearing.

## Coral Farming is Cruel Coral Cutting

Coral Vita a commercial land-based coral farm in the Bahamas was awarded the new global environment Earthshot Prize of GBP 1 million under the "Revive Our Oceans" category in 2021. This prize provides financial backing to scale up innovative solutions for climate crises. Coral Vita unnaturally "grows" coral species that are resilient to changing ocean conditions up to 50 times faster.

This is accomplished by first "harvesting" (detaching) coral from the ocean reef and placing it in tanks filled with clean seawater on their land-based farm. The coral is then cut into tiny pieces via a technique called micro-fragmenting and placed in the tank with pieces of the same coral near each other. The injured corals heal while fusing together and thus grow.

Depending on the specie of coral, it takes 6-18 months for it to mature. When big and strong, it is uprooted and planted back into the reef with underwater drills and the use of non-toxic glue, with the hope that it can once again provide a home for the species that live there.

No thought whatsoever is given to the coral polyps and the harm inflicted upon them. Corals are marine invertebrates that form compact colonies of many identical individual polyps that have a simple nervous system called a nerve net that extends from their mouths to their tentacles. They have the capacity of smell and taste which enables them to detect prey.

So how can it be ethically right to cut up these living creatures into tiny bits?

## Bulls in Performances



**Bullock cart racing in Maharashtra.**

*Photo courtesy: indianexpress.com*

It was Tamil Nadu first, and then Karnataka followed by Maharashtra state who legally objected to the 2014 Supreme Court order banning bull performances.

In December 2021 the Supreme Court observed with regard to the case pertaining to Maharashtra “that the validity of the provisions of the state amendments in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 and the Rules framed thereunder by the State ought to operate during the pendency of the writ petition. The entire matter in relation to similar amendments made by the State of Tamil Nadu and State of Karnataka is now referred to the Constitution Bench, including to consider the question whether these amendment Acts (of State of Tamil Nadu) overcome the defects pointed out in the two judgements of this Court. Similar question would arise in these writ petitions and transferred case from Maharashtra concerning the provisions of State of Maharashtra. Hence, these writ petitions be heard along with writ petitions pertaining to the State of Tamil Nadu and State of Karnataka.”

The matter has been referred to a Constitution Bench.

In view of this SC order, plans were afoot to hold bullock cart races in Maharashtra after a gap of 8 years so over 700 owners had registered for the races and hefty cash prizes with gold had been declared for winners. However, the Pune District Collector citing the growing number of Covid and Omicron positive cases

suddenly cancelled the races in the district. The cancellation order was issued only a night prior to the 1 January 2022 event for which preparations had been made at Nanoli village in Maval tehsil and at Chinchowodi village in Ambegaon tehsil. However, on 4 January 2022 a race was held in Nangole village in Kavathe Mahankal taluka of Sangli District. Covid appropriate behaviour was not abided by and thousands attended and gathered together to watch this bullock cart race and others that were held.

As regards Tamil Nadu, despite rapidly surging Covid-19 cases, the state approved conducting Jallikattu by restricting participation to 300 bulls and 150 spectators. An 18-year old spectator was gored to death by a bull and 59 persons (including tamers, bull owners and spectators) were injured at Avaniyapuram in Madurai district. Also at Navalur Kuttapattu village near Trichy, a 24-year old spectator and 29-year old bull owner were gored to death. The owner’s bull attacked him while being led into the arena.

## Animals in Films

In November 2021 following a number of complaints that it is not easy for animals to perform before blinding lights, cameras and crowds, the Animal Welfare Board of India issued an Advisory to the makers of films, shows and ads that CGI (Computer Generated Imagery) and VFX (Visual Effects) should be prioritised instead of involving live animals in shoots. However, the producers expressed reluctance because they felt live animals work



**Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior.** *Photo courtesy: koimoi.com*

better, moreover they want to remain within their budget which they feel they easily can only if live animal actors are utilised.

The advisory stated “animals are requested to be transported to far-off film studios and locations, sometimes even outside the state perimeter. At film sets, already stressed animals are exposed to crowds, artificial lights, chaos, and often dressed up in costumes and made to follow commands to deliver the scenes. Against their natural instincts and behaviour, animals are forced to do unnatural actions such as driving, riding pillion, playing musical instruments and other physical gestures. A film set is a frightening and distressing environment for animals. This increases the chance of animals getting startled and hurting themselves or others, causing all involved unnecessary pain and suffering. When not working, these animals spend most of their lives chained or in cramped, filthy, barren cages, deprived of everything natural and important to them, often including the companionship of others of their own species.

“Further, it is stated that welfare of animals on-set and off-set both is imperative. Off-set to ensure a desired output from an animal at a film set, trainers routinely use methods that involve coercion or punishment to force animals to perform, causing them unnecessary pain and suffering, violating Sections 3 and 11 of the PCA Act. The Board is in receipt of numerous complaints reporting that many animals have died or been injured at production sets for films, TV shows and other digital contents due to accidents and that they are often forced to spend hours in a stressful environment.

“In this regard, it is stated that few Film production companies are increasingly using technology that also upholds animal welfare. Between 2016 and 2020 majority of the films sought permission to show animals as Computer Generated Imagery (CGI). Many Indian films such as Tanhaji, Mohenjodaro, Krrish, Makkhi and Maghadeera have used computer-generated animals in the film.

“In view of the above, it is advisable that the effective methods such as Computer Generated Graphics (CGI), Visual Effects (VFX), and animatronics should be prioritised instead of involving live animals in films/ad-films etc. in order to prevent unnecessary pain and suffering to animals during exhibition and training.”

## Single-Use Plastic

**T**he Government of India has notified Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021 that state the thickness of plastic carry bags that are currently (since 30 September 2021) 75 microns from 31 December 2022 would be increased to 120 microns to allow them to be reused. The new rules also state: “The manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of following single-use plastic, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene, commodities shall be prohibited with effect from 1 July 2022: ear buds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, polystyrene (thermocool) for decoration; plates, cups, glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straw, trays; wrapping or packing films around sweet boxes, invitation cards, and cigarette packets, plastic or PVC banners less than 100 micron, stirrers...” However, the provisions will not apply to commodities made of compostable plastic.

Some years ago BWC wrote to Johnson & Johnson requesting that they should stop selling ear buds with plastic sticks globally, not only in Europe.



**Single use plastic in a garbage dump.**  
Photo courtesy: dnaindia.com



## Fire Crackers



Firecrackers banned. Photo courtesy: indiamart.com

Prior to the festive months of October to December 2021 many states exercised extra caution and totally banned (like Delhi, Odisha and Haryana), or curtailed their use, whereas several states allowed the use of green-crackers only (between timings like Rajasthan). Moreover, a Bench of the Supreme Court said “We do not want to come in the way of enjoyment, but for enjoyment one cannot play with the fundamental right of others”. The SC order was not against any festival or community, but was protecting the right to life of people against pollution and therefore firecrackers made from banned materials should not be permitted and emphasized that there should be some accountability on behalf of those who had to implement the order.

For the sake of animals, birds and humans, we all need to do our bit in which ever way we can, to stop the manufacture, sale, purchase and particularly, bursting of crackers.

## Renewable Energy vs Birds

In December 2021 the Government of India (Gol) sought modification of the Supreme Court April 2021 order for putting underground power transmission cables in Rajasthan and



Day View – Orange Reflector on one face  
Night View – Whole Disk Glows in Dark  
Day View – Red Reflector on other face

Bird flight diverter. Photo courtesy: birdflightdiverter.com

Gujarat to protect the endangered Great Indian Bustard. Gol said it was not feasible because it cost ₹12 crore per kilometre and would be a huge set back to India’s international commitment to move towards renewable energy. The area contained a very large proportion of the total solar and wind energy potential of the country. Bird Diverters as used on Gwalior-Jaipur line by the Power Grid Corporation to protect the Indian Vulture and Egyptian Vulture and in Bhuj-Banakantha line to protect Flamingos and Cranes, would therefore be installed so that the Great Indian Bustard would not be electrocuted.

BWC feels that there needs to be a balance between the two, one can not risk harming birds, bats, and indirectly other lives (whether endangered or not) for the sake of renewable energy.

## Sattvik Certification



In September 2021 a *Sattvik* Council Certification scheme was launched by a company in New Delhi. On the lines of *Halal* (for followers of Islam) and *Kosher* (for those of Jewish faith) certifications, the *Sattvik* certification is used for 4 types of foods: *Sattvik Sattvam*, *Sattvik Vegetarian*, *Sattvik Vegan* and *Sattvik Jain*. The company aims to certify approximately 1 million establishments, including kitchens, hotels, products and textiles by 2025.

Soon after in November 2021 the *Sattvik* Council of India said in a statement that the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) had begun serving *sattvik* certified food in its Katra Vande Bharat Express because the train’s last stop was the Vaishno Devi temple. Some other trains would also be *sattvik* certified in order to promote vegetarian-friendly travel and IRCTC base kitchens, executive lounges, budget hotels, food plazas, travel and tour packages would also be *sattvik* certified.



# Fact, not Fancy *Bones*

*Paper straws are made by rolling three layers of bleached waste paper and dipping in animal derived glue says Nirmal Nischit*

**T**oday most people acknowledge that animals are killed for meat and leather too, but few realise that bones, hooves and horns land up as ingredients of many products. According to Global AgriSystem close to 21 lakh tonnes of cattle bones are annually generated from India's livestock.

Bones of cattle, buffaloes and pigs weigh about 12-30% of weight of the animals; and in sheep and goats the bones weigh 20-30%. Bones consist of organic and inorganic matter in the ratio 1:2. Ossein or bone collagen is the organic component, whereas 33% calcium & 15% phosphorus is inorganic. Bone marrow (red and yellow) is 96% fat.

## Two Types of Bones

Green or fresh bones are derived from young and healthy animals (mainly cattle) that have just been slaughtered and are therefore not brittle but heavy containing 50% moisture, 15% bone marrow, 12% organic matter and 23% inorganic matter.

Desert or dried bones are brittle, decomposed bones of fallen animals that have been exposed to decay, bacteria & insects, are devoid of meat, fat & tendon, and are therefore light in weight, containing dried ossein, calcium and phosphorus.

## Bone Char

The most commonly presumed use of bones is in sugar making which needs clarification. Filtration and decolourisation techniques for cane sugar can involve either bone char, traditional granular/activated carbon (coal, wood, coconut), or the use of synthetic ion exchange resins. Manufacturers of cane sugar



in India use the latter or sulphur dioxide. Therefore the sugar derived from Indian refineries is vegan.

This was reiterated when in 2017 Beauty Without Cruelty got 5 randomly chosen brands of sugar samples tested for DNA of animal origin via Delhi based Voice Society (a consumer organisation) at the Shriram Institute for Industrial Research which is one of the NABL's (National Accreditation Board for testing and calibration Laboratories) test labs. It was not detected. This scientifically proved that cane sugar made in India was indeed vegan.

Animal bones are burnt at high temperatures to obtain not only bone char, but also bone black, ivory black and animal charcoal used mainly for filtering water (removing fluoride), refining crude oil in the production of petroleum jelly (Vaseline) and as a black pigment (paint, printing ink, etc).

## Bone China

Bone china originated in England in the 1700s and for a long time was only made there. Fine china, bone china and ordinary china, all contain about 50% bone ash (burnt bones), whereas true porcelain is made of kaolin (clay)

and minerals. Earthenware (clay, quartz and feldspar), stoneware and most ceramics are also free of animal substances except when shellac-coated for shine. Ceramic material is inorganic and non-metallic – often crystalline oxide, nitride or carbide.

Usually “bone china” is printed at the bottom of the item, but if it isn’t, to ascertain whether the crockery contains bone ash or not, hold it up to the light, with your other hand touch the item from the back (at the bottom of the cup or back of the plate) and move your finger in small circular motions. Bone china is translucent therefore if it is so, the movement of your finger will be visible.

BWC has produced a one and a half minute informative film in Hindi called Bone China ki Sachai which can be viewed on You Tube <https://youtu.be/irJy87xHHPg>.

Bone ash is also used as a fertilizer for plants, or it could be treated with sulphuric acid to permeate the soil better. Crushed slaughter house derived bones, horns and hooves also land up as bone meal or organic fertiliser. But, horn and hoof meal is not mixed with cattle feed bone meal because it is indigestible.

## Gelatine and Glue

Another derivative of animal bones and other body-parts is gelatine and still in use in India and exported too. It is almost synonymous with jelly, although crystals made of vegetable gums are available. In addition to being an ingredient of very many foods (E441), gelatine is widely used by the pharmaceutical industry in the form of capsules, a binder in tablets, and plasma extender in blood transfusion. Manufacturers say they use buffalo bones but just by looking at them no one can ascertain whether the bones are those of buffalo or cow. To a lesser extent gelatine is utilised by the cosmetic, photographic, paper, textile, leather and glue

industries. Whether edible or not, gelatine is of animal origin. Alternatives are agar-agar, carrageenan, pectin, konjac and cellulose.

As a result of BWC’s campaign against the use of gelatine capsules, in 2015 the Scientific Committee advising the Drug Controller General of India decided in principle to replace gelatine capsules with cellulose capsules but pharmaceutical manufacturers continue to resist the use of veg capsules because gelatine ones are cheaper. Few label the capsules they utilise as being veg.

Glue is in fact inferior gelatine (no difference chemically) and is obtained and processed in the same manner as gelatine. Rejected hides and skins, hide trimmings such as marks, snouts, ears, shanks, skin of slunk/unborn animals, tendons, sinews, horn pith, casings and loose connective tissues are used to produce them. Glue being low-grade is comparatively dark in colour and has inedible uses such as adhesive in plywood, furniture, sand paper, gummed tape, etc. Zinc sulphate is used as a preservative to extend its keeping quality.

Manufacturers prefer animal derived glue called *vajram* or *saras* over polymer because it is stronger and the cardboard on which it is applied does not warp. It is commonly used for book binding and for sealing cartons of packaged food articles and boxes. Following a ban on the use of plastic straws, paper straws are being used. Few people know that they are made by rolling three layers of bleached waste paper and dipping in animal derived glue.





Neatsfoot oil is prepared from the hooves of cattle that are immediately cut off in the

slaughter house. The average yield per animal is less than half a litre. The oil does not solidify or dry even in freezing temperatures and is used as a lubricant for delicate machinery (aeroplanes, watches, ships), by the leather and textile industries, and pharmaceutical industry (ointments).

### Adornments and other Articles

Bone jewellery is some thing people think of as ancient or may be tribal, but unfortunately it is still crafted and sold today. Raw bones used to make jewellery are



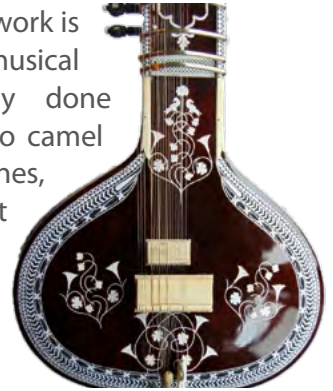
first washed in soapy water with a stiff brush to remove all meat, gristle and ligaments. They are then boiled in diluted hydrochloric or sulfuric acid until the greasy texture is no longer felt. This is followed by drying and bleaching. Eventually cutting, carving and engraving. There is no doubt that dangerous chemicals are utilized.

Bones, horns, antlers, teeth, nails, claws, shells, mammoth/elephant ivory, buffalo/rhino horn (legal and illegal) are all utilized in the making of ornaments. Bones of birds being small in size are easily carved and snake vertebrae are like ready made beads. Earlier these and other bone beads were strung on a strip of animal sinew but now leather chords are used. Bone jewellery can include feathers, shells, bone dust inlay or be hollow with metal, glass or wood combinations. Indonesian craftsmen

who paint and lacquer-coat their bone bead jewellery cater to the global organic jewellery market as it is called.

Shockingly there was a video being circulated on WhatsApp showing human bones collected at cremation grounds being machine made into rings and buttons. In short, bones are bones, and one can never be sure of their origin.

Decorative bone inlay work is often found on Indian musical instruments. Originally done in ivory, later shifted to camel or other animal bones, but plastic is still not always utilized. String instruments usually have a flat bridge called jawari which is made of camel bone although plastic jawari guards last longer. Similarly piano and harmonium keys were at one time made from ivory but now white plastic is often utilized.



Cupellation is a very high temperature metallurgy process via which noble/precious metals like gold and silver are separated from base metals like lead, copper, zinc, arsenic, antimony or bismuth present in the ore – noble metals do not oxidise or react chemically. Since bone ash or calcined bones have an extremely porous, calcareous structure and a very high melting point, they are to this day used to make cupels or vessels shaped in the form of inverted truncated cones that are utilised for the process.

### Slaughter = Meat, Leather & Bone

Last, but not least, we need to remember that just like meat and leather are considered two sides of the same coin, bones are the substance in-between because they fetch the butcher a good price too.



# Ethical Weavers from Maniabandha

*Maniabandha chose to weave in cotton while its twin village Nuapatna uses silk says M Sandip Kumar*

This is a sequel to the author's article Non-Silk Revolution from *Compassionate Friend* – Summer 2019.

**M**y journey in vegan clothing started in 2017 and till now has been a fantastic experience, even though we have faced a lot of obstacles due to the ongoing pandemic. I truly believe I made a wise decision to quit the cruelty-based silk business and shift to selling completely vegan based clothing. The amount of appreciation I have received, especially from Beauty Without Cruelty, has given me immense motivation, and encourages me to work even harder.

I have had so many remarkable experiences during this time. One such experience which took place recently, stands out for me, and I am happy to share it with readers of *Compassionate Friend*.



In search of vegan sarees, I was approached by the team at Tata Trust under the Antaran project which promotes handlooms and lesser known weaving clusters. These clusters are in the states of Assam, Nagaland, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

In November 2021, I visited one of the clusters, a small village in Odisha called Maniabandha, in order to explore and promote their artistic Ikat sarees and fabrics through my ethical business.

The weft Ikat style of weaving practiced here since ancient times is renowned the world over. Almost the entire population of Maniabandha is Buddhist, and weavers too, with nearly 3,000 looms still actively creating the beautiful weft Ikat textiles. The inhabitants here trace their descent to the followers of Buddha, who migrated from West Bengal 5,000 years ago.





## Non-Violent Weaving

The pure vegetarian dwellers of Maniabandha extend their non-violent philosophy to their craft also. It is testimony to their unwavering commitment to non-violence that even in the battle for survival against their competitors Maniabandhas have chosen to stand by their beliefs.

The exquisite sarees, salwars and other textiles produced here are truly elegant creations. All the weavers of Maniabandha use only cotton and fine blends of cotton yarns in the manufacture of clothing.

As far as I know, this is the only cluster which completely follows a non-violent lifestyle in food, culture and occupation. I was not so surprised, when to test their genuineness, I asked one of the artisans to weave the same sarees using yarns extracted from



cocoon silk that could fetch him double the profit. He firmly refused, and also mentioned that in the past, many big business houses and cooperatives had asked them to make silk sarees, but the whole village had stood firmly behind their values, refusing such offers.

To my mind, nothing can be more admirable than this ethical commitment, and their respect for every form of life on earth. In fact, their principles have impressed me so much, that it has strengthened my own resolve, and I reaffirm my pledge once again never to buy, sell or even promote animal cruelty based products as long as I live.

They say that when one door closes, another opens, and that has been absolutely true for me. My visit and experience at Maniabandha materialised only because I had stopped selling silk clothing. Credit and thanks are also due to the help of Shri Pankaj Shah who is the mentor of the Antaran project.

## Caution

I would however like to warn our readers and vegan clothing customers that on the internet there are a lot of online portals selling Naupatna silk in the name of Maniabandha Ikat silk sarees. But on personally checking by visiting the village, I assert that at present there are no weavers in Maniabandha who are creating sarees or fabric in silk. Unfortunately, weavers from Nuapatna village, which is just 4 kms away from Maniabandha weave silk sarees and fabric.

Maniabandha chose to weave in cotton while its twin village Nuapatna uses silk.

I had a wonderful experience visiting Maniabandha, and can still hardly believe that a whole village is following the same ideology as mine. It combines the values of non-violence with a sustainable way of living spiritually on this earth. I am therefore delighted and honoured to promote their weaves and bring their beautiful creations to my customers.



*M Sandip Kumar is a life member of BWC-India. His non-silk store Hand-n-Yarns in Chennai offers 5% discount to BWC Members on purchases over ₹ 5,000/-. He can be reached on +919884849329.*

The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021 was introduced in the Lok Sabha by the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on 17 December 2021 and was referred to a Standing Committee on 25 December 2021. The Bill amends the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

# Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2021 – Salient Features

*But for three, all amendments are consistent with the objectives of wildlife conservation says S C Sharma who had 31 years ago written an article on the 1991 amendments to the Act in Compassionate Friend (Vol XV No 4).*

**W**ild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has so far been amended eight times. Of all the amendments the Wild Life Amendment Act, 2021 is unique for more than one reason. The Act on hand meets the long felt need of rationalization of the Schedules and on the other hand provides detailed mechanism for fulfilling the country's international commitment to enforce various provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This issue has been pending since 1991 and taking care of it is also a major achievement. Besides redressing these two major issues, the Act also fine tunes various existing provisions.

Some new sections have been added to the Act. Sections 62A and 62B need special mention. The former deals with control and regulation of invasive weeds and the latter empowers the Central Government to ask/seek certain crucial information and data from the State Governments.

## The Brief Resume of the Proposals

### 1. Rationalising the Schedules to the Act

The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 had divided the wildlife animals found country in five different schedules. Schedule-I listed the species which were considered endangered and needed total protection against hunting and trade. Schedule-V listed the species which were considered to be not of much consequence and could be hunted freely. The remaining three Schedules i.e. Schedule-II, Schedule-III and Schedule-IV were for regulation of hunting. Consequent to the total ban on hunting through the 1991 amendment of the Act, the words special game, big game and small game had become redundant. The Act therefore reclassifies the animals found in the country in just two

schedules i.e. Schedule-I Specially Protected Animals, and Schedule-II Protected Animals.

The word Vermin has been done away with, as it is not logical to call any animal vermin. Endangered species of flora, protected under the provisions of Chapter-III-A have been put in Schedule-III and the species of fauna and flora listed in various appendices have been put as schedule-IV. Listing of the species in Schedule-I, II and III has been done on the basis of the present status of their population.

### 2. Enforcement of the Provisions of CITES

A new Chapter V-B has been inserted in the bill to enlist the provisions of the Convention (CITES) and provide mechanism for enforcing the same. The chapter contains provisions for the appointment of the Management Authority and the Scientific Authority and the

functions to be discharged by them as well as by the Chief Wildlife Warden, have been made. The other salient provisions contained in the chapter are:

- (a) Every person engaged in dealings of scheduled specimens (animals and plants listed in Schedule-IV of the bill, articles made there from and parts thereof) shall register himself with the Management Authority (Sub Section 3 of Section 49-H).
- (b) Every person in possession of a live scheduled animal shall report the details of such animal to the management authority. Any person who transfers such an animal, by any means whatsoever, shall report the details of such transfer to the Management Authority. In the event of the death of such animal, a detailed report shall be submitted to the Management Authority (Section 49-M).
- (c) Every person engaged in the profession of breeding of scheduled animals shall get himself registered with the Chief Wildlife Warden of the state, where such facility is located (Section 49-N).

The Customs authorities and the Coast Guard authorities have been empowered to take action against the violators of the provisions of the Convention in relevant sections of the Act.

## Other Salient Amendments Proposed

### 1. Chapter-II Authorities to be appointed or Constituted under the Act

- (a) National Board for Wildlife: (i) Member of NITI Aayog in charge Environment & Forest co-opted as Member of the Board. (ii) Provision for creation of a Sub-Committee of experts for carrying out the allocated functions made. And the terms and conditions of appointment would be as prescribed (Section 5).

- (b) State Board for Wildlife: (i) Provision for appointment of the Minister in-charge Forest as Vice President of Board made. (ii) Provision for appointment of the Standing Committee of Board with Vice President as Chairman of the Board made. The functions of the Standing Committee shall be as decided by the Board (Section 6).

### 2. Chapter-IV Protected Areas

- (a) Provision for grant of permission for making films inside National Park and Sanctuaries and National Parks made (Section 28).
- (b) Schemes for supply of drinking water for household use of local communities exempted from provisions of Section 29 (Diversion of Wildlife habitat).
- (c) Management of National Parks to be done in accordance with the management plan prepared in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Central Government and approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden. In case the Sanctuary falls in a scheduled area, where the Recognition of Forest Rights Act, 2006, is applicable, the management plan shall be prepared in consultation of concerned Gram Sabhas (Section 33).
- (d) Construction of commercial tourist lodges and hotels inside National Park and Sanctuaries was prohibited. Now construction of Government lodges has also been banned (Section 33).
- (f) No renewal of arm licences, granted under Arms Act, 1959, shall be done within 10 m. radius of the boundaries of a Sanctuary except under intimation to the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State (Section 34).

(g) The Management Committee of a Community Reserve shall not have less than five members nominated by the Village Panchayat. In case of Community Reserve that comprises of private land, a member of the Panchayat in whose area the Reserve falls and a Representative of the Forest/Wildlife Officer in whose jurisdiction the Reserve falls shall be the Members of the Advisory Committee (Section 36-D).

**3. Chapter IV-B National Tiger Conservation Authority**

- (a) Section 38-L has been amended to do away the requirement of 10 years experience requirement for appointment as Director Project Tiger.
- (b) Provisions contained in this chapter shall be in addition and not in derogation to the provisions relating to National Park and Sanctuary as contained in Chapter IV (Section 38-X).

**4. Chapter V Commerce or Trade in Wild Animals, Animal Articles and Trophies**

- (a) Where the animal confiscated becomes government property, the same shall be housed and cared by a recognised Zoo and shall be disposed by the State Government and the Central Government, as the case may be, in such a manner as may be prescribed by the Central Government (Section 39).
- (b) Any person having a certificate of ownership in respect of any captive animal, animal article, trophy or uncured trophy and he is not desirous of keeping it under his control, custody or possession, the same may, after giving seven working days to the Chief Wildlife Warden,

- surrender the same to him and such certificate of ownership shall stand cancelled from the date of surrender and no compensation shall be granted to him (new Section 42-A).
- (c) Provisions of Sub-Section 3 of Section 43 shall not apply for transportation of a live elephant by a person having a certificate of ownership from the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State, from where such a person has obtained prior permission to acquire the elephant from the State Government on fulfilment of conditions as may be prescribed (new Sub Section 4 of Section 43).

**5. Prevention and Detection of Offences**

- (a) Custom Officers and Coast Guard Officers authorised to take action under the Sections 50, 54 and 55 of the Act.
- (b) Penalties prescribed for various offences under Section 51 of the Act enhanced significantly.

Penalties		
Type of Violation	1972 Act	2021 Bill
General violation	Upto ₹ 25,000/-	Upto ₹ 1,00,000/-
Specially protected animals	At least ₹ 10,000/-	At least ₹ 25,000/-

**6. Chapter-VII Miscellaneous**

- (a) Central Government may control or regulate the import of alien invasive species, possession and proliferation of which may adversely impact the wildlife and its habitat (new Section 62-B)
- (b) Central Government assumes power to call for any information or data from the State Governments and any such other bodies (new Section 62-B)



## Welcome and Unwelcome

Of all the amendments listed above, but for three, all amendments are consistent with the objectives of wildlife conservation and are welcome steps. Following 3 amendments are likely to work against the cause of wildlife conservation:

1. Grant of permission of filming inside sanctuaries is likely to cause major disturbance in the sanctuary area due to uncontrolled movement of big teams and of huge equipment.

While there should be no objection to video photography of wildlife by wildlife enthusiasts which needs to be encouraged because of its educative value, shooting of commercial films should not be permitted.

2. Removing the condition of 10 years experience in wildlife conservation from the requisite qualifications for appointment as Director Project Tiger is bound to harm the cause. Having a person, with no experience of working in the field of wildlife conservation as head of the country's premier wildlife project, is bound to impact the cause of wildlife conservation.



3. Adding a new Sub-Section 4 for exempting live elephants from the operation of Sub-Section 2 is totally uncalled for. The Sub-Section 2 only requires that when a person in possession of any animal, animal articles made there from and trophies there of moves from one state to another, he shall within thirty days of the transport or transfer of the above, report to the Chief Wildlife



**Elephants are transported inter-state in trucks.**  
Photo courtesy: [annontheelephant.com](http://annontheelephant.com)

Warden or the authorised officer, in whose jurisdiction the transport is effected. The owners of the live elephants should have no difficulty in complying with this provision. It safeguards against unauthorised transfer of elephants to some other state.



*S C Sharma retired as Additional Director General Forests (Wild Life) in 2002 and continues to take a keen interest in the subject. He is very knowledgeable on wild life and has helped BWC for decades.*



**Filming in sanctuaries abroad where allowed does not leave wild life in peace.**  
Photo courtesy: [runningwild.media](http://runningwild.media)

# Vegan Recipe *Breadfruit*

**B**readfruit is commonly known as *Nirphanas* and *Bakri Chajhar*. It looks like jackfruit, and although they are called fruits, they are versatile and can both be eaten as vegetables.

Breadfruit can be baked (tastes like bread hence its name), boiled, mashed, sautéed, made into a *subji*/curry or dried and ground into flour. It is very nutritious and beneficial for diabetics in particular. It is high in Omega 2 and 6, heart friendly fatty acids. A cup of breadfruit constitutes 31% potassium and 14% magnesium of the daily recommended dietary allowance. In addition, it is low in saturated fat, cholesterol and sodium, but very high in Vitamin C.

## Breadfruit Curry

(Serves 4)

### Ingredients

1 breadfruit, cut into small chunks  
 4 tablespoons oil  
 Salt & black pepper to taste  
 2 large onions, diced  
 6 cloves garlic, minced  
 1 tablespoon ginger, minced  
 1 yellow capsicum, finely chopped  
 12 curry leaves  
 3 stalks celery, finely chopped  
 2 tablespoons coriander leaves, finely chopped  
 3 tablespoons curry powder  
 1 tablespoon tamarind paste  
 1 tablespoon jaggery  
 2 tablespoons boiling water  
 6 tomatoes, diced  
 4 tomatoes, quartered  
 2½ cups coconut milk  
 1 large onion, cut into chunks

### Preparation

Add breadfruit to a pan with 4 tablespoons of oil. After seasoning with salt and black pepper, cook on medium heat for 10 minutes or until golden brown. Set aside.

In the same pan, sauté onion till translucent.

Add garlic, ginger, capsicum and curry leaves, then sauté for a minute.

Add celery, coriander leaves and curry powder, then sauté for 3 minutes.

Combine tamarind paste, jaggery and boiling water until a tamarind sauce is formed.

Add diced tomatoes, tamarind sauce and salt to taste, and sauté.

Add 1½ cups coconut milk and cook the mixture for 2 to 3 minutes. Transfer to a blender, add an additional cup of coconut milk and blend till smooth.

Add one tablespoon oil to pan then sauté remaining onion and quartered tomatoes on high heat. Return breadfruit to pan and add curry sauce.

Combine and cook for 2 minutes.

Garnish with additional coriander.

Serve with brown rice.



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

# One of the Earliest Vegans

*Al-Ma'arri (December 973 – May 1057)*

*lived during the Islamic Golden Age at  
Ma'arrat al-Nu'man, present-day Syria.*

*He is regarded as one of the greatest classical  
Arabic poets and the world's first notable  
Vegan as is clearly revealed in his poem:*

**Do not unjustly eat fish  
the water has given up,**

**And do not desire as food  
the flesh of slaughtered animals,**

**Or the white milk of mothers  
who intended its pure draught  
for their young, not noble ladies.**

**And do not grieve  
the unsuspecting birds by taking eggs;**

**For injustice is the worst of crimes.**

**And spare the honey which the bees  
get industriously from the flowers of fragrant plants;  
For they did not store it that it might belong to others,  
Nor did they gather it for bounty and gifts.**

**I washed my hands of all this; and wish that I  
Perceived my way before my hair went gray.**



Sketch by: Khalil Gibran



# Protect our forests from mining, logging and filming



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