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COMPASSIONATE FRIEND

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



Gadhimai
Shēngxiào
Circus Animals
Ethical Investments

Bulbul-fights banned



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Unravelling Gadhimai

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In 2009 around the time of the Gadhimai *mela* (fair) after BWC approached the Union Minister of Home Affairs to ban the movement of animals across the Indo-Nepali border, the Government deployed an additional 4,500 Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) officials at the border outposts.

According to a senior SSB officer the number of animals sacrificed from India in 2009 reduced by 75%. But, in view of only few hundred being seized and may be as many apprehended from crossing over, BWC felt it was an over-estimation, and therefore thought our efforts had curtailed 50% of the animal sacrifices.

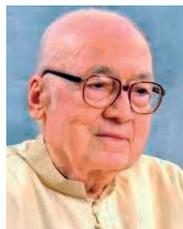
This year we sent a similar request to the newly formed government. Before which we had sent RTI applications to the Home Affairs and External Affairs Ministries asking for the numbers of animals, people and vehicles that crossed from India into Nepal between 21 and 27 November 2009. One of the replies dated 11 March 2014 stated “the Bureau of Immigration is exempted from providing any

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is grateful to

the late **Shrenik Kasturbhai Lalbhai**

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COMPASSIONATE FRIEND

by his donation of ₹1,00,000/-

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Cover: Assamese *Bulbuli sorai* or Red-vented Bulbul

Photo courtesy: ©Neeraj Mishra

Knowing the number of animals killed is lesser than thought does not make it any the less barbaric, cruel, or gruesome. Every animal is an individual and each life is precious and counts, say Diana Ratnagar and Rajeev Sethi

information/details on the subject.” Whereas, the Ministry of Home Affairs’ Central Public Information Officer wrote on 12 March 2014 “data regarding number of people, animals, etc. crossing Indo-Nepal border is not compiled by Department of Border Management, and accordingly is not available.”

Earlier, in January 2014, BWC began appealing for contacts likely to help eliminate or at least lessen the number of animals sacrificed at the year-end Gadhimai *mela* in Nepal. Our meticulous investigations about the Gadhimai animal sacrifice threw up some significant information. But, it was only after 28 & 29 November 2014 that we got to know we were not the only ones to have realised the 2009 figures had been highly exaggerated. Moreover, the number of animals planned to be sacrificed at the forthcoming *mela* had kept rising – began at 25,000, jumped to 2 lakhs and then 5 lakhs.

The sacrificial area measures 2 Nepalese *bighas* – 13,546 square metres or 3.35 acres. One buffalo calf thrown on its side would cover a minimum 1.30 square metres. Adult buffaloes would take up more space. Many photographs show vacant spaces between carcasses. The carcasses are not piled one upon another and none are taken out of the field when the killing is going on. Therefore, no more than 10,000 buffaloes can ever be sacrificed within the walled area.

The Reality

We had not challenged or refuted claims made by others because we felt it could harm the cause and even a few hundred animals might not get saved. Now that the 2014 sacrifice is over, we are disclosing our findings.

The Gadhimai temple of Bariyarpur in Bara district in Nepal is situated 26 kilometres from the border town of Raxaul in Bihar. Almost every one who attends the Gadhimai *mela* is from India. It is not essential for those who visit to sacrifice an animal – and most of them don’t. Although bananas, white pumpkins, and sugarcane sticks

are not ‘sacrificed’ there, devotees do break coconuts as an offering to the deity.

Some Nepalese did not even know where or what Gadhimai was, leave alone it being synonymous with buffalo sacrifices! (The Embassy in Kolkata said it could be the way in which they and we pronounce Gadhimai.) Any way, there is no doubt the place is insignificant except when it comes to life – to kill – every few years. Not necessarily every five years so the next event may not take place in 2019 as expected. However, the Gadhimai *mela* is organised on the *shukla paksha saptami* and *asthami* (7th & 8th day of bright half) of the Margshirsh month of the Hindu lunar calendar.

To some extent it was a relief to know for sure that the number of animals sacrificed did not run into lakhs although sacrifice of smaller animals like goats, chickens and pigeons is said to be permitted within a radius of 3 or 5 kilometres of the temple. The number of devotees who visit Gadhimai for the *mela* are not as many either. Only a couple of thousand animals are beheaded at the site, but this, in itself is



no doubt, mass slaughter. Repeated close scrutiny of scores of photographs and videos revealed that almost all the buffaloes were male calves – obviously, unwanted animals from the dairies of the region.

Knowing the number of animals killed is lesser than thought does not make it any the less barbaric, cruel, or gruesome. Every animal is an individual and each life is precious and counts. This is evident from how we all react on viewing the internet videos of the buffaloes being sacrificed.

BWC came to this factual conclusion after making extensive inquiries over a year. We located and spoke to a great number of people like auto rickshaw drivers of Bihar (not one of them had sacrificed an animal there), travel operators of Gorakhpur, journalists and many others who had themselves visited the Gadhimai *mela*.

BWC now realises that it is just not feasible for “approximately 90,000 buffaloes” as stated in the letters written by the Ministry of Home Affairs on 25 September 2014 to the State Governments, to

be bought, brought and beheaded by scores of slayers swinging *khukuris*, machetes and scimitars operating round the clock for a day or two.

Persistent inquiries revealed that the temple authorities take money from devotees for the animals promising to arrange for the sacrifice – in the open field away from the temple. A high wall has been erected around this slaughter-field and those who want to see what is going on need to scale the wall.

And guess what? Two days later there was no trace whatsoever of the massacre. The heads were buried whereas the rest of the carcasses’ flesh may, or may not have been distributed (meat spoils fast) and skin sold off.

For an animal to be sacrificed, a devotee may give ₹ 1,000 or less, whereas another ₹ 3,000, and yet another ₹ 5,000. Thus the temple records show scores more than are actually sacrificed. People who wish to sacrifice may not even see the animal and they do not want the meat. Once they have paid they think their reverence to the Goddess is over.

The Result

Following the 2014 Supreme Court’s order directing the Government of India and states such as Bihar to check the illegal movement of animals into Nepal, not only did the SSB confiscate some animals and arrest people, but the animal activists who went to the area also helped to apprehend smugglers. Since hundreds of animals were again seized, the killing must have been lesser than in 2009.

To sum up, the number of buffaloes sacrificed at Gadhimai in 2009 never ran into more than a few thousands, and in 2014 the number was lesser. The number of animals saved from being sacrificed in November last, was again no more than a few hundred. So, about 50% buffaloes, goats and chickens from India that were scheduled to be killed must have been saved.

Last, but not least, we must face the fact, since it is not economical for milk producers to rear young, male buffaloes calves, they have no qualms whatsoever in selling them off... for sacrifice at Gadhimai.



Diana Ratnagar is Managing Trustee & Chairperson of BWC-India.

Rajeev Sethi is a Trustee of BWC-India.

Gadhimai Sacrificial Slaughter Exposed

The Gadhimai festival is magnitudes of order smaller than has been claimed, says Merritt Clifton

Debate about the numbers of buffalo sacrificed at the November 28 & 29, 2014 Gadhimai sacrificial festival at Bariyarpur, Nepal, and the numbers of human participants and sacrificial devotees present should be ended by this drone photo of the corrals where the sacrifices were conducted: the toll was significantly lower than the numbers of cattle slaughtered almost every day to supply the meat-eaters of

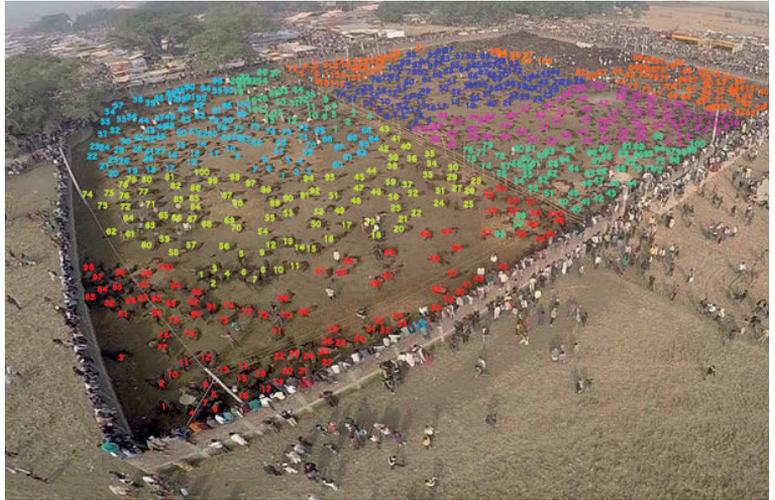
most major cities in the world, including the largest cities in India, where slaughtering cows is illegal in most of the nation, but slaughtering buffalo is permitted.

Starting with an enlarged copy of a Humane Society International drone photo posted to Facebook, said by protesters to show 5,000 buffalo, I counted the buffalo in sets of 100, differentiated by color to help minimize the risk of counting errors.

Relatively clearly distinguished were 700 buffalo, with perhaps 50 more huddled in the farthest corner of the corral from the drone. The estimate of the number of buffalo in this corner was later confirmed from news media photos taken at ground level.

The numbers of participants and spectators present in the drone photo appear to be only marginally more than the numbers of buffalo sacrificed.

Video from the 2009 Gadhimai sacrificial festival suggests that no more than 2,500 buffalo were sacrificed then. Both protesters and the priests promoting the festival have claimed that it involves numbers from 10 to 200 times higher.



Overview of the 2014 Gadhimai sacrificial festival at Bariyarpur, Nepal. This is the Humane Society International drone photo, with enumeration by ANIMALS 24-7 editor Merritt Clifton.

Almost all activist alerts distributed before the Gadhimai Festival stated that it would be the world's largest sacrifice of animals.

In truth it was not, and was not in 2009, either.

The Truth

The Gadhimai sacrifice kills a lot of animals, but as many are also killed at other sacrificial events. Most of the animals killed for Gadhimai are buffalo.

Activist and media reports have alleged that more than 500,000 water buffalo, pigs, goats, chickens, pigeons

and even mice are beheaded en masse to please Gadhimai, the local goddess of power.

But there is not the slightest credible evidence from any source to support the allegation that thousands of any species other than buffalo were killed for Gadhimai in 2014, or ever have been in the past, or ever could be, given the limitations of the location, the time allocated for the killing, and the economic resources of the region. And even the numbers of buffalo killed appear to have peaked in the low thousands.

Claims that astronomical numbers of animals are killed at the Gadhimai festival first surfaced in 2004. A variety of documentation including video of the 2009 Gadhimai sacrifices suggests that about 2,500 buffalo were killed then, and smaller numbers of goats, chickens, and miscellaneous other small animals, but the priests involved claimed that 50,000 animals were killed, including 20,000 buffalo – about three times as many as could stand within a three-kilometer radius of the Bariyarpur alter. Some activist websites inflated the toll to 500,000.

Bariyarpur, 2009

Following a full-speed showing of Animal Welfare Network Nepal president Manoj Gautam's video at the January 2014 Asia for Animals (AfA) conference, and after a presentation by Bodh Prasad Prapuli, chief of the Central Animal Quarantine Office, government of Nepal, I expressed skepticism of the claimed numbers.

So did Federation of Indian Animal Welfare Organizations founder Arpan Sharma, FIAPO legal counsel Norma Alvarez, and Animal Welfare Board of India chairman General R.M. Kharb.

After a tea break, we spent 90 minutes starting and stopping the video to count animals and people, scene by scene. Ten viewers produced counts averaging 892 people and 735 buffalo, with high counts of 1,080 people and 1,300 buffalo.

Told that the video covered about half of the sacrificial area, we tried to deduce the whole by estimating the physical dimensions of the area from the size of visible landmarks, and projecting the numbers of animals that were shown to the whole area, thus concluding that no more than 2,500 buffalo could have been sacrificed.

Jagdish Arya, author of a 2005 article decrying the Gadhimai slaughter, described 600 men participating in the killing. Olivia Lang of The Guardian reported that about 250 men were licensed to participate. Gautam was told that "389 signed up initially, but only 223 went in the arena for the task, according to the committee."

The video, however, showed no more than 25 men actually killing buffalo. Photos obtained from other sources showed even fewer. Everyone else shown was a spectator, lined up two or three deep behind a fence.

The video, in short, confirmed that the Gadhimai festival is magnitudes of order smaller than has been claimed, chiefly by local priests trying to drum up participation.

The Supreme Court of India's Verdict

By ordering the Indian government to interdict traffic in buffalo to Nepal preceding the 2014 Gadhimai sacrifices, did a two-justice bench from the Supreme Court of India on October 17, 2014 strike a mighty blow against animal sacrifices at the Gadhimai festival?

Or did the Supreme Court justices just hand the government of India and a coalition of animal advocacy groups a face-saving way to declare victory when the much ballyhooed festival turned out to be much smaller than the hyperbolic claims of both the priests promoting it and the activists trying to stop it? The Supreme Court of India has no jurisdiction over anything done in Nepal, but there is general agreement from all sides that about 70% of the buffalo killed during the Gadhimai festival are imported from India.

The total number of buffalo imported by Nepal from India in the whole of 2009, through 23 recognized border crossings, came to 11,674, most of them trucked directly to the meat markets of Kathmandu, the Nepalese capital city. The total was not high enough to allow for many thousands of buffalo to be killed for the Gadhimai sacrifices while also supplying the Kathmandu markets.

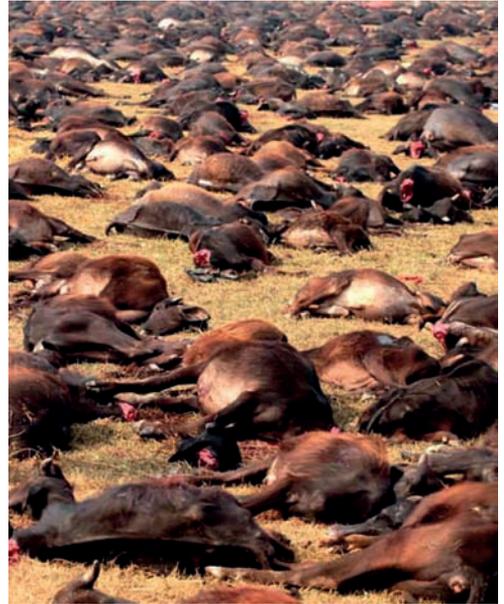
Smuggling

Opponents of the Gadhimai sacrifices have countered the border crossing data by alleging that thousands of buffalo are smuggled to Bariyarpur by marching them overland from India. This undocumented claim has become embarrassing to the Indian government, already repeatedly embarrassed by exposés of well-documented illegal exports of cattle from West Bengal to slaughter in Bangladesh.

But even if 70% of the buffalo sacrificed at Bariyarpur were smuggled across the relatively open border nearby during the week preceding the Gadhimai festival, mustering and moving such large numbers of cattle would be unlikely.

The Supreme Court verdict directing “the respondents to ensure that no live cattle and buffaloes are exported out of India into Nepal, but under license” enables the government of India and activist groups to claim success in cutting off the traffic to the Gadhimai sacrifice if the actual numbers of buffalo killed are significantly lower than the much publicized activists’ claims, even if no buffalo transports are interdicted.

Indeed there have been many “victory” claims made in the aftermath of the 2014 Gadhimai festival. But the documentation furnished by the participants in protests



Photos taken at the Gadhimai festival at ground level, like this one, often appear to show much larger numbers of animals than are actually present when the images are enlarged to permit accurate counting. This photo shows fewer than 100. Photo courtesy: Shambhu Prakash.

at the scene and attempts to intercept animals being carried over the border from India tends to confirm mostly that the sacrificial festival never involved more animals than are sacrificed at many Dasain events at temples around India. There is, however, the difference that no Dasain event is known to kill even as many as 100 buffalo, while many Dasain events kill more birds than are verifiably killed at Gadhimai.



Merritt Clifton, an investigative journalist and statistician working mostly on animal and environmental news beats since 1968, is editor of ANIMALS 24-7.

Fact, not Fancy Forced Ferocious Fights

Over 300 bulbuls, trapped from the forest in bamboo cages, are trained to fight over a banana, says Nirmal Nischit

There is a 'Fighting-Rooster Community' page on Facebook that has nearly 3000 likes! The page is directed to the Indian Rooster blog which contains recent videos and pictures.

The Calcutta Asil Club (*asil* is a fighter cock in Urdu) also runs an active website but claims to no longer promote cock-fighting since it is now illegal in India!

True, it's illegal under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' Act, 1960, as amended in 1982. Yet cocks, partridges, bulbul songbirds, buffaloes, bulls, goats, sheep, dogs and camels are forced to fight males of their own kind, resulting in lacerated stomachs and gouged eyes. Frenzied spectators are gamblers waiting to win 'blood money'.

Partridge-fights are said to take place in Old Delhi on Sunday mornings and nights. Often patronised by politicians, they are also unabatedly held in places like Hamirpur of Uttar Pradesh where *kala* and *safed titar* are found in the wild. Trained



Not many live to fight another day. Photo courtesy: assaminfo.com

birds are brought in baskets to the rural arena where lakhs of rupees are wagered. Shields are awarded to winning birds after which their value and demand goes up.

Roosters or game-cocks are kept in dark rooms, away from sunlight for a week prior to events so that the stress makes them hostile. To raise their stamina they are fed dry fruit, but on the day of the fight are kept hungry so they become more aggressive.

A razor-sharp, four-inch blade is tied to one foot of each bird-contestant. The duel ends when one bleeds to death; the other gets gravely injured. Such fights are widely organised in Andhra Pradesh. But, in some parts of Tamil Nadu *vetrukkaal seval porr* (naked heel cock-fights) are held for which the winner is decided after three or four rounds. Blades or no blades, gore and money are seen.

In ancient times making jungle fowl, partridges, quails and cocks fight was a pastime for warriors. Today fights flourish because people make easy money betting on winners. For example, the *haat* or weekly market in Chhattisgarh is incomplete without the traditional blood sport of cock-fighting.

Under the Bombay Prevention of Gambling Act and Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' Act hundreds of people

present (businessmen included) at cock-fights held in farmhouses on the outskirts of cities, have been arrested. Losing birds are immediately killed, cooked, and served to guests at such parties.

In Kerala, *kozhi kettu* or cock-fighting is held at temples in Kasaragod district. The cocks kick each other with the leg on which the blade is tied. The blood is offered to the Theyyam Gods, believed to protect the family. Here too gambling is very much a part of the ritual.

In 2010 at Midnapore, West Bengal, a cock had just won four fights killing his opponents, when he was forced into the arena again. He turned back in anger and attacked the very man who had trained him to fight! He jumped upon him, cackling and flapping his wings... the blade tied to his foot cut the man's jugular vein and he bled to death.

Bulbul-fights

During *Bhogali* or *Magh Bihu*, the mid-January harvest festival of Assam, cock, buffalo and bulbul-fights are organised for thousands who come to watch.

Months earlier, over 300 red-vented bulbuls, trapped from the forest in bamboo cages, are trained to fight over a banana. A day before the fight, they are given no food, and on the day itself an herbal paste which gets them highly intoxicated. Loud drum beats and cymbals goad the birds belonging to two teams, to fight all day. The winner of each duel takes on another winner, angrily pecking and pinning him down, till the last bird is crowned and given the banana.

BWC complained to the Environment Ministry following which the state government prohibited bulbul-fights in January 2015. Fights between cocks and buffaloes were also banned in compliance with a Supreme Court order.

Made to Lock Horns

Kidaai muttu is a fight between two rams (sheep or goats) conducted as part of temple festivals in villages around Madurai in Tamil Nadu. However, the Madras High Court has held that such entertainment can not be considered religious because animal fighting and baiting is an offence. The goats are raised on a special diet of wheat, fresh greens, vegetables, eggs and dates. Their practice sessions involve being made to run, swim and bump their heads repeatedly against hard surfaces. Their horns are sharpened and

painted. The winning goat hits others, but does not get hit himself, and is therefore awarded a big cash prize.

Although banned, 5-6 buffalo-fights are allowed by the Himachal Pradesh government at the annual Sair Fair held during September at Mashobra and Arki, on the outskirts of Shimla. Unsurprisingly, the buffaloes are reluctant to fight so their front legs are tied with thick ropes and pulled by men from the back, while goading them to fight by twisting their tails. It's cruel and painful.

Jharkhand is also known for its traditional buffalo-fights. After agricultural activities are over, a buffalo-fight is annually organised. The villagers claim it is a traditional entertainment in which the buffalo's strength and fitness is showcased.

In contrast Goa banned bull-fights called *dhirio* in which specially reared and trained bulls fought and gored each other to death.

With the Government's July 2011 Notification upheld by the Supreme Court of India prohibiting bulls from being performing animals, illegal bull-fights are easier to stop.

Illegal dog-fights and betting takes place in Haryana and Punjab. The dogs called *bully kutta* are similar to the vicious pit bulls banned in many parts of the world due to their killer instincts. Suffering is an integral part of dog-fighting events: dogs suffer both physically and emotionally and humans suffer due to the bets they place and lose.

Some times *unth laddi* or camel wrestling occurs at fairs in Rajasthan. Not much goading is required to make them fight because a female camel in heat is led in front of them and tethered nearby.

Illegal

Fights between two of a species are widespread even though Section II(1)(n) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act forbids it. Umpteen complaints citing cruelty and illegality have over the years been sent to the Government by Beauty Without Cruelty. We therefore hope that after the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court reaffirmed in 2014 that cock-fights were illegal, no more animal and bird fights will take place anywhere in India. All it now requires is political patronage to be withdrawn and a firm political will to stop the fights.

Long Live the Circus – Without Animals!



An elephant is kept ready with a cricket bat held in its trunk to hit a ball bowled towards him.

Ever since Beauty Without Cruelty successfully convinced the Government of India to stop bears, monkeys, tigers, panthers and lions from being exhibited or trained as performing animals in circuses, we have continued to appeal on behalf of other species.

Elephants, hippos, dogs, camels, horses, ponies, exotic birds and cats, and even fish, still perform and are exhibited in almost all the 22 circuses of India. Alongside are pictures of animal and bird performances recently taken at the Bombay Circus.

Circuses are means of entertainment where extremely cruel methods and intimidators are adopted to make animals perform unnatural acts. The cruelty begins from the point when the animals are acquired, then housed in dingy, cramped, stressful conditions under continuous imprisonment with inadequate and inappropriate food and exercise, always transported long distances under unhygienic and stressful conditions. Obviously this leads to unnatural behaviour with scant attention given to their mental and physical well-being since all that counts is their 'spectacular performances' which they are taught through physical torture, hunger and fear.

Our aim is not to shut down circuses as is mistakenly felt, but to totally eliminate animal and bird performances, says Khurshid Bhatena



Camels are hit with a wooden stick on their front legs to make them stand on stools.

Our aim is not to shut down circuses as is mistakenly felt, but to totally eliminate animal and bird performances as has already happened in one Indian circus. BWC would like to see the 130-year old circus industry reinvent itself to suit current times and expectations. To remain afloat and draw crowds, circuses need to totally forget animals and dazzle audiences with acrobatics, juggling, high wire,



Dogs are forced to walk on the narrow wall surrounding the circus ring, jump over each other, and sit to attention on a pipe maze.



Exotic birds are made to balance on a seesaw. All photos courtesy: Shashi Kumar

trapeze and bicycle acts. Some circuses already have artistes from Argentina, Nepal, Uzbekistan, Ethiopia and Russia. Circuses can, to their advantage, introduce performances by Indian traditional artistes and promote them as 'attractions'.

For their own betterment, and that of the circuses, people from particular nomadic tribes like the Dombaris who are often seen in streets precariously balancing themselves on high poles and swaying on ropes with great confidence, could be invited to perform. Mallakhamb, the 12th century ancient art of gymnastics which keeps spectators spellbound would also attract crowds.

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

Beauty Without Cruelty Investment Guide 2015

The 10th edition of the BWC *Investment Guide 2015* was put up on our website www.bwcindia.org in January. It can be downloaded by any visitor, whether a BWC member or not.

We would like it to be referred to by many people. BWC therefore requests readers to please inform financial consultants, share brokers and those who go in for equities or recommend them to others, about our *Investment Guide* so that in addition to financial considerations, they also weigh the nature of the businesses of the listed equities when taking investment decisions.

Avoiding 'Blood Money'

The Beauty Without Cruelty *Investment Guide* is meant to help the investor identify companies from the BSE500 list of January 2015 whose businesses do not necessitate the conscious and willful infliction of physical harm, injury, slavery, or death upon any member of the animal kingdom. This Guide classifies companies under four categories: green,

orange, grey and red to help the investor decide whether to invest in the company or not. The colours carry their commonly understood meanings in this context also:

GO: A company is marked green if it does not cause cruelty to any animals, and BWC gives the green signal, so to speak, to anyone wishing to invest in it.

CAUTION: Any company marked orange may or

may not be involved in animal exploitation so is to be considered with caution and personal judgment.

BEWARE: Companies marked grey are suppliers to other companies and are directly supporting animal exploitation businesses although there may be no animal exploitation involved in their own products.

STOP: Ones marked red should not be invested in as they are known to cause cruelty to and death of animals.

When a company that has been marked red, grey or orange satisfies us that they do not cause harm to animals, BWC would be happy to move them to the green category as has happened in past editions of our *Investment Guide*.

Goal

To provide the concerned investor with the right information not usually provided in any other place or publication.

To bring into public limelight the animal exploitation caused by corporate ventures and the simultaneous culpability of investors in supporting such companies.

To help investors who have reverence for life and do not wish to partake of 'blood money'.



Since our Guide has not covered each and every company listed on the Stock Exchanges in India, please feel free to send your queries to chairperson@bwcindia.org about particular stocks in your portfolio which we have not listed, or if you are considering purchase of any new ones. BWC will be happy to research the activities of such companies and promises to get back to you as soon as possible.

Important Note

Human life was included in earlier editions with suppliers of defence equipment being down-rated. Many felt it was in the interest of India's self-defence, so the suppliers should not be penalized.

In addition to this major change, after considerable thought and discussion, BWC felt it necessary to make a few other changes in the criteria on the basis of which the companies have been rated.

It is therefore essential for users of the BWC Investment Guide to first read and refer to the introduction so as to understand the ratings given to companies.

FYI

Shēngxiào

The Chinese Zodiac is called *Shēngxiào*.

Observed in China, Vietnam, Korea, and Japan, it shows respect for 12 particular animals. Each year is represented by an animal which gets repeated every 12 years.



Distinct animal characteristics are imparted during the year governed by the animals:

Horse	Idealistic	31 Jan 2014 – 18 Feb 2015
Goat	Peace-loving	19 Feb 2015 – 7 Feb 2016
Monkey	High-spirited	8 Feb 2016 – 27 Jan 2017
Rooster	Hard-working	28 Jan 2017 – 15 Feb 2018
Dog	Loyal	16 Feb 2018 – 4 Feb 2019
Pig	Intelligent	5 Feb 2019 – 24 Jan 2020
Rat	Clever	25 Jan 2020 – 11 Feb 2021
Ox	Duty-bound	12 Feb 2021 – 31 Jan 2022
Tiger	Independent	1 Feb 2022 – 21 Jan 2023
Rabbit	Creative	22 Jan 2023 – 9 Feb 2024
Dragon	Energetic	10 Feb 2024 – 28 Jan 2025
Snake	Wise	29 Jan 2025 – 16 Feb 2026

Lunar Months in each year are also governed by animals:

Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter
Tiger	Snake	Monkey	Pig
Rabbit	Horse	Rooster	Rat
Dragon	Goat	Dog	Ox

Vegan Recipe

Capsicum

Capsicums or bell peppers were introduced in India during the British Raj and since the first successful crop originated in Shimla, they got to be known as Shimla *mirch* in Hindi. They are usually bright green in colour, but red, orange, yellow, purple and even white bell peppers are grown in different parts of the world. Capsicum consumption promotes cardiac health by lowering blood pressure and cholesterol levels. Their anti-inflammatory properties stimulate stomach secretions and improve digestion. Moreover, regular consumption of capsicums vastly improves body metabolism and as they contain no fat and carbohydrates, help in weight loss diets.



Below is a recipe for the popular Chinese dish *Di San Xian* (earth three fresh) which combines the goodness of capsicum, potato and brinjal.

Di San Xian (serves 4)

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tsp brown sugar
- 2 tbsp corn flour (divided into 2)
- 3 green capsicums
- 3 potatoes
- 1 large brinjal
- peanut oil for deep frying
- 1 tsp red chilli powder
- 4 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 large spring onion with long green stalks, chopped fine
- ¼ tsp Salt

Preparation

- Put soy sauce, brown sugar, 1 tbsp corn flour and salt in a bowl and set aside.
- Cut potatoes, capsicums and brinjals into half-inch cubes.
- Heat oil and on medium flame deep fry potatoes first, then capsicums, followed by brinjals which have been lightly coated with 1 tbsp corn flour. Remove each lot with slotted spoon and keep aside separately.
- Use some of the same oil to sauté chilli powder, garlic and green onion for a minute.
- Return the potatoes, capsicums and brinjals to the pan and continue stir frying for another minute.
- Pour soy sauce mixture and stir fry for half a minute more.
- Serve hot with or without steamed rice.

Correct answers to the 10 questions asked in the Winter 2014 issue of *Compassionate Friend*

1. Why will the number of buffaloes sacrificed at Gadhimai in November 2014 lessen?
The Supreme Court ordered that animals can not cross the Indo-Nepal border without a licence.
2. Is papaya one of the healthiest and tastiest of fruits and how is it best eaten?
Yes. Papaya is best eaten ripe as a fruit with a few drops of lime squeezed on it.
3. When did India ban testing of cosmetics on animals?
21 May 2014.
4. How many cochineal insects are killed to produce 500 grams of crimson dye?
70,000
5. Which wild animal is killed for *kasturi* and is its use illegal?
*Musk deer. The use of *kasturi* is illegal.*
6. Name three animal ingredients used in perfumes?
Alleuritic acid, Ambergris/amber, Castoreum/castor, Civet/gandhamarjara, Deer musk/kasturi, Honeycombs, Hyraceum/Africa stone, Muskrat musk, Operculum/nakhla, Squalene/squalane.
7. Why should kites be flown without *manja*?
The manja can unwittingly severely wound, maim and kill birds – and humans.
8. Consumer products without the veg/non-veg symbol are almost certainly veg or non-veg?
Non-veg.
9. Does so-called ‘ahimsa’ silk production also result in killing?
Yes.
10. Why is the ‘Cruelty-Free’ label on cosmetics not tested on animals misleading?
The cosmetics could contain animal ingredients.

Names of those whose replies reached Beauty Without Cruelty by 31 December 2014 with ALL the questions correctly answered were sent a non-leather Ahinsa© wallet

K N Narendra Babu
Air Cmdr R S Bishnoi
Ronak Rajesh Chheda
B G Darvapurkar
Vasant K Gada
Haresh R Gandhi
J Kanti Lal Jain
Suvarna Ashok Jain
Y K Jain
Virendra N Jhaveri
Tarabai M Kankriya

Shirin Nash Karanjia
M R Kodhandram
Manoj Kumar Manot
Dipak Ramniklal Mehta
Dr K S Sathya Prasad
Dr R V Prasad
Neelu Punwani
K T Arasu Selvi
R Jasraj Sri Srimal
Shashi Shekher Thakur

होनाडा vs. बहोनाडा

Animal and Bird Fights

प्राणी और पक्षी-युद्ध



Goat-fight

बकरों की लड़ाई



Cock-fight

कुक्कुट-युद्ध



Buffalo-fight

भैंसा-युद्ध



Dog-fight

कुत्तों की लड़ाई

Fights between two of a species are the height of cruelty and sadism.

एक ही प्रजातियों के दो प्राणियों की लड़ाई क्रूरता और परपीडन की चरमसीमा है।

Animal and bird fights are illegal, cruel and unnecessary.



प्राणी-युद्ध और पक्षी-युद्ध जितने अवैध हैं, उतने ही क्रूर और अनावश्यक हैं।



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