Inside the Indian Dairy Industry: A Report on the Abuse of Cows and Buffaloes Exploited for Milk

False Impressions

A cow contentedly chewing her cud may look as though she does not have a care in the world, but there is a lot going on behind those big brown eyes. Just like cats, dogs and humans, cows and buffaloes are individuals: some are extremely bright, and others are slow learners. Some are bold and adventurous, and others are shy. Some are friendly and considerate, and others are bossy and devious. According to organic farmer Rosamund Young, author of *The Secret Lives of Cows*, cows “can be highly intelligent, moderately so, or slow to understand; friendly, considerate, aggressive, docile, inventive, dull, proud, or shy.”

In addition to having distinct personalities, cows are generally intelligent animals who can remember things for a long time, according to recent studies. Animal behaviourists have found that cows interact in socially complex ways – they develop friendships over time, sometimes hold grudges against cows who treat them badly, form social hierarchies within their herds and choose leaders based on intelligence. They are emotionally complex as well and even have the capacity to worry about the future.

Researchers have found that cows can not only figure out problems but also, like humans, enjoy the intellectual challenge and get excited – even kicking up their heels when they find a solution. The problem, of course, is that they are raised for milk and will later be slaughtered for meat and leather. As is true for all animals, they do not want to be separated from their families and do not want to die. Cows have been known to use their smarts to perform amazing feats, such as leaping over a 6-foot fence to escape from a slaughterhouse, walking seven miles to reunite with a calf after being sold at an auction and swimming across a river to freedom.

When they are separated from their families, friends or human companions, cows grieve over the loss. Researchers report that cows become visibly distressed after even a brief separation. The mother-calf bond is particularly strong, and there are countless reports of mother cows who continue to frantically call and search for their babies after the calves have been taken away and sold.

After visiting a dairy farm with cow expert Dr. Temple Grandin and witnessing the great tumult of bellowing upon their arrival, author Oliver Sacks, MD, wrote, “They must have separated the calves from the cows this morning’, Temple said, and, indeed, this was what had happened. We saw one cow outside the stockade, roaming, looking for her calf, and bellowing. ‘That’s not a happy cow’, Temple said. ‘That’s one sad, unhappy, upset cow. She wants her baby. Bellowing for it, hunting for it. She’ll forget for a while, then start again. It’s
like grieving, mourning – not much written about it. People don’t like to allow them thoughts or feelings.”

John Avizienius, the senior scientific officer in the Farm Animal Department of the RSPCA in Britain, says that he “remembers one particular cow who appeared to be deeply affected by the separation from her calf for a period of at least six weeks. When the calf was first removed, she was in acute grief; she stood outside the pen where she had last seen her calf and bellowed for her offspring for hours. She would only move when forced to do so. Even after six weeks, the mother would gaze at the pen where she last saw her calf and sometimes wait momentarily outside of the pen. It was almost as if her spirit had been broken and all she could do was to make token gestures to see if her calf would still be there.”

**Cows: Milk Machines?**

According to the Compassion in World Farming Trust, around the world, more than 225 million cows are used for milk production. They produce more than 500 million tonnes of milk every year. Dairy farming has become increasingly industrialised in recent decades.

Cows – like all other mammals, including humans – produce milk only when they are nurturing their young. Therefore, cows raised for milk are typically made to give birth every year. Cows are both lactating and pregnant for at least seven months each year. Within three months of giving birth, cows are made pregnant again, often through artificial insemination.

Today, more and more cows and buffaloes in India are milked by machines. The machines tend to take more milk out of the cows than the amount they would yield naturally and easily. Workers often do not pay attention while the machines are on; even after milk has been taken out, the machines often keep sucking the animals’ dry udders, causing them a lot of pain.

Most cows raised for the dairy industry are confined to tiny spaces, leaving them unable to fulfil their most basic desires, such as nursing the calves they love. They are treated like milk-producing machines and are given large doses of hormones that cause them to produce unnaturally large quantities of milk. Oxytocin, a Schedule H drug (a drug which cannot be bought or sold without a prescription) is widely used, even though its use is illegal. The drug makes cows suffer severe stomach cramps that feel like labour pain.

As per the report prepared by Dr. R P Parashar, President, DAV Research Society for Health, in a survey conducted in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi, it was found that 82% cattle breeders were using Inj. Oxytocin in the Capital, 62%-68% cattle breeders from adjoining areas of Delhi like Sonipat, Rohtak, Faridabad, Gohana, Bahadurgarh, Loni, Ghaziabad, Hapur, Buland Shahr etc. and 23% to 32% from remote areas of Uttar Pradesh.
and Haryana were using Oxytocin for milking cows and buffaloes. Due to the effect of Oxytocin, the pressure of milk increases very high into the udder of cattle and even the most obstinate animals give milk easily to get rid of the unbearable pressure. Little quantity of this hormone preparation is secreted with milk, acts as slow poison after regular consumption and with passage of time, may give rise to different diseases. Usually after 5 to 6 months of conceiving, animals stop giving milk but cattle breeders continue milking the cattle three to four months more by injecting Oxytocin.

**Artificial Insemination**

Artificial insemination (AI) is a process by which sperm is collected from males, processed, stored and artificially introduced into the female reproductive tract for the purpose of conception. One of the main reasons why India has become the world's largest milk producer is the introduction of the technique of artificial insemination. Cows are repeatedly impregnated in order to yield more progeny. AI has to be performed by trained professionals, but schemes to take AI to small villages have exposed the animals to additional cruelty. Animals are treated by ‘barefoot healers’, who neglect even the most basic of minimum standards. AI guns are never sterilised; syringes and needles are used numerous times on different animals without being sterilised. Doctors often shove their bare, soapy hands into animals’ uteri, causing cows immense pain and exposing them to potential infections and diseases. Cows are held in a cruel manner and beaten up in order for the ‘doctors’ to be able to perform AI.

**The Reality of the Dairy Industry**

Traditionally, cows raised for milk roamed free and were milked by hand. Animals were treated well and were recognised as part of our culture, our ecosystem and our families. But the Indian dairy industry is changing, and small family farms are being replaced with cruel tabelas – which are nothing but profit-making places without a care for animals’ welfare. India now has the largest dairy industry in the world, and as a result, millions of cattle in India lead miserable lives. According to *The Book of Compassion: Reverence for All Life*, “The cow is forced into yearly pregnancies. After giving birth she is milked for 10 months but will be artificially inseminated during her third month so that she is milked even when she is pregnant. The [demand for] production of milk is more than her body can give. So she starts breaking down body tissue to produce milk. The result is an illness called ketosis. Most of the day the cow is tied up in a narrow stall usually wallowing in her own excrement. She gets mastitis because the hands that milk her are rough and usually unclean. She gets rumen acidosis from bad food and lameness. She is kept alive with antibiotics and hormones. Each year 20 percent of these dairy cows are sent illegally by truck and train to slaughter houses. Or they are starved to death by letting them loose in the cities.”
According to the Government of India’s 2003 Livestock Census, India has 283.1 million bovines, including 185.2 million cattle and 97.9 million buffaloes. The Cattle Network forecasted that India's 2007 cattle population was 282 million, so things probably have not changed much since 2003, making those numbers fairly up-to-date.

According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, in 2003, India had the largest cattle herd in the world; only Brazil had a cattle population that was even close to rivalling India’s.

According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, in 2005, the world consumed 530,351,770 tonnes of milk; India consumed 75,270,950 tonnes, Pakistan consumed 23,935,320 tonnes and Bangladesh consumed 2,307,590 tonnes.

In the floods in Mumbai in 2005, more than 2,500 buffaloes and cows who were kept tied up in tabelas located at Goregaon, Andheri and Jogeswari were unable to escape the rising waters and were left to drown. Many more animals were carried away by the water and later found dead. Some mother cows lost their babies. These tragedies are just another example of how cows and buffaloes suffer in the dairy industry.

Little has changed over the years, as PETA’s investigators discovered while visiting dairies in Haryana, Delhi, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. It is believed that there are thousands of illegal dairies, each of which has anywhere from 50 to 3,000 animals; each animal is forced to produce up to approximately 14 kilos of milk per day. Cows and buffaloes who are raised for their milk are impregnated repeatedly, and their calves are taken away at birth while their milk is stolen for human consumption. Most are chained by their necks in narrow stalls, where they are
unable to stretch or move normally. Lack of proper food causes them to suffer from digestive problems, and lack of exercise causes lameness. Many cows and buffaloes are illegally given Oxytocin, a drug which makes them give more milk faster, weakens their bones prematurely and causes contractions similar to labour pains. It dries out the animals so fast that they stop producing after three years (a cow allowed to live naturally might produce milk for her babies for 10 years) and are left to fend for themselves in the street. They are unable to get enough food to eat and are forced to eat garbage, which often causes them to eat plastic (which can kill them). One dairy owner said that more than half the calves die shortly after birth. Dead calves are skinned for leather.

In most of Delhi’s dairies, there are no drainage facilities, there is no electricity and there is nowhere to dispose of waste like dung. Empty ampoules and bottles filled with Oxytocin lie all over the place. 10 to 15 day old calves were tied away from their mothers. Buffaloes stand in foul smelling slush that is several feet deep, and they suffer from skin infections, foot disease, tuberculosis and various other illnesses. Because the tabelas have unacceptable health care facilities, hundreds of animals die amid the horrible mess each month. These deaths are often marked by high fever, bloated stomachs, breathing difficulties and frothing at the mouth for 24 agonising hours. Their carcasses are sold for beef – to poor people who cannot afford to buy fresh meat – and for leather.

Mother cows and buffaloes love their calves, just as all mothers love their babies. Yet the dairy industry routinely keeps these animals pregnant, ensuring that they will give birth to many babies, who are taken away almost immediately after birth. The calves meet an even worse fate. Male calves are tied up with ropes so short that they cannot lift their heads; in a desperate attempt to reach their mothers, the calves often strangulate themselves to death. In Mumbai tabelas, male calves have their feet tied so they cannot try to go over to their mothers for milk and their mouths tied shut with ropes so they cannot cry out when they are hungry (this is done so the residents of buildings near the tabelas do not come to investigate why they hear the babies’ cries). These babies are then left to die a slow, agonising death in a corner. Once or twice a week, a haath gaadi wala comes by and picks up the dead and sometimes dying bodies of the baby calves and takes them to Deonar, where they are skinned for calf leather. Other male calves are aban-
doned on the roads to fend for themselves. Very often, live calves are sold to slaughterhouses for their meat. Female calves do not fare any better. They are denied the milk that is rightfully theirs and are given just a fraction of the milk that they need to grow naturally. In fact, dairy owners allow babies to suckle for just a minute or two so milk from the mother cows can start flowing, and then the babies are taken away and dairy staff steal the milk. These babies replace their mothers as soon as they grow up, enduring the pain and suffering which their mothers faced, as part of a never-ending cycle.

Often confined to small dark rooms which barely contain food or water, these calves live a life full of utter misery and suffering. It is not by chance that calves are no longer called ‘bachda’ in India. Calves are now called ‘katra’, which means one who is to be killed. Even Dr. Kurien, the former chair of the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (Amul), admits that each year in Mumbai, 80,000 calves are forcibly put to death.

Even afterwards, calves’ bodies are treated disrespectfully; they are picked up by butchers and taken away on cycle carriers in front of their helpless mothers. All people who drink milk are responsible. Dairy owners cannot be blamed exclusively for this cruelty – they produce milk because people drink it and demand it.

India is moving towards intensive farming practices, in which animals are treated like inanimate machines. A dairy is not a sanctuary. It exists solely to produce profits for its owners, and when animals are no longer considered profitable, they are disposed of in one hideous way or another.
The following are some of the atrocities that PETA investigators witnessed:

- Calves were confined with short iron chains – often outside in the elements.
- A just-born calf was tightly tied to a stump.
- A worker struck a cow’s face as she tried to eat.
- Workers kicked buffaloes to make them stand up.
- Injured cows who had difficulty walking, were struck by sticks or had their tails pulled.
- Animals were covered in their own faeces.
- Animals drank the same water which was used to scrub milking vessels.
- Children defecated near milking sheds.
- Empty syringes lay about where milk was stored.
- Stray cats and dogs roamed freely in the tabelas, and cats drank milk from the same utensils which were used to transfer milk from buckets to containers for human consumption.
- A buffalo gave birth to a calf, and nobody attended to the animal; as a result, the calf died during birth. The investigators captured a gruesome picture of a dead calf who was half-born.
- Milk containers were kept near open drainage, which could be the source of potential health hazards.
- Flies were seen all over the tabelas and sitting on milk containers and buckets, making the milk a perfect carrier for diseases.
- Nobody paid any attention to buffaloes who were bleeding from their vaginas.
- Heaps of garbage could be seen lying near tabelas, posing a serious health hazard.
India’s Current Standards

The following are the standards for cities or towns with populations greater than 1 lakh people:

- Every person with more than five cattle kept for the purpose of profit must be registered with the veterinary department of the state government or a local authority specified by the state government.

- Every registration application must supply full information about the number and types of animals to be kept, the size of the area in which they will be kept, flooring and ventilation, food and water supply, disinfection, drainage, waste disposal and any other relevant details.

- If the registering authority is satisfied about the welfare of the animals, the registration certificate will be issued.

- Every registration certificate is valid for three years, after which an application for renewal must be made.

- Every registered premise may at any time be inspected by an authorised veterinarian or public health officer of the local or state government.

- If the premises are not properly maintained, the registration can be cancelled.

- Wherever milch cattle are kept, the owner must display a copy (in the local language) of Section 12 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, which prohibits the use of phooka and doom dev.

- It is illegal to keep cattle chained to the railing of sidewalks. Under the law, milch animals are required to be provided with proper shelter (PCA, Section 11). Under the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act 1954, tethering cattle on any public street in the city is prohibited. Such cattle may be confiscated under the Cattle Trespassing Act 1871. Most municipal corporations have similar rules.

- Dairy owners must provide proper shelter with provisions to protect animals from heat, cold and rain (PCA, Section 11).

- Owners must provide animals with adequate food (PCA, Section 11). Owners who leave their cattle to forage in rubbish dumps can be fined and jailed for up to three months. These cattle can be confiscated, and owners will have to pay a fine for their release. Dairies should be checked to make sure there is a sufficient number of food and water troughs.

- Under the State Cow Preservation Act, which is enacted by most states in India, it is illegal to kill calves. Dairy owners who kill male calves may be fined, jailed or both. The dairy may also be closed down.

- It is illegal to administer any injurious drugs to animals (PCA, Section 11) or to use injections of any kind or to conduct any operation called phooka or doom dev to “improve” lactation (PCA, Section 12). The use of Oxytocin (a Schedule H drug which may not be purchased without a prescription) injections can be punished with a fine,
jail time or both. The manufacturer, supplier and dairy can each be punished with a fine of Rs 1000 and up to two years in jail, and the animals may be confiscated.

- It is illegal to sell old, dry or sick dairy cattle for the purpose of slaughter (as per local cattle preservation acts). Offenders can be punished with a fine, a jail term or both.

- It is illegal to abandon old, dry or sick cattle (PCA, Section 11), as this puts them in circumstances which would likely cause them to starve to death. The penalty is a fine of Rs 100, three months of jail time or both.

- No livestock may graze in any sanctuary area without being immunised.

- No livestock may graze in or enter national parks except those which are used by an authorised person as a means of transport (as in the case of a bullock cart).
The Beef About Milk

Naturally, a cow can live up to 18 years, but cows used for milking day and night generally only live up to six or seven years and are later sent to slaughterhouses for their meat and skin. Cows are transported to states where they can legally be killed. The animals are shoed and roped together in preparation for a harrowing ‘death march’, which sometimes lasts several days. Forced to walk through the heat and dust without any food or water – coupled with the sheer stress of this terrifying experience – many of the animals collapse and are unable to continue. Handlers keep the cattle moving by pulling them by nose ropes and twisting their necks, horns or tails. They forcefully lead the cattle down embankments and onto and off trucks without ramps, causing injuries like broken pelvises, legs, ribs and horns. Chilli peppers and tobacco are also used to keep the animals walking. Handlers rub the peppers directly into animals’ eyes in order to stimulate the animals back onto their feet. Up to half the animals will already be dead by the time they arrive at the slaughterhouse.
To make the experience even more traumatic and terrifying, they are often killed in full view of each other. Instead of receiving the required ‘quick cut’ across the throat with a sharp knife, they are generally killed using a dull blade.

According to a CNBC exposé, milch animals are even milked on the slaughter floor just prior to being slaughtered.

**Dangerous to Your Health**

Consuming the milk meant for baby cows puts humans at risk for a host of ailments, including cardiovascular disease, certain forms of cancer and diabetes. The cholesterol and saturated fat in dairy products tend to raise blood cholesterol levels, which increases the risk of artery blockages.

Milk does not prevent osteoporosis or bone breaks. The Nurses’ Health Study at Harvard University showed that women who consumed two or more glasses of milk per day had no protection whatsoever from bone breaks compared to women who consumed little to no milk. The fat in dairy products can also cause obesity and contribute to the soaring rates of adult-onset type 2 diabetes.

Scientists report that 33 per cent of Indians, including 70 per cent of Southern Indians, are lactose-intolerant. This means that the body cannot break down the sugar found in milk, which can lead to abdominal cramps, bloating and diarrhoea. A UK study showed that people who suffered from irregular heartbeats, asthma, headaches, fatigue and digestive problems showed marked and often complete improvements in their health after cutting milk from their diets. Research conducted at Harvard School of Public Health showed that teenagers who drink a pint or more of milk per day are more likely to develop spots and pimples than those who rarely or never drink milk.

The College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy, found milk samples contaminated with deadly *E coli* and staphylococcus – which are caused by the contaminated water and dirty conditions that cows subsist on. The Indian Council for Medical Research did research on milk for seven years and took thousands of samples from across India and found large amounts of DDT, arsenic, cadmium, lead and poisonous pesticides called HCH. Under the Food Adulteration Act, only 0.01mg/kg of HCH is allowed in milk, but the study found an average of 5.7mg/kg. Sewage water, vegetable oil and liquid soap can also be found in milk. In some cases, earthworms are put in milk because they excrete slime, which increases the density of the milk.

Numerous studies, including two large Harvard University studies, have linked milk consumption to prostate cancer. This is likely caused by the effects of milk on hormones and growth factors. Milk consumption causes an increase in blood levels of a protein called insulin-like growth factor 1, which is believed to be a potent stimulus for cancer cell growth.
Milk consumption also interferes with iron absorption, causes digestive problems associated with lactose intolerance, and contributes to some cases of arthritis, constipation, asthma and migraines.

Instead of drinking milk, recommended ways to protect bones include avoiding sodium and animal protein (both of which drain calcium into the urine), avoiding smoking and getting plenty of exercise. Exposure to sunlight helps boost vitamin D levels. Eat plenty of fruits and vegetables for vitamins C and K, which are needed for bone proteins.

Children are at even greater risk. Colic, food allergies, anaemia, type 1 diabetes and asthma have all been linked to cows’ milk and buffaloes’ milk. A 1994 American Academy of Paediatrics (AAP) review pointed out that at least 90 studies had examined the links between cows’ milk and type 1 diabetes. The concern is that dairy proteins may elicit an immune reaction that kills off insulin-producing cells. The AAP concluded that avoiding early exposure to cows’ milk proteins may reduce the risk of this deadly disease.

There is a strong possibility that purchased milk is not just milk. To meet the rising need for milk, adulteration is on the rise. Based on a recent study, Food and Drug Association Commissioner stated that 25 per cent milk sold in the state is unfit for human consumption.

Tripolyphosphate could be diluted with tap or gutter water or synthetic milk. Loose milk and packaged milk are commonly adulterated – sometimes by as much as 50 percent – especially in suburban areas of Mumbai like Khar, Andheri, Juhu, Versova, Kurla and Ghatkopar, but a Food and Drug Administration joint commissioner warns, “Milk adulteration is rampant in every slum in Mumbai, but in some places it continues even after raids. Such adulterations are common across the country.” And if that were not bad enough, milk has also been found adulterated with detergent and urea.

Every day in Mumbai, 3 lakh litres of milk supplied is adulterated. Officials destroyed 10,000 litres of milk in 22 slum-based units across the city.

In a very recent incident, food inspectors found sacks of a yellow substance, which is called ‘mava’, or reduced fat of milk. After examination, it was found that the substance was not made of unadulterated milk, as the dairy wanted to claim, but rather of poisonous chemicals.

Milk consumption could even send school children to the hospital. According to an official with the NGO Toxics Link, “dairy products are heavily contaminated with pesticides, including DDT (which is illegal, even though farmers use it on cattle to discourage mosquitoes) and methylcyclohexane.” Equally alarming is the presence of Oxytocin, which is illegally used by farmers on cows to make them produce more milk more quickly; Oxytocin is secreted into cows’ milk and causes hormonal imbalances and a rash of cancers in humans. Another synthetic growth hormone injected into cattle, Bovine Somatrotropin (BST), causes cows to produce pus in their milk. A study conducted by the Consumer Guidance Society of India found that there are high quantities of several contaminants in the milk supply, including antibiotics, aflatoxins, pesticide residues, pus, bacteria, and chemicals such as sodium carbonate and urea. Scientists who worked on the study told the Times of India that humans who consume the milk are at risk for diseases such as gastroenteritis, viral fever and liver cancer.
**Dangerous to the Environment**

Tabelas have been directly linked to the spread of leptospirosis, bacteria which are common among animals but have been proved to be deadly to humans. Dozens have died when monsoons and the filthy conditions of the cattle sheds encouraged the spread of leptospirosis through cattle urine along with that of rodents and other domestic and wild animals. That is the reason why the Kalyan Dombivli Municipal Corporation in the Thane district of Maharashtra wants cattle sheds to be moved out of the city.

At a news conference in Mumbai, Dr. Shobha Raul, chair of the Child and Welfare Committee, reported that most cattle in the city are afflicted with tuberculosis (TB), which contaminates the milk consumed by lakhs of Mumbaikars. One of the main causes of TB is the consumption of infected milk; not surprisingly, 20,000 cases of TB are reported annually in Mumbai. Dr. Shobha stated that bovines in Mumbai suffer from intestinal TB, which occurs if they come into contact with droplets infected with the pathogen Tubercular Bacilli. Most cattle owners do not provide regular cattle-feed and the animals are generally left to roam the streets in search of food.

**Alternatives to Dairy Products**

An article published in *DNA* on 6 August 2007 reported, “As babies, our mothers’ milk provided the protein that we needed to grow healthy and strong. Cow's milk has about three times the amount of protein found in human breast milk. Once babies start eating solid foods, plant sources can easily provide them with all the protein that they need. Only 10 per cent of the total calories consumed by the average human being need to be in the form of protein. The recommended dietary allowance for both men and women is 0.80 grams of protein for every kilogram (2.2 pounds) of body weight.”

According to Whole Foods nutritionist and director Ishi Khosla, the easiest option to get protein is through soya beans. Soya beans are the best alternative to dairy products. Just one serving (30 grams) of soya beans provides almost the same amount of protein as comparable non-vegetarian foods. According to a recent study, soya shakes help reduce fat in post-menopausal women.

People with special dietary needs, such as pregnant women, are advised to get a little more protein. If a vegan (a vegetarian who does not eat dairy products) eats a reasonably varied diet and consumes a sufficient amount of calories, he or she will undoubtedly get enough protein. Milk is related to gynaecomastia, which causes male breasts (‘moobs’). Hormone-treated cows’ milk contains high levels of insulin growth factor (IGF-1), and a 1995 article in *Cancer Research* linked high levels of IGF-1 to gynaecomastia.

Vegans can also easily get all the calcium their bodies need from beans, peas, almonds, raspberries, watermelons, lettuce, oranges, parsley, carrots, guavas, apples, pears, turnips, cabbage greens, grains, and broccoli and other leafy green vegetables. The calcium in these foods is readily absorbed by the body.
Toxic levels in milk alarming: officials

By Chandrani Mago
Times News Network

New Delhi: Of small and water are not of contamination, ox milk is more dangerous. Of beef. Preferably, the best possible solution is to use the low and lower level. Typically, even age, children drink much more milk than adults, admits a worried official.

Human factors remain the next factor. But overall, says Rajesh Agarwal of the NCBA, India, dairy products have some of the highest contamination levels. Milk from the best organisms are stored only until morning, yet it is uncooked, standards have been made stricter in the past.

Adarsh Pratap Singh, Indian Dairy Association president and chairman of the dairy sub-group in the SC, argues that pesticide residues are coming down even if the statistics aren't available to prove the point. He maintains, "The bound duties are very compelent though fly-by-night operators may not be better. However, only 10-20 per cent of the 5.4 million dairy business has been registered.

Pesticides in the milk way

On milk, the users are not aware. Milk in products are regulated mostly by the FAD system. The second highest producer of milk in the country is the dairy industry. While there is no quality norm, the second least producer of milk is the poultry industry. This will have a major impact, and in the short to medium run, it will cause a decline in the FAD Act.

Notwithstanding water standards set to come into force next year are close to European norms, ensuring that individual pesticide residues may not exceed 0.005 mg/litre. While total pesticide residues may not exceed 0.005 mg/litre.

Milk is more dangerous than coal

Milk is more dangerous than coal.
Detergent, urea in your child’s milk

20% OF MILK TESTED IN MAHARASHTRA HAS ADULTERANTS LIKE FERTILISER, CAUSTIC SODA

Aditya Ghosh
Mumbai, June 15

ONE IN every five packets of milk is adulterated in the state with chemicals such as caustic soda and urea. While caustic soda, an acid found in detergents, damages the digestive tract including the stomach lining, urea can damage the urinary system and lead to the formation of stones in the kidney.

After a year’s investigation, the state Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released the findings about milk in Maharashtra on Friday. It is now launching a massive drive to check milk quality across the state. Even tankers coming from outside the state will be stopped at highway checkpoints and samples taken.

When two owners of large dairies were contacted, they said their dairies did not produce such adulterated milk and refused to say anything else. Among 761 samples tested between April 2006 and May 2007 from state cooperatives as well as private dairies, 151 samples were adulterated.

A report on 100-odd samples is awaited. The adulterants varied from chemicals like washing soda and urea to non-synthetic material like palm oil, liquid glucose and lactose. The FDA refused to say which dairies it had taken samples from.

Prosecution has started in only 27 cases.

Soon after the FDA received the report, a high-level meeting was convened by the Home Department in the Mantralaya.

“The chief minister had attended the meeting and we are trying to evolve some strategy to counter this. He wants to make provisions for much stronger punitive action against the offenders,” said outgoing principal secretary of animal husbandry and dairy development department Leena Mehdada.

“From June, we launched a massive operation and in eight days collected 53 samples, arrested four people. We are waiting for the reports on the samples,” said FDA Commissioner Amitabh Chandra.

The samples had urea higher than the safety limit of 700 ppm, which experts correlated with indiscriminate use of fertilisers in cattle fodder. “It is a strong possibility. Also, fertilisers seeping into groundwater are affecting the quality of grass,” said Pune-based veterinarian Aniruddha Belsare.

In Mumbai, experts said some dairies added urea as an adulterant to enhance colour and texture. “However, they did not realise that the natural urea content in milk was increasing all the time because of rampant use of fertilisers in fodder. Now, it is crossing the safety threshold,” said Dr J.C. Khanna, secretary, Parel Animal Hospital.

Illustration: Sebastian

LOOK WHAT’S FOR BREAKFAST

Caustic soda: An acid found in detergents, damages the digestive tract, including the stomach lining.

Urea: This fertiliser ingredient can hit the kidneys and cause kidney stones, apart from damaging the urinary system.

WITH A RECORD TURNOVER OF RS 4277.84 CR IN 2006-07, AMUL BECOMES THE FIRST BILLION-DOLLAR COOPERATIVE IN INDIA
Doodh not so shudh any more

By PRAITHI PUTATUNDA

Mumbai, Aug. 9: Your glass of milk is actually a cocktail of contaminants. At least that’s what a study conducted by the Consumer Guidance Society of India suggests. The study indicates that milk samples contain high quantities of aflatoxins, antibiotics, agro-chemical residues, pus, spore-forming bacteria and chemicals like sodium carbonate and urea in their milk. These substances have been linked to liver cancer, gastrointestinal and viral fever.

Dr J.R. Chavan, chairman of the Consumer Guidance Society of India says, “The unhygienic conditions prevalent at a lot of dairy farms lead to the cow feed being contaminated by toxins, which makes its way into the milk. Also, these conditions lead to ill-health of the cows, and recalcitrant administrative statistics about them. This too enters the food chain through the milk.”

Another troubling phenomenon is that dairy farmers inject their cows with oxytocin to increase milk flow. Oxytocin is Schedule H drug, and is not supposed to be sold without a prescription. It has also been banned by the government of India under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. However, Dr. Pujji, a cattle tied owner from Gorakhpur admits being aware of the use of oxytocin. He says, “I don’t inject my cows with such substances. However, I have heard that other farmers do resort to such measures to increase their profits.”

“Oxytocin, though illegal, is sold to dairy farmers in cigarette shops for as little as 55 paise a vid. Oxytocin along with growth hormones, pesticides and pus, and common ingredients in cow’s milk. Farmers and dairy sellers then try to whiten the milk or increase its shelf life with other ingredients, including hydrogen peroxide, caustic soda, and the cancer-causing chemical, sodium nitrite,” says Mr. Anantham Shrivastav of PETA India.

Dr Tushar Parkash of the Hinduja Hospital says, “No long term studies are being carried out to gauge the harmful effects of such substances entering our food chain. It is very important that such research be done to ascertain the actual risk.”

“Stringent testing of milk samples also needs to be carried out by the Food and Drug Administration to prevent contaminated milk from being sold in the market.”

Meanwhile, some believe the best remedy is to remove milk completely from one’s diet. In fact, a strict vegetarian diet with no milk, popularly termed as a “vegan diet”, is becoming increasingly popular.

Mr. S. Prakash, a chartered accountant, had started a vegan diet about six months back. He says, “At first it was hard to stop having milk, completely, but slowly you get used to it until you don’t value it anymore.”

Dr. Najali Nair, a dietician from the Tula Memorial Hospital, thinks so too. She says, “Milk is a good source for proteins, iron and calcium. But we can get all these vital vitamins and minerals from other sources. Soy products are a rich source for proteins, while iron and calcium can be got from ragi, commonly called sorghum.”
Your desi ghee may have animal fat

Illegal Units In Lucknow Turning Tallow Into Clarified Butter, Selling Them Under Brand Names

Mastali Mishra | THE

Lucknow: He works as a daily wage earner in the city’s residential disposal dump, sorting carcasses into hides and bones that are sold later. But this sixty-something man takes great pride in his other art—one that turns animal fat into ‘desi ghee’.

The lean and gruff Faizan (name changed) is known in these parts as the best karigar and claims to have xangled worthy army of ‘bhaagtars’ who are doing quite well for themselves.

The old man who works near Debagha vegetable market in Chitaldara, 15 km off the city limits, just looks at the faay. He knows that comes at a premium at that.

“A visit to the dump on Friday afternoon presented a gory sight. Workers smelling strongly of blood, looked busy unloading the stench and filth. During the 15-minute stop, the TOL team counted at least three hand carts ferrying back chart. The pullers were suspicious of the strangers on the spot.

But Faizan did not mind sharing the trade secrets, under certain conditions of anonymity, with potential clients who believed in running a local bakery chain. Any one can set up a ghee-making unit. All you need is a churn and the big khanji that is used by bakers and a special sieve fitted with a sieve. The stuff is poured into and molded on a high flame.

The fat comes off without much effort,” he explained.

There are at least 100 families engaged in this business in Lucknow. Earlier, these units were found in peripheral towns, specially Babarkot. TOL had carried a report with photographs of a godown of such ‘desi ghee’ made from tallow about six years back. Now these ghee units are said to be scattered all over the city in Aabishbag, Madhayapur, Haidarganj crossing, Siddiarkot, Dihalpur, Ehtesabpur, Badarpur, Ka-saburi areas. “The price ranges between Rs 14 and 18 per kg with the Agrabad staff made by Fateh distributing ghee, said Rani Om (name changed).

He said that for bulk purchase the right person is Radeah Reddy Jadevda—the USP using popular brand names on the tin—Rahmat and Lakhshkhat. The latter has his factory near Hairamnagar crossing. His outlet in Deen Dayal Palli is the outlet where the customers get the best quality and price range is between Rs 20 and 25 per kg.

“People get it freely and immediately. He learnt that some ghee made with tallow is also being marketed with popular brand labels, like "Bengalite and then you will never go elsewhere," said the one who handles sales. "Bengali and best for cooking anything you fancy. Just take care not to store it for long. In this condition, it is sold not only from some city centres but also from Kanpur and even Delhi."

Just as Faizan begins to open up, a cart puller walks him into clamping up. And the responses turn guarded. Asked how he can be contacted, Rani Om said, “You give us your mobile number. We will call you up. You will get timely delivery. Ask any vendor near your house and you will get it at reasonable rate."

Veterinary expert Dr D N Sharma said: “The tallow ghee poses no health hazard. Once boiled all the fats in the fat are removed." (All names of those involved with tallow and ghee business have been changed.)

Na rahegi bhains, na rahega lepto

Lepto claims 3 more, toll goes up to 7

DNA
Daily News & Analysis
September 02, 2009 1:30:00 PM

Skinned alive for leather

Deepa Suryanarayanan

Budding animation artist Vikas Shinde, 21, boards the 8.15 am slow train from Cotton Green to Santa Cruz to work. On Thursday, he made a horrifying discovery—scores of carcasses lying in the marshes around the hair between Khaini and Kandla.

“I was shocked to see many predatory birds hovering over the carcasses,” said Shinde. An animal lover, he is a vice-president of the Indian Defence of Animals (IDA), a non-governmental organisation working for the welfare of animals.

They were decomposing carcasses of month-old male calves, which are useless to tallow owners as they do not exhale Saha.

When male calves are born, tallow owners in Jajigavat, Kandlia and Goregeel sell them cheap, at around Rs 10,000, to those who buy the skin for pests as raw material.

“They skin the calves alive, as that yields the softest and most expensive leather, and then they throw the tail into the marshes,” said IDA activist Kiron Subedar.

When DNA visited the site, there were at least a dozen carcasses lying there in various stages of decay. Smell the area says hundreds of carcasses are dumped every month, and the practice has gone on for over a year.

“They come here carrying sacks containing live calves at around 6 am,” said Sakin, a slum dweller. “They do then leave. After some time, another group arrives and starts skimming the animals.”

The smell from the rotting carcasses is unbearable,” another slum-dweller, Priya, said.

On Wednesday, 1DA lodged a complaint with the Shantiniketan police station under Section 420 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. Shantiniketan sub-inspector Praful Vichare said policemen were stationed near the site.

“We will continue to monitor the place for the next few days,” he said.

Gosain in garya ki mool tar hai

Bhains na chita, jata

Bhains na chita, jata

LXF

Kahajora

Pakistan’s Ministry of Agriculture has ordered the ministry to hatch 200,000 chicks in a month, with an additional 250,000 chicks to be hatched in a year. The target is to increase the number of chickens in the country by 2020. The ministry plans to import the chicks from China and India, which are the major producers of chickens.

The ministry has also set a target of 3 million chickens to be hatched in the next six months. The ministry has also said that the government will provide financial assistance to farmers who want to start new poultry farms.

The government has also announced a new policy to encourage farmers to set up poultry farms. The policy will provide financial assistance to farmers who want to start new poultry farms. The policy will also provide a subsidy of 50% on the cost of setting up a poultry farm.

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## CRUEL WAYS OF THE CAPITAL’S COWBOYS

Delhi Municipal Corporation workers try to catch a bull at Chitli industrial area on Friday. The Delhi high court has ordered that the capital’s roads be cleared of cattle.

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## Certificate of Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animal Fat</td>
<td>Positive identification test</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Description:** Yellow semi-solid

**Sample details:** "GHEE"

**Protocol:** JST

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## No check on Oxytocin-sale sparks resentment in Uttar Pradesh

LUCKNOW

It’s a situation of ‘overkill’ by dairy owners of Uttar Pradesh. While it has been an unhealthy trend to use Oxytocin vaccine to induce milk flow, the practice is rampant in the state. In turn, the state government has asked the district authorities to issue a directive regarding the sale of the drug.

The drug is not only a cause of Filipa’s health issues but also a factor in the high number of stillbirths. The drug is used as a prophylactic to increase the milk yield, but its use is restricted to pregnant cows. The use of Oxytocin in cows and buffaloes is illegal and is a punishable offense under the Animal Prevention of Cruelty Act, 1960.

The drug may even dilate the cervix for premature delivery, decrease the progesterone level causing menstrual disorders in women besides impotency in males. A note written to various district magistrates by the Union Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry in March, 2000 informs that the drug is not only a cause of Filipa’s health issues but also a factor in the high number of stillbirths. The drug is used as a prophylactic to increase the milk yield, but its use is restricted to pregnant cows. The use of Oxytocin in cows and buffaloes is illegal and is a punishable offense under the Animal Prevention of Cruelty Act, 1960.

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DELHI- 2005

1,000 CATTLE DEAD EVERY MONTH!

THE SHOCKING TRUTH BEHIND THE "CARING" CATTLE SHELTERS OF DELHI

The Honourable High Court of Delhi has ordered that the National Capital should be made ‘A Cattle Free Zone’. While we agree that the city is not the right place to keep cattle, we have been shocked to discover that there is no provision for the lifted animals other than to be incarcerated and let to die in 5 cow shelters around the city. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is acting upon the High court order, sending lorries onto the city streets to pick the roaming cattle and deposit them into shelters, which are meant to give a caring home to these defenceless creatures.

And yet the truth is shockingly different - deprived of food, water and even the most basic of veterinary care, these animals are packed together into sheds and left to die.

For those that do get out into the open yard, there is still no hope of survival - here too it is only a matter of time before starvation, dehydration, disease or injury takes its final toll.

Each day an MCD lorry comes to remove the dead bodies (Over 1,000 dead cows, bulls and calves per month between the 5 participating shelters) - while another MCD lorry comes to deposit fresh animals that have just been lifted from the streets.

It is a cycle of suffering and death that has caused 27,000 deaths in the last 2 years alone. The abuse is continuing right now - it is estimated that there are still more than 30,000 cattle left on the streets of Delhi. It is up to us to halt this atrocity now! Together we can show what we really think of this ‘behind the scenes killing machine’. By sending the 2 different postcards below, you will be sending a clear message to the Delhi authorities that you do not think this is the right way to treat the street cattle of Delhi - that the lifting of the Delhi cattle should be suspended until proper provision for their welfare has been put in place.

The Shelters know what is going on - The MCD knows what is going on - The Delhi Government knows what is going on - The Delhi High Court knows what is going on.

And now you know what’s going on too.

JBF sent a short film on CD with this poster, please ask your principal to let you have a copy.

Please send BOTH postcards to demonstrate your opposition to this cruelty - Without the 2 postcards the Delhi authorities won’t even know you have seen this.

JBF India - 1181- A, U.G. Floor, Arjan Nagar, Kola Mubarakpur, New Delhi – 110 005, India.
Tel; (+91) 9818241962
E-mail: jbfindia@yahoo.co.uk

PETA
**What You Can Do**

Say “No!” to slices of cheese and glasses of milk. There are so many more nutritious, delicious and cruelty-free recipes available now. Soya milk is available almost everywhere in India. In addition to being cruelty-free, soya products are rich in protein and nutritious.

Urge your local municipal corporation to enforce the law and ensure that tabelas across the city are hygienically maintained and that basic animal welfare laws are put in place.

By choosing veganism instead of a diet loaded with animal products, you can dramatically reduce the amount of land, water and oil resources you consume and the amount of pollution you cause. Of course, reducing your ecological footprint should also mean causing less harm to the Earth’s non-human inhabitants: by switching to a vegan diet, you can save many animals each year from the horrific cruelty of the dairy industry. Please help yourself and cows by dumping dairy products and choosing vegan foods which are loaded with calcium, such as saag, daal and other pulses.

Visit [www.PETAIndia.com](http://www.PETAIndia.com) to read PETA’s ‘Vegetarian Starter Kit’, which is full of tips for healthy dairy-free living. For more information about the problems associated with dairy products, go to [www_DUMPDAIRY.com](http://www_DUMPDAIRY.com).