

The
Pamela Anderson Foundation

His Excellency Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India

Your Excellency,

I hope you're well. My heart goes out to everyone affected by the severe air pollution plaguing Delhi. I worry about the residents as well as the animals who can't wear face masks or stay indoors. (My adopted dog Pyari is from the streets of India.)

I know you share my concern for the future, so please lead India's fight against climate change by taking a simple but forceful, progressive step: Ban animal-derived foods from all government meetings and functions. Converting animals into meat and breeding more and more cows because humans are addicted to dairy are contributing to our shared environmental crisis worldwide. With your country's innovation and agricultural history, I'm sure that India-produced soy and other versatile foods can easily replace these damaging foods.

I'm shattered by recent findings of climate change's impact on India. Scientists had shown, inarguably, that climate change is a "clear and unequivocal" emergency that threatens water, air, land, and food security, but now a new report reveals that even with moderate reductions in greenhouse-gas emissions, 36 million Indians could face the threat of annual coastal flooding by 2050—31 million more than previously thought. The World Bank reports that at least 21 cities in India are approaching zero groundwater levels for next year and that 40% of Indians may not have water to drink by 2030.

The easiest thing to change is our menus. Raising animals for meat, eggs, and dairy causes nearly one-fifth of all human-induced greenhouse-gas emissions, uses one-third of the planet's freshwater, causes more water pollution than all other industrial sources combined, and dominates one-third of global cropland—an enormous waste of resources. In fact, meat and dairy companies are set to become the world's biggest polluters, and the United Nations warns that a global shift to vegan eating is necessary to combat climate change. It's not an option but a necessity.

Of course, not only does eating healthy vegan foods spare cows and other animals a hideous death at slaughterhouses like the one in Deonar, it also can reduce medical costs from meat- and dairy-related diseases, such as diabetes, colon and breast cancer, and heart disease.

As the world's second most populous country and the one with the most cattle, India is a crucial player on the global stage. New Zealand's government is recommending a reduction in meat and dairy consumption, China committed to reducing its meat consumption by 50%, and Germany's environment minister banned meat (including fish) from meetings and events—all to fight climate change. I appeal to you to show that India can equal or best them.

I do hope you will act quickly to announce that animal-derived foods will no longer be served at government functions. May I hear from you? I can be reached through PETA India's Sachin Bangera at SachinB@petaindia.org. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



Pamela Anderson
Honorary Director, PETA U.S.