

**MOST URGENT**

Shri Uddhav Thackeray  
Hon'ble Chief Minister  
Chief Minister's Office  
Government of Maharashtra  
6th Floor, Mantralaya  
Mumbai 400 032  
Maharashtra

19 July 2021

**Re: Call for Urgent Action Against Rampant Violation of Laws Prior to Eid, as Revealed by a PETA India Investigation**

Dear Shri Uddhav Thackeray Ji,

I'm writing from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India on behalf of our more than 2 million members and supporters to call your attention to the findings of our investigation into 23 goat markets across Mumbai before Eid al-Adha and to urge you to take immediate action.

The investigation was conducted in makeshift animal markets in Andheri, Byculla, Govandi, Jogeshwari, Kurla, and Mankhurd in Mumbai between 12 and 16 July 2021. The findings, documented in a video and a report (**Annexure 1**), establish that there are rampant violations of animal protection laws, the Maharashtra government's guidelines for Eid 2021, and COVID-19 protocols.

PETA India's investigation reveals the following violations:

1. The investigation exposes rampant violations of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960; the Transportation of Animals Rules, 1978; the Maharashtra Home Department's circular No DIS-0621/CNo 143/Visha 1 B, titled "Guidelines for Eid 2021" and issued on 2 July 2021 (**Annexure 2**); the government of Maharashtra's Order No DMU/2020/CR92/DisM-1, dated 4 June 2021 and titled "Levels of Restrictions for Breaking the Chain" (**Annexure 3**); and the 25 June 2021 circular issued by the Animal Welfare Board of India (**Annexure 4**) advising state governments and union territories to ensure compliance of animal protection laws during Eid.
2. Illegal makeshift goat markets were severely crowded, and numerous animals were crammed into congested spaces where they struggled to find places to stand and lie down and were filmed fighting with each other. Some markets had more than 1,000 goats crammed into small spaces under one roof. This constitutes cruelty as per Section 11(1)(e) of the PCA Act, 1960.
3. In most of the markets, goats didn't have round-the-clock access to fresh drinking water or sufficient food. The food provided was dry and of poor quality, and the quantity was insufficient. This constitutes cruelty as per Section 3 and 11(1)(h) of the PCA Act, 1960.

PEOPLE FOR  
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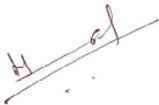
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4. Goat sellers were filmed hitting goats with wooden sticks and bare hands inside these illegal markets. Young children were also filmed hitting the animals with sticks. Hitting animals amounts to cruelty as per Section 11(1)(a) of the PCA Act, 1960.
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6. Goats were filmed visibly in pain as they were pulled and pushed by their necks into auto rickshaws by buyers outside the markets, in violation of Section 3 of the PCA Act, 1960, and a majority of the provisions of Chapter VI of the Transport of Animals Rules, 1978.
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10. COVID-19 restrictions were violated at all 23 temporary markets, as none of goat sellers wore masks or maintained social distancing and they kept their animal markets open well past 4 pm. Buyers were filmed visiting the markets without masks and without maintaining social distancing.

In light of all this, we kindly request that you review the findings of our investigation; enforce animal protection laws, Maharashtra's Eid guidelines, and COVID-19 protocols; and stop any illegal animal sacrifice in your jurisdiction.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me on 022 4072 7382 or at [ManilaV@petaindia.org](mailto:ManilaV@petaindia.org).

Sincerely,



Dr Manilal Valliyate, CEO

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Chief Secretary  
Government of Maharashtra  
Chief Secretary Office  
Mantralaya Main  
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The investigation was conducted in makeshift animal markets in Andheri, Byculla, Govandi, Jogeshwari, Kurla, and Mankhurd in Mumbai between 12 and 16 July 2021. The findings, documented in a video and a report (**Annexure 1**), establish that there are rampant violations of animal protection laws, the Maharashtra government's guidelines for Eid 2021, and COVID-19 protocols.

PETA India's investigation reveals the following violations:

1. The investigation exposes rampant violations of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960; the Transportation of Animals Rules, 1978; the Maharashtra Home Department's circular No DIS-0621/CNo 143/Visha 1 B, titled "Guidelines for Eid 2021" and issued on 2 July 2021 (**Annexure 2**); the government of Maharashtra's Order No DMU/2020/CR92/DisM-1, dated 4 June 2021 and titled "Levels of Restrictions for Breaking the Chain" (**Annexure 3**); and the 25 June 2021 circular issued by the Animal Welfare Board of India (**Annexure 4**) advising state governments and union territories to ensure compliance of animal protection laws during Eid.
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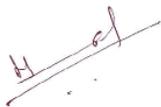
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10. COVID-19 restrictions were violated at all 23 temporary markets, as none of goat sellers wore masks or maintained social distancing and they kept their animal markets open well past 4 pm. Buyers were filmed visiting the markets without masks and without maintaining social distancing.

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Sincerely,



Dr Manilal Valliyate, CEO

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Director General of Police  
Maharashtra Police Headquarters  
Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Marg, Colaba  
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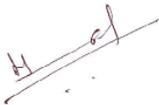
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Commissioner  
Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation  
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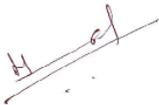
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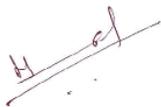
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