



सत्यमेव जयते

डॉ. एस. के. दत्ता

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सचिव / Secretary



भारतीय जीव जन्तु कल्याण बोर्ड

ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

भारत सरकार

मत्स्यपालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी मंत्रालय

(पशुपालन और डेयरी विभाग)

Government of India

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying

(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)

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### ADVISORY ON HUMANE AND COMPASSIONATE CELEBRATION OF HOLI

Holi is a vibrant festival symbolising joy, harmony, and the triumph of good over evil. It will be celebrated on 4th March, 2026 across the country. While rejoicing in this festival of colours, it is essential to ensure that our celebrations do not result in unintended harm, stress, injury, or suffering to animals—whether stray dogs and cats, cattle, birds, or companion animals.

2. Animals do not understand festivals. For them, loud noises, sudden splashes of colour, water balloons, and aggressive behaviour can be terrifying and life-threatening. Chemical colours can burn their skin and eyes, loud music can cause panic, and chasing or forcefully colouring animals amounts to cruelty.

3. As we celebrate this joyous occasion, the Animal Welfare Board of India earnestly appeals to all citizens to ensure that Holi is celebrated with compassion, sensitivity, and responsibility. A humane celebration is not only a moral duty but also a legal obligation under animal welfare laws.

4. In the spirit of kindness and coexistence, citizens are requested to observe the following during Holi celebrations:

- (i). Kindly refrain from applying any dry or wet colours on animals, including pets, stray animals, and birds.
- (ii). Avoid throwing water balloons or spraying coloured water on animals, as this can frighten and seriously injure them.
- (iii). Ensure that pets are kept indoors or in a safe and quiet place, and extend help to stray animals by keeping them away from crowded or noisy areas.
- (iv). Maintain cleanliness after celebrations and remove colour residues, plastic waste, and balloons to prevent animals from ingesting harmful substances.
- (v). Spread awareness among children, friends, and neighbours about celebrating Holi in a humane and animal-friendly manner.
- (vi). In case an animal is exposed to colours or injured, gently rinse with clean water and seek immediate veterinary or animal welfare assistance.
- (vii). Celebrate responsibly by using natural colours only for humans and by promoting peaceful, eco-friendly, and cruelty-free festivities.

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5. It is important to remember that causing pain, injury, or distress to animals is a punishable offence under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. More importantly, compassion towards animals reflects the true cultural and moral values of our society.

6. This Holi, let us choose empathy over excitement, kindness over chaos, and humanity over harm. A truly colourful Holi is one where no living being is hurt.

7. The Hindi version follows.

***“Play safe. Play kind. Celebrate Holi without cruelty”***

Yours Sincerely,



(Dr. S.K. Dutta)

Copy to:

1. The District Collector of all District of all States /UTs.
2. The Municipal Commissioners of all the States and UTs.
3. The Members and Co-opted Members of the Board
4. The Member Secretary, State Animal Welfare Boord
5. The Director or Commissioner, Animal Husbandry Department of State /UTs
6. All Animal Welfare Organization (AWBI Recognised)
7. All Honorary Animal Welfare Representatives (HAWRs)