

Newsletter of Compassionate Crusaders Trust




ANIMAL CRUSADERS

Annual Issue 2015

Stop telling the world how big the STORM is



Instead tell the storm how big your WORLD is



Do not read as children do to enjoy
themselves, or, as the ambitious do to
educate themselves. No, read to live.

~ Gustave Flaubert



Everyone
involved
has a
heart of gold.

~ Dr. Manu Chandaria





Contents

Sai Baba	1
CCT initiates Humane Retirement of Army Animals	2
Young Crusaders	4
Compassion	5
Shelter for Dogs	6
Chhoti will run again	7
Maidan Ponies	8
Jaipur	11
Pet Memorial	12
Sputnik's Garden	13
Shelter for Cats	14
Karuna Kunj	15
Clinic care	16
Rescue	17
Visits	18
Patron's Visit	19
Campaigns	20



Sai Baba



Bull from Maharashtra finds compassionate second home in Kolkata

While the ongoing beef ban decree hauls at the border of eastern state of West Bengal, a holy bull from Maharashtra finds a second home in the state capital here - thanks to a group of animal lovers' act of compassion.

While the ongoing beef ban decree hauls at the border of eastern state of West Bengal, a holy bull from Maharashtra finds a second home in the state capital here - thanks to a group of animal lovers' act of compassion.

Fondly called Sai Baba, the bull from the nation's western state got a second life in Kolkata - especially at a time when the ongoing debate over beef ban stokes the intolerance in India.



Iswar Anand Podral of Ahmednagar in Maharashtra arrived in Kolkata's Kalighat temple on a pilgrimage on Thursday, along with his family members. Interestingly, his family included a gigantic bull fondly called Sai Baba.

Long road journey, unfamiliar food habits and sophisticated-urbanised ambiance made Sai Baba fall sick.

The credit goes to Kalighat 'Sebayits', who guided the family to a city animal care clinic where the bull was thoroughly examined and treated with adequate medications.



According to Podral, the family members were feeling really anxious and lost about his wellbeing in a 'sophisticated and urbanised' place in this bustling eastern metropolis. They were desperate to keep Sai Baba fit enough for the long journey back home and started inquiring about a proper place for its treatment and recuperation.

Podral family's predicament touched the heart of a group of Kalighat 'Sebayits' who guided them to the Compassionate Crusaders Trust's (CCT) Tollygunge clinic, located next to the Rabindra



Sarobar metro station here. The family was desperate to keep the bull fit enough for the long journey back home.

"Sai Baba was examined by a veterinarian assisted by CCT's para-vets. It was thoroughly examined and treated with adequate medications and injections, along with three bottles of glucose saline and assorted intravenous drips," said Debasis Chakrabarti of CCT.

Chakrabarti said Sai Baba was visibly rejuvenated after the day's care. At the moment the family is in a temporary 'pilgrim shelter' near Maidan area. Sai Baba will need about three days of medical care before he can be fit enough to travel back home - to its home in Ahmednagar.

"There is a lot of buzz word about beef ban and intolerance these days but a small act of compassion for these mute friends can do wonders. Love knows no boundary or religions. It just flows from one soul to another. And perhaps, Sai Baba's treatment in Kolkata is a perfect example of that," said Iswar Anand Podral, the bull's master.

**India Today
Kolkata, | November 29, 2015**



CCT initiates Humane Retirement of Army Animals

Compassionate Crusaders successfully initiates filling the gap between ceremonial presence and unceremonious end to the checkered career of the valiant military animals of the Indian Army



Indian Military Dogs at the full dress rehearsals of the Republic day parade in New Delhi. (Source: Photo by Tashi Tobgyal)

India is a country where the life of even a healthy 'stray' animal is protected under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

Media reports at the beginning of June, 2015 jolted the right thinking citizens.

An RTI application by R. Kannan Govindarajulu "What happens to Indian Army dogs – including the decorated ones – once they are not fit to carry out their rigorous duty?" The RTI query sought details about the method of disposal of animals, including dogs, in the Army.

The reply: "Army horses and dogs are evaluated for their fitness with respect to the performance of duties. The animals which are considered unfit for one month active service are disposed of by humane euthanasia."

"This is incredible! Our canine friends deserve respect and proper retirement. Euthanasia is definitely wrong, both morally and ethically. Being a disciplined force that the Indian Armed Forces are, they would surely think it over and decide in favour of these faithful friends." "That's terrible. In USA many people come forward to adopt the dogs. These are very special dogs"... Citizens from home & abroad reacted.

But some activists were, however, proactive. Diana Ratnagar from Pune, Chairperson, Beauty Without Cruelty, India (BWC) called up Debasis Chakrabarti the founder of Compassionate Crusaders Trust (CCT) in Kolkata on the same day. Diana knew about CCT's close collaboration with the local army authorities, dating back to 1996, regarding animal control in military areas, treatment of 'stray' ponies in Kolkata and many more. She mentioned the media report and asked for CCT's action plan.

Debasis Chakrabarti of CCT also got a prompt call from the head of local RVS unit, Director RVS, Eastern Command which looks after army working animals.



A Best "Friend in need": A dog along with a soldier searching for survivors at an altitude of 19,600 feet after the avalanche on the Siachen Glacier. Hanamanthappa was rescued by a team that included over 150 soldiers and two canines, Dot and Misha. (AFP/Indian defence ministry)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi pats a guard dog during his visit to Siachen during Diwali on 23 Oct, 2014. (Pic Twitted by PM himself)

Discussions continued with the RVS in Kolkata for a few weeks and culminated into the a top level delegation from that unit's visit to Karuna Kunj, CCT's animal rehab cum shelter home near Kolkata at end June.

On getting a first hand knowledge of a spot survey, photographs, videos (supplemented by CCT's collection of photos, videos, literature and a draft action plan) the Kolkata RVS sent a humane alternative 'Plan of Action' prepared in conjugation with the Compassionate Crusaders to Delhi for a presentation at the Army Head Quarters in Delhi.

As a precondition, CCT insisted them to officially agree to stop "humane euthanasia".

Head of Eastern Command RVS mentioned that the whole issue of army animals are dealt with under Defence Service Rules (DSR) and DSR can be altered only by the Defence Ministry (MOD).

CCT's concept is that the Army needs a 'transit' place in each point close to their 'commands', it may be a infrastructure raised in Karuna Kunj for eastern region and likewise by our co-crusading groups spread



CCT initiates Humane Retirement of Army Animals

across India. CCT wanted them to officially agree to not euthanize and hand over to loving homes. But Army needs monitoring agencies e.g. CCT to handle the adoption process. Details will follow once a document in black n white is generated from the MOD. CCT will share the logistics with all our sincere animal loving friends and take their suggestions/feedbacks to make the change a permanent one with effective national participation by all compassionate citizens including corporate & business houses.

Based on the 'presentation' the Defence Minister approved a 'draft policy', including 'immediate stop' to killing fit animals (not only Dogs but Horses & Mules too).

At around the same time Diana of BWC also had written to the Defence Minister and got a reply (in the mid October) from the ministry office assuring of immediate cessation of killing of healthy animals. Compassionate Crusaders Trust hails the dynamic Defence Minister for this path breaking humane decision.

Subsequently in mid September the Delhi High Court bench of Chief Justice G. Rohini and Justice Jayant Nath was hearing a PIL by advocate Sanjay Kumar Singh, who pleaded that the "act of the Indian Army in killing their service stocks once their service years are over is so unreasonable..."

Additional solicitor general Sanjay Jain submitted that the policy was



Director RVS Kolkata and his deputy visits Karuna Kunj

being formulated and the issues raised in a writ petition, which sought an end to the practice, were under active consideration.

Though a final policy is yet to be adopted, the Army has ceased further killing of ageing animals, except for those suffering incurable, terminal diseases and injuries.

The cases of animals suffering from incurable diseases, injuries and terminal diseases to be dealt with as per the provisions of Section 13 (3) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

A bench disposed of a writ petition which sought an end to the practice, saying the petitioner could approach the court again if he was not satisfied with the policy.

On 7th November the concerned section of the RVS Directorate in the Army HQ, Delhi published an advertisement in the media inviting 'Expression of Interest' (EOI) from 'Interested individuals/NGOs' regarding 'rehabilitation of unfit dogs/horses/mules.'

Compassionate Crusaders' reaction to this EOI is emphatic. We are hopeful of a more viable 'policy decision' from the Government.

With a compassionate Prime Minister, inspired by Shri Ramakrishna's teaching of "Being aware of God's presence in every soul", at the helm of affairs; the policy decision regarding a Mandatory Pension of army animals should be taken, so that post-retirement they can provide for themselves, financially and live in comfort in individual foster homes, NGO run animal shelters or adopter families, apart from the exclusive facilities army may create.

Every year about 50 dogs and about 1000 horses and mules retire. Though the Army's effort in collaborating with NGOs for giving them up for sheltering/adoption is a viable option but no NGO in the country have the facility to take care of about 1000 horses and mules that retire every year. The Army needs to build special facilities in different places in the country to house them after their retirement.

Sidelight:

Retired U.S. military working dogs to return home to U.S. for adoption!

One military working dog is estimated to save up to 200 service men and women during their career. In return for their heroic work, they deserve to be well cared for after they retire – but the U.S. government was instead abandoning these dogs overseas. After a passionate campaign, including a petition that gathered over 247,000 signatures, President Obama signed into law a defense bill that will require the government to bring retired military working dogs home to the U.S.!



Young Crusaders



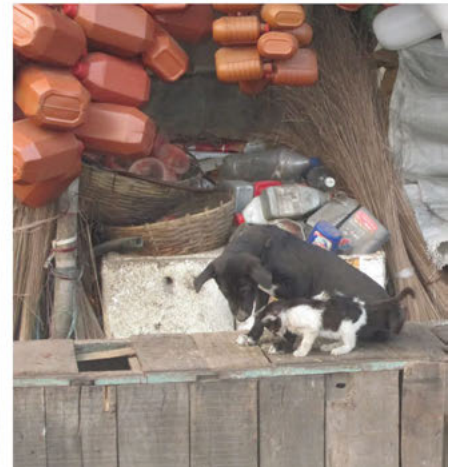
There is frequently
more to be learned
from the unexpected
questions of a
child than the
discourses of men.

~ John Locke





Compassion



There are really only two ways, it seems to me, in which we can think about our existence here on earth. We either agree with Macbeth that life is nothing more than a “tale told by an idiot,” a purposeless emergence of life-forms including the clever, greedy, selfish, and unfortunately destructive species that we call Homo sapiens - the “evolutionary goof.” Or we believe that, as Pierre Teilhard de Chardin put it, “There is something afoot in the universe, something that looks like gestation and birth.” In other words, a plan, a purpose to it all.

~ Jane Goodall



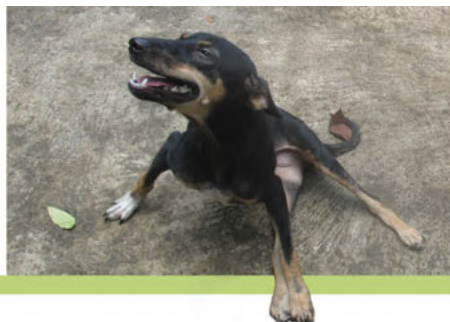
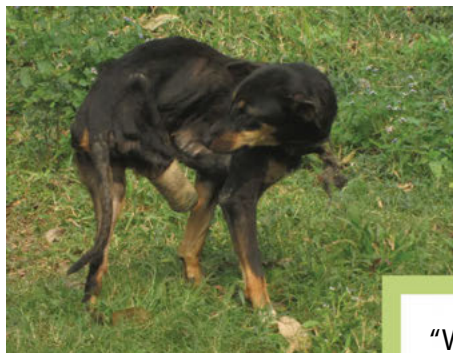
Shelter for Dogs



Don't go around
saying the world
owes you a living.
The world owes
you nothing.
It was here first.
~ Mark Twain



Chhoti will run again



"We rescued a stray dog (puppy) from a roadside nearby Bose Institute, Kankurgachi. It was hit by a car probably. Two rear side legs were broken. After five days we could be able to perform a surgery. One leg of the dog was operated but the other showed no future of it," wrote Mr. Subhrangsu Chatterjee and her colleague Mrs. Rina Roy in June 2015.

Chhoti is a resident of Karuna Kunj since last July. A corrective (amputation) surgery is done on the leg with "no future of it".

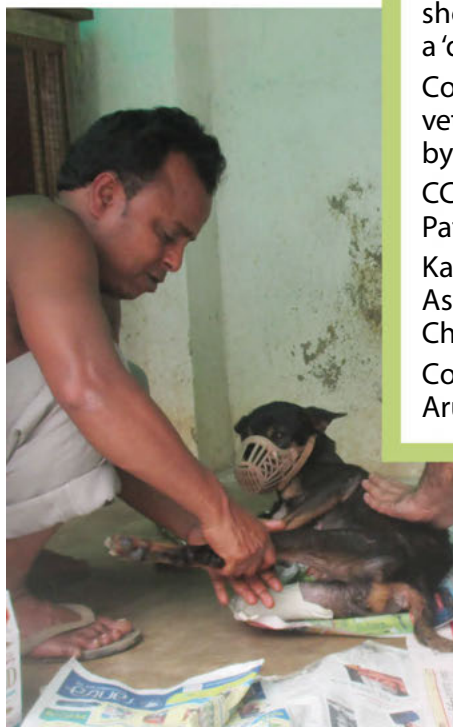
Physiotherapy is done on the fitter leg showing slow but steady recovery, albeit as a 'differently-abled' Chhoti.

Corrective surgery done by CCT's ex-army veterinarian Capt. Kamal Kanti Dutta, assisted by Para-vet Subhas Kalsar.

CCT's Mobile Clinic support staff: Sidheswar Patra.

Karuna Kunj support staff: Ashoke Mondal, Ashoke Naskar, Santosh Mondal & Pinaki S Chatterjee (Supervisor).

Coordinator: CCT's Animal Welfare Officer Arup Pal.



You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one.
I hope someday you'll join us. And the world will live as one. ~ John Lennon



Maidan Ponies

Tended to with love,
care and chickpeas,
the horses at Kolkata's
Victoria Memorial are
the pride of their
owners and,
grudgingly, of the city

For phaeton owners in Kolkata, the Mayans had nearly proved prescient. The year 2012 was almost apocalyptic. Morning walkers were offended by the dung of their horses. They weren't alone. During one of her secret evening walks near Victoria Memorial, the West Bengal chief minister too had her olfactory receptors assaulted. Pat came Mamatadi's order – "Ban these carriages at once." There were allegations of lathi-charge and whispers of hushed negotiations. The police finally softened and some new rules were enforced. "We now park here only after 11am," says Mohammad Adil, a carriage driver. "If we know that Didi is in the area, we make sure that we stand at attention with our carriages. Nobody moves at that point of time." The back of Adil's phaeton even has a Mamata Banerjee poster. "She looks after us and Trinamool looks after our union," he says, with a smile.

Of the 32 phaetons that park outside the Victoria Memorial every week, 22 are now believed to have valid licenses. Together with the single colts and mares, which provide customers a feel of the horseback, carriages account for the 80-odd horses in Kolkata's Queen's Way area. Many owners here believe that the process of nomenclature does more than just demonstrate their affection towards a horse; it also gives the animal an identity. A white mare, for instance, is lovingly called Gudiya – "Just look at her eyes. It's like looking at a doll," says her owner Sunny. The speed of a young agile steed has earned him the moniker Rocket, while a black stallion has unfortunately had to surrender to the bounty of his skin colour – Kaalu. Feeding his two horses, Biscuit and Badal, Adil explains, "Biscuit because you can hear the crunch on the gravel when he races and Badal because he is like a white cloud."

Like many of his compatriots, eight-year-old Biscuit was bought from the Sonepur cattle fair for ₹ 40,000, but Badal, now 12, was purchased for the princely sum of ₹ 70,000 from Varanasi. "Badal was the first horse my brother bought. He is everyone's favourite," says Adil. Claiming that his family has now been in the phaeton trade for over half-a-century, the 22-year-old describes the daily itinerary of his horses with meticulous precision.

For breakfast, they are fed a mixture of chaff and chickpeas with some water and grass as supplements. They are then bathed with specialised scrubs and brushes. With morning ablutions completed, they are finally brought to the city's Maidan. "Since the walk heats up their bodies, we wait for a while before giving them grass again."

Sanju, owner of two phaetons, stands nearby, inspecting the application of Savlon on one of his horse's wounds. "Do you have children of your own?" he asks, "If you did, you'd know. We take care of our horses the way one takes care of his or her children." Surprisingly, it is easy for Sanju to substitute his analogy of offspring with one of cars. He says that even though he has two carriages, he makes sure he has six horses. "We all need a stepney from time to time," he says. With only October to February being profitable months, it would be hard to look after a herd of horses, but 29-year-old Sanju says he earns enough to make ends meet. "Fifteen years ago, I gave up education for horses. So what if they each cost me ₹ 500 a day? In the end, they also pay me more."

Immortalised in several Bengali period dramas such as Kartik Chattopadhyay's *Sahib Bibi Golam* (1956) and Tapan Sinha's *Atithi* (1966), the phaeton was Kolkata's favoured mode of



Maidan Ponies

transport through much of the 19th century. It was commonly believed that when a phaeton pulled up with sickly horses, the master had squandered much of his *zamindari* wealth. According to Debasis Chakrabarti of the Compassionate Crusaders Trust, a charitable organisation dedicated to animal welfare, none of today's carriage owners can afford to be so reckless. "Many of these carriage horses are used for weddings and religious processions. They bring in a fair sum of money. If they didn't look healthy and well-fed, no bridegroom will agree to ride them on his special day," he says.

Chakrabarti adds that during the years he personally tended to stray horses near Victoria, he found that many of the phaetons used discarded race steeds. "Most of these are of a good breed. They wouldn't survive if they aren't well-nourished. "For the past 18 years, Mohammad Sattar has been massaging his employer's eight horses, polishing their skin and tending to their every need. "If these horses were in the wild, they'd be eaten in no time. With us, they are fed and looked after. Even though they are animals, I feel in sync with them. Without them, we'd have no food to give our

families." Sattar interrupts his reverie to gaze at Victoria Memorial. "No one needs us anymore, but it is because of the blessings of my Mallika Rani (Queen Victoria) that we're here today. Horses have been around since the time of kings and queens. We're continuing that tradition." Convinced that his carriages aren't going to be sent anywhere, Sattar concludes, "If Victoria Memorial gives Kolkata pride, we give the Victoria some of its glamour."

(Shreevatsa Nevatia is a Kolkata-based writer)

(This article was published on September 26, 2014)
thehindubusinessline.com

আরোগ্য

রবীন্দ্রনাথ ঠাকুর

প্রত্যহ প্রভাতকালে ভক্ত এ কুকুর
স্তব্ধ হয়ে বসে থাকে আসনের কাছে
যতক্ষণে সঙ্গ তার না করি স্বীকার
করস্পর্শ দিয়ে।
এটুকু স্বীকৃতি লাভ করি
সর্বাপেক্ষে তরঙ্গি উঠে আনন্দপ্রবাহ।
বাক্যহীন প্রাণীলোক-মাঝে
এই জীব শুধু
ভালো মন্দ সব ভেদ করি
দেখেছে সম্পূর্ণ মানুষেরে;
দেখেছে আনন্দে যারে প্রাণ দেওয়া যায়
যারে তেলে দেওয়া যায় অহেতুক প্রেম,
অসীম চৈতন্যলোকে
পথ দেখাইয়া দেয় যাহার চেতনা।

দেখি যবে মুক হৃদয়ের
প্রাণপণ আত্মনিবেদন
আপনার দীনতা জানায়ে,
ভাবিয়া না পাই ও যে কী মূল্য করেছে আবিষ্কার
আপন সহজ বোধে মানবস্বরূপে;
ভাষাহীন দৃষ্টির করুণ ব্যাকুলতা
বোঝে যাহা বোঝাতে পারে না,
আমারে বুঝিয়ে দেয় সৃষ্টি-মাঝে মানবের সত্য পরিচয়।





Maidan Ponies

আনন্দবাজার পত্রিকা

১৯ আষাঢ় ১৪২২ শনিবার ৪ জুলাই ২০১৫

রাজপথে ঘোড়ার গাড়ি কি আর দেখা যাবে না

বন্ধে হাইকোর্টের নির্দেশে এক বছরের মধ্যেই মুম্বাইতে নিষিদ্ধ হতে চলেছে ঘোড়ার গাড়ি। কলকাতাতেও কী তাহলে এই গাড়ি বন্ধ হওয়ার আশঙ্কা রয়েছে? স্মৃতিমেদুরতায় ঘোড়াগাড়ির উপর আলোকপাত করলেন অশোক সেনগুপ্ত।

ভিক্টোরিয়া মেমোরিয়ালের সামনের রাজপথ। সার বেঁধে দাঁড়িয়ে ঘোড়ার গাড়ি। বিকেলের নরম আলোয় তারই যে কোনও একটায় চড়ে ময়দানের একটা অংশ ঘুরে ফেলা যায়। অবশ্যই দরদাম করে। গাড়ির জৌলুসের সঙ্গে ঘোড়ার চেহারার বিস্তর ফারাক থাকলেও পর্যটকের ঘোরায় তা কোনও ভাবেই প্রভাব ফেলে না। তবে, শহরের রাজপথে ঘোড়াগাড়ির দৌড়াদৌড়ি ইদানীং অনেকটাই কমে এসেছে। আগের সেই রমরমা আর নেই। রমরমার সেই দিনের কথা রবীন্দ্রনাথ তো তাঁর ‘জীবনস্মৃতি’তে কবেই লিখেছিলেন, “আমি জন্ম নিয়েছিলুম সেকালে কলকাতায়। শহরে শ্যাকড়াগাড়ি ছুটছে তখন ছড়ছড় করে ধুলো উড়িয়ে, দড়ির চাবুক পড়ছে হাড়-বের-করা ঘোড়ার পিঠে।”

কলকাতায় বাবু কলচার আর নেই। তার সঙ্গে অদৃশ্য হয়েছে অনেক কিছু। একসময় বাবুরা বিদেশ থেকে ল্যান্ডো, ফিটন, ব্রাউন বেবি, ব্যারুস আনাতেন। সেগুলো টানত ওয়েলার আর আর্বি ঘোড়া। সম্পন্ন বাবুরা অস্ট্রেলিয়া, মধ্যপ্রাচ্য থেকে এ কারণে আনাতেন তেজি ঘোড়া। আজ এ সব ইতিহাস।

উনিশ শতকের মাঝ পর্বে এ শহরে বেশ কিছু বনেদি বাড়িতে ঘোড়ার গাড়ি এসে গিয়েছিল। ক্রমে সেই গাড়ি হয়ে ওঠে ধনী সম্প্রদায়ের প্যাশন। যাত্রী পরিবহনও শুরু হল। চালক ঘোড়াদের জলপানের জন্য তৎকালীন পুরসভা রাস্তার ধারে চৌবাচ্চার মতো খাতব পাত্র তৈরি করে দিয়েছিল। খুঁজলে এখনও সে রকম কিছু নমুনা মিলবে রাজাবাজার এলাকায়। কারণ, কোচোয়ান, ঘোড়ার আস্তাবল—এ সব ওই তল্লাটেই বেশি ছিল। ১৮৫৬ নাগাদ ঘোড়ার গাড়ি

গেল ঢাকায়। সেখানকার শাঁখারিটোলার ‘সিরকো অ্যান্ড সন্স’ যাত্রী বহনের উদ্দেশ্যে এই গাড়ি এনেছিল।

রিকশা এবং যন্ত্রচালিত গাড়ি আসার আগে ঊনবিংশ শতাব্দীর শেষ ভাগে ঘোড়ার গাড়ি ছিল আমাদের ল্যান্ডমার্ক।

ক্ষিতীমোহন ঠাকুর লিখলেন, “গাড়োয়ানেরা পুলিশকে যথারীতি নজর সেলামী দিবার ফলে নির্ভয়ে কোচ-বাক্সে ও গাড়ির ছাদে নির্দিষ্ট সংখ্যা অপেক্ষা অনেক বেশী আরোহী উঠাইত। অনেক সময় পক্ষীরাজ ঘোড়া দুইটি গাড়ি টানিতে না পারিয়া পথিমধ্যে দাঁড়াইয়া যাইত।” তারশঙ্কর বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায় ছোটদের জন্য তাঁর একটি লেখায় কোচোয়ানদের পোশাক-পাগড়ি-কোচবাক্সে বসা—এ সব নিয়ে সুন্দর ছবি এঁকেছিলেন। সব মিলিয়ে যেন একটা সামন্ততান্ত্রিক অভিজাত্য।



আস্তে আস্তে কমতে শুরু করে ঐতিহ্যের এই গাড়ি। যেগুলো টিকে থাকে, সেগুলোর মালিক-কোচোয়ানদের মূল কাজ হয়ে ওঠে বিয়ের অনুষ্ঠান-নাটক-সিনেমা আর ময়দানের হাওয়া খাওয়ানোর মাধ্যমে কিছু আয় করা। কয়েক দশক আগেও পর্দায় বা সেলুলয়েডে মাঝে মাঝেই আমাদের স্মৃতিমেদুরতাকে উস্কে দিয়েছে ঘোড়ার গাড়ি। যেমন, দীপেন্দ্রনাথ বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায়ের গল্প ‘অশ্বমেধের ঘোড়া’ নিয়ে টেলি-ফিচার করে কলকাতা দূরদর্শন।

সম্প্রতি ‘অ্যানিমেল অ্যান্ড বার্ডস চ্যারিটেবল ট্রাস্ট’-এর তরফে একটি জনস্বার্থ মামলার প্রেক্ষিতে মুম্বই হাইকোর্টের দুই বিচারপতি এ এস ওকা এবং একে মেনন প্রাণী-নির্যাতন নিয়ন্ত্রণের জন্য ঘোড়ার গাড়িকে বেআইনি বলে ঘোষণা করেন। সেই সঙ্গে স্থানীয় পুরসভাকে এক বছরের মধ্যে এই গাড়ি বন্ধ করার নির্দেশও দেন। এ সব গাড়ির

সঙ্গে জড়িত প্রায় ৭০০ জনের পুনর্বাসনের ব্যবস্থা করার দায়িত্ব আদালত দিয়েছে মহারাষ্ট্র সরকারের হাতে। এই প্রেক্ষিতেই প্রশ্ন উঠেছে, তাহলে কলকাতাও কি সেই পথ ধরবে?

তবে আইনের কড়া চোখ ঘোড়ারগাড়ির উপর এ শহরে অনেক দিন আগেই পড়েছে। এক গাড়ির এক মালিক প্রবাল মুখোপাধ্যায় পুরসভার লাইসেন্স থাকা সত্ত্বেও কলকাতা পুলিশের লাইসেন্স পেলেন না। ২০১২-র শেষ ভাগে এ কারণে তিনি আদালতের দ্বারস্থ হন। আদালতে পুলিশ বলল, এই গাড়ি পুরনো। এ রকম গাড়ির বিরুদ্ধে শহর নোংরা করা ও যানজটের যুক্তিও তারা পেশ করে। সব শুনে কলকাতা হাইকোর্টের বিচারপতি দীপঙ্কর দত্ত জানালেন, ঘোড়ার গাড়িকে কেবল পুরনো যান বলে দেখলে চলবে না। এর সঙ্গে কলকাতা শহরের ঐতিহ্য জড়িয়ে আছে। প্রশাসন এই গাড়িকে নিয়ন্ত্রণ করতে পারে। কিন্তু পুরো তুলে দেওয়া উচিত হবে না।

এ শহরে ঘোড়ার গাড়ি সীমাবদ্ধ কেবল ভিক্টোরিয়া মেমোরিয়ালের সামনে। সেখানকার এক কোচোয়ান সেলিম আলির তিন পুরুষের রুজি ঘোড়ার গাড়ি। নিষেধাজ্ঞার প্রশ্নে অবাক হয়ে তাঁর পাল্টা প্রশ্ন, “তাহলে আমরা কী করব?” বললেন, “শুনেছি মুম্বই ও করাচির সমুদ্রসৈকতে লোকে উট চড়ে। পর্যটনের দৃষ্টিভঙ্গিতে তাহলে এখানেও তো ঘোড়ার গাড়ি থাকতে পারে!”

আবেগমথিত এই মন্তব্যতে সায় দিয়েছেন ‘কম্পেশনেট ব্রুশেডার ট্রাস্ট’-এর দেবশিশ চক্রবর্তী। তাঁর বক্তব্য, মুম্বইয়ের ঘোড়াগুলো ‘অনিয়ন্ত্রিত’। কলকাতার এই সব প্রতিটি ঘোড়ার বিশদ ঠিকুজি-কুণ্টি আছে। বেওয়ারিশ কোনও ঘোড়া এ শহরে গাড়ি টানে না। এগুলো সবই রেসের বা সেনা ও পুলিশের অবসরপ্রাপ্ত ঘোড়া। পর্যটকদের নিয়ে ভিক্টোরিয়া মেমোরিয়াল পাক খেয়ে ওরা এবং কিছু পরিবারকে বাঁচিয়ে রাখার রসদ সংগ্রহ করে মাত্র। আর পশুক্লেশের প্রসঙ্গে তাঁর বক্তব্য, “যে কোনও ঘোড়ার রক্তসঞ্চালনের জন্য মালিশ প্রয়োজন। এই মালিশ করতে গেলে যে খরচ দরকার, পর্যটক-গাড়ি না টানলে সে খরচ সহিস বা ঘোড়ামালিক পাবেন কোথা থেকে?”



Jaipur

In Jaipur, fish dying of overeating, pigeons becoming obese

P Srinivasan, Hindustan Times,
June 12, 2015 • Jaipur

Do you feed fish and pigeons to bring you good luck? Do you look for black dogs to give them biscuits?

Don't. Animal experts say fish in Jaipur's water bodies are dying of overeating and pigeons are becoming so obese that they can't make long flights.

What's more, birds fed grains causing buildings to decay because their droppings have higher acid levels. And sweets, including biscuits, are bad for a dog's health.

It is common for astrologers to recommend the feeding of fish, pigeons and dogs to people who approach them for good luck. But experts scoff at the idea, saying what people feed them doesn't suit the animals.

In Jaipur, Man Sagar Lake that has the Jal Mahal palace at its centre, a water body at the foot of Amber Fort and a pond in Nehru Garden on Tonk Road are points for feeding fish. People feed them small wheat flour balls on the advice of astrologers but this is causing their death due to overeating, say experts.

Wildlife expert Harsh Vardhan says, "Fish eat microorganisms and small fish. They do not require bread and wheat flour balls. We are polluting

water bodies by feeding them all that."

In almost every Indian town or city, people can be seen feeding cows on the streets in the belief that it is a 'punya' (good deed) which will earn them blessings. It is equally common to see people feeding birds in public spaces and fish at ponds or lakes open to the public.

People feed grains to pigeons and other birds, many of which cannot chew or gulp these grains. It gets lodged in their craw and causes them trouble.

"According to an estimate, grains worth Rs 3 lakh are sold in the city every day when these birds are omnivorous," Harsh Vardhan points out.

At Albert Hall, a prominent landmark in Jaipur, people turn up in hordes to feed pigeons. These birds, experts say, have become so obese that they can hardly fly beyond the historical building.

"They eat, sit on the Albert Hall's walls and window sills and cause decay by their droppings," says Harsh Vardhan.

Honorary Animal Welfare officer Manish Saxena says it is better to put some grains on your terrace rather than feeding birds at common sites. Similarly, fish should not be given any food that is not part of their regular diet but people feed them and they overeat and die.

"We disturb their natural habitat when we offer food to birds and

animals which is not their natural food. For instance, biscuits are not good for dogs – they cause skin problems for them. Give them roti and milk instead," says Tapes Mathur, a veterinary officer with the animal husbandry department. Harsh Vardhan cites scriptures to put forward his point. "Our books say 'jeevo jeevasya bhojanam', which means one being is food for another. This maintains a balance in the ecosystem. Let's not disturb it by feeding them."

But Debasis Chakrabarti, founder of Compassionate Crusaders Trust, a Kolkata-based group that campaigns for animal rights, said not all animals fed by people faced health problems.

"All birds or fish don't depend only on the food given to them by people. They also eat natural food that they procure. It is likely that food like flour balls given to fish may not be completely eaten and some of this could gather at the bottom of water bodies and pollute the water," he said.

Besides, all dogs that are fed biscuits do not face health problems, Chakrabarti said. "There is a need for some compassion but all animals do not get enough food. There shouldn't be any blanket call to stop feeding animals," he added.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/jaipur/feeding-them-for-good-luck-fish-dying-of-overeating-pigeons-becoming-obese/article1-1357904.aspx>



Pet Memorial

The Telegraph, Calcutta
Friday, December 25, 2015

Letters

In Memory of Pets

It is no denying the fact that only pet owners can feel intensely how heart-rending separation from one's pet can be (Dignity in death for dear pets, November 24). The pet's sweet memory is a rich treasure to be revisited in the bliss of solitude. A dignified burial of pets is always desirable.

G. Bakshi

I had a pet cat named Chhalla way back in 2002. She succumbed to a liver disease at the age of 10 months. My wish of celebrating her first birthday remained a dream. Although I knew about the Bakrahat pet cemetery, it was not possible for me to take her there from my Kasba home. We requested the doctor's compounder to bury Chhalla and he buried her under the Baghajatin flyover, which was under construction then. A year later, I visited Karuna Kunj one Sunday afternoon. Besides spending a lovely time with the pets there, I visited the pet burial ground too. The epitaphs were so touching that I couldn't hold back my tears.

Debapriya Mukherjee

Just a few weeks ago, we buried a street dog that we had adopted at the Bakrahat cemetery. But back in 2009, we couldn't give a proper funeral to our pet Spitz Mini. We still feel guilty of having to dump her in a municipal garbage van. Pets, and especially dogs, form a strong emotional attachment with humans and they deserve a proper farewell.

Dear Mr. Debasis Chakrabarti,

I was very moved to read about the green burial grounds of Compassionate Crusaders Trust (CCT). <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/indiahome/indianews/article-3135072/Kolkata-pets-recyclable-burial-ground-owners-plant-tree.html>

The way we treat our animals' bodies is certainly related to how we regard other animal - and humans - in life. In 2010 I founded an international organization to promote green burials for animal bodies, and to recognize that the Earth is the finest memorial for us all. The organization is the Green Pet-Burial Society www.greenpetburial.org. I will also go ahead and like CCT from our facebook page.

I'd like to add your burial ground to our list of international providers, but am interested in learning more about your burial ground. Is it a cemetery where anybody can bury their beloved pet, or is it only for the animals you rescue who pass away? Is the land legally protected in perpetuity? I'm particularly interested in how burial is regarded in a society that traditionally (from my limited understanding) prefers cremation as a form of honoring.

I wish you much success, and look forward to being in touch.

Many thanks,

Eric Greene

Eric Greene, President & Founder

Green Pet-Burial Society (a program of Family Spirals)

info@greenpetburial.org - (347) 573-0641

www.greenpetburial.org - Follow us on **Facebook**



Photo courtesy : Krishna Roy, Times of India



Sputnik's Garden

Kolkata pets get their own 'recyclable burial ground' where owners can plant a tree

Daily Mail, UK • 22 June, 2015
By SOUDHRITI BHABANI

As you drive down south-west of Kolkata, about 12-km off the busy Thakurpukur traffic intersection at Behala, an old iron gate welcomes you to Karuna Kunj - a recyclable pet burial ground that stands as the symbol of the eco-end-of-life movement in this bustling eastern India metropolis.

Karuna Kunj offers a dignified farewell to the departed 'mute members of the family'. It has become a home for about 6,000 such 'family members' during the past two decades.

The 'memorial to every loving pet' stands in all its gracious serenity at a time when the idea of recyclable burial grounds is spreading in human communities globally.

In the western world, the concept of a citizen-driven movement titled "Be a Tree" is fast catching up.

In the United Kingdom a consumer movement has been underway for almost 20 years now to promote natural burial grounds, where people are buried in biodegradable containers without formaldehyde-based embalming fluid or synthetic



Activists plant an olive tree in memory of a pet at Karuna Kunj in Kolkata

ingredients, and returned to the earth to compost into soil nutrients with a forest of trees marking the spot.

Hundreds of such sites offering some form of natural burial have emerged in the UK, Australia, New Zealand, the US, and Canada with other countries joining the list. Citizen-driven movements in support of natural burials can now be found in Europe, China, Japan, Germany and Africa as well.

According to Debasis Chakrabarti of a non-profit body Compassionate Crusaders Trust (CCT), the concept is that now the masters can bury their pet and return it to the earth to compost

into soil nutrients naturally at Karuna Kunj.

Here, they plant a tree in the name of their beloved animal, thereby adding to the rich greenery of the recyclable ground.

"We fight for animal rights. But I believe there cannot be any right without dignity. The message we want to convey through this is that life continues. One may die as a human or a dog but he goes back to nature as a tree and can still contribute," said Chakrabarti of CCT, the body which looks after the shelter for 'destitute mutes' and recyclable pet burial ground.

He that plants trees loves others beside himself.

— Thomas Fuller, English clergyman, author (born 6/19/1608)

Shelter for Cats



There are two
means of refuge
from the misery of
life – music and
cats.
~ Albert Schweitzer



Photo courtesy : Krishna Roy, Times of India





Karuna Kunj

Jul 08 2015 : The Times of India (Kolkata)

A garden where pet memories bloom into life

Ajanta Chakraborty, Kolkata:

If you want the memory of your pets to live on, you can now immortalize them as a tree. Taking a leaf out of the UK's "b-a-tree" concept, Compassionate Crusaders, an NGO in the city, has been carrying out the green ritual, burying pets in the most dignified and ecofriendly way.

For almost 20 years in the UK, a compelling consumer movement, called the natural burial grounds, has been underway. In these green grounds, people are buried in biodegradable containers, without formaldehyde based embalming fluid or synthetic ingredients, so that their bodies could return to the earth. Trees mark the spots. The 'b-a-tree' model is being replicated at the quiet of Karuna Kunj, about 20km from the city's business district, where several pet lovers—some of them the who's

who of Kolkata—bury their beloved pets. The yard at Bibirhaat in South 24-Parganas, which is now home to about 6,000 such mute "near-and-dear-ones", is one of the cleanest gardens ever. As the iron gates open, a visitor is greeted by a group of rescued dogs, who are cured and sheltered in the sprawling campus. Abandoned felines have their home in the huge "Feline Disney Land".

"The dogs always greet the bereaved pet owners but they never attack. The pet owners are heart-broken to have lost their mute family member, but happy to bid them farewell at Karuna Kunj," said Debasis Chakrabarti, a member of the Compassionate Crusaders Trust.

The NGO members said they wanted to create something that changed the way people viewed death. Instead of being "the end" it became a "return to life". So they offered pet owners the right space and let them choose from a limited number of trees, such as pine and oak, that could survive in this kind of soil. The sapling planted in the

name of a pet adds to the richness of the green burial ground, a member said. The soil is changed at regular intervals to ward off infection. At one corner is the prayer hall where families can meditate when they re-visit Karuna Kunj on their pets' birth and death anniversaries. Some can even plant their favourite trees at the adjacent Sputnik's Garden, named after Chakrabarti's Chihuahua.

The rituals are usual. The grave is first marked and the pet wrapped in a cloth. The earth is dug at least three feet deep to prevent smell or scavenger intrusion. It is paved with inscription and a tree is planted in the soil. Finally, the owner is given a message that reads: "I am lucky to have had a master who loved enough to see that I was laid to rest with dignity ... Your loving pet..." Chakrabarti said, "We are known for crusading against violation of animal rights. If we fight for dignity in life, we must ensure so in death. An animal or a human's most dignified end comes when he returns to nature as a tree, and contributes to society."



Photo courtesy : Krishna Roy, Times of India



01/10/2015 12:11

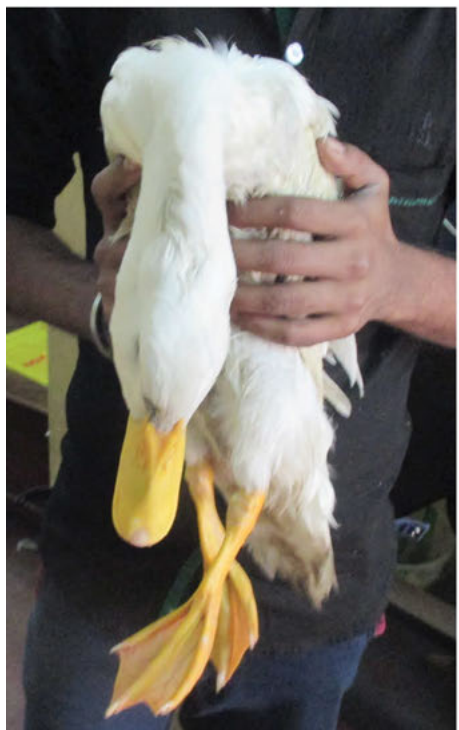


Clinic care



The problem isn't that people remember through photographs but
that they remember only the photographs. ~ Susan Sontag

Rescue



When you come out of the storm, you won't be the same person who walked in.
That's what this storm's all about. ~ Haruki Murakami

Visits



Perhaps the world progresses not by maturing, but by being in a permanent state of adolescence, of thrilled discovery. ~ Julian Barnes



Patron's Visit



You all are doing God's work. The pain you see in them and help them to reduce it, is a great job.

One has to have deep commitment for the work you all are doing.

I was impressed with your Clinic in the town and committed people who are there to serve who can not speak.

YOU ALL ARE VOICES FOR THE ANIMALS WHO COMES UNDER YOUR CARE.

I salute you all for that feeling and putting it in to action.

Thank the lady for the beautiful Mugs she designed and came all the way to present to me. Aruna also liked it.

I was impressed that she was the volunteer at the centre. Her love and kindness for speechless has not been reduced.

I was impressed by lot of influence in the policy making that you have been able to achieve. Many a times people do not care very much about many things going around them. You have taken keen interest in making life safer for animals and continue to propagate the need of kindness to them. Your cases at the court are a testimony to make the environment for speechless to give them their rights to survive.

In the fast moving world many of us forget their existence.

I have read recently in some other context 'I AM BECAUSE YOU ARE'.

This concludes why we all are.

Regards,

Manu Chandaria



I began to realize how important it was to be an enthusiast in life. He taught me that if you are interested in something, no matter what it is, go at it at full speed ahead. ~ Roald Dahl



Campaigns

COP21 Paris Climate Talks



Historic New Climate Deal: The world's countries have agreed to initiate a momentous shift away from fossil fuels. COP21 document calls for reaching "peak" emissions in a few decades and then moving toward zero emissions in coming decades, even if that means depending on technologies that draw carbon dioxide out of the air.

In recent years, activists like former NASA scientist James Hansen and author Bill McKibben have attacked fossil fuels at every turn, arguing against the Keystone pipeline or the export of coal to Asia through ports in the Pacific Northwest. They've pushed universities and foundations to divest from coal and oil in their holdings—winning some battles and losing others. Critics often complained that each individual battle didn't seem to add up to much, but the activists were consistent. They argued again and again that more fossil fuels needed to stay in the ground in order to keep the world safe. That strategy helped keep climate change on the agenda and today, it appears, diplomats from nearly 200 countries more or less decided to agree with them.

Supreme Court refuses to vacate stay on Jallikattu order



The four-year-old ban on holding of Jallikattu was lifted on January 8. The Centre's notification lifting ban on Jallikattu in Tamil Nadu was challenged in the Supreme Court on Monday by AWBI, People for Ethical Treatment of Animals India and a Bangalore-based non-governmental organization.

New beginnings for Circus Animals Rescued

RESCUED! Animals from Great Gemini Circus in Noida: End circus suffering



The movement to 'end suffering of animals in circuses' started with a bang this New Year with the rescue of 16 animals! 13 dogs and three horses used illegally by Great Gemini circus travelled from bondage to freedom on new years' day. In more promising news, activists in Nagpur have filed a case against Amar circus for cruelty and illegal use of animals, following AWBI's suspension of the circus' license.

Snake Park : reptiles rescued from private zoo- destination Alipore Zoo



The Calcutta Snake Park at Badu was finally closed on Saturday following the completion of a probe into allegations of animal cruelty. The animals from the park, mostly snakes and crocodiles, were confiscated by forest department officials and sent to Alipore zoo. The park was owned by state wildlife advisory board member Dipak Mitra

The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) stated Calcutta Snake Park would not be allowed to keep the reptiles because they were being kept under cruel conditions. The CZA also sent a copy of the letter to the forest department.

Forest officials rescued eight crocodiles, six pythons and a king cobra apart from other reptiles in the nearly five-hour operation. The crocodiles' jaws were sealed and their eyes kept shut to reduce stress before they were carried to the vehicles - two trucks and two smaller vehicles - that ferried them to Alipore zoo.

Whole foods to end the sale of rabbit meat by January 2016

Lisa Rockwell Redwood City, CA



Sep 16, 2015 – News broke yesterday of the end to rabbit meat sales at all Whole Foods stores, one of the largest national grocery store chains, nationwide

This has been an amazing and challenging 15 months. The night I started this petition I had no idea how large this fight would grow. National demonstrations, worldwide support, new friendships, difficult struggles to work in teams, very late nights and early morning protests... this has been a life changing experience.

I am continually amazed at the power of the bunny community and the support of animal lovers to fight for what we believe is right. I appreciate each and every person who took the time to sign this petition. I thank the people who spoke up for the bunnies, especially those who stood with me through this entire journey!

Break with tradition: No more animal sacrifice in two West Bengal temples

SPEED NEWS DESK|9 December 2015



The district administration of Burdwan in West Bengal has banned the tradition of animal sacrifice in two of its famous temples from 6 December.

The ban has been enforced in Sarvamangla temple and the Birat Kali temple at Kalibazar mod. Now, to continue with tradition, there will be a symbolic sacrifice of fruits and vegetables in the temple premises.

Nepal ban Gadhi Mai animal sacrifices

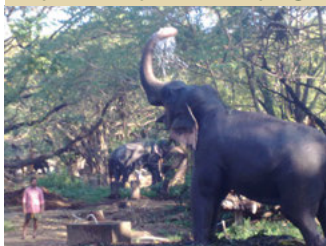
JULY 28, 2015 BY MERRITT CLIFTON



KATHMANDU, Nepal – Under pressure of a Supreme Court of Nepal injunction won on November 24, 2014 by the Nepal Animal Welfare & Research Centre, "We have decided to completely stop the practice of animal sacrifice." Gadhi Mai Temple Trust secretary Motilal Prasad on July 28, 2015 told the Himalayan Times.

In other words, the responsible persons were asked by the Supreme Court of Nepal to enforce the Nepal Animal Health & Livestock Services Act, the Nepal Animal Slaughterhouse & Meat Inspection Act, and the Nepal Environment Protection Act.

Captive-Elephant campaign



Thiruvananthapuram: Aug 29. 2015: Forest department has warned elephant owners of action in cases of cruelty towards the animals. The state can confiscate elephants which are tortured, chief wildlife warden G. Harikumar has said.

The Supreme Court had on August 18 directed the top wildlife officer in the state to undertake a head count of all captive jumbos. The court took note of several PILs alleging cruelty meted out to elephants, particularly in temples.

**Greed has poisoned men's souls, has barricaded the world with hate,
has goose-stepped us into misery and bloodshed. ~ Charlie Chaplin**



Sponsor

**I'm a candle flame that sways in
currents of air you can't see. You need to be
the one who steadies me to burn.**

~ Nadine Gordimer

With Compliments of:

M/s. Naresh Kumar & Co. Pvt. Ltd.

9B, Wood Street, 5th Floor, Kolkata - 700016



Ms. Jayeeta Gupta Roy

127A, Motilal Nehru Road, Kolkata - 700026

We are grateful to

Mr. Sudarshan & Mrs. Sumangala Birla, Kolkata

Mr. Naresh Kumar, Kolkata

Mr. Sanjay Budhia, Kolkata

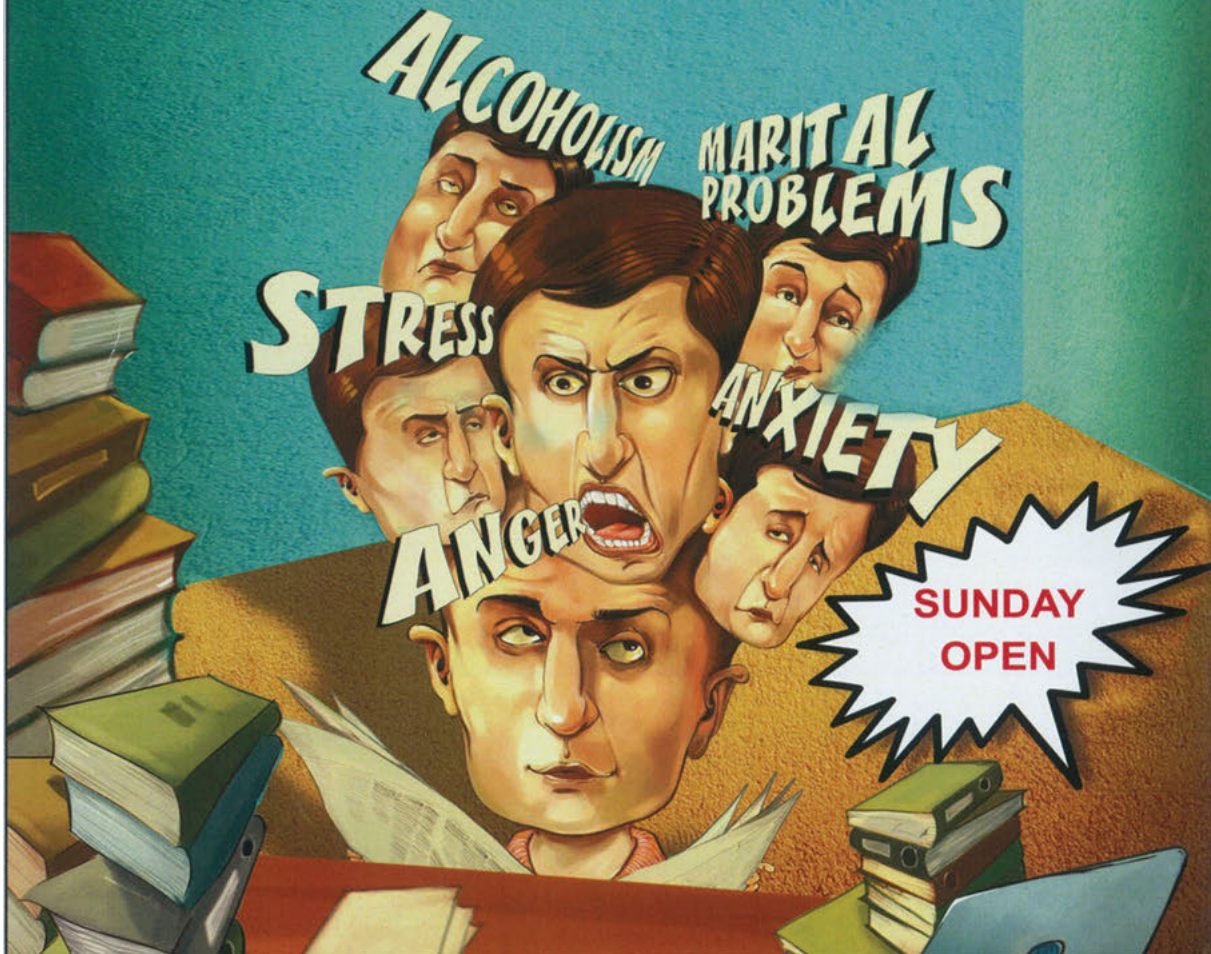
Mr. Samir & Mrs. Srimayi Bhattacharya, Kolkata

Mrs. Mandira Bhattacharya, Kolkata

Mr B N Garodia, Kolkata

Mr. Neil & Mrs. Nicola Bhattacharya, U.K.

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND TODAY?



IQ Testing | Testing for ADHD, Dyslexia etc | Career Counselling
Psychological Counselling | Behaviour Clinic | Special Education
Psychiatry | Gynaecology | Nutrition Consultation | Hearing /Speech Clinic
Occupational / Pediatric Physio Therapy | Hand Writing Analysis

AFFORDABLE


AddLife
CARING MINDS

Psychological & Cognitive
Wellness Centre

**KOLKATA'S FIRST SUPER SPECIALTY
MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY**

54A, Sarat Bose Road

+91 98364 03766 | +91 33 2475 1230

info@addlifecaringminds.com

www.addlifecaringminds.com

 /AddLifeCaringMinds

A PATTON GROUP INITIATIVE

With Best Compliments of



MANGAL STEEL ENTERPRISES LIMITED

248 GT ROAD, (N)
Salkia
Howrah-711106
Ph: 91-33-26558331

Team HR

Advisor : Pawan Kumar Lohia

⌘ Production : Arunava Dey

⌘ Photo : Pinaki S. Chatterjee, Arup Pal, Nakul Kr. Bhattacharya

⌘ Concept & Publisher : Debasis Chakrabarti

Blue Pages

The services rendered : ANIMAL HELPLINE: 24647030/ 22104365

⌘ Round the clock emergency Ambulance and Veterinary service, Pet Clinic.

⌘ PetXpress trauma care for pets.

⌘ Karuna Kunj : Shelter for destitute dogs and cats, other pets. Burial ground for pets.

Free animal care camps. Sanjua, near Bibirhat, 24 Pgs(S). Ph: 28680526.

⌘ Horse rescue at Maidan with the help of the Army.

⌘ Sterilization and anti-rabies vaccinations of dogs & cats.

⌘ Cruelty cases or Wildlife violations: 24647030, 22104365 (24Hrs)

ANIMAL CRUSADERS

Newsletter of the COMPASSIONATE CRUSADERS TRUST (CCT)

For Private Circulation only

Designed & Printed by : Radiant, Ph: 22802202

Contact : Compassionate Crusaders Trust

Regd. Office : 1/13A, Olai Chandi Road, Kolkata - 700 037

Ph : +91-33-2464-7030, / 2210-4365 Fax : +91 33 25465548

Email : animalcrusader@gmail.com

Website : <http://www.animalcrusaders.org>

Facebook : Compassionate Crusaders Trust

Youtube Channel : animalcrusader

CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

■ Article 48-A of the Indian Constitution-The directive principles:

The state should protect and improve the environment and safeguard the forests and wild life of the country. This directive was added by the 42nd Amendment Act, 1976.

■ Article 51-A(g) of the Indian Constitution- The Fundamental Duties :

"It shall be the fundamental duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the Natural Environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for all living creatures."