also helps to formulate animal welfare
angle, the farming of animals for food and fibre alone is responsible for 18% of greenhouse gas
cent correlation between country levels of protein-energy malnutrition and the burden of z
frequent outbreaks of zoonotic diseases.

Another very serious threat to human health that emerges with intensive livestock rearing
and nitrate toxicity in drinking water. To draw a comparison, it takes about 600 liters of water to produce 1 kg of wheat, but it may take nearly 11,000 liters of water to produce 1 kg of beef. But, what could be the same, anthropomorphism of food for their own life but also by actively communicating this message. As much as Animal Welfare Organizations participate in caring for animals by providing shelter, health-care and food, it has become increasingly clear that the need of all AWOs in the country actually come forward in large numbers to promote the message of compassionate, environment friendly, plant based food and lifestyle choices.

As Sir Paul McCartney has rightly observed, “If slaughterhouses had glass walls, everyone would be a vegetarian”. The immense cruelty, torture and suffering that animals undergo, from their birth, right till the moment of slaughter is unimaginable. If the horrors of the slaughterhouse and the factories of animals for food and fiber is not compelling enough for humans to switch to a plant based diet, the emerging nightmare of droughts, water and food shortage precipitated by the climate crisis will be. The adoption of plant based food and lifestyle choices is the only way forward, if human beings as a species are to survive on this planet. The reasons are clear, the crisis of climate change is having its impact on different countries all over the world – extreme and unpredictable weather events, heat waves, droughts, floods, earthquakes, food scarcity, food scarcity, food scarcity, food scarcity. According to FAO, “Currently, 40% of the world’s population is affected by water scarcity. By 2025, 1.8 billion people will be living in countries or regions with absolute water scarcity, and two-thirds of the world’s population could be living under water stressed conditions.” In this kind of water stressed scenario, and the reality of the environmental crisis emerging, it will become inevitable that, human beings adopt exclusively plant based foods. In an assessment of the severe water crisis, the Animal Welfare Board, the Mammalian and avian emotional and cognitive micro-circuits appear to be far more homologous than previously thought.

What the Declaration implies is that non-human animals experience a level of consciousness that is homologous to human consciousness. In many of these observations and with the fact that the Government of India is a signatory to the Five Freedoms, that all animals must be becomes mandatory then, that we as human beings recognize, respect and honor our animal friends with which we share this great planet. Stopping and reducing the consumption of animals for food and fiber is the single most important step that animal welfare activists have a moral responsibility to apply, not just in the environmental perspective, and the zoonotic risk from the health

In the animal welfare movement, an important interface is public perception. On one hand, good lawyers and MPs can play in protecting the welfare of animals. She said, “It is absolutely vital that laws makers be part of the Board. Issues related to Animal Welfare must be translated to policy makers in the Parliament. There will be many MPs who can be motivated to support and take forward the issues relating to animal welfare.” She added, “It is true that we do tend to look at animal welfare issues with a little less importance.” In response to Hon’ble Chairman’s statement that the Board had been moving from Ministry to Ministry, she said, “it is very strange that you have moved from Ministry to Ministry. In fact, Animal Welfare is linked with almost every department of the Government – with issues related to climate change, the forests and ecosystems... besides, animals make such an immense contribution – from poverty alleviation to human healthcare as in the experiments conducted for human research, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Forests, I want to assure you that we will not stray from our commitment to protect the welfare of animals... In fact, every police station must have animal protection officers at their police

Talking about the release of funds for the Board she said, “I would like to remind all of you that this is the first time that all the funds have been released in a row.” She added, “We will make sure that the Board’s efforts as an advisory body in improving welfare conditions for animals is strengthened. The achievements that have been made are substantial achievements.” In response to Hon’ble Chairman’s appeal that most of the State Animal Welfare Boards are dysfunctional, Hon’ble Minister assured Hon’ble Chairman and Members of the Board saying that, “I will write to the Chief Ministers to ensure that they set up State Animal Welfare Boards, so that all the issues related to animal welfare, cruelty and protection can be effectively addressed and taken care of by each state, at the district level.”

Stressing about the need for greater community participation and public awareness, Ms Natarajan said, “In the animal welfare movement, an important interface is public perception. On one hand, animals are revered and worshipped and on the other end, there is cruelty to animals happening on so many levels and on so many fronts. The use of animals in movies – people must be sensitized to prevent cruelty. Human beings must take care to protect the welfare of animals – in poultry farms, in slaughterhouses... In fact, every police station must have animal protection officers at their police

"In my responsibility as Minister of Environment and Forests, I want to assure you that we will not stray from our commitment to protect the welfare of animals. I would like to assure you that I have an open mind and I fully promise you that my Ministry and I will give full support to the animals and to AWBI.” With reference to the plans to celebrate the Board’s golden Jubilee year with a Conference, Hon’ble Minister gave Dec 6th as the date for the National Conference on Animal Welfare. Besides the National Conference on Animal Welfare, the Board also plans to conduct four regional conferences, one each in Guwahati, Hyderabad, Chennai and Bengaluru.

Madhavan Launches 'Glass Walls'

New Delhi: On World Animal Welfare Day, Actor Madhavan launched Glass Walls, a film that he has made for the animal rights group, PETA. The film was released on 26th September, 2012 during the World Animal Welfare Day event and to inform communities about the suffering animals undergo. Besides, October is also

A monthly newsletter of the ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA (Min of Environment & Forests, Govt of India)

New Secretary Joins Board

Chennai: The Ministry Environment and Forests, Govt. of India has appointed Smt S. Uma Rani as the new Secretary of the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI). Smt. S. Uma Rani has joined AWBI on deputation from the Ministry of Defence on September 26th, 2012. Smt S.Uma Rani, 48, belongs to General Reserve category of Indian Administrative Service and has served in various capacities in Tamil Nadu. She

Hon’ble Minister, Jayanthi JI Promises Full Support to AWBI

Hon’ble Minister of Environment and Forests, Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan Ji, now well known and respected ‘Convert to the Cause of Animal Welfare’, while addressing Members of the Animal Welfare Board of India on September 10th, 2012 at the Board’s office in Chennai, said, “The very first point that I would like to say is that I cannot overemphasize the importance of our responsibility to protect all animals. I will do my best to ensure that the animal welfare movement, the Board can go ahead and do its work. I would like to be part of it all of you have undertaken. I would like to place on record my appreciation of the selfless work that all of you are doing.”

“I am filled with pride when I reflect on the fact that India is the only country in the world that has an Animal Welfare Board. thanks to the efforts of our first PM, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Shri Rukmini Devi Arundale. That the office of the Animal Welfare Board of India is located in Chennai, the city that I come from also makes me feel very happy and proud.”

Talking about the role of animal welfare organizations, she said, “We need to do so much more. There are many good lawyers and MPs who can play in protecting the welfare of animals. I am committed to the cause of animal welfare and I promise that I will do my best to ensure that the animal welfare movement, the Board can go ahead and do its work. I would like to place on record my appreciation of the selfless work that all of you have undertaken. I would like to place on record my appreciation of the selfless work that all of you are doing.”
As a part of Golden Jubilee Celebration of AWBI, Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan, Hon’ble Minister of Environment and Forests, visited the office of AWBI in Chennai on 1st Sep to review the growing animal welfare initiatives in the country.

Left to right: Dr. Chinny Krishna, Hon’ble Vice-Chairman, AWBI, Smt. Norma Alvares, Board Member, AWBI & Maj. Gen. (Rtd) Dr. R.M.Kharab, AVSM, Hon’ble Chairman, AWBI.

**Hon’ble Minister’s response:**

Once we take a decision on this, there should be no problem in getting the Counsel. The States have highly paid lawyers. We should ensure that there are very senior lawyers taking up the cases.

Shri Gulpurani Soni, Senior Board Member, AWBI appealed to the Hon’ble Minister that the Board’s budget should be increased to at least Rs 500 crores.

**Shri Amala Akkina, Board Member and Founder of Blue Cross of Hyderabad**

Held in address to the Board, Mr. Akkina said that if a tax of one paisa/liter of milk was charged and the amount given to AWBI, that could generate a huge amount of revenue for the Board to carry out its animal welfare work more extensively.

**Shri Algalalal Soni, Senior Board Member, AWBI**

Told the Hon’ble Minister that the State Animal Welfare Boards are effectively functioning State Animal Welfare Boards as well as police personnel sensitized to the cause of Animal Welfare.

**Referring to the challenges faced by the Board, Hon’ble Chairman said that a very serious concern is that, “Many of the states are having non-functional State Animal Welfare Boards and district societies are not functioning”**

He added that, “an important area of priority for the Board is to increase the membership of the Board so as to take up the cases. I promise to look at the revised draft with us for some time and the matter has been referred to the Law Ministry for further action.”

**Hon’ble Minister’s response:**

“I have been looking at the matter and will answer any query related to the grants to help the Municipal Corporation. Information and facilitation will be provided in the New Facilitation Counter at the Board’s office to help the Municipal Corporation.”

**Dr. R. Prabakaran, Vice-Chancellor, TANUVAS & Maj. Gen. (Rtd) Dr. R. M. Kharab, AVSM, Hon’ble Chairman, AWBI**

In his address to the distinguished delegates at the Convention, while thanking IAVMI for the honour, Hon’ble Chairman stressed the importance of giving Animal Welfare a strong and urgent basis by introducing Animal Welfare as a subject in Schools, Colleges and Universities. He said, “It is a great honour for our country.”

**Chairman, AWBI Honoured With Lifetime Achievement Award**

Chennai: During the 26th Annual Convention of The Indian Association of Veterinary Microbiologists, Immunologists and Specialists in Infectious Diseases (IAVMI) and the International Seminar on Future of Livestock Health held from September 6th to 8th, 2012 at TANUVAS, Maj. Gen. Dr. R. M. Kharab, AVSM, Hon’ble Chairman, AWBI was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

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**Focusing on the immense contribution that animals have made to human welfare, Hon’ble Chairman also stressed the need for the public to be better educated and to understand the impact of animal-based foods on the environment and as a causefactor in contributing to poverty and malnutrition in the country. He said that the rearing of animals for food contributes to nearly 18% of the global greenhouse gas emissions and stated that with the increasing population pressure, it will be very difficult to adequately meet the food needs, through animal based diets, due to the severe strain imposed on agricultural lands as well as due to the emerging water crisis.**

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**For 50 Years, AWBI Has Led the Animal Welfare Movement in India**

While warmly welcoming Hon’ble Minister of Environment and Forests, Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan to the Board’s office, Hon’ble Chairman in his address to the Hon’ble Minister said, “India has a tradition of Ahimsa that compels us to think about the rights of animals and highlight their importance and role in society.”

He added, “India is a signatory to The Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare. Hence, it is the responsibility of all Veterinarians while framing policies and while advising farmers to receive a large and important role in improving animal welfare practices always help to boost animal health, improve productivity and minimize the chances of zoonotic disease outbreaks.”

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The Award was conferred on him by the Vice-Chancellor of TANUVAS, Dr. R. Prabakaran and was given to him in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the advancement of Veterinary Microbiology.
Impact of Our Food Habits on Animal Welfare & Environment

Impact of Climate Change

- Extreme weather events - Heat waves, hurricanes, & tsunamis
- Rising sea levels, glaciers melting & changing precipitation patterns
- Water Scarcity – Over 1.8 billion people may be affected
- Food Crisis – Already close to a billion hungry people
- Emergence of new diseases & Rapid spread of vector borne bacterial & viral diseases
- Soil erosion & falling water tables
- Energy crisis
- Deforestation & desertification of grazing lands
- Melting of the glaciers & flooding of the plains
- Large scale displacement of over half million people
- Rising sea levels
- Drought & heat waves
- Decreased crop yields, & Loss of biodiversity.

Livestock-related land use changes may cause the emission of 2.4 billion tonnes of CO₂ per year. In addition to the intense use of agricultural animal production processes, the production of animal-based foods is extremely energy intensive, resource intensive and environmentally very polluting. Besides, the farming of animals for food and fibre also causes the release of heavy metals, drug resistant strains of antibiotics and even leading to the emergence of new and dangerous pathogens, as in the case of swine flu, bird flu and Ebola virus.

Additionally, the farming of animals for food and fibre causes deforestation of vast tracts of forest land. This is completely unsustainable as the forests are the planet's precious carbon dioxide absorption mops. Deforestation alone causes the emission of 1.5 billion tons of CO₂ each year. To protect the planet from the hazardous impacts of climate change, the forests need to be restored. Obtaining food from animal sources is not a sustainable practice as it is energy intensive and puts a severe strain on the earth’s limited water and land resources.

India, as a country with a great tradition of ahimsa, must revive and activate the champion of plant-based foods because this single step helps us switch to a plant-based food choice, not only to meet the adverse impacts of climate change but also stay protected from the adverse health effects caused by the consumption of animal foods. To cite some of the pertinent facts in this area, according to the 2012 WHO report, nearly half of the world population suffers from high blood pressure. One in 10 adults suffers from diabetes. One in 10 people suffer from obesity. One in 2 people of the world’s population is suffering from some form of cancer. For India, these figures are alarming because diabetes and heart disease in India have already crossed the safety thresholds. India now has one of the world's highest levels of heart disease and diabetes. The consumption of diets rich in saturated animal foods coupled with a sedentary lifestyle is one of the main reasons why this is happening. According to WHO, in 2008, 36 million deaths worldwide were due to (Non-communicable Chronic Diseases) NCDs. Deaths from cardiovascular illnesses accounted for 48% of all NCD related deaths, while cancer caused 21% of all deaths. As much as 80% of deaths due to NCDs occurred in low and middle-income countries. A report by WHO in 2002 states that, “Low intake of fruit and vegetables is estimated to cause about 31% of ischaemic heart disease, 31% of strokes worldwide and 19% of gastrointestinal cancers. It has been estimated that 2.7 million lives can be saved by increasing fruit and vegetable intake”. The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on diet, nutrition and the prevention of chronic diseases recommends, “intake of a minimum of 400 grams of fruits and vegetables per day (excluding potatoes and other starchy tubers) for greater population-based gains in reduction of coronary heart disease, diabetes, and other diseases such as heart disease, cancer, diabetes and other chronic conditions”.

Dr. Dean Ornish in his pioneering work has shown that coronary heart disease can be reversed by switching to low fat, plant based diets and by making suitable lifestyle changes. Similarly, work done by Dr. Neil Barnard has confirmed that blood sugar levels can be better controlled and managed by switching to low fat, high fibre, vegan diets. According to the Vegetarian Nutrition Dietetic Association and Dietitians of Canada, “Vegetarians have lower cholesterol levels, lower blood pressure, lower rates of hypertension, lower rates of death from Ischaemic Heart Disease, and lower incidence of type 2 diabetes as well as prostate and colon cancer.”

My request to all Animal Welfare Organizations, Animal Welfare Activists, Veterinary Assistants and Farmers engaged in looking after animals or providing health care to animals is to start adopting completely plant based food choices for themselves and their staff. This is with special reference to AWOs that are engaged in looking after the welfare of cats & dogs and in maintaining excellent health on vegetarian and even, well fortified vegan diets. All after, if people in Animal Welfare Organizations are not aware of the interconnections between their food and lifestyle choices and its impact on the environment, who else is there to support and speak up to alleviate the suffering of the poultry, pigs, sheep, goats and cattle – all our helpless, animal friends trapped in the web of industrial animal agriculture and suffering in the factory farms, tablas, poultry farms and battery cages of our country. Further, we would request all AWOs in the country to have posters, pamphlets, booklets and sufficient public education material available at schools, and in the workplace. To know more about becoming a Board Certified Animal Welfare Educator or to invite the Education Team from the Board to conduct a Programme, please visit www.awbi.org/heo or contact Mr. Santosh Vepuri at santosh2413@gmail.com.

Animal Welfare Board of India is Conducting Humane Education Programmes

Chennai: Upholding the belief that education and awareness are essential to strengthen the Animal Welfare movement and to build a humane public attitude, on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee year, AWBI has initiated a novel Humane Education Project. Starting in Chennai this month, the education team from the Board will conduct Animal Welfare talks in Educational Institutions, Corporates and Government offices. The Board is providing the following key services to the community pertaining to humane lifestyles:

- Bio-diversity
- Organic Farming
- Factory Farming
- Beauty Without Cruelty
- Humanimal Choice Customers
- Pet Care
- Animal Rescue
- Effective & Humane Ways to Control the Growing Stray Dog Population
- How to Behave Around Animals
- Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare & the Five Freedoms of Animals
- Animal Protection Laws
- The Training and Presentation Programmes and Presentations will also be conducted in Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kolkata and Dehradun. Interested people from the community are most welcome to invite members of the Education Team from the Board to do a talk in their Offices, Colleges, or Resident Colonies. 

Animal Rescue

To request all AWOs in the country to have posters, pamphlets, booklets and sufficient public education material available at their shelters to create awareness on Animal Welfare issues and maintain excellent health on vegetarian and even, well fortified vegan diets. All after, if people in Animal Welfare Organizations are not aware of the interconnections between their food and lifestyle choices and its impact on the environment, who else is there to support and speak up to alleviate the suffering of the poultry, pigs, sheep, goats and cattle – all our helpless, animal friends trapped in the web of industrial animal agriculture and suffering in the factory farms, tablas, poultry farms and battery cages of our country. Further, we would request all AWOs in the country to have posters, pamphlets, booklets and sufficient public education material available at schools, and in the workplace.

The Humane Education Project promises to educate the community on the following key aspects

- How to Behave Around Animals
- Pet Care
- Animal Rescue
- Effective & Humane Ways to Control the Growing Stray Dog Population
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Impact of Our Food Choices on Animal Welfare & Environment

New Secretary Joins Board

For 50 Years, AWBI Has Led the Animal Welfare Movement in India

Hon'ble Minister Inaugurates Board’s New Facilitation Counter

Punjab Govt Declares All Slaughterhouses Closed on Oct 4th

Chairman, AWBI Honoured With Lifetime Achievement Award

Election Commission Issues Advisory to All Political Parties

Madhavan Launches ‘Glass Walls’

Free Frog Dissection Software

Rinderpest eradicated from Earth

BBMP Starts ABC Education in Schools

Board Launches Humane Education Project

The Animal Welfare Board of India is an umbrella of the SPCAs/AWOs and Animal Welfare Workers. The Board encourages Animal Welfare activities, advises the Central and State Governments on issues relating to Animal Welfare, particularly the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and also helps to formulate Animal Welfare Policies / Legislations.

If undelivered, please return to:

ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

(Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt of India)

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Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai – 600 041
Tel: 044-24571024/ 044-24571025 Fax: 044- 24571016 Email: awbi@md3.vsnl.net.in

The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) is the official publication of the Animal Welfare Board of India. It covers a wide range of topics related to animal welfare, including animal protection laws, animal welfare activities, and news from the Animal Welfare Board of India and its associated organizations. The AWBI newsletter is published monthly and provides news and updates on animal welfare issues in India.