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INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

आई सी एम आर – राष्ट्रीय व्यावसायिक स्वास्थ्य संस्थान
स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग, स्वास्थ्य और परिवार
कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

ICMR - National Institute of Occupational Health
Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health
and Family Welfare, Government of India

संख्या 1/परिपत्र/2025-26/2289

Date: 03/03/2026

परिपत्र/CIRCULAR

Sub: Advisory on Humane and Compassionate Celebration of Holi – reg.

ICMR vide mail dated 3/3/2026 forwarded the Advisory issued by the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India vide File No. AC-02003/1/2026-AWBI regarding “**Humane and Compassionate Celebration of Holi.**”

Holi, the festival of colours, will be celebrated across the country on 4th March, 2026. While celebrating this joyous occasion, all staff members are requested to ensure that the festivities do not cause harm, stress, injury, or suffering to animals, including stray animals, pets, cattle, and birds.

In this regard, all are requested to adhere to the advisory issued by AWBI (attached) and ensure responsible and compassionate celebration of Holi.

(राहुल वाधवानी)/(Rahul Wadhvani)
वरिष्ठ प्रशासनिक अधिकारी /Sr. Administrative Officer

प्रति/To:
सूचनापट्ट/Notice Board

Copy to:

1. OIC, ROHC(S), Bangalore
2. Dr. L K Sharma, Sci-F – with a request to upload the said circular on the website and Digital Display.



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INDIAN COUNCIL OF
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भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद
स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग, स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार
कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

Indian Council of Medical Research
Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health
and Family Welfare, Government of India

सं.E16/70/2022-Admn./E.143135

दिनांक:03/03/2026

सेवा में,

निदेशक/प्रभारी निदेशक
परिषद के सभी संस्थान/केन्द्र

विषय: Animal Welfare Board of India द्वारा "ADVISORY ON HUMANE AND COMPASSIONATE CELEBRATION OF HOLI" के संबंध में प्राप्त परामर्श के प्रसारण के संबंध में।

महोदय/महोदया,

अधोहस्ताक्षरी को उपर्युक्त विषय पर भारतीय जीव जन्तु कल्याण बोर्ड, पशुपालन एवं डेयरी विभाग, मत्स्य पालन, पशुपालन एवं डेयरी मंत्रालय, बल्लभगढ़, फरीदाबाद, हरियाणा के पत्र संख्या AC-02003/1/2-26-AWBI की प्रति सूचना एवं अनुपालन हेतु अग्रेषित करने का निदेश हुआ है।

भवदीय,

Digitally signed by

Jaibir Singh

Date: 03-03-2026

जयवीर सिंह

सहायक महानिदेशक (प्रशासन)

अनुलग्नक:यथोक्त

प्रतिलिपि:

1. महानिदेशक/अपर महानिदेशक/वरि.उपमहानिदेशक (प्रशा.)/वरि.वित्त सलाहकार के निजी सचिव
2. परिषद के सभी प्रभाग प्रमुख
3. उपमहानिदेशक (प्रशा.)/सहा. महानिदेशक (प्रशा.)/सहायक महानिदेशक (वित्त)
4. डॉ. मनजीत सिंह चालगा, आई.सी.एम.आर. की वेबसाइट पर अपलोड करने के अनुरोध के साथ।



सत्यमेव जयते

डॉ. एस. के. दत्ता
Dr. S. K. Dutta
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)

File No.AC-02003/1/2026-AWBI

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.

एन.आई.ए.डब्ल्यू. केम्पस, 42 माइलस्टोन, दिल्ली-आगरा हाईवे, एन.एच.-2, सीकरी, बल्लभगढ़, फरीदाबाद-121004 (हरियाणा)

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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)