

Illegal goat markets mushroom all over Mumbai for Bakr Eid; PETA India writes to CMO

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MUMBAI: An investigation by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India has revealed that numerous temporary, illegal and crowded goat markets have mushroomed all across Mumbai in violation of the Maharashtra government circular regarding the celebration of Eid al-Adha or Bakr Eid. The state circular mandates that because of the Covid-19 pandemic, all existing active animal markets be shut down and that the purchase of animals is allowed only online or via telephone. The group's investigation covered 23 illegal makeshift goat markets in Andheri, Byculla, Govandi, Jogeshwari, Kurla, and Mankhurd. Nearly 1 lakh goats were reportedly transported from states like Assam, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar

Pradesh to be sold for sacrifice.

The investigation revealed rampant violations of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960; the Transport of Animals Rules, 1978; and Covid-19 protocols.

Following the investigation, PETA India fired off letters to the chief minister of Maharashtra, the chief secretary, the commissioner of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation; the director-general of police, Maharashtra; and the commissioner of police, Mumbai, and submitted complaints at local police stations to register a First Information Report (FIR) against the illegal markets' organisers and goat sellers.

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Mumbai: Man who kept wildlife protected birds in house released on bail

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MUMBAI: The Fort resident, Pradeep D'souza, who was earlier arrested by forest officials for keeping several wildlife protected bird species inside his house, has been released on bail by the local court.

His advocate had produced a correspondence that D'souza had written to the forest department in the year 2020 stating that he was taking care of many injured and ailing birds and also animal species, and so did not hide this fact from the authorities.

"The letter that my client Pradeep had written to the conservator of forests (Thane) in March 2020 had given all the details on how

the wildlife bird species like kites, barn owls, egrets and even bats were kept in his house. However, the forest authorities did not act on it then. The court has acknowledged this letter and since the investigating officer (IO) did not raise any objection to the bail, he was granted bail," said advocate Siddh Vidya.

Last week, the wildlife crime control bureau (WCCB) and the forest officials had jointly raided the house of D'souza and seized scheduled species like kites, parrots, barn owls, and even bats among others, while also arresting him under the Wildlife (Protection) Action, 1972.