

Some milestones are quiet. Others carry the weight of everything it took to get there. This edition marks one such moment — a formal, structured acknowledgement by the Government of India that animals are not incidental to disaster preparedness, but inseparable from it.

The release of the National Guidelines on Animal-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction by NDMA is a turning point for how this country plans, responds, and recovers. Behind it is years of sustained advocacy — most notably by People for Animals (PFA), who worked closely with NDMA in developing this framework, alongside other partners who pushed for animal welfare to be recognised as an integral part of disaster governance. For those who have given that work their time and belief, this is what it looks like in print.

This edition also looks ahead: Redefining Ahimsa’s All India Plant Forward Culinary Competition is nurturing the next generation of chefs reimagining what ends up on our plates, the 5th Vegan India Conference heads to Mumbai next month, and the India Animal Welfare Funding Circle prepares for its second round of RFPs after analysing the results of the first.

As always, we share about what is moving along — and what still needs a push.

With Hope,  
Team IAF

## National Guidelines on Animal-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (AiDRR)

**NATIONAL GUIDELINES ON  
ANIMAL-INCLUSIVE  
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION  
(AiDRR)**

ONE HEALTH • ONE WELFARE • ONE RESILIENT INDIA

**Government of India**  
Ministry of Home Affairs

**NDMA**  
National Disaster  
Management Authority

- INTEGRATED PLANNING & PREPAREDNESS
- ANIMAL RESCUE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE
- VETERINARY CARE & DISEASE PREVENTION
- SHELTER, FEED, WATER & WELFARE MANAGEMENT
- REHABILITATION & BUILDING BACK BETTER

PROTECTING ANIMALS PROTECTS LIVELIHOODS | HEALTHY ANIMALS HEALTHY PEOPLE | COMMUNITY RESILIENCE | SUSTAINABLE & INCLUSIVE FUTURE

A COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK FOR SAFEGUARDING ANIMALS BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER DISASTERS

For the first time in India's history, the question "what happens to the animals?" has an official answer. @ndmaindia has released the National Guidelines on Animal-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction — a document that places every category of animal life, from livestock to wildlife to the dog on your street, within the formal architecture of how India prepares for, responds to, and recovers from disasters. [Read the full guidelines here.](#)

### Key Features

- Integrated with Disaster Management Act 2025 and disaster management plans across states and UTs
- World's first disaster guidelines to cover fish welfare
- Standardised SOPs for rescue, evacuation and rehabilitation
- Veterinary Emergency Response Units (VERUs)
- Provision for creation of shelters and relief camps

We are grateful to Hon'ble HM Shri Amit Shah and the NDMA for recognising that compassion cannot be conditional — that farmed animals, companion animals, community animals, and wildlife all deserve a place in how we plan for the worst, while we work toward the best.

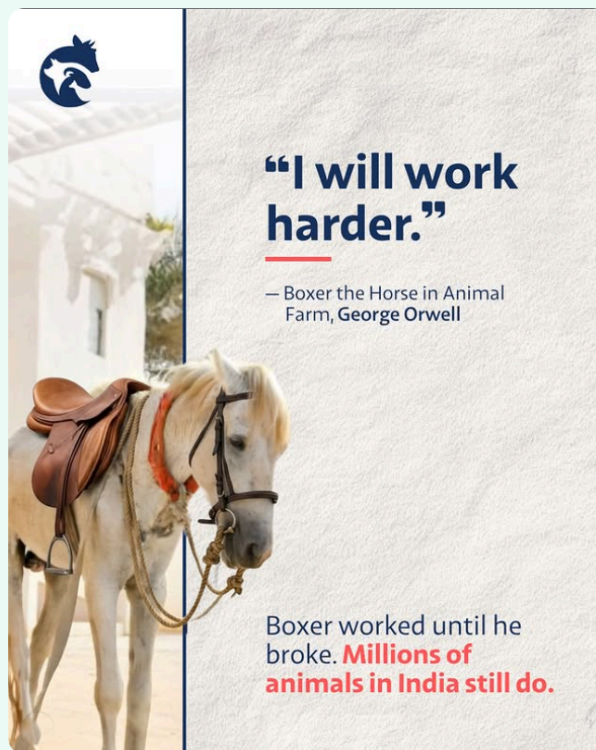


## India Animal Welfare Funding Circle: Round 1 Results & Reflections

IAF co-conceptualised and joined the India Animal Welfare Funding Circle, a collaborative effort to raise and deploy funding for farmed animals in India. With [Impactful Giving](#) running the Secretariat, the first round successfully deployed ₹5.6 crore (~\$660K) across 17 grants between December 2025 and March 2026. 314 organisations applied. The funded portfolio nearly inverts the application pool: research, policy, and plant-based work were 23% of applications but 59% of funded value. Direct care and shelter operations, which were 26% of applications, received 0% of formal funding. The full post covers why, what we'd change for Round 2, and what we're asking from funders. [Read more on the EA Forum →](#)

If you are interested in funding, connect with [rekha@indiaanimalfund.org](mailto:rekha@indiaanimalfund.org) to learn more and join the Funding Circle. If you are an organisation, keep an eye out for the RFPs for Round 2.

## Via our socials



Working animals quietly support livelihoods, transport, and pilgrimage routes across India, yet their welfare is often overlooked. This Labour Day, we highlighted the urgent need for better care, protection, and dignified treatment for the millions of animals still working under difficult conditions.

View the full post and [follow us on social media](#).



True impact goes beyond numbers—it reflects compassion, dignity, and the value of every sentient life. At India Animal Fund, we are committed to building evidence-driven, sustainable solutions that create meaningful change for animal welfare across India.

View the full post and [follow us on social media](#).

## Upcoming Events

### All India Plant Forward Culinary Competition: Hosted by Redefining Ahimsa Foundation (formerly 'Vegan Outreach India')

The All India Plant-forward Culinary Competition is designed to build skills for aspiring future chefs in plant-based cuisine. Bringing together culinary and hospitality students from across India, this competition challenges participants to innovate, create, and excel with plant-forward cuisine — building the skills and confidence needed to shape the future of food. Live expert cooking sessions led by internationally recognised chefs and industry leaders from across Asia are also in the offering. Read more [here](#).

### Vegan India Conference: June 6 & 7, Mumbai

Now in its fifth year, the Vegan India Conference brings together entrepreneurs, chefs, activists, health professionals, and everyday changemakers to explore what a more compassionate food system looks like — and how to build it. Expect conversations on alternative proteins, animal-

free foods, sustainable living, and the growing vegan movement across India. For more information, [click here](#).

## Opportunities

GFI India is looking for a senior leader to shape policy strategy for India's fast-growing smart protein sector — spanning plant-based, cultivated, and fermentation-derived foods. [Apply here](#).

## Looking Ahead

India Animal Fund will continue to support partners and systems that enable shifts in policy and in practice— alongside a plant-forward food movement that is growing, a funding ecosystem that is maturing, and a broader public that is, slowly but surely, asking better questions about how we treat the animals that share this world with us as they become more aware.

To explore collaboration or partnership opportunities, write to: [rekha@indiaanimalfund.org](mailto:rekha@indiaanimalfund.org)

## INDIA ANIMAL FUND

*Enabling systemic solutions to end animal suffering through partnerships, philanthropy, and ecosystem leadership*

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