

Ban on Diclofenac: Moment of Pride for BNHS

BNHS would like to thank all its members and supporters who wrote letters to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India asking for ban on the veterinary Diclofenac. The great volume of letters from all over the country has conveyed the public opinion which led to the crucial decision of the ban on the veterinary diclofenac. Readers can view the letter from the Drug Controller General of India [here](#).

The BNHS congratulates the Drug Controller General of India, Mr. Ashwini Kumar for his bold and timely decision of banning the veterinary use of the Diclofenac. The order clearly states that, 'the Licences granted to manufacture diclofenac formulations for veterinary use should be withdrawn and the marketing of such formulations to be phased out within three months'.

Dr. Asad R. Rahmani, Director, BNHS said, "The Drug Controller General of India has taken this bold and timely step. This is a very important and positive step in our long struggle to save the vulture population from extinction. Once the ban is set, we must also see that it is not violated. However, we believe that the ban has not been effectively publicised through newspaper advertisements for the citizens of India." The BNHS also urges that the present Diclofenac stock must be immediately withdrawn from the market.

Dr. Rahmani added a word of caution, "Ban of the Diclofenac must not be like the ban on polythene bags, which was poorly implemented." However Dr. Rahmani sees the ban on the Diclofenac as a positive step for vulture conservation and says, "Now I see some hope to save and bring back the Indian Vultures—the masters of the Indian Skies."

The research proves that the veterinary diclofenac is the prime cause for the crisis of the declined vulture populations. The veterinary diclofenac is in heavy use in the livestock sector (Buffalos, Cattle, Sheep, and Goat). In the course of treatment, if the cattle dies, and the vultures scavenge on these, it leads to the dehydration, visceral gout, and kidney failure in vultures within a few days. India, Nepal, and Pakistan have the lost over 95% of the vulture population over the past decade. The effective ban on the Diclofenac will create healthy circumstances for the vulture populations.