



CARE FOR COWS

IN VRINDAVAN

**CFC Festivals
Patient Updates
No Milk; No Home
Happy Days
Go-Smaranam
And More...**



On the Mend

Davanal Devi featured as last months CFC cover story. As reported she had two deep maggot infested wounds either side of her tail, a swollen fractured tail, and was covered in thousands of ticks.

Since then her wounds have almost fully healed, the fluid collected under her jaw from anemia has disappeared, and she is steadily picking up weight. Allowed to roam free in the CFC front yard Davanal would greet all visitors and be ever hopeful for a snack or a brush, that is at least until we all learned of her fiery side. Initially it seemed she did not like Bengalis as she would chase our Bengali *gopas* a short distance

around the compound, with the desire to butt them. We thought perhaps her previous owner was a Bengali because when she heard Bengali being spoken it would spark off an attack. Then it was apparent that she just had a short fuse as she broadened the category of persons she would chase to just about anybody. Davanal has been grounded to the holding yard with the recuperating calves until she's well enough to join the rest of the healthy herd.

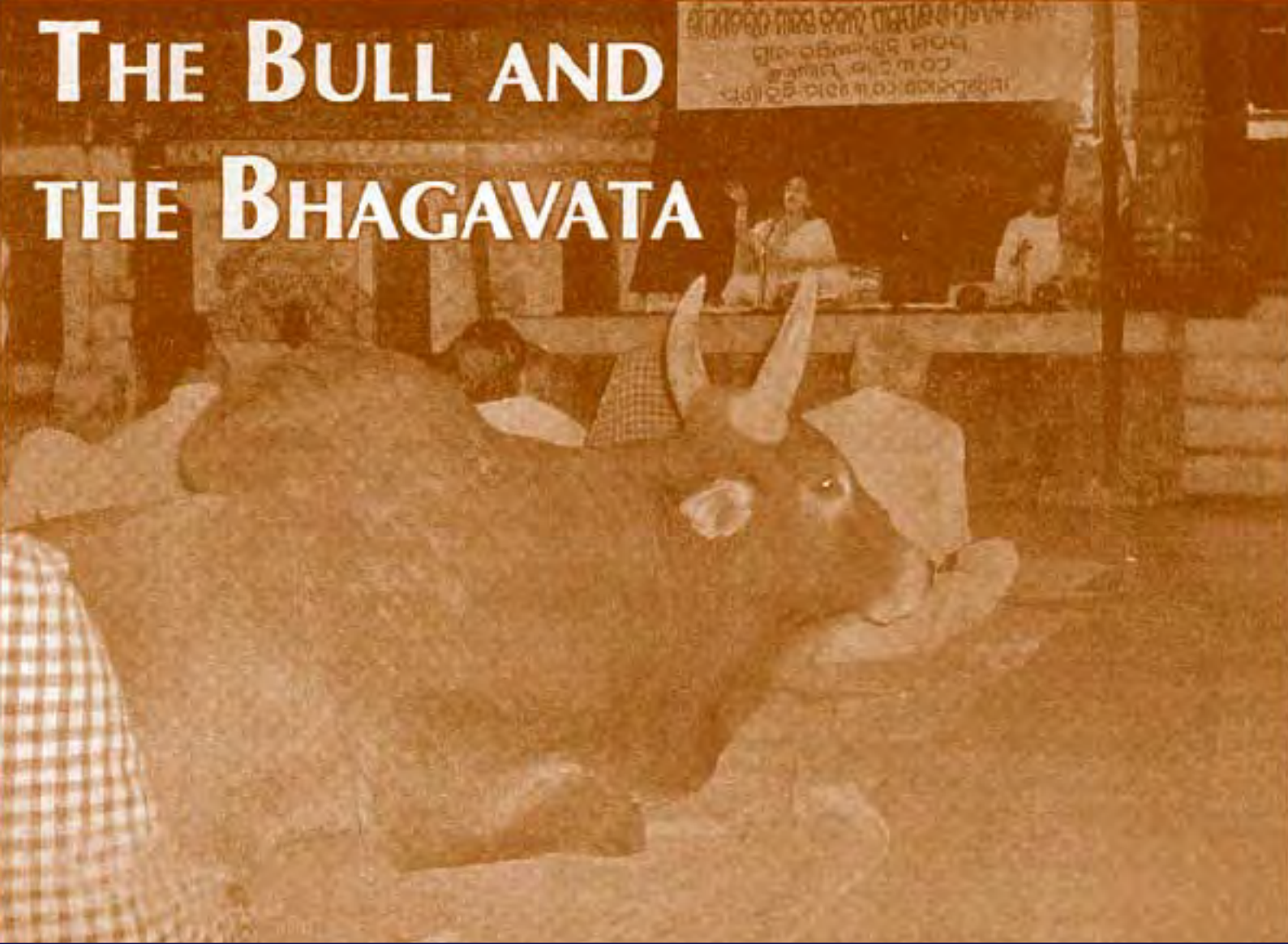
Her name, Davanal Devi was chosen as she came from Davanal Kund - Davanal means 'forest fire' and she does have a fiery nature.



Davanal Devi's tail wounds are protected from crows with a skirt

4 wound progress photos from arrival at top until today

THE BULL AND THE BHAGAVATA



In the Oriya News

Sri Krishna Kathamrita adapted from *Samvada* Oriya newspaper, 18 March 2006, Bhubaneswar Orissa

In March 2004, many people had gathered at the ancient Shiva temple known as Kapileshwar Mahadeva in the Old Town area of Bhubaneswar to observe the 22-year-old tradition of hearing a nine-day recitation of *Srimad Bhagavatam*. Just as the recitation was about begin, a large bull entered the compound and sat down next to the devotees. Some devotees tried to chase him away, but he patiently ignored their protests.

Everyone was surprised to see that as soon as the lecture was finished, the bull got up to leave. However, they were even more surprised when he showed up on time the next day, listened, and again left when it was over. This continued for the duration of the event.

By the following year, almost everyone had forgotten about the episode. That is, until the first day of the recitation, when the same bull

showed up, right on time, and again took his seat to hear the *Bhagavatam*. Again this went on every day for the duration of the program. This year, in 2006, everyone was wondering if he would come again. Sure enough, on the first day, our advanced bovine friend came sauntering through the gate and quietly took his place next to the other devotees to hear the transcendental pastimes of the Lord.

Govardhana Puja & Gopastami

Celebrations centered on Govinda's dedication to His cows

The lifting of Govardhan Hill and the day Sri Gopal became eligible to take the calves out to graze

were happily celebrated at Care for Cows on October 22nd and 30th respectively. Govardhan Puja was

celebrated by building a sumptuous hill of halava, rice, nuts and a variety of dried fruits brought all the



Students of the Sandipani Muni School offer Mangala sandalwood incense



Right: An image of Krishna made from gobar by Vrajabasi devi dasi
 Top: Mangala accepts a ghee lamp
 Middle and bottom: Maharani and Van Krishna in festive dress



from Australia by Jagat Priya dasi.

Both festivals featured the offering of a ghee lamp, incense and flowers to cows having the most peaceful and obedient nature. This year Maharani and Mangala were selected to receive the *puja* on behalf of the rest of the herd. Following Go Puja our guests were invited to feed the herd *laddhus* made of *gur*, barley flour and chick pea husks. Some more dedicated guests brought bananas which the cows happily devoured.

There was *kirtan* of the holy names and then as tradition dictates, all guests were fed a sumptuous feast expertly cooked and served by Vrindavan Food for Life. The Govardhana Puja feast for cows and humans was sponsored by Pranil Bharath, S.A., Barry Edwards, USA, and Veda Vyasa dasa, Canada.

In the *Harivamsa Purana* Lord Indra tells Krsna:

"This is the message conveyed by Brahmā and the cows that wander about in the heavenly realm, residing in the planet known as Dyuloka.:

'We are very pleased by your transcendental pastimes of protecting the cows. The compassion you have exhibited by rescuing the cows certainly deserves praise. We cows, bulls, and calves are very pleased and satisfied. Cows fulfill all the desires of human beings. Farmers utilize the service of the bulls by engaging them in pulling carts and tilling the land. The demigods are pleased when they are offered milk and ghee through the sacrificial fire. Lakṣmī is pleased when we supply an abundance of cow dung. My Lord, You are immensely powerful. You are to be considered our spiritual master because you have delivered us from a great danger. Therefore, from today onwards, may You be known as Govinda, one who gives pleasure to the cows.' "

Lifting Govardhan

Pounded by the devastating rains sent by angry King Indra, Govardhan Hill was lifted by Lord Krishna, sheltering the residents of Vrindavan like an gigantic umbrella. Krishna's beloved cows, calves, cowherd boys

and girls, the cowherd men and women all gazed upon the beauty and charm of the lord of their heart for seven days and nights. Krishna was unlimitedly pleased that he could have the association of all of his dear

most devotees in one place, at the same time. For this He considered Indra's offense less than that of Brahma because Brahma stole away Krishna's calves and cowherd boys, which bereft Him of their association.





A picture of sadness

No Milk, No Home

The sad plight of a Vrindavan dairy cow

We received three calls that a cow with a serious eye injury was wandering in circles in Caitanya Vihar. Reports were that crows had been pecking at her eye and that she was unable to find food. Upon arrival it was apparent that earlier someone had bandaged her right eye but it had become disheveled and the gauze was now obstructing her left eye. Upon removing the bandage it became obvious that she could not see out of her left eye either and

thus was blind.

Her right eyeball was mangled and the ocular cavity filled with pus, blood and maggots. We first offered her some gur with the hope of communicating that we wanted to help. She was docile and was easily led and loaded on the truck with the help of four people. We made her sit so she would have a more stable ride to our clinic.

Upon arrival we called Dr. Lavania who, upon hearing her description,

indicated that he had been called by a local dairy to examine her one week earlier, but when he arrived they reported that she had fled. It turns out that the dairy, unwilling to bear the expense of the required medication, turned her out to the streets to fend for herself. No milk; no home.

Dr. Lavania instructed our staff to clean the wound, remove the maggots and dead flesh, administer anti-inflammatory and dress the wound. This procedure was



Four men load her on the truck



She sits for stability



She is consoled upon arrival



The ocular cavity filled with dried blood, dead flesh, pus and maggots



The wound is cleaned



Removal of maggots and dead flesh



The clean wound is ready for dressing

followed daily by our staff and Dr. Lavania personally cleaned and dressed the wound every other day.

The pain of the injury was aggravated by chewing, so the cow held her head low to the ground and ate the minimum required very slowly. She sat most of the day with a very depressed attitude.

Once the inflammation was gone and all remnants of dead flesh removed,

Dr. Lavania stitched the upper and lower eye lids together and instructed us to continue to dress the wound daily. The hope is that the ocular cavity will fill with new flesh so that the wound will dry and be less prone to infection.

As of this report, Kancana, a name given owing to her golden complexion, has been with us for two weeks and has made substantial

progress. Several devotees offer encouragement by feeding her bananas and brushing her daily. With the pain diminishing and her wound healing steadily her appetite is back to normal. More important, her morale is on the rise as it becomes more and more obvious to her that she is in a caring, protected environment. A special gift offered by the growing number of concerned bhaktas...



With the inflammation gone Dr. Lavania stitches the upper and lower eye lids together



Kancana — convalescing at Care for Cows



Go Sanga

Harivallabha dasa, CFC Trustee from Mumbai, relates that he once took some pilgrims on a *parikrama* in Vraja. When his party arrived in Nandagao the *pandas* of the temple offered them *darshan* and requested donations. The pilgrims gave generously but this only inspired the *pandas* to demand more and the pilgrims rightfully became

put-off by their greed. As the *pandas* badgered the pilgrims, Harivallabha became outraged by their obnoxious behavior and safely led his party down the hill to their vehicles while some rowdy *pandas* followed behind assuring that unless the pilgrims gave more money, the remainder of their stay in Nandagao would be miserable.

After a heated exchange Harivallabha successfully freed the party from the aggressive *pandas* but found himself furious and conflicted with the thought that he might have made offenses to the residents of the Dhama.

As he stood near the vehicles polluted by anger, he felt like his whole day had been ruined. Just then a beautiful white cow approached and stood beside him. Captured by her natural beauty, affectionate nature and peaceful attitude, he began to stroke the thick velvety skin under her neck and with each stroke, the cow raised her muzzle higher and gazed at him with her large black eyes. After hardly more than a minute of stroking Harivallabha noticed that all his anger had vanished and that his normal jovial nature was restored. Such is the effect of the auspicious contact with Krishna and Balaram's favorite animal.



Radhe Shyama brought in by Padmavati in September

Happy Days

Radhe Shyama arrived at Care for Cows 8 weeks ago and is well on the road to recovery. Though a rocky road it has been, the month of Kartika brought a lot of highlights her way, including a new sponsor and a new mother!

Nitya Manjari dasi, Germany,

regularly visited CFC during her visit to Vrindavan and lost her heart to Radhe Shyama, choosing to sponsor her for a year. Then Radhe Shyama adopted Kanchana, a new cow patient, as her mother - she nurses from her every day for as long as she likes. Her own mother had rejected



From left to right - Kanchana, Radhe Shyama and Gauri Priya form a milk train

her and she was never allowed her quota of milk to drink, which is of course essential for any growing baby. Now Radhe Shyama is gaining strength and morale, her face abscess is free of infection and healing well, she has a good appetite, great company, and is practising being a Mom herself, letting Gauri Priya 'nurse' from her. For this gentle soul there are now happy days ahead, far away from the dark days of cruelty and abuse of the recent past.



Radhe Shyama nursing from her adopted Mom, Kanchana



G o s m a r a n a m

This is the third of a series of eight photo essays illustrating the daily activities of cows. We hope this serves to endear them to you.



Arjuna gores the earth with his horns...



then begins to raise his head flinging the dust into a cloud

A close-up photograph of a white cow standing in a muddy field. The cow's body is covered in thick, brown mud, particularly on its head and neck. It has a pink nose and is looking directly at the camera. In the background, another cow with dark patches is partially visible, also in the mud.

Meditating on the eight-fold daily pastimes of cows

Scourging

Scourging is an activity that may take place any time during the day though we have observed it is most often practiced in the morning. It is apparently inspired by a desire to strengthen the neck and legs, sharpen the horns and cover the head and underside with cool earth.

Cows generally begin by sniffing the earth, then forcefully digging one front hoof at a time into the ground and flinging as much dust as possible on their belly and between their hind legs.

After scourging the earth with their front hooves they either in a standing or kneeling position gore the earth with their horns and fling dust high into the air. This is often accompanied by snorting.

We have also observed that whenever cows or bulls encounter a mound of earth they appear as though challenged by it and make a determined effort to level it.

It is common to see that after a truck has dumped a load of sand in the street for construction purposes, the neighboring cows and bulls take it as their duty to level and spread it all over the place, much to the irritation of the contractor.



Above: Arjuna scourging with his hoof
Right: Mohan scourging and snorting
Far right: Tilak first buries his horn in the earth and forcefully raises his head to spread it far and wide.





Since the scriptures declare that the bull is Dharma personified, scourging can symbolically indicate the desire these

noble and auspicious creatures have to impregnate the Earth with virtue.

Above: Vanamali expresses great determination while deeply penetrating the Earth with her strong horns
Below: Ram, Arjuna and Dwaraka proudly wear the dust of Vrindavan to prove to the world that they have been scourging.





Above: Arjuna takes a breather before again burying his horns into the Earth

Below: Sivani demonstrates an alternative scourging technique by leveling the Earth with the underside of her muzzle. Maharani and Mohan happily decorated with Vraj Raj.





The interior surface of the rumen forms numerous papillae that vary in shape and size from short and pointed to long and foliate.



Polygonal cells give the reticulum a honey-combed appearance. Numerous small papillae stud the interior floors of these cells.



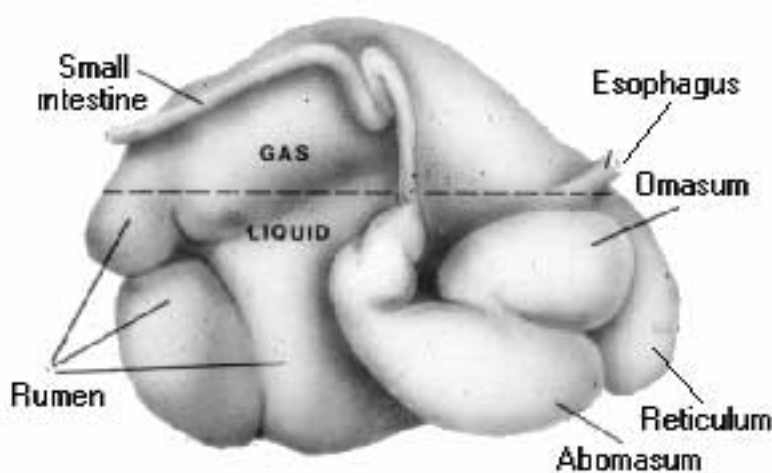
The inside of the omasum is thrown into broad longitudinal folds or leaves reminiscent of the pages in a book.

Did You Know?

A cow's stomach has four compartments: the rumen, reticulum, omasum and abomasum.

See the centre diagram of the cow's stomach, as viewed from the right side. Collectively, these organs occupy almost 3/4ths of the abdominal cavity, filling virtually all of the left side and extending significantly into the right. The rumen, far and away

the largest of the forestomachs, holds up to 50 gallons of partially digested food. This is where cud comes from.



Good bacteria in the rumen helps digest the cow's food and provides protein for the cow.

The reticulum is called the hardware stomach because if cows accidentally eat hardware (like a piece of fencing scrap), it will often lodge here causing no further damage.


The omasum is sort of like a filter. The abomasum is last of the four and is the cow's true or glandular stomach. It is comparable in both structure and function to the human stomach.

Kamal



A car left me in the street
with two broken legs.
Care for Cows took me in,
patched me up and now
I'm learning how to plow.



A photograph taken at night showing a roadside tea stall. Several people are seated on wooden stools, engaged in conversation. The stall is illuminated by warm, yellow lights. In the foreground, a dead, light-colored calf lies on the ground, its body marked with some discoloration. The scene is set on a dirt or paved street.

A shocking but not uncommon scene – local residents of the holy dhama sit and chat at a roadside tea stall, indifferent to the suffering and demise of this abandoned calf.

Life on the Streets



Care for Cows Peda

Made from rich creamy milk, this simple Indian milk sweet is a timeless classic

Ingredients

2lt milk

0.5 cup gur (jaggery) or sugar

Sprinkle of ground cardamom

Makes 20 sweets

Cooking time: approx 2 hours

Boil the milk in a heavy based pan. Reduce the flame to low and stir occasionally as the milk reduces in quantity and thickens. When approximately one third of the milk is left in the pan, add the gur and cardamom. Mix well and continue to stir on the lowest possible flame as the milk boils down.

Stir continuously until the mixture becomes a moist brown paste and pulls away from the bottom of the pan with the spoon. Remove the pan from the heat. Transfer the mixture into a bowl and allow to cool to room temperature.

Divide the mixture into 20 equal portions. Keeping your fingers moist

with water or ghee gently hand roll each portion into a ball and place on a greased tray. Gently press to flatten into disc shapes. Stores refrigerated for up to one week.

Tip: Press the milk balls into a disc shape by using a design stamp which imprints an attractive pattern.

Slip! Slop! Slap!



**Slip on a shirt – Slop on sunscreen – and
Slap on a hat – that goes for cows too!**

Krishna Prem, our only western bull calf, was sore and sorry with sunburn after a recent session of sunbathing with his local calf friends. Luckily caught in the early stages he suffered minimal blistering on his back, sides and legs, accompanied by patchy hair loss. The thickness of the skin slough depends on the degree of initial damage, and in his case it was only moderate. The insert photo however shows an advanced case of severe sunburn or photosensitive dermatitis. Only white or lightly pigmented skin is affected, since

black skin prevents absorption of sunlight. Krishna Prem's sunburn ran its course over a couple of weeks but was soothed with application of a cow moisturizing cream on the affected areas and in time new skin and hair grew back. For the rest of summer he is banned from sunbathing in the ultraviolet time zone of 10am – 4pm and from a cool, shady spot, he watches his local friends out in the field soaking up the rays.





New Admissions

Three calves joined us this month. Sponsors have the honor of naming them.



Thank You From the Cows



The cows send their heartfelt thanks to those who assisted during October 2006.

A. Lyne, UK
Ajit K. Lall, Canada
Ambarish dasa, USA
Amit and Sweati Khanna, Canada
Amy Larmer, USA
Ananda & Charanya Subramanian,
Ananda dasa, Guatemala
Anish Bhardari, Canada
Anjaneya dasa, Sweden
Barry Edwards, USA
Barsha, India
Bonnie Hamdi, USA
Bryce Little, UK
Chandrasekhara Acharya dasa,
Singapore
Daniel Laflor, Denmark
Dhruva Maharaja, India
Dina Sarana dasa, USA
Dipen Patel, UK
Donia Salem, USA
Dr. Jyoti and Deepak, India
Dwarkanath dasa, India
Ganga and Anada dasis, India
Gurubhakta dasi, USA
Hanni Wienkoop, Finland
Hemanth Ramanna, USA
Igor Drljevic, USA

Joris Maas, Netherlands
Karl Sadowski, USA
Karuna Purna dasi, UK
Katyayani dasi, USA
Kirti Seth, India
Labangalatika dasi, India
Laksman dasa, India
Lila dasi, USA
Madhvi Aggarwal, Canada
Mahanidhi Swami, India
Mahapurusha dasa, USA
Mandapa and Jagat Priya, Australia
Marianna Polonski, USA
Marina Zabavsky, USA
Mr. & Mrs. Gupta, India
Mr.&Mrs. R.K. Tandon, Canada
Nalini Gogar, Netherlands
Nicholas Pascetta, USA
Nimai Pandit dasa, Australia
Olga Solovey, USA
Perdeep Kumar, India
Pranil Bharath, South Africa
Pratapani Sheth, India
Prem Sujana, USA
Prema Mayi dasi, Sweden
Radha Jivan dasa, USA
Radha Mohan, USA

Rajagopal Kaliyurmannar, USA
Ramachandra dasa, Italy
Rasapriya dasi, Singapore
Rayan Koendjibiharie, Netherlands
Richard Boyden, USA
Sachimata dasi, USA
Sakhi Rai dasa, Australia
Sarasvathie J. Naidoo, South Africa
Shalini Sharma, Canada
Shastra dasa, USA
Shelly & Lindsay Sookraj, Canada
Sravanananda dasa, USA
Sri Hari dasa, India
Sudama Vipra, Spain
Surendra Bala Chadha, Canada
Suresh Vagjiani, UK
Syama dasi, USA
Syama Krsna dasa, India
Tyaga Caitanya dasa, India
USA
Victor Epand, USA
Vilasa Manjari dasi, Australia
Vraja Kumar and Rangavali, USA
Vrindavan Vilasini dasi, Germany
Yashoda Patel, UK