

A REPORT

People's Participation
West Bengal, India

In India, there is no official nationwide count of how many animals are sacrificed for the religious festival commonly called Bakrid or Eid-ul-Adha, but widely cited estimates based on livestock market activity suggest that around 1 crore (about 10 million) animals may be sacrificed in a typical year; these are mostly goats and sheep, along with some cattle and other livestock, and the number varies by year, region, and availability of animals because the country does not centrally track religious sacrifice totals.

In India, there is no official nationwide count of how many animals or birds are sacrificed specifically for Hindu religious customs, because these practices are local, varied, and not centrally recorded by the government. Reports from particular festivals and temples in states such as Odisha, West Bengal, and Assam have described sacrifices ranging from hundreds to tens of thousands of goats, chickens, ducks, or other animals during certain annual rituals, but these numbers apply only to specific places and years, not the whole country. Overall, unlike estimates sometimes discussed for Eid-ul-Adha, there is no reliable national estimate for animal or bird sacrifice linked to Hindu religious customs across India.

In West Bengal, there is no official temple-wise statewide dataset listing how many animals or birds are sacrificed for Hindu religious customs, because individual temples do not publish standardized annual counts and no government body compiles them. Available information comes from specific reports about particular temples and years: for example, Kalighat Kali Temple has historically had daily goat offerings by devotees with higher numbers during major festivals, while the annual Kali Puja at Bolla Kali Temple was reported in earlier years to involve thousands of goats before restrictions were introduced; some smaller local temples in districts like Jalpaiguri and Raiganj have reported dozens to hundreds of animal or bird sacrifices during specific rituals, though several temples have reduced or discontinued the practice in recent times. Overall, temple-level figures exist only as isolated estimates, not a complete official count for the state or for India as a whole.

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