

# Feel Good Stories

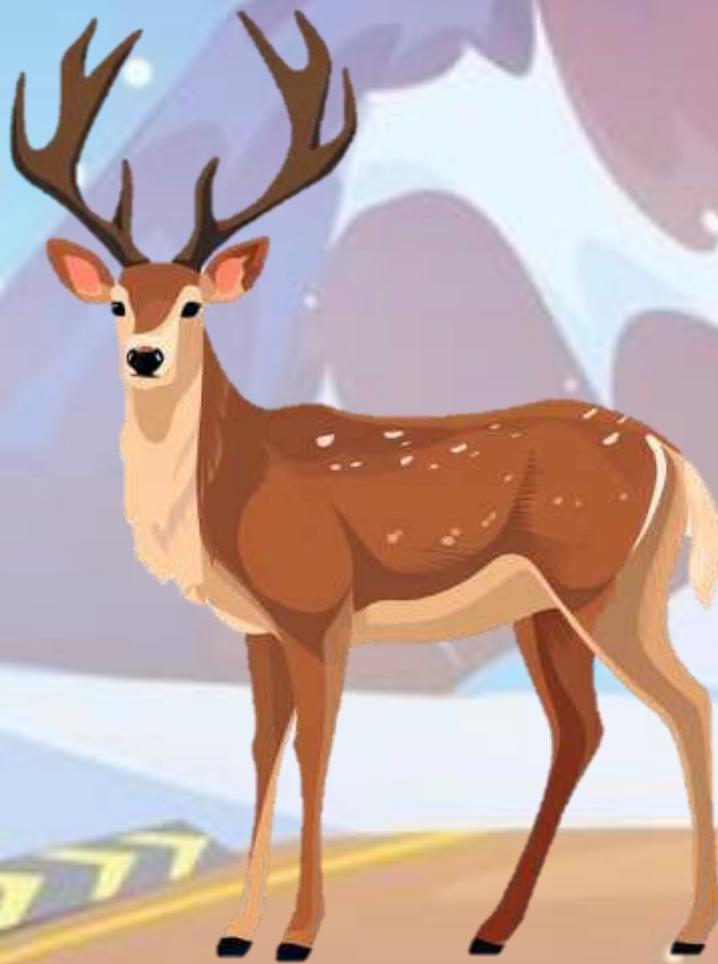
Sweden Builds  
Reindeer Bridges



With climate change causing warmer weather, Sweden is seeing more frequent rainfall instead of snow, with the former freezing on surfaces. This leaves the country's 25,000 reindeer with a big problem, because the lichens they feed on are being trapped beneath a layer of ice, making them impossible to reach.



To find food, the reindeer must travel further afield and this often means crossing busy motorways. In many cases, when herds try to cross these roads, they have to be shut down entirely, causing significant authorities disruption.



However, the Swedish transport authorities are building new bridges to help the reindeer. The so-called 'renoducts' – a portmanteau combining the Swedish word for reindeer ren and viaduct – will not only allow the reindeer to safely travel to more fertile feeding grounds and reduce the risk of collision between animals and vehicles, but they will also help the 4500 indigenous Sami people who herd the animals.



Twelve reinoducts are planned initially and Sami herders have been consulted on their design, so that reindeer are more likely to use them. Their recommendations included two-metre-high (6.5 feet) barriers running along the sides to prevent the animals from falling and that the bridges be uncovered, so the reindeer will not be scared to cross.



Sweden's reindeer viaducts are just one example of a growing number of wildlife crossings around the world. In Mexico, specially-constructed underpasses have been created for jaguars and Christmas Island features bridges that allow red crabs to safely reach beaches during their annual migration, each averting avoidable wildlife deaths.



# Feel Good Stories



**Priest's Hunger Hunt  
Project Helps  
Thousands**



On the first day of every month in Kerala, South India, 20,000 packets of food are distributed to care homes and orphanages across the state, thanks to a local priest's ingenious idea.



The Reverend Father Davis Chiramel's 'Hunger Hunt' initiative asks people to donate just 65 rupees – approximately 63 pence or 88 cents – per day to pay for one meal for a person in need. The donations are then used to purchase food. Prison inmates across Kerala help to prepare meals and volunteers from the YMCA manage the logistics of distributing the food to people across the region who are going hungry.



Father Chiramel, an Indian-Catholic priest based in the Archdiocese of Thrissur, had already established food and clothing banks in the towns of Vadakkanchery, Koratty and Kadangode during the global pandemic in 2020, but aimed to have a more far-reaching impact with his Hunger Hunt project.



The idea was initially met with apprehension, with authorities concerned that the project relied so heavily on a network of volunteers, but it has been a resounding success – something Father Chiramel credits to the work of the volunteers and the generosity of the public, with even lower-income households pitching in what they can afford.

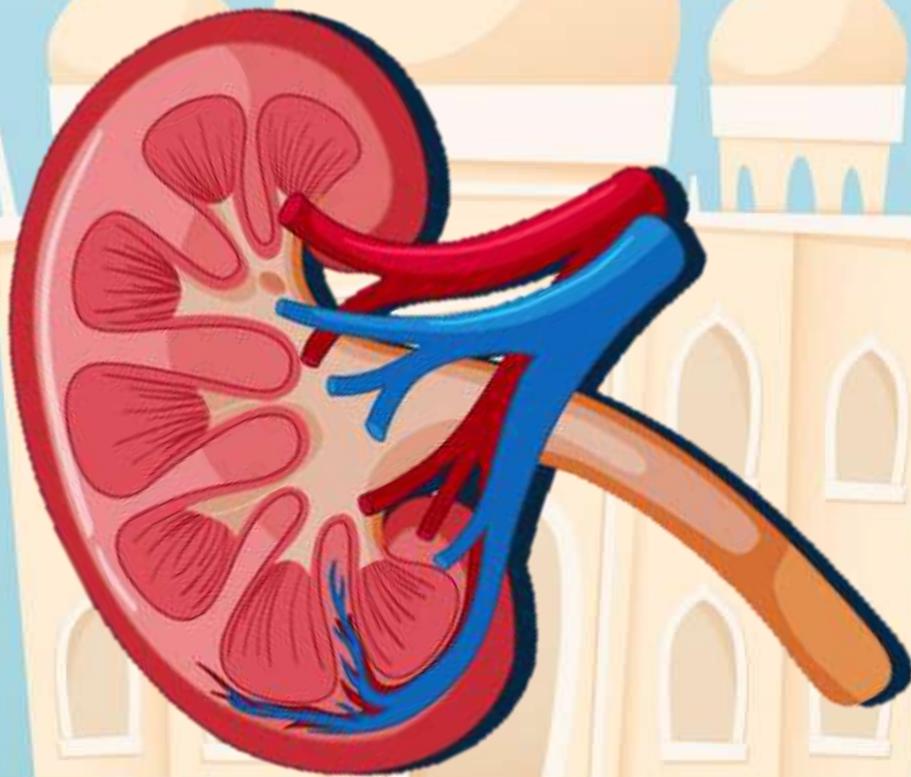


Speaking to the New Indian Express, he said: 'People are very generous at heart, and if they find a genuine cause, they won't hesitate to contribute.'

This project is not the first time that Father Chiramel's actions have had a significant impact. In 2009, he earned the nickname 'the kidney priest of Kerala' after he donated a kidney to a man from Vadanapilly in Thrissur who had a significant impact..



On the day of the operation, he launched the Kidney Federation of India in a bid to promote kidney donation in the country, where organ donation is not yet commonplace due to lack of public awareness and religious or superstitious beliefs. According to reports, this action left to half a million people in India ledging to donate their kidneys after death.





THINK  
DIGITAL ACADEMY