



## Kambala

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### Why in News

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The Kambala jockey who was compared to world record holder Usain Bolt after a video went viral showing him 'finishing 100 metres in 9.55 seconds', has refused to participate in athletics trials.

### Key Points

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- **Kambala** is a traditional **buffalo race** in paddy fields filled with slush and mud which generally takes place in **coastal Karnataka** (Udupi and Dakshina Kannada) from **November to March**.
  - Traditionally, it is sponsored by local **Tuluva landlords** and households in the coastal districts. Tuluva people are an ethnic group native to Southern India. They are native speakers of the **Tulu language**.
  - During the race, the racers try to bring the buffaloes under control by holding their reins tight and whipping them.
- **Tradition:** In its traditional form, Kambala was **non-competitive** and **buffalo pairs raced one after another in paddy fields**.

It was also observed as **thanksgiving to gods for protecting the animals from diseases**.
- **Concerns:** Animal activists **criticize** the sport and argue that the Kambala involves **acts of cruelty** on animals which are not physiologically suited for racing and they run in the race due to fear of being beaten.

According to them, it violates the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960**. The Act prevents practices which involve **unnecessary pain** to the animal amounting to cruelty.



## Background

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- The Supreme Court had **banned jallikattu, bullock-cart races, and kambala** events in its judgement on **May 7, 2014**.
- The judgement upheld the Constitution of India read with legislation under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 and provided animals with the fundamental right to be **treated with compassion and dignity** and to be free from unnecessary pain and suffering
- However, the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Karnataka Amendment) Ordinance, 2017** approved the organising of kambala event, provided steps are taken to avoid cruelty to the participating bulls.

### Jallikattu

- **Jallikattu** is a traditional **bull-taming** event that is organised in the **Tamil Nadu** every year as part of the harvest festival **Pongal**.
- The sport requires fighters to pounce on a running bull, try to hold on to its hump and move along with the animal without falling or getting hurt.

**Source: TH**