



SC Permits Bullock Cart Racing in Maharashtra

Why in News

Recently, the [Supreme Court](#) allowed Maharashtra to hold the traditional bullock cart racing event, which has been prohibited since 2017.

- The decision was based on the amendments to the [Prevention of Cruelty to Animals \(PCA\) Act, 1960](#) implemented by the state, in line with Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960

- The legislative intent of the Act is to “prevent the infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on animals”.
- The **Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI)** was established in 1962 under Section 4 of the Act.
- This Act provides for punishment for causing unnecessary cruelty and suffering to animals. The Act defines animals and different forms of animals.

Key Points

- **Background:**
 - In 2014, the Supreme Court banned traditional sports like [‘Jallikattu’](#), [bull race](#) and [bullock-cart races](#) across the country noting that they were dangerous and violated provisions of the PCA Act.
 - Subsequently, **Karnataka and Tamil Nadu had amended the law to continue the tradition in a regulated manner**, which are under challenge and pending before the Supreme Court since 2018.
 - In **February 2018**, the Supreme Court had referred the pleas related to 'Jallikattu' to a **five-judge Constitution Bench** which would decide if the bull-taming sport fell under cultural rights or perpetuated cruelty to animals.
- **Ruling:**
 - The court observed that **there was no reason to disallow it in the state** when similar sports were going on in other places across the country.
 - If it is a **traditional sport** and going on all across the country except Maharashtra, it does not appeal to common sense.
- **Bullock Cart Racing:**



- It is a **popular and traditional sport** in Western Maharashtra and in Pune district.
- Apart from a traditional sporting event, the **rural economy too is associated with bullock cart races.**
 - Thousands of food stall vendors earn their livelihood through the races.

Other Animal Sports in India	
Jallikattu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jallikattu, also known as 'eruthazhuvuthal', is a bull-taming sport played in Tamil Nadu during the Pongal festival.
kambala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kambala is a traditional buffalo race in paddy fields filled with slush and mud in Karnataka (Udupi and Dakshina Kannada) from November to March.
Cock-fights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cockfight or the Rooster fight is not indigenous to India. It is a sport that exists not just a sport but a gambling game.
Camel Race	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The race is all about Camels, in which people ride and participate in the race. ▪ It is also a part of many fairs and festivals in Rajasthan, India such as Pushkar Fair.
Dog Fights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dog fighting is a type of blood sport with two game dogs against one another in front of the spectators. ▪ Even though it is illegal under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and since 2017, these fights are organised secretly and illegally.
Bulbul fights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is organised in the state of Assam during Bihu (harvest festival) in the Hajo area near Guwahati, Assam. ▪ Often bulbuls are fed intoxicants to make them aggressive.
Horse Racing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is a performance sport in vogue since ancient times in Greece, Babylon, Syria and Rome for many years, involving jockeys riding horses over a distance. ▪ In 1996, the Supreme Court ruled that wagering on horse races is a game of skill and does not constitute illegal gambling. Horse racing, thus, is legal in the country.

Source:IE

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