



Dhirio Bull Fighting of Goa

Source: IE

There has been a demand in **Goa** to legalize **Dhirio or Dhiri bull fighting** for cultural and tourism reasons. **Despite its ban** the practice **continues in some villages of Goa**.

- **Origins & Nature:** It is a **traditional Goan sport** from the **Portuguese era** in which **2 specially bred and trained bulls** engage in a **contest of strength**.
 - It differs from **Spanish bullfighting** as it involves **no matadors** or **ritual killing**.
- **Cultural Significance:** Integral to **church feasts** and **agrarian celebrations**, it is a popular social event and drawing devoted local followings.
- **Conduct of the Sport:** Held in **paddy fields** or **football grounds** during **village feasts** or **post-harvest celebrations**.
- **Legal Status:** It was **banned by Bombay High Court in 1997** under the [Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960](#). The HC decision was upheld by the **Supreme Court (SC) in 1997**.
 - [Jallikattu](#) (bull-taming sport of Tamil Nadu) was **banned by SC in 2014** for animal cruelty, but later upheld by **SC in 2023** as part of Tamil Nadu's culture.

Read More: [Jallikattu](#)

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