



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

**Source:IE**

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