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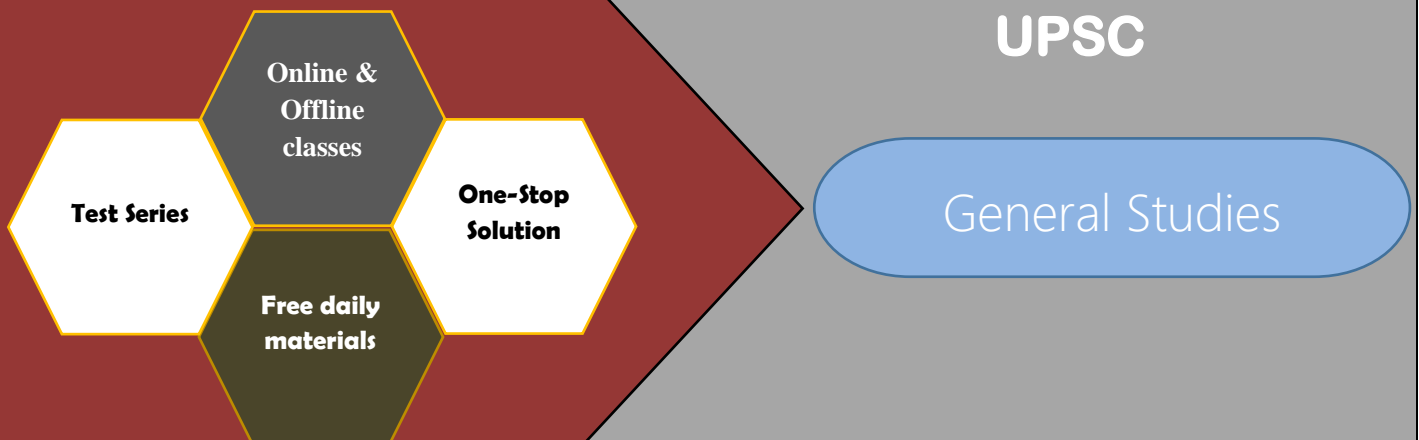
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SC Permits Bullock Cart Racing in Maharashtra

Notes for civil services preparation



SC Permits Bullock Cart Racing in Maharashtra

Recently, the **Supreme Court** allowed **Maharashtra** to hold the **traditional bullockcart 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.