

Press Release

Jallikattu events are conducted in Tamil Nadu as per the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act,2017 and the Tamil Nadu Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Conduct of Jallikattu) Rules,2017. The conduct of Jallikattu events are also regulated by a Standard Operating Protocol(SOP) issued by the Government which is based on the other extraneous factors like Covid 19.

Each year, on an average, 218 Jallikattu events are conducted in Tamil Nadu. Permission for conduct of Jallikattu is issued by the Government based on the recommendations of the District Collector and the Commissionerate of Animal Husbandry, after inspections and scrutiny for adherence to the guidelines and the SOP.

Since January 14, 2022, a total of 118 jallikattu events have been conducted in the State till 15.02.2022. The Animal Welfare Board of India has nominated a committee for inspection and monitoring the conduct of events. Dr.S.K.Mittal, the nodal officer of the committee had a discussion with the Additional Chief Secretary to the Government, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries and Fisherman welfare Department, Commissioner of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services and the higher officials of the Commissionerate of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services on the conduct of Jallikattu events so far. The preparatory activities undertaken before the actual conduct of the event, the activities undertaken on the day of the event were discussed with respect to the Tamil Nadu Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Conduct of Jallikattu) Rules,2017 and the SOP issued by the Government.

Deployment of police personnel, number of bulls participating in each event and participants, duration of each event, facilities in the demarcated

areas within the jallikattu location, provisioning of safety features like double barricading, avoiding overcrowding within the bull run area and other measures so as to ensure that bulls are not subjected to unnecessary pain and suffering and the spectators are not exposed to danger of being injured were discussed by the Nodal officer, Animal Welfare Board of India.

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government expressed the commitment that awareness on the guidelines and SOP is being created among all the officials and the organizers and this effort will be continuously undertaken. Further, adequate publicity will be given through the district administration as to what constitutes cruelty and officials, organizers, bull owners, participants and spectators will be made aware of their roles and responsibilities during the conduct of jallikattu events. The District officers will also be made aware of the Transport of Animals Rules, 1978 and its subsequent amendments so as to ensure that the owners of bulls do not violate the said rules when bulls are transported for a long distance.

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government also mentioned that while ensuring adherence to the guidelines and avoiding violations of any kind during the current year, the preparatory activities for the conduct of Jallikattu during 2023 may begin much earlier. The ACS also mentioned that the District Collectors would be instructed to send in their recommendations for conduct of Jallikattu events well in advance so that adequate time is available for the organizers to arrange the physical infrastructure. This would ensure that the bulls are not subjected to unnecessary pain and suffering.

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