

PUNJAB VIDHAN SABHA

BILL NO.16-PLA-2025

THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (PUNJAB AMENDMENT)  
BILL, 2025

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further to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, in its application to the State of Punjab.

BE it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Punjab in the Seventy-sixth year of the Republic of India, as follows:-

Short title and  
commencement.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Punjab Amendment) Act, 2025.

(2) It shall come into force on and with effect from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Amendment in  
section 2 of  
Central Act 59  
of 1960.

2. In the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), in its application to the State of Punjab, in section 2, after clause (b), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:-

"(bb) "bullock-cart race" means any race of bullock-cart as a traditional sport involving bullocks tied to a cart, normally held as a part of tradition and culture in the State of Punjab, at such designated place, as may be authorised by prescribed competent authority."

Amendment in  
section 3 of  
Central Act 59 of  
1960.

3. In the principal Act, in section 3, for sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:-

"(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the conduct of bullock-cart race at the Kila Raipur Rural Sport Event, or at such designated place, as may be authorised by the prescribed competent authority in a District, shall be permitted, subject to such rules, as may be made by the State Government."

Amendment in  
section 11 of  
Central Act 59  
of 1960.

4. In the principal Act, in section 11, in sub-section (3), in clause (f), for the sign "." the sign and word "; or" shall be substituted and thereafter, the following clause shall be added, namely:-

"(g) the conduct of bullock-cart race at the designated place, with a view to follow and promote tradition and culture and to ensure preservation of the native breeds of cattle."

Amendment in  
section 22 of  
Central Act 59 of  
1960.

5. In the principal Act, in section 22, in clause (ii), for the existing proviso, the following proviso shall be substituted, namely:-

"Provided that nothing contained in this section shall apply to the conduct of bullock-cart race at the Kila Raipur Rural Sports Event, or at the designated place."

Amendment in  
section 27 of Central  
Act 59 of 1960.

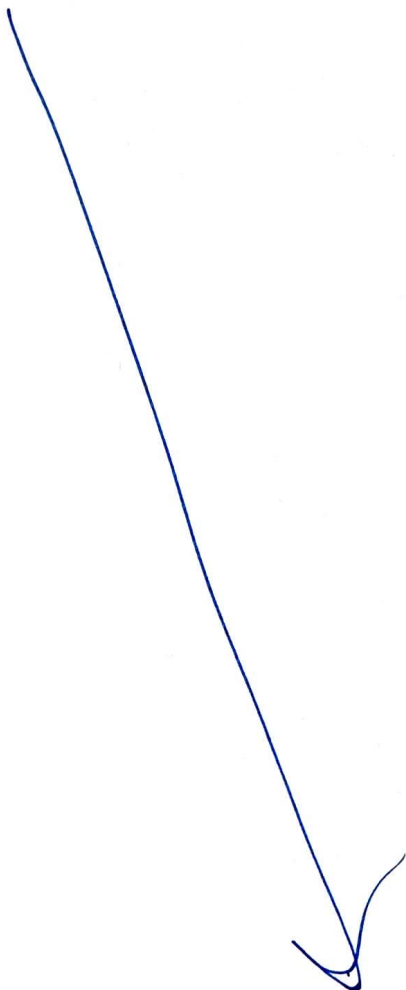
6. In the principal Act, in section 27, in clause (c), for the sign ".", the sign and word "; or" shall be substituted and thereafter, the following clause shall be added, namely:-

"(d) the conduct of bullock-cart race at the designated place, with a view to follow and promote tradition and culture and to ensure survival and continuance of native breeds of cattle."

Substitution of  
section 28-A of  
Central Act 59 of  
1960.

7. In the principal Act, for section 28-A, the following section shall be substituted, namely:-

"28-A. Nothing contained in this Act shall apply to bullock-cart race conducted  
Saving in respect of bullock-cart race. at the Kila Raipur Rural Sports Event, or at the designated place, with a view to follow and promote tradition and culture, and such conduct of bullock-cart race shall not be an offence under this Act."



-3-

## STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (Central Act 59 of 1960) was enacted to prevent the infliction of unnecessary cruelty and suffering on animals. The Act also recognises the need to exempt the application of its provisions in certain circumstances. The Supreme Court of India, in Animal Welfare Board of India vs. A. Nagaraja (Civil Appeal no. 5387 of 2014) has found that the conduct of "Jallikattu" as prevalent in the State of Tamil Nadu, as also Bullock Cart Racing, is violative of the provisions of the Central Act 59 of 1960, particularly Section 3, 11 and 22 of that Act.

Considering the important role played by Bullock Cart Racing towards promoting the spirit of games and sports, and enriching the cultural heritage and tradition in the State of Punjab, which is also a great source to keep the Punjab's youth away from drug addiction and also to improve indigenous cattle breeds of Punjab. The Government of Punjab has decided to exempt the conduct of Bullock Cart Racing in Punjab from the provision of the said Central Act 59 of 1960.

Therefore, the Government has decided to amend the said Central Act 59 of 1960 in its application to the State of Punjab. Accordingly, the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2025, is being passed.

GURMEET SINGH KHUDIAN,  
Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Dairy  
Development Minister, Punjab.

**CHANDIGARH:  
THE 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2025**

**R. L. KHATANA,  
SECRETARY.**

**N.B. - The above Bill published in the Punjab Government Gazette (Extraordinary), dated the 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2025 under the proviso to rule 121 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Punjab Vidhan Sabha (Punjab Legislative Assembly).**